

**Park Board
Agenda Item 7.B
Meeting of March 4, 2026**



Title: Park Investment and Trail Improvement Plans - Overview

Strategic Plan Goal: To renew and maintain parks and trails

Related Strategy: Review the city's Trail Improvement Plan and consider trail projects that will encourage outdoor recreation and improve mobility in the community.

Review conditions of park facilities, fields, amenities, and natural resources to inform Park Investment Plan projects and priorities.

Action Requested: Provide Feedback

Form of Action: Report

Summary Statement

Still will provide an overview of the Park Investment and Trail Improvement plans and how projects are prioritized for the Capital Improvements Program.

Recommended Action

Provide feedback

Background

Park Investment Plan

In 2001 Minnetonka residents passed a \$15 million parks renewal and open space bond referendum. Upon completion of the park renewals, which took place between 2002 and 2008, the goal of the park board and city council was to develop a funding mechanism for future capital needs to keep the playgrounds and other amenities updated and in good condition so as not to need another bond referendum in the future. Since that time, projects have been placed in the five-year Capital Improvements Program to repair or replace aging playgrounds, hard courts, irrigation systems or build new parks.

As the park renewal plan was implemented, master planning was conducted at 25 parks to select and design amenities such as playgrounds, shelters, tennis courts, hockey rinks, warming houses, trails and parking lots. In the last seven years, projects have been implemented to replace playground equipment and rebuild tennis courts, and replacement of playground equipment will continue for several years to come. Equipment is scheduled to be replaced at two parks each year. There are currently 30 playgrounds in the city's parks and they are inspected monthly to ensure they are in good repair and safe for use. The results of the inspections are used to prioritize the order in which playground equipment is replaced.

Since each of these parks were planned and designed to meet user needs and ADA requirements, major changes to the configuration of the parks, such as moving a playground or changing the orientation of the playground equipment areas, is not generally considered. As each playground is planned for

replacement, opportunities for improvement of the equipment or accessibility is evaluated. In 2021, the equipment at Meadow Park was scheduled for replacement. Since this is a community park, significant improvements for accessibility were installed. The area for the 2-5 year old play equipment was fully covered with rubber surfacing, the rubber surfacing was expanded for the 5-12 year old play equipment, and an accessible ramp was installed to connect the two play areas. As improvements are planned for community parks with play equipment (e.g. Civic Center, Lone Lake, and Big Willow) in the future, these larger scale accessibility improvements will be considered.

Trail Improvements

Improvements to the trail system are completed in two ways: rehabilitation of existing trails and construction of new trails. The city's system of trails and sidewalks is tracked and managed in the city's GIS asset management system. Attributes such as material type (asphalt, gravel, concrete), age, and condition are tracked and used to determine when trails will be reconditioned with an overlay or minor repairs. When it is time to complete the work, the trail segment is evaluated for improvements to ADA accessibility, which primarily involves improvements to pedestrian curb ramps at traffic signals and other street connections.

Funding for park investments and trail rehabilitation are through the Park and Trail Improvement Fund, which is funded by collection of park dedication fees and from property taxes in the general levy. New trails are identified in the Trail Improvement Plan and are funded through the Trail System Expansion Fund, which is funded through the collection of franchise fees paid to electric and gas companies by property owners.