



## **STACY PARKS, TRAIL, AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

CITY OF STACY

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# Table of Contents

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Chapter 1: Purpose of the Plan.....	3
Chapter 2: Existing System & Standards.....	4
Existing Parks & Trails.....	4
Park Standards.....	5
Trail Standards.....	7
Chapter 3: Future System Needs.....	8
Park Needs.....	8
Trail Needs.....	10
Park and Trail Map.....	12
Chapter 4: Implementation.....	13
Goals & Policies.....	13
Funding Methods.....	15
Park and Trails Commission Plan Duties.....	15

## Chapter 1: Purpose of the Plan

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The City's Park, Trail, & Open Space plan has been completed to ensure the City's vision and stewardship of the park system. The plan was last updated in 2005 and since that time additional land has been annexed along with a recent completion of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Future growth is projected to obtain an additional 600 residents by the year 2030. These items create an urgent need to address future park and trail development and preserve park and open space land.

The system will offer residents desired recreational opportunities, while it preserves and makes accessible unique natural and historic resources that are part of the City's identity. The Park and Recreation Committee believes that the parks and trails system can be designed to help to unify the City's neighborhoods and build a sense of common identity and interest among old and new residents.

The Park and Recreation Committee believes that careful planning, with strategic location of public parks, trails and open space areas will help to preserve and create the type of community and environment that Stacy residents desire. The City has the opportunity to acquire quality open space before development occurs. This plan encourages this progressive approach to preserve and create quality neighborhoods and recreational opportunities for current and future Stacy residents, and make the best possible use of available financial resources.

The park and trail plan will help the City to build a system of parks and trails that meets its residents' needs in several ways:

- Helps to protect and enhance important natural resources and resource corridors.
- Preserves and interprets the City's history and character.
- Identifies proposed park and trail locations ahead of most development, to minimize system costs and impacts to current residents.
- Provides direction to developers regarding park dedication requirements and park development policies.
- Helps create a vision and priority listing of future park amenities.
- Helps the City to maintain the quality and value of its neighborhoods and its quality of life for the future.

This plan places its emphasis on development of park and trail services within existing city limits. Development of the park and trail system will also occur within new developments. The City will work with existing landowners on a voluntary basis if needed to acquire easements and develop trail connections.

## Chapter 2: Existing System & Standards

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The City of Stacy has developed or planned a variety of park and recreation facilities. Most of these are City parks. The County owns and manages the Sunrise Prairie Bicycle Trail, and the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area to the east of Stacy.

### Existing Park Facilities:

#### Mini Parks (2.4 acres)

- Sherman Oaks (.6 acres) Undeveloped

#### Neighborhood Parks (7.7 acres)

- Richland Meadows (2 acres) Undeveloped
- Sunrise Mobile (5.7 acres) Existing Ballfield

#### Community Parks (11 acres)

- Lion's Park (11 acres) Existing Playground, softball field, 1/2 court basketball, picnic shelter, and parking lot

#### Community Play Fields

- Doyle Fields (12 acres) Existing Softball Fields (2), Concession stand, proposed hockey ice arena, and parking lot
- Rieger Fields Park (16 acres) Existing Softball Field

#### Open Space/ Nature Parks

- Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (Regional)
- Stacy Ponds (12 acres) Undeveloped
- West Side (4.8 acres) Undeveloped

### Existing Trail Facilities:

#### Regional Trails

- Sunrise Prairie Bicycle Trail

#### Local Trails

- Stacy Ponds Business Park Trail

### Park Standards:

The Park and Trail Commission reviewed a variety of standards for park facilities used by communities in the Metro Area. Most communities have adopted park system standards based on population and/or desired geographic distances from some facilities. The Commission members recommended that the following park types and standards be developed in Stacy:

#### Mini-parks

A local park that provides limited facilities and provides mainly passive recreational facilities. Mini parks would typically include play facilities, benches or picnic tables, a water fountain, landscaping, and open play areas. The site should contain features such as views, shade trees, etc., that make for a pleasant outdoor experience. These parks may be sited on "left-over" parcels of development, so long as the parcel meets parkland dedication requirements. These parks should be located so that residents can walk or bike to these parks without having to cross a major roadway.

- Mini parks are typically 2 acres or less in size
- Mini parks are intended to serve residences or business within about 1/4 mile.
- Typical Mini park elements may include the following:
  - Limited play equipment
  - Small field games, such as horse-shoes or shuffleboard
  - Landscape plantings
  - Site furnishings such as benches, bike racks, drinking fountain, trash containers, and signs

### Neighborhood Parks

The neighborhood park is the most local unit of the park system, providing for the passive and active recreational needs of neighborhood residents. These parks should be accessible to a wide variety of user groups living in the neighborhood. These parks typically do not provide organized athletic programs.

*Site.* Sites should allow for both active and passive park uses. The site should contain natural features such as views, shade trees, etc., that make for a pleasant outdoor experience. These parks should not be sited on "left-over" parcels of developments. Siting neighborhood parks adjacent to trails and greenway corridors is desirable, and will expand the function of both types of open space. Siting neighborhood parks adjacent to both new and existing neighborhoods can encourage old and new residents to get acquainted, and ensure that the new park does not function as a "private" facility for new neighborhoods only.

- About 2.5-4 acres of Neighborhood Parks should be developed per 1,000 people.
- These parks should be located so that they are within about 1/2 mile of any residence in the designated neighborhood.
- Users should not need to cross a major street to get to their neighborhood park.
- Neighborhood parks should be about 2-10 acres in size
- Typical Neighborhood Park elements include the following:
  - Play equipment
  - Open turf areas with informal play fields for softball, soccer, and /or football
  - Hard court (half-court basketball or game area)
  - Internal trails and connections to the neighborhood
  - Landscape plantings
  - Limited off-street parking area
  - Site furnishings such as benches, bike racks, drinking fountain, trash containers, and signs

## Community Parks (sometimes called City Parks)

Community parks provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages, and serve several neighborhoods. These parks also preserve unique landscapes and natural areas. Community parks are intended to be multipurpose parks that provide a broader range of services than neighborhood parks. However, the Community Park may serve the neighborhood playground needs of immediate residents, or may be integrated with community play fields.

*Sites.* Sites used for community parks should include interesting terrain and natural areas, such as woodlands and wetlands. They should be easily accessible from a major transportation route, and may be located near other community facilities. Community parks should be linked to the City trail system to provide optimum access for residents.

- About 5-8 acres of Community Park space should be developed per 1,000 people.
- These parks serve a larger area than Neighborhood Parks, up to a 2 mile radius
- About 3 acres of this total should be for "active" recreation
- These parks should each be 5-20 acres or more in size
- Typical Community Park elements include the following:
  - Building/shelter
  - Picnic area
  - Internal trail system
  - Play equipment (may be more extensive than for neighborhood park)
  - Play fields for baseball, soccer, football
  - Hockey rink/skating rink
  - Tennis court(s)
  - Site furnishings such as benches, water fountains, bike rack, trash containers, and signs
  - Landscape plantings
  - Specialized play areas, such as Frisbee golf courses
  - Parking area

## Community Play Fields

Community play fields are designed for athletic activities, providing facilities for organized sports and games that require more space than is available at neighborhood park playgrounds. Play fields may be integrated into community parks, or co-located with school athletic facilities.

*Sites.* Sites should be level, with suitable soils and good drainage for athletic field development.

- 5-6 acres of Community Play Fields should be developed per 1,000 people.
- Play fields may be co-located and developed in cooperation with school play fields
- Play field facilities may include the following:
  - Baseball, soccer, football or other sport fields
  - Hockey/skating rinks
  - Volleyball/Tennis court(s)
  - Basketball and/or tennis courts
  - Small play equipment area

- Site furnishings such as benches, water fountains, bike rack, trash containers, and signs
- Internal trails
- Equipment building
- Concession/multi-purpose building
- Parking area

### Open Space Parks or Natural Parks

These parks contain high quality natural resource areas, such as lakes, wetlands, or woodlands. Recreational uses are secondary to the preservation of natural open space and the conservation functions of these areas. Compatible recreational uses include hiking, picnicking, and nature study.

*Sites.* Sites are typically within the high quality natural community areas identified in the City's Natural Resource Inventory. Open space parks should be connected by trails to the City's Natural Resource Corridors and to other parks. Conservation parks will be left in a natural or semi-natural state, with a minimum of development.

- These parks serve a City-wide audience
- The size of the parks may vary based on the natural resources or other special features (such as historic sites) in the community
- Locations of these parks (as well as community and neighborhood parks) will reflect recommendations of the city's Natural Resources Inventory and Management Plan.
- Facilities development at these parks should be minimal, but may include the following:
  - Trails
  - Site furnishings such as benches, bike racks, trash containers, and signs
  - Parking area

### **Trail Standards:**

#### Trails

The trail system should be designed as loops, connecting city parks with each-other, points of interest, and the Sunrise Prairie Bicycle Trail. Sidewalks are included in this system. Some benches/rest areas and tree/landscaping plantings should be provided to unify the look of the trail system. Trail connectivity should be considered a priority when determining exact trail locations.

- Desirable to have a trail within 1/2 mile of each home
- Locating trails off-road is preferable over on-road trails
- Trails should be 8-10' wide, and constructed of a bituminous material
- Sidewalks should be 5-6' wide in residential areas, and constructed of concrete
- Trails should be located within a 20-foot easement

## Chapter 3: Future Needs

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### Park Needs:

The current population is approximately 1,400. The city is expected to grow to a population of 1,956 by 2035. This plan provides guidance for development of Stacy's parks and trails through 2035. This population forecast along with the City's Comprehensive Plan and common standards for park needs based on population and geography determined the following recommendations regarding the number and distribution of park and trail facilities in the community.

Based on the standards adopted by the Commission, the following are the projected park needs in Stacy through 2035 to meet projected population growth of approximately 2,000 people between 2000 and 2035:

#### Mini-parks

- The City exceeds its Mini park standard of .5 acres/1,000 people. Currently there are 2.4 acres of Mini parks. The development of park amenities will need to be the focus of these parks as currently the land is undeveloped. No future land acquisition of mini parks is required, yet internal neighborhood park needs can be assessed as future development occurs.
- Future park amenities at existing mini-park locations are identified below:
  - Sherman Oaks: (Currently Undeveloped)
    - Trail/benches/waste receptacle
    - Open lawn area - informal play
    - Landscaping/Signage

#### Neighborhood Parks

- The City could develop 3-5 acres of 1 additional Neighborhood Park in the recently annexed portion of the City. Stacy currently meets the low end of the NRPA standard range of 2.5-3.5 acres for neighborhood parks/1,000 people having 7.7 acres of Neighborhood parkland designated for a proposed 2,000 people.
- It is recommended that Stacy develop an additional Neighborhood park in the south portion of the City (in the newly annexed land) to provide a more evenly distributed system. It is anticipated the City would acquire projected population growth from Lent and Wyoming Township solidifying the need for 1 additional neighborhood park in this area. Creating a park near future residences in this area would also meet the 1/2 mile radius standard for neighborhood parks.
- Future park amenities at existing neighborhood park locations are identified below:
  - Richland Meadows (Undeveloped)
    - Informal play field
    - Raingardens
    - Signage
  - Sunrise Mobile
    - Informal play field

- Picnic area/bbq grills/trash receptacles
- Signage

### Community Park

- The City meets its Community park standard of 5-8 acres/1,000 people by currently having 11 acres at Lions Park to serve a proposed 2,000 population base. The 1.7 acre lot in-between the two city owned park lots that make up Lions Park should be acquired for future park amenities. This park location will continue to serve as the main community gathering space and focal point of the City.
- Future park amenities at the existing community park location are identified below:
  - Lions park
    - Improve restrooms- more accessible
    - Upgrade playground equipment
    - Performance Stage/event space
    - Trail/benches/waste receptacle

### Community Play Field

- The City meets its Community play fields standard of 6 acres/1,000 people. However, the City is limited in the type of active recreational facilities it offers as it is home to 4 softball fields and a 1/2 court basketball area. The City currently does not offer these type of amenities that would be a quality addition to the City park system:
  - a. Multi-use Playing Field (1/4,000 people)
  - b. Tennis Court (1/2,000 people)
  - c. Full size Basketball Court (1/1,000 people)
  - d. Volleyball Court (1/3,000 people)
  - e. Horseshoes (1/2,000 people)
- It is recommended that the City work closely with Lent Township, the owner of Rieger Fields, to plan for a variety of recreational facilities listed above. Most of the 16 acres of land is undeveloped at this time. A multi-use playing field is currently an important recreation feature in city park systems as many growing sports such as soccer, football, rugby, and lacrosse can all be played on this type of field. Reiger Fields is Lent Township's only park which will create a higher demand of use and need for future park development.
- Future park amenities at the existing community play field locations are identified below:
  - Doyle Fields
    - Hockey ice arena
    - Parking lot
  - Rieger Fields (owned by Lent Township)
    - Add lighting to ballfield
    - Parking lot
    - Play equipment
    - Full size multi-use playing field
    - Trail/benches/trash receptacles
    - Signage

## Open Space

- Open Space parks may be acquired based on needs and opportunities to protect important natural resource areas as development occurs.
- Future park amenities at the existing open space park locations are identified below:
  - Stacy Ponds
    - Benches
    - Native landscaping
    - Signage
  - West Side
    - Picnic area
    - Native landscaping
    - Signage

## **Trail Needs:**

The community survey referenced in Chapter 1 concluded that the development of trails, walking areas, and a connection to natural areas was one of the highest priorities to residents in park system development.

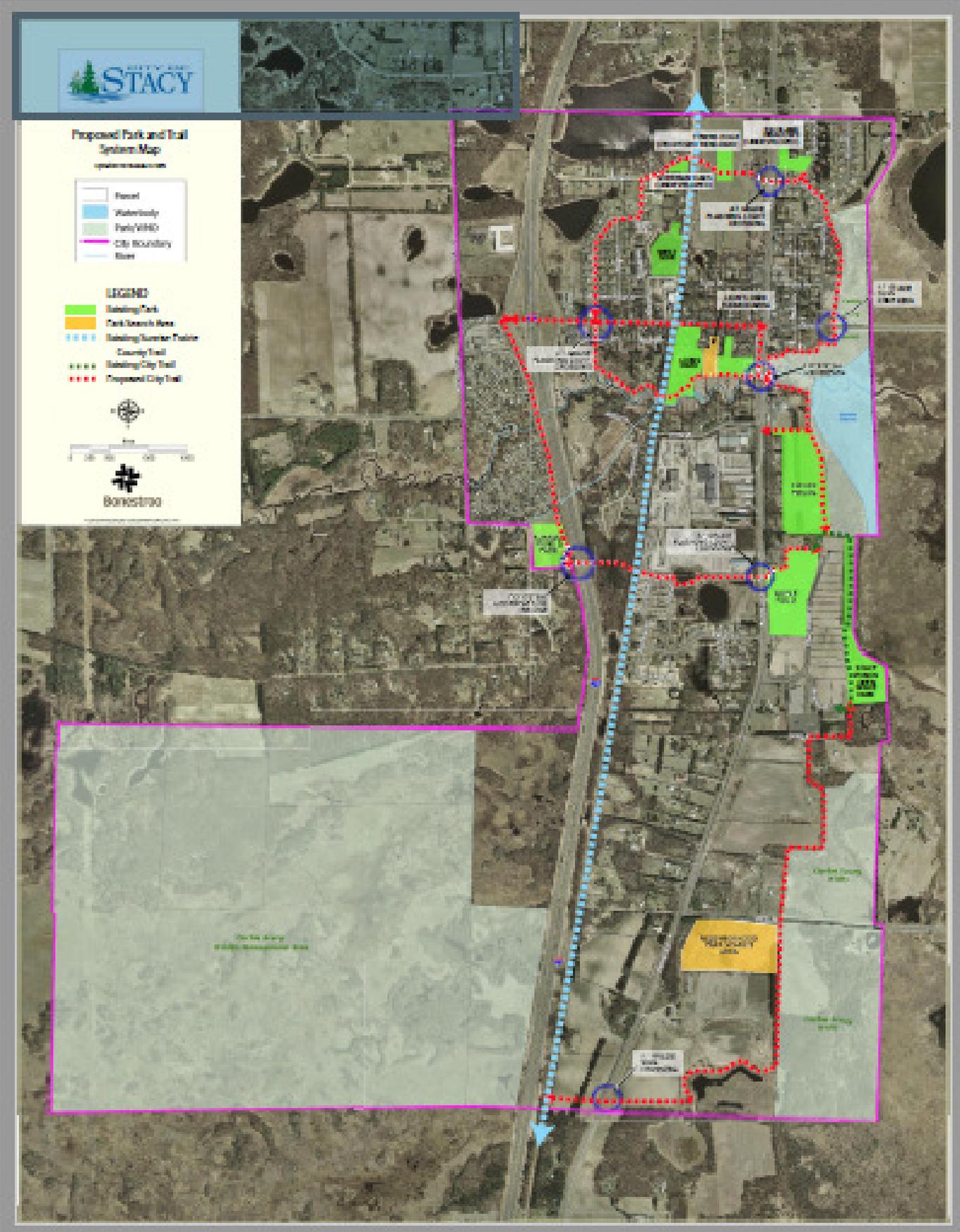
The Parks and Trails System Map shows the proposed trail system in Stacy. Each residence in the City will be no more than ½ mile from a public trail when the system is fully-developed.

Future Trails have been designated on the map to include the following trail connections:

- A new trail loop starting at Fenway Ave would run along Sunrise River crossing Forest Blvd to run along the edge of Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area extending to the north. The trail would then continue onto 314th St connecting to Richland Meadows Park, through the undeveloped property (directly North of the Post Office), crossing the Sunrise Prairie State Trail, and continuing along 314th St and Sherman Oaks Park. The loop would conclude by running along a proposed sidewalk along Ferris Trail to end at Stacy Trail and Forest Blvd.
- A trail link from the above proposed trail loop would connect at Forest Blvd/Sunrise River, run through Rieger Fields park and connect to the existing Doyle Fields Trail.
- A trail link is proposed from Sunrise Prairie State Trail along 304th St to the existing Doyle Fields Park trail.
- A future scenic nature trail is proposed in the newly annexed land extending from Stacy Ponds Park Trail along Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. The trail would head west to connect to the Sunrise Prairie State Trail along the existing snow mobile trail route. This could be a multi-use trail allowing horseback riding and sno-mobile access in the winter season.
- A new trail is proposed to serve mainly the residents of Sunrise Mobile Home Park. This trail would run from Stacy Trail to the Sunrise Park along the mobile home internal road near 35-W. If the opportunity arise, an underpass or bridge could connect these residents from Sunrise Park across 35W to the Sunrise Prairie State Trail.
- A new trail along the south side of Stacy Trail Road would be developed within the road right of way from Fawn Lake Dr to Forest Blvd. When the redevelopment of the I-35W bridge occurs, a new pedestrian walkway will be planned for to connect the Stacy residents on the west side of 35W.

## **Park and Trail Map**

The map that follows is the Park and Trail System Map for the City of Stacy. The map identifies existing parks and a future park search area. The map also identifies future trail routes. The City will work with developers and other landowners to identify the exact location and size of parks and trail alignments, as development or park acquisition is proposed.



## Chapter 4: Implementation

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### Goals and Policies:

#### Parks and Open Space

##### *Goals:*

1. Create a balance and variety of passive and active recreational opportunities.
2. Open space shall be maintained, developed and acquired for recreation purposes, for the conservation of natural resources, and/or for shaping the pattern of urban development.
3. Wetlands and areas of significant natural resource value will be protected from new development.
4. Improve recreation areas serving the entire city by adding new buildings, equipment, lighting, parking space or other facilities as needed.
5. Provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities that are convenient and safe for children as well as adults.

##### *Policies:*

1. Pursue the development of playground equipment and picnic areas in undeveloped park space.
2. Assess the recreational needs of the community to determine the popularity of a multi-use playing field.
3. Ensure new and existing park equipment is accessible and ADA compliant.
4. Create an event space featuring an amphitheater or large shelter in a community park.
5. Pursue the development of restroom buildings in the park system.
6. The City will acquire parkland as early as possible to minimize costs and potential conflicts with existing residents. Acquire the 1.77 acre lot in-between the city owned property near Lion's Park.
7. Acquire land for a new neighborhood park in the designated Park Search Area before development occurs.
8. Work with Lent Township to develop Rieger Fields Park.

9. Maintain and improve facilities for residents and visitors to the community.
10. Protect designated open space from land development to enhance recreation opportunities and protect wildlife habitat.
11. Utilize cluster or conservation development techniques to protect natural areas while providing development opportunities.
12. The Parks and Trails Commission will review all pertinent information, analyze alternatives, and make recommendations to the City Council on park and trail issues, based on this Park and Trails Plan.
13. The Parks and Trails Commission will inform and seek input from other appropriate city advisory commissions on any major issues or improvements that may be applicable to that commission.
14. The Parks and Trails Commission will be responsive to the increasing maintenance, planning , and recreational demands made by the City and its residents.
15. Developer's shall work with the Park and Recreation Committee to determine location and need. Developers may include private parks as a neighborhood feature, based on the provisions of the City's Park Dedication Ordinance.
16. Create a consistent signing policy shall be developed for all parks and trails, including directional and informational signs.

## Trails

### *Goals:*

1. Provide an accessible and interconnected trail system that links parks, open space, and other community points of interest.
2. Provide trail facilities that are scenic, provide a satisfying recreational experience, and are in harmony with the City's natural resources.
3. Create multi-purpose trail corridors where uses are compatible.

### *Policies:*

1. Create a priority list for the development of the designated trail system.
2. Acquire land or property easements to continue the development of the trail system.
3. Develop pathways in roadway rights-of-way as roads in the community are improved.
4. Provide off road trails whenever possible since these are more pedestrian and user friendly than those along roadways.

5. Develop trails so that the residents in Stacy are no more than ½ mile from a hiking/biking trail.
6. Develop safe pedestrian crossing facilities on main roadways to ensure pedestrian access to parks.
7. Designate the use of snowmobile and horse trails to help maximize the safety of trails for all users.
8. Minimize the removal of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation to preserve the natural beauty of the area when constructing bicycle and pedestrian trails in wooded and wetland areas.

### **Funding Methods:**

This plan reveals the need to find a recipe and balance of multiple funding methods that could support the future park, trail, and open space system. Below is a list of potential methods to utilize in creating a well balanced and maintained park system.

#### Funding Methods

- Potential to increase both Residential and Commercial land dedication fees
- Public and private partnerships
- Obtain open space through land dedication or conservation easements
- Sales or property tax (referendum)
- State or Federal grants
- Park user fees
- City program fees
- General funds

### **Parks and Trails Commission Plan Duties:**

The City will implement the plan through the recommendations of its Parks and Trails Commission, and the decisions of the City Council, as follows:

- The Parks and Trails Commission will review preliminary development plats, and recommend to the Planning Commission and City Council the total area and location land that the Commission feels should be so conveyed or dedicated within the development for park and trail purposes. These recommendations will be based on the recommendations included in this plan.
- When the Parks and Trails Commission concludes that a cash equivalency payment should be made by the applicant or owner in lieu of dedication of land, the Parks and Recreation Commission will recommend to the Planning Commission the percentage of the total park dedication requirement to be paid to the City in cash.

- The Parks and Trails Commission will also develop and recommend standards for design and construction of public parks, trails, and open space areas in the city. These standards will be added to the Parks and Trails Plan in the future.
- The planning time frame for the Parks and Trails Plan runs from the date of its adoption through year 2035. Maps, cost estimates, the Ordinance and policies will be reviewed by the City on an annual basis, and updated as needed.
- The Parks and Trails Commission and City Council will work cooperatively with Lent Township, Chisago County, Minnesota DNR, local landowners and others to implement this plan, and make the most of available resources.