PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

I. INTRODUCTION

The City and its residents identify parks, trails and recreational facilities as valuable community resources that contribute positively to the quality of life offered in New Prague. Recreation is viewed as an integral part of life, providing a necessary and satisfying change from the things we usually do and the places where we spend most of our time.

This Chapter builds on the vision of the Comprehensive Plan which includes the following Vision Statement,

“New Prague will be a community that maintains a unique identity by recognizing its heritage while providing opportunities for residents to share and enjoy both rural and urban lifestyles.

The City will maintain a traditional “Main Street” which will be a vibrant destination for residents and visitors and the focal point of commerce and government.

Parks and open space will be important features of the community landscape-offering people of all ages and abilities places to recreate and play.

Economic development efforts will help create a sustainable economy by balancing tax base and providing a wide range of employment, goods and services.

Public utility and transportation systems will be planned to support the community’s current and future residents and businesses in an efficient and economical manner.”

This Chapter has been developed with the following Mission and Vision Statements:

Mission Statement

The mission of the New Prague Parks, Trails and Recreation System is to provide safe and quality facilities, adequate and diverse programs and active and natural open spaces for all New Prague citizens today and into the future.

Vision Statements

- To sustain current facilities and plan for future growth and expansion of park facilities, open spaces, natural resources, trails and activity centers and respond to the changing needs of the community.

- To provide safe, welcoming parks and recreational facilities and affordable, diverse recreation activities for people of all ages and incomes to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of the environment.

Intent

This Chapter provides a framework for how the community will proceed to carry out Park, Trail and Recreation planning. The intent of this Chapter is:

1. To provide a general framework and goals for future property acquisition, development and preservation.

2. To recognize and plan for the lifecycle of parks.
3. To provide a framework for balancing public access to trails and greenways allowing for enjoyment of natural resources and the need to limit access to preserve, protect, enhance, or maintain said resources.

4. To provide conceptual trail connections within the City and to county and regional trails and passive and active recreation facilities.

5. To increase the quality of life within New Prague by encouraging physical activity, promoting community wellness, and preserving the ‘small town atmosphere’ evident in community places and gathering spaces.

6. To promote economic prosperity and tourism.

7. To proactively plan for the future through a coordinated effort with area governmental units, public and private recreation entities.

8. To connect residents, employers/employees, and visitors in New Prague to nature and each other through an accessible, local system of parks, natural resource areas and multi-purpose trails/greenways.

9. To recognize and protect quality public water resources, wetlands, wildlife habitat, trees and forests, water quality, and steep slopes.

10. To provide a long-term plan that is implemented over time through a variety of funding sources.

II. Demographics Served

In order to plan for existing and future parks, trails and recreational programming, it is important to understand the market we served in the past, the market we now serve and the market we anticipate serving in the future.

Population Changes
The City of New Prague grew 60.6% between 2000 and 2010. The City is projecting population growth, as illustrated in the chart below. As a result, the Parks, Trails and Recreational Chapter includes an analysis of current facilities and programs as well as facilities which may be needed to serve an additional 2,400 residents by 2020, and an additional 4,500 residents by 2030.

Age of residents/market
The median age of New Prague residents was 34.5 years in the year 2000. The median age in 2010 was 32.7 years, due to a large influx of new young residents/families in new subdivisions. The Minnesota State Demographer’s Office and Metropolitan Council both project the largest increases in population over the next 20 years will be in the 60+ year segment of the population, therefore increasing the median
age over time. This Chapter recognizes the importance of planning park facilities and recreational programs for all age groups.

**Income of our residents/market**
The median family income in New Prague in 2000 was $50,341. This increased to $66,235 in 2010. According to the 2000 Census, an estimated 284 individuals in the City of New Prague (6.2%) were below the poverty level. This increased to 455 individuals (6.5%) and 5.5% of families, according to the 2010 Census. This compared to 11.6% of individuals and 7.5% of families in Minnesota. This Chapter recognizes the need to provide recreational opportunities for individuals/families of all income levels.

**Household/family make-up**
In 2000, 69.7% of all households were “family households”, with 30.3% of households “non-family households”. This remained relatively stable with 70.5% of all households as “family households” in 2010, or 29.5% as “non-family households”. The percent of family households with children under 18 years of age increased slightly from 56% of families in 2000, to 58% of families in 2010.

Providing quality recreational opportunities begins with proper planning. To assure adequacy and maximum usability, recreational areas and facilities shall be developed with regard for the needs of the people and the area they serve. Proper planning must take into consideration a number of factors, including but not limited to, location of existing recreational areas (i.e. proximity to the area served, separation from incompatible land uses), adequacy of existing facilities, site planning for the location of future facilities, access to current and future facilities, provisions for recreation programs, and financing, maintenance and management of existing and proposed parks, trails and recreational facilities.

This Chapter will provide an overview of:

1. Park Classifications
2. An Inventory Existing Park Facilities
3. Existing and Future Park Facility Needs
4. Recreational Facility Standards
5. Existing Trails and Pedestrian Ways
6. Proposed Future Trails and Pedestrian Ways
7. Recreation and Fitness
8. Community Input;
9. Administration, Maintenance and Operations
10. Recommended Goals and Policies for Future Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities and Programs.

The following maps are included:

8-1 City Parks and School Recreational Facilities
8-2 Park Service Areas
8-3 Area Golf Courses
8-4 Scott County Regional Park System
8-5 Park Search Areas
8-6 Existing Sidewalks and Trails
8-7 Sidewalk/Trail Snow Removal Routes
8-8 Trail Construction Year
8-9 Greenway, Trail and Sidewalk Plan
8-10 Park Search Areas and Trail/Sidewalk Plan
8-11 Scott County Trail System
8-12 Trail Pavement Conditions
8-13 Trail/Path Seal Coating Map
8-14 Suggested Walking and Biking Routes
III. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City of New Prague features a number of existing park and recreational facilities. Recreational facilities within the City can typically be described according to their type, population served and location. The following terms and descriptions shall be used to classify existing and future recreational facilities:

**Neighborhood Parks** provide open space for passive recreation for all ages within a neighborhood, particularly for the elderly and families with young children. An ideal neighborhood park site is scenic or wooded and located a maximum of one-quarter mile, which is normal walking distance, from primary users. The minimum suggested size for this type of park is one acre. Site development should include sidewalk, benches, landscaping, and play features for preschoolers. Neighborhood parks should connect with trails, which connect to other parks and neighborhoods.

**Neighborhood Playgrounds** are usually provided in conjunction with education and institutional facilities and primarily serve the recreation needs of children ages two (2) to five (5) plus years. Individual neighborhood playground size is dependent on the types of activities it supports and the facilities it provides. Play features, ball fields, basketball and tennis courts, and open play fields are common components. The service area is highly variable, but it usually has a radius of one-quarter mile.

**Community Parks** typically serve several neighborhoods and are under municipal administration. Although size may vary, community parks are usually more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. In addition to the kinds of facilities provided at neighborhood parks, these parks may provide swimming pools, picnic areas, more elaborate play fields, restroom facilities and tennis courts. Community parks serve people of all ages and have an effective service area radius of one-half mile.

**City-wide Parks** may serve some or all types of a community’s recreation needs. They can provide a wide range of activities for all age groups or may be very specific. In addition to some of the facilities provided by other types of parks, city-wide parks may contain an area for nature study, hiking and riding trails, pond fishing, spectator sports and numerous other activities. However, in many small communities, a city-wide park is sometimes designated as such not because of its size and/or variety of recreational facilities, but because it is the only park available to the community.

**Specialized Recreation Areas** may include but are not limited to golf courses, historic sites, conservancy area, linear trail, and floodplains. Most specialized recreation areas have limited active recreation value, are not developed as multi-purpose recreation areas, or are not always available for use by the public. Specialized areas are an important adjunct to a community and its park and open space program.

**Regional Parks** may include but are not limited to conservancy areas, trails, floodplains, hiking and riding trails, recreational fields, spectator sports, and fishing. Regional parks serve people of all ages and serve a regional population.
IV. PARK LAND

The City of New Prague grew from 4,559 people in 2000 to a 2010 Census population of 7,321, or a 60.6% increase. The physical size of the City grew by approximately 1.34 square miles during that same period.

The City acquired additional park land through park dedication as well as acquisition.

Park land acreage increased from 44.09 acres in 2000 to 101.72 acres in 2010 (130% increase). The amount of park land has remained relatively stable the past five years as there have not been new residential subdivisions with park land dedication.

The amount of park land has not increased as rapidly as the overall size of the city over the past 15 years, resulting in a declining percent of land in the city dedicated to park use. This is illustrated in the table below. It should be noted that areas were annexed into the City limits but have not yet been platted with park land dedications. This has had an impact on the percent of park land in the city limits. The City updated its Subdivision Ordinance in recent years to require 11.8% of an area being platted to be dedicated for park land (an increase from 10%). This will also assist in ensuring all areas are adequately served with park and recreational opportunities as growth continues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Category</th>
<th>1998 Park Acres</th>
<th>% of all City Acreage 1998</th>
<th>2004 Park Acres</th>
<th>% of all City Acreage in 2004</th>
<th>2012 Park Acres</th>
<th>% of all City Acreage 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks (includes municipal Golf Course)</td>
<td>158.8</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>9.08%</td>
<td>217.22</td>
<td>8.81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percent of a city’s acreage which is park land varies by community. The existence of the golf course in New Prague results in a higher percent of park land than some neighboring communities. For example; in 2005 the City of Belle Plaine had 3,379 acres with 95.55 acres of park land (2.5% of the total acreage). The City of Jordan, in 2006, had 2,150 acres in the city. Of this 107.76 acres were park land or 5.0% of the total acreage. In 2012, 217.22 of New Prague’s 2,428 acres were park land or 8.81% of the total acreage.

8.81% of the Note: The above chart does not include the Golf Course acreage.
V. EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

There are 10 municipal owned parks located within the City of New Prague. In addition, there are a number of recreational areas owned by the school district and private recreational facilities in the community. Following is a summary of existing park and recreational facilities existing in the City of New Prague. Map 8-1 illustrates the locations of these facilities:

A. Memorial Park - 400 Main Street E.

Size: This is the largest park in New Prague with 146.534 acres, of which 123.72 acres are the golf course and 6.12 acres are swimming pool and baseball fields, resulting in 16.68 acres of park land outside of these uses.

Classification: City Wide Park (CWP)

History: Located on the south side of Main Street (State Highway 19), this park was developed in the early 1900s. According to city records, “The Veterans of Foreign Wars and members of the American Legion spearheaded the fundraising and in 1921 fifteen acres were purchased from Maertz and Nickolay in Sunnyside Addition adjoining Main Street on the south side. (The land was heavily wooded when it was first homesteaded by Frank Bruzek, a Bohemian immigrant, in 1856). The park property consisted of about 10 acres of level land for an athletic field and about five acres of natural grove.”

The original park plan, designed by a landscape architect from St. Paul, included four golf holes, a football field, tennis courts, playground area, picnic area and a landing strip for aircraft.

Major improvements have been made and changes occurred within Memorial Park over the years including, but not limited to the following:

- **1926** - The American Legion donation of the captured German 105 Millimeter Howitzer.
- **1928** – The stones which line the driveway entrance to the park were painted “showy white”.
- **1929** - The American Legion appointed a committee to solicit donations for a pavilion in Memorial park. The 60’ x 90’ park pavilion featured 6,000 square feet of dancing space and cost $10,000. A grand opening was held on June 30, 1929.
- **1931** - The New Prague Golf Course was established.
- **1937** – The City of New Prague purchased the 50 acre golf course for just over $2,000.
- **1949** - The New Prague Improvement Association, a non-profit corporation, announced plans to build a grandstand and lighted baseball field at an estimated cost of $20,000. The City purchased 14 acres of land. The Municipal Power Plant purchased $7000 of electric equipment for the field. This field is now referred to as the D.R.S. Baseball Field.
- **1950** – The first baseball game was played on the new ball field with New Prague’s Robin Hood team hosting LeCenter in a Minnesota River league game.
- **1956**- The New Prague Centennial Committee donated the “oral” log cabin to the City of New Prague. This was originally located on the Charles Killian farm near Lydia. The name “Oral” was placed on the cabin because the first post office in the area, located a mile or so east of the settlement of New Prague carried that name. Later, when New Prague became a town, the postal facilities were transferred here. “Orel” in Czech means eagle, but there is not a word in the Czech language spelled “oral” so most people believe the word was misspelled when it was initially used on the post office.
• **1962** – Construction began on a new 4,000 square foot library on the north side of Memorial Park. The building and furnishings cost $123,000 and had a capacity of 12,000 books.

• **1962** – The Golf Club purchased 68 acres at the south end of the nine-hole golf course for approximately $395 per acre. The transaction did not involve the City and was purchased from Henry Holec.

• **1967** – The Golf Club sold its 68 acres and personal property to the City for $1.00, when real estate taxes became an issue. The City annexed the 68 acres into the City.

• **1984** – The New Prague Area Community Pool, Inc. formed a non-profit and raised $225,000 over three years. The pool, which featured a kiddie pool, swimming pool with showers, changing rooms and a concession area, opened in August, 1984. The City provided the site on the north side of the baseball field, just east of Memorial Park.

• **1987** – The New Prague Area Community Pool, Inc. sold the pool facility to the City of New Prague for $1.00 and dissolved their organization.

• **2000** – A 3,300 square foot addition to the library was completed at a cost of $800,000. This was funded through a grant, donations (including a substantial one from the New Prague Area Historical Society) and a voter approved bond.

• **2010** – Improvements to the park’s driveway and 69 space parking lot were completed along with playground equipment upgrades.

**Recreational Amenities:** Today, the Memorial Park complex includes an 18-hole golf course, a full size baseball park, two regulation softball fields, an outdoor community swimming pool, and a community library. The Park also features a large playground area, three restroom facilities including those by the ball fields, non-handicap accessible restrooms by the volleyball courts and restroom facilities by the swimming pool, three picnic shelters, a concession stand, two sand volleyball courts, four horseshoe pits, as well as several picnic areas. A complete list of amenities in the Park is included in Table 8-2.

**Hours of Operation:** Memorial Park is open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Community Involvement:** The east Side of Memorial Park has been adopted by the New Prague Lutheran Church Senior High Youth. The west Side of the Park has been adopted by St. Wenceslaus School. As a part of the “adoption of the park” these organizations assist with the following:

- Litter pick-up outings scheduled once a month in April/May; twice in June/July/August; and once in September.
- Removal of general park litter and debris in the playground areas and around park signs.
- Replacing and raking the wood carpet in playground area.
- Inspection of and notification to the City of any problems relating to broken playground equipment, people dumping garbage, brush or grass clippings in the park; shattered glass in the parking lots or playground areas; vandalism; missing sign; broken picnic tables, benches or lights.

**Future Improvements:** Future improvements to Memorial Park include improvements to picnic grounds, a formal garden/play area, lighting, a ball field, band shell and miscellaneous site improvements. An Arts and Council Group currently meets in the former armory building. They have expressed an interest in pursuing the construction of a band shell at Memorial Park. In addition, addressing drainage issues on the softball fields has been identified as a needed improvement by City staff.
Memorial Park: New Prague Golf Course, 400 Lexington Avenue S.

**Size:** 123.72 acres

**Classification:** Specialized Recreation Area.

The New Prague Golf Course is located within Memorial Park. As noted in the historical timeline, the New Prague Golf Course was established in 1931. For the first six years, it was a private golf club with initial membership dues set at $15 for individuals and $20 for families, with reductions in dues in 1935 in order to attract more members. In 1937, the City of New Prague purchased the 50 acre golf course for just over $2,000. It was the only golf course within a 20-mile radius. (Source: “New Prague Golf Club memories & reflections”). There are now over 20 golf courses in a 20 mile radius. (See Map 8-3).

Over time, the golf course, its membership and competition in the area have changed. The nine-hole golf course has expanded to an 18-hole course. In the 1970s membership was comprised of approximately 30% residents, increasing to 45% in the early 1990s. Membership trends over recent years included 182 members in 2010, 227 in 2011 increasing to 255 in 2012. The golf course provides recreational opportunities for a wide demographic in the community including leagues and lessons for juniors to seniors.

The golf course property includes a club house which can accommodate 100 people in the second floor dining hall. The first floor includes a pro shop and a bar area which can accommodate 80 to 100 people. The golf course hosts weddings, bingo, birthday parties and Friday evening dining. Management is looking for other opportunities to utilize the facilities off-season. The coordination of New Prague Community Education or Three Rivers Park District activities such as cross country skiing, snow shoeing, bird watching, etc. are being discussed to help increase revenue and raise awareness of the facilities.

Memorial Park: New Prague Swimming Pool, 401 Lexington Avenue S.

**Size:** 6.12 acres

**Classification:** Specialized Recreation Area

**History:** In the 1950’s, a group of residents purchased an area along the south shore of Fish Lake for the area children to swim. It also provided camping and was eventually sold with the proceeds going to the City. This site was called Camp Pa-ho-ca. Prior to the above, the children of New Prague were bused to “Sunset Beach” on Spring Lake as a part of summer recreation.

The New Prague Swimming Pool/Baseball Fields are located on 6.12 acres of land southeast of Memorial Park. As noted in the historic timeline, the swimming pool was started by a nonprofit entity, the New Prague Area Community Pool, Inc in 1984. The pool facility was sold to the City of New Prague in 1987. The Municipal Pool is now operated under a Joint Powers Agreement with ISD 721 with maintenance costs the responsibility of the City and the coordination of swimming lessons and open swim the responsibility of Community Education. City public works staff holds the licenses required to maintain the pool.
Pool Amenities: The main swimming pool holds 210,000 gallons and has a capacity of 291 people. The 20' x 20', 2,500 gallon wading pool provides a capacity for 26 people. There are also showers, changing rooms and a concession area.

Use: According to New Prague Community Education records, an average of 750 to 800 individuals participate in summer swimming lessons. In the summer of 2012, this increased to 871 individuals as numerous families came to New Prague’s pool due to the temporary closure of the Montgomery indoor pool which was being repaired. In addition to swimming lessons, open swim is also offered with season passes as well as daily passes. The number of participants at open swim has not been tracked.

Community Input: In the summer of 2010, a Planning Survey was conducted with 136 participants responding to the survey questions relating to the New Prague Swimming Pool. Information relating to the survey is included in the Public Input section of this Chapter. Many of the questions related to the operations of the swimming pool. Of those addressing the physical condition of the facilities, suggestions ranged from addressing the cool temperature of the water to replacing broken lounge chairs.

Future Improvements: A Swimming Pool Facility Assessment Report was completed in November 2009. It noted that the pool was in good condition considering its age. A number of recommended capital improvements were included with the report including a new main drain, skimmers, depth markers, gauges, fence repairs, selective tile replacement and grout, a new diving board, replacement of the lifeguard chairs, deck repairs and an ADA lift (MN Rules 1101). To improve efficiency, the replacement of the pump and strainer, and filters were also recommended. A new boiler and new chemical room were completed in 2013.

As the swimming pool ages, the City will need to evaluate the costs associated with the operation. The City has identified a need for an indoor community center which could include an indoor pool. If this occurs, the reuse of the outdoor pool site or conversion to a splash pad or other outdoor recreational feature may be needed.

B. Northside Park- 401 Lexington Avenue N.

Size: 2.08 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park.

History: Northside Park was developed in conjunction with the Vrtis Addition residential development in 1975. Albert Vrtis was among the first group of Bohemian settlers who arrived in 1856. He operated New Prague’s first store from his log home on the present-day corner of Main Street and Columbus Avenue.

Park Board funds were used to demolish an old home on the property. Volunteers helped prepare the site. Landscaping was completed by Bachman’s, a Minneapolis nursery.

Community Involvement: Northside Park has been adopted by the New Prague Girl Scouts. As a part of the “adoption of the park” they assist with litter removal, inspection and notification of any problems in the park.
**Park Amenities:** The park contains an open shelter area with restrooms, playground area with a variety of slides, swings and climbing apparatus, a ball field with a standard size softball infield, a tennis court/basketball court, a small sliding hill and a trail within the park. Patrons utilize on-street parking or walk to the park. The park is relatively flat with the exception of the sliding hill in the northeast corner of the park.

**Future Improvements:** Possible addition of a bench or two under the mature pine trees to serve as passive recreation. They would be out of the range of the softball field, but would allow viewing of a game or in the winter for parents to watch their children on the sliding hill. Drainage issues occur on the ball field which may need to be addressed.

**C. Foundry Hill Park – 400 6th Avenue NW.**

**Size:** 10.66 acres

**Classification:** Community Park

**History:** Foundry Hill Park is situated on the site of F.J. Melaunek’s Foundry which began in 1889. In 1892 the Foundry became Deutsch-Melounek Foundry, which contributed to the economic development of New Prague.

- **1980**- As a part of a HUD Community Block Grant, four acres were purchased for Foundry Hill Park.
- **2000**- A 3.6 acre lineal path was added on the southwest corner.
- **2002**- A new play structure was built.
- **2009**- A walking trail was added.
- **2010**- Nature trails were added.

**Amenities:** The park includes a shelter with room for approximately eight picnic tables, permanent restrooms, a playground area with swings, slides and climbing apparatus, a ball diamond/touch football field, benches, and a paved 18 stall off-street parking area. Walking and nature trails are located within the park along with the West Foundry Hill Park Greenway Trail which leads from the Raven Stream Village Development near the wooded area of the park and the west water tower over the main portion of the park and 6th Street Northwest. There are a few benches located throughout the park, mostly facing the playground equipment. A five (5) acre wooded natural area is located on the west end of the park.

**Community Involvement:** In October 2010 a new nature trail was added to the park’s wooded area as a part of an Eagle Scout project completed by Alex Woyda. The trail is lined with wood mulch. Two benches were added at each end of the trail.

This park has been adopted by the New Prague Youth Baseball Association.

**Future Improvements:** The future addition of lights for the ball field would allow later games. Poles are in place for flag football. They are not currently configured
correctly for the placement of lights to be used by the baseball field.

A hitting tunnel could be added, allowing teams using the field to get extra practice. Youth soccer fields and a basketball hoop could be added to the park as well.

D. **Southside Park - 604 Central Avenue S.**

*Size:* 13.56 acres

*Classification:* Community Park

*History:* The site was once owned by Wenceslaus Sindelar, a local blacksmith, who purchased the property in 1901. The land was purchased by the City from Bob and Iris Sullivan (granddaughter of Wenceslaus) in 1994.

- **1998** - A local developer, Tom Topka, donated nine lots adjacent to the park in the northwest corner. The City also purchased 1.5 acres west of Central Avenue South as an entrance to the park.
- **2000** - A picnic shelter was constructed and trees planted.
- **2002** - A play complex, T-Ball field and disk golf course were added.
- **2012** - Additional land was donated to the City from Edgar Busch.

*Amenities:* There are currently a small little league field with a backstop in place, one basketball hoop within a paved 27 stall parking lot, a portable restroom, a grill with small picnic shelter, disc golf course, a trail leading to and within the park, a playground area for youth aged 2 to 12 years, benches and recently planted as well as mature trees.

*Community Involvement:* Southside Park has been adopted by the New Prague Boy Scouts.

*Future Improvements:* Updates to the Frisbee Golf Course are recommended which would include T-boxes on concrete slabs, replacing the current gravel. It may be feasible to add soccer fields within the park; however, the open area is low and may be wet.

E. **Philipp’s Park - 201 ½ 4th Avenue NW.**

*Size:* 1.60 acres

*Classification:* Specialized Recreation Area

*History:* The land for this park was named after Anton Phillip of Bavaria, New Prague’s first settler. He built a dugout log home along the banks of Philipp’s Creek. The first Bohemian settlers also built their first homes along the creek later the same year. The site became part of what was later known as Philipp’s Addition, an area comprising a large portion of New Prague on the Scott County side of Main Street.
• 1992- The Emil Dvorak family donated the park area to the City.
• 1996- The City cleaned up the site and entered into Cooperative Landscaping Projects with MnDOT.
• 1999-Phase two of the Cooperative Landscape Project was completed.
• 2007- Another phase of the MnDOT Cooperative Landscape Project was completed.
• 2009- Local artist Kiersten Dahl-Shetka installed a sculpture called “Towering to our Future” in the park.
• 2012- Trails were added increasing pedestrian and bicycle access to and within Phillip’s Park.

**Amenities:** This is a passive recreational area accessible to patrons only by foot or bike as no parking lot is provided and parking along Highway 21 is not permitted. Parking is permitted along Highway 19. A trail and picnic table are located within the park.

**Future Improvements:** Additional landscaping at the corner of the park is recommended. The Park Board has also envisioned this as an “Art Park” with additional sculptures and a patio.

F. **Greenway Park -101 Rising Moon Alley.**

**Size:** 4.60 acres

**Classification:** Specialized Recreation Area

**History:** Greenway Park was established in 1990 through a 3.5 acre park land dedication.

• 1990- The City also received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development’s Outdoor Recreation Program for improvements to the park. 100 trees were donated one year with another 250 planted the following year.
• 1992- The path was paved.
• 1994- Highview link was added.
• 1995- Heritage link was added.

**Amenities:** Greenway Park is the first link of the “Greenway” Trail; a multi-use trail on the eastern border of what once was known as Frogtown. This trail is an eight-foot wide bituminous surface, which is used for walking, jogging and biking. A walking bridge connects the park to the adjacent commercial area. A parking lot with eight paved spaces provides off-street parking. Greenway Park serves as a community entrance for people entering the town from the East. The most attractive item in the park is the Brahňa, which is modeled after the gateway in the fortress that surrounded many towns in medieval Bohemia. The design elements are Roman and Eastern in style. Many individuals and families have donated money to buy bricks, which were placed at the foundation of the Brahňa. The Brahňa, which is illuminated at night, is surrounded by a flower garden and trees. Picnic tables are located in the park along with benches adjacent to the trail.
Community Involvement: Greenway Park has been adopted by the New Prague Lions. The City purchases flowers with volunteers completing planting around the Brahna.

Future Improvements: Updates to the bridge are recommended as funding allows. Sizing of the bridge to allow maintenance equipment to cross it is recommended. Improvements to the Brahna including sand in the block work and updating the sprinkler system around the Brahna are also recommended. Parking lot maintenance and bench repairs/replacement is also suggested.

G. Heritage Park -1101 Lexington Avenue N.

Size: 1.21 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

History: This park was acquired through park dedication in 1998, as a part of the Heritage Estates Subdivision. The same year, a full size basketball court was constructed as a neighborhood project, with financial assistance from the city.

2007: A new playground structure was added which included swings and a rope climber.

Amenities: This park includes two basketball courts, on concrete, two benches, two picnic tables and playground equipment. Pine trees are to the south, a cornfield to the east and residential developments to the north, south and west border the park. The park is accessible via the Greenway Trail. A street access is also available on Bohemia Street NE. There is no designated off-street parking. The park has the ability to be expanded at the time the property to the east is developed.

Community Involvement: Heritage Park has been adopted by the New Prague High School National Honor Society.

Future Improvements: It is recommended a sidewalk or trail be constructed to connect to the playground. As the park expands with future developments and park land dedication, its amenities can be expanded. The park could be up to 10 acres in size in the future with additional park land dedication.

H. Greenway Trail System

Size: 4.75 acres of land with 2.73 miles of trails (in addition to the trails in Greenway Park).

Classification: Specialized Recreation Area.

Amenities: The Greenway Trail system, which is an eight to ten foot wide bituminous trail, consists of 7.17 miles of trail. It will eventually connect all of the City parks directly or link to a sidewalk system that connects the City Parks. The Greenway is also designed to encircle the City. As development occurs, the City is taking steps to ensure that the
trail will someday be fully connected. No snowmobiling is allowed on the trail. (See Map 8-6 – Existing Sidewalks and Trails).

**Community Involvement:** The Greenway Trail System within the Heritage Addition has been adopted by Roberta McGuiggan.

**Future Improvements:** Continue trail connections to the Greenway Trail and Park.

I. **Yackly Cabin Park – 301 4th Avenue NW**

  **Size:** 0.22 acres

  **Classification:** Specialized Recreation Area

  **History:** The Yackly Cabin was built in 1884 by Frederick and Katherine (Kehr) Yackly. This was one of the last log buildings built in the area. The cabin was recreated using logs from the original structure by the Jaycees in 1984 on the original site using funding by Col. Jerry Fliceck and Beatrice Foods.

  - 2005- With the cabin in a state of disrepair, the Park Board researched the possibility of restoring the cabin. It was ultimately decided that the cabin was not repairable and the Scott County Historical Society documented the cabin and salvaged a lot for its collection. The cabin was dismantled on August, 2005.

  - 2010- The City was awarded a State of Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grant through the Minnesota Historical Society for installation of a historical marker that documents the former Yackly Cabin. The marker is located at the NE corner of 2nd Street NW and Highway 21.

  **Amenities:** A flower garden remains on the site.

  **Community Involvement:** The Girl Scouts maintain the flower garden at the Yackly Cabin site.

  **Future Improvements:** A water stub could be added to the park for easier maintenance of the flower garden. Additional landscaping and benches could add to the curb appeal of the park.

J. **Sliding Hill Skate Park – 1501 Columbus Avenue N.**

  **Size:** 23.14 acres.

  **Classification:** Specialized Recreation Area

  **History:**

  - 2005- An $85,000 Outdoor Recreation Grant was received through the DNR for improvements to Sliding Hill Skate Park.

  - 2006- Sliding Hill Park was developed in 2006 on land purchased for the wastewater treatment plant. A $4,000 DNR Grant was received for the archery range.
- 2008- An archery range was opened.
- 2012/2013- A hockey rink with metal boards was installed to replace old “plastic” boards.

**Amenities:** Located east of the New Prague High School, the Sliding Hill Park is used in the wintertime for sledding and a skate park in the summer. The site also offers an archery range with 10 shooting lanes from 10 to 100 yards, ice rink, hockey rink and warming house. A trail provides pedestrian access and a 41 stall parking lot provides off-street parking options.

**Community Involvement:** Sliding Hill Skate Park has been adopted by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Men’s Ministry. Volunteers planted trees at the park. The New Prague Sportsmen’s club donated funds for the archery range.

**Future Improvements/Uses:** If it is determined there is a need for a mountain bike course, Sliding Hill Skate Park may be a good location for this use. In addition, if a small dog park is identified as a need, this site may be able to accommodate the use. A trail extending to the top of the sliding hill was also recommended.

**K. Settlers Park – 1114 9th Street SE.**

**Size:** 10.27 acres

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**History:** This park land was settled in 1873 by Math and Eve Prokes who emigrated from Bohemia. The farm remained in the Prokes family until 2001 when it was purchased for a residential development. Located in Prague Estates, this park was dedicated in 2004.

**Amenities:** The park features a rolling terrain, two small wetlands and a stormwater retention pond. The western meadow area of the park is named “Zelena Louka” which in Chech means “Green Meadow”. An unpaved woodchip walkway extends through the Green Meadow. The eastern area of the park has two little league ball fields, a playground area, a basketball hoop, picnic shelter, a grill, an ice rink, and a 30 stall parking lot.

**Community Involvement:** A basketball hoop was installed in the summer of 2011,. In addition the woodchip trail through the “Green Meadow” portion of the park was added as an Eagle Scout project by Tony Beranek.

**Future Improvements:** The planting of additional trees, the possible construction of a gazebo for picnics and bird watching and the restoration of native prairie through a DNR Conservation Grant are recommended on the west side of the park.

**L. Athletic Complex Park – Highway 13/21 just southwest of the City, south of County Road 29**

**Size:** 39.38 acres
Classification: City-wide Park

History:
- 2002- A twenty-two member citizen task force identified a need for more softball and baseball fields.
- 2003- The City purchased the 39.38 acres for a future athletic complex from Arnie Tupy.
- 2005- The Park Board obtained quotes for the full development plan, with a first phase estimated to cost approximately $2.3 million and a second phase with an additional 30 acres an additional $3.5 million in improvements, at that time.

Amenities: The 40 acre area is proposed to include four softball fields, two baseball fields, an open soccer/football field, a play area, concessions area and walking trails. At this time the City is leasing the land out to a farmer who utilizes the land for agricultural purposes.

Future Improvements: Although this site was originally purchased with the intent to develop a future athletic complex at this site, further study on the most efficient and effective location for such a complex is recommended. Coordination with the New Prague School District and Community Education and review of sites in close proximity to the schools are recommended. The inclusion of a Community Center with activities for youth, teenagers and seniors is suggested.

Unnamed City Park (Raven Stream Park) 1st Street NW

Size: 5.88 acres

Classification: Neighborhood Park

History: The City of New Prague and New Prague School District No. 721 entered into a 50 year Joint Powers Agreement in 2006 for the development and use of the 5.88 acre site west of Raven Stream Elementary School. The City agreed to allow the School District to construct and maintain park facilities on the City Property with use during school hours/functions.

Amenities: The park includes a softball field without seating, two half-court basketball courts, soccer fields and a large grassy open area. At the adjacent Raven Stream Elementary School playground equipment and additional soccer fields and ball fields exist. Parking is available on school property. No off-street parking is available for the municipal park area.

Future Improvements: The City suggests that the school district consider adding benches for ball/soccer fields.

School Recreational Facilities

School Facilities - In addition to the City owned parks there are also a number of school facilities and playgrounds that are utilized for recreational activities. The City and the School District have entered into a joint powers agreement that assures dual use of facilities whenever feasible. This agreement is scheduled to be updated and renewed. Although these are not “municipal parks”, the amenities are available to serve the public at times in which school or extra curricular activities are not underway. It is important to note that the School District includes not only New Prague and surrounding townships but also the City of New Market and a portion of the City of Lonsdale. The facilities, especially the athletic fields, serve a much larger population than the city limits. Following is a brief description of school recreational facilities:

A. St. Wenceslaus Catholic School- 227 Main Street E. A neighborhood playground is located north of St.Wenceslaus School and south of Mayo Clinic Health System (hospital). The
playground area includes swings, teeter-totters, climbing apparatus, slides, a merry go-round; two little league size softball fields and benches. The only restroom facilities are located inside the school. The playground was constructed in 2003-2004.

**B. Falcon Ridge Elementary School- 1200 Columbus Avenue N.** Falcon Ridge Elementary, which serves kindergarten to fifth grade, is surrounded on three sides by a variety of recreational amenities. Located west of the school is a paved area with basketball hoops. Farther to the west, behind a row of trees are the School District’s official football field and track facilities. To the south of the school is a “Living Lab” which allows educational opportunities in the natural wetland area. A fenced official baseball field, with bleachers, is located south of the Living Lab area. To the north is a playground area with a variety of elementary age activities as well as a little league size softball field.

**C. Raven Steam Elementary School – 300 11th Avenue NW.** Raven Stream Elementary serves children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Outdoor recreational amenities on-site include a playground area as well as softball fields and open areas utilized as soccer fields for Community Education’s youth soccer program.

**D. Middle School –721 Central Avenue N.** Six tennis courts are adjacent to the Middle School which serves grades six through eight. There are two softball fields west of the middle school and one baseball field south of Falcon Ridge Elementary School and north of the cemetery at the corner of Columbus Avenue and 7th Street.

**E. High School –221 12th Street NE** The high school’s athletic areas are located north of the school. Amenities include two baseball fields, two softball fields, six tennis courts, three practice football fields and a trail system connecting the amenities. A number of indoor recreational opportunities exist including gymnasiums used for high school and youth wrestling, basketball, volleyball, etc.

At the time of this Plan, the school district approved upgrades to the track/football field including turf, lighting upgrades and scoreboard improvements, to be completed by 2014.

**F. Community Education Facility- 420 Central Avenue North.** The Community Education office is located along Central Avenue and Third Street. The grounds include a playground area, basketball hoops, two baseball fields and portable restroom. A paved parking lot serves the school and recreational area. Indoor gymnasium space also exists.

**Federal, State and Regional Parks and Open Space**

**Federal Facilities**

- Within Scott County, there is only one federal recreational facility; a **Waterfowl Production Area (WPA)**. This is located in Credit River Township, along the east side of Scott County. The site is 113 acres and is for public hunting.

**State Facilities**

- The **Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area** is located near Highway 169 and extends north to Shakopee and south to Belle Plaine. The 4,805 acres in Scott County is located along the Minnesota River. Portions of the Lawrence and Belle Plaine units are also located in Carver County. This includes 35 miles of equestrian trail along the Minnesota River, with paved segments between Chaska and Shakopee and natural surface trails extending south to Belle Plaine. The state park features oak forests, savannah and sand dunes.

- **Headquarters (Lawrence)** is located between Jordan and Belle Plaine, along Township Road 57. This features an original building from the 1850’s town of Lawrence. In addition, there are 47 miles for horseback riding, hiking and/or mountain biking. A group picnic area is also available.
C. The DNR also offers **18 Wildlife Management areas**, totaling 1,677 acres in Scott County. These areas are primarily used for hunting.

**Regional Parks.**

A. **Scott County Regional Parks** include Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Cleary Lake Regional Park, Spring Lake Regional Park (which opened in 2012 with an off-leash pet area and 3.5 miles of paved trail loops), Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park (not developed at the time of this plan) and Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park (partially developed at the time of this plan). Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is located approximately four miles northeast of the City of New Prague. A regional trail system is proposed to connect Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park with the City of New Prague. (See Map 8-4).

B. **Le Sueur County Parks.** Lake Pepin Park is an open area serving as a public access.

Another Le Sueur County park near New Prague is the Ney Park. It is about one mile east of the City of Henderson and consists of 450 acres. The Ney Environmental Education Foundation manages the park on behalf of the county.

Le Sueur County does not have a Master Parks or Trail Plan at this time.

**Township Parks/Recreational Facilities**

A. Cedar Lake Township, north of New Prague’s city limits, recently acquired 40 acres of land for future athletic fields and baseball fields.

**Other Recreational Facilities**

In addition to public parks and school facilities, New Prague has a number of privately owned/operated recreational facilities. These include:

**The Community Center** is a facility originally constructed in 1997 through a Mighty Ducks grant. It is owned by the New Prague Economic Development Authority with recreational activities funded privately. The tax-exempt center houses an indoor ice rink from September to March of each year. The Center is used for high school hockey, youth hockey, hockey tournaments, adult hockey leagues, public skating, and skating lessons. During the remainder of the year the facility also provides space for a variety of other activities including an antique show, blood mobile, circus, baseball try-outs, bird shows, the high school football team garage sale, and other events.

**A gymnastics center** is located south of the high school. A community group organized fundraisers to construct the non-profit organization owned facility, which offers gymnastics practices, regional gymnastics meets and also houses a private dance company.

**A fitness center**, owned and operated through Mayo Clinic Health System is located on the west side of the community. Open to the public through memberships as well as individuals completing rehabilitation, the fitness center offers a variety of exercise machines, free weights and various health and wellness classes.

**Other fitness centers** are owned and operated privately. These include franchise businesses such as SNAP Fitness and Anytime Fitness.

**Other private facilities** include dance studios, taekwondo, yoga and other recreational opportunities.
### Table 8-2 New Prague Park Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Prague Park Inventory</th>
<th>Park Classification</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Trail Areas</th>
<th>Baseball/Softball</th>
<th>Nature Areas</th>
<th>Horsehoe Pits</th>
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<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CP= Community Park  
PR=Portable Restroom  
SW=Sidewalk  
*January 2013  
NPL=Neighborhood Playgrounds  
SRA= Specialized Recreation Area  
CWP= City Wide Park  
BB=Softball Field  
IND= Indoor  
*Includes 18 Hole Municipal Golf Course  
RP= Regional Park  
PT=Picnic Tables only  
LL=Little League Field  
*Undeveloped
VI. EXAMINATION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK FACILITIES

The City’s combination of recreational activities, golf course, Cedar Lake to the northeast of the City and existing parkland and open space provide residents and visitors with a variety of recreational opportunities. Map 8-2 indicates areas served by existing recreational facilities. As indicated parks are located to serve the needs of most residential areas of the City, however additional facilities would benefit residents in the southwest and northeast portions of the City.

A. Search Areas. Map 8-5 indicates park search areas. As noted in the park classifications, the service area will vary depending on the type of park. This plan does not identify additional locations for smaller neighborhood parks, rather only those facilities which would serve a greater population and those within a ½ mile radius of the park. Additional neighborhood parks and playgrounds should also be considered as residential neighborhoods develop.

The attached Map 8-5 illustrates a need for parks north of the current city limits as the city grows toward County Road 2 and to the east in the central part of the city as the city develops to the east, to the southwest and the south. The City should closely review the topography, natural resources on sites, access and future roadways, etc. prior to the actual acceptance of dedicated park land to ensure it fits the community’s identified park use needs.

As noted in the Community Input section of this Chapter, sports clubs or organizations have recommended the City and school district begin planning for a larger athletic complex and/or community center. Specific needs of each organization is noted within Section IX of this Chapter as well as the in the right column of the Table in Section VII.

B. Accessibility

The American with Disability Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The law requires local and state governments, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to persons with disabilities. ADA statutes affect the City of New Prague and other local and state park and recreation facilities in the following ways:

- Newly constructed buildings (after January 26, 1993) must be constructed to be readily accessible.
- Renovations or alterations occurring after January 26, 1992 to existing facilities must be readily accessible.
- Barriers to accessibility in existing buildings and facilities must be removed when it is “readily accessible”. This includes the location and accessibility to restrooms, drinking fountains and telephones.

Other requirements include but are not limited to:

- One accessible route from site access point, such as a parking lot to the primary accessible entrance must be provided. A ramp with a slope of no greater than 1:6 for a length of no greater than two feet may be used as a part of the route. Otherwise a slope of maximum 1:12 is allowed.
- One accessible public entrance must be provided.
- If restrooms are provided, then one accessible unisex toilet facility must be provided along an accessible route.
- Only the publicly used spaces on the level of the accessible entrance must be made accessible.
- Any display and written information should be located where it can be seen by a seated individual and should provide information accessible to the blind.

1 Source: Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, James D. Meres, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. © 1996, National Recreation and Park Association
Parks which are developed with items such as parking lots, swimming pools, tennis courts and basketball courts should have routes which are accessible. Nature parks or areas with limited development should have the minimum of accessible routes to the site. The National Park Service provides design guidelines for accessible outdoor recreation. 1

As the City redevelops city parks, it will be important to include ADA standards in the design. Installation of curb cuts and pathways within the park, designation of handicap parking in the parking lots, remodeling of restroom facilities to provide a handicap accessible stall in each of the men’s and women’s facilities and pathways to shelters and recreational amenities has been recommended as a method to achieve accessibility goals.

### VII. RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS

As parkland is acquired either through dedications or purchase, it is important to plan space according to the desired recreational contents. In existing parks, it is important for the Planning Commission and City Council to be aware of space requirements and orientation recommendations to determine if it is feasible to include the item(s) within the park. Following are facility standards for a number of recreational activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Land Required</th>
<th>Recommended Size &amp; Dimensions</th>
<th>Recommended Orientation</th>
<th>No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)</th>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Existing Facilities</th>
<th>Surplus/Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Diamond</td>
<td>3 to 3.85 acres</td>
<td>1. Official: Baselines-90’ Pitching dist-60.5’ Foul lines-min 320’ Center field-400’+ 2. Little League: Baselines-60’ Pitching Dist.-46’ Foul lines-200’ Center field-200’-250’</td>
<td>Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitcher’s mound to run east-northeast.</td>
<td>1/6,000 Based on current population- 1 By 2020- 2 By 2030 – 2</td>
<td>Approximately ¼ to ½ mile radius Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of a community complex</td>
<td>6 total 3 in Memorial Park 2 at High School 1 at Foundry Hill Park</td>
<td>Recommend changes to fencing in Memorial Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Land Required</td>
<td>Recommended Size &amp; Dimensions</td>
<td>Recommended Orientation</td>
<td>No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)</td>
<td>Service Area</td>
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<td>Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball/ Youth Diamond</td>
<td>1.5 to 2 acres</td>
<td>Baselines 60' Pitching dist- 45' men, women- 40', Fast pitch field radius from plate – 225' Slow pitch 275' men, 250' women</td>
<td>Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and the batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitcher’s mound to run E/NE</td>
<td>1/ 1,500 Based on current population- 5 2020- 7 2030 – 8</td>
<td>Approximately ¼ to ½ mile radius</td>
<td>9 Total 2 at St. Wenceslaus 1 at Primary School 2 at Middle School 2 at the High school 1 at Northside 1 at Southside</td>
<td>Recommend adding two wheels (4 fields each) to accommodate tournament and additional players for future growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis Court</td>
<td>7,200 sq. ft. / court. 2 acres/ complex</td>
<td>36' x 78' with 12' clearance on both ends</td>
<td>Long axis north-south</td>
<td>1/2000 Based on current population- 4 2020- 5 2030 – 6</td>
<td>¼ to ½ mile radius</td>
<td>17 total 10 at High School 6 at Middle School 1 at Northside</td>
<td>Current facilities projected to serve a population of 34,000 Possible future need on south side of City for access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>0.25 to 0.59 acre Youth: 2400 to 3036 sq. ft High School: 5040 to 7280 sq. ft</td>
<td>Youth: 46' to 50' x 84' High School 50’ x 84'</td>
<td>Long axis north-south</td>
<td>1/2000 Based on current population- 4 2020- 5 2030 – 6</td>
<td>¼ to ½ mile radius Outdoor courts in neighborhood/ Community parks. Indoor as part of schools</td>
<td>5 Total Northside Southside Primary School Middle School At park on Lexington Settlers</td>
<td>Per standard should serve a population up to 10,000 or the year 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Land Required</td>
<td>Recommended Size &amp; Dimensions</td>
<td>Recommended Orientation</td>
<td>No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)</td>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>Existing Facilities</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>4,000 sq. ft</td>
<td>30’ x 60’ with a minimum clearance of 6’ on all sides</td>
<td>Long axis north-south (outdoor)</td>
<td>1/2000 Based on current population- 4 2020- 5 2030 – 6</td>
<td>½ to 1 mile</td>
<td>2 Total at Memorial Park</td>
<td>Per standard deficit of two courts now and additional in future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Field</td>
<td>1.5 acres</td>
<td>160’ x 300’ with a minimum of 10’ clearance on all sides</td>
<td>Long axis northwest or southeast</td>
<td>1/3000 Based on current population- 3 2020- 3 2030 – 4</td>
<td>Approx. 2 mile radius</td>
<td>4 Total 1 official by Elementary 3 practice at H.S.</td>
<td>Per standard sufficient to population of 12,000 or the year 2030.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field</td>
<td>1.7 to 2.1 acres</td>
<td>195 to 225’ x 330’ to 360’ with 10’ clearance on all sides</td>
<td>Long axis northwest or southeast</td>
<td>1/3000 Based on current population- 3 2020- 3 2030 – 4</td>
<td>Approx. 1 to 2 mile radius</td>
<td>None in city parks. Four on school property</td>
<td>Soccer field complex recommended to accommodate large program and tournaments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Arena</td>
<td>2 acres</td>
<td>Rink 85’ x 200’ (min. 85’ 185’) Addt. 5000. 22,000 sq. ft to include support area</td>
<td>Long axis is north-south (outdoors)</td>
<td>1/20,000 15 to 30 minute travel</td>
<td>1 Total at Community Center</td>
<td>Per standard meets needs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warming House</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>1/rink area</td>
<td>1 hocking rink/skating indoor 2 outdoor rinks &amp; house outdoor</td>
<td>3 Total at Community Center- 1 indoor, 1 outdoor 1 city</td>
<td>Per standard meets needs to 20,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Area Shelter</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>1/5000 Based on current population- 2 2020- 2 2030 – 3</td>
<td>2 mile radius</td>
<td>All parks except SRAs</td>
<td>Per standard meets requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Land Required</td>
<td>Recommended Size &amp; Dimensions</td>
<td>Recommended Orientation</td>
<td>No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)</td>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>Existing Facilities</td>
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</tr>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Equipment</td>
<td>0.5 acre</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>1 acre/park</td>
<td>2 to 3 mile radius</td>
<td>All parks except SRAs</td>
<td>Per standard meets requirement – Future need identified at Philipp’s Park and Settler’s Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sliding Hill</td>
<td>2-4 acres</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>1/7,500 Based on current population- 1 needed. 2020- 2 needed 2030 – 2</td>
<td>1 mile radius</td>
<td>2 Sliding Hills</td>
<td>Per standard meets requirement through 2030.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery Range</td>
<td>0.65 acre</td>
<td>300’ length x min. 10’ between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range min. 30’. Clear space behind targets min. 90’ x 45’ with bunker</td>
<td>Archer facing north + or – 45 degrees</td>
<td>1/7,500 Based on current population- 1 2020- 2 needed 2030 – 2</td>
<td>30 minute travel time. Part of a regional complex</td>
<td>1 at Sliding Hill Skate Park</td>
<td>As city grows may be needed per standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center/ Senior Center</td>
<td>15-25 acres</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Semi-community center (hockey arena/ice skating rink)</td>
<td>Possible need in near future to accommodate demand for gym space, walking, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe courts</td>
<td>0.1 acre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2000 Based on current population- 4 2020- 5 2030 – 6</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>5 Total 4 at Memorial Park 1 at Foundry Hill Park</td>
<td>Meets needs to population of 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>Land Required</td>
<td>Recommended Size &amp; Dimensions</td>
<td>Recommended Orientation</td>
<td>No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)</td>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>Existing Facilities</td>
<td>Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>1 to 2 acres</td>
<td>Teaching- min. 25 yards x 45’ even depth of 3-4 ft. Competitive- min. 25 m x 16m. Min. of 25 sq. ft water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2 to 1 deck to water</td>
<td>No recommended pool orientation but care must be taken in locating life stations in relation to afternoon sun</td>
<td>1/10,000 Based on current population- 1 2020- 1 2030 – 2</td>
<td>150 person capacity 15 minute travel</td>
<td>One At Memorial Park</td>
<td>Meets standards to population of 10,000 Review re-use of pool to splash pad in indoor pool is included in community center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc-Golf Course</td>
<td>Size depends on number of holes: 9, 12, 18, 24 or 27</td>
<td>Average 200-240’ per hole. Hard surface tee pads of textured cement or asphalt are preferred. Preferred size is 5 ft wide by at least 12 ft long (1.8x3m). Maximum size is 6 ft wide by 20 ft long with the back end flaring out to 10 feet wide. (Source: Disc Golf Association)</td>
<td>Fairways should not cross one another and should be far enough apart so errant throws aren’t constantly in the wrong fairway. Fairways should not cross or be too close to public streets, sidewalks and other busy areas where non-players congregate. The 1st tee should be closest to parking. (Source: Disc Golf Association)</td>
<td>No standard found.</td>
<td>One disc golf course at Southside Park</td>
<td>Meets needs of current population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Bike Skills Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-leash Dog Park</td>
<td>1 to 2 acres for a neighborhood dog park.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No standard found</td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Expressed as a desire by some high school students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Land Required</th>
<th>Recommended Size &amp; Dimensions</th>
<th>Recommended Orientation</th>
<th>No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)</th>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Existing Facilities</th>
<th>Surplus/Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LaCrosse</td>
<td></td>
<td>Outside dimensions: 60 yds x 110 yds. The &quot;wing area&quot; is 10 yds in from sidelines (20 yards in from center) of field. The &quot;attack area&quot; &amp; &quot;defensive area&quot; are marked 35 yds from the end lines. The Goal is surrounded by a 9' radius. The Lacrosse goal measures 6' high by 6' wide by 7' deep.</td>
<td>Long axis northwest or southeast</td>
<td>No Standard Found.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>May be needed as interest in the sport grows.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Street Parking</td>
<td>300 S.F Per Car</td>
<td>Typically 9' x 20 with a 20' driving lane</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>NP: 8-12 cars CWR: 25-100 cars SR: 25-100 cars</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>CWPBs and CPs provide parking. None at NPs.</td>
<td>May need off street parking at new parks and some NPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom Facilities</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Per building code</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>1 double unit per park</td>
<td>1 park</td>
<td>None in SRAs or in park along Lexington</td>
<td>The Park Board recommended planning for the future upgrade from portable restrooms to full plumbed restrooms in NPs and CPs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Derived from the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Standards with local standards applied.*
VIII. TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

This Section outlines the types of trails in the community, the classifications of trails in the City of New Prague, the future construction of sidewalks and trails, maintenance of existing trails and public input on trails. Policies and recommendations related to trails are found at the end of this Chapter.

Trails or greenways should be designed with the following goals in mind: (1) Safety – protect users (depending on the type of trail) from adjacent or crossing vehicular traffic, (2) Linkages - provide links between local parks and recreational areas and regional trail systems, (3) Natural Environment – when designing the trail system protect the natural environment and natural features, and (4) Continuity – provide continuous trail systems with as few interruptions in user movement as possible.

A. Types of Trails.

Following are design guidelines suggested by the National Recreation and Park Association for the various types of pathways:

1. Park Trails

   Type I: These separate or single purpose trails are typically ten feet wide and hard surfaced for pedestrians, bicyclists and/or in-line skaters.

   Type II: These multi-purpose trails typically include a natural buffer; such as shrubs, trees or changes in topography, from adjacent uses on either side of the trail. A 50-foot right-of-way to accommodate the buffers is common with a ten foot paved surface.

   Type III: Nature trails are generally six to eight feet wide and are soft surfaced. Trail grades vary depending on the topography of the area in which they are located. Interpretive signage is common along nature trails.

2. Connector Trails

   Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaces trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent right of way (e.g. old railroad right of way). The City of New Prague has a designated “Greenway Trail”, which would be considered a Type 1 Connector Trail. Originally this was developed with the intent to provide a trail system which did not necessarily follow the roadway, but rather provided an alternative form of trail. Typically greenways focus on one or more of the following goals:

   • Conservation greenways (or sections of interconnected, multiple purpose greenways) which exist to protect, preserve, enhance, and/or restore essential environmental and ecological functions.

   • Recreational greenways (or sections of interconnected, multiple purpose greenways) which are created for informal, low-impact recreation purposes by residents, visitors, and tourists.

   • Route greenways (or sections of interconnected, multiple purpose greenways) which protect viewsheds, scenic vistas, historic landscapes and/or provide for pedestrian access along a road, highway or a waterway.

   • Comprehensive greenway corridors may be based on natural landforms or may be an assembled network of greenway types that link various resources together to create a greenway system or network.
Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrian or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road right of way. The trails may be developed on one or both sides of the roadway and may include one or two-way traffic. The trail is typically separated from the roadway with a boulevard, grass and/or plantings.

Separate or single-purpose hard surfaced trails are designed for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters and to get people from one area to another. If designed for pedestrians only, a six to eight foot width is common. If designed for bicyclists/in-line skaters, a ten foot paved surface is recommended.

3. On-Street Bikeways

On Street Bike Lane: Bike Lanes are typically designed as a five-foot lane adjacent to the driving lane. On-street parking may occur between the on-street bike lane and the curb or edge of the road. In essence each side of the roadway is divided into three sections (1) driving lane, (2) on-street bikeway and (3) on-street parking.

On Street Bike Route: This bicycle route is typically designated with signage. On Street Bike Routes are typically paved shoulders along roadways.

The MnDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual, Chapter 4, contains design guidelines for both urban and rural on-street bikeways and provides information on various options. Following is one example.

![Design Requirements](Source: MNDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual, Chapter 4, March 2007)

4. Special Use Trails

All Terrain Bike Trails: Design and length vary depending on the topography in the area. These trails are generally a part of a larger regional park or natural resource area.

Cross Country Ski Trails: The design of the cross-country ski trail is dependent upon its intended use. The traditional diagonal skiing typically includes a packed groomed trail with set tracks. Skate-skiing designs include a wider packed and groomed surface. The length of the trails may vary. Cross-country ski trails may be designed to be used as equestrian trails during summer months.

Equestrian Trails: These horseback riding trails, typically are designed with woodchips or grass surface. They are located in larger parks and natural resource areas where conflict with other trail users may be avoided. The length of an equestrian trail varies but is generally looped.

Snowmobile Trails: Single purpose trails that are regional in nature and cover large distances due to the speed of travel. Usually developed and maintained by private groups of
clubs. The New Prague Snow Drifters are the local group responsible for the coordination of the snowmobile trail locations.

B. Trail Classifications in New Prague

There are currently over seven miles of trails and 24 miles of sidewalks in the City of New Prague including several loops. As depicted on Map 8-14, these include:

- Homefield Loop (3.1 miles/ 5 K)
- Northside Loop (3.1 miles/ 5 K)
- Raven Stream Loop (1 mile)
- Foundry Hill Loop (1.5 miles)
- Southside Loop (1.53 miles)
- Praha Loop (1.77 miles)
- Tikalsky Loop (2.64 miles)

The New Prague Greenway Trail is currently an eight foot wide bituminous trail which extends a total 2.39 miles. The Greenway Trail is located at various locations within the city, and is not contiguous from the start of Greenway Park. The trail is signed as a multipurpose trail with walkers, joggers, bicyclists and in-line skaters using the system. The trail signs note no snowmobiling is allowed on the trail. The trail is plowed in the winter. If intended to be used for in-line skating and/or bicycle traffic the City should consider increasing the width to ten feet to meet recommended standards for these uses.

New Prague’s Greenway Trail includes some segments along roadways. The Future Trail Plan recommends, where possible, including the Greenway Trail segments in a more natural environment (i.e. Along creek beds, back yards, etc). See Map 8-9.

Trails and Greenways within communities are often classified by their purpose, type of improvement and location. The following table includes a description of seven types of pathways/trails and identification of the pathways within New Prague which are included in each category.
### Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>General Description</th>
<th>Description of each type</th>
<th>Existing Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Park Trail           | Multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus in on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment | Type I: Separate/single purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters.  
Type II: Multi-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters.  
Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard or soft surfaced. | Northside Park  
Southside Park  
Philipp's Square  
St. Wenceslaus Primary School  
High School |
| Connector Trails     | Multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation. Greenway trails focus on viewsheds, conservation/ protection & the natural environment | Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent R.O.W (e.g. old railroad R.O.W).  
Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrian or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road R.O.W. | Greenway Trail |
| On-Street Bikeways   | Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic | Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.  
Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders. | None |
| All-Terrain Bike Trail | Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes                                           | Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. | None |
| Cross Country Ski Trail | Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing                     | Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. | None |
| Equestrian Trail     | Trails developed for horseback riding                                                    | Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multi-purpose with hiking and all-terrain biking. These trails are developed so conflict can be controlled. | None |
| Snowmobile Trails    | Trails for winter snowmobile use                                                           | Single purpose trails that are regional in nature and cover large distances due to the speed of travel. Usually developed and maintained by private groups of clubs. | Located throughout the area |

### C. Future Trail and Sidewalk Construction.

The City’s Subdivision Ordinance requires the construction of a trail on one side of each collector street, with a possible sidewalk on the other side of the collector street. New local streets are required to have sidewalk installed on at least one side of each street. The City currently does not have a policy regarding the installation of sidewalks or trails with reconstruction projects. It is recommended this be discussed in an effort to implement the Sidewalk and Trail Plan (Map 8-9).

Over the past five years, the City has significantly increased the trail system in the City expanding from 1.58 miles in 2000 to 7.17 miles in 2013. Part of the development was completed with new residential subdivisions. In addition, the City received grant funding through the MnDOT Transportation Enhancement Grants, assisted by Federal Funding in the 2012-2015 State Transportation Improvement Program to construct additional trails along Highway 19 west to Raven Stream Elementary School and in Philipp's Park.
Likewise, the miles of sidewalk in the community has more than doubled from 10.93 miles in 2000 to 24.32 miles in 2013.

As noted, with new street construction, developers are now required to construct new trails and sidewalks. The following chart illustrates the number of miles of new streets which were constructed during the same timeframe.
**Trail Gaps** - Although there are over 31 miles of sidewalk and trails in the city, there are areas in which gaps in the pedestrian and non-motorized system exist. These gaps are identified on the map which follows the existing system. Map 8-9 illustrates the locations of existing greenways, trails and sidewalks (solid lines) as well as proposed future trails, sidewalks and trails. Within the city limits there are 2.42 miles of proposed greenway, 2.61 miles of proposed trail connections and 5.28 miles of proposed sidewalk. These segments are recommended to improve connectivity of the existing pathway system.

**Future Trails** – In addition, Maps 8-9 and 8-10 illustrate proposed locations of trails in the City’s future land use growth boundary. These trail locations were identified based on future park search areas (connecting future parks with a trail system), take advantage of scenic and natural resources (ie. Philipp Creek and Sand Creek) and existing and future roadway corridors. Proposed trail locations were also identified to allow for smaller as well as a more comprehensive looped system.

Special Use trails such as cross country ski trail could be located within the golf course on the cart path trails. In addition cross country ski trails could be added at Sliding Hill Skate Park. This park is currently somewhat of a winter sports destination with a skating rink, warming house and sliding hill. Trails could be constructed to the east onto and around the old waste water treatment plant ponds which could provide a scenic route on property which is underutilized at this time. The exact location of the trails will be determined upon actual planning, platting and/or development occur. Maps 8-9 and 8-10 are intended to serve as a guide.

**Regional Connectivity** - The City has been working with Scott County to coordinate future county trails that will link to the Greenway Trail. Scott County has plans for the realignment of County Road 15 with a trail along this north-south road. The City’s Greenway Trail near 7th Street could be extended to the east under Alton Avenue in an underpass to connect to the county trail. This trail could eventually be extended to connect to the future regional park adjacent to Cedar Lake. The Trail Plan also allows for the future connection to the regional park on the southwest side of Cedar Lake with proposed extensions along the south side of County Road 2.

The recommended trail system takes into account a proposed “Czech Area Trail” which would link New Prague to the cities of Montgomery and Lonsdale.

**D. Maintenance of the Trail and Sidewalk System**

It is not only important to create a walkable community through the installation of sidewalks and trails, but it is equally important to maintain the trails and develop a plan to ensure sufficient funding and staffing is available to do so, especially as the system grows and ages.

The City of New Prague has been proactive in the development of an inventory and maintenance program. The City has inventoried the trail system and mapped trails by the year in which they were constructed or reconstructed. As illustrated on Map 8-8, trails were primarily constructed between 1993 and 2012.

The City has also evaluated the trail pavement condition and ranked the trails as “excellent”, “good”, “fair” or “poor”. As of December 2011, two segments of trail were rated as “poor”. These included the trail segment along Columbus Ave. N located north of 7th Street leading to Falcon Ridge Elementary and the trail south of 7th Street NE and east of Cottonwood Lane on the NE side of the community. Falcon Ridge Elementary is discussing potential changes to their entrance and drop off. This may provide an opportunity for trail upgrades in the Columbus Avenue area. See Map 8-12. Plans should be developed to address those trails rates as “fair” or “poor”.

In addition, the City maintains records on the seal coating of existing trails, and has included this record as Map 8-13. Seal coating to fill cracks in the bituminous (blacktop) trails has occurred from 2005 through the current year, 2013.
Beyond the maintenance of the trail infrastructure, the Parks and Public Works Department removes snow on 6.32 miles of the city’s 23.48 miles of sidewalk as well as 6.75 miles of the city’s 7.17 miles of trail. Property owners also participate in clearing sidewalks and trails. Map 8-7 illustrates the Snow Removal Routes in the City. The routes have been prioritized as Priority #1 and Priority #2.

E. Public Input

In 2011, the City participated in the Statewide Health Improvement Program (S.H. I. P.) with an online survey which was posted from May 11, 2011 through September 5, 2011. A total of 64 responses were received. Key results follow:

- During warm weather months, 43.75% of residents use the trails 1 to 4 days per week, with 26.56% using them 5 to 7 days per week. 10.94% report using the trails less than once per month, 15.63% noted they use them a few times a month and 3.13% noting they never use the trails.
- During cold weather months, 31.25% of residents note they never use the trails. 23.44% use them less than once a month, 20.31% use them a few times a month, 18.76% or 12 people report using the trails 1 to 4 times each week and 6.25% or four people note they use them 5 to 7 days per week.
- Over 1/3 (60) of the residents using the trails, use them for walking/jogging, with ¼ (41 people) noting use for biking, and 4.9% (8 people) for rollerblading. Residents reported using the trails to get to shopping destinations (15 people), to walk a pet (18 people) to commute to school/work (6 people) and for general recreation/exercise (12 people).
- Most residents feel safe using the trails.
- A majority of participants strongly agree that the grounds near the trails are in good condition (free of litter etc) and that the trail can be easily accessed from their home.
- A majority “somewhat agree” that the trails in the community are scenic, that they are in good condition (free of cracks), that they can use them to get to shopping destinations and that they are overall pleased with the trail system.
- As a reason why residents are less likely to use the trails, most residents noted that they did not know where they lead or connect.
- Most residents had used the Greenway Trail (which starts behind Subway/Fishtale) but noted that they would use it more if it were a loop instead of a dead end as it exists currently.
- Nearly 1/3 of respondents noted they had used the Greenway Trail System in the past year, with 26% noting use of the Prague Estates Trail System, 24% the Heritage Estates Trail System and 17% the Foundry Hill/Raven Stream Village Trail System.
- General comments included many comments relating to the need to continue, loop or better connect trails and area amenities.

In 2010, the City of New Prague completed a Walkable Community Workshop. A total of 33 people participated in the workshop including Park Board Members, residents, representatives from Queen of Peace Hospital, Public Health Facilitators/Planners from Scott County and Carver Counties, City Engineers, school representatives and Utility Commission and City staff. The workshop included a presentation, a walking audit, discussion and recommendation and action planning. Recommendations which were prepared as a result of the workshop include:

- Create a more connected New Prague ensuring maintenance and completion of the City wide system
- Identify the potential of creating a “sidewalk plan” for New Prague which would identify locations for new sidewalks and replacement or addition of sidewalks in existing neighborhoods during street reconstruction.
- Work with the School District and St. Wenceslaus School to ensure safe routes to all the schools.
- Continue to facilitate open space acquisition and development.
• Continue to ensure that the City’s requirements of sidewalks being installed on at least one side of all new public streets is being met.

Specific improvements suggested included:

• Completion of the sidewalk on Columbus Avenue North, near Queen of Peace Hospital.
• Sidewalk maintenance planning
• Development of a sidewalk policy
• Sidewalk maintenance – fixing or removing broken sidewalks
• Addressing crosswalk painting that becomes very slippery when wet
• Busy streets should have sidewalks on both sides vs. only one side
• There is no facility on TH 19 to connect to the school (Raven Stream Elementary) – trail or sidewalk needed; (Note: a trail was installed in this area in 2012)
• Sidewalks are not cleared in the winter.
IX. RECREATION AND FITNESS.

There are a number of coordinated and uncoordinated recreational opportunities in and around New Prague. This Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan recognizes the importance of partnerships with other governmental units, the coordination of plans and collaboration on future improvements and grant applications to implement the Plan. The following agencies have been identified as partners in future parks, trails and natural resource planning and projects:

- New Prague School District/Community Ed
- Scott County
- Le Sueur County
- Three Rivers Park District
- Department of Natural Resources
- Sportsman’s Club
- Local Sports Clubs and Organizations (baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, etc.)
- Mayo Health System
- Private businesses (e.g. fitness centers, dance studios, yoga, tae kwon do, etc.)

A. New Prague School District Community Education Program. Table 8-3 below, includes programs offered from the fall of 2011 to winter/spring of 2013 and their participation levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment in Activities</th>
<th>Fall 2011</th>
<th>Winter-Spring 2012</th>
<th>Summer 2012</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
<th>Winter-Spring 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
<td>31*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball- T-ball, Baseball, softball</td>
<td></td>
<td>687</td>
<td>31*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>201</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheer</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching Instruction</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>7*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditioning</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance (camps &amp; teams)</td>
<td>107</td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>158</td>
<td></td>
<td>33*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Defense</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skateboard</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Safety</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td></td>
<td>777</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim Lessons</td>
<td></td>
<td>871**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tae Kwon Do</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>58*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td></td>
<td>98</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>31*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates partial season recorded.
**2012 swimming lesson numbers were higher than average (750-800) due to construction at the Montgomery indoor pool.

New Prague Community Education is organized through the New Prague School District with a Cooperative Agreement with the City. This agreement is in need of update/renewal. The City of New Prague provides facilities such as the swimming pool and ball fields at city parks, park for archery classes as well as $11,000 toward the operations. Many of the recreational activities are offered within school facilities and serve residents within the New Prague School District which expands beyond the city’s boundaries. In 2012 there were 1,848 total community education households with registrants (some included multiple participants) with 660 households within the New Prague city limits and 1,188 households outside the New Prague city limits. Based on the
one year statistics, 35.7% of the households participating in Community Education activities were from New Prague city limits, with 64.3% of the participants residing outside the city limits.

New Prague Community Education also offers programs in collaboration with other area organizations such as firearm safety with the Department of Natural Resources and local volunteers (estimated 100 participants), a fishing clinic with the local Sportsman’s Club (estimated 200 participants) and Geocaching with Three Rivers Park District.

Community Education has offered expanded programs including snowshoeing, canoeing, kayaking, family camping, and senior yoga, with low participation. As the market demands these may be offered again in the future. As Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is further developed interest in the outdoor activities may increase.

Community Education staff has noted a change in recreational programming with the growth in “club teams” such as baseball, soccer, traveling basketball, etc. While they have received requests for non-competitive intramural programs such as dodge ball, there are limited participants and coordinators to run the programs. Community education programming provides activities for preschool through third grade with club teams drawing a large number of participants after that age.

Facility needs identified by Community Education staff include gym space during winter months for youth basketball, soccer fields and turf management at the Raven Stream Elementary School soccer fields. A future community center would assist in programming. It was suggested a facility attached to a school district building, but also available to the community such as those in the cities of Crystal and Glencoe may work. If an indoor pool were included, the potential conversion of the outdoor pool to a splash pad was discussed. Collaboration with a private swim school was discussed as an option to explore to assist with financing.

Looking to the future, Community Education recognizes the importance of collaborating with other organizations such as the DNR, Sportsman’s Club, Golf Course and Three Rivers Park District to expand programming. The City and Community Education will need to review their cooperative agreement and discuss the city’s role in the programming and whether or not it extends beyond the swimming pool, archery and softball/baseball programs. The feasibility of a joint community center should also be explored.

B. Scott County and Three Rivers Park District - Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is located a few miles northeast of the City of New Prague. Scott County has approved a Master Plan for the Park. With Legacy Funding it is hoped implementation of the plan will begin in 2014. Possible improvements in the first phase include realignment of Juniper Avenue from County Road 2, leading into the park. This would provide a safer access and move activities to the east side of the road, closer to the lake and facilities. The restoration of the original barn on the facility, for programming and events is also proposed, at an estimated cost of $500,000 to $800,000. Programming such as community gardens and local agriculture has also been discussed. Other future amenities include an off-leash dog park (14 acres), expanded playground, camper cabins, trails, etc. The park currently includes a swimming beach, pavilion, grills and picnic tables.

Scott County is open to working in collaboration with the City, Community Education and other local and regional partners to expand programming offered at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park.

C. Recreation Organizations. New Prague has a large number of organizations which coordinate recreational programs including but not limited to Men’s Softball, Girls’ Fastpitch, Youth Soccer Association, Gymnastics Club, Hockey Association, etc. Input from a number of these groups follows in Section X.
X. COMMUNITY INPUT – PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

A. Recreational Organization Input. In conjunction with the updating of this Plan, a Park Board Member attended various recreational organization meetings and solicited their input on existing facilities, their programs and future needs of their programs. Following is a summary of responses:

1. Men’s Softball League:
   **Participation:** In 2013 there are anticipated to be 16 to 20 teams. The participation has steadily increased the past ten to twelve years, as the younger adults have become involved with slow pitch softball.
   **Existing Facilities:** The men’s softball league currently uses two fields in Memorial Park, as do women’s’ softball, traveling baseball, school tournaments, etc. The men’s softball league may have as many as four games per night per field. The men’s softball league advised the fields are well prepared and maintained.
   **Future Facilities/Improvements Recommended:** The men’s softball league has noted the fences are currently at 280 feet, and should be at 290 to 300 feet. The current lights were installed on the fields when the fences were placed at 260 feet, which has resulted in areas that are not well lit.

   They also noted, “With all the work that has been done at Memorial Park the past few years, we consistently receive compliments about the park itself. The fields however, whether the infields are too hard, the fences are too short, or the lighting is average at best, seems to be the main focus of players and fans comments concerning the fields.”

   **Participation:** In 2013, nine teams are projected to take part in the NPGFA program, with participants ranging in age from ten to eighteen years old. Softball programs have grown in the last three to five years, and expectations are for continued growth. Most girls are from the New Prague School District.

   **Existing Facilities:** Currently, the NPGFA primarily uses New Prague School District softball fields for the majority of practices and games. New Prague city athletic fields are used rarely, except for an occasional practice; but most city fields are booked by local baseball teams, with no opportunity for softball use. According to the NPGFA, it is difficult to coordinate field time for adequate practice time, especially when games are also being played. Most fields are used every night during the summer, allowing the fields little rest for maintenance. NPGFA provides financial aid to the New Prague School District in regards to field maintenance and improvements.

   **Future Facilities/Improvements Recommended:** The NPGFA noted, “If more fields were available, especially in a “complex setting”, the NPGFA could host more tournaments, and attract more teams/fans.” Their current facilities do not allow for such a set-up, as a tournament necessitates upwards of four to five games occurring at once. Additional fields would also create more openings for practice time.

   Regarding the proposed New Prague Athletic Complex (40 acres in the SW corner of the city), which includes a proposal to include two “softball wheels”, each consisting of four softball fields, the group felt the proposed complex would satisfy the current needs of the softball programs, as well as future needs through the next ten to fifteen years. The site was fine in the minds of the group, but they did agree it was on the opposite end of town of most commerce, and the direction of most teams they play (Metro area).

   In regards to specific New Prague Parks, Trails and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Chapter updates, the softball contingent felt the Proposed Athletic Complex should be
part of the plan, and would help to alleviate current issues they are facing regarding field availability. This complex would also enable the group to grow their current program. They felt the complex is overdue and would be a great asset for the community, with the understanding it would cost a considerable amount to develop.

The group gave feedback regarding their attendance at other communities’ complexes during tournaments, and the fact it brings so many people to the community. They felt bringing this rendering to local restaurants/shops/convenience store owners could create community interest.

3. New Prague Area Youth Soccer Club (NPAYSC)

**Participation:** School and recreational soccer participation is approximately 1,000 players (includes both boys and girls). The community recreation program, operated by the school district, has roughly 700 participants, with approximately 380 from New Prague, and 320 from Elko New Market. Soccer programs have seen tremendous growth, and expectations are for continued growth, with the possibility for participation numbers to someday surpass softball and baseball (combined) in New Prague.

**Existing Facilities:** Currently, there are no New Prague city soccer athletic fields. The soccer teams currently use New Prague School District fields for games and practices, both for school teams and other teams (Recreation and NPAYSC). Of the fields used by New Prague soccer, none are “soccer only”, as they are mostly situated between softball and baseball fields, thus being multi-use. Additional soccer field capacity is an imminent need, and is of the highest priority within the New Prague soccer community.

**Future Facilities/Improvements Recommended:** Currently, soccer programs are in dire need for more soccer facilities, and improved facility conditions for current fields (fencing around varsity fields would allow teams to charge admission to games, creating revenue to reinvest in the program), lighted fields would allow evening/night games and allow parents more opportunities to see games after work, better grass/playability conditions would allow fewer practice and game cancellations, etc.).

The NPAYSC has noted, “If more fields were available to soccer programs, they would instantly be used up to four nights per week, with weekend tournaments mixed in, bringing more people and economic activity to New Prague.”

Regarding the proposed New Prague Athletic Complex (40 acres in SW corner of City), the group felt the proposed complex would indeed satisfy the needs of the soccer programs, if “full sized” fields proposed met regulation size fields. They noted, in an “ideal model”, locating the complex near New Prague schools would be better, allowing quicker and easier access for school teams when necessary.

In regards to specific New Prague Parks, Trails and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Chapter updates, the soccer contingent felt the Proposed Athletic Complex should be part of the plan, and would help to alleviate current issues they are facing regarding field availability. This complex would also enable the groups to grow their current programs and increase participation levels of New Prague and surrounding area youths. The need of such a complex is imminent as opposed to long-term.

The soccer contingent is willing to do whatever they can to create momentum for school district or City improvements/additions of soccer fields, and hopes to continue discussion with the various leadership groups among the schools and City.
B. **Community Surveys.** The City of New Prague has solicited input from its residents over the past several years on parks, trails and recreational offerings in the community. Following are summary results and comments relating to various surveys and sessions:

1. In 2011, the City completed a **Performance Measurement Program Survey**, which was created by the Minnesota Council on Local Results and Innovation. This survey was available on-line from November 1, 2011 to December 16, 2011, and mailed to 2,916 households and businesses. A total of 576 surveys were received. Ten questions relating to the City were asked, including “How would you rate the overall quality of city recreational programs and facilities (e.g. parks, trails, park facilities, etc.)?” Following are the responses:
   - 33% ranked the quality as excellent
   - 50% ranked the quality as good
   - 10% ranked the quality as fair
   - 2% ranked the quality as poor
   - 33% noted they did not know.

   Key themes in 90 comments received are summarized below:
   - 47.7% noted the need for more trails or better connected trails.
   - 7.7% noted the need for an off-leash dog park
   - 4.4% noted the need for a teen center or more teen park activities.

2. In 2010 the City included a **Newsletter Article** regarding the possibility of establishing a “dog park”. In response, seventeen letters and emails of support and three letters/emails in opposition were received.

3. In 2011, the City participated in the **Statewide Health Improvement Program (S.H.I.P.) with an on-line survey**. Key results are noted within the Trails Section of this Chapter.

4. In 2010, the City of New Prague completed a **Walkable Community Workshop**. A total of 33 people participated in the workshop including Park Board Members, residents, representatives from Queen of Peace Hospital, Public Health Facilitators/Planners from Scott County and Carver Counties, City Engineers, school representatives and Utility Commission and City staff. Recommendations which were prepared as a result of the workshop are noted within the Trails Section of this Chapter.

5. In the **summer of 2010, a Planning Survey** was conducted. Following are results related to park and recreation questions.

   **New Prague Swimming Pool.**
   136 participants responded to the survey questions relating to the New Prague Swimming Pool.
   - 52.2% rated the swimming pool environment (cleanliness, repair, physical safety) as Very Good, with 14.7% rating it as excellent, 30% as adequate and 2.9% as poor.
     Suggestions ranged from a need to clean restrooms more often, the cool temperature of the water, broken lounge chairs to providing more people to monitor those in the pool.
   - The survey asked participants to rate the quality of the swimming lessons, which are provided by instructors with Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Certification and who use Red Cross curriculum. 22.2% rated it as excellent, 48.9% as good, 25.9% as
adequate and 3% as poor. The primary recommendation was a reduction in class size.

- Participants were asked to rate their experience with interaction with the on-site Pool Coordinator. Over ½ (52.6%) noted it was not applicable. Of the 64 responding, 6.7% rated it as excellent, 29.6% as very good, 8.9% as adequate and 2.2% as poor.
- Survey participants were asked, “If you have chosen another swim lesson provider, what were the most important reasons why?” The number one response by nearly 2/3 of the 63 respondents was “water temperature”, followed by 41% noting an alternative indoor site, 31.7% scheduling, 30.2% the teaching staff, 23.8% the lesson content, 17.5% the price and 3.2% the location.
- 84.8% of the 132 respondents expressed a preference to register for swim lessons on-line with 25.8% noting a preference to register via mail, 14.4% via phone and 11.4% in person.
- 55.7% of participants expressed a preference for daytime lessons, while 44.3% prefer evening lessons.
- 79.4% of the 136 participants reported that either they or their children had participated in New Prague Pool open swim in the past two years, while 20.6% noted they had not.
- Those who had participated in open swim were asked to rate the quality of lifeguard attention to swimmers during open swim. 29.4% rated it as very good, 27.8% as adequate, 15.1% as excellent and 1.6% as poor.
- Over 3/4s of participants (76%) prefer “Pay per Visit” payment for open swim, while 24% prefer a season pass.
- Survey participants were asked what additional opportunities they would like to see at the New Prague pool. Thirty-nine (39) comments were received ranging from adult lap swim, later hours, water aerobics, lifeguard preparation classes, more night swims with themes and/or activities, water slides, etc.
- The survey also solicited other comments to help create the best pool environment. Thirty-six comments were received. A variety of suggestions included heating pool water temperature, allowing lifejackets, smaller class sizes, “healthy alternatives for vended food”, maintaining a lifeguard on deck during breaks, tables with umbrellas, locker room updates, family swim nights on Wednesdays, more supervision for Kid’s Company participants, installing a minimum age of 11 or 12 for drop off without adult supervision, longer hours, removing or reducing the adult fee to enter with children for supervision purposes, updates to the pool and locker rooms, among others.

84 participants responded to a survey relating to the summer evening ball program.

- 98.8% of the respondents reported having children enrolled in the program.
- 36.6% or 30 reported that their children had also participated in another summer youth baseball or softball program such as Skyhawks, traveling softball or baseball, etc.
- Over 2/3s reported the season length (mid-May to mid/late July) was just right, with 83% reporting it was too long and 11.9% reporting it was too short.
- 59.5% indicated that the program format with 2 to 3 weeks practice prior to the start of ball games was “just right”, while 25% felt more practice time should be provided and 15.5% felt more game time should be provided.
- 55.6% of participants noted they would be willing to pay higher fees to have more paid staff versus volunteer coaches, while 44.4% noted they would not. Comments included keeping the program affordable to offering the paid staff for the older youth age groups.
- 88% of respondents felt the registration deadline, which allows for team development contest scheduling, equipment preparation and uniform ordering did not interfere with
the ability to participate. 12% noted it caused them or someone they know to miss out on the opportunity.

- 85.5% of participants reported a preference to register for evening ball on-line, 12% requested registration by mail, 1.2% via phone and 1.2% responded they prefer in person registration.

- The survey requested input on addressing requests for ball programs for preschool age children (4-5 years). Comments received varied with many suggesting a “clinic format” focusing on basic skills versus games as well as dividing by talent versus age.

- The survey also solicited “other comments”. Twenty comments were provided with suggestions ranging from the length of the season (two short seasons vs. one), the offering of different skill leaves or leagues at younger ages, transitioning from t-ball to baseball (pitch) at 1st-2nd grade, more structured games at younger ages, being pitched to versus hitting off a tee at a younger age, offering more on-line, ending games by 8 p.m., etc.
XI. ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

A. Park Board. The City Council has appointed a Park Board, which meets monthly to plan for the development and redevelopment of New Prague’s park and greenway system. The Park Board, as established in City Code Chapter 30, Section 30.06, is a recommending body to the City Council that provides input on maintenance of the existing city parks, scheduling and development of a policy for the use of various parts of the parks, and serves as an advisory group to the Planning Commission and City Council in all matters relating to the acquisition and development of property for future recreational needs. It is the goal of the Park Board to provide recreational facilities and activities for all ages. The City’s Planning Director serves as the staff to the Park Board.

The Park Board consists of seven voting members who are appointed by the City Council. One member of the City Council serves as one of the seven voting members. In addition, one Park Board youth representative is appointed by the City Council to serve as a non-voting member.

B. The City of New Prague’s Park Department coordinates maintenance of New Prague’s Parks and trails. Proper care and management of park and trail facilities encourages park and trail use, improves the quality of life and enhances the visual quality of neighborhoods and the City as a whole. Park maintenance tasks may occur on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal and/or weather related basis. These jobs include but are not limited to litter and garbage clean-up, mowing and trimming, tree trimming, preventive equipment maintenance and repair, facility repair and maintenance, painting, snow removal, trail maintenance, special event preparation, chemical application, watering of plants in planters on Main Street, maintenance of sprinkler systems, ball field grooming, chalking of fields, ice preparation on three ice rinks, concrete work, landscaping, etc.

Coordination with the Public Works Department and the Golf Course also occurs with interdepartmental sharing of equipment. The Park Department utilizes skid loaders, dump trucks, black top equipment, chainsaws, wood chipper (owned jointly among the Golf Course, Street Department and Park Department) and various hand tools from the Street Department. Lawn mowers, sand trap machine and chain saws from the Golf Course have been used by the Park Department as well in an effort to reduce capital expenditures and increase collaboration of the governmental units.

The Park Department includes one full time and six part time seasonal employees (who work three to five days per week). Seasonal employees assist with mowing, maintenance of the parks and restrooms within, trail cleaning, ice rink supervision and ice preparation, etc.

In addition, various volunteers and volunteer organizations assist in park maintenance and improvements. Examples include Eagle Scout projects, Adopt a Park programs by organizations including the Boy Scouts, Saint Wenceslaus School, Lutheran Church Senior High Youth, Girl Scouts, Youth Baseball Association, Lions, National Honor Society and HTLC Men’s Ministry, the Snowmobile Club’s assistance with the sliding hill and various community service projects by individuals.

C. Future Needs for Administration, Maintenance and Operations.

The Park Department currently utilizes an office in the “old Fire Hall” portion of City Hall. Additional space will be needed in the future for storage of park related equipment. Other departments are also storing their equipment in the “old Fire Hall”. The City should begin planning for a future location where all equipment may be stored.
The Park Department has developed an Equipment List with a scheduled replacement year and cost estimate for replacement. This should be incorporated into the Park and Trail Capital Improvement Plan. Examples of equipment included are vehicles, brooms, blowers, plows, etc.

A Trail Replacement and Seal Coating Plan has also been developed which includes the age of the trail segment, its condition and plans for seal coating. This should also be incorporated into a larger Park and Trail Capital Improvement Plan.

The City has completed a study to review the reorganization of Public Works including parks, streets and utilities. The City may wish to investigate adding full-time park employees for maintenance activities. The City may also wish to explore adding a shared position with the school district related to recreation programming. The City should continue to evaluate staffing needs as well as intergovernmental sharing of staff and equipment as the number of park acres and miles of trails grow.
XI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The City budgets for operational expenses through its annual budget process. The City currently utilizes user fees, donations from organizations and individuals, grant programs, park dedication land, fees and the general tax levy, a Memorial Tree and Bench program, and volunteer labor to cover expenses relating to parks. Maintenance of parks is included in the general fund budget, while park dedication fees are tracked in a park dedication fund.

A. Park Land Dedication Fund. The City has a dedicated fund for park improvements. The purpose of all funds derived is to pay for all or part of the acquisition of parkland, park equipment and park improvements as established by the City Council. All revenues derived from the park land dedication fees are credited to the Park Land Dedication Fund.

Park Land Dedication Ordinance. MN State Statute 462.358 subdivision 2b, grants cities the authority to, "require that a reasonable portion of the buildable land, as defined by municipal ordinance, of any proposed subdivision be dedicated to the public or preserved for public use as streets, roads, sewers, electric, gas, and water facilities, storm water drainage and holding areas or ponds and similar utilities and improvements, parks, recreational facilities as defined in section 471.191, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space." Statutes require that, "If a municipality adopts the ordinance or proceeds under section 462.353, subdivision 4a, as required by paragraph (a), the municipality must adopt a capital improvement budget and have a parks and open space plan or have a parks, trails, and open space component in its comprehensive plan."

The City’s Subdivision Ordinance includes parkland dedication requirements. At the time of this Chapter, new subdivisions are required to dedicate 282 sq. ft per employee for commercial and industrial developments and 815 square feet per resident for residential developments. The City has the option of requesting a fee in lieu of land based on land requirements at a rate equivalent to the fair market value of the buildable unplatted land multiplied by the land requirements. For lots planned prior to April 25, 2010 a building permit fee equal to .25% of the value of the residential dwelling unit is added for park funding. The park fees collected from building permits has ranged from $102,910 collected during the peak of the market in 2003 to $2,104 collected in 2011. Over the past 10 years the City has collected $289,120 through this process.

B. Grants. The City has also been very successful in securing grants to fund park and trail improvements and studies. Between 2005 and 2011 the City received over $521,213 in funds from the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program ($85,000 in 2005 for Sliding Hill Skate Park), the DNR Grant Program ($4,000 in 2006 for the archery range development), Carver/Scott SHIP ($10,000 in 2006 for the Walkable Community Program), a Library Grant ($90,500 in 2007 for the Mary J. Tikalsky Reading Room at the Library), a MnDOT Community Roadside Landscape Grant ($15,000 in 2010 for Philipps Park), the Minnesota Historical Society ($900 in 2010 for markers in Yackly and Southside Park), an Industrial Park Grant ($15,000 in 2010), a MnDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant ($304,164 in 2011 for the TH19 Trail). In 2013 the city received additional grants from the MN Historical Society for a Historic Context Study ($7000) as well as a DNR Grant for the Settlers Park Native Prairie Restoration.

C. Lease Revenue – The City currently owns the future "Athletic Complex Park" 39 acre site on the southwest side of the community. The City has been leasing the land for agricultural purposes. The City will be reviewing the lease and possibly advertising for bids for the leasing of the land at the end of 2013. If another location is identified for the future Athletic Complex (ie. North of the high school and wastewater treatment facility) the City could possibly sell this site.
XIII. GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan
The city’s park system has been identified as an important asset of the City. If the City is to maintain these areas as an integral part of the community, as well as incorporate other park areas as the population increases the following should be considered:

A. General Goals and Recommendations

1. Adopt an Active Living by Design Philosophy and Culture. This may be accomplished through built environments such as the construction of additional trails as well as programs which encourage physical activity and healthy eating. Examples include promotion of local farmers markets, community gardens and promotion of riding bicycles versus driving in cars.

2. Provide Recreational Opportunities and Resources for all Demographics. This may be accomplished by improving handicap accessibility within parks and leading to trails and inclusion of recreational amenities within parks to serve all age groups. Recreational programs and activities for youth, families, young adults and seniors are also suggested.

3. Build Partnerships with Local, Regional and State Agencies. A list of potential local, regional and state partners is included within Section IX. It is recommended the City continue to coordinate future park and trail and natural resource projects with these organizations and agencies.

4. Tourism, Marketing and Promotion. The City of New Prague is known for the Chamber of Commerce’s ½ marathon, 10K, 5K and children’s runs in May of each year. The City should continue to market itself as an Active Community and promote its trail system on-line, through brochures, maps, trail signage and social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, web sites, etc.

5. Educate the public on the resources available. Methods of accomplishing this include but are not limited to:

   - Expand uniform signage to identify parks and trails. Along trails identify trails by names/loops and include signage to identify the direction and distance of each trail segment. Include signage directing trail users to key areas including parks, historic sites and key commercial areas.

   - Continue educational programs in coordination with the schools such as promoting the use of helmets for bicycle and skater safety.

   - Download and distribute fact sheets on the benefits of trails and greenways offered by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), available online at: www.railtrails.org/whatwedo/railtrailinfo/benefits.html

   - Create brochures or fact sheets containing information on New Prague’s parks, trails and recreation. Distribute brochures to local businesses, residents and various constituencies as well as make them available at the Chamber of Commerce and on the city’s web site.

   - Develop and disseminate press releases for important milestones, such as significant funding secured, political and community approvals, and park and trail improvements.
• Continue to **expand programming** within parks, including but not limited to educational programs.

### B. Park and Open Space Goals and Recommendations

1. **Encourage cooperative planning**, development and use of park and recreational facilities by the School District and the City. Continue to share facilities with the School District, and update the Joint Powers Agreement, which is expired.

2. **Develop a plan to build a new athletic field complex in the near future.** In 1993, a task force was formed to research the need for additional softball and baseball facilities within the City. At that time, it was determined that four additional softball fields and two additional baseball fields were needed to meet the demands of the community. Since that time, the School District has built softball fields to accommodate the needs of the School District. However, a need still exists for additional regulation softball/baseball fields. In more recent years, the City through the Park Board has evaluated the need to remove the existing softball fields and baseball stadium out of Memorial Park and to locate a softball/baseball complex somewhere else in the City. A plan was proposed to construct softball fields, a baseball field, soccer fields, play areas, and trails in the 40 acres located southwest of the city at the corner of 15th Street SW and Highway 13/21. The Park Board and City should work with the school district and community to evaluate this location versus a site near the school facilities and raise funds for the future construction of a new athletic field complex and evaluate the feasibility of a future community center.

3. **Future parks**, generally acquired at the time of platting of subdivisions, should be designed of the appropriate size to accommodate a variety of the uses including active parks designed for social interaction and activity as well as areas to reconnect with nature. Future parks should be sought in areas identified in Map 8-5.

4. **Community parks should be at least 15 acres in size**, should offer diverse resources to allow both active and passive recreational activities, and should be designed to be accessible via a collector road as well as a trail or greenway corridor.

5. **Passive parks** should be planned to protect areas of high environmental value and scenic areas. Maintain open space in environmentally sensitive areas.

6. Review the **life cycle of parks** as they relate to the changing demographics and types of active and recreational uses requested (e.g., lacrosse, mountain bike trails, dog parks, etc.). Budget for and review park improvements as recommended in Section V of this Chapter.

### C. Trails, Greenway and Sidewalk Recommendations

Trails and sidewalks provide many benefits to a community including:

- Increased safety for non-motorized traffic
- Health and wellness
- Access to natural resources
- Economic development with links to the historic downtown
- Non-motorized commuting options

Following are Policies and Recommendations related to existing and future trails, greenways and sidewalks:
1. **The Park Board is recommending an “Active Living by Design Philosophy” when reviewing future subdivisions, and developing parks and trails.** To implement this philosophy, the Park Board is recommending the City further study a “Complete Streets Policy” which addresses a system that is designed and operated to be safe and accessible for pedestrians, transit, vehicles, etc. A local Complete Street Policy would declare political support for a balanced approach to road construction.

Some of the concepts of “Complete Streets” include but are not limited to:

- Constructing narrower automobile lanes to help calm traffic and reduce construction and maintenance expense;
- Requiring the connectivity of sidewalks and trails as a part of Subdivision requirements;
- Addressing pedestrian crossings and solutions such as bump-outs and medians;
- Expanding support for bicycling including bike racks in the downtown; and
- Improving access for people with disabilities.

2. **Trails should be developed with safety in mind.** Efforts should be made to protect non-motorized and motorized users (depending on the type of trail) from adjacent or crossing vehicular traffic,

3. **Trails should be developed to create linkages and connectivity.** It is the intent of this plan to identify the primary trails which are needed for connectivity, to remove ambiguity when reviewing plats. Along with those areas identified on the future sidewalk and trail map, trails and sidewalks are recommended to provide connectivity to:

- Downtown and commercial areas
- Schools
- Existing and future parks
- Lineal trails in passive recreation areas or around natural resources and open spaces.
- Regional trail systems
- Residential areas

Gaps in the existing trail system should be reviewed with a capital improvement plan developed with potential timeframes for development, ideally coordinated with new street or street reconstruction projects and/or grant opportunities. (See Map 8-9)

The City should consider the development of a policy for the construction of sidewalks and trails for street reconstruction projects, with priority for routes identified to fill gaps and provide connectivity.

4. **Natural environment.** Trail systems should be designed to protect the natural environment and natural features.

5. **Continue to add segments to the Greenway Trail System.** Efforts should be made to continue to add segments to the Greenway either directly or via a secondary sidewalk system so that all City parks are linked together. The attached Map 8-9, shows the concept for projected Greenway areas. The City should consider increasing the width to a 10-foot wide bituminous trail if it is intended to be used for bicycle and/or in-line skating.

6. **Collaboration with other entities.** As future trails and greenways are planned, it is important to coordinate plans with other entities such as MnDOT, Scott County, Le Sueur County, the DNR, the school district (safe routes to schools), the township, railroad companies, landowners and developers. The City should encourage Scott County to begin planning the trail linkage from Cedar Lake Farm Park to the City of New Prague.
7. **Future trail design** should take into consideration the purpose of the trail (commuter, bicycle, multi-purpose, commuting, greenway, etc.). The location of the trail may be somewhat dependent upon the intended users and purpose of a trail. For example, a commuter trail may be constructed in road right-of-way, while the greenway trail which is designed to access natural resources and take advantage of scenic opportunities, should be designed away from roadways.

8. **Maintenance.** The City should continue to update information on the age and condition of trails and prepare plans for the maintenance and replacement. This should be coordinated with the City’s Capital Improvement Plan and reviewed with staffing in the Parks and Public Works Departments.

9. **Bicycle racks.** The City should consider adding bicycle racks in city parks and the downtown to accommodate increases in bicycle use as the trail system expands.

**D. Financial Planning Goals and Recommendations**

1. **Update the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Park System**
   The City of New Prague through the New Prague Park Board should update the five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the existing and future park and trail system. The CIP should include the types of equipment and other amenities necessary to the Park System, the cost of such items, and the year in which the City is projecting to fund such improvements. This CIP should then be included in the overall Capital Improvement Program for the City.

2. **Pursue grant programs** to assist with funding including but not limited to grants offered through MnDOT and the DNR. The City should pursue grant opportunities to continue to expand its trail system, especially segments which link to school and regional park and trail systems.

3. **Create a budget for and schedule improvements** within existing parks identified in Section V of this Chapter.

4. **Land Acquisition Planning.** Identify areas which will be acquired through future park land dedication and areas which may need to be acquired with City funds. Begin budgeting for future land acquisition.

5. **Operations and Maintenance.** Prepare a management plan for City trail facilities, pathways, sidewalks, and bikeways. Operations and maintenance costs should be included in the annual budget.

6. **Intergovernmental Collaboration.** Continue to investigate the sharing of equipment and staff between the Park Department, Streets and Utility Departments and Golf Course, to reduce redundancy in equipment purchases and share staffing resources.

7. **Subdivision Regulations.** Maintain, and as needed update, the section which outlines the dedication of parkland and installation of sidewalks and trails.

This Chapter is intended to be a guide for the development of parks and trails and recreational programs within the community. As events and circumstances within the community change, the Chapter should be reviewed and updated, as appropriate. Amendments should be considered if there have been significant changes within the community or opportunities arise which were not anticipated by the Chapter.
City of New Prague
and School Recreational Facilities
Map 8-1

1. Future Athletic Complex
2. Foundry Hill Park
3. Greenway Park
4. Heritage Park
5. Memorial Park
6. Northside Park
7. Philipp Park
8. Settlers Park
9. Sliding Hill Skate Park
10. Southside Park
11. Swimming Pool / Baseball Field
12. Yackly Cabin Park
13. Unnamed Park
14. New Prague Golf Club

Parks
Schools
Water
City Limits
City Streets
County Roads
State Highways
Railroad
Existing Trail
Existing Greenway Trail

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Prepared by: New Prague Planning Department
City of New Prague Parks Map - City Plan Map 8-1 rev

Current to: May 2013

No warranties of any kind are expressed or implied. The information on this map is for planning purposes only. The City of New Prague may adjust the boundaries of streets and parks in the future. Use of this map is solely at the user’s own risk. The user shall indemnify, protect and hold harmless the City of New Prague for any claims, demands, causes of action, suits, judgments, losses, damages, costs and expenses including attorneys’ fees in connection with the use of this map. The user of this map acknowledges that the City shall not be liable for any damages that may arise from the use or the information it contains.
Area Golf Courses
Map 8-3

Golf Courses

Roads

County Boundary

City Boundaries

20 Miles from New Prague

Location
1. New Prague Golf Club
2. Creeks Bend Golf Course
3. Ridges At Sand Creek
4. Montgomery Golf Course
5. Valley View Golf Club
6. Heritage Links Golf Club
7. Boulder Pointe Golf Club
8. Willinger Golf Club
9. The Meadows at Mystic Lake
10. Cleary Lake Golf Course
11. Legends Golf Club
12. The Wilds
13. Stonebrooke Golf Club
14. Brackett's Crossing Country Club
15. Dahlgreen Golf Course
16. Chaska Park 30 Golf Course
17. Bluff Creek Golf Club
18. Halla Greens Golf Course
19. Chaska Town Course
20. Minnesota Valley Country Club
21. Hazeltine National Golf Club
22. Bearpath Golf and Country Club
23. Hyland Greens
24. Crystal Lake Golf Club
25. Fairbault Country Club

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Scott County Regional Park System
Map 8-4

Legend
- Regional Park Land
- Regional Park Inholding
- Future Study Area
- State Park
- State Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Federal Wildlife Refuge Area
City of New Prague
Park Search Areas
Map 8-5

1. Future Athletic Complex
2. Foundry Hill Park
3. Greenway Park
4. Heritage Park
5. Memorial Park
6. Northside Park
7. Philipp Park
8. Settler's Park
9. Sliding Hill Skate Park
10. Southside Park
11. Swimming Pool / Baseball Field
12. Yackly Cabin Park
13. Unnamed Park
14. New Prague Golf Club

City Wide Parks
Community Parks
Neighborhood Parks
Specialized Recreation Areas
1/4 Mile Buffer of School Playground Areas
1/2 Mile Buffer of Community Parks
1/4 Mile Buffer of Neighborhood Parks
Neighborhood (School) Playground/Park
School Practice Fields
City Limits
Comprehensive Plan Boundary (2035)
Existing Trails
Existing Greenway Trails

Legend

NP Neighborhood Park Search Area
CP Community Park Search Area

City of New Prague

Current to: June 2013
Prepared by: New Prague Planning Department
File: W:\GIS\Projects\Maps\Park Search Areas 2013_Map_8-5.mxd

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Sidewalk / Trail Snow Removal Routes
Map 8-7

Snow Removal Statistics:

Sidewalks:
Overall: 23.48 Miles (127,951 lineal feet)
City Plowed: 6.32 Miles
Property Owner Plowed: 17.16 Miles

Trails:
Overall: 7.17 Miles (37,851 lineal feet)
City Plowed: 6.75 Miles
Property Owner Plowed: 0.42 Miles

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Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update

Scott County Trail System
Map 8-11

Legend
- Existing Regional Trail*
- Planned Regional Trail*
- Regional Trail Search Area
- County Trail Corridor** (unincorporated area)
- State Trail Corridor
- Trail River Crossing
- State Grant-In-Aid Snowmobile Trails
- Snowmobile Park and Rides
- Regional Park Land
- Regional Park Inholding

*Existing and Planned Regional Trail routes as defined in adopted Master Plans.
**All County roadways within urban areas are designated as County Trail Corridors.

Connect to SW Hennepin LRT (South Regional Trail)
Connect to Dakota County Minnesota River Regional Greenway
Study Connection to South Hennepin Regional Trail
Study Connection to Dakota County South Urban Regional Trail
Study Connection to Carver County

Connect to Carver County

Connect to Dakota County Lake Marion/South Creek Regional Greenway
Study Connection to Dakota County

Connect to Dakota County

Study Connection to Le Sueur County

Study Connection to Rice County

Study Connection to Le Sueur County

Study Connection to Le Sueur County

Study Connection to Le Sueur County

Study Connection to Le Sueur County

Nye Nature Center (Le Sueur County)
Study Connection to Ney Nature Center

This map is neither a legally recorded document nor a survey map maintained for planning purposes only. Definitions may be found in the Scott County Community Services.
Adopted: March 24, 2009
Amended: December 18, 2012
City of New Prague
Trail Pavement Conditions
Map 8-12

Pavement Condition Rating
- 1 - Excellent
- 2 - Good
- 3 - Fair
- 4 - Poor
City of New Prague
Trail / Path Seal Coating Map
Map 8-13

Seal Coat Years

- N/A
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2013

File: W:\GIS\Projects\CityStreetMap\TrailSealCoating_A_13.mxd

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Current: May 2010
Prepared by: New Prague Planning Department
Suggested Off-Street Walking and Biking Routes
Map 8-14

- Homefield Loop - 3.1 Miles (5K)
- Northside Loop - 3.1 Miles (5K)
- Raven Stream Loop - 1 Mile
- Foundry Hill Loop - 1.5 Miles
- Southside Loop - 1.53 Miles
- Praha Loop - 1.77 Miles
- Praha Loop Extended - 3.1 Miles (5K)
- Tikalsky Loop - 2.64 Miles

Trail Miles:
Overall - 7.17 Miles

Sidewalk Miles:
Overall - 24.32 Miles

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Current to: May 2013
Prepared by: New Prague Planning Department
Prepared by: J. Ericksen
Prepared on: 5/14/12

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