

**Park Board
Agenda Item 7.A
Meeting of December 3, 2025**



Title: Parks, Open Space, and Trail (POST) Plan Overview

Action Requested: Informational

Form of Action: Report

Summary Statement

Staff will provide an overview of the [Parks, Open Space and Trail \(POST\) System Plan](#).

The POST plan provides a 15 to 20 year road map for planning and implementing park improvements, helping the park board, city council and city staff prioritize improvements and ensure that changes and investments in parks, trails, and open spaces continue to serve the needs of the entire community.

The plan includes:

- Industry trends
- A demographic overview
- A system overview of current conditions, facilities and classifications
- The community engagement summary
- The mission and vision, as well as goals and objectives, for future park planning
- Priority Initiatives

Recommended Action

None

Background

The previous POST Plan was created and adopted in 2001. The 2001 plan acknowledged that the needs of individuals and families living in Minnetonka are dynamic and will change and evolve through time, especially with changes in population demographics, diversity, and recreation trends. That plan calls for regular reevaluation and assessment to recognize changes and provide a park, open space and trail system plan that reflects the needs of the community. The purpose of the POST Plan update is to provide a comprehensive, balanced, and sustainable system of parks, open spaces, trails, and programs for city residents to use and enjoy. The outcome of the POST plan update is a concise and useable document that aligns with complementary studies and planning documents, and provides a framework for implementation.

The POST Plan update was a 14-month long project that began in February 2021. Staff collaborated with consultants from Damon Farber Landscape Architects to complete the plan update. A technical advisory committee consisting of a representative from the park board and city staff from the recreation services, public works, natural resources, community development, communications, engineering and police departments assisted throughout the process to provide input and review documents.

Steps in the process included:

- Data collection and analysis

- Review of relevant plans and studies
- Community engagement
- Inventory and needs assessment
- Visioning: mission statement and guiding principles
- System Plan: goals and recommendations
- Implementation Plan: priorities, phasing, funding strategies
- Draft and final plan

Community engagement was a key component to the development of the plan. Initial community engagement took place from June through August, 2021 engaging over 1,000 participants and included:

- An online survey and mapping tool on Minnetonka Matters
- In-person engagement at:
 - Farmers Market
 - Shady Oak Beach
 - Park Adventures
 - Senior Center
 - Night to Unite
 - Listening Session/Workshops

Following the initial outreach period during the summer of 2021, the Minnetonka Matters platform continued to be used throughout the remainder of the project to provide project updates and publish draft sections of the plan for public feedback as they were drafted. The following list details the information published online for public feedback as well as presented to Park Board:

- Community Engagement Summary: Sept. 1, 2021 Park Board Meeting
- Mission Statement and Guiding Principles Review: Oct. 6, 2021 Park Board Meeting
- Project update to date: Nov. 3, 2021 Joint Park Board and City Council Meeting
- System Plan Goals and Initiatives Review: Dec. 1, 2021 Park Board Meeting
- Full Draft Plan Review: Feb. 2, 2022 Park Board Meeting
- Draft Plan Public Comment Review: March 2, 2022 Park Board Meeting
- Final Park Board plan approval: April 6, 2022
- Final City Council plan approval: April 25, 2022

Over the course of the project, there were 2,600 visits to the POST Plan project page on Minnetonka Matters with 1,765 participants viewing documents and surveys and 689 engaged participants participating in surveys, the online mapping tool and draft reviews. There were approximately 300 visits to Minnetonka Matters during the final full draft plan review in February of 2022 with 47 comments by 13 people.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Final POST Plan presentation to City Council 4/25/22](#)