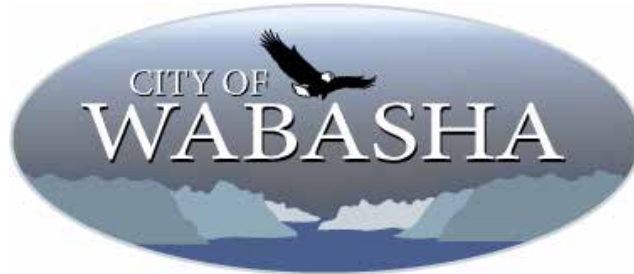


PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN



November 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

The City of Wabasha Public Works Department.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

The community participants who provided feedback to help define the final recommendations for this document.

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GRANT FUNDING ASSISTANCE:

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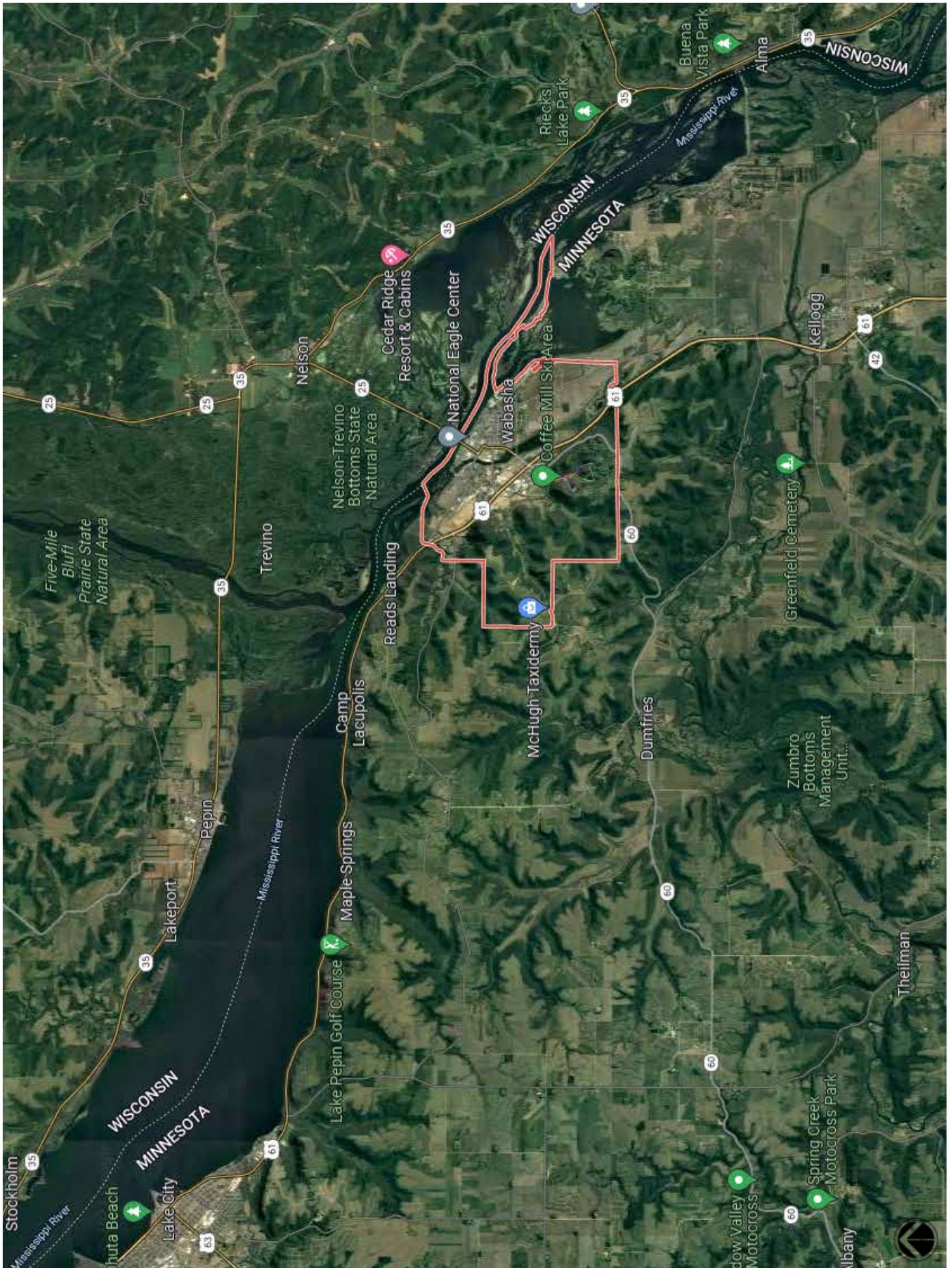
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INTRODUCTION AND VISION | 01



FIGURE 1: CITY OF WABASHA REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP



INTRODUCTION

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Situated on the shore of the Mississippi River near its confluence with the Zumbro River in the heart of Minnesota's bluff country, the City of Wabasha has a unique and rich history. First settled in 1826, Wabasha is the County Seat and also Minnesota's first and longest continuously inhabited river town. Prior to settlement in 1826, this area was inhabited by the Sioux, led by Chief Wa-pa-shaw, who's name would later be given to the City and County respectively.

Lumber and commerce were the main industries in Wabasha prior to the turn of the century, and steamboats were common on the river, being used to move supplies up and down the river. By the end of the 19th century, several state roads and railroad systems were constructed that allowed Wabasha to communicate with cities to the east much easier. By 1931, a bridge was added for travel between Wabasha (MN) and Nelson (WI); it was torn down and replaced in 1988.

Today, the City is home to approximately 2,600 residents. One of the few remaining true to life river towns, the city, its historic downtown, and outdoor recreational offerings are a tourist draw year round. Specific draws to the City and immediate area include:

- The National Eagle Center (which attracts 80,000+ visitors per year)
- 7 state parks within an hour's drive
- 200+ mile network of hiking trails in the surrounding area
- Coffee Mill Ski Area and Golf Course
- Public beach and 20+ boat launches
- The Great Alma Fishing Float
- 3 RV campgrounds
- 50+ miles of water trails
- Mississippi River Trail
- 5 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Scenic Natural Areas (SNA), and National Wildlife and Fish Refuge nearby



Main Street in downtown Wabasha



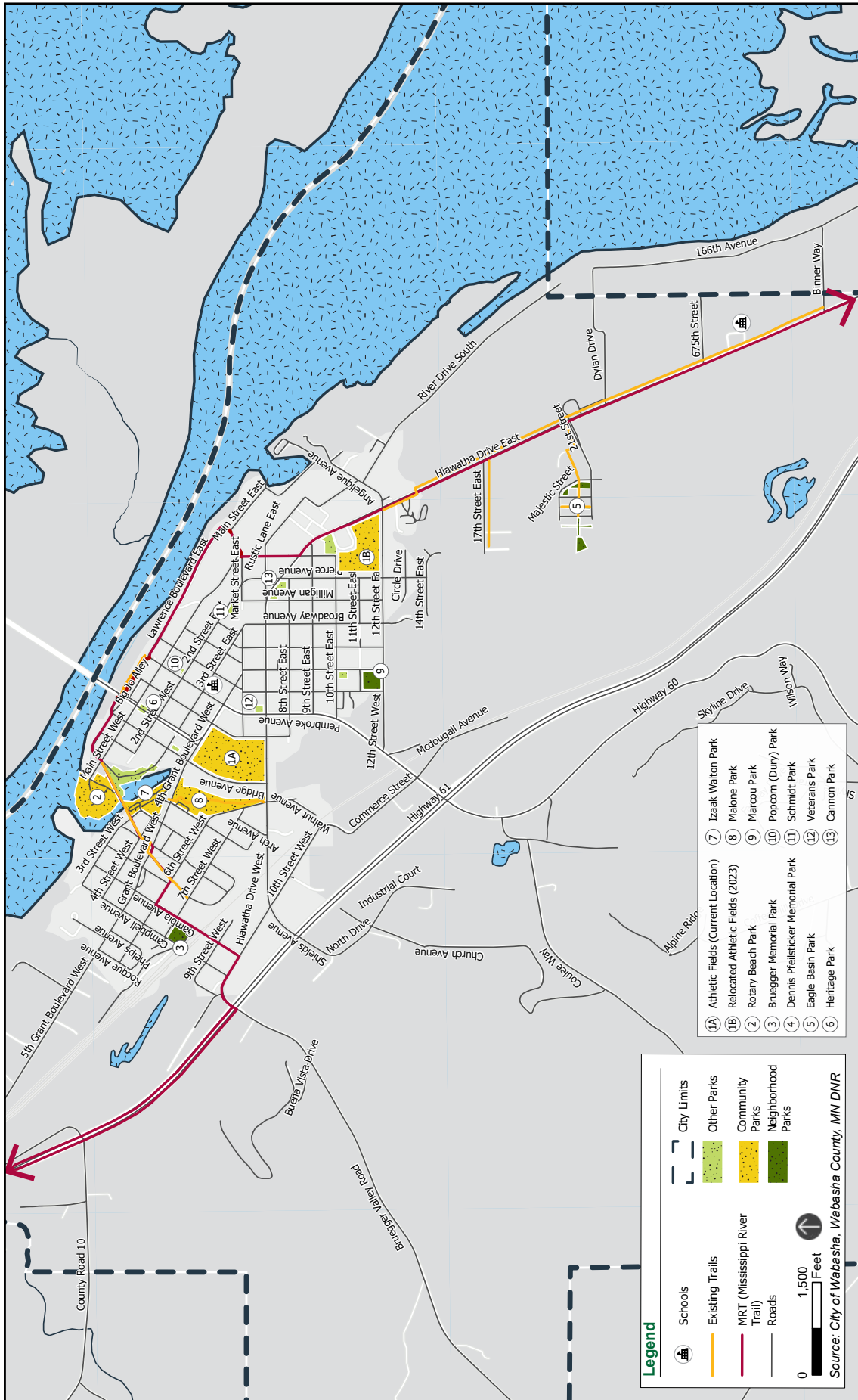
Bruegger Memorial Park

PARK AND TRAIL SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Parks, trails and open space contribute to the sustainability of a community in a variety of ways. Urban parks are an important element for communities and provide opportunities for both active and passive recreation. They also provide environmental benefits to communities by helping to reduce flooding impacts, improve air quality, and provide habitat for wildlife. For residents and visitors to a community, parks add tremendous value to community life.

The City of Wabasha currently operates and maintains approximately 41 total acres of parkland within the city limits, and approximately 3.1 miles of off-street dedicated trail facilities. Park facilities include 13 City parks that offer both active and passive recreation opportunities. The majority of the City's athletic facilities are housed at the Athletic Park (slated for relocation in 2023), with other park amenities well distributed throughout the community.

FIGURE 2: EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS



PLAN AND PROCESS

The Wabasha Parks and Trails Master Plan was developed based on input from the community including residents, stakeholders, city staff, and a steering committee comprised of 14 participants. Input from previous planning efforts including public surveys completed in 2015, and more recently in 2021, steering committee meetings, and public outreach events including a pop-up informational event, and a public open house were all part of this process. The resulting plan, and its recommendations are directly linked to the input collected throughout this engagement effort, as well as direct input and analysis completed by the consultant and city staff.

A summary of the key steps in the planning process is as follows:

1. Information Gathering

Inventory of existing park and trail amenities and assessment of current conditions and site features.

2. Public Outreach

Members of the community completed an online community input survey in 2021 which received over 250 responses. Additionally, over 100 people attended a pop-up event held in conjunction with the 2022 Septoberfest Pumpkin Derby.

3. Analysis

Thorough review of existing conditions, concurrent planning studies, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) metrics, and public input was performed to identify preliminary improvement strategies.



4. Improvement Recommendations

Improvement recommendations for system-wide and location specific improvements are accompanied by budgetary cost estimates for CIP planning and implementation.

5. Review & Wrap-Up

Upon completion of the recommendations and development of a draft report, this information was presented to the public via an open house to confirm recommendations and prioritization of projects aligned with community desires.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This plan provides a framework for the City of Wabasha relative to enhancing existing park and trail facilities, while also identifying future expansion and enhancement opportunities to meet the community's current and future recreational needs. This report provides an analysis of the City's existing park and trail facilities, and also presents feedback gathered through community engagement efforts that have aided in guiding and prioritizing both system-wide and site-specific recommendations.

Much of the contents of the master plan report was developed and collected through public outreach including engagement with residents, city staff, a

steering committee, and the Park Board. The recommendations described herein were influenced by responses collected during the engagement process, and are representative of what participants value in park and trail amenities, and how they aim to improve their park and trail system.

Throughout the planning process, the city has sought solutions for maximizing community benefit, while balancing funding limitations, both from a capital cost and maintenance and operations standpoint.



National Eagle Center riverfront plaza

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INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS | 02



PARK INVENTORY OVERVIEW

Evaluating how well Wabasha's park, trail and recreation system is meeting the needs of the community, requires starting with an understanding of what amenities currently exist within the park system, and where deficiencies may exist. Park features and recreation equipment generally take a lot of abuse from users and from exposure to the elements.

By conducting a thorough inventory of Wabasha's park equipment and amenities, the city can better track the condition of the equipment and implement a plan and timeline for continued maintenance or replacement.

For each park within the city's park system, a map, as shown in Figure 4, was generated identifying park boundaries, existing park facilities and their approximate locations.

These maps were refined through several iterations based on field review of existing facilities completed in July 2022, and through coordination with city staff. As park improvements occur, these maps should be updated to keep a comprehensive inventory of the system and its resources.

In addition to mapping, an inventory table has been developed for each park facility as shown in Figure 3. These charts provide additional information not present on the maps including:

- Overall Park Size (Acres)
- Land Cover (i.e. Trees, Mown Lawn, etc.)
- Active Recreation Facilities (i.e. Basketball, Playground, Tennis, etc.)
- Passive Recreation Facilities Present (Bird Watching, Picknicking, etc.)
- Buildings/Structures

Heritage Park	
Size	.42 Acres
Land Cover	Paved surface under the Bridge
Active Recreational Facilities	•
Passive Recreational Facilities	•
Buildings / Shelters <i>*All facilities are handicap accessible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage/Platform • Benches • Clock tower
Reservations	
Pedestrian Accessibility	
Parking	Adequate parking is located in the two public parking lots under the bridge
Utility and Capacity Issues	City water, sewer, and electricity are available at the park
Frequency of Use	High
History	Heritage Park is located under the approach to the State Highway 60 Bridge. Heritage Park was created in 1988 when the new bridge was opened. The land is owned by the State (Department of Transportation). The park is used for community gatherings and public events such as the local Arts Board (River Junction Arts Council) summer concert series.
Handicap Accessibility Needs	

Figure 3: Example Inventory Table (Heritage Park) completed for each City Park



Figure 4: Example Inventory Map (Beach Park) completed for each City Park

- Pedestrian Accessibility
- Parking Availability & Description
- Utility Connections & Capacity
- Frequency of Use
- Park History
- Accessibility Needs

Similar to the maps, these tables should be updated as improvements occur to help facilitate future park development needs.

Once all parks were inventoried, data was consolidated into a comprehensive inventory chart (Figure 5) to provide a more thorough system wide reiev of existing facilities.

Figure 5: Park Inventory of Existing Amenities

		Acres	Distance (mi) to Wabasha (City Hall)
City of Wabasha	Location		
Athletic Field	208 Hiawatha Dr W	16.2	0.8
Beach Park	700 Main St W	4.5	1.2
Bruegger Park	1035 7th St W	1.7	1.7
Cannon Park	600 Hiawatha Dr. E	0.7	0.2
Dennis Pfeilsticker Memorial Park	812 9th St E	1.7	0
Eagle Basin Park Area	Majestic St and 21 St	1.0	1
Heritage Park	Walnut Ave and Main St W	0.4	0.9
Izaak Walton Park	Maiden Ave and 5th Grrant Blvd	5.5	1.1
Malone Park	515 Church Ave	3.9	1.1
Marcou Park	1105 Bailey Ave	4.1	0.8
Popcorn (Dury) Park	171 Pembroke Ave	0.1	0.7
Schmidt Park	Market St E and 2nd St E	0.7	0.4
Veteran's Memorial Park	109 Hiawatha Dr E	0.4	0.6
Total		40.9	
Nearby School Parks / Playgrounds	Location		
St. Felix School	130 3rd St E	2.5	0.6
Wabasha Kellogg Public Schools	2113 Hiawatha Dr E	33.0	1.4
Total (Including Schools)		35.5	

PROXIMITY MAPPING

During analysis of the existing park system, several maps were generated to study the distribution of park facilities within the community, and to look for gaps in their associated service areas.

Neighborhood Parks

For neighborhood park facilities, the associated service area is generally defined as a 1/4 to 1/2 mile walking radii, which equates to approximately 5 to 10 minutes walking time for the average user. The maps prepared with this study include both the 1/4

mile and 1/2 mile walking radii for reference. The first map (Figure 6) analyzes overall neighborhood parks in the community, and availability of these facilities within walking distance of the majority of residents in Wabasha. Neighborhood parks often serve as social and recreational focal points within the community. A place where neighbors come together, these parks often include a playground or other recreational amenities frequently used by families.

Looking at the map, the city is generally well serviced with neighborhood parks, but a gap in service area is present southeast

Distance (mi) to Wabasha (City Hall)	Basketball hoops/court	Tennis courts	Pickleball courts (striped for)	Splash pad	Backstop/softball/baseball	Open field/football/soccer	Shelter (enclosed)	Open air shelters	Toilet facilities	Dog Park	Playgrounds	Bike/walk Trail	Volleyball court	Parking	Skate Park	Grills	Hockey Rink	Bike Racks
0.8	1				3	1	1	0	3		1	1	9	3	1		1	1
1.2								2	1		1	1		1		3		
1.7						1		1	1		1							
0.2																		
0				1			2	3	1		1			1				1
1												1						
0.9									2					1				2
1.1						1	1	2	1			1		1		3		
1.1						1	1	3	3		1	1		1		1		
0.8					1	1						1						
0.7																		2
0.4						1												
0.6																		
	1	0	0	1	4	6	5	11	12	0	5	6	9	8	1	7		6
0.6	2				1		2				2			1				
1.4	2				4	1	8	7	2		2	1		3				1
	4	0	0	0	5	1	10	7	2	0	4	1	0	4	1	7		7

of downtown between Hiawatha Drive, and the Mississippi River where several neighborhoods, and planned future development exist.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are a common element often included at neighborhood and community parks. The second map (Figure 7) analyzes playground locations within the community. Not all neighborhood parks in Wabasha currently include a playground, but the majority of the city is still well serviced by playground facilities. The same gap

between Hiawatha Drive and the River is present in this analysis, but the playground service area gap expands to include the Eagle Basin neighborhood and surrounding current and future development.

FIGURE 6: OVERALL PARK SERVICE AREA MAP

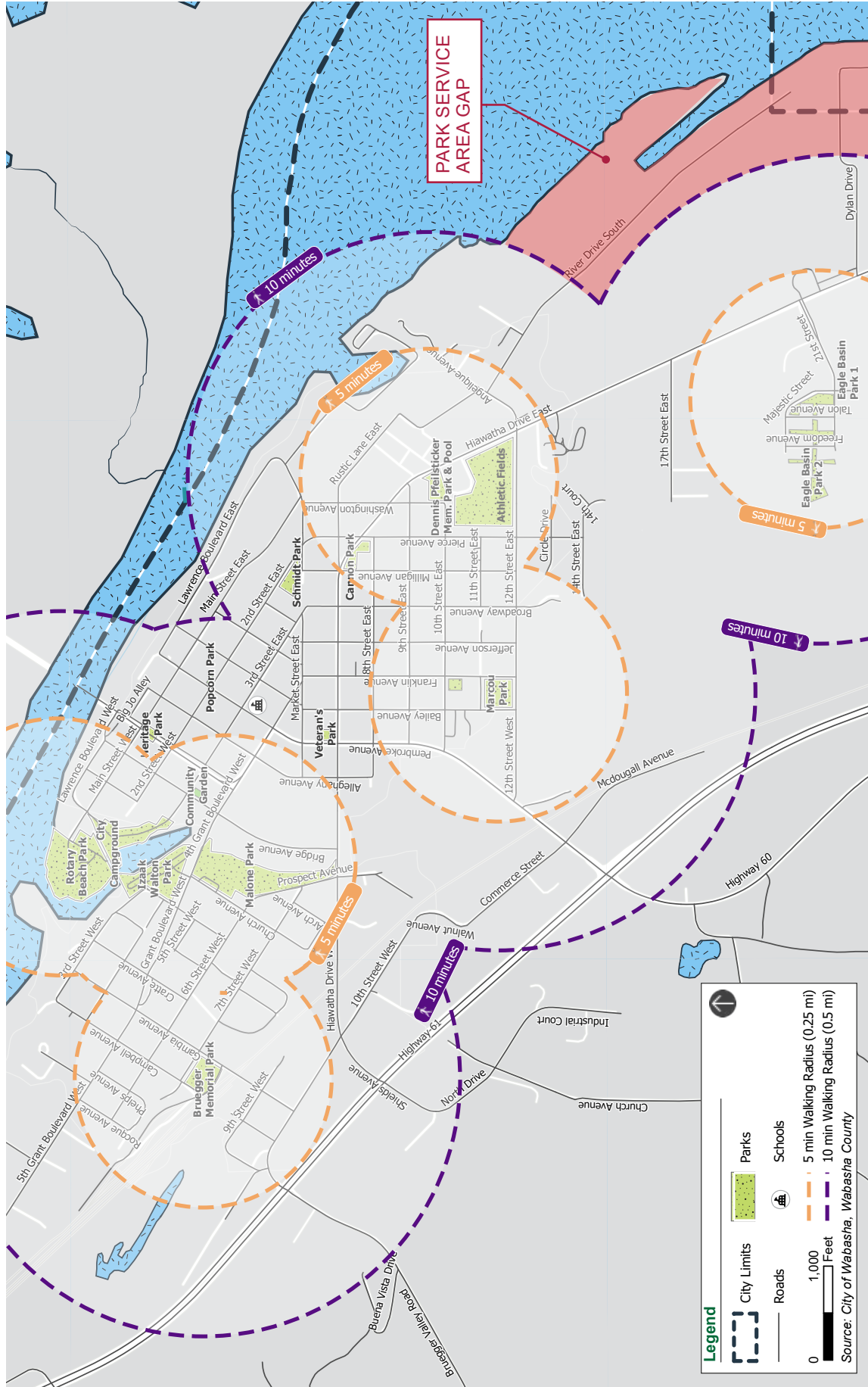
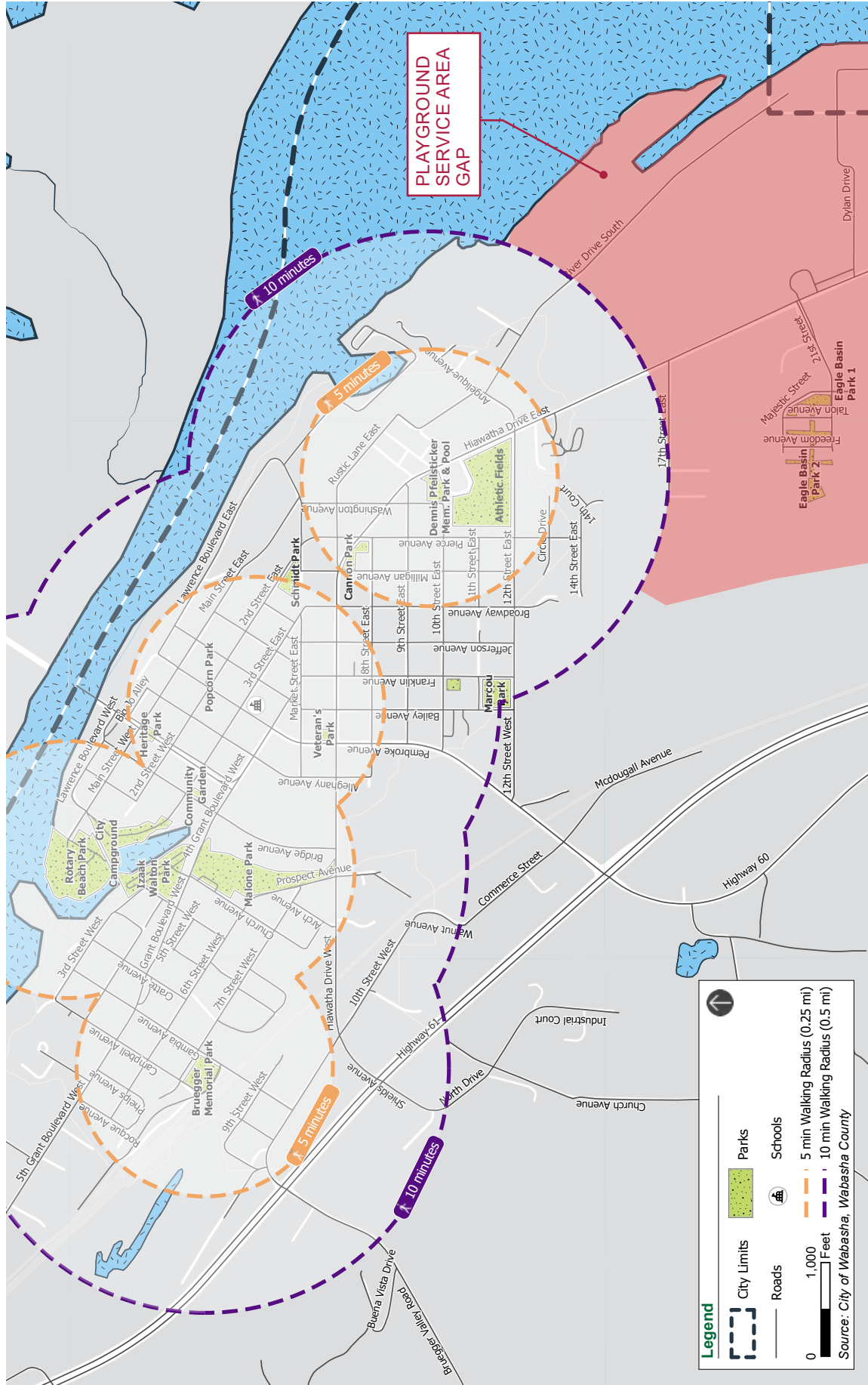


FIGURE 7: PLAYGROUND SERVICE AREA MAP



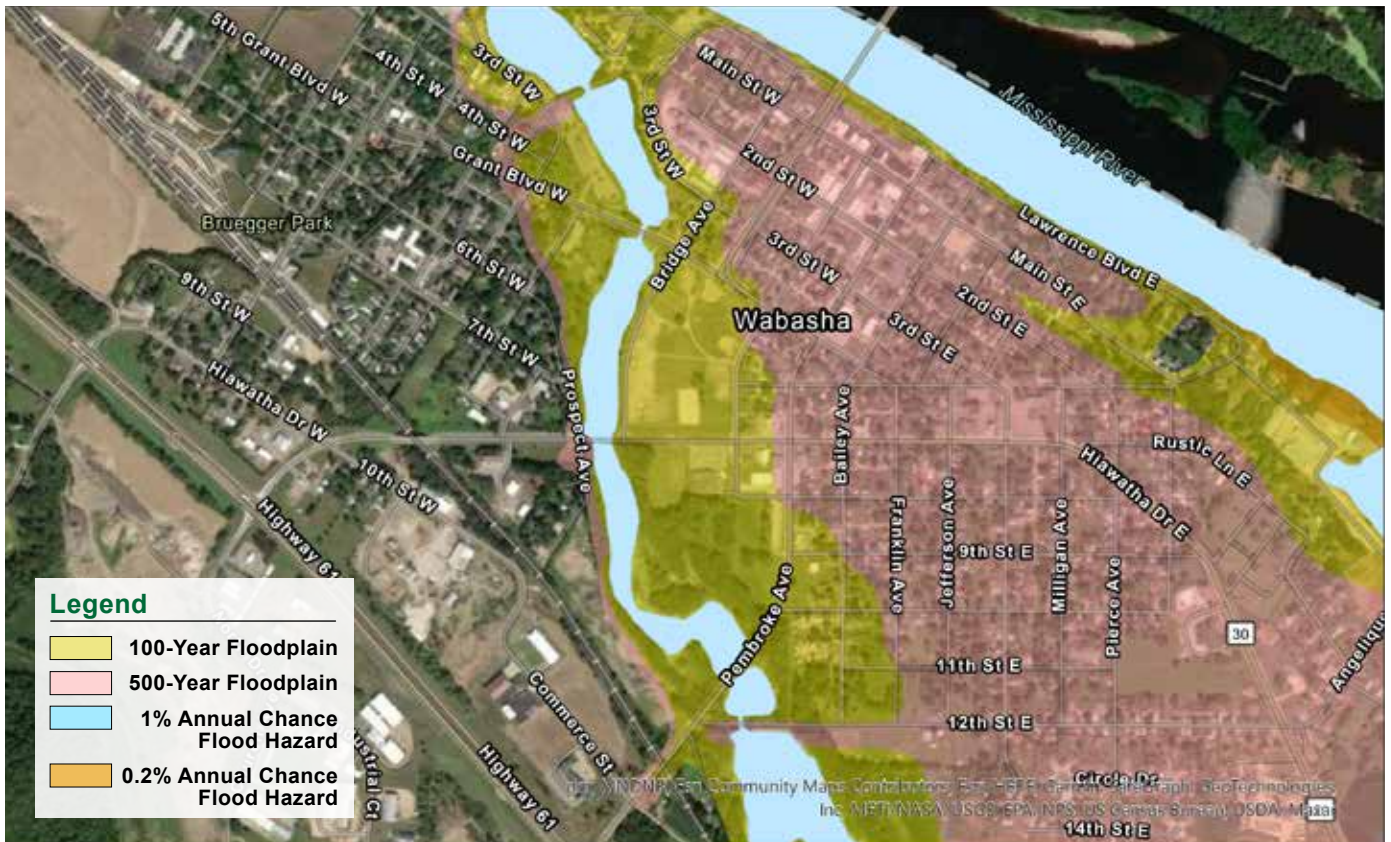


Figure 8: Floodplain mapping (Map Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources)

FLOOD RESILIENCY

The Mississippi River and Zumbro Slough are tremendous assets for the City of Wabasha, providing recreational opportunities, wildlife, tourism, and beyond. But with its river adjacent location, The city is prone to frequent flood events. Much of the city's parkland is situated within the 100 year floodplain, and a majority of the city is within the 500 year floodplain as shown in Figure 8.

Flooding is the most frequently occurring natural disaster globally, and risk drivers such as climate change and the expansion of cities and increases in impervious surfaces means floods are impacting more people in more places with greater cost to life and property. To minimize flooding impacts on the city and park system, we want to ensure that any design recommendations account for these flood risks (based on park location and proximity to the floodplain) to minimize the chances of damage to infrastructure by

flood waters.

Malone Park for example, is centrally located in the community, has many park amenities including a playground, building structures, and trail systems, but has been impacted numerous times by seasonal flooding. To minimize future impacts in this location, recommendations have been made to relocate amenities and install more flood tolerant uses to better maximize Malone Park's location and potential.

NRPA METRICS

Every year, the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) performs a comprehensive evaluation of participating agencies across the United States to develop a series of metrics of the recreational offerings in our communities. This data is a useful tool for comparing how the park and trail amenities in Wabasha compare to other communities at a national level.

Trail Metrics

Review of NRPA trail metrics (Figure 9) identified that Wabasha is currently in line with the median trail mileage for communities under 20,000. Based on engagement feedback identifying trail connectivity as a high priority for the community, additional trails should be considered in key locations, with an aim to keep the city within the bounds of the lower and upper quartiles identified in the MRPA results (2 miles and 10 miles respectively).

Figure 9: Miles of Trail Per Population

	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Wabasha
Median	14.0	3.0	3.1
Lower Quartile	5.0	2.0	
Upper Quartile	39.0	10.0	

Park Metrics

Review of NRPA park metrics show (Figure 10) that Wabasha currently has approximately 16.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, which is above the median for all reporting communities with populations under 20,000 (12.9 acres per 1,000 residents respectively). These numbers were calculated based on Wabasha's existing park system, and does not factor in relocation of the Athletic Field (resulting in a net reduction of approx. 9 acres), or other recommendations for reducing park acreage in this report (removal of Cannon Park from the park system).

Figure 10: Park Acres Per 1,000 Residents

	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	Wabasha
Median	10.4	12.9	16.2
Lower Quartile	5.1	5.2	
Upper Quartile	18.2	21.7	

Figure 11: Park & Recreation Facilities Per Population

Type of Facility	Median Number of Residents Per Facility		Wabasha	
	All Agencies	Less Than 20,000	# of Facilities Needed to Meet NRPA Metrics	# of Existing Facilities
Playgrounds	3,750	1,986	1.3	5
Basketball Courts	7,403	3,750	0.7	1
Tennis Courts (outdoor only)	5,608	2,723	1.0	0
Baseball Fields - Youth	7,000	3,107	0.9	2
Softball Fields - Adult	14,302	5,667	0.5	2
Multi-Purpose Fields	9,622	4,362	0.6	6
Dog Parks	43,586	11,100	0.2	0
Softball Fields - Youth	11,339	5,339	0.5	0
Baseball Fields - Adult	20,127	7,954	0.3	0
Outdoor Swimming Pool	38,000	8,637	0.3	1
Tot Lots	11,983	6,642	0.4	0
Community Gardens	30,140	8,773	0.3	1
Soccer Field - Youth	7,382	3,504	0.8	1
Multi-Purpose Synthetic Field	39,736	12,962	0.2	0
Outdoor Ice Rink	16,887	7,997	0.3	1
Skatepark	53,708	11,100	0.2	1
Pickleball Courts	14,714	3,446	0.8	0
Wabasha Population = 2,655				

The question of “how many tennis courts should we have?” or “how many playgrounds do we need in our community?” are common in community planning. To help communities better evaluate the level of service of their parks, the NRPA collects data on the quantity of park facilities that exist in participating communities. By comparing the number and type of park and recreation facilities in Wabasha to the NRPA metrics (Figure 11), we can develop an understanding of what types of facilities should be considered for implementation.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

While this master plan does not directly address operational and maintenance costs associated with the park and trail system, consideration should be given to these items to ensure the city has adequate staffing and funding to facilitate upkeep and routine maintenance of any additional park and trail system improvements. Future expansion of the park system may require additional staffing depending on overall levels of improvements.



Trail system near Walnut Ave & Lawrence Blvd.



Existing restroom facility at Beach Park



City campground adjacent to the Zumbro Slough and Beach Park

CONCURRENT STUDIES

Several planning initiatives currently underway in Wabasha and in conjunction with adjacent communities will ultimately have a positive impact on the outdoor recreation amenities in the area.

From establishing a better network of interconnected trails and strengthened connections to the regional trail system, to enhancements to local parks and expanding recreational offerings, to establishing strengthened connections to the river. This section will highlight some of these projects and how they impact the City of Wabasha's park and trail system. Specific projects/studies include:

Athletic Park Relocation Project:

The current Athletic Field Complex is located in a flood prone area that is highly trafficked with semi-trucks and not ADA accessible.

Many of the amenities at the current location are aged and deteriorated to a poor condition and in need of replacement. This project will support the larger goal to realign Highway 60 that will address traffic related safety concerns. Slated for construction in 2023, the athletic park will be relocated to land directly adjacent to Dennis Pfeilsticker Park and City Hall.

Highway 60 Realignment/Zumbro Slough Opportunity Project:

In an effort to reinvision both the community-wide transportation network, and the use of the space adjacent to the Zumbro Slough, the Minnesota Design Center developed a concept for the area that includes the land currently occupied by the Athletic Park. This is a project 20 years in the making, and a project that has garnered significant



Proposed plan for relocated Athletic Field Park adjacent to City Hall



Plan for the area currently occupied by the Athletic Park (Graphic by Minnesota Design Center)

community support through significant public engagement and community planning efforts.

The re-routing of Highway 60 will have state-wide impact by improving transportation through safer and more efficient routes. It will also significantly improve bike and pedestrian safety in historically marginalized communities by routing truck traffic away from schools, child care facilities and residential areas, as well as create trail connections to the grocery store and other important destinations.

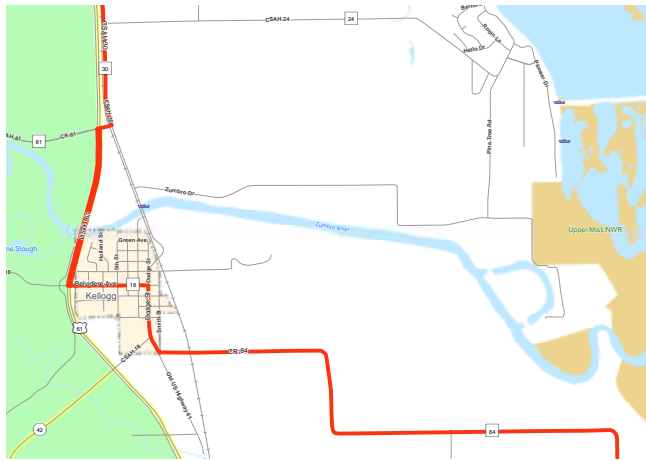
Environmentally, the project will improve water quality and habitat in the Zumbro Slough, and develop the shores into a public amenity through the development of park and trail infrastructure. With the planned relocation of these facilities to the City Hall site, funding opportunities are being pursued to make this vision a reality.

Wabasha/Kellogg Mississippi River Trail Extension:

The cities of Kellogg and Wabasha are working collaboratively on the Wabasha-Kellogg Community Trail Connection Plan. This feasibility study will review alternatives to provide better connectivity for recreational trail users between the two cities and on a regional basis.

The Mississippi River Trail (MRT) is designated along TH30 from Wabasha to a point north of Kellogg and the Zumbro River. The trail is directed to the HWY. 61 shoulder to cross the river before routing back on county roads through the city of Kellogg. HWY. 61 is a 4-lane, high speed roadway on the National Highway System that is also considered a freight route. To improve safety, this study will look at the alternatives to realign the trail to a separated multi-use trail facility utilizing a separate river crossing of the Zumbro

River. Providing a safer and separated multi-use path is anticipated to attract more recreation to this area and in turn provide more tourism and business to the local businesses.



Wabasha/Kellogg Mississippi River Trail Extension

**2023 Street Reconstruction Project/
Downtown Streetscape Improvement Project**

In conjunction with the 2023 Reconstruction project (that affects Pembroke Avenue,

Main Street and Bridge Avenue), the city is taking the opportunity to re-envision downtown through the implementation of streetscape enhancements. Streetscape is a term that refers to the natural and built environment of the street. It can include all elements found along the street including the roadway itself, adjoining buildings, street furniture, trees, open spaces and other elements that together form the street's character. Streetscapes and the experience they create largely influence public places where people interact. Enhancements considered as part of this plan include:

- Wayfinding/community entry signage
- Downtown aesthetics and identity
- Modifications of the existing spaces under the Walnut Avenue/Highway 60 Bridge
- Strengthening connections between downtown and Beach Park
- Enhancing trail connectivity through downtown and along the river
- Integration of public restrooms in or near downtown



Elements studied as part of the Downtown Streetscaping Master Plan project

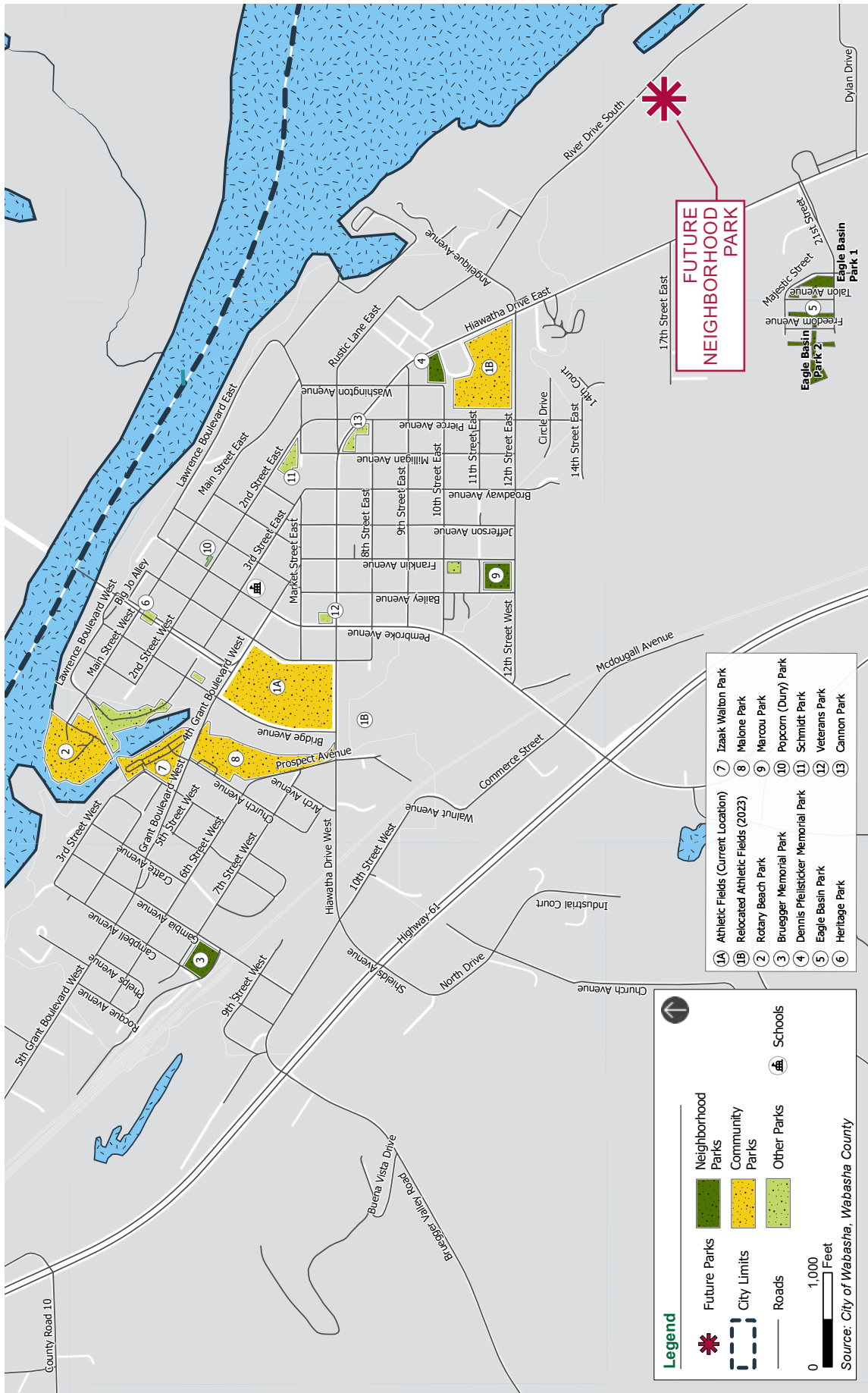
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IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

03



FIGURE 12: WABASHA PARK SYSTEM



IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

A diverse offering of park and trail amenities are vital to the well-being of any community. Amenities should be equitably accessible to all residents and provide offerings for users of all ages and abilities. Additionally, desires for park and trail facilities should be balanced with the city's ability to maintain improvements from both a capital and maintenance perspective.

This section of the master plan outlines opportunities to preserve, restore and improve the parks, trails, and recreational resources in the City of Wabasha. While there are specific improvements for each individual park, there are also community-wide strategies that were apparent through both the analysis of existing facilities and through feedback collected through engagement efforts including public surveys, steering committee meetings and in person engagement. (For additional information on community engagement refer to Section 4 – Input Gathering).

Strategy 1: Increased Distribution of Amenities Throughout the Community

Through the planning process, several opportunities to better distribute amenities through the community were identified. One of the recommendations of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan identifies the addition of a neighborhood park facility in the southern portion of the community (between River Drive and Hiawatha Drive). Based on the level of service analysis completed during this master planning process (see section 2), this area is currently underserved by park facilities. The build-out of a neighborhood park in this area should be a long-term consideration as development continues to occur in this area of the city, and as demand for facilities expands.

Other recommendations for better distribution of amenities include the addition of playground facilities at Eagle Basin Park, and the addition of a basketball court at



Existing Wabasha trail System at the Zumbro Slough



Example of an Inclusive/All Abilities Playground (Image Credit: Henderson Recreation)

Bruegger Memorial Park. More information about these recommendations can be found in the park specific recommendations section of this report.

Strategy 2: Increase Diversity of Amenities

The City of Wabasha offers residents a robust park and trail system with a variety of offerings. Feedback provided through the planning process identified a desire to expand the offerings currently available. Examples of specific elements that have been targeted or discussed for implementation include the development of an inclusive/accessible playground facility, construction of mountain bike/hiking trails in the bluffs near Coffee Mill Ski Area, expansion of the city's paved trail system, and the addition of an off-leash dog park facility.

Special Consideration: Off-Leash Dog Park

There has been increasing interest from Wabasha residents to develop an off-leash dog park. Several sites were considered for the facility, with preference toward Marcou Park. This facility should be a future consideration but will likely require coordination and funding assistance from stakeholders. To further the development of this goal, a committee should be established to confirm location, identify a timeline, and assist with fundraising efforts. Generally, off-leash dog park facilities require approximately 0.5-1 acre of fenced property. A permitting system could be implemented as a revenue generation tool and to aid in documentation of injuries or rule violations.

Strategy 3: Improve Accessibility and ADA Compliance

Attention should be given to providing accessible amenities and maintaining ADA compliance to and around all public facilities, including city parks. In 2019, the city undertook a thorough ADA compliance review of its existing park facilities. The results of this review are included in the Appendix of this report.

Several recommendations identified through this review include renovations to existing park structures including restrooms and picnic shelters, the replacement or addition of sidewalk connections through and within city parks, and the replacement of several ADA features including the lift chair at the public pool. Additionally, the city has seen interest from the public in the development of an All abilities/inclusive playground.

Many of the playgrounds in the city have wood fiber surfacing with rubberized mats to provide ADA access to equipment. Care should be taken to ensure these are

properly placed, and wood fiber surfacing periodically maintained to ensure an accessible route to play equipment is provided.

Strategy 4: Enhance and Expand the City's Recreational Trail System

The City of Wabasha currently oversees and maintains approximately 3.1 miles of off-street shared use trails throughout the community. Throughout the planning of development stages of this Parks and Trails plan and community engagement efforts, trails have been identified as one of the highest rated recreational amenities in terms of overall use, and increased connectivity and expansion of the trail system has ranked as a high priority for residents.

Many of the city's parks are currently accessible via trail, but gaps in connectivity do exist throughout the core of the community, and connectivity to outlying neighborhoods is variable. Trail recommendations identified in this report aim to fill these gaps and expand community-wide trail connectivity.



Bicyclist on trail (Image Credit: threeriversparks.org)



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LOCATION SPECIFIC PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The following pages identify and describe improvement strategies specific to individual parks throughout the community. These recommendations were derived by examining each site and developing an understanding of the challenges and opportunities at each location. Input from community members and City staff, informed this process and validate the community desire and need for each recommendation. Estimated preliminary budget costs accompany each recommendation.

Recommendations are split into 3 categories related to priority as follows:

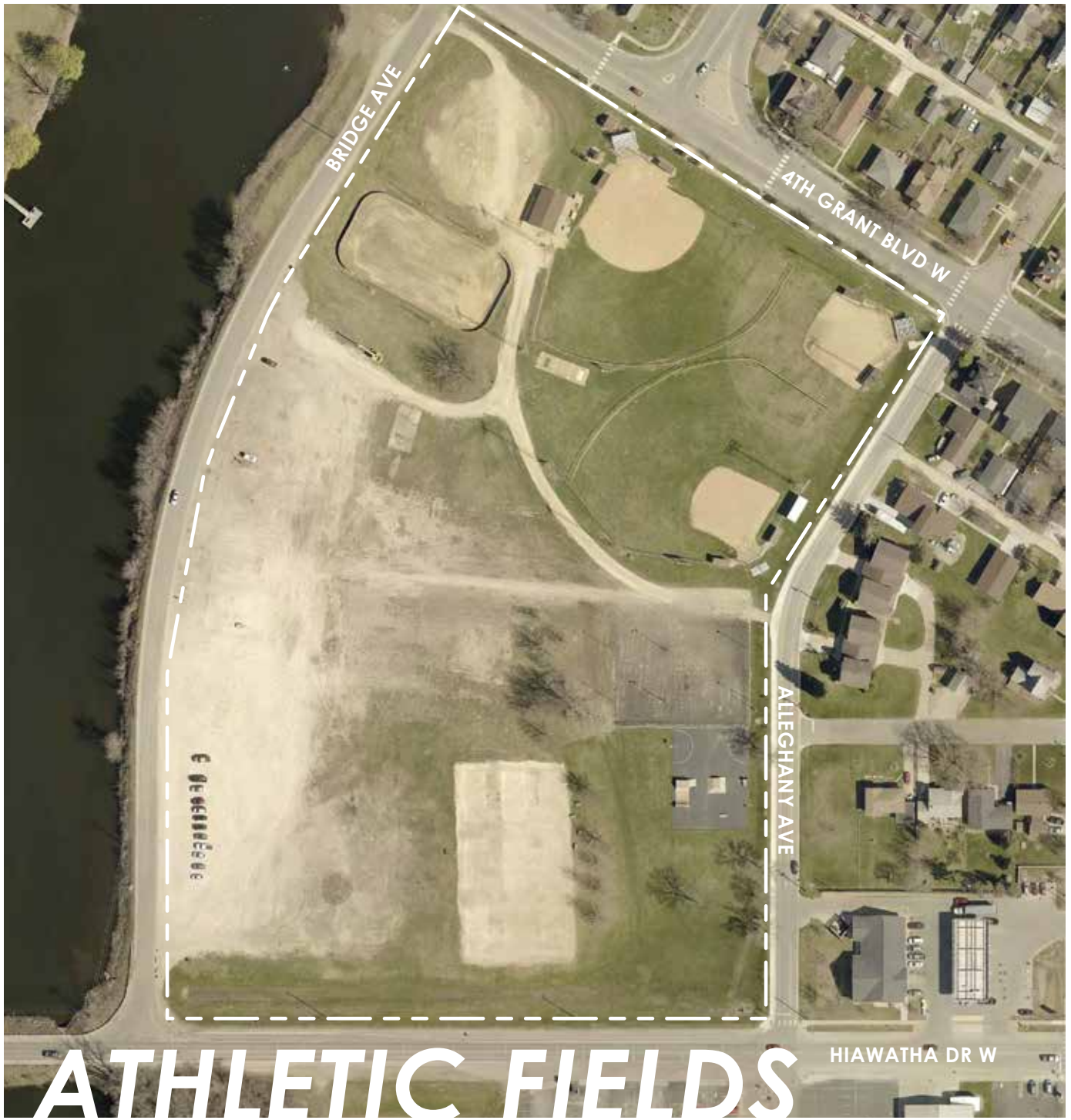
- Short-Range Improvements: 1-3 Years
- Mid-Range Improvements: 3-7 Years
- Long-Range Improvements: 7-10 Years

These timelines are intended as a guide and a way to prioritize improvements at each location. Planning level costs are provided to aid in capital planning for identified improvements. These costs assume furnishing, delivery and installation of specific projects by a licensed contractor. Projects involving architectural or mechanical, electrical, plumbing (MEP) work (i.e. restroom facility upgrades) will require consultation by relevant professionals to determine overall scope of work and costs. Costs for these items in this report are identified as To Be Determined (TBD).



Beach Park

FIGURE 13: ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS



RELOCATION OF EXISTING PARK:

BUDGET EST. = \$1.9 MILLION

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (ANTICIPATED 2023)

Based on feedback from the community, and in an effort to support future realignment of Highway 60, the existing athletic park facilities will be reconstructed and/or relocated to the 10 acre site directly adjacent to Wabasha City Hall and Dennis Pfeilsticker Park (Wabasha Public Pool). This relocated effort is being supported by a \$300,000 grant from the Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), private donations, and City funds. The overall site plan for the relocated athletic fields can be seen in the Concurrent Studies section of this report. Facilities planned for the new park location include:

- Little League Baseball Fields (2)
- Hockey Rink w/ Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Pickleball Courts (2)
- Restroom/Concessions/Warming House Building
- Batting Cages
- Skatepark
- Expanded Parking Lot

This relocation effort will ultimately reduce the overall amount of city parkland by 8.6 acres. (The existing Athletic Fields Park is approximately 16.2 acres, and will be consolidated into an area of approximately 7.6 acres adjacent to City Hall).



Existing hockey rink



Existing volleyball courts (9)



Existing skate park



Existing basketball court

FIGURE 14: BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENTS



BEACH PARK

1 INSTALL ADDITIONAL BENCHES:

BUDGET EST. = \$6K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

Install three (3) additional benches adjacent to the circulation trail to capitalize on views of the beach and river.

**2 SECONDARY PICNIC SHELTER
CONCRETE REPLACEMENT:**

BUDGET EST. = \$7K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Replace the cracking concrete under the secondary picnic shelter and add a sidewalk connection between the shelter pad and adjacent circulation walk.

3 CONVERT LIGHTING TO LED:

BUDGET EST. = \$15K

TIMELINE = LONG-RANGE (7-10 YEARS)

Replace existing light fixtures in the park with LED lighting to increase lifespan and reduce annual energy costs. (Assumes re-use of existing poles, 5 lights total)

4 ADD DRINKING FOUNTAIN:

BUDGET EST. = \$12K

TIMELINE = LONG-RANGE (7-10 YEARS)

Beach Park currently doesn't have a drinking fountain. Adding one near the restroom and existing water service would fill this missing gap in the parks offerings and make the park more user friendly to both park users and campers.

5 ENHANCE SHELTER ELECTRICAL:

BUDGET EST. = \$10K

TIMELINE = LONG-RANGE (7-10 YEARS)

Update electrical panels in shelters to accomodate larger events and equipment for food service and sound systems.

6 COORDINATE FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS WITH ROTARY CLUB (NON-LOCATION SPECIFIC):

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = LONG-RANGE (7-10 YEARS)

The Rotary Club has been a generous partner to the City of Wabasha in implementing improvements at Beach Park. In the future, as desire for additional amenities arise, the City should continue coordination with the Rotary to ensure both parties are in agreement with the future direction of the park.



Existing light pole (Convert lighting to LED)



Cracked concrete in small picnic shelter (Repair)

FIGURE 15: BRUEGGER PARK IMPROVEMENTS



1 PLANT NEW SHADE TREES:

BUDGET EST. = \$1.8K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

In an effort to enhance the existing tree cover at the park and provide more shade for park users, the city should plant 3 new shade trees in the vicinity of the playground and picnic shelter. Estimated cost assumes trees provided and installed by a landscape contractor.



Existing picnic shelter

2 RELOCATE SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS (9):

BUDGET EST. = \$130K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

With the relocation of the Athletic Park and subsequent redevelopment of the old park site, the city will lose its sand volleyball courts. Bruegger would be able to accommodate up to nine new courts and provide a new home for league play.



Existing sand volleyball courts at the Athletic Park to be relocated

3 ADD HALF-BASKETBALL COURT:

BUDGET EST. = \$40K

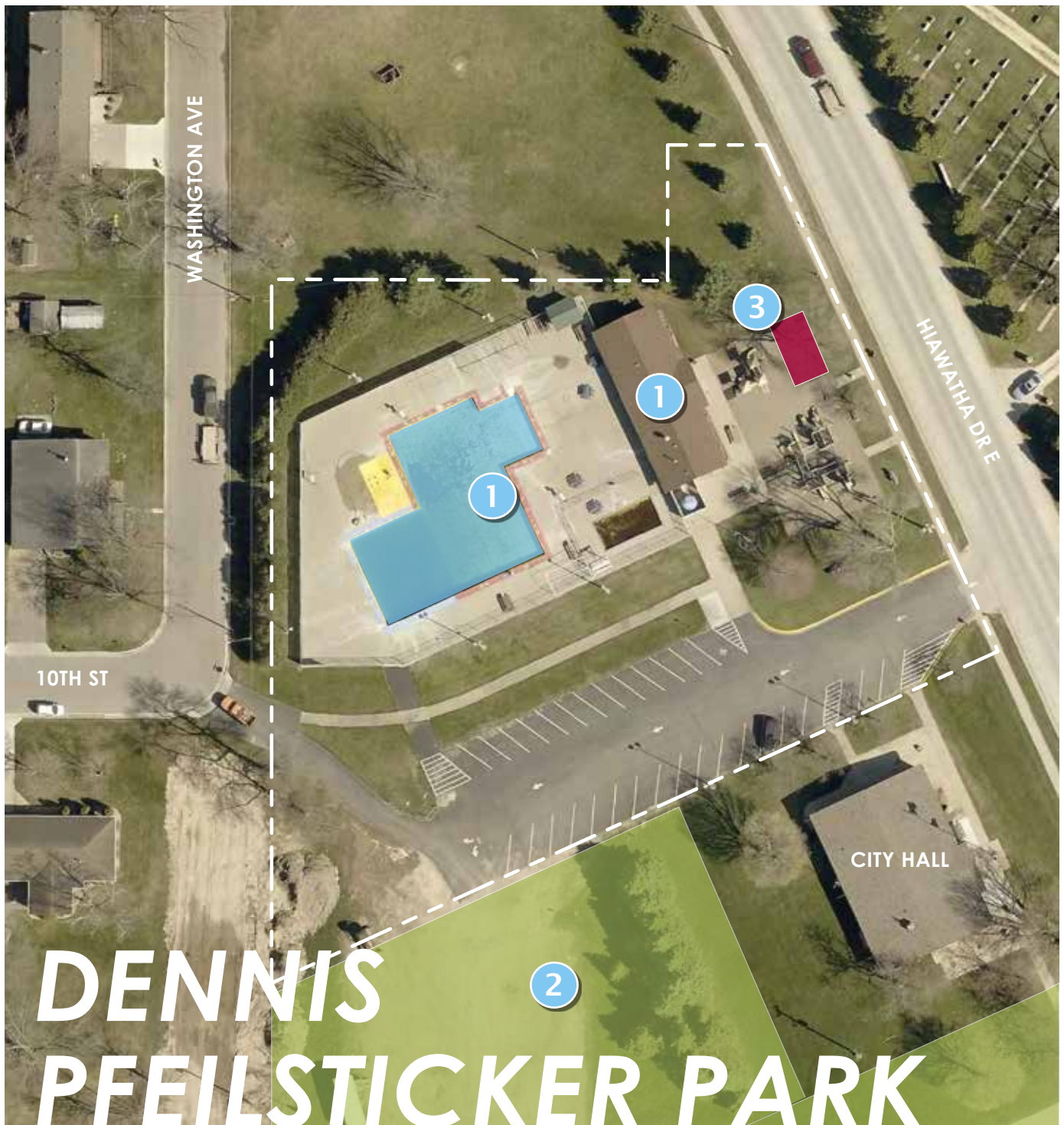
TIMELINE = LONG-RANGE (7-10 YEARS)

Currently the only basketball court in the city is located at the Athletic Park slated for relocation in 2023. The relocated park adjacent to City Hall will include a new court but will leave this area with no local court. A new half-court here would help fill that gap left by the park relocation.



Multi-use field (Replace w/ volleyball courts)

FIGURE 16: DENNIS PFEILSTICKER PARK & WABASHA POOL IMPROVEMENTS



1 ADA IMPROVEMENTS & ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY:

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

The public pool is one of Wabasha's most heavily used recreational amenities, and the City is committed to ensuring it is accessible to all. Several key improvements have been identified to ensure that the facilities are user friendly for people of all abilities. These improvements include : Adding an accessible drinking fountain (slated for 2023), replacing

the ADA chair lift (slated for 2023), and making ADA improvements to the restroom and locker areas (slated for 2027).

2 EXPAND PARK & PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PARKING:

BUDGET EST. = \$1.9 MILLION
TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

The City's current Athletic Park will be relocated to the city owned land south and west of the public pool and City Hall facilities, increasing the total acreage at this location from 1.7 to 10 acres. Additional amenities that will be implemented at this location include:

- Little League Baseball Fields (2)
- Hockey Rink w/ Basketball Court
- Tennis Court
- Pickleball Courts (2)
- Restroom/Concessions/Warming House
- Batting Cages
- Skatepark
- Expanded Parking Lot

Refer to the overall park plan on page xx of the Concurrent Studies section of this report for additional information on the park expansion.

3 ADD SWINGS TO PLAYGROUND:

BUDGET EST. = \$10K
TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Increase the amount of play/recreational structures for young people to engage with by incorporating a set of swings to the existing playground area just east of the Wabasha Pool building. Consider installing a Bird's Nest Swing (or an alternate type of adaptive swing) for sensory needs.



Park sign and adjacent parking area (Provide additional parking near City Hall)



Existing playground structures (Add swing set nearby)



Wabasha Public Pool

FIGURE 17: EAGLE BASIN PARK IMPROVEMENTS



1 ADD PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT:

BUDGET EST. = \$150K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

As described in the analysis section of this report, Eagle Basin and the surrounding area is currently underserved by park facilities, specifically playgrounds. Adding a playground would fill this service area gap and provide more equitable access to residents in this area.



Open space near Majestic and 21st St (Add park dedication sign at intersection)

2 ADD PARK DEDICATION SIGN:

BUDGET EST. = \$2K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

In conjunction with the playground improvements, a park dedication sign should be placed at the park to increase visibility and awareness of the park, and bring the park into conformance with other parks in the City's system.



Example Park Sign to be implemented at Eagle Basin Park

3 ADD SEATING:

BUDGET EST. = \$4K

TIMELINE = LONG-RANGE (7-10 YEARS)

Currently the Eagle Basin Park and trail system offer no benches or picnic tables. Benches along the trail provide opportunities for rest, and can make the trails more inviting to younger and older users. 1 bench and 1 picnic table should be added along the trail to fulfill this need.



Existing trail connection through park

FIGURE 18: HERITAGE PARK IMPROVEMENTS



HERITAGE PARK

1 ADD WAYFINDING SIGNAGE:

BUDGET EST. = \$32K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

In conjunction with the 2023 Street Reconstruction Project, wayfinding signage should be placed along Main Street in the proximity of Heritage Park. Signage should include both pole mounted wayfinding, and an informational kiosk that includes interpretive signage and a wayfinding map.



Seating and vegetation

2 ENHANCE ADA ACCESSIBILITY:

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

Enhance ADA accessibility along Main Street by widening ramps and/or removing portions of curb. Improvements should be done in conjunction with the 2023 Street Reconstruction Project to the extent possible during design and construction.

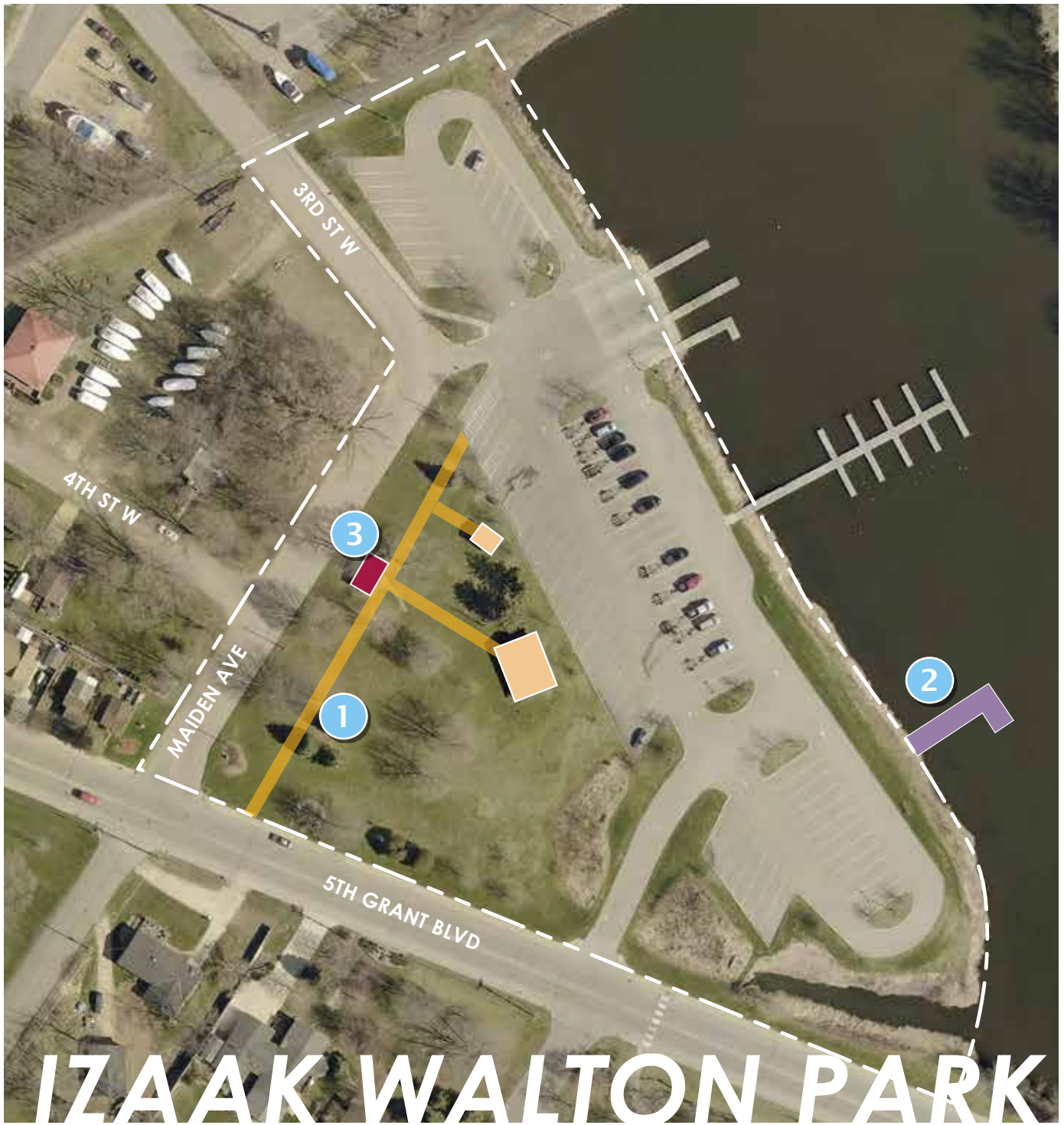


Pavers and ADA accessibility issues near clock tower



Existing site furnishings

FIGURE 19: IZAAK WALTON PARK IMPROVEMENTS



IZAAK WALTON PARK

1 ENHANCE PARK CONNECTIVITY:

BUDGET EST. = \$35K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

Izaak Walton Park currently lacks sidewalk connectivity to many of its amenities including restrooms, drinking fountain, picnic shelter, and fish cleaning station. Additionally, there is currently no pedestrian connection from 5th Grant Blvd to the existing city trail running along the NW edge of the park. This connection would provide a direct link between

Malone Park and Beach Park, and to downtown Wabasha. As part of the City's comprehensive system-wide ADA compliance review completed in 2019, the inclusion of these elements was identified as an important component to the future development of the park. These connections should be completed to strengthen connectivity and enhance the user experience within the park.

2 INSTALL NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER DOCK:

BUDGET EST. = \$8K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

A new dock facility is being installed adjacent to the National Eagle Center. The existing dock in that location should be relocated and installed at Isaac Walton adjacent to the City's other dock facilities. This addition may require a sidewalk connection to the parking lot, or other accessibility considerations depending on location.

3 UPDATE RESTROOM & DRINKING FOUNTAIN:

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Updates to the drinking fountain and restroom facilities were also identified in the City's 2019 ADA compliance review. Necessary steps should be taken to bring these facilities into compliance, including both interior and exterior modifications. Further review by an architect may be required to develop the overall scope of necessary improvements.



Existing non-ADA compliant restroom building with no sidewalk access



Existing city dock facilities on the Zumbro Slough



Existing drinking fountain

FIGURE 20: MALONE PARK IMPROVEMENTS



1 REPLACE DEFICIENT SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS:

BUDGET EST. = \$22K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

Portions of the sidewalk and trail system in Malone Park are in need of repair due to cracking and other issues. Approximately 1,600 square feet of deficient sidewalk and trail facilities should be removed and replaced, and additional sidewalk installed to provide accessible connections to park amenities. These improvements were previously identified in a 2019 DNR grant submittal, included as an appendix to this report.

2 RELOCATE PLAYGROUND:

BUDGET EST. = \$30K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

The Marcou Park playground sits at a low elevation adjacent to the river leading to periodic flooding and ongoing maintenance issues. To combat this, the existing playground equipment should be relocated to a higher elevation closer to the parking lot. Anticipated life cycle of the existing equipment is 7-10 years, at which time the equipment would require replacement. Surfacing for the new playground location should be engineered wood fiber, with appropriate ADA accessible entries.

3 UPDATE RESTROOM FACILITIES:

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Malone Park's restroom facilities are currently out of service due to maintenance. Restroom improvements were previously identified as a need in a 2019 DNR Grant Submittal, included as an appendix to this report,

4 RELOCATE DISC GOLF COURSE:

BUDGET EST. = \$15K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Based on future development of Marcou Park, the current disc golf course will require relocation. Malone Park offers open space with varying vegetative cover that could be well suited to support a 9-hole disc golf course. Disc golf is often targeted as an opportunity for floodplain areas due to the minimal infrastructure involved in its implementation. Timing of this opportunity should be coordinated with any future development of Marcou Park. Cost estimate provided assumes relocation of existing standards and signage, and selective tree removals.



Sidewalk and trail facilities (Replace deficient facilities)



Existing playground equipment, (Relocate to higher ground)



Restroom facilities (Update)

FIGURE 21: MARCOU (JAYCEE) PARK IMPROVEMENTS



1 DEVELOP MARCOU PARK INTO A CITY CAMPGROUND FACILITY:

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

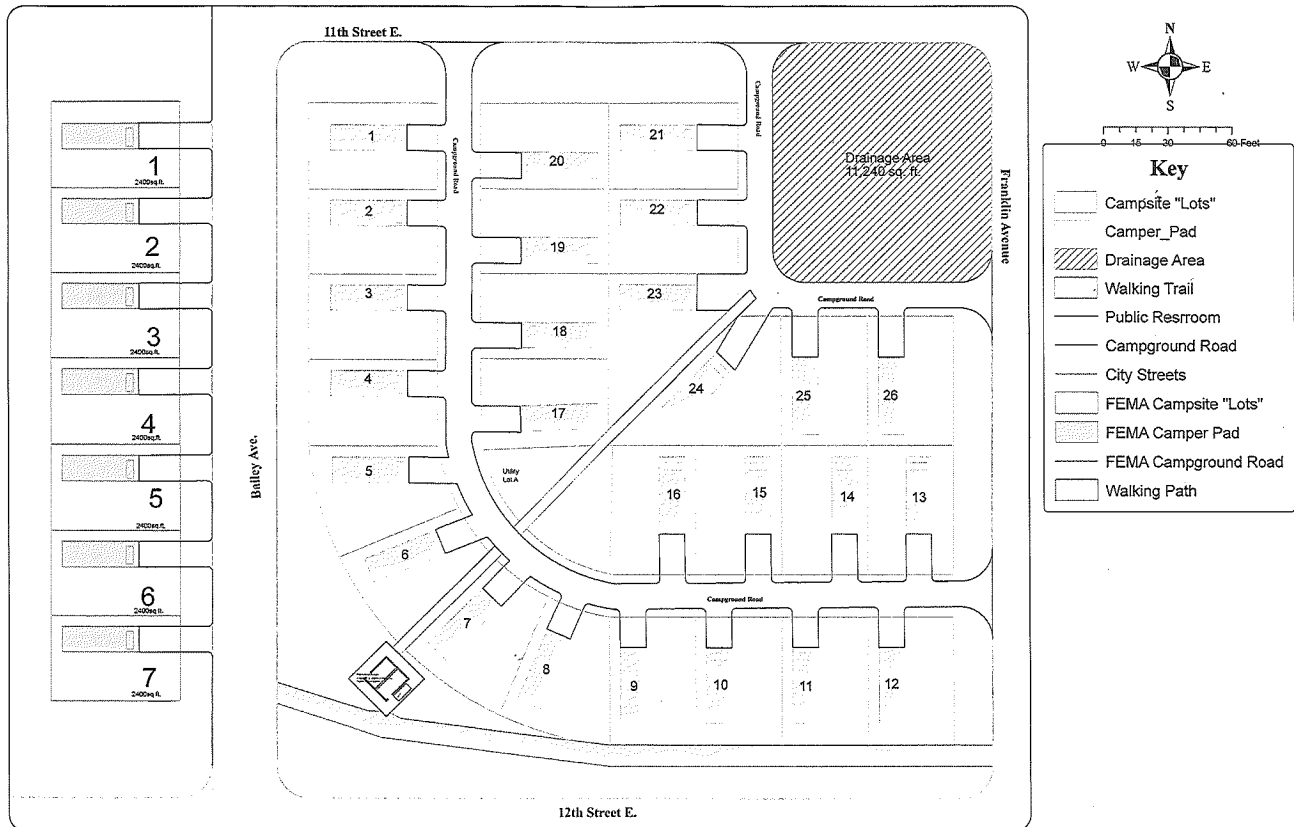
In 2010, the City developed plans to convert Marcou Park into a campground facility, with the intention of owning and operating the campground to supplement existing camping at Beach Park. Ultimately this plan was not brought to fruition, but the vision remains an interest to the city. The Beach Park campground is routinely booked to capacity throughout the season, so visitors seeking out camping often seek out facilities in other communities. Assuming comparable rates to beach park (\$2,400/space seasonal rate), and full occupancy, the 33 sites campground would generate approximately \$80,000 in gross revenue for the City. The site layout should be reviewed and adjustments may be necessary based on current code and regulatory requirements. A summary of the campgrounds features as designed in 2010 are as follows:

Block 66:

- 26 Sites on the main area (Jaycee Park)
- Site sizes 2,000 square feet or larger
- City water and sewer hookups to all sites
- Electrical hookups to all sites
- Public Restrooms (2-1 toilet, 1 shower, 1 sink in each)
- 11,240 Square foot drainage area/open space
- 2,500 square foot common space
- Pathway between restrooms, common space, and drainage area/open space

Block 65:

- Potential additional 7 sites depending on FEMA approval (land acquired through flood mitigation grants)
- Site sizes 2,400 square feet
- City water & sewer hookups to all sites
- Electrical hookups to all sites



Marcou Park Campground Layout

2 CREATE DOG PARK:

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Per the park system recommendations section of this report, a dog park should be considered for implementation in areas of Marcou Park not used for construction of the campground facility.

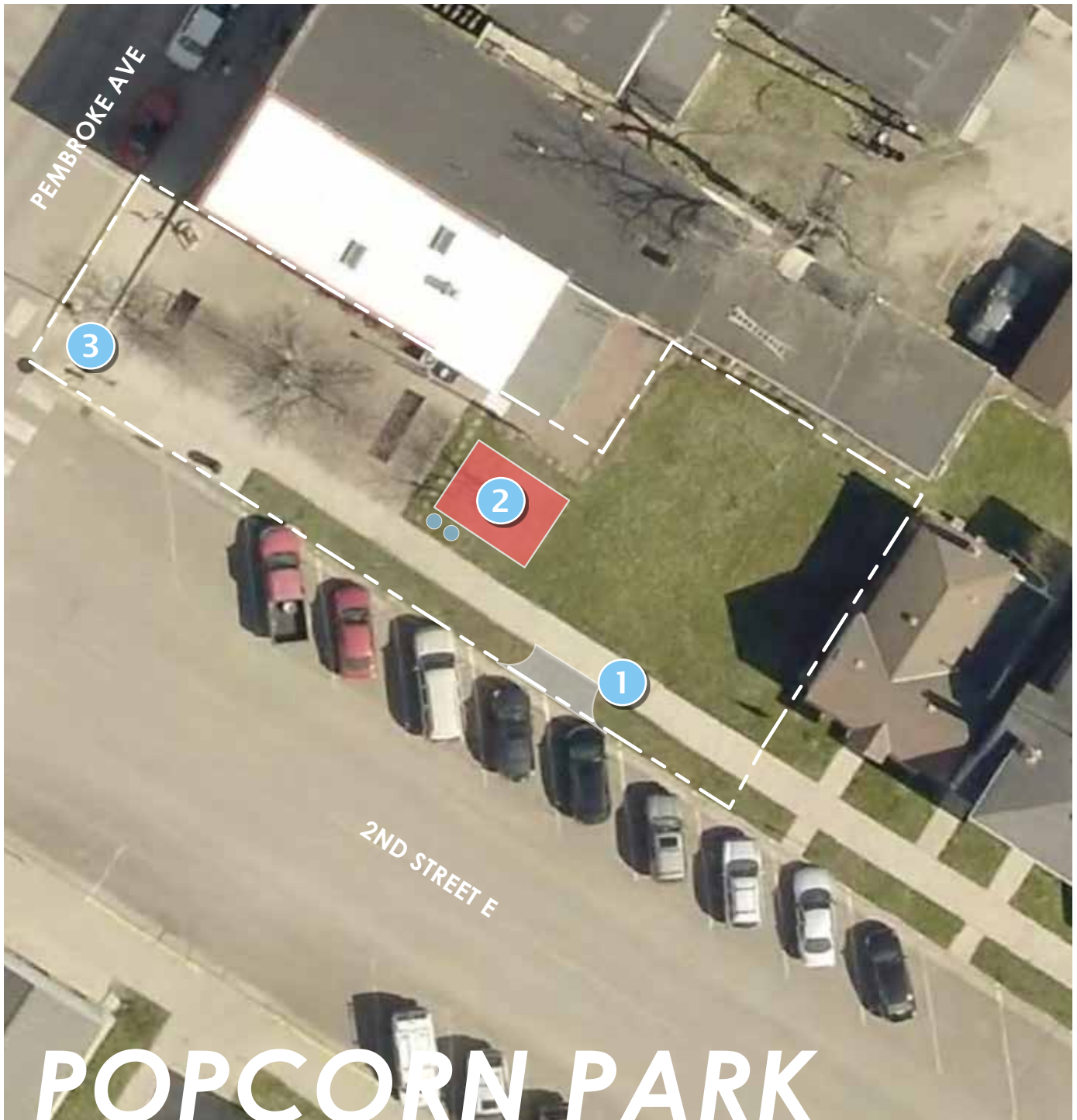
3 CREATE TRAIL REST STOP:

BUDGET EST. = \$30K

TIMELINE = LONG-RANGE (7-10 YEARS)

Create a "trail rest stop" with amenities that could include a drinking fountain, restrooms and litter receptacles. Water and sewer are available at the site and there is potential to develop a trailhead off Highway 61 via 60 and 12th Street.

FIGURE 22: POPCORN (DURY) PARK IMPROVEMENTS



POPCORN PARK

1 ADD DRIVEWAY CURB-CUT:

BUDGET EST. = \$4.5K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

The city-owned green space on the east end of Popcorn Park is currently underutilized. Community members have expressed interest in utilizing this space for special events including allowing the green to be used by food trucks. A curb cut should be placed along 2nd Street in conjunction with the planned street reconstruction to allow for this access.

2 INSTALL NEW WATER AND SEWER HOOKUPS:

BUDGET EST. = \$3K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

In conjunction with the 2nd Street reconstruction project, sewer and water services should be extended to the green space to accommodate any future needs that may be required at the park location. There has been strong public interest for the development of a public restroom facility in the downtown. While a preferred alternate location has been identified, Popcorn Park may be a suitable backup location, or the location of a future secondary facility.

3 ADD INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:

BUDGET EST. = \$5K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Interpretive signage related to Popcorn Park and more generally Downtown Wabasha should be implemented in the future. This signage could have a consistent aesthetic to the informational kiosks planned for implementation in the downtown, and could be incorporated into the bumpout area at the intersection of 2nd Street & Pembroke Ave. Note: if full kiosk is desired, cost should be adjusted to \$30k.



Existing signage and raised planter

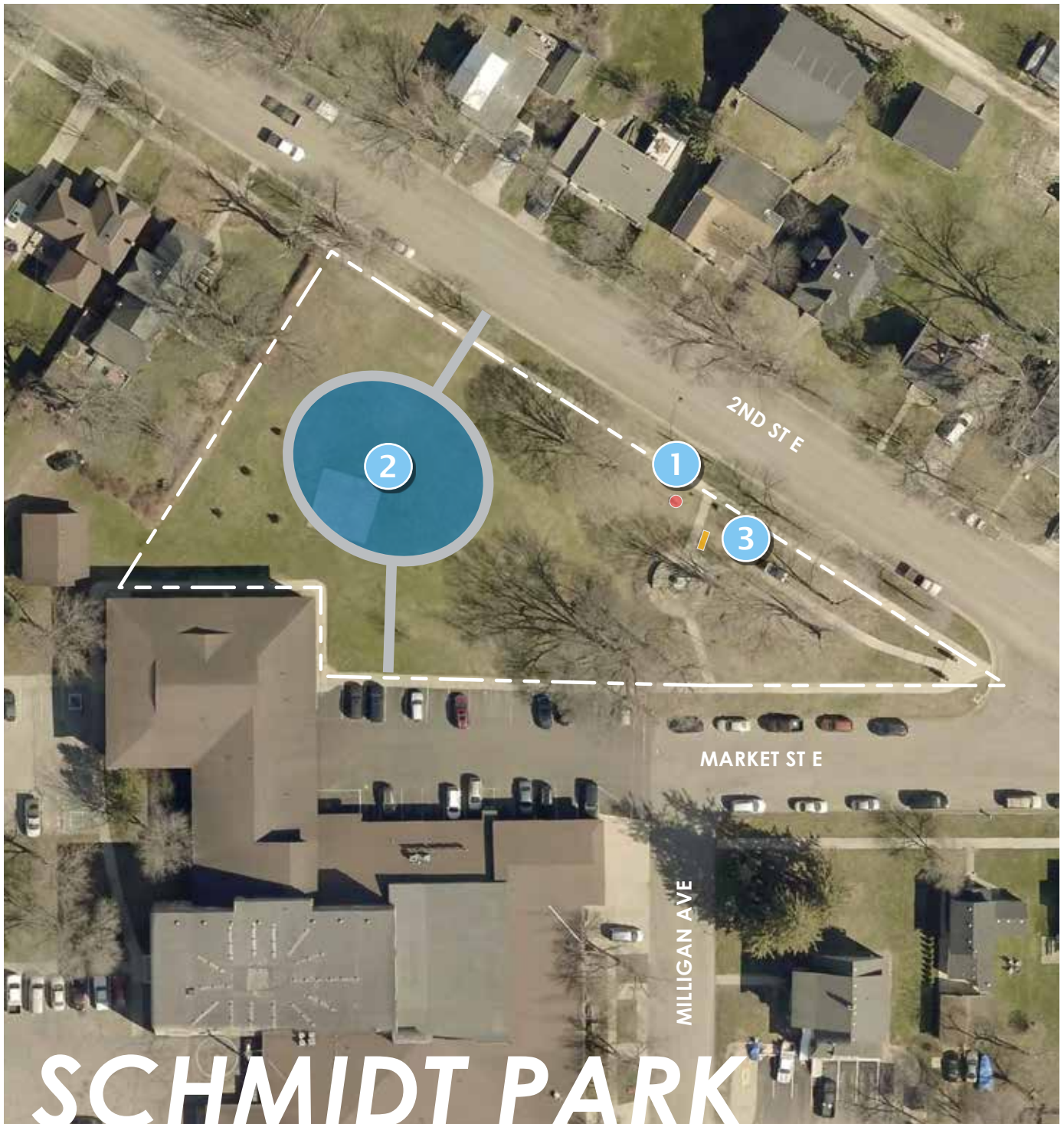


Existing stone planter



Greenspace on east end of park

FIGURE 23: SCHMIDT PARK IMPROVEMENTS



1 ADD TALLER FLAG POLE:

BUDGET EST. = \$6K

TIMELINE = SHORT-RANGE (1-3 YEARS)

The existing Schmidt Park flag pole should be replaced with a larger pole to accommodate multiple flags. Typically total flag height should be approximately 30% of the total flag pole. (i.e, a 30' pole could fly two 4'x6' flags, or two 5'x8' flags. Flag pole and flag sizing also factors in to necessary footing size. Estimate assumes a commercial grade 30' aluminum pole with internal halyard, rated for 120 mph wind speed.

2 CONSTRUCT AN ALL ABILITIES/ INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND:

BUDGET EST. = \$350K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Several locations were reviewed for consideration for an all abilities/inclusive playground. Schmidt Park is centrally located within the community, in close proximity to downtown, and several neighborhoods. The existing greenspace at the park is largely unutilized and is large enough to accommodate the playground and any associated future elements (picnic tables, benches, etc).



Existing fountain feature (Add interpretive signage)

3 ADD INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:

BUDGET EST. = \$5K

TIMELINE = MID-RANGE (3-7 YEARS)

Add interpretive signage near the fountain feature to provide historical context to visitors.



Flag pole (Replace with taller flag pole to accommodate multiple flags)



Example of an all abilities/inclusive playground swing feature

FIGURE 24: VETERANS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

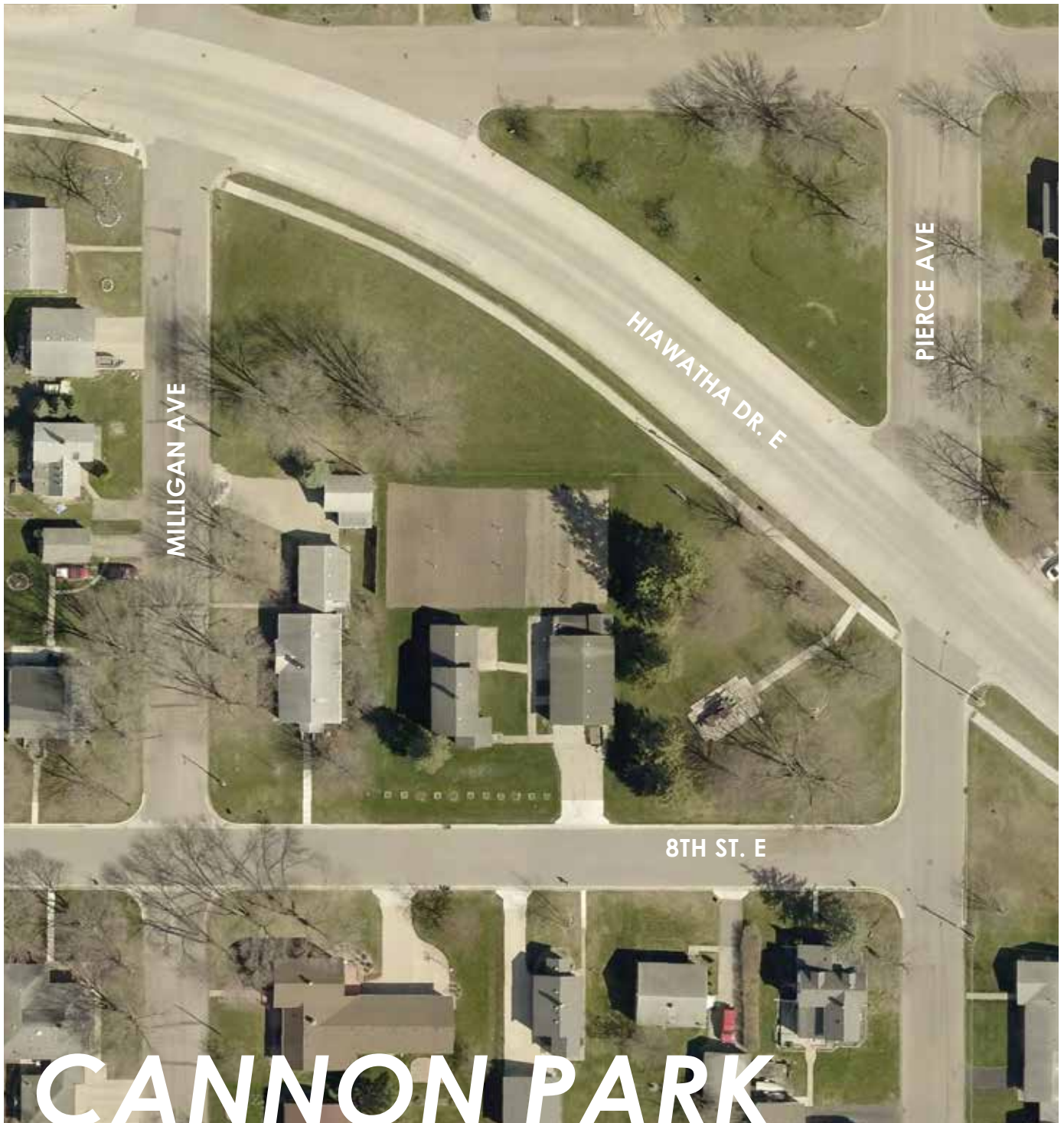


Veteran's Park is in the process of receiving a complete overhaul. When completed, the park will be modified to include:

- Gravel off-street parking lot on the north side of the park,
- Circulation sidewalks within the park to allow easier access through the site and to the various site features,
- Simplified planting beds within the park for easier maintenance and stronger probability of long-term success.

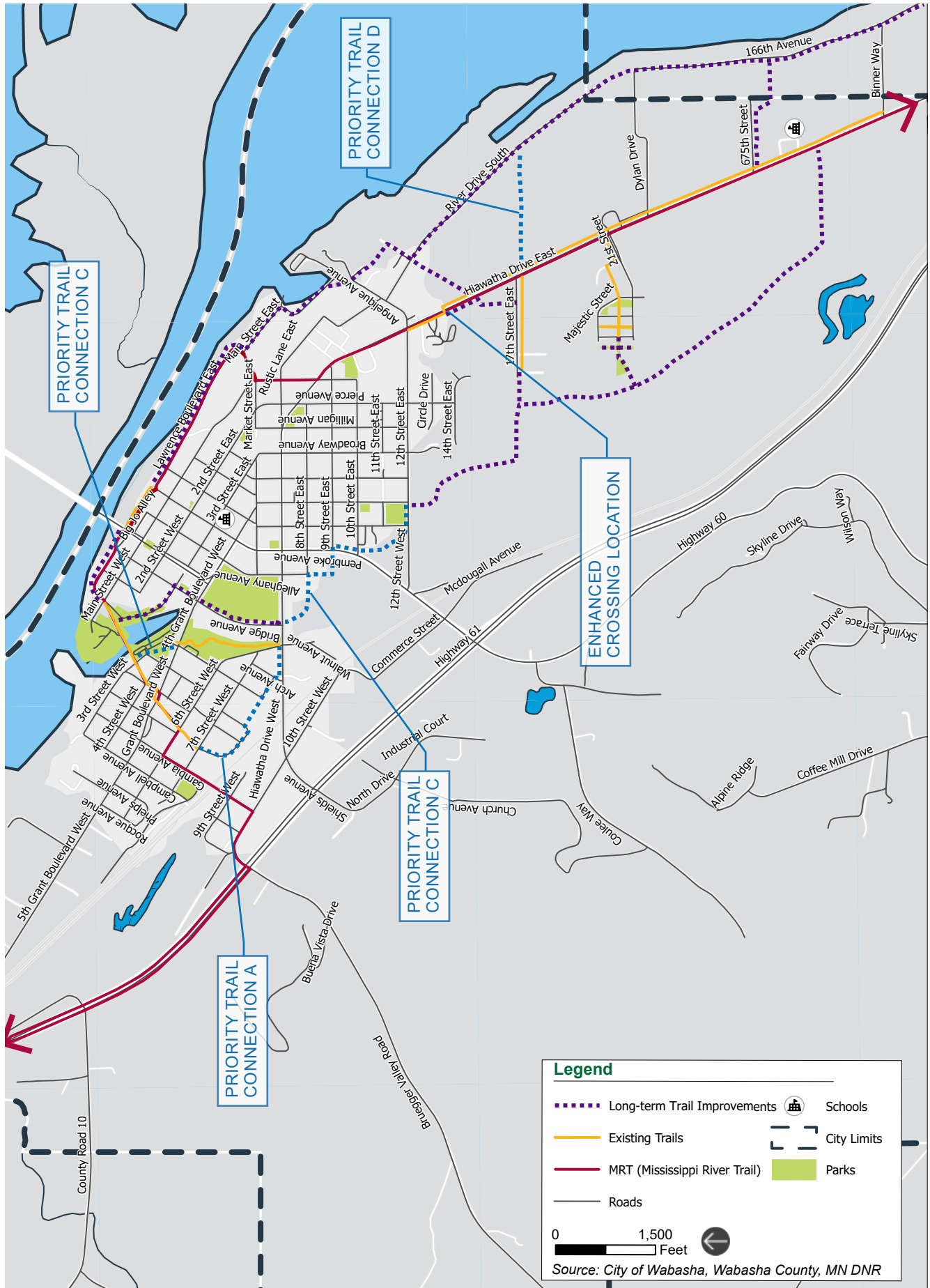
Future considerations should include the addition of an irrigation system to the site to assist with maintenance of lawn and planting bed areas, and the addition of the existing cannon from Cannon Park.

FIGURE 25: CANNON PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Cannon Park is largely underutilized, other than the existing Cannon feature. In an effort to balance future park system improvements, the Cannon from the park should be relocated to Veteran's Park, and the Cannon Park land sold. Funds collected from the sale should be used for maintenance and operations of the park system, or future park system development.

FIGURE 26: TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS



TRAIL SYSTEM & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Recreational trails make communities better places to live by preserving and creating open spaces, encouraging physical fitness and healthy lifestyles, creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and transportation, and even strengthening local economies. The City of Wabasha currently oversees and maintains approximately 3.1 miles of off-street shared use trails throughout the community.

Throughout the planning of development stages of this Parks and Trails plan and community engagement efforts, trails have been identified as one of the highest rated recreational amenities in terms of overall use, and increased connectivity and expansion of the trail system has ranked as a high priority for residents. Many of the City's parks are accessible via trail currently, but there

are gaps in connectivity throughout the core of the community, and connectivity to outlying neighborhoods is variable.

In a session with steering committee members, discussions centering around prioritization of trail connections resulted in the identification of 4 priority trail connections which are discussed further in this section of the report. Note that construction costs presented with these trail connections do not include engineering and design costs, and are intended to assist with capital budgeting and planning.

Beyond trail connections, sidewalk connectivity and pedestrian safety were also reviewed, with several priority sidewalk connections identified, and recommendations associated with an enhanced pedestrian crossing on Hiawatha Drive.



Existing riverfront trail system

FIGURE 27: PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION A



PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION A:

Priority Trail Connection A aims to develop a trail connection in the vicinity of Westa Town Mobile Home Park. Two alternative alignments were developed taking advantage of existing city owned property or existing roadway right-of-way to the extent possible in order to achieve this connection route. Route descriptions and cost estimate information is provided on the following page.

1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1

Alignment 1 routes the trail connection through the city owned parcel west of the Westa Town Mobile Home Park. This alternative requires routing portions of the trail through privately owned property and connecting to the 8th Street West right-of-way, ultimately connecting to the trail on Hiawatha. **Distance:** Approximately 2,300 Linear Feet

Item	Item Description	Notes	Amount
1	Land Acquisition		\$20,000.00
2	Mobilization (10% of Project Costs)		\$8,000.00
3	Site Grading (20% of Improvement Costs)		\$13,000.00
4	Bituminous Trail Construction		\$65,000.00
Subtotal			\$106,000.00
Contingency (20%)			\$21,000.00
Preliminary Overall Total			\$127,000.00

2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2

Alignment 2 eliminates the need to secure easements on private property by routing the trail down the south side of 7th Street West within existing right of way. This segment would ultimately connect with the existing trails along Hiawatha Drive and through Malone Park on its south end. Some properties adjacent to this alignment currently have private improvements within the right of way that would likely be impacted by construction.

Distance: Approximately 2,000 Linear Feet

Item	Item Description	Notes	Amount
1	Mobilization (10% of Project Costs)		\$8,000.00
2	Site Grading (20% of Improvement Costs)		\$13,000.00
3	Bituminous Trail Construction		\$56,000.00
4	Concrete Ped Ramps		\$7,500.00
5	Crosswalk Striping		\$1,500.00
Subtotal			\$86,000.00
Contingency (20%)			\$17,000.00
Preliminary Overall Total			\$103,000.00

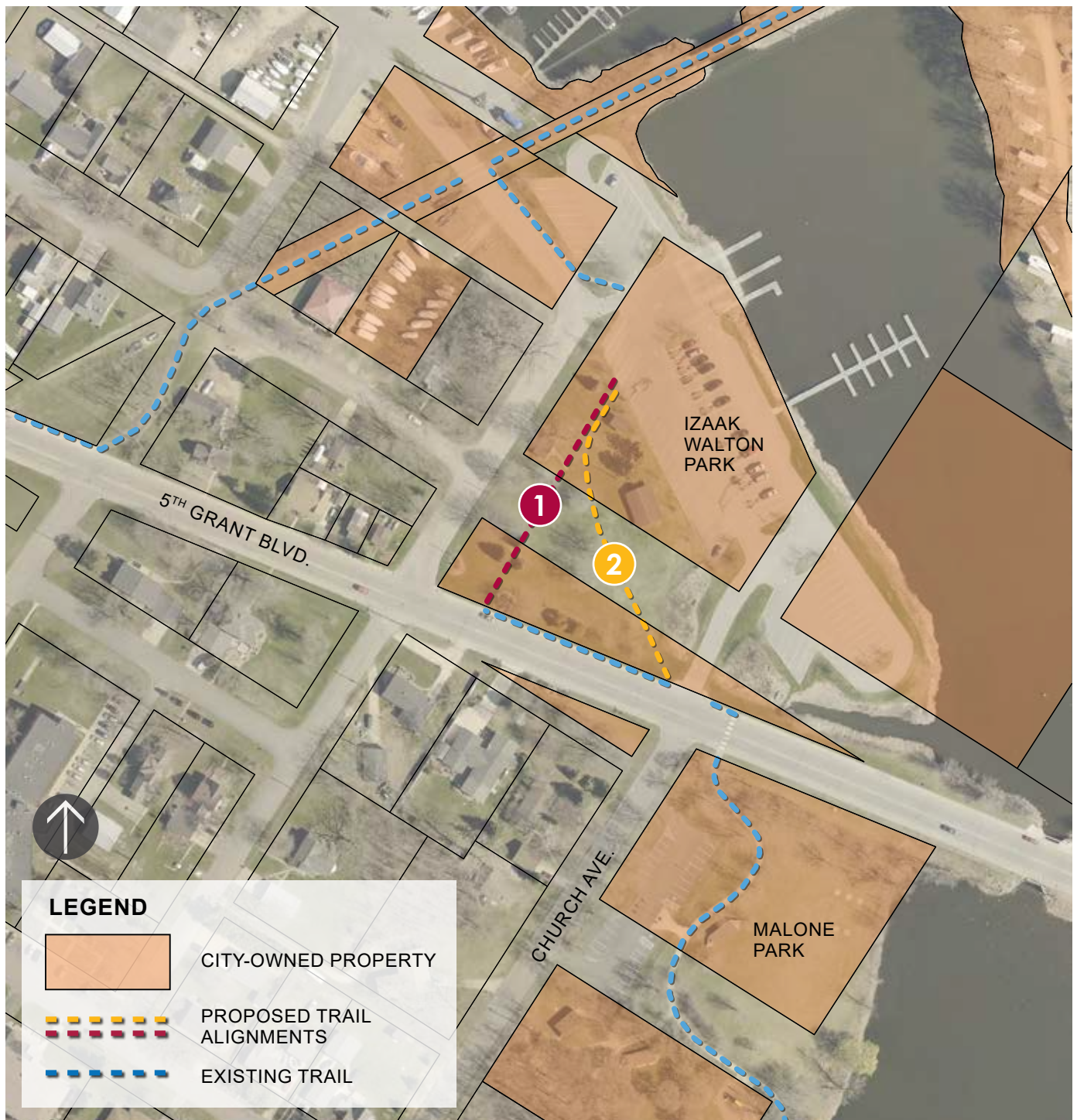


Alignment 1: 8th Street West (Looking West)



Alignment 2: 7th Street West (Looking East)

FIGURE 28: PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION B



PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION B:

Priority Trail Connection B fills a gap in the city's trail network through the construction of a separated trail/sidewalk through Izaak Walton Park. This connection links existing trail through Malone Park to the south, and sidewalk within Izaak Walton on the north, ultimately connecting to the trail crossing the slough to Beach Park. This improvement is also referenced in the Izaak Walton Park recommendations section of this report, and has previously been identified as a need though the city's park system-wide ADA accessibility review which is documented in the appendix of this report.

1 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 1

Alignment 1 provides a linear connection between the sidewalk on 5th Grant Blvd and the parking lot of Izaak Walton where the trail links up with the existing sidewalk and trail to the north.

Distance: Approximately 310 Linear Feet

Item	Item Description	Notes	Amount
1	Mobilization (10% of Project Costs)		\$1,500.00
2	Site Grading (20% of Improvement Costs)		\$2,000.00
3	Bituminous Trail Construction		\$9,000.00
4	Concrete Ped Ramps		\$1,000.00
Subtotal			\$13,500.00
Contingency (20%)			\$3,000.00
Preliminary Overall Total			\$16,500.00

2 ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVE 2

Alignment 2 provides a more direct trail connection from Malone Park, through Izaak Walton, to the existing sidewalk and trail network on the north side of the park.

Distance: Approximately 390 Linear Feet

Item	Item Description	Notes	Amount
1	Mobilization (10% of Project Costs)		\$1,500.00
2	Site Grading (20% of Improvement Costs)		\$2,500.00
3	Bituminous Trail Construction		\$11,000.00
4	Concrete Ped Ramps		\$1,000.00
Subtotal			\$16,000.00
Contingency (20%)			\$3,500.00
Preliminary Overall Total			\$19,500.00



Alignment 1: Connection to existing trail on north side



Alignment 2: 5th Grant/Izaak Walton entry

FIGURE 29: PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION C

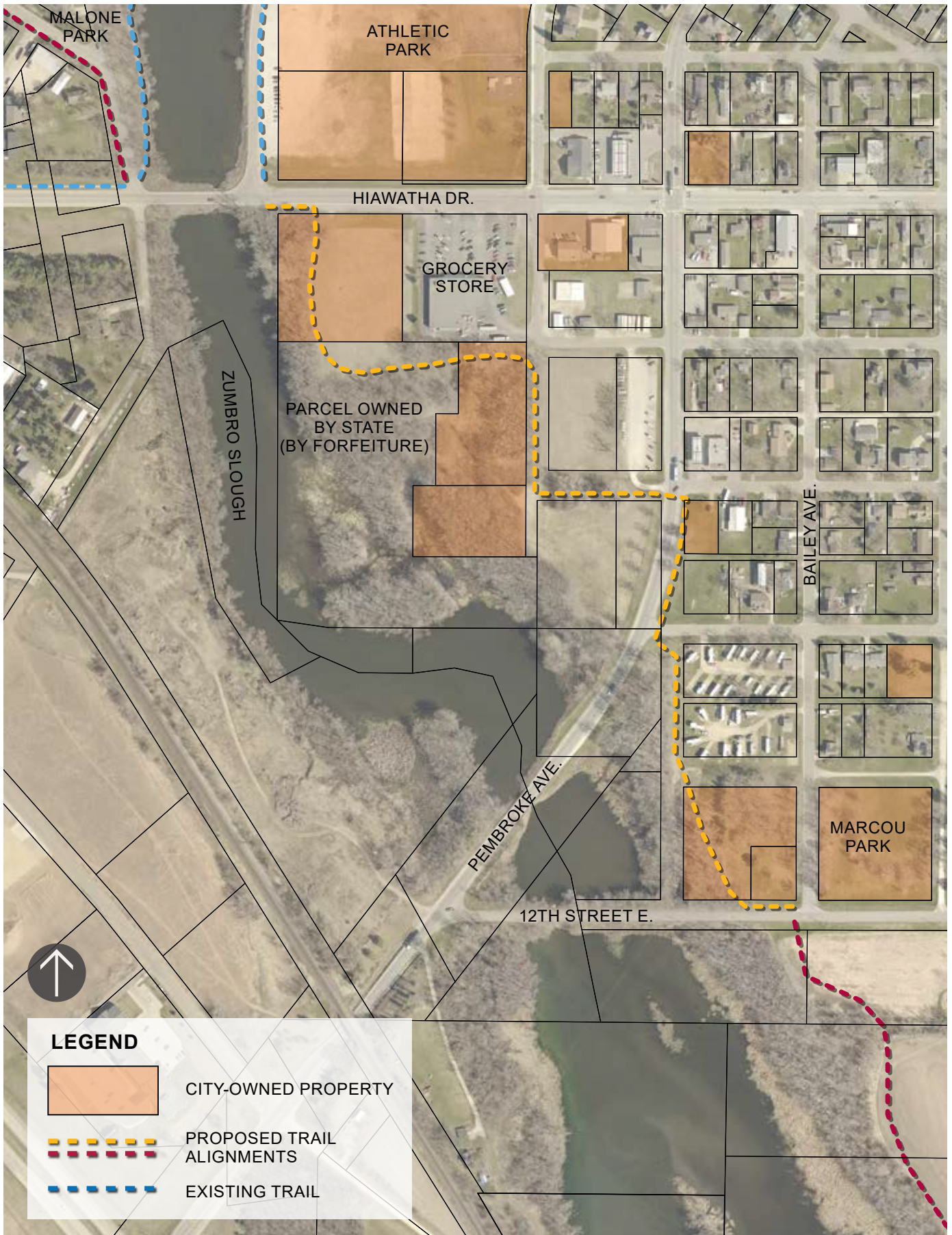


Figure based on Fitzgerald Second Addition Preliminary Plat submitted to the City of Wabasha

PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION C:

Priority Trail Connection C enhances connectivity between Marcou Park and the rest of the city's park system, and further develops a looping trail system throughout the community. The anticipated trail alignment would largely run through city owned parcels and existing roadway right-of-way, though encroachments onto private property may be necessary.

With Marcou Park's proposed future development as a campground, this trail connection would enhance campers' connectivity to the existing campground at Beach Park, the city's docks, and downtown Wabasha, making for a more attractive location for visitors. This connection could also link to proposed future sidewalk along 12th Street, developing further community connectivity.

Distance: Approximately 3,000 Linear Feet

Item	Item Description	Notes	Amount
1	Mobilization (10% of Project Costs)		\$12,000.00
2	Site Grading (20% of Improvement Costs)		\$20,000.00
3	Bituminous Trail Construction		\$85,000.00
4	Concrete Ped Ramps		\$6,000.00
Subtotal			\$123,000.00
Contingency (20%)			\$25,000.00
Preliminary Overall Total			\$148,000.00






Proposed trail location along 12th Street @ Marcou Park



Proposed trail location along Pembroke/MN-60 @ 10th Street

FIGURE 30: PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION D

LEGEND

-  PROPOSED TRAIL ALIGNMENTS
-  PROPOSED TRAIL ALIGNMENTS
-  EXISTING TRAIL

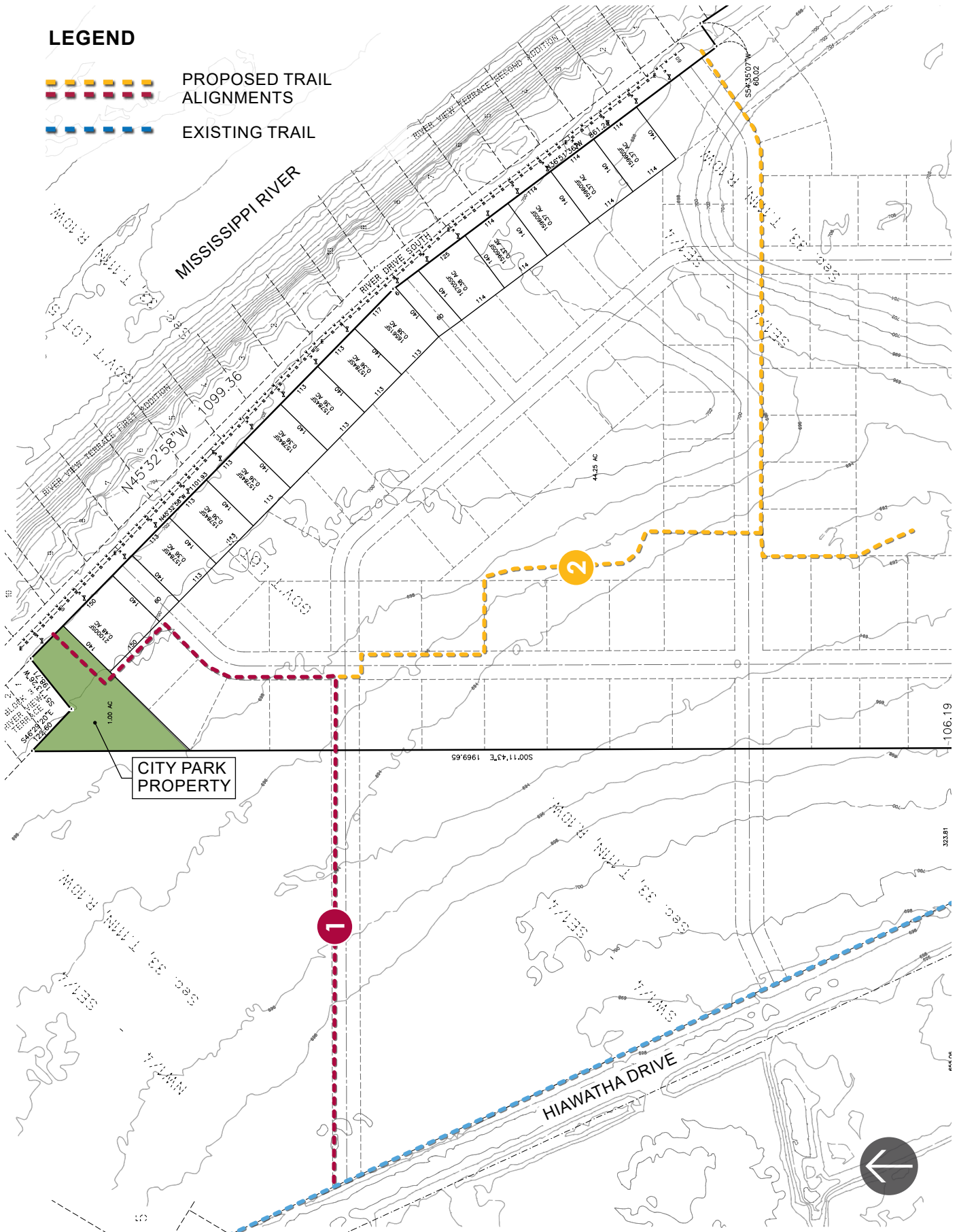


Figure based on Fitzgerald Second Addition Preliminary Plat submitted to the City of Wabasha

PRIORITY TRAIL CONNECTION D:

Priority Trail Connection D strengthens pedestrian connectivity between River Drive South and the city's existing trail network. The recently platted Fitzgerald First Addition will dedicate additional parkland on River Drive to expand the property currently owned by the City. In addition to filling a gap in park system coverage throughout the community, this site can also act as the start of a larger trail connection network built out as adjacent development projects occur. While cost estimate information is provided for reference, the City may wish to consider requiring trail infrastructure inclusion with future development projects.

Note: Development shown beyond the homes adjacent to River Drive on this plan is conceptual in nature and may change. Future trail connections in this area should be coordinated with proposed development projects and incorporated into the right-of-way where possible.

1 ALIGNMENT 1

Alignment 1 establishes a connection between River Drive and the Existing trail along Hiawatha. This connection would ultimately provide separated trail connectivity for area residents to Wabasha Kellogg School to the south, and downtown to the north.

Distance: Approximately 1,800 Linear Feet

Item	Item Description	Notes	Amount
1	Mobilization (10% of Project Costs)		\$6,000.00
2	Site Grading (20% of Improvement Costs)		\$10,500.00
3	Bituminous Trail Construction		\$50,000.00
4	Concrete Ped Ramps		\$2,000.00
Subtotal			\$68,500.00
Contingency (20%)			\$14,000.00
Preliminary Overall Total			\$82,500.00

2 ALIGNMENT 2

Alignment 2 is conceptual in nature and intended to provide neighborhood connectivity in future development occurring between Hiawatha Drive and River Drive. Trail connections should be coordinated with future development and situated within right-of-way where possible. Any created greenspaces should include trail connections where possible.

Distance: To be determined as future development occurs.

Costs: To be determined as future development occurs.

ENHANCED HIAWATHA DRIVE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

BUDGET EST. = \$35K **TIMELINE = SHORT TERM (1-3 YEARS)**

In the City's 2021 Safe routes to School survey, one of the primary roadblocks to parents allowing their children to walk or bike to Wabasha Kellogg Public School was concern about safely crossing Hiawatha Drive. The current crossing is striped and includes static pedestrian crossing signage. Vehicular traffic on this corridor frequently travels in excess of the posted xx mph speed limit (speed limit transitions from xx to xx just south of this location). A rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) installed at this location would help to provide visual awareness to drivers of potential pedestrian crossing activity. According to the Department of Transportation, an RRFB is particularly effective at multi-lane crossings, and can result in motorist yield rates as high as 98% at marked crosswalks (depending on factors like location, speed limit, and crossing distance).



Proposed crossing treatment: This example from West Saint Paul shows an RRFB system and high visibility crosswalk demarcations providing drivers with clear indications of potential pedestrian activity.



Existing condition: pedestrian crossing on Hiawatha Drive



Hiawatha Drive Corridor trail connection between downtown Wabasha and the Wabasha Kellogg Public School.

SIDEWALK CONNECTIVITY

BUDGET EST. = TBD

TIMELINE = LONG TERM (7-10 YEARS)

Sidewalk connectivity is a critical component to promoting an active, healthy, and safe community. Improving sidewalk connections strengthens recreational opportunities, economic opportunities, and overall quality of life. For residents who don't have a car, they also provide alternative transportation accommodations. Sidewalk connectivity was identified in the Safe Routes to School survey as a barrier to children safely getting to and from school on foot or by bike.

Several sidewalk connections have been identified as part of the master planning process. Priority routes target major pedestrian connections, including along 12th Street, extending sidewalk from Main Street to Hiawatha, and adding sidewalk facilities along Pembroke out to 12th Street. Secondary connections aim to enhance the system further by filling small missing gaps in connectivity and adding another layer of North-South, and East-West connectivity through established neighborhoods.

Sidewalk improvements should be considered in conjunction with adjacent roadway projects to the extent possible. Additional connections/linkages should be extended and implemented as future development occurs.

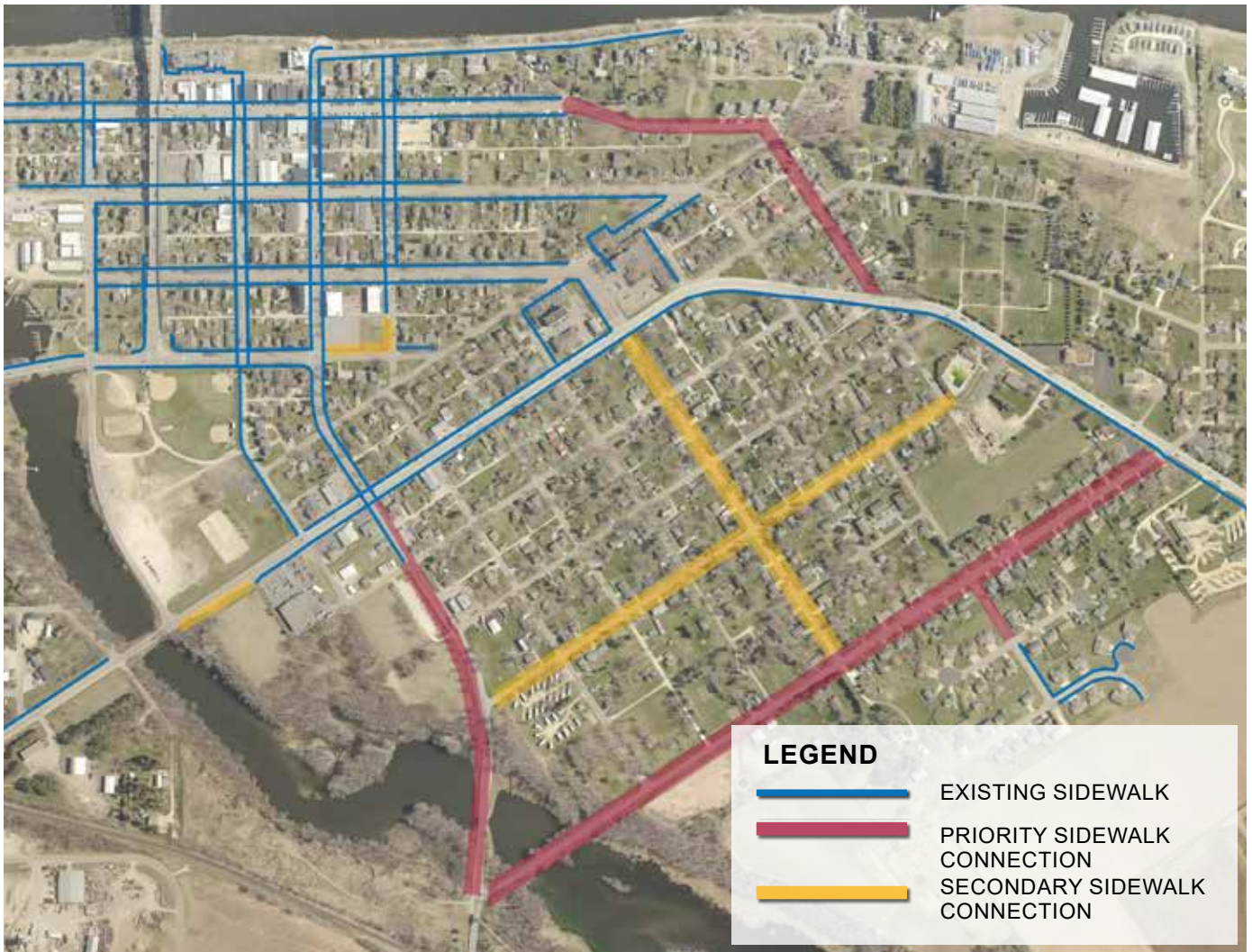
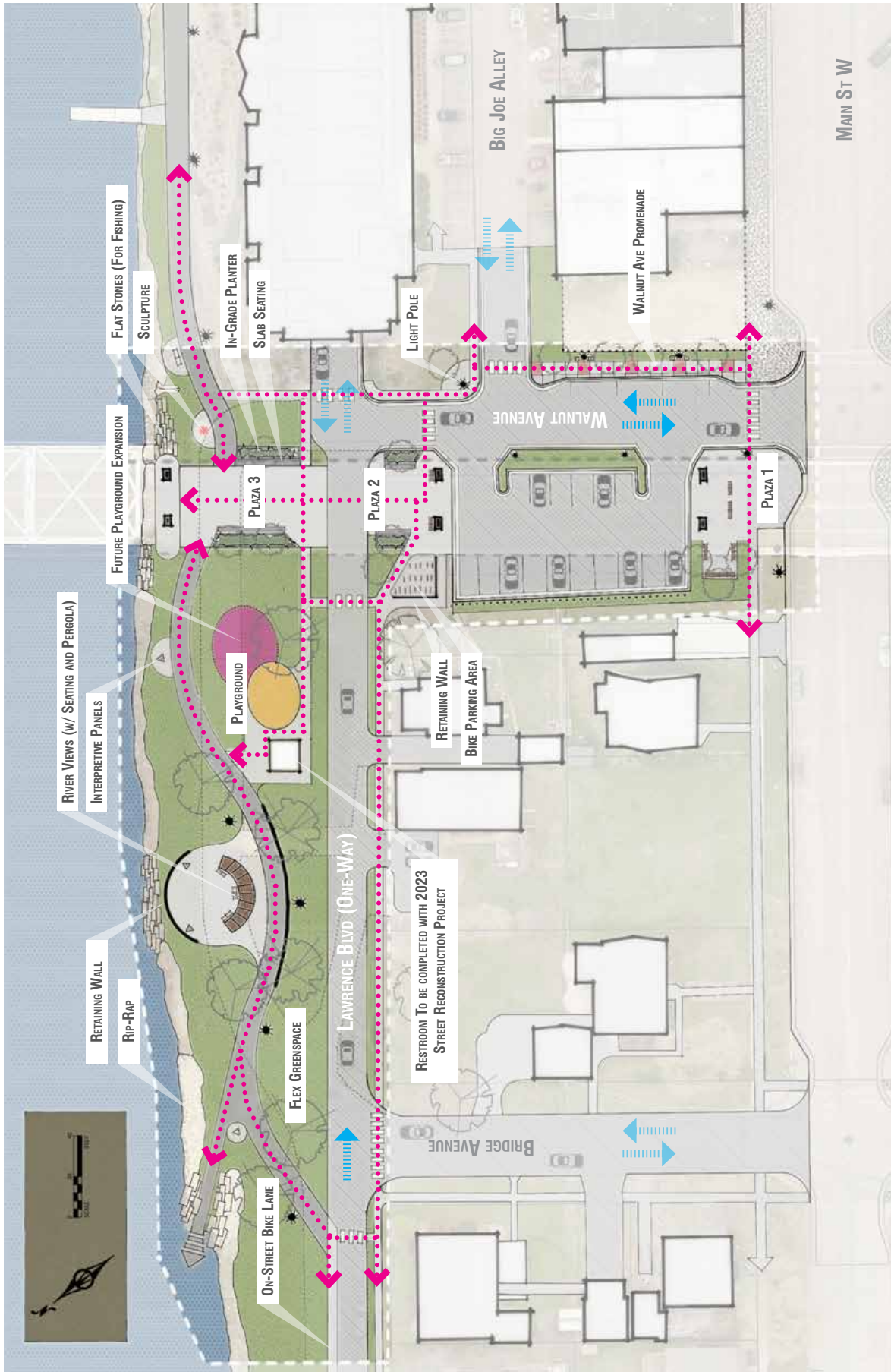


FIGURE 31: DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT PLAZA CONCEPT PLAN



OPPORTUNITY DRIVEN PROJECTS

Opportunity Driven projects are those projects that have been identified through planning efforts by the community as desirable projects, but also projects that currently lack available funding for implementation. These projects should be considered as funding opportunities arise, or as related construction presents opportunities for their implementation.

Downtown Riverfront Plaza Concept

As part of the Downtown Streetscape Master Planning project, the area under the Highway 60 Bridge, generally bounded by Walnut Avenue to the east, Bridge Avenue to the west, Main Street to the South, and the Mississippi River to the north was identified as an underutilized opportunity area with potential for future public amenity development. Through an iterative design process with the steering committee, a layout was developed for the space that aims to strengthen the connection between Main Street, Heritage Park, and the rest of the downtown, and the river and Mississippi

River Trail (MRT) corridor.

The refined concept plan for this area envisions public restrooms, a playground, public green space and multi-use plaza spaces, a separated multi-use trail, an enhanced canoe/kayak launch, and an enhanced shoreline with landscaping and potential for fishing access. The master plan for this area was broken into four phases as follows:

- Phase 1: Relocation of Lawrence Blvd., Site Grading & Restoration
- Phase 2: Playground
- Phase 3: Finished Grading, Bituminous Trail, Lighting, Landscaping, Trail Amenities, Retaining Walls
- Phase 4; Plazas under the Bridge

A phasing diagram and cost estimate for the implementation of the Downtown Riverfront Plaza can be found in the appendix of this report.

Due to interest in prioritizing the development of a restroom facility in this location prior to the realization of the full project vision,



Area included in downtown riverfront plaza concept planning

a simplified plan was developed as shown in the appendix. This plan allows for the construction of the restroom in a space that would not be impacted by a future realignment of Lawrence Blvd.

Note: Any improvements under the Highway 60 bridge or on the adjacent MnDOT property will require review and a modified Conditional Use Permit through MnDOT. Any improvements in this area may be required to be relocated should MnDOT require future use of the property for any reason.

Mountain Biking & Hiking Trails

Community members have expressed interest in the development of mountain biking and hiking trails in the bluff area near Coffee Mill Ski Area and the Wabasha Overlook along Highway 60. This area is generally unutilized as a recreational amenity, with all public city recreation facilities currently located east of Highway 61. Trail development would take advantage of the natural grade change, scenic vistas, and existing vegetative cover



*Single-track mountain biking trail example.
Image Credit: xxxx*

in the bluff area where other development opportunities may be limited.

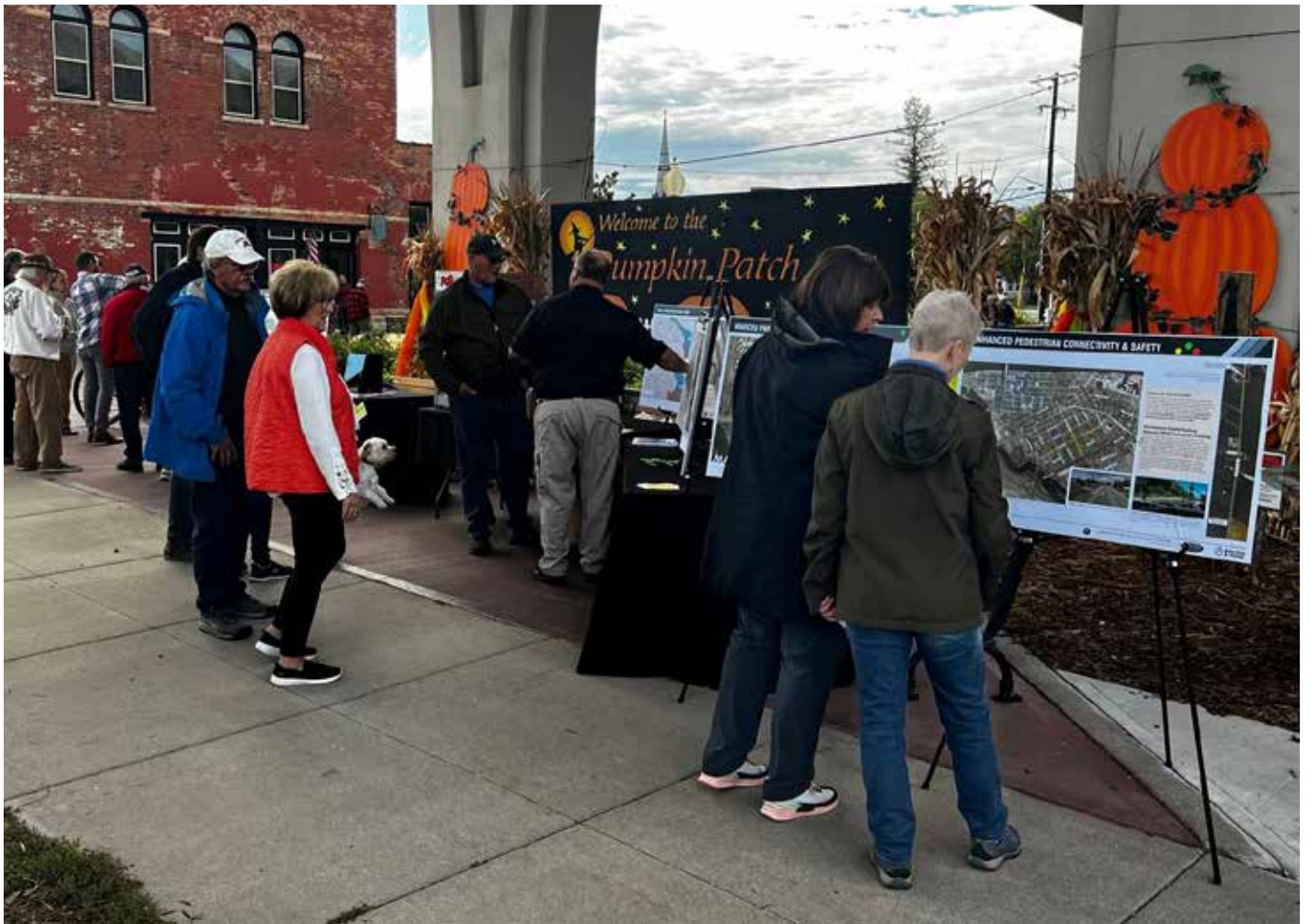
The City does not currently own land in this area that would accommodate biking and hiking trail uses. As such, any future development of these facilities would be dependent on the city purchasing or receiving donated property, securing easements from private landowners, or willingness of private landowners to develop facilities on their property.

Mountain bike trails are a great way to attract and enhance recreational tourism, however long-term maintenance requirements of this type of trails should also be considered. Erosion, brush trimming, and other routine maintenance needs can quickly overburden a city's public works staff. Conflicting uses, (i.e. hiking, biking, horseback) also have varying impacts on trail systems and lead to other maintenance issues.

In many communities, mountain bike trails are maintained by volunteer groups, often local trail riders. Organizations like Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC) offer trail maintenance courses free of charge that can be advantageous in helping city and volunteer staff in being able to maintain these facilities.

Costs for the development of this type of facility vary depending on several factors including groundwater, site grade, vegetative cover, etc., but can generally be estimated at \$50,000 per mile for a high quality, professionally built trail (not including land procurement costs). Typically, mountain bike trail systems are developed to cater to specific skill and ability levels, with designated areas for beginner and advanced riders, and features varying depending on this skill level.

INPUT GATHERING | 04



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Engaging the community and understanding what a positive outcome looks like to them is critical to the success of any planning effort. Since 2015, and preparation of the Wabasha's Comprehensive Plan, the City has undertaken several engagement efforts to better understand the public's needs and desires related to parks and trails. This section of the report provides a summary of these efforts and the information collected through the process.

ENGAGEMENT SURVEYS

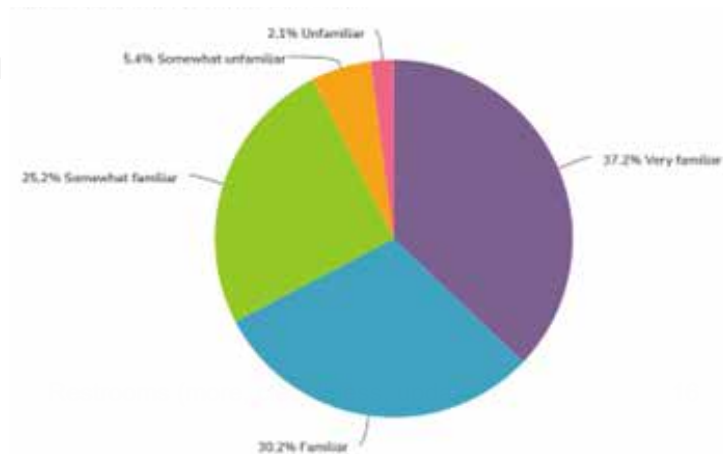
2021 Engagement Survey

In 2021, the City administered a public survey of Wabasha residents seeking input on the Parks and Trail system in the community. The goal of this survey was to provide an updated look at people's perceptions of the park system, and the community's needs and desires as the City looked at the future of the system. A total of 262 surveys were completed as part of this effort. Based on results of the survey, a list of the top Wants and Improvements was developed as follows:

What Needs to Improve?	
Item	# of Responses
Playgrounds/Playground Equipment	24
Restrooms (more, cleanliness, updated)	16
Docks (More)	11
Cleaned up dog poop	10
Dogs on leash	6
Dredge Slough in Malone Park	5
Basketball court	5
Flowers/Plants (aesthetics of parks)	4
Parking (General and by boat launches)	4
Electric at Beach Park	3
Benches	3
Lighting	2
Pollinator Habitat	2

Additionally, several key metrics involving people's use of park and trail facilities are included in the follow charts:

1. How familiar are you with Wabasha's park and trail system?



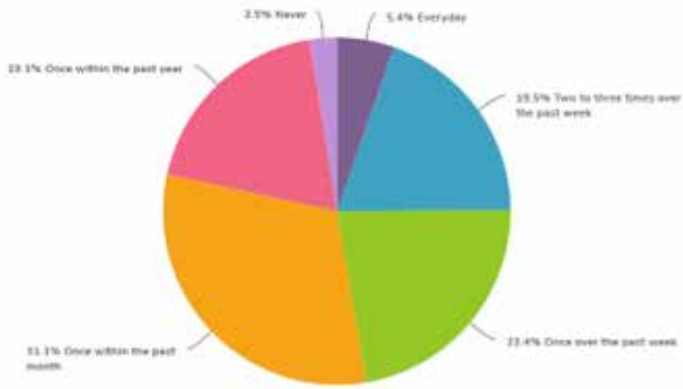
92.6% at least somewhat familiar with Wabasha's parks and trails system

Dogs on leash 6

Electric at Beach Park 3

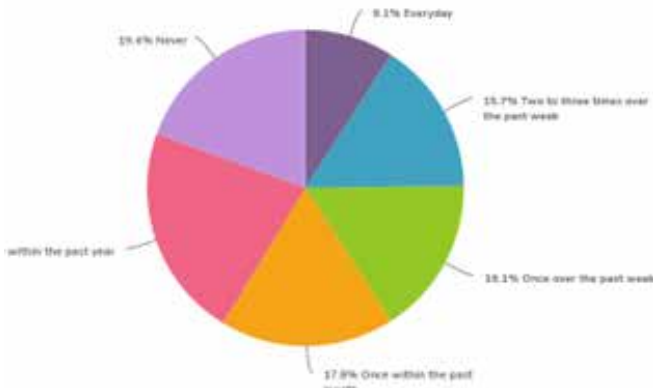
What People Want	
Item	# of Responses
Bike/Walking Trails	28
Dog Park	17
Tennis Courts	11
Pickleball Courts	9
More Swings	9
Lawrence Blvd./Riverfront Usage	6
Handicap Accessible Playground	5
Drinking Water at Parks	4
Park at Eagle Basin	4
Seating Around Playground	4
Organized Activities	4
Fish Cleaning Station	3
Map of trails/paths, playgrounds	3
Kayak/Canoe Trail in Slough	2

2. How often do you visit any of the City parks?



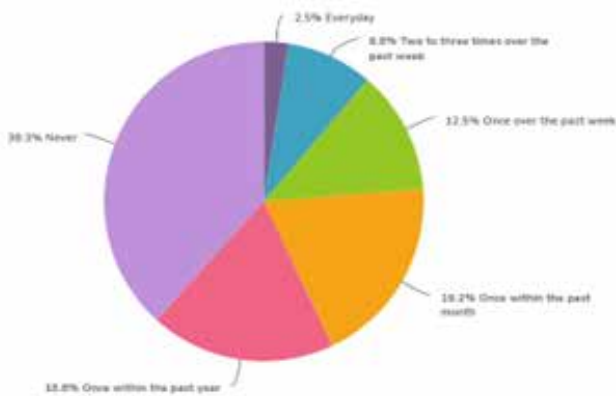
47.3% visit a park at least once a week; 78.4% visited within the past month

3. How often do you use city trails?



40.9% use a trail at least once a week; 58.7% within the past month; 19.4% have never used a trail

4. How often do you use the playground facilities?



43% use playground facilities at least once a month; 38.3% have never used them used a trail

5. Would you like to see more organized recreational activities for the community?



63.6% would like to see more organized recreational opportunities offered.

As a follow up, respondents were asked what types of activities they would like to see programming accommodate. Responses were developed into a word cloud, with the highest frequency of respondents looking for more youth-centered-sports activities. Results are as follows:



While no recommendations associate with programming are made in this report, the City should look at future opportunities for partnership with nearby communities, community organizations, or local volunteers to facilitate an expansion of park and trail related programming opportunities.

A complete copy of the 2021 Park and Trail survey and associated results can be found in the appendix to this report.

2015 Engagement Survey

As a part of the 2015 Wabasha Comprehensive Plan, staff conducted a survey of residents, non-residents (visitors/commuters/seasonal), and students to help inform goals, policies, and action items in the comprehensive plan. A total of xxx surveys were completed as part of this effort. A summary of park and trail-related topics and results from the 2015 survey are as follows:

Evaluation of Existing Parks and Recreation System:

- 6 out of 10 residents and non-residents value the region's natural recreation opportunities
- 5 out of 10 respondents value parks, sidewalks, and bikeways
- 4 out of 10 respondents came to/live in Wabasha for parks and recreation opportunities



Community member participation at the SeptOberfest pop-up event

Top 3 Reasons Respondents Use Parks:

- **Residents** – Family events, Playgrounds, Concerts/festivals
- **Non-residents** – Family events, Playgrounds, Exercise
- **Students** – Family events, Exercise, Sporting events

Other Statistics:

- 2 out of 3 residents use parks at least once a week (*half of all visitors seldom use a park; students vary greatly*)
- 7 out of 10 residents rate park experiences as "good" or better (*8 out of 10 for non-residents*)

Future Needs:

- Most residents want better connectivity with sidewalks and trails (*with around 4 out of 10 residents wanting them better maintained and with more lighting*)

Top 3 Recreational Experiences to Improve:

- **Residents** – Public pool, City dock and beaches, biking and walking trails
- **Non-residents** – City docks and beaches, biking and walking trails expansion, indoor activities
- **Students** – City docks and beaches, Indoor activities, Public pool

Other Statistics:

- 6 out of 10 residents want more recreational opportunities (*4 out of 10 for non-residents*)
- 6 out of 10 students want an indoor pool (*4-5 out of 10 want more athletic facilities*)

ALL-ABILITIES/INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND



What is an All-Abilities/Inclusive Playground?

The goal of an inclusive playground is to offer people of all ages and abilities a space outside of the home for growth, socialization, and development. Some elements of an all-abilities/inclusive playground might include:

- Increased seating (including shaded areas)
- Impact Attenuating Surfacing (IAS) or a similar soft surface on which it is easy to safely walk or maneuver a wheelchair
- Sensory panel walls or other ground-level features
- Ramps leading to elevated places
- Embankment slides
- Other ADA accessible play components, such as rockers or spinners



WABASHA PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN
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- 6 out of 10 residents want new development with recreation or entertainment opportunities
- 5 out of 10 students value creation of and preservation of parkland and both maintaining and expanding sidewalks, trails, and bikeways network

PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

In 2022, with an invigorated interest in completing a guiding master plan document for the park and trail system, the City prioritized the completion of a Parks and Trails Master Plan document. To help facilitate this process, a Steering Committee comprised of 14 members was formed. This group was made up of residents, business owners, volunteers, community organization representatives, City Council members, and city staff.

The committee's mission was to aid in the overall development of the plan, to provide local expertise on the existing park system, potential deficiencies, and to guide outcomes of the project (in conjunction with input collected through public engagement). This steering committee met 3 times during the development of the master plan with meetings focusing generally on topics as follows:

- **Meeting 1:** Project background, existing conditions, goals, SWOT analysis
- **Meeting 2:** Review and analysis of inventory, recommendations and prioritization of improvements
- **Meeting 3:** Draft plan review and feedback

The following is a summary of the results of the SWOT analysis completed during the first meeting of the Steering Committee.

Complete committee meeting materials can be found in the Appendix of this report document.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

- Number of parks
- Space for growth
- Beach Park more of an asset
- Riverfront location
- Community support and involvement
- Natural resources/bluffs
- Central location-not too far from metro and Rochester, bridge to Wisconsin
- Trail connectivity
- Easy draw based on what we have to offer
- Eagle Center projected 120,000 visitors per year, need to give them something to do
- Weather-have all seasons and activities for all seasons

Weaknesses:

- Outdated equipment
- Lack of funding for Public Works/ maintenance
- Parks are not accessible (ADA)
- Nothing is connecting businesses... People come to the NEC but no wayfinding signage. Walk or ride bike to hospital, NEC, business around town. To encourage more active lifestyles.
- Some sort of paper map people can use to get around would be helpful
- Seems to be something other than just funding that is holding back updates
- Funding for parks is low priority. Money goes to streets and other necessities
- Cable/utility boxes in ROW
- Safety - forced to use road for trail and safety issues
- Lack of Lighting in certain areas that lead to safety concerns
- Environmental mosquitos - mosquito parks
- No one to maintain flower beds, baskets,



Joint Park Board & Steering Committee Meeting open to the public held at City Hall

etc., organizations will volunteer for maintenance but only lasts one or two years and they give up. Need more permanent and skilled care.

- If you can't afford to maintain it, don't put it in
- History is still alive in many of the parks. Why are they named what they are? Signage and info lacking

Opportunities:

- Educational signage - Environmental or Historic
- Dredging of sloughs – Historically people used to swing in slough. Isaac Walton pushed back on this idea, but attitudes may have changed. It may not be the best approach to let it go natural from a natural resources perspective.
- Improve on existing park systems. Small improvements. Add a swing set here, take out mulch and put in ADA surface in one park, etc.
- Focus on connecting trails/parks to downtown business.
- Fundraising
- Raise dog feces fees
- Adopt-a-Park or larger Wabasha group to go out and clean up parks twice a year
- Using Wabasha helping Wabasha social media site for communications, requests for help
- Engage schools - they may be struggling too with volunteers, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, hospital, etc.
- Add more trash and recycling containers. They can get full, and PW doesn't always have time to empty them when they get full. Empty once per week.

Threats:

- Lack of funding
- Lack of lighting

- Misinformation
- Make city site more user friendly so people can find information. Can't find meeting minutes
- Parks are low priority
- Things outside of the control of the city - pests like mosquitos and sand mites, Blue Green Algae
- Weather - extremes
- Lack of shade
- Vandalism
- State Legislature-no bonding bill this year

IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

Septemberfest Pop-Up Event

The City held an informational pop-up meeting at the Septemberfest Pumpkin Derby event on October 1st. This pop up was an opportunity for the public to weigh in on several current planning initiatives underway in Wabasha including the Parks and Trails Master Plan, Athletic Park Relocation Plan, Wabasha to Kellogg trail Connection Project, and the Downtown Streetscape Plan.

Attendees were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the various projects using comment cards, and also assist with prioritizing projects by voting on their favorite projects using sticky dots on project boards. There were over 100 attendees estimated to have provided feedback at this event.

Park Board & Steering Committee Meeting Open House

On October 19th, a joint meeting with the Park Board and Parks and Trails Master Plan Steering Committee was held at City Hall. This meeting was open to the public both in-person and virtually, and allowed an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft master plan report. Upon completion of the meeting, updates were made to the plan based on feedback received.

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RESOURCES & APPENDICES

05



