

CHAPTER 8: PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

Chapter 8 includes the following information:

1. What We Heard
2. 2010 Master Plan Updates
3. Goals and Strategies

The City of Roseville has a long commitment to providing the best park and recreation experiences possible to its residents. For generations, the City's residents and leaders have recognized the value of parks and recreation in improving their quality of life and generating a true sense of community. They have consistently demonstrated their belief that enhancing these assets is an investment in their future, leaving a legacy for the next generation.

In late 2010, Roseville adopted a Park and Recreation System Master Plan (Master Plan) following a comprehensive community engagement effort over several years. That Master Plan embodies this generation's vision of the legacy they want to leave, and it has been influential in the built park and recreation projects that have taken place since it was created.

Beginning in 2010, Roseville has made major investments in the parks and recreation system, called the Roseville Park and Recreation Renewal Program (PRRP). This \$19 million program added improved and/or replaced amenities, including selective land acquisitions, new park buildings, playgrounds, natural resource restoration, trails and pathways, and other facilities. It touched every park in the system and post-project surveys clearly reflect how these improvements have been positively received by the public.

Beyond the PRRP, the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan continues to guide investments, such as recently completed projects like the reconfiguration of Evergreen Park, the Cedarholm Community Building, Midland Gardens Park in southwest Roseville, and Unity Park in southeastern Roseville. As part of this public comprehensive planning process, it is evident that residents and leaders still strongly support the Master Plan and see value in continuing on the path it laid out. Therefore, this chapter of the Plan is primarily focused on updating any elements that have changed since 2010 and tying this vision strongly to the overall planning for Roseville as a whole.

1. WHAT WE HEARD

Public Engagement

Parks, recreation, trails, and open spaces have been incorporated in every engagement tool used, including public meetings, intercepts, online surveys, walkabouts, meetings-in-a-box, focus groups, and stakeholder interviews. The message from the public has been very positive and consistent:

- People love Roseville’s parks and recreation; they are one of the main reasons that residents appreciate Roseville.
- We are committed to following the master plan vision for parks, set in 2010.

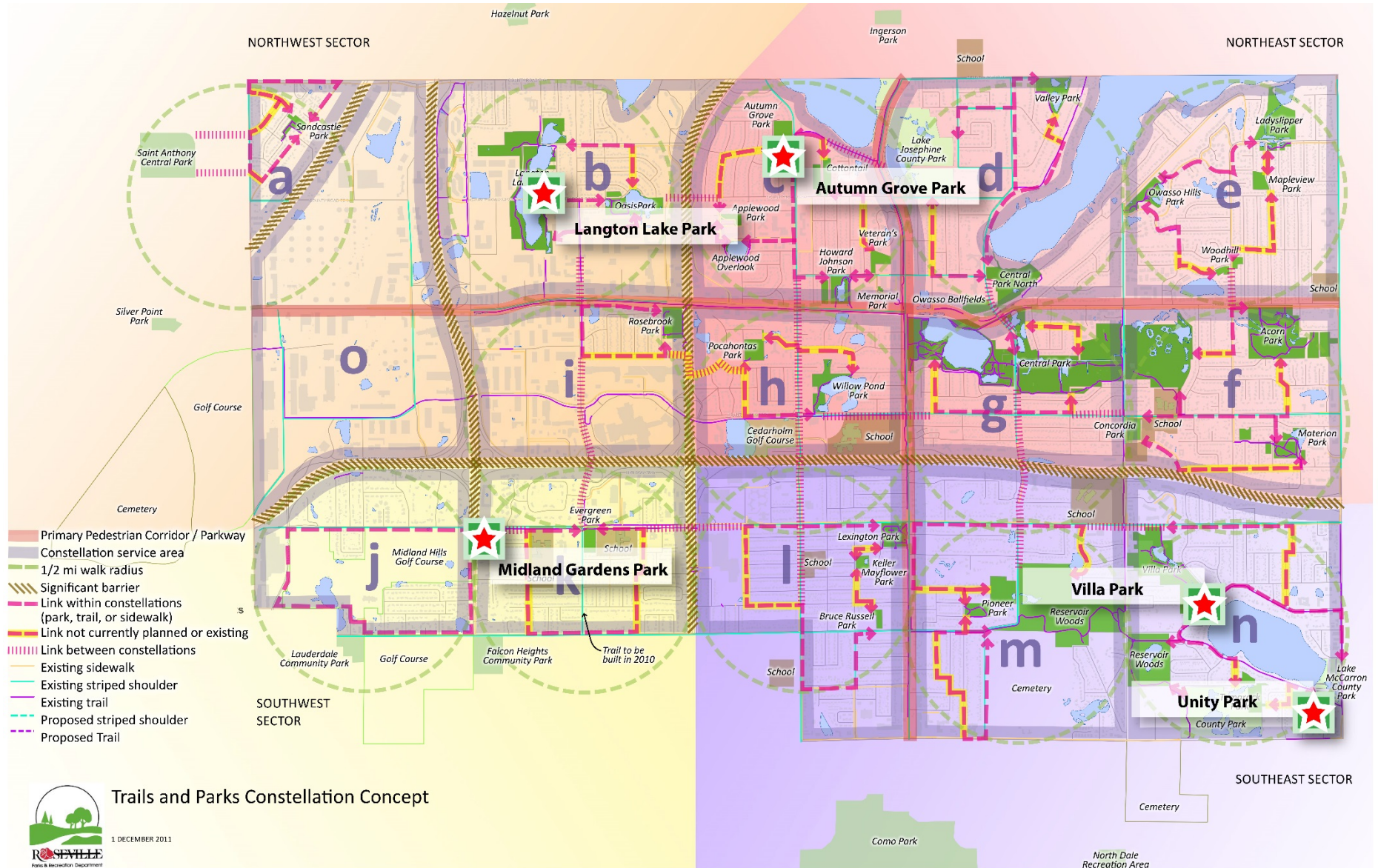
Parks and Recreation Commission

In addition to the public engagement process, the Parks and Recreation Commission has been reviewing and updating the goals and policies from the 2010 Master Plan through a series of meetings and exercises. They have verified their validity and are very supportive of continuing those elements with minor revisions. The “Goals and Policy” section below reflects those modestly revised statements.

2. 2010 MASTER PLAN UPDATES

Since the adoption of the 2010 Parks and Recreation System Master Plan, Roseville has undertaken a number of projects within the parks as part of the PRRP and other efforts, and has acquired several new park spaces. [MAP 8-1](#) shows additions to the parks and recreation system.

MAP 8-1 ADDITIONS SINCE 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN: NEW PARCELS ADDED AT LANGTON LAKE, CLEVELAND, AUTUMN GROVE, MARION, AND VILLA PARKS



Current Projects

Current projects include:

- Parks and Recreation Renewal Program, with numerous projects city-wide.
- Parks and Recreation System Natural Resources Restoration.

Ongoing Priorities

Improving the distribution of park and recreation services in southwest Roseville remains an area of focus. Various strategies have been identified for southwest Roseville in the Master Plan, and undertaking those strategies is an ongoing priority that is pursued as it makes sense (refer to [MAP 8-2](#)). Several approaches are described in the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan to create a network of parks and recreation opportunities, building towards a system that looks more like the amount of parks and recreation opportunities provided in other sectors of Roseville.

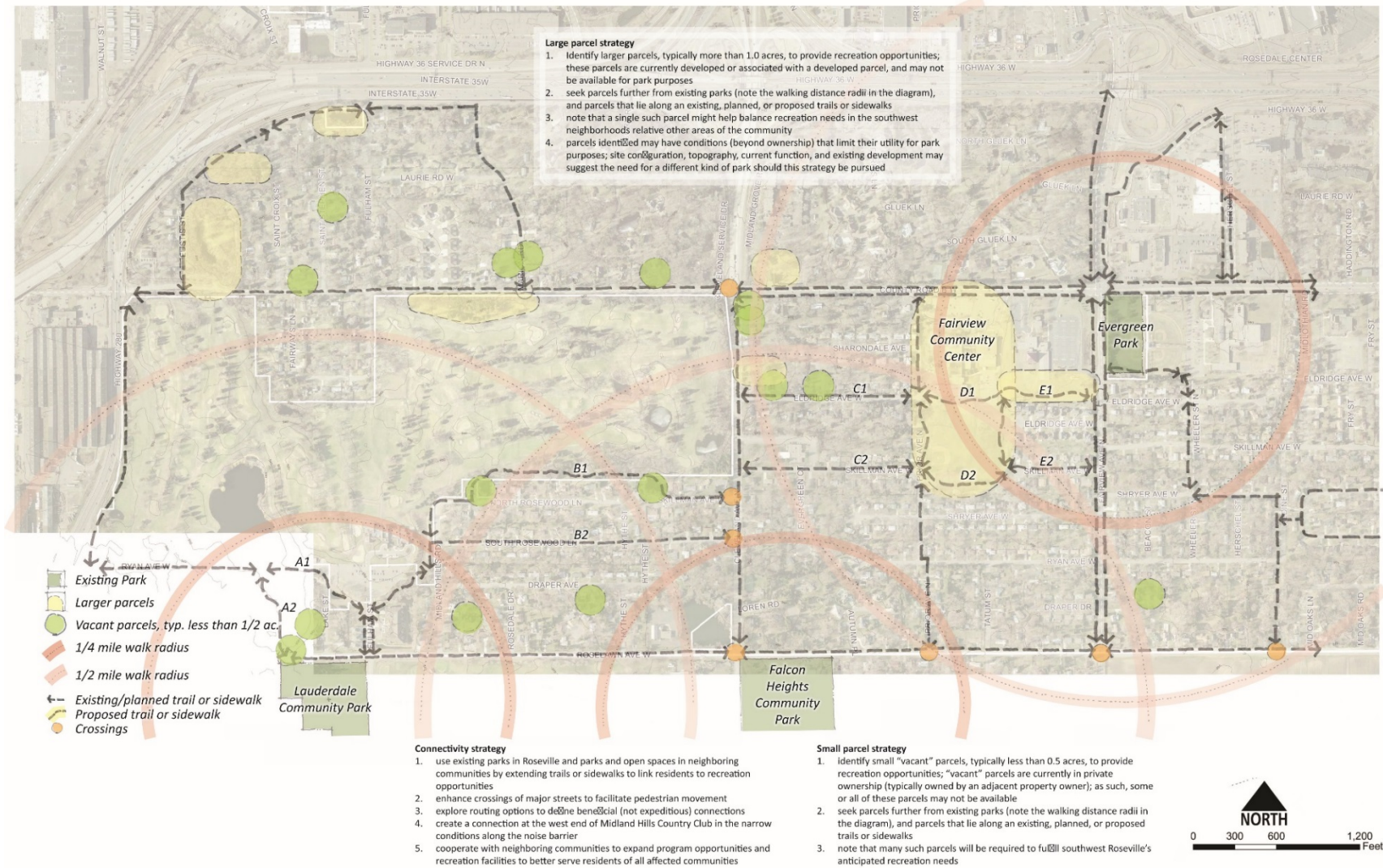
Beyond southwest Roseville, it is a medium priority to acquire lots at Langton Lake, Acorn, or other areas where acquisition of a lot could complete a logical park outline. Securing trail easements is another possible strategy for completing a trail loop in locations such as Langton Lake. If housing density increases (for instance, if residential development is added around Rosedale), a similar approach would be used to that seen in southwest Roseville, but likely focusing on Park Dedication as the primary tool. Roseville Parks and Recreation will always consider other opportunities on a case-by-case basis, but adding new parks in well-served areas is a low priority.

For all future potential land purchases, Roseville Parks and Recreation seeks willing sellers and reasonable prices. When a purchase is made, Roseville Parks and Recreation is always committed to going through their full community process for planning and design. The Roseville Parks and Recreation ADA Transition Plan is to assess current conditions and to achieve ADA compliance with every new and renovated project.

Coordination with Pathways Planning

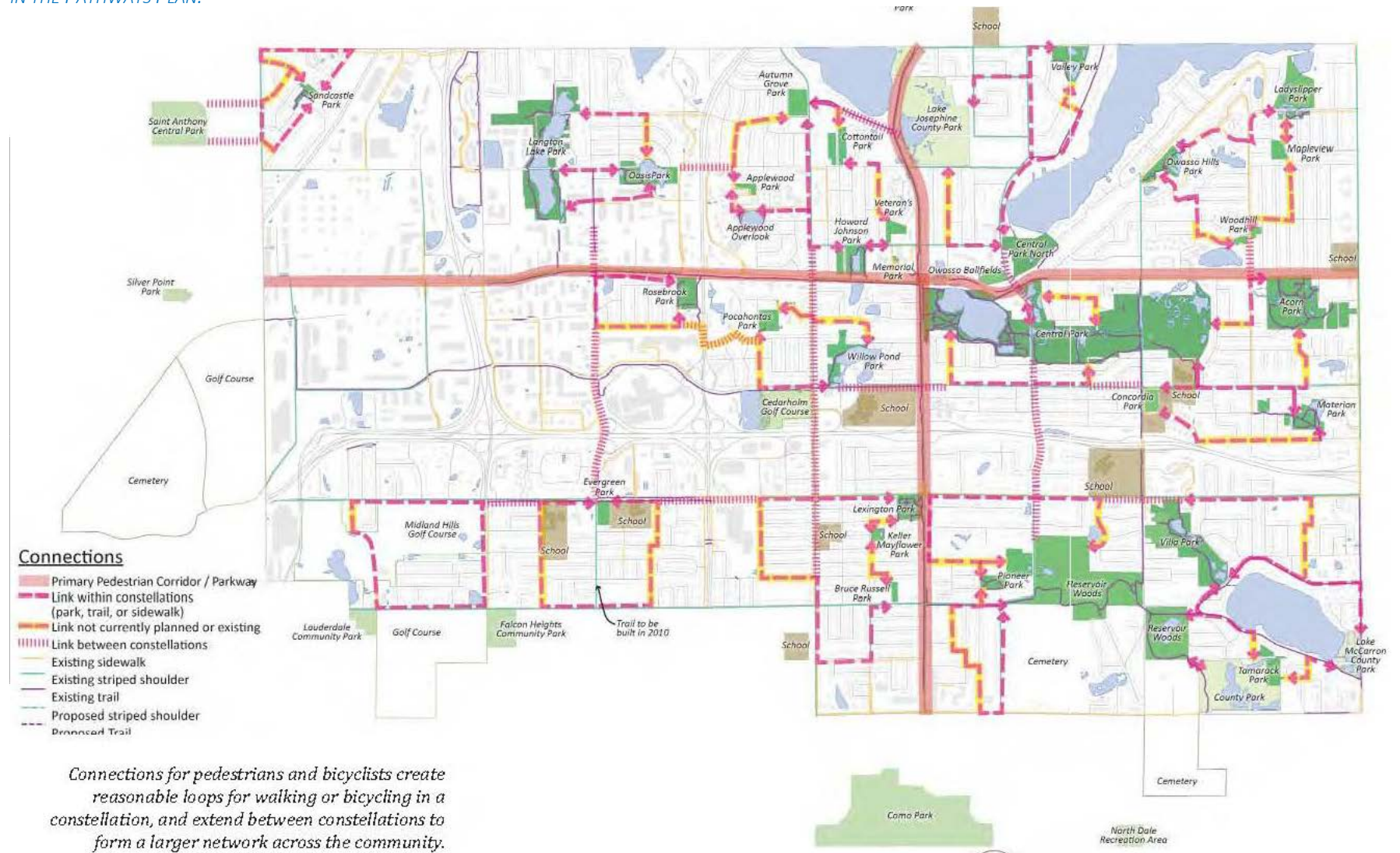
The 2010 Master Plan provided a vision for connectivity between parks, housing, businesses, and schools. This was based on the “constellation” concept which generated more value within the system by connecting parks in logical ways (refer to [MAP 8-3](#)). With good connectivity, not every park has to provide duplicative services, and the park experience can extend into the surrounding neighborhoods. That approach remains the focus of Roseville Parks and Recreation, in coordination with the Pathway Master Plan.

MAP 8-2 SOUTHWEST ROSEVILLE APPROACH. THIS MAP REPRESENTS THE THREE-PART STRATEGY DEVELOPED IN THE 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THIS PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY. IMPLEMENTING THE LARGE PARCEL STRATEGY, THE CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY, AND THE SMALL PARCEL STRATEGY REMAINS AN ONGOING PRIORITY FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.



MAP 8-3: PATHWAYS CONSTELLATION CONCEPT. FROM 2010 PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

THIS PLAN REPRESENTS THE TRAIL SYSTEM ENVISIONED TO SUPPORT A CONNECTED PARK SYSTEM, AND IT IS BEING DEVELOPED IN COORDINATION WITH THE TRAIL SYSTEM SHOWN IN THE PATHWAYS PLAN.



Coordination with Ramsey County

Ramsey County's facilities in Roseville are valued assets to the park and recreation system and were recognized as part of the 2010 Master Plan. Continued and expanded coordination with Ramsey County has occurred since 2010, including the recent joint meeting between the Roseville and Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commissions, aimed at creating more synergy between the facilities and programs provided by both entities.

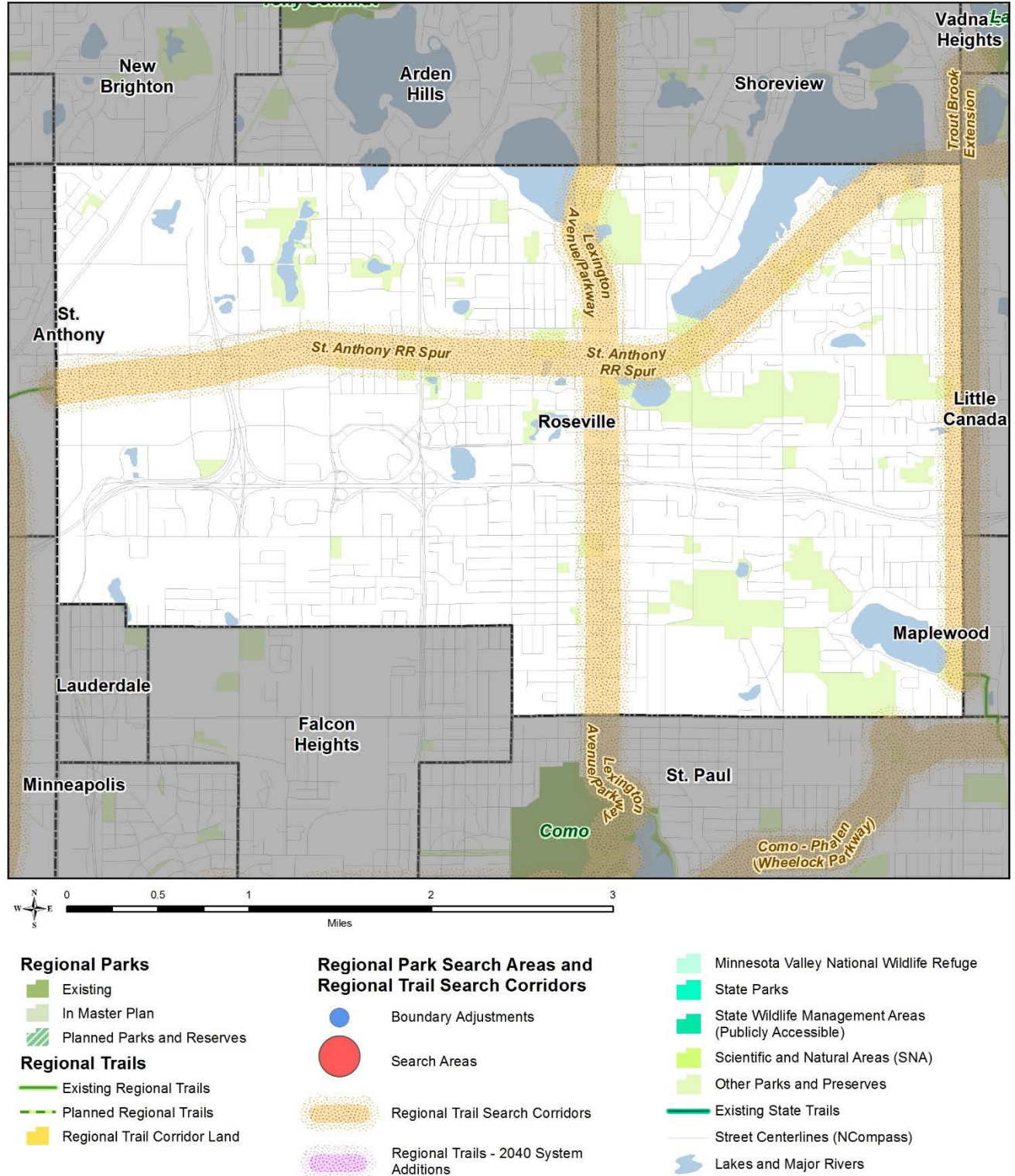
Roseville has partnered with the Active Living Ramsey Communities initiative for over ten years. This initiative improves health through community engagement. It promotes and creates environments that make it safe and easy for everyone to integrate physical activity into their daily routine. The City will continue collaborating to encourage walking, biking, and active living as a way of life throughout the city and county.

Regional Trail Search Corridors

There are three regional trail search corridors that are within (or coincide with) Roseville's borders. These are shown on Map 8-4. Regional trail search corridors consist of 45 proposed regional trails throughout the 7-county metro region that do not yet have alignments approved by the Metropolitan Council. They are not yet eligible for Regional Parks system for acquisition; however regional park implementing agencies are being encouraged to prepare master plans for these trails.

MAP 8-4 REGIONAL TRAIL SEARCH CORRIDORS. SOURCE: METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Regional Parks System City of Roseville, Ramsey County



3. GOALS AND STRATEGIES

The following goals and strategies originated from the 2010 Master Plan and were reviewed and confirmed by the Parks and Recreation Commission over the past several months. In most cases, the goals and strategies are unchanged, but minor revisions were made.

In addition, several of the goals and strategies described in other chapters are closely related to the policies in this chapter. In particular, policies related to the protection of trees and pollinators in Chapter 9, Resilience and Environmental Protection, and policies related to protecting surface water quality in Chapter 10, Surface Water Management, closely relate to this chapter's Natural Resource Policies. Goals and strategies focused on equity are highlighted with the equity symbol. 

* Items affected by revisions are identified by an asterisk in the list below.

Goal - Parks and Recreation Systems Management

Maintain ongoing parks and recreation planning, maintenance, and asset management process that involves citizen engagement, adheres to professional standards, and utilizes prudent professional practices. Ensure timely guidance for protecting the community's investment in parks, open space, and recreation programs and facilities to enhance their long-term and sustained viability.

Strategies:

- Re-evaluate, update, and adopt a Park and Recreation System Master Plan at least every five years to reflect new and current trends, changing demographics, new development criteria, unanticipated population densities, and any other factors that affect park and recreation goals, policies, and future direction of the system.
- *Monitor progress on the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan annually to ensure that it provides actionable steps for maintaining improving, and expanding the system. Parks and Recreation Commission will review and track annually.
- Maintain and operate parks, open space, and recreation facilities in a safe, clean, and sustainable manner that protects natural resources and systems, preserves high-quality active and passive recreation opportunities and experiences, and is cost-effective.
- Consider staffing and resource needs in the evaluation of proposals for additions to parks, programs, and facilities.

- Use the Sector and Constellation organization structure as the basis for park, recreation program, and facility locations, development, and service delivery.
- Enhance neighborhood and community identity in the design of parks, programs, and facilities through public art, special events, and stewardship of natural features.
- ⑤ • Establish a service standard of having a neighborhood park or active play space in every park service constellation.
- Preserve parks and school open space areas as part of the City-wide systems plan for structured recreation space and unstructured preserved natural areas.
- Include Ramsey County park land and open space in planning and providing recreation services to Roseville residents.
- Seek partnership to provide the community with a greater diversity or number of parks and facilities, and to offer a more expansive catalog of programs and events.
- ⑤ • Seek sponsorships, scholarships, and other revenue streams to facilitate program fee reductions.
- Continue to coordinate, cooperate, and collaborate with adjacent communities, school districts, and governmental jurisdictions to leverage resources regarding the use of parks on common municipal boundaries and on joint programming where appropriate for mutual benefit to optimize open space, fitness, and recreation programming and facility options.
- Complete park concept plans for all parks.
- Evaluate the maintenance implications of potential park land acquisitions and capital improvements.
- Annually recommend the adoption of a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks and Recreation.
- Use the procurement methods that deliver the best value for the community.
- Research, develop, and recommend to the City Council and citizens periodic bond referendums, park and trail dedication fees, urban forest management fees, special assessments, or other funding programs to reinvest in parks and recreation facilities needed within Roseville.
- Explore the potential for implementing a park service district as a means of creating a sustainable, independent source of local funding for the parks and recreation system.
- *Whenever possible, supplement the development and maintenance of parks and recreation lands and facilities with the use of non-property tax funds.

- *Pursue additional funding, such as local option sales tax or State bond funds, to support Roseville facilities of regional or State-wide significance.
- Discourage commercial uses in parks, programs, or facilities and/or parks and recreation facilities. However, commercial uses could be permitted in situations in which the proposed use complements the park or recreation function, is benign, or where it does not conflict with the purpose of the park, recreation facility, or the overall intent of the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan. In no case should a commercial use be permitted in designated conservation or natural use areas.
- Involve the Parks and Recreation Commission in the parks and recreation planning process. Support the Commission in its role as liaison between citizens and Roseville's elected officials and appointed staff to interpret citizen needs and interests and to recommend programs, facilities, and services that serve them. Stimulate additional volunteer involvement in the delivery and support of the parks and recreation system.
- ⑤ • Involve a diverse and representative group of participants in the parks and recreation planning process. Conduct active and continuous interaction within the community with neighborhoods, special interest groups, and individuals of all ages to achieve effective recreational programming and facility development.
- Parks and Recreation staff should play the key role in the delivery of parks, programs, and facility services. Community volunteers should be used whenever and wherever possible and appropriate to enrich the experience for the participant and volunteer.
- Develop and implement an ongoing public information and marketing program to inform the public of their investments, opportunities, and benefits of a quality parks and recreation system.
- Assign names, or change names, of City-owned parks or recreation facilities, in consultation with the Parks and Recreation Commission, based on natural habitat, geographic location, and appropriate non-descript terminology. Only under certain and exceptional circumstances will consideration be given to names of individuals and/or organized groups, associations, or businesses.

Goal - Parks Development, Redevelopment and Rehabilitation

Provide a high-quality, financially sound system of parks, open spaces, trails, and waterways that meets the recreation needs of all City residents, offers a visual/physical diversion from the hard surfacing of urban development, enhances our quality of life, and forms an essential part of our community's identity and character.

Strategies:

- Evaluate and refurbish parks, as needed, to reflect changes in population, age, and diversity of residents, recreational activities preferred, amount of leisure time available, and best practice designs and technologies, and asset management strategies.
- ⑤ • *Orient parks and programs equitably to youth activities that focus on community building activities teaching them life-long skills, and exposing them to a variety of recreation experiences, and to adult activities which accommodate adults' needs for wellness and provide a range of social interaction opportunities.
- Focus parks on passive and active recreational activities and activities that take advantage of the unique natural features. Pursue opportunities for incorporating art and cultural programs, which enrich citizens' mental and emotional well-being, as a complement to primary physical focus of parks and recreation programs.
- Organize all parks and facilities so that a component is provided for informal, non-programmed activities – those open to anyone in the community, at any time.
- Maintain parks and open space according to the standards outlined in the Park Maintenance Manual which recognizes that levels of service must be provided based on the intensity of use and purpose of the site.
- Use innovative methods for park and facility improvements that offer lower lifecycle costs, even if the initial cost is higher. Develop park and recreation facilities that minimize the maintenance demands on the City by emphasizing the development of well-planned parks, high-quality materials, and labor-saving maintenance devices and practices.
- Promote and support volunteerism to encourage people to actively support Roseville's parks and open spaces.
- Encourage the preservation of features in parks considered to be of historic or cultural value, especially those features that do not conflict with other park uses and activities. Consider the potential of historic landscapes in parks, including agricultural landscapes or features. Work to perpetuate those landscapes and other features of historic or cultural significance when they are identified through recognized investigations.

Goal - Parks and Open Space Acquisition

Add new parks and facilities to achieve equitable access in all neighborhoods, accommodate the needs of redeveloping areas, and meet residents' desires for a range of recreation opportunities serving all ages, abilities, and cultures.

Strategies:

- Ensure that no net loss of park land or open space occurs during alterations or displacement of existing park land and open space. If adverse impacts to park land or open space take place, ensure that mitigation measures include the acquisition of replacement park land of equal or greater size and value.
- As areas of Roseville evolve, and properties undergo a change of use and/or density, land should be dedicated to the community for park purposes to ensure adequate park facilities for those new uses.
- Determine potential locations and acquire additional park land in neighborhoods and constellations that are lacking adequate parks and recreation facilities.
- *Determine locations for new park and recreation facilities in redevelopment areas as part of the redevelopment process, and use the park dedication process to acquire appropriate land, prioritizing the purchase of properties adjacent to current park land.
- Make continued effective use of the Park Dedication Ordinance. Park land dedication will be required when land is developed or redeveloped for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. Review annually park dedication requirements in order to ensure that dedication regulations meet statutory requirements and the needs of Roseville.
- Use park dedication funds to acquire and develop new land, in addition to other funding sources.
- Acquire properties necessary to implement adopted park concept plans and in Roseville's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and consider other additions based on needs identified in the sector or constellation concept. Acquire land on a "willing seller" basis unless otherwise determined by the City Council.

Goal - Trails, Pathways, and Community Connections

Create a well-connected and easily accessible system of parks, open spaces, trails, pathways, community connections, and facilities that links neighborhoods and provides opportunities for residents and others to gather and interact.

Strategies:

- *Develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive and integrated trails, pathways, and community connections system plan for recreation and transportation uses, including separate facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists (including off-road unpaved trails for bikers and hikers that offer new challenges while protecting resources). Distinguish the specific role of the Parks and Recreation Department in maintaining those facilities, separate from the Public Works Department's role in constructing and repairing them.
- Develop, adopt, and implement a Trails Management Program (TMP).
- Advocate the implementation of community parkways on the County Road C and Lexington Avenue corridors to accommodate pedestrian and bicyclist movement and inclusion of community character and identity features.
- Maintain the trail and pathway system through all seasons.
- ⓔ • Make the park system accessible to people of all abilities.
- Align development and expansion of non-motorized trails, pathways, community parkways, and other routes with the need to provide connections to and within parks, to open spaces, recreation facilities, and key destinations, as well as between neighborhoods, constellations, and sectors.
- Educate the public on the advantages and safe use of non-motorized trails, pathways, and community parkway connections.
- Develop clear and communicative signage and kiosks for wayfinding.

Goal - Recreation Programs and Services

Provide Roseville residents with opportunities to participate in a variety of recreation, athletic, wellness, art, social, learning, and environmental education activities and programs through well-designed, cost-effective, and relevant services.

Strategies:

- ⓔ • *Provide recreation programs and services that address the recreational desires of people of all abilities or disabilities and all segments of the community including children, teens, adults, older adults, and diverse ethnic groups.

- Organize a variety of community special events that stimulate interest in recreation participation, promote community identity and pride, encourage volunteerism, and bring together all segments of the community.
- * Celebrate Roseville’s heritage and cultural potential by acquiring and exhibiting quality works of art and historic artifacts, by providing access to a variety of performance arts, and by offering a diverse mixture of community events.
- ⑤ • *Administer all programs and services equitably to ensure that all individuals and groups receive adequate representation, seeking out those with little or no voice.
- Monitor new trends, patterns, and activities in recreation and leisure service programs and incorporate revisions to Roseville’s programs to reflect these changes at a broader level.
- Establish ongoing communication, information, and marketing programs that broaden recreational interests and encourage participation in Roseville’s recreation programs.
- Coordinate and cooperate with school districts, community, county, and state agencies, private businesses, and surrounding municipalities to provide diverse and extensive programs and services that are affordable to all participants.
- Facilitate community recreation groups by providing technical support, equipment storage, promotional assistance, mail boxes, and meeting space.
- Act as liaison to recognized community groups providing recreation programs and services.
- Evaluate all programs and services quarterly and annually for quality, participant satisfaction, financial feasibility, and community desirability.
- Develop and maintain a system of program fees and charges that assess direct costs to the participants, while remaining affordable to the community.
- Provide residents with community activities and events using subsidies or fee waivers through scholarships, sponsorships, or other methods of fee assistance.

Goal - Community Facilities

Locate, design, construct, and manage community facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Strategies:

- Provide community facilities that include desired community amenities for recreation and social interaction, at an appropriate level within sectors and constellations.
- Assess community needs and desires for the use of existing community facilities and the need for additional space, renovated space, and improved space.
- Facilitate a system of community and recreation spaces in conjunction with the school districts that provides for both structured and unstructured times as managed and scheduled by the City.
- Define a strategy, identify a site, and confirm a program for implementing a community center.
- Manage and maintain facilities using best practices and cost-effective methods to provide desired recreation services.
- Leverage private involvement in the form of sponsorships, joint ventures, and contract for services to support facilities.

Goal - Natural Resources Management

Preserve significant natural resources, lakes, ponds, wetlands, open spaces, wooded areas, wildlife habitats, and trees as integral aspects of the parks system.

Strategies:

- Encourage dedication of parks, open spaces, and trails in new development and redevelopment areas, especially those that preserve significant natural resources and/or adjacent to the subject site.
- Create, adopt, and use Natural Resources Management Plans to preserve, restore, and manage the significant natural resources in the park system.
- Preserve wooded areas and implement an aggressive reforestation and forestry management program to ensure that Roseville has a substantial aesthetically pleasing and environmentally critical tree population in its parks, open spaces, boulevards, and other City property.
- *Provide community environmental education programs to increase the community's awareness, understanding, and appreciation of natural areas, including the need for trees, proper tree care, plantings procedures, and critical habitat for pollinators.

- Cooperate with the three watershed districts with jurisdiction over parks in Roseville to effect water quality improvement projects within parks, and to create landscapes that are sensitive to stormwater management goals for park lands. Work with the watershed districts to add features to parks that help park users appreciate the water quality improvements, focusing on features such as overlooks or seating areas that take advantage of views to surface water features, with educational and interpretive signage aimed at creating a better understanding of the need for attending to water quality in our parks and in the community. Work with the watershed districts to create park-like environments surrounding water quality improvement projects and stormwater management basins in non-park areas that are accessible to Roseville residents and the community's working population.
- *Create landscape improvements and design parks to enhance opportunities for wildlife, where those improvements and facilities are not in conflict with other park uses or activities. Direct particular attention to the creation of wildlife habitat in or between parks, where wildlife would not be compromised by the presence of park activities.
- Promote and support volunteerism to encourage people to actively support Roseville's parks and open space.

* Denotes items affected by revision