



PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

CITY OF FOREST LAKE, MN PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

Submitted to
CITY OF FOREST LAKE, MN



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Parks, trails and open spaces provide communities with multiple benefits. The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide Forest Lake in maintaining its existing parks and planning for future facilities. As the Parks Department transitions from reliance on volunteers with supervision by the Parks Board to a stand alone (and staff) department, it will be critical that the City understands its existing facilities, their condition and how they are meeting the needs of the community. The focus of this report is mainly on establishing a baseline for existing facilities and providing Forest Lake with a list of recommendations to use in future parks, trails and open space development.

It does provide a general outline of policy considerations, but does not go into depth on this material. These are items that will need to be flushed out between the City and the Parks Department as they determine upcoming capital improvement projects and operations and maintenance direction of the parks, trails and open space system. Both the 2002-2012 Park Comprehensive Plan and 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan were researched during the inventory phase of this master planning process to provide continuity in creation of this plan.

One item discussed in the 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan but which was not carried into this document deals with the function and aesthetics of public open spaces and their capacity for improving the pedestrian experience throughout the community. Alleyways, garbage and recycling services and the back facades of businesses could serve as creative outlets used to heighten the visitor experience. Among the many opportunities are the public exposure to the back sides of business facades from Lakeside Park and the perception of alleyway treatments not only as a vehicular space, but also as pedestrian spaces providing services such as art walls, bike lockers, outdoor seating or decorative fencing treatments.

Data Collection

Part of the master plan preparation included inventorying Forest Lake's existing parks and open spaces. This inventory included an on-site evaluation of existing park amenities and acreages to provide a baseline to determine future recommendations. Identification of existing challenges were discussed during this inventory phase and were used to focus on select aspects of the parks and open spaces during the subsequent analysis phase. Not only were the amenities provided at each of the existing facilities catalogued, each park was also classified using the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NRPA provides standards for different types of park and recreational lands based on a community's population. Additional recommendations also apply to the amount of recreational fields and amenities in a community based on population.

Public Involvement

It was of utmost importance to the City of Forest Lake to incorporate a broad range of public involvement, to develop interest and determine issues during the master planning process to ensure that the input gathered represented the true vision of the community. A stakeholder group consisting of a cross-section of city leaders and residents was engaged throughout the public involvement process. Additional input was sought from the public at two open houses, held at the beginning and end of the master planning process. A parks, open spaces and trails survey was also sent to the community as part of inventory and analysis efforts.

Vision, Goals & Objectives

During the public process, a clear and mission vision statement was developed to accurately describe the desired outcome of the Master Plan. This vision is the culmination of numerous preceding studies and captures the goals and intentions of the parks, trails, and open spaces master plan. The mission statement, as well as the four main goals can be reviewed in Chapter 2 of this report. Each of the supporting objectives has been paired with the accompanying recommendations and tasks presented in Chapter 3.

Parks & Open Space Recommendations/Implementation Strategy

One of the most important aspects of the Master Plan is the discussion on implementation. This section provides an overview of potential funding opportunities, defines priorities, and suggests recommended monitoring methods. This plan also makes an appeal to public partners and citizen groups to provide oversight and to be actively involved in both planning and implementation efforts.

Forest Lake should adopt a consistent procedure for park and open space planning including solicitation of resident feedback for decisions regarding amenity upgrades and improvements to neighborhood and community parks. The information available from the public can provide valuable insights to parks needs and use as well as help document changes in use and needs of a given park over time. Part of this planning should include provisions for development assistance and implementation by community service groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, FFA, Service Clubs and Organizations, etc..

The following table highlights each of the community's parks and open spaces along with development recommendations for each facility. The listed recommendations are suggestions for potential improvements based on comments from the community survey, discussions during the two public workshops and discussions with both stakeholder members and the Park Board. the purpose of this document is to serve as a guideline for the community; to facilitate discussion and become a working-breathing document that can remain flexible to the changing needs of Forest Lake now and in the future. The community may choose to amend any of the recommendations listed as the needs of the community and neighborhoods being served by the parks adapt.

Additionally, there is no set order to the recommendations listed under each park. The Park Board and community may choose to address all of the recommendations at one park, or only a couple at another before overseeing improvements to other facilities in the system.

| Parks & Open Space Development/Implementation Strategy | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Facility | Recommended Implementation Strategies |
| Bay Park 9th Ave. SE & 17 St. SE | |
| | Picnic Tables/Seating |
| | Install Swing Set |
| Bayview Park Bayview Dr. SE & 15 Ave. SE | |
| | Expand Basketball Court to Full Court |
| | Provide teen amenities |

| | |
|--|--|
| Beltz Park 11th Ave. SE & South Shore Dr. | |
| | Resurface Basketball Court |
| | Resurface Tennis Courts |
| | Resurface/Improve Volleyball Court |
| | Provide teen amenities |
| | Provide Trail through park |
| Bixby Park 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. SW | |
| * Develop improvements in conjunction with Cedar Park and Schilling Park | |
| | Provide a combination of paved and elevated trail around the wetland complex |
| | Explore installation of a fenced dog park |
| | Construct naturalized playscape |
| | Construct a splash pad |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Construct a 3-season shelter or large picnic pavilion |
| | Develop large scale and small-plot community garden |
| | Install bioswales |
| Bridle Pass Park 6558 210th Lane Ct. N | |
| | Picnic Tables/Seating |
| Cedar Park 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. NW | |
| * Develop improvements in conjunction with Bixby Park and Schilling Park | |
| | Develop gateway feature to Bixby Park |
| | Develop a system of inner park trails with connections to Bixby Park |
| | Install Half Basketball Court |
| | Construct naturalized playscape |
| | Construct traditional playground |
| | Install a splash pad |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Provide Restrooms |
| | Construct a 3-season shelter or large picnic pavilion |
| | Develop large scale community garden plots |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |
| Clear Lake Park 5803 213th St. | |
| | Construct small shelter |
| | Provide seating |
| | Expand and improve Basketball Court |
| | Upgrade playground equipment |
| | Provide small parking area |
| | Plant shade trees |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |
| | Plant native/low maintenance vegetation to reduce long-term maintenance |
| | Provide off-street trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail |

| | |
|---|---|
| Eagle Bluff Park Farnham Ave. N & Farnham Ln. N. | |
| | Construct a large picnic shelter |
| | Provide additional seating |
| | Provide amenities for seniors |
| Fenway Park 5530 206th St. N | |
| | Rehab parking lot (<i>crack sealing, seal coating and restriping</i>) |
| | Provide trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail and Washington Co. Government Center |
| | Provide trail connections to neighborhoods west of park |
| | Install field lighting for ballfields and football field |
| | Install area/trail lighting (possibly solar) to highlight trail connections |
| | Provide combination of shade structures or shade trees |
| | Relocate recreational hockey rink from Tower Park with new boards and warming hut |
| Forest Hills Farms Park Lot D - Forest Hills Farm S subdivision, 1st Addition | |
| | Extend trail (<i>boardwalk/paved trail loop</i>) |
| | Provide educational trail markers |
| | Provide seating |
| Kulenkamp Park 8398 230th St. N | |
| | Re-orient and upgrade two of the existing ballfields (with lighting) |
| | Upgrade playground with accessible trail |
| | Remove remaining two ballfields |
| | Install full basketball court |
| | Install tennis courts |
| | Install sand volleyball court |
| | Develop shared football/soccer fields (adjustable by age levels) |
| | Develop designated lacrosse field |
| | Install large picnic shelter/pavilion with restrooms and water fountains |
| | Provide winter amenities such as cross country skiing or snoeshoeing trails |
| | Upgrade and re-orient parking lot to maximize space and better service the site |
| | Expand opportunities for education and passive recreation through park trails |
| | Develop and install a naturalized playscape |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |
| Lakeside Park 95 E Broadway | |
| | Extend existing pier to accommodate accessible fishing |
| | Oversee improvements to existing Restroom facilities |
| | Develop ice skating rink on Forest Lake |
| | Expand Veteran's Memorial |
| | Install vegetated stormwater buffer between lakeside trail and lake edge |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |

| | |
|--|---|
| Manor Park Harrow Ave. N. & 213th St. N. | |
| | Provide seating |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Install Swing Set |
| | Plant shade trees |
| North Shore Circle Park 7621 North Shore Circle | |
| | Manage overgrown trees and vegetation |
| | Install fencing |
| | Provide seating |
| | Construct a gazebo or shelter and overlook for Forest Lake |
| | Install a small playground |
| | Construct Fishing Pier/Dock |
| Preserve Park 20809 Grenada Ave., N | |
| | Provide seating/gazebo |
| | Provide small naturalized playscape |
| | Install shade trees, shrubs, and low-maintenance landscaping |
| Schilling Park 7th Ave. NW & 5th St. NW | |
| <i>* Develop improvements in conjunction with Cedar Park and Bixby Park</i> | |
| | Develop gateway feature to Bixby Park |
| | Provide off-street trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail along 7th Ave. NW |
| | Re-orient ballfields for improved safety and play |
| | Provide additional parking |
| Shady Trails Park 4th St. SE at 8th Ave. SE | |
| | Provide seating |
| | Provide bike racks |
| | Develop more defined path/trail system |
| Shawn Silvera Memorial Park Between Evergreen Cir. & Elston Ave. | |
| <i>~ Plan to consult adjacent neighborhoods prior to initiating improvements to balance existing park uses</i> | |
| | Consider fencing to limit access |
| | Expand/Upgrade Basketball Court |
| | Sand Volleyball Court |
| | Expand vegetated buffers between nearby water bodies |
| | Provide seating |
| | Provide parking |
| | Plant shade trees |

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| | |
|--|--|
| Sherwood Park Imperial Ave. N & 210th St. N. | |
| | Install a small playground |
| | Construct a small shelter |
| | Plant native/low maintenance vegetation to reduce long-term maintenance |
| Shields Lake Park 8787 212th St. N. | |
| | Expand dock |
| | Improve canoe launch |
| | Install Fish Cleaning House |
| Southview Park Between Georgia Ave. & Forest Blvd. | |
| | Maintain landscaping to provide better visibility to this park |
| | Install expanded playground or natural playscape |
| | Develop trail access to Hardwood Creek Trail via Goodview Avenue N |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Implement and promote a disc golf course |
| | Expand native/low maintenance vegetation to reduce long-term maintenance |
| Summerfield Park 206th St. N & Everton Ave. N | |
| | Install large picnic shelter |
| Tower Park 843 SW 4th Street | |
| | Move maintenance yard |
| | Research opportunities to sell and redevelop east portion of the park property |
| | Retain senior center and parking |
| | Provide trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail |

This document also contains a table devoted to a suggested prioritization for park and open spaces within Forest Lake. Priorities have been determined based on safety needs, type/potential cost of projects and a desire to have a geographical distribution of projects across the community. Because of the nature of this document, it is intended that improvement project will move between the three priority stages throughout the viability of this master plan. Some outside factors may affect individual park improvements. An example of these types of factors include: service group projects, award of outside funding and development within the community.

A table showing the proposed prioritization by park and open space facility is included below. Illustrations depicting this recommended prioritization can be found in **Appendix B** of this report.

| Parks & Open Space Improvement Prioritization |
|--|
| First Priority Improvements |
| Wayfinding and Park Signage |
| Development of a Fenced Dog Park |
| Outdoor Rink Relocation and Development |
| Development of a Community Center |
| Preserve Park 20809 Grenada Ave. N |
| North Shore Circle Park 7621 North Shore Circle |
| Kulenkamp Park[^] 8398 230th St. N |
| Bay Park 9th Ave. SE & 17th St. SE |
| Bayview Estates Park Bayview Dr. SE & 15th Ave. SE |
| Bridle Pass Park 6558 210th Lane Ct. N |
| Schilling Park * 7th Ave. N & 5th St. NW |
| Cedar Park * 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. NW |
| Manor Park Harrow Ave. N & 213th St. N |
| Clear Lake Park 5803 213th St. |

* improvements are included as part of the overall Bixby Park Master Plan

[^] additional improvements included as part of other prioritization phases

| |
|---|
| Second Priority Improvements |
| Bixby Park* 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. SW |
| Tower Park 843 SW 4th St. |
| Southview Park Between Georgia Ave. & Forest Blvd. |
| Shawn Silvera Memorial Park Between Evergreen Circ. & Elston Ave. |
| Fenway Park 5530 206th St. N |
| Beltz Park 11th Ave. SE & South Shore Dr. |
| Eagle Bluff Park Farnham Ave. N & Farnham Ln. N |
| Lakeside Park 95 E Broadway |
| Kulenkamp Park[^] 8398 230th St. N |

* improvements are included as part of the overall Bixby Park Master Plan

[^] additional improvements included as part of other prioritization phases

| |
|---|
| Third Priority Improvements |
| Shields Lake Park 8787 212th St. |
| Summerfield Park 206th St. N & Everton Ave. N |
| Shady Trails Park 4th St. SE at 8th Ave. SE |
| Sherwood Park Imperial Ave. N & 210th St. N |
| Forest Hills Farms Park Lot D - Forest Hills Farm Suvdivision, 1st Addition |
| Future Neighborhood Park location to be determined |

Trails Recommendations/Implementation Strategy

The Trail Master Plan recommends specific priorities and action items to foster implementation. Continued communication and involvement by multiple individuals, organizations and agencies is critical to the success of these routes. The stakeholders in the immediate region will need to work together to take this Master Plan from paper to reality. Overall, the Master Plan concentrates on routes of high priority for implementation over the next ten (10) years.

The following factors are among the many that guided decisions when assigning trail priority:

- Potential connections linking to existing/constructed trail segments
- Responsive to community survey input and needs expressed during meetings
- Direct routes and connection to key destination points (shopping areas, schools, residential neighborhoods)
- Potential for funding and feasibility
- Safety factors
- Potential user volumes
- Equal geographic distribution to residents
- Land availability and easements that may be needed
- Potential future connections to regional trail systems
- Environmental surroundings for various levels of riders

The spreadsheet on the following page highlights the list of priority trails, along with whether they are slated for implementation in the near future and suggests a potential trail type for consideration in their construction. Refer to Appendix B for illustrations showing recommended trail improvement prioritization.

Maintenance Recommendations

To supplement the Vision, defined goals and supporting recommendations, this document includes an overview discussion on the importance of maintenance planning and implementation. Not only is it important to remember the monetary cost of construction, but a balanced approach to annual maintenance can extend the life of facilities that receive little to no maintenance. The expertise of staff maintaining these facilities will also be a critical aspect to a successful long-range maintenance plan. Maintenance staff should be an integral part in budgetary planning and should be trained in proper techniques for both scheduled and unplanned maintenance issues that may arise in Forest Lake's park, trails and open space system.

Trail Development/Implementation Strategy ^ ~

| First Priority Improvements |
|---|
| 8th Street SE to Highway 97 with highway crossing to Middle/High School * |
| Highway 97 between 8th Street SE and High School driveway |
| Highway 97 from High School with Highway 61 crossing and connection to Hardwood Creek Trail * |
| Highway 61 from Highway 97 to 14th Ave. SE* |
| Highway 61 from 14th Ave. SE to 11th Avenue SE |
| 11th Avenue SE with Highway 61 crossing and connection to Hardwood Creek Trail |
| 11th Avenue SE from Highway 61 to South Shore Trail* |
| Connection from Fenway Park to Washington County Government Center and Hardwood Creek Trail |
| Missing Segment on 4th Street SE between SE 8th Ave. and 11th Ave. SE |
| 206th Street from Fenway Park and along Fenway Ave N to Fenston Ave. N |
| Highway 97 from 8th Street SE to Harrow Avenue N |
| Harrow Avenue N between Highway 97 and 202nd St. N |
| 202nd St. N from Granada Ave. to Keats Ave. N (East Municipal Boundary) |
| Goodview Ave. from Georgia Ave. N to 202nd St. N |
| Connection on 230th Street N from Kulenkamp Park to Jeffrey Avenue N |
| 202nd St. N from Goodview Ave. N to Hardwood Creek Trail with Highway 61 crossing |
| 8th Street NW from Broadway Ave. W to 7th Ave. NW |

** Indicates trail segments slated for construction in 2015/16*

| Second Priority Improvements |
|---|
| 15th Ave. Se between 8th St. SW and 11th St. SE |
| Highway 97 between Harrow Ave. N and Imperial Ave. N |
| Imperial Ave. N between Highway 97 and 202nd St. N |
| Connection from Hardwood Creek Trail at 202nd Street to trail at Fenway Park |
| Headwaters Pky from 199th St N and Fenway Ave. N to existing trail south of 202nd St. N |
| Connect Clear Lake Park and Hardwood Creek Trail along 213th Street N |
| 4th St. SW between 3rd Ave. SW and 11th Ave. SW |
| Connection between 4th St. SW and Hardwood Creek Trail through Tower Park |
| Highway 83 from Hardwood Creek Trail to Elston Ave. |
| Evergreen Cir. from Shawn Silvera Park to existing trail on 19th St. SW |
| W Broadway Ave. between 19th St. SW And Elmcrest Ave. N |
| 7th Avenue NW from Schilling Park to Hardwood Creek Trail |
| North Shore Dr. from 236th St. Cir. S to 235th St. N |
| 235th St. N from North Shore Dr. to Jamaca Ave. N |
| Jamaca Ave. N/Jeffrey Ave. N from 235th St. N to North Shore Trail N |

| Third Priority Improvements |
|---|
| SE 11th St. from SE 15th Ave. to Highway 97 |
| Development Trail from Highway 97 to 202nd St. N |
| Highway 97 from Imperial Ave. N to North Shore Trail N |
| July Ave. N from Highway 97 to 202nd St. N |
| North Shore Trail N from Jeffrey Ave. N to Highway 97 |
| Development Trail from Headwaters Pkwy. To Elmcrest Ave. N |
| Development Trail from 190th St. N to Enfield Ave. N |
| Everton Ave. N from Highway 83 to W. Broadway Ave. |
| 230th St N/North Shore Trail N from Kulenkamp Park to end of Hilo Ave. N |
| Development Trail from Hilo Ave. N to 235th St. N |
| Development Trail from Goodview Ave. to Headwater's Pkwy. crossing Highway 61 crossing and connecting to Hardwood Creek Trail |

| Long-Range Improvements |
|---|
| Eureka Ave. N from Highway 83 to Highway 97 |
| Highway 97 from Hardwood Creek Trail to Zurich St. NE |
| Elmcrest Ave. N from 195th St. N to 190th St. N |
| 190th St. N from Elmcrest Ave. N to Harrow Ave. N |
| Harrow Ave. N from 202nd St. N to City Limits |
| Greenway from Harrow Ave. N through Hardwood Creek WMA to 202nd St. N |
| Greenway from 202nd St. N to Ingersoll Ave. N |

^ This list does not include development of trails in individual parks

~ Development Trail indicates segments which should be constructed as part of future development activity

Operations and Policy Guidelines

Successful implementation of the projects discussed in this document will hinge on strong leadership provided to parks staff and the community from the City's Parks and Recreation Department. This department will work with the Parks Board to enact the day-to-day decisions of that group and will also act as the face for the Forest Lake parks, open space and trail system. In order to accomplish this role, this department will need to emerge from relying on volunteers to a more independent organization drafting policy, providing direction, and encouraging ownership of the community's parks, open space and trails facilities.

Funding Strategies

Many recreational facilities are planned and implemented with funding assistance from local, state, or federal agencies. These programs differ in the amount of funding assistance, the administrative requirements, the type of work that be accomplished by the funding, and even the time line available for expenditure of funds. A listing of potential funding sources for the projects contained in this document have been compiled to assist Forest Lake in their planning and implementation efforts. Though this list does include numerous funding sources, it is by no means a comprehensive listing of all funding sources which may be available to assist in the maintenance, planning and implementation of existing and future recreational facilities.

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VISION GOALS & OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1: Vision

During the public process, a clear and mission vision statement was developed to accurately describe the desired outcome of the Master Plan. This vision is the culmination of numerous preceding studies and captures the goals and intentions of the parks, trails, and open spaces master plan.

Mission Statement
 “To develop a sustainable parks, trails, and open space system accessible to, and meeting, the needs of all residents of Forest Lake.”

SECTION 2: Goals and Objectives

The following goals provide some context for the specific policies and recommendations discussed in the Master Plan Report. These goals support the long-term vision and serve as the plan’s foundation. The goals are broad general statements of purpose, and are not intended to illustrate details, but rather to guide the plan’s overall direction. Each goal contains corresponding objectives providing interpretation of the listed goals. These should not be seen as a complete list, but rather an initial list to add to as part of the city’s periodic review process. The recommendations supporting each of the objectives are listed in the table below the objectives for each goal. More detail for each of the recommendations can be found in Chapter 3 of this document.

1. Provide Access to parks, trails, and open spaces for all citizens of Forest Lake.
 - Consider amenities allowing extended park use beyond daylight hours.
 - Consider facilities allowing year-round use.
 - Develop facilities providing opportunities for all ages and user groups.
 - Provide spaces allowing all citizens to be physically active.

| Recommendations Supporting Goal |
|---|
| Parks & Open Space Recommendations |
| 2. Incorporate consistent wayfinding signage and site furnishings |
| 3. Improve safety throughout parks, trails and open spaces system |
| 5. Improve ADA access to all parks, trails and open spaces |
| 6. Park and Facility Improvements |
| 8. Develop Partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations to manage skate board parks and off-road biking courses |
| 9. Research viability of expanded community garden plots in parks |
| 10. Research viability of a Community Center |
| 11. Improve trail access to all parks and open spaces |
| 12. Maximize Opportunities for Winter Recreation and Activities |
| 13. Overview development of a Fenced Dog Park |

 Trails Recommendations

 14. Provide Trails throughout Forest Lake for various Skill Levels

 15. Focus on safe connections to schools, parks, and other frequently visited community destinations

 16. Construction various trail types

 Operation and Policy Recommendations

 22. Develop and Implement Policy Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Department

2. Develop parks, trails, and open spaces with consideration for preservation and education of natural habitats.
- Promote an understanding of the value of open space and natural habitats.
 - Preserve and protect diverse and unique ecosystems.
 - Encourage biodiversity of native plants and animals.
 - Provide opportunities for education in the community's parks, trails, and open spaces.
 - Encourage policies for the integration of best management practices to manage storm water quality.
 - Establish levels of maintenance/management for different areas.
 - Promote efficiencies in design and construction.

Recommendations Supporting Goal

 Parks & Open Space Recommendations

 1. Protect unique natural habitat through use of best management stormwater and development techniques

 3. Improve safety throughout parks, trails and open spaces system

 6. Park and Facility Improvements

 9. Research viability of expanded community garden plots in parks

 10. Research viability of a Community Center

 Trails Recommendations

 14. Provide Trails throughout Forest Lake for various Skill Levels

 16. Construction various trail types

3. Develop an effective planning approach identifying improvements and maintaining parks, trails and open spaces.
- Develop partnerships and teaming opportunities with other agencies to enhance the community's parks, trails, and open spaces.
 - Design for maintenance by City equipment.
 - Provide for periodic evaluation of existing park, trail, and open space land against community need.

Recommendations Supporting Goal

 Parks & Open Space Recommendations

 6. Park and Facility Improvements

 7. Plan for Future Neighborhood and Community Parks

-
- 8. Develop Partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations to manage skate board parks and off-road biking courses
 - 9. Research viability of expanded community garden plots in parks
 - 10. Research viability of a Community Center
 - 11. Improve trail access to all parks and open spaces
 - 12. Maximize Opportunities for Winter Recreation and Activities
 - 13. Oversee development of a Fenced Dog Park

Trails Recommendations

- 14. Provide Trails throughout Forest Lake for various Skill Levels
- 15. Focus on safe connections to schools, parks, and other frequently visited community destinations
- 16. Construction various trail types

Maintenance Recommendations

- 17. Plan for Facility Maintenance, Life-Cycle Costs and Improvements
- 18. Establish maintenance staff dedicated to parks and trails
- 19. Create a Maintenance Budge for Parks, Open Spaces and Trails
- 20. Evaluate Existing Maintenance Practices
- 21. Prioritize Park, Open Space and Trail Maintenance needs

Operation and Policy Recommendations

- 22. Develop and Implement Policy Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Department

Funding Recommendations

- 23. Pursue Multiple Forms of Funding to provide for Short and Long-term Goals

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MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed recommendations are a key component of the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. Recommendations have been formed to provide direction in future implementation based on inventoried information, gathered research public input, and completed analysis. These recommendations have been divided into four sections:

- Overall Recommendations (Section 1, page 3.1)
- Park and Open Space Recommendations (Section 2, page 3.4)
- Trail System Recommendations (Section 3, page 3.15)
- Maintenance Recommendations (Section 4, page 3.17)
- Operation and Policy Recommendations (Section 5, page 3.20)

SECTION 1: Overall Recommendations

The following recommendations apply to the overall parks, trails, and open spaces system in Forest Lake. For information about a specific location within the system see Section 2 for Parks and Open Space Recommendations or Section 3 for Trail System Recommendations.

Forest Lake contains numerous natural amenities such as its many lakes and wetlands. This Master Plan recommends protection and stewardship of its natural resources through the use of best management stormwater treatment techniques such as bioswales, rain gardens, and the use of native vegetation. These techniques will not only provide protection for the community’s unique habitats, but can also lead to a reduction in long-term maintenance costs.

Recommendation #1
Protect unique natural habitat through use of best management stormwater and development techniques

- Install native plantings to slow and collect stormwater runoff while removing pollutants and allowing the water to permeate into the ground
- Encourage naturalized plantings around lakes to protect shorelines, deter invasive species while providing habitat for desired wildlife, and treating stormwater runoff (create an incentive program for residents)
- Implement educational program relating to sustainability and protection of unique ecosystems and habitats
- Develop and install educational signage at key locations along trails and in parks
- Encourage the use of recycled materials in parks, trails and open space properties
- Install permeable pavement systems in conjunction with bioswales and rain gardens to detain and treat stormwater runoff
- Use energy efficient materials through Forest Lake’s parks, trails and open space system



Recommendation #2 Incorporate consistent wayfinding signage and site furnishings



Developing a consistent treatment for signage and site furnishings is an important aspect to branding Forest Lake's parks and recreation amenities. Each park and open space can have a unique character, but developing a common look will make the entire system more visible. It will also make it easier to find facilities within the community while establishing a sense of community pride in its parks and recreation amenities. Once a treatment has been established it can be carried throughout the system as upgrades and improvements are made.

- Develop a standard for park entrance and directional signage based on the overall theme for the parks and trail system
- Add directional and wayfinding street signage for more parks/facilities that cater to overall community interest (i.e. community parks)
- Install lighting for entrance signage at all significant parks
- Signage should embrace the character of the Forest Lake community
- Having a standardized palette of furnishings and amenities can save money by reducing the need to have multiple different items and parts on stock

Recommendation #3 Improve safety throughout parks, trails and open spaces system



While there are not many major safety concerns in Forest Lake, residents did mention a few related to some of the parks and open spaces. Safety in the parks system should always be a high priority, yet we must realize that safety concerns can be quite diverse and sometimes difficult to address in a cost-effective manner.

- Few of the parks have site lighting, with the exception of Lakeside Park, Fenway Park, and the athletic fields at the schools. Lighting can be provided for park signage, parking lots, and shelters, where residents may congregate in the evening hours
- Lighting can serve as a deterrent to deviant behavior
- Visibility is another safety consideration that should be addressed in all parks; ensuring shelters and playgrounds have good visibility from roadways
- Consider minimizing evergreen trees and large shrub massings to reduce areas where people can hide

Overall, the citizens of Forest Lake indicated a need for some maintenance and upgrades regarding the quality/condition of the existing parks and open spaces. From the survey 52.3% indicated that they were in fair condition and 38.5% indicated they were in good condition. Moving forward it will be important to maintain quality materials: equipment, site furnishings and amenities in the parks, open spaces and along the trails. Consideration should be placed on long term maintenance as well as aesthetics and durability.

Recommendation #4
Update and install quality materials throughout Forest Lake parks and open spaces system

- Use of recycled materials may be an option in providing quality materials while also being environmentally conscious. This should be encouraged if durability and appearance are high quality.
- Playground surfaces are extremely important for appearance as well as ADA accessibility. Care should be given to both the type of mulch and the form of restraint used to keep it contained.
- Fencing and screening come in many shapes and materials. Selected materials should be vandal resistant, have a uniform and pleasant appearance and should be long lasting.
- Select landscape materials which are aesthetically pleasing and which are long lasting with minimal maintenance



Improving accessibility for all citizens of Forest Lake is one of the main goals of the community through this Master Plan. Examples of specific improvements aimed at providing ADA accessibility include the addition of paved pads and access walks to all athletic field bleachers with accommodations for wheelchairs. The addition of ADA picnic tables with an accessible path leading to them is another example of universal access. These upgrades should be implemented to bring the community's parks and open spaces into full compliance with ADA standards.

Recommendation #5
Improve ADA access to all parks, trails and open spaces

- Provide curb cuts, ADA warning panels and check longitudinal and cross slopes along all marked trail routes (may include widened sidewalks) providing connections to community destinations
- Provide and routinely maintain accessible surfacing for all playgrounds
- Provide paved or accessible paths, where possible, to all playgrounds, shelters, and park amenities
- Develop programming which provides for and includes people with special needs



SECTION 2: Park and Open Space Recommendations

Forest Lake will need to expand and improve its park system as the city grows in order to maintain a high level of park and recreation service throughout the city. All areas of the community should be served by community and neighborhood parks. The City currently lacks neighborhood parks with both structured and unstructured open space. Additional demand for neighborhood level parks and open space will arise as Forest Lake continues to grow. To coincide with development, neighborhood park features should be added to the existing parks or additional neighborhood parks should be created to provide for increasing demands.

Recommendation #6

Park and Facility Improvements



Forest Lake needs to ensure that all facilities continue meeting the needs of the community. Many of the listed enhancement initiatives are city-wide, while others are site specific.

- Pursue a sustainable management plan to minimize short and long term maintenance of all existing parks, trails and open spaces
- Implement a program for district-wide improvements that include standardized site furnishings, quality materials, enhanced landscaping, improved safety, consistent wayfinding, athletic field improvements and ADA compliance
- Continue replacing site furnishings, playground equipment and other site amenities on a programmed schedule to provide improvements on a cyclical basis while maintaining an understanding of the capital expenditures need to maintain ongoing cycles
- Use sustainable building products and technologies in site development projects, when feasible
- Identify palette of approved tree, shrub, and perennials for use in parks, along trails, and in open space areas to ensure diversity and interest while limiting management complexity
- Track recreation trends, demographic changes and changes in local interests regularly to determine redevelopment needs for parks and facilities

Overall Forest Lake Park Improvements

Park Amenities:

- Add bicycle racks at all parks and facilities, with paved surfacing around racks
- Replace all wooden picnic tables with metal mesh tables or other styles that fit into an overall brand to be established for the park and open space system
- Replace litter receptacles with a style that is consistent with a city-wide brand (may need developed)
- Establish a plan to replace old shelters in all parks to match a desired city-wide brand (may need developed)
- Add paved aprons in front of all benches

Landscape Improvements:

- Install native landscaping in areas that are not being used for active recreation to reduce long term maintenance of existing turf grass areas
- Install diverse species shade trees in and/or around playground and spectator seating areas
- Add low level landscape plantings for seasonal interest (shrub and perennial plantings)

ADA Accessibility Improvements:

- (See Recommendation #5)

Signage and Wayfinding:

- Add directional street and trail signage for more parks/facilities that cater to overall community interests
- Re-brand and redesign park entrance signage for consistency with city-wide brand
- (See Recommendation #2)

Athletic Fields/Court:

- Initiate systematic improvements to all turf grass areas
- Replace fencing/backstops with black vinyl coated materials
- Add concrete pads under all team bench areas
- Add concrete pads under all spectator seating areas
- Consider irrigation on key fields that are heavily used

Specific Park Improvement Recommendations

The following spreadsheet contains a summation of recommended improvements/upgrades to Forest Lake’s parks and open spaces. The community will need to evaluate each park independently to gauge best need for the immediate neighborhood and how it fits into the overall parks and open space system. A prioritization sequence is included in the implementation chapter.

| Parks & Open Space Development/Implementation Strategy | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Facility | Recommended Implementation Strategies |
| Bay Park 9th Ave. SE & 17 St. SE | |
| | Picnic Tables/Seating |
| | Install Swing Set |
| Bayview Park Bayview Dr. SE & 15 Ave. SE | |
| | Expand Basketball Court to Full Court |
| | Provide teen amenities |
| Beltz Park 11th Ave. SE & South Shore Dr. | |
| | Resurface Basketball Court |
| | Resurface Tennis Courts |
| | Resurface/Improve Volleyball Court |
| | Provide teen amenities |
| | Provide Trail through park |

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| Bixby Park 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. SW | |
| * Develop improvements in conjunction with Cedar Park and Schilling Park | |
| | Provide a combination of paved and elevated trail around the wetland complex |
| | Explore installation of a fenced dog park |
| | Construct naturalized playscape |
| | Construct a splash pad |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Construct a 3-season shelter or large picnic pavilion |
| | Develop large scale and small-plot community garden |
| | Install bioswales |
| Bridle Pass Park 6558 210th Lane Ct. N | |
| | Picnic Tables/Seating |
| Cedar Park 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. NW | |
| * Develop improvements in conjunction with Bixby Park and Schilling Park | |
| | Develop gateway feature to Bixby Park |
| | Develop a system of inner park trails with connections to Bixby Park |
| | Install Half Basketball Court |
| | Construct naturalized playscape |
| | Construct traditional playground |
| | Install a splash pad |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Provide Restrooms |
| | Construct a 3-season shelter or large picnic pavilion |
| | Develop large scale community garden plots |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |
| Clear Lake Park 5803 213th St. | |
| | Construct small shelter |
| | Provide seating |
| | Expand and improve Basketball Court |
| | Upgrade playground equipment |
| | Provide small parking area |
| | Plant shade trees |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |
| | Plant native/low maintenance vegetation to reduce long-term maintenance |
| | Provide off-street trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail |
| Eagle Bluff Park Farnham Ave. N & Farnham Ln. N. | |
| | Construct a large picnic shelter |
| | Provide additional seating |
| | Provide amenities for seniors |

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| Fenway Park 5530 206th St. N | |
| | Rehab parking lot (<i>crack sealing, seal coating and restriping</i>) |
| | Provide trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail and Washington Co. Government Center |
| | Provide trail connections to neighborhoods west of park |
| | Install field lighting for ballfields and football field |
| | Install area/trail lighting (possibly solar) to highlight trail connections |
| | Provide combination of shade structures or shade trees |
| | Relocate recreational hockey rink from Tower Park with new boards and warming hut |
| Forest Hills Farms Park Lot D - Forest Hills Farm Suvdivision, 1st Addition | |
| | Extend trail (<i>boardwalk/paved trail loop</i>) |
| | Provide educational trail markers |
| | Provide seating |
| Kulenkamp Park 8398 230th St. N | |
| | Re-orient and upgrade two of the existing ballfields (with lighting) |
| | Upgrade playground with accessible trail |
| | Remove remaining two ballfields |
| | Install full basketball court |
| | Install tennis courts |
| | Install sand volleyball court |
| | Develop shared football/soccer fields (adjustable by age levels) |
| | Develop designated lacrosse field |
| | Install large picnic shelter/pavilion with restrooms and water fountains |
| | Provide winter amenities such as cross country skiing or snoeshoeing trails |
| | Upgrade and re-orient parking lot to maximize space and better service the site |
| | Expand opportunities for education and passive recreation through park trails |
| | Develop and install a naturalized playscape |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |
| Lakeside Park 95 E Broadeway | |
| | Extend existing pier to accommodate accessible fishing |
| | Oversee improvements to existing Restroom facilities |
| | Develop ice skating rink on Forest Lake |
| | Expand Veteran's Memorial |
| | Install vegetated stormwater buffer between lakeside trail and lake edge |
| | Install bioswales to treat and convey storm water |
| Manor Park Harrow Ave. N. & 213th St. N. | |
| | Provide seating |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Install Swing Set |
| | Plant shade trees |

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| North Shore Circle Park 7621 North Shore Circle | |
| | Manage overgrown trees and vegetation |
| | Install fencing |
| | Provide seating |
| | Construct a gazebo or shelter and overlook for Forest Lake |
| | Install a small playground |
| | Construct Fishing Pier/Dock |
| Preserve Park 20809 Grenada Ave., N | |
| | Provide seating/gazebo |
| | Provide small naturalized playscape |
| | Install shade trees, shrubs, and low-maintenance landscaping |
| Schilling Park 7th Ave. NW & 5th St. NW | |
| <i>* Develop improvements in conjunction with Cedar Park and Bixby Park</i> | |
| | Develop gateway feature to Bixby Park |
| | Provide off-street trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail along 7th Ave. NW |
| | Re-orient ballfields for improved safety and play |
| | Provide additional parking |
| Shady Trails Park 4th St. SE at 8th Ave. SE | |
| | Provide seating |
| | Provide bike racks |
| | Develop more defined path/trail system |
| Shawn Silvera Memorial Park Between Evergreen Cir. & Elston Ave. | |
| <i>~ Plan to consult adjacent neighborhoods prior to initiating improvements to balance existing park uses</i> | |
| | Consider fencing to limit access |
| | Expand/Upgrade Basketball Court |
| | Sand Volleyball Court |
| | Expand vegetated buffers between nearby water bodies |
| | Provide seating |
| | Provide parking |
| | Plant shade trees |
| Sherwood Park Imperial Ave. N & 210th St. N. | |
| | Install a small playground |
| | Construct a small shelter |
| | Plant native/low maintenance vegetation to reduce long-term maintenance |
| Shields Lake Park 8787 212th St. N. | |
| | Expand dock |
| | Improve canoe launch |
| | Install Fish Cleaning House |

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| Southview Park Between Georgia Ave. & Forest Blvd. | |
| | Maintain landscaping to provide better visibility to this park |
| | Install expanded playground or natural playscape |
| | Develop trail access to Hardwood Creek Trail via Goodview Avenue N |
| | Provide parking area |
| | Implement and promote a disc golf course |
| | Expand native/low maintenance vegetation to reduce long-term maintenance |
| Summerfield Park 206th St. N & Everton Ave. N | |
| | Install large picnic shelter |
| Tower Park 843 SW 4th Street | |
| | Move maintenance yard |
| | Research opportunities to sell and redevelop east portion of the park property |
| | Retain senior center and parking |
| | Provide trail connection to Hardwood Creek Trail |

Recommendation #7

Plan for Future Neighborhood and Community Parks



Forest Lake has existing parks that provide valuable services and facilities to the community. However, acquisition will be needed to extend future park opportunities as Forest Lake continues to grow. As development occurs, the City should have plans for potential locations and implementation strategies for future parkland.

- Cooperate with local school districts in acquiring and developing lands that offer the potential for joint use.
- Target acquisition and development of properties that are adjacent to existing parks and facilities, where possible, to allow for expansion of recreational amenities or additional open space.
- Continue working with developers on requirements for park dedication in new and future subdivisions.

Future Neighborhood Parks

Future neighborhood park locations have been identified for possible addition to the City (See **Appendix B** for more information.) This Master Plan recommends the addition of various sized neighborhood parks to offer a variety of recreational choices as these areas develop. This plan’s recommendation is that planning

for the parks (components and amenities) wait until further information is available concerning development of surrounding areas. Trail connections must also be considered in planned development to ensure that each park is not only connected to surrounding neighborhoods but the overall city trails network.

- The proposed recommendation of this Master Plan is for the City to plan on future development of six (6) new neighborhood parks. (See **Appendix B** for more information.)
- Two (2) current parks which function as open space are to receive improvements allowing them to offer more small neighborhood park functions
- Parks should be built as development occurs in the identified areas

Future Community Parks

Future community park locations have been identified for possible addition to the City's park and open space system. (See **Appendix B**) While the need is not immediate, new parks will be needed to provide adequate service to newly developed areas as future growth occurs.

- This Master Plan proposes updates to two (2) current parks to allow for future growth in the northwest and southeast areas of the City. (See **Appendix B**)
- Forest Lake currently has an expressed need for a Community Center, which could be a destination amenity in a newly created community park
- Parks should be built as development occurs in the identified areas
- Trail connections must be provided to future community parks from the Hardwood Creek Trail and any other city trails network.

Recommendation #8 Develop Partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations to manage skate board parks and off-road biking courses

Forest Lake has had a skate board park in the past but the current facility is in disrepair. As improvements are made to existing park and open space facilities the City should develop a skateboard park in a more visible area or seek partnerships with a nonprofit organization who can manage this facility and provide some structure to the participants. This type of partnership is very prevalent with off-road biking groups who often manage and maintain city courses on behalf of the city that establishes them.

Recommendation #9 Research viability of expanded community garden plots in parks

Forest Lake currently has limited community garden plots in Tower Park. An expressed interest in a community garden program, the need for expanded adult and senior activities and a growing national interest in healthy eating and farm to table produce may be a good fit for the integration of community garden space in select parks. Programs like this can encourage residents to interact in their parks system, promote social engagement and engender community pride.



- Evaluate potential of integration of community garden plots in select parks
- Research the amenity needs demanded for community gardens
- Develop a formalized community garden program run through the Parks Department
- Seek opportunities to partner with local youth organizations and clubs to develop and install community garden plots
- Research opportunities for expanded services like lending tool sheds, rain barrels, and solar lighting for community garden plots

A common theme throughout the public participation process has been the expressed interest in development of a community center. While no two community centers are alike, many offer similar services and programs tailored to different age groups such as teens and seniors; two groups currently viewed as being under served by Forest Lake’s parks and open spaces system.

Recommendation #10
Research viability of a Community Center

- Develop strategy for integration of a community center in an existing park or as part of a planned neighborhood park
- Develop program/activity opportunities to determine size of facility (weight room, pool, meeting rooms, auditorium)
- Provide parking
- Provide access to Hardwood Creek Trail and connection to other city-wide trails
- Develop master plan for site improvements
- Gauge community need/interest for integration with amphitheater or large pavilion
- Integrate innovative stormwater technologies and sustainable materials
- Explore partnership opportunities in community center development



Improving trail access to all parks and open spaces in a more comprehensive trails network was ranked highly in public input discussions. This includes connecting neighborhood trails to the Hardwood Creek Trail system, providing connections to all parks and open spaces and addressing safety with roadway crossings.

- Develop trail loops whenever possible to provide opportunities for a wide variety of user groups
- The majority of survey responses indicated that their typical number of miles traveled by trail at any one time is 1-5 miles
- Provide access to Hardwood Creek Trail
- Develop regional trail connections
- Ensure that all new trails and retrofitting of old trails/sidewalk meet ADA accessibility guidelines as work is performed

Recommendation #11

Improve trail access to all parks and open spaces



Recommendation #12

Maximize Opportunities for Winter Recreation and Activities



Winter activities and recreation are sometimes lacking, yet residents desire to have a place to exercise and socialize during this time. Residents who provided input during the public process expressed a need for year-round activities. The following listing are some amenities which may be considered for incorporation in the parks and open space system to provide more year-round seasonal opportunities for Forest Lake residents.

- Cross country skiing and/or snow shoeing (at Castlewood Golf Course or potential future groomed trails at Kulenkamp, or Bixby)
- Relocation of recreational ice rinks from Tower Park to other areas within the community like Fenway Park or on Forest Lake
- Expanded maintenance and management of outdoor ice rinks and warming houses
- Indoor water park or community center
- Designated and advertised sledding opportunities
- Development of a 3-Season or Year-Round Shelter or Lodge

Developing land for the community’s use in socialization and recreation of their canine companions is a growing trend across the country. Not only does this provide opportunities for dogs to extend their energies in a controlled environment, it also provides a mechanism for community members to broaden their horizons and socialize with people they may otherwise have never met. An expressed interest for a dog park in Forest Lake was included in the Bixby Park Master Plan and was also mentioned several times in the community parks, trails and open space survey.

Recommendation #13
Oversee development of a Fenced Dog Park

- Gather community support and form a task force to prepare a program for potential area requirements
- Determine a preferred site, yet also retain a list of alternate sites with pros and cons for each
- Work with the City to select a site and develop a program
- Prepare a layout for the park
 - Plan for at least 1 acre of securely fenced and maintained grass
 - Consider the use of a double-gated entry/exit system to ensure that no one inadvertently allows a loose dog outside the fencing
- Engage the community through a marketing/fund raising program
- Educate the community on basic dog park etiquette



SECTION 3: Trail System Recommendations

Trails play an important role beyond recreation. They also serve as a means of transportation and access for residents to navigate their community. Identifying intended users and determining a priority for developing missing links is a critical aspect of the overall parks system.

The Hardwood Creek Trail is a prized amenity for the City of Forest Lake. However, there is a general lack of trail connectivity to this major trail which is preventing expanded use of the Hardwood Creek Trail community-wide. With the understanding that trail development occurs over a number of years, the following standards and guidelines will need to be periodically updated. The following data should be collected and checked as part of Forest Lake’s periodic check on its trail system:

- Types of trail users
- Trail locations
- Priority corridors
- Loop creation opportunities

Recommendation #14**Provide Trails throughout Forest Lake for various Skill Levels**

This Master Plan recognizes that the community is comprised of residents with various skill levels with trail use; including hiking, in-line skating and bicycling. The three common skill levels are: children, basic bicyclists and avid or experienced bicyclists. Although the trails system should be designed to accommodate all three groups as much as possible, children and basic bicyclists will likely be the primary users of Forest Lake's trail system.



- Develop overall trail system providing opportunities for residents of various skill levels
- Develop program/activity opportunities to educate residents on proper trail safety (including bike hand signals)
- Establish trail route loops throughout the community connecting community attractions for use by various skill levels

Children

This group is comprised of school age children (elementary/middle school) who routinely ride to and from school, ride their bike to visit friends and neighbors, go to parks and attend after school activities. This group of cyclists tends to have less experience negotiating traffic and is not always aware of potential hazards. They often disobey traffic laws and traffic control devices and tend to prefer the shortest route possible to get from destination to destination. This group also tends to prefer bike lanes and bike paths to riding on the street.

Up to age 10 most children do not have well-developed peripheral vision and have difficulty with concepts like closure speed (speed of approaching objects). Younger bicycle riders typically have difficulty following a straight track and frequently weave from side to side when riding. Detached trails with ample separation from vehicular traffic provide the ideal environment for this skill group.

Basic Bicyclists

Basic riders are typically adults or younger riders who are less confident in their ability to operate in traffic without special provisions for bicyclists. They are comfortable riding on lower traffic volume streets and separated trails and prefer designated facilities such as bike lanes or wide shoulders. This group typically uses bikes as a preferred mode of transportation, provided that destinations are reasonably close and a good bicycle route exists. Working adults, high school students and parents with child seats/carts make up a majority of this group. These bicyclists desire safe and efficient bicycle routes and sometimes avoid routes they perceive as dangerous. Bicyclists at this skill level often feel uncomfortable riding along high-speed arterial streets, even if bike lanes are provided.

Avid or Experienced Bicyclists

This group generally uses bicycles as they would a motor vehicle. They ride for convenience and speed and want direct access to destinations. Their routes typically include existing streets, resulting in minimum detours or delays. Avid bicyclists are generally comfortable riding on high speed routes and with motor vehicle traffic; however, they do desire routes that are relatively uninterrupted by traffic signals and stop signs. This skill group typically avoids separated bike trails; particularly in neighborhood greenbelts, because it slows them down.

Recommendation #15
Focus on safe connections to schools, parks, and other frequently visited community destinations

It will be important for the City to consider pedestrian-friendly amenities as stand alone projects and integrated with street construction (both rehab and new) in the future to accommodate the various user and skill groups using the trails, sidewalk and street networks in Forest Lake. Multi-modal transportation is a holistic look to the transportation network and includes pedestrian, runners, vehicles, etc... when designing a transportation corridor. This may include bike lanes, traffic calming on busy streets or separated trails with the end result being a system allowing for safe use by multiple groups.



- Designate key residential streets as routes between community destinations. Provide visual cue to drivers and pedestrians
- Provide traffic calming along designated streets and visual cues to pedestrians and drivers of this designation
- Improve sidewalk infrastructure (width, materials, ADA) throughout community, but especially along multi-modal routes
- Work with developers, MN DOT, private land owners to improve trail crossings of major roadways
- Provide amenities and signage encouraging identity and increased use of trails and multi-modal routes

Recommendation #16

Construct various trail types

The City should have plans and details for construction of various types of trails, depending on location, constraints and trail user needs. Among the trail types that the City should consider developing typical plans for include off-road hiking, interpretive trails, bicycle trails, snowshoe or cross country skiing trails, snowmobile trails, and boardwalks. Design guidelines should be specific to the type of recreation use, yet flexible enough for varying environmental conditions. User needs and safety should be a critical factor in all types of trails.



- Shared use roadway bike trails should be used when there are spatial constraints or reasons precluding off-street options
- Signed shared roadway bike trails include a painted symbol on the roadway surface and associated signage along the right-of-way
- Widened shoulders should be at least 2-3' wide for separation
- Striped or marked bike lanes can be an inexpensive way to add facilities where space on existing streets allows these.
- Roadway separated trails serve as extensions of road networks
- Greenway or nature trails typically run through natural areas and can be used for multiple types of recreation
- Elevated boardwalks are a specialized type of greenway or nature trail developed for chronically wet habitats

SECTION 4: Maintenance Recommendations

Maintenance is a crucial component to a successful park system. The location, type of maintenance and purpose of the space or facility all play a role in determining the time and effort involved in a specific maintenance plan. To help understand the level of maintenance necessary for a successful parks and trails system, this section divides maintenance into three categories: grounds maintenance, building maintenance, and equipment maintenance.

Quantifying, analyzing and documenting the various parks and trail assets within Forest Lake will provide the framework for establishing an appropriate maintenance budget and effort to keep the existing system aesthetically pleasing and safe and enjoyable for all parks and trail users and employees. This Master Plan will provide a general outline of maintenance guidelines based on the existing parks and trails system, the existing staffing structure and public input on the parks and trails system.

- Choose materials and products that have extended life under extreme wear and tear to prolong replacement schedules
- Manage exotic and invasive species that invite ecological diversity in natural areas
- Incorporate native landscape material on park and open space sites and use no-mow grass mixes in non-sports field areas to reduce the frequency of mowing to limit maintenance and care needs over time.
- Consider training maintenance staff to modify shrub and tree pruning techniques to promote natural growth habits that are healthier and provide greater seasonal interest
- Implement a tree replacement program to ensure long term diversity and health of trees within City-owned property
- Involve maintenance staff in reduced maintenance technique planning

Grounds Maintenance

Grounds maintenance is maintaining an established standard of care for outdoor spaces, such as parks and trails. This category is important to address due to the visual impression parks and trails provide to both park users and also people who view these amenities from the perimeter. If a parks and trails system is aesthetically pleasing, it will tend to make the space safer and more enjoyable for both the user and passerby. If proper maintenance is not followed, the system becomes more vulnerable to dangerous conditions. For example, a trail segment that has not been properly cared for and has developed large ruts along the pathway would be a potential dangerous situation and an increased risk of injury for a park user. To reduce safety and liability issues within the parks and trails system, a proper grounds maintenance plan must be established. A quality maintenance plan incorporates all of the tasks necessary to provide the park user with an attractive, functional and safe experience. The grounds maintenance plan usually incorporates all of the following tasks: mowing, weed control, pest control, athletic field grooming, snow removal, leaf removal, maintaining playground surfaces and equipment, parking lot repair, controlling surface water runoff, trash removal, planting, pruning, plant removal, watering and fertilizing.

Building Maintenance

Building maintenance refers to the upkeep of indoor facilities and spaces. This would include spaces such as restrooms, offices, concessions buildings, bath houses and indoor hockey rinks. The same maintenance rules and approach that apply to grounds maintenance also apply to building maintenance. The goal is to provide a pleasing and safe experience for the user. A potential benefit from a building maintenance plan is the life cycle of a facility or building. If proper care and maintenance is performed, chances are the facility or building will continue to provide assets within the system with minimal unscheduled maintenance throughout its lifespan. An identified and funded building maintenance approach results in a more regular maintenance pattern and helps to avoid unplanned efforts and expenses. The need for attractive, functional and safe use of indoor facilities is critical in a successful master plan.

The building maintenance plan may include the following tasks: trash removal, plumbing, heating and cooling and electrical systems, mopping, vacuuming, sweeping, replacing lights, windows and doors, carpet, handrails, and ice sheet maintenance.

Equipment Maintenance

Equipment maintenance is defined as the maintenance of items that park users and employees utilize during indoor or outdoor facility operations. This equipment can vary from park playground equipment, swings, slides, docks, basketball hoops, grill, to employee equipment such as a lawn mower, vehicle, leaf blower or computer systems. The proper equipment maintenance is necessary to ensure functionality and safety for both users and employees of the parks and trails system. It is important to establish a schedule for checking park and trail equipment to help keep the parks and trails system running as efficient and safe as possible.

Maintenance Systems

Maintenance systems provide the process in implementing maintenance procedures associated with maintaining grounds and buildings. These systems require an understanding of city standards, records, work orders, budget and the maintenance staff.

Types of Maintenance:

Scheduled Maintenance- Maintenance procedures that are planned in advance as part of the maintenance schedule.

- Routine Maintenance- daily or weekly activities that improve or preserve the piece of equipment, a park asset or a trail component.
- Preventative Maintenance- provided to prevent equipment or a park/trail amenity from breaking down and causing safety concerns and issues.
- Cyclical Maintenance- Involves a series of scheduled tasks to completing the full cycle of the activity. For example, maintaining green space within a park. The process contains numerous steps (soil preparation, seeding, fertilizing, watering, mowing and aerating) that are repeated on a scheduled cycle.

Unscheduled Maintenance- Maintenance procedures that are not regularly scheduled.

- Unforeseen Maintenance- This is a responsive procedure that is preformed due to a failure of an area or piece of equipment.
- Maintenance Projects- This activity usually involves a larger scale maintenance activity and the area requiring the maintenance is typically closed to the public while the maintenance is being performed. Users are notified in advance and the project requires planning.

Recommendation #17

Plan for Facility Maintenance, Life-Cycle Costs and Improvements

Stakeholder discussions, public input during the Open House and survey results all indicated a strong need for maintenance and improvements to existing park facilities. Survey comments pointed out the lack of restrooms, poor lighting and lack of ADA accessibility. Other comments pointed out a need to address programming as part of the life-cycle costs of park resources. Comments such as, “kids have outgrown the parks” and “no parks suitable for young adults” reflects not only the need for more diverse activities but also the need to routinely evaluate park resources.



Establish dedicated parks and trails maintenance staff to provide the identified maintenance needs throughout Forest Lake’s parks and trails system. Staff may be part of Public Works or an independent group under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department. The most important component is the priority of selected staff to focus on parks and trails as opposed to other community needs.

Recommendation #18
Establish maintenance staff dedicated to parks and trails

Collaborate with Public Works and other City staff to create a maintenance budget for Forest Lake’s parks, open spaces and trails systems. Determine the appropriate financial maintenance needs to cover all identified maintenance categories and maintenance system. This budget should not only cover physical costs associated with maintenance but also the labor necessary to carry out the various tasks. This budget should be reviewed by City staff on an annual basis to ensure appropriate funds are identified.

Recommendation #19
Create a maintenance budget for parks, open spaces and trails

Recommendation #20
Evaluate Existing Maintenance Practices

Evaluate existing maintenance practices at least every 2 years to determine if they need to be adjusted to meet the changing needs of the community and maintenance budgeting. Determine if there are ways to reduce maintenance costs, such as engaging public/private partnerships, enlisting and training volunteers, or focusing resources based on community needs and use patterns.

Recommendation #21
Prioritize Park, Open Space and Trail Maintenance Needs

Prioritize maintenance needs for the parks, open spaces and trails in the existing system. First, determine a base maintenance standard for the existing system. Following establishment of minimal maintenance needs, prioritize the additional system needs and desires and develop an appropriate action plan given available resources and effort.

SECTION 5: Operation and Policy Guidelines

Creation of a master plan goes beyond buildings, facilities, and programming, but also must encompass operations and life-cycle costs of each park resource. This discussion includes policies which help the City manage its resources and make critical decisions concerning its parks, trails, and open space system. This Master Plan will provide a general outline for policy considerations and has been organized in the following manner:

- Administration and Operations
- Collaboration
- Volunteers
- Communications

Recommendation #22

Develop and Implement Policy Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Department

Administration and Operations

Developing effective administrative techniques will guide Forest Lake's Park Department in efficient operation and will assist in keeping it in-line with the interests of the community. Policies are interconnected with administrative duties and are established to guide organization and to reference when major operational decisions are required. Policies are typically set by a governing board, likely the City of Forest Lake or Parks Board when concerning the Park Department.

- Develop consistent approaches to all public procedures and services so the public becomes familiar with a well-known process.
- Staff should continue to participate in community projects and civic organizations to develop working relationships throughout the community.
- Encourage staff participation in the development of departmental capital improvement recommendations.
- Include departmental staff in decisions affecting their departments.
- Periodically assess the structure of the staff and Parks Board to ensure that Forest Lake operates in an efficient and effective manner to continue meeting the needs of the community.

Collaboration

Developing strong relationships and good rapport among other Parks and Recreation staff, City officials, other agencies, and the public is an important key to the overall future success of Forest Lake's park, trails and open spaces system.

- Maintaining open communication, and understanding the common goals and interests of various groups allows the community to work in a collaborative manner when providing services and facilities.
- Commit to collaborating with other community groups, staff, and leadership on mutually beneficial projects.
- Attend and participate in quarterly meetings with library, school district, police department, fire department, etc...
- Encourage participation by intergovernmental agencies to establish common interests.
- Continue to coordinate program offerings with Forest Lake Athletics Association (FLAA) and the Forest Lake School District to broaden recreation, education, and fitness opportunities.
- Focus on relationship building with community groups for joint marketing efforts.

Volunteers

Volunteers are a major factor in current park system maintenance practices and will continue to be a critical element to the success of the parks system and programming efforts. Though coordination of volunteers does require staff time, the rewards can quickly outnumber this commitment.

- Recruit young volunteers through school and youth organizations.
- Increase the visibility of volunteer opportunities (i.e. announcements via the website, Twitter, Facebook, etc..) to give the volunteer program a greater presence and appeal
- Provide volunteer training in order to maintain a high level of quality
- Maximize the use of volunteers with special events, general park, trail and open space maintenance activities, and when engaging other organizations (schools, churches, etc..) to assist in annual clean-up events and tasks
- Develop a Park/Open Space Ambassador Program to encourage increased participation by volunteers with increased responsibility.

Communications

Good communication can provide heightened interest in the variety of facilities and programs available and create a better understanding of funding and operations. Effective communication is the most important marketing tool used by parks and recreation agencies. It helps promote community support while removing misconceptions about parks and recreation operations.

- Broaden the use of social networking programs (i.e. Facebook, twitter, Four Square, etc..) to inform residents of news and events, and to encourage participation in recreation programs
- Design the Parks and Recreation portion of the Forest Lake city website to be more interactive and include volunteer opportunities and features that may market the Department while keeping the public informed
- Use all existing publications in Forest Lake to post articles on operations, volunteer initiatives and activities and events/programs.
- Feature a park or facility and a program each month (using methods above) to increase the visibility of each facility; information such as history, amenities, events, future and recent improvements and any other relevant information.
- Develop a regional marketing effort to surrounding communities regarding programs that may be unique to Forest Lake.
- Develop and annually advertising budget and adopt at least a basic plan for how, when and where to expend this money
- Set up suggestion/complaint boxes in highly visible places such as City Hall, the Library, etc... to gather input for needs and/or testimonials and endorsements to include in future planning efforts

Programming was not addressed as part of this study since FLAA and the Forest Lake School District currently runs and manages recreational programming for the City of Forest Lake. However, a brief discussion regarding participation fees and maintenance has been included to provide to clearly illustrate the connection between facility use, programming and maintenance and upkeep.

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

One of the most important aspects of the Master Plan is the discussion on implementation. This section provides potential funding opportunities, defines priorities, and suggests recommended monitoring methods. This plan also makes an appeal to public partners and citizen groups to provide oversight and to be actively involved in implementation. Residents, local government, the school district, law enforcement, healthcare, local businesses, developers, and other agencies will need to work together for Forest Lake's vision for its parks, trails, and open spaces system to be successful.

The recommended approval steps are shown below. Following approval of the Master Plan, implementation steps and action items can be followed to ensure this plans successful transition from paper to reality.

Master Plan Recommendation and Approval Process

Stakeholder Group

The stakeholder group has provided direction for development of this document throughout the process and has contributed greatly to the Master Plan as a whole. Following approval, some members of the stakeholder group may choose to serve on the implementation/follow-up team.

City Staff

Members of city staff have been involved throughout the master planning process, and have reviewed and commented on both the draft recommendation and final reports. Once finalized, the Master Plan will be submitted to the Park Board.

The Park Board

The Park Board reviewed the Master Plan and recommended approval to City Council on June 16, 2014.

City Council

Forest Lake City Council reviewed the Master Plan and took action to adopt this document on July __, 2014.

Master Plan Approval and Implementation Action Items

Implementation Team

Appoint of accept volunteers to create an implementation team that will meet regularly to track progress and effectiveness.

On-going Communication and Education

Promote constant cooperation and communication between all interested parties during and after completion of this study.

SECTION 1: Park and Open Space Implementation

This section of the Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan recommends priorities for park improvements in order to make the plan a reality. Depending on funding opportunities, many of the recommended phases could be combined into one project; or some of the larger recommendations could be split into several projects. It is also recommended that these phases be re-evaluated annually to identify current priorities each year. The recommendation for implementing this Master Plan are based on input received from citizens, city staff and leadership. Several times during the process, participants talked about improving existing parks prior to adding new parks and open space areas in Forest Lake. Therefore, this section focuses primarily on improvements and upgrades to existing facilities.

Priority Improvements for Forest Lake Parks and Open Space Facilities

The following section outlines some of the proposed improvements by priority. Focus was given to park upgrades or improvements that would have the most immediate benefit to the community. The approximate time-frame for each priority are described below.

1 . First Priority Improvements

Recommendations identified as first priority should be initiated within the next 1 to 3 years. These priorities are deemed important because they represent current needs and initiatives, as well as initiatives relative to safety.

2 . Second Priority Improvements

Second priority recommendations should be implemented in a range of 3 to 5 years, depending on recreation and development trends and funding opportunities.

3 . Third Priority Improvements

Third priority recommendations would be scheduled more than 5 years from now, unless funding opportunities make them viable sooner.

| Parks & Open Space Improvement Prioritization |
|--|
| First Priority Improvements |
| Wayfinding and Park Signage |
| Development of a Dog Park |
| Outdoor Rink Relocation and Development |
| Development of a Community Center |
| Preserve Park 20809 Grenada Ave. N |
| North Shore Circle Park 7621 North Shore Circle |
| Kulenkamp Park[^] 8398 230th St. N |
| Bay Park 9th Ave. SE & 17th St. SE |
| Bayview Estates Park Bayview Dr. SE & 15th Ave. SE |
| Bridle Pass Park 6558 210th lane Ct. N |
| Schilling Park * 7th Ave. N & 5th St. NW |
| Cedar Park * 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. NW |
| Manor Park Harrow Ave. N & 213th St. N |
| Clear Lake Park 5803 213th St. |

** improvements are included as part of the overall Bixby Park Master Plan*

[^] additional improvements included as part of other prioritization phases

| |
|---|
| Second Priority Improvements |
| Bixby Park* 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. SW |
| Tower Park 843 SW 4th St. |
| Southview Park Between Georgia Ave. & Forest Blvd. |
| Shawn Silvera Memorial Park Between Evergreen Circ. & Elston Ave. |
| Fenway Park 5530 206th St. N |
| Beltz Park 11th Ave. SE & South Shore Dr. |
| Eagle Bluff Park Farnham Ave. N & Farnham Ln. N |
| Lakeside Park 95 E Broadway |
| Kulenkamp Park^ 8398 230th St. N |

* improvements are included as part of the overall Bixby Park Master Plan

^ additional improvements included as part of other prioritization phases

| |
|---|
| Third Priority Improvements |
| Shields Lake Park 8787 212th St. |
| Summerfield Park 206th St. N & Everton Ave. N |
| Shady Trails Park 4th St. SE at 8th Ave. SE |
| Sherwood Park Imperial Ave. N & 210th St. N |
| Forest Hills Farms Park Lot D - Forest Hills Farm Suvdivision, 1st Addition |
| Future Neighborhood Park location to be determined |

Park and Open Space Cost Assumptions

Estimated costs provided are for budgetary purposes only. The following assumptions should be understood when using this information:

- Cost ranges will depend on project size and are rough estimates only
- Cost ranges could vary based on project size (larger quantities could yield lower unit costs)
- Calculations for shared use trails assume bituminous material only
- Cost do not include engineering, land acquisition, permitting, indirect costs, private utility relocation, wetland mitigation, testing or environmental fees and the like
- Contingency of 15% is added to costs

Park Component Construction Costs

A range of costs has been provided for general budgeting purposes since specific components for each of the parks and open spaces mentioned in this Master Plan have not been determined. A construction estimate will need to be created prior to each park improvement project to more accurately determine construction costs at the time of planned implementation.

(See Park Inventory & Value Spreadsheet in **Appendix D** for a discussion of proposed facility improvements per park and to get an estimate of potential element costs.) The following table contains a range of construction costs for various park components discussed in this document. The actual cost of each element will vary depending on a number of variables; including complexity, size, materials used and whether or not it includes lighting and/or irrigation.

| Park Component | Cost Range |
|--|----------------------|
| Playground * | \$12,500 - \$65,000 |
| Picnic Shelter/Pavilion | \$15,000 - \$50,000 |
| Ballfield ~ | \$10,000 - \$350,000 |
| Basketball Court (concrete base) ~ | \$25,000 - \$50,000 |
| Tennis Court ~ | \$20,000 - \$50,000 |
| Small Shelter/Gazebo | \$12,000 - \$20,000 |
| Sand Volleyball Court | \$5,000 - \$10,000 |
| Overlook * | \$10,000 - \$20,000 |
| Site Furniture/Amenities | |
| Picnic Table | \$500 - \$1,000 |
| Bench | \$800 - \$2,000 |
| Trash Receptacle | \$800 - \$1,500 |
| Bike Rack | \$500 - \$1,000 |
| Pedestrian Lighting (per light pole) ^ | \$3,500 - \$6,000 |
| Fishing Pier * | \$20,000 - \$40,000 |

* Costs vary greatly due to the size, complexity and type of material. Prices do not include permitting that may be required.

^ Cost does not include cost of running electricity to light poles, conduit, or power controller.

~ Cost can vary widely based on type and size of field, lighting and/or irrigation requirements, etc...

SECTION 2: Trail Implementation

The Trail Master Plan recommends specific priorities and action items to foster implementation. Continued communication and involvement by multiple individuals, organizations and agencies is critical to the success of these routes. The stakeholders in the immediate region will need to work closely together to take this Master Plan from paper to reality. The trails project team will need to work closely with the City to prioritize and determine appropriate phasing of trail projects, in order to be most effective and efficient with available funding. Overall, the Master Plan concentrates on routes of high priority for implementation over the next ten (10) years.

Priority Trails

A priority list of trail projects is included below (See **Appendix B** for a trails priority map). The following factors guided decisions when assigning trail priority:

- Potential connections linking to existing/constructed trail segments
- Responsive to community survey input and needs expressed during meetings
- Direct routes and connection to key destination points (shopping areas, schools, residential neighborhoods)
- Potential for funding and feasibility
- Safety factors
- Potential user volumes
- Equal geographic distribution to residents
- Land availability and easements that may be needed

- Potential future connections to regional trail systems
- Environmental surroundings for various levels of riders

Some segments are likely to be constructed as residential and commercial developments occur. Development activity will dictate trail implementation in these areas, making it difficult to prioritize and predict their timing. The approximate time-frame for each priority are described below.

1 . First Priority Improvements

Recommendations identified as first priority should be initiated within the next 1 to 3 years. These priorities are deemed important because they represent current needs and initiatives, as well as initiatives relative to safety.

2 . Second Priority Improvements

Second priority recommendations should be implemented in a range of 3 to 5 years, depending on recreation and development trends and funding opportunities.

3 . Third Priority Improvements

Third priority recommendations would be scheduled more than 5 years from now, unless funding opportunities make them viable sooner.

4 . Long Range Improvements

It is important to have long range recommendations on the plan to show regional connections and development of long community loops. These trails often provide connections to larger trails or regional destinations and take many years of coordination and fund-raising to implement.

| Trails Improvement Prioritization ^ ~ |
|---|
| First Priority Improvements |
| 8th Street SE to Highway 97 with highway crossing to Middle/High School * |
| Highway 97 between 8th Street SE and High School driveway |
| Highway 97 from High School with Highway 61 crossing and connection to Hardwood Creek Trail * |
| Highway 61 from Highway 97 to 14th Ave. SE* |
| Highway 61 from 14th Ave. SE to 11th Avenue SE |
| 11th Avenue SE with Highway 61 crossing and connection to Hardwood Creek Trail |
| 11th Avenue SE from Highway 61 to South Shore Trail* |
| Connection from Fenway Park to Washington County Government Center and Hardwood Creek Trail |
| Missing Segment on 4th Street SE between SE 8th Ave. and 11th Ave. SE |
| 206th Street from Fenway Park and along Fenway Ave N to Fenston Ave. N |
| Highway 97 from 8th Street SE to Harrow Avenue N |
| Harrow Avenue N between Highway 97 and 202nd St. N |
| 202nd St. N from Granada Ave. to Keats Ave. N (East Municipal Boundary) |
| Goodview Ave. from Georgia Ave. N to 202nd St. N |
| 202nd St. N from Goodview Ave. N to Hardwood Creek Trail with Highway 61 crossing |
| 8th Street NW from Broadway Ave. W to 7th Ave. NW |

* Indicates trail segments slated for construction in 2015/16

| Second Priority Improvements |
|--|
| 15th Ave. Se between 8th St. SW and 11th St. SE |
| Highway 97 between Harrow Ave. N and Imperial Ave. N |
| Imperial Ave. N between Highway 97 and 202nd St. N |
| Connection from Hardwood Creek Trail at 202nd Street to trail at Fenway Park |
| Headwaters Pkwy. from 199th St. N and Fenway Ave. N to existing trail south of 202nd St. N |
| Connect Clear Lake Park and Hardwood Creek Trail along 213th Street N |
| 4th St. SW between 3rd Ave. SW and 11th Ave. SW |
| Connection between 4th St. SW and Hardwood Creek Trail through Tower Park |
| Highway 83 from Hardwood Creek Trail to Elston Ave. |
| Evergreen Cir. from Shawn Silvera Park to existing trial on 19th St. SW |
| W Broadway Ave. between 19th St. SW And Elmcrest Ave. N |
| 7th Avenue NW from Schilling Park to Hardwood Creek Trail |
| North Shore Dr. from 236th St. Cir. S to 235th St. N |
| 235th St. N from North Shore Dr. to Jamaica Ave. N |
| Jamaica Ave. N/Jeffrey Ave. N from 235th St. N to North Shore Trail N |

| Third Priority Improvements |
|---|
| SE 11th St. from SE 15th Ave. to Highway 97 |
| Development Trail from Highway 97 to 202nd St. N * |
| Highway 97 from Imperial Ave. N to North Shore Trail N |
| July Ave. N from Highway 97 to 202nd St. N |
| North Shore Trail N from Jeffrey Ave. N to Highway 97 |
| Development Trail from Headwaters Pkwy. To Elmcrest Ave. N * |
| Development Trail from 190th St. N to Enfield Ave. N * |
| Everton Ave. N from Highway 83 to W. Broadway Ave. |
| 230th St. N/North Shore Trail N from Kulenkamp Park to end of Hilo Ave. N |
| Development Trail from Hilo Ave. N to 235th St. N * |

** Indicates trail segment to be constructed as part of development activities*

| Long-Range Improvements |
|---|
| Eureka Ave. N from Highway 83 to Highway 97 |
| Highway 97 from Hardwood Creek Trail to Zurich St. NE |
| Elmcrest Ave. N from 195th St. N to 190th St. N |
| 190th St. N from Elmcrest Ave. N to Harrow Ave. N |
| Harrow Ave. N from 202nd St. N to City Limits |
| Greenway from Harrow Ave. N through Hardwood Creek WMA to 202nd St. N |
| Greenway from 202nd St. N to Ingersoll Ave. N |

^ This list does not include development of trails in individual parks

~ Development Trail indicates segments which should be constructed as part of future development activity

Trail Construction Cost Assumptions

Estimated costs provided are for budgetary purposes only. The following assumptions should be understood when using this information:

- Cost ranges will depend on project size and are rough estimates only
- Cost ranges could vary based on project size (larger quantities could yield lower unit costs)
- Calculations for shared use trails assume bituminous material only
- Cost do not include engineering, land acquisition, permitting, indirect costs, private utility relocation, wetland mitigation, testing or environmental fees and the like
- Contingency of 15% is added to costs

Trail construction costs can vary due to a variety of factors, including local conditions, trail type and support services. These cost estimates, therefore, are general guidelines for the purpose of preliminary estimation of trail costs. More detailed cost estimates will need to be developed prior to application for funding, during preliminary design and prior to bidding for construction. (Note: all costs per linear foot assume an 8’ wide trail. Many state funding sources view 8’ wide shared use trails as a minimum, with 10’ wide being preferred. This will need to be considered when preparing information soliciting grant funding.)

| Trail Type | Cost Range |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Bituminous trail (off-street)* *assumes 3” bituminous surfacing material, 6” aggregate base, excavation and grass shoulder (does not include drainage improvements, if required) | \$30 - \$45 per linear foot |
| Bituminous trail (on-street), adjacent roadway | \$25 - \$35 per linear foot |
| Concrete (widened sidewalk or new) | \$35 - \$45 per linear foot |
| Striping and signing for bike lanes | \$3 per linear foot |
| Bituminous resurfacing (2 inch overlay)~ ~does not include topsoil or aggregate shoulder edge material | \$15 per linear foot |
| Wetland boardwalk with helical anchors | \$400 - \$450 per linear foot |

General Trail Maintenance Program

In order to keep existing and new trail routes in good condition it will be important to practice regular and proactive trail maintenance. Therefore, a trail maintenance component should be included in Forest Lake’s Capital Improvement Program Budget to keep the trail system at peak effectiveness. Typical trail maintenance includes:

- Shoulder maintenance
- Re-painting pavement markings
- Crack filling and seal coating
- Pavement patching
- Resurfacing

(Note: For on-street bike lanes, maintenance should be part of the annual Public Works Department budget program.)

Forest Lake should also collect and log user complaints that result from inspections, and then complete maintenance on an “as-needed” basis in addition to their annual maintenance efforts. It is important to identify and prioritize trail system maintenance needs often, and make sure that a portion of the City’s Capital Improvement Budget is allocated to trail maintenance. An estimated time line for routine maintenance is outlined below.

| Maintenance Item | Approximate Time Frame |
|---|------------------------|
| Shoulder Maintenance | Annually |
| Re-painting Pavement Markings | 3 years |
| Bituminous Seal Coating | 5 years |
| Crack Filling | 3 years |
| Pavement Patching (Bituminous) | 5-8 years |
| Pavement Patching (Concrete) | 7-10 years |
| Re-Painting Pavement Markings (Thermoplastic) | 10 years |
| Pavement Resurfacing | 12-15 years |
| New Trail Construction/Reconstruction | 20-25 years |

The following are typical annual maintenance costs for one mile of paved trail. (These figures are based on national averages. Actual costs will vary by geographic location and trail.)

| Maintenance Item | Cost Range |
|--|-------------------|
| Drainage and Storm Channel Maintenance | \$500 - \$800 |
| Cleaning Debris off Trail | \$1,200 - \$1,500 |
| Pickup and Removal of Trash | \$1,200 - \$1,500 |
| Weed Control and Vegetation Management | \$1,000 - \$1,300 |
| Mowing a 3-Foot Grass Shoulder along Trail | \$1,200 - \$1,800 |
| Minor Repairs to Trail Furniture/Safety Features | \$500 - \$1,000 |

Trail Planning & Construction Impacts

Planning and consideration for construction is an integral part to any municipal improvement. Trail design and construction is no different. But the steps required for one type of trail may not be the same for another type. The trail segments listed in the Trail Improvement Prioritization Chart comprise segments which vary in scope, width, type, and even construction requirements. The vast majority of trail segments listed as First Priority Improvements include trails adjacent to existing roadways.

Trails Adjacent Roadways

These facilities are typically concrete or bituminous trails constructed in the current roadway right-of-way. When planning for these trails consideration must be given to the amount of right-of-way space, the speed of the roadway traffic, the type of surfacing to be used and any crossings or impediments that the trail must cross to form a connection to the existing system. These trails can be constructed by the City, County, or State (depending on roadway classification and ownership) and can be separated trails or designated bike lanes. Where space is allowable, accommodations should be made to separate bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Trails Separated from Driving Lanes

Trails separated from the roadway by either a vertical or horizontal change (or both) provide a more comfortable feeling for bicyclists and pedestrians. The following guidelines should be considered during development of these types of trails:

- Provide these connections where they are most needed. Typically these trails establish links from residential areas to parks or larger trail networks, schools and cultural or commercial destinations.

- Provide paths on both sides of busy or wide roadways that are difficult to cross or to control unsafe crossing attempts.
- Provide at least a 5 foot buffer between trails and lightly traveled or low-speed roadways.
- Provide at least a 10 foot buffer with landscape plantings and berms between trails and heavily traveled or high-speed roadways.
- Avoid obstacles such as mailboxes, signs and power poles
- Limit the amount of street crossings, and when needed, provide highly visible distinction for both trail users and motorists.

Designated Bike Lanes

Bike lanes can take many forms. They are typically provided on busy roadways to alert motorists to the presence of bicyclists and to control the space which bicyclists use. In Forest Lake, bicycle lanes would be most appropriate in rural areas of the city where vehicle traffic is relatively light and there constructing a separate path may be either too expensive or non-conducive because of space constraints. The following guidelines should be considered during development of bike lanes:

- Provide bike lanes on both sides of designated roads (much like separate lanes for vehicular traffic).
- The minimum bike lane width recommended by AASHTO [American Assoc. of State Highway and Transportation Officials] is 5 foot. (Should also consult State Aid Design Standards, which may be stricter in some cases)
- Avoid on-street parking on roads with designated bike lanes. If on-street parking is present, provide a minimum 5 foot bike lane between the parking area and vehicular travel lane
- Avoid physical obstructions in bike lanes such as pavement rumble strips, signs, slotted stormwater drains, etc...

Greenways & Off-Road Trails

Greenways often provide more enjoyable trail experiences for bicyclists and pedestrians. These facilities often provide access to different ecosystems and link residential neighborhoods with parks, schools, and other greenbelt amenities. The list of high priority trails includes a few off-road trail segments. Though these trails can include many different types of surface, it is intended that any trail segment developed in the City would adhere to ADA guidelines and would consist of concrete, bituminous, or a similarly accessible material.

Wetland Trail/Boardwalk

Because of Forest Lake's many acres of wetlands, it is likely that the City will develop trails to provide access to a portion of the wetland ecosystems as part of their future trails system. Though development of Bixby Park is a logical location for a concentration of this type of trail, other potential trail segments with wetland access could include Kulenkamp Park and Forest Hills Farms Park. Not only would these trails provide access to wetlands for educational and scenic purposes, they would also create a pedestrian links for nearby residents to gain better insight to the function of the community's existing wetland complex.

This being said, any development of a trail system in a wetland area is carefully regulated to minimize impacts and will take careful planning with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, any work occurring in a wetland will require a permit issued through the Corps. As planning moves forward in design of a trail or boardwalk project as part of a future trail segment, plan to coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers early in the planning process to establish a relationship with them throughout the process. Also, because of the unique ecosystems that wetland represent, expect construction costs to be significantly higher than traditional costs. In order to minimize impacts to these fragile ecosystems, design must account for unique soils, often requiring pile driven footings, fluctuating water levels, and the need to consider unique plant and animal cycles during construction.

In order to minimize impacts to annual wetland wildlife cycles, pile driven footings may be installed in late fall through early winter when wetlands are less active. Additional considerations should also be given to incorporation of sustainable materials during the design process. Materials which are readily available for maintenance efforts will make it easier for the City to maintain these types of trails well into the future. Additionally, Forest Lake should plan on spending more per each instance of required maintenance for wetland complex trails. Not only will they be more difficult to access, ecological conditions during any given year may make it precarious to carry out certain maintenance procedures.

The following guidelines should be considered during development of wetland trails:

- The location, length, width, height of trail/boardwalk above the surface of the wetland
- What key features will the boardwalk provide access to while avoiding impacts to sensitive plants and animals
- Location should provide access to a variety of habitats
- Width should comfortably allow for the passing of two adults (or baby strollers) - typically 48 inches
- The structure must be strong enough to support anticipated loads and provide safety features in areas of deep water or aggressive animal habitat
- The structure should use construction materials that will resist rot and other deterioration
- The structure may need to be designed to withstand flooding, wave action and ice
- Fencing and/or railing design must be an integral part of the design process

Trails as part of Future Development

These facilities are typically concrete or bituminous trails constructed in the current roadway right-of-way; often functioning as widened sidewalks. When planning for these trails consideration must be given to the amount of right-of-way space, the speed of the roadway traffic, the type of surfacing to be used and any crossings or impediments that the trail must cross to form a connection to the existing system. The following high priority segments fit into this trail category:

SECTION 3: Funding Strategies (Federal, State, Local, Other)

A typical annual maintenance cost has been established to ensure the upkeep of the existing system based on quantifying the existing park, open space and trail amenities. New park projects or additions should also be determined as part of the funding needs within the overall parks and trails system.

Recommendation #23

Pursue Multiple Forms of Funding in order to financially provide for Short and Long-term Maintenance Efforts

Many parks, open spaces and trails are planned and implemented using outside funding assistance. Multiple programs are available to assist local governments with the development of parks and trail facilities. The programs differ in the amount of funding offered, local government and administrative procedures, purpose funding may be used for, and time line funding must be spent. Funding can be provided in a variety of combinations, such as state legacy funds, federal grant funds, TIF districts, special service areas or other community financing districts, gas tax, and transportation sales tax. The following funding strategies represent commonly used funding sources, but may not include all available funding sources.

Federal Funding

- The Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and its successor, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), provide eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle transportation facilities, including trails.
- The Federal-Aid Highway Program. This source provides financial assistance to the states to construct and improve the National Highway System, other major roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and trails. Trail projects have to compete for funding with other eligible transportation projects.
- The Surface Transportation Program (STP) provides funding for all types of transportation projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Projects selected through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for projects within the metropolitan planning boundary. Outside the planning boundary, projects are selected through the State Highway Improvement Program. Within STP funding, there are several unique funding programs:
 - Safety: 10% of STP funds are available only for safety programs, such as railway-highway crossing projects and hazard elimination.
 - Transportation Enhancements: 10% of STP funds are available for projects that include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, educational programs, landscaping and historic preservation, among other factors. Transportation Enhancement funds flow through the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the designated regional planning agency. This grant is a competitive program that requires a full project submittal and there is typically a fund matching component.
 - The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails for motorized and non-motorized trails and trail-related projects.
 - The Public Lands Highways Discretionary Program (PLH) provides assistance to improve access to, and within federal lands.
 - The National Scenic Byways Program provides funding for state scenic byways programs and improvements.
 - The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, offers grants for neighborhood revitalization, economic development and improvements to community facilities and services, and can include trails.
 - The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants are used by federal agencies to acquire additions to national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. They are also available to communities.

State Funding

- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program provides grants to local units of government to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. Funding for this grant program is from the Parks and Trails Fund created by the Minnesota Legislature from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Local Trail Connections Program provides grants to local units of government to promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations, not to develop significant new trails. Funding for this grant program is from “In Lieu Of” lottery proceeds.
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Grant Program provides funding for park acquisition and/or development/redevelopment. Elements available for funding include internal park trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, athletic facilities, boat accesses, fishing piers, swimming beaches and campgrounds. All projects must meet requirements for perpetual outdoor recreation use.

- The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) serves nonprofit arts organizations, informal arts groups, community education, and non-arts nonprofit organizations with annual operating expenses under \$400,000, and individual artists in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey Scott and Washington counties. Funding is primarily from appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.
- The Minnesota Department of Health Community Transformation Grant Program leverages funding through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) to pair grants with grantees representing high needs. Grants focus projects and programs that promote exercise and physical activity, improve nutrition and decrease tobacco use.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation manages the Safe Routes to School program (SRTS) which provides funding to community and school groups to make infrastructure improvements to the routes children use to walk and bike to school. The focus of the program is to increase the number of children walking/biking to school, while targeting grades Kindergarten through Sixth.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) provides funding to support qualifying city roads and bridges in cities with populations of 5,000 or more through Municipal state aid (MSA). Cities may use funds to repair MSA streets in the following ways:
 - Use current allocations to pay for projects
 - Borrow against the city's future MSA allocation
 - Issue bonds that will be repaid with MSA funds
 - Use MSA funds to meet participation requirements on county or MnDOT projects
 - Combine MSA dollars with money collected through special assessments.

City engineers work with the state to identify and procure MSA funding for qualifying streets. A screening board, appointed by the commissioner of Transportation, annually reviews all information as to the financial needs of the MSA system and submits its recommendation to the commissioner on or before the first day of November of each year.

Local Funding

- Park dedication fees represent an important source of park and trail revenue. The dedication of either land or cash, or combination thereof at the time that residential property is subdivided. The fee should be reviewed on an annual basis and updated as necessary to adjust for the cost of living.
- It is recommended that the City of Forest Lake consider incorporating park redevelopment infrastructure planning as part of the five-year Capital Improvements Plan. Minnesota Statutes specify that park dedication fees may not be used for maintenance purposes. This will require the City to provide separate budget funds for maintenance and park establishment.
- Private Donations. Forest Lake should establish a list of potential park and trail improvements that could be funded through charitable institutions. The list of improvements should identify the park or trail need and the process the public can use to donate revenue or equipment.
- A Referendum (Voter Approved Bonds) is another potential local funding source. The Community may place a referendum on voter ballots for consideration by the public to support park and trail improvements. If approved the service levies are spread on the market value of property.
- Other potential local funding sources that should be explored include: Property Taxes, Charitable Community Groups, Grass Roots Fund-raising, In-kind Donations, Local Business Support and Partnerships.
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota Active Living Minnesota and Healthy Eating Grants are available to communities for implementing a comprehensive approach to support healthy eating and active living with a focus on environmental and policy change efforts.

- Local General Fund is another source for financing municipal improvements. Cities identify local improvement needs as part of the annual budgeting process and may assign a percentage of the general city tax levy to fund ongoing improvements.
- Special Assessments are a real property tax proportionately levied on homeowners and landowners to cover the costs of improvements that will benefit those on which it is imposed. Special assessments are a common mechanism used by cities to help pay for sidewalk and sewer improvements.
- Sidewalk Improvement Districts. A city may establish, by ordinance, a sidewalk improvement district to pay all or a portion of the cost of sidewalk construction and repair by apportioning the cost throughout the property in the district on a “direct or indirect benefit basis.” The City Council may establish districts in order to provide all areas with safe pedestrian walkways to and from schools, school bus stops, public transportation facilities and other neighborhood and community services. An indirect benefit assessment may involve all property in the district without regard to location of sidewalks. A direct benefit may be assessed to abutting property for the additional cost of an extra sidewalk width. Assessments may be spread over a five-year period, but there is no provision in the statute for issuing obligations initially, to finance the cost, nor is any procedure prescribed for making the assessments.
- Revenue or General Obligation Bonds may be issued to acquire, lease, or maintain land, buildings and other recreational facilities. These include, but are not limited to, indoor swimming pools, skating rinks, athletic fields, golf courses, concert halls, museums, or other kinds of athletic or cultural participation facilities and related parking facilities.

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OVERVIEW, DATA COLLECTION, INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

SECTION 1: Project Overview & History

History of Parks Department

Forest Lake's Park Department is in the process of transitioning from a mostly volunteer basis supervised by a policy-making Parks Board to a stand alone (and staffed) department within the City. During the month of April, 2014, Forest Lake hired their first full-time Parks Director to oversee development of Parks and Recreation operations and improvements. This includes 22 existing neighborhood and community parks and one 9-hole regulation golf course. The City is also in the process of developing amenities in Bixby Park; which is currently a 94 acre open space park in the northwest corner of the City.

2002 - 2012 Park Comprehensive Plan

The City of Forest Lake's Park 2002 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan was an important document providing guidance to the community after the merger of the City of Forest Lake with the Town of Forest Lake in 2001. This document not only reflected the needs of the newly formed community but carried forward the vision of the merged entities. Of utmost importance is that this plan laid the basis for elected and appointed officials to acquire, manage, and maintain their parks, trails open spaces. It also provided a basis for measuring the interconnection of the City's parks and recreation resources with neighboring communities and entities. Another vital aspect of this document was to relate the importance of communication between the City, developers, and private landowners; particularly as this related to impacts on existing and future parks, trails, and open spaces.

2010 - 2030 Comprehensive Plan

The City adopted the 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan in December 2009. This document serves as a long range planning device to guide the community in its desired direction. Part of its purpose was to identify goals, objectives, and strategies for the City's growth and development. This is particularly important as City Council, Commissions, and City Staff make decisions about land use, park development, and public facility planning based on the information set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

SECTION 2: Project Area

The project area comprises all property currently annexed into the City of Forest Lake, which includes future growth areas. This area is approximately 22,745.6 acres (35.54 square miles).

SECTION 3: Purpose & Benefits

Parks, trails, and open spaces provide communities with multiple benefits. The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide Forest Lake in planning of current and future parks, trails, and open spaces while meeting the needs of all of its residents. Some of the benefits of completing this study and implementing its recommendations include: economic, health and safety, and social.

As Forest Lake continues to grow, the overall purpose of this document is to plan for the continued offering of recreational opportunities that are convenient, reliable, safe, and efficient for all residents in the community. Ensuring all parks, future and existing, are American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant will guarantee all users are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Improved health, environmental awareness and stewardship, open space preservation, and increased property values are a few of the possible benefits available with this plan.

Economic Benefits

Parks improve the local tax base and increase property values, especially properties in close proximity to parks, trails, and open spaces. Countless studies have shown that people are willing to pay more for property located near parks and open spaces than for properties without those amenities. Parks, trails, and open spaces are also a major factor to businesses deciding where to locate facilities. Commercial and industrial properties with nearby parks and open spaces are more desirable to employers and employees for the free benefit they provide. Parks, trails, and open spaces also mitigate the need for stormwater retention costs by providing trees, vegetated areas, and preservation of existing systems which can lessen the impact from stormwater events. Parks and recreation programs can also not only generate revenue directly from fees and charges, but provide significant indirect revenue to local economies. Sports tournaments and special events are often accompanied by hospitality expenditures, fuel, equipment and food sales, hotel accommodations, and possibly even tourism dollars.

Health & Safety Benefits

There are a number of health and safety benefits to implementing a well-planned and integrated parks, trails, and open space system. Among these are the proximity to amenities encouraging daily exercise (bicycling, running, walking, etc...) which can significantly improve the community's physical and mental health. Safe and convenient trails also provide opportunities for commuting to work, retail shopping, or simply for recreational benefit. Long term health can also be positively impacted through the parks, trails, and open spaces provided by a community. The provision of shade and fresh air may be overlooked, yet when experienced routinely can help reduce stress and blood pressure while also mitigating exposure to the sun.

Parks, trails, and open spaces can also lead to an increased level of community safety. Providing amenities for safe multi-modal travel has a direct impact on a community's quality of life. The consequences of bicycle/pedestrian accidents can often be serious and are sometimes fatal. The youth are especially vulnerable because they are inexperienced in riding in areas with traffic and may make unpredictable judgements. Though Forest Lake does have a number of overpasses and signalized trail/sidewalk crossings in the community there are many other crossings which place pedestrians and bicyclists in conflict with vehicular transportation. One example is North Shore Trail N. This roadway is periodically used for bicycling and jogging, yet high speeds, the lack of a designated trail route, and a constrained right-of-way make this a hazardous route for residents using this route safely.

Access to parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities has also been linked to reductions in crime and vandalism. Studies have shown that community involvement in neighborhood parks not only provides a sense of public pride but has been associated with reductions in crime and juvenile delinquency.

Social Benefits

Parks, trails, and open spaces are a reflection of a community. These amenities provide identity for residents and are one of major determining factors for perceived quality of life in any given community. This correlation is so great that parks and recreational opportunities are often cited as the most important factors in surveys of how livable communities are. Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, regardless of age, ethnicity, economic status, or abilities. Parks continue to serve as one of the most universal venues for a person's ongoing health and well-being, providing countless opportunities for all ages and capabilities. Parks have a value to communities that goes above an invested dollar amount; they provide a sense of community pride and cohesion unmatched by other municipal facilities.

Land Stewardship

Preservation and stewardship of environmentally sensitive ecosystems is an important role in development of parks, trails, and open spaces. Forest Lake is fortunate to possess numerous wetland and lake ecosystems that have remained

undeveloped and are either currently in wetland management areas or protected through an unwritten agreement between private landowners, the City, and developers. This document will consider the philosophy for preservation and management of all city-owned recreational properties within Forest Lake; including parks, trails, greenways, and open spaces as relates to maintenance practices and quality of habitat. Part of this philosophy will include public access promoting a greater understanding of these unique systems and the role the community plays in their stewardship.

Meeting the Community’s Changing Needs

As Forest Lake prioritizes its future goals and determines the direction of its parks, trails, and open spaces; as well as the programming and services it provides, it is important to recognize that trends change to fit the needs of each generation. What may be appropriate now may seem outdated in fifteen or twenty years. Therefore, Forest Lake needs to self-evaluate the overall needs of its residents on a regular basis.

SECTION 4: Collected Data and Inventory

The project team collected data and created an inventory of the City’s parks and open space amenities as part of the master plan process. A sampling of the information and data collected includes the following:

- Community profile
- Existing conditions
- Classification of parks, open spaces and trails
- Level of service analysis and needs assessment

Community Profile

Forest Lake is an attractive suburban community and is home to beautiful lakes and agricultural land. The greatest community asset, however, is the people who live and work here. Residents take pride in the small town feel and family friendly amenities the community has to offer. These principles are a key part in planning for the future. This chapter presents a rundown of the community based on geography, demographic information and history. This information provides an understanding of the community that promotes recreational activities that take advantage of the community’s natural amenities. A concise understanding of recreation based community will result in “place” appropriate recommendations for park planning, maintenance and amenities.

Geographic Location

The City of Forest Lake is located in the northwestern corner of Washington County about 30 miles north of Downtown St. Paul and is part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. U.S. Highway 61 runs north/south through the community and the downtown core business district. A major transportation corridor, Interstate 35 runs parallel to Highway 61 connecting to the community via State Highway 97, CSAH 32, CSAH 2 or U.S. Highway 8. Interstate 35 provides convenient access to the Minneapolis/St. Paul greater area. In addition to the many surrounding lakes, the City of Forest Lake lies in a central location between the following regional destinations; Interstate Park, Martin Island – Linwood Lakes Regional Park, Falls Creek Scientific and Natural Area, Carlos Avery State Wildlife Refuge, Lamprey Pass Wildlife Management Area, Hardwood Creek Wildlife Management Area, William O’Brien State Park, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes and Big Marine Park Reserve. Surrounding communities and townships include Wyoming, Chisago City, Columbus, Hugo and Scandia.

Population

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 2010..... | 18,375 | 1980..... | 9,927 |
| 2000..... | 14,400 | 1970..... | 6,197 |
| 1990..... | 12,523 | 1960..... | 3,967 |

Distance to Major Cities

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| Minneapolis, MN..... | 30 miles | Owatonna, MN..... | 92 miles |
| Anoka, MN..... | 30 miles | Eau Claire, WI..... | 104 miles |
| St. Cloud, MN..... | 78 miles | Duluth, MN..... | 127 miles |

Physical and Natural Features

Other significant features inventoried and shown on the exhibit include:

- Municipal boundary
- Transportation corridors/streets/railroads/bridges
- Schools
- Existing municipal open space locations
- Existing municipal and non-municipal park locations
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Wildlife Management Areas
- State and Regional Parks

SECTION 5: Existing Conditions

Parks and General Open Spaces

An on-site evaluation of existing parks and amenities provided the basis for formulating future improvement recommendations. Each existing park and open space facility was inventoried in two steps. The first step was to visit the park and document amenities and existing conditions; the second was to determine the approximate size, park classification, and what amenities and structures each site included. See Appendix D for the complete Parks Inventory.

Trails System

Through stakeholder meetings, Open House presentations, and public surveys; residents and community leaders voiced a strong desire for a cohesive sidewalk and trail system providing access to parks and community attractions throughout Forest Lake. The Hardwood Creek Regional Trail runs north/south through the community, just west of highway 61. This prized community amenity funnels regional trail users through the heart of Forest Lake providing a direct connection to the downtown business district and Lakeside Park. On a larger scale the regional trail connects the community with the Sunrise Prairie Regional Trail and the City of Wyoming to the north and the City of Hugo to the south. While providing north/south regional connections the regional trail lacks strong connections within the community through local trail connections. A primary goal of the Parks and Trail Master Plan is to provide connectivity by linking parks and neighborhoods to other key destinations around the community through use of the regional trail.

This Master Plan recommends expanding upon the local trail system and connecting key destinations such as:

- Lakes
- Downtown
- Lakeside Park
- Schools
- Parks
- Washington County Government Center
- Future Lakes International Language Academy second location
- Future potential YMCA site

Existing Challenges

Following completing a parks and trails inventory process and analyzing public input, the following challenges have been identified:

- Funding
- The many city parks that require maintenance
- Lack of a cohesive local trail system
- Lack of local trail system connections to the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
- U.S. Highway 61 carries high volumes of traffic creating a barrier for pedestrians
- Many neighborhoods are isolated from key destinations

SECTION 6: Classification of Forest Lake's Parks

The City of Forest Lake classifies each park based on use and the users the park serves. This classification system closely follows a classification system that was developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to be used as a resource to describe most types of parks. These standards are meant to be modified to address a specific agency and the unique types of parks that an agency offers. Due to the large number of parks within the city limits of Forest Lake, majority of the types of recommended classifications were used and additional classifications were added to define and inventory the city's park system. Each park was classified under the category that met the broadest definition of amenities provided and the users it serves. The Forest Lake classification of parks includes; Community Park, Neighborhood Park, Mini Park, Private Recreation, Public School, Regional Destination, Special Use Park, Wildlife Management Area and Managed Forest Land.

Mini Neighborhood Parks

Mini parks generally address specific recreation or open space needs. This type of park is usually created of a single lot or irregular piece of land and intended to serve users directly adjacent to it. Often these parks are too small for recreational use but sometimes may accommodate a small playground and places to sit outside. Mini parks can add value to the adjacent private properties if they fit their surroundings and have desirable uses.

Service Area

Typically the service area for a mini park is less than (0.25) one quarter mile.

Park Size

Typically these parks cover less than one acre and accommodate no more than one or two uses. Often such a park provides only benches and space to sit outdoors.

Forest Lake has eleven mini parks throughout the city. Many of these parks provide nothing more than a play structure and benches or picnic tables.

NRPA standards call for between 0.25 to 0.5 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents. Ranging in size from 0.25 acre to 1.4 acres, the eleven mini parks provide 8.42 acres of park space. This translates into 0.44 acres per 1,000 residents, which falls into the standardized guidelines.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are considered the basic unit of a community's park system and provide a recreational and social focus for residential areas. These parks desirably provide space for informal active and passive recreational activities. Park space is provided for recreational activities such as field games, court games, picnic facilities and playground equipment.

Neighborhood parks may contain amenities that serve the community as a whole. An example of this is an athletic field that is used by athletic organizations.

Service Area

The typical service radius for neighborhood parks is between (0.25) one quarter and (0.5) one half mile. A neighborhood park should be easily and safely accessed by the neighborhoods it serves, uninterrupted by major roads or any other barrier.

Park Size

Neighborhood parks must be a size adequate enough to accommodate facilities that successfully serve a neighborhood. Such park should contain at least 5 acres; between 5 and 10 acres is considered optimal. Of this total acreage, 2 to 3 acres should be relatively flat open space area suitable for a number of activities, including “pick up” ball games and room to run or throw a ball.

Schilling Park and Summerfield Park are the only two parks out of the seven neighborhood parks that meet the 5 to 10 acreage recommendation. Though ranging in size from 2.5 to 4 acres, the remaining five of the seven neighborhood parks still provide facilities desirable at a neighborhood scale such as; open space, picnic facilities, a practice softball field, ice rinks, community garden plots, a half basketball court and horseshoe pits.

NRPA standards call for between 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents. Forest Lake currently has about 30.28 acres of neighborhood parkland. This translates into 1.60 acres per 1,000 residents.

Community Parks

These types of parks typically include areas of diverse use and environmental quality. Such parks meet community-based recreation needs, may preserve significant natural areas and often include areas suited for intense recreational facilities. These parks may contain significant athletic fields, water features, walking paths, picnic facilities and various other active and passive amenities that meet community needs and site sustainability. Community parks often serve as a venue for community athletic organizations or other recreational or social based community gatherings.

Service Area

Community parks generally serve multiple neighborhoods and depending on amenities provided, they are often intended to serve the entire community. The typical service radius of a community park is approximately 0.5 mile to 1.5 miles (See **Appendix B**).

Park Size

Most often a community park should consist of 10 or more acres. Although, special amenities that provide for the entire community may be located on smaller sites therefor still serving as a community park. Lakeside Park only consists of 3 acres but it serves the community as an important element of the downtown. Fenway Park, Kulenkamp and Bixby Park are Forest Lake’s three other community parks providing amenities and features intended to serve the whole community. The four community parks range from 3 to 94 acres in size and contain unique community features such as a beach, boat dock and lake access, beach house, ball fields, picnic facilities, gazebo, restrooms, wetlands, trails, wooded areas and an indoor skating rink. Lakeside Park is the communities pride and joy and is an important part of the downtown area.

Traditional NRPA guidelines for community park areas call for 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents. With a total of 105.9 acres of community park space, Forest Lake currently provides for 5.59 acres per 1,000 residents, which satisfies the NRPA requirement for the current population.

Private Recreation

Park space and open areas classified under this category include recreational areas that are privately owned. These properties include uses ranging from private schools to church property and private golf courses. No NRPA standards apply to private recreational spaces.

Where possible, these facilities have been included as part of the Existing Parks Classification and Service Area Map. These facilities have also been included in the Current Park Facilities Needs and Existing Facilities in Forest Lake spreadsheets located in **Appendix C**.

Public School

Public schools provide many recreational opportunities for Forest Lake, particularly when located in areas not served by a city park. The playgrounds, open space, play fields, basketball courts and tennis courts at schools often function as neighborhood parks and attract area residents. Though these are not owned by the city, school facilities can compliment the municipal parks system and can help Forest Lake meet the NRPA guidelines for specific types of recreational facilities.

Where possible, these facilities have been included as part of the Existing Parks Classification and Service Area Map. These facilities have also been included in the Current Park Facilities Needs and Existing Facilities in Forest Lake spreadsheets located in **Appendix C**.

Regional Destination

Regional destinations are not limited to recreational facilities but are a destination that attract users on a regional level. Even if recreational amenities are not provided; sites categorized as a regional destination are important community elements. Providing opportunities to access these sites through a recreational non-motorized means of transportation should be explored to expand the communities access to additional recreational opportunities. This can be provided through a cohesive local trail system that successfully connects with and utilizes the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail. No NRPA standards apply to regional destinations.

Regional Destinations have been included as part of the Areas of Regional Significance Map in **Appendix A**. Future access to these has been explored as part of the Trail Master Plan Display in **Appendix C**. No further evaluation was performed on these sites since they are located outside of the city boundary.

Special Use Park

Special use parks are areas for specified or single-purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas. They can also include areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Plazas or squares in commercial centers, as well as boulevards and parkways are typically included in this recreational and open space type. NRPA does not have any specific standards pertaining to special use parks since the amenities provided by these areas vary widely.

Where possible, these facilities have been included as part of the Existing Parks Classification and Service Area Map. These facilities have also been included in the Current Park Facilities Needs and Existing Facilities in Forest Lake spreadsheets located in **Appendix C**.

Wildlife Management Area (WMA's) and Managed Forest Lands

A Wildlife Management Area is an area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing of wildlife habitat, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. Though these areas may include active play

areas, 80% of the land in wildlife management areas is typically reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development. Such nature-oriented areas are intended to serve several communities and a larger regional area. Managed natural areas are required to meet federal standards which are typically stricter than standards applied to city parks.

Wildlife Management Areas have been included as part of the Areas of Regional Significance Map in **Appendix A**. Future access to these has been explored as part of the Trail Master Plan Display in **Appendix C**. No further evaluation was performed on these sites since they are managed by Washington County or the State of Minnesota.

(See **Appendix C** for an inventory of the existing parks, along with a listing of their amenities and classification.)

SECTION 4: Level of Service Analysis and Needs Assessment

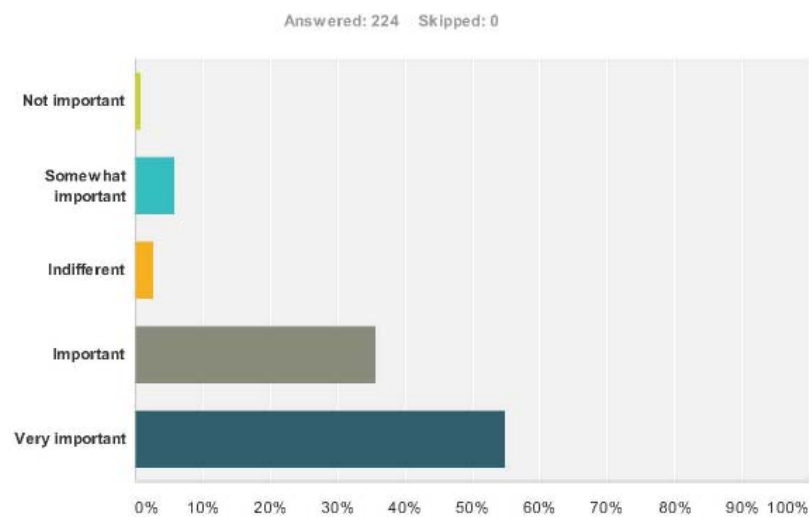
The City of Forest Lake gathered the following information to determine the current and future needs of Forest Lake's park and open space system:

- The general public's input provided through a survey and at public open house meetings
- Comparative analysis of parks and open space systems in other cities
- On-site observations (see **Appendix C** for an inventory of the city's existing parks and open spaces)

Survey Results

The online survey (administered by Survey Monkey) was conducted to solicit input from all interested in the master planning process. Collecting this feedback allows this Master Plan to effectively address respondents' issues and opinions on existing parks and open space. More importantly, this survey identified apparent needs of the community from the view of the residents. Input gathered from the survey was highly influential on the direction and decisions made throughout the development of the Master Plan and recommendations made. A few of the key survey questions and corresponding answers have been highlighted below.

(For complete detail of the survey results reference **Appendix E**.)

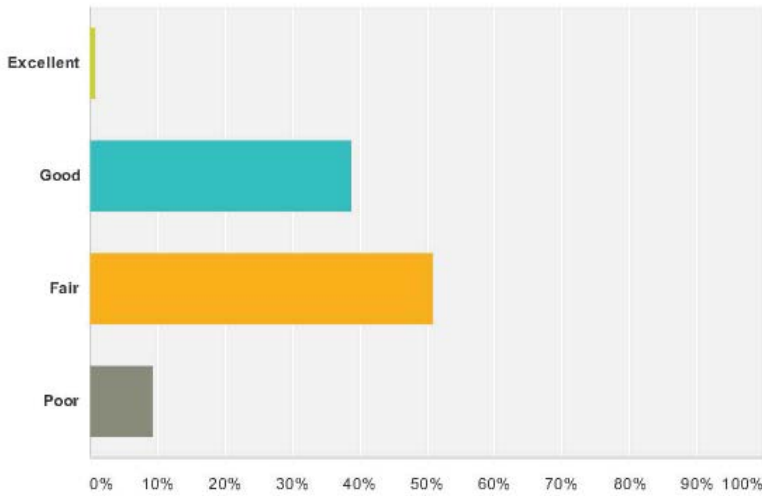


Question 4

How important are parks, trails and open space to Forest Lake's Quality of Life?

- *Over 90% consider it Important or Very Important*

Answered: 224 Skipped: 0

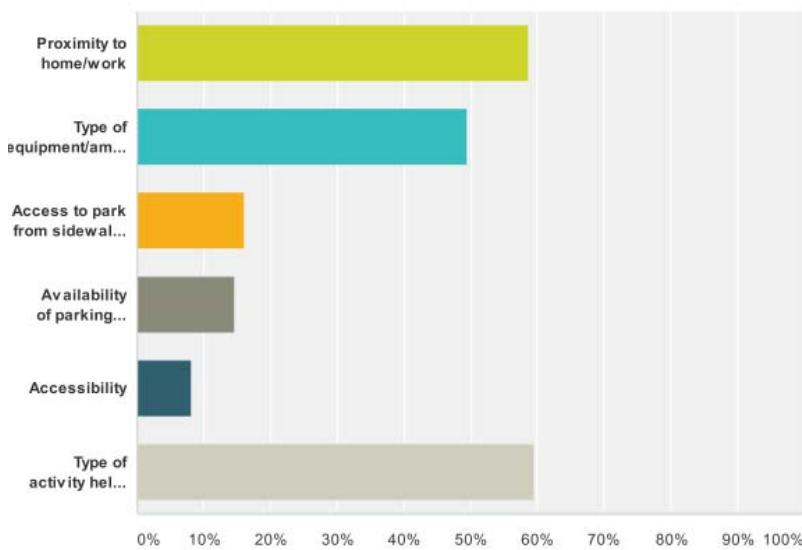


Question 5

How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing parks and open space facilities?

- Slightly over 50% gave the system a Fair rating. Only 38.84% gave it a Good rating, and less than 1% thought it was Excellent.

Answered: 198 Skipped: 26

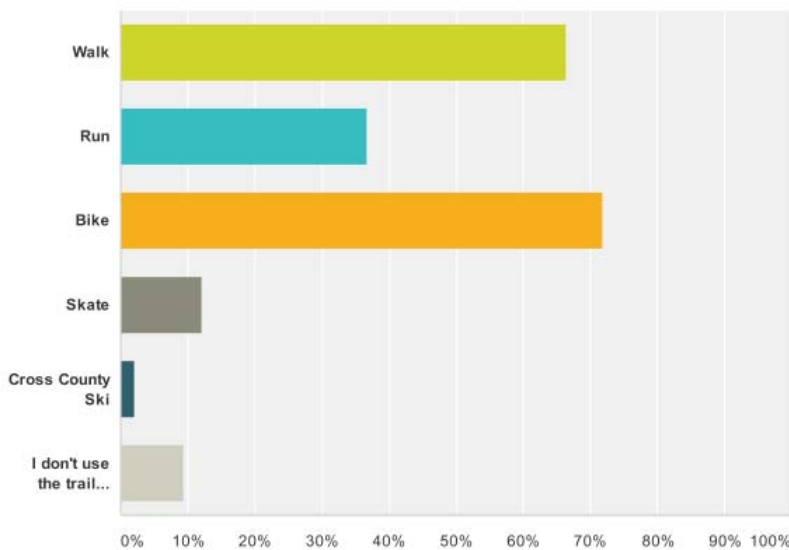


Question 8

Why do you visit these parks more often than others? (check all that apply)

- Type of activity held at the park was the number 1 response at nearly 60% of those participating on this question
- The proximity to home/work was right behind with 59% of those participating
- Type of equipment/amenity offered received nearly 49% of votes as the number 3 participant response
- Surprisingly access to parks from sidewalk or trail received only 32 responses (or just over 16%)
- Availability of parking at/near site received only 29 responses (or nearly 15%)

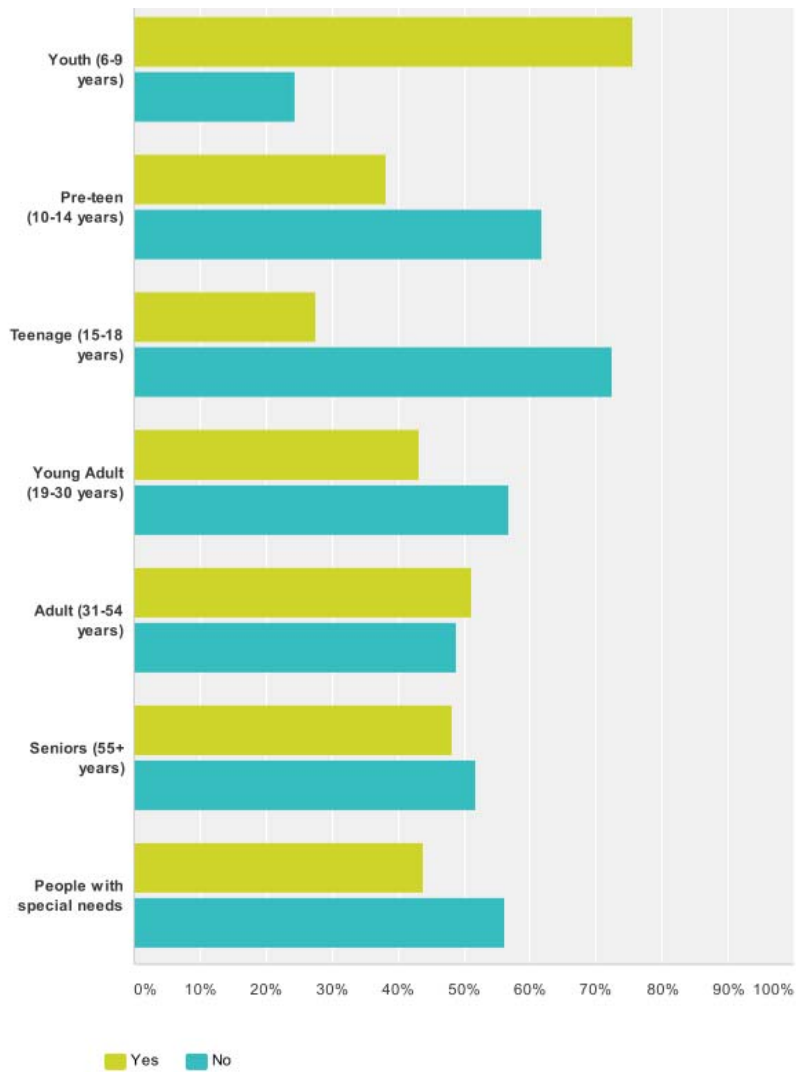
Answered: 191 Skipped: 33



Question 15

What do you do when you use the City's trail system? (check all that apply)

- Biking was the number 1 response indicated by nearly 72% of participants
- Walking was a close second, selected by over 66%
- Running was chosen by nearly 37% of participants
- Skating and Cross Country Skiing was indicated by 12% and 2%, respectively

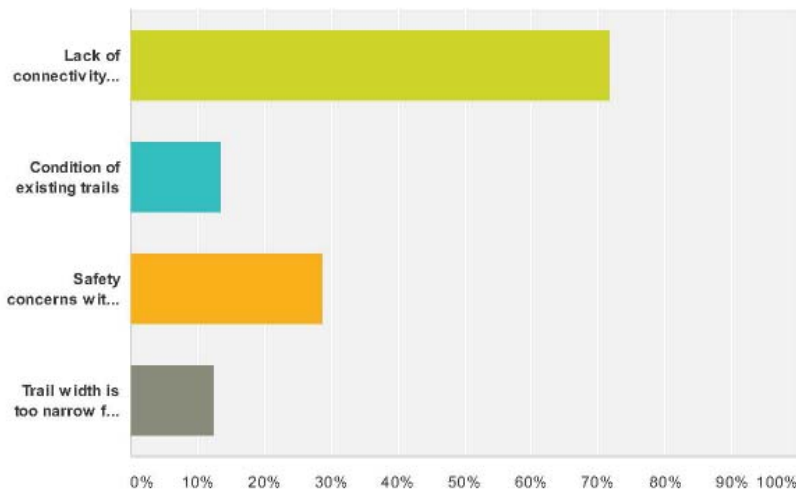


Question 12

Do you feel there are enough park, trail and open space opportunities in Forest lake for the following groups?

- Five groups received more No than Yes responses: Pre-teen (10-14), Teens (15-18), Young Adult (19-30), Seniors (55+) and People with Special Needs
- The Teenage group saw the higher percentage of No responses at nearly 73%
- The gap between No and Yes responses for the Teenage group was ~73% No and 28% Yes
- Pre-Teens received the second highest amount of No responses at ~ 62%
- Seniors and Adults were nearly even, indicating a possible need for additional activities or amenities to service these two groups

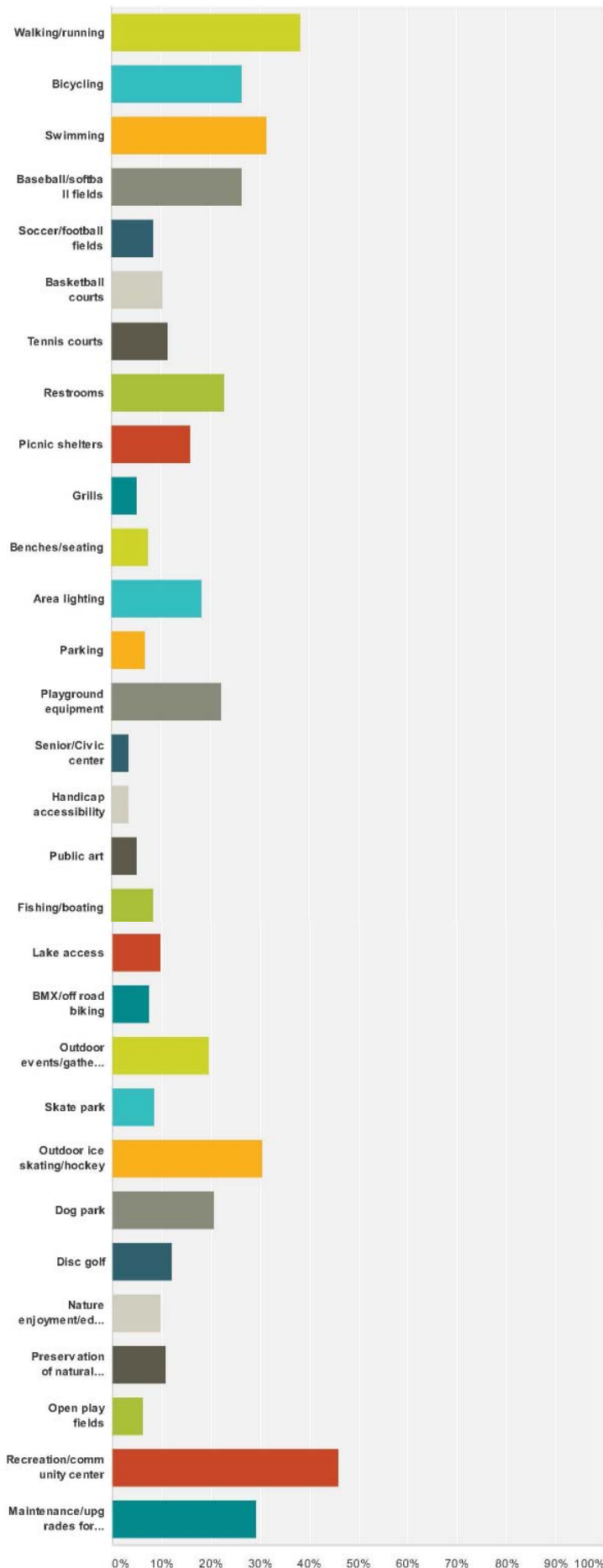
Answered: 184 Skipped: 40



Question 18

What discourages you most from using the City's trails?

- Lack of Connectivity was the overwhelming response at more than 71%
- Concerns with safe crossings and traffic was second at 28.8%



Question 23

What do you feel Forest Lake should focus on over the next 5-10 years? (choose 5)

- Recreation/Community Center was the number 1 response by 46% of participants
- Walking/Running was second at 38.5%
- Swimming was third at 31.6%
- Outdoor Ice Skating/Hockey was close behind at 30.5%
- Maintenance/Upgrades to Existing Sites was next at 29.3%
- The need for a splash pad, lacrosse fields and a dog park were expressed by several participants
- Several participants noted a desire for the accommodation of winter activities like snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and the need for better maintenance and heat around the ice rinks
- Improved resources and better maintenance was also expressed by several participants

5.12

Future Park & Open Space Needs

Recreational facilities are important in making communities attractive places to work, live, and invest in. The following table identifies future park needs for Forest Lake based on local and national standards. Projections for future park needs are based on National Standards and the city’s existing level of service, using a 2030 project population of 34,200.

As an example of how to read this chart let us look at the line with information on Neighborhood Parks. There are currently 30.28 acres devoted to neighborhood parks, or 1.60 per every 1,000 residents. If Forest Lake wanted to keep the current acreage of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents in 2030 then it would need $(34,200/1,000) \times 1.60$ or 54.63 acres of neighborhood parks. This would result in the need of 24.35 additional acres of neighborhood parkland by 2030, assuming the projected population remains on track. Conversely, using NRPA standards of a minimum of 1 acre of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents, Forest Lake would need $(34,200/1,000)$ or 34.2 acres by 2030. This represents a deficit of only 3.92 acres from the current acres of neighborhood parkland but would be equal less acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 than is currently provided. ((These values also show school facilities as special use parks instead of the neighborhood park to separate the difference between municipal and school district facilities.))

| Park Type | Existing Acreage | Existing Acres Per 1,000 Residents | NRPA Standard Per 1,000 Residents | 2030 Total Parkland Acre Need Based on Existing Level | Additional Parkland Acres Needed | 2030 Parkland Need Based on National Level | 2030 Surplus (Deficit) |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Mini Parks | 8.42 | 0.44 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Neighborhood Parks | 30.28 | 1.60 | 1-2 Acres | 54.63 | 24.35 | 34.20 | (3.92) |
| Community Parks | 199.90 | 10.54 | 5-8 Acres | 360.64 | 160.74 | 171 | 28.90 |
| Special Use Parks | 260.60 | 13.75 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Total Park Area | 499.2 | 26.33 | 10 Acres | 900.60 | 401.40 | 342 | 157.20 |

Comparative Analysis

Comparing Forest Lake’s existing parks, open space and trails with similarly-sized communities allows for the measure of how well the city is meeting the needs of the residents when compared to these other cities. The comparison analysis does assume some measure of inconsistency given that different park agencies typically offer differing amenities. Additionally, since many of the amenity recommendations are expressed as a range the ‘Recommended Standard’ quantity used for each ‘Amenity Type’ is indicated in the table.

The Parks and Open Space Comparison Table which shows how Forest Lake compares to the cities of Anoka, Ramsey, Stillwater and Waconia is included on the following page, and can also be viewed in **Appendix C**.

PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMPARISON TABLE

| POPULATION | RECOMMENDED STANDARDS | ANOKA | | RAMSEY | | STILLWATER | | WACONIA | | FOREST LAKE | | MEETS STANDARDS OR INDICATES (-DEFICIT) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|-------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|---|
| | | 17,243 | 24,071 | 18,542 | 11,222 | 18,957 | | | | | | |
| Community Parks (acres) | 5 acres per 1,000 pop. | 123.7 | 86.2 | 170.4 | 120.4 | 115.1 | 92.7 | 46.8 | 56.1 | 105.9 | 94.8 | 11.1 |
| Neighborhood Parks (acres) | 2 acres per 1,000 pop. | 21.8 | 34.5 | 201.2 | 48.1 | 49.7 | 37.1 | 20.7 | 22.4 | 30.3 | 37.9 | -7.6 |
| TOTAL PARKS (acres)* | 10 acres per 1,000 pop. | 145.5 | 172.4 | 371.6 | 240.7 | 164.8 | 185.4 | 67.5 | 112.2 | 136.2 | 189.6 | -53.4 |
| Trails (miles)^ | 1 mile per 1,000 pop. | 29.3 | 17.2 | 50.2 | 24.1 | 14.9 | 18.5 | 13.4 | 11.2 | 22.5 | 19.0 | 3.5 |
| Other Open Spaces (acres) | 15 acres per 1,000 pop. | 222.3 | 25.9 | 280.3 | 36.1 | 148.8 | 27.8 | 161.2 | 16.8 | 260.6 | 28.4 | 232.2 |

* The following are assumptions taken in this comparison:

*Amenities in public schools were not accounted for in the calculations. This would equate to roughly 94 acres of open space similar to neighborhood parks in Forest Lake
Park acreages for non-municipal parks have been approximated based on aerial images or by using information available on websites*

Acreage for Special Use Parks that are not schools has been included in Other Open Space in order to show a comprehensive view of the City's existing park and open space

^ Trail lengths have been compiled from the best available information. This number is not comprehensive and may not include all internal community trail lengths

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

SECTION 1: Process and Importance

Throughout the Master Plan process the city and project team used strategic public involvement methods to engage the residents and key stakeholders in the community. Encouraging the community as a whole to take part in the planning process helps to promote a sense of community pride and a feeling of individual responsibility for the good of the city. It was of upmost importance to the City of Forest Lake to incorporate a broad range of community involvement, interests and issues into developing the Master Plan to ensure that it represents the true vision of the community. The vision that came from this involvement provides the basis for the goals and objectives set forth by this Master Plan. These goals and objectives serve to guide the city over the next ten years and beyond.

This section describes the methods used to gather public input and the findings that resulted from the process. The following groups were involved in the development of the Master Plan:

- Forest Lake residents
- Stakeholder Group (listed below)
- Community leaders and elected officials
- Property owners and other stakeholders
- Forest Lake School District

SECTION 2: Stakeholder Groups and Meeting Dates

The Master Planning Stakeholder Group was formed to represent a cross-section of stakeholders and experts who volunteer their time to provide direction an input on the project. The Master Plan Stakeholder Group is comprised of the following representatives:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Renaë Reedy | Kathy Bystrom |
| Anthony Groff | Justin Bonnett |
| LeAnne Larson | Tim Schingen |
| Dwight Burkhalter | Julie Ohman |
| Matt Elvehjem | Chris Soderlind |

Stakeholder participation and input throughout the process was vital to successfully compile and complete a useful Master Plan document. Responsibilities of the Stakeholder Group included:

- Provide input and guidance for the Master Plan process
- Provide a forum for consensus-building on key issues and decisions
- Review and comment on draft plans, exhibits and recommendations
- Review and comment on the draft report at an 80% completion rate

The Master Plan Stakeholder Group meetings provided a forum to directly communicate progress on the project and to receive input from the members on key issues and elements of the plan. Additionally, the public comments and concerns were communicated to the members for input and consensus-building.

- Meeting #1 February 2, 2014
- Meeting #2 May 15, 2014

(See **Appendix E** for meeting notes.)

SECTION 3: Joint Meetings & Attendees – City Leadership Involvement

City staff was significantly involved in the Master Plan process through participation in public open houses and stakeholder meetings, and the creation of this final document. Internal coordination and ongoing communication between the city and Bolton & Menk, Inc. resulted in a final document that displays consideration of several points of views and interests.

City Council Document Approval

Meeting Date: July __, 2014

(See **Appendix E** for meeting notes.)

SECTION 4: Public Workshops

Two public open house meetings were held as part of this Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Planning process. The first open house was held following the completion of an inventory of the existing community parks and open spaces in the earlier stages of the master planning process. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit public input in order to gain an understanding of the issues and concerns of residents and property owners regarding parks, open space and trails. Soliciting this input from the public was important for community consensus building. Their input also helped reinforce goals established through earlier stakeholder meetings.

The second open house was held at the end of the master planning process to unveil the compiled master plan to the community for gain additional public feedback on the plan to taking it before the Park Board and then City Council for adoption.

Open House #1 Meeting Dates: March 25, 2014

Open House #2 Meeting Dates: June 4, 2014

(See **Appendix E** for meeting notes.)

SECTION 5: Conclusions

After analyzing the above information, the project team found Forest Lake's park and open space system rates fairly well overall. The park space and amenities ratio to population meets, and in some cases exceeds, the parkland provided by comparative cities. Survey results indicate that residents view the quality of the parks, trails and open spaces system as either good or fair, and that having a good quality park system is important for the city's quality of life.

The main shortcomings voiced during input sessions and through the survey are: lack of awareness of available amenities, lack of connectivity, between residential areas and parks/open spaces, lack of quality, desire equipment and the cleanliness/condition of the existing facilities and equipment. The core weakness in the trail system is the lack of local connectivity to the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail throughout the community. While the city continues to develop, it will be important to continue connecting existing and future key destinations with neighborhoods.

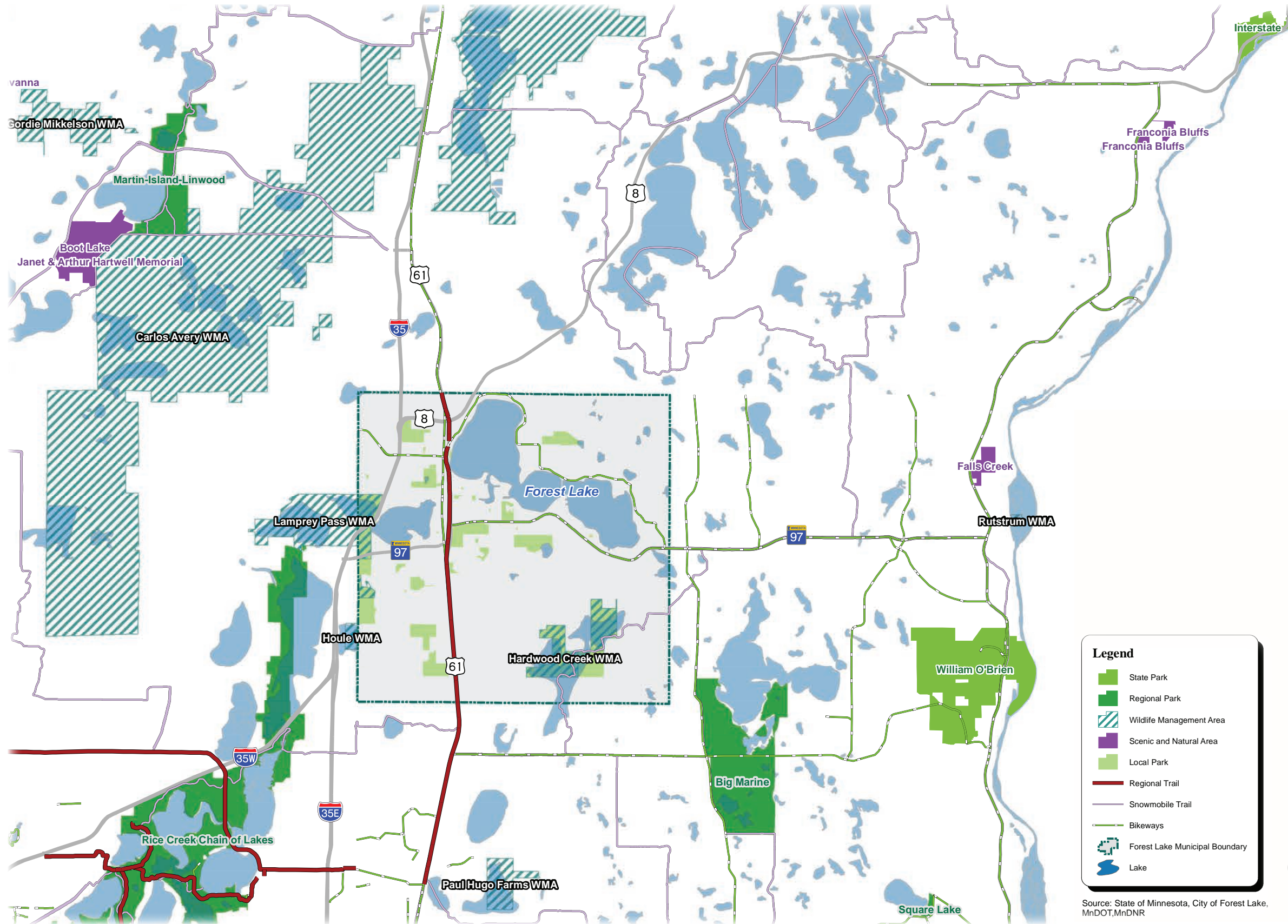
Resulting from the above conclusions, the primary needs and challenges are as follows:

- Connectivity of neighborhoods and parks to existing local trails and sidewalks with the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
- More/stronger community connections to the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
- Accommodating year-round recreation opportunities
- Improve cleanliness/condition of park and open space facilities

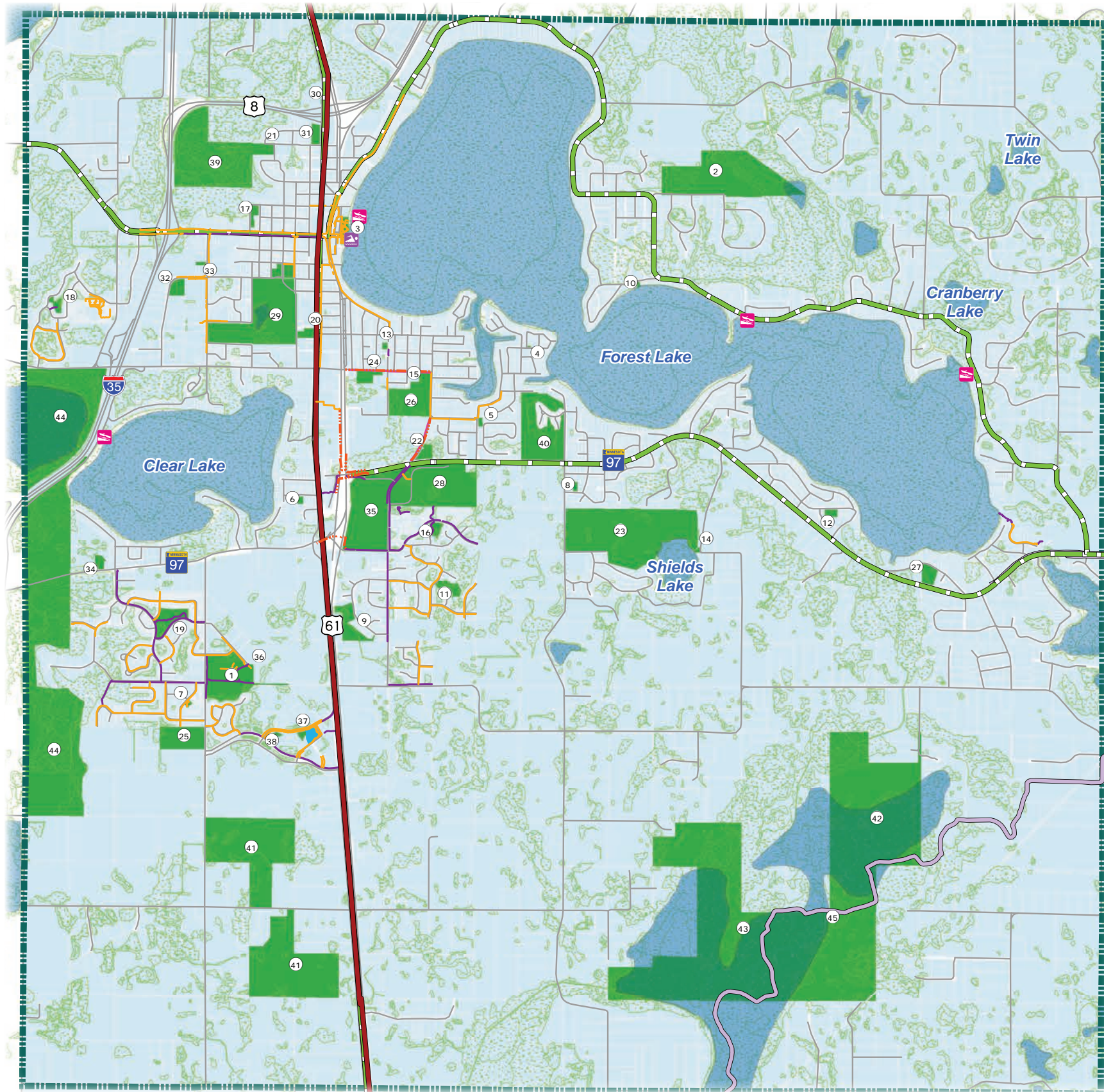
The most significant challenges the city will face in implementing these recommendations are:

- Funding for improvements
- A need for more guided planning in park, open space and trails facilities and operations
- Maintenance of existing parks and facilities
- A plan for ongoing maintenance and improvements to the parks, trails and open space system

Appendix A
Existing Conditions Mapping



*Forest Lake has approximately 22.5 miles of maintained trails



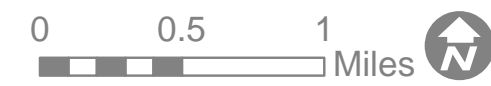
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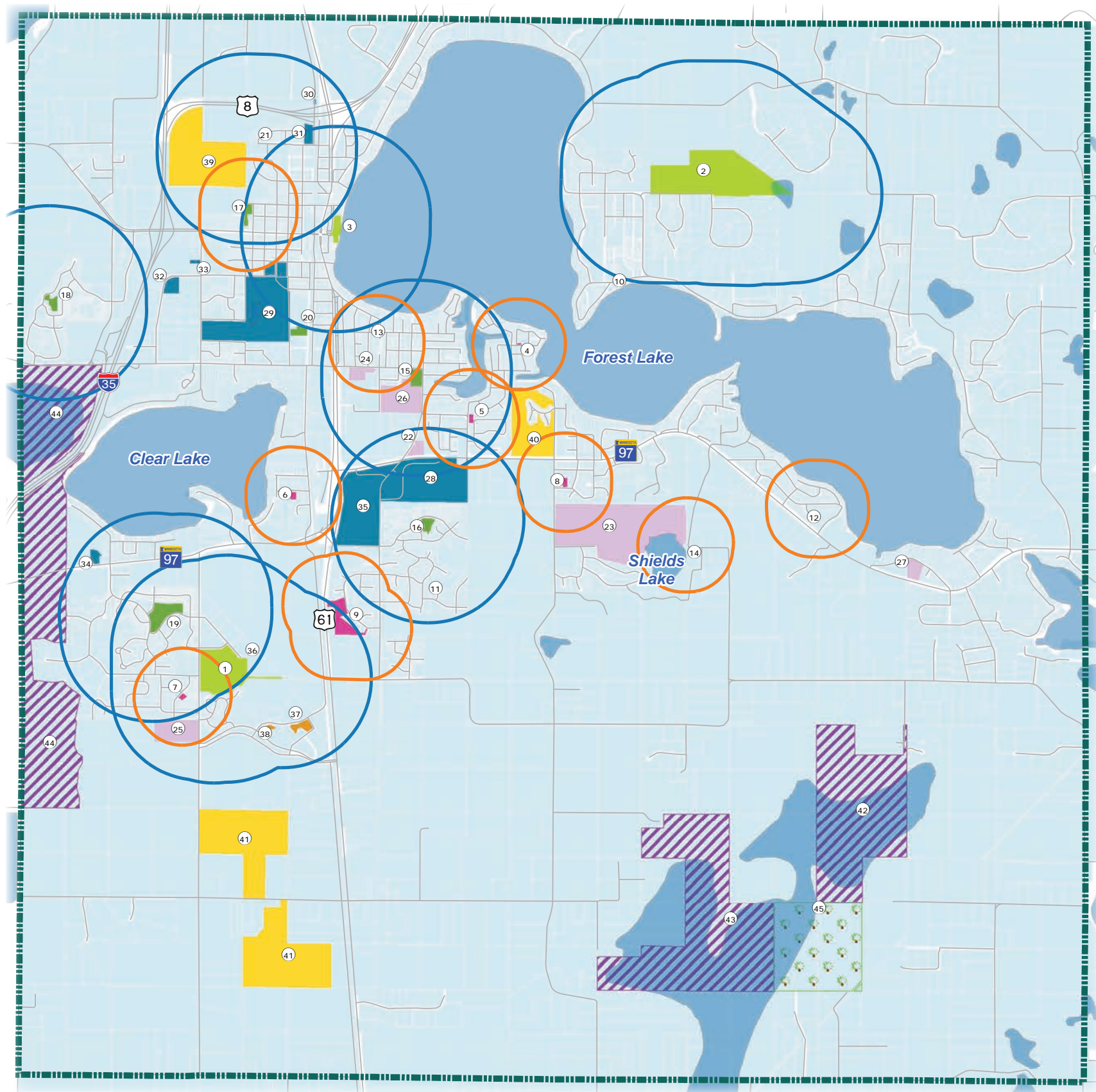
- Existing Parks and Open Space
- Boat Launch
- Open Shore
- Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
- Existing Concrete Path
- Existing Bituminous Path
- - - Planned 2015/2016 Construction
- Bikeways
- Snowmobile Trail
- + Washington County Government Center
- + Parcels
- + Municipal Boundary
- + Lake
- + Wetland

Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR

Parks Inventory

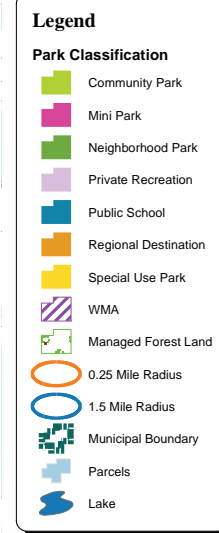
| Id | Name | Classification |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Fenway Park | Community Park |
| 2 | Kulenkamp | Community Park |
| 3 | Lakeside Park | Community Park |
| 4 | Bay Park | Mini Park |
| 5 | Bayview Estates Park | Mini Park |
| 6 | Clear Lake Park | Mini Park |
| 7 | Eagle Bluff Park | Mini Park |
| 8 | Manor Park | Mini Park |
| 9 | Southview | Mini Park |
| 10 | North Shore Circle Park | Open Space/Mini Park |
| 11 | Preserve Park | Open Space/Mini Park |
| 12 | Sherwood | Open Space/Mini Park |
| 13 | Shady Trails Park | Special Use/Mini Park |
| 14 | Shields Lake Park | Special Use/Mini Park |
| 15 | Beltz Park | Neighborhood Park |
| 16 | Bridle Pass Park | Neighborhood Park |
| 17 | Cedar Park | Neighborhood Park |
| 18 | Shawn Silvera Memorial Park | Neighborhood Park |
| 19 | Summerfield Park | Neighborhood Park |
| 20 | Tower Park | Neighborhood Park |
| 21 | Schilling Park | Special Use/Neighborhood Park |
| 22 | Forest Lake Montessori School | Private Recreation |
| 23 | Forest Hills Golf Course | Private Recreation |
| 24 | Lakes International Language Academy | Private Recreation |
| 25 | LILA 2nd Site (Future) | Private Recreation |
| 26 | St. Peter Catholic School | Private Recreation |
| 27 | Sunshine Preschool | Private Recreation |
| 28 | Century Middle School | Public School |
| 29 | Elementary-Jr. High Complex | Public School |
| 30 | Kinder Korner | Public School |
| 31 | North Lakes Academy Middle School | Public School |
| 32 | North Lakes Academy Upper School | Public School |
| 33 | Room For Growing North | Public School |
| 34 | Room For Growing South | Public School |
| 35 | Sr. High School | Public School |
| 36 | FLAA Sports Center | Regional Destination |
| 37 | Washington County Government Center | Regional Destination |
| 38 | YMCA (Potential Future Site) | Regional Destination |
| 39 | Bixby Park | Special Use Park |
| 40 | Castle Wood Golf Course | Special Use Park |
| 41 | Tanner's Brook Golf Course | Special Use Park |
| 42 | Hardwood Creek WMA | WMA |
| 43 | Hardwood Creek WMA | WMA |
| 44 | Lamprey Pass WMA | WMA |
| 45 | Managed Forest Land | Managed Forest Land |





Parks Inventory

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|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR

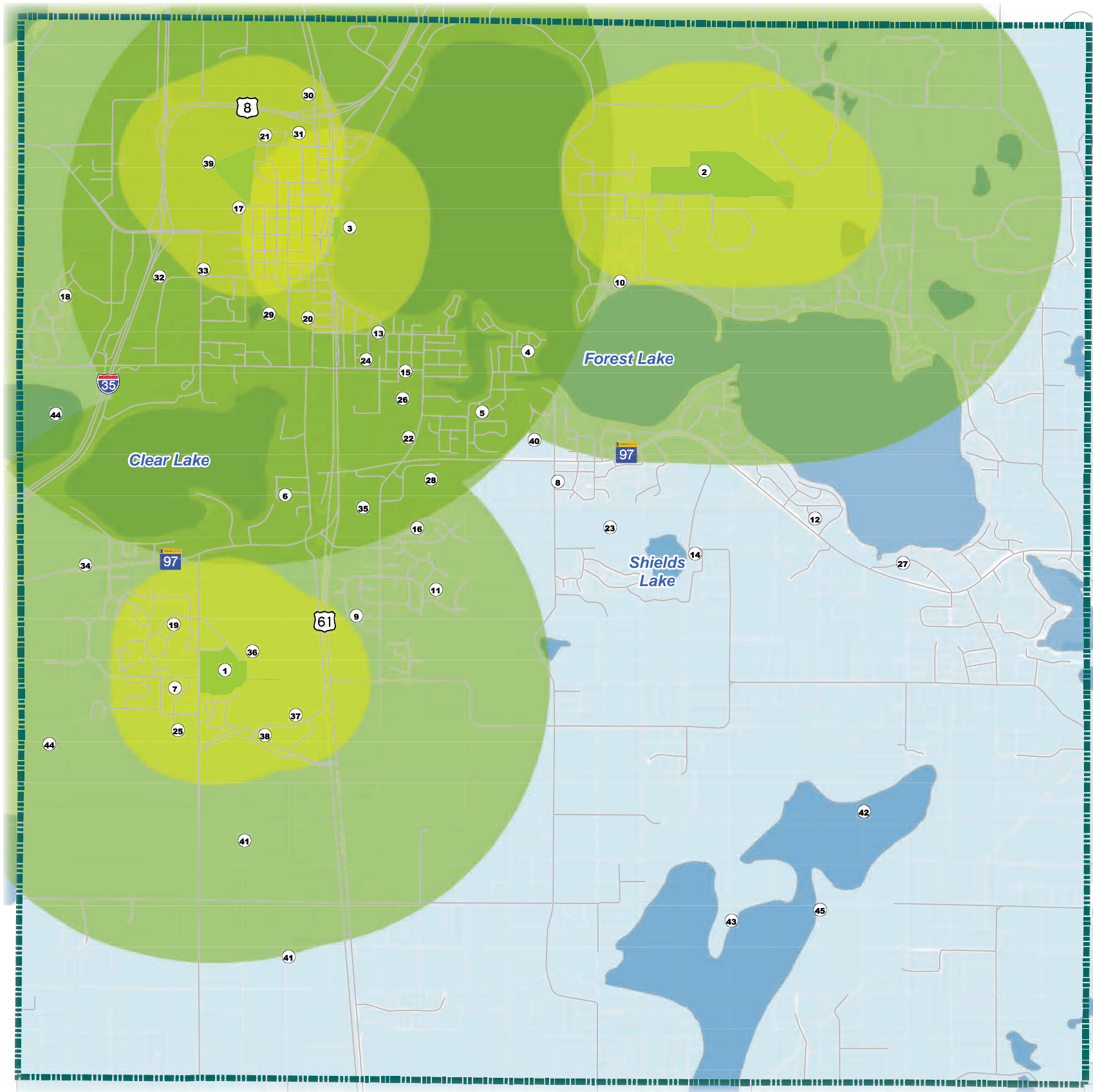
Mini Parks: 1/4 mile service radius
 Neighborhood Parks: 1/4 mile service radius and 1/2 mile service radius
 Community Parks: 1/2 mile radius and 2 mile radius





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Appendix B
Recommendations Mapping



Parks Inventory

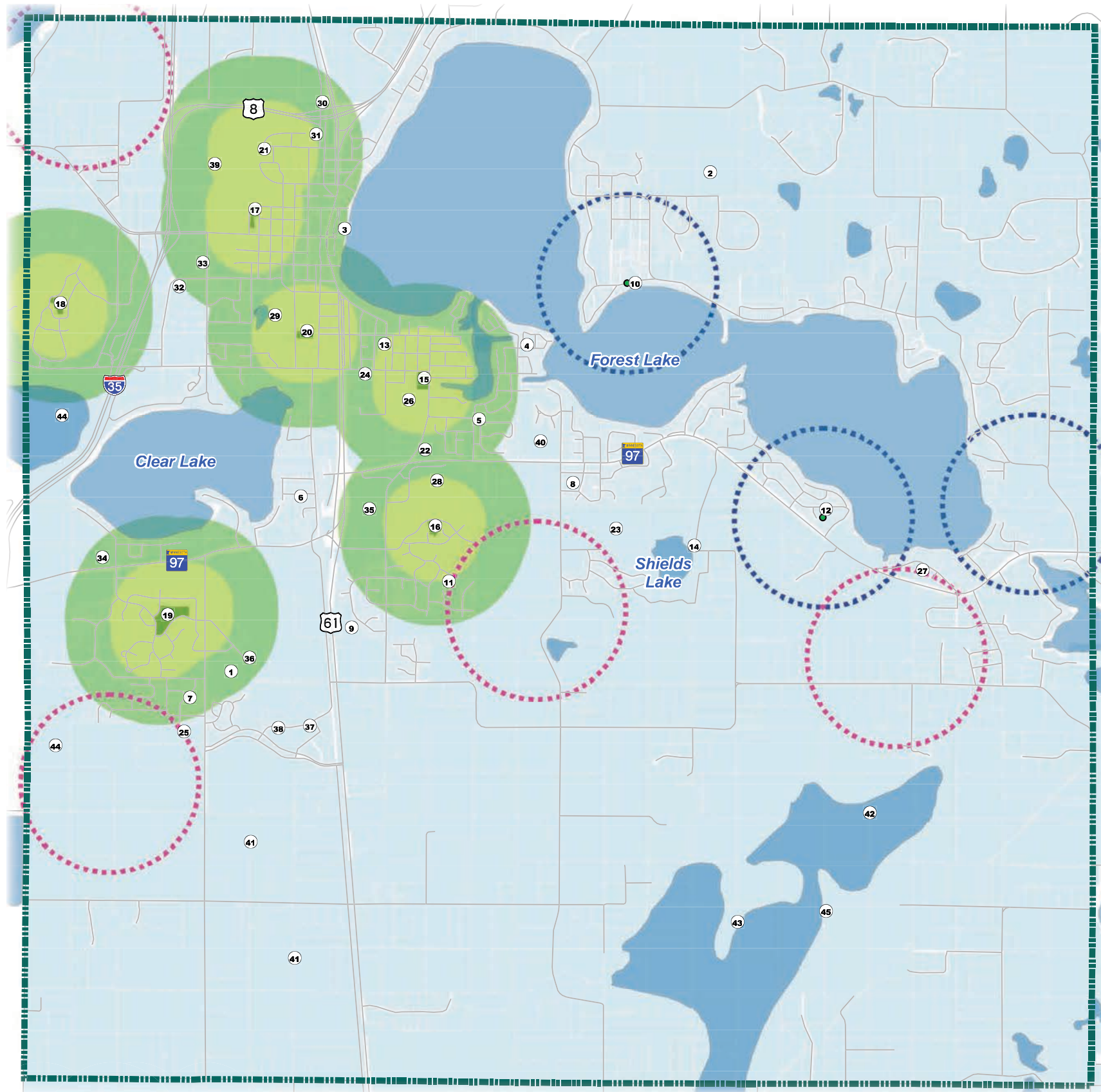
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| 43 | Hardwood Creek WMA | WMA |
| 44 | Lamprey Pass WMA | WMA |
| 45 | Managed Forest Land | Managed Forest Land |

Legend

- Community Park
- 1/2 Mile Buffer
- 2 Mile Buffer
- Municipal Boundary
- Parcels
- Lake



Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR



Legend

- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- Future Neighborhood Park
- Upgrade/Expansion to Existing Facilities
- Municipal Boundary
- Parcels
- Lake

Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR

Parks Inventory

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| ⑦ | Eagle Bluff Park | Mini Park |
| ⑧ | Manor Park | Mini Park |
| ⑨ | Southview | Mini Park |
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| ⑫ | Sherwood | Open Space/Mini Park |
| ⑬ | Shady Trails Park | Special Use/Mini Park |
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| ⑰ | Cedar Park | Neighborhood Park |
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| ⑲ | Summerfield Park | Neighborhood Park |
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| ㉘ | Century Middle School | Public School |
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| ㉞ | Room For Growing South | Public School |
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| ㊹ | Lamprey Pass WMA | WMA |
| ㊺ | Managed Forest Land | Managed Forest Land |



Parks and Open Space Development/Implementation Prioritization

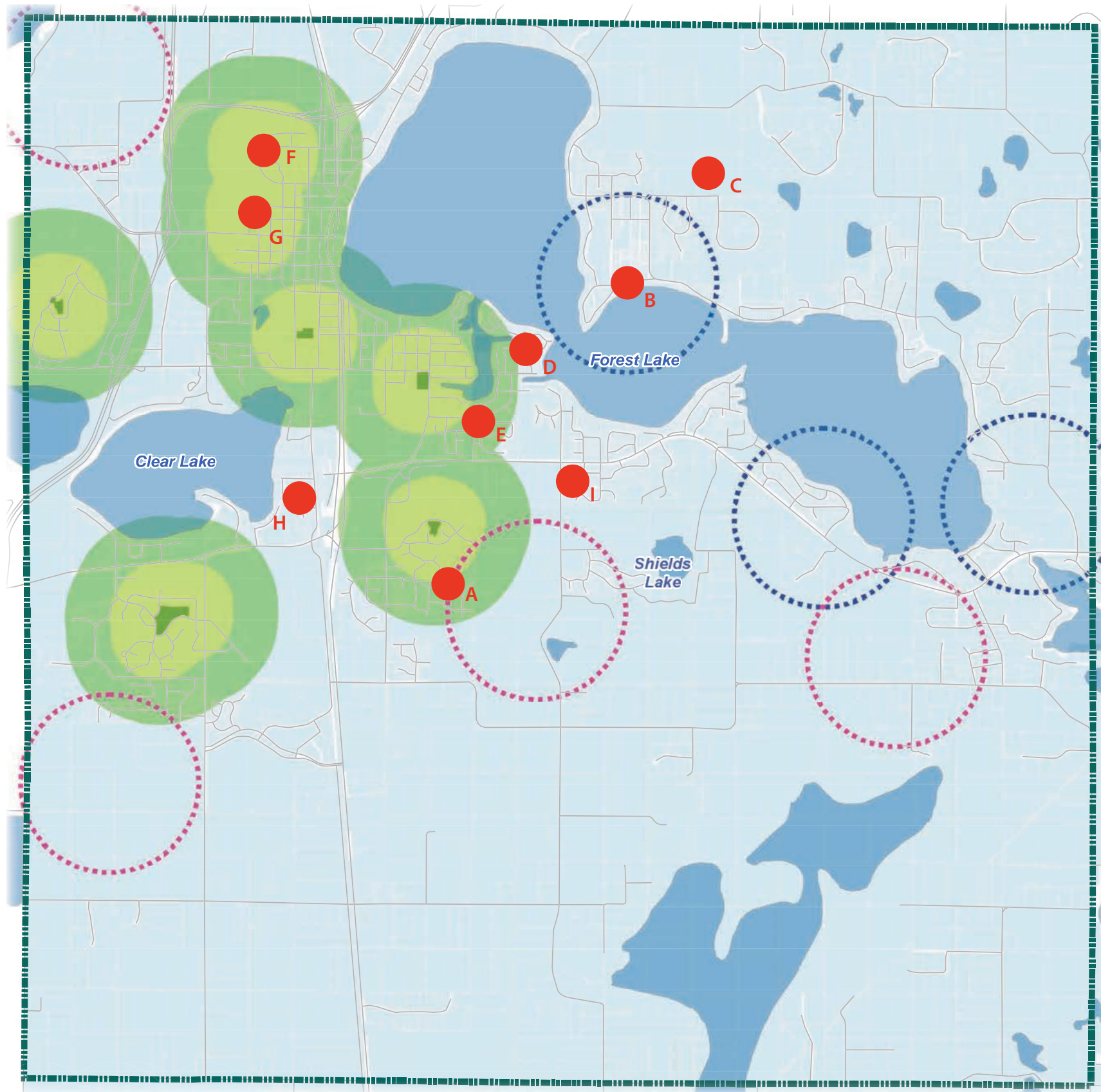
Parks Improvement Prioritization

First Priority Improvements

- A Preserve Park
- B North Shore Circle Park
- C Kulenkamp Park ^
- D Bay Park
- E Bayview Estates Park
- F Schiling Park *
- G Cedar Park *
- H Clear Lake Park
- I Manor Park

^ improvements are included as part of other prioritization phases

* improvements are included as part of the overall Bixby Park Master Plan



Legend

- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- Future Neighborhood Park
- Upgrade/Expansion to Existing Facilities
- Municipal Boundary
- Parcels
- Lake

Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR

0 2,400 Feet

Parks and Open Space Development/Implementation Prioritization

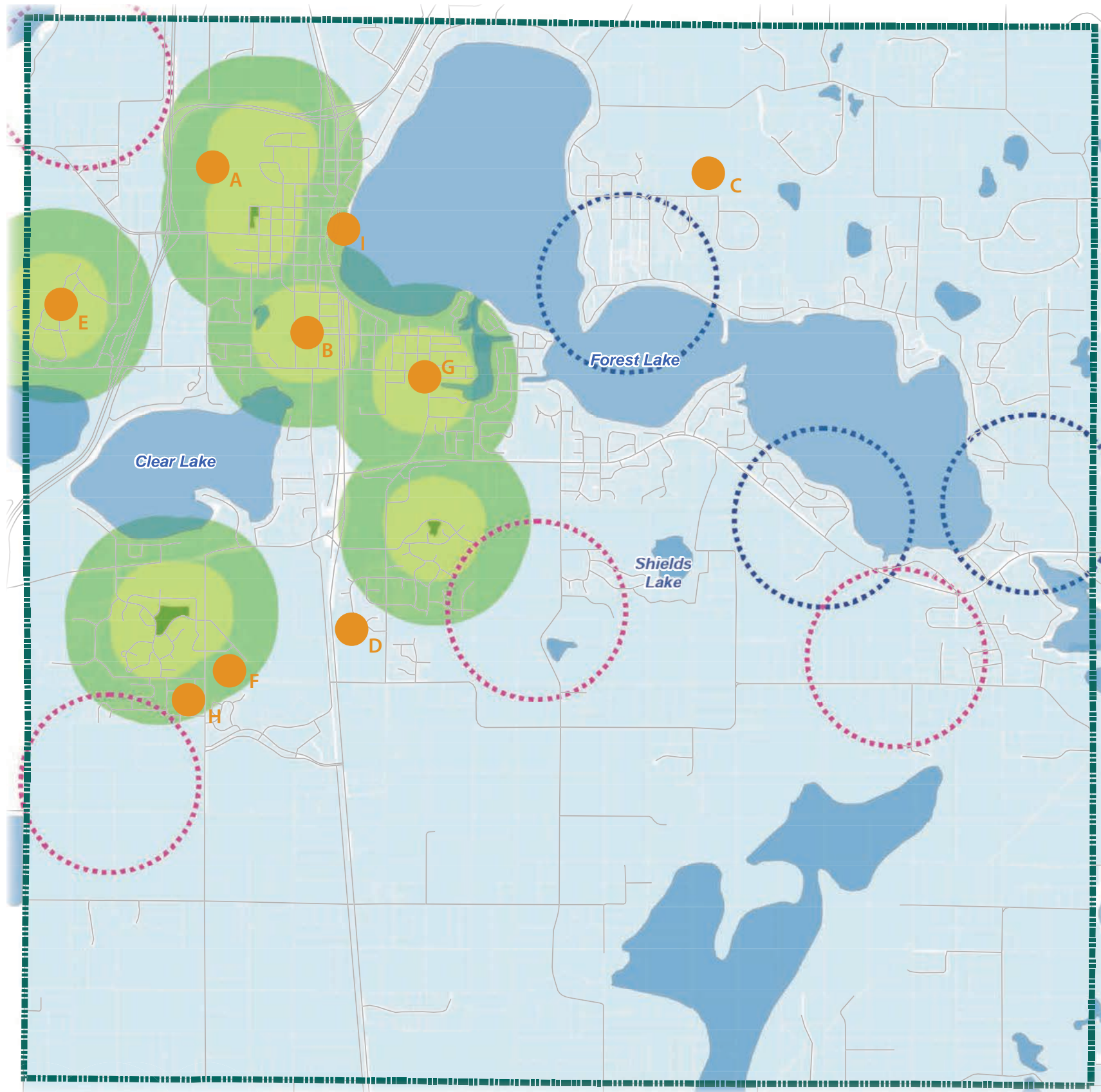
Parks Improvement Prioritization

Second Priority Improvements

- A Bixby Park *
- B Tower Park
- C Kulenkamp Park ^
- D Southview Park
- E Shawn Silvera Memorial Park
- F Fenway Park
- G Beltz Park
- H Eagle Bluff Park
- I Lakeside Park

[^] improvements are included as part of other prioritization phases

^{*} improvements are included as part of the overall Bixby Park Master Plan



Legend

- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- Future Neighborhood Park
- Upgrade/Expansion to Existing Facilities
- Municipal Boundary
- Parcels
- Lake

0 2,400
Feet

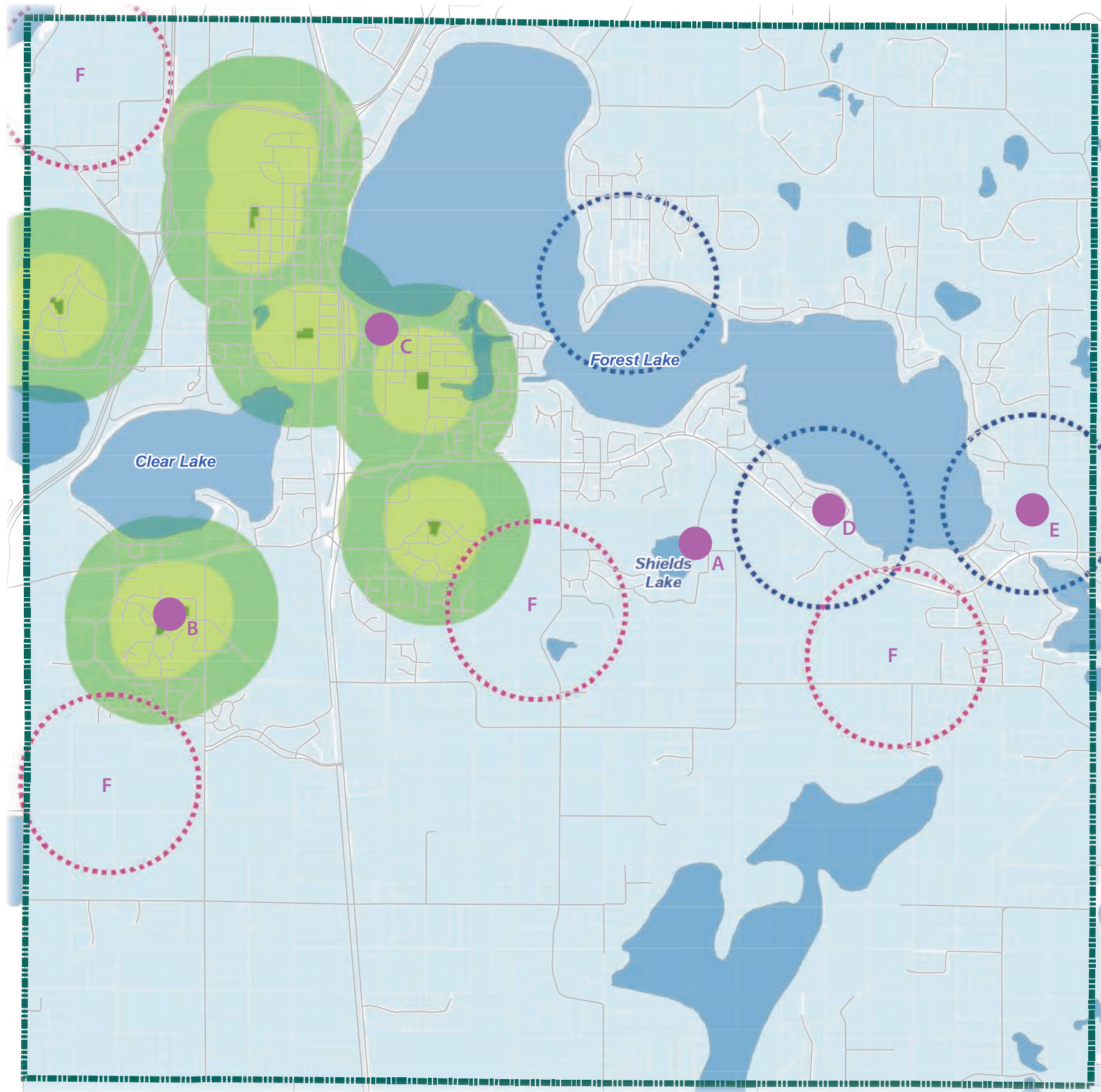
Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR

Parks and Open Space Development/Implementation Prioritization

Parks Improvement Prioritization

Third Priority Improvements

- A Shields Lake Park
- B Summerfield Park
- C Shady Trails Park
- D Sherwood Park
- E Forest Hills Farms Park
- F Future Neighborhood Park



Legend

- 1/4 Mile Radius
- 1/2 Mile Radius
- Future Neighborhood Park
- Upgrade/Expansion to Existing Facilities
- Municipal Boundary
- Parcels
- Lake

Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR

0 2,400 Feet

Parks & Open Space Development/Implementation Prioritization

Trails Improvement Prioritization

First Priority Improvements

- 1A** 8th Street SE to Highway 97 with highway crossing to Middle/High School
- 1B** Highway 97 between 8th Street SE and High School driveway
- 1C** Highway 97 from High School with Highway 61 crossing and connection to Hardwood Creek Trail
- 1D** Highway 61 from Highway 97 to 14th Ave. SE
- 1E** Highway 61 from 14th Ave. SE to 11th Avenue SE
- 1F** 11th Avenue SE with Highway 61 crossing and connection to Hardwood Creek Trail
- 1G** Connection from Fenway Park to Washington County Government Center and Hardwood Creek Trail
- 1H** Missing Segment on 4th Street SE between SE 8th Ave. and 11th Ave. SE
- 1I** 206th Street from Fenway Park and along Fenway Ave N to Fenston Ave. N
- 1J** Highway 97 from 8th Street SE to Harrow Avenue N
- 1K** Harrow Avenue N between Highway 97 and 202nd St. N
- 1L** 202nd St. N from Granada Ave. to Keats Ave. N (East Municipal Boundary)
- 1M** Goodview Ave. from Georgia Ave. N to 202nd St. N
- 1N** 202nd St. N from Goodview Ave. N to Hardwood Creek Trail with Highway 61 crossing
- 1O** 8th Street NW from Broadway Ave. W to 7th Ave. NW
- 1P** 11th Avenue SE from Highway 61 to South Shore Trail

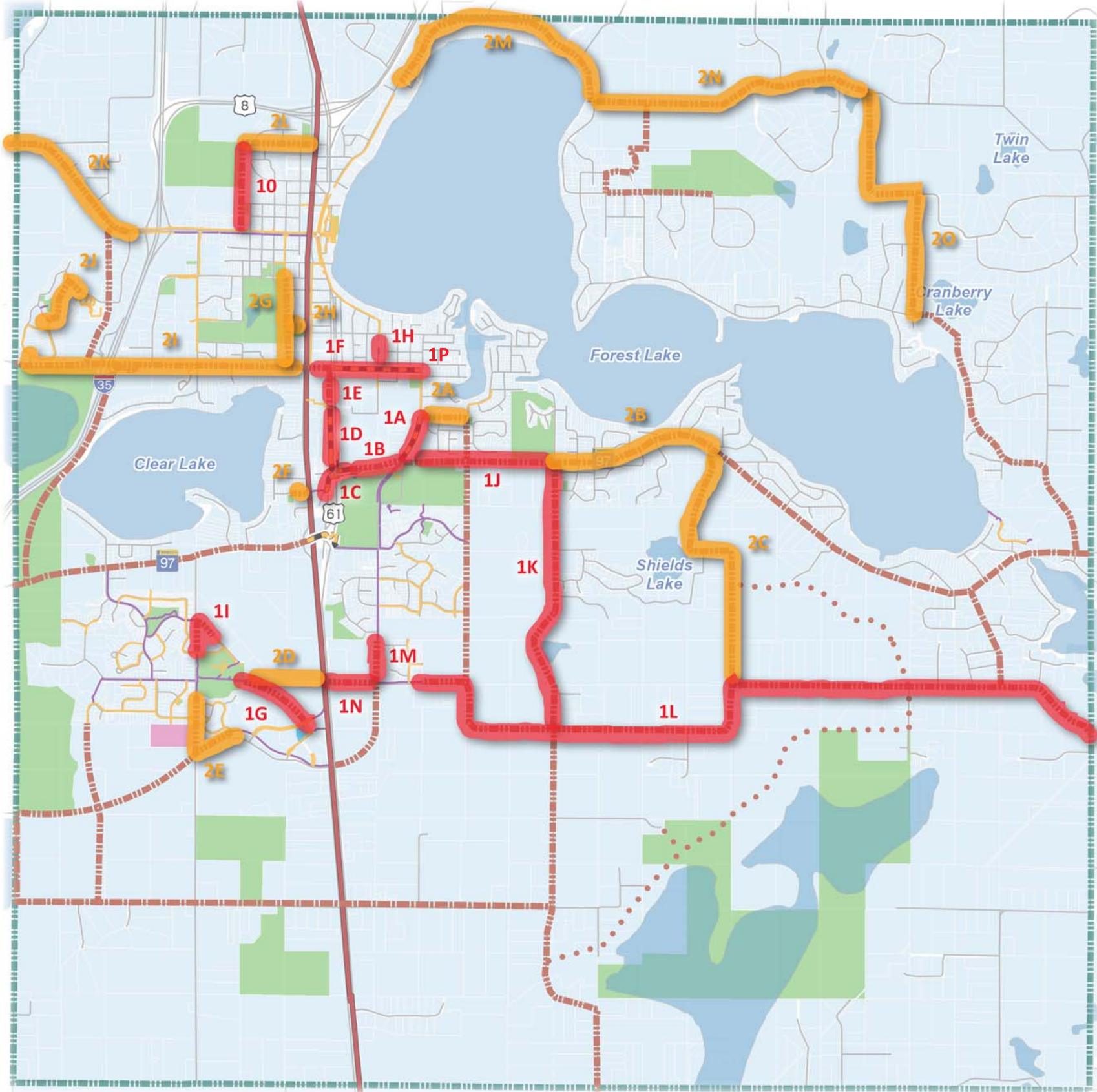
Second Priority Improvements

- 2A** 15th Ave. Se between 8th St. SW and 11th St. SE
- 2B** Highway 97 between Harrow Ave. N and Imperial Ave. N
- 2C** Imperial Ave. N between Highway 97 and 202nd St. N
- 2D** Connection from Hardwood Creek Trail at 202nd Street to trail at Fenway Park
- 2E** Headwaters Pky from 199th St N and Fenway Ave. N to existing trail south of 202nd St. N
- 2F** Connect Clear Lake Park and Hardwood Creek Trail along 213th Street N
- 2G** 4th St. SW between 3rd Ave. SW and 11th Ave. SW
- 2H** Connection between 4th St. SW and Hardwood Creek Trail through Tower Park
- 2I** Highway 83 from Hardwood Creek Trail to Elston Ave.
- 2J** Evergreen Cir. from Shawn Silvera Park to existing trial on 19th St. SW
- 2K** W Broadway Ave. between 19th St. SW And Elmcrest Ave. N
- 2L** 7th Avenue NW from Schilling Park to Hardwood Creek Trail
- 2M** North Shore Dr. from 236th St. Cir. S to 235th St. N
- 2N** 235th St. N from North Shore Dr. to Jamaica Ave. N
- 2O** Jamaica Ave. N/Jeffrey Ave. N from 235th St. N to North Shore Trail N

Legend

-  Planned Trails
-  Planned Off Road Trails
-  2015/16 Planned Construction
-  Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
-  Existing Concrete Path
-  Existing Bituminous Path
-  Municipal Boundary

Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR



Parks & Open Space Development/Implementation Prioritization

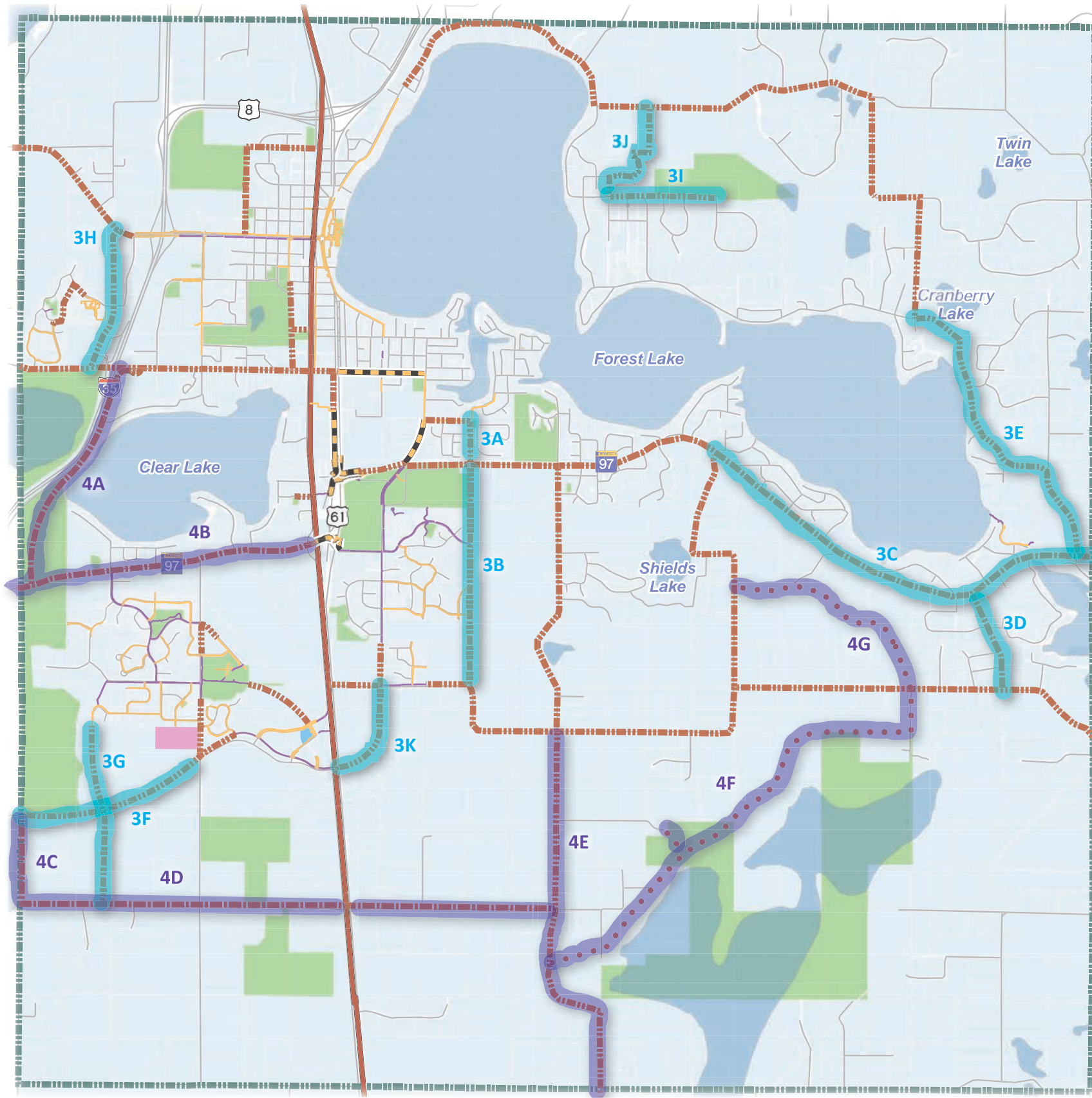
Trails Improvement Prioritization

Third Priority Improvements

- 3A SE 11th St. from SE 15th Ave. to Highway 97
- 3B Development Trail from Highway 97 to 202nd St. N
- 3C Highway 97 from Imperial Ave. N to North Shore Trail N
- 3D July Ave. N from Highway 97 to 202nd St. N
- 3E North Shore Trail N from Jeffrey Ave. N to Highway 97
- 3F Development Trail from Headwaters Pkwy. To Elmcrest Ave. N
- 3G Development Trail from 190th St. N to Enfield Ave. N
- 3H Everton Ave. N from Highway 83 to W. Broadway Ave.
- 3I 230th St N/North Shore Trail N from Kulenkamp Park to end of Hilo Ave. N
- 3J Development Trail from Hilo Ave. N to 235th St. N
- 3K Development Trail from Goodview Ave. to Headwater's Pkwy with Highway 61 crossing connection and connection to Hardwood Creek Trail

Long-Range Improvements

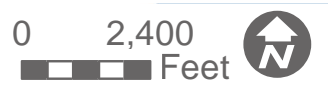
- 4A Eureka Ave. N from Highway 83 to Highway 97
- 4B Highway 97 from Hardwood Creek Trail to Zurich St. NE
- 4C Elmcrest Ave. N from 195th St. N to 190th St. N
- 4D 190th St. N from Elmcrest Ave. N to Harrow Ave. N
- 4E Harrow Ave. N from 202nd St. N to City Limits
- 4F Greenway from Harrow Ave. N through Hardwood Creek WMA to 202nd St. N
- 4G Greenway from 202nd St. N to Ingersoll Ave. N



Legend

- - - Planned Trails
- . . . Planned Off Road Trails
- - - 2015/16 Planned Construction
- Hardwood Creek Regional Trail
- Existing Concrete Path
- Existing Bituminous Path
- - - Municipal Boundary

Source: State of Minnesota, City of Forest Lake, MnDOT, MnDNR





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Appendix C
Park/Open Space Spreadsheets

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Current Park Facilities

MINI PARKS

- Typically less than 1 acre
- Provides for limited, isolated or unique recreational or open space needs
- Service area is 1/4 mile or less
- Typically discouraged due to size restrictions and long-term maintenance costs

| Facility | Approximate Size (Acres) | Playground Areas | Play Equipment | Courts | Special Facilities |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Bay Park 9th Ave. SE & 17 St. SE | 0.25 | small tot lot | slide, spring animal riders | none | none |
| Bayview Park Bayview Dr. SE & 15 Ave. SE | 0.85 | small flat open space | play structure, swings | half-court basketball | parking lot, benches, portable restroom available during summer |
| Clear Lake Park 5803 213th St. | 1 | large mowed open space | play structure, swings | small basketball court | none |
| Eagle Bluff Park Farnham Ave. N & Farnham Ln. N. | 0.66 | small mowed open space | play structure, swings | none | small parking lot, picnic tables, picnic shelter |
| Manor Park Harrow Ave. N. & 213th St. N. | 0.81 | large mowed open space | play structure | none | none |
| Preserve Park 20809 Grenada Ave., N | 0.43 | large mowed open space | none | none | picnic table |
| North Shore Circle Park 7621 North Shore Circle | 0.81 | mowed open space | none | none | on shore of Forest Lake |
| Shady Trails Park 4th St. SE at 8th Ave. SE | 0.73 | Small wooded lot with trails | none | none | none |
| Sherwood Park Imperial Ave. N & 210th St. N. | 1.4 | large mowed open space | none | none | picnic table, sledding hill in winter |
| Shields Lake Park 8787 212th St. N. | 0.48 | none | none | none | picnic table, fishing pier |
| Southview Park Between Georgia Ave. & Forest Blvd. | 1 | large mowed open space | play structure | none | sheltered picnic table, off-road trails, prairie restoration area |
| Total Mini Park Area | 8.42 | | | | |
| Acres per 1000 residents | 0.44 | | | | |

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- Most common unit of a park system
- Provides for recreational and social activities for residential areas
- Service area is 1/2 or less (if uninhibited by barriers)
- 1 to 2 acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents suggested

| Facility | Approximate Size (Acres) | Playground Areas | Play Equipment | Courts | Special Facilities |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Beltz Park 11th Ave. SE & South Shore Dr. | 4 | large mowed open space | play structure | 1 full basketball court, 2 tennis courts, 1 sand volleyball court, 2 softball fields, 1 outdoor skating rink (weather permitting) | picnic shelter, picnic tables, nearby parking available |
| Bridle Pass Park 6558 210th Lane Ct. N | 2.6 | large mowed open space | play structure | none | none |
| Schilling Park 7th Ave. NW & 5th St. NW | 5 | large mowed open space | none | 2 softball fields | none |
| Summerfield Park 206th St. N & Everton Ave. N | 10.8 | large mowed open space | play structure, swings | 2 soccer fields | gazebo, trails, picnic tables |
| Tower Park 843 SW 4th Street | 2.58 | none | none | 2 skating rinks (weather permitting) | available nearby parking, warming house, portable restrooms during skating season, community garden |
| Cedar Park 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. NW | 2.7 | large mowed open space with a few mature trees | rainbow bars, monkey bars, merry-g-round, tire swing, slide, swings | 1 softball practice field | none |
| Shawn Silvera Memorial Park Between Evergreen Cir. & Elston Ave. | 2.6 | mowed open space | play structure, swings | 1 half-court basketball, 2 horseshoe pits | shelter |
| Total Neighborhood Park Area | 30.28 | | | | |
| Acres per 1000 residents | 1.60 | | | | |

COMMUNITY PARKS

- Generally 10 - 50 acres
- Provides similar amenities as neighborhood parks, but serve larger purpose (often include special facilities)
- Often act as a major community destination, including community-wide recreational facilities
- Service area is 1/2 to 3 miles
- 5 to 8 acres of community parkland per 1,000 residents is common

| Facility | Approximate Size (Acres) | Playground Areas | Play Equipment | Courts | Special Facilities |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| Fenway Park 5530 206th St. N | 37.9 | large mowed open space | none | 4 softball fields, 1 baseball field, 3 soccer fields | trails, benches, restroom facilities, parking lot |
| Forest Hills Farms Park Lot D - Foret Hills Farm Subdivision, 1st Addition | 24 | none | none | none | wood chip trails, wetlands |
| Kulenkamp Park 8398 230th St. N | 65 | large mowed open space | play structure | 4 softball fields | 2 picnic shelters, off-road trails in wooded area, portable restroom available during summer, indoor picnic shelter |
| Lakeside Park 95 E Broadway | 3 | multiple small mowed open spaces | play structure | none | beach, multiple picnic tables, grills, shaded picnic areas, large gazebo, public boat dock and lake access, beach house with restrooms and changing areas |
| Total Community Park Area | 129.9 | | | | |
| Acres per 1000 residents | 6.85 | | | | |

SPECIAL USE PARKS

- Cover a broad range of facilities oriented towards a single use.
- Include cultural and social sites, specialized facilities, and sports complexes.

| Facility | Approximate Size (Acres) | Playground Areas | Play Equipment | Courts | Special Facilities |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Bixby Park 2nd Ave. NW & 7th St. SW | 94 (rest is wetland) | open space and wetlands | none | none | |
| Forest Lake Area High School Complex 6101 Scandia Trail N | 28.11 | mowed open space | none | 2 baseball fields, 3 softball fields, 8 tennis courts, 3 partial football practice fields, 1 full football practice field, 1 full football field | 1 full track |
| Century Junior High School Complex 21395 Goodview Ave. | 29.52 | mowed open space | none | 3 full soccer fields, 2 baseball fields, 4 softball practice fields, trails | 1 full track with field event stations |
| Southwest Junior High School Complex 943 SW Ninth Ave. | 10.85 | mowed open space | none | 4 tennis courts, 2 football practice fields, 4 softball practice fields | indoor swimming pool |
| Central Montessori Elementary School 200 SW 4th St. | 0.57 | small mowed open space | 2 play structures, swings | 1 half-court basketball | |
| Forest Lake Elementary School 408 SW 4th St. | 12.41 | mowed open space | 2 play structures, 2 sets of swings | 2 half-court basketball, 4 four-square, 3 softball practice fields, 1 full softball field, 2 T8 soccer fields, 1 full soccer field | 1 full track with field event stations, benches, picnic tables |

SPECIAL USE PARKS
 - Cover a broad range of facilities oriented towards a single use.
 - Include cultural and social sites, specialized facilities, and sports complexes.

| Facility | Approximate Size (Acres) | Playground Areas | Play Equipment | Courts | Special Facilities |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Forest View Elementary School 620 SW 4th St. | 7.7 | mowed open space | 2 play structures, 1 set of swings, 1 set of rainbow bars | 3 half-court basketball, 6 four-square, 4 softball practice fields, 3 T8 soccer fields | benches |
| Schumacher Athletic Field 3rd Ave. & 5th St. SW | 3.9 | none | none | 1 lighted baseball court with press box | |
| Maroon & Gold Ice Arena 832 4th St. SW | 0.93 | building | none | none | indoor ice arena |
| Senior Community Center 767 4th St. SW | 1.06 | building | none | none | parking lot, senior center building |
| Castlewood Golf Course 7050 Scandia Trail N. | 45.55 | none | none | none | 9-hole public golf course |
| Sports Center Arena 5530 206th Street N. | 4 | building | none | none | 2 indoor hockey rinks |
| Forest Hills Golf Club (Private) 7530 210th St. N. | 116 | none | none | none | 18-hole private golf course |
| Total Special Use Park Area | 354.6 | | | | |
| Acres per 1000 residents | 19.07 | | | | |
| TOTAL PARK AREA | 523.2 | | | | |
| ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS | 27.60 | | | | |

PARKS & OPEN SPACE COMPARISON TABLE

| POPULATION | ANOKA 17,243 | RAMSEY 24,071 | STILLWATER 18,542 | WACONIA 11,222 | FOREST LAKE 18,957 | MEETS STANDARDS OR INDICATES (- DEFICIT) |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| AMENITY TYPE | <i>recommended per 1,000 pop. comparison</i> | <i>recommended per 1,000 pop. comparison</i> | <i>recommended per 1,000 pop. comparison</i> | <i>recommended per 1,000 pop. comparison</i> | <i>recommended per 1,000 pop. comparison</i> | |
| Community Parks (acres) | 123.7 | 170.4 | 115.1 | 46.8 | 105.9 | 94.8 |
| Neighborhood Parks (acres) | 21.8 | 201.2 | 49.7 | 20.7 | 30.3 | 37.9 |
| TOTAL PARKS (acres) * | 145.5 | 371.6 | 164.8 | 67.5 | 136.2 | 189.6 |
| Trails (miles) ^ | 29.3 | 50.2 | 14.9 | 13.4 | 22.5 | 19.0 |
| Other Open Space (acres) | 222.3 | 280.3 | 148.8 | 161.2 | 260.6 | 28.4 |

*The following are assumptions taken in this comparison:

Amenities in public schools were not accounted for in the calculations. This would equate to roughly 94 acres of open space similar to neighborhood parkland.

Park acreages for non-municipal parks have been approximated based on aerial images or by using information available on websites.

Acreage for Special Use Parks that are not schools has been included in Other Open Spaces in order to show a comprehensive view of the City's existing park and open space.

^ Trail lengths have been compiled from the best available information. This number is not comprehensive and may not include all internal community trail lengths.

Future Park & Open Space Needs

| Park Type | Existing Acreage | Existing Acres Per 1,000 Residents | NRPA Standard per 1,000 Residents | 2030 Total Parkland Acre need based on existing level | Additional Parkland Acres Needed | 2030 Parkland Need based on national level | 2030 Surplus (Deficit) |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Mini Park | 8.42 | 0.44 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Neighborhood Parks | 30.28 | 1.60 | 1-2 Acres | 54.63 | 24.35 | 34.20 | -3.92 |
| Community Parks | 199.90 | 10.54 | 5-8 Acres | 360.64 | 160.74 | 171 | 28.90 |
| Special Use Parks | 260.60 | 13.75 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Total Park Area | 499.2 | 26.33 | 10 Acres | 900.60 | 401.40 | 342 | 157.20 |

Existing Facilities in Forest Lake

| Facility Type | NRPA Standard | Existing Quantity | Existing Need NRPA Standard | 2030 Need NRPA Standard | Comments |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Baseball Field | 1 per 3,000 | 4 (3 School District) | 6 | 11 | Forest Lake is being adequately served between School District and City facilities. However, Forest Lake may want to consider adding additional fields in the future to meet the increased demand added by population growth. |
| Softball Field | 1 per 3,000 | 13 (18 School District) | 6 | 11 | Though the recommendation for these facilities are being met now and in the future, surveys indicated a need for these to be better maintained to meet the community's needs. Additionally, a number of these fields are not full fields but serve more as practice fields. |
| Basketball Courts | 1 per 5,000 | 1 full, 3 half (6 half, School District) | 4 | 7 | Forest Lake currently exceeds national recommendations, though many of the existing courts are half courts instead of full courts. Forest Lake may want to consider opportunities for expanding some of the existing courts into full courts. |
| Football Fields | 1 per 20,000 | 0 (4 School District) | 1 | 2 | Forest Lake is adequately served for football fields, however availability may need to be studied as each of these are located on School District grounds, and are therefore not necessarily available to the public. The need for lacross fields (which could be played on football fields) was expressed in the Parks, Open Space and Trails Survey. |
| Golf Courses | 1, 18 hole standard per 5,000 | 1.50 | 4 | 7 | Forest Lake currently has 1 public 9-hole public golf course and 1 private 18-hole golf course. This is below the NRPA recommendation for the existing population and well-below the projected 2030 population recommendation. Forest Lake may consider adding a few golf courses in the future. |
| Horseshoe Pits | 1 per 7,500 | 2 | 3 | 5 | The only horseshoe pits are located at Shawn Silvera Memorial Park west of Interstate 35. Forest Lake may want to consider adding additional horseshoe pits in a couple of parks on the east side of the Interstate. |
| Picnic Shelter | 1 per 2,000 | 8 | 9 | 17 | Forest Lake does not meet the national standards and has an expressed need for additional picnic shelters to meet both current needs and projected future needs. |
| Playgrounds | 1 per 2,000 | 11 (6 School District) | 9 | 17 | Forest Lake currently meets the national standards but shows a future need for playgrounds based on expected population growth. The demand for unstructured playgrounds often exceeds national standards. |
| Soccer Fields | 1 per 10,000 | 3 (3 full, 5 T8, School District) | 2 | 3 | Forest Lake is adequately served |
| Swimming Pools | 1 per 20,000 | 0 (1 indoor, (School District) | 1 | 2 | Forest Lake has a need for a swimming pool to supplement opportunities at the community's lakes and those facilities available to the public through the School District. |
| Tennis Courts | 1 per 2,000 | 2 (12 School District) | 9 | 17 | Forest Lake is adequately served, but has an expressed need for available tennis courts as well as future projected need based on population. The City may want to add tennis courts in the future to provide facilities not restricted to School District use. |
| Sand Volleyball Courts | 1 per 5,000 | 1 | 4 | 7 | Forest Lake has a need for additional sand volleyball courts |
| Ice Hockey Rink (outdoor) | 1 per 20,000* | 3 | 1 | 2 | Forest Lake exceeds the national recommendation, yet may want to consider additional outdoor rinks to cover an expressed need for more ice rinks by the community. |
| Skating Rink (indoor) | 1 per 50,000 | 2 | 0 | 1 | Forest Lake exceeds the national standard |

* This number was determined by using information from the NRPA Special Park District National Database Report, as the recommendation varies by climate.

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Appendix D
Maintenance Analysis Spreadsheet

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Appendix E
Community Survey and Meeting Minutes



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**Forest Lake Parks Master Plan
City of Forest Lake, Minnesota
Kickoff Meeting – 2/11/2014**

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Renae Reedy, City of Forest Lake Parks Director
Anthony Groff, City of Forest Lake Park Board
LeAnne Larson, Forest Lake resident
Dwight Burkhalter, Forest Lake resident
Matt Elvehjem, City of Forest Lake Park Board
Chris Soderlind, City of Forest Lake Park Board
Kathy Bystrom, Forest Lake Area Partnership for Families
Justin Bonnett, Forest Lake resident
Tim Schingen, City of Forest Lake Park Board
Julie Ohman, Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education
Ryan Goodman, Bolton & Menk, Inc
Jim Harbaugh, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Josh Shields, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Joel Odens, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

1. Introductions

- a. Bolton & Menk introduced themselves and welcomed the meeting members. Members introduced themselves to the group.
- b. An agenda with existing goals was distributed along with three preliminary maps showing the following; Existing Parks & Open Space, Areas of Regional Significance and Parks and Open Space Connectivity.

2. Determine Project Goals

- a. Bolton & Menk reviewed the handout containing the Park System Goals, Open Space Goals and the Parks, Open Space & Trails Maintenance Goals from the 2003 Comprehensive Plan.
- b. Discussion of these existing goals followed, along with the desire to explore additional goals to the Parks Master Plan document.
 - 1) The group would like to see a goal relating to physical fitness be incorporated into the Park System Goals
 - 2) The group would like to see an additional Open Space Goal relating to “utilizing natural habitat and promoting preservation”
 - 3) The Steering committee would also like to see the Parks, Open Space & Trails Maintenance Goals strengthened. They would like to remove language pertaining to “making an effort” and replace it with a stronger word such as “will”.

3. General Forest Lake Park System Comments/Discussion

- a. A comment was made to provide recreational opportunities for all four seasons. Especially in the winter. For example, having rentals and trails within the local golf courses.
- b. The desire to seek and develop partnerships with organizations, schools, and companies that would provide more attractive recreational opportunities and facilities.



- c. There was popular opinion that there is enough mini and neighborhood parks in Forest Lake but not enough park maintenance
- d. Athletic fields were discussed.
 - 1) No existing field lighting within park system
 - 2) Parking around most fields is limited
 - 3) Opportunity to expand adult activities
- e. Look at expanding recreational services with Washington County
- f. Expand opportunities for teenagers and adults (kickball, skateboarding, beach volleyball, basketball, frisbee golf, others)
- g. Trails were discussed.
 - 1) Desire to create trail connections/loops for various user groups
 - 2) Trails are used for commuting
 - 3) Enhance connections to downtown
 - 4) Continue to develop/provide Safe Routes To School (SRTS)
 - 5) Access to the Hardwood Creek Trail is key to community mobility
- h. Lake Access/Lake Use was discussed.
 - 1) Number and location of boat ramps is good, trailer parking is an issue
 - 2) Two lots provide lake access on north side of Forest Lake
 - 3) Weeds, geese & swimmers itch are issues
 - 4) City owns harvester, volunteers operate it
 - 5) Lawn maintenance (fertilizer/phosphorous issue)
 - 6) Stormwater culverts/inlets directly into lake
 - 7) Need to provide winter activities/opportunities (ice skate/ice path)
- i. Add additional amenities to parks, space is adequate.
- j. Need for a community center
- k. Reach out to schools and community groups for more input
- l. Develop possible destination point to draw visitors (not just a pass-thru community)

4. Big Picture Items/Community Wants

- a. Community Center
- b. Access to trails
- c. Recreational programs
- d. Increased maintenance of existing amenities
- e. Public/private partnerships
- f. Leverage resources
- g. Park of regional significance/ Nature Preserve (Bixby Park?)



5. Community Deficiencies

- a. Lack of opportunities for older kids
- b. Lack of parking
- c. Lighting at fields
- d. Lack of funding

6. SWOT Analysis (based on 2/11/14 meeting input)

- a. Strengths
 - Hardwood Creek Trail
 - Lakeside Park
 - Fenway Park
 - Location
- b. Weaknesses
 - Funding (maintenance and programming)
 - Teenager park opportunities
 - Parking
 - Hardwood Creek Trail access
- c. Opportunities
 - Public/Private partnerships (leverage resources)
 - Expand recreation leagues
 - Community Center
- d. Threats
 - Vandalism
 - Lack of maintenance
 - Lack of funding
 - Lack of pedestrian/bike safety

**Forest Lake Parks Master Plan
City of Forest Lake, Minnesota
Joint Workshop Meeting – 2/18/2014**

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Renaë Reedy, City of Forest Lake Parks Director
Anthony Groff, City of Forest Lake Park Board
LeAnne Larson, Forest Lake resident
Dwight Burkhalter, Forest Lake resident
Matt Elvehjem, City of Forest Lake Park Board
Chris Soderlind, City of Forest Lake Park Board
Kathy Bystrom, Forest Lake Area Partnership for Families
Justin Bonnett, Forest Lake resident
Tim Schingen, City of Forest Lake Park Board
Julie Ohman, Forest Lake Area Schools Community Education
Ryan Goodman, Bolton & Menk, Inc
Jim Harbaugh, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Josh Shields, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Joel Odens, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

1. Introductions

- The meeting began with consultant introductions and then introductions of all the attendees.
- An agenda with the existing Forest Lake Comprehensive Plan (2003) goals was distributed along with three preliminary maps showing the following; Existing Parks & Open Space, Areas of Regional Significance and Parks and Open Space Connectivity.

2. Review of Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals & 2/11/14 Steering Committee Meeting Recap

- 1) Bolton & Menk give a brief overview of the 2/11/14 steering committee kick-off meeting. This recap included common Community Needs/Wants expressed at that meeting. These items were distributed to the group as part of the agenda.

3. Strength, Weakness, Opportunity & Threat (SWOT) Analysis

- To gather a broad range of issues and high level ideas the group was asked to conduct a SWOT analysis. The group was asked to provide their expertise with any of the categories. As they spoke, their comments were recorded on display boards for documentation and discussion.
- The following is a compilation of what was expressed by the group;
Strengths
a lot of park land
Hardwood Creek Trail
Fenway Park & adjacent development
Ample 'tot-lot' parks
Forest Lake
Existing established neighborhoods with mature trees



Park-like festivals (4th of July)

Weaknesses

Lack of regional trail connections

Could have better collaboration among different groups

Lack of 'flex' or unprogrammed 'green' space

Imbalance of recreational opportunities

Lake opportunities for residents who don't have lake property, who don't fish or have a boat

Bike trails other than Hardwood Creek Trial (connector trails lacking)

Lack of knowledge of available park use and amenities

Opportunities

Identification of regional trail connections (links to Gateway, Hardwood Creek, Washington County, and Metropolitan Council plans)

Development of recreation in S.E. quadrant

Pedestrian bridge over Hwy 61

4. SWOT Analysis (based on 2/11/14 meeting input)

- Strengths
 - Hardwood Creek Trail
 - Lakeside Park
 - Fenway Park
 - Location

- Weaknesses
 - Funding (maintenance and programming)
 - Teenager park opportunities
 - Parking
 - Hardwood Creek Trail access

- Opportunities
 - Public/Private partnerships (leverage resources)
 - Expand recreation leagues
 - Community Center

- Threats
 - Vandalism
 - Lack of maintenance
 - Lack of funding
 - Lack of pedestrian/bike safety

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Parks, Trails & Open Space Master Plan

“An opportunity to learn about the project and provide input on how the community’s park system can be improved.”

When:

Tuesday, March 25, 2014
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Where:

Forest Lake City Hall

A short presentation at 6:45 pm will be followed by an opportunity to review existing park data and maps, and to provide input on wants, needs, and goals.

For Information Please Contact

Aaron Parrish (651) 209.9750
or
Joel Odens (952) 540.7403



Forest Lake
AS GOOD AS IT SOUNDS



FOREST LAKE PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

(Optional Contact Information)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

Comment / Questions: _____

For Additional Information Please Contact: Aaron Parrish (651) 209.9750 | Joel Odens (952) 540.7403

**PARKS, TRAILS &
OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**



Forest Lake
AS GOOD AS IT SOUNDS



FOREST LAKE PARKS, TRAILS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

(Optional Contact Information)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

Comment / Questions: _____

For Additional Information Please Contact: Aaron Parrish (651) 209.9750 | Joel Odens (952) 540.7403

**PARKS, TRAILS &
OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**



Forest Lake
AS GOOD AS IT SOUNDS



Forest Lake Parks Master Plan

Stakeholder Meeting (Define Parks and Trail Facility Needs)

4/15/2014

AGENDA

1. **Review Existing Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces Inventory.....15 minutes**
2. **Discuss Survey Results.....20 minutes**
 - (attached)
3. **Review expected community growth patterns.....10 minutes**
 - As relates to MUSA (Municipal Utility Service Area)
 - As relates to Comprehensive Plan
 - Highlight of expected 1-5 year development areas
4. **Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces Comparison Review.....5 minutes**
 - Against National Recreation and Park Association recommendations
 - Against similarly sized communities
5. **Recap of Mission Statement and supporting Goals and Objectives.....5 minutes**
 - Compiled from 2030 Comprehensive Plan and previous Master Plan Meetings
 - (attached)
6. **Discuss Maintenance Practices & Parks and Recreation Structure.....5 minutes**
 - Will contact Public Works to better understand maintenance practices:
 - i. Current
 - ii. Need
 - Discuss Parks & Recreation structure with City
 - i. As relates to programming
 - ii. As relates to oversight of maintenance
 - iii. As relates to capital improvements plan and annual financial
7. **Next Steps:**
 - Prepare a Draft Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan
8. **Adjourn**

MISSION STATEMENT

Develop a sustainable parks, trails, and open space system accessible to and meeting the needs of all residents of Forest Lake.

GOALS + OBJECTIVES

- 1. Provide access to parks, trails, and open spaces for all citizens of Forest Lake.**
 - a. Consider amenities allowing extended park use beyond daylight hours
 - b. Consider facilities allowing year-round use
 - c. Develop facilities providing opportunities for all ages and user groups
 - d. Provide spaces allowing all citizens to be physically active

- 2. Develop parks, trails, and open spaces with consideration for preservation and education of natural habitats.**
 - a. Promote an understanding of the value of open space and natural habitats
 - b. Preserve and protect diverse and unique ecosystems
 - c. Provide opportunities for education in the community's park, trails, and open spaces
 - d. Encourage policies and integration of best management practices to manage storm water quality

- 3. Develop an effective planning approach to identifying improvements and maintaining parks, trails, and open spaces.**
 - a. Develop partnerships and teaming opportunities with other agencies to enhance the community's parks and open spaces
 - b. Design for maintenance by City equipment
 - c. Provide a mechanism for periodic evaluation of existing park, trail, and open space land against community need

SURVEY RESULTS

- Q1: 174 responses > 111 having resided in Forest Lake over 10 yrs & 42, 6-10 yrs
- Q3: Where people get information on parks, trails, open space system:
 - i. Driving around community – 55%
 - ii. Friends/Co-workers/Neighbors – 47%
 - iii. Walking/Biking on the Trails -~43%
 - iv. Internet - ~42%
- Q4: **158/174** (over 90%) indicated that parks, trails, open spaces are important or very important to the quality of life in Forest Lake
- Q5: Rating of Existing Facilities: 52% - Fair, 38.5% - Good
- Q6: How far do people travel?
 - i. 1-5 miles – 54%
 - ii. More than 5 miles – 22%
 - iii. Less than 1 mile – 22%
- Q7: Most Frequently Visited Parks: **7/25**
 - i. Lakeside Park – 62%
 - ii. Fenway Park - ~52%
 - iii. Beltz Park – 47%
 - iv. Kulenkamp Park - ~20%
 - v. Castlewood Golf Course - ~12%
 - vi. Shawn Silvera Memorial Park - ~10%
- Q8 – will look at all responses for this
 - i. Proximity to home/work – 58%
 - ii. Type of activity held - ~57%
 - iii. Type of equipment - ~50%
- Q9 – will look at all responses for this
 - i. Lack of Time: 33%
 - ii. Lack of equipment/facilities: ~30%
 - iii. Lack of awareness of what is available: 27%
 - iv. Lack of connectivity& Cleanliness/Condition tied at ~26%
- Q11: How much time do you spend at a park when you visit?
 - i. 120/153 (78%) of respondents spend 1-3 hours/visit
- Q12: Adequate facilities for following groups:
 - i. (0-5) and (6-9) was overwhelmingly yes
 - ii. Preteen (10-14) indicates more need
 - iii. Teen (15-18) shows a deficit
 - iv. Young adult (19-30) shows a need
 - v. Adult (31-54) appears to be adequate
 - vi. Seniors (55+) is almost 50/50 with a slight indication of need
 - vii. People with special needs indicates a need at 57%/43% response rate

- Q13: Rate quality/physical condition of existing trails – Good/Fair, ~53%/39%
- Q14: How often are trails used?
 - i. Once a month – 36%
 - ii. Once a week - ~30%
 - iii. Once a year - ~21%
- Q15: What do you use trails for?
 - i. Walking - ~68%
 - ii. Biking - ~69%
 - iii. Running - ~36%
 - iv. Cross-country skiing – 2%
 - v. “I would absolutely use the trail system if I could get to it by walking. I can’t”
 - vi. “It doesn’t really go anywhere, it’s just a straight line through town.”
- Q16: Why do you bike,jog,walk?
 - i. Overwhelmingly – Recreation/exercise – 89%
 - ii. Go to a park – 6%
- Q17: How far do you travel on the trail typically?
 - i. Between 1-5miles : ~69%
 - ii. Between 5-10 miles: 11%
 - iii. I don’t use the trails: ~8%
 - iv. Less than 1 mile: 7%
- Q18: What discourages you the most from using the trail system?
 - i. Lack of connectivity: ~68%
 - ii. Safety concerns with crossings/traffic: ~31%
 - iii. Trail width is too narrow for pedestrians and bikes: 14%
 - iv. Condition of existing trails: 13%
- Q19: Do current parks, trails, open spaces accommodate year-round activities?
 - i. No - ~57% - Yes – 43%
- Q20 – will look at all responses for this
 - i. Pool/swimming beach – 76%
 - ii. Hiking/walking – 73%
 - iii. Playgrounds – 62%
- Q21/22: Sustainable/Best Management Practices in parks & open spaces?
 - i. Very Important – 60%, Somewhat - ~29%
 - ii. Provide connected routes for alt. transportation #1: 65%
 - iii. Use of Recycled materials & Protect, preserve, restore natural areas: 46%
- Q23: What should Forest Lake focus on over the next 5-10 years?
 - i. Recreation/Community Center: ~46%
 - ii. Walking/running facilities: 38%
 - iii. Swimming/Baseball & Softball Fields/Outdoor ice skating & hockey: 3 each tied with ~29%
 - iv. Maintenance/upgrades for existing sites: ~26%
- Additional Comments – would like to run through these quickly

Forest Lake Parks Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting

5/22/2014

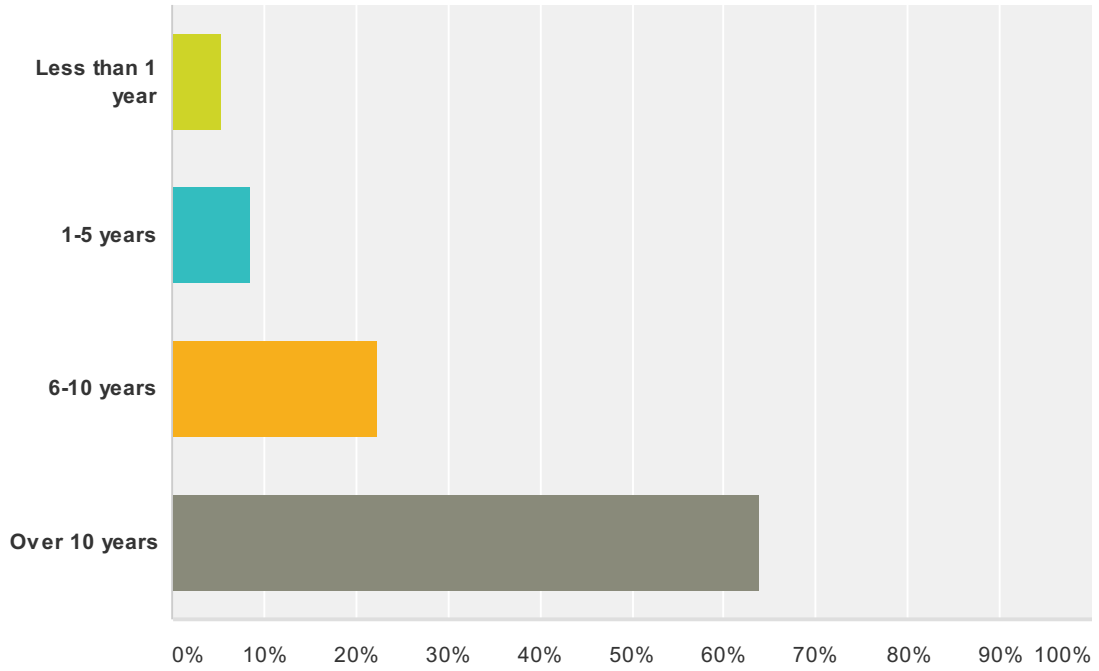
AGENDA

1. **Introductions**
2. **Overview of Draft Master Plan Document (10 minutes)**
 - a. Layout (review of Chapters 1-4)
3. **Recommendations (Chapter 5) (15 minutes)**
 - a. Overall Recommendations
 - b. Park and Open Space Recommendations
 - c. Trail System Recommendations
 - d. Maintenance Recommendations
 - e. Policy Recommendations
4. **Park Recommendations & Priorities (Chapter 6.2 & 6.3) (15 minutes)**
 - a. First Priority (1-3 years)
 - b. Second Priority (3-5 years)
 - c. Third Priority (>5 years)
5. **Trail Recommendations & Priorities (Chapter 6.4 & appendix B) (15 minutes)**
 - a. High Priority Trails
 - b. Medium Priority Trails
 - c. Low Priority Trails
 - d. Trail Type & Costs
6. **Maintenance Recommendations (Appendix D) (15 minutes)**
7. **Next Open House (#2) Meeting Date?**
8. **Strategy for Finalizing Master Plan for June Council Meeting**
9. **Other items**
10. **Adjourn**

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Q1 How long have you lived in Forest Lake?

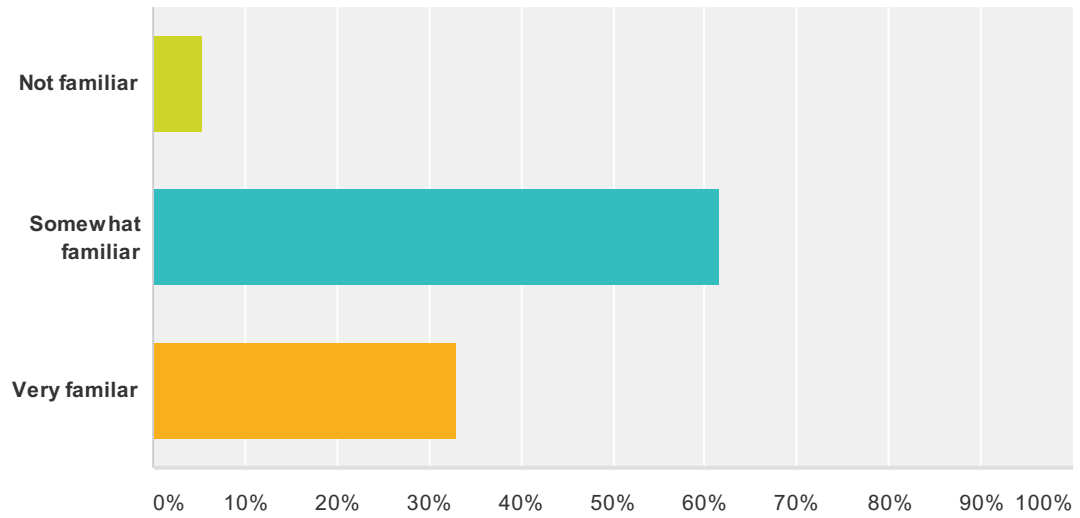
Answered: 224 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|------------------|-----------|------------|
| Less than 1 year | 5.36% | 12 |
| 1-5 years | 8.48% | 19 |
| 6-10 years | 22.32% | 50 |
| Over 10 years | 63.84% | 143 |
| Total | | 224 |

Q2 How familiar are you with Forest Lake's park, trails and open space system?

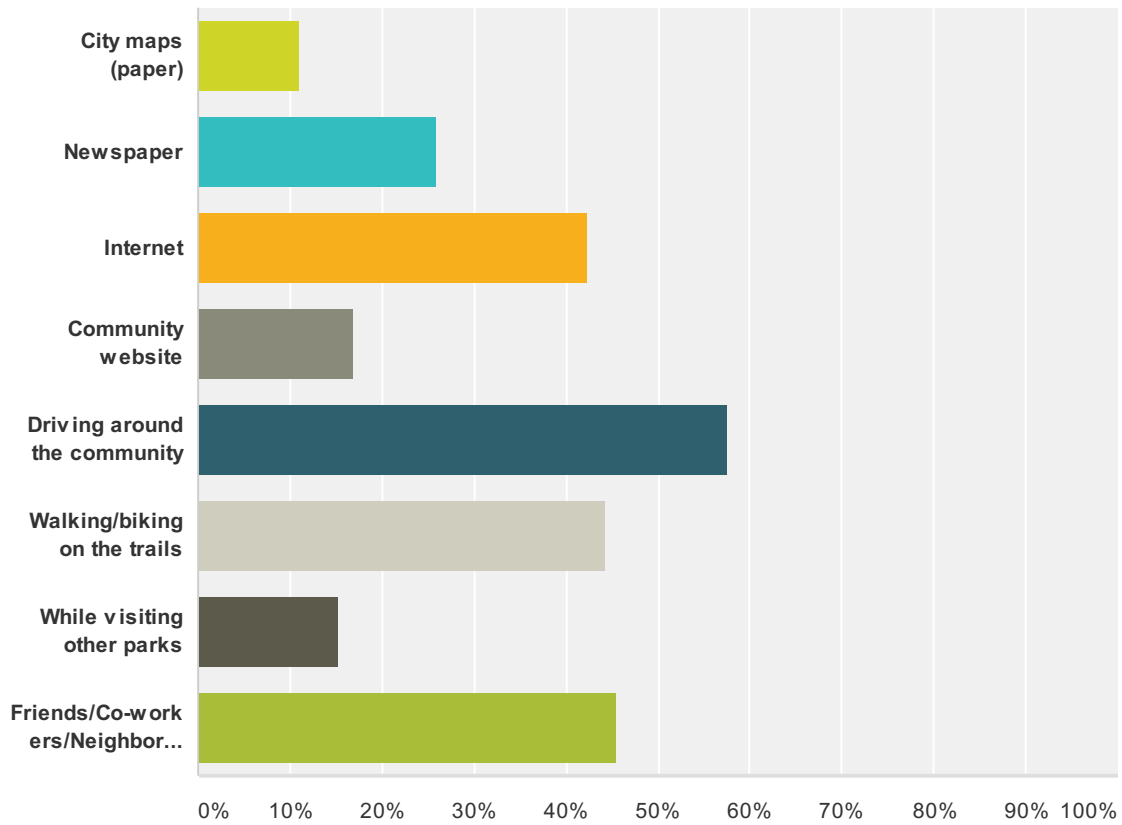
Answered: 224 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|-------------------|------------|
| Not familiar | 5.36% 12 |
| Somewhat familiar | 61.61% 138 |
| Very familiar | 33.04% 74 |
| Total | 224 |

Q3 Where do you get information on the Community's park, trails and open space system?

Answered: 224 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|--|------------|
| City maps (paper) | 11.16% 25 |
| Newspaper | 25.89% 58 |
| Internet | 42.41% 95 |
| Community website | 16.96% 38 |
| Driving around the community | 57.59% 129 |
| Walking/biking on the trails | 44.20% 99 |
| While visiting other parks | 15.18% 34 |
| Friends/Co-workers/Neighbors (people in the community) | 45.54% 102 |
| Total Respondents: 224 | |

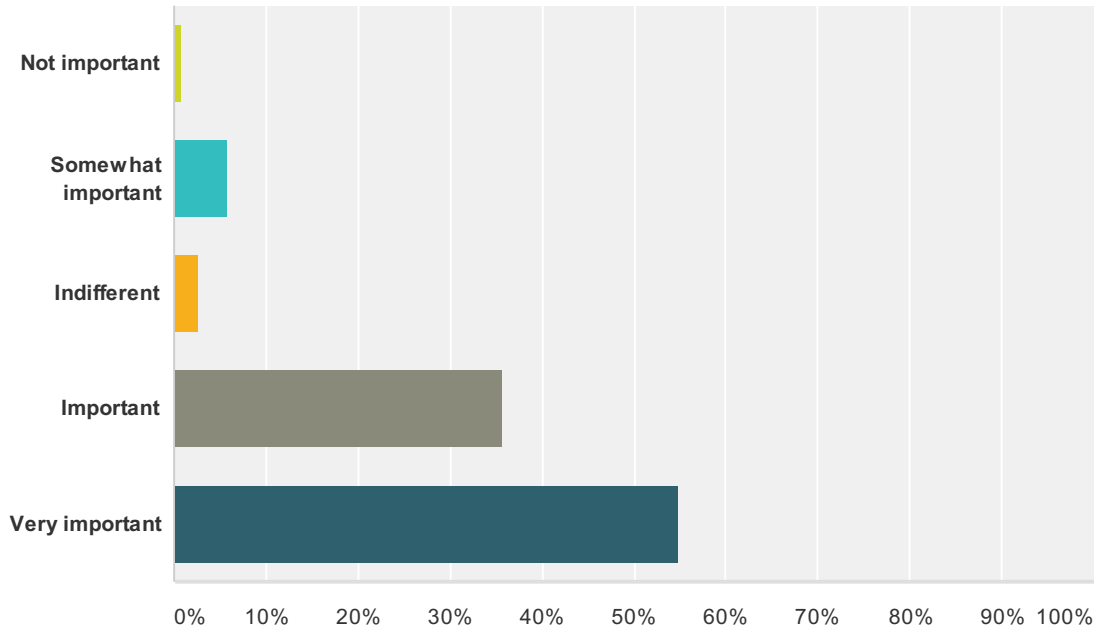
| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Common Knowledge | 4/27/2014 12:44 PM |
| 2 | Youth sports | 4/14/2014 1:36 PM |
| 3 | kids sports events | 4/14/2014 12:45 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 4 | Just living here off and on for over 40 years | 4/14/2014 12:29 PM |
| 5 | City Planning Meeting | 4/14/2014 12:11 PM |
| 6 | FLAAA Connections | 4/14/2014 9:55 AM |
| 7 | exploring | 4/10/2014 6:55 PM |

Q4 How important are parks, trails and open spaces to Forest Lake's quality of life?

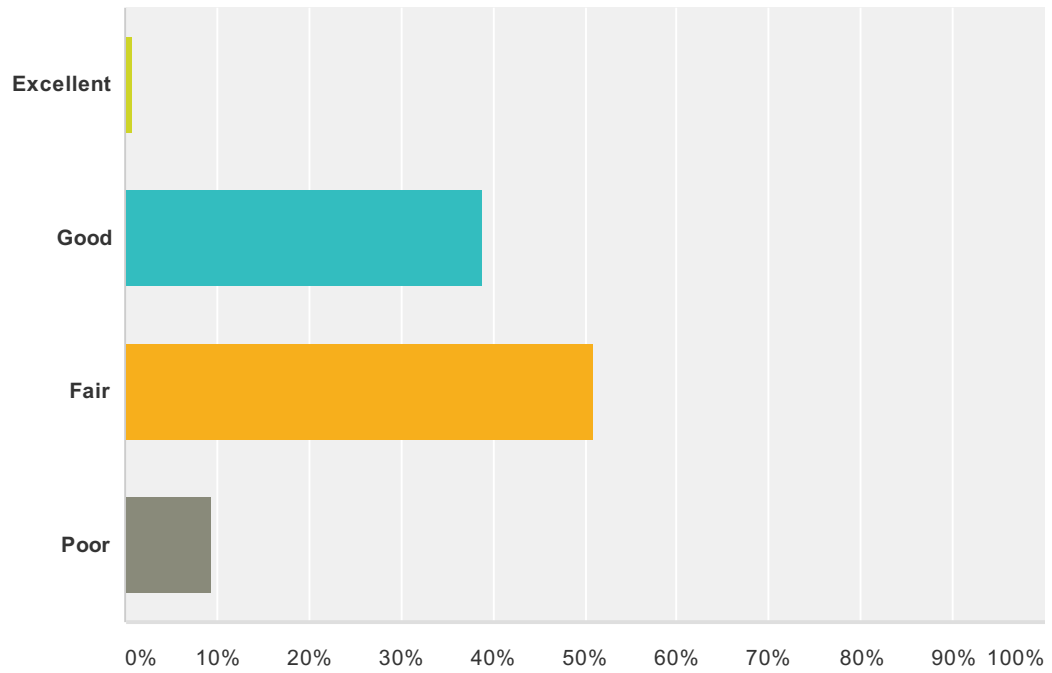
Answered: 224 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|--------------------|------------|
| Not important | 0.89% 2 |
| Somewhat important | 5.80% 13 |
| Indifferent | 2.68% 6 |
| Important | 35.71% 80 |
| Very important | 54.91% 123 |
| Total | 224 |

Q5 How would you rate the quality/physical condition of the existing parks and open space facilities?

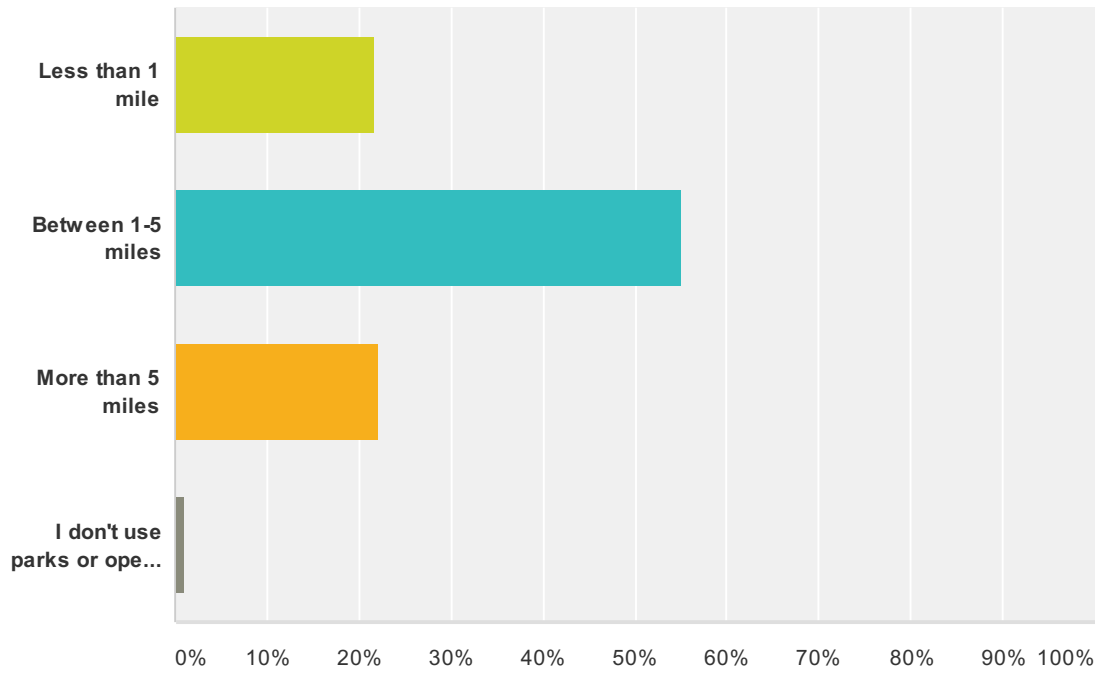
Answered: 224 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Excellent | 0.89% 2 |
| Good | 38.84% 87 |
| Fair | 50.89% 114 |
| Poor | 9.38% 21 |
| Total | 224 |

Q6 What distance do you typically travel to use a park/open space within the Community?

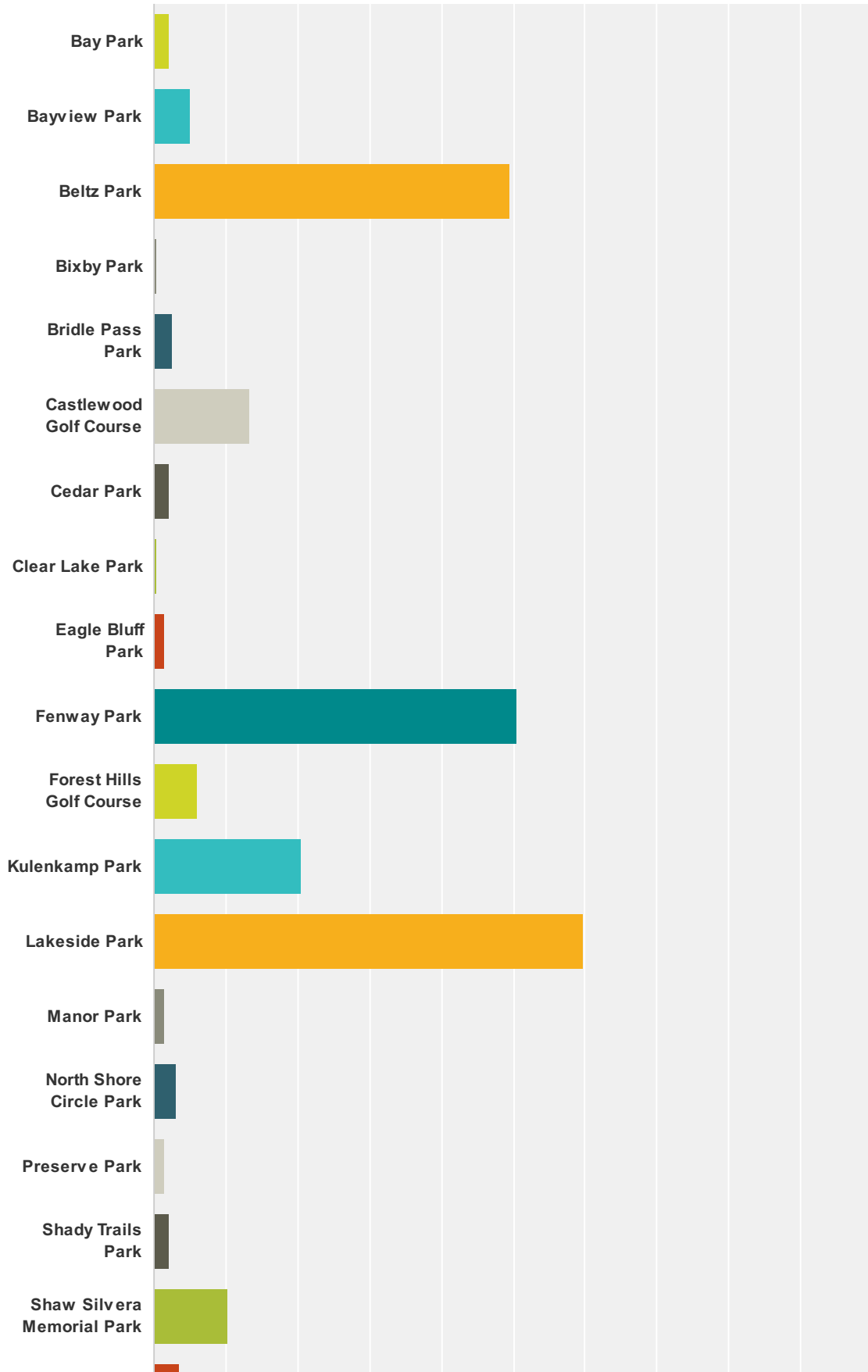
Answered: 198 Skipped: 26



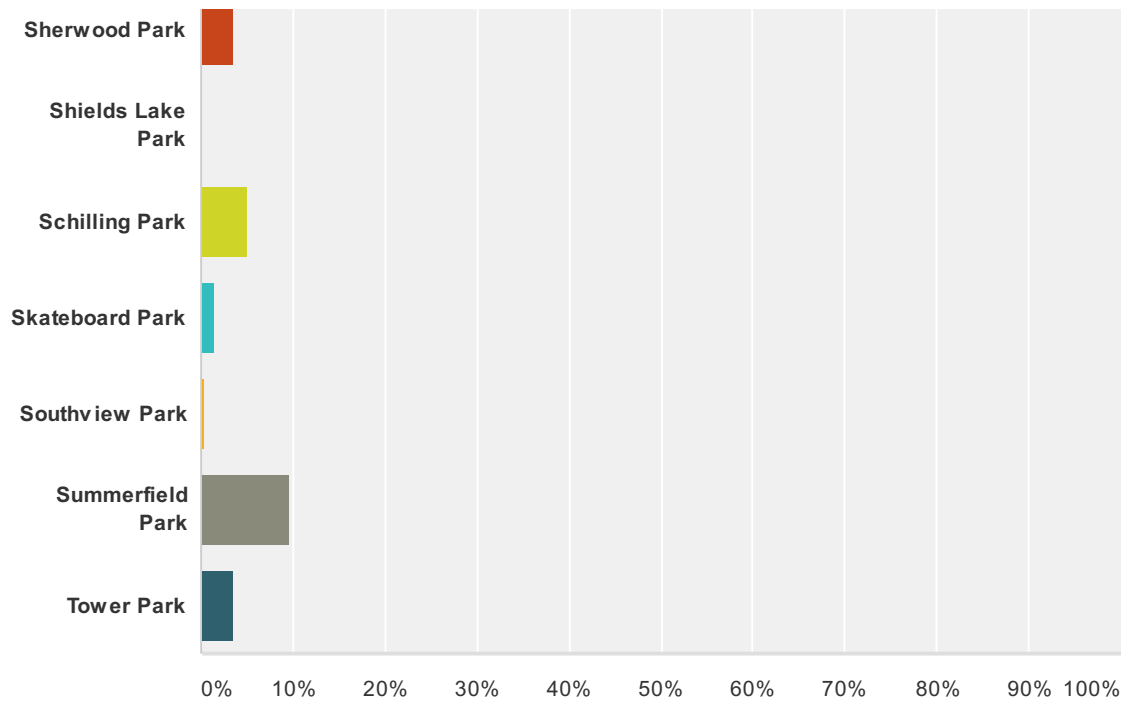
| Answer Choices | Responses | Count |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Less than 1 mile | 21.72% | 43 |
| Between 1-5 miles | 55.05% | 109 |
| More than 5 miles | 22.22% | 44 |
| I don't use parks or open spaces | 1.01% | 2 |
| Total | | 198 |

Q7 Which Forest Lake/open spaces do you visit most frequently? (select 3)

Answered: 196 Skipped: 28



Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan



| Answer Choices | Responses | Count |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Bay Park | 2.04% | 4 |
| Bayview Park | 5.10% | 10 |
| Beltz Park | 49.49% | 97 |
| Bixby Park | 0.51% | 1 |
| Bridle Pass Park | 2.55% | 5 |
| Castlewood Golf Course | 13.27% | 26 |
| Cedar Park | 2.04% | 4 |
| Clear Lake Park | 0.51% | 1 |
| Eagle Bluff Park | 1.53% | 3 |
| Fenway Park | 50.51% | 99 |
| Forest Hills Golf Course | 6.12% | 12 |
| Kulenkamp Park | 20.41% | 40 |
| Lakeside Park | 59.69% | 117 |
| Manor Park | 1.53% | 3 |
| North Shore Circle Park | 3.06% | 6 |
| Preserve Park | 1.53% | 3 |
| Shady Trails Park | 2.04% | 4 |
| Shaw Silvera Memorial Park | 10.20% | 20 |
| Sherwood Park | 3.57% | 7 |

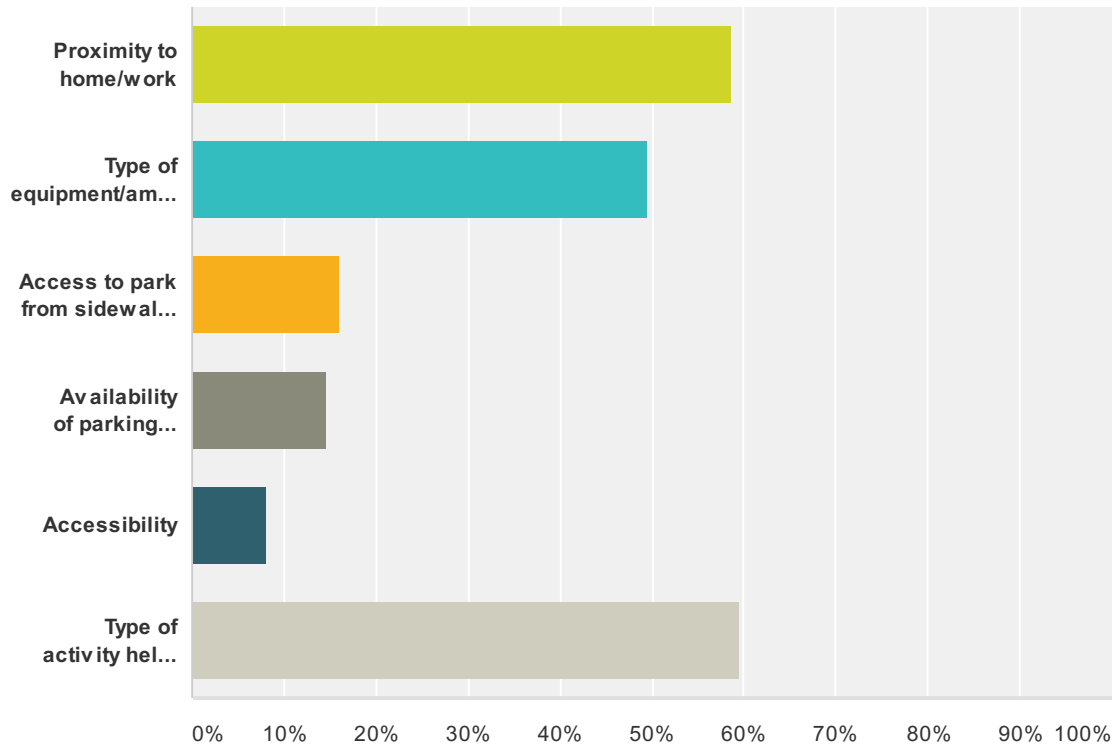
Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|----|
| Shields Lake Park | 0.00% | 0 |
| Schilling Park | 5.10% | 10 |
| Skateboard Park | 1.53% | 3 |
| Southview Park | 0.51% | 1 |
| Summerfield Park | 9.69% | 19 |
| Tower Park | 3.57% | 7 |
| Total Respondents: 196 | | |

| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|---|---|-------------------|
| 1 | that park at the end of Broadway next the stupid roundabout | 4/16/2014 3:25 PM |
| 2 | Hardwood bike trail | 4/15/2014 9:32 AM |
| 3 | I go to Scandia or Wyoming a lot to use their Hockey rinks | 4/14/2014 3:11 PM |
| 4 | columbus fields park | 4/14/2014 2:21 PM |
| 5 | I did not know we had this many | 4/1/2014 9:35 PM |
| 6 | Big Marine County Park | 3/28/2014 2:26 PM |

Q8 Why do you visit these parks more often than others? (check all that apply)

Answered: 198 Skipped: 26

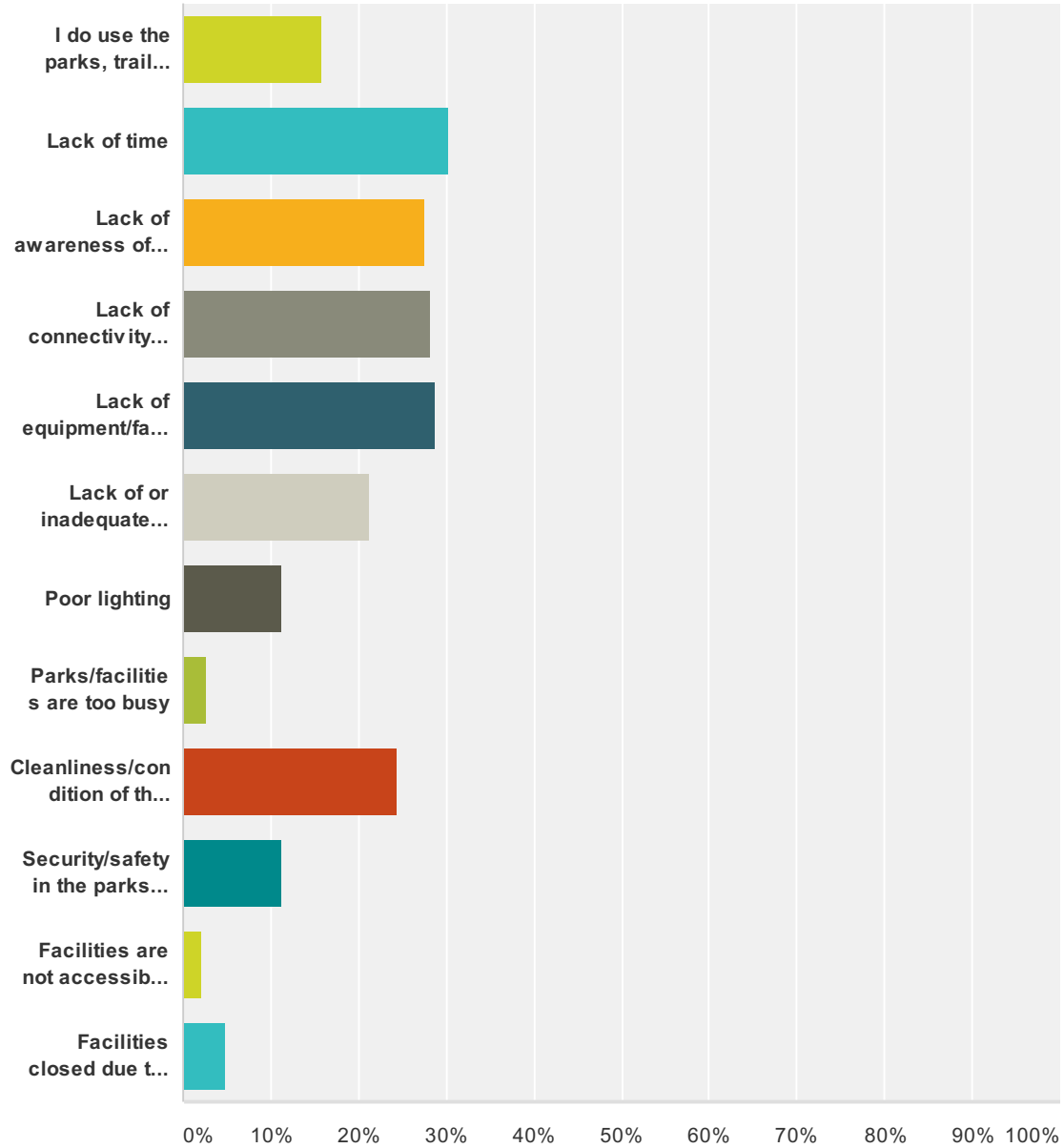


| Answer Choices | Responses |
|---|------------|
| Proximity to home/work | 58.59% 116 |
| Type of equipment/amenity offered | 49.49% 98 |
| Access to park from sidewalk or trail | 16.16% 32 |
| Availability of parking at/near site | 14.65% 29 |
| Accessibility | 8.08% 16 |
| Type of activity held at the park (e.g. baseball game, community event, etc.) | 59.60% 118 |
| Total Respondents: 198 | |

| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Ice skating at Beltz | 4/15/2014 8:23 PM |
| 2 | I wasn't aware of all those other parks. | 4/15/2014 12:11 PM |
| 3 | concerts | 4/15/2014 9:32 AM |
| 4 | safety and cleanliness of park | 4/14/2014 7:24 PM |
| 5 | Kulenkamp is close although it's amenities are subpar | 4/13/2014 11:48 PM |
| 6 | Winter Ice skating and sledding hill. Summer playground | 4/13/2014 12:12 PM |
| 7 | free ice skating in the winter | 4/2/2014 5:17 PM |

Q9 Which of the following reasons describes why you do not use the parks, trails and open spaces as often as you'd like? (check all that apply)

Answered: 188 Skipped: 36



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|---|-----------|
| I do use the parks, trails and open spaces as often as I like | 15.96% 30 |
| Lack of time | 30.32% 57 |
| Lack of awareness of what is available | 27.66% 52 |
| Lack of connectivity/access to sidewalk or trail | 28.19% 53 |
| Lack of equipment/facilities | 28.72% 54 |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|---|---------------|----|
| Lack of or inadequate restrooms | 21.28% | 40 |
| Poor lighting | 11.17% | 21 |
| Parks/facilities are too busy | 2.66% | 5 |
| Cleanliness/condition of the facilities are not adequate for me/my family | 24.47% | 46 |
| Security/safety in the parks not adequate for me/my family | 11.17% | 21 |
| Facilities are not accessible for persons with special needs | 2.13% | 4 |
| Facilities closed due to flooding, weather conditions, etc. | 4.79% | 9 |
| Total Respondents: 188 | | |

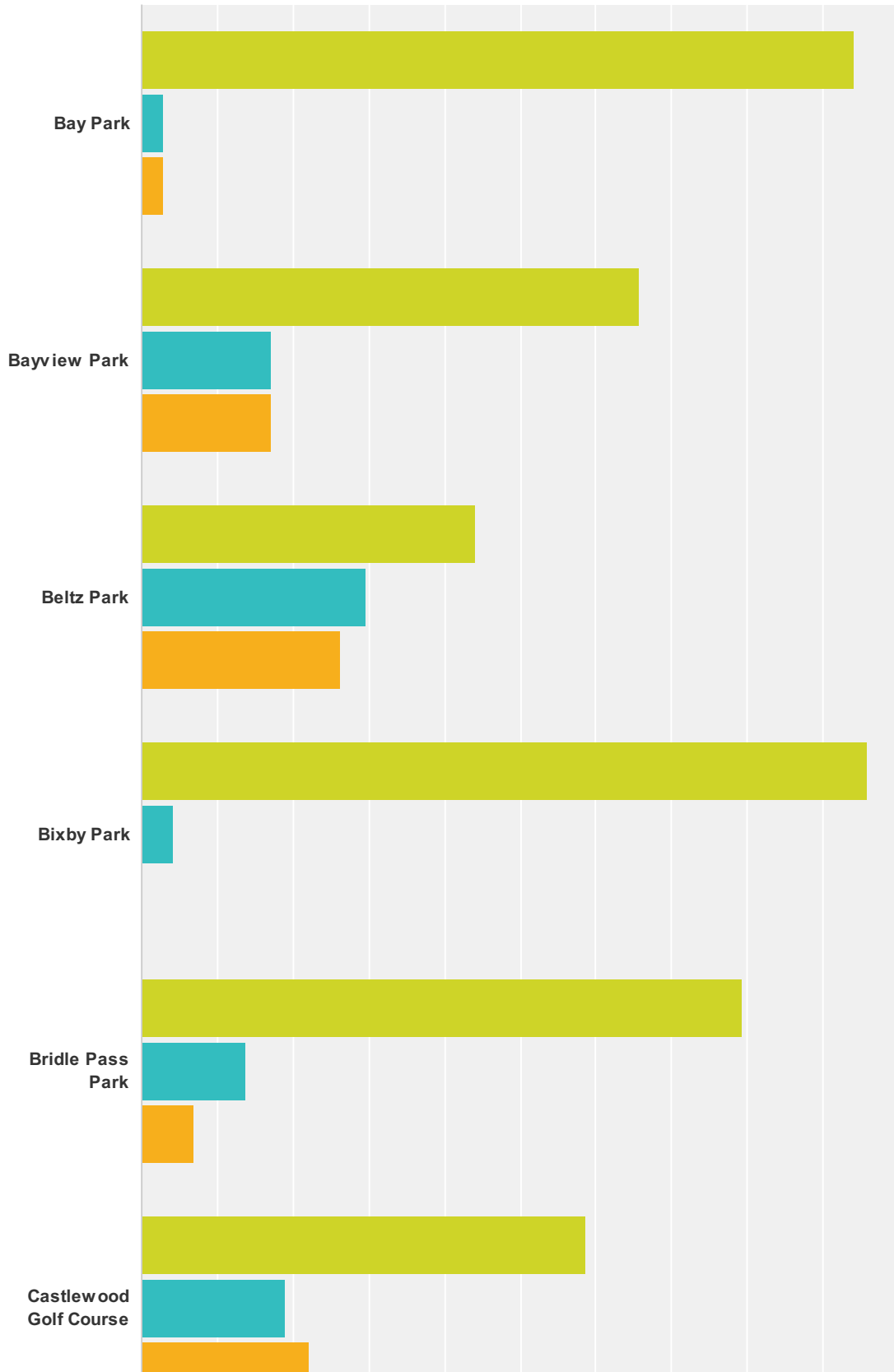
| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1 | lack of trails | 4/21/2014 6:55 PM |
| 2 | Difficult to safely bike to parks with children | 4/15/2014 6:16 PM |
| 3 | Need better routes from cub food side of town to new library!! | 4/15/2014 5:15 PM |
| 4 | Banning of all things that one wants to do outside, pets, bikes, etc | 4/15/2014 3:15 PM |
| 5 | The sunrise trail has restrooms so we go north out of FL not south to Hugo. | 4/15/2014 9:32 AM |
| 6 | Ice at tower rinks is horrible | 4/15/2014 9:12 AM |
| 7 | There needs to be a trail along Hwy 97 from Manning to Hwy 61. It is absolutely ridiculous that there is not anything when you have 3 schools right there and kids are walking on 97 ALL the time. We live off of Hwy 97 and there are so many semi's and dump trucks it is scary sometimes when you have to turn or see kids walking. This is one of the 1st things I noticed when we moved here 9 years ago that I could not believe there was not a path along 97. | 4/15/2014 7:51 AM |
| 8 | My children are older so we do not go to the parks like we use to. We use the parks that offer sporting facilities like Fenway and Beltz (VB court) | 4/14/2014 10:18 PM |
| 9 | Goose shit | 4/14/2014 10:04 PM |
| 10 | Lakeside park - beach always has "the itch" and is dirt | 4/14/2014 8:39 PM |
| 11 | don't really need them except planned activities such as sports | 4/14/2014 5:18 PM |
| 12 | It's nice Lakeside and now Fenway have new equipment but other parks, notably Kulenkamp, are falling apart or lacking updated playground equipment | 4/14/2014 2:52 PM |
| 13 | I'm very disappointed with the lack of progress with Fenway Fields and the concession stand. The port-a-potty is an absolute embarrassment to the Forest Lake community activities. | 4/14/2014 1:48 PM |
| 14 | No need | 4/14/2014 1:46 PM |
| 15 | beach area is nasty, dirty, trashy, small | 4/14/2014 1:40 PM |
| 16 | kids out grow park and unsupervised roudy kids | 4/14/2014 10:35 AM |
| 17 | equipment is lackluster at Kulenkamp, picnic shelters would help at all parks | 4/13/2014 11:48 PM |
| 18 | Lack of area to bring dogs near by | 4/13/2014 12:12 PM |
| 19 | I use the parks a lot but I wish there was more security. I also wish there was a dog park nearby. | 4/12/2014 11:41 PM |
| 20 | Would prefer to walk or bike but there are few safe connections | 4/4/2014 7:32 AM |
| 21 | No parks suitable for young adults | 4/3/2014 11:26 PM |
| 22 | The bathrooms at Beltz Park are terrible. | 4/1/2014 6:03 PM |
| 23 | unsupervised teenagers | 3/29/2014 2:01 AM |
| 24 | We live in the northeast corner of Forest Lake, so it is not convenient to go to the parks unless we're going for a special event or if we're in town for something else. | 3/28/2014 4:10 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

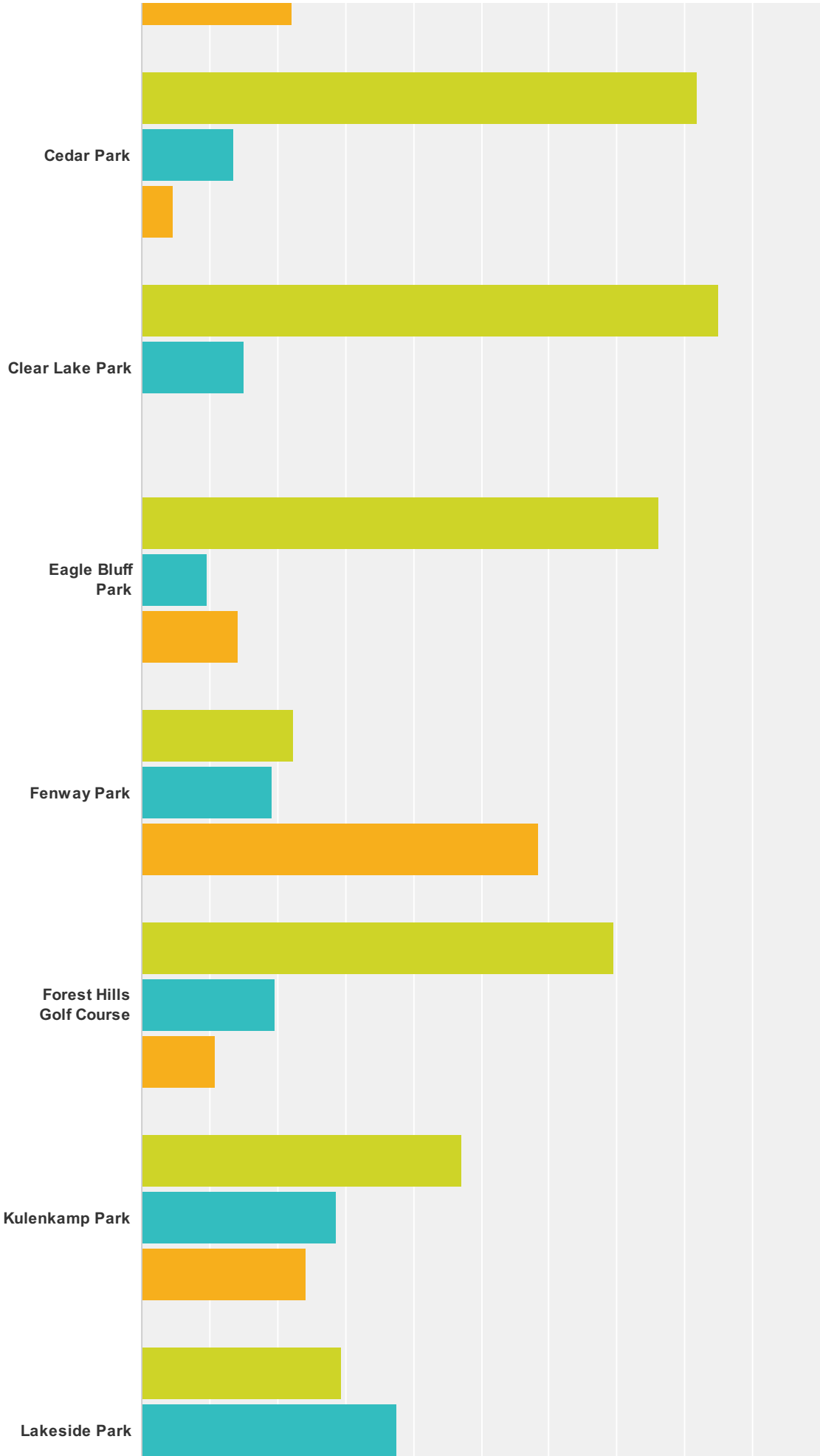
| | | |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 25 | They are too far from my home. Quit expanding and 'improving' parks and build new ones near the areas of town where there are none. | 3/28/2014 2:26 PM |
| 26 | a small % of the public use the parks period. To much \$ is spent on parks while proerty taxes keep going up the right of the few does not out way the right of the many | 3/28/2014 1:27 PM |
| 27 | never ending winters | 3/28/2014 1:04 PM |

Q10 How many times have you or your family visited the following Forest Lake facilities during the past year? (choose A-C)

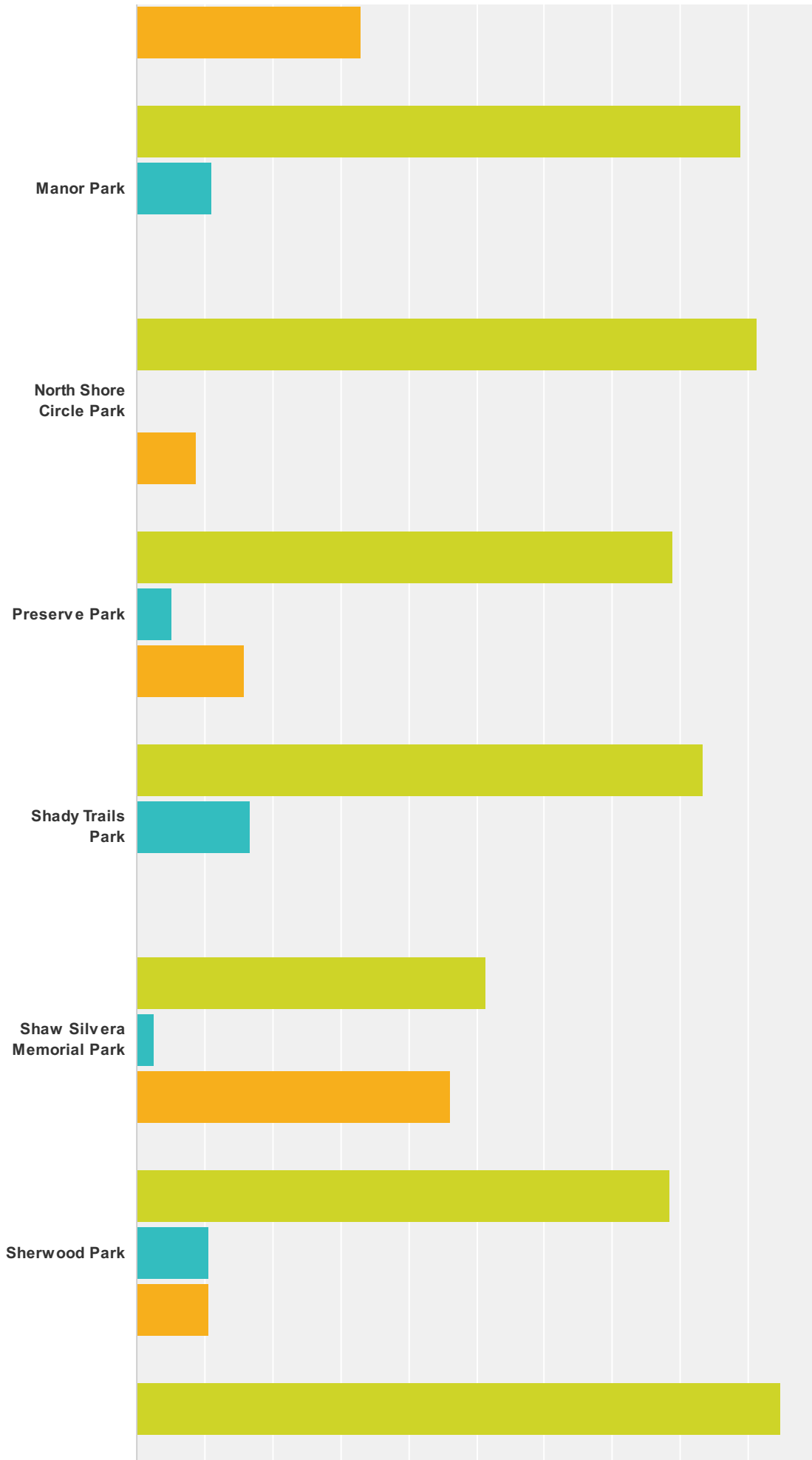
Answered: 198 Skipped: 26



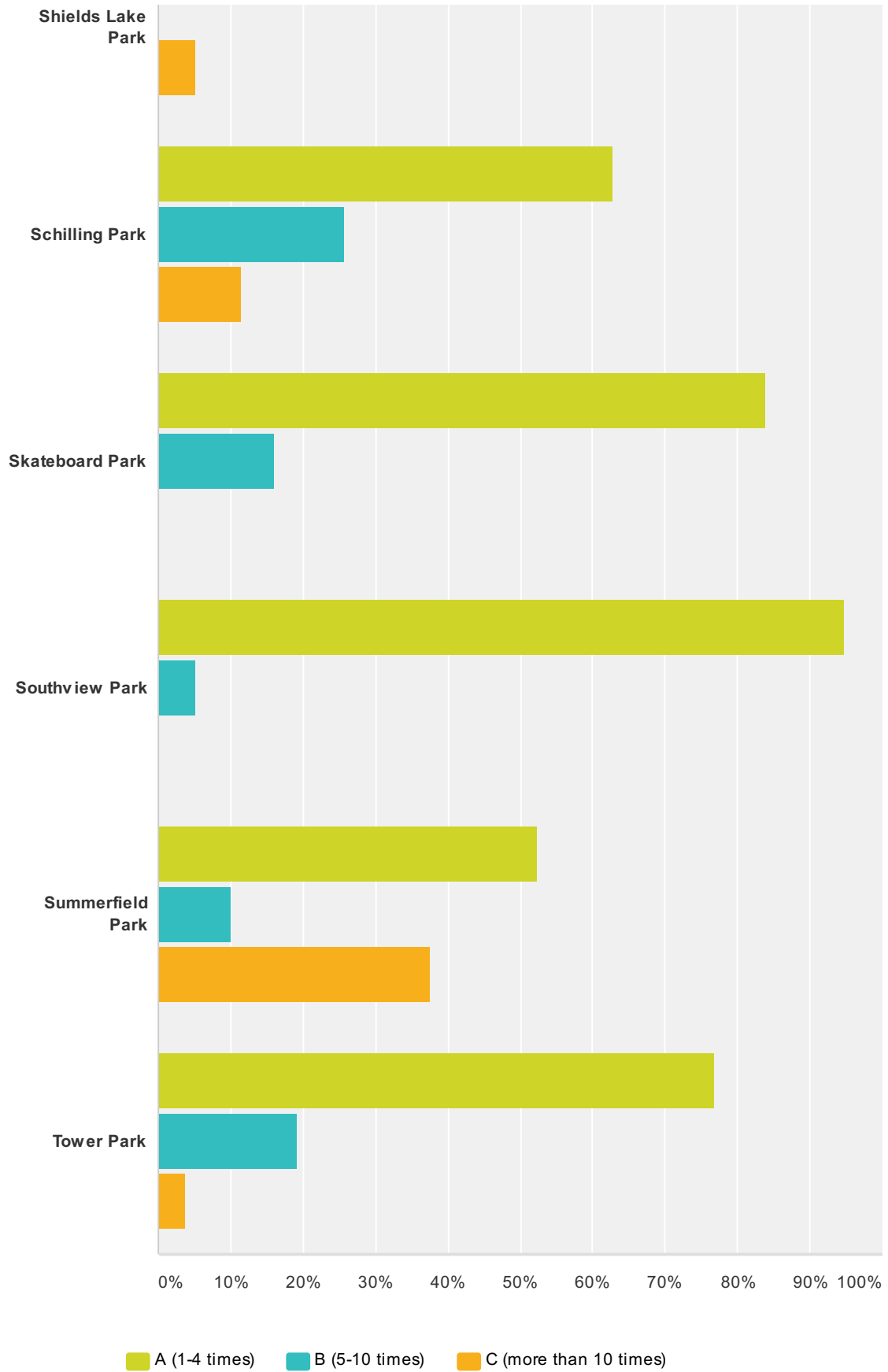
Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan



Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan



Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan



| | A (1-4 times) | B (5-10 times) | C (more than 10 times) | Total |
|----------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|-------|
| Bay Park | 94.12% 32 | 2.94% 1 | 2.94% 1 | 34 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| Rawview Park | 65.71% | 17.14% | 17.14% | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--|

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----|
| Bayview Park | 35.71% 23 | 11.17% 6 | 11.17% 6 | 35 |
| Beltz Park | 44.00% 55 | 29.60% 37 | 26.40% 33 | 125 |
| Bixby Park | 95.83% 23 | 4.17% 1 | 0.00% 0 | 24 |
| Bridle Pass Park | 79.31% 23 | 13.79% 4 | 6.90% 2 | 29 |
| Castlewood Golf Course | 58.73% 37 | 19.05% 12 | 22.22% 14 | 63 |
| Cedar Park | 81.82% 18 | 13.64% 3 | 4.55% 1 | 22 |
| Clear Lake Park | 85.00% 17 | 15.00% 3 | 0.00% 0 | 20 |
| Eagle Bluff Park | 76.19% 16 | 9.52% 2 | 14.29% 3 | 21 |
| Fenway Park | 22.40% 28 | 19.20% 24 | 58.40% 73 | 125 |
| Forest Hills Golf Course | 69.57% 32 | 19.57% 9 | 10.87% 5 | 46 |
| Kulenkamp Park | 47.14% 33 | 28.57% 20 | 24.29% 17 | 70 |
| Lakeside Park | 29.41% 40 | 37.50% 51 | 33.09% 45 | 136 |
| Manor Park | 88.89% 16 | 11.11% 2 | 0.00% 0 | 18 |
| North Shore Circle Park | 91.30% 21 | 0.00% 0 | 8.70% 2 | 23 |
| Preserve Park | 78.95% 15 | 5.26% 1 | 15.79% 3 | 19 |
| Shady Trails Park | 83.33% 15 | 16.67% 3 | 0.00% 0 | 18 |
| Shaw Silvera Memorial Park | 51.28% 20 | 2.56% 1 | 46.15% 18 | 39 |
| Sherwood Park | 78.57% 22 | 10.71% 3 | 10.71% 3 | 28 |
| Shields Lake Park | 94.74% 18 | 0.00% 0 | 5.26% 1 | 19 |
| Schilling Park | 62.86% 22 | 25.71% 9 | 11.43% 4 | 35 |
| Skateboard Park | 84.00% 21 | 16.00% 4 | 0.00% 0 | 25 |
| Southview Park | 94.74% 18 | 5.26% 1 | 0.00% 0 | 19 |
| Summerfield Park | 52.50% 21 | 10.00% 4 | 37.50% 15 | 40 |
| Tower Park | 76.92% 20 | 19.23% 5 | 3.85% 1 | 26 |

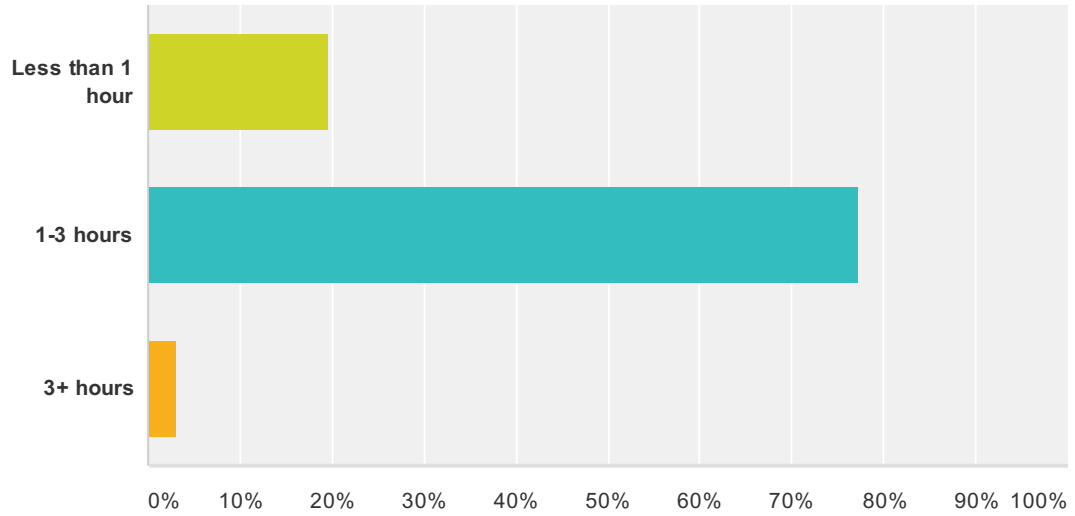
| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|---|------------------------|------|
|---|------------------------|------|

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|---|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Often visit parks but not sure of the name of the parks? | 4/25/2014 9:15 AM |
| 2 | Bike teails | 4/15/2014 6:16 PM |
| 3 | One near elston ave the rest none but the one | 4/15/2014 3:15 PM |
| 4 | Hardwood sunrise trail 40 or so times | 4/15/2014 9:32 AM |
| 5 | The new one by the hockey arena | 4/1/2014 10:31 PM |
| 6 | NONE | 3/28/2014 1:27 PM |

Q11 How much time do you spend at the park when you visit?

Answered: 198 Skipped: 26

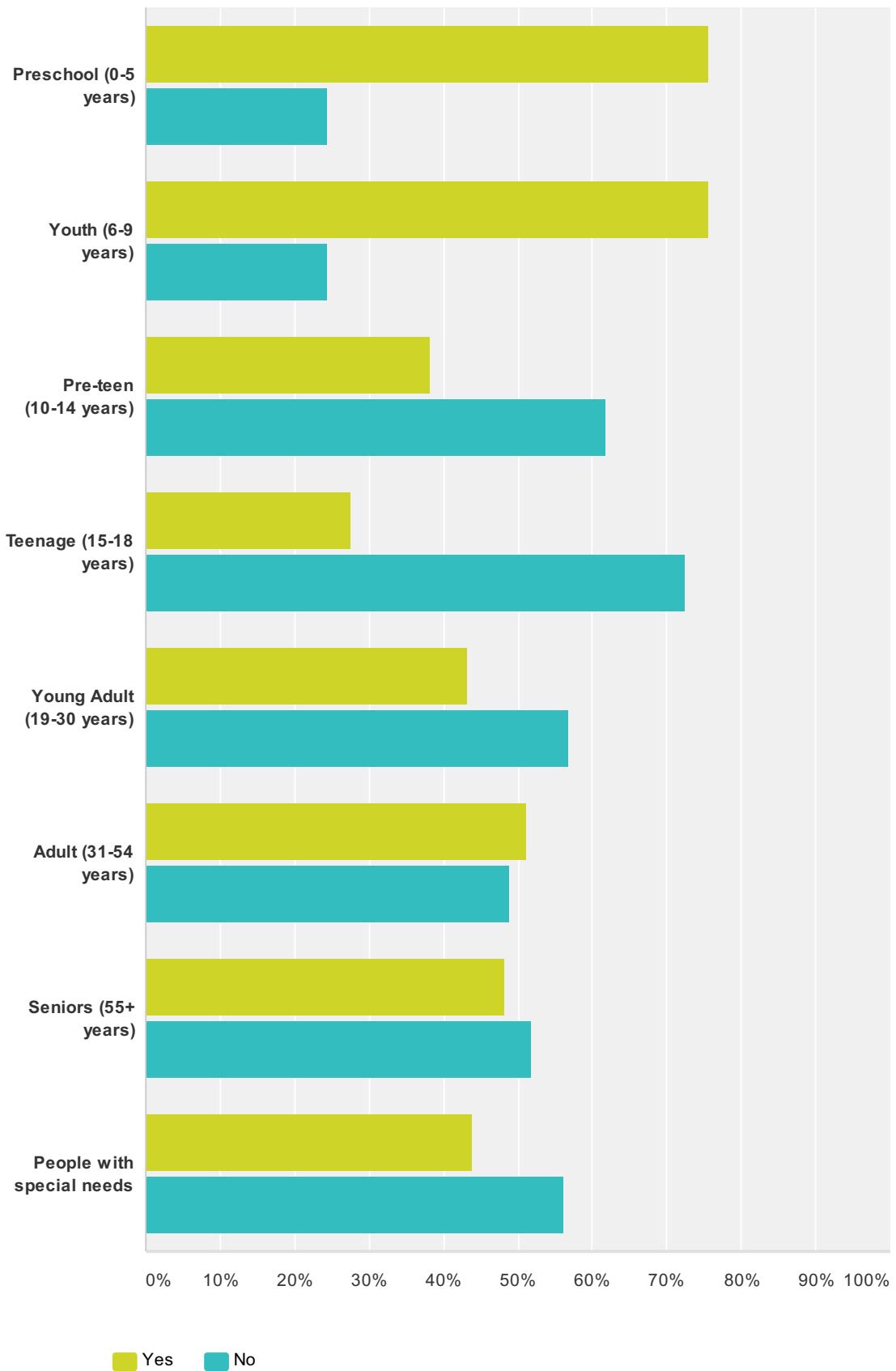


| Answer Choices | Responses |
|------------------|------------|
| Less than 1 hour | 19.70% 39 |
| 1-3 hours | 77.27% 153 |
| 3+ hours | 3.03% 6 |
| Total | 198 |

**Q12 Do you feel there are enough park,
trail and open space opportunities in
Forest Lake for the following groups?**

Answered: 191 Skipped: 33

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan



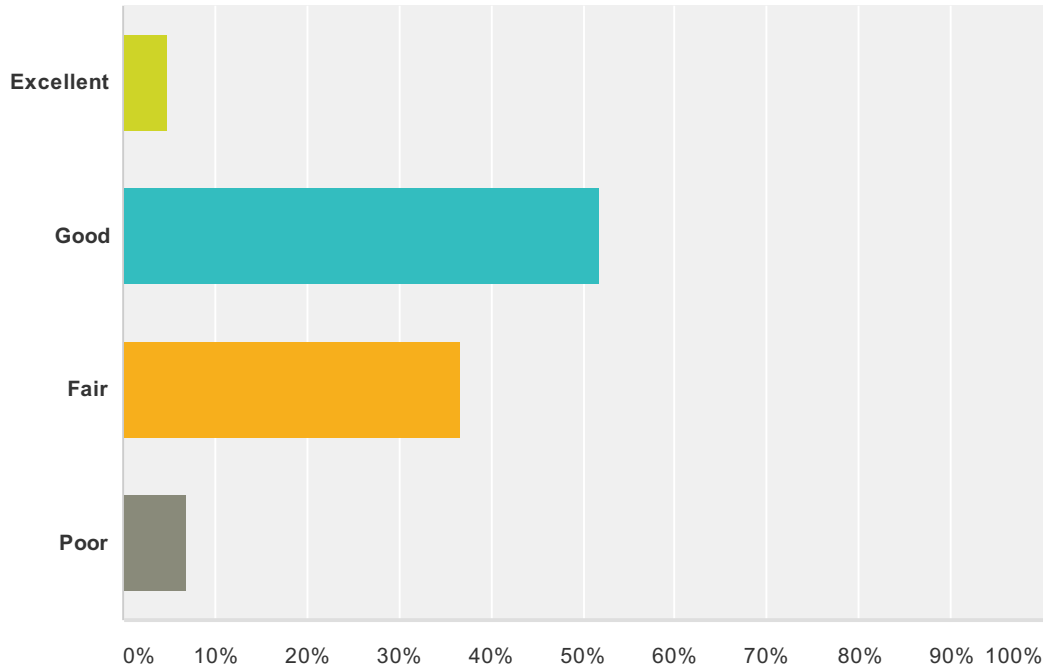
| | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| Preschool (0-5 years) | 75.54% 139 | 24.46% 45 | 184 |
| Youth (6-9 years) | 75.68% 140 | 24.32% 45 | 185 |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Pre-teen (10-14 years) | 38.12% 69 | 61.88% 112 | 181 |
| Teenage (15-18 years) | 27.59% 48 | 72.41% 126 | 174 |
| Young Adult (19-30 years) | 43.27% 74 | 56.73% 97 | 171 |
| Adult (31-54 years) | 51.15% 89 | 48.85% 85 | 174 |
| Seniors (55+ years) | 48.21% 81 | 51.79% 87 | 168 |
| People with special needs | 43.75% 63 | 56.25% 81 | 144 |

Q13 How would you rate the quality/physical condition of existing trails?

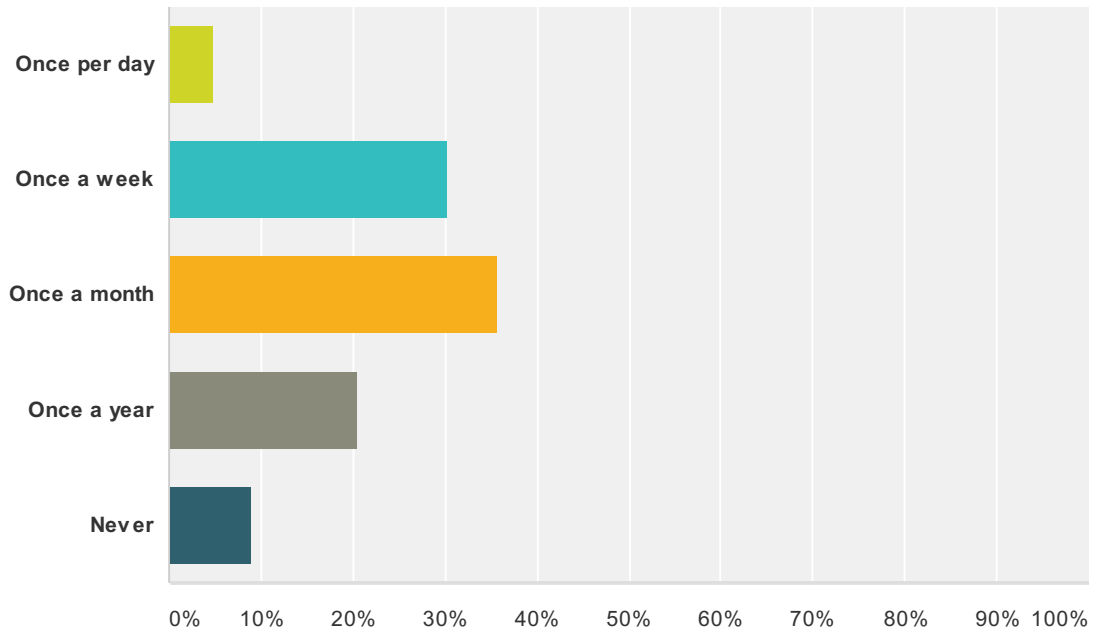
Answered: 191 Skipped: 33



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Excellent | 4.71% 9 |
| Good | 51.83% 99 |
| Fair | 36.65% 70 |
| Poor | 6.81% 13 |
| Total | 191 |

Q14 On average, how often do you use Forest Lake's trail system?

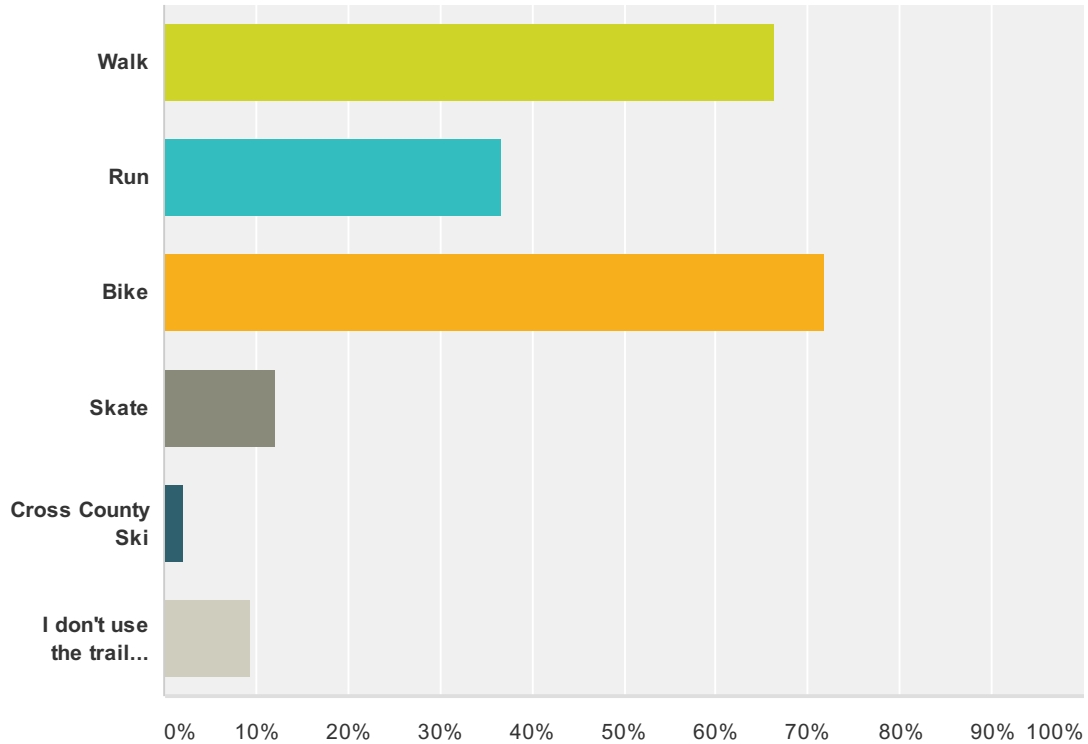
Answered: 191 Skipped: 33



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Once per day | 4.71% 9 |
| Once a week | 30.37% 58 |
| Once a month | 35.60% 68 |
| Once a year | 20.42% 39 |
| Never | 8.90% 17 |
| Total | 191 |

Q15 What do you do when you use the City's trail system? (check all that apply)

Answered: 191 Skipped: 33



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Walk | 66.49% 127 |
| Run | 36.65% 70 |
| Bike | 71.73% 137 |
| Skate | 12.04% 23 |
| Cross County Ski | 2.09% 4 |
| I don't use the trail system | 9.42% 18 |
| Total Respondents: 191 | |

| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | no trails in area | 4/21/2014 6:56 PM |
| 2 | Snowmobile | 4/15/2014 12:55 PM |
| 3 | Snowmobile | 4/15/2014 12:12 PM |
| 4 | I would absolutely use the trail system if I could get to it by walking. I cant. | 4/15/2014 7:52 AM |
| 5 | It doesn't really go anywhere, its just a straight line through town | 4/14/2014 2:53 PM |
| 6 | more sidewalks within the communities would be great. | 4/13/2014 1:46 PM |
| 7 | snowmobile | 4/2/2014 5:31 AM |
| 8 | Walk dog | 3/28/2014 2:35 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

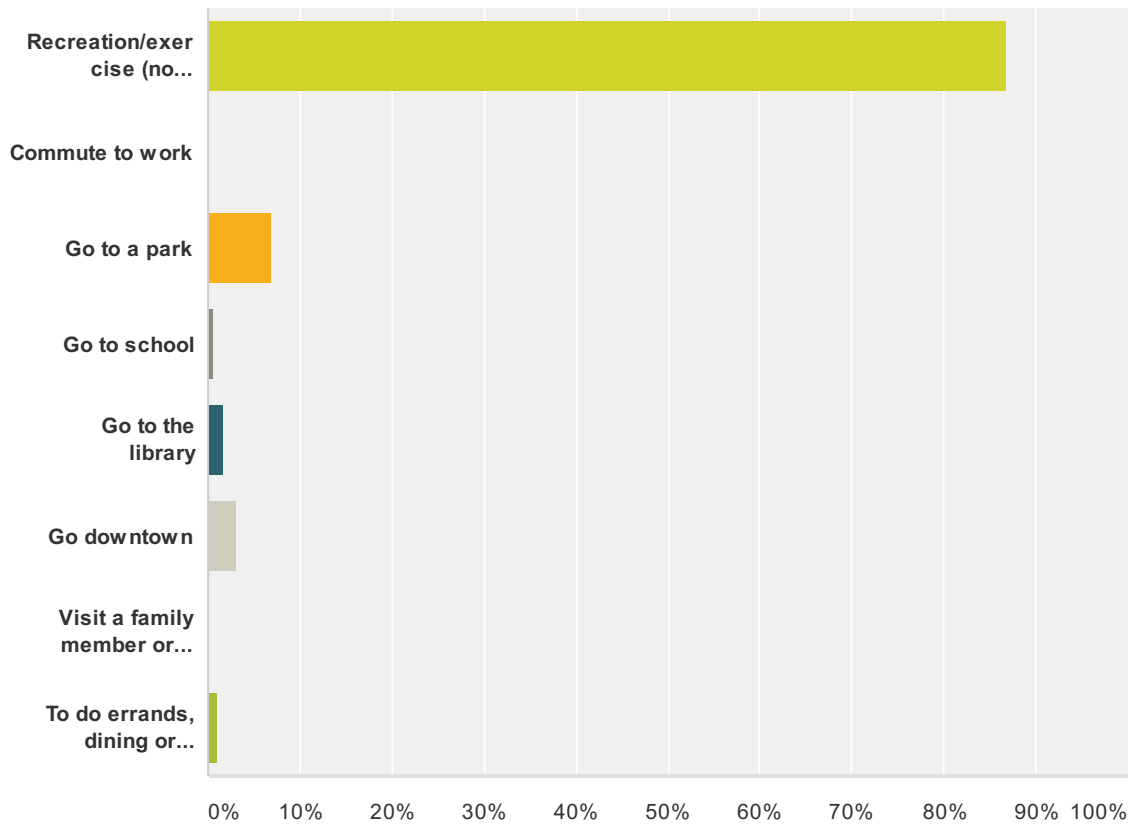
9

walk my dog

3/28/2014 11:54 AM

Q16 Why do you bike, jog, walk?

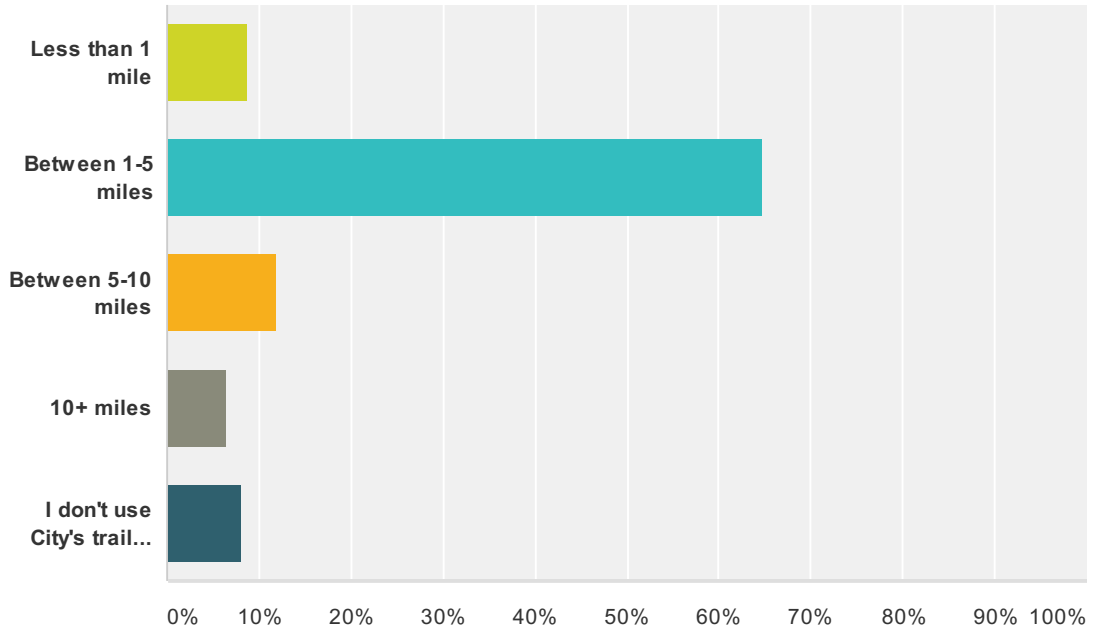
Answered: 191 Skipped: 33



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|---|------------|
| Recreation/exercise (no specific destination) | 86.91% 166 |
| Commute to work | 0.00% 0 |
| Go to a park | 6.81% 13 |
| Go to school | 0.52% 1 |
| Go to the library | 1.57% 3 |
| Go downtown | 3.14% 6 |
| Visit a family member or friend | 0.00% 0 |
| To do errands, dining or shopping | 1.05% 2 |
| Total | 191 |

Q17 How far (in miles) do you typically travel when using the trail system?

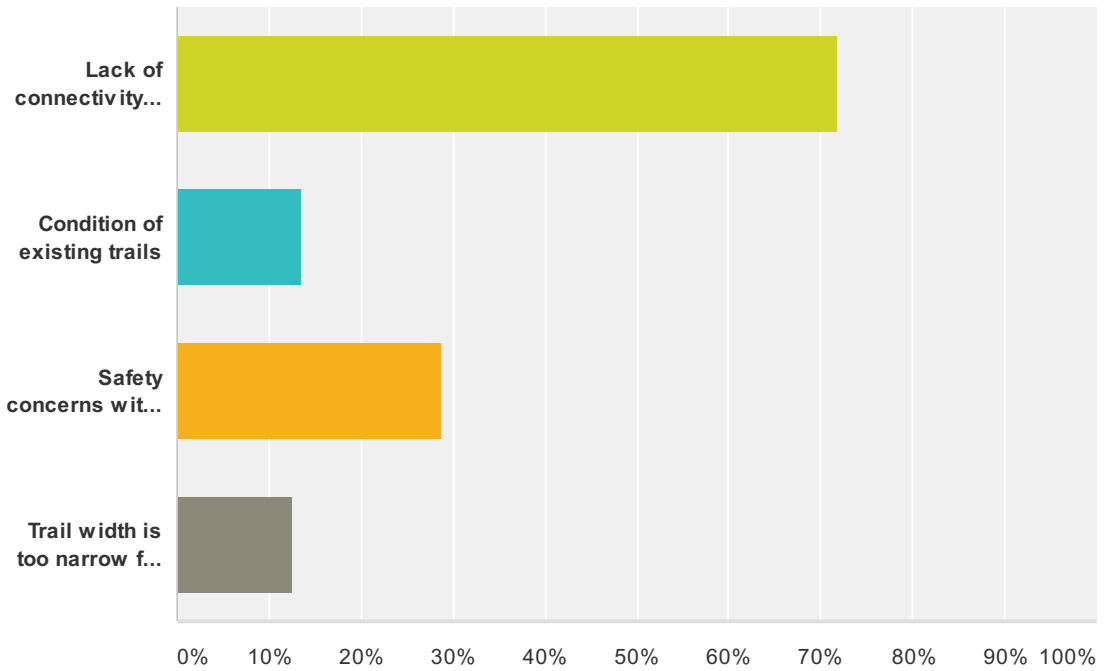
Answered: 184 Skipped: 40



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Less than 1 mile | 8.70% | 16 |
| Between 1-5 miles | 64.67% | 119 |
| Between 5-10 miles | 11.96% | 22 |
| 10+ miles | 6.52% | 12 |
| I don't use City's trail system | 8.15% | 15 |
| Total | | 184 |

Q18 What discourages you the most from using the City's trails?

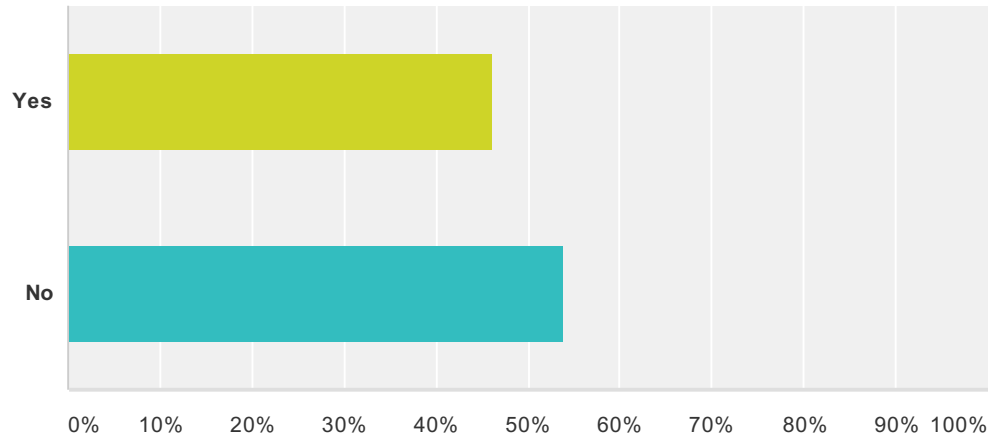
Answered: 184 Skipped: 40



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Lack of connectivity to where I want to go | 71.74% | 132 |
| Condition of existing trails | 13.59% | 25 |
| Safety concerns with crossings/traffic | 28.80% | 53 |
| Trail width is too narrow for pedestrians and bicycling | 12.50% | 23 |
| Total Respondents: 184 | | |

Q19 Do the current parks, trails, and open spaces accommodate year-round activities?

Answered: 184 Skipped: 40

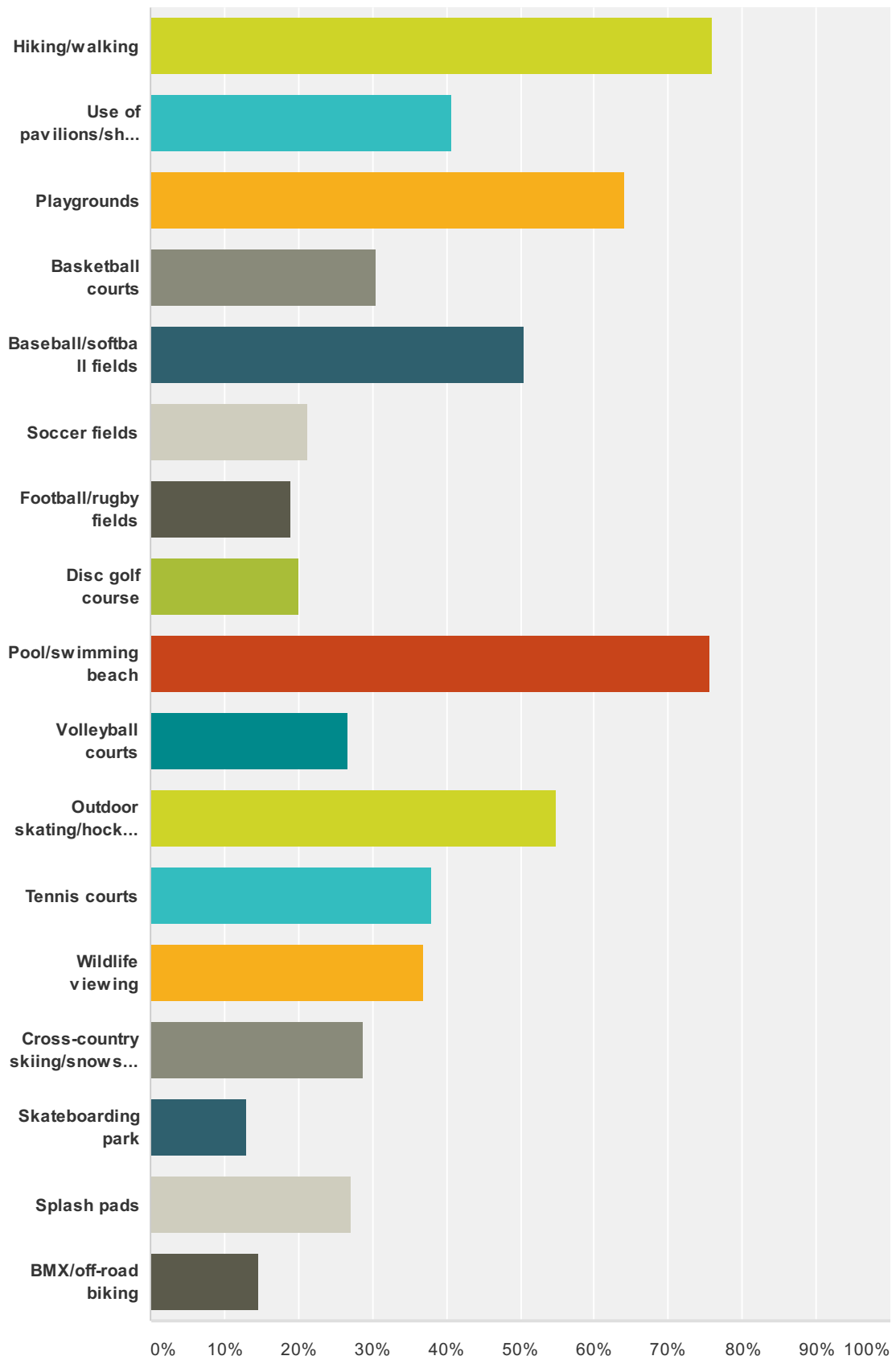


| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 46.20% 85 |
| No | 53.80% 99 |
| Total | 184 |

Q20 Which seasonal activities do you participate in or would you participate in if facilities were available?

Answered: 184 Skipped: 40

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Hiking/walking | 76.09% 140 |
| Use of pavilions/shelters | 40.76% 75 |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----|
| Playgrounds | 64.13% | 118 |
| Basketball courts | 30.43% | 56 |
| Baseball/softball fields | 50.54% | 93 |
| Soccer fields | 21.20% | 39 |
| Football/rugby fields | 19.02% | 35 |
| Disc golf course | 20.11% | 37 |
| Pool/swimming beach | 75.54% | 139 |
| Volleyball courts | 26.63% | 49 |
| Outdoor skating/hockey rink | 54.89% | 101 |
| Tennis courts | 38.04% | 70 |
| Wildlife viewing | 36.96% | 68 |
| Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing | 28.80% | 53 |
| Skateboarding park | 13.04% | 24 |
| Splash pads | 27.17% | 50 |
| BMX/off-road biking | 14.67% | 27 |
| Total Respondents: 184 | | |

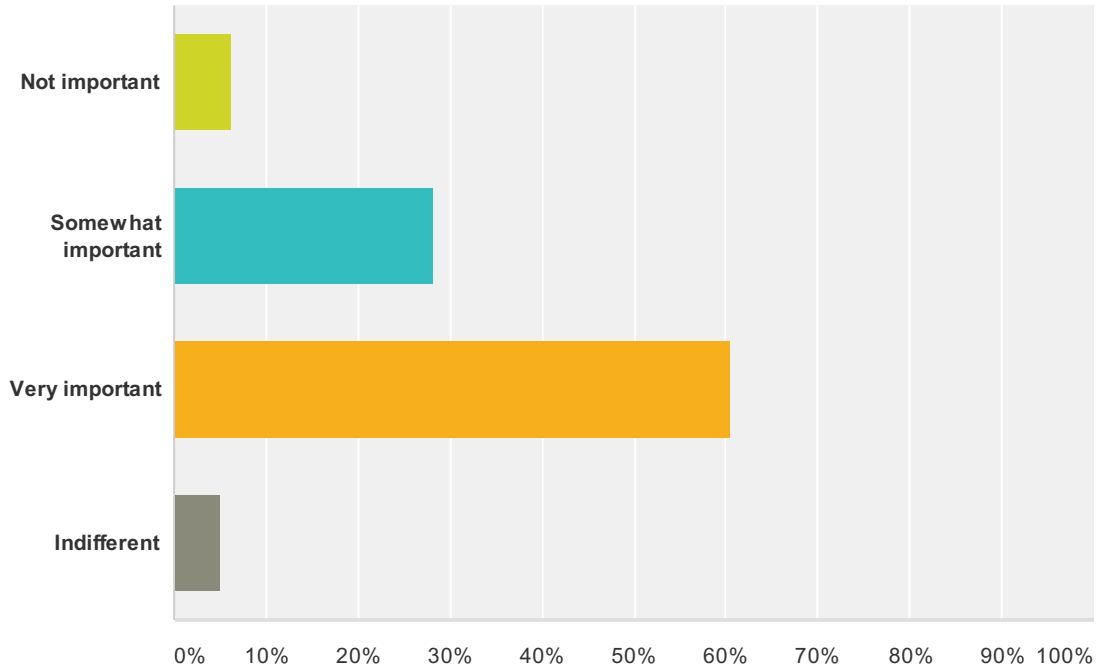
| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1 | bike trails | 4/21/2014 6:57 PM |
| 2 | Rollerblading | 4/15/2014 12:47 PM |
| 3 | need more of the splash pads! | 4/15/2014 12:41 PM |
| 4 | Lacrosse Field | 4/15/2014 12:00 PM |
| 5 | We really need more tennis courts | 4/15/2014 9:59 AM |
| 6 | POOL please!!!!!! | 4/15/2014 7:33 AM |
| 7 | bicycling | 4/15/2014 6:10 AM |
| 8 | lacrosse fields | 4/14/2014 10:26 PM |
| 9 | Lacrosse fields | 4/14/2014 10:26 PM |
| 10 | lacrosse | 4/14/2014 9:20 PM |
| 11 | lacrosse | 4/14/2014 9:15 PM |
| 12 | Good ol' tetherball! :) | 4/14/2014 2:54 PM |
| 13 | The city needs more outdoor hockey rinks. Tower rinks need updating and better supervision | 4/14/2014 2:03 PM |
| 14 | Would LOVE a splash pad/park in our community | 4/14/2014 12:46 PM |
| 15 | We really need better condition outdoor hockey rinks in FL | 4/14/2014 12:27 PM |
| 16 | The city is sorely lacking tennis courts. They should be at multiple parks, like one in each area of FL like Kulenkamp for starters | 4/13/2014 11:51 PM |
| 17 | dog park | 3/28/2014 8:50 PM |
| 18 | dog walking | 3/28/2014 2:36 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 19 | I wish I could sit under 100 year old oak trees at Lakeside Park but some iditic move by a park board headed by Karen Morehead destroyed all of them! | 3/28/2014 2:28 PM |
| 20 | Small Dog Park! | 3/28/2014 11:55 AM |

Q21 How important is it that the City incorporates sustainable practices/Best Management Practices in the parks and open space plan?

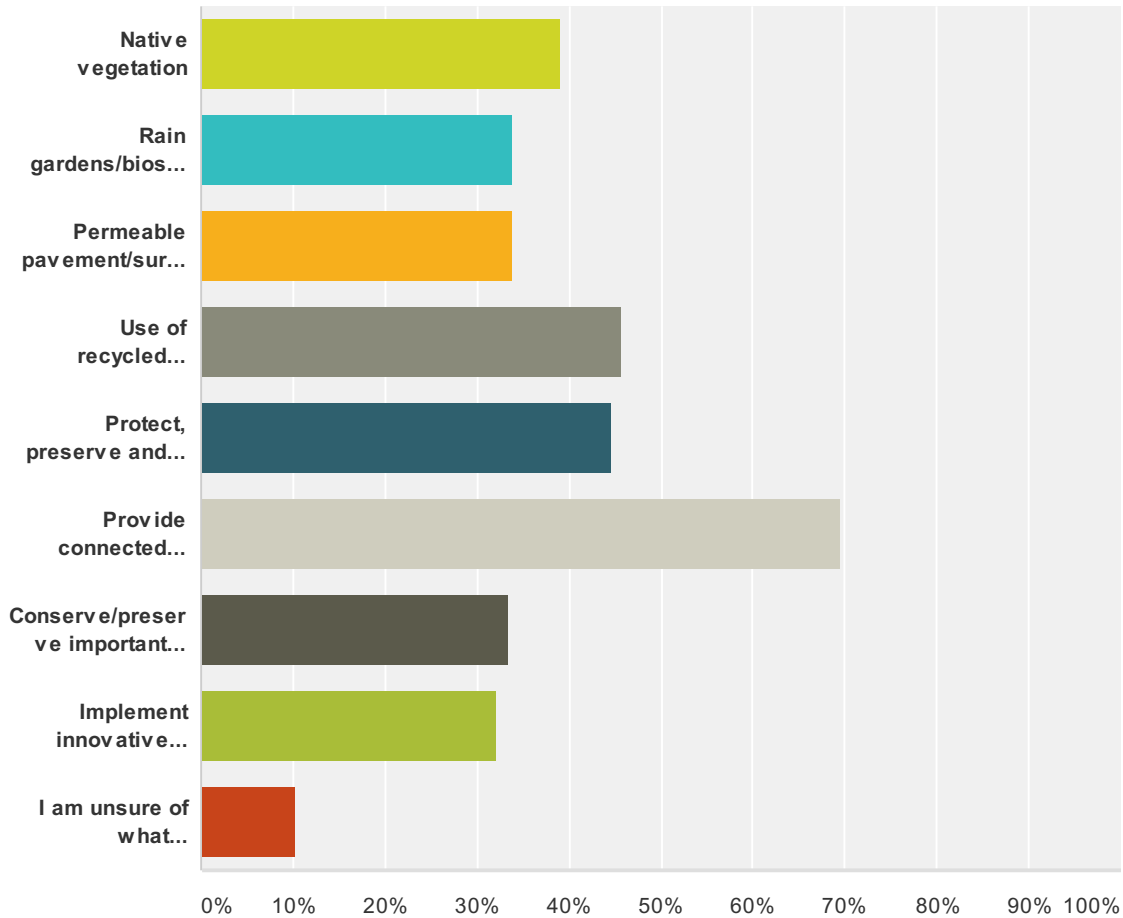
Answered: 177 Skipped: 47



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| Not important | 6.21% | 11 |
| Somewhat important | 28.25% | 50 |
| Very important | 60.45% | 107 |
| Indifferent | 5.08% | 9 |
| Total | | 177 |

Q22 What types of sustainable practices/Best Management Practices would you like to see incorporated into the City's parks and open spaces? (check all that apply)

Answered: 177 Skipped: 47



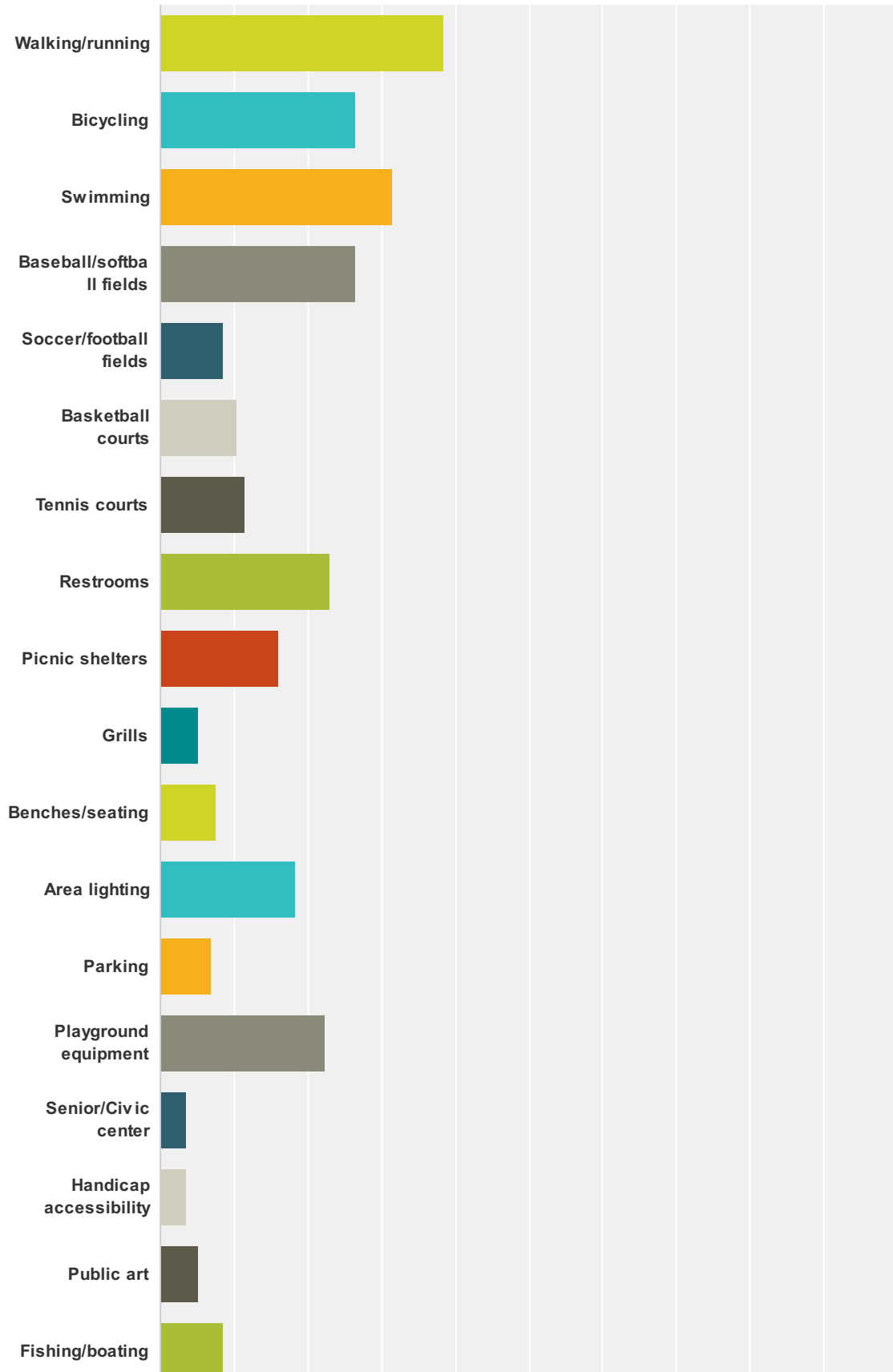
| Answer Choices | Responses |
|--|------------|
| Native vegetation | 38.98% 69 |
| Rain gardens/bioswales | 33.90% 60 |
| Permeable pavement/surfacing | 33.90% 60 |
| Use of recycled materials | 45.76% 81 |
| Protect, preserve and/or restore environmentally sensitive, unique, or natural features | 44.63% 79 |
| Provide connected routes for alternative transportation (walking, biking, etc.) | 69.49% 123 |
| Conserve/preserve important rural land and open spaces at the edge of town | 33.33% 59 |
| Implement innovative stormwater management techniques to treat run off prior to entering waterways | 32.20% 57 |
| I am unsure of what sustainable/Best Management Practices are | 10.17% 18 |
| Total Respondents: 177 | |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

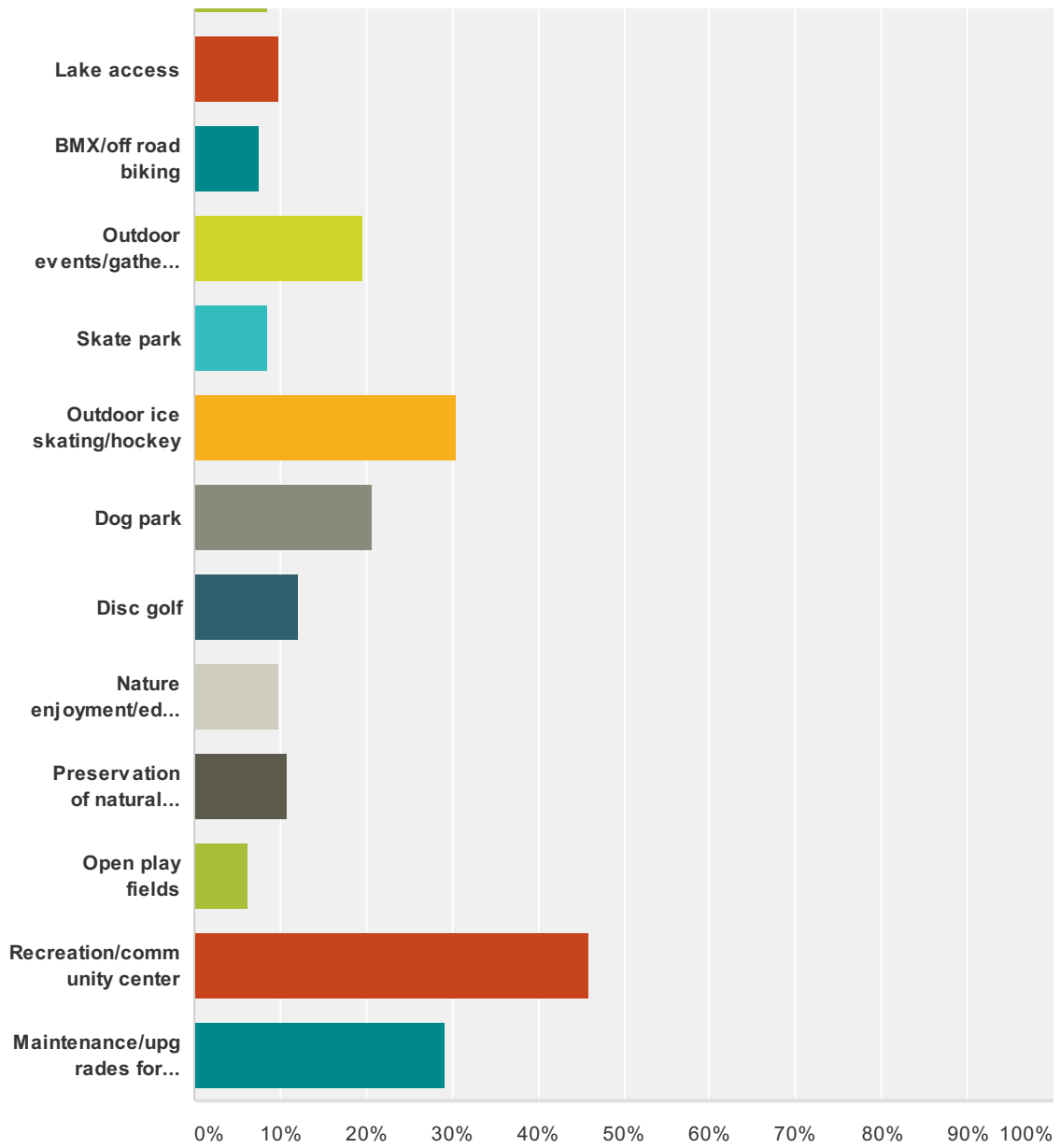
| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | Depends what type of area the park is in. It is important to preserve the natural area of the park and not cause damage to surrounding structures by changing land scape features. | 4/21/2014 8:14 PM |
| 2 | I don't kno which ones are better than the others | 4/15/2014 7:56 AM |
| 3 | Connected routes is MOST important | 4/14/2014 9:00 PM |
| 4 | most are unnecessary | 4/14/2014 4:20 PM |
| 5 | Keep trees if possible | 4/14/2014 2:56 PM |
| 6 | A park, by definition, is pretty sustainable. Let's not get too huggy feely and forget the goal. | 4/13/2014 11:54 PM |
| 7 | Not have a bunch of liberals like our mayor make the decisions. | 3/28/2014 2:31 PM |

Q23 What do you feel Forest Lake should focus on over the next 5-10 years? (choose 5)

Answered: 174 Skipped: 50



Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Walking/running | 38.51% 67 |
| Bicycling | 26.44% 46 |
| Swimming | 31.61% 55 |
| Baseball/softball fields | 26.44% 46 |
| Soccer/football fields | 8.62% 15 |
| Basketball courts | 10.34% 18 |
| Tennis courts | 11.49% 20 |
| Restrooms | 22.99% 40 |
| Picnic shelters | 16.09% 28 |
| Grills | 5.17% 9 |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|---|--------|----|
| Benches/seating | 7.47% | 13 |
| Area lighting | 18.39% | 32 |
| Parking | 6.90% | 12 |
| Playground equipment | 22.41% | 39 |
| Senior/Civic center | 3.45% | 6 |
| Handicap accessibility | 3.45% | 6 |
| Public art | 5.17% | 9 |
| Fishing/boating | 8.62% | 15 |
| Lake access | 9.77% | 17 |
| BMX/off road biking | 7.47% | 13 |
| Outdoor events/gathering | 19.54% | 34 |
| Skate park | 8.62% | 15 |
| Outdoor ice skating/hockey | 30.46% | 53 |
| Dog park | 20.69% | 36 |
| Disc golf | 12.07% | 21 |
| Nature enjoyment/education | 9.77% | 17 |
| Preservation of natural areas | 10.92% | 19 |
| Open play fields | 6.32% | 11 |
| Recreation/community center | 45.98% | 80 |
| Maintenance/upgrades for existing sites | 29.31% | 51 |
| Total Respondents: 174 | | |

| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1 | A paved bike/walking path East on 97 from Century past the golf course | 4/16/2014 5:05 PM |
| 2 | Protecting our lakes from invasive species/pollution. | 4/16/2014 12:22 PM |
| 3 | Get rid of swimmers itch in Forest Lake at the beach | 4/15/2014 12:15 PM |
| 4 | PUT HEAT IN THE ICE ARENA!!!!!!!!!! | 4/15/2014 7:56 AM |
| 5 | Lacrosse fields | 4/14/2014 10:28 PM |
| 6 | lacrosse fields | 4/14/2014 9:16 PM |
| 7 | with indoor pool | 4/14/2014 9:00 PM |
| 8 | significantly increasing money spent on parks | 4/14/2014 2:56 PM |
| 9 | Outdoor hockey rinks. We need more for the kids. | 4/14/2014 2:03 PM |
| 10 | Splash Park/community facility for several of these options | 4/14/2014 12:48 PM |
| 11 | Need better outdoor hockey rink; Tower Rinks are in poor condition and poorly ran | 4/14/2014 12:28 PM |
| 12 | Lighting near the FLAAA Sports Center is horrible | 4/14/2014 12:03 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 13 | Dog parks are a good idea in MPLS etc. but not necessary out here. Besides my neighbors use my yard as their dog park as well as snowmobile trail and I've been told I should like that. Can we focus on improving people in this town? | 4/13/2014 11:54 PM |
| 14 | more sidewalks within the communities | 4/13/2014 1:50 PM |
| 15 | would LOVE a dog park! | 4/12/2014 11:44 PM |
| 16 | Shade cover like trees and canopies | 4/12/2014 11:13 PM |
| 17 | Archery Range | 4/10/2014 7:16 PM |
| 18 | Fix and improve what we have, add tried and true items like tennis courts and b-ball courts - those never go out of style | 4/10/2014 7:01 PM |
| 19 | Plowing the sidewalks around the parks--specifically Summerfield Park. I find it pathetic that my daughter who uses a wheelchair, has no hope of getting just to the local gas station on Everton Ave because the city does not do any plowing whatsoever of these city sidewalks until March. They should be plowing the sidewalks as it is their responsibility. Further, when I submitted a formal letter to the community asking them to make a ramp for my daughter at Summerfield Park over 3 years ago, I recvd a verbal "yes they should be able to do that" and still nothing. Make parks accessible, as in the rubberized mat materials and not sand or rubber pieces. | 4/1/2014 10:40 PM |
| 20 | Safe path around the lake | 4/1/2014 9:49 PM |
| 21 | would LOVE to see the ymca or a rec/community center in fl | 3/29/2014 2:05 AM |
| 22 | Cross country skiing/snowshoeing | 3/28/2014 5:17 PM |
| 23 | Park expansion into areas not serviced today. | 3/28/2014 2:31 PM |
| 24 | Splash pad | 3/28/2014 1:16 PM |
| 25 | Splash pad!!! | 3/28/2014 1:05 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

Q24 Are there any additional comments or issues related to Forest Lake's parks, trails and open spaces system which you would like to share?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 158

| # | Responses | Date |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1 | We are long overdue in getting a community center, and creating a draw to Forest Lake. | 4/21/2014 8:17 PM |
| 2 | trail around lake | 4/21/2014 6:59 PM |
| 3 | I would like to see a connecting trail system that goes in a circle. | 4/19/2014 8:54 AM |
| 4 | We NEED outdoor ice hockey/skating. Possibly even create an event for the community. And what about the ice fishing tournament? | 4/16/2014 3:29 PM |
| 5 | condition of community Fields are embarrassing. | 4/16/2014 4:51 AM |
| 6 | We would desperately like to see current lands cared for in terms of native species preservation, invasive species removal, and opportunities to enjoy the natural side of Forest Lake. A bike or walking trail along North Shore Trail would be a HUGE plus- we see many people walking and biking this narrow winding road at great risk to their safety. Many neighborhoods in the area do not have access to good walking trails, streets, or parks. | 4/15/2014 8:32 PM |
| 7 | Field lighting | 4/15/2014 6:41 PM |
| 8 | Healthy, fit, educated people leave this area for better communities with nice trails, parks and schools | 4/15/2014 6:26 PM |
| 9 | Accessibly to trails is key | 4/15/2014 5:19 PM |
| 10 | Please please please install a paved trail/sidewalk connecting Everton Avenue to Lake Street so that the kids in the Everton/Ethan neighborhood may safely ride their bikes to school or to the existing trail. Such a busy road and way too dangerous for kids to bike alongside the speeding cars. Thank you for your consideration. | 4/15/2014 4:37 PM |
| 11 | don't ban everything the kids want to do at the parks. They will not use them | 4/15/2014 3:18 PM |
| 12 | No | 4/15/2014 12:57 PM |
| 13 | It would be nice to have a Trail that went around Forest Lake | 4/15/2014 12:04 PM |
| 14 | Many of the parks are run down and have not been kept up. Some how some way there needs to be a rehabilitation program for bringing these facilities back to life. | 4/15/2014 12:01 PM |
| 15 | It would be great to have more parks and have them connected via trails | 4/15/2014 10:03 AM |
| 16 | Need restrooms on bike trail. Need connection to trails on St. Croix and Pine Pt. | 4/15/2014 9:37 AM |
| 17 | Forest Lake needs a community center and lights over the concrete pad next to Fenway park. That pad should be used as an outdoor rink in the winter. | 4/15/2014 9:32 AM |
| 18 | I would like to see a nature path through the woods that are southeast of Fenway park | 4/15/2014 9:16 AM |
| 19 | Heat in the ice arena and walking/biking trail on Hwy 97 | 4/15/2014 7:56 AM |
| 20 | I think trail connectivity and a pool of some kind would be my top 2 concerns. | 4/15/2014 7:36 AM |
| 21 | The condition of the landscaping at the Fenway fields parking lot is embarrassing. The weeds are out of control and the mulch has been ignored for years. Forest Lake needs to take ownership of the parks it has to make them an attractive place to be and then add to the fields that are most frequently used to enhance and improve them. | 4/14/2014 10:31 PM |
| 22 | They are not maintained well. The goose shit prevents everyone from using the parks and beaches. There is no where to bring dogs. | 4/14/2014 10:10 PM |
| 23 | No | 4/14/2014 9:31 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

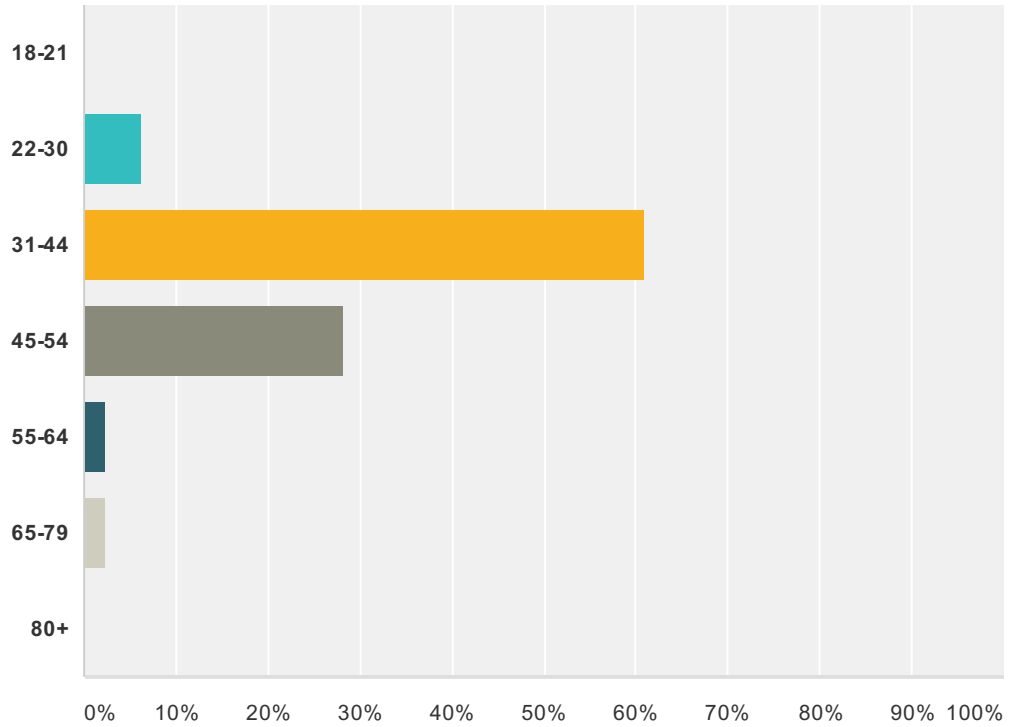
| | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 24 | Need a trail around the lake!! | 4/14/2014 9:05 PM |
| 25 | I would LOVE to see a bike bath along Hwy 97. There are so many homes along 97 and it is so difficult to access "town" from areas east of Castlewood. | 4/14/2014 9:02 PM |
| 26 | we need the ice rinks in Forest Lake to be kept up during the winter months. Our young children are having a hard time finding ice time for hockey or leisurely skating. | 4/14/2014 8:15 PM |
| 27 | horse back riding trails | 4/14/2014 7:50 PM |
| 28 | I live within 1 block of Southview Park and never allow my kids to go there. It is such a high school drinking/drug hang out that it make me nervous to allow them to play there, which is very sad since we are so close. | 4/14/2014 7:28 PM |
| 29 | The security and poor descion to place parks so far out of the way that they cannot be seen or see what is taking place especially Southview Park I do not feel safe letting my kids go on their own to certain parks...really go see what happens on a Friday or Saturday night at the southview park...party on dude!!! thats all that can be said about that. | 4/14/2014 6:11 PM |
| 30 | I think that the city really needs to consider building a community center. At Fenway fields it would be great to have a few turf fields for Lacrosse, football and Soccer along with tennis and basketball courts. | 4/14/2014 4:41 PM |
| 31 | no | 4/14/2014 4:20 PM |
| 32 | Are sidewalks considered trails? Most people don't make that connection if you do. | 4/14/2014 2:56 PM |
| 33 | Sell the smaller parks and make a few really nice ones. | 4/14/2014 2:08 PM |
| 34 | I would like to see more outdoor hockey rinks especially on the north east side of town. Kulenkamp park could use one. | 4/14/2014 2:05 PM |
| 35 | Really need to do a better job of upkeep of the outdoor ice skating/hockey rinks. Need bette lighting at the crosswalk at the ice arena parking area | 4/14/2014 1:15 PM |
| 36 | Make FL appealing so we're not all driving to other towns to use facilities. | 4/14/2014 1:07 PM |
| 37 | Yes, its ridiculous that you spend money on keeping the warming house going with heat and paid attendents at Tower Park ice rink, but yet you say you don't have the budget to flood it to keep the ice in decent condition. If you can't keep the ice decent, why bother keeping it open and spending our tax dollars to have something open that isn't usable? | 4/14/2014 12:57 PM |
| 38 | no | 4/14/2014 12:37 PM |
| 39 | Need more outdoor hockey rinks | 4/14/2014 12:28 PM |
| 40 | When trying to choose why I use the trails I could only select 1 option- also used for going to the library, fenway downtown and visting friends | 4/14/2014 12:19 PM |
| 41 | we are in need of a community center - safe place for kids to play/gather and be active. Zero entry pool would be excellent for safety and young children | 4/14/2014 10:45 AM |
| 42 | Keep and maintain what we have and improve as we go along. Add some tennis courts in the old "township" area like Kulenkamp | 4/13/2014 11:54 PM |
| 43 | The playground equipment at Beltz Park is excellent and offers some more non traditional types of play for the kids. It would be great to see this at more parks. | 4/13/2014 1:51 PM |
| 44 | Need parking and safe way for kids on bikes to get to trails. | 4/13/2014 12:22 PM |
| 45 | I love the up north feeling on the trails. I wish the trails by the Forest Lake High School were longer. Really wish there was a dog park even if it is small. | 4/12/2014 11:45 PM |
| 46 | Forest lake would benefit from wading pools - we frequent Minneapolis parks more in summer due to this availability | 4/12/2014 7:38 PM |
| 47 | shawn silvera park is in poor shape. lots of vandalism, canopy is damaged, swings gone, toys gone or destroyed | 4/12/2014 6:55 PM |
| 48 | Forest Lake area lacks Adult sportmanship such as archery ranges. I usually have to drive to other cities for these activities. | 4/10/2014 7:17 PM |

Forest Lake Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan

| | | |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 49 | A lot of attention seems to be on "trails" and that turns people off, at least those against most things anyway. Please concentrate on parks such as Kulenkamp - add lighting, upgrade equipment, tennis, basketball, etc. Fix and upkeep what we have at all parks. | 4/10/2014 7:03 PM |
| 50 | Focus on upgrades and access | 4/4/2014 7:41 AM |
| 51 | Please take a look at Shawn Silvera park. Lots of damage to shelter, needs more tire pieces and adhering foam mats to bottom of playground. So much damage from big kids/ teens. Looks terrible. | 4/3/2014 10:32 AM |
| 52 | The once nicely groomed Kulenkamp park has become very poor over last few years | 4/2/2014 8:08 PM |
| 53 | don't close them | 4/2/2014 5:23 PM |
| 54 | Bike/walking trail around the lake! | 4/2/2014 6:37 AM |
| 55 | number sixteen had multiple answers but I could only select one. The trail system is something that is used not only for exercise but also for connecting locations or destinations, I love to get on a bike and go to a park, picnic, etc. but our trail system as I know it does not allow for this. | 4/2/2014 5:33 AM |
| 56 | See previous question | 4/1/2014 10:41 PM |
| 57 | Make walking/ biking path around lake | 4/1/2014 9:50 PM |
| 58 | Too many parks, spend more money on maintenance and upgrades in fewer parks. | 4/1/2014 6:09 PM |
| 59 | DOG PARK with separate small dog area | 3/28/2014 10:00 PM |
| 60 | How can we as a neighborhood help make Sherwood Park a REAL park? | 3/28/2014 8:58 PM |
| 61 | none | 3/28/2014 4:24 PM |
| 62 | Would like to see a running/biking path around a 3 lakes of Forest Lake. Would like to see a community center attached to the ice arena with perhaps a YMCA or other exercise facility. Would like to see additional outdoor ice skating/hockey rinks in Forest Lake | 3/28/2014 3:18 PM |
| 63 | This survey forces answers in certain questions. It's a total pile of garbage as far as I am concerned. | 3/28/2014 2:31 PM |
| 64 | use this money to balance the budget and stop spending | 3/28/2014 1:33 PM |
| 65 | need more | 3/28/2014 1:09 PM |
| 66 | Would love to see a small dog park! | 3/28/2014 11:57 AM |

Q25 What is the age of the person completing this survey?

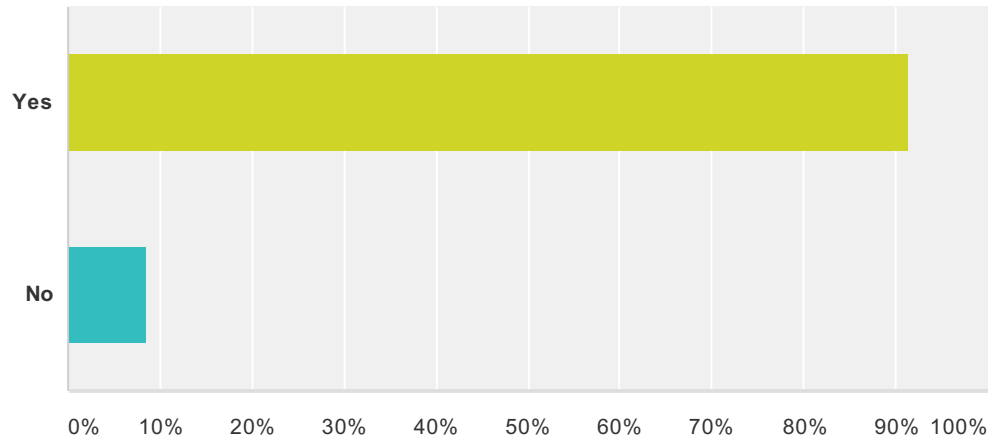
Answered: 177 Skipped: 47



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| 18-21 | 0.00% 0 |
| 22-30 | 6.21% 11 |
| 31-44 | 61.02% 108 |
| 45-54 | 28.25% 50 |
| 55-64 | 2.26% 4 |
| 65-79 | 2.26% 4 |
| 80+ | 0.00% 0 |
| Total | 177 |

Q26 Do you have children in your household?

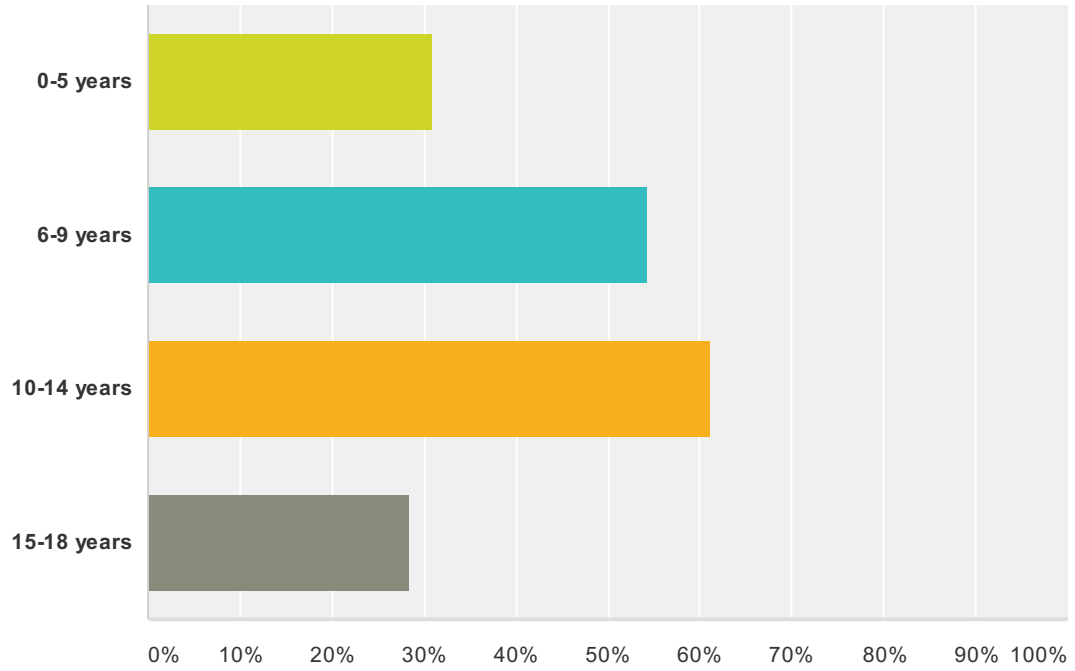
Answered: 177 Skipped: 47



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 91.53% 162 |
| No | 8.47% 15 |
| Total | 177 |

Q27 What are the age ranges of children in your household?

Answered: 162 Skipped: 62



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----|
| 0-5 years | 30.86% | 50 |
| 6-9 years | 54.32% | 88 |
| 10-14 years | 61.11% | 99 |
| 15-18 years | 28.40% | 46 |
| Total Respondents: 162 | | |

