



Park System Improvement Plan

Resolution 2022-36

Approving Park System Improvement Plan Final Report and Authorizing Staff to Begin Implementation



Chapter 1: Introduction

- Park System Improvement Plan Purpose
- Background
- Fridley's Park System
- Anoka County Park System
- School District

Purpose and Background

Purpose

- To provide a roadmap to guide redevelopment of park infrastructure and capital investment planning
- To respond to resident feedback that parks and trails are valued and there is a need for modernization
- To integrate park development with related plans such as 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Active Transportation Plan

Background

- Fridley is a fully-developed community
- Water access in Mississippi River and Rice Creek
- Fridley is a “transportation powerhouse” providing easy access yet resulting in physical barriers of railways, highways, etc.
- Anoka County Parks and school district properties also serve residents

Fridley's Park System

- 38 parks totaling 295 acres of park land
- Athletic facilities such as tennis, soccer, softball, volleyball, etc.

2040 Comprehensive Plan Goals:

- Park and rec opportunities for all
- Meet needs and interests of residents by keeping pace with changing trends
- Year-round bike/walk opportunities
- Protect our natural resources
- Promote Fridley as a river community



Chapter 2: Community Feedback and Recreation Trends

- Community Feedback
- Recreation Trends
- Fridley Findings

Community Feedback



Online and Social Media

- Polco Surveys
- Social Poinpoint
- Online Story Map



Stakeholder Meetings

- LISC Workshops
- Athletic Associations
- School Districts
- Anoka County
- Resident Task Forces



Community Events

- Town Hall
- Night to Unite
- Park Popup Events

Recreation Trends

Community
Gathering Spaces



Unique and
Customizable
Experiences



Open to All Users,
Through All
Seasons



Protection and
Interaction With
Natural Resources



Active Living and
Healthy
Communities



Fridley Community Findings



The top five requested amenities in the Social Pinpoint and Polco surveys were expanded and improved walking loops, improved playgrounds, water features, improved picnic shelters and park buildings with community gathering rooms.

The LISC workshops report identified values relating to our park system including informed users, active living, social connections and wellness/nature. Specific amenities listed were improved wayfinding, access to water for recreation, multi-use buildings and public art.



What Does Fridley Want?



Improved
Playgrounds
& Amenities



Gathering
Spaces



Year-Round Use
& Connectivity



Unique
Amenities and
Experiences

Chapter 3: Needs Assessment

- Demographics
- Park Metrics
- Focus Initiatives

Demographics

Demographic Findings

The existing demographics of Fridley were identified and evaluated in terms of locations of higher density populations, lower income populations and percentage of minority populations. This allows a better understanding of potential locations for underserved populations compared against the existing park distribution and quality.



Park Metrics

Parks Analysis

- Park Level of Service
- Park Service Areas
- Access & Barriers
- Underserved Populations



Focus Initiatives

1. Enhance the Unique Identity of Community Parks

- Community gathering and outdoor recreation focus at Moore Lake Park
- Year-round recreation focus at Commons park with improved skating, sledding, dedicated pickleball courts, splash pad and inclusive play area



2. Update Amenities Throughout the Park System

- **Updated Playgrounds** (23 new playgrounds with destination Inclusive Playground at Commons Park)
- **Splash Pad** (Commons Park)
- **Park Buildings** (Commons Park, Moore Lake, many shelters added to the park system, expanded recreation programs)
- **Public Art** (Partnership and sponsorship opportunities)

Focus Initiatives

3. Increase Connectivity Within Fridley's Park System

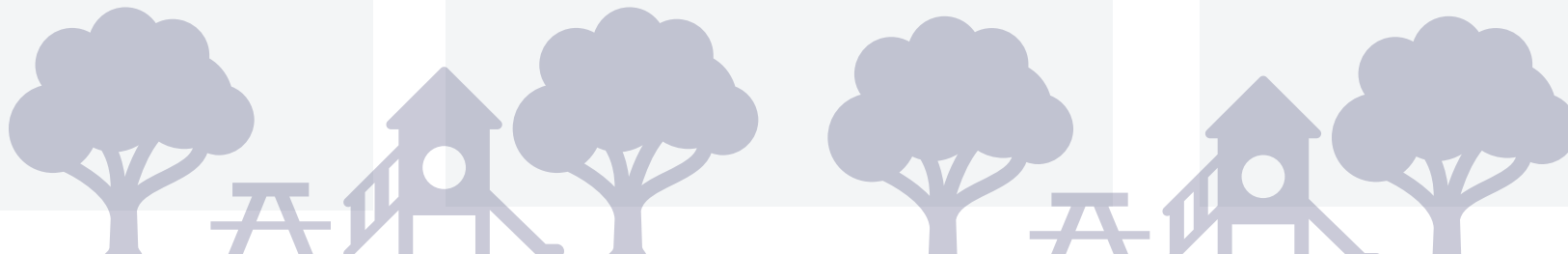
- Wayfinding and Connectivity
- Branding
- Expanded trail loops

4. Environmental Stewardship

- Pollinator-Friendly Lawns and Nature-Based Play
- Shoreline Restoration
- Stormwater features, rain gardens

5. Maintenance

- Select lower-maintenance materials
- Create routine maintenance schedules
- Volunteer efforts such as Adopt-a-Park



Chapter 4: Park System Plan and Recommendations

- Overview
- Park Standards
- Park Plan and Recommendations

Park Plan and Recommendations

Improvement Plan Document Provides for Each Park:

- Description
- Planning Background
- Recommendations
- Priority Level
- Concept Plan



Chapter 5: Implementation Plan

- Implementation Strategy
- Community Outreach and Engagement
- Proposed Schedule
- Next Steps

Preferred Implementation Strategy

The Park System Improvement Plan Refinement Advisory Committee were presented with two different implementation strategies. A **preferred final implementation strategy** was chosen (with some modifications since) and includes:

- Task force recommended Strategy #1
- Additional Community Park Considerations
- Neighborhood / special use parks



Preferred Implementation Strategy

Task Force Strategy #1

- Implements high priority community needs
- Provides meaningful improvements across the community

Additional Community Park Considerations

- **Moore Lake:** Further study indicated a building may be feasible, but the location may need to be adjusted
- Building would provide value
- **Commons Park:** Incorporation of an all-inclusive playground is warranted and would make the park more complete. Grant funds may help offset some costs



- Compliment Springbrook Nature Center as year-round community gathering spaces for Fridley
- Provide indoor restrooms for park users
- Four-season hub for recreation, education and enrichment programming
- Attractive venue for expanded services for seniors
- Indoor gathering and kitchenette spaces would support indoor/outdoor events

Preferred Implementation Strategy

Neighborhood / special use parks – additional modifications to account for additional community park costs

Ruth Circle and Madsen

- Removed full warming house building and replaced it with a group picnic shelter with restrooms
- Removed paved rink surfacing

Additional Deferred Parks

- Altura
- Glencoe
- Meadowlands
- Plaza
- Springbrook

Community Outreach and Engagement

Outreach and engagement for all the parks that will be impacted by the Park System Improvement Plan will consist of frequent interaction via digital, print, and in-person campaigns.



Outreach and Engagement Activities

Activities used for the community parks (Moore Lake & Commons):

- Community Connection newsletter promotion or informational updates/calls for participation
- Social Media campaigns and updates in the bi-weekly “Fridley For You” e-newsletter
- In-person (at the park) events specifically about the topic(s) we need feedback on such as playground themes
- Grand opening/ribbon cutting welcoming all community members

Outreach and Engagement Activities

Activities used for the 20 neighborhood parks that will be improved as part of then plan:

- Hold an in-person kick-off event at each neighborhood park inviting those living in that specific park area
- In-person (at the park) events specifically about the topic(s) we need feedback on
 - i.e., amenity location, color, lighting, play area themes, etc.
- Mailers/postcards sent to residents near each park providing information/updates and/or inviting them to kick-off events, update events, etc.
- Send staff on Night to Unite to parks that are on the upcoming construction schedule
- Nextdoor.com social media posts targeted specifically to those in and around each specific park
- Grand opening/ribbon cutting welcoming residents around the given neighborhood park

Schedule for First Seven Parks

Moore Lake

- Community Outreach (May 2022)
- Design & Permitting (May 2022)
- Contracting (Dec. 2022)
- Construction & Inspection (May 2023)
- Park Open (Aug. 2024)

Neighborhood Parks

- Ed Wilmes (May 2022-July 2023)
- Creekview (May 2022-Aug. 2023)
- Skyline (May 2022-Oct. 2023)
- Edgewater (May 2023-Oct. 2024)
- Plymouth Square (July 2023-Oct. 2024)
- Sylvan (July 2023-Nov. 2024)



Parks Starting in or after 2024

Starting in 2024

- Edgewater Garden
- Plymouth Square
- Sylvan Hills

Starting in 2025

- Logan
- Madsen
- Oak Hill

Starting in 2026

- Flanery
- Jubilee

Starting in 2027

- Summit Square
- Harris

Starting in 2028

- Briardale
- Creekridge
- Hackmann Circle
- Ruth Circle
- Innsbruck N.C.

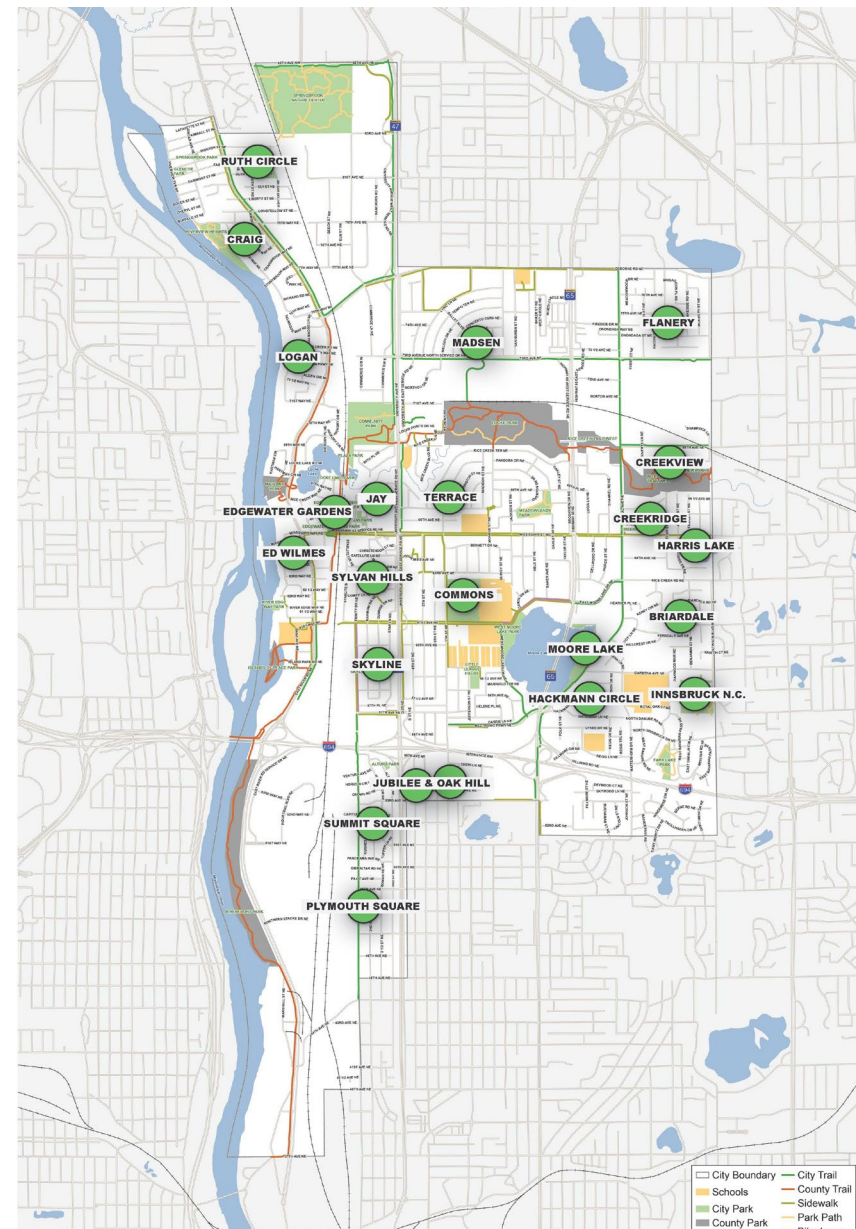
Starting in 2029

- Jay
- Terrace

Deferred parks: Altura, Farr Lake, Glencoe, Locke Lake, Meadowlands, Plaza, Ray Thompson L.L. Fields, Riverview Heights, Springbrook, West Moore Lake

Distribution of Park Improvements

- Improved Community Parks will serve all residents
- Improved neighborhood parks are near all residents and were prioritized by needs assessment



Estimates and Funding

Conceptual Estimates

- 8–10-year Improvements = \$30.2 M
- Deferred Improvements = \$21 M
 - **Total: \$51.1M**

*NOTE: High level estimates meant for initial budgeting and do not account for unknown factors that will affect actual costs.

Funding Recommendations

- Determined by the Park System Improvement Plan Financing Advisory
- \$20 million abatement bond



Next Steps

- Final City Council adoption
- Upload plan to city website and StoryMap for public review
- Submit plan for Adjacent Jurisdiction / Community Review (select agencies, neighboring communities, etc.) per Met Council requirements – 60-day time period
- City Council approves submittal to Met Council for review and adoption as addendum / amendment to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan – can take 2-3 months

