



FINDING YOUR FUN IN FRIDLEY!

**PARKS MASTER PLANNING – COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP 1**

JUNE 27, 2019



UP NEXT: DEBBIE DAHL

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
EMPLOYEE RESOURCES**



HOW WE GOT HERE

“We believe in a Fridley that is safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.”

(Community’s vision adopted in 2014)

GREAT THINGS ARE UNDERWAY!

Creating a vibrant city has been at the forefront of our work.

Residents have seen that revitalization take place:

- Business and retail redevelopment
- Housing additions and redevelopment
- Civic Campus project
- MNDOT Highway Study
- Springbrook Nature Center
- Northstar Rail site and surrounding development
- Great media and social media presence

Residents and community leadership saw the need for a civic campus which included gathering spaces for events, programs and connections – [adding additional nature and recreational resources to our city.](#)

This year the city council established new goals and identified a number of priorities; one of which being [creating a Parks Master Plan.](#)



INTERNAL CHANGES

In 2018, the Community Services Department was formed to improve services and strengthen many efforts across the organization.

This included merging marketing, human resources, parks and recreation and Springbrook Nature Center into one department.

This department adopted the mission of “we cultivate connections through inviting programs spaces and interactions.”

Introduce Parks Master Plan Leadership Team

This team, along with other team members within the city, have lead the first phases of the parks master plan. They will stay with the development of this plan from this workshop through final proposals.

WHY DO PARKS AND TRAILS MATTER?

Most everyone genuinely understand the value parks and trails bring to communities.

People love parks and trails!

They are an essential part of life for individuals but also an essential part of planning and infrastructure for years to come.



VALUE OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Health Value

People living near parks have greater opportunities to be physically healthy by running, walking, biking and participating in things that makes them happy.

We can all agree an active lifestyle improves overall health.

There is a true value of “play.” Most importantly for children and teens, but also for adults.

Being outside and using spaces for recreations is good sound body and sound mind.

**PARKS HELP TO
REDUCE THE COSTS
OF HEALTHCARE**



Maintaining a **healthy weight** saves

\$1,500 per person
in healthcare costs a year.¹¹

Source: cityparkalliance.org

VALUE OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Environmental Value

There's a value in preserving and supporting healthy environments by protecting wildlife and natural spaces. Nurtured parks and trails provide healthy ecosystems such as clean air, clean water, controlling damaging pollution, and minimizing carbon footprint, etc.

In Fridley, we have been establishing healthy practices, priorities and education programs (organics, recycling, pollinator-friendly gardens, rain gardens, Environmental Fun Fair, etc.)

Fridley will continue to set positive examples for others with achievements like Tree City USA status.

PARKS CLEAN THE WATER

Parks and green space filter rain which reduces water pollution, protects drinking water and decreases rates of waterborne illness.

Parks improve environmental health and save communities money.



VALUE OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Economic Value

The economic value a healthy parks, trails and open spaces system has on a city is endless. Parks and open spaces attracts new residents and visitors to cities.

For residents, it can increase property values by as much as 20 percent. It can bring in businesses, increases revenues, and builds wealth by creating jobs.

Parks and trails can also reduce costs for public services such as police and protections and public works.

PARKS INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES



Houses near parks or trails have **5-20% higher property values** than those in the surrounding community.^{13, 14}

PARKS INCREASE REVENUE FOR CITIES

Property tax is one of the most important revenue streams for cities. Cities receive an increase in property tax revenue from people moving back to the cities.



Since 2000, the number of young, educated adults moving to livable, walkable urban neighborhoods has increased

37%.¹⁵

VALUE OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Educational Value

It goes without saying that there is a ton of educational value for children and adults who have regular exposure to the outdoors and recreation programs that builds skills. It can improve analytical thinking, problem solving, creativity, and develop an appreciation for science and math.

There's value in children that grow into adults and have an appreciation for and the preservation of nature, history, culture and civic pride.



VALUE OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Community Value

Having an established, well-maintained parks and trail system creates a sense of pride.

They beautify areas and creates a vibrancy throughout the city.

Trails and spaces lead us around, get us from place to place and fulfill a sense of wonder.

Having places to gather, reflect, enjoy outdoors and recreate builds stronger connections between people and define neighborhoods.

It gives residents a sense of pride and ownership in their neighborhoods. They have the power to create long-lasting friendships, families and networks.



FRIDLEY LOVES OUR PARKS!



FRIDLEY LOVES OUR PARKS!

- Large park system with **38 parks** owned and operated/maintained by the City
- **681.3 acres** of park land (**24.69** per 1,000 people), which includes the Anoka County Park system and school properties
- **Roughly 10%** of the City's overall acreage is dedicated to park land
- National Recreation and Parks Association recommends 6.25-10.5 acres per 1,000
- Metropolitan Council recommends 7-14 acres per 1,000 people
- Fridley has **2-3 times more** park land than some of the recommendations
- **87%** of all residents are within 1/2 mile (**10 min**) walking distance to a park (2017 survey)
- **15** miles sidewalks, **12.6** miles of trails, **6.8** miles of paths and **10.4** miles of County trails

HISTORY OF FRIDLEY PARKS

Many of our parks areas were formed in the 1950's. Councilmember Bob Barnette recalls he and a number of friends and teachers helped to build parks and playgrounds throughout the city, including the Moore Lake swimming beach.

The Fridley park system was more formally established in the 1970's following the 1965 tornado outbreaks. To assist in the recovery, the City received federal funding to install playgrounds and amenities.

The City has made updates, regular maintenance and replaced equipment, it has still been over fifty years for many areas.

We have never had a system-wide Master Parks Plan or identified a comprehensive maintenance and development plan.



MOORE LAKE

- Moore Lake is an important park in the City and in need of improvements.
- In 2015-16 a study was conducted to develop a plan for Moore Lake.
- Professional architects and engineers were hired to conduct a study and formalize plans with recommendations presented to the Fridley Parks Commission.
- The estimated cost was \$4.3 million.
- Still, some planning and environmental work needs to be done for Moore Lake.
- Funding sources still need to be identified.
- The costs and priorities of Moore Lake prompted a larger review of the entire parks and trails system.

PARKS MASTER PLAN COMPONENTS

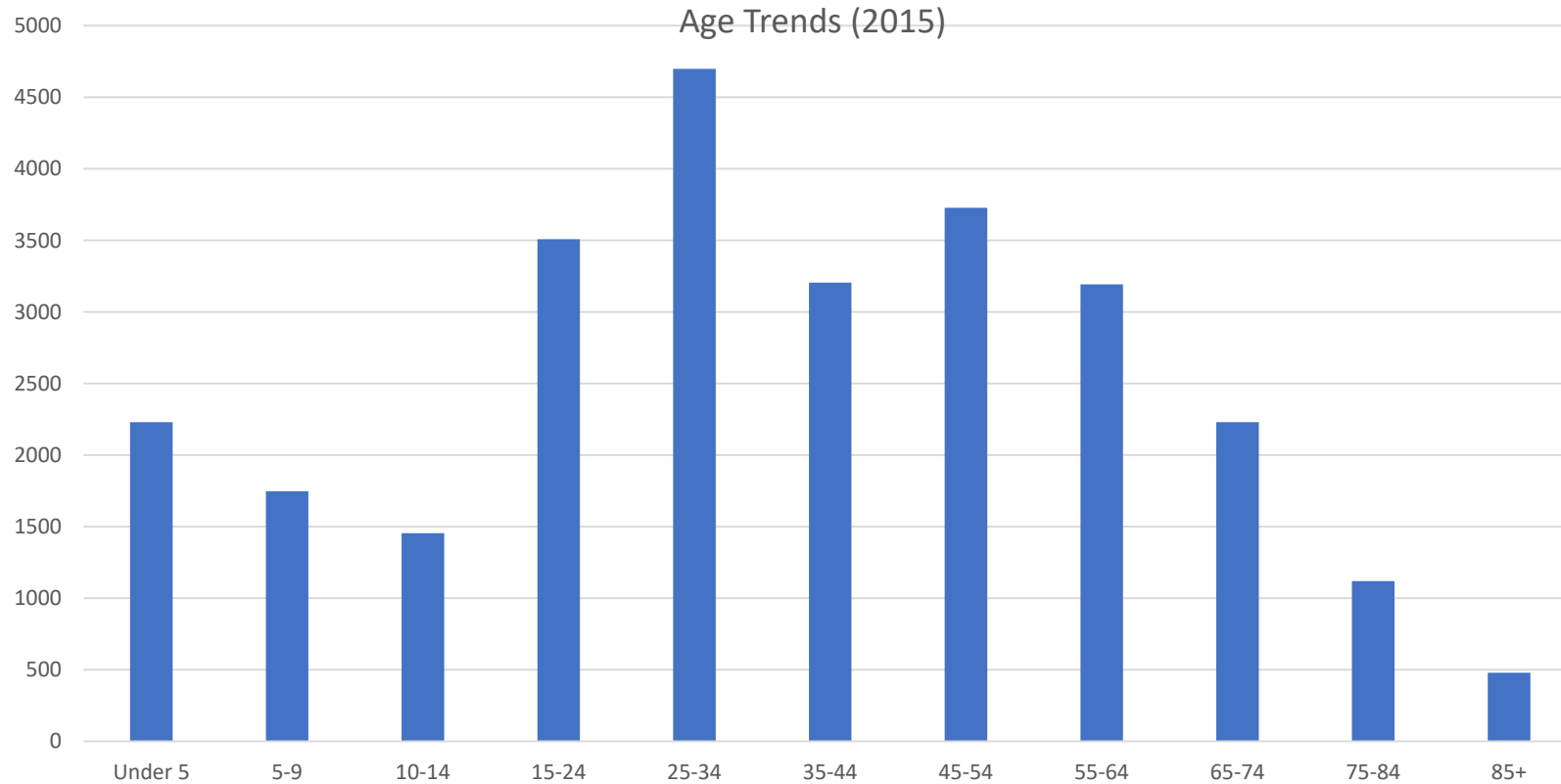
- Overview of the Parks System
- Identify needs and interests of the community
- An in-depth review and evaluation of the current system, amenities and conditions
- Data and Trends
- Public Input
- Recommendations
- Funding Considerations
- Concepts and Designs
- Implementation Plan Developed

FRIDLEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Estimate (2015)	27,592 (Comprehensive Plan Report)
Number of Households	11,110 (2010 Census)
Male (2014)	13,912 (50.3%)
Female (2014)	13,758 (49.7%)
Per capita Income	\$23,022 (2010 Census)
	\$27,376 (American Community Survey 2014 Estimate)
% in Poverty	7.7%



AGE TRENDS



Source: Comprehensive Plan Report



DIVERSITY TRENDS

Amounts Reflects Percent			
			Est.
Race	2000	2010	2015
White/Caucasian	88.7	72.2	67.2
Black or African American	3.4	11.1	14
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.8	1.2	1.1
Asian	3	4.9	7.1
Some other race	1.2	0.3	0
Two or more races	2.9	3.6	3.4
Hispanic or Latino	2.6	7.3	7.2
(Source: Census.gov and 2011-2015 American Community Survey)			



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL

Fridley's parks and trails are here for you and your needs, interests, and involvement throughout is critical.

We know our community is no longer the same as it was 50 years ago and the needs and trends and have changed with it.

This will be a fun and worthwhile journey building for the future; which takes resources (time, money, collaboration).

We're offering a commitment to transparency throughout this process and want to get as much as we can out of these four community workshops.

Stay involved and stay updated! Visit [FridleyMN.gov/FindingYourFun-Updates](https://www.fridleymn.gov/findingyourfun-updates) for the latest.

SOCIAL PINPOINT



Drag to
comment >



Leave a
Comment



Something
I Like



Ideas and
Suggestions



Something
I Dislike



Trail/Sidewalk
Needed



Safety
Concern



FINDING YOUR FUN IN FRIDLEY

Continue to make Fridley an amazing community and help us build upon our large parks and trail system.

Our goal is to make our recreational areas attractive and enjoyable for generations to come!

Mike Maher, Director of Springbrook Nature Center will speak about some of the trends the industry of parks and recreation are seeing.



UP NEXT: MIKE MAHER

DIRECTOR OF SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER



NATIONAL TRENDS IN PARKS AND RECREATION

FINDING YOUR FUN IN FRIDLEY!



MULTI-USE TRAILS

Demand for paved multi-use trails is increasing for activities such as cycling, walking, running, and in-line skating.

Trail loops and connections between parks and amenities are being developed by many communities to promote wellness and active transportation.

Local examples include the Rice Creek and Mississippi Regional Trails.



PRESERVING OPEN SPACES

Demand for outdoor recreation and open natural spaces is increasing. Since 2003, visits to Minnesota State Parks has increased by 25%. Local examples include Springbrook Nature Center, Locke Park, Innsbruck Nature Center and Moore Lake Park.



YEAR-ROUND FACILITIES

Many communities are developing facilities that allow year round access to activities such as golf, swimming, soccer, walking and running.

Communities such as Maple Grove, Plymouth and West St. Paul feature sports domes allowing year-round access to “summer” sports.



SPECIALIZED SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

People are seeking out unique experiences and there is demand for specialized trails, courts and equipment to allow for activities such as mountain biking, pickle ball, in line skating, bird watching, paddle sports, sand volleyball, and rock climbing.



FLEXIBLE OUTDOOR PLAY SPACES

Open play fields that can be used for a variety of sports such as soccer, cricket, ultimate Frisbee, football, lacrosse and rugby are becoming more favored over park space designed and designated for a single sport.

This allows for flexibility as demographics and recreation trends change.



WINTER RECREATION

Winter sports such as fat tire cycling and skate skiing are growing and require special trails and equipment.

As demand for multi-use trails grows, so does demand for winter access through grooming or plowing.

Park and Recreation professionals are closely monitoring the impacts of climate change on cold and snow dependent activities.



EQUIPMENT SHARE/RENTAL PROGRAMS

Considering the high cost and storage needs of recreational equipment, there is a great deal of growth in programs where equipment such as bikes, snowshoes, canoes, stand-up paddleboards and kayaks can be borrowed or rented for limited use.

There is a Mississippi River paddle share program where kayaks can be picked up and dropped off at different parks along the river.



DOG PARKS AND PET-FRIENDLY EVENTS

Many park agencies are adding or expanding off-leash dog areas and are hosting events that are pet-friendly.

The number of dog parks in the US has nearly doubled since 2007 and one local example is the city of Arden Hills "Bark and Rec" day event.



INCLUSIVE PARKS

Park agencies are making strides in creating new facilities that are inclusive to all and provide a positive and sensory-rich experience to people with disabilities.

Perceptions are changing and parks are being designed for people with sensory needs, Down Syndrome and the visual and hearing impaired.



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES

More and more people are looking to parks as community gathering spaces for events, meetings, celebrations and classes.

The city of Roseville built a number of community buildings in their parks which have been well received by their staff and residents alike.

Springbrook Nature Center now serves 5,000 people per year through facility rental events such as birthday parties, showers and receptions.



THEMED PLAY AREAS

To create unique destination play spaces, many park systems are incorporating themed play areas such as nature-based play, water play (splash pads) or challenge course themed parks.



We look forward to your feedback on the future of our parks.

FINDING YOUR FUN IN FRIDLEY!



UP NEXT: HEAR FROM THE KIDS!

FOR OUR KIDS AND THE NEXT GENERATION



QUESTIONS?

