



# Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

The Parks, Open Space, and Recreation chapter guides future development and improvements to the City's parks, open space, and recreation system. This chapter contains the following elements:

- Introduction
- Goals and policies
- Park classification system
- Designations of individual parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities
- Issues and potential improvements

## Introduction

Parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities serve a number of important functions in Roseville. Parks provide citizens with attractive and convenient recreation opportunities that ultimately enhance the living environment of the City's neighborhoods and the community as a whole. Access to high-quality

recreational facilities can enhance the physical, social, and economic health of the community. Parks also serve as neighborhood and community gathering places and often provide a major focal point and sense of identity for individual neighborhoods.

Park and open space land contribute to the environmental health of the community. By properly locating and designing parks and open spaces, these areas can also help control flooding, improve the quality of surface water, replenish the ground water supply, reduce air pollution, and preserve significant natural resources.

The parks, open spaces and recreation system can also function as connection and transition areas within the community. The system of recreation areas, including the pathways system, is intended to connect neighborhoods with other neighborhoods and with major community destinations, particularly schools, civic facilities, and shopping areas. Parks and open spaces can also be used effectively to create a "buffer"

between different land uses, particularly residential and nonresidential.

The City must plan for a suitable amount of park and open space areas. These lands must be located in the proper locations and contain the appropriate recreational facilities for each area and its anticipated park users. Population and age of residents, as well as changes in such matters as attitude toward the environment, amount of leisure time available, and the type of recreational activities preferred should determine the type and location of individual park, open space, and recreation facilities that are needed.

The City's existing parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities are shown on Figure 9.1 (Existing Parks and Open Spaces) including the type and jurisdictional responsibility for each park.

The City's Parks and Recreation System Plan requires updating. The City is anticipating a major update of the System Plan in 2008-2009. The System Plan will provide more detailed guidance for the parks, open space, and recreation facilities system. The update process will most likely involve an intensive evaluation

The Parks and Recreation System Plan is primary tool for guiding the operation and maintenance of Roseville's park system. The City uses individual park and facilities master plans as tools for implementing the System Plan. The System Plan must also connect and coordinate with other municipal plans including the Comprehensive Plan, Pathways Master Plan and Transportation Plan. The Comprehensive Plan reinforces goals, policies and plans in the System Plan and seeks to guide land use in a manner consistent with the System Plan.

of the existing system, a community-needs assessment, revised vision and goals, and a revised system plan map. This major update of the System Plan will involve the community and may result in necessary amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

This updated Plan, along with the Parks and Recreation Strategic System Plan and Park Improvement Program, will provide the basis for developing the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for parks and recreation expansion and improvements. The CIP is a ten-year plan that is used to set long-term and short-term (annual) budgets for development of parks and recreation facilities. The CIP is updated annually.

## Goals and Policies

The following goals and policies are established to guide future development and decision-making relating to parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities:

**Goal 1: Provide a high-quality, financially sound system of parks, open spaces, trails, and multigenerational recreation facilities that meets the recreation needs of all city residents and enhances the quality of life in Roseville.**

Policy 1.1: Evaluate and refurbish parks, as needed, to reflect needs related to changes in population, age of nearby residents, recreational activities preferred, amount of leisure time available, and contemporary park designs and technologies.

Policy 1.2: Evaluate the maintenance implications of potential park land acquisitions and capital improvements.

Policy 1.3: Research, develop, and recommend funding programs in order to carry out the proposed park and recreation system needed within Roseville.

Policy 1.4: Partner with adjacent communities, agencies, and school districts to leverage resources available to optimize open space, fitness and recreation programming, and facility options.

Policy 1.5: Develop park and recreation facilities that minimize the maintenance demands on the City by emphasizing the development of well-planned parks, high-quality materials and labor-saving maintenance devices and practices.

Policy 1.6: Promote and support volunteerism to encourage people to actively support the City's parks and open spaces.

**Goal 2: Maintain an ongoing parks and recreation planning process that provides timely guidance for maintaining the long-term, sustained viability of the City's parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities system.**

Policy 2.1: Re-evaluate, update, and adopt a Park and Recreation System Plan at least every five years to reflect new and current trends, changing demographics, new development criteria, unanticipated population densities, and any other pertinent factors that affect park and recreation goals, policies, and future directions of the system.

Policy 2.2: Develop and implement park master plans.

Policy 2.3: Support involvement of the Park and Recreation Commission in the parks and recreation planning process.

Policy 2.4: Monitor progress on the Parks and Recreation System Plan on an annual basis to ensure that it provides actionable steps for maintaining, improving and expanding the system.

Policy 2.5: Annually recommend the adoption of a ten-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for Parks and Recreation.

Policy 2.6: Involve a diverse group of participants in the parks and recreation planning process.

**Goal 3: Add new park and recreation facilities to achieve equitable access in all neighborhoods, accommodate the needs of the City’s redeveloping areas, and meet residents’ desires for a broad range of recreation opportunities serving all age groups.**

Policy 3.1: Determine potential locations and acquire additional park land in neighborhoods that are lacking adequate parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 3.2: Determine potential locations for new park facilities in redevelopment areas as part of the redevelopment process and use the park dedication process to acquire the appropriate land.

Policy 3.3: Make continued effective use of the Park Dedication Ordinance. Park land dedication will be required when land is developed or redeveloped for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes. The City will annually review its park dedication requirements in order to assure that dedication regulations meet statutory requirements and the needs of Roseville.

**Goal 4: Create a well-connected and easily accessible system of parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation facilities that links neighborhoods and provides opportunities for citizens to gather and interact.**

Policy 4.1: Connect the park system to the neighborhoods and community destinations via paths and trails.

Policy 4.2: Make the park system accessible to people with physical disabilities.

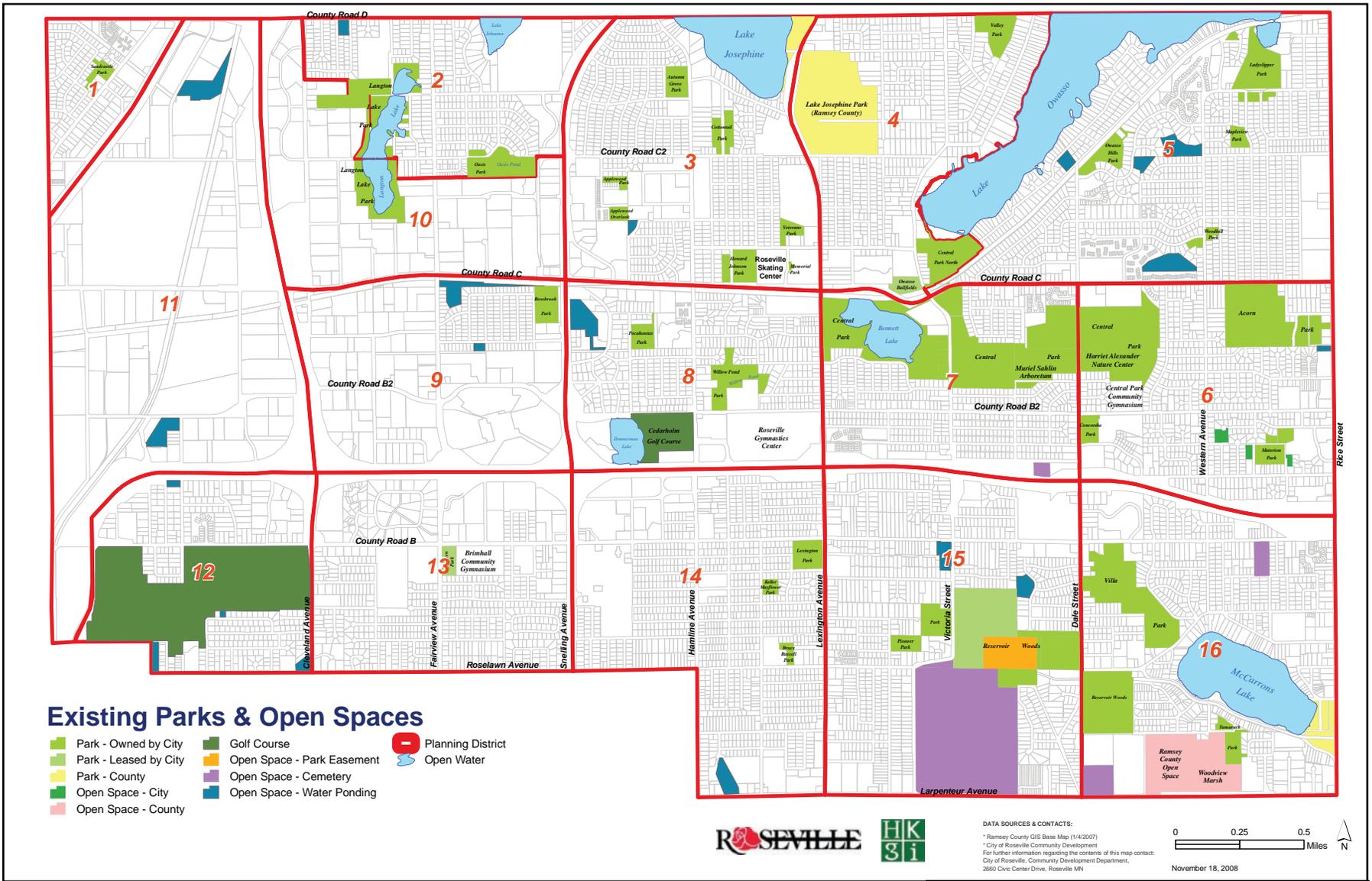
Policy 4.3: Align development and expansion of the non-motorized pathways system with the need to provide connections to and within the parks, open spaces and recreation system.

**Goal 5: Preserve significant natural resources, lakes, ponds, wetlands, open spaces, wooded areas, and wildlife habitats as integral aspects of the parks system.**

Policy 5.1: Encourage dedication of parks, open spaces, and trails in new development and redevelopment areas that also preserve significant natural resources on and/or adjacent to the subject site.

Policy 5.2: Utilize adopted Natural Resources Management Plans to manage and restore the significant natural resources in the park system.

Policy 5.3: Seek ways to effectively preserve wooded areas and to appropriately add trees to parks, open spaces, boulevards, and other City property.



**Existing Parks and Open Spaces**  
 Figure 9.1

## Park Classification System

The City's parks, open spaces and recreation facilities are organized into seven classifications, defined as follows:

### Play Lot (PL)

Play lots are small parks intended for informal recreation, play and relaxation. There are two play lots in the existing park system.

### Neighborhood Park (NP)

Neighborhood parks offer opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, both organized and informal. There are 16 neighborhood parks in the existing park system.

### Community Park (CP)

Community parks are larger and offer diverse environmental features, including unique natural open space. They offer many opportunities for recreation. There are three community parks in the existing park system.

### Urban Park (UP)

Urban parks offer varied natural features and include a wide range of recreational opportunities. There are two urban parks in the existing park system.

### Trail Park (TP)

Trail parks offer opportunities for recreational travel, such as hiking or biking through areas of natural beauty. There are four trail parks in the existing park system.

### Athletic Field (ATHP)

Athletic fields are park areas that are entirely designed for organized athletic play. There are three athletic fields in the existing park system.

### Conservancy Park (CONP)

Conservancy parks are intended for the protection and preservation of the natural environment, and offer recreational opportunities. There are three conservancy parks in the existing park system.

### Regional Facility (RF)

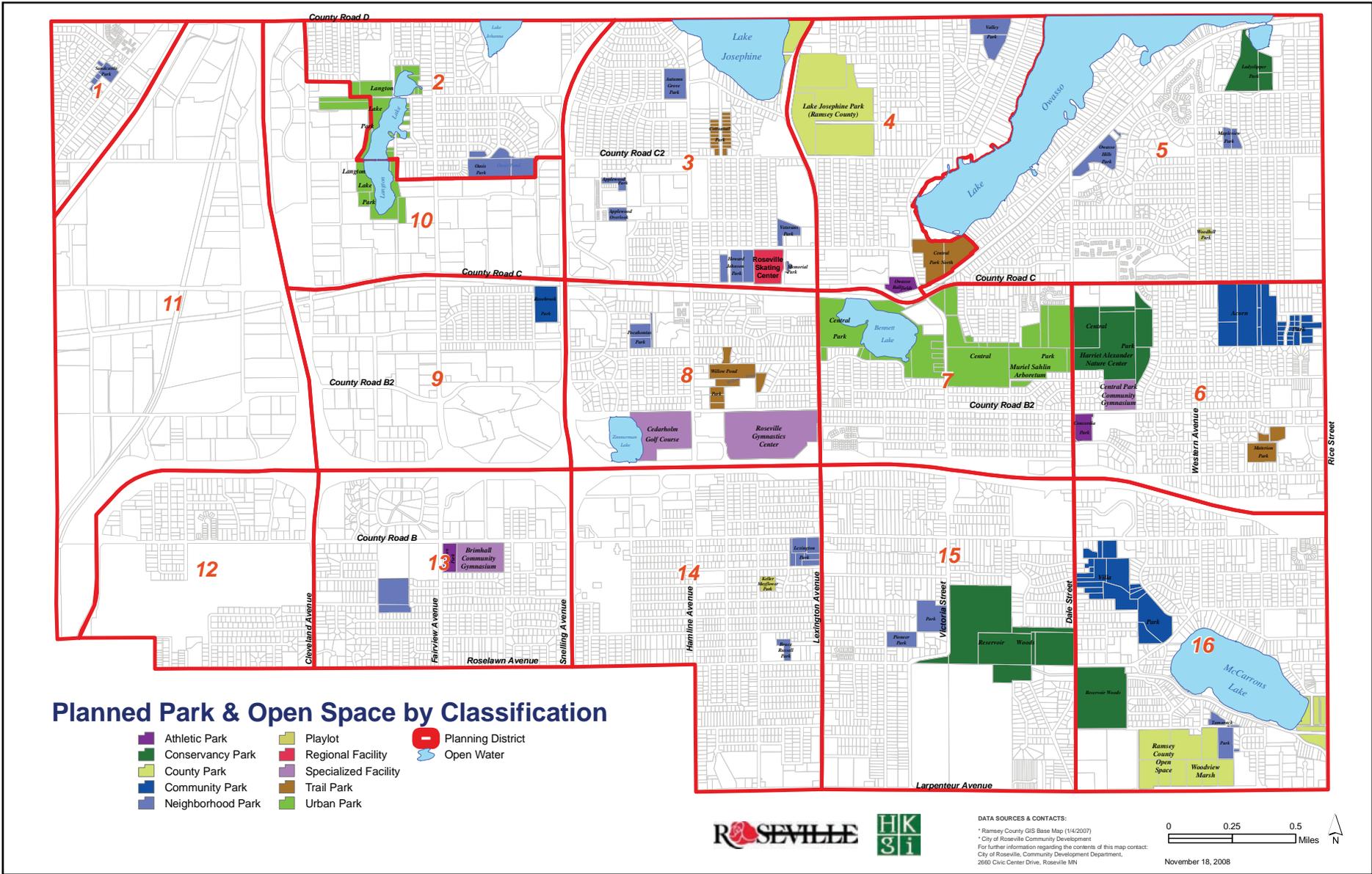
Regional facilities provide unique recreational facilities that are used by people throughout the region. The Roseville Skating Center is the only regional facility in the existing system.

### Specialized Facility (SF)

Specialized facilities represent elements of the park system that should be identified for their special use and purpose. Specialized facilities in the existing system include Cedarholm Golf Course, Harriet Alexander Nature Center and Muriel Sahlin Arboretum, Roseville Gymnastics Center, Central Park Community Gymnasium, and Brimhall Community Gymnasium.

Table 9.1 Park Classifications lists the City's existing parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities by park classification.

Figure 9.2 Planned Parks and Open Space by Classification shows the location and classification of each of the City's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities.



**Planned Parks and Open Space by Classification**

**Figure 9.2**

Park Classification	Park	Acres
Playlot (PL)	Keller Mayflower	2.26
	Woodhill	2.60
Neighborhood Park (NP)	Applewood Overlook	2.42
	Applewood Park	2.09
	Autumn Grove	6.54
	Bruce Russell	1.95
	Howard Johnson	9.56
	Lexington	8.18
	Mapleview	3.28
	Memorial (Civic Center Campus)	
	Oasis	15.37
	Owasso Hills	8.53
	Pioneer	13.52
	Pocahontas	5.67
	Sandcastle	3.43
	Tamarack	6.93
	Valley	10.58
Veterans	3.59	
Community Park (CP)	Acorn	44.60
	Rosebrook	8.28
	Villa	33.10
Urban Park (UP)	Central	139.25
	Langton Lake	62.72
Trail Park (TP)	Central Park North	17.47
	Cottontail	6.48
	Materion	8.51
	Willow Pond	14.88

Park Classification	Park	Acres
Conservancy Park (CONP)	Central Park - Nature Center	52.28
	Ladyslipper	17.48
	Reservoir Woods	109.42
Athletic Field (ATHP)	Concordia	4.77
	Evergreen	3.94
	Owasso Fields	4.40
Regional Facility (RF)	Roseville Skating Center	
Specialized Facility (SF)	Cedarholm Golf Course	
	Harriet Alexander Nature Center	
	Muriel Sahlin Arboretum	
	Central Park Community Gymnasium	
	Brimhall Community Gymnasium	
	Roseville Gymnastics Center	

## Park Classifications

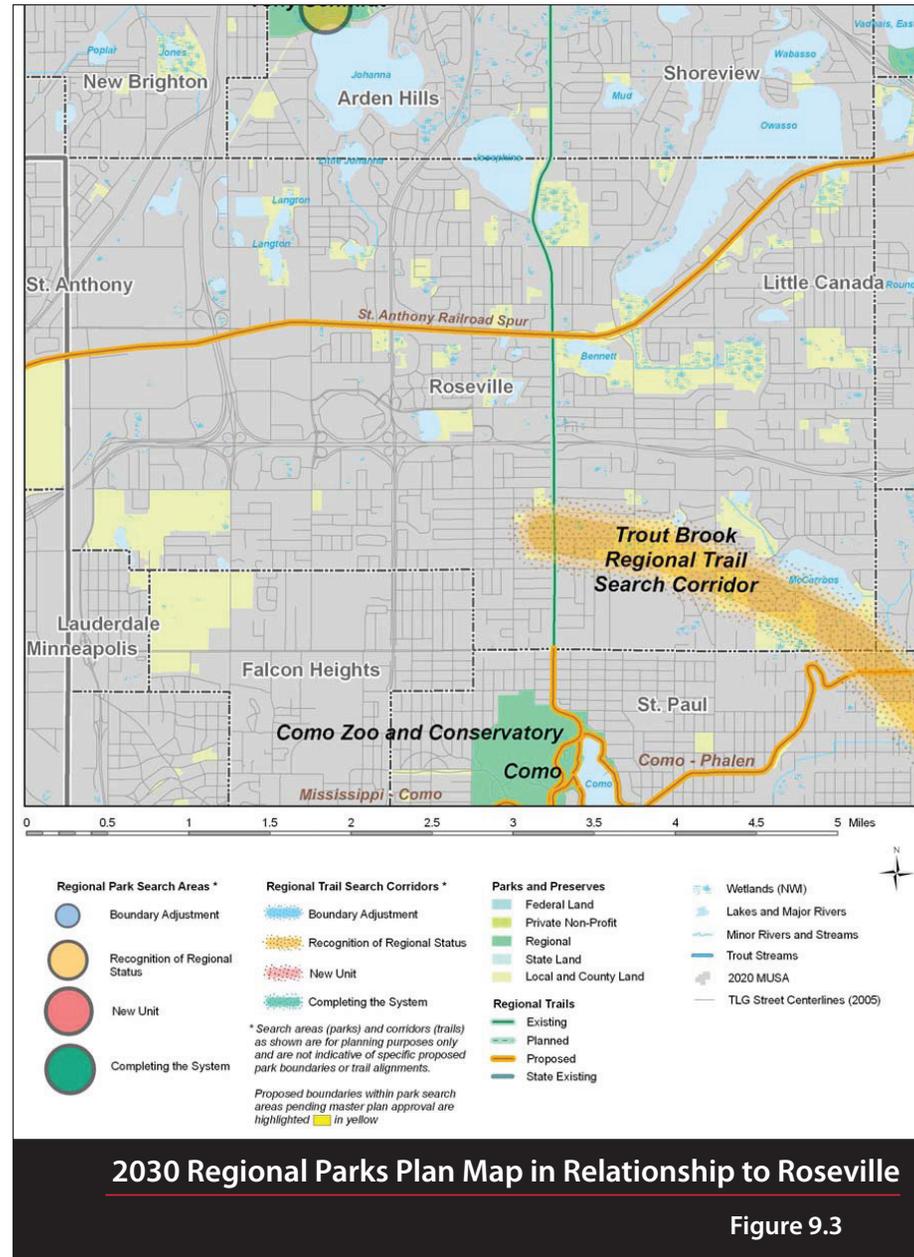
Table 9.1

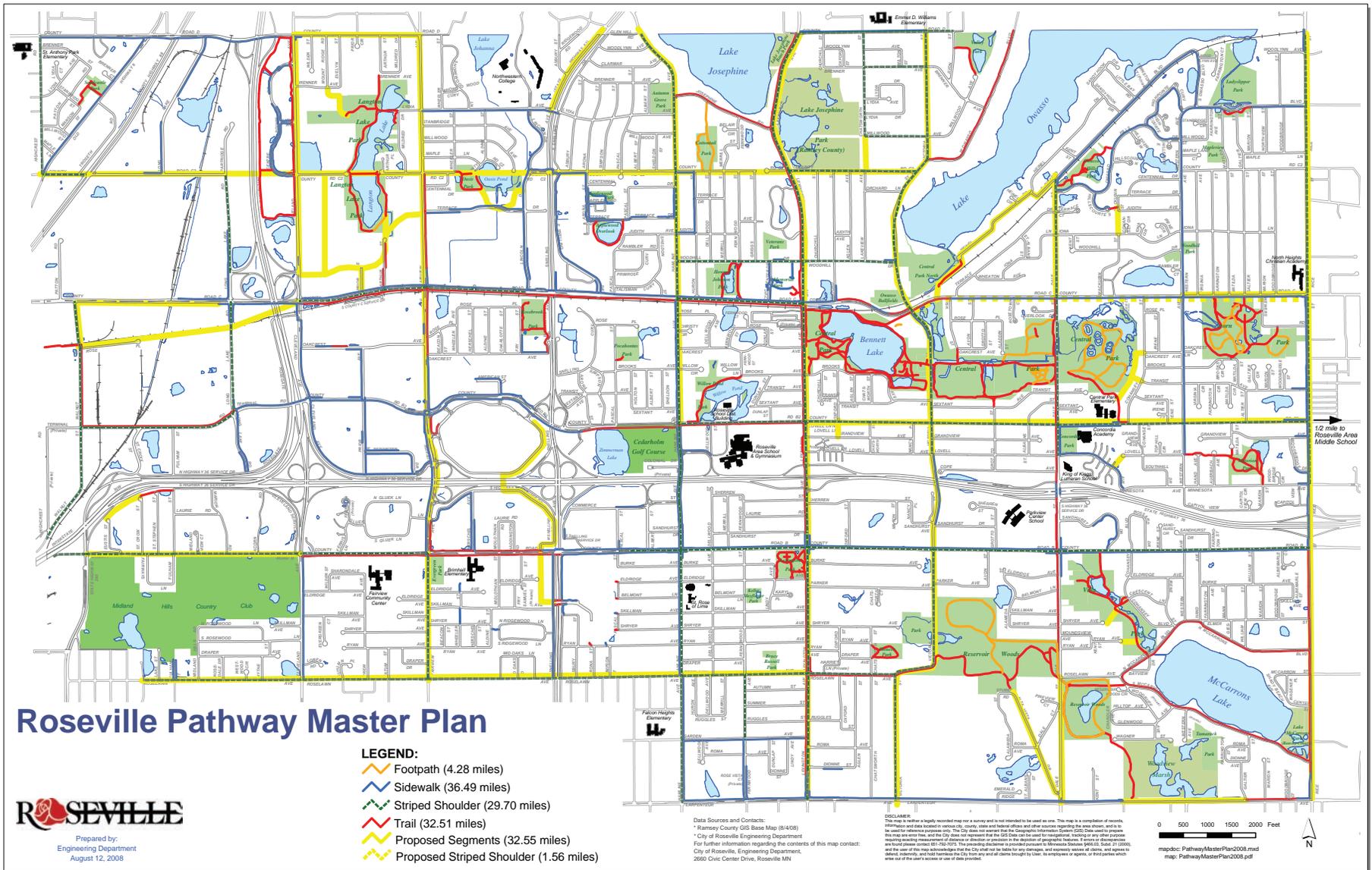
## Pathways

Pathways, which include footpaths, trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes, are an important part of Roseville’s park system. Pathways allow people to move within a park. Pathways provide access to parks, creating connections from neighborhoods to parks, recreation facilities, and schools. Pathways provide recreation and fitness opportunities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle for Roseville residents.

Roseville is committed to working with the Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County, adjacent cities, and other agencies to promote regional trail projects and to coordinate local trail systems. Figure 9.3, which is the 2030 Regional Parks Plan Map for Roseville, shows the three regional trails identified in Roseville’s System Statement from the Metropolitan Council, including the existing Lexington Avenue Regional Trail, proposed St. Anthony Railroad Spur Regional Trail, and the Trout Brook Regional Trail Search Corridor. The existing County trail along Lexington Avenue is a newly designated regional trail. Since the St. Anthony railroad corridor currently has an active railroad operating on the tracks, trail planning for this potential regional trail corridor would not take place until there is a change in the status of the use of the tracks. At such time that the tracks become inactive for railroad use, Ramsey County would work with the City and others to create a trail master plan. Ramsey County is planning to work with the city and others to explore the potential for an extension of the existing Trout Brook Trail in St. Paul northwest to provide a connection to the newly designated Lexington Avenue Regional Trail in Roseville.

In 2008, the City established a Pathway Advisory Committee to update the City’s Pathway Master Plan. This





**Pathway Master Plan**

Figure 9.4

plan was first adopted by the City Council in 1997, with updates in 2001 and 2002. The purpose of the Pathway Master Plan is to provide a set of guidelines for the development of the community's pathway network. These guidelines provide policies and standards for the planning, design, construction, maintenance, promotion, and regulation of Roseville's pathway facilities.

The recommendations provided in the Pathway Master Plan focus not only on the physical facilities, but also on promoting safe pathway use through education and enforcement. The City will use the Pathway Master Plan to assist the City Council on decisions regarding pathway issues. For reference, Figure 9.4 is the Pathway Master Plan Map. This depicts the City's existing pathway system, the proposed pathway connections from the 2002 plan update, and the proposed pathway connections in the 2008 update.

Building connections and enabling people to travel without a vehicle is an objective that cannot be limited to the Parks, Open Space, and Recreation chapter. Sidewalks and trail corridors are created as land is developed. Redevelopment provides the opportunity to build pieces that are missing from the current system. The Transportation chapter (Chapter 5) is a critical tool for influencing non-vehicular movement in Roseville. Street improvements create the opportunity for related improvements to sidewalks, trails, and pedestrian crossings. Street design determines the ability to provide safe travel areas for bicycles. Coordination of all aspects of the Comprehensive Plan is essential to making Roseville a safe and convenient place to travel by foot, bicycle, and other non-vehicular means.

## Issues and Potential Improvements

Due to the anticipated update of the City's Parks and Recreation System Plan, a general assessment of future issues related to parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities was conducted to provide general guidance for future initiatives. This assessment highlighted several issues and potential issues.

1. Some neighborhoods are currently lacking adequate parks and recreation facilities. Using the Planning Districts (in the Land Use Chapter) to also function as park service districts, Districts 1, 10, 11, 12, and 13 have been identified, through public comment, as lacking adequate park and recreation facilities.
2. Roseville has a history of exploring the community's needs, interests, and ideas for a future community center facility, including the City Center Master Plan. The IR2025 report established a specific strategy focused on the exploration of a future community center. Additional investigations are required to evaluate location options, facility components, and development feasibility.
3. A number of undeveloped open space properties still exist within the community that are owned by a single property owner. These properties could provide valuable opportunities to preserve natural open spaces and create connections within the parks and recreation system in the future.
4. The Northeast Diagonal transit corridor may provide future opportunities for enhancing the community's parks and recreation system. These enhancements could include construction of a recreational trail in the corridor to provide improved connections within the community as well

as more direct access to the nearby recreational facilities in Minneapolis, particularly the Grand Round system.

It is anticipated that these issues will be explored as part of the process of updating the Park and Recreation System Plan.