

## CHAPTER 7 COMMUNITY FACILITIES ELEMENT 10-20-09

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

This Public Facilities element describes the public schools, buildings and parks that are necessary to adequately provide services to the residents, businesses and employees of Eden Prairie. The goals and policies that this Comprehensive Plan promotes to shape the provision of public facilities and public services, as well as those for public open space and resource maintenance, are listed in their entirety in this chapter and in Chapter 2, Figure 7.1 shows the location of all public facilities in the City, including public and private schools. Figure 7.2 provides a map of the City's public recreational and open spaces.

#### **Public Services and Facilities Goal One**

Provide adequate services and facilities required to protect and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and visitors. Maintain adequate facilities, and active and passive open space to meet the recreational needs of residents.

#### **Policies:**

- Make public expenditures according to the City's prioritized capital improvements program, which shall be reviewed annually.
- Implement the recommendations of the Water Supply Plan adopted by the City in 1995.
- Continue to review and update, as

needed, the sewer and water supply system plans.

- Identify and secure the necessary acreage to provide storage and operational support to Parks and Recreation and Public Works Service Areas.

### 7.2 SCHOOLS

Three public school districts serve the City of Eden Prairie, although the majority of the City is served by Eden Prairie School District #272. The Hopkins and Minnetonka School Districts serve small areas in the north and northwest sections of the community. The City has eight schools and a transportation center. Programs for early childhood education, early childhood special education, and community education are housed in space leased at City Center. The Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion school shares space with the school administrative offices in central Eden Prairie at 8100 School Road. The City's public school facilities are described in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1

## City of Eden Prairie Public Schools, 2000

School	Grades	Location	Facilities Information
Cedar Ridge	Elementary	Southwest: 8905 Braxton Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opened in 1989</li> <li>▪ One major addition</li> </ul>
Prairie View	Elementary	Northwest: 17255 Peterborg Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opened in 1965</li> <li>▪ Oldest elementary school in the City</li> <li>▪ One major addition</li> </ul>
Forest Hills	Elementary	Northeast: 13708 Holly Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opened in early 1970s</li> <li>▪ Expanded and remodeled</li> <li>▪ Minor addition and change to the playground was completed in 2000</li> </ul>
Eden Lakes	Elementary	Southeast: 12000 Anderson Lakes Pkwy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opened in 1986</li> <li>▪ Expanded in mid 1990s</li> </ul>
Oak Point Intermediate	Grades 5 and 6	13400 Staring Lake Pkwy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opened in 1990</li> <li>▪ Swimming pool and a new classroom atrium were added in 1990s</li> </ul>
Central Middle School	Grades 7 and 8	8025 School Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Core is the original 1950s jr/sr high school</li> <li>▪ Several major additions and renovation during 1990s</li> </ul>
Eden Prairie High School	Grades 9 – 12	17185 Valley View Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opened in 1980</li> <li>▪ Over its first 20 years, the school has been expanded many times</li> <li>▪ Most recent additions were the performing arts center in fall 1999 and an activity center in 2000</li> </ul>

Source: Eden Prairie School District #272, 2000

Table 7.2 presents the enrollment history of the Eden Prairie School District since 2000.. Enrollment overall is expected to remain stable and begin to slightly decline in the first decade of the 21st century. Table 7.3 shows enrollment projections for the next five years. As shown in this Table, elementary through junior high school enrollment will slightly taper off while the high school enrollment will continue to gradually grow, before declining slightly in the 2004-2005 school year.

The school district believes it has accomplished most of its major building projects to serve Eden Prairie students. All of the K-12 school sites are used extensively by the community evenings and weekends making gym space rarely available. Four of the eight schools use parkland for school outdoor athletic activities and physical education program use. Two additional schools use parkland within walking distance for various active and passive recreational activities.

**Table 7.2**  
**Eden Prairie School District #272 Enrollment History, 2000-2006**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>706</b>
Grade 1	730	756	701	733	673	672
Grade 2	777	760	67	706	751	672
Grade 3	789	789	774	773	695	745
Grade 4	775	804	810	761	780	683
<b>Elementary</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>3,109</b>	<b>3,052</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>2,899</b>	<b>2,772</b>
Grade 5	828	761	796	804	761	784
Grade 6	832	860	771	789	802	754
<b>Intermediate</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,538</b>
Grade 7	848	831	817	765	776	807
Grade 8	835	874	835	805	762	779
<b>Middle</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>1,586</b>
Grade 9	903	804	867	838	827	767
Grade 10	789	891	808	853	840	841
Grade 11	784	803	872	817	836	844
Grade 12	681	747	772	846	796	832
<b>High School</b>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>3,245</b>	<b>3,319</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>3,284</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>10,312</b>	<b>10,343</b>	<b>10,320</b>	<b>10,172</b>	<b>9,974</b>	<b>9,886</b>
Year to Year Change (#)		31	(23)	(148)	(198)	(88)

Source: Eden Prairie School District #272, 2007

**Table 7.3**  
**Eden Prairie School District #272 Projections, 2007-2012**

Grade	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
<b>Kindergarten Total</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>723</b>
Grade 1	696	717	717	717	717	717
Grade 2	660	692	714	714	714	714
Grade 3	662	653	685	707	707	707
Grade 4	753	665	655	688	709	710
<b>Elementary Total</b>	<b>2,771</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>2,848</b>	<b>2,848</b>
Grade 5	684	753	665	656	688	710
Grade 6	787	684	753	665	655	688
<b>Intermediate Total</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>1,397</b>
Grade 7	747	780	678	747	659	649
Grade 8	826	757	790	686	756	667
<b>Middle Total</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,316</b>
Grade 9	786	834	765	798	694	764
Grade 10	790	800	848	778	811	707
Grade 11	836	786	797	844	775	808
Grade 12	821	816	766	777	823	755
<b>High School Total</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>3,237</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>3,103</b>	<b>3,032</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>9,771</b>	<b>9,661</b>	<b>9,556</b>	<b>9,499</b>	<b>9,431</b>	<b>9,317</b>
Year to Year Change (#)	(115)	(110)	(105)	(57)	(67)	(115)

Source: Eden Prairie School District #272, 2007

### Private Schools

The City is home to one private school, the International School of Minnesota. The International School of Minnesota is a private college preparatory school for grades preschool through 12. The school has a 55-acre campus in northeast Eden Prairie, adjacent to the north shore of Bryant Lake. The International School was founded in 1985 with twenty-four students. In 1993, the school had enrollment of 350 students. By the 2000-2001 academic year, enrollment exceeded 700. The school plans to eventually serve 1,400 students.

### Post-Secondary Schools

In addition to elementary and secondary education, Eden Prairie is also the home of two post-secondary education institutions. Hennepin Technical College (HTC) is located at 9200 Flying Cloud Road,

northeast of the Flying Cloud Airport. The main goal of HTC is to provide education for employment. Eden Prairie is one of two campuses located in the suburban metropolitan area, with the other located in Brooklyn Park. The college offers over 45 major programs of study in technical fields, such as business, computers, construction, health, manufacturing, service and transportation. The College awards Associate in Applied Science Degrees, Diplomas, Advanced Technical Certificates and Occupational Certificates.

### Public Services and Facilities Goal Three

Develop and nurture strategic partnerships that are mutually beneficial to optimize opportunities and creatively use resources.

#### Policies:

- Explore opportunities with adjacent communities and strategic partners to develop alternative public and leisure facilities.
- Partner with the School District to cooperatively develop action plans to address common issues and problems.
- Develop and foster relationships with local businesses and educational institutions to support and grow the employment base within the community.
- Develop partnerships with other governmental agencies to ensure protection of our natural and cultural resources.

## 7.3 PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND SERVICES

### City Center

The Eden Prairie City Center was constructed in the early 1990s and houses a majority of the City Service Areas, providing leased space for community programs and other special services, including programs for early childhood education and community education. The Fire Department and central fire station are located in the building adjacent to City Center.

### Police Department and Facilities

The City of Eden Prairie Police Department is founded on the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing, an organization-wide philosophy and management approach that promotes community, government and police partnerships; proactive problem solving; and community engagement to address the causes of crime, fear of crime and other community issues. The Eden Prairie Community Policing Unit is composed of 11 full time staff and 5 seasonal employees who specifically service the areas of senior needs, neighborhood crime, schools, juveniles, parks and zoning. The unit and the community work together to address the following top areas of concern identified by Eden Prairie residents:

1. Traffic: A program known as “traffic saturation” has been highly effective in slowing speeds in neighborhoods and creating public awareness of traffic laws. Traffic saturation days occur periodically throughout the year and are publicized in advance.
2. Youth Prevention Programs: The Police Department conducts compliance checks on licensed establishments that sell alcohol and tobacco products to ensure that minimum age requirements are enforced.
3. Visibility: The Police Department places a high value on being visible and accessible to the community. Programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Citizens Academies and “Explorers, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together” (SALT) have created opportunities for residents and police officers to accomplish the goals of community oriented policing.

**Fire Department and Facilities**

The City maintains an active combination Fire Department that provides fire and emergency services. The Department operates four fire stations located strategically throughout the city with an authorized strength of 95 firefighters.

In 2006, the Eden Prairie Fire Department responded to over 1000 calls for service, including fires, medical emergencies, car accidents, fire alarms, and hazardous materials incidents. The Fire Department places a high priority on recruitment in order to maintain its force. In 2007, the fourth fire station was opened to provide improved coverage to the western areas of the city. The station also doubles as the city’s primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of a major emergency event.

**City Maintenance Building**

The City operates a maintenance division to provide preventive maintenance, repair, and operational supplies for the City's fleet of vehicles and equipment. The City has recently built a new Parks and Streets Maintenance Building at 15150 Technology Drive.

**Water Plant**

The City’s water plant is located at 14100 Technology Drive. In 1999, the water plant’s final expansion was completed for a system that will ultimately serve a projected population of 74,000 to 77,000 people. Two new wells have been constructed since 2000. The City’s expanded water plant capacity will be 28 million gallons per day.

**Public Services and Facilities Goal Two**

Provide the public safety services and facilities necessary for the protection, operation and use of public and private property in the City, and for the protection of public and private investment.

**Policies:**

- Maintain adequate special police services.
- Pursue available police, fire, and health services grants that are considered to be affordable at the end of the grant term.
- Support the volunteer fire department concept.
- Maintain cooperative mutual support agreements with neighboring departments.
- Identify and reserve sites for future public safety service.

**Senior Center**

The Eden Prairie Senior Center is located at 8950 Eden Prairie Road. The Senior Center serves as a gathering place and programming and service center for the community’s residents that are 55 years of age and older. The Center is open five days a week with programs including health and financial information, transportation assistance, day trips, and a variety of arts and crafts activities of interest to seniors.

**Community Center**

The Eden Prairie Community Center is located at 16700 Valley View Road. The Community Center is the central focal point

for all City recreation activities. Affordable, yearly memberships are offered for youth, individuals, and families, or residents and non-residents may participate in activities for a daily use fee. A variety of fitness classes are available at the Community Center, and facilities include a swimming pool, indoor skating rinks, racquetball courts, fitness center, meeting rooms, and snack bar.

### **Hennepin County Library**

The library in Eden Prairie is operated by the Hennepin County Library system. The Library is located at 479 Prairie Center Drive, just south of the Eden Prairie Shopping Center. The Hennepin County Board transformed the former Lunds grocery store building located at 565 Prairie Center Drive into one of its branch libraries.

### **Medical Facilities**

The City is served by several medical and health facilities, both immediately within the City and in neighboring communities. Several medical clinics of general and specialty practice are located in Eden Prairie, including Eden Prairie Family Physicians, Prairie Center Medical Building, and the Fairview Healthcare Services medical complex. Fairview Southdale Hospital is located nearby in Edina, St. Francis Regional Medical Center is located in Shakopee, and Methodist Hospital is located in St. Louis Park. Another Fairview Hospital is in Chanhassen.

## **7.4 PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN**

The City Staff prepared a Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan approved in 2003, in order to meet the City's future park and open space needs. The plan is based on an assessment of residents' needs and

desires coupled with an inventory of existing facilities and projected facility needs. The 2003 Park and Open Space Plan is summarized within this section of the Comprehensive Plan, along with the presentation of additional, updated information from other sources.

To obtain more details about Eden Prairie's existing and future park and open space facilities and the methodology used in this park planning study, please refer to the approved Park and Open Space Plan (2003), which is, by reference, an Appendix to this Comprehensive Plan.

### **Public Services and Facilities Goal One**

Provide adequate services and facilities required to protect and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and visitors. Maintain adequate facilities, and active and passive open space to meet the recreational needs of residents.

### **Policies:**

- Identify and secure the necessary acreage to provide storage and operational support to Parks and Recreation and Public Works Service Areas.
- Implement and enforce the goals, policies, strategies and recommendations of the Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan, draft dated 2003.

**Natural and Cultural Resources**  
**Goal Two**  
 Maintain a balance between conservation/management of natural and cultural resources and the need for residential, commercial, industrial and other urban uses.

coordinate with policies and plans of Nine Mile Creek, Riley/Purgatory Creek, and Lower Minnesota River Valley Watershed Districts.

**EXISTING PARK SYSTEM**

In order to categorize Eden Prairie’s existing park and open space facilities, a detailed inventory of all resources was conducted as part of the 2003 Park and Open Space Plan. Table 7.4 at the end of this Chapter provides an inventory of all of the City parks as well as their classifications. For a detailed description of each park and open space facility, please refer to the 2003 Park and Open Space Plan. The regional parks and public spaces owned by other public agencies were also identified as part of this inventory.

There are 5,016 acres of land designated as publicly owned “park/open space” in the City. An additional 1,927 acres in the City is water, for a total of 6,589 acres of permanent open space within the City, or just over 29 percent of the City’s total land area. The combined potential for open space between the City and other public agencies as designated in the Land Use Guide Plan will total almost 6,900 acres, or almost 31 percent of the City’s total land area.

**Policies:**

- Identify and designate environmentally sensitive and critical areas, and establish development policies for public or private management of the resources.
- Reserve and manage all natural resource amenities that are viable and sustainable.
- Encourage development that provides reserves and manages natural resource amenities that are viable and sustainable.
- Identify and designate specific boundaries of all natural resource areas.
- Prepare and practice a program of resource management for public conservation/resource areas.
- Provide and implement a local Stormwater Management Plan to

**Table 7.5**  
**City of Eden Prairie Park and Open Space, Existing and Future (2007-2030)**

Land Use	Existing Land Use		Land Use Guide Plan	
	Acres	Percent Total	Acres	Percent Total
Park/Open Space	3272	14.6%	4983	22.2%
Water	1689	7.5%	1689	7.5%
<b>Total Open Space Area</b>	<b>4961</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>6672</b>	<b>29.7%</b>
Total City Land Area	22,424	100%	22,424	100%

Source: City of Eden Prairie Existing Land Use Map and Land Use Guide Plan

## City Parks and Open Space

The City manages 54 separate parks and conservation areas, comprised of facilities conforming to a hierarchy according to use, size and facility development. The classification system is defined below.

A. Mini Parks: Mini Parks are small, usually less than two acres, which serve as a neighborhood recreation site for all ages with a specific area designated for tot lot use or limited active recreation. The service area for a mini park is generally within one-half to one mile. There are 9 existing Mini Parks in Eden Prairie include the Bluff West 1 and 2, Edgewood, High Trail Estates, Holasek Hill, Overlook, Sterling Field and Topview Parks.

B. Neighborhood Parks: Neighborhood parks provide residents with “close to home” open space and recreational facilities. Ideally, all residents would have a neighborhood park within one-half mile of their home. The size of each neighborhood park will vary with the size and population of the neighborhood being served. There are freestanding neighborhood parks, and neighborhood parks associated with other facilities, such as a public school or a conservation area.

Types of facilities found in Eden Prairie’s neighborhood parks vary by activity requirements and site physical constraints. In general, the basic neighborhood park contains:

- Softball/baseball fields and soccer/football fields for neighborhood or limited league use, without lights
- Creative play structure and apparatus

- Tennis courts and basketball courts
- Trail connections to community-wide hike/bike system
- Vehicle parking with 10 to 15 spaces, with more spaces where league use is anticipated
- Picnic area

The City currently owns and operates 21 neighborhood parks. Examples of neighborhood parks include Carmel, Creekwood, Eden Lake, Homeward Hills and Red Rock Lake Parks.

C. Community Parks and Athletic Fields: Community parks and playgrounds may be sited next to significant natural resources such as lakes and scenic wooded areas and are intended to serve the entire community. Community Athletic Fields provide competition-level facilities for organized adult and youth play. The majority of the users of these facilities will come from beyond a walking range and, as a result, will require adequate parking and restrooms. The following types of facilities are found in community athletic field developments: softball, baseball, soccer or football fields; tennis courts; hockey and skating rinks. These facilities should be lighted and irrigated, and designed for league competition. Based upon the City’s priority, a community athletic field should provide direct access from major thoroughfares and should range in size from 20 to 60 acres, with larger sites being more desirable to allow for support facilities and tournament-type competition. There are seven community parks/ athletic fields in the community. Examples of Community Parks in Eden Prairie include Round Lake, Miller, Riley Lake and Staring Lake Parks.

D. Conservation Areas: Conservation areas consist of large floodplain preservation areas, wetlands, bluffs and sensitive woodland areas. Large conservation areas may be located directly adjacent to neighborhood parks or have some limited active passive recreation facilities developed within their boundaries, such as hiking, biking and nature trails, picnicking and wildlife observation. Nature trails also have limited use as cross-country ski trails in the winter. Please see Chapter 5 Transportation for a detailed discussion and map of the City's existing and planned trail system.

Fifteen conservation areas currently make up over one-half of the City's park and open space acreage and generally consist of large wetland/floodplain preservation areas. A few conservation areas are relatively small sites preserving a significant marsh, bluff or wooded area. Examples of conservation areas in the City include Edenbrook, Lower Purgatory Creek, Nine-Mile Creek, Riley Creek, Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area, and Prairie Bluff.

E. Historic Sites: The Eden Prairie Comprehensive Citywide Cultural Resources Survey identified over 100 potential historic properties, many of them located within City parkland and conservation areas. Five historic sites are identified and preserved in the City's parkland. Please see Chapter 3 on Land Use for a more detailed discussion of the City's historic resources and heritage preservation program.

F. Special Use Sites: Special use sites are areas providing specialized or single purpose recreation activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas,

swimming pools, arboretums, ice arenas, or sliding hills. The five sites identified in the Parks and Open Space Plan serve the entire community and, in some cases, neighboring communities. Examples of special use sites in the City include the Community Center, Outdoor Center, Community Garden plots and the Senior Center.

### **Regional Park and Open Space Facilities**

The residents of Eden Prairie are also served by a variety of park and open space provided by the Three Rivers Park District, Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, the Department of Natural Resources, and the School District.

Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge: The United States Congress officially recognized the Lower Minnesota River Valley's unique value as an environmental, recreational and education resource through the Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act of 1976. The area designated by congress extends from Fort Snelling State Park in St. Paul to Carver Rapids near Jordan, Minnesota. The refuge flanks the Minnesota River, varying in width but generally following the defined limits of the Minnesota River floodplain. The Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge is comprised of federal refuge units, adjacent lands for use as state and local recreation areas, and a Minnesota Valley Regional Trail. Refuge lands are continually being acquired as the funds become available. As of 1999, the refuge has approximately 10,000 acres and will include 14,000 when the project is complete. Approximately 2,000 acres will be in Eden Prairie once acquisition is complete.

Bryant Lake Regional Park: Owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District, Bryant Lake Regional Park comprises 170

Acres on the north side of Bryant Lake. The Park includes rolling hills, woodlands, wetlands and grassland areas. The sand-bottomed Bryant Lake is used for swimming, boating and fishing. Facilities also include a 3,000 square foot picnic pavilion that seats 150 people, a play area, boat launch with parking for 20 vehicles with trailers, boat rental facility, and sand volleyball area. The park has nearly 3 miles of paved hiking/biking trails. Although the park is closed between November 1 and March 30, access is provided for ice fishing during the winter.

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve: The Three Rivers Park District also operates the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve, which includes land in both Eden Prairie and the City of Bloomington, provides a variety of passive and active uses surrounding the area's chain of lakes. The park reserve contains 2,249 acres, in five operating units. Three Rivers Parks District owns 1,400 acres, The City of Bloomington owns 289 acres, There is 560 acres of water. The lakes are generally shallow and have extensive vegetative growth along their shoreline providing habitat for waterfowl and opportunities for canoeing and nature study. The park reserve's composition is restricted to 80 percent passive use and 20 percent active use, thereby insuring lands adjacent to the Anderson Lakes Unit will remain in a state of conservation. Access to the northern and western lake is restricted to naturalists and guided canoe trips. Canoes and other non-motorized watercraft are permitted in the east Anderson Lake Unit located in Bloomington.

Eden Prairie School District #272 Facilities: School District 272 and the City have continued to collaborate to provide the shared recreational facilities and services.

Four of the eight schools in District #272 use parkland for school outdoor athletic activities, physical education program use and parking lot use. Two additional schools use parkland that is within walking distance for various active and passive recreational activities.

### **Other/Private Recreational Facilities**

Other recreation facilities are available to Eden Prairie residents with one public golf course, three private golf courses, and two private fitness clubs. The Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center is a publicly owned course that is predominantly located in Minnetonka, but two holes of the executive length course are in Eden Prairie. Bentcreek Golf Club, Bearpath and Olympic Hills are all private 18-hole golf courses within the City. The two private clubs, Lifetime Flagship Lifetime and Lifetime Athletic Club, serve youth, families and adults, offering swimming, tennis, racquetball, weight training and several other sports.

### **PARKS AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND DEMAND ANALYSIS**

Eden Prairie's population growth and development of residential neighborhoods has presented the City with challenges in meeting the current needs and projecting future needs of its residents. The City assessed these needs over a two-year period, using accepted park planning standards and studying the results of business and community forums, internal staff and City Council work sessions, and a community-wide survey. The results of the study form the basis of the 2003 Park and Open Space Plan.

The community forum and community survey of randomly selected citizens generated trends, system inadequacies, and

support for future improvements. The desired improvements most frequently mentioned included a community hike/bike system; alleviation of overcrowded parks and athletic fields; additional natural resource and preservation areas; a public golf course; preservation of natural areas, particularly for trail uses; and improvements to the Community Center.

The City’s parkland needs analysis confirmed the need for one additional neighborhood park to serve residents in the south central part of the community. Figure 7.3 illustrates the service areas of the City’s existing neighborhood parks. Most of the City’s residential neighborhoods fall within this desired a one-half to one mile radius. These neighborhood park sites provide fields for neighborhood softball/baseball and soccer/football, as well as tennis courts and playground sites. The decision on the location of the final neighborhood park was anticipated during discussion on the Flying Cloud Airport expansion. The park is anticipated to be acquired in 2007 and developed by 2010.

**REDEVELOPMENT IN KEY AREAS: GTA AND MCA**

As the City has confirmed its strategic approach to redevelopment in the Major Center Area and the Golden Triangle Area, a new set of park and open space needs have been identified for each of the geographic areas mentioned above. The primary emphasis for both areas is on expanding the existing trail and sidewalk network or creating new connections to existing open spaces. A second focal point of city policy is to link natural areas (woodlands and wetlands) as preserved open spaces while permitting passive use and supporting natural trails in these corridors. Additional detail for the Major Center Area and the

Golden Triangle is found in the Project Priorities section of this chapter.

**RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ONGOING PROJECTS**

Purgatory Creek Recreation Area Development: The development of the entry for Purgatory Creek Recreation Area has been instrumental in providing community identity and maintaining an open space amenity that complements abutting commercial activities in the Major Center Area.

Community Center Improvements: A parks referendum was approved in 2004 to support improvements at the Community Center. Construction is expected to be complete by 2008.

**PROJECT PRIORITIES**

As the city continues to grow, protection of remaining natural resources and maintenance of the existing park system places significant demands on city resources.

<p><b>Natural and Cultural Resources, Goal One</b></p> <p>Strive to protect the City’s high and exceptional quality natural resources and environmental assets as the City continues to develop.</p>
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**Policies:**

- Acquire natural resources when it is in the public interest to ensure their protection from degradation and assure their availability to the public as environmental assets.
- Develop partnerships with other

governmental agencies to ensure protection of the City's natural resources.

Finally, the 2003 Park and Open Space Plan, which is by reference, an appendix to this plan, provides the following specific strategies, recommendations and priorities for open space improvements:

Land Acquisition: The City should preserve sites for the remaining neighborhood parks to fulfill a half-mile service radius, a public golf course and preservation of sensitive passive open space. These parcels may be best acquired as land in lieu of park fees or a combination of land dedication and park fees. Actual facility development may wait until demands for services exist or development funding becomes available.

Flying Cloud Field and Youth Athletic Facilities: The City worked with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to improve the Flying Cloud Field and youth athletic facilities. MAC did not provide funding assistance for these improvements.

Neighborhood Park Improvements: The City should undertake neighborhood park improvements to keep pace with the City's continued residential development. Improvements to the entire neighborhood park system are of equal priority and necessary to provide adequate neighborhood recreation for the City. These improvements generally include landscaping, updating playground facilities and other general site improvements.

Purgatory Creek Recreation Area: Full development of the PCRA, including comprehensive trails around the primary wetland, will be a continued priority for the next 10+ years of facilities development. The area provides unique community

identity and open space amenity that has been favorably received since its early stages of design and construction starting in 2001.

Redevelopment Area Open Space Networks: Redevelopment from a dominant pattern of non-residential land use (commercial office, retail or industrial) to a much greater component of residential uses is anticipated in limited areas of the Major Center Area (MCA) and the Golden Triangle Area (GTA).

New housing in both the MCA and GTA will be higher density, consisting of townhouse or apartment style units. Park facilities for active use (fields, athletic clubs, tot lot playgrounds) may be provided by a developer catering to a specific population's needs. However, the City should undertake improvements to the existing parks network as well as the trail and sidewalk network as described below (in Trail System Development) to keep pace with redevelopment and increased interest in walking and biking from residents, visitors and workers. These trail connections and open space corridors in the two redevelopment areas are intended to offer passive recreation and support natural trails. They would serve as the publicly held park/open space feature of both redevelopment areas.

Major Center Area Parks and Open Space: Recommended future elements of parks and open space in the Major Center Area are a) the 'town square' park, located along the western flank of Lake Idlewild, and b) additional trail/ sidewalk on existing and proposed streets in the Town Center Area, as shown in Figure 7.4.

Golden Triangle Area Parks and Open Space: Recommended future elements of

parks and open space in the Golden Triangle Area are a) a corridor linking wetlands and conservation lands to create a contiguous open space between Bryant Lake Regional Park and Nine Mile Creek Conservation Area and b) additional trail/ sidewalk on existing and proposed streets in the Golden Triangle Area, as shown in Figure 7.5.

Trail System Development: The trail system should continue to be developed consistent with land development trends and roadway improvements. Where necessary, linear parks, outlots or conservation areas should be obtained by dedication or purchased outright to preserve the trail corridors and provide an environment compatible with user needs. Please see Chapter 5 Transportation for more information regarding the City's trail system.

Round Lake Water Quality Improvement: Improved water quality at Round Lake has been realized since early 2000. Water quality levels for public swimming have been measured at acceptable levels in recent summer seasons. A series of coordinated watershed-level improvements have made a measurable difference in the water quality of Round Lake. For the future, water quality at Round Lake and other city sites will be managed through the use of the December 2004 Local Water Management Plan (LWMP) for the City of Eden Prairie. The LWMP was developed to consolidate information on the City's overall surface water management objectives, including management of our lakes, wetlands, stormwater ponds and creeks. More information on the local water management plan can be found in Chapter 7.

Special Use Facilities: Special use facilities will respond to special user groups within the community and reinforce the quality of life for all of Eden Prairie's residents.

Flying Cloud Sanitary Landfill- BFI Site:

This large open space site is now controlled by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, due to environmental contamination that has occurred on the site. The site has a groundwater remediation system in place as well as a landfill gas extraction system. The Minnesota PCA is responsible for meeting with the local unit of government to determine an 'end use plan'. The site overlooks the Minnesota River Valley and offers a great deal of potential for a variety of outdoor recreation uses.

## 7.5 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

### GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES

Strategic Partnerships: The City will create partnerships with other public agencies, including schools, the County and nearby communities that are mutually beneficial to optimize opportunities, develop alternative public and leisure facilities, and creatively use resources. Specific approaches identified to date include: a) partner with the School District to cooperatively develop action plans to address common issues and problems and b) partner with other governmental agencies to ensure protection of our natural and cultural resources.

Communication: In order to maintain effective, timely and open communication channels for City residents and businesses to build awareness and promote programs and services, the City will initiate a public information program utilizing a variety of locations to promote City programs and services. The City will continue to provide current information regarding City programs and events through internet access.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Public Safety Services and Facilities: The City will continue to provide a high level of public safety services and facilities for the protection, operation and use of public and private property in the City, and for the protection of public and private investment. The City will identify and reserve sites for future public safety services that are found to be necessary to provide effective services to the community. The City will continue to maintain cooperative mutual support agreements with neighboring departments.

Public Safety Grants: The City will continue to pursue available police, fire, and health services grants to help in implementing the Public Safety Department's goals and planned programs. The City will pursue grants that are considered to be affordable at the end of the grant term.

## **DEVELOPMENT CODES, ORDINANCES AND PLANS**

Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan: The Park and Open Space Plan, adopted in 2003, will be reviewed regularly to ensure it reflects public needs interests and continues to allow for an affordable system of use and maintenance. The City will implement and enforce the goals, policies, strategies and recommendations of the Park and Open Space Plan. These goals and strategies focus on areas of land acquisition, construction and maintenance, special population services, use of facilities, financing and fees, park dedication, tree preservation, coordination with other governmental agencies and community image and identity.

Development Ordinances: Update and implement development ordinances to

ensure adequate setbacks, provide appropriate slope and shoreline buffers, guarantee Best Management Practices, and set forth procedures to assist public and private property owners in the maintenance and conservation of the City's natural resources.

Stormwater Management Planning: The City will work toward developing a local stormwater plan to coordinate with policies and plans of Nine Mile Creek, Riley/Purgatory Creek, and Lower Minnesota River Valley Watershed Districts.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan: In 1999, the Comprehensive Wetland Protection & Management Plan was completed and a wetland protection ordinance was developed. The plan includes policies and procedures that must be considered when developing adjacent to wetlands. The City will implement and enforce the priorities and recommendations of the Plan. (Please see Chapter 7 for a detailed discussion of the City's Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan, and discussion of future surface water management strategies.)

Environmentally Sensitive and Critical Areas: The City will establish development policies for public or private management of environmentally sensitive and critical area resources so that these natural resource amenities are viable and sustainable. The City will create a long term program to eradicate non-native and invasive vegetation species such as buckthorn, prickly ash and honeysuckle and promote a balanced ecological system through selected burning and planting of native species. Development will be encouraged to provide,

preserve and manage such natural resource amenities.

Floodplains: Based upon community policy, all of the designated floodplain parcels within the three major creek valleys will ultimately be acquired for city ownership to ensure long-term preservation of their natural resources. Approximately 160 acres of floodplain within the Minnesota River Valley is already proposed for acquisition by the City and/or USFWS to create the Minnesota Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. This acreage is to be acquired for conservation and passive recreation, such as biking/hiking trails, picnicking and a canoe launch. In addition, the creek valleys' wooded slopes have been designated for preservation through scenic easements or public ownership. Steep bluffs along the Minnesota River Valley may also be preserved through scenic easement or public acquisition.

**FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR IMPROVEMENTS**

General Funds: Eden Prairie has annual levy limits that generate funds based upon property taxes. Subject to constraints and annual increases set by the State, these funds provide the backbone of municipal fiscal policy. Funding for park and open space projects is budgeted on an annual basis. Historically, revenues generated from these funds are obligated to operation and maintenance projects rather than acquisition or development.

General Park Bond Issue: Park bond issues are often considered the most expedient way of funding large park improvement projects. Like most bond issues, a referendum is held at which time the public is given an opportunity to vote on the project's acceptance. With an affirmative vote, the

City can then issue bonds of indebtedness for land acquisition or financing construction projects. Bonds are sold to private holders and repaid by public taxes spread over a certain amount of time, normally the project's useful life. Bond issues can vary in size and can include any number of facility types or land acquisitions.

Cash Park Fees: Most municipalities in the state require property developers to dedicate a fee or land for public use, such as parks, open space and other municipal requirements. State Statutes allow a municipality to attain such dedications as part of their subdivision regulations. The City has required a fee dedication of 10 percent of fair market value from all property developers. These funds are generally used to offset neighborhood parkland acquisition and development costs, thereby benefiting the neighborhoods in which development takes place.

Tax Increment Financing: Tax increment financing (TIF) is a tool normally associated with community development or redevelopment incentives for the private sector. Park and open space projects could benefit from TIF if their development is part of an overall development or redevelopment district.

LAWCON/LCCMR Grants: The City has been successful in attaining LAWCON/LCCMR Grants over the past three decades. These funds, allocated by the State LCMR Board, are funded by state and federal revenues. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources n Council has established the criteria that are used for determining the project types for which the funds may be allocated. Communities submit grant applications that are reviewed according to the criteria. The grants require local governments to participate in

providing a certain amount of funds toward the project.

Incidental Grants: A variety of grants and other monies are occasionally available from both public and private agencies or institutions. City staff should regularly monitor and pursue all available funds of this type consistent with all development strategies. Most grants of this type require a local funding participation.

Community Development Block Grants: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are issued through a federal program often targeted to low-income housing programs or similar projects, intended to assist communities in planning for blighted areas and improving community quality of life. Park and open space projects may be eligible for partial assistance if the project would be in close proximity to or abut CDBG projects.

Department of Transportation Funds: Funds from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Hennepin County Department of Transportation may be of assistance in constructing Eden Prairie's hikeway/bikeway system. MnDOT funds may be available as part of trunk highway improvements such as adjacent

trail systems or trails which cross trunk highways. Funds from the County may be available on a similar basis.

School District #272: The City has maintained a close working relationship with the School District and shares a number of park facilities for both neighborhood and athletic facility use. Maintaining open communications between the two parties will help ensure continued cooperation and assured use of open space facilities. The two parties should communicate on an annual basis about projects planned for the upcoming year and explore opportunities to jointly develop and use open space facilities.

Private Donations, Gifts or Contributions: Potential may exist in Eden Prairie to obtain gifts for park and open space purposes such as land, cash goods or volunteer labor. To encourage donations, the City may publish as part of its regular newsletter a "wish list" of materials, projects, or other items that individuals or civic groups could contribute. In addition, regular contact with civic groups will help convey the need for contributions to Eden Prairie's park and open space system. The City could also create a "Friends of Eden Prairie Parks" non-profit support organization for fund raising and special projects.

Table 7.4  
City of Eden Prairie Park Functional Classification System, 2000

Facility	Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Conservation Area	Historic Site	Special Use Area
Birch Island		●			●	
Bluff West 1	●					
Bluff West 2	●					
Camp Edenwood					●	●
Cardinal Creek				●		
Carmel		●				
Cedar Hills		●				
Community Center						●
Creekwood		●				
Crestwood		●				
Cummins-Grill House					●	
Eden Lake		●				
Eden Valley		●				
Edenbrook				●		
Edenvale		●		●		
Edgewood	●					
Flying Cloud Fields						●
Forest Hills		●				
Franlo		●				
Frederick Miller Spring					●	●
Hidden Ponds		●				
High Trail Estates	●					
Holasek Hill	●					
Homeward Hills		●				
James A. Brown				●		
Lower Purgatory Creek				●		
Miller			●			
Mitchell Marsh	●			●		
Nesbitt Preserve		●				
Nine-Mile Creek				●		
Outdoor Center					●	●
Overlook	●					
Pheasant Woods		●				
Pioneer		●				
Prairie Bluff				●		
Prairie East		●				
Prairie View		●				
Purgatory Creek				●		●
Red Rock		●		●		
Rice Marsh Lake		●				
Richard T. Anderson				●		
Riley Creek				●		
Riley Lake			●			
Riley/Jacques					●	

Facility	Mini Park	Neighborhood Park	Community Park	Conservation Area	Historic Site	Special Use Area
Round Lake			●			
Rustic Hills		●				
Senior Center						●
Smetana Lake		●				
Smith-Douglas-More House					●	
Staring Lake			●			
Sterling Field	●					
Timber Creek				●		
Topview	●					
Westgate				●		
Willow		●				
Wyndham Knoll		●				

Source: City of Eden Prairie, 2000

***Sources:***

City of Eden Prairie Annual Report, 1999

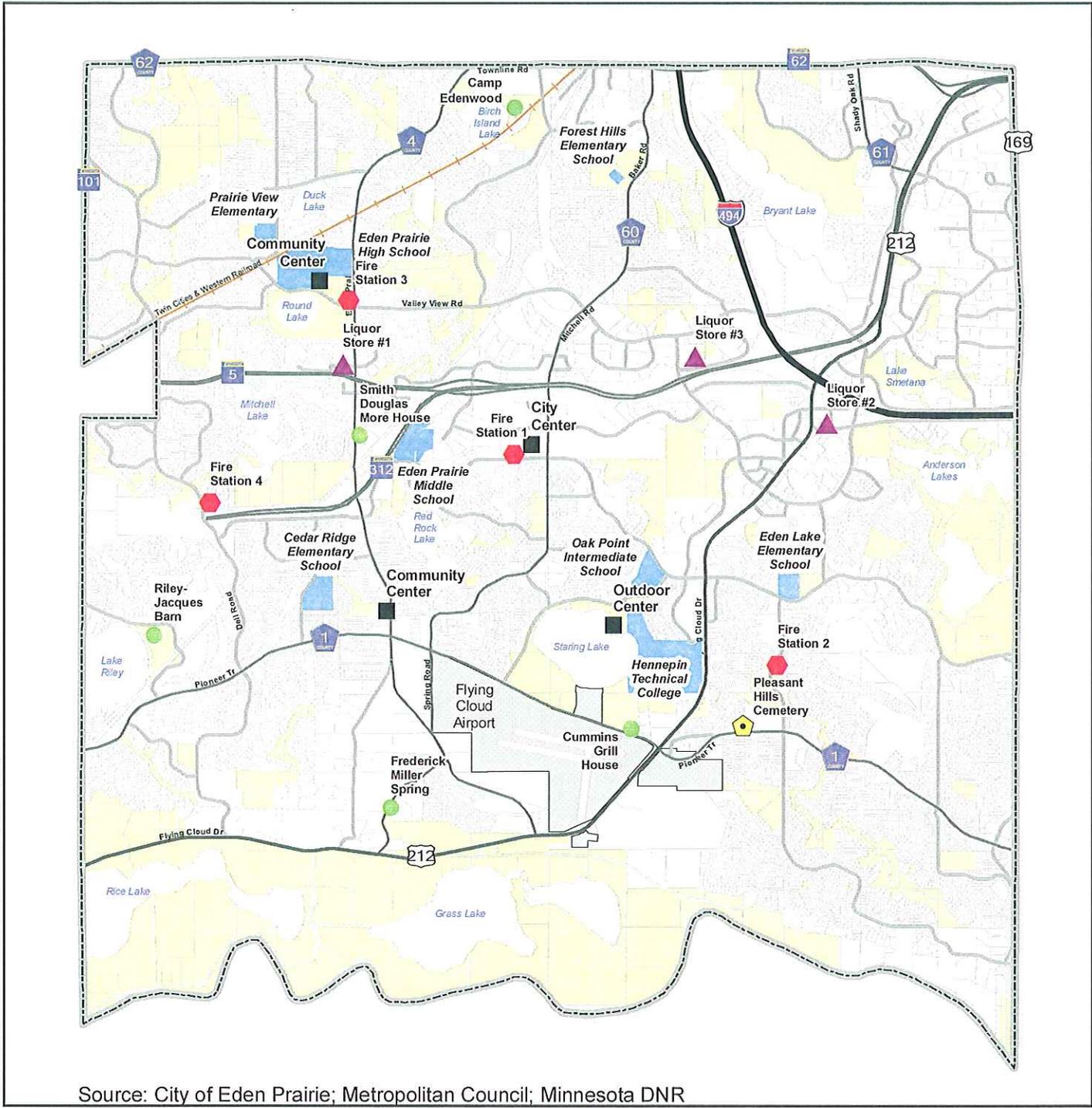
City of Eden Prairie Community Development Recorder, April 1999

City of Eden Prairie, Community Profile, 1994

City of Eden Prairie 2003 Park and Open Space Plan, 2003

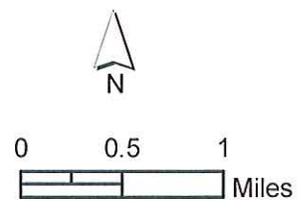
Eden Prairie School District #272

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**Legend**

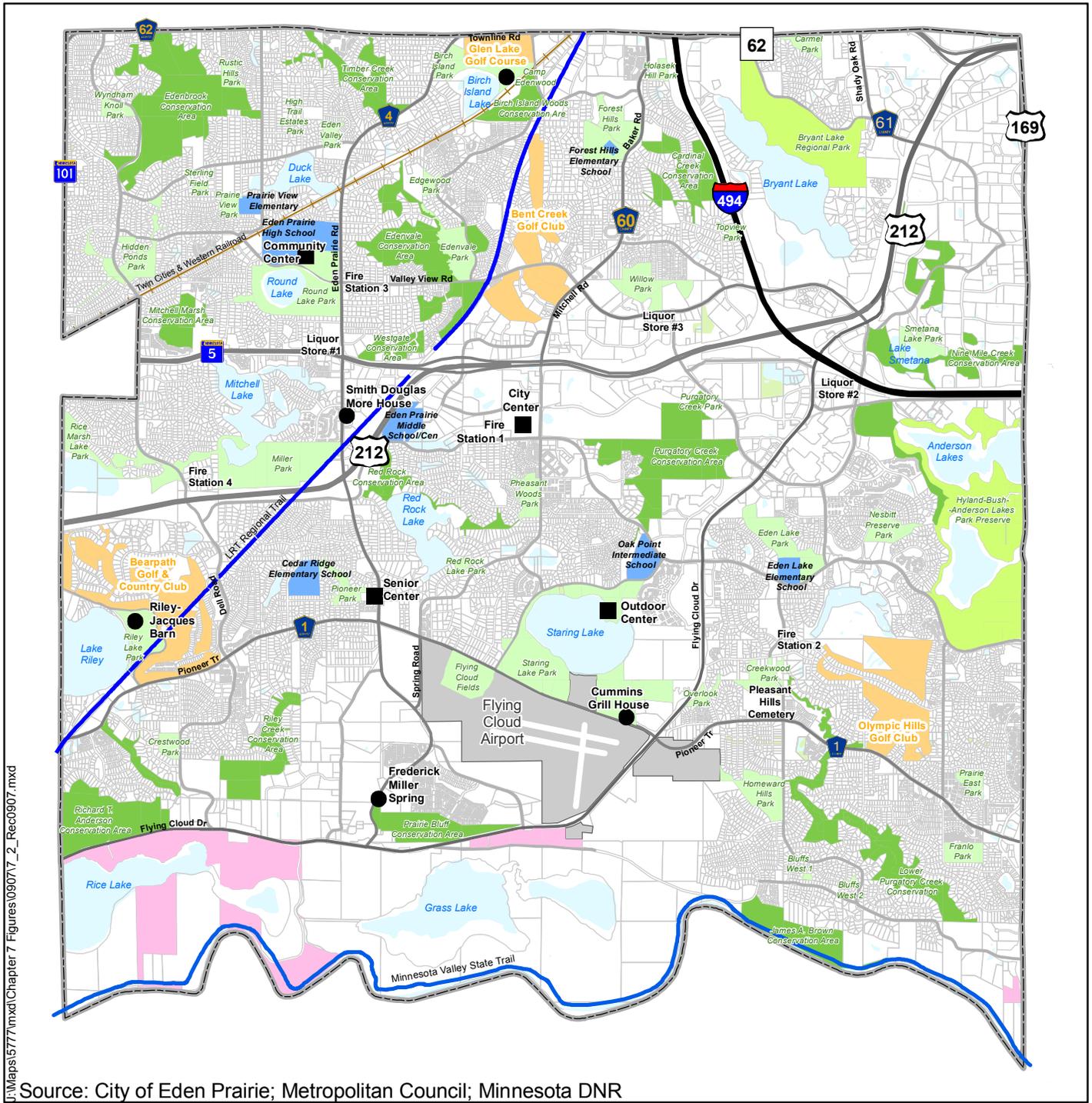
- Historic Property
- ▲ Liquor Store
- City Facility
- ⬠ Cemetary
- ⬡ Fire Station
- ▭ Educational Facility



**PUBLIC FACILITIES**

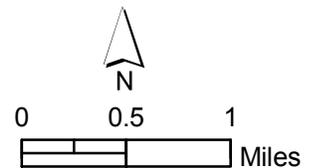
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2007  
Nov. 2007

**Figure 7.1**



## Legend

- Historic Property
- City Facility
- Eden Prairie School District
- Existing Parkland
- Conservation Areas
- Three Rivers Park District
- Golf Course
- US Fish and Wildlife Service



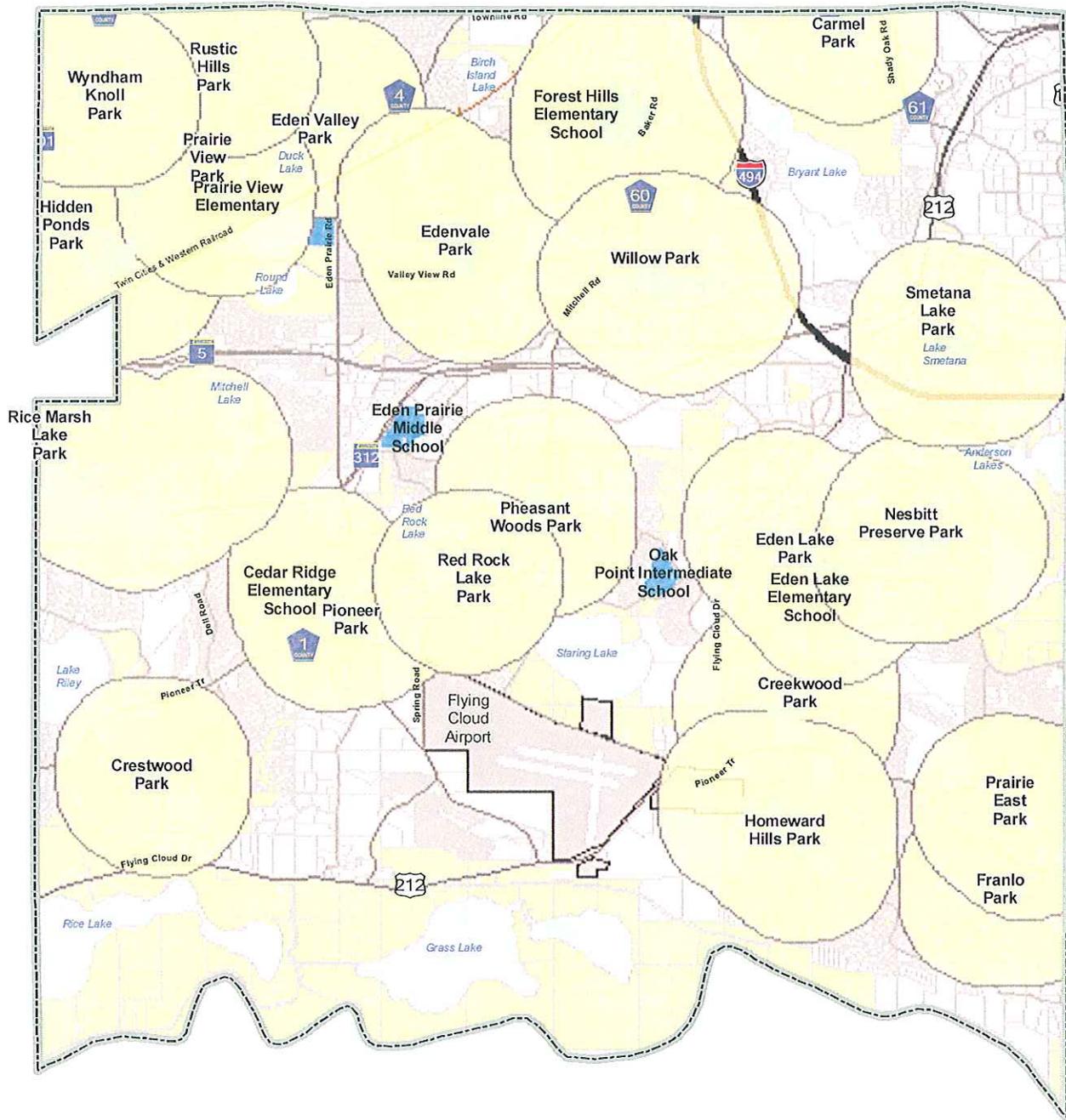
## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2007

Nov. 2007

Figure 7.2

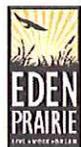
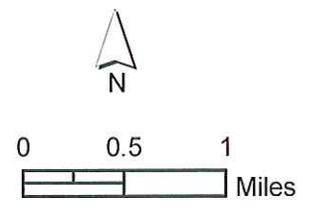
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Source: City of Eden Prairie; Metropolitan Council; Minnesota DNR

### Legend

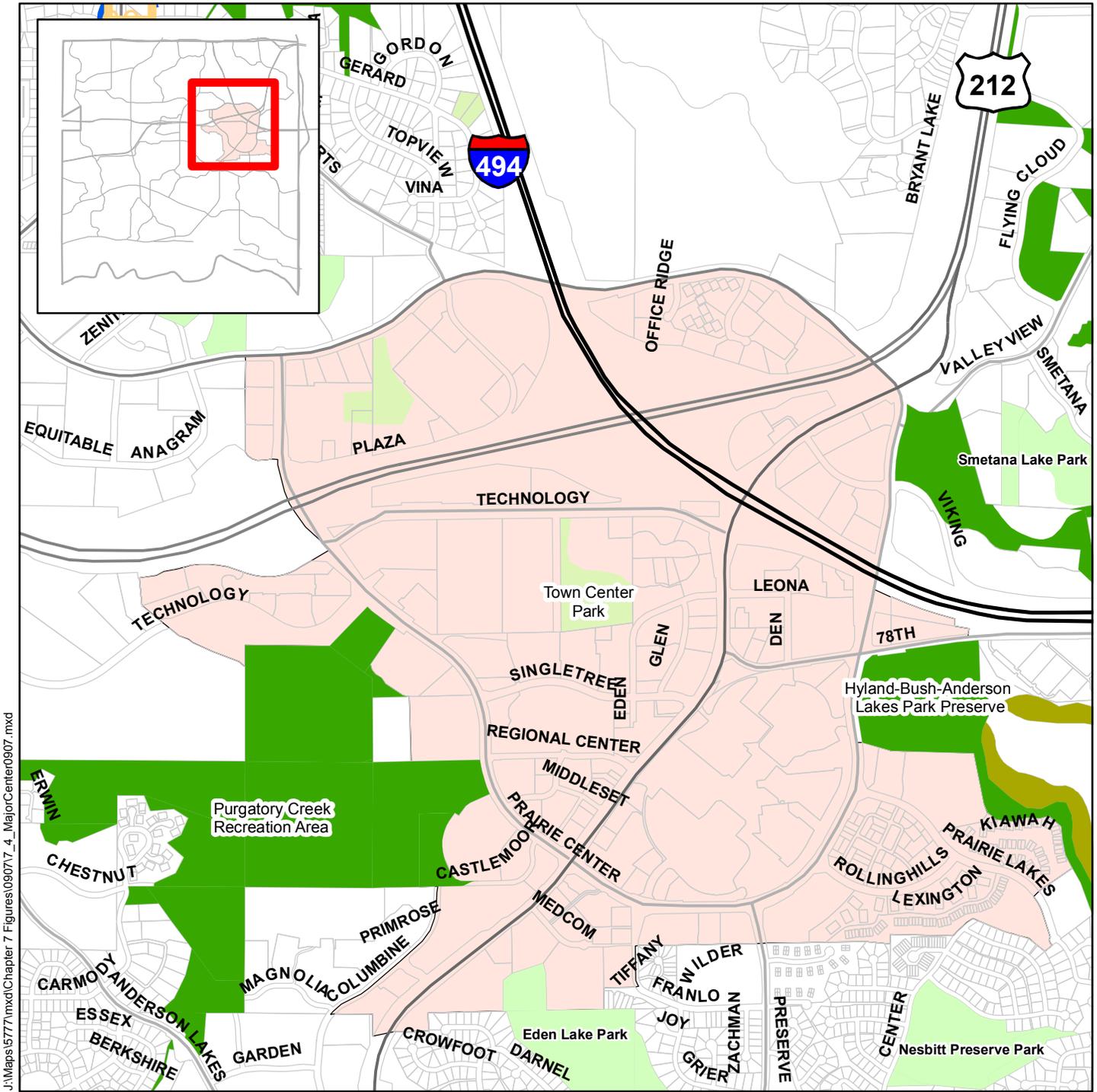
-  Service Area
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Eden Prairie School District



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREAS

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Figure 7.3

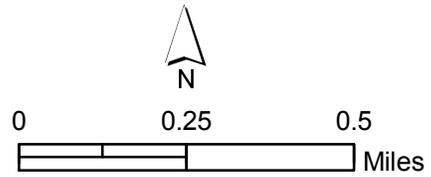


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Source: City of Edin Prairie

**Legend**

- Conservation Area
- Neighborhood Park
- Regional Park

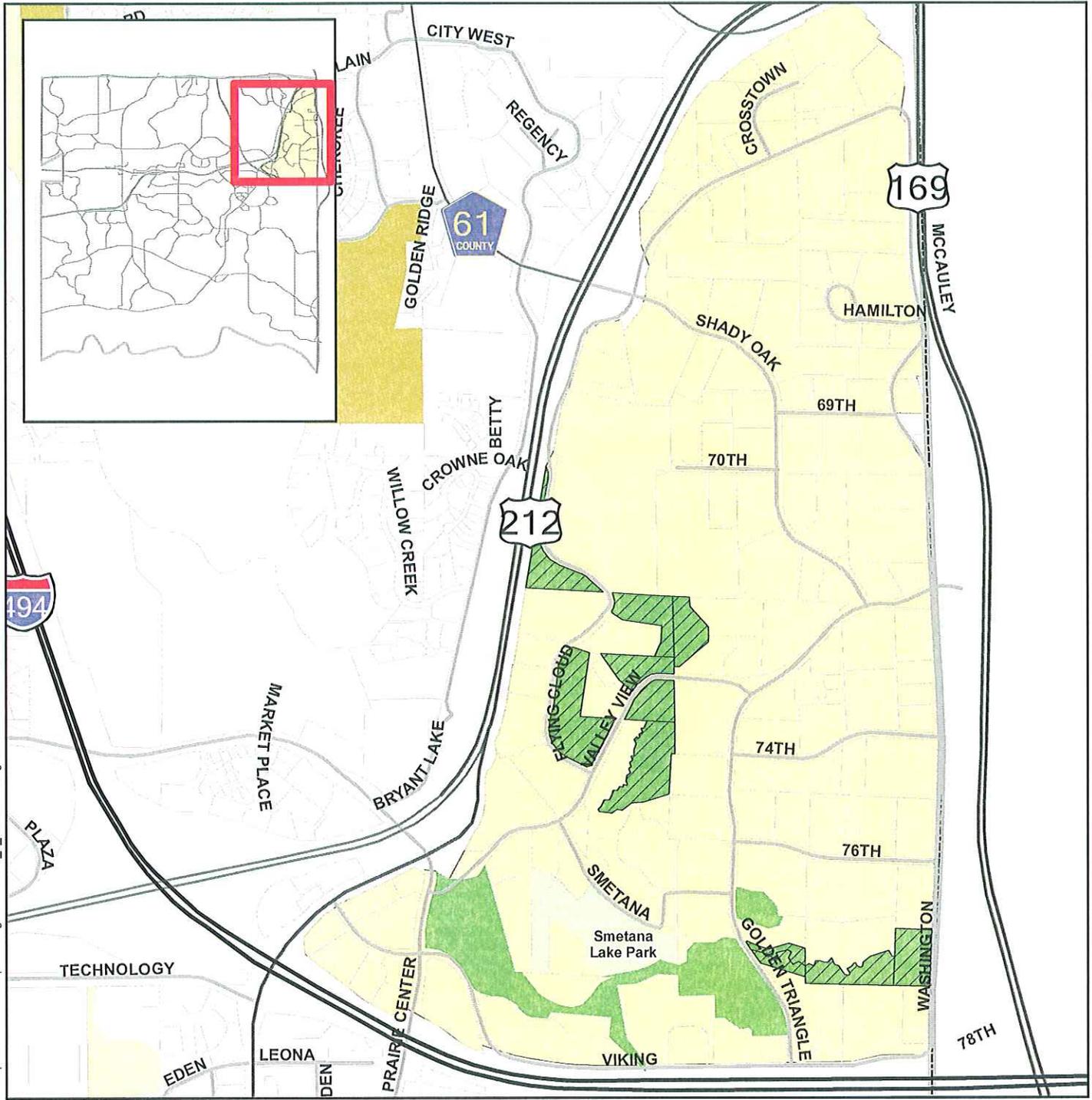


**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE - MAJOR CENTER AREA**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2007  
Nov. 2007

Figure 7.4

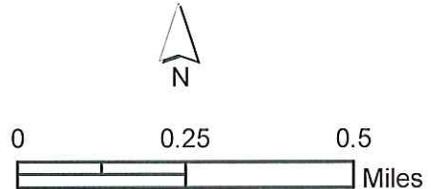
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Source: City of Eden Prairie

### Legend

- Conservation Area
- Regional Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Proposed



## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE - GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE 2007  
 Nov. 2007

Figure 7.5