

Chapter 6

Parks

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- ◆ Background
- ◆ Community Input
- ◆ Goals, Objectives, and Policies
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- ◆ Implementation

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photo by City staff



Section 1: Introduction

GOLDEN Valley’s parks and open spaces are essential recreational and natural resources that keep property values high, preserve certain areas for scenic and utilitarian qualities, and maintain a positive image for the community’s neighborhoods. This chapter of Golden Valley’s Comprehensive Plan includes a park and open space map and general goals and policies. Together they will guide future park development and open space preservation and enhancement.

Need For A Plan

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

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



photo by City staff

An egret enjoys the wetlands at the General Mills Nature Preserve.

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

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

Current Park And Open Space System

The City of Golden Valley currently owns, operates, and maintains approximately 522 acres of parks, special use facilities, nature areas, and public open space. Of this, 167

acres are in community and neighborhood parks, 156 acres in nature areas, and 155 acres are in the Brookview Golf Course and the Honeywell Little League area (special use facilities), and 44 acres in public open space. Excluding the special use facilities and open space, the City of Golden Valley has 323 acres of public park property, or 15 acres per 1,000 residents.

Open spaces are more broadly defined than parks. They include uses such as parks, nature areas, golf courses, ball fields, playgrounds, wetlands, and storm ponding areas.

Current Park Classification

The City has categorized its public recreation areas to provide for two principle forms of activities—active use in community/neighborhood parks, and passive use in nature areas. Each park in the system has been classified based on guidelines used by the National Recreation and Park Association (Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, 1995):

- ♦ **Community Park:** Larger, active play area providing for a greater variety of play experiences and activities.
- ♦ **Neighborhood Park:** Active area designed for intensive use by children and family groups close to home and affording opportunities for informal recreation and possibly some scheduled activities for all ages.
- ♦ **Special Use Facilities:** Includes play lots, squares and plazas, public beaches, swimming pools, parkway systems, golf course facilities, greenbelts, drainage ways, trails, and any other facilities for which standards are difficult to formulate. The number, location, and distribution of Special Use Facilities depend on several factors, including physical conditions, natural amenities, opportunities for acquisition, and public demand. Their location and size is variable and dependent on specific use.
- ♦ **Nature Area/Open Space:** Public land set aside for preservation of natural resources and visual aesthetics/buffering, which may include areas for trails and other passive recreation uses.
- ♦ **Regional Park:** Large park area providing broad expanses of natural scenery and capable of accommodating large numbers of people. It often includes special facilities of area-wide interest.

Park Locations And Acreage

Golden Valley’s park system was developed with neighborhoods in mind. Attractive park facilities (community and neighborhood parks) and nature areas are located throughout the City to maximize the number of residents who are near a recreational area.

Table 6.1 describes the City’s existing park system. This includes park classification, location, and size. Each facility is located on the park and open space map, Figure 6.1.

Other Parks, Recreation Facilities, And Open Spaces

In addition to City-owned open spaces and park facilities, Golden Valley residents have access to many other recreational areas. Theodore Wirth Regional Park (owned and maintained by the Minneapolis Park Board but largely located in the City of Golden Valley) has 517 acres in Golden Valley. Also, the City has agreements with General Mills, Independent School District #281, Breck School, the Perich Center for Arts Education, and the Hidden Lakes Ho-

meowners Association (Sweeney Lake Park), which add another 106 acres for resident use. In total, there are approximately 1,144 acres of property available for public use in Golden Valley.

Urban Trails

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

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

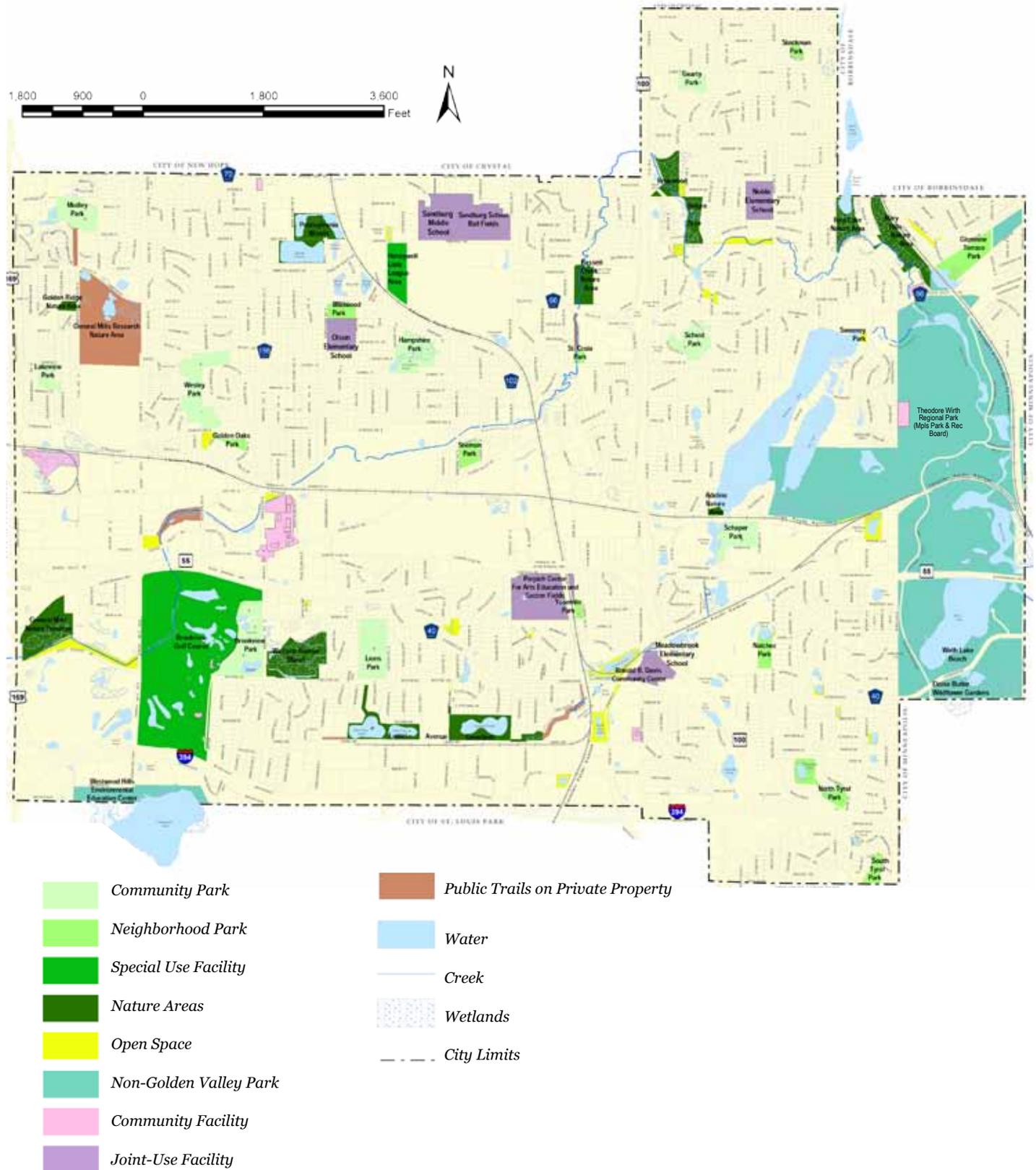
The Transportation Plan in Chapter 7 provides a more detailed study with additional goals, policies, and recommendations for future trail improvements. 🏡

Table 6.1: Existing Parks & Open Spaces

Community Parks					
Park	Location	Acres			
Brookview Park	200 Brookview Pkwy	33.0			
Gearty Park	3101 Regent Ave N	4.7			
Hampshire Park	1610 Louisiana Ave N	14.0			
Lakeview Park	1521 Hillsboro Ave N	5.0			
Lion’s Park	151 Louisiana Ave N	19.0			
Medley Park	2331 Ensign Ave N	12.6			
Schaper Park	631 Ottawa Ave N	11.3			
Scheid Park	1856 Toledo Ave N	9.8			
Wesley Park	8305 Wesley Dr	19.9			
Neighborhood Parks			Special Use Facilities		
Park	Location	Acres	Park	Location	Acres
Glenview Terrace Park	2351 Zenith Ave N	5.0	Brookview Golf Course	200 Brookview Pkwy	143.5
Golden Oaks Park	1141 Valders Ave N	2.0	Honeywell Little League Area	7101 Sandburg Rd	11.0
Natchez Park	201 Natchez Ave N	5.0			
North Tyrol Park	900 Westwood Ave N	9.4	Nature Areas/Open Space		
Seeman Park	1101 Florida Ave N	4.6	Park	Location	Acres
South Tyrol Park	1501 Kaltern Lane	3.6	Adeline Nature Area	Adeline Lane & Angelo Dr	1.2
Stockman Park	330 Major Ave	1.5	Bassett Creek Nature Area	2130 Zane Ave N	7.6
St Croix Park	631 Ottawa Ave N	1.4	Briarwood Nature Area	2500 Unity Ave	15.8
Wildwood Park	7401 Duluth St	4.2	General Mills Nature Preserve	9201 Olson Memorial Hwy	27.0
Yosemite Park	3501 Yosemite Ave N	1.4	Golden Ridge Nature Area	Earl St & Flag Ave N	1.6
			Laurel Ave Greenbelt	6600 Laurel Ave S	33.1
			Mary Hills Nature Area	2190 Bonnie Lane	15.7
			Pennsylvania Woods	2301 Rhode Island Ave N	22.9
			Rice Lake Nature Area	4120 Bassett Creek Dr	9.0
			Western Ave Marsh	Western Ave & Winnetka Ave	21.6
			Miscellaneous Open Space	Various	44.0

photo by City staff

Figure 6.1: Parks and Open Space



Date: December 7, 2007

Sources: SEH, Hennepin County Surveyors Office for Property Lines (2006), Wetlands - National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), City of Golden Valley for all other layers



photo by City staff

Section 2: Background

THE City of Golden Valley is a well established first ring suburb located in Hennepin County. It is bordered by New Hope, Crystal, and Robbinsdale to the north, Minneapolis to the east, St Louis Park to the south and west, and Plymouth to the west.

Natural History

Watershed

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

Soils

Golden Valley soils are predominately of the Hayden-Cordova-Peaty muck and the Hayden-Peaty muck associations. The Hayden-Cordova-Peaty muck association is derived from glacial till and occurs in nearly level to gently rolling topographic settings. Its soils range from well-drained Cordova soils on hills and knolls to poorly drained peaty soils on swales and flats. The association occurs primarily in the southern half of Golden Valley, including and extending southwards from the Bassett Creek floodplain.



photo by City staff

Vegetation abounds at Bassett Creek Nature Area.

The Hayden-Peaty muck association is also derived from glacial till and occurs in rolling hills and steep topographic areas with poorly drained depressions. Its soils are well-drained where topography is present and poorly drained organic soils where there are depressions. The association occurs in the northern half of the city, north of the Bassett Creek floodplain.

Topography

Golden Valley is mostly located within glacial outwash soils associated with the Anoka Sandplain, comprised of well-sorted outwash sediments. The northern and western portions of Golden Valley are found on the glacial deposits of the Pine City moraine with poorly sorted, clay-based till deposits. Typically, areas in Golden Valley with rolling topography and steep hills occur on the moraine and areas with lower relief and flat topography occur on the outwash soils.

Pre-settlement Vegetative Communities

Before settlement, the dominant vegetative communities in Golden Valley

were native prairie, oak woodlands and savannas, and marshes and floodplain habitats. After settlement and before establishment of the City Charter, the majority of the landscape was open farmland and fields.

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

City History

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

The ship playground at Brookview Park in 1979.

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

Early Park Planning

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

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

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



photo from City archives

Beginning in 1970, the Village shifted emphasis from active park acquisition and development to the acquisition and preservation of natural areas within the city, with the first acquisition of the Rice Lake area. In 1972, the Park and Recreation Commission began evaluating natural and open space areas for possible classification of parks. The 1970s also saw a flurry of development activity due to a suc-

cessful bond issue that enabled the Park and Recreation Department to complete the park system, which included 19 parks and the beginning of an urban trail system. In 1979, the City Council changed the name of the Park and Recreation Commission to the Open Space and Recreation Commission.

Since the 1970s, the focus of the Open

Space and Recreation Commission and the Park and Recreation Department has been to develop, maintain, and upgrade existing parks and special use facilities while continuing to identify and acquire high-quality nature areas to be added to the park system. As of 1999, the City of Golden Valley had a total of 462 acres of parks and open space, with 24 parks and nine nature areas. 

photo by City staff



Section 3: Community Input

COMMUNITY input and participation is the key to successful park and open space planning. Community needs, desires, and concerns are important in determining future priorities for park and facilities development and open space preservation.

Gathering Community Input

The City used a number of community outreach initiatives while preparing this Comprehensive Plan update to discuss park use, facilities, and maintenance issues.

Envision Golden Valley

Envision Golden Valley inspired citizens to contemplate the meaning of community, then come together with ideas for the future of Golden Valley to develop a community vision. Hundreds of citizens participated through surveys, focus groups, and brainstorming sessions. The result was a shared community vision expressed as “Creatively Connecting People and Places, and Inspiring Care For Community.” The resulting vision statement for recreation: “Golden Valley nurtures places, events, and associations that maintain recreation as a focal point of family and community life.” The complete report is available at City Hall.

Community-Wide Telephone Survey

The City of Golden Valley commissioned Decision Resources, Ltd to conduct a community-wide survey in 2006. Professional interviewers polled 400 residents by telephone on a

range of community issues, including questions regarding the City's parks and recreation opportunities (survey results are available at City Hall).

Survey results demonstrated that the majority of respondents felt the City's existing facilities and mix of parks and recreation programs met the needs of their households. The most popular recreation programs noted were soft-ball/baseball, soccer, children's activities, and golf. When asked, "Do you or members of your household currently leave the city for park and recreation activities," 22 percent of respondents said yes. The top two cited destinations outside Golden Valley were swimming pools and lakes.

Park Planning Citizen Survey

The Open Space and Recreation Commission prepared a Park Planning Citizen Survey with questions focused on overall quality, safety, and use of the City's parks and recreation programs. Participants received the surveys at open houses, the City's Web site, and in the City newsletter.

In general, the majority of respondents felt parks were very important and helped to maintain a sense of physical and mental well-being. Most respondents rated the quality of parks to be good to excellent and very safe. Park facilities were seen by most to meet recreational needs.

When asked the main reason for leav-



photo by City staff



photo by City staff

Children's activities, like the Puppet Wagon shows, are some of the most popular recreation programs in Golden Valley.

ing Golden Valley for a neighboring community, the top two reasons cited were for swimming and walking the trails around the lakes.

The survey showed the City's five most used parks to be Brookview, Lions, Wesley, Scheid, and Theodore Wirth Regional Park (a Minneapolis Park located in Golden Valley). The four top recreational activities noted were pleasure walking, bicycling, using playground equipment, and ice skating.

Community Open Houses

The City hosted four community open houses during August and September 2006 at Brookview, Hampshire, Wesley, and Scheid Parks. The open houses provided community members with an opportunity to view park information boards, to discuss park-related concerns with City staff and Park and Open Spaces Commission members, and to provide additional comments.

Participants in the Park Planning Citizen Survey indicated Scheid Park as one of the top five most popular parks in Golden Valley.

Participants generally felt Golden Valley had a great park system and recreation programs with well-maintained parks and friendly and helpful park staff. Participants most often requested aquatic recreation facilities, a community recreation center, and updated and more creative play equipment. Other comments were more park-specific.

Youth Association Survey

The Parks and Open Space Commission sent a questionnaire to five youth associations that use the park facilities: Girls Fastpitch Softball, Girls Slowpitch Softball, Golden Valley Little League, Golden Valley Phoenix Soccer Club, and Robbinsdale Area Youth Baseball (RAYBA). The youth associations provide athletic opportunities to the City's youth. The survey contained questions on service provided, overall satisfaction with facilities and city support, and association needs and possible solutions.

In general, all of the youth associations are satisfied with City support and the

recreation facilities. While RAYBA and Girls Fastpitch do not foresee future growth or demand for facilities, Little League anticipates future growth and would like to see an expansion of Honeywell or an upgrade of facilities within Scheid Park and use of other parks for practice and minor league games. The two associations that indicate the greatest growth and facility needs are Phoenix Soccer (GVPS) and Girls Softball (GVGS). Soccer needs/desires include at least one more lighted full-size soccer field or a turf dome soccer field for year-round use. Girls Softball needs/desires more access to larger and/or improved fields.

Additional Issues Identified

City staff and the Open Space and Recreation Commission identified other issues and opportunities, including:

- ♦ reducing barriers to park and nature area access (eg, major streets and roadways with limited pedestrian crossings)
- ♦ enhancing connectivity between parks
- ♦ increasing/updating park wayfinding signage
- ♦ increasing/maintaining safety measures within parks (eg, lighting)
- ♦ increasing park and maintenance funding
- ♦ increasing parking stalls within the parks
- ♦ helping ensure open and accessible restrooms
- ♦ providing additional drinking fountains

Metropolitan Council System Statement

In 2004, the Metropolitan Council adopted the 2030 Regional Development Framework. This document was created to guide the growth of communities on a regional scale. It includes the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP), which serves to protect and promote parkland and open space throughout the Metro Area.

The RPOSPP is used as the cornerstone for guiding the goals and objectives of the 2030 Golden Valley Parks and Open Space Plan. The RPPP also guides the growth of regional trails, which are addressed in the City's Transportation Plan (Chapter 7). Both the 2030 Regional Development Framework and the RPPP are available at www.metrocouncil.org under "Planning and Development." 



photo by Shelley Van Dellen, 2003 Views of the Valley

Section 4: Goals, Objectives, And Policies

THE City of Golden Valley recognizes the importance of parks, open spaces, nature areas, and recreational facilities to the community's overall health and vitality. To plan for the future of its park system, the City developed a vision statement, a mission statement that articulates the Park and Recreation Department's purpose, goals that describe a long-term end toward addressing key community issues, and policies that reflect the City's general intentions to achieve each of the stated goals.

Vision Statement

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

Mission Statement

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

Goal 1: Land Acquisition, Facility Development, And Maintenance

Objectives

- ♦ Provide and maintain attractive parks and scenic areas for community enjoyment and leisure time activities.
- ♦ Develop appropriate park and recreation areas and facilities to serve existing and future community needs.
- ♦ Implement an excellent maintenance system that maximizes the available resources and provides for high quality parks and facilities.
- ♦ Pursue and acquire additional land for open space, parks, and trails.
- ♦ Provide a full-service public golf facility, including an 18-hole regulation course, 9-hole par three course, driving range, putting/chipping-sand/green areas for warm-up, concessions, pro-shop, and all other amenities.
- ♦ Maintain a no net-loss of acreage for City parks and nature areas.
- ♦ Maintain the current level of service by providing at least 15 acres of City-owned parks and nature areas per 1,000 residents.

Policies

The City shall:

- ♦ foster efforts to preserve historically significant elements within the community
- ♦ provide input, coordination, and cooperation with adjacent communities, Three Rivers Park District, the State of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Council, and other related agencies in park planning, programming, and development efforts
- ♦ evaluate the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks in order that each neighborhood is adequately served with appropriate recreational facilities
- ♦ pursue grants from regional, state, and federal agencies to obtain funding assistance for park and recreation planning, administration, acquisition, physical development, and programming efforts
- ♦ search for opportunities to provide special use recreational facilities for broad community use
- ♦ acquire properties that provide connections between existing open spaces and parks



photo by City staff

The General Mills Nature Preserve is a good example of cooperation between the City and a corporate citizen.

- ♦ maintain, re-evaluate, and improve Brookview Golf Course to provide an excellent golfing facility for the public
- ♦ preserve and enhance parks and open space areas in accordance with the City of Golden Valley Capital Improvement Plan
- ♦ seek all opportunities, within financial limits, to plan, procure, develop, and maintain parks and recreation resources
- ♦ acquire land or expand existing land for parks where it is deemed beneficial (eg, Wesley, Lakeview, Scheid)
- ♦ work cooperatively with the school districts and other agencies or businesses to maximize the joint use of facilities

Goal 2: Recreation

Objectives

- ♦ Provide recreational opportunities to meet the needs of the community, including all age groups and ability levels.
- ♦ Deliver a variety of recreational programs that are responsive to the changing needs and interests of the community.



photo by City staff

- ♦ Create and maintain a city environment supportive of active living by providing opportunities for physical activity to people who live, work, and play within the City.

Policies

The City shall:

- ♦ cooperate with the school districts in promoting community use of facilities
- ♦ collaborate with other non-profit organization and agencies to provide adaptive and recreational opportunities for the community
- ♦ cooperate with and support youth sports organizations
- ♦ cooperate with public and private entities to provide recreational opportunities
- ♦ cooperate with corporate citizens to provide employee recreational opportunities
- ♦ encourage and provide entrepreneurial recreation program activities
- ♦ provide high quality golfing opportunities for the public
- ♦ monitor user satisfaction and solicit new program ideas
- ♦ develop program budget priorities that help ensure quality recreational opportunities
- ♦ encourage and enable programs provided by other agencies and groups
- ♦ recruit and use seasonal part-time employees and volunteers to assist in implementing the City's recreational programs

Goal 3: Trail System

Objectives

- ♦ Provide a citywide interconnected trail system that meets recreation and transportation needs of the community.



photo by City staff

- ♦ Provide a trail system that is well marked and maintained, safe, user-friendly, will help active living, and will connect the community.
- ♦ Provide access to state, county, and surrounding community trail systems.
- ♦ Create a pedestrian-friendly downtown Golden Valley that is connected to the City's trail system.

Policies

The City shall:

- ♦ develop a city-wide trail system using and encouraging alternative modes of transportation
- ♦ develop trail links that provide safe and convenient access to and between parks, schools, neighborhoods, commercial areas, and other destinations
- ♦ review development proposals
- ♦ cooperate with adjacent communities to coordinate trail system connections
- ♦ cooperate with state, regional, and county agencies to formulate a comprehensive trail system
- ♦ work with the appropriate authorities to identify and use railroad and utility rights-of-way for trail purposes
- ♦ review trail design and maintenance practices to help ensure consistency with accepted designs
- ♦ analyze the need for additional signals, signage, or special crossing facilities to enhance trail safety

Goal 4: Natural Resources

Objectives

- ♦ Protect, preserve, enhance, and develop the natural resources within the City.
- ♦ Protect the City's natural resources and eco-system through community education.
- ♦ Increase passive recreational opportunities of existing natural resources

Policies

The City shall:

- ♦ review development proposals for conformance with ordinances regarding tree preservation, water quality, wetland protection and mitigation, and shoreland protection
- ♦ work with developers to provide permanent open space areas or cash in monetary compensation of land in development plans
- ♦ educate private property owners on how to protect and maintain natural resources on their property
- ♦ protect parks and open space areas from unnecessary encroachment or destruction from neighboring properties
- ♦ use site planning, construction, and maintenance techniques on public park lands to minimize negative impacts on the natural environment
- ♦ use or specify native plant materials in projects on City property
- ♦ search for, and take advantage of, opportunities to acquire properties to add to the City's inventory of natural resource-based open space
- ♦ identify and acquire significant habitat areas and areas of unique plant and animal species to help ensure their preservation
- ♦ protect and preserve endangered and threatened species and their natural habitat through cooperative efforts with Metropolitan Parks Commission, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ♦ enforce no-net loss of wetlands within jurisdictional limits through administration of the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act
- ♦ increase emphasis on minimizing runoff volumes, through implementation of storm water best management practices and other environmental practices, that are technically acceptable and financially feasible
- ♦ continue to take a proactive approach in efforts to identify and treat diseased and insect-infested trees in a timely manner through implementation of the City's shade tree disease program
- ♦ work with private property owners and developers to encourage reforestation and preservation of significant vegetation and enforce current tree preservation ordinance
- ♦ use best management practices to improve the effectiveness of natural resource management
- ♦ provide, maintain, search for, and develop public access to parks and areas on water bodies
- ♦ protect and manage open space areas within the City
- ♦ maintain and develop natural corridors to foster eco-system continuity and provide connections to parks and open space
- ♦ expand environmental education programs with schools and in the community
- ♦ continue to inventory and analyze natural resources and manage them accordingly within the City
- ♦ manage over-population of wildlife species 🦩

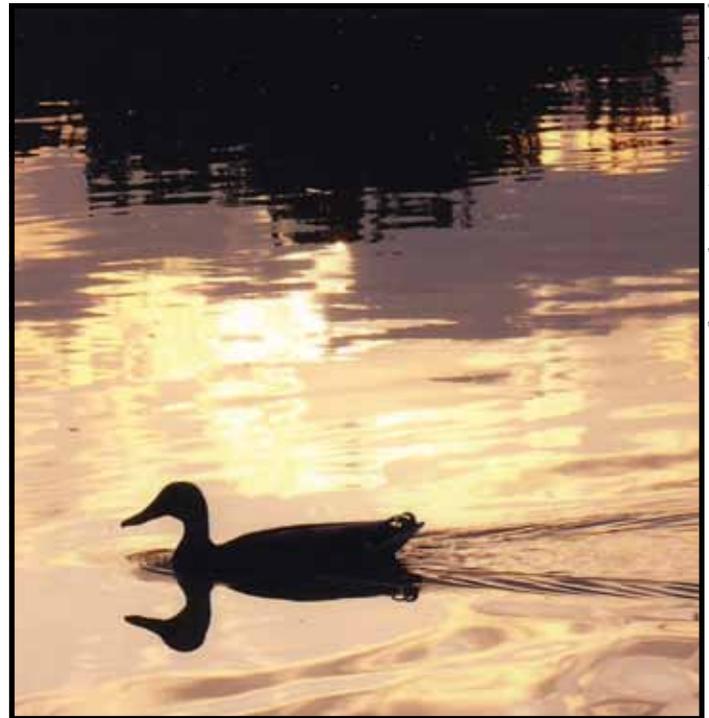


photo by Rich Smith, 2007 Views of the Valley



photo by City staff

Section 5: Park & Open Space Plan

THE Park and Open Space Plan describes the various components of Golden Valley's park system. Although Golden Valley is a fully developed community with a well-established park system, improvements are expected to continue, with a focus on enhancing facilities, exploring the potential for new facilities, expanding recreational programs, improving and expanding the sidewalk and trail system, and using green landscaping and maintenance approaches.

Basis For the Plan

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

The Park and Open Space Map (Figure 6.1) illustrates the location of all parks, nature areas, and open spaces within the

Table 6.2: Golden Valley Park Information

photo by City staff

ACRES	ACTIVITIES											AMENITIES			
	GENERAL					SPORTS				WINTER		Grills	Recreation Bldg*	Picnic Shelter	Sun Shelter
	Game Squares	Horseshoe Pit	Play Equipment	Walkways/Trails	Canoe Launch	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	General Skating				
PARKS/ACTIVITY AREAS															
Brookview Park	33.0	X	X	X	L			X	1		2/4L			X	2
Brookview Golf Course	143.5													X	X
Gearty Park	4.7	L		X	X			X	1		1L	L	L		X
Glenview Terrace Park	5.0			X	X						2L				
Golden Oaks Park	2.0	L		X				X	1						
Hampshire Park	14.0	L		X	L			X	2		L	L			X
Honeywell Little League Area	11.0							1L							
Lakeview Park	5.0	L		X	L			X	1		L				X
Lions Park	19.0	L		X	L			X	4	1/1F	2	L	L		X
Medley Park	12.6	L		X	L			X	2		3L	L	L		X
Natchez Park	5.0	L		X	L			X	1						
North Tyrol Park	9.4	X		X				X	1			X			
Perpich Center for Arts Soccer Field	1.5									1/2F					
Sandburg Ball Fields	20.0						2		2						
St. Croix Park	1.4			X	X										
Schaper Park	11.3			X	X				2L						X
Scheid Park	9.8	X		X	L		1	X	1	1F	2L	L	L	X	X
Seeman Park	4.6	L		X	X		1	X			2				
South Tyrol Park	3.6	L		X	X			X	1			L			
Stockman Park	1.5	L		X				X	1						
Sweeney Park	.5						X								X
Wesley Park	19.9	L		X	L		1	X	2	1/1F	3L	L	L	X	X
Wildwood Park	4.2	X		X	X			X	2		2				X
Wirth Park (Mpls Park Board)	517.0	X		X	X	X					2			X	X
Yosemite Park	1.4	L		X	X			X	1			L			
NATURE AREAS															
Adeline Nature Area	1.2				X	X									
Bassett Creek Nature Area	7.6				X										
Briarwood Nature Area	15.8				X										
General Mills Headquarters Nature Preserve	27.0				X										
General Mills Research Nature Area	57.0				X										
Golden Ridge Nature Area	1.6				X										
Laurel Avenue Greenbelt	33.1				X										
Mary Hills Nature Area	15.7				X										
Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area	22.9				X										
Rice Lake Nature Area	9.0				X										
Tree Farm	1.5														
Western Avenue Marsh	21.6				X										

L = Lighted

F = Fall Use

* Recreation Building restrooms are open seasonally.

city by classification. The Park Information matrix (Table 6.2) details the acreage, facilities, and amenities within each Golden Valley park, nature area, or open space.

Open Space and Recreation Commission identified a list of potential short-range and long-range plans for overall park projects and improvements (Table 6.3). For park-specific improvements, see Appendix 6-B. 

Park System Improvements

While developing the City’s Park and Open Space Plan, the

Table 6.3: Potential Short-Range* And Long-Range* Plans For Park Projects	
Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Maintenance	
Short-Range Plans	Long-Range Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Update/new buildings with exterior access to restrooms ♦ Update parks and nature area signs ♦ Provide increased parking opportunities ♦ Re-evaluate park usage and needs every three years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Develop outdoor performance stage in Brookview Park ♦ Purchase underdeveloped and undeveloped land ♦ Develop multi-use community center ♦ Institute indoor community theatre ♦ Build outdoor splash pad ♦ Create dog park ♦ Provide community gardens ♦ Develop unused portion of Honeywell property
Recreation	
Short-Range Plans	Long-Range Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Expand golf programs ♦ Add soccer fields ♦ Expand volunteer recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Build archery range ♦ Provide new playground equipment to encompass broad age range
Trails	
Short-Range Plans	Long-Range Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Study, improve, and expand City-wide trail system ♦ Create cohesive trail signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Build additional commuter trail (north-south connection)
Natural Resources	
Short-Range Plans	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Provide compost site ♦ Control invasive plant species ♦ Pursue sustainable landscape practices, when possible, on public land and new private developments ♦ Plant more trees ♦ Institute park recycling program 	
<p>*Short-Range Plans are 1–5 years; Long-Range Plans are 6–10+ years.</p>	



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Section 6: Implementation

UNDERSTANDING the intrinsic and monetary value and benefits that park and open space provide to a community is key to securing funding to purchase land, construct, operate, and maintain a quality park system.

Making a commitment to providing for a park system based on high standards benefits the residents and maintains property values. People like to be near improved and well-maintained parks and ecologically diverse open spaces.

Realizing the additions and improvements recommended in this plan will depend on a number of factors—a commitment by both City leaders and residents, available resources, funding opportunities, and various types of partnerships.

Implementation Strategies

The following are specific strategies for implementing Golden Valley's vision for the future of recreation, parks, and open space. They were developed using information collected through public input, the Open Space and Recreation Commission, and professional assessment. This input will provide a process for fulfilling the goals and policies which will guide the fulfillment of the vision for Golden Valley's park system.

The implementation strategies are organized into a park improvement matrix. Short-term strategies are to be completed during the first five years of plan adoption. Long-term strategies are to be completed in six or more years. Each strategy

includes categories for the goal it fulfills, estimates of cost, and status of completion.

These strategies are intended to provide guidance to Golden Valley decision makers and those boards, organizations, and staff designated to implement portions of the plan. Successful completion of these strategies will depend on the fiscal and political climate in any given year. It is important that the City monitor, review, and prioritize the strategies annually prior to the budgeting process.

Funding

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

- ♦ general funds
- ♦ state and federal grants
- ♦ bond referenda
- ♦ park dedication fees

Project requests are included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)



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and are evaluated on a project-by-project basis. CIPs provide specific details for proposed improvements at the park level . They are used as internal planning tools to identify proposed projects and estimated costs for park development. Implementing

these park projects will help the City fulfill its park system goals and policies for the next 10 years. ~