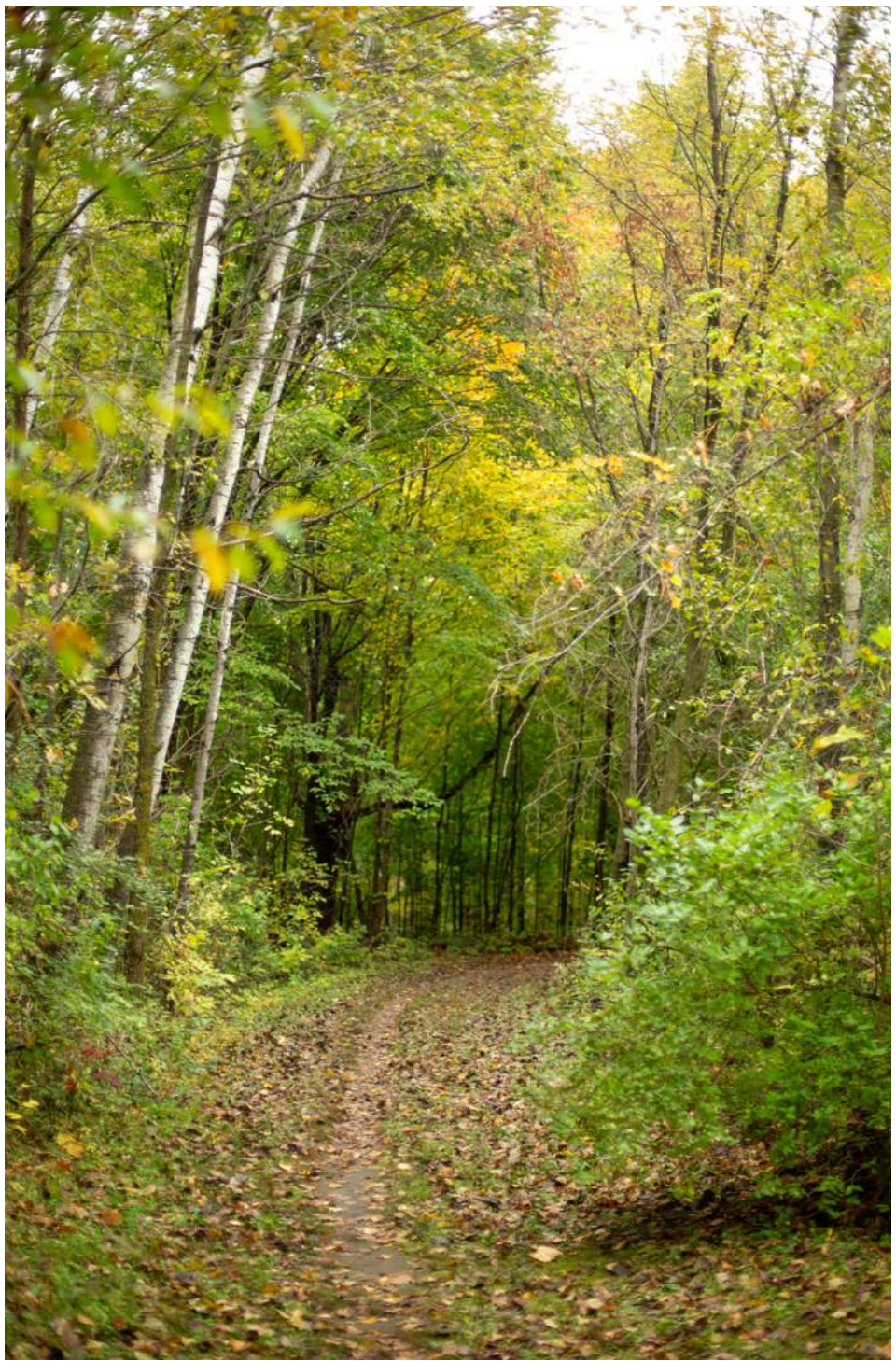




PARKS MASTER PLAN

CITY OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA

CONTENTS

JUNE 2026

01 INTRODUCTION	5	Community Park Recommendations	94
Purpose & Value	5	Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	95
History of the Park System	6	Brown's Creek Park	98
Intent of the Master Plan	8	Boutwell Cemetery/public Works Ballfield	100
How to Use the Plan	8	Pioneer Park	102
Plan Process	10	Lowell Park	104
02 EXISTING CONDITIONS	11	Stillwater Dog Park	108
Context	11	Northland Park	110
People	12	Sunrise Park	112
An inventory of the Current Park System	14	Lily Lake Park	114
Partners, Programs, and Recreation	37	Teddy Bear Park	116
03 NEEDS ASSESSMENT	39	Lumberjack Landing	118
Trends in Recreation	39	Bridgeview Park	119
What We Heard	44	Community Open Space Recommendations	120
04 SYSTEM PLAN	53	Commercial Street Pedestrian Plaza	121
Vision & Guiding Principles	53	Chestnut Plaza	121
System-Wide Recommendations:	54	North Hill Community Garden	122
Individual Park Recommendations:	56	Open Space/Natural Areas Recommendations	124
Neighborhood Park Recommendations	57	Long Lake Loop	125
Millbrook Neighborhood Park	58	Croixwood Open Space	126
Prairie Park	60	Long Lake Nature Area	128
Creekside Park	62	Nightingale Park	130
Schulenberg Park	64	Long Lake Open Space	132
Staples Field	66	Browns Creek Nature Preserve	134
McKusick Park	68	McKusick Lake Wetland	136
Ramsey Grove Park	70	Kolliner Park	138
Meadowlark Park	72	Recreation Areas Recommendations	139
Settler's Park	74	St. Croix Valley Recreation Center	140
Liberty Square Park	76	A look at "Other" Park Categories	142
Heritage Square Park	78	Skate Park	143
Legends Park	80	System-Wide Recommendation Diagrams	144
Legends Gazebo	82	Unique Experiences/Points of Interest	144
Bergmann Park	84	Winter Use (Existing and Proposed)	145
Benson Park	86	Diversified Play Opportunities	146
Washington Square Park	88	Natural Resources Highlights	147
Anez Ridge Park	90	Urban Agriculture	148
Triangle Park	92	Interpretive Opportunities	149

05 IMPLEMENTATION.....	150
Introduction.....	151
Funding Resources.....	152
Staffing and Programming.....	155
Phasing.....	156
Measuring Progress.....	163

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Stillwater is grateful for the guidance of the Parks and Recreation Commission, countless stakeholder groups, and residents who provided invaluable feedback that shaped this plan.

Thank you for your dedication to the next generation of Stillwater's park system!

“ Stillwater’s parks and recreation system offers welcoming places and premier destinations where the community can come together, connect to nature, see benefits to their physical and mental health, and have fun. ”

- VISION STATEMENT



INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE & VALUE

WHY PLAN?

Having a Park System Plan in place establishes the city's intentions for maintaining and improving its parks in a way that both serves existing residents and helps to keep Stillwater attractive to future residents and visitors. The Park System Plan informs the parks chapter of the city's comprehensive plan and assists staff and city leaders in making decisions related to investments, operations, and maintenance over the next decade. Stillwater's location, character, and history offer opportunities for unique park and trail experiences along the shore of the St. Croix River. Parks, trails, and open spaces contribute to the community in numerous ways, including but not limited to:



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A successful park system plan offers users a variety of options for getting outdoors and engaging in passive or active recreational activities that move their body. From walking and biking, to athletics and challenge courses, there needs to be something for everyone no matter their age or physical capabilities.



PROPERTY VALUES

Well-designed and maintained parks and trails contribute positively to neighborhoods and surrounding properties. The appeal of convenient access to parks and trails often attracts potential residents to specific areas, increases property values and improves neighborhood desirability.



BEAUTY

The city of Stillwater's already picturesque setting of rocky bluffs, tree covered hillsides, historic brick buildings, and expansive river views is best appreciated by having dedicated public access to these unique amenities. Parks and trails allow residents and visitors alike to experience the best of Stillwater.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

Heat islands, extreme weather events, invasive species, and other environmental concerns require creative uses of public lands that can provide not only recreational, but also ecosystem services to increase community resilience to climate change.



SOCIAL CONNECTION & CULTURE

A well-planned parks and trails system provides a stage for social connection and culture. Free for everyone to enjoy, parks form the heart of neighborhoods, play host to community events, and offer residents a chance to connect with one another in the great outdoors.

HISTORY OF THE PARK SYSTEM

PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECTS

The City of Stillwater has undertaken numerous projects in the past years in an effort to enhance the waterfront parks and open spaces along the Minnesota border. These projects take into consideration the community feedback from past planning efforts and strive to close service gaps in neighborhoods where access to parks and open space are lacking.



NORTH AISLE PARK (LUMBERJACK LANDING) MASTER PARK AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (DECEMBER 2020)

This master plan document is meant to guide the future development and vegetation management for the City of Stillwater's North Aisle Park property located on the St. Croix River. Guided by the approved concept plan and in compliance with the property's conservation easement, the master plan utilizes community input regarding site needs and improvements as well as outlines, in detail, the vegetation management of the site. The master plan builds upon work that was completed in 2017 to create an updated conceptual master plan for the site.

Improvements include:

- Accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Vendor area for rentable water devices
- Gathering spaces, storage, and restrooms
- River overlook and fishing platform
- Trail access to Brown's Creek State Trail
- Picnic shelters
- Trail bridge
- Enhanced vehicle circulation (turn-arounds, drop-off area)

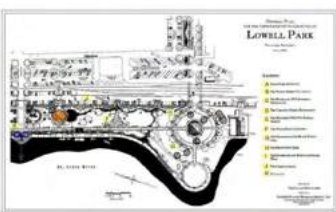


BRIDGEVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN (2015 MASTER PLAN)

Bridgeview Park, located south of the downtown area along the river shoreline features docking areas, a trailhead, and a large segment of the St. Croix Crossing Loop Trail. Proposed park improvements include:

- Stormwater treatment features
- Preservation of historic buildings
- Retaining walls
- Kiosks and wayfinding
- Loop Trails
- Downtown connections
- Pedestrian River promenade
- Transient docks
- Lawn areas
- Additional parking solutions

1992 Lowell Park Master Plan. This is a simple mock-up of the type of signage that could be used to help visitors navigate the full length of Lowell Park. It could show both existing elements and locations of elements that are long gone. Signage such as this could be placed in several locations down the length of the park.



LOWELL PARK MASTER PLAN

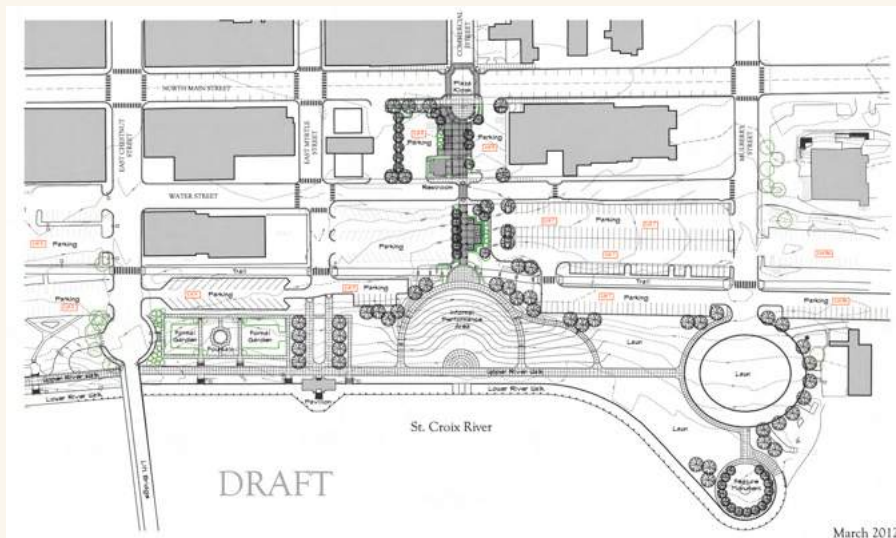
Lowell Park has undergone numerous studies and conceptual master planning processes in the past few decades. The most recent planning efforts include:

Lowell Park Pavilion and Levee Wall Historic Structures Report (2021)

The architectural study of the Lowell Park Pavilion and Levee Wall provides an in-depth look at the history of these historic structures dating back to the early 1900's. It analyzes the incredibly challenging environmental setting that these structures endure (seasonal yearly flooding from the St. Croix River and harsh Minnesota winters) and photographs the toll that these factors have taken on the structures over time. The document analyzes the condition of important structural features (foundations, roofs, siding, columns, etc.), and provides recommendations and phasing suggestions for repair/replacement for general upkeep and public safety.

In addition, the report references a 1992 conceptual master plan for Lowell, and provides suggestions on walkway placement, wayfinding, lighting, and general circulation to better connect the pavilion to the rest of the park and historic downtown area.





Lowell Park Master Plan (2012)

The most recent master planning effort for Stillwater's iconic riverfront park was completed in March of 2012.

The concept includes:

- Informal performance area
- A feature monument
- Strong connections to the Pavilion
- A nod to Lowell's history with formal garden spaces
- Open lawn areas
- Additional plantings
- Pedestrian connections to downtown



CITY OF STILLWATER 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (NOVEMBER 2019)

(CHAPTER 8. PARKS AND TRAILS)

Having a comprehensive plan in place is imperative for determining ways in which the city will strive to evolve and support its residents and visitors regarding topics such as development, transportation, parks and trails, and housing. The plan provides a long-term vision for development and growth by examining existing conditions, soliciting feedback from the community, and outlining what's next. The document serves as a guide for future elected officials to use when making important decisions regarding the city's future.

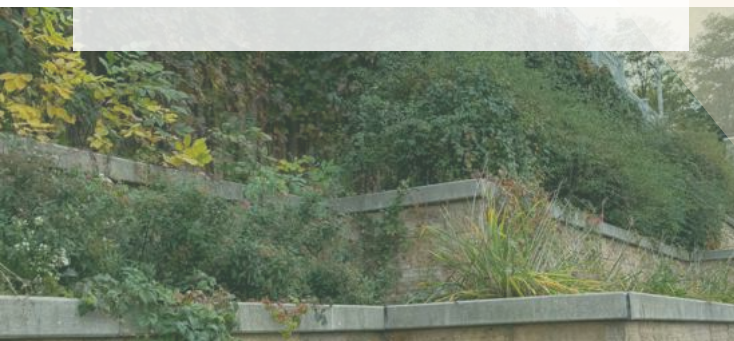
The Parks and Trails chapter of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan outlines the City's goals and objectives, existing partnerships with local and regional organizations, and examines existing parks and trails conditions, amenities, and service areas. It identifies needs for the overall system as well as individual parks and trails, highlights trail planning efforts, and examines trends in recreation.



INTENT OF THE MASTER PLAN

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS OF PARKS AND TRAILS

The intent of this plan is to provide guidance for how to maintain Stillwater's existing park system and sustainably position it for the next twenty years of serving the City's residents. The plan integrates community input collected during the planning process with a critical study of infrastructure needs and recreation benchmarks in order to recommend catered future investments.



HOW TO USE THE PLAN

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

The Stillwater Parks Master Plan document is comprised of five chapters that study past planning efforts, existing conditions today, recommendations for the future, and steps to take to prioritize projects and put the plan into action over the coming years.



CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

PURPOSE AND VALUE, HISTORY, AND PLAN PROCESS

The introduction chapter (current chapter) is meant to provide a high-level explanation of the following items:

- The importance of planning for the future of parks and trails
- A brief background of past planning efforts that have been conducted by the City of Stillwater along with a list of current accomplishments
- How to navigate the different chapters and the information provided in each; and
- An explanation of the overall plan process and schedule.

CHAPTER 2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS

STILLWATER TODAY | DEMOGRAPHICS, PARKS AND TRAIL INVENTORY, EXISTING PROGRAMS AND REGULATIONS

Using information from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, staff knowledge and input, demographic information, on-site observations, and data available through numerous platforms, the existing conditions chapter for this plan strives to provide a comprehensive and detailed look at Stillwater's parks, trails, and open spaces as they exist today and the people who use them most. Within this chapter you will find:

- Context: big picture history and regional significance
- Demographics: A high-level analysis of the city's population and those who use the park's and trails as apart of their everyday lives.
- An inventory of the current park system: Available amenities, facilities, and seasonal use for each park within the system.
- Service areas: Diagrams used to identify specific gaps and needs as it relates to specific facilities or amenities like trailheads, sports courts, and various forms of play.
- Partners and programs in recreation: this section focuses on existing local and regional partnerships and their role in protecting, enhancing, and contributing to parks and open spaces. Along with existing recreational programs that help to activate spaces within the system.



CHAPTER 3 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TRENDS, WHAT WE HEARD, KEY TAKEAWAYS

As a part of this process, extensive community engagement efforts were made to discover what the residents in Stillwater's community hoped to gain from future planning efforts. Those results, as well as a look at current trends in parks and recreation regarding what users are enjoying in public spaces nationally, can be found here and all help shape the recommendations found in this plan.



CHAPTER 4 - SYSTEM PLAN

VISION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, GOALS, FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter takes everything learned about Stillwater's existing parks and trails and outlines detailed recommendations for each and every park within the system that doesn't have an existing master plan underway. It describes over-arching recommendations and explains the difference between private school properties and parks and open spaces and outlines opportunities for future collaboration.

This section is shaped by the vision and guiding principles, which establish a foundation on which this plan, the ideas expressed, and the next 20 years of the park system plan is built.



CHAPTER 5 - IMPLEMENTATION

FUNDING, MANAGEMENT, PRIORITIES AND PHASING

The Implementation Chapter explores funding options to help achieve the proposed projects, assigns order of magnitude costs to recommendations, lists near-term priorities, and provides a framework for phasing over the next decade. This chapter also considers impacts to staffing, maintenance, and operations as the park system is implemented.



“ The intent of this plan is to provide guidance for how to maintain Stillwater’s existing park system and sustainably position it for the next twenty years of serving the City’s residents. ”

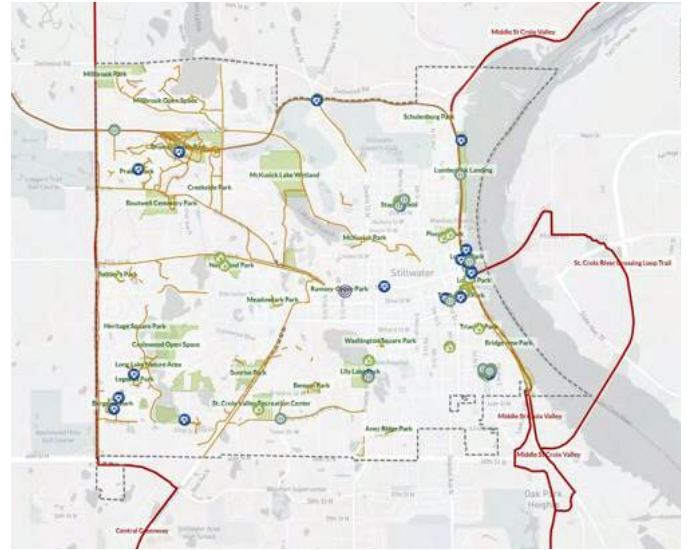
- CHAPTER 1, PG. 8

PLAN PROCESS

The planning process spanned several months and involved site inventory visits, meetings with staff and stakeholders to present findings, two rounds of community input, and multiple draft report reviews by both city faculty and residents.

A unique project brand was created to help residents identify planning efforts and recognize opportunities to take part in engagement events. Multiple methods were used to solicit feedback across the city both virtually and in person, and the feedback gathered was analyzed and used to inform the final recommendations set forth in this plan.

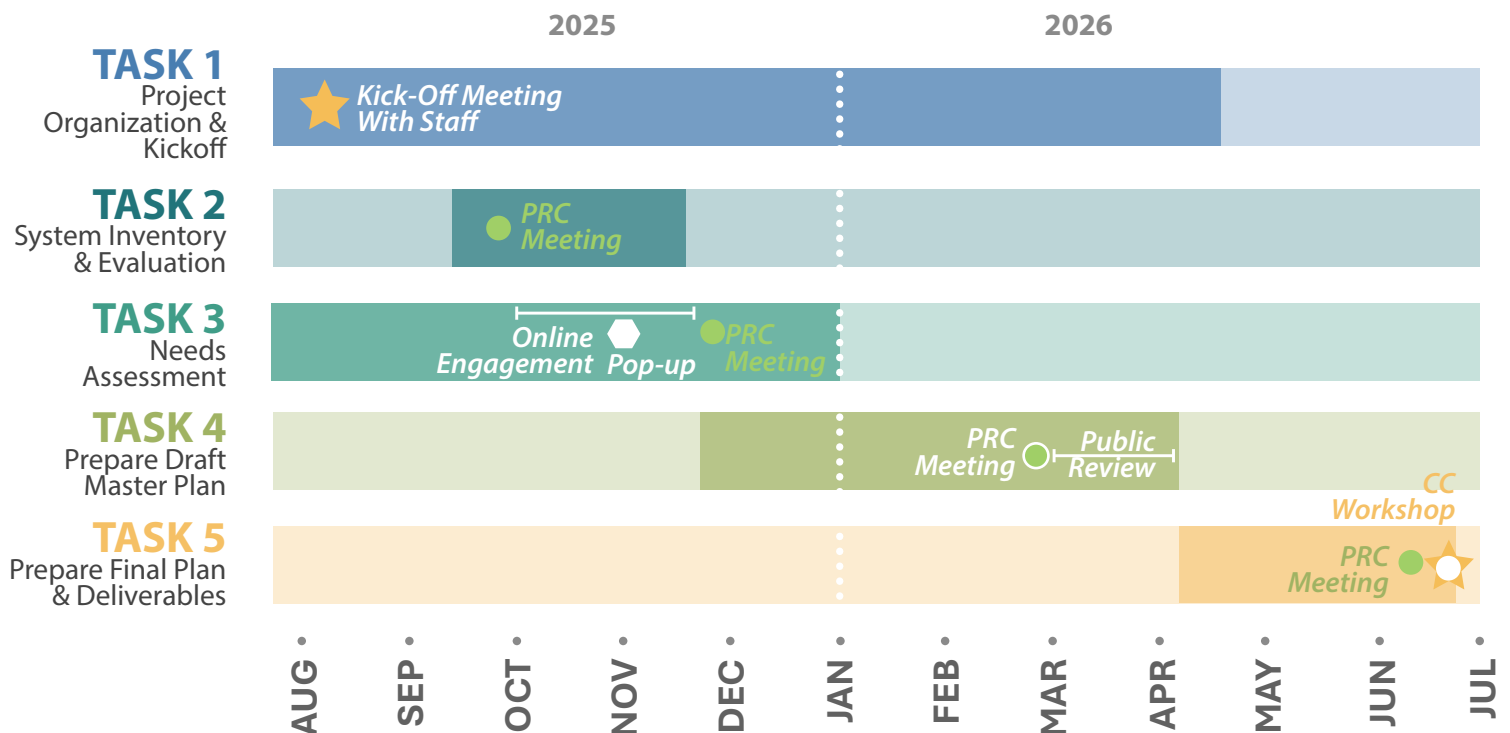
The plan is organized into five sections (see pages 8-9 for more detail) that can be used together or individually when making implementation decisions.



Screenshot of online mapping responses

PROJECT TIMELINE

The timeline below reflects meetings, engagement opportunities, and deadlines throughout the planning process.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

CONTEXT

GEOGRAPHY

REGIONAL LOCATION

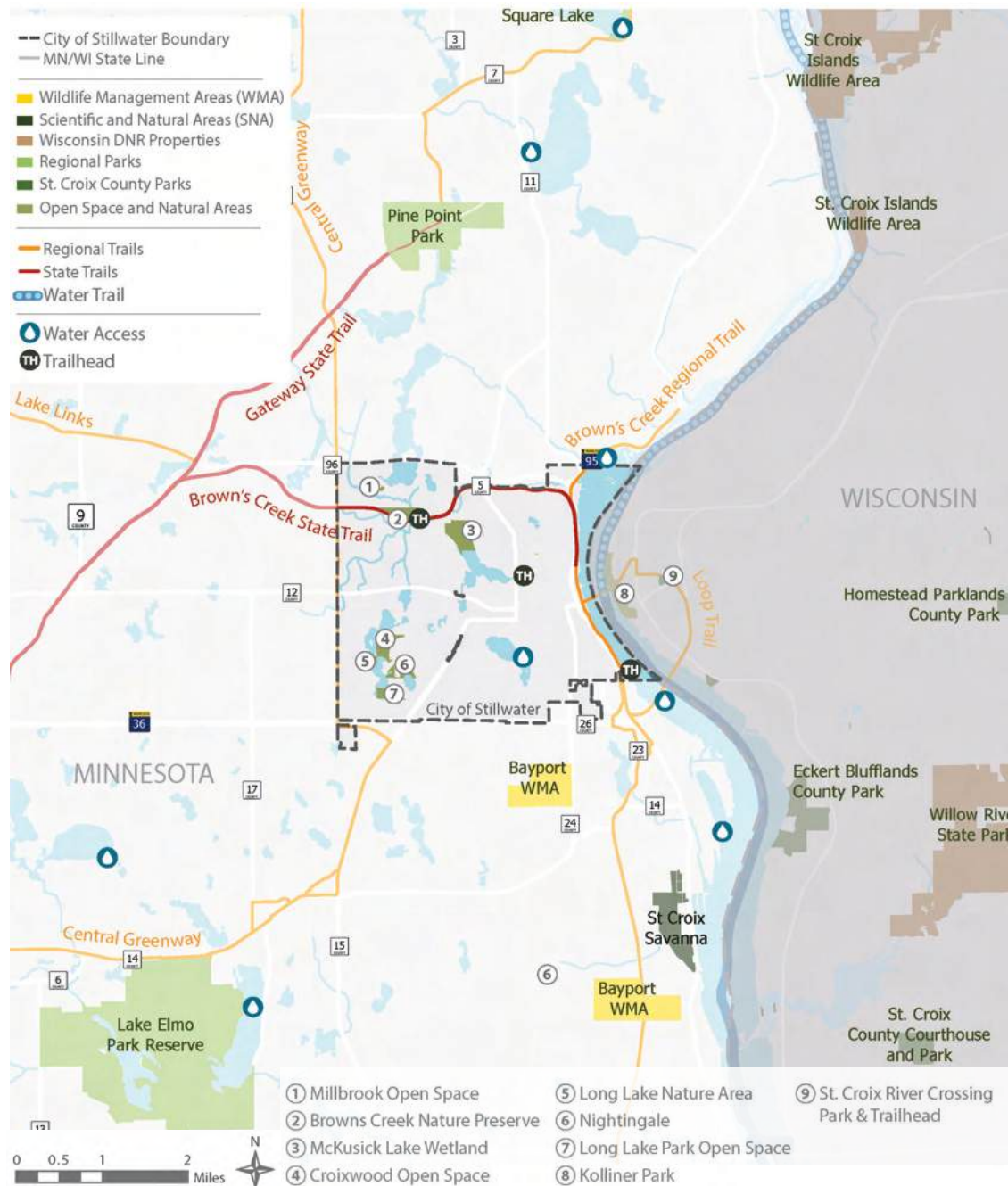
The city of Stillwater lies on the southeast border of the state of Minnesota, with a small portion of city property uniquely located in Wisconsin. Stillwater is a riverfront city with beautiful bluffs, waterfront parks, a quintessential downtown, and a historic lift bridge.

The city boasts a total of 44 parks and select open spaces, plus supporting facilities (see map).

Stillwater hosts three trailheads within its limits and is crossed by segments of:

- Brown's Creek State Trail
- Brown's Creek Regional Trail
- St. Croix Crossing Loop Trail
- The Central Greenway

Although the city doesn't contain any regional or state parks of its own, it lies close to numerous Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), Pine Point Regional Park, and Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The National Park Service has established the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway starting just north of Stillwater.



Aerial view of historic downtown



View of the riverfront along the St. Croix



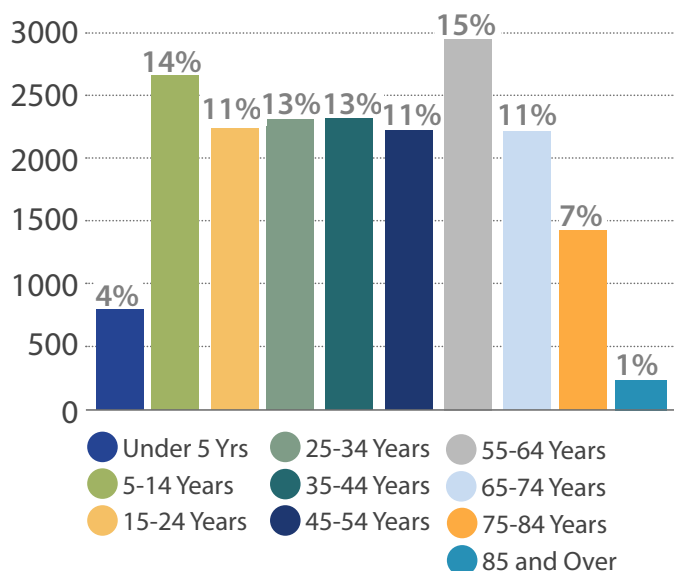
Iconic Stillwater lift bridge

PEOPLE

COMMUNITY PROFILE & DEMOGRAPHICS

The information below offers a quick, high-level snapshot of the community.

Why is this information important? People use parks differently. Age, physical ability, cultural factors, and even income or preferred method of transportation play a role in how groups or individuals tend to use public spaces and what facilities/amenities they desire most. This information helps guide recommendations for the future of the Stillwater Parks System.



POPULATION BY AGE

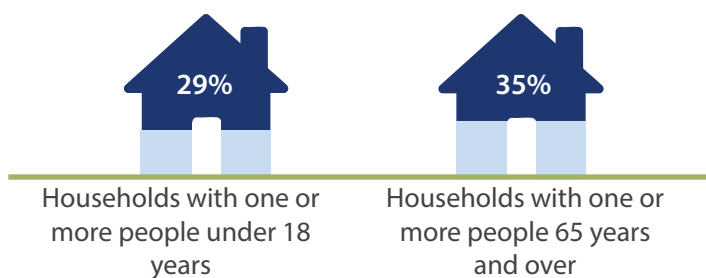
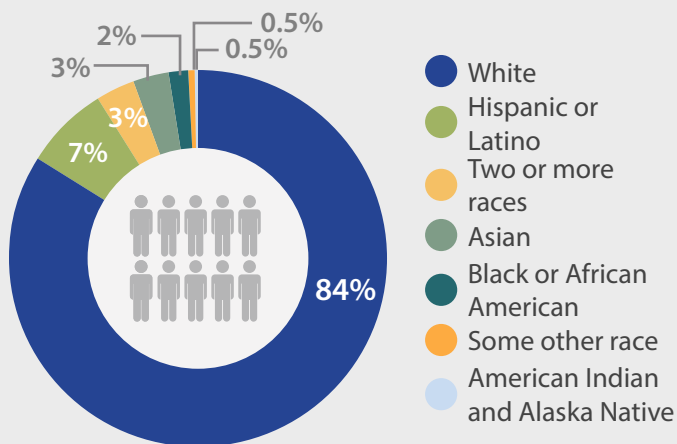
- 34% of the population is considered 'elderly' (aged 55 and over).
- 24% of the population is considered 'middle aged' (late 30's - 50 years of age).
- 58% of the population is middle-aged or older.
- Roughly 24% of the population is young adults
- Only 18% of the population is under the age of 15, indicating that the growth of families is slowing within younger generations.

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS

- 29% of households contain a family member/resident that is younger than 18
- 35% of households contain one or more residents over the age of 65.

WHAT COULD THIS INDICATE?

- Recommendations should strive to cater to all age ranges. Strive to incorporate senior citizens into park spaces, and choose play equipment that caters to both smaller and older children.
- Investment in unique, destination play equipment and exciting park programming to help attract younger families.



POPULATION BY RACE

NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

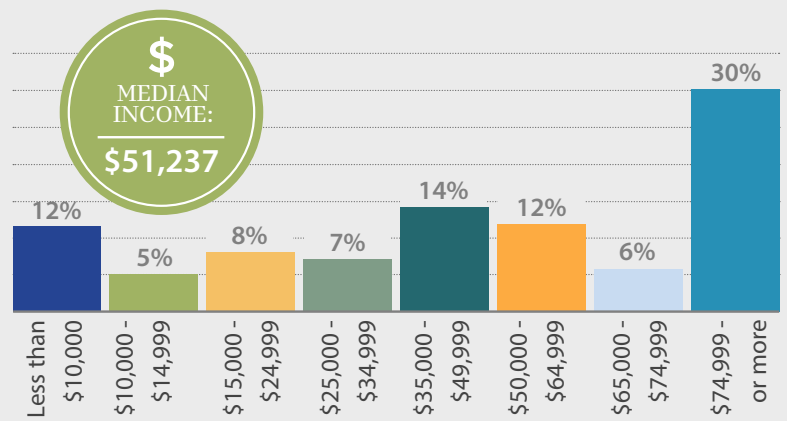
- The city of Stillwater is predominately White American at 84%. Only 16% of the city's population is representative of another ethnicity.
- Of that 16% diversity, Hispanic or Latino represents 7% (nearly half of the diverse population).

WHAT COULD THIS INDICATE?

- Diverse groups use parks and open spaces differently, and have different requirements for feeling safe and secure in public spaces. It's important to study those trends and include facilities and amenities that they enjoy and that make them feel welcome.
- Diverse groups often speak different languages. This is an important consideration for items like wayfinding, programming, and offering information on city-led events.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

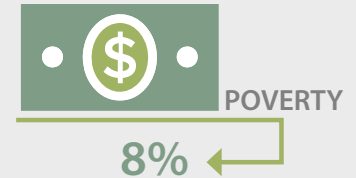
- The median household income for Stillwater residents is \$52,237/year
- Approximately 30% of residents have an income of \$75,000/year or more
- Approximately 25% of the population in Stillwater is lower-income, earning less than \$25,000/year
- 8% of Stillwater's households are living below the poverty line.



WHAT COULD THIS INDICATE?

- Parks can offer quality, cost-free facilities for families who earn smaller livings to enjoy
- Parks provide spaces for free entertainment and programming
- Providing amenities like paddle rentals and picnic shelter rentals can allow those in HDR/rental living to enjoy things they may not have personal space/storage for.

- Strong and logical trail connections are important to help those who may not have personal vehicles access quality recreation experiences.



LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Educational attainment of population 25 years old and older.



A TOTAL OF 11%

of the general population is living with a disability

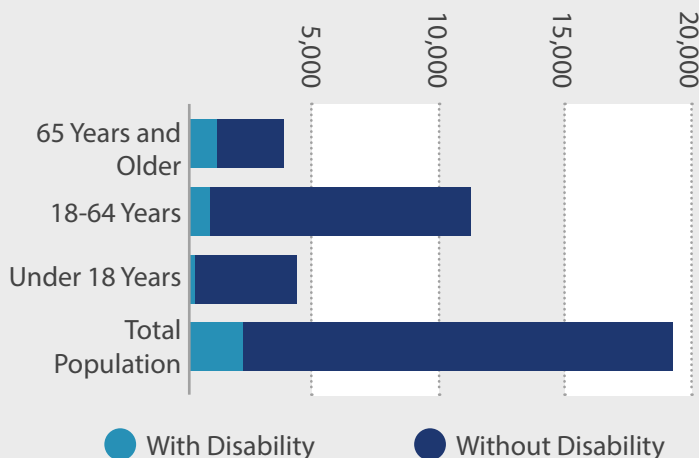
% OF POPULATION WITH A DISABILITY

- Approximately 11% of the general population in Stillwater is living with a disability.
- 10% of that population are children under the age of 18
- 52% of that population are aged 65 years or older



WHAT COULD THIS INDICATE?

- Currently, the city's park system offers few accessible facilities and amenities that can be enjoyed by those with a physical or mental disability. There is a portion of the population that is currently not being well-served by existing park system.
- "Parks for all" means a special focus on making sure comfort amenities like restrooms and drinking fountains are ADA-compliant, paths and trails are accessible, and Stillwater's system includes inclusive play features, sensory experiences, and intergenerational program offerings.



AN INVENTORY OF THE THE CURRENT PARK SYSTEM

UNDERSTANDING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CITY PARKS & SCHOOL FACILITIES

PUBLIC LANDS AND FUTURE COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

There are several properties within Stillwater that are owned by the school district, but are often mistaken for city-owned parks and open spaces. While they help to support recreational offerings within the city, the following properties are not operated or maintained by the city's Public Works department and were not studied as a part of this plan.

- Jaycee ballfields
- Old Athletic Field
- Numerous park-like areas, play structures, or athletic fields contained within elementary, junior high, and high school properties

(More information on exploring potential partnership opportunities within parks can be found on page 38)

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

There are seven classification categories of parks and open space in the City of Stillwater. The following pages contain a current park system analysis that is organized using these categories:

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are generally smaller in scale (on average less than 5 acres) and are located to serve the residential neighborhood immediately surrounding the park. These parks usually contain facilities such as playgrounds, bench seating, portable restrooms, and picnicking amenities.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are medium-to-large scale (on average 10+ acres) parks that are located to serve the recreational needs of multiple surrounding neighborhoods. They often feature more diverse amenities such as sport courts and athletic fields, specialized play areas, splash pads, rentable picnic facilities, and flexible open spaces that are programmed to host community events.

COMMUNITY OPEN SPACES

Community open spaces vary in size and can take the shape of community gardens, plazas, unique play areas, or programmed public spaces for community events.

OPEN SPACE/NATURAL AREAS

Open Spaces and natural areas are often minimally developed landscapes that may include woodlands, wetlands, and conservation areas that offer both recreational and ecological benefits.

RECREATION AREAS

The recreation area classification denotes a large specialty venue designed for enjoyment, leisure, and physical activity. Stillwater's St. Croix Valley Recreation Center serves individuals and families from the region, offering skating, hockey, and field space for rent.

"OTHER"

For this Parks System plan, the 'other' category includes specialty uses that because of ownership, use, or facilities don't fall into a more specified list.

GOLF COURSES

Stillwater's golf courses, while not City-owned, are noted on the map for reference because they comprise a large area of City land and provide a recreational amenity to Stillwater residents.



MAPPING SYSTEM FACILITIES & AMENITIES

The following maps and tables highlight existing amenities and facilities within Stillwater's park system today. The diagrams help to break down location of items on a park-by-park basis, related to type of recreation (i.e. general, trails, picnicking, winter use, and water recreation).



Pioneer Park



Liberty Square Park



Bergmann Park



Teddy Bear Park



Lily Lake Park

SUMMARY OF FACILITIES & AMENITIES

Facilities and amenities are listed in the table below for all parks and open spaces. Included features are those that a visitor would generally expect to find in a park/open space (such as a playground, restroom, or picnicking area) and more specific or specialized "destination" items such as sports courts, athletic fields, and activities (fishing, sledding, etc.)

Park Name	Amenities/Facilities															
	Trailhead	Public Water Access	Carry-in Access	Fishing	Soccer, Lacrosse, Football	Baseball/Softball Fields	Recreational Fields	Horseshoe Pit	Playground	Volleyball Court	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Basketball Courts	Cross-Country Ski	Ice Fishing	Sledding Hill
Map Icon	TH	W	CA	F	S	B	R	H	P	V	T	P	B	C	I	S
Neighborhood Parks:																
1 Millbrook Neighborhood Park																
2 Prairie Park					X	X	X		X							X
3 Creekside Park																X
4 Schulenburg Park						X	X		X							X
5 Staples Field						X			X		X	X				X
6 McKusick Park	X		X													X
7 Ramsey-Grove Park									X				X			X
8 Meadowlark Park									X	S			X			X
9 Settlers Park					X		X				X					X
10 Liberty Square Park																X
11 Heritage Square Park				X					X							X
12 Legends Park					X	X			X							X
13 Legends Gazebo																X
14 Bergman Park					X	X	X									X
15 Benson Park					X	X	X		X	S			X			X
16 Washington Square Park						X	X		X							X
17 Anez Ridge Park								2	X	G						X
18 Triangle Park									X							
Community Parks:																
19 Millbrook Field West					X											X
20 Millbrook Park					X	X			X							X
21 Brown's Creek Park									X							X
22 Boutwell Cemetery						X							X			
23 Public Works Ballfield					X	X							X			X
24 Lumberjack Landing																

GENERAL FACILITIES AND AMENITIES MAP FOR ALL PLAY SYSTEM CATEGORIES

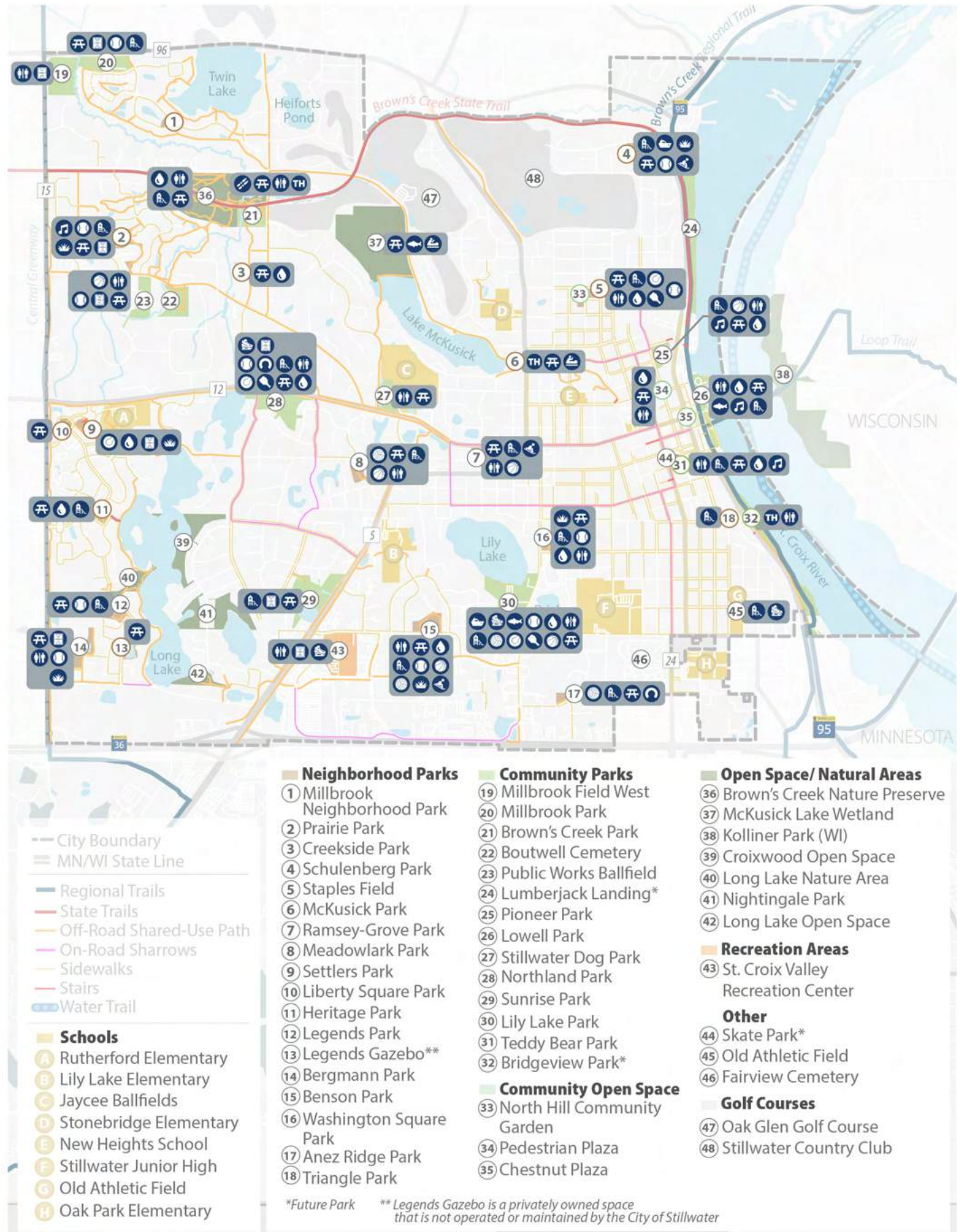


Figure 2.2 General Facilities and Amenities Map for all Play System Categories



North Hill Community Garden



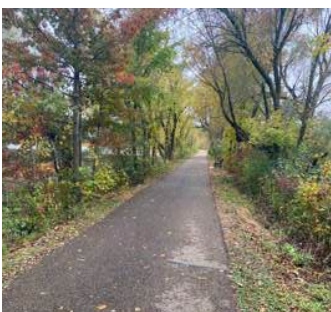
Pedestrian Plaza



Chestnut Plaza



Brown's Creek Nature Preserve



McKusick Lake Wetland

(OVERARCHING FACILITIES & AMENITIES CONTINUED)

Park Name		Amenities/Facilities																				
		Trailhead	Public Water Access	Carry-in Access	Fishing Pier/Amenities	Soccer, Lacrosse, Football	Baseball/Softball Fields	Recreational Fields	Horseshoe Pit	Playground	Volleyball Court	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts	Basketball Courts	Cross-Country Ski	Ice Fishing	Sledding Hill	Skating (Indoor/Outdoor)	Band Shell/Amphitheater	Picnicking	Drinking Fountains	Bathrooms
Map Icon		TH	🌊	🏕️	🎣	⚽	⚾	🌿	🏹	🎾	🏐	🏓	🏀	🎿	🎿	🛷	🛷	🛷	🎵	🍷	💧	🚽
25	Pioneer Park								X										X	X	X	X
26	Lowell Park				X				X										X	X	X	X
27	Stillwater Dog Park																			X		X
28	Northland Park					X	X		X		X	X								X	X	X
29	Sunrise Park					X			X											X		
30	Lily Lake Park		X		X		X		X	S	X	X	X							X	X	X
31	Teddy Bear Park								X										X	X	X	X
32	Bridgeview Park	X																				X
Community Open Spaces:																						
33	North Hill Community Garden																					
34	Pedestrian Plaza																			X	X	X
35	Chestnut Plaza																					
Open Space/Natural Areas:																						
36	Brown's Creek Nature Preserve	X												X						X		X
37	McKusick Lake Wetland				X															X		
38	Kolliner Park (WI)																					
39	Croixwood Open Space																					
40	Long Lake Nature Area																					
41	Nightingale Park																					
42	Long Lake Open Space																					
Recreation Center:																						
43	St. Croix Valley Rec Center					X																X
Other:																						
44	Skate Park (Future)																					
45	Old Athletic Field						X		X													
46	Fairview Cemetery																					
Golf Courses:																						
47	Oak Glen Golf Course					X																X
48	Stillwater Country Club																					

(GENERAL FACILITIES AND AMENITIES MAP FOR ALL PLAY SYSTEM CATEGORIES)

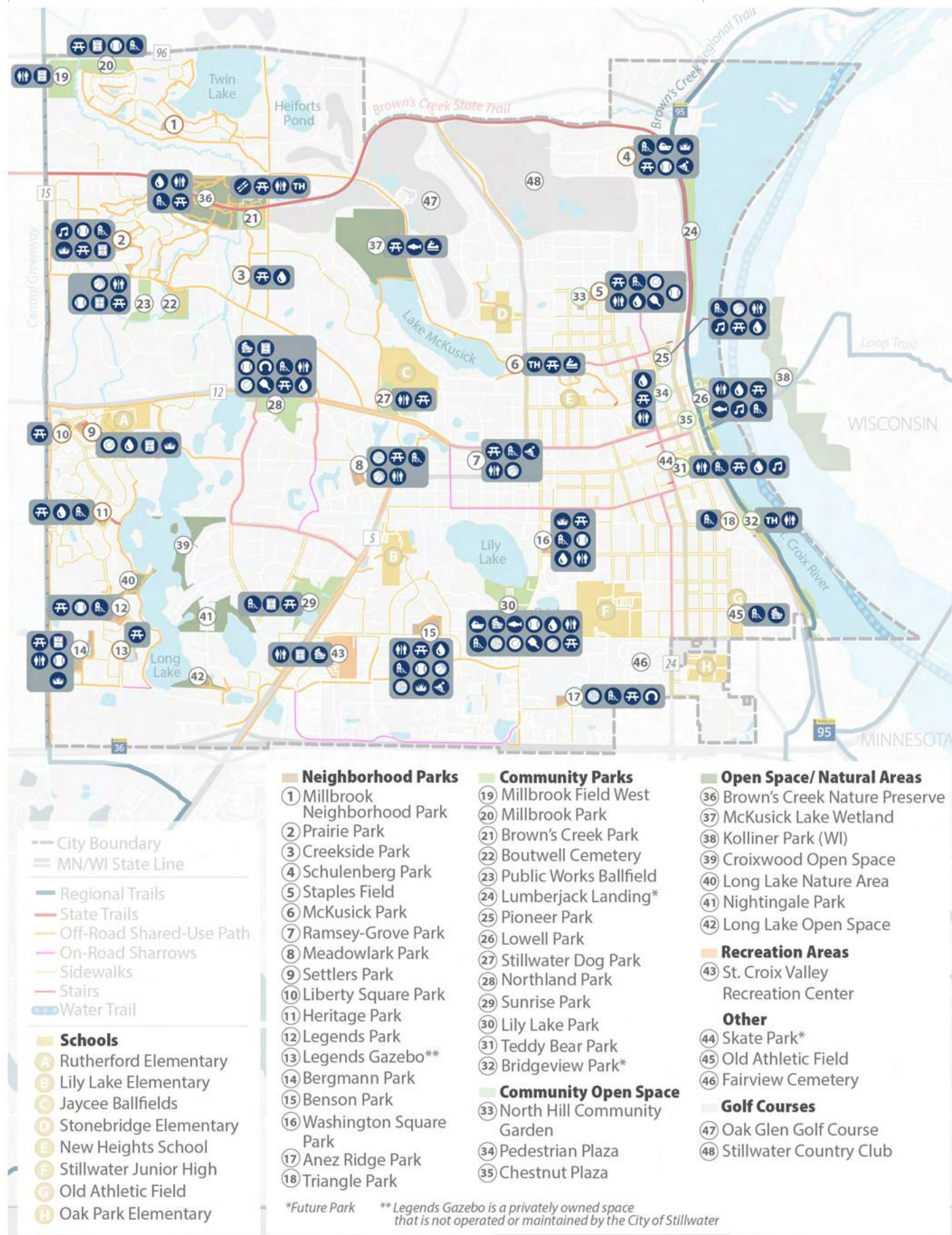


Figure 2.2 General Facilities and Amenities Map for all Play System Categories

Park Name		Trails & Amenities						
		Trailhead	Bike Repair Stations	Trash/Recycling	Drinking Fountains	Bathrooms	Bench Seating	Cross-Country Ski
Map Icon		TH	⚙️	♻️	💧	🚻	🪑	🎿
Neighborhood Parks:								
1	Millbrook Neighborhood Park							
2	Prairie Park			X			X	
3	Creekside Park				X			
4	Schulenburg Park			X				
5	Staples Field			X	X	X	X	
6	McKusick Park	X	X					
7	Ramsey-Grove Park			X		X	X	
8	Meadowlark Park			X		X		
9	Settlers Park			X	X		X	
10	Liberty Square Park			X			X	
11	Heritage Square Park			X	X		X	
12	Legends Park			X			X	
13	Legends Gazebo						X	
14	Bergman Park			X		X	X	
15	Benson Park			X	X	X	X	
16	Washington Square Park			X	X	X	X	
17	Anez Ridge Park			X			X	
18	Triangle Park			X			X	
Community Parks:								
19	Millbrook Field West					X	X	
20	Millbrook Park			X				
21	Brown’s Creek Park		X	X	X	X	X	
22	Boutwell Cemetery						X	
23	Public Works Ballfield			X				
24	Lumberjack Landing (Future)							
25	Pioneer Park			X	X	X	X	
26	Lowell Park			X	X	X	X	
27	Stillwater Dog Park					X	X	
28	Northland Park			X	X	X	X	
29	Sunrise Park			X			X	
30	Lily Lake Park			X	X	X	X	



Brown's Creek State Trail Trailhead



Legends Park internal trail



Northland Park internal trail

TRAIL AMENITIES

While this park system plan does not specifically address Stillwater's trail system, many of the parks have internal trails of their own and offer amenities that support the broader trail network. Additionally, Stillwater hosts a number trailheads and State and Regional trail segments that connect to parks and open spaces within the City. Information has been provided on these trails for context as they are a complementary form of recreation.

Park Name		Trails & Amenities						
		Trailhead	Bike Repair Stations	Trash/Recycling	Drinking Fountains	Bathrooms	Bench Seating	Cross-Country Ski
Map Icon		TH	⚙️	🗑️	💧	🚻	🪑	🛷
31	Teddy Bear Park			X	X	X	X	
32	Bridgeview Park	X	X	X		X	X	
Community Open Spaces:								
33	North Hill Community Garden							
34	Pedestrian Plaza			X	X	X	X	
35	Chestnut Plaza			X			X	
Open Space/Natural Areas:								
36	Brown’s Creek Nature Preserve	X		X		X		
37	McKusick Lake Wetland			X			X	
38	Kolliner Park(WI)							
39	Croixwood Open Space							
40	Long Lake Nature Area			X				
41	Nightingale Park							
42	Long Lake Open Space							
Recreation Center:								
43	St. Croix Valley Rec Center			X		X		
Other:								
44	Skate Park			X				
45	Old Athletic Field						X	
46	Fairview Cemetery							
Golf Courses:								
47	Oak Glen Golf Course			X		X		
48	Stillwater Country Club							

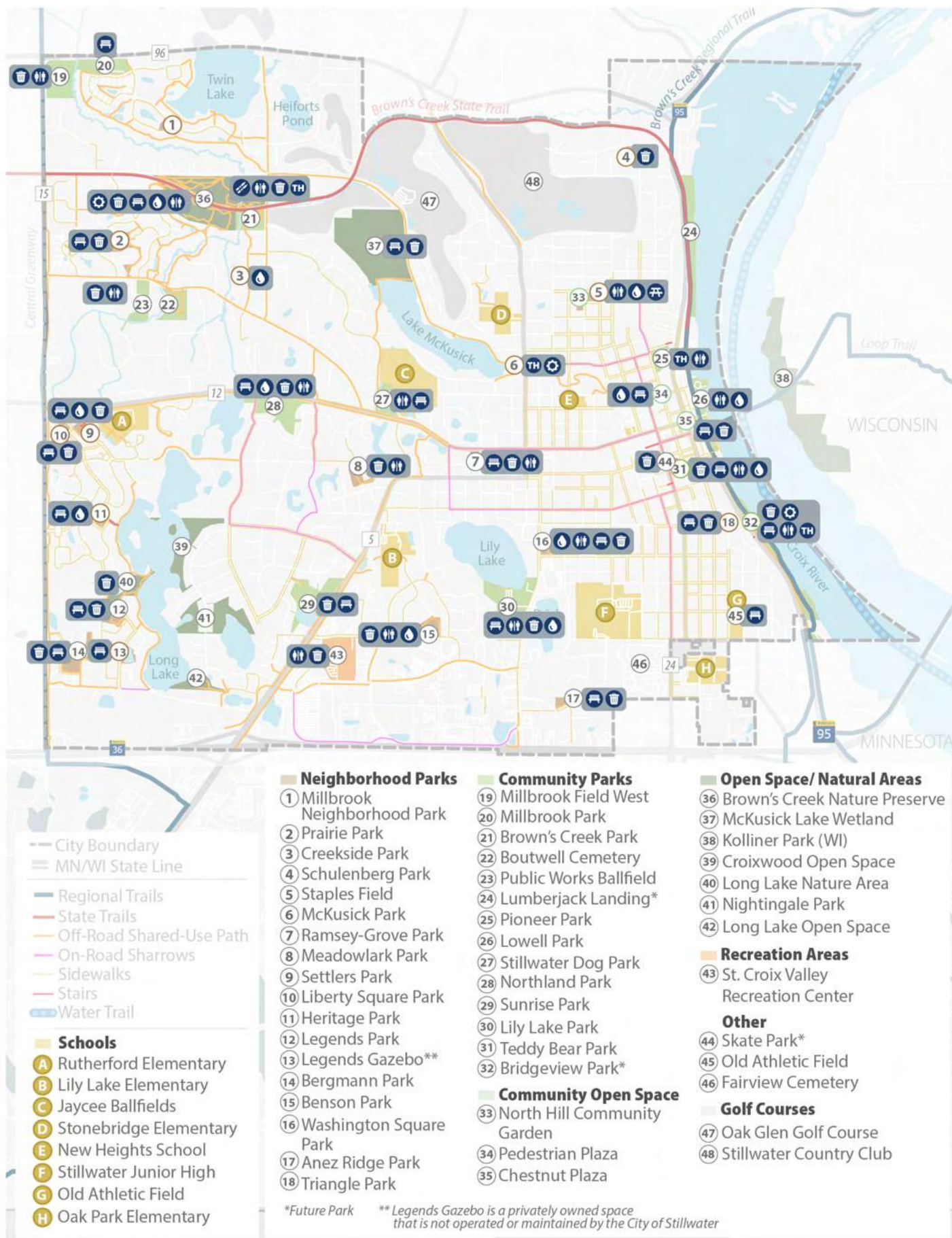


Figure 2.3 Existing Trail Amenities

Park Name	Picnicking			
	Grills	Uncovered Tables	Single-Covered Tables	Medium Picnic Shelter
Map Icon				
Neighborhood Parks:				
1 Millbrook Neighborhood Park				
2 Prairie Park		X		
3 Creekside Park			X	
4 Schulenburg Park				X
5 Staples Field		X		
6 McKusick Park				
7 Ramsey-Grove Park	X	X	X	
8 Meadowlark Park			X	
9 Settlers Park				
10 Liberty Square Park				X
11 Heritage Square Park		X		X
12 Legends Park				X
13 Legends Gazebo			X	
14 Bergman Park				X
15 Benson Park	X	X	X	
16 Washington Square Park	X			X
17 Anez Ridge Park			X	
18 Triangle Park				
Community Parks:				
19 Millbrook Field West				
20 Millbrook Park			X	X
21 Brown's Creek Park		X	X	
22 Boutwell Cemetery				
23 Public Works Ballfield		X		
24 Lumberjack Landing				
25 Pioneer Park	X	X		X
26 Lowell Park		X		
27 Stillwater Dog Park			X	
28 Northland Park		X	X	
29 Sunrise Park		1		

Park Name	Picnicking			
	Grills	Uncovered Tables	Single-Covered Tables	Medium Picnic Shelter
Map Icon				
30 Lily Lake Park	X	X	X	X
31 Teddy Bear Park		X		X
32 Bridgeview Park				
Community Open Spaces:				
33 North Hill Community Garden				
34 Pedestrian Plaza		X	X	
35 Chestnut Plaza				
Open Space/Natural Areas:				
36 Brown's Creek Nature Preserve		X		
37 McKusick Lake Wetland		X	X	
38 Kolliner Park(WI)				
39 Croixwood Open Space				
40 Long Lake Nature Area				
41 Nightingale Park				
42 Long Lake Open Space				
Recreation Center:				
43 St. Croix Valley Rec Center				
Other:				
44 Skate Park (Future)				
45 Old Athletic Field				
46 Fairview Cemetery				
Golf Courses:				
47 Oak Glen Golf Course				
48 Stillwater Country Club				



Washington Square Park medium picnic shelter

PICNICKING AMENITIES

Picnicking amenities help support parks and open spaces' mission to provide places for community members and their families to come together and gather. This table and diagram map existing charcoal grills, uncovered tables, and a variety of sizes of covered picnic shelters.

Today, picnic amenities within Stillwater parks consist mostly of uncovered tables and small shelters that while well-maintained and in good physical condition, lack accessibility features and vary in overall appearance from park to park. On top of lacking paved paths and trails to reach them, their placement within the parks isn't always the most ideal setting for user enjoyment.

At the time of this Parks Master Plan, the City of Stillwater lacks large rentable picnic shelters.



Northland Park small picnic shelter



Pioneer park uncovered tables



Washington Square Park grills

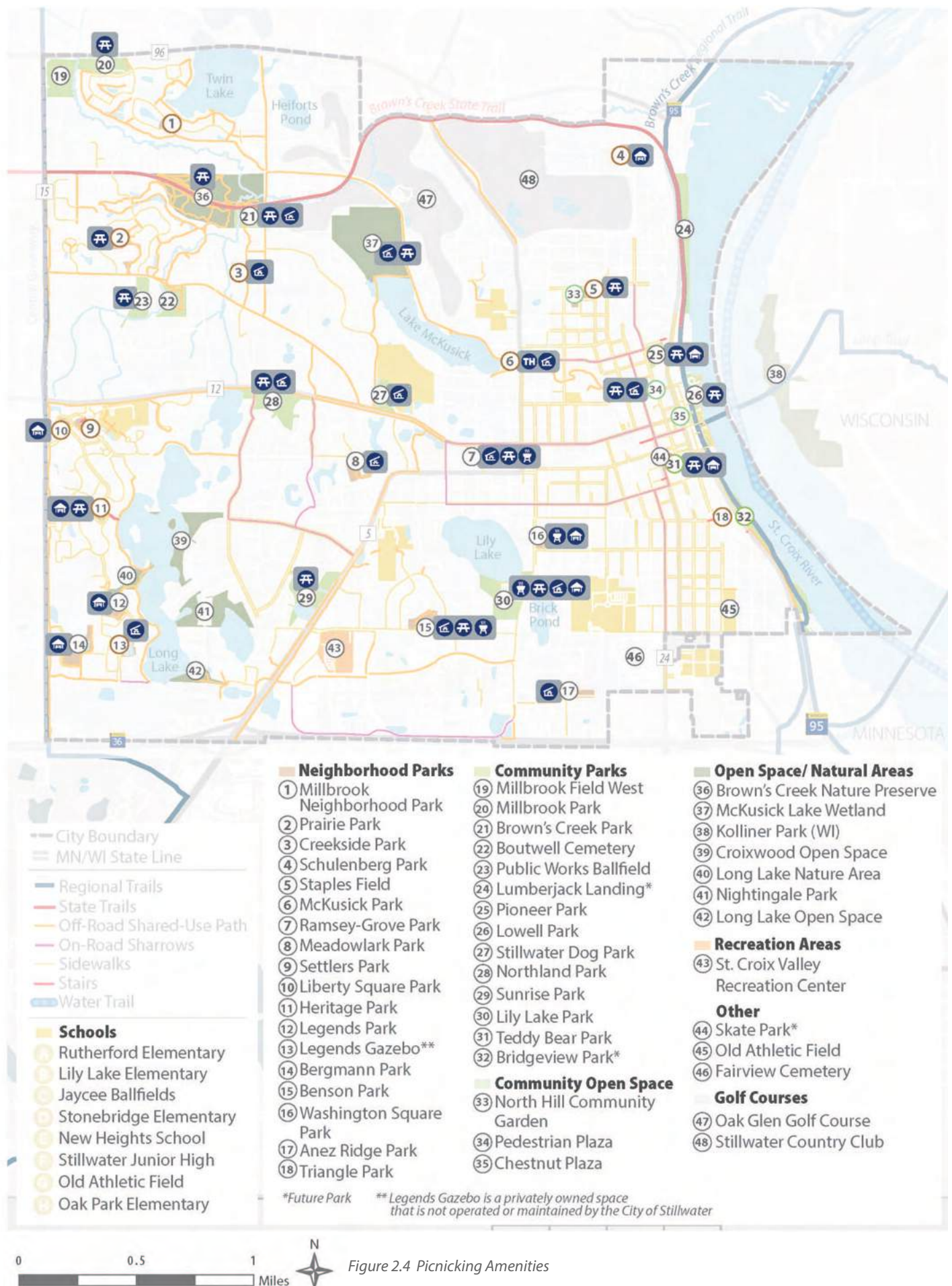


Figure 2.4 Picnicking Amenities

Park Name	Amenities/ Facilities			
	Cross-Country Ski	Ice Fishing	Sledding Hill	Skating (Indoor/Outdoor)
Map Icon				
Neighborhood Parks:				
1 Millbrook Neighborhood Park				
2 Prairie Park				
3 Creekside Park				
4 Schulenburg Park			X	
5 Staples Field				
6 McKusick Park				
7 Ramsey-Grove Park			X	
8 Meadowlark Park				
9 Settlers Park				
10 Liberty Square Park				
11 Heritage Square Park				
12 Legends Park				
13 Legends Gazebo				
14 Bergman Park				
15 Benson Park			X	
16 Washington Square Park				
17 Anez Ridge Park				
18 Triangle Park				
Community Parks:				
19 Millbrook Field West				
20 Millbrook Park				
21 Brown's Creek Park				
22 Boutwell Cemetery				
23 Public Works Ballfield				
24 Lumberjack Landing				
25 Pioneer Park				
26 Lowell Park				
27 Stillwater Dog Park				
28 Northland Park				X
29 Sunrise Park				
30 Lily Lake Park				X
31 Teddy Bear Park				
32 Bridgeview Park				

Park Name	Amenities/ Facilities			
	Cross-Country Ski	Ice Fishing	Sledding Hill	Skating (Indoor/Outdoor)
Map Icon				
Community Open Spaces:				
33 North Hill Community Garden				
34 Pedestrian Plaza				
35 Chestnut Plaza				
Open Space/Natural Areas:				
36 Brown's Creek Nature Preserve	X			
37 McKusick Lake Wetland				
38 Kolliner Park(WI)				
39 Croixwood Open Space				
40 Long Lake Nature Area				
41 Nightingale Park				
42 Long Lake Open Space				
Recreation Center:				
43 St. Croix Valley Rec Center				X
Other:				
44 Skate Park (Future)				
45 Old Athletic Field				X
46 Fairview Cemetery				
Golf Courses:				
47 Oak Glen Golf Course				
48 Stillwater Country Club				

WINTER USE

Programming activities for winter use for parks and open spaces is critical in cities with colder climates. Residents and visitors are always looking for something to help get them outdoors and sustain a healthy lifestyle no matter the season or forecast.

Currently, only a handful of winter activities are available within the park system. These include:

- Groomed ski trails at Brown's Creek Nature Preserve
- Ice skating rinks at Northland Park, Lily Lake Park, the St. Croix Recreation Center, and the Old Athletic Field
- Small sledding hills at Ramsey-Grove, Benson, and Schulenburg Parks

Additional recommendations for winter programming can be found in the recommendations chapter of the plan.



St. Croix Valley Rec Center Ice Arena



Lily Lake Ice Arena



Cross-country skiing



Figure 2.1 Winter Use Amenities



St. Croix river
boats in 1913
Stillwater



STILLWATER RIVER BOATS

THEN & NOW

Riverboats along the St. Croix in Stillwater, MN originated in the 1830's - 1850's as transportation for both the logging industry and settlers to the area.

When transportation and trading on the St. Croix was at its peak, hundreds of boats could be seen traveling and docking along the river every day.

Today, a number of tourism companies offer ticketed tours of the river on historic vessels, while shoreline seating and the lift bridge provide scenic viewing opportunities for those on land.

WATER RECREATION

The City of Stillwater's unique riverfront setting along the St. Croix is something that residents love and attracts tourists from all over the state of Minnesota for a visit. While the St. Croix historically supported the logging industry, it is largely used for recreational purposes today. Whether it's ticketed riverboat tours, private boat outings, paddle excursions, or simply watching watercraft from the lawns of Lowell Park, the river is a huge asset to the city and plays a major role in the park system.

Public water access sites that serve Stillwater residents include both river and lake options:

- Lily Lake Park - a large paved boat access ramp accompanied by vehicle parking and paddle craft storage. Lily Lake is a non-gas powered lake. Lily Lake lacks trailer parking areas.
- St. Croix River Boom Site - just outside of the city's boundaries to the north, a public boat and paddle launch with car and trailer parking.
- St. Croix Crossing - a few minute's commute outside of the city's boundaries to the south, a public boat launch with car and trailer parking.

A number of boat and paddle launch sites are planned for the future:

- Lumberjack Landing: an ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch and beach area for group launching is currently under development.
- Bridgeview Park: boat docks at both the north and south tips of the park are proposed as part of the master plan



St. Croix Crossing Boat Launch



Lumberjack Landing (future planned)



St. Croix River Boom Site Public Boat Launch



Lily Lake Boat Launch

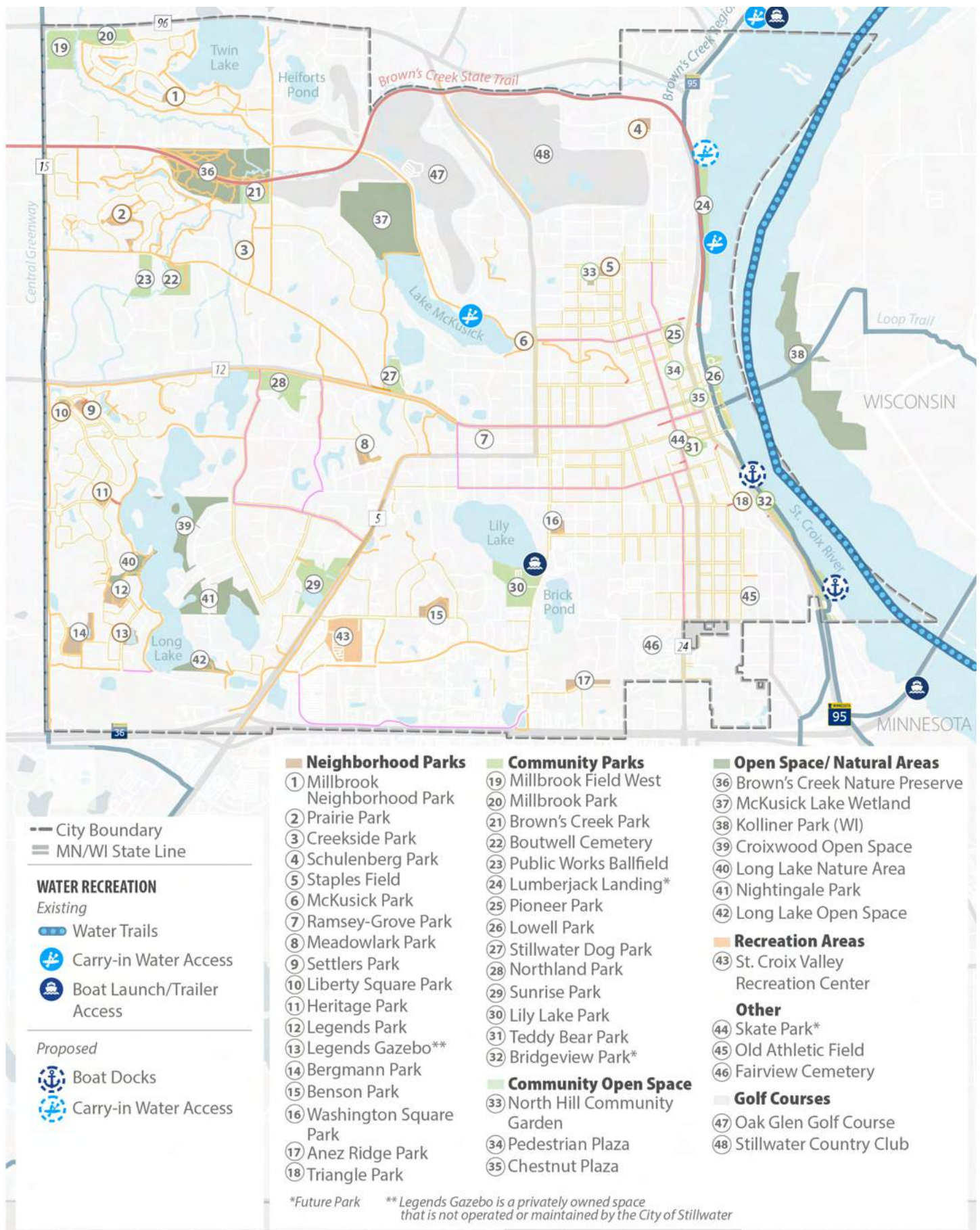
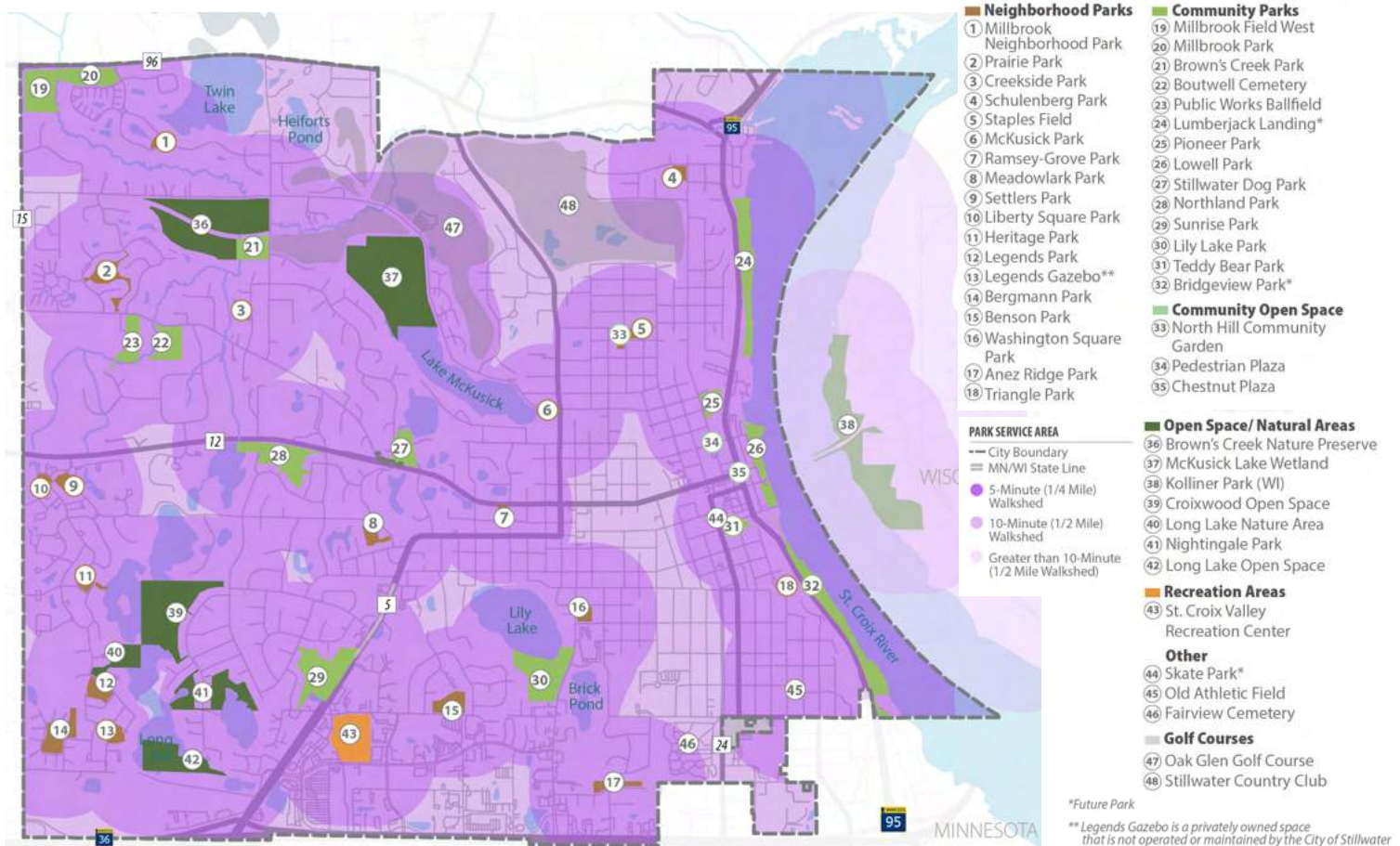


Figure 2.1 Water Recreation

SERVICE AREA DIAGRAMS

The following service area diagrams help provide a walkability analysis for the residents of Stillwater. These tools help distinguish gaps in the park system outside of a ten-minute walkable radius for amenities and facilities such as playgrounds, park shelters, trailheads, and sports courts.



Existing parks and open spaces

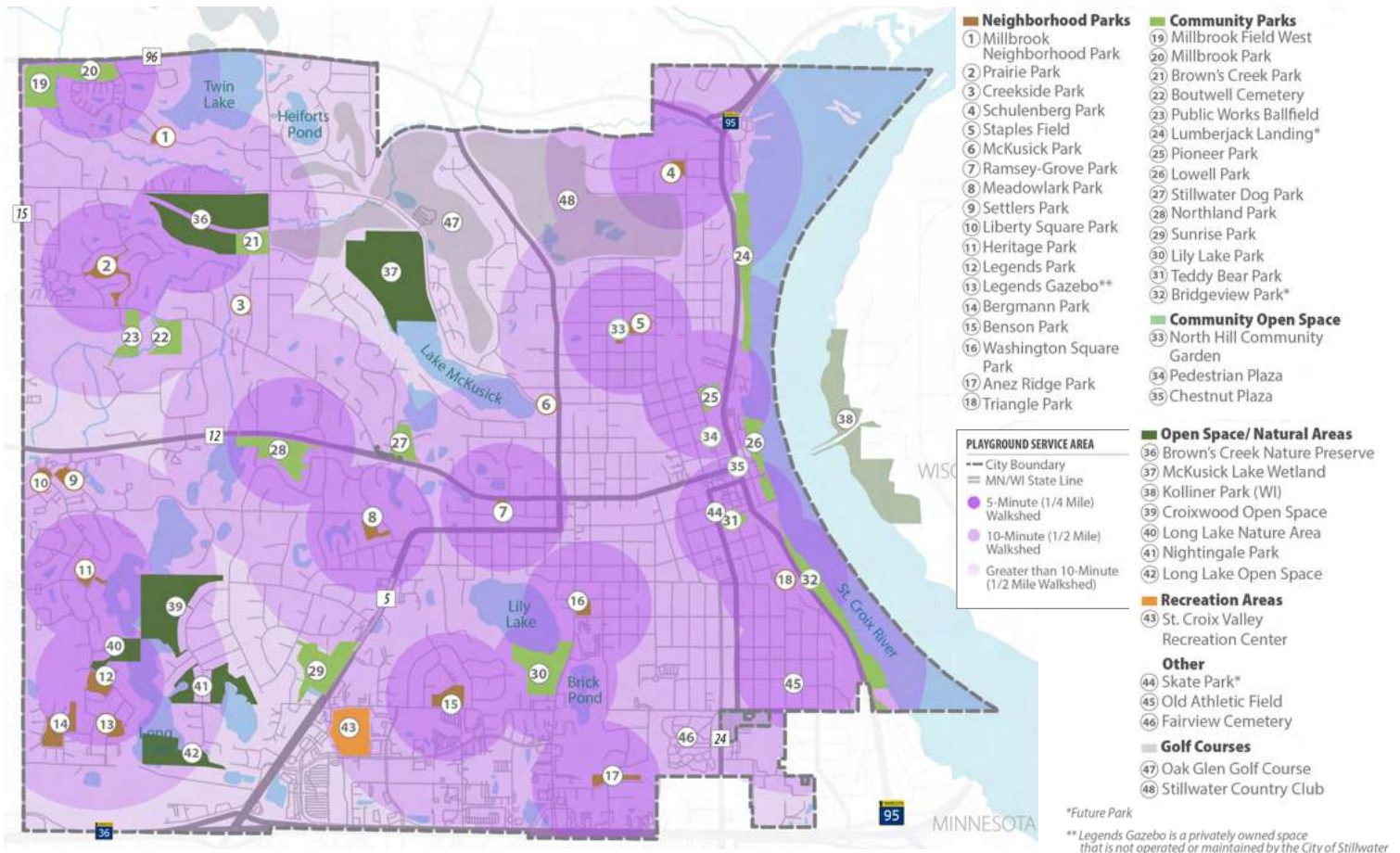
PARKS SERVICE AREAS

CONVENIENT ACCESS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The first Park and Trail Goal from Stillwater's Comprehensive Plan is to "provide a variety of passive and active parks and other leisure, recreational, and cultural opportunities that are conveniently located" among other things. While convenience varies from person to person, within park planning, having a park available within a 10-minute walk is generally considered the goal for every resident.

The vast majority of Stillwater residents are within 1/4-mile of a park, which is closer to a 5-minute walk, and better than national benchmarks. No residents are farther than 1/2 mile, or a 10-minute walk from a park.

Stillwater has one neighborhood or community park for every 668 people. The national average cited by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is 1,001 people per park for cities Stillwater's size.



PLAYGROUND AND PLAY STRUCTURES SERVICE AREAS

SUFFICIENT QUANTITY, BUT LACKING VARIETY

Stillwater has one playground for every 2,423 residents, which is better than the NRPA-reported national average of one playground per 3,509 residents. Playgrounds throughout the city are generally comprised of a set of swings, a small tot play structure for kids ages 2-5, and a slightly larger play structure for kids ages 5-12; although, the standard designs do not often hold older kids' attention for very long. Exceptions include Teddy Bear Park and Pioneer Park, which have larger, more unique play structures with a variety of features and layouts not seen at the traditional neighborhood park playgrounds.

Outside of the standard playground offerings opportunities for nature play, adventure play/ ninja courses, or inclusive play are all on the rise regionally, and would add variety to what is available within the city.

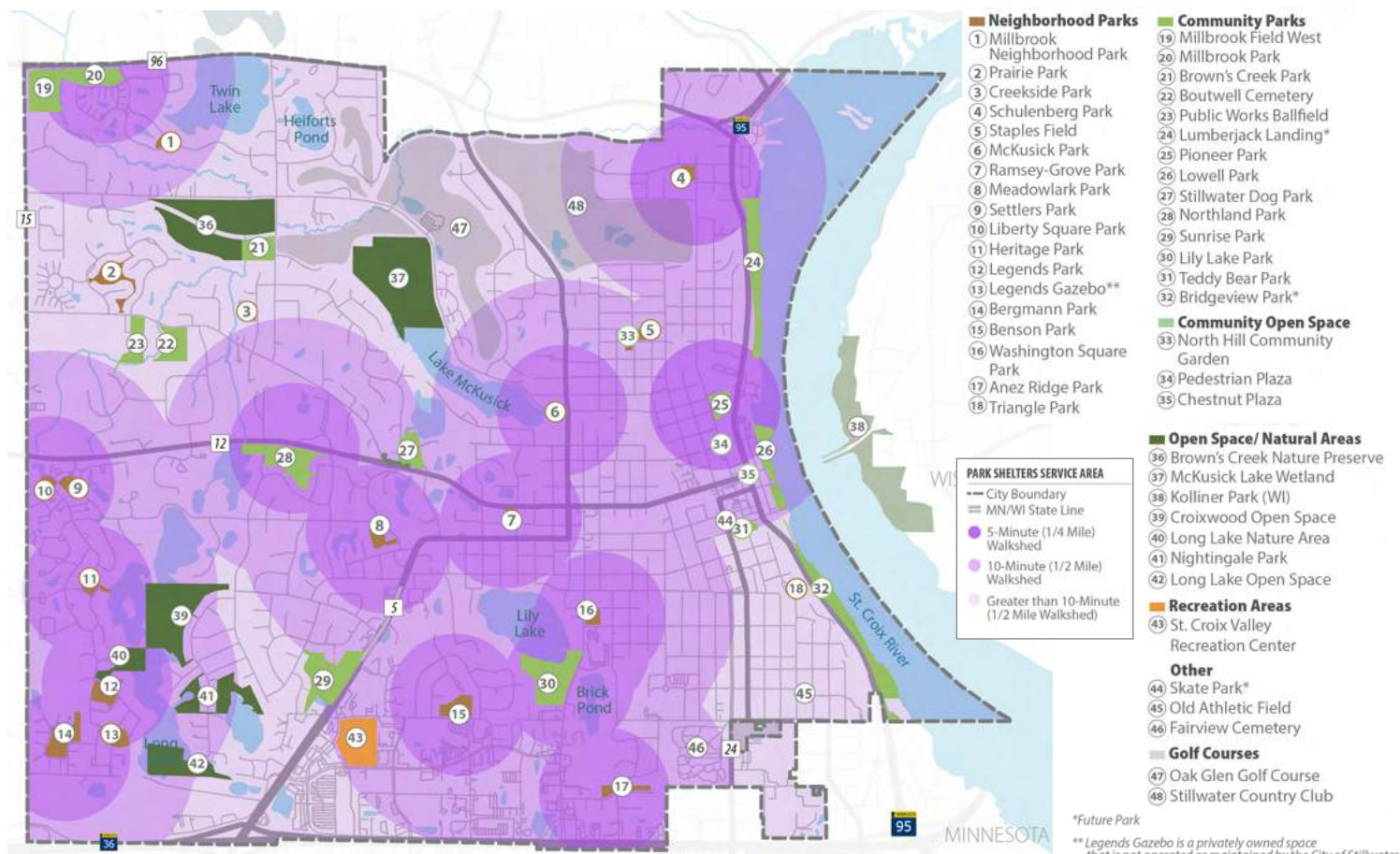
Stillwater's bluff setting makes ADA-accessibility tricky to achieve at certain parks. Few playgrounds have accessible play elements, restrooms, or other amenities to support visits from those using mobility devices. Safety surfacing is primarily engineered wood fiber mulch, which can be an ADA-accessible surface if it is properly compacted and maintained; however, poured-in-place surfacing is generally preferred. New Heights School, a local public charter school, recently installed an inclusive playground, but there are no inclusive playgrounds within the city's park system.



Ramsey-Grove Park



Northland Park



Northland Park



Millbrook Park



Schulenberg Park



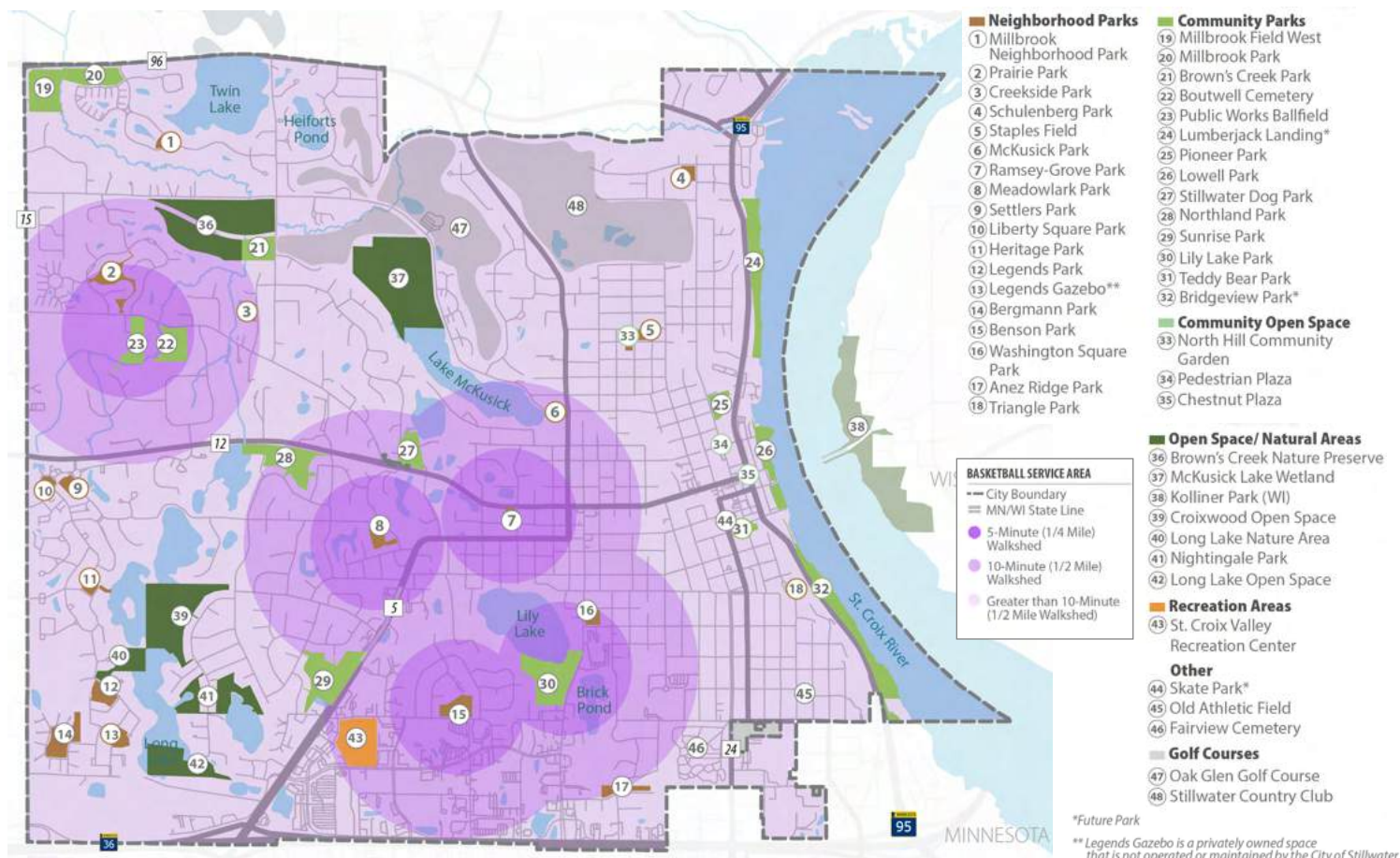
Pioneer Park

PARK SHELTERS SERVICE AREAS

*MANY SMALL PICNIC SHELTERS,
FEW FOR LARGE GATHERINGS*

Many of Stillwater's parks have small, single table picnic shelters, which provide individual families with protection from the elements on park visits. These shelters are well distributed throughout the city. Less prevalent are medium-sized shelters that accommodate slightly larger groups of 10-20 people.

At the time of this master plan, the City of Stillwater lacks large rentable picnic shelters. High capacity rentable shelters are a key amenity for community gatherings, family reunions, and graduation parties. They require parking, accessible routes, and large footprints, and benefit from proximity to flexible turf fields and playgrounds. If suitable space can be identified for a large rentable shelter, the park system would benefit, especially if it can be placed in the northwest quadrant, which currently lacks access to picnic shelters.



Benson Park



Lily Lake Park

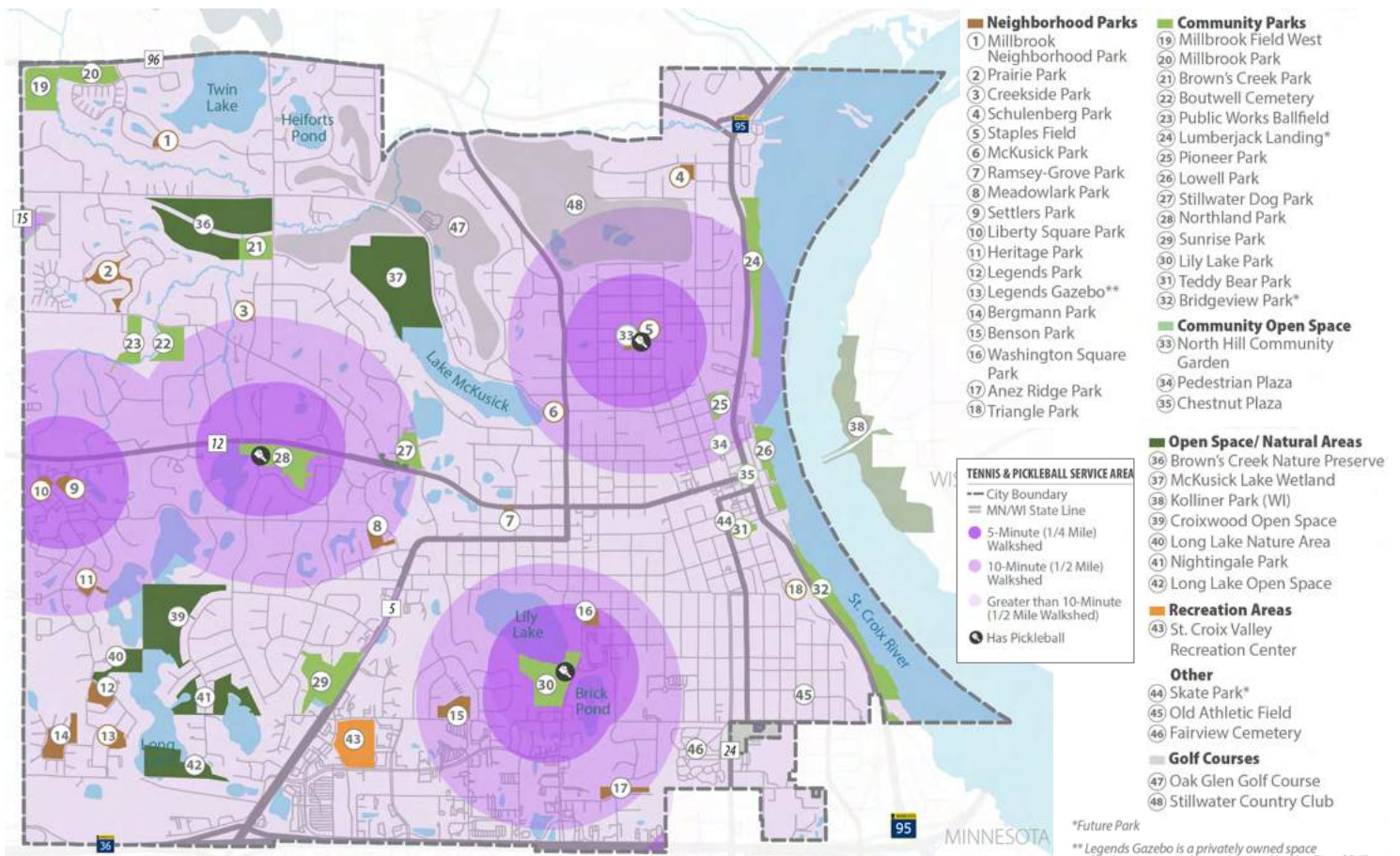


Ramsey-Grove Park

BASKETBALL SERVICE AREA MORE THAN THE MEDIAN, BUT NOT EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED

Stillwater has one basketball court for every 4,846 residents, which is in the top quartile of park systems studied. The median number of residents served by a basketball court is 9,140.

The eastern half of the city has the least access to basketball courts due to slopes and grades.



TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL SERVICE AREA

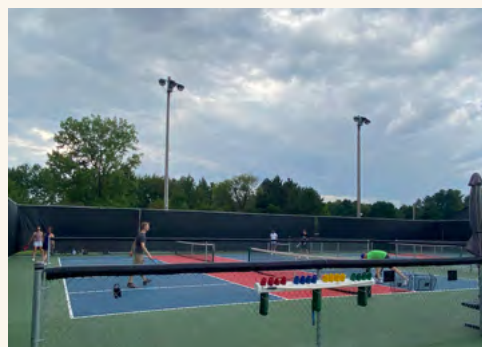
WELL-DISTRIBUTED RACKET SPORT COURTS

Pickleball is new enough that the NRPA does not yet have standards tracking median number of residents served by each court. However, when we look at tennis, the median number of residents served by each court in participating park systems is 5,491. Stillwater has one tennis court for every 3,231 residents and one pickleball court for every 1,615 residents.

Courts are well-distributed throughout the city and tend to be in good condition.



Settlers Park



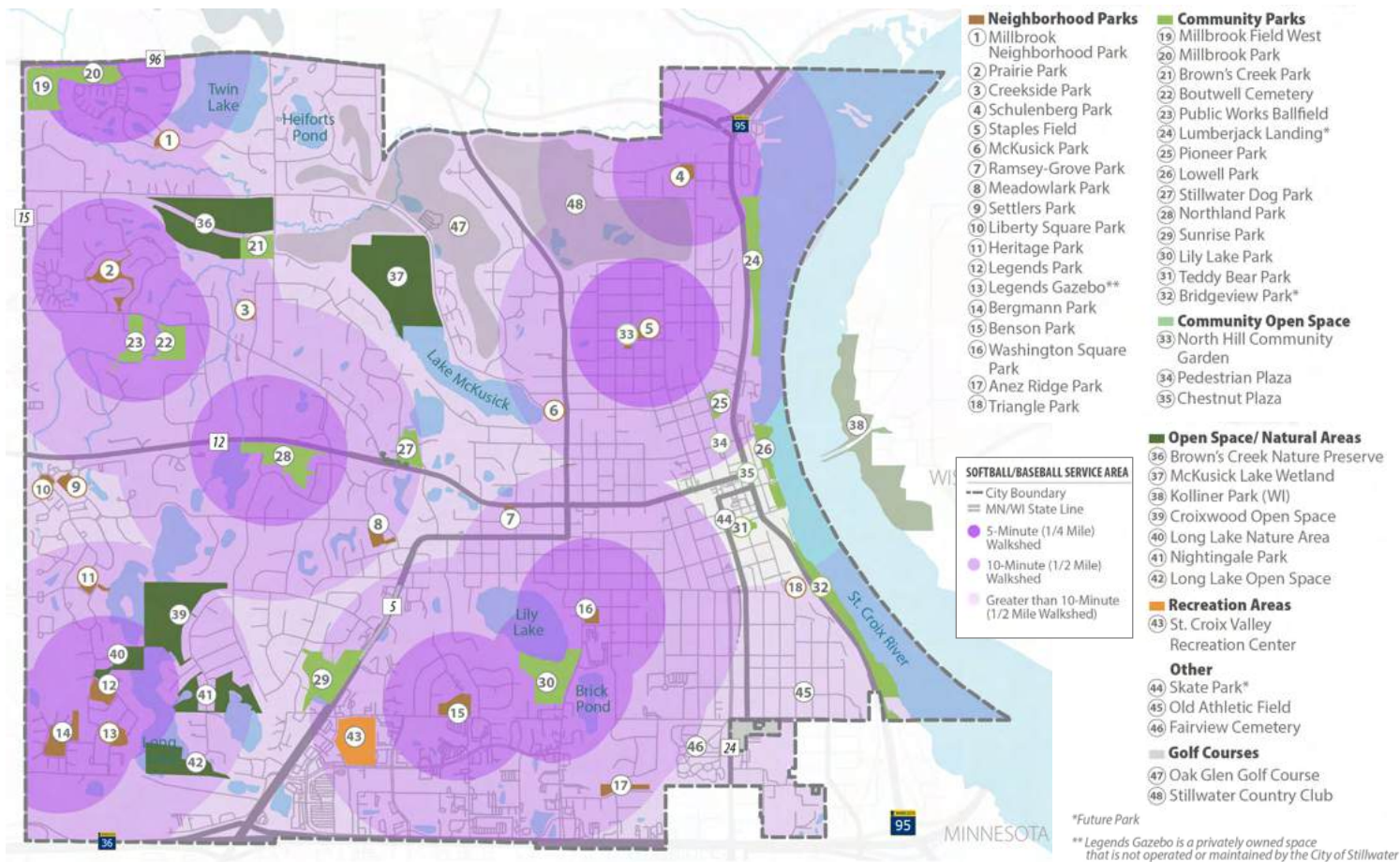
Northland Park



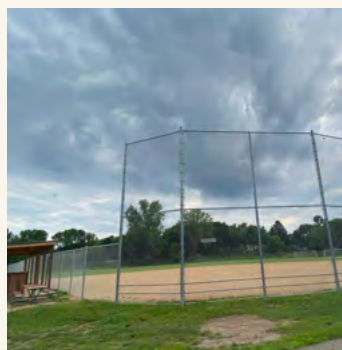
Lily Lake Park



Staples Park



Settlers Park



Northland Park



Lily Lake Park



Staples Park

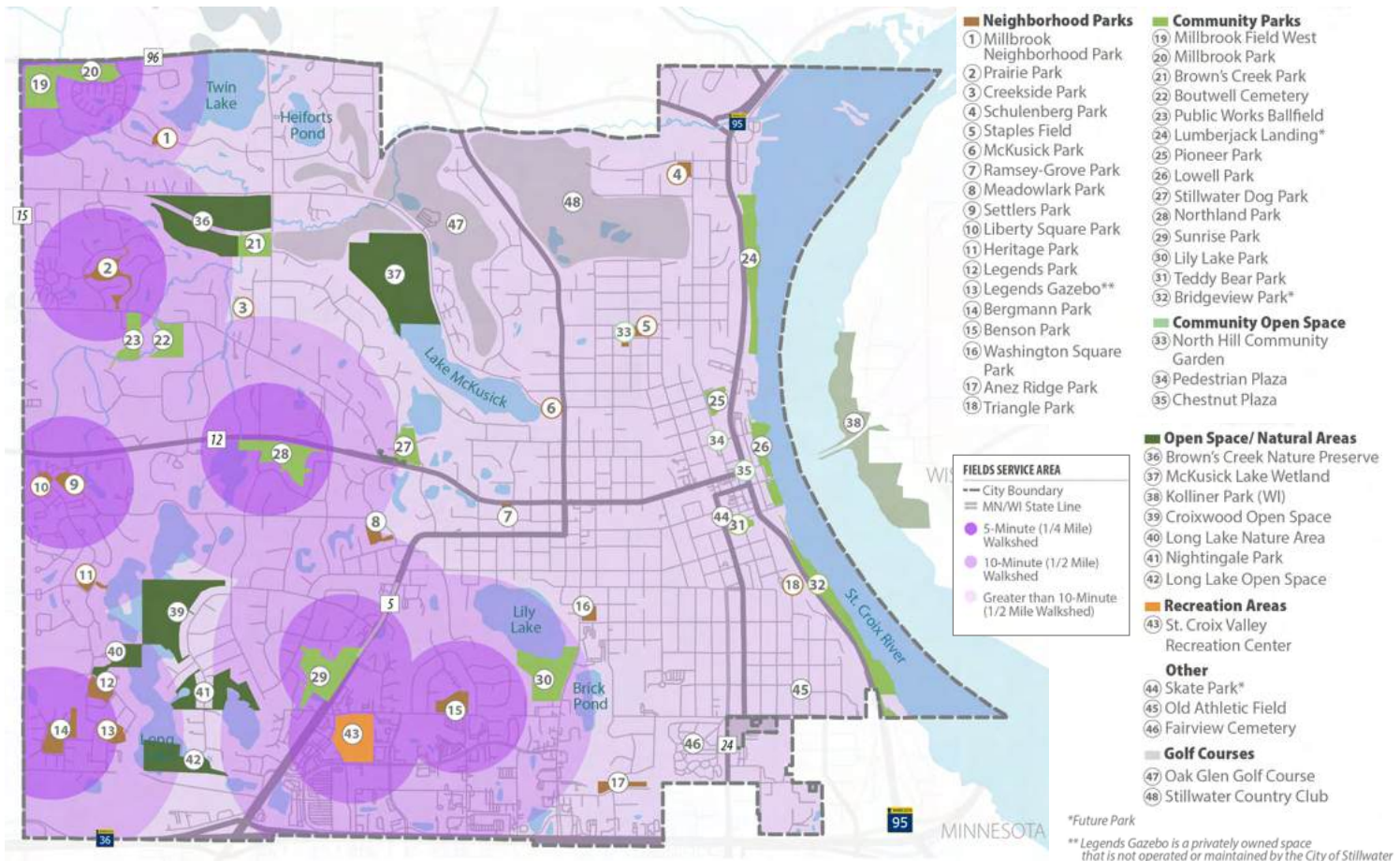
SOFTBALL/BASEBALL SERVICE AREA

AN ABUNDANCE OF INFORMAL BALLFIELDS

Stillwater has one ball diamond for every 1,491 residents, far more than the NRPA median of one per 5,777 residents. Most of the ballfields are single fields with a backstop. The fields primarily serve for informal pick-up games and are not well-utilized everywhere. Aglime infields are in mixed condition across the city and in some cases, outfields are striped for field sports like soccer as well.

The Stillwater Area Baseball Association (SABA) is searching for space for a full-sized 14u baseball field within the park system. SABA currently shares field rentals for players 14u and up, which presents scheduling conflicts. While none of Stillwater's current parks can accommodate this size of facility, there may be potential to acquire land for a ballfield of this size. Undeveloped land at the intersection of Washington Ave and Orleans St. may be of interest and should be examined as part of the next Comprehensive Plan update.

City ballfields with the best capacity for programmed recreation and tournaments include Lily Lake Park, Northland Park, Millbrook Ballpark, and the Public Works Ballfield. School facilities, Jaycee Ballfields, and the Old Athletic Field, while not owned/operated by the City, are also utilized for baseball and softball, further expanding the availability of this type of recreation.



RECTANGLE FIELDS SERVICE AREA

ABOVE AVERAGE, BUT NOT IDEALLY ARRANGED FOR ORGANIZED LEAGUES
Rectangular fields serve soccer, football, and lacrosse, as well as Ultimate and other informal play.

Stillwater's field distribution is reflective of soccer's rise in popularity in recent decades as the western half of the city was developed. None of the city parks closest to downtown have space for rectangle fields, given the dense makeup of these neighborhoods.

Despite their uneven distribution, Stillwater does have far more rectangle fields (one per 2,154 residents) than the NRPA median of one per 5,999 residents. However, due to space constraints, most parks have a single field, which is not ideal for multi-team practices or tournament play.



Millbrook Field West



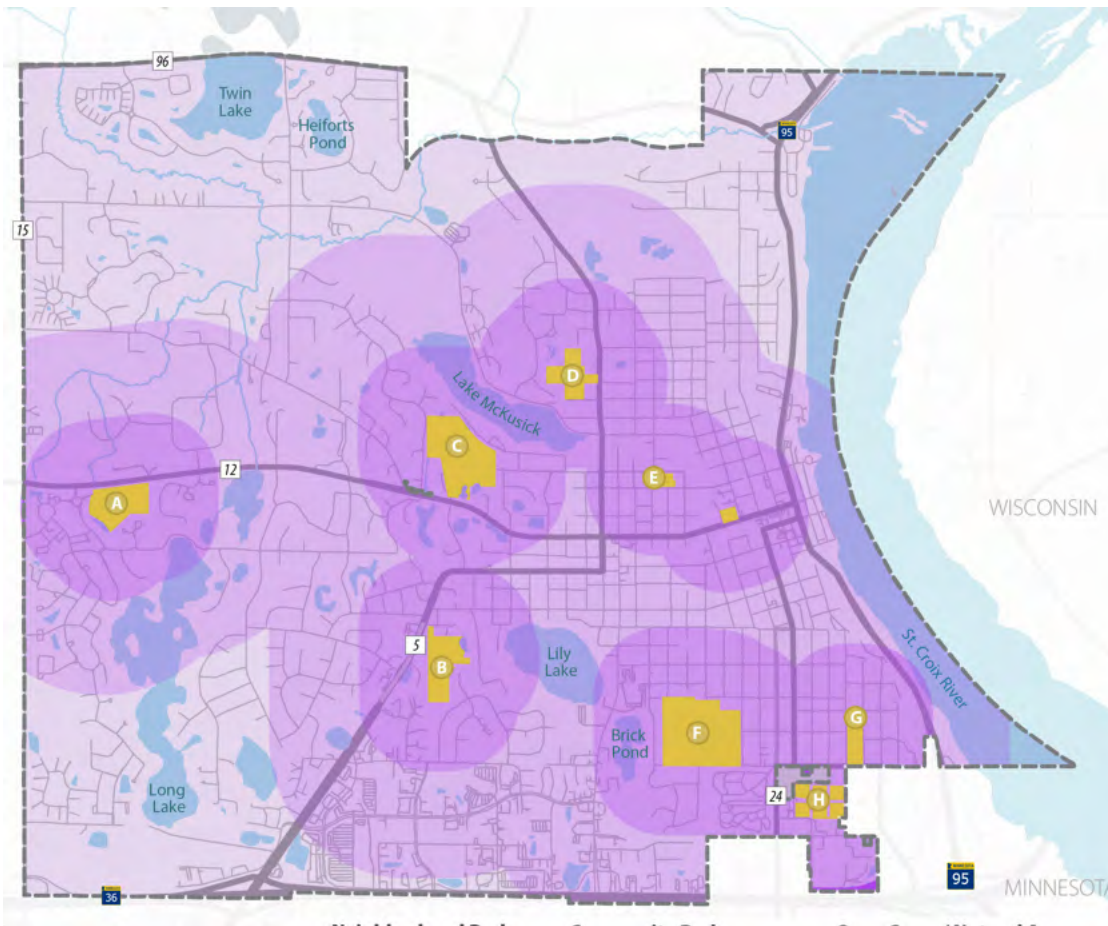
St. Croix Recreation Center



Bergmann Park



Northland Park



Jaycee Park Ballfields



Old Athletic Field - Baseball Diamond

SEPARATING CITY PARKS & SCHOOL FACILITIES LOOKING INTO PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AND FUTURE COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

Schools play a valuable role in connecting families to recreation and athletics opportunities. They often have larger tracts of land than city parks, and are able to provide access to complexes of fields and courts. School facilities complement city facilities, and while their operation and maintenance is separate, they still factor into what is available within the city. The following parks are run by the school district, and as such, do not have recommendations as part of this plan, but are worth noting:

JAYCEE FIELDS

This is the largest complex of ballfields present within the city, offering three high quality baseball fields with lighting, dugouts, and batting cages.

OLD ATHLETIC FIELD

Formerly serving the High School, the Old Athletic Field has a lighted rectangular field striped for football, a small playground, and a ballfield.

PARTNERS, PROGRAMS, AND RECREATION

One of the keys to a well-used and well-loved park system is the programming that brings spaces and facilities to life. The City of Stillwater has a rich history of seasonal riverfront events in Lowell Park, live music, and partnerships with scouts and environmental groups that work together to protect, promote, and advocate for parks and open spaces. Some of the groups and programs that contribute to activating the park system include:

NORTH HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

North Hill Community Garden was established in 2013 through a cooperative agreement between neighborhood residents and the city. Built by North Hill residents, the garden is currently managed through a 501c3 that was established in 2023.

The garden has 41 plots open to all Stillwater residents, and, in addition to providing a communal location to plant and tend to gardens, North Hill Community Garden also holds youth education programs, partners with Master Gardeners, hosts a produce share, and periodically offers soil testing kits and compost to residents. With an annual waitlist, North Hill Community Garden has proven that there's a local demand for community agriculture within the city, and provides a valuable resource for interested residents.



BIRD CITY GARDENS

A PROGRAM OF SUSTAINABLE STILLWATER

Sustainable Stillwater's Bird City Gardens program works to establish bird-friendly habitat and promote biodiversity in the St. Croix Valley.

- This effort aims to boost local and regional bird populations, which have been in decline since the 1970's, by planting habitat that helps house and sustain local bird species.
- The group advocates for thoughtful design that reduces human-caused threats to birds, including bird-friendly windows in new or existing structures/site development.
- They offer educational resources to help residents make bird-friendly enhancements to their own home gardens and to identify bird calls through their Haikubox network.
- They work to maintain Stillwater's status as an officially designated Bird City through the Audubon Society.
- They offer stewardship and education programs like buckthorn management at Lumberjack Landing and McKusick Ravine, or classes on native habitat at the recently constructed Mulberry Creek Bird Station.

Nonprofit partners like Sustainable Stillwater and programs like Bird City Gardens provide ways for residents to connect with their neighbors and with the natural world right outside their door.

ATHLETICS

Stillwater has several athletic organizations that attract local residents, including the Stillwater Area Baseball Association (SABA), St. Croix Valley Athletic Association (SCVAA), Stillwater Area Fastpitch Association (SAFA), Stillwater Area Lacrosse Association, St. Croix Soccer Club, Stillwater Pickleball Group, and adult softball leagues through the school district.

Each sport and group have different needs and levels of interaction with City of Stillwater parks, and often utilize school facilities and regional facilities in nearby communities to supplement local park facilities. While this is to be expected given Stillwater's relative density and space constraints compared to other St. Croix Valley communities, city park athletic fields often fill a closer-to-home niche for practices, while tournament play and games occur elsewhere at larger, more specialized complexes.

City park athletic fields are available to reserve by organized leagues, and can accommodate re-stripping and field prep to optimize available rectangle field space for lacrosse, varying age levels of soccer, and football.



Stillwater Baseball Association

LIVE MUSIC AND GATHERING

Stillwater has long hosted seasonal events and utilized parks and open spaces to bring the community together. Events are primarily located in riverfront parks and the historic downtown areas.

- Lowell Park/Chestnut Plaza
 - "Summer Tuesdays" is a weekly evening market with local makers, music, and movies on the waterside lawn once the sun begins to set.
 - Lumberjack Days is a summer festival that celebrates the Stillwater's history as the "Birthplace of Minnesota" and its foundational North Woods logging heritage. Food, live musical entertainment, a children's area, classic lumberjack competitions, and a parade are all part of the fun.
 - Rivertown Fall Art Festival is a colorful fall makers market with tents and food/snack vendors.
 - Harvest Fest occurs every autumn and is well-known for pumpkin weigh-offs, chili cook-offs, paddling pumpkin regattas, and the giant pumpkin drop.
 - The 4th of July Celebration includes fireworks and other vendors.
 - The city makes the most of the cold winter months by hosting the World Snow Celebration and Hometown for the Holidays light displays here.
- Pioneer Park
 - Provides a venue for a variety of classes, including "Yoga in the Park," fly fishing, and even hula hooping.
 - Has hosted special events like the Valley Eco Fair and concerts by local musicians like the St. Croix Jazz Orchestra



"Summer Tuesdays"



Rivertown Art Festival at Lowell Park



Lumberjack Days at Lowell Park



Pioneer Park "Yoga in the Park"

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TRENDS IN RECREATION

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION (NRPA) 2025 FINDINGS

The NRPA examines park systems around the country, provides information on level of service provided by recreation type for each participating park system, and highlights the nation's top trends among parks and trail users each year. The information gathered helps highlight popular sports, activities, and programs to help cities across the nation make decisions for their parks and trails based on what users might desire most. This information, combined with staff and community feedback was used to generate a list of trends that inform recommendations for the Stillwater Park System Plan over the next 10-20 years.

OVERARCHING THEME: *PARKS THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE*



11%

of Stillwater's population is living with a disability.

FOSTER INCLUSION

Sources indicate an increased demand for diverse, inclusive, and flexible parks that allow individuals of any physical or mental ability, and any age range to participate in use.

- Nearly 9 in 10 Americans say communities should offer inclusive play options at playgrounds across the country (2018 NRPA).

Ways that the Park System Plan can help meet these expectations include:

- Conducting walking audits to help determine gaps and desires
- Incorporate Miracle Fields and Inclusive Playgrounds
- Consider Intergenerational Playgrounds
- Design calming areas for those with autism or sensory processing disorders.





nearly
30%
of Stillwater's
population is
under the age
of 24



ENGAGING NEW GENERATIONS

According to the NRPA's 2025 report, upcoming generations are seeking experiences more than ever before, and have a large interest in technology-integrated activities. To keep new generations interested and invested in parks and open spaces, consider:

- Balancing passive and active recreation
- Offer spaces for unstructured, exploratory, and creative play
- Replace traditional playgrounds with adventure play, nature play, or ninja courses
- Add educational/ interpretive programs that partner with schools & after school programs
- Incorporate technology into exploration (AR trails, fitness apps)
- Focus on "third spaces" for teens:
 - Desire to see and be seen, but remain out of reach and earshot
 - Desire spaces for group socialization

DESIGNING FOR AN AGING POPULATION

A 2021 NRPA Study reported that older participants were requesting "supportive senior-specific park infrastructure to encourage park usage and exercise." (seniortrade.com). As many of the city's residents age, its important to offer passive and active recreation options that promote a healthy lifestyle. Ways to do this include:

- Offer features for a variety of mobility and activity levels
- Offer mid-day recreation programs and volunteer opportunities
- Promote fitting types of outdoor recreation:
 - Walking
 - Gardening
 - Low-impact sports
- Consider Intergenerational Playgrounds:
 - Playgrounds and shelters that offer easy, paved access from parking areas
 - Fitness equipment options
 - Accessible playground equipment
 - Seating areas throughout



over
27%
of Stillwater's
population is
60+ years of
age



OVERARCHING THEME: ADAPTING TO CHANGING RECREATION PREFERENCES

As reported interest in organized athletics and traditional sports decline, park systems must strive to meet the demands of changing user priorities with new and emerging play, trendy sports (rock climbing, skateboarding, curling) and community-driven programs.

RISE IN NON-TRADITIONAL SPORTS

Traditional sports have seen a decline in interest and enrollment, mainly among young adults & their children. This means:

- Requests for additional specialized, single-use facilities for up and coming sports like Pickleball- now the fastest growing sport in America with a 311% Increase in participation over the last three years
- Increased coordination to accommodate new sports that use fields similar to traditional sports (i.e. Lacrosse)
- Potential for reduced demand for current athletic facilities (Less adult league participation)

Ways in which park systems can keep up with new demands:

- Consider multi-purpose, flexible field space
- Focus on providing additional specialized sport facilities such as:



Padel

- Traditional Padel courts are 66 ft long and 33 ft wide with walls and turf ground
- Quickly gaining popularity around the world
- Only 1 Padel court currently in MN



Futsal

- Regulation futsal courts are 131 ft long and 66 ft wide with a hard surface
- Ability to play indoors on retrofitted basketball courts regardless of weather
- St. Paul has constructed 4 public courts in the last 5 years, Minneapolis has constructed 1



Curling

- Minnesota team won the first U.S. gold Olympic medal in curling in 2018
- Accessible to and popular with all ages
- Five Curling Clubs established in Twin Cities since 2011



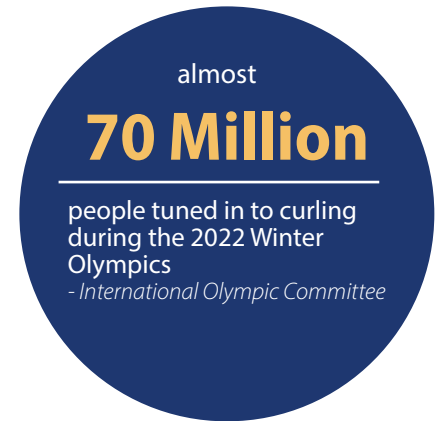
Disc Golf

- Disc golf has seen a 75% increase in participation over the last 5 years.
- 89% of disc golf areas are free, encouraging participation and accessibility
- 1.23 million people use the UDisc app



DESIRE FOR FITNESS ALTERNATIVES

- Fitness Courts - National Fitness Campaign
 - Accessible outdoor station designed for adults of all ages
 - Flexible area for holding fitness classes
 - Connects to an app for free self-guided training
- Fitness stations
 - Fitness trails provide intermittent fitness equipment for individuals to use at their own pace
 - Fitness stations can include strength, balance, cardio, and flexibility equipment
 - Popular with people of all ages
- Increased trail demand for cycling, rucking, and trail running
 - A low barrier to entry and the rise of activity tracking apps such as Strava have continued the pandemic boom of outdoor recreation



E-BIKES AND MICROMOBILITY DEVICES

E-Bikes have gained popularity in recent years as personal ownership grows and renting stations are more readily available throughout cities. Motorized bikes and micromobility devices help improve park connectivity to regional trails and other destinations. Some facts around this growing trend include:

- Treated similarly to traditional bikes in Minnesota ordinances and allowed on most bike trails unless otherwise stated
- Must meet the definition of assisted bike under one of three classifications based on peak speeds and motor assistance
- Speed limits are typically 20 MPH and individuals under 18 must wear helmets.
- Speed limit enforcement is an issue
- Bike and device parking is desired in highly visible areas
- Safety concerns rise as tech evolutions outpace regulation:
 - Devices can feel too fast for shared-use trails with walkers, strollers, and kids
 - Uptick in e-motors, fully electric devices which are barred on trails and streets
 - Rise of electric scooters has increased illegal sidewalk riding



20mph

Speed limits



Riders under
18years

require
helmets

TIK TOK AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media has become a powerful motivator for both positive and negative use or visitation of parks, trails, and other open spaces.

Examples of the negative influences of social media include:

- Vandalism is trending with kids filming their exploits
 - Stealing bathroom soap dispensers, supplies, amenities
 - Graffiti, fires, and other property destruction
- Has prompted some park systems to consider investments
 - Additional security cameras
 - Self cleaning toilets made from stainless-steel
 - MRC smart bathrooms equipped with dispensing sanitary paper

Examples of the positive influences of social media might be:

- Visiting a location or attraction to capture “Instagrammable” moments (views, unique attractions, public artwork, etc.) these photo opportunities help to drive visitorship. Ways to encourage to use of social media for positive purposes may include
 - Providing selfie stations provide easy photo taking and branding opportunities
 - Murals and public art displays encourage photography



STACKING FUNCTIONS: SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT PARKS

PARKLAND AS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

As climate change continues to be a growing concern for cities, many are seeking ways that they can use their parks and open spaces for additional resiliency. Flood control is especially a concern in river-side locations such as Stillwater. Possible flood control methods include:

- Floods are becoming more frequent and more severe, increasing risks to safety and property
- Green infrastructure promotes recovery after flooding, reduces maintenance, and improves water quality
- Designing for flooding can keep portions of parks usable during flood events.
- Raingardens, bioswales, and constructed wetlands along shorelines can capture and slowly release floodwaters
- Stormwater-oriented green infrastructure in non-floodplain parks reduces flooding in large rainfall events

By 2100, the average 100-year floodplain will increase **45%**

and annual flooding damages will increase by **\$750 million**

- US EPA

COMMUNITY GARDENS & EDIBLE LANDSCAPES

FOOD FORESTS, ORCHARDS, AND GARDENS



- There is a growing desire for parkland to include productive landscapes like food forests or orchards
 - Food forests and orchards address food insecurity, provide tree canopy, and provide healthy foods to community members
 - Unlike community gardens, food forests allow anyone to come and harvest produce
 - Fruit trees and shrubs serve as a communal resource
- Community gardens offer socialization, education, and a space to grow food and flowers
 - Community gardens can partner with schools for education in nutrition, natural sciences, and community connections
 - Produce from community gardens can be incorporated into school meals
 - Grant opportunities for educational gardens are available through many sources

WHAT DOES WINTER RECREATION LOOK LIKE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE?

Over time with an increasingly changing climate globally, Minnesota, The state of Minnesota as a whole will see fewer use days for sledding, cross-country skiing, and outdoor rinks with annual temperatures continuing to rise. Examples of ways for northern cities to continue enjoying recreation during the winter months include:

- Where regular use is desired, some communities invest in snowmaking or refrigeration, often paired with lighting to further increase use hours
- Multi-use winter recreation facilities, such as rinks that double as a dog park, roller rink, or other use provide amenities when ice is not available
- Strategically siting sledding hills on north-facing slopes that experience fewer freeze/thaw cycles



By the year 2100, Minnesota is likely to lose up to

55 days of snow cover per year

- UofM

PARKS FOR BIODIVERSITY

ATTENTION TO POLLINATOR HABITAT

Recently, reports are finding an increased interest in biodiversity and desire for more mainstream knowledge of the importance of pollinators.

- Parks can provide opportunities to add pollinator habitat by:
 - Naturalizing underutilized edges with native seed mixes
 - Pollinator lawn seed mixes over traditional Kentucky bluegrass turf
 - Leaving leaf litter provides winter shelter for pollinators
 - Swapping pesticides for organic deterrents can reduce maintenance budgets and health concerns



OUTREACH SUMMARY

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

The following stakeholders were involved in providing feedback during the planning process:

- Stillwater Area Baseball Association (SABA)
- St. Croix Valley Athletic Association (SCVAA)
- Stillwater Area Fastpitch Association (SAFA)
- Stillwater Area Lacrosse Association
- St. Croix Soccer Club
- Stillwater's School District
- The Adopt-a-Park Program
- Friends of Lily Lake
- North Hill Community Garden
- Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce
- Discover Stillwater
- Sustainable Stillwater
- Bird City Gardens
- Strong Heart Farms
- The Pollinator-friendly Alliance
- Browns Creek Watershed District
- Middle St. Croix WMO
- Heritage Preservation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Energy Access Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission

WHAT WE HEARD

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The project process saw two separate phases of community engagement where the community was surveyed both online and in person to hear what facilities or amenities they might be interested in seeing proposed for the next 10-20 years of the parks system.

ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

FALL 2025-WINTER 2026

PHASE 1

Digital Survey:

A short 5 minute survey was advertised to the community via a variety of paper and digital marketing materials to learn about user's past or current experience with Stillwater Parks. Questions included topics such as frequency of attendance, favorite spots, methods of travel to and from, issues or concerns regarding access, and overall satisfaction of current facilities and amenities. Responses helped outline what residents love about their parks, what could be better, and any items that they feel are missing in the system overall.

Interactive Mapping Tool

A map of all existing parks, trails, and open spaces within Stillwater was uploaded to an engagement site where users could drop geo-located pins to highlight and leave comments on places they like, comments or ideas they have, or things they are concerned about. A summary of these findings can be seen in the following pages, while a more comprehensive list of comments received is located in the document appendix.

In-Person Pop-up Event

The consulting group tabled at the annual 'trunk or treat' event in the fall of 2025 hosted at the City's Public Works building. As groups wandered past trick-or-treating, the team engaged in conversation about the current planning process, answered questions, and encouraged participation by handing out links to the online engagement materials.

SPRING 2026

PHASE 2

Online Report Review:

The consulting group posted an online review of the first four chapters of the draft report document and opened the content up for comments by both stakeholder groups and residents. The review period lasted approximately one month. Once closed, all feedback received was reviewed and taken into consideration for potential modifications.



INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL

The interactive mapping tool is an online platform that allows users to drop geographically located “pins” on a diagram of existing parks and trails within the city and leave feedback by selecting from three comment categories. Other guests to the site can view what previous respondents have posted, and start a conversation with others. The following pages show a high-level summary of the feedback received. A more comprehensive summary can be found in the document appendix.

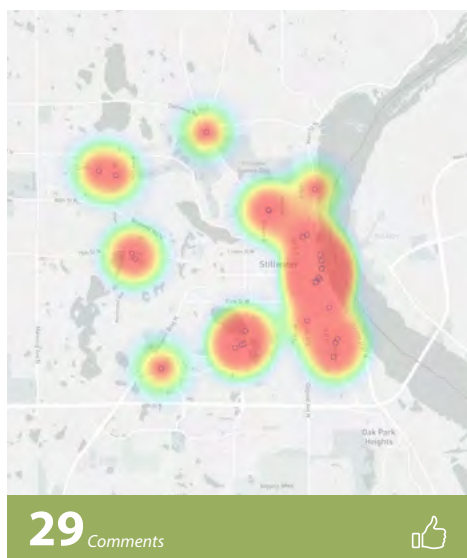
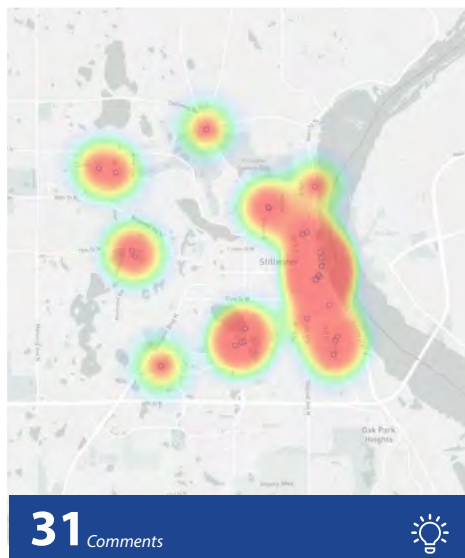
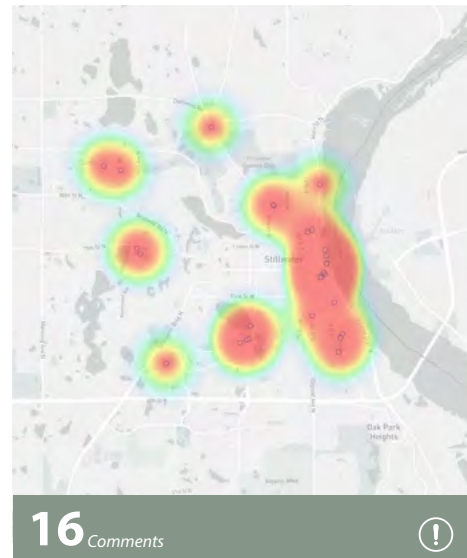
The comment categories were as follows:

-  **Places I Like:** Favorite places within the park system or improvements they love
-  **Comments & Ideas:** Ideas for future improvements or desired change
-  **Concerns:** Issues or standing concerns

The mapping tool was open from October - November, 2025 and received:



HEATMAPS BY COMMENT TOPIC: The following maps show in what locations pins were dropped by comment type:



OVERARCHING THEMES: The following lists provide a high-level summary of map comments received. Specific comments organized by park can be found in the recommendations chapter, comments in full are listed in the appendix.

- Residents appreciate the more updated playgrounds that cater to a wider age range.
- Like the restoration work they've seen in park spaces.
- People are excited about future park improvements at Lumberjack Landing.
- Users love the community garden and would love more similar spaces.
- Visitors love Teddy Bear Park.
- People express appreciation for quality athletic fields, courts and open spaces for pop-up games.

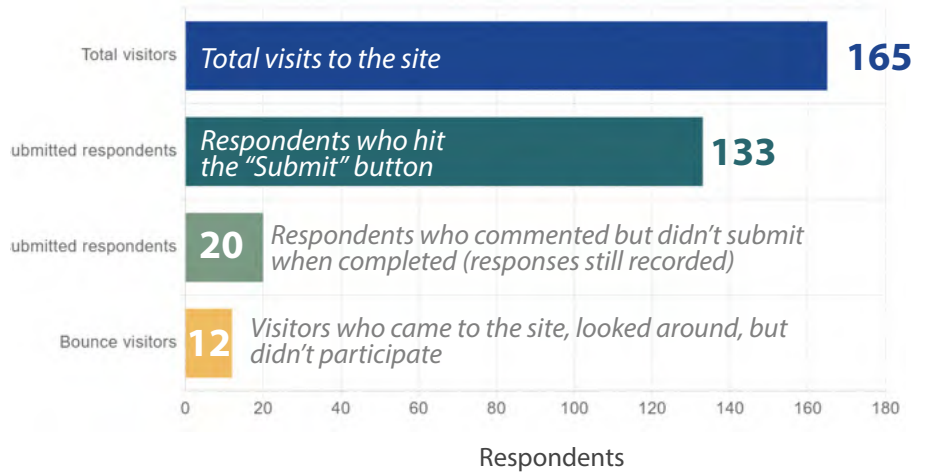
- More bike parking bumpouts, and bike parking in general desired.
- Residents show a big desire for urban farming locations throughout the map and survey.
- More interpretation (history, botanical, bird species, etc.)
- More paddle input and fishing spots
- Variety of sport courts (keep some tennis, add bocce, have pickleball)
- More wayfinding to highlight directions to/from downtown from parks and trails
- More shade in open spaces
- Desire for pool and splash pad
- Maintenance upkeep
- More outreach about parks

- Desire for safer park and trail crossings for bikes and pedestrians. Flooding concerns for Lowell Park.
- Broken or aging playground equipment.
- Underutilized athletic fields that could become something else.
- Lowell park not being utilized for events the way it could.
- Maintenance concerns along paths, walkways, and trails.
- Dangerous intersections for crossing to parks in certain areas.



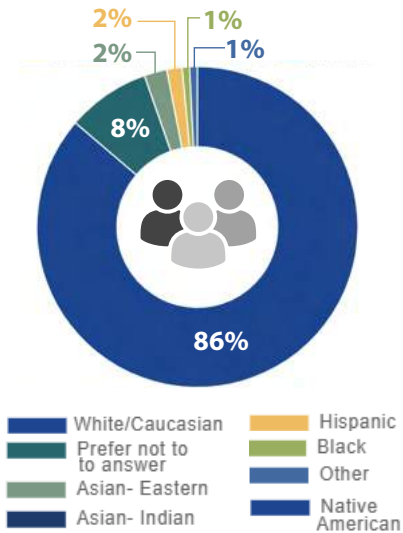
ONLINE SURVEY

This short 5-minute survey was open from October - November 2025 and received:

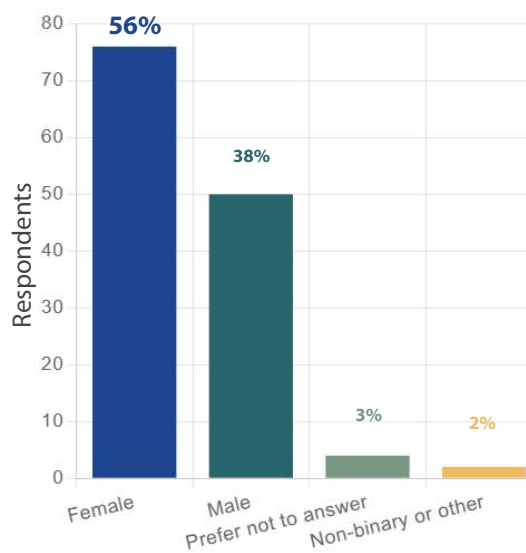


DEMOGRAPHIC RESPONSES:

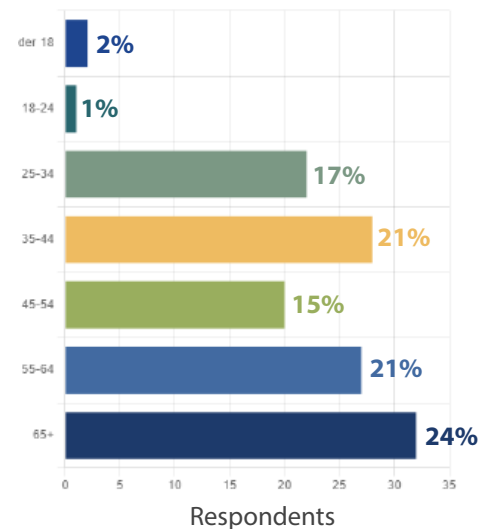
What is your ethnic background?



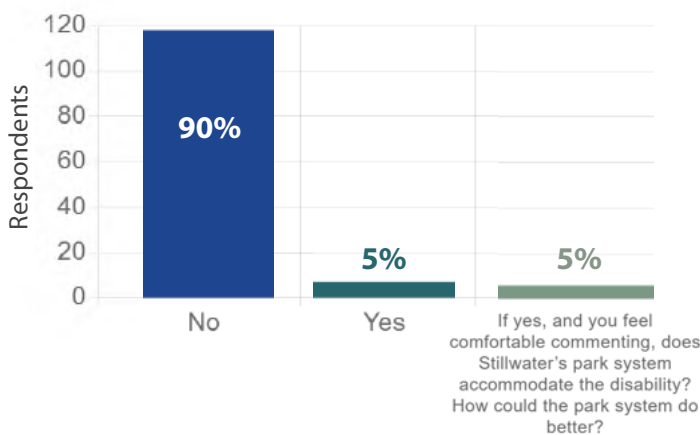
What is your gender?



What is your age?



Do you, or any of the members in your household experience a disability?



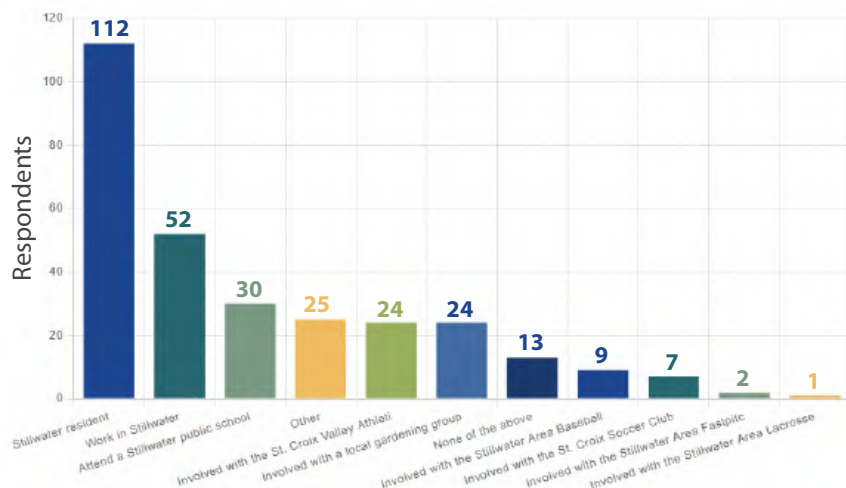
- My husband is blind—using the Brown's creek trail with a service dog is impossible because the trail is too narrow. **Need trails wide enough and smooth surface enough to accommodate all of the users.**
- Loud noises/concerts are overwhelming.
- There are no ADA friendly playgrounds except at New Heights & Rutherford Elementary schools.
- Level access from parking to trail. **Access to clean safe bathrooms and the ability to refill drinking water are big deals to many of us and deal makers/breakers.**
- **Free parking close to downtown Lowell park for seniors. A yearly FREE permit!**
- Not handicapped, but aging and take little grandchildren to the parks and would like safer access to Brown's Creek Trail and Otto Berg Park from Johnson Court/Johnson Drive

MAIN SURVEY RESPONSES:



RESPONDENTS:

Please select all of the following choices that represent you or others in your household:



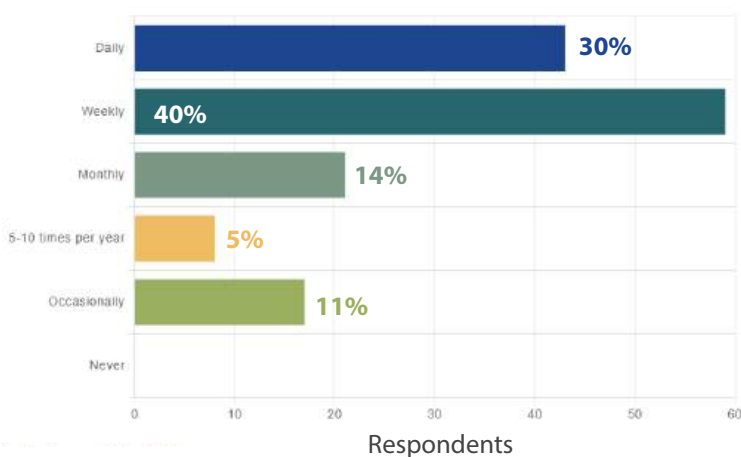
"Other" replies included:

- Very active volunteer and visitor to Stillwater
- Stillwater Township Resident
- Shopper/Farmer's Market Visitor/Small Business Supporter
- Community Agriculture/Farm Supporter/Member/Produce Wholesale Vendor
- Involved with Pollinator/Bird Habitat Club/Restoration

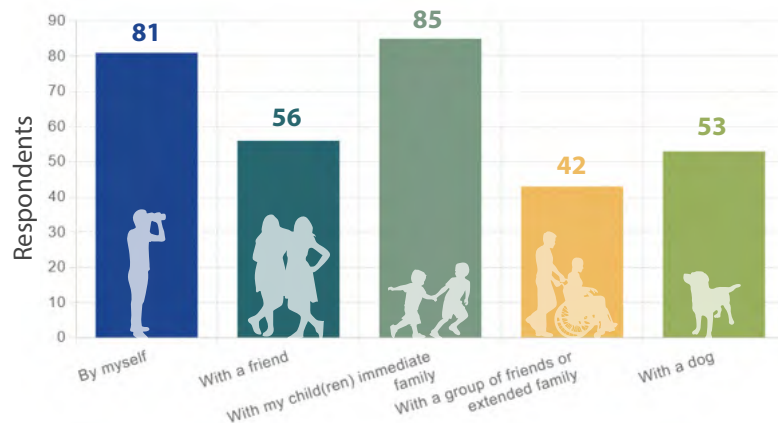


ATTENDANCE RESULTS:

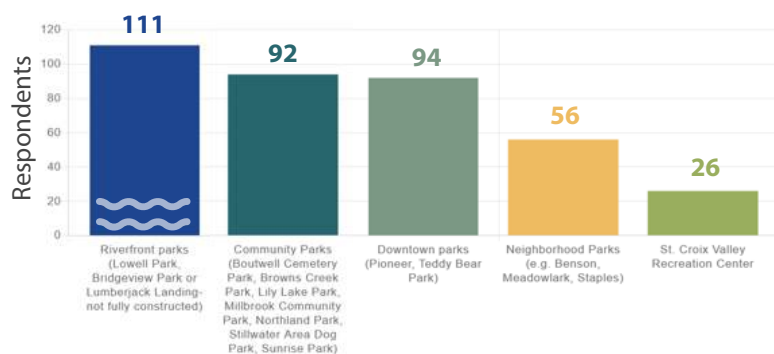
How often do you visit any of Stillwater's parks?



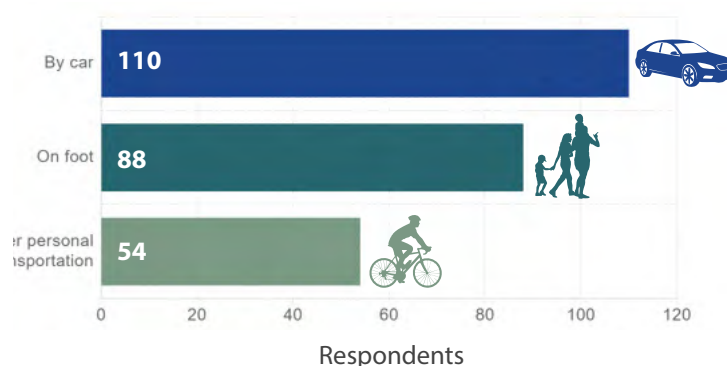
How do you typically spend your time in the parks?



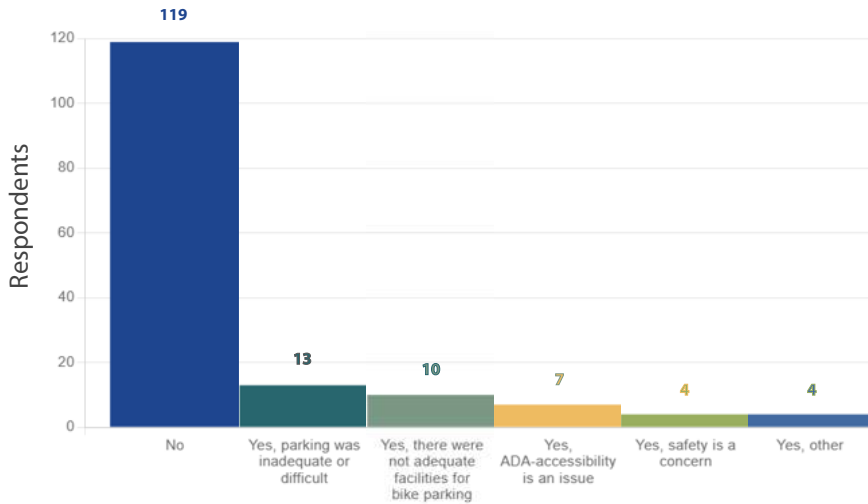
Which of the City's parks and facilities do you typically visit?



How do you typically travel to the parks?



Do you, or any of the members in your household experience a disability?

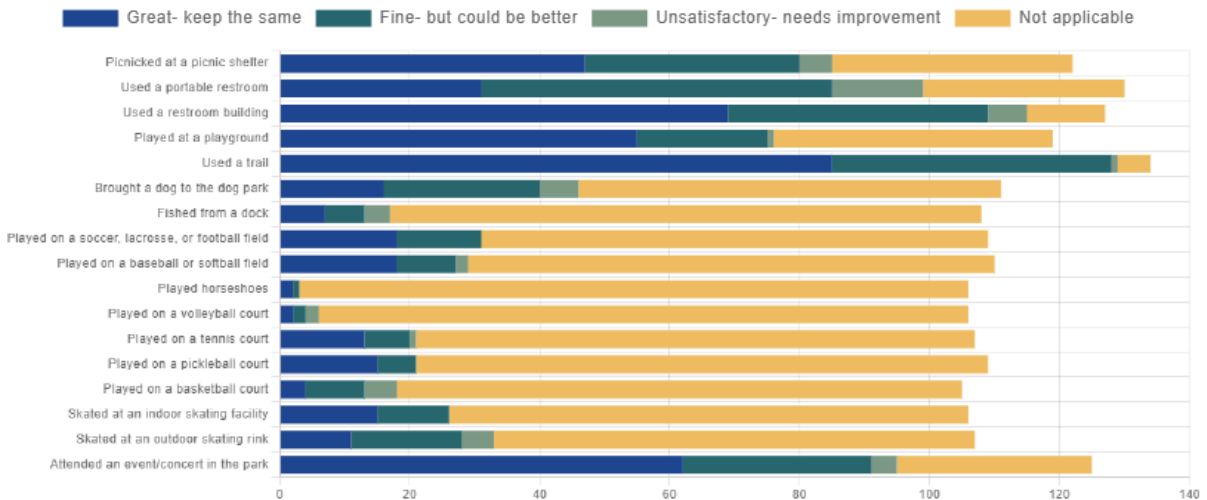


"Other" replies included:

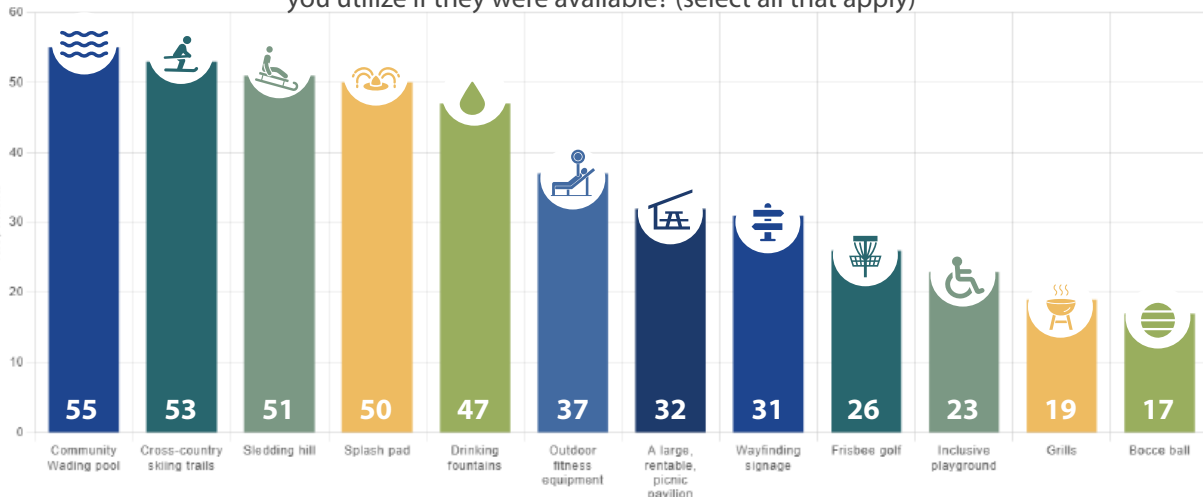
- Downtown parking costs.
- Only park within walking distance is Ottoberg and it's unsafe to get there by foot due to no sidewalk and a busy street with no crosswalk.
- We were told we'd get access to Brown's Creek Trail from Stonebridge Trail with the bridge and road renovation but the county workers say the city did not fulfill their portion for that. It isn't safe to climb up and down as we age, especially with young children/grandchildren.
- If taking a bike or walking with family, it's difficult to safely bike with young kids to the community, downtown, and riverfront parks.

PARTICIPATION RESULTS:

Which of the following activities have you or members of your household participated in at a Stillwater park and how would you categorize the facilities?



Which of the following facilities not present within Stillwater's park system would you utilize if they were available? (select all that apply)



Summary of responses:

- Community pool/splash pad.
- Rent-able indoor spaces for winter season.
- Urban farming/urban agriculture/urban gardening/food forest.
- Skate park/skateboard facility.
- Urban trail markings/wayfinding and signage.
- Drinking fountains and permanent or better maintained bathrooms.
- A public beach.
- More pickleball and tennis.
- More lighting/sense of safety and security after dark.
- More sledding opportunities and winter programming.
- More emphasis on native plantings/environmental impact/habitats
- More outdoor concert venues.
- More dog waste dispensers to keep areas clean.
- More trail connections/ways to get to and from parks for bikes and pedestrians.
- Education/interpretive opportunities of the history of Stillwater and Native American heritage and stewardship of the lands.
- Better passive-use/environmental and natural area exploration (unpaved trails, nature play, ropes course, geocaching, etc.)
- More fishing
- Boat launches, paddle board launches, canoe/kayak launches.
- More shaded areas/tree cover.
- Indoor playground and an additional community center/building with gym, additional basketball courts, etc.

If you would like to provide additional detail about a specific facility, please comment:

Summary of responses:

- A lot of expressed interest in using more spaces for urban farming.
- Desire for more public permanent/flush bathroom structures in more of the parks that have extended hours for special events.
- Some of the more iconic waterfront parks have potential to be more (actual stage, native plantings, etc.)
- More activities for older kids.
- Desire for swimming/splashing/water play.
- More signage and wayfinding.
- More un-programmed spaces/options.
- More bike/ped trail connections to parks/within the system.
- Very little ADA accessibility.
- Maintenance and upkeep, some trails have potholes and aging pavement. Many playground structures are aged/dated. Paint lines on popular fields need to be up kept.
- More tennis facilities, many courts used only for pickleball. Same treatment for other sports like basketball.
- Enhanced gathering areas for special events.
- Adult fitness equipment.
- More winter options/activities.
- More on-site storage for individual parks and maintenance staff members.
- Old Athletic Field holds a lot of potential and needs a lot of improvement (*not a city-owned park*).
- More picnic shelters and picnic tables.

Please provide any additional thoughts or comments you would like to share in the box:

"We need more spaces to grow and produce food, in an urban agriculture setting, that would benefit our community. Using a model similar to the model of community gardens and Big River farms, we could use places to people to grow food for themselves, the food shelf and the farmer's market."

"I would like to see the park and trails as the connections among communities in the city. In a time when kids and people spend more time isolated and less time looking out for each other, I think the parks and trails could be a way that ties neighborhoods and people together. It's the web that keeps everyone together, but without clear visual connections it is hard to build."

"Urban agriculture within a community is a powerful way to bring people together, promote, and increase access to fresh, healthy food. It can transform underutilized spaces into productive, educational, and social areas that benefit residents of all ages. Expanding opportunities for community gardens, edible landscaping, and demonstration plots would not only support local food production but also foster connection, learning, and environmental stewardship within the park system."

"More modern parks."

"Thank you for a great park system and for working to make it even better!"

"It's astounding that recreation in Stillwater excludes opportunities for swimming/lap swimming."

"Begin to think of all public right-of-ways as a part of the parks system. Plant them accordingly with street trees to provide shade and a leafy canopy to enhance the appeal of walking and biking."

"Pioneer Park has far too many park benches. It's looking cluttered and each one adds a concrete slab at the expense of green space. I would love to see a moratorium placed on this and instead dedicate newly planted trees or perennials. More trees lining the paths in Lowell park."

"The parks department does a lot for the community, and their work is appreciated."

"Focus more on the river and natural areas, sustainability. And less on development that harms the environmental tourism. Don't kill the very thing that makes Stillwater a good place to live."

“ Thank you for a great park system and for working to make it even better! ”

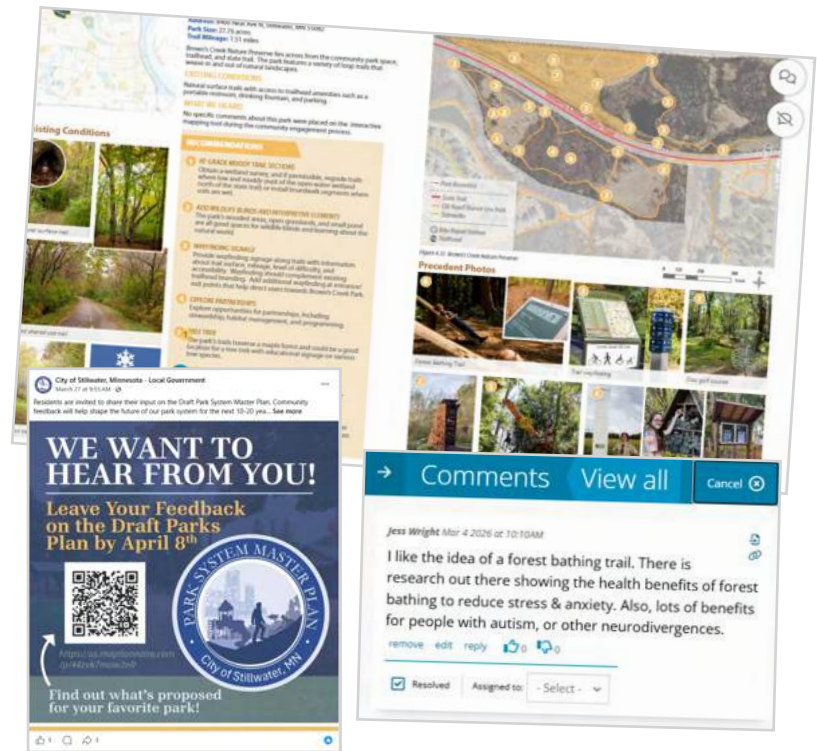
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESPONDENT

PHASE 2 SUMMARY

Final drafts of the first four chapters of the Parks Master Plan were released to the public for review at the beginning of March, 2026 for an approximately one month period. With the digital platform used, visitors could read and make comments on the draft document to express ideas and concerns or request revisions on content.

Users could also view comments made by others, show their support or disagreement by using voting buttons, and submit replies. City staff and the consulting team occasionally used the reply function to address comments or concerns and start conversation with users.

The opportunity to review the draft document was advertised on City social media and residents could reach the site via the City's website. A direct email invitation to review the draft was also sent to the stakeholder list below.



STAKEHOLDERS EMAILS: Email invitations to participate in the final document review process were issued to the following stakeholders:

- Stillwater Area Baseball Association (SABA)
- St. Croix Valley Athletic Association (SCVAA)
- Stillwater Area Fastpitch Association (SAFA)
- Stillwater Area Lacrosse Association
- St. Croix Soccer Club
- Stillwater's School District
- The Adopt-a-Park Program
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- Middle St. Croix WMO
- Heritage Preservation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Energy Access Commission
- Parks and Recreation Commission

SYSTEM PLAN

VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE STILLWATER PARK SYSTEM:

The vision statement and guiding principles establish a foundation on which this plan and the next 20 years of the parks system is built. The vision statement expresses the overarching theme that this system plan hopes to achieve, while the guiding principles identify broad directives to help guide decision making, development, and system management. Together, they will help bring the recommendations made in this document to life, and guide park and trail development throughout the life of this document.

“Stillwater’s parks and recreation system offers welcoming places and premier destinations where the community can come together, connect to nature, see benefits to their physical and mental health, and have fun.”



GUIDING PRINCIPLES:



OFFER A VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES

New investments in play and recreation should prioritize unique and creative experiences to diversify what is available across the system.



CREATE WELCOMING, COMFORTABLE, AND SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Use wayfinding signage to make park entries welcoming and trail systems legible; ensure park amenities are accessible to visitors of all ages and abilities; and provide comfort amenities like lighting, seating, drinking water, shelter, and restrooms that make visitors feel safe and able to relax and spend time in the parks.



BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are meaningful expressions of an engaged community and should be leveraged wherever sensible to supplement stewardship, programming, and education within the park system.



TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE

Taking care of what we have is key to sustainably stewarding the city’s investments and prolonging the life of recreational assets. Inspection, maintenance, and repair practices should be structured to ensure that amenities meet or exceed anticipated end-of-life. Maintenance must be considered prior to any investment to ensure City staff has the skill and capacity to properly care for the investment.



PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Managing a park system with more than two dozen parks is a lot to track. Keeping an accurate inventory of park system assets; tracking lifespans, maintenance, and replacement schedules; and budgeting now for the needs of the future will help to ensure a fiscally responsible park system.



STEWARD AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

The St. Croix River Valley has made Stillwater the incredible place that it is. Management of the City’s public open space lands should aim to protect intact habitat where it exists, improve the quality where feasible, and support biodiversity and native wildlife.



YEAR-ROUND ACTIVATION

Minnesotans enjoy the outdoors year-round. Ensure the park system provides recreational opportunities and programs that highlight every season, from ways to cool off in the summer, to places where winter’s snow and ice are the attraction.

SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES

Every park within the system should strive to provide basic comfort amenities such as:

- Trash and recycling containers
- Seating
- Shade
- Restrooms (accessible)
- Dog waste stations
- Bike parking options
- Clear park entry signage and wayfinding
- Drinking water (where feasible)



SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS:



ADA-ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

ADA-accessibility improvements should be incorporated into parks in conjunction with any new projects. Investing in ADA-accessible pathways, amenities, and features ensures that the City's recreational offerings and public spaces will be welcoming and usable to more of the population. Accessibility of all parks in the system should be examined.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- ADA-complaint trails
- Inclusive playgrounds with features that support play for kids with sensory processing disorders as well as physical disabilities
- Accessible comfort amenities such as:
 - Restrooms (either portable or permanent buildings where use makes sense)
 - Drinking Fountains
 - Picnic tables/shelters
 - Shade
 - Maps, wayfinding, and other signage



SAFE CONNECTIONS

As state, regional, county, and local trail systems expand offerings within Stillwater, maps should be updated and made available to residents on the City's website to help users take advantage of these recreational amenities and safely connect trail users to parks, businesses, schools, and city institutions. While this park system plan does not evaluate and make recommendations for the trail system specifically, a city-wide trails plan would be a good supplement to this recreation plan and should be considered in the future. Whenever park improvements are undertaken, safe connections from adjacent neighborhoods to park entry points should be incorporated.

RECOMMENDED INVESTMENTS MAY INCLUDE:

- Adding sidewalks, bike lanes, or multi-use trail segments where there are gaps
- Painted/high-visibility crosswalks
- High visibility signage (RRFB)
- ADA-compliant pedestrian curb ramp improvements
- Grade-separated crossings
- Traffic calming curb bumpouts
- Clarifying property boundaries



WAYFINDING IMPROVEMENTS

Wayfinding is crucial for helping even local residents navigate to parks and trails from their homes, schools, and places of business. Having a branded, cohesive, and well-placed wayfinding strategy helps to:

- Guide users along trails
- Improve legibility and recognition of City parks and institutions
- Enhance the City's brand and contribute to placemaking
- Highlight local destinations or attractions
- Reveal availability of parking lots, restrooms, recreation amenities and drinking fountains at a glance
- Clarify accessibility and intensity of trails and loop opportunities

SYSTEM-WIDE WAYFINDING RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

- Clear entry signage with park name and recreational amenity iconography
- Vehicular and pedestrian-scale directional wayfinding along roadways and trails
- Up-to-date website maps that clearly identify bike trails, pedestrian routes, and parks, along with amenity offerings
- Internal park wayfinding such as:
 - Map kiosks and pedestrian-scale directional signage labeling amenities such as restrooms, drinking fountains, athletic fields, and other nearby park and trail connections
 - Park wayfinding signage that lists information like trail surface, segment distance, and level of accessibility or difficulty, along with mile markers



ONGOING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Recommendations of the park system plan must work in unison with ongoing natural resources management practices. Shifts in the management of park landscapes including mowing, weeding, and the addition of native habitat or other managed plantings are intended to be undertaken in conjunction with natural resources and public works staff only as budget and staffing capacity are able to accommodate them.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

- Reduce fossil fuel-intensive landscape management by reducing the acreage of turfgrass that requires regular mowing. Identify underutilized grassy areas and convert them to no mow fescues, pollinator lawn, or native meadow.
- Support biodiversity and add habitat value to parks and open space lands by utilizing native, neonicotinoid-free plant species in City landscaping.
- Work with community groups and volunteers to support habitat management like invasive species removal and restoration plantings.
- Build relationships with local agencies and non-profit partners to support natural resources education, data collection, and stewardship efforts.
- Highlight the importance of protecting Stillwater's unique natural resources by incorporating interpretive signage and educational programming into parks.



COORDINATE WITH PARTNERS TO SUPPORT REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS AND ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

- Washington County Riverfront Trail Corridor from Afton to the Boom site
- Support efforts to build a possible future trail along Highway 95/ St. Croix Scenic Byway
- Partner with Gateway Trail Association, MN Parks and Trails Council, Washington County bike and Pedestrian Planning, and other bicycle and pedestrian organizations to safely connect parks with trail systems and make Lumberjack Landing a bike stop destination off of the Brown's Creek Regional Trail
- Partner with Safe Routes to School for students to safely travel along trails

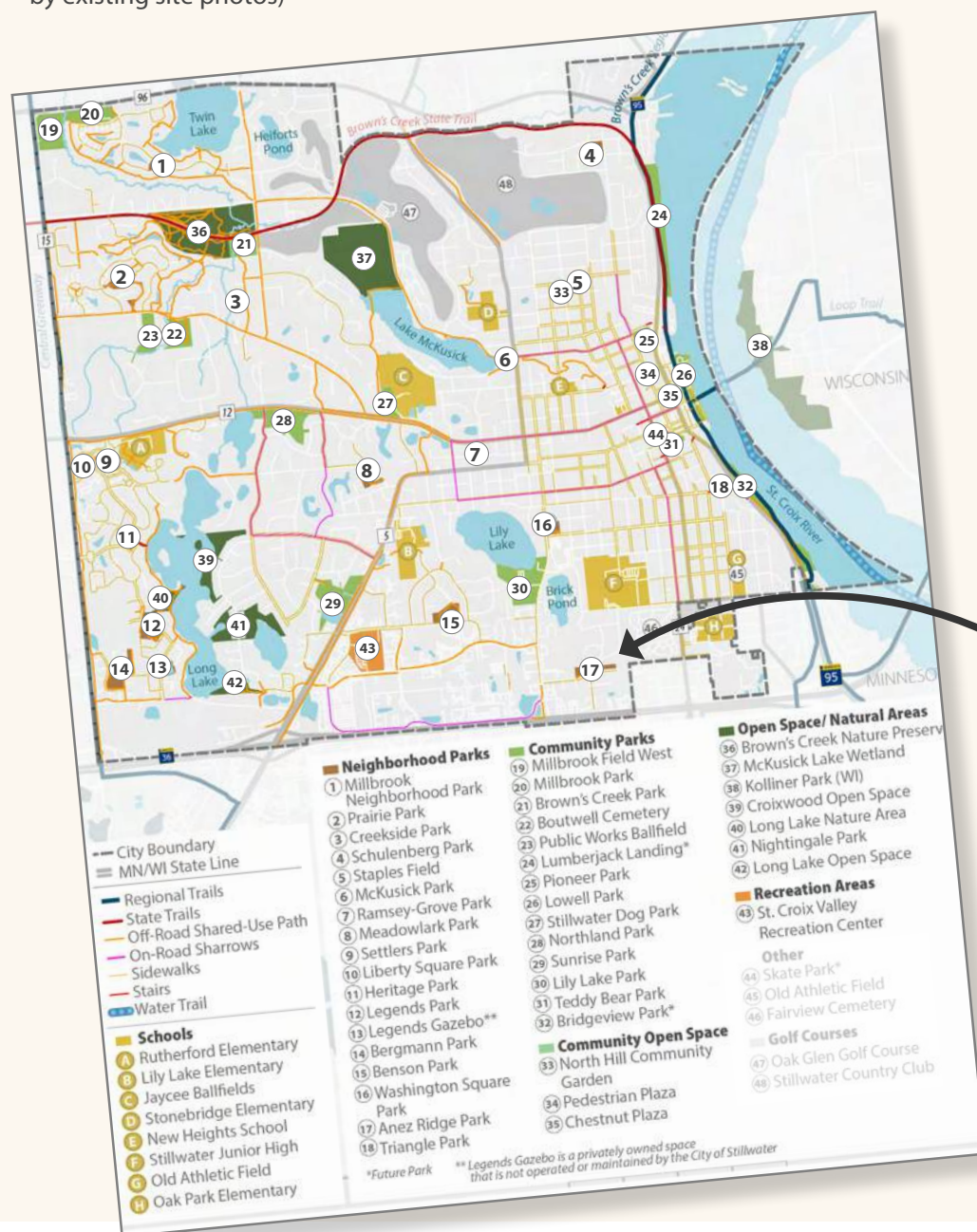
INTRODUCTION TO INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS:

This park system plan is a 20-year roadmap for Stillwater's parks, and the recommendations outlined in this chapter are grounded in the vision, guiding principles, and collaborative engagement that resulted from the planning process. Implementing these ideas will occur incrementally and must be responsive to future unknowns (see the implementation chapter for more detail), but the recommendations for each park provide a basis for future development in the coming decades.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

The following pages contain information and recommendations for each of the parks, open spaces, and natural areas within the parks system. Each spread contains:

- **Park Snapshot:** address, acreage, trail mileage, location key, and a brief description
- **Existing Amenities:** What can be found in the space today (accompanied by existing site photos)
- **What We Heard:** Notes from community engagement that apply to specific park spaces
- **Recommendations:** Numbered recommendations are keyed to the site diagrams and accompanied by precedent imagery to help portray example images of features and amenities that are being envisioned for the space.



DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The chapter is organized by park classification, and numbered within each classification to coordinate with the existing parks, trails, and open space diagram that can be found in the existing conditions chapter.

The park classifications include:

- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Community Open Space
- Open Space/Natural Areas
- Recreation Areas

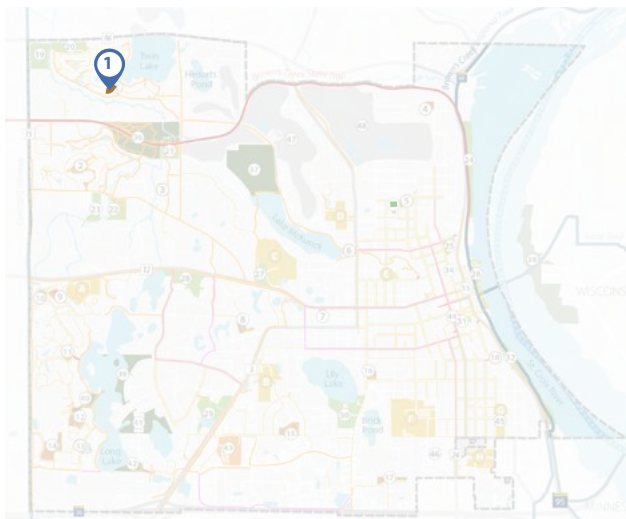
**Click the numbers on the map to jump to specific park recommendations within this chapter!*



Section Contents:

Millbrook Neighborhood Park.....	58
Prairie Park.....	60
Creekside Park.....	62
Schulenberg Park.....	64
Staples Field.....	66
McKusick Park.....	68
Ramsey Grove Park.....	70
Meadowlark Park.....	72
Settler's Park.....	74
Liberty Square Park.....	76
Heritage Square Park.....	78
Legends Park.....	80
Legends Gazebo.....	82
Bergmann Park.....	84
Benson Park.....	86
Washington Square Park.....	88
Anez Ridge Park.....	90
Triangle Park.....	92

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK RECOMMENDATIONS



MILLBROOK NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: Millbrook Circle and White Pine Way, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 1.06 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

Millbrook open spaces is an open area that lies at the intersection of Millbrook Circle and White Pine Way. Surrounded by single family homes, the open turf field is entirely unimproved and holds potential to become a part of the park system as a unique neighborhood park.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Open lawn space

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 DEVELOP AS A NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

A park concept for Millbrook Open Space should be developed that includes a park sign, ADA-accessible portable restroom, bike parking, a playground (distinct in style from those nearby: community support for a natural playground design) with play opportunities for kids 2-5 and 5-12, and supporting amenities like shaded benches and picnic tables. Landscaping improvements to buffer play areas from surrounding roads and residences should be incorporated, as well as accessible circulation. A portion of the park should be left as turf for flexible recreation.

Existing Conditions



Street view



Little free library



Street view

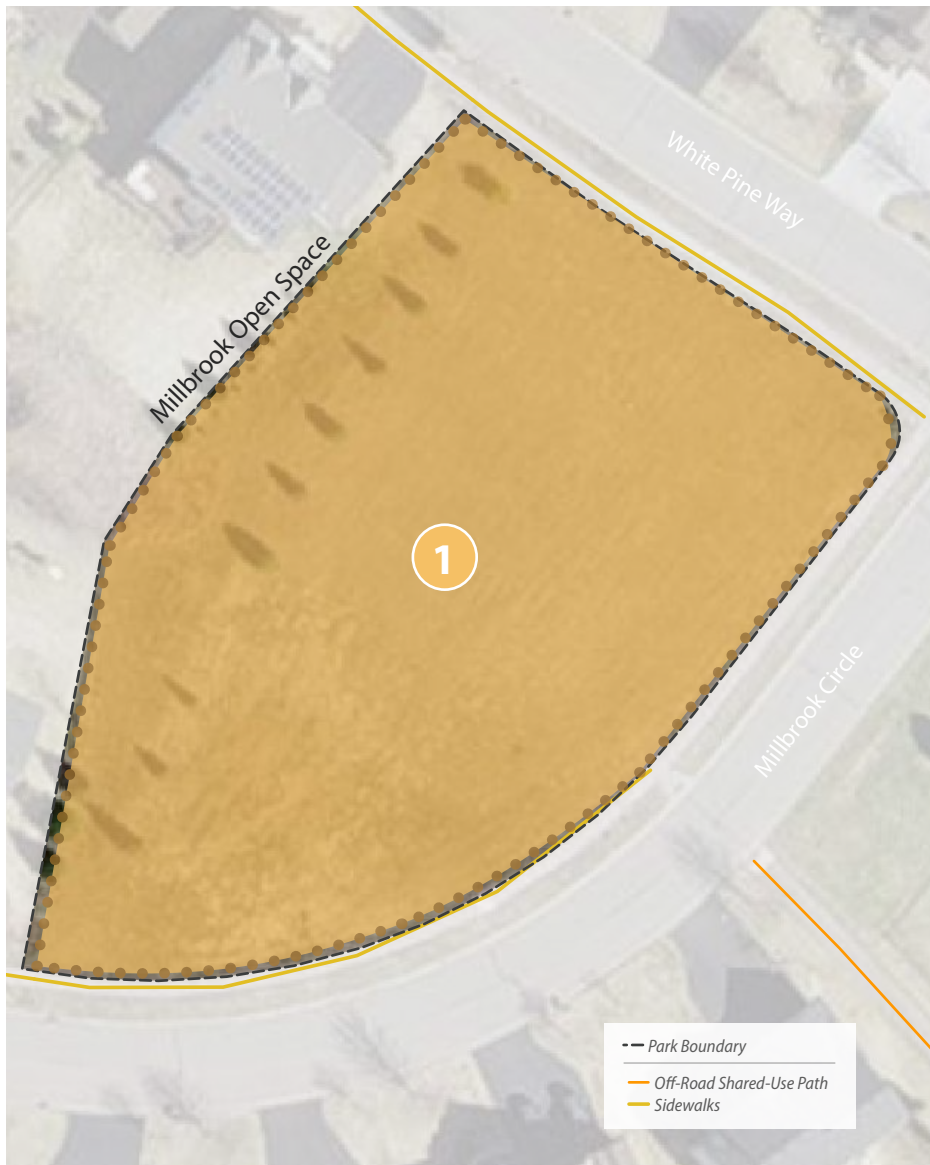


Figure 4.2 Millbrook Open Space

Precedent Photos



Street buffer planting



Flexible open turf

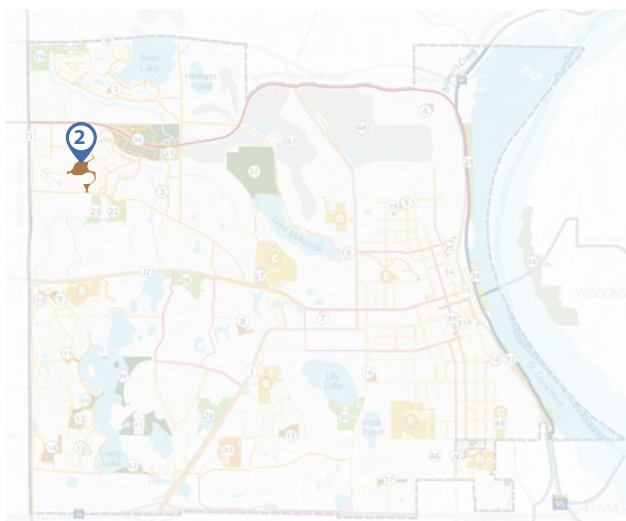


Bike parking



Nature-themed playground design





Existing Conditions



Atwood Ct entrance



Atwood Ct entrance



Macey Way entrance



80TH St N entrance



Macey Way entrance

PRAIRIE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1221 Macey Way, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 6.51 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.62 miles

Prairie park is a neighborhood park bordered on all sides by single family homes. There are four points of entry with no dedicated parking area. The entrance along Macey Way features a small pavilion with bench seating. A paved pathway leads to a small park with aged equipment, and a flexible turf lawn within a paved loop trail is used for field sports and open play space.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Small shelter
- Bench seating
- Playground
- Soccer/lacrosse/football field
- Ballfield backstop
- Recreational field

WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT THIS PARK:

Map comments received stated that the playground equipment is in poor condition, some items even seeming dangerous to use. The play surface was cited as getting muddy and unusable in or after inclement weather. More of a vegetated buffer desired,

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add concrete pad with restroom enclosure and ADA-accessible portable restroom.
- 2 UPDATED PLAYGROUND (PLANNED FOR 2027)**
Replace existing playground equipment and redo play surfacing and subsurface drainage to address issues. Consider a foam/cork play surface for durability and shade sails to extend usability.
- 3 BOTANICAL WALK**
Highlight existing trees and native plants along long stretches of trail with small botanical signs.
- 4 INFORMAL NATURE PLAY LOOP**
Add a playful path through the meadow that encourages kids to hop, skip, and test their balance across flagstones, balance logs, stumps and boulders placed among the grasses.
- 5 PARK SIGNS AT ALL ENTRANCE POINTS**
Prairie park has many entrance points and is well-connected to the homes around it, but feels private for non-residents. Clear wayfinding and entrance signage is needed for legibility and improved navigation.
- 6 ADDITIONAL SHADE TREES**
Add additional tree plantings to mitigate noise and provide privacy for surrounding residences.



Figure 4.1 Prairie Park



Precedent Photos



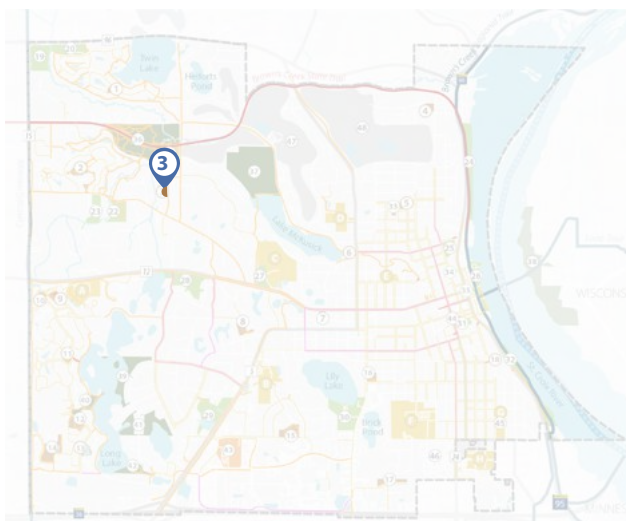
Botanical signage with QR code



Informal Nature Play Loop



Updated Playground Equipment



CREEKSIDE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1131 Creekside Crossing Stillwater, Minnesota

Park Size: 0.66 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.06 miles

Creekside is a small neighborhood park bordered on all sides by residential roads. The park currently features a gazebo with a single picnic table, a paved trail, and flat, open lawn space, which lends itself to flexible use despite its smaller size. Parking is on-street, and colorful pollinator plantings have been established along portions of Creekside Crossing. The very small size of this park, its proximity to homes, and the fact that it's one-quarter mile away from Brown's Creek Park along a multi-use trail, means that a separate restroom is not recommended here.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Small picnic shelter / gazebo
- Open lawn space
- Drinking fountain
- Flowering planting beds

WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT THIS PARK:

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Small picnic shelter, drinking fountain, and plantings



Open lawn space



Existing boulders and plantings

RECOMMENDATIONS

- POLLINATOR GARDEN PLANTINGS AND SHADE TREES**
Expand the existing pollinator garden all the way to the edges along Creekside Crossing and add botanical markers or an interpretive sign about native plants. Add shade trees along Creekside Circle.
- BOULDER AREA ENHANCEMENTS**
Consider formalizing the existing boulder area for challenge play by adding safety surfacing, climbable net and mound features, and other adventurous elements. Safety surfacing will reduce risk and eliminate the need to mow around individual boulders.
- TOT TRACK PERIMETER TRAIL**
Add a perimeter trail that can function as a tot track practice loop for little ones. Tucking it along the edge of the park maintains flexible turf space for open play. Address existing drainage issues when installing the track.
- ADDITIONAL SEATING**
Add seating that takes advantage of afternoon shade from the small woodland on the west side of the park.



Figure 4.2 Creekside Park

Precedent Photos



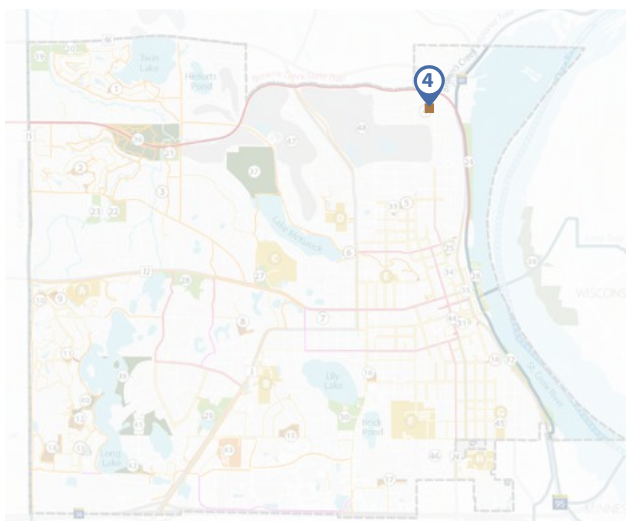
Additional Seating



Small challenge park



Tot Track Perimeter Trail



SCHULENBERG PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1900 2nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 1.92 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

Schulenberg Park is a neighborhood park on the corner of Hazel St West and 2nd St North. The existing ball diamond has an ag lime infield but is not optimally oriented, which subjects players to solar glare. The outfield slopes upward toward the playground. A lack of community input suggests that the ballfield may not be well-utilized. The existing playground equipment is best suited for children ages 4-8 years old and has sand safety surfacing, which is non-compliant as a fall surface. The current picnic shelter holds two tables, and scattered limestone boulders line the park boundary. There are no formal park trails to park amenities and steep topography makes the park mostly inaccessible for those with disabilities. Parking is on-street.

Existing Conditions



Playground



Swings



Athletic Field

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Playground
- Picnic Shelter (small)
- Ball diamond
- Recreational field
- Portable Restroom

WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT THIS PARK:

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process; however, the north half of the park was noted as having the potential to be converted to urban agriculture, should the ballfield be deemed undesirable.

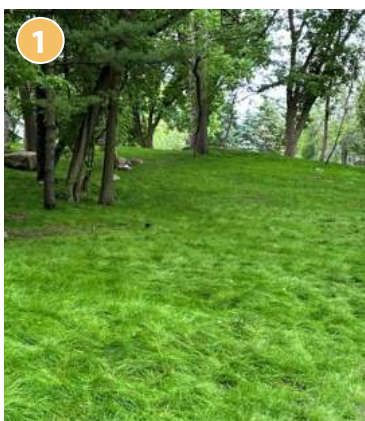
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 NO MOW-FESCUE PICNIC LAWN AND ADDITIONAL TREES**
Consider no-mow fescue along the treeline with picnic tables for spectators to watch the game, leaving plenty of room in the outfield for stray balls and open lawn for free-play when the field is not in use.
- 2 BALLFIELD IMPROVEMENTS**
Consider updating existing baseball/softball diamond if the feature adds value to the park system and is well-used. Add bench seating/dugouts and add fencing or buffer plantings to the outfield to protect the play area.
- 3 EXPANDED PICNICKING OPPORTUNITIES**
Consider placing additional uncovered picnic tables around the playground area to give families options for seating.
- 4 POLLINATOR GARDEN PLANTINGS**
Establish pollinator gardens along the edges of the park to help define the space, create pollinator habitat, and provide a buffer from the roadway.



Figure 4.3 Schulenberg Park

Precedent Photos



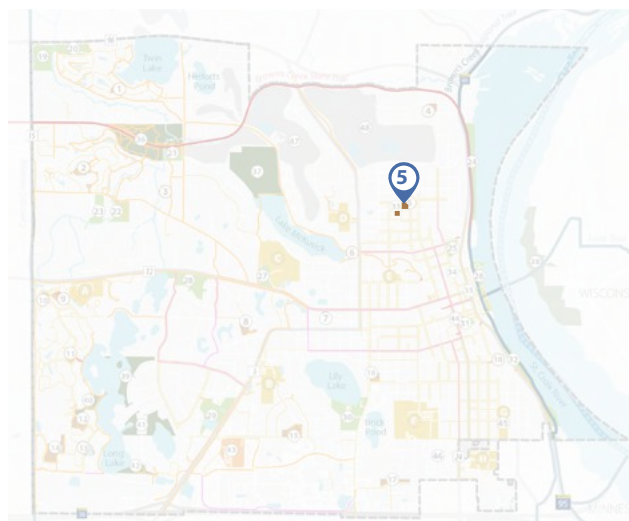
Fescue Lawn



Baseball Diamond Updates



Pollinator Plantings



STAPLES FIELD

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 401 Wilkins St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 1.38 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

Staples Field Park spans three of the four corners along N Martha Street and Aspen Street W. One parcel contains a ballfield, playground, bench seating and portable restroom. The parcel is divided by a number of chain-link fences.

Across the street to the southwest is an enclosed court with four pickleball courts and two tennis courts. A portable restroom and drinking fountain has been placed outside of the gate. North Hill Community Garden lies across the street from the court entrance. Parking for the entire area is on-street only.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Picnic table
- Baseball/softball diamond
- Tennis/pickleball courts
- Portable restrooms

WHAT WE HEARD:

- Ballfield is underutilized
- Replace ballfield with more community garden plots or shaded picnic space
- Need more dog waste receptacles
- Court lighting is very bright for nearby neighbors at night, need additional fence screening for neighbors.
**Has been adjusted as of JAN 2026*
- Parking is confusing, people parking on grassy areas
- Leave tennis as an option versus converting to more pickleball.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 **IMPROVE ADA-ACCESSIBILITY**
Regrade and build retaining walls where needed to add strategic sidewalk access to park amenities. Add pedestrian crossings with ramps. Move portable restroom closer to the playground and upgrade to an ADA-accessible restroom with enclosure. Provide an ADA-accessible path to the restroom and play container from new sidewalk. Add sidewalk access to courts.

Existing Conditions



Playground



Open Space



Pickleball/ Tennis Courts



Fence



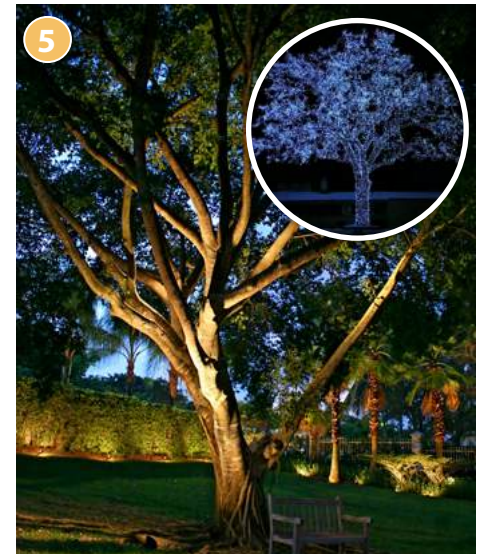
Playground



Figure 4.4 Staples Field



Precedent Photos



Uplit heritage oak tree



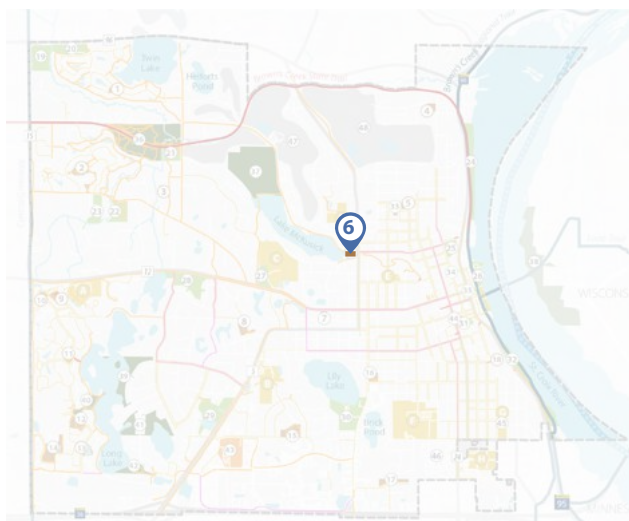
Shade structures over seating



Naturalized plantings along slopes

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2 ADD COMFORT AMENITIES**
Add seating where sensible (Consider reclaimed materials). Add shade structures over benches and picnic tables to mitigate sun exposure and improve visitor comfort. Add dog waste station.
- 3 REMOVE FENCING WHERE UNNECESSARY**
The current chain link fencing divides the park and makes it feel inaccessible. Unless it can be repurposed for expanded agricultural plots, remove fencing and use natural plantings along slopes to buffer visitors from roads and vehicle traffic.
- 4 CONVERT UNDERUTILIZED TURFGRASS**
Converting steep slopes from turfgrass to native shortgrass prairie will reduce time spent mowing and provide habitat. Maintain mown edges along sidewalks as cues to care.
- 5 HIGHLIGHT HERITAGE OAK TREE**
Highlight the heritage oak tree near the ballfield with uplighting or holiday lights and potential interpretive signage.
- 6 EXPAND URBAN AGRICULTURE**
If ballfield is not well utilized and demand for garden plots remains strong, leverage partnership with North Hill Community Garden to offer additional garden plots or urban agriculture opportunities here.
- 7 DEDICATED ON-STREET PARKING/PARKING SIGNAGE**
Consider on-street parking spaces to clear confusion and protect proposed plantings. Place clear parking signs in areas that on-street parking is allowed but not dedicated.



MCKUSICK PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 520 Owens St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 0.82 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

McKusick park is a small trailhead located along Laurel Street West and Owen Street North at the eastern tip of Lake McKusick. Visitors can park here and utilize a mix of paved trails and residential roads to enjoy the roughly 2-mile loop around the lake. The lake features a fishing dock along the north shore and bench seating along Laurel Street that can be accessed by an existing off-road trail. To the east of the trailhead, a trail through McKusick Ravine follows a small creek and provides a lovely walk to Linden or Mulberry Street. This green channel in the middle of the city is home to many bird species, and some residents have implemented gardens and plantings within their personal residences to contribute to expanding their habitat (see Bird City Gardens info on page 37 for more.)

Existing Conditions



Bike repair station



Existing foot path created by users to parking lot



Parking lot and greenspace from Owens Street

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Picnic Shelter and single-covered tables
- Bike repair station
- Wayfinding kiosk

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 TRAIL CONNECTIONS**
Pave the area between the parking lot and trailhead amenities where footpath currently exists. Update with clear signage and information regarding trail connections and trail loops. Highly-visible crosswalks are needed at the adjacent intersection.
- 2 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom, and screen with an enclosure.
- 3 ADDITIONAL PICNICKING OPPORTUNITIES**
Add additional covered table seating that can accommodate wheelchairs. Add a paved loop trail for access to the picnicking facilities.
- 4 POLLINATOR PLANTINGS**
Establish pollinator plantings that boost habitat, reduce the need for mowing, and provide a buffer from surrounding vehicle traffic. Consider interpretive signage to educate on plant species used.
- 5 PROGRAM FOR BIRD/NATURE WALKS**
Consider launching nature and bird walks from this point to the nearby ravine/ Mulberry Creek Bird Station (see page 37).
- 6 HIGHLIGHT THE HISTORIC TROLLEY LINE**
Add interpretive signage that talks about the history of the trolley line and former depot in this area.



Figure 4.5 McKusick Park

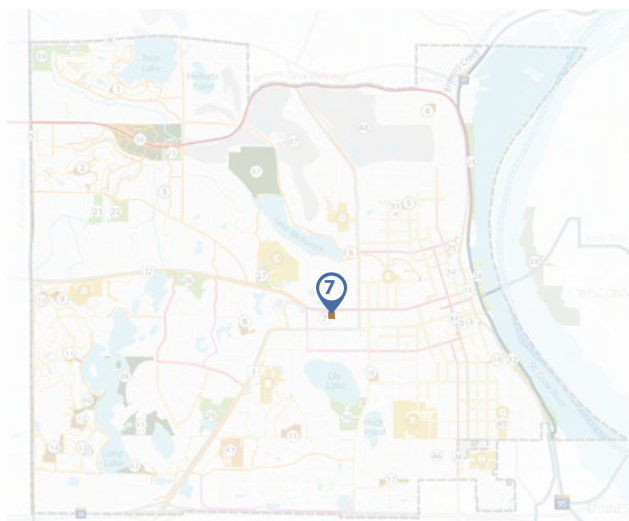
Precedent Photos



Accessible picnic amenities



Pollinator plantings with signage



RAMSEY GROVE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 150 Grove St S, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 1.35 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

Ramsey Grove Park is a neighborhood park at the intersection of Myrtle Street West and Grove Street South. The current playground, while in good condition, limits the age of potential users. A chain-link fence helps to protect kids from busy vehicle traffic and the steep slope leading to the adjacent turf stormwater area. The basketball court is spacious and in good condition. A series of small concrete pads dot the center of the park, and other small shelter and grill amenities are scattered along the hillside. A large pollinator garden with educational signage anchors the intersection.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Basketball
- Bench seating
- Rainwater garden
- Picnic Shelters
- Playground
- Uncovered picnic tables
- Grill
- Portable restrooms

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 EXPAND NATIVE PLANTINGS**
Expand the existing pollinator garden all the way to the fencing for the playground structure. Seed the existing turf stormwater basin with native species to enhance habitat, create a natural buffer, and reduce mowing.
- 2 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom, and screen with an enclosure.
- 3 PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND EXPANSION**
Consider removing the concrete pads and expanding the playground area to include a wider variety of equipment themed to complement possible orchard plantings. The flat space lends itself to inclusive, ADA-accessible play opportunities. Consider removing or replacing the chain link fence with a more ornamental screening option.
- 4 MINI ORCHARD**
Finding ways to integrate urban agriculture was a popular comment expressed in community feedback. The sloped hillsides of Ramsey Grove park are suitable for an orchard planting. Flowering and fruiting species would provide seasonal interest and programming opportunities such as community harvests, canning demos, etc.

Existing Conditions



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption

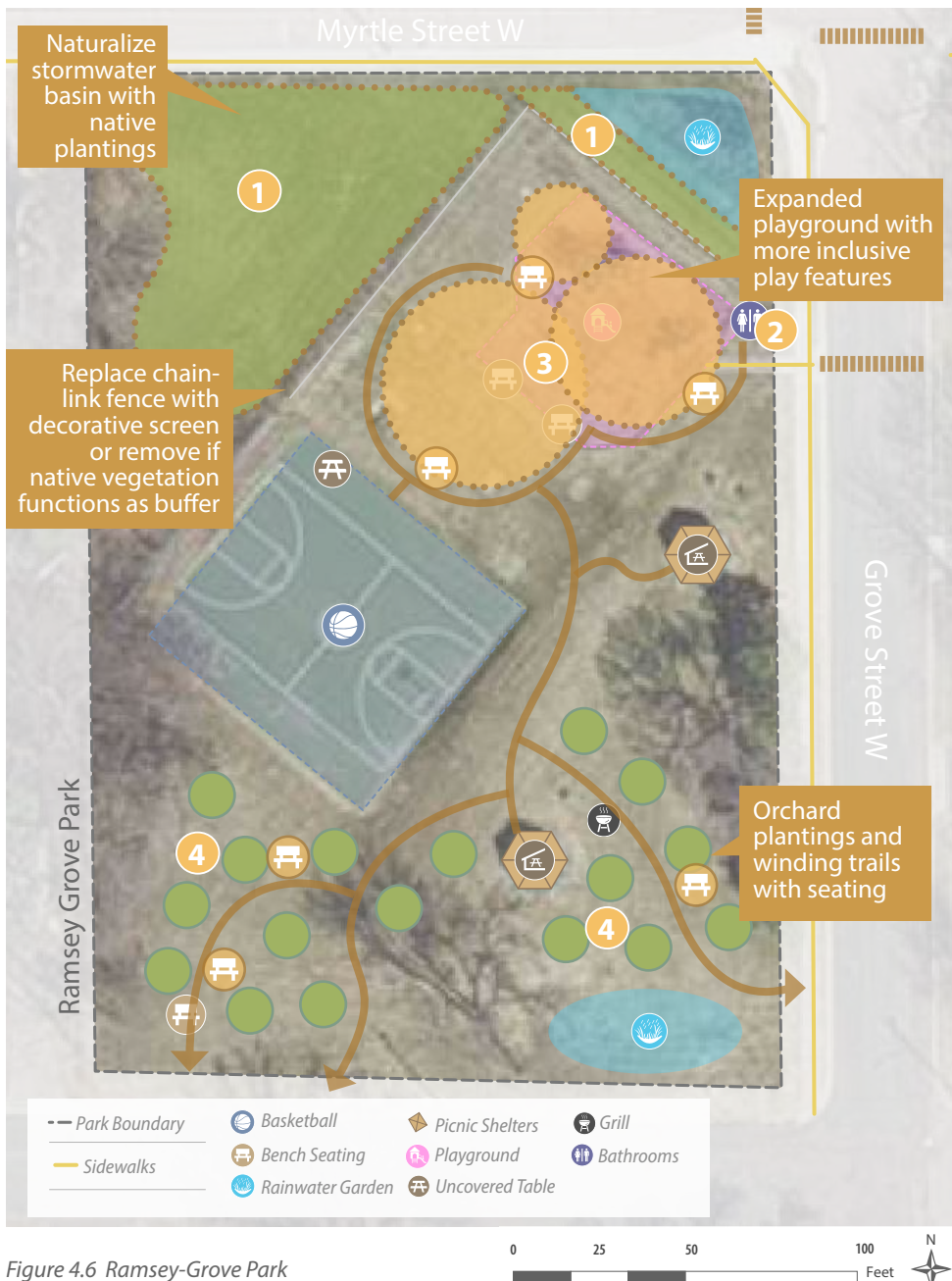


Figure 4.6 Ramsey-Grove Park

Precedent Photos



Native plantings in stormwater basin



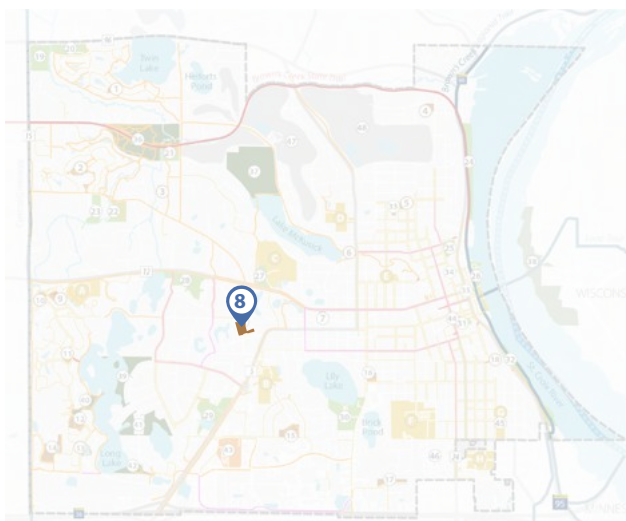
Themed playground structure



Tot lot equipment



Orchard plantings



MEADOWLARK PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 316 Crestwood Terrace, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 2.85 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.15 miles

Meadowlark park is a neighborhood park nestled into a suburban neighborhood. It is bordered on all sides by private residential homes and is accessible by a paved trail from Interlachen Drive to the north and Crestwood Terrace to the east. The park contains a small play area, a basketball court in good condition, a sand volleyball court, and two small picnic shelters with single picnic tables. A portable restroom is also on site.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Playground
- Picnic shelters
- Volleyball court
- Basketball court
- Single-covered tables
- Restrooms

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Crestwood Terrace entrance and park sign



Interlachen Drive entrance



Playground, Basketball court, and picnic shelter

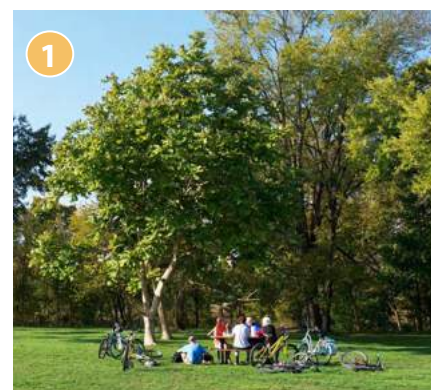
RECOMMENDATIONS

- PICNIC / FLEXIBLE SEATING LAWN**
Utilize some of the existing lawn space for a dedicated picnicking lawn with additional shade tree plantings to help mitigate sun exposure and heat.
- ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom, and screen with an enclosure.
- NATIVE HABITAT AND BUFFER PLANTINGS**
Reduce the amount of turf and mowing needs by seeding and planting underutilized lawn areas with native and pollinator species. Consider mown trails for visitors to explore.
- ENTRY SIGNAGE**
Add entry signage to Interlachen Drive access point.
- ADD UNIQUE SEATING**
Add tiered, flexible seating for hanging out or viewing basketball games.
- REHABILITATE EXISTING VOLLEYBALL COURT**
Consider replacing with bocce ball, flexible lawn space, or other sports court options.
- ADDRESS DRAINAGE ISSUES**
Work to mitigate flooding/drainage issues along trails at the center of the park using native plantings and rainwater gardens.
- BASKETBALL COURT UPDATES**
Consider updating existing court with accessible features or replace at end of life. Make any needed court repairs.



Figure 4.7 Meadowlark Park

Precedent Photos



Picnic Lawn



Native Buffer Plantings



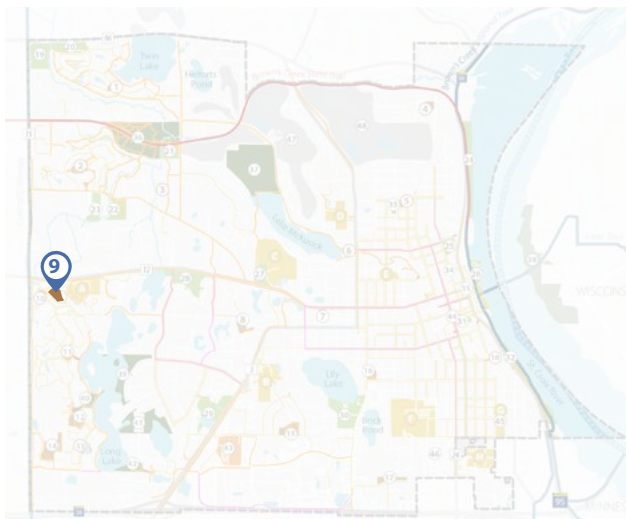
Volleyball replacement



Flexible Seating Lawn



Unique Seating



SETTLER'S PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 119 Rutherford Rd, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 3.02 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.26 miles

Settler's Park is a neighborhood park just across the street from Liberty Square Park. It is surrounded by a mix of residential neighborhoods, restaurants, and small shops. The park has a higher elevation than its surroundings, which makes it feel private and less approachable than other parks. A formal entry stairway featuring terraced plantings and trails provide access from the northeast, while access from the west is primarily over turf up the slope. The park features fenced double tennis courts, a grass ball diamond, a restroom building, and an expansive flexible turf field.

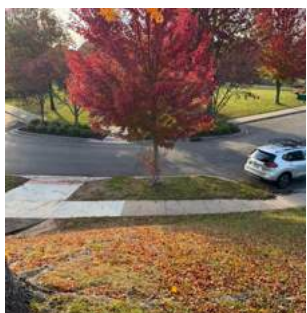
EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Flexible turf field
- Bench seating
- Tennis courts
- Grass ball diamond
- Drinking fountain
- Restrooms

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Steep slopes near Liberty Square Park and on street parking



Restroom building



Terraced gardens



Turf drainage swale



Grass ballfield with backstop

RECOMMENDATIONS

**The City of Stillwater must meet with the Liberty Homeowner's Association prior to implementing any improvements.*

- 1 ADDITIONAL PICNICKING**
Add a mid-sized picnic shelter near the tennis courts and across from the restrooms and drinking fountain area to support neighborhood gatherings.
- 2 TRAIL LOOP WITH BENCH SEATING**
Complete the paved shared use path to create a trail loop through the park that allows for better navigation of the space. Add additional bench seating along paths for users to stop, rest, and observe games.
- 3 NATIVE PLANTINGS & ADDED TREES**
The elevated nature of this park leaves many steep slopes to be mown. Sloped turf areas including the grassed swale in the center of the park should be replaced with native habitat to reduce mowing needs, prevent erosion, improve stormwater management and add habitat. Provide interpretive signage on native species for education. Add trees for shade and to further buffer adjacent residential.
- 4 UPGRADE EXISTING FIELD RECREATION**
Add an ag lime infield with bases to the ballfield, and add goals to the flexible field for pick-up games.
- 5 ADD PARK SIGNAGE AT ENTRY POINTS**

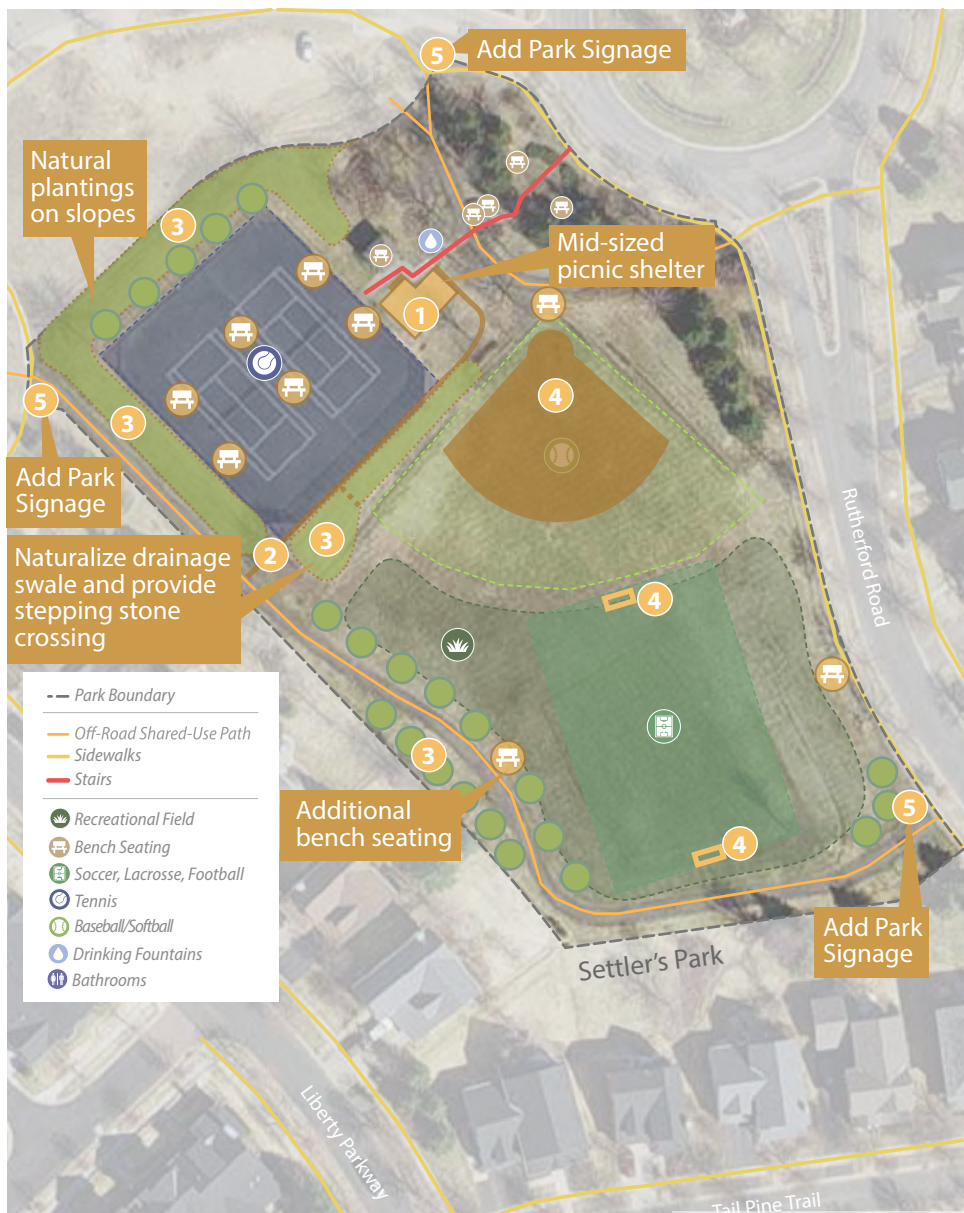


Figure 4.8 Settler's Park



Precedent Photos



Mid-sized Picnic Shelter



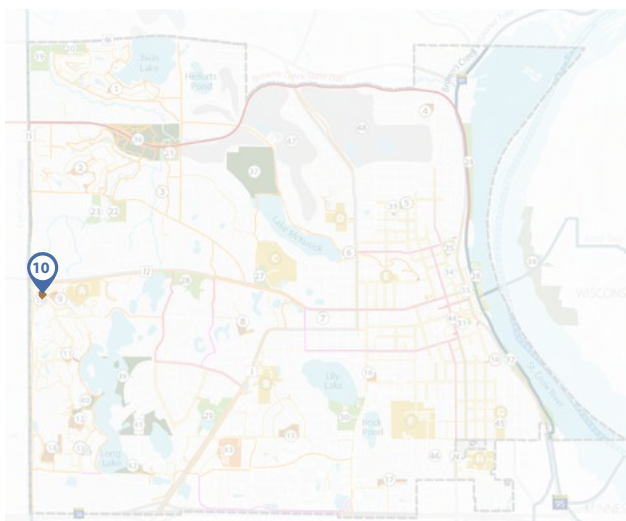
Stepping Stones Across Swale



Ag Lime Infield



Native plantings along slopes and drainage areas



LIBERTY SQUARE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 163-3003020320097, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 1.38 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.13 miles

Liberty Square Park is a small neighborhood park designed as a town square. It is surrounded by local streets, shops, small businesses, restaurants, and homes. It features a small man-made pond that is beautifully planted and edged with stones. A small pavilion complements the surrounding architecture. Custom details like paver insets, picnic tables inlaid with chess boards, copper fence post caps, and string lighting contribute to a sense of place.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Pavilion with picnic table seating

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption

RECOMMENDATIONS

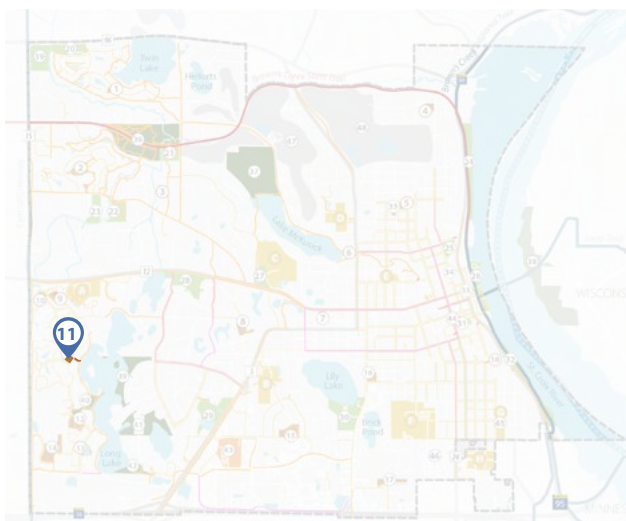
**The City of Stillwater must meet with the Liberty Homeowner's Association prior to implementing any improvements.*

- 1 PROGRAM OPEN SPACE**
Program the open lawn space with small local events such as musicians, large chess boards that compliment the pavilion tables, farmers or makers markets (opportunity for winter holiday markets), and lawn game tournaments.
- 2 EXPAND ORNAMENTAL BORDER PLANTINGS**
Replace underutilized turf with expanded ornamental planting beds to further frame the lawn spaces.
- 3 CENTRAL ALLÉE**
Add shade trees along the central path to create a tree-lined promenade that makes the lawn space feel less exposed. Add cafe lights, holiday lights, or uplighting for ambiance.
- 4 CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS**
Add a crosswalk to improve safe connections from surrounding sidewalks and to Settler's Park.



WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITY - HOLIDAY MARKETS
Consider hosting holiday or local markets on the lawn.





HERITAGE SQUARE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 3380 Heritage Ct, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 1.79 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.35 miles

Heritage Square Park is a small neighborhood park in the middle of single family residences. A portion of its boundary extends to a fishing pier with beautiful views across Long Lake. The architecture and materials used add charm and character that complement the surrounding homes. A small, newly replaced playground anchors the northern corner of the park boundary. Ample bench seating, a central pavilion, and manicured plantings give this park a formal character that any future additions should take care to reinforce. Streets are too narrow for on-street parking, so access is by local sidewalks.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Pavilion
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Uncovered picnic tables

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption

RECOMMENDATIONS

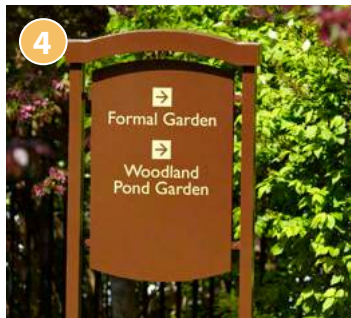
**The City of Stillwater must meet with the Liberty Homeowner's Association prior to implementing any improvements.*

- 1 **PROGRAM OPEN SPACE**
The large lawn areas could be programmed with small performances or events such as music in the park, movies on the lawn with a large projector screen, or temporary artwork or lawn games.
- 2 **ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom near the playground, and screen with an enclosure. Strive to match existing architectural style.
- 3 **ORCHARD PLANTINGS**
Finding ways to integrate urban agriculture was a popular comment expressed in community feedback. Flowering and fruiting trees would provide seasonal interest and offer passive programming.
- 4 **ADDED SIGNAGE**
Add signage at the path down to the lake to assist with legibility of this unique park amenity.



Figure 4.10 Heritage Square Park

Precedent Photos



Wayfinding



Open space programming

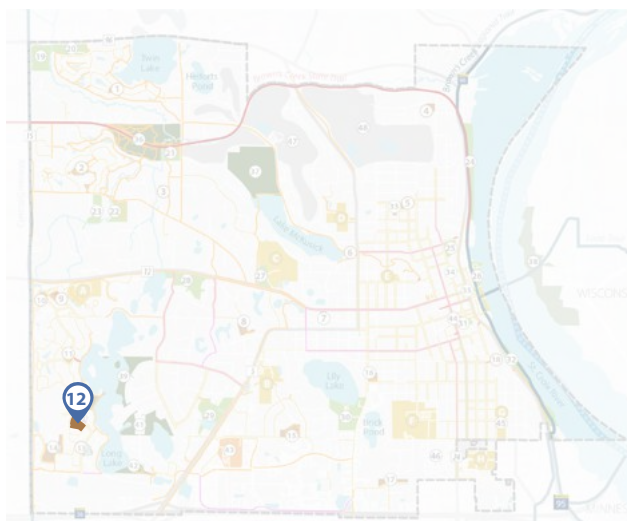


Small orchard plantings



ADA restroom





LEGENDS PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 3380 Heritage Ct, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 3.81 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.24 miles

Legends Park is a neighborhood park at the intersections of Baron and Delano Way. Surrounded on all sides by single family homes, this park offers a somewhat dated play structure for kids aged 5-12 and a more recently updated play structure for little ones (age 2-5). A medium-sized picnic shelter, sports fields, a little free library, and a wooded wetland complete the offerings. Parking in on-street, and a city utility building is present on site.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Picnic shelter (medium sized)
- Playground
- Baseball/softball diamond
- Soccer/lacrosse/football

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

**A note was left for a patch of land across the street that has been added to the recommendations*

Existing Conditions



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 UPDATE PLAYGROUND (PLANNED FOR 2029)**
Once it reaches the end of its life, consider replacing the play equipment with a more unique play set that offers a greater variety of experiences for multiple ages and abilities.
- 2 PICNIC TABLE SEATING**
Add additional opportunities for picnicking near the playground with table seating that is accessible for wheelchairs.
- 3 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom near the playground, and screen with an enclosure.
- 4 EXPANDED NATIVE HABITAT AND BUFFER PLANTINGS**
Reduce the amount of turf and mowing needed by seeding and planting underutilized lawn areas with pollinator-friendly native species. Add shade trees along Delano way to buffer the play space from vehicle traffic. Consider planting a native garden and adding interpretive signage in the triangular lawn space across Barons Way. Maintain a mown edge for an intentional appearance.
- 5 IMPROVE CIRCULATION**
Add signage at other entrances to assist with legibility, and add crosswalk to improve safety of trail connection.



Figure 4.11 Legends Park



Precedent Photos



Modern or themed play equipment



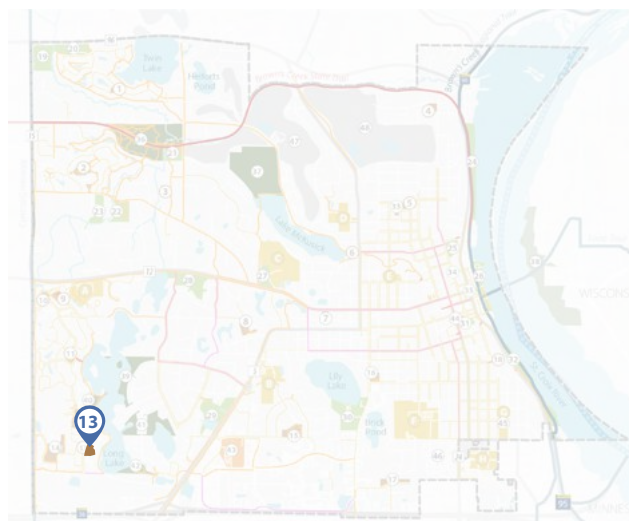
Wayfinding signage



Native plantings



Planting interpretation



LEGENDS GAZEBO

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1141 Legend Blvd, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 2.34 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.08 miles

Legends Gazebo is a small residential space that offers passive recreation centered around a stormwater pond. A sidewalk along the western edge provides shaded views to the water. Some quality native vegetation has been established as a buffer and mown turf along the perimeter ensures a neat appearance. A small gazebo with a single picnic table functions as an overlook. Access to this space on the north, south, and most of the eastern edge is prohibited by abutting private properties. Parking is on-street.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Gazebo/single picnic table
- Bench seating

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this area were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

**Although Legends Gazebo may function as a park for nearby residents, it is a privately owned space that is not operated or maintained by the City, therefore no recommendations will be made.*

Existing Conditions



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption

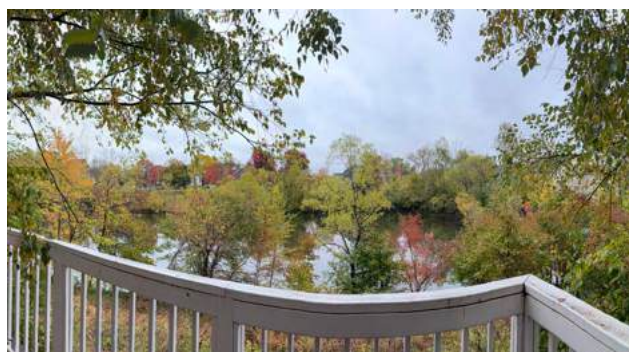
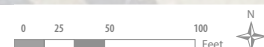


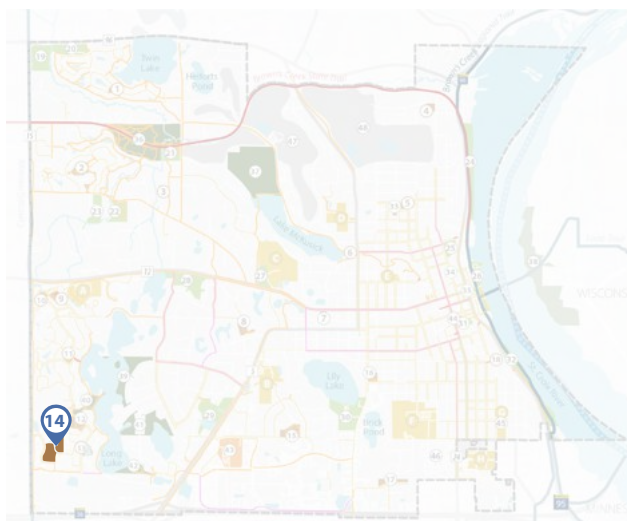
Image Caption



Figure 4.12 Legends Gazebo



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BERGMANN PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1141 Legend Blvd, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 7.42 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.32 miles

Bergmann Park is a large neighborhood park within a multi-unit housing development. It consists of two parcels with existing paved trail connections, sports fields, and picnicking areas. The park has sloping topography along its perimeter and areas of dedicated on-street parking. The perimeter trail is in need of resurfacing in coming years, and feels disconnected from the broader park in certain locations since it is at the base of the hillside. The central turf area is shared among active recreation types, with a U11 soccer field striped in recent years overlapping the ballfield.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Medium picnic shelters
- Bench seating
- Flex field (soccer)
- Portable restroom
- Ballfield

WHAT WE HEARD

- Consider utilizing some of the open space for urban agriculture
- Desire for a playground
- Add natural plantings and walking paths

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom and screen with an enclosure.

2 NATIVE PLANTINGS & ADDED TREES
The elevated nature of this park leaves many steep slopes to be mown. Sloped turf areas should be replaced with native habitat to reduce mowing needs, prevent erosion, improve stormwater management and add habitat. Add deciduous trees for shade.

3 WALKING LOOP WITH EXERCISE CIRCUIT
Add a paved walking loop within the upper park for easy navigation and plow for winter use. Consider adding exercise stations to support public health and wellness.

4 FIELD ADJUSTMENTS
Move the striped U11 soccer field north to maintain use of the ballfield. Relocation of the soccer field would require large amounts of re-grading along the northern hillside. Consider a minor ballfield renovation to optimize the infield's position within the park.

5 PROPOSED PLAYGROUND
Add an outdoor fitness challenge course playground with features that complement the exercise circuit.

6 ADD A PARK SIGN
This park does not appear to have a sign, and should be marked as part of the park system.

Existing Conditions



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption



Image Caption



Figure 4.13 Bergmann Park

Precedent Photos



Exercise circuit

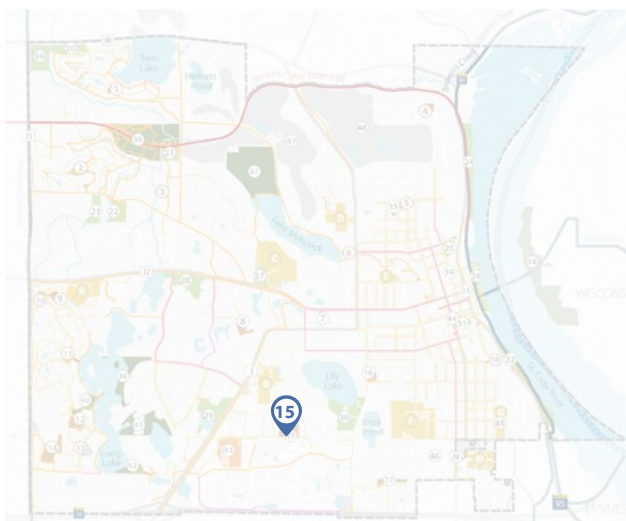


Native plantings on slopes



Fitness challenge playground





Existing Conditions



Aerial view



Street view

BENSON PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1800 Orleans St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 5.35 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.30 miles

Benson Park is a spacious neighborhood park near Lily Lake Elementary School that has a large flat expanse and a small sledding hill. The park has a good mix of amenities, but the play area would benefit from reorganization when due for replacement. A former residence on the western edge has potential be converted to a parking lot to support future recreation demand.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Picnic shelter and tables
- Volleyball court
- Basketball court
- Flex Field (Ballfield/Soccer)
- Portable restroom
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Sledding Hill

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Update portable restroom to be ADA-accessible.
- 2 NATIVE AND LOW MAINTENANCE TURF PLANTINGS**
Replace underutilized perimeter turf with no mow fescue or native pollinator habitat.
- 3 ADD TREES AND INFORMAL SEATING**
Add shade trees spaced for future hammocking use. Provide picnic tables and other flexible seating options deemed suitable for the park by city staff.
- 4 PRACTICE DISC GOLF BASKETS**
Consider adding mini/introductory disc golf baskets for visitors to practice or try out the sport.

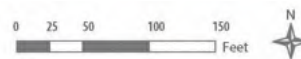


SLEDDING HILL

The hill in the middle of the park is used as a small sledding area in the winter months.



Figure 4.14 Benson Park



Precedent Photos



No Mow Fescue



Native plantings with mown edge

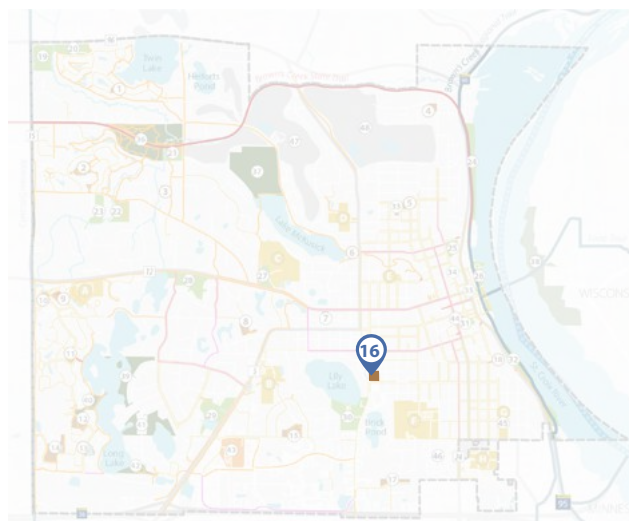


Practice disc golf baskets



Informal Seating





WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 915 Abbott St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 2.06 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.11 miles

Washington Square park is a uniquely designed park across the street from Lakeview hospital and surrounded by single family homes. The park feels more urban than a typical neighborhood park with busy roads on all sides. The park has a small parking area and sidewalk connections. Any improvements should aim to complement its particular character and charm.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Playground
- Bench seating
- Shelters
- Medium picnic shelter
- Baseball/Softball diamond
- Recreational field
- Bathrooms
- Drinking fountains

Existing Conditions



Existing restrooms



Retaining wall



Existing playground



Existing shelter

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

**Approval from the park's donor must be secured prior to implementing any improvements.*

- BORDER PLANTINGS AND ADDITIONAL SHADE TREES**
Complement the Victorian feel of the park by adding English garden border plantings to provide further buffer from the street. Add shade trees for comfort.
- PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT**
Replace the existing structure with a whimsical design that better reinforces the park's unique aesthetic.
- SMALL PERFORMANCE SPACE WITH STONE AMPHITHEATER SEATING**
Consider programming the small paved area west of the large picnic shelter for small live music performances and provide stone seat walls to create a small amphitheater along the sloped lawn.
- FAIRY DOORS - HIGHLIGHT OAKS**
This park contains beautiful large oak and shade trees that could feature small fairy door entrances as an interactive and whimsical seek and find activity. Consider uplighting these trees for added effect.
- REMOVE UNDERUTILIZED BALLFIELD**
The ballfield is underutilized and out of character for the park. Consider replacing it with a picnic grove and/or flexible plaza space for food trucks and community gatherings.



Figure 4.15 Washington Square Park



Precedent Photos



Fairy doors at the base of large trees



Flexible plaza space



English garden border plantings

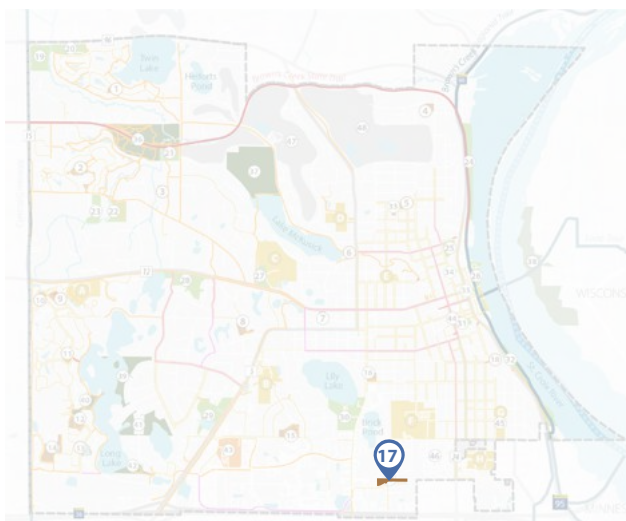


Small stone amphitheater seating



Whimsical playground structure





ANEZ RIDGE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 900 Shelton Dr, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 3.05 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.06 miles

Anez Ridge Park is a neighborhood park with large open lawn spaces, a number of small covered picnic tables and bench seating, and a newly updated traditional playground structure. Parking is on-street.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Playground
- Bench seating
- Single-covered tables

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

It's been noted in past years that better neighborhood access to the park has been a common request.

Existing Conditions



Aerial view



Existing playground



East park entrance from street

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS**
Add crosswalks to Shelton Drive that match park trails, and create a trail into the park from Harriet Drive to the north for residents of that neighborhood and kids from Stillwater Middle School.
- 2 FORAGING FOREST PLANTING**
The open lawn area at the back of the park could remain an unprogrammed flex field, or be planted with edible species like fruit trees, berry bushes, strawberries, and other low maintenance foragables.
- 3 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom and screen with an enclosure.
- 4 NATIVE PLANTINGS AND ADDITIONAL SHADE TREES**
Add shade trees for comfort and a border planting along the street to buffer the playground from the road. Reduce the amount of turf and mowing needs by seeding and planting underutilized turf areas with native and pollinator species.

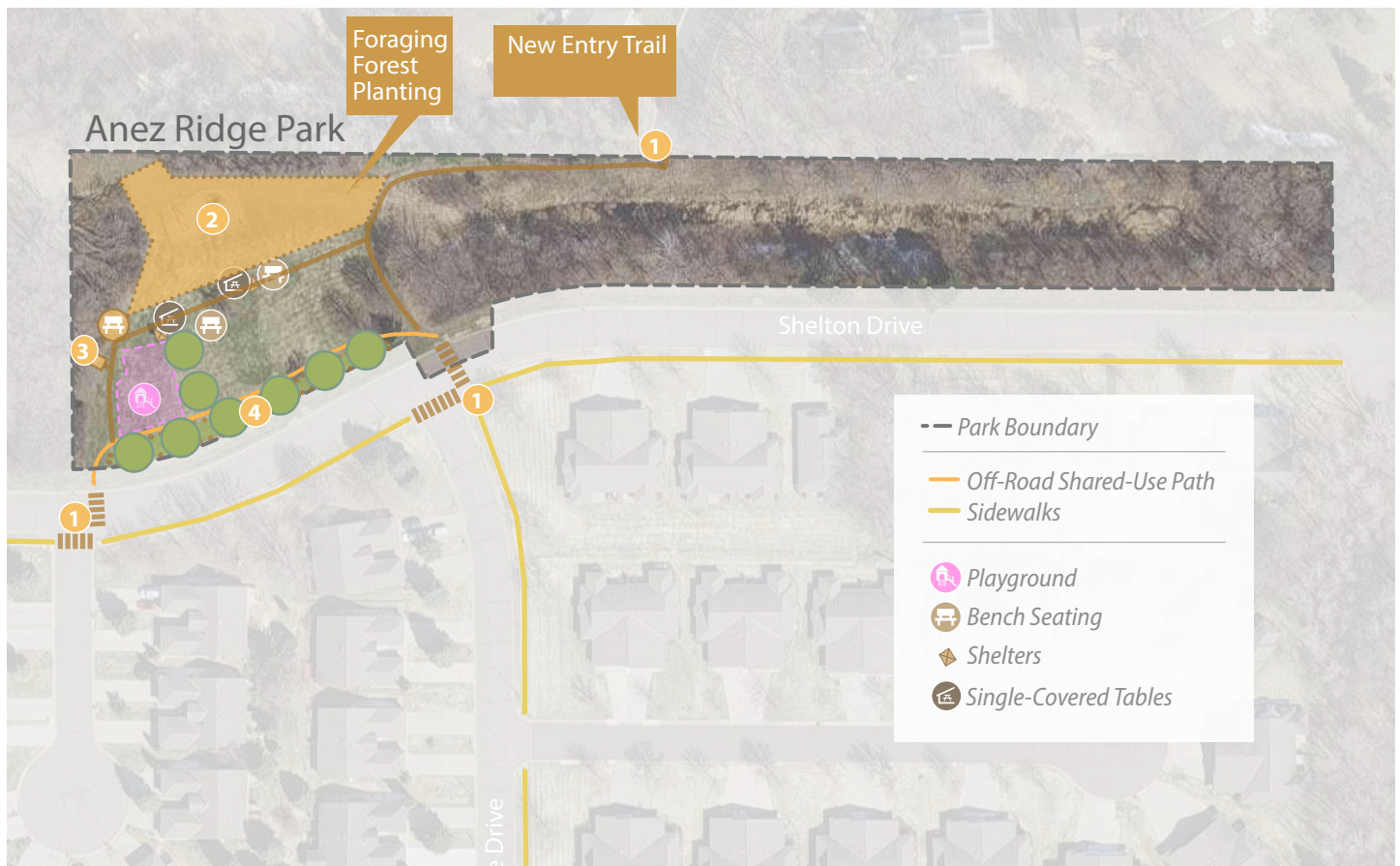


Figure 4.16 Anez Ridge Park

Precedent Photos



Food forest



Edible fruit trees



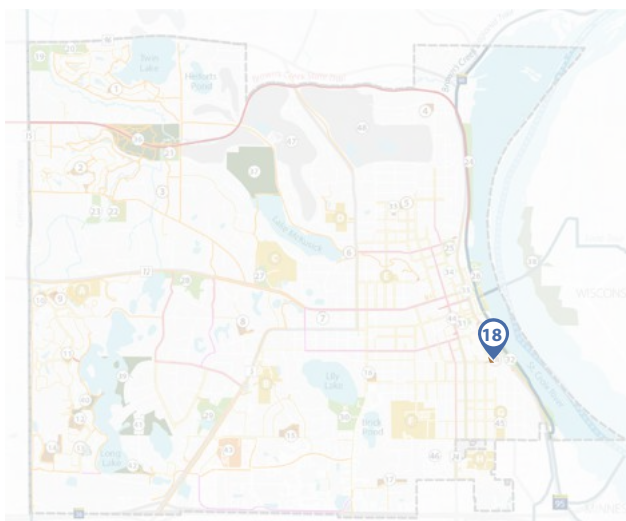
Berry Bushes



Improved neighborhood access



Native plantings



TRIANGLE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 680 Broadway St S, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 0.16 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

Triangle park is a miniature neighborhood park surrounded on all sides by local roads and single family homes. This uniquely shaped lot features a small playground that will be due for replacement in coming years, bench seating, ornamental trees, border plantings, and a small open lawn space.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Playground
- Bench seating

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Existing playground



Hillside



Small planter

RECOMMENDATIONS

- POLLINATOR PLANTINGS**
Consider adding pollinator plantings along Broadway as a traffic buffer.
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ART**
Add a sculpture as the focal point of a new pathway. Adjacent seating covered by an artful shade structure would add comfort and interest.
- UPDATE PLAY STRUCTURE (PLANNED FOR 2027)**
Update the existing play structure with a compatible unique and bright design.
- HILLSIDE SEATING**
Consider a small seat wall along the play area slope for extra seating in a small space.

* POCKET PARK DESIGN INSPIRATION *

Colorful seating options and unique features make the most of a small area.



Large shrub plantings

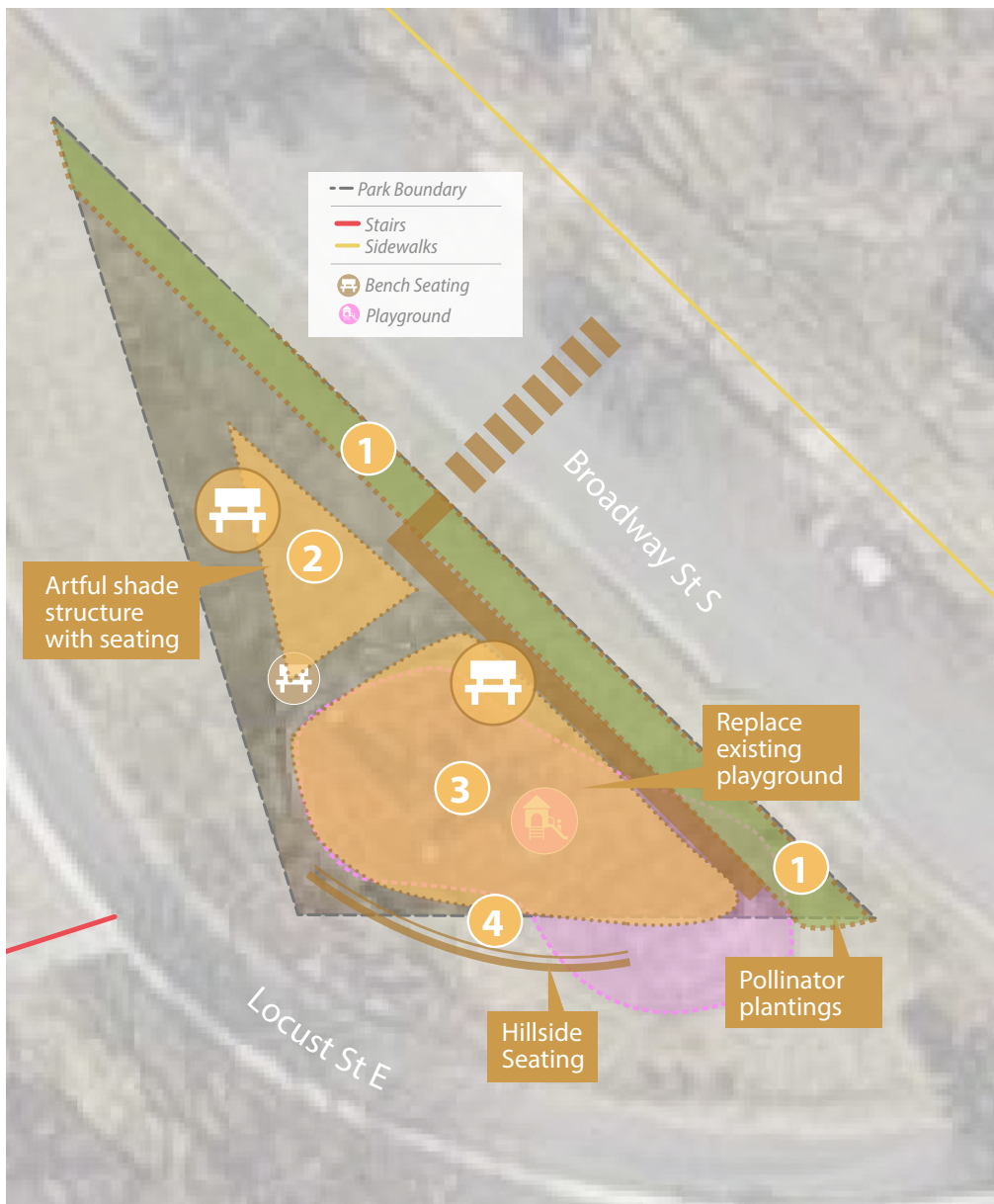


Figure 4.17 Triangle Park

Precedent Photos



Pocket park design inspiration



Colorful site furniture



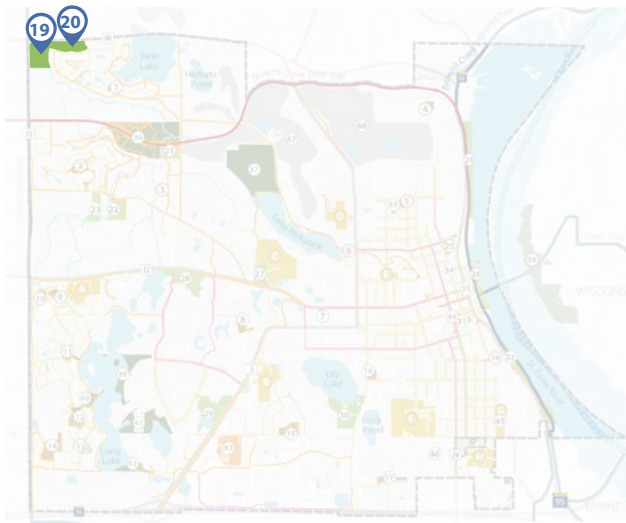
Abstract or sculptural canopy structure

Section Contents:

Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West.....	95
Brown's Creek Park.....	98
Boutwell Cemetery/Public Works Ballfield.....	100
Pioneer Park.....	102
Lowell Park.....	104
Stillwater Dog Park.....	108
Northland Park.....	110
Sunrise Park.....	112
Lily Lake Park.....	114
Teddy Bear Park	116
Lumberjack Landing	118
Bridgeview Park	119



COMMUNITY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS



MILLBROOK PARK AND MILLBROOK FIELD WEST

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 3371 Maureen Lane, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 8.84 acres (total)

Trail Mileage: (needs calculation)

Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West are community parks located along the northwest border of the city of Stillwater. Connected by a large wetland area, the parks currently function separately. Each park has a dedicated parking area.

Millbrook Park features a playground with newer equipment, a baseball diamond with batting cage, and large grassy area for a variety of field options.

Millbrook Field West features a large field and beautiful views of the wetland.

Both parks are located near busy roadways where traffic noise is prevalent.

Existing Conditions



Millbrook Park Batting Cage



Millbrook Park Playground



Millbrook Field West



Millbrook Field West

EXISTING AMENITIES:

MILLBROOK PARK

- Playground
- Bench seating
- Small picnic shelter
- Soccer/lacrosse/football field
- Baseball/softball diamond
- Single covered tables
- Bathrooms

MILLBROOK FIELD WEST

- Soccer/lacrosse/football field
- Bathrooms

WHAT WE HEARD

Millbrook Field West is one of the only locations cited by the St. Croix Soccer Club as a suitable practice field space for the U11 age group. It has parking and easy access.



Figure 4.18 Millbrook Park

Precedent Photos

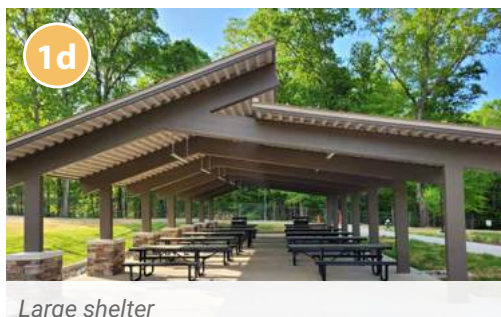


Loop trails

Precedent Photos



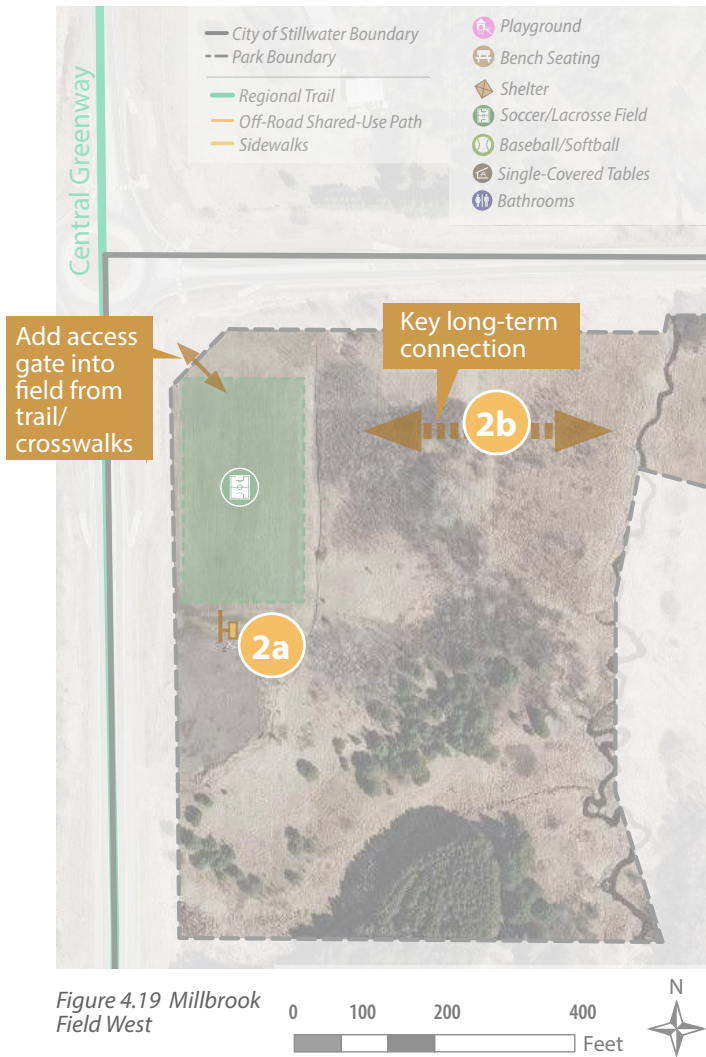
Native plantings



Large shelter

RECOMMENDATIONS (MILLBROOK PARK)

- 1a** *NATIVE PLANTINGS AND ADDITIONAL SHADE TREES*
Reduce the amount of turf and maintenance needs by seeding and planting large grassy areas with native and pollinator species. Add shade trees to help mitigate sun exposure for visitors.
- 1b** *BATTING CAGE MAINTENANCE*
Replace batting cage turf (add/new netting).
- 1c** *EXPLORE FIELD OPTIONS*
The large open space is currently used for soccer, lacrosse, and football. Depending on the needs of interested athletic groups and other areas in the system, this space can be configured as a singular larger soccer field or multiple smaller fields.
- 1d** *EXPLORE POTENTIAL FOR AMENITY OPTIONS*
This location has good proximity to the parking lot and playground, making it a suitable location for a larger rentable picnic shelter. It could also fit a basketball court, or small splash pad, depending on future interest.



RECOMMENDATIONS (MILLBROOK FIELD WEST)

- 2a** *ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE*
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom and screen with an enclosure.
- 2b** *FUTURE BRIDGE/BOARDWALK CONNECTION WITH INTERPRETATION AND NATURE PLAY*
Long-term, study the feasibility of connecting the two park spaces in the future with a boardwalk or signature bridge. Having this key connection in place would make the two sides of the park feel whole and could open up unique interpretive opportunities along connected platforms or overlooks.

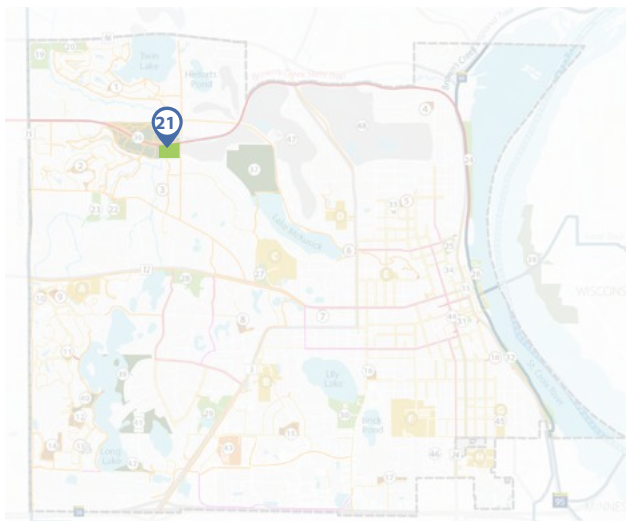


Boardwalk connection (long-term)



Unique nature play and learning amenities within wetland areas





BROWN'S CREEK PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 8312 Neal Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 17.74 acres

Trail Mileage: 1.17 miles

Brown's Creek Park is a bustling trailhead hub for the Brown's Creek State Trail, and is south of the Brown's Creek Nature Preserve. The trailhead features many amenities including a large playground, picnicking, seating, restrooms, a bike repair station, and wayfinding kiosk. A paved, shared-use path winds its way through both prairie and sugar maple forest and along its namesake creek, offering numerous loop trail options.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Playground
- Bench seating
- Picnic shelters
- Single covered tables
- Uncovered tables
- Bathrooms
- Bike repair station
- Trailhead

WHAT WE HEARD

- The Brown's Creek Watershed District uses the park for events
- Bike parking is needed near the playground area.
- Appreciation for the newer playground equipment and variety of equipment to cater to different ages.
- Playground is in better shape than others in the system, but still feels dated. **Replacement planned for 2028**
- Community sidewalk chalk seasonal bucket tradition

Existing Conditions



Trailhead



Bike repair station



Playground



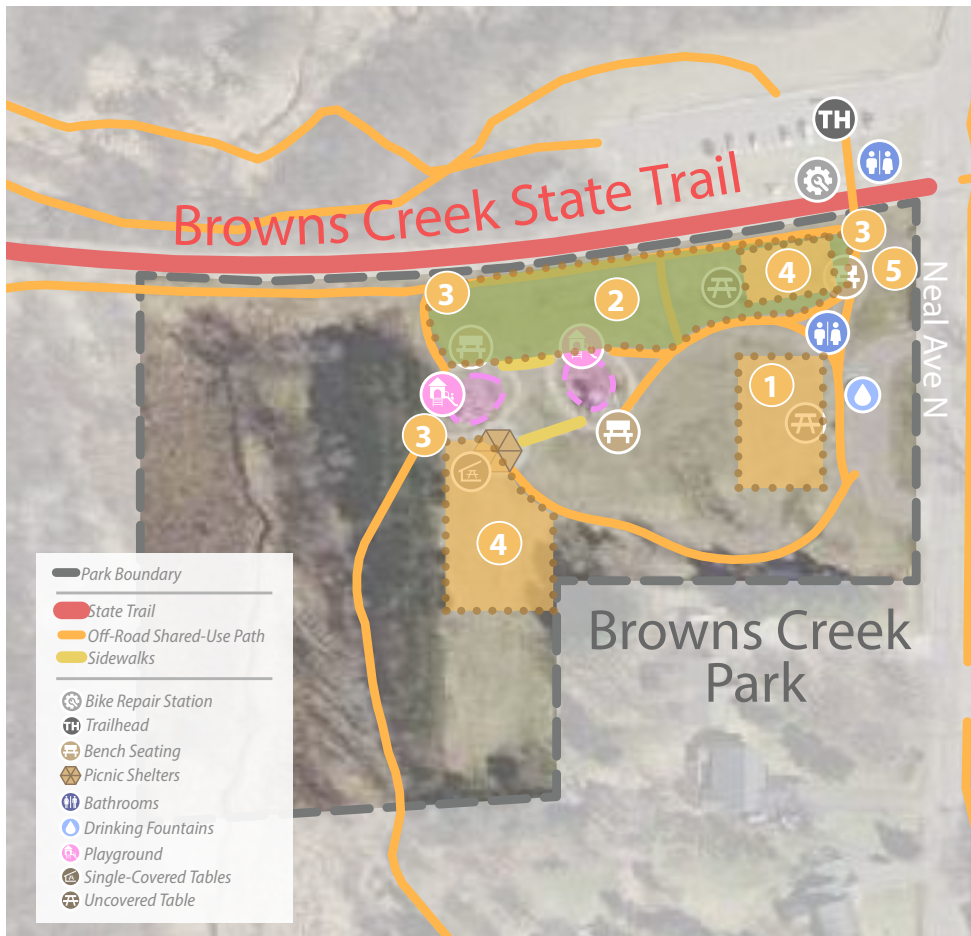
Paved trail



Shelter and paths

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 MEDIUM - LARGE RENTABLE PICNIC SHELTER**
Given the density of the surrounding residences, trail connectivity, and expressed desire for large gatherings here, adding a large picnic pavilion makes sense. Site in the large lawn near Neal Ave and study ways to expand parking during events.
- 2 NO-MOW OR NATIVE PLANTINGS**
Replace turf in underutilized lawns with no-mow or native plantings to reduce mowing and improve habitat.
- 3 WAYFINDING SIGNAGE**
Provide wayfinding signage at trail decision points. Wayfinding should complement existing trailhead branding.
- 4 EXPLORE AMENITY OPTIONS**
The city is interested in finding locations for an outdoor fitness court or community splash pad. Further studies are recommended.
- 5 RESTROOM BUILDING**
As destination amenities are built, consider adding an accessible restroom building (or include as part of the shelter).



Precedent Photos



Wayfinding signage

Figure 4.20 Brown's Creek Park



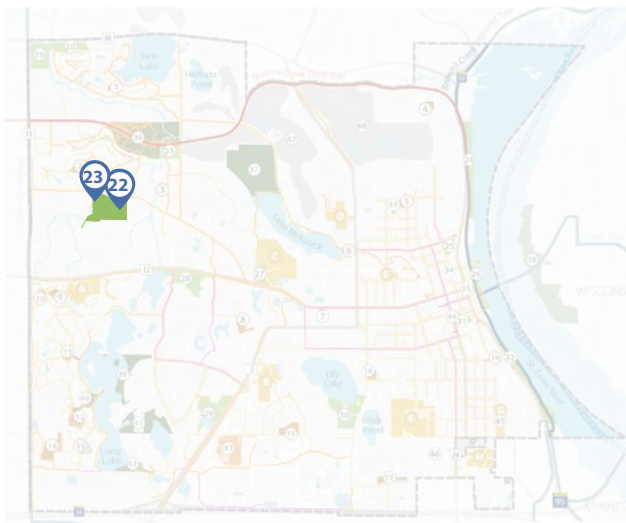
Large picnic shelter



Native plantings



The city is interested in finding locations for an outdoor fitness court or community splash pad. Further studies are recommended.



BOUTWELL CEMETERY/PUBLIC WORKS BALLFIELD

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 3325 Boutwell Rd N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 21.47 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.31 miles

Boutwell Cemetery park and the Public Works Ballfield are two adjacent but separate properties. The ballfield lies next to the City of Stillwater's Public Works building and can be accessed via an entrance off of 80th Street North. The Cemetery lies within a naturalized area that was historically a part of William Boutwell's estate and farm fields. The only access to the cemetery, which contains the graves of a number of family members, is by walking trail. To learn more about the family and history of the land, visit:

<http://www.stillwater-mn.org/hpc/Property/3003020120001>

Existing Conditions



Burial plots



Signage/interpretation



Headstones



Headstones

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Basketball court
- Softball/baseball diamond with bleachers

WHAT WE HEARD

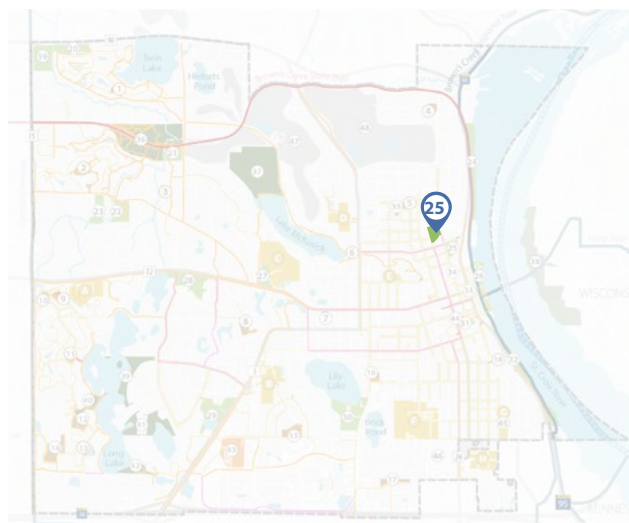
No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE AT THE PUBLIC WORKS BALLFIELD**
Add an ADA-accessible portable restroom and screen with an enclosure.
- 2 BASKETBALL COURT RESURFACING**
The existing basketball court near the ballfield will be due for a resurfacing within the next 5-10 years.
- 3 NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOUTWELL CEMETERY**
There are no recommendations proposed for the Cemetery at this time. It's not common practice within Park System Plans to include cemetery properties due to the sensitive nature of preserving the privacy and integrity of burial sites. A previous study of the cemetery could be consulted and updated should the city determine there is a need for investment.



Figure 4.21 Boutwell Cemetery / Public Works Ballfield



PIONEER PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 515 2nd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 3.86 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.17 miles

Pioneer Park is a well-loved and recognized park. It boasts beautiful cliff top views of the St. Croix River and connects to the Brown's Creek State Trail via the iconic Laurel Staircase. It is well used for both public and private events, and has been recently updated with accessible features such as a large restroom building, large picnic area, an accessible playground, and a bandshell.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

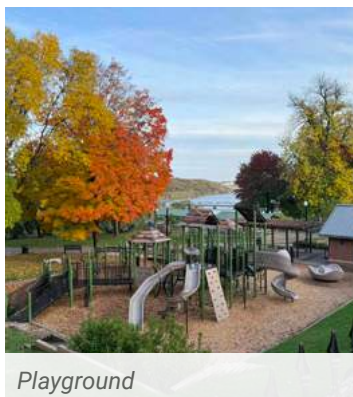
- Playground (accessible)
- Bench seating
- Picnic shelters
- Bandshell
- Bathroom
- Drinking fountain
- Uncovered tables



Laurel stairs

Existing Conditions

Restrooms



Playground



River views



Picnicking



Central planters

WHAT WE HEARD

Visitors love the views and all of the picnicking amenities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- NATIVE/POLLINATOR PLANTINGS**
Consider pollinator plantings along lawn edges and steep slopes (such as the underutilized area around the playground.)
- NATIVE PLANTINGS OR PLAYGROUND EXPANSION**
Consider native plantings or a future playground expansion in the space between the existing play container and the road.
- OVERLOOK UPDATES**
Fix or replace current fencing to address a gap near the cliff, which is a safety hazard. Add picnic tables or additional seating. Consider programming the space with lawn games and a frame or other photo opportunity. Add interpretive signage to highlight the area's history and point out landmarks that are in view.
- REVAMP CENTRAL LAWN AREA**
Revamp the central area of the park. Remove unnecessary planters and open the lawn to flexible play/programming.
- REHABILITATE FENCE**
Consider removing fencing along Laurel Street, since it is not needed for safety, and limits park access.



Figure 4.22 Pioneer Park

Precedent Photos



Program lawn space



Pollinator plantings



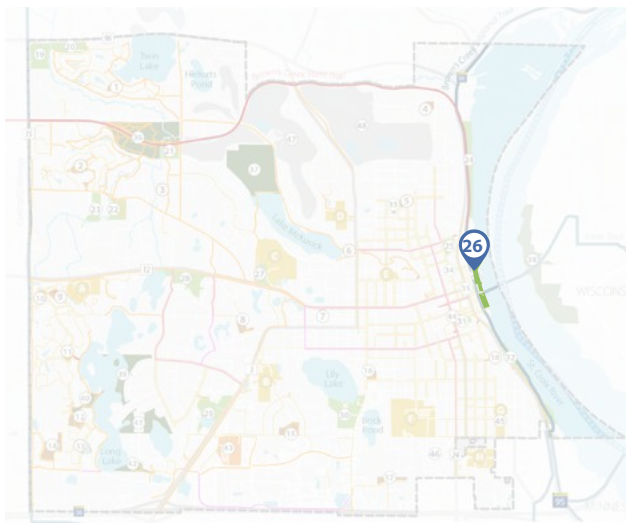
Instagrammable photo destination



Interpretive features



Flexible play lawn area



LOWELL PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 201 Water St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 7.99 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.73 miles

Lowell Park is a community waterfront park at the heart of the city that boasts expansive river views, large grassy gathering areas with seating, picnicking, overlooks, historic markers, and a river walk at the water's edge.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Bathrooms
- Shelters
- Picnic tables

WHAT WE HEARD

- Visitors would like to see more trees and larger tree species for additional shade and comfort.
- More flood-friendly landscaping
- Would be a great spot for a splash pad/interactive fountain
- Add a permanent stage with cover for events
- Boat parking dock for river visitors to stop and enjoy the park and downtown area **A planned dock located south of the paddle boats is currently underway*
- Bring back/create new gardens and fountains inspired by Lowell Park's historic landscape
- The bridge loop system is wonderful!

Existing Conditions



Walkway and wall



Riverfront path



Restrooms



Pavilion



Concrete artwork

RECOMMENDATIONS

Lowell Park's historical significance and flood-prone nature merits a distinct individual park plan of its own, supported by detailed survey, agency collaboration, community engagement, and study. For this reason, general recommendations are listed, but not keyed to specific areas.

- 1 PROVIDE CIRCULATION OPTIONS THAT ALLOW ACCESS IN BOTH FLOODED AND DRY PERIODS**
Consider an upper and lower promenade.
- 2 UTILIZE RESILIENT MATERIALS**
Replace concrete pathways with durable materials like granite or clay pavers that will resist cracking and better reflect the historic character of the park. Consider green infrastructure projects to help mitigate seasonal floods.
- 3 PROGRAM LAWN AREAS**
Offer lawn games, vendors, live music, entertainers, seasonal festivals, and pop-up art exhibits to make visiting the park a new experience every time.



Figure 4.23 Lowell Park

Precedent Photos and recommendations continued on next pages

Precedent Photos



Two-level riverfront promenade



Program lawn areas

Precedent Photos



Historic water level interpretation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4 **ADDITIONAL INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE**
The river, bluffs, and city have a rich history. Additional interpretive opportunities could exist along the walkway.
- 5 **PUBLIC ART WALK OR SONIC ART TO HIGHLIGHT THE RIVERFRONT SETTING**
Consider permanent art sculptures by local/Minnesota artists in lawn areas or along the river walk. Consider a river-setting specific feature like a wave organ or other elemental/sonic art piece that works with the river's current or the bluff's windy setting.
- 6 **NATIVE PLANTINGS**
Consider reinterpreting historic gardens with native, flood resilient species.
- 7 **ADDITIONAL SHADE**
The park is currently very exposed. Consider historically suitable architectural solutions or shade trees that can tolerate flooding.
- 8 **REINTERPRETED HISTORIC FOUNTAIN**
Design an interactive fountain plaza that pays homage to the park's historic fountain but allows for flexible use and requires less upkeep.



WINTER PROGRAMMING

Lowell Park is already programmed often for events like ice castles, music, and other private/public events.

5 SONIC ART - ELEMENTAL SCULPTURAL ARTWORK

Sonic artwork uses the elements of wind or water (two things a riverfront park has plenty of!) to create music. Below are some existing examples:



Blackpool high-tide organ (England)



Sound garden (Seattle, WA)



Wave organ (San Francisco, CA)



Play fountain (design inspired by historic Lowell gardens)



Shade structures



HISTORIC LOWELL

Consider restoring and constructing new gardens that mimic the park's historic landscape. Additional shade tress, fountain or play fountain features that are inspired by old photos, and colorful formal paintings amid native species to add pops of seasonal color to the space.



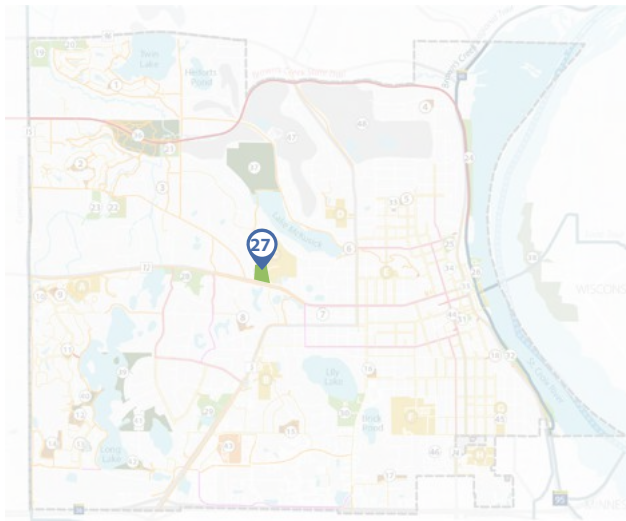
View from above - numerous shade trees lining the river



Water features



Historic garden spaces



STILLWATER DOG PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1900 Myrtle St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 7.05 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.10 miles

The Stillwater dog park is located in an area that has functioned as a landfill in the past. The City still uses portions of the site today for storage. The flat open area surrounded by trees lends itself well for an off-leash dog park. The city has worked with scouts in the past for much for the park's play equipment, and some may be due for replacement.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Portable restroom
- Single covered table

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Precedent Photos



Open space



Covered table



Fencing



Bench



Dog pool



Play circuit

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 REPLACE/UPDATE EQUIPMENT (WORK WITH SCOUTS)**
Consider replacing much of the existing equipment with highly-durable and weather-resistant products. Continue relationship with scouts for projects like ramps, bench seating, and fencing.
- 2 ADDITIONAL SEATING AND PICNIC AMENITIES**
Add additional areas for pet owners to sit.
- 3 FORMALIZE PARKING/ENTRY**
Formalize parking and dog park/Jaycee ballfields entry in conjunction with the school district.
- 4 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add a paved accessible path to restroom, and hide restroom with an enclosure.
- 5 SCREENED CITY STORAGE**
Used a screening wall or fencing to hide city storage items from view.
- 6 NATIVE PLANTINGS**
Use native and pollinator plantings to reduce muddy areas and define park boundaries.
- 7 ADDITIONAL SHADE STRUCTURES**



Figure 4.24 Stillwater Dog Park

Precedent Photos



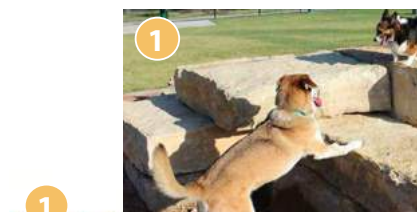
Themed site furniture



Doggy splash area



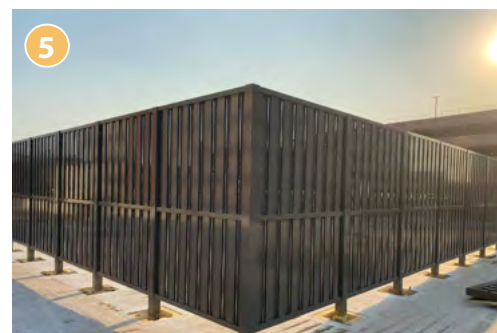
Updated park equipment



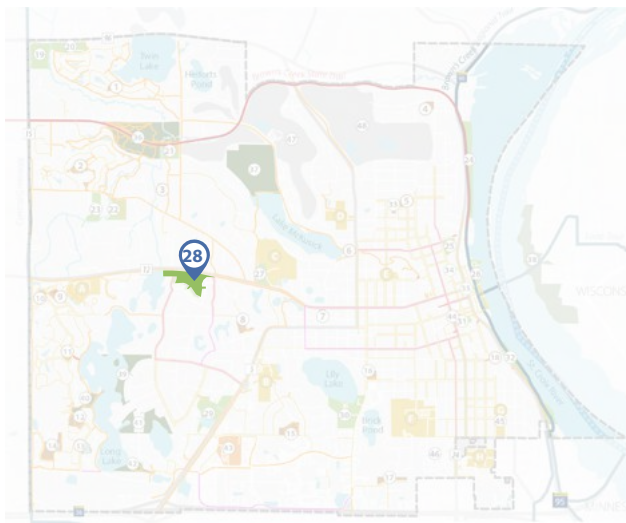
Natural play spots



Wood ramps for scout projects



Storage screening



NORTHLAND PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 12975 75th St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 14.91 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.08 miles

Northland Park is a medium-sized community park bordered by a busy highway and single family homes. The park has three entry points and a variety of amenities to offer visitors.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Shelters
- Baseball/softball diamonds
- Soccer/lacrosse/football fields
- Bathrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Single-covered tables
- Uncovered tables
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Horseshoes
- Skating

Existing Conditions



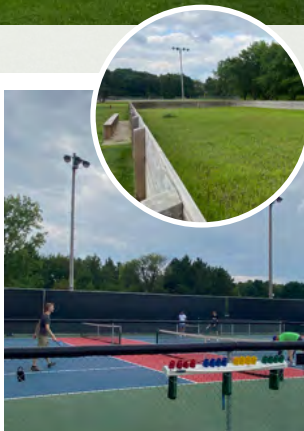
Grove south of ice rink



Horseshoes



Playground



Pickleball courts

WHAT WE HEARD

- Appreciate the quality pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts aren't as available to those not a part of an association

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 FORMALIZE COMMUNITY ENTRY POINTS**
Pave paths into the park from Hawthorne Lane on the south side of the park. Consider leaving the path from Bayberry Ave on the east side unpaved and/or relocating to one side for continued sledding programming. Add park entry signage at both locations.
- 2 ADD A WALKING LOOP TRAIL**
Add a paved walking trail loop around the park.
- 3 CONVERT HORSESHOE COURTS**
Convert horseshoe courts to additional pickleball courts to meet growing demand, or a small fitness court.
- 4 WARMING HOUSE CONVERSION OR REBUILD**
Tear down warming house and replace with new warming house/restroom building. Option to add equipment rentals.
- 5 LARGE RENTABLE SHELTER**
Replace the informal skating area with a large rentable picnic shelter.
- 6 ICE RINK IMPROVEMENTS**
Pave ice rink and add drainage for summer roller skating or basketball use. Explore the possibility of covering it for protection from the elements and picnicking use if preferred to adjacent shelter location. Informal skating could relocate to the tree grove south of the existing rink.
- 7 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**
Regrade and improve drainage where loop trail is proposed



Figure 4.25 Northland Park

Precedent Photos



WINTER RECREATION - FLOODED SKATE RINK

Consider lighting the grove south of the rink and flooding it for a unique skating experience.



SLEDDING HILL

Consider regrading hill at neighborhood entry to enhance for winter sledding.

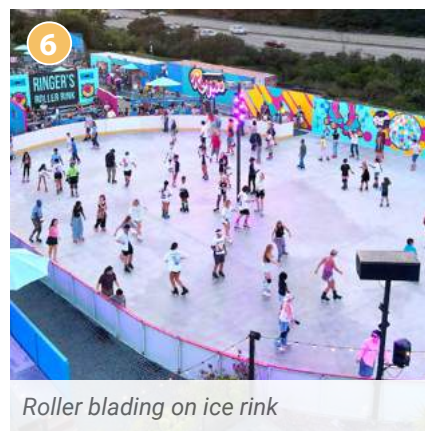


WINTER PROGRAMMING

Consider introductory classes for winter sports like skating or cross-country skiing with the addition of warming house/equipment rentals.



Warming House



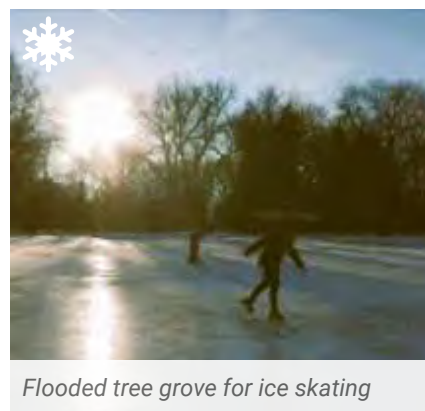
Roller blading on ice rink



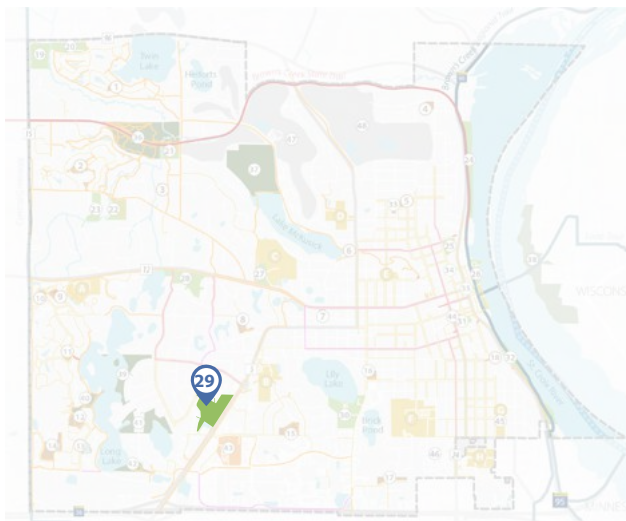
Formalized neighborhood entryways



Large rentable picnic shelter



Flooded tree grove for ice skating



SUNRISE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 851 Sunrise Ave, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 19.13 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.31 miles

Sunrise Park is a medium-sized community park bordered by a mixture of single family homes, local businesses, and a busy local roadway. The park has traditional park amenities such as athletic fields and playgrounds along with a central natural area. A dirt parking area on the northeast side serves the soccer field, but has drainage issues when it rains.

EXISTING AMENITIES:

- Bench seating
- Bathrooms
- Uncovered tables
- Playground
- Soccer/lacrosse/football field

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process, but it is used regularly by the St. Croix Soccer Club for youth practices and they would benefit from a formal parking lot and access to restrooms.

Existing Conditions



Natural walking path



Stick fort



Playground



Open clearing at former baseball diamond

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 PAVED PARKING LOT**
Pave the existing dirt parking lot to fit the optimal amount of vehicles and keep the surface usable in inclement weather.
- 2 ADA-ACCESSIBLE PORTABLE RESTROOM WITH ENCLOSURE**
Add a paved accessible path to restroom, and screen restroom with an enclosure.
- 3 SMALL ORCHARD OR EDIBLE PLANTINGS**
Consider using the open lawn area near the neighborhood entry point for a small orchard space or edible garden area.
- 4 PAVED TRAIL (2026)**
This city has plans to pave and formalize the trails through the central woodland. Additional wayfinding is recommended.
- 5 NATURE PLAY AREA**
The old ballfield clearing is the perfect spot for a nature playground that will still feel immersed in the woods.
- 6 INFORMAL NATURE PLAY ("PLAY IN NATURE")**
Set-up stations along foot paths, mount low-profile signage and add a natural materials library (acorns, sticks, tree cookies, etc.) to encourage kids to build and explore in the woods.



WINTER RECREATION - FLOODED SKATE RINK

Consider flooding the existing soccer field for an outdoor skate rink in the winter season.



Precedent Photos



Play in nature



Wayfinding



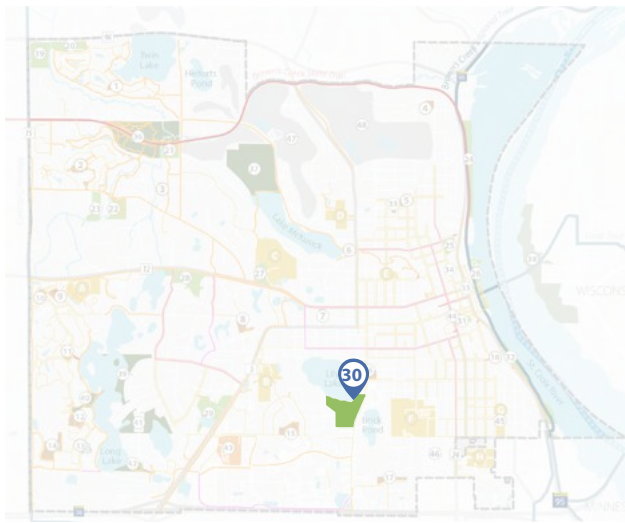
Flooded skate rink



Small orchard or edible plantings



Nature play area



Existing Conditions



Playground



Stormwater plantings



Interpretation



Medium picnic shelter



Fishing dock, boat launch, and canoe rack



Ice arena



Beach area

LILY LAKE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1208 Greeley St S, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 18.51 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.12 miles

Lily Lake Park is a large community park with many amenities and attractions to offer visitors. With the lake to the north and bluffs to the west, its natural setting could be better capitalized on.

EXISTING AMENITIES

- Playground
- Bench seating
- Picnic shelter and tables
- Volleyball court
- Baseball/softball diamonds
- Basketball
- Tennis/pickleball courts
- Fishing pier
- Bathrooms
- Stormwater feature
- Ice Arena
- Public water access

WHAT WE HEARD

- Updates to restroom and ice rink facilities are needed.
- People appreciate the fast pitch field.
- Users enjoy the fishing pier
- Visitors are grateful for the updated pickleball courts

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 IMPROVE ENTRY DRIVE AND LAKE WALK**
Formalize the pathway from the park entrance along the entry drive to the beach area. Study the feasibility of making the path more "off-road" and separated from traffic along the lake edge. Add crosswalks, signage, and other safety measures like traffic calming to ensure visitors can navigate the park safely.
- 2 FORMALIZE/IMPROVE KAYAK/CANOE LAUNCH**
Consider installing an accessible paddle launch.
- 3 SELF-SERVICE KAYAK RENTAL**
Consider installing a self-service rental station near the boat launch to allow more visitors, like nearby apartment residents who may not have room to store their own kayaks, to get out on the water.
- 4 ADD WAYFINDING AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS**
Many areas of the park would benefit from additional direction. The courts and other park destinations can be difficult to navigate.
- 5 EDUCATIONAL STORMWATER SIGNAGE**
Add interpretive signage about stormwater BMPs and water quality.



Figure 4.27 Lily Lake Park

Precedent Photos



Road buffer



Stormwater signage



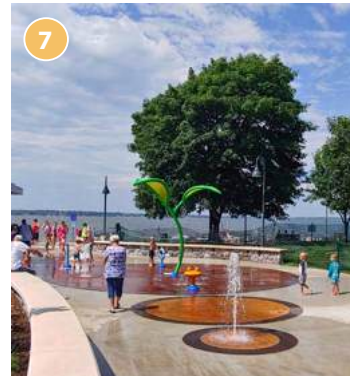
Paddle rental station



Paddle launch

RECOMMENDATIONS

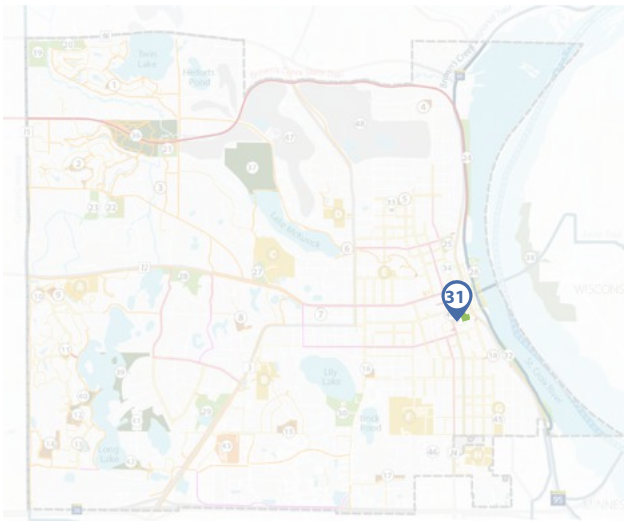
- 6 REMOVE FENCING WHERE UNNECESSARY**
 The park's fencing makes the space feel disjointed and tough to navigate. Remove fencing where possible to open up views and circulation, while still maintaining user safety.
- 7 CREATE A LAKEFRONT ACTIVITY AREA**
 While swimming is not possible in Lily Lake, the extensive parking, synergy with existing facilities, and well-connected locale make this park an attractive location for waterfront recreation. A refreshed waterfront could be achieved by replacing a portion of the large parking lot. Picnicking under shade sails and colorful beach umbrellas, waterside seating, and other amenities to support summer gathering would reenergize this lakeside destination. Explore adding a splash pad for safe water-based play.
- 8 VEGETATIVE BUFFERS AND ENHANCED LANDSCAPING**
 Replace fencing along the park edge with vegetative buffers and screening that soften the unwelcoming edges while maintaining safety and dampening road noise. Consider shrub beds or other vegetation to shape space and guide circulation throughout the park rather than continually mowing underutilized interstitial turf.



Water play



Waterfront seating areas



TEDDY BEAR PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 207 Nelson St E, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 0.71 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.4 miles

Teddy Bear Park is a whimsical park near the downtown riverfront area of Stillwater that is on tourism sites as one of the top places to visit in the State of Minnesota. It is set in a unique urban, roof-top environment that appears to pop out of the cliffside. This park is well-loved and iconic.

EXISTING AMENITIES

- Bench seating
- Shelters/buildings
- Bathrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Uncovered picnic tables
- Medium shelter
- Amphitheater

WHAT WE HEARD

Visitors love this park and wish it was open year-round

There are unfortunately safety concerns associated with having the park open in the winter months that prohibit the ability for year-round use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

**Approval from the park's donor must be secured prior to implementing any improvements.*

1 ADDITIONAL BIKE PARKING

The bike parking area within the park is minimal. Consider a bike parking solution that offers a higher capacity for storage either within the park entrance or the nearby parking lot/future skate park area.

2 UPDATE BATHROOM INTERIOR

Restroom interiors are spacious but dated and could use updated appliances/amenities.

3 MORE PICNIC TABLES

Consider removing bench seating within the large center shelter and replacing with picnic tables, or using modular bench seating that can function as both/either. Many users utilize the amphitheater for additional seating when the space isn't functioning for programs.

4 PROVIDE SIGNAGE ON THE HISTORY

Provide signage on the park's special teddy bear theme.

5 SLOPE IMPROVEMENTS

Additional trees and native plantings to provide seasonal color and strengthen overall slope stability.

6 CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Enhanced crosswalk elements to make arriving at the park safer for bikes and pedestrianism along a busy roadway.

7 SURFACE REPAIRS

Address damaged, uneven, or unsafe surface areas to prevent tripping and injury.

Existing Conditions



Restroom building



Bike parking



Entryway



Amphitheater



Nature-themed play



Figure 4.28 Teddy Bear Park



Precedent Photos



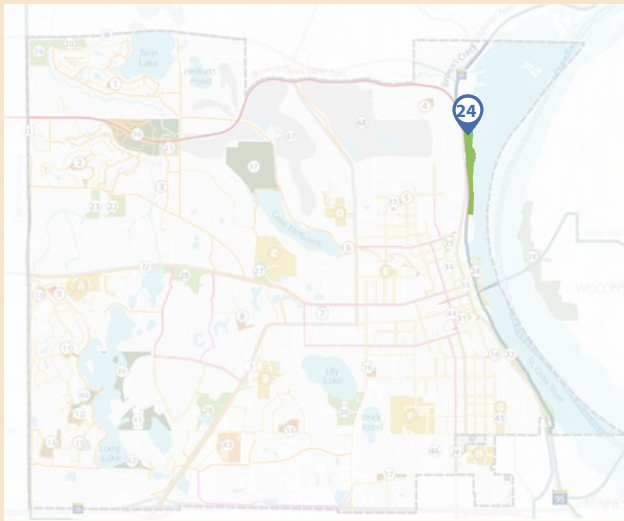
High capacity bike parking



Site furniture that can switch between just bench seating to additional picnic spaces



Park theme history signage



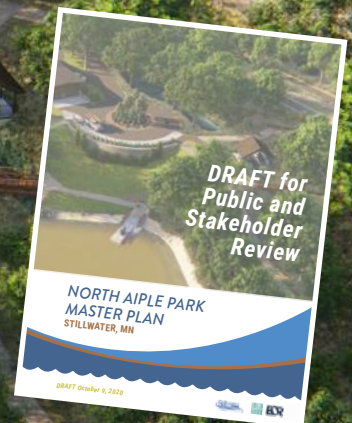
LUMBERJACK LANDING

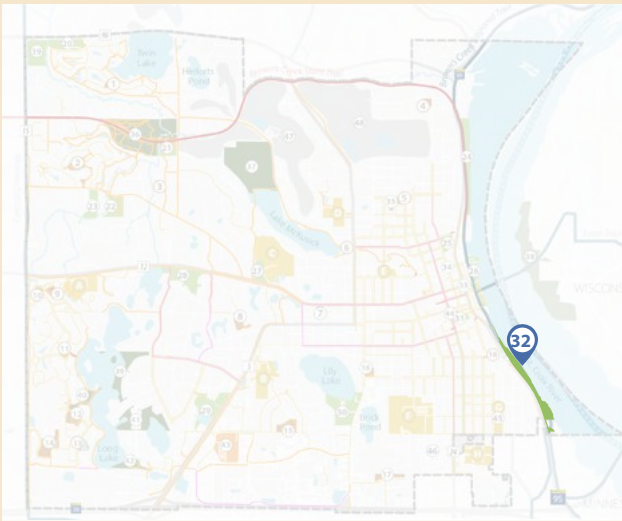
2020 MASTER PLAN

Lumberjack Landing (formerly North Aiple Park) has a previous Master Plan and Vegetation Management Plan document from December of 2020 that outlines proposed future development and investment for this new park along the St. Croix River. The master plan was informed by extensive community engagement efforts and aims to balance riverfront recreation while prioritizing preservation and management of existing habitat. It builds upon work that was done in a previous 2017 master plan, and proposes the following amenities for visitors:

- Accessible canoe/kayak launch
- Vendor area for rentable paddle craft
- Gathering spaces, storage, and restrooms
- River overlook and fishing platform
- Trail access to Brown's Creek State Trail
- Picnic shelters
- Trail bridge
- Enhanced vehicle circulation (turn-around, drop-off area)

Because this park has already undergone extensive planning and design work, this park system plan will not provide additional individual recommendations for the site at this time. However, system-wide recommendations, including building relationships with local non-profit partners to support programming, natural resources education, data collection, and stewardship efforts are encouraged here.





BRIDGEVIEW PARK

2015 MASTER PLAN

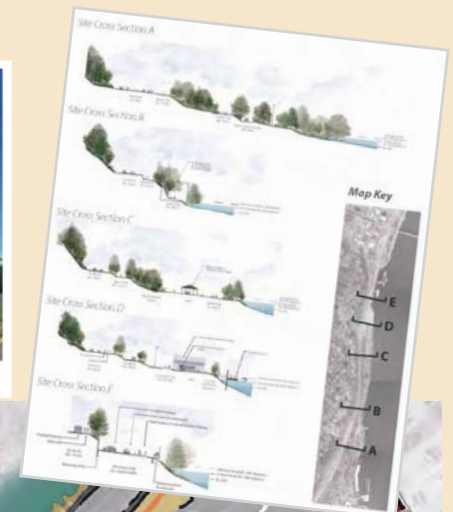
Bridgeview Park is a long riverfront park south of Stillwater's vibrant downtown. The surroundings feature historic buildings, boat docks, a marina, high density residential units, and a wastewater treatment plant. A segment of the St. Croix Crossing Loop Trail extends from an established trailhead here into downtown. Steep slopes and significant impacts from flooding make this area uniquely difficult for constructed improvements. An existing plan from 2015 guides the vision for future park improvements and investments. As such, additional recommendations for Bridgeview Park will not be included in this Park System Plan document.

The 2015 master plan includes boat docking and other passive recreation opportunities, as seen in the excerpts below:

- 1 100 Year Floodplain (El. 693 Approx.)
- 2 Steep Slope
- 4 Historic Bergstein Buildings
- 6 Stormwater Treatment Pond (MnDOT)
- 8 North Access Drive (One-way Southbound)
- 11 Parking Lot C (Car Parking Only)
- 12 Trailhead Kiosk
- 14 Retaining Wall
- 15 Upper Loop Trail
- 16 Lower Loop Trail
- 17 Bike Trail (Downtown Approach)
- 18 Pedestrian River Promenade
- 21 Transient Dock
- 26 Lawn Area
- 31 Existing Parallel Parking along TH 95



Bergstein Shoddy Mills Building

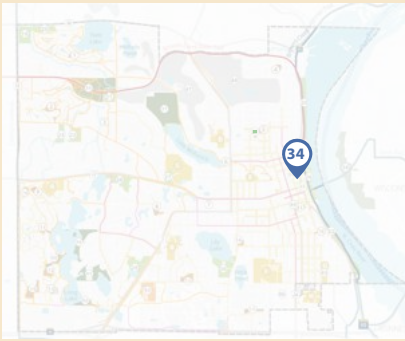


Section Contents:

Commercial Street Pedestrian Plaza.....	121
Chestnut Plaza.....	121
North Hill Community Garden.....	122



COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS



COMMERCIAL STREET PEDESTRIAN PLAZA

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 126 Water St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: approximately 0.65 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.5 miles

Pedestrian Plaza is located in the heart of Downtown Stillwater. This linear plaza stretches from the St. Croix Scenic Byway to Lowell Park and contains covered cafe seating, art, informational signage, and a restroom building with drinking fountains.

Recommendations for this area include updated wayfinding, parking information, and adding bike parking.

Existing Conditions



Rotary Plaza seating area



Rotary Plaza features



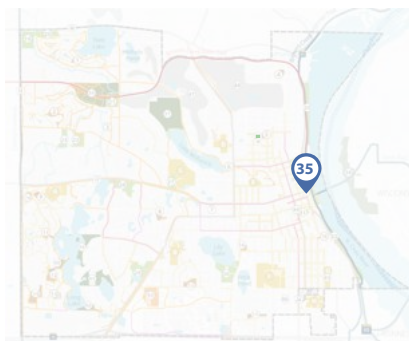
Entry Plaza



Entry signage



Restrooms/drinking fountain



CHESTNUT PLAZA

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 439-479 Chestnut St E, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: approximately 0.2 miles

Trail Mileage: 0.25 miles

Chestnut Plaza is a large plaza located at the entry of the iconic Stillwater Lift Bridge along the St Croix River Crossing Loop Trail, and extends west to Main Street. It is a central component of Lowell Park, with seating areas on either side and beautiful views of the river.

Recommendations for this area include improved wayfinding for the trail, parking information, directional signage to Lowell Park's amenities, and historic interpretation for the lift bridge.

Existing Conditions



Stairs from Lowell



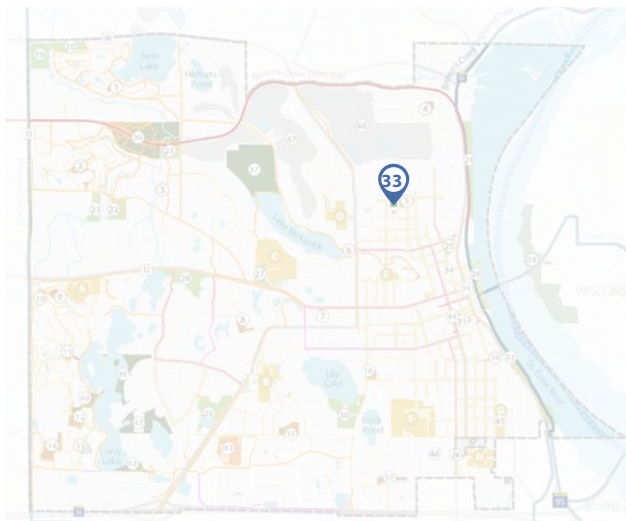
Lift Bridge entrance



Plaza space



Plaza space



NORTH HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 401 Wilkins St W, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 41 garden plots

Trail Mileage: N/A

North Hill is an established community garden in the Staples Field area. Across the street from the pickleball courts, ballfield, and existing playground community garden members have access to a variety of park amenities such as a portable restroom, drinking fountain, and evening lighting from the courts. See Staples Field Park for more detail on recommendations.

EXISTING AMENITIES

- Fenced community garden plots and access to surrounding park amenities

WHAT WE HEARD

Representatives of North Hill Community Garden are looking for better neighborhood sidewalk and crosswalk connections along with accessibility improvements to the garden. They are interested in potential expansion due to large demand for plots, but would need to increase staffing capacity to support additional maintenance and management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 FORMALIZE ENTRY/SIGNAGE**
Make the entry signage area more prominent and easily recognizable with Stillwater branding elements. Consider adding garden rules to the entryway.
- 2 WALKING CONNECTIONS, BIKE PARKING**
As recommended in the Staples Field Park spread, formalize pedestrian connections/sidewalks and crossings to connect the park and open space area, provide safe connections for bikes and pedestrians, and add additional amenities such as bike parking areas for users.
- 3 NATIVE PLANTINGS ALONG SLOPES**
Consider native plantings along turf slopes to lessen the need for mowing and contribute additional food for pollinators and beneficial insects.



WINTER GARDENING

Consider exploring covered planter beds or implementing a small greenhouse structure so growing can continue into shoulder seasons.

Existing Conditions



Planting beds



Existing signage



Walkways and planters



Walkways and planters



View from the road



Figure 4.29 North Hill Community Garden



Precedent Photos



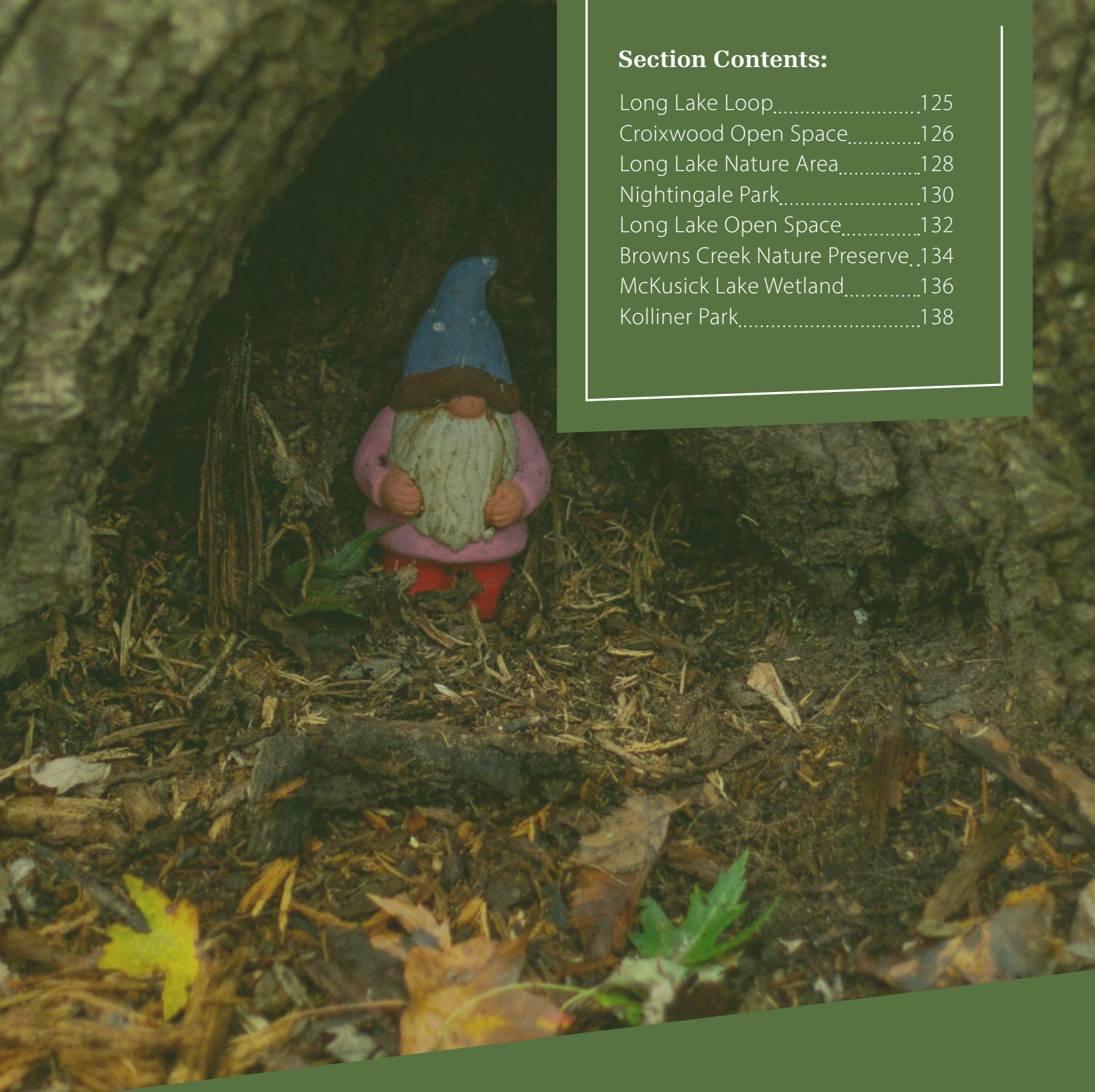
Garden-themed bike parking



Formalized entry signage



Native plantings along a sidewalk



Section Contents:

Long Lake Loop.....	125
Croixwood Open Space.....	126
Long Lake Nature Area.....	128
Nightingale Park.....	130
Long Lake Open Space.....	132
Browns Creek Nature Preserve.....	134
McKusick Lake Wetland.....	136
Kolliner Park.....	138

OPEN SPACE/NATURAL AREAS RECOMMENDATIONS

LONG LAKE LOOP

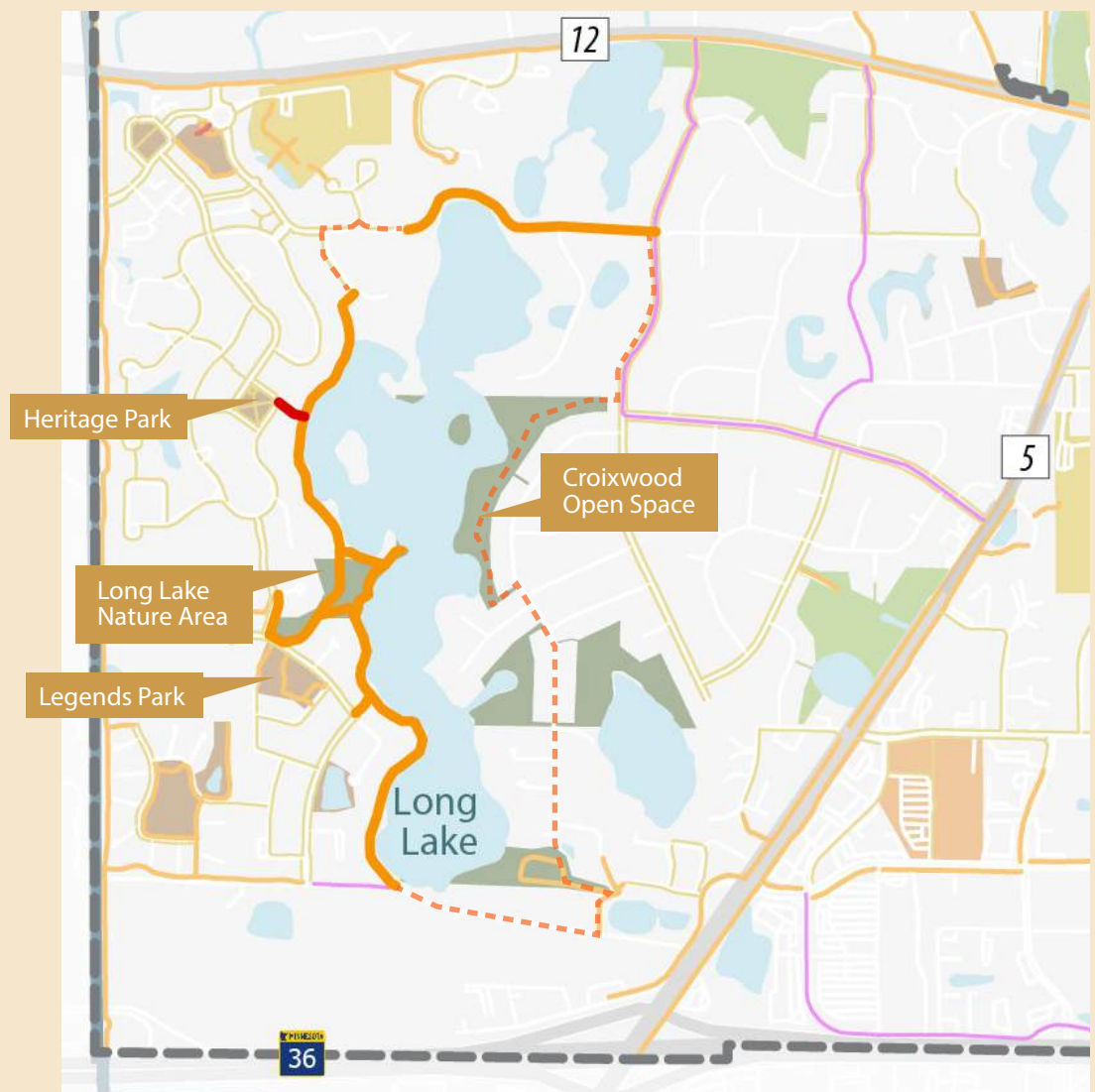
TRAIL HIGHLIGHT:

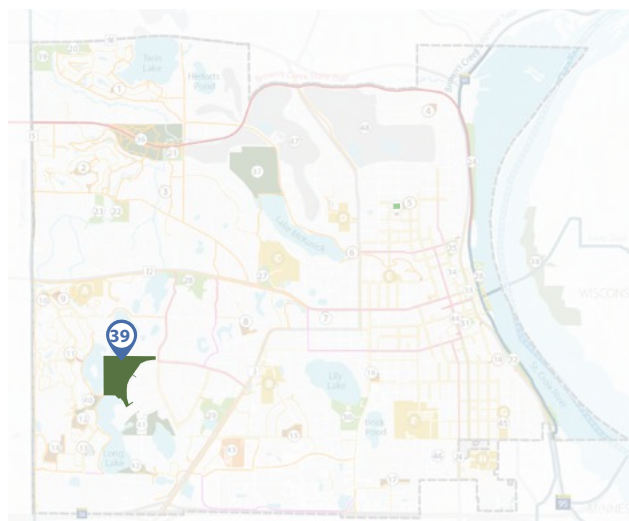
Trail Mileage:

- Approximately 1.25 miles along the western shore of Long Lake
- Potential for a full 3.5-mile loop

Existing off-road, multi-use trail segments along the western and northern borders of Long Lake provide the backbone of a potential lake loop trail. These segments currently offer approximately a mile and a half of waterfront for walking, running, biking, and exploring. Surrounded by residential neighborhoods with multiple connections to nearby neighborhood parks and open space/natural areas, the loop should be formalized on city maps/marketing materials, wayfinding signage should be installed, and segments of the loop trail through Croixwood Open Space should be formalized in order to make the route more legible and create an approachable amenity for Stillwater residents.

Orange solid lines on the map below indicate existing off-road, multi-use paved trails. Dashed orange lines indicate proposed connecting routes for the loop, either on low traffic residential roads, sidewalks, existing or proposed natural surface trails.





CROIXWOOD OPEN SPACE

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: Nightingale Boulevard, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 32.29 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.1 miles

Croixwood Open Space is a strip of shoreland that borders the eastern edge of Long Lake. The woods feel secluded, peaceful, and wild with entry points through residential backyards, informal trails, and expansive lake views along the shoreline.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The only amenities this open space currently offers is trails and foot paths with views of the lake.

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Stick fort



Neighborhood entryway



Long Lake, view of Ironwood Island from shoreline



Existing recreation space



Mushrooms

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 TRAIL AND PADDLE LAUNCH**
Consider placing a paddle launch near the south entrance off of Nightingale Blvd. Install a crushed limestone trail and wayfinding to formalize the neighborhood entry point.
- 2 DEDICATED PADDLER PARKING**
Potential parking signage/ bump-out at south entry to support paddling.
- 3 PORTABLE RESTROOM**
Place a portable restroom in close proximity to the paddle launch.
- 4 FORMALIZE REC LAWN ENTRYWAY**
A small sign currently exists at the intersection of Northland Ave and Croixwood boulevard to signify the start of a natural area. Consider adding a trail, wayfinding, and parking area sign to increase access and visibility.
- 5 BIRD BLIND/ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS**
The shoreline along Long Lake in the center of the open space presents a good opportunity for a bird blind. Add a formalized trail and steps where needed from the middle neighborhood entrance leading to the bird blind location.
- 6 STAIRS TO REC LAWN**
Steep slopes from the natural footpaths down to the open lawn space will require stairs for safe access.
- 7 PLAY IN NATURE**
An existing stick fort reveals interest by users for nature exploration in this space. Consider amenities supportive of "play in nature", geocaching, and scavenger hunts.
- 8 CONVERT REC LAWN TO BEE LAWN**
Convert existing turn to bee lawn plantings to lessen mowing needs and contribute to habitat.
- 9 ARCHERY**
Consider an archery range in the existing rec space.



Figure 4.30 Croixwood Open Space

Precedent Photos



Archery range



Bee lawn conversion



Canoe/kayak launch



Stairs to rec lawn

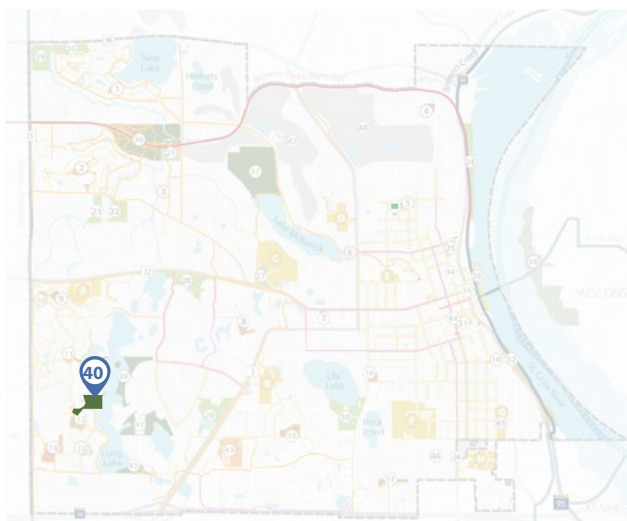


Bird blind



Play in nature, geocaching, scavenger hunts





LONG LAKE NATURE AREA

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 3354 Barons Way, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 7.97 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.37 miles

Long Lake Nature Area is a large wooded area that joins other open and natural spaces as a part of a long shared-use trail that borders Long Lake's west shoreline. Heavily wooded with areas of changing topography, the nature area sits across the street from Legend's Park (Neighborhood Park) and has one entrance with no dedicated parking area besides street parking along neighborhood roads.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Off-road shared-use trails

WHAT WE HEARD

- No specific comments regarding Long Lake Nature Area specifically were added to the interactive map.
- A comment was left regarding a plain piece of land along Baron's Way being a great location for a native garden.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 NATIVE GARDEN

As cited by a community member as a part of the community engagement process, the entryway would make a good spot for a native garden.

2 LAKE OVERLOOK

A raised knoll here offers a great opportunity to get twenty feet above the surrounding trails take in views across Long Lake. Consider adding a stair access and viewing platform. Selectively clear tree canopy to maintain the overlook.

3 ENTRY SIGN AND WAYFINDING

Formalize the neighborhood entrance with a kiosk that lists uses and a map that outlines the larger Long Lake Loop trail. Small wayfinding signs along the paths at decision points.

Existing Conditions



Aerial image



Existing topography



Baron's Way entrance



Figure 4.31 Long Lake Nature Area

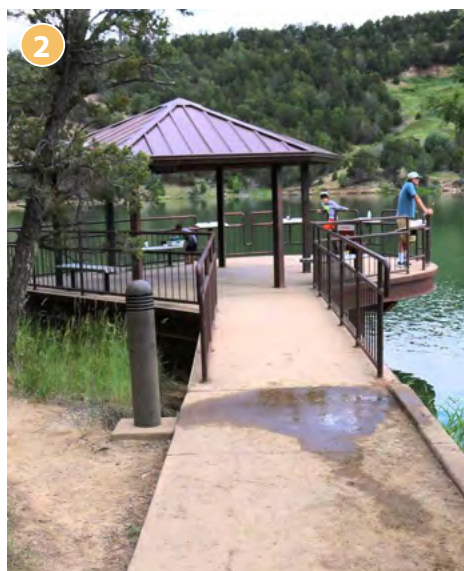
Precedent Photos



Wayfinding and entry sign

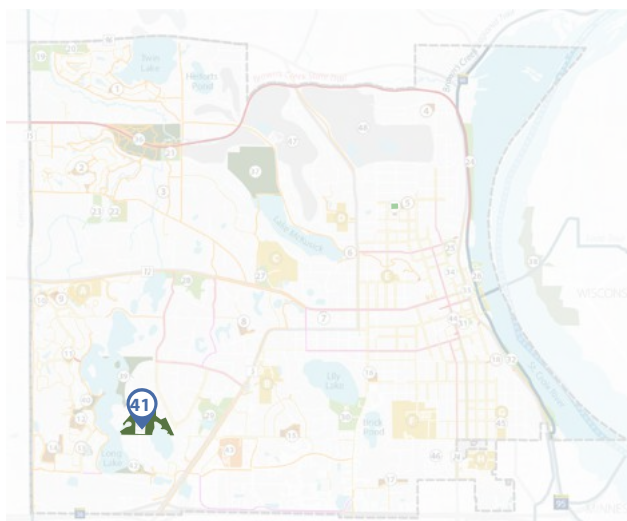


Native garden



Lake overlook





NIGHTINGALE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: Nightingale Blvd, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 14.05 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

Nightingale park is a secluded natural area that stretches across Nightingale Boulevard bordering two bodies of water: an eastern lobe of Long Lake and the northern edge of Brewer's Pond. The area is hard to access and feels very private. Entrances through residential backyards and the lack of any formal trails makes entering the space feel like trespassing on private property.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- No formal trails
- Wooded shoreline that is difficult to navigate

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 FORMALIZE NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRANCES**
Current entry points are difficult to navigate and feel like trespassing. Clarify public access by adding clear wayfinding/signage and formal trails or entry markers.
- 2 REMOVE/CLARIFY CONFUSING SIGNAGE AND ADD PARKING**
Existing signs are confusing, clarify or remove. Dedicated street parking areas will need to be called out if it is desired that the parkland be available for public use.
- 3 SUPPORT PASSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION**
Much of the area is wooded and has only informal footpaths. Proximity to residences precludes significant construction. Consider leaving the area natural, but offer low impact cleared and mulched trails with opportunities for views to the water, along with prompts for activities like stick fort building or geocaching.
- 4 SHORELINE FISHING**
Informal fishing spots along the long lake border with stone fishing platform outcroppings may be appropriate to add to the city's fishing access opportunities.

Existing Conditions



Existing trail



Existing entrance sign



Open space



Lake view



Entrance

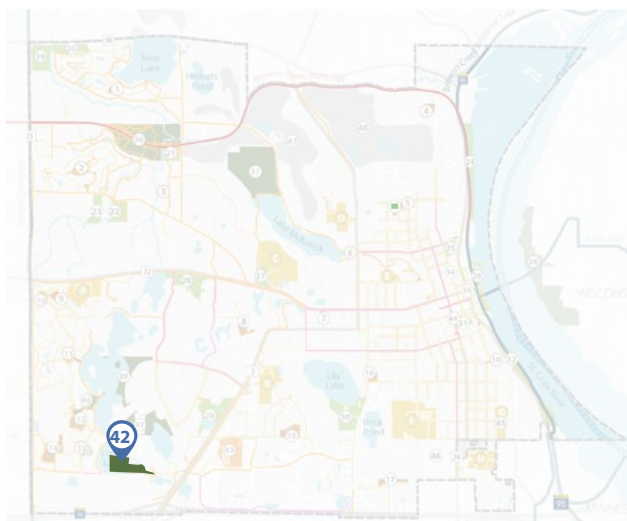


Figure 4.32 Nightingale Park



Precedent Photos





LONG LAKE OPEN SPACE

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: No formal address found

Park Size: 17.12 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.27 miles

Long Lake Open space is a currently mostly natural area surrounded by single family homes with an opportunity to access lake shoreline. There are three neighborhood entrances into the space with paved shared trails. Mown trails in the open space create a small walking loop.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Mown trails and lake views

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

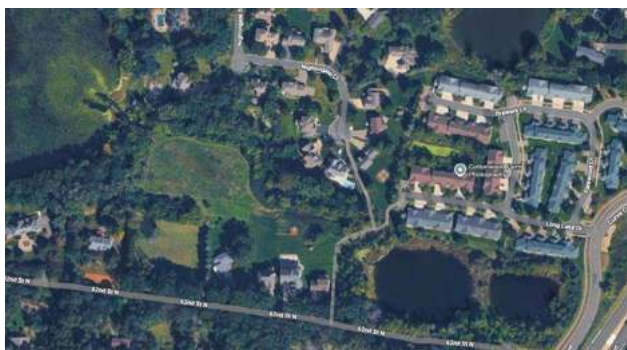
Existing Conditions



62nd St N entry



Long Lake Dr entry



Aerial



Nightingale Court Entry

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 **MAINTAIN NATIVE PLANTINGS**
Continue to maintain and showcase the existing native plantings in this space.
- 2 **WALKING LOOP**
Maintain a walking loop around the space that reaches to the lakeshore and possible fishing/ observation pier that residents can use for strolls. Add bench seating along to trail for visitors to rest.
- 3 **FISHING PIER OR SHORE FISHING AREA**
Consider taking advantage of public access to Long Lake's shoreline by adding a fishing dock or clearing a water access point for easy casting.
- 4 **WAYFINDING**
Multiple trails feed into the space from surrounding neighborhoods. Clearer wayfinding may be needed for those unfamiliar with parking/access.
- 5 **FORMALIZE NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRYWAYS**
Add entry signage, wayfinding, and parking area signs to increase access and visibility. Consider adding an additional neighborhood access from Nightingale Blvd.



Figure 4.33 Long Lake Open Space

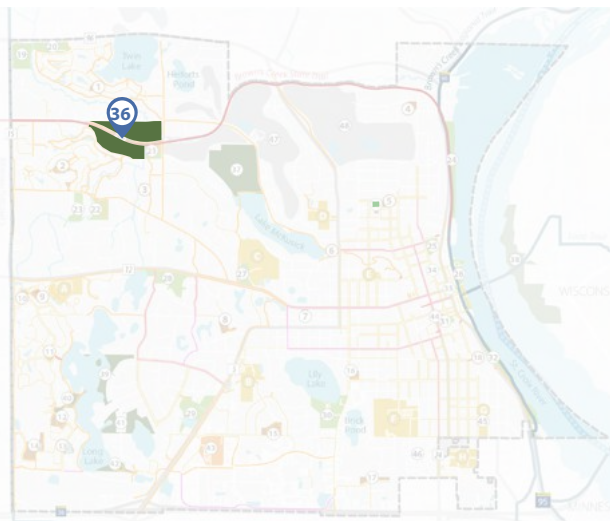
Precedent Photos



Fishing options



Fishing options



BROWNS CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 8400 Neal Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 27.76 acres

Trail Mileage: 1.51 miles

Brown's Creek Nature Preserve lies across from the community park space, trailhead, and state trail. The park features a variety of loop trails that weave in and out of natural landscapes.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Natural surface trails with access to trailhead amenities such as a portable restroom, drinking fountain, and parking.

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

Existing Conditions



Natural surface trail



Towering existing tree



Paved shared-use trail



Mown trail



***WINTER
RECREATION -
CROSS COUNTRY
SKIING**
The City currently
grooms select trails
for skiing in the
winter months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 RE-GRADE MUDDY TRAIL SECTIONS**
Obtain a wetland survey, and if permissible, regrade trails where low and muddy (east of the open water wetland north of the state trail) or install boardwalk segments where soils are wet.
- 2 ADD WILDLIFE BLINDS AND INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS**
The park's wooded areas, open grasslands, and small pond are all good spaces for wildlife blinds and learning about the natural world.
- 3 WAYFINDING SIGNAGE**
Provide wayfinding signage along trails with information about trail surface, mileage, level of difficulty, and accessibility. Wayfinding should complement existing trailhead branding. Add additional wayfinding at entrance/exit points that help direct users towards Brown's Creek Park.
- 4 EXPLORE PARTNERSHIPS**
Explore opportunities for partnerships, including stewardship, habitat management, and programming.
- 5 TREE ID WALK**
Provide Tree ID tags and signage to help highlight the native and unique tree species located throughout the nature preserve.
- 6 FOREST BATHING TRAIL**
Consider a forest bathing trail in wooded areas with interpretive signage that invites visitors to engage their senses and connect with the world around them.
- 7 9-HOLE DISC GOLD COURSE**
Study the feasibility of best placement for a 9-hole frisbee golf short course off existing trails in the area for minimum environmental impact.

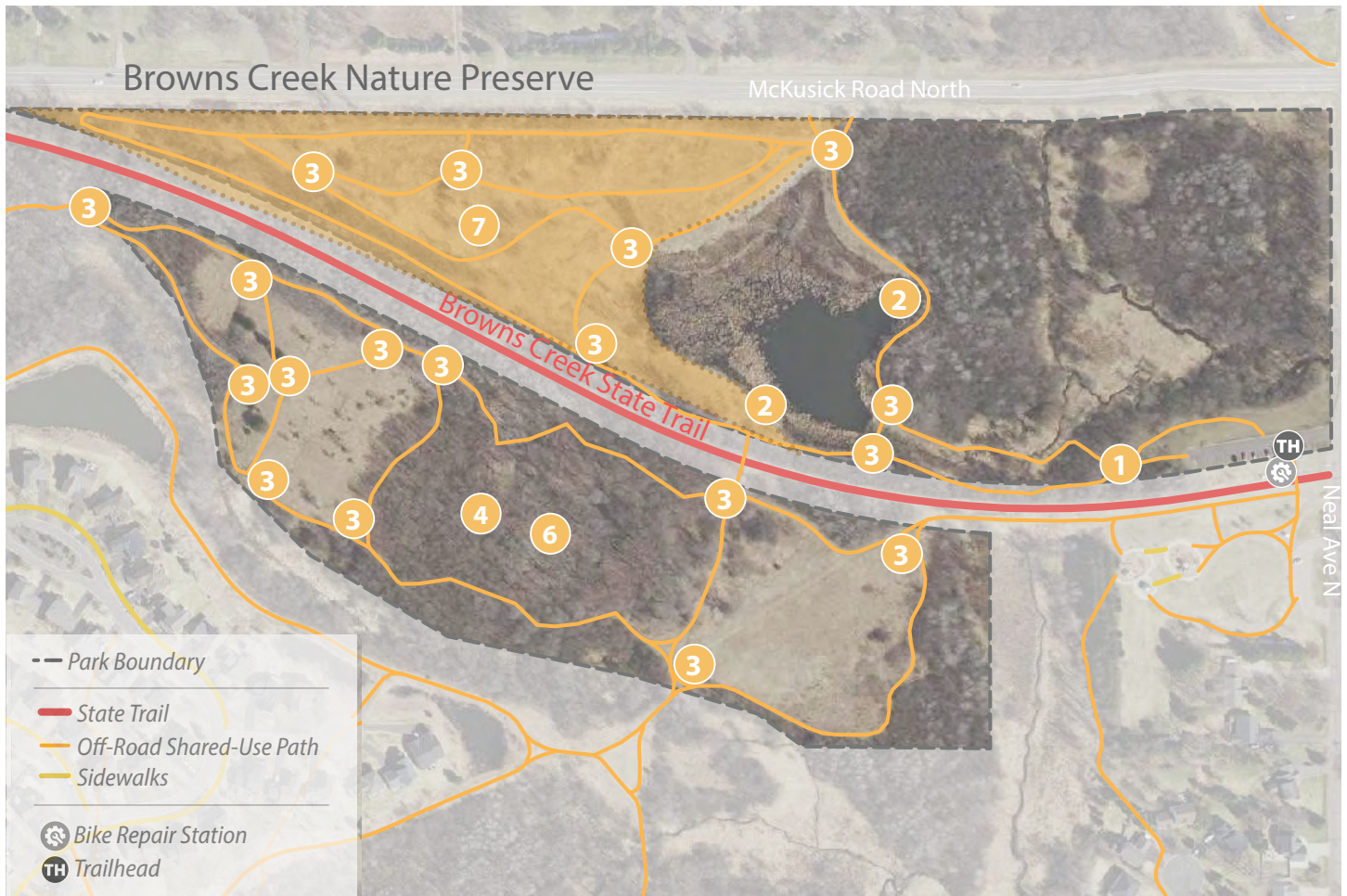
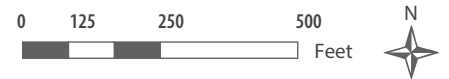
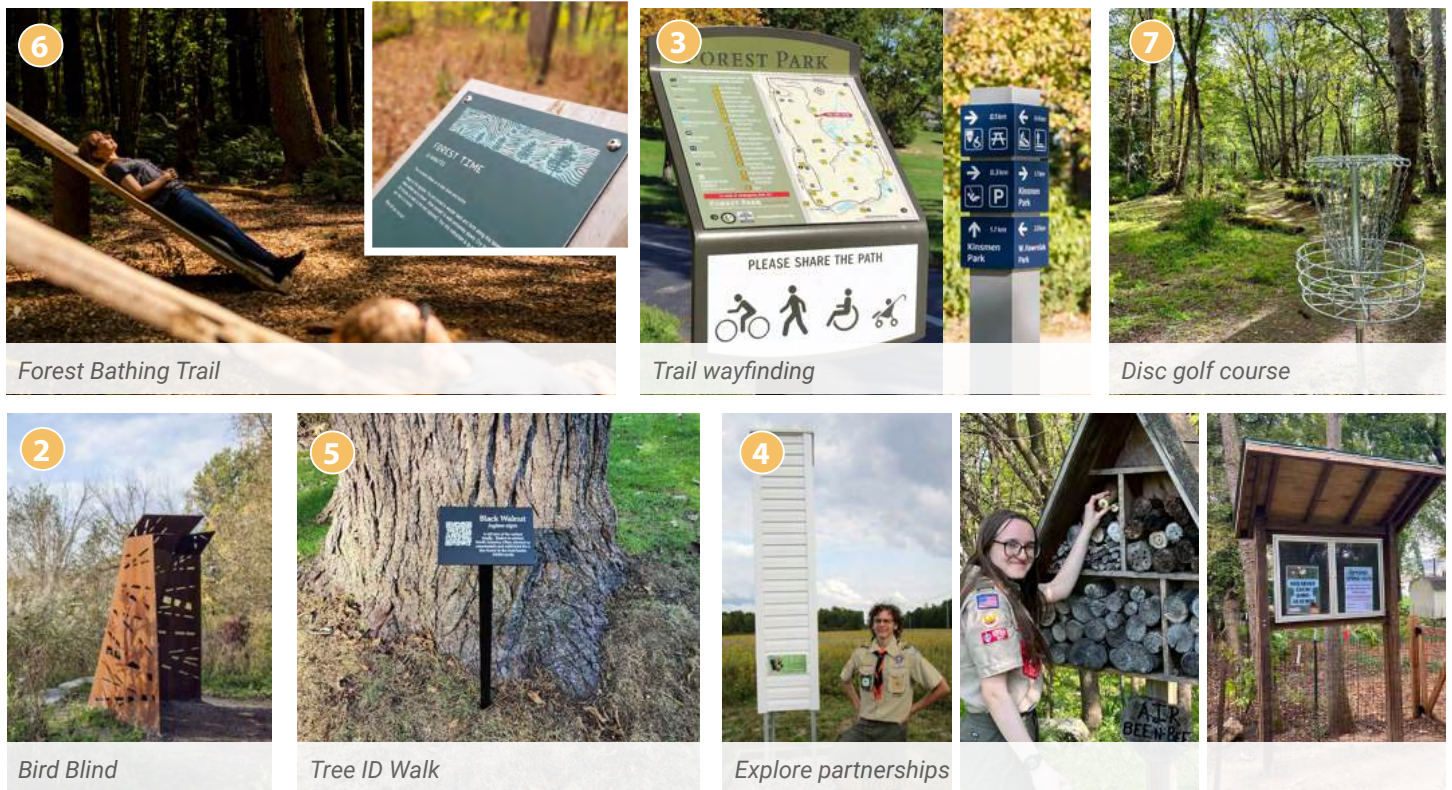
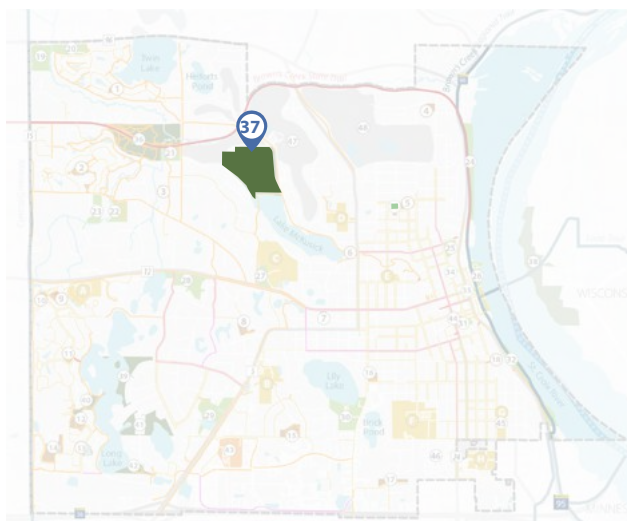


Figure 4.34 Brown's Creek Nature Preserve



Precedent Photos





MCKUSICK LAKE WETLAND

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1104 McKusick Rd N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 55.71 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.25 miles

McKusick Lake Wetland is part of a trail loop that traverses Lake McKusick. A paved path guides visitors along the lake's northern edge, with wetland to the north and open water to the south, before transitioning into a boardwalk that offers an up-close look at aquatic vegetation and wildlife. This is one of the only boardwalk features in the city of Stillwater, and one of only a handful of locations where residents can fish within the park system.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Bench seating
- Fishing
- Boardwalk

WHAT WE HEARD

No specific comments about this park were placed on the interactive mapping tool during the community engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 POSSIBLE BIRD BLIND LOCATION**
Consider placing a bird blind along the shared use path overlooking the wetland. Will require further study for feasibility.
- 2 INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE**
Consider opportunities for nature-based interpretation along the path and boardwalk such as signage, tactile elements, and viewing stations. Educational materials could highlight areas for fishing, birds to see, and other lake plants/wildlife.
- 3 PLAN AHEAD FOR A BOARDWALK REPLACEMENT**
Although the current boardwalk appears to be in good condition, its important to plan ahead for the expense of future repairs or replacement.

Existing Conditions



Boardwalk



Paved trail



Lake McKusick



Lake McKusick



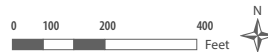
Image Caption



Informal paddle launch



Figure 4.35 McKusick Lake Wetland



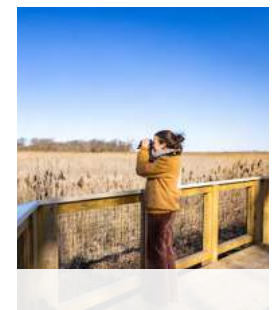
Precedent Photos



Bird blind/bird observation



Nature-based interpretation



KOLLINER PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

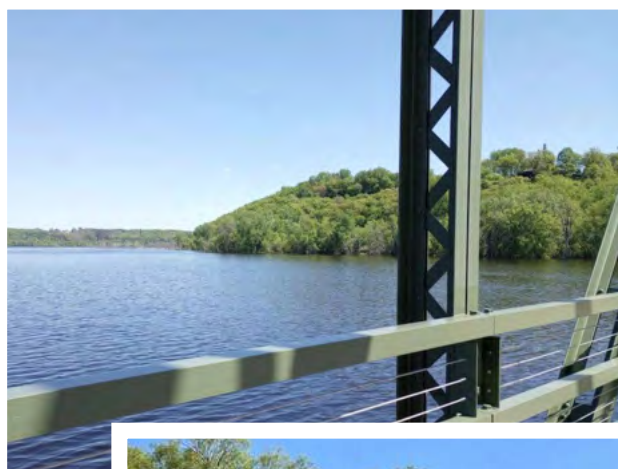
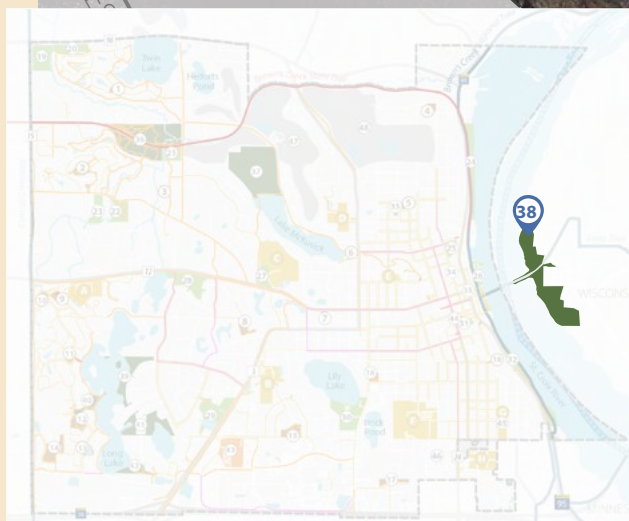
Address: No formal address found

Park Size: 52.27 acres

Trail Mileage: 0

Kolliner Park is a unique piece of the Stillwater park system because it lies across the St. Croix River in the state of Wisconsin. The riverbank bluffland is steep to the point of being inaccessible, and is currently undeveloped and unprogrammed. Its ownership ensures that views from downtown Stillwater will continue to have a natural river shoreline as a backdrop.

Due to steep grades, sensitive soils, maintenance and programming difficulties, permitting issues, and additional restrictions in the form of St. Croix County "Riverway" and "Shoreland" Overlay Zoning District requirements, Kolliner Park is not recommended to have improvements as part of this plan.

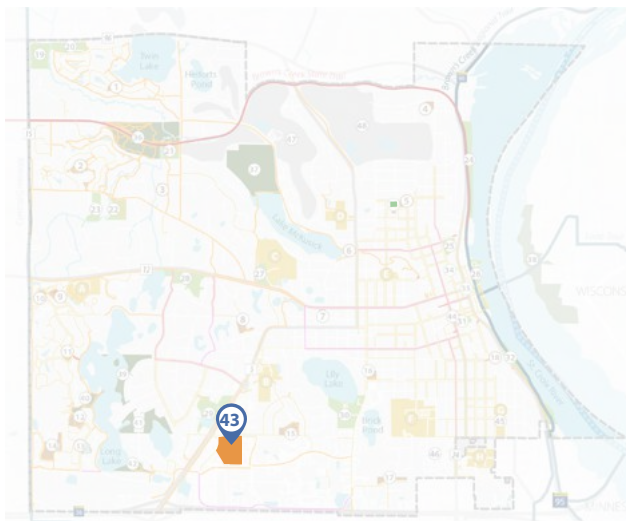


Section Contents:

St. Croix Valley Recreation Center140



RECREATION AREAS RECOMMENDATIONS



ST. CROIX VALLEY RECREATION CENTER

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 1675 Market Dr, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: 16.27 acres

Trail Mileage: 0.26 miles

The St. Croix Valley Recreation Center is a multi-purpose facility that houses a dome field house with a walking/running track, two NHL-sized ice sheets, an outdoor field used for sports as well as winter skating, and it manages a third sheet of ice at the Lily Lake Ice Arena.

In addition to ice and field house rentals, the St. Croix Valley Rec Center has space for open walk/run sessions, field rentals, open skating, open hockey, group skating lessons, and freestyle ice. The recreation center often hosts special events such as birthday parties or sports camps and provides additional amenities such as concessions, rentals, and a pro shop.

Existing Conditions



Ice rink entry area



Hallway to dome



Field House



Outdoor field area

EXISTING AMENITIES

- Turf sports practice field space
- Indoor skating (arena) and outdoor winter skating with warming house (field)
- Dome with walking track
- Bathrooms

WHAT WE HEARD

- Setting the temperature on the south rink for figure skating versus hockey is desired.
- Desire for a community center / community pool, but space for a new facility and the parking that it would require is an issue within Stillwater

RECOMMENDATIONS



1 CONTINUE TO FLOOD FOR WINTER USE AND COORDINATE WITH INTERESTED LOCAL ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS

The field is currently used most as an ice skating rink in the winter months and occasionally for field sports in the summer. Continue these uses until a better use for this space emerges.

The City has been in talks regarding using this site for a future curling center, more details about this effort can be found on the following page.



★ MARKETING AND OUTREACH

Increase public awareness of the site and its usability during the winter months for additional groups. Update the website to clearly state availability, facilities, and amenities for rent.

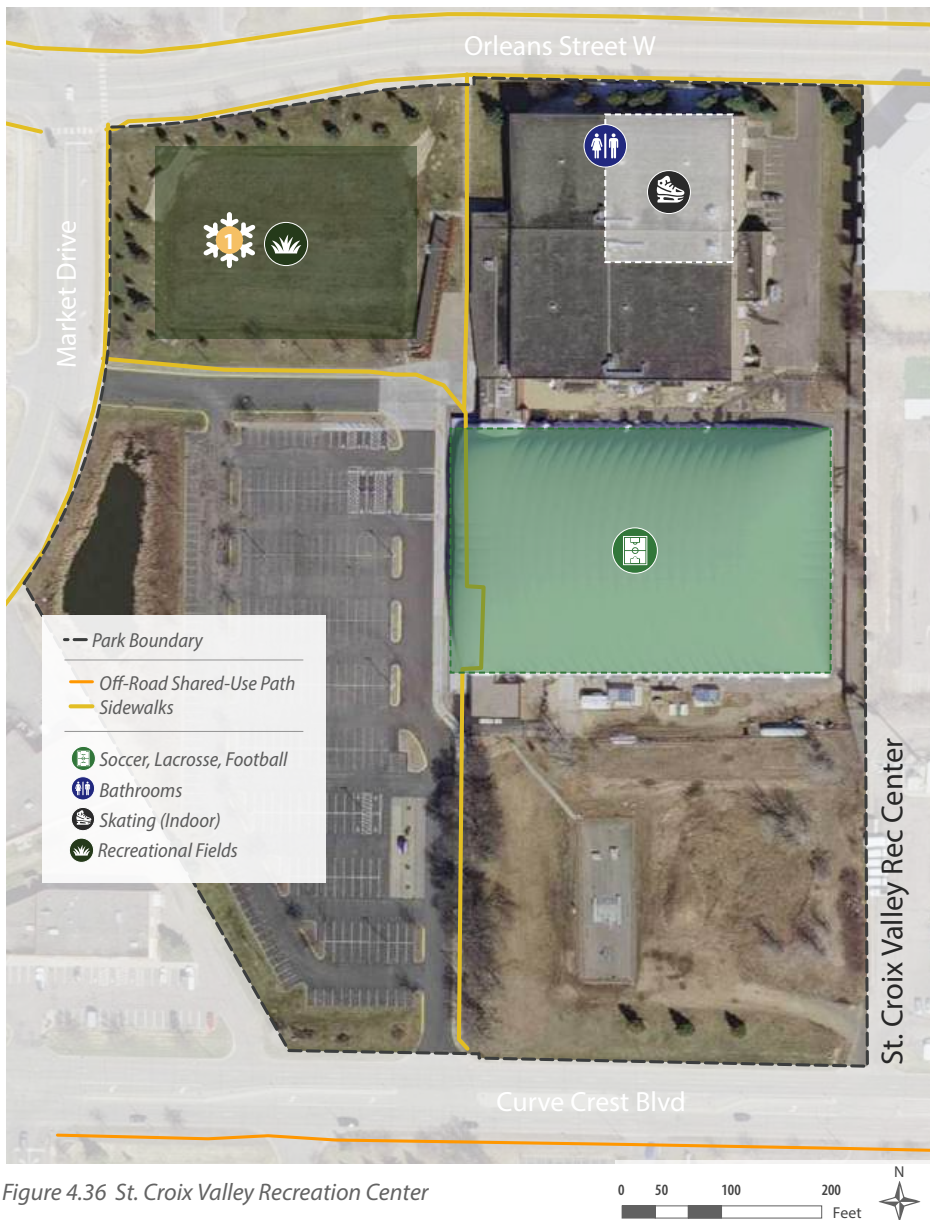


Figure 4.36 St. Croix Valley Recreation Center

Expansion Imagery



Main entrance to expansion



Expanded lobby inside expansion



Main level floor plan for expansion



ST. CROIX VALLEY RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION POTENTIAL

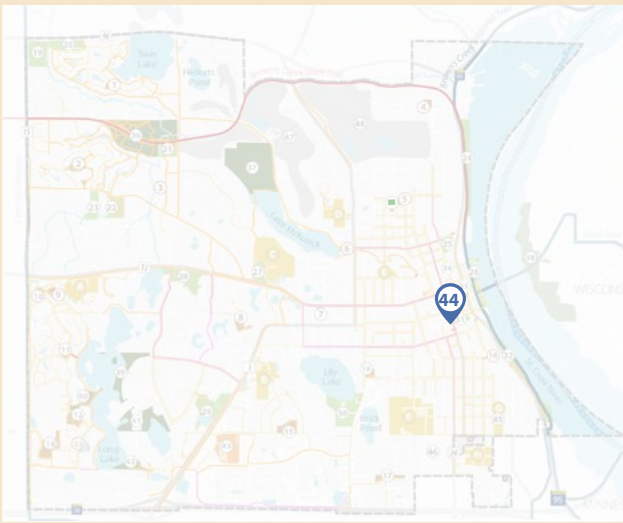
- The City of Stillwater, the St. Croix Valley Recreation Center, and the St. Croix Curling Center in conjunction with other community partners are exploring an expansion to upgrade the existing facility. The main portion of the upgrade would include a curling center that features eight sheets of dedicated curling ice with an upper level viewing area for spectators.
- Community members have expressed interest in other possible expansion options, like an indoor playground or community pool that could fill a gap in recreation during the cold weather months. While this site may not be suitable, the City supports locating a community center within the St. Croix Valley to serve Stillwater and other residents of the region.

Section Contents:

Skate Park.....143



A LOOK AT “OTHER” PARK CATEGORIES



SKATE PARK

PARK SNAPSHOT:

Address: 125 5th St N, Stillwater, MN 55082

Park Size: Approximately 0.25 acre

Trail Mileage: N/A

The proposed skate park, designed by Spohn Ranch Skateparks to replace the skatepark formerly on the St. Croix Recreation Center property, is located across 2nd Street South, kitty-corner to Stillwater's beloved Teddy Bear Park. A modern skate plaza, the design utilizes a portion of the existing parking lot and transforms the challenging topography of the site into a feature destination. A large retaining wall maximizes available space, and offers built-in seat walls for users and spectators. Additional comfort amenities like tree plantings, lighting, and bench seating can also be seen in concept renderings below.

Existing Conditions



Existing vegetation



Existing parking



Teddy Bear Park

2nd Street South

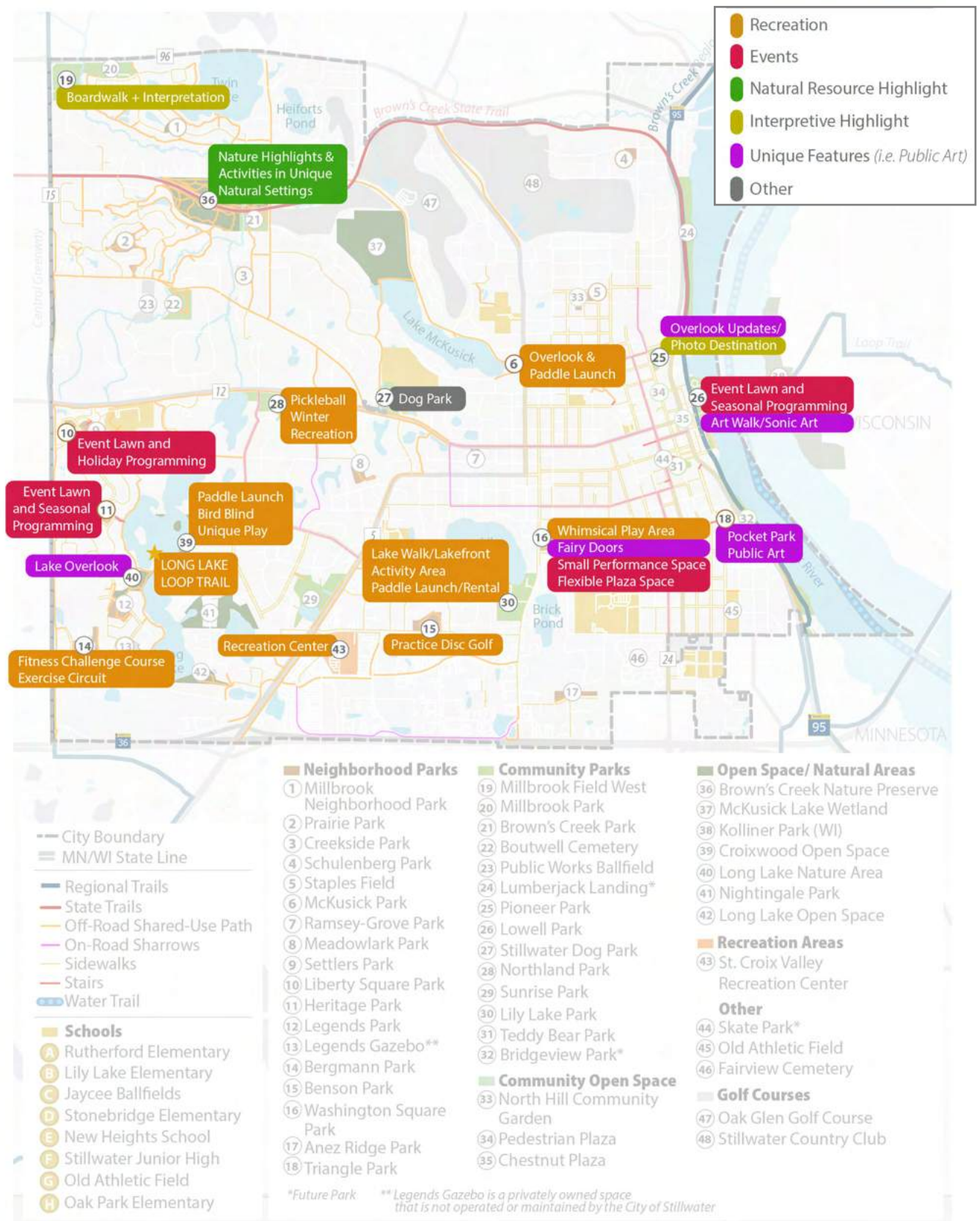
Skate Park



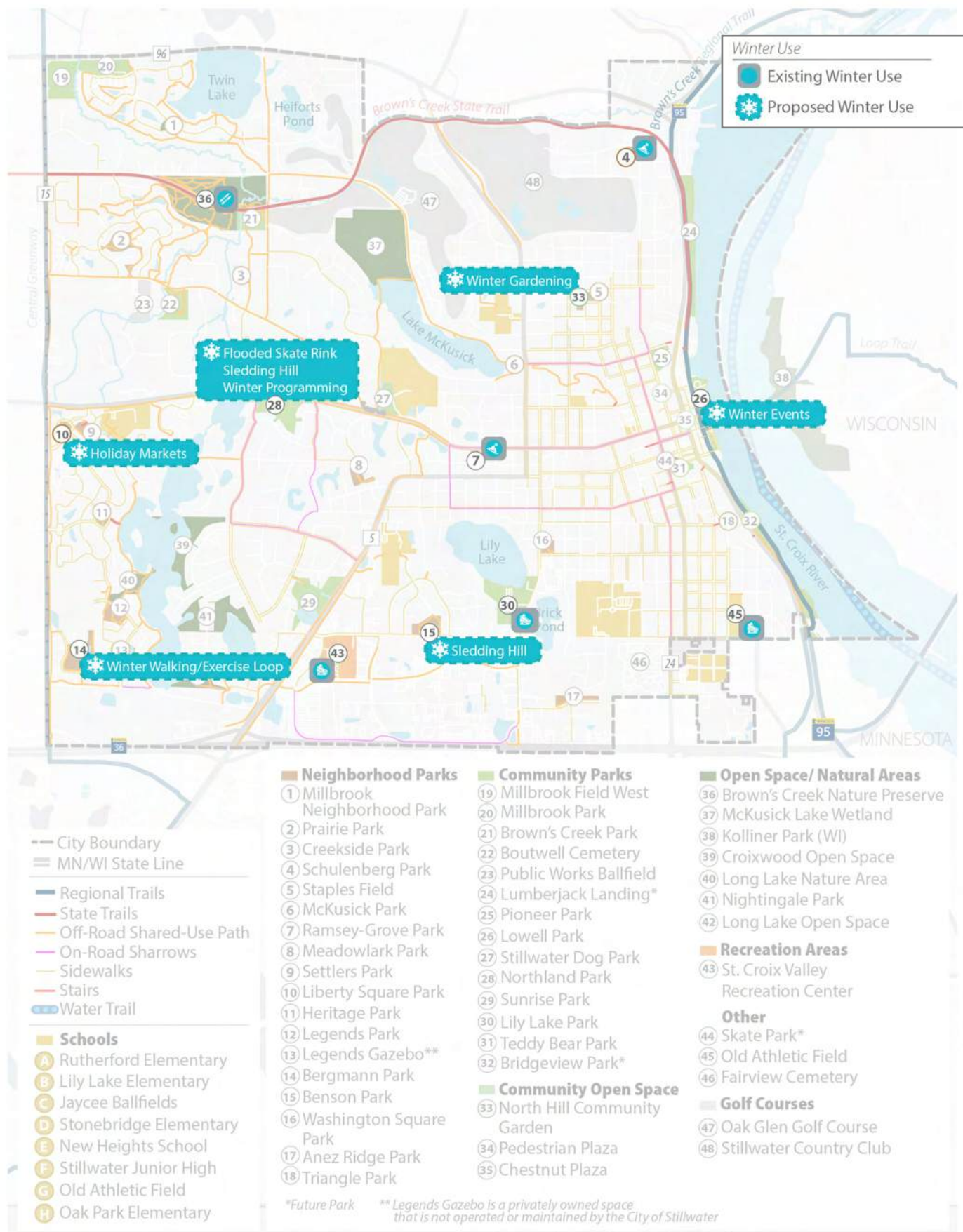
HIGHLIGHTED RECOMMENDATIONS BY TOPIC

The following diagrams highlight proposed recommendations by topic to show the ways this plan works to diversify and enhance Stillwater's park system to achieve the vision of offering premier destinations and experiences.

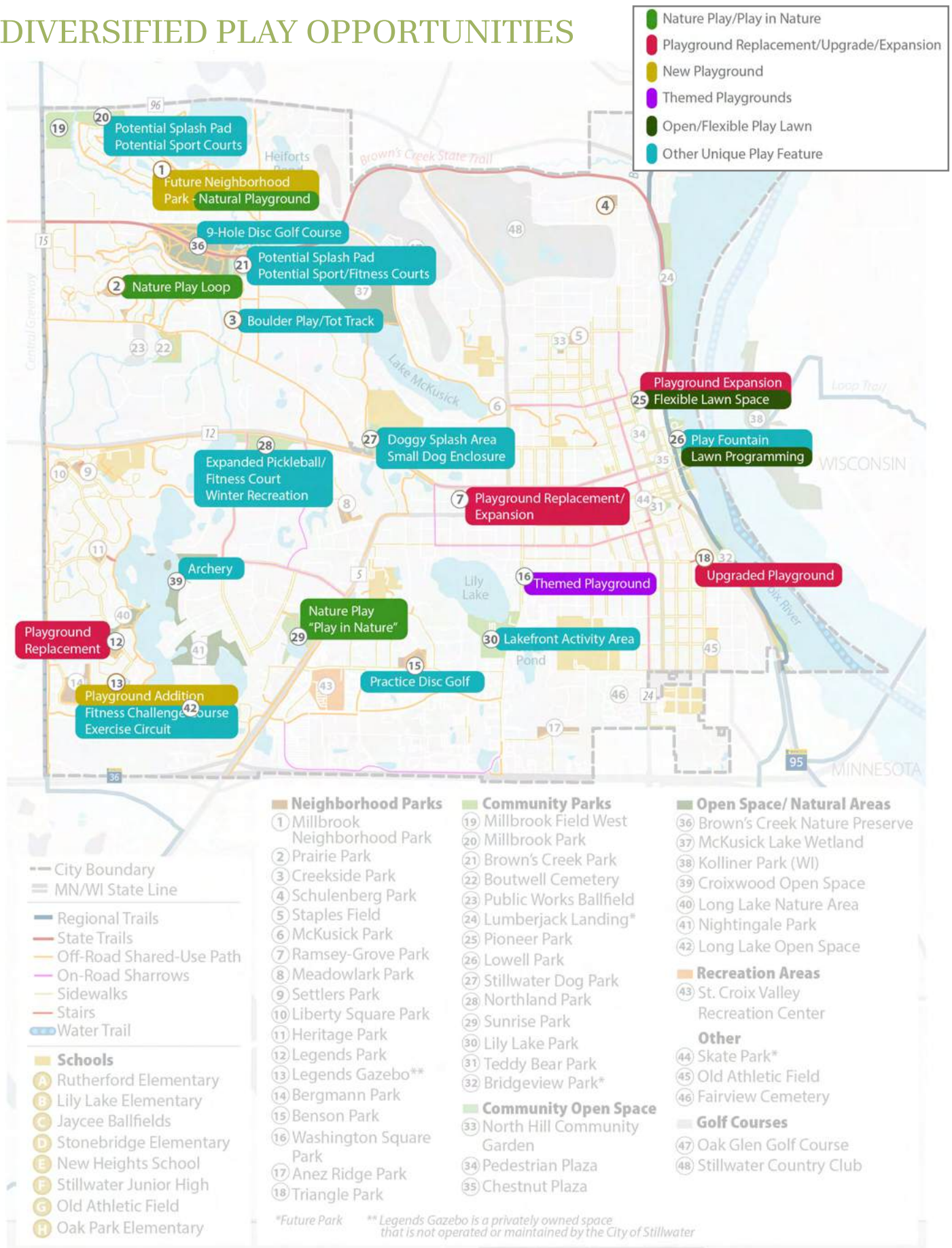
UNIQUE EXPERIENCES/POINTS OF INTEREST



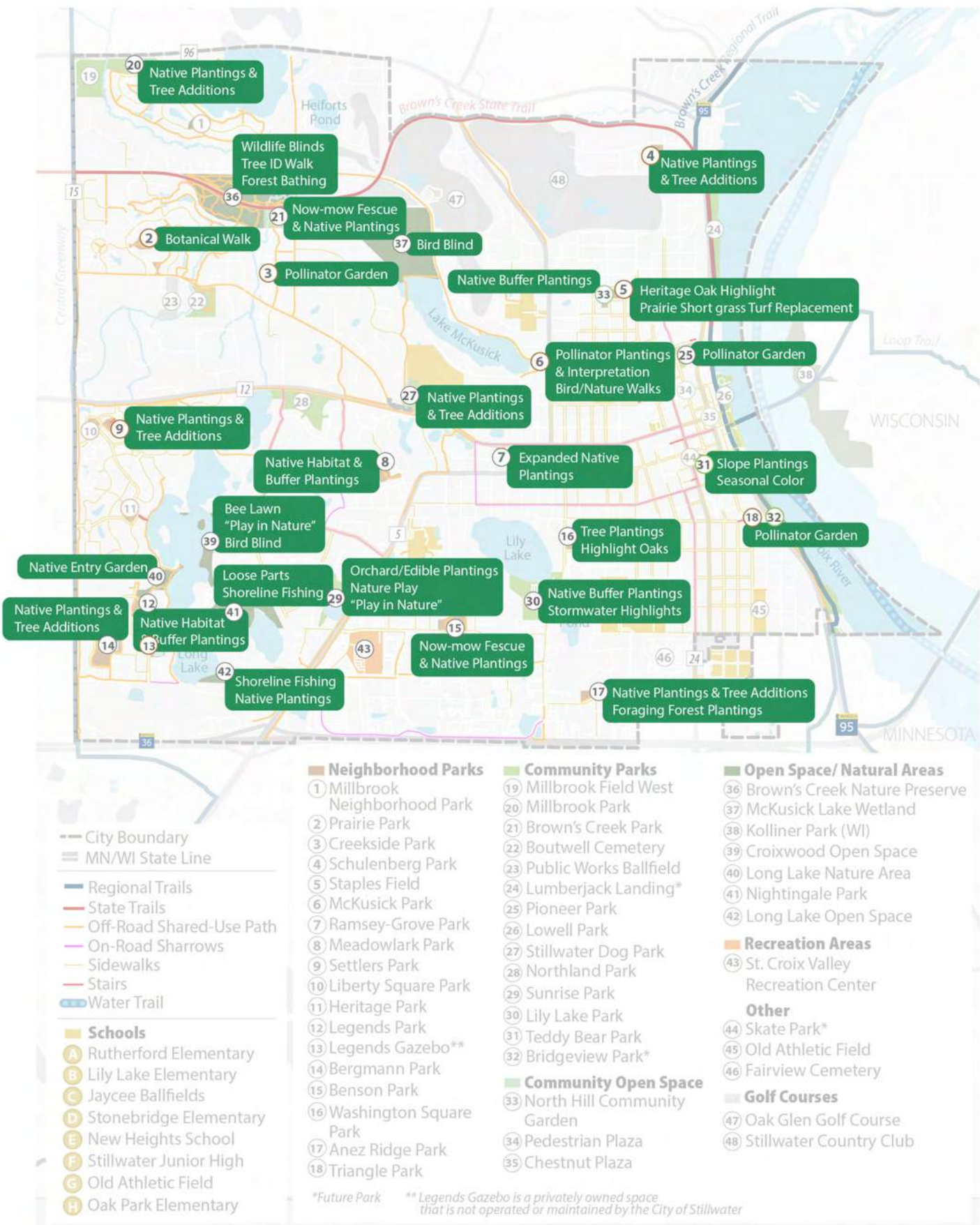
WINTER USE (EXISTING AND PROPOSED)



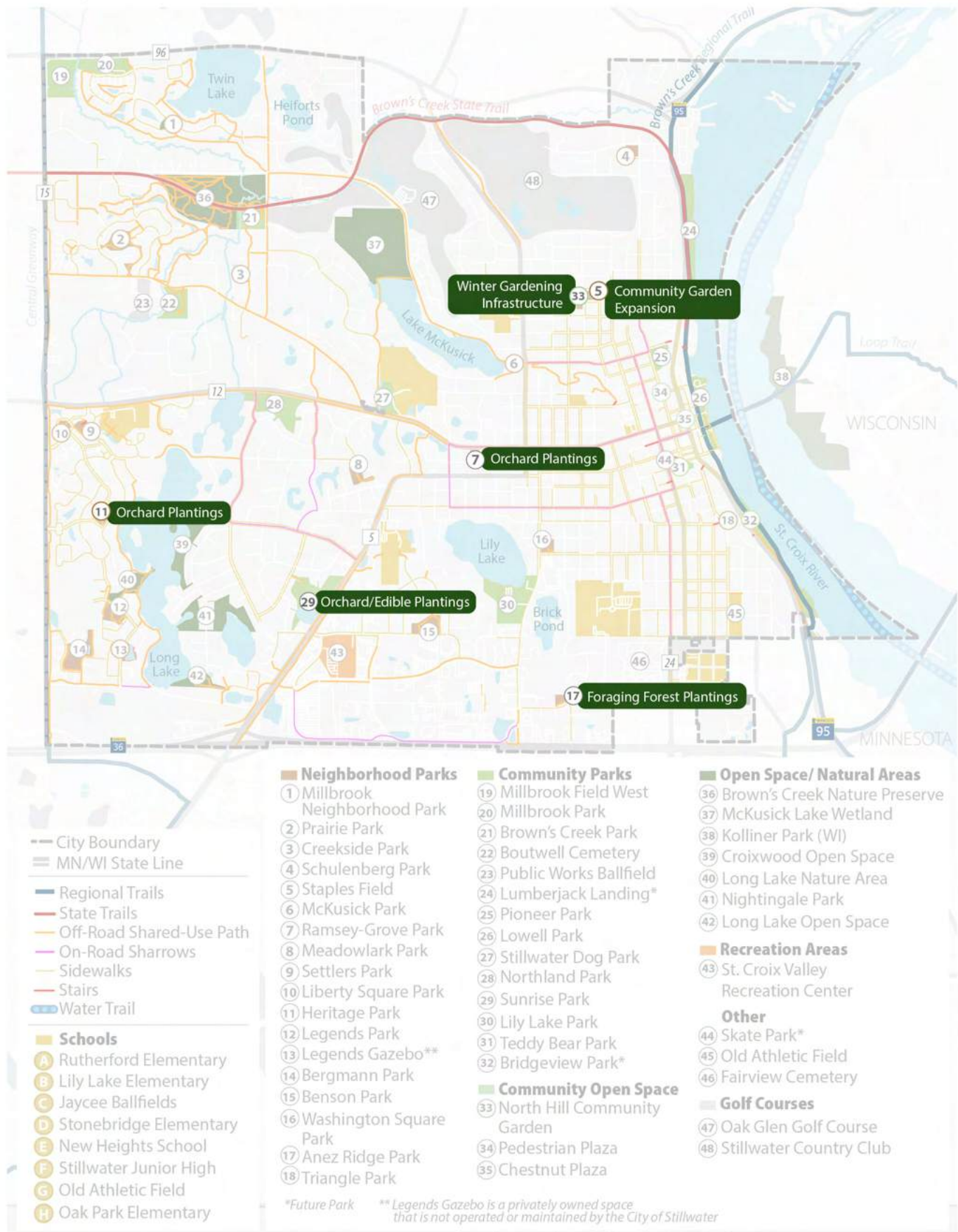
DIVERSIFIED PLAY OPPORTUNITIES



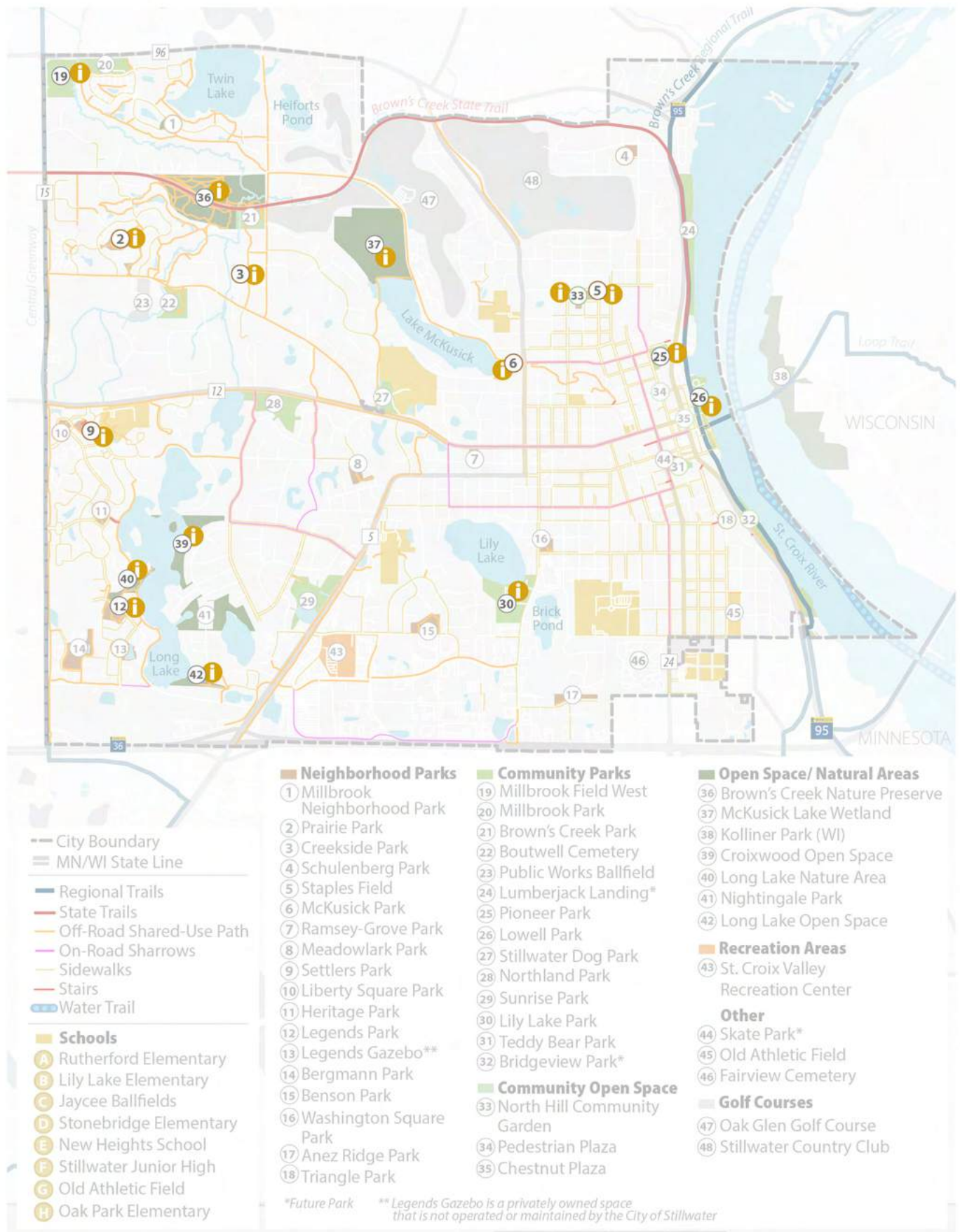
NATURAL RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS



URBAN AGRICULTURE



INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES



“ One of the hopes of this planning process is to guide and work towards creating a premier, quality parks and trails experience for residents. ”

- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBER



IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

The implementation chapter addresses how Stillwater can begin to achieve the vision laid out in the System Plan chapter. This includes considering funding options, phasing recommendations over time, determining how decisions will be made when new ideas arise, and measuring progress on implementation.

Implementation of this plan will be incremental, and will require flexibility over time. The plan will need to shift and adapt based on circumstances that present opportunities, dictate feasibility, and respond to changing community preferences as time goes on.

Ultimately, the completion of this plan is about adapting Stillwater's Park System for the future, improving recreation opportunities, and providing amenities that support the many ways Stillwater residents enjoy getting outdoors.

THE IMPLEMENTATION CHAPTER INCLUDES:

- Information on potential funding sources
- Staffing and programming recommendations
- Project phasing
- Recommendations for measuring progress



PARK DEDICATION

SUITABILITY FOR STILLWATER

Minnesota Statutes allow local governments to require dedication of land or cash in-lieu of land for parks and trails from new developments. This dedication is to help offset the impacts of the additional demands that will be put on the park system with new residents or employees. Because of this, all money must be spent on new capital costs, not maintenance or replacements of existing features. This can be a useful funding tool for some growing cities in building a park system, but established communities like Stillwater receive less benefit, since the city is largely built out.

The amount of land or fee that is required to be dedicated to parks is dependent on the size of the developer's project. For built out cities like Stillwater, these developments are adding density in already developed areas, which makes adding parkland a challenge.

New capital investments would need to be located to help serve the added demand from the development, wherever it occurs.

FUNDING RESOURCES

One of the largest barriers to park development is a lack of funding. While park improvements are currently primarily funded by general funds, achieving the vision of a "premier" park system will require additional funding sources to supplement these. Potential funding sources have varying applicability for park replacements, maintenance, and new projects.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

GENERAL FUNDS

City revenue from taxes, fees, and fines is reinvested throughout the city to take care of roads, fund emergency services, and develop and maintain the parks and recreation system. General funds are the primary funding source for ongoing maintenance and operations. Many of the grants that can be pursued have a matching requirement that may be met using general fund dollars.

DEDICATED TAX LEVY

A city can hold a referendum for a dedicated tax levy with proceeds directed specifically for recreation and parks. This levy can be used for capital projects as well as operations and maintenance. The proceeds may be in place of general funds or be supplemented by general funds. This creates a more stable source of funding for recreation and parks but requires political support to pass a referendum. Strategy and marketing for a dedicated tax levy should be carefully considered in advance to optimize timing and political messaging and set the endeavor up for success.

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

Local Option Sales Taxes can be used to fund "regional" features in a park system. Because the tax would be levied on anyone who shops in Stillwater, the city must make the case that it will be utilized to benefit regional users. Qualifying facilities might include Lowell Park, Chestnut Plaza, Commercial Street Pedestrian Plaza, Teddy Bear Park, Lumberjack Landing, Bridgeview Park, and the St. Croix Valley Recreation Center. In addition to being approved by the state legislature, a local option sales tax would also need to be approved by the voters of Stillwater.

BONDING

General Obligation Bonds and Revenue Bonds provide another source of implementation funding for new public facilities, as well as for repairs and upgrades to existing facilities. These are often backed by a referendum, local option sales tax or other reliable sources of funding.

GENERAL PARK BOND ISSUE

Residents can decide to raise revenue through a permanent or temporary tax increase dedicated for a specific purpose such as park or trail construction and maintenance. Funds are usually provided through bonds approved as part of a referendum.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including ADA-accessibility and safe crossing improvements, may be funded through programs like state aid and county road construction funding. This funding source is particularly relevant at the time of street construction or reconstruction.

COST RECOVERY

In some instances, it may be appropriate to charge users to cover costs incurred to provide a facility or service. Charges could include rental or use fees, association fees, dog park licenses, admissions, or tuition.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships can be developed with public and private organizations. Organizations with partner funding can also provide assistance with design, outreach, and maintenance. Partnerships and relationships with private businesses can also result in easements and use agreements for trails across private land.

DONATIONS

Private donations are another potential funding source. These may be financial donations from individuals or area corporations or donations of labor from recreation clubs. Programs such as “adopt-a-trail”, “adopt-a-park”, or “adopt-a-river” by an organization, business, or individuals can successfully help with maintenance tasks and promote awareness of the park system.

GRANTS

Grants may only be available for specific types of park projects. Each project needs to be evaluated to ensure that it fits the scope of the grant and that the amount of staff time and money that goes into preparing the grant application can be justified by the potential reward.

SOME OF THE MOST LIKELY GRANT SOURCES ARE:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: The DNR is one of the most comprehensive resources when it comes to state funding for park and trail programs. The following are just a few grants that could be applicable in Stillwater:
 - Outdoor Recreation Grant
 - Conservation Partners Legacy Grants
 - Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program
 - Natural and Scenic Areas Grants
 - No Child Left Inside Grants
 - Releaf Grants (if extended)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation: Many park features also qualify as transportation features. Trails are one of the most popular elements of a park and can utilize funding such as the Transportation Alternative Grant.
- Minnesota Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment: This amendment increased general sales and use tax and dedicated it to environmental agencies around the state. This also creates grant opportunities.
- Minnesota Recreation and Park Association
- Statewide Health Improvement Partnership
- Waste Management Charitable Giving
- Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota’s Resources (LCCMR)
- Trust Fund Appropriations
- Safe Routes to School
- Facility specific grants: There are many grants that can be utilized for specific park features such as pools, playgrounds, or tennis courts:
 - Life Floor Make a SPLASH! Grant Program (splashpads)
 - USTA Tennis Venue Services
 - American Academy of Dermatology Association Shade Structure Grant Program
 - Fields for Kids through the Minnesota Twins Community Fund

FUNDING PATHS MOVING FORWARD

Stillwater has built a well-distributed park system that surpasses traditional park system metrics in terms of quantity; however, few of its facilities would be considered premier, and the system lacks newer, non-traditional recreation types. If the system is to make updates that meet future needs, expand play variety and recreation opportunities, and maintain upgraded facilities, expanded staffing and funding will be required.

THERE ARE TWO LIKELY APPROACHES FOR THE CITY:

Increase annual capital funding allocations as much as is palatable to Council in order to chip away at maintenance and new investments incrementally.

-or-

Identify a large funding source, likely via a referendum or local option sales tax, that can provide a dedicated infusion of funds to more efficiently devote to park investments.

In both cases, the funding should be further supplemented by the other sources identified on the previous pages (grants, donations, etc.).

FUNDING MATRIX

This plan recognizes that completing the system initiatives and implementing the park plans would result in spending above and beyond what the City currently allocates to the parks budget through the General Fund. It is not realistic for the general fund to expand to cover all the costs. There are other opportunities to fund park improvements and the City should consider which ones are appropriate to be pursued. Some sources of funds come with restrictions on how the funds can be used. The table below is generalized, but is a starting point for thinking about how to get projects paid for and built.

	GENERAL FUND	TAX LEVY	BONDING	TRANSPORTATION FUNDS	PARK/TRAIL DEDICATION	COST RECOVERY	PARTNERSHIPS	DONATIONS/VOLUNTEERS	GRANTS (CASE BY CASE)
ATHLETICS	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	◐
BUILDINGS & SHELTERS	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	◐
ROADS & PARKING	●	◐	◐	●	◐	○	●	○	●
TRAILS	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●	●	●
PLAYGROUNDS	●	◐	◐	○	●	○	◐	◐	◐
SPECIAL PROJECTS	◐	●	●	○	◐	●	●	●	◐
MAINTENANCE	●	◐	○	○	○	●	●	◐	○
OPERATIONS	●	◐	○	○	○	●	●	○	○



LIKELY SOURCE



POSSIBLE SOURCE



NOT A LIKELY SOURCE

STAFFING AND PROGRAMMING

STAFFING

Stillwater currently employs one full-time Park Superintendent and a natural resource technician/arborist to help manage the city's public lands. Approximately ten seasonal staff are hired to assist with maintenance annually. Discussions as part of the park system planning process indicate that additional staff are needed to manage the park system in its current state, which warrants the pursuit of another full-time employee to assist. Hiring this employee in the near-term would give them time to integrate with other city staff and learn the park system prior to implementation of many of the plan's more involved recommendations. It would also free up staff time for pursuit of grant funding and coordination with partners, both of which have major potential for meaningful returns-on-investment. Without an additional dedicated park staff person, it is not likely that Stillwater will be able to maintain a responsive, properly upkept park system and undertake replacement of amenities and implementation of new investments at a desirable pace.

IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Stillwater has robust recreation program offerings; however, the city's recreation programs are coordinated through Stillwater Community Education, run by the school district. This separation between parks facilities and recreation programming leads to most offerings being held on school properties rather than parkland. Implementation of some of this plan's program recommendations may require quarterly coordination meetings between city and ISD staff in order to plan out and integrate park-specific program scheduling prior to publishing the quarterly offerings brochure.

POTENTIAL PROGRAMS TO PURSUE IN THE PARKS ONCE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED:

- Chess meet-ups at Liberty Square Park
- Family paddling or stand-up paddle boarding on Lake McKusick or Lily Lake
- Gardening, foraging, and processing classes with North Hills Community Garden or other partners
- Pollinator/Biodiversity/Native Plant walks and classes with Sustainable Stillwater
- Talent show or other community showcases at Pioneer Park outdoor stage
- Lawn game tournaments at Lowell Park
- Bird ID at Lumberjack Landing or Mulberry Creek Bird Station near McKusick Ravine
- Dog training at Stillwater Dog Park
- Skating classes at Northland Park (ice in winter, roller skating/blading in the summer)
- Fitness classes at a fitness court or exercise station circuit (Bergmann Park) once implemented
- Tree ID, intro to tree tapping/syruping, and forest bathing at Brown's Creek Nature Preserve



Chess in the park



Dog training in the park



Native plant walks



PHASING

The following tables identify all the anticipated park projects based on the plans shown for individual parks. Each item has been evaluated and prioritized into the following phased timelines:

- 1. Immediate (0-2 years):** Funds have already been appropriated through the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), project planning is underway, and the project will be completed in 2026 or 2027.
- 2. Short-term (3-5 years):** Some of these projects have already had funds appropriated through the CIP or are suitable to fold into related funded projects like street reconstruction. Other short-term projects represent essential replacement of existing amenities that have reached the end of their useful life. Others include studies or plans that are required to determine feasibility of future improvements or to provide additional detail that will inform design and funding of proposed projects. Short-term projects also include high-priority projects for the park system that will impact all parks and the experience of park visitors, including investments to improve ADA-accessibility and wayfinding.
- 3. Mid-term (6-10 years):** Mid-term projects represent less essential improvements or those that require some level of short-term planning/study or other groundwork prior to implementation. Many of these projects add recreational value, play variety, and upgrades or new amenities. System-wide improvements that are proposed in the first five years will continue through years six to ten, as signage and accessibility improvements will take time to implement across all parks.
- 4. Long-term (11+ years):** Long-term projects extend beyond the anticipated retirement of existing staff, and will likely be undertaken by new staff. Transfer of institutional knowledge will be required to continue the momentum of plan implementation, and should be prioritized. Many cities opt to update their park system plans every decade, so these long-term projects may provide a good starting point to examine for relevance in future planning efforts.

Some long-term projects represent replacement of existing facilities and amenities that have been recently constructed but will reach the end of their useful life after the next decade. Others represent larger-scale investments that will demand a large portion of general funds and/or supplemental funding sources to achieve. For this reason, they fall to a lower priority in lieu of simpler or more affordable projects. However, it is possible that some long-term projects may occur sooner if:

- Social/cultural demand for certain recreation opportunities shifts and a certain proposed element gains traction
- The city obtains a funding source for that use (i.e. grants or donations)
- Condition of an item deteriorates and requires replacement sooner
- There are efficiencies to the project being constructed in tandem with other work being completed on the park

PROJECT PRICING

*ALL PROJECT COST ESTIMATES ARE IN 2026 DOLLARS

Cost Ranges:

- \$ = \$25,000 OR LESS
- \$\$ = \$25,001-\$100,000
- \$\$\$ = \$100,001-\$500,000
- \$\$\$\$ = \$500,000+

PARK PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
IMMEDIATE PROJECTS (2026-2027)			
Prairie Park	Neighborhood Park	Add shade structures at playground	\$
Sunrise Park	Community Park	Paved Trails	\$\$
Prairie Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$
Triangle Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$
Bridgeview Park	Community Park	Transient/ Courtesy Dock	\$\$\$\$

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
SHORT-TERM PROJECTS (2028-2030)			
Skate Park	Other	Implement proposed skate design	-
Stillwater Dog Park	Community Park	Replace/update existing equipment (with Scouts)	-
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Add native plantings	\$
Teddy Bear Park	Community Park	Add additional bicycle parking	\$
Legends Park	Neighborhood Park	Add accessible picnic table seating	\$
Legends Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	Community Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	Community Park	Study to determine whether field can be expanded to 175'x210' U11 size (topo and wetland delineation)	\$
Prairie Park	Neighborhood Park	Add shade trees	\$
Public Works Ballfield / Boutwell Cemetery	Community Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Ramsey Grove Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Stillwater Dog Park	Community park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Sunrise Park	Community Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Ramsey Grove Park	Neighborhood Park	Add orchard plantings	\$
North Hill Community Garden	Community Open Space	Add formal entry signage	\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Drainage improvements	\$
Chestnut Plaza	Community Open Space	Add lift bridge interpretation	\$
Legends Park	Neighborhood Park	Improve circulation with signage and crosswalks + 2 signs	\$
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Heritage oak interpretation	\$
Stillwater Dog Park	Community park	Replace seating and picnic amenities	\$
Liberty Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Gazebo Repairs	\$\$
Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	Community Park	Add native plantings and shade trees	\$\$
Commercial Street Pedestrian Plaza	Community Open Space	Update wayfinding and parking information	\$\$
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Add dedicated on-street parking and signage	\$\$
Sunrise Park	Community Park	Add edible plantings/orchard plantings	\$\$
Millbrook Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park	Planning process through Design Development for new neighborhood park	\$\$
Ramsey Grove Park	Neighborhood Park	Expand Native Planting Area	\$\$
Legends Park	Neighborhood Park	Expand Native Planting Area	\$\$
Browns Creek Nature Preserve	Open Space / Natural Area	Regrade muddy trail sections	\$\$

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
SHORT-TERM PROJECTS (2028-2030)			
Lowell Park	Community Park	Add trees or shade structure	\$\$
St. Croix Valley Rec Center	Recreation Areas	Study opportunities for curling and other indoor recreation	\$\$
Brown's Creek Park	Community Park	Playground	\$\$
Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	Community Park	Playground	\$\$
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Add ped crossings, ramps, and sidewalks. Add ADA-accessible route to playground + ADA-accessible portable restroom enclosure.	\$\$
Sunrise Park	Community Park	Replace Parking Lot	\$\$\$
Legends Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Ramsey Grove Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Lumberjack Landing	Community Park	Parking lot near the Zephyr Theater	\$\$\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Improve ice rink with pavement and drainage to allow for summer uses	\$\$\$
Lumberjack Landing	Community Park	Add an accessible paddle launch & fishing platform, trail connection to Brown's Creek State Trail	\$\$\$\$
Bridgeview Park	Community Park	Shoddy Mill Improvements	\$\$\$\$
Lowell Park	Community Park	Update Park Master Plan to inform future improvements	\$\$

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
MID-TERM PROJECTS (2031-2035)			
McKusick Park	Neighborhood Park	Launch nature/birding walks programming	-
North Hill Community Garden	Community Open Space	Add native plantings	-
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Expand urban agriculture	-
Pioneer Park	Community Park	Rehabilitate fence along Laurel St	\$
Stillwater Dog Park	Community Park	Add native plantings	\$
North Hill Community Garden	Community Open Space	Improve trail connections (part of Staples Park project) and add bicycle parking	\$
Nightingale Park	Open Space / Natural Area	Improve wayfinding and parking information for clarity	\$
Brown's Creek Park	Community Park	Add wayfinding signage	\$
Benson Park	Neighborhood Park	Add native plantings and low maintenance turf	\$
Brown's Creek Park	Community Park	Add native plantings and low maintenance turf	\$
Pioneer Park	Community Park	Add native plantings	\$
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Remove unnecessary fencing	\$
Creekside Park	Neighborhood Park	Add seating	\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Convert rec lawn to bee lawn	\$
Anez Ridge Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Anez Ridge Park	Neighborhood Park	Add native plantings and low maintenance turf	\$
Schulenberg Park	Neighborhood Park	Pollinator Garden Plantings, Fescue, and Shade Trees	\$
Benson Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Creekside Park	Neighborhood Park	Pollinator Garden Plantings and Shade Trees	\$
McKusick Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Prairie Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Settler's Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a portable restroom	\$
Browns Creek Nature Preserve	Open Space / Natural Area	Add wayfinding signage	\$

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
MID-TERM PROJECTS (2031-2035)			
Prairie Park	Neighborhood Park	Botanical Walk	\$
Teddy Bear Park	Community Park	Add more picnic tables	\$
Long Lake Nature Area	Open Space / Natural Area	Add formal entry signage	\$
Triangle Park	Neighborhood Park	Add crosswalk and pathway	\$
Pioneer Park	Community Park	Fill in area between playground and road with native plantings OR expanded play container.	\$
Browns Creek Nature Preserve	Open Space / Natural Area	Create a 'tree trek' tree ID walk	\$
Nightingale Park	Open Space / Natural Area	Create low impact trails and add prompts for passive outdoor recreation and activities like geocaching	\$
Teddy Bear Park	Community Park	Improve slope with trees and native plantings	\$
Teddy Bear Park	Community Park	Add interpretive signage	\$
McKusick Park	Neighborhood Park	Add covered and accessible picnic tables	\$
Creskide Park	Neighborhood Park	Tot Track Perimeter Trail	\$
McKusick Park	Neighborhood Park	Add trail connections	\$
McKusick Park	Neighborhood Park	Pollinator Garden Plantings	\$
Lily Lake park	Community Park	Add interpretive signage	\$
McKusick Lake Wetland	Open Space / Natural Area	Add interpretive signage	\$
Chestnut Plaza	Community Open Space	Add directional signage to Lowell Park	\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Add native plantings	\$
Triangle Park	Neighborhood Park	Add pollinator plantings	\$\$
Browns Creek Nature Preserve	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a 9-hole disc golf course	\$\$
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Add seating, small shade structures, dog waste station	\$\$
Anez Ridge Park	Neighborhood Park	Add foraging forest plantings	\$\$
Browns Creek Nature Preserve	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a forest bathing trail	\$\$
Chestnut Plaza	Community Open Space	Improve wayfinding and parking information	\$\$
Liberty Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Central Allée improvements	\$\$
Lumberjack Landing	Community Park	Add paddle rentals	\$\$
Nightingale Park	Open Space / Natural Area	Add informal stone fishing platforms/outcroppings	\$\$
Prairie Park	Neighborhood Park	Park Signs	\$\$
Public Works Ballfield / Boutwell Cemetery	Community Park	Resurface basketball court	\$\$
Schulenberg Park	Neighborhood Park	Ballfield improvements	
Nightingale Park	Open Space / Natural Area	Formalize neighborhood entrances	\$\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Formalize entry points with signage and paved pathways	\$\$
Prairie Park	Neighborhood Park	Informal Nature Play Loop	\$\$
Public Works Ballfield / Boutwell Cemetery	Community Park	Boutwell Cemetery Improvements	\$\$
Liberty Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Expand ornamental plantings	\$\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Create a bird blind and formal entryway	\$\$
Lily Lake park	Community Park	Add vegetative buffers and enhanced landscaping	\$\$
McKusick Lake Wetland	Open Space / Natural Area	Add bird/wildlife blind	\$\$
Pioneer Park	Community Park	Sidewalk Improvement	\$\$
Pioneer Park	Community Park	Update overlook area with fencing, seating or tables, and program the area with lawn games, interpretation, and/or photo station	\$\$\$
Creskide Park	Neighborhood Park	Boulder Area Enhancements	\$\$\$
Anez Ridge Park	Neighborhood Park	Add crosswalks and trail to connect surrounding neighborhood	\$\$\$

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
MID-TERM PROJECTS (2031-2035)			
Browns Creek Nature Preserve	Open Space / Natural Area	Add wildlife blinds and interpretive elements	\$\$\$
Lily Lake park	Community Park	Add accessible paddle launch	\$\$\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Add a loop trail	\$\$\$
Lily Lake park	Community Park	Improve entry drive and lake walk	\$\$\$
Pioneer Park	Community Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Add large rentable shelter	\$\$\$
Teddy Bear Park	Community Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Replace warming house	\$\$\$\$
North Hill Community Garden	Community Open Space	Add shoulder season growing facilities	-

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
LONG-TERM PROJECTS (2036-2046)			
Browns Creek Nature Preserve	Open Space / Natural Area	Explore stewardship and programming partnerships	Varies
Heritage Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Program open space with events and performances	Varies
Liberty Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Program open space with events, chess, seasonal markets	Varies
Long Lake Nature Area	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a native plant garden at entryway	-
Lowell Park	Community Park	Add a multi-level promenade	-
Lowell Park	Community Park	Replace concrete pathways with resilient materials	-
Lowell Park	Community Park	Program lawn areas	Varies
Washington Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Add fairy doors to heritage oaks	\$
Heritage Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Park Signs	\$
Lily Lake park	Community Park	Remove excess fencing	\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Add dedicated paddler parking	\$
Long Lake Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Improve wayfinding	\$
Heritage Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Add orchard plantings	\$
Benson Park	Neighborhood Park	3 Disc Golf Baskets (mini intro course)	\$
Bergmann Park	Neighborhood Park	ADA-accessible Portable Restroom with Enclosure	\$
Liberty Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Add crosswalks on NE side of park	\$
Sunrise Park	Community Park	Add "Play in nature stations"	\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Add unique seating elements	\$
Bergmann Park	Neighborhood Park	Park entry sign	\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Park entry sign	\$
Settler's Park	Neighborhood Park	Park entry sign	\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Formalize rec lawn entryway	\$
Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	Community Park	Update batting cage	\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Seating Lawn	\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Improve trail drainage - flood mitigation	\$\$
Settler's Park	Neighborhood Park	Complete trail loop and add seating	\$\$
Benson Park	Neighborhood Park	Add trees and informal seating	\$\$
Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	Community Park	Explore feasibility of a boardwalk or bridge connection with interpretive features and overlooks	\$\$
Bergmann Park	Neighborhood Park	Add native plantings	\$\$
Brown's Creek Park	Community Park	Explore further amenity options	\$\$
Lily Lake park	Community Park	Install self-service kayak rentals	\$\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Update basketball court	\$\$
Millbrook Park and Millbrook Field West	Community Park	Explore further amenity options	\$\$

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
LONG-TERM PROJECTS (2036-2046)			
Triangle Park	Neighborhood Park	Add hillside seating	\$\$
Long Lake Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Create a walking loop	\$\$
Stillwater Dog Park	Community park	Create a screened in storage area	\$\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a staircase for rec lawn access	\$\$
Settler's Park	Neighborhood Park	Add native plantings and trees + interpretive sign	\$\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Rehab volleyball court	\$\$
Washington Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Add border plantings and shade trees	\$\$
Long Lake Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Formalize neighborhood entrances	\$\$
Settler's Park	Neighborhood Park	Update field recreation with ag lime infield and goals	\$\$
Long Lake Loop	Trail	Add wayfinding signage and formalize entryways	\$\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Add an archery range	\$\$
Bergmann Park	Neighborhood Park	Move soccer field and improve ballfield	\$\$\$
Long Lake Nature Area	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a lake overlook area	\$\$\$
Washington Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Add a stone amphitheater performance space	\$\$\$
Anez Ridge Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Heritage Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Meadowlark Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Staples Field	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Washington Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Bergmann Park	Neighborhood Park	Add a paved walking loop with exercise stations	\$\$\$
Long Lake Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a fishing dock/clearing	\$\$\$
Croixwood Open Space	Open Space / Natural Area	Add a paddle launch and soft surface access trail	\$\$\$
Settler's Park	Neighborhood Park	Add a mid-size picnic shelter	\$\$\$
Washington Square Park	Neighborhood Park	Remove ballfield and replace with flex plaza	\$\$\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Add pickleball courts at current horseshoe court location	\$\$\$
Bergmann Park	Neighborhood Park	Add an outdoor fitness challenge course style playground	\$\$\$
Brown's Creek Park	Community Park	Add a restroom building	\$\$\$
Sunrise Park	Community Park	Add a nature play area	\$\$\$
Brown's Creek Park	Community Park	Add a large rentable picnic shelter	\$\$\$
Sunrise Park	Community Park	Playground	\$\$\$
Lily Lake Park	Community Park	Playground	\$\$\$\$
Lily Lake park	Community Park	Create lakefront activity area	\$\$\$\$
Northland Park	Community Park	Playground	\$\$\$\$
McKusick Lake Wetland	Open Space / Natural Area	Plan for future boardwalk replacements	\$\$\$\$
Lowell Park	Community Park	Commission an individual park plan for Lowell Park	-

Project Location	Park Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
ONGOING PROJECTS			
St. Croix Valley Recreation Center	Recreation Areas	Continue to flood field for winter use and coordinate with interested local athletic organizations	Varies
Triangle Park	Neighborhood Park	Add public art/sculptural canopy structure	\$\$

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Topic	Project Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
IMMEDIATE PROJECTS (2026-2027)			
Wayfinding Improvements	Digital	Provide up-to-date website maps and information for each park that helps residents get to know what park amenities are available and how to get there	Staff Time
Park Maintenance	Staffing	Add 1 FTE to fill a gap in maintenance staffing	\$\$
14u Baseball Field Study (part of Comprehensive Plan)	Study	As part of the parks chapter of the comprehensive plan, study whether the SE intersection of Washington and Orleans makes sense as an acquisition for a full-sized baseball diamond in the park system.	Part of Comp Plan

Topic	Project Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
SHORT-TERM PROJECTS (2028-2030)			
ADA-accessibility Improvements	Study	Commission a study on ADA-accessibility of public spaces throughout the city to inform specific improvements related to trails, inclusive playgrounds, and access to other public amenities	\$\$
Wayfinding Improvements	Study	Develop a branded, cohesive, signage and wayfinding plan that addresses parks and other key destinations in Stillwater. Consider the signage needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Develop a digital/online counterpart to the physical signs.	\$\$



AFTER WAYFINDING PLAN		
Wayfinding Improvements	Physical	Install clear entry signage with park name and recreational amenity iconography
Wayfinding Improvements	Physical	Install vehicular and pedestrian-scale directional wayfinding along roadways and trails
Wayfinding Improvements	Physical	Add internal park wayfinding (kiosks, directional signage) within each park

Topic	Project Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
MID-TERM PROJECTS (2031-2035)			
Inclusive Playground Study	Study	Explore a location for an inclusive playground within a community park and develop a schematic design with an accurate cost estimate to assist with fundraising	\$\$

Topic	Project Type	Recommended Projects	2026 Costs
ONGOING PROJECTS			
Safe Connections	Physical	Whenever park improvements or street reconstruction adjacent to parks is undertaken, safe connections to park entry points should be incorporated	Varies/By Project
Park Maintenance - ANNUAL	Staffing	Continually evaluate and ensure there is adequate staffing for maintenance, both on a seasonal and full-time basis.	Varies
Park Maintenance	Natural Resources Mgmt	Add habitat value to parks as staffing levels allow by strategically replacing turfgrass with native plantings.	Ongoing
Partnerships	Natural Resources Mgmt	Continue building relationships with non-profit and local agency partners to support habitat management and restoration	Ongoing
Partnerships	Programming	Continue building relationships with non-profit and local agency partners to support interpretation, education, and programming	Ongoing
Other Park Infrastructure Replacements	Repair/Replace/Remove/Re-Imagine	As park features reach the end of their lifespan, evaluate the best next step for that feature. That could include repair, replacement, removal, or re-imagining the feature.	Ongoing
Trail Connections		Support efforts to build a future trail along Highway 95/ St. Croix Scenic Byway	Ongoing

MEASURING PROGRESS

Implementing the recommendations in this park plan will take time, effort, financial resources, and strong leadership. While anecdotal opinions about the park system as part of this process have been overwhelmingly positive, structured evaluation of park system satisfaction should be conducted periodically in order to understand people's perception of park system investments, operations, and maintenance. Periodic evaluation of the parks and recreation system is particularly valuable when justifying requests for funds, facilities, staff time, and volunteers. Communicating the impact and value of the park system will help elected officials, the public, and other stakeholders understand the benefits of continued investment. Collecting baseline visitor and use data can also help determine which improvements would better serve park users, where there may be gaps in the populations that use the parks, and identify benchmarks for the services the City provides.

Comprehensive evaluations of park and recreation systems should include both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative tools, such as open-ended surveys, are relatively easy to conduct and are important in gauging satisfaction, trends, and needs. Quantitative methods, such as counts, are important in capturing the who, what, where, and when of parks and recreation use. Counts are the most beneficial in demonstrating the magnitude of usage. At the end of each implementation phase, project achievements should be summarized and celebrated, while remaining projects should be folded into the subsequent phase and re-evaluated for priority.

Annual reviews of implementation progress, where participation numbers are trending, and how partnerships are going will be a helpful reflection tool to help keep the park system on track.

EXAMPLES OF QUANTITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

- Number of recreation activities and participants tracked through registrations
- Number of events, facility users, and participants tracked through reservations, permitting and athletics association use
- Number of "To-Do" items checked off the list
- Number of volunteer participants
- Number of people using parks, trails and other non-fee based facilities through the development of a user count program. This might be accomplished by counting cars in the parking lot, creating a neighborhood park count volunteer program, or installing new technology to count visitors
- Park and trail safety – number of accidents, incidents and crime

EXAMPLES OF QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

- City-wide survey on a regular basis to evaluate trends over time
- Conduct satisfaction surveys of recreation activity participants
- Host listening sessions with associations and other groups who regularly use facilities
- Conduct focus groups to gather information about park use and desires for future investments

ANNUAL SYSTEM ANALYSIS STEPS

1. Summarize the steps taken toward implementing System Plan recommendations over the prior year and review accomplishments and lessons learned
2. Identify necessary or helpful qualitative or quantitative data needed for decision-making and evaluation this year
3. Review agreements to make sure they are still working for all parties
4. List the proposed projects for the upcoming year, including those that remain to be completed
5. Evaluate the ability to fund the next phase of improvements, including summaries of outside funding (partnerships, grants, etc.) secured and potential supplemental sources of funding
6. Identify challenges and what steps need to be taken to address them
7. Prioritize projects based on available/likely funding, community interest, and immediate need
8. Make a to-do list, timeline, and continue the work!



PARKS MASTER PLAN

CITY OF STILLWATER, MINNESOTA

FINAL DOCUMENT JUNE 2026

