



08. PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

Parks are an essential amenity that positively impact the health of the community. Richfield's investment in the parks system is an indicator of a high quality of life. Richfield has more than 460 acres of parkland, 21 parks and several key community facilities that provide a range of community gathering space and recreational activities. The parks system also offers a variety of options for the user, such as playfields, picnic shelters, trails, and passive open spaces.

In 2018, Richfield prepared a Parks Master Plan to identify and prioritize needs over the next ten years. The Parks Master Plan has been integrated into the Comprehensive Plan to shape the Parks Chapter, while addressing plan element requirements prescribed by the Metropolitan Council. Overall, this chapter provides a physical plan for park improvements, and provides a road map for addressing existing and future parks system needs. Richfield's trail network is discussed as part of a larger multimodal network in the Transportation Chapter.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The benefits of parks are broad-ranging and important to the quality of life in Richfield. The parks system consists of year-round programs, activities and special events, walking paths, recreation facilities and open space. All of these components contribute to meeting the diverse needs of Richfield's residents. Parks are not mere expenditures, but an investment in the future well-being of individuals and groups, as well as the continued attractiveness and viability of the City. The benefits of parks and recreation include:

- » Outdoor and indoor recreation experiences
- » Exercise and wellness
- » Connected families
- » A sense of community and place
- » Ethnic and cultural harmony
- » Reduction of crime and substance abuse
- » A positive effect on property values
- » Protection of open space, appreciation of the natural environment and informal outdoor educational opportunities for all ages
- » Community pride

Existing Parks and Facilities

Richfield has more than 460 acres of parkland, 21 neighborhood and community parks, a nature center, and many community and athletic facilities well distributed across the community and highly accessible to residents (see Figure 8-1). Richfield's parks provide diverse recreational amenities including walking trails, picnic facilities, children's play areas, skating rinks, a swimming pool, court games, skate park, playfields, and more. Community facilities include a community center for senior activities, mini-golf, a farmers market, an ice arena, and outdoor pool. A summary of the existing features and amenities by park are listed in Table

8-2. The recommendations section also provides a detailed inventory and map for each park.

Parks Associated with Federal and State Fund

There are nine parks in the parks system that were purchased with, or contain recreation facilities that were developed with Federal or State funds. Depending on the source of funding, specific restrictions may exist related to the park or improvement. Parks associated with Federal and State funds are shown in Table 8-1.

Table 8-1. Parks with Federal or State Funded Recreational Facilities

Park	State	Federal
Adams Hill	✓	✓
Christian	✓	
Fairwood	✓	
Monroe	✓	
Richfield Lake		✓
Sheridan Lake	✓	
Taft	✓	✓
Taft Fishing Dock	✓	
Veterans Memorial	✓	
Wood Lake Nature Center	✓	

Existing Partnerships

The Richfield Parks System relies on partners such as the Richfield School District, the Academy of Holy Angels, the YMCA, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), and the Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange (AR&LE), and adjacent cities to provide access to indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and recreation programming. These types of partnerships are listed below:

- » Richfield partners with the School District through Joint Facilities Agreements to share fields, courts, gymnasiums and other recreation facilities. The School District plays an integral role in the parks system by providing public access to school ballfields, soccer fields, tennis courts, and playgrounds.
- » Both the High School and the Academy of Holy Angels use the Richfield Ice Arena in Veterans Memorial Park as their home arena.
- » Located at the Southdale YMCA (Edina), the Tri-City Skate Park opened in 2003. The skate park is a partnership between the YMCA and the cities of Edina, Bloomington and Richfield with the YMCA responsible for programming, operations and staffing.
- » Richfield has an agreement with the MAC for use of land for the north portion of Taft Park.
- » Richfield is a member of the four-city Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange (AR&LE) cooperative. AR&LE offers opportunities for people with disabilities to actively participate in recreation, leisure and community education programs in the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield.

Regional Park Plans

There are no regional parks or regional park search areas identified within Richfield. However, the Comprehensive Plan recognizes the regional efforts in building a stronger, more cohesive Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) to link together parks, communities and other regional destinations. This network is discussed in more detail in the Transportation Chapter.

Regional parks that are in close proximity to Richfield and offer recreational options for Richfield residents include Fort Snelling State Park, Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park, Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes, and Minnehaha Regional Park.

FUTURE PARK NEEDS

There is no precise standard or measurement to determine a specific community's park and recreation needs. Each community is unique in its needs and opportunities. Therefore, Richfield's parks and recreation needs were determined through the process of updating Richfield's 10-Year Parks Master Plan. Updates to the plan were a collaborative effort between Parks and Recreation Staff and the Community Services Commission (CSC). As part of this collaborative approach, workshops were held separately with Parks and Recreation Staff at all levels and with the CSC. Both groups provided valuable insight on day-to-day operations and maintenance needs and how the parks system is being used by the community, while shaping the plan's recommendations.

The update process was held concurrent with the Comprehensive Plan Update and was a focal point during the public engagement activities. Community input suggests Richfield's Parks System is meeting most of the community's needs. However, the need for a dog park and

additional multiuse fields for soccer and lacrosse were expressed as some of the community's top priorities. The public also expressed the need for the following:

- » Large picnic shelters for an increasingly diverse community.
- » Other improvements to reflect the changing community and diversity, such as, facilities catering to seniors, gardens, landscape accents, shade, and seating.
- » Increased access to restrooms and drinking water in the parks. Drinking water and restrooms are highly desired in parks.
- » A remodeled nature center to accommodate expanding programs.
- » Community Center that offers gathering space, indoor ball courts, and exercise rooms.
- » Adding electrical services in some park shelters.

Parks Master Plan Recommendations

The Richfield parks system has a number of parks and community facilities and sites that are well suited to serve

the community into the future. Richfield has a significant investment in these facilities and has done well over the years to meet the needs of the community. However, the community has become increasingly diverse in terms of age, socio-economic status, race, and ethnicity; the park system must adapt to meet the needs of the population. These changes were considered in developing the recommendations. The recommendations also reflect priorities established by the CSC and through the public engagement process.

The recommendations focus on preserving and maintaining existing assets, while finding opportunities to reprogram park features and amenities. In some cases, the removal of a park feature or amenity has been proposed. This type of recommendation is responding to recreational trends that suggest a decline in the usage of a particular park amenity or feature. Recommendations are also responding to changing demographics and community needs by adding new amenities and facilities such as a dog park and soccer field.

The recommendations are depicted in Figure 8-2. Individual park recommendations are listed in the following section.



Table 8-2. Parks Overview Matrix

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND AMENITIES																						
Park Name					Summer program													Winter Program				
	Acres	Park Building	Parking	Walking Path (Miles)	Basketball Court	Baseball Field	Football / Soccer Field	Fishing Pier	Mini Golf	Outdoor Pool	Picnic Shelter	Pickleball Court	Play Equipment	Skate Facility	Softball Field	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Cross Country Ski Trails	Hockey Rink	Ice Arena	Pleasure Rink	Sledding Hill
1 - Adams Hill Park	13.0		1	0.6	1								1				1					1
2 - Apple Blossom Park	0.6																					
3 - Augsburg Park	21.0	2	1	0.4							2		2	1		6		1	1		1	1
4 - Christian Park	11.0	1	1	0.7	1		1L						1		1	4			1		1	
5 - Donaldson Park	23.6	1	1	0.4	2	2L	1L					4	1			4			2		1	
6 - Fairwood Park	2.5										1		1			2						
7 - Fremont Park	0.6				0.5								1								1	
8 - Garfield Park	0.8												1									
9 - Heredia Park	3.6			0.3	0.5							2	1		1	2						
10 - Jefferson Park	4.0	1			0.5							2	1		1	2					1	
11 - Lincoln Field	7.1	1	1	0.5									1		4							
12 - Little Bob's Park	0.3												1									
13 - Madison Park	4.5	1		0.3	1								1		1	1					1	
14 - Monroe Park	9.5			0.7	1						1		1		1		1					1
15 - Nicollet Park	6.5	1		0.3	0.5								1		1	1	1					
16 - Richfield Lake Park	24.0			1.0	0.5								1									
17 - Roosevelt Park	13.5	1	1	0.3	1	4							1			2			1		1	1
18 - Sheridan Park	6.8	1			0.5						2		1		1	2	1					
19 - Taft Park	42.0	2	1	1.0	2		1L	1					1		4L				1		1	
20 - Veterans Memorial Park	108.0	3	1	2.0					1	1	1		1				1			1		
21 - Washington Park	8.0	1	1	0.4	1		1L					8	1			2						1
22 - Wood Lake Nature Center	150.0	1	1	3.0									1					1				
TOTAL		17	10		16	6	4	1	1	1	9	16	22	1	15	28	5	2	6	1	8	5

L=Lighted Field

Figure 8-1. Parks Overview Map

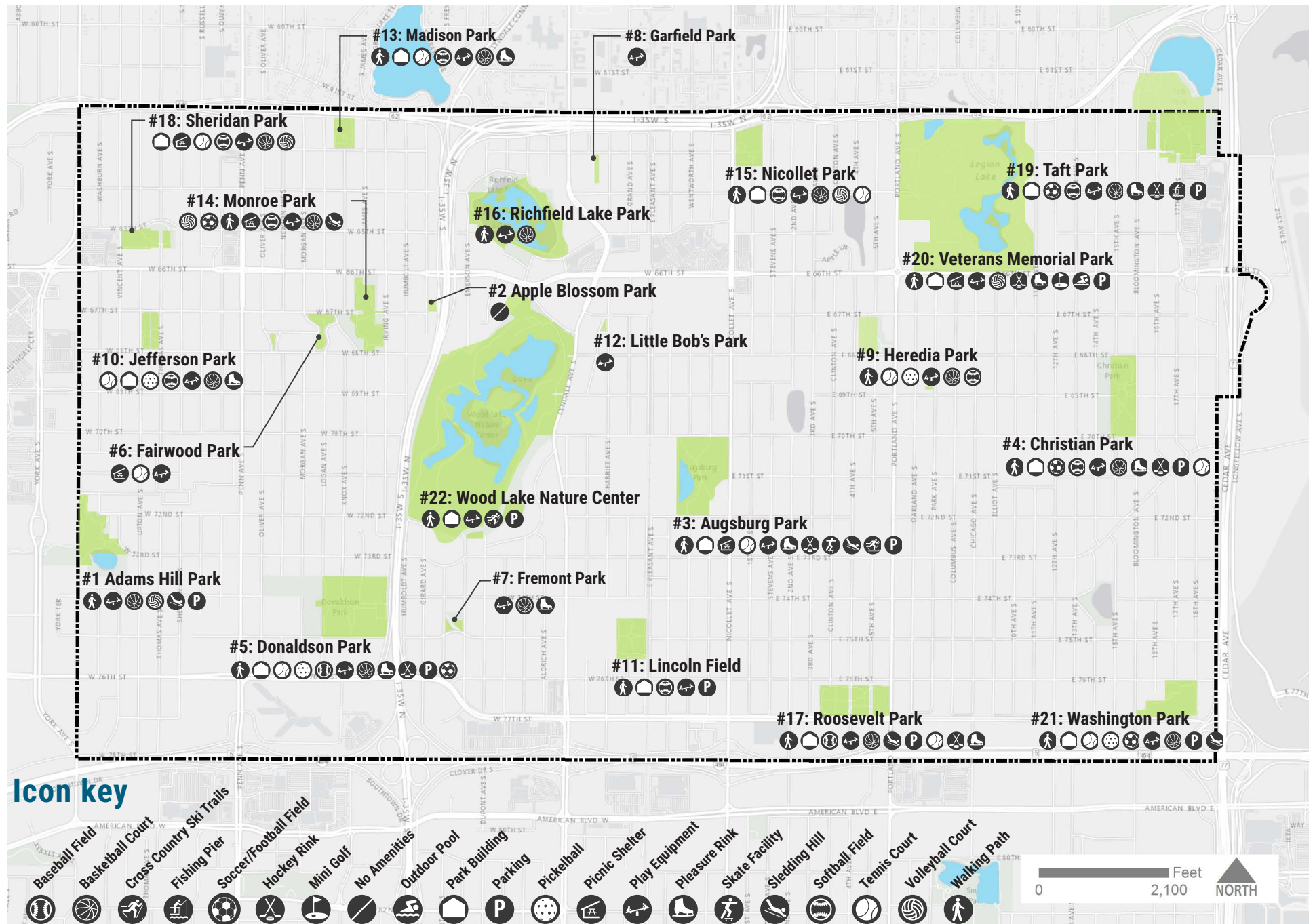
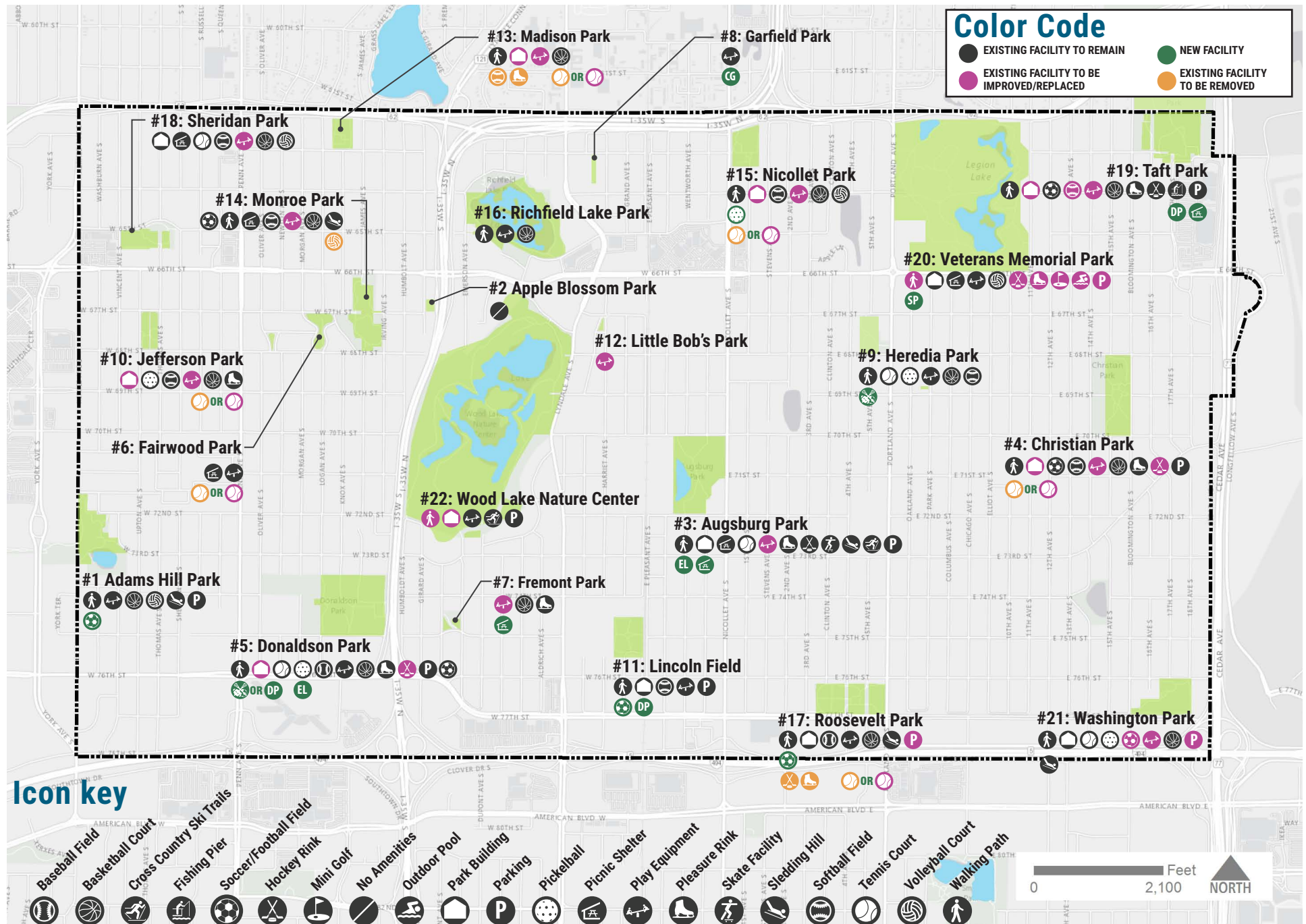


Figure 8-2. Parks Recommendations Summary



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#1: ADAMS HILL PARK

LOCATION: 7200 Washburn Avenue

ACRES: 13

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Adams Hill Park is located in the southwest quadrant of the City and is adjacent to the City of Edina. The park's connection to a larger trail/park network located in Edina attracts many walks and runners to Adams Hill Park. The sloped terrain that surrounds the park is well used during the winter for sledding. A few sport courts, a playground, and parking are in the level location of the park. The level central open lawn space provides opportunities for flexible athletic events and open play. Adams Hill Pond, a stormwater facility, is in the southern portion of the park.

Existing Facilities

 Walking Path (0.6 miles)

 Play Equipment

 Basketball Court

 Volleyball Court

 Sledding Hill

 Parking

Recommendations

- » Add youth soccer field (U6 to U10)
- » Solar trail lighting

Adams Hill Park



#2: APPLE BLOSSOM PARK

LOCATION: 6645 Girard Avenue


ACRES: 0.6

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Mini-Park

Park Description

Apple Blossom Park is adjacent to Highway 62. Roughly the size of two residential parcels, the parkland was acquired with the construction of Highway 62. Currently, open lawn space and a few picnic tables are the only facilities the park offers. A few fruit trees could be planted as a complimentary feature to the park that would provide a benefit to the neighborhood. Because this park is so isolated and small, another option that could be considered is selling this land to reinvest throughout the park system.

Existing Facilities

 No Amenities

Recommendation Options

- » Orchards (Apple Trees)
- » Sell property

Apple Blossom Park



#3: AUGSBURG PARK

LOCATION: 7145 Wentworth Avenue S

ACRES: 21












PARK CLASSIFICATION: Community Park

Park Description

Centrally located in the City, Augsburg Park is home to the Richfield Community Center which also includes part of the Community Services Department and Recreation Department. The park is adjacent to Richfield High School and the Augsburg Park Library.

The sledding hill, cross country ski trails, and skate facility are perhaps the most popular facilities the park offers. The groomed cross country ski trails are well used by the high school cross country ski team. Other facilities that distinguish Augsburg Park are the rolling topography, a mature oak tree canopy, ice rinks, a large tennis complex, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and a stormwater pond. To maintain an urban healthy forest within the park, the City has a plan to plant a diverse range of tree species to replace the aging oak trees.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path (0.4 miles)
-  Park Building
-  Park Shelter
-  Tennis Court
-  Play Equipment
-  Pleasure Rink
-  Hockey Rink
-  Skate Facility
-  Sledding Hill
-  Cross Country Ski Trails
-  Parking

Recommendations

- » New large picnic shelter
- » Replace play equipment
 - » Consolidate playgrounds
 - » Add more swings
 - » Consider location closer to picnic shelter
 - » Move further away from pond
- » Add adult fitness trail loop
- » Implement tree replacement plan

Augsburg Park



#4: CHRISTIAN PARK

LOCATION: 6900 Bloomington Avenue











ACRES: 11

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park/Athletic Complex

Park Description

Christian Park features tennis courts, soccer/football fields, a softball field, a full basketball court, a pleasure rink, a hockey rink, playgrounds, and a stormwater pond. The park building at Christian Park is one of the oldest buildings in the Richfield Park system and the bathrooms in the building do not meet current ADA standards. The park building currently has no programming and is underutilized. Partnering with Richfield STEM school should be considered to better utilize the park building. Reconfiguring or relocating a few amenities in the park, such as the playground locations, or tennis courts, would better utilize space within the park.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path (0.7 miles)
-  Park Building
-  Tennis Court
-  Football/Soccer Field
-  Softball Field
-  Play Equipment
-  Basketball Court
-  Pleasure Rink
-  Hockey Rink
-  Parking

Recommendations

- » Renovate or replace building
 - » Meet ADA requirements
 - » Consider rental use
 - » Add programming activities
- » Improve existing hockey rink
- » Combine play equipment in central location near building
- » Improve ecology of pond
- » Evaluate tennis court use and demand at the end of life cycle and determine course of action.

Christian Park



#5: DONALDSON PARK

LOCATION: 7434 Humbolt Avenue












ACRES: 23.6

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Athletic Complex/Community Park

Park Description

Donaldson Park is a well-used park located adjacent to Richfield Middle School. The existing building at Donaldson Park is one of the oldest and most used buildings in the park system. A new or remodeled park building is recommended to meet ADA standards and better serve the park users and its programs overall. Community athletic groups commonly use the athletic facilities in Donaldson Park. The athletic facilities located in Donaldson Park include a large concentration of tennis and basketball courts, two baseball fields, a soccer/football field, two hockey rinks, a pleasure rink, and a pickleball court. During the summer, the pleasure rink is utilized for cricket. The northeast corner of the park is the only area that is not fully developed and has been considered for additional soccer or multi-use field in the past.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path (0.4 miles)
-  Park Building
-  Tennis Court
-  Pickleball Court
-  Football/Soccer Field
-  Baseball Field
-  Play Equipment
-  Basketball Court
-  Pleasure Rink
-  Hockey Rink
-  Parking

Recommendations

- » Renovate or replace multi-use building
 - » Meet ADA requirements
 - » Concessions
 - » Maintain programming
 - » Storage
- » Improve existing hockey rinks
- » Develop northwest corner of park
 - » Potential for one multi-use field or
 - » Potential for dog park
- » Add security lighting
- » Add adult fitness trail loop

Donaldson Park



#6: FAIRWOOD PARK

LOCATION: 6700 Logan Avenue

ACRES: 2.5

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Fairwood Park is a small neighborhood park. The park features a nice open picnic shelter with tennis courts and play equipment. Most the park is dedicated to flexible lawn space.

Existing Facilities



Park Shelter



Tennis Court

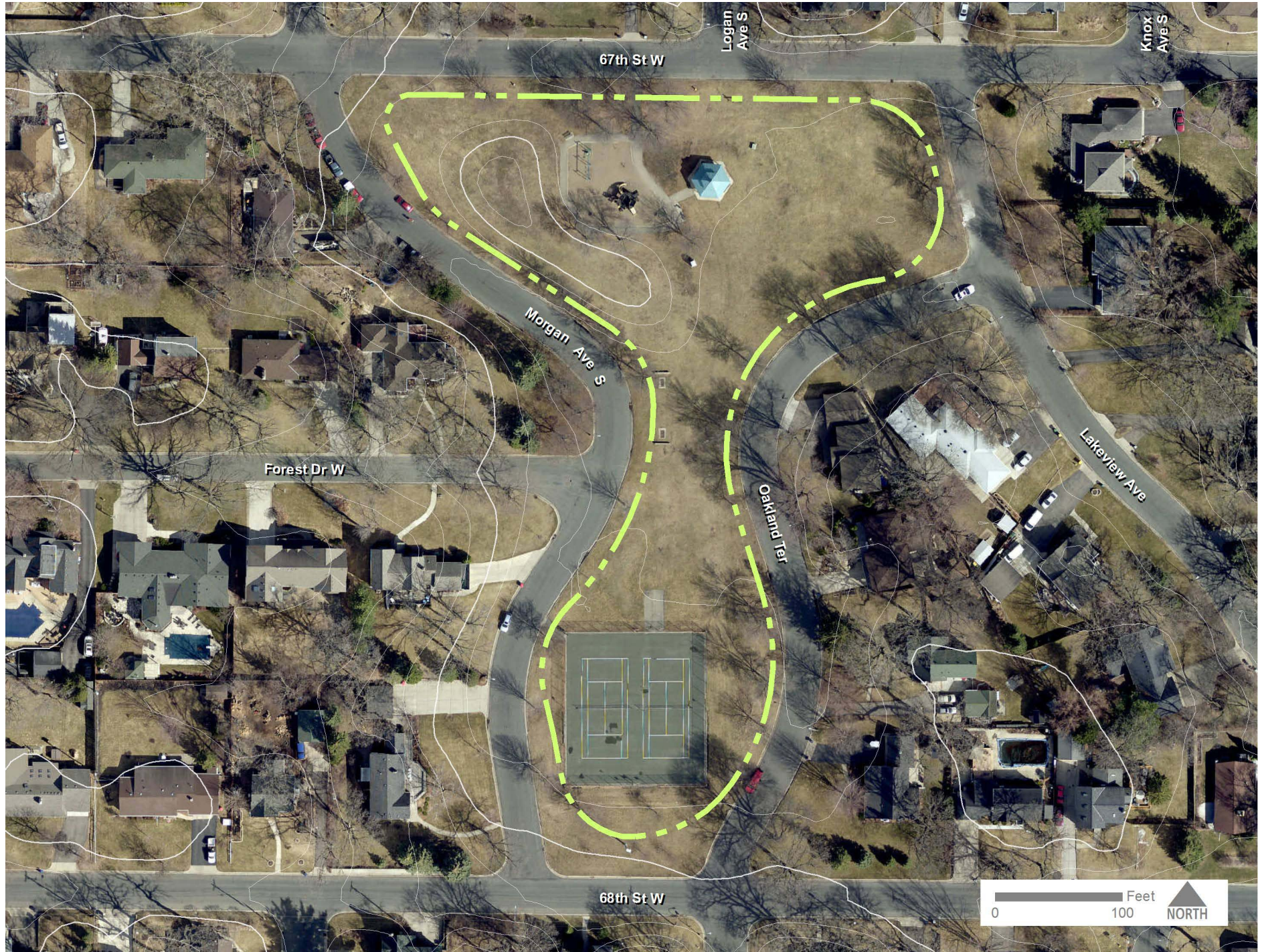


Play Equipment

Recommendations

- » Evaluate tennis court use and demand at the end of life cycle and determine course of action.
- » Remove horseshoe pit

Fairwood Park



#7: FREMONT PARK

LOCATION: 7445 Fremont Avenue

ACRES: 0.6

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Mini-Park

Park Description

Fremont Park is well-used by the surrounding neighborhood. The park features play equipment, a basketball court, and a pleasure rink. The City park staff utilize the building in the park as a maintenance storage shed.

Existing Facilities



Play Equipment



Basketball court

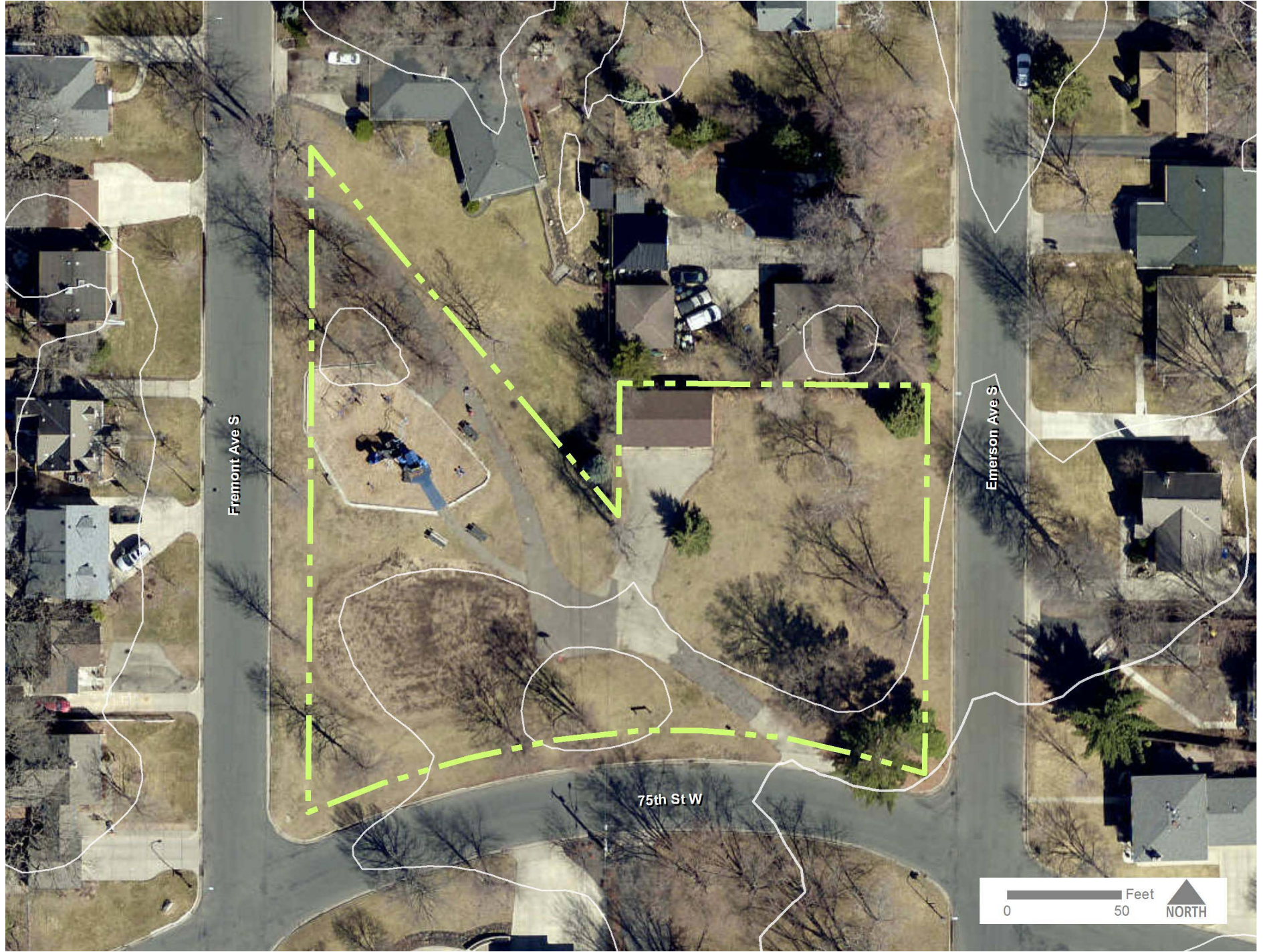


Pleasure Rink

Recommendations

- » Add portable toilets
- » Expand storage building
- » Add picnic shelter
- » Replace play equipment at end of life cycle

Fremont Park



#8: GARFIELD PARK

LOCATION: 6301 Garfield Avenue

ACRES: 0.8

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Mini-Park

Park Description

Garfield Park, located adjacent to an apartment complex, is classified as a mini-park. Most of the park is open lawn space with overstory trees. A playground was recently constructed in the north end of the park near 63rd Street West. The park's long narrow shape, along with its size, constrains potential park development options. Pollinator gardens could be considered to provide a larger visual buffer between the park and apartment parking lot.

Existing Facilities



Play equipment

Recommendation Options

- » Potential for community gardens
- » Potential for pollinator garden
- » Potential for mini-dog park/dog run
- » Add portable toilets

Garfield Park



#9: HEREDIA PARK

LOCATION: 6710 Portland Avenue

ACRES: 3.6

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Heredia Park is a neighborhood park adjacent to the Richfield Municipal Center. The building was completed in 2011 and so the park amenities are relatively new and in good condition. The building and park are connected by a landscaped plaza which features public art. Amenities in Heredia Park include tennis courts, pickleball courts, play equipment, and a softball field with a paved trail loop around it. The softball field drains poorly and requires considerable maintenance. This area should be considered for a different use, like a multi-use field.


Existing Facilities

 Walking Path (0.3 miles)

 Tennis Court

 Pickleball Court

 Softball Field

 Play Equipment

 Basketball Court

Recommendations

» Replace infield with turf for multi-purpose space

Heredia Park



#10: JEFFERSON PARK

LOCATION: 6700 Thomas Avenue

ACRES: 4

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Jefferson Park features several athletic facilities and a nice park building. Park amenities include a playground, sport courts, a pleasure rink and a softball field. The fields at Jefferson Park are used for softball practices and informal soccer games. The existing building, which is rarely used, is ADA accessible and has modern features such as LED lighting. Reprogramming the existing park building and allowing rentals would likely increase building usage.

Existing Facilities



Park Building



Tennis Court



Pickleball Court



Softball Field



Play Equipment



Basketball Court



Pleasure Rink

Recommendations

- » Evaluate tennis court use and demand at the end of life cycle and determine course of action
- » Remove boardwalks
- » Reprogram building to improve usage
 - » Consider rentals
- » Replace play equipment

Jefferson Park



#11: LINCOLN FIELD

LOCATION: 7500 Pleasant Avenue

ACRES: 7.1

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Athletic Complex

Park Description

Lincoln Field's distinguishing characteristic are the four softball fields constructed in 2008. While designed for softball, baseball is commonly played at Lincoln Field. A park building and play features are in the center of the park. The play area is covered with shade fabric which requires frequent maintenance.

There is potential for Lincoln Field to expand. The parcel to the north of the park, which currently is a manufactured home neighborhood, is being rezoned to commercial land. If the land is acquired, future development of a dog park or soccer fields and more parking could be possible.

Existing Facilities



Walking Path (0.5 miles)



Park Building



Softball Field



Play Equipment



Parking

Recommendations

- » If land to the north is acquired, park expansion could accommodate:
 - » A dog park or soccer fields
 - » Additional parking

Lincoln Field



#12: LITTLE BOB'S PARK

LOCATION: 6700 Harriet Avenue

ACRES: 0.3

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Mini-Park

Park Description

Little Bob's Park is mini-park which primarily consists of lawn space scattered with trees and picnic tables. In addition to the lawn, well used play equipment is in the southern half of the park.

Existing Facilities



Play Equipment

Recommendations

- » Upgrade play equipment with accessible features and surfacing at end of life cycle
- » Add portable toilets

Little Bob's Park



#13: MADISON PARK

LOCATION: 6244 Knox Avenue








ACRES: 4.5

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Madison Park is a neighborhood park in the northwest quadrant of the City adjacent to the Highway 62 noise wall. The park contains athletic fields, sport courts, and play facilities. The park has a well-defined loop trail and is well connected to the surrounding neighborhood by a trail along the north side of the park. The current park building, in good condition, is rarely used. The building pad and surrounding patio has consistent drainage issues which also effect the playground. When the park is redesigned and the play equipment is replaced, it should be relocated to help resolve the drainage issues.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path (0.3 miles)
-  Park Building
-  Tennis Court
-  Softball Field
-  Play Equipment
-  Basketball Court
-  Pleasure Rink

Recommendations

- » Reprogram park building to improve usage
 - » Consider rentals
- » Remove baseball field
- » Evaluate tennis court use and demand at the end of life cycle and determine course of action
- » Replace play equipment and change location of playground to remedy drainage issues
- » Remove wooden walks
- » Remove pleasure rink

Madison Park



#14: MONROE PARK

LOCATION: 6710 Irving Avenue









ACRES: 9.5

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Monroe Park is a large neighborhood park. The park contains several distinguishing topographic features. The perimeter of the park is surrounded by a hill. The ridge located in the middle of the park spatially separates the park into two halves and provides a popular sledding hill. Looping trails circle each half of the park providing good pedestrian access. A variety of well-used athletic fields, sport courts, and play facilities are in the level area of the park. A small picnic shelter provides the only gathering space at the center of the park. Because of the park's location and topography vehicular access is limited.

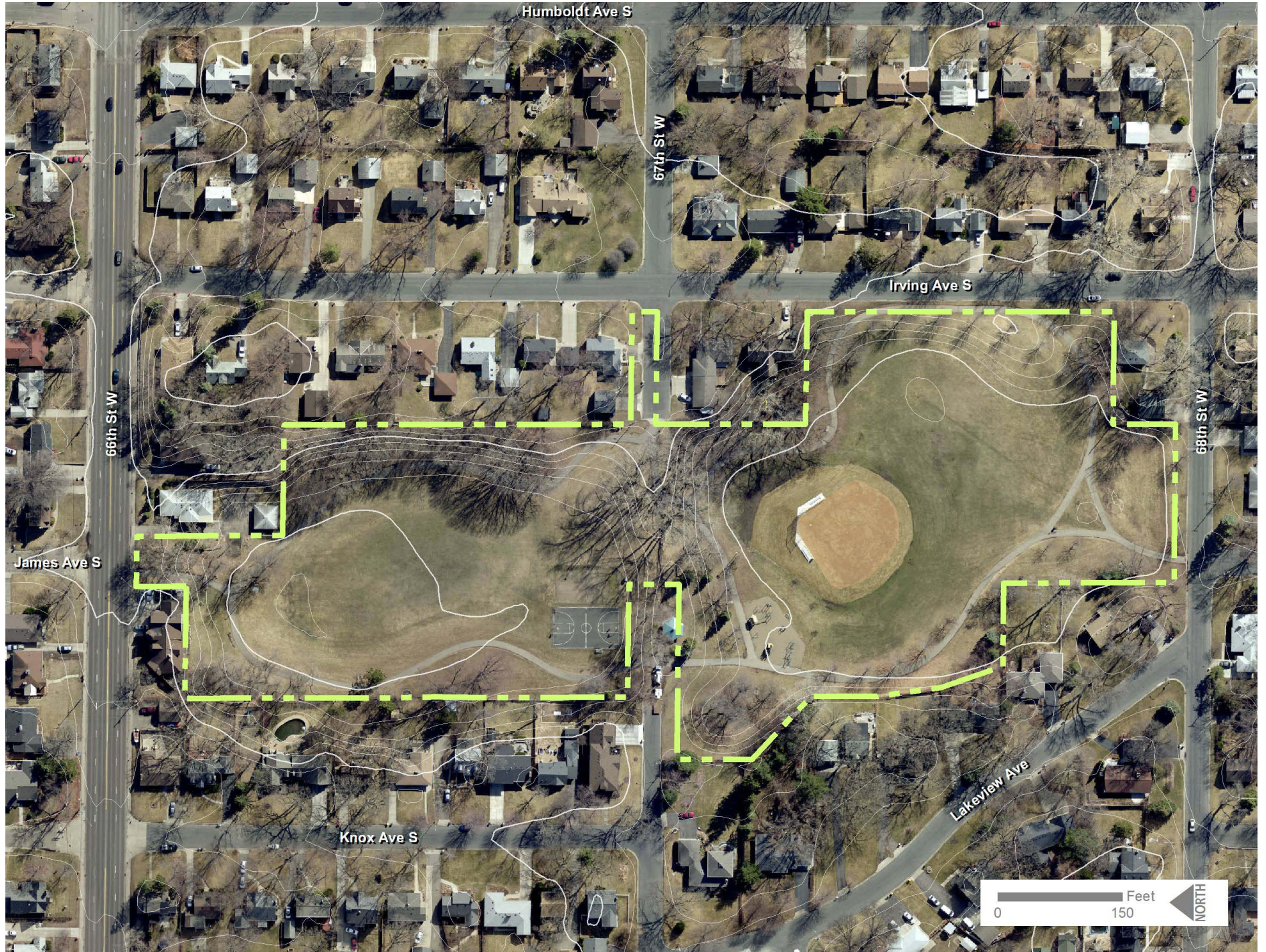
Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path (0.7 miles)
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Softball Field
-  Play Equipment
-  Basketball Court
-  Volleyball Court
-  Sledding Hill
-  Informal Soccer Field

Recommendations

- » Replace play equipment at end of life cycle
- » Remove sand volleyball court

Monroe Park



#15: NICOLLET PARK

LOCATION: 6300 First Avenue

ACRES: 6.5

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Nicollet Park is a neighborhood park located along Nicollet Avenue just south of Highway 62. Mature oak trees and a steep slope provide a visual buffer from Nicollet Avenue on the western edge of the park. The park is well-connected to adjacent sidewalks by trail connections but can only be accessed by vehicle through a cul-de-sac on the south side. Nicollet Park contains sport courts, a large patio and building, play facilities, and a softball field. The existing softball field is often used informally for other sports. The existing park building is not programmed for community activities and is currently being used to store recreation supplies.

Existing Facilities



Walking Path (0.3 miles)



Park Building



Tennis Court



Softball Field



Play Equipment



Basketball Court

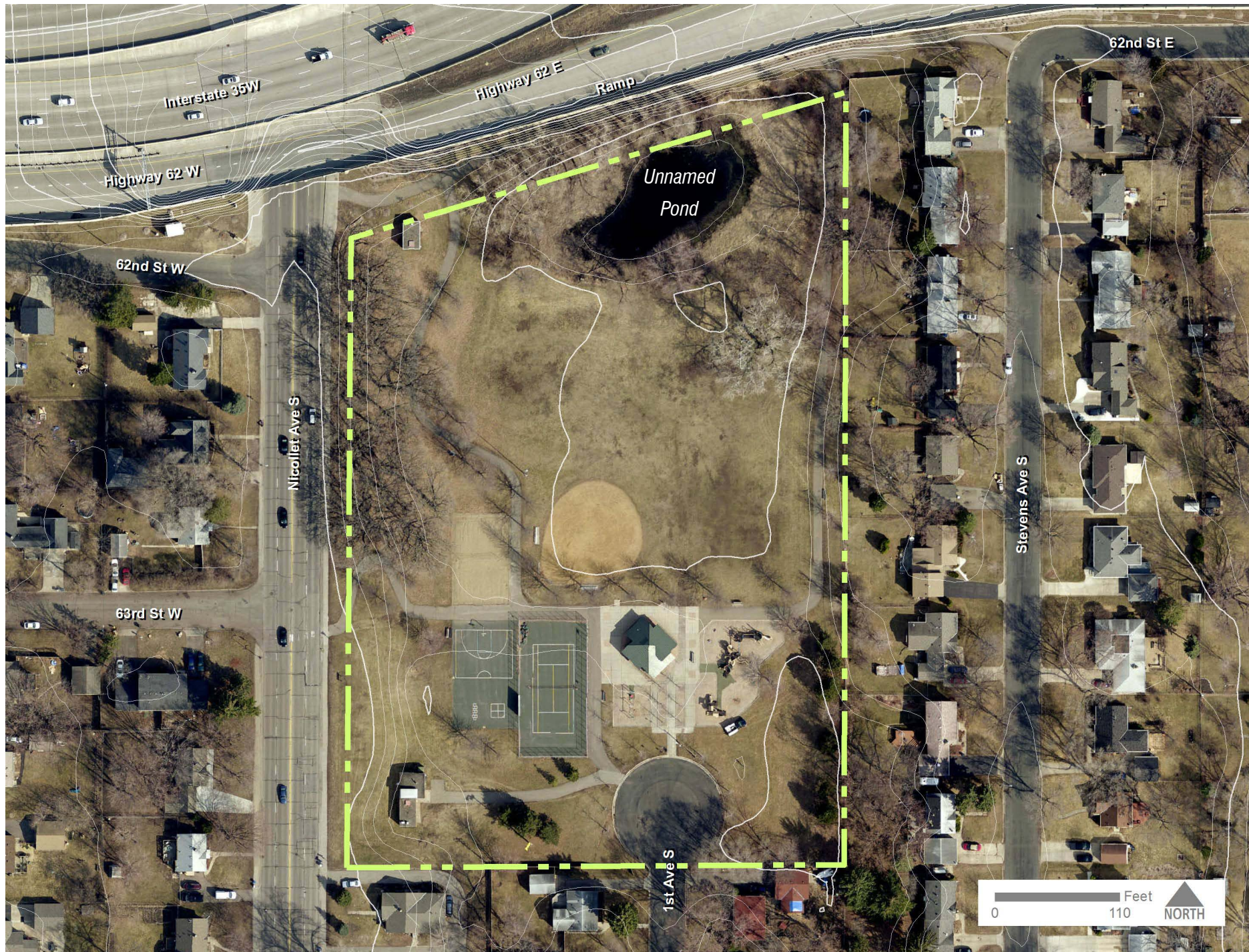


Volleyball Court

Recommendations

- » Replace play equipment
- » Evaluate tennis court use and demand at the end of life cycle and determine course of action
- » Add trail lighting
- » Reprogram building to increase use
 - » Consider rentals

Nicollet Park



#16: RICHFIELD LAKE PARK

LOCATION: 6400 Dupont Avenue

ACRES: 24

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park/Stormwater Pond

Park Description

Richfield Lake Park's distinctive feature is the Richfield Lake and surrounding wetlands. The lake and wetlands collect excess rainwater from Highway 62. The park features a 1 mile walking path around the lake making Richfield Lake Park a popular location for pedestrian activities. In addition, the park has a small playground and basketball court located in the northwest corner. An amphitheater, part of a new residential development, has been constructed just outside the park boundary on the east side of Richfield Lake near the Lakewinds Co-op.

Existing Facilities



Walking Path (1.0 miles)



Play Equipment



Basketball Court

Recommendations

- » Create and implement an Invasive Species Management Plan.
- » Add portable toilets

Richfield Lake Park



#17: ROOSEVELT PARK

LOCATION: 7644 Fourth Avenue

ACRES: 13.5

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Roosevelt Park is a neighborhood park located in the southern half of the City adjacent to Portland Avenue and 77th Street. The park features four well organized baseball fields located on the west side of the park. The east side features a park building, sport courts, hockey and pleasure rinks, play facilities, and parking. With the demand for soccer, there is interest in reorganizing the eastern portion of the park to include soccer fields. This change would most likely need to include removing the hockey and pleasure rinks, as well as the tennis courts.

Existing Facilities

 Walking Path (0.3 miles)


 Park Building

 Tennis Court

 Baseball Field

 Play Equipment

 Basketball Court

 Pleasure Rink

 Hockey Rink

 Sledding Hill

 Parking

Recommendations

- » Evaluate tennis court use and demand at the end of life cycle and determine course of action
- » Remove hockey rink
- » Remove pleasure rink
- » Add two soccer fields
- » Expand parking lot
 - » Improve sight lines out of parking lot

Roosevelt Park










#18: SHERIDAN PARK

LOCATION: 6500 S Upton Ave
ACRES: 6.8
PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park

Park Description

Sheridan Park is a neighborhood park located in the northwest quadrant of the City. This park features the largest picnic shelter in the parks system with a capacity of 50. On its east side, the park contains a playground, tennis courts, a volleyball court, and a softball field. On its west side, the park features a stormwater pond with a loop trail.

Existing Facilities

-  Park Building
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Tennis Court
-  Softball Field
-  Play Equipment
-  Basketball Court
-  Volleyball Court

Recommendations

- » Replace play equipment

Sheridan Park



#19: TAFT PARK

LOCATION: 1800 E 63rd Street

ACRES: 42

PARK CLASSIFICATION: Community Park/Athletic Complex











Park Description

Taft Park is a well-used community park located in the northeast corner of the City. The southern half of the park is within City limits and the north half of the park is leased from the Metropolitan Airports Commission. The park features a soccer/football field, softball fields, a hockey rink, a pleasure rink, a park building, a playground, sport courts, and Taft Lake. The Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail follows the western edge of the park.

Taft Lake has a looping walking trail and is part of the DNR's Fishing in the Neighborhood program. A new fishing pier and canoe/kayak landing are planned for Taft Park as part of a partnership with Three Rivers Park District.

Taft Park has many park infrastructure issues which cause consistent maintenance needs and disrupt the park user experience. Old landfill material is often pushed to the surface from the freeze thaw cycle. The athletic field drainage is very poor due to the naturally saturated soils and commonly flood after rain events. Is it recommended that a study is conducted to better assess drainage issues before any further investment in athletic fields at Taft Park occurs.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path (1.0 miles)
-  Park Building
-  Football/Soccer Field
-  Softball Field
-  Play Equipment
-  Basketball Court
-  Pleasure Rink
-  Hockey Rink
-  Fishing Pier
-  Parking

Recommendations

- » Replace or renovate south building
- » Add open picnic shelter
- » Replace play equipment
- » Improve field drainage
 - » Conduct study on how to address groundwater/drainage issues
- » Update softball fields
- » Upgrade fence and dug outs
- » Potential area for dog park
- » Create and implement Invasive Species Management Plan
- » Potential pollinator garden
- » Potential parking lot and circulation improvements

Taft Park



#20: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

LOCATION: 6335 Portland Avenue

ACRES: 108










PARK CLASSIFICATION: Community Park/Stormwater Pond

Park Description

Veterans Memorial Park is one of the most popular parks in Richfield and functions as a destination park drawing in people from the surrounding metro area. The park is programed with a variety of facilities that provide space for large community gatherings and events. A few of the popular destinations at Veterans Memorial Park include the farmers market, an outdoor pool, a mini golf course, a refrigerated ice arena, the Veterans memorial, the band shell, and the walking paths and boardwalks around Legion Lake and its surrounding wetland complex.

Several plans are already in place for the park. A future bandshell is planned to be built on the southwestern edge of Legion Lake. The mini-golf course, privately-owned, is looking to reinvest and expand soon. Also, there are currently plans to replace the refrigeration system in the ice arena that would ensure the success of the ice arena for the future.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path & Boardwalk (2.0 miles)
-  Park Building
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Play Equipment
-  Volleyball Court
-  Ice Arena
-  Mini Golf
-  Outdoor Pool
-  Parking

Recommendations

- » Refrigeration update at ice arena
- » Replace pool liner
- » Add pool amenity
 - » Splash pad
 - » Shading umbrellas
- » Replace or modify boardwalk
- » Update mini golf
- » Explore the need for expanded
 - » Incorporate stormwater BMPs to reduce runoff to playground and pond
- » Create and implement Invasive species Management plan
- » Expansion of the Honoring All Veterans memorial
- » Complete construction of a band shell as proposed

Veterans Memorial Park



#21: WASHINGTON PARK

LOCATION: 6700 17th Avenue

ACRES: 8










PARK CLASSIFICATION: Neighborhood Park/Athletic Complex

Park Description

Washington Park is a neighborhood park and athletic complex located in the southeast corner of the City. Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail is located along the northern edge of the park.

The signature facilities of Washington Park include a park building, sport courts, a playground and soccer fields. Plans to extend 18th Avenue through the park will impact the existing soccer fields. Park planning to address this impact has already occurred and will include an expansion of the parking lot and the reorganization of two soccer fields.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path (0.4 miles)
-  Park Building
-  Tennis Court
-  Pickleball Court
-  Football/Soccer Field
-  Play Equipment
-  Basketball Court
-  Sledding Hill
-  Parking

Recommendations

- » Leave as planned
- » Reconfigure 2 soccer fields
- » Expand parking
- » Replace play equipment at end of life cycle

Washington Park



#22: WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER

LOCATION: 6710 Lake Short Drive

ACRES: 150






PARK CLASSIFICATION: Nature Preserve/Stormwater Pond

Park Description

Wood Lake Nature Center is a natural area dedicated to environmental education, wildlife observation, and outdoor recreation. A popular destination in Richfield and in the larger metro area, Wood Lake Nature Center draws in nearly 72,000 visitors yearly. Richfield K-6 public schools also visit Wood Lake three times a year as part of their regular science curriculum. Users enjoy the hiking and cross country ski trails through the quiet, naturalized landscape. The nature center also offers wildlife viewing areas, a 100-seat amphitheater, and a picnic area. Flooding of the trails is a common occurrence given that Wood Lake functions as a holding pond for a large portion of the City's stormwater. Further evaluation is needed to develop a plan that will solve trail flooding.

The nature center building features exhibits, classroom space, and houses nature center staff offices. The building is over 25 years old and has been well used throughout the years. To better meet the needs of the community and enhance the educational program offerings, the building needs repair, ADA updates, and an expansion. A new building versus a remodel should be strongly considered.

Existing Facilities

-  Walking Path & Boardwalk (3.0 miles)
-  Park Building (interpretive center)
-  Play Equipment
-  Cross Country Ski Trails
-  Parking

Recommendations

- » Replace or renovate interpretive center building:
 - » More meeting space
 - » More room for entertainment
 - » Catering kitchen
 - » Laundry facility
 - » ADA accessibility
 - » Classroom(s)
 - » Expanded storage
- » Improve trails:
 - » Replace boardwalk
 - » Evaluate and develop plan to solve trail flooding
- » Create plan for future stormwater distribution & management
- » Create and implement Invasive Species Management Plan

Wood Lake Nature Center



Project Priority Ranking

#1. High Priority:

The recommendations should be considered in the near-term (one to two years of programming) as funding becomes available. These are typically low-cost investments or ongoing operations and maintenance costs associated with existing facilities. Higher priorities were given to recommendations associated with parks viewed as key destinations or top priorities (e.g., dog park, splash pad, and multi-use fields) identified by the public.

#2. Medium Priority:

The recommendations should be considered in the mid-term (three to five years of programming) as funding becomes available. These may include larger costs associated with community facilities. For example, the ice arena will need refrigeration updates in the near future. The community has viewed these recommendations as a priority, but may require additional planning by the City before implementation.

#3. Low Priority:

The recommendations should be considered in the long-term (five to ten years of programming) as funding becomes available. These recommendations are still important to the parks system, but may not have been recognized as a high-priority by the community.

#4. Future Priority:

"Future Priority" projects include significant investments or new facilities that have no funding identified or timeframe. A project of this nature would require additional planning and engineering to determine its feasibility. A future priority project identified by the community includes a Community Center.

PROJECT PRIORITIES & COST

Planning-level cost estimates were prepared for each of the recommendations (see Table 8-3). The estimates serve as an "order of magnitude" for programming and budgeting purposes. The recommendations were also prioritized using a scale of one through four (see sidebar). Specific recommendations to note include:

- » **Community Center:** For some time, there has been a strong interest and growing need for a community center in Richfield to meet the community's need for a central gathering location. Desired amenities include indoor program space, community meeting rooms, banquet facilities, indoor playground, exercise equipment and other recreation facilities.

A new community center will require significant investments and financial commitments. The total cost will depend on the type of programs and amenities offered. Community centers swimming pools, exercise facilities, banquet space and gymnasiums typically result in a larger project cost. Precedent examples in the region that include these types of facilities have ranged from \$40 to \$80+ million.

A community center strategy should determine or weigh the costs and benefits of investing strategically in existing park building renovation/expansion to fill existing program needs or whether to invest in a single City-wide community center to fulfill current and future needs. The strategic plan should determine potential community center locations, programs, costs including staffing and maintenance considerations, funding options/mechanism, and timing. Until a strategic plan is completed, a new community center has been identified as a "future priority" for the community.

- » **Ice Arena:** The ice arena is located in Veterans Memorial Park. The demand for ice time has increased as both the High School and the Academy of Holy Angels use the facility as their home arena. Ice time has also increased with the presence of the Minnesota Magicians, a junior hockey team part of the North American Hockey League.

The ice arena will require refrigeration updates in the near future. The cost associated with this repair is approximately \$3.8 million and is a high priority for the community.

- » **Woodlake Nature Center:** Wood Lake Nature Center is a 150-acre natural area dedicated to environmental education, wildlife observation, and outdoor recreation. Wood Lake staff offices at the 4,000 square-foot main building, which features many educational exhibits. The building is in need of repair or replacement. Replacing the building could range between \$12 and \$14 million. This investment was identified as a low-priority for the community over the next ten years as it will take time to secure funding (e.g., bonding).
- » **Dog Park:** Residents have expressed a strong desire for a dog park. Donaldson and Taft Park were identified as two potential locations. This is a high priority for the community and could cost approximately \$40,000 to \$70,000. This cost assumes a two-acre turf field with fencing, benches and a pet friendly drinking fountain.
- » **Multi-Use Field:** There is an increase demand for multi-use fields to accommodate soccer and lacrosse. Donaldson and Heredia Park were identified as potential locations for a new multi-use field. Re-grading and adding turf in one of these locations would cost approximately \$80,000. It should be noted an additional soccer field was added in Washington Park in 2017.



Preserving and Managing Assets

As the Parks and Recreations Department plans for the next ten years of investments, the Department may face challenges in preserving and maintaining its assets (e.g., park buildings, playground equipment and community facilities) in a “state of good repair.” While funding constraints may limit investment levels, the park’s assets will continue to age and conditions will slowly decline. In turn, balancing the ongoing operation and maintenance costs with expansion needs will be challenging at times. In that respect, Richfield will need to be cognizant of the following revitalization/preservation needs:

- » **Building Reuse:** Many park buildings are underutilized due to staffing issues, reduction in summer and winter youth programming, fewer program participants, budget cuts, and vandalism. For example, as outdoor hockey and skating participation declined and staffing costs increased, the City reduced the number of skating rinks and closed a number of warming houses. Some of the park buildings have been renovated in recent years, but they remain too small or inflexible for programming needs. Finding a reuse for park buildings was identified as a park system need. The Parks and Recreation Department has been working to find alternate uses where possible. Some of the buildings

are being used for storage, at Roosevelt it is used for concessions, and others are opened up for community groups.

- » **Facility Replacement:** Recreation facilities are aging and some are in need of replacement. Prior to replacement, Richfield needs to monitor the use of such facilities to determine whether replacement is warranted. Recreation trends show that some sports have seen a decline in popularity and participation. In these instances, alternate uses or removal of a facility should be considered.
- » **Operations and Maintenance:** Assets should be maintained in a “state of good repair” through ongoing operations and maintenance. Annual budgets and capital improvement programs should reflect these expenditures.
- » **Lifecycle Replacement:** Monitor and budget for the replacement of assets when they reach their lifecycle schedule. In 2017, the City evaluated the condition of the parks system’s playground equipment. This document should be utilized as a resource in developing a replacement schedule for playground equipment. Lifecycle schedules should also be considered for other park amenities and community facilities (e.g., surface parking lots, picnic shelters, roofs for buildings, and picnic tables).
- » **Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities:** Some parks lack access to playgrounds, shelters, courts and amenities. Future park and community facility improvements should be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and be designed as such to improve access to all persons with disabilities.
- » **Safety and Security Improvements:** Park users increasingly feel unsafe in parks and desire safety and security improvements such as surveillance cameras, improved lighting, opening up views to trails, clearing of understory brush and providing new uses to activate

parks. The Parks Department should continue to explore safety improvements and monitor safety issues with the Richfield Police Department.

- » **Sustainability:** Community input suggests a growing desire for natural resource preservation and environmental sustainability in part due to concerns about climate change, invasive species, awareness raised through the Nature Center and other factors.

Richfield parks are highly developed and all but a few lack natural character. There is a desire for passive areas of parks to be restored to a more natural character, and for existing natural areas to be better preserved. There is also a growing desire for more environmentally sustainable maintenance/management practices including best practices for stormwater management, energy efficiency, and the incorporation of environmental sustainability into new facility programs. The City should consider sustainable design practices when improving the parks system.

Park Building Reuse Ideas

Park building reuse ideas include preschool programming, teen drop in sites, and expanded playground programming focused on immigrant families.

Minimal improvements to park buildings such as adding media equipment or other such features should be supported to make the buildings more attractive to specific users or programming needs. Although not serving much of a recreation function, the storage use of park buildings makes sense when no better use can be found considering the City’s existing investment. For those buildings that have reached the end of their useful life, and rehabilitation into a multi-use facility cannot be made, the buildings should be removed.

Table 8-3. Parks Improvements Costing Menu

Amenity	Cost Range	Unit	Notes/Assumptions	Proposed Location	Priority	TOTAL
Major Projects						
New Community Center Building	TBD		Funded through Bonding	To be determined	4	
Replace or renovate interpretive center building	\$12M to \$14M	-	Funded through Bonding	Wood Lake	3	
Update Mini-Golf	TBD		Funded through Renter	Veterans Memorial	1	
Refrigeration update at Ice Arena	\$3,800,000	-	Funded through Energy Savings over a 20-Year Period	Veterans Memorial	2	
Ongoing Maintenance for Existing Facilities						
Parks related maintenance	\$50,000	per year	Continuation	All parks	1	\$500,000
Building related maintenance	\$50,000	per year	Building mechanical and major upkeep	Wood Lake, Community Center	1	\$500,000
Building Related Amenities						
Picnic Shelter (up to 25 people)	\$50,000 - \$80,000	Lump Sum	Includes concrete pad and footings. Does not include utility connections.	Fremont	3	\$80,000
Picnic Shelter (up to 50 people)	\$90,000 - \$125,000	Lump Sum	Includes concrete pad and footings. Does not include utility connections.	Taft	1	\$125,000
Picnic Shelter (up to 100 people)	\$150,000 - \$200,000	Lump Sum	Includes concrete pad and footings. Does not include utility connections.	Augsburg	2	\$175,000
Renovate or Replace Park Building	\$100,000 - \$300,000	Lump Sum		Donaldson	1	\$300,000
Renovate or Replace Park Building	\$100,000 - \$300,000	Lump Sum		Taft	2	\$300,000
Renovate or Replace Park Building	\$100,000 - \$300,000	Lump Sum		Christian	3	\$200,000
Expand storage building	\$100,000	Lump Sum	For youth sports associations	Fremont	3	\$100,000
Replace Pool Liner	\$600,000	Lump Sum		Veterans Memorial	2	\$600,000
Support Amenities						
Heavy duty recycling containers	\$2,000.00	Each	15 programmed parks	15 programmed parks	1	\$30,000
Add portable toilets	\$5,000.00	Each	Assumes cost of enclosure.	Fremont, Little Bobs, Richfield Lake, Garfield	3	\$20,000
Solar Trail lighting	\$30,000.00	Each	Use Monroe Park as model	Nicollet, Adams Hill, Donaldson	3	\$90,000
Parking lot expansion	\$100,000	50 stalls	Assumes striping, bituminous paving, curb and gutter, and grading at \$2,000 per stall.	Veterans Memorial North Parking Lot	3	\$100,000
Parking lot expansion	\$40,000	20 stalls	Assumes striping, bituminous paving, curb and gutter, and grading at \$2,000 per stall.	Roosevelt	2	\$40,000
Upgrade fence and dug outs	\$15,000 to \$30,000	per field	Infield fencing only with covered dugouts	Taft	3	\$100,000
Modify existing boardwalk	\$150,000	Lump Sum		Veterans Memorial	1	\$150,000
Replace existing boardwalk	\$400,000	Lump Sum		Wood Lake	2	\$400,000
Trail Perimeter Maintenance	\$40,000	Lump Sum	\$1,000 feet SW corner of park	Wood Lake	2	\$40,000

Table 8-3. Parks Improvements Costing Menu Continued

Playground Related						
Replace K-5 Play Equipment (Neighborhood/Mini Park)	\$50,000 - \$70,000	Lump Sum	Assumes 3,500 square foot container size. Assumes 250 linear feet of curb. Assumes mulch play surfacing. Does not include site work such as reconfiguring concrete walks and benches.	Christian, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Nicollet, Sheridan, Washington	1	\$560,000
Replace 5-12 Play Equipment (Neighborhood/Mini Park)	\$65,000 - \$85,000	Lump Sum	Assumes 5,000 square foot container size. Assumes 350 linear feet of curb. Assumes mulch play surfacing. Does not include site work such as reconfiguring concrete walks and benches.	Christian, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Nicollet, Sheridan, Washington	1	\$560,000
Replace K-5 Play Equipment (Community Park)	\$70,000 - \$90,000	Lump Sum	Assumes 5,000 square foot container size. Assumes 350 linear feet of curb. Assumes mulch play surfacing. Does not include site work such as reconfiguring concrete walks and benches.	Augsburg, Taft	1	\$180,000
Replace 5-12 Play Equipment (Community Park)	\$100,000 - \$140,000	Lump Sum	Assumes 7,500 square foot container size. Assumes 500 linear feet of curb. Assumes mulch play surfacing. Does not include site work such as reconfiguring concrete walks and benches.	Augsburg, Taft	1	\$220,000
Sport fields/Sport Courts						
Youth Soccer Field (U6 to U10)	\$15,000-\$25,000	Lump Sum	Assumes grading, 6" of topsoil, and turf establishment. Does not assume lighting or irrigation. Field size may range from 30 X 20yd to 47 X 30yd.	Adams	2	\$20,000
Soccer Field (standard)	\$100,000 - \$115,000	Lump Sum	Assumes grading, 6" of topsoil, & turf establishment. Does not assume lighting or irrigation. Assumes field size of 120 X 75yd.	Roosevelt	2	\$230,000
Adult exercise elements	\$20,000 - \$60,000	Lump Sum	Assumes up to 5 fitness equipment elements, concrete pad, and/or mulch surfacing. Does not assume construction of trail	Augsburg, Donaldson	3	\$120,000
Replace tennis court with pickleball	\$5,000	-	Restripe and netting	Nicollet	3	\$5,000
Refurbish Hockey Rink and Lighting	\$200,000	-	New boards, replace lighting with LED and push-button timers	Donaldson & Christian	3	\$200,000

Table 8-3. Parks Improvements Costing Menu Continued

Special Use						
Dog Park	\$40,000 - \$70,000	Lump Sum	Assumes 2 acres in size. Assumes turf is existing. Lower cost range includes 6-foot tall perimeter fence. High cost range includes addition of 5 benches and 1 shade canopy structure with solid roof. Includes pet friendly drinking fountain	Donaldson, Taft	1	\$140,000
Honoring All Veterans Memorial Expansion	\$25,000	Lump Sum	Walk area and lighting for backside of granite tablets on east side	Veterans Memorial	1	\$25,000
Multi-use field (lacrosse, soccer, etc.)	\$70,000-\$80,000	Lump Sum	Assumes grading, 6" of topsoil, & turf establishment. Does not assume lighting or irrigation. Assumes field size of 110X 60yd.	Donaldson, Heredia	1	\$80,000
Splash Pad	\$250,000.00	Lump Sum	Assumes medium size with flow through design that uses existing water hook-up from pool house	Veterans Memorial	2	\$250,000
					Total	\$6,440,000
					Per year	\$644,000

Notes

Removal cost incorporated into park related maintenance

Building repograming incorporated into park related mainteance

Invasive species management plan and implementation included in operating budget