

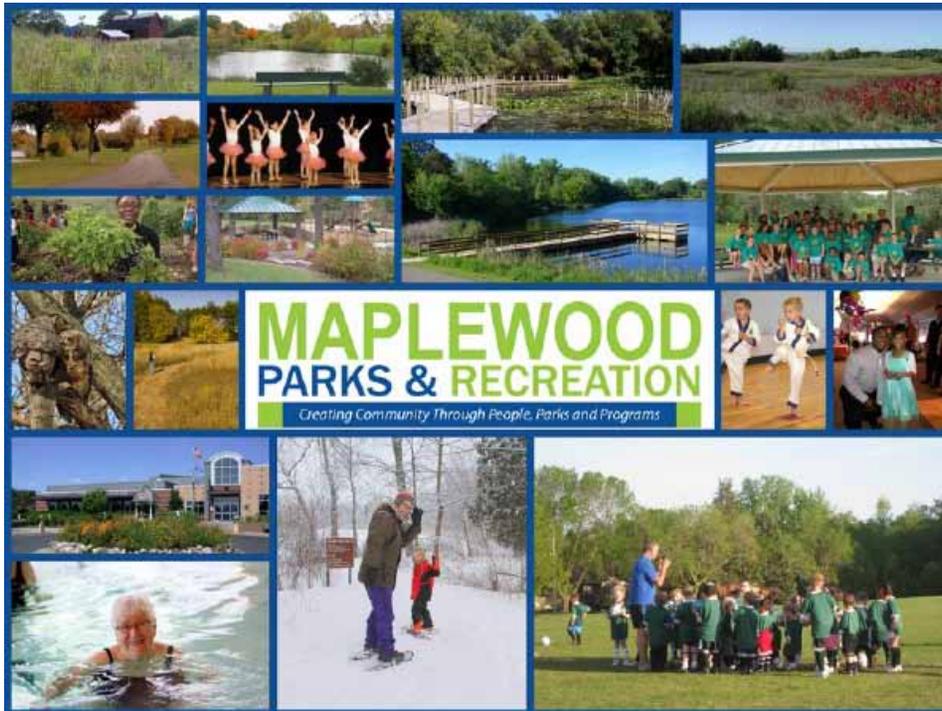
MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION

DRAFT

SYSTEM MASTER PLAN
JANUARY 6, 2015

CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION

JANUARY 12, 2015



TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION

- › Overview of January 6 Draft Plan
- › Priorities, Cost, and Funding
- › Discussion

MASTER PLAN PURPOSE

- › A STRATEGIC PLAN for park and recreation improvements and operations
- › Assure that the park system continues to fully MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS now and in the future
- › BUILD CHAMPIONS for parks and recreation and ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS as part of the process

Thank you for this opportunity to learn more about future park plans and share our opinions. We love our parks – they make our city better.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS



Over 800 residents have participated in the planning process



- › Culmination of a two year process
 - *16 Task Force Meetings*
 - *11 Community Meetings/ Events*
 - *Statistically Valid City-Wide Parks Needs Assessment Survey completed in early 2014*
 - *Focus group meetings - arts and culture, environment and natural resources, and athletics*
 - *Outreach to teens and business community*
 - *Input from City Staff across departments*

DRAFT MASTER PLAN

- › Chapter 1: Introduction
- › Chapter 2: Trends and a Changing Maplewood
- › Chapter 3: Existing Conditions and Needs
- › Chapter 4: Where We are Going
- › Chapter 5: Strategic plan
- › Chapter 6: Priorities, Toolkit & Using the Plan

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

› A great parks and recreation system contributes to a great community

- *Resident Health*
- *Community Health*
- *City Image*
- *Quality of Life*

Parks bring families, families maintain a good city. Lets maintain and improve what we have.



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

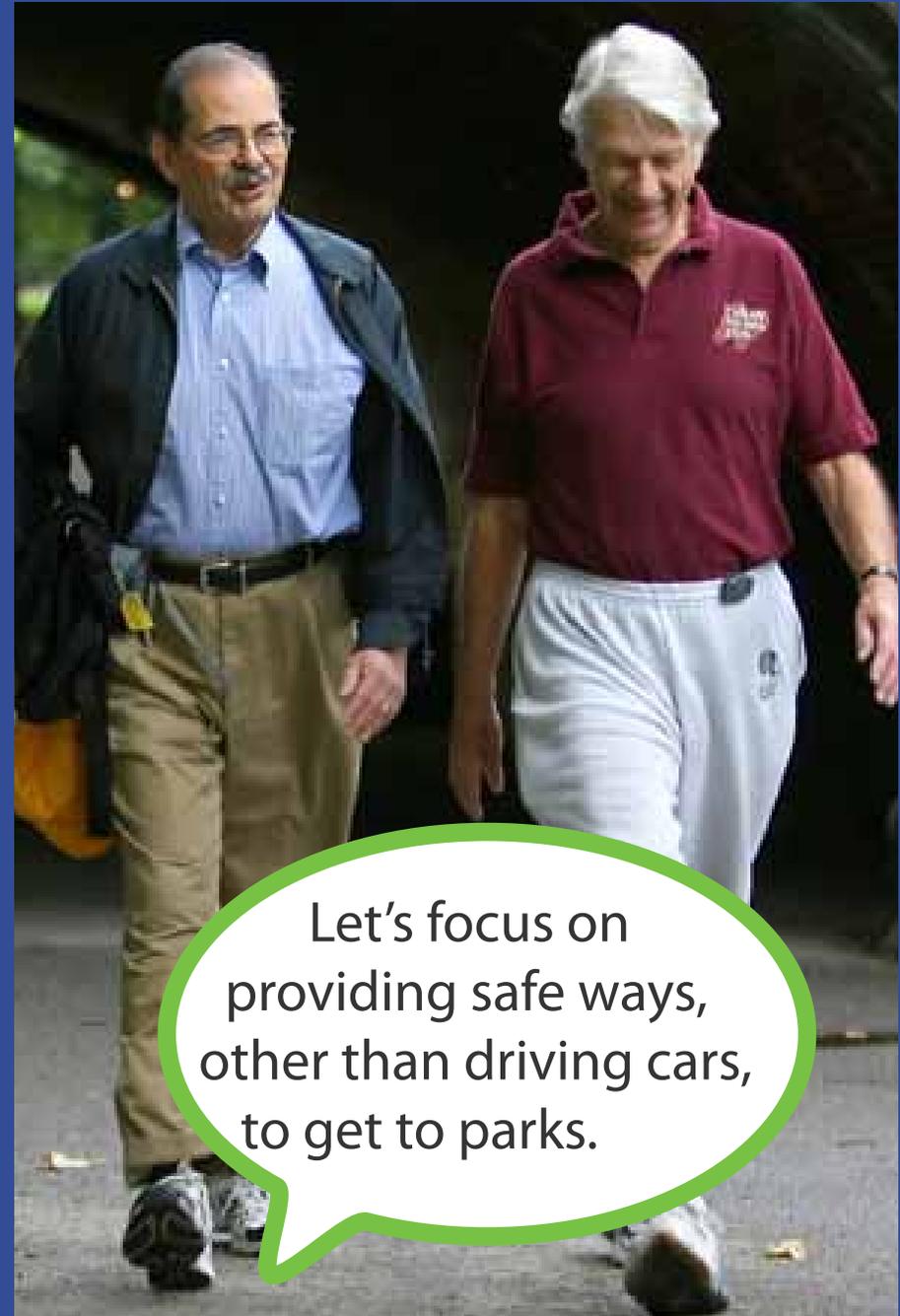
- › Master Plan sets stage for reinvestment in the parks and recreation system over the next 20 years.



CHAPTER 2: TRENDS

HOW WE SEE THINGS CHANGING

- › Modest Population Growth
- › Increasingly Diverse
- › Aging Actively
- › Millennials Behave Differently
- › Trails
- › Health Conscious



Let's focus on providing safe ways, other than driving cars, to get to parks.

CHAPTER 2: TRENDS

HOW WE SEE THINGS CHANGING

- › Non Traditional Sports
- › Quality over Quantity
- › Environmentally conscious
- › Climate Change
- › Safety Concerns
- › Public Art



Love
the idea of food
production in Parks and
demonstration gardens
with native plants.

CHAPTER 3: WHERE WE ARE TODAY

OVERVIEW

- › Over 930 acres of parks, preserves, and open space.
- › Over 1,000 acres of county, state, and agency owned land.
- › 35 Parks and 15 Preserves.
- › 18% of land within the City is park or open space.
- › Approximately 130 miles of sidewalk and on and off-road trails.
- › 3 Regional parks.
- › 6 County parks.

I think the City does a wonderful job with its parks. We need to preserve and utilize them as much as possible.

CHAPTER 3: WHERE WE ARE TODAY

THE GOOD NEWS

- › Excellent access to parks and natural areas.
- › Well loved neighborhood parks.
- › High number of trail miles, most residents are in close proximity to trails.
- › Leader in natural area protection, sustainable development, and maintenance practices.
- › The Maplewood Community Center is the most used facility.
- › Diverse programs.
- › Great staff.
- › Existing plans for key parks to build on.

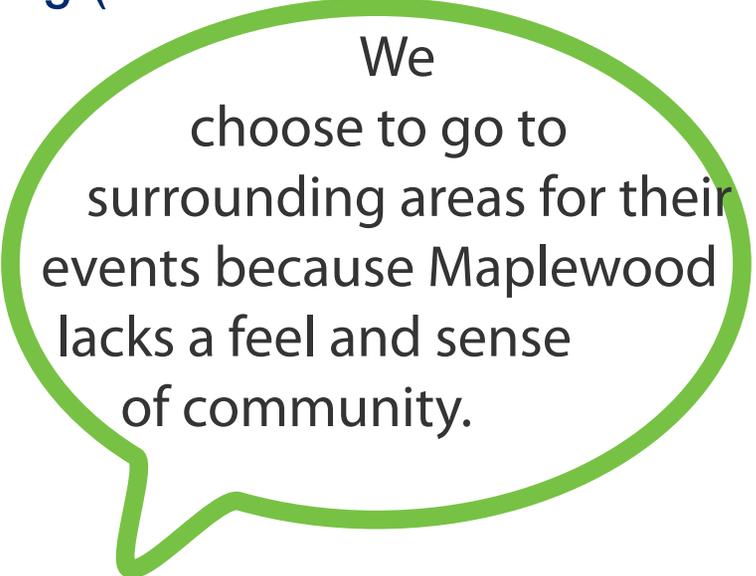


We truly enjoy all the trails and parks we have.

CHAPTER 3: WHERE WE ARE TODAY

THE NEEDS

- › Renovation of older parks: replace facilities, add support amenities, and improve accessibility.
- › Trail system connectivity.
- › Park standardization across the system (signage, benches, design standards, asset management).
- › More unique parks through attention to aesthetics, arts, history, and culture.
- › Places and programs for community gathering (at all scales).
- › Continued leadership in natural area preservation and sustainability.
- › Remain financially sustainable.
- › Specialized facilities that respond to demographic and recreation trends.



We
choose to go to
surrounding areas for their
events because Maplewood
lacks a feel and sense
of community.

CHAPTER 4: MISSION, VISION, PRINCIPLES

“The mission of the Maplewood Parks and Recreation Department is to provide a community environment for all citizens to participate in and enjoy cultural and recreational activities on an equitable basis.”

Vision for Parks and Recreation

To help create a vibrant community that embraces diversity, celebrates arts and culture, values health and wellness, and promotes stewardship of the environment.

Guiding Principles



Safe and Welcoming Parks



Connect People and Places



Encourage Health and Wellness



Promote Environmental Stewardship



Inspire Creativity and Learning



Financial Sustainability

CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

› 5 Topic Areas:

- *Parks and Recreation Facilities*
 - *Trails*
 - *Natural Areas and Greenways*
 - *Programs*
 - *Arts and Culture*
-
- **Underlying Values: Safe and Welcoming Parks & Environmental Sustainability**

› Each topic has associated recommendations and strategies

- *47 Recommendations*
- *Does not include all possible strategies, actions or policies*



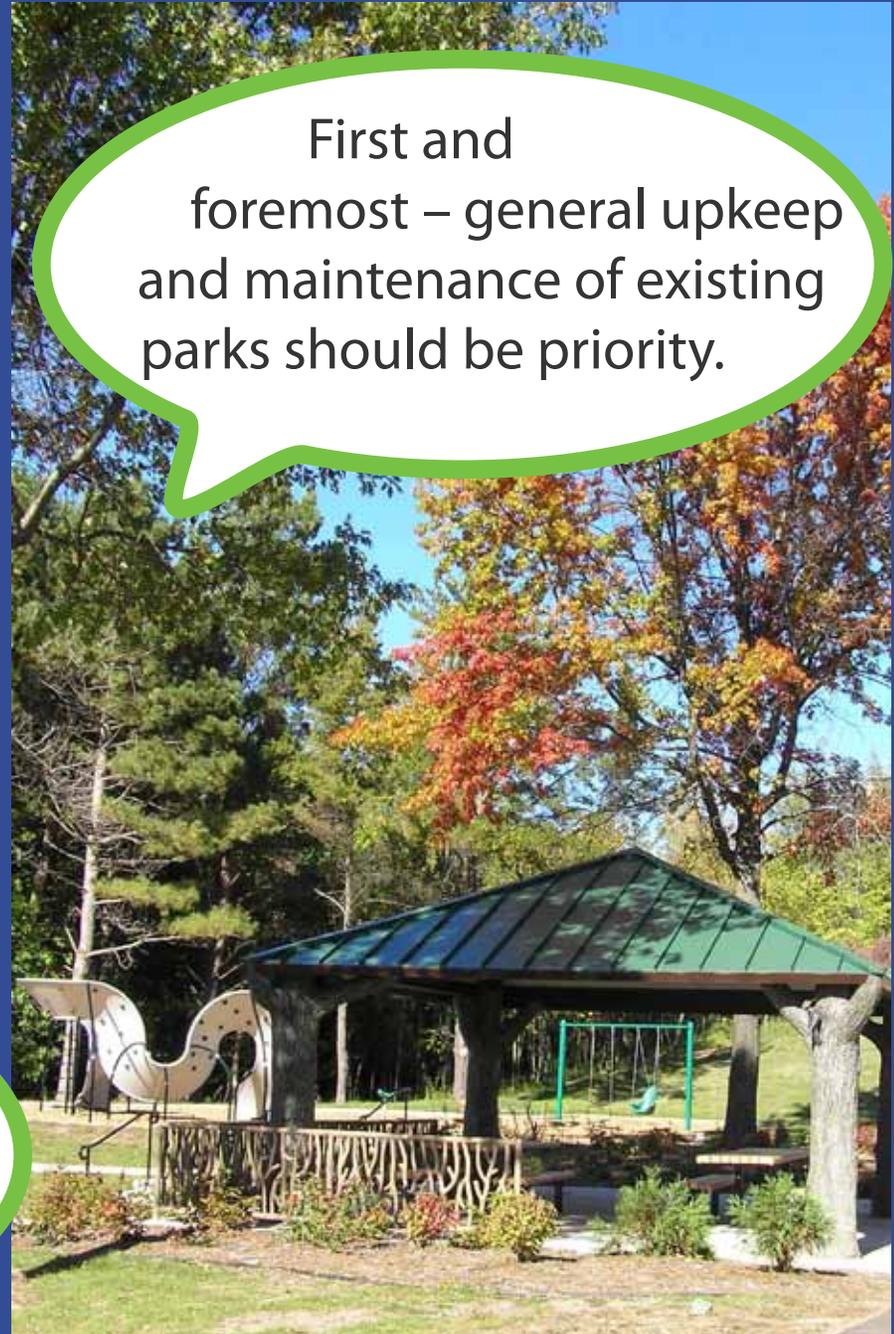
CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

- › Welcoming parks
- › Design for Community Gathering
- › Updating the facility mix
- › Regular maintenance & equipment upgrades
- › Community engagement in park planning process
- › Sustainability

Bathrooms in parks are very important to me.

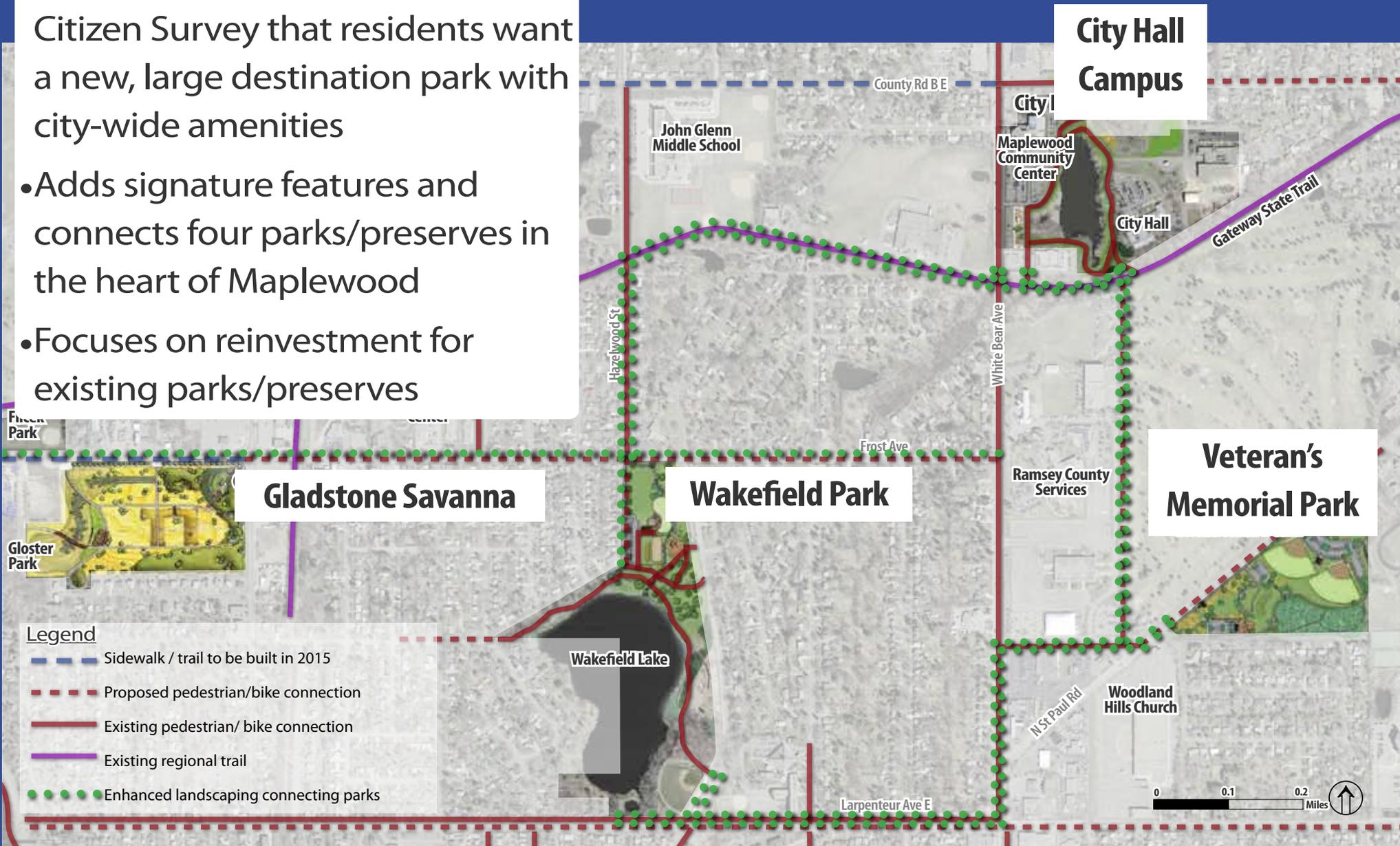
First and foremost – general upkeep and maintenance of existing parks should be priority.



CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

SIGNATURE PARKS CONCEPT

- Responds to a key finding from the 2014 Parks & Recreation Citizen Survey that residents want a new, large destination park with city-wide amenities
- Adds signature features and connects four parks/preserves in the heart of Maplewood
- Focuses on reinvestment for existing parks/preserves



CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

WAKEFIELD PARK

The Wakefield Park concept includes a mix of active and passive programming, providing new and improved areas for picnicking and gathering, while preserving much of the park for passive recreation and exploration.

Key Features

- Signature splash pad
- Winter recreation destination includes ice skating, hockey, snowshoeing, and sledding
- Rentable, multi-purpose building features flexible classroom space, kitchen facilities, warming house, restrooms (open sunrise to sunset), and changing rooms
- Stormwater demonstration feature & shoreline buffer plantings in partnership with the watershed district



A free splash pad would be great.



Splash pad



Picnicking

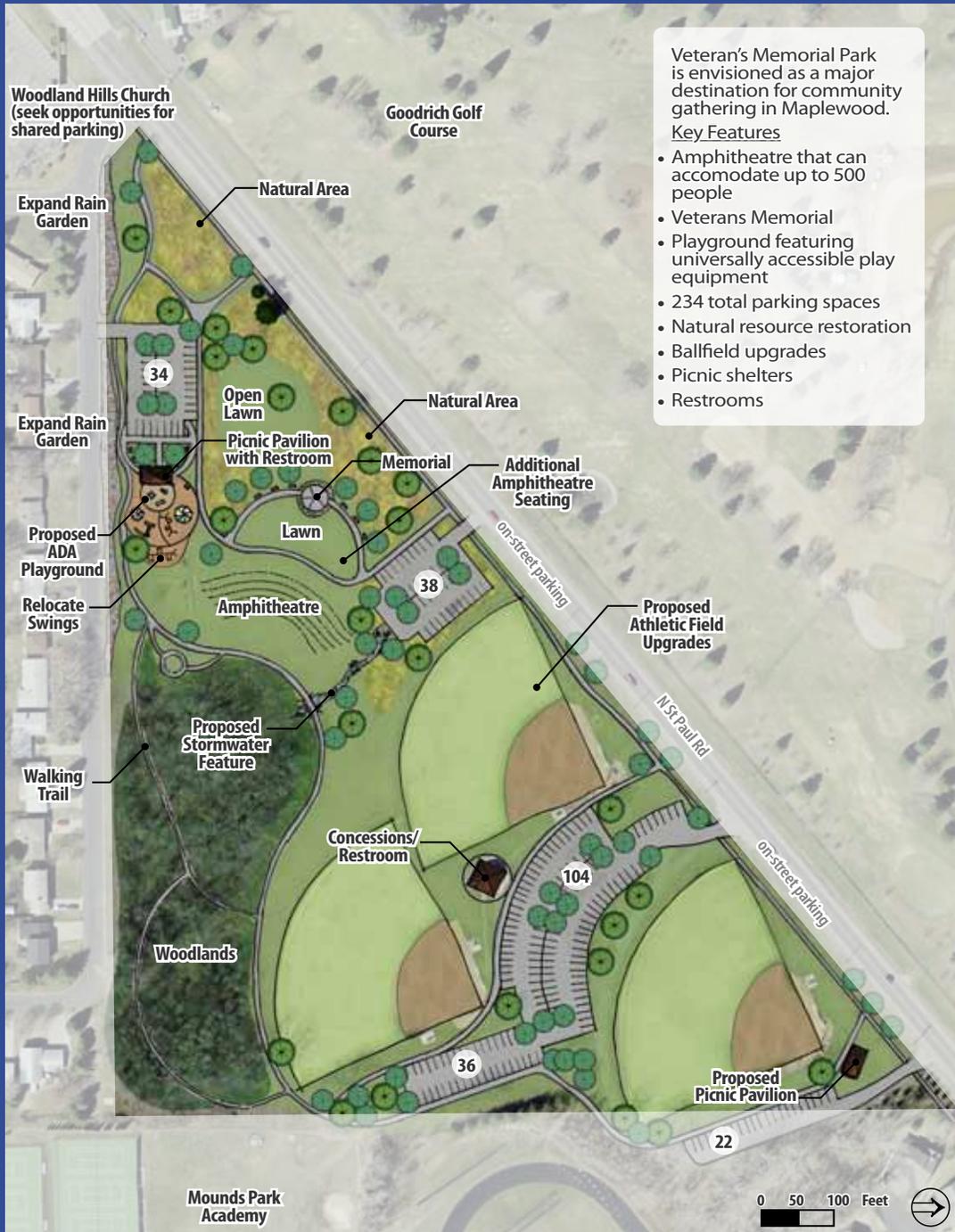
CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

CITY HALL CAMPUS



CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK



CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

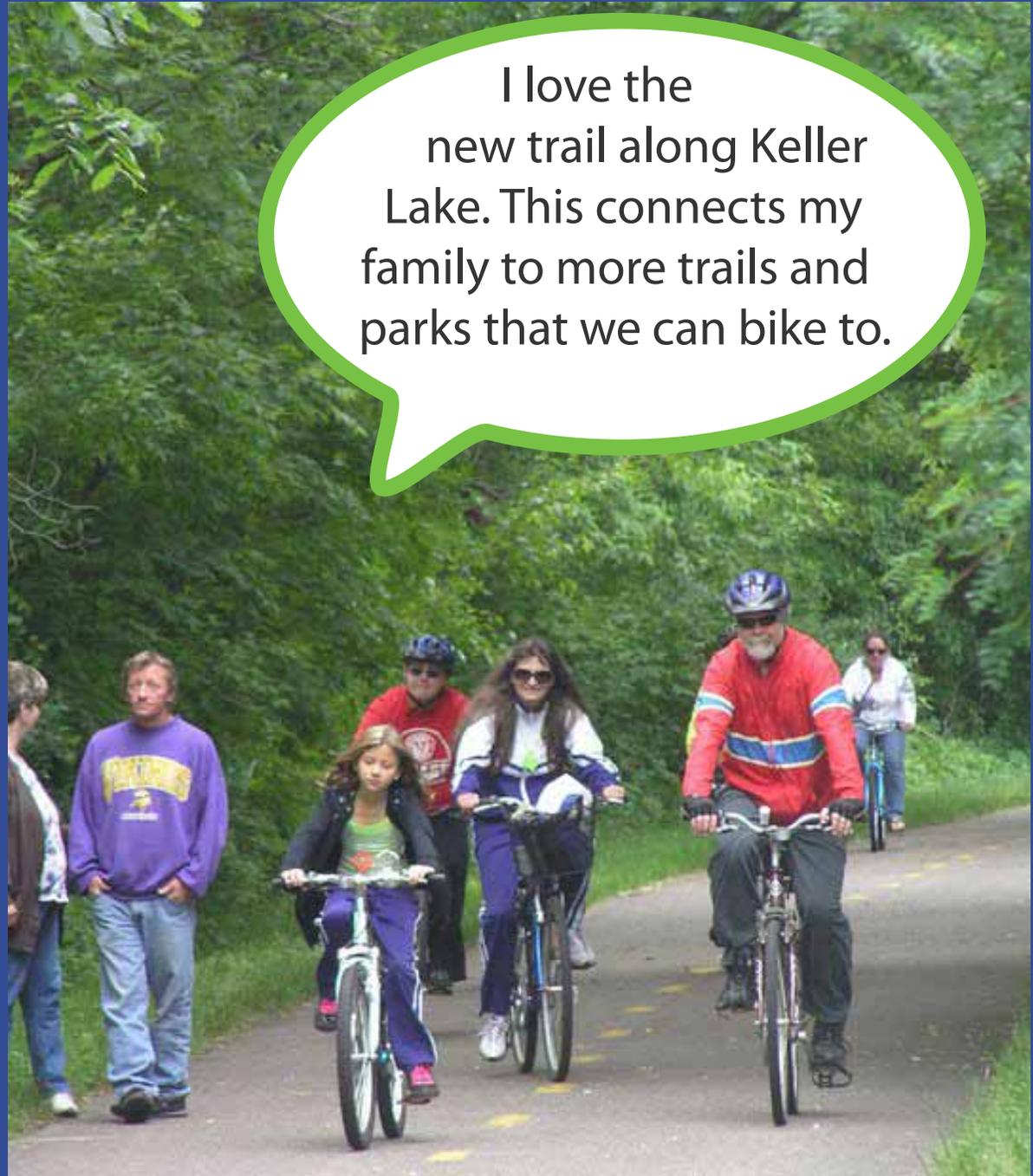
GLADSTONE SAVANNA PRESERVE



CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

TRAILS

- › Safe, connected, city-wide system
- › Expand the trail network in parks and preserves
 - *1/2 mile loops*
 - *ADA accessible trail in each park service area*



I love the new trail along Keller Lake. This connects my family to more trails and parks that we can bike to.

CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

NATURAL AREAS & GREENWAYS

› Establish a system of community and neighborhood preserves

- *Community Preserves (Maplewood Nature Center, Prairie Farm, Gladstone Savanna, Fish Creek)*

› Create Protected Ecological Area

› Nature Center Master Plan

› Greenway Routes

› Integrate natural resource management into parks and preserves



Restore the natural ecosystems in the preserves and larger parks to the best extent possible.



CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

PROGRAMS

- › **Community Events**
 - *Integrate arts and cultural programming*
- › **Maintain high quality programs for all ages**
- › **Financial accessibility**
- › **Community Center as the hub**
- › **Continue to make sustainability education and outreach a priority**



Offer programs across the city to connect residents with the natural world in a natural setting (enhance Nature Center).

CHAPTER 5: HOW WE WILL GET THERE

ARTS & CULTURE

- › Expand partnerships with nearby communities
- › Create a Friends Group/ Community Advisory Committee
- › Integrate arts into promotion of environmental stewardship and History
- › Integrate arts into infrastructure



CHAPTER 6: IMPLEMENTATION

- › Toolkit
- › Funding
- › Priorities

Maintain capital assets: MCC, Nature Center, paved trails and parking lots, buildings, etc.



CHAPTER 6: PRIORITIES, TOOLKIT & USING THE PLAN

TOOLKIT ITEMS

- › Program and Project Review Process
- › Park Classifications
- › Activity Delivery Guidelines
- › Recreation Facility Service Standards
- › General Capital and Operations and Maintenance Costs

DECISION PRINCIPLES CHECKLIST

- Is the action economically and environmentally sustainable in the short and long term?
- Will the action help engage and connect people, parks, trails and open spaces?
- Does the action support a city-wide system of recreational facilities and parks?
- Will the action encourage community gathering?
- Will the action build community awareness and advocacy for recreation and parks?
- Does the action increase awareness of history, culture, and art?
- Have life cycle and operational costs been adequately addressed?
- Does the action reflect different needs for different neighborhoods?
- Does the action serve an unmet need?
- Does the action create new recreation opportunities?
- Does the action inspire community pride?
- Have all facility and partnership options been evaluated before deciding to add infrastructure or programs?



DISCUSSION & NEXT STEPS

Discussion

- › Next Steps
- › January 21, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission Adoption
- › January 26, 2015 City Council Adoption