



Our Mission is to Provide Quality Public Services in a Fiscally Responsible Manner in Partnership with our Community.

NOTICE OF MEETING

**City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission
3880 Laverne Avenue North
May 20, 2024
6:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes
 - a) April 15th, 2024
5. Public Comment
6. Parks Master Plan – Bolton and Menk
7. Lions Park ice rink
8. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
9. Communications
 - a) Future Agenda Items
10. Adjourn

****Note: Every effort will be made to accommodate person or persons that need special considerations to attend this meeting due to a health condition or disability. Please contact the Lake Elmo City Clerk if you are in need of special accommodations.*

City of Lake Elmo Parks Commission Minutes
April 15, 2024

Members Present: Commissioners Elam, Hoelscher, Esch, Bloyer, and Barrett

Absent: Commissioner Kastler

Staff Present: Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel

The meeting was called to order by Elam at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda

Barrett motioned to approve the agenda, Hoelscher provided a second; no discussion. Motion approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Hoelscher motioned to approve the March 18, 2024 Parks Commission Minutes, Esch provided a second; no discussion. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comments

None

Demontreville Playset Replacement

Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel presented. The Commission provided comments and had questions regarding the playset options and benches. Bloyer will work with staff on the playset color.

Esch moved to recommend to City Council the request to purchase and install a new playground set at Demontreville Park with option 3 and incorporate the recommendations by staff along with a second bench not to exceed \$100,000, Barrett provided a second; discussion. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Ridge Park Review

Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel presented. The commission provided comments regarding changes they would like to see for the park.

Steven Adamsky, 1535 Ivory Ct., commented on the parking lot, park history and amenities.

Park Tree Planting

Assistant Public Works Director Swanepoel presented. The Commission provided comments and had questions regarding locations and tree care.

Communications

- a) Parks Master Plan update.
- b) CIP review update.
- c) Pup Park update.
- d) Tablyn Park parking lot update.
- e) Reid Park update.
- f) Pebble Park pickleball court update.

Elam adjourned the meeting at 7:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Rebecca McGuire, Deputy Clerk



STAFF REPORT

DATE: 05/20/2024

MOTION

TO: Parks Commission
AGENDA ITEM: **Parks Master Plan**

FROM: Adam Swanepoel, Assistant Public Works Director
SUBMITTED BY: Marty Powers, Public Works Director

BACKGROUND:

At the October 2023 City Council meeting, the City selected Bolton and Menk to develop and prepare a new Parks Master Plan. The purpose of an updated parks master plan would help guide commissioners, council and staff over the next ten years but also provide insight on potential changes, additions and an evaluation of the current park system.

Bolton and Menk spent the next eight months gathering data and preparing documents for the next Master Plan. During this time an advisory committee was developed and included commissioner Kasler from the Parks Commission. The advisory group meet four times during the preparation of the document to assist in recommendations, suggestions and ideas for the future plan. Community input was gathered from an online survey and two pop up events held during Light up Lake Elmo and the Arbor Day tree give away event.

ISSUE BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

Would the Parks Commission like to recommend the Parks Master Plan to City Council?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

Part of the development for a new Parks Master Plan, Bolton and Menk was asked to provide the following items in the Master Plan:

- Goals, objectives, and policy statements with a clear vision and direction for the City
- An updated City Park inventory, evaluation of existing park use layout and its facilities
- An updated trail system and network plan, identify the gaps in the existing/planned trail system
- Evaluation of existing park use, layout and facilities
- A summary of existing conditions and level of service analysis
- A major park infrastructure repair and replace schedule, considering potential changes in the existing infrastructure
- Charts, graphs, maps, and other data as needed to support the plan

In addition, Bolton and Menk was asked to consider researching and including additional information which would help map the future of Lake Elmo and the park system, they included;

- Demographic Trends
- Include compatibility with current ADA requirements
- Recommendations on removal of any obsolete facilities and inclusion on new types of recreational facilities or amenities to engage the community.

- Prioritizing recommendations for improvement to current park facilities and identify opportunities for undeveloped parks.
- Create a prioritization strategy to guide decision making and investments in the park system.
- Phased implementation plan and 20 year CIP
- Identify ideal funding sources such as grants or recreational funding

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no financial obligations to accepting the Parks Master Plan. Funding for the plan was taken from the professional services budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

“Motion to recommend the Parks Master Plan to City Council for approval.”

ATTACHMENTS:

2024 Parks Master Plan

CITY OF LAKE ELMO

PARK SYSTEM PLAN



05/10/2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PREPARED FOR

City of Lake Elmo
3880 Laverne Ave N
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

City council members, the park commission, city staff, public works staff, the Advisory Committee, and the community participants who provided feedback to help assist in the planning of this document

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Jeff Holtz
Katrina Beckstrom
Matt Hirn
Nick Dragisich
» *City Council Members*

PARK COMMISSION

Ellen Esch
Hank Hoelscher
Michael Elam
Pat Barrett
Peter Kastler
Tammy Sturtz
Vittorio Bloyer

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01

INTRODUCTION

Lake Elmo provides an expansive system of parks, trails, and open spaces for its community members and visitors to enjoy. The city's parks and trails are clean and well-maintained, and community members feel safe when visiting them. Residents frequent the park and trail system, with many making weekly trips to local neighborhood playgrounds and recreational trails. While residents value their park and recreational amenities, the city recognizes a need to keep their park system current, continue to meet the needs of the community, and continue to offer quality amenities to its residents.

The Lake Elmo Park System Plan does not seek to reinvent the park and trail system or stray too far from the original intent of past planning efforts. Instead, the plan advocates for thoughtful, community-driven improvements to the city's existing parks and trails that are rooted in an understanding of the system's history, ecology, and intended purpose.

CONTEXT

The City of Lake Elmo is located near the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers, just west of the Minnesota-Wisconsin border and east of St. Paul. The population of Lake Elmo is currently 13,756 people, but the city is projected to grow to upwards of 18,000 people by 2030, making it the fastest growing city in the state of Minnesota. Despite Lake Elmo's booming growth, the city has maintained a charming rural look and feel for many years, due its many acres of agricultural and farm land. The city encompasses approximately 24 square miles of land (including woodland, meadow, lakes, and wetlands) and borders many adjacent communities, including:

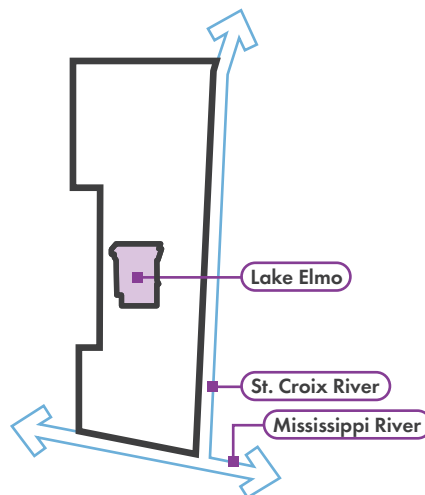
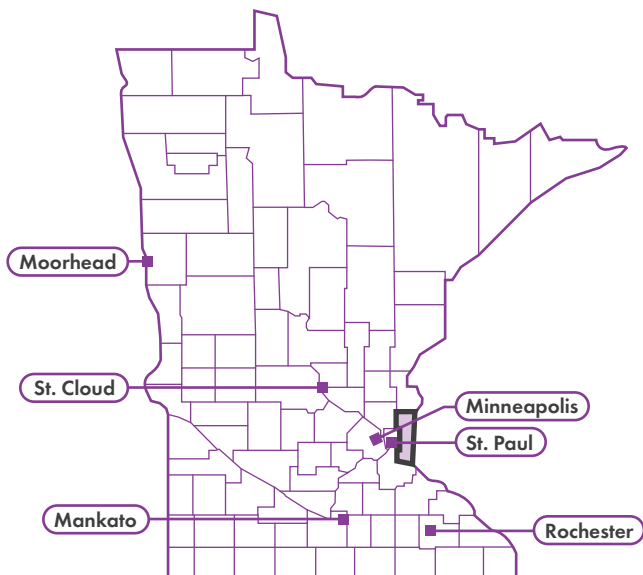
- Grant to the north
- Oak Park Heights, Baytown and West Lakeland Townships to the east
- Woodbury to the south
- Oakdale to the west.

With an interesting mix of rural features, natural scenery, and suburban comfort, Lake Elmo is a desirable location due to its proximity to

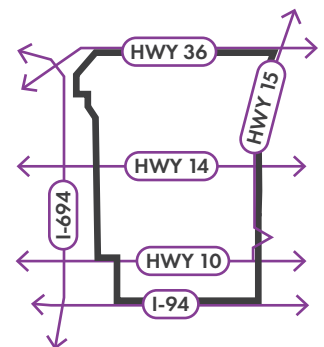
Minneapolis and St. Paul, accessible and high-quality neighborhoods, and many lakes and natural areas. With its picturesque farms, rolling hills, and extensive park and trail system, Lake Elmo offers a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life. With 18% of the city's land acreage protected as park or open space and an additional 11% of private land areas protected with a conservation easement, Lake Elmo is committed to preserving its existing natural resources and open space framework so that residents have sufficient opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors for many years to come.

"OUR COMMUNITY, NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOMES ARE OUR RETREAT. WE LIVE IN A PLACE WITH DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOOD PATTERNS AND HOUSING OPTIONS - BUT EVERY RESIDENT HAS ACCESS TO A GREAT PARK, OPEN SPACE OR TRAIL... WE ARE A COLLECTION OF NEIGHBORHOODS THAT TOGETHER SHARE A COMMITMENT TO MAKING THE CITY AN EXCEPTIONAL PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND RECREATE."

- LAKE ELMO VISION FOR 2040



WASHINGTON COUNTY



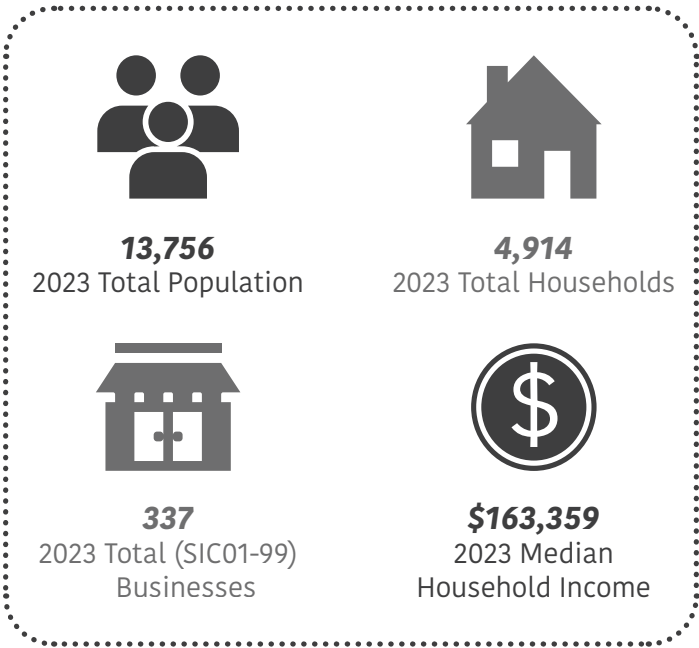
CITY OF LAKE ELMO

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

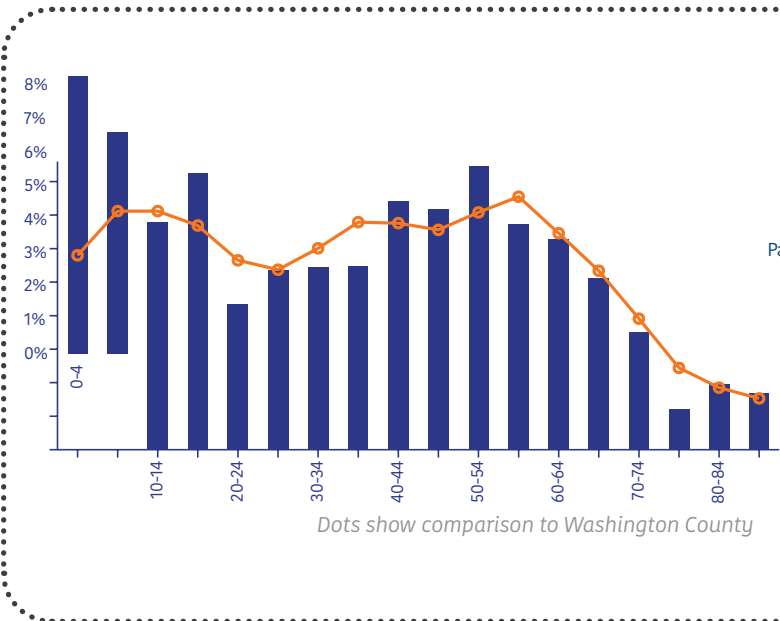
Taking a closer look at Lake Elmo’s demographic makeup reveals a few key characteristics and insights, including:

- The city has a predominantly white population, along with smaller communities of Asian, Hispanic, and African American residents
- The median household income in Lake Elmo exceeds national averages, reflecting a relatively affluent community with well-maintained infrastructure, quality services, and thriving businesses
- The city highly values education; in fact, nearly two-thirds of the population has a bachelor’s degree
- The unemployment rate in Lake Elmo is 3.5%, reflecting a healthy job market and economy
- Only 3% of households in Lake Elmo are below poverty level

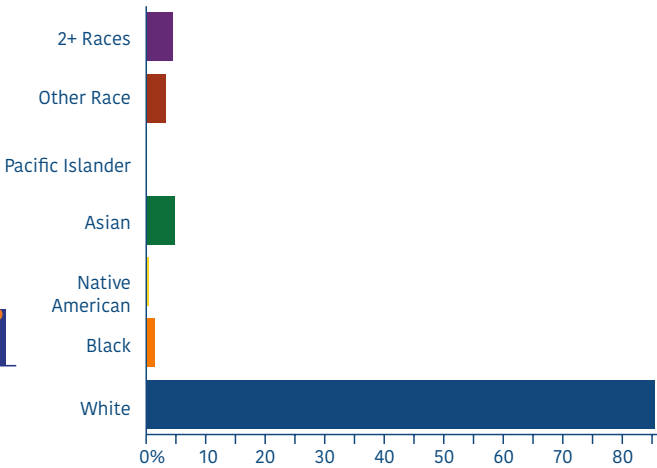
Key Facts



Population by Age: 5-Year Increments (2021)

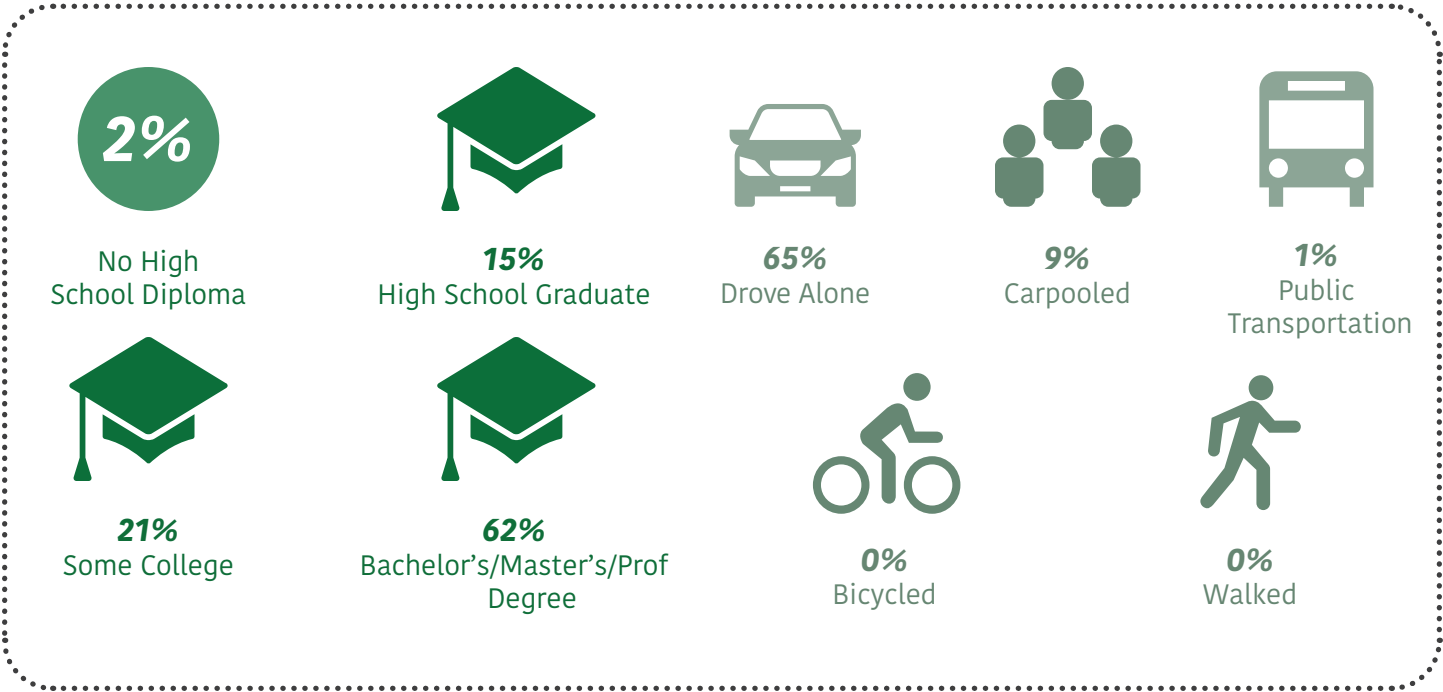


2021 Population by Race, Age 18+



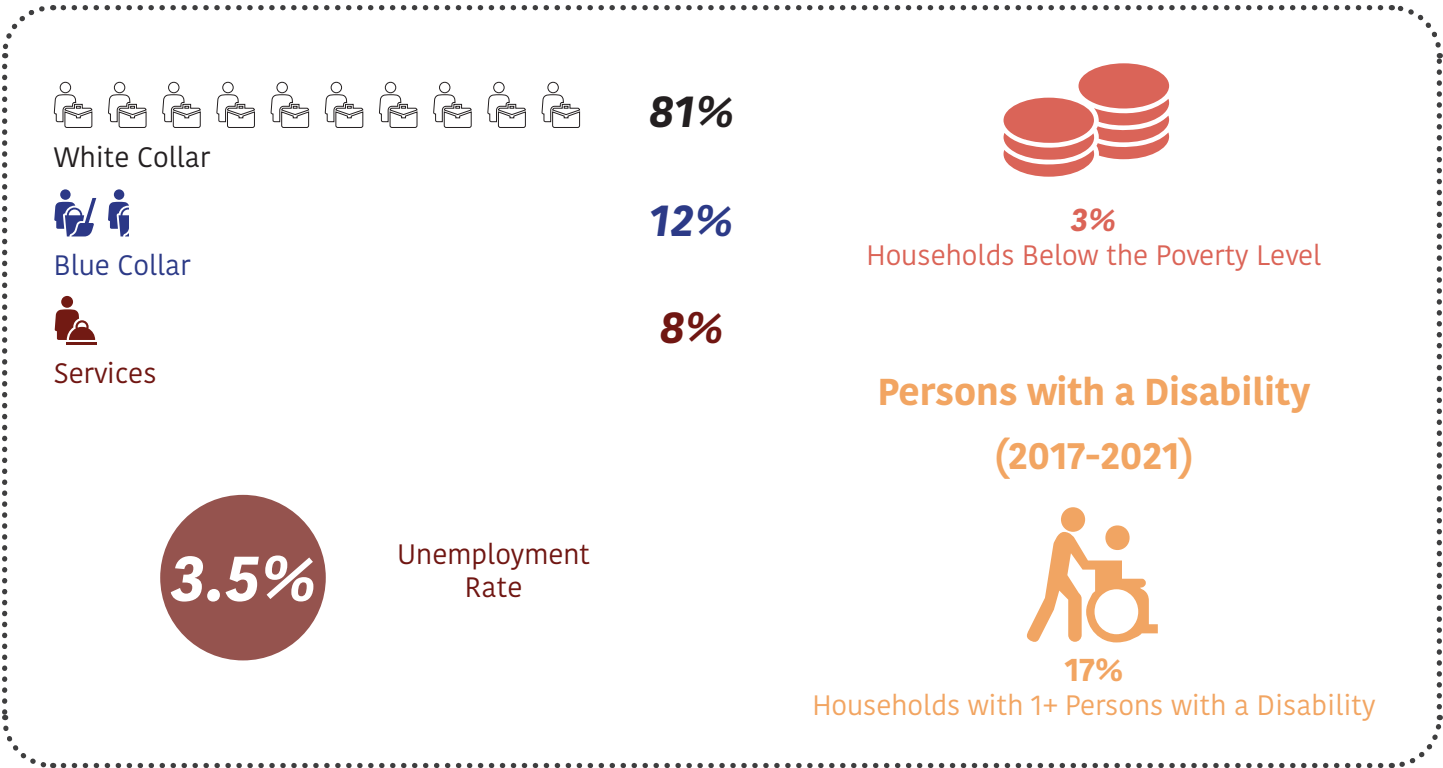
Education

2017-2021 Transportation to Work
Age 16+



Employment (2023)

Poverty Status (2017-2021)

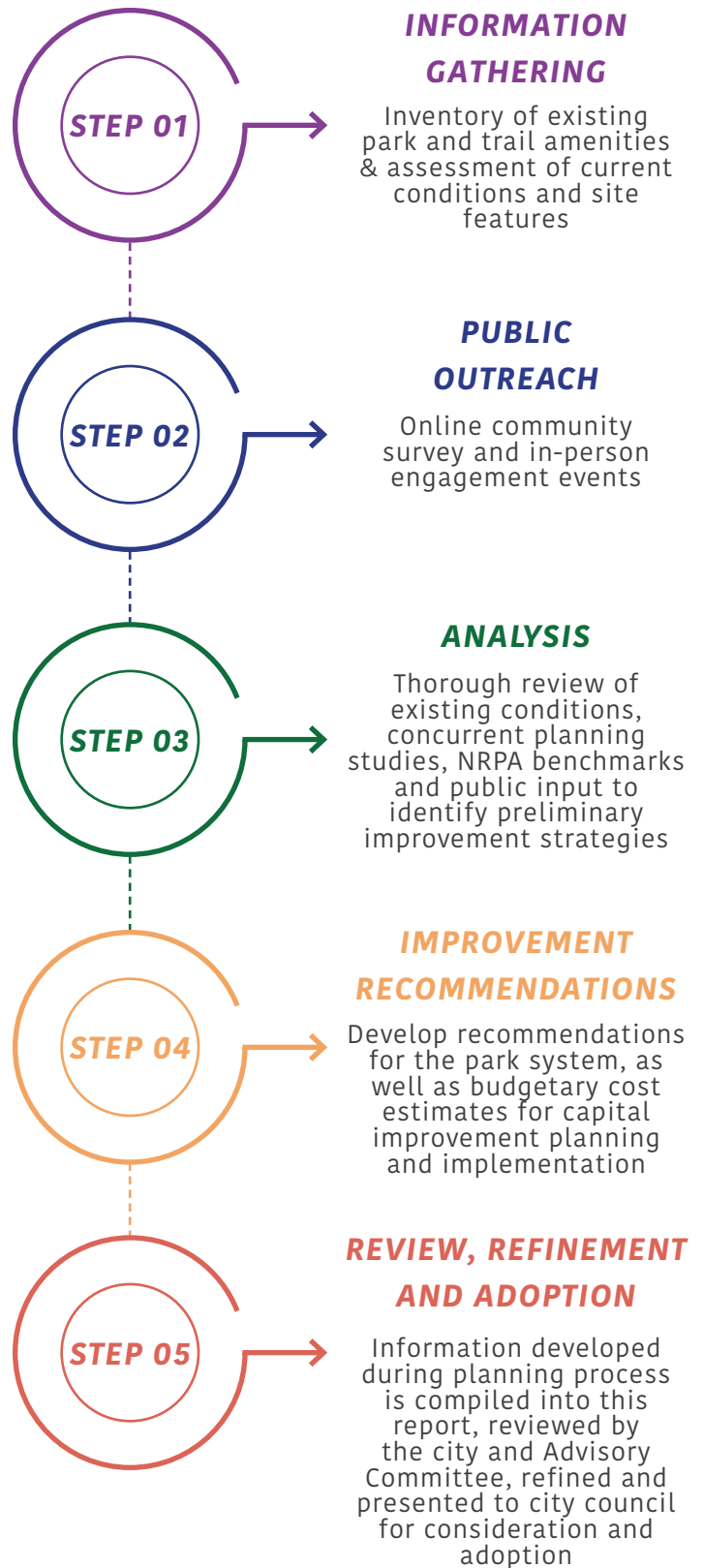


THE PROCESS + PURPOSE

This park system planning process was a nine-month project that began with an inventory and analysis of each city-owned park and open space amenity. This analysis documented park amenities, site furnishings, and notable site features, in addition to the general condition of these items at each location.

In order to provide a useful, user-friendly, and sustainable planning document for Lake Elmo, the planning team - made up of landscape architects, parks planners/designers, and community engagement specialists - had many discussions with city staff and Advisory Committee members to uncover issues affecting the city's parks, trails, and open spaces. Discussions with city staff and the Advisory Committee were facilitated by the consultant team, to better understand the history of park and trail improvements and evaluate the existing conditions of each park in the system. The Advisory Committee provided valuable insight into how community members and visitors use the park system, as well as relevant information about changes affecting the city's resources over the years.

Early in the planning process, the public was engaged through an online survey. This survey was conducted over an eight week period and resulted in participation from over 500 community members. Results from this survey helped inform the needs analysis and plan recommendations.



PAST PLANNING EFFORTS

There are a handful of past planning efforts that were considered during the creation of this report. Key plans, reports and standards that helped inform the development of this report include:

- Lake Elmo's 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Washington County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- The Central Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan
- Lake Elmo's 2009 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan
- Lake Elmo's Design Guidelines and Standards

The planning team used these documents to obtain background information on the city, to understand what goals and strategies have been previously developed for the city's park and trail system, and to inform the development of the recommendations (and eventual implementation strategies) included in this plan.

Some key takeaways from past planning documents related to parks, trails and open spaces in Lake Elmo include (but are not limited to):

KEY GOALS AND PRINCIPLES FROM PAST PLANNING DOCUMENTS

- **Lake Elmo's 2040 Comprehensive Plan**
 - » Enhance existing natural resources, open space and trails to make a more complete system
 - » Strengthen the existing trail network in the City, increase public connections, and improve accessibility (including pedestrian and bikeway connections)
 - » Endorse and maintain the protected public open space and natural areas throughout the City
 - » Protect and strengthen existing park facilities and program uses according to demands of residents that use the facilities, and plan for appropriate programming and facilities in new neighborhoods
 - » Explore opportunities to improve the quality of degraded, but important, natural resources in the City (i.e., impaired lakes, streams, and wetlands)
- **Lake Elmo's 2009 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan**
 - » Showcase, preserve, and respect the city's natural resources and let the location of natural resources guide the placement and use of parks
 - » Locate parks so that all current and prospective neighborhoods have a local park (where practical and appropriate)
 - » Connect city parks to each other and to prominent destination within and outside of the city through a system of trails
 - » Locate a significant park at the heart of Lake Elmo that can serve as a community gathering place and landmark

USING THE PLAN

This park system plan document is organized into seven sections, which include:

- » **01: Introduction**
- » **02: Trends Analysis**
- » **03: Existing Conditions & Needs**
- » **04: Vision & Guiding Principles**
- » **05: Recommendations**
- » **06: Implementation**
- » **07: Appendix**

The contents of this park system plan report include park inventory data, community input results, analysis of all collected data, recommendations and implementation strategies for Lake Elmo's parks, trails, and open spaces.

The report's appendix includes park inventory maps and the complete community survey results.

01: INTRODUCTION

- » The introduction provides an overview of the planning process and purpose, as well as a brief look at demographics and community context

02: TRENDS ANALYSIS

- » Understanding social, demographic, and recreational trends is an important of maintaining a responsive park system. This section highlights key trends that are impacting today's parks and recreation systems and help inform the plan

03: EXISTING CONDITIONS & NEEDS

- » This section evaluates the Lake Elmo system through various lenses and outlines future needs

04: VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- » This chapter helps set the stage for what is desired for the future system and what overarching ideas should steer the system

05: RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Recommended actions to help attain the vision for the system provide the backbone of the plan, building off the analysis and vision

06: IMPLEMENTATION

- » This section outlines steps to carry out the proposed recommendations, and includes priorities, capital improvements, and funding ideas

07: APPENDIX

- » Supporting documents including park inventory maps and community survey results.



02

TRENDS ANALYSIS

With changes in demographics, technologies, and social and recreational trends, Lake Elmo city staff and other decision makers will need to consider how park and recreation facility and programming needs will be met as the future unfolds. After all, park and recreation trends are ever-changing, can vary by region or climate, and are often impacted by social influences. In order to better adapt to future demands, city staff will need to be nimble and flexible in response to the ever-changing needs and desires of the public.

This section of the report explores a handful of park and recreation-related trends (listed in no particular order) and their potential implications for the future of Lake Elmo’s parks and trail system.

OVERVIEW OF TRENDS

According to recent U.S. Census data, Lake Elmo is one of the fastest-growing cities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. In fact, Lake Elmo has the potential to double in population in less than six years if it continues to grow at its current rate.

With this large and continuous influx of new community members, the city has both a challenge and an opportunity to adapt and grow with its residents. Understanding emerging social, recreational, and demographic trends is critical to best support current and future residents.

In the following pages, several trends are highlighted. They include:

- » The Impacts of Climate Change
- » Shifts in the Workplace
- » Technology in the Park System
- » Dog Ownership
- » Pickleball + Cricket
- » A Rise in Non-Traditional Recreation
- » Inclusivity + Accessibility
- » Other Emerging Trends in Programming

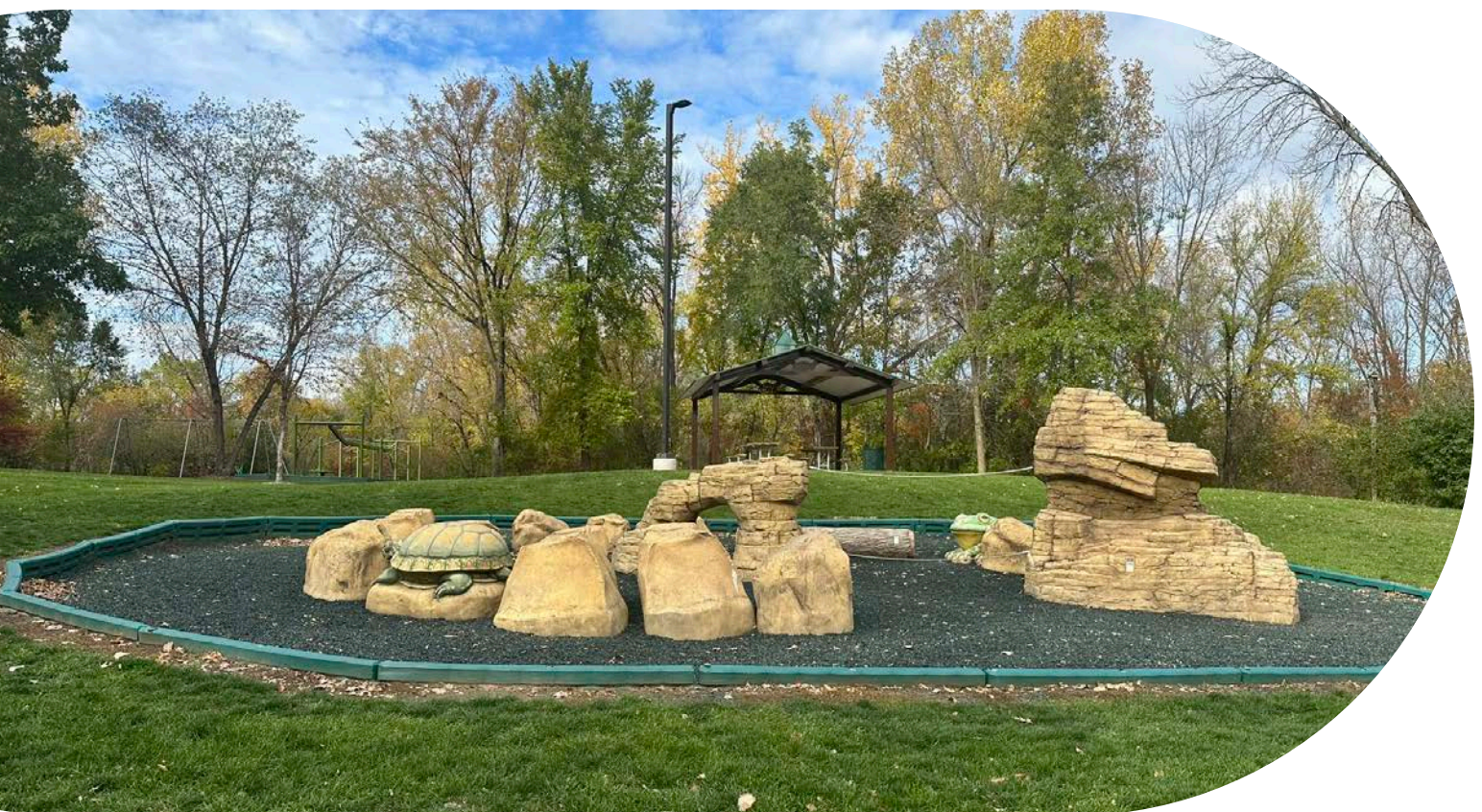


Figure 2.2: Children's nature play area at Pebble Park

TREND 1

THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Unfortunately, climate change has already started to have an impact on parks, trails, and other recreational environments. Heatwaves, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events have become more frequent in the last decade, impacting not only the landscape but also the enjoyability of parks, trails and open spaces. In coming years, communities must develop strategies to adapt and evolve to the changing conditions the world is facing.

Implementing green infrastructure (e.g., rain gardens, permeable pavements, bioswales, etc.), preserving, protecting and expanding natural resources, and integrating climate resilience into park planning and management are just a few ways to counteract the impacts climate change is having on our health and well-being.

STATISTICS

75%

of Americans believe that climate change will cause significant environmental harm

6 out of 10

Americans believe that rising sea levels will cause migration away from coastal areas

40%

of Americans believe that climate change will directly affect their communities and outdoor spaces

Source: "Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2024" - National Recreation and Park Association (2024)



Figure 2.3: Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere contributes to the effects of climate change



Figure 2.4: Wildfires have become an increasing concern in heavily-wooded areas



Figure 2.5: The frequency of flood events has significantly increased in recent years

TREND 2

SHIFTS IN THE WORKPLACE



Figure 2.6: Hybrid work environments allow for some much-needed flexibility



Figure 2.7: Traffic congestion on a busy highway



Figure 2.8: Park users enjoying a day off from work

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, the workplace has shifted quite substantially. As communities around the world went on lock-down, a large portion of the workforce began working from home. As a way to get outdoors and engage in physical activity while still adhering to social distancing guidelines, many community members turned to their city's parks, trails and open spaces to recreate, and continue to do so post-pandemic.

Many workers have reallocated the time they spent commuting to activities that enhance their wellbeing and leisure time, including walking, biking, and outdoor recreation.

STATISTICS

90%

of younger workers support flexible work options

81%

of the full-time workforce supports a four-day work week

65%

of employees want to continue to work from home despite the firm employer conviction to bring employees back to the office

Source: "Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2024" - National Recreation and Park Association (2024)

TREND 3

TECHNOLOGY IN THE PARK SYSTEM

Technological innovation, including the use of artificial intelligence, has already had a large impact on the park and recreation industry in recent years. For example, advancements to AI chatbots, AI algorithms, and AI-assisted analytics have allowed park and recreation staff to more quickly respond to shifts in park usage and public demand for informations, more efficiently process data to make operations and maintenance decisions and predictions, and more accurately monitor community safety and security.

Location analytics companies such as StreetLight can analyze geolocated devices without compromising privacy, therefore providing park and recreation agencies with more detailed information about their community members' interactions with the park system.

STATISTICS

\$200,000,000,000

Current value of the market for data brokers collecting and selling location-based and personal information

25

Amount of apps recording and tracking location on the average smartphone

Source: <https://time.com/6209991/apps-collecting-personal-data/>



Figure 2.9: Electronic and interactive wayfinding kiosks provide helpful information to park users



Figure 2.10: A park's "social media appeal" has become increasingly important to young park users

TREND 4

DOG OWNERSHIP



Figure 2.11: Off-leash dogs in a park



Figure 2.12: A dog-owner on a walk in an urban area



Figure 2.13: A dog enjoying a run in the snow

During the COVID-19 pandemic, dog ownership in the U.S. surged. Since then, love for dogs hasn't changed a bit; in fact, dog parks remain the fastest-growing type of park, while off-leash dog parks are the fastest-growing type of dog park.

In coming years, parks and recreation agencies should consider adding dog-related facilities and amenities in their communities.

STATISTICS

45%

of all families currently own a dog

85%

of dog-owning families consider their dogs to be members of the family

dog parks

Fastest-growing type of park

Source: "Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2024" - National Recreation and Park Association (2024)

TREND 5

PICKLEBALL

As the fastest-growing recreational sport in the nation, pickleball can be found in many communities across the country. Pickleball is enjoyable for a variety of reasons: it's inclusive to people of all ages, provides a healthy and active way to recreate socially, and boosts mood and mental health.

However, there are concerns over the noise that comes from pickleball courts. These concerns have prompted many park and recreation agencies to reconsider where to site new pickleball courts. Demand for new courts may warrant the conversion of underutilized tennis courts to pickleball courts.



Figure 2.14: Community members engaging in a game of pickleball



Figure 2.15: Pickleball can be a noisy activity for nearby residents

STATISTICS

pickleball

The fastest-growing recreational sport in the nation

up to 50%

Amount of noise reduction to paddles and balls when using sound-deadening equipment

600 feet + under 40 dB

Recommended distance pickleball courts should be placed from a home + recommended level noise should be under



Figure 2.16: Tennis courts can easily be converted to accommodate pickleball courts

Source: "Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2024" - National Recreation and Park Association (2024)

TREND 6

A RISE IN NON-TRADITIONAL RECREATION



Figure 2.17: Mountain bikers navigating an informal trail in a woodland



Figure 2.18: Hiking has become an increasingly popular activity on trails



Figure 2.19: Teens playing ultimate frisbee

Recreation trends generally shift based on societal changes and preferences over time. In recent years, there has been a rise in non-traditional and informal recreation in parks, trails, and open spaces across the country. Often times, non-traditional and informal activities are more inclusive and appeal to a wider range of people, which encourages participation from folks of all backgrounds and age groups.

As recreation in parks and trails continues to become more informal, cities will need to reconsider their recreational offerings and adjust accordingly. A few examples of informal recreation include mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, disc golf, dancing, geocaching, pickleball, skateboarding, and seasonal/holiday-themed sports.

STATISTICS

from 45% to 38%

Percentage by which the restriction imposed by the pandemic reduced participation in youth sports (2018)

91%

of U.S. adults seek park-centered entertainment and social events that allow them to mix and mingle with others

4 in 5

Urban park and recreation agencies partner with local schools to coordinate efforts that connect youth to nature (e.g., through coordinated after-school programs, nature-based field trips, and formal and informal shared usage agreements that transform schoolyards into publicly accessible spaces where children can play outside of school hours)

Sources: "Parks and Recreation is Essential" - National Recreation and Park Association (2023); "Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2024" - National Recreation and Park Association (2024)

TREND 7

INCLUSIVITY + ACCESSIBILITY

Adaptive and inclusive programming in parks and open spaces is crucial for promoting a diverse and cohesive community. Prioritizing inclusive programming creates opportunities for social interaction and physical activity by catering to individuals of all abilities and backgrounds. Not only does embracing diversity in recreational activities encourage understanding and empathy among people, it also helps create better-functioning and healthier community dynamics.

To ensure people of all abilities can participate, local park and recreation agencies must make changes to current policies and practices to become more accessible and inclusive.

STATISTICS

90%

of U.S. adults agree it is important that local park and recreation agencies create and provide recreation programming that is adaptive and inclusive so persons of all abilities may participate

81%

of U.S. adults want parks and recreation to ensure inclusivity through policies and practices

1 in 3

Park and recreation agencies offer adaptive/inclusive sports activities

Sources: "Parks and Recreation is Essential" - National Recreation and Park Association (2023); "Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2024" - National Recreation and Park Association (2024)



Figure 2.20: ADA-accessible ramps help those with physical impairments navigate spaces

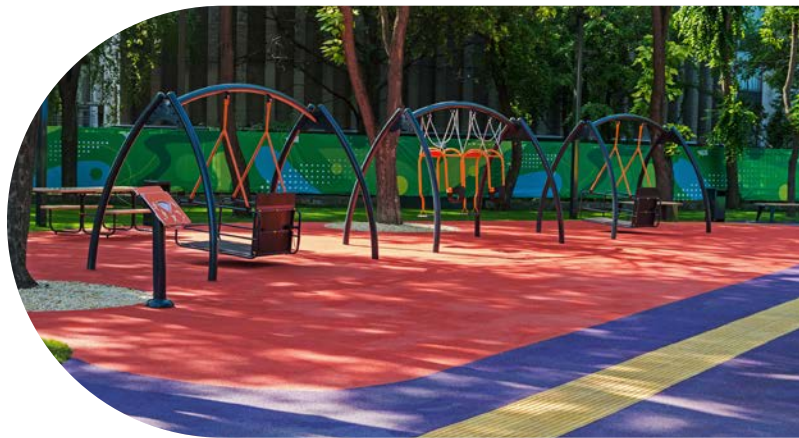


Figure 2.21: Inclusive and accessible playground equipment



Figure 2.22: An accessible plaza area for a person with visual impairments is crucial

TREND 8

OTHER EMERGING TRENDS IN PROGRAMMING



Figure 2.23: Movie in the Park community event



Figure 2.24: Walking trail for residents of all ages



Figure 2.25: Community garden plots in a public park

With demographics and interests constantly in flux, programming trends are always shifting. According to observations from park and recreation agencies around the country, emerging programming trends include but are not limited to:

- » Family engagement nights
- » Season festivals/new seasonal programming
- » Outdoor fitness programming
- » Programs for older adults/“eldertainment”
- » Teen programming/activities for “kid-ults”
- » Partnering with libraries for community events
- » Using outdoor spaces for educational purposes
- » Developing community gardens
- » Incorporating adventure and nature play

STATISTICS

44%

Percentage by which community gardens in parks have increased since 2012 (2022 Trust for Public Land Survey)

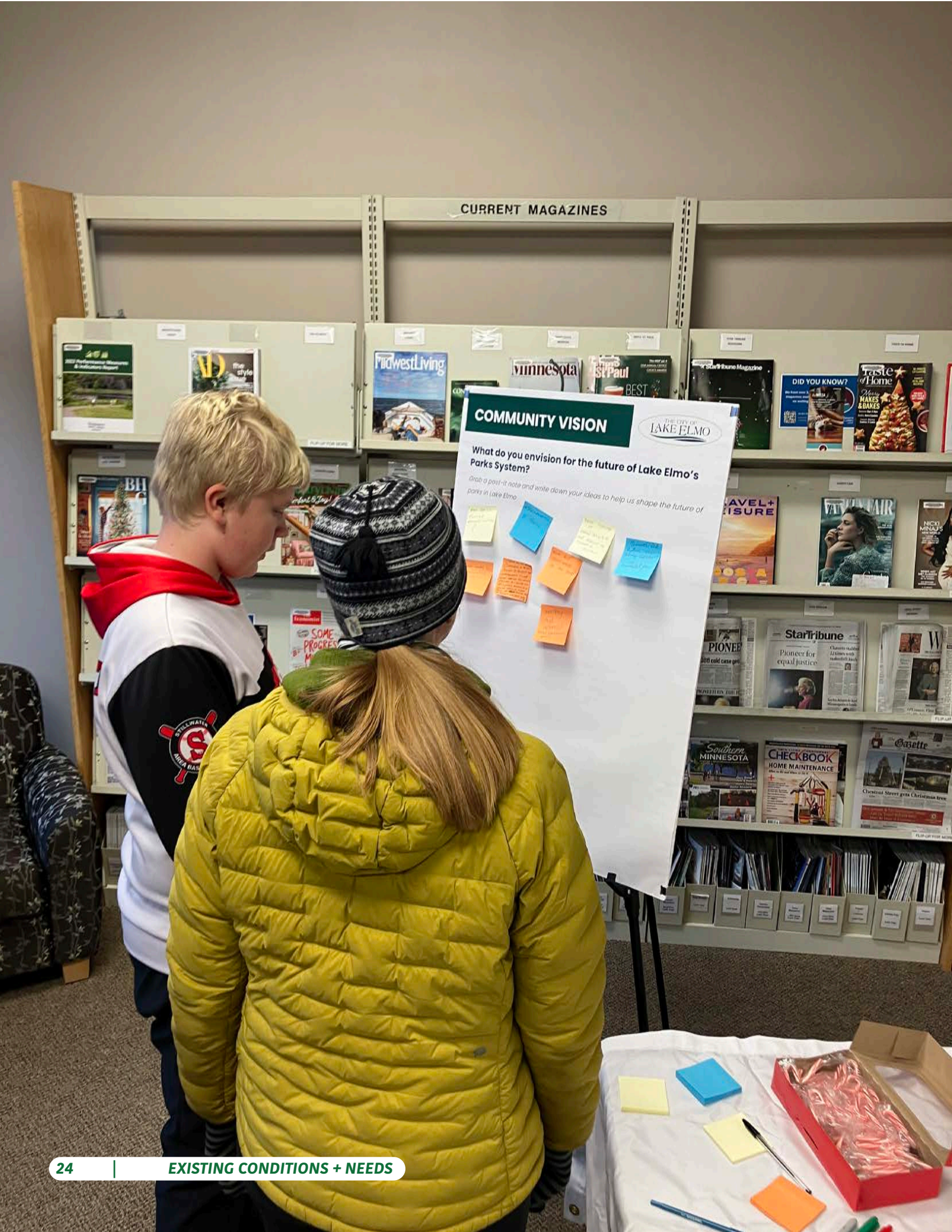
ADDITIONAL TRENDS

According to a 2023 survey from recmanagement.com, programs that saw an increase in participation from last year included:

- » Holidays and other special events (up 6.2%)
- » Youth sports teams (up 4.1%)
- » Fitness programs (up 3%)
- » Educational programs (up 2.2%)
- » Festivals and concerts (up 2.2%)
- » Programs for active older adults (up 1.4%)

Source: <https://recmanagement.com/articles/153715/trends-parks-recreation-2023>

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CURRENT MAGAZINES

COMMUNITY VISION

THE CITY OF LAKE ELMO

What do you envision for the future of Lake Elmo's Parks System?

Grab a post-it note and write down your ideas to help us shape the future of parks in Lake Elmo.

- Some of the things I like about the parks in Lake Elmo are the playgrounds and the walking trails.
- I like the walking trails and the playgrounds.
- I like the walking trails and the playgrounds.
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03

EXISTING CONDITIONS + NEEDS

Inventory and analysis is an essential component to the park system planning process. In order to make informed and appropriate decisions to address the diverse park and trail-related needs of the community, a deep understanding of the current state of the city's parks and trails is required.

This assessment looks at the quantity, distribution, quality, and current use of the various elements of the systems. The data is collected and compared to standards and benchmarks provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), as well as park planning principles including level of service. Local input from residents, volunteers, and city staff also provide critical information about the system and its use.

OVERVIEW

APPROACH

The recreational opportunities that Lake Elmo's parks, trails, and open spaces provide are vital to maintaining the quality of life that community members in the city value. These public spaces are integral parts of the city's infrastructure and are proactively managed.

As part of the park and trail system planning effort, the planning team collaborated with city staff and key stakeholders to develop near-term and long-range improvements that will assist them in directing decision making and allocating resources toward a clearly defined vision for the community's park and trail system. Community input was gathered using a comprehensive and engaging outreach process that prioritized accessibility for all park and trail users. This approach created opportunities for the public to inform and educate the planning team about the future park and trail system they'd like to see.

The goal of this park system planning process is to support the vision of a healthy, sustainable, and maintainable park and trail system and to discover creative, efficient, and long-term solutions to issues affecting those systems. Lake Elmo needs a plan they can use to guide decision making - a plan they can reference when deciding to take topics and considerations to the parks commission or city council.

PROCESS PRINCIPLES

The planning process was guided by seven overarching principles. These principles aim to provide a plan that propels Lake Elmo's parks and trails system into the next 10 years and beyond.

VISIONARY

The plan should reflect the community's shared concerns, aspirations, and anticipated future growth

COMMUNITY ORIENTED

The plan should engage the community throughout the process to ensure outcomes are responsive and authentic of Lake Elmo and embraced by the community

INCLUSIVE

The plan should intentionally incorporate changing demographics, disparate viewpoints, needs, and accessibility with the intent of hearing and acknowledging all voices

ACCESSIBLE

The plan should be easy to read and use, avoid technical terms when possible, and emphasize visuals (e.g., photos, infographics, etc.)

ACTION ORIENTED

The plan should focus on implementable tools with specific, measurable outcomes while being adaptable to future change

CONNECTED

The plan should create opportunities for all stakeholders to connect to open space, greenways, trails, parks, and conservation areas, thereby building environmental stewardship and strengthening relationships to the outdoors and healthy lifestyles

STRATEGIC

The plan should be thoughtful and pragmatic while challenging conventional wisdom when needing to achieve an outcome, as well as recognize and incorporate the economic benefits of a strong park and recreation system

INVENTORY OF THE SYSTEM

INVENTORY

With over 500 acres of city parkland and more than 80 miles of trails, Lake Elmo has quite an extensive park and trail system for residents and visitors to enjoy and explore. In late 2024, the planning team and city staff had an opportunity to conduct an inventory of the city's substantial park and trail system to better understand each park's existing amenities and features, as well as record the condition/state they're currently in. With an updated and in-depth inventory of Lake Elmo's many parks, trails, and open spaces, the city will be able to better track the condition of their park equipment and implement a plan and timeline for their continued maintenance and replacement.

Currently, Lake Elmo's park and trail system supports a variety of recreational opportunities, including organized sports, casual play, nature appreciation, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, picnicking, relaxing, and many other outdoor activities. Each park in the system provides quality recreation facilities and open spaces for the community to use while still maintaining the history, setting, character, and use that makes each park unique.

To better understand how well Lake Elmo is meeting the recreational needs of the community, each park's assets (e.g., natural resources, recreational

facilities, amenities, etc.) And issues (e.g., environmental limitations, infrastructure problems, accessibility, etc.) were identified during the park inventory process. Some key takeaways and insights drawn from the park inventory process include:

- Park acreage and distribution and trail mileage in Lake Elmo are good; most of the gaps in park and trail connectivity occur in the north-central and southeastern portions of the city
- Lake Elmo has a nice variety of park types, including mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and a Washington County regional park, all of which serve the community in important ways
- Lake Elmo's park facilities and amenities are generally in good, working condition; however, some park features (e.g., playgrounds, ballfields, shelters, etc.) are currently not meeting the needs of the community or not functioning to meet demand
- Park and trail connectivity is reduced by a lack of wayfinding, infrastructure restraints, and unsafe pedestrian crossings on busy streets

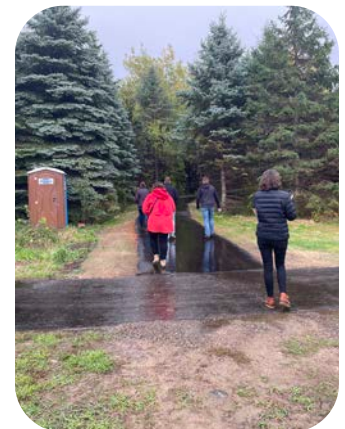


Figure 3.2: Planning team and city staff inventorying the park and trail system

FIGURE 3.3 | PARKS MAP

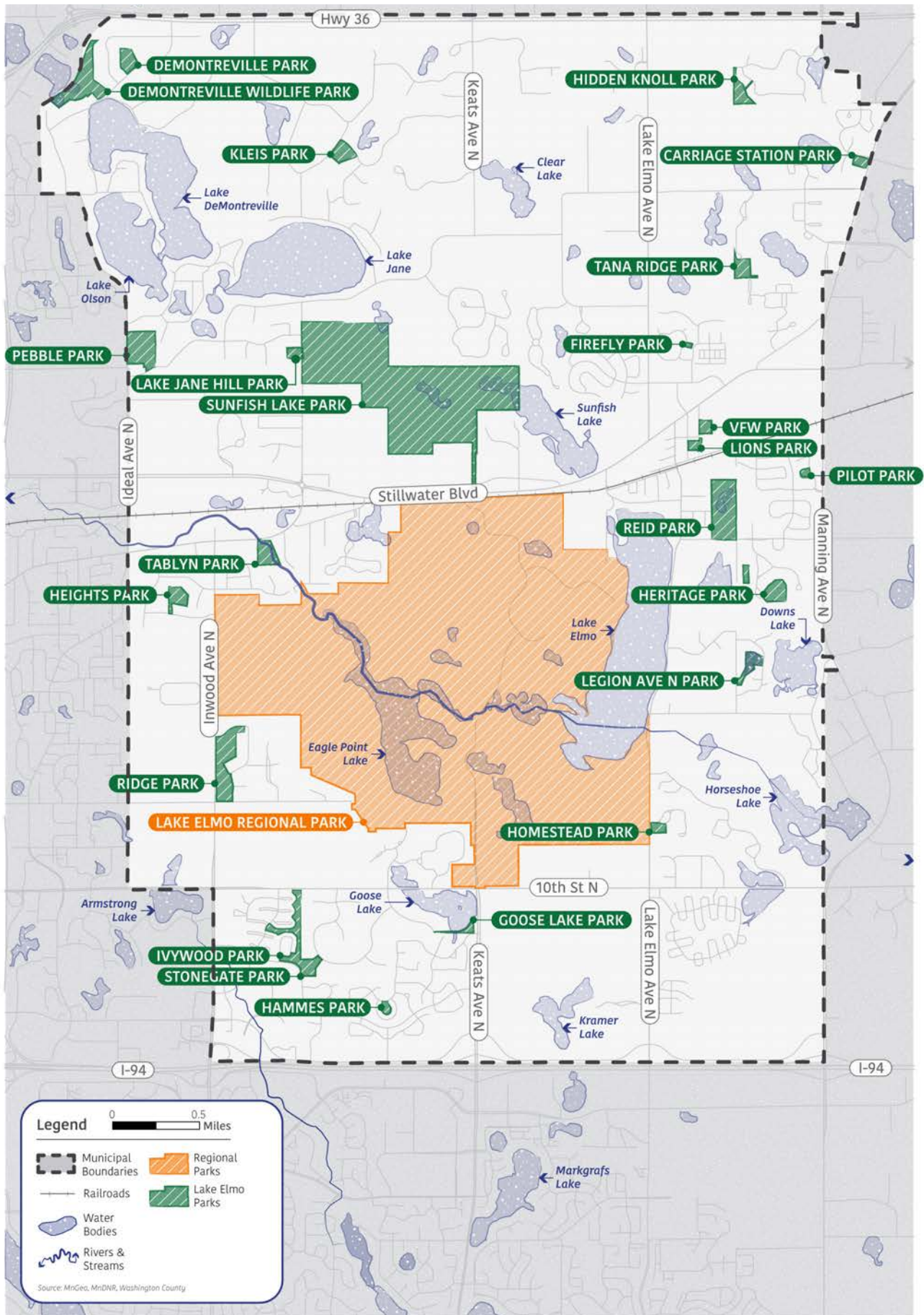
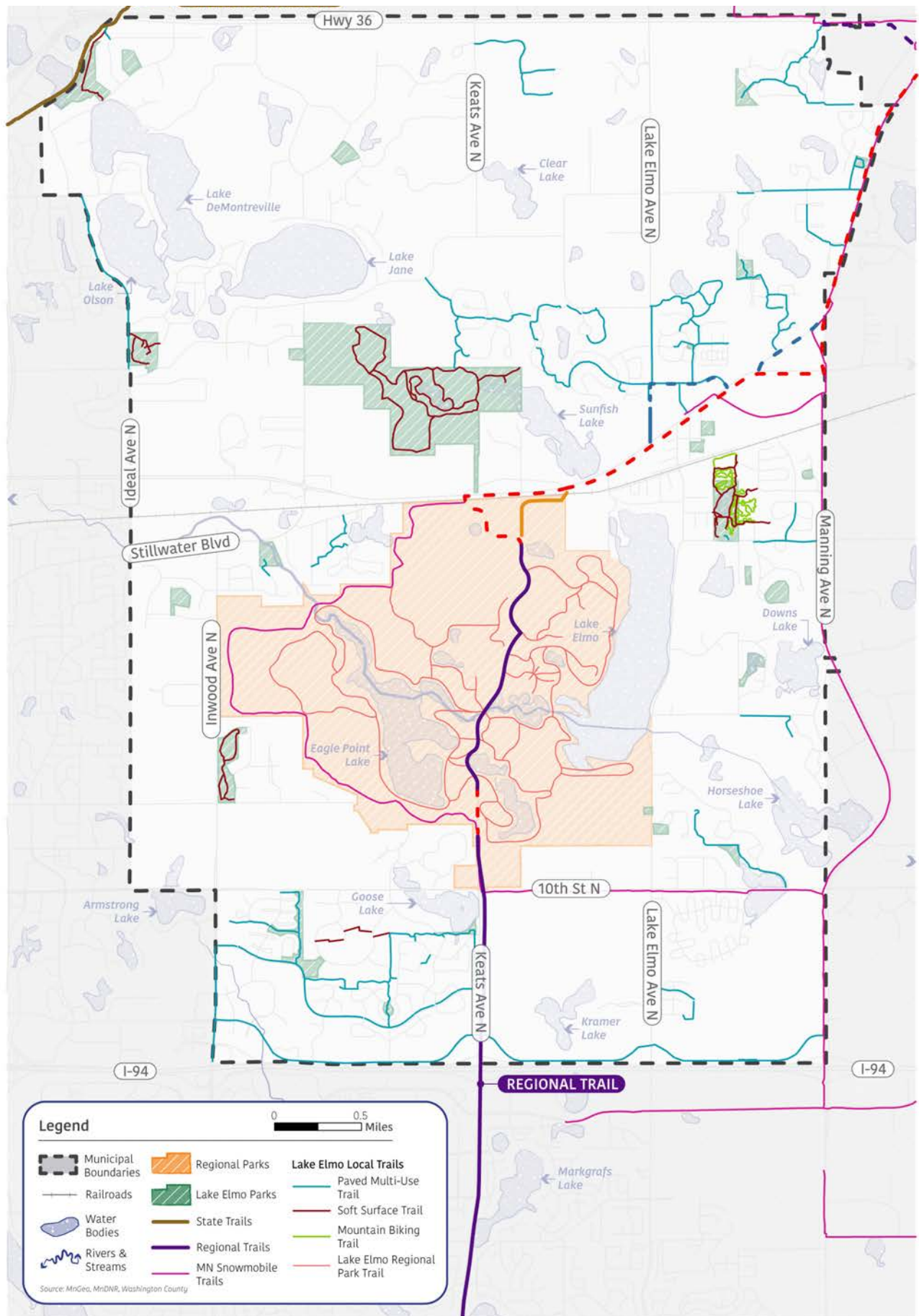


FIGURE 3.4 | EXISTING + PROPOSED TRAILS MAP



PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

NRPA PARK CLASSIFICATION STANDARDS

Lake Elmo contains a variety of park types which can be distinguished from one another based upon their unique sizes, characteristics, and intended uses. To help park and recreation professionals more effectively manage their park systems and resources, the NRPA developed a set of park classifications, agency benchmarks, and service area and facility guidelines (all described in further detail in following pages) for agencies to utilize. Many park and recreation agencies use these resources to compare how their community's amenities stack up against other communities at a national level. Incorporating these metrics into the park system master planning process can lead to more informed decisions, better resource allocation, improved equity, and a higher likelihood of successful implementation and long-term sustainability.

According to Lake Elmo's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the city contains the following park classifications:

- **Regional Park**
 - » *Lake Elmo Park Reserve*
- **Community Park**
 - » *DeMontreville Wildlife Park*
 - » *Sunfish Lake Park*
- **Neighborhood Park**
 - » *Carriage Station Park*
 - » *DeMontreville Park*
 - » *Goose Lake Park*
 - » *Heights Park*
 - » *Heritage Park*
 - » *Ivywood Park*
 - » *Kleis Park*
 - » *Lake Jane Hills Park*
 - » *Lions Park*
 - » *Pebble Park*
 - » *Reid Park*

- » *Ridge Park*
- » *Stonegate Park*
- » *Tablyn Park*
- » *Tana Ridge Park*
- » *VFW Park*

- **Natural Resource Protection Area/Conservation Easement**

- » *Hammes Park*
- » *Homestead Park*

There were also a few parks in the system that were not explicitly classified in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. They include:

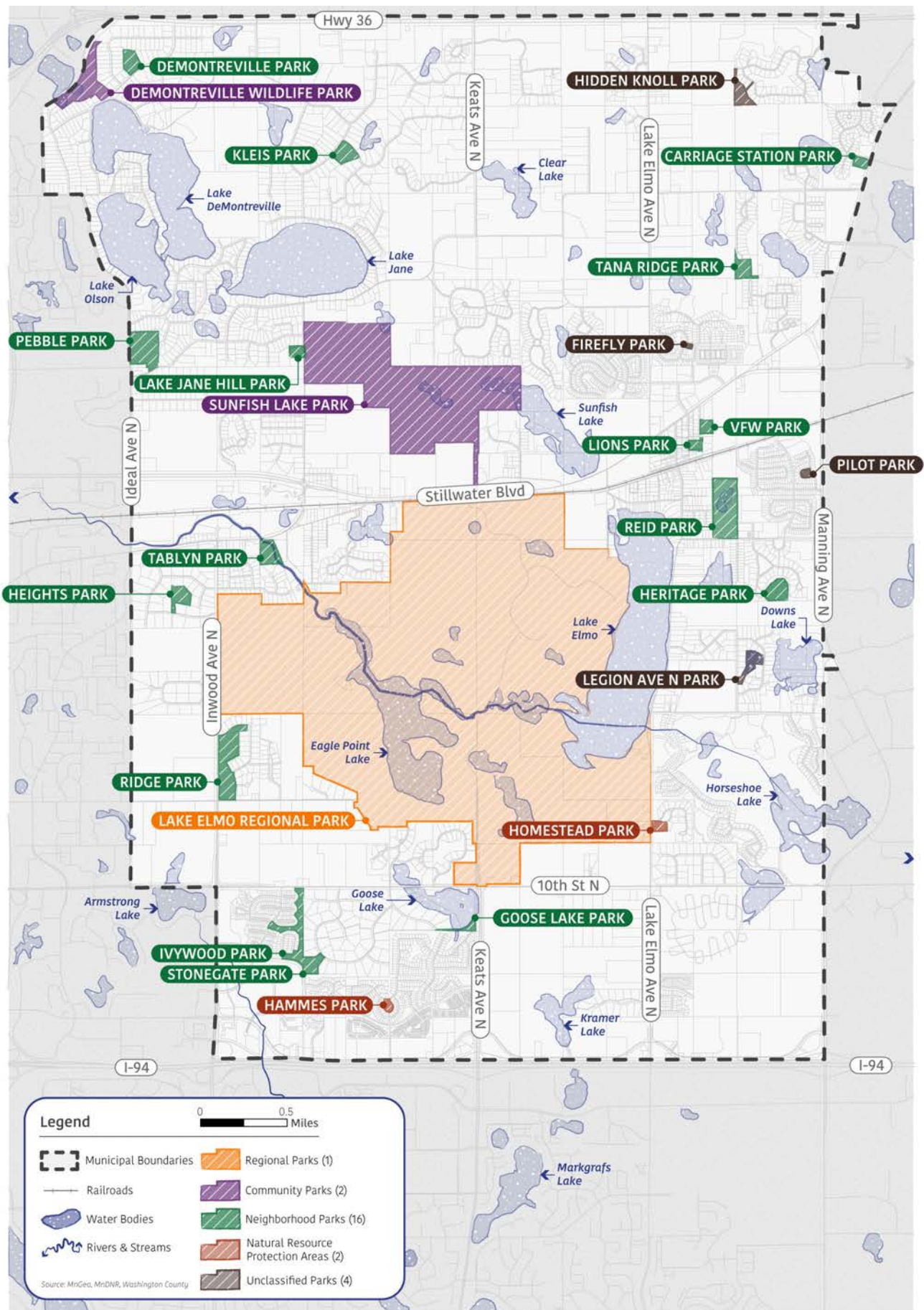
- **Unclassified**
 - » *Firefly Park*
 - » *Hidden Knoll Park*
 - » *Legion Ave N Park*
 - » *Pilot Park*

The table on the next page provides additional information about each NRPA park classification's size, service area, typical location, and purpose. Classifying parks in this way ensures the appropriate management and conservation practices are applied based on each park's specific purpose and unique characteristics. Developing and maintaining the system according to these guidelines will positively impact the community and its resources into the future.

TABLE 3.1 | NRPA PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION	SIZE (TYP.)	SERVICE AREA	ACCESSIBILITY/ LOCATION	PURPOSE	LAKE ELMO PARKS
COMMON PARK TYPES					
Neighborhood Park	1 to 25+ acres	A 1/4 to 1/2-mile radius; within a walkable distance to surrounding residents without any major barriers	Easily accessible to nearby neighborhood residents in a safe environment with walking & biking access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides active recreation & information gathering spaces and addresses day-to-day neighborhood needs Offers fields sized for practice/youth games” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carriage Station, DeMontreville, Goose Lake, Heights, Heritage, Ivywood, Kleis, Lake Jane Hills, Lions, Pebble, Reid, Ridge, Stonegate, Tablyn, Tana Ridge, VFW
Community Park	10-50+ acres; up to several hundred acres	Community-wide; generally placed in strategic locations throughout the city	Accessible to the community by foot, bike, automobile & public transit; often takes advantage of natural amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves the entire community May provide access to natural areas & other active recreation areas Often serves regional visitors (not primary purpose, however) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeMontreville Wildlife, Sunfish Lake
Regional Park	Up to several hundred acres	Community-wide & regional service	Varies; often placed/centered around natural environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses vary; focused mainly on outdoor & natural resource-based recreation and learning opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Elmo Park Reserve (Washington County)
ADDITIONAL PARK/FACILITY TYPES					
Special Use	Varies	Community-wide & regional service	Site-specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serves a single-use activity (e.g., golf, fitness, ice skating, nature education, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Natural Resource Protection Area/ Conservation Easement	Varies	Community-wide & regional service	Often placed around natural resources & amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities to interact with natural environments & participate in passive recreation and ecological education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hammes, Homestead
Youth Athletic Park	10 to 20 acres	Community-wide; generally placed in a few strategic locations/sites	Generally connected to trails & sidewalks; vehicle parking provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides youth athletic fields & their associated facilities Can function similarly to a neighborhood parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Community Athletic Park	10 to 25+ acres	Community-wide; generally placed in a few strategic locations/sites	Generally connected to trails & sidewalks; vehicle parking provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides organized athletic recreation with regulation-sized fields & their associated facilities Can function similarly to a neighborhood park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

FIGURE 3.5 | 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PARK CLASSIFICATIONS MAP



Upon completion of the park system inventory, the quantitative data collected was consolidated into a comprehensive inventory chart to provide a more thorough system-wide review of existing facilities and amenities and to identify any missing asset or issues in the system. This table also includes proposed classifications for each park based on size, amenities, and use.

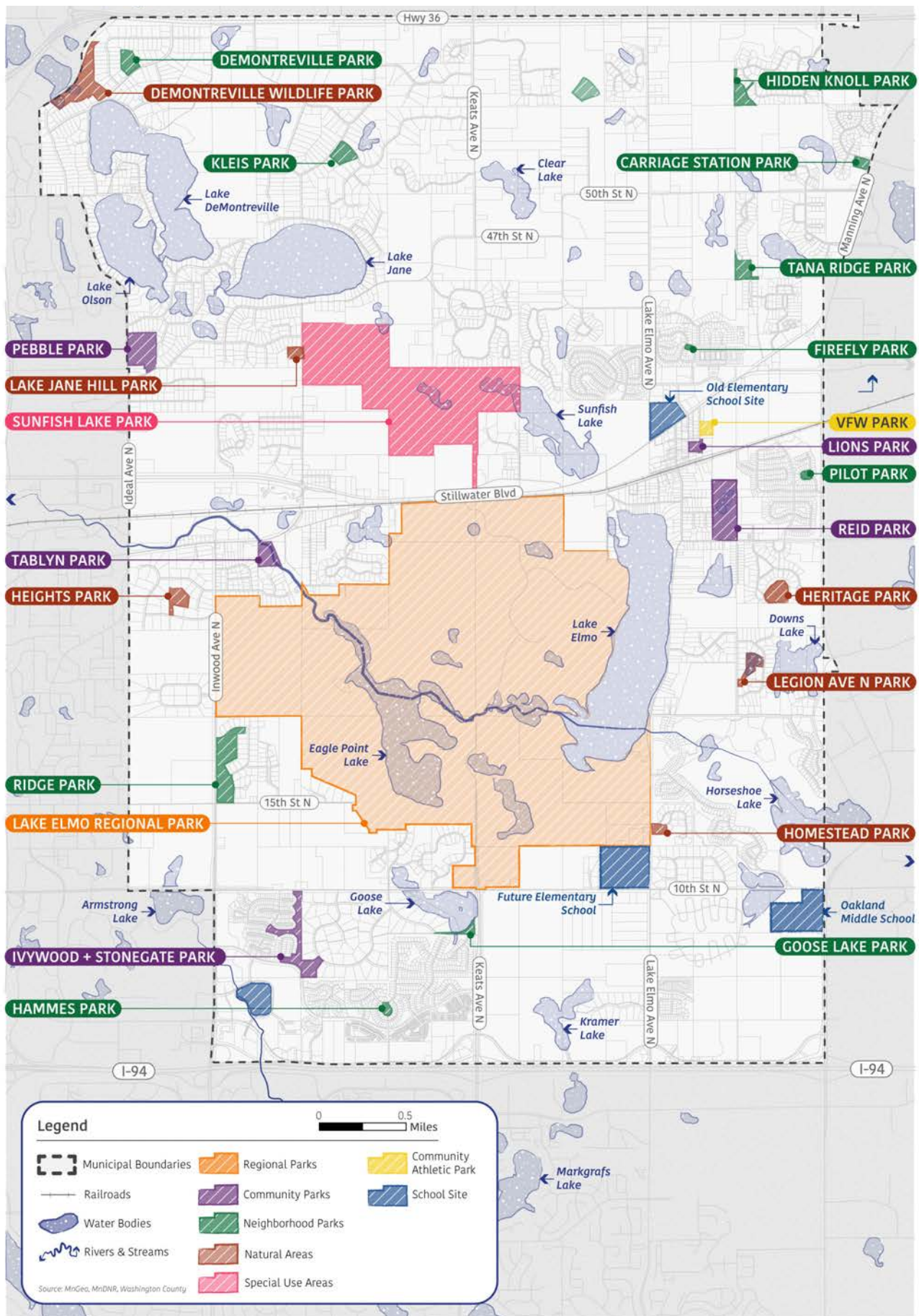
- Ballfields (Recreational)
- Ballfields (Competitive)
- Basketball (Full-Court)
- Basketball (Half-Court)
- Bike Racks/Repair Station
- Biking/Walking Trails
- Fishing Pier
- Gaga Ball
- Grill
- Ice Skating/Hockey Rink
- Kiosk (Interpretive/Educational)
- Multi-Use Field
- On-Street Parking
- Park Entry Signage
- Permanent Restrooms
- Pickleball Courts
- Picnic Tables
- Playgrounds
- Portable Toilets
- Shelter
- Sledding Hill
- Tennis Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Warming House

CITY PARKS	2040 PARK CLASSIFICATION	PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION	ACRES	AMENITY TYPE																	
Carriage Station Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	2.71		●	●					●	●	●		●	●	●	●			
DeMontreville Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	6.33	●	●						●	●				●	●				
DeMontreville Wildlife Park	Community	Natural Area	23.48			●			●		●	●									
Firefly Park	*	Neighborhood	0.55			●						●	●			●					
Goose Lake Park	Neighborhood	Community	7.10			●	●	●	●			●			●			●			
Hammes Park	NRPA**	Neighborhood	1.93			●						●	●		●	●					
Heights Park	Neighborhood	Natural Area	6.60			●						●									
Heritage Park	Neighborhood	Natural Area	13.65			●						●	●								
Hidden Knoll Park	*	Neighborhood	6.37			●	●				●	●	●		●	●	●	●			
Homestead Park	NRPA**	Natural Area	2.70			●						●									
Ivywood Park	Neighborhood	Community	12.11			●	●					●	●		●	●		●	●		
Kleis Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	6.94	●		●		●			●	●	●		●	●	●				
Lake Jane Hill Park	Neighborhood	Natural Area	6.33									●									
Lions Park	Neighborhood	Community	3.36		●	●			●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Legion Ave N Park	*	Natural Area	6.10			●						●									
Pebble Park	Neighborhood	Community	19.20	●		●					●	●			●	●	●	●	●		
Pilot Park	*	Neighborhood	1.36			●						●	●	●		●	●	●			
Reid Park	Neighborhood	Community	61.57	●	●	●					●	●			●	●	●				
Ridge Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	23.47	●		●					●	●				●	●				
Stonegate Park	Neighborhood	Community	6.04	●		●		●			●	●	●		●	●	●				
Sunfish Lake Park	Community	Special Use	278.26			●						●	●		●	●					
Tablyn Park	Neighborhood	Community	8.62	●	●	●		●			●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		
Tana Ridge Park	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	9.18	●	●	●					●	●	●		●	●	●				
VFW Park	Neighborhood	Community Athletic	3.23		●		●					●				●					

517.2 8 2 2 3 2 22 1 1 4 1 1 11 16 20 2 3 14 13 15 5 3 2 1 1

** Natural Resource Protection Area

FIGURE 3.6 | PROPOSED PARK CLASSIFICATIONS MAP



EXISTING PROGRAMMING

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING + EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Lake Elmo offers a variety of recreational facilities and amenities in their park system, but the city has limited staff and lacks a recreation programming department to assist in facilitating programmed events and opportunities. In the future, the city should consider developing a programming coordinator position to get the ball rolling on a programming to help activate Lake Elmo parks.

The Stillwater Area Public Schools Community Education organization offers Lake Elmo residents of all ages, including infants, children, teens, parents, adults, and seniors, opportunities to recreate, socialize, and get involved locally. Some of their offerings for this spring and summer include (but are not limited to):

- 50 adult classes for activities like strength and conditioning, golf skills, pickleball and tennis lessons, kayaking lessons, bird watching, social media use, etc.
- 129 youth classes and camps for activities like golf, cheer, ninja/parkour, sports, architecture and design, art, theater, etc.
- 23 early childhood family education classes

Washington County also offers a variety of programs and events for folks in Lake Elmo to engage in. Some of these events and programs include bird hikes, dog days in the ravine, yoga in the park, learning to bike, forest bathing, and more. Many of these activities occur in Lake Elmo Park Reserve, which is situated in the heart of the city and easy for residents of Lake Elmo to access.



Figure 3.3: Early childhood family education activities are offered through Stillwater Area Public School Community Ed



Figure 3.4: Community theater opportunities through the SAPSCE organization are often sought after by the youth



Figure 3.5: Washington County hosts county-wide events (like yoga in the park) at Lake Elmo Regional Park throughout the summer

NRPA AGENCY BENCHMARKS

PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY BENCHMARKS

To support the wide range of needs, interests and lifestyles of park and trail users in their communities, park and recreation agencies must offer a variety of facilities, amenities, and programming opportunities. This requires the right amount of staff to support the development and continued maintenance of those facilities and amenities.

In the 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review report, a number of top-line findings pertaining to park facilities, programming, the responsibilities of park and recreation agencies, staffing, budget, agency funding, and policies are described. Some highlights from those top-line findings are shown to the right. The table on the next page provides a brief overview of various NRPA agency benchmarks and compares the typical U.S. park and recreation agency to Lake Elmo. A few key takeaways from the table include:

- In terms of the number of parks, park acreage, trail mileage, and acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, Lake Elmo is well above the typical park and recreation agency
- Lake Elmo has very limited park and recreation agency staffing and therefore has fewer full-time staff members per 10,000 residents than is typical; more staff is needed to accommodate an ever expanding city and park and trail system
- Lake Elmo spends much less in operating expenditures than the typical park and recreation agency; annual operating expenditures are also much lower than the typical agency

RESIDENTS PER PARK

573



ACRES OF PARKLAND PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

37.1



MILES OF TRAILS

82



LOCAL
49 mi.

WASHINGTON CO.
33 mi.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER ACRE OF PARK & RECREATION SPACE

\$833.27

OPERATING EXPENDITURES PER RESIDENT

\$31.93

TABLE 3.3 | PARK AND RECREATION AGENCY BENCHMARKS*

NRPA BENCHMARK	ALL PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES (MEDIAN)	PARK AND RECREATION AGENCIES LESS THAN 20,000 (MEDIAN)	LAKE ELMO
PARK FACILITIES			
Residents per park	2,386 residents	1,172 residents	573 residents
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	10.6 acres	12.6 acres	37.1 acres
Miles of trails	16 miles	4.5 miles	82 miles
STAFFING			
Park and recreation full-time employees per 10,000 residents	8.9 employees	13.7 employees	2 employees
BUDGET			
Annual operating expenditures	\$6,453,357	\$1,451,763	\$431,038
Annual operating expenditures per resident	\$99.47	\$135.53	\$31.93
Operating expenditures per acre of park and recreation space	\$8,260	\$9,777	\$833.27
Annual operating expenditures per full-time employee	\$110,912	\$101,304	\$215,519
Typical percentage of operating expenditures for staffing	54%	N/A	30%
AGENCY FUNDING			
Operating expenditures derived from general fund tax support	62%	N/A	30%
Annual revenue generated from each resident	\$22.58	\$47.71	\$31.85
Five-year capital budget spending	\$12 million	\$1,814,000	\$2 million (\$400k a year)
Targets for capital expenditures	88% for improvements 7% for acquisition	N/A	80% for renovation 20% for new development
POLICIES			
Park and recreation agencies that ban tobacco products at their parks and facilities	4 in 5 (80%)	N/A	0% (Lake Elmo bans alcohol and cannabinoids use in parks)
Agencies with a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion expressed in their foundational documents (e.g., vision, mission and strategic plan documents)	77%	N/A	100%

* derived from the 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

SERVICE AREA + FACILITY GUIDELINES

RECREATION FACILITY SERVICE STANDARDS

The recreation facility service standards included in the following pages identify a minimum level of service needed for convenient access to recreation in indoor and outdoor facilities. The following standards also list the minimum number of facilities recommended in the community (per population), the recommended service area of each of the indoor and outdoor facilities, the target range/recommended quantity of each facility type, the current number of each facility in Lake Elmo, the amount of excess or deficit of each facility based on the minimum number recommended, and any additional notes that speak toward the proximity of each facility in adjacent communities or areas. In general, Lake Elmo lacks indoor recreation

facilities (e.g., aquatic centers, community centers, indoor ice rinks, senior centers, etc.), although a number of indoor recreation facilities are located in nearby communities, like Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. On the other hand, there are a number of outdoor recreation facilities in Lake Elmo for folks to utilize. The community does like iconic facilities like a splash pad, outdoor swimming pool, and skate park, though.

As outlined in Chapter 2 of this report, park and recreation trends are constantly shifting. As new activities and programs gain popularity in the community, the city will need to remain flexible and responsive to the changing needs of its residents.

TABLE 3.4 | RECREATION FACILITY SERVICE STANDARDS

FACILITY	MIN. NUMBER PER POPULATION	SERVICE AREA	TARGET RANGE	CURRENT NUMBER	EXCESS/ DEFICIT	NOTES
INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES						
Aquatics Centers	1 per 10,000 to 12,000	Entire city	1 aquatic center	0	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stillwater Courage Center, nearby YMCAs, Foss Swim School
Community Centers	1 per 10,000	Entire city	1 community center	0	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Hall provides some room rental space
Indoor Ice Rinks	1 per 8,000	Entire city	1 indoor ice rink	0	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oak Park Heights Dome, Lily Lake in Stillwater, St. Mary’s Point
Nature Centers	1 per 10,000	Entire city	1 nature center	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center in Sunfish Lake Park
Senior Centers	1 per 14,000	Entire city	1 senior center	0	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courage Center in Stillwater offers many senior programs

TABLE 3.4 CONT. | RECREATION FACILITY SERVICE STANDARDS

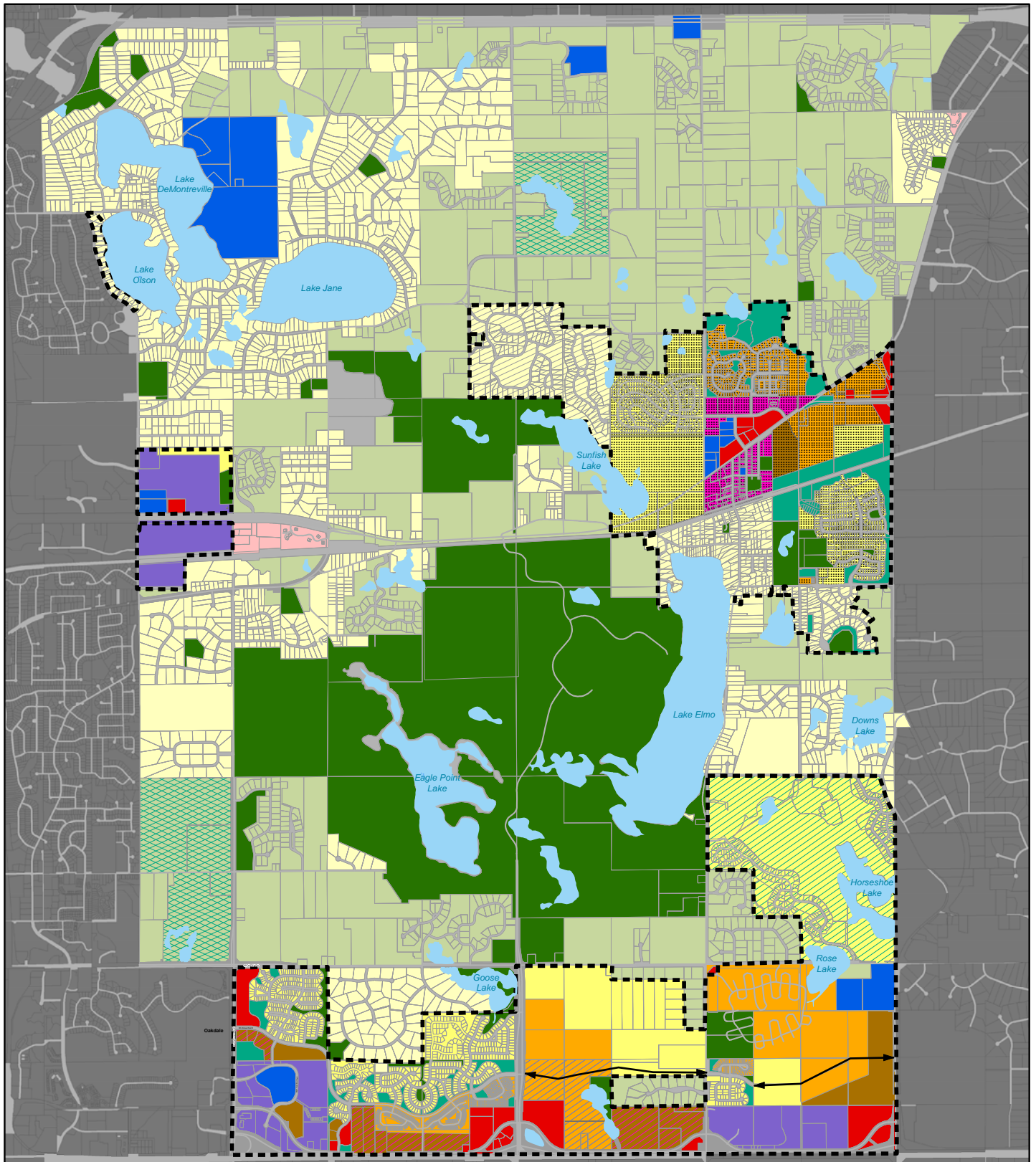
FACILITY	MIN. NUMBER PER POPULATION	SERVICE AREA	TARGET RANGE	CURRENT NUMBER	EXCESS/ DEFICIT	NOTES
OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES						
Alternative Sports Facilities	N/A	Entire city	N/A	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bielenburg Sports Center in Woodbury, Oak Park Heights Dome, St. Croix Valley Rec Center in Stillwater
Baseball/ Softball Fields	<u>Full-size</u> (1 per city + 1 per 5,000 to 10,000 <u>Youth-size</u> 1 per 2,500 to 5,000	<u>Adult</u> 10-15 min. <u>Youth</u> 1-2 miles	<u>Full-size</u> 2-3 fields <u>Youth-size</u> 3-5 fields	<u>Full-size</u> 2 fields <u>Youth-size</u> 8 fields	<u>Full-size</u> 0 <u>Youth-size</u> +3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DeMontreville Park, Kleis Park, Lions Park, Pebble Park, Reid Park, Ridge Park, Stonegate Park, Tablyn Park, Tana Ridge Park, VFW Park
Basketball (Outdoor)	<u>Full-court</u> 1 per 5,000 <u>Half-size</u> 1 per 3,000	1/2 to 1 mile	<u>Full-court</u> 2-3 courts <u>Half-court</u> 4-5 courts	<u>Full-court</u> 2 courts <u>Half-court</u> 2 courts	<u>Full-court</u> 0 <u>Half-court</u> -2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carriage Station Park, DeMontreville Park
Community Gardens	1 per 7,000 to 9,000	Entire city	1-2 gardens	0	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valley Outreach in Stillwater, Cimmaron Mobile Home Park (private), private area kitty-corner from City Hall (11343 39th St N), private area near Sunfish Lake Park
Golf Course (18-hole)	1 per 10,000	Entire city	1 18-hole golf course	2	+1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cimarron and Royal in Lake Elmo Oak Marsh in Oakdale, Stone Ridge in Stillwater, Applewood Hills and Indian Hills in Grant
Outdoor Ice Rinks	1 per 5,000 to 10,000	10-15 min.	2-3 rinks	1	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lions Park in Lake Elmo Brekke Park in Oak Park Heights, Croixwood in Stillwater, Oak Park Heights Dome (indoor and outdoor)

TABLE 3.4 CONT. | RECREATION FACILITY SERVICE STANDARDS

Multi-Use Fields	1 per 4,000	1-2 miles	3-4 fields	11	+7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demontreville Park, Tana Ridge Park, Tablyn Park, Pebble Park, Reid Park, Ridge Park Fields intended for soccer, football, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, etc.
Off-leash dog parks/exercise areas	1 per 10,000 to 12,000	10-15 min.	1 dog park/ exercise area	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rice Creek in Shoreview, Battle Creek in Woodbury, Andy's Bark Park in Woodbury, Bald Eagle-Otter Park in White Bear Lake, Hudson
Pickleball	1 per 2,000 to 4,000	10-15 min.	3-6 courts	13	+7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivywood Park, Lions Park, Pebble Park, Tablyn Park
Playgrounds	1 per 2,000	10-15 min.	5-7 playgrounds	13	+6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 city-owned playgrounds in park system
Skate Park	1 per 10,000 to 12,000	Entire city	1 skate park	0	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oak Park Heights Dome has a skate park nearby
Sledding Hills	N/A	Entire city	N/A	2	+2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tablyn Park, Green Acres snow tubing, informal sledding at Carriage Station Park
Swimming Pool (Outdoor)	1 per 10,000	Entire city	1 swimming pool	0	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Elmo Park Reserve has a swimming pond
Tennis	1 per 2,000 to 4,000	1 mile	3-6 courts	2	-1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many will be replaced with pickleball courts
Volleyball	1 per 7,500 to 15,000	2 miles	1 court	1	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lions Park

The following pages contain a number of maps and engagement summaries that the planning team used to better understand the distribution of park and recreation elements in Lake Elmo. These maps, along with community input and stakeholder feedback, helped to identify missing links and community needs in the city's park and trail system. Additional maps, as well as a complete set of survey results, can be found in the appendix of this document.

FIGURE 3.6 | 2040 FUTURE LAND USE MAP



0 1800 3600 5400 7200 Ft

Map Date: Jan 2024



— — — — — MUSA Boundary

➔ Planned Roadway (Parkway)

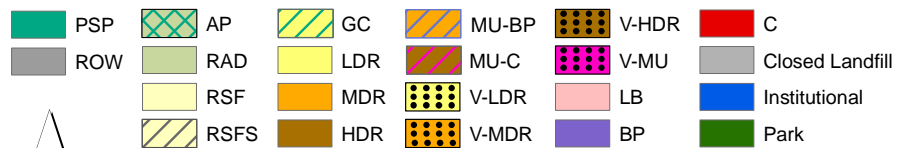


FIGURE 3.7 | PLATTED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT MAP

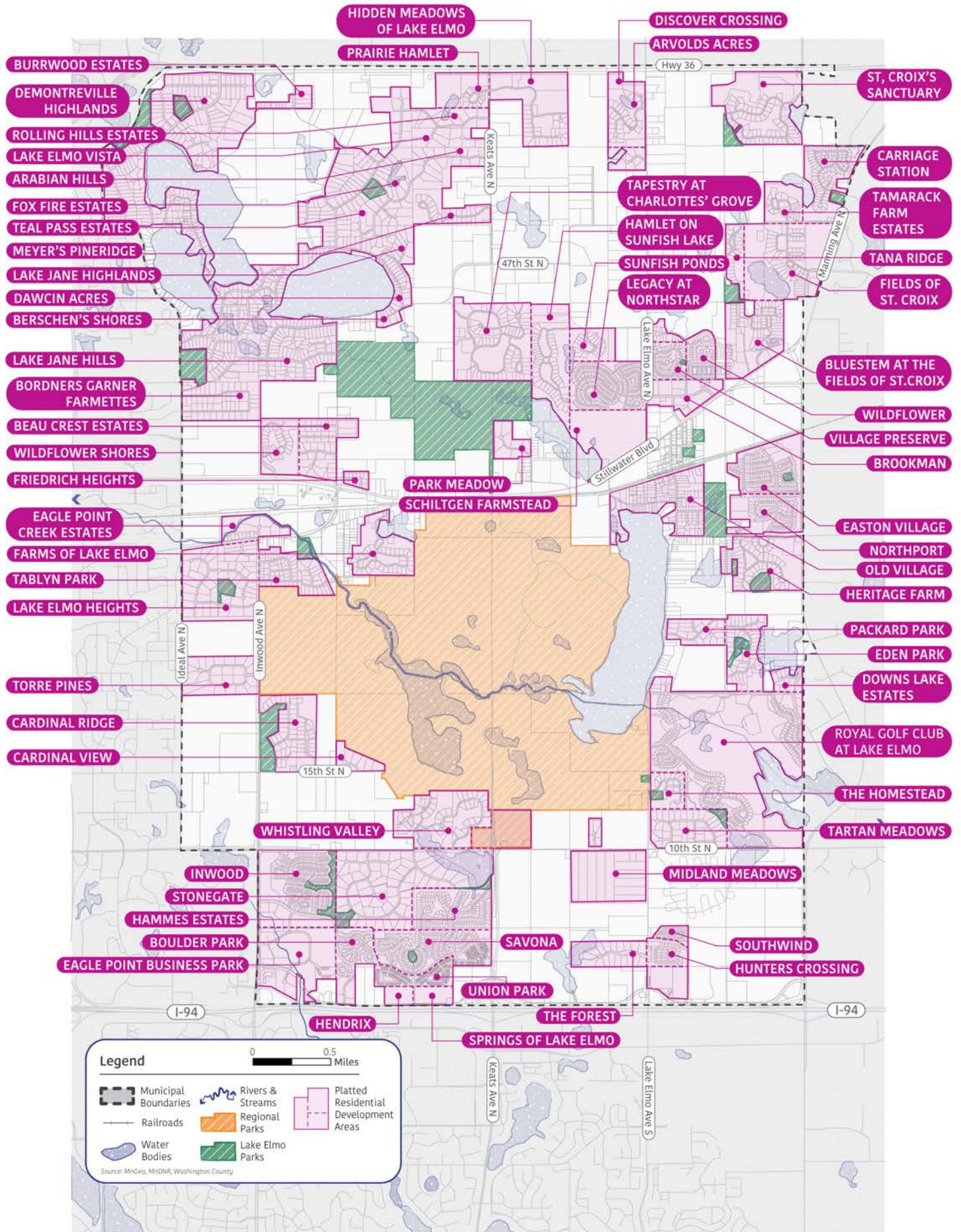


FIGURE 3.8 | NEIGHBORHOOD PARK GAP MAP

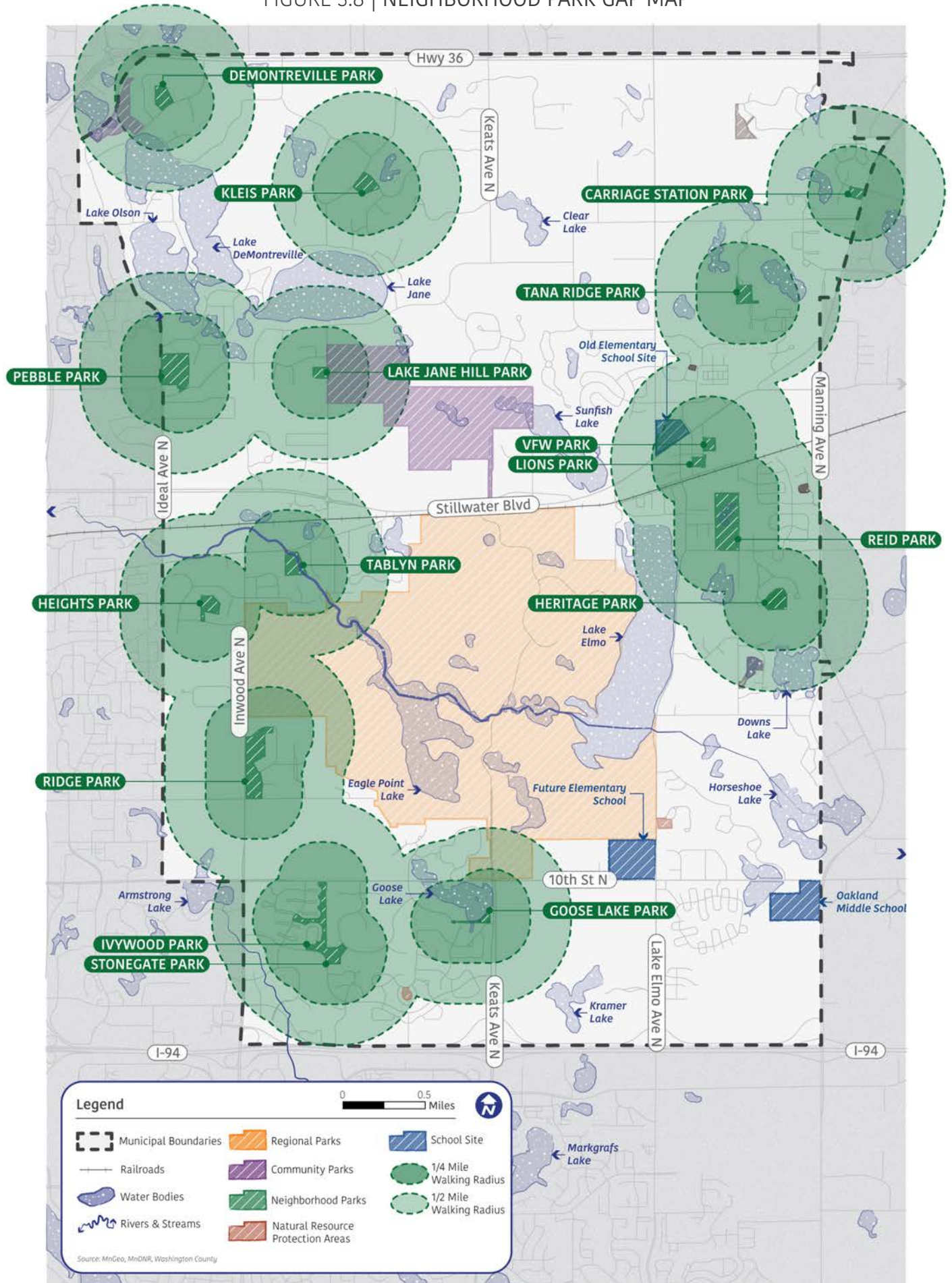
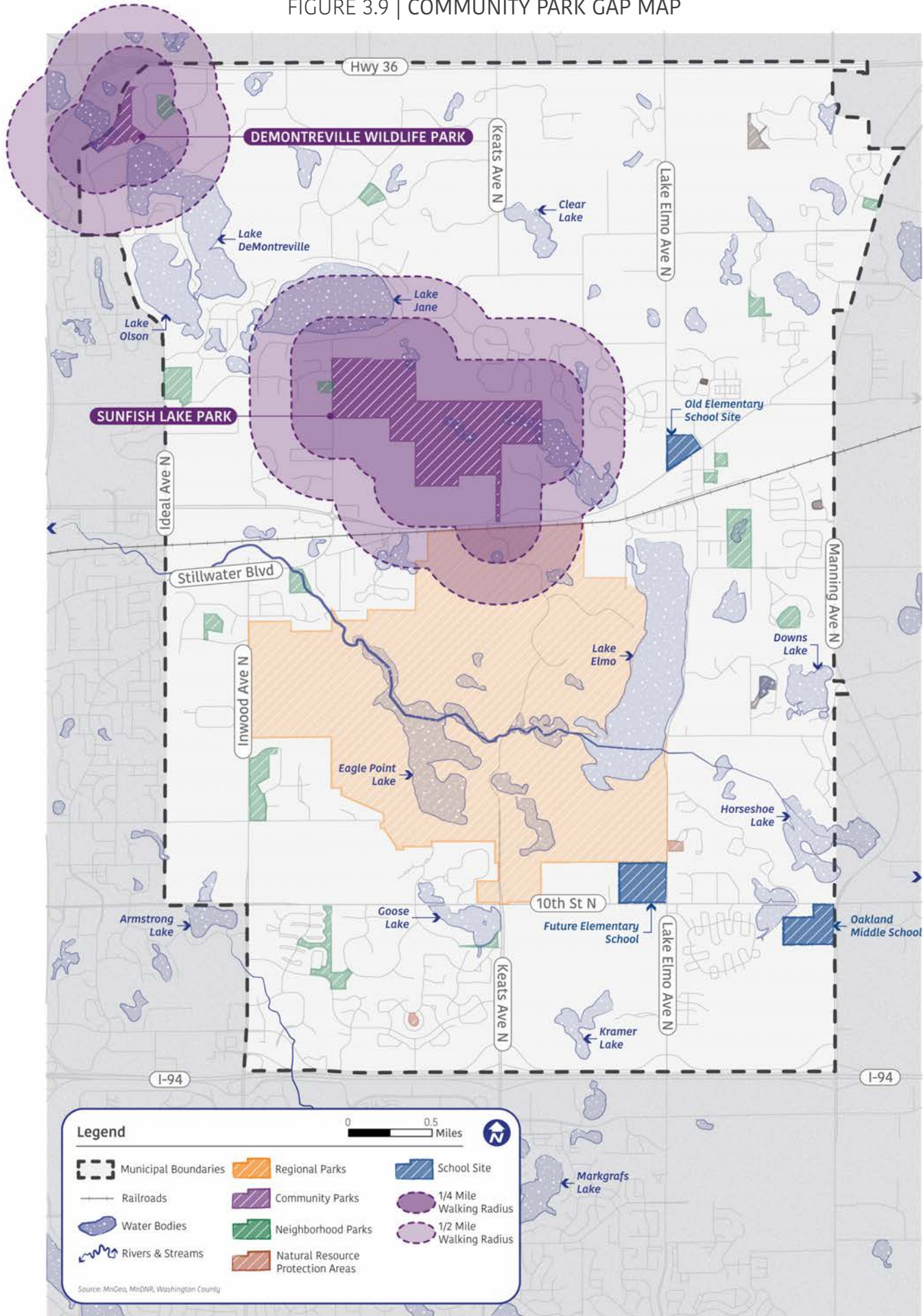


FIGURE 3.9 | COMMUNITY PARK GAP MAP



This map illustrates the Lake Elmo Regional Park and its surrounding area, including walking radii, parks, and schools. The map is bounded by Hwy 36 to the north, I-94 to the south, Ideal Ave N to the west, and Manning Ave N to the east. Key features include:

- Walking Radii:** A 1/4 mile walking radius is shown as a solid orange area, and a 1/2 mile walking radius is shown as a dashed orange area. Both radii are centered on the Lake Elmo Regional Park.
- Parks:**
 - Regional Parks:** Lake Elmo Regional Park (solid orange).
 - Community Parks:** Sunfish Lake (purple hatched), Eagle Point Lake (purple hatched), Goose Lake (purple hatched), and Kramer Lake (purple hatched).
 - Neighborhood Parks:** Lake Olson (green hatched), Lake DeMontreville (green hatched), and Lake Jane (green hatched).
 - Natural Resource Protection Areas:** Lake Elmo (blue hatched), Eagle Point Lake (blue hatched), and Goose Lake (blue hatched).
- Schools:**
 - Old Elementary School Site:** Located near Sunfish Lake.
 - Future Elementary School:** Located near Eagle Point Lake.
 - Oakland Middle School:** Located near Kramer Lake.
- Water Bodies:** Lake Olson, Lake DeMontreville, Lake Jane, Sunfish Lake, Lake Elmo, Eagle Point Lake, Goose Lake, Kramer Lake, Markgrafs Lake, Downs Lake, and Horseshoe Lake.
- Rivers & Streams:** Stillwater Blvd, Inwood Ave N, Keats Ave N, and Manning Ave N.
- Other Features:** Municipal boundaries (dashed line), Railroads (dotted line), and a scale bar (0 to 0.5 miles).

Source: MrGeo, MrDNR, Washington County

FIGURE 3.11 | NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA GAP MAP

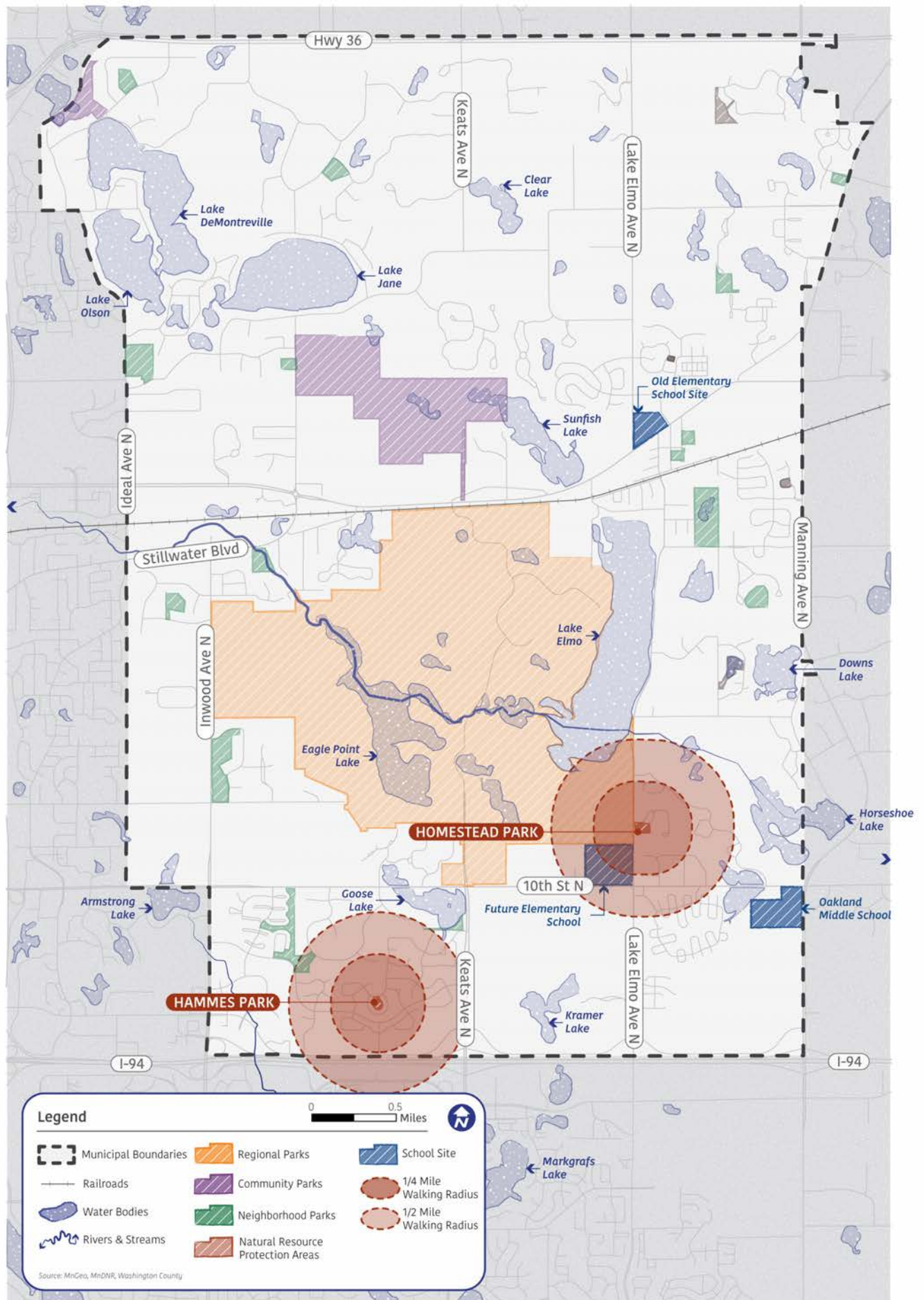


FIGURE 3.12 | PLAYGROUND GAP MAP

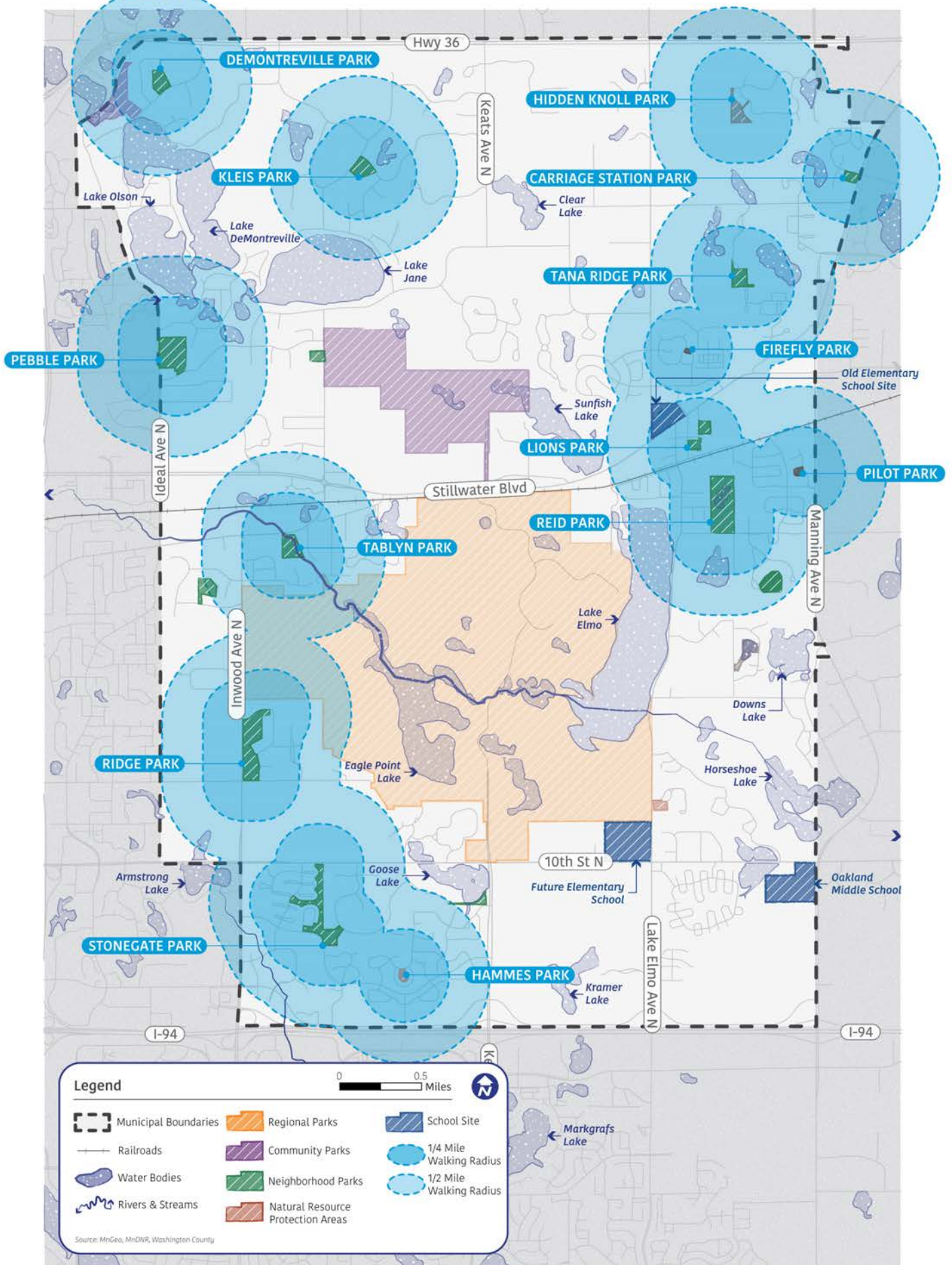
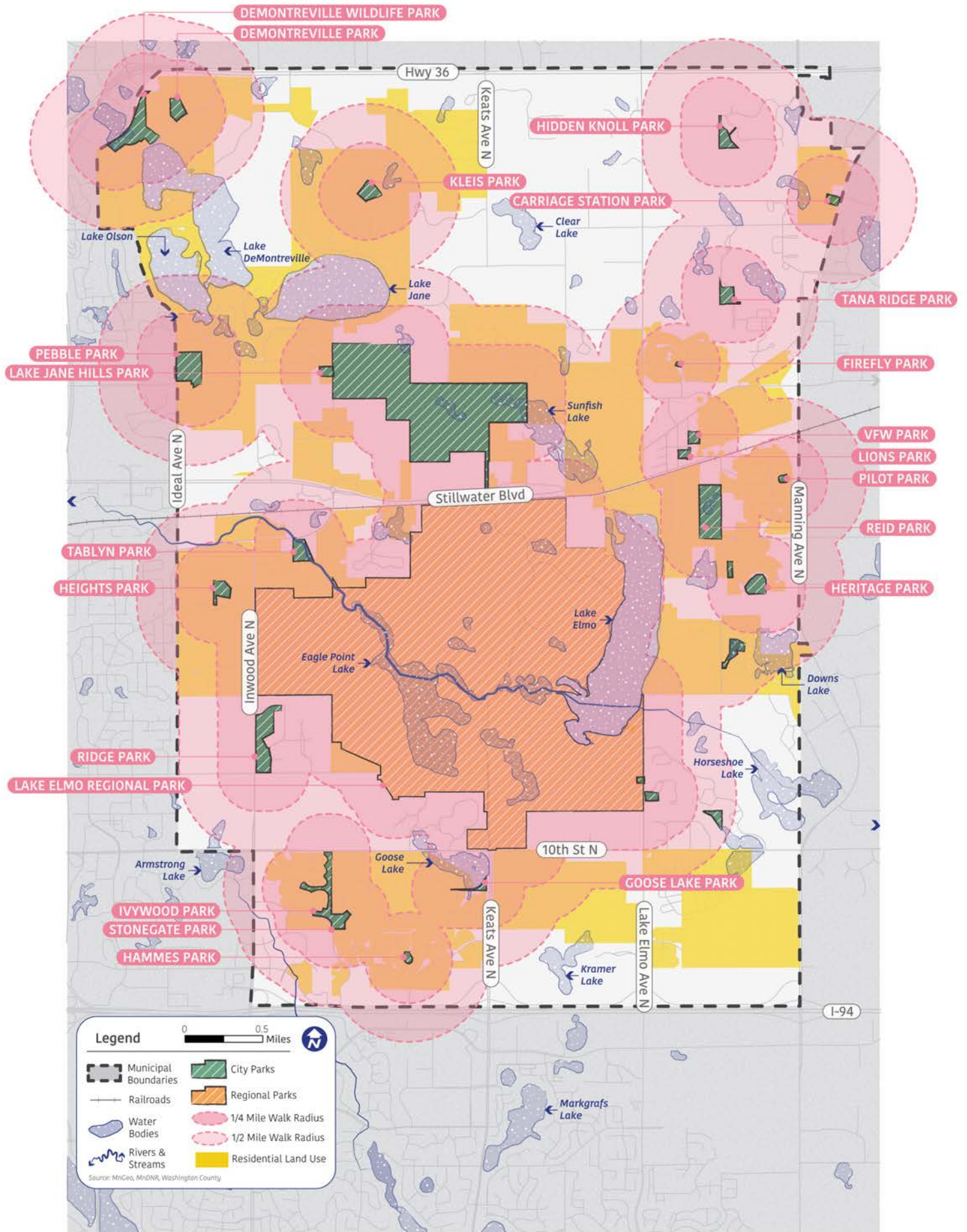


FIGURE 3.13 | ALL PARK DISTRIBUTION AND GAP ANALYSIS MAP



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

COORDINATION WITH CITY STAFF AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With an invigorated interest in completing a park system plan to help guide the future of their parks, trails and open spaces, the city decided to prioritize the development of this report in 2023. Throughout the planning process, the planning team has worked closely with city staff and a number of Advisory Committee members in the overall development of the plan, as they have been able to provide local expertise on the park and trail system, highlight potential deficiencies, and guide outcomes of the project (in conjunction with input collected through public engagement). There were several meetings with members of city staff during the development of this plan and four meetings with the Advisory Committee. These meetings focused on topics ranging from existing conditions in the parks to potential improvement recommendations for improvement.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

During the development of this plan, the planning team hosted two in-person engagement events: Light Up Lake Elmo and the Arbor Day Tree Giveaway. Light Up Lake Elmo is an annual event and gathering downtown where community members can engage in winter activities, meet Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and take part in a tree lighting ceremony. The Arbor Day Tree Giveaway event also occurs annually. It provides residents with an opportunity to pick up a tree sapling they can take home and plant in appreciation of Arbor Day. Both events were a success, with many stopping by to provide feedback on the plan and its recommendations. Key findings from those events are included in the following two pages.

COMMUNITY SURVEY OVERVIEW

The planning team launched the community survey to residents of Lake Elmo in December of 2023. The survey was live for approximately four months and was accessible online through a shareable web link. While the survey was live, city staff, the Advisory Committee, and the planning team spread the word throughout Lake Elmo. In the end, over 500 participants provided input through the community survey.

The following pages provide a summary of the community input received from the community survey and various in-person engagement events. A full report of results from the survey can be found in the appendix of this plan.

ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

553
SURVEY RESPONSES

2
IN-PERSON POP-UP EVENTS

HUNDREDS
OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

SWOT ANALYSIS

Early in the planning process, the Advisory Committee was asked to assist in developing a visual SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis. The findings from that exercise

are listed below. These findings were strongly supported by community feedback both in the survey and at engagement events. Key takeaways from the exercise include:

STRENGTHS

- » Excellent culture around parks and nature
- » County and state partnerships
- » Many park, facility and activity options, especially for a smaller town
- » Considerable acreage for well-used parks
- » City is not entirely developed (there is open space for further park + trail development)
- » Sunfish Lake Park - a 280 acre natural park that provides a great nature experience
- » Lake Elmo Park Reserve (Washington County)
- » Tranquil feel in neighborhood and community parks

WEAKNESSES

- » Lack of conservation of natural open areas
- » Many areas impacted by invasive species
- » No indoor play facilities or water features
- » Funding model is developer-driven
- » Lack of trail connectivity in some areas; trail connections can be confusing for newcomers
- » Not all trails accessible throughout the year
- » Lack of city resources dedicated to parks; no dedicated parks department
- » Existing youth athletic fields need expansion improvements in order to address capacity issues
- » City gathering space for events is missing
- » No true sports complex
- » Lack of recreational programming
- » Lake Elmo Park Reserve

OPPORTUNITIES

- » Open acreage for additional parks and natural spaces (if the city decides)
- » Dedicated volunteers interested in preserving and helping manage parks + trails
- » Demographic changes (e.g., population, age, race) in the community
- » Park dedication
- » City provides varying housing options that bring a variety of new residents to town
- » Partnerships for programming
- » Aquatics Center
- » Outdoor water fund
- » Many open, flex fields in the community that could become dedicated athletic fields

THREATS

- » Development
- » Over-development - do developers have the best interest of the residents in mind?
- » Misperception of Lake Elmo Park Reserve as a city asset
- » Misperception that parks are superfluous or not important
- » Climate change, invasive species and natural resource degradation
- » Public park space being treated as privately-owned open space
- » Continued operation and maintenance of parks for the next 15 to 20 years
- » One time-funding vs. continued revenue needed to run parks

POP-UP EVENTS

LIGHT UP LAKE ELMO

VISIONING BOARD EXERCISE

WHAT DO YOU ENVISION FOR THE FUTURE OF LAKE ELMO PARK SYSTEM? (35 TOTAL COMMENTS)

- » Redesign/Repair the rusty fasteners at Pebble Park
- » Access to library and post office from north side is treacherous at best. We need a safe way to cross Stillwater Blvd
- » Continue sidewalk on Stillwater Blvd from 39th St to Laverne Ave N (or Lake Elmo Ave N)
- » Need better/safer CR 14 and CR 17 pedestrian crossings
- » Need path from Goose Lake Park to Lake Elmo Park Reserve
- » Develop a snow removal plan to reduce confusion in the community
- » Year-round trail maintenance
- » Greater interconnectivity of walking and multi-use trails

ACTIVITIES, AMENITIES AND PRIORITIES EXERCISE

WHAT ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES DO YOU MOST ENJOY ENGAGING IN AT LAKE ELMO PARKS? WHAT PROGRAMMING SHOULD THE CITY PRIORITIZE IN THE FUTURE? (304 TOTAL VOTES)

- » Playgrounds = 53 respondents
- » Swimming = 52 respondents
- » Walking/Running = 33 respondents
- » Fishing = 31 respondents
- » Informal Sports/Pick-Up Games = 28
- » Organized Sports = 28
- » Non-Motorized Water Activities = 20
- » Dog Walking = 19
- » Shelters = 15
- » Relaxing = 14
- » Picnic/Grilling = 11



Figure 3.6: Engagement with community members at the 2024 Light Up Lake Elmo pop-up event

ARBOR DAY TREE GIVEAWAY

KEY FINDINGS FROM ENGAGEMENT

- » Developing Lions Park as Lake Elmo's destination community park should be a high priority for the city
- » There is some resistance to adding new amenities and features to parks because of their impact on natural resources/wild spaces
- » Community members would like greater access to water-based recreational activities
- » Implementing a snow removal plan for trails in the city would help reduce confusion among community members during winter months
- » The community is concerned about the proactive management of invasive species in the preserves and parks; determining efforts needed for management, monitoring, funding, and control are of high priority
- » Addressing trail gaps and unsafe pedestrian crossings is of the utmost importance, especially around schools and other community centers

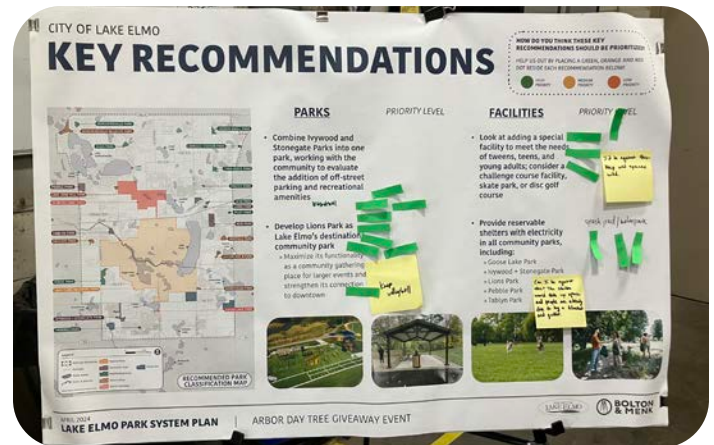
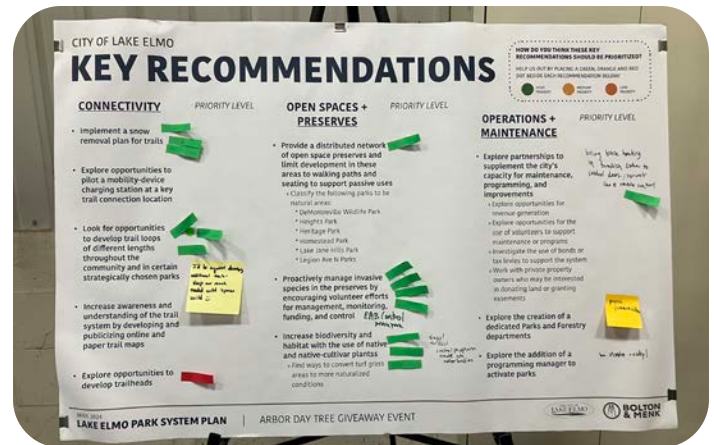
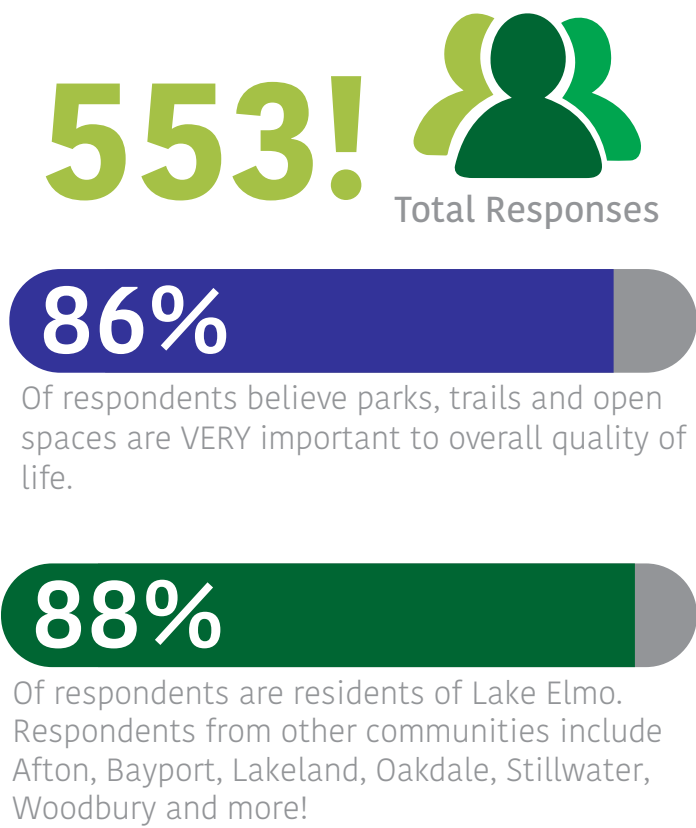


Figure 3.7: Interactive recommendation boards (Top); Engagement with community members at the 2024 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway pop-up event (Bottom)

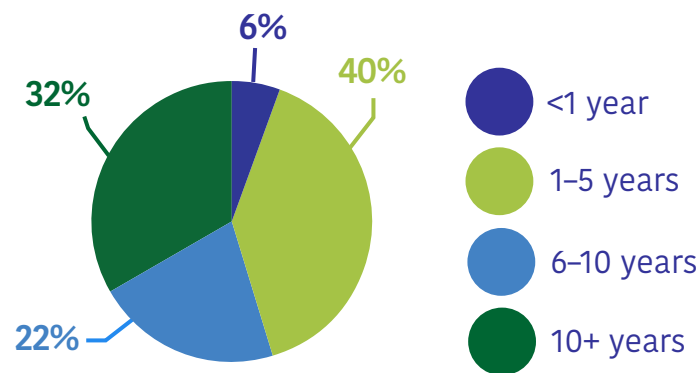
COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

SEE APPENDIX FOR FULL SURVEY

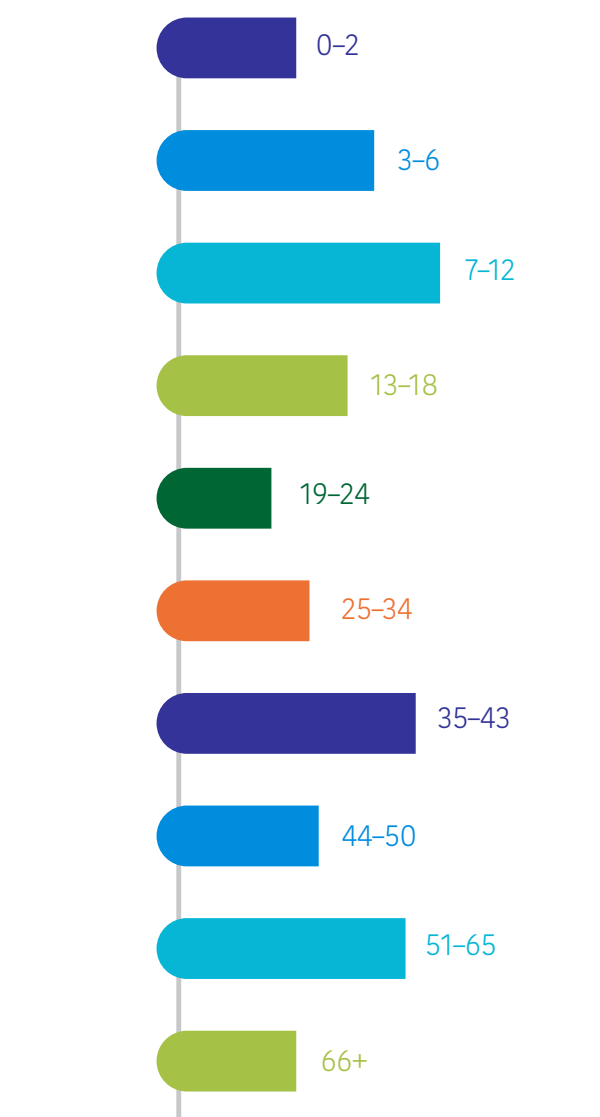
SURVEY RESPONDENTS AT A GLANCE



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A RESIDENT?



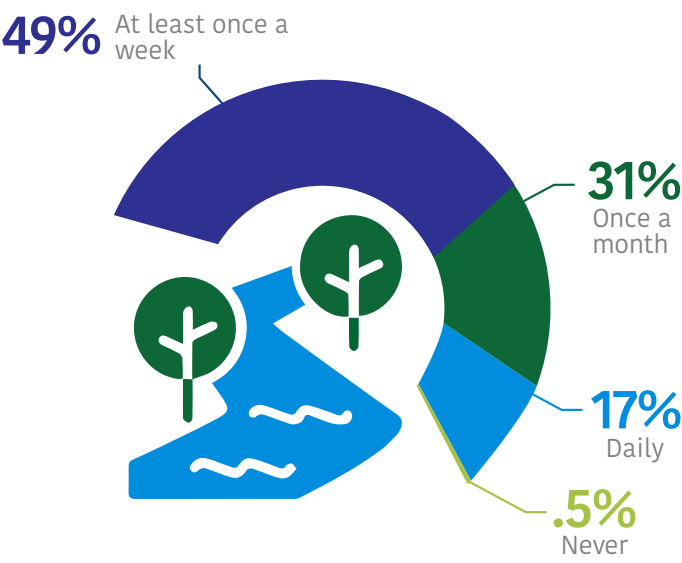
AGE GROUPS PRESENT IN RESPONDENT HOUSEHOLDS



PARKS VISITED MOST OFTEN BY RESPONDENTS



HOW OFTEN PEOPLE VISIT CITY PARKS OR TRAILS



Top organized sports participation

Baseball/Softball

81.7% (89 out of 109 respondents)

Top informal sports participation

Pickleball

72.9% (54 out of 74 respondents)



Most participated in activities and events at parks

1st
Using walking & running trails

2nd
Using park playgrounds

3rd
Dog walking

4th
Organized sports teams/leagues

5th
Informal sports (pick-up games)

Other common activities include:

- Bike riding
- Bird watching
- Relaxing
- Picnic/Grilling

Why are some parks visited more than others?

75%

Proximity to work/home

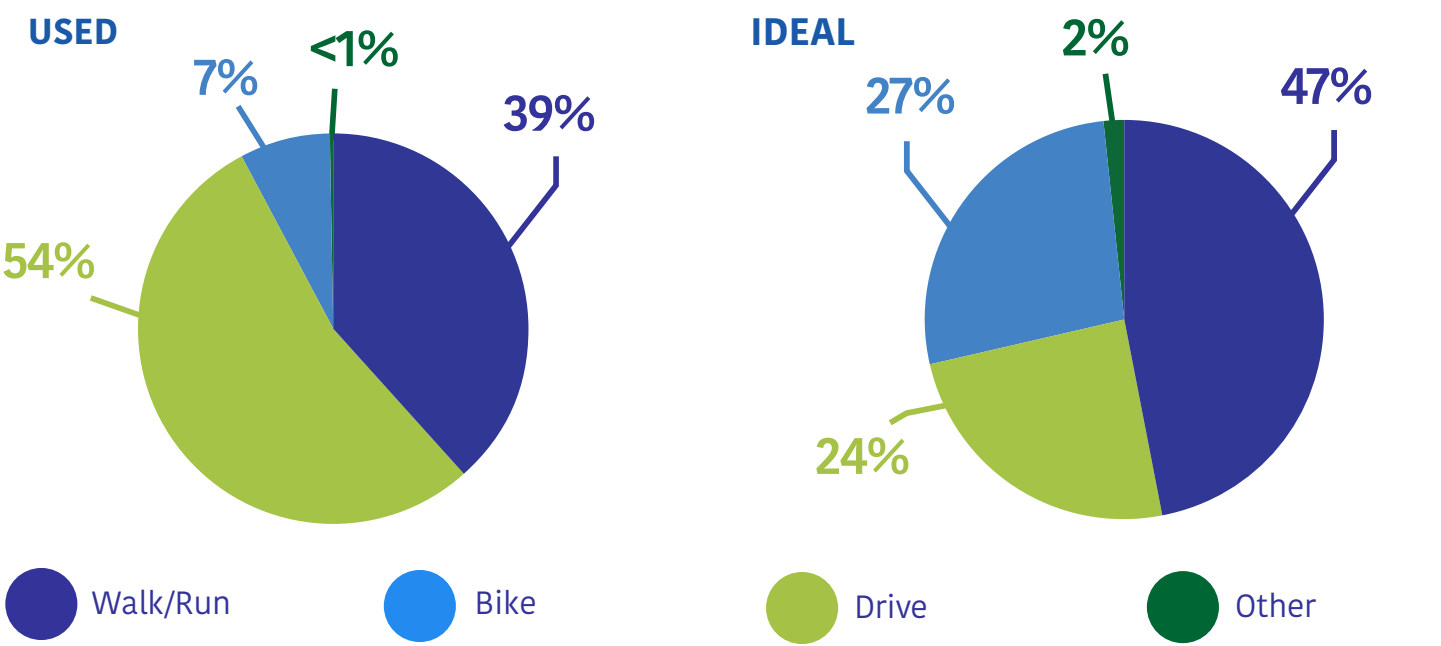
38%

Type of equipment/facilities available

34%

Sidewalks/walkable access to parks

USED VS IDEAL METHOD OF TRAVEL TO PARKS



TOP 5 PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING



Other popular priorities:

- Fitness/Health Stations
- Baseball/Softball fields
- Flat lawn/multi-use recreational spaces
- Wayfinding signage

TOP 3 COLD MONTH ACTIVITIES



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04

VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Although the community developed a city-wide vision statement in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, it was not entirely specific to Lake Elmo's park and trail system. To ensure the long-term success of this park system plan, the planning team engaged with a variety of stakeholders to develop an updated vision statement - a statement that can be adapted over time to more accurately reflect the community's needs and aspirations for their park and trail system - as well as several guiding principles and values.

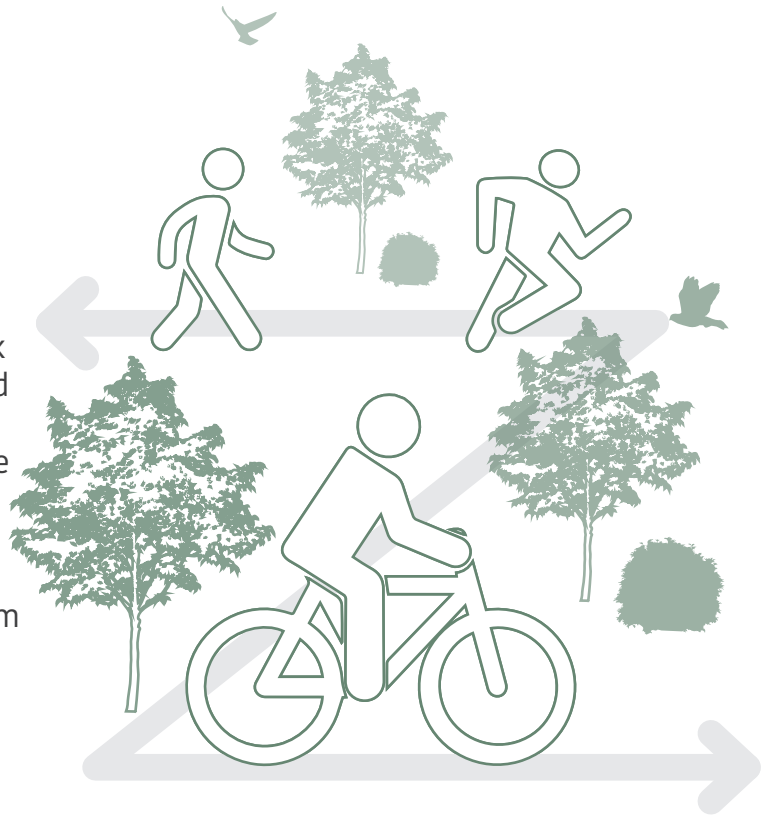
The vision statement and guiding principles in this section of the report are meant to serve as a guiding framework for the successful development and management of Lake Elmo's park and trail system. As the community's needs related to parks, trails, and open spaces evolve, the city should reflect on this vision statement and set of guiding principles and make adjustments as needed.

THE VISION

VISION STATEMENT

It's no secret that the urbanization of some areas in Lake Elmo is happening and has accelerated over the years. With a massive boom in growth over the past decade, preserving and improving Lake Elmo's park and trail system is of the utmost importance. While the city has adequately maintained park facilities and amenities thus far, they will need to adapt their offerings and increase staff support to satisfy the needs of residents in the future.

In order to best plan for the future of Lake Elmo's park and trail system, the planning team collaborated with a number of stakeholders, including city staff, Advisory Committee members, and the general public to develop a unified community vision statement. It reads:



Lake Elmo's parks, trails, and open spaces shall provide convenient access to a wide range of opportunities for all residents to recreate and connect.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Similarly, collaboration with city staff, the Advisory Committee, and the community led to the creation of four guiding principles specific to Lake Elmo's parks, trails, and open spaces. These guiding principles provide an overarching framework to help inform the development of the goals, policies, and initiatives found in the recommendations section of this report. During the planning process, they helped define the actions that should be taken to achieve the vision for Lake Elmo's park and trail system. Guiding principles for this plan include:



Figure 4.2: Scenic field of native plants in Lake Elmo

1 CONNECT

This plan should connect the community to parks, trails, open spaces, nature, reliable information, and each other, as well as strengthen relationships to the outdoors and healthy lifestyles

2 GROW

This plan should enhance and improve Lake Elmo's existing assets, as well as provide room for future growth of the park and trail system

3 MAINTAIN

This plan should provide guidance and recommendations that are implementable, maintainable, and sustainable.

4 ADAPT

This plan should assist the city in adapting to ever-changing trends in park and recreation, as well as Lake Elmo's rapidly growing population



05

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were informed by community input and engagement, feedback from a variety of stakeholders and city staff, and an in-depth inventory and analysis of the existing conditions, city context, and amenities and facilities in Lake Elmo's parks and trail system. The following recommendations are meant to provide a comprehensive approach to preserving, restoring, and enhancing Lake Elmo's parks, trails and open spaces. Depending on available funding and partnership opportunities in the community, it is intended that the following improvements will be phased. The information provided here is intended for planning and budgeting purposes, and each project will require additional exploration and design to refine project scope and cost expectations.

This section of the report dives into recommended improvements for five aspects of the system: parks, facilities, connectivity, open space and preserves, and operations and maintenance. Preliminary budgetary costs for specific actions associated with select initiatives are identified in further detail in the next section of this report.

OVERVIEW

The following pages provide a set of goals, policies, and initiatives that the city can follow to improve their parks, facilities, connectivity, open spaces and preserves, and operations and maintenance. The recommendations in this section of the report are organized in the following way:

1. Goal

1.1 Policy

1.1.1 Initiative

Goal = broad statements that describe a desired outcome and are often long-term

Policy = the general way in which programs and activities are conducted to achieve a goal, and reflect underlying values or principle

Initiative = practices that support policy statements and may identify the “who, what, when, where, and how” of achieving a goal or policy



Figure 5.2: Playground equipment at Pilot Park

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide access to parks for all residents to foster community connectedness, health, and wellbeing

- **1.1 - Ensure all residents have safe and convenient access to a great park within a 10 to 15 minute walk from their home (1/2 mile to 3/4 mile radius)**
 - » 1.1.1 - Work to fill the park access gap in the southeast and north central areas of the city when development occurs
 - » 1.1.2 - Plan for future park integration by:
 - * Adding parks as the community grows
 - * Requiring the dedication of parkland in strategic locations that aligns with the long term goals for park size, access and amenities
 - * Locating parks with at least one side along a public road
 - * Planning for the inclusion of off-street parking areas
 - » 1.1.3 - Connect parks to neighborhoods, destinations, and other parks by adding trail and sidewalk connections that link to a greater trail network
- **1.2 - Provide a distributed network of neighborhood parks that meet resident's current and future day-to-day needs**
 - » 1.2.1 - Ensure every neighborhood park has a playground or play feature, a flex field for informal play and recreation, and a special or distinctive feature to distinguish it from other parks
 - » 1.2.2 - Ensure every neighborhood park has a seating option, picnic table, bike rack, shade (trees or structure), trash and recycling receptacles, and park identification sign.
 - » 1.2.3 - Classify Hidden Knoll and Pilot Park as neighborhood parks, and Reclassify Firefly and Hammes from a Natural Resource Protection Area to a neighborhood park
- **1.3 - Provide a network of special use parks that provide residents access to unique features and special places**
 - » 1.3.1 - Reclassify Goose Lake Park to special use, providing visitors with access to Goose Lake
 - » 1.3.2 - Reclassify Sunfish Lake Park from community park to special use
 - » 1.3.3 - Look for opportunities to develop a special use or mini park in the Old Village, and/or support the private development of public space in the Old Village



Figure 5.3: The mature oak trees and scenic forested backdrop at Kleis Park distinguish it from other neighborhood parks.



Figure 5.4: Public art can be a defining, functional park feature that helps set a park apart from others



Figure 5.5: Off-street parking areas in city parks provide easy and safe access to park facilities and amenities

- **1.4 - Provide a network of community parks that provide residents and visitors a place to gather for special occasions or use**
 - » 1.4.1 - Combine Ivywood and Stonegate Parks into one park, reclassify the combined park as a community park, and rename it with a hybrid of Ivywood and Stonegate:
 - * Develop a long-range plan for this new park, working with the community to evaluate the addition of off-street parking and recreational amenities
 - » 1.4.2 - Reclassify Lions Park, Pebble Park, Tablyn Park, and Reid Park from neighborhood to community park
 - » 1.4.3 - Ensure every community park has a seating option, picnic table, bike rack, shade (trees or structure), trash and recycling receptacles, entry signage, informational kiosk, a drinking fountain, and shelter
 - » 1.4.4 - Develop Lions Park as Lake Elmo's destination community park:
 - * Develop a long-range plan for Lions Park that maximizes its functionality as a community gathering place for larger events and strengthens its connection to downtown
 - * Track opportunities to expand Lions Park
- **1.5 - Provide a network of athletic parks dedicated to meeting the needs of recreational, league, and tournament play baseball and softball**
 - » 1.5.1 - Reclassify VFW Park from neighborhood to athletic park and support competitive and town ball play here
 - » 1.5.2 - Develop a new athletic park to support baseball and softball (competitive and town ball for ages 9+)
- **1.6 - Encourage residents to take an active role in the development of their parks**
 - » 1.6.1 - Continue to engage residents and park users in the planning and design process when updating existing or adding new parks
 - » 1.6.2 - Support volunteer efforts at parks for/after gatherings, events, and clean-up days
 - » 1.6.3 - If demand warrants, provide extra amenities at parks such as portable restrooms and posting boards



Figure 5.6: Pocket parks provide gathering opportunities in relatively small spaces, often transforming underutilized areas into community assets

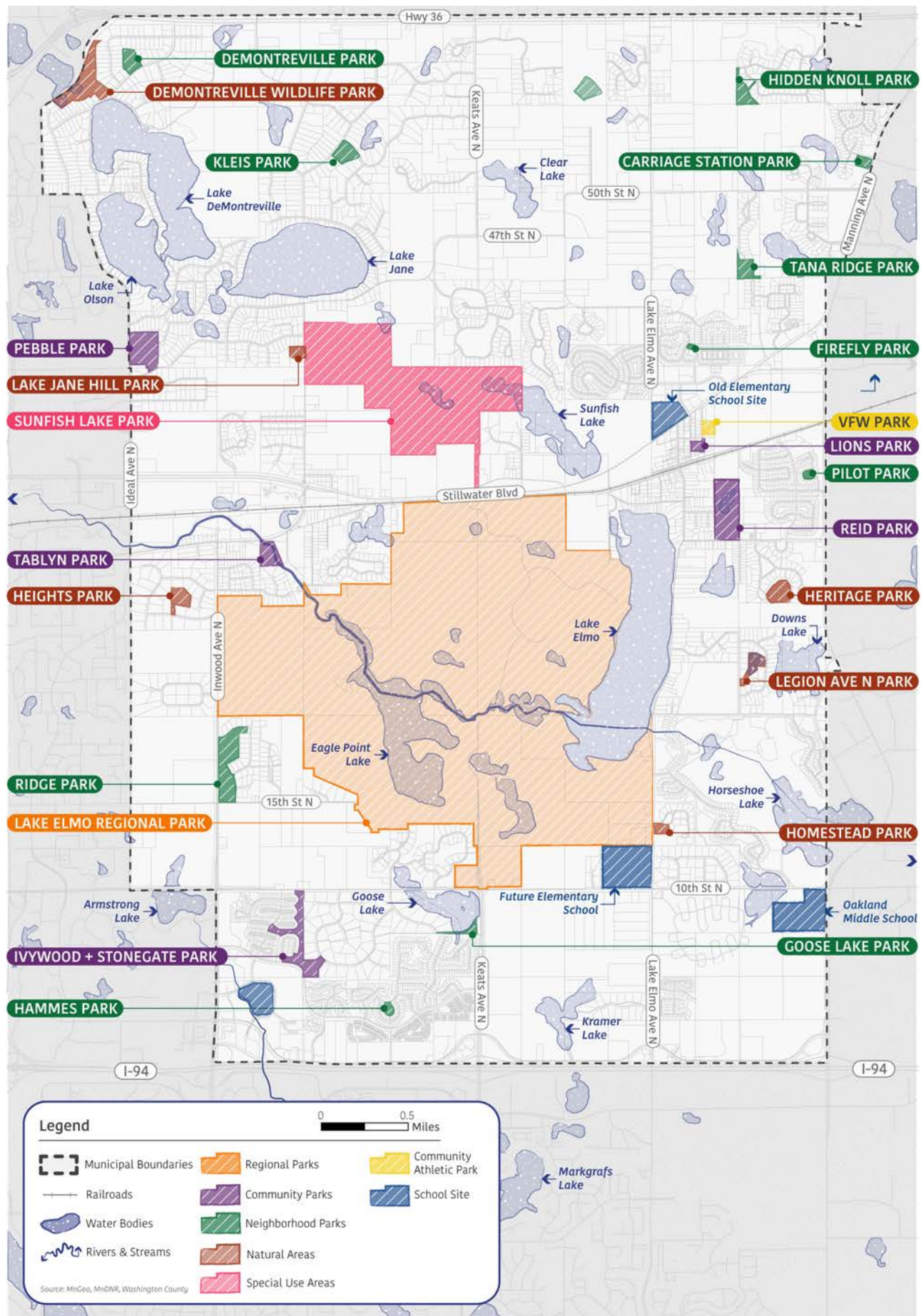


Figure 5.7: Providing shelters at community parks supports everyday use and special events



Figure 5.8: Volunteers are vital to parks, trails and open spaces; their assistance is essential to keeping the park system healthy and well-maintained

FIGURE 5.9 | PROPOSED PARK CLASSIFICATIONS MAP



FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Provide a system of recreational facilities to meet the active and passive needs of residents

- **2.1 - Provide a mix of recreational activities to meet a wide range of needs**
 - » 2.1.1 - Look to add a special facility to meet the needs of tweens, teens, and young adults; consider a challenge-course facility, skate park, or disc golf course
 - » 2.1.2 - Look to provide additional court facilities in the southeast area of the city; engage with neighbors to determine type of court (tennis, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, or other)
 - » 2.1.3 - Look to provide additional field space in the southeast area of the city; engage with neighbors, clubs, and organizations to determine type and size of field (flex, lacrosse, football, soccer, etc.)
- **2.2 - Provide places for larger group gatherings by providing higher amenity shelters at select community parks**
 - » 2.2.1 - Look to develop a reservable shelter with potable water, electrical, and permanent restrooms
- **2.3 - Distribute playgrounds or play features for children of all ages and abilities throughout the community, taking into consideration the needs and demographics of the surrounding neighborhood**
 - » 2.3.1 - When replacing or adding new equipment, add play features designed for the following age ranges:
 - * 6 to 24 months
 - * 2 to 5 years
 - * 5 to 12 years
 - * Ages 13+
 - » 2.3.2 - When replacing or adding new equipment, incorporate inclusive play features that are accessible to those using mobility devices



Figure 5.10: A park challenge course is an active, fun way to engage tweens, teens, and young adults



Figure 5.11: With the exception of Lions Park, the park system is currently lacking outdoor volleyball courts



Figure 5.12: A park with inclusive playgrounds for children of all ages will attract visitors from throughout the community

- **2.4 - Provide year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation**
 - » 2.4.1 - Look to add winter facilities and activities in the city (e.g., ice skating, cross country skiing, etc.)
 - » 2.4.2 - Explore the opportunity to add fire pits into parks where appropriate, beginning with a pilot site to test success
- **2.5 - Communicate regularly with local organizations, associations, and clubs to understand their changing needs**
- **2.6 - Increase access to water-based recreation opportunities**
 - » 2.6.1 - Support the addition of a fishing pier in Sunfish Lake Park
 - » 2.6.2 - Look for opportunities to add boat launches, fishing piers, and swimming beaches
 - » 2.6.3 - Share and publicize the locations of fishing piers, boat launches, swimming beaches, and nearby aquatic facilities in online and paper maps
 - » 2.6.4 - Explore the possibility of partnering with Washington County to give Lake Elmo residents free access to Lake Elmo Park Reserve, which has boat launches, a fishing pier, and a swim pond



Figure 5.13: Cross country skiing opportunities are currently lacking in the southeast part of the city

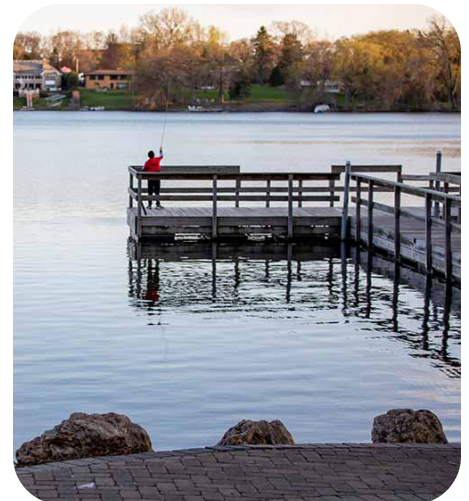


Figure 5.14: Fishing piers provide park visitors with increased access to water-based recreation opportunities



Figure 5.15: Lake Elmo Park Reserve's swim pond is the only accessible swimming beach in the community

FIGURE 5.16 | PARK AMENITY DISTRIBUTION MAP

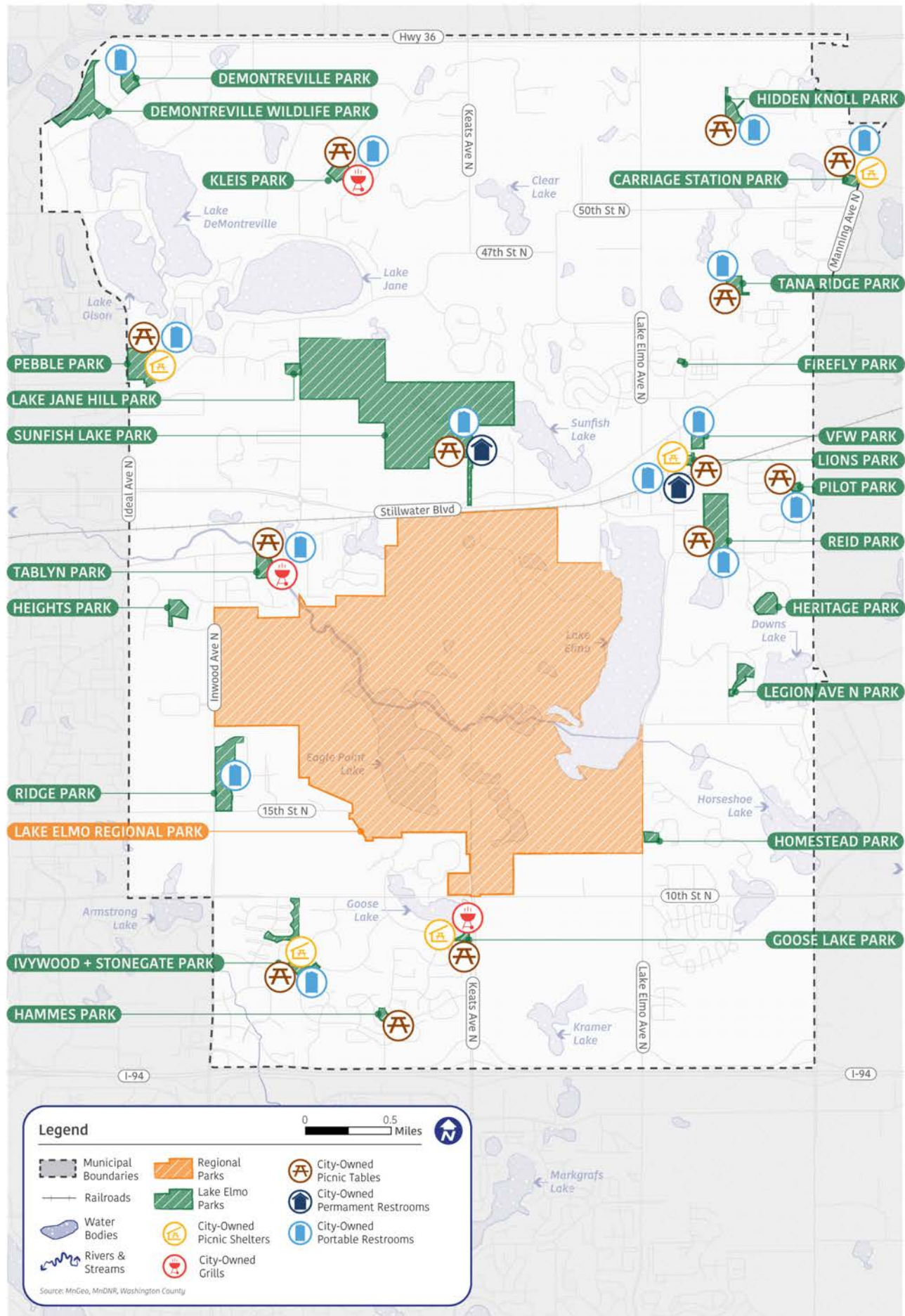


FIGURE 5.17 | WINTER ACTIVITY DISTRIBUTION MAP

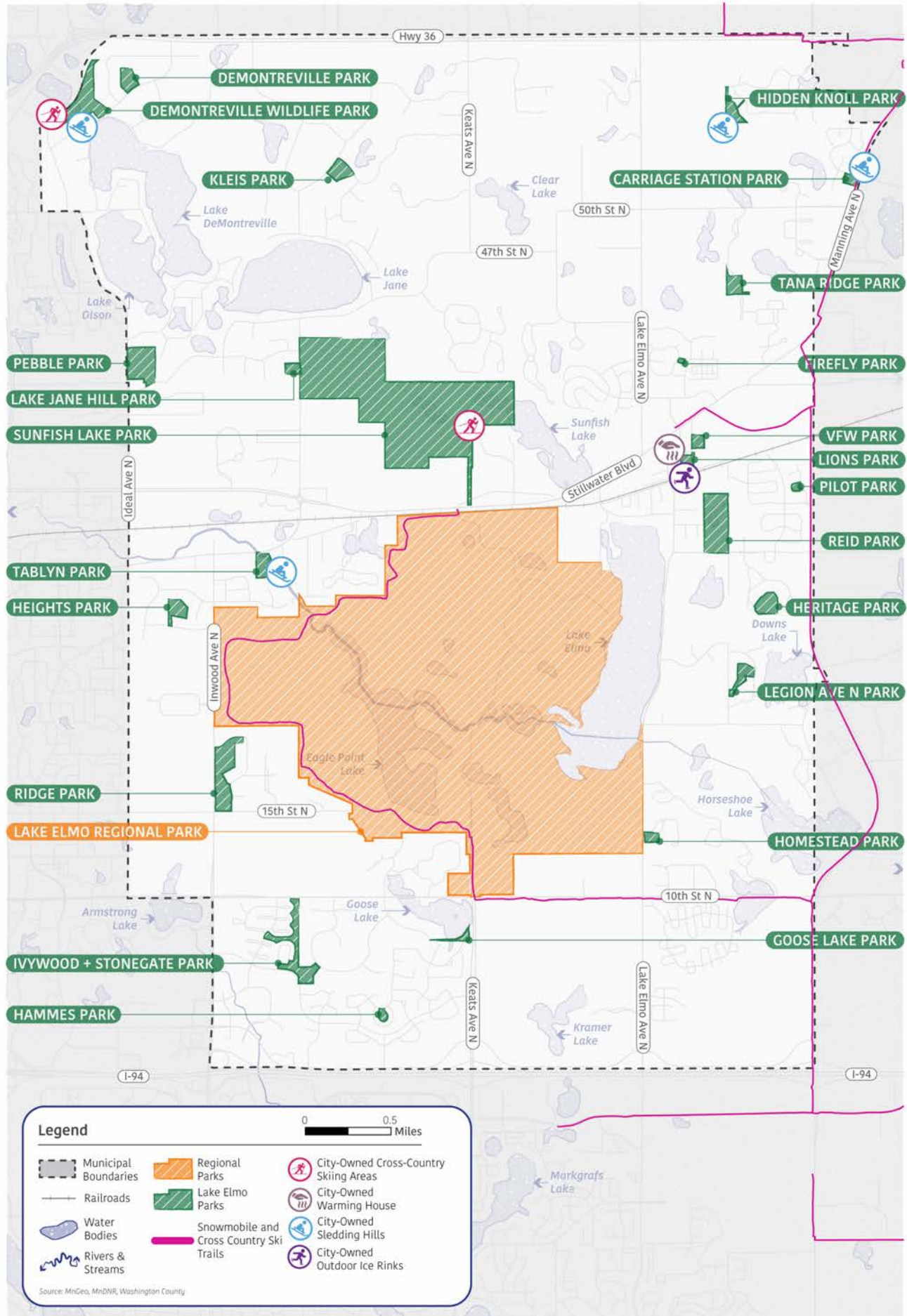


FIGURE 5.18 | WATER ACCESS DISTRIBUTION MAP

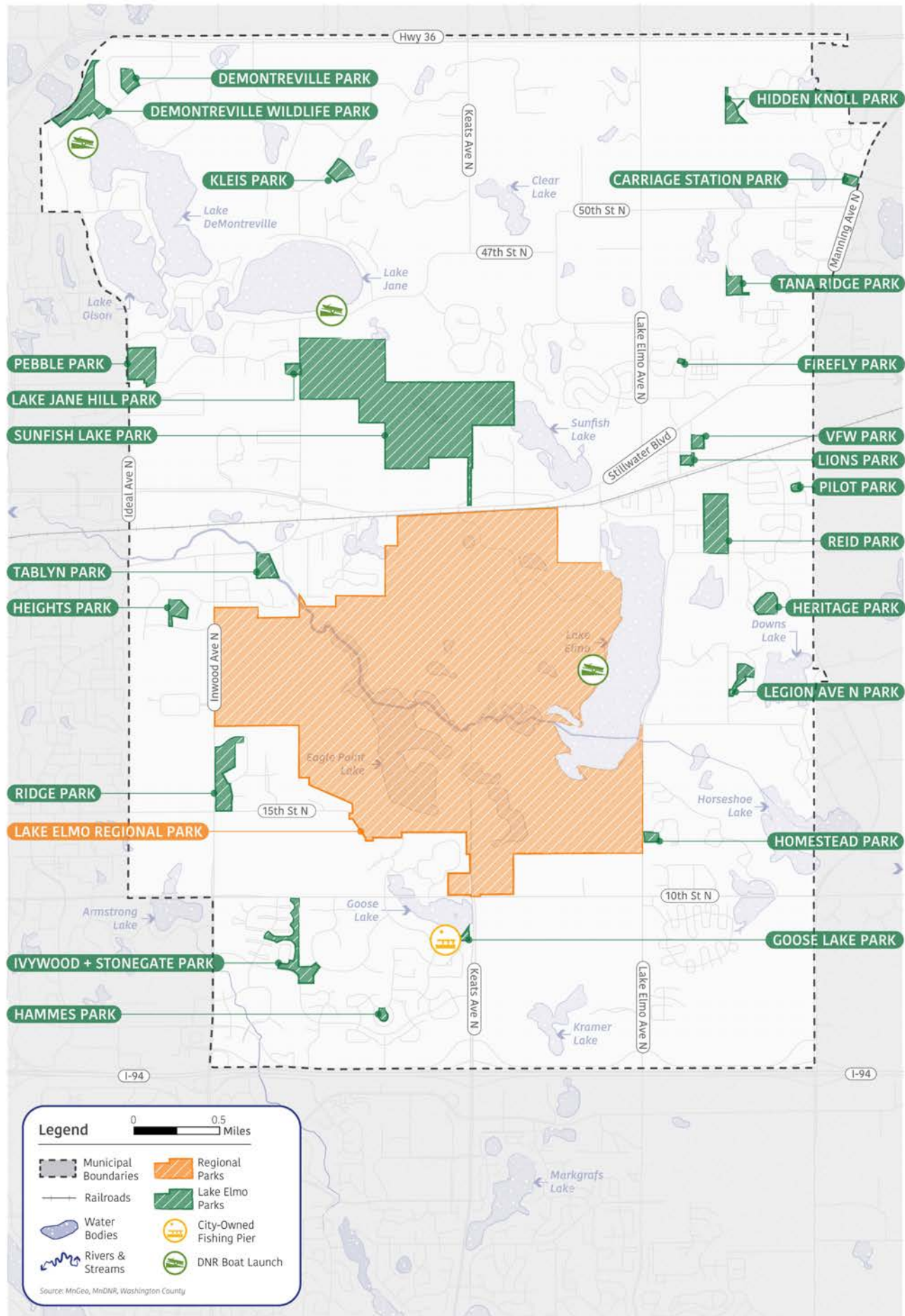
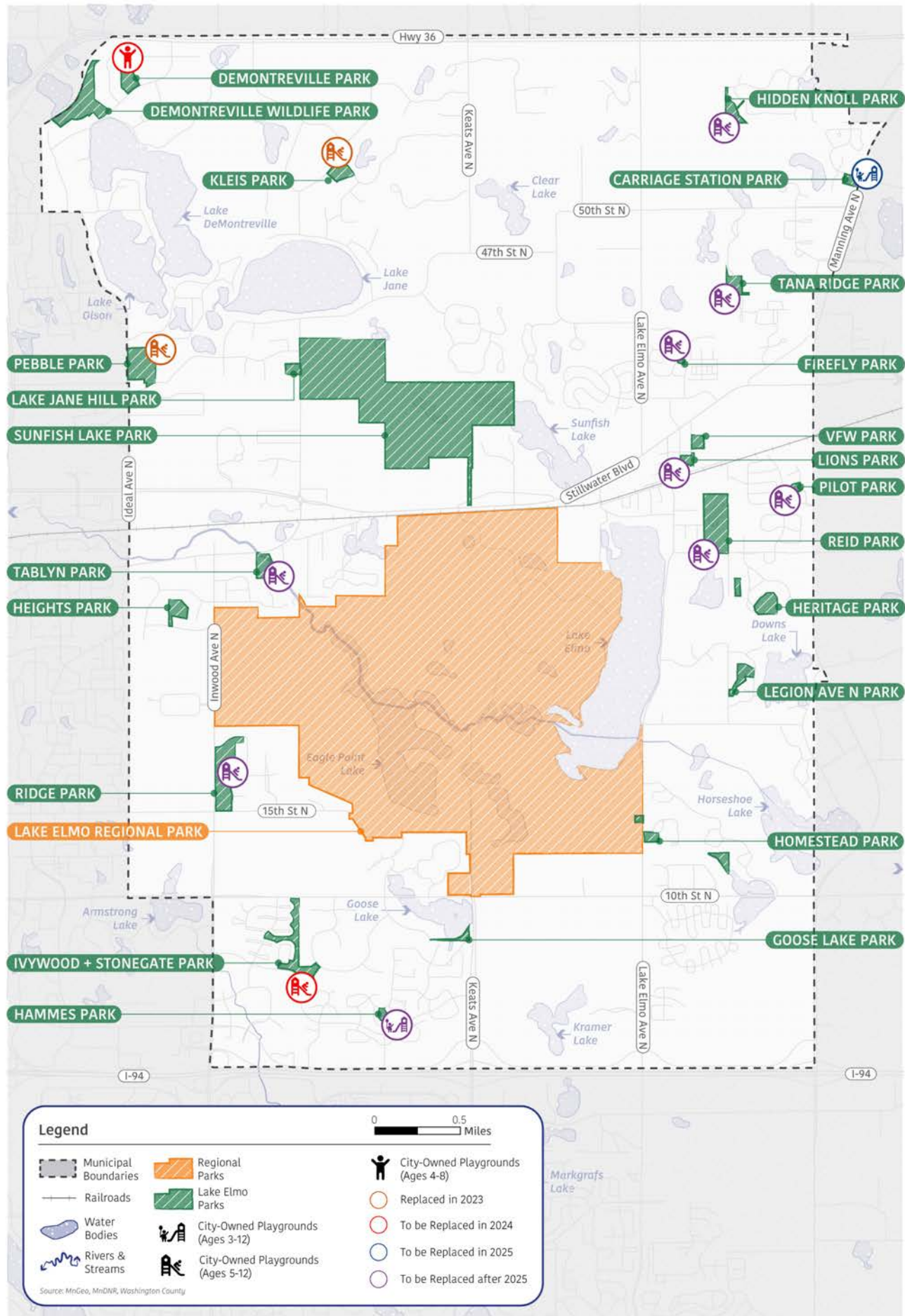


FIGURE 5.19 | PLAYGROUND DISTRIBUTION AND SCHEDULED REPLACEMENT MAP



CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Provide a system of trails and sidewalks that connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, community destinations, and neighboring communities safely throughout the city to encourage active living and recreation

- **3.1 - Work to fill existing gaps in the trail system, prioritizing safety, connectivity, and cost**
 - » 3.1.1 - Address gaps identified in the Connectivity Recommendations + Search Corridors Map
 - » 3.1.2 - Explore additional trail connections to and through the southeastern and north-central portions of the city (through easements or land purchases)
 - » 3.1.3 - Prioritize trails that connect to schools, neighborhood and community parks, and other community destinations to improve safety for younger populations
- **3.2 - Integrate trail development into the planning and design process for public improvements and land development**
 - » 3.2.1 - Preserve outlots and abandoned or vacated right-of-ways for future trails
 - » 3.2.2 - Include a parks and trails needs assessment process to the concept plan review process for land development
- **3.3 - Improve crossing safety at busy roads and intersections near parks, dense trail networks, and other open spaces**
 - » 3.3.1 - Address crossing issues identified in Gap Maps and the Connectivity Recommendations + Search Corridors Map
 - » 3.3.2 - Support the development and implementation of a crosswalk marking policy
- **3.4 - Collaborate with partner agencies (e.g., MnDOT, Washington County, neighboring communities, etc.) to implement new trail connections, enhance active transportation facilities, and provide trail opportunities that the city does not currently have**
 - » 3.4.1 - Collaborate with Washington County to establish regional trail connections to existing city trail segments



Figure 5.20: Trail connectivity to important community destinations is important for younger populations



Figure 5.21: Enhanced pedestrian crossings are essential at busy intersections near parks



Figure 5.22: In the future, partnerships with Washington County and others will further increase trail connectivity

4. Develop a system that is highly accessible and enjoyable to a diversity of users

- **4.1 - Improve the trail user experience through improved maintenance, wayfinding, signage, and amenities**
 - » 4.1.1 - Incorporate wayfinding signage in strategic locations to assist users in better understanding locations, destinations, and distances throughout the system
 - » 4.1.2 - Identify and resolve any trail surfacing issues that make trails difficult to use
 - » 4.1.3 - Add seating opportunities along trails favored by younger and older residents
 - » 4.1.4 - Further expand opportunities to tie non-athletic outdoor activities into the trail system, such as birdwatching and hiking
 - » 4.1.5 - Look for opportunities to collaborate with artists to implement public art along the trail
 - » 4.1.6 - Add soft surface trails within open space preserves
- **4.2 - Reduce barriers to accessing and enjoying Lake Elmo's trail system**
 - » 4.2.1 - Implement a snow-removal plan for trails
 - » 4.2.2 - Ensure there is safe, accessible, and nearby trail access to senior citizen centers and multi-family housing developments
 - » 4.2.3 - Explore opportunities to pilot a mobility-device charging station at a key trail connection location
 - » 4.2.4 - Look for opportunities to develop trail loops of different lengths throughout the community and in certain strategically chosen parks
 - » 4.2.5 - Increase awareness and understanding of the trail system by developing and publicizing online and paper trail maps
 - » 4.2.6 - Explore opportunities to develop trailheads
- **4.3 - Integrate opportunities for gathering along/near trails to promote social experiences for trail users**
 - » 4.3.1 - Create informal gathering spaces (with benches/seating and litter receptacles) at major trail intersections where room allows



Figure 5.23: Wayfinding signage and kiosks (like the one above in DeMontreville Wildlife Park) help orient park visitors to nearby parks, trails, and destinations

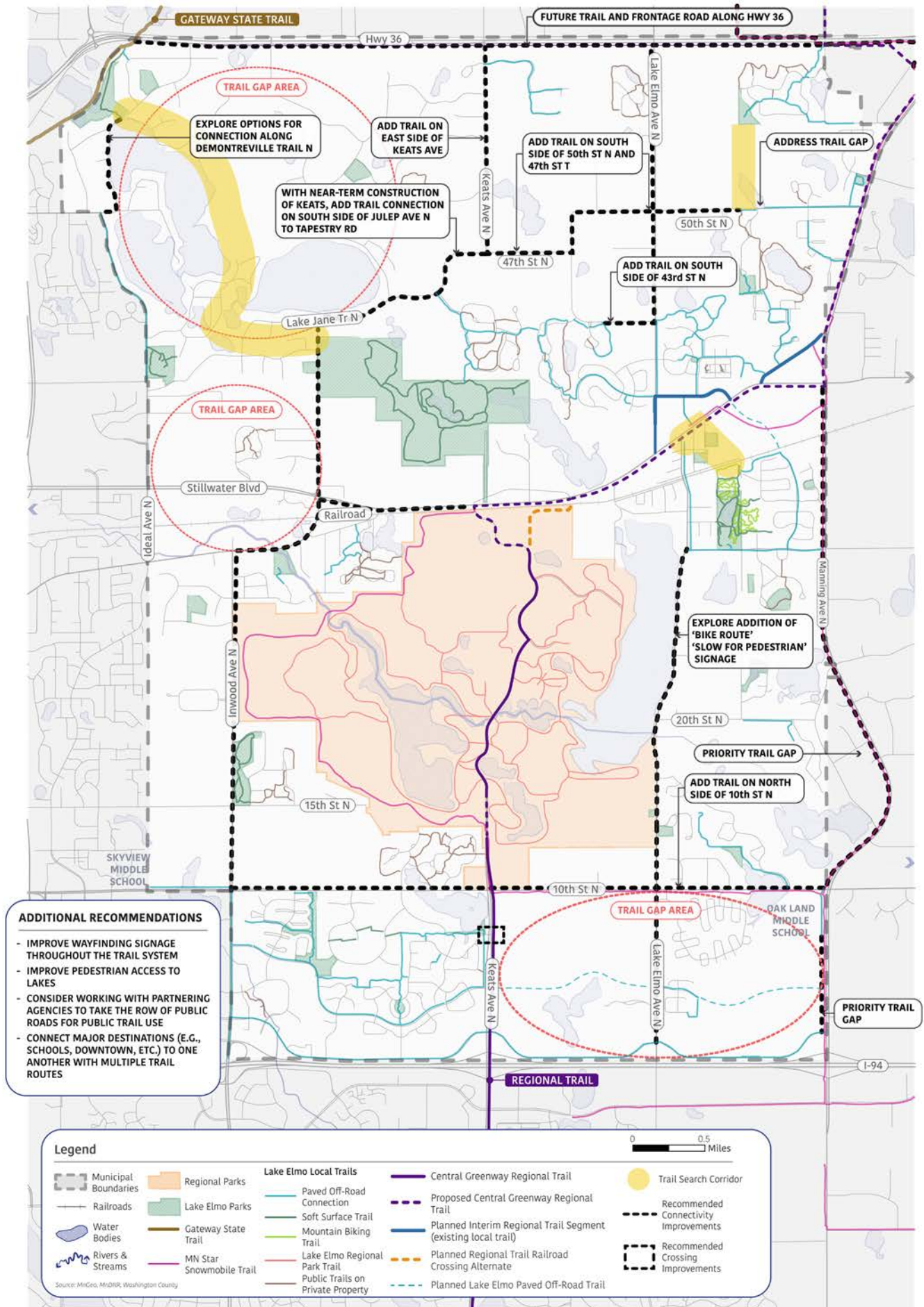


Figure 5.24: Lake Elmo does not currently have a snow removal plan for trails, which causes confusion for some community members



Figure 5.25: Developing trailheads with amenities and/or accessible restroom facilities increases trail usership and safety

FIGURE 5.26 | CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS + SEARCH CORRIDORS MAP



OPEN SPACE + PRESERVE RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Protect and preserve public open spaces to connect the community to nature

- **5.1 - Provide a distributed network of open space preserves**
 - » 5.1.1 - Classify the following parks to be natural areas:
 - * DeMontreville Wildlife Park (from community park)
 - * Heights Park (from neighborhood park)
 - * Heritage Park (from neighborhood park)
 - * Homestead Park (from neighborhood park)
 - * Lake Jane Hills Park (from neighborhood park)
 - * Legion Ave N Park (not currently classified)
 - » 5.1.2 - Preserve additional natural areas if opportunities arise, designating them as open space preserves
- **5.2 - Look for opportunities to improve the quality of open space preserves**
 - » 5.2.1 - Explore the development of a natural resource management plan for the open space preserves
- **5.3 - Proactively manage invasive species in the preserves**
 - » 5.3.1 - Encourage volunteer efforts to seek and apply for grant funding to invasive species removal
 - » 5.3.2 - (Continue to) Provide/Match requirement funds for grants obtained by volunteer groups for invasive species removal
 - » 5.3.3 - Embrace existing and new technologies and approaches for invasive species removal
 - » 5.3.4 - Create an invasive species management plan for the preserves
 - » 5.3.5 - Inventory for existing and emerging invasive species threats
- **5.4 - Expand awareness of the open space preserves**
 - » 5.4.1 - Expand awareness of the open space preserves with mapping, wayfinding, and entry signage
 - » 5.4.2 - Educate the public about the benefits of open space preserves and the need to preserve them



Figure 5.27: Heights Park, with its open fields and unprogrammed spaces, is better suited as a natural area than a neighborhood park



Figure 5.28: Emerald ash borer and other invasive pests can cause major damage to existing trees in preserves and open spaces

OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Plan proactively to provide a high quality system

- **6.1 - Use long-range planning tools to guide ongoing and capital investments**
 - » 6.1.1 - Continue to maintain and utilize an operations, maintenance, and replacement schedule for park facilities and amenities
 - » 6.1.2 - Work with Engineering on a trail pavement management program to make sure trails are high quality
 - » 6.1.3 - Develop and implement a field management plan as the need arises to ensure high quality fields for ballfields and turf fields
 - » 6.1.4 - Continue to collaborate with and support the Sally Manzana Nature Center:
 - Streamline the process for approving events at the Nature Center



Figure 5.29: Well-maintained parks contribute to the health and well-being of the community

7. Make sustainable improvements to operations

- **7.1 - Make recycling and composting the easy and clear choice**
 - » 7.1.1 - Offer recycling in all parks
 - » 7.1.2 - Explore opportunities to implement a compost collection system in parks
- **7.2 - Reduce the use of pesticides within parks**
 - » 7.2.1 - Pilot a pesticide free park, publicizing the effort and seeking community feedback
 - » 7.2.2 - Explore the use of integrated pest management strategies
- **7.3 - Increase biodiversity and habitat with the use of native and native-cultivar plants**
 - » 7.3.1 - Find opportunities to convert turf grass areas to more naturalized conditions
- **7.4 - Incorporate stormwater best practices into parks**
- **7.5 - Publicize the City's efforts to make sustainable improvements**



Figure 5.30: Composting contributes to the structure and health of soil and can be collected at parks



Figure 5.31: Green infrastructure, like rain gardens and permeable paving, help to mitigate the effects of stormwater runoff

8. Expand the city's capacity to maintain and grow the park and trail system

- **8.1 - Explore partnerships to supplement the city's capacity for maintenance, programming, and improvements (work with recreation clubs and associations, businesses, and other public agencies)**
 - » 8.1.1 - Explore opportunities for revenue generation
 - » 8.1.2 - Explore opportunities for the use of volunteers to support maintenance or programs
 - » 8.1.3 - Investigate the use of bonds or tax levies to support the system
 - » 8.1.4 - Work with private property owners who may be interested in donating land or granting easements
- **8.2 - Explore staffing and departmental updates to respond to increased demands on the system**
 - » 8.2.1 - Explore the creation of dedicated Parks and Forestry departments
 - » 8.2.2 - Explore the addition of a program manager to begin offering programming in parks and preserves to activate parks, such as yoga in the park or stargazing events



Figure 5.32: Dedicated parks and forestry departments are vital to the longevity of park and trail systems



Figure 5.33: "Yoga in the Park" allows community members to enjoy nature while engaging in recreational activity



Figure 5.34: "Movies in the Park" improve social connections and provide a respite from the busyness of day to day life.



06

IMPLEMENTATION

This section will touch on the importance of establishing priorities for recommendation improvements, explore potential funding mechanisms and opportunities, and suggest a path to implementation moving forward. Public partners and local community groups - including residents, the local government, the school district, local businesses, developers, and other partnering agencies - must work together to fully realize the vision for Lake Elmo's parks, trails, and open space system.

SETTING PRIORITIES

Over the years, Lake Elmo has worked to align funding and mechanisms for land acquisition, facility additions and improvements, trail development, and operations and maintenance. Without a formal parks and recreation department in place, however, the city has been unable to develop an efficient process for prioritizing improvements and identifying potential funding resources. The city is in need of an adaptable and flexible framework to help guide the development, improvement, and projected maintenance of future park, trail, and open space assets.

The priorities in this plan are drawn from the improvement recommendations identified in the Chapter 5. They are organized into five key topic areas, including:

- **Parks**
- **Facilities**
- **Connectivity**
- **Open Space and Preserves**
- **Operations and Maintenance**

Many factors informed the prioritization of recommendations in this report, including community and stakeholder input, the availability of city resources (e.g., time, staff, funding, etc.), and alignment with past planning documents, among other factors. Depending on staff resources, funding, and need, some initiatives will be easier and faster to achieve, while other may warrant a long-term commitment to implement. This plan anticipates the cumulative improvements for the park and trail system will be completed in phases as funding is available and opportunities for public and private partners arise.

In the future, as city staff prepares to implement park and trail-related improvements, they should continue to keep residents involved/updated through social media outlets and the city website's "Park Notices" tab (Home > Departments > Parks > Park Notices).

The following pages include an implementation matrix which provides information about the improvement recommendations' priority levels and planning-level budget estimates. Following the matrix is a compilation of funding resources for Lake Elmo to explore.

TABLE 6.1 | PRIORITY INITIATIVES & COST ESTIMATES

ACTIONS	PRIORITY LEVEL			COST RANGE	NOTES
	LOW	MID	HIGH		
PARKS					
INITIATIVE 1.1.1 Work to fill the park access gap in the southeast and north-central areas of the city when development occurs					
Accept the 5% land dedication in the north-central area of the city and develop a neighborhood park			●	\$400,000 to \$650,000	
Accept the 10% land dedication in the south eastern area of the city and develop a neighborhood park			●	\$500,000 to \$750,00	
INITIATIVE 1.2.2 Ensure every neighborhood park has a seating option, picnic table, bike rack, shade trees or structure, litter and recycling receptacle, and park identification sign					
Add seating to DeMontreville, and Ridge Parks			●	\$1,500 to \$2,500	
Add picnic tables to Firefly, Kleis, and Ridge Parks			●	\$3,000 to \$4,500	
Add bike racks to DeMontreville, Hammes Park, Hidden Knoll Park, Firefly, Kleis, Pilot, Ridge, and Tana Ridge Park			●	\$8,000 to \$10,000	
Add shade trees (or a shade structure) to Ridge Park			●	\$800 to \$12,000	
Add park entry sign to Ridge Park			●	\$2,500 to \$3,200	
INITIATIVE 1.3.3 Explore the addition of a special use park in the form of a mini park in the Old Village					
Engage the community in a planning effort to study and identify potential park sites and opportunities in the Old Village			●	\$20,000 to \$30,000	
INITIATIVE 1.4.1 Combine Ivywood and Stonegate Parks and reclassify the combined park as a community park					
Develop a long-range plan for this new park, working with the community to evaluate the addition of off-street parking and additional recreational amenities			●	\$20,000 to \$35,000	

TABLE 6.1 CONT. | PRIORITY INITIATIVES

ACTIONS	PRIORITY LEVEL			COST RANGE	NOTES
	LOW	MID	HIGH		
INITIATIVE 1.4.3 Ensure every community park has a seating option, picnic table, bike rack, shade (trees or structure), trash and recycling receptacles, entry signage, informational kiosk, a drinking fountain, off-street parking, and shelter					
Add shelters to Reid and Tablyn Parks	●			\$140,000 to \$160,000	
Improve parking lot at Tablyn Park			●	\$70,000 to \$80,000	
Improve parking lot at Ridge Park		●		\$70,000 to \$80,000	
INITIATIVE 1.4.4 Develop Lions Park as Lake Elmo's destination community park					
Develop a long-range plan for Lions Park that maximizes its functionality as a community gathering space			●	\$40,000 to \$50,000	
Renovate Lions Park - implement the long-range plan		●		\$650,000 to \$950,000	
INITIATIVE 1.5.1 Reclassify VFW Park from neighborhood to athletic park and support competitive and town ball play here					
Update parking lot (reorganize and pave)	●			\$80,000 to \$90,000	
Replace existing dugouts	●			\$35,000 to \$50,000	
INITIATIVE 1.5.2 Develop a new community athletic park to support baseball and softball (competitive and town ball for ages 9+)					
Complete a feasibility study to identify potential sites and high-level configurations and costs			●	\$18,000 to \$20,000	
Develop a long-range plan for this new park			●	\$18,000 to \$25,000	
Implement a new community athletic park		●		\$2,000,000 to \$5,500,000	Costs vary with level of development and acquisition prices

TABLE 6.1 CONT. | PRIORITY INITIATIVES

ACTIONS	PRIORITY LEVEL			COST RANGE	NOTES
	LOW	MID	HIGH		
FACILITIES					
INITIATIVE 2.1.1 Add special facilities to meet the needs of tweens, teens, and young adults (e.g., challenge-course facility, skate park, disc golf course, etc.)					
Add a challenge course facility at Reid or Pebble Park	●			\$250,000 to \$400,000	
Add a skate park at Tablyn or Ridge Park		●		\$150,000 to \$250,000	
Add a disc golf course at Ridge or Reid Park			●	\$25,000 to \$35,000	
Develop an outdoor fitness park at a community park		●		\$60,000 to \$70,000	
INITIATIVE 2.1.2 Provide additional court facilities in the SE area of the city					
Add an additional sand volleyball court, potentially in a future park		●		\$25,000 to \$35,000	
INITIATIVE 2.1.3 Provide additional field space in the SE area of the city					
Look to provide additional field space; engage with neighbors, clubs, and organizations to determine type and size of field (flex, lacrosse, football, soccer)			●	\$45,000 to \$60,000	Consider locating in a new Community Athletic Park
INITIATIVE 2.2.1 Provide a reservable shelter with potable water, electrical, and permanent restrooms					
Add a large shelter to Lions Park as part of future park renovation		●		\$400,000 to \$600,000	
INITIATIVE 2.2.3 Replace existing play features or add new features that are designed for a variety of age ranges					
Update playground at Pebble Park (community park)			●	\$120,000 to \$130,000	2024
Update playground at Demontreville Park (neighborhood park)			●	\$90,000 to \$100,000	2024
Update playground at Kleis Park (neighborhood park)			●	\$60,000 to \$70,000	2025
Update playground at Lions Park (destination community park)		●		\$230,000 to \$300,000	2026

TABLE 6.1 CONT. | PRIORITY INITIATIVES

ACTIONS	PRIORITY LEVEL			COST RANGE	NOTES
	LOW	MID	HIGH		
Update playground at Tablyn Park (community park)		●		\$120,000 to \$130,000	2026
Update playground at Ridge Park (neighborhood park)		●		\$90,000 to \$100,000	2026
Update playground at Stonegate Park (community park)		●		\$125,000 to \$135,000	2027
Update playground at Carriage Station Park (neighborhood park)	●			\$90,000 to \$100,000	2028
Update playground at Tana Ridge Park (neighborhood park)	●			\$90,000 to \$100,000	2030
Update playground at Hidden Knoll Park (neighborhood park)	●			\$90,000 to \$100,000	2032
Update playground at Reid Park (community park)	●			\$125,000 to \$135,000	2033
INITIATIVE 2.4.1 Add winter facilities and activities					
Add trail signage to support cross country skiing at DeMontreville Wildlife Park (natural area)			●	\$4,000 to \$6,000	
Add outdoor ice skating at a new park in the southeast part of the city	●			\$45,000 to \$200,000	Costs vary with level of development
INITIATIVE 2.6.1 Support the addition of a fishing pier in Sunfish Lake Park	●			\$150,000 to \$250,000	
CONNECTIVITY					
INITIATIVE 3.1.1 Address gaps identified in the Connectivity Recommendations + Search Corridors Map					
Central Greenway Regional Trail Development		●		\$500,000 to \$600,000	
Add trail along Manning, connecting Oak Land Middle School to Stillwater Blvd			●	\$1,000,000 to \$2,300,000	
Add trail on east side of Keats Avenue N		●		\$420,000 to \$600,000	
Address trail gap on 50th St N east of Lily Ave N			●	\$16,000 to \$30,000	
Add trail on south side of 43rd St N west of Lake Elmo Avenue			●	\$100,000 to \$225,000	
Add trail on south side of 50th Street N and 47th St N, west of Keats to Lily Ave N	●			\$625,000 to \$1,300,000	

TABLE 6.1 CONT. | PRIORITY INITIATIVES

ACTIONS	PRIORITY LEVEL			COST RANGE	NOTES
	LOW	MID	HIGH		
Add trail connection on south side of Julep Ave N to Tapestry Rd			●	\$150,000 to \$325,000	
Add trail on north side of 10th St. N from Manning to Inwood		●		\$1,200,000 to \$2,600,000	
OPEN SPACE + PRESERVES					
INITIATIVE 5.2.1 Develop a natural resource management plan for the open space preserves/natural areas			●		Work with volunteers currently engaged with this effort
INITIATIVE 5.3.4 Create and implement an invasive species management plan for the open space preserves/natural areas			●		Add a program manager to coordinate with volunteers currently engaged with this effort
INITIATIVE 5.4.1 Expand awareness of the open space preserves with mapping, wayfinding, and entry signage	●				
Update and/or add entry signs to the 6 open space preserves/natural areas	●			\$15,000 to \$20,000	
OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE					
INITIATIVE 7.3.1 Find opportunities to convert turf grass areas to more naturalized conditions					
Expand forested areas and/or establish micro forests		●		\$300 to \$500 / acre	
INITIATIVE 8.2.1 Create a dedicated Parks & Forestry department					
Hire a full time parks director			●	\$120,000 to \$165,000 / year	Estimate includes total compensation
Hire a full or part time forester			●	\$100,000 to \$150,000 / year	Estimate includes total compensation
INITIATIVE 4.2.1 Implement a snow removal plan for trails			●	\$50,000 to \$60,000 / year	Estimate varies based on approach (additional hire or contract service)
INITIATIVE 8.2.2 Add a program manager position to begin offering unique programming in parks and preserves		●		\$100,000 to \$150,000 / year	Estimate includes total compensation
TOTALS (excludes operations and maintenance costs)			●	\$2,719,000 to \$4,890,000 (high priority)	
		●		\$6,040,000 to \$11,950,000 (medium priority)	
	●			\$1,720,000 to \$2,885,000 (low priority)	

FUNDING RESOURCES

Securing additional funds to invest in Lake Elmo's park and recreation system is critical to future implementation and realizing Lake Elmo's vision for 2040. The city should explore and consider the following sources, mechanisms, and partners.

FUNDING		
OPTION	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
General Funds	A city's general fund is the main operating account that covers basic operating costs such as planning, police and fire services, and street and park maintenance	Money collected by the city in taxes, fines, fees, and revenues
Dedicated Tax Levy	City's can hold a referendum to levy a dedicated tax for a specific purpose. In the case of parks and recreation, the tax can fund operations, maintenance, and capital improvement projects	Property taxes
Bonding	Borrowing obligations that incur interest and require repayment at a specific date. These are typically issued to pay for larger capital projects	Annual appropriation bonds, tax abatement bonds, and revenue bonds
Local Option Sales Tax	Minnesota Statute gives cities the authority to levy a local sales tax by an election process for specific capital improvements	Sales tax addition
State Aid	Funds available to pedestrian and bicycle improvements on state aid roadways (key county highways), most beneficial during construction or reconstruction projects	State of Minnesota
Park and Trail Dedication	Land or cash in-lieu of land from new subdivision developments that must be used for new equipment or park facilities	Developers
Partnerships	Partnerships with private and/or other public entities can be in many forms, including funding, design, operations and maintenance agreements, etc.	Public or private organizations, clubs, agencies, governments, etc.
Donations	Gifts of cash, equipment, labor or others from private individuals or groups	Individuals, businesses, groups, etc..

TABLE 6.3 | FUNDING RESOURCES

TABLE 6.3 CONT. | FUNDING RESOURCES

FUNDING		
GRANT	DESCRIPTION OF GRANT	AGENCY
AARP Community Challenge Grant	Small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages	AARP
America Walks Community Change Grants	Awards stipends to communities for projects related to creating healthy, active, and engaged places to live, work, and play	Foundation
American Trails Trail Fund	Assists the trails community with funding to support maintenance, research, and stewardship training needs	Foundation
Clean Water Funding	Provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while providing low-cost labor to eligible applicants	Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant	Provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas	U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program	Provides funding to restore, protect, or enhance prairies, wetlands, forests, or habitat for fish, game or wildlife in Minnesota	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund	Aims to protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources	Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
Federal Recreation Trail Program	Provides funding to encourage the maintenance and development of motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
Fields for Kids	Provides financial support to improve baseball and/or softball facilities for youth in the Upper Midwest and Southwest Florida	Minnesota Twins Community Fund
Fishing Pier and Shore Fishing Area Program	Joint Power Agreement with the DNR for installation, operations and maintenance	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)

TABLE 6.3 CONT. | FUNDING RESOURCES

GRANT NAME	DESCRIPTION OF GRANT	AGENCY
Bridge Investment Program	Provides funding for communities to replace, rehabilitate, and preserve bridge infrastructure	U.S. Department of Transportation
Local Trail Connections Program	Provides funding to promote short trail connections between where people live and significant public resources	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
Minnesota Festival Support Grant Program	Provides arts experiences through festivals celebrating arts, building community, and exposure to diverse art forms	Other - Minnesota
Natural and Scenic Area Grants	Provides funding to increase, protect, and enhance natural and scenic areas	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
No Child Left Inside	Aims to support and increase efforts to expand programming that connects youth to the outdoors	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
Our Town Grant Program	Supports projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities by advancing local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes	National Endowment for the Arts
Outdoor Recreation Grant Program	Provides funding to increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks throughout the state	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)
PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program	Provides funding that supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride	Other - Minnesota
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program	Supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation	National Park Service
Rural Initiative Grant Fund Program	Provides funding to encourage collective and involved endeavors among citizens in rural communities	Foundation
Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grants/Safe Routes to School Planning Assistance Grants	Provides funding for the development and implementation of infrastructure projects which enable students to walk and bicycle to and from schools	Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)
State Park Road Account Program	Provides funding to assist local governments in improving access to public recreation facilities	Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)



07 APPENDIX

INVENTORY MAPS.....	90 - 113
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS.....	113 - 195
POP-UP EVENT BOARDS.....	195 - 200

CARRIAGE STATION PARK

2.71 acres
Marquess Trail Cir N & Stillwater Blvd



0 40 80
HORZ. SCALE FEET



LEGEND

- Entry Point
- Parking Area/Lot
- Park Signage
- Portable Toilet
- Existing Trail
- Informal Path
- Areas of Interest

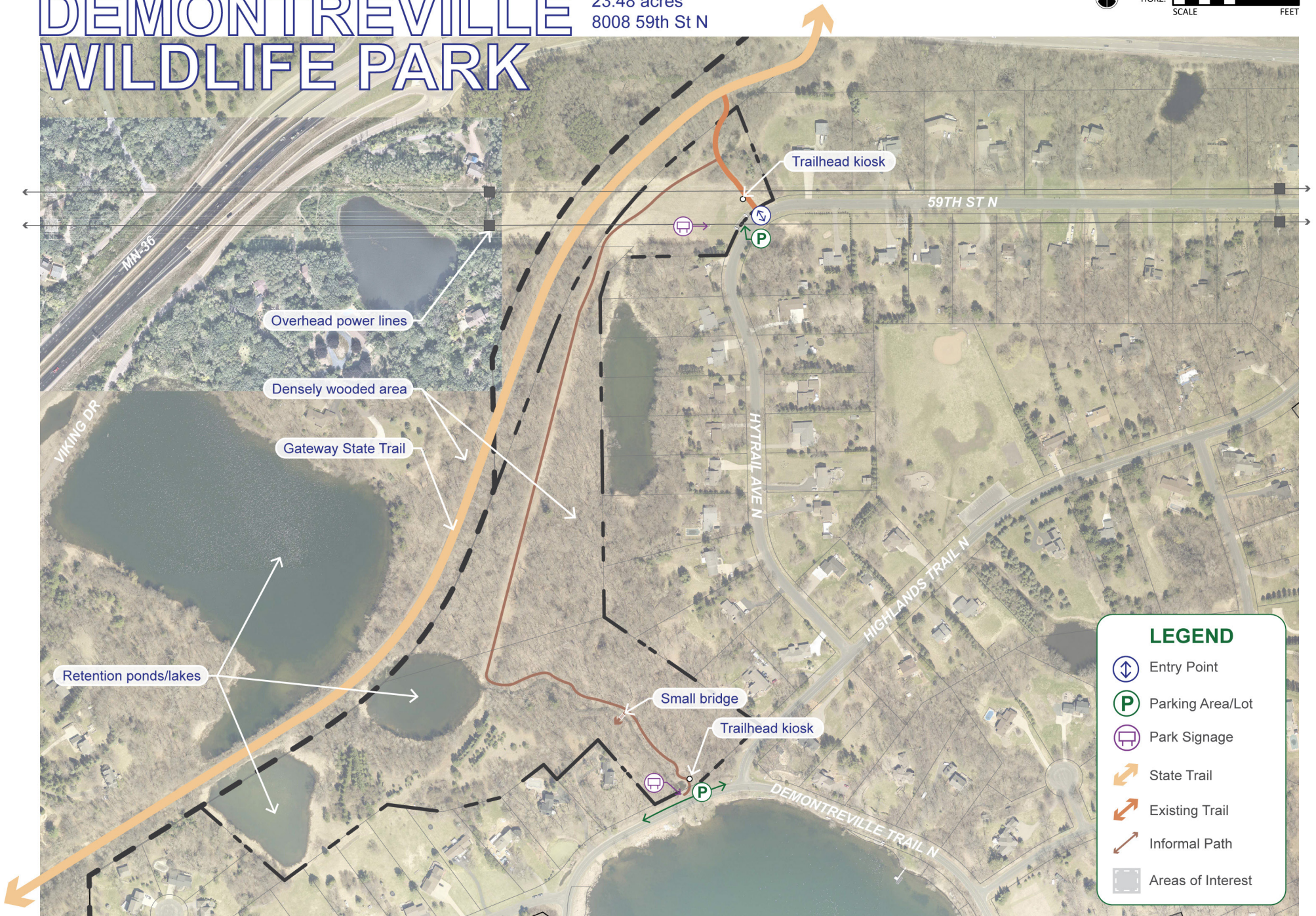
DEMONTREVILLE PARK

6.33 acres
5700 Highlands Trail N



DEMONTREVILLE WILDLIFE PARK

23.48 acres
8008 59th St N



LEGEND

- Entry Point
- Parking Area/Lot
- Park Signage
- State Trail
- Existing Trail
- Informal Path
- Areas of Interest

FIREFLY PARK

0.55 acres
4115 Lavender Ave N



LEGEND

- Entry Points
- Parking Area/Lot
- Park Signage
- Existing Trail
- Existing Sidewalk
- Areas of Interest

GOOSE LAKE PARK

7.10 acres
8th St N & Keats Ave N

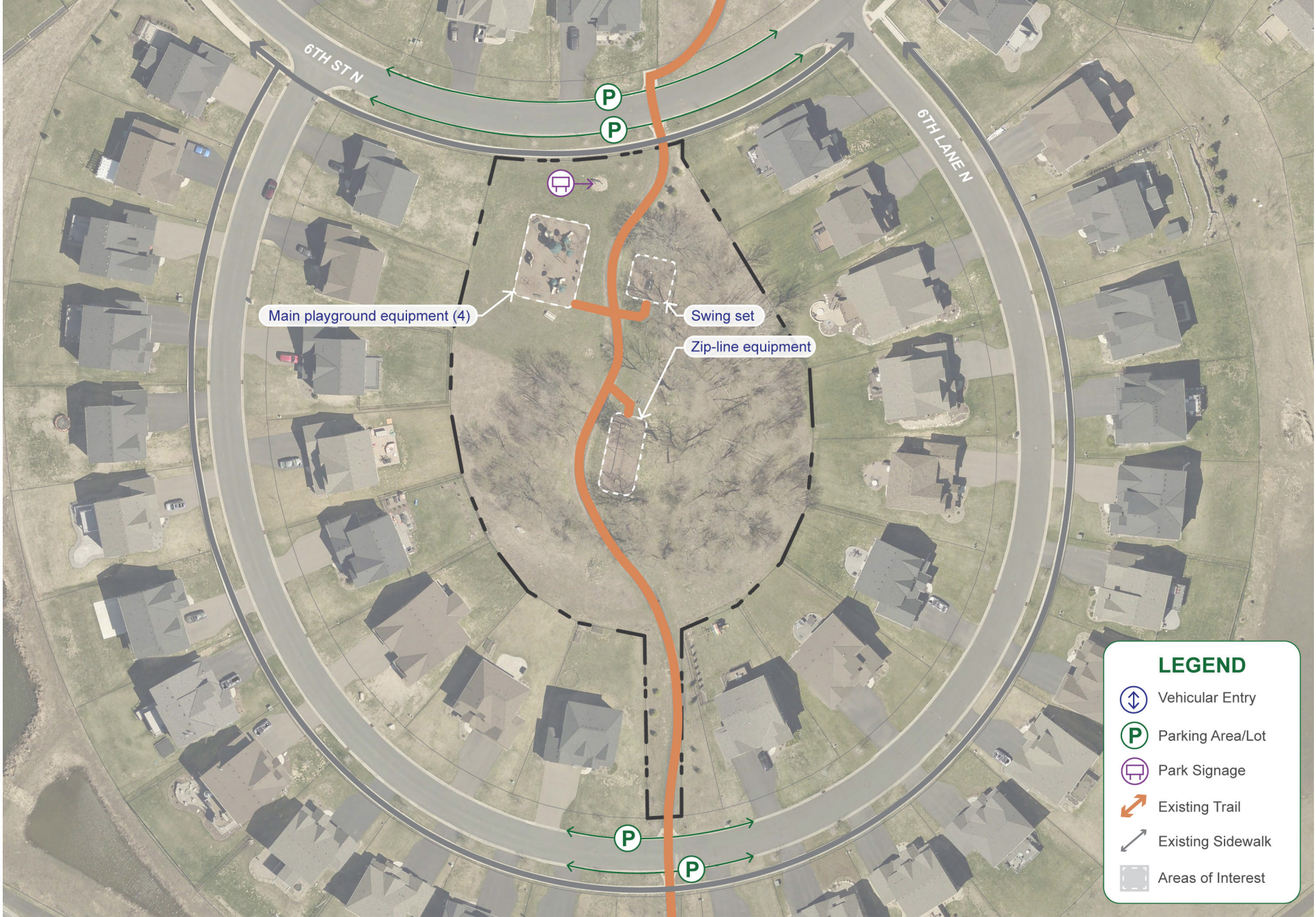


0 50 100
HORZ. SCALE FEET



HAMMES PARK

1.93 acres
9337 6th St



HEIGHTS PARK

6.60 acres
8254 26th St



HERITAGE PARK

13.65 acres
2675 Lisbon Ave N



HIDDEN KNOLL PARK

6.37 acres
5772 Lily Ave N



HOMESTEAD PARK

2.70 acres
Lake Elmo Ave N & 14th St N



IVYWOOD PARK

12.11 acres
5th St N & Ivywood Circle N



LEGEND

Vehicular Entry

Parking Area/Lot

Park Signage

Portable Toilet

Existing Trail

Existing Sidewalk

Informal Path

Areas of Interest

KLEIS PARK

6.94 acres
Jamaca Blvd N & 53rd St N



LAKE JANE HILLS PARK

6.33 acres
4039 Jamaca Ave N



LEGEND

- Entry Point
- Parking Area/Lot

LEGION AVE N PARK

6.10 acres
2209 Legion Ave N



LIONS PARK

3.36 acres
Laverne Ave N & 36th St N



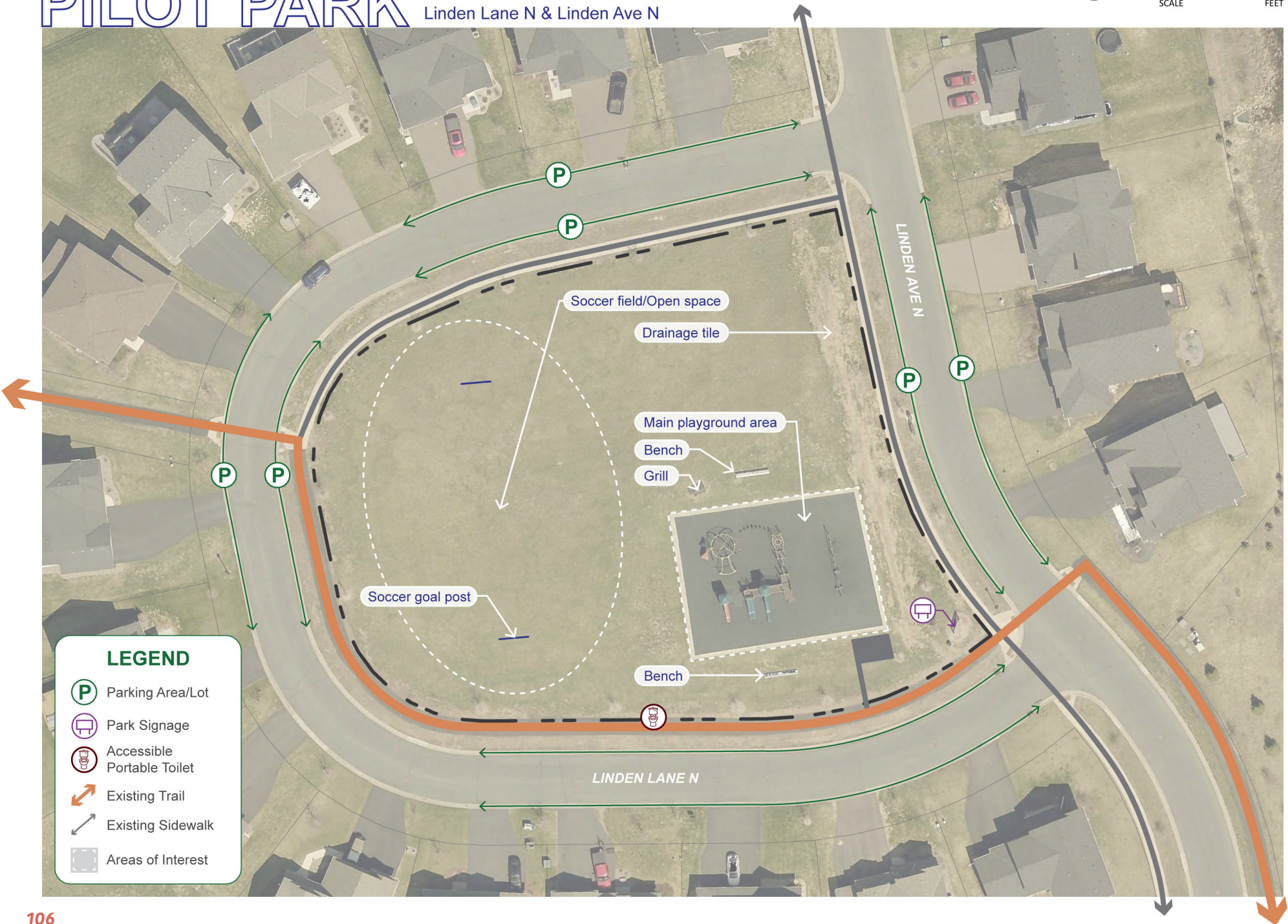
PEBBLE PARK

19.20 acres
8160 Lake Jane Trail N



PILOT PARK

1.36 acres
Linden Lane N & Linden Ave N

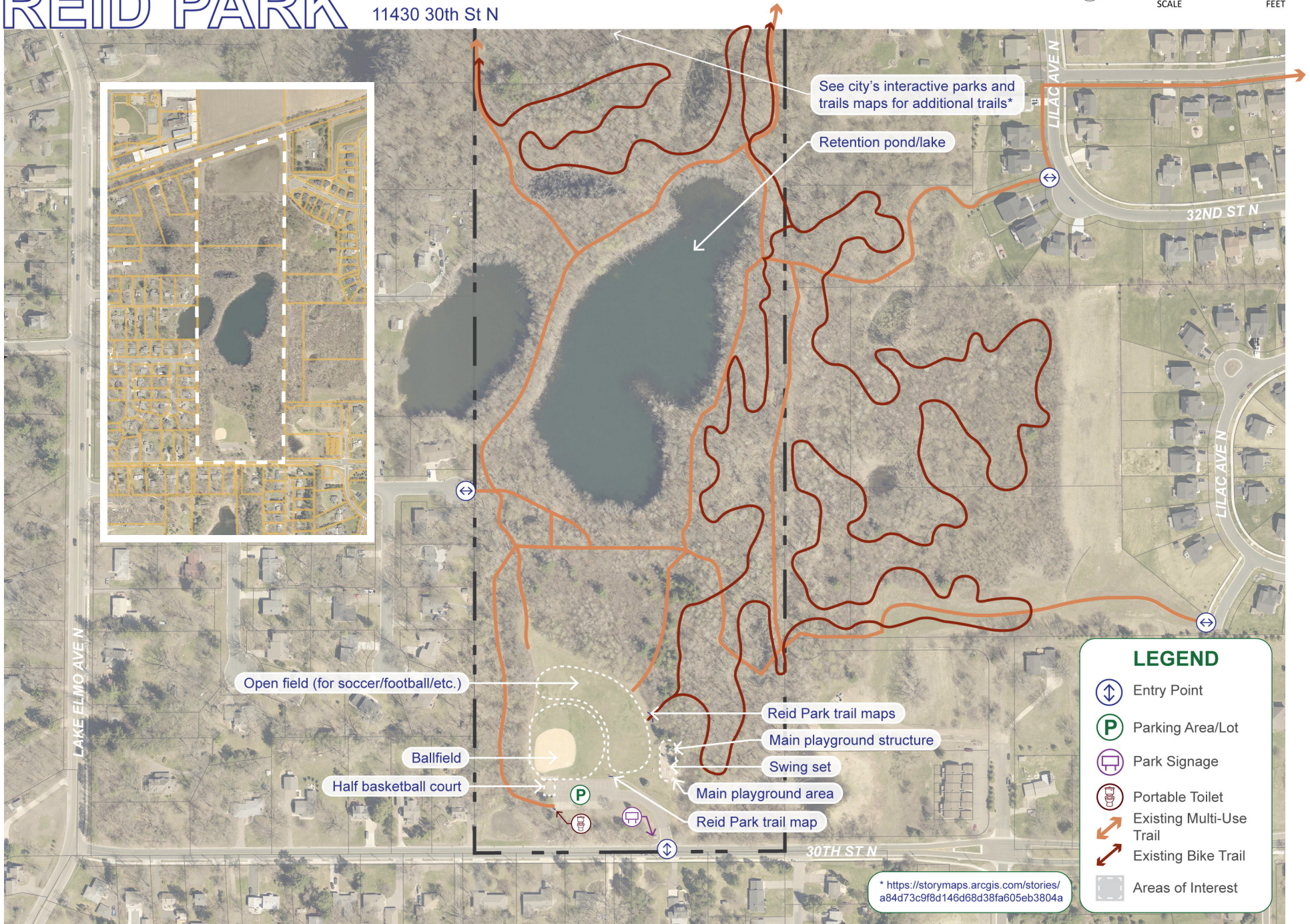


LEGEND

- Parking Area/Lot
- Park Signage
- Accessible Portable Toilet
- Existing Trail
- Existing Sidewalk
- Areas of Interest

REID PARK

61.57 acres
11430 30th St N



RIDGE PARK

23.47 acres
Ivory Ave N & Inwood Ave N



STONEGATE PARK

6.04 acres
750 Jasmine Ave N

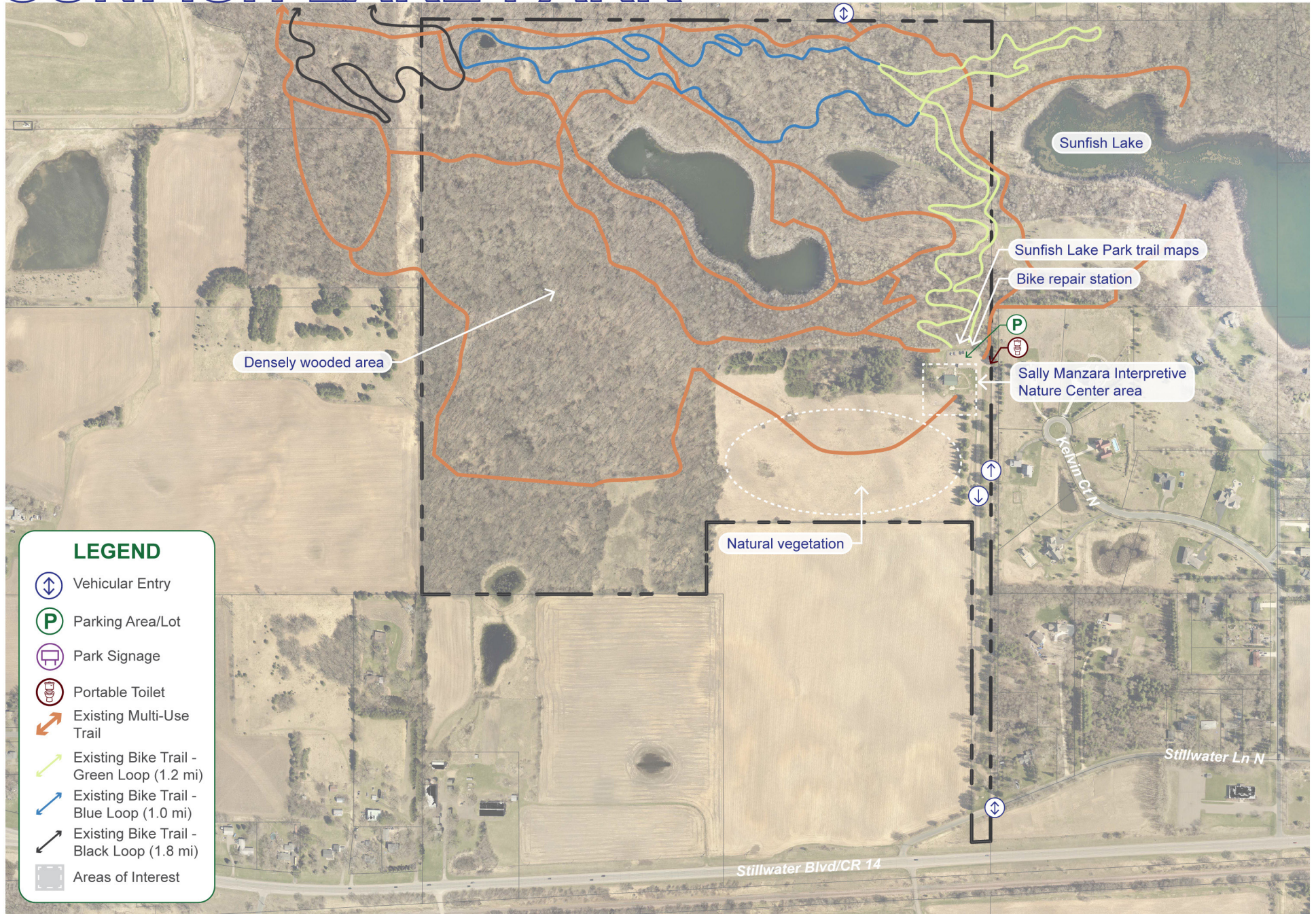


0 50 100
HORIZ. SCALE FEET



SUNFISH LAKE PARK

278.26 acres
10000 Stillwater Ave N



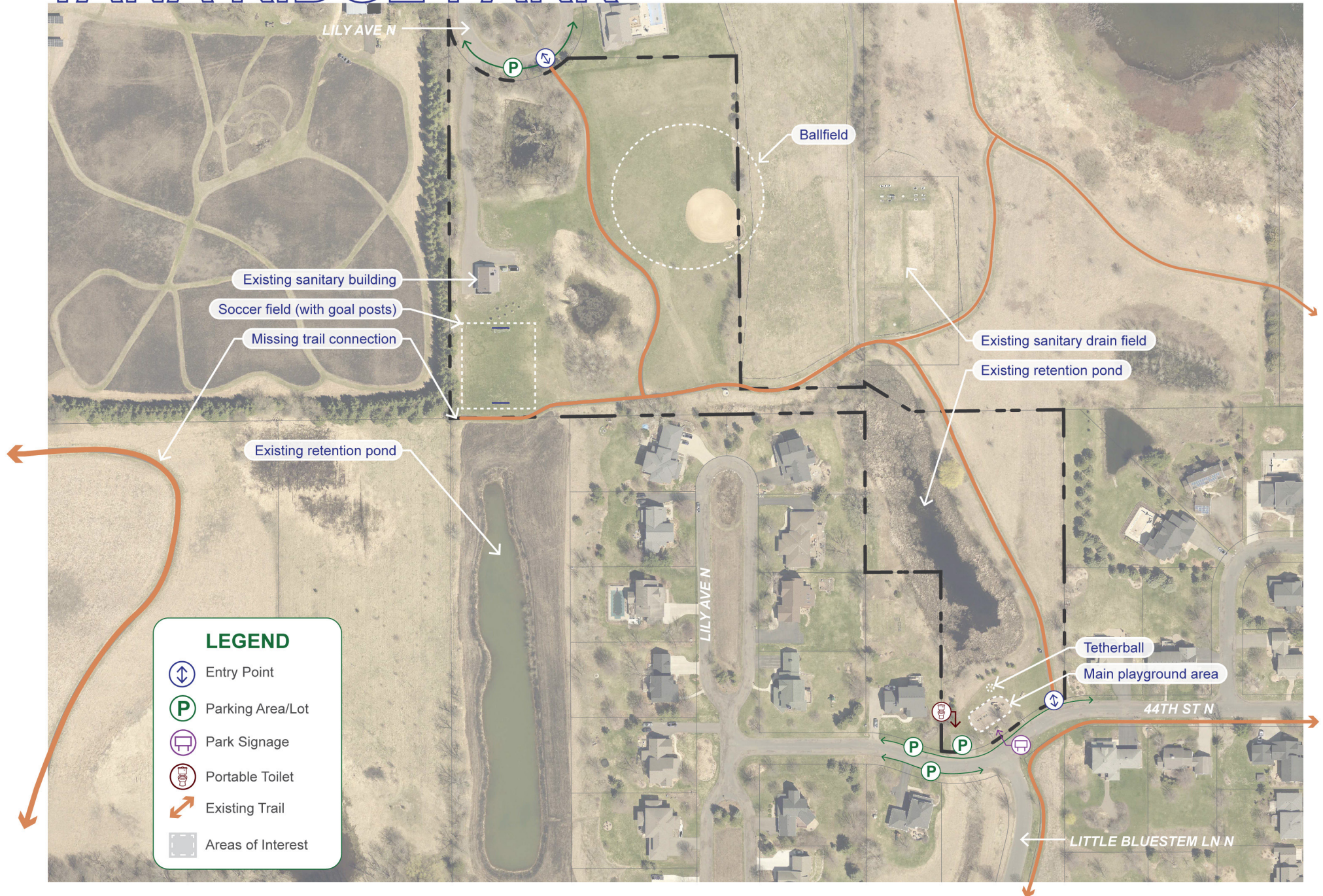
TABLYN PARK

8.62 acres
8735 Stillwater Blvd



TANA RIDGE PARK

9.18 acres
Little Bluestem Lane N & 44th St N



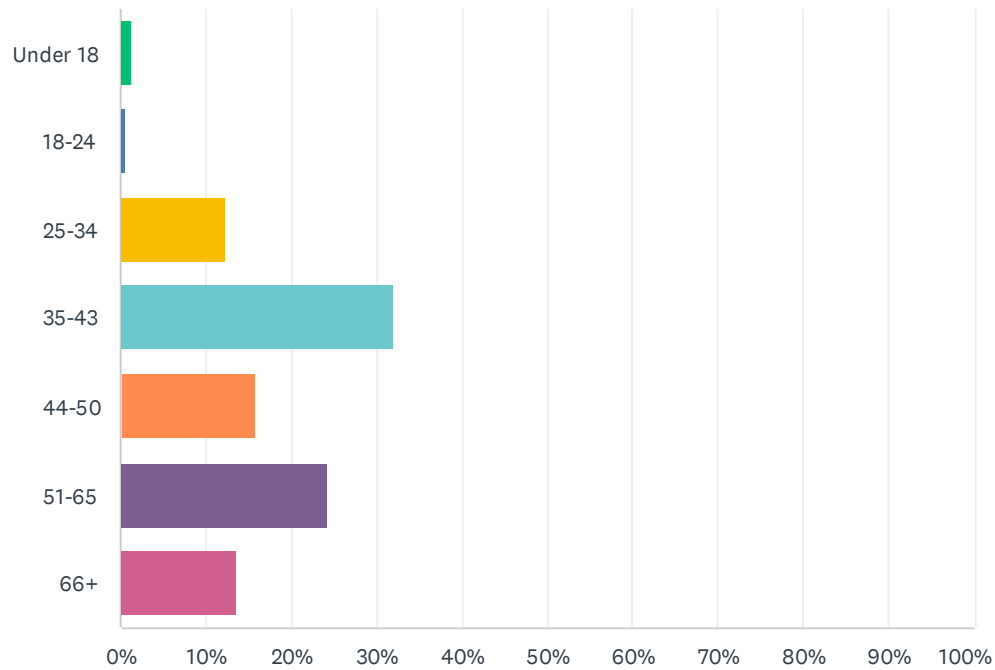
VFW PARK

3.23 acres
3675 Layton Ave N



Q1 What is your age group?

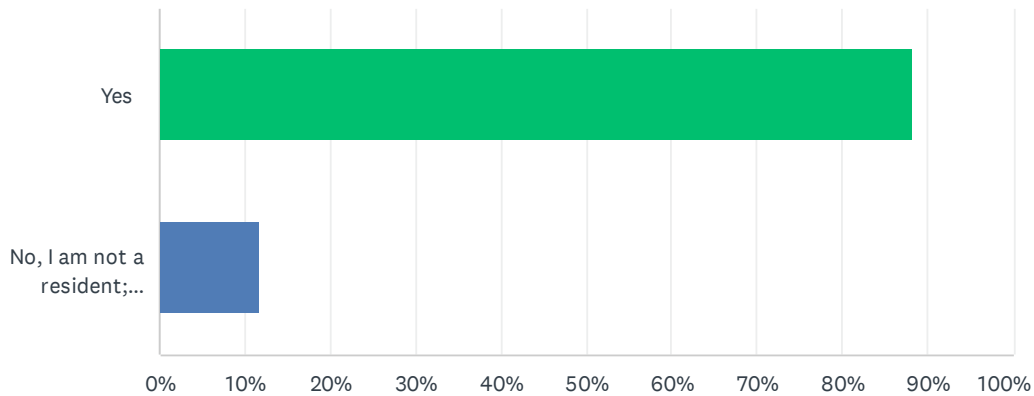
Answered: 553 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	1.27%	7
18-24	0.54%	3
25-34	12.30%	68
35-43	32.01%	177
44-50	15.73%	87
51-65	24.41%	135
66+	13.74%	76
TOTAL		553

Q2 Are you a city of Lake Elmo resident?

Answered: 553 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	88.25%	488
No, I am not a resident; please specify what city you reside in:	11.75%	65
TOTAL		553

#	NO, I AM NOT A RESIDENT; PLEASE SPECIFY WHAT CITY YOU RESIDE IN:	DATE
1	Marine on St. Croix	1/24/2024 8:12 PM
2	Stillwater	1/18/2024 11:45 AM
3	West Lakeland	1/17/2024 7:51 AM
4	W. Lakeland Township	1/16/2024 9:38 AM
5	Woodbury, but in Stillwater School District	1/15/2024 5:29 PM
6	Woodbury	1/15/2024 12:56 PM
7	Afton	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
8	Afton	1/14/2024 8:51 AM
9	Lakeland	1/13/2024 1:57 PM
10	Woodbury	1/13/2024 8:58 AM
11	Bayport	1/13/2024 7:13 AM
12	Stillwater	1/12/2024 7:03 PM
13	Woodbury	1/12/2024 2:16 PM
14	Woodbury	1/12/2024 12:44 PM
15	Woodbury	1/12/2024 12:27 PM
16	Afton	1/12/2024 12:22 PM
17	Stillwater	1/12/2024 11:22 AM
18	Lakeland	1/12/2024 10:29 AM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

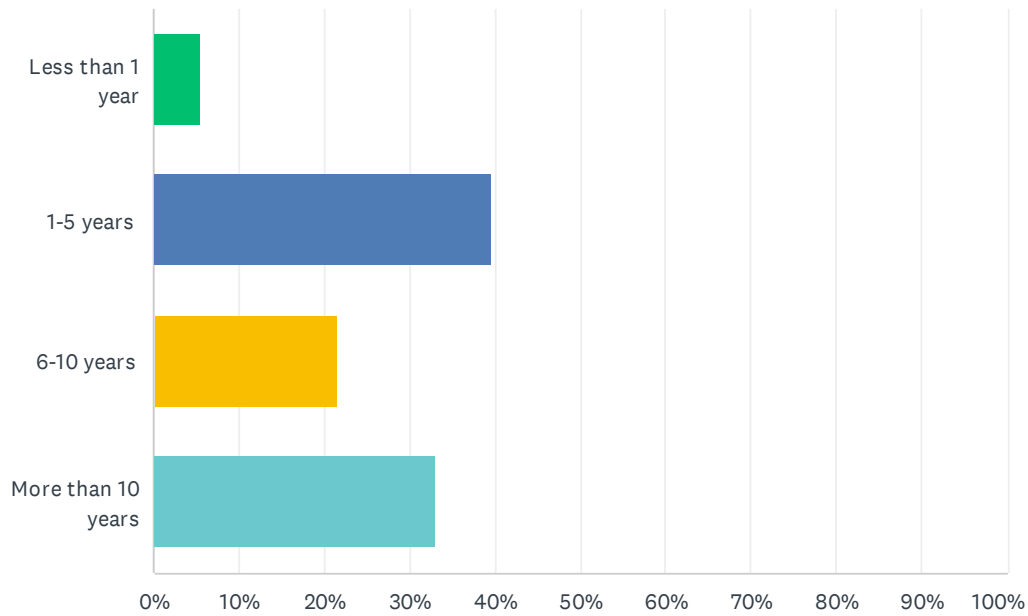
19	Stillwater	1/12/2024 9:20 AM
20	Lakeland	1/12/2024 4:28 AM
21	Stillwater MN	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
22	Stillwater	1/11/2024 10:46 AM
23	stillwater	1/11/2024 9:05 AM
24	West Lakeland Township	1/11/2024 8:15 AM
25	Woodbury- district 834	1/11/2024 7:15 AM
26	Stillwater	1/11/2024 5:50 AM
27	May Township	1/11/2024 5:28 AM
28	Oakdale	1/10/2024 10:20 PM
29	Woodbury	1/10/2024 8:51 PM
30	Baytown	1/10/2024 8:49 PM
31	Baytown	1/10/2024 8:43 PM
32	May Township	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
33	Stillwater	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
34	Lakeland	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
35	Woodbury	1/10/2024 5:19 PM
36	Stillwater	1/10/2024 3:50 PM
37	Woodbury	1/10/2024 2:35 PM
38	Lakeland Shores	1/10/2024 2:18 PM
39	West Lakeland Township	1/10/2024 1:56 PM
40	Afton	1/10/2024 1:45 PM
41	West Lakeland Township	1/10/2024 1:17 PM
42	Lakeland Shores	1/10/2024 1:11 PM
43	West Lakeland	1/10/2024 1:08 PM
44	Woodbury	1/10/2024 12:41 PM
45	Lakeland Shores	1/10/2024 12: 41 PM
46	West Lakeland	1/9/2024 8:57 PM
47	West Lakeland	1/9/2024 7:09 PM
48	West Lakeland	1/9/2024 7:56 AM
49	Mahtomedi	1/9/2024 12:58 AM
50	Woodbury	1/8/2024 9:51 PM
51	Stillwater	1/8/2024 8:09 PM
52	West Lakeland	1/8/2024 7:50 PM
53	West Lakeland	1/8/2024 7:42 PM
54	West Lakeland	1/8/2024 7:26 PM
55	Stillwater	1/8/2024 7:18 PM
56	Oakdale	1/2/2024 12:05 PM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

57	Moving there, from Plymouth	12/21/2023 3:32 PM
58	Stillwater area	12/19/2023 8:29 AM
59	Woodbury	12/8/2023 6:44 PM
60	Oakdale	12/4/2023 3:01 PM
61	Live on the boarder in Oakdale	12/3/2023 11:12 AM
62	Oakdale	11/25/2023 10:49 AM
63	Oakdale	11/21/2023 4:16 PM
64	White bear lake	11/18/2023 8:39 AM
65	Baytown	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

Q3 How long have you lived in Lake Elmo?

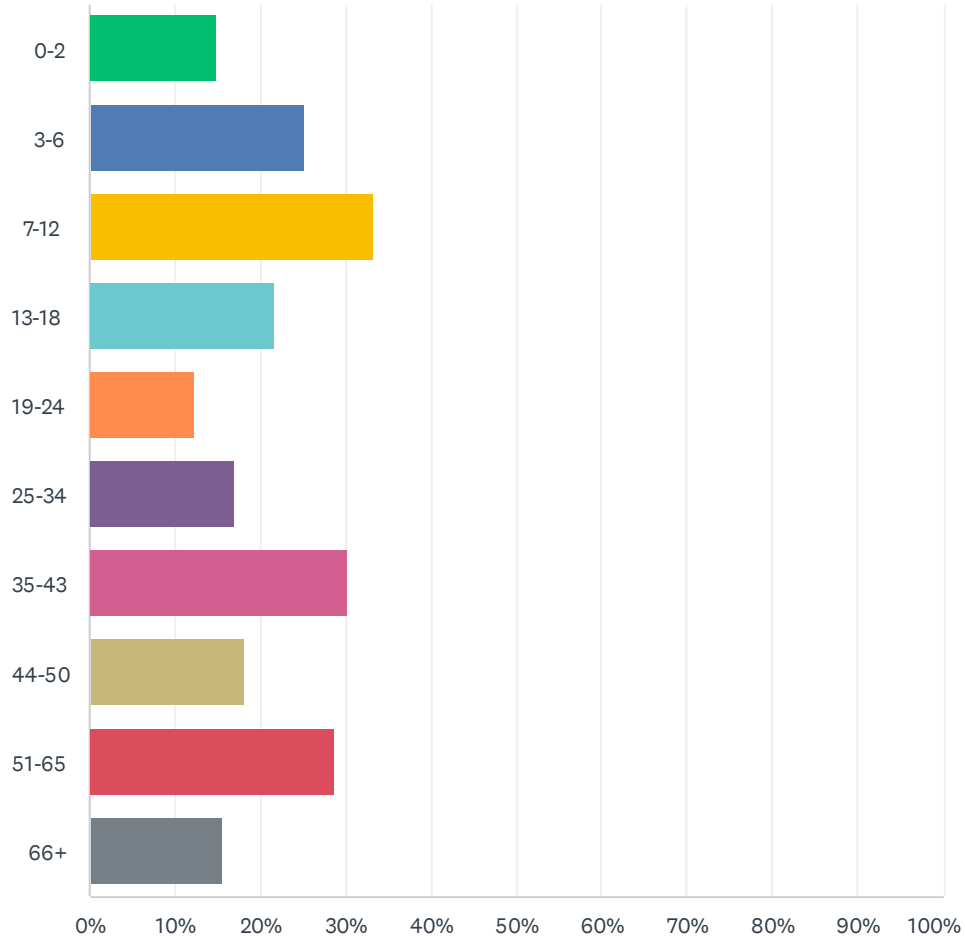
Answered: 516 Skipped: 37



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	5.62%	29
1-5 years	39.73%	205
6-10 years	21.51%	111
More than 10 years	33.14%	171
TOTAL		516

Q4 What age groups are represented in your household? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 553 Skipped: 0

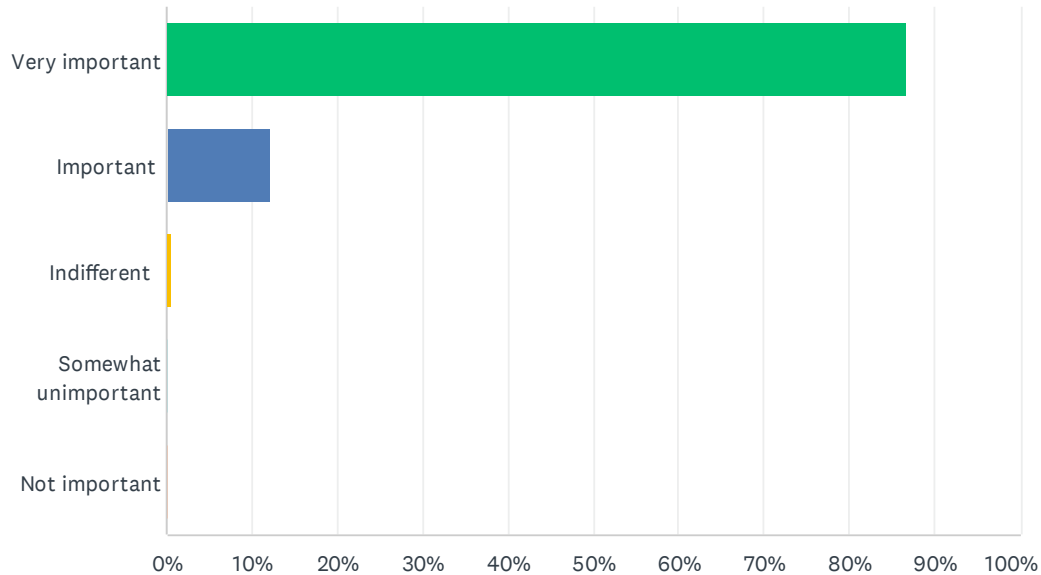


Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-2	15.01%	83
3-6	25.14%	139
7-12	33.27%	184
13-18	21.70%	120
19-24	12.30%	68
25-34	17.00%	94
35-43	30.20%	167
44-50	18.08%	100
51-65	28.75%	159
66+	15.55%	86
Total Respondents: 553		

Q5 How important are parks, trails, and open space to the overall quality of life in Lake Elmo?

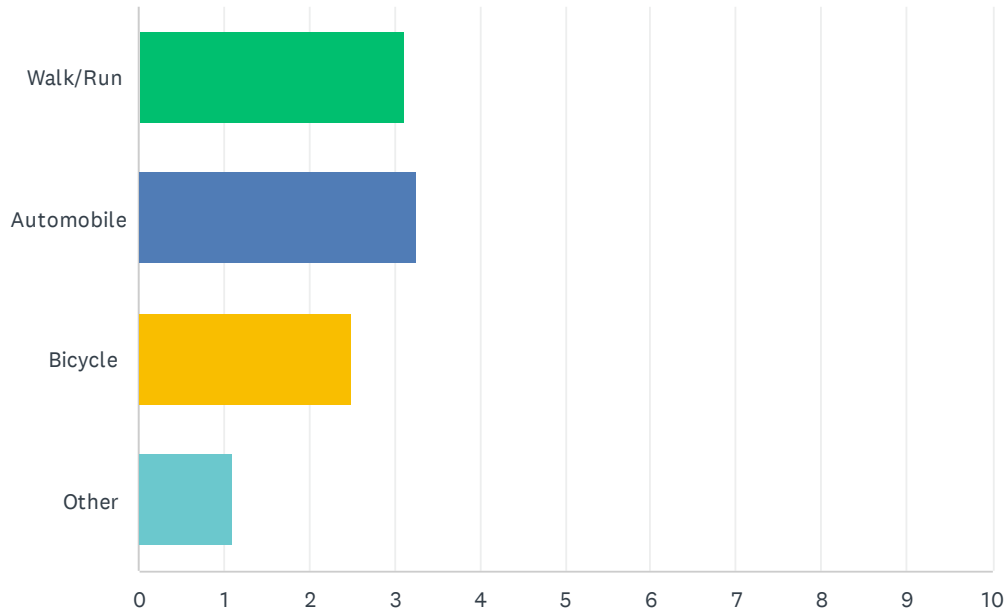
Answered: 552 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	86.78%	479
Important	12.14%	67
Indifferent	0.72%	4
Somewhat unimportant	0.18%	1
Not important	0.18%	1
TOTAL		552

Q6 If you're going to visit a park or trail, how do you typically get there? (Please rank in order)

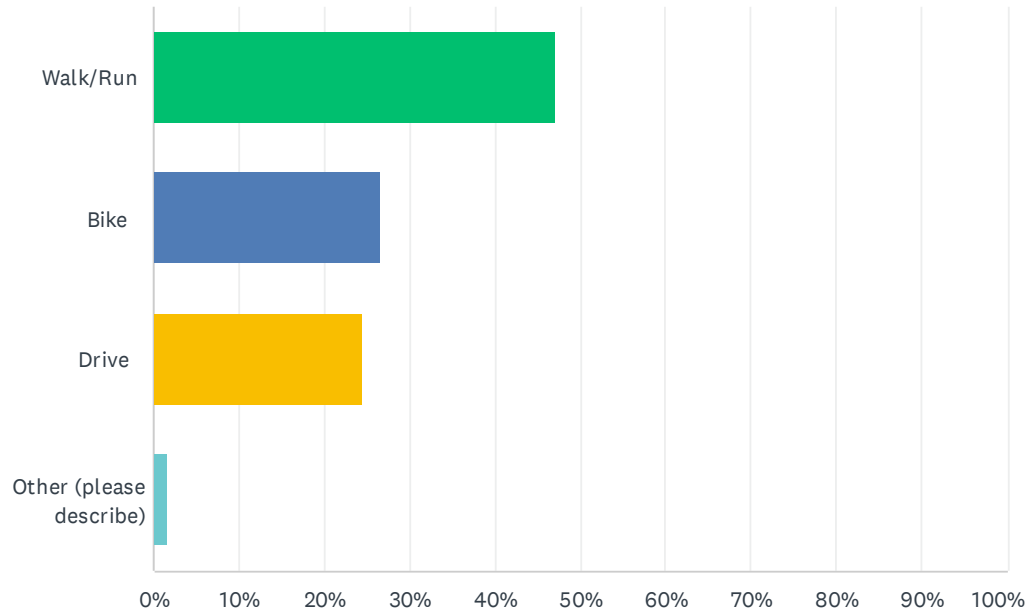
Answered: 535 Skipped: 18



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Walk/Run	38.50% 206	34.77% 186	25.79% 138	0.93% 5	535	3.11
Automobile	53.83% 288	22.06% 118	21.87% 117	2.24% 12	535	3.27
Bicycle	7.48% 40	41.68% 223	44.67% 239	6.17% 33	535	2.50
Other	0.19% 1	1.50% 8	7.66% 41	90.65% 485	535	1.11

Q7 What method of travel would you prefer to take when you visit Lake Elmo Parks?

Answered: 546 Skipped: 7

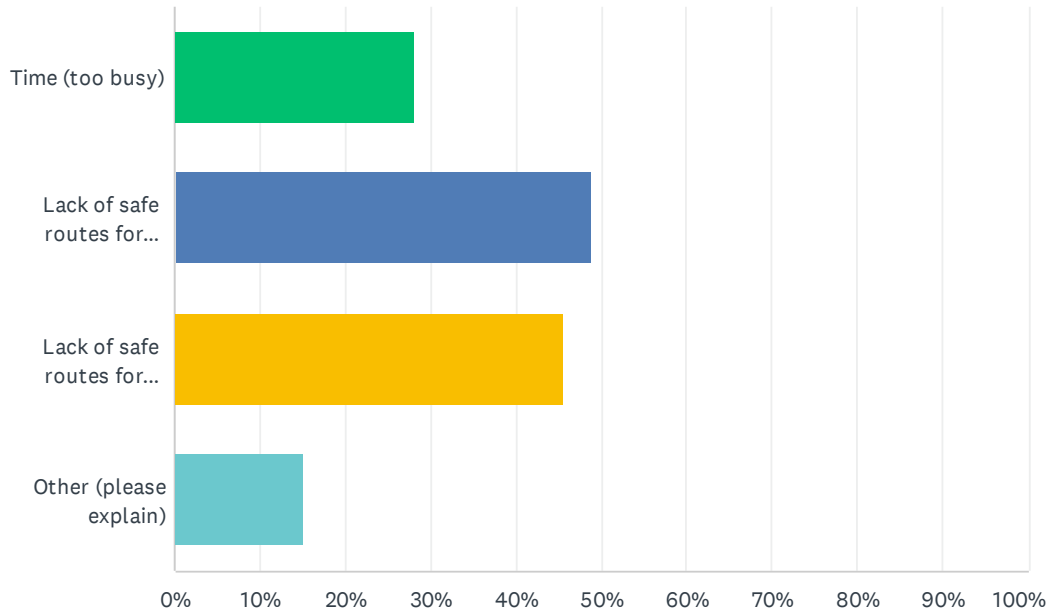


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk/Run	47.07%	257
Bike	26.74%	146
Drive	24.54%	134
Other (please describe)	1.65%	9
TOTAL		546

#	OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	Walk and drive	1/11/2024 1:09 PM
2	I'm OK with current drive, bike, walk	1/10/2024 7:37 PM
3	Walk and or bike	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
4	None	1/9/2024 7:09 PM
5	Walk run and bike just depends on what I wanna do that day	1/9/2024 1:14 PM
6	Teleport	1/6/2024 9:56 AM
7	does not matter	11/29/2023 4:23 PM
8	Walk and Bike	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
9	Dosen't matter	11/20/2023 9:43 AM

Q8 What are the barriers to using your preferred method of transportation to visit Lake Elmo parks? Choose all that apply

Answered: 496 Skipped: 57



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Time (too busy)	28.23% 140
Lack of safe routes for walking	48.79% 242
Lack of safe routes for biking	45.56% 226
Other (please explain)	15.12% 75
Total Respondents: 496	

#	OTHER (PLEASE EXPLAIN)	DATE
1	Lake Elmo Regional Park is closest to me, but I can't afford the admission fee, so I have to bike there down the county road with traffic whizzing by at 55, and then by the time I get there I'm half-pooped out already. I wish they had free or reduced permits for low income locals. You look at a map of the parks and they are all located where the rich folks live and not a single one near Cimarron.	1/18/2024 9:41 AM
2	Too much stuff to bring with and young kids	1/16/2024 10:07 PM
3	No barriers	1/15/2024 12:56 PM
4	Distance	1/13/2024 7:13 AM
5	busy roads	1/11/2024 9:10 PM
6	Not aware of parks and locations!	1/11/2024 6:55 PM
7	none	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
8	Residents seem to use the closest walkable park, unless they are seeking a specific park	1/11/2024 2:48 PM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

amenity, such as softball, pickle ball, dog park, play structure, pool, bike trail, skate park etc. Variety of amenities is key. Quality over quantity.

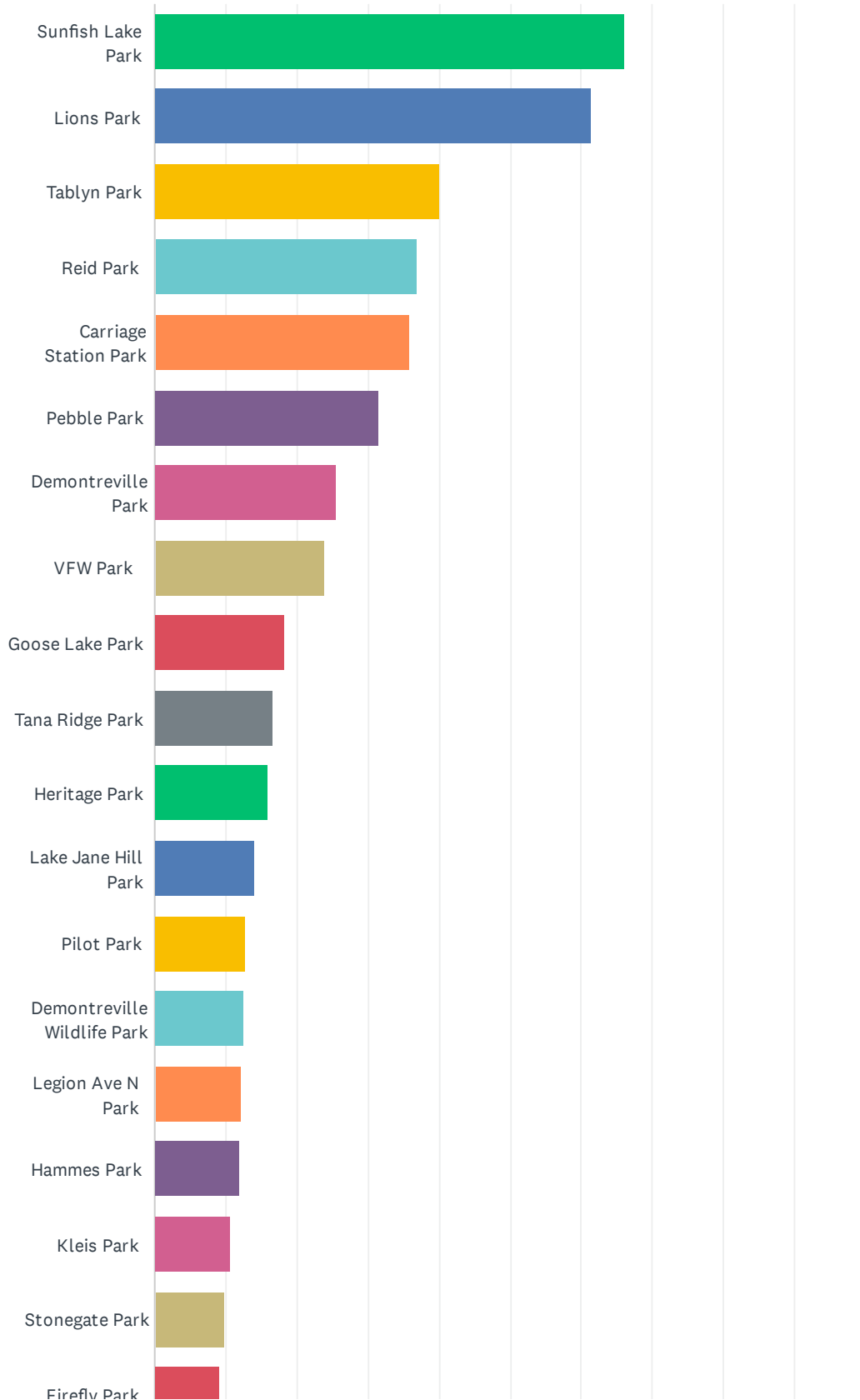
9	none	1/11/2024 1:30 PM
10	distance from home	1/11/2024 9:48 AM
11	Disability	1/11/2024 5:50 AM
12	none	1/10/2024 11:28 PM
13	Options are leading and very limited	1/10/2024 8:36 PM
14	No current issues	1/10/2024 8:16 PM
15	Location	1/10/2024 8:01 PM
16	Too far from home and no sidewalks or safe bike lanes	1/10/2024 7:15 PM
17	Put in bike lanes	1/10/2024 5:12 PM
18	Lack of safe routes for walking and biking, path not cleared in winter	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
19	My son uses a walker and the paved trails have lines cut that make them unusable for him	1/10/2024 3:15 PM
20	Not enough baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
21	No Barriers	1/10/2024 1:47 PM
22	Lack of safe enjoyable playgrounds	1/10/2024 1:10 PM
23	Not enough paved areas for strollers	1/10/2024 12:21 PM
24	Sidewalks that connect the parks to communities.	1/10/2024 12:14 PM
25	I walk to lions Park in the summer to play pickleball. They are shutting down those courts and have built new ones too far from the city center for walking or biking	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
26	Aging / uncared for playground equipment, and playground equipment that isn't suitable for toddlers	1/10/2024 11:59 AM
27	Distance	1/10/2024 11:42 AM
28	Lack of parking	1/10/2024 11:28 AM
29	Some of them are not interconnected. Let's get a connection from Sunfish to the North of Lake Elmo Park Preserve. Also some neighborhoods don't allow outsiders on their trails.	1/10/2024 11:19 AM
30	Paths are never plowed in the winter	1/10/2024 8:16 AM
31	Like to see more connectors between certain developments	1/9/2024 7:53 PM
32	Not cleared of snow	1/9/2024 7:28 PM
33	Distance from park.	1/9/2024 7:09 PM
34	No barriers	1/9/2024 4:42 PM
35	Snow	1/9/2024 3:28 PM
36	The city owned paved paths around neighborhoods and along roads are not plowed all winter.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
37	Five months out of the year the trails are too icy to walk safely. Pregnant wife slipped two days ago.	1/9/2024 2:55 PM
38	Trails are not maintained in the winter.	1/9/2024 2:37 PM
39	Don't plow paths in winter	1/9/2024 1:53 PM
40	Distance	1/9/2024 1:38 PM
41	Distance	1/9/2024 1:12 PM
42	Some need to park pass, which is hard to fit into my schedule	1/9/2024 1:01 PM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

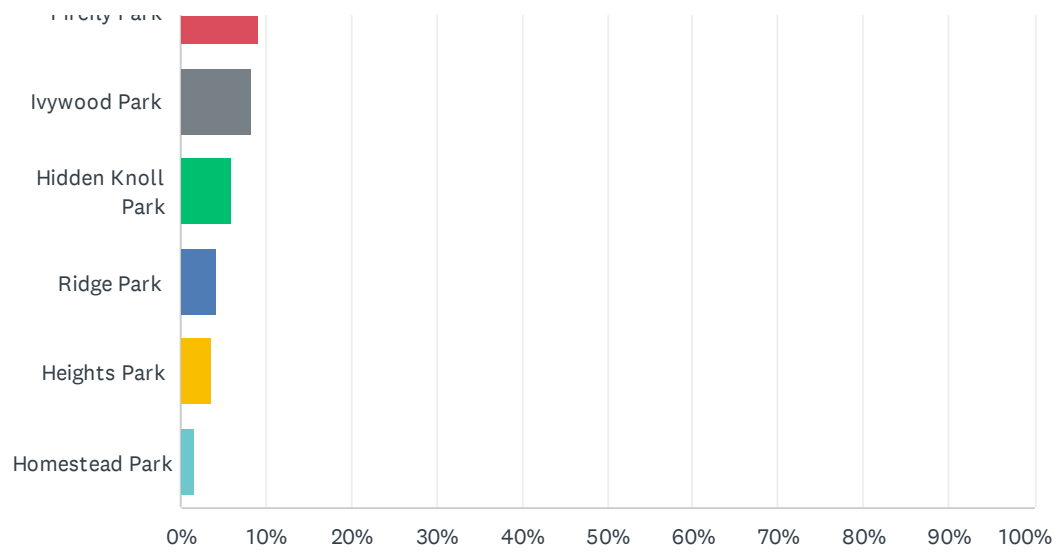
43	Live on north end of city, too far	1/8/2024 9:04 PM
44	Not taken care of	1/8/2024 8:09 PM
45	Not enough ball fields	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
46	None	1/8/2024 7:42 PM
47	No parking	1/8/2024 4:10 PM
48	Lack of connections and safe pedestrian crossing over roads (cty Rds 14 and 17 in particular).	1/6/2024 1:11 PM
49	Lack of connecting trails, paths along busy roads, and controlled crossings	1/5/2024 8:35 PM
50	lack of trails and needed maintenance on the existing trails. Both Oakdale and Woodbury have much better Trail Systems that are Maintained thru Summer AND Winter.	1/4/2024 6:38 AM
51	No barriers	12/15/2023 6:09 PM
52	Distance to the parks	12/8/2023 5:38 PM
53	Snow covered trails	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
54	No bike lanes, cars drive too fast, narrow roads	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
55	Trails are dead ends and then you have to run on the road	12/2/2023 7:59 PM
56	Sunfish and regional are the best parks for walking a distance, there is no Legion Ave N park ,its a pond	12/1/2023 11:09 PM
57	Too many bike trails	12/1/2023 4:58 PM
58	None	11/30/2023 2:17 PM
59	Need to make more time...as park facilities are very good	11/29/2023 11:02 AM
60	Weather	11/29/2023 3:57 AM
61	Aging issues	11/28/2023 8:46 PM
62	No trail connectivity	11/28/2023 8:08 PM
63	hanicap	11/28/2023 7:50 PM
64	None	11/28/2023 6:27 PM
65	We would love to see the paved walking path that runs along Stillwater Blvd extended in front of Lake Elmo Bank area so that we could ride bikes from Fields of St. Croix Phase 2 to Lion's Park and access downtown Lake Elmo.	11/28/2023 11:13 AM
66	Distance is too great with young kids	11/28/2023 10:18 AM
67	The city of lake Elmo does not plow the side walk on 50th, making the path unusable for the better part of 5 months of the years even when walking.	11/28/2023 6:56 AM
68	Kids safe/friendly	11/21/2023 1:29 PM
69	lack of safe routes for walking becomes a bigger issue in the winter when/if sidewalks aren't cleared. lack of safe routes for biking an issue to navigate heavily traveled (mostly county) roads to get around where city streets/trails dont exist (ie issues on Manning, Stillwater Blvd, 10th St, Lake Elmo Ave, Ideal Ave, Inwood Ave)	11/20/2023 9:32 PM
70	Not cleared in winter - snow	11/20/2023 10:38 AM
71	Specifically on Manning Avenue	11/19/2023 4:32 PM
72	Lack of city trail maintenance in winter	11/19/2023 2:28 PM
73	No issues with getting to parks. Sunfish park , a city park paid for by our residents, is my favorite, however, no safe walking areas for older residents who enjoy being outside bird watching and enjoying nature due to making it a mountain biking park .	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
74	Distance to park	11/17/2023 5:25 PM

Q9 Which of the following parks have you visited? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 540 Skipped: 13



Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

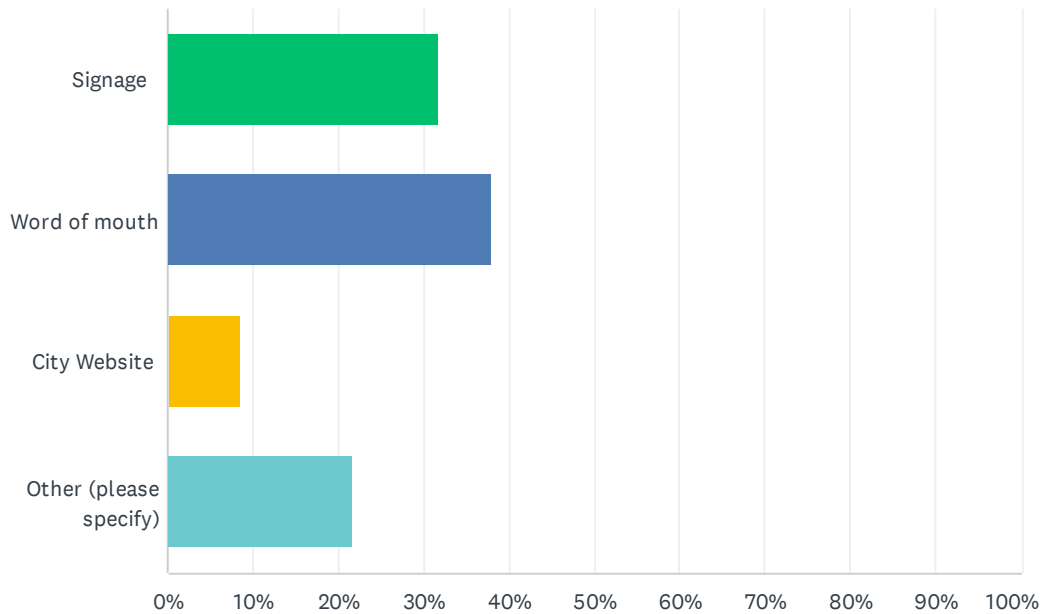


Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sunfish Lake Park	66.11%	357
Lions Park	61.48%	332
Tablyn Park	40.19%	217
Reid Park	36.85%	199
Carriage Station Park	35.93%	194
Pebble Park	31.48%	170
Demontreville Park	25.56%	138
VFW Park	23.89%	129
Goose Lake Park	18.33%	99
Tana Ridge Park	16.67%	90
Heritage Park	15.93%	86
Lake Jane Hill Park	14.07%	76
Pilot Park	12.78%	69
Demontreville Wildlife Park	12.59%	68
Legion Ave N Park	12.22%	66
Hammes Park	11.85%	64
Kleis Park	10.56%	57
Stonegate Park	9.81%	53
Firefly Park	9.07%	49
Ivywood Park	8.33%	45
Hidden Knoll Park	5.93%	32
Ridge Park	4.26%	23
Heights Park	3.70%	20
Homestead Park	1.67%	9
Total Respondents: 540		

Q10 How did you become aware of the parks in Lake Elmo?

Answered: 540 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Signage	31.67%	171
Word of mouth	37.96%	205
City Website	8.52%	46
Other (please specify)	21.85%	118
TOTAL		540

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	sports and events	1/24/2024 8:12 PM
2	Google maps	1/20/2024 9:33 AM
3	Driving around over the years	1/20/2024 7:15 AM
4	Signage, grew up in the area, athletics	1/17/2024 1:30 PM
5	Found them by driving or walking by them.	1/16/2024 4:45 PM
6	Local knowledge, passing by	1/13/2024 2:59 PM
7	Lake Elmo baseball	1/13/2024 1:57 PM
8	Baseball	1/13/2024 8:58 AM
9	Saw them when out and about	1/12/2024 1:35 PM
10	Friends that showed me or went with them.	1/12/2024 11:22 AM
11	Baseball	1/12/2024 9:20 AM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

12	Live near	1/11/2024 11:04 PM
13	Driving past mostly	1/11/2024 9:20 PM
14	too long ago - forgot	1/11/2024 9:10 PM
15	Happened to drive by	1/11/2024 6:55 PM
16	lived in the Lake Elmo and Stillwater area my entire life	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
17	Searching for park amenities	1/11/2024 2:48 PM
18	Proximity to home	1/11/2024 1:10 PM
19	I'm actually not aware of many of these!	1/11/2024 10:48 AM
20	Baseball	1/11/2024 10:46 AM
21	Discovery by driving around or walking	1/11/2024 9:37 AM
22	Drove by	1/11/2024 8:47 AM
23	Close to my home	1/11/2024 8:15 AM
24	MORC - Minnesota Offroad Cyclist	1/11/2024 6:53 AM
25	Randomly found them driving and walking/running around	1/11/2024 4:44 AM
26	Used to live there for over 20 years	1/10/2024 8:43 PM
27	The Googles	1/10/2024 8:36 PM
28	Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
29	Pickleball	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
30	Google and signs	1/10/2024 7:15 PM
31	Sporting activities	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
32	Lived in area my entire lifetime	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
33	Our son plays baseball at the parks	1/10/2024 5:19 PM
34	Live near	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
35	Google search	1/10/2024 3:17 PM
36	Baseball	1/10/2024 2:58 PM
37	Baseball	1/10/2024 2:35 PM
38	Living here for over forty years	1/10/2024 1:46 PM
39	Grew up visiting Lake Elmo Park	1/10/2024 12:40 PM
40	all above	1/10/2024 11:58 AM
41	Driving by	1/10/2024 11:43 AM
42	Just by living here for so long I have seen and visited them.	1/10/2024 11:19 AM
43	By being active and walking/biking by	1/10/2024 8:22 AM
44	Internet research	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
45	Maps	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
46	Google maps	1/9/2024 8:01 PM
47	Google maps	1/9/2024 7:56 PM
48	Exploring on my bike and walking	1/9/2024 7:53 PM
49	All of the above	1/9/2024 7:16 PM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

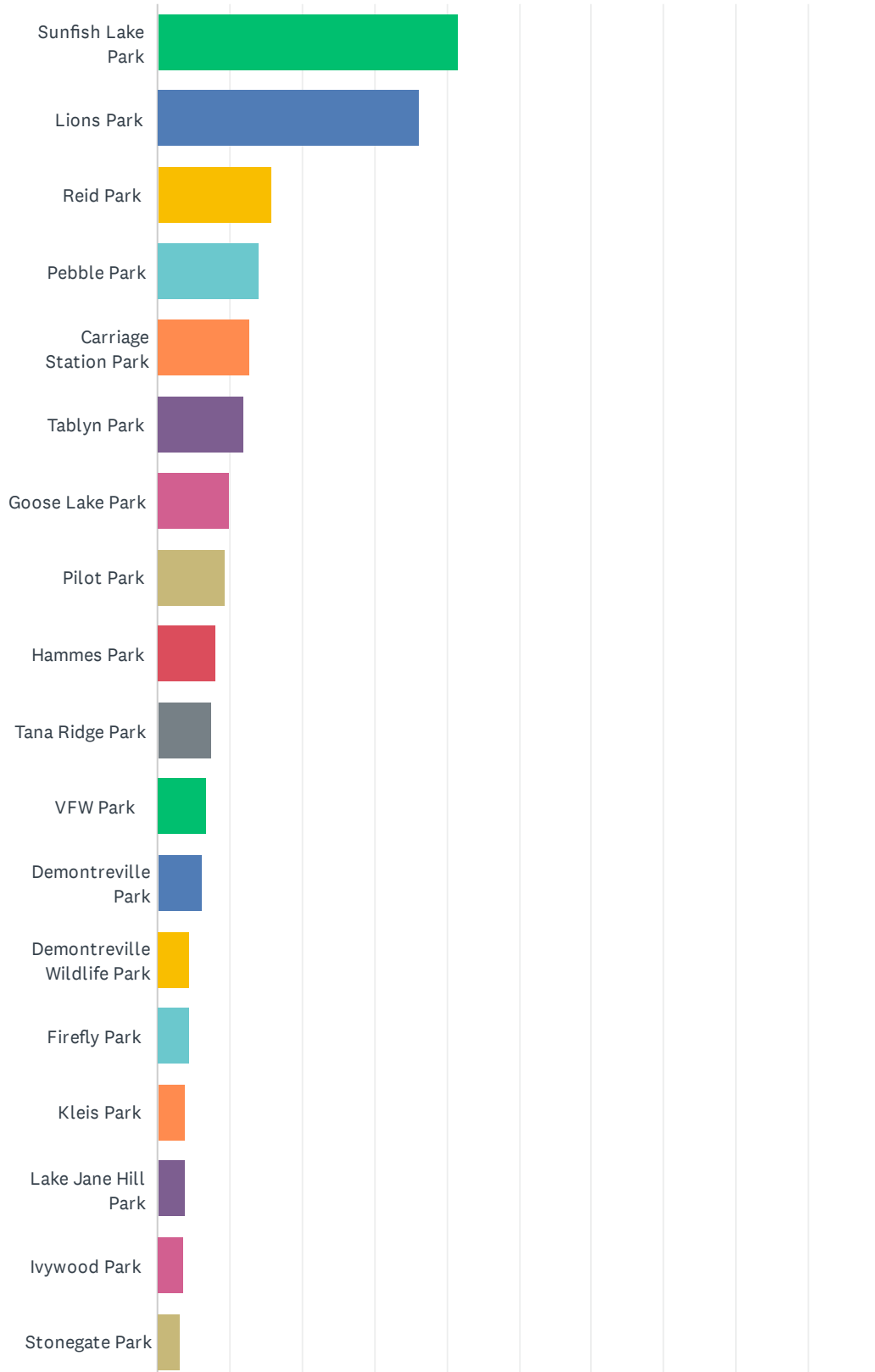
50	Activities, driving by them	1/9/2024 4:42 PM
51	Resident	1/9/2024 3:24 PM
52	Google maps	1/9/2024 3:21 PM
53	Google and city website m	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
54	All trails	1/9/2024 2:27 PM
55	Google maps	1/9/2024 1:39 PM
56	Google maps	1/9/2024 1:38 PM
57	Driving by	1/9/2024 1:23 PM
58	eBird (For bird watching.)	1/9/2024 1:18 PM
59	Literally live behind the trail	1/9/2024 1:14 PM
60	Exploring	1/9/2024 1:13 PM
61	Ball fields	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
62	Lives here	1/8/2024 8:02 PM
63	Coaching.	1/8/2024 7:42 PM
64	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:41 PM
65	Living here	1/8/2024 6:27 PM
66	Longtime resident	1/6/2024 8:38 AM
67	Discover them while on a run/bike ride; Reid Park is connected to my neighborhood	1/5/2024 8:35 PM
68	Google maps	1/3/2024 8:43 PM
69	Drive by	1/2/2024 8:44 PM
70	google	12/31/2023 10:54 AM
71	I found them in person	12/29/2023 7:17 PM
72	Lived in area my entire life...continue to stumble upon parks I never knew existed	12/19/2023 8:29 AM
73	Out for runs.	12/17/2023 4:21 PM
74	exploring the area	12/11/2023 9:07 AM
75	google maps, EBird website	12/9/2023 8:22 AM
76	I've been exploring my area for 40+ years.	12/9/2023 7:11 AM
77	Google maps	12/9/2023 12:04 AM
78	We live along sunfish park	12/8/2023 8:20 PM
79	Google	12/8/2023 7:01 PM
80	Google Maps	12/8/2023 5:38 PM
81	Internet	12/8/2023 5:34 PM
82	Google	12/8/2023 4:16 PM
83	User of and Parks Commissioner for 13 yrs	12/8/2023 3:30 PM
84	From cross country ski club I used to be with	12/5/2023 4:26 PM
85	exploring google maps	12/4/2023 3:01 PM
86	G6	12/1/2023 9:43 PM
87	Google search of parks in Lake Elmo	12/1/2023 9:20 PM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

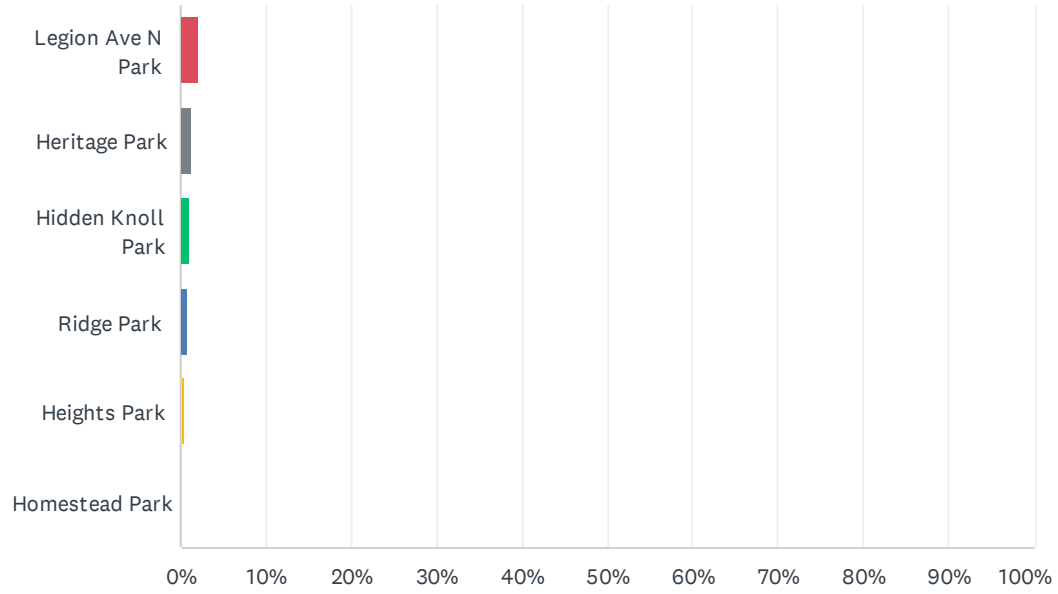
88	Google maps	12/1/2023 6:19 PM
89	Google maps	12/1/2023 5:41 PM
90	Find by accident	12/1/2023 4:58 PM
91	Drive by	11/30/2023 3:37 PM
92	Driving by	11/28/2023 8:46 PM
93	Living	11/28/2023 8:08 PM
94	From Living here	11/28/2023 5:52 PM
95	Live next to one	11/28/2023 11:03 AM
96	Map App	11/28/2023 10:29 AM
97	neighborhood parks	11/28/2023 10:23 AM
98	just by driving around the City	11/28/2023 10:20 AM
99	Driving by	11/28/2023 10:05 AM
100	just happen to be close by	11/28/2023 9:46 AM
101	In neighborhood	11/28/2023 9:29 AM
102	Drive by, or have soccer games at	11/28/2023 9:10 AM
103	Driving the neighborhood	11/25/2023 10:49 AM
104	Live near it.	11/23/2023 5:52 PM
105	google	11/22/2023 11:58 AM
106	In my neighborhood	11/22/2023 9:28 AM
107	been visiting Sunfish Lake park long before websites were available	11/21/2023 4:16 PM
108	Google Maps searches for "parks" and then exploring on my bike!	11/20/2023 9:32 PM
109	Google Maps	11/20/2023 11:39 AM
110	Seeing them	11/19/2023 4:32 PM
111	Dr Google	11/19/2023 4:30 PM
112	google maps	11/19/2023 8:55 AM
113	Checking out on own	11/18/2023 1:09 PM
114	Helped start the lake Elmo Parks Commission .	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
115	Seeing them while driving by	11/18/2023 10:47 AM
116	Saw it	11/18/2023 7:49 AM
117	Google maps	11/17/2023 5:25 PM
118	Grew Up Here	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

Q11 Which of the following park/open spaces do you visit most often? (Select up to three)

Answered: 525 Skipped: 28



Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

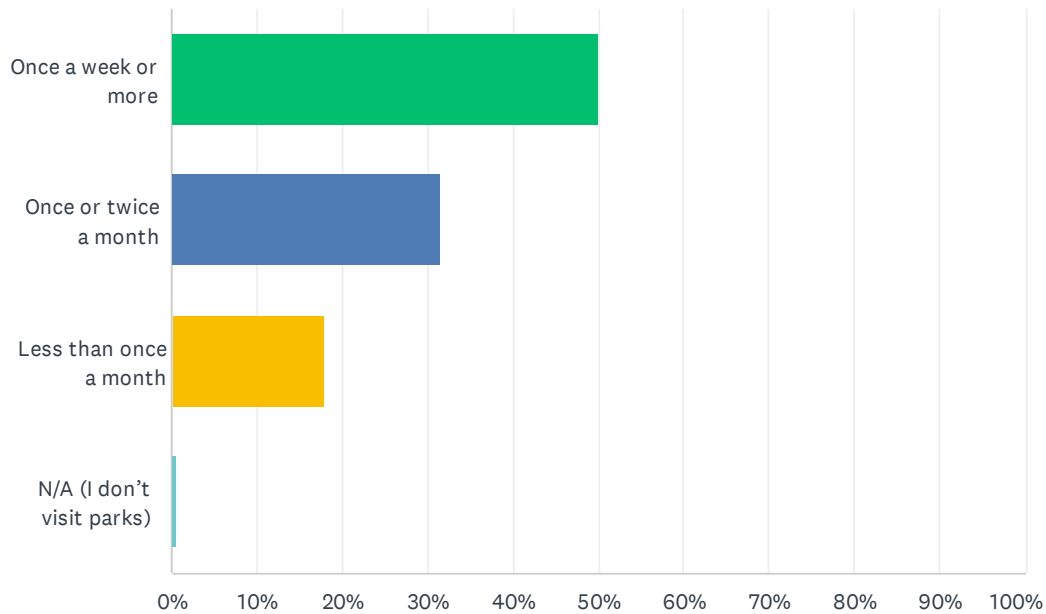


Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sunfish Lake Park	41.52%	218
Lions Park	36.19%	190
Reid Park	15.81%	83
Pebble Park	14.10%	74
Carriage Station Park	12.76%	67
Tablyn Park	12.00%	63
Goose Lake Park	10.10%	53
Pilot Park	9.33%	49
Hammes Park	8.00%	42
Tana Ridge Park	7.43%	39
VFW Park	6.86%	36
Demontreville Park	6.10%	32
Demontreville Wildlife Park	4.38%	23
Firefly Park	4.38%	23
Kleis Park	3.81%	20
Lake Jane Hill Park	3.81%	20
Ivywood Park	3.62%	19
Stonegate Park	3.24%	17
Legion Ave N Park	2.10%	11
Heritage Park	1.33%	7
Hidden Knoll Park	1.14%	6
Ridge Park	0.95%	5
Heights Park	0.38%	2
Homestead Park	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 525		

Q12 Of the parks you visit most, how frequently do you visit?

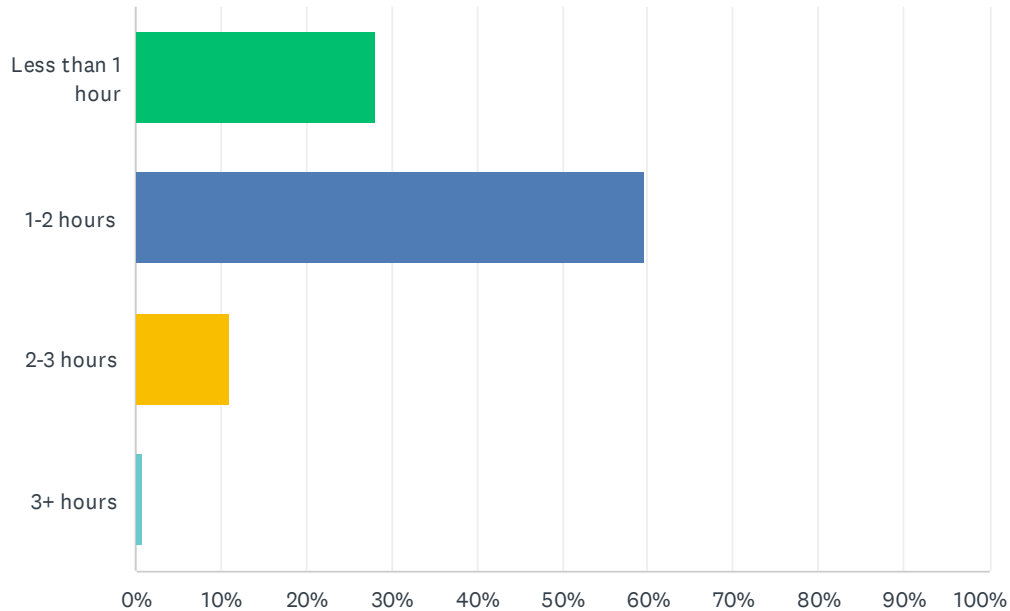
Answered: 542 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Once a week or more	50.00%	271
Once or twice a month	31.55%	171
Less than once a month	17.90%	97
N/A (I don't visit parks)	0.55%	3
TOTAL		542

Q13 When you visit Lake Elmo Parks, how much time are you spending during your average visit?

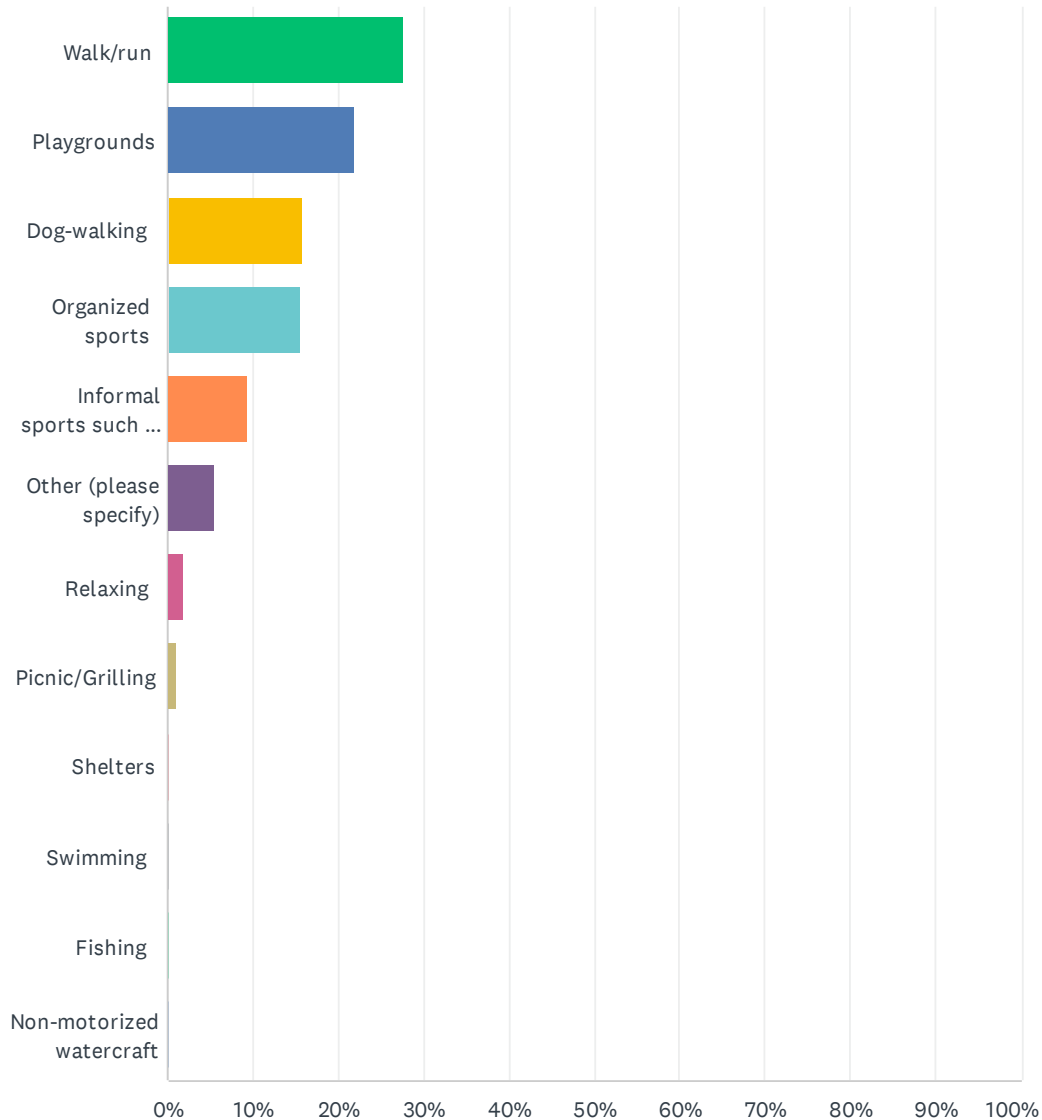
Answered: 549 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 hour	28.23%	155
1-2 hours	59.74%	328
2-3 hours	11.11%	61
3+ hours	0.91%	5
TOTAL		549

Q14 When you visit a Lake Elmo park or open space, what activity do you and/or your family participate in most often?

Answered: 549 Skipped: 4



Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk/run	27.69%	152
Playgrounds	22.04%	121
Dog-walking	15.85%	87
Organized sports	15.66%	86
Informal sports such as pickleball or other pickup games	9.47%	52
Other (please specify)	5.46%	30
Relaxing	2.00%	11
Picnic/Grilling	1.09%	6
Shelters	0.18%	1
Swimming	0.18%	1
Fishing	0.18%	1
Non-motorized watercraft	0.18%	1
TOTAL		549

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Biking is my favorite activity, but none of the parks have bike paths except for LERP.	1/18/2024 9:41 AM
2	Biking	1/13/2024 7:20 AM
3	Baseball	1/12/2024 2:20 PM
4	Baseball games	1/12/2024 9:20 AM
5	Playgrounds, biking, running	1/11/2024 9:20 PM
6	Biking	1/11/2024 6:40 PM
7	Photography	1/11/2024 5:06 PM
8	Playground, dog walking	1/11/2024 1:09 PM
9	Mountain Biking, walking, Fishing	1/11/2024 6:53 AM
10	Multiple activities,	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
11	Mountain biking	1/10/2024 12:57 PM
12	Sledding	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
13	Biking	1/9/2024 7:53 PM
14	Boating	1/9/2024 6:32 PM
15	Bird watching	1/9/2024 1:18 PM
16	Bicycling	1/4/2024 7:27 AM
17	Mountain biking or biking	12/10/2023 7:42 PM
18	birdwatching	12/9/2023 8:22 AM
19	biking	12/8/2023 6:44 PM
20	Sledding	12/8/2023 3:03 PM
21	Mountain bike or hiking at sunfish	12/8/2023 2:28 PM

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22	I live on the "legion ave park", its a pond. why is this included in your list? No one even knows it is public land	12/1/2023 11:09 PM
23	Tennis	12/1/2023 9:43 PM
24	Biking	11/28/2023 8:08 PM
25	Biking	11/28/2023 7:03 PM
26	Bird watching	11/28/2023 5:21 PM
27	Cycling	11/28/2023 10:55 AM
28	Hiking	11/28/2023 9:39 AM
29	Mountain biking	11/28/2023 6:56 AM
30	biking	11/16/2023 2:08 PM

Q15 If you answered "organized sports" for question 15, what sport(s) do you participate in?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 443

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Baseball primarily and football, soccer, dance, basketball, skiing, running, yoga	1/24/2024 8:12 PM
2	Baseball Baseball	1/22/2024 4:44 PM
3	Baseball Baseball	1/19/2024 11:22 PM
4	Baseball Baseball/Softball	1/18/2024 11:45 AM
5	Baseball Traveling baseball	1/17/2024 1:30 PM
6	Baseball Baseball	1/17/2024 7:51 AM
7	Baseball Baseball, soccer, hockey	1/16/2024 9:38 AM
8	Baseball Baseball	1/15/2024 5:29 PM
9	Baseball Baseball	1/15/2024 12:56 PM
10	Baseball Baseball	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
11	Baseball Baseball, Football, Soccer, Basketball	1/14/2024 9:09 PM
12	Baseball LE baseball	1/14/2024 8:51 AM
13	Baseball Baseball	1/13/2024 11:34 PM
14	Baseball Baseball	1/13/2024 1:57 PM
15	Baseball LE Baseball	1/13/2024 8:58 AM
16	Baseball baseball, soccer, flag football	1/12/2024 4:32 PM
17	Baseball baseball	1/12/2024 4:15 PM
18	Baseball Baseball	1/12/2024 2:20 PM
19	Baseball Lake Elmo Baseball	1/12/2024 2:16 PM
20	Baseball Baseball	1/12/2024 12:44 PM
21	Baseball Baseball and Hockey	1/12/2024 12:22 PM
22	Baseball Baseball	1/12/2024 10:29 AM
23	Baseball Baseball LE 12u	1/12/2024 9:20 AM
24	Baseball Baseball	1/12/2024 4:28 AM
25	Baseball Softball	1/12/2024 2:58 AM
26	Baseball Baseball	1/11/2024 8:29 PM
27	Pickleball	1/11/2024 6:55 PM
28	Baseball Baseball	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
29	Baseball Baseball	1/11/2024 10:46 AM
30	Baseball Baseball	1/11/2024 9:37 AM
31	Pickleball	1/11/2024 7:15 AM

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32	Pickleball	1/11/2024 5:28 AM
33	pickleball	1/10/2024 11:28 PM
34	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 8:56 PM
35	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 8:51 PM
36	Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:49 PM
37	Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:43 PM
38	Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
39	Baseball LE baseball	1/10/2024 7:34 PM
40	Baseball Lake Elmo Baseball	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
41	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 5:19 PM
42	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 4:38 PM
43	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 4:14 PM
44	Baseball baseball football hockey	1/10/2024 3:50 PM
45	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 2:58 PM
46	Baseball Lake elmo baseball	1/10/2024 2:35 PM
47	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 2:18 PM
48	Baseball Lake elmo baseball	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
49	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
50	Baseball baseball	1/10/2024 2:03 PM
51	Baseball Baseball - Lake Elmo Baseball Association	1/10/2024 1:56 PM
52	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 1:45 PM
53	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 1:17 PM
54	Baseball Youth traveling baseball	1/10/2024 1:11 PM
55	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 1:08 PM
56	Baseball Baseball	1/10/2024 12:41 PM
57	Baseball baseball	1/10/2024 12:41 PM
58	Pickleball	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
59	Soccer, football, tennis	1/10/2024 11:56 AM
60	N/A	1/9/2024 2:50 PM
61	Baseball Baseball	1/9/2024 9:48 AM
62	Baseball Baseball, football, soccer	1/9/2024 8:33 AM
63	Baseball Baseball	1/9/2024 8:17 AM
64	Baseball Baseball	1/9/2024 7:56 AM
65	Baseball Lake elmo baseball. Our family also uses the playground facilities at these parks.	1/9/2024 6:04 AM
66	Baseball Baseball	1/8/2024 9:51 PM
67	Baseball Baseball	1/8/2024 9:32 PM
68	Baseball Baseball	1/8/2024 9:13 PM
69	Baseball Baseball & softball	1/8/2024 8:42 PM

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70	Baseball	Baseball and Softball.	1/8/2024 8:23 PM
71	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 8:09 PM
72	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
73	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 8:02 PM
74	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:53 PM
75	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:50 PM
76	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:49 PM
77	Baseball	Baseball, softball	1/8/2024 7:48 PM
78	Baseball	Baseball-softball	1/8/2024 7:42 PM
79	Baseball	Watch baseball	1/8/2024 7:41 PM
80	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:39 PM
81	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:34 PM
82	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:33 PM
83	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:26 PM
84	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:23 PM
85	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:18 PM
86	Baseball	Kids play softball/baseball	1/8/2024 7:03 PM
87	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 6:27 PM
88	Baseball	Baseball	1/8/2024 4:10 PM
89		Soccer	1/8/2024 2:37 PM
90		Na	1/5/2024 5:40 PM
91	Baseball	Baseball	1/4/2024 9:46 AM
92	Baseball	Mountain biking and baseball	12/11/2023 2:14 PM
93	Baseball	Baseball	12/8/2023 3:03 PM
94	Baseball	Baseball, soccer, football	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
95	Baseball	Baseball	12/8/2023 2:25 PM
96		Mountain biking and nature programs	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
97		Soccer	12/6/2023 8:17 AM
98		Would like to be involved in Pickleball but not sure how to do so. Wish there was better info on what is currently under way.	12/5/2023 4:26 PM
99	Baseball	Baseball	12/3/2023 12:56 PM
100		Mountain Biking	12/3/2023 11:12 AM
101	Baseball	Baseball	11/30/2023 12:10 PM
102		I did not select organized sport, but soccer is our sport.	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
103	Baseball	baseball, soccer, lacrosse	11/28/2023 10:20 AM
104	Baseball	Hockey and baseball	11/28/2023 9:12 AM
105		Soccer	11/28/2023 9:10 AM
106	Baseball	Baseball	11/28/2023 9:08 AM
107	Baseball	Baseball	11/22/2023 11:58 AM

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108	Soccer	11/20/2023 10:38 AM
109	<div>Baseball</div> Baseball	11/17/2023 10:06 PM
110	N/A	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

Q16 If you answered "Informal sports such as pickleball or other pick up games" for question 15, what sport(s) do you participate in?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 479

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	N/a	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
2	Pickleball Pickleball	1/14/2024 4:23 PM
3	Pickleball Pickleball	1/13/2024 2:59 PM
4	Pickleball Pickleball	1/13/2024 7:13 AM
5	Pickleball Pickleball	1/12/2024 7:03 PM
6	Pickleball Pickleball	1/12/2024 11:22 AM
7	Pickleball Pickleball	1/12/2024 10:07 AM
8	None	1/11/2024 6:55 PM
9	Baseball	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
10	Pickleball Pickleball	1/11/2024 3:53 PM
11	N/A	1/11/2024 10:46 AM
12	Pickleball pickleball	1/11/2024 9:48 AM
13	Pickleball pickleball	1/11/2024 9:05 AM
14	Pickleball Pickleball	1/11/2024 8:15 AM
15	Pickleball Pickleball	1/11/2024 7:15 AM
16	Pickleball Pickelball	1/11/2024 6:46 AM
17	Pickleball Pickleball	1/11/2024 5:50 AM
18	Pickleball pickleball	1/11/2024 5:05 AM
19	Pickleball Pickleball	1/11/2024 4:38 AM
20	Pickleball pickleball	1/10/2024 11:28 PM
21	Pickleball Pickleball	1/10/2024 10:38 PM
22	Pickleball pickleball	1/10/2024 9:17 PM
23	Pickleball Pickleball	1/10/2024 9:11 PM
24	Pickleball Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:56 PM
25	Pickleball Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:16 PM
26	Pickleball Pickleball 4-5 days a week at Lions park throughout the spring, summer and fall months of the year. My husband and I drive 15 miles each way to play in Lake Elmo Lions Park.	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
27	Pickleball Pickleball 5 to 6 days per week.	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
28	Pickleball pickleball	1/10/2024 7:37 PM
29	Pickleball Pickleball	1/10/2024 3:33 PM
30	Volleyball at lions.	1/10/2024 3:13 PM

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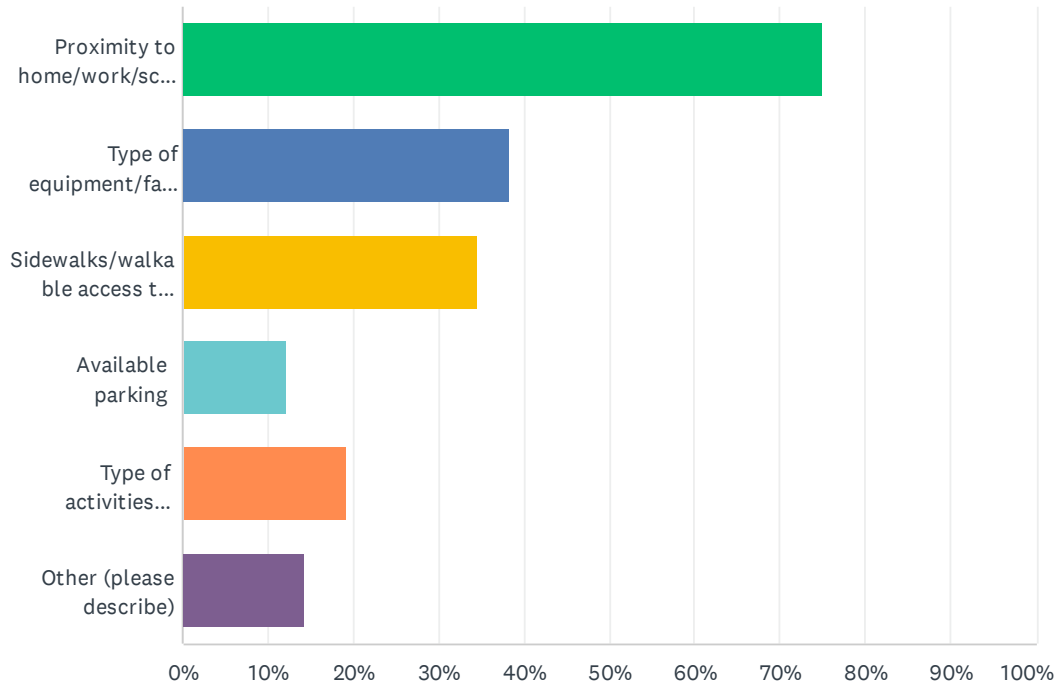
31	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/10/2024 1:05 PM
32	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/10/2024 1:02 PM
33	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
34	Pickleball	Pickle ball, tennis, volleyball, basketball	1/10/2024 11:42 AM
35	Pickleball	Pickleball, ice skating	1/10/2024 7:27 AM
36	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/10/2024 5:09 AM
37	Pickleball	Pickleball, frisbee	1/9/2024 8:01 PM
38		tennis	1/9/2024 6:30 PM
39	Pickleball	Catch, yard games, and pickle ball.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
40		N/A	1/9/2024 2:50 PM
41	Pickleball	Pickleball, tennis, basketball, Frisbee	1/9/2024 1:38 PM
42	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/9/2024 1:10 PM
43		Tennis	1/9/2024 8:17 AM
44	Pickleball	Pickleball and watch baseball	1/8/2024 9:04 PM
45	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
46		Baseball	1/8/2024 7:18 PM
47	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/8/2024 3:21 PM
48		Na	1/5/2024 5:40 PM
49	Pickleball	Pickleball	1/3/2024 7:37 PM
50		Would love to see an indoor and outdoor public pool option for families.	1/2/2024 8:44 PM
51	Pickleball	Pickleball. Soccer. Playground games.	12/30/2023 8:37 AM
52		Sand Volleyball	12/26/2023 12:57 AM
53		Tennis	12/15/2023 7:17 PM
54	Pickleball	Pickleball	12/8/2023 6:02 PM
55	Pickleball	Basketball, frisbee, pickleball, tennis	12/8/2023 5:38 PM
56		Soccer	12/6/2023 8:17 AM
57	Pickleball	Pickle ball soccer football basketball volleyball	11/30/2023 6:59 PM
58		Would love to be involved in pickle ball and planned to teach our kids this past summer but the courts at Lions Park were booked during the day all summer long. Would love to see LE families get preference to use the courts, over people from other cities.	11/30/2023 5:21 PM
59	Pickleball	Pickleball	11/29/2023 11:02 AM
60		Soccer again!	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
61	Pickleball	I could only give one response. I walk/hike more, but have just started to play pickleball.	11/28/2023 11:17 AM
62	Pickleball	Pickelball	11/28/2023 10:26 AM
63	Pickleball	pickleball	11/28/2023 10:20 AM
64	Pickleball	Pickleball	11/28/2023 9:29 AM
65	Pickleball	Pickleball	11/28/2023 9:12 AM
66		Tennis	11/22/2023 11:58 AM
67		Gaga Ball	11/22/2023 9:28 AM

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68	Basketball, Baseball/Softball	11/20/2023 11:39 AM
69	Pickleball Pickleball	11/19/2023 4:32 PM
70	Pickleball Pickleball	11/19/2023 4:30 PM
71	Pickleball Pickleball	11/18/2023 1:09 PM
72	Pickleball Pickleball, tennis, basketball, swimming	11/18/2023 8:32 AM
73	Pickleball Basketball, pickleball	11/17/2023 5:25 PM
74	Ice skating(hockey), tennis, horseback riding	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

Q17 Why do you visit certain parks more often than others? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 543 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Proximity to home/work/school	74.95%	407
Type of equipment/facilities available	38.31%	208
Sidewalks/walkable access to the park	34.62%	188
Available parking	12.15%	66
Type of activities held, please specify activity:	19.15%	104
Other (please describe)	14.18%	77
Total Respondents: 543		

#	OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	Baseball	1/22/2024 4:44 PM
2	I didn't know many of these parks exist	1/19/2024 7:39 PM
3	Casual biking	1/18/2024 9:41 AM
4	Traveling baseball games	1/17/2024 1:30 PM
5	Baseball	1/17/2024 7:51 AM
6	baseball games	1/16/2024 9:38 AM
7	Baseball	1/15/2024 5:29 PM

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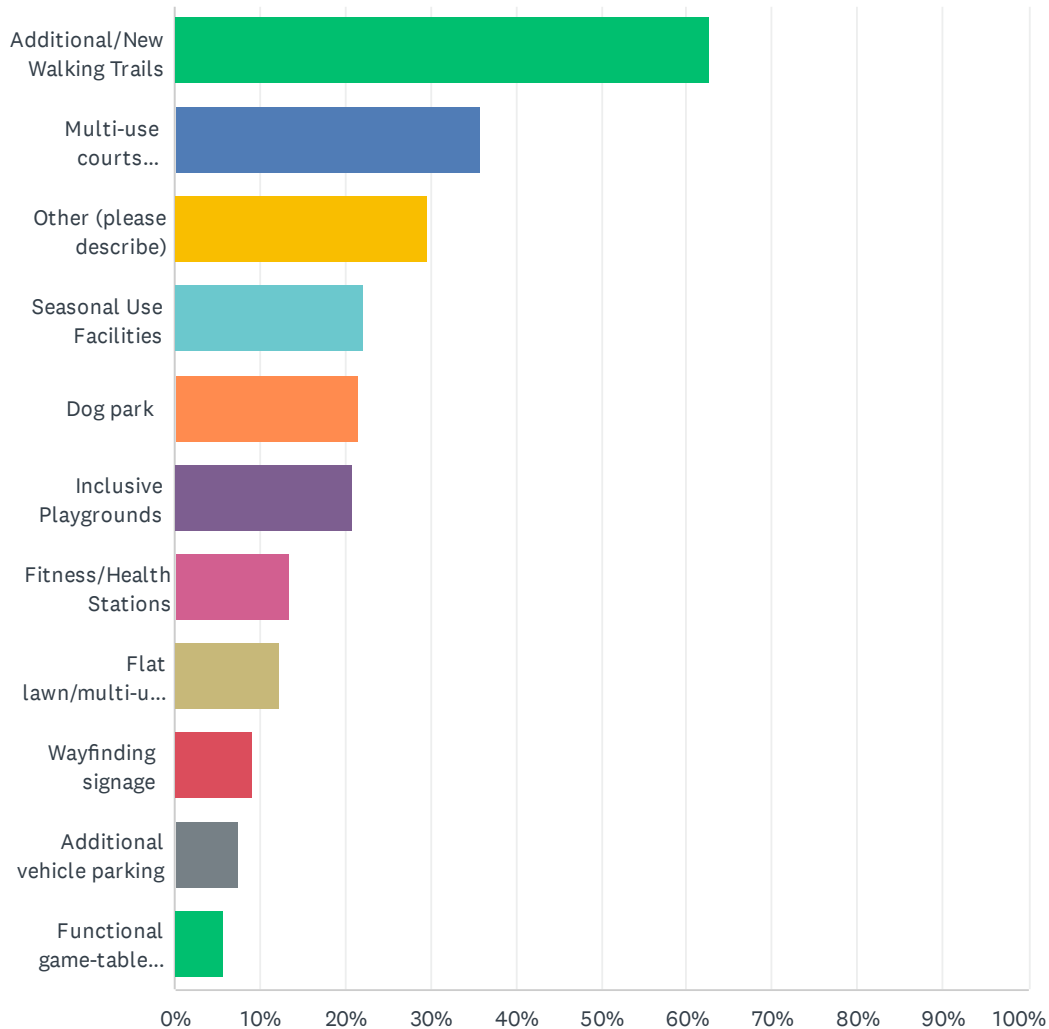
8	Baseball	1/15/2024 12:56 PM
9	Youth Baseball	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
10	Programs	1/14/2024 3:56 PM
11	Baseball practice & games	1/14/2024 8:51 AM
12	Baseball fields	1/13/2024 1:57 PM
13	Skiing and walking	1/12/2024 10:50 PM
14	Pickleball	1/12/2024 7:03 PM
15	sports practices and games	1/12/2024 4:32 PM
16	landscape	1/11/2024 9:10 PM
17	Baseball	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
18	nature hiking. Not interested in paved walkways, playground equipment and unnatural lawns filled with herbicides	1/11/2024 1:30 PM
19	Nature, Wildlife, and Trails	1/11/2024 1:10 PM
20	Attractiveness	1/11/2024 1:07 PM
21	Baseball	1/11/2024 10:46 AM
22	Trails	1/11/2024 9:34 AM
23	Running /biking trails	1/11/2024 9:29 AM
24	Pickleball courts	1/11/2024 8:15 AM
25	pickleball	1/10/2024 10:38 PM
26	Hiking	1/10/2024 10:20 PM
27	Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:49 PM
28	Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:16 PM
29	Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
30	Pickleball	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
31	Swimming, paved trails	1/10/2024 6:17 PM
32	Baseball	1/10/2024 5:19 PM
33	Baseball	1/10/2024 2:58 PM
34	Baseball practice and/or Baseball game	1/10/2024 1:56 PM
35	Baseball practice and games	1/10/2024 1:17 PM
36	Limited baseball fields	1/10/2024 1:08 PM
37	Pickleball in town center gives me access to post office, coffee shops etc	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
38	play equipment	1/10/2024 11:58 AM
39	I especially enjoy unpaved trail runs	1/9/2024 9:30 PM
40	Mountain biking	1/9/2024 8:22 PM
41	tennis	1/9/2024 6:30 PM
42	Pickleball	1/9/2024 2:01 PM
43	Quality of trails	1/9/2024 1:55 PM
44	Habitat for birds is marginally better at my preferred parks.	1/9/2024 1:18 PM

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45	Nature, and type of trail systems (hiking and mountain biking)	1/9/2024 1:13 PM
46	Pickleball	1/9/2024 1:06 PM
47	Baseball	1/9/2024 9:48 AM
48	Sports	1/9/2024 8:33 AM
49	Tennis	1/9/2024 8:17 AM
50	Baseball, football, soccer	1/9/2024 7:56 AM
51	Baseball	1/8/2024 9:32 PM
52	Need more ball fields	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
53	Organized sports	1/8/2024 7:48 PM
54	Baseball	1/8/2024 7:18 PM
55	Baseball	1/8/2024 6:27 PM
56	Sunfish and Reid parks have great walking trails	1/6/2024 7:12 AM
57	Safe biking to the park	1/4/2024 7:27 AM
58	XC Skiing, sand volleyball	12/26/2023 12:57 AM
59	Beauty of park	12/15/2023 6:09 PM
60	Mountain biking	12/10/2023 7:42 PM
61	mountain biking	12/8/2023 6:44 PM
62	Pickleball and playgrounds	12/8/2023 6:02 PM
63	Nature appreciation and hiking	12/8/2023 3:30 PM
64	If there are good nature trails, or mountain bike trails or an engaging playground	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
65	Trails	12/4/2023 3:49 PM
66	Trails to run on	12/3/2023 7:00 PM
67	Trails and length of trails	12/2/2023 7:59 PM
68	Sunfish is interesting because it has lots of trails and various elevations.	11/28/2023 8:46 PM
69	nature	11/28/2023 7:50 PM
70	The natural environment with walking trails.	11/28/2023 6:27 PM
71	Many birds who nest or visit there.	11/28/2023 5:21 PM
72	Hiking Trails	11/28/2023 9:17 AM
73	We use the hiking trails	11/25/2023 11:23 AM
74	Off leash dog park, mountain biking, pickleball, would like disc golf.	11/25/2023 10:49 AM
75	Running trails	11/25/2023 10:31 AM
76	Basketball, Gaga Ball	11/22/2023 9:28 AM
77	size of park allows escape from urbanization, Sunfish Lake has types of paths I wish to walk (dirt), opportunity to see some wildlife.	11/21/2023 4:16 PM

Q18 What NEW amenities would you like to see added to Lake Elmo's parks? (Select up to 4)

Answered: 529 Skipped: 24



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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Additional/New Walking Trails	62.76%	332
Multi-use courts (basketball, pickleball, etc.)	35.92%	190
Other (please describe)	29.68%	157
Seasonal Use Facilities	22.12%	117
Dog park	21.55%	114
Inclusive Playgrounds	20.79%	110
Fitness/Health Stations	13.42%	71
Flat lawn/multi-use recreational space	12.29%	65
Wayfinding signage	9.07%	48
Additional vehicle parking	7.37%	39
Functional game-table (chess, checkers, ping pong)	5.67%	30
Total Respondents: 529		

#	OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	baseball and sports fields	1/24/2024 8:12 PM
2	Baseball Game playable Baseball fields	1/22/2024 4:44 PM
3	Trails connecting parks and neighborhoods; not good in Lake Elmo	1/20/2024 7:15 AM
4	Baseball More baseball fields so Lake Elmo can meet the needs of the kids local to the community- so they can play	1/19/2024 11:22 PM
5	Baseball Baseball/Softball Fields	1/18/2024 11:45 AM
6	Biking. While I appreciate that most of the county roads have a shoulder to bike on, it's dangerous and not very relaxing having traffic doing 55 four feet from your elbow. I wish there were more bike paths like woodbury has where the bike path is off the road. A simple paved loop around the parks would be nice, or around a field or woods, something more relaxing than county road riding.	1/18/2024 9:41 AM
7	Baseball More or upgraded baseball fields	1/17/2024 7:51 AM
8	Baseball More game-use baseball fields are needed	1/16/2024 9:38 AM
9	Baseball Baseball fields	1/15/2024 5:29 PM
10	Baseball Baseball fields	1/15/2024 12:56 PM
11	Baseball Baseball fields	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
12	More natural habitat for training dogs	1/14/2024 2:24 PM
13	Baseball More baseball fields that can be used by the LE baseball league	1/14/2024 8:51 AM
14	Baseball Baseball fields	1/13/2024 11:34 PM
15	Restrooms	1/13/2024 7:13 AM
16	Demontreville Park has a lot of open space and could use more amenities to accommodate interests. Lots of people in this neighborhood purchase personal ice rinks. A community ice rink would bring neighbors out and together as well as help with wasting less water on individual rinks. Another nice option would be a soccer net to make use of the open space. There are many young soccer players in the neighborhood as well. But currently, the space rarely gets used, sadly.	1/12/2024 10:50 PM

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17	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/12/2024 2:20 PM
18		Golf course	1/12/2024 1:03 PM
19	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/12/2024 12:27 PM
20	Baseball	Baseball Fields	1/12/2024 12:22 PM
21		Lions park pickleball, community center with water interest and landscaping	1/12/2024 10:07 AM
22	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/12/2024 9:20 AM
23		Hockey rink	1/12/2024 2:58 AM
24		Connected trail system!	1/11/2024 9:20 PM
25	Baseball	More baseball fields	1/11/2024 8:29 PM
26		Biking	1/11/2024 6:40 PM
27	Baseball	Multi-plex fields for baseball and general upgrades to fields that exist	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
28		Social spaces, bee safe environments that are environmentally friendly, lawn grass alternatives that don't need mowing or much water	1/11/2024 2:48 PM
29		more open land put into trust with nature preservation as the goal.	1/11/2024 1:30 PM
30		Better connectedness to the community (access trails/paths/bike lanes)	1/11/2024 1:10 PM
31	Baseball	More baseball fields	1/11/2024 10:46 AM
32	Baseball	Baseball participation is only going up in the Lake Elmo program and could become a big part of the community. To address this growth it would be great to have more baseball fields for game and practice use.	1/11/2024 9:37 AM
33		MTB Trails, safer paths to get to parks.	1/11/2024 6:53 AM
34		Splashpad, mountain biking/off road trail, or bike skills courses	1/10/2024 8:31 PM
35		Dedicated Pickleball court in the town proper in Lake Elmo	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
36		Splash pad	1/10/2024 8:08 PM
37		I'd love to see Lions Park updated into something big and bold like downtown Burnsville. There should be one big really cool playground in the mix (like Stonegate school has)	1/10/2024 7:37 PM
38	Baseball	Baseball	1/10/2024 7:34 PM
39		Would love upgraded playgrounds and a splash pad	1/10/2024 7:15 PM
40		Would Love to see a walking path along Lake Demontreville (west and north sides of lakes) SO many people walk it daily and it's quite dangerous with no shoulder or path.	1/10/2024 5:58 PM
41	Baseball	More usable baseball fields	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
42	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/10/2024 5:19 PM
43		Bike and walking trails	1/10/2024 5:12 PM
44	Baseball	Baseball Fields	1/10/2024 4:38 PM
45	Baseball	Baseball Fields	1/10/2024 4:14 PM
46		None keep as is	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
47		More volleyball courts, more walking/running paths, trail connections into the park reserve.	1/10/2024 3:13 PM
48	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:58 PM
49	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:35 PM
50	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
51	Baseball	Baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:09 PM

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52	Baseball baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:03 PM
53	Baseball Baseball Fields	1/10/2024 1:56 PM
54	Baseball Baseball fields	1/10/2024 1:45 PM
55	Baseball Baseball Fields	1/10/2024 1:17 PM
56	Baseball More Baseball Fields that we can use for games. A good infield and fencing are needed for game fields.	1/10/2024 1:11 PM
57	Splash pad	1/10/2024 1:10 PM
58	Baseball Baseball fields	1/10/2024 1:08 PM
59	Single track mountain biking	1/10/2024 12:57 PM
60	Baseball More baseball fields - and safe (not too high) playground structures within eyesight of the baseball fields	1/10/2024 12:41 PM
61	Baseball more baseball fields	1/10/2024 12:41 PM
62	Return pickleball to lions park	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
63	Sidewalks and stoplights/pedestrian crossings to safely get to parks!!!	1/10/2024 11:59 AM
64	clean up the grounds, repair play equipment	1/10/2024 11:58 AM
65	senior programs during the day	1/10/2024 11:55 AM
66	Volleyball courts	1/10/2024 11:42 AM
67	Adding one more park with pickle ball	1/10/2024 8:16 AM
68	Winter plowing of existing asphalt trails	1/10/2024 5:09 AM
69	Plowed trails in winter	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
70	Picnic grills and ash receptacles	1/9/2024 9:30 PM
71	Snow Shoe and Crosscountry Trails	1/9/2024 8:57 PM
72	More mountain biking please	1/9/2024 8:22 PM
73	Mountain bike trails	1/9/2024 7:53 PM
74	Paths cleared of snow	1/9/2024 7:28 PM
75	Bow shooting	1/9/2024 6:32 PM
76	Park pavilions to rent for events, Tennis courts, ice rinks, play ground, swimming area, open field space for soccer & other yard sports, cross country skiing & snowshoeing trails, sledding hills	1/9/2024 6:20 PM
77	Baseball Softball fields	1/9/2024 5:36 PM
78	Please plow the paved trails. It would make the park more usable.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
79	Cleared paths	1/9/2024 2:55 PM
80	Splash pad	1/9/2024 2:10 PM
81	Plow the trail systems	1/9/2024 1:53 PM
82	Bathrooms	1/9/2024 1:49 PM
83	Splashpad	1/9/2024 1:39 PM
84	Nature. Please keep parks as nature.	1/9/2024 1:13 PM
85	Baseball Baseball fields	1/9/2024 9:48 AM
86	Baseball both youth size and full size baseball fields	1/9/2024 8:17 AM
87	Baseball The city lacks quality athletic fields for football, soccer, and baseball	1/9/2024 7:56 AM

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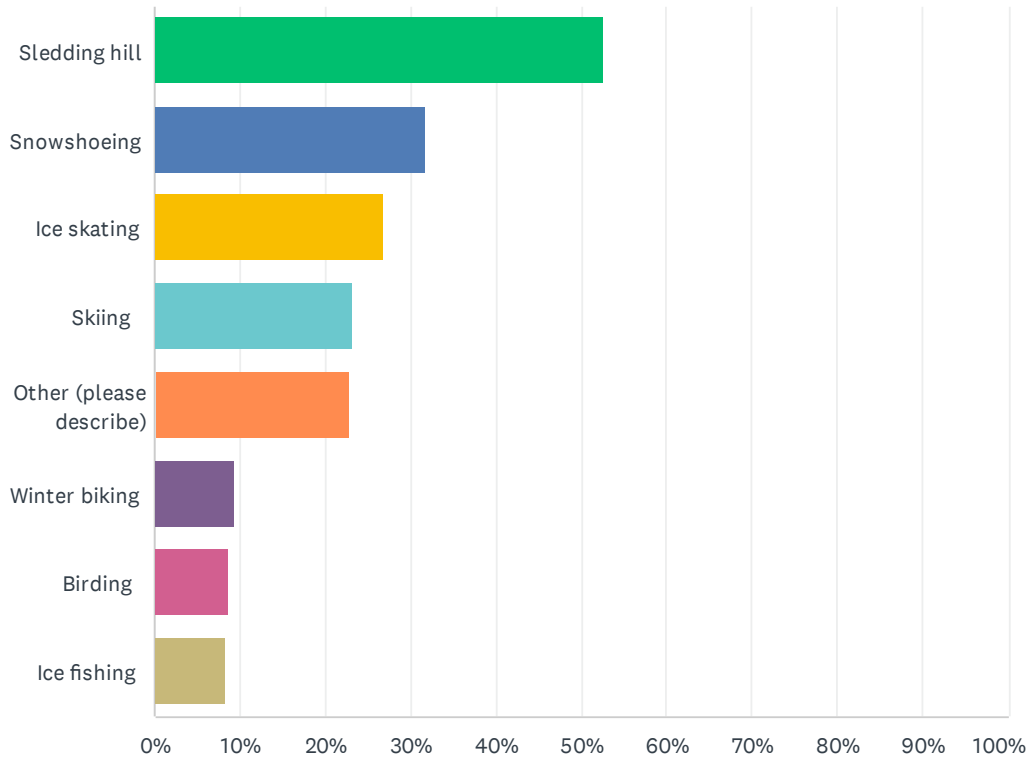
88	Baseball More baseball fields for this (and surrounding community's) robust and talented youth baseball programs, better (safer) playground facilities)	1/9/2024 6:04 AM
89	Baseball Baseball fields	1/8/2024 9:51 PM
90	Baseball Baseball fields	1/8/2024 9:32 PM
91	Baseball More baseball fields	1/8/2024 8:42 PM
92	Mowing, watering	1/8/2024 8:09 PM
93	Baseball Need more ball fields	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
94	Baseball We need more baseball and softball fields for growing communities and youth programs	1/8/2024 7:48 PM
95	Baseball Town ball baseball field	1/8/2024 7:41 PM
96	Baseball Baseball fields	1/8/2024 7:39 PM
97	Baseball Baseball fields	1/8/2024 7:34 PM
98	Baseball More Baseball fields	1/8/2024 7:26 PM
99	Baseball Baseball field	1/8/2024 7:23 PM
100	Baseball More baseball fields for youth to utilize	1/8/2024 7:18 PM
101	Baseball Soccer lacrosse football and baseball fields	1/8/2024 7:03 PM
102	Disc golf	1/8/2024 6:57 PM
103	Splash Pad	1/8/2024 3:21 PM
104	Connectivity	1/6/2024 8:38 AM
105	Ice Rinks	1/3/2024 8:01 PM
106	Pool	1/2/2024 8:44 PM
107	Dog inclusive amenities	12/29/2023 7:17 PM
108	At least two more sand courts in either Pebble or Demontreville	12/26/2023 12:57 AM
109	Comfortable and assessable places to read or gather (trees, benches etc). Inviting.	12/18/2023 1:04 PM
110	Basketball courts with lights; very poor basketball court offerings in Lake Elmo.	12/17/2023 4:21 PM
111	More bike trails	12/10/2023 7:42 PM
112	A large, fun splash pad playground similar to what Woodbury has.	12/9/2023 11:43 AM
113	Updated playgrounds	12/8/2023 7:01 PM
114	Keep parks nature, less amenities	12/8/2023 6:38 PM
115	Swimming pool or water park	12/8/2023 6:02 PM
116	Take out biking. Interferes with bird watching and huge disruption to creature habitat	12/8/2023 3:30 PM
117	Maintenance, bathrooms, upkeep of equipment	12/8/2023 3:03 PM
118	Trails plowed during the winter	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
119	Baseball Baseball fields	12/8/2023 2:25 PM
120	Ski only paths. People walk on groomed trail and ruins it for skis	12/8/2023 2:23 PM
121	Blacktop walking paths plowed	12/8/2023 2:21 PM
122	Designated, safe bike trails to the parks	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
123	Pool more swimming area- bunker beach	12/8/2023 2:08 PM
124	Knowledge of where they are. I was unaware of most of them on the list.	12/5/2023 4:26 PM

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125	Splash pad	12/3/2023 10:28 PM
126	Nature play similar to Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Lake	12/3/2023 12:56 PM
127	Mountain bike trails	12/3/2023 11:12 AM
128	Splash pad/ pools	12/2/2023 7:32 PM
129	Easy to walk to on sidewalks from our neighborhood	12/2/2023 3:19 AM
130	The new neighborhoods should have parks, public spaces for the children in the neighborhood	12/1/2023 11:09 PM
131	Water features like a splash pad! There's not much for pools or water features in the East Metro. A splash pad would be great. A city pool would be even better.	12/1/2023 9:20 PM
132	Include biking trails	12/1/2023 6:02 PM
133	Gun ranges	12/1/2023 4:58 PM
134	Water access. Skate park, bike pump track	11/28/2023 8:08 PM
135	More bike trails and routes through lake elmo	11/28/2023 7:03 PM
136	Keeping the trails cleared of obstructions.	11/28/2023 6:27 PM
137	Our parks are great. I wish that bike/walking accessibility around the city would improve. If there was any addition I would include, it would be more prairie restoration.	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
138	Updated playground at Tana Ridge park.	11/28/2023 11:13 AM
139	Splash pad	11/28/2023 10:18 AM
140	Bike tracks, swimming pool	11/28/2023 10:05 AM
141	Bring back some tennis courts, not just pickleball, please.	11/28/2023 10:02 AM
142	Local community park	11/28/2023 9:23 AM
143	Disc golf	11/25/2023 10:49 AM
144	A 1/4 mile track would be great	11/25/2023 10:31 AM
145	Water pad	11/21/2023 8:54 PM
146	Lit tennis courts and ice rinks with warming areas-It is pretty much impossible to bring young kids to ice skate without having a place to warm up, and to my knowledge there are no rinks with warming houses.	11/21/2023 12:34 PM
147	drinking fountains (appreciate the bathrooms already); water access (i.e., splash pad or city access to Lake Elmo lake)	11/20/2023 9:32 PM
148	Baseball Aquatic Center, Splash Pads, Mountain Biking Trails, Organized Sports specific fields (baseball, football, soccer)	11/20/2023 11:39 AM
149	Winter maintained walking opportunities	11/19/2023 2:28 PM
150	Natural undisturbed areas	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
151	Tennis courts	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
152	Swimming	11/18/2023 8:32 AM
153	We need a large sporting complex (soccer, baseball, etc)	11/18/2023 7:49 AM
154	Disc golf	11/17/2023 5:59 PM
155	Ice skating rinks	11/17/2023 5:25 PM
156	mountain bike trails	11/16/2023 2:08 PM
157	More Skating Rinks	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

Q19 During the colder-weather months (October-April), what draws you to visit one of the parks? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 464 Skipped: 89



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Sledding hill	52.59% 244
Snowshoeing	31.68% 147
Ice skating	26.94% 125
Skiing	23.28% 108
Other (please describe)	22.84% 106
Winter biking	9.48% 44
Birding	8.84% 41
Ice fishing	8.41% 39
Total Respondents: 464	

#	OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	walking/running trails (safe/plowed)	1/24/2024 8:12 PM
2	Walking/Hiking Walking/hiking	1/20/2024 9:33 AM
3	Walking/Hiking Any ability to walk with dog	1/20/2024 7:15 AM

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4	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/19/2024 7:39 PM
5	Walking/Hiking	walking dog	1/19/2024 2:39 PM
6	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/17/2024 1:30 PM
7	Walking/Hiking	walking	1/16/2024 4:45 PM
8	Walking/Hiking	want trails plowed so I can walk	1/15/2024 8:04 PM
9	Programs		1/14/2024 3:56 PM
10	Training dog		1/14/2024 2:24 PM
11	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/12/2024 10:50 PM
12	Walking/Hiking	walking dog	1/12/2024 10:39 AM
13		cross country skiing	1/11/2024 9:10 PM
14		Don't use	1/11/2024 6:55 PM
15	Walking/Hiking	Dog walking	1/11/2024 2:48 PM
16		Trail running	1/11/2024 9:34 AM
17	Walking/Hiking	Running, still use trails / paths available	1/11/2024 9:29 AM
18	Walking/Hiking	Dog walking	1/11/2024 9:20 AM
19		Playing on playground in snow	1/11/2024 4:44 AM
20		Hiking	1/10/2024 9:07 PM
21		Hiking	1/10/2024 8:31 PM
22		Pickleball	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
23		Cross Country Skiing	1/10/2024 4:40 PM
24	Walking/Hiking	Dog walking	1/10/2024 4:27 PM
25		Clear path access from neighborhood would be useful	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
26	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/10/2024 3:59 PM
27	Walking/Hiking	walking	1/10/2024 3:50 PM
28		Cross country skiing	1/10/2024 3:33 PM
29	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/10/2024 3:17 PM
30		None, not much available for winter activities.	1/10/2024 3:13 PM
31		None	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
32	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/10/2024 1:47 PM
33	Walking/Hiking	running	1/10/2024 12:14 PM
34	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/10/2024 8:22 AM
35	Walking/Hiking	Walking, but we have to drive to a park with plowed paths	1/10/2024 8:16 AM
36	Walking/Hiking	Winter walks	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
37		Playgrounds even in the winter	1/9/2024 7:56 PM
38	Walking/Hiking	Walking	1/9/2024 7:28 PM
39		NA	1/9/2024 4:56 PM
40		Nothing	1/9/2024 4:42 PM
41	Walking/Hiking	Walking if plowed	1/9/2024 3:28 PM

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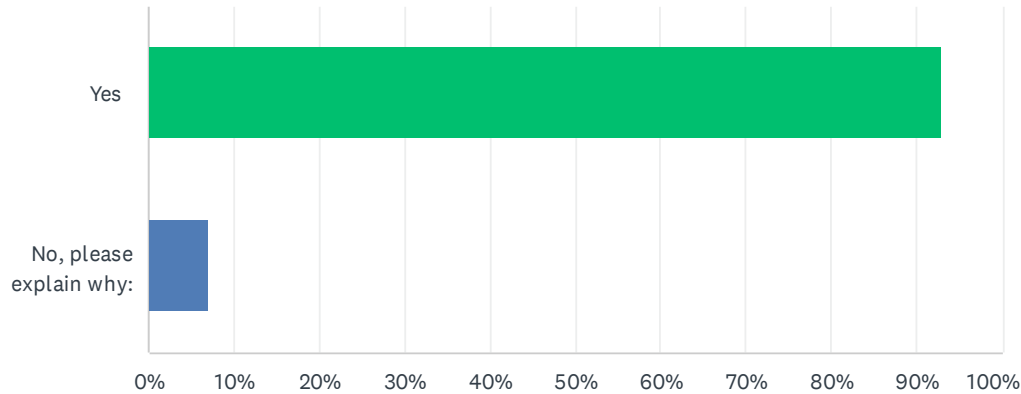
42	Outdoor exercise	1/9/2024 3:26 PM
43	Walking/Hiking Dog walking	1/9/2024 3:24 PM
44	The paved trails. Please plow them all winter.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
45	Playgrounds - we go year-round!	1/9/2024 2:50 PM
46	Walking/Hiking Dog walking	1/9/2024 2:37 PM
47	Can't you don't plow trails	1/9/2024 1:53 PM
48	Hiking using ice cleats or chains on my boots. (Not snowshoeing per se)	1/9/2024 1:18 PM
49	Walking/Hiking Running and walking . Would be nice if the trails got plowed	1/9/2024 1:14 PM
50	Walking/Hiking Walking	1/9/2024 1:10 PM
51	Walking/Hiking Dog walking	1/9/2024 1:06 PM
52	Walking/Hiking hiking	1/9/2024 8:17 AM
53	Walking/Hiking Walking	1/8/2024 7:53 PM
54	Walking/Hiking Walking trails	1/8/2024 2:37 PM
55	Walking/Hiking Winter walking/running	1/6/2024 1:11 PM
56	Walking/Hiking Walking????	1/6/2024 7:12 AM
57	Walking/Hiking walking / hiking	1/4/2024 3:27 PM
58	Walking/Hiking Walking/Running	1/4/2024 6:38 AM
59	Fat tire biking	1/3/2024 8:43 PM
60	Walking/Hiking Walking	12/31/2023 7:44 PM
61	Maintained Paths and Trails	12/29/2023 7:17 PM
62	Walking/Hiking Walking in nature/green space	12/18/2023 1:04 PM
63	Walking/Hiking Outdoor running (cleared paths)	12/17/2023 4:21 PM
64	Safe winter playgrounds	12/15/2023 10:36 PM
65	Don't go in winter	12/15/2023 6:09 PM
66	Walking/Hiking Hiking	12/13/2023 2:06 PM
67	Walking/Hiking snow hiking	12/11/2023 3:45 PM
68	Walking/Hiking Walking	12/9/2023 7:49 AM
69	Playground	12/8/2023 7:01 PM
70	Walking/Hiking Hiking	12/8/2023 5:38 PM
71	Walking/Hiking Walking / hiking	12/8/2023 4:16 PM
72	Walking/Hiking Hiking	12/8/2023 3:30 PM
73	Walking/Hiking Walking ability	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
74	Ice rink wss not enjoyable with no warming shack to change anf holes in middle of ice rink that was dangerous	12/8/2023 2:21 PM
75	Walking/Hiking Nature hikes	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
76	Walking/Hiking Running	12/8/2023 2:08 PM
77	Walking/Hiking walking dogs	12/4/2023 3:01 PM
78	Walking/Hiking running	12/3/2023 7:00 PM
79	Walking/Hiking Able to run on trails that are clear	12/2/2023 7:59 PM

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80	Walking/Hiking	Walking	12/2/2023 9:47 AM
81	Walking/Hiking	Clear paths for walking	12/2/2023 3:19 AM
82		Enjoying nature	12/1/2023 7:20 PM
83	Walking/Hiking	dog walking	12/1/2023 6:02 PM
84		Playground	11/30/2023 2:42 PM
85	Walking/Hiking	Hiking	11/28/2023 8:46 PM
86	Walking/Hiking	Walking on groomed trails.	11/28/2023 6:27 PM
87		Hockey at Lions Park	11/28/2023 5:52 PM
88	Walking/Hiking	Trails for walking.	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
89	Walking/Hiking	Winter hiking	11/28/2023 10:55 AM
90	Walking/Hiking	Walking	11/28/2023 10:26 AM
91		Fresh air and energy burn for kids	11/28/2023 10:05 AM
92		Do not visit	11/28/2023 9:23 AM
93	Walking/Hiking	Hiking	11/28/2023 9:17 AM
94	Walking/Hiking	walking	11/28/2023 9:10 AM
95	Walking/Hiking	Jogging	11/25/2023 10:31 AM
96	Walking/Hiking	Walking trails	11/24/2023 1:10 PM
97	Walking/Hiking	Walking	11/23/2023 5:52 PM
98	Walking/Hiking	Hiking	11/21/2023 4:16 PM
99		Cleared off paths. My kids will play on the playground in any weather	11/21/2023 1:29 PM
100	Walking/Hiking	Walking/Running	11/20/2023 10:38 AM
101		Need to seek other facilities for exercise because parks not maintained	11/19/2023 2:28 PM
102	Walking/Hiking	Access to walk there	11/18/2023 1:09 PM
103	Walking/Hiking	Hiking	11/18/2023 11:06 AM
104		Playgrounds	11/18/2023 10:47 AM
105	Walking/Hiking	Parks with walking/hiking	11/17/2023 9:51 PM
106	Walking/Hiking	Walking	11/17/2023 8:01 PM

Q20 Do you feel safe in the parks/open spaces of Lake Elmo? If not, what would help you feel safer while enjoying them?

Answered: 541 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.98%	503
No, please explain why:	7.02%	38
TOTAL		541

#	NO, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY:	DATE
1	Pebble park needs lights	1/20/2024 9:33 AM
2	Playgrounds in close proximity to sports fields	1/19/2024 11:22 PM
3	I feel safe, but would feel a lot better if walking/biking trails were plowed by the city in the winter.	1/16/2024 4:45 PM
4	Regular patrols to get the teens smoking pot and lighting fires in Pebble park, unfortunately too close to the new Oakdale development	1/13/2024 5:02 PM
5	Maybe camera in the parking lot. I've seen several cars just sit and park, or meet others in the car at pebble park.	1/13/2024 1:29 PM
6	Heavy drug usage in cars is ALWAYS happening at Goose Lake Park	1/11/2024 1:50 PM
7	Not always as persons park there for drug use at times.	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
8	Many playgrounds are outdated	1/10/2024 4:00 PM
9	Cleanup the buildings/area around lions park. Adding more to Reid versus just wooded areas around it.	1/10/2024 3:13 PM
10	So many people from outside the community	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
11	lack of Sheriff Patrols for drug enforcement	1/10/2024 1:46 PM
12	No safe walking routes to get there due to roads & cars. Once I'm there I feel safe though.	1/10/2024 1:36 PM
13	At the parks themselves I feel safe, but it's very hard to walk anywhere safely in Lake Elmo.	1/10/2024 11:59 AM
14	Mostly feel safe But Pebble park has a lot of drugs and prostitution happening there	1/10/2024 11:56 AM
15	City walking paths not plowed.	1/10/2024 8:22 AM

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16	I would feel safe if all the trails were cleared in the winter of ice and snow	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
17	Pebble park frequently has people driving in the parking lot to use bathrooms or kids drink.	1/9/2024 9:41 PM
18	Plowing in winter	1/9/2024 8:49 PM
19	Cleared snow and ice	1/9/2024 7:28 PM
20	Lack of snow plowing	1/9/2024 3:28 PM
21	Ice and snow on paved trails.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
22	Too icy	1/9/2024 2:55 PM
23	Please plow trails and sidewalks	1/9/2024 2:37 PM
24	Way too many off leash dogs in nearly all park spaces. Selfish people forcing others to carry mace or protection from the dogs.	1/9/2024 1:18 PM
25	Pebble Park has a lot of people in cars waiting for other cars to pull up. Have heard of drugs there quite a bit	1/8/2024 6:27 PM
26	Walking trails to get to them	1/8/2024 2:37 PM
27	I feel safe in the parks but the walk to them can be risky due to lack of quality pedestrian crossings.	1/6/2024 1:11 PM
28	Poor maintenance of brush in Reid Park poses tripping hazards.	1/6/2024 8:38 AM
29	Trails are not plowed in winter	12/31/2023 7:44 PM
30	We are within walking/biking distance of pebble park. We don't let our kids go unsupervised because of the odd vehicles/behavior often parked there. A regular police visit at dusk hours would help.	12/22/2023 12:48 PM
31	The enclosed parks don't feel safe - lack of law enforcement & patrol	12/15/2023 10:36 PM
32	If more people used parks. Safety in numbers.	12/9/2023 12:04 AM
33	Pebble park is sketchy with lots of cars coming and going	12/8/2023 2:23 PM
34	Getting to any park outside of our neighborhood is almost impossible without a car. We need to implement biking paths all over our city.	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
35	Need to enforce leash laws for dog owners	11/21/2023 4:16 PM
36	The only thing that feels unsafe about them is access. Many have poorly marked and dangerous access from walking/biking trails	11/21/2023 12:34 PM
37	Need cleared trails to access	11/20/2023 10:38 AM
38	Lack of safe use in winter, lack of safe pedestrian crossings on 14 and 17	11/19/2023 2:28 PM

Q21 What is your biggest concern about Lake Elmo's parks?

Answered: 323 Skipped: 230

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Space to continue supporting organized sports in area - it is such a positive aspect for youth in our community.	1/24/2024 8:12 PM
2	Fewer winter activities for kids and adults	1/22/2024 8:09 PM
3	Not enough game playable baseball fields	1/22/2024 4:44 PM
4	Maintaining natural habitat/wildlife.	1/20/2024 9:33 AM
5	We have a very poor trail system (either bike and/or walk) in Lake Elmo, compared to other nearby cities. Sadly, this includes Woodbury which has an excellent system of trails/walking paths that connect their parks and neighborhoods. We used to say in Lake Elmo that we didn't want to become another Woodbury, but in this respect they've been far more forward looking than us.	1/20/2024 7:15 AM
6	Need more baseball fields so kids in the Lake Elmo community can play Playgrounds in closer proximity to the fields Safe paths for kids to bike around community to and from the parks	1/19/2024 11:22 PM
7	Older parks playgrounds are old worn and outdated.	1/19/2024 12:04 AM
8	Not enough baseball/softball space.	1/18/2024 11:45 AM
9	Most are so small and boring, really just geared toward kids.	1/18/2024 9:41 AM
10	We need more useable baseball fields and parking (complex with concessions would be ideal). The VFW field is long overdue to be upgraded, and additional fields would definitely be appreciated!	1/17/2024 1:30 PM
11	The city should maintain trails in all neighborhoods. It should not be the individual neighborhoods to do that. There is plenty of taxpayer dollars to support this.	1/16/2024 4:45 PM
12	maintenance done on a timely basis	1/15/2024 8:04 PM
13	Nothing	1/15/2024 5:29 PM
14	Not enough baseball fields	1/15/2024 12:56 PM
15	Conserving open space parks and baseball fields as housing developments continue to build	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
16	There are not enough baseball fields to support the teams in the area.	1/14/2024 9:09 PM
17	There is high demand for pickleball courts. It would be great to have more of them. New are being built, but the old at Lion's Park is in great need of repair.	1/14/2024 4:23 PM
18	Not well cared for. Old equipment.	1/14/2024 3:56 PM
19	More natural habitat	1/14/2024 2:24 PM
20	Safety- too many teens loitering, play structures are old and falling apart. No sidewalks in tri lakes area to get to any of the parks.	1/13/2024 5:02 PM
21	Slow development for a growing community	1/13/2024 2:59 PM
22	The maintenance and upkeep of the park is lacking. The availability of fields in groomed conditions is limited. when visiting teams come to our fields we should have pride that we play for Lake Elmo instead it's embarrassing when people come to our fields that are in disrepair with grass growing on the baseball diamond in the infield where nice dirt should be. At some point this is going to create an area of safety, as the children will not be able to field ball safely as the condition of the fields are not well-maintained. Player safety on a baseball field is paramount. When a field is in disrepair, it poses significant risks such as uneven surfaces that can lead to trips or falls, divots that can cause ankle injuries, or irregularities that affect	1/13/2024 1:57 PM

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gameplay. Proper maintenance and regular inspections are essential to ensure that the playing surface meets safety standards, protecting players from potential harm.

23	Walking trails often have downed limbs or trees	1/13/2024 7:20 AM
24	Lack of restrooms	1/13/2024 7:13 AM
25	Lack of options for safe walking around the tri lakes as well as a lack of activities offered at Demontreville Park. Also concerning is all the destruction and trees plowed down and killed recently at Demontreville Wildlife park. My walking trail for the past decade is no longer a trail, but a wide open space. The "Wildlife " is now missing from the wildlife park. It's very sad.	1/12/2024 10:50 PM
26	Up keep	1/12/2024 7:03 PM
27	Not enough game useable baseball fields with lights or outdoor ice with warming houses.	1/12/2024 4:32 PM
28	Adequate trail grooming	1/12/2024 4:17 PM
29	accessibility by walking or biking	1/12/2024 4:15 PM
30	vandalism	1/12/2024 1:35 PM
31	Lake Elmo regional park (Wash Cty part) is such a great park with so much better trails, etc than smaller LE parks can offer.	1/12/2024 1:03 PM
32	Lack of parks	1/12/2024 12:44 PM
33	We need more baseball fields	1/12/2024 12:22 PM
34	Keeping up the maintenance of grounds, parking and play surfaces. Have plenty of containers for disposables and signs that say "carry out what you carry in"!!	1/12/2024 11:22 AM
35	hard to find not knowing which park i'm in (signage)	1/12/2024 10:45 AM
36	Natural areas are being destroyed by loud intrusive activities such as mountain bike trails	1/12/2024 10:39 AM
37	No real big concerns	1/12/2024 10:29 AM
38	Too many small ones with amenities no better than what people have in their backyard	1/12/2024 10:07 AM
39	Not enough	1/12/2024 4:28 AM
40	Up keep	1/12/2024 2:58 AM
41	Lack of safe routes to bike/walk	1/11/2024 9:20 PM
42	being able to bike there safely	1/11/2024 9:10 PM
43	Not enough baseball fields to support demand	1/11/2024 8:29 PM
44	Knowing where they are and type of activities	1/11/2024 6:55 PM
45	Just love them	1/11/2024 6:40 PM
46	Need more and better baseball fields	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
47	Overuse by bicycles and impact to wildlife	1/11/2024 5:06 PM
48	Lack of paths or sidewalks for getting to the parks	1/11/2024 3:53 PM
49	Managing and maintaining what already exists and doing it in environmentally friendly ways	1/11/2024 2:48 PM
50	Lack of biking trails in the city	1/11/2024 1:47 PM
51	too much focus on urbanization, not enough naturalization	1/11/2024 1:30 PM
52	A lot of them require travel on narrow or major roadways which can be dangerous. I would like to see more inclusive ways to access the parks such as bike lanes and pathways that are safer for everyone to use. I would also hope that they continue to celebrate the natural beauty of Lake Elmo versus leaning towards more flat, treeless fields.	1/11/2024 1:10 PM
53	Maintain Sunfishlake park safety for walkers . The bike trail through such a beautiful park was a waste and is not safe!!	1/11/2024 1:09 PM

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54	Litter and discarded rubbish.	1/11/2024 1:07 PM
55	I would really like to see more walking and biking paths connecting the parks and all the beautiful nature and green spaces in lake elmo. I would all really love to see a whole renovation of lions park with a new and bigger playground and efforts to plant more trees and gardens to make it a space the community wants to gather. The current lions park and surrounding area is run down and not inviting. As the center of our community, having this space renovated would bring more people to Main Street.	1/11/2024 10:48 AM
56	The need for more baseball fields.	1/11/2024 10:46 AM
57	poor maintenance of pickleball courts at Lions Park	1/11/2024 9:48 AM
58	Clty upkeep, particularly for the parks in the downtown area. It's a really nice area that could bring in city residents and grow with the city population but Lions and VFW park seem rundown.	1/11/2024 9:37 AM
59	Not many paths to them	1/11/2024 9:34 AM
60	Lack of accessibility (wide walk or bike path) from neighborhoods (I.e. there is not a walking path or sidewalk along the highway portion of lake Elmo ave or manning)	1/11/2024 9:29 AM
61	Facilities not kept up because of money	1/11/2024 8:15 AM
62	Poor and unsafe walking/biking paths to get to parks.	1/11/2024 6:53 AM
63	Resurface courts	1/11/2024 5:28 AM
64	buckthorn!	1/11/2024 5:05 AM
65	Love the new pickleball additions. Thank you!	1/10/2024 11:28 PM
66	Some are in poor repair.	1/10/2024 9:17 PM
67	Loitering and intentional destruction. People doing drugs.	1/10/2024 9:11 PM
68	Disruptive use that prevents other uses	1/10/2024 9:07 PM
69	Lack of upkeep	1/10/2024 8:49 PM
70	Lack of safe paths to the parks	1/10/2024 8:48 PM
71	Aging play equipment and safety of that equipment plus, they are eyesores!	1/10/2024 8:31 PM
72	N/A	1/10/2024 8:16 PM
73	None	1/10/2024 8:08 PM
74	Kleis park is in need of better playground equipment	1/10/2024 8:04 PM
75	Too few pickleball courts. Condition of pavement at courts at lions park.	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
76	Too many small parks with few amenities	1/10/2024 7:37 PM
77	We don't have enough baseball fields. Other city can host tournaments and we only have two fields. It's a disgrace.	1/10/2024 7:34 PM
78	Playground equipment needs to be updated	1/10/2024 7:15 PM
79	So many people in lake Elmo now.	1/10/2024 7:01 PM
80	Needs better playgrounds	1/10/2024 6:45 PM
81	Most of the playgrounds that are close to us and we frequent are REALLY outdated, in poor condition, and small.	1/10/2024 6:17 PM
82	Older equipment.	1/10/2024 6:07 PM
83	Some of the facilities are getting old and worn.	1/10/2024 5:58 PM
84	Not enough baseball fields	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
85	Playgrounds are damaged and outdated.	1/10/2024 5:25 PM

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86	Not enough baseball fields	1/10/2024 5:19 PM
87	No pathways to get to them.	1/10/2024 4:40 PM
88	Need more police patrols	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
89	No maintenance of playgrounds	1/10/2024 4:00 PM
90	Playground equipment that is old and in disrepair. Also (if I can name a second concern) the mountain biking chased me away from Sunfish Lake Park.	1/10/2024 3:59 PM
91	I need to become more educated on the parks we have & the amenities available. Reading through this list I realized there are a lot of parks to check out!	1/10/2024 3:32 PM
92	The parks are nice, the curb appeal could use improvement around downtown. Also, trail accessibility to multiple locations.	1/10/2024 3:13 PM
93	Not enough baseball fields limiting the amount of teams feasible which causes talent to go to Stillwater or elsewhere	1/10/2024 2:58 PM
94	Not enough baseball fields to support the community	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
95	Not enough baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
96	There are not enough baseball fields that are usable for games and tournaments.	1/10/2024 1:56 PM
97	That there is far too much attention and push for pickleball instead of updating existing facilities/ playgrounds. Some playgrounds are far past their prime and are rusty, but not being given the attention they need.	1/10/2024 1:47 PM
98	Need more baseball fields	1/10/2024 1:45 PM
99	Walkable access for kids and adults	1/10/2024 1:36 PM
100	Not enough baseball fields to support growth / level of play	1/10/2024 1:17 PM
101	Not enough safe playground equipment	1/10/2024 1:10 PM
102	Build the fields to offer opportunities for the youth grow and develop.	1/10/2024 1:08 PM
103	It would be sad if they closed the mountain bike trails / also worried that the parks will get swallowed up by new housing	1/10/2024 12:57 PM
104	Need more baseball fields	1/10/2024 12:41 PM
105	Safety - esp at lions	1/10/2024 12:21 PM
106	Need more sidewalks connecting to the new communities to the parks, and safe crosswalks with lights and signs, b/c high speed traffic on Lake Elmo Ave is very dangerous, especially around 41st and 39th	1/10/2024 12:14 PM
107	Would like More trails	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
108	Bathrooms	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
109	Developing Lions Park to attract more Seniors to the town Center	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
110	The lack of sidewalks and pedestrian crossings to safely get to parks and the age/accessibility of playground equipment. Bathrooms or clean port-a-potties at all parks would be very helpful, too.	1/10/2024 11:59 AM
111	aging over time	1/10/2024 11:58 AM
112	Not updated, especially having old playground equipment or equipment that hasn't been fixed. Taking away tennis and basketball for pickleball (where is the young people sports). Port-a-potty's not being serviced in a timely manner.	1/10/2024 11:56 AM
113	I live in the northwest corner of Lake Elmo, and must walk/bike on narrow, winding roads to access parks close to my house.	1/10/2024 11:29 AM
114	Parking on street - small lot by inwood park would be better	1/10/2024 11:28 AM
115	I would like them to be all interconnected through sidewalks and trails.	1/10/2024 11:19 AM

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116	They're extremely aged. The playground equipment is dangerous to use because of its age (Kleis park is a great example). The playground would get so much more use if it was modernized and investments were put into it.	1/10/2024 10:17 AM
117	Lack of trails, parks are too far	1/10/2024 8:46 AM
118	City does not plow walking paths. It's very frustrating since many of us try to stay active even in the winter.	1/10/2024 8:22 AM
119	lack of protection from the sun with seating and bathroom facilities with young children.	1/10/2024 8:17 AM
120	The paved paths are icy and snow covered in winter.	1/10/2024 8:16 AM
121	Wheel chair excess ability	1/10/2024 8:11 AM
122	My biggest concern is city trails not being cleared/maintained during the winter, especially surrounding Goose Lake.	1/10/2024 7:46 AM
123	Accessibility via sidewalk. We have to cross a busy road with no crosswalk and no expectation from traffic that pedestrians will be around. Also the sidewalk randomly ends at multiple locations. (Crossing Stillwater Blvd into downtown Lake Elmo)	1/10/2024 7:27 AM
124	Asphalt trails are not plowed in winter.	1/10/2024 5:09 AM
125	That the trails are not free from ice and snow in the winter	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
126	Lack of good playgrounds and outdated equipment. I also live 1 mile away from pebble park but drive because I don't feel safe walking or biking on the narrow road.	1/9/2024 9:41 PM
127	Dog owners not picking up behind their pets. Kids roll around in the grassy areas!	1/9/2024 9:30 PM
128	Did not like the addition of mountain bike trails at Sunfish. In our opinion, the bike trails and lack of grooming for ski and snow shoe trails has ruined the beauty of the park.	1/9/2024 8:57 PM
129	Mostly feel safe but there are times where I feel people park to drink, do drugs and buy drugs shoot off illegal fireworks.	1/9/2024 8:22 PM
130	Aging playgrounds, no trail connectivity	1/9/2024 7:56 PM
131	Commonly used trails are not cleared of snow	1/9/2024 7:28 PM
132	Some playgrounds are outdated	1/9/2024 7:16 PM
133	Nothing.	1/9/2024 7:09 PM
134	None	1/9/2024 7:00 PM
135	The walk/pathways aren't cleared of snow/ice (in some development parks), during the winter which is a safety hazard for the residents.	1/9/2024 6:36 PM
136	Keeping in clean and safe	1/9/2024 6:32 PM
137	Lack of safe walking/biking infrastructure to get to/from parks (for example, Demontreville Wildlife Park and Tablyn).	1/9/2024 6:30 PM
138	Not enough options, small	1/9/2024 6:20 PM
139	The need to plow the walking trails during the winter. The trails are a larger reason why we bought our house in lake elmo and to not have them maintained in the winter is an issue	1/9/2024 6:02 PM
140	We've lost softball fields due to the Royal Golf club and they've never replaced them. It's unfair to the youth and adult programs. Lake Elmo was the loser in that deal with The Royale.	1/9/2024 5:36 PM
141	Not a lot of walking trails to parks	1/9/2024 5:07 PM
142	Should have more Baseball and softball fields.	1/9/2024 4:56 PM
143	Clearing of walkways and paths during winter.	1/9/2024 3:52 PM
144	Besides lack of plowing, sometimes sketchy people park there	1/9/2024 3:28 PM
145	We are currently unable to utilize trails during the winter since they are not maintained.	1/9/2024 3:24 PM
146	Winter maintenance. The city should be plowing/maintaining these areas and not pushing this	1/9/2024 3:21 PM

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	onto HOAs.	
147	The city owned paved paths around neighborhoods and along roads are not plowed all winter. This makes them treacherous to use and limits our ability to be active without driving somewhere.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
148	Maintenance of paths in snowy weather	1/9/2024 3:00 PM
149	Updated play equipment, better overall maintenance. More bike paths.	1/9/2024 2:50 PM
150	Most look very abandoned and neglected.	1/9/2024 2:44 PM
151	See above	1/9/2024 2:37 PM
152	City should be responsible for maintaining trails/paths within and surrounding the parks instead of leaving it to residents/HOAs if the park is within a residential community.	1/9/2024 2:36 PM
153	Maintaining trails in the winter months	1/9/2024 2:27 PM
154	Walking paths to parks being maintained year round.	1/9/2024 2:20 PM
155	Some parks are run down/ equipment rusting	1/9/2024 2:10 PM
156	Replace old and damaged playground equipment and broken signs	1/9/2024 1:55 PM
157	You do absolutely zero winter maintenance on trail system	1/9/2024 1:53 PM
158	No bathrooms	1/9/2024 1:49 PM
159	Wild animals	1/9/2024 1:39 PM
160	Not enough basketball courts	1/9/2024 1:38 PM
161	Off leash dogs. Always the off leash dogs.	1/9/2024 1:18 PM
162	Developing natural areas. Preserve nature and wildlife.	1/9/2024 1:13 PM
163	As our population grows, they need to keep up w/ the growing demand, not just for parking, but providing easy access for those that don't want to (or can't) drive.	1/9/2024 1:10 PM
164	Lack of off-leash dog parks, lack of trails connecting parks to streets	1/9/2024 1:06 PM
165	We do not have enough baseball fields for the kids in area. Given the resources in the community, this feels like a big miss.	1/9/2024 9:48 AM
166	Need more parks for kids sports	1/9/2024 8:33 AM
167	lot's of small neighborhood parks, nice big nature parks, but we don't enough baseball fields	1/9/2024 8:17 AM
168	Extremely limited options for football, soccer, and baseball. Our youth need to get more active in organized sports and away from screens. Having adequate facilities will encourage that. It can also boost the local economy by hosting soccer and baseball tournaments.	1/9/2024 7:56 AM
169	Lack of baseball facilities. This is a huge program in the East Metro. Playgrounds are run down and lack safety for young children. No walking areas. Baseball fields are not kept up and are lack luster compared to other metro communities.	1/9/2024 6:04 AM
170	I wish overall lake elmo had more street lights. It's hard to even walk in neighbor during winter months due to no street lightning	1/9/2024 5:05 AM
171	Not enough baseball/softball fields for our growing community and organizations.	1/8/2024 8:23 PM
172	They are not maintained	1/8/2024 8:09 PM
173	Need more ball fields	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
174	Not enough baseball fields	1/8/2024 7:53 PM
175	We need more baseball fields!	1/8/2024 7:49 PM
176	Outsiders or inner city visitors will ruin experience for young and old by gathering in groups or gangs	1/8/2024 7:42 PM
177	Not enough fields	1/8/2024 7:41 PM

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178	Converting them to sport focused activities. Building sport focused amenities (pickle ball/baseball/soccer/basketball) limits that space for those specific noninclusive activities compared to open spaces and walking trails.	1/8/2024 7:40 PM
179	Not enough baseball or softball fields	1/8/2024 7:34 PM
180	Not enough baseball fields	1/8/2024 7:26 PM
181	Not enough facilities for organized youth sports	1/8/2024 7:03 PM
182	Maintenance of them. Lake Elmo has the MOST parks and no ability to maintain them. It's pointless to keep putting new parks in and not maintain the ones already here.	1/8/2024 6:27 PM
183	Overall quality of upkeep and grassy space is far inferior to many other cities.	1/8/2024 4:10 PM
184	Shade shelter for pilot park	1/8/2024 3:21 PM
185	There are not walking/biking trails to get to them.	1/8/2024 2:37 PM
186	Pedestrian crossings across the major arteries.	1/6/2024 1:11 PM
187	Overreach without proper maintenance support.	1/6/2024 8:38 AM
188	Buckthorn	1/6/2024 7:12 AM
189	Aside from the run/bike routes I've discussed plenty, it's the lack of a dog park and other legal off-leash spaces for them and families.	1/5/2024 8:35 PM
190	Accessible year round	1/5/2024 5:40 PM
191	They aren't connected to each other in a meaningful way.	1/5/2024 3:57 PM
192	Lack of interconnecting Trails and Lack of Trail Maintenance	1/4/2024 6:38 AM
193	Need more biking and walking paths	1/3/2024 9:02 PM
194	Lack of trails to get to parks and connecting other parts of the city	1/3/2024 8:43 PM
195	Not enough ice rinks or ice fishing	1/3/2024 8:01 PM
196	No real concerns, but see #22	1/3/2024 7:37 PM
197	Plow the trails to make year fitness easier	12/31/2023 7:44 PM
198	Connecting parks to local neighborhoods via a trail system	12/30/2023 8:37 AM
199	Unplowed, non-maintained paths	12/29/2023 7:17 PM
200	Invasive species	12/26/2023 12:57 AM
201	That you get the LOCAL neighborhood input before making a change. Even if another path is chosen, people need to be brought along on the journey.	12/22/2023 12:48 PM
202	Accessibility	12/21/2023 2:20 PM
203	Parks seem to have no plan. Inconsistent. Poor quality play equipment - not diverse. Most concerning, lack of accessibility and access (sidewalks, accessible equipment, accessible surfacing). Lake elmo is way behind surrounding communities.	12/19/2023 8:29 AM
204	1. Some feel out dated and not well used (Kleis). 2. Buckthorn invasions	12/18/2023 1:04 PM
205	Sometimes they are not tended to after a storm — example, Reid Park last spring and late winter.	12/18/2023 12:59 AM
206	Lack of basketball courts; trails feel unconnected both from each other and other cities.	12/17/2023 4:21 PM
207	Lack of accessibility by any thing other than a car....	12/15/2023 10:36 PM
208	Trails to connect oarks	12/15/2023 6:43 PM
209	Over use	12/15/2023 6:09 PM
210	Trails leading to these parks aren't cleared so on a sunny winter day we can't utilize them. Upkeep of the parks! A place for dogs!	12/14/2023 3:49 PM

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211	Hard to access by foot	12/12/2023 5:03 PM
212	There is a need for a handicap-accessible playground, more trail interconnection, and for a splash pad	12/11/2023 3:45 PM
213	Continued maintenance and upkeep. Parks should be a priority to the city.	12/11/2023 2:14 PM
214	Having trails to get there	12/10/2023 2:48 PM
215	Old broken playgrounds	12/9/2023 9:32 PM
216	More old/large trees. Stop tearing down all the beautiful trees every time development occurs.	12/9/2023 11:43 AM
217	Too much urban development	12/9/2023 8:22 AM
218	People with dogs off leash.	12/9/2023 7:49 AM
219	That they will get developed and gone.	12/9/2023 7:11 AM
220	Lack of walkable or bicycle access.	12/9/2023 12:04 AM
221	Playgrounds are outdated. I would also love connected walking or biking trails (similar to Woodbury's that go around the lakes) that travel from the parks to our city center to connect all the neighborhoods.	12/8/2023 7:01 PM
222	Sunfish Lake Park has such a wonderful multi-use trails. I worry about the safety of bikers who get on the single-track trails without helmets or other proper gear and without knowing what they're getting into, with some of the high-risk features. Additional signage about the risks, the importance of helmets, care at intersections with walking trails, and adhering to the trail signs could be really helpful.	12/8/2023 6:44 PM
223	Keep parks clean and nature, less development.	12/8/2023 6:38 PM
224	Lack of variety	12/8/2023 6:02 PM
225	Not enough basketball courts near southern edge of Lake Elmo, have to go to Woodbury for basketball.	12/8/2023 5:38 PM
226	Not connecting trails. Especially in winter.	12/8/2023 4:16 PM
227	Outdated playgrounds. Especially the Lions Park downtown playground. It is unsafe for young kids	12/8/2023 3:29 PM
228	Upkeep...we have the MOST parks per capita and most are not well taken care of. If you are putting more parks in then you must put a plan in place to maintain them. Most have broken equipment or are unkept	12/8/2023 3:03 PM
229	Old equipment	12/8/2023 2:48 PM
230	Biking trails to get to the parks	12/8/2023 2:39 PM
231	No easy to walk or bike to	12/8/2023 2:37 PM
232	Need more infrastructure	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
233	Vandalism	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
234	Narrow trails.	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
235	While playgrounds are wonderful for the young kids, finding things for the older kids and adults is key. Diversification of equipment is key too. Don't make all the parks a carbon copy of one another. Biking at one, basketball at another, etc	12/8/2023 2:28 PM
236	Lack of nice baseball fields	12/8/2023 2:25 PM
237	Not enough parking at sunfish	12/8/2023 2:23 PM
238	Not consistently maintained (mowing, branches over trails), lack of safe bike access to parks, outdated play equipment or facilities	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
239	Getting there. Trails that connect	12/8/2023 2:08 PM
240	Would like more picnic tables and play equipment	12/6/2023 8:17 AM

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241	Awareness of them! Then what is offered in each.	12/5/2023 4:26 PM
242	that they won't stay around. i love them.	12/4/2023 3:01 PM
243	Being forced by the city to accept a port-a-potty in a neighborhood park. Especially since we've lived here over 20 years and never needed a port-a-potty since most park visitors live in the neighborhood and just go home to use facilities as needed.	12/3/2023 7:00 PM
244	Fat tire bike paths in proximity to walking paths. Dangerous!	12/3/2023 3:33 PM
245	Aging play equipment	12/3/2023 11:12 AM
246	Running trails that connect between parks	12/2/2023 7:59 PM
247	More housing	12/2/2023 4:27 PM
248	The slide at Demontreville park has been broken and boarded up for the last two years - it be nice to be fixed.	12/2/2023 10:23 AM
249	For some closer parks, we need to cross roads with fast traffic and no stop signs or stop lights close to our route to protect our crossing. We need safe, car-protected crossings and more sidewalks along roads in Lake Elmo so we can get to the parks on foot.	12/2/2023 3:19 AM
250	The city has not provided them for the new neighborhoods.	12/1/2023 11:09 PM
251	Lack of any water feature like a splash pad.	12/1/2023 9:20 PM
252	Not connected to trail systems	12/1/2023 6:19 PM
253	Asphalt trails are aging and need to be resurfaced	12/1/2023 6:02 PM
254	You can die getting to them	12/1/2023 4:58 PM
255	Access without a vehicle	11/30/2023 9:02 PM
256	Lack of walk ability. Also, LE park reserve in the summer- we have encountered some scary situations with people making our teen girls uncomfortable.	11/30/2023 5:21 PM
257	Lack of safe biking trails to access the parks	11/30/2023 2:42 PM
258	The removal of them for more houses like is happening in the rest of lake elmo	11/30/2023 2:17 PM
259	Lack of common area Facilities - drinking fountain, bathrooms, sink, covered pavilion	11/30/2023 1:09 PM
260	Getting there safely	11/30/2023 1:01 PM
261	Lack of access and natural areas being overrun by buckthorn and other nonnative plants	11/30/2023 12:48 PM
262	Location and accessibility by walk/run	11/30/2023 11:55 AM
263	I am skeptical to even say anything- Won't be heard.	11/29/2023 4:23 PM
264	That someone will decide they're not important and try to sell the land.	11/29/2023 3:57 AM
265	I want more of them to allow dogs off leash.	11/28/2023 8:46 PM
266	Lack of sustainable funding, lack of priority, lack of city staff, developer-driven planning.	11/28/2023 8:08 PM
267	Not being able to walk to bike safely, need more trails connecting	11/28/2023 7:14 PM
268	Just would want more biking pathways to be able to get around easier	11/28/2023 7:03 PM
269	Keeping it as it is.	11/28/2023 6:27 PM
270	The ugly satellite toilets that the kids and the wind tip over, that is a public health issue with all that "stuff" flowing on the ground.	11/28/2023 5:52 PM
271	The danger of encountering bikes while walking on the trails.	11/28/2023 5:21 PM
272	sidewalks to get there	11/28/2023 4:51 PM
273	Lack of maintenance.	11/28/2023 4:27 PM
274	Park reserve closes fishing pier too early	11/28/2023 2:52 PM

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275	Accessibility. We have great parks, but they are hard to get to without a car.	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
276	Upkeep/maintenance	11/28/2023 11:03 AM
277	I would like to see a trail connect more of them together.	11/28/2023 10:55 AM
278	Not all parks need the same signage, support, etc. example - Tana Park has a sign that feels the same size as the park :) Also - VFW park playground is insanely high off the ground. My kids love that playground but I feel it is super unsafe.	11/28/2023 10:53 AM
279	Weed control and upkeep of pickleball courts	11/28/2023 10:26 AM
280	The city makes decisions based on a 'one-size fits all' mentality. Not every park needs a porta-potty, as an example.	11/28/2023 10:23 AM
281	lack of bike trails & connectivity	11/28/2023 10:20 AM
282	Poor to non-existent maintenance	11/28/2023 10:05 AM
283	I don't have one big concern, a couple small ones. (1) Lack of trees at Lions Park -- it would be nice if trees could be planted to replace the shade trees that were removed. (2) Replacement of tennis courts w/ pickleball: Would be nice to have a well-maintained tennis court, not just pickleball courts.	11/28/2023 10:02 AM
284	not enough options	11/28/2023 9:52 AM
285	Lack of timely maintenance. I believe the quality of the parks in Lake Elmo is impacted because maintenance is lacking or delayed. This is worth investing in.	11/28/2023 9:31 AM
286	Upkeep	11/28/2023 9:29 AM
287	Upkeep- can't add new parks without a plan to keep the current parks nice.	11/28/2023 9:27 AM
288	Development encroaching on park spaces.	11/28/2023 9:26 AM
289	Unknown visitors from outside area	11/28/2023 9:23 AM
290	Eventually falling into neglect	11/28/2023 9:17 AM
291	The parks being developed with homes	11/28/2023 9:12 AM
292	No plowing of sidewalks near carriage station park and on 50th.	11/28/2023 6:56 AM
293	Bathrooms garbage cans and lack of basketball courts	11/26/2023 11:40 AM
294	Trail maintenance for hiking, xc skiing, mountain biking and fat tire biking.	11/25/2023 11:23 AM
295	No interconnected biking trails	11/24/2023 1:10 PM
296	Just continuing to keep them available	11/23/2023 5:52 PM
297	Upkeep and maintenance of current parks. Regular weed treating and lawn service.	11/22/2023 9:28 AM
298	Need to be updated especially the Pilot Park.	11/21/2023 8:54 PM
299	buckthorn	11/21/2023 4:16 PM
300	That they would go away!	11/21/2023 4:13 PM
301	Parking and paths	11/21/2023 1:29 PM
302	Connectedness to various parks and trails	11/21/2023 1:08 PM
303	That there are too many developments and the city council has NO idea what they are doing. Keep Lake Elmo beautiful and rural as much as possible! Please don't ruin it and turn it into Woodbury	11/21/2023 1:03 PM
304	Ability to connect trails-especially in the winter. Many paths are not cleared, making it impossible to travel without a car.	11/21/2023 12:34 PM
305	My biggest concern is that the quantity/access to publicly accessible green/recreation space within the City of Lake Elmo has not kept pace with the growing population - I'd love to see Lake Elmo be planning for equitable access to larger and connected green/recreation space (i.e., more "jewels" like Sunfish Lake and Reid park with their great trail system, or Lions Park	11/20/2023 9:32 PM

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which has a great sense of community during organized or pickup games (baseball, pickleball, volleyball all being aggregated there is super ideal for that! although space is tight...) and which can serve as good places to build community and for both newer and long-time (elderly/young, abled/disabled, poor/rich, etc.) City residents to fully embrace the character and community of Lake Elmo.

306	Lack of a cohesive approach and plan.	11/20/2023 11:39 AM
307	Lack of plowing/snow removal on paved trails and lack of crosswalks on bust main roads.	11/20/2023 10:38 AM
308	They are not kept up well, look terrible!! Weeds, trees not pruned/maintained, low mulch, Porta potty not on main path right by park. No shade spots to sit with little ones/babies!	11/20/2023 9:43 AM
309	Upkeep	11/19/2023 4:30 PM
310	City resources to maintain facilities.	11/19/2023 2:28 PM
311	I live in Easton Village - Pilot Park needs better mulch. We'd prefer wood chips or rocks, something less toxic to small children. Otherwise I appreciate the responsiveness of the parks committee to fixing broken equipment and drainage issues - thank you!	11/19/2023 8:55 AM
312	City needs its own parks and recreation department that can provide and advocate for funding, provide amenities and programming.	11/18/2023 1:09 PM
313	Over development of natural areas that are suppose to be left intact. The habitat at 3M Tartan Park has been destroyed and wildlife habitat lost. Not every park has to offer everything. It's important to be stewards of the land. Partner with school to use playground at existing elementary school .	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
314	Trails and modern facilities and modern equipment	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
315	There aren't enough parks with diverse activities for a city of this population. Specifically for kids ages 10-17.	11/18/2023 11:06 AM
316	Not enough paths and walking trails	11/18/2023 10:47 AM
317	Playground equipment renewal and addition of strength training equipment for older kids and adults.	11/18/2023 8:32 AM
318	That as new development continues, parks and open space are considered to be planned and considered important.	11/17/2023 11:23 PM
319	Park, trail, neighborhood connectivity	11/17/2023 10:06 PM
320	Lack of basketball courts	11/17/2023 10:01 PM
321	Want our parks to serve all residents	11/17/2023 9:51 PM
322	Not many basketball courts or ice skating rinks	11/17/2023 5:25 PM
323	Degraded Equipment	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

Q22 If you could prioritize one change that would improve your experience with parks and trails, what would it be? (Is there a specific park or trail connection where you could make that change?)

Answered: 290 Skipped: 263

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	connection between parks or connection to the gateway or brown's creek or other trail network.	1/24/2024 8:12 PM
2	Build more game playable baseball fields	1/22/2024 4:44 PM
3	No motorized bikes or scooters (including electric) on the trails.	1/20/2024 9:33 AM
4	Invest in connecting all parks and neighborhoods throughout the city with a system of trails/walking/biking paths, even if this needs to be a long-term plan.	1/20/2024 7:15 AM
5	Safe paths to and from parks from neighborhoods around Lake Elmo for children	1/19/2024 11:22 PM
6	Add trees to Lake Jane Hill Park	1/19/2024 2:39 PM
7	Plow/clear the snow	1/19/2024 12:04 AM
8	It seems most of the parks are really just a parking lot and a little playground structure for the kids, and a picnic table. I want to connect to nature like Lake Elmo Regional Park offers, but closer to home, and without the fees.	1/18/2024 9:41 AM
9	Add more usable baseball fields	1/17/2024 7:51 AM
10	City should maintain all trails.	1/16/2024 4:45 PM
11	More signage on trails	1/15/2024 8:04 PM
12	Nothing comes to mind.	1/15/2024 5:29 PM
13	Additional baseball fields	1/15/2024 12:56 PM
14	Ample parking	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
15	Add more baseball fields	1/14/2024 9:09 PM
16	Kleis Poor equipment	1/14/2024 3:56 PM
17	I would like a safe entrance from Highway 5 into Lake Elmo Park, preserve via bike trail	1/14/2024 2:25 PM
18	Sidewalk access to demontreville park and pebble park from the Olson and demontreville area.	1/13/2024 5:02 PM
19	Ivywood need for more Pickleball courts	1/13/2024 2:59 PM
20	The church field is an embarrassment. When a field is in disrepair, it poses significant risks such as uneven surfaces that can lead to trips or falls, divots that can cause ankle injuries, or irregularities that affect gameplay. Proper maintenance and regular inspections are essential to ensure that the playing surface meets safety standards, protecting players from potential harm.	1/13/2024 1:57 PM
21	Gravel paths especially Reid park	1/13/2024 7:20 AM
22	An ice rink and/or soccer net or tennis courts at DeMontreville Park to bring neighbors out and together in an area where long driveways and wide yards seem to keep us apart.	1/12/2024 10:50 PM
23	Lions park Pickleball courts are in great need of resurfacing.	1/12/2024 7:03 PM
24	trail/sidewalk cleaning during winter months	1/12/2024 4:32 PM
25	more baseball fields	1/12/2024 4:15 PM
26	trail signs for those of us who are directionally challenged	1/12/2024 1:35 PM

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27	More baseball fields and outpost hockey rinks	1/12/2024 12:27 PM
28	Where possible connect parks with the trail system in Lake Elmo.	1/12/2024 11:22 AM
29	Get rid of mountain bike trails	1/12/2024 10:39 AM
30	Permanent Pickleball courts at Lions park	1/12/2024 10:07 AM
31	More baseball fields	1/12/2024 4:28 AM
32	More outdoor rinks	1/12/2024 2:58 AM
33	More connected trails system. Connect neighborhoods. Safety on road crossings is a significant concern!	1/11/2024 9:20 PM
34	bike lanes on roads	1/11/2024 9:10 PM
35	More baseball fields	1/11/2024 8:29 PM
36	N/a	1/11/2024 6:55 PM
37	Smooth out the bike trails some of them are very bumpy	1/11/2024 6:40 PM
38	Need more and better baseball fields	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
39	Keeping some trails hiking only.	1/11/2024 5:06 PM
40	Plow the paved trails during the winter.	1/11/2024 1:50 PM
41	remove all the manicured lawns that use water we don't have and require pesticides and herbicides.	1/11/2024 1:30 PM
42	I would add connection trails to Sunfish Lake Park on a less heavily traveled and more easily accessible road. Possibly have an entrance off of Ideal (where paved paths already exist) instead of 14.	1/11/2024 1:10 PM
43	See No 21	1/11/2024 1:09 PM
44	More walking trails	1/11/2024 1:07 PM
45	Lions park!	1/11/2024 10:48 AM
46	Lowered speed limits near trails that connect neighborhoods. Currently there are community trails on both sides of Lake Elmo Ave (Wildflower, Legacy North Star, Sunfish Lake) however you have to cross a 55 mph road to get there. Unsafe for kids and even adults at times. Adding roundabouts, lowered speed limits or under road tunnel would improve.	1/11/2024 9:37 AM
47	More paths between them	1/11/2024 9:34 AM
48	walking path or sidewalk along the highway portion of lake Elmo ave or manning	1/11/2024 9:29 AM
49	Sunfish Lake amenities and walking paths to walk to Sunfish.	1/11/2024 6:53 AM
50	Keep pickleball courts open and available at Lions Park	1/11/2024 5:50 AM
51	buckthorn removal and continued maintenance to keep it out	1/11/2024 5:05 AM
52	Playground with a splash pad	1/11/2024 4:44 AM
53	water fountains	1/10/2024 11:28 PM
54	Maintain playing and parking surfaces consistently.	1/10/2024 9:17 PM
55	Snow plowed in the winter months	1/10/2024 9:07 PM
56	Fix pickleball courts	1/10/2024 8:49 PM
57	Expand trail system at Demontreville Wildlife Park	1/10/2024 8:31 PM
58	New pickleball courts at Lions Park	1/10/2024 8:16 PM
59	Make a permanent pickleball court at Lions Park. It brings lots of business to the local coffee shop and daytime life to the area. I have no other reason to go downtown otherwise.	1/10/2024 7:37 PM

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60	New playground at Pebble Park and Lyons park.	1/10/2024 7:15 PM
61	Bike lanes traffic is terrible and drives so fast.	1/10/2024 7:01 PM
62	Connection to legacy neighborhood	1/10/2024 6:45 PM
63	There is not safe transit by walking or bike around the Tri-lakes area where many of the parks are located. Sunfish, Klein, pebble, demontriville.	1/10/2024 6:17 PM
64	Legacy northstar connected to sunfish lake.	1/10/2024 6:07 PM
65	Additional baseball fields/complex to host youth baseball tournaments	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
66	Update playgrounds	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
67	Bike paths	1/10/2024 5:12 PM
68	Plow neighborhood path in winter	1/10/2024 4:03 PM
69	Improve playground equipment and surrounding space around it	1/10/2024 4:00 PM
70	More small dog parks. I would love to walk new trails all over town, but have a space to let our dog off leash for part of the walk. We're very excited for the new large dog park, but that's just one space we can check out. Even if they were acre/half acre spaces near playgrounds or trails, that would be amazing.	1/10/2024 3:32 PM
71	Trail access to the reserve would be nice. More walking trails between downtown and nearby neighborhoods.	1/10/2024 3:13 PM
72	More baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:58 PM
73	More walking paths	1/10/2024 2:20 PM
74	More baseball/sports fields	1/10/2024 2:18 PM
75	More baseball fields	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
76	Additional baseball fields	1/10/2024 1:56 PM
77	Ensure current amenities are addressed before adding anything additional	1/10/2024 1:47 PM
78	Walkable access to sunfish lake park from back of Legacy at North Star neighborhood	1/10/2024 1:36 PM
79	I'd love to be able to walk/run on sidewalks from Lake Elmo Ave to Sunfish Lake Park!	1/10/2024 1:36 PM
80	Live in a community the park is very small for now the amount of people that live here. The park should be larger with more equipment/swings to accomodate the size of the neighborhood (legacy at Northstar)	1/10/2024 1:26 PM
81	Adding a splash pad would be nice.	1/10/2024 1:10 PM
82	Pleade include benches or tables with seating at new pickleball courts at Pebble and Tablyn. Ivywood is good with bench near court and picnic shelter close by to get out of sun. However would need more seating at Pebble and Tablyn if organized play is planned for the future (and I hope it is planned).	1/10/2024 1:05 PM
83	Need benches for seating at pickleball court locations.	1/10/2024 1:02 PM
84	I really love spending time in Sunfish and hope the keep it maintained	1/10/2024 12:57 PM
85	Playground near all recreation parks for kids to play on - but within eyesight of where parents sit to watch	1/10/2024 12:41 PM
86	Easier crossing busy roads to get to them.	1/10/2024 12:21 PM
87	More sidewalks to connect them	1/10/2024 12:14 PM
88	More public trails throughout lake elmo	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
89	Think of Senior Citizens and their potential park use. Develop more for them in city center	1/10/2024 12:10 PM
90	Sidewalks near the Lake Elmo Elementary and the Legacy at North Star / Wildflower neighborhoods. There is absolutely no where to cross Lake Elmo Ave safely.	1/10/2024 11:59 AM

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91	Update playground equipment	1/10/2024 11:56 AM
92	More pickle ball courts	1/10/2024 11:47 AM
93	More walking/biking paths in the north section of Lake Elmo.	1/10/2024 11:29 AM
94	- small parking lot by inwood park would be better	1/10/2024 11:28 AM
95	I would like to see a connection from Sunfish Lake Park that connects to the North side of Lake Elmo Park Preserve. Ideally a bridge under highway 14 for safety would be ideal.	1/10/2024 11:19 AM
96	Kleis park is in desperate need of a new playground.	1/10/2024 10:17 AM
97	More trails	1/10/2024 8:46 AM
98	Plowing the walking paths. I live in lake ridge crossing and it would be great to have the paths plowed. Even to connect us to Ivy park. I'm sure those residents would appreciate as well.	1/10/2024 8:22 AM
99	Add a paved path along 10th street and add one to Lake Elmo avenue.	1/10/2024 8:16 AM
100	City trail winter maintenance	1/10/2024 7:46 AM
101	Make safer crosswalks and trails/sidewalks crossing Stillwater Blvd from the north and south by the school Lake Elmo bank area. Make a safe pedestrian crossing area linking the parks on the north (firefly etc) to Lions park and those south.	1/10/2024 7:27 AM
102	Add another dog park or two	1/10/2024 6:22 AM
103	Plow ALL asphalt trails in Lake Elmo	1/10/2024 5:09 AM
104	The trails in the Savona and surrounding neighborhoods should be plowed and de-iced every winter	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
105	Make bike/walking trails connecting the different neighborhoods to downtown lake elmo.	1/9/2024 9:41 PM
106	Snow removal	1/9/2024 8:49 PM
107	Connecting trails throughout the city would be nice? North end cut off from their rest. 14 too busy	1/9/2024 8:30 PM
108	Connect all parks by bike trails	1/9/2024 8:01 PM
109	Connect wildflower trail to the trail in the northeast. They are so close!	1/9/2024 7:56 PM
110	Connect more trail systems such as Firefly to Tanya Ridge	1/9/2024 7:53 PM
111	Make a safe connection from Legacy at Northstar to downtown lake Elmo. Would love for my kids to be able to bike to the library, but we can only make it as far as the Legacy neighborhood when traffic is busy.	1/9/2024 7:16 PM
112	None	1/9/2024 7:00 PM
113	More picnic tables or seating at some of them	1/9/2024 6:36 PM
114	Less speed boats, less hours when they can create wakes. Markings for distance from shore for speed boats.	1/9/2024 6:32 PM
115	Safe walking/biking infrastructure to get to/from parks	1/9/2024 6:30 PM
116	Close to new neighborhoods	1/9/2024 6:20 PM
117	3-4 softball fields so tournaments counts be held. There's nothing like it in Lake Elmo or Stillwater.	1/9/2024 5:36 PM
118	Trails	1/9/2024 5:07 PM
119	Need a new 4 baseball fields set up with bathrooms in the center.	1/9/2024 4:56 PM
120	Some kind of a shelter/community center that events could be held at	1/9/2024 4:42 PM
121	Snow plowing trails	1/9/2024 3:28 PM
122	Winter plowing of shared walking paths.	1/9/2024 3:26 PM

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123	Snow removal during winter months so trails can be used year-round.	1/9/2024 3:24 PM
124	Plow the paved trails in all parks and neighborhoods.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
125	Plowing/maintaining paths in snowy weather	1/9/2024 3:00 PM
126	Consistent maintenance of the paths. HOAs have hands tied with liability if they try to clear them. Neighbor used to clear part of a path but was told he could be sued if he caused any damage. Meanwhile, they are too icy to use.	1/9/2024 2:55 PM
127	More bike paths. We love to bike to all the beautiful Lake Elmo parks!	1/9/2024 2:50 PM
128	City owned trail maintenance vs HOA	1/9/2024 2:44 PM
129	Amenities like basketball court.	1/9/2024 2:44 PM
130	City should be responsible for maintaining trails/paths within and surrounding the parks instead of leaving it to residents/HOAs if the park is within a residential community.	1/9/2024 2:36 PM
131	Clearing snow on the trails so walking in winter is safe!	1/9/2024 2:34 PM
132	The reason we visit limited lake Elmo parks is due to their stroller or wheelchair accessibility limitations. We cannot use our stroller in most parks.	1/9/2024 2:27 PM
133	Being maintained year round.	1/9/2024 2:20 PM
134	Plow trail system in goose lake neighborhood	1/9/2024 1:53 PM
135	Bathrooms at parks esp ones with playgrounds for kids	1/9/2024 1:50 PM
136	More walking trails- put a walking path on 40th and manning	1/9/2024 1:49 PM
137	Add basketball court to Ivywood/Stonegate, and an ice skating rink in the winter	1/9/2024 1:38 PM
138	Actual policing of the off leash dogs. I know this sounds like a broken record, but it is a problem in city parks, county parks, and state parks in this county. It won't change until we start to implement consequences for the behavior.	1/9/2024 1:18 PM
139	Have the city actually take care of the trials . Make sure ppl pick up there dog poop on there own trials and walk path	1/9/2024 1:14 PM
140	Access to Sunfish Lake Park via cty rd 14	1/9/2024 1:06 PM
141	Addition of more baseball fields where possible. These would be used heavily April - July and provide opportunity to connect with the community.	1/9/2024 9:48 AM
142	Purchase land for a large city park. Community events and youth sports.	1/9/2024 8:17 AM
143	Enhance athletic fields.	1/9/2024 7:56 AM
144	Lions baseball field, adding at least one 4-field complex that can serve to host games and tournaments, leading to more funding for the association and community.	1/9/2024 6:04 AM
145	Dog park needed in lake elmo	1/9/2024 5:05 AM
146	Baseball fields at more parks, running paths	1/8/2024 9:51 PM
147	More older kid baseball/softball fields would be great. There are lots of parks with fields for the younger ages.	1/8/2024 9:32 PM
148	More baseball field	1/8/2024 9:13 PM
149	Need more ball fields	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
150	Baseball complex	1/8/2024 7:53 PM
151	More fields for organized sports and youth activities	1/8/2024 7:48 PM
152	Walking/biking paths that are easy to follow to each. Connecting them will help people utilize them more.	1/8/2024 7:40 PM
153	The Lions and VFW baseball parks are an embarrassment. No bathrooms, litter everywhere, it's not the image Lake Elmo wants to represent.	1/8/2024 7:39 PM

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154	Community center with lots of space for old and young in addition to a park	1/8/2024 7:03 PM
155	Keep up with the equipment, make sure the playgrounds, fields, etc are safe.	1/8/2024 6:27 PM
156	Water the grass and make it more comfortable to run with your kids.	1/8/2024 4:10 PM
157	Shade shelter for pilot park	1/8/2024 3:21 PM
158	A walking /biking trail from Lake Elmo to Stillwater High School.	1/8/2024 2:37 PM
159	Interconnecting the trails	1/6/2024 1:11 PM
160	More baseball fields.	1/6/2024 9:56 AM
161	Safely maintained connective trails so that we can either walk or bike to our destination.	1/6/2024 8:38 AM
162	I live in Easton Village, and there is only one safe route out, through Reid Park or the service road, with really only two options: either cross Stillwater Ave (and risk my and my dog's life) into the housing North of LE Elementary or into the Reserve's back entrance. It's not safe to run/bike (my kids are 10) along the lake to the south without a trail, and heading out Manning is out of the question. Again, no trail. 30th Street sidewalk is often treacherous with ice in the winter.	1/5/2024 8:35 PM
163	Plow the trails during the winter	1/5/2024 5:40 PM
164	Connect by trail the Lake Elmo downtown to the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.	1/5/2024 3:57 PM
165	connect parks to Lake Elmo Reserve with walking / bike trails	1/4/2024 3:27 PM
166	Trail connection from 31st St to Old Town (North side of Lake Elmo Park Reserve along Co Rd 14)	1/4/2024 6:38 AM
167	A biking and walking trial from Target to downtown Lake Elmo would be ideal. A biking trail on Inwood from highway 5 to 10th street would also be much appreciated.	1/3/2024 9:02 PM
168	Tablyn park needs better equipment and trails to neighborhoods	1/3/2024 8:43 PM
169	Accessibility by walk/run/bike (no walking paths) because of busy Stillwater Blvd.	1/3/2024 8:01 PM
170	More and better pickleball courts. Play at Lions Park in summer and the courts are deteriorating. Spend more time going to Stillwater to play.	1/3/2024 7:37 PM
171	Nature playscapes	1/2/2024 12:05 PM
172	Plow the trails in winter	12/31/2023 7:44 PM
173	Trail access from outer neighborhoods to the city of lake elmo for things like outdoor sports, playgrounds, library, coffee, dining, groceries, etc. would much prefer to shop local and get exercise.	12/30/2023 8:37 AM
174	Path along 10th street near Lake Elmo Park Reserve	12/29/2023 7:17 PM
175	PUT SKI TRACKS IN SUNFISH AND REOPEN THE CLOSED TRAILS THERE!	12/26/2023 12:57 AM
176	Safely bike-able roads/paths for our kids between neighborhoods and parks.	12/22/2023 12:48 PM
177	When our daughter was younger, I often wished for a form of exercise for the parents while watching your kid play at the park. (rather than just sitting on the bench) I also really enjoy walking trails and would want any opportunity to enjoy them year round.	12/21/2023 2:20 PM
178	Accessibility. Purposeful planning and management. Stop letting builders decide on park land and cheap park structures. Connect parks with paths.	12/19/2023 8:29 AM
179	Winter plowing of paved paths	12/18/2023 1:04 PM
180	Make more trails close to the downtown part of Lake Elmo.	12/18/2023 12:59 AM
181	Connections to Woodbury and Stillwater.	12/17/2023 4:21 PM
182	Accessibility - make the city more walkable and bikeable.	12/15/2023 10:36 PM
183	Connect trails between Wildflower and Fields of St Croix	12/15/2023 6:43 PM
184	Trails along 10th st to Lake Elmo reserve	12/15/2023 6:09 PM

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185	Clear the paths in the winter!!	12/14/2023 3:49 PM
186	Ability to connect via smaller roads	12/12/2023 5:03 PM
187	I'd love to see more biking/walking trails. Especially something to bike fast on like the Gateway trail.	12/11/2023 7:44 PM
188	Nothing specific other than what is listed above. One more thing more money for care and upkeep of the parks. The parks are being maintained adequately but more could be done. Equipment is old, sometimes trash is not picked up for example. Invest more in general maintenance.	12/11/2023 3:45 PM
189	Safer biking connection over/under CO 14.	12/11/2023 2:14 PM
190	Some sort of kids water play. Like fountains, pool, splash pad is needed.	12/10/2023 2:48 PM
191	Playground updates	12/9/2023 9:32 PM
192	Better and safer trails along Manning Ave, especially to/from the Fairgrounds.	12/9/2023 11:43 AM
193	Additional trails on and under the High voltage line easements that criss cross the Lake Elmo community.	12/9/2023 7:49 AM
194	More trails especially along busy streets. A trail along Lake Elmo Ave would be ideal to access Lions Park.	12/9/2023 12:04 AM
195	Safe routes for biking or walking to parks and city center (I live near Tablyn park)	12/8/2023 7:01 PM
196	Stated above	12/8/2023 6:44 PM
197	Water fountains that work	12/8/2023 6:02 PM
198	Add basketball court to Ivywood Park	12/8/2023 5:38 PM
199	Truth. Connect trails from sunfish to Northstar to Lake Elmo preserve.	12/8/2023 4:16 PM
200	Sunfish—A previous council's overriding of previous city legal actions (city ordinance and city intent in MN Land Trust documents) allowed one council person to use a city administrator to obfuscate and eliminate protective ordinances to put in a personal activity for his son—biking in Sunfish Lake Park. Instead of the Parks Commission coming to council with park ideas he directed monies be spent carrying out Council desires. Immoral and illegal to eliminate an ordinance put in place by previous citizen voted referendum.	12/8/2023 3:30 PM
201	Sunfish Lake needs better signage within the park trails	12/8/2023 3:03 PM
202	Biking/walking path on 10th street	12/8/2023 2:39 PM
203	Connected paths to city parks that are plowed during the winter	12/8/2023 2:37 PM
204	More walking paths/trails	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
205	Plow during the winter.	12/8/2023 2:31 PM
206	I'd love to have the lake Elmo parks connect to the park reserve. Somewhere near goose lake to get into the entrance safer, and an exit via hike/bike on the other side that could dump you into downtown. The idea of hiking through the park reserve and ending up downtown Lake Elmo to patronize the businesses would be wonderful	12/8/2023 2:28 PM
207	Buy more land for natural space instead of so many housing projects	12/8/2023 2:23 PM
208	Bike trail access to parks from neighboring residential areas, Lake Elmo residents and city council and staff seeing our parks as assets to this community and protecting, preserving and maintaining good parks and trails	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
209	Trails that meet up and connect to the preserve	12/8/2023 2:08 PM
210	See 21	12/6/2023 8:17 AM
211	You have ruined Sunfish lake and turned it into a dangerous place to walk/ hike. Bikes seem to be ruling out everything else.	12/5/2023 4:26 PM
212	Plow trails in the winter	12/4/2023 3:49 PM

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213	more parks!:))	12/4/2023 3:01 PM
214	Crossing Stillwater Blvd is rather dangerous, especially at Laverne Ave N. It would be nice to have a more controlled intersection for safer trail connection.	12/3/2023 10:28 PM
215	Trails need to be plowed during the winter to allow people to run and walk throughout the winter months	12/2/2023 7:59 PM
216	Provide a skating rink closer to the north end of town. It would be nice for all the parks to have power and shelter space to plan activities (in case of inclement weather).	12/2/2023 10:23 AM
217	Better signage on walking trails with clear distances and clear labeling of which forks are which.	12/2/2023 3:19 AM
218	Adding a splash pad.	12/1/2023 9:20 PM
219	Tablyn park not connected to neighborhoods along Stillwater blvd.	12/1/2023 6:19 PM
220	Make bike trail from Sunfish across or under Co14 to north side of Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Continue the new paved trail (resurfaced fall 2022) from Keats to CO 14 and across the highway into Sunfish Lake park	12/1/2023 6:02 PM
221	No walking path along 50th street, at the bottom of the hill. (Near 50th St N and Lily Ave north. It is a death funnel for pedestrians!	12/1/2023 4:58 PM
222	More knowledge about what's available to visit	11/30/2023 9:02 PM
223	Being able to walk to the highschool from the Waston Billage neighborhood, or at the very least to carriage station, where our bus stop is. We currently have to drive there.	11/30/2023 5:21 PM
224	Longer biking trails that connect neighborhoods safely for children would be a great benefit. Specifically referring to Fields of St. Croix, Tana Ridge, Wildflower, Carriage Station.	11/30/2023 2:42 PM
225	4 way stop at Village/32nd in order to cross toward pilot park.	11/30/2023 1:09 PM
226	Pilot Park needs more added to it. So much beautiful green space but nothing there besides a playground and soccer nets (just recently).	11/30/2023 1:01 PM
227	Bike path along manning	11/30/2023 12:48 PM
228	Connecting walk trails /path	11/30/2023 11:55 AM
229	our tiny park has a porta potty that is aesthetically ugly. Nobody uses the park but our residents. We don't use it -. people go home to the bathroom they don't want to use a porta potty. waste of taxpayer dollars and integrity of aesthetics. yet we repeatedly have to call to have weeds growing high removed.	11/29/2023 4:23 PM
230	The trails are safer to walk on in the winter.	11/29/2023 3:57 AM
231	At Sunfish it would be nice if dogs didn't need to be leashed.	11/28/2023 8:46 PM
232	Trail / bike route connectivity and wayfinding.	11/28/2023 8:08 PM
233	I love sunfish lake!!! If you guys can keep it up with continuing to build upon that trail system and expanding that idea to other parks would be amazing!! Bentonville is a great example of a town that implements biking and trails everywhere they can and it is crazy cool, and attracts a lot of great attention and business to the town (All for good reasons)	11/28/2023 7:03 PM
234	More timely removal of trail obstructions.	11/28/2023 6:27 PM
235	I would like Sunfish Lake Park returned to the way it was before bikes were allowed on the trails.	11/28/2023 5:21 PM
236	More handicap accessible	11/28/2023 5:07 PM
237	Native plantings would add a lot to parks. Grasses, flowers, etc. pick up the trash. Empty trash bins regularly.	11/28/2023 4:27 PM
238	I would like to see a bike path along Stillwater Blvd, 40th st. and connecting to the Gateway trail.	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
239	Too many paths to parks have sections that are discontinued or require walking or biking on	11/28/2023 11:17 AM

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	busy roads.	
240	Please put in a biking trail to connect lake Elmo to oak park heights, Stillwater, and the lake Elmo neighborhoods to the park reserve!	11/28/2023 10:55 AM
241	Want to be able to get safely across stillwater Blvd while biking or walking. My family lives on the N side and likes to get to either lake Elmo elementary or lions/vfw and it's not safe	11/28/2023 10:53 AM
242	be able to walk more places, specifically be able to cross highway 5	11/28/2023 10:35 AM
243	Trail access from the east to Sunfish Lake Park that doesn't require walking or biking along Hwy 14. Additionally a bike & pedestrian bridge across Hwy 14 as the heavy traffic is making it harder to safely cross and access either Lake Elmo or Sunfish Lake park.	11/28/2023 10:29 AM
244	Resurfacing pickle ball courts	11/28/2023 10:26 AM
245	The city needs to make sure they consider the way in which the park looks. Planting a bright blue port-a-potty in the line of site of peoples homes is not ok. If we have to include a restroom at our parks, then a structure needs to be built to hid it from sight.	11/28/2023 10:23 AM
246	connection of existing trails	11/28/2023 10:20 AM
247	Clearing paths in winter to make parks accessible by bike.	11/28/2023 10:17 AM
248	Regular maintenance, bike access	11/28/2023 10:05 AM
249	It would be the visibility of the port-a-potty at the tot lot in Tana Ridge park. (It's been removed, but it will be back in the spring?) It's at the neighboring family's property line, and it is unsightly. Could it be housed somewhere near the water house or Tana Ridge sports fields?	11/28/2023 10:02 AM
250	n/a	11/28/2023 9:52 AM
251	More maintenance. There is neglect of many of the parks in Lake Elmo. Let's protect the investment in things we already have before building new parks or ammenities.	11/28/2023 9:31 AM
252	Fix trail around Fields of St Croix neighborhood that the city/county flooded	11/28/2023 9:29 AM
253	There should be a trail on the road between hagbergs and the bank. At a minimum the current trail should turn and continue down past the school and into downtown lake Elmo toward lions park. I strongly suggest a push button crossing light there as well if you can't line up the trail with the stop light.	11/28/2023 9:27 AM
254	More trails connecting park spaces so that the community can walk to the park rather than drive.	11/28/2023 9:26 AM
255	It would be great to have a walking/bike trail from the Fields of St Croix (both developments)/Tana Ridge to downtown Lake Elmo. We would love to be able to continue our walk or bike ride to visit the park near the library, the library or stop for coffee or a treat along the Main Street. I don't believe there is a connection so we've never tried to bike or walk into the downtown area.	11/28/2023 9:20 AM
256	Keeping trails debris free and safe for hiking	11/28/2023 9:17 AM
257	More biking paths to downtown LE	11/28/2023 9:12 AM
258	If you're going to put port-a-potties in the parks, for the parks that are inside of neighborhoods, please build a small shelter to enclose the port-a-potty, so we do not have ugly port-a-potties visible from homes (Tana Ridge Park).	11/28/2023 9:10 AM
259	Plow and maintain the walking path on 50th. Also make the connection of that path into tana ridge, it's very dangerous to walk on the path when it ends and you have to walk on the street for 200 feet to reach the next section of walking path.	11/28/2023 6:56 AM
260	More lighted trails	11/25/2023 11:23 AM
261	Additional trails (unpaved is great) would expand the use for me	11/25/2023 10:31 AM
262	None	11/23/2023 5:52 PM
263	Shelter/ gazebo at Pilot Park. More benches.	11/22/2023 3:04 PM
264	Trail connection along 15th St to connect into Oakdale.	11/22/2023 11:58 AM

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265	Updated equipment	11/21/2023 8:54 PM
266	creating safe bike/walking trail networks throughout the city	11/21/2023 4:16 PM
267	Lake Elmo Park Reserve entrance from downtown Lake Elmo.	11/21/2023 4:13 PM
268	Parking at carriage park	11/21/2023 1:29 PM
269	Bike and walking trails connecting multiple neighborhoods and parks	11/21/2023 1:08 PM
270	Stop developments ... add more walking/bike trails connecting to down town lake Elmo or Stillwater.	11/21/2023 1:03 PM
271	work to connect the trails better and keep them clear in the winter.	11/21/2023 12:34 PM
272	Biggest impact (but likely hard to accomplish) - plan for community park with plenty of multi-use fields and ideally hiking/biking/walking trails, other park opportunities for all ages too! (i.e., some examples include: Hoffman Park in River Falls, MHealth Fairview Sports Center in Woodbury, Kaposia Landing in South St Paul) Also big impact (but likely easier to accomplish): Connect Lions Park (and downtown area) to Sunfish Lake Park via a trail system which keeps users OFF of Stillwater Blvd. (would be SO ideal if the connection also encircled Sunfish Lake itself!!!) Also big impact (and uncertain of ability to accomplish) - preserve the (largely forested) green space area to the east of Lake Elmo lake bordered by Lake Elmo Ave N, Royal Blvd N, 20th St N (or maybe even continuing north to 24th St/Legion Ave N borders) - add hiking trails and make the area publicly accessible open-space which would be more accessible esp. to Lake Elmo's residents in the southeast which doesn't have a lot of city parks.	11/20/2023 9:32 PM
273	Bike Trails that connect parks/open space.	11/20/2023 11:39 AM
274	Lack of plowing/snow removal on paved trails and lack of crosswalks on bust main roads.	11/20/2023 10:38 AM
275	Location of Porta potty at Pilot Park, closer to the park on the main path. Mostly used by workers. Trucks fly though the park almost hitting kids crossing to the park from houses. Add mulch!!	11/20/2023 9:43 AM
276	Ice rink at pilot park/pickleball court	11/19/2023 4:32 PM
277	Safe pedestrian connections to parks and trails	11/19/2023 2:28 PM
278	Dog poop bags available. Sometimes my dog poops twice on a walk and it's embarrassing when I run out of bags.	11/19/2023 11:07 AM
279	More walking/biking paths in the city, especially along Manning Ave. Connectivity with paved trails is so important in a growing city with young kids.	11/19/2023 8:55 AM
280	Develop parks that meet the ever changing needs of the community and stop letting developers build parks. Be progressive in planning and put parks as a priority	11/18/2023 1:09 PM
281	#1 Restore, safe, accessible walking loop at Sunfish Lake Nature Preserve by the parking lot. #2 Lions Park needs a open shelter and trees by the children's playground.	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
282	More PickleBall courts for myself. Ball complex for the community.	11/18/2023 11:06 AM
283	Trail access between Goose Lake park and Lake Elmo Park Reserve on west side of Keats, so I don't have to cross bust road without any stoplight or path	11/18/2023 10:47 AM
284	Paved bike trails are one of the biggest reasons why we moved into the metro area. A trail along Stillwater Blvd, from downtown to Sunfish Lake park.	11/18/2023 8:32 AM
285	Safe walking trail along east side of lake elmo	11/17/2023 10:06 PM
286	Basketball court to ivywood park, please good sir/ma'am	11/17/2023 10:01 PM
287	Remove the bike trails from Sunfish Lake Park.	11/17/2023 8:01 PM
288	Add basketball court to Ivywood Park	11/17/2023 5:25 PM
289	More options for shade, like sunshades or pavilions.	11/17/2023 3:47 PM
290	Open back up the warning house at lions and more the rink to where it used to be.	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

Q23 Are there any other comments that you would like to provide that have not been captured by the previous questions?

Answered: 151 Skipped: 402

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	With the rapid growth of our community, we need more game playable baseball fields. This will ensure no kids are left off of teams due to the time restraints with all the added teams needed.	1/22/2024 4:44 PM
2	Demontreville park would benefit from multi use courts for basketball and pickleball.	1/20/2024 9:33 AM
3	We've become too separated by individual neighborhoods and developments that focus on small exclusivity and not community connectivity.	1/20/2024 7:15 AM
4	Baseball fields will be critical to support the growing baseball programs.	1/15/2024 5:29 PM
5	N/a	1/15/2024 7:27 AM
6	In general, it would be nice to see more crosswalks on Lake Elmo, Ave. There are only two, but there are many more streets that cross Lake Elmo avenue, so more cross walks should be put in AND more signage so people stop for those crossing.	1/14/2024 9:09 PM
7	A descriptive directory of the parks would be nice!	1/14/2024 3:56 PM
8	Thank you for asking...sincerely appreciate the Lake Elmo Public Works Team...they do a great job!	1/14/2024 2:25 PM
9	Some corn planted in park for animals	1/14/2024 2:24 PM
10	Youth baseball is a popular activity in this area, it would be great to see more baseball fields/facilities to support the program, fields that can accommodate the range in ages that play baseball. Thanks.	1/14/2024 8:51 AM
11	Need for more baseball fields for youth baseball	1/13/2024 11:34 PM
12	Please consider developing the next phase for Ivywood Park, especially given that the original budget amount wasn't spent and the provision of a \$50,000 gift from a resident.	1/13/2024 2:59 PM
13	improving field conditions would indeed be a top priority. Ensuring that the playing surface is well-maintained and safe not only enhances the overall experience for players but also minimizes the risk of injuries. A consistently well-groomed field can significantly improve gameplay quality and contribute to the longevity of players' careers by reducing the likelihood of avoidable injuries. Absolutely, enhancing both the field and surrounding structures would create a more inviting and functional space for families. A well-maintained field coupled with amenities like comfortable seating, clean facilities, and accessible play areas can attract families looking for recreational opportunities. This comprehensive approach encourages community engagement, promotes physical activity, and fosters a sense of belonging, making the park a desirable destination for families to play and exercise together.	1/13/2024 1:57 PM
14	Appreciate work done at sunfish lake Park	1/13/2024 7:20 AM
15	Would love an explanation about what is happening at DeMontreville Wildlife Park. Why are the trees getting plowed down and the walking trails disappearing?	1/12/2024 10:50 PM
16	Why is Lake Elmo Park Preserve not listed? We spend a ton of time at that park and would love a connection that is safe from Legac Northstar Development, so we could walk from here or bike. We also love all the trails that connect to our development and we use them daily. Including several times a week where we go and walk as many trails that connect 6-7 miles.	1/12/2024 7:36 PM
17	Lake Elmo has a great youth baseball program that has expanded with many kids and represents the city well. Unfortunately with the lack of baseball fields the program is forced to cut kids because there is not enough fields to make more teams as the program is maxed out on field space and availability.	1/12/2024 2:20 PM

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18	Now that I am retired from corporate life, I would like to get involved in helping to create, maintain, and promote community parks.	1/12/2024 1:35 PM
19	With the Royal golf course closing to the public, there's no longer a golf course or driving range in Lk Elmo	1/12/2024 1:03 PM
20	Removal of fields at tartan park have not been replaced in the area.	1/12/2024 12:44 PM
21	Have an established policy that requires park/public use land ratios to be set aside when future land is developed for residential or commercial use.	1/12/2024 11:22 AM
22	We appreciate all that lake Elmo does for our baseball teams. Thank you	1/12/2024 10:29 AM
23	The Pony Activity Center at the Stillwater high school does not serve our needs.	1/12/2024 10:07 AM
24	Need more baseball fields to accommodate all the LE teams.	1/12/2024 9:20 AM
25	no	1/11/2024 9:10 PM
26	Lake Elmo baseball is extremely important to a lot of families and we need more fields to accommodate the program	1/11/2024 5:55 PM
27	We moved to Lake Elmo specifically because it feels like a natural oasis- far enough away- close enough to commute- and ample peaceful outdoor space to connect with nature and ourselves. I truly hope that continues to be a priority for future planning so many more generations can appreciate its beauty.	1/11/2024 1:10 PM
28	Baseball fields. We've been to many other city baseball facilities with varying levels of amenities and space but Lake Elmo is at the bottom in comparison. Lions and VFW are okay but there should be additional fields added to that space and improvements made to the infrastructure to support a robust participation effort for Lake Elmo baseball.	1/11/2024 9:37 AM
29	Would use the parks much more often if there were more paths to them and between them	1/11/2024 9:34 AM
30	Safe sidewalks For kids/ runners / bikers would do wonders for the community!	1/11/2024 9:29 AM
31	Recent clearing around Demontreville Wildlife Park has radically changed the look, feel, and experience of walking those trails, in a very negative way. It feels very open, unnatural, and ugly. It is a real shame.	1/10/2024 8:31 PM
32	There needs to be more dedicated Pickleball courts to meet the demand that continues to grow in the school district. I love Lake Elmo, it's restaurants, and other small businesses.	1/10/2024 8:14 PM
33	Thanks for providing the new courts at Tablyn and pebble! They will be appreciated.	1/10/2024 7:57 PM
34	There needs to be a pedestrian/bike safe path along and across HWY 14 to downdown.	1/10/2024 7:37 PM
35	We lost baseball fields years back due to development. It's about time we give the kids the fields they deserve. Please!	1/10/2024 7:34 PM
36	Would love to see a splash pad.	1/10/2024 7:15 PM
37	Community center?	1/10/2024 6:45 PM
38	Bathrooms (other than porta potties) and access to drinking water would be so awesome at at least one of these locations.	1/10/2024 6:17 PM
39	There is probably 100 people daily who walk Demontreville Trail. It's a shame there is no walking path and that the 7 homeowners that live across the street from the lake were able to shoot down a wonderful opportunity for our community. So many people use this stretch to get down to the boat landing at the lake or walk or bike ride up to Demontreville Park. My kids and myself have almost been hit by cars. What an amazing thing that would be for our area!	1/10/2024 5:58 PM
40	More flat areas for kids to do soccer lessons.	1/10/2024 5:25 PM
41	I would like to see additional baseball fields made available to the community and Lake Elmo's baseball teams.	1/10/2024 4:38 PM
42	I would like to see more baseball fields/complexes in Lake Elmo to allow for the growth of the sport and the ability to host tournaments which in turn would boost the economy in Lake Elmo.	1/10/2024 4:14 PM
43	Thank you for all of your hard work!	1/10/2024 3:32 PM

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44	Thank you for having these wonderful parks	1/10/2024 3:17 PM
45	Captured most thoughts. Overall, more trails would be nice, similar to Woodbury's setup. They have a great trail system.	1/10/2024 3:13 PM
46	Lake Elmo has been building a dominate baseball program and with more fields, it can be an elite program in the state.	1/10/2024 2:58 PM
47	None	1/10/2024 2:09 PM
48	Lake Elmo would benefit from building additional baseball fields to help its growing Lake Elmo Baseball Association. They are limited in the number of teams that they can field due to the lack of field space.	1/10/2024 1:56 PM
49	We need more game useable baseball fields.	1/10/2024 1:17 PM
50	With the growing number of people in Lake Elmo our youth baseball program has more and more interest. It is a source of pride for families and a great way to represent Lake Elmo in the community. With the increasing number of kids playing Lake Elmo baseball there is an acute need for more competitive baseball fields. These are fields that the kids could use for games.	1/10/2024 1:11 PM
51	The city needs a way for residents to cool down during hot days like a splash pad.	1/10/2024 1:10 PM
52	Thank you for putting the mountain bike trails in Sunfish, lived very close to it for most of my life and never entered it until the biking went in, now almost every day in the summer months with my kids	1/10/2024 12:57 PM
53	More paved areas to connect the trails, paths and parks to ride bikes to them and strollers.	1/10/2024 12:21 PM
54	Please connect sidewalks to the larger parks, like Lake Elmo Park Reserve and Sunfish Lake Park	1/10/2024 12:14 PM
55	If you've walked to a park with a toddler in potty training (or any young child for that matter), you can appreciate the need for quick access to restroom facilities. Playgrounds are geared for little ones and it's frustrating as a parent that so many parks lack facilities for relief. If playgrounds are set to receive overhauls in our community, it would be nice for restrooms to be included in the conversation.	1/10/2024 11:59 AM
56	Tell the Sunfish Lake development that hording their trail around Sunfish lake is selfish.	1/10/2024 11:19 AM
57	Plow the paths in the winter and in the summer keep the invasive plants cut back, so our animals can use the bathroom without having a million pokey stickers on them.	1/10/2024 8:22 AM
58	Please plow the paved paths around Lake Ridge Crossing, Savona, Boulder Ponds and along 5th. We need a walkable loop!	1/10/2024 8:16 AM
59	Please plow and clear all Lake Elmo trails like the surrounding cities	1/9/2024 10:36 PM
60	I like the trail connection out of the Sunfish Hamlet Development to Tapestry Hill to get to Sunfish Park on my mountain bike. I live in Legendary of North Star Development. Would like to see the Sunfish Hamlet trails public.	1/9/2024 7:53 PM
61	None	1/9/2024 7:00 PM
62	No	1/9/2024 6:36 PM
63	Increase fees to cover additional cost	1/9/2024 6:32 PM
64	N/A	1/9/2024 6:20 PM
65	Thank you!	1/9/2024 3:24 PM
66	All of our neighboring city plow their paved trails. We nave to drive to Oakdale, Woodbury, or Stillwater to be active.	1/9/2024 3:16 PM
67	City should be responsible for maintaining trails/paths within and surrounding the parks instead of leaving it to residents/HOAs if the park is within a residential community.	1/9/2024 2:36 PM
68	Maintaining the trails or increasing paved paths will improve overall accessibility	1/9/2024 2:27 PM
69	Disappointed that Lake Elmo doesn't supply winter maintenance to trails like neighboring cities	1/9/2024 1:53 PM

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70	No basketball courts in south lake elmo parks, so we have to go to either Woodbury or up north	1/9/2024 1:38 PM
71	Sunfish Lake park upgrades have been great and are appreciated. If the possibility ever exists to acquire more open grassland/woods/marsh space for city park usage in a natural state it would be great. I know we are a small community and such space is limited, but open natural space that is not developed into oblivion is a great boon in my opinion.	1/9/2024 1:18 PM
72	Since 3m dumped all that toxic water and chemicals every house hold in Carriage Station should have the option to get reverse osmosis water installed for a small fee . It's literally PFAS water we are washing our clothes in etc .	1/9/2024 1:14 PM
73	Provide discounted (or free!) parking passes for residents to the Lake Elmo Park Reserve	1/9/2024 1:10 PM
74	Please allow for irrigation on the community baseball fields. This keeps the fields safe and playable for all.	1/9/2024 9:48 AM
75	Add more quality baseball fields	1/9/2024 7:56 AM
76	Need more ballfields	1/8/2024 8:04 PM
77	Wonderful area to live and nice quiet parks.	1/8/2024 7:42 PM
78	Great job with the parks. Would like to see better baseball fields including a town ball complex	1/8/2024 7:41 PM
79	Please attempt to keep parks as environmentally consistent to our natural habitat. It is sad to see our forest and opens spaces being destroyed for playgrounds/sport complexes when there are plenty of options in the cities surrounding Lake Elmo.	1/8/2024 7:40 PM
80	We need a baseball/softball complex	1/8/2024 7:34 PM
81	Too much development. Not enough practical park space.	1/8/2024 7:03 PM
82	Would be nice if it had adequate parking that is visible. Don't want to intrude on neighbors who feel like it's their neighborhood park only. I've seen Carriage station park but never brought my kids due to lack of a packing lot (at least a visible one).	1/8/2024 6:57 PM
83	How many times are these surveys going to come out....until you get the answers You want or actually listen to what the residents say the first time?!	1/8/2024 6:27 PM
84	Its time Lake Elmo quits thinking its a small farm community, those days are behind us. Plan for the future and spend money on infrasturcture. Parks are the backbone of a community, dont cut corners.	1/8/2024 4:10 PM
85	Splash Pad in Downtown Area!!!	1/8/2024 3:21 PM
86	Can the City prioritize and maintain those sidewalks/trails that lead to parks? Especially the winter multi purpose like Sunfish. Please communicate your priorities and intent better!	1/6/2024 8:38 AM
87	Why didn't you ask about the nature center and its use? It is clearly one of the most valuable parts of the park system.	1/6/2024 7:12 AM
88	Water for humans and dogs and restrooms smartly located along run/bike routes open as close to year-round would be greatly appreciated. There are water fountains at Lions Park, but they have never been functional for me.	1/5/2024 8:35 PM
89	How come Lake Elmo does not Maintain their Trails during Winter? Both Oakdale and Woodbury do. ADA laws require snow and ice removal in a reasonable time period after a snow/ice event.	1/4/2024 6:38 AM
90	Just curious in the parks listing, why is The Lake Elmo Park Reserve is not listed? This is the park I use the most. Is it because it is considered a county and not a city park?	1/3/2024 7:37 PM
91	Na	12/30/2023 8:37 AM
92	Thank you in advance for your prompt and diligent attention to these matters!	12/29/2023 7:17 PM
93	Past surveys have repeatedly shown that the community highly prioritizes an interconnected trail system to make it easier to walk and cycle around the city. Neighborhood planning must prioritize creating this network in all of our new developments and linking together trail systems existing ones even if it means getting tough on developers, home owners and HOAs.	12/26/2023 12:57 AM

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94	Woodbury and Oakdale are doing significant park planning and renewals. Lake Elmo can/should do much better given growth. Plan parks, fund parks. Establish a Park and Rec department so this gets the focus it needs	12/19/2023 8:29 AM
95	I would like to see more green spaces incorporated into the housing developments being added to LE. The prairie adjacent to Wild Flower community is a beautiful example of how natural area can enhance the feel of a neighborhood and bring well being to us all (I drive there to enjoy year round.)	12/18/2023 1:04 PM
96	Crossing highway 14 to go walking in the northern areas of Lake Elmo is dangerous. An elevated crossover walk bridge is needed.	12/18/2023 12:59 AM
97	Mental health/Seasonal anxiety— we need fresh air; please please please clear paths in the winter. I live in the Savona development and 5th along with paths aren't cleared:(12/14/2023 3:49 PM
98	None. Thanks	12/11/2023 3:45 PM
99	Make sure any new ball fields or complexes has enough parking. Keep in mind where overflow parking will go.	12/11/2023 2:14 PM
100	Can some communities within LE restrict use of their trails to their residents only, such as Whistler Valley?	12/9/2023 7:49 AM
101	Lake Elmo needs more trail access and infrastructure beginning at neighborhoods, connecting to busy streets, and then ultimately to city parks. I lived in other cities, and unfortunately, Lake Elmo is the least connected community I've been a resident of. It's a true safety hazard and deterrent to physical fitness when the only choice is to drive everywhere. I truly hope changes are made so future generations can experience a community connect by safe trails. The city needs to invest in maintaining trails too including plowing them in the winter months.	12/9/2023 12:04 AM
102	Glad you are working on this! Will be beneficial for our overall health and sense of community.	12/8/2023 7:01 PM
103	Lake Elmo has wonderful parks -- my family really appreciates them!	12/8/2023 6:44 PM
104	Would love to see hammock posts at Goose Lake Park, Hammes Park, Stonegate, Ivywood Parks for family park relaxation days. And more basketball courts (Ivywood looks like it could fit a basketball court)	12/8/2023 5:38 PM
105	No electric bikes should be allowed on mountain bike trails for safety reasons	12/8/2023 2:20 PM
106	I have many older friends who are afraid to walk in the parks now because of the mountain bikers and they terrorize through the woods.	12/5/2023 4:26 PM
107	The park I used the most is The Lake Elmo Park Reserve.	12/2/2023 7:59 PM
108	A path for bikes along Lake Jane Trail would be absolutely fantastic. We would like to walk to Lake Jane, but the narrow shoulder, relatively fast car traffic, and poor crossing access make us feel unsafe when trying to walk to the lake.	12/2/2023 3:19 AM
109	Be honest in your list of "parks". Some of them are land that could not be developed so they became a "park" without access or availability of activity, they are scenic in nature.	12/1/2023 11:09 PM
110	Make sure there are new bike/ walking trail options from parks to new interchange in 2025 at LE Ave and Hwy 36	12/1/2023 6:02 PM
111	Love to see the wide open spaces in LE and hoping it doesn't end up as congested as Woodbury.	11/30/2023 5:21 PM
112	Love the snow grooming done in lake elmo parks. Keep that up!	11/30/2023 2:17 PM
113	Pilot Park should have a gazebo and grills like other wonderful parks. It seems like Pilot Park was not designed correctly. Very sad.	11/30/2023 1:01 PM
114	Live in the field of St. Croix think it's ridiculous that we have a huge sign saying Tana Ridge Park. The park commission doesn't listen to residents .	11/29/2023 4:23 PM
115	No	11/29/2023 3:57 AM
116	Sad that the new development on co. Rd 17 near Lk Elmo Elementary doesn't have any parks.	11/28/2023 8:46 PM
117	I do not believe we are living up to the goals of the Comp Plan. I also believe the previous plan is quite serviceable, but it is just unused.	11/28/2023 8:08 PM

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118	Holden Todd (651) 707-6070 I would be happy to give anymore thoughts or input to be helpful :)	11/28/2023 7:03 PM
119	No	11/28/2023 6:27 PM
120	Lake elmo park reserve is a great asset to have close by.	11/28/2023 2:52 PM
121	I love Lake Elmo, and I would like to see bike paths that are protected and separate from the road for families to ride on that are safe from cars all throughout the city. I would like to connect to trails such at the Gateway and Central Greenway. This would improve the quality of life for all of our residents. It would encourage more exercising, reduce carbon footprint, and slow life down to a walk/biking experience. At the moment, our roads are deadly and I do not feel safe on them.	11/28/2023 11:34 AM
122	A park with an outside pool would be amazing. The swimming hole at LE Park Reserve is too creepy, always need to go searching for missing kid when I'm there.	11/28/2023 11:17 AM
123	Engage homeowners in proposed changes to parks that are directly located in residential areas (Such as Tana Ridge-playground is located in Fields of St Croix in close proximity to houses).	11/28/2023 11:03 AM
124	I would like to see a path that would connect the Wildlife sanctuary in Wildflower and the Fields of St Croix, phase 2. This would benefit all of our communities because it would connect all of the housing developments with the paths around the lake behind Tana Ridge and the Fields phase 2 and the Wildlife sanctuary. There area many people who would benefit from this connection. I sincerely hope this can happen.	11/28/2023 10:55 AM
125	Please consider making decisions based on logic and not a single decision that has to be rolled out to every park regardless of size or usage.	11/28/2023 10:23 AM
126	n/a	11/28/2023 10:20 AM
127	We appreciate the number of parks and would like to see them better maintained	11/28/2023 10:05 AM
128	no	11/28/2023 9:52 AM
129	Add more pickleball courts	11/28/2023 9:29 AM
130	No, thanks.	11/28/2023 9:27 AM
131	Lake Elmo parks are gems of the community and a destination for residents and visitors alike. Keep building on that and strive to have and keep the best parks in the greater metro area.	11/28/2023 9:17 AM
132	No	11/28/2023 9:12 AM
133	A one-size-fits-all approach to signage does not work. For parks that are off of busy roads, it makes sense to install a large sign. For parks that are in neighborhoods, where they are primarily used by residents in those neighborhoods, a large sign is unnecessary and ugly.	11/28/2023 9:10 AM
134	xc skate ski grooming in winter	11/25/2023 11:23 AM
135	I really enjoy Sunfish park!!	11/23/2023 5:52 PM
136	The playground equipment in Lion's park is not safe, it seems to have been installed at the incorrect height.	11/21/2023 4:13 PM
137	None. Thank you for addressing!!!	11/21/2023 1:08 PM
138	That there at too may developments and the city council has NO idea what they are doing. Keep lake Elmo beautiful and rural as much as possible! Please don't ruin it and turn it into Woodbury. Add more parks and trails but stop with the track home developments.	11/21/2023 1:03 PM
139	Please do not take all of the tennis courts away. I understand that pickleball is popular, but we are rapidly running out of decent surfaces to play on. Please consider making a warming area at one/more of the ice skating rinks. Changing kids into skates outside is nearly impossible, and kids get cold quickly. We would be able to spend much more time on outdoor recreation if there was a warming house at one of the facilities.	11/21/2023 12:34 PM
140	I feel like the majority of my comments center around the Parks, Trails & Open Space goal #6 outlined in Lake Elmo's 2040 Comprehensive Plan (with the friendly amendment that natural AND currently agricultural areas may warrant investigation to provide green and recreation space as the community develops) - PTOS Goal #6. Identify natural areas in the community that may warrant further investigation of potential protection as areas of the community	11/20/2023 9:32 PM

Lake Elmo Parks System Plan

develop. I would also like to see the City of Lake Elmo's park master plan make a strong case for advocating for the role of parks and trails in the City! I think the combination of rapid development (fastest growing city in MN!) and still plentiful undeveloped/unprotected land (mostly ag, but some forested areas too) does create a really unique and powerful moment for this Parks Master Plan to be created in. I'd love to see Lake Elmo have bold vision for for parks and trails which could propel Lake Elmo to being the *most livable* city in the state via a robust and ambitious park master plan!

141	It would be nice if adding something to make our quality. Things added have been of very low quality work and eye sores.	11/20/2023 9:43 AM
142	Set up times to visit each park and meet residents. Have specific work days when Park Commissioners and residents can volunteer to do projects at the parks . Like staining the warming house at Lions Park, planting and caring for newly planted trees. It was nice to see the new trash & recycling containers in the parks .	11/18/2023 11:10 AM
143	Four square lines sat more parks. Sustainable funding to continually improve park system.	11/18/2023 11:06 AM
144	Because I have not lived in the area long, I have not had ample opportunity to visit parks in Lake Elmo. However, I will be doing so. Outdoor space is important.	11/17/2023 11:23 PM
145	Use tartan park ball field money to build a multi field complex like was originally envisioned.	11/17/2023 10:06 PM
146	Would enjoy more basketball courts in general	11/17/2023 10:01 PM
147	I know that mountain biking has become popular (I even participate), but placing trails in Sunfish Lake Park was a terrible idea. The uniqueness of Sunfish Lake Park was its natural beauty and rural like quiet and peacefulness. That ambiance was ruined by the bike trails. Bike trails should have been built elsewhere.	11/17/2023 8:01 PM
148	We would like to see a disc golf course as our adult children and grandchildren play and it would great to stay local and not have to drive so far to play	11/17/2023 5:59 PM
149	Would like to see Basketball court at Ivywood, Stonegate, Hammes, or Goose Lake. Also ice skating rinks	11/17/2023 5:25 PM
150	Thank you!	11/17/2023 3:47 PM
151	N/A	11/16/2023 1:07 PM

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AMENITY PRIORITIES



What new amenities would you like to see added to Lake Elmo's Parks? (Select up to 4)

(Distribute the provided dots according to how you would prioritize each element)

Additional/New Walking Trails	
Fitness/Health Stations	
Inclusive Playgrounds	
Seasonal Use Facilities	
Multi-use courts (basketball, pickleball, etc.)	
Flat lawn/multi-use recreational space	
Additional vehicle parking	
Dog Park	
Functional game table (chess, checkers, ping pong)	
Wayfinding signage	
Other (please describe)	

stating in the conservancy!



Use and share this link to help us learn more: surveymonkey.com/r/7K2GT2R



COMMUNITY VISION

THE CITY OF
LAKE ELMO

What do you envision for the future of Lake Elmo's Parks System?

redesign/repair of Pebble Park (Hanus rise) d we love it! Thanks!

ARE TRAILS PLANNED DURING WINTER?

INTERCONNECTION OF TRAILS

Access to library post office is treacherous at worst need a safe way to cross Stillwater Blvd.

Better Crossings at Laverne Ave N & 14. Their residents be connected to downtown

Parking lot for Conservancy

Minnesota Park Systems are doing GREAT! Thank you

Regina Lince Elmo Elmo's Playground now in HAWKSPR

More Kid Sport events at the Parks

Better connections for walking/biking trails

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT IN DEVELOPING A TRAIL SYSTEM TO CONNECT THE NEIGHBORHOODS IN LAKE ELMO. WE ARE RUNNING EVERYTHING, BUT WINTER HAS A LITTLE CHALLENGE W/ LACK OF TRAILS OR PLANNED TRAILS. ARE YOU/COULD YOU TRAIL BUDGETS AND MANY MORE

More MTB trails at Lake Elmo Park Preserve -Gunnar

planning the city and park trails (walking ones) for each winter! Let's say in shape!!

Flow paths in Wildflower open area (even though city policy says no)

Outdoor Fitness Stations Along Walking Paths

Connecting trail systems (home between parks)

1) WATER CONNECT VARIOUS WALKING TRAIL CONNECTIONS
2) FLOW PAVED TRAILS IN WINTER
3) BETTER SAFER CR 14 / CR 17 PED CROSSINGS.

Lake Elmo prairie and wildlife refuge please take this recommendation in consideration

Splash Pad!

* bike lanes for trees

Labyrinth (quiet meditative area)

Path from Goose Lake Park connecting to L.E. Park Reserve

SAFETY CROSSING 14+17

Plow the paths more after snow

Continue Sidewalk on Stillwater Blvd from 30th St to Laverne (or Lake Elmo Ave)

More walking trails & paved

Adaptive Safe Fishlocks

safe + adaptive path for young people + park

Splash Pad

CROSS-WALKS

Benches for Conservancy

more walking trails

fishing docks

X WALKS

Parking at Conservancy

CITY OF LAKE ELMO

PARK SYSTEM PLAN

WHAT IS A PARK SYSTEM PLAN?

A **park system plan** is a document developed for use by a city to evaluate potential improvements to a city’s parks, trails, open spaces, and preserves. The document often involves the development of planning-level cost estimates of probable design and construction costs for potential improvements, as well as the identification and alignment of resources to effectively make those improvements.

Welcome! Thank you for stopping by to discuss the future of the Lake Elmo parks and trails. **Lake Elmo is looking to plan the future of the park and trail system, and we need your help to make it happen!** This pop-up event invites residents to interact with the planning team to share your thoughts on the prioritization of park, facility, connectivity, open space and preserves, and operations and maintenance recommendations. **Happy Arbor Day!**

WE ARE HERE

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Task	1. Project Coordination and Kickoff		2. Inventory and Analysis			3. Priority Recommendations			4. Final Document	
Advisory Committee			Kickoff Meeting		Review Needs Assessment		Confirm Recommended Improvements		Final Plan Review	
Community Engagement			Online Survey	Pop-Up Event Light Up Lake Elmo Saturday December 2				Pop-Up Event Arbor Day Tree Giveaway	Parks Commission	Adopt Plan City Council
	Online Project Updates									



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

KEY FINDINGS

1. **Additional/upgraded baseball facilities are desired for game play**
2. **More trails and greater connectivity are highly desired by the community**
3. **The southeastern-most portion of Lake Elmo has the most limited access to parks.**
4. **More access to winter recreation options are desired (plowed trails, rinks, etc.)**
5. **Generally, park acreage and distribution are good.**
6. **Getting to parks can be challenging (connectivity, wayfinding, information, etc.)**
7. **Updating of play equipment would improve user experience**

Top 5 Priorities for the City to Focus on Improving



Additional/New
Walking
Trails



Creation of
Multi-Use
Courts



Additional
Seasonal Use
Facilities



Added Dog Park
Facilities



Inclusive
Playground
Equipment

Total # of Survey Respondents

552!



Total Responses

Top Organized Sports Participation

Baseball/Softball

81.7% (89 out of 109 respondents)

Top Informal Sports Participation

Pickleball

72.9% (54 out of 74 respondents)

Most Participated in Activities and Events at Parks



1st

Using walking & running trails



2nd

Using park playgrounds



3rd

Dog walking



4th

Organized sports teams/leagues



5th

Informal sports (pick-up games)

Other common activities include:

- Bike riding
- Relaxing
- Bird watching
- Picnic/Grilling

Parks Visited Most Often by Survey Respondents

1

Sunfish
Lake Park

2

Lions
Park

3

Reid
Park

4

Pebble
Park

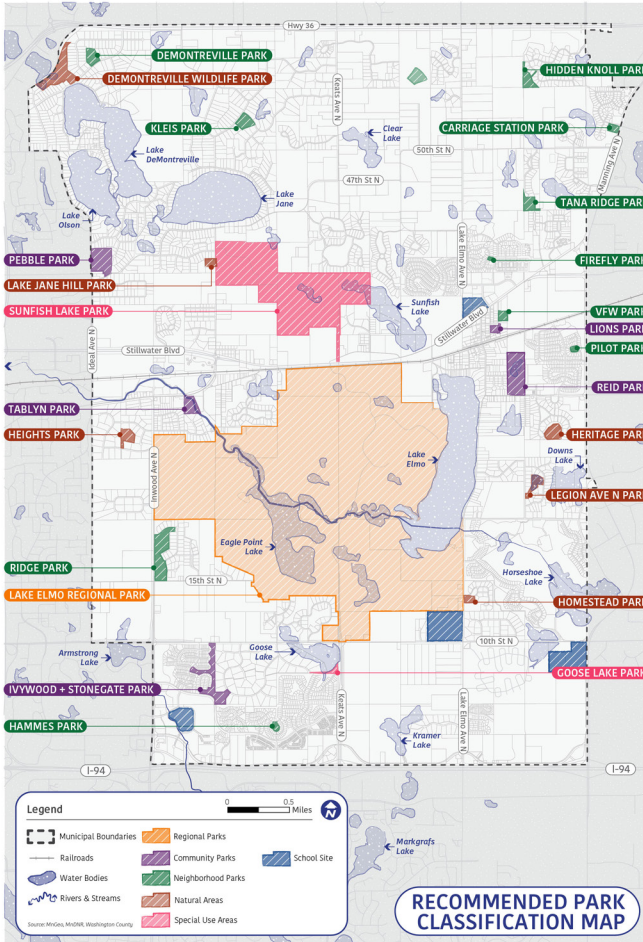
5

Carriage
Station
Park

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

HOW DO YOU THINK THESE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED?

HELP US OUT BY PLACING A GREEN, ORANGE AND RED DOT BESIDE EACH RECOMMENDATION BELOW!



PARKS

PRIORITY LEVEL

- Combine Ivywood and Stonegate Parks into one park, working with the community to evaluate the addition of off-street parking and recreational amenities
- Develop Lions Park as Lake Elmo's destination community park
 - » Maximize its functionality as a community gathering place for larger events and strengthen its connection to downtown



FACILITIES

PRIORITY LEVEL

- Look at adding a special facility to meet the needs of tweens, teens, and young adults; consider a challenge course facility, skate park, or disc golf course
- Provide reservable shelters with electricity in all community parks, including:
 - » Goose Lake Park
 - » Ivywood + Stonegate Park
 - » Lions Park
 - » Pebble Park
 - » Tablyn Park

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

HOW DO YOU THINK THESE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED?

HELP US OUT BY PLACING A GREEN, ORANGE AND RED DOT BESIDE EACH RECOMMENDATION BELOW!



HIGH
PRIORITY



MEDIUM
PRIORITY



LOW
PRIORITY

CONNECTIVITY

PRIORITY LEVEL

- Implement a snow removal plan for trails
- Explore opportunities to pilot a mobility-device charging station at a key trail connection location
- Look for opportunities to develop trail loops of different lengths throughout the community and in certain strategically chosen parks
- Increase awareness and understanding of the trail system by developing and publicizing online and paper trail maps
- Explore opportunities to develop trailheads

OPEN SPACES + PRESERVES

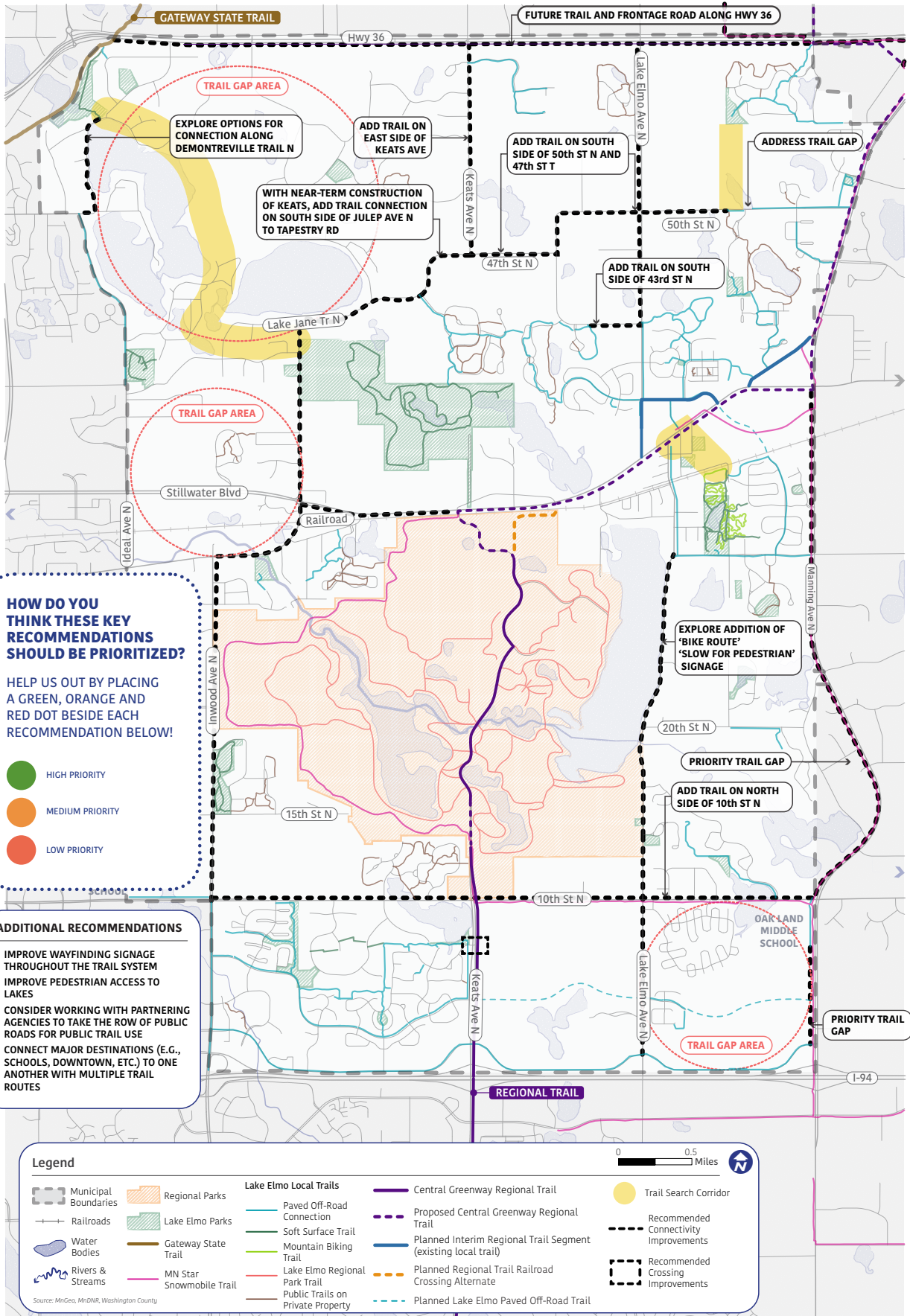
PRIORITY LEVEL

- Provide a distributed network of open space preserves and limit development in these areas to walking paths and seating to support passive uses
 - » Classify the following parks to be natural areas:
 - * DeMontreville Wildlife Park
 - * Heights Park
 - * Heritage Park
 - * Homestead Park
 - * Lake Jane Hills Park
 - * Legion Ave N Parks
- Proactively manage invasive species in the preserves by encouraging volunteer efforts for management, monitoring, funding, and control
- Increase biodiversity and habitat with the use of native and native-cultivar plantss
 - » Find ways to convert turf grass areas to more naturalized conditions

OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE

PRIORITY LEVEL

- Explore partnerships to supplement the city's capacity for maintenance, programming, and improvements
 - » Explore opportunities for revenue generation
 - » Explore opportunities for the use of volunteers to support maintenance or programs
 - » Investigate the use of bonds or tax levies to support the system
 - » Work with private property owners who may be interested in donating land or granting easements
- Explore the creation of a dedicated Parks and Forestry departments
- Explore the addition of a programming manager to activate parks

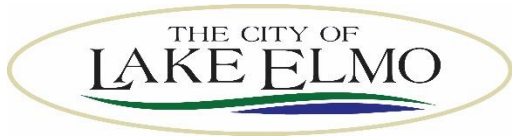


APRIL 2024

LAKE ELMO PARK SYSTEM PLAN

ARBOR DAY TREE GIVEAWAY EVENT





STAFF REPORT

DATE: 05/20/2024

MOTION

AGENDA ITEM: Lions Park – Multiuse Courts

TO: Parks Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Adam Swanepoel, Assistant Public Works Director

REVIEWED BY: Marty Powers, Public Works Director

BACKGROUND:

As part of the March 19, 2018 Parks Commission Meeting a proposal was brought forward and discussed with the recommendation of the Parks Commission to transform the existing tennis court area into a multi-use Pickle Ball and Hockey Rink with boards which encompassed the area. This proposal was approved by City Council and construction was completed in 2019.

In the past two years staff have had an increase in the number of complaints regarding the conditions of the pickle ball courts at Lions Park which included cracking of the surface and peeling of the color coating. In April, 2024 staff removed one of the playing nets from the area due to the surface causing a tripping hazard. Staff noticed under the surface layer of paint was also a deteriorating layer of asphalt. C&H Sport Surfacing provided the city with a review of the courts. It was noted, deterioration of the asphalt will likely continue and resurfacing the courts with paint would not hold up.

Using the area as an ice rink in the winter and pickle ball courts in the summer has created issues with the pickle ball surface and underlying asphalt. The freeze and thawing action of the ice during our winter months causes the current cracks to become larger and more define in a short period of time. In order to hold water in the rink, the center drain is plugged in the winter months. This causes the water to sit on the surface longer and go through the freeze/thaw cycle for an extended period of time. Staff suggests using the area for only one sport to minimize court damage.

ISSUE BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

What would the parks commission recommend to do with the multi-use area?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

The pickle ball courts at Lions Park have been heavily used since their install in 2019 and the sport has seen a large increase in the amount of players. The city currently has one other pair of pickle ball courts in Ivywood Park and is awaiting the completion of 10 additional courts in Pebble and Tablyn Parks before June. Benefits of keeping pickle ball in Lions Park is the ability to have lighting in early summer and fall and its proximity to the downtown area. Pickle ball courts have minimal maintenance for staff. Set up and removal of the nets in the spring and fall

along with weekly garbage pickup. Courts should be resurfaced every 5-7 years, cost to resurface the area could cost \$10,000-\$14,000.

Currently Lions Park is the only city owed ice rink within our parks system. In the past staff has flooded additional areas near the rink to make for an additional pleasure rink. Benefits of keeping the rink is the lighted area and Dasher Boards for the use of hockey. Keeping the area as an ice rink has more associated maintenance cost. Flooding of the rink takes up to several days of staff time in the early mornings to establish good ice and then routine flooding a fewtimes a week to maintain a top layer of ice for skating. Each year staff can use 10,000 gal of water to fill the rink for its first use. Snow removal from the rink is normally completed 1-2 days after a snowfall and depends on staff availability, the season temperatures and snow fall totals.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Costs of utilizing the court for one sport may vary over time. Commissioners should consider future funding to resurface the area as soon as 2025 if the intent is to keep it for pickle ball use. If the intention is to keep the area hockey, Public Works would be making changes in 2025, which would include PW labor and equipment, disposal of the existing asphalt, the use of our existing millings stock pile and some additional class 5 lime rock on the surface to lessen the dark color that the sun would use to melt ice. Estimated cost for this would not exceed \$5000 and would be funded from Public Works Operating Expenses

Keeping the area for pickle ball only could cost up to \$75,000 the first year and an additional \$10,000 - \$14,000 every 7 years. Due to the deteriorating the surface layer, staff would suggest milling the top wear course of the asphalt and resurfacing the playing areas.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Utilizing the area as an Ice Rink Only.

Making use of the area as an ice rink only will eliminate the cost of resurfacing the area every 5-7 years. Staff would cap the center drain, remove the asphalt and fill the area flat with aggregate material. This will provide a flat area to make ice and eliminate the soft spot which is created by the drain.

Option 2: Resurface for Pickle ball only

Utilizing the area for pickle ball only will reduce staff time and reduce water use. Staff would contract a firm to mill the wear layer, repave the courts followed by resurfacing the area.

RECOMMENDATION:

“Recommend to City Council Option “_____” for the mulituse area at lions park.



STAFF REPORT

DATE: 05/20/2024

MOTION

TO: Parks Commission

AGENDA ITEM: 2025-2034 Parks CIP

SUBMITTED BY: Adam Swanepoel, Assistant Public Works Director

REVIEWED BY: Marty Powers, Public Works Director

BACKGROUND:

A Capital Improvement Program, or CIP, is a multi-year capital expenditure plan for a City's infrastructure (such as streets, parks and utility systems), equipment and public buildings. The CIP identifies the major projects needed and desired by the community, their potential costs and how they would be financed. A project or purchase identified and budgeted through the CIP does not commit the City to that project. The City Council must specifically authorize each one and the associated funding for the expenditure before any project may proceed. When the CIP is reviewed (ideally annually, in conjunction with the budgeting process) projects may go forward as planned, advance ahead of schedule, be removed entirely, or new projects may be added. These adjustments are dependent upon changes in circumstances and priorities.

The Minnesota Land Planning Act requires that the implementation plan portion of the Comprehensive Plan include a CIP for major infrastructure needs (transportation, wastewater, water supply, parks and open space) for a five-year time period. Cities often expand the scope of their CIPs to include other capital needs (major equipment replacements, for example) and sometimes look beyond the five-year time period, up to 20 years in the future for some projects. Such projects represent more of a "wish-list" that can be evaluated each time the plan is updated.

As a part of the Comprehensive Plan, the CIP has some legal standing. Minnesota Statutes Chapter 473.865 provides that "a local governmental unit shall not adopt any official control or fiscal device which is in conflict with its comprehensive plan." A fiscal device includes a budget or bond issue; so it is important that the plan and CIP be kept up to date and in synch with city budgets.

The primary benefit of a CIP is as a financial planning tool, to help the City plan for the impact of capital needs on future budgets and property taxes, and to help forecast the need for borrowing to undertake major projects. The information developed as part of the capital planning process can help document the need for various projects and help the City Council sort out competing priorities.

Lake Elmo's CIP includes all capital projects that cost at least \$25,000 and have a useful life span of five years or longer.

ISSUE BEFORE COMMISSION:

What park improvements would the Commission like recommend in the 2025-2034 CIP?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

The following items carry over from the 2024-2033 CIP and address the next five years of CIP items:

Dedication Funds

1. New Ballfields Grants/ Donations **(\$1,000,000)**
2. Central Greenway Regional Trail **(\$300,000)**
4. Stonegate Park- Play equipment replacement 2027. (3) **(\$125,000)**
5. Carraige Station- Play equipment replacement 2028. (3) **(\$125,000)**
6. Ridge Park – Play equipment replacement 2026. (3) **(\$125,000)**
7. Klies Playground Replacement 2025. (3) **(\$65,000)**
8. Tablyn Park Play equipment replacement 2026 (3) **\$(95,000)**
9. Lions Park Concession Building updates 2027. (3) **(\$65,000)**
10. Court Resurfacing 2026. (3) **(\$30,000)**

Staff recommends adjusting and adding the following to the 2024-2033 CIP:

1. Reid Park Parking lot **2025** (3) - \$227,000
-Replace existing pavement & Curb, increase parking area and reconstruct trail from 30th to the ballfield.
2. Increase Lions Park Play Equipment Replacement by \$125,000 move up - **2026** (3) Total: \$250,000
-Larger playset for central park location
3. Move PR-046 Outdoor Fitness Park to **2026**.
- Find suitable location with use of PMP.
4. Increase Utility Vehicle/Trail groomer by \$10,000. **2026** (3) Total: \$50,000
-Due to increase in product
5. Add Pavilion/Trails/Basketball to Tablyn Park Playground Replacement. **2026** (3) \$210,000
-Make project to include additional items in one year vs multiple.
6. Increase Lions Park Concession Building Updates by \$210,000. - **2027** (2) Total: \$275,000
-Make appropriate ADA bathrooms and make needed improvements to the concession area and building
7. Increase Carriage Station Play Equipment replacement by \$125,000 - **2028** (4) Total \$250,000
-Multiple playsets and include concrete boarder
8. Court Resurfacing **2030** (3) - \$30,000
-Resurface pickle ball courts which were installed in 2024
9. Trail Connection from Wildflower into Tana Ridge. **2029** (4) \$200,000
-Acquire easement or land to construct a trail connection.
10. Park Entrance Sign replacement. **2030** (4) \$225,000
-Redesign Park entrance sign for all city parks

Other Items? If there are other items that the Parks Commission would like to see added or removed in the 2024-2033 CIP they should be identified at this time. The Commission should also assign a priority to each project, both new and existing based upon the following framework:

1. Critical or urgent, high-priority projects that should be done if at all possible; a special effort should be made to find sufficient funding for all of the projects in this group.
2. Very important, high-priority projects that should be done as funding becomes available.
3. Important and worthwhile projects if funding is available; may be deferred to a subsequent year.
4. Less important, low-priority projects; desirable but not essential.
5. Future Consideration.

When determining a project, the Commission should keep in mind the requirements set out in the City Code.

Section 154.15 (F) Park Dedication Fund

(1) A cash contribution paid to the City shall be placed in a special fund. The money shall be used only for:

- (a) The acquisition and development or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands or open space based on the approved park systems plan;*
- (b) Redevelopment or rehabilitation of existing park facilities or sites; or*
- (c) Debt service in connection with land previously acquired or improvements thereto previously constructed.*

(2) No funds shall be used for ongoing operation or maintenance of existing parks recreational facilities or sites or City vehicles.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Expected funds in 2024

- Royal Golf 6 – \$173,246
 - North Star – \$218,876 (entire development)
 - At Home* – \$169,220
 - Bridgewater* - \$247,360
-

TOTAL: \$ 808,702.00

Park Dedication Fund Balance as of May 1st 2024 \$2,793,471.23 *(This does not include “Expected Funds”)*

* Roll Over Prairie Skies since they would be making payments in 2024 they didn’t pay in 2023.

OPTIONS:

- 1.) Parks Commission can adjust, remove or identify additional projects to add to the 2025-2034 CIP.
- 2.) Recommend the CIP as proposed to City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

“Motion to recommend the 2025-2034 Parks Capital Improvement Plan to City Council”

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2024-2033 Draft Capital Improvement Plan for Parks

Appendix D

The park inventory with addresses and amenities are located in the 2040 Comprehensive Parks Plan.

The list of parks in Lake Elmo:

Carriage Station	Lake Elmo Park Reserve	St. Croix's Sanctuary
DeMontreville	Lake Jane Hills	Stonegate
DeMontreville Wildlife	Legion Ave N (unnamed)	Sunfish Lake
Heights	Lions	Tablyn
Heritage	Pebble	Tana Ridge
Homestead	Reid	VFW
Kleis	Ridge	

Appendix E

City of Lake Elmo, Minnesota
Capital Improvement Plan - 2024 - 2033
Data in Year 2024 and 2033

PROJECTS BY YEAR - Parks

Project Name	Department	Project #	Project Cost
2024			
New or Refurbished Ballfields	Parks and Recreation	PR-017	1,000,000
Dog Park	Parks and Recreation	PR-019	25,000
Pebble Park Playground Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-022	125,000
Demontreville Park Playground Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-023	125,000
Additional Sand Volleyball Courts	Parks and Recreation	PR-041	30,000
Tablyn Parking Lot Extension	Parks and Recreation	PR-042	75,000
Total for 2024			1,380,000
2025			
Kleis Park Playground - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-027	65,000
Outdoor Fitness Park	Parks and Recreation	PR-046	30,000
Total for 2025			95,000
2026			
Utility Vehicle/Trail Groomer	Parks and Recreation	PR-020	40,000
Tablyn Park Play Equipment - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-029	95,000
Ridge Park Play Equipment - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-032	125,000
Trail Additions	Parks and Recreation	PR-038	78,000
Court Resurfacing	Parks and Recreation	PR-040	30,000
Total for 2026			368,000
2027			
Stonegate Park Play Equipment - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-030	125,000
Lions Park Concession Building Updates	Parks and Recreation	PR-043	65,000
Total for 2027			190,000

2028

Central Greenway Regional Trail	Parks and Recreation	PR-009	520,000
Carriage Station Park Play Equipment - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-036	125,000
Total for 2028			645,000

2029

Skate Park	Parks and Recreation	PR-044	150,000
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Parks and Recreation	PR-045	30,000
Disk Golf	Parks and Recreation	PR-047	30,000
Central Play Complex	Parks and Recreation	PR-048	300,000
Total for 2029			510,000

2030

Tana Ridge Park Play Equipment - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-028	125,000
Lions Park Playground Equipment Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-039	100,000

Total for 2030 225,000

2032

Hidden Knoll Park Play Equipment - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-034	125,000
Total for 2032			125,000

2033

Reid Park Play Equipment - Replacement	Parks and Recreation	PR-031	125,000
Total for 2033			125,000

GRAND TOTAL 3,663,000

Source	#	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
Park Dedication Fund												
Central Greenway Regional Trail	PR-009					520,000						520,000
Dog Park	PR-019	25,000										25,000
Pebble Park Playground Replacement	PR-022	125,000										125,000
Demontreville Park Playground Replacement	PR-023	125,000										125,000
Kleis Park Playground - Replacement	PR-027		65,000									65,000
Tana Ridge Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-028							125,000				125,000
Tablyn Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-029			95,000								95,000
Stonegate Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-030				125,000							125,000
Reid Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-031										125,000	125,000
Ridge Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-032			125,000								125,000
Hidden Knoll Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-034									125,000		125,000
Carriage Station Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-036					125,000						125,000
Trail Additions	PR-038	78,000										78,000
Lions Park Playground Equipment Replacement	PR-039							100,000				100,000
Court Resurfacing	PR-040			30,000								30,000
Additional Sand Volleyball Courts	PR-041	30,000										30,000
Tablyn Parking Lot Extension	PR-042	75,000										75,000
Lions Park Concession Building Updates	PR-043				65,000							65,000
Skate Park	PR-044						150,000					150,000
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	PR-045						30,000					30,000
Outdoor Fitness Park	PR-046	30,000										30,000
Disk Golf	PR-047						30,000					30,000
Central Play Complex	PR-048						300,000					300,000
Park Dedication Fund Total		488,000	65,000	250,000	190,000	645,000	510,000	225,000		125,000	125,000	2,623,000

Parks and Recreation

Central Greenway Regional Trail	PR-009					520,000						520,000
New or Refurbished Ballfields	PR-017	1,000,000										1,000,000
Dog Park	PR-019	25,000										25,000
Utility Vehicle/Trail Groomer	PR-020			40,000								40,000
Pebble Park Playground Replacement	PR-022	125,000										125,000
Demontreville Park Playground Replacement	PR-023	125,000										125,000
Kleis Park Playground - Replacement	PR-027		65,000									65,000
Tana Ridge Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-028							125,000				125,000
Tablyn Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-029			95,000								95,000
Stonegate Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-030				125,000							125,000
Reid Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-031										125,000	125,000
Ridge Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-032			125,000								125,000
Hidden Knoll Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-034									125,000		125,000
Carriage Station Park Play Equipment - Replacement	PR-036					125,000						125,000
Trail Additions	PR-038			78,000								78,000
Lions Park Playground Equipment Replacement	PR-039							100,000				100,000
Court Resurfacing	PR-040			30,000								30,000
Additional Sand Volleyball Courts	PR-041	30,000										30,000
Tablyn Parking Lot Extension	PR-042	75,000										75,000
Lions Park Concession Building Updates	PR-043				65,000							65,000
Skate Park	PR-044						150,000					150,000
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	PR-045						30,000					30,000
Outdoor Fitness Park	PR-046		30,000									30,000
Disk Golf	PR-047						30,000					30,000
Central Play Complex	PR-048						300,000					300,000

Department	Project #	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	Total
Parks and Recreation Total		1,380,000	95,000	368,000	190,000	645,000	510,000	225,000		125,000	125,000	3,663,000
Grants/Donation		1,000,000										1,000,000
Park Dedication Fund		488,000	65,000	250,000	190,000	645,000	510,000	225,000		125,000	125,000	2,623,000
Vehicle Replacement Fund				40,000								40,000
Parks and Recreation Total		1,488,000	65,000	290,000	190,000	645,000	510,000	225,000		125,000	125,000	3,663,000