



Chapter Two

**Inventory of Existing Park
and Open Space Facilities**



**CHAPTER 2
INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES**

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CHAPTER 2

INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

OVERVIEW

Eden Prairie's existing parks and recreation facilities, open spaces and natural areas have been designated and built into a complete system over time. After close to two full decades of rapid employment and population growth, the parks system continues to contribute to the overall livability and quality of life valued by Eden Prairie's residents, workers and visitors. This chapter summarizes the conditions that characterize the City's physical setting. It also provides an inventory of the existing park and open space facilities and the resources available to the Eden Prairie community.

The inventory element was developed to gain a better understanding of the characteristics of the existing parks, open space and recreation system in Eden Prairie. The physical attributes that define the City, as well as the location and size of the facilities and finally the condition and capacity of each park are included in the inventory chapter.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Human occupation of Eden Prairie pre-dates by thousands of years the political establishment of Eden Prairie. Humans could have begun living in Eden Prairie roughly 12,000 years ago, after the last glacial lobes melted. However, little evidence has been found to indicate human presence in the area before about 7,000 BC. Most of the history regarding humans in Eden Prairie now exists as part of the City's archaeological record.

Eden Prairie's topography and geomorphology are almost entirely related to glaciation. The general glacial topography was formed about 20,000 years ago, when this area was the southern margin of the Superior and Rainy lobes. The Grantsburg sub lobe of the Des Moines lobe, which receded about 12,000 years ago, later overrode this till plain. Eden Prairie lies in the Owatonna and Emmons-Faribault Moraine geomorphic regions. Granite and other pre-glacial stone are generally deeply buried under sandy, gravelly till deposits.

Eden Prairie consequently has substantial sand and gravel resources and some clay, but sources of high-quality, quarriable building stone are not found in the City.

Most of the City is rolling, hilly uplands formed on glacial till sheet deposits with occasional ridges and knobs. Upland areas contain a number of relatively deep and typically round lakes formed by melting of remnant ice blocks within glacial till, most notably Staring, Riley, Round and Bryant lakes. Uplands also contain a number of relatively shallow lakes, notably Mitchell, Red Rock, Anderson, Duck and Birch Island lakes, and numerous marshes formed in low areas of glacial/post-glacial surface.

Besides the closed local lake/marsh basins, the uplands are drained by Purgatory Creek, which courses from northwest to southeast across the City, Riley Creek in the southwestern corner of the City, and the south fork, of Nine Mile Creek in the northeastern corner of the City. The courses of Purgatory and Riley creeks are narrow, steep incisions up to 60 feet deep through upland areas near the Minnesota River escarpment.

The southern periphery of Eden Prairie is comprised of the Minnesota River Valley, which was formed as a result of down cutting by the massive flow of Glacial River Warren. Topography in the river valley includes a natural sand dike adjacent to the current river channel, low terraces at the base of the escarpment, and extensive wetlands, including Rice and Grass lakes. Much of the river bottom area is within 15 feet elevation of the normal mean river level and is therefore subject to flooding.

The bluff line transition from upland to river bottom is dramatic. The bluff escarpment is about 200 feet high in the eastern portions. Bluff lines indent into uplands where Purgatory and Riley creeks have down-cut through glacial till.

Post-glacial vegetation patterns in Eden Prairie were probably similar to those of Carver County to the west. Pollen cores taken from Lake Rutz in Carver County indicate a ground cover of spruce trees over buried ice about 10,000 BC, deciduous forest with grassy openings from about 8,500 BC to 5,800 BC, then open prairie until about 1,240 BC, gradual establishment of deciduous forests and finally dominance of the area by the deciduous trees beginning about 1,530 AD or later.

This “Big Woods” of oak, basswood, elm, maple, and other trees occupied much of Eden Prairie at the beginning of recorded history in the area. These woods contained numerous islands of tall grass prairie, including the strip of relatively high and well drained open prairies for which the town is named. Lakes within the woods and prairies have been filling with silt and organic matter since the end of the last glacial era, and many former lakes within the city are now peat bog wetlands.

The prairie/woods/wetlands/lakes environment provided a rich variety of food and material for humans in prehistoric and historic times. During the long prairie period from about 5,800 BC to 1,530 AD, fauna in the area may have been dominated by large plains ungulates, including bison and elk, with other species resident to wooded areas around lakes and marshes. Lakes and marshes would also have provided fish, waterfowl and plant resources not generally available in dry upland areas. The Minnesota River Valley would have provided a relatively sheltered location for winter habitations and reliable source of fish, game, and plant resources, as well as serving as a conduit for travel. Some resources used extensively by prehistoric people, such as mussels or clams, could only be obtained on the major rivers.

The types of relative abundance of natural resources changed as the “Big Woods” dominated the area after 1,530 AD. Explorers and settlers recorded an abundance of game in the vicinity of Eden Prairie, including whitetail deer, grouse, and waterfowl. Native fruits included raspberries, plums, blackberries, currents, wild grapes, gooseberries, and highbush and bog cranberries.

Many of the geographical features are now preserved in City parkland and conservation areas and provide an ongoing use for recreational and leisure pursuits.

EXISTING PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Park classifications assist in providing a comprehensive system that responds to the community's needs, its land use patterns and development densities and the area's physical characteristics. The classification system is based upon nationally recognized park types, with modifications made for local conditions and Eden Prairie's needs. It is a tool to guide decision-makers as they determine park location, size and function. Specific standards and criteria are recommended for each park type, however, compromises may be required depending on local circumstances.

The residents of Eden Prairie are served by a variety of park and open space facilities provided by the City, Three Rivers Park District, School District 272 and private enterprise, as shown in Figure 2.1, Park and Open Space Land. In addition, the residents benefit from adjacent communities' facilities, which may meet additional needs. Eden Prairie's park system is comprised of facilities as illustrated in Figure 2.2, City Owned Park and Open Space conforming to a hierarchy according to their use, size and facility development. Park classifications are summarized on Table 2.1. The City's system currently consists of the following elements:

Mini-parks

Eden Prairie has several mini-parks located throughout the City. These are small parks (usually less than two acres) that serve as neighborhood recreation sites for all ages with a specific area designated for totlot use or limited active recreation. Public mini-parks are generally required of developers for residential sites that are being developed in excess of one-half mile from the nearest neighborhood park. Mini-parks have also been developed by the City to service residential areas inadequately serviced by neighborhood parks or inaccessible to neighborhood park facilities.

Privately owned mini-parks are recommended to developers of medium- to high-density residential developments that are not in close proximity to a neighborhood or community park.

Facility Standards

Service Area:

Less than one-quarter mile radius

Per Capita Standard:

0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 population

Desirable Size in Acres:

Minimum size of one acre

Primary Function/User Groups:

Facilities should respond to specific user groups such as children or senior citizens within residential areas not adequately served by neighborhood parks.

Locational Characteristics:

Mini-parks can be public or privately owned and maintained and should be located within medium- and high-density residential areas whose population is not adequately serviced by neighborhood parks. Mini-parks may also be located in single-family residential areas; however, their use should be limited to neighborhoods that cannot be serviced by neighborhood parks due to access, environmental barriers or unusual neighborhood needs. These parks should only be acquired and developed when absolutely necessary as they are very expensive to maintain on a cost per acre basis.

Typical Facilities:

- Seating areas
- Small picnic area
- Totlot or small play structure
- Facilities for seniors, such as horseshoe courts (in senior residential community)
- Adequate pedestrian access (no vehicle access or parking should be provided)

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks occur throughout the community and occur in a variety of settings. A number of the neighborhood parks are freestanding parks, seven to 40 acres in size. A second situation occurs where the neighborhood park has been integrated into a school site, thereby minimizing the duplication of active recreational facilities. Neighborhood parks may also be adjacent to or a part of the community's large conservation areas.

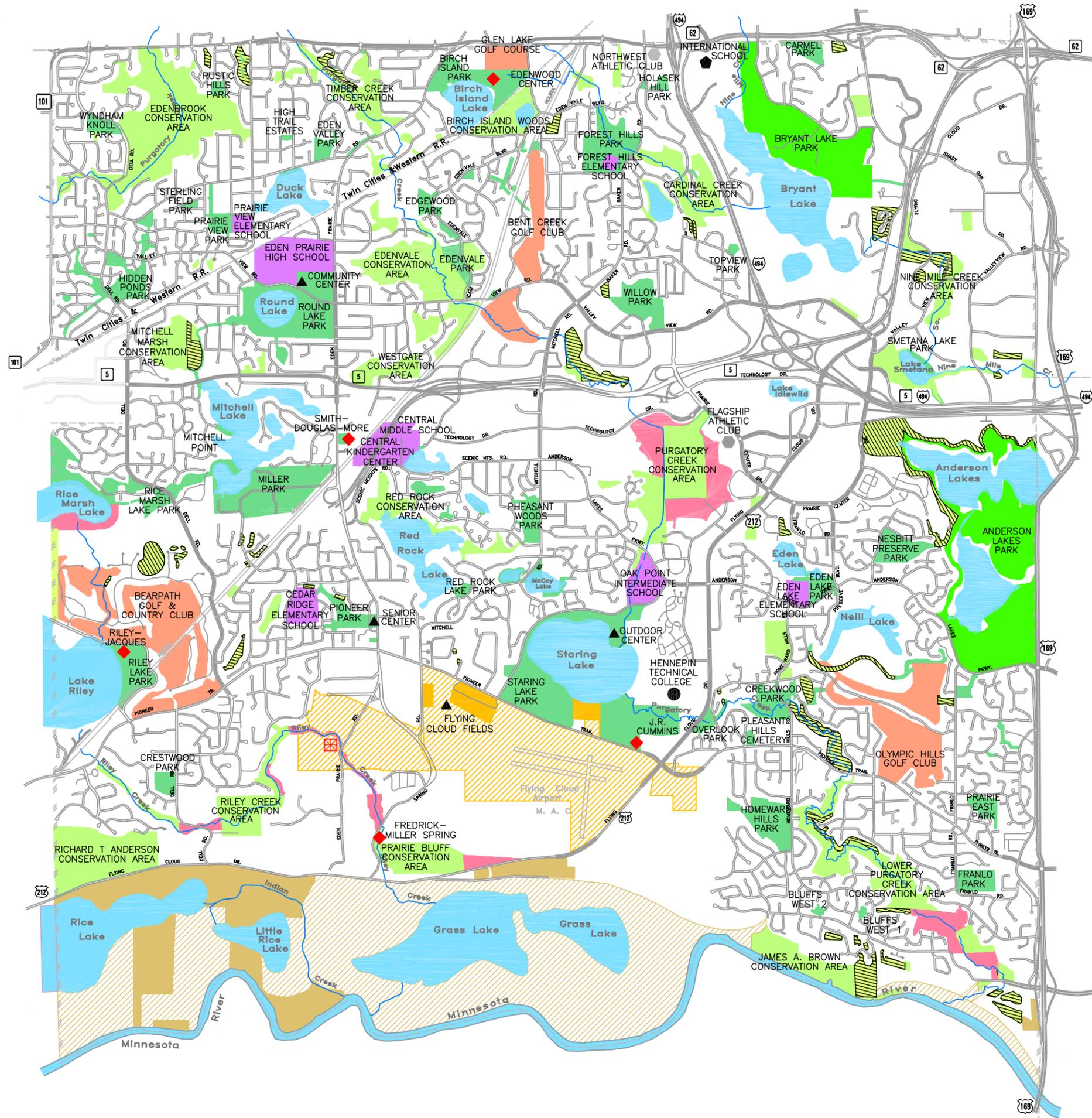
In 1975, the City conducted a neighborhood facility study to determine what potential various sites had for development as neighborhood parks and to determine the current need for neighborhood parks. This study established a number of planning objectives, which have become the foundation for neighborhood park development, as noted below:

1. All existing land owned by the City should be inventoried and an analysis done to assess each facility's potential as a future expansion site and use as a neighborhood playground.
2. Residential areas in the City that are not currently served by a neighborhood park should be identified and potential sites for development of neighborhood parks studied and recommendations made.
3. The interrelationships between neighborhood parks and the rest of the park system should be strengthened through the proper location and use of greenways, trails, underpasses and overpasses.
4. Neighborhood parks may be adjacent to elementary schools and located within walking distance (approximately one-half mile). In two cases (Oak Point Intermediate and Cedar Ridge Elementary), the schools provide neighborhood recreation facilities, such as creative play structures, multiple use hard surface play court, and ballfields for after school use by neighborhoods.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN

The City of
Eden Prairie

Figure 2.1



PARK AND OPEN SPACE LAND

- Existing Parkland
- Conservation Areas
- Three Rivers Park District
- Land to be Acquired
- Publicly Held Conservation Easement
- Land Leased for Park Purposes
- MAC/Flying Cloud Airport
- Eden Prairie School District
- Golf Course
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (future)
- Potential Neighborhood Park
- Historic Site
- Private Recreation
- Technical College
- Private School
- Special Use City Facilities



NORTH



Eden Prairie



LAST UPDATED JANUARY 10, 2003

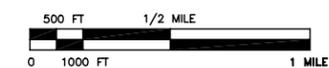
PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN

The City of
Eden Prairie

Figure 2.2

CITY OWNED PARK AND OPEN SPACE

- Existing Parkland
- Conservation Areas
- Land to be Acquired
- Publicly Held Conservation Easement
- Land Leased for Park Purposes
- Potential Neighborhood Park
- Historic Site



LAST UPDATED JANUARY 10, 2003



The types of facilities found in Eden Prairie's neighborhood parks vary by activity requirements and site physical constraints. The standards listed below define the facilities frequently found in neighborhood parks.

- Softball/baseballfield(s) (for neighborhood or limited league use)
- Multiple-use, hard-surface play courts (basketball)
- Creative play structure and apparatus
- Tennis court(s)
- Open field for soccer or football (for limited league use)
- Picnic area
- Trail connections to community-wide hike/bike system
- Vehicle parking with 10 to 15 spaces (more spaces where league use is anticipated)

Facility Standards

Service Area:

Approximately one-half mile radius uninterrupted by principal roadways or major physical barriers.

Per Capita Standard:

2.5 to 3.5 developed acres per 1,000 population

Desirable Size in Acres:

Average park size of 15 to 18 acres with 7 to 10 acres developed. The remainder may be passive or provide other functions.

Primary Function/User Group:

The park should provide informal neighborhood open space with provisions for active recreation use, which responds to residential neighborhood needs. Primary users will be children and families. Neighborhood parks may also provide facilities for informal or organized athletic activities as overall system needs dictate.

Locational Characteristics:

Centrally located within service area or defined neighborhood, the park may be adjacent to elementary or middle school facilities or other park elements. Primary access should occur by pedestrian or bicycle means. Neighborhood parks should be connected by the community trail system, secondary means should include vehicles with parking facilities provided. Adjacent land use should be residential on a maximum of two edges, school grounds, collector roadway, and community open space. If facilities are provided for organized athletic activities, the site should provide sufficient parking to meet facility standards to minimize impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

Natural characteristics should include topography, which has flat to rolling terrain with well-drained soils compatible with facility development. Vegetation should be representative of the neighborhood, partially wooded preferred. Visibility should allow good sight lines into parcel for park security. Water features representative of the area should be included if they are compatible with facility development and do not pose safety problems.

Typical Facilities:

- a. Active
 - Playfields to accommodate informal or organized softball, baseball or soccer
 - Creative play structures and apparatus for children of varying ages
 - Trails
 - Sledding
 - Tennis courts
 - Multi-use, hard-surface play court
- b. Passive
 - Small picnic area
 - Park benches
 - Walking trails and trail connections
- c. Support Elements
 - Trash container
 - Landscaping with native plant materials
 - Identification sign
 - Opportunity for parking (8-10 vehicles or parking standards for organized playfields), handicap accessible
 - Park shelter for principal neighborhood parks (15 acres and larger), where skating is provided, or a summer playground program is planned.
- d. Other Guidelines, Neighborhood Parks
 - Active area should be oriented away from residential edges or appropriately screened
 - Parcels should not be fragmented in layout
 - Summer programming optional, where park shelter is available
 - Outdoor hockey rinks with lighting and free skating rinks may be located in neighborhood parks, where a park shelter is located. Additional parking amounting to 20-30 spaces should be provided adjacent to hockey rinks.
 - Skating facilities should be developed on a 1.5-2.0 mile service radius

Community Parks

Community parks in Eden Prairie are sited adjacent to significant natural resources, such as lakes, scenic wooded areas, bluffs and creeks and are designed to serve the entire community. The City has six community parks (Birch Island, Round Lake, Miller, Riley Lake, Smetana Lake and Staring Lake) that are almost completely developed. Community parks are generally 40 acres in size or larger.

The facilities typically found at any of these community parks include active and passive facilities, such as open playgrounds or other play areas for young children, playfields, paths and trails, picnic areas, and nature interpretation information. Support facilities usually include parking, restrooms, lighting and adequate waste collection and storage.

The service area for community parks can extend as far as a 3-mile radius. Easy accessibility for all transportation modes, including transit service within a 1/4 mile of the park, bike and pedestrian connections, assists in managing demand for parking and congested access to the park.

Facility Standards:

Service Area:

Several neighborhoods within 2 to 3-mile radius

Per Capita Standard:

5 to 8 acres per 1,000 population

Desirable Size in Acres:

Minimum size 25 acres with 50 to 100 acres desirable

Primary Function/User Groups:

Extensive area for community-wide use, which may provide active, passive, educational, cultural or programmed functions for all age groups. Community parks should integrate unusual or attractive natural features, such as water bodies, into the park or preservation and recreational use. Good access from collector or minor arterial roadways is desirable.

Typical Facilities:

a. Active

- Beachfront
- Boat access
- Multi-use trails
- Active facilities compatible with large group picnics, such as volleyball, horseshoes, softball, or court games.
- Play structure(s) for various age groups
- Community playfields if there is sufficient open, level land within the site.

- b. Passive
 - Picnic facilities
 - Park benches
 - Fishing
 - Nature interpretation

- c. Support Facilities
 - Comfort facilities with restrooms, which may integrate an information center, picnic facility, storage or other building requirements
 - Parking
 - Signage
 - Adequate waste collection and storage

Community Athletic Fields

Community athletic fields provide competition level facilities for organized adult and youth play and are often heavily programmed for tournaments. The majority of the users of these facilities live beyond a walking range and, as a result, will require adequate parking and restrooms. Transit service within a 1/4 mile of these sites is a valuable advantage to siting community athletic fields, because it reduces parking needs and permits non-drivers to take City transit service to team practice or tournaments held at facilities within reach of transit service.

The following types of amenities are found in community athletic field facilities: softball fields, baseball fields, soccer or football fields, multiple tennis courts, hockey rinks and skating rinks. These facilities should be designed and developed for league competition. Lighting and irrigation of the facilities will extend their use.

Based upon the City's priority, a community athletic field should have direct access from a major thoroughfare 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.

The City presently has one freestanding community athletic field located at Flying Cloud Airport. The City has leased approximately 35 acres of land from the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) on which youth ballfields have been developed. Eden Prairie has also developed community athletic fields at Round Lake Park, Riley Lake Park and Miller Park.

Facility Standards

Service Area:

Community-wide

Per Capita Standard:

2 to 2.5 developed acres per 1,000 population

Desirable Size in Acres:

Minimum of 20 developed acres, maximum 60 developed acres.

Primary Function/User Groups:

Participants in athletic activities, which may be organized or informal, who utilize the athletic fields and court facilities.

Locational Characteristics:

Facilities should be located close to community collector or minor arterial roadway on a site with minimal change in topography. Proximity to secondary schools may be desirable to allow for shared use of facilities. Non-residential adjacent land uses are preferred due to potential field lighting. Facilities should be centrally located within the community or may be dispersed if multiple sites are developed and distributed through the community. Community play fields may be incorporated within community parks if the community park has sufficient land.

Typical Facilities:

- a. Active
 - Baseball
 - Softball
 - Football
 - Soccer
 - Ice Hockey
 - Basketball
 - Tennis
 - Free Skating
- b. Passive
 - Spectator seating and bleacher areas
 - Picnic facilities
 - Trails connecting facilities
- c. Support Facilities
 - Vehicle parking
 - Comfort facility, including restrooms and concessions
 - Storage facilities

Conservation Areas

The National Park and Recreation Association encourages communities to try to reach a goal of protecting 10 percent of the community as permanent open space. Eden Prairie contains approximately 23,000 acres of land; therefore, the goal according to the National Recreation and Park Association would be to protect 2,300 acres of land in parks and open space. At this time, the City owns approximately 2,500 acres of land designated parks and open space. Other public agencies own large parcels of land, within or adjacent to the City's boundaries. Three Rivers Park

District owns Bryant Lake Regional Park and Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve, totaling approximately 450 acres of land within Eden Prairie. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Eden Prairie will eventually own the Minnesota River valley floodplain as a part of the Minnesota Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. The refuge and recreation area will total an additional 2,609 acres of park and open space.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission will ultimately own approximately 700 acres of land, of which approximately 200 acres of land will be used as buffer land and may be used for recreational purposes, such as the Flying Cloud ballfields. School District 272 owns approximately 200 acres of land, and approximately 50 acres of that property is used for ballfields or open space. School District 278 owns approximately 120 acres of land on the east shore of Staring Lake. Approximately 60 acres of that property is permanent open space, wooded lakeshore and creek valley property.

The City of Eden Prairie will eventually own nearly 2,800 acres of park and open space land. Approximately 1,650 acres of this property will be designated as conservation areas. The majority of that land is either along one of the three major creek valleys within the City or along the Minnesota River Bluffs. These creek valleys provide significant definition to the City and are considered valuable resources worthy of conservation.

The three creek valleys are the Nine Mile Creek Corridor (from Crosstown south to Bryant Lake, southeasterly to Smetana Lake and easterly to Washington Avenue), the Riley Creek Corridor (from Rice Marsh Lake south to the Minnesota River) and the Purgatory Creek Corridor (from Crosstown Highway south to the Minnesota River).

There are portions of the Purgatory Creek valley that have been developed to the creek itself and will preclude preservation of the entire creek valley. However, major portions of the creek valley have been preserved and several additional segments should be acquired as adjacent land is developed. The portions that have been preserved are:

- Edenbrook Conservation Area
- Timber Creek Conservation Area
- Edenvale Conservation Area
- Purgatory Creek Recreation Area
- Staring Lake Park Area (from Staring Lake Parkway southeast to Creek Knoll Road)
- Creekwood Park Area (from Creek Knoll Road to County Road 1)
- Lower Purgatory Creek Conservation Area (from County 1 south to the Minnesota River)

Portions of the Riley Creek Conservation Area and the Lower Purgatory Creek Conservation Area have yet to be acquired. Those sites are critical for the preservation of the entire ecosystem in that part of the community, as well as connecting trail corridors along this linear greenway through the City.

Conservation areas make up over one-half of the City park and open space acreage and generally consist of large wetland/floodplain preservation areas. However, there are several conservation areas that are relatively small sites preserving a significant marsh, bluff or wooded area. The majority of the conservation areas are acquired through tax forfeiture procedures or through developer dedication or gifting of land. Two were acquired through a 1992 referendum (Prairie Bluffs and Riley Creek), and a third (Richard T. Anderson) was acquired through park dedication fees, grants, and land dedication.

The primary goal for these areas is to conserve and manage sensitive natural areas within the community. Many of the City's existing and potential conservation areas are also protected by environmental regulations, such as shorelines, wetlands and steep slopes.

Several large conservation areas are directly adjacent to neighborhood parks or have some limited active/passive recreation facilities developed within their boundaries, such as hiking and biking trails, picnicking and wildlife observation. Other compatible activities include nature interpretation areas and multi-seasonal use, such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Whenever appropriate, trails have been developed within these conservation areas for passive use and nature observation. These nature trails may also be used as cross-country ski trails in the winter. Nature observation blinds have been developed on a limited basis within these areas. The City anticipates increase in demand for these facilities as the community ages. The City should consider adopting a policy similar to Three Rivers Park District that limits development of conservation areas to 20 percent of the land area.

Minnesota River Bluff and Valley

One of the unique physical characteristics contributing to Eden Prairie's landscape is the Minnesota River valley bluff. The bluff is an unusual combination of climate, vegetation, geology, and wildlife characteristics, which contribute to the area's community value. Preservation of these features is desirable as a contribution to Eden Prairie's high quality of life and desire to preserve its heritage.

The Minnesota River bluff was formed approximately 10,000 years ago during the Wisconsin Glacial Stage. All of Eden Prairie's familiar landforms are due to numerous glacial ice sheets that covered the area. Melt waters from the retreating glaciers cut through sandy outwash plains, thereby forming a bluff. Later climatic changes provided an environment for changing vegetation patterns. Spruce forest and short grass prairie preceded the current mix of Big Woods stands. Prehistoric tribes inhabited the bluff as evidenced by the burial mounds. Later, the Iowa inhabited the bluffs, but they were driven away by Dakota (Sioux) tribes, who settled on the bluff and river bottom area. The Sioux lived in the area until 1852 when they were moved to the lower Sioux reservation in western Minnesota. Pioneer settlements occurred in the mid 1800s when the bluff was selected for its transportation and security characteristics. River transportation and truck farming reinforced this area's importance prior to World War II. Recent subdivision developments have now begun to encroach upon Eden Prairie's bluffs, which may alter the bluffs unique character.

Native American burial sites are present throughout Eden Prairie's bluffs. More than 100 earth mounds have been recorded within Eden Prairie City limits; most are conical or ovoid in shape and occur in clusters along the Minnesota River bluffs. They represent some of Eden Prairie's most

significant cultural resources. Section 307.08 of Minnesota’s “Private Cemeteries Act” (MS307) affords all human burial grounds and remains older than 50 years and located outside of platted or identified cemetery protection from unauthorized disturbance. One of the policy recommendations regarding conservation of the bluffs is that the City should complete a survey of known burial sites to determine current conditions of mounds and require archaeological survey of any bluff development.

The need to preserve Eden Prairie’s bluff areas are justified by their contribution to community heritage. The bluff’s topography, vegetation and aesthetics are currently jeopardized by encroaching development. Without preservation, their character may be permanently altered such that future generations cannot enjoy them.

Historic Sites

A viable force in community affairs, the City’s historic preservation program is relatively new, but for generations individual residents and preservation minded organizations have used and protected the cultural resources of Eden Prairie. These private initiatives have preserved a fair number of historical and archaeological sites in good condition. The preservation and development of City-owned historic properties has been a facet of Eden Prairie’s parks, recreation, and natural resources programs since the early 1980s. Three historical farmsteads have been acquired and are being restored as part of the municipal park system.

Since the 1950s, with the growing emphasis on urban development and highway construction in the western Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, many of these cultural resources have become threatened. In November 1990, the Eden Prairie City Council enacted the City’s historic preservation ordinance, which created the Eden Prairie Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and committed City officials to coordinating efforts to identify, evaluate, register, and interpret the City’s cultural resources. Eden Prairie attained Certified Local Government (CLG) status in 1991. Since that time, the HPC has worked in partnership with the National Park Service, the Minnesota Historical Society, and other agencies and groups to develop the City’s historic preservation program.

Beginning in 1990, the HPC embarked on a three-year Comprehensive Citywide Cultural Resources Survey (CRS). The basic visions identified for the Eden Prairie CRS encompassed the preservation and enhancement of significant historic architectural properties, the conservation and protection of archaeological and landscape resources, enhanced public education and interpretation opportunities involving historic properties, and comprehensive City policy regarding the preservation, protection, and use of significant cultural resources that would be consistent with the City’s urban development goals.

The Eden Prairie CRS identified more than 100 potential historic properties, many of them located within City parkland and conservation areas. Presently, historic sites range in size from small archaeological find-spots scattered about City parks, to the Glen Lake Children’s Camp, a National Register of Historic Places district. Today, seven historic properties are identified and preserved in the City’s parkland. The location of historic sites by individual parks can be seen in Table 2.1, Park Functional Classification. More specific information regarding the historic feature(s) can be found in the following Individual Park Inventory and Assessment Section.

Facility Standards

Service Area:

City-wide

Per Capita Standard:

Not applicable

Desirable Size in Acres:

Varies according to historical feature or element to be preserved or interpreted. Size should be minimum one-half acres to encourage use and provide for support facilities.

Primary Function/User Groups:

Site should preserve or interpret historic areas or buildings of community significance with endorsement by local Historic Commission.

Locational Characteristics:

Determined by historic site

Typical Facilities:

Sites may be land parcels or structures that have unusual or unique historic significance to the community and merit preservation, interpretation or other related community uses. Facilities vary according to need for preservation, interpretive function and security. Support facilities may include parking, comfort facilities, trails and signage.

Special Use Sites

Special use sites include any areas providing specialized or single purpose recreation activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboretums, ice arenas, ski hills, equestrian arena, or amphitheaters. These sites serve the entire community and, in some cases, neighboring communities. However, consistent with the facility, users are normally specialized and represent small groups. Special use sites are often found within community parks; for example, the Eden Prairie Community Center, containing an indoor swimming pool and two ice arenas, is located within Round Lake Park.

Facility Standards

Service Area:

Community-wide

Per Capita Standard:

Variable

Desirable Size in Acres:

Varies by function and facility use

Primary Function/User Groups:

Special use sites are for single-purpose recreation activities that require a freestanding facility due to the site's characteristics or incompatibility of the activity with other recreational areas in the City. Uses typical of this special designation include golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboretums, gardens, amphitheatres, archery ranges, sliding hills, downhill ski areas, or disc golf courses. Locations will be dictated by the special use programs' specific need for unusual physical characteristics, such as topography, water features, vegetation or soils, or those uses that need to be buffered or kept independent of developed areas. Many of these special use areas will be located within a community park.

**Table 2.1
Existing Park Acreage by Park Facility Type, City of Eden Prairie**

Mini-Parks	Address	Acreage
1. Bluffs West #1	10458 Devonshire Place	1.2
2. Bluffs West #2	10292 Edinburgh Circle	1.6
3. Edgewood	6950 Edenvale Boulevard	7.1
4. High Trail Estates	16940 Honeysuckle Lane	1.3
5. Holasek Hill	6395 Pinnacle Drive	4.0
6. Mitchell Point	17574 Toft Cove	1.7
7. Overlook	9514 Grey Widgeon Place	6.3
8. Sterling Field	17800 Sterling Terrace	1.9
9. Topview	7231 Gerard Drive	1.9
TOTAL MINI-PARK ACRES		27.0
Neighborhood Parks	Address	Acreage
1. Carmel	11610 Tyrell Drive	14.8
2. Cedar Hills	Eden Prairie Road	42.0
3. Creekwood	12341 Sunnybrook Road	25.9
4. Crestwood	9780 Dell Road	11.6
5. Eden Lake	11700 Anderson Lakes Parkway	12.4
6. Eden Valley	16600 Duck Lake Trail	8.5
7. Edenvale	7300 Edenvale Boulevard	9.0
8. Forest Hills	13708 Holly Road	57.0
9. Franlo	10245 Franlo Road	20.0
10. Hidden Ponds	18300 Twilight Trail	39.2
11. Homeward Hills	12000 Silverwood Drive	41.0
12. Nesbitt Preserve	8641 Center Way	27.6
13. Pheasant Woods	8420 Mitchell Road	15.0

**Table 2.1
Existing Park Acreage by Park Facility Type, City of Eden Prairie (continued)**

Neighborhood Parks	Address	Acreage
14. Pioneer Park	8950 Eden Prairie Road	29.2
15. Prairie East	10379 Balsam Lane	10.2
16. Prairie View	17255 Peterborg Road	8.6
17. Red Rock Lake	15416 Boulder Pointe Road	4.0
18. Rice Marsh Lake	8266 Erin Bay	35.1
19. Rustic Hills	17465 Rustic Hills Drive	4.0
20. Willow	7402 Butterscotch Road	42.0
21. Wyndham Knoll	6525 Dell Road	10.8
TOTAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK ACRES		467.9
Community Parks	Address	Acreage
1. Birch Island	6225 Eden Prairie Road	28.3
2. Miller	8208 Eden Prairie Road	103.7
3. Riley Lake	9180 Riley Lake Road	36.6
4. Round Lake	7550 Constitution Avenue	103.0
5. Smetana Lake	7620 Smetana Lane	46.4
6. Staring Lake	14800 Pioneer Trail	187.4
TOTAL COMMUNITY PARK ACRES		505.4
Community Athletic Fields	Address	Acreage
1. Flying Cloud Fields (Land Leased from MAC)	15219 Pioneer Trail	41.0
TOTAL COMMUNITY ATHLETIC FIELDS		41.0
Conservation Areas	Address	Acreage
1. Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area	18700 Flying Cloud Drive	121.0
2. Birch Island Woods Conservation Area	6410 Indian Chief Road	31.6
3. James A. Brown Conservation Area	----	76.7
4. Cardinal Creek Conservation Area	----	38.2
5. Edenbrook Conservation Area	----	237.1
6. Edenvale Conservation Area	7300 Edenvale Boulevard	181.0
7. Lower Purgatory Creek Conservation Area	----	119.2
8. Mitchell Marsh Conservation Area	----	38.2
9. Nine Mile Creek Conservation Area	----	89.7
10. Prairie Bluff Conservation Area	9995 Spring Road	56.0

**Table 2.1
Existing Park Acreage by Park Facility Type, City of Eden Prairie (continued)**

Conservation Areas	Address	Acreage
11. Purgatory Creek Recreation Area	13001 Technology Drive	142.0
12. Red Rock Conservation Area	15440 Village Woods Drive	34.0
13. Riley Creek Conservation Area	9795 Canopy Trail	61.8
14. Timber Creek Conservation Area	6395 Ginger Drive	70.0
15. Westgate Conservation Area	----	24.0
16. Miscellaneous Conservation Parcels	----	121.0
TOTAL CONSERVATION AREA ACRES		1,441.5
Historic Sites	Address	Acreage
1. J.R. Cummins Homestead	13600 Pioneer Trail	3.0
2. Edenwood Center	6350 Indian Chief Road	7.5
3. Frederick-Miller Spring	9995 Spring Road	0.1
4. Riley-Jacques Homestead	9100 Riley Lake Road	2.0
5. Smith-Douglas-More House	8107 Eden Prairie Road	1.7
TOTAL HISTORIC SITE ACRES		14.3
Special Use Sites	Address	Acreage
1. Community Center	16700 Valley View Road	*
2. Community Garden Plots (2)	Pioneer Park** and Pioneer Trail	3.0
3. Outdoor Center	13765 Staring Lake Parkway	*
4. Purgatory Creek Recreation Area Entry	13001 Technology Drive	*
5. Senior Center	8950 Eden Prairie Road	*
TOTAL SPECIAL USE SITES ACRES		3.0

* Special use site located within an existing park. Special use site acreage is included in the park acreage.

** Garden plots within Pioneer Park are shown as part of the Pioneer Park acreage.

Source: City of Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department, 2002

**Table 2.2
Summary of Park and Open Space by Type and Land Area**

Total Park and Open Space System	Acreage
Mini-Parks	27.0
Neighborhood Parks	467.9
Community Parks	505.4
Community Athletic Fields	41.0
Conservation Areas	1,441.5
Historic Sites	14.3
Special Use Sites	3.0
TOTAL PARKLAND ACRES	2,500.1

Source: City of Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department, 2002

PARK FACILITIES SUMMARY

Table 2.3 provides a concise overview of the existing facilities within each of the Community, Neighborhood and Mini-Parks within Eden Prairie.

INDIVIDUAL PARK INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

Included in this chapter is an inventory of facilities and features of each park within the Eden Prairie park system. Descriptions include the park’s location, size, current classification and statements as to its physical and development character. In addition, user groups and issues pertaining to a specific park’s use and future management or development are included.

OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES IN EDEN PRAIRIE

In addition to the parks profiled in this analysis, there are a number of other recreation facilities available to Eden Prairie residents. These include two fitness clubs and four golf courses. See Figure 2.3, Other Recreation Facilities.

The two private athletic clubs offer diverse fitness opportunities. The Flagship Athletic Club and Northwest Athletic Club serve youth, families and adults and offer swimming, tennis, racquetball, weight training and several other sports.

One public golf course and three private courses give residents of Eden Prairie and the surrounding suburbs a diversity of golf experiences although the only course open to the public is a par three course. Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center, a public course, is located in Minnetonka; however, two holes of the executive length course are in Eden Prairie. Bent Creek Golf Club, Bearpath and Olympic Hills are private 18-hole courses.

The City has one bowling center, Brunswick Lanes. This facility is privately owned. The City currently does not have roller rinks, pool halls or other youth oriented activities historically associated with private development. Demand for these facilities may exist and should be responded to by the private sector.

**Table 2.3
City of Eden Prairie – Existing Park Facilities**

	Baseball Youth	Baseball 90 ft.	Basketball	Soccer	Softball 65 ft.	Playfield	Tennis	Play Equipment	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Beach	Trails Bike	Trails Hike	Football (fall)	Ice Skating	Ice Hockey	Sand Volleyball	Other
Community Parks																		
Birch Island									■			■	■					
Miller	3	■	■	5	4		2	■	■			■		3	■	■		ACF
Riley Lake	2		■			■	2	■	■	■	■	■					4	BCF
Round Lake		■	■		6	■	8	■	■	2	■	■	■		■	2	2	ACFH
Smetana Lake									■	■		■	■					C
Staring Lake	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■		■	CDFGIJ
Community Athletic Fields																		
Flying Cloud Fields	■			24	7									2				
Neighborhood Parks																		
Carmel			■		■		2	■				■						
Creekwood	■		■				2											
Crestwood			■	2			■	■		■		■			■	■	■	
Eden Lake	3		6			■		■				■	■					
Eden Valley	■		■			■	2	■	■			■						
Edenvale	■		■			■		■	■				■		■	■		
Forest Hills	2					■	2	■							■	■	■	I
Franlo		■	■	2	■		2	■						1				
Hidden Ponds		■	■	■		■	■	■		■			■					
Homeward Hills			■	■	■	■	2	■	■	■		■			■	■	2	
Nesbitt Preserve	2		■	■		■		■	■	■		■			■	■	■	
Pheasant Woods				■	■	■		■		■		■						
Pioneer Park						■	2	■	■			■						E
Prairie East						■	2	■										
Prairie View	2					■		■				■			■	■		
Red Rock Lake			■				■	■										C
Rice Marsh Lake			■		■	■	■	■		■								
Rustic Hills			■			■	2	■									■	
Willow	■		■		■		2	■				■						
Wyndham Knoll				■	■		2	■										

- Indicates existing facility
- 2 Indicates more than one facility
- A Lighted athletic field
- B Historic site
- C Boat ramp
- D Horseshoes
- E Garden plots
- F Fishing
- G Disc golf
- H Skate park
- I Sledding Hill
- J Ski trails

Table 2.3
City of Eden Prairie – Existing Park Facilities (continued)

	Baseball Youth	Baseball 90 ft.	Basketball	Soccer	Softball 65 ft.	Playfield	Tennis	Play Equipment	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Beach	Trails Bike	Trails Hike	Football (fall)	Ice Skating	Ice Hockey	Sand Volleyball	Other
Mini Parks																		
Bluffs West #1						■		■										
Bluffs West #2						■		■										
Edgewood								■	■									
High Trail Estates						■		■										
Holasek Hill							4											
Overlook								■										
Sterling Field						■	■	■										
Topview						■		■										

- Indicates existing facility
- 2 Indicates more than one facility
- A Lighted athletic field
- B Historic site
- C Boat ramp
- D Horseshoes
- E Garden plots
- F Fishing
- G Disc golf
- H Skate park
- I Sledding Hill
- J Ski trails

Source: City of Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation Department, 2002

Detailed information on these recreation facilities follows:

Private Recreational Facilities

Flagship Athletic Club

755 Prairie Center Drive
 952-941-2000

- Private fitness club
- Members can also use Northwest Clubs
- 2 swimming pools (one indoor, one outdoor)
- 2 restaurants
- 18 tennis courts
- 3 gymnasiums
- Cybex weight room, free weight room, miscellaneous cardiovascular equipment
- Running track
- 2 saunas, whirlpools, men’s, women’s, boys’ and girls’ locker rooms
- Sand volleyball court

Northwest Athletic Club

6233 Baker Road
 952-934-4137

- Members share use privileges with 11 other locations throughout the Twin Cities
- 2 swimming pools (one indoor, one outdoor)
- 8 tennis courts
- 8 racquetball courts

- 2 squash courts
- Running track
- Free weight room, a variety of modern weight and cardiovascular equipment
- 2 aerobics studios
- 2 gymnasiums
- 2 saunas, whirlpools, men's and women's locker rooms
- Snack bar
- Pro shop
- Party room

Bearpath Golf and Country Club

18110 Bearpath Trail

952-975-1023

- Private course
- 18-hole, 7,000 total yards, approximately 200 acres
- Driving range, chipping area, practice greens
- Swimming pool (outdoor)
- 5 clay tennis courts
- 2 paddle tennis courts
- Pro shop
- Private dining room

Bent Creek Golf Course

14500 Valley View Road

952-937-9347

- Private course
- 18-hole, 6,000 total yards, approximately 105 acres
- Dining room
- Pro shop

Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center

14350 County Road 62

Minnetonka, MN

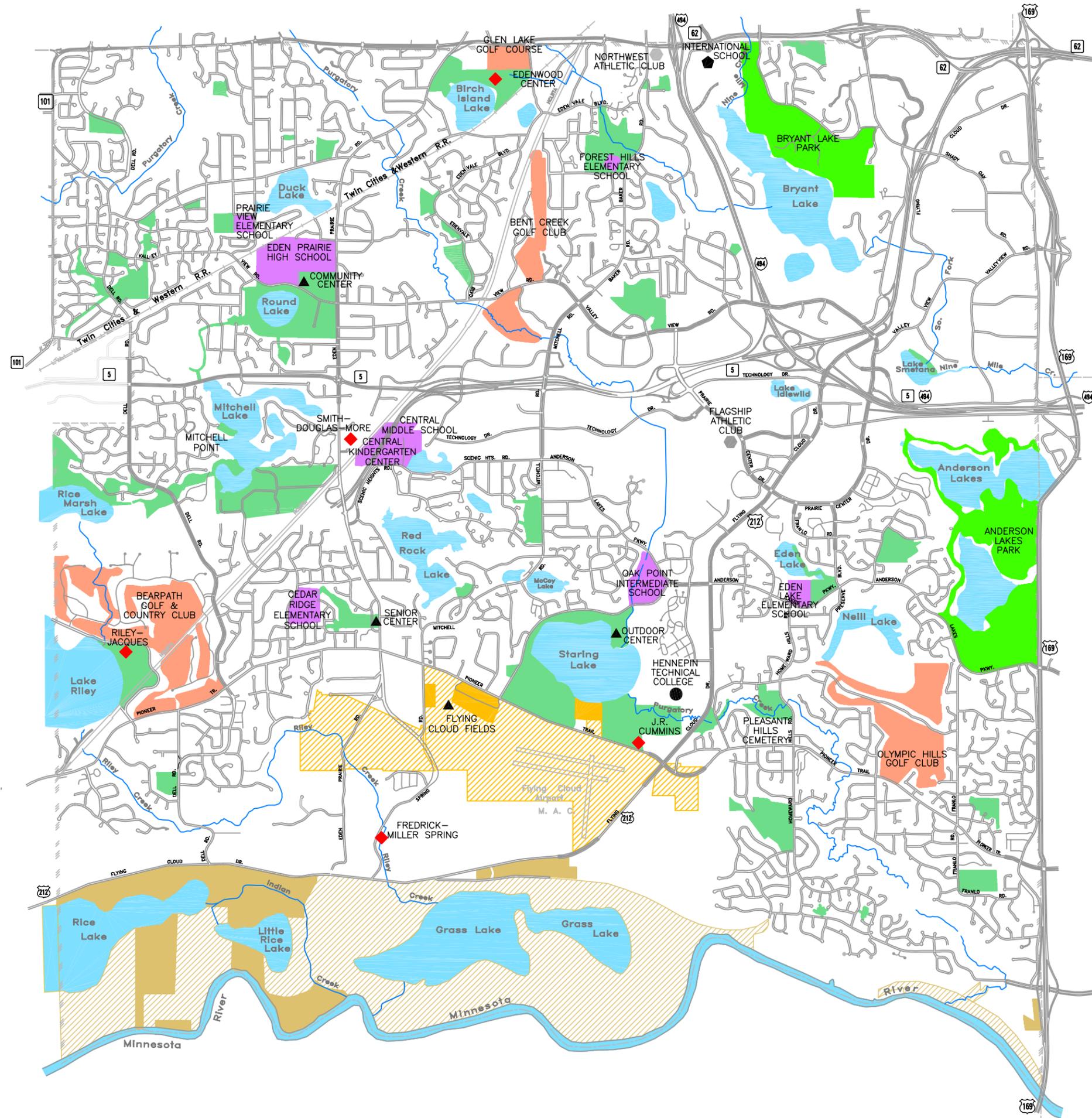
952-934-8644

- Public – executive length course
- 9-hole, 2000 yard course, approximately 40 acres
- Holes #8 and #9 are located in Eden Prairie
- Driving range/practice area
- Clubhouse
- Snack bar

PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLAN

The City of
Eden Prairie

Figure 2.3



OTHER RECREATION FACILITIES

- Three Rivers Park District
- MAC/Flying Cloud Airport
- Eden Prairie School District
- Golf Course
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (future)
- Historic Site
- Private Recreation
- Technical College
- Private School
- Special Use City Facilities



LAST UPDATED JANUARY 10, 2003

Olympic Hills

10625 Mount Curve Road

952-941-6262

- Private course
- 18-hole, 7,000 total yards, approximately 175 acres
- Dining room
- Pro shop
- Tennis courts
- Locker rooms

Regional Park and Open Space Facilities

The Eden Prairie Park and Open Space System is enhanced by three regional park and open space elements: the Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bryant Lake Regional Park and the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve. These facilities complement Eden Prairie's Park and Open Space System.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The United States Congress officially recognized the Lower Minnesota River Valley's unique value as an environmental, recreational and educational resource when it passed the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act in 1976. The project designated by Congress extends from Fort Snelling State Park upstream to Carver Rapids, near Jordan, Minnesota. The width of the project area varies but generally follows the defined limits of the floodplain. The open space is comprised of federal refuge units, adjacent lands to be used as state and local government recreation areas, and a Minnesota State regional trail. The refuge lands are being acquired by the federal government, as funds become available to the project. Currently, the refuge has 10,000 acres and will include 14,000 acres when complete; 2,448 of those acres will be within Eden Prairie. In addition, passive facilities supporting the refuge for visitor use and the state trail are being completed on an incremental basis.

Bryant Lake Regional Park

Owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District (formerly Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District), Bryant Lake Regional Park comprises 170 acres on the north side of Bryant Lake. The park includes rolling hills, woodland, wetlands and grassland areas. The sand-bottomed Bryant Lake is ideal for swimming, boating and fishing. Facilities include a 3,000-square-foot picnic pavilion that seats 150 people and is available on a rental basis. Additional facilities include a play area, boat ramp with parking for 20 vehicles with trailers, a swimming beach, fishing pier, boat rental facility, sand volleyball, restrooms with changing facilities, and a non-reservation picnic area.

The park has one mile of paved bike/hike trails and two miles of turf trails. The park is closed between November 1 and March 30; however, access is provided for ice fishing during the winter.

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve

The Three Rivers Park District (formerly Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District) also operates this regional park reserve. Located within Eden Prairie and Bloomington, the reserve provides a variety of passive and active uses surrounding the area's chain of lakes. The area contains 2,565 acres of which 1,785 are land. Five operating units comprise the park reserve, with 318 acres of the Anderson Lakes Unit occurring in Eden Prairie. 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-versus 20 percent active use; thereby insuring lands adjacent to the Anderson Lakes Unit will remain in a conservation or passive use state. Anderson Lakes are presently being managed to improve their water quality and wildlife habitat. A parking lot and nature trails will be developed in Anderson Lakes Park Reserve in 2003. 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 that is located in Bloomington.

Abutting Communities' and Intergovernmental Park and Trail Facilities

Bloomington – The Anderson-Bush-Hyland Lakes Park Reserve (previously described) traverses the boundaries of Eden Prairie and Bloomington. Abutting trails make connections at Anderson Lakes Parkway/Bloomington Ferry Road, Pioneer Trail, and Old Shakopee Road.

Chanhassen – Rice Marsh Lake Park is the only abutting open space facility in Chanhassen. Abutting trails include connections at West 78th Street (State Highway 5), trail at Rice Marsh Lake Park, Lake Riley Boulevard, Pioneer Trail, and the Chanhassen portion of the Southwest Regional LRT Trail owned by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and managed by Three Rivers Park District.

Edina – The only abutting park and open space facility in Edina is the Braemar Park and Golf Course in the southwestern corner of Edina, but it is physically separated from Eden Prairie city limits by State Highway 169. Braemar offers numerous recreational facilities, including a 36-hole (27 championship holes and nine executive holes) public golf course with driving range, golf dome for winter/spring indoor golf practice and other indoor activities, and soccer and baseball fields. There is also an ice arena with three indoor rinks. Trails abutting Eden Prairie are limited to the connection at Valley View Road. There may be a future connection available at Highway 169 and Interstate 494 after reconstruction of the interchange.

Minnetonka – Designated parkland abutting Eden Prairie consists of two parcels of land, the first along Purgatory Creek in the northwest corner and the other on Nine Mile Creek in the northeast corner. Both of these parcels of land are passive park areas and provide connections with Eden Prairie via walking trails. Several other trail connections with Minnetonka are made along the Crosstown Highway (County Road 62). These connections with Eden Prairie occur at Rowland Road, Shady Oak Road, County Road 4, Woodland Road, Purgatory Creek, and Dell Road/State Highway 101. There is also a Southwest Regional LRT Trail connection with Minnetonka at the Crosstown Highway bridge over the Twin Cities and Western Railroad.

School District 272

School District 272 boundaries conform very closely to the Eden Prairie City boundaries. The fact that the boundaries of the City and School District 272 are nearly the same, helps explain why the two governmental agencies work so well together. Four of the seven schools use parkland for school outdoor athletic activities, physical education program use, and two additional schools use parkland that is within walking distance for various active and passive recreational activities.

Round Lake Park

The City and School District 272 jointly purchased a portion of Round Lake Park in the early 1970s, planning for the time when Eden Prairie would need a new high school. In 1980, a new high school was constructed on the school portion of the site and the final ownership lines were determined. When the City developed Round Lake Park, it constructed the high school baseball field half on City property and half on School District property. The City also constructed and maintained a softball field and a soccer field that were completely on school property at no cost to the School District. Those facilities were redeveloped in 1987 by the School District and now the school property contains four soccer fields and a baseball field. These are used by youth athletic associations in the off seasons. The School District owns the hockey team locker room at the Eden Prairie Community Center and is able to rent ice, swimming pool time and racquetball courts at reduced rates. Interscholastic softball teams, soccer teams, tennis teams and baseball teams use City fields for practice and regulation games at no charge to the School District. The School District allows City programs priority use of gymnasiums, classrooms, etc. after School District use. These facilities are used at a minimal charge to the City. Specific facilities include:

Cedar Ridge Elementary School

Cedar Ridge Elementary contains 30 acres and is located west of Pioneer Park. The school is connected to Pioneer Park by a wooded ravine and trail system. The school serves as a neighborhood active play area and youth athletic associations use the baseball/soccer field areas for league play.

Eden Lake Elementary School/Park

Eden Lake is located adjacent to Eden Lake Park. The City owns 11 acres of parkland just east of the 13 acres owned by the School District. The school property contains the school building and parking lot. The City site has been developed as a neighborhood park and contains three baseball fields, a large court game area, a large playground site, a woodland nature trail and an overflow parking lot for the school. The School District paid for the expansive playground structure in the park area.

Forest Hills Elementary School/Park

Forest Hills Elementary School/Park is a 55-acre neighborhood park surrounding a three and half-acre parcel owned by the School District on which the Forest Hills Elementary School building is constructed. Most of the parking lot and all recreation facilities, including two tennis courts, two softball/baseball fields, hockey rink and free skating rink are on City property.

Prairie View Elementary School/Park

Prairie View Elementary School is located on eight acres of school property adjacent to eight acres of City parkland. The City property contains two softball fields, a soccer field, a skating rink, a hockey rink and warming house. The school property contains a playground, a hard court surface play area and the elementary school.

Oak Point Intermediate School

Oak Point Intermediate School is a school for fifth and sixth graders located adjacent to Staring Lake Park; however, the majority of the facilities are located on School District property. Students frequently use Staring Lake Park for various outdoor and nature education programs. The school property has two softball/baseball fields that are available for Eden Prairie Youth Association programs. Oak Point pool opened for operation on June 1, 1996. The pool is operated as a joint effort between the City and the School District. All City programming is provided during non-school hours and on non school days. The pool is used for open swim, family swim, lap swim, water aerobics, youth and adult swim lessons and swim team rentals.

Central Middle School

Central Middle School is one of two schools within the City that is not adjacent to a City park; however, the City did participate in constructing one-half of the eight tennis courts at the Central Middle School site. Additional game field areas are used by youth athletic associations when their usage does not conflict with school programs.

Hennepin Technical College – Eden Prairie Campus

The Hennepin Technical College is located on the east side of Staring Lake on approximately 120 acres of land. The technical college provides education opportunities for people of all ages and from all walks of life. The campus provides students with more than 45 major programs of study.

The City of Eden Prairie has an easement agreement with this independent School District for the paved trail on the School District property. This trail segment completes the loop trail around Staring Lake. The lease agreement, which began in 1984, is on a 10-year renewable lease, and is at no cost to the City. The trail provides access around the lake for the entire community and is also used by students at the Hennepin Technical College. The school has also granted use of its property in segments of the cross-country ski trail developed and maintained by the City and School District 272 high school ski team.

Metropolitan Airports Commission

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has provided the City with a low cost easement to use land for parks (Staring Lake Park), trails (bicycle, pedestrian and cross-country ski trails), and athletic fields (Flying Cloud Ballfields). The airport owns 770 acres, much of it in permanent open space.

CHAPTER SUMMARY

- The City's established neighborhood park sites are generally clustered in the developed residential neighborhoods. Other park facilities are relatively evenly distributed throughout the City. The Minnesota River Valley also provides a critical natural resource area and recreational space that follows the City's southern border.
- Most residents, workers and visitors have convenient access to the City's park facilities. The existing road network and access from arterials, as well as collectors, allows easy movement from one quadrant of the City to community parks, athletic fields, special use sites, conservation areas and cultural/ historical resources sites. Neighborhood parks provide good coverage to residential areas, with the majority of the City's housing located within 1/2-mile distance of a play park without crossing a major physical or transportation barrier, such as a minor arterial roadway.
- The classification system established to develop the City's park system is based on the concept of meeting a variety of recreational needs at differing physical scales (neighborhood, sub-district, community wide and regional). The profiles developed for each tier in the park system hierarchy reveal gaps and needs existing in the system as it exists today and focuses attention on meeting these needs in the future.
- The condition and capacity of existing park facilities indicates the advancing age and need for reinvestment in some of the park system elements. However, regular maintenance over time has contributed to a relatively positive rating for most of these sites.
- While neighborhood parks are in generally good repair, many of the City's community parks and larger or special use facilities are identified as candidates for reinvestment. A limited number of parks, such as Cedar Hills Park, are undeveloped facilities, but they are recommended for major capital improvements, such as the addition of two soccer fields. The addition of trails to a number of conservation areas, such as Edenbrook, Riley Creek, Purgatory Creek and Nine Mile Creek, are noted in the park inventory. Most of the special use facilities and cultural/historic properties the City owns are also in need of renovation.

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