

# **CHAPTER 5 - PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION**

## **I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

Located in the north central part of Carver County, Mayer has amenities such as the Dakota Rail Regional trail, and numerous city parks that provide the residents with opportunities for park and trail uses. Natural features such as the South Fork of the Crow River and protected waters within the growth area will also provide additional park opportunities in the future. This Chapter is intended to provide information for additional development of the existing parks and trails as well as plan for the future parks and trails system by designating future parks areas as well as trail connections. The unofficial standard is

The City of Mayer, at the time of this Comprehensive Plan update, has five (5) City owned parks that total approximately 44.8 acres, a regional trail that runs through the City consisting of 22.5 acres, as well as numerous properties that are utilized for open space or are restricted for development such as wetlands and stormwater ponds. The open space and restricted for development parcels accounted for approximately 35.9 acres. Between the parks, regional trail and open space/restricted development properties, a total of approximately 103.2 acres of the City's 799.8 acres or 12.9% of the City's total acreage consist of parks, trails and open space. In addition, there are other school owned facilities which add to the quality of life in the area.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has used a national standard of ten acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents since 1981, but has acknowledged that in today's recreation and open space environment that more parkland is typically needed. Using the most recent population estimate for Mayer in 2014, which was 1,829 residents, only 18.29 acres of park land would be required using the NRPA standard. As you can see, Mayer has significantly more parkland than the NRPA standard.

The City's residents and businesses identify parks, trails and recreational facilities as an important part of the quality of life in Mayer. Recreation is viewed as an integral part of life, providing a necessary and satisfying change from the things we usually do and the places where we spend most of our time.

A community survey, comments from City staff, and the Park and Recreation underscore the importance of creating and sustaining parks, trails and recreational facilities.

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a proactive means to plan for parks, trails and preservation of natural resources. It is intended to:

- Serve as a guide for the development of new parks as annexation occurs as well as redevelopment of existing park;
- Assist staff, the Planning Commission and City Council in budgeting capital expenditures;
- Establish policies and recommendations for parks, trail and natural resource stewardship;
- Assist staff and developers when platting property to be developed;
- Provide a plan to connect residents and employees to natural resources, places of employment, schools, parks, natural resources and regional trail system; and
- Establish policies to preserve, protect, maintain and enhance natural resources that lend to creating a more desirable atmosphere.

This Chapter includes the following:

1. Park Classifications;

2. Existing Park and Recreation Inventory;
3. Examination of Existing and Future Park Land and Facilities Needs;
4. Recreational Facility Standards;
5. Trails and Pedestrian Ways;
6. Community Input in Parks and Recreation;
7. Administration, Maintenance and Operations;
8. Financial Resources; and
9. Goals and Policies for Parks, Trails and Recreation.

## II. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City of Mayer features a number of existing park and recreational facilities. Recreational facilities within the City can typically be described according to their type, population served and location. Planners use to and occasionally still do evaluate adequacy of parks on an acreage-to-population ratio or scale (e.g. 10 acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents). Since parkland needs can vary greatly and change over time, every city needs to choose what system best works for them when it comes to comparing the supply of park and recreation facilities with the demand for these facilities on the part of residents and other users.

Park classifications provide a systematic way of categorizing park land so decisions regarding design, capital improvements, and maintenance/operation are based on the types and functions of parks. This classification system allows the level of service for each park type to be determined by analyzing the service area and identifying any gaps or duplications throughout the City. The following terms and descriptions shall be used to classify existing and future park and recreational facilities within the City of Mayer.

### **A. Mini Park (a.k.a. urban/pocket)**

Examples of this type of park include town squares, urban plazas, landscaped courtyards, promenades, and village greens. Mini parks address limited, isolated, or unique needs within a limited and concentrated service area. Mini parks may be used for active, passive, or a combination of active and passive purposes. These types of parks sometimes meet the neighborhood park needs of surrounding residents. They can also provide opportunities for community events and enhance the identity of city core and mixed-use districts.

Mini parks may be located in a variety of areas depending on the specific recreational need or the type of opportunity present. These parks are very small in geographic size typically ranging from 2,500 square feet to one acre. Site selection criteria should include access from the surrounding area and linkage to community pathways. There are no specific criteria for the development of mini-park facilities. Parking is typically not required, however, site lighting for safety/security should be investigated.

### **B. Neighborhood Park**

Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system providing informal activity or passive recreation for an adjacent neighborhood. This type of park serves as the focal point for recreational and social needs of a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks should be developed to service the active and passive recreational activities of the area it serves, including all age and income levels.

Neighborhood parks are usually designed primarily for spontaneous, non-organized recreation

activities and/or to enhance neighborhood identity or preserve open space. Generally speaking, programmed activities usually do not take place in neighborhood parks and site development typically includes sidewalk, benches, landscaping, and play features for preschoolers. Neighborhood parks should connect with trails, which connect to other parks and neighborhoods.

The service area for neighborhood parks is generally one quarter to one half ( $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) mile with the park located in the center of the area intended to be served. Since the primary means of getting to a neighborhood park is walking or biking, ease of access (interconnected trail, sidewalk, low volume local streets) and walking distance are priority factors in determining location. Neighborhood parks generally range from one to ten acres in size with the population density and demographic characteristics of the neighborhood it serves being important considerations. A balance of passive recreational opportunities (ornamentation, conservation, passive activities) and active recreational facilities (fields, courts, skating, splash pool, etc. primarily used informally in an unstructured manner) is needed. In addition, a pleasant outdoor environment will enhance use and draw residents to the park and, therefore, is an important design element.

Limited off-street parking (e.g. seven to ten spaces) is needed for those who must drive to the site. Park lighting should be used for security and safety with limited lighting on recreational facilities.

An important component when locating neighborhood parks are the location of private parks, sometimes known as neighborhood playgrounds. These parks can act as a neighborhood park and are discussed later in this section.

### **C. Community Park**

Community parks are larger in size and serve more wide-ranging purposes than neighborhood parks and focus on group activities. Community Parks may serve some or all types of a community's recreation needs and could be considered a city park depending on the park and community. However, in many small communities, a community park is sometimes designated as such not because of its size and/or variety of recreational facilities, but because it is the only park available to the community. Community Parks can retain open space, preserve unique landscapes and typically serve multiple neighborhoods or entire communities.

Like neighborhood parks, community parks should strive to balance active and passive recreational opportunities. Community parks should serve more than one neighborhood with a service area of generally a third of a mile to three miles. Since most people arrive at community parks by automobile or bicycle, the site should be serviced by arterial and collector streets and be easily accessible from throughout the service area by trail or sidewalk.

The size of a community park is usually ten to fifty acres, but can vary if open space or landscape preservation is the purpose of the park. Actual size of community parks should be based on neighborhood demographics, population density, resource availability, and recreation demand.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) suggests site selection guidelines include the site's natural area, preserving unique landscapes within the community, and/or providing recreational opportunities not otherwise available. When possible, community parks should be adjacent to natural resource areas and greenways.

Potential active recreational opportunities include more elaborate play fields, restroom facilities, large play structures, game courts, ballfields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe areas, skating areas, swimming pools, archery ranges, disc golf areas and restroom facilities. Active recreational facilities may be used for programmed activities on an occasional basis with most facilities used in an informal, unstructured manner. Potential passive recreational opportunities include internal trails, individual/group picnic and sitting areas, nature study areas, bandshells, and ornamental gardens.

Off-street parking is essential; lighting for security, safety and facilities should be as appropriate.

#### **D. Greenway**

Greenways are lineal park system components that serve several functions under NRPA guidelines: tie park components together to form a continuous park environment; emphasize harmony with the natural environment; allow for safe and uninterrupted pedestrian movement between parks and throughout the community; provide people with a resource-based outdoor recreation opportunity and experience; and, they can increase property value. Greenways emphasize park use/trails more than natural resource areas.

Criteria for locating greenways are primarily land availability and opportunity to secure right-of-way. Greenways may follow suitable natural resource areas (preferred) or, if designed properly, revitalized riverfronts, abandoned railroad beds, boulevards, etc. In addition, proximity to parks and connector trails are important considerations.

Potential recreation activities within greenways include hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, in-line skating, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, etc. Greenway width is highly variable and per NRPA standards can be as little as 25 to 50 feet with widths greater than 200 feet being considered best.

#### **E. Natural Resource Areas**

Natural areas have a great deal in common with natural greenways in that they are land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. As defined within the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) system, natural areas usually consist of individual sites exhibiting natural resources, protected lands (wetlands, public waters, floodplain, shoreland), or lands unsuitable for development (steep slopes, ravines, ponding areas, utility easements, etc). Specific size and spacing standards do not apply to natural resource areas.

The planning of this type of park facility is based on availability of areas and need for preservation, so size is highly variable. Location considerations are primarily limited to sites that exhibit unique natural resources or remnant landscapes of the region. Undevelopable and protected lands are usually selected on the basis of enhancing the character of the community, buffering, and providing linkages with other park components. Natural resource areas are resource based as opposed to user based but can provide some passive recreational opportunities providing such use does not negatively impact the resource to be preserved.

#### **F. Special Use Park**

Special use parks cover a broad range of park and recreation facilities oriented toward a single purpose. NRPA classifies special use parks as one of three types: historic/cultural/social sites, recreation facilities, and outdoor recreation facilities. Historic/cultural/social sites showcase

unique resources and may include historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, public buildings, and amphitheaters. Recreation facilities may include community centers, senior centers, hockey arenas, marinas, boat landings, golf courses, and aquatic parks. Outdoor recreation facilities include tennis centers, softball complexes, golf courses and sports stadiums.

NRPA suggests special use parks be strategically located in a community-wide context and conveniently accessible from arterial and collector streets along with pathways. Other primary location considerations are: recreation need, community interests, the type of facility, and land availability. Special use park acreage needs vary widely with facility space being the primary determinant. Since there are a variety of potential special use parks, specific standards for site selection and development parameters are not defined. Most specialized recreation areas have limited active recreation value, are not developed as multi-purpose recreation areas, or are not always available for use by the public. Specialized areas are an important adjunct to a community and its park and open space program.

### **G. Regional Park**

Regional parks may include but are not limited to conservancy areas, trails, floodplains, hiking and riding trails, camping, boating, picnicking, swimming, and fishing. Regional parks serve people of all ages and serve a regional population and are typically maintained by Counties or States. Typically regional parks are natural resource based that include features such as bodies of water, fauna, woodlands, rivers/streams and topography. Regional parks are large parks and draw people from farther distances outside of the community.

### **H. Private Park**

These are park and recreation facilities that are privately owned, yet they contribute to the public park, trail and recreation system. These parks are sometimes called neighborhood playgrounds and the location, size and type of park can vary depending upon the specific type of use. The service area is highly variable, but it usually has a radius of one-quarter mile. A lot of times these parks are provided in conjunction with education and institutional facilities and primarily serve the recreation needs of children ages 5 to 12. These types of parks can consist of a neighborhood swimming pool maintained by a homeowners association, facilities owned by a church, playground equipment and fields located on school property or private facilities at a housing complex.

## **III. EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY**

The Mayer parks system has been inventoried and there are five (5) municipal parks along with additional school recreation areas located in the city. Following is a listing of the park and recreational facilities existing in the City of Mayer. A description of each park is included as well as Map 5-1 which illustrates the location of these parks. Table 5-1 includes the Mayer park assessment, while the rankings for the park assessment follows as Table 5-2. Map 5-2 shows the park service areas based on the park classification for the City parks.

### **A. OLD SCHOOLHOUSE PARK - 17.6 acres**

Location: Adjacent to City Hall west of Bluejay Avenue North and east of Old Schoolhouse Road.

Existing Facilities: This community park is the largest existing park in Mayer consisting of approximately 17.6 acres. The park provides for a variety of active recreational amenities. The park complex currently includes four ballfields and a community gymnasium. The main baseball field includes fences, a scoreboard, dugouts and a concession stand. The park is also the site of a municipal well, a small public works facility and off-street parking. City Hall is located within the same building as the community gymnasium.

The park was established in 2002 and was formerly the site of Watertown-Mayer Elementary School. The old school facility was demolished in 1990. The City purchased the park in 1984 for \$260,000. Other facilities at the park include a playground with slides and paved trails connecting Morning Drive and Old Schoolhouse Road with the park and off-street parking area.

Potential Future Upgrades: There has been a discussion about a park shelter, which may include bathrooms. Until permanent bathrooms are installed temporary bathrooms will be utilized. Curbing is also proposed along with additional picnic tables.

#### **B. BLUEJAY PARK - 1.0 ACRE**

Location: East of Bluejay Avenue North and in between 2nd Street Northwest and 3rd Street Northwest.

Existing Facilities: This neighborhood park is the smallest of the park and is located in the original platted area of the City. Access to the park comes from Bluejay Avenue and 3rd Street NW. The only facility in the park is a basketball court with two baskets. No trails or sidewalks exist and the only parking available is on-street parking. This park is also the site of the City water treatment facility and a municipal well. Park signage is not displayed. The park is not handicap accessible.

Potential Future Upgrades: The basketball hoops could possible be replaced.

#### **C. WEST RIDGE PARK - 7.5 ACRES**

Location: South of 4th Street NE and west of West Ridge Road

Existing Facilities: The neighborhood park is primarily comprised of open space and playground equipment which is in good condition and consists of a playground with slides and four swings. This playground equipment is also handicapped accessible equipment. There is also a sand volleyball court picnic tables located at the park. Accessory facilities include a paved trail that connects the alley on the west side of the park to West Ridge Road on the east side of the park and 4th Street NE on the north side of the park, a park sign, two picnic tables and a portable restroom facility. The park is difficult to access due to a lack of off-street parking and the fact the park is mostly surrounded by private property, except for one access via the terminus of Birch Avenue North and the alley to the west. The park is handicap accessible via the trails.

Potential Future Upgrades: Future upgrades are proposed to be installed in this park in 2017 that include a picnic shelter and handicapped accessible restrooms. Plans for a parking lot have been discussed for this park along with possibly some new playground equipment.

#### **D. MEADOW PARK - 13.3 acres**

Location: West of Ash Avenue and southeast of Meadow Parkway in the Hidden Creek Subdivision.

Potential Future Facilities: This park was platted in conjunction with the approval of the Hidden Creek Subdivision and includes a stormwater pond and large wetland area. The park is considered a neighborhood park and facilities in the park include a playground with slides, a skate park and a soccer field with permanent nets and a fence backstop to prevent balls from being kicked into the adjacent residential properties. A park sign along with a paved trail connecting Meadow Parkway and Sunrise Circle to the park exist. Access to the park comes from Meadow Parkway, however no off-street parking exists.

Potential Future Upgrades: Curbing is proposed for this park along with possibly more picnic tables and additional skate park equipment. A parking area could also be added along with a road/access to Trunk Highway 25

#### **E. DISCOVERY PARK & GREENWAY - 5.5 acres**

Location: East of Fieldstone Parkway in the Fieldstone development.

Existing Facilities: This is a park platted within the Fieldstone subdivision in the north end of Mayer. The park was developed to include a playground with slides and four swings. A trail runs through the park and then through the Fieldstone development, giving access to the park for the neighborhood. This greenway is owned and maintained by the City as part of Discovery Park. A small wetland and stormwater pond also exist on the site and no off-street parking is provided. Access is provided from Fieldstone Parkway and the park is handicapped accessible via the trail.

Potential Future Upgrades: A basketball court is proposed along with updated and/or replacing the playground equipment at the park.

# Mayer

## Map 5-1

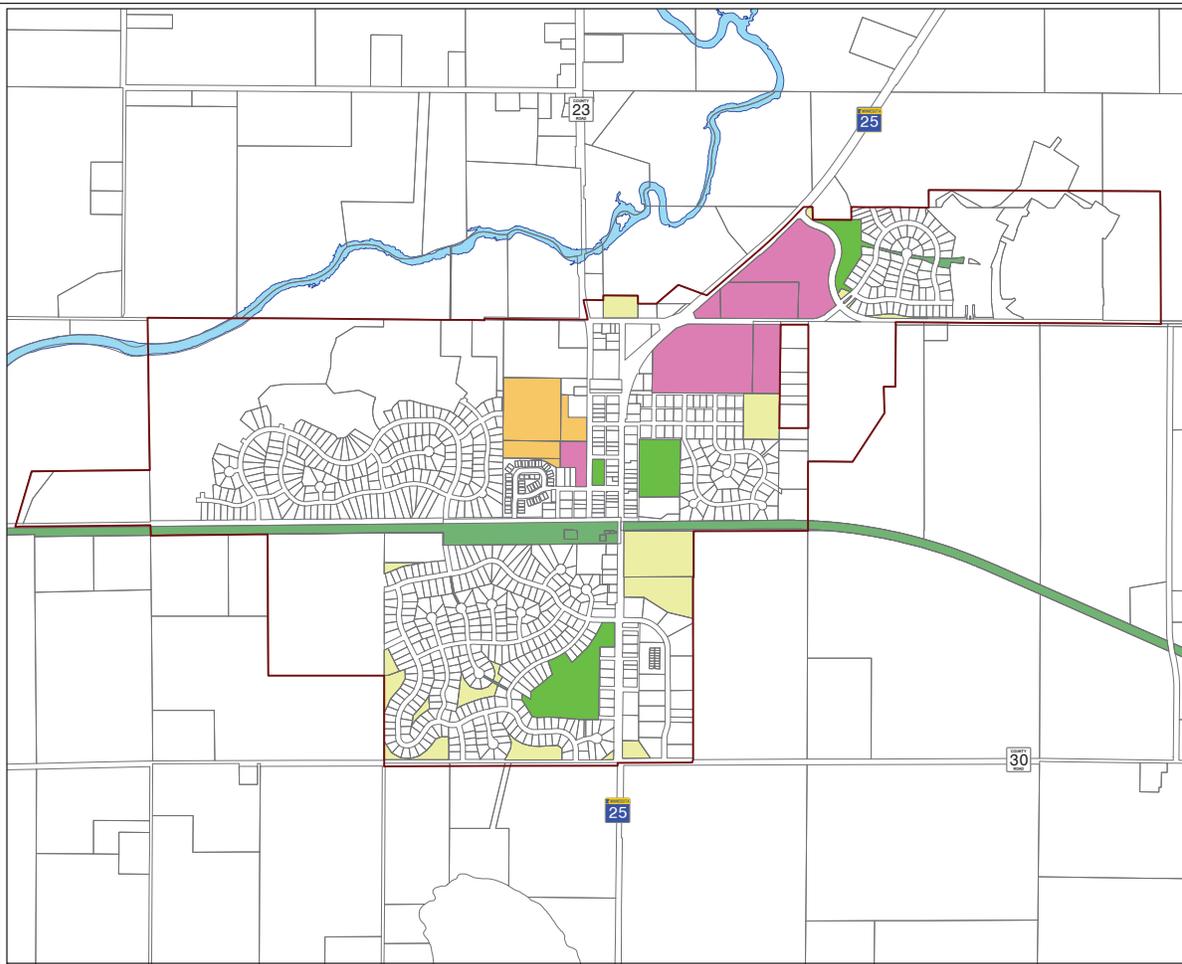
### Existing Parks & Open Space

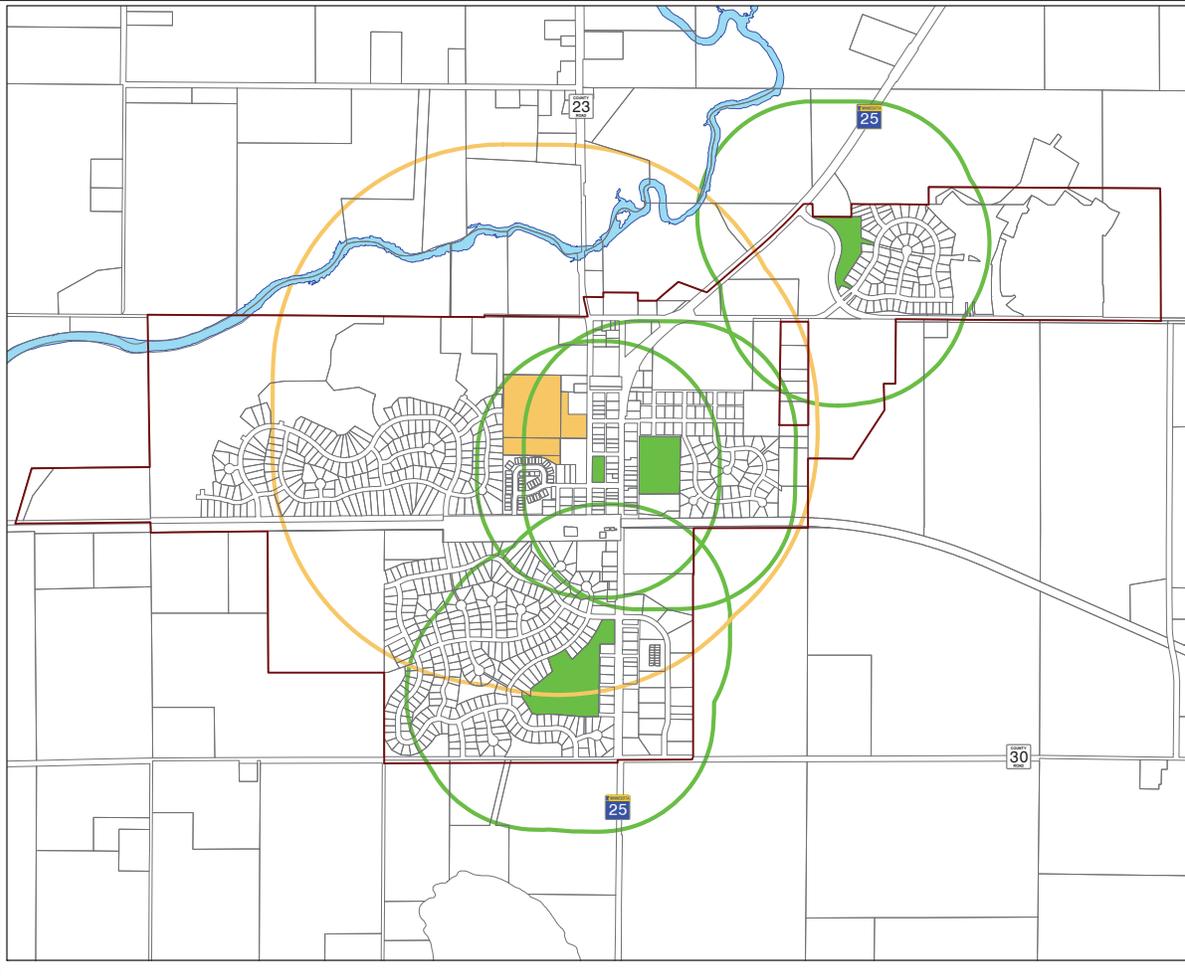
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Greenway
- Natural Resource Area
- School Playground/Athletic Fields
- City Limits
- Parcels
- River

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Map Date: December 7, 2017

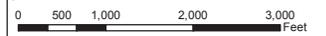




## Mayer Map 5-2 Park Service Areas

- Neighborhood Park 1/4 Mile Service Area
- Community Park 1/2 mile Service Area
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- City Limits
- Parcels
- River

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Map Date: December 7, 2017



**TABLE 5-1 MAYER PARK INVENTORY**

<b>Mayer Park Inventory</b>	Park Classification	Sidewalk/Trail Areas	Baseball/Ball Fields	Nature Areas	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Playground	Picnic Tables	Swings	Slides	Skate Park	Restroom Facilities	Handicap Access	Parking (off-Street)
Old Schoolhouse	CP	TR	X					X			X		PR	X	BL
Bluejay	NP					X									
West Ridge	NP	TR		X			X	X	X	X			PR	X	
Meadow	NP	TR		X	X			X			X	X	PR	X	
Discovery	NP	TR, SW						X		X	X		PR	X	
NP = Neighborhood Park      CP = Community Park      SW = Sidewalk BL = Blacktop      PR = Portable Restroom      TR = Trail															

Source: MDG, LLC Inventory of Parks January 30, 2017

**TABLE 5-2 MAYER PARK ASSESSMENT**

<b>Park Name</b>	<b>Turf</b>	<b>Irrigation</b>	<b>Plantings/Trees</b>	<b>Drainage System</b>	<b>Handicapped Accessible</b>	<b>Parking Availability</b>	<b>Parking</b>	<b>Sidewalks/Trails</b>	<b>Playground Equipment</b>
Old Schoolhouse	0	0	0	0	1	Off-street	1	0	0
Bluejay	0	NA	1	0	1	On-street	NA	NA	NA
West Ridge	0	NA	0	0	1	None	NA	0	0
Meadow	0	NA	0	0	1	On-street	NA	0	0
Discovery	0	NA	0	0	1	On-street	NA	0	0

Source: MDG, LLC Inventory of Parks January 30, 2017

## Ranking Key

<b>1. Turf Condition</b>		<b>2. Irrigation System</b>		<b>3. Plantings/Trees</b>	
NA	Not Applicable	NA	Not Applicable	0	No Problems
0	No Problems.	0	No Problems.	1	Plantings/trees are in good condition with few minor problems.
1	Turf is in good conditions with some bare areas.	1	System is in good condition with minor adjustment problems.	2	Some bare areas that need additional plant materials.
2	Turf has a few problems that need some work (aeration and over-seeding).	2	System is in fair condition, needs frequent work.	3	Several areas have problems that need work.
3	Turf is in poor condition and needs renovation.	3	System doesn't do the job and needs to be expanded (poor coverage).	4	Plantings/trees in very poor condition & should be completely removed.
4	Turf is in very poor condition and should be completely redone.	4	System is in very poor condition or no system at all.	5	Condition of trees present dangerous safety situation.
<b>4. Drainage System</b>		<b>5. Handicapped Accessible</b>		<b>6. Parking Availability</b>	
0	No Problems	0	Entire park is accessible to handicapped	NA	Not Applicable.
1	Some saturation/standing water-minor improvements needed.	1	Portions of the park are accessible to handicapped individuals.	0	No Problems.
2	Very poor drainage-system needs renovation.	2	None of the park is accessible to handicapped individuals.	1	Not enough parking mainly during peak-use periods or only occasionally.
3	Dangerous system/conditions exist.			2	Not enough parking most of the time.
<b>7. Parking</b>		<b>8. Sidewalks/Trails</b>		<b>9. Playground Equipment</b>	
NA	Not Applicable	NA	Not Applicable.	NA	Not Applicable.
0	No problems.	0	No Problems.	0	No Problems.
1	Good condition – needs regular routine maintenance.	1	Sidewalks/trails are in fair condition and require minor repairs.	1	Equipment is old but can still be used.
2	Surface in fair condition- spot repairs are necessary.	2	Sidewalks/trails are in poor condition and require extensive repair or renovation.	2	Equipment requires regular routine maintenance.
3	Surface in poor condition, several areas need major repairs.	3	Dangerous conditions exist.	3	Equipment is in poor condition and requires major repair or renovation.
4	Very poor condition, parking area needs complete renovation.			4	Equipment is in very poor condition and should be replaced.
5	Dangerous conditions exist.			5	Dangerous conditions exist.

## F. SCHOOL FACILITIES

In addition to the City owned parks Mayer Lutheran High School and Zion Lutheran School has a number of facilities, fields and play areas that are utilized for recreational activities. Although these are not “municipal parks”, the amenities can be available to serve the public at times in which school or extra curricular activities are not underway. Following is a brief description of other school recreational facilities.

**Zion Lutheran School.** Located west of Bluejay Avenue and just south of the Old Schoolhouse Park, this area consists of mostly open play space and a small playground area.

**Mayer Lutheran High School.** Located east of Trunk Highway 25 and south of 62nd Street, this site consists of larger scale athletic facilities such as baseball and softball fields, a football field, track and open space.

## G. REGIONAL TRAIL

The Dakota Rail Regional Trail is partially located in the City of Mayer. The section of trail that is located within Mayer consists of 22.5 acres and it runs east to west through the City. The trail parallel's County Road 30 on the south side of the road just north of the Coldwater Crossing development and from there it crosses Trunk Highway 25 and runs east out of town. A trailhead is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of County Road 30 and Trunk Highway 25. This trailhead includes signage and a off-street parking area consisting of twenty-two off-street parking spaces. The parking lot is paved and stripped with one access to County Road 30. A small concrete area on the east side of the parking lot serves as the trailhead.

Recently a Carver County Veterans Memorial has been approved by the City to be installed just south of the trailhead, which is proposed to include additional off-street parking and have access on Trunk Highway 25. Construction has not yet begun on the memorial.

## H. OTHER REGIONAL PARKS

Carver County Parks is one of ten implementing regional park agency of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System. In cooperation with Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and Metropolitan Council, Carver County plans, acquires land and develops regional parks and trails. Funding for land acquisition park and trail development, a portion of operations and maintenance is financed by the Metropolitan Council and State Legislature. Carver County operates and maintains the three regional parks of Baylor Regional Park, Lake Minnewashta Regional Park and Lake Waconia Regional Park. These regional parks are summarized below.

**Baylor Regional Park.** Baylor Regional Park is a 201 acre park situated in western Carver County on Eagle Lake about eight miles southwest of Mayer. The park offers 50 camping sites, thirty-five of which have water and electrical hookups and fifteen of the sites are primitive. Other facilities include: group camping area, picnic areas, showers, swimming beach, beach house, reservable picnic shelters, ball field, tennis courts, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and an 18 hole disc golf course. Park hours are from 6:00 am - 10:00 pm.

**Lake Minnewashta Regional Park.** Lake Minnewashta Regional Park is a 340 acre park situated on the shores of Lake Minnewashta in the City of Chanhassen. Facilities include

a swimming beach, bathhouse, off-leash dog area, reservable picnic shelters, sand volleyball courts, creative playground, paved boat access, paved bike trails, turf trails for walking and skiing, ski/snowshoe rental, and vending machines. Park hours are from 6:00 am - 10:00 pm, however during the fishing season, the park opens at 5:00 am.

**Lake Waconia Regional Park.** Lake Waconia Regional Park is a 100 acre park situated on the southeastern shore of Lake Waconia just east of the City of Waconia. This shoreline park offers views to the lake and Coney Island. The park is in its early development for the future 164-acre park including Coney Island to the West. Existing facilities include a reservable group picnic shelter, play equipment, restrooms, small swimming beach, picnic tables, volleyball court and grills. Boat access is provided outside the park at the Minnesota DNR boat access located on the northeast side of the lake and at private marinas located in the city of Waconia. Park Hours are 6:00 am - 10:00 pm daily.

**Carver Park Reserve.** Carver Park Reserve, which is west of Victoria, is 3,700 acres of rolling, wooded terrain and interconnected lakes and marshes that support a large wildlife population – including trumpeter swans and barred owls. The reserve is also home to Lowry Nature Center, which was the first public environmental education center of its kind in the state. The park also features miles of trails, the historic Grimm Farm, the King Waterbird Sanctuary, four lakes, an off-leash dog area, Lake Auburn Campground, and groomed cross-country ski trails in the winter. Carver Park Reserve is the only large park reserve unit within Carver County. Visitors are attracted to the reserve for the expansive open space and the Nature Center. The reserve is popular for lake access and water-based recreational opportunities, picnicking, hiking and bicycling trails set in a natural setting, and children's play area. Group camping is also a popular activity, as is the off-leash dog park that opened in 2007. Effectively connecting the park reserve to Carver County's proposed destination trail system is a primary plan objective, consistent with site master plans prepared by Three Rivers Park District.

The following Table 5-3 lists the facilities and rentals of the regional parks within Carver County.

**TABLE 5-3 CARVER COUNTY REGIONAL PARK FACILITIES AND RENTALS BY LOCATION**

Facilities and Rentals	Baylor Regional Park	Lake Minnewashta Regional Park	Lake Waconia Regional Park
Multi-use Fields	X	X	
Beach	X	X	X
Biking Trails	X	X	
Boat Launch	X	X	
Watercraft Rentals	X		
Campground	X		
Canoe Storage		X	
Cross Country Ski Rentals	X	X	
Cross Country Ski Trails	X	X	
Disc Golf	X		
Fishing Pier	X	X	
Geocaches Hidden	X	X	X
GPS Unit Rental	X		
Hiking/Walking	X	X	X
Indoor Space Available	X		X
Little Free Library	X	X	
Maple Syrup Shack	X		
Nordic Walking Poles	X	X	X
Off-leash Dog Area		X	
Observatory	X		
General Picnic Areas	X	X	X
Playgrounds	X	X	X
Sand Volleyball	X	X	X
Shelter Rentals (reservable)	X	X	X
Snowshoe Rentals	X		

Source: Carver County

## IV. RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS

As parkland is acquired either through dedications or purchase, it is important to plan space according to the desired recreational contents. In existing parks, it is important for the Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council to be aware of space requirements and orientation recommendations to determine if it is feasible to include the item(s) within the park.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards as:

- A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
- A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
- A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community wide system of parks and open space areas.
- One of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
- A means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of a region or community.

The purpose of these guidelines is to present park and recreation space standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquisition, and development of park, recreation, and open space lands, primarily at the community level. These standards should be viewed as a guide. They address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved. The standards are interpreted according to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. A variety of standards have been developed by professional and trade associations which are used throughout the country. The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within metropolitan areas was the expression of acres of park land per unit of population. Over time, the figure of 10 acres per 1,000 population came to be the commonly accepted standard used by a majority of communities. Other standards adopted include the "percent of area" approach, needs determined by user characteristics and participation projections, and area use based on the carrying capacity of the land. The fact that some of the standards have changed substantially is not an indication of their obsolescence. Changes are a measure of the growing awareness and understanding of both participant and resource (land, water, etc.) limitations. Parks are for people. Park, recreation, and planning professionals must integrate the art and science of park management in order to balance such park and open space resource values as water supply, air quality. The following Table 5-4 shows the facility standards for a number of recreational activities:

**TABLE 5-4 RECREATION FACILITY STANDARDS**

<b>Activity-Facility</b>	<b>Recommended Space Requirements</b>	<b>Recommended Size and Dimensions</b>	<b>Recommended Orientation</b>	<b>Number of Units Per Population</b>	<b>Service Radius</b>	<b>Location Notes</b>
<b>Badminton</b>	1,620 sq ft	Singles – 17'x44' Doubles – 20'x44'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	¼ - 1/2 mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
<b>Basketball</b> <b>1. Youth</b> <b>2. High School</b>	2,400 - 3,036 sq ft 5,040 - 7,280 sq ft	46-50'x84' 50'x84' 5' unobstructed	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	¼ - 1/2 mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in

		space on all sides				other park settings.
<b>Handball (3-4 wall)</b>	800 sq ft for 4-wall 1,000 sq ft for 3-wall	20'x40' – Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	22,000 sq ft including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5,000 sq ft support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting number of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
<b>Tennis</b>	Minimum of 7,200 sq ft single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78' 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north-south	1 court per 2,000	¼-1/2 mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood or community park or adjacent to school
<b>Volleyball</b>	Minimum of 4,000 sq ft	30'X60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
<b>Baseball</b> <b>1. Official</b>	3.0-3.85 acre minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – minimum 320' Center field – 400'+	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5,000 Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
<b>2. Little League</b>	1.2 acre minimum	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'				
<b>Field Hockey</b>	Minimum 1.5 acres	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
<b>Football</b>	Minimum 1.5 acres	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
<b>Soccer</b>	1.7 – 2.1 acres	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.

<b>Golf-driving Range</b>	13.5 acres for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis south-west-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
<b>Quarter Mile Running Track</b>	4.3 acres	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-west-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.
<b>Softball</b>	1.5 to 2.0 acres	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance- 46' min. 40' women. Fast pitch field Radius from Plate – 225' Between foul Lines. Slow Pitch – 275' (men) 250' (women)	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
<b>Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)</b>	9, 840 sq ft	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with primary use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	
<b>Trails</b>	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
<b>Archery Range</b>	Minimum 0.65 acres	300' Length x Minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north = or – 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.

<b>Combo Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)</b>	Minimum 30 acres	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional/metro park complex
<b>Golf</b>						
<b>1. Par 3 (18 hole)</b>	50-60 acres	Average length vary 600-2,700 yards	Majority of holes on north-south axis	--	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
<b>2. 9-hole standard</b>	Minimum 50 acres	Average length ~2,250 yards		1/25,000		
<b>3. 18-hole standard</b>	Minimum 110 acres	Average length 6,500 yards		1/50,000		
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 acre site.	<i>Teaching</i> - minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. <i>Competitive</i> – minimum of 25 meters x 16 meters. Minimum of 27 sq ft of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None- although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4 meters) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
<b>Beach Areas</b>	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq ft of land and 50 sq ft of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 acres supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5 % (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.

Source: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

## V. TRAILS AND SIDEWALKS

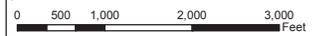
The City of Mayer currently includes 2.71 miles of concrete sidewalks and 8.27 miles of existing bituminous trails within the City of Mayer.

The main trail feature within the City is the Dakota Rail Regional Trail that runs east west through the center of Mayer. Existing trails and sidewalks are illustrated on Map 5-3.

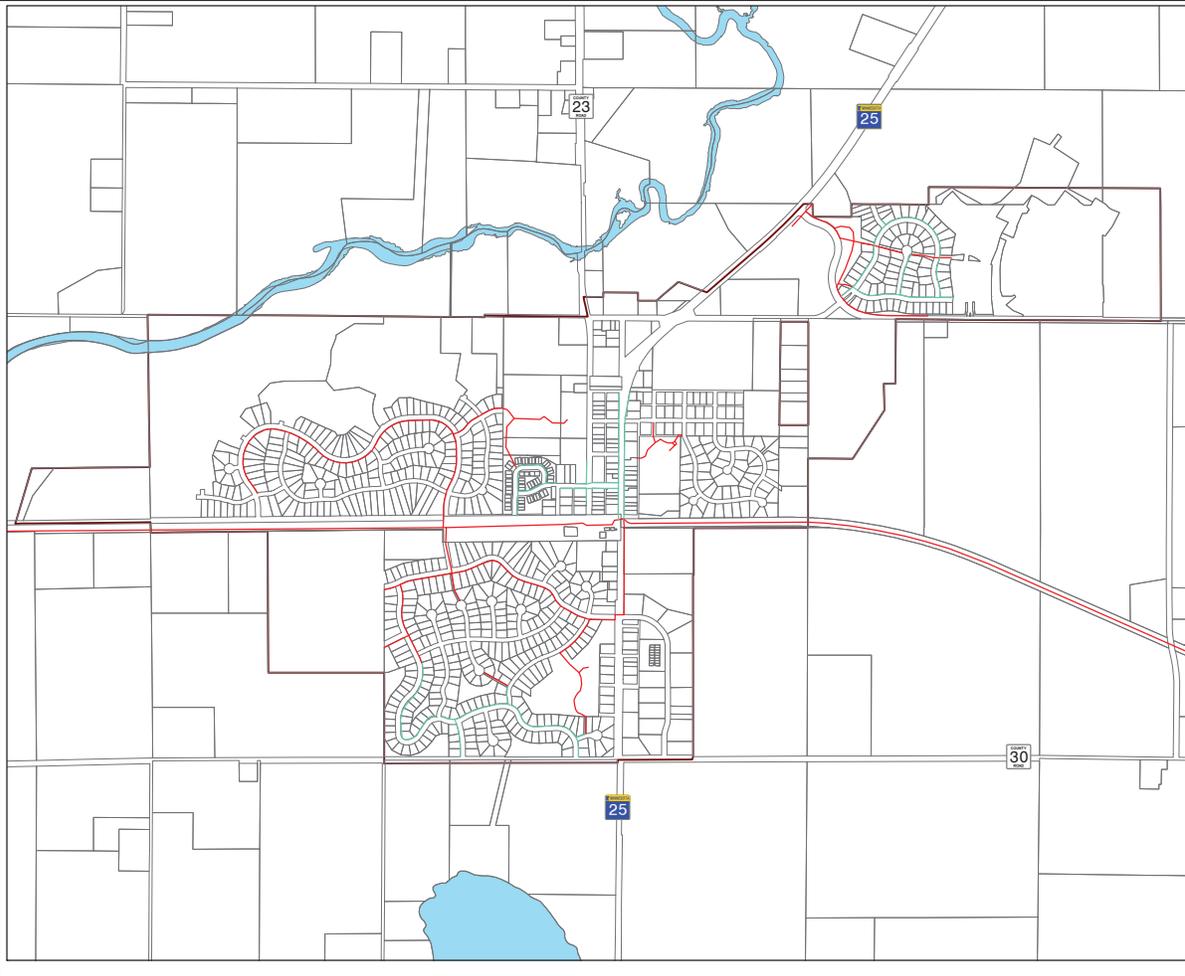
# Mayer Map 5-3 Existing Trails & Sidewalks

- Existing Sidewalk
- Existing Trail
- City Limits
- Parcels
- Open Water / River

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Map Date: January 8, 2018



Trails within communities and connecting to larger regional trails are often classified by their purpose, type of improvement, and location. The following table 5-5 includes a description of six types of trails and identification of the trails within Mayer which are included in each category.

**TABLE 5-5 TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Description of Each Type of Trail</b>
Park Trail	Multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus in on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single purpose hard surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters.  Type II: Multi-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters.  Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. Maybe hard or soft surfaced.
Connector Trails	Multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent right of way (e.g. old railroad right of way).  Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrian or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road right of way.
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.  Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
Cross Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multi-purpose with hiking and all-terrain biking. These trails are developed so conflict can be controlled.

**TABLE 5-6 EXISTING TRAIL FACILITIES IN MAYER**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Existing Trails</b>
Park Trail	Type I: Old Schoolhouse Park Meadow Park Discovery Park West Ridge Park Type II: None Type III: None
Connector Trails	Type I: Dakota Rail Regional Trail Connector between Hidden Creek Blvd & Foxtail Glen in Hidden Creek 3rd & 4th Additions Connector between Walnut Court & Meadow Parkway in HiddenCreek 5th Add East/west through Fieldstone & Fieldstone 2nd Add connecting to Discovery Park Type II: Along the east side of Ash Ave S (TH HWY 25) from Shimmcor St north to Dakota Rail Regional Trail Connecting Meadow Park along the east side of Meadow Pkwy to Hidden Creek Blvd east to Ash Ave S (TH HWY 25) at Shimmcor St intersection From Meadow Pkwy & Hidden Creek Blvd intersection west along the south side of Hidden Creek Blvd to Hidden Creek Trail south to end of Hidden Creek 4th Add From Hidden Creek Blvd & Hidden Crossing intersection north to CR 30 intersection From CR 30 & Coldwater Crossing intersection along Colwater Crossing to the intersection of Rocky Meadow Ln From Coldwater Crossing & Old Schoolhouse Rd intersection east connecting with Old Schoolhouse Park
On-Street Bikeways	Bike Route: None Bike Lane: None
All-Terrain Bike Trail	None
Cross Country Ski Trail	None
Equestrian Trail	None

Source: City of Mayer Inventory February, 2017

**A. Trail Design**

Trails or pathways should be designed with the following goals in mind; (1) Safety – protect non-motorized and motorized users (depending on the type of trail) from adjacent or crossing vehicular traffic; (2) Linkages – provide links between local parks and recreational areas and regional trail systems; (3) Natural Environment – when designing the trail system protect the natural environment and natural features; and (4) Continuity – provide continuous trail systems with as few interruptions in user movement as possible.

Following are design guidelines suggested by the National Recreation and Park Association for the various types of trails:

**1. Park Trails**

Type I: These separate or single purpose trails are typically ten feet wide and paved for

pedestrians, bicyclists and/or in-line skaters.

Type II: These multi-purpose trails may include a natural buffer; such as shrubs, trees or changes in topography, from adjacent uses on either side of the trail. Additional right-of-way to accommodate the buffers should be strived for, but not required and a ten foot wide paved surface.

Type III: Nature trails are generally six to eight feet wide and are soft surfaced. Trail grades vary depending on the topography of the area in which they are located. Interpretive signage is common along nature trails.



**Paved Bike Trail**

## **2. Connector Trails**

Type I and II: These separate or single-purpose hard surfaced trails are designed for pedestrians or bicyclists/in line skaters. If designed for pedestrians only, a six to eight foot width is common. If designed for bicyclists/in-line skaters, a ten foot paved surface is recommended.

The trails may be developed on one or both sides of the roadway and may include one or two-way traffic. The trail is typically separated from the roadway with a boulevard, grass and/or plantings.

## **3. On-Street Bikeways**

**On-Street Bike Route:** This bicycle route is typically designated so with signage. On-Street Bike Routes are typically paved shoulders along roadways.

**On-Street Bike Lane:** Bike Lanes are typically designed as a five foot lane adjacent to the driving lane. On-street parking may occur between the on-street bike lane and the curb or edge of the road. In essence each side of the roadway is divided into three sections (1) driving lane; (2) on-street bikeway; and (3) on-street parking.

**4. All Terrain Bike Trails:** Design and length vary depending on the topography in the area. These trails are generally a part of a larger regional park or natural resource area.

**5. Cross Country Ski Trails:** The design of the cross-country ski trail is dependent upon its intended use. The traditional diagonal skiing typically includes a packed groomed trail with set tracks. Skate skiing designs include a wider packed and groomed surface. The length of the trails may vary. Cross-country ski trails may be designed to be used as equestrian trails during summer months.

**6. Equestrian Trails:** These trails, designed for horseback riding, typically are designed with woodchips or grass as a surface. They are located in larger parks and natural resource areas where conflict with other trail users may be avoided. The length of an equestrian trail varies but is generally looped.

## **B. Regional Trails**

Regional Trails are also a big part of the trail network within local communities. The Dakota Rail Regional Trail is located within Mayer while the Southwest Regional Trail, and Minnesota River

Bluffs Regional Trail are other regional trails located within Carver County. These trails are described below.

**Dakota Rail Regional Trail.** This trail is located from the western County line, roughly 2 miles west of New Germany and spanning 13.5 miles across the County to St. Bonifacius. In Hennepin County the trail continues another 13 miles, through St. Bonifacius, along Lake Minnetonka and ends in Wayzata, this portion of trail is operated by Three Rivers Park District.

**Southwest Regional Trail.** The Southwest Regional Trail Connection is a developing 13 mile trail corridor between the cities of Chaska and Victoria. The trail, when completed, will connect the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail (Southwest Light Rail Transit Corridor) to the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail (Northwest Light Rail Transit Corridor) creating a looping trail network between the three trails. Implementation of this regional trail will occur over time as new development occurs, and with the construction of new roads or as reconstruction of roadways takes place. Currently there are approximately 7 miles of trail that wind through developed portions of the City of Chaska and Victoria.

**Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail.** The Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail includes two segments in Carver County. The primary segment is currently developed from County Road 40 in the City of Carver to Athletic Park Ball Field in Chaska, approximately two miles in length. The other segment maintained by the Carver County Parks Department is planned to be under construction in the spring and summer of 2017. This soon-to-be constructed segment will connect users on the Southwest Regional Trail (that currently terminates as a paved surface near Flying Cloud Drive/County Road 61 and the most eastern end of the trail) and the existing paved surface of the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail which starts at Bluff Creek Drive. This trail is designated as a multi-use corridor. Approved uses for the trail include walking/hiking, biking, running, dog walking (on six foot leash) inline skating, and roller skiing.

**C. Sidewalks.** The City's Subdivision Ordinance contains a definition of sidewalk as follows:

*"A paved pedestrian pathway separated from the roadway by distance or grade."*

The current definition is very subjective and needs to be specified as to whether paving means pouring concrete sidewalks or paving a bituminous trail. Sidewalks are typically concrete and five feet wide where a trail is typically bituminous and eight to ten feet wide. Concrete sidewalks are typically located in the front yards of residential or commercial lots within the platted or dedicated right-of-way, while bituminous trails can be located just about in any corridor. A definition that better describes both of these facilities is pedestrian way. A pedestrian way can be described as "A public right of way or public or private easement across a block or within a block to provide access for pedestrians and which may be used for the installation of utility lines."

Specific criteria as to exactly where the sidewalks and trails should be located, the design of the sidewalks and trails, whether the sidewalk or trail is to be dedicated to the public in an easement or if it is going to be located in right-of-way and who is responsible for maintenance of the sidewalk and trail system should be developed. It is recommended the following items should be reviewed and adopted by the City to be added to the subdivision ordinance regarding the installation of sidewalks and trails.

- Local Streets: Five foot wide concrete sidewalks shall be located on at least one side of all local streets, except cul-de-sacs. Specific circumstances where a cul-de-sac is

connected to a trail system may require a sidewalk or trail to be installed on the cul-de-sac.

- Collector Streets: Five foot wide concrete sidewalks shall be located on one side of all collector streets and a ten foot wide bituminous trails shall be located on the side opposite of the concrete sidewalk on all collector streets.
- Arterial Streets: Ten foot wide bituminous trails shall be located on both sides of all arterial streets.
- Concrete sidewalks and multipurpose bituminous trails shall be accessible by handicapped persons in accordance with Minnesota statutes section 471.464. It shall be at the City of Mayer's discretion to substitute concrete sidewalk for bituminous trails or bituminous trails for concrete sidewalks and to only require a bituminous trail or concrete sidewalk on one side of a collector street.
- The developer shall be responsible for the payment of the cost of sidewalks and multipurpose trailways.

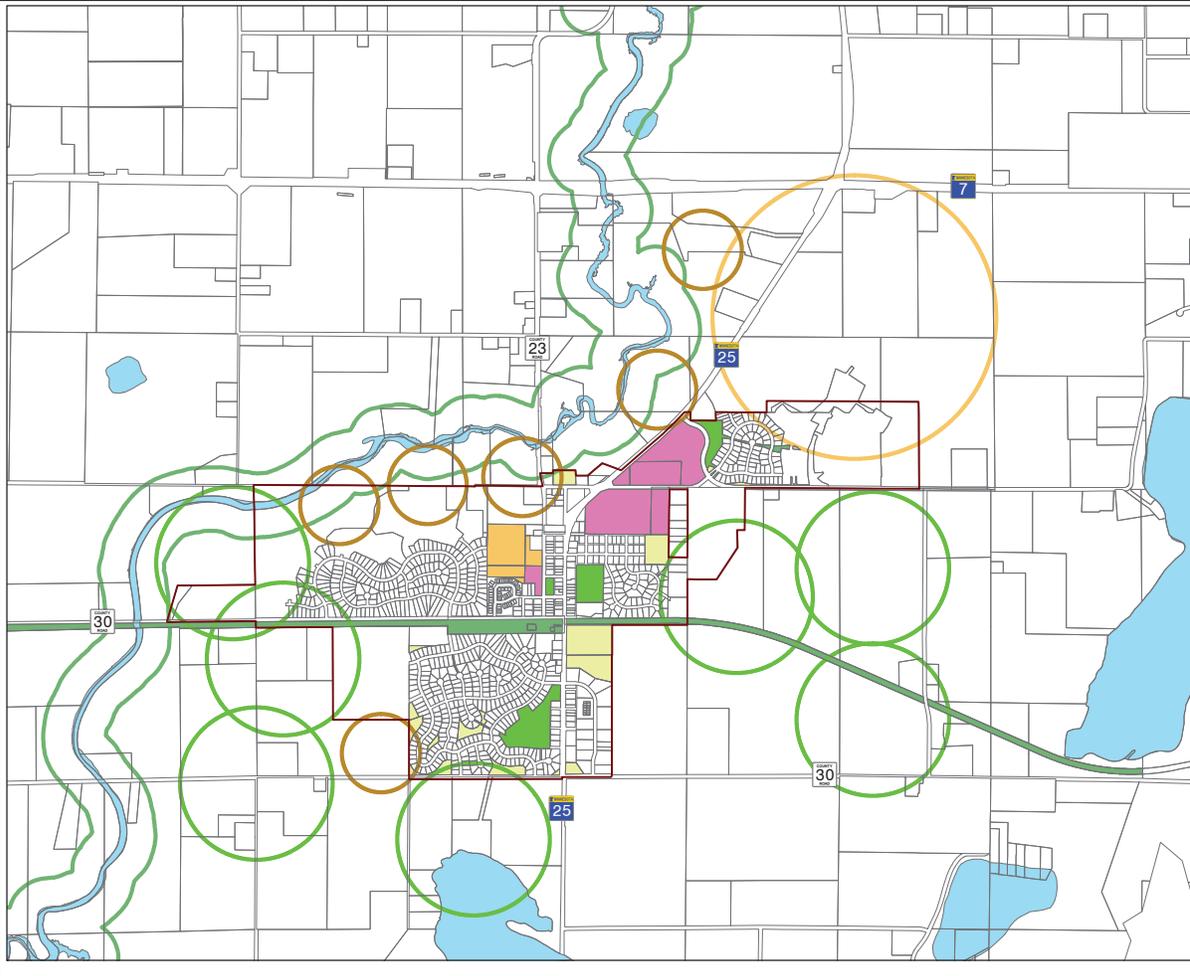
## VI. EXAMINATION OF FUTURE PARK LAND, FACILITIES & TRAILS

The City's combination of recreational activities, nearby regional parks and existing parkland and open space provide residents and visitors with a variety of recreational opportunities. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, Map 5-2 indicates areas served by existing park facilities. As indicated, the existing parks are located throughout the community and for the most part serve the needs of most residential areas of the City, however additional facilities would benefit residents in the western portion of the Coldwater Crossing neighborhood. At this time a trail does run through the neighborhood that connects the neighborhood with Old Schoolhouse park, but the western edge of the development is close to three quarters of a mile away.

### A. Park Search Areas.

As noted in the park classifications, depending on the type of park the service area will vary. The attached park search area map, Map 5-4, illustrates a need for parks in the future growth areas while the existing residential neighborhoods are for the most part adequately served. Seven neighborhood park search areas are shown along with one community park search area located northeast of the Fieldstone development. Numerous natural resource search areas are located in the future growth area that mainly correspond to the floodplain areas along the South Fork of the Crow River and wetland/wooded areas. The majority of these search areas are located outside the current City boundaries so the development of these parks will be mainly development driven and annexation would need to occur.

Carver County has approved plans which include a future regional park somewhere in the vicinity of Trunk Highway 25 between the cities of Mayer and Watertown. The City of Mayer is also impacted by the search for the Crow River Regional Trail Search Area. The Crow River area has been proposed for a regional trail in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The trail is proposed to start in Norwood Young America and continue north to the Wright County Line. Three Rivers Park District is exploring the extension of the Crow River Regional Trail in Hennepin County. The Crow River Regional Trail is not master planned at this time.



# Mayer Map 5-4 Park & Open Space Search Areas

-  Community Park Search Area
-  Neighborhood Park Search Area
-  Natural Resource Park Search Area
-  Greenway Search Area
-  Community Park
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Greenway
-  Natural Resource Area
-  School Playground/Athletic Fields
-  City Limits
-  Parcels
-  Open Water / River

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Map Date: January 7, 2018



## B. Accessibility.

<sup>1</sup>The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The law requires local and state governments, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to persons with disabilities. ADA statutes affect the City of Mayer and other local and state park and recreation facilities in the following ways:

- Newly constructed buildings (after January 26, 1993) must be constructed to be readily accessible.
- Renovations or alterations occurring after January 26, 1992 to existing facilities must be readily accessible.
- Barriers to accessibility in existing buildings and facilities must be removed when it is "readily accessible". This includes the location and accessibility to restrooms, drinking fountains and telephones.

Other requirements include but are not limited to:

- One accessible route from site access point, such as a parking lot, to the primary accessible entrance must be provided. A ramp with a slope of no greater than 1:6 for a length of no greater than two feet may be used as a part of the route. Otherwise a slope of maximum 1:12 is allowed.
- One accessible public entrance must be provided.
- If restrooms are provided, then one accessible unisex toilet facility must be provided along an accessible route.
- Only the publicly used spaces on the level of the accessible entrance must be made accessible.
- Any display and written information should be located where it can be seen by a seated individual and should provide information accessible to the blind.

Parks which are developed with items such as parking lots, swimming pools, tennis courts and basketball courts should have routes which are accessible. Nature parks or areas with limited development should have the minimum of accessible routes to the site. The National Park Service provides design guidelines for accessible outdoor recreation.

As the City develops and redevelops City parks it will be important to include ADA standards in the design. Installation of curb cuts and



**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE OBSERVATION DECK**

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, James D. Meres, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. © 1996, National Recreation and Park Association

pathways within the park, designation of handicap parking in the parking lots, remodeling of restroom facilities to provide a handicap accessible stall in each of the men's and women's facilities and pathways to shelters and recreational amenities has been recommended as a method to achieve accessibility goals.

### **C. Future Trails and Sidewalks.**

The existing and proposed trails and sidewalks are shown on Map 5-4, which was included earlier, and should be used as a guide to the future locations of trails and sidewalks within the City and future growth areas. Trails and sidewalks provide many benefits to a community including:

- Increased safety for non-motorized traffic
- Health and wellness
- Access to natural resources
- Economic development with links to parks and the downtown area
- Non-motorized commuting options

Existing sidewalks and trails should be incorporated into future trail and sidewalk planning activities. Proposed trails will add approximately 35.5 miles to the trail way system once the system is fully developed. This includes regional trail segments that are located in the future growth area, such as in the trail search corridor between Mayer and Watertown. These trails may not be developed for twenty plus years, and trails may be developed as a part of a regional system versus as a city project. The amount of trail can also vary depending on how property is developed.

Future connections of municipal parks and trails along arterial and collector streets are also recommended. The Trail and Sidewalk Plan attached as Map 5-5. The City should consider trails that create a circle or loop around the outer growth area of the City, link city parks and take advantage of scenic areas such as the South Fork of the Crow River and wooded areas. This plan allows for the future connection to regional trails and the City should coordinate future trails to connect with Carver County trails and greenways.

The City may wish to investigate the feasibility and desirability of a "Complete Streets Policy" which addresses a system that is designed and operated to be safe and accessible for pedestrians, transit, vehicles, etc. A local Complete Street Policy would declare political support for a balanced approach to road construction.

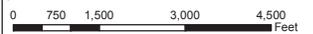
Some of the concepts of "Complete Streets" include but are not limited to:

- Constructing narrower automobile lanes to help calm traffic and reduce construction and maintenance expense;
- Requiring the connectivity of sidewalks and trails as a part of the Subdivision Ordinance;
- Addressing pedestrian crossings and solutions such as bump-outs and medians;
- Expanding support for bicycling including bike racks in the downtown; and
- Improving access for people with disabilities.

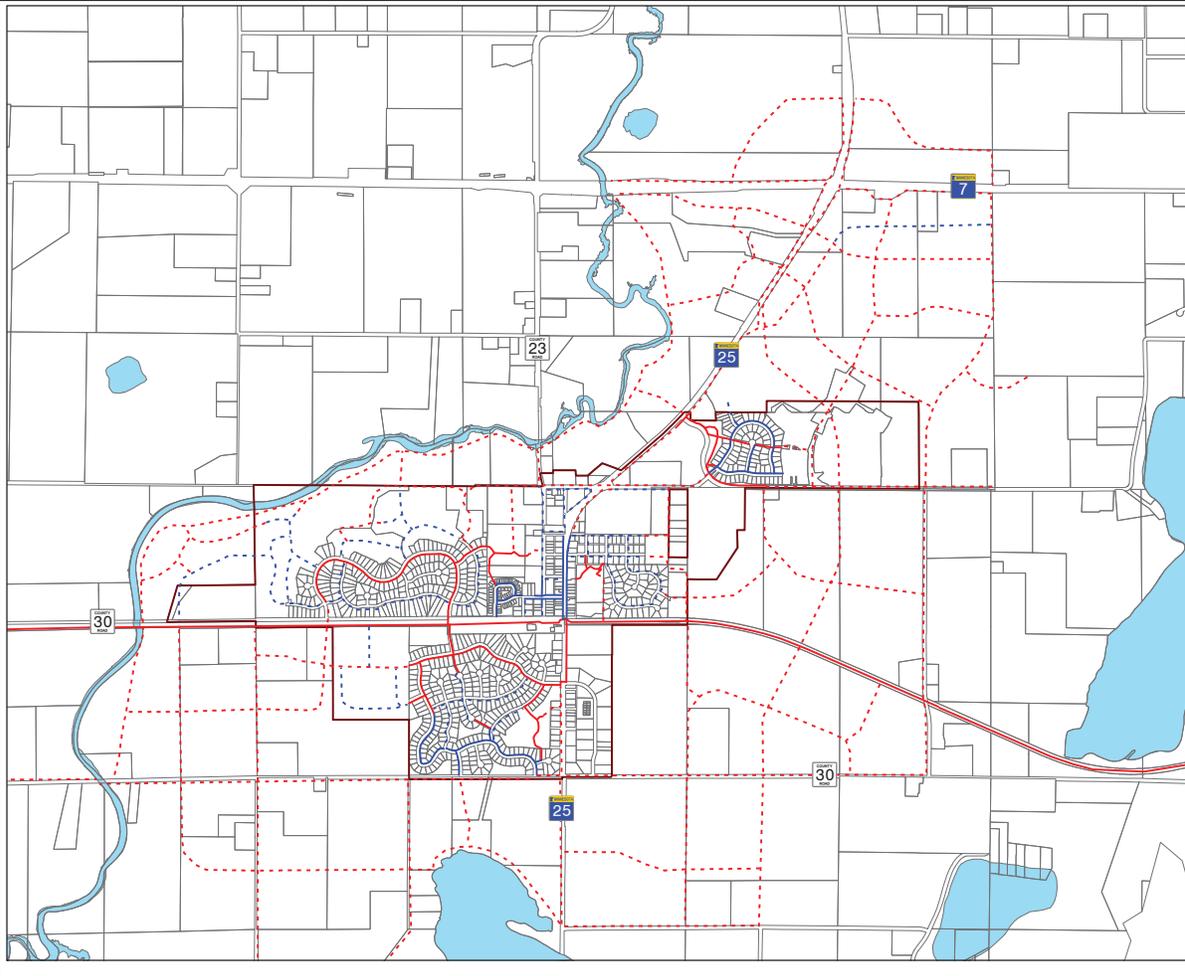
# Mayer Map 5-5 Proposed Trail & Sidewalk Plan

- - - Proposed Sidewalk
- - - Proposed Trail
- Existing Sidewalk
- Existing Trail
- City Limits
- Parcels
- Open Water / River

**Map/Data Disclaimer:**  
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Map Date: January 7, 2018



#### **D. Parks & Trails Plan.**

After inventorying the existing parks and trails within Mayer, an Existing and Proposed Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan Map that identifies the location of future parks, open space and trails has been created and attached as Map 5-6. The map has identified locations for future neighborhood and community parks as well as open space that can enhance the park system. While the total acreage of each future park has not been established, it is anticipated that when the land where the future park is located is going through the platting process, the park acreage will be determined at that time. The future trails are proposed to link the existing and proposed parks together as well as link to the regional trail. The future parks are spaced so that the majority of the current and future residents of the City are within approximately one half mile from a neighborhood or community park.

# Mayer Map 5-6 Park, Trail & Open Space Plan

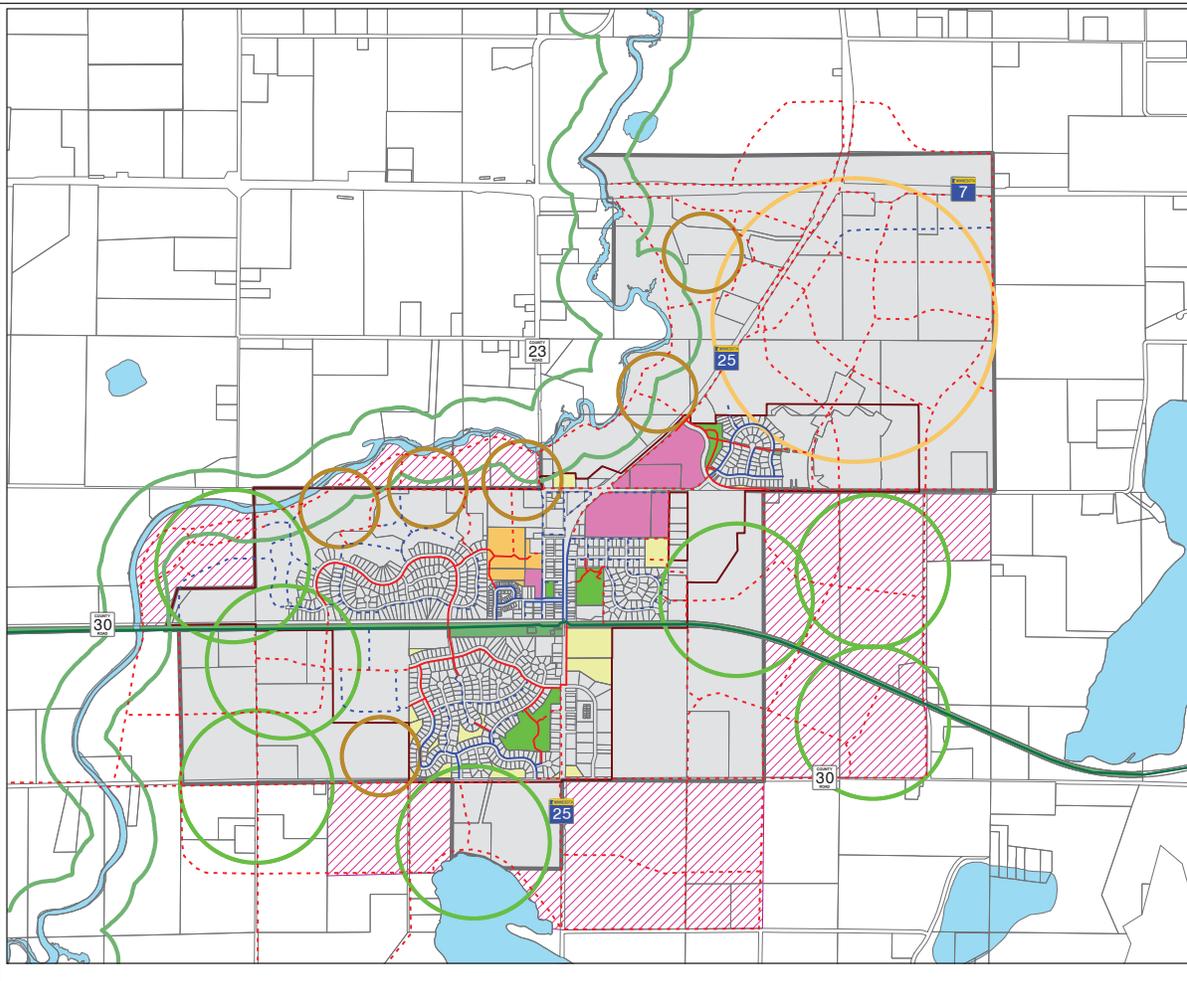
-  Community Park Search Area
-  Neighborhood Park Search Area
-  Natural Resource Park Search Area
-  Western Carver County Regional Trail Search Area (Greenway)
-  Dakota Rail Regional Trail
-  Proposed Sidewalk
-  Proposed Trail
-  Existing Sidewalk
-  Existing Trail
-  Community Park
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Greenway
-  Natural Resource Area
-  School Playground/Athletic Fields
-  Proposed Mayer Growth Area
-  Potential Early Annexation
-  City Limits
-  Parcels
-  Open Water / River

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0 750 1,500 3,000 4,500  
 Feet



Map Date: September 30, 2019



## VII. ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

The proper care and management of park and trail facilities will encourage park and pathway use, improve the quality of life in Mayer and enhance the visual quality of neighborhoods and the City as a whole. The City's Public Works Department coordinates the maintenance and operations of parks and trails, while the Park and Recreation Commission, prepares recommendations on future plans for existing and future parks and trails.

### A. Public Works.

Maintenance of the park system is currently coordinated through the City's Public Works Department. The department also assists with park duties and street functions. Park maintenance tasks may occur on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal and/or weather related basis. These jobs include but are not limited to litter and garbage clean-up, mowing and trimming, preventive equipment maintenance and repair, facility repair and maintenance, painting, snow removal, trail maintenance, special event preparation among other items.

### B. Park and Recreation Commission.

The City has appointed a five member Park and Recreation Commission, with staggered two-year terms. The Park and Recreation Commission meets every monthly to plan for the development and redevelopment of Mayer's park and trail system. The Park and Recreation Commission is a recommending body to the City Council that provides on-going public input on the system. Specific duties are outlined in the City Code.

## VIII. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Several resources are available to assist the City of Mayer in providing adequate parks, trails and facilities for residents. Following is a list of typical sources.

1. Park Dedication Fee In-lieu of Parkland Dedication Requirements for land acquisition), as identified in the City's Subdivision Ordinance and fee schedule.
2. User Fees (rental of shelters, etc.)
3. Volunteer hours/labor.
4. Donations by private individuals, civic organizations, organized groups, etc.
5. Grants available through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other sources.
6. Property taxes.

The City budgets for operational expenses through its annual budget process. The City currently utilizes user fees, donations from organizations and individuals, grant programs, park dedication land and fees and the general tax levy to cover expenses relating to parks. The City should consider the establishment of a capital improvement plan for long-range capital improvements to the park system. Examples of expenditures within the capital improvement plan include purchase of playground equipment, installation of ball fields, purchase/planting of trees, paving of trails and parking lots, etc.

## IX. GOALS AND POLICIES FOR PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

### A. Parks, Open Space and Trail Policies

1. Provide for a variety of activities within the park system, including various cultural and social activities, and active and passive recreation.
2. Establish and promote high quality design standards in the development of the park system.
3. Encourage cooperative planning, development and use of park and recreational facilities by the school district, private educational facilities and the City.
4. To insure that all areas of the City have equal access to parks and open space areas by providing for equal distribution of parks and open spaces throughout all sections of the City relative to user population densities.
5. Encourage cooperative planning and development of park and trail facilities between the City and adjacent units of government and Carver County.

### B. Parks, Open Space and Trail Objectives

1. Maintain zoning and subdivision regulations allowing for parks and open space, and providing for the dedication of parkland.
2. Link all of the park systems via a trail system or secondary sidewalk system.
3. Consider opportunities to share facilities with the Mayer Lutheran School, the Watertown-Mayer Public School District, perhaps through a joint powers agreement.
4. As the City limits expand, provide for a community park in the northeast portion of the City. Such parks would be multi-purpose facilities that would offer multiple passive and recreational activities. A community park would be a park that is a minimum 7-10 acres in size.
5. Provide pedestrian access to parks in those areas where new housing construction is steadily increasing.
6. Maintain open space in environmentally sensitive areas.
7. Provide for recreational equipment and other amenities throughout the park system.
8. Locate parks in areas that are convenient to the populations being served.
9. Plan for parks that take maximum advantage of natural features, notable waterways, and other natural amenities.
10. Provide for outdoor basketball, tennis and volleyball facilities.
11. Connect areas of interest such as commercial areas, parks and residential neighborhoods with an interconnected path/trail system.

12. Review future trail and park plans as they relate to plans from adjacent units of government and Carver County trail plans to coordinate connectivity between local and regional trails. Cooperate on joint grant applications where feasible.
13. Parks which are developed with items such as parking lots, swimming pools, tennis courts and basketball courts should have routes which are accessible. Nature parks or areas with limited development should have the minimum of accessible routes to the site.
14. As the City redevelops Old Schoolhouse Park ADA standards shall be incorporated in the design. Installation of curb cuts and pathways within the park, designation of handicap parking in the parking lots, and pathways to recreational amenities are recommended as a method to achieve accessibility goals.
15. The City should implement the Master Plan for Old Schoolhouse Park and other parks and consider updating and/or adding additional facilities to existing parks.
16. The Park and Recreation Commission and the City should work to maximize recreational opportunities presented by the presence of the Crow River. For example, the City should work with the county to create a continuous, low-impact, scenic nature/recreational trail system adjacent to the Crow River. The City should review requests for subdivision and development plans proposed for property abutting the Crow River as it relates to this objective.
17. The City should develop strategies to achieve goals identified in the park open space and trail plan, including project prioritization and identification of sources and uses of funds relative to future trail/pathway construction and reconstruction. The Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council should require developers to install identified portions of trails with subdivision construction, even if the trail is a temporary dead-end.
18. As street and utility reconstruction occurs within the developed part of the City in areas designated for future trail and/or sidewalk development, steps should be taken to implement the City's trail and sidewalk plan.
19. The City should emphasize proper management of open space areas in order to preserve trees, wildlife, pre-settlement (native) landscape communities, floodplain, water quality and similar environmentally sensitive features at the time of platting.
20. At the time of subdivision, the City should require the identification of sensitive natural resources (e.g. habitats, unique natural features, etc.) using existing ecological information including MN DNR County Biological Survey, Regionally Significant Ecological Area Map, Metro Wildlife Corridor Map, aerial photography, etc. and work with the Developer to integrate locations of identified sensitive natural resource information into land use, park and/or open space plans.
21. It is likely the majority of future local pathways will be provided as part of the subdivision process, therefore, whenever possible future trails and/or right-of-way for such facilities should be allotted for within the subdivision process. Regional trail right-of-way acquisition and construction will be coordinated by Carver County Parks, however, the City should coordinate future right-of-way dedication with the County when parcels contained in search areas are platted. In addition, the City may wish to approve a

sidewalk policy which, among other items, dictates where when sidewalks are required as part of the planning process (e.g. adjacent to collector and arterial roadways).

22. The City of Mayer should frequently review the adequacy park dedication standards to ensure said standards meet the demands of the community and the area to which they are applicable. As the subdivision process is employed for individual developments, the City should request a recommendation from the Park Board as to the appropriateness of proposed parkland dedication and/or fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication. The City shall carefully review proposals from developers relative to parkland dedication requirements. The City shall, when feasible, ensure adequate parkland is available prior to considering a fee-in-lieu of parkland dedication.
23. In order to further educate the public and promote the use of the parks it is recommended the Park and Recreation Commission work with other local and regional governmental units, civic groups and schools to create information to be distributed to new residents and available to the public regarding City parks and activities at the parks.
24. The City, EDA and business community should consider promoting citywide parks (Old Schoolhouse or West Ridge Park) as gathering places for a variety of community functions such as a Farmer's Market, winter fest (sleigh rides, holiday display lighting) and/or business showcases.
25. The City of Mayer through the Mayer Park and Recreation Commission should develop a five year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the existing and future park system. The Capital Improvement Program outlines the types of equipment and other amenities necessary to the Park System, the cost of such items, and the year in which the City is projecting to fund such improvements. This CIP should then be included in the overall Capital Improvement Program for the City.