



# Parks and Trails Plan

December 2015

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## Introduction

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The City of Montrose adopted an update of its Comprehensive Plan in 2007, which outlines a new 20 year concept for community growth. Like the previous 2002 plan, a directive of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Update is that the City address the recreational issues and opportunities within the community and abutting future growth areas. This comprehensive growth plan was expanded and updated with review in 2015. As a starting point, the Comprehensive Plan includes a conceptual park and trail plan which identifies potential future recreation areas and trail linkages. By definition, a park is a tract of land designated and used by the public for active and passive recreation.

The intent of this Parks and Trail Plan Update is to further the directive of the updated Comprehensive Plan in regard to planning for and providing active and passive recreational opportunities for community residents. Specifically, this Plan is intended to provide analysis and subsequent decision-making framework to guide City officials in providing community services and facilities, as well as addressing private development proposals. It includes an inventory of current facilities, needs assessment, goals, and policies. This Plan will likely need revisions over time as the basic planning assumptions, implementation strategies, and goals are no longer considered valid, or when the City's population and recreational demands warrant amendment. Revision should be considered on a regular basis to keep the plan current with community philosophy and user characteristics.

Inventory information, goals, policies, and plans relating to parks and trails found in the Comprehensive Plan Update have been integrated into this Parks and Trails Plan and, where appropriate, information from the Wright County Park and Trail Plan has also been retained and integrated.

## Park and Trail Issues

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Montrose's recent surge in population growth has prompted a need to address the recreational needs of not only its present population but future population as well. With continuing development potential, as well as increased density possibilities, the demand for localized park and recreational facilities is likely to grow. Moreover, a community trail system is a feature which will be gaining demand as the City's population ages. Montrose has the advantage of being in a position to plan and provide for such community facilities in advance of the actual need.

The formulation of a Parks Commission, the preparation of a conceptual city park and trail plan (within the Comprehensive Plan), and park dedication requirements imposed through the City's subdivision regulations are all viewed as positive steps to ensure that the recreational needs of the community will be satisfied.

The initial phase of the Parks and Trails Plan involves an identification of issues related to community park and trail development. Such issues will ultimately be used in the formulation of policies with which the community concurs. These policies are intended to reflect the park and trail system the City of Montrose wishes to achieve.

Based on discussions with Parks Commission members, the following were identified as primary issues confronting the City in regard to park and trail development.

- While on an acreage basis, the City has ample land area to serve the passive and active recreational needs of its present population. Question exists in regard to the visibility of several City parks due to their containment of wetlands and/or limited size.
- Physical improvements to existing park sites are of primary importance in order to serve the recreational demands of community residents.
- Beyond standard park dedication fees, the City needs to investigate alternative funding sources for facility improvements, such as grants.
- The City's existing trail/sidewalk system is fragmented. It is our primary goal and highest priority to finish connecting the trail system due to its high usage.
- Cooperation with Wright County and the City of Waverly in regard to park and trail planning is considered beneficial.
- Community promotion of park and trailway facility use is important in establishing a community identity.



## Park and Trail Issues

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- The City is in need of directional park signage. New, large identifying signs have been placed in each park with its name, park rules, and hours displayed. A need for more information as to park locations and amenities, is needed.
- A new Regional Park has been planned, but future implementation will be needed, and funding for that is a priority.
- The City is lacking in active recreational facilities/programs and relies heavily on the City of Buffalo for such opportunities. The current Park Commission is pursuing different activities for the community to start to provide such programs locally, such as basketball at the local school via open gym, and other annual events.
- The City needs to establish a set of priorities in regard to park and trail development.
- The recreational needs of all population groups needs to be considered in the City's park and trail planning efforts, especially the needs of the physically handicapped.
- An active working relationship needs to exist between the Park Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council.

**POPULATION AND PARK NEEDS**

The tables below show population trends and projections for Montrose, as included in the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Update, and anticipated park land needs for 2010 and 2020. The trends and projections show that the population will continue to increase in the next 20 years.

<b>Population Trends and Projections</b>								
			<b>2010</b>			<b>2020</b>		
<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Slow Growth</b>	<b>Mid Point</b>	<b>Fast Growth</b>	<b>Slow Growth</b>	<b>Mid Point</b>	<b>Fast Growth</b>
762	1,008	1,143	1,740	1,980	2,350	2,460	3,060	4,010

Source: U.S. Census 1980, 1990, 2000  
Northwest Associated Consultants, Inc.

For planning purposes, a rule of thumb for amount of park land is 11 acres for each 1,000 people of population. Under this scenario and based on a "fast growth" rate, Montrose is expected to need approximately 26 acres of park land in 2010 and 44 acres by the year 2020. Thus, the 69.5 acres of existing park land is expected to accommodate the City's needs through 2020 on an acreage basis. To be noted, however, is that approximately one-third of the City's existing park land is comprised of wetlands. Thus, approximately 45 acres of upland or "useable" park land actually exists within the City.

<b>Park Land Needs</b>							
<b>Year</b>		<b>2010</b>			<b>2020</b>		
	<b>2000</b>	<b>Slow Growth</b>	<b>Mid Point</b>	<b>Fast Growth</b>	<b>Slow Growth</b>	<b>Mid Point</b>	<b>Fast Growth</b>
Acres	12.6	19.1	21.8	25.9	27.1	33.8	44.1

Source: Northwest Associated Consultants, Inc.

It should be noted that the City has not historically accepted wetlands as required park land dedication. Rather, wetland areas were accepted above and beyond the required "upland" dedication.



While the City appears to have ample land area to accommodate future recreational needs of community residents, land area alone does not guaranty that such lands are conducive to accommodate necessary recreational facilities. For instance, certain recreational facilities such as ballfields require large expanses of flat land which appear to be somewhat lacking the City's existing supply of park land, with exception of the development of new Regional Park. Identifying potential neighborhood park areas in advance of development proposals will allow planning to ensure all areas of the community will be served by parks.

## **EXISTING FACILITIES - PARKS**

The following parks, comprising a total of 107.7 gross acres of land, exist within the City of Montrose, excluding the Regional Park.

### ***Carver Field (3.8 Acres)***

Carver Field, just west of Veteran's Memorial Park between Emerson and Center Avenues, is comprised solely of a ball field. It is the Park Commissions opinion that the field should be enhanced, and an upgraded concession stand would add value, along with wheel chair access to the entire facility.

### ***Forest Creek Park (7.84 Acres)***

Forest Creek Park is located south of Breckenridge Lane and east of Cole Avenue in the northern portion of the City. The park is basically a southwesterly extension of Rolling Meadows Park. The park includes a trail segment. The Park Commission vision is to connect the trail segment to the rest of the trail system, and to add playground equipment in the future, as well as make it physically handicap accessible.

### ***Lent Park (9.97 Acres)***

Lent Park is located on Garfield Avenue within the Parkview Addition. To be noted, however, is that a significant portion of the park is comprised of wetlands. The park includes a skate park and has been graded for a future soccer field; however due to lack of adequate parking, the soccer field(s) cannot be utilized. Many thoughts have been considered on how to remedy this, but none are feasible at this time.

### ***Lions Park (1.0 Acres)***

Lions Park lies adjacent to the water tower site and community center in central Montrose. The park includes a swing set, a picnic shelter, and a horseshoe pit, merry go round, and dirt digger. Due to its limited size and minimal recreational facilities, however, the park is not presently a site for enhancement. It has been a major contributor to the park system, with Montrose Night Out, Montrose Days events held

there, among others. With the development of the Regional Park, those events will be relocated to that facility. The Park Commission recommends replacement or removal of the equipment in the future.

### ***Northridge Park A and Northridge B (14.6 Acres)***

Northridge Park A is located within the southern portion of the Northridge subdivision. The park is comprised primarily of a wetland and has limited development potential. Northridge Park B is located within the northern portion of the Northridge subdivision. They have been combined to just be called "Northridge". A play structure was recently constructed in the park. There are volleyball courts, swings, picnic bench, community garden plots, water access, parking lot, and recently trees were transplanted. There is room for additional development in this park, but with the development of the Regional Park, Regional will take priority.

### ***Hill Street - Parkview Park A & B (2.2 Acres)***

One of the three parks located within the Parkview Addition, Parkview Park A measures 1.1 acres in size (upland area), Parkview B measures 1.1 acres and is presently undeveloped. There are currently no plans to develop this area.

### ***Pheasant Hills Park (7.9 Acres)***

Pheasant Hills Park, located within the Pheasant Hills Addition, is presently developed. The park has some scenic qualities including significant vegetation and wetlands areas. To be noted, however, is that of the total 7.9 acres dedicated as park land, only 2.8 acres is considered upland. Thus, the park has limited development potential. The trail system does connect with this park, play equipment has been installed and benches are present along with solar lighting.

### ***Preserve of Montrose Park (14.3 Acres)***

Preserve of Montrose Park is located south of U.S. Highway 12 along the east side of Center Lake. The park is currently undeveloped, unmaintained, and will not be developed by the City. This will be handled by the purchaser of this plat.

### ***Rock Brook Park (0.4 Acres)***

Rock Brook Park is located north of 7<sup>th</sup> Street South and west of Brook Circle East. The park measures 16,000 square feet in size and includes a play structure, climbing rock, picnic table and bench.

### ***Regional Park – formerly known as Rolling Meadows Park (26.7 Acres)***

The Regional Park, located west of County Road 12 in the northern portion of the City has recently been surveyed and planned out for park facilities. This is the City's largest



park. While the park is currently mostly undeveloped, grading has begun, a parking lot installed, and planning underway. A trailway is planned connecting to or possibly weaving within the park. Conceptually, Multi-phase planning for this park is to include soccer fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, ice skating rinks, baseball fields and a concession stand as well as playground equipment and restrooms. This park will be fully handicap accessible.

### ***Thorson Park (3.5 Acres)***

Located within the Parkside Meadows Addition, Thorson Park includes a play structure. This park may be connected to Lent Park, in the future, if the land becomes available.

### ***Veteran's Memorial Park (3.3 Acres)***

Veteran's Memorial Park is located north of First Street North and west of County Road 12. The park includes a shelter (with picnic tables), lighted tennis court, tot lot, swings, and basketball hoops. As the City's largest developed park, it serves the recreational needs of many community residents. As the city's most used and most visible park, upgrades and/ or future changes may be needed.

### ***White Tail Ridge Park – Disc Golf (16.3 Acres)***

The Disc Golf Course overlays approximately 16.3 acres of land in the northwest corner of the city. The Disc Golf Course (physically comprised of two areas adjacent to each other) was substantially reclaimed from thick dense wooded areas, in addition to the wooded areas, the course also incorporates the natural rolling topography, and wetland features. As a result of these features the Disc Golf Course can be considered for either passive or active park activities. Further development of off street parking is recommended.

### **EXISTING FACILITIES - TRAILS**

As shown on the Existing Facilities Map, trail and sidewalk segments exist throughout the community. Primary trail and/or sidewalk segments exist along both sides of County Road 12 (north of U.S. Highway 12) and on the west side of Center Avenue (north of U.S. Highway 12). Additionally, trail/sidewalk segments exist north and south of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe rail line. It is the commissions highest priority and strongest recommendation to the City Council, that the trail system be finished by connecting all existing trails, finishing segments currently undeveloped, and performing maintenance on existing used segments as needed.

### **NON-CITY FACILITIES**

In addition to the parks referenced previously, recreational facilities located on the elementary school property further supplement the City's park needs. Further, a number of recreational facilities outside the City limits are also available to community residents. These include the Crow Springs County Park, located south of 40<sup>th</sup> Street and west of Highway 25 (within Franklin Township), operated by Wright County; and two wildlife management areas operated by the State of Minnesota. The Malardi Lake State Wildlife Area is located east of the City limits south of 45<sup>th</sup> Street and west of Meridian Avenue. The Woodland State Wildlife Management Area is located south of the City limits, north of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and east of Highway 25. Also, the Fountain Lake public access serves as an additional recreational amenity to the area. These facilities provide passive recreational opportunities and environments.







## **WATERWAYS**

The Crow Springs County Park, located in the extreme northeast corner of the study area, provides public boat access to the Crow River.

## **RECREATION PROGRAMMING**

Montrose has historically relied upon Wright County and the Buffalo School District to provide recreation programs for community residents. In the Summer months, the SPARKS Community Education Program provides additional activities for children. Refer to the City of Montrose Facebook Page, City of Montrose Web Page, and Nextdoor for upcoming activities.

## **COMMUNITY FESTIVALS**

"Montrose Days", held annually the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August, provides a number of recreational activities for community residents, including a youth baseball game and horseshoe tournament, and other local area entertainment.

## **TRAIL DESTINATIONS**

A well planned trail system connects activity centers within a community. In Montrose, trail destinations include the elementary school, the City's various parks, commercial areas, and neighboring City of Waverly. It is the commission highest priority, to complete and connect all trail segments.

## **PARKS COMMISSION**

Montrose has established a Parks Commission consisting of up to seven members plus a City Council representative. The Parks Commission undertakes comprehensive park and trail planning, development of park facilities, implementation of recreation programs and reviews park dedication elements of subdivision requests. The Parks Commission is an advisory board, making recommendations for City Council action.



Park and recreation planning in any community occurs at three levels. Maps and plans provide graphic visualization of physical resources. But no matter how extensive, they cannot anticipate every eventuality. Growth in the City may occur in new locations which the Parks and Trails Plan does not expect or it may occur much faster or slower than originally thought. Proposed land use types and streets may have to be changed in response to present day circumstances which will in turn alter the planned park and trail system. For this reason, policies are developed which can be applied to new situations.

The Policy Plan is the first and most critical part of the planning process. It is a strategic management tool which reflects the community's general treatment of its recreation facilities and services, and provide more detailed guidance on park/trail development and maintenance standards. Community recreation standards are the means by which a City can express their goals and objectives in quantitative terms, which in turn can be translated into spatial requirements for physical resources.

### **OVERALL SYSTEM POLICIES**

1. Develop an ongoing planning process for the establishment and development of parks and trails which responds to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan policies as well as those identified herein.
2. Develop goals and priorities for park/trail acquisition and development.
3. Identify present and future park/trail needs on a continual basis for evaluation by the Planning Commission as development proposals are considered and recommendations are made to the City Council.
4. Update physical plans and related documents as necessary to respond to changes in goals, needs, priorities, and budget.
5. Plan for recreational facilities and budget needs by preparing a master plan for each component of the park/trail system to be used as the basis for development.
6. Promote public participation in the planning process via the Planning Commission to host a forum for open discussion of issues.
7. Promote integration with other City activities, services, and facilities.

8. Identify the means by which to implement park/trail administration and operations (i.e., by the Parks Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council policies, procedures, and ordinances).
9. The Parks Commission shall review and make recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council on all aspects of park/trail planning, design, acquisition, development, and maintenance.
10. The City shall achieve an equitable distribution of park lands, trails, recreational facilities, and programs throughout the community.
11. Develop a system of directional park signage. New signage is in place at each city park showing its name & the rules, but additional consideration has been given to more signage showing "all" parks, their location, and amenities contained therein.

### **ACQUISITION**

1. Dedication of land for park and open space facilities shall be accepted only when the land satisfies the needs of the community.
2. Pursue park and recreation grants to acquire park and trail land and improve existing parks/trails.
3. The Parks Commission shall review and submit recommendations to the City Council on all park and trail land acquisition issues.
4. When financially feasible, the City shall acquire and reserve sufficient park and open space lands to fulfill the needs of the present and projected future population of the community.
5. New recreation sites shall be pursued in association with new residential subdivisions which serve a broad range of age groups and activities.
6. Proper right-of-way widths shall be dedicated for sidewalks and trails during the subdivision process.
7. Developers shall provide sidewalks or trails on both sides of all new collector streets within their development with projected average daily trips (ADT) above 500.



8. Park and open space shall be developed and improved to take maximum advantage of natural community features, including lake frontage, forests, native prairie, other unique vegetation associations, or areas of rugged topography with quality views and vistas.
9. Park and open space facilities shall be planned and developed in coordination with similar services or surrounding communities.
10. Portions of a parcel that are within delineated wetlands or include slopes of more than 12 percent shall not be credited for dedication of park and trail lands.
11. Developers with land abutting a minor arterial or collector street shall construct a bituminous trail in accordance with City design standards. If said street leads to a major park, school, commercial center or other majority activity area, the City may require construction of a concrete sidewalk in place of the bituminous trail.
12. Costs for the construction of park facilities or of sidewalks and trails shall be borne by those that benefit from the improvements.

#### **PROGRAMMING / DEVELOPMENT**

1. An appropriate balance between active, passive, and cultural recreational areas and activities, tailored to the needs of the total population throughout the community shall be provided.
2. When financially feasible, recreational facilities and a year-round program of activities shall be provided which are suited to the varied recreational needs of all age groups within the community.
3. When financially feasible, providing safe and convenient, pedestrian and bicycle access to recreational facilities shall be considered a high priority.
4. When possible, construct trails in conjunction with State, County, and City street improvements to minimize construction costs.
5. The City shall gauge capital improvements made to individual park facilities on the basis of relative need for developed park facilities.

6. Recreational open space improvements shall be programmed in accordance with a Capital Improvement Program and updated on an annual basis.
7. On a periodic basis, the City shall undertake studies to analyze the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the community recreation program.

#### **FACILITY PURPOSE AND DESIGN**

1. The City shall classify and make any improvements to the park system utilizing a classification system defined by the Parks and Trails Plan.
2. Trails corridors shall serve transportation and/or recreational functions. The transportation function of a trail corridor is to provide as direct a link possible between population areas and activity centers such as schools, parks, churches, places of work, and shopping areas. They generally will occur adjacent to collector and minor arterial streets. Trails with a recreational focus shall be developed in places of interest such as natural areas, parks, creek corridors, around lakes, or other areas suited to recreational use.
3. Consider the long term costs of maintenance and operation in a recreational facility's design and development. The City, along with Public Works, has implemented a plan.
4. Neighborhood and community scale recreational facilities shall be located within safe and easy access of users.
5. Parks shall be designed and maintained with proper lighting, landscaping, shelter design, etc. to ensure a high degree of public and property safety.
6. The use of motorized recreational vehicles shall be subject to applicable City regulations and limited to designated areas.
7. Where necessary, park and open space areas shall be buffered and screened via a fence, berm, plantings, or a combination thereof for the safety and protection of the user.
8. Adequate parking shall be provided to serve major park and recreational facilities.



9. The slope of trails along their length should not exceed 5 percent to be considered disability accessible and 8 to 10 percent in areas where access would otherwise be limited.
10. The recreational needs of the disabled shall be considered and incorporated in park designs, and will be a major consideration in development of the Regional Park.

**MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION**

1. Provide a safe and sanitary environment in all park facilities and trail systems under the direction of the City.
2. Provide an effective system of controlled and consistent maintenance to safeguard the condition of all park and trail facilities.
3. The City will coordinate maintenance of park and trail facilities to insure their availability for safe use.

**RECREATION PROGRAM POLICIES**

1. Cooperative agreements with the School District shall be established for provision of recreational open space areas, athletic programs and services.
2. Work with surrounding communities to utilize existing facilities within Montrose and surrounding communities to provide opportunities for recreational activities.
3. Insure cooperation with local civic groups that show interest in providing services and events that benefit the community's recreation needs.
4. Establish a system of providing recreational services which satisfy the needs of all ages and abilities.
5. Accept gifts and donations (i.e. cash, building materials, etc.) for recreation programs if they are determined to be in the City's best interest.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS / COMMUNITY ISSUES**

1. The City shall encourage continued citizen participation in the planning, development and operation of recreational open space.
2. Educate residents and facility users on the proper use and safety rules for each facility.
3. Use print and broadcast media, the local newspaper, the City's promotional packet, and informational signs to promote facilities and recreational programs.
4. Develop a clear and concise system of trail graphics and signage that direct people along trails and into parks to specific points of interest.
5. Develop ways to organize recreation programs and facilities to maximize participation and overcome physical or economic limitations that may prevent equal opportunity for all citizens.



### INTRODUCTION

The Plan Development chapter of the Montrose Parks and Trails Plan provides the guide for continued development of the City's park and trail system. Existing facilities are identified herein in greater detail with plans for full development. In addition, search areas for future park facilities have been identified based upon the growth strategies outlined in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update. It must be emphasized that the future park search areas identified herein do not target specific properties. Instead, the search areas identify general areas of acquisition toward the goal of providing the City with the ability to reserve land from development as it becomes available.

Trail development is addressed somewhat differently in that future trail corridors have been specifically identified. This is most true of trail segments planned to use street right-of-way for trail location. The basic concept of the trail element of the Parks and Trails Plan is to provide for a pedestrian or bicycle transportation network that connects to important recreational and social centers of the community. The trail element of the plan also seeks to provide intra-community connections with regional trail corridors provided by other agencies. In addition to the primary trailways that follow street rights-of-way, a number of overland trail segments are proposed which serve two purposes. First, these segments provide more direct access to neighborhoods or destinations. Secondly, overland trails may serve as linear parks through areas of high amenities, which also may serve a transportation function.

### PARK CLASSIFICATION

While Montrose certainly has many parks within its borders, many are presently undeveloped. With this in mind and without physical park improvements, it is difficult to classify such parks. As part of the park and trail plan preparation, it is however important to recognize a park classification system that caters to the recreational needs of all residents.

The following park classification system is intended to serve as a guide to planning, not a blueprint. The City of Montrose recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards as:

1. An expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of the community;
2. A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities;
3. A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide recreation system;

4. One of the major structuring elements that can be used to assist with development; and
5. As a means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of the City.

The following standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment relating to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. Sometimes more than one component may occur within the same site, particularly with regard to a specialized use within a larger park.

**Neighborhood Mini Parks**

Use:	Designed to provide passive activities with some active short term activities and may include specialized facilities serving a limited population or specific group such as a playground
Service Area:	Neighborhood sizes of 1,000 to 5,000 persons, within ¼ to ½ mile
Population Served:	Toddlers through age 15, with informal recreation for groups of all ages
Desirable Size:	1 to 10 acres
Acres/1,000 Population:	1.0 – 2.0
Site Characteristics:	Open space for spontaneous play, play areas for both pre-school and school age children, multiple use paved areas, limited field games, small court games, ice rinks, playground equipment, within easy walking/biking distance

**Neighborhood Parks**

Use:	Area for designated active and passive recreation areas
Service Area:	½ to 1 mile radius to serve a population of up to 5,000 persons (a large neighborhood)
Population Served:	Focus upon ages 5 through 39 with emphasis upon ages 5 through 18



Desirable Size:	5 to 10 acres
Acres/1,000 Population:	1.5 – 2.0
Site Characteristics:	Suited for multi use recreation development, easily accessible to neighborhood population, geographically centered with safe walking and bike access, may include school facilities

### **Community Playfields**

Use:	A large recreation area with primarily athletic facilities designed to serve older children and adults
Service Area:	1 – 1½ mile radius City wide
Desirable Size:	10 to 25 acres
Acres/1,000 Population:	2.0 to 5.0
Site Characteristics:	Organized sports facility or athletic complex including lighted court and field games, community center or indoor recreation facility, swimming pool, ice rink, capacity for special events, must include support elements such as rest rooms, drinking water, parking, and lighting

### **Community Parks**

Use:	Area of diverse environmental quality which may include areas suited to intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes as well as passive type areas, depends largely upon the site location, suitability and community need
Service Area:	Several neighborhoods, 1 to 4 mile radius
Population Served:	All ages, toddler to retiree, entire community for cities up to 25,000
Desirable Size:	20 to 35+ acres

Acres/1,000 Population: 5.0 – 10.0

Site Characteristics: Provides for a combination of intensive and non-intensive development ranging from play equipment to trails, may include natural features, such as water bodies or forested land, must include support elements such as rest rooms, drinking water, parking, and lighting

### **Natural/Conservancy Areas**

Use: Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreational use as a secondary objective

Service Area: No applicable standard, scattered among City parks of all sizes

Desirable Size: Sufficient to protect the resource and accommodate desired recreational uses

Acres/1,000 population: Variable

Site Characteristics: Variable, depending upon the resource being protected

### **Private Facilities**

Use: Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, historical buildings/areas, and parkways or boulevards within commercial centers.

### **School Facilities**

Use: Facilities developed in association with schools which are intended for children's educational and recreational instruction, which on a secondary basis, provide opportunities for community residents, this shared usage is positive in that it allows for daytime usage by students, evening, weekend, and summer usage by all.



**Linear Park/Trails**

- Use: Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, may include other activities such as sitting areas, exercise courses, play areas, landscaping, etc.
  
- Service Area: No applicable standards
  
- Population Served: All of community
  
- Desirable Size: Sufficient width to provide for specified activities, maximum usage, and setbacks from streets or residential areas.
  
- Acres/1,000 Population: Variable
  
- Site Characteristics: Built or natural corridors such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities such as parks, schools, and residential areas.

### **PARK PLAN**

The City of Montrose is unique in that while it has ample land to serve its immediate recreational needs, several of the City's parks either are undeveloped and/or have substantial wetlands (which limit recreational options). As a result, the park "plan" for Montrose is intended not only to earmark future park locations (which is typical of most park plans) but to provide specific improvement recommendations for all existing community parks as well.

### **EXISTING CITY FACILITIES**

#### **Carver Field**

Carver Field is located north of First Street North, between Emerson and Center Avenues, and is presently occupied by a single, regulation-sized softball field. While the need for such ballfield is acknowledged, it is believed the limited size of the park lends itself to a less intense activity which consumes less land area. As presently situated, the chance of stray balls entering the adjacent rights-of-way is significant. Additionally, the size of the field does not provide an opportunity for buffer areas typically desirable within single family neighborhoods.

Recommendations:

1. At such time when a larger, alternative ballfield site is available, the existing ballfield be converted to a little league diamond.

#### **Forest Creek Park**

Forest Creek Park is located in the northern portion of the City, south of Breckenridge Lane, and east of Cole Avenue. The park overlays a drainageway and is essentially a southwesterly extension of Rolling Meadows Park.

Recommendation:

1. At such time when the property to the south develops, a coordinated trail extension to the south (along the drainageway) be provided.



### **Lent Park**

Lent Park, located in the western side of the City (within the Parkview Addition), is presently includes a skate park and has been graded for a future soccer field. Due to the park's containment of a wetland, rolling topography and existing vegetation, the park is not considered suitable for additional active, field-type recreation.

Recommendations:

1. The City consider opportunities for easterly expansion of the park (to allow it to merge with Thorson Park if the property becomes available). Future interconnecting walking trail.
2. Passive recreational facilities such as play equipment, a picnic shelter/gazebo, benches, etc. be provided in the park.

### **Lions Park**

Lions Park, located north of Third Street, between Buffalo and Center Avenues, is presently occupied by a City water tower and picnic shelter.

Recommendations:

1. The City to add trees, maybe sustainable ones such as apple, plum, pear, etc.
2. The City reinforce the mixed use district concept by promoting and establishing the park as a "central square" of sorts which is easily accessible to neighboring residents. Considering its location within the City's "mixed use" district, it is believed the park has great untapped potential to become a community focal point. However with the development of the Regional Park, community activities will be relocated to the new facility.

### **Northridge Park**

Northridge Park provides desirable open space in the area and includes a trail link to County Road 12. Northridge Park includes a significant amount of upland area (approximately 14 acres) suitable for park development. A play structure was recently constructed within the park.

While ample land exists within the park for active recreation facilities, the limited exposure of the park to public streets and proximity of such improvements to single family residential lots tends to suggest that small scale recreational activities be provided. It is believed that intense recreational facilities which generate crowd noise, a significant off-street parking demand, and safety concerns (i.e., stray balls) would be better served within a park where such activities would not negatively impact single family residences.

### Recommendations:

1. A trail system/linkages be provided through the park.
2. Relatively small-scale active recreational facilities be provided within the park (i.e. tennis courts, basketball, etc.) with ample setback from neighboring single family residences. Portions of this have been completed.
3. Passive recreational facilities (i.e.,picnic shelter, etc.) be provided as deemed appropriate by the City.
4. Off-street parking areas be provided. Parking lot area has been installed, but could be expanded and potentially blacktopped in the future.
5. Community Garden plots have been established, the need has been established, but discussion as to whether they are kept in this location or moved to the Regional Park is on-going.
6. A fence may be needed in the future, due to bordering neighbors driving across the park and use of motorized vehicles. The fence would be installed on the west property line and also across the north property line. Additional fencing may be needed if the problem is not corrected, for the safety of the children, and to save destruction of property and facilities.

### **Parkview Park / Hill Street Park**

Hill Street Park (A & B were combined) and is located in the western portion of the City within the Parkview subdivision. While the park provides opportunities for future trail linkages, its limited size (1.1 acres) and proximity to Lent Park raise question as to its viability as a community park.



Generally speaking, parks of such size lend themselves to tot-lot improvements. Considering the park's proximity to Thorson Park, it is believed the duplication of facilities would be an unwise expenditure and that City funds could be better spent on other components of the City's park system.

Recommendation:

1. The park be reserved for a future trail connection to Lent Park.

### **Parkview Park / Hill Street**

Hill Street Park is also located within the western portion of the City and measures 1.1 acres in size. Considering its size limitations and proximity to Thorson Park, development as a tot-lot is a consideration.

Recommendation:

1. The park be reserved for a future trail connection to Lent Park.

### **Pheasant Hills Park**

Pheasant Hills Park, located within the Pheasant Hills Addition (north of the rail line and east of County Road 12) and has had play equipment installed, along with benches, a walking trail that is connected to the trail system, and solar lighting.

Pheasant Hills Park contains a wetland and includes rolling topography and existing vegetation. As a result, the park is considered more conducive to passive than active park activities.

### Recommendations:

1. Trailway connections to the park from the east.
2. Passive recreational facilities such as play equipment, are provided.
3. If additional adjacent land is acquired, provide exercise/fitness equipment, picnic shelter, gazebo, etc.

### **Preserve of Montrose Park**

Located south of U.S. Highway 12 along the east side of Center Lake, Preserve of Montrose Park is presently undeveloped. Park improvements are expected to be handled by the future developer. The City has no current plans, nor does the Park Commission have any recommendation to develop this land.

### **Rock Brook Park**

Rock Brook Park, located in the southern portion of the City (just west of County Road 25), is presently occupied by a play structure. The park and play structure primarily serve the nearby residents of the Rock Brook subdivision.

### Recommendations:

1. As the area west of the park develops, a sidewalk/trail connection between the park and future westerly neighborhoods be provided.
2. When the MnDot redesigns and upgrades Hwy 25 south, the Park Commission recommends working with the MnDot, the City of Montrose, and the Park Commission to design a safe connection from Rock Brook going north to the intersection of Hwy 25 and Hwy 12.



### **Regional Park**

Regional Park, in the northern portion of the City, is currently under development. At nearly 27 acres in size, the park provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation.

Recommendations:

1. Only upland areas shall be considered in fulfilling the City's park dedication requirements.
2. Future park improvements phases include the following:
  - a. Trails.
  - b. A little league ballfield.
  - c. A soccer/ice rink expected completion Spring 2016
  - d. Warming house/park storage building, expected completion Spring 2016
  - e. Playground.
  - f. Off-street parking area, has been partially completed.

### **Thorson Park**

Thorson Park, which overlays 3.5 acres of land, presently includes a play structure. Containment of a wetland and rolling topography make it unsuitable for active, field type recreation.

Recommendations:

1. The City consider opportunities for westerly expansion of the park (to allow it to merge with Lent Park).
2. Passive recreational facilities such as a picnic shelter/gazebo, benches, etc. be provided in the park.
3. Trail connections to the park be provided from Emerson Avenue and Park Place Circle.

### **Veteran's Park**

Veteran's Park overlays 3.3 acres of land and is located north of First Street North and west of County Road 12. Because the park is fully developed, few new facilities are proposed.

Recommendations:

1. The City evaluate the need for additional off-street parking within the park.
2. In the long term, consideration be given to providing a toddler wading/swimming pool within the park; as well as updating and replacing play equipment.

### **White Tail Ridge Park/ Disc Golf**

The Disc Golf Park overlays approximately 16.3 acres of land in the northwest corner of the City. The park (physically comprising two individual park areas) is currently groomed.

Recommendations:

1. The City determine desired park improvements.



## **NON-CITY FACILITIES**

### **Crow Springs County Park**

While it is acknowledged that Crow Spring Park is located outside the City limits, its inherent scenic beauty and Crow River boat access make it an attractive recreational area available to Montrose residents. Recognizing that the City's long term land use plan incorporates lands adjacent to the park, it is anticipated that the City will, at some future point, encounter development proposals in the area.

Recommendations:

1. The City work with Wright County and other governmental bodies to provide a logical trail connection between the park and the City of Montrose.
2. The City support the westward expansion of the park when and if such opportunities arise.

### **Malardi Lake State Wildlife Area**

The Malardi Lake State Wildlife Area lies outside the present Montrose City limits. Because the wildlife area does provide a passive recreational opportunity to area residents, it should be considered as part of an "area" park system.

Recommendations:

1. The City work with Wright County and other governmental bodies to provide a logical trail connection to the wildlife area.

### **Montrose Elementary School**

Recognizing the elementary school's central location within the community, its recreational facilities are considered a community advantage.

Recommendations:

1. To the extent possible, the City work with the School District in regard to future recreational improvements and programs which serve the needs not only of the School District, but the community as a whole. The Lions Club recently installed new play equipment including handicap equipment.

### **Woodland State Wildlife Management Area**

The Woodland State Wildlife Management Area is located south of the City limits, east of Highway 25. It provides an opportunity for passive recreational opportunities (i.e., bird watching, etc.).

Recommendations:

1. The City work with Wright County and other governmental bodies to provide a logical trail connection (along Highway 25) to the wildlife area.

### **NEW CITY FACILITIES**

#### **Parks**

Relatively speaking, the City has a sufficient number of parks for a community of its size (15 parks). While such parks presently serve or will serve the recreational demands of community residents, the City is lacking in a large community park within which large scale, active recreational facilities may be provided. Generally speaking, this entails facilities for field games (i.e., adult softball, baseball, and soccer). To accommodate these activities, it is estimated that a relatively flat parcel of land, not less than 20 acres in size, be considered.

As shown on the existing Park and Trail Facilities Map, existing parks (both City and non-City) are most abundant in the northern half of the study area (north of Highway 12). As a result, the majority of new park facilities are proposed in the southern portion of the community (south of Highway 12).

As shown on the Park and Trail Plan, the following park search areas have been identified:

Area South of Wastewater Treatment Plant. Due to its limited topography (conducive to ballfield construction), proximity to the City's existing population base and potential accessibility from both Highway 12 and Highway 25, this park search area (approximately 20 acres) is considered of prime importance in terms of providing an opportunity for large scale, active recreational facilities for area residents.



## Plan Development

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Area South of 70<sup>th</sup> Street and West of Clementa Avenue. A second community park search area is proposed in the area of Clementa Avenue and 70<sup>th</sup> Street, northeast of a significantly sized wetland. Such area is considered an appropriate park location for a number of reasons including its central location within the southwest quadrant of the study area, its building limitations (due to wetlands), and the visibility and accessibility afforded the area by adjacent collector streets.

Area North of 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Southwest Between Armitage and Meridian Avenues. It is believed the area south of the Woodland State Wildlife Management Areas offers a unique opportunity to preserve an environmentally sensitive area. While the park would be somewhat isolated from the urbanized area of the City, it would be afforded excellent accessibility and visibility from Armitage and Meridian Avenues, both designated collector streets.

Area Between Lent and Thorson Parks. The size of Lent and Thorson Parks (each 3.5 acres) and containment of wetlands establishes them more as “mini parks” than neighborhood parks. Considering the proximity of the two parks to each other and that undeveloped property lies between them, an opportunity exists to merge Lent and Thorson and create a true neighborhood park of significant size.

Area North of U.S. Highway 12 and West of County Road 12. Presently, an undeveloped parcel of land exists at the corner of U.S. Highway 12 and County Road 12. This parcel is of a size which, following the imposition of required building setbacks, renders it essentially unusable as little or no buildable area exists. Further, the cost of clean up for existing contamination problems and access limitations make development unlikely. Recognizing these development constraints, it is believed the property could function as a public “gateway”, serving to promote the community.

Area North of 55<sup>th</sup> Street and East of Clementa Avenue. A final park search area has been proposed north of 55<sup>th</sup> Street and east of Clementa Avenue. This park would likely be limited in size and passive in nature. The park itself would function not only as a convenient recreation facility for residents in the northwest area of the City, but would also complement the Rolling Meadows Park as a trail entry point along the drainageway.

Area West of Meridian Avenue Between Malardi Lake and 55<sup>th</sup> Street. Like the area south of the Woodland State Wildlife Management Area, this search area is characterized by environmentally sensitive areas. Functionally speaking, this park would serve as a southerly expansion of the existing Malardi State Wildlife Management Area.

### Trails

A park plan and ultimate park system is truly not complete without a system by which residents are afforded a convenient and safe means to access such facilities. In this regard, the designation of future trail corridors is considered a worthwhile planning effort, and of utmost importance.

A primary goal of the Trails Plan is to provide linkages between the City's various park facilities and residential centers. To achieve this, desired trail locations should be earmarked prior to new growth so that when opportunities arise, various trail segments can be established or reserved.

Retrofitting trailways onto an existing development pattern is more difficult than identifying new corridors for new development. Therefore, an effort to identify connection points to existing development should be considered prior to additional new growth. The trails illustrated on the Parks and Trails Plan will likely consist of three types of trails: on-street trails, grade separated trails, and overland trails.

On-street trails are those that utilize local streets as connecting links between other types of trail segments. They are vital in that they provide ingress and egress through residential areas, which is commonly the place of origin for most trail uses.

Grade separated trails are those that are located parallel to a street, often within the street right-of-way, but do not share the same paved surface. Grade separated trails are typically set apart from the driving surface by a grasses and/or landscaped median area. Grade separated trails provide safer access along high volume transportation corridors and depend on signalized intersection of specific pedestrian crossings to cross streets with high traffic counts.

Overland trails are those that provide pedestrian or bicycle connection in areas where it is not desirable or feasible to utilize on-street or grade separated trails. These are wider corridors of at least 30 feet and up to 100 feet wide which may include elements of a linear park such as open space, vegetative plantings or other complementary features in addition to the paved trail surface.



The Trail Plan, shown on page 34, focuses upon the designation of future trails based upon the location of varied trail routes and lengths, connection to existing trails, connection to various destinations, availability of land and anticipated development area. The proposed development of the trail system has been prioritized into those trails for which there is an immediate need and those for which a future need is anticipated. Both classifications of trails should be acquired and developed as the opportunity is presented.

### Immediate Trail Needs:

- The completion of the interrupted or incomplete sidewalk/trail route along Highway 25 from U.S. Highway 12 to the City's southern boundary.
- Determine, establish, and complete Northridge Park Trail System.
- Determine, establish, and complete Trail System from Forrest Creek Park to Aspen Lane
- Determine, establish, and complete Thoreson Park Trail System
- Determine, establish, and complete walking trail segment from Emerson Ave. North to Thoreson Park.
- Determine, establish, and complete trail system between Thoreson Park and Lent Park. (Currently Private Property)
- Determine, establish, and complete trail system between Hogan Drive and Seventh Street North.
- Connect Emerson N to Breckenridge and also Rolling Meadows to Forest Creek.

### Anticipated Needs:

- Along the drainageway north of 55<sup>th</sup> Street between Clementa Ave. and County Road 12.
- In extreme northwest area of the study area (north of 45<sup>th</sup> Street and west of County Road 12) along existing drainage way. (Ties into Regional Park Plan)







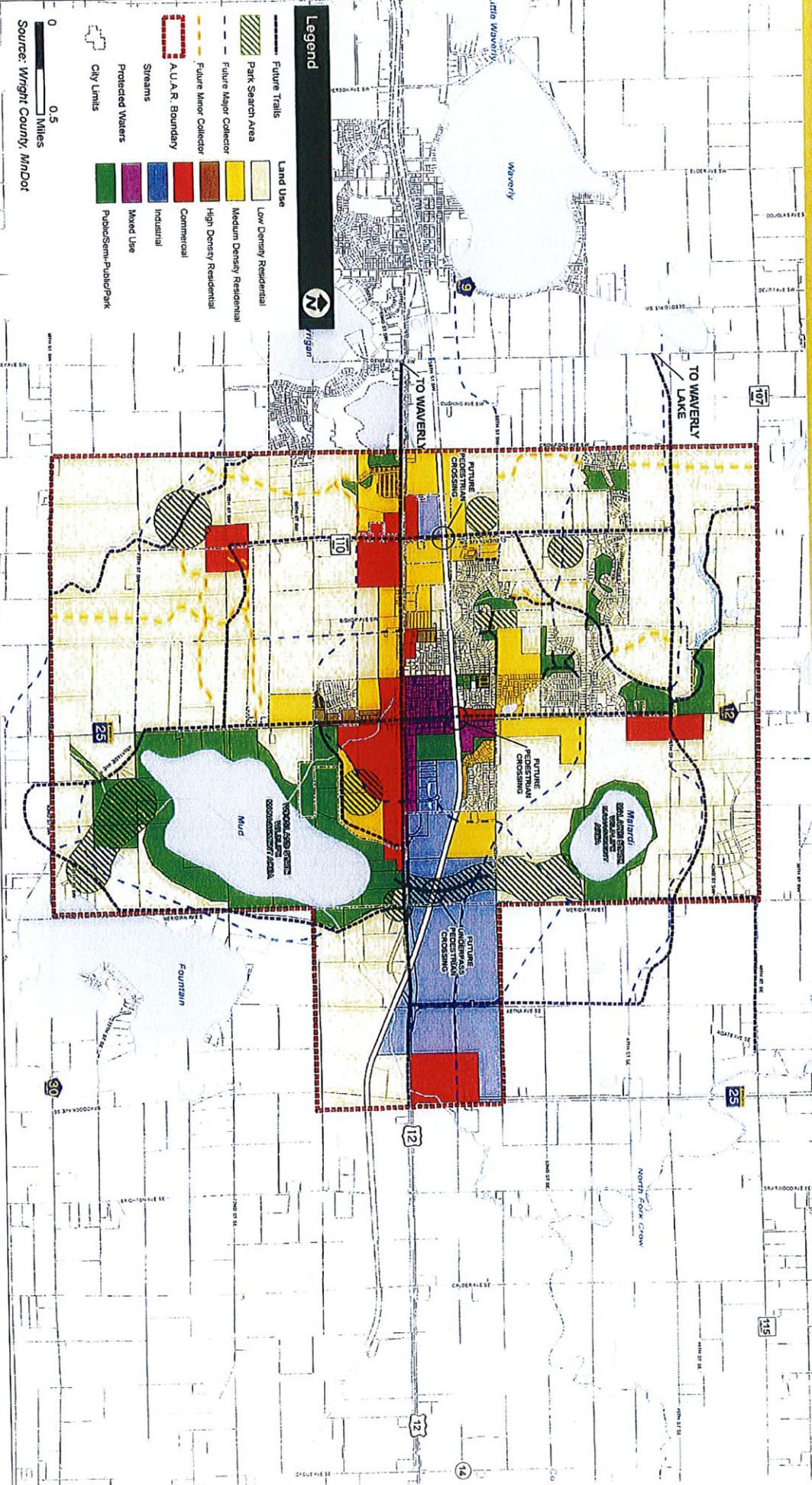
# Park & Trail Plan

City of Montrose

December, 2015



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The final phase of the Parks and Trails Plan establishes a process of projecting land acquisition and park/trail improvements, setting priorities, and scheduling for their provision and financing over a period of time. This process produces a long range guide for recreation and requires that the City look toward the future to anticipate capital expenditures and to provide revenues to meet them. This section does not take the place of a capital improvements plan in that precise costs are beyond the scope of this document, however, the City should begin thinking about establishment of a five year priority list, analyzing their financial situation, and obtaining cost estimates for the desired short term improvements.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROCESS**

A Capital improvement program provides an instrument for carrying out the objectives and recommendations of the Montrose Parks and Trails Plan. Through prioritization of five year capital needs for the City's park and recreational facilities and identifying the amount of money available to finance the improvements during this period, the City will be able to determine which improvements are necessary in terms of their ability to pay. The capital improvement program (CIP) is a flexible process, in that as the social, physical and financial conditions change within the City, the priority of the scheduled projects may also change. In response to the changes in the City, the CIP must be an ongoing process. Each year, the CIP should be re-evaluated for consistency with the Plan, current recreational needs, and fiscal condition of the City.

The following process should be utilized by the Park Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council when reviewing potential park capital improvement projects:

1. Establish a five year priority list of park/trail capital improvements that reflects current and projected recreation demands. Annually review and revise the five year priority list to reflect current demand and needs.
2. Analyze the City's current financial situation.
3. Obtain up-to-date cost estimates for high priority items.
4. Develop project descriptions and plans for the desired improvements which include proposed scheduling and phasing.
5. Make copies available of the CIP for public inspection prior to the City Council's presentation of the annual budget at the required public hearing.



6. Begin the process over again following approval of the CIP and the beginning of another calendar year.

It is recommended that a specific annual CIP review schedule be established for the review of potential park/trail projects. This will enable persons who wish to request consideration of new items to present their position in ample time to change the CIP, if necessary, in a manner consistent with community needs and reducing or eliminating financial commitments being made for projects which might not proceed to the final construction stage in the event that they are deleted or moved back on the priority list.

### **LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES**

#### **Park Dedication Fees**

In lieu of land dedication, the City presently imposes the following cash contribution requirements upon new subdivisions:

- Residential Development: \$1,600 per dwelling unit
- Commercial Development: \$3,000 per gross acre
- Industrial Development: \$2,000 per gross acre

The City's park dedication fees should continue to be monitored (and modified if necessary) to ensure that such fees reflect the effect of a subdivision upon the City's park system.

### **CONCEPT PLANS**

Concept plans are site-specific and serve as the basic documents for the layout, facility mix, landscaping, and construction details for a park or recreation facility. For this reason, they are best prepared once the Parks and Trails Plan has been completed and location of individual park sites determined. They are based upon a well-defined program of recreation facilities and services to be provided and the overall physical arrangement of such. Such plans are not provided within this document, but should be pursued in future years. Their preparation will become a necessity in defining project costs as part of the yearly budgeting or capital improvement process.

### **LAND ACQUISITION**

Park and trail land dedication will play a major role in acquiring and developing park/trail facilities. Acquisition through dedication is a long term process since land can only be obtained as the abutting land is developed. While the outright purchase of land is many times prohibitive due to investment costs and anticipated benefit per capita through the City, it will be necessary where developments are already in place and lack recreational facilities or to acquire special, distinct pieces of land which would otherwise be difficult or impossible to obtain through park dedication. While portions of Montrose contain developments that are already in place where several of the trail corridors are proposed and will likely require land acquisition through purchase or the establishment of easements, the utilization of road rights-of-way can also provide an easy alternative for establishing public trail routes.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH PLAN ELEMENTS AND ORDINANCES**

Parks and trails have a positive, but often intangible, effect on the economy and quality of life in suburban areas. A healthy attractive neighborhood results when a combination of factors are present, for example, well kept homes, adequate jobs, quality public services, including well planned and maintained recreation facilities. Many communities are encouraging the rehabilitation of older homes in established neighborhoods where, congruently, parks and trails can also be upgraded or expanded where necessary.

In this regard, it is important that the Parks and Trails Policy Plan contained herein is followed in association with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Policies. In fact, the Parks and Trails Plan will actually be adopted as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Implementation programs involving capital outlays, levied fees, zoning and related actions must be consistent with the Plan's policies. Arbitrary departure from adopted or endorsed policy statements could lead to litigation. The focus of attention on a broad policy framework provides more flexibility for guiding government response to rapid physical, economic and social change. Since the Plan documents a continuing planning process and records this evolution only for a given segment of time, regular review and updating are critical.

Along these lines, the City's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances should be consistent with established Plan elements or they will be difficult, if not impossible, to command and execute. Ordinance amendments are a critical part of the Implementation process which should directly follow completion of this Plan. Without update of existing code requirements, the City may miss out on opportunities to realize potential benefits of



newly established policies, particularly when the development reason is upon us and the rate of growth is accelerating throughout the community. Specific ordinance criteria to address includes: park dedication requirements, trail width and location standards, tree planting requirements, etc.

### **PROGRAM ASSISTED FUNDING OPTIONS**

While park land acquisition and development are capital outlays that are typically financed with the revenues from City dedication or general funds, there are other methods available to assist the City in raising necessary money for large projects. The following outdoor recreation and trail grant programs may be available to the City if the intended project(s) comply with the submission criteria.

#### **Local Trail Connections Grants**

Program Purpose: To promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations, not to develop significant new trails.

Eligible Projects: Land acquisition and trail development. Projects must result in a trail linkage that is immediately available for use by the general public. Local/area support must be demonstrated. Acquisition of trail right-of-way is eligible only when proposed in conjunction with trail development. Lands purchased with this fund require a perpetual easement for recreational trail purposes and a 20 year maintenance commitment by the project sponsor.

Priorities: Priority is given to projects with residential connections to state and regional facilities. A secondary purpose of the program is to develop linkages to existing trail segments.

Level of Assistance: Minimum grant - \$5,000.00. Maximum grant - \$50,000.00. The maximum grant amount is 5 percent of the total eligible project costs. There is a 50 percent cash match for eligible elements of the project proposal. Neither this funding source nor the cash match may be used to meet existing payroll (i.e., only contract services, materials, and supplies are reimbursable). Matches may not include other State funds, Metropolitan Council grants, or National Recreational Trail Grant Program (formerly Symms). Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement. This grant may serve as a partial local match for a TEA-21 (former ISTEA) Enhancement Project.

General Information: Projects must be completed within a three year period.

### **Outdoor Recreation Grants**

Program Purpose: To increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities. Provides matching grants to local units of government for up to 50 percent of the cost of acquisition, development, and/or redevelopment costs of local parks and recreation areas.

Eligible Projects: Park acquisition and/or development/redevelopment including, among others, internal park trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, athletic facilities, boat accesses, fishing piers, swimming beaches, and campgrounds.

Minimum Requirements: Project proposals must include at least one eligible primary outdoor recreation facility and have a total project cost of at least \$10,000.00. Land proposed for development and/or redevelopment must be owned by the applicant or be part of an acquisition project. Significant progress must be completed on active projects before an additional proposal can be submitted.

Program Funding: A maximum of 50 percent of the total eligible project costs. Applicants must be able to fund at least 50 percent of the total project costs. The local share can consist of cash or the value of materials, labor, and equipment usage by the local sponsor or by donations or any combination thereof. Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement can be made. Applicants are eligible to receive more than one grant.

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

One of the final levels of recreational planning addresses the operation and maintenance plan for parks, trails, recreation and open space facilities. Part of the Implementation process is to provide tools for the development of facilities and delivery of services necessary for the provision of recreation experiences. These action plans include capital improvement programs, operations manuals, personnel tracking plans, zoning, scheduling and maintenance standards. Montrose, along with professionals in the field, must combine the art and science of park management in order to balance park and open space resource values with the provision of needed recreation facilities. The park and recreation standards which were utilized herein serve as one of the benchmarks against which the quality of life within a community can be measured. The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) recently inspected Veterans Park in July 2015, and they determined the park passed their criteria.



### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

An important aspect of park and trail development is user knowledge of the recreational facilities. To promote the use of the community recreational system, the City should provide informational material to residents as the facilities are implemented. This information could be conveyed on the City's web site, a newsletter and map mailed to each household, or an article in a local newspaper. At the same time, the City should work to establish a list of rules and encourage community awareness of such.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The development or improvement of parks and trails in the City is an excellent way to energize and direct the resource and talents of community volunteers, who are becoming more important in the delivery of quality leisure services. This approach can result in higher quality recreation opportunities at a more reasonable cost to the taxpayer. Under this scenario, it is essential that the City organize projects and cooperate with the volunteers of non-profit, private, industrial, commercial, or religious groups in the planning, financing, maintenance, and scheduling of projects.

### **IDENTIFICATION AND SIGNAGE**

A clear, consistent, and concise system of park and trail signage is beneficial in any recreational system to assist users in finding and using the facilities. Many times signage is also beneficial when installed to identify future park or trail improvements as a means of informing prospective owners of adjacent/nearby property and for general public knowledge to let citizens know of work on progress. Most commonly associated with existing facilities, directional graphics may be in the form of painted pavement symbols, lettering or any variety of regulatory, warning, or guidance signage. Signage should include general identification of an area, layout and types of facilities present, directions for specific points of interest such as handicapped areas, restrooms, or connections to destinations, trail distances, and user/safety rules. The best location for much of this information is near the entrances to parks/trail segments or near parking areas. The signage should be consistent throughout the City and should be easily understandable and maintainable. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration has outlined size, shape, and color criteria for signs in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).