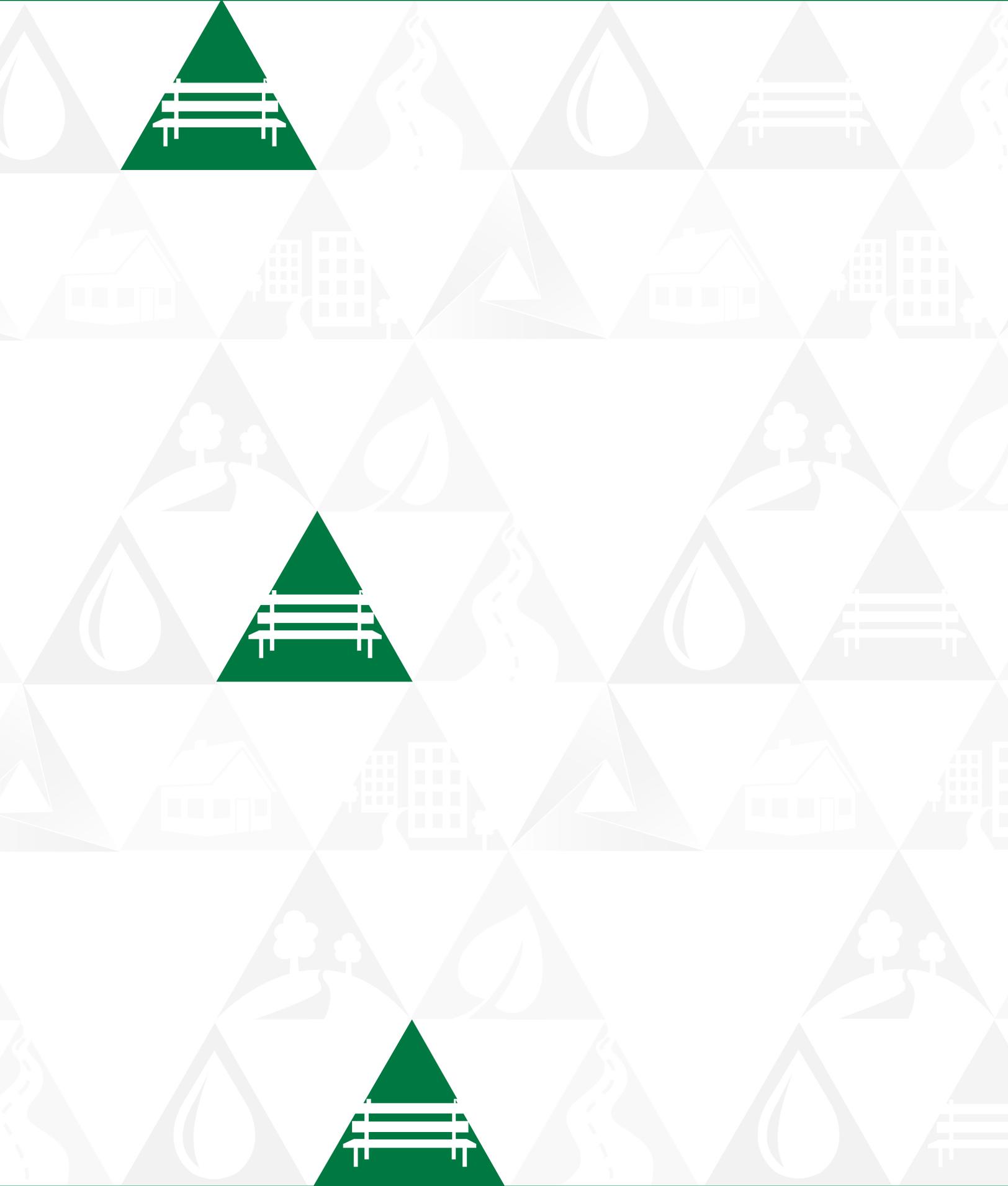


Chapter 6

Parks And Natural Resources

- Introduction
- Key Points
- Background
- Existing Conditions
- Natural Resources Management Plan
- Policy Plan
- Implementation Plan



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Key Points



Golden Valley has a long and rich tradition of celebrating and protecting its parks and open spaces



Changes in demographics and community preferences will require that the park system continue to evolve to remain relevant



Careful management of the City's natural resources can preserve these plant and wildlife habitats and provide quality passive recreation areas for residents



Brookview Golf and Lawn Bowling is an important community asset and should remain a focal point for reinvestment and enhancement



PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

Section 1: Introduction

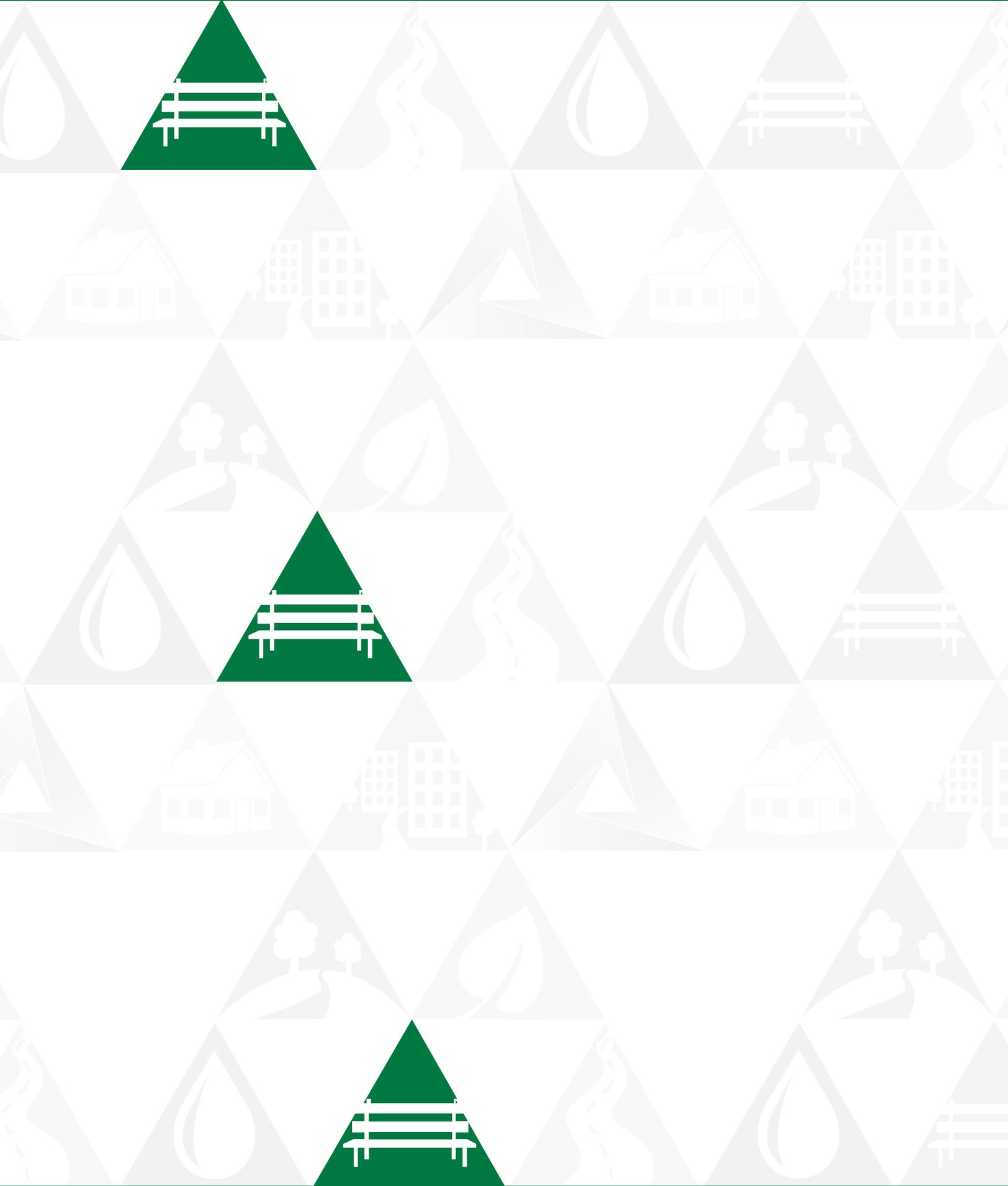
Golden Valley's parks and open spaces are essential recreational and natural resources that preserve certain areas for scenic and utilitarian qualities, support property values, and maintain a positive image for the community's neighborhoods. This chapter includes a plan to guide future park development and open space preservation and enhancement.

Parks and open spaces shape the physical environment of a community in a way that enhances neighborhoods by providing places to play, exercise, relax, and build relationships. They furnish visual contrasts within more densely built-up neighborhoods but also can help shape a neighborhood's identity. Parks provide a measure of relief from the monotony of buildings, industrial areas, parking lots, stores, streets, and other urban features, thus imparting a psychological and physical uplift to their surroundings—a value often difficult to quantify in dollars.

Parks also provide passive wildlife viewing opportunities. By landscaping with native plants and managing exotic plant species, the City can promote ecological biodiversity that helps sustain a healthy habitat for urban wildlife.

Parks and open spaces enhance Golden Valley's quality of life. In addition to contributing to passive and active recreation opportunities for residents, the City's parks and open spaces promote a healthy urban lifestyle by providing connections to bikeways, walkways, and trail systems.

The Parks Plan ensures that City parks and open spaces are continually assessed, maintained, and upgraded to sustain Golden Valley's image as a vibrant and desirable suburban community—a place where people want to live and work.



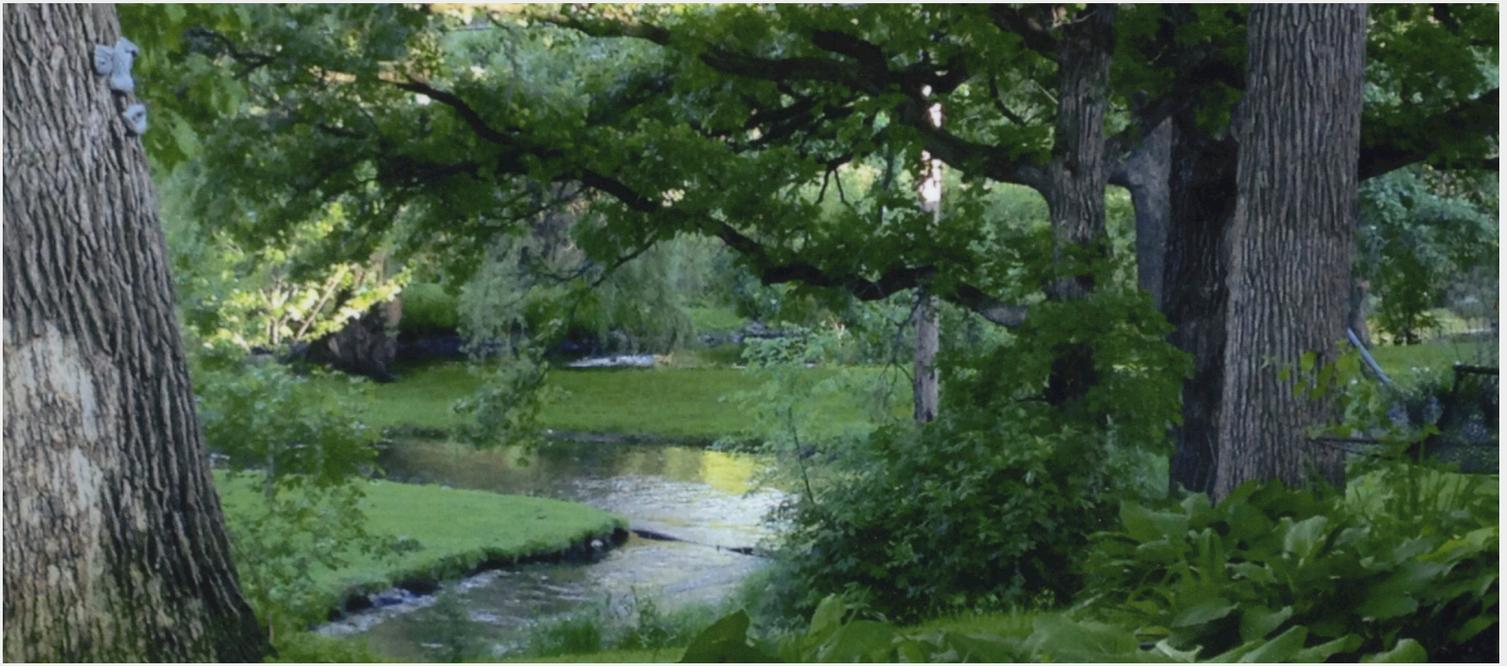


PHOTO BY JAMES VANDERLINDEN, 2016 VIEWS OF THE VALLEY

Section 2: Background

Environmental Context

Watershed

Golden Valley is primarily located within the Bassett Creek Watershed, a basin that exceeds 40 square miles and drains approximately 26,000 acres of land within nine communities. In addition, a small portion of the city south of the I-394 corridor is located within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed. Both watersheds drain into the Mississippi River.

Soils

Several parks, open spaces, and nature areas are in locations where soil conditions are not as conducive to construction, since challenging soil conditions typically increase development costs. Golden Valley soils are predominately of the Hayden-Cordova-Peaty muck and the Hayden-Peaty muck associations. The Hayden-Cordova-Peaty muck association is derived from glacial till and occurs in nearly every level to gently rolling topographic settings. Its soils range from well-drained Cordova soils on hills and knolls to poorly drained peaty soils on swales and flats. The association occurs primarily in the southern half of Golden Valley, including and extending southwards from the Bassett Creek floodplain.

The Hayden-Peaty muck association is also derived from glacial till and occurs in rolling hills and steep topographic areas with poorly drained depressions. Its soils are well-drained where to-

pography is present and poorly drained organic soils where there are depressions. The association occurs in the northern half of the city, north of the Bassett Creek floodplain.

Approximately half the soils in Golden Valley are mapped as Urban Land, which indicates it has been disturbed through cut and fill activities or has been replaced with other material and is not the soil originally formed in that location. Where native soils remain, they tend to be composed of loam (an equal mixture of sands, silts, and clays) or coarser material (sandy loam, loamy sand, and loamy fine sand).

Golden Valley is mostly located within glacial outwash soils associated with the Anoka Sandplain, comprised of well-sorted outwash sediments. The northern and western portions of Golden Valley are found on the glacial deposits of the Pine City moraine with poorly sorted, clay-based till deposits.

Topography

Golden Valley is predominantly characterized by slopes ranging between 2 to 12 percent (see map in Appendix 6B). Steep slopes provide opportunities for open space conservation and wildlife habitat enhancement, as this may be the most suitable land use for areas too steep to be developed. The steepest slopes (18 to 30 percent) occur primarily on the eastern edge of the city, with a larger area concentrated near the northeast corner just north and east of Mary Hills Nature Area. The only area on the west side

of the city with steep slopes is located just south of General Mills Research Nature Area. Typically, areas in Golden Valley with rolling topography and steep hills occur on the moraine and areas with lower relief and flat topography occur on the outwash soils.

Pre-settlement Vegetative Communities

Before European settlement, the dominant vegetation in Golden Valley was native prairie, oak woodlands and savannas, marshes, and floodplain habitats. After settlement and before establishment of the City Charter, the majority of the landscape was open farmland and fields.

Alterations to the natural environment through the development process show the wetlands have been drained and filled. Native plants have been generally replaced with turf grass and non-native plants. This includes buckthorn in woodlands, purple loosestrife and reed canary grass in the wetlands, and garlic mustard in the grasslands.

History Of The Park System

Golden Valley was incorporated in 1886. Like many other Twin Cities suburbs, it was originally an agricultural community of farmers, dairy operators, and millers. With the arrival of the Electric Luce Line railroad, Golden Valley began to develop, increasing in

population from 692 people in 1910 to 2,040 people in 1940. World War II brought continued growth, and the Village of Golden Valley became a City in 1972.

As the livelihoods of residents began evolving away from agriculture, the need for parks and organized recreation became apparent. In response, Golden Valley developed a three-person Park Board in 1948, with Lillian Seeman as president and an operating budget of \$500. The Park Board acquired 26 acres of land for four parks. In 1949, the Village developed Belmont (now Seeman) and Harold (now Lions) Parks by installing play equipment.

By 1954, the Golden Valley park system consisted of six parks: Scheid, Glendale (now Glenview Terrace), Golden Oaks, Papoose (now Stockman), Harold (now Lions), and Belmont (now Seeman).

In 1960, the three-person Park Board evolved into a seven-person Park and Recreation Commission, which hired Golden Valley's first Park and Recreation Director in 1961. By 1963, Golden Valley had 14 parks under development, added tennis courts, and adopted an ordinance regulating the use of parks. In 1968, the Village purchased Brookview Golf Course from a private golf club and began work on turning the golf course and park into a municipal operation for community use. Medley Hills and Lakeview Heights Parks were added to the park system in 1969.



PHOTO FROM CITY ARCHIVES

Beginning in 1970, the Village shifted emphasis from active park acquisition and development to the acquisition and preservation of natural areas within the city. The first acquisition was the Rice Lake area (now part of Sochacki Park). In 1972, the Park and Recreation Commission began evaluating natural and open space areas for possible classification of parks. The 1970s also saw a flurry of development activity due to a successful issuance of bonds that enabled the Park and Recreation Department to complete the park system. This included a total of 19 parks and the beginning of an urban trail system. In 1979, the City Council changed the name of the Park and Recreation Commission to the Open Space and Recreation Commission.

Since the 1970s, the focus of the Open Space and Recreation Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department has been to develop, maintain, and upgrade existing parks, amenities, and special use facilities while continuing to identify and acquire high-quality parkland, open spaces, and nature areas.



PHOTO BY NEIL DAVIES

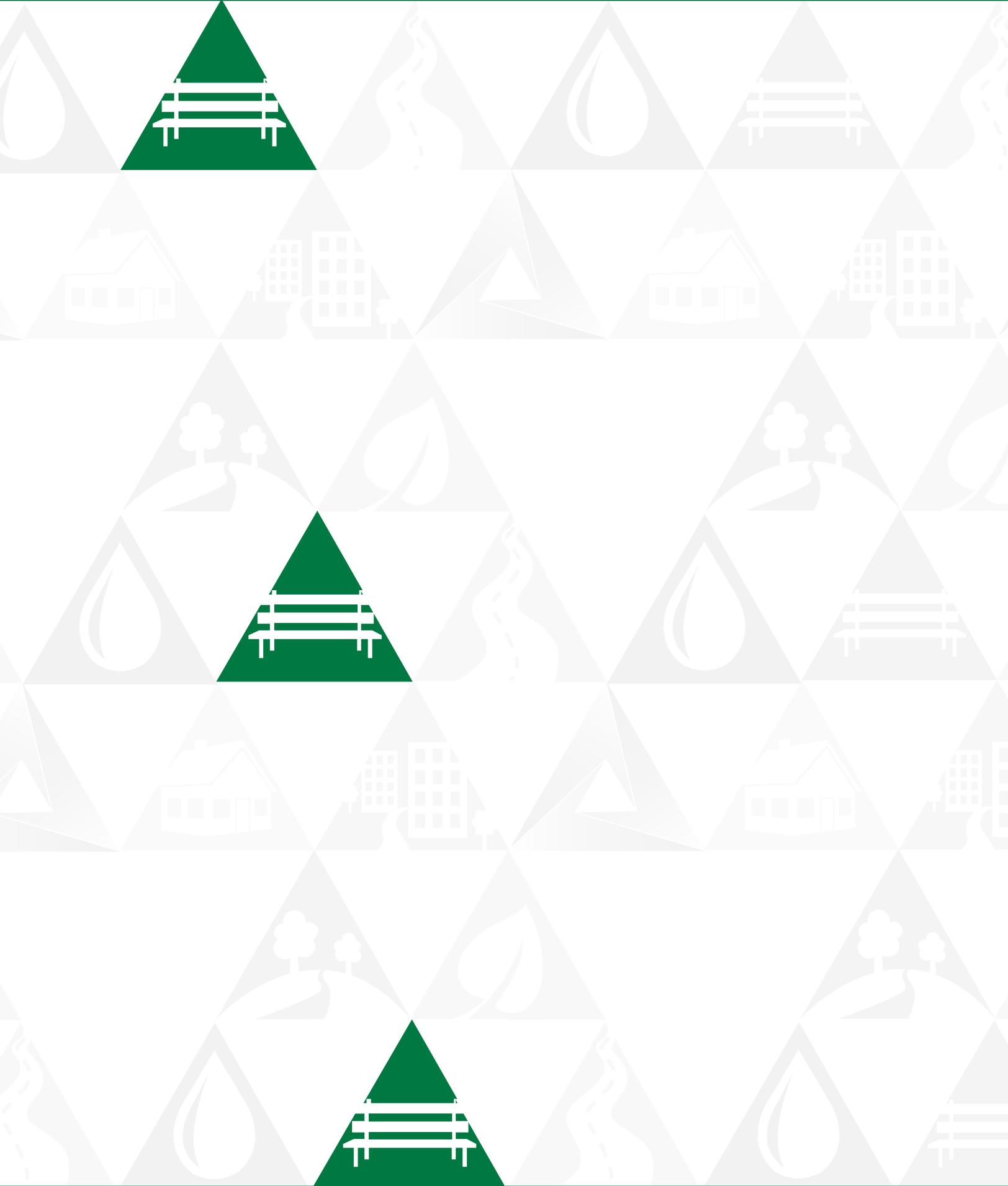




PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

Section 3: Existing Conditions

Current Park And Open Space System

The City of Golden Valley currently owns, operates, partners, and maintains approximately 637 acres of parkland, special use facilities, nature areas, wetlands, ponds, and public open spaces. Of this, 169 acres are in community and neighborhood parks; 228 acres are in nature areas, wetlands/ponds, and open spaces; and 240 acres are dedicated for special use areas. Included as a special use area is the 63-acre Sohacki Park, which is jointly operated and managed by the City of Golden Valley, the City of Robbinsdale, and Three Rivers Park District.

Although Theodore Wirth Regional Park is owned and operated by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, 533 acres of its entire 740 acres are located in Golden Valley.

Current Park Classifications

The City has categorized its public recreation areas to provide for two principle forms of activities—active and passive use in community/special use/neighborhood parks, and generally passive use in nature areas and open spaces. Each park in the system has

been classified based on use opportunities and site amenities. Park areas have been categorized into groups commonly used to identify similar spaces.

Community Parks

Community parks are larger areas that provide for a greater variety of active and passive play experiences and amenities.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are active and passive areas designed for use by children and family groups close to home and offering opportunities for informal recreation and possibly some scheduled activities for all ages.

Special Use Areas

These are areas of variable sizes and locations for which standards are sometimes difficult to formulate and are typically dependent on the specific uses. They could include athletic facilities, lake access, golf course facilities, greenbelts, wetlands, trails, and any other facilities.

Nature Areas/Open Spaces

These areas include public land set aside for passive recreation, preservation of natural resources, and visual aesthetics as well as buffering. They may include trails, greenbelts, dense vegetation, natural scenery, wetlands/ponds/lakes, and other outdoor natural amenities.

Regional Parks

Regional parks are large park areas providing broad expanses of natural scenery and capable of accommodating large numbers of people. They often include special facilities of area-wide interest. A large portion of Theodore Wirth Regional Park lies within Golden Valley.

Park Locations And Acreage

Golden Valley's park system was developed with neighborhoods in mind. Attractive park facilities, including community and neighborhood parks, nature areas, wetlands, ponds, and open spaces are located throughout the city to maximize the number of residents who are near a recreational area.

Table 6.1 describes the City's existing park system. This includes park classification, location, and size. Each facility is shown on the Parks and Open Spaces map (Figure 6.1).

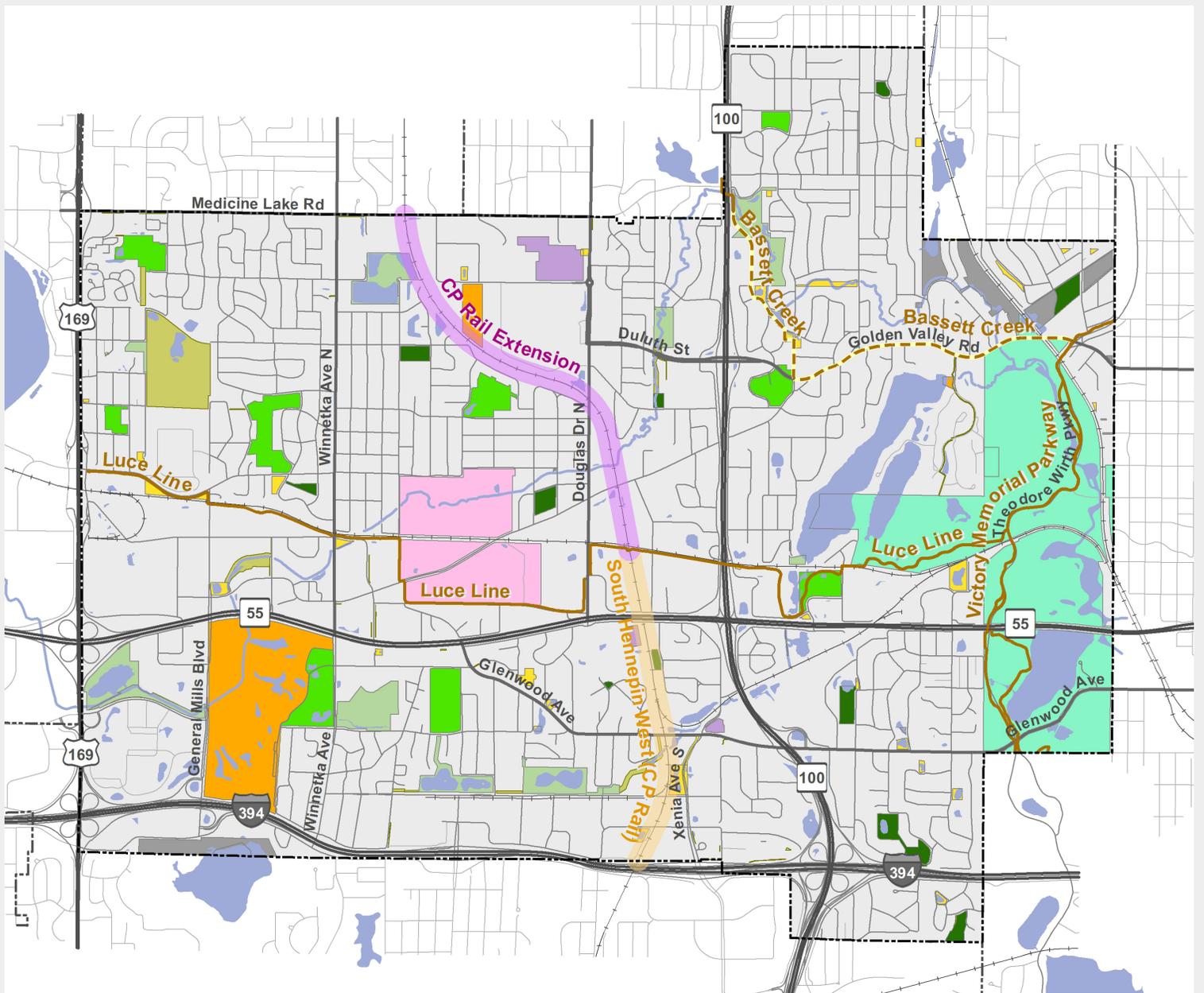
Table 6.1: Existing Parks And Open Spaces

Community Parks		
Park	Location	Acres
Brookview Park	200 Brookview Pkwy N	33.0
Gearly Park	3101 Regent Ave N	4.7
Hampshire Park	1610 Louisiana Ave N	14.0
Lakeview Park	1521 Hillsboro Ave N	5.0
Lions Park	151 Louisiana Ave N	19.0
Medley Park	2331 Ensign Ave N	12.6
Schaper Park	631 Ottawa Ave N	11.3
Scheid Park	1856 Toledo Ave N	10.4
Wesley Park (north and south)	8305 Wesley Dr	19.9
Neighborhood Parks		
Glenview Terrace Park	2351 Zenith Ave N	5.0
Golden Oaks Park	1141 Valdars Ave N	2.0
Natchez Park	201 Natchez Ave N	5.0
North Tyrol Park	900 Westwood Dr S	9.4
Paisley Park	220 Paisley Ln	0.3
Seeman Park	1101 Florida Ave N	4.6
South Tyrol Park	1510 Kaltern Lane	3.6
Stockman Park	3300 Major Ave N	1.5
St Croix Park	5850 St Croix Ave N	1.4
Wildwood Park	7401 Duluth St	4.2
Yosemite Park	351 Yosemite Ave N	1.4
Total		39.0
Regional Parks		
Theodore Wirth Regional Park	1339 Theodore Wirth Pkwy	533

Special Use Facilities		
Park	Location	Acres
Brookview Golf and Lawn Bowling	316 Brookview Pkwy S	143.5
Isaacson Park	7101 Sandburg Rd	11.0
Perpich Center Soccer Field	6125 Olson Memorial Hwy	1.5
Sandburg Athletic Facility	2400 Sandburg Ln	20.0
Sochacki Park	3500 June Ave N	63.1
Sweeney Lake Park	1805 Hidden Lakes Pkwy	0.5
Total		239.6

Nature Areas/Open Space		
Park	Location	Acres
Adeline Nature Area	910 Adeline Ln	1.2
Bassett Creek Nature Area	2130 Zane Ave N	7.6
Briarwood Nature Area	2600 Unity Ave N	20.1
General Mills JFB Nature Area	9145 Earl St	57.0
General Mills Nature Preserve	9201 Olson Memorial Hwy	27.0
Golden Ridge Nature Area	9147 Earl St	2.5
Laurel Ave Greenbelt	7100 Laurel Ave S	33.1
Pennsylvania Woods	2301 Rhode Island Ave N	22.9
Western Ave Marsh	7600 Western Ave	21.6
Additional Open Space/Wetlands	Various	35.1
Total		228.1

Figure 6.1: Parks, Open Spaces, & Regional Trails



Parks, Open Spaces, & Regional Trails

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
|  Community Park |  Open Space |  Existing Regional Trail |
|  Neighborhood Park |  Joint Use Facility |  Planned Regional Trail |
|  Special Use Area |  Non-Golden Valley Park |  Conceptual Regional Trail - Search Corridor |
|  Nature Area or Preserve |  Private Golf Course |  Conceptual Regional Trail - 2040 System Additions |
|  Theodore Wirth Park |  Recreation Easement | |

0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile

Sources: Hennepin County Surveyors Office for Property Lines (2017), City of Golden Valley for all other layers (2017).

Other Parks, Recreation Facilities, And Open Spaces

In addition to City-owned open spaces and parks, Golden Valley residents have access to many other recreational areas and facilities. Theodore Wirth Regional Park (owned and maintained by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board but largely located in Golden Valley) has 533 acres in Golden Valley. The private Golden Valley Country Club comprises 149 acres of golf course and open space just east of the downtown.

Other spaces and facilities are available due to the City's agreements and partnerships with General Mills, Independent School District #270 (Hopkins), Independent School District #281 (Robbinsdale), and the Perpich Center for Arts Education. The City also has cooperative agreements with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Hidden Lakes Homeowners Association, Three Rivers Park District, and the City of Robbinsdale.

Park And Open Space Amenities

The Parks, Open Spaces, & Regional Trails map (Figure 6.1) illustrates the location of all parks, nature areas, and open spaces in the city by classification. The Park Amenity Information matrix in Table 6.2 details the facilities and amenities within each Golden Valley park, nature area, or open space.

Recreational Trails

Golden Valley residents have identified walking and bicycling as

two important and beneficial recreational activities. As the population continues to age and becomes increasingly aware of the health and social benefits of an active lifestyle, there will be an ever-increasing interest in pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Trails also provide a means of connecting with neighbors. Having a trail system that links neighborhoods with parks, schools, the Brookview Recreation Area, and other community amenities will provide for a walkable, pedestrian-friendly community.

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Trails also provide a means of connecting with neighbors. Having a trail system that links neighborhoods with parks, schools, the Brookview Recreation Area, and other community amenities will provide for a walkable, pedestrian-friendly community. Three Regional Trails pass through Golden Valley—the Luce Line, Victory Memorial Parkway, and Bassett Creek (planned). Two other Regional Trail Search Corridors are located in the central portion of the city—the CP Rail Extension and the South Hennepin West (CP Rail) corridors.

The Transportation Plan provides a robust bicycle and pedestrian component that outlines the process for building out Golden Valley's bicycle and pedestrian network.



PHOTO BY SIERRA TWESTEN, 2010 VIEWS OF THE VALLEY

Table 6.2: Golden Valley Park Amenity Information

	AMENITIES																						
	Play Equipment	Picnic/Sun Shelter	Recreation Building*	Walkways/Trails	Grills	Water Feature	Canoe Launch	Off-Leash Area	Community Garden	Lawn Bowling Green	Pickleball Court	Volleyball Court	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	T-Ball Field	Youth Baseball Field	Softball Field	Adult Baseball Field	Soccer Field	General Skating	Hockey Rink	Sliding Hill	
PARKS/SPECIAL USE AREAS																							
Brookview Park	X	3	X	L	X	X						X	2/4L	X									
Brookview Golf and Lawn Bowling			X							X													
Gearty Park	X		X	X				X					1L	X			1			L	L		
Glenview Terrace Park	X			X																			
Golden Oaks Park	X			X										X									X
Hampshire Park	X		X	L										X			2		1F	L	L		
Isaacson Park				X												3							
Lakeview Park	X		X	L										X	1								
Lions Park	X		X	L	X								2	X			4		2F	L	L		
Medley Park	X		X	L				X					3L	X			1			L	L		
Natchez Park	X			L										X			1						
North Tyrol Park	X													X	1					X			
Paisley Park				X																			
Perpich Center for Arts Soccer Field																				1			
Sandburg Athletic Facility		X																2	4-8				
St Croix Park	X			X																			
Schaper Park	X		X	X											1		2L						
Scheid Park	X		X	L									2L	X		1	1	1	1F	L	L	X	
Seeman Park	X			X									2	X		1							
Sochacki Park		X		X																			
South Tyrol Park	X			X										X	1						L		
Stockman Park	X	X												X			1						
Sweeney Lake Park		X						X															
Theodore Wirth Park (Mpls Park & Rec Board)	X	X	X	X				X	X														X
Wesley Park	X		X	L									3L	X			3	1	1/2F	L	L	X	
Wildwood Park	X	X		X							6			X			X						X
Yosemite Park	X			X										X	1						L		
NATURE AREAS																							
Adeline Nature Area				X			X																
Bassett Creek Nature Area				X																			
Briarwood Nature Area				X																			
General Mills JFB Nature Area				X																			
General Mills Nature Preserve				X																			
Golden Ridge Nature Area				X																			
Laurel Avenue Greenbelt				X																			
Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area				X																			
Western Avenue Marsh				X																			

L = Lights

F = Fall Use Only

* Recreation Building restrooms are open seasonally.

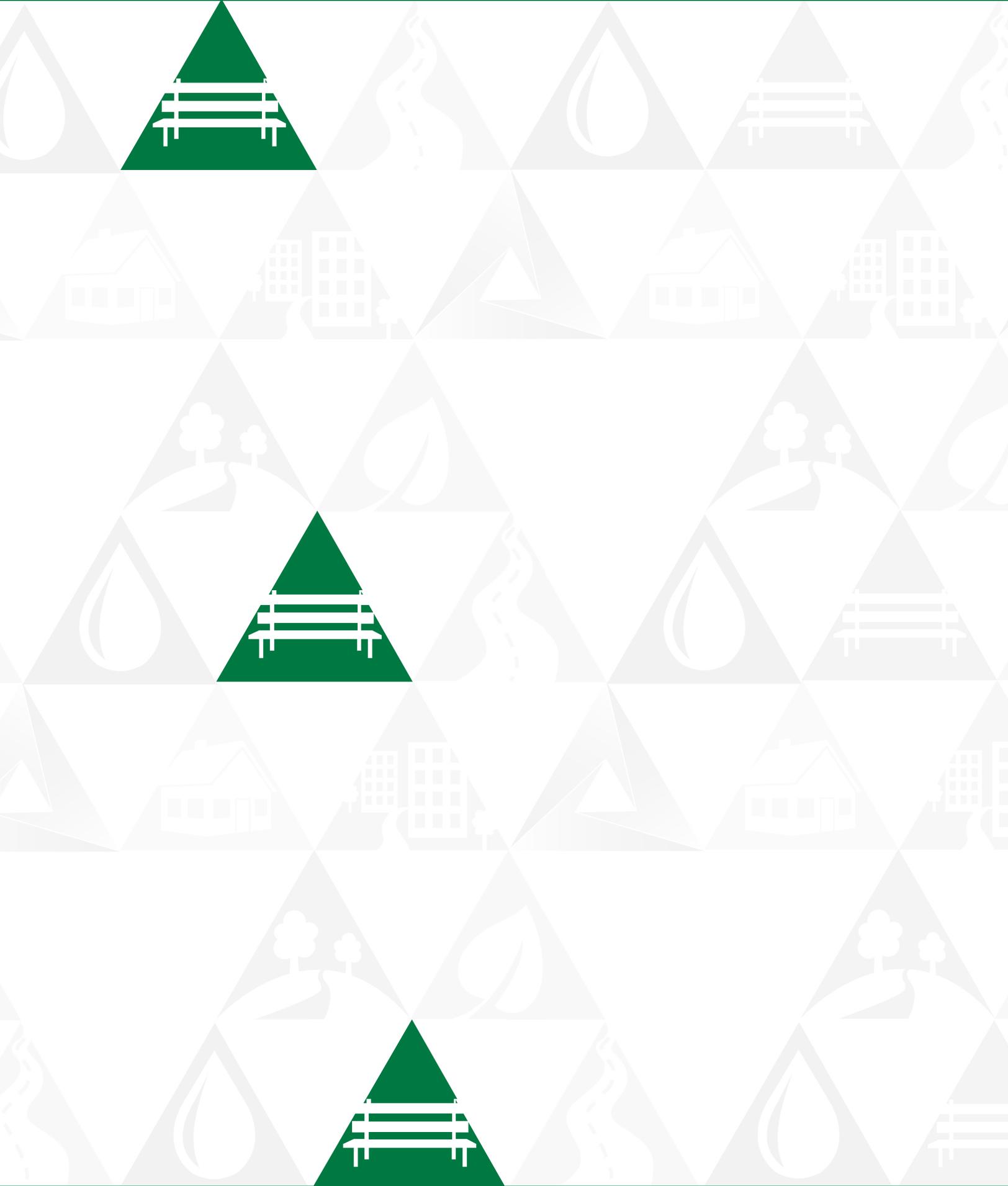




PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

Section 4: Natural Resources Management Plan

Following an update of its natural resources inventory and a considerable public participation effort, the City adopted a Natural Resources Management Plan in 2015. The plan presents a vision for the management of Golden Valley's natural resources and a framework for community action and investment.

The purpose of the plan is to guide decision makers and staff on how to best manage Golden Valley's natural resources based on the community's vision, goals, objectives, and policies. It will help determine which actions should be taken to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the City's nature areas and open spaces.

The management strategies in the plan can be applied to natural areas within active parks and private properties as well. City staff, City Council, and City Commissions will use the plan to help establish priorities, annual work plans, budgets, and capital improvement plans for projects and initiatives.

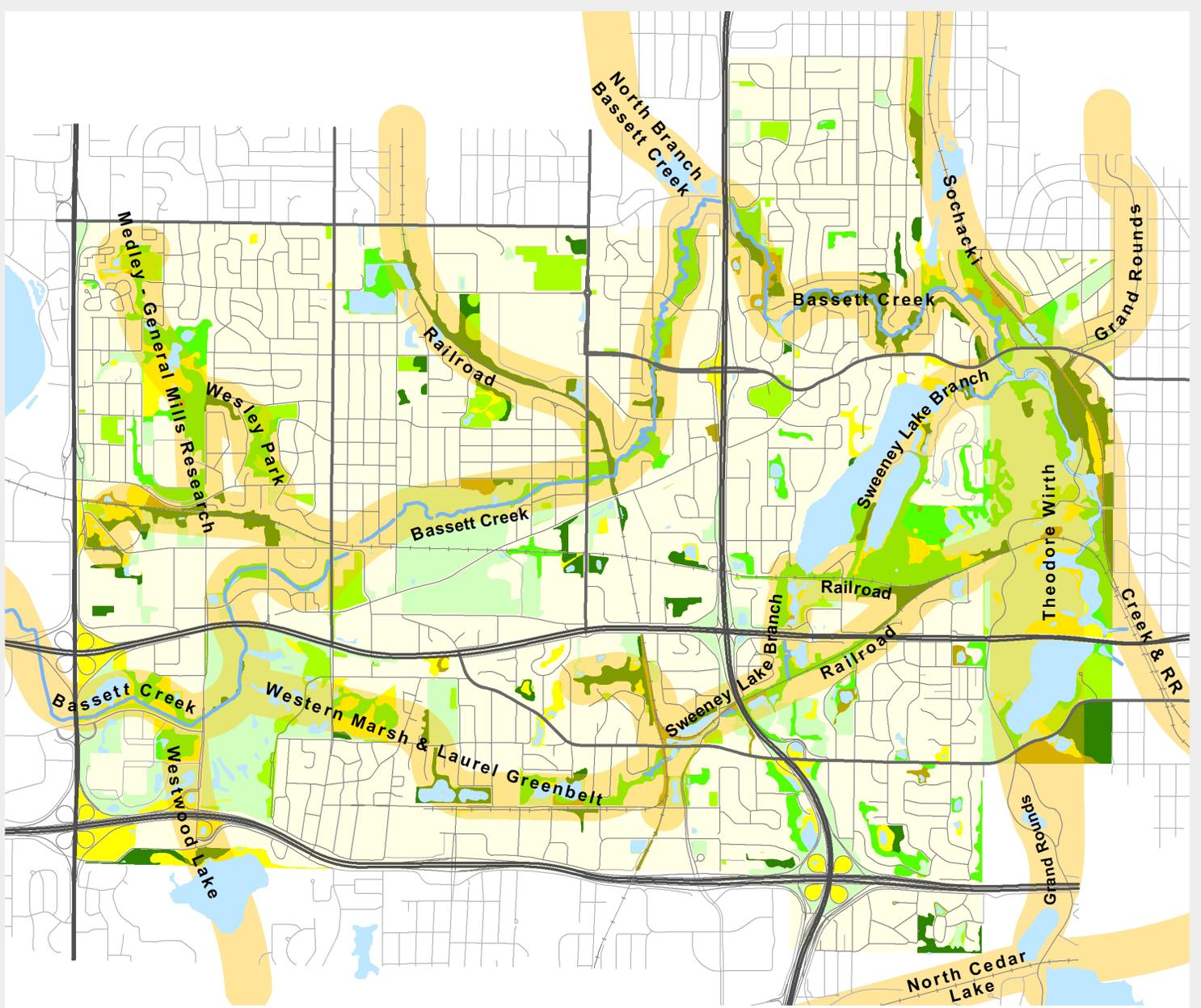
The main points of the Natural Resources Management Plan are summarized within Goal 3 later in this chapter, and the entire plan is included in Appendix 6B.

Green Corridors

When land cover types are overlaid atop an existing land use map, it becomes evident that many natural, or "green," corridors have emerged as the City developed. These green corridors tend to follow streams, floodplains, railroads, and large tracts of public and private land and provide many opportunities for humans, wildlife, and plants to connect and move throughout the community.

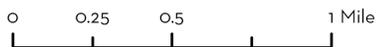
The green corridors are a patchwork of public and private lands, and the various land covers within these undeveloped spaces play an important role in providing critical habitat, protecting larger ecosystems, and providing recreational opportunities. Figure 6.2 shows the green corridors present in Golden Valley, which are an important asset to the community.

Figure 6.2: Green Corridors Map



Green Corridors

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Corridor |  Cultural Vegetation |  Woodland |
|  Public Property |  Herbaceous |  Forests |
|  Shrubland |  Open Water | |



Sources: Hennepin County Surveyors Office for Property Lines (2017), City of Golden Valley for all other layers (2017).



PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

Section 5: Policy Plan

The Policy Plan includes a set of long-term goals and objectives that will be fulfilled through specific actions and policy decisions. This long-range document expresses the values of the community and establishes a vision. It provides direction and guidance for the future of the City in terms of policymaking, improvements, programs, investments, priorities, and work plans. It can be used for decision-making purposes by elected officials, commissions, boards, staff, and other interested members of the community. The Policy Plan is updated every 10 years based on new data and community feedback as required by Minnesota law.

Golden Valley recognizes the importance of parks, open spaces, nature areas, and recreational facilities to the community's overall health, vitality, and appeal. To plan for the future of its park system, the City developed vision and mission statements that

articulate the Parks and Recreation Department's purpose and goals. The goals, objectives, and strategies that follow describe a long-term plan toward addressing key community issues that reflect the City's intentions to achieve each of the stated outcomes.

Vision Statement

The City of Golden Valley shall nurture places, events, and associations that promote recreation as a focal point of family and community life.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Golden Valley Parks and Recreation Department is to build community through people, parks, and programs.

The Parks and Open Space Plan guides future development of Golden Valley's parks and recreation system. It is based on an evaluation of existing conditions and park classifications, planned improvements, community input, and projected future needs based on anticipated development and population growth.

GOAL 1

Preserve Parks And Acquire Additional Land

Parks, open spaces, nature areas, and recreational facilities are important to the community's overall health, vitality, and appeal.

Objectives

1. Provide and maintain parks and scenic areas for community enjoyment and recreation activities
 - 1.1 Provide direction, coordination, and cooperation with adjacent communities, school districts, Three Rivers Park District, the State of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, and other related agencies, both public and private, for facility usage, park planning, programming, and development efforts
 - 1.2 Maintain a no net-loss of acreage for parks, open space, and nature areas owned and operated by the City, using a baseline of 480 acres
2. Develop appropriate park and recreation areas and facilities to serve existing and future community needs
 - 2.1 Pursue grants from local, regional, state, and federal agencies and explore possible corporate partnerships in order to obtain funding assistance for park and recreation planning, administration, acquisition, physical development, and programming efforts
 - 2.2 Provide special use recreational facilities for diverse community use
 - 2.3 Maintain excellent internal park trails that provide connectivity and access within each park area to park amenities and citywide sidewalks and trails
 - 2.4 Provide insight and direction for the citywide trail and sidewalk plan
 - 2.5 Develop a plan to eliminate physical barriers in all park areas to meet the recreational needs of all residents
 - 2.6 Stay connected to the community for flexibility and responsive collaboration
3. Implement an excellent maintenance system that maximizes the available resources and provides for high-quality parks and facilities
 - 3.1 Preserve and enhance parks and open space areas in accordance with the City of Golden Valley Capital Improvement Plan
 - 3.2 Maintain, update, replace, and add athletic facilities to meet community recreation needs
 - 3.3 Seek all reasonable opportunities to plan, procure, develop, and maintain parks and recreation resources
4. Pursue and acquire additional land for open space, parks, and trails
 - 4.1 Acquire and develop land or expand existing land for parks where it is deemed beneficial
 - 4.2 Pursue the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks in order for each neighborhood to be adequately served with appropriate recreational facilities
 - 4.3 Expand connections between existing open spaces and parks



PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

GOAL 2

Deliver Recreation And Education Opportunities

Lifelong learning and active lifestyles are vital aspects of a vibrant community.

Objectives

1. Provide recreational and educational opportunities that meet the needs of the community, including all age groups and ability levels
 - 1.1 Cooperate with the school districts in promoting community use of facilities
 - 1.2 Collaborate with non-profit organizations and other agencies to provide adaptive recreational and educational opportunities for the community
 - 1.3 Promote social equity for those under-served in our community by eliminating barriers and providing access to programs, facilities, places, and spaces in our park system
 - 1.4 Support and partner with youth athletic organizations
 - 1.5 Cooperate with public and private entities to provide recreational and educational opportunities
 - 1.6 Develop program budget priorities that help ensure quality recreational and educational opportunities
2. Deliver a variety of recreational, educational, and athletic programs and events that are responsive to the changing needs and interests of the community
 - 2.1 Encourage and provide entrepreneurial recreation and educational program activities
 - 2.2 Monitor user satisfaction and solicit new program ideas
 - 2.3 Encourage and enable programs and classes that are provided by other agencies and groups
 - 2.4 Partner with corporate residents to provide recreational opportunities for employees
 - 2.5 Recruit and use seasonal and part-time employees and volunteers to help implement the City's recreational programs and events
3. Create and maintain an environment supportive of active low-impact and passive recreational living by providing opportunities to people who live, work, and play in the city
 - 3.1 Recognize and protect passive recreation and active low-impact opportunities, including activities such



PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

- as walking, wildlife-watching, botanizing, meditating outdoors, and other non-athletic endeavors
4. Support, promote, and incorporate public art throughout the park system and within educational and recreational opportunities
 - 4.1 Explore opportunities to incorporate public art into community parks and recreation facilities

GOAL 3

Protect And Enhance Open Spaces And Natural Resources

High-quality natural areas provide healthy wildlife habitats, nature-oriented recreation, educational experiences, and enhanced quality of life for residents.

Objectives

1. Partner with the Environmental Commission to protect, manage, preserve, enhance, and develop natural resources within the city and implement the Natural Resource Management Plan
 - 1.1 Connect people to the benefits of nature and the outdoors by protecting natural resources and open spaces
 - 1.2 Review development proposals for conformance with ordinances regarding tree preservation, water quality, wetland protection and mitigation, and shoreland protection
 - 1.3 Work with developers to provide permanent open space and park areas in development plans
 - 1.4 Protect parks and open space areas from unnecessary encroachment or destruction from neighboring properties
 - 1.5 Use site planning, construction, and maintenance techniques on public park lands to minimize negative impacts on the natural environment
 - 1.6 Seek opportunities to acquire properties to add to the City's inventory of natural resource-based open space
 - 1.7 Use best management practices to improve the effectiveness of natural resource management
 - 1.8 Protect and preserve endangered and threatened species and their natural habitats
2. Protect the City's natural resources and ecosystem through community involvement, education, and adaptive management.
 - 2.1 Educate and work with private property owners and renters on protecting and maintaining natural resources on their property
 - 2.2 Work with private property owners and developers to encourage reforestation and preservation of significant vegetation
 - 2.3 Expand environmental education programs with partnerships in schools and in the community
 - 2.4 Foster partnerships and inter-governmental cooperation
3. Increase passive recreational opportunities of existing natural resources through park land enhancement
 - 3.1 Continue to inventory, analyze, and manage natural resources within the city
 - 3.2 Provide, maintain, search for, and develop public access to parks and water bodies
 - 3.3 Maintain and develop natural corridors to foster ecosystem continuity and connections to parks and open space
 - 3.4 Protect natural areas devoted to passive recreation



PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY



Grow Brookview Golf And Lawn Bowling

The Brookview Recreation Area is a key asset to the park system, and the opportunities provided to residents through Brookview Golf and Lawn Bowling are unique and worthy of continued investment.

Objectives

1. Provide a full-service public golf facility, including an 18-hole regulation course, 9-hole par three course, driving range, lawn bowling green, practice areas for warm-up, bar and grill, golf shop, and all other associated amenities
 - 1.1 Provide high quality golfing opportunities for the public
 - 1.2 Implement safety shelters throughout the golf course area for use by golfers during inclement weather
2. Maintain, evaluate, and improve golf course and lawn bowling infrastructure and amenities to provide excellent facilities for the public
 - 2.1 Replace aging infrastructure on Brookview Golf Course, including the irrigation system, bridges, cart paths, tee boxes, greens, signage, on-site buildings, and pond areas
 - 2.2 Update and maintain golf course mechanical equipment to ensure proper maintenance
 - 2.3 Develop systematic plans for the replacement of patron use equipment, such as power carts, pull carts, tables, chairs, benches, locker room amenities, technology, and event equipment
 - 2.4 Update golf maintenance building and infrastructure to employ all environmentally appropriate practices associated with golf operations
 - 2.5 Maintain and improve the lawn bowling green to consistently provide an excellent facility for recreation, league, and rental play
3. Continue to explore new community activities that align with recreation opportunities provided through golf operations
 - 3.1 Continue to invest in winter recreation activities throughout the golf course property, including, but not limited to, multi-use snow trails, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring, fat bikes, and winter disc golf
4. Develop new opportunities to produce a broad revenue base to sustain Brookview Golf Course and Lawn Bowling
 - 4.1 Constantly evaluate management systems, technology, and staffing efficiencies to keep expenses at appropriate levels
 - 4.2 Grow private relationships, partner resources, and expand marketing initiatives to increase customer base and maximize facility potential



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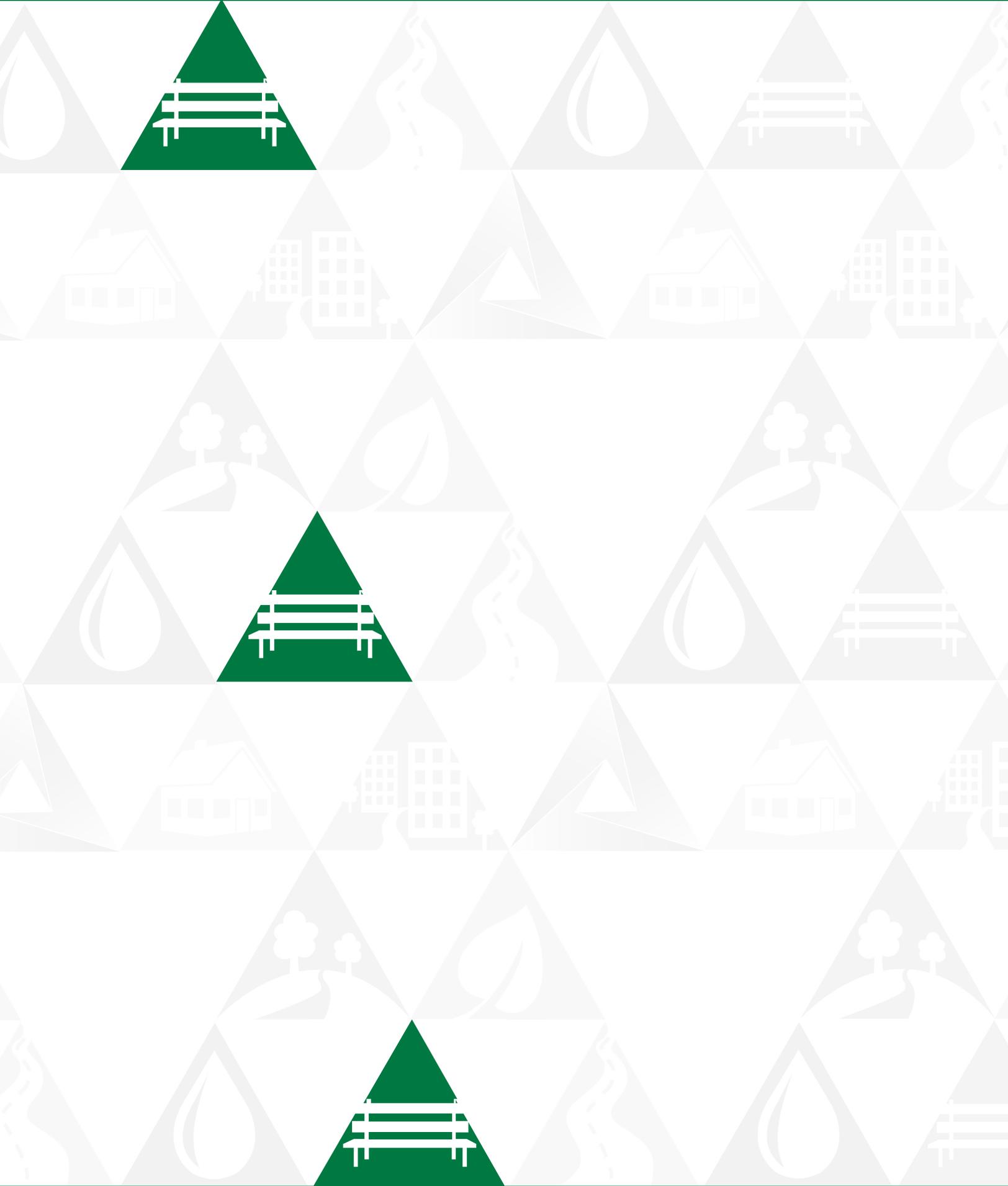




PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

Section 6: Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan includes a set of specific actions to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in the Policy Plan. It differs from the Policy Plan in that it provides the opportunity to easily measure progress and note tangible outcomes from each task. Each task provides an approximate cost estimate for the work and notes a time frame in which the specific action should take place. Tasks are prioritized based on financial feasibility, staff capacity, importance or urgency for action, and other factors. The Implementation Plan is updated every five years (mid-cycle of the 10-year Policy Plan) based on progress and new opportunities.

Although Golden Valley is a fully developed community with a well-established park system, improvements are expected to continue. There will be a focus on enhancing facilities, exploring the potential for new facilities, expanding recreation programs, expanding the sidewalk and trail system, planting native landscaping, and using sustainable maintenance approaches.

The following actions further Golden Valley's vision for the future of recreation, parks, and open space. This list was developed using information collected through public input, the Open Space and Recreation Commission, the Environmental Commission, the City Council, and professional assessment. Successful completion of these actions will depend on the fiscal and political climate in any given year. It is important that the City monitor, review, and prioritize the objectives annually prior to the budgeting process.

Specific improvements to parks, nature areas, and open spaces, are included in Appendix 6B.

GOAL 1

Preserve Parks and Acquire Additional Land

The City must continue to maintain the existing park system through routine planned maintenance of facilities and infrastructure, while also evaluating current facility use and attempting to plan for and adapt to changes in demand due to shifts in demographics or broader community trends. Unmet needs, in terms of additions to the park system, should be documented so opportunities can be realized as they arise.

Implementation Actions:

- **Support the Parks Department through capital reinvestment.**

Replace aging infrastructure throughout the park system, such as:

- non-compliant field bleachers
- park signage
- scoreboards
- playground structures

- **Update and/or upgrade facilities** to better serve the needs of athletes, athletic teams, and the wider community, including:

- ballfield backstops, dugouts, and field fencing
- park buildings (ADA compliance, windows, bathrooms, lighting, HVAC, flooring, etc)
- internal park trails
- outdoor facilities (ADA compliance)
- drainage issues in park areas

- **Implement plan to reconstruct athletic facilities.**

- **Support the Parks Department through technology upgrades.**

Replace all outdoor park lighting (fields, courts, trails, rinks, parking areas) with energy efficient LED systems.

- **Support the Parks Department through efficient facility use.**

Review park facilities and evaluate current use versus unmet need in order to make adjustments based on changing demographics and community preferences, such as:

- adding off-leash pet exercise areas
- adding community gardens
- considering small additions to Wesley, Scheid, and Lions Park shelter buildings for expanded community use
- reducing the number of tennis courts
- programming the unused portion of Isaacson Park
- evaluating parking at Scheid Park
- reducing asphalt in park areas whenever appropriate
- shifting to a regional approach of multiple courts in fewer locations
- evaluating additional park amenity options

- **Develop partnerships to expand recreation amenities.** Implement a five-year Capital Improvement Plan with Sochacki Park JPA partners for park areas not used during LRT construction.

- **Evaluate opportunities to secure properties and easements that add to or improve park locations, such as:**

- private property lots and easements in park locations where additional land/access would benefit park improvements and expansion (Lakeview, South Wesley, and Schaper Parks)
- land for a new neighborhood park in the southeast corner of the city



CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY PHOTO

GOAL 2

Deliver Recreation And Education Opportunities

A more diverse population in Golden Valley demonstrates a need for a wider variety of recreation and education programs, classes, and events. In order to provide high quality services, the City should continue to evaluate existing programs for efficiency and relevance, expand current efforts where additional needs are warranted, develop new initiatives that respond to demand, and anticipate future trends.

Implementation Actions:

- **Evaluate existing recreation and education programs** to ensure efficient service delivery and access for all.
 - Monitor outdoor ice rink attendance for future decisions on staffed park locations.
 - Monitor community athletic facility use to provide future direction on amenity reinvestment.
- **Enhance and expand programs and events to reach a greater population.** Continue to expand existing programs to provide opportunities for all ages and a wide variety of interests.
 - Grow all-day summer and school break youth opportunities to meet the needs of families in Golden Valley.
 - Expand adult athletic league options as trends change and facilities grow.
 - Continue to grow and promote healthy-lifestyle, low-impact active opportunities.
 - Continue to grow and promote healthy-lifestyle, low-impact passive opportunities.
- **Explore and develop new opportunities.** Develop new recreation and education programs that will meet the needs of a diverse population. Recognize opportunities to partner and collaborate on new initiatives.
 - Grow the mobile playground program to meet the needs of the changing demographics in Golden Valley neighborhoods.
 - Stay current with recreation trends to deliver timely opportunities to residents.
 - Work with Sochacki Park JPA partners to implement year-round outdoor recreation and education programs, classes, and events at Sochacki Park.
 - Expand opportunities at Brookview, including public art, cooking classes, and entertainment.
 - Develop a more diverse group of recreation options for the aging Baby Boomer generation.
 - Expand recreation programs, classes, and events at neighborhood locations in conjunction with the park shelter building improvements.
 - Partner with community organizations to begin implementing public art in public facilities and parks throughout the community.
 - Work with the Golden Valley private and non-profit sector to include public art as a core value when considering improvements.



PHOTO BY CITY OF GOLDEN VALLEY

GOAL 3

Protect And Enhance Open Spaces And Natural Resources

With the Natural Resource Management Plan serving as a guide for the adaptive management of natural resources on public and private lands in Golden Valley, and limited funding available for investment in natural resources, the City must continue to look for opportunities to inform and engage the community, partner with other entities, and identify grants and other revenue streams to complete implementation actions. To effectively preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the community's open spaces and natural resources, the City must continue to monitor its natural resources and evaluate and prioritize its strategies and action items. In addition to the actions below, specific Natural Resource and Amenity Improvement action items can be found in the Natural Resource Management Plan.

Implementation Actions:

- **Address encroachment issues** through education, identification, and boundary demarcation.
- **Market and brand the City's nature areas and open spaces and distinguish them from parks.**
- **Use or specify native plant materials in projects on City property.**
- **Expand certain nature areas** through agreements, easements, or acquisition as opportunities arise.
- **Develop a communications/education plan** and deliver using various media.
- **Further develop the City's volunteer program**, including public outreach and citizen participation.
- **Design and install signage** (entrance, general wayfinding, and educational) in nature areas and open spaces.
- **Proactively identify and treat diseased and insect-infested trees** in a timely manner through implementation of the City's shade tree disease program.
- **Continue to regulate/enforce natural resource-related laws, codes, and policies.**
- **Develop a maintenance schedule and set of best management practices/procedures for nature areas and opens spaces.**
- **Complete the specific Natural Resource and Amenity Improvement action items** listed in the Natural Resource Management Plan.



PHOTO BY CHARLES LUDWIG, 2017 VIEWS OF THE VALLEY



Grow Brookview Golf And Lawn Bowling

With significant new investment at Brookview and all of the active and passive opportunities it supports, the City must continue to maintain and improve the golf course, buildings, and equipment, as well as develop long-term plans for reinvestment and reconstruction. In addition, new revenue streams that provide fiscal diversity, such as off-season activities that complement the existing golf operations, should continue to be explored.

Implementation Actions:

- **Update and improve infrastructure of existing golf and lawn bowling operations.** Continue to invest in replacing or upgrading various aspects of the golf course, driving range, buildings, and equipment, and develop plans for long-range reconstruction of the tee boxes and greens.
 - Replace all golf and lawn bowling outdoor signage.
 - Update/replace all golf and lawn bowling maintenance equipment.
 - Replace irrigation system.
 - Address golf course flooding, including at hole #14.
 - Update/reconstruct bunkers on a regular schedule.
 - Reassess future of driving range building.
 - Update golf maintenance building to implement all environmentally appropriate practices for golf course management.
 - Construct additional sun/storm shelters on golf course.
 - Increase pollinator plants in and around golf course.
 - Develop and implement a goose management plan.
 - Develop tee box reconstruction plan/schedule.
 - Develop green reconstruction plan/schedule.
- **Develop new and improved revenue streams to diversify the financial base.** Explore additional activities that complement golf operations to continue to draw residents. Enhance marketing and expand current programs.
 - Extend golf course and driving range season into the late fall/early winter.
 - Grow lawn bowling leagues and promote recreational play for all ages.
 - Continue to grow winter recreation opportunities on the golf course.
 - Expand youth golf programs and opportunities.
 - Expand year-round site opportunities for more use by residents.

Implementation Plan Funding

People like to be near well-maintained parks and ecologically diverse open spaces. Understanding the intrinsic and monetary value and benefits that parks and open space provide a community is key to securing funding to purchase land as well as construct, operate, and maintain a high quality park system. Making a commitment to providing for a park system based on high standards will benefit the residents and maintain property values.

The additions and improvements recommended in this plan will depend on a commitment by City leaders and residents, the availability of resources, and opportunities for funding and various types of partnerships.

Funding for park improvements and development are addressed as part of an annual budgeting process and may come from a variety of sources, including:

- general funds
- local, state, and federal grants
- bond referenda
- park dedication fees
- fiscal partnerships
- private donations

Summary Of Implementation Actions

Action	Relative Cost	Time Frame
Preserve Parks And Acquire Additional Land		
Capital Reinvestment		
Replace aging infrastructure (bleachers, signage, scoreboards, etc) throughout the park system	\$\$	0-5 years
Update and/or upgrade facilities to serve the needs of athletes, athletic teams, and the wider community	\$\$\$	Ongoing
Implement plan to upgrade internal park trails	\$\$\$	Ongoing
Implement plan to reconstruct athletic facilities	\$\$\$	Ongoing
Technology Upgrades		
Replace outdoor park lighting with energy efficient LED systems	\$\$\$	Ongoing
Efficient Facility Use		
Add off-leash pet exercise areas	\$\$	0-5 years
Add community gardens	\$\$	0-5 years
Consider small additions to Wesley, Scheid, and Lions Park shelter buildings for expanded community use	\$\$\$	5-10 years
Program the unused portion of Isaacson Park	\$	5-10 years
Expand parking at Scheid Park	\$\$	10-20 years
Reduce asphalt in park areas whenever appropriate	\$	Ongoing
Shift to a regional approach of multiple tennis courts at fewer locations	\$\$\$	5-10 years
Evaluate additional park amenity options	\$\$\$	10-20 years
Partnerships To Expand Amenities		
Implement a five-year Capital Improvement Plan with Sochacki Park JPA partners for park areas used during LRT construction	\$	0-5 years
Expansion Of Park System		
Evaluate opportunities to secure private properties and easements that add to or improve park locations	\$\$\$	Ongoing
Secure land for a new neighborhood park in the southeast corner of the city	\$\$\$	10-20 years
Deliver Recreation And Education Opportunities		
Evaluate Programs		
Monitor outdoor ice rink attendance for future decisions on staffed park locations	\$	0-5 years
Enhance Programs		
Grow all-day summer and school break youth opportunities to meet the needs of families in Golden Valley	\$	0-5 years
Continue to grow and promote healthy-lifestyle, low-impact active opportunities	\$	Ongoing
Continue to grow and promote healthy-lifestyle, low-impact passive opportunities	\$	Ongoing
Expand adult athletic league options as trends change and facilities grow	\$	Ongoing
Explore New Opportunities		
Grow mobile playground program to meet the needs of the changing demographics in Golden Valley neighborhoods	\$	Ongoing
Work with Sochacki Park JPA partners to implement year-round outdoor recreation and education programs, classes, and events at Sochacki Park	\$	Ongoing
Expand opportunities at Brookview, including public art, cooking classes, and entertainment	\$	Ongoing
Develop a more diverse group of recreation options for the aging Baby Boomer generation	\$	Ongoing
Expand recreation programs, classes, and events at neighborhood locations in conjunction with the park shelter building improvements	\$	5-10 years

continued on pg 32

Summary Of Implementation Actions (cont'd)

Action	Relative Cost	Time Frame
Protect And Enhance Open Spaces And Natural Resources		
Address encroachment issues through education, identification, and boundary demarcation	\$\$	0-5 years
Market and brand the City's nature areas and open spaces and distinguish them from parks	\$	5-10 years
Use or specify native plant material in project on City property	\$	Ongoing
Expand certain nature areas through agreement, easement, or acquisition as opportunities arise	\$\$	5-10 years
Develop a communications/education plan with topics and schedule, and deliver using various media	\$	0-5 years
Further develop the City's volunteer program, including public outreach and citizen participation	\$\$	5-10 years
Design and install signage (entrance, general wayfinding, and educational) in nature areas and open spaces	\$\$\$	5-10 years
Continue to regulate/enforce natural resource-related laws, codes, and policies	\$	Ongoing
Develop a maintenance schedule and set of best management practices/procedures for nature areas and opens spaces	\$	0-5 years
Complete the specific Natural Resource and Amenity Improvements listed in the Natural Resource Management Plan in Appendix 6B	\$\$\$	Ongoing
Grow Brookview Golf And Lawn Bowling		
Improved Golf And Lawn Bowling Infrastructure		
Replace all golf and lawn bowling outdoor signage	\$\$	0-5 years
Update/replace all golf and lawn bowling maintenance equipment	\$\$\$	Ongoing
Construct additional sun/storm shelters on golf course	\$\$	0-5 years
Increase pollinator plants in and around golf course	\$	Ongoing
Replace irrigation system	\$\$\$\$	10-20 years
Address golf course flooding, including at hole #14	\$\$\$	5-10 years
Update/reconstruct bunkers on a regular schedule	\$\$	Ongoing
Reassess future of driving range building	\$\$\$	10-20 years
Update golf maintenance building to implement all environmentally appropriate practices for golf course management	\$\$	Ongoing
Develop and implement a goose management plan	\$	Ongoing
Develop tee box and green reconstruction plans/schedules	\$\$	Ongoing
New And Improved Revenue Streams		
Extend golf course and driving range season into the late fall/early winter	\$	Ongoing
Grow lawn bowling leagues and promote recreational play for all ages	\$	Ongoing
Continue to grow winter recreation opportunities on the golf course	\$	Ongoing
Expand youth golf programs and opportunities	\$	Ongoing
Expand year-round site opportunities for more use by residents	\$	Ongoing