



## Chapter 7

# Community Facilities Plan

**C**ommunity facilities significantly contribute to the City's quality of life by providing necessary services and utilities for Eden Prairie's residents and businesses. Many of Eden Prairie's public facilities provide gathering spaces for events and organizations and act as resources for support services and public information. The City's community facilities include, but are not limited to, the library, schools, the Fire and Police Departments, and administrative facilities. This chapter provides an overview of the Eden Prairie's community facilities and recommendations to ensure that the City's residents and businesses will be well-served by existing and future facilities as the demand for public services grows and evolves.

It is important to note that the recommendations presented in this chapter are not intended to supersede the goals and policies of other agencies or substitute more detailed planning that may be undertaken by the City and other service agencies and organizations. Because many of the facilities are not under the direct purview of the City, this chapter stresses interagency communication and cooperation.

**“[Community Facilities in Eden Prairie consist of] many organizations helping to solve the City's problems.”**

*Participant, Aspire Eden Prairie  
2040 DIY Workshop*

# Goals, Objectives & Strategies

The goals and objectives outlined below were developed based on the City's 2008 *Comprehensive Plan*, community engagement efforts, and other applicable documents. Those, and corresponding strategies to implement and achieve those goals and objectives regarding community facilities are listed below.

**Goal 1:** *Provide adequate services and facilities required to protect and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and visitors.*

## Objective 1a

Ensure all populations are served efficiently by all necessary services and infrastructure.

### Strategies:

1. Make public expenditures according to the City's prioritized capital improvements program, which shall be reviewed annually.
2. Explore opportunities to bury overhead utilities to increase resiliency from natural disasters and maintain an attractive community aesthetic.
3. Maintain a leadership role in maintaining infrastructure and ensure that as population and business growth occurs, the existing sewer, transportation, and water systems maintains their respective capacities, particularly in the MCA, TOD and GTA areas.

## Objective 1b

Continue to ensure that sustainability is a priority throughout Eden Prairie, particularly for City-provided services and amenities.

### Strategies

1. Reduce carbon emissions by implementing energy conservation strategies and renewable energy opportunities identified in the City's Energy Action Plan.
2. Showcase the City as a leader in energy saving by pursuing investments in renewable energy for City buildings.
3. Evaluate converting turf grass into native vegetation to promote pollinator-friendly habitats and stormwater mitigation.
4. Expand the City Center organic recycling program to other City buildings.
5. Purchase WaterSense products, such as toilets and faucets, to replace end-of-life fixtures or for new installations.

**Goal 2:** *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.*

## Objective 2a

Work with Eden Prairie Police and Fire Departments to identify departmental needs including staff, resources, training, and service areas.

### Strategies

1. Maintain regular communication with the Police Department and Fire Department to ensure optimal levels of fire and police protection.
2. Pursue available police, fire, and health services grants that are considered to be affordable at the end of the grant term.
3. Identify and reserve sites for future public safety services.

# Sustainable Resilience

**Goal 3:** *Develop and nurture strategic partnerships that are mutually beneficial to optimize opportunities and creatively use resources.*

## Objective 3a

Utilize relationships with private sector companies and nonprofit organizations to determine areas of collaboration.

### Strategies

1. Maintain communication with residents and users of the Community Center and Senior Center to ensure that facilities are meeting the needs of the community.
2. Regularly communicate with Independent School District 272 and other local school organizations and Hennepin Technical College to stay informed about potential expansion plans, partnership opportunities, and future development that may impact enrollment.
3. Coordinate with the Eden Prairie Library to support renovation efforts and ensure optimal service to library users.
4. Explore opportunities with adjacent communities and strategic partners to develop alternative public and leisure facilities.

**Goal 4:** *Provide effective, timely, and open communication channels for City residents and businesses to build awareness and promote programs and services.*

## Objective 4a

Maintain a public outreach program to effectively disseminate new information to residents about city services, as well to garner feedback and input regarding changes.

### Strategies

1. Maintain an available line of communication open to the public through online engagement.
2. Partner with various community organizations to share information with their members and constituents.

## Incubator Kitchens

Local farmers heavily contribute to the sustainability of a local food system. However, health department requirements related to value-added foods can act as a barrier to food entrepreneurs. Through the establishment of an incubator kitchen, local food entrepreneurs can access space and equipment needed to produce food products on-site for sale elsewhere. This type of community resource helps entrepreneurs to focus on properly developing their recipes, markets, and business models without the upfront capital costs of expensive commercial kitchen equipment while providing high-quality, healthy food to local residents.



# Community Health

## Community Benefit Requirements

An increasing awareness of the health benefits associated with eating fresh fruits and vegetables has motivated many cities to develop community gardening programs. The Eden Prairie program makes community garden plots available for planting from May through October. This program offers significant health benefits to those involved by increasing access to fresh foods and providing physical exercise opportunities. Local church congregations also have community gardens where food goes to local food banks.

## Eden Prairie Library

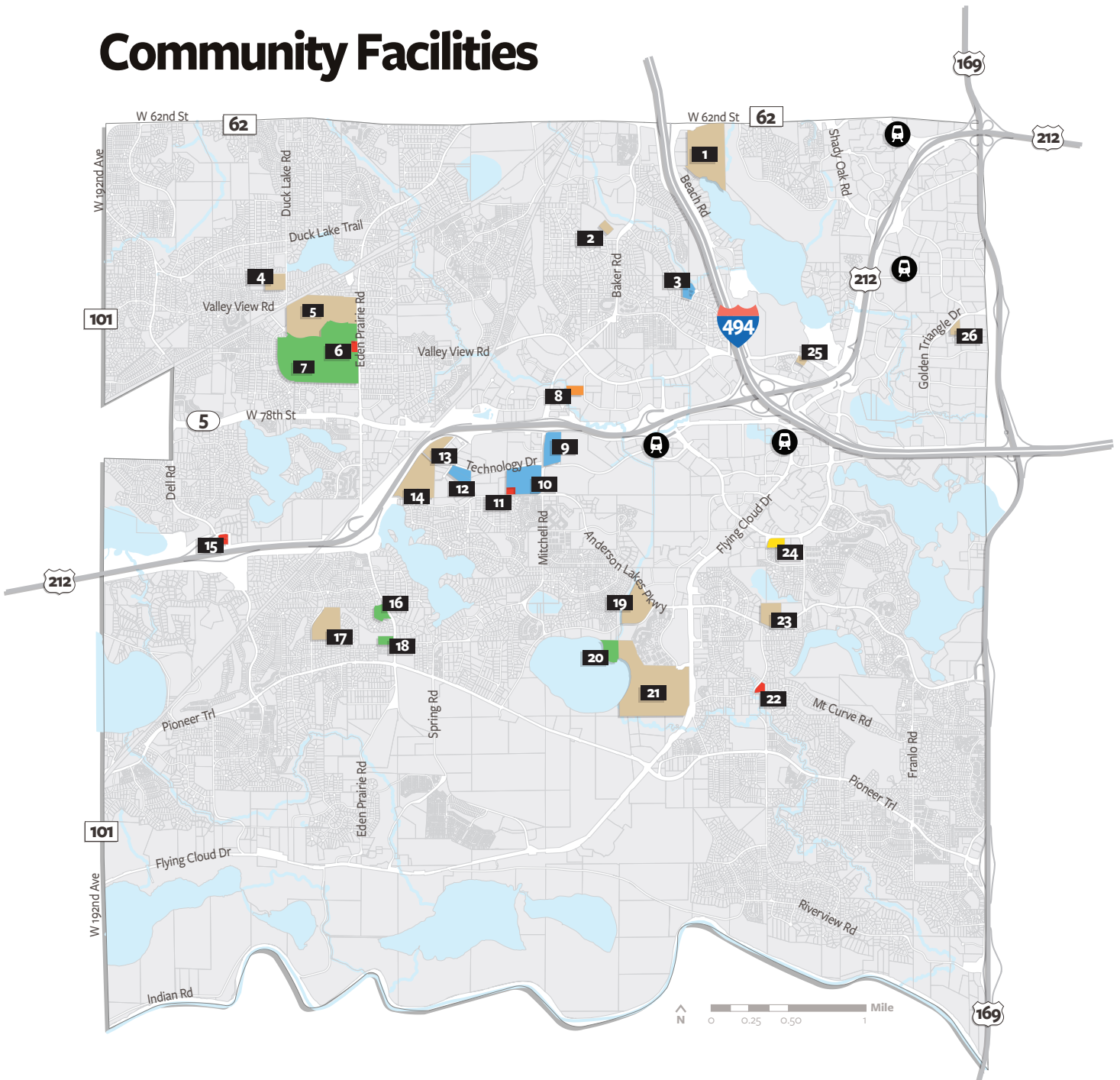
The Eden Prairie Library opened in 1986 and relocated to its current location in 2004. In addition to serving residents of Eden Prairie, the library also serves West Bloomington. In 2012, a former, vacant big-box store was transformed into the new Eden Prairie Public Library. The beautifully repurposed structure is approximately 124,500 square feet and among many bookshelves, contains reading nooks, a computer lab, conference rooms, a copy center, and an auditorium. The library is accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and cultures through the provision of assistive technology as well as an extensive language collection, which includes Chinese, Hindi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. In addition, the library provides free access to Wi-Fi computers, and meeting and conference rooms, along with access to copiers, microform readers, and energy meters for a fee. Hennepin County is currently creating a schematic design for renovating the Eden Prairie Library to provide a more modern, enhanced facility to meet the evolving community needs. Renovations are expected to begin fall 2018 and should be completed spring 2019.

## City Center

City Center, located on Mitchell Road, houses City Offices and the City's various departments. The City Center's four large Heritage Rooms, Prairie Room, and Atrium Rooms I, II, and III are available to the public for meetings and events. City Center provides its residents and businesses with resources and information on community facilities, as well as the use of an electric car charging station for City Center visitors. City Center also includes the Eden Prairie History Museum. The museum captures the rich history of Eden Prairie and is run independently by the Eden Prairie Historical Society.



# Community Facilities



## Education

- 1** International School of Minnesota
- 2** Forest Hills Elementary
- 4** Prairie View Elementary
- 5** Eden Prairie High School
- 13** Central Middle School
- 14** Little Eagles Preschool & Eden Prairie School District Administration Center
- 17** Cedar Ridge Elementary
- 19** Oak Point Elementary & Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion
- 21** Hennpin Tech College
- 23** Eden Lake Elementary
- 25** Eden Prairie Montessori Learning Center
- 26** Agape Christi Academy

## Government

- 3** Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
- 9** Eden Prairie Water Treatment Plant
- 10** Eden Prairie City Center & Police Department

## Library

- 24** Eden Prairie Library

## Arts & Culture

- 8** Eden Prairie Art Center

## Other

- 7** Eden Prairie Community Center
- 16** Eden Prairie Cemetery
- 18** Eden Prairie Senior Center
- 20** Staring Lake Observatory & Outdoor Center

## Fire Department

- 6** Fire Station No. 3
- 11** Eden Prairie Fire Department
- 15** Fire Station No. 4
- 22** Fire Station No. 2

# Social Equity & Diversity

## Support Diversity

Ensure that all people are represented fairly within advisory Commissions. A governing body that appoints people to commissions while considering diversity can help to bridge this gap, but it may still be difficult to get representatives of traditionally underrepresented groups to apply for such positions. When positions on commissions become available, it can be helpful to:

- *Review records of public hearings to learn who is speaking out as a representative to identify individuals who are actively engaged in the community.*
- *Consult with people working with those populations (business owners, nonprofit organizations, writers/editors of alternative publications, and religious leaders).*
- *Make reasonable accommodations for all people to participate effectively such as making meetings accessible for those who are hard of hearing or who do not speak English as their primary language.*



## Education

Eden Prairie's public and private schools are among the City's many assets. Students from Eden Prairie have the option of attending nine public schools and three private schools:

Per the Eden Prairie Schools 2016 Enrollment and Demographic Report, administrators predict the number of students enrolled in Eden Prairie Schools will decrease, which community members expressed as a key concern. Decreasing enrollment will have an effect on the schools' facilities in terms of use and maintenance based on available funding. It may also effect Eden Prairie's workforce and overall economic vitality. Another area of concern noted by the School District is language barriers. As schools become more ethnically diverse, a need for multilingual resources will grow.

# Sustainable Resilience

## Eden Prairie Schools

Eden Prairie Schools offer a variety of community education programs, such as early childhood, youth, volunteer, and adult programs as well as general facility use. Programs include, but are not limited to, summer camp, robotics courses, DIY home projects, part- and full-day programs for individuals with special needs (KEY and Mosaic), cooking courses, and parenting seminars. Each provides a valuable resource for the Eden Prairie families. The City's innovative Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion Elementary School sets the Eden Prairie School District apart as the premier bilingual educational institution in the region, helping students succeed in a diverse and changing world. Likewise, Eden Prairie itself is experiencing and influx of immigrant families, particularly Somali, that speak limited English. As such, coordination between the City and school district is beneficial to procure educators and resources to accommodate the needs of all students and families with a language barrier.

Eden Prairie High School had an 88.1 percent graduation rate in 2015, nearly seven percent higher than the State. In addition, Eden Prairie schools send more graduates to college than any other school in Minnesota. However, declining enrollment trends are a concern among City staff and residents. Enrollment for Eden Prairie schools was 8,835 students in Fall 2016. Over the past ten years, enrollment has decreased by almost nine percent and is projected to continue declining by roughly four percent over the next ten. The report noted that shrinking kindergarten classes compared the previous year's Grade 12 is an attributing factor. Other possible factors include a generally aging population, fewer young families moving to Eden Prairie, and lower birth rates. The policies of the land use and housing chapters support a commitment to providing a variety of housing type and densities, along with the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing. Implementation of these strategies promotes a mix of demographics supporting long-term school district employment.

## Waste & Recycling

Through Sustainable Eden Prairie, the City engages and educates the community about the importance of recycling and the broad range of materials that can be recycled, reduced, or reused. Convenience is the key factor in convincing people to recycle instead of throwing everything in the trash. The Annual Clean-Up Day provides residents the opportunity to responsibly recycle and dispose of waste. Day to day, Eden Prairie provides recycling options in public spaces, encouraging residents to recycle. The Eden Prairie City Center provides visitors and staff options for both organics and single-stream recycling. Increasing these practices in the City promotes accountable recycling practices but also results in cleaner water, less littering, and an overall healthy environment.



# Community Health

## Community Conversations

As the number of people living with mental health issues continues to increase, it is important to develop programming that brings awareness and helps to combat associated stigmas. The City will continue to partner with mental health professionals and organizations to ensure resources and education are available to our residents.



## Private Schools

Eden Prairie also has three private schools. The International School of Minnesota (ISM) is a large college-preparatory school with a 55-acre campus that serves preschool through twelfth grade students. Enrollment for the 2016 school year consisted of about 350 students. ISM is a member of the SABIS Network, a global education network aimed at providing an international education in an inclusive and collaborative environment that offers quality learning facilities as well as a performing arts center, swimming pool, running track, soccer field, and nature trails. Other private schools in Eden Prairie include Agape Christi Academy, a PK-7 Christian grade school with a strong focus on teaching religious scripture, and the Eden Prairie Montessori Learning Center, which emphasizes self-guided exploration and group work for young children in grades pre-K through Kindergarten.

## Hennepin Technical College (HTC)

Eden Prairie houses one of the two campuses for Hennepin Technical College (HTC), which serve the entire Twin Cities area. HTC offers over 45 affordable programs and provides its students with hands-on training. HTC partners with businesses to serve as a bridge between people and careers by cultivating a population of highly trained employees with practical experience. About 98 percent of HTC graduates find jobs within their network of local business partners. Exploring the fostering partnerships between HTC and the Chamber of Commerce to enhance workforce development by encouraging students to pursue careers within the Eden Prairie community and evaluating the City's local job needs and facilitating partnerships will help match educational programs to the needs of local employers.



# Social Equity & Diversity

## Eden Prairie Fire Department

The Eden Prairie Fire Department is comprised of four divisions: Building Inspections, Fire Prevention, Emergency Response, and Emergency Preparedness. The Building Inspections division has nine full-time employees and there are 95 duty crew firefighters and nine full-time firefighters. Four fire stations exist within the city limits, headquartered on Scenic Heights Road. The Department's mission is to lead and strive to minimize risk, increase safety, and improve the quality of life in the community through education, code compliance, and emergency response. Maintaining open lines of communication to address personnel and facility needs, particularly during the beginning stages of new developments will help support the overall efforts of the Fire Department.

Civilian Fire Deaths	
City	Death Count
Bloomington	5
Chanhassen	2
Eden Prairie	0
Edina	4
Hopkins	0
Minneapolis	63
Minnnetonka	3

Source: State Fire Marshall Office

### Equitable Community Facilities Practice

Currently, Eden Prairie has a few best practices within its community facilities operations to ensure equitable access and application. The Bias Crime Network, for example, is collaboration between the Eden Prairie Police Department and the Human Rights and Diversity Commission to address discrimination or biased crimes by the police. In 2017, police officers underwent Implicit Bias Training to help better serve the community as well. These and other practices help the City be more inclusive to all community members. Also, Eden Prairie's biennial community survey helps determine which facilities are under- and over-utilized, which can be clustered and co-located, and where service deficiencies exist. Recommendations for change should consider:

- *Projected demographic change.*
- *Accessibility by all modes of transportation.*
- *Equitable facility distribution.*
- *Strengthening sense of community.*



## Eden Prairie Police Department

The Eden Prairie Police Department, located in the City Center, employs 68 officers, 30 civilian staff, and 30 volunteer police reserves and chaplains. The Police Department has three divisions: Investigations, Patrol, and Support, as well as an Office of the Police Chief. The Department has its own 911 Dispatch Center, two K9 teams, a SWAT team, school liaison officers, and a senior citizen liaison officer.

The City's violent and property crime rates are low. On average, the Police Department handles 50,000 calls for service each year. In 2017, Eden Prairie experienced three homicides and one fatal motor vehicle crash. Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) arrests and personal injury crashes were down from 2016, while identity theft and shoplifting arrests were up. The City has included funding in the 2025 Capital Improvement Project plan to renovate and expand the Police Department in order to provide more effective and efficient services to its residents.

Annual Crime Rates Per 1,000 Residents			
City	Violent Crime	Property Crime	Total Crime
Chanhassen	0.75	13.94	14.69
Eden Prairie	0.52	15.40	15.92
Edina	0.40	19.47	19.87
Minneapolis	10.73	43.74	54.47
Mnetonka	0.75	13.94	14.69

## Community Center

The Community Center, located on Valley View Road, offers a variety of activities, services, and facilities, such as fitness classes, aquatics, ice skating, a gymnasium, recreation programs, and meeting rooms. The Community Center is committed to providing a space for people of all ages and abilities to engage in all of these activities and more. For example, the Delay the Disease fitness group and the MS/Therapeutic Aquatics program are designed to empower people with debilitating diseases to take control of the disease through daily exercise. In addition, the Community Center created a zero-depth swimming pool to promote active living for seniors, small children, and residents with special mobility needs.

The Community Center recently expanded its facilities through the Community Center Aquatics and Fitness Expansion project, which unveiled throughout 2015 and 2016. This project added eight lap swimming lanes, diving boards for practice and competitions, and a zero-depth entry pool, expanding the facility from 172,000 square feet to over 225,000 square feet. As Eden Prairie continues to grow, the City will continue to assess community needs and maintain and adjust programming and services as necessary.

## Outdoor Center

The Eden Prairie Outdoor Center, which is a refurbished cabin located on the north shore of Staring Lake, offers a wide range of classes, workshops, trips, and activities in outdoor recreation and environmental education. The Outdoor Center welcomes and encourages daycares and schools to utilize their facility and programs. The City will continue closely coordinating with residents and Outdoor Center users to ensure that the Outdoor Center's personnel, programs, and facility are meeting community needs. The City will utilize the Outdoor Center to further environmental education to promote sustainable practices among the general community.

# Senior Center

The Senior Center, managed by the Recreation Services Division, provides a variety of activities and services to adults and seniors. Its mission is to provide social, recreational, educational, psychological, and physical services, and enhance the visibility of mature adults, as well as promote participation in all aspects of community life. The Center offers a variety of activities including woodworking, card games, trips, tours, and health and wellness classes. Other Senior Center services include Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME), which assists seniors with household maintenance and chores; senior outreach and caregiver services that help older adults remain in their homes; free safety checks; Meals on Wheels, which delivers nutritionally balanced meals; and a medication disposal program. In addition, the Senior Center provides room rentals for meetings, parties, and group outings, as well as transportation to scheduled events for residents who are unable to drive themselves. As the aging community continues to grow, the City will continue working with the residents and Senior Center personnel to ensure that the needs of the aging community are being met.

# Arts & Cultural Facilities

## Art Center

The Art Center, maintained by the Recreation Services Division, fosters creativity in the Eden Prairie community by providing access to the arts for people of all ages and abilities. The Art Center is fully equipped with kilns, pottery wheels, and other art-related tools and resources along with independent open studio time and classes for various media. The Center also hosts open houses to showcase local artists and instructors, conduct demonstrations, and offer hands-on activities. The City will continue to closely coordinate Art Center programming to ensure that the needs of the community are being met.

## Public Art

Public art is another avenue for garnering interest in arts and culture. The City can incorporate art into public spaces using the following strategies:

- Encourage the Art Center to partner with local artists to incorporate art into the Town Center, TOD areas, and Eden Prairie Center as future development occurs.
- Work with local artists to develop a list of criteria that characterize potential public art spaces based on access and media used.
- Allow for, and encourage, screen printing artwork from local artists on utility boxes to beautify the area and showcase local artwork.

## Art Events

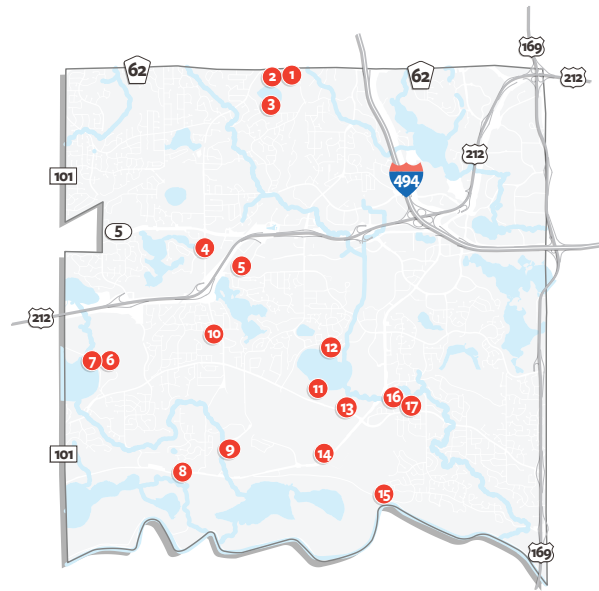
Eden Prairie residents can experience a variety of art-based activities at several special events throughout the year. The Art Center plans and delivers hands-on art activities at events such as PeopleFest!, Arbor Day Walk and Green Fair, Fall Harvest Celebration, and others. The annual Arts in the Park event features local and regional artists displaying and selling their artwork. In addition to promoting these opportunities, the City will continue to assess the possibility of additional art-related public events and exhibits using the following strategies:

- Work with the Art Center to encourage pop-up art events in various locations, such as the Town Center, various City parks, and Eden Prairie Center mall.
- Increase the online presence of its community events calendar to increase awareness of arts and cultural events and activities.
- Host events and recruit businesses that provide arts and culture information and activities that are inclusive to a range of age groups and diverse populations.
- Work with local arts providers and various community partners to facilitate free- and low-cost cultural opportunities to ensure that all members of the community are able to attend.

# Heritage Sites

Eden Prairie has several historic landmarks, which have been designated as heritage sites. These landmarks are comprised of sites and structures that reflect significant elements of the City’s cultural, social, economic, political, visual, and architectural history. Many of the City’s heritage sites, are integrated within Eden Prairie’s natural landscapes, such as the Glen Lake Children’s Camp and Frederick-Miller Spring. These sites are highlighted by placards and informational signage to educate community members and visitors. As the City continues to grow and evolve, it is important that these heritage sites are protected and preserved. In conjunction, the City will continue to monitor the sites and structures being invested in, reflect the significant elements of the City’s cultural, social, economic, political, visual, and architectural history.

The City should continue to pursue grants from various funding sources to support historic preservation. The City’s existing commitment to historic preservation can be seen in its current and on-going pursuit of projects and funding such as adding signage at the Riley Lake Park/Riley-Jacques Farmstead, partnering with Hennepin County for interpretive signage near the James A. Brown Conservation Area, obtaining grant funds for archeology studies at the Town of Hennepin site, and recognizing which landmarks are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, such as the Smith Douglas More House (SDM House). Building upon the existing commitment, the City should explore even more potential funding opportunities moving forward.



## Heritage Sites

- 1 Holasek House
- 2 Glen Lake Children’s Camp - LD, NR
- 3 Picha Farmstead
- 4 Smith-Douglas-More House - LD, NRE
- 5 Consolidated School
- 6 Riley-Jacques Farmstead - LD
- 7 Dorenkemper House - LD
- 8 Indian Road Corridor
- 9 Fredrick-Miller Spring - LD
- 10 Eden Prairie Cemetery
- 11 Goodrich-Ramus Barn
- 12 Staring Lake Outdoor Center - LD
- 13 Cummins House - LD, NR
- 14 Lookout Park Wayside - LD
- 15 Town of Hennepin Site
- 16 Purgatory Creek - LD
- 17 Pleasant Hill Cemetery

## Key

- LD - Locally Designated Property
- NR - National Register Property
- NRE - National Register Eligible Property



# Sustainable Resilience

## Role Model for Sustainability

Publicly owned community facilities are a large consumer of resources in any community. Subsequently, they provide a prime opportunity to incorporate sustainable practices and become a role model for residents and businesses in the City. Opportunities to incorporate sustainable practices include:

- *Installing bike racks to encourage multi modal transportation.*
- *Reserving priority parking for energy efficient vehicles.*
- *Provide charging stations for electric vehicles.*
- *Replacing dark roofs with light ones to reduce heat absorption from the sun.*
- *Installing low-flow toilets, faucets and showerheads for water conservation.*
- *Use water efficient irrigation practices to reduce use of potable water.*
- *Incorporating large roof overhangs to shade buildings.*
- *Electrify fleet vehicles.*
- *Creating or converting areas to native landscape/pollinator friendly landscaping.*
- *Convert lighting to LED.*
- *Evaluate publically owned property for solar systems installation.*

The City of Eden Prairie recognizes the contribution that historic structures, buildings, and districts add to the City's appeal. To best utilize its historic assets, the City could engage the efforts of the Heritage Preservation Commission and Eden Prairie Historical Society to form a partnership for the development of historically relevant educational and recreational opportunities that celebrate and highlight the history of the City. Additionally, historic walking tours and other tourism initiative could be developed around the community's historical and cultural assets.

The celebration and promotion of Eden Prairie's history through educational and recreational opportunities, allows the City to encourage future investment in preservation work and will build a strong collaborative network of organizations and individuals committed to preserving the City's history.

The City of Eden Prairie owns a number of buildings or structures that are potentially eligible for historic preservation. Through the Heritage Preservation Commission, the City will continue to assess possible registration of these buildings or structures as deemed appropriate. The designation of buildings and structures in the State or National Historic Registers requires several funding sources to be made available for their maintenance, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse. Such funding sources may include the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), National Park Service or National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The City of Eden Prairie became a Certified Local Government (CLG) City on March 25, 1991. CLG status enables the local government to apply for federal matching grants to preserve historic properties. This local-state-federal partnership encourages the integration of historic preservation into local government policy. Projects eligible for funding through this grant include historic resource surveys, preparation of local and national designation forms, historic preservation plans, building reuse studies, cultural landscape inventories, design guidelines for property owners, and public education. Capital or brick-and-mortar improvements are not eligible for this funding source. A key source of funding for brick-and-mortar projects are Historic Tax Credits.





