Agenda
City of Minnetonka
Park Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 2026
6:00 PM
Community Center - Minnehaha Room
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Park Board Vision:
An inclusive city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a healthy and biodiverse natural environment.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
   - A. Nov. 4, 2026 Addenda
4. Approval of Minutes
   - A. October 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda
6. Special Matters
7. Business Items
   - A. Park Board Strategic Plan and 2027 Annual Work Plan
   - B. Big Willow Park Master Plan
8. Reports from Staff
   - A. Information Items
   - B. Upcoming Meeting Schedule
9. Park Board Member Reports
10. Adjournment

Park Board
Agenda Item 3.A
Meeting of November 4, 2026

Title: Nov. 4, 2026 Addenda

Form of Action: Other

Summary Statement
ITEM 7B – Big Willow Park Master Plan

- Public comments received after the packet was published

Recommended Action
No action required, informational only

Park Board
Agenda Item 4.A
Meeting of November 4, 2026

Title:	October 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Strategic Plan Goal:	N/A
Action Requested:	Motion
Form of Action:	Minutes

Summary Statement
Approve the October 7, 2026 minutes

Recommended Action
Motion to approve the minutes

ATTACHMENT(S):
Draft Regular Meeting Minutes - October 7, 2026

Minutes
Minnetonka Park Board
Wednesday, October 7, 2026

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

   Park board members present: Jennifer Christie, Anne Hanley, David Ingraham and Katie Semersky.

   Park board members absent: Caleb Schultz (excused).

   Staff members in attendance: Darin Ellingson, Sara Woeste, Chandra Vela, Jesse Izquierdo, and Leslie Yetka.

   Chair Ingraham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

   Hanley moved, Christie seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda of October 7, 2026. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

   Christie moved, Semersky seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 3, 2026. Christie, Semersky and Ingraham voted "yes." Hanley "abstained." Motion carried.

   Hanley moved, Semersky seconded a motion to approve the Joint City Council and Park Board Study Session meeting minutes of September 2, 2026. Hanley, Semersky and Ingraham voted "yes". Christie "abstained". Motion carried.

5. **Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda**

   John Zelinski, resident of Minnetonka, introduced himself and asked that the park board consider a tree identification program within the city's parks. He suggested several trees within each park be identified by their scientific name, common name and age of the tree.

   Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka commented on the 20 trees that had been identified in Lone Lake Park through the tree trek program.

6. Special Matters

There were none.

7. Business Items

A. Shady Oak Beach Season Summary

Program and Membership Manager Chandra Vela gave the staff report.

Hanley suggested staff look into hiring a sheep dog for the beach in order to keep geese away. Vela indicated staff was looking into allowing dogs for a period of time or certain days a week to assist with keeping geese away from the beach.

Christie inquired how the partnership went with Freezia. Vela reported this was the city's third year partnering with Freezia and noted this vender would be brought back again for the 2027 beach season.

Ingraham congratulated staff and the life guards on their continued success.

8. Reports from Staff

A. Information Items

Recreation Program Manager Jesse Izquierdo provided the board with an update on the Lone Lake Park multi-use mountain bike trail.

Hanley asked how counts for walkers and bikers are counted. Izquierdo explained the first three years the trail was open regular trails counts were taken and this data was applied to Strava. He discussed how staff now solely uses Strava data to better understand trail use at Lone Lake Park.

Semersky stated she was pleased by the number of volunteer hours in Lone Lake Park and asked if staff does anything to thank these volunteers. Izquierdo commented on the five year anniversary event the city hosted this year, along with a BBQ and trail ride for volunteers.

Semersky questioned how the trail restriction numbers would have to flex in order to allow the local mountain biking teams to use this trail. Izquierdo reported the local teams have over 100 riders and the city only allows groups of 40. He stated these students may be using the trail, but do not show up as a team.

Ingraham thanked staff for all of their efforts to maintain this trail.

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka provided the board with an update on grants staff was pursuing for habitat restoration for Cullen Nature Preserve, Big Willow Park, Civic Center Park and Purgatory Park, as well as Lone Lake Park. Staff hopes to hear back on this grant funding in December.

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka reported staff also applied for grant funding from Hennepin County for youth sports.

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka provided the board with a summary of the changes that were made to the park board ordinance.

B. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka gave the staff report.

Semersky requested staff provide the board with updates on the working plan on a quarterly basis.

Assistant Recreation Director Sara Woeste provided the board with an update on upcoming activities.

9. Park Board Member Report

Hanley reported the moon festival was very well attended.

Christie explained she and her son recently toured the Burwell House and they both enjoyed visiting this amenity.

10. Adjournment

Christie moved, Hanley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Aleman
Public Works Administrative Manager

Park Board
Agenda Item 7.A
Meeting of November 4, 2026

Title:	Park Board Strategic Plan and 2027 Annual Work Plan
Strategic Plan Goal:	Enhance Park Board engagement
Related Strategy:	Increase community and city council awareness of park board projects through the online project page and community outreach
Action Requested:	Provide Feedback
Form of Action:	Report

Summary Statement
The Park Board will review and provide direction to staff for updating the strategic plan and the 2027 annual work plan.

Recommended Action
Review and provide feedback

Background
In 2001, the park board worked with an independent consultant to develop a strategic plan, including a mission, vision, goals and strategies. This plan has been reviewed and updated as needed each year. Beginning in 2026, city staff and the park board are also charged with developing a work plan that will be presented to the city council for adoption in January.

In general, the park board's mission is to proactively advise the Minnetonka City Council in ways that conserve and enhance the natural environment, promote quality and inclusive parks, provide a forum for public engagement, and adhere to goals and strategies in two guiding plans: the Natural Resources Master Plan and the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Plan. These efforts support the vision of Minnetonka as an inclusive city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities existing within a healthy and bio-diverse natural environment.

Attached is the Park Board Strategic Plan as adopted in 2025, and a recommendation for a 2027 annual work plan for review. The park board should discuss and provide direction to staff regarding any desired changes. Staff will take recommendations and present the final plan at the Dec. 2, 2026 park board meeting. The work plan will be presented to the city council for review in January, 2027.

ATTACHMENT(S):
Park Board Strategic Plan
Draft 2027 Work Plan

Minnetonka Park Board Strategic Plan

Vision:
An inclusive city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a healthy and biodiverse natural environment.

Mission:
To proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:

- Conserve and enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- Promote equitable, inclusive, high quality recreation opportunities, natural amenities and facilities to meet the needs of all
- Provide a forum for public engagement regarding our parks, trails, athletic facilities and natural resources
- Adhere to the goals and strategies of the Natural Resources Master Plan (NRMP) and the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Plan

Goals and Strategies (order does not reflect priority):

Goal 1 **To protect and conserve natural resources and open space**

Strategy 1: Provide feedback to assist staff in decision-making regarding natural resources and open space
Strategy 2: Review and provide feedback on strategies and funding to enhance natural resources and open space
Strategy 3: Promote the city's efforts of protecting, conserving and restoring the community's natural resources by creating awareness and supporting educational opportunities and volunteerism for a variety of abilities, skills, and interests
Strategy 4: Provide guidance that aligns with the goals and recommendations of both the NRMP and POST Plan on balancing the conservation of natural resources with providing high quality recreational opportunities

Goal 2 **To renew and maintain parks and trails**

Strategy 1: Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
Strategy 2: Identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park or trail amenities
Strategy 3: Review the city's Trail Improvement Plan and consider trail projects that will encourage outdoor recreation and improve mobility in the community
Strategy 4: Review conditions of park facilities, fields, amenities, and natural resources to inform Park Investment Plan projects and priorities
Strategy 5: Review park rules and ordinances as needed

Goal 3 **To provide quality athletic and park recreational facilities and programs**

Strategy 1: Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified
Strategy 2: Review policies related to the operation and management of park facilities to determine if changes are needed
Strategy 3: Ensure that park amenities, park recreational facilities and programs address future community needs and changing demographics
Strategy 4: Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages, ability levels, and economic

and cultural backgrounds ensuring all have the opportunity to participate in both athletic activities as well as cultivating appreciation and interest in the natural world within our parks

Strategy 5: Responsibly maintain our parks, trails and park recreational facilities, while fairly balancing user fees with general community support

Goal 4 **Enhance Park Board engagement**

Strategy 1: Increase community and city council awareness of park board projects through the online project page and community outreach

Strategy 2: Encourage board member involvement in annual park board and city related special events and park habitat restoration events

Strategy 3: Continue to explore new ideas and strive to build community for those who work, live, volunteer and recreate in Minnetonka

Strategy 4: Actively explore and enhance partnerships/engagement opportunities with other agencies such as the City of Hopkins and community-based organizations

Strategy 5: Engage with other city commissions (e.g. DEI Commission) and community groups to gather additional perspectives when needed on relevant policies and plans reviewed by the Park Board

Minnetonka Park Board Work Plan
January 1 – December 31, 2027

Park Board Vision:
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Mission:
To proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:

- Conserve and enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- Promote equitable, inclusive, high quality recreation opportunities, natural amenities and facilities to meet the needs of all
- Provide a forum for public engagement regarding our parks, trails, athletic facilities and natural resources
- Adhere to the goals and strategies of the Natural Resources Master Plan (NRMP) and the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Plan

***Identifies action items listed in the Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) implementation plan**

Quarter 1 (January – March)
• Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair positions • Review and provide feedback on the Natural Resources Division annual outreach and engagement plan • Review Opus Station Park Vision Plan • Review and provide feedback on the Red Barn site feasibility study • *Opus trail wayfinding plan • Work plan progress update
Quarter 2 (April – June)
• Review and approve the 2028-2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) • *Cullen Nature Preserve implementation – trails, parking, wayfinding/interpretive signage • *Review Glen Lake Park Master Plan and skatepark implementation plan • *Purgatory Park master plan implementation – trail improvements, interpretive signage, overlooks, memorial benches • *Review Park ADA Assessment plan • Work plan progress update
Quarter 3 (July – September)
• Joint Park Board/City Council meeting and tour • Work plan progress update
Quarter 4 (October – December)
• Review and finalize strategic plan and 2027 annual work plan

- Review Shady Oak Beach operations
- Review athletic field summary
- Review Gray's Bay Marina operations
- Work plan progress update

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

Title:	Big Willow Park Master Plan
Strategic Plan Goal:	To renew and maintain parks and trails
Related Strategy:	Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
Action Requested:	Motion
Form of Action:	Report

Recommended Action
Move to recommend that the city council adopt the Big Willow Park Master Plan.

Background
The Minnetonka City Council approved the updated Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) System Plan in 2022 after an extensive public engagement effort with the community, the park board and city council. The POST Plan provides a 15-to-20-year road map for planning and implementing park improvements and helps the park board, city council and staff prioritize park improvements, ensuring that the city's parks, trails and open spaces continue to serve the needs of the entire community.

A key recommendation from the Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) System Plan includes creating comprehensive master plans for all major community parks, including Big Willow Park. Following the 2025-2029 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), staff has contracted with Bolton & Menk and their team of park planners, landscape architects, outreach specialists, and engineers to engage with residents and other key stakeholders and use those findings to create a comprehensive master plan outlining future park improvements to pursue.

At the May 6, 2026 Park Board meeting, staff presented the first full draft of the Big Willow Park Master Plan, including general goals, park assessment and condition analysis, opportunities and challenges, and an improvement prioritization strategy. Key feedback received at that meeting included the relocation of a proposed off-leash dog area and pedestrian bridge from the neighboring Mills Landing Park to a newly proposed picnic area east of Mills Landing Park along Minnetonka Boulevard. After further comments received and discussion at the joint city council and park board meeting and tour on Sept. 2, 2026, staff propose to remove the off-leash dog area entirely, which is reflected in the revised draft of the plan.

The final draft of the master plan is posted on Minnetonka Matters for public comment and feedback, and attached to this report. Due to the large file size it is broken out into sections to aid in review.

Park board members should review the final draft plan and provide direction to staff. Options include, 1) make further edits or changes and bring back for review, 2) move to recommend that the city council

adopt the plan with edits or changes, or 3) move to recommend that the city council adopt the plan as is.

ATTACHMENT(S):
Big Willow Park Master Plan - Introduction
Big Willow Park Master Plan - Inventory and Analysis
Big Willow Park Master Plan - Recommendations
Big Willow Park Master Plan - Design Standards
Big Willow Park Master Plan - Appendix and Outreach Materials
Big Willow Park Master Plan - Community Survey Results
Addendum

CITY OF MINNETONKA

BIG WILLOW PARK MASTERPLAN



FINAL DRAFT - OCTOBER 2026

CONTENTS



01 Executive Summary

The Big Picture..... 7
The Vision..... 8
Guiding Principles..... 9
Recommendations + Standards.....11

02 Introduction

Big Willow Park..... 13
The Purpose..... 16
The Process..... 17
Past Planning Studies..... 18

03 Inventory + Analysis

Overview..... 23
1) Connectivity..... 26
2) Safety + Accessibility..... 27
3) Facility Condition..... 28
4) Program Offering..... 29

04 Community Engagement

Engaging the Public..... 31
Survey Summary..... 32

05 Plan Recommendations

Overview..... 39
1) Focus Area 1..... 42
2) Focus Area 2..... 46
3) Focus Area 3..... 48
4) Focus Area 4..... 50

06 Design Standards

Overview..... 59
Primary + Informal Trails..... 60
Boardwalks, Bridges + Stairs..... 64
Creek Access + Bank Stabilization..... 68
Retaining Walls.....72
Buildings..... 78
Parking..... 81
Signage..... 82
Trail Benches 88

07 Appendix

Complete Community Survey Results..... 91
Engagement Materials.....123
Meeting Notes.....129

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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Erik Kowalski
Youth Member



Figure 1. Wooded area in the spring



Figure 2. Wooded area in the fall

01 Executive Summary

Although Big Willow Park is Minnetonka's smallest community park, it has so much to offer!

The 101-acre park, located along Minnetonka Blvd between I-494 and US-169, offers a wide variety of self-directed and programmed recreational opportunities for visitors to engage in. Uniquely classified as both a preserve and an athletic complex, Big Willow Park strikes the balance between activity and leisure and is a well-cherished component of the city's park system.

This Park Master Plan is intended to assist the city—as well as its residents, partners, and other collaborators—with the development, maintenance, and improvement of Big Willow Park over the next 20 years. Created alongside the city and its residents, this document will serve as a vision and roadmap for Big Willow Park for many years to come.



Figure 3. Cattails in the wetland area



The Big Picture

Figure 4. View of Minnehaha Creek

Key Takeaways

- Balancing both the natural trail system and the highly-used ballfield complex
- Providing opportunities for community input that reflects a variety of park uses
- Developing themes around long and short-term goals

With facilities and amenities including one full-size ballfield, three little-league fields, two softball fields, six batting cages, a soccer pitch, a playground, two permanent restroom structures, miles of primary and informal trails, plenty of access to Minnehaha Creek and beautiful natural areas, and more, Big Willow Park is the full package. Prior to the development of this plan, however, the city did not have a master plan in place to help guide decision-making related to park improvements and operations in Big Willow Park. Fortunately, creating a master plan for the park was identified as a priority in the 2022 POST System Plan.

After months of collaboration with city staff, park stakeholders, and Minnetonka residents, the Big Willow Park Master Plan was created—its primary goal is to serve as a tool for city staff and administrators to use in evaluating and standardizing park features, developing realistic budgets, and utilizing resources effectively to make improvements to the park that align with its dual functionality as a nature preserve and an athletic complex.

Throughout the planning process, extensive community engagement was undertaken to ensure Minnetonka residents had a chance to voice their needs, desires, and concerns about Big Willow Park. Outreach efforts included a project website on *Minnetonka Matters*, a community-wide online survey launched in September 2025, two in-person pop-up events in the park, and an open house event in October 2025. Trail decals and yard signs were also posted throughout the park to encourage visitors to take the online community survey and stay up to date on the project.

An inventory and analysis of existing conditions (Chapter 3) was conducted to catalog the current state of park facilities and identify issues to be addressed by the recommendations (Chapter 5) put forth in this master plan. These issues are organized into four main themes:

+ **Theme #1:** Connectivity
+ **Theme #2:** Safety + Accessibility
+ **Theme #3:** Facility Condition
+ **Theme #4:** Program Offerings

The Vision

As Minnetonka changes over the next 20 years, the city must respond to new opportunities and challenges that arise in Big Willow Park while still managing to meet visitors' expectations. To do so, they need a clear vision for a path ahead.

Reflective of input received from city staff, stakeholders, and residents, a descriptive vision statement was developed to align with the mission statement and guiding principles identified in the 2022 POST System Plan (see right)—it is intended to define an ideal future for Big Willow Park that aligns with and exceeds visitors' expectations.

2022 POST System Plan Mission Statement

"The mission of the Minnetonka Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan is to be leaders in providing a welcoming, comprehensive and balanced system of high quality parks, natural areas, trails, and programs for all to enjoy."

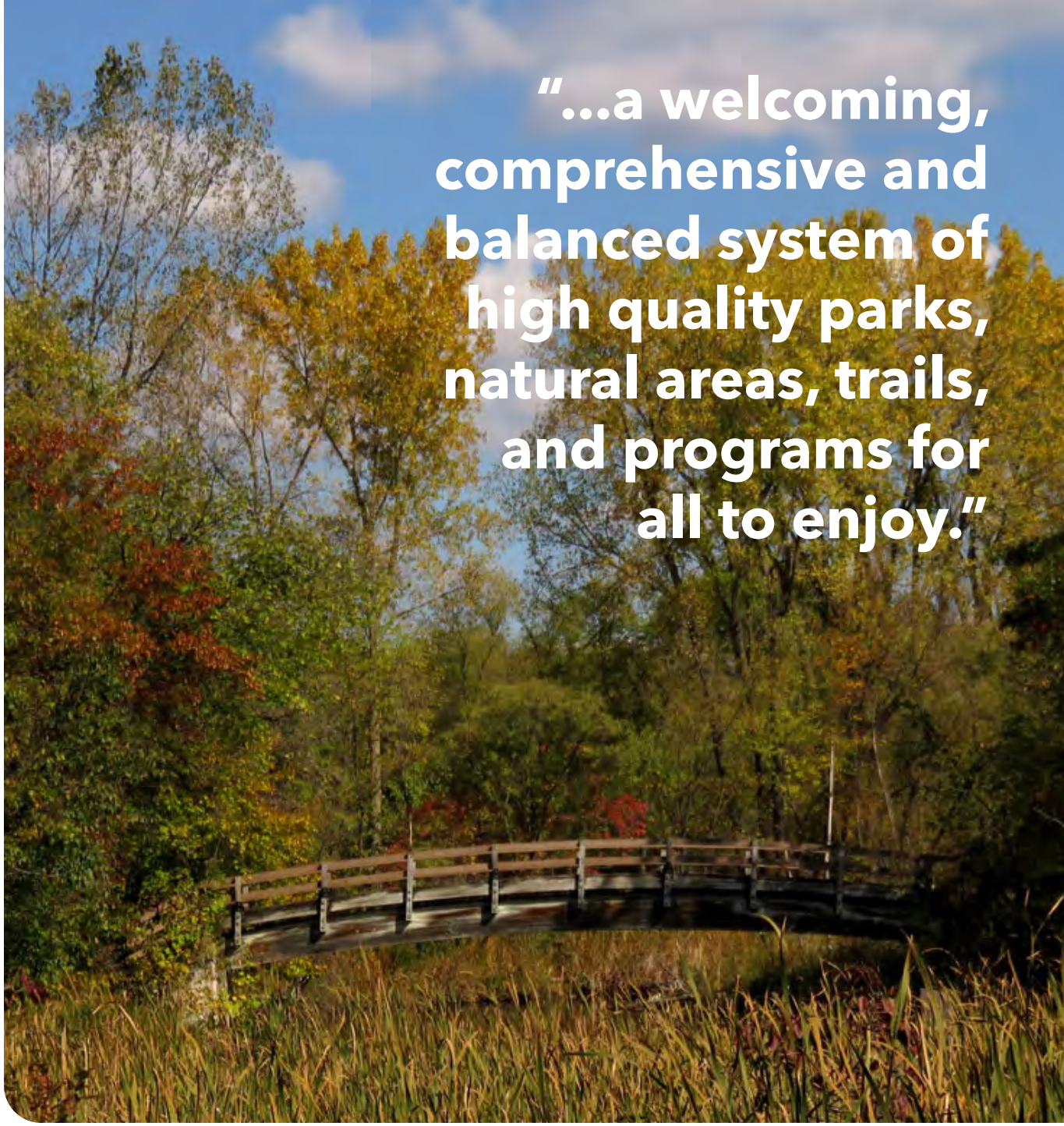


Figure 5. *View of the bridge over Minnehaha Creek*

Guiding Principles

Similarly, a set of guiding principles, based on those listed in the 2022 POST System Plan, is provided to assure that recommendations put forth in this master plan are consistent with the larger goals of the Minnetonka parks system. These guiding principles are high-level statements that define the essential values, priorities, and visions that shape how Big Willow Park will be designed, managed, and improved in the future.

Guiding principles associated with specific recommendations are included in the recommendations matrices in Chapter 5, as described below.

The guiding principles heavily influenced the recommendations proposed in this master plan. As a result, each guiding principle that is addressed by a recommendation is indicated like so in Chapter 5:



GP #1

Advance environmental sustainability + resiliency

Preserve, protect and restore natural resources by supporting environmental stewardship and conservation, while building long-term sustainability of the park.

GP #2

Provide connections to parks, trails + programs

Improve accessibility to park facilities and programs by reducing physical and financial barriers.

GP #3

Promote community health + wellness

Support mental and physical health and well-being by providing a diversity of quality facilities, open spaces, and trails to support life-long activity and meet the social needs of the community.

GP #4

Promote equity + inclusion

Prioritize equity throughout the park, open space and trail system to support all users, celebrate diversity and embrace inclusiveness.

GP #5

Support excellence + innovation

Provide a variety of innovative, new or improve active and passive park amenities and programs that are accessible to all park users.



Figure 6. Big Willow Park Masterplan with proposed recommendations

Recommendations + Standards

Ultimately, all recommended improvements are shown in a plan diagram to illustrate how these are integrated into the park and surrounding context. Because Big Willow Park is large and varied, we have divided the park into four Focus Areas. Recommendations are organized by both area and implementation timeframe (short-term, mid-term, and long-term) to prioritize spending on park improvements over the next twenty years. These are explained in further detail in Chapter 5.

Lastly, a set of standard design details, materials, facility types are provided in Chapter 6 for reference in future implementation projects. These standards set baseline expectations for quality and aesthetics of these amenities, and ensure consistency with other Minnetonka parks facilities for ease of budgeting, construction, and maintenance.



Figure 7. Existing picnic shelter

Figure 8. Big Willow Park entry signage



02 Introduction

Named after large willow trees that used to line the creek, Big Willow Park is one of Minnetonka's most important natural and recreational assets. At 101 acres in size, Big Willow Park is the city's smallest community park, located along Minnehaha Creek just west of the city's Public Works Building.

The park's position along Minnehaha Creek results in an ecological system that includes wetlands, floodplain forests, oak savannas, and other woodland habitats; however, the park also includes a number of athletic fields and over two miles of primary and informal trails that attract visitors from all around the metro. Balancing the park's unique designation as both a nature preserve and an athletic complex will be important as the future of the park unfolds. This chapter of the report sets the groundwork for the rest of the plan.



Figure 9. Bird's eye view of Big Willow Park



Big Willow Park

Figure 10. Baseball game on the full-size field

Located in the heart of Hennepin County, Big Willow Park has changed considerably over time. Back in the 1880s, the park area included homestead sites (remnants can still be found in various natural and wooded areas throughout the park) and the site of St. Albans Mill (located in the north section of the park on Minnehaha Creek). As Minnetonka grew and urbanized, the area that is now Big Willow Park became an important recreational and ecological space, valued both for its athletic facilities and natural features. The park's grand opening was celebrated on July 23rd, 1977, making the park just shy of 50 years old.

Because Minnetonka places strong emphasis on protecting and preserving its natural resources, the city designated Big Willow Park as a "high-priority" restoration area in their 2021 Natural Resources Management Plan, which has led to ongoing invasive species removal, woodland restoration, buckthorn clearing, and more. This designation emphasizes the city's devotion to the outdoor environment and their community's health, safety, and well-being.

Big Willow Park is surrounded by residential properties on nearly every side and is well-connected to adjacent neighborhoods, parks, and regional amenities. Visitors are encouraged to walk, hike, or bike on trails, explore natural and wooded areas, and engage in recreational opportunities that include baseball, softball, soccer, kayaking and canoeing, playing, spectating, and more.

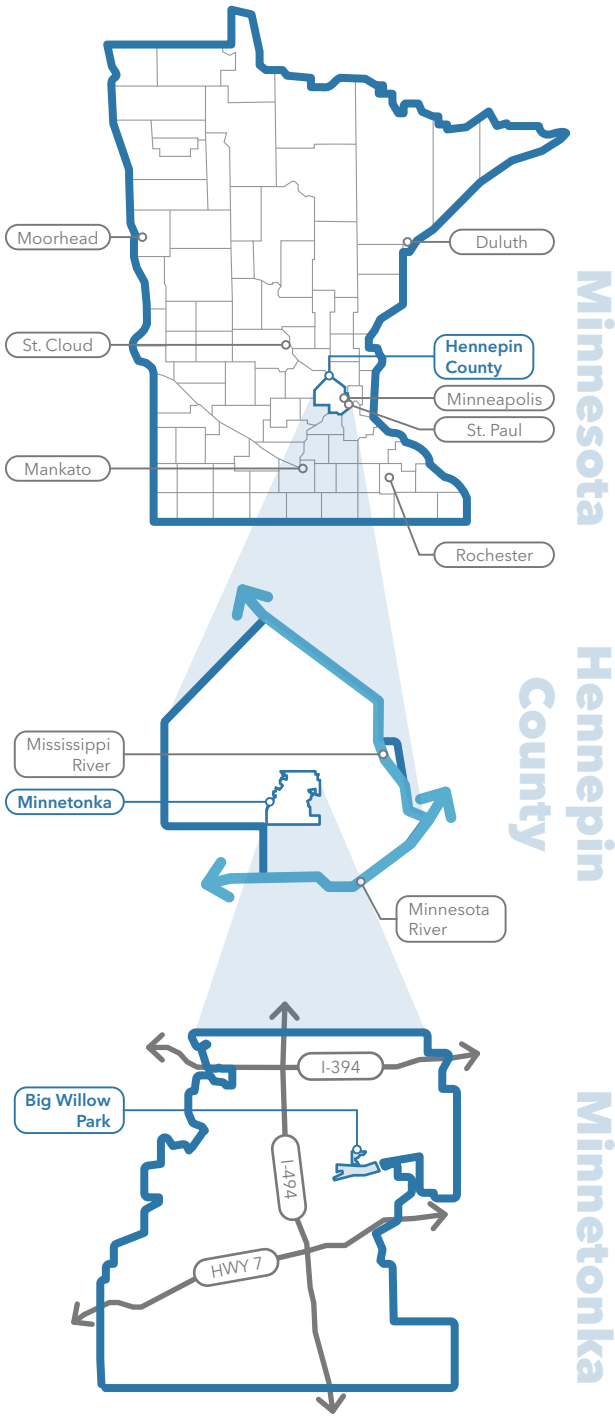




Figure 11. 1937 Historical Aerial Imagery



Figure 12. 2023 Aerial Imagery

The Purpose

The primary purposes of this planning document are:

1] **To determine what improvements are most suitable for Big Willow Park**
2] **To prepare planning-level cost estimates** (of probable design and construction costs) **for proposed improvements**
3] **To identify and align the appropriate resources to implement any proposed improvements**

In addition to those listed above, another purpose of this plan is to adequately align proposed improvements with some of the main ideas outlined in the 2022 POST System Plan, including:

+ **Park and trail connectivity**
+ **Environmental sustainability and resiliency**
+ **High-quality natural areas**
+ **Gathering and community building**
+ **Connecting to nature**
+ **Rediscovering the creek**

Prior to the development of this plan, there was no planning document in place to guide the development, maintenance, and improvement of Big Willow Park. This plan seeks to bridge that gap.

Taking into consideration the key takeaways and recommendations from the 2022 POST System Plan, the city's 2021 Natural Resources Master Plan, and other related planning efforts—as well as feedback from city staff and the community—this plan aims to ensure that Big Willow Park remains a place where nature triumphs, people enjoy themselves, and all of Minnetonka benefits. In order to preserve the future prosperity of the park, the city must take into consideration the intrinsic characteristics of Big Willow Park that make it a valuable asset to the city and surrounding region's park system, while also addressing ongoing issues with accessibility, parking, park amenities, and more.

With a plan in place and the resources to bring it to life, Big Willow Park will undoubtedly cement itself as a destination among the Twin Cities' esteemed park and trail system.

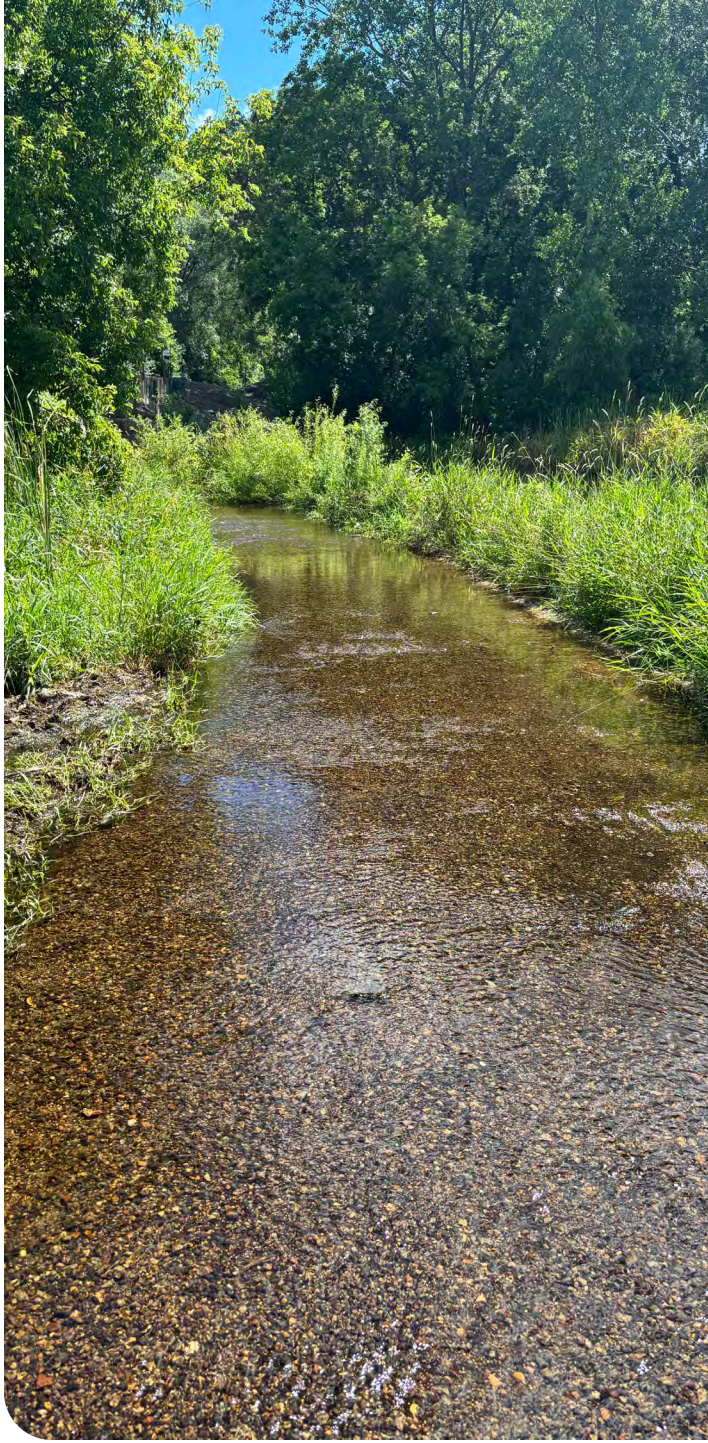


Figure 13. Flooded trail near the railroad underpass

The Process

This Park Master Plan was created over an eight-month planning period, beginning with a comprehensive site visit and inventory of park amenities, notable site features, accessibility issues and more in July of 2025. All asset information was systematically documented and integrated into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database, providing a centralized, data-driven foundation for the city's future planning, maintenance, and improvement of Big Willow Park. This baseline analysis of the quantity and quality of the park's amenities and facilities provided an accurate overview of the park that can be updated by the city as time goes on.

Engaging the public was an important part of the planning process. A community-wide online survey, pop-up events, and an open house provided community members with an opportunity to voice their opinions. Several meetings with city staff also informed the development of the plan.

A summary of key steps in the planning process are outlined to the right.

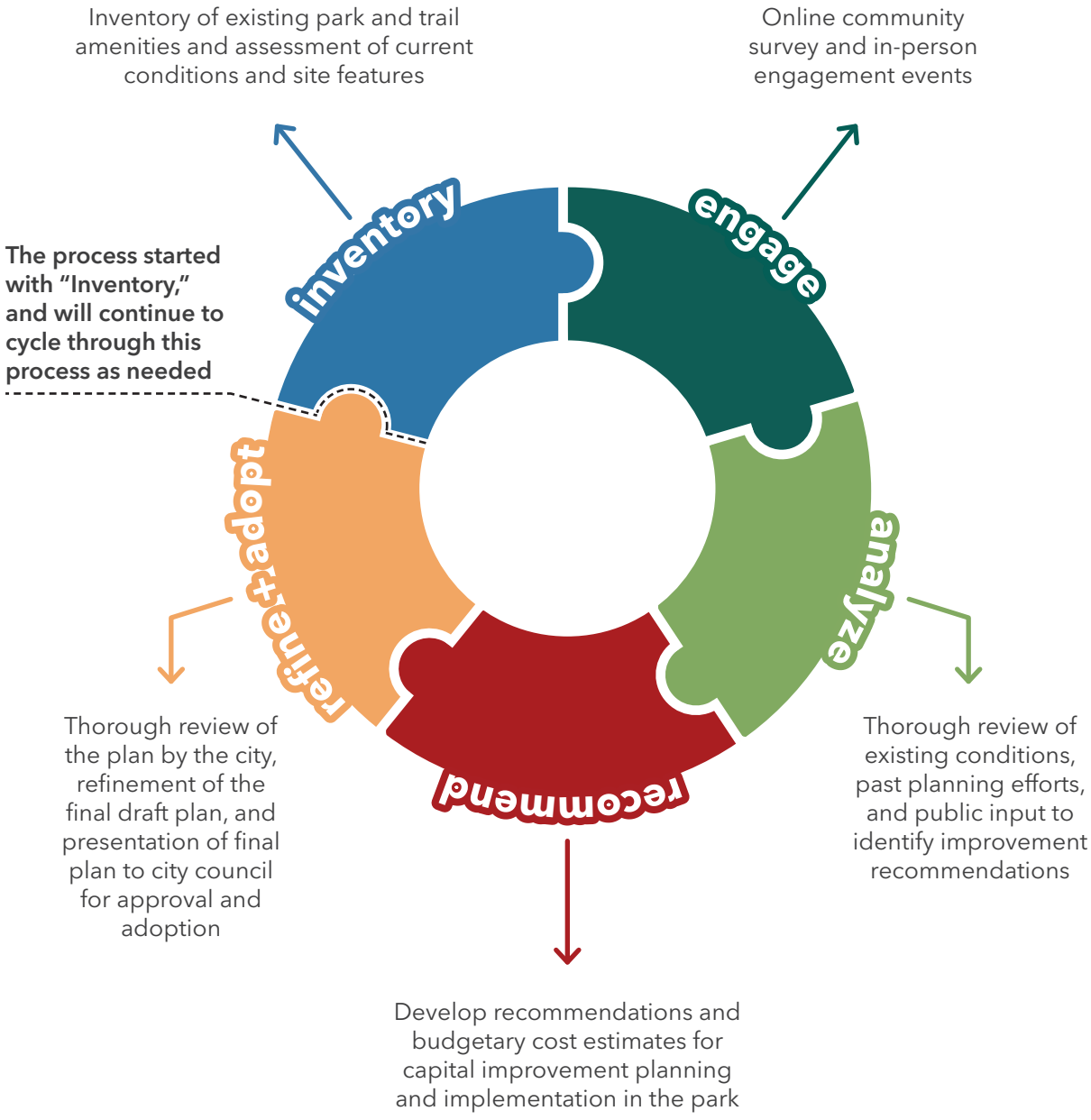


Figure 14. General milestones in the planning process

Past Planning Studies

Several past and ongoing planning studies were reviewed and considered during the development of this plan to better inform decision-making related to improvements in Big Willow Park. They include:

- 2022 POST System Plan
- 2021 Natural Resource Master Plan
- 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Ongoing asset management
- Upcoming capital improvement projects including:
  - Park Entrance Drive Reconstruction
  - Bridge Replacement
  - Ballfield Fencing and Lighting Upgrades
  - Concession Building Renovation

These documents and initiatives provided important background information and goals related to the future success and development of Big Willow Park and are referenced several times throughout the plan.

2022 POST System Plan

- Advance environmental sustainability and resiliency by supporting environmental stewardship and conservation
- Provide connections to parks, trails, and programs by improving accessibility to park features and reducing physical and financial barriers to entry
- Promote community health and wellness by providing a diversity of quality facilities and parks, open spaces and trails
- Promote equity and inclusion by supporting all users, celebrating diversity and embracing inclusiveness
- Support excellence and innovation by providing a variety of innovative, new or improved active and passive park amenities and programs

2021 Natural Resource Master Plan

- Improve the quality of habitat in Minnetonka parks and open spaces
- Create more resilient and sustainable ecological systems while still providing benefits to the community
- Manage and improve the community forest ecosystem on both public and private lands, including natural woodlands and the altered ecosystem of the traditional managed landscape
- Engage the public to support ecological restoration and management on public property
- Protect, diversify and expand the existing high quality ecological communities

Capital Improvement Program (2025-2029)

+ CIP priorities (within the constraints of limited resources) include:
  - Meeting legal mandates regarding public health and safety
  - Maintaining and improving efficiency of existing systems by coordinating with related projects
  - Expanding existing and new services, as well as community betterment
  - Promoting sustainability and natural resources
+ Identifies nearly $4 million in park, trail, and open spaced-related improvements over the next five years

Ongoing Initiatives

+ Asset Management
  - Ongoing repairs and maintenance operations
+ Entrance Drive Reconstruction
  - City staff has plans to repave and add a turn lane to the primary park entrance at Minnetonka Blvd
+ Bridge Replacement
  - City staff plans to replace and realign the existing bridge over Minnehaha Creek to bring bridge approach trails into compliance with accessibility standards
+ Ballfield Fencing and Lighting Upgrades
+ Concession Building Renovation
+ Minnetonka Parks Sign Standards
  - Any proposed wayfinding, interpretive, and entrance signage will comply with the design standards established in this document
+ Ecological Restoration
  - Implementation of proposed recommendations shall consider ongoing restoration efforts as outlined in the Natural Resource Masterplan



Figure 15. Baltimore oriole in wetland area

03 Inventory + Analysis

In July of 2025, an in-depth inventory of Big Willow Park was conducted, which included site visits and GIS documentation of park amenities—including buildings, retaining walls, pavement, ballfields, site furnishings, trails, and more—and a cursory evaluation of their condition. This process uncovered important information about the park, such as current patterns of usage, issues with accessibility and safety, and more.

With a better understanding of the current state of the park, the planning team combined information gathered during the park inventory process with feedback received through community engagement efforts to identify issues and opportunities for the city to consider as they improve the park in the future. Four key themes related to existing issues and opportunities emerged from this analysis. Considerations related to these four themes are further defined in this chapter.



Figure 16. View of the large wetland area west of the soccer pitch



Figure 17. View from the existing pedestrian bridge

Each proposed recommendation identified in Chapter 5 addresses one or more themes through staff-led maintenance and/or larger Capital Improvement Projects to mitigate risks and enhance amenities and recreation program offerings in the park. Summary graphics related to inventory and analysis are provided as reference diagrams herein. The first diagram illustrates existing issues and preliminary opportunities throughout the entire park (Figure 18). This was developed with input from city staff and informs the recommendations proposed in this plan. A second diagram is included to illustrate high-priority infrastructure conditions and safety issues in Focus Area 1 (Figure 19). This includes locations of key tripping hazards, access issues, and drainage problems, along with condition of pavements and structures within this active recreation zone of the park. This should be referenced by staff as future improvements are undertaken within this high-use area.

Inventory + Analysis Summary Themes

Theme #1:
Connectivity

Theme #2:
Safety + Accessibility

Theme #3:
Facility Condition

Theme #4:
Program Offerings

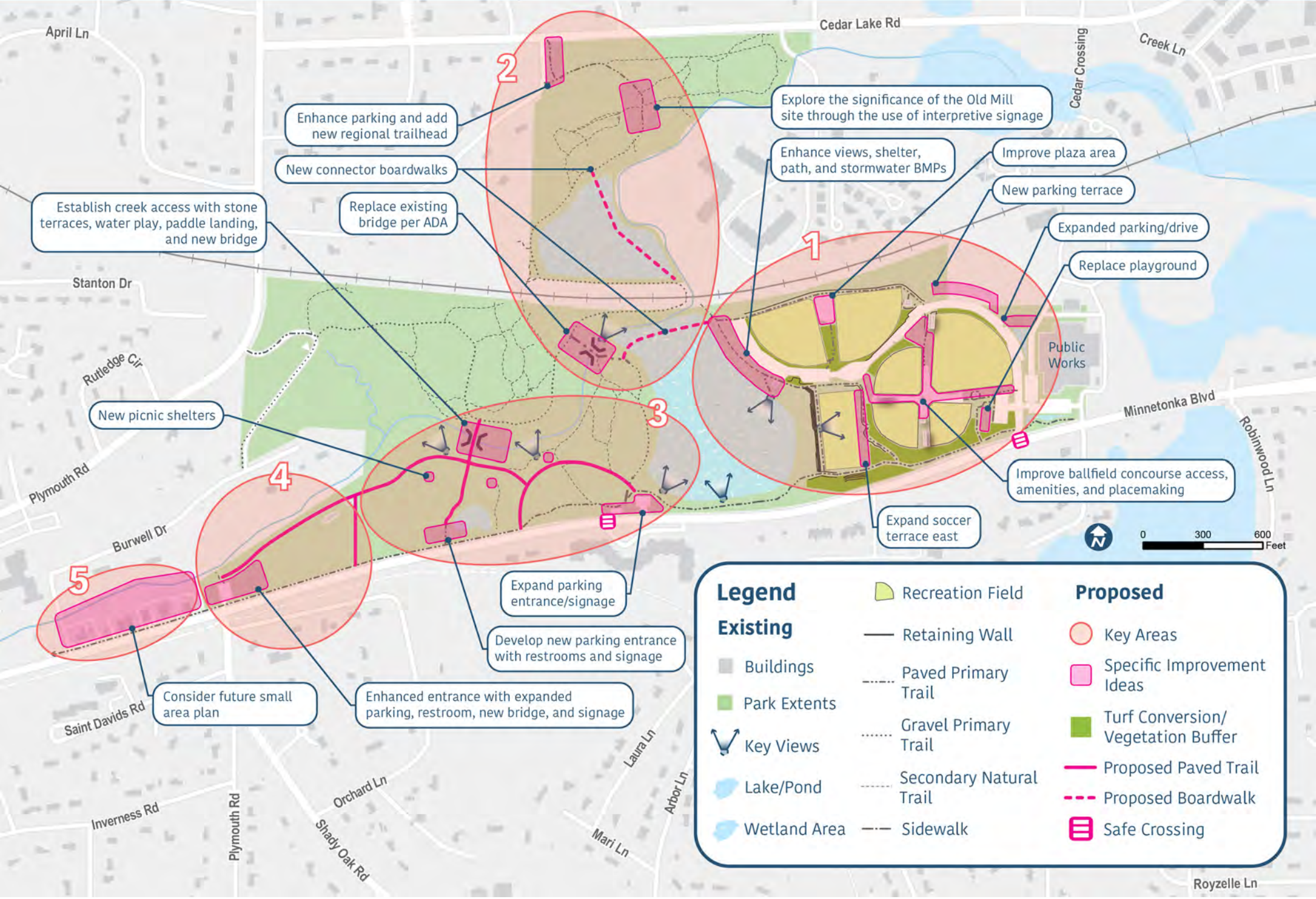


Figure 18. Opportunities Diagram



Figure 19. Focus Area 1 Critical Issues (Infrastructure) Diagram

Theme #1: **Connectivity**

Big Willow Park offers an extensive network of formal and informal trails but is interrupted by barriers and gaps in the system that prevent connectivity between the north, east, and west sections of the park. This is due to trail gaps and physical barriers such as the railroad, creek, and wetland areas, which has led to dangerous informal crossings at the railroad embankment and dead-end trails during flood conditions.

The Big Willow Park Master Plan seeks to expand and connect trail loops with new on-grade trails, wetland boardwalks, and bridges. New signage and barrier plantings can be added to deter pedestrians from using unwanted railroad and water crossings.

The existing dock on Minnehaha Creek is outdated and unusable, so a new water access location is proposed in Chapter 5 to accommodate paddle craft and informal nature-based water play in the creek to fully utilize this defining natural resource.

Connections to existing and proposed regional trails and parkland adjacent to Big Willow Park should also be strengthened to expand park use as a node in the larger parks, open space, and trails system in Minnetonka. This includes access from the existing Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail and Roy Guillaums Park to the south (including the possibility of a controlled pedestrian crossing on Minnetonka Boulevard near the Applewood Point Retirement Community), the proposed Three Rivers Park District Eagle Lake Regional Trail to the north, and a greenway planning study to connect the park west along Minnehaha Creek to Minnetonka Mills Park.

Lastly, this plan proposes incorporating Mills Landing Park and the recently acquired residential property adjacent into the Big Willow Park boundary to improve maintenance and user connectivity, wayfinding, and expand programming use areas.



Figure 20. Existing dock on Minnehaha Creek

Figure 21. Railroad crossing area



Theme #2:
Safety and Accessibility

The City of Minnetonka strives to provide park facilities that are inviting and accommodating to park users of all ages and abilities. In order to bring Big Willow Park up to this standard, current safety and accessibility problems must be addressed.

This can be achieved by bringing existing facilities in line with ADA requirements for all buildings and the provision of accessible routes between park amenities. Pavement tripping hazards and drainage problems can be addressed with a combination of ongoing maintenance, patching, and larger-scale projects. ADA parking stalls, sidewalks, and pedestrian ramps shall be included with all existing and proposed parking lots. All new buildings and recreational facilities should provide universal access and opportunities for a wide range of abilities.

Due to the fact that park users enter the park from many scattered and undefined locations, new vehicular park entrances should be considered along Minnetonka Boulevard and Creek Road West to include off-street parking lots, entrance signage, restrooms, and trail connections.

New wayfinding signage should also be installed at key pedestrian entrances and intersections in the trail system to help visitors navigate the park. These strategies will distribute a consistent user experience throughout the entire park, regardless of where or how users enter.



Figure 22. Accessibility issues near the bridge

Figure 23. Tripping concerns near the restroom entrance



Theme #3:
Facility Condition

Big Willow Park's existing parking lots do not have enough space to accommodate park users, particularly during big events such as sports tournaments. The parking lot across Minnetonka Boulevard at Roy Guilliams Park is often used as overflow parking during these events. The master plan seeks to remedy this by adding additional lots along Minnetonka Boulevard on the west side of the park. Additionally, this plan proposes adding a pedestrian crosswalk across Minnetonka Boulevard to improve the connection between Big Willow Park and Roy Guilliams Park.

Much of the park's pavement and many of its retaining walls are reaching the end of their life cycle and need to be repaired and/or replaced. Some additional retaining walls will be added to accommodate other park improvements.

The park's only existing bridge across Minnehaha Creek is not up to ADA accessibility standards; the paths leading up to the bridge are too steep. These paths will need to be relocated and/or regraded to ensure people of all ages and abilities can cross the creek.

The park's softball and baseball fields are in good condition, but the soccer field is below regulation size and is not adequate for its users. As a result of feedback from local soccer clubs, this plan recommends redoing the soccer field so that it meets game regulation standards.



Figure 24. Soccer goal (on the north end of the field)

Figure 25. Parking lot adjacent to the playground area



Theme #4:
Program Offerings

Active Programming

Though the majority of the park's ballfields are in good shape, the concourse around them is not sufficient for players or spectators. The areas adjacent to the fields need more seating, more shade, and updates that will bring them to the level of other regional athletic complexes. As previously mentioned, the soccer field should be expanded. The areas around the soccer field are currently cramped, so this plan includes recommendations to improve the circulation and spectator spaces around the soccer field.

Big Willow Park's playground is in an excellent location near the sports fields. However it is undersized and has aging equipment. The existing playground needs to be updated and expanded. Smaller playgrounds could also be added on the west side of Big Willow Park to better distribute play opportunities throughout the park.

Passive Programming

This plan recommends several amenity additions, including reservable shelters, better trail connections, and more restrooms distributed across the park. Additionally, the City of Minnetonka has updated its off-leash dog ordinance and identified Big Willow Park as the location for its first fenced-in off-leash dog park.



Figure 26. Concessions building

Figure 27. Playground area



04 Community Engagement

Community engagement played a critical role in the park planning process, helping the planning team to gain clearer insight into the challenges and opportunities Big Willow Park faces. A two-part engagement approach was used in the development of this plan—combining online tools with in-person experiences—to gather feedback from the widest range of perspectives possible. Engagement methods included meetings with city staff, two in-person pop-up events, a formal open house event, an online community-wide survey, and a digital comment forum.

The feedback collected from the city, residents, and other park stakeholders was essential in shaping the plan's recommendations. The following chapter describes how the community was involved in the planning process and highlights key findings about the community's needs, desires, and ideas for the future of Big Willow Park.



Figure 28. Trail decal near the railroad underpass



Engaging the Public

Figure 29. Soccer game on the field

City Staff Coordination

The planning team worked closely with city staff throughout the master planning process, as they have been able to provide local expertise on the park, highlight potential issues in the park, and guide the vision for the master plan and outcomes of the project (in conjunction with feedback from the community).

Throughout the planning process, there were five progress meetings with city staff. During meetings with city staff, the project team discussed issues ranging from existing conditions and pre-existing issues to potential future improvements to the park.

Public Engagement Events

The planning team held several pop-up events at Big Willow Park and in the Minnetonka area to connect with park visitors, gather feedback and suggestions for the park, and promote the community survey. Planning staff tabled at three different sports events in late summer to connect with users of sports and recreation facilities, including senior softball leagues, youth baseball, and youth soccer. Staff also attended two city events in the fall, including the Latino Cultural Celebration and the Fire Department and City Open House.

Community Survey

The planning team launched the Big Willow Park Master Plan Community Survey in September 2025. The survey was live for approximately two months and was accessible online through a shareable link. The survey was translated into Spanish, Somali, Russian, and Chinese. While the survey was live, the project team promoted it at public events, spread the word to neighbors and organizations who use the park frequently, and posted promotional signage along trails and key locations with QR codes leading to the survey.

The online survey included questions about park use, existing conditions, future hopes for the park, and more.

Survey Summary

The Big Willow Park Master Plan process involved close collaboration with city staff, who provided local expertise, identified issues, and helped shape the vision for future improvements. To engage the community, the planning team hosted pop-up events at the park and across Minnetonka, connecting with diverse groups at sports games and city celebrations. A two-month community survey, launched in September 2025 and translated into multiple languages, gathered input on how residents use the park, their experiences with existing conditions, and their ideas for future amenities. Together, these efforts ensured that both staff insights and community voices guided the master plan.

Planning Our Parks
BIG WILLOW PARK

ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

August - November 2025

344 Survey Responses

3 In-Person Engagement Events

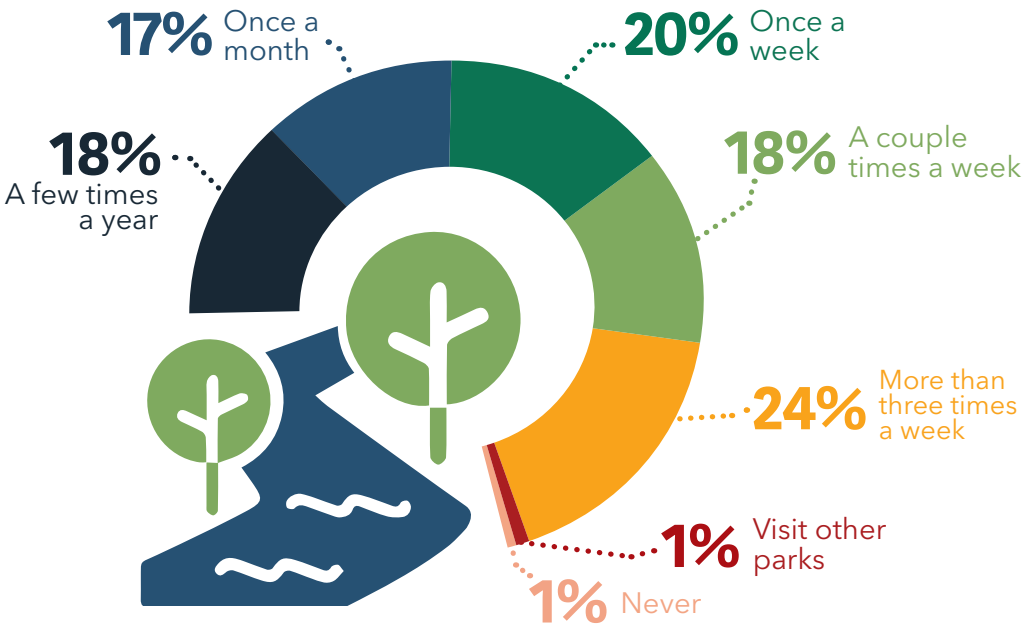
ENGAGEMENT EVENTS TIMELINE

- **September 16th, 2025**: Community Survey Launch
- **September 17th, 2025**: Sports Fields Pop-Ups
- **September 21st, 2025**: Latino Cultural Heritage Pop-Up
- **October 7th, 2025**: City and Fire Department Open House
- **November 14th, 2025**: Community Survey Closed
- **March 2026**: Park Board Review + Public Comment Summary Presentation

Figure 30. One of several yard signs placed in the park throughout the community survey period



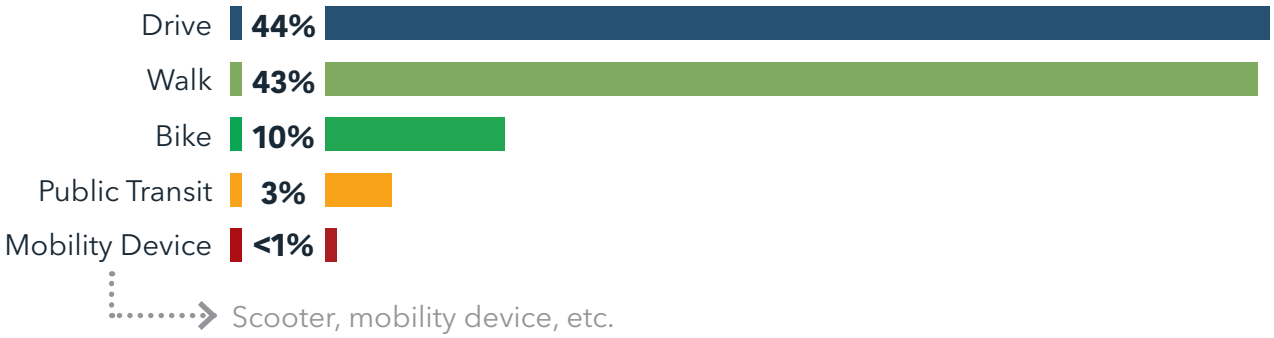
HOW OFTEN PEOPLE VISIT BIG WILLOW PARK



95% Live within 5 Miles of park

44% Live within 1 Mile of park

HOW PEOPLE GET TO BIG WILLOW PARK



MOST POPULAR REASONS FOR VISITING BIG WILLOW PARK

89% Using Trails

24% Sports Fields

11% Playgrounds

9% Canoeing, kayaking, or paddle boarding Minnehaha Creek

8% Other

Most popular write-in was biking on the trails

82%
Feel that Big Willow offers the amenities they're looking for

77%
Agree that the park is enjoyable to visit year-round

76%
Feel that there are enough access points to the park

56%
Feel that Big Willow Park is well-connected to nearby parks and trails

48%
Think that park amenities are accessible regardless of physical ability

BARRIERS PREVENTING VISITORS FROM ENJOYING BIG WILLOW PARK

Accessibility Issues
Respondents mention steep slopes, pavement conditions, and the bridge over Minnehaha Creek as points of accessibility concern.

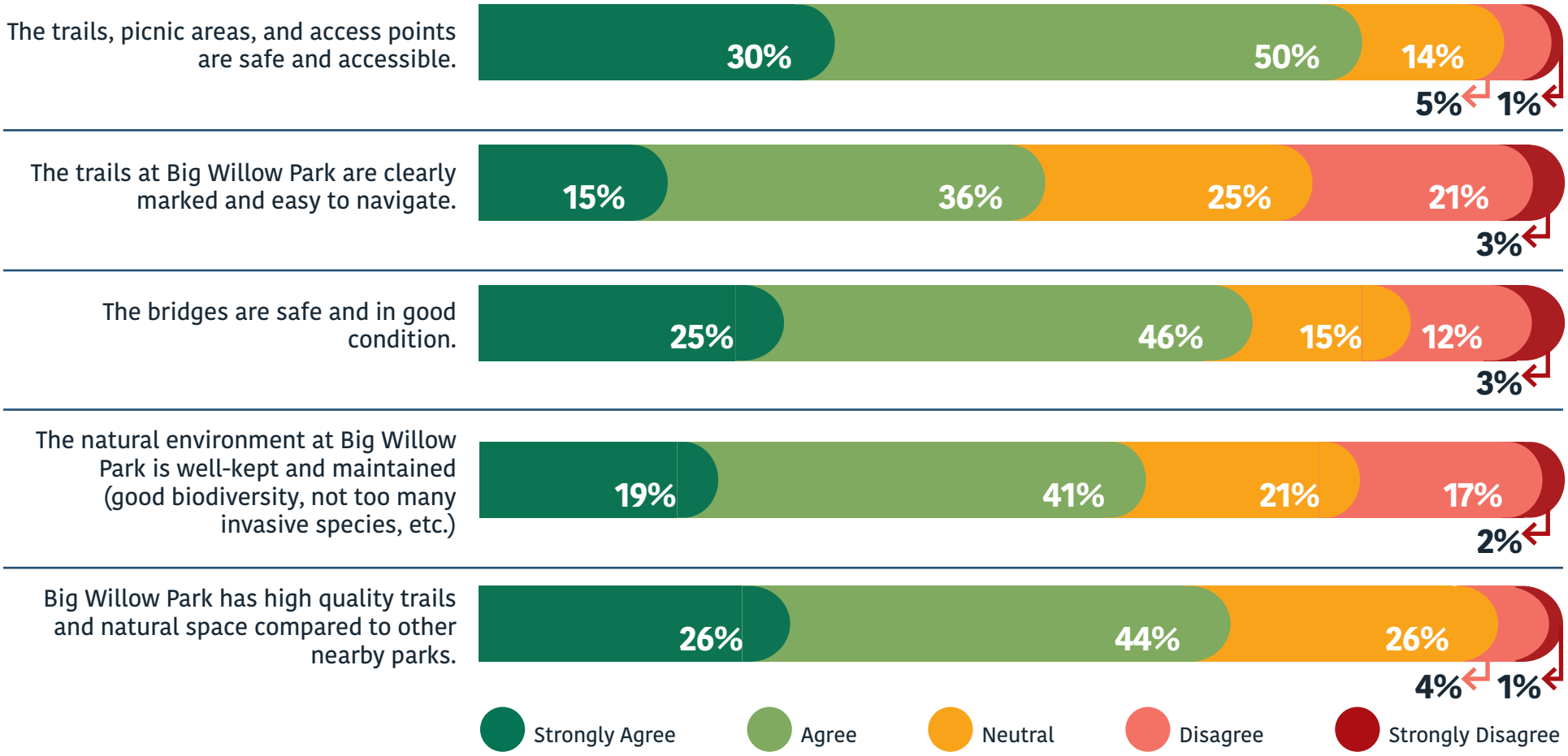
Safety Concerns
Many respondents mention safety concerns on trails stemming from cyclists and dogs.

Parking
Parking is limited at trail access points, and parking lots fill up during games at recreation facilities.

Crossing Minnetonka Blvd
Crossing Minnetonka can be dangerous, especially due to traffic speeds and lack of infrastructure.

Lacking Connectivity
Many respondents mention that Big Willow Park is somewhat isolated from other parks and trails, and connections are unclear or hard to navigate.

TRAILS + NATURAL SPACE



TOP ISSUES WITH TRAILS + NATURAL SPACE

Invasive Species & Habitat Concerns

Many respondents appreciate natural space in the park but are concerned with amounts of invasive species like Buckthorn.

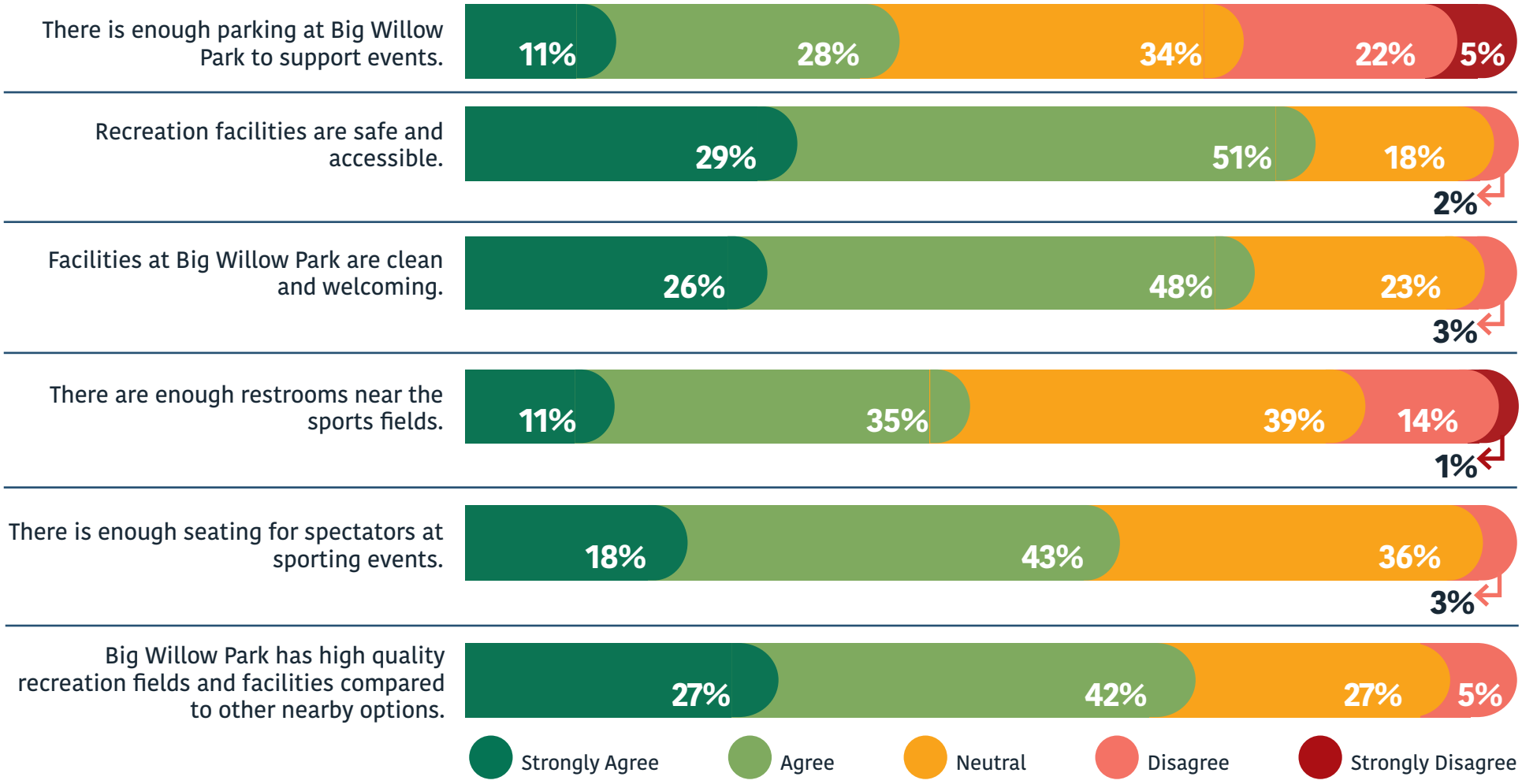
Trail Navigation

Trails could benefit from adding trail markers and maps to help visitors navigate the park.

Trail Conditions

Flooding, icy winter conditions, and steep slopes on trails are common concerns. The crossing beneath the railroad tracks is a key location for flooding concerns, and the bridge over Minnehaha Creek is steep/difficult to navigate.

SPORTS + RECREATION FACILITIES



TOP ISSUES WITH SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Parking

Many respondents note that fields are crowded during games, and parking is frequently full when multiple games are going on.

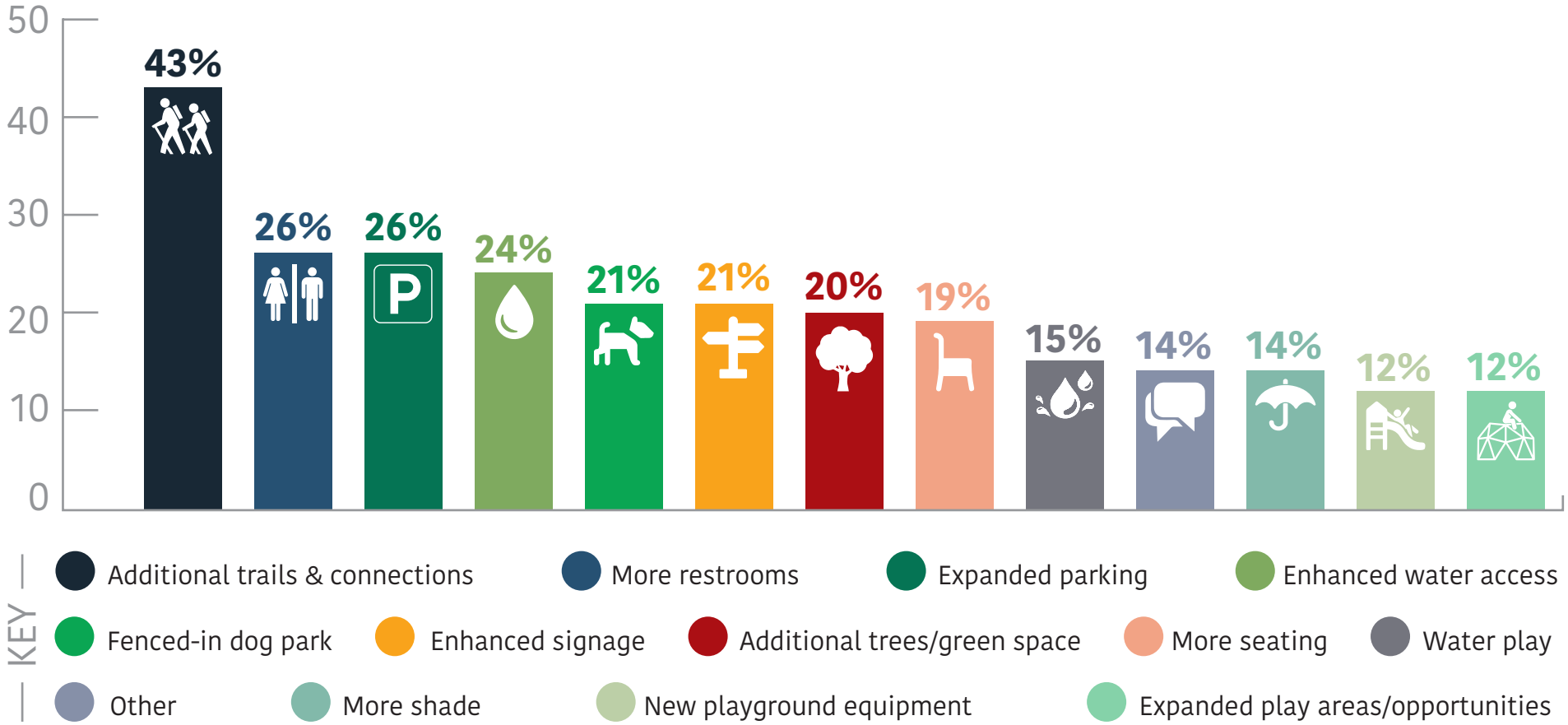
Restrooms

There are not enough restrooms for the fields, and they are often far away.

Soccer Field

Respondents note that the soccer turf is undersized and lacks features when compared to baseball and softball fields.

WHAT SHOULD BE ADDED TO BIG WILLOW PARK?



It is important to note that the percentages shown above are representative of the percentage of all respondents who chose a particular answer. With that in mind, it is clear that the community would like to see additional trails and connections, more restrooms, expanded parking, enhanced water access, a fenced-in dog park, and enhanced wayfinding signage added to Big Willow Park. Other popular write-in responses included dedicated mountain biking trails and additional crossings along Minnetonka Boulevard.

05 Plan Recommendations

Based entirely on input from the community, feedback from city staff and members of the Park Board, and a thorough site review and analysis process, the improvement recommendations included in this chapter are intended to provide a holistic approach to preserving, restoring, and enhancing Big Willow Park, while still supporting goals established in past planning projects (e.g., the 2022 POST System Plan, 2021 Natural Resources Master Plan, the 2025-2029 CIP, etc.).

Depending on available funding and partnership opportunities, the following improvements will need to be phased and prioritized. Although various phases and prioritization levels have been outlined in this chapter, it should also be noted that each improvement project will require additional exploration and design to refine project scoping and cost expectations.



Figure 31. A Great Egret in the main wetland

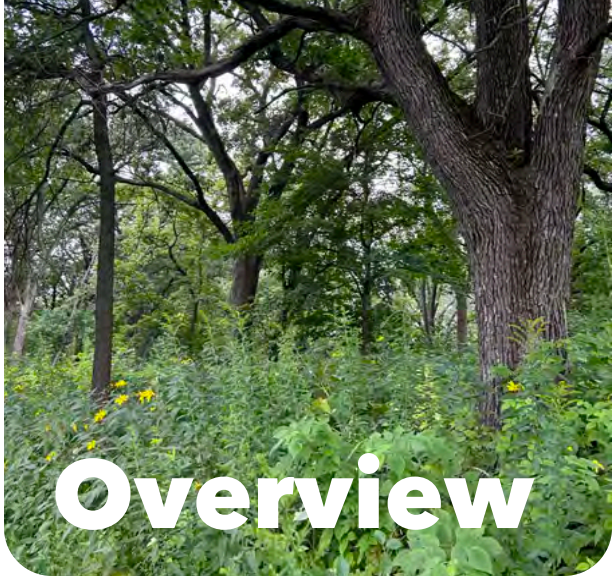


Figure 32. Wooded area with lush vegetation

This chapter divides the park into four focus areas to assist the planning team in organizing proposed improvements. The following pages illustrate and outline numbered recommendations with plan diagrams and a matrix table for each focus area.

Recommendations are further categorized by implementation timeframe to assist staff with capital improvement budgeting:

- **Short-Term** (improvements slated to occur within 1 to 5 years)
- **Mid-Term** (improvements slated to occur within 6 to 10 years)
- **Long-Term** (improvements slated to occur within 11 to 15 years)

Plan Adoption and the Implementation/Funding/CIP Process

Park master plan project implementation is coordinated with city leaders to ensure financial stewardship and alignment with other city priorities are met. After preliminary plan review by the Park Board, when changes to the plan were directed by staff, the final master plan will then be recommended to the City Council for adoption. By adopting the Big Willow Park Master Plan, the City Council can then begin to direct staff on how and when to implement the strategic priorities as proposed within this document.

Funding for park improvements is allocated through the city's Capitol Improvement Program (CIP) and the City of Minnetonka's operating budgets. The CIP is a five-year program that seeks to identify both short-term efforts to be implemented in the next one or two years, as well as prepare budget planning further down the line.

Recommendations from this master plan will be included in future CIP planning and will be part of the city council's budget discussions as funds are allocated.

Park master plans are meant to include big ideas to understand a grand vision. After adoption of the master plan, re-prioritization may be necessary to accommodate future city budget realities and funding opportunities.

Consideration of Off-Leash Dog Area

In recent years, the city has begun looking for areas within the city park system to include new off-leash dog areas. After several preliminary concepts were presented to the Park Board that included versions of an off-leash dog area, these concepts were removed from the plans when it became obvious that the options are limited within the park to create a valuable community amenity with a new off-leash area. Limitations included proximity to Minnehaha Creek and concerns over impacts to natural areas and wetlands, and the substantial parking and infrastructure that would be required despite the off-leash areas being relatively undersized at approximately 0.5 acres.

During future park planning efforts, the city will continue to look for places for off-leash dog parks that meet community needs and respond to local resident feedback around the parks.



Figure 33. Big Willow Park Master Plan with proposed recommendations

1. Focus Area #1

Focus Area 1 is the eastern portion of the park, which includes the primary park entrance, ballfields and accessory buildings, playground, shelter overlook,, and large off-street parking lots. This is the most active portion of the park and includes extensive physical infrastructure (paving, walls, buildings, etc.) that require ongoing maintenance and capital investment. Recommendations for Area 1 focus on upgrading facilities to meet current needs and be competitive with other regional athletic complexes. Two large boardwalks are also proposed to connect trail loops around the wetland to Area 3.

2. Focus Area #2

Focus Area 2 is the northern portion of the park, which is physically separated from the rest of Big Willow Park by the active railroad embankment, (except for one primary trail connection under the RR bridge at the creek). It is comprised of primary and informal trails through wooded uplands and is accessed by an underdeveloped park entrance off Cedar Lake Road. Recommendations formalize/enhance the park entrance with expanded parking and a portable restroom enclosure, create a trail loop with a new boardwalk, and mitigate safety concerns at informal pedestrian crossings along the railroad tracks.

3. Focus Area #3

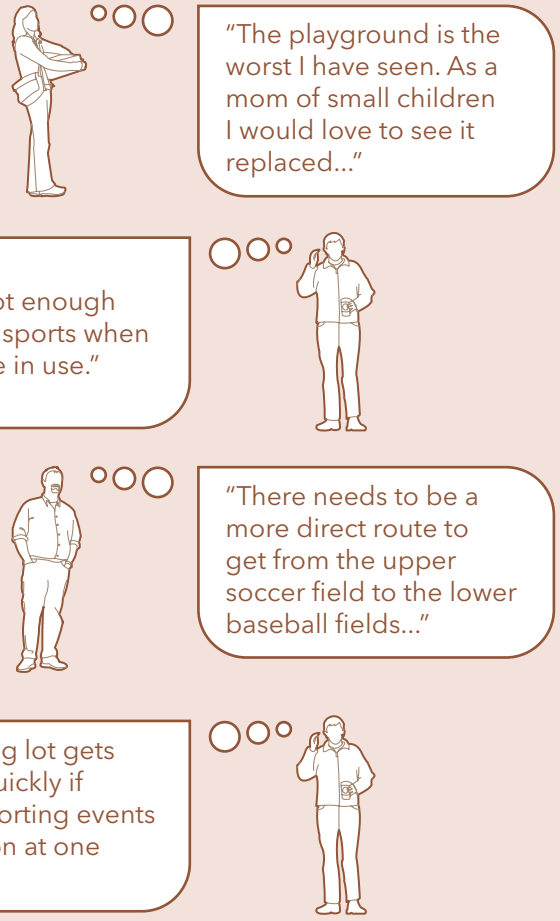
Focus Area 3 is the central portion of the park, comprised of gently rolling open and wooded uplands that provide expansive views along Minnehaha Creek. Historically, much of this area was large residential lots that have been incorporated into the parkland, including the recent acquisition of 12620 Minnetonka Boulevard. The area lends itself to mostly passive recreation with loop trails around and across the creek. Recommendations expand and connect the trail system, enhance and expand off-street parking, formalize park entrances, and add new program amenities such as reservable shelters, paddle access at the creek, and play opportunities.

4. Focus Area #4

Focus Area 4 includes Minnetonka Mills Landing Park and formally incorporates this small park into Big Willow Park. This provides better trail connectivity and wayfinding legibility for park users. Recommendations also include formalizing this as a new park entrance with expanded parking, a four-season restroom, and play equipment. Ultimately a new creek bridge is proposed to connect loop trails to Area 3 through city-owned lots across the creek. A planning study is also proposed to extend a trail along the creek and create a greenway to Minnetonka Mills Park.

1. Focus Area #1

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



Short-Term Recommendations

S.1.1 Primary park entrance drive replacement

S.1.2 Upgrade west parking lot and drive to include concrete curb, ADA parking, and pedestrian ramps

S.1.3 Extend sidewalk slope to create an accessible route between parking and the baseball concourse, with new training walls and terraced lawn for spectator seating

S.1.4 Raise the concrete slab near the restroom entrance to F.F.E. to mitigate tripping hazard

S.1.5 Add concrete stairs to complete pathway connection at the southwest corner of the soccer field

S.1.6 Add park monument sign

P.1 Add wayfinding signage at key locations throughout the park

P.2 Add interpretive signage at key locations throughout the park

P.3 Asset management



Figure 34. Focus Area #1 Phasing Diagram

Mid-Term Recommendations

M.1.1 Widen the existing soccer pitch to meet high school soccer field standards, add retaining walls and sidewalks to mitigate impacts to adjacent ballfields, and provide accessible connections to the existing trail system

M.1.2 Repave and extend sidewalks and stair connections from parking lot and shelter to create accessible routes to proposed boardwalks, include rain gardens at storm intake with retaining walls as necessary, and perform selective tree removal to open views to the pond; include signage and barrier plantings to deter pedestrians from crossing the railroad embankment near the creek

M.1.3A Install a new boardwalk segment along the creek to connect trail loop, include seating/interpretive node

M.1.3B Install a new boardwalk segment along the creek to connect trail loop, include seating/interpretive node

M.1.4 Repave sidewalk and rebuild retaining walls around the restroom building on the east side of the baseball concourse to address drainage and accessibility issues

M.1.5 Relocate east and expand playground parking lot with concrete curb, sidewalk, pedestrian ramps, and plantings

M.1.6 Create new drive connection with head-in parking between park drive and Public Works parking lot in lawn area south of the existing rolling gate to add ~10 public parking stalls

M.1.7 Add dense evergreen shrub barrier plantings to prevent access above all retaining walls over 30" in height to mitigate fall risk

M.1.8 Upgrade west parking lot and drive to include concrete curb, ADA parking, and pedestrian ramps

M.1.9 Perform study on a pedestrian crossing on Minnetonka Blvd with a sidewalk to Roy Guilliams Field Park

Figure 35. Boardwalk example (Scriber Lake Park in Lynnwood, WA)



Long-Term Recommendations

L.1.1 Renovate the softball concourse by separating grade to create ADA compliant slopes and mitigate drainage issues; enhance overall aesthetics, including concrete paving, stairs, sidewalk connections, and sloped planting areas with shade trees and seating

L.1.2A Renovate the baseball concourse to mitigate failing pavement and drainage issues; enhance overall aesthetics, including concrete paving, area drains, and planting areas with shade trees and seating

L.1.2B Replace concessions building with a modern structure that meets user needs and matches other park buildings

L.1.2C Replace equipment storage building with a modern structure that meets user needs and matches other park buildings

L.1.3 Renovate and expand playground with rubber surfacing and multi-age play equipment

L.1.4 Convert turf grass to lower maintenance native grasses and forbs in lawn areas not used for gathering or recreation to reduce mowing and enhance aesthetics and habitat



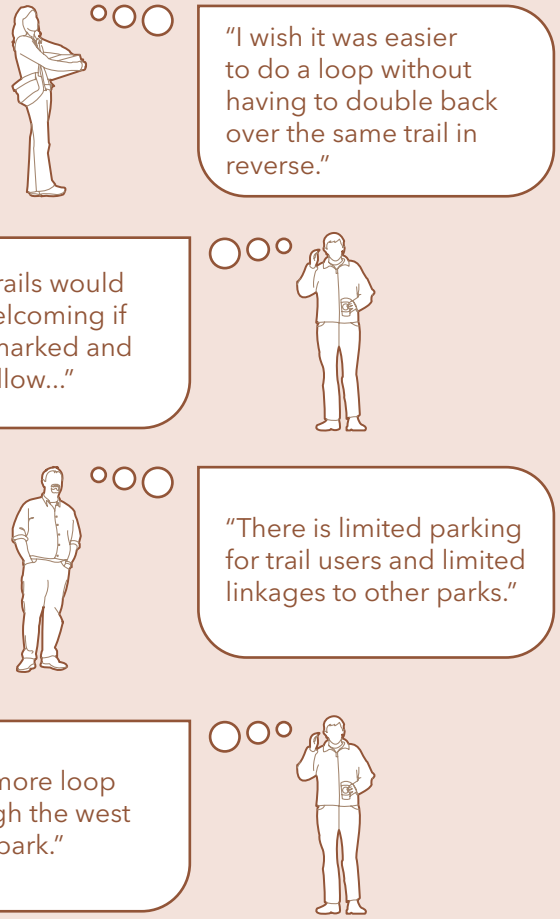
Figure 36. Multi-age playground equipment example (Ahrens Park in Grinnell, IA)

Figure 37. Native grasses and forbs



2. Focus Area #2

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



Short-Term Recommendations

S.2.1 Add signage to deter pedestrians from crossing the railroad tracks

S.2.2 Add park monument sign

P.1 Add wayfinding signage at key locations throughout the park

P.2 Add interpretive signage at key locations throughout the park

P.3 Asset management

Mid-Term Recommendations

M.2.1 Install a new boardwalk segment west of the creek to connect trail loop, include seating/interpretive node, as well as concrete stair and accessible sloped trail connection to the north

M.2.2 Expand and formalize the existing parking at the north park entrance with concrete curb, sidewalk, portable restroom enclosure, and park entrance sign

Long-Term Recommendations

L.2.1 Convert informal footpath to primary trail to provide accessible loop connection between north park entrance and Saint Albans Mill Road pedestrian entrance

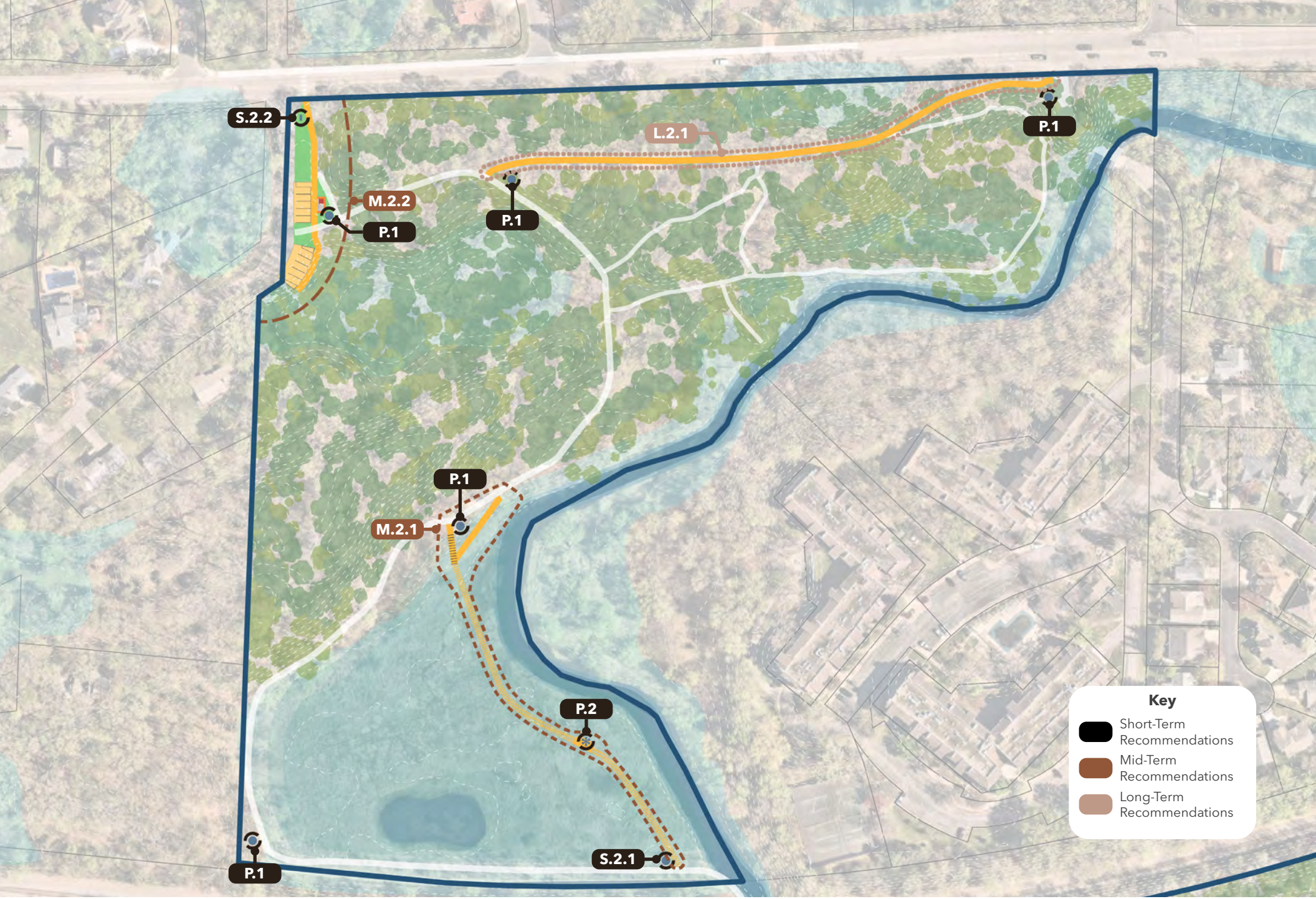


Figure 38. Focus Area #2 Phasing Diagram

3. Focus Area #3

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



"The walking bridge over the creek seems too steep for wheelchairs and anyone with a physical disability."



"Easy canoe and kayak entrances to the creek would be great."

"I'd like to see natural beach/water play areas along Minnehaha Creek at a few points along the creek."



Short-Term Recommendations

S.3.1 Replace and realign the existing bridge over Minnehaha Creek to achieve accessible trail grades

S.3.2 Add a gravel primary trail along Minnehaha Creek to improve connectivity; stabilize shoreline as necessary.

S.3.3 Add stone block terraces to stabilize creek bank erosion; create a gravel water access for paddle craft and water play

S.3.4 Upgrade existing parking lot with concrete curb, sidewalk, stairs, park entrance sign, and portable restroom enclosure

P.1 Add wayfinding signage at key locations throughout the park

P.2 Add interpretive signage at key locations throughout the park

P.3 Asset management

Mid-Term Recommendations

M.3.1 Develop a new park entrance off Minnetonka Blvd to accommodate shelter and water access users, including a parking lot with concrete curb, sidewalks, four-season restroom, park entrance signage and plantings, and trail connection to the creek trail

M.3.2 Design and install (1) reservable picnic shelter with sidewalk connections to primary trail, including charcoal grills, electrical, and water service

Long-Term Recommendations

L.3.1 Design and install a second pedestrian bridge crossing over Minnehaha Creek to expand trail connectivity

L.3.2 Design and install (2) more reservable picnic shelters with sidewalk connections to primary trails, include charcoal grills, electrical, and water service

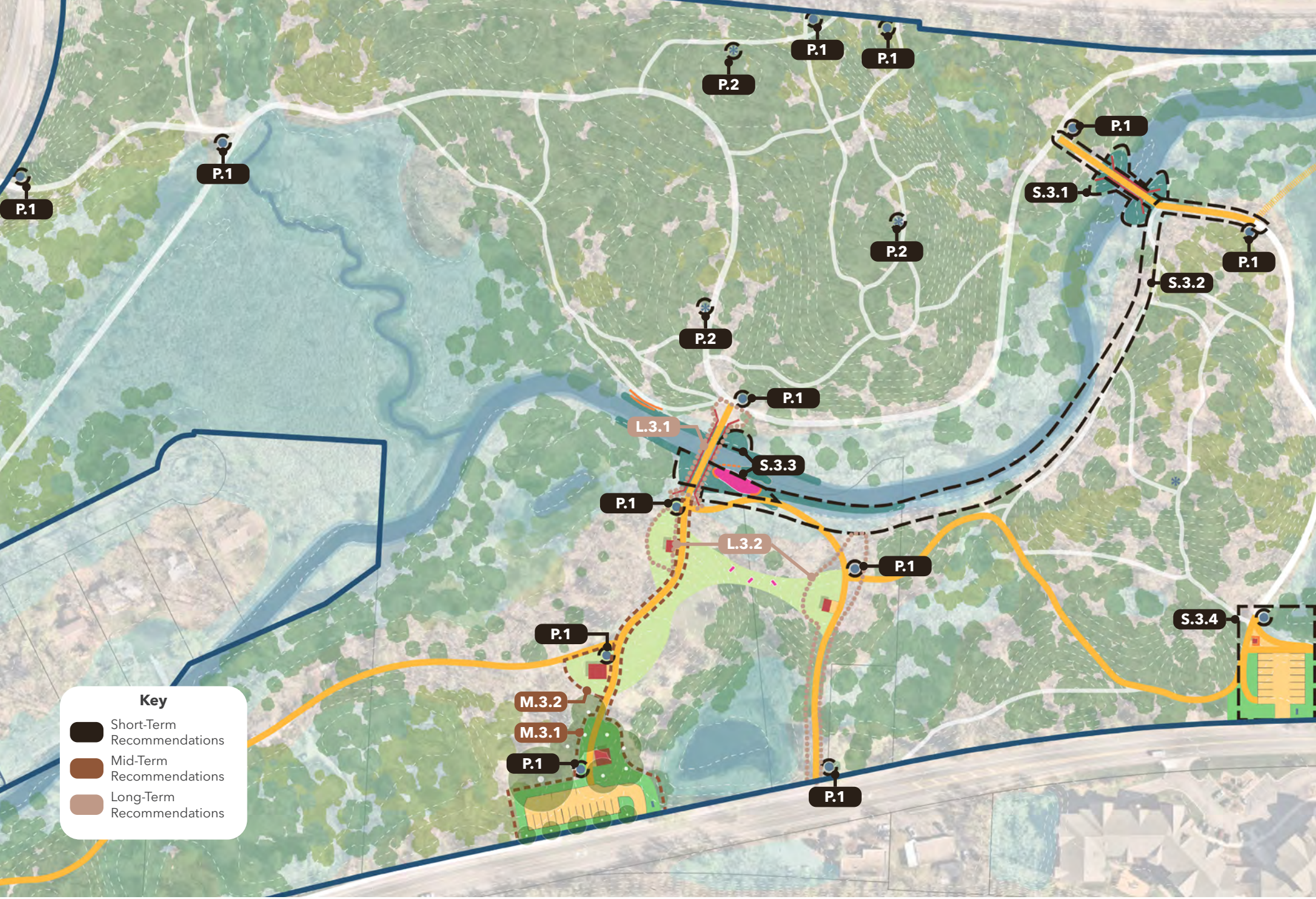


Figure 39. Focus Area #3 Phasing Diagram

4. Focus Area #4

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



"It would be great to walk from Minnetonka Mills restaurants and connect to the trails..."



"I'd love to see a bridge across the creek connecting the baseball fields to the wooded trails near the railroad tracks."

"We need better access from Mills Landing shops. We want to walk and grab lunch."



Short-Term Recommendations

S.4.1 Incorporate Mills Landing Park and adjacent formerly private land into Big Willow Park

S.4.2 Design and install an expanded parking lot, sidewalks, park entrance sign, screening plantings, a kayak storage rack, a portable restroom with an enclosure, and a paved connection (with retaining walls as needed) to the creek

P.1 Add wayfinding signage at key locations throughout the park

P.2 Add interpretive signage at key locations throughout the park

P.3 Asset management

Mid-Term Recommendations

M.4.1 Consider performing a planning study to explore the future extension of a greenway trail along Minnehaha Creek to connect to Minnetonka Mills Park, with mixed-use redevelopment oriented towards the greenway; improved pedestrian connectivity and safety, and enhanced housing and retail development opportunities

M.4.2 Extend gravel primary trail loop connection along Minnehaha Creek to Area 3 amenities; consider vegetative screening to mitigate impacts to residential properties across the creek

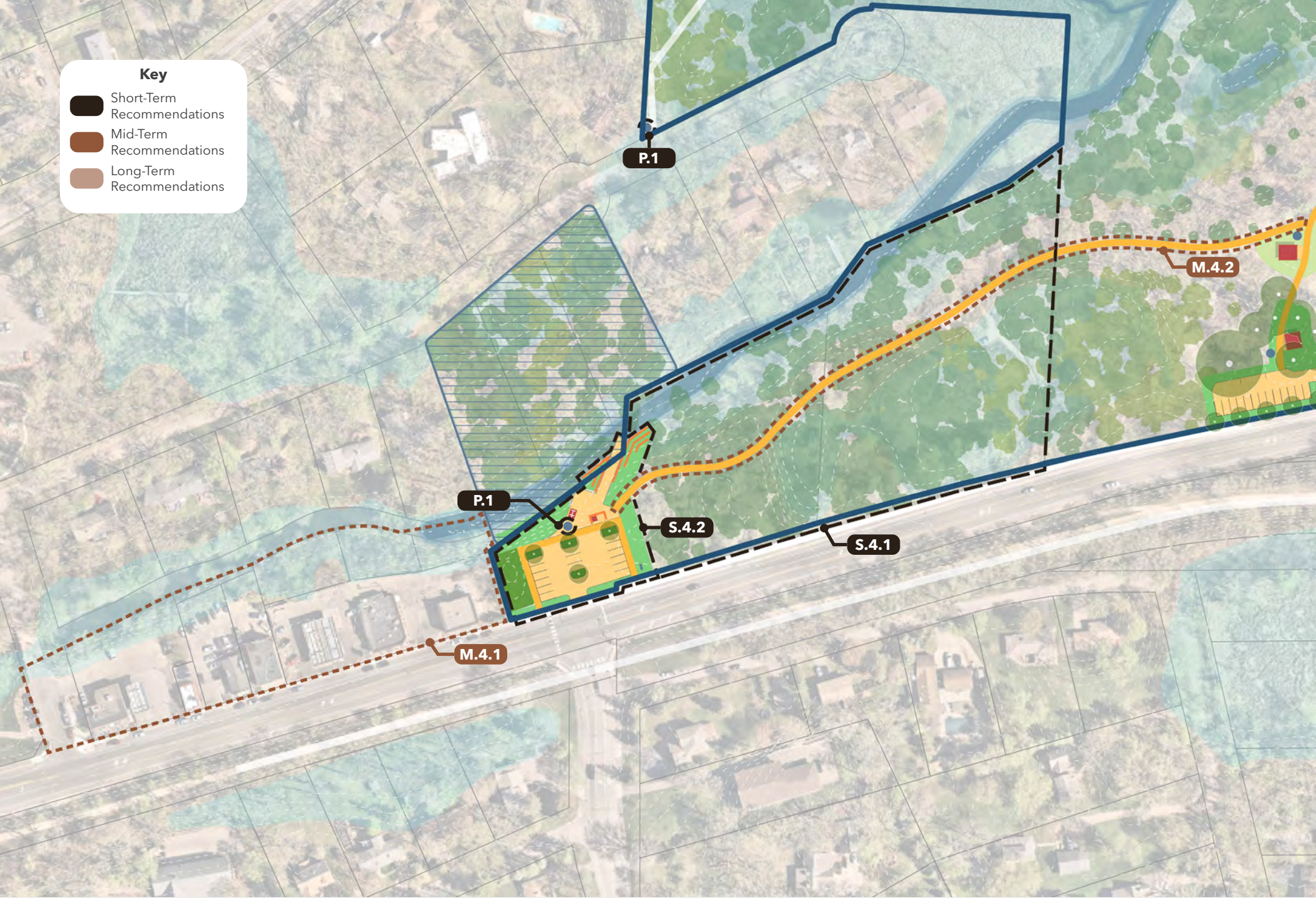


Figure 40. Focus Area #4 Phasing Diagram

Recommendations Matrix

Short-Term Recommendations (1 to 5 years)

GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5

	#	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Prioritization			Action Type	Associated Guiding Principles
				High	Med	Low		
Focus Area #1	S.1.1	Primary park entrance drive reconstruction	$50,000 to $100,000	•			Staff Project Implementation	GP #1, GP #2
	S.1.2	Upgrade west parking lot and drive to include concrete curb, ADA parking, and pedestrian ramps	$900,000 to $1,200,000		•		CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2
	S.1.3	Extend sidewalk slope to create an accessible route between parking and the ballfield concourse, with new retaining walls and terraced lawn for spectator seating	$60,000 to $90,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4, GP #5
	S.1.4	Raise the concrete slab near the restroom entrance to F.F.E. to mitigate tripping hazard	$5,000 to $10,000	•			Staff Project Implementation	GP #2
	S.1.5	Add concrete stairs to complete pathway connection at the southwest corner of the soccer field	$20,000 to $30,000			•	Staff Project Implementation	GP #2, GP #3
	S.1.6	Add park monument sign	$30,000 to $60,000		•		CIP Item	GP #2, GP #3, GP #5
Focus Area #2	S.2.1	Add signage to deter pedestrians from crossing the railroad tracks	$3,000 to $5,000	•			Staff Project Implementation	GP #2, GP #3
	S.2.2	Add park monument sign	$30,000 to $60,000		•		CIP Item	GP #2, GP #3, GP #5
Focus Area #3	S.3.1	Replace and realign the existing bridge over Minnehaha Creek to achieve accessible trail grades	$250,000 to $300,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4
	S.3.2	Add a gravel primary trail along Minnehaha Creek to improve connectivity, stabilize shoreline as necessary	$70,000 to $120,000		•		CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3
	S.3.3	Add stone block terraces to stabilize creek bank erosion; create a gravel water access for paddle craft and water play	$50,000 to $100,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4, GP #5
	S.3.4	Upgrade existing parking lot with concrete curb, sidewalk, stairs, park entrance sign, and portable restroom enclosure	$100,000 to $150,000			•	CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4

Short-Term Recommendations (1 to 5 years)



	#	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Prioritization			Action Type	Associated Guiding Principles
				High	Med	Low		
Focus Area #4	S.4.1	Incorporate Mills Landing Park and adjacent formerly private land into Big Willow Park	$xx to $xx	•			Staff Project Implementation	
	S.4.2	Design and install an expanded parking lot, sidewalks, park entrance sign, screening plantings, a kayak storage rack, a portable restroom with an enclosure, and a paved connection (with retaining walls as needed) to the creek	$200,000 to $400,000	•			CIP Item	
Park-wide	P.1	Add wayfinding signage at key locations throughout the park	$20,000 to $40,000		•		Ongoing Staff Implementation	
	P.2	Add interpretive signage at key locations throughout the park	$20,000 to $40,000			•	Ongoing Staff Implementation	
	P.3	Asset management	$80,000+	•			Ongoing Staff Implementation	

Mid-Term Recommendations (6 to 10 years)

GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5

#	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Prioritization			Action Type	Associated Guiding Principles
			High	Med	Low		
M.1.1	Widen existing soccer pitch to meet high school soccer field standards, add retaining walls and sidewalks to mitigate impacts to adjacent ballfields and provide accessible connections to the existing trail system	$50,000 to $150,000		•		CIP Item	GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5
M.1.2	Repave and extend sidewalks and stair connections from parking lot and shelter to create accessible routes to proposed boardwalks, include rain gardens at storm intake with retaining walls as necessary, and selective tree removal to open views to pond; include signage and barrier plantings to deter pedestrians from crossing the railroad embankment near the creek	$100,000 to $250,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5
M.1.3A	Install a new boardwalk segment along the creek to connect trail loop, include seating/interpretive node	$300,000 to $500,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #5
M.1.3B	Install a new boardwalk segment east of the pond to connect trail loop, include seating/interpretive node	$300,000 to $500,000			•	CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #5
M.1.4	Repave sidewalk and rebuild retaining walls around the restroom building on the east side of the baseball concourse to address drainage and accessibility issues	$50,000 to $100,000			•	Staff Project Implementation	GP #1 GP #2
M.1.5	Relocate east and expand playground parking lot with concrete curb, sidewalk, pedestrian ramps, and plantings	$100,000 to $200,000		•		CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #5
M.1.6	Create new drive connection with head-in parking between park drive and Public Works parking lot in lawn area south of the existing rolling gate to add ~10 public parking stalls	$100,000 to $150,000			•	CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #5
M.1.7	Add dense evergreen shrub barrier plantings to prevent access above all retaining walls over 30" in height to mitigate fall risk	$10,000 to $20,000	•			Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #1 GP #3
M.1.8	Upgrade east parking lot and drive to include new concrete curb, ADA parking, and pedestrian ramps	$150,000 to $175,000	•			Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #1 GP #2
M.1.9	Perform study on a pedestrian crossing on Minnetonka Blvd with a sidewalk to Roy Guilliams Field Park	$20,000 to $40,000		•		Staff Project Implementation	GP #2 GP #3 GP #4

Mid-Term Recommendations (6 to 10 years)



	#	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Prioritization			Action Type	Associated Guiding Principles
				High	Med	Low		
Focus Area #2	M.2.1	Install a new boardwalk segment west of the creek to connect trail loop, include seating/interpretive node, as well as concrete stair and accessible sloped trail connection to the north	$400,000 to $500,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #5
	M.2.2	Expand and formalize the existing parking at the north park entrance with concrete curb, sidewalk, portable restroom enclosure, and park entrance sign	$70,000 to $90,000		•		CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4
Focus Area #3	M.3.1	Develop a new park entrance off Minnetonka Blvd to accommodate shelter and water access users, including a parking lot with concrete curb, sidewalks, four-season restroom, park entrance signage and plantings, and trail connection to the creek trail	$400,000 to $500,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4, GP #5
	M.3.2	Design and install (1) reservable picnic shelter with sidewalk connections to primary trail, include charcoal grills, and electrical service	$70,000 to $100,000		•		CIP Item	GP #2, GP #3, GP #4, GP #5
Focus Area #4	M.4.1	Consider performing a planning study to explore the future extension of a greenway trail along Minnehaha Creek to connect to Minnetonka Mills Park, with mixed-use redevelopment oriented towards the greenway, improved pedestrian connectivity and safety, and enhanced housing and retail development opportunities	$50,000 to $75,000		•		CIP Item	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4, GP #5
	M.4.2	Extend gravel primary trail loop connection along Minnehaha Creek to Area 3 amenities; consider vegetative screening to mitigate impacts to residential properties across the creek	$75,000 to $150,000	•			Staff Project Implementation	GP #2, GP #3
Park-wide	P.1	Add wayfinding signage at key locations throughout the park	$20,000 to $40,000		•		Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #2, GP #4, GP #5
	P.2	Add interpretive signage at key locations throughout the park	$20,000 to $40,000			•	Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #1, GP #2, GP #4, GP #5
	P.3	Asset management	$80,000+	•			Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4, GP #5

Long-Term Recommendations (11 to 15+ years)

GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5

#	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Prioritization			Action Type	Associated Guiding Principles
			High	Med	Low		
Focus Area #1							
L.1.1	Renovate the softball concourse by separating grade to create ADA compliant slopes and mitigate drainage issues, including concrete paving, stairs, sidewalk connections, and sloped planting area with shade trees and seating	$100,000 to $250,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5
L.1.2A	Renovate the baseball concourse to mitigate failing pavement and drainage issues, and enhance overall aesthetics, including concrete paving, area drains, and planting areas with shade trees and seating	$200,000 to $300,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5
L.1.2B	Replace concessions building with a modern structure that meets user needs and matches other park buildings	$500,000 to $1,000,000+			•	CIP Item	GP #1 GP #5
L.1.2C	Replace equipment storage building with a modern structure that meets operational needs and matches other park buildings	$300,000 to $500,000		•		CIP Item	GP #1 GP #5
L.1.3	Renovate and expand playground with rubber surfacing and multi-age play equipment	$200,000 to $400,000	•			CIP Item	GP #3 GP #4 GP #5
L.1.4	Convert turf grass to lower maintenance native grasses and forbs in lawn areas not used for gathering or recreation to reduce mowing and enhance aesthetics and habitat	$20,000 to $40,000			•	Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #1 GP #3 GP #5
Focus Area #2							
L.2.1	Convert informal footpath to primary trail to provide accessible loop connection between north park entrance and Saint Albans Mill Road pedestrian entrance	$140,000 to $180,000	•			CIP Item	GP #1 GP #2 GP #3 GP #4
Focus Area #3							
L.3.1	Design and install a second pedestrian bridge crossing over Minnehaha Creek to expand trail connectivity	$200,000 to $300,000	•			CIP Item	GP #2 GP #3 GP #5
L.3.2	Design and install (2) more reservable picnic shelters with sidewalk connections to primary trails, include charcoal grills, and electrical service	$150,000 to $200,000		•		CIP Item	GP #2 GP #3 GP #4 GP #5

Long-Term Recommendations (11 to 15+ years)



Park-wide

#	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Prioritization			Action Type	Associated Guiding Principles
			High	Med	Low		
P.1	Add wayfinding signage at key locations throughout the park	$20,000 to $40,000		•		Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #2, GP #4, GP #5
P.2	Add interpretive signage at key locations throughout	$20,000 to $40,000			•	Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #1, GP #2, GP #4, GP #5
P.3	Asset management	$80,000+	•			Ongoing Staff Implementation	GP #1, GP #2, GP #3, GP #4, GP #5

06 Design Standards

As stated in the 2022 POST System Plan, "the city's park system is fundamental to community building, environmental and economic sustainability, health and well-being, and creating stronger connections to community destinations." To preserve the city's mission and values, as well as the historical integrity of Big Willow Park, the planning team developed a series of responsible landscape design standards to act as a guideline for any future site work, restoration projects, or new construction.

The following pages of this chapter provide a set of parameters to follow as park managers and city staff make design decisions regarding hardscape surfaces, softscape elements and more within the park. These parameters will serve as a user manual for the city to utilize as they consult on recommendations for standard materials, construction details, and policy language.

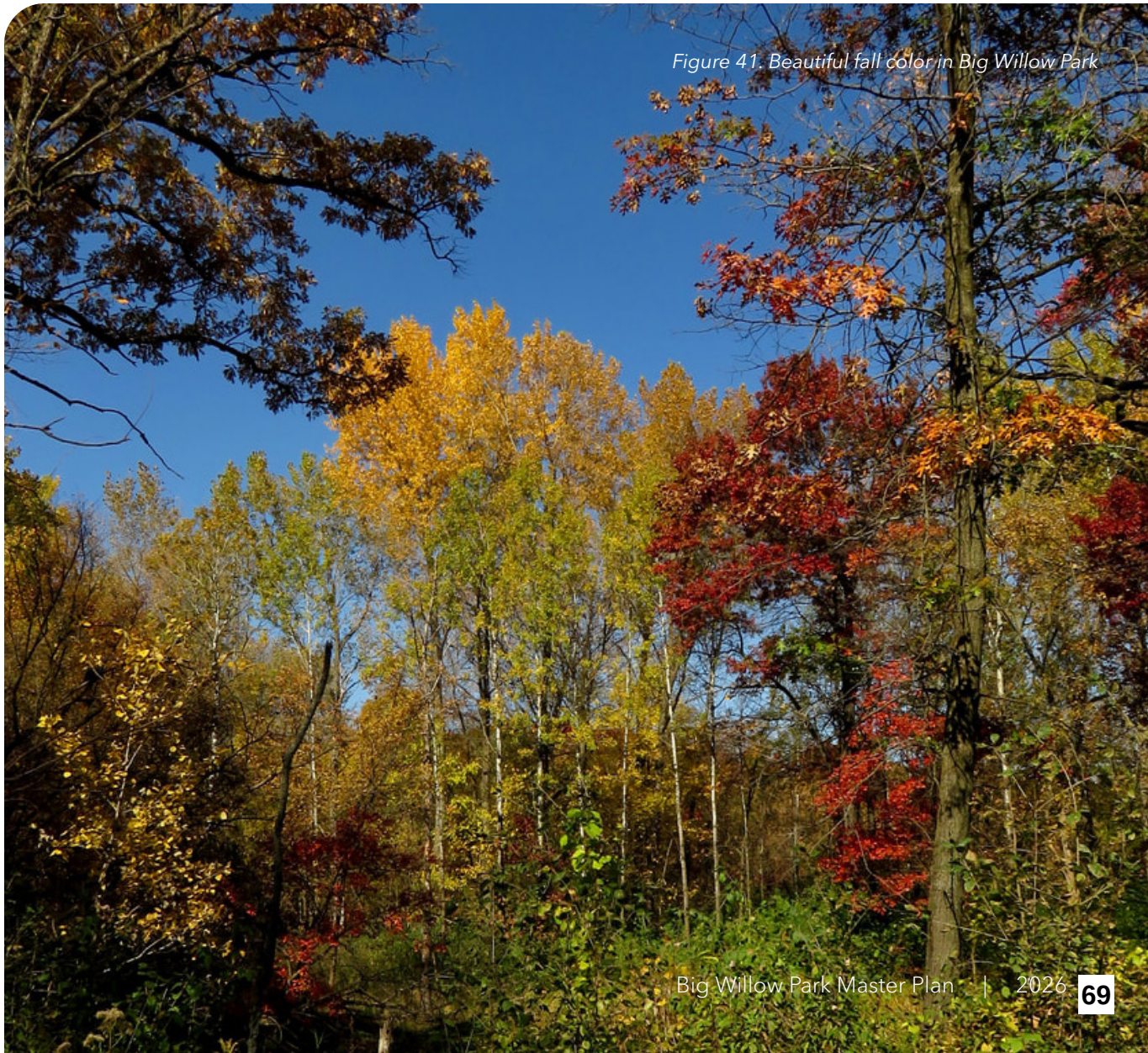


Figure 41. Beautiful fall color in Big Willow Park



Overview

Figure 42. A view through the main wetland area in summer

Key Takeaways

- This section of the report provides clear guidance for future park improvements, as well as promotes consistency and long-term maintenance by establishing recommended materials, details, unit costs, and anticipated lifecycles for common park elements

To adequately prepare Big Willow Park for any potential improvements in the next ten to fifteen years, design standards for a variety of site features/elements have been developed. These site features/elements include:

+ Primary + Informal Trails
+ Boardwalks, Bridges + Stairs
+ Creek Access + Bank Stabilization
+ Retaining Walls
+ Buildings
+ Parking
+ Signage
+ Trailside Benches

The design standards included in the following pages are introduced with a text summary and supplemented with supporting graphics consisting of images, standard construction details or informational tables, anticipated unit costs for implementation, and estimated life cycles. This information is intended to help city staff maintain consistency of treatments throughout Big Willow Park, to budget and plan for potential improvement projects, and to provide a high-quality park setting.

Implementation of these standards should be reviewed by appropriate agencies to ensure they conform to any regulatory requirements that may be present. These agencies include but are not limited to:

+ City of Minnetonka
+ Hennepin County
+ Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
+ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Primary + Informal Trails

Trail Development Process

To improve trail connectivity and accessibility throughout Big Willow Park, the city will likely develop future primary and informal trails in various locations. Fortunately, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Sustainable Trail Guidelines (2012) document provides a series of planning steps and activities to keep in mind during trail development. They include:

- Identify Trail Design Team
  - + The trail design team's primary purpose is to serve as advisors and reviewers during the trail planning, design, and construction process
  - + A trail design team generally consists of park landscape architects, park engineers, natural resource and restoration planners, and trail maintenance supervisors

- Determine Intent of Trail
  - + Determine the trail development level and its intended use to guide its planning and design

- Perform a General Site Assessment for Trail Alignment
  - + Conduct a site visit at the proposed trail area to identify challenges and opportunities for general alignment
  - + Identify sensitive areas and pertinent issues specific to the site that need to be addressed during its design and construction

- Develop Initial Site and Trail Plan
  - + Develop an initial site trail plan as a result of assessment of general conditions, field surveys, and consultation with the trail design team
  - + Develop final general layout site plan and general cost estimate

- Flag the Trail Alignment Corridor
  - + Flag the proposed trail layout in the field
  - + Review the layout for cultural and ecological considerations

- Finalize Construction Plan
  Finalize specifications, cost estimates, construction techniques, and equipment guidance

- Construct Trail
- Formalize Management and Maintenance Plan
  - + Identify the schedule and staffing and/or volunteers needed for maintenance and monitoring

Trail Placement Considerations

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Sustainable Design Standards (2007) and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Sustainable Trail Guidelines (2012) documents, it is important to consider the following ecological principles of sustainable trail design when placing and maintaining trails:

- + **Avoid sensitive areas where a rare and/or endangered plant or animal species may exist**
- + **Avoid seasonal nesting or roosting areas** (consider bats, birds, and reptiles common to the area, see the HMP for known species)
- + **Avoid placements in sensitive hydrologic areas and provide buffers where feasible**
- + **Develop trails in areas already influenced by human activity**

+ **Use best management practices** (BMPs) **for stormwater management**
+ **Provide ongoing maintenance to ensure trails remain functional**
+ **Formally decommission unsustainable trail corridors**

If sensitive habitats exist within the trail planning area, the establishment of buffers based on habitat sensitivity should be developed where trails are excluded, where temporary seasonal closures would be required, and where limitations on seasonal construction exist.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) requires buffer zones around wetlands and public waters to help protect water quality and manage stormwater. The specific buffer width can vary depending on several factors, including the sensitivity of the water body, the slope of the land, and soil erodibility. Trail locations should be established outside of the wetland buffer zone whenever feasible. If a trail is constructed within a wetland, a boardwalk system is recommended.

Additional considerations when developing new trails or improving existing trails include vegetation and disturbed/developed areas. New and existing trails should avoid areas under restoration or containing high-quality ecosystems with high diversity and quality; the alignment of trails should reduce fragmentation of existing blocks of woodlands whenever possible. Where trails are proposed in disturbed or previously developed areas, there are a number of considerations to keep in mind, including:

+ **Presence of utilities**
+ **Established right of ways**
+ **Presence of cultural or archaeological significance**
+ **Presence of hazardous materials or contaminated conditions**

If a trail is to be closed or a section of it is to be relocated, the closed/old trail should be restored to a condition that is consistent with the site's natural resources. Included below are recommended steps to take when reverting a trail to a natural condition and avoiding the continued use of the trail:

+ **Tilling or scarifying the retired tread so that new plants can seed themselves (tilling at least 2" deep is recommended)**
+ **Planting or transplanting from the old route native species to avoid invasive plant issues**
+ **Disguising and blocking the corridor with leaf litter or other natural material to eliminate the visual corridor and the risk of continual use on the closed section of trail**

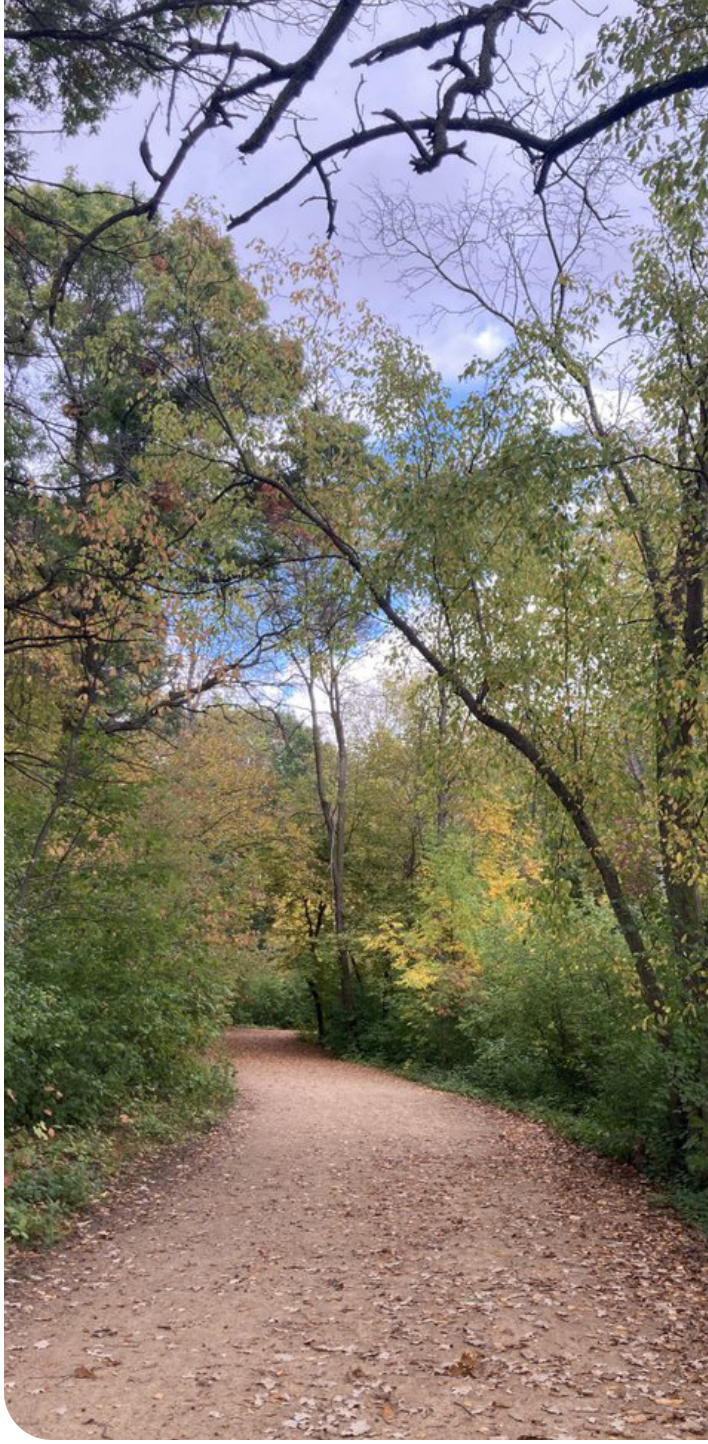


Figure 43. Trail in wooded area

Design Guidance for Primary and Informal Trails			
		Primary Trails	Informal Trails
Trail Width		8′	12″ - 24″
Tread Surface/Material		Crushed limestone, asphalt, or permeable stabilized materials (surface must be stable and firm)	Earthen trail consisting of native soil with possible rock amendment, grading only to shed water
Trail Grade	Target Range	<4%; where greater than 4%, alternative materials to aggregate should be considered in design and maintenance	<18%
	Short Pitch Max	Up to 8% is allowed but must follow ADA ramp requirements, including handrails and resting places	25%
	Max Pitch Density	<3% of trail	<5% of trail
Cross-Slope	Target Range	3% - 5%	5% -10%
	Max		Up to natural side-slope
Design Clearing	Width	24″ outside of trail edge	6″ - 12″ outside of tread edge
	Height	8′ - 9′	6′
Design Turns	Radius	8′ - 12′	No minimum
Constructed Features + Trail Elements		Structures are present and substantial. Trail infrastructure meets ADA requirements. Substantial trail bridges are used at water crossings. Drainage structures are present.	Structures are minimal to non-existent; where they do exist, they are limited in size, scale, and number. Structures are present where protection of trail infrastructure and resources are needed. Natural drainage and infiltration practices are utilized. Primitive foot crossing where applicable.
Trail Amenities		Amenities exist for safety and resource protection and visitor services. Trailheads/Visitor Services are present with full amenities.	None/Limited/Infrequent for safety and resource protection purposes. Trailheads/Visitor Services limited.
Trail Signage		Regulation, resource protection, directional and park informational/ interpretive signs	Minimum for basic direction (trail markers or trail intersection signs) and resource protection (informational/interpretive signs)
Trail Management		High use, especially for users with minimal skill and experience. Easy travel with no/very limited challenges. Fully accessible.	Low level use. Trails challenging and typically for mid- to highly-skilled users. Limited accessible use.
Trail Maintenance Indicators and Intensity		Routine annual maintenance. Condition improvement maintenance typically performed annually. Targeted high-level of accessibility. Trail prepared for earliest opportunity to use in-season. Maintenance in response to reports of unusual resource problems requiring repair/ resource protection/trail safety	Routine annual maintenance. Maintenance in response to reports of unusual resource problems requiring repair/resource protection/trail safety.

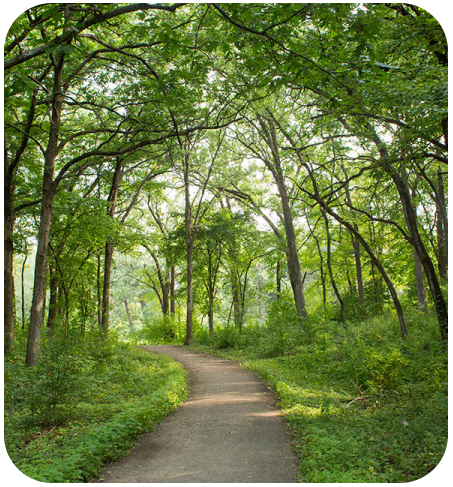
Bituminous Trail (Primary)



Unit Cost	$40/square yard
Anticipated Life Cycle	15 years

Figure 44. Bituminous trail

Limestone/Aggregate Trail (Primary)



Unit Cost	$175/cubic yard
Anticipated Life Cycle	10 years

Figure 45. Limestone/aggregate trail

Typical Section: Trail Construction in Flat Locations

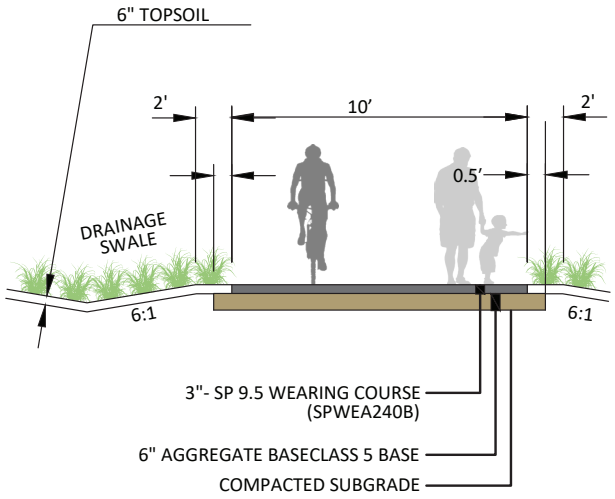


Figure 46. Typical detail of trail construction in flat locations

Typical Section: Trail Construction in Side Slope Locations

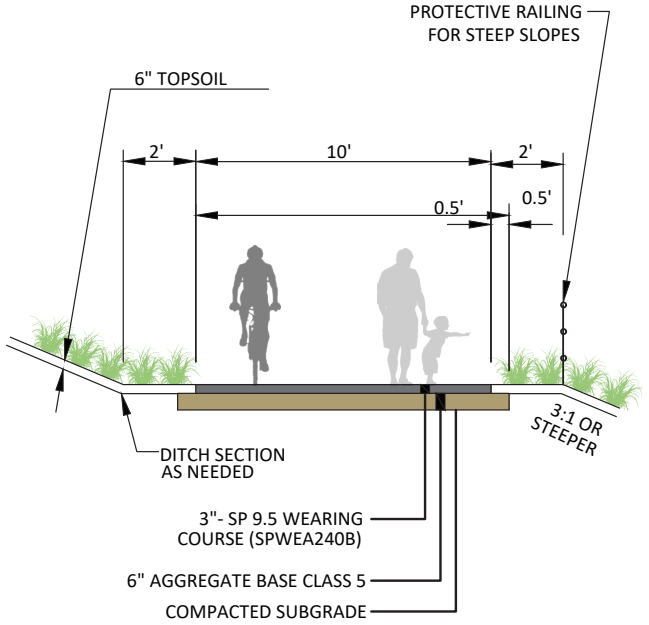


Figure 47. Typical detail of trail construction in side slope locations

Notes

Provide 2′ clear zone adjacent to trail free of fixed obstructions.

If crushed limestone trail construction, place 3" crushed limestone in place of bituminous, and Class A aggregate base in place of Class 5.

Crushed limestone to be 3/8" limestone screenings, compacted to 95%.

Boardwalks, Bridges + Stairs

Boardwalks

Big Willow Park does not currently feature any boardwalks, although there was one across the main wetland area many years ago. Because of the park's location along Minnehaha Creek and its many wetlands, two boardwalk systems have been proposed to facilitate access to emergent wetland zones—one in the north portion of the park and another across the northern portion of the main wetland area—thereby reducing the development of unauthorized trails that might cause damage to existing natural resources.

The CUVA Sustainable Trail Guidelines document splits wetlands into three categories, differentiated by the amount of wildlife habitat and hydrological and recreational functions they support. See the table on the next page for more information about each category.

If a trail is constructed within a wetland, a boardwalk system is recommended. However, designing a boardwalk system involves several important guidelines, recommendations, and considerations to keep in mind. These include:

+ Elevate above ordinary high-water level (maintain existing wetland hydrology)
+ Plan the route to avoid critical plant species and wildlife nesting areas
+ Minimize the width of the boardwalk tread to reduce overall footprint (the minimum boardwalk width should be 5' to allow two-way movement for pedestrians)
+ Use helical piles to limit disturbance of wetland soils and the root systems of sensitive plants
+ Limit the number and size of pilings needed for excavation
+ Use weather-resistant, sustainable materials that will not leach harmful chemicals into the wetland
+ Engage an engineer to develop a boardwalk system that can support expected loads
+ Consider railings, materials, and styles based on the level of use, ADA requirements, and the proximity and characteristics of the trail
+ Take into account the cultural landscape and historic characteristics of the area
+ Develop an operation and maintenance plan and a regular inspection schedule to ensure the boardwalk remains safe and in good condition

Additionally, trail or boardwalk construction in or near wetlands should consider the following practices to minimize impacts to aquatic resources:

+ If feasible, construct during winter
+ Minimize width of temporary access roads for construction access

The integration of designated birdwatching platforms with seating and screening—as well as interpretive signage about the local ecosystem, bird species, ongoing conservation efforts, and more—should be considered in the boardwalk design at both locations. A variety of wildlife is known to thrive in Big Willow Park, including Great Blue Heron, American Egret, Merganser, Blue Wing Teal, Trumpeter Swan, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Wood and Mallard ducks, mink, beaver, and muskrat.

Bridges

Bridges should be used to facilitate circulation over streams, rivers, and other waterways. Big Willow Park features one pedestrian bridge crossing over Minnehaha Creek, which is the only way visitors can get from the south portion of the park to the north portion of the park. Located just west of the main wetland area (near the railroad underpass), the bridge can be classified as a timber bridge.

In the near future, the city plans to replace the existing timber bridge with a new, realigned pre-fabricated bridge, which will resolve accessibility concerns that currently exist at each end of the bridge.

In order to enhance connectivity and create more trail loop opportunities, two additional bridge crossings have been proposed in this plan.

Based on the CUVA Sustainable Trail Guidelines, further considerations for the construction and implementation of bridges include:

+ The scale, width and materials for structures should be compatible with trail use, trail experience and minimizing resource impacts
+ Span of bridges should aim not to install piers or footers into waterway
+ Spans greater than 24 feet should examine alternate material from wood to maintain its long-term sustainability
+ A minimum bridge width should match the width of the trail
+ Railings, materials and styles should be considered for the level of use, ADA requirements, proximity and characteristics of trail
+ Cultural landscape and historic characteristics of the area should be considered
+ Trail approach slopes should not exceed trail design standards
+ Clearances from normal water levels under bridges should meet jurisdictional requirements and allow safe passage of paddle craft.

Stairs

When site constraints prevent trail construction at or less than the maximum sustainable grade (assume 15%) by using curvilinear alignments or turns, steps can be an appropriate design solution. Additionally, steps may be a favorable design option when the existing ground material where trail construction is planned isn't stable enough to retain its form without containment, or where large obstacles such as tree roots and rocks must be built over, instead of through. Trail steps can be constructed in long continuous runs, or in shorter segments with standard trail construction connections between.

While stairs are a viable solution to addressing grade issues on the park's trail system, it is recommended that trail alignment alternatives be explored that don't require this more intrusive and costly intervention. In addition to cost considerations, trail stairs are often seen as detracting from the natural environment that they are set in and intended to provide access to.

Pre-Fabricated Steel + Timber Bridge



Figure 48. Pre-fabricated bridge example in Purgatory Park

Unit Cost	Contech Continental Pedestrian Bridge*		
	Options	40'x8' Span (Weathered Steel w/ Wood Decking)	$50,000
		50'x8' Span (Weathered Steel w/ Wood Decking)	$60,000
	Abutments		$20,000
	Install		$30,000

Anticipated Life Cycle	Wood decking = 20-25 years
	Overall structure = 50+ years
Contact Information	Jake Vogel - Senior Bridge Consultant Contech Engineered Solutions jake.vogel@conteches.com
General Bridge Design Notes	1) Bridge design is Connector Truss style bridge with underhung floor beam 2) Bridge design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.

Timber Stairs



Figure 49. Example of timber stairs with paver treads



Figure 50. Example of full timber construction

General Stair Design Notes

1) Where soils and site conditions allow for excavation, utilize timber construction with paver treads.

2) Where poor soils, or obstacles such as roots, rocks or other prevent on-grade construction, use a raised construction method using full timber construction.

Anticipated Life Cycle

Wood framing and decking = 20-25 years

Timber Boardwalk



Figure 51. MAC Nature Center Area and boardwalk in Crystal, MN

Unit Cost	Helical Pier	Each	$1,500	Assume 2 piers every 10' of length
	Concrete Abutment	Each	$ 7,500	At start and end of boardwalk segment
	Boardwalk	Square Feet	$40	Timber frame and decking construction, rated for lightweight maintenance vehicles/snow removal
Anticipated Life Cycle		30 years		
Notes	Boardwalk design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.			

Typical Section: Boardwalk Abutment

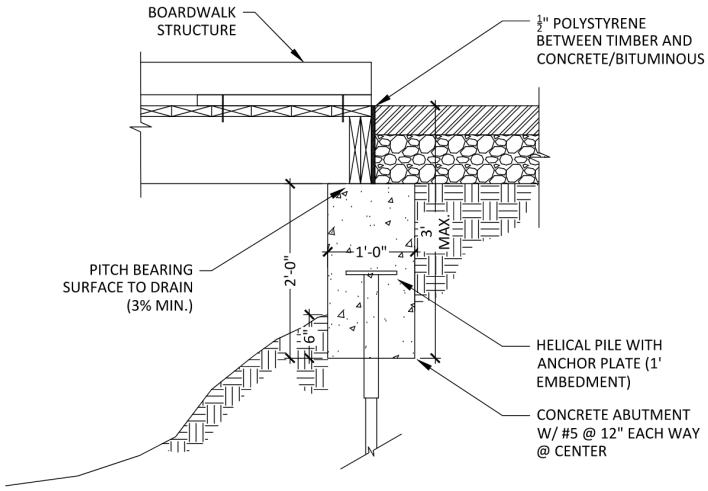


Figure 52. Typical section of boardwalk abutment

Typical Section: Boardwalk Structure

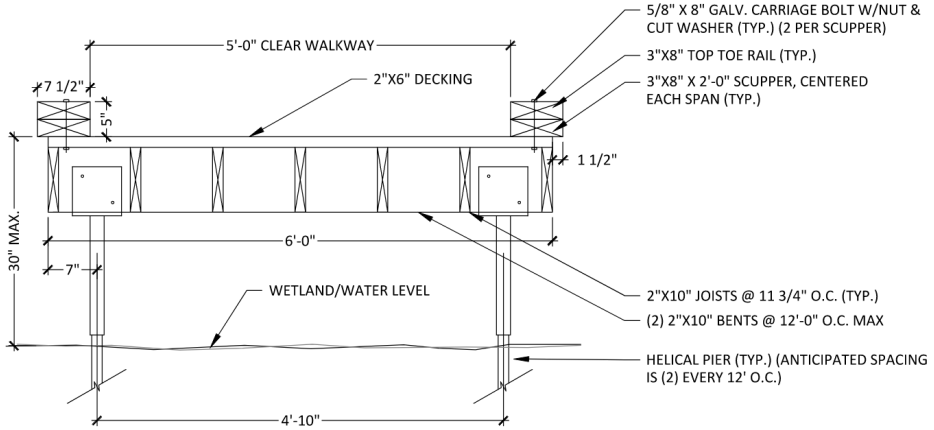


Figure 53. Typical section of boardwalk structure

Creek Access + Bank Stabilization

Minnehaha Creek is both an ecological and recreational asset to Big Willow Park. The creek acts a natural filter for pollutants, reduces flooding, and provides habitat to local wildlife, while also providing a route for kayakers, canoers, and paddle boarders to float down and enjoy. Although kayakers and paddle boarders can be seen floating down the creek during warm summer months, Big Willow Park does not have any formal (or accessible) creek access locations. To improve access to Minnehaha Creek and resolve existing erosion and flooding issues, the city will need to stabilize the creek's banks.

It is important to note that any improvements to Minnehaha Creek must comply with Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's permitting requirements, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources guidelines, and city ordinances. Additionally, to identify critical habitats, invasive species, and erosion-prone areas, environmental assessments will need to be conducted.

To minimize disturbance, access points should be located where bank slopes are gentle and soils are stable. Especially near trail intersections and informal access points where creek banks experience the most seasonal flooding and erosion, natural stabilization methods should be implemented. Some techniques include:

+ **Biostabilization**
+ **Native plantings**
+ **Strategic placement of rip-rap at high-flow bends**

When it comes to the design of a creek access point, there are a few details to consider:

+ **ADA compliance**
  - Path slopes should be no higher than 5% and have clear width for accessibility
+ **Durable and permeable materials**
  - Crushed stone or stabilized aggregate reduced runoff and blends in with the natural setting
+ **Safety features**
  - Integration of railings, signage and defined edges



Figure 54. Minnehaha Creek

Stone Revetment



Figure 55. Terraced limestone block revetment at creek bank

Unit Cost	$250/square foot
Anticipated Life Cycle	50 years
Notes	Wall design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.

Typical Section:

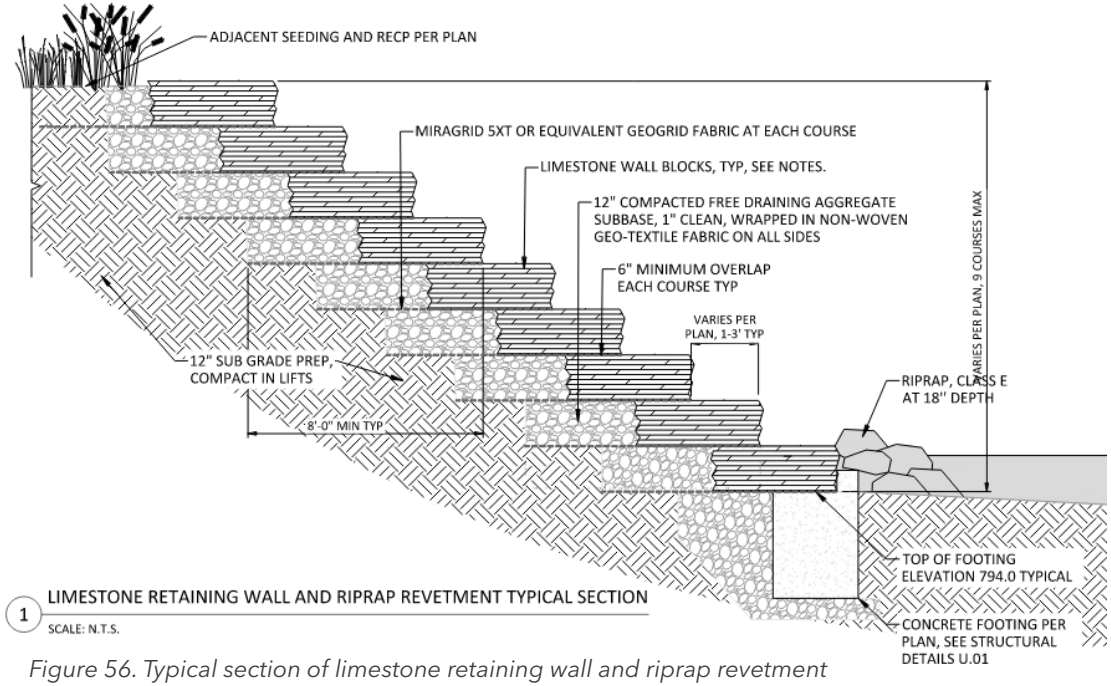


Figure 56. Typical section of limestone retaining wall and riprap revetment

Creek Access (Boat Launch)



Figure 57. Example of potential boat launch design

Unit Cost	$300/square yard
Anticipated Life Cycle	40 years

Typical Section:

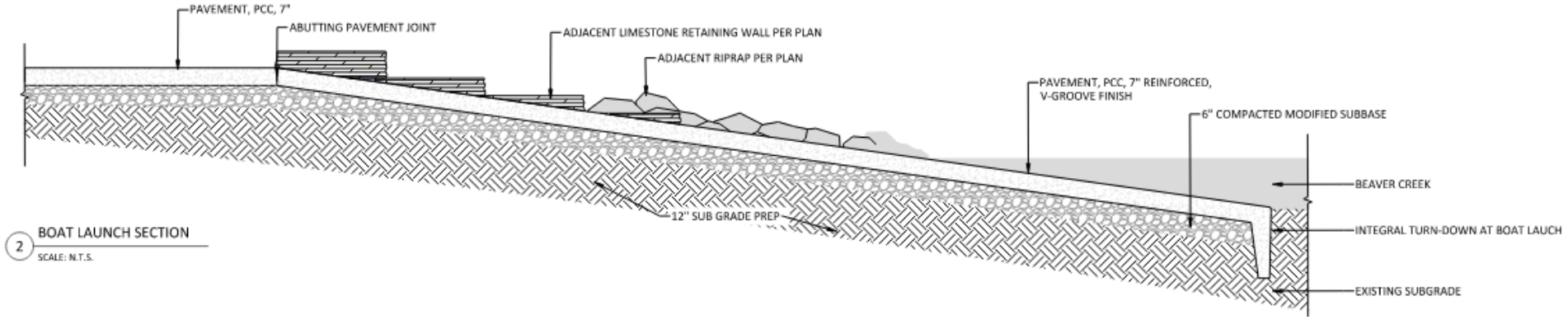


Figure 58. Typical section of boat launch

Biostabilization



Figure 59. Example of creek bank stabilization at Ravina Park (South Bend, Indiana)

Unit Cost	$175/square yard
Anticipated Life Cycle	30 years

Typical Section:

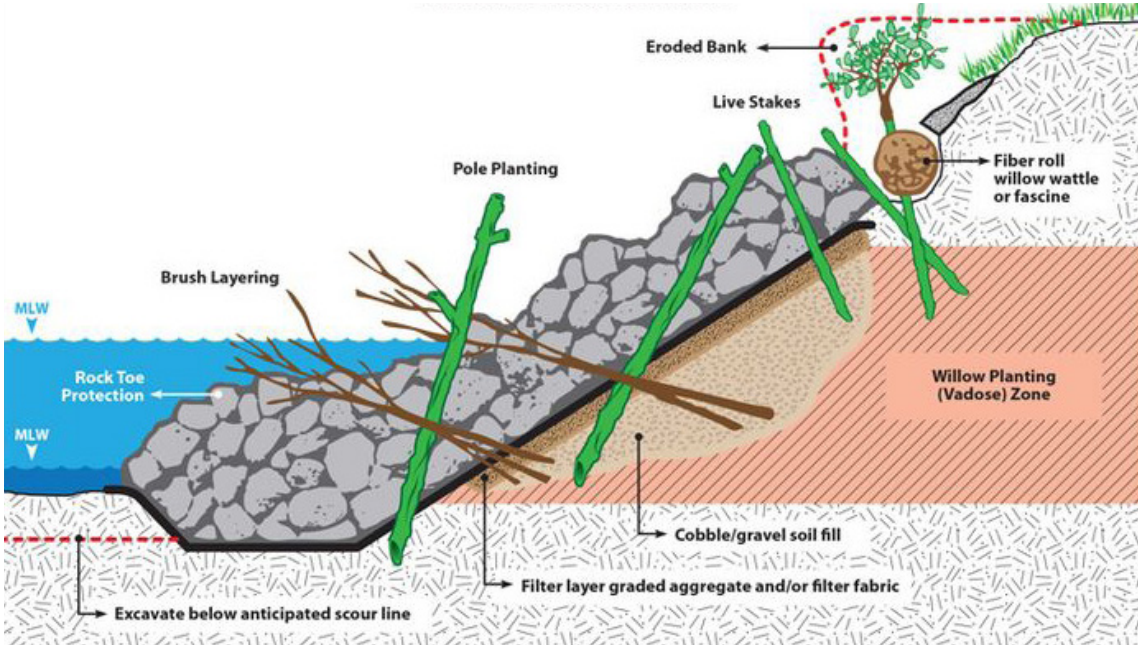


Figure 60. Typical section of stream bank biostabilization design

Retaining Walls

Throughout Big Willow Park, three types of retaining walls are used to manage grade changes and prevent erosion: timber walls, modular block segmental walls, and big block segmental walls. Because each wall type offers specific benefits and challenges, there are several considerations the city must make when selecting and constructing retaining walls, including aesthetics, structural integrity, environmental impact, and long-term maintenance.

Timber walls blend well into park landscapes and are best suited for low-height (typically under 4 feet) applications. However, they are susceptible to decay and insect damage if not pressure-treated and rated for ground contact. This type of retaining wall is used exclusively to the west of the soccer pitch as a terraced seating area.

Modular block segmental walls are durable, versatile, and easy to install due to their interlocking concrete blocks that rely on gravity for stability. This retaining wall type is appropriate for walls over 4 feet but must have a well-compacted gravel base, geogrid reinforcement, and proper drainage to truly be successful.

Another benefit to this wall type is that they are offered in a number of colors and textures. Modular block segmental walls are used throughout the athletic complex portion of the park.

Big block segmental walls are perfect for large grade changes and often exceed 6 feet in height. Because of their size, they require heavy equipment for installation and work well in high-traffic areas. Similar to modular block segmental walls, this retaining wall type needs proper drainage and geogrid reinforcement for best results. Big block segmental walls are also used throughout the athletic complex portion of the park.

Adhering to proper design standards like drainage, structural reinforcement, frost protection, and safety will be important as the city begins to replace existing retaining walls that are reaching the end of their useful lifecycle.



Figure 61. Big block segmental wall near the soccer pitch

Timber Wall



Figure 62. Timber retaining walls west of the soccer pitch

Unit Cost	$60/square foot of wall face
Anticipated Life Cycle	20 years

Typical Section:

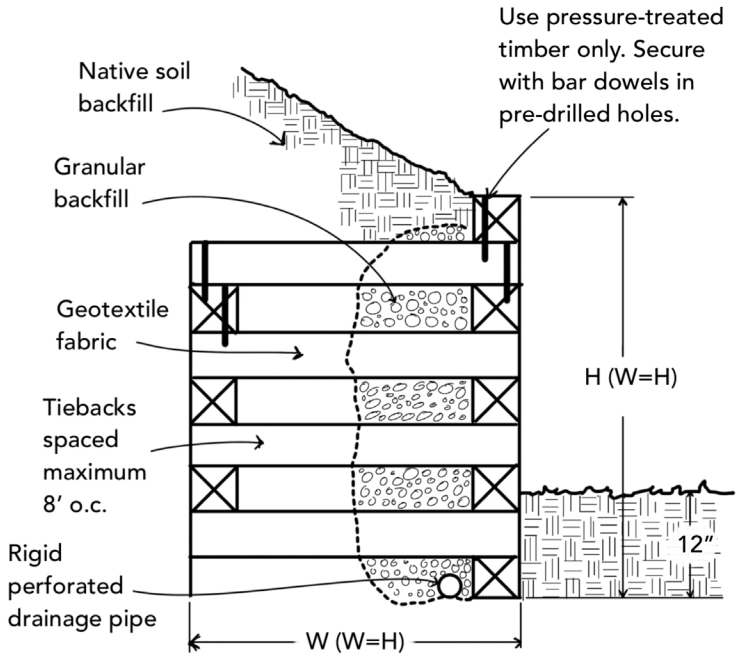


Figure 63. Typical section of timber retaining wall

Notes	Wall design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.

Modular Block Segmental Wall



Figure 64. Modular block segmental wall just north of the softball fields

Unit Cost	$100/square foot of wall face
Anticipated Life Cycle	50 years

Typical Section:

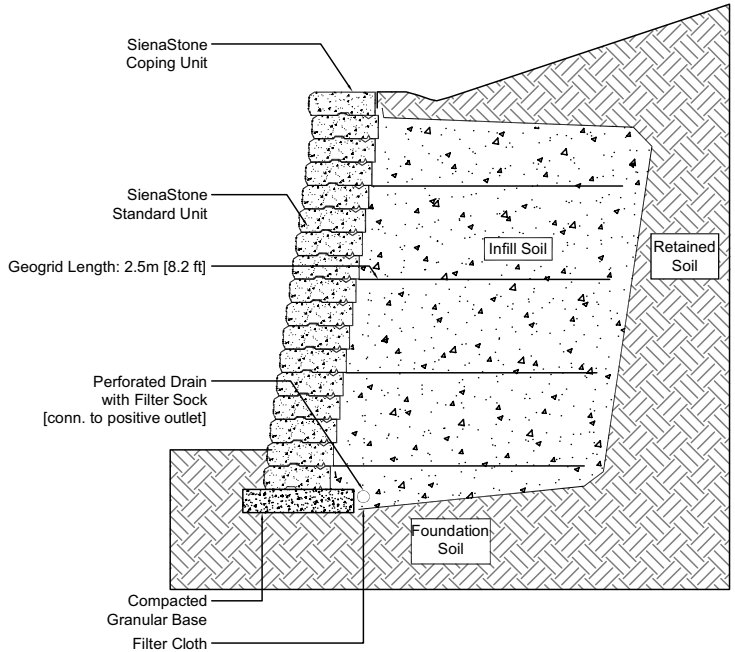


Figure 65. Typical section of modular segmental retaining wall

Notes	Wall design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.

Big Block Segmental Wall



Figure 66. Example of block segmental wall at Petoskey State Park

Unit Cost	$125/square foot of wall face
Anticipated Life Cycle	50 years

Typical Section:

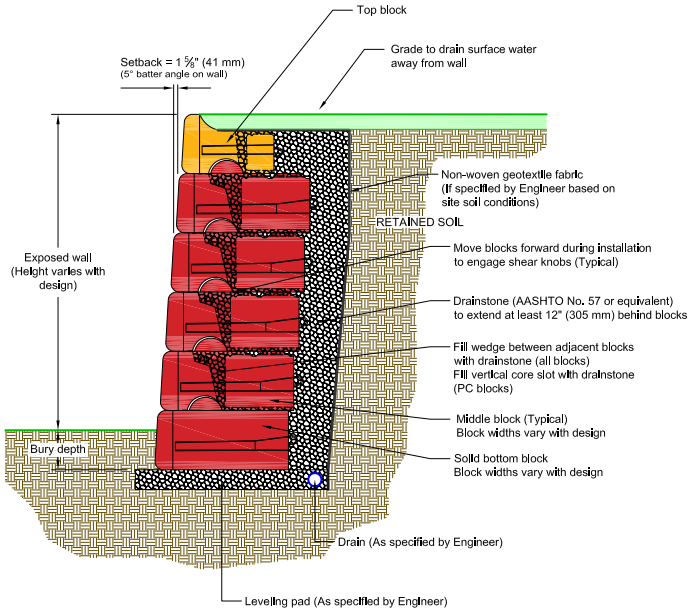


Figure 67. Typical section of big block segmental wall

Notes	Wall design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.

Granite Boulder Wall



Figure 68. Example of granite boulder wall

Unit Cost	$75/square foot of wall face
Anticipated Life Cycle	50 years

Typical Section:

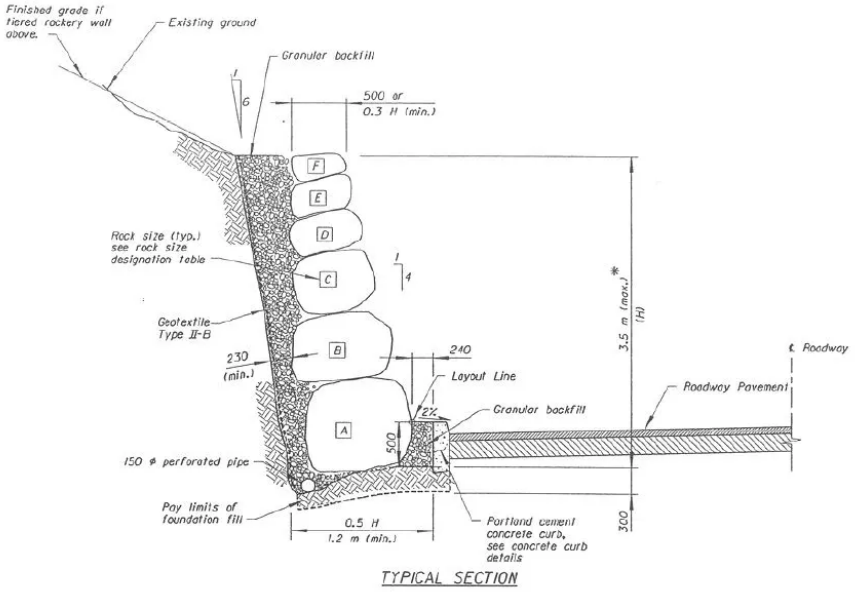


Figure 69. Typical section of granite boulder wall

Notes	Wall design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.

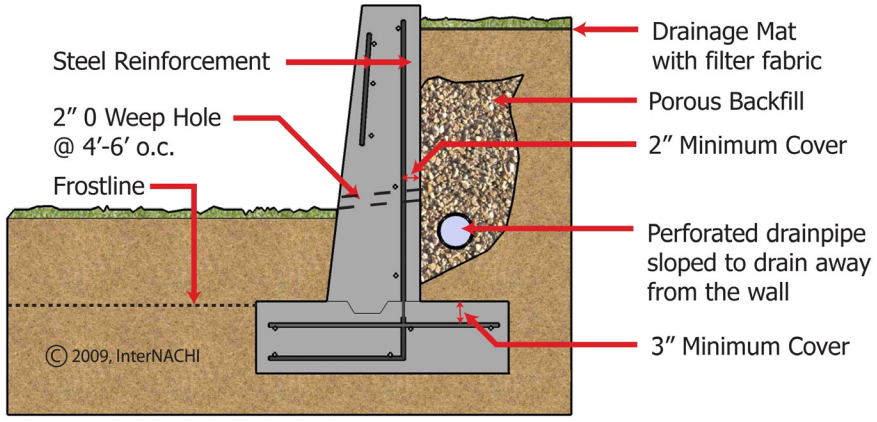
Cast-In-Place Concrete Wall



Figure 70. Example of a cast-in-place wall

Unit Cost	$150/square foot of wall face
Anticipated Life Cycle	75 years

Typical Section:



NOTE: Footing is to extend below the frostline or
2' below the lower grade level; which ever is greater

Figure 71. Typical section of cast-in-place concrete wall

Notes	Wall design should be reviewed by a structural engineer prior to construction. Design may vary based on field conditions.

Buildings

Concessions Building





Figures 72 and 73. Precedent imagery of various concessions buildings

Unit Cost	$500/square foot
Anticipated Life Cycle	50 years

Plumbed Four-Season Restroom



Figure 74. Four-season restroom structure with an open screen and deep roof inspired by the rhythm of trees



Figure 75. Precedent imagery of a four-season timber truss restroom structure

Unit Cost	$250,000 - $375,000
Anticipated Life Cycle	50 years

Portable Restroom Enclosure



Figure 76. Precedent imagery of a portable restroom enclosure



Figure 78. Precedent imagery of a portable restroom enclosure

Unit Cost	$5,000 - $10,000
Anticipated Life Cycle	10-20 years

Reservable Shelter



Figure 77. Precedent imagery of a traditional timber truss shelter



Figure 79. Precedent imagery of a shelter at Crane Lake Preserve

Unit Cost	$60,000 - $100,000
Anticipated Life Cycle	40 years

Parking

There are several parking locations throughout Big Willow Park, although most of them are concentrated in the eastern half of the park. The parking lot east of the playground area is striped and constructed of bituminous surfacing, with concrete curb and gutter edge treatment. The parking lot north of Applewood Pointe along Minnetonka Blvd is also striped and bituminous but does not have concrete curb and gutter edge treatment. The parking stalls in the northern half of the park (along Cedar Rd W) are bituminous, not striped, and also lack concrete curb and gutter edge treatment. In contrast, the rest of the parking areas in Big Willow Park (between the ballfields) are constructed of concrete surfacing, with concrete curb and gutter edge treatment.

These parking lots account for a significant percentage of the impervious surface within the park, and present opportunities to incorporate stormwater quality best management practices (BMPs) that can filter and reduce runoff. Adjacent bioretention rain gardens can help meet parking lot buffer planting requirements while protecting the water quality of Minnehaha Creek.

Standard Parking Lot with Concrete Curb + Gutter and Bituminous Surfacing



Figure 80. Bituminous surfacing with curb and gutter

Unit Cost	Concrete Curb and Gutter	Linear Feet	$30
	Bituminous Paving (with Aggregate Base)	Square Feet	$15
Anticipated Life Cycle		15-20 years	

Bioretention for Water Quality



Figure 81. Bituminous drive with permeable paver parking

Unit Cost	Permeable Paver (with Sub-Base Prep and Drainage Rock	Linear Feet	$30
Anticipated Life Cycle		15-20 years	

Signage

Signage plays a crucial role in the identity and usability of a park. An effective signage system benefits a park in a variety of ways, including:

- + Provides adequate information and direction for proper navigation
- + Encourages interaction and learning experiences
- + Communicates park rules
- + Helps to establish a consistent brand and identity for the park

Park signage can encompass a hierarchy of sign types for differing applications depending on context, including monument/entry signage, interpretive signage, informational signage, wayfinding signage, and more.

Minnetonka developed a comprehensive exterior park signage package back in 2023 that provides clear direction on when and where each signage type should be implemented. The following pages include a selection of signage from that package that is relevant to Big Willow Park.

Entrance Monument: Sign Type A1



Figure 82. Entrance monument sign type A1

Appropriate Use	Primary entrance monument signs are intended to be used as major community parks entrance identification. Signs are placed at major entrance points along roadways. In addition, primary entrance monuments can be placed at secondary or smaller parks where higher speed roadways require signage to be as large as possible in size for maximum visibility and readability due to high speed traffic or surrounding road clutter

Directional Signage: Sign Type B6

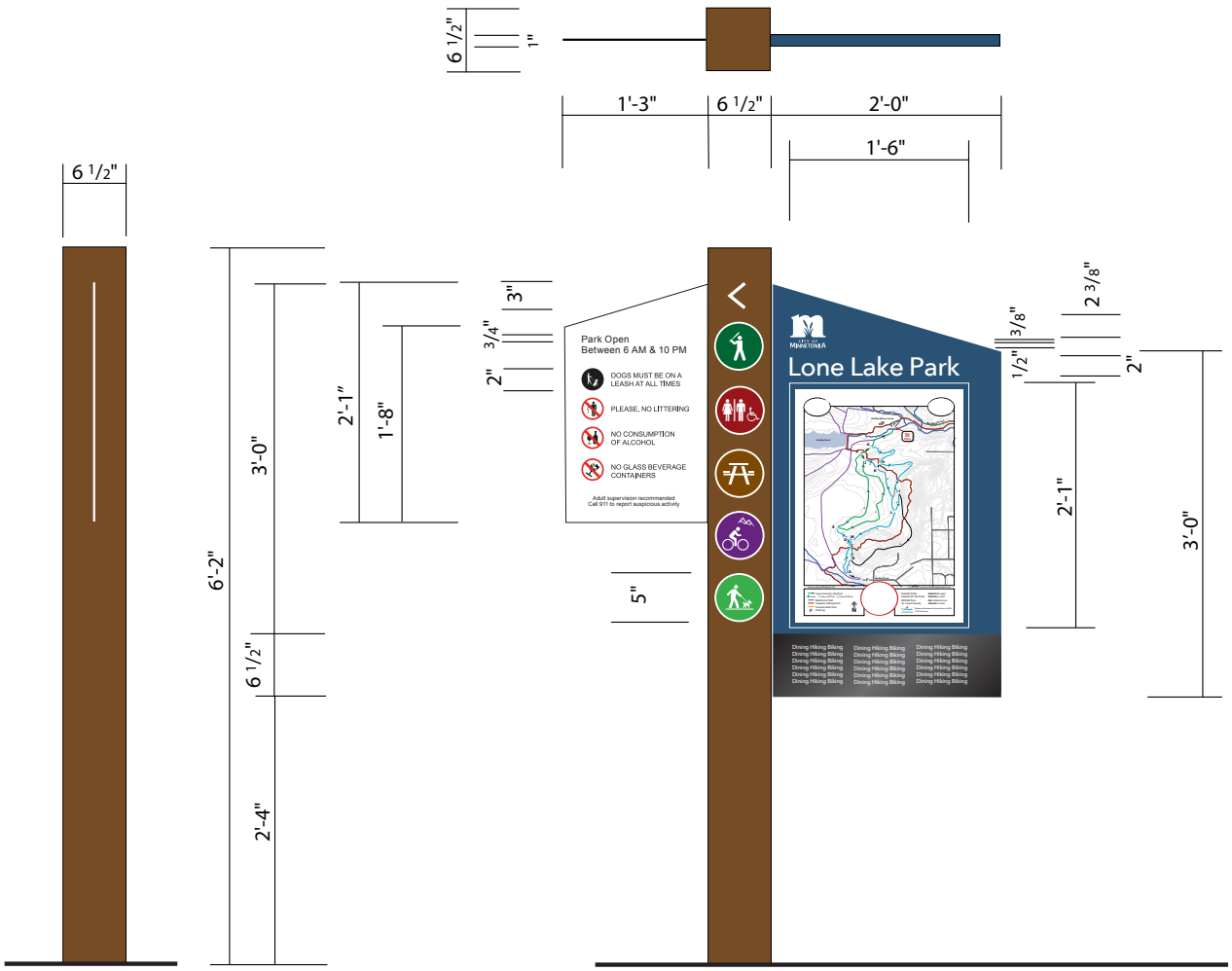
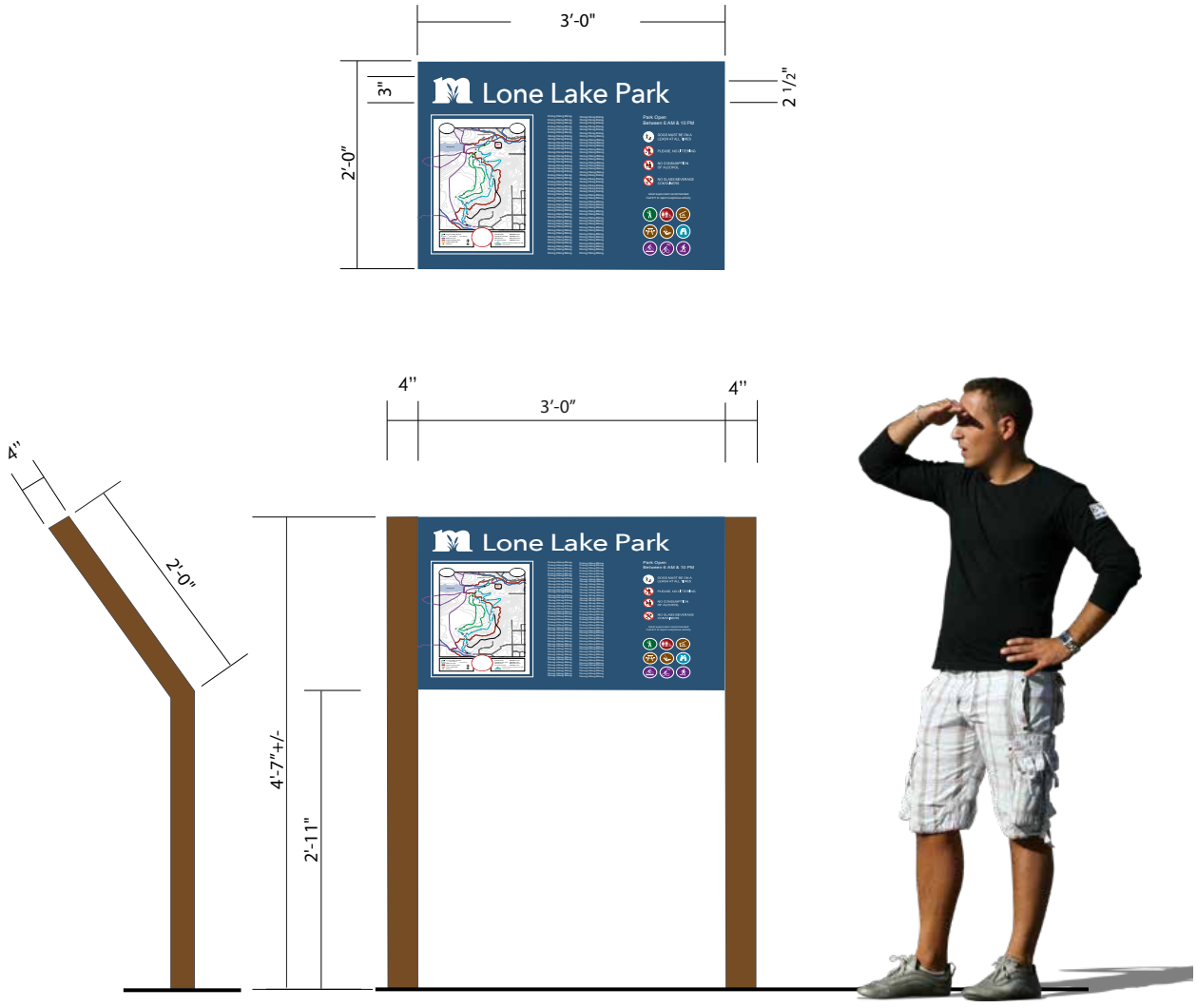


Figure 83. Directional sign type B6

Appropriate Use	Directional and informational signage are to be used throughout the park and trails at decision points for both vehicular and pedestrian wayfinding.

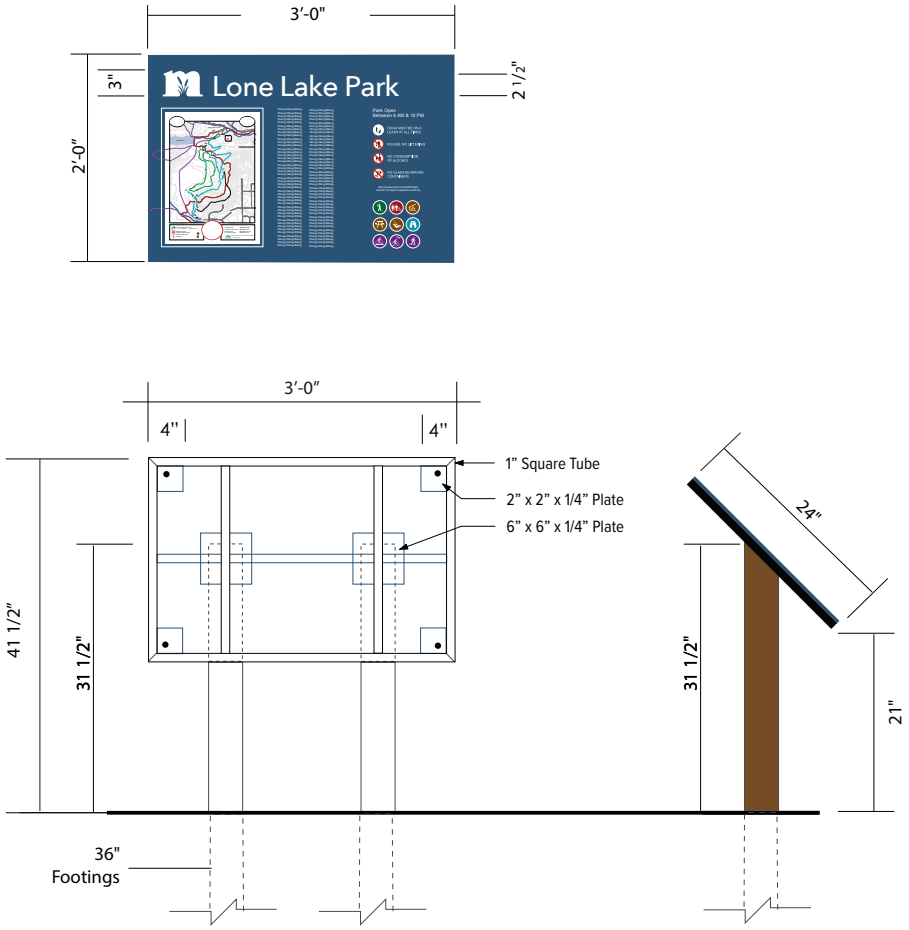
Primary Tabletop: Sign Type E1



Appropriate Use	Informational Signage	Provide pertinent information regarding natural features or specialized information regarding a specific plant, habitat, wildlife, landscapes, gardens, and lakes or ponds. Information signs should be located where information is to be highlighted. Pictograms and photo images can be digitally applied temporarily or long-term with vinyl.
	Primary Tabletop	Utilize for high-visibility and readability without obscuring landscape vistas.

Figure 84. Primary tabletop sign type E1

Secondary Tabletop (LLP Signage/Post): Sign Type E1B

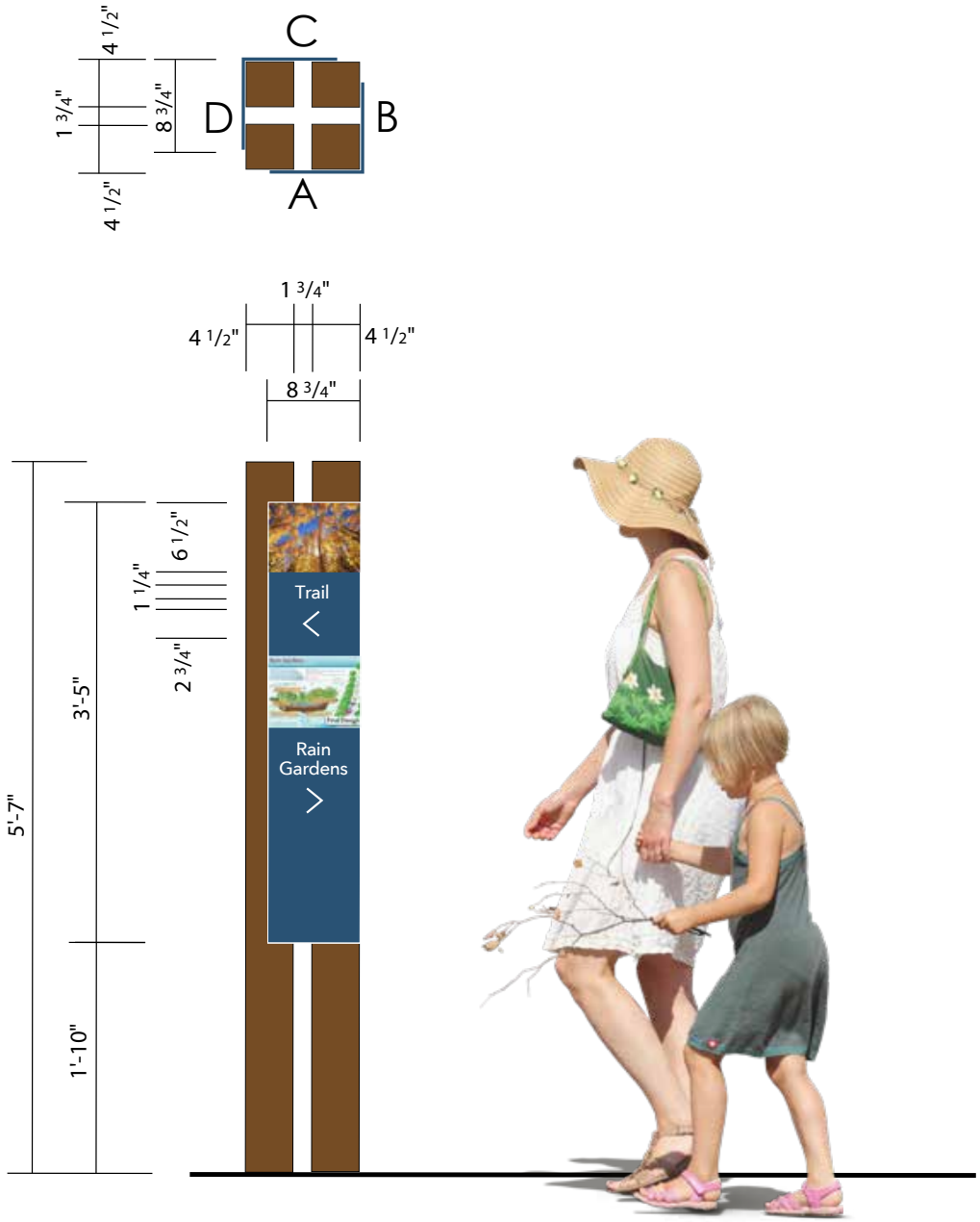




Appropriate Use	Informational Signage	Provide pertinent information regarding natural features or specialized information regarding a specific plant, habitat, wildlife, landscapes, gardens, and lakes or ponds. Information signs should be located where information is to be highlighted. Pictograms and photo images can be digitally applied temporarily or long-term with vinyl.

Figure 85. Secondary tabletop sign/post type E1B

Secondary Flora/Terrain Marker: Sign Type E2



Appropriate Use	Provides a map of the area, with key destinations, park rules, trail and natural area information and photos. In addition, activity pictograms are included and current activities and notices can be posted. These are placed on existing recreation structures and are designed to be larger than the existing framed inset areas on buildings to be surface-mounted covering the areas.

Figure 86. Secondary flora/terrain marker sign type E2

Three to Four Sided Directory: Sign Type E3

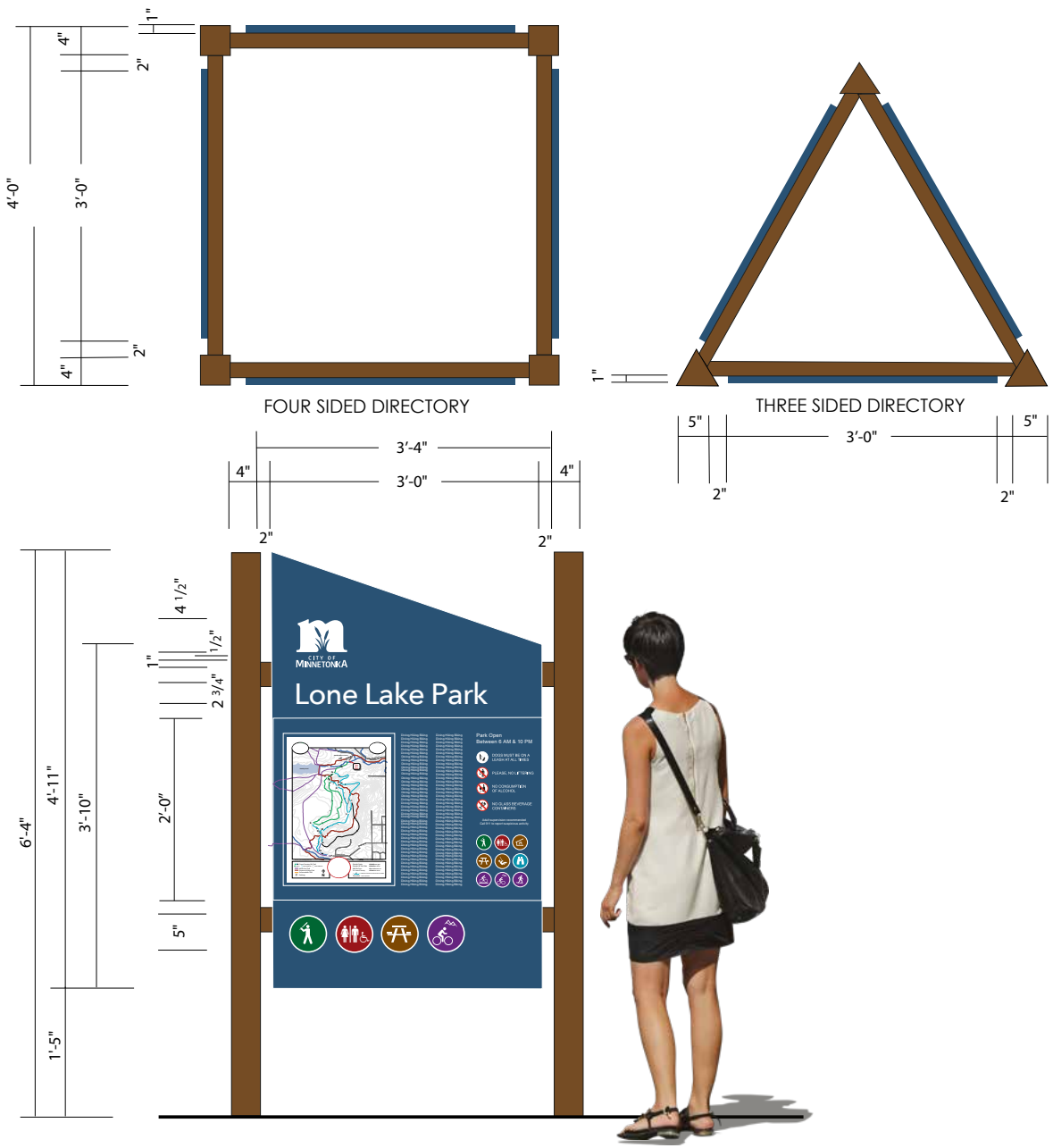


Figure 87. Three to four sided directory sign type E3

Appropriate Use	Informational Signage	Provide pertinent information regarding natural features or specialized information regarding a specific plant, habitat, wildlife, landscapes, gardens, and lakes or ponds. Information signs should be located where information is to be highlighted. Pictograms and photo images can be digitally applied temporarily or long-term with vinyl.
	Three/ Four-Sided Informative Directional Markers	Informational directional markers are designed to be viewed in the proper orientation by viewers from multiple directions. Each surface can include arrows depicting featured nature areas, flower gardens, trails, park amenities, areas of natural interest, etc.

Trailside Benches

Additional trailside benches should be considered throughout Big Willow Park, especially at regular intervals along primary trails and potentially more remote locations along the extensive informal trail system. This allow trail users the chance to rest and reflect on the beauty around them.

Existing benches will be replaced on a case-by-case basis when determined necessary by city staff. As existing benches are replaced and new benches are installed, the following standards shall be adhered to, to the extent possible:

+ Benches shall be placed 2' off the edge of the adjacent trail surface. Installations shall include a concrete pad, bench, and where necessary, modular block retaining wall on the perimeter to retain either the back slope or the bench pad itself
+ When installed adjacent to bituminous trail, the bituminous edge shall be sawn to provide a clean edge for installation of the concrete pad.



Figure 88. Example of trailside bench from Purgatory Park

+ When installed adjacent to crushed limestone trail, replace displaced trail surfacing upon completion of bench pad installation. Ensure trail surfacing is compacted to trail design standards.
+ Benches shall consist of recycled plastic slats, powder-coated brown framing, with attached donor plaque centered on back-rest. Benches shall be surface-mounted to concrete pad.

Trailside Bench Standard



Figure 89. Example of trailside bench from Purgatory Park

Unit Cost

Bench	Each	$1,800
Concrete Pad	Lump Sum	$500
Retaining Wall	Square Feet	$125
3-Course Wall	Lump Sum	$3,000

Anticipated life cycle

20 Years

Typical Layout:

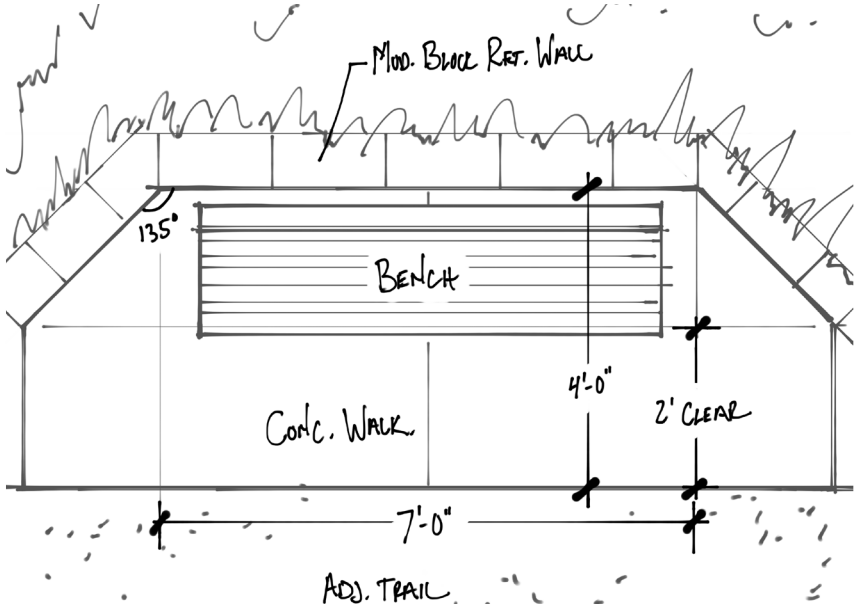


Figure 90. Sketch of typical trailside bench layout (plan view)

Typical Section: Bench on pad (cut condition)

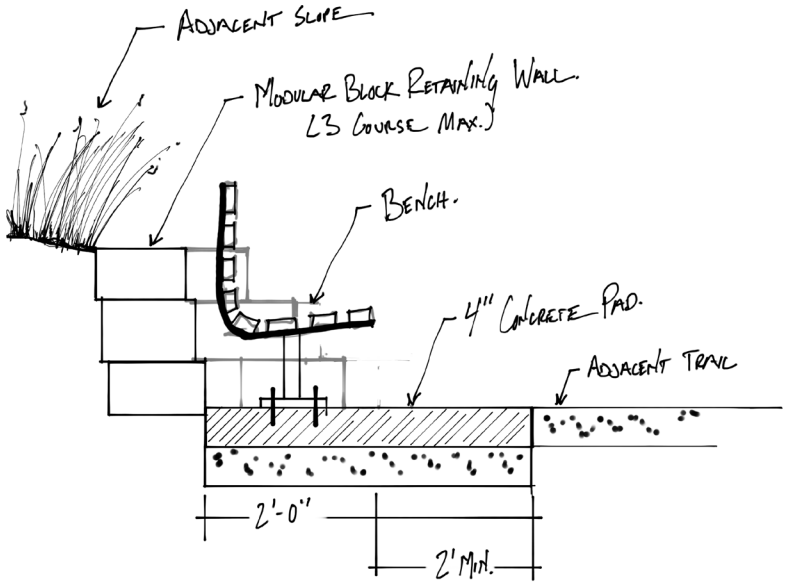


Figure 91. Sketch of typical bench on pad (cut condition) section

Typical Section: Bench on pad (retaining condition)

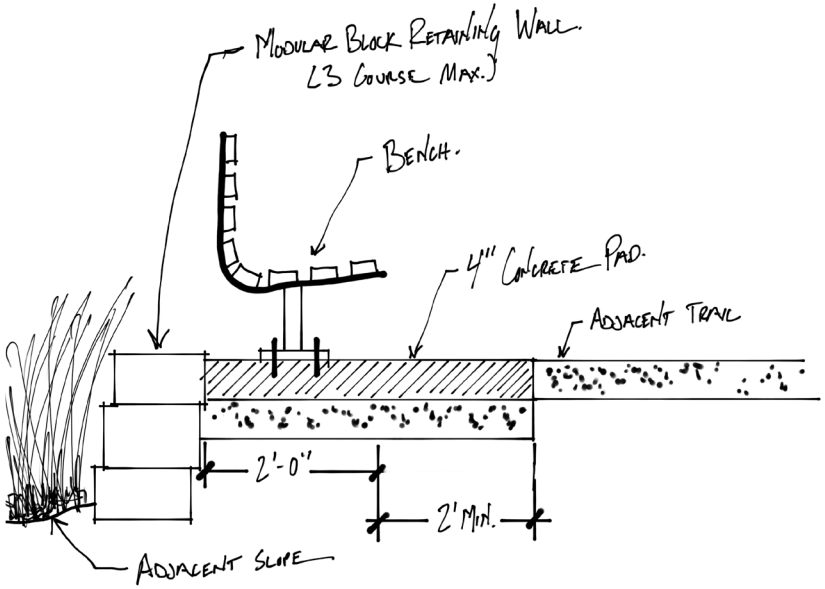


Figure 92. Sketch of typical bench on pad (retaining condition) section

07 Appendix

Included in the final chapter of the Big Willow Park Master Plan are a variety of supporting documents that were used during the planning process but not directly included in the final report. These documents include:

- **Complete Community Survey Results**
- **Engagement Materials**
- **Meeting Presentations + Notes**



Figure 93. Baseball practice on the full-size ballfield

Engagement Materials



Engagement Material - "Welcome" Board

Share your vision for Big Willow Park!

The City of Minnetonka is working to create a master plan for Big Willow Park. This plan will be a tool to help city staff manage Big Willow more effectively and add improvements to the park for years to come.

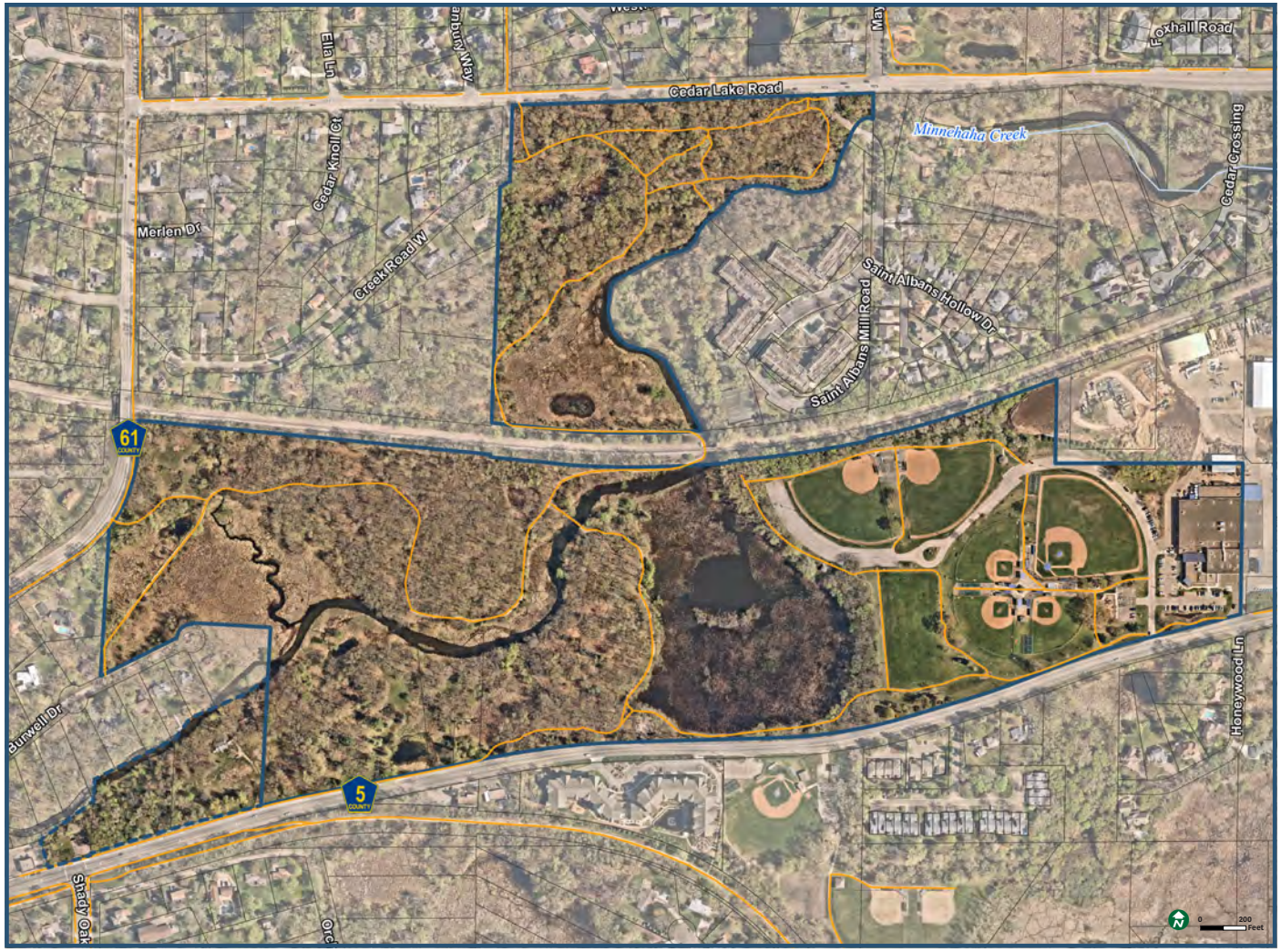
What do you think Big Willow Park should look like in the years to come? What features would you add, and what things might you change?

Engagement Material - "Activity" Board

HELP PLAN THE FUTURE OF BIG WILLOW PARK!

What do you think Big Willow Park should look like in years to come? What features would you add, and what might you change?

Please place sticky notes with your comments on the map or below!



Planning Our Parks
BIG WILLOW PARK

Take our community survey! Scan the QR Code to the right or visit bit.ly/BigWillowSurvey to share your feedback and ideas on the future of Big Willow Park.

Engagement Material - "Map" Board



Engagement Material - "Survey" Board



Engagement Material - Sidewalk Decal



Engagement Material - Fence Sign



Engagement Material - Yard Sign

Meeting Presentations + Minutes

CITY OF MINNETONKA

BIG WILLOW PARK MASTERPLANNING

06/27/2025

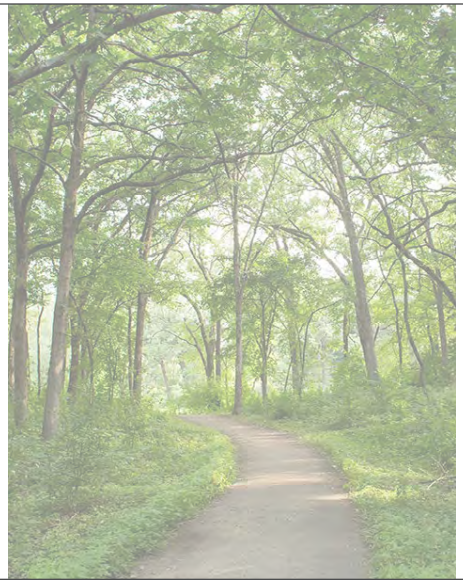
KICKOFF MEETING

Planning Our Parks BIG WILLOW PARK

BOLTON & MENK Real People. Real Solutions.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project Goals
3. Project Schedule
4. Site Understanding
5. Next Steps / Site Walk?



Introductions: BMI Team

Core Team:

ERIC HOLT, PLA
Design Lead, Project Manager
Eric will be the city's main point of contact and will ensure all deliverables meet Minnetonka's expectations. He will guide development of creative, functional design solutions that align with the city's priorities and values.

KRISTIN BLAHA
Public Engagement Lead
Kristin will guide community outreach efforts and ensure we capture the community's voice and provide appropriate messaging around the project.

AUS PEREZ
Landscape Designer
Aus will assist with inventory and analysis of existing park facilities, mapping and displays, engagement efforts, and will play a crucial role in production of concept and final plan documents.

JUSTIN VORNDRAN
Public Engagement Specialist
Justin will support community outreach efforts, assisting with public engagement activities and materials. He will help gather community input and ensure clear, consistent messaging throughout the project.

Support Team:

JONATHAN NELSEN, PLA
Quality Control
Jon will lend his experience helping cities build successful community parks and recreation facilities to support our team with design and documentation review.

EMILY HOLMEN
Graphic Designer
Emily will lead graphic design efforts, including development of branding, marketing materials, and visual assets.

JOSH SHIELDS, PLA
Principal Landscape Architect
Josh will provide guidance and quality control for project deliverables.

ADAM LUCKHARDT
Principal Architect
Adam will serve as an architectural technical advisor to help the project team develop options for new park buildings that may be considered for the park.

MATT BLAZER, PE
Principal Engineer, Client Service Manager
Matt will utilize his experience with the City of Minnetonka to ensure project success. He will leverage his understanding of organizational procedures, department contacts, and project permitting experience to help craft an actionable master plan.

ANDREW DRESDNER
Senior Urban Designer
Andrew will serve as an urban design technical advisor to help the project team consider implications of potential park and trail reconnections and redevelopment along Minnetonka Boulevard.

BOLTON & MENK Real People. Real Solutions.

Introductions: City Staff

What is your name and role at the city?

How long have you been a Minnetonka employee?

What is your experience with Big Willow Park?



Big Willow Park Master Plan Kickoff Meeting Presentation

Project Goals: What is a Park Masterplan?

A park masterplan is a policy document that helps guide future decision-making for improvements and operations of your community park. It includes recommendations based on public engagement findings and a needs assessment, and aims to identify and align resources to effectively make improvements over the next 1-10 years.

01: Executive Summary
- Provides an overview of the plan's vision, guiding principles, goals, and objectives

02: Introduction
- Dives into important background information about Minnetonka, Purgatory Park, and the planning process and outcomes

03: Inventory + Analysis
- Provides an overview of the park's open spaces, natural resources and trails, as well as their current condition
- Highlights issues with the park and trail system and discusses opportunities for improvement

04: Community Engagement
- Highlights important information from in-person meetings, pop-up events, and the community survey

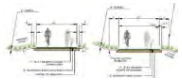
05: Plan Recommendations
- Establishes improvement recommendations, goals, and initiatives to achieve the mission and vision of the master plan
- Discusses implementation priorities and phasing strategies

06: Design Standards
- Establishes the recommendations for standard materials, construction details and policy language to be used as a user manual for park managers to consult on

07: Appendix
- Includes online community survey results







Project Goals

Maximize opportunities for input from as many different voices as possible

Develop a plan that provides clear guidance for future decision-making

Develop a plan that is community-driven

Create a quality document designed for use by constituents, staff, and elected officials

Develop a plan that is both visionary and attainable

Others specific to Big Willow Park?

Project Approach

Phase One: Launch
Includes tasks related to project kickoff, stakeholder analysis, inventory of existing conditions (Tasks 1, 2, and 3).

Phase Two: Engage
Includes tasks related to defining the project vision and goals, developing design guidelines, and preparing implementation strategies (Tasks 2 and 3).

Phase Three: Plan
Includes production of draft master plan documents, formal review, and finalizing deliverables (Tasks 2, 3, and 4).

Task 1: Project Initiation

Project Kickoff Meeting

Document Review We will perform a desktop analysis of existing planning and design documents that may have bearing on the Big Willow Park Masterplan:
- City of Minnetonka Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan (POST Plan)
- City of Minnetonka Natural Resources Master Plan
- City of Minnetonka Park Signage Standards
- Branding Standards from Purgatory Park Masterplan
- Design Guidelines from Purgatory Park Masterplan
- Previous Big Willow Park Construction Documents provided by the City
- GIS data provided by the City

Inventory and Conditions Analysis Bolton & Menk will perform a site visit to Big Willow Park in early July to observe layout, use, and conditions of park features while also assessing site-specific concerns and challenges with city staff. Anticipated park features and conditions to be included in this inventory are: parking facilities, park buildings and structures, playgrounds and ball fields, city-maintained and user-generated paths and trails, bridges and water accesses, memorial benches, vehicular and pedestrian park entrances, operations and maintenance issues, circulation and programming issues, and ecological and aesthetic character. This site visit will include a cursory review of ADA compliance at major park facilities and pathways. A detailed analysis of accessibility and structural integrity of walls and buildings can be included as an additional service if desired.

Issues and Opportunities Summary Memo

Progress Meeting A three-hour in-person meeting will be held to review our recommended Communications Plan and to walk the site with city staff to kick off inventory and analysis efforts.

Project Approach

Task 2: Public Engagement

Community feedback in your recent POST Plan identified several overarching themes we will use to guide the public conversation around improvements at Big Willow Park: environmental sustainability and resiliency, public safety, and connections to parks and trails. Our engagement strategy will focus on gathering more refined input and setting site-specific goals and design guidelines to enhance park facilities in support of these themes.

Given the contentious and contradictory nature of some of the challenges at Big Willow Park, such as implications of the new leash law ordinances, we understand the need for a careful and thorough engagement plan. Our aim will be to first create a 'big tent' that welcomes all perspectives on issues and opportunities in the park. We will seek input from city staff, the Minnetonka Park Board, athletic associations, the leash law community work group, Friends of Minnetonka Parks/Friends of Big Willow Park, and neighbors among other stakeholders and park users. We welcome your help selecting individuals and groups to participate in a way that best represents the community and achieves your goals for this project.



Phase 1: Launch (June-July)

Engagement tool	Goal
Communications Plan	Define the tools and in-depth schedule for the project
Project Branding	Modify branding developed for the Purgatory Park Masterplan to create a consistent brand to be used throughout project communications
Survey	Gather specific and open-ended input about the project
INPUTID	Gather location-specific feedback, this will be hosted on the Minnetonka Matters site
Collateral Graphics	Create signage, decals, and social media graphics to drive web traffic and inform people about the project
Pop Up #1	Inform the public about the project, launch survey, and gather preliminary feedback

Phase 2: Engage (August-September)

Engagement tool	Description
Focus groups	Establish focus group and keep them informed via meetings throughout the project
Survey	Ongoing
INPUTID	Ongoing
Collateral Graphics	Ongoing
Pop Up #2	Continue engagement activities to gather information about the project
Pop Up #3	Flexible pop-up to target a stakeholder that may not have been represented during previous engagement, and summarize progress prior to final plan creation

Phase 3: Plan (October-December)

Collateral Graphics	Ongoing
Open House	Communicate progress and give the public a chance to meet with project staff, ask questions, and share input to inform the final plan development. Close out engagement for the project and offer one last opportunity to meet with the public in-person.
Close survey, comment map, and remove signage and decals	
Final Engagement Report	Compile all feedback received throughout the project in an infographic format and provide our recommendations moving forward

Project Approach

Task 3: Visioning & Strategy

Guiding Principles and Vision We will work with stakeholders to develop a vision statement that guides decision making for remaining masterplan tasks by leveraging the themes, issues and opportunities identified in the POST System Plan and through efforts from prior project tasks. This vision statement will be supported by guiding principles to address specific themes and issue and is meant to inform future implementation, operation and maintenance decisions for identified improvements.

Programming Goals and Opportunities The design team will lead stakeholders through a discussion of recreational goals and site-specific opportunities for expanded programming in both high-use and underutilized areas of the park. Key use areas and priority improvements will be identified for further study.

Design Guidelines Guidelines will address the following, but may be expanded as determined through previous tasks:

- Park facilities and structures (parking, shelter buildings, walls, bridges, and other amenity structures)
- Trails layout, design and maintenance (paved, unpaved, boardwalks, etc)
- Dog walking/dog park/off-leash areas
- Memorial bench and tree placement

Strategic Action Plan and Implementation Strategies The strategic action plan will outline phased implementation of park improvements, with timelines and task-level recommendations for priority projects, sequencing, and design and construction checklists. This plan will knit together the design guidelines, cost estimates, and Task 4 masterplan components to provide a clear strategy for successful implementation.

Planning Level Cost Estimates

Progress Meetings Two (2) in-person two-hour coordination meetings will be held to review progress on these subtasks and initiate design exploration with city staff.

Task 4: Planning & Adoption

Design Exploration As we transition from phase two to phase three, we will prepare up to three (3) iterations of an overall masterplan, refining the plan at each review to arrive at a preferred layout. To inform the overall plan, we will also develop site-specific concept plans for up to five priority areas or proposed features as determined in previous tasks. These could include: athletic concourses, playgrounds, rental shelters, park entrances, and water crossings/access points. These diagrams will be supplemented with sketches, perspective renderings, or other graphics to illustrate proposed improvements. We suggest this be a cooperative exercise with city staff and other stakeholders, and we include two (2) in-person design workshops to generate and refine concepts.

Preliminary Plan Development

Preliminary Park Board Presentation We aim to present the draft master plan at the November 5th Park Board Meeting, which would also initiate the 30 day public comment period.

Final Plan Development

Final Park Board Presentation We aim to present the Big Willow Park Masterplan for final approval at the December 3rd Park Board meeting.

City Council Presentation Upon Park Board recommendation, we will assist city staff in presenting the Big Willow Park Masterplan for formal approval and adoption by City Council in December 2025.

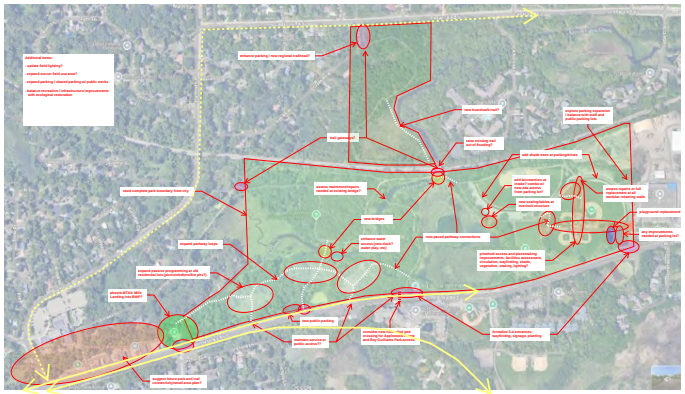
Progress Meetings Two two-hour in-person coordination meetings will be held to review the preliminary master plan document package with city staff and prepare for presentation to the Park Board, and then wrap up with a one-hour virtual meeting ahead of the final Park Board presentation.

Project Schedule

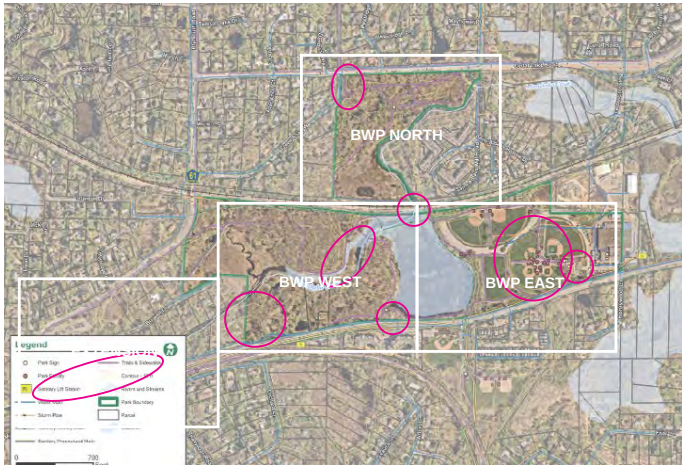


Task		Phase	PHASE 1								PHASE 2								PHASE 3							
		Month	June				July				August				September				October				November				December			
		Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.0	PROJECT INITIATION																													
1.1	Project Kickoff Meeting (virtual)																													
1.2	Document Review (desktop analysis)																													
1.3	Inventory and Condition Analysis (field review)																													
1.4	Issues and Opportunities Summary																													
1.5	Progress Meeting (in-person)																													
2.0	PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT																													
2.1	Communications Plan																													
2.2	Survey																													
2.3	INPUT.ID Interactive Mapping																													
2.4	Collateral Graphics and Web Updates																													
2.5	Pop Up Meetings (three, at the park)																													
2.6	Open House (one)																													
2.7	Final Engagment Report																													
3.0	VISIONING & STRATEGY																													
3.1	Guiding Principals and Vision																													
3.1	Programming Goals and Opportunities																													
3.2	Design Guidelines																													
3.3	Strategic Action Plan and Implementation Strategies																													
3.4	Planning Level Cost Estimates																													
3.5	Progress Meetings (two in-person)																													
4.0	PLANNING & ADOPTION																													
4.1	Design Exploration																													
4.2	Preliminary Plan Development																													
4.3	Preliminary Park Board Presentation (in-person)																													
4.4	Final Plan Development																													
4.5	Final Park Board Presentation (in-person)																													
4.6	City Council Presentation (in-person)																													
4.6	Progress Meeting (two in-person, one virtual)																													

Site Understanding: Preliminary Notes



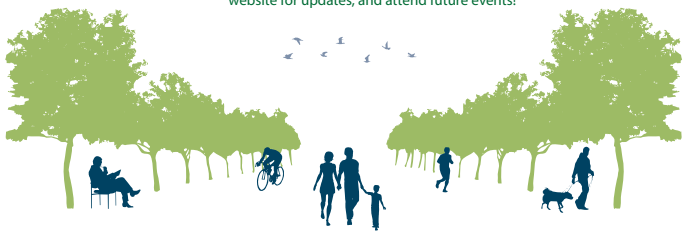
Site Understanding: Base Mapping



Next Steps / Site Walk?

1. Launch project on Minnetonka Matters
2. Refine Communications Plan
3. Develop Site Inventory + Issues and Opportunities Summary
4. Develop + Publish Community Survey

Help spread the word! Encourage your network to take the survey as soon as it's live, watch the website for updates, and attend future events!

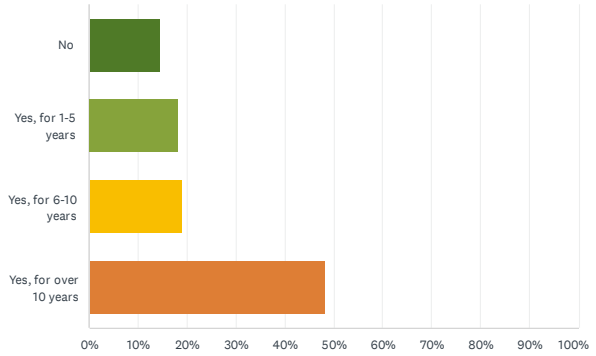


Community Survey Results

Big Willow Park Masterplan Community Survey

Q1 Are you a Minnetonka resident? If yes, for how long?

Answered: 344 Skipped: 0

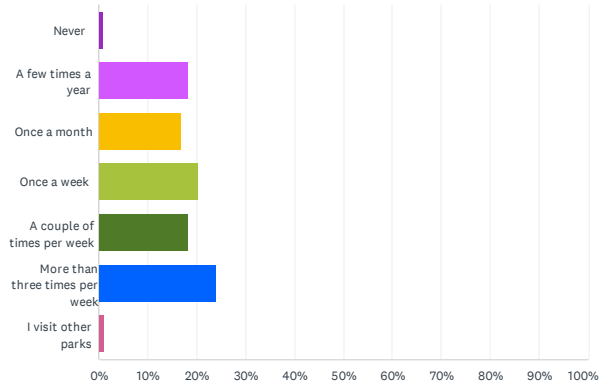


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	14.53%	50
Yes, for 1-5 years	18.31%	63
Yes, for 6-10 years	18.90%	65
Yes, for over 10 years	48.26%	166
TOTAL		344

Big Willow Park Masterplan Community Survey

Q2 How often do you or a member of your household visit Big Willow Park?

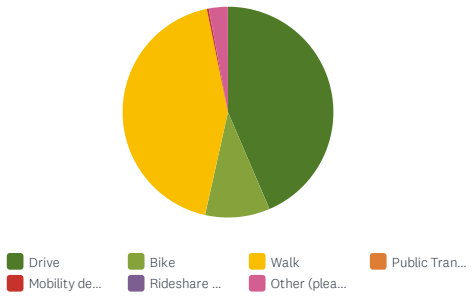
Answered: 344 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	0.87%	3
A few times a year	18.31%	63
Once a month	16.86%	58
Once a week	20.35%	70
A couple of times per week	18.31%	63
More than three times per week	24.13%	83
I visit other parks	1.16%	4
TOTAL		344

Q3 How do you usually get to Big Willow Park?

Answered: 342 Skipped: 2

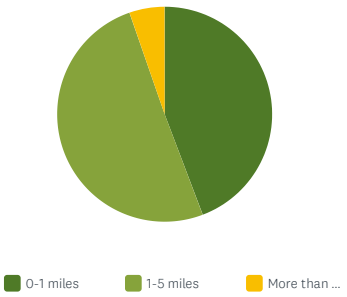


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Drive	43.57%	149
Bike	9.94%	34
Walk	43.27%	148
Public Transit	0.00%	0
Mobility device (wheelchair, scooter, etc.)	0.29%	1
Rideshare or carpool	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	2.92%	10
TOTAL		342

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Run	11/3/2025 10:47 AM
2	Run	10/23/2025 4:11 PM
3	Trail access is on our street	10/12/2025 8:27 AM
4	Kayak on the creek	10/3/2025 2:51 PM
5	Both bike and car	10/3/2025 9:52 AM
6	No	9/27/2025 9:44 PM
7	Running from our street on April Lane.	9/22/2025 9:34 AM
8	Run	9/21/2025 11:55 AM
9	bike and drive	9/21/2025 11:54 AM
10	Drive and Bike	9/19/2025 4:34 PM

Q4 How far do you typically travel to get to Big Willow Park?

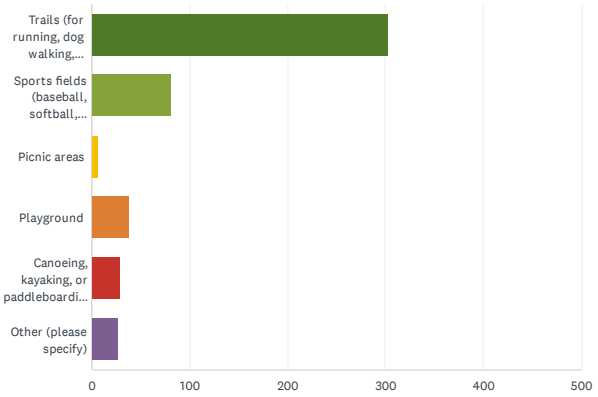
Answered: 339 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-1 miles	44.25%	150
1-5 miles	50.44%	171
More than 5 miles	5.31%	18
TOTAL		339

Q5 Why do you typically visit Big Willow Park? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 342 Skipped: 2



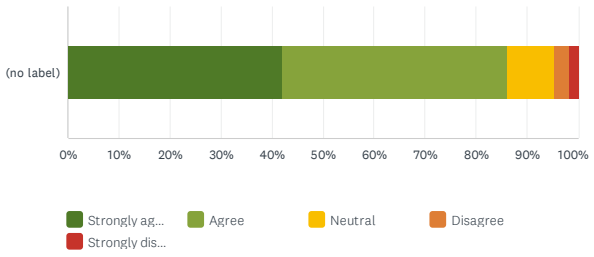
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trails (for running, dog walking, hiking, etc.)	88.60%	303
Sports fields (baseball, softball, soccer, etc.)	23.68%	81
Picnic areas	1.75%	6
Playground	11.11%	38
Canoeing, kayaking, or paddleboarding Minnehaha Creek	8.48%	29
Other (please specify)	7.89%	27
Total Respondents: 342		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Biking on trails	11/15/2025 11:25 AM
2	enjoying the natural areas	11/4/2025 3:54 PM
3	Bike through on commute	11/1/2025 11:16 AM
4	Biking on the trails	10/28/2025 7:26 AM
5	Wildlife Photography	10/26/2025 8:33 PM
6	Scenery	10/25/2025 5:01 PM
7	peaceful, beautiful nature and wildlife Big Willow Park has	10/23/2025 2:50 PM
8	Also limited tubing down creek	10/23/2025 8:24 AM

9	Just like going someplace different	10/22/2025 8:47 AM
10	My 3.5 acres adjoins Big Willow. I use the park everyday and have maintained my land over the years to eradicate invasive species including buckthron	10/22/2025 6:20 AM
11	See wildlife, birds, spring ephemeral flowers	10/21/2025 6:34 PM
12	Meditation	10/19/2025 5:36 PM
13	Bird watching	10/15/2025 9:14 PM
14	Stream and bird sounds, and the views	10/13/2025 4:08 PM
15	nature, wildlife, creek, walking trails, woods and scerenity	10/10/2025 3:11 PM
16	Exploring the woods and wading in the creek	10/9/2025 3:20 PM
17	Mountain biking	10/6/2025 7:28 PM
18	Dog Walk and Excerise	10/6/2025 10:15 AM
19	To see wildlife, to enjoy getting off the grid	9/30/2025 3:33 PM
20	Volunteer	9/28/2025 11:57 AM
21	I currently do not	9/27/2025 9:44 PM
22	Taking my dog swimming	9/26/2025 7:40 PM
23	Nature!	9/22/2025 12:39 PM
24	Biking	9/21/2025 3:32 PM
25	Sit and read and watch creek flow by	9/19/2025 3:31 PM
26	Biking on the trails	9/19/2025 12:29 PM
27	I walk the sidewalks around the ball fields--I don't feel safe walking on the trails in the woods	9/18/2025 3:19 PM

Q6 Big Willow Park is safe and welcoming to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

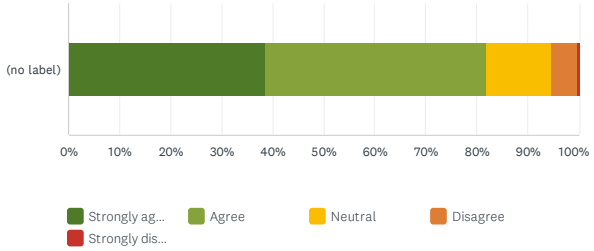
Answered: 325 Skipped: 19



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	42.15% 137	44.00% 143	9.23% 30	3.08% 10	1.54% 5	325	1.00

Q7 Big Willow Park offers the amenities I am looking for.

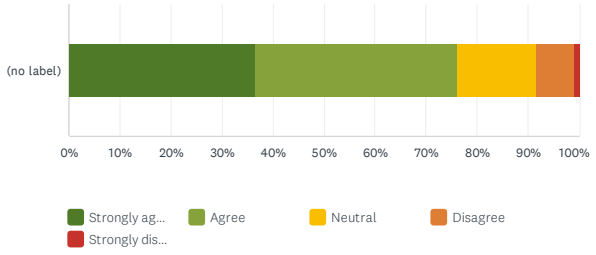
Answered: 325 Skipped: 19



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	38.46% 125	43.38% 141	12.92% 42	4.92% 16	0.31% 1	325	1.00

Q8 There are enough access points to the park.

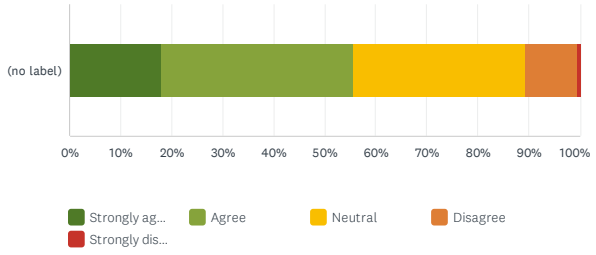
Answered: 325 Skipped: 19



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	36.62% 119	39.38% 128	15.69% 51	7.38% 24	0.92% 3	325	1.00

Q9 Big Willow Park is well connected to other nearby parks and trails.

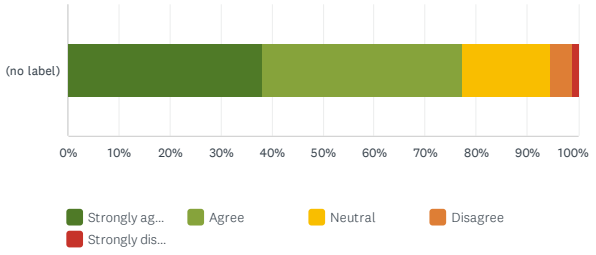
Answered: 322 Skipped: 22



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	18.01% 58	37.58% 121	33.85% 109	9.94% 32	0.62% 2	322	1.00

Q10 Big Willow Park is enjoyable to visit year-round.

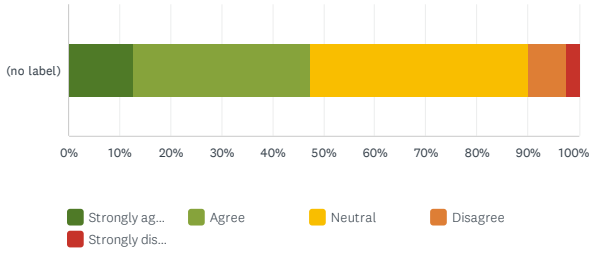
Answered: 323 Skipped: 21



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	38.08% 123	39.32% 127	17.03% 55	4.64% 15	0.93% 3	323	1.00

Q11 Park amenities are accessible regardless of physical ability.

Answered: 322 Skipped: 22



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	12.73% 41	34.78% 112	42.55% 137	7.45% 24	2.48% 8	322	1.00

Q12 If you selected "strongly disagree" or "disagree" for any of the previous statements, please share which ones and why:

Answered: 76 Skipped: 268

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Accessibility Although the park is not wheelchair, friendly, it's not the type of park that's amenable to that to begin with. So I don't believe a remedy is called for because of that.	11/15/2025 11:30 AM
2	Parking I feel that there is not enough parking especially close to the baseball fields	11/14/2025 1:07 PM
3	Accessibility The park is user friendly for all ages. There are flat areas where wheelchairs can move.	11/12/2025 12:55 PM
4	Trails The park trails would be more welcoming if they were marked and easier to follow. Other parks I've visited have trail markers and loops to follow.	11/11/2025 10:36 AM
5	Connectivity Parking Limited parking for trail users and limited linkages to other parks	11/6/2025 6:47 PM
6	Accessibility People with mobility issues have difficulty accessing trails on the west side of the park.	11/5/2025 4:23 PM
7	Dogs Safety I keep seeing off leash dogs and as a biker, these dogs are dangerous to us. I've been chased by more than one dog.	11/3/2025 8:54 PM
8	Accessibility The walking bridge over the creek seems too steep for wheel chairs and anyone with a physical disability. In winter it is downright dangerous.	11/2/2025 8:25 PM
9	Trails Winter With many people using the trails in the winter it gets very icy and hard to safely enjoy a walk.	11/2/2025 6:38 PM
10	Parking Not enough parking	11/2/2025 11:19 AM
11	Trails Winter Winter trail access and walking in Big Willow can be challenging	10/30/2025 12:05 PM
12	Connectivity It would be great to have a 2nd entrance into the park.	10/29/2025 4:37 PM
13	Accessibility Trails The park is probably not super accessible for those that a more differently abled - particularly, the trails. Also, not all the paths in the sports portion are plowed in the winter. Though we are not a hockey/skating family, I assume there are those that have issue with their being no rink (or a space that converts to a rink). Our family loves everything about the park and trails.	10/28/2025 3:59 PM
14	Connectivity More connection points to the neighborhoods would improve my experience greatly.	10/26/2025 8:34 PM
15	Connectivity Unfamiliar with connectivity to other parks.	10/26/2025 9:50 AM
16	Connectivity I am unaware of connectivity to other area parks but would be interested in knowing where those are.	10/26/2025 9:46 AM
17	Winter not comfortable walking there in the winter -- often too much ice on trails to feel safe	10/25/2025 2:18 PM
18	Bikers Safety Bikers of all ages and types have caused an UNSAFE park for senior's with hearing aids, disability persons, children, persons on iphones/ipods etc. walking and enjoying the wildlife, creek, etc.	10/23/2025 2:54 PM
19	Safety Winter The creek bridge can be a barrier to accessibility, particularly in winter when it gets icy. Washouts after heavy rain can make the non paved areas of trail difficult.	10/23/2025 2:53 PM
20	Accessibility Not really good for. Seniors walking or disabled people	10/22/2025 6:48 PM
21	Accessibility The playground is not handicap accessible. We should learn from the kids who built the Glen lake elementary playground	10/22/2025 2:16 PM

22	Accessibility Connectivity Safety The bridge has no railing for those of us needing one for safety. The wood is not a railing! You can't hold on to it. Minnetonka Blvd needs a flashing light to slow traffic, for young and old alike. Many use both the park and the bike trail across the Blvd.	10/22/2025 1:50 PM
23	The baseball/soccer fields are in great shape but (1) have aggressive signage letting you know you aren't allowed to use them and (2) are rarely ever used. Seems like a waste.	10/22/2025 12:28 PM
24	park feels very baseball oriented	10/22/2025 11:51 AM
25	Accessibility Trails Pathways are rough and would make it difficult win a wheelchair, walker, or scooter.	10/22/2025 10:05 AM
26	Connectivity Parking I am unaware of any place to park to access the "park" portion of Big Willow, and parking at the sports fields is lacking.	10/22/2025 9:59 AM
27	Bikers Safety Winter The addition of e-bikes discourages use by older walkers, scares my dog, and alters the overall experience of a nature park. Winter use is sometimes limited due to ice buildup on paths.	10/22/2025 6:23 AM
28	Accessibility Winter The uphill path and bridge are hard to cross in winter (slippery and steep) and would be impossible in a wheelchair	10/22/2025 5:46 AM
29	Accessibility Trails The playground is the worst I have seen. As a mom of small children I would love to see it replaced. The equipment is odd and one of the slides is beyond unsafe. Who designed this?? The paved walking trails need to be repaired. I have to avoid several with a stroller. Overall love the park but these two need attention.	10/22/2025 2:05 AM
30	Accessibility Connectivity Parking 1) Not enough parking for sports when all fields are in-use. 2) Accessibility- There needs to be a more direct route to get from the upper soccer field to the lower baseball fields besides the steep hill or walking along the road to the side. Also, not enough room for pedestrians on road when parking lot and fields are full and cars are trying to find parking. Safety concerns for families with small children. 3) Woukd be more ideal if playground (or an additional playground) and restrooms were more centrally located to the baseball fields and concessions. Big safety issue to have the playground right next to the parking lot and would be better for families to use during sporting events if closer to the field so single parents can supervise kids wanting/needing to be in multiple areas (ie fields and playground).	10/21/2025 11:27 PM
31	Parking More parking	10/21/2025 8:57 PM
32	Connectivity I would love to see a more clear connection to the Lake Minnetonka regional Trail. The access points across from Applewood Pointe aren't all that clear.	10/21/2025 8:03 PM
33	Winter The steep hill from the trail along Mtka Blvd up to the playing field and playground is doable in good weather but impossible once it snows.	10/21/2025 7:51 PM
34	Connectivity It isn't an easy connection to the Lake Minnetonka regional trail.	10/21/2025 7:02 PM
35	Dogs Trails Winter Heavily wooded areas with buckthorn don't create safe environments to walk; bridge over the creek is unsafe year-round -- too steep and slippery in winter, whereas the gravel trails are nice (better than dirt/mud), it makes it hard for some to navigate given mobility limitations. Off leash dogs are not enjoyable to encounter.	10/21/2025 6:38 PM
36	think big willow park if one without any changes-	10/20/2025 7:12 PM
37	Connectivity I don't know that it's connected to any other parks	10/19/2025 3:09 PM
38	Trails Winter The big hill next to the soccer fields is dangerous when icy and difficult for those with mobility issues. The park often floods for weeks at a time in the spring.	10/18/2025 11:01 AM
39	Parking Wish there was more parking and an inviting sitting area.	10/16/2025 6:49 PM
40	Trails Trails are not well developed	10/16/2025 5:51 PM
41	Accessibility Trails The dirt trails can be muddy. I have no knowledge of handicapped access.	10/16/2025 3:34 PM
42	Bikers Dogs Safety Trails Many paths are very steep, like west from the soccer pitch and the eastern end of the bridge over Minnehaha. Many sharp blind corners including passing under the RR bridge. I have had too many near misses by cyclists of all types and ages , none	10/15/2025 9:45 PM

	of whom use bells or use any caution. Just today a man on a bike came over the bridge at me with his dog on a long lead. Dirt track areas are sketchy, as cyclists expect you to get out of their way . I've even had a runner plow into me. Also, the previous attempt to keep the path under the bridge from flooding was improperly planned, better use of steel edging would have kept the path open most of the time. As it is huge numbers of people take one main shortcut over the train tracks. I have seen ebikes piloted by young and old squeeze by families with small children. Even with great hearing a brief on your left from behind you is not always heard. I stopped bringing my parents to walk at Big Willow 6 years ago because of too many careless stupid selfish people. Also, there are so many dogs and some are never on leads. All dogs should be on the shortest possible leads. I usuall park in the small lot west of the ball fields and at peak times people park in the zebra area or on the grass along the road blocking the view to pull out. Also, the vegetation looking left when leaving is never trimmed and I asked last year. There used to be a way across the marsh from the enormous parking lots at the ball field. The various benches built with backs are terribly high to get onto, and i'm 6ft 3in so my Mom can' get onto them at all and other benches never get the weeds cleared around them once a year. So older people are very poorly served as to seating. That bridge over the creek needs a railing and or better yet a ramp of asphalt. In the winter it is dangerous even with some sand thrown down. also, some of the dirt trails need weeds and buckthorn pushed back enough so one does'nt worry about ticks.	
43	Connectivity There doesn't appear to be signage showing access to other parks or trails.	10/13/2025 11:23 AM
44	Bikers Bikes should NOT be allowed anywhere at willow park. They are a safety hazard and dangerous to pedestrians, dogs on leashes, all trails gravel, paved or dirt and wildlife. Please post signs NO BIKES.	10/10/2025 3:22 PM
45	Dogs Off leash dogs make me afraid to go as often as I'd like. And when I say that I'm afraid of the off leash dogs, the owners get mad at me.	10/9/2025 8:06 PM
46	Dogs Off-leash dog activity discourages us from visiting the trails with our kids. Fields are great!	10/9/2025 8:01 PM
47	Connectivity Would be nice if it was more clearly and safely connected to the LRT. We are Hopkins residents and value the raw nature feel of Big Willow but often feel compelled to drive the 1.5 miles due to the unsafe nature of crossing MTKA BLVD on foot.	10/8/2025 5:11 PM
48	Connectivity It is kind of isolated when walking to it. You either have to come in from Plymouth, Cedar Lake, or Minnetonka. It would be nice to be more parkway like. Is rather we don't this than what we did to Ridgedale.	10/7/2025 7:05 PM
49	Accessibility We selected "disagree" to the statement that park amenities are accessible regardless of physical ability. We selected disagree because we think that if had trouble walking, we would be unlikely to be able to visit the park.	10/6/2025 7:30 PM
50	Accessibility Connectivity There is only one access point if driving a car & other than a very steep hill to climb, that makes it difficult for handicapped as well as able bodied people to access.	10/2/2025 10:32 PM
51	Trails Winter Water covers the trail part of the year, this should be fixed Also snow turns into ice, not much to be done here	10/1/2025 7:29 PM
52	Tennis courts or pickleball courts would be great. There are not enough courts to go around for all who play in the area	10/1/2025 1:18 PM
53	Trails Winter The trail is not accessible in the winter from the Minnetonka Blvd. entrance because it is too dangerous to walk over the bridge. It becomes completely covered in ice and is treacherous to cross in the winter.	10/1/2025 11:40 AM
54	Accessibility Connectivity The sidewalks leading to the parks are inconsistent. As a wheelchair user I find myself rolling in the street due to the path or trail ending randomly.	9/29/2025 5:40 PM
55	Bikers Trails Some of the trails have gotten a little rugged, some of which can be directly attributed to aggressive bike riders	9/28/2025 12:00 PM
56	Dogs I would like to see a dog park added.	9/27/2025 9:21 AM
57	I love that the main trails are well maintained (plowed) in the winter. Beautiful place to run in nature.	9/26/2025 12:13 PM

58	Trails Bits of the trails -- particularly the south side approach to the bridge over the creek -- are so steep as to be very difficult with a cane or walking stick. The trail has also been flooding very frequently this year.	9/25/2025 6:03 PM
59	Better playground for kids of all ages with swings!!	9/25/2025 3:32 PM
60	Trails Trails are very wet and muddy every spring.	9/24/2025 7:02 PM
61	Trails the one path area under railroad track bridge tends to flood limiting ability for many to proceed on the rest of the pathway	9/23/2025 4:53 PM
62	Need bathroom facilities next to senior softball fields	9/23/2025 9:14 AM
63	Parking Parking spots are limited	9/22/2025 6:55 PM
64	Trails Tough to access north of train tracks when water levels are high.	9/22/2025 6:14 PM
65	Bikers Dogs The trails are used by a variety of people, including bicyclists - most travel very fast through the park on the trails. Many do not signal their approach making the trails unsafe for walkers/hikers. Many dog walkers unleash their dogs when they enter the trails. There are not clear signs indicating it is a leash only trail system. And when challenged, those with dogs loose, take umbrage with being challenged/disagree with being challenged.	9/22/2025 2:46 PM
66	Bikers Looking for more off road biking opportunities.	9/22/2025 6:07 AM
67	Connectivity Safety We bike to the playground from the Bike trail that goes from downtown Hopkins to the retirement community across the street from the park, but we haven't found a safe way to cross the road and get to the park. We bike along the shoulder for a while before turning into the main parking lot.	9/21/2025 4:23 PM
68	Connectivity We wish there were better sidewalks the full length of Minnetonka BLVD	9/21/2025 3:42 PM
69	Bikers Needs mountain bike trails	9/21/2025 3:33 PM
70	Connectivity Trails I wish there was a better connection somehow between cedar lake road and the baseball field parts of the park so there was a longer walking loop within nature and not connecting via streets	9/21/2025 3:07 PM
71	The park could use at least a permanent porta potty.	9/21/2025 11:56 AM
72	Accessibility Hiking trails are not really usable by all; I.e. walkers, wheel chairs.	9/19/2025 3:33 PM
73	Accessibility Safety Trails The bridge over the creek is dangerous and the trail underneath the railway is often flooded and hazardous. There is a lack of wayfinding (trail map signs with posted distances), posted signs about park regulations, garbage cans and restroom facility/facilities. There is a lack of ADA parking and trails.	9/19/2025 1:04 PM
74	Accessibility Bikers Dogs Trails The park is not ADA compliant. The bridge over the creek is a major safety hazard. People fall and slip at the bridge abutment, and the slope is too steep for wheelchairs. The trail under the railway is frequently flooded. Off-leash dogs and people biking on dirt trails pose a safety hazard to other park visitors. No wayfinding maps or signs confuse first-time and frequent visitors.	9/19/2025 12:58 PM
75	Wonderful multi-use and outdoor recreation amenities	9/18/2025 12:39 PM
76	Accessibility Trails The bridge over the creek is too step on the east side. I can do it most of the year but others can not	9/17/2025 4:55 PM

Q13 What are some specific features you would like to see added to Big Willow Park?

Answered: 194 Skipped: 150

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Flooding Restrooms I want toilets near the trails. A convex mirror to help visibility at the hairpin turn under the railroad bridge. I want to see the pathway under the railroad bridge repaired and improved.	11/15/2025 11:35 AM
2	Restrooms Bathrooms, trail ratings, events	11/15/2025 6:50 AM
3	Flooding Fix the river under the train track so it's not under water a lot. Treat so there are fewer mosquitoes in the fall	11/14/2025 3:37 PM
4	see below	11/14/2025 1:08 PM
5	Trail Improvements Better maintenance of the narrow hiking trails	11/12/2025 1:06 PM
6	Parking May need more parking during ball games.	11/12/2025 12:57 PM
7	Flooding Trail Improvements More loop trails through western part of the park. Improved trail design to reduce amount of time trails are unusable due to water covering trails.	11/6/2025 6:49 PM
8	Water Access Swimming and docks	11/6/2025 3:29 PM
9	Restrooms Restrooms closer to the trails	11/5/2025 5:17 PM
10	Accessibility Better access for people with mobility issues and families with strollers.	11/5/2025 4:26 PM
11	Bike Infrastructure Mountain bike trails.	11/3/2025 8:57 PM
12	Bike Infrastructure Mountain biking! This is a huge missed opportunity, it has done wonders for other local parks (Lone Lake, etc) and brings in not just mountain bikers, but runners, snowshoers, and more.	11/3/2025 10:52 AM
13	Trail Improvements Water Access Instead of replacing the current walking bridge with a better one, why not add a better bridge and incorporate the canoe dock?	11/2/2025 8:34 PM
14	Flooding Plowing of main loop in winter Improvements to stop flooding over paths	11/2/2025 6:43 PM
15	Parking Added parking	11/2/2025 11:20 AM
16	Dog Infrastructure off-leash dog area	10/31/2025 9:58 AM
17	Light shrouds. The light pollution from the artificial lighting is very intrusive.	10/30/2025 12:06 PM
18	Field Improvements Continue to invest into baseball fields with places to practice.	10/29/2025 4:38 PM
19	Field Improvements Baseball fields need updating, only 2 of the 3 fields have lights	10/28/2025 10:40 PM
20	Dog Infrastructure Trail Improvements Dog park and an indoor field w/ a track for winter walking	10/28/2025 4:03 PM
21	Natural Space Improvements 40 years in I see no reason to mess with success. Getting rid of invasive is OK but the athletic complex seems just fine to don't fix what isn't broken. A dog park is a terrible idea. Dogs are already a problem on the trails" Off leash and feces deposits among them. Expanded parking can potentially increase traffic on the trails. Have you tried walking the city lakes? It is a continuous stream of humans so not a place of peace and tranquility. Leave it alone!	10/28/2025 1:01 PM
22	Flooding Barrier for flooding at the bend where the trail meets the river. This flooding restricts access to the trail for a great deal of the season most yeas.	10/27/2025 6:22 PM
23	Flooding Adjust the trail or create bridges or waterways to avoid spring flooding.	10/26/2025 11:15 PM

24	Playground Water Play Bigger and better playground that is more accessible for kids of all ages. Splash pad for the summer. Sledding would be great in the winter if there was a clear hill.	10/26/2025 9:15 PM
25	Natural Space Improvements More biodiversity, increasing animal habitats, and conservation	10/26/2025 8:42 PM
26	Natural Space Improvements More conservation & establishing native habitats	10/26/2025 8:36 PM
27	Playground Winter Activities Ice rink in winter??? Cross country skiing trails??? Definitely new playground! The weird climbing structures there are weird and super unsafe for kids.	10/26/2025 12:26 PM
28	None	10/26/2025 9:52 AM
29	Interpretive Play/Signage Natural Space Improvements trail interpretation, buckthorn removal	10/25/2025 10:09 PM
30	Signage 1. Signs to keep people off established trails. 2. Dogs are never allowed to be off leash, and off established trails.	10/25/2025 5:03 PM
31	Trail Improvements Better accessibility bridge over Minnehaha Creek	10/25/2025 4:21 PM
32	Bike Infrastructure single track mountain bike trails and bike park	10/24/2025 7:51 PM
33	Field Improvements Restrooms more bathrooms and a second soccer field	10/24/2025 4:17 PM
34	Signage Trail Improvements Signs/maps that make it clear where you are and how to get to other features. A boardwalk in the wetlands directly across from Applewood Pointe. A safe way to get from Applewood Pointe to the park.	10/24/2025 11:11 AM
35	Trail Improvements Any additional running, walking, biking trails.	10/23/2025 4:13 PM
36	It's a treasure. The care and hard work to preserve it shows. BUT Big Willow Park must be proactive and use it's authority to start the process to prohibit all bikes in it's entirety to make it safe, again. The increasing destruction of ripping up dirt and gravel trails, disruption to wildlife would be a bonus. Bikes have NO business in this beautiful park but to race thru and scare everyone on the paths w/o a care.	10/23/2025 3:42 PM
37	Signage Trail Improvements Would like to see a maintained loop trail. Signage that clearly states which trails bikes are allowed and not allowed on. Signage with clearly stated dog policy.	10/23/2025 2:54 PM
38	Natural Space Improvements Trail Improvements Continue to refresh the habitat an d improve the paths and bridge.	10/23/2025 11:42 AM
39	No Improvements Nothing...keep it as it is a marsh not a picnic ground with playground equipment and bathroom facilities. If you add children and bbq to the mix you increase traffic which is always going well over 40 miles an hour...an accident waiting to happen.	10/23/2025 10:20 AM
40	Keep bikers off the walking paths... Sand for the walking bridge over the creek in the winter. EXTREMELY DANGEROUS	10/23/2025 8:28 AM
41	Signage Maps	10/22/2025 7:27 PM
42	Water Access Kayak friendly in and out spaces	10/22/2025 6:51 PM
43	Natural Space Improvements Nativevrestoration. Goats to help w buckthorne. Nature oriented learning stations for kids.	10/22/2025 6:32 PM
44	Field Improvements A third softball field would be fantastic.	10/22/2025 3:13 PM
45	Playground Playground equipment.	10/22/2025 2:18 PM
46	Crosswalks Accessible bridge. Crosswalk on Minnetonka Blvd.	10/22/2025 1:52 PM
47	Playground A bigger playground would be great. It's a solid playground but definitely one aimed at young children. More public/free play space. I went there a few years ago to fly a kite and the signage let me know I wasn't allowed basically anywhere that worked well for kites.	10/22/2025 12:31 PM
48	Bike Infrastructure Bike park pump track	10/22/2025 12:25 PM
49	Bike Infrastructure Mtb trails or pump track	10/22/2025 11:53 AM
50	Flooding Way to have less flooding of path by railroad bridge	10/22/2025 10:53 AM

51	Field Improvements Trail Improvements Updated pathways, higher netting around ball fields to protect vehicles	10/22/2025 10:08 AM
52	Parking Parking flow/control	10/22/2025 9:27 AM
53	Picnic Areas/Seating Picnic tables, additional benches	10/22/2025 9:15 AM
54	Field Improvements Not so much an addition, but I would like to see the track around the soccer field separated from the field, or its composition changed. I've played too many games where a player in cleats slips on the track while chasing down a ball that goes out of bounds.	10/22/2025 8:19 AM
55	Dog Infrastructure Natural Space Improvements Trail Improvements Additional doggie poop bags and trash cans to put them in. Keep the park experience one of nature. It is a treasure that can't be replaced. The parking on West Creek Rd has become a danger to residents because it overflows to the street right at the point of a curve, limiting sightlines and endangering drivers and walkers.	10/22/2025 6:32 AM
56	Playground Trail Improvements Water Play Updated paved trails, new playground. Exercise stops.small splash pad.	10/22/2025 2:08 AM
57	Field Improvements Turf fields	10/22/2025 12:03 AM
58	See previous comment box	10/21/2025 11:28 PM
59	Dog Infrastructure Adding in some sort of dog park / off leash dog area.	10/21/2025 9:55 PM
60	Bike Infrastructure Skate park, bike pump track and jump line	10/21/2025 9:30 PM
61	Field Improvements Concession stand	10/21/2025 8:58 PM
62	Nothing comes to mind	10/21/2025 8:06 PM
63	Playground A bigger playground with more slides	10/21/2025 7:52 PM
64	Restrooms More bathrooms	10/21/2025 7:07 PM
65	Crosswalks Safe connection to the Lake Minnetonka regional trail.	10/21/2025 7:06 PM
66	I miss the floating bridge. It was a fun way to cross the marsh to the park	10/21/2025 5:52 PM
67	Crosswalks Trail Improvements Better trail connections from parking areas and urban amenities to the wooded trail systems. Would love to see a bridge across the creek connecting the baseball fields to the wooded trails near the railroad tracks.	10/21/2025 5:28 PM
68	Dog Infrastructure Trail Improvements Build bridge connecting softball trail to main trail, east to west along rail line. On Mtka Blvd to creek side install enclosed dog park. Including the area around kiln, stove, bench is.	10/21/2025 5:23 PM
69	Parking Signage More parking off Minnetonka Blvd. More clearly marked signs directing bicyclists to the routes	10/21/2025 4:47 PM
70	Playground Restrooms Better playground, better bathrooms	10/21/2025 4:45 PM
71	Parking Restrooms More parking and better restrooms	10/21/2025 4:25 PM
72	Flooding Natural Space Improvements better care of buckthorn and water level on minnehaha creek for trails	10/20/2025 7:15 PM
73	Restrooms I play senior softball. A outhouse between the fields in the summer time would be good not only for seniors, but all other softball games at night.	10/20/2025 5:14 PM
74	Trail Improvements Additional trails and walking and biking paths.	10/20/2025 3:12 PM
75	Dog Infrastructure Flooding Natural Space Improvements Trail Improvements Bridge is picturesque, but rickedy. Buckthorn detracts from natural beauty. Too many dogs. Frequent flooding under tressle.	10/20/2025 12:35 PM
76	Playground A large playground for bigger kids like 6-12. The one by the baseball fields is pretty small. Fixing the flooding under the railroad track.	10/19/2025 8:38 PM
77	Crosswalks Flooding Picnic Areas/Seating Solve the train bridge path erosion and flooding. A few small pavilions in the part for shelter or picnicing. Acoonection btween the	10/19/2025 5:42 PM

	fields an hopkins crossroads maint entry	
78	Natural Space Improvements Cleaned up forest floor	10/19/2025 3:11 PM
79	Parking Signage Trail Improvements Things that would increase my grateful appreciation for Big Willow Park: 1. Have a map at each park entrance showing the trails and their distance in miles. 2. Have trails that are circular (so that one doesn't need to backtrack over the same area. This might decrease the number of "off-shoot" paths. 3. The parking issue directly across from Applewood Pointe has resulted in dirt road conditions. Even when there are parking spaces available in the parking lot, folks park on the berm, killing all vegetation. There is blowing dirt and dust, and the parking lot gets closer ad closer to our homes because there is not a "No Parking" sign on what should be green space in the southeast corner of the parking lot; and there is not a "No Parking" sign on Minnetonka Blvd on the stretch directly across from Applewood Pt. There are No Parking signs to the ease and west of this small stretch. Why not all along this County Hwy??? 4. Could pyramidal Evergreens be planted between the parking lot and the road? It would be lovely to see green, not parking lot and cars. 5. There is plenty of parking around the playing fields. If people had a way across Minnehaha Creek from the ball field parking lots to get to the trails to the west of the creek, the parking problem would be solved. A second walking bridge across the Creek near the railroad bridge would not only solve a the parking problem, but it would be a wonderful way to expand the possibilities for walkers.	10/19/2025 2:20 PM
80	More trash cans in the trails.	10/19/2025 10:03 AM
81	Dog Infrastructure Larger waste container for doggie bags.	10/18/2025 12:32 PM
82	Picnic Areas/Seating Trail Improvements Longer trails, safer ways to get up hills. The benches are almost too high to get on now.	10/18/2025 11:03 AM
83	Interpretive Play/Signage Trail Improvements Boardwalk across marshy areas. Signage about history, flora, and fauna	10/18/2025 10:14 AM
84	Flooding Trail Improvements Boardwalk to address trail flooding by the RR bridge when the creek is high.	10/18/2025 8:59 AM
85	Flooding Some kind of embankment so trail under railroad bridge doesn't flood and prevent passage	10/18/2025 5:28 AM
86	Crosswalks Natural Space Improvements No. I like that I can take a hike and feel like I'm not in the suburbs. It's nice to have multiple trails in Big Willow for variety. We have lived in Mtka for 45 years and Big Willow has always been my favorite place to walk. It is so pretty and so nice to walk in such a quiet, wooded location. We live on the south side of Mtka Blvd so the only issue is sometimes it's difficult to cross the street when there's a lot of traffic.	10/17/2025 8:00 PM
87	Flooding Raise the trail by the railroad bridge so it will not flood as often	10/17/2025 7:56 PM
88	Natural Space Improvements Trail Improvements Continue to maintain good walking trails and control buckthorn growth.	10/17/2025 5:39 PM
89	Picnic Areas/Seating More bench's	10/17/2025 4:41 PM
90	Water Access Natural beach/water play areas along Minnehaha Creek at a few points along the creek.	10/17/2025 2:50 PM
91	None. Love it as it is.	10/17/2025 7:24 AM
92	Picnic Areas/Seating Inviting seating area.	10/16/2025 6:51 PM
93	Trail Improvements Another crossing of the creek to allow a loop trail without exiting the park. A trail connection to the Burrell House parkland.	10/16/2025 5:53 PM
94	Natural Space Improvements Trail Improvements Continue to upkeep the trails and clear out buckthorn. Less smelly garbages (full of dog poo)	10/16/2025 5:19 PM
95	Parking Restrooms —Porta potty near smaller parking lot trailhead —expanded parking space off Minnetonka Blvd	10/16/2025 4:46 PM
96	Trail Improvements Reduce steep grade of bike trail as it enters the marsh area just west of soccer field. Same for hills further west near parking area.	10/16/2025 1:29 PM
97	Signage Cleaned up trails, dedicated trail maps.	10/16/2025 12:23 PM

98	Bike Infrastructure Picnic Areas/Seating Signage Better benches in style and location, like beeing able to see the creek. If people actually read signs, then I would say some aimed at the cyclists. I would like a ban on ebikes and scooters as there is the rail trail for them to use.	10/15/2025 9:59 PM
99	Myself and so many of my friends would like to see a disc golf course added into the trails/ open grass field area	10/15/2025 6:49 PM
100	Trail Improvements I want the backtrails between the creek rd parking lot and the train bridge to be cleared out better during the summer so it's walkable	10/13/2025 4:10 PM
101	Bike Infrastructure Trail Improvements Water Access I think the remote feel of the trails in an amazing asset to have in the metro area. I would like to see more trails and specifically, separate walking and biking trails, even with some beginner/intermediate mountain bike trails included. More access points to the creek would also be nice.	10/13/2025 2:25 PM
102	Parking More parking at ball fields, if possible.	10/13/2025 11:31 AM
103	Dog Infrastructure Off-leash dog area.	10/13/2025 11:25 AM
104	Trail Improvements Rebuild the floating bridge from the trail into the big Willow Park ballfields!!	10/12/2025 8:31 AM
105	Water Access Easy canoe and kayak entrances to the creek	10/11/2025 12:53 PM
106	Crosswalks Some easier way to cross across Minnetonka blvd from big willow to Gulliams park	10/10/2025 7:49 PM
107	Signage It's perfect. The most beautiful walking, hiking and jogging park for children, adults, seniors and handicap. No bikes, or post warning safety signs use at your own risk for injuries to you and your dogs.	10/10/2025 3:30 PM
108	Crosswalks Trail Improvements Water Access Better access from Mills Landing shops - we want to walk and grab lunch. Improved kayak access. More navigable trails.	10/9/2025 8:10 PM
109	Dog Infrastructure On leash ordinances	10/9/2025 8:07 PM
110	Dog Infrastructure Off leash dog park	10/9/2025 2:46 PM
111	Trail Improvements Redo of bridge over creek for slippery winter season; wetlands raised walkway	10/9/2025 9:40 AM
112	Playground A nature play area somewhere in the park.	10/8/2025 8:58 PM
113	Trail Improvements Easier/nicer to walk to groom the road - parkway like.	10/7/2025 7:07 PM
114	Flooding Natural Space Improvements I agree with supporting native plants. Most of the trails are fine except for going under the railroad bridge; frequently flooded and erosion is taking its toll.	10/7/2025 3:39 PM
115	Bike Infrastructure Dog Infrastructure Signage Trail Improvements More extensive mountain bike trails, dog park, better maps of trail loops	10/6/2025 7:33 PM
116	Additional Fields/Courts Field Improvements Ice Rink Pickleball Courts Ice Hockey Rink with Warming house and conditioned ice	10/6/2025 10:18 AM
117	Flooding Trail Improvements More walking/running trails. Also a way to reach either side of the train tracks when the water covers the trail under the train bridge.	10/4/2025 8:17 PM
118	Crosswalks Field Improvements Flooding Picnic Areas/Seating Signage Trail Improvements 1. Better water control at the bend around minnehaha creek under the railroad tracks 2. Bench at that same spot to enjoy watching the creek 3. More parking at the sports complex 4. Full lighting at the sports complex and playground 5. Several trails have potential to cause tire damage to bikes 6. Better signage at some trail forks and entrances to know where we'll end up 7. Better access to sports complex from the West (large drop at the soccer field) 8. Better access to cross from sports complex to sports fields and trail system south of Minnetonka Blvd (crosswalk at least?) 9. Improved paving around trails near softball fields 10. Covered bleachers on high school field 11. Bleachers on some fields only have steps on one side	10/3/2025 10:41 PM
119	Bike Infrastructure Mountain bike trails	10/3/2025 2:52 PM

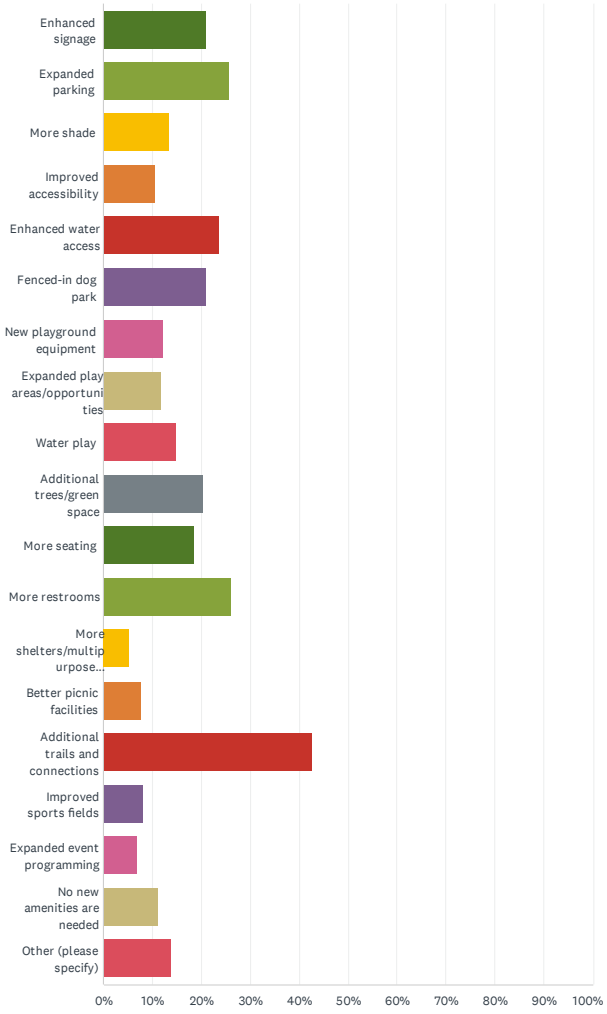
120	Trail Improvements Water Access Trails on s side of creek; kayak launch	10/3/2025 10:16 AM
121	Playground Better playground. Nature playground/mud kitchen.	10/3/2025 9:54 AM
122	Crosswalks Trail Improvements Additional access to the parking lots up by the soccer fields and connection to the trail through the Big Willow trail. The trail is very confusing to get to get over the creek	10/2/2025 10:36 PM
123	Flooding Trail Improvements This for the wooded park trails only (NOT ball fields): (1) PAVE the parts of the main trail that are not already paved. Many times during the year they become sodden/ puddly/ muddy/ YUK -- real bummer; (2) a challenge, but build a retaining wall along south side of Creek where it floods repeatedly nearly every year! That trail is flooded WAY too often!	10/2/2025 3:06 PM
124	Flooding Natural Space Improvements Not much, buckthorn removed and a trail that doesn't flood	10/1/2025 7:30 PM
125	Bike Infrastructure Off road mountain biking	10/1/2025 1:27 PM
126	Additional Fields/Courts Tennis courts and pickleball courts.	10/1/2025 1:19 PM
127	Crosswalks Flooding Trail Improvements 1. I would like to see the bridge from the Minnetonka Blvd entrance redone so it can be used all year long. 2. I live across the street and on Minnetonka Blvd and would like to have a safe way to cross. The traffic is going quite fast and is pretty constant so you really have to be careful. A crosswalk would be great. 3. It is not possible to cross under the railway bridge if there is much rain. It would be good to make that area accessible as well.	10/1/2025 11:49 AM
128	Crosswalks Flooding Better connection to the LRT. Better path along the creek under the railroad bridge so walkers can get through	10/1/2025 10:29 AM
129	Signage Map of the trails along the way when they intersect.	9/30/2025 9:30 PM
130	Crosswalks I would like to see a metered crosswalk put in across Minnetonka Blvd in front of Applewood Pointe. We have 149 people all over age 62. Many of us are frequent users of the park. Crossing Minnetonka Blvd with traffic at 40-45mph can be challenging.	9/30/2025 3:42 PM
131	Natural Space Improvements Anything that would keep flora and fauna protected from any further disturbance and trauma	9/30/2025 3:36 PM
132	Dog Infrastructure Water stations, dog park!!	9/30/2025 11:03 AM
133	Dog Infrastructure We would LOVE a dog park!!!	9/29/2025 5:40 PM
134	Accessibility Flooding Accessibility features. The stairs from the parking lot to the trail need handrails. The "ramp" go around is not marked. The area by the bridge is too steep for a wheelchair and treacherous in winter. The trail floods under the RR track.	9/29/2025 2:53 PM
135	Picnic Areas/Seating Playground Water Play Splash pad, reservable picnic shelters, swings especially with dual adult-to-infant facing	9/28/2025 10:09 PM
136	Interpretive Play/Signage More info about the natural areas	9/28/2025 12:01 PM
137	Dog Infrastructure Would love to see a dog park!	9/27/2025 10:52 PM
138	Dog Infrastructure DOG PARK!	9/27/2025 9:46 PM
139	Dog Infrastructure Off leash dog areas	9/27/2025 3:08 PM
140	Dog Infrastructure Dog park	9/27/2025 9:22 AM
141	Water Fountains Water fountains	9/27/2025 8:23 AM
142	Restrooms Portable toilets closer to softball and soccer fields	9/27/2025 6:39 AM
143	Water Fountains A water fountain	9/26/2025 12:15 PM
144	Restrooms It would be nice have bathroom access closer the trails. Not sure that's possible but a wishlist item!	9/26/2025 11:39 AM
145	Natural Space Improvements Parking A little more parking, if it can be done with minimal disruption to the natural areas.	9/25/2025 6:05 PM

146	Playground Bigger playground	9/25/2025 4:31 PM
147	Natural Space Improvements Playground A better playground for kids of all ages! Please leave the ruggedness of the woods for all to enjoy the natural setting!!	9/25/2025 3:34 PM
148	Trash Bins better trash monitoring and can availability	9/25/2025 12:17 PM
149	Natural Space Improvements There's not enough natural birds in the park. I just don't think there's that foraging they need that I am not seeing	9/24/2025 6:40 PM
150	Bike Infrastructure Flooding Trail Improvements Single track MTB trails like lone lake - so long as the hiking trails are not sacrificed Dredge the creek under the train bridge where kids have filled it with rocks and put those rocks on the upstream bank to prevent the trail from constantly being flooded - this would be a one-time fix that would solve the problem for years to come instead of having to constantly close the trail and fix the gravel every year.	9/24/2025 5:58 PM
151	Trail Improvements Improve walking transitions between dirt, gravel, limestone, asphalt and concrete.	9/24/2025 11:46 AM
152	No sure. Like it the way it is	9/24/2025 10:04 AM
153	Interpretive Play/Signage History of the house, perhaps include photo of Hannah house. I gave a copy of the photo to Todd who works/ed for the city when we put my Dad's memorial bench at the park a few years ago.years ago.	9/23/2025 8:53 PM
154	Trail Improvements Running track	9/23/2025 7:03 PM
155	Flooding The flooded area under the railroad needs to be fixed. If it's underwater half the summer it's hard to use half the park	9/23/2025 5:38 PM
156	Flooding figure out a way to prevent flooding under the railroad track bridge and pathways just before and after the bridge	9/23/2025 4:56 PM
157	Flooding Water Fountains In the last few years, the flooding on the Big Willow Trail near the underpass of the rail line has been really detrimental to the park experience. I'm not sure how, but that area needs to be shored up against the consistent erosion that lets the water flood over onto the path. Other than that, the park is gorgeous and perfect and needs absolutely nothing changed (except maybe a water fountain).	9/23/2025 3:41 PM
158	Picnic Areas/Seating Picnic table, so families can enjoy lunch or a picnic if they come to the park or playground	9/23/2025 9:33 AM
159	Interpretive Play/Signage Playground A nature play area	9/22/2025 10:07 PM
160	Flooding Interpretive Play/Signage Natural Space Improvements Better trail and nature signage. Flood mitigation, especially under the rail bridge. Better maintenance of some of the minor trails. More wildflowers. Even better bird habitat.	9/22/2025 7:15 PM
161	Dog Infrastructure Archery range, off leash dog park or off leash trails (similar to purgatory park)	9/22/2025 6:56 PM
162	Winter Activities Lights for evenings and options for cross country skiing	9/22/2025 6:16 PM
163	None...leave it as natural as possible... we already have enough ball/sport parks that are unused most of the year!	9/22/2025 12:41 PM
164	Restrooms Restrooms located closer to ball fields or between ball fields.	9/22/2025 10:13 AM
165	Restrooms Restrooms between fields 5 and 6	9/22/2025 10:10 AM
166	Signage Updated paths, clearer signage.	9/22/2025 9:39 AM
167	Bike Infrastructure Mountain bike course or skills pump track.	9/22/2025 6:08 AM
168	Additional Fields/Courts Bike Infrastructure A disk golf course or mountain biking trail	9/21/2025 4:56 PM
169	Playground We only use the playground, so any additional play equipment is always good but not needed.	9/21/2025 4:24 PM
170	Ice Rink Ice Skating rink would be a nice add on for winter months	9/21/2025 3:48 PM
171	Bike Infrastructure Mountain bike trails	9/21/2025 3:34 PM

172	Trail Improvements Bridge or trail? To make walking longer through the park better	9/21/2025 3:08 PM
173	Winter Activities Cross country ski trails. Removal if invasive species. Additional native plants.	9/21/2025 1:22 PM
174	Restrooms Porta potty	9/21/2025 12:00 PM
175	Water Access A place for dogs to swim/play in the water; a big playground (the one near the public works building is not very good)	9/21/2025 11:59 AM
176	Natural Space Improvements Keep it as natural as possible	9/21/2025 11:46 AM
177	Trash Bins More trash cans	9/21/2025 9:17 AM
178	Flooding Playground Water Access Swings at playground Restore the dock Better flood control on the trail by the train trestle	9/20/2025 9:05 PM
179	Dog Infrastructure Signage Fenced dog area, signs at trail intersections directing back to parking lot	9/20/2025 5:34 PM
180	Additional Fields/Courts Dog Infrastructure Ice Rink Off leash dog park, pickle ball courts, ice rink (winter)	9/20/2025 4:21 PM
181	Keep out e-bikes and scooters.	9/20/2025 11:25 AM
182	Bike Infrastructure Trail Improvements Full trail paving and/or dedicated bike and walking markings	9/19/2025 5:19 PM
183	Picnic Areas/Seating Trail Improvements Expanded walking and sitting areas into recently added area. More maintained trails. Better slope for creek bridge.	9/19/2025 3:37 PM
184	Flooding Some grading, so the trail will not flood so up	9/19/2025 3:10 PM
185	Restrooms Signage Trail Improvements Restrooms, wayfinding signage with park regulations clearly posted. Replace the bridge over the creek.	9/19/2025 1:09 PM
186	Signage Trail Improvements Park rules and wayfinding signage. Another bridge over the creek (west side) to create a looped trail system in the park.	9/19/2025 1:04 PM
187	Bike Infrastructure Safety Improvements Trail Improvements Something to make the trail with the hair pin turn at the creek/railroad bridge safer to pass through. Maybe a convex mirror? We ride our bikes through that area nearly every day. I love that there's all different types of people using that area for hiking, dog, walking,fishing or just admiring the creek, but it gets a little scary when the traffic is heavy and some people are not aware that others are coming around the corner. You were supporting.	9/19/2025 12:51 PM
188	Playground Playground for younger kids	9/19/2025 10:31 AM
189	Bike Infrastructure Interpretive Play/Signage Restrooms Signage Trail Improvement Trash Bins Fix the flooding issue on the trail near the railroad bridge. Add more poop bag stations and make sure they are stocked. Put signs up with maps of the trails, including bike trails. Informative signs around the areas with the chimney and other ruins explaining their history. Maybe a restroom in the western wooded areas	9/18/2025 11:26 PM
190	Safety Improvements Safety lights and ability to call/notify for help	9/18/2025 3:24 PM
191	Accessibility Trail Improvements ADA section of the playground, looped trail on both sides of the RR tracks	9/18/2025 12:41 PM
192	Natural Space Improvements Like the park very much, and walk the dog here almost daily, at times multiple times. Focus on tree health!	9/18/2025 11:34 AM
193	Picnic Areas/Seating Signage Trail Improvements Seating and drinking water near trail areas, bird watching platform in swamp. Cattails are so high you can't actually see anything in the swamp. Trail maps for off main trail. Some how make the main trail into a loop.	9/18/2025 5:06 AM
194	Trail Improvements Gradual approach to bridge	9/17/2025 4:57 PM

Q14 Please select the following amenities that you would support adding to Big Willow Park (Select all that apply)

Answered: 296 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Enhanced signage	20.95%	62
Expanded parking	25.68%	76
More shade	13.51%	40
Improved accessibility	10.47%	31
Enhanced water access	23.65%	70
Fenced-in dog park	20.95%	62
New playground equipment	12.16%	36
Expanded play areas/opportunities	11.82%	35
Water play	14.86%	44
Additional trees/green space	20.27%	60
More seating	18.58%	55
More restrooms	26.01%	77
More shelters/multipurpose buildings	5.41%	16
Better picnic facilities	7.77%	23
Additional trails and connections	42.57%	126
Improved sports fields	8.11%	24
Expanded event programming	6.76%	20
No new amenities are needed	11.15%	33
Other (please specify)	13.85%	41
Total Respondents: 296		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Mountain biking trails	11/3/2025 8:57 PM
2	Better trail connections / safe road crossings on park exit and entry	11/1/2025 11:19 AM
3	un-fenced off-leash dog area	10/31/2025 9:58 AM
4	More lighting on the fields and common areas	10/28/2025 10:40 PM
5	Additional netting over central area of ball fields (that would cover bleachers and concessions areas	10/28/2025 4:03 PM
6	No off-leash dogs, especially in the marsh areas. No bikes on the small side trails. Bikes are fine on the gravel and paved trails.	10/28/2025 2:13 PM
7	Ice rink???	10/26/2025 12:26 PM
8	More benches along the walk path	10/23/2025 8:28 AM
9	Mtb trails or pump track	10/22/2025 11:53 AM
10	Leave it natural	10/21/2025 7:06 PM
11	Dog Park, off leash.	10/21/2025 5:23 PM
12	dog waste bags and collection	10/21/2025 2:25 PM

13	As a 75year old walker, I would appreciate spots to sit/glide/swing at the end of each trail (right now, the trails I use are dead ends. It's nice to sit before turning around to retrace my steps.	10/19/2025 2:20 PM
14	Map of trails	10/18/2025 4:09 PM
15	More baseball netting and protection	10/16/2025 5:19 PM
16	DISC GOLF COURSE!	10/15/2025 6:49 PM
17	Expand soccer field to full size dimensions.	10/13/2025 11:31 AM
18	Concerned that we do not overspend our tax base on too many improvements	10/12/2025 8:31 AM
19	NO bikes allowed signs at all entrances.	10/10/2025 3:30 PM
20	A footbridge that is safe to cross in the winter	10/10/2025 8:39 AM
21	Please no dog park—noise and will likely add more dogs to trails; don't add a creekside pergola—plenty of those elsewhere. Value BW for its quiet, natural, wildlife-friendly environment!	10/9/2025 9:40 AM
22	Improve and add mountain bike trails	10/6/2025 7:33 PM
23	Conditioned Outdoor Ice Surface and Pickleball Courts	10/6/2025 10:18 AM
24	the south approach to the Creek bridge is very hazardous in winter. Someone is going to get hurt. Needs traction sand oversight during winter!	10/2/2025 3:06 PM
25	Tennis and pickleball courts. More park events or food truck days.	10/1/2025 1:19 PM
26	Maybe just some expanded walking paths, but certainly interested to learn what 'new' development will take place along Mtka Blvd where the old ramshackle house and lot have finally been purchased by our City	9/28/2025 7:02 PM
27	Fix the trail near the railroad bridge to keep it from going under water.	9/26/2025 1:25 PM
28	wildflower garden, a covered pavilion for picnics near Mtka blvd	9/25/2025 12:17 PM
29	MTB trail	9/24/2025 5:58 PM
30	year-round restroom with drinking water	9/24/2025 11:46 AM
31	Better access to trails from small parking lot, maybe paved ramps instead of steps.	9/23/2025 8:53 PM
32	one or two more spaced containers for dog poop bags	9/23/2025 4:56 PM
33	I only use the trails and natural space, so, difficult to answer. Don't add a dog park.	9/22/2025 3:23 PM
34	Keep it natural. We've already lost too much green space to sports + dogs!	9/22/2025 12:41 PM
35	I love how practically untouched big willow has been for a few decades. I think we should try to keep as much green space as possible.	9/22/2025 9:39 AM
36	Disk golf or mountain biking	9/21/2025 4:56 PM
37	Mountain bike trails	9/21/2025 3:34 PM
38	A restroom at the upper ball parks - Portable is fine	9/20/2025 9:38 AM
39	Seats are high. My feet don't touch the ground.	9/19/2025 3:10 PM
40	Restrooms near the preserve section	9/19/2025 1:09 PM
41	Safety features	9/18/2025 3:24 PM

Q15 What barriers, if any, make it difficult for you or others you know to enjoy Big Willow Park?

Answered: 116 Skipped: 228

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None There are no barriers for me or others that I know	11/15/2025 11:35 AM
2	Trail Conditions uneven pavement	11/14/2025 1:08 PM
3	None None	11/12/2025 1:06 PM
4	None None	11/12/2025 12:57 PM
5	Flooding Trails under water	11/6/2025 6:49 PM
6	None None	11/6/2025 3:29 PM
7	Trail Conditions Accessibility of trails	11/5/2025 4:26 PM
8	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking Off leash dogs.	11/3/2025 8:57 PM
9	Flooding The creek flooding under the railroad tracks seems to be much more frequent. Would be nice if that was fixed.	11/3/2025 10:52 AM
10	Trail Conditions Ice in the winter with a steep walk up to bridge. Flooding over path in the summer which blocks access	11/2/2025 6:43 PM
11	General Safety Lighting would make it more usable in the evening	10/28/2025 10:40 PM
12	None None, for us. We walk it daily!	10/28/2025 4:03 PM
13	Trail Conditions Most of the trails are not suitable for those with a walker	10/28/2025 7:30 AM
14	Flooding The only enhancement needed to the park is to build/structure the waterway so that the trails are not flooded every single year. From what I understand, this is due to	10/27/2025 6:22 PM
15	Flooding The trail often floods in the spring making it difficult to know if we can use it or not. A picnic table or two would be nice by the playground. When I brought lunch to the park, we had to eat on the bench without a table which can be tricky for little kids.	10/26/2025 11:15 PM
16	Lacking Amenities It is dominated by baseball fields so it doesn't feel like a park. It feels like a sports complex.	10/26/2025 9:15 PM
17	Flooding Just the spring flooding under the bridge making the trail inaccessible.	10/26/2025 9:52 AM
18	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Crossing Minnetonka Blvd to get into Big Willow	10/25/2025 4:21 PM
19	Trail Conditions in the winter the trails are often icy	10/25/2025 2:20 PM
20	Trail Conditions The bridge over the creek is dangerous in winter if sand is not put down.	10/24/2025 11:11 AM
21	Bike Infrastructure/Safety Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking 10 speed, trail and electric bikes are a safety hazard to all humans that escalated this year in the park; everywhere. An increase of dogs off leashes also escalated that is a huge safety issue for dogs on leashes and all humans enjoying the park. Police and humans do not have ability or standing to catch or report increasing bad safety and hazardous behavior. City council and Park Board must make a stand for the vulnerable seniors, toddlers, children, adults etc. to allow safety for us. Please outlaw all bikes and dogs off leash in every area of Big Willow Park. Bikes and off leash dogs are not conducive in this unique park of playgrounds, fields, creek, abundant wildlife, nature, swamps, paths of dirt, gravel and paved for walking and jogging adults, seniors, etc.	10/23/2025 3:42 PM
22	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Speed of traffic on Minnetonka Blvd	10/23/2025 11:42 AM
23	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing the speed of the traffic on Minnetonka. Make the 30 mph	10/23/2025 10:20 AM

	consistent up to Hopkins crossroad.	
24	Connectivity/Navigation Challenges Distance to home and trail connectedness	10/23/2025 9:14 AM
25	Trail Conditions The walking bridge going over the creek is VERY slippery in winter. NEEDS sand.	10/23/2025 8:28 AM
26	Trail Conditions Uneven pavement, small parking area near trail entrance	10/22/2025 6:51 PM
27	General Safety signage. Seems sketchy.	10/22/2025 6:32 PM
28	Parking Parking	10/22/2025 2:18 PM
29	Trail Conditions The bridge.	10/22/2025 1:52 PM
30	Parking We are there frequently for baseball, and the parking lot fills up!! Fields are beautiful.	10/22/2025 1:05 PM
31	Lacking Amenities The rules. Why can't people play pickup soccer or baseball or toss a football around in the park?	10/22/2025 12:31 PM
32	Flooding Flooding of paths	10/22/2025 10:53 AM
33	Bike Infrastructure/Safety Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking General Safety Because my property/house on Creek Rd adjoins the parkland, I am sometimes frightened by activities at night. I have recently heard gunshots from the park at night. I am strongly concerned about e-bikes using the paths that walkers also use. I am worried that without significant effort, park users and dogs will wander into my property when the buckthorn is down. WE can use increased monitoring of owners letting their dogs off leasch and I surely wouldn't want a dog park in the nature second of the park.	10/22/2025 6:32 AM
34	Parking Limited parking at areas directly next to natural areas trails.	10/22/2025 5:12 AM
35	Lacking Amenities Playground equipment is dreadful.	10/22/2025 2:08 AM
36	Parking Parking can be an issue when multiple sporting events are going on. Parking lot gets crowded quickly.	10/21/2025 9:55 PM
37	None Not having time.	10/21/2025 8:06 PM
38	Parking When there's a baseball game parking gets tight.	10/21/2025 7:52 PM
39	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Difficult crossing Minnetonka Bkvd	10/21/2025 7:06 PM
40	Trail Conditions Bikers on formal/informal trails. Erosion on some of the trails.	10/21/2025 6:41 PM
41	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking I don't go too often anymore as too many people let their dogs run off leash. Not safe for my small dog.	10/21/2025 5:52 PM
42	Parking I love walking around the trails on the west wide of Big Willow Park. However, parking to directly access the trails is difficult and the large parking lot is incredibly out of the way of the trails.	10/21/2025 5:28 PM
43	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking No dog park - we go out to Minnewashta.	10/21/2025 5:23 PM
44	Parking Lack of parking	10/21/2025 5:03 PM
45	Connectivity/Navigation Challenges The bike paths are not clear. And there is no "you are here" signs throughout the park	10/21/2025 4:47 PM
46	Big Willow is fine just the way it is.	10/21/2025 4:13 PM
47	None none	10/20/2025 7:15 PM
48	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking Too many dogs	10/20/2025 12:35 PM
49	Flooding Flooding.	10/19/2025 5:42 PM
50	Connectivity/Navigation Challenges Parking We park at the small parking lot off Minnetonka blvd to access the trails. It's often full or nearly full. The trails dont connect to the baseball fields and playground.	10/19/2025 3:51 PM
51	Trail Conditions Dead end trails. Only one bridge over the Creek. Need another bridge near Rail Road bridge to access parking and other amenities. Cars making their own spot to park in	10/19/2025 2:20 PM

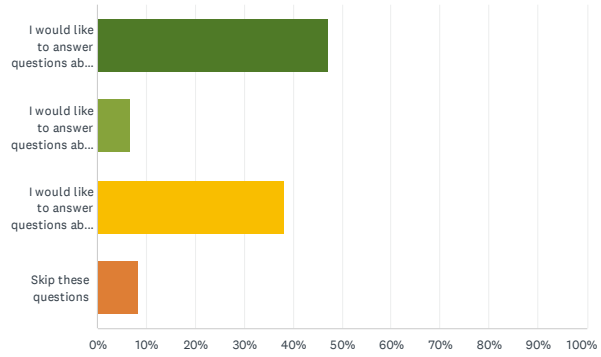
	southeast corner of lot across from Applewood Pointe. Visually negative and dust inducing. Cars parking along street = visual polution and all the disadvantages of living along a dirt road. Please put up no parking signs.	
52	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Only crossing Minnetonka Blvd from our home across the street - traffic is a problem	10/18/2025 10:14 AM
53	Flooding Trail flooding.	10/18/2025 8:59 AM
54	Flooding Flooding	10/18/2025 5:28 AM
55	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Sometimes difficult to cross Mtka Blvd by foot to get into the park. Especially when pushing a baby stroller.	10/17/2025 8:00 PM
56	None None. It's great as is.	10/17/2025 7:24 AM
57	Flooding Flooding	10/16/2025 4:46 PM
58	Trail Conditions Steep grade is difficult to walk.	10/16/2025 1:29 PM
59	Bike Infrastructure/Safety I would say again it is the thoughtless, careless and or entitled folks on foot and bikes , some with dogs that make the place not so hot. Some of the folks know there is little chance of getting penalized for bad or even dangerous behavior, if caught a warning is the likely outcome.	10/15/2025 9:59 PM
60	Lacking Amenities There isn't a disc golf course	10/15/2025 6:49 PM
61	Parking Limited parking, no restrooms near parking to access trails near the creek.	10/13/2025 11:25 AM
62	General Safety Lately, a drone(s) has been hovering overhead watching me and my dog as we walk the trails. This will keep me from visiting if it continues...	10/11/2025 5:34 PM
63	Flooding When the path floods in the spring	10/11/2025 12:53 PM
64	Bike Infrastructure/Safety Bikes motoriized and peddle	10/10/2025 3:30 PM
65	Trail Conditions Icy footbridge that is not flat	10/10/2025 8:39 AM
66	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking Off-leash dogs	10/9/2025 8:10 PM
67	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking I know many people who would like to go but don't feel safe due to off leash dogs	10/9/2025 8:07 PM
68	None No barriers	10/9/2025 9:40 AM
69	None I cannot think of any	10/8/2025 6:25 PM
70	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Connection to the LRT	10/8/2025 5:16 PM
71	Flooding Flooding.	10/7/2025 7:07 PM
72	People don't seem to know about Big Willow.	10/6/2025 7:33 PM
73	Insufficient comprehensive plans that dictate behaviors rather than uses	10/6/2025 10:18 AM
74	Flooding Reaching the other side of the park when the trail under the train tracks is flooded.	10/4/2025 8:17 PM
75	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing A safer way to cross Minnetonka Blvd from the LRT on foot	10/3/2025 2:52 PM
76	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking Dogs often off leash. Not always safe as a Result	10/3/2025 10:16 AM
77	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Confusion trying to access the trail from Minnetonka Blvd.	10/2/2025 10:36 PM
78	None n/a	10/2/2025 3:06 PM
79	Flooding Flooding	10/1/2025 7:30 PM
80	None NA	10/1/2025 1:19 PM
81	Connectivity/Navigation Challenges Flooding Minnetonka Blvd Crossing 1. The bridge from Minnetonka Blvd is impossible to cross in the winter. 2. The crossing from the south of Minnetonka Blvd to the entrance is dangerous at the park entrance. We live in a senior building at 12201 Minnetonka Blvd and it is difficult/dangerous to cross. The bike trail also has access there. 3. The trail can become quite icy in the winter. 4. You cannot access the trail on the	10/1/2025 11:49 AM

	North side of the railroad crossing if there is much rain. 5. The sidewalk on the north side of Minnetonka near the entrance disappears in certain areas.	
82	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing Again, trying to cross busy Minnetonka Blvd. from Applewood Pointe.	9/30/2025 3:42 PM
83	Trail Conditions Navigating during the winter is challenging; I walk much less over there in the winter because I'm afraid of falling.	9/30/2025 3:36 PM
84	Trail Conditions Just the sidewalks	9/29/2025 5:40 PM
85	Lacking Amenities Scarce parking, minimal playground options	9/28/2025 10:09 PM
86	None None	9/28/2025 12:28 PM
87	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking Not having a dog park	9/27/2025 9:46 PM
88	Parking Small parking lot near trails	9/26/2025 12:51 PM
89	Parking Parking can be difficult near the trail.	9/25/2025 6:05 PM
90	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking Mandatory leash laws. Let dogs be dogs.	9/25/2025 3:34 PM
91	Trail Conditions the wooden bridge over tributary from Plymouth road side gets very slippery after rain, in winter ice blocks use of trails	9/25/2025 12:17 PM
92	Flooding Flooded trail under train track.	9/24/2025 7:06 PM
93	Lacking Amenities Equal opportunity access for athletic organizations to access baseball fields	9/24/2025 5:31 PM
94	Trail Conditions Excessive vegetation at trail and path entry/exit. Overgrown vegetation and trees are blocking views of the creek and distant POI. Irritating and puncturing vegetation (prickly ash, buckthorn, thistle, burdock). Uncontrolled dogs. Kids and teens speeding on small-wheeled e-bikes.	9/24/2025 11:46 AM
95	None None	9/24/2025 10:04 AM
96	Trail Conditions Pavement on trail off of Minnetonka very hilly and pavement in bad shape.	9/23/2025 8:53 PM
97	Trail Conditions Paved paths are rough, water on trails	9/23/2025 5:38 PM
98	Flooding the flooding under railroad track bridge and a few steep hills in grassy areas when going from Minnetonka Blvd to the paths by the creek	9/23/2025 4:56 PM
99	Bike Infrastructure/Safety Fast bicyclists that don't watch for people, flooding, not enough seating along trails. Excessive buckthorn.	9/22/2025 7:15 PM
100	None None!	9/22/2025 6:56 PM
101	Parking Limited parking	9/22/2025 6:16 PM
102	Connectivity/Navigation Challenges Some of the trails end in dead ends or wetland	9/21/2025 4:56 PM
103	Minnetonka Blvd Crossing The biking route issue mentioned above (crossing Minnetonka Blvd from the trail)	9/21/2025 4:24 PM
104	Connectivity/Navigation Challenges More signage would be helpful	9/21/2025 3:08 PM
105	Bike Infrastructure/Safety E-bikes should be banned from the park. People ride those too fast. Besides, they're motorized vehicles.	9/21/2025 12:00 PM
106	Flooding The flooding near the railroad underpass	9/21/2025 11:59 AM
107	Flooding Flooded trail	9/20/2025 9:05 PM
108	Flooding Creek overflow.	9/20/2025 3:56 PM
109	Bike Infrastructure/Safety Fear of getting run over (again) by ebikers, e-scooters.	9/20/2025 11:25 AM
110	Trail Conditions Slope of bridge over creek.	9/19/2025 3:37 PM
111	Dogs - Safety or Infrastructure Lacking Off-leash dogs and electric bikes on the footpaths	9/19/2025 1:09 PM

112	ADA Accessibility Lack of adequate ADA parking and compliant trails.	9/19/2025 1:04 PM
113	ADA Accessibility It is difficult for elderly/people with mobility issues to walk through the park. Maybe if there was a very short part of the hiking trail with hand rails. Perhaps near the minnetonka blvd parking lot across from Applewood.	9/19/2025 12:51 PM
114	None None except RR corridor	9/18/2025 12:41 PM
115	None No barriers.	9/18/2025 11:34 AM
116	Trail Conditions Bridge approach is too steep	9/17/2025 4:57 PM

Q16 The following sections will include questions regarding trails/natural space and sports facilities. Please select which questions you would like to answer.

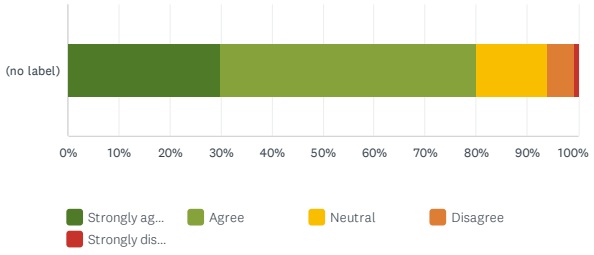
Answered: 304 Skipped: 40



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I would like to answer questions about trails and natural space only	47.04%	143
I would like to answer questions about recreation facilities only	6.58%	20
I would like to answer questions about both	38.16%	116
Skip these questions	8.22%	25
TOTAL		304

Q17 The trails, picnic areas, and access points are safe and accessible.

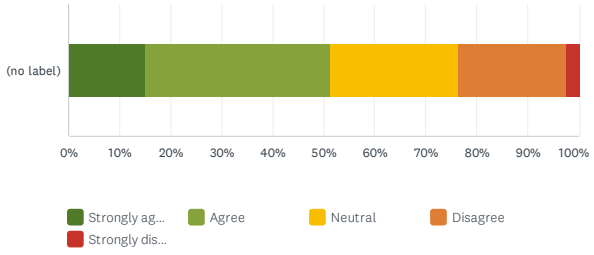
Answered: 254 Skipped: 90



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	29.92% 76	50.00% 127	14.17% 36	5.12% 13	0.79% 2	254	1.00

Q18 The trails at Big Willow Park are clearly marked and easy to navigate.

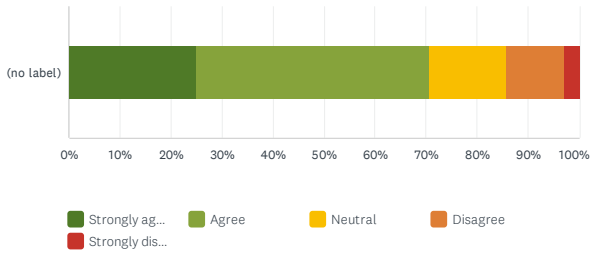
Answered: 253 Skipped: 91



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	15.02% 38	36.36% 92	24.90% 63	21.34% 54	2.37% 6	253	1.00

Q19 The bridges are safe and in good condition.

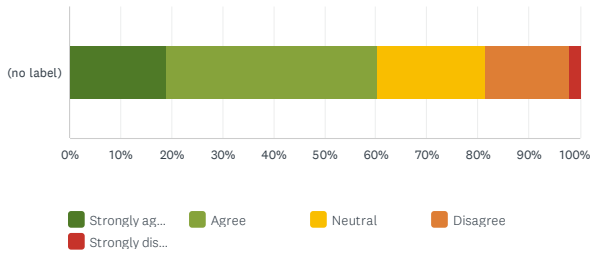
Answered: 252 Skipped: 92



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	25.00% 63	45.63% 115	15.08% 38	11.51% 29	2.78% 7	252	1.00

Q20 The natural environment at Big Willow Park is well-kept and maintained (good biodiversity, not too many invasive species, etc.)

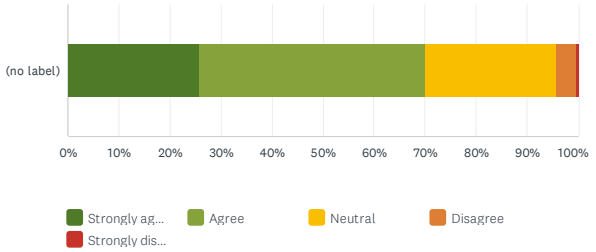
Answered: 252 Skipped: 92



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	19.05% 48	41.27% 104	21.03% 53	16.67% 42	1.98% 5	252	1.00

Q21 Big Willow Park has high quality trails and natural space compared to other nearby parks.

Answered: 253 Skipped: 91



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	25.69% 65	44.27% 112	25.69% 65	3.95% 10	0.40% 1	253	1.00

Q22 If you answered "disagree" or "strongly disagree" to any of the previous statements, please explain which ones and why:

Answered: 83 Skipped: 261

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) No trail markers	11/14/2025 3:38 PM
2	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Picnic area is only one side. No trail signs	11/6/2025 3:31 PM
3	Accessibility Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) As mentioned, access points are difficult to impossible for people with mobility issues - on west side. Signage is lacking throughout the west side. The bridge over the creek is very steep and is dangerous when snowy/icy.	11/5/2025 4:30 PM
4	We need more mountain bike trails, it's the busiest feature at lone lake beside the soccer field.	11/3/2025 8:59 PM
5	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) I love the brook and wetlands are well preserved and that the trails give get you up and close to them to fully immerse yourself. I also love the trails are natural gravel.. it adds to the earthiness to it and makes you feel like you're in the wilderness. The only main concern is the amount of buckthorn. I would love to see buckthorn removal and replacement with native woodland species that feed and shelter wildlife.	11/3/2025 9:31 AM
6	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) I see buckthorn removal, but nore removal needs to be done. The walking bridge is too steep. When the trail is flooded hikers cross the tracks illegally. Can something be done to raise the path?	11/2/2025 8:41 PM
7	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Buckthorn is an ongoing problem that the city tries to keep up with. Icy trails in winter are always a problem	11/2/2025 6:46 PM
8	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) There is virtually no signage to point to trails.	10/30/2025 12:08 PM
9	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) There is a lot of Buckthorn. I know how difficult it is, I have been fighting it in my yard for over 20 years.	10/28/2025 7:33 AM
10	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Would like to see more biodiversity and habitats (like Westwood or Eloise Butler)	10/26/2025 8:44 PM
11	Not enough trails I wish it was easier to do a loop without having to double back over the same trail in reverse.	10/26/2025 8:36 PM
12	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) there are areas with a lot of buckthorn, though I know that there has also been a good amount removed	10/25/2025 10:10 PM
13	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) If resources permit, more should be done to minimize invasive species	10/24/2025 11:13 AM
14	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) I disagree with the statement that the environment is well kept - I see a fair amount of invasive species.	10/23/2025 9:58 PM
15	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) I think invasives are an issue in all of the parks around here.	10/23/2025 4:00 PM
16	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) I heard from a public parks employee the bridge needs safety repairs. I asked him if feasible to add a wood side hand rails because it was a steep incline for some on the south side.	10/23/2025 3:45 PM
17	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The creek bridge is definitely not safe in winter. There is way too much buckthorn. Thick buckthorn coverage reducing sight lines can be a security issue. BW has high quality natural space, but the trails themselves are not necessarily high quality. Trails really aren't marked.	10/23/2025 2:54 PM
18	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Invasive species require constant attention. Expand the good work that is already being done.	10/23/2025 11:45 AM

19	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) the amount of invasive species	10/23/2025 10:21 AM
20	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Would like to see more wildflowers/natural non invasive species. Trails could have better signage at junction points, and entrance points. Signage could be tactical for those who have vision impairment. Most with limited vision do not read braille.	10/23/2025 9:17 AM
21	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The walking bridge over the creek NEEDS sand in winter. That bridge is quite steep...	10/23/2025 8:30 AM
22	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) No signs	10/22/2025 8:21 AM
23	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Many invasive species exist, and the parking on Creek Rd creates a safety issue for residents	10/22/2025 6:32 AM
24	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Management of invasives is high on my list of concerns, particularly buckthorn, which Minnetonkans seem to have accepted as normal.	10/21/2025 8:05 PM
25	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) I do think more signs on the trails would be better, but I don't think they're necessary to enjoy a walk.	10/21/2025 7:53 PM
26	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) There is not a map of the park trails -- so they're not clearly marked; however, you really can't get lost, but if you're not familiar with the park, you don't know how the trail reconnects or the distance. Bridge discussed earlier -- a hazard and needs to be replaced. The central section is thick with buckthorn.	10/21/2025 6:45 PM
27	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Parking Accessing these trails is very difficult. The park feels segmented in two, with all the parking and urban park amenities on the east side and trails on the west. There is also a significant amount of invasives such as buckthorn along trails.	10/21/2025 5:32 PM
28	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Not well marked and no maps	10/21/2025 4:47 PM
29	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) As noted before, bridge needs to be fixed up and made safe for little kids. The natural spaces have great potential, but too many side trails by bikes, etc and need better landscaping for views and natural habitats, getting rid of invasive. Access to creek could be much more appealing	10/20/2025 12:40 PM
30	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) In today's environment. Some areas are too closed in. I worry about more vulnerable people avoiding these areas. Its a fine line. The north paths around albans mill are in need of more frequent grooming for sitelines	10/19/2025 5:45 PM
31	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Buckthorn has taken over the forest areas and less native plants and flowers are able to thrive.Therefore birds and animals have difficulty surviving there.	10/19/2025 3:13 PM
32	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) I would prefer that dead trees be left alone. Yes, remove Buckthorn and Poison Ivy, but basically, the "wilder" the better!	10/19/2025 2:23 PM
33	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Invasive species -buckthorn- needs more attention	10/18/2025 12:38 PM
34	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The bridge over minnehaha creek is failing. Missing areas with big hills making traversing during Inclement weather difficult	10/18/2025 11:04 AM
35	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Bridge is slippery in winter - sanding it helped last winter. Signage regarding a trail map showing "you are here" would be helpful	10/18/2025 10:17 AM
36	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The arched wooden bridge over the creek is dangerous on the south side due to the sharp downward slant in wet or snowy conditions. The handrailing is insufficient and does not extend far enough.	10/18/2025 9:33 AM
37	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Parts of the park are overrun with buckthorn. This is an understood major problem that has been getting needed attention. Removal efforts need to continue with earnest. I am a habitat steward and help with this issue.	10/18/2025 9:08 AM
38	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Needed to use phone navigation for trails in park	10/16/2025 7:18 PM

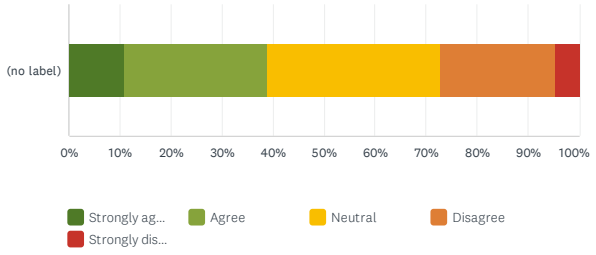
39	Not enough trails Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trails are limited and bootleg trails abound. Bridge over creek can be dangerously slippery after snow or rain.	10/16/2025 5:55 PM
40	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) There is not much diversity in flora and fauna. There isn't much signage - but not much is needed!	10/16/2025 3:36 PM
41	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trail quality is ver uneven, some asphalt areas are reall bad like the part west from the ballfields ,plus the slope down is steep enough for stairs and cyclists come down at you dangerously fast as they do coming down the steps from the small lot wesy of the fields. The various width dirt trails are erratic in quality and care, with some hemmed in by garres or buckthorn, many are rutted and fill with water or have lots of roots and rocks. Some could use some wood chipping, especially low water collecting spots. My priority with buckthorn would be to keep it away from trail edges, particularly where there are hills and sharp turns, which is all over, for safety/visability. That arching bridge over the creek looks great but the engineers blew it, the end towards the ball fields is steep to walk up and in winter with ice and no handrail, a deadend. Ramping a little sand in some winters is not adequate.	10/15/2025 10:12 PM
42	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) I have seen very few trail signs in the park.	10/13/2025 11:26 AM
43	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) buckthorn removal lacking at all parks	10/11/2025 1:34 PM
44	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) the bridge can be a little steep in slippery winter/spring season. Although well sanded one hand rail would help if you must spend money. otherwise it is perfect and beautiful.	10/10/2025 3:35 PM
45	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) A lot of buckthorn. Side trails are overused and damaged. Confusing trail system for new visitors. Bridge is solid but the approach is difficult.	10/9/2025 8:29 PM
46	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) The off leash dogs and the large amount of buckthorn make this kind of a miserable experience	10/9/2025 8:09 PM
47	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The bridge and its approach are too slippery for safe use in winter. That cuts off use of much of the park for many regular users.	10/9/2025 9:44 AM
48	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Bridge is showing some wear, and likely has some safety concerns for some users. Seems like there is an excess of dead trees in close proximity to the trail. Often they are marked but they don't often appear to get cut down in a timely manner. It would nice to have these trees monitored and removed in a timely manner. I'd like to see a full scale effort at managing buckthorn in this park. Buckthorn is taking over many forested areas and habitats. Managing a few parks and areas to keep them free of invasives is worth the effort so we can appreciate restored and authentic habitats. I'd love to see this park restored and managed back to a more natural condition.	10/8/2025 9:03 PM
49	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Pretty limited signage and maps	10/8/2025 5:17 PM
50	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) We answered "disagree" to the statement that trails are clearly marked and easy to navigate. We have never seen a sign with a map scoping out the trails at Big Willow. When we first started visiting the park, we tried to use Google Maps to find the trails. And truthfully we were a little scared about getting lost. We didn't discover the section of the park behind the railroad tracks for at least a year. We also selected "disagree" to the statement that the natural environment at Big Willow Park is well-kept and maintained. Even though we see people working to eradicate it, we are concerned about all the buckthorn that dominates a lot of the forest.	10/6/2025 7:36 PM
51	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) 1. Bridge over the creek makes me nervous 2. Alternate access over railroad tracks when creek is flooded (but better to fix problem) 3. Signs are mostly non existent once you are within the trail system. Some you don't know you are headed to a dead end or a challenging route (ie not safe on a bike, etc)	10/3/2025 10:48 PM
52	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) The outer edges of the trails are not particularly well designated.... i.e. directions/ pointers/ etc. like from Burwell Lane....	10/2/2025 3:08 PM
53	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) A lot of buckthorn, often flooded	10/1/2025 7:31 PM

54	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Bridges need improvements	10/1/2025 10:29 AM
55	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Continued restoration will be needed. Great work by volunteers up to this point!	9/29/2025 2:54 PM
56	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Not entirely sure what to do about the buckthorn as its really too bad someone once thought it would be a good idea to import that wretched plant. Maybe more goats could return to chomp it down for part of every year.	9/28/2025 7:04 PM
57	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Def need some work on invasive species, better -more!-signage	9/28/2025 12:03 PM
58	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The bridge over minnehaha creek is very steep and dangerous in the winter. I understand replacing this bridge would be difficult and expensive, but if there could be a hand rail that extended to more level ground it would be very useful.	9/27/2025 9:26 AM
59	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) A lot of work has happened with regard to invasive species, a great start, but probably a lot of maintenance to continue, please keep it up! The curved wooden bridge over the creek is fine, but the pavement on the east side is quite steep and can get very slippery when wet.	9/27/2025 9:20 AM
60	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The bridge over Minnehaha is too steep and gets icy/slippery in the winter. It is starting to deteriorate	9/26/2025 12:21 PM
61	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) There is almost no trial marking and no maps within the park. The arched bridge has a big lip I'm worried my bike tire will get caught on	9/25/2025 5:51 PM
62	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Too much buckthorn. There are NO trail signs, esp for the smaller paths- where do they go? Maybe you could create a map Whatever you do, DONT PUT IN DIRT BIKE TRAILS!	9/25/2025 4:33 PM
63	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The trail is often flooded	9/25/2025 3:34 PM
64	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) Need informative signage. List possible connections, destinations and POI.	9/24/2025 11:50 AM
65	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Bridge over creek is not in the best shape. Hill is steep on east side. Needs to be a safer way to get to Cedar Lake Road when water levels are high.	9/23/2025 8:56 PM
66	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The bridge over the creek is so steep that it becomes an ice slide in the winter	9/23/2025 5:40 PM
67	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) I love the park and have no issue with the lack of signage. In fact, I love it. It keeps it more of a natural space without the guiding hand of humans telling you where to go. We should just explore! And as for the good biodiversity... Well, yes. It is diverse, but the buckthorn is obviously a huge issue and one that's incredibly difficult to address. It is sad to see so many other kinds of vegetation crowded out by that damned invasive tree.	9/23/2025 3:44 PM
68	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The main bridge gets slippery in the winter and is so steep on the east side it can be a bit dangerous	9/22/2025 4:23 PM
69	Many other cities have embraced natural areas. As a newer resident of the city it has been disappointing not to have as many options. There is a significant amount of underutilized space.	9/22/2025 6:14 AM
70	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Lots of buckthorn, invasive cat tails, and Reed cannery grass	9/21/2025 4:57 PM
71	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Some washing out near the main trail bridge	9/21/2025 3:08 PM
72	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Invasive species (buckthorn, burdock, white snake roots, etc.)	9/21/2025 1:25 PM
73	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Way too much buckthorn even after the regular clean ups.	9/21/2025 12:02 PM
74	Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) There are no trail markings. I don't even know which part	9/20/2025 9:07 PM

	of the trail counts as Big Willow Park (I live north of it and pass through it often).	
75	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Trails do not include useful signage	9/20/2025 5:35 PM
76	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Bridge is slippery with ice during winter.	9/20/2025 3:57 PM
77	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Areas with lots of buckthorn and garlic mustard. This is improving but work still needs to be done	9/20/2025 10:29 AM
78	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) Need continuous work on invasive species.	9/19/2025 3:39 PM
79	Parking Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Trail Navigation (Signs, Maps, etc.) The bridge needs replacing and additional parking is needed. Signs need to be installed for wayfinding and park regulations.	9/19/2025 1:12 PM
80	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The bridge over the creek is extremely dangerous. See previous comments.	9/19/2025 1:05 PM
81	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) The floods under the railway bridge are very limiting	9/18/2025 1:39 PM
82	Trail Conditions (Flooding, pavement, etc.) Steep grade to bridge over Minnehaha Creek	9/18/2025 12:43 PM
83	Natural Space (Habitat, Invasives, etc.) A lot of buckthorn.	9/18/2025 11:35 AM

Q23 There is enough parking at Big Willow Park to support events.

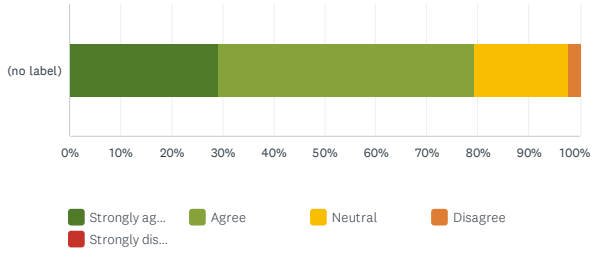
Answered: 129 Skipped: 215



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	10.85% 14	27.91% 36	34.11% 44	22.48% 29	4.65% 6	129	1.00

Q24 Recreation fields and facilities are safe and accessible.

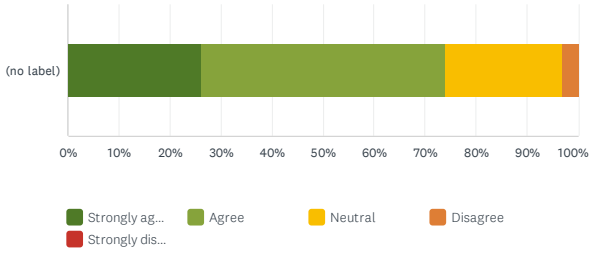
Answered: 131 Skipped: 213



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	29.01% 38	50.38% 66	18.32% 24	2.29% 3	0.00% 0	131	1.00

Q25 Facilities at Big Willow Park are clean and welcoming.

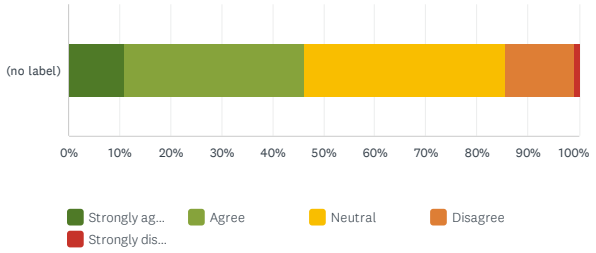
Answered: 130 Skipped: 214



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	26.15% 34	47.69% 62	23.08% 30	3.08% 4	0.00% 0	130	1.00

Q26 There are enough restrooms near the sports fields.

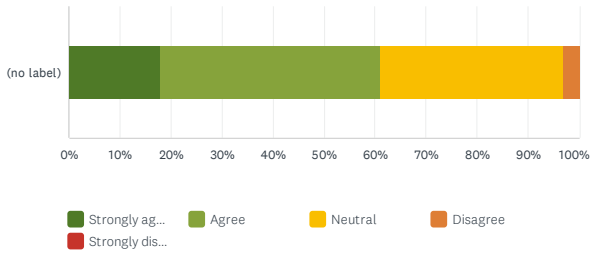
Answered: 130 Skipped: 214



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	10.77% 14	35.38% 46	39.23% 51	13.85% 18	0.77% 1	130	1.00

Q27 There is enough seating for spectators at sporting events.

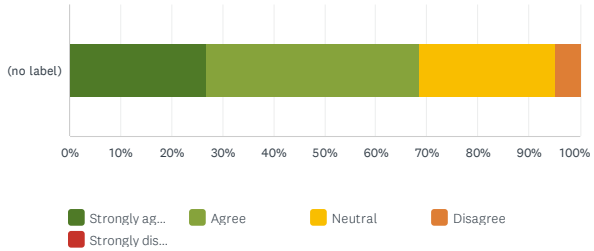
Answered: 128 Skipped: 216



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	17.97% 23	42.97% 55	35.94% 46	3.13% 4	0.00% 0	128	1.00

Q28 Big Willow Park has high quality recreation fields and facilities compared to other nearby options.

Answered: 127 Skipped: 217



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	26.77% 34	41.73% 53	26.77% 34	4.72% 6	0.00% 0	127	1.00

Q29 If you answered "disagree" or "strongly disagree" to any of the previous statements, please explain which ones and why:

Answered: 30 Skipped: 314

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Amenities at fields Parking It gets crowded during baseball games	11/12/2025 12:59 PM
2	N/A Mountain biking is a growing sport and is getting very popular.	11/3/2025 9:00 PM
3	Parking Would be nice to have fields at the 13yo age level for baseball (could expand existing field). Parking is fine but much of the parking is in harms way from softballs flying	10/29/2025 4:41 PM
4	N/A The facilities are top notch, lack nothing, and should not be a focus of funding or attention.	10/26/2025 8:38 PM
5	Restrooms The restrooms are a long walk away from many of the ballfields	10/25/2025 10:11 PM
6	Playground Could the playground be expanded for children somehow. And is there a place for bike parking if youth and persons use the roads to bike into the fields to watch or play games.	10/23/2025 3:51 PM
7	Restrooms More gender neutral or family restrooms.	10/23/2025 9:18 AM
8	Parking Parking is always an issue if there are more than 1 or 2 games going on.	10/22/2025 10:29 AM
9	Fields (Maintainance, type, quality, etc.) Need turf fields	10/22/2025 10:09 AM
10	Fields (Maintainance, type, quality, etc.) Soccer field is small and consistently in poor shape.	10/22/2025 9:57 AM
11	N/A See previous comment box	10/21/2025 11:29 PM
12	Parking Parking lot gets crowded quickly if multiple sporting events going on at one time.	10/21/2025 9:56 PM
13	Parking Parking is tough in the summers, would be good to figure out a way around that. Also - and this is specifically at the baseball fields, the drainage when it rains is poor. Water pools up a lot.	10/21/2025 4:20 PM
14	Restrooms more outhouses	10/20/2025 5:15 PM
15	Parking There is not enough parking for baseball games or when there are multiple games.	10/16/2025 5:21 PM
16	Fields (Maintainance, type, quality, etc.) Your soccer pitch is not great, why not let it be used by folks for fun.	10/15/2025 10:14 PM
17	Parking Not enough parking - one busy evenings, people park on road across Mtka Blvd and on grass in the park.	10/13/2025 12:11 PM
18	N/A Unusual setting for softball, soccerball and baseball but it works and appears to be enjoyed by spectators (me) and players.	10/10/2025 3:38 PM
19	Parking Too many cars	10/9/2025 8:32 PM
20	Parking Restrooms 1. There is not enough parking when fields are at full capacity and some new visitors don't drive around the full complex and instead park on the grass 2. Bathrooms aren't close to soccer fields or picnic table area	10/3/2025 10:51 PM
21	Restrooms Not sure I noticed any restrooms available	9/28/2025 10:11 PM
22	N/A Not all trails are clearly marked	9/22/2025 6:58 PM
23	N/A I only use the trails, and I wish we had more natural green space. Too many ball fields + dog poop parks already!	9/22/2025 12:42 PM
24	Restrooms There are enough restrooms but they are too far away from the fields.	9/22/2025 10:13 AM
25	Restrooms Restrooms	9/22/2025 10:11 AM

26	Playground The playground isn't good. The slides are weirdly shallow. In the two or three times I've taken my son there, we've left after like five minutes because it just wasn't fun.	9/21/2025 12:02 PM
27	Restrooms Restrooms by the playground are gross and usually short on paper	9/20/2025 9:08 PM
28	Fields (Maintainance, type, quality, etc.) We are part of a girls' softball league and the BW fields are way better than theirs!	9/20/2025 10:19 AM
29	Amenities at fields More shade for baseball softball spectators	9/18/2025 12:44 PM
30	Fields (Maintainance, type, quality, etc.) Big Willow baseball has a monopoly on field usage and that's not fair! It should be open to other organizations.	9/17/2025 5:34 PM

Q30 If you have any other comments, feedback, or suggestions for the future of Big Willow Park, please share them in the comment box below.

Answered: 110 Skipped: 234

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	My family and I go there for bicycling specifically which we really enjoy.	11/15/2025 11:38 AM
2	Please trim the narrow hiking trails in July or August	11/12/2025 1:07 PM
3	No	11/6/2025 3:31 PM
4	Off leash dogs are a problem. I was attacked by an off leash German Shepard. This is not acceptable under any circumstances.	11/3/2025 9:02 PM
5	Don't put mountain biking trails in please. Fix the flooding problem	11/2/2025 6:47 PM
6	I live across the street from Big Willow. Especially during the summer the traffic can be overwhelming and drivers rude and dangerous to walkers. Please keep these concerns in mind if you are considering expanding amenities. More traffic means more challenges.	10/30/2025 12:10 PM
7	Lighting for the common areas and ball fields	10/28/2025 10:42 PM
8	It's beautiful- keep it going!	10/28/2025 4:05 PM
9	No off-leash dogs! And bikes only on main trails.	10/28/2025 2:15 PM
10	The urge to "improve" and modify public spaces is ubiquitous but sometimes these become SOLUTIONS LOOKING FOR A PROBLEM. Keeping the main path usable with mowing on the edges and annual surface refresh is all we need here. More people, dogs erodes the sanctity of this space. We don't use the athletic complex now but from afar it looks fantastic. Spend money in other areas. The city purchased several homes along Minnetonka Blvd and tore them down for more park space. Unmarked and not really accessible what are these for other than canoe access. Perhaps introduce some picnic spots a path and another lovely gazebo. The current gazebo on Mtka Blvd. is a treasure. Well maintained, beautiful flowers and the creek all in one frame! The smaller side trails in BW are unimproved. Perhaps upgrade these for broader access? The growing # of electric bike-motorcycles doesn't, so far for me, have much impact but if the trend grows posting some safety, speed limit signs? Put another dog poop station on the south eastern part of the main path? Post some leash law signs. The city doesn't a great job with BW including plowing in winter! Thank you!	10/28/2025 1:11 PM
11	The sidewalk under the railroad bridge needs to be fixed. I love biking on all the trails. Lately I seem to get comments that I should not be biking on the trails. I give warnings when I pass. I say hello to everyone and I thank those that pull their dogs in so I can pass or those walking in large groups that make way for me. Maybe more signs should be put up that this is a shared trail system. I have physical issues that keep me from running or fast walking so biking is the best way for me to get a cardio workout. I love biking in the park and I do it year round, 5-7 days/week. The environment/nature is so beautiful and I love watching the seasons change. Please keep offering volunteer opportunities to help maintain the park.	10/28/2025 7:44 AM
12	The only issue is correcting the annual flooding which renders the loop unusable for much of the season if you are unable to climb up and cross the railroad tracks (which is prohibited but people do this to continue a hike).	10/27/2025 6:25 PM
13	The big town baseball field should have speakers!! All neighboring fields are more inviting with better stands, nicer dugouts, and definitely speakers. (at the very least, no rule against using speakers) Also sponsors along the fences for at least the big field, but maybe the little league too??	10/26/2025 12:29 PM
14	Big Willow Park is beautiful and we are so grateful we live nearby.	10/25/2025 10:11 PM
15	Do not allow dogs to run free in marsh areas.	10/25/2025 5:05 PM

16	Honestly, I used to visit Big Willow much more frequently for walking/hiking the trails, but found that the invasive species were kind of depressing me, and I would really like more trails or trails of greater length	10/25/2025 2:22 PM
17	There is a big hole in the trail just after it goes under the Crosstown bridge before it becomes Bryant Lake park that needs to be addressed.	10/24/2025 11:17 AM
18	The soccer field feels narrow.	10/23/2025 6:28 PM
19	I love the one sign that explains local history. More of these scattered throughout the trails would be wonderful!	10/23/2025 5:26 PM
20	Thank you for acknowledging the treasure Big Willow Park is and preservation of it. I make a strong stand that everything isn't for everybody. Bikes and off leash dogs DO NOT have a place at Big Willow Park. Please start the process of prohibiting all bikes and off leash dogs at Big Willow Park for safety and preservation of this unique park.	10/23/2025 3:57 PM
21	Buckthorn is biggest issue detracting from the beauty and enjoyment of Big Willow - don't feel as secure in the interior of the park where there is heavy buckthorn coverage, would like to view the creek (versus buckthorn) when the path is close to the creek, views from some park benches is a wall of buckthorn. Would like to see a better trail connecting the canoe landing area to the west section of the park (between the creek and Minnetonka Blvd). Also some native plantings in this area to replace some of the grassy areas. Do not want Big Willow to have a dog park.	10/23/2025 2:56 PM
22	Speed of traffic on Minnetonka Blvd is a serious problem. Also the lack of cross walks and signals create an issue for those crossing at the ball fields and other access points.	10/23/2025 11:46 AM
23	I am really concerned about the traffic issue and speed of cars. Minnetonka Blvd is not equipped to handle the amount of traffic that bbq, kids playground, additional bathrooms, etc. would cause.	10/23/2025 10:21 AM
24	Would love to see a dog off leash area/section of trails.	10/23/2025 9:19 AM
25	Keep walking path .....much needed. Keep biking off the walking path	10/23/2025 8:31 AM
26	So much emphasis on sports. I hope nature and our encironment can take priority. Fun trails for kids and families. Like a zoo.	10/22/2025 6:35 PM
27	The park is a real gift for everyone. Yet as somewhat mobility challenged, I can't access anything north of the bridge. Please consider that in your planning and a crosswalk as well.	10/22/2025 1:53 PM
28	Add turf fields	10/22/2025 10:09 AM
29	Thank you for your work in this wonderful parkland	10/22/2025 6:33 AM
30	We need a proper skate park and bike pump track in Minnetonka, not every kid plays baseball and soccer.	10/21/2025 9:32 PM
31	The trail section underneath the railroad bridge is often underwater which makes the trail unusable and the only alternative is to climb across the railroad tracks which is dangerous and inconvenient. That should be fixed.	10/21/2025 8:28 PM
32	Love, love, love the timber tiers by the soccer fields. It gives the field a dimension other parks dont have. Would hate to see that feature go away	10/21/2025 7:09 PM
33	I've heard thoughts about replacing the turf in the two parcels on the west side with a prairie. Excellent idea. Regarding the area west of the recently city-purchased house/lot (next to parking lot at Shady Oak and MTKA Blvd), this could be a viable location for a fenced-in off-leash dog area. Given the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail connector to Mtka Blvd (across from the park near the ball field), it would be nice to have a formal ped/bike crossing to get across Mtka Blvd.	10/21/2025 6:49 PM
34	We go almost every day to walk dogs. Parking is limited but usually available. Need off leash, enclosed dog park. A lot of people let there dogs run freely in park already.	10/21/2025 5:24 PM
35	It would be wonderful to have dog water access when planning a dog area.	10/21/2025 4:49 PM
36	Do not overdevelop Big Willow. It does not need a dog park or anything like that. The soccer field could use possibly some new seating, but the whole complex does not need to be	10/21/2025 4:16 PM

	modified. Plenty of room for all ages to play baseball, softball, soccer. Some of the niche uses suggested in the survey do not fit at big Willow and are more suited for other parks	
37	big willow seems fine without any improvement - hate to see city improvements - certainly disagreed with new park at Ridgedale - waste of money!!	10/20/2025 7:18 PM
38	Good luck!	10/20/2025 12:40 PM
39	Bring back find the yeti but make something year round. It would be cool to put in a disc golf course	10/19/2025 8:39 PM
40	The park and fields have been part of my family's life. Now the park is my place of peace and excersise. I hope it stays that way.	10/19/2025 5:47 PM
41	Thank you for your efforts! Wanda Heintzman	10/19/2025 2:24 PM
42	I am an owner at St Albans Mill and am involved with improvements of our portion of the woods. I look forward to seeing our work contributing to the overall area progress.	10/18/2025 12:40 PM
43	I am a next door neighbor to Big Willow and love the park. The two issues I see with the park in priority order are buckthorn and trail flooding. Thank you for providing such a fabulous natural resource.	10/18/2025 9:12 AM
44	Do not allow mountain bike trails and e-bikes.	10/18/2025 5:31 AM
45	Please protect our green spaces and continue to provide trails where people can walk without being near fast moving vehicles. (Bikes and cars)	10/17/2025 8:04 PM
46	We LOVE Big Willow parks and sports facilities!	10/16/2025 5:21 PM
47	I do not think Big Willow Park is big enough to accommodate large events or increased activities. In particular, we do not want the noise of mountain bike racing, etc.	10/16/2025 3:39 PM
48	i'm afraid that this survey will be ignored by the consultants or cherry picked whichever works best for their or the city staffs visions. That little parking area west of the ball fields has only one handicap parking space, the bare minimum by law?	10/15/2025 10:20 PM
49	It would be super awesome if Yall added a disc golf courses	10/15/2025 6:51 PM
50	Sports fields are maintained at a very high level. Facilities and playing surfaces are second to none for natural turf!	10/13/2025 12:13 PM
51	Please devote more energy towards keeping Minnehaha Creek free of downed trees and accessible for canoe and kayaks. elevate the short section of trail underneath the railroad bridge that always gets flooded in high water years anything else? Put a 6 foot high chain-link fence around the playground area at the ballfields for safety.	10/12/2025 8:39 AM
52	Lately, a drone(s) has been hovering overhead watching me and my dog as we walk the trails. This will keep me from visiting if it continues...	10/11/2025 5:35 PM
53	Only one steep trail from the west	10/11/2025 1:35 PM
54	I like that Big Willow park is very natural. Good nature escape in the city. There are not many signs, I suppose signage could be improved, though I don't mind. Don't want to see the natural areas overly developed. I see signs about work being done to remove invasive species and I appreciate that. I come for the trails, can't comment on the ball fields and more 'developed' areas of the park .	10/10/2025 7:52 PM
55	NO Bikes NO dogs OFF leashes Signs at all entrances stating NO Bikes and NO off leash dogs	10/10/2025 3:40 PM
56	It would be great to walk from Minnetonka Mills restaurants and connect to the trails if it didn't directly parallel Minnetonka Blvd.	10/9/2025 8:34 PM
57	The city should put in a leash ordinance at all the parks. Human safety should rank higher then off leash dogs	10/9/2025 8:10 PM
58	I have loved walking to Big Willow for the last 25 years of living next to it. I hope it remains as great as it is now!	10/9/2025 2:50 PM
59	BW is a gem of natural beauty unspoiled for people and wildlife. Please avoid adding pergolas, grilling etc in trails area. Also a dog park would be better placed elsewhere. These things will	10/9/2025 9:52 AM

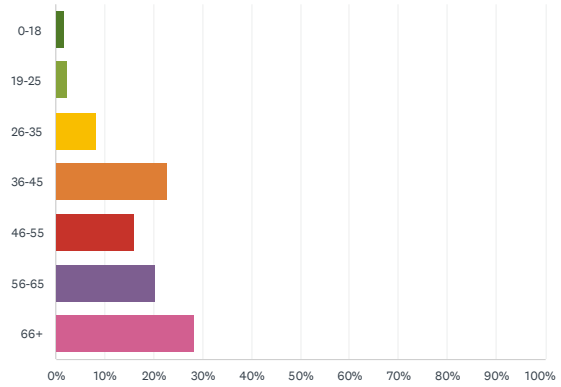
	surely erode the magnificent and rare connection to nature that the park currently is. Thank you for all the city does to preserve and protect this natural haven.	
60	Big willow is a gem in the area - beyond Minnetonka. I'm glad to see resources going toward enhancing the park. My family and I enjoy the park year round. One red flag I saw in the enhancements was a dog park. Generally I'm in favor of dog parks but in this park I would be against that. Big willow is a very quiet park and my family and I often travel the 10 minutes to get away from noise and barking dogs in our neighborhood. I'd be disappointed to have a dogs barking while trying to enjoy the solitude, wildlife and natural spaces the park offers. The other red flag I noticed in enhancements was signage. I've seen a large increase in signage at other parks such as three rivers park. The level of detail and frequency of signs CAN take away from the overall experience of just being out in nature and exploring. I think signs to indicate where a path goes is fine, even maps to show "you are here" in the park are helpful. However, some new signage I've seen indicates things such as "0.1 miles", "-3 feet elevation", acceptable uses by season, and tips on how to walk and pass other trail users or reminder to pick up your dogs waste is way too much information. Just my opinion. Thank you for reading my comments!	10/8/2025 9:16 PM
61	I live in St Louis Park, but close enough that this is the closest walking/nature space for me. I am thankful to have it so close!	10/8/2025 6:27 PM
62	We would appreciate having mountain bike trails because there are not many options for mountain biking in the area that we can bike to. A big wish list would be cross country ski trails in the winter. Thank you for inviting our feedback. And thank you for stewarding such a wonderful park in our neighborhood.	10/6/2025 7:39 PM
63	Playground structure for older kid age group to align with youth baseball audience Basketball court if there was space	10/3/2025 10:54 PM
64	I have been walking the trails for 30+ years, all hours of day and night, all 4 seasons. BWP is a gem. Just wish that main trail was fully paved. It gets ugly sometimes w/ rain/ice/mud.	10/2/2025 3:09 PM
65	I would like to see the park remain as beautiful as it already is but improve accessibility especially in the winter and during rainy weather. We love being close to the park. It feels very safe and friendly most of the time.	10/1/2025 11:52 AM
66	I wonder if the cost of all the parks improvements have been budgeted already? Which department will fund all the involved park improvements?Will taxes be increased to pay for Big Willow and all other Mtka park improvements?	9/30/2025 9:36 PM
67	Maybe more small signs of tree and plant species.	9/30/2025 3:44 PM
68	We live right across the street. My visits to Big Willow are focused on immersing myself in peace and quiet. There are enough parks with lots of activity -- biking, dog runs, etc. I would love to see this park protected from any further disruptive activity -- just woods.	9/30/2025 3:39 PM
69	Would love to see a dog park!	9/30/2025 11:03 AM
70	A dog park would bring such a cool sense of community. I see people walking their dogs every day, it would be fun to have a space to let our dogs interact together.	9/29/2025 5:42 PM
71	I'd always vote for a splash pad of some sort	9/28/2025 7:05 PM
72	I would hate to see it change much. It is lovely as is	9/28/2025 12:29 PM
73	Love the parks, e bikes and aggressive mountain bikers not so much. Off leash dogs continue to be an issue but I know that's a hard one for the parks to enforce	9/28/2025 12:06 PM
74	Add a dog park!	9/27/2025 9:46 PM
75	There seems to be more buckthorn now than before.	9/26/2025 12:51 PM
76	The path that goes under the railroad tracks floods too often, in theory separating the northern section of the park from the southern end. (most people end up going over the railroad tracks which is dangerous) Building a retaining wall a couple of feet high along several hundred feet along the creek would alleviate most of the time it is impassable.	9/26/2025 12:25 PM
77	Don't make it an on leash only park. People who know they can trust their dogs off leash know when they should be leashed or not. Non maintained areas specifically.	9/26/2025 10:32 AM

78	Thank you to the teams doing restoration work with invasive species. We see you and recognize how difficult this work is. As a neighbor to the park, I appreciate the dedication to removing invasive species and recognize this benefits the whole neighborhood	9/25/2025 5:52 PM
79	Please, no dirt bike trails	9/25/2025 4:34 PM
80	one of the most beautiful vantage point on Minnehaha Creek is in big willow park, of Minnetonka Blvd where you can see both sun rise and sunset from the bend, it could be developed into an fantastic "venue" for small gatherings outdoors.	9/25/2025 12:22 PM
81	There needs to be more of a variety of native plants, berries items for the animals to forage on that would attract them to the park so we can do more birdwatching feel like deer have what they need to survive and be safe	9/24/2025 6:42 PM
82	Thanks !!! We love BW park !!! Email jack@tc.farm if I can be helpful	9/24/2025 5:59 PM
83	LOVE BIg Willow Park. I am named after the women that lived there, Laura and Mary, who were both teachers at Burwell. My Dad did chores for them starting in elementary school and even after returning from the service. Need to keep steps, pillars that show history of property.	9/23/2025 9:00 PM
84	Thank you for considering and determining improvements to keep Big Willow a beautiful space for Minnetonka and neighboring communities to enjoy.by bike, on foot, with their dogs.	9/23/2025 4:59 PM
85	This is my favorite park to walk in the entirety of Hennepin County. It's so quiet and private and boasts so much natural space without a constant reminder that one is still in the city. It's an absolute gem and I hope any changes made only reinforce what makes it so special: Pervasive nature with very little sign of humans (sculptures, tables, etc.). I love that it's just a forest, and that's all it needs to be.	9/23/2025 3:45 PM
86	I use the trail system five days a week and walk here from my condominium. I also bring my grandkids to the playground area.	9/23/2025 9:34 AM
87	I enjoy Big Willow park because of the nature and wouldn't like to see elements added to the natural side of the park that disturb the habitat, for instance a dog park. I feel that would be better suited to the athletic field side of the park.	9/22/2025 10:10 PM
88	I have had problems with severe ice ramp on the bridge over the creek in the winter. I had to crawl up on multiples occasions.	9/22/2025 9:45 PM
89	Preserving the natural area for residents and birds is a top priority. The park was a big reason I purchased my home in the neighborhood.	9/22/2025 7:17 PM
90	I love how quiet this park feels. Even when busy it feels private.	9/22/2025 6:17 PM
91	I like the mix of main trails, and smaller side trails. It does seem like the "side" trail that goes along the railroad tracks should be maintained since it gets so much traffic	9/22/2025 4:25 PM
92	Keep as much green space as possible. Update the trails and signage. It's a gem of a park ❤️	9/22/2025 9:42 AM
93	My family enjoys hiking, mountain biking, skiing and going for walks in the woods. It's difficult and unfortunate that we often have to leave Minnetonka to enjoy these things . There seems to be a lot of great space in the city for activities like these that is not utilized. The regional trails that connect the city are fantastic. It would be great if those connected to other areas for activities.	9/22/2025 6:22 AM
94	We enjoy the current playground. It would be nice to have an easy way to get to Dairy Queen from Willow Park.	9/21/2025 3:51 PM
95	Put in mountain bike trails	9/21/2025 3:35 PM
96	I often walk the trails and occasionally attend baseball games. Great resource for the community.	9/21/2025 1:30 PM
97	E-bikes and people leaving toys and other junk in trees are my only complaints.	9/21/2025 12:05 PM
98	I really enjoy the trails both paved and unplanned at Big Willow. It allows for a woodsy feel that doesn't feel too sanitized like other parks I've been to. I love that it feels like I'm on a walk in the woods far away from the city (although I do love the city vibe of the area as well). It's nice to feel like I'm getting away from the hustle and bustle yet it's only a couple minutes from my house.	9/20/2025 7:06 PM

99	No more trails along the creek (parallel to Mtka blvd)	9/20/2025 11:27 AM
100	Rather than a fenced in dog park that will ultimately destroy the area, a larger area that includes walking trails for goods is a better option. For example, designating the area north of the creek as off leash would allow dog owners to walk their pets without concentrating dogs into a smaller space. No fencing would be required because the area has natural boundaries. Cheap and easy.	9/20/2025 10:34 AM
101	More map plaques, and a real bridge along the curved trail by the train tracks rather than most people climbing on the tracks to get to the other side.	9/19/2025 5:21 PM
102	It might be good to dredge the creek under the railroad bridge so it doesn't flood so often, or build up the rock and metal retaining wall.	9/19/2025 3:41 PM
103	The park is very attractive on the south side especially in the restored section along Minnehaha Creek. It would be nice to see the north section of the park with the same level of care and attention regarding improving the ecology there. I would like to see a loop trail system rather than the out and back. This could help link the trail by the west ball fields to the ridge over the creek by the railway.	9/19/2025 1:19 PM
104	I appreciate the invasive plant management on the south side of the park. I think more investment is needed in other areas of the park, the buckthorn is terrible.	9/19/2025 1:09 PM
105	The trails need to be repaved	9/19/2025 10:33 AM
106	Enforce that dogs are on-leash and not on playing fields	9/18/2025 3:25 PM
107	I would like to see a few security cameras throughout the park.	9/18/2025 12:54 PM
108	Resurface paved trails	9/18/2025 12:44 PM
109	Please do not overregulate or change for change sake!	9/18/2025 11:36 AM
110	Great facilities that should be open for other Minnetonka baseball organizations.	9/17/2025 5:37 PM

Q31 What is your age?

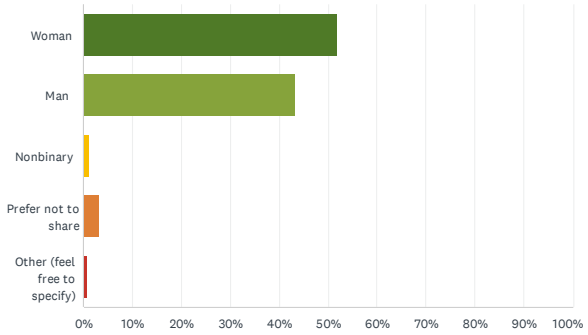
Answered: 286 Skipped: 58



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-18	1.75%	5
19-25	2.45%	7
26-35	8.39%	24
36-45	22.73%	65
46-55	16.08%	46
56-65	20.28%	58
66+	28.32%	81
TOTAL		286

Q32 What is your gender identity?

Answered: 286 Skipped: 58

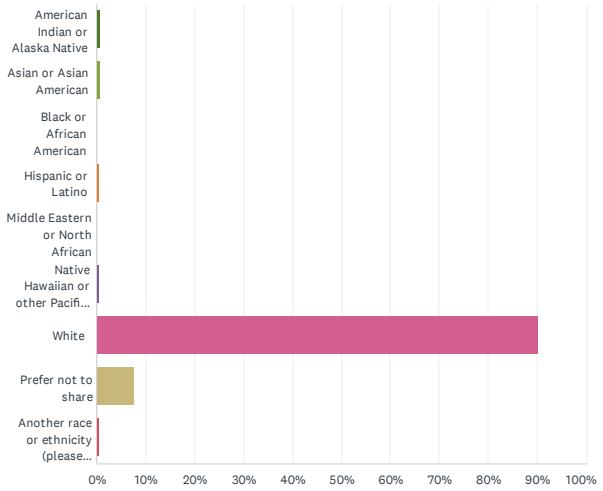


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Woman	51.75%	148
Man	43.36%	124
Nonbinary	1.05%	3
Prefer not to share	3.15%	9
Other (feel free to specify)	0.70%	2
TOTAL		286

#	OTHER (FEEL FREE TO SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Answered as a couple that use the park	11/6/2025 6:52 PM
2	Should not matter	10/15/2025 10:21 PM

Q33 What is your race and/or ethnic identity? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 284 Skipped: 60

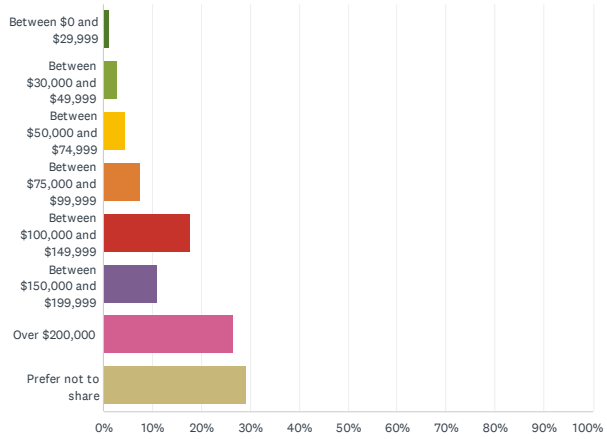


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.70%	2
Asian or Asian American	0.70%	2
Black or African American	0.00%	0
Hispanic or Latino	0.35%	1
Middle Eastern or North African	0.00%	0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.35%	1
White	90.14%	256
Prefer not to share	7.75%	22
Another race or ethnicity (please specify)	0.35%	1
Total Respondents: 284		

#	ANOTHER RACE OR ETHNICITY (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Caucasian American	10/6/2025 10:20 AM

Q34 What is your yearly household income?

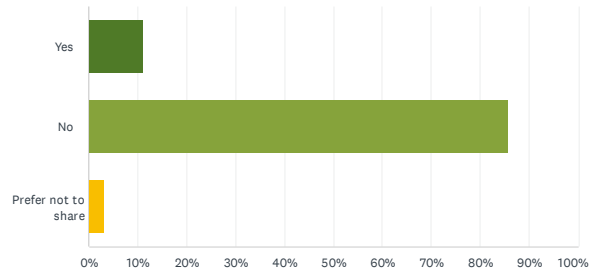
Answered: 284 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Between $0 and $29,999	1.06%	3
Between $30,000 and $49,999	2.82%	8
Between $50,000 and $74,999	4.58%	13
Between $75,000 and $99,999	7.39%	21
Between $100,000 and $149,999	17.61%	50
Between $150,000 and $199,999	10.92%	31
Over $200,000	26.41%	75
Prefer not to share	29.23%	83
TOTAL		284

Q35 Do you or someone in your household have accessibility needs we should consider in park planning?

Answered: 286 Skipped: 58



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	11.19%	32
No	85.66%	245
Prefer not to share	3.15%	9
TOTAL		286

Addendum

Minnetonka Park Board

Meeting of Nov. 4, 2026

ITEM 7B – Big Willow Park Master Plan

- Public comments received after the packet was published

From: City of Minnetonka, MN
To: Hannah Aleman; Leslie Yetka
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Park board email comments
Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 2:07:20 PM

Park board email comments

Submission #:	5247645
IP Address:	66.171.45.84
Submission Date:	11/04/2026 2:07
Survey Time:	20 minutes, 27 seconds

You have a new online form submission.
Note: all answers displaying "*****" are marked as sensitive and must be viewed after your login.

Read-Only Content

Name

Peter Brandt

Full Address

12817 Burwell Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Phone

[redacted]

Email

[redacted]

Meeting date

11/04/2026

Agenda item

Big Willow Park Master Plan Final Draft to Park Board - Nov. 4, 2026

Comment

Dear Chair Ingraham, Park Board Members, and Mr. Kumka: I am writing about the final Big Willow Park Master Plan. My central question is: Who are the proposed improvements in Focus Areas 3 and 4 intended to serve? The City's survey does not show a need for more access. Of 325 respondents, 76% agreed or strongly agreed that "there are enough access points to the park"; only 8.3% disagreed or strongly disagreed. It also does not establish demand for more creek access. The plan has two valid goals: improving recreation facilities and preserving Big Willow's natural environment. Both matter, but should not be pursued in every area. Areas 3 and 4 contain a sensitive stretch of Minnehaha Creek that has been in the process of being restored. Yet the plan proposes new creek access and trails, expanded parking, restrooms, picnic shelters, another bridge, kayak infrastructure, paved connections, and a possible greenway. Together, these are substantial development. Adding infrastructure conflicts with restoring the area's natural character. The neighborhood supports low-impact trails, necessary safety and erosion work, and continued ecological restoration. The creek corridor and its wildlife—including deer, eagles, herons, and

egrets—are a valuable part of the “urban wilderness.” I ask the Park Board to: 1. Not recommend the plan as written. 2. Revise Areas 3 and 4 around a preservation-first objective. 3. Reconsider new creek access, the bridge, shelters, expanded parking, and paved connections. 4. Identify who requested these features, evidence of public support, and their cumulative environmental effects. Active recreation improvements can be concentrated in already-developed portions of Big Willow. Please protect Areas 3 and 4 before their natural character is permanently diminished. Sincerely, Peter Brandt 12817 Burwell Drive Minnetonka, MN

Thank you,
City of Minnetonka, MN

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From: City of Minnetonka, MN
To: Matt Kumka
Subject: Big Willow Park development
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2026 2:50:12 PM

Message submitted from the <City of Minnetonka, MN> website.

Site Visitor Name: Claudia Gundlach
Site Visitor Email: [redacted]

Hi Matt, I am not sure where to send my concerns about the updates to the Big Willow plan, I hope you can include these for the meeting tomorrow. 1st, as shown on plans' the new 200'+ wide parking and prelaunch area will wipe out the trees that now block my properties' view of Mtka. Blvd. and Shady Oak Rd., the noise, head lights, street lights, and any additional security lighting will shine into our bedrooms, as the street light do in winter now. This large a paved area and the retaining walled launch will drastically change the feel of this park area, negatively impacting my life. 2nd, I am concerned that the low area could be a gathering spot at nights because it can not be seen from the street. Is this large a parking are needed for canoeing 20-26 spots? is canoe storage safe? is it worth tearing up such a long stretch of land for a possibly tricky accessibly spot? Will this Launch be maintained better than the old spots? My other questions are what does P.3 short term recommendation refer to? and M.4.1 What are the enhanced Housing and Retail Opportunities? (still including my property). Thanks for you consideration in advance.

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Park Board
Agenda Item 8.A
Meeting of November 4, 2026

Title:	Information Items

Strategic Plan Goal:	N/A
Action Requested:	Informational
Form of Action:	Other

Summary Statement
The following are information items to be shared by staff.

There are no information items to share.

Recommended Action
None.

Park Board
Agenda Item 8.B
Meeting of November 4, 2026

Title: Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Strategic Plan Goal: N/A
Action Requested: Informational
Form of Action: Other

Summary Statement
Upcoming Park Board meetings and other city meetings/activities listed below.

Upcoming meeting schedule:

Day	Date	Business Items (Subject to Change)	Special Notes
Wed.	12/02/26	• 2026 Farmers Market Review • Park Board Strategic Plan and 2027 Work Plan • Lone Lake Park Habitat Restoration and Maintenance Plan • Red Barn Feasibility Study	
Wed.	01/06/27	• 2026 Athletic Field Summary • Grays Bay Marina Summary • Review Opus Station Park Vision Plan	
Wed.	02/03/27	• Appointment of Chair/Vice-Chair • Natural Resources Division Outreach and Engagement • Opus Trail and Wayfinding Plan	

Other meetings and activities to note:

Day	Date	Description	Special Notes
Tues.	12/9	Winter-Spring Recreation program registration begins	8 a.m.
Daily	Dec. 19–Jan. 3	Yeti Hunt	Big Willow Park
Su.	2/7	Kids' Fest	The Marsh, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Recommended Action
None