

Chapter 6:

IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

Earlier chapters of this Plan analyzed existing conditions, identified park and recreation needs, and proposed park, trail, and open space recommendations. This chapter assists the City in implementing the recommendations of the Plan. It discusses implementation goals, objectives, and policies, priorities, financing, and maintenance.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

The following goals are broad statements that reflect the City's vision for implementing the Park System Plan. The following objectives are specific, measurable, intermediate ends that are achievable and mark progress towards the goals. The following policies are a course of action to accomplish the stated objectives.

Goal: Mahtomedi successfully implements the recommendations of the Park System Plan.

Objective 1.1: Involve the Park Commission, Planning Commission, City Council, residents, and other pertinent parties in efforts involving preparing, updating, and implementing the Park System Plan.

Policy 1.1.a: Continue to ensure broad based citizen representation on the Park Commission. *(Park Commission: 2006-ongoing)*

Policy 1.1.b: Continue to have a member of the City Council attend Park Commission meetings and act as a liaison between the Park Commission and City Council. *(City Council: 2006-ongoing)*

Policy 1.1.c: Continue to have representatives from the Mahtomedi School District, the athletic associations, and other pertinent parties participate in Park Commission meetings. *(Park Commission: 2006-ongoing)*

Policy 1.1.d: Promote discussion of parks, trails, and open spaces at annual community meetings and community events. *(Park Commission, City Council, City Staff: 2006-ongoing)*

- Policy 1.1.e: Through surveys and other means, periodically seek input from residents and other pertinent parties regarding Mahtomedi's park system. *(Park Commission, City Council, City Staff: 2006 then every few years)*
- Policy 1.1.f: Continue to instill community ownership in Mahtomedi's park system by recruiting and making use of volunteers for special park system projects. *(Park Commission: 2006-ongoing)*
- Policy 1.1.g: Continue to formally express appreciation and recognize the efforts of the Park Commission, volunteers, and the various individuals, and organizations that contribute to Mahtomedi's park system. *(City Council, City Staff: 2006-ongoing)*

Objective 1.2: Clearly communicate all decisions relating to parks, trails, and open spaces in Mahtomedi to all pertinent parties.

- Policy 1.2.a: Strive to have the Park Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council come to consensus on the goals, objectives, policies, and strategies of the Park System Plan. Consensus will allow all parties to have confidence in the recommendations and decisions that each party makes. *(Park Commission, Planning Commission, City Council: 2006 and whenever the Plan is updated)*
- Policy 1.2.b: Involve the Park Commission in the early phases of discussing potential developments, transportation improvements, and the like. *(City Staff, Park Commission: 2006-ongoing)*
- Policy 1.2.c: The Park Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council shall make clear, written findings and recommendation relating to parks, trails, and open space decisions. The findings and recommendations shall be based on the goals, objectives, policies, and strategies of the adopted Park System Plan. *(Park Commission, Planning Commission, City Council, City Staff: 2006-ongoing)*
- Policy 1.2.d: Continue to update all neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions on pertinent matters affecting the park system and actively seek their input. *(City Staff: 2006-ongoing)*

Objective 1.3: Maintain safe, efficient, and attractive parks, trails, and open spaces.

- Policy 1.3.a: Develop a maintenance management plan that provides guidelines and schedules. *(Public Works, City Staff, Park Commission: 2006-2007 with periodic updates as needed)*
- Policy 1.3.b: Plan and budget for maintenance and improvements to existing facilities. *(Public Works, City Staff, Park Commission: 2006-2007 with periodic updates as needed)*

Policy 1.3.c: Develop a risk liability inventory of existing facilities and prepare a plan to effectively address the risks. (*Public Works, City Staff: 2006-2007 with periodic updates as needed*)

Objective 1.4: Prioritize the recommendations of the Park System Plan to ensure that the City makes regular and meaningful progress in implementing the Plan.

Policy 1.4.a: Refer to the “priorities” section of this chapter for guidance on implementing the Park System Plan. (*Park Commission, City Council, City Staff: 2006-ongoing*)

Policy 1.4.b: Periodically review the priorities of the Park System Plan and adjust the priorities as needed. (*Park Commission, City Council, City Staff: 2006-ongoing*)

Policy 1.4.c: Annually review progress on the Park System Plan and make adjustments as necessary to ensure successful implementation of the Plan. (*Park Commission: annually*)

Objective 1.5: Provide an adequate budget to implement the recommendations of the Park System Plan.

Policy 1.5.a: Include planned park improvements in the City’s capital improvements program. (*City Staff, City Council: 2006 with annual updates*)

Policy 1.5.b: Actively apply for pertinent grants that would help Mahtomedi enhance its park system. (*City Staff, Park Commission: 2006-ongoing*)

Policy 1.5.c: Continue to promote the use of volunteers to help maintain and enhance the park system. (*City Staff, Park Commission: 2006-ongoing*)

Policy 1.5.d: Periodically review and update the City’s parkland dedication requirements. Because the City is almost fully developed, the City should generally accept cash in lieu of parkland dedication. (*City Council: 2006-ongoing*)

PRIORITIES

The Park System Plan identifies numerous policies and recommendations for enhancing the park system. Because of the comprehensiveness of the policies and recommendations, the following provides a *general guide* that the City can use to begin to implement the *key* enhancements of the Plan. Numerous policies and recommendations are not included in this guide, but the City should nevertheless strive to implement all the policies and recommendations of this Plan. The City should update or revise the following guide as opportunities arise. Refer to the previous chapters of this Plan for a detailed description of the proposed improvements listed in the guide below.

Top Priorities

The following describes the top implementation priorities of the Park System Plan. The City should strive to make tangible progress on these priorities before 2011.

- **Katherine Abbott Park Improvements.** By 2011, the City should prepare a detailed master plan for the park that, at a minimum, addresses resource enhancement and protection, enhancements to the existing trail system, and enhancement to the existing structures on the site. Constructed improvements would likely occur after 2011.
- **Streetcar Trail Improvements.** In conjunction with the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan update, the City should prepare a detailed master plan for bridging the existing gaps in the Streetcar Trail. Constructed improvements to the trail would likely occur after 2011.

Conditional Top Priorities

The following describes conditional top implementation priorities of the Park System Plan. If certain conditions or actions occur (for example, road or sewer improvements) then improvements to the affected parks should also occur simultaneously. These improvements will likely be made before 2011. If not, then improvements to the following parks may not be as high of a priority and may occur sometime after 2011.

- **Chautauqua Park Improvements.** The proposed improvements to Chautauqua Park described in Chapter 3 of this Plan would likely be made in conjunction with a potential relocation of the existing sewer lift station, which *could* occur before 2011. If, however, the City does not relocate the sewer lift station before 2011 (or at all), then the City should still improve the existing steps in the park before 2011. Other improvements could potentially be made after 2011.
- **Triangle Park Improvements.** Park improvements would be made in conjunction with potential enhancements to the State Highway 244/Stillwater Road intersection. However, if the intersection remains as is, then potential improvements to the existing park would not be a top priority of the Park System Plan.
- **Old Wildwood Road Trail.** The City should design and construct Old Wildwood Road Trail in conjunction with the anticipated improvements to Old Wildwood Road, which will likely occur before 2011. If, for some reason, the City does not improve Old Wildwood Road before 2011, then the proposed trail would move to a lower priority and would be designed and constructed after 2011 in conjunction with the road improvements, whenever they would occur.
- **Hallam Park Improvements.** By 2007, the City anticipates installing security fencing around the existing well in the park. Because the proposed fencing could greatly alter the park, the City should develop a master plan for the park (which includes the security fencing) as a top priority. If for some reason the City does not install security fencing around the existing well, then proposed park improvements would be a lower priority.

Very High Priorities

The following describes the very high priorities of the Park System Plan. The City should strive to make progress on some of these improvements by 2011, but it is likely that other improvements would be made between 2011 and 2016.

- **Southwest Park Improvements.** By 2011, the City should work with the athletic organizations and others to light the existing fields and provide a seasonal concession stand. Improvements that may happen after 2011 may include design and construction of a permanent building to house concessions, restrooms, and other pertinent activities. Other long-term enhancements may include expanding and enhancing the existing parking.
- **Regional Trail around White Bear Lake.** The Park System Plan identifies the future regional trail around White Bear Lake as a very important trail. However, much of the proposed trail is planned to be constructed in the State Highway 244 right-of-way. By 2011, the City should begin the process of working with the pertinent agencies to develop more detailed plan for the proposed regional trail. It is likely that this trail will be constructed in segments after 2011. However, in conjunction with the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan update, the City should begin to provide more detailed plans for the trail – particularly, in those areas where the trail will be in the local street right-of-way.
- **School District Hockey Rink Improvements.** The City of Mahtomedi and the School District have cooperated and shared costs involved with the hockey rinks at the school district office site. The School District is planning on paving two of the three existing rinks to allow longer use of the rinks during the winter months and potential other uses (like roller hockey) in the summer months. By 2011, the City and School District should work together to develop a plan to further refine the hockey rink site. Improvements could include parking and trail enhancements, and the like. Some of the actual improvements may occur after 2011.

High Priorities

The following describes the moderate priorities of the Park System Plan. The City should strive to make progress on some of these improvements by 2011, but it is likely that most improvements would be made between 2011 and 2016.

- **Century College Trails and Nature Park.** In 2006, the City should initiate discussions with Century College regarding development of trails and a potential nature park adjacent to Echo Lake. Actual construction, and potentially the master planning for the trails and parks, would likely occur after 2011. It is important that the City and Century College discuss potential improvements (and opportunities to work cooperatively on the improvements) before development might occur that could preclude the trails and parks.
- **Wildwood Park.** By the year 2011, the City should prepare a detailed master plan for the park, and design and construct additional trails in the park. Additional work in the park, including parking improvements, additional restrooms, picnic shelters, and the like would likely be installed after 2011.

- **Warner Avenue South Trail.** The proposed Warner Avenue South Trail will help provide safe access to O.H. Anderson School. However, constructing the trail is a challenge given the relatively narrow Warner Avenue right-of-way and the fact that Warner Avenue crosses over into Willernie in several locations. Nevertheless, in coordination with the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update, the City should develop a conceptual plan for a Warner Avenue South Trail or another alternative trail that would serve a similar purpose. Construction of this trail would likely occur in conjunction with road or utility improvements.

Other Priorities

As stated earlier, the Park System Plan has many policies and recommendations – all of which are important. However, the City does not have the resources to implement all of the recommendations of the Plan in the short term. Recommendations such as acquiring additional land in the Southwest Park area, the Dwinnell Nature area, and Lost Lake area, as well as other recommendations, are worthwhile. Yet, unless opportunities present themselves to implement these recommendations in the short term, the City should first concentrate on implementing the top, very high, and high priorities of the Plan. The City should also periodically review the above priorities and adjust them accordingly.

MAINTENANCE AND MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

The City should ensure a high level of maintenance of the existing park system. The City should also be committed to making minor, but regular, and necessary improvements to ensure a high quality park system. Such improvements might include adding benches, interpretive signs, landscape plantings, bike racks, and the like. Although these minor improvements are not specifically discussed in the “priorities” section above, it is critical that the City have the budget and staff to continually maintain and enhance the existing park system.

FUNDING PARK SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENTS

Mahtomedi is almost fully developed. As a result, the City cannot rely on funding all of the proposed park system enhancements through the parkland dedication fees that the City receives when it approves subdivisions. The City should explore a variety of funding sources for maintaining and enhancing the park system including the following:

1. Unless there is a strong need for additional parkland in the areas identified in the Park System Plan, continue to require cash in lieu of parkland dedication for all subdivisions in the city.
2. Continue to apply for grants from federal, state, and local agencies.
3. Continue to work with private or non-profit organizations and local businesses to fund park events and special park improvements.

4. Continue to seek volunteer labor and contributions from Mahtomedi residents to improve the park system. Encourage donations and foundations.
5. Seek financial assistance or cost sharing with other agencies and organizations.
6. Although it is not a funding source, wherever feasible, include trail construction work with road/utility improvements.
7. Periodically review user fees associated with shelters, buildings, canoe racks and the like. Adjust the fees as may be necessary to ensure maintenance and enhancement of these facilities.
8. Continue to annually review and budget money from the City's general fund for use in enhancing and maintaining the park system.
9. Consider holding a referendum and bonding for any major park system improvements that the City may undertake.

PROCESS FOR AMENDING THE PLAN

Future changes to Mahtomedi's parks, trails, and open spaces must occur in a manner consistent with the Park System Plan. If proposed changes are inconsistent with the Park System Plan, the City must evaluate whether or not it should amend the Plan to allow the changes to occur. Applications to amend the Park System Plan should generally include the following information:

1. Description of request.
2. Location and map of surrounding properties.
3. Map of any other properties impacted.
4. Explanation of the request including:
 - Reasons for the request.
 - Overall impact on the community.
 - Impact on the goals, objectives, and policies of the Park System Plan.
 - Impact on adjacent lands.
 - Impact on transportation, sewer, water, and other City services.
 - Impact on water bodies and natural features.
5. The City must publicly notice the proposed amendment. Notices must be sent to all adjacent property owners and to neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions.

6. The Planning Commission must hold a public hearing to review the request and the City Council must take action on the request.
7. If the amendment request is approved, the City must make the approved changes to the Plan and concurrently amend the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance and/or Zoning Map, if applicable.

PROCESS FOR UPDATING THE PLAN

Mahtomedi should periodically review this Park System Plan. If there are significant physical, economic, or demographic changes; significant changes in attitudes, priorities, community standards or trends; or significant regulatory changes by overlapping jurisdictions, then the City should update the Plan accordingly. At a minimum, the City should update this Plan every ten years. The process for updating the Plan should be similar to the process used to develop this Plan

CONCLUSION

This Plan presents a bold vision for Mahtomedi's park system. Regardless of the specific actions that that the City will take to implement the Plan, the City must always keep in mind the vision of the Plan and make decisions accordingly. A strong commitment to implementing the Plan will ensure that Mahtomedi's park system will be consistent with the expressed vision of the community.