

9. PARKS AND RECREATION

Goal: Create a comprehensive, maintained, and interconnected system of parks, pathways, and open spaces as well as a balanced program of recreational activities for residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities.

To achieve this *parks and recreation goal*, the following policies are proposed:

- Develop, maintain, and encourage the use of a system of neighborhood parks and pathways that are safe and engaging, which includes:
 - Developing, maintaining, and encouraging the use of north-south and east-west arterial pathways that connect neighborhood paths within the City and to regional paths.
 - Connecting neighborhoods, parks, and other destination points through a City-wide pathway system.
 - Strengthening the park and path system by making improvements as feasible through the annual budgeting and CIP process.
- Provide recreation programs and activities that address the interests of all segments of the community, including children, adolescents, adults, families, and seniors.
- Encourage non-motorized transportation and commuting in and outside of Arden Hills to reduce reliance on motor vehicles and increase physical activity.
- Work to connect the pathway system to transit facilities.
- Protect and maintain access to lakes, marshes, and wooded areas for active and passive recreation.
- Plan for parks, paths, and recreation on the TCAAP property that addresses the interests of Arden Hills' residents.
- Explore financing and funding options to improve and expand the City's parks and recreation system.
- Promote the removal of invasive species throughout the park and recreational system.
- Construct way-finding signage for parks and paths.
- Explore options for collaboration with other governmental, educational, and private entities to provide an array of high-quality recreational programs.
- Work and coordinate with Ramsey County, the Metropolitan Council, the school districts and other applicable organizations to enhance the park, pathway, and recreation system.

9.1 PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING PROCESS

The City recognizes that demographic, recreation, and environmental trends will impact park, recreation, trail, and open space user needs. To prepare for future needs, the City of Arden Hills' Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee (PTRC) provides

recommendations for continuing development, expansion, and improvement of parks, trails, recreation and natural resources. Through collaboration with other City committees, the PTRC has aided in the development of a long-term vision for the City's parks and recreation system. The following information in this chapter was developed in consultation with the PTRC.

As part of previous planning efforts, the City identified long-term trends to help determine future park, trail, and recreation needs. Recreation interests and participation are influenced by a number of factors, including, age, access to facilities, income, available leisure time, interest in the environment, new recreation technology, and social trends. In general, people are looking for quality recreation that is close to home, but they are willing to travel to obtain higher quality or more specialized activities or environments.

9.2 REGIONAL PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

Although the Arden Hills Comprehensive Plan focuses on local needs, the community recognizes that Arden Hills is connected to and participates in a larger, regional network of parks, pathways, and open spaces. As of 2014, the Metropolitan Council's regional park system includes 62 regional parks and park preserves that cover more than 52,000 acres. The regional system also boasts 40 regional trails that span 340 miles.

Arden Hills is linked to three regional trails and is home to one regional park (Figure 9.1). The Highway 96 Regional Trail crosses the City from east to west adjacent to Highway 96. Recent improvements to this trail now provide a continuous connection along the southern side of the roadway to the City of New Brighton. Regional trail planned improvements include a north south segment of trail located near the intersection of Snelling Avenue North and Highway 96. This planned trail will be critical, providing users with direct access to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. In addition, Ramsey County is in the planning process and anticipates amending the Rice Creek Regional Corridor of Fall 2017.

The Lexington Parkway Regional Trail spans the entire length of the Shoreview and Arden Hills border on the eastern side of the City. While the trail is complete on the Shoreview side of Lexington Avenue, the city pathway along the western side of Lexington Avenue contains several incomplete sections within the city limits. In the past, the City of Arden Hills had requested the construction of several sections of the pathway on the western side of Lexington Avenue that were not approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. As redevelopment occurs and other opportunities arise, the City does seek to complete the trail to both the north and south on the Arden Hills side of Lexington Avenue. In addition, the Metropolitan Council has

identified Lexington Avenue as a regional trail search corridor. The future alignment will be determined by Ramsey County through completion of a regional master plan for the Lexington Avenue corridor anticipated to be completed in 2018. This extent of this corridor is expected to extend from County Road J to Larpenteur Avenue.

In 2006, Ramsey County acquired 113 acres of land within the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) property for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor. The new trail corridor is located in the northwestern corner of the TCAAP site adjacent to Rice Creek and Interstate 35W. This land was transferred to the County by the National Park Service as part of the Federal Lands to Parks Program. An amendment to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan in 2003, identified an additional 49 acres to the east of the existing area to be acquired as a wildlife corridor. Following the County's purchase of 427 acres of the TCAAP site for redevelopment, a subsequent amendment was made to the Master Plan identifying 60 additional acres for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor. This area generally extends from Highway 96 to County Road I and would facilitate a trailhead entry, additional trails, and a 150 foot wide trail corridor along the eastern side of the TCAAP development through the 500' access from County I to the wildlife corridor.

Designated a regional park in 2006, the 217 acre Tony Schmidt Regional Park extends from the northern shore of Lake Johanna to the west side of Mounds View High School on Lake Valentine Road. Recent improvements include the completion of a trail underpass connecting the north and south sides of the park, which were previously bisected by the railroad. While much of the park is open space, the park offers a variety of amenities and is connected to local paths.

There are a number of regional parks within a short distance of Arden Hills. Long Lake Regional Park is located in New Brighton, and the Snail Lake Regional Park is in Shoreview. The Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Preserve is in Shoreview, Circle Pines, and Lino Lakes.

9.3 ARDEN HILLS PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

Arden Hills has 14 City parks ranging in size from one acre to 28 acres and other open areas that cover more than 145 acres (Figure 9.1 and Table 9.1). There is also approximately 17 miles of paths, which are primarily located on or adjacent to County roads. The surface of these paths varies between asphalt, concrete, gravel, wood chip mulch, and grass. The parks in Arden Hills provide a variety of amenities ranging from tennis courts and playgrounds to baseball diamonds and picnic shelters (Table 9.1). The City parks are well-distributed throughout Arden Hills south of Highways 96 and 10 and most residents are within one mile of a City park; however, controlled access roads interfere with convenient access to some parks that would otherwise be close by.

South of Highways 96 and 10, there are four lakes entirely within Arden Hills and one lake shared by Arden Hills and Roseville. Lake Johanna and Lake Josephine have public access and beaches, though the public access and beach for Lake Josephine is in Roseville. Lake Valentine is a relatively shallow lake adjacent to Bethel University with some limited public use and access. Karth Lake, which is located southwest of the Highway 96 and Lexington Avenue intersection, is adjacent to a public park but is primarily used for non-motorized recreation by the surrounding property owners. Round Lake is unusable for recreation purposes due to contamination from the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant. The entire shoreline of Round Lake is owned by the federal government, and there is no public access.

The City has approved the TCAAP Redevelopment Code (TRC) to guide development on 427 acres purchased by Ramsey County of the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant site. Three City parks are planned to serve the new population on TCAAP and to complement the City's existing park and recreation amenities. Additional private parks and open space including size and amenities have been identified through the TCAAP planning process. As planning and development progresses, these private parks and open space may be relocated, but will still meet acreage and amenities identified in the TCAAP master plan. Trails will also be constructed throughout the development to serve the site and to provide access to adjacent park and open space areas.

PARK AND TRAILS MAP - FIGURE 9.1

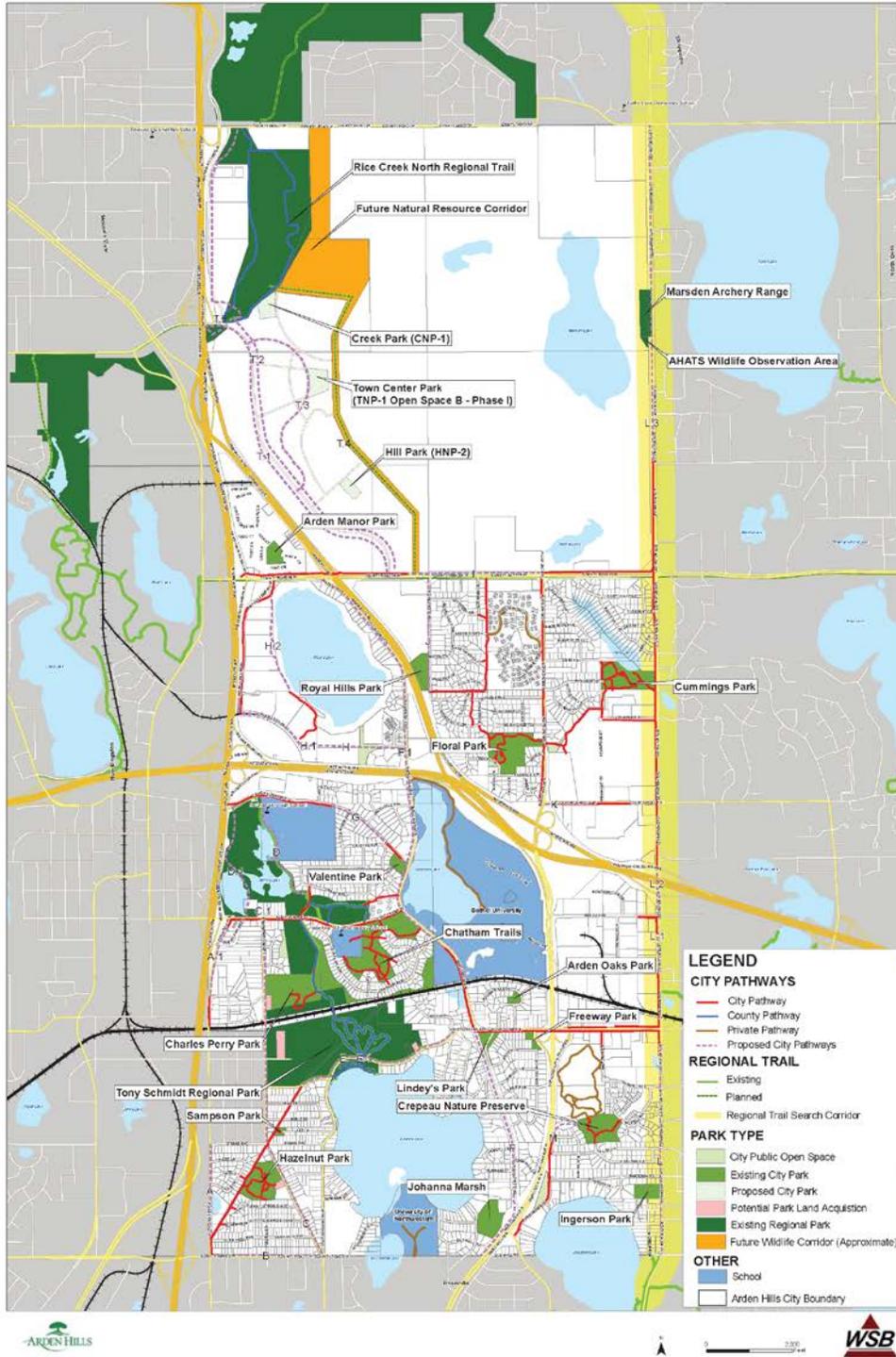


Table 9.1 - Current and Proposed Park Amenities (2040)

	Existing Parks	Acres	Softball / Baseball Field	Soccer	Tennis	Sand Volleyball Court	Basketball Court Area	Gaga Pit	Water Fountain	Play Equipment	Amphitheater	Pavillio n	Picnic Building / Shelter	Warming House	Permanen t Restrooms	Hockey Rink	Skating Rink	Dog Park	Trail(s)
1	Arden Manor Park 4601 Prior Avenue	2.5					X			X			X						
2	Arden Oaks Park 1413 Arden Oaks Drive	1.5					X			X									
3	Charles Perry Park 3700 New Brighton Road	20	X	X					X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
4	Crepeau Nature Preserve* 1224 Harriet Avenue	12.5																	X
5	Cummings Park 1220 Wyncrest Court	17.5	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X
6	Floral Park 1423 West Floral Drive	20	X	X	X		X			X			X						X
7	Freeway Park 1370 West County Road E	1					X			X				X		X	X		
8	Hazelnut Park 3301 New Brighton Road	12	X	X	X		X	X		X			X	X		X	X	X	X
9	Ingerson Park 3255 North Lexington Avenue	5					X			X			X						
10	Johanna Marsh Park 3168 Ridgewood Drive	8.5								X			X						
11	Lindey's North Snelling & County Road E	1.5																	
12	Royal Hills Park 4375 Snelling Avenue	4.5	X		X		X			X			X						
13	Sampson Park 1900 Lake Lane	1					X			X									X
14	Valentine Park 1650 West County Road F	3					X			X			X						X

Key: *Nature Conservancy Park

City of Arden Hills – 2040 Comprehensive Plan

	Proposed Parks	Acres	Softball / Baseball Field	Soccer	Tennis	Sand Volleyball Court	Basketball Court Area	Gaga Pit	Water Fountain	Play Equipment	Amphitheater	Pavillio n	Picnic Building / Shelter	Warming House	Permanen t Restrooms	Hockey Rink	Skating Rink	Dog Park	Trail(s)
1	Creek Park (CNP-1)	4.73	X	X			X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X
2	Town Center Park TNP-1 Space B (Phase I)	3.1				X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
3	Hill Park (HNP-2)	2.72		X	X		X		X	X		X	X		X				X

9.4 PARKS AND RECREATION MAINTENANCE, UPGRADES, AND EXPANSIONS

The proposed park and pathway upgrades are based on input gathered through consultation of the PTRC (Figure 9.1).

9.4.1 Park Renovation and Upgrades

In an effort to meet changing demographics, public safety, and the desires of the community, the City of Arden Hills will continue to use a multi-year capital improvement plan (CIP) to plan for park upgrades and renovations. The improvement recommendations are intended to improve public safety, aesthetics, function, and efficiency of individual parks as well as to promote overall public health and activity. The City also seeks to meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

In order to minimize park disruption, reduce costs through efficiency of construction, and improve park function, park renovation is recommended to be done all at once in each park, whenever possible. Individual park renovation recommendations are summarized below by park:

- **Arden Manor Park** – Provide connections within the park and from the park to the potential future paths along Highway 96 when reconstruction of this highway occurs. Add benches near park features.
- **Arden Oaks Park** – Recent improvements include the addition of benches, trash containers and trees. Consider providing pedestrian pathway connections to amenities.
- **Charles Perry Park** – Consider moving the entrance drive to line up with Thom Drive. This will eliminate the conflict that exists with the ice rink where skaters have to cross the entrance drive, and will create space for a pleasure rink. Explore the possibility of paving the existing skating rink for inline skating and half-court basketball. Recent improvements include a new playground as well as a dog park through repurposing of a previously underutilized existing ballfield.
- **Crepeau Nature Preserve** – Add additional unpaved paths within the park.

- **Cummings Park** –Add benches along the paths and park amenities. Recent improvements included relocating bleachers and repurposing entrance sign.
- **Floral Park** –Additional unpaved looped paths could be constructed in the park to provide more walking and nature watching opportunities. Add benches along the paths and park amenities. Provide pedestrian pathway connections/accessibility to amenities.
- **Freeway Park** - Consider paving the hockey rink for year-round use. Explore additional pedestrian routes to provide enhanced circulation to amenities in the park.
- **Hazelnut Park** –Install benches near recreational features. Add lights from parking lot to skating rink. Improve the picnic shelter or add a pavilion to meet the usage demands of the park. Recent improvements include the addition of a gaga pit and dog park through reuse of the existing ice rink. The City is also considering acquiring a portion of the parking lot from the adjacent trinity Lutheran Church for potential redevelopment in this location.
- **Ingerson Park** – Add a connecting path to Lexington Avenue, Fernwood Court, and Lake Lane. Consideration should be given to providing additional pedestrian walkways to existing amenities.
- **Johanna Marsh** – The existing tennis courts will be removed and replaced with a new multiple age playground and Johanna Marsh overlook.
- **Lindey’s Park**– The addition of a trail planned for 2018 construction on the south side of County Road E will provide increased connectivity to the park for potential users. Consider providing access into the park from this planned trail, additional pedestrian connections into the park, and seating opportunities.
- **Round Lake Open Space** – Explore the possibility of adding a path connecting Old Highway 10 to the path west of Round Lake by easement or land acquisition. Determine what type of amenities/fields meet the needs of the community and develop the park.
- **Royal Hills** – Add a fence along the outfield and sideline of the ball field to minimize balls going into the woods. The addition of pathways should also

be considered to meet ADA accessibility to amenities and connect to the proposed trail connection along Snelling Avenue North.

- **Sampson Park** – Add landscaping within the park to provide interest and improve aesthetics. Consideration should also be given to providing pedestrian accessibility to amenities and the addition of a shelter for additional seating opportunities.
- **Valentine Park** – Park was recently redeveloped in 2013 which includes a new shelter, parking lot, play equipment, half basketball court and pedestrian pathways.
- **TCAAP Proposed Parks** – Three city parks have been identified for incorporation within the TCAAP site. The parks range in scale from approximately three to five acres in size and include amenities as shown in Table 9.1 based on the master plan process.

9.4.2 Recreation

The City currently has an extensive youth recreation program. While the programs have been primarily focused on youth and adolescent activities, an increased need for teen, adult, and senior activities was identified through feedback gathered from the PTRC as well as the community meetings held for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan update. To help inform the recreation program development process, the City may consider creating advisory groups for seniors, teens, children, and other interested groups.

9.4.3 Pathway Expansion and Upgrades

A number of neighborhoods in Arden Hills have pathways; however, in order to provide a connected and complete pathway system in Arden Hills, additional arterial and neighborhood paths are needed (Figure 9.1). While paths are popular for recreational purposes, there is also a growing demand for utilitarian pathways that connect residential areas to destinations such as commercial areas, offices, parks, and other popular places. Providing multiple destinations on a pathway system can increase use, promote physical activity, and reduce motorized travel.

The tables on the following page provides a list of proposed trail segments for expansions and upgrades (segments presented on this list are not listed based on priority):

Table 9.2 - Trail Improvement List (outside of TCAAP Site) (2040)

Segment	Proposed Trail Location Outside of TCAAP Site	Length	
		Feet	Miles
A	Cleveland Ave. (County Road "D" to Stowe Ave.)	2,623	0.50
A.1	Cleveland Ave. (Thom Ct. to existing path off Cty E2)	1,672	0.32
B	County Road D (Cleveland to New Brighton Road)	2,380	0.45
C	New Brighton Road (County Rd. D to Stowe Ave.)	2,957	1.54
C.1	New Brighton Road (Stowe Ave. to County Road E2)	5,333	1.01
D	R.C. Open Space (from City path to MVHS)	2,940	0.56
D.1	R.C. Open Space (from County Rd. E2 to MVHS)	3,095	0.58
E	County Road E (Indian Pl. to Lk. Joh. Blvd. to Tony Schmidt U. Trail to end of park - north side)	1,675	0.32
E.1	Lake Johanna Blvd. (From Segment G to Old 10 - Snelling)	2,845	0.54
F	Snelling Ave. (Highway 51 to County Road E)	5,672	1.07
F.1	Old Highway 10-Snelling (from Cty. Road E2 to Hwy. 96)	7,880	1.50
G	Lake Valentine Road (Mounds View H.S. to Old 10-Snelling)	1,600	0.30
H	Parkshore Dr. (from Old Hwy 10-Snelling to beginning of Rd. Lake Trail)	2,051	0.39
H.1	Gateway Blvd. (from proposed segment K to Round Lk. Road)	1,985	0.38
H.2	Round Lake Trail (Complete the loop that has a gap behind Nott Co.)	2,433	0.46
I	County Road 96 (Complete trail west from Hamline Avenue near Snelling Avenue North)	3,100	0.59
J	North Snelling Ave. (From County Road 96 to Briarknoll)	2,652	0.50
K	County Road F (From Existing Sidewalk from Lexington to Hamline)	403	0.08
L	Lexington Ave. (From County Road D to County Road E)	4,398	0.83
L.1	Lexington Ave. (From County Road E to Grey Fox Road)	973	0.19
L.2	Lexington Ave. (From Red Fox Road to Gramsie Road)	1,088	0.21
L.3	Lexington Ave. (From Tanglewood to County Road I - West Side)	7,839	1.49
M	Crepeau Preserve (From Cannon to Crepeau Nature Preserve)	680	0.13
Total Proposed Future Trails		68,274	13.94

Table 9.3 - Trail Improvement List (within TCAAP Site) (2040)

Segment	Proposed Trail Location within TCAAP Site	Length	
		Feet	Miles
T.1	Spine Road Trail (From HWY 96 to County Road H)	8,656	1.64
T.2	Spine Road Trail (From HWY 96 to County Road I)	12,843	2.43
T.3	Town Center Trail (Along Water Infrastructure)	5,142	0.97
T.4	Rice Creek North Trail Corridor Addition (From HWY 96 to Rice Creek North Regional Trail)	9,263	1.76
T.5	Rice Creek North Trail Corridor Addition (Crossing at Interstate 35W)	637	0.40
Total Proposed Future Trails		36,541	7.20

Recent and planned improvements, based upon proposed segments identified in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, have been planned for extending trail segments that are crucial for developing needed north-south and east-west path connections. Through these efforts trail improvements are anticipated for 2018 construction to include providing a continuous connection from County Road E to County Road E2 through the addition of a trail along Snelling Avenue North (Old S.T.H. 10). In coordination with the capital improvements plan (CIP), the City may benefit from setting specific trail priorities to take advantage of grants, road reconstruction projects, and other opportunities as they arise.

In conjunction with Ramsey County and MnDOT, grade separated crossings of major roads and railroads is one of the more important actions the City can take to improve the path network, increase safety, enhance access to parks, encourage increased physical activity, and help tie the community together (Figure 9.2). The following connections and improvements for pedestrian and bicyclists (non-motorized users), some of which are noted in the above list, are recommended through discussion with the PTRC and community meetings:

- **Snelling Avenue North (Old S.T.H. 10)**– A proposed trail (Figure 9.1) from the Hwy. 96 regional trail is recommended to provide a north-south connection the intersection of Snelling Avenue North and County Road E2 (segment F.1). Due to major highways, this route provides a critical connection to several city parks, schools, and the Tony Schmidt Regional Park. This would also provide a connection of the Round Lake proposed trail connection if an easement was acquired south of Round Lake.
- **Lake Valentine Road** – The connection of a city path (segment G) on the southern side of Lake Valentine Road is recommended to provide a safe route for adjacent neighborhoods to the Mounds View High School and a connection to newly redeveloped Valentine Park.
- **County Road E (Lake Johanna Blvd)** – The addition of providing a trail connection (segment E & E.1) along the north side of County Road E between Indian Place and Snelling Avenue North (Old S.T.H. 10) is recommended to create accessibility to the Tony Schmidt Regional Park and improve east-west trail connections.
- **Highway 96** – A grade separated trail connection (segment I) may be needed at a location between Highway 10 and Hamline Avenue North. The grade-separated connection would provide access to Ramsey County and Arden Hills facilities and the TCAAP area. In addition, a trail crossing

at the intersection of Snelling Avenue North would provide an essential trail crossing to the planned regional trail and the neighborhoods adjacent to south of Highway 96.

- **Snelling Avenue North (Old S.T.H. 10)** – A proposed trail segment (segment F) from the intersection of County Road E and Snelling Avenue North to Glenhill Road is recommended to provide accessibility and potential future connections with city parks and amenities beyond the city limits including the adjacent University of Northwestern Campus. Construction is anticipated for 2019.
- **Trail Signage** – added small trail identification maps that include distance, name, and standard city identification where needed.

Implementing the pathway expansion and improvement plan will require cooperation with Ramsey County, MnDOT, the school districts, and other private and public entities. The City recognizes that the entire network cannot be completed at once; however, the above list represents the long-term goal of a comprehensive pathway network to facilitate recreational and utilitarian uses.

9.4.4 Park and Open Space Acquisitions

While there is very little vacant land available in the City outside of the TCAAP property, four locations were identified for potential incorporation into the City's park and recreational system (Figure 9.1). Two land parcels remain to be acquired within the boundary of Tony Schmidt Regional Park. Additional public lands adjacent to the park are proposed to be used for trails and trail connections under cooperative agreements.

- **Charles Perry Park** – The City may consider acquiring the residential property adjacent to Charles Perry in order to minimize the potential conflict caused by reflected light, noise and trespassing while providing an opportunity to expand the recreational offerings in the park and to provide better park access.
- **Round Lake Open Space** - The land to the west of the existing Round Lake Open Space area could provide adequate space for soccer fields, community gardens, ball fields, or other recreational uses. The amount of property to acquire would be determined by what programming needs exist at that time.

- **Round Lake Trail Easements** - The remaining easements are needed to complete the trail around the west and south sides of Round Lake.
- **Tony Schmidt Regional Park** – While Tony Schmidt Regional Park is a Ramsey County park, the City encourages the County to expand its facility in accordance with their facility and land needs. The Tony Schmidt Regional Park Master Plan lists potential land acquisitions, which are shown on Figure 9.1.

9.4.5 TCAAP Redevelopment Area

Ramsey County purchased 427 acres of the TCAAP property in April 2013. The City has approved the TCAAP Redevelopment Code to regulate zoning and land uses. Approximately 24.3 acres are planned to be used for City parks and public open space. Ramsey County is acquiring an additional 30 acres from the federal government for a north-south trail and 78 acres for a future wildlife corridor and trailhead.

Three City parks will be located within or adjacent to residential neighborhoods. Amenities will be planned for each park based on the population served and to complement existing amenities in the developed portion of the City. The timing of park development will be aligned to the development of adjacent neighborhoods. In order to provide flexibility the exact boundary and location of each park include on the TCAAP property may move within its given district. However, each park will be required to include the identified amenities within the City's TCAAP Master Parks and Open Space Plan.

Green space will be provided along a pedestrian corridor linking the primary retail area west of the Spine Road to a City park on the eastern edge of the site. Trails will be provided along the Spine Road and along a collector road adjacent to the natural resources corridor. In cases where private development is immediately adjacent to park and open space areas, the TCAAP Redevelopment Code requires frequent pedestrian connections to open space. Connections to the north-south trail corridor and trails in the wildlife corridor will be provided from adjacent neighborhoods.

Ramsey County has prepared and the City has approved the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Wildlife Corridor Habitat Restoration plan. Improvements, remediation, restoration and other development of the wildlife corridor property, prior to and following transfer to Ramsey County, will be guided by this plan. Trail connections for public use may be incorporated into the wildlife corridor.

However, they must be designed and aligned so as not to impede the movement of wildlife.

9.5 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

9.5.1 Priority Setting

One tool to advance this chapter is to create a flexible priority list for improvements and expansions. With the priorities laid out, the City would be able better able to assess fund balances and make informed spending decisions and coordinate improvements with other projects such as road improvements. The priority list will need to be regularly evaluated to measure progress and to adjust the list to accommodate funding availability, changing circumstances, and changing priorities. A fully functioning and complete park and pathway system adds to the attractiveness of the City and to the values of property owners.

While a long-term priority list will help the City in the decision-making process and help plan for future expenses, the list must be flexible. As new local and regional projects, needs, and opportunities arise, it may be necessary to adjust the list to take advantage of opportunities that may not yet be known.

9.5.2 Partnerships

Developing partnerships with other public and private organizations is an important tool for implementing this and other chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. With scarce resources and increasing demands, searching for partnerships to reduce costs, increase efficiency, and expand services is necessary. Working with adjacent cities, the Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County, businesses, school districts, higher education institutions, and other stakeholders may lead to better and more efficient implementation of this Chapter.

MNDOT & Ramsey County Transportation – Coordinating with MnDOT and Ramsey County Public Works will help ensure that pathway additions and crossings are in their transportation master plans, included in reconstruction projects, and are a priority for funding and implementation in their capital improvement plans (CIP).

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation – With regional facilities in Arden Hills and connecting to City pathways, it is important to coordinate with the County. The County is working to implement the Tony Schmidt Master Plan, the Rice Creek

trail system, and other regional park and trail projects that connect to or impact Arden Hills.

Mounds View and Roseville School Districts – The City has an opportunity to work with the school districts and the two facilities in Arden Hills to increase pedestrian and bike access to the schools, promote safe routes to school, and increase physical activity.

Bethel University and Northwestern College – Both of these campuses have trails that can be accessed by the public. The City should consider working with these institutions to ensure continued access to these trails and to make connections with City trails.

Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) Redevelopment Partner and the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) – The proposed redevelopment on the TCAAP property offers an opportunity to greatly expand the City’s park and pathway network. The City seeks to continue working with the developers, AHATS, and private entities to ensure a park and pathway system is constructed that meets the needs of current and future residents. Although the AHATS property is not freely open to the public, it could play a role in future park and recreation opportunities.

9.5.3 Financing

While the City supports the park and recreation system, it is recognized that other needs in the City compete for funds and funding will continue to be a challenge. In order to implement the parks and recreation plan, yearly priorities are being identified in the City’s capital improvement plan (CIP), which can be adjusted annually as funding, opportunities, and needs change. Flexibility in implementation will be necessary.

Since much of the City is developed, park and recreation expansion improvements cannot rely on park dedication fees alone. Therefore, the City may need to explore other financing options. Pursuing funding opportunities may help advance implementation of this plan at a faster rate than would otherwise be able to occur.

9.5.4 Additional Strategies

The strategies in the previous sections should not be considered all-inclusive. New opportunities and strategies should be identified to further advance the City’s parks and recreation goal and policies.