

St. Augusta Park Visioning Report

2008



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Park Visioning Report was created with support from City Council and with input from the Park Board, various community leaders and residents, and city staff. Following is a list of participants in this 2008 Park Visioning effort for the City of St. Augusta:

PARK BOARD:

CITY COUNCIL: Bob Kroll, Mayor
Jim Diehl, Councilor
Paul Reinert, Councilor
Donna Schultzenberg, Councilor
Mike Zenzen, Councilor

CITY STAFF: Bill McCabe, City Administrator

CONSULTANT: Municipal Development Group, Inc.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

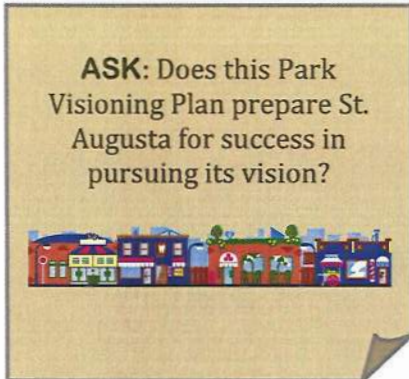
The parks, trails and recreational facilities in St. Augusta are an important part of the quality of life and growing sustainability within the City. As the City continues to grow parks will become an ever important feature of the community and if parks are not recognized as a priority now opportunities will be lost forever as development continues.

This chapter includes an assembly of information, maps, programs, policies and objectives for both conserving future park land and promoting effective management and development of the existing parks themselves. Parks, trails and recreational areas include, not only publicly owned facilities, but privately owned parks and school facilities and working with these entities and neighboring jurisdictions will be an important factor to the overall quality of the park system within St. Augusta.

ADD SUMMARY

II. PURPOSE

The City's residents and businesses identify parks, trails and recreational facilities as valuable community resources that contribute positively to the quality of life offered in St. Augusta. Recreation is viewed as an integral part of life and such facilities and opportunities benefit the public by:



- Providing a necessary and satisfying change from the things we usually do and the places where we spend most of our time
- Providing health benefits
- Providing safety benefits (e.g. wellhead protection or flood control)
- Defining a community's image and distinctive character (remind people of what they once were, who they are, and where they are)
- Promoting economic development through enhanced real estate values and increased tourism
- Providing land use and transportation (e.g. create buffer areas and alternatives to traffic by passenger automobile)

Park, trail, and recreation planning is complicated in that such opportunities mean different things to different people. It is crucial to understand the different functions, benefits, purposes, and interactions of different park, trail, and recreational opportunities. It is also important to keep in mind that oftentimes parks and recreational areas change over time to keep up with changes in the demographic/social characteristics of the neighborhoods they serve. For example, a toddler play area may initially serve a new residential neighborhood however, as the average age within the neighborhood changes the play area may be converted to recreational fields and then passive recreational facilities such as gardens, natural areas, etc.



Finally, it is necessary to embrace the truth that desired park, trail, and recreation opportunities don't happen without a shared vision and planning. To assure adequacy and maximum usability, recreation areas and facilities shall be developed with regard for the needs of the people and the area they serve. Proper planning must take into consideration a number of factors, including but not limited to, location of existing recreational areas (i.e. proximity to the area served, separation from incompatible land uses), adequacy of existing facilities, site planning for the location of future facilities, access to current and future facilities, provisions for recreation programs, and financing, maintenance and management of existing and proposed parks, trails and recreational facilities.

To those ends, this Visioning Plan will:

1. Describe park classifications
2. Inventory existing park facilities
3. Describe trail classifications
4. Inventory existing trails
5. Discuss recreational opportunities in the city
6. Discuss Accessibility
7. Analyze existing and future park facilities
8. Review community input in parks and recreation
9. Review maintenance and operations
10. Discuss financial resources
11. Describe the park and open space vision
12. Establish park, trail, and recreation goals, objectives and policies

III. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS/TRENDS

Population growth and other demographic trends provide a frame of reference as to future growth patterns and public facility (including parks and recreation) needs. For example, an increase in young couples with children would require a focus on tot lots and playgrounds; whereas, an increase in the elderly population would lessen the need for pre-school play features but could increase the need for passive recreational facilities and wellness programs. This section of the St. Augusta Park Visioning Report contains information on population and household characteristics decision-makers have reviewed and referenced when conducting various visioning exercises related to parks and recreation.

A. POPULATION

The population of St. Augusta has continued to expand at a relatively slow but steady rate. Table 3-1 illustrates historic and forecast population. The data has been assembled by the national market research firm *Claritas* and by the Minnesota Demographer's Office. Figure 3.1 illustrates projected population growth. The Demographer's Office projects an increase of about 1,000 people over the next 22 years, a 24% increase over the 2008 estimate. *Claritas* also projects more males than females will be added to the City's population over the next several years.

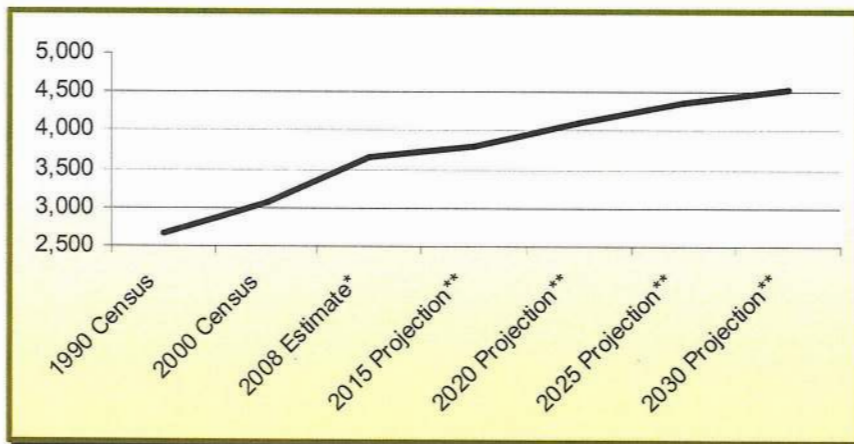
**TABLE 3-1
HISTORIC AND FORECAST POPULATION – ST. AUGUSTA**

Year	Population
1990 Census	2,657
2000 Census	3,065
2008 Estimate*	3,656
2015 Projection**	3,797
2020 Projection**	4,105
2025 Projection**	4,370
2030 Projection**	4,539

* Estimate by Claritas

** Projection by Minnesota Demographer's Office

**FIGURE 3.1
HISTORIC AND FORECAST POPULATION – ST. AUGUSTA**



B. HOUSEHOLDS

The as the population of St. Augusta has continued to expand so has the number of households. Table 3-2 illustrates historic and forecast household growth from 1990 through 2030. It is important to note that nationally and within Minnesota, the number of persons per household is expected to decrease over the foreseeable future due to the general aging of the population. The Minnesota Demographer's Office projects 2035 persons per household levels to fall to 2.53. Contrast that projection with the 2.93 estimate for St. Augusta in 2007 and it is apparent the numbers of persons per household in St. Augusta will likely fall significantly by 2035. This means the number of households can reasonably be expected to increase more rapidly than the population. In particular, the number of married couples without children in their home and seniors living alone are expected to increase most noticeably. The larger presence of married couples without children and seniors living alone will impact decisions relating to available park and recreation opportunities for their respective types.

**TABLE 3-2
HISTORIC AND FORECAST HOUSEHOLDS – ST. AUGUSTA**

Year	Households
1990 Census	785
2000 Census	987
2008 Estimate*	1,248
2015 Projection*	1,296
2020 Projection*	1,401
2025 Projection*	1,491
2030 Projection*	1,549

* Based on 2.93 persons per household, 2007 Mn. Demographer's Estimate

C. AGE

Age characteristics of the population are useful in determining (a) what age groups are most prevalent and (b) what age groups are expanding or decreasing as they move through time (age cohort analysis). Age characteristics can help park visionaries determine what amenities may be most appropriate. Table 3-3 illustrates population by age category in 1990 and 2000. The data is consistent with the aging of the population and decreasing household sizes. The population over age 50 increased rapidly over the decade illustrated, Census 2010 is expected to illustrate a further aging of the population in St. Augusta.

**TABLE 3-3
AGE CHARACTERISTICS – ST. AUGUSTA**

Age	1990	2000
0-4	249	203
5-9	271	261
10-14	264	310
15-17	146	195
18-20	115	155
21-24	154	104
25-34	503	350
35-44	411	594
45-49	133	243
50-54	123	228
55-59	89	122
60-64	53	110
65-74	84	120
75-84	51	52
85 and over	11	18

Age cohort analysis follows an age group as it progresses through time. For example, the ten and under age group in 1990 became the 11-20 group in 2000 and will be the 21-30 age group in 2010. Table 3-4 below illustrates age cohorts progression from 1990 to 2000. The data indicates people with young children moved into the community between 1990 and 2000; furthermore, more middle aged persons moved into the community then left the community throughout the same time period. A large volume of young adults (20-29) leave the community. The data indicates middle aged adults and seniors are growing populations within the City.

**TABLE 3-4
AGE COHORTS – ST. AUGUSTA**

Age in 1990	Change in Age Cohort	
	# in 1990	# in 2000
0-9	520	n/a
10-19	491	619
20-29	434	279
30-39	460	541
40-49	341	512
50-59	212	350
60-69	96	187
70-79	69	72
80+	34	41

D. Household Types

Of the 987 households within St. Augusta, 2000 U. S. Census data indicates a higher percent of family households (85.1%) than non-family households (14.99%) within the City of St Augusta. The higher percent of family households indicates a core of traditional families (e.g. married with children) within the community.

As depicted in the following Table, 2000 statistics indicate 76.5% of all households consist of married couple households. Children 18 years and under reside in 47.5% of all households. In the state of Minnesota, in 2000, 53.7% of all households were married couples, a decrease from 57.2% in 1990. Family type characteristics can impact demand for school facilities, park features and social services.

It is noted the Census Bureau definition of a "household" includes all people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in households as living in group quarters of which there are two types: institutional (for example, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and mental hospitals) and non-institutional (for example, college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, and shelters). There were no persons living in group quarters in St. Augusta at the time of Census 2000 enumeration.

Family households are those related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Non-family households are non-related persons living together.

**TABLE 3-5
HOUSEHOLD TYPES – ST. AUGUSTA**

Household Type	Number	Percent
Single Male Householder	70	7.09%
Single Female Householder	41	4.15%
Married Couple Family, with children present	427	43.26%
Married Couple Family, with no children present	328	33.23%
Male Householder, with children present	13	1.32%
Male Householder, without children present	17	1.72%
Female Householder, with children present	28	2.84%
Female Householder, without children present	26	2.63%
Nonfamily, Male Householder	25	2.53%
Nonfamily, Female Householder	12	1.22%

Of the 987 households within St. Augusta, 2000 U. S. Census data indicates 41.75% of all households consist of two or fewer people. An additional 42.65% consist of three or four individuals (most are adults with children). The remaining 15% consist of households with five or more persons.

Finally, it is noted that the vast majority of residents own their dwellings (94%) with under six percent renting dwelling units. Most residents have lived at the same dwelling for fourteen years. Renters are generally between the ages of 25 to 34 and 45 to 54 years. Of those owning their own dwellings, 99.2% live in single-family detached units.

E. Occupation Characteristics

Census data reveals a fairly even split between in occupational classifications of St. Augusta residents between blue collar or service/farm workers (47%) and white collar workers (54%). Most residents commute to work by themselves (87%) and travel a mean time of 26.3 minutes (one way). The data indicates a core of professional workers who spend approximately one hour each workday driving to/from their place of work. Most persons living in St. Augusta are employed in sales/office professions (31%), production/transportation (18%), construction (15%), and professional occupations (14%).

IV. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS (NRPA)

City planners used to and occasionally still do evaluate adequacy of parks on an acreage-to-population ratio or scale (e.g. 10 acres of parkland for each 1,000 residents). The ratio or scale is still a valuable measure and will be used here; however, since parkland needs can vary greatly and change over time, the City of St. Augusta has chosen to employ a systems approach to compare the supply of park and recreation facilities with the demand for these facilities on the part of residents and other users. This approach is set forth in *Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Park classifications provide a systematic way of categorizing park land so decisions regarding design, capital improvements, and maintenance/operation are based on the types and functions of parks. This classification system allows the level of service for each park type to be determined by analyzing the service area and identifying any gaps or duplications throughout the City. It is understood that park classifications can change over time. The following terms and descriptions shall be used to classify existing and future park facilities within the City of Augusta.

A. MINI PARK (A.K.A. URBAN/POCKET)

Examples of this type of park include town squares, urban plazas, landscaped courtyards, promenades, and village greens. Mini parks address limited, isolated, or unique needs within a limited and concentrated service area. Mini parks may be used for active, passive, or a combination of active and passive purposes. These types of parks sometimes meet the neighborhood park needs of surrounding residents. They can also provide opportunities for community events and enhance the identity of urban core and mixed-use districts.

Mini parks may be located in a variety of areas depending on the specific recreational need or the type of opportunity present. These parks are very small in geographic size typically ranging from 2,500 square feet to one acre. Site selection criteria should include access from the surrounding area and linkage to community pathways. There are no specific criteria for the development of mini-park facilities. Parking is typically not required, however, site lighting for safety/security should be investigated.

B. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood parks are the basic unit of the park system providing informal activity or passive recreation for an adjacent neighborhood. This type of park serves as the focal point for recreational and social needs of a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks should be developed to service the active and passive recreational activities of the area it serves, including different age and income levels.

Neighborhood parks are usually designed primarily for spontaneous, non-organized recreation activities and/or to enhance neighborhood identity or preserve open space. Generally speaking, programmed activities usually do not take place in neighborhood parks and site development typically includes sidewalk, benches, landscaping, and play features for preschoolers. Neighborhood parks/playgrounds should connect with trails, which connect to other parks and neighborhoods.

The service area for neighborhood parks is generally one fourth to one half ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$) mile with the park located in the center of the area intended to be served. Since the primary means of getting to a neighborhood park is walking or biking, ease of access (interconnected trail, sidewalk, low volume local streets) and walking distance are priority factors in determining location. Neighborhood parks generally range from five to ten acres in size with the population density and demographic characteristics of the neighborhood it serves being important considerations. A balance of passive recreational opportunities (ornamentation, conservation, passive activities) and active recreational facilities (fields, courts, skating, splash pool, etc. primarily used informally in an unstructured manner) is needed. In addition, a pleasant outdoor environment will enhance use and draw residents to the park and, therefore, is an important design element.

Limited off-parking (e.g. seven to ten spaces) is needed for those who must drive to the site. Park lighting should be used for security and safety with limited lighting on recreational facilities.

C. COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks are larger in size and serve more wide-ranging purposes than neighborhood parks. Community parks focus on group activities and meeting community-wide recreation needs, retaining open space, and/or preserving unique landscapes.

Like neighborhood parks, community parks should strive to balance active and passive recreational opportunities. Community parks should serve more than one neighborhood with a service area of generally a third of a mile to three miles. Since most people arrive at community parks by automobile or bicycle, the site should be serviced by arterial and collector streets and be easily accessible from throughout the service area by trail or sidewalk.

The size of a community park is usually 20 to 50 acres, but can vary if open space or landscape preservation is the purpose of the park. Actual size of community parks should be based on neighborhood demographics, population density, resource availability, and recreation demand.

The NRPA suggests site selection guidelines include the site's natural area, preserving unique landscapes within the community, and/or providing recreational opportunities not otherwise available. When possible, community parks should be adjacent to natural resource areas and greenways.

Potential active recreational opportunities include large play structures, game courts, informal ballfields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe areas, skating areas, swimming pools, archery ranges, and disc golf areas. Active recreational facilities may be used for programmed activities on an occasional basis with most facilities used in an informal, unstructured manner. Potential passive recreational opportunities include internal trails, individual/group picnic and sitting areas, nature study areas, bandshells, and ornamental gardens.

Off-street parking is essential; lighting for security, safety and facilities should be as appropriate.

D. SPECIAL USE PARK

Special use parks cover a broad range of park and recreation facilities oriented toward a single purpose. NRPA classifies special use parks as one of three types: historic/cultural/social sites, recreation facilities, and outdoor recreation facilities. Historic/cultural/social sites showcase unique resources and may include historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, public buildings, and amphitheaters. Recreation facilities may include community centers, senior centers, hockey arenas, marinas, golf courses, and aquatic parks. Outdoor recreation facilities include tennis centers, softball complexes, and sports stadiums.

NRPA suggests special use parks be strategically located in a community-wide context and conveniently accessible from arterial and collector streets along with pathways. Other primary location considerations are: recreation need, community interests, the type of facility, and land availability. Special use park acreage needs vary widely with facility space being the primary determinant. Since there are a variety of potential special use parks, specific standards for site selection and development parameters are not defined.

E. GREENSPACE/OPEN SPACE GREENWAY

Greenways are lineal park system components that serve several functions under NRPA guidelines: tie park components together to form a continuous park environment; emphasize harmony with the natural environment; allow for safe and uninterrupted pedestrian movement between parks and throughout the community; provide people with a resource-based outdoor recreation opportunity and experience; and,

they can increase property value. Greenways emphasize park use/trails more than natural resource areas.

Criteria for locating greenways are primarily land availability and opportunity to secure right-of-way. Greenways may follow suitable natural resource areas (preferred) or, if designed properly, revitalized riverfronts, abandoned railroad beds, boulevards, etc. In addition, proximity to parks and connector trails are important considerations.

Potential recreation activities within greenways include hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, in-line skating, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, etc. Greenway width is highly variable and per NRPA standards can be as little as 25 to 50 feet with widths greater than 200 feet being considered best.

F. NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

Natural areas have a great deal in common with natural greenways in that they are land set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. As defined within the NRPA system, natural areas usually consist of individual sites exhibiting natural resources, protected lands (wetlands, public waters, shoreland), or lands unsuitable for development (steep slopes, ravines, ponding areas, utility easements, etc). Specific LOS standards do not apply to natural areas.

The employment of this type of park facility is based on availability of areas and need for preservation, so size is highly variable. Location considerations are primarily limited to sites that exhibit unique natural resources or remnant landscapes of the region. Undevelopable/protected lands are usually selected on the basis of enhancing the character of the community, buffering, and providing linkages with other park components. Natural resource areas are resource based as opposed to user based but can provide some passive recreational opportunities providing such use does not negatively impact the resource to be preserved.

V. EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

The City of St. Augusta contains over 100 acres of useable public parkland and numerous other park facilities that are owned by neighborhood associations or private schools. Following is a listing of the park and recreation facilities existing in the City of St. Augusta. **Map 1** illustrates the location of said facilities.

A. HIDDEN LAKE PARK

Hidden Lake Park, a regional park, is located in the northwest corner of 43rd Avenue (County Road 136) and 230th Street between St. Augusta and Luxemburg. The park is 71 acres and contains woodlands, open space and a small lake (Hidden Lake). St. Augusta has been actively developing this park with the installation of an enclosed shelter with overhead doors and restroom facilities, a open shelter for picnicking, playground equipment, sand volleyball, paved parking facilities, paved and natural trails throughout the park, benches throughout the park, grilling facilities and the St. Augusta Fire Station. The City has plans to use approximately 10 acres in the north part of the park for a municipal center which would contain the future City hall and the current fire station.

The shelter can be rented out for events such as graduation parties, family reunions, etc. for a fee of \$150.00 with refunds after the event if no damage has occurred. St. Augusta residents receive a \$75.00 refund and non-residents receive a \$50.00 refund.

B. KIFFMEYER PARK

Kiffmeyer Park, a regional park, is located on the east side of 21st Avenue (County Road 7) south of 238th Street on the south edge of "old" St. Augusta, this park consists of 30 acres of which a large portion is developed. The park includes some woodlands along St. Augusta Creek, which flows through the center of the property and the wetlands and storm water ponds located on the north part of the site. The rest of the park is open space or park facilities. The park facilities include an enclosed shelter with restroom facilities, two horseshoe pits, a fenced baseball/softball field, basketball court, tennis court, playground equipment in two locations, a gazebo adjacent to baseball fields, two parking areas (one has both pavement and gravel surfaces the other is all gravel) paved trails with a walking bridge over St. Augusta Creek and portable restroom facilities near the baseball field.

The shelter can be rented out for events such as graduation parties, family reunions, etc. for a fee of \$125.00 with refunds after the event if no damage has occurred. St. Augusta residents receive a \$75.00 refund and non-residents receive a \$50.00 refund.

Fishing opportunities are available in Kiffmeyer Park along St. Augusta Creek which is a designated trout stream.

C. ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PLAYGROUND AND BASEBALL FACILITIES (24560 COUNTY ROAD 7)

These privately owned facilities are located at the St. Mary Help of Christian School located in the northeast corner of 21st Avenue (County Road 7) and County Road 115. Facilities include St. Augusta Gussies baseball field which includes a concession stand, and seating, playground equipment, two basketball courts and a picnic shelter. These facilities are owned and maintained by the St. Mary Help of Christian School.

D. Luxemburg Church

Insert description

E. EAGLES LANDING PRIVATE PARK

This private park, which would be considered a neighborhood park, is located in the Eagles Landing development east of 23rd Avenue in the southeast part of the City. The park is maintained by the

homeowners association and is not open to the public. Use is restricted to the residents of the neighborhood and their guests. The park contains an outdoor swimming pool and pool house with paved parking and restroom facilities. A site also has a location for a sledding hill in the winter.

**TABLE 5-1
PARK INVENTORY**

Park/ Feature	Park Classification	Acres	Trail Areas	Baseball/Softball	Nature Areas	Horseshoe Pits	Tennis Courts	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Football Field(s)	Volleyball Courts	Playground	Swimming	Pleasure Skating Rink	Hockey Rink	Warming House	Archery Range	Skateboarding	Restroom facilities	Handicap Access	Picnic Area/Shelter	Parking (off-Street)
Hidden Lake Park	CP	71	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y, 1 Sand	Y, 1	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kiffmeyer Park	CP	30	Y	Y, 1 BB	Y	Y, 2	Y, 2	N	Y, 1	N	Y, 1 Sand	Y, 2	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y, 2	Y
St. Mary School Playground and Baseball Field	NP	NA	N	Y, 2 BB	N	N	N	N	Y, 2	N	N	Y, 1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Luxemburg Church	NP	NA																				
Eagles Landing Neighborhood Private Park	NP	NA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
TOTALS	N/A	101	N/A	3	2	2	2	2	3	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	3	N/A

CP= Community Park UP= Urban Park NP= Neighborhood Park SRA = Specialized Recreation Area BB= Baseball Field
PT=Picnic Tables Only IND= Indoor PR=Portable Restroom POR= Portable Unit Only SB= Softball Field
SW=Sidewalk NA=Not Available

VI. TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS (NRPA)

Through the same means as park classifications, trail classifications provide a systematic way of categorizing trails. Such classification assists in making decisions regarding design, capital improvements, and maintenance/operation based on the types and functions of trails. The following terms and descriptions shall be used to classify existing and future trail facilities within the City of Arlington.

A. PARK TRAIL

Park trails are trail facilities located within existing parks, including greenways and natural areas. Under NRPA guidelines, park trails are at the top of the trail hierarchy, should be considered the preferred trail type, and should be employed to the greatest extent possible. NRPA guidelines classify park trails as one of three types: trails in heavy use areas which are suitable to serving a separate, single purpose (e.g. pedestrian or bicyclists); trails in lighter use areas which serve multiple purposes (e.g. pedestrian, in-line skating, bike); or, trails within areas suited for minimal impact (e.g. natural area).

Park trails are generally developed for recreational value and in harmony with environment. Park trails are typically hard surfaced but can be a soft surface if within a natural area.

B. CONNECTOR TRAIL

Connector trails are multiple purpose trails which assist safer travel for pedestrians & bicyclists moving from one park to another and throughout the community. Connector trails focus on recreation and transportation options. Connector trails can be located external to or within right-of-way. NRPA guidelines classify connector trails as one of two types: trails that are likely to be used heavily in which case they can be used to separate users, or trails with lighter use suitable for accommodating multiple users.

C. ON-STREET BIKEWAYS

Under NRPA guidelines, on-street bikeways are paved roadway segments that safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic and may be a bike route (for preferential or exclusive use by bicyclists – e.g. next to heavily traveled roadway) or a bike lane (shared portion of roadway providing separation between automobiles and bicyclists – e.g. paved shoulder). The speed of users (i.e. commuters, fitness/recreation enthusiasts, competitive athletes) is an important consideration in trail design as is opportunity to secure right-of-way.

D. SPECIALIZED TRAIL

Specialized trails provide for alternate activities such as all-terrain bikes, cross country skiing, or equestrian use and are closely related to environment. Special use trails are often looped, usually within a larger parks and natural resource areas. Specialized trails are usually planned for and provided by regional or state entities.

Table 6-1 lists the trails existing in the City of St. Augusta. In addition to the trails listed below, a snowmobile trail is located in St. Augusta. This snowmobile trail is located near the northern part of the City and generally runs east to west. **This trail is shown on Figure 5.1 on page ___ of this report.**

**TABLE 6-1
TRAIL INVENTORY**

Classification	General Description	Detail Description of Each Type	Existing/Proposed Facilities
Park Trail	Multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus in on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment.	Type I: Separate/single purpose hard – surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type II: Multi-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard or soft surfaced.	Hidden Lake Park (Type II & III) Kiffmeyer Park (Type II)
Connector Trail	Multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent R.O.W Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrian or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road R.O.W.	None
On-Street Bikeway	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.	None
Special Use Trail			
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	None
Cross Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.		
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.		

E. SIDEWALKS

The City of St. Augusta currently does not have a sidewalk maintenance policy or a policy as to where sidewalks within new subdivisions shall be required. As the City continues to grow and new subdivisions are developed, automobile traffic will continue to increase and sidewalks should be viewed as a priority to get pedestrians off the streets. These sidewalks should tie into any trails and park areas within the City whenever possible.

Existing sidewalks are located in the Emerald Ponds and Blackberry Farms development as shown on **Map (if the engineer has a map)**

VII. RECREATION

A. RECREATION PROGRAMS

There are a number of coordinated and uncoordinated recreational opportunities in and around St. Augusta. Some recreation programs are coordinated by St. Augusta Sports, Incorporated.

B. EXAMINATION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS

As parkland is acquired either through dedications or purchase, it is important to plan space according to the desired recreational contents. In existing parks, it is important for the Planning Commission and City Council to be aware of space requirements and orientation recommendations to determine if it is feasible to include the item(s) within the park.

Table 7-1 on the following several pages is a summary of classic active park amenities and features as developed by the NRPA. Typical design requirements, dimensions, recommended orientation, number of units/population serviced, and typical service area are outlined along with a comparison to existing levels of service provided within St. Augusta. Please note the number of units/population served is a general guideline and should not be interpreted as a strict rule.

**TABLE 7-1
RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS – CITY OF ST. AUGUSTA**

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. Units Per Population (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)
Baseball Diamond	3 to 3.85 acres	1. Official: Baselines-90' Pitching dist-60.5' Foul lines-min 320' Center field-400'+ 2. Little League: Baselines-60' Pitching Dist.-46' Foul lines-200' Center field-200'-250'	Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast.	1/6,000	Approximately ¼ to ½ mile radius Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of a community complex	2 total 1 at St. Mary School and 1 at Luxemburg Church	The number of baseball diamonds in St. Augusta is adequate at this time.
Softball/ Youth Diamond	1.5 to 2 acres	Baselines 60' Pitching dist- 45' men, women- 40', Fast pitch field radius from plate – 225' Slow pitch 275' men, 250' women	Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and the batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run E/NE	1/ 1,500	Approximately ¼ to ½ mile radius	2 Total 1 at Kiffmeyer Parka and 1 at St. Mary School	Additional facilities may be needed as the City continues to grow and per standard
Tennis Court	7,200 sq. ft. / court. 2 acres/ complex	36' x 78' with 12' clearance on both ends	Long axis north-south	1/2000	¼ to ½ mile radius. Best in batteries of 2 to 4. Located in neighborhood or community parks or near a school	2 total Both at Kiffmeyer Park	At this time it appears the facility is meeting the demands of the City but more could be needed as the City continues to grow
Basket-ball	0.25 to 0.59 acre Youth: 2400 to 3036 sq. ft High School: 5040 to 7280 sq. ft	Youth: 46' to 50' x 84' High School 50' x 84'	Long axis north-south	1/2000	¼ to ½ mile radius Outdoor courts in neighborhood/ Community parks. Indoor as part of schools	3 total 1 at Kiffmeyer Park and 2 at St. Mary School	Per standard meets requirement
Volleyball	4,000 sq. ft	30' x 60' with a minimum clearance of 6' on all sides	Long axis north-south (outdoor)	1/2000	½ to 1 mile	2 total 1 at Kiffmeyer park and 1 at Hidden Lake Park	Per standard meets requirement
Football Field	1.5 acres	160' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Long axis northwest or southeast	1/3000	Approx. 2 mile radius	None	Per standard the City is approaching a deficit of one.
Soccer Field	1.7 to 2.1 acres	195 to 225' x 330' to 360' with 10'	Long axis northwest or southeast	1/3000	Approx. 1 to 2 mile radius	None.	Per standards the City is

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. Units Per Population (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)
		clearance on all sides					approaching a deficit of one.
Ice Arena	2 acres	Rink 85' x 200' (min. 85' 185') Addt. 5000. 22,000 sq. ft to include support area	Long axis is north-south (outdoors)	1/20,000	15 to 30 minute travel	None.	Per standard the City's existing population is not likely to be able to sustain an ice arena at this time
Warming House	Variable	Variable	Variable	1/rink area	1 hocking rink/skating indoor 2 outdoor rinks & house outdoor	None.	N/A.
Picnic Area	Variable	Variable	Variable	1/5000	2 mile radius	Hidden Lake Park, Kiffmeyer Park	Per standard meets requirement
Play Equipment	0.5 acre	Variable	Variable	1 acre/park	2 to 3 mile radius	Hidden Lake Park, Kiffmeyer Park, St. Mary School	Additional playground equipment may be needed throughout the City due to the large acreage of the City
Sliding Hill	2-4 acres	Variable	Variable	1/7,500	1 mile radius	1 at Eagle Landing private park	Privately owned and not for general public use
Archery Range	0.65 acre	300' length x min. 10' between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range min. 30' . Clear space behind targets min. 90' x 45' with bunker	Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees	1/7,500	30 minute travel time.	None	As city grows may be needed per standards
Community Center	15-25 acres	Varies	Varies	1/20,000	--	None	As the City grows may be needed per standard.
Horseshoe courts	0.1 acre			1/2000	--	2 at Kiffmeyer Park	It appears the number of baseball diamonds in St. Augusta is adequate at this time.
Swimming Pool	1 to 2 acres	Teaching- min. 25 yards x 45' even	No recommended pool orientation but	1/10,000	150 person capacity	1 at Eagle Landing	Privately owned and not

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. Units Per Population (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)
		depth of 3-4 ft. Competitive- min. 25 m x 16m. Min. of 25 sq. ft water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2 to 1 deck to water	care must be taken in locating life stations in relation to afternoon sun		15 minute travel	private park	for general public use
Off-Street Parking	300 S.F Per Car	Typically 9' x 20 with a 20' driving lane	Variable	NP: 8-12 cars CWR: 25-100 cars SR: 25-100 cars	NA	Hidden Lake Park, Kiffmeyer Park	It appears that off-street parking is adequate at this time
Toilet Facilities	Varies	Per building code	Variable	1 double unit per park	1 park	Hidden Lake Park, Kiffmeyer Park	The facilities at the parks appear to be adequate

* Derived from the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Standards with local standards applied.

VIII. ACCESSIBILITY

A. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The American with Disability Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The law requires local and state governments, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to persons with disabilities. ADA statutes affect the City of St. Augusta and other local and state park and recreation facilities in the following ways:

1. Newly constructed buildings (after January 26, 1993) must be constructed to be readily accessible.
2. Renovations or alterations occurring after January 26, 1992 to existing facilities must be readily accessible.
3. Barriers to accessibility in existing buildings and facilities must be removed when it is "readily accessible". This includes the location and accessibility to restrooms, drinking fountains and telephones.

B. ADA REQUIREMENTS

ADA requirements include but are not limited to:

1. One accessible route from site access point, such as a parking lot to the primary accessible entrance must be provided. A ramp with a slope of no greater than 1:6 for a length of no greater than two feet may be used as a part of the route. Otherwise a slope of maximum 1:12 is allowed.
2. One accessible public entrance must be provided.
3. If restrooms are provided, then one accessible unisex toilet facility must be provided along an accessible route.
4. Only the publicly used spaces on the level of the accessible entrance must be made accessible.
5. Any display and written information should be located where it can be seen by a seated individual and should provide information accessible to the blind.

IX. EXAMINATION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK FACILITIES

Providing quality recreational opportunities begins with proper planning. Proper planning must take into consideration a number of factors, including but not limited to, location of existing recreational areas (i.e. proximity to the area served, separation from incompatible land uses), adequacy of existing facilities, site planning for the location of future facilities, access to current and future facilities, provisions for recreation programs, and financing, maintenance and management of existing and proposed parks, trails and recreational facilities.

This section is intended to provide City leaders with pertinent background information regarding:

- The condition of existing park facilities,
- The area served by existing City park/recreation facilities,
- Plans for regional park, trail, and recreational facilities, and
- Park plans for adjacent communities.

A. CONDITION OF EXISTING CITY PARKS.


In addition to the City parks listed above, the Stearns County Parks Department, which is the operating arm of the Stearns County Park Commission, carries the responsibility for acquisition, planning, development, administration, and daily maintenance of parks and trails within the County.

Table 9-1 on the following page summarizes the condition of various components of existing city parks and recreational facilities. The data reflects a review performed by MDG, Inc. during the early summer of 2008. Overall, the review concludes parks are in very good condition, however, in order to keep the parks functioning at current levels, routine maintenance will be mandatory.

**TABLE 9-1
EXISTING PARK FEATURES/AMENITIES CONDITION INVENTORY**

St. Augusta Park Condition Inventory	Park Classification		Turf Condition	Irrigation Systems	Plantings/Trees	Drainage	Accessibility	Parking	Parking Availability	Sidewalks/Pathways	Courts (Basketball or Tennis)	Equipment	Other Comments
	CP	Acres											
Hidden Lake Park	CP	71	Good condition with some bare areas	Good Condition with no problems	Good condition with no problems	Good, no problems	Portions of the park are accessible	Off street parking has no problems	No problems	No problems evident	N/A	Equipment is new	All facilities are new so very few issues
Kiffmeyer Park	CP	30	Good condition with some bare areas	Good Condition with no problems	Good condition with a few minor problems	Good, no problems	Portions of the park are accessible	Good Condition, needs some regular maintenance	No problems	Fair condition, needs some minor repairs	Good Condition, need minor maintenance	Equipment is old but still can be used	Bike racks could be relocated
St. Mary School Playground & Baseball Field	NP	NA	Few problems that need some work	N/A	Good condition with a few minor problems	Good, no problems	None of the park is accessible	Good Condition, needs some regular maintenance	Not enough parking mainly during peak use periods	N/A	Fair condition, need minor repairs	Equipment requires regular routine maintenance	Picnic shelter and concession stand needs maintenance
Luxenburg Church	NP	NA											
Eagles Landing Neighborhood Private Park	NP	NA	No problems	N/A	No problems	No problems	Portions of the park are accessible	No problems	No problems	No problems	N/A	No problems	Pool house and swimming pool in very good condition

B. SERVICE AREAS: EXISTING ST. AUGUSTA PARK FACILITIES.

The City's combination of public parks and private facilities are spaced well throughout the City. The trails, facilities, recreational opportunities and open space provide residents and visitors with a variety of recreational opportunities. Due the large size of the City additional parks will be needed in areas that have developed into higher density residential neighborhoods in the Southeast and northwest park of the City. Map  at the close of this chapter offers readers a visual representation of areas served by existing parks based on their aforementioned descriptions/classifications. As indicated, it appears residential neighborhoods will need additional park area.

C. REGIONAL/COUNTY PARKS

In addition to the City parks listed above, the Stearns County Parks Department, which is the operating arm of the Stearns County Park Commission, carries the responsibility for acquisition, planning, development, administration, and daily maintenance of parks and trails within the County.

There are three Stearns County parks just outside the St. Augusta city limits. Warner Lake Park (1485 County Road 143) is located about 3 miles east of the City near its southern border in Lynden Township. Quarry Park and Nature Preserve (1802 County Road 137) is located about three miles north of the City of St. Augusta in the City of Waite Park. The third park, Rockville County Park, is located about 5 miles west of St. Augusta in the City of Rockville on the north side of the Sauk River. This park is not yet open to the public and is currently in the master planning process.

Connections to Warner Lake Park, Quarry Park, and Rockville County Park will be important considerations for the City in terms of park/trail system linkage, system continuity, and system connectivity. To those ends a brief summary of each of the county parks is included herein as a means of providing background information for park visioning efforts.

Warner Lake County Park. A 241-acre site surrounding the 30 surface acres of Warner Lake. The park contains a large open-air shelter, two small picnic shelters, one campground shelter, a group camp, .8 miles of year-round trail, 300 feet of swimming beach, a change house, boat launch, a prairie restoration site, and a nature center which is available for event rental. Two-thirds of the park is forested, with a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees.

Quarry Park & Nature Preserve. This park, formerly known as "Hundred Acres Quarry," features granite reflecting pools, a swimming hole 116 feet deep, scientific and natural areas, mountain bike paths over billion-year-old bedrock and trout fishing.

The park currently contains 643 acres and has much to offer: natural features include scenic woodlands, open prairie, wetlands, and non-quarried bedrock areas. Plant life includes Yellow Ladyslippers, Indian Paintbrush, Prickly Pear Cactus and the Tubercled Rein Orchid. Man-made features include sizable hills composed of quarried rock remnants (grout piles), and 30 granite quarries.

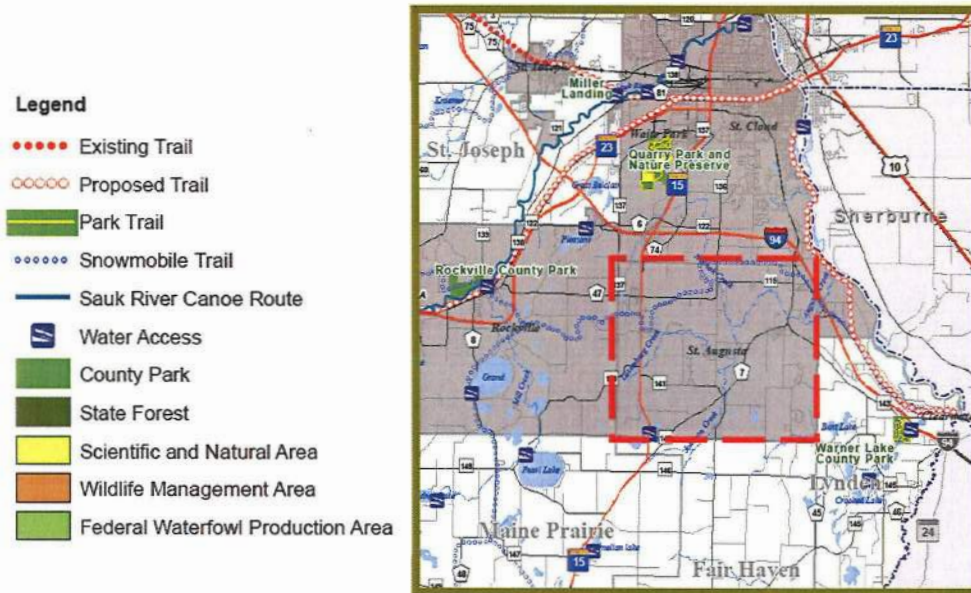
Current uses in the park consist of: cross-country skiing, hiking, instructional scuba diving, public scuba diving, swimming in Melrose Deep Seven Quarry, scenic overlooks, fishing ponds, environmental education, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and rock climbing. Uses planned for the future include: an interpretive center, granite industry interpretive exhibits, picnic areas, an additional swimming quarry, group camp, and an amphitheater.

Rockville County Park. This Park contains 284 acres with some of the park located south of the Sauk River, but most north of the Sauk River. There is approximately 1.2 miles of river frontage touching the park boundaries. The Sauk River is a State Canoe and Boating Route and portions of the park property contain significant natural communities recognized on the Minnesota County Biological Survey. A large granite outcrop is contained on the easternmost portion of the park. A lowland hardwood forest and a tamarack swamp also lie within the park boundaries.

The City of Rockville's Eagle Park lies immediately to the east and adjacent to the Rockville County Park. Eagle Park is 63 acres in size with large randomly-located corestones strewn throughout the site. The park contains an active eagle nest and an inactive eagle nest within Rockville County Park. The relationship of Eagle Park to Rockville County Park is an important issue within the master planning process.

Figure 5.1 below is an excerpt from the 2030 Stearns County Comprehensive Plan. The illustration depicts the location of St. Augusta in relation to the aforementioned county parks. In addition, existing and future trail routes are illustrated in red circles. A snowmobile trail is illustrated in blue circles. Please note the future regional trail just east of I-94 as illustrated in the County's Park Plan the regional trail is also illustrated within the City of St. Cloud Park Plan.

**FIGURE 5.1
STEARNS COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS**



D. ADJACENT CITY PARK PLANS

Various cities in the vicinity of St. Augusta have undertaken park planning efforts as part of local comprehensive planning efforts. The cities of Rockville, Waite Park, and Clearwater have future park and trail plans of which the City of St. Augusta should be aware. When possible future trail/park connections should seek to be made with systems in adjacent communities.

The City of Rockville has included trail elements adjacent to CR 141 and County State Aid Highway 8. The planned trail elements are part of a looped trail system connecting to parks and other trails within the City. County Roads 141 and 8 are important roadways within the City of St. Augusta, especially near the Luxemburg neighborhood.

The City of Waite Park has included the connection of the Glacial Lakes Regional Trail and the Lake Wobegon Trail within the city in its future park/trail plan. In addition, the City of Waite Park is planning a trail facility adjacent to Granite View Road east and south of Quarry Park. The Glacial Lakes/Lake Wobegon trail connection will be a significant regional amenity. The City of St. Augusta may wish to partner with the City of Rockville and the County to promote the extension of a trail adjacent to CR 141 which could provide a link between the Glacial Lakes Trail in Rockville and the planned Beaver Island Trail extension just east of I-94.

The City of Clearwater has included a trail link from Warner Park through Clearwater with planned allowance for eventual extension to the City of Monticello. A trail connection adjacent to CSAH 7/75 could connect Kiffmeyer Park, City Hall, and the commercial area adjacent to CSAH 7/75 to the future regional trail east of I-94 which will connect to Warner Park.

X. COMMUNITY INPUT IN PARKS AND RECREATION

A. PARK LAND DEDICATION ORDINANCE

The City has previously reviewed and adopted parkland dedication requirements within the Subdivision Ordinance. Proposed standards pertaining to all new subdivisions require an amount of land equaling the proportion of the gross area to be subdivided, no greater than the percentage of the monetary amount of park dedication fee of \$525.00 per dwelling unit as a percentage of the total value of the parcel to be subdivided prior to development, or a different percentage as the City Council determines to be reasonably necessary as a result of the subdivision approval.

The dedicated percent of the gross area subdivided is in addition to property dedicated for streets, alleys, easements, or other public ways. No areas can be dedicated for park use until such areas have been approved by the City Council as suitable and necessary for the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the City.

The City may elect at its sole discretion to receive a combination of cash, land, and development of the land for park and/or trail use in accordance with City policy established by resolution of the City Council. Wetlands, ponding areas, and drainageways accepted by the City are not considered as park land and/or a cash contribution to the City.

The City's Subdivision Ordinance also requires the maintenance of private open space in the event certain land areas or structures are provided within the subdivision for private recreational use or as service facilities. The owner of such land and buildings shall enter into an agreement with the City to assure the continued operation and maintenance to a predetermined reasonable standard.

When comparing the park dedication and fee in lieu of dedication to other cities in the area such as St. Joseph, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, and Waite Park, St. Augusta's park dedication has is substantially less than the other communities. Currently the fee in lieu of land dedication only applies to residential and not commercial or industrial like the other communities. St. Augusta's land dedication policy for residential, is based on a percentage of the land value where the other communities have a flat fee per lot or unit. Table 10-1 on the following page compares the park dedication requirements.

**TABLE 10-1
PARK DEDICATION COMPARISONS**

LAND DEDICATION

	St. Augusta	St. Joseph	Sartell	Sauk Rapids	Waite Park
Single Family	*	1,172 sq. ft. per unit	1,198 sq. ft per lot	1,350 sq. ft per lot	1,072 sq. ft per lot
Multiple family	*	1,250 sq. ft. per unit	900 to 1,198 sq. ft. per unit **	700 sq. ft. per unit	876 sq. ft. per unit
PUD	None	None	Combination of land dedication based on the actual acreage	None	None
Commercial	*	2% of land are, not including streets or other dedications	5% of net land area***	5% of land area not including streets or other public dedications	5% of the growth area in addition to the property dedicated for streets, alleys, waterways, pedestrian ways or other public ways
Industrial	*	2% of land are, not including streets or other dedications	5% of net land area***	5% of land area not including streets or other public dedications	

FEE IN LIEU OF LAND

	St. Augusta	St. Joseph	Sartell	Sauk Rapids	Waite Park
Single Family	\$525 per lot	\$914 per lot	\$1,018 per lot	\$1,687 per lot	\$836 per lot
Multiple family	\$525 per unit	\$975 per unit	\$765 to \$1,018 per unit****	\$875 per unit	\$683 per unit
Commercial	None	2% of average land value	\$1.57 per sq. ft.	\$1.55 per sq. ft	5% of average land value
Industrial	None	2% of average land value	\$1.57 per sq. ft.	\$1.55 per sq. ft	5% of average land value

* In all new subdivisions an amount of land equaling the proportion of the gross area to be subdivided, no greater than the percentage of the monetary amount of park dedication fee as a percentage of the total value of the parcel to be subdivided prior to development, or a different percentage as the City Council shall determine

** Square footage depends upon private park improvements made on the web site which reduces the proportionate demand as determined and approved by the City Council

*** Net land area is defined as the gross land area, minus delineated wetlands, minus a 10 percent reduction for customary public purpose easements and rights-of-way

**** Square footage depends upon private park improvements made on the web site which reduces the proportionate demand as determined and approved by the City Council

B. PARK BOARD

On August 15, 2005, the City Council of St. Augusta approved Ordinance #2005-13 approving the policy that defines the establishment, composition, purpose, organization and work rules for the St. Augusta Park Board. The Park Board is a seven member board appointed by the City Council with one member from the City Council and one member from the Planning Commission. The Park board meets monthly

to plan for the development and redevelopment of St. Augusta's park, trail and recreation system. The Park Board is a recommending body to the City Council that provides on-going public input on the system. The mission statement of the Park Board, approved in Ordinance #2005-13, reads as follows:

"The Park Board is an advisory body to the City Council. One of the Park Board's functions is to hold public meetings and make recommendations to the City Council. The City Council makes all final decisions on these matters."

C. PUBLIC INPUT

As part of the park visioning process four park visioning meetings were held. Each visioning meeting contained a different focus and/or visioning exercise. A summary of input is included below, and the complete final results are attached to this Report as Appendix A.

Visioning Meeting #1.

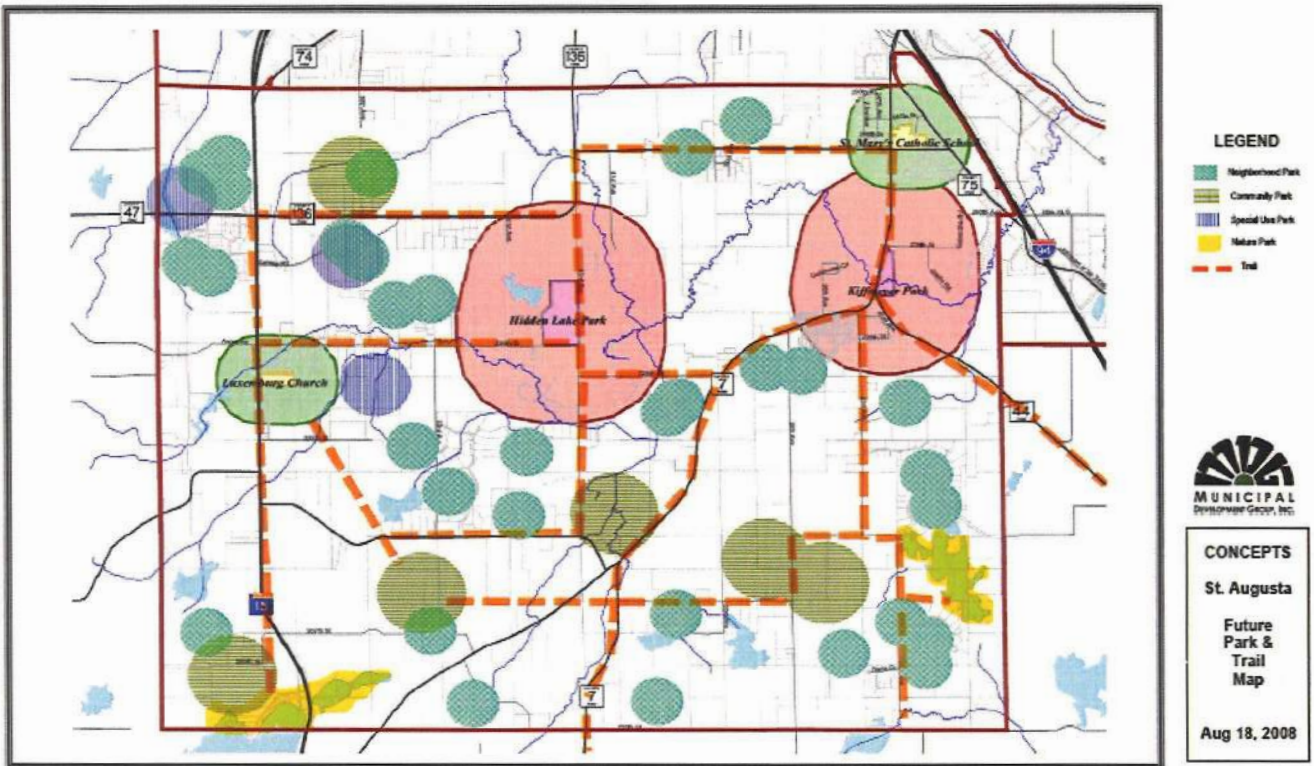
This meeting consisted of a series of group and individual exercises. To begin this visioning session, those attending the meeting divided into small groups. The initial discussion required small group discussion on four topics: (a) great things about St. Augusta's parks and recreational offerings, (b) issues the City needed to work on to improve St. Augusta's park and recreational offerings, (c) how those participating in this meeting wanted to be remembered in 2030, and (d) how they wanted to describe St. Augusta's park/recreation opportunities to their out-of-town friends in 2030.

Responses to these questions give a clear view of what people like about parks and what they see as need which should be addressed. Those participating in the meeting liked that park buildings house two or more functions, the size of parks, that the City parks are connected to water, that the parks are clean and well cared for, and that there is a contrast between the recreation fields and woods. Items the residents felt needed to be worked on were: bike trails, adding an aerator to Hidden Lake Park along with fishing and viewing docks, extending the use of parks beyond seasonal offerings, lighting of ball field, and preservation of natural areas.

Each person attending the meeting was asked to respond individually to questions relating to types of parks desired, types of trails desired, and types of amenities desired. Several individuals recognized the role of both Hidden Lake and Kiffmeyer Parks as being that of a 'community park' as described in Section IV. of this Report. Several individuals responded in the affirmative when asked if they though additional 'neighborhood parks' and 'natural parks' (as described in Section IV. of this Report) were needed. Nearly all those responding noted trail facilities were lacking throughout the City, especially those described as 'Park Trails' and 'Connector Trails' in Section VI. of this report. Park features and amenities most desired by individuals responding included athletic fields, grills and picnic areas, hiking opportunities, nature parks, open space preservation, park shelters, and a pool.

For the final exercise those attending Meeting #1 were asked to participate in group discussion regarding where future parks, trails, and recreational opportunities were needed. Figure 10.1 was developed as a result of feedback from those participating. Figure 10.1 simply illustrates all ideas shared by those attending the meeting. The information is useful in determining where ideas overlapped. As indicated in Figure 10.1 proposed future locations for 'neighborhood parks' (as defined in Section IV. of this Report) were spread out throughout the entire city. Conversely, proposed future locations for additional 'community parks' (as defined in Section IV. of this Report) were primarily in southern and the northwestern parts of the City.

**FIGURE 10.1
SUGGESTED LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE PARKS AND TRAILS**



When reviewing information gained from the first meeting, City leaders may wish to consider the location of future growth areas of the City in terms of water and sewer service. These locations will tend to develop at a higher density with more residents meaning a greater need for neighborhood park facilities.

Visioning Meeting #2.

A postcard notifying all property owners within the City of the second visioning session was mailed ten days in advance of the meeting.

This meeting consisted of a written survey and strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat (SWOT) analysis. Following the meeting the written survey was posted on the City's website and distributed to walk in customers at City Hall.

The written survey consisted of twenty questions, responses provide leaders with an idea of what the residents of St. Augusta view as priorities within the park system. Questions ranged from how many time per year persons make plans to visit parks to where deficiencies in the park system currently exist.

Following are some highlights from written survey responses:

- Residents reported making plans to visit Hidden Lake Park more often than Kiffmeyer Park.
- The primary reasons people said they visited parks were: (a) to enjoy nature and be outdoors, (b) for family outings, and (c) to get exercise by walking and biking.

- The two biggest reasons people reported they do not visit parks more often were lack of time and because they own large acreage that has its own recreation area.
- The amenities people would like to have are trails connecting the parks.
- The southwest, southeast, and northwest areas of the City were reported to have park deficiencies while the northeast was not.
- A large majority, 88%, of responses said the City should place more emphasis on quality of life issues rather than keeping taxes low.

As previously indicated, meeting #2 also included SWOT analysis. The SWOT exercise included three independent objectives. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats relating to each objective were charted after small group discussion. Strengths and weaknesses have internal origins meaning the City has control over such items. Opportunities and threats originate external to the City, therefore, the City may not have control over such issues but should be mindful of them regardless. Strengths and opportunities are helpful to achieving an objective, whereas weaknesses and threat can be harmful to achieving objectives.

The three objectives SWOT analysis addressed were:

1. Create a park system used and enjoyed by the entire community.
2. Create a cohesive, multiple purpose trail system used by all members of the community.
3. Create meaningful, well-organized recreation opportunities for all ages.

Full results from the SWOT analysis are contained in Appendix A at the close of this Report.

Visioning Meeting #3.

The goal of the third visioning meeting was to develop a vision statement for future park, recreation, trail, and open space improvements and three (3) primary goals for achieving that vision.

Several pieces of information were distributed to those attending the meeting including a variety of survey results and maps. Information distributed prior to discussion included:

- Small group and individual survey results from the visioning exercise conducted at the first meeting.
- Strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat (SWOT) analysis results from the second visioning meeting.
- Responses to the written survey received as of Friday, Aug. 8.
- An inventory of existing amenities as St. Augusta parks.
- Two maps of the City of St. Augusta illustrating input as to where future parks and trails should be located gained from the previous two meetings.
- Two maps from Stearns County included in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan illustrating the location of existing and future parks and trails and park search areas.
- A map from the City of St. Cloud Comprehensive Plan illustrating where future parks and trails are to be located.
- A copy of the Future Park/Trail Plan included in the Waite Park Comprehensive Plan.

- A copy of the Future Park/Trail Plan included in the Clearwater Comprehensive Plan.
- A copy of the Future park/Trail Plan included in the Rockville Comprehensive Plan.
- A map from the DNR illustrating recreational opportunities in Stearns County.

Following review of the aforementioned materials, group discussion regarding a vision statement commenced. Each person attending the meeting was asked to brainstorm on the following questions limiting their responses ideally to one word. Responses are indicated by *italicized text face*:

1. What do you each value about parks, open spaces, trails, and recreation? *Community, freedom, necessity, relaxation (2 responses), quiet, organized, exercise (2 responses), family (2 responses), accessibility, recreation, wildlife, youth, beauty, spacious, convenient, multiple use, educational*
2. What park, open space, trail, and recreation improvements will over the next ten to twenty years would most benefit all members of the community? *Trails, walking paths, more youth activities, seniors, opportunities for grandparents and children to do together, interpretive trails, use of parks in winter and fall rather than just spring and summer, indoor or outdoor hockey rinks, splash pad, warming house, guarantee easy access to open space in all developments, funding for upkeep and improvements, nature trails, handicap accessible trails, lighted trails*

Following the brainstorming session, those attending the meeting were asked to use the words/phrases captured during brainstorming to formulate potential vision statements. Participants were asked to begin their vision statements with "to become the", "to be known as", "to offer" or a similar phrase. Participants were told their vision statement can be any length – a single sentence or a few bullet points – as long as it is was clear, focused, and easily understandable. Participants were also asked to ensure the vision was based in reality and not wishful thinking. The following thoughts were expressed:

- *To be the means to get to know your neighbors better*
- *To be the premiere residential community in the St. Cloud Area serving all ages and abilities*
- *To be known as the City with small town feel and big recreation opportunities*
- *To offer a balanced community with recreational opportunities being balanced with other services*
- *To be a model community for mixing rural and urban uses with reasonable taxes*
- *To be the park Mecca of the area where people go to recreate and non-traditional methods of maintaining parks are pursued*
- *To be an area with diverse where people of diverse ages, abilities, and backgrounds can find great recreational opportunities.*
- *To maintain a quality of life for all ages reflected in well planned and maintained parks, trails, and recreational opportunities.*
- *To preserve and maintain a community connectedness that comes from small town living*
- *To maintain quality of life for all residents*
- *To maintain the vitality of the community through the health of its residents and the health of its economy*

A few noteworthy discussions resulted from the vision statement formation exercise. Most notably:

1. A preference to focus on serving a market area that included the entire city limits but not active 'marketing' to bring outsiders into the community for recreational purposes.
2. An identified need to promote flexibility in facility design which allows re-use in the future.
3. A need to not only plan for future park facilities but to budget for such items as well.
4. A desire to take a purposeful approach to decision-making with long-term benefits in mind: i.e. implement an identified vision at a moderate pace with a consistent approach to plan implementation that will result over time in the creation of a positive difference.
5. A desire to recall St. Augusta has the space to plan and should be especially careful in reviewing developments and future land use so as to further vision for park, trail, open space, and recreational opportunities.

Visioning Meeting #4.

A fourth visioning meeting was required to finalize a vision and park plans for this report. At the meeting the Park Board reviewed previous information received, a draft copy of this report, and other pertinent information.

XI. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

The proper care and management of park and trail facilities will encourage park/pathway use, improve the quality of life in St. Augusta and enhance the visual quality of neighborhoods and the City as a whole. Maintenance of the park system is currently coordinated through the City's Public Works Department. The department also assists with park duties and street functions.

Park maintenance tasks may occur on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal and/or weather related basis. These jobs include but are not limited to: litter/garbage clean-up; mowing/trimming; fertilizing turf; preventative equipment maintenance; moving tables/benches; special event preparation; equipment repair; leaf clean-up; snow removal; chemical application; trail maintenance and facility repair/maintenance.

XII. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Several resources are available to assist the City of St. Augusta in providing adequate parks, trails and facilities for residents. Following is a list of typical sources.

1. Park Dedication/Fee In-Lieu of Parkland Dedication Requirements for land acquisition
2. Volunteer hours/labor
3. Donations by private individuals, civic organizations, organized groups, etc.
4. Grants available through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
5. Property taxes

The City budgets for operational expenses through its annual budget process. The City currently dedicates the sales tax to the capital improvement fund which is dedicated to the fund parks and trails. The City should consider the establishment of a capital improvement plan for long-range capital improvements to the park system. Examples of expenditures within the capital improvement plan can include purchase of playground equipment, installation of ball fields, purchase/planting of trees, paving of the parking lot, land purchases, etc.

Following are potential grant and funding assistance programs for park, trail, and recreation development.

RECREATIONAL – GENERAL						
Type of Program	Maximum Amount Available	Application Deadline	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Minimum Requirements	Funding Available and Local Match Requirements
Outdoor Recreation Grant	Variable	March 31 st	Cities, Counties, Townships & Recognized Tribal Governments.	Park acquisition and /or (re) development including internal park trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, athletic facilities, boat accesses, fishing piers, swimming beaches and campgrounds.	Minimum \$10,000 project. Applicant must own land proposed for the project or e part of an acquisition project.	Up to 50% of project may be grant. Local share may include cash, value of materials, labor and equipment. Costs incurred prior to reimbursement with DNR funds.
Regional Park Grant	Variable	March 31 st	Public Regional Park Organizations outside the seven county metro area.	Park acquisition and /or (re) development including internal park trails, picnic shelters, playgrounds, athletic facilities, boat accesses, fishing piers, swimming beaches and campgrounds.	Minimum \$40,000 project. Significant progress must be completed on projects before an additional proposal may be submitted.	Maximum of 60% of the eligible project cost. Applicants must fund 40% of project. Local share may include cash, value of materials, labor and equipment. Costs incurred prior to reimbursement with DNR funds.
Natural and Scenic Areas	\$500,000	March 31 st	Cities, Counties, Townships and School Districts.	Fee title acquisition and permanent easement acquisition. Minimal betterment activities are eligible and include interpretive, educational or boundary signing and protective fencing.	Minimum \$10,000 project. Significant progress must be completed on projects before an additional proposal may be submitted.	Maximum of 50% of the eligible project costs not to exceed a maximum grant of \$500,000. Applicants must incur 50% of project costs. Costs incurred prior to reimbursement with DNR funds.

TRAIL GRANT PROGRAMS

Type of Program	Maximum Amount Available	Application Deadline	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Minimum Requirements	Funding Available and Local Match Requirements
Local Trail Connections	\$100,000	February 28 th	Cities, Counties and Townships Projects inside state park boundaries, state trail corridors or elements of the Metropolitan Regional Open Space System are ineligible.	Land acquisition and trail development. Acquisition of trail right-of-way will only be eligible when it is proposed in conjunction with trail development. Land purchased will require a "perpetual easement for recreational trail purposes" and trails will require a 20-year maintenance commitment.	Minimum project \$10,000. project proposals must result in at least \$5,000 and no more than \$100,000 of reimbursements.	50% "cash match" for eligible elements. Neither grant nor matching funds may be used for in-house labor services or to meet existing payroll. Only contract services, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Use of Federal Recreational Trail Grant or Regional Trail Grant or other state funds are not eligible "matching" funds.
Federal Recreational Trail	\$100,000	February 28 th	Cities, Counties, Townships, Recognized Tribal Governments. Private Trail organizations sponsored by a Local Unit of Government.	Motorized (snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and four-wheel drive trucks) and non-motorized (hike, bike, ski, horse, inline skate) trail projects; including maintenance/restoration of existing trails, development/rehab. Of trailside and trailhead facilities and recreational linkages, construction of new trails, easement acquisition and redesign of existing trails.	Minimum project \$10,000. Project proposals must result in at least \$5,000 and no more than \$100,000 of reimbursements.	50% "cash match" for eligible elements. Neither grant nor matching funds may be used for in-house labor services or to meet existing payroll. Only contract services, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Use of Local Recreational Trail Grant or Regional Trail Grant or other state funds are not eligible "matching" funds.
Regional Trail Initiative	\$250,000	February 28 th	Cities, Counties, Townships.	Land acquisition and trail development. Priority to projects providing a useable trail. Land purchased will require a "perpetual easement for recreational trail purposes" and trails will require a 20-year maintenance commitment.	Minimum project \$10,000. Project proposals must result in at least \$5,000 and no more than \$250,000 of reimbursements.	50% "cash match" for eligible elements. Neither grant or matching funds may be used for in-house labor services or to meet existing payroll. Only contract services, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Use of Local Recreational Trail Grant or Federal Trail Grant or other state funds are not eligible "matching" funds.

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Type of Program	Maximum Amount Available	Application Deadline	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Minimum Requirements	Funding Available and Local Match Requirements
Conservation Partners	\$20,000	June 1 st	Cities, Counties, Townships, School Districts and Private Organizations.	(1) Habitat Enhancement – restoration of natural plant communities, reforestation, protection of wetlands, native plant buffers strips along streams and lakes, water quality and soil erosion; and (2) Research Surveys – monitoring environmental indicators, surveying plant and animal populations, evaluating enhancement projects and research methods, etc.	Variable.	Up to 50% of the cost of enhancing or improving fish, wildlife and native plant habitats and conducting research and surveys of fish and wildlife.
Environmental Partnerships	\$20,000	June 1 st	Cities, Counties, Townships, School Districts and Private Organizations.	Community environmental service projects to clean up natural areas such as streams, lakes and wetlands; prepare and produce environmental education products such as handbooks, manuals, etc.	Variable	Up to 50% of the cost. Applicant must fund 50% with cash, value of materials, labor and equipment. Cost must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement can be made. Applicants are eligible to receive only one grant.
Minnesota ReLeaf Community Forest Development Protection	\$7,500 per Category \$15,000 Total	Pre-App. March 31 st	Cities, Counties, Townships, School Districts and Non-profit Organizations	(1) Forest Health Protection, (2) Community Forestry Assessment or (3) Tree planning.	Maximum grant per category is \$7,500. May apply for more than one project but grant cannot exceed \$15,000.	Local match required.

XIII. PARK/OPEN SPACE VISION

TASK FOR MEETING #4

IX. PARK/OPEN SPACE PLAN

Following the inventory and evaluation of existing park, trail and recreation facilities and in accordance with NRPA guidelines, the following goals, objectives, and policies/recommendations have been prepared.

TASK FOR MEETING #4

GOAL #1: ADEQUATE, APPROPRIATE PARK AND TRAIL SYSTEM

Objective A: Maximize public's investment in existing park and trail facilities by maintaining features that meet the demonstrated recreational needs of the City.

Policy/Recommendations:

1. The City should conduct a detailed assessment of existing park and trail system elements in terms of: facility type, area served, accessibility, size, active/passive recreational opportunities provided, resource availability, recreation demand, level of service needed, etc.
2. Following said detailed assessment, the City should determine attributes and features of the existing park and trail system to retain and/or enhance.
3. The City should determine what, if any, existing park and trail system elements are no longer providing for a demonstrated need. Existing park and trail system elements for which a need is not demonstrated should be converted to services for which there is a demonstrated need.
4. The City shall maintain zoning and subdivision regulations that provide for and encourage the continued development of parks, open space, trails, and recreational opportunities.
5. The City shall identify needed capital investments applicable to existing park and trail system components. Capital investments in existing system components should be included in the five-year capital improvement program.
6. The City shall continue to provide for regular operations and maintenance of existing park and trail system components through the annual budget.

Objective B: Provide active and passive parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of diverse groups within the community including, but not limited to, persons with differing ages, abilities, incomes, household type, etc.

Policy/Recommendations:

1. The City should strive for appropriate access for mobility impaired persons to park and trail system components and facilities throughout the City.

2. The City will strive to provide equal access to parks and open space areas throughout the community by providing for equal distribution of parks and open spaces throughout all sections of the City relative to user population densities.
3. The City will strive to provide adequate and equitable funding for the acquisition, rehabilitation and development of park and trail system components in a fair and equitable manner.

Objective C: Continue to enhance the value and recreational opportunity afforded by park and trail system components.

Policy/Recommendations:

1. The City will strive to promote park and trail system continuity and accessibility by linking municipal system components and maximizing opportunities to link to regional systems.
2. The City should connect areas of interest within the community such as commercial areas, parks and residential neighborhoods to the interconnected park and trail system.
3. The City should identify and prioritize natural areas and special places to preserve as part of the park system.
4. The City shall apply official controls, such as park dedication requirements, to ensure that appropriate park land is provided with new development. Whenever possible, land dedication should relate to the park and trail plan contained at the close of this Chapter.
5. As street/utility reconstruction occurs within the developed part of the City in areas designated for future trail and/or sidewalk development, the City will strive to implement the park and trail priorities and action plan contained at the close of this Chapter.
6. The City will strive to acquire land shown on the park and trail plan contained at the close of this Chapter where and when feasible.
7. The City will continue to consider opportunities for shared facilities and/or system linkages provided by the presence of regional facilities, educational institutions, other units of government, and private enterprise.

Objective D: Promote economic, health, and practical benefits of park and trail system components.

Policy/Recommendations:

1. The Park Board should further educate the public and promote the use of the parks by working with other local/regional governmental units, civic groups and schools to create information to be distributed to new residents and available to the public regarding City parks and activities at the parks. Such collaboration should also review common park signage elements as a means of linking the park system and notifying the public of where public parks are located and how to access.

2. The City should consider development of an educational or promotion program to encourage residents to be more active and healthy and take advantage of the park and trail opportunities both locally and regionally.
3. The City should consider methods of promoting park and trail system components to tourists and/or community visitors.

XV. FUTURE PARK PLAN MAP

TASK FOR MEETING #4

XVI. FUTURE PARK PRIORITIES/ACTION PLAN

TASK FOR MEETING #4: BY PARK, TRAIL, AND AMENITY