



# Northfield Parks & Recreation CIP Study

City of Northfield, MN | December 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

In January 2022, the city of Northfield engaged 292 Design Group, now JLG Architects, and consultants Damon Farber and PROS Consulting to assist in creating a Capital Investment Plan for Northfield’s Park and Recreation Facilities. As part of the this process, we were charged with undertaking the following tasks:

### Benchmarking

- Identifying how the City compares to National Park and Recreation Association metrics, and other comparable Cities.

### Review the Existing Park Open Space & Trail System Plan

- Reviewing previous community input and City of Northfield mission, vision and values
- Reviewing the 2008 Parks Plan and analysis of development options for the parks system; how does this integrate with the NPRA metric and other comparable cities?

### Strategy Development

- Researching and identifying ways in which the City can position itself strategically to ensure the City supports quality of life for all ages and the City’s Diversity and Equity and Inclusion goals.

### Develop Capital Investment Plan

- Utilizing the condition ratings for the capital assets in existing parks, recreation, and trail facilities, prioritize needs and costs for the capital investment plan related to needs on the existing infrastructure.
- Understanding the needs from the prior community engagement, prior parks plan, benchmarking and strategy development, prepare a draft Capital Investment Plan for the City.
- Identify funding options, such as local option sales tax, referendum, levy increase, etc.

### Community Engagement

- Creating an engagement plan to facilitate discussion and gain an understanding of park and recreation needs for underserved portion of the community.
- Facilitating both in person and online engagement sessions to present the draft capital investment plans and receive feedback from the community and stakeholder groups.
- Creating an online engagement tool to receive feedback from the public.

### Capital Investment Plan & Funding Options

- Utilizing the condition ratings for the capital assets in existing parks, recreation, and trail facilities, prioritize needs and costs for the capital investment plan related to needs on the existing infrastructure.
- Understanding the needs through the community engagement process, online survey, prior parks planning, benchmarking and strategy development, update the draft capital investment plan.
- Making presentations to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and City Council, and finalizing the Capital Investment Plan and Report.

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## NORTHFIELD CIP STEERING COMMITTEE

David Bennett *Public Works Director, City of Northfield*  
Tim Behrendt *Streets & Parks Manager, City of Northfield*  
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## CONSULTING TEAM

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Rachel Blaseg *Senior Associate, Damon Farber Associates*  
Leon Younger *President, PROS Consulting*

## NORTHFIELD PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS STUDIES

Following is a summary of previous planning and studies which provided a background for the CIP process. Summary excerpts taken from these documents.

### City of Northfield Natural Resources Inventory Report

- December 2005
- Bonestroo Natural Resources

The Northfield Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) was undertaken in response to the significant growth and development pressures that the city is facing as the Twin Cities metropolitan area expands and outlying areas develop. This inventory was designed to assess the natural areas and open space areas within the project area in order to help guide current and future planning efforts. Incorporating this information into the planning process can help prioritize areas where conservation, alternative development strategies, conventional development, or other approaches may be appropriate. Two specific tools include using the data as the foundation for developing a greenways corridor system, and incorporating the information into local ordinance. Other options are available as well.

### Hauberg Woods Natural Resources Management Plan

- August 2005
- Bonestroo Rosene Anderlik & Associates

This Natural Resource Management Plan details activities that are designed to maintain or improve the ecological quality of the site, including control of invasive/nonnative plants, planting of native trees and ground cover, as well as active management with an eye toward increased species richness and ecological function.

Hauberg Woods Resource Management Goals:

- Management of oak forest areas for native composition, structure, and function
- Foster oak maintenance/insertion/regeneration
- Maintain trails and other appropriate infrastructure which provide recreational opportunities for citizens and enable cost-effective resource management.
- Maintain the forest as a passive recreation area in the Northfield Parks system
- Plan for surface water and infrastructure planning that will not negatively impact the forest
- Establish buffers for the forest and associated wetlands as development occurs in the area surrounding the forest

### Comprehensive Plan for Northfield

- November 2008
- ACP Visioning & Planning, Ltd.

This Comprehensive Plan is intended to serve as a general guide for Northfield for the next 20 years. The document should be read and interpreted as a whole to fully understand the direction city leaders should take. The following points summarize the key directions that

the community should take in order to realize the vision inherent in this Plan:

- Preserving the area’s natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- Assuring a strong economy.
- Encouraging vibrancy in the downtown core and its fringe areas.
- Maintaining the community’s character.
- Enhancing “Town/Gown” relations.
- Promoting the ethic of sustainability in all city activities.
- Plan for strategic growth in the community.

Two of the goals of the Comprehensive Plan relate to this CIP process:

**Parks and Recreation:** Promote a high quality of life in Northfield by providing a balanced and sustainable system of parks, natural open spaces, athletic facilities and trails consistent with the historic sense of place in the community.

**Community Facilities:** Plan for and prioritize the construction of community facilities so as to provide the greatest benefit to the residents in the most cost- effective manner possible, with the most positive effect on the immediate surroundings.

### Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan

- March 2008
- Prepared by Brauer & Associates, Ltd.

Understanding the needs and desires of the community was one of the first steps in preparing the system plan. Through the public process, citizens and their local representatives on the Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and City Council had a variety of opportunities to provide input and perspectives on planning issues. These findings provided the foundation for developing the parks, open space, and trail system plan.

Through these interactions, a strong and consistent public statement has been made: **Preserve the sense of place and livability of the community while accommodating growth and evolving recreational and social trends.** These values have been extensively reflected in the system plan.

### A Future Vision for Bridge Square

- May 2014
- STANTEC

The City of Northfield commissioned the “Future Vision for Bridge Square” planning study to guide future decisions related to the design, use and programming of the public space. The findings and outcomes presented in this document represent the future vision and intent of the community to move forward with a design of Bridge Square and implementation as funding becomes available.

Key components to this process include:

- Master Planning Park Design for the entire Bridge Square Redevelopment Area.
- Use of the existing park and open space design framework plan as a guiding tool.
- Develop a comprehensive theme for the Bridge Square park system.
- Program each park to respond to the city’s and community’s needs.

### City of Northfield Parks & Recreation Survey

- January 2020
- Prepared by Fieldstone Research

Fieldstone Research surveyed Northfield residents on the value and usage of their parks. 995 responses were received and a summary of results noted:

- Northfield residents value their parks and recreation spaces and are generally satisfied with them. 80% use the parks at least once a month.
- Downtown parks (Bridge Square and River Walk) are used most frequently followed by Sechler Park and Memorial Park/ Pool/ Skateboard Park.
- The greatest support for investment in spaces and facilities are in the areas of public restrooms, new/enhanced walking trails and new/enhanced biking trails.
- Nearly 80% of respondents indicate the community should make at least some repairs to the ice arena. Building a new multi- use or single-use ice arena receives greater support than repairing/remodeling the existing ice arena.
- Just over half of respondents support a local sales tax to generate resources although some do so “with reservation.”

### Racial Equity Action Plan

- July 2020
- City of Northfield

**Background:** Being a welcoming community and one that embraces a diverse population is important to the City of Northfield. In December 2016 the City Council adopted a policy regarding “employee conduct regarding immigration status”. The purpose was for Northfield to be a vibrant city where our immigrant and refugee residents can fully participate in and be integrated into the social, civic, and economic fabric of their adopted city.

**Racial Equity Statement:** The City of Northfield values all members of our community and recognizes the demographic makeup of our citizens will continue to change. Therefore, the City of Northfield strives to improve outreach and engagement to increase racial equity in the Northfield community. In addition, the City wants to build upon existing policies and procedures to ensure they are equitable for the Northfield community.

### Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan

- September 2020
  - Riverfront Enhancement Action Committee
- Existing City guiding documents and past studies outline vision, objectives and strategies around the value of the Cannon River as an economic engine and perhaps more importantly, as an essential component of Northfield’s overall identity. Its scenic beauty, natural resources, and recreational opportunities support a variety of current and ongoing project initiatives that focus on how to better integrate the river into all aspects of community life.

The resolution also established the Committees’ Work Plan, including the specific charge to prepare a Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan that specifically addresses the following:

- Prioritization to align with the City Strategic Plan
- Concept plans for strategic park improvements
- Identified short term + long term projects and funding sources
- Preservation and conservation of the riverfront
- Identification of stormwater management project priorities
- Strategies for increased active use of the riverfront
- Opportunities for business expansion in the corridor

### 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan

- June 2021
  - City of Northfield
- The plan consists of six strategic priorities — the issues of greatest importance to the City of Northfield over the next three years. Associated with each priority is a set of desired outcomes, key outcome indicators, and performance targets, describing expected results and how the results will be measured. The plan also includes strategic initiatives that will be undertaken to achieve the targeted outcomes.

The six strategic priorities are:

- 1 Economic Vitality
- 2 Housing Availability
- 3 Quality Facilities
- 4 Diversity, Equity And Inclusion
- 5 Service Excellence
- 6 Climate Action

### Parks Capital Existing Conditions Analysis

- 2022
  - City of Northfield
- The City of Northfield maintains a database of existing parks and specific condition issues that need to be addressed at each location. Conditions of these facilities are rated from 1 to 4 (best to worst). This data provided a background for the park and trail maintenance needs and associated costs.

**BENCHMARKING PROCESS**

PROS Consulting led the benchmarking process. This process is used to compare Northfield Parks and Recreation to other nearby park agencies. Surveys were sent to selected communities to provide input on their park and recreation facilities, programs and operations. Comparisons were made to these benchmark agencies as well as the National Parks and Recreation Association.

For the surveys sent to other communities in the area, questions included:

- System overview including service population
- Parks and facilities including total number of parks and miles of trails
- Number and types of outdoor fields, courts and facilities
- Number and types of indoor facilities
- Programming and staffing
- Budget and operations

Surveys were sent to and received back from the following communities:

- Andover
- Chaska
- Owatonna
- Rosemount
- Shakopee

A copy of the survey sent and responses received is included in the appendix.

NRPA data was obtained from their member agencies throughout the nation, and compiled in their 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review. For benchmarking Northfield to NRPA, comparison data was used for cities in the median population ranges NRPA provided in two metrics -- Cities up to 20,000 population and Cities with populations of 20,000 to 49,999.

The trails, park facilities and amenities, and indoor facilities of Northfield are listed in the comparison charts with NRPA data and also data of the five Benchmark Agencies.

AGENCY	BENCHMARK AGENCIES: OVERVIEW							
	JURISDICTION TYPE	JURISDICTION POPULATION	SERVICE POPULATION	PARKS IN SYSTEM	CONTRACT MAINTENANCE	NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN	MILES OF PAVED TRAILS	MILES OF SOFT TRAILS
Northfield Parks and Recreation	City	20,790	29,283	37	No	Yes	94	3
Andover Parks Department	City	33,000	N/A	87	No	Yes	32	N/A
Chaska Parks and Recreation	City	26,372	N/A	34	No	Yes	60	32
Owatonna Parks and Recreation	City	26,314	N/A	32	No	No	17	30
Rosemount Parks and Recreation	City	25,202	40,000	30	Yes	Yes	14	1.8
Shakopee Parks and Recreation	City	43,698	43,698	36	No	Yes	77	4.9

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The charts on this and the following pages compare trails, outdoor park amenities, and indoor recreation facilities against both the benchmark agencies and NRPA metrics.

The top chart shows the system overview of the five benchmarking communities compared to the City of Northfield including comparison of miles of paved and soft trails. Northfield has a high number of paved trails, many along roadways, but very few miles of soft trails within their park system.

FACILITIES	OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES BENCHMARK AGENCIES and NRPA				
	Against Benchmark Agencies		Against Two NRPA Population Metrics		
	NORTHFIELD ACTUAL NUMBER	BENCHMARK AGENCIES MEDIAN NUMBER	NORTHFIELD PARKS & REC Number of Residents per Facility	NRPA METRIC Cities less than 20,000 Population. Number of Residents per Facility	NRPA METRIC Cities 20,000 to 49,999 Population. Number of Residents per Facility
Bike Parks / Pump Tracks		1	20,790	N/A	N/A
Dog Park	1	1	20,790	11,148	27,528
Disc Golf		1			
Exercise Equipment		1			
Hockey Rink (permanent boards)	1	3.5	20,790	N/A	N/A
Skating Rink (no. of locations)	8	3.5	3,474	10,000	13,049
Mountain Bike Trail Area		1			--
Ninja Set-up		0			--
Park Shelter/Picnic (non-rentable)	6	3.5	4,632	N/A	N/A
Park Shelter/Picnic (rentable)	4	11	6,948	N/A	N/A
Playground Natural Play		1			--
Playground Natue Play Structure		1			--
Playgrounds (Traditional)	21	25	1,323	2,132	2,961
Playgrounds (Accessible)	1	1	20,790	N/A	N/A
Pool	1	1	20,790	N/A	N/A
Pool Lap Lanes	Yes	0	Yes	N/A	N/A
Aquatics Play Features		2		N/A	N/A
Spray Ground / Spray Pad		1	20,790	N/A	N/A
Skateboard Park	1	1	20,790	11,000	31,248
Theater / Bandshell		1	20,790	N/A	N/A
Warming House (not staffed)	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
Warming House (staffed)	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A

On the bottom chart, at far left, the actual number of Northfield's outdoor park amenities is compared with the median number from the five benchmark communities. Northfield averages higher on the number of skating rinks and non-rentable park/picnic shelters but has fewer permanent board hockey rinks and rentable park/picnic shelters. Northfield also lacks the following amenities that other communities have:

- Bike Park/Pump Track
- Disc Golf
- Exercise Equipment (outdoor)
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Natural Play/Play Structures
- Aquatics Play Features
- Spray Ground/Spray Pad
- Theater/Bandshell

On this chart at right, the number of residents per facility compares Northfield against two NRPA metrics - cities under 20,000 population and cities from 20,000 to 49,999 population. NRPA does not track all data that is being benchmarked for Northfield, cells will be blank that data as well as where benchmark agencies did not provide services or have those facilities.



Current Inventory			Current LOS			Recommended Standard			2021 Current Needs			2026 Need Forecast		
Item	City of Northfield	Total Inventory	Service Level Based on Current Population			Recommended Service Levels for Study Area			Assessment	Additional Need		Assessment	Additional Need	
<b>PARKLAND</b>														
Neighborhood Parks	92.7	92.7	4.40	acres per	1,000	4.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	2	Acres	Need Exists	5	Acres
Community Parks	123.0	123.0	5.84	acres per	1,000	6.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	3	Acres	Need Exists	7	Acres
Regional Parks	-	-	-	acres per	1,000	0.00	acres per	1,000	Meets Standard	-	Acres	Meets Standard	-	Acres
Special Use Parks/Facilities	178.5	178.5	8.47	acres per	1,000	8.50	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	1	Acres	Need Exists	6	Acres
<b>Total Developed Park Acres</b>	<b>394.2</b>	<b>394.2</b>	<b>18.71</b>	<b>acres per</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>acres per</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>Need Exists</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Need Exists</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Natural/Conservation Areas	161.8	161.8	7.68	acres per	1,000	8.00	acres per	1,000	Need Exists	7	Acres	Need Exists	12	Acres
<b>Total Park Acres</b>	<b>556.0</b>	<b>556.0</b>	<b>26.38</b>	<b>acres per</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>27.00</b>	<b>acres per</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>Need Exists</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Need Exists</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>TRAILS</b>														
Paved Trails	14.00	14.00	0.66	miles per	1,000	0.75	miles per	1,000	Need Exists	1.80	Miles	Need Exists	2.27	Miles
Unpaved Trails	3.00	3.00	0.14	miles per	1,000	0.25	miles per	1,000	Need Exists	2.27	Miles	Need Exists	2.42	Miles
<b>OUTDOOR FACILITIES</b>														
Gazebos	1	1	1	site per	21,073	1	site per	20,000	Need Exists	0	Sites	Need Exists	0	Sites
Shelters/Pavilions	9	9	1	site per	2,341	1	site per	4,000	Meets Standard	-	Sites	Meets Standard	-	Sites
Rectangular Fields (Football, Soccer, Multipurpose)	14	14	1	field per	1,505	1	field per	4,000	Meets Standard	-	Fields	Meets Standard	-	Fields
Adult Ball Diamonds	1	1	1	field per	21,073	1	field per	7,000	Need Exists	2	Fields	Need Exists	2	Fields
Youth Ball Diamonds	7	7	1	field per	3,010	1	field per	3,000	Need Exists	0	Fields	Need Exists	0	Fields
Basketball Courts	5	5	1	court per	4,215	1	court per	3,000	Meets Standard	-	Courts	Need Exists	2	Courts
Tennis Courts	-	-	1	court per	#DIV/0!	1	court per	7,000	Need Exists	3	Courts	Need Exists	3	Courts
Pickleball Courts	4	4	1	court per	5,268	1	court per	7,000	Meets Standard	-	Courts	Meets Standard	-	Courts
Sand Volleyball Courts	1	1	1	court per	21,073	1	court per	12,000	Need Exists	1	Courts	Need Exists	1	Courts
Playgrounds	20	20	1	site per	1,054	1	site per	2,500	Meets Standard	-	Sites	Meets Standard	-	Sites
Dog Parks	1	1	1	site per	21,073	1	site per	40,000	Meets Standard	-	Sites	Meets Standard	-	Sites
Skate Park	1	1	1	site per	21,073	1	site per	40,000	Meets Standard	-	Sites	Meets Standard	-	Sites
Outdoor Pools	1	1	1	site per	21,073	1	site per	40,000	Meets Standard	-	Sites	Meets Standard	-	Sites
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>														
Indoor Recreation/Gymnasium (Sq. Ft.)	-	-	-	SF per person		1.50	SF per person		Need Exists	31,610	Sq. Ft.	Need Exists	32,531	Sq. Ft.
Indoor Special Use Facilities (Sq. Ft.)	-	-	-	SF per person		1.50	SF per person		Need Exists	31,610	Sq. Ft.	Need Exists	32,531	Sq. Ft.
Indoor Aquatics (Sq. Ft.)	-	-	-	SF per person		0.50	SF per person		Need Exists	10,537	Sq. Ft.	Need Exists	10,844	Sq. Ft.

2021 Estimated Population	21,073
2026 Estimated Population	21,687

**Notes:**  
Population is based on Northfield City limits obtained from ESRI

On the chart at left, the current inventory of parkland, trails, outdoor facilities and indoor facilities is listed. The current Level of Service (LOS) is calculated based on the current population. This LOS can then be compared against a recommended national standard for Level of Service.

The fourth column provides an assessment and lists additional needs for 2021 and also a projected needed for 2026.

Items where a need exists are noted in red and include:

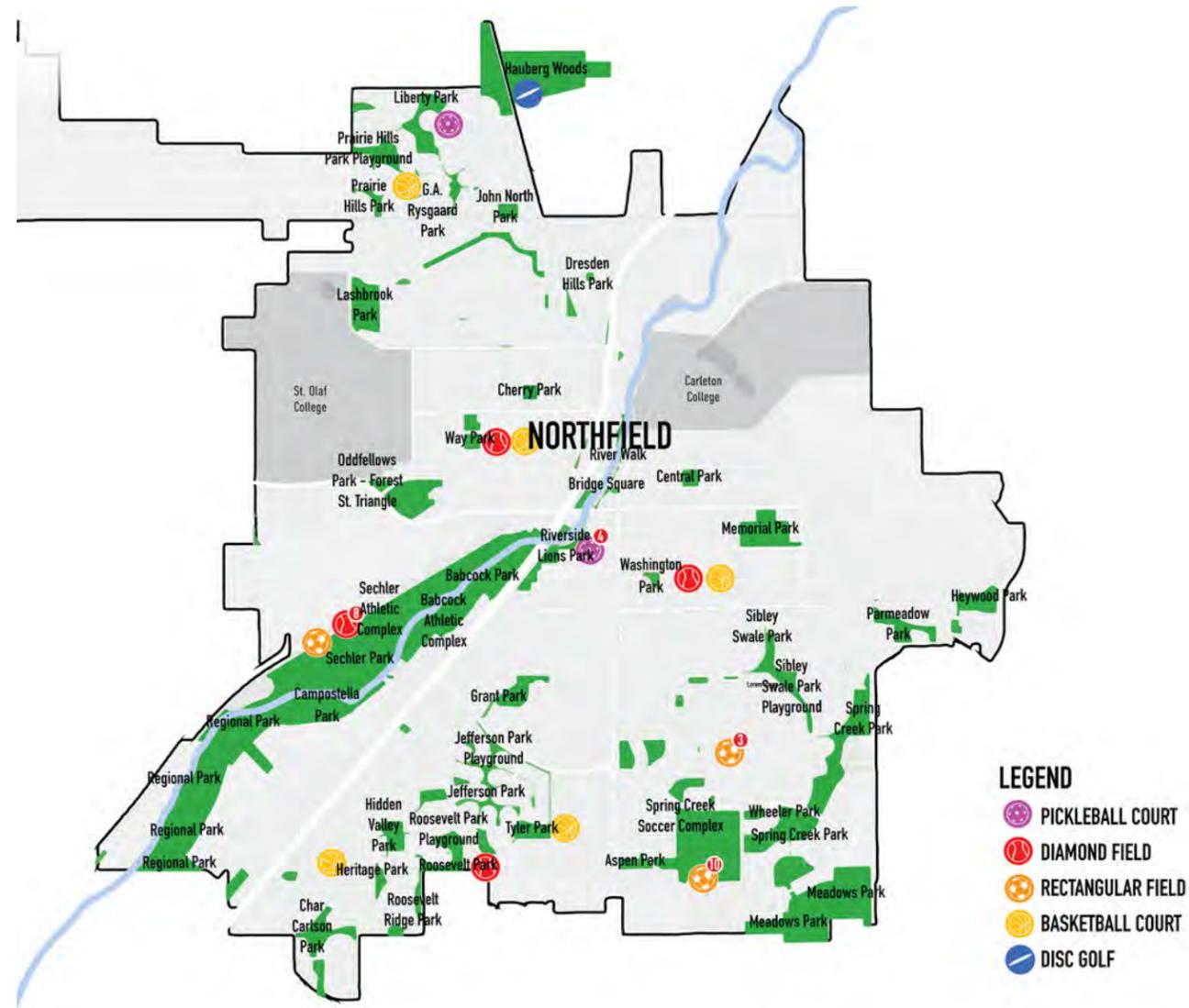
- Additional acreage for neighborhood and community parks
- Additional acreage for special use parks and natural conservation areas
- Additional miles of paved and unpaved trails
- More adult and youth baseball diamonds
- More tennis courts and sand volleyball courts
- Indoor recreation facilities and indoor aquatics

The analysis on indoor recreation does not account for facilities run by other providers such as the YMCA which do require a membership for their use

The following pages include a brief summary of each current park in the Northfield system.



DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING OUTDOOR AMENITIES

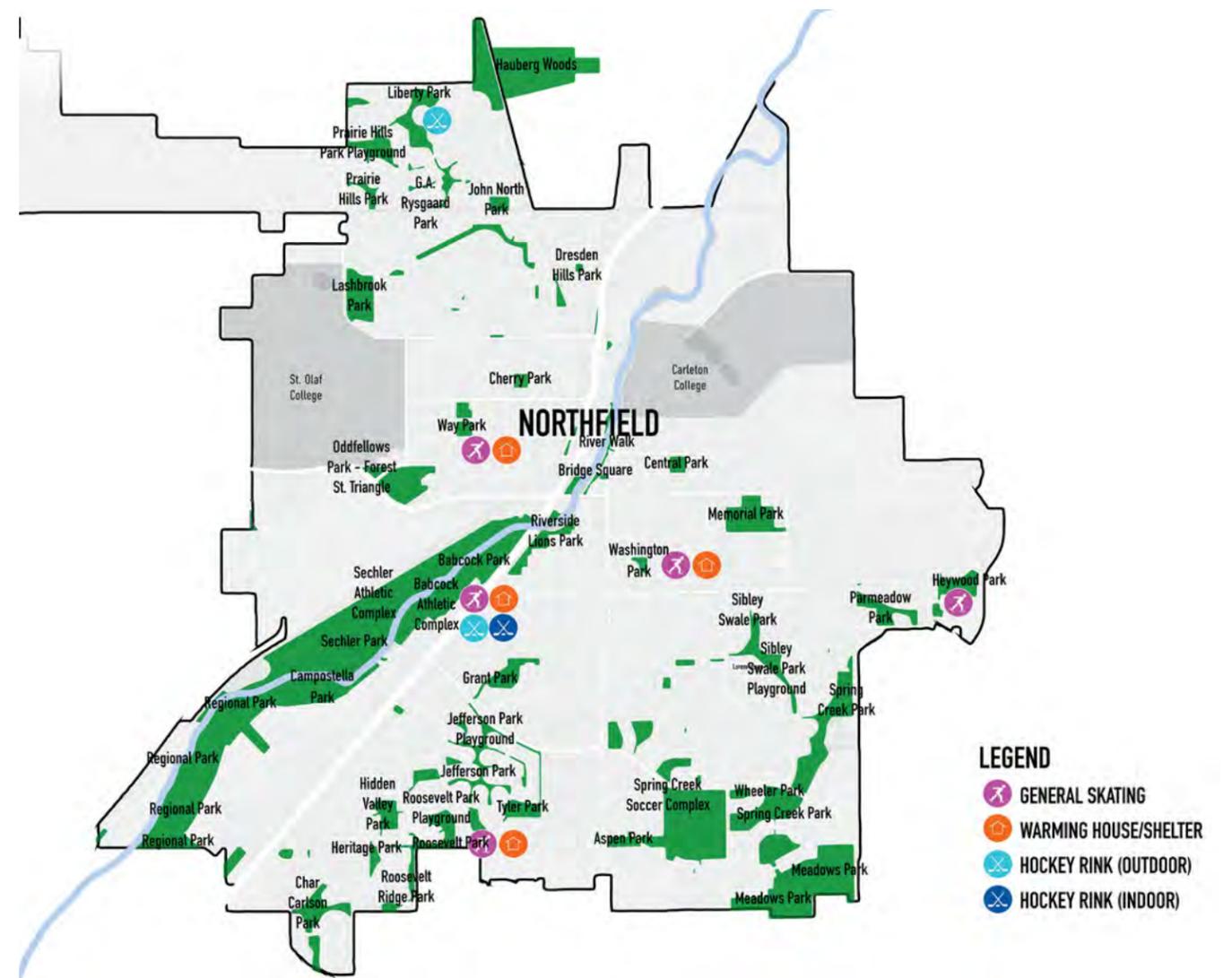


GIS MAPPING OF EXISTING PARK DATA

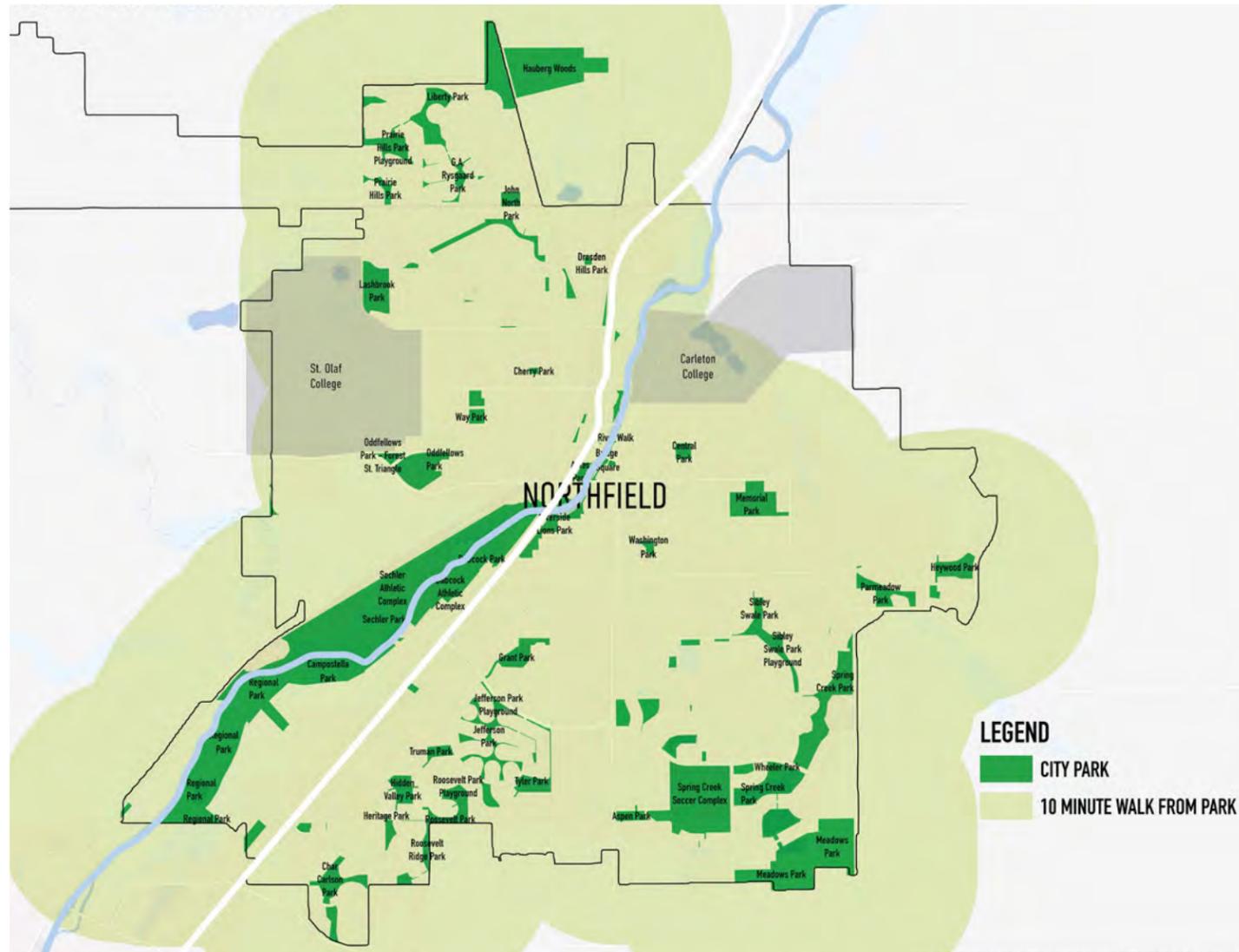
The map at left shows the existing outdoor park amenities by type. The greater number and variety of amenities are currently located in the south half of the city.

The map at right shows the existing winter amenities by type. There are a limited number of winter facilities and most are in the central part of the city.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING WINTER AMENITIES



AREAS WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK OF A PARK

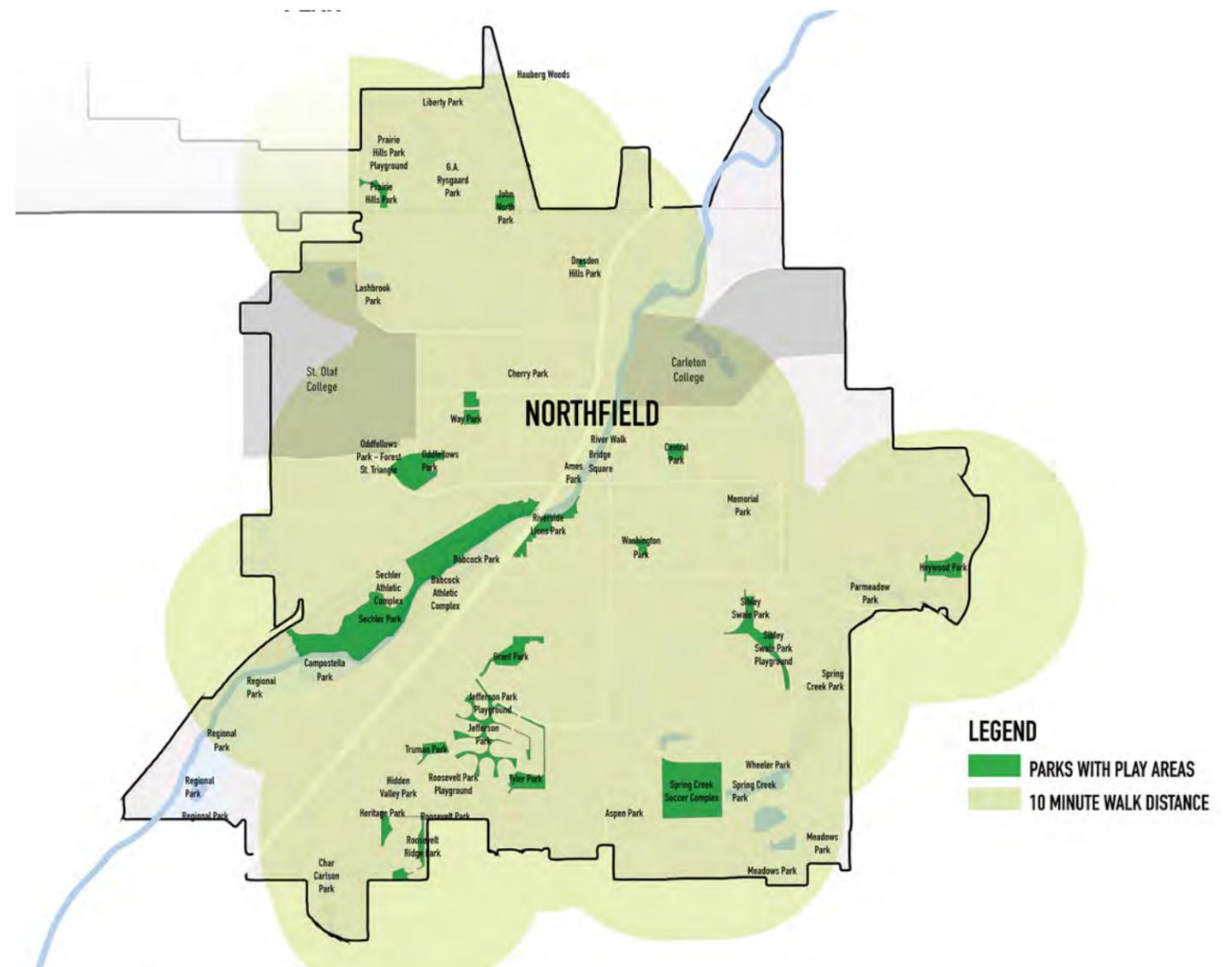


GIS MAPPING OF EXISTING PARK DATA

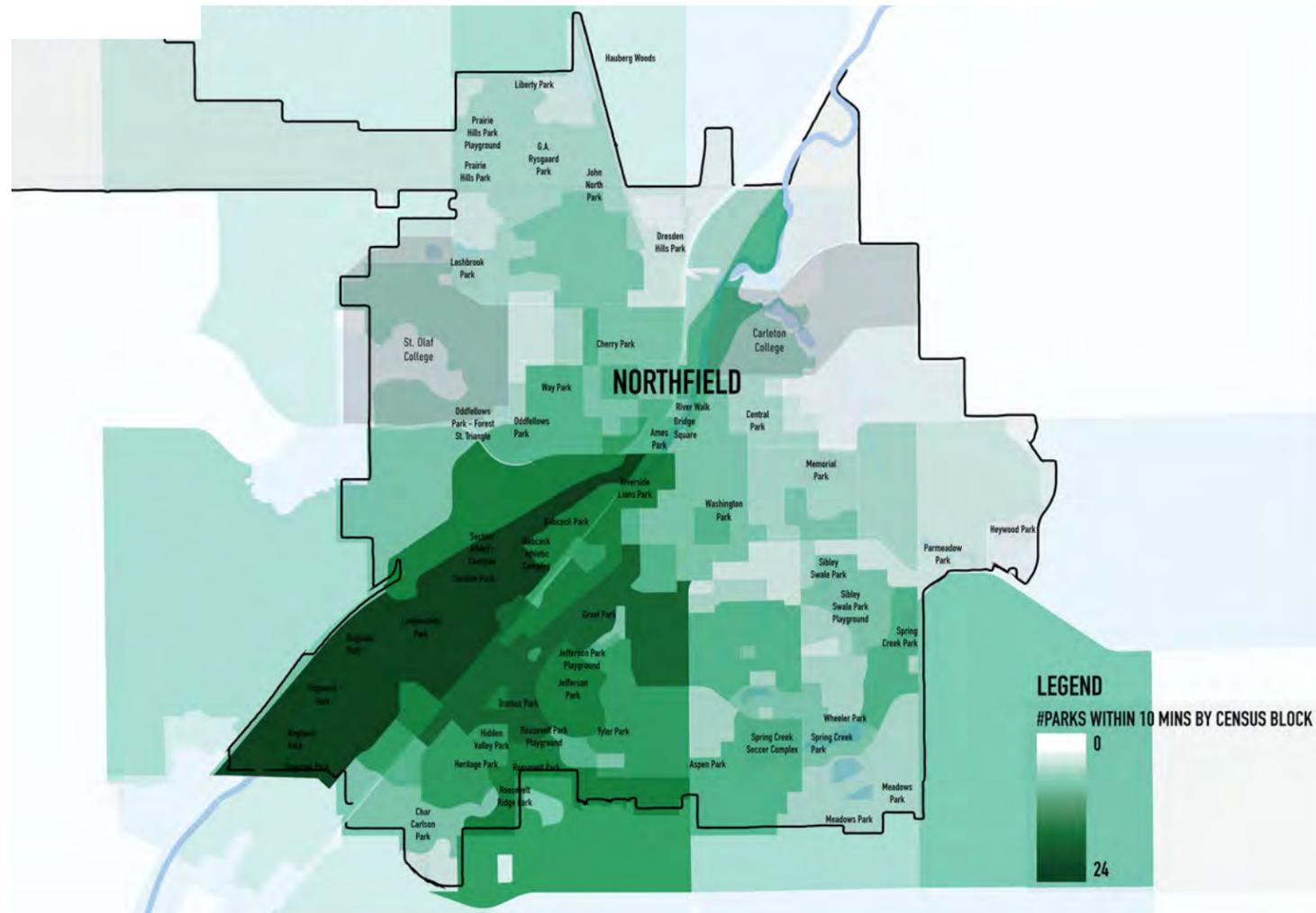
The map at left shows the existing park locations and their 10-minute walk radius. This shows good access to some type of park for most Northfield residents.

The map at right shows the existing playground locations and their 10-minute walk radius. This shows good access to some type of playground for most Northfield residents.

AREAS WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK OF A PLAYGROUND



PARK ACCESS BY CENSUS BLOCK

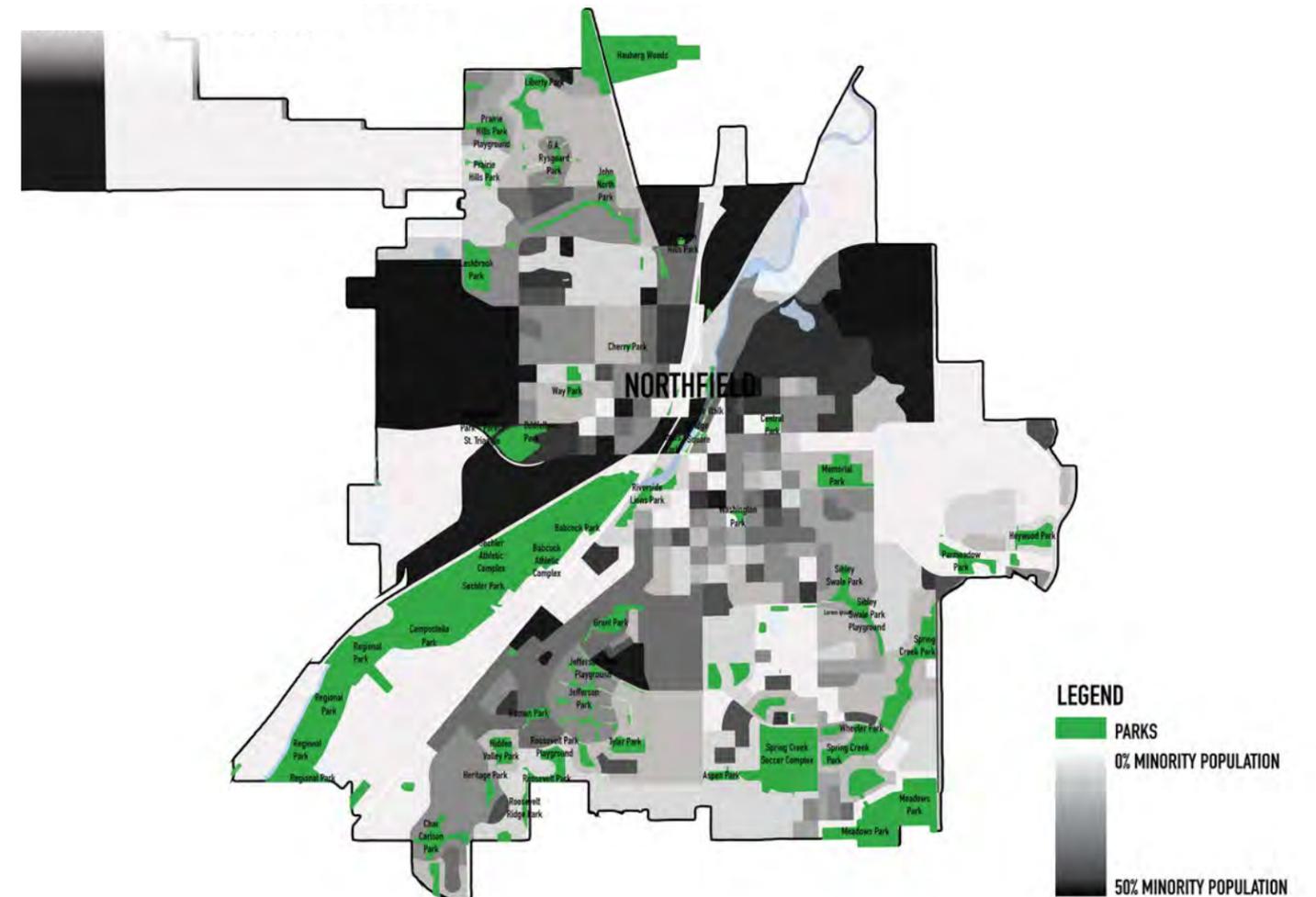


GIS MAPPING OF EXISTING PARK DATA

The map at left shows park access by census block. This shows that the area along the river and in the southwest quadrant of the city has access to many more parks within a 10-minute walk.

The map at right shows park access by minority population density. This shows that areas with the higher density of minority populations have the fewest options for park access.

PARK ACCESS BY MINORITY POPULATION DENSITY



## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES AND VIRTUAL MEETINGS

(125+)

- **Wednesday, August 31, 12:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting**
- **Monday, September 26, 12:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting**
- **Monday, September 26, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Sechler Park, Open House**
- **Thursday, October 6, 6 to 7 p.m. at Greenvale Park Elementary, Open House**
- **Wednesday, October 12, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Northfield City Hall, Open House and Virtual Meeting**

## SURVEY

(942)

- **Online/Paper Survey available August 31st - October 31st, 2022**

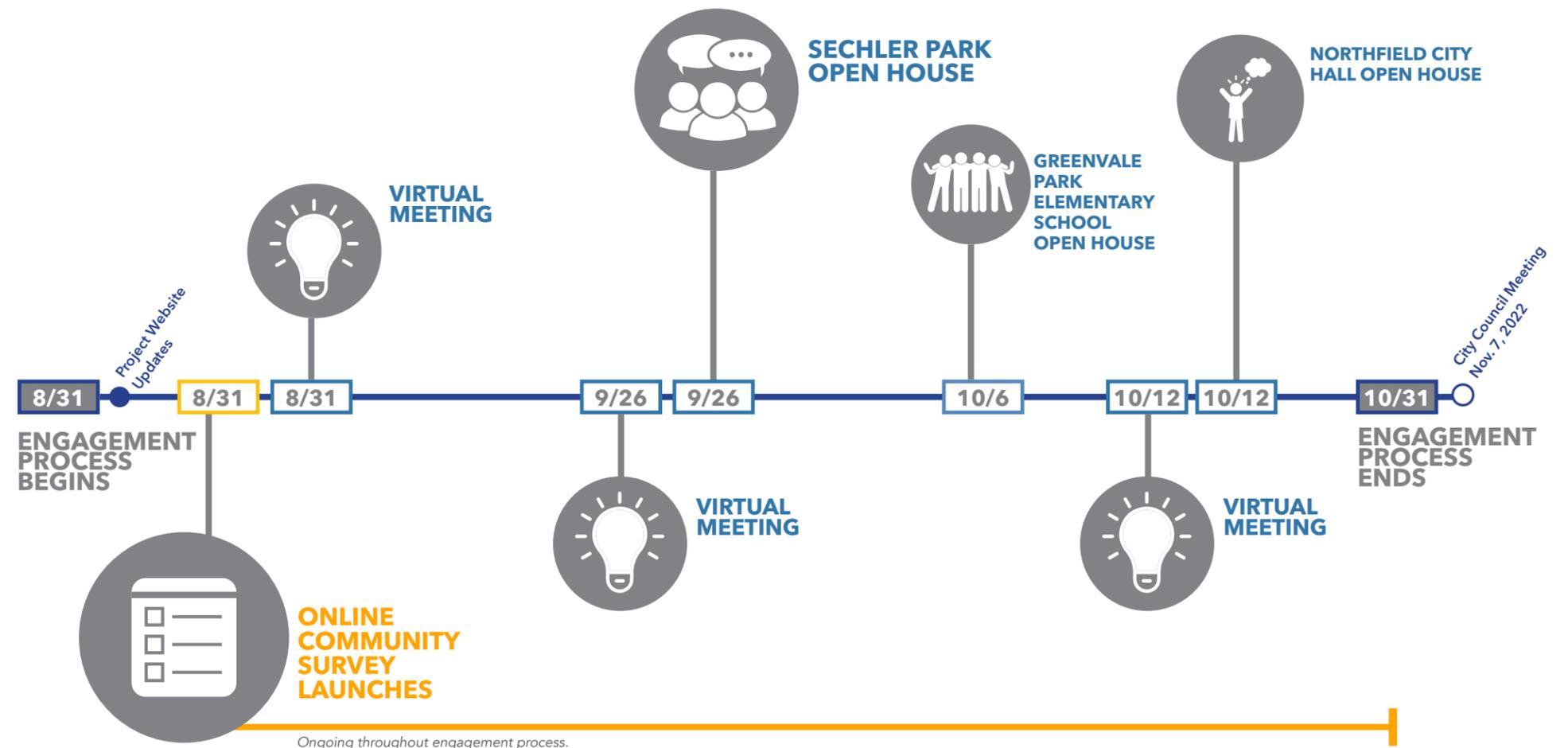
### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

To help identify and understand the values, needs and preferences of the community to create a Park and Recreation Capital Investment Plan that will meet the community's needs, input from numerous groups of people has been gathered through community open houses, virtual meetings, surveys, and stakeholder/ community conversations.

This effort has been intentional to reach out to traditionally underrepresented groups including seniors, youth, BIPOC, and people with disabilities to ensure the parks and recreation system is an asset for the whole community. Engagement events / activities are shown below, which together have resulted in fruitful information for how the city can create the parks and recreation facilities that Northfield residents want and need.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE

Community engagement efforts spanned from August 31, 2022 to October 31, 2022. The process began by launching an online community survey on the project website. Targeted email blasts to stakeholder groups including a survey link and project information combined with in-person engagement opportunities occurred throughout the process.



**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW**

Over 125 participants provided input to Northfield Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) at three community open houses and three virtual community meetings. The open houses were held at Sechler Park, Greenvale Park Elementary, and Northfield City Hall.

**SUMMARY**

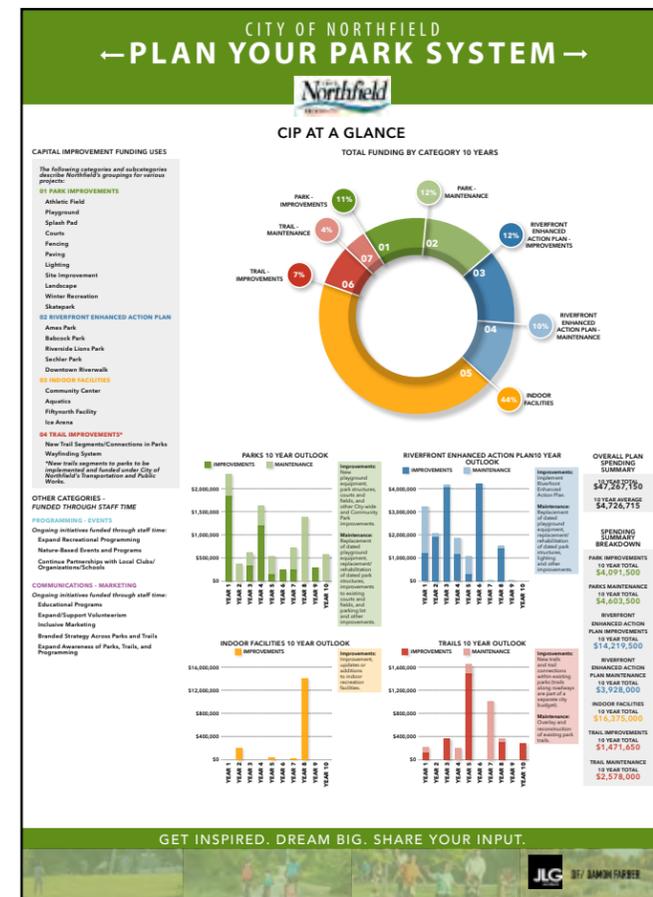
Image boards were used to engage and familiarize people with the Park and Recreation CIP and start conversations about what they envision for the future of the parks and recreation system (see Figure 1).

Using color coded stickers, participants selected new/additional activities that they would like to have included in parks. Participants were also asked to place icons and comments on a map of the City of Northfield. A portion of the exhibit was dedicated for additional written comments, suggestions, and concerns.

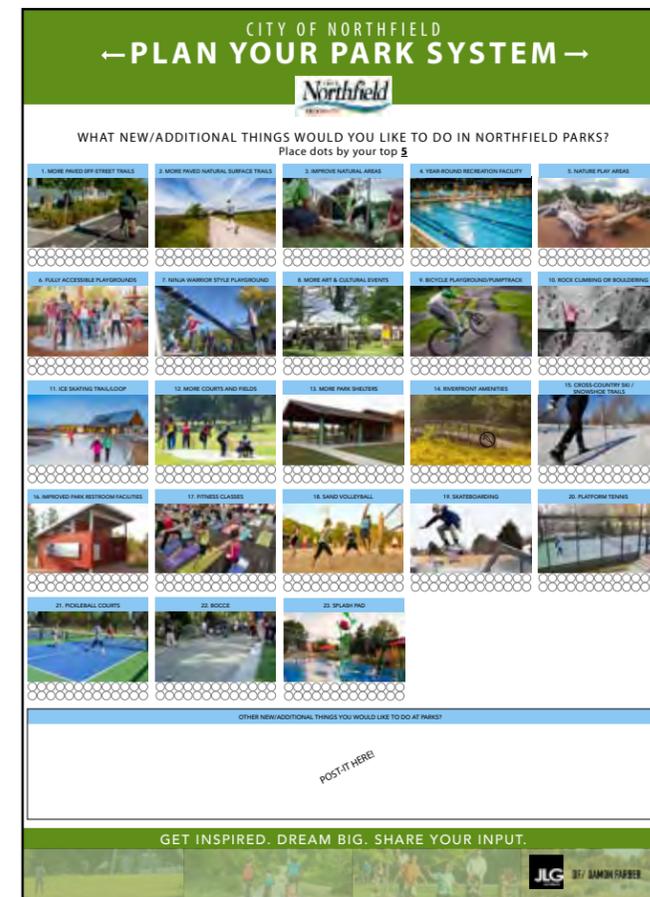
The voting board events complemented the online survey and were essential for reaching alternative audiences.

**FIGURE 1: IMAGERY BOARDS FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

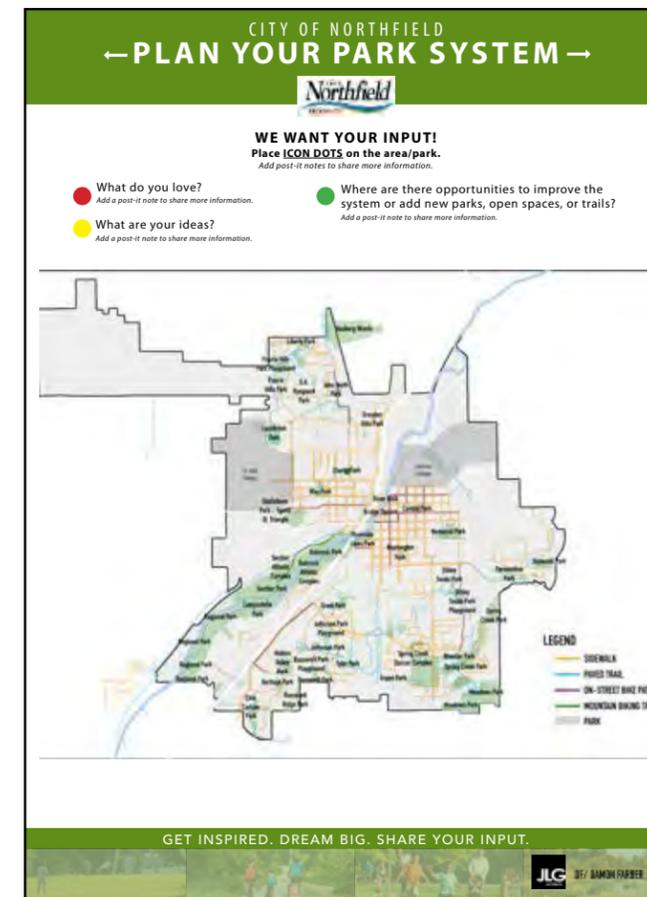
**1. Northfield CIP Overview**



**2. Dot Preference - New / Additional Things to do in the Parks**

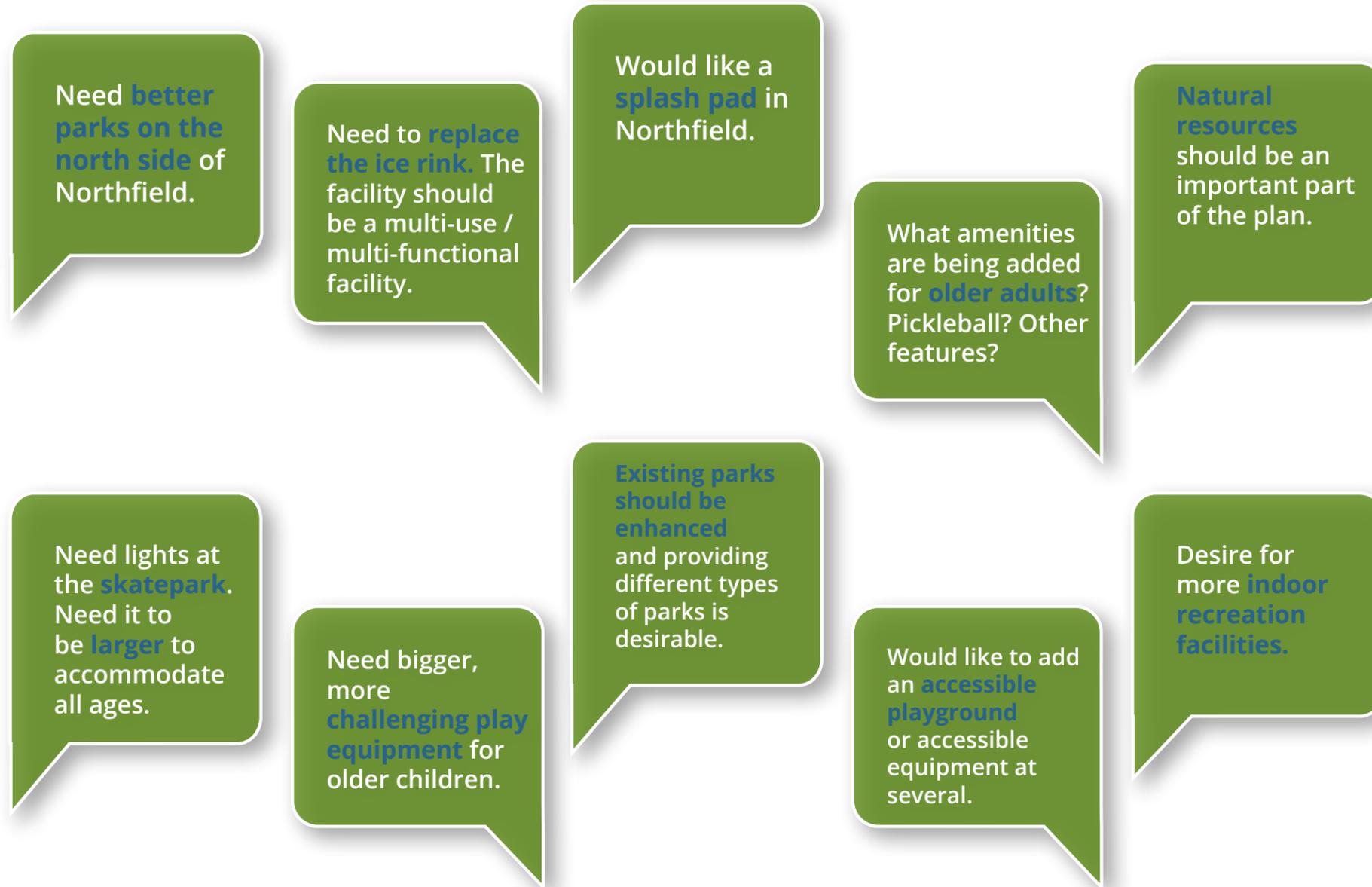


**3. Geographic Comment Mapping & Post-It Comments**



COMMUNITY EVENTS - WHAT WE HEARD

FIGURE 3: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

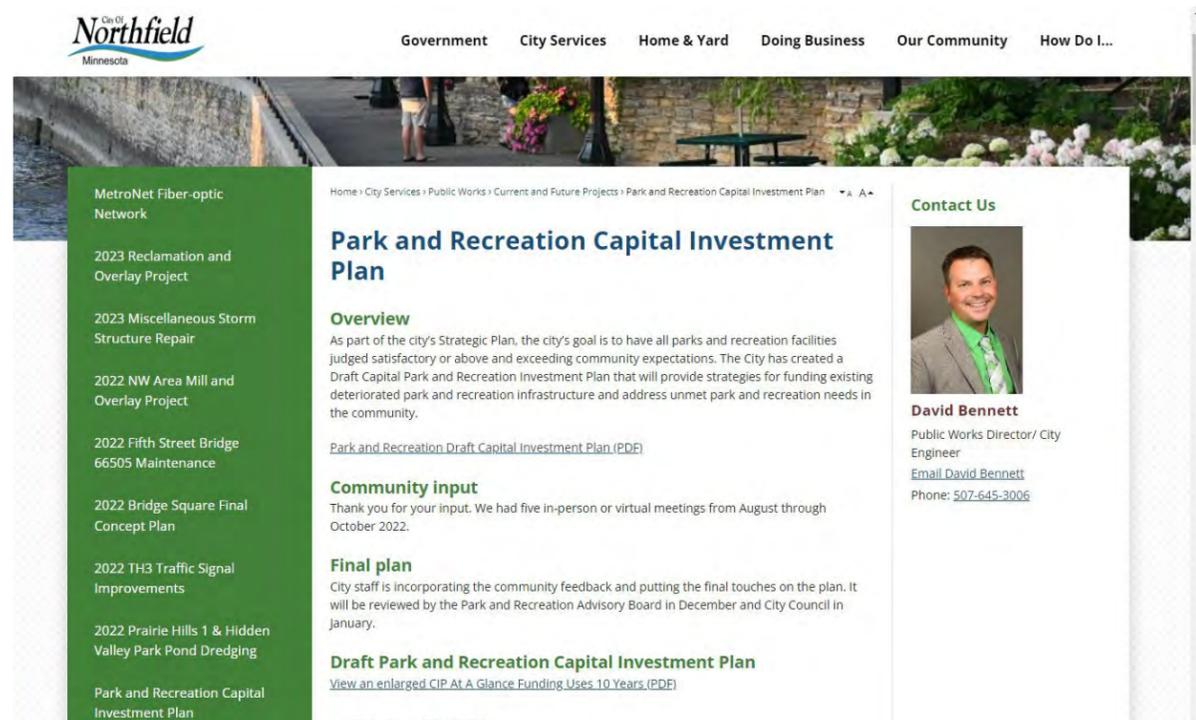


Community Open House at Sechler Park on September 26, 2022

### WEBSITE - HUB FOR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

An interactive project website was the hub for the online engagement and provided communications, information about the project, and provided ways to engage with the Northfield Park and Recreation Capital Investment Plan, including the online survey.

<https://www.northfieldmn.gov/1474/Park-and-Recreation-Capital-Investment-Plan>



### ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

A 14-question public survey was available to collect feedback between 8/31/2022 and 10/31/2021 and publicized through the city website, social media, posters, and at community open houses. In total, 942 people responded.



The charts at right provide demographic data on the survey respondents.

FIGURE 5: HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



FIGURE 6: DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- OVER 90% LIVE IN THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD.
- OVER 40% WORK IN THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD.
- UNDER 6% GO TO SCHOOL IN NORTHFIELD
- THE SURVEY MAINLY REACHED PEOPLE AGES 35 AND OLDER.
- OVER 57% HAVE LIVED IN NORTHFIELD FOR OVER 11 YEARS
- OVER 61% OF RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED AS WOMEN.
- OVER 84% OF THE RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED AS CAUCASIAN/WHITE.

FIGURE 7: LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS WITHIN NORTHFIELD

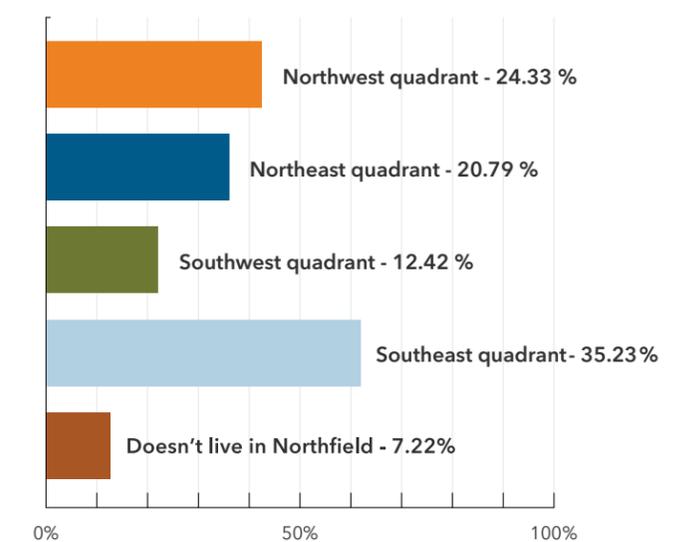


FIGURE 8: TOP 5 MOST UTILIZED PARKS AND RECREATIONAL SPACES

- 1 BRIDGE SQUARE
- 2 FIFTY NORTH FACILITY
- 3 RIVER WALK
- 4 CENTRAL PARK
- 5 MEMORIAL PARK / POOL / SKATEPARK

FIGURE 9: HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS UTILIZE THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IN NORTHFIELD?

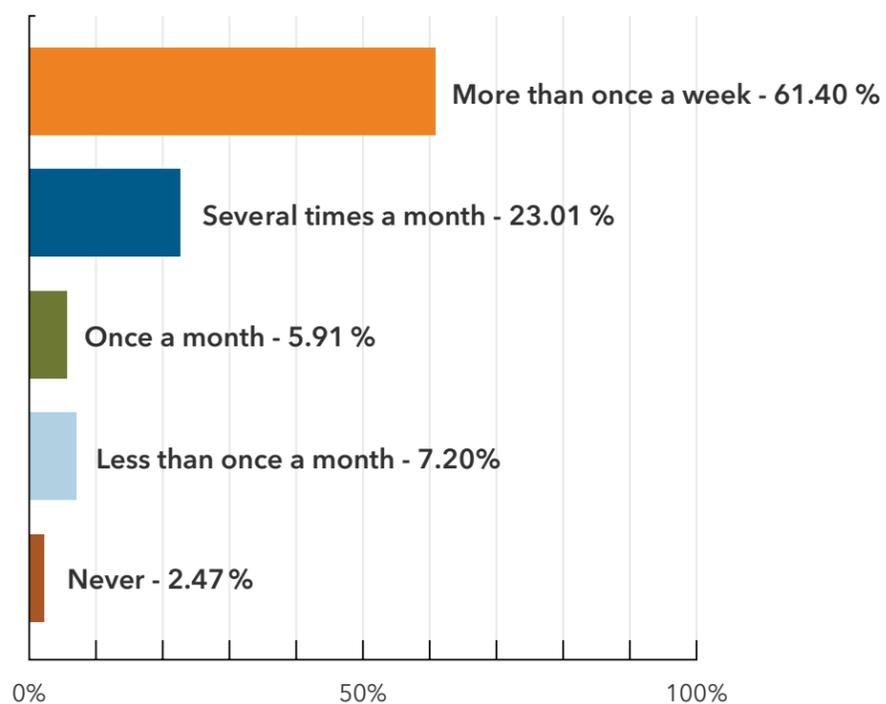


FIGURE 10: IMPORTANCE OF PARKS SYSTEM TO RESPONDENTS



**PARK USAGE AND PRIORITIES**

From the survey respondents, Figure 8 lists the top 5 most utilized parks and recreation spaces.

Figure 9 provides data on the frequency of park use by the survey respondents and Figure 10 notes the average importance of the park system.

Figure 12 lists the highest priority issues and themes that the city should address in this CIP plan.

FIGURE 12: TOP 5 CHOICES FOR IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES AND NEW/ADDITIONAL THINGS TO DO IN NORTHFIELD PARKS



FIGURE 11: HIGHEST PRIORITY ISSUES AND THEMES THAT THE CITY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS

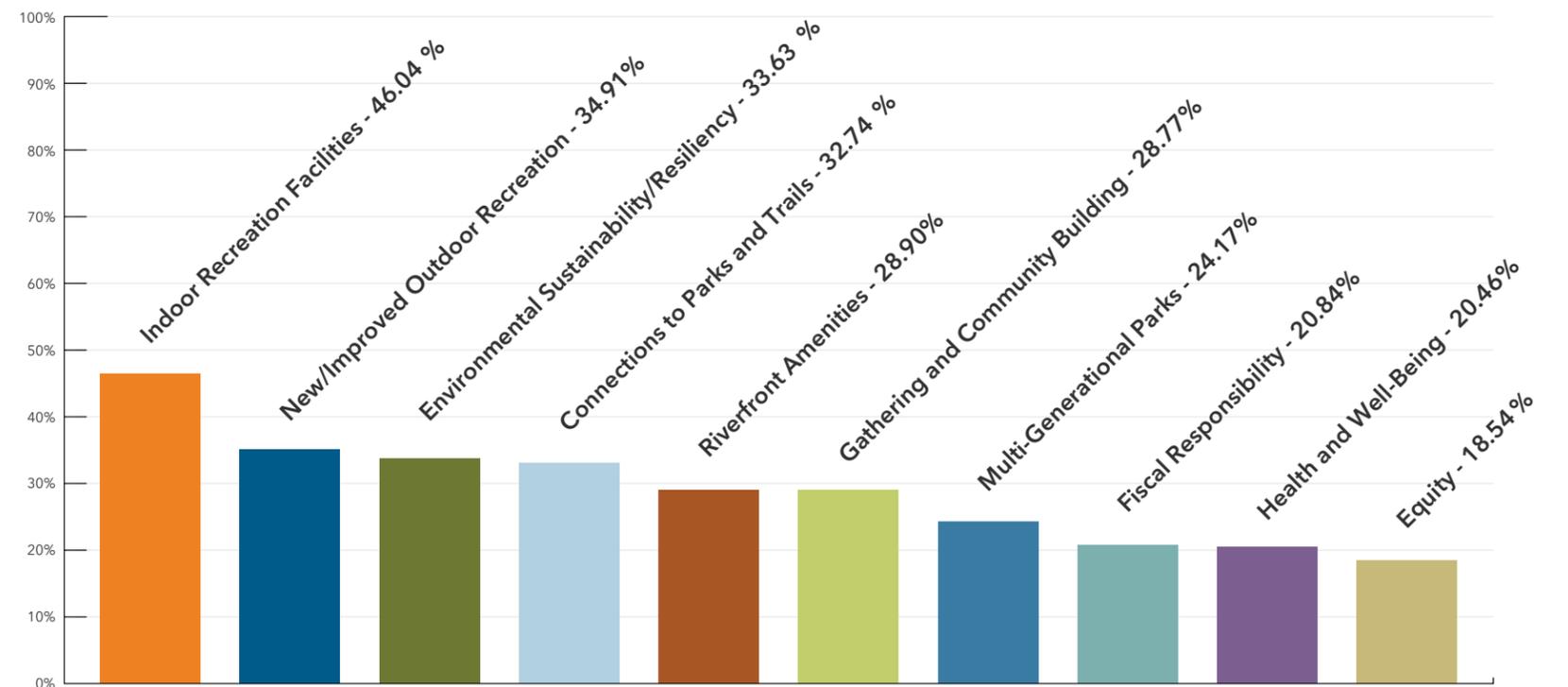


FIGURE 14: WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE \$4 MILLION TO FUND **NEW PARK IMPROVEMENTS** IDENTIFIED IN THE 10-YEAR CIP?

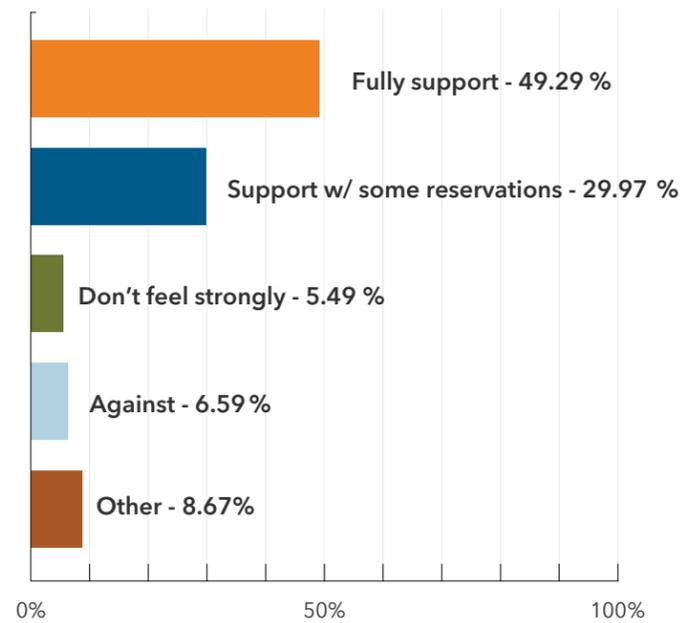


FIGURE 16: WOULD YOU SUPPORT A **BOND REFERENDUM** FOR FUNDING AN EXPANDED INDOOR FACILITY, SUCH AS THE NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (NCRC)?

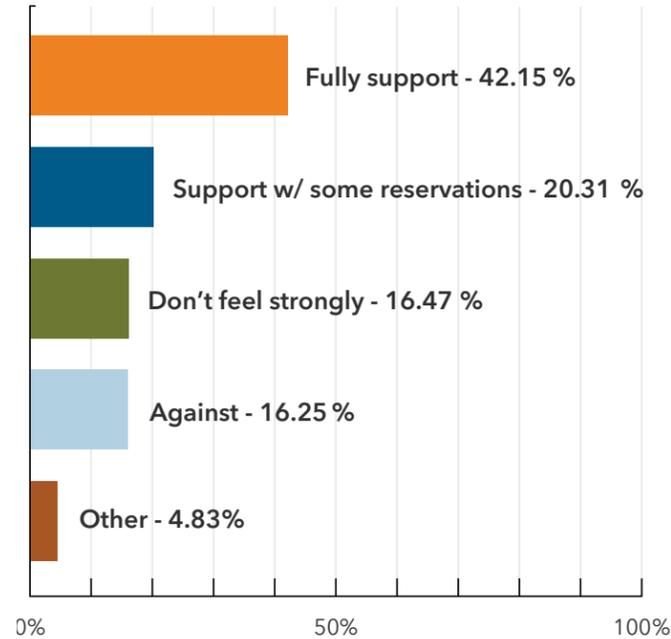


FIGURE 15: WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE \$10.2 MILLION TO FUND THE **MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION** OF EXISTING NORTHFIELD PARKS, TRAILS, AND RIVERFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE IDENTIFIED IN THE 10-YEAR CIP?

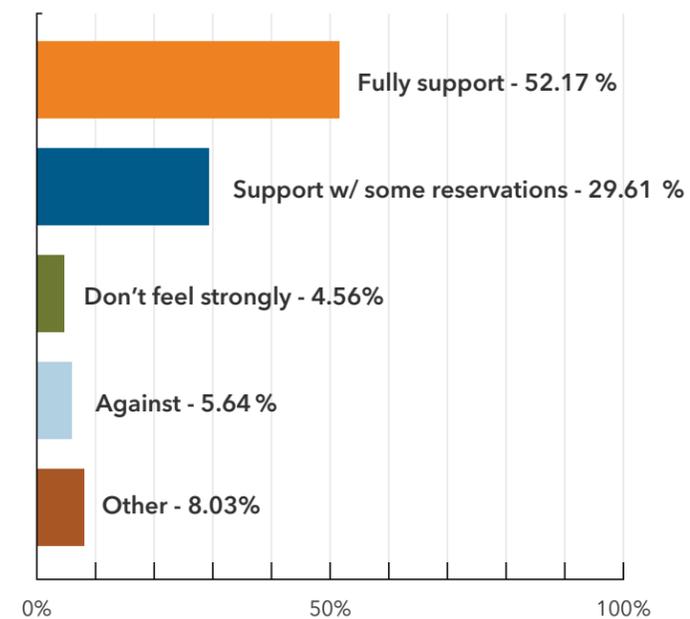


FIGURE 17: WOULD YOU SUPPORT A **0.5% LOCAL SALES TAX** FOR FUNDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN IN NORTHFIELD?

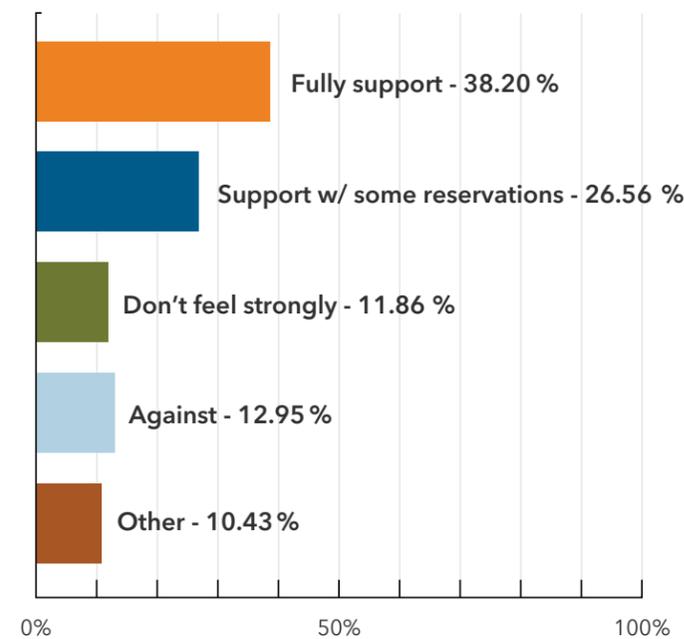
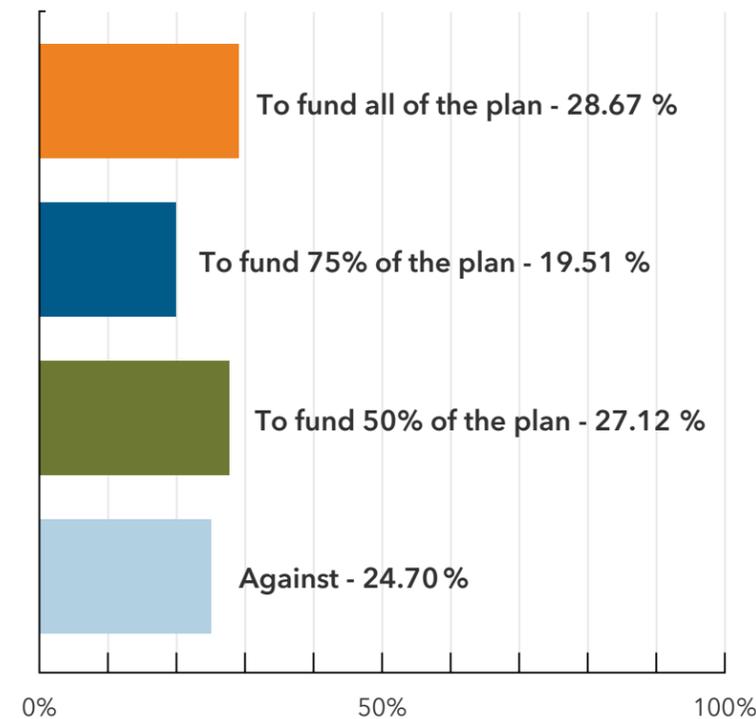


FIGURE 18: PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR A **PROPERTY TAX INCREASE** FUNDING THE PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.



**FUNDING SUPPORT**

From the survey respondents, the charts at left show the support for new park improvements (Figure 14) and park maintenance and rehabilitation (Figure 15).

Figures 16, 17 and 18 show the survey respondents' support of a various funding mechanisms for the park maintenance and improvements. Each show a high level of support for park and recreation projects in the City of Northfield.

**WORD CLOUDS OF RESPONDENTS' TOP THREE CHOICES IN PARKS TO RECEIVE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVEMENTS**



**First choice**

**Second choice**

**Third choice**

**ADDITIONAL SURVEY COMMENTS**

During the survey process, 465 additional comments were received. Below are a some of the commonly repeated comments.

**Do you have any additional comments or other specific suggestions for the Northfield Parks and Recreation Capital Funding Plan update?**

Equity must be in the forefront. The north side and Viking Terrace needs more attention.

The city needs a new Ice Arena. A new facility is needed rather than patch what is existing.

We need more indoor facilities, including Pickleball / Tennis / Basketball / Volleyball! This helps so much with winter.

Investing in sports tourism provides outreach opportunities and untapped revenue for local businesses.

Fund things that are multi-generational, and usable year-round for a wide variety of ages. Prioritize things like biking and walking that all ages can do.

It's very important that the vision for Central remain as an historic town square and green space. The park should NOT be a place for athletic fields or permanent structures.

I would love to see Northfield embrace a river-centric orientation. Trails all along it that connect to all other trails, businesses that face the river or at least have patios/community spaces along the river.

Additional options for early walkers (age 1 - 2) such as more infant swings. I have been to the parks with both granddaughters barely 1 year old and 2 1/2 year old who both need the black swings - hard to have to share at times. Other than swings and sitting in the wood chips, not much for a crawler to do safely.

# CIP AT A GLANCE

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING USES

The following categories and subcategories describe Northfield's groupings for various projects:

### 01 PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Athletic Field
- Playground
- Splash Pad
- Courts
- Fencing
- Paving
- Lighting
- Site Improvement
- Landscape
- Winter Recreation
- Skatepark

### 02 RIVERFRONT ENHANCED ACTION PLAN

- Ames Park
- Babcock Park
- Riverside Lions Park
- Sechler Park
- Downtown Riverwalk

### 03 INDOOR FACILITIES

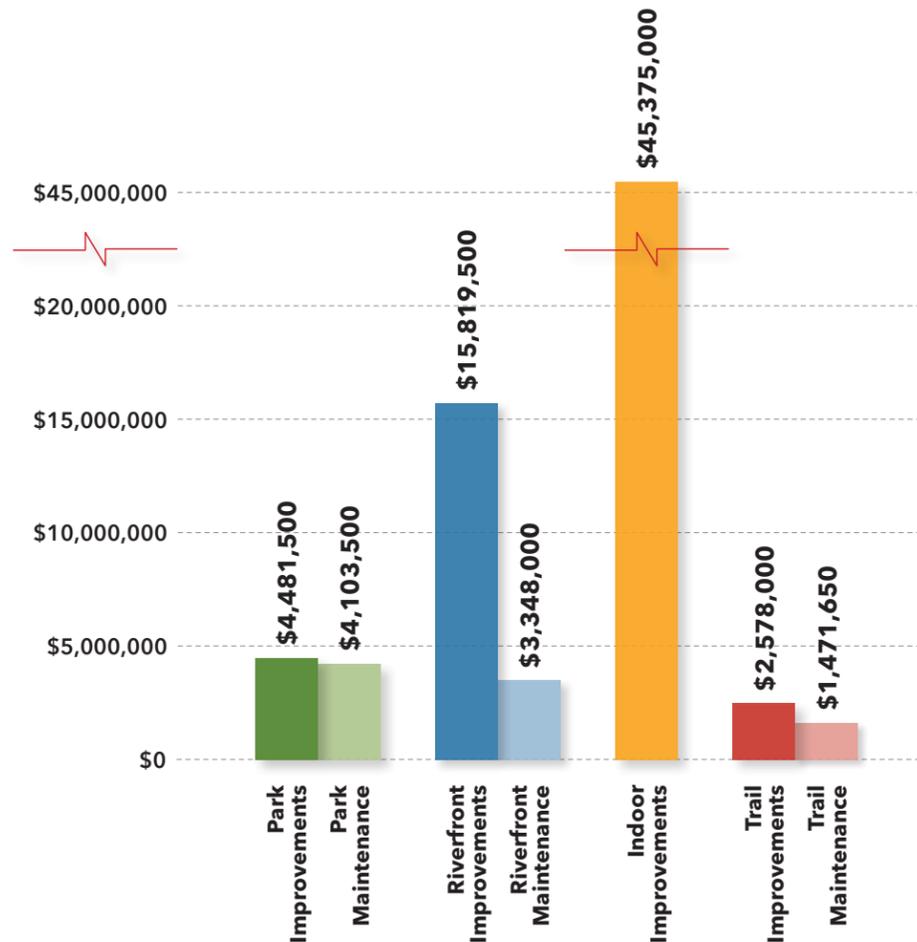
- Community Center
- Aquatics
- Fiftynorth Facility
- Ice Arena

### 04 TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS\*

- New Trail Segments/Connections in Parks
- Wayfinding System

\*New trails segments to parks to be implemented and funded under City of Northfield's Transportation and Public Works.

## TOTAL FUNDING BY CATEGORY 10 YEARS



## OTHER CATEGORIES - FUNDED THROUGH STAFF TIME

### PROGRAMMING - EVENTS

Ongoing initiatives funded through staff time:

- Expand Recreational Programming
- Nature-Based Events and Programs
- Continue Partnerships with Local Clubs/Organizations/Schools

### COMMUNICATIONS - MARKETING

Ongoing initiatives funded through staff time:

- Educational Programs
- Expand/Support Volunteerism
- Inclusive Marketing
- Branded Strategy Across Parks and Trails
- Expand Awareness of Parks, Trails, and Programming

## OVERVIEW

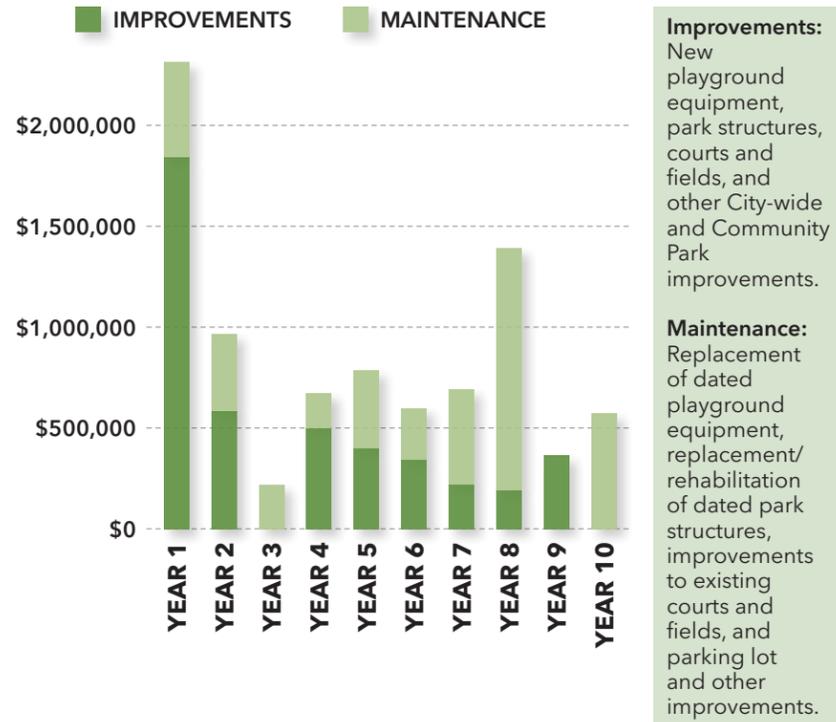
The charts and infographics on the following pages provide a summary of the proposed capital improvements that are being proposed for the City of Northfield.

## CIP AT A GLANCE

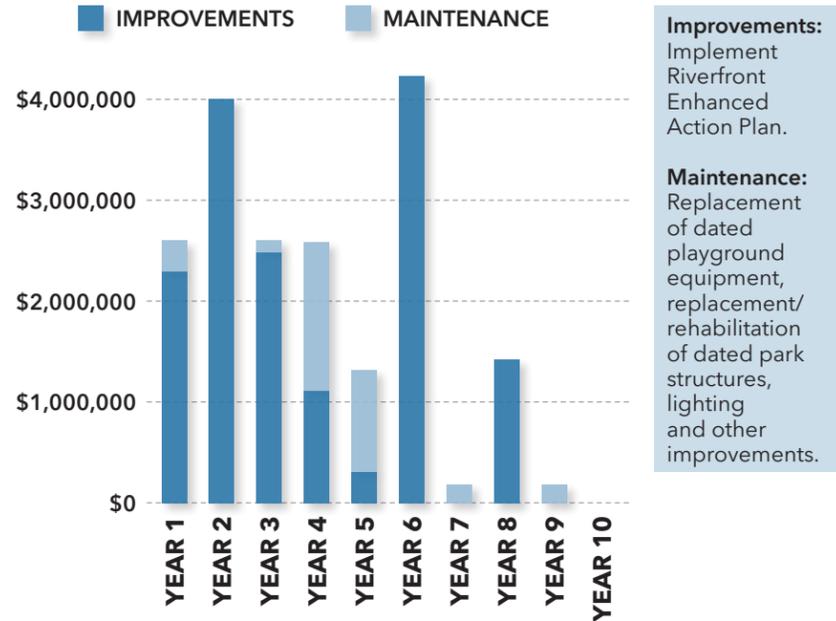
The infographics on this page provide a snapshot of the proposed CIP funding uses and total funding by category. A detailed breakdown of projects by park location and type are provided at the end of this section.

# CIP AT A GLANCE

PARKS 10 YEAR OUTLOOK



RIVERFRONT ENHANCED ACTION PLAN 10 YEAR OUTLOOK



OVERALL PLAN SPENDING SUMMARY

10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$47,267,150**

10 YEAR AVERAGE  
**\$4,726,715**

SPENDING SUMMARY BREAKDOWN

PARK IMPROVEMENTS  
10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$4,481,500**

PARKS MAINTENANCE  
10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$4,103,500**

RIVERFRONT ENHANCED ACTION PLAN IMPROVEMENTS  
10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$15,819,500**

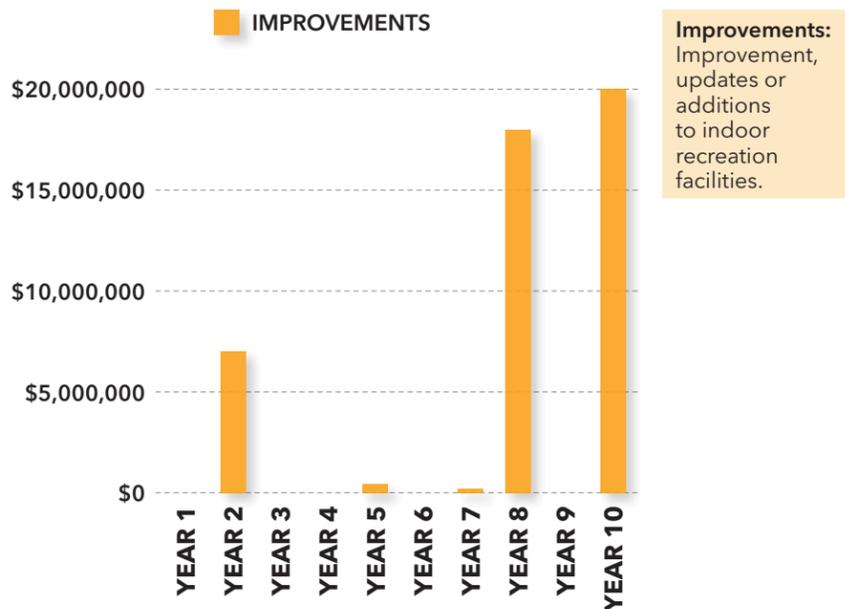
RIVERFRONT ENHANCED ACTION PLAN MAINTENANCE  
10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$3,348,000**

INDOOR FACILITIES  
10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$45,375,000**

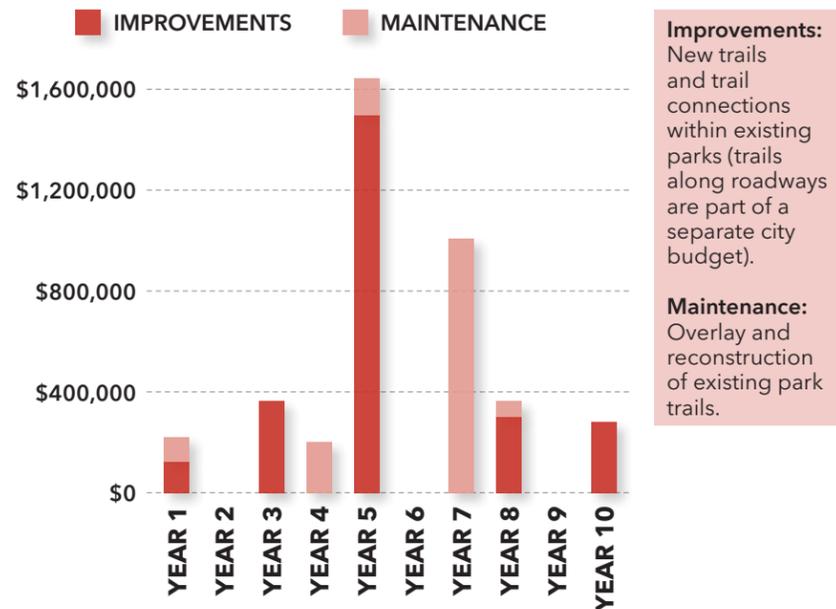
TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS  
10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$2,578,000**

TRAIL MAINTENANCE  
10 YEAR TOTAL  
**\$1,471,650**

INDOOR FACILITIES 10 YEAR OUTLOOK



TRAILS 10 YEAR OUTLOOK



## CIP AT A GLANCE

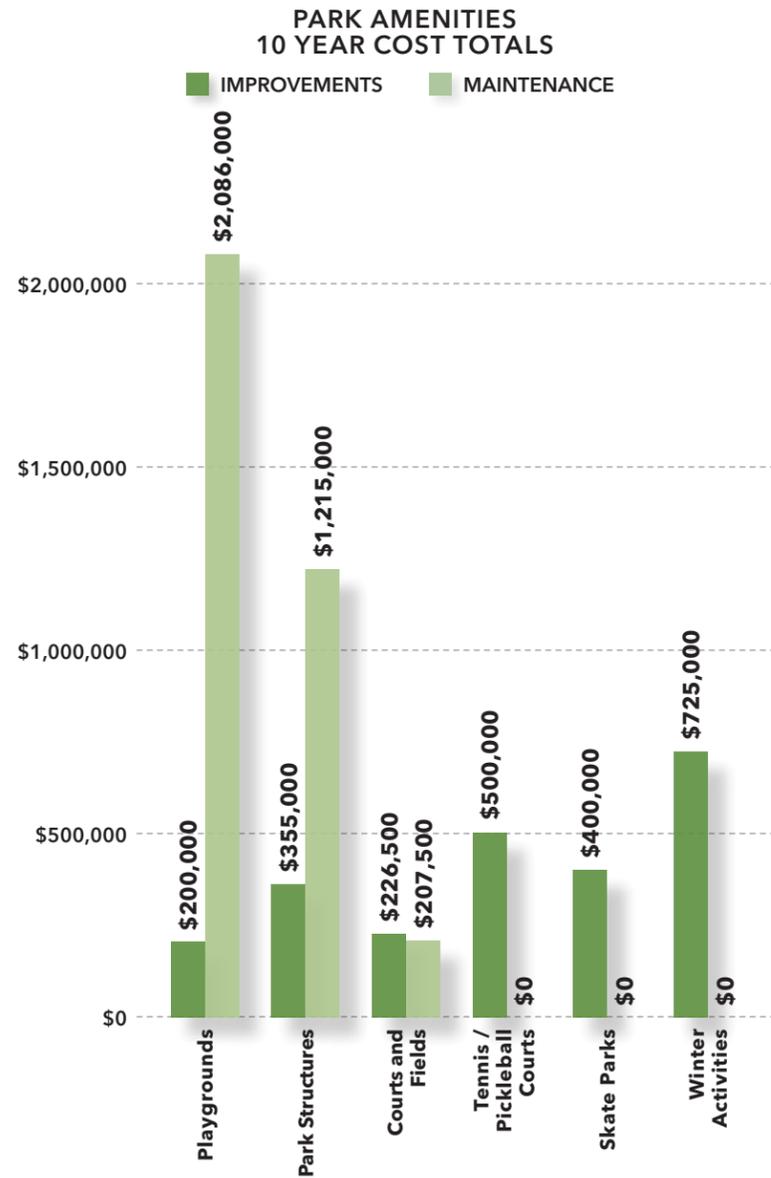
The infographics on this page break down the annual expenditures over the next 10 years in seven major categories:

- Park Maintenance (light green bars)
- Park Improvements (dark green bars)
- Riverfront Enhancement Maintenance (light blue bars)
- Riverfront Enhancement Improvements (dark blue bars)
- Pool/Indoor Facility Improvements (yellow bars)
- Trail Maintenance (light red bars)
- Trail Improvements (dark red bars)

A brief summary of items included and total costs are also provided.

Additional detail is provided on the following pages.

# PARK IMPROVEMENTS



**Improvements:** New playground equipment, park structures, courts and fields, and other City-wide and Community Park improvements.

**Maintenance:** Replacement of dated playground equipment, replacement/rehabilitation of dated park structures, improvements to existing courts and fields, and parking lot and other improvements.

**\$ 2,286,000** IN TOTAL **PLAYGROUND** IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

## AMENITIES INCLUDED IN THE PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS



## PARK IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL OF **17 PARKS** INCLUDED IN THE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

**\$50,000** TO PROVIDE **ACCESSIBILITY** TO EXISTING RESTROOM FACILITIES

**12** PROPOSED/UPGRADED **PLAYGROUNDS** WITH PROPOSED **SKATEPARK** IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPANSION IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS/FUTURE

**1 NEW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK** NORTH OF VIKING TERRACE

**\$1,500,000** TO PURCHASE LAND FOR **NEW PARK**

## PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

*When renovating, upgrading, or building new playgrounds, the following considerations should be taken:*

Unstructured nature-based play areas at two neighborhood parks

Nature play at a community park

ADA-compatible play equipment and ADA access

Play areas designed for ages 2-5 and 12+ in neighborhood and community parks

# RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN

RIVERFRONT ENHANCED ACTION PLAN PRIORITY MAP

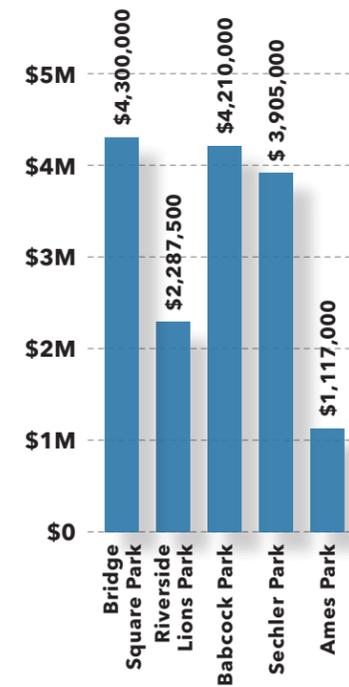


**\$500,000** REPLACEMENT OF DATED PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT TO SERVE A WIDER AGE RANGE AND ADDRESS ACCESSIBILITY

**\$1,120,000** REPLACEMENT / REHABILITATION OF DATED PARK STRUCTURES

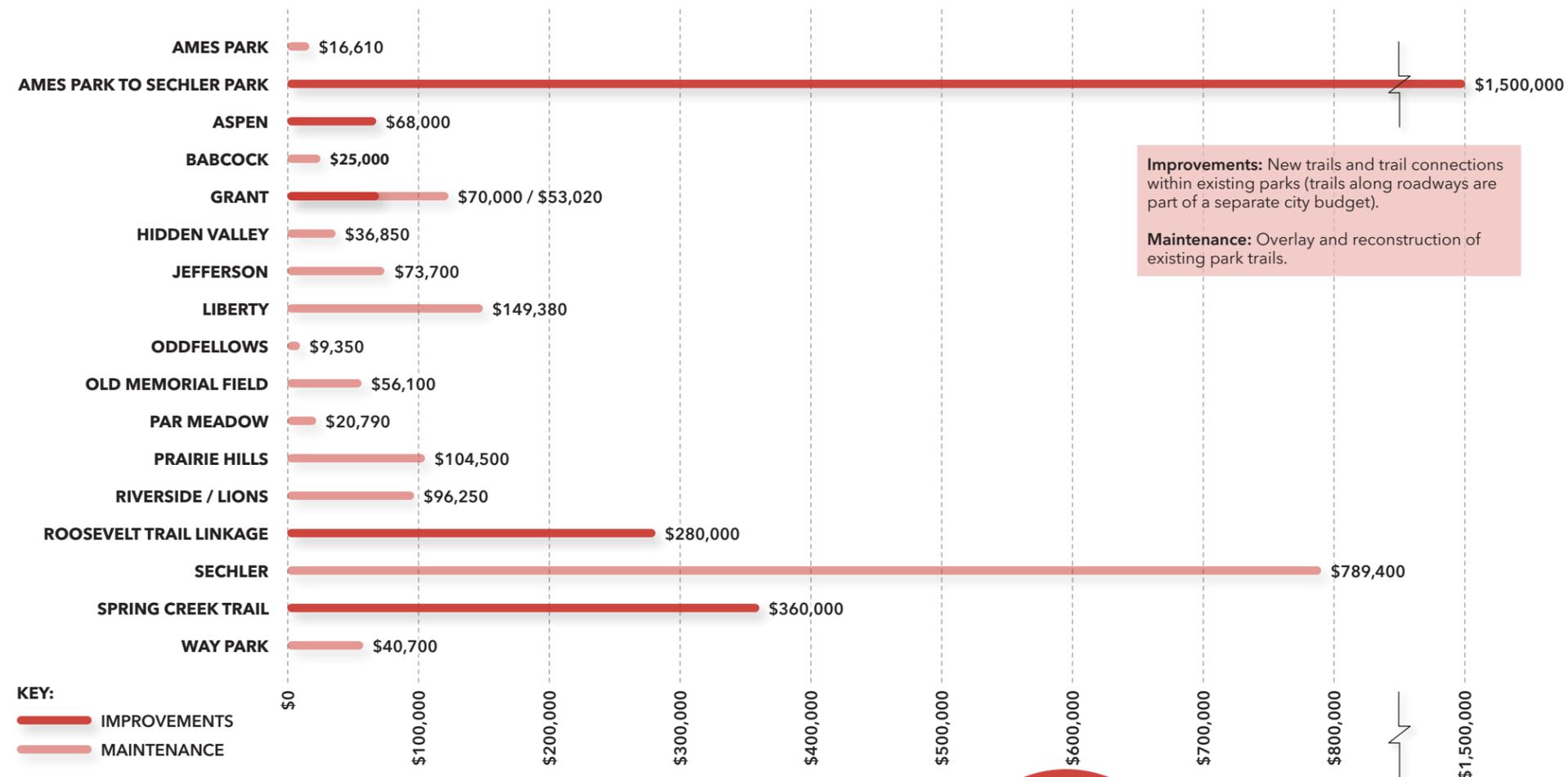
**\$350,000** IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING COURTS, FIELDS AND RINKS

RIVERFRONT ENHANCED ACTION PLAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS 10 YEAR COST TOTALS

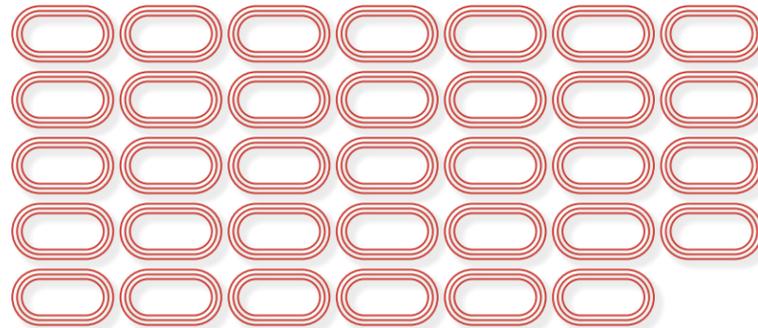


# TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS



± 44,880 LF EQUALS  
**≈ 34 OLYMPIC TRACKS**  
 OF TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS & MAINTENANCE THE NEXT 10 YEARS



**\$4,049,650**  
 OF TRAIL  
 IMPROVEMENTS  
 & MAINTENANCE  
 IN THE NEXT 10  
 YEARS

**\$300,000** TO PLAN AND  
 INSTALL A COMPREHENSIVE  
**WAYFINDING** SYSTEM

**5 NEW** TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS  
 AND **13 EXISTING** TRAIL  
 MAINTENANCE

**OVERVIEW**

The matrix on this page and on the following pages provide a park-by-park listing of all proposed maintenance and improvements. These items are reflected in the CIP summary and charts on the preceding pages.

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS**

The matrix at left provides a listing of trail maintenance and improvements that are proposed over the next 10 years.

City of Northfield Capital Improvement Plan for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Facilities											
Priority Initiatives											
Location or Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	10-yr total
<b>TRAIL MAINTENANCE</b>											
<b>Overlay and reconstruction of existing park trails</b>											
Ames Park				\$ 16,610							
Babcock	\$ 25,000										
Grant	\$ 53,020										
Heywood											
Hidden Valley							\$ 36,850				
Jefferson				\$ 73,700							
John North											
Liberty					\$ 149,380						
Oddfellows							\$ 9,350				
Memorial Field								\$ 56,100			
Par Meadow							\$ 20,790				
Prairie Hills				\$ 104,500							
Riverside Lions Park							\$ 96,250				
Sechler (overlay & MTT reconstruct)							\$ 789,400				
Way Park							\$ 40,700				
<b>Total investment by year</b>	<b>\$ 78,020</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 194,810</b>	<b>\$ 149,380</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 993,340</b>	<b>\$ 56,100</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,471,650</b>
<b>TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS</b>											
<b>New trails and trail connections within existing parks (trails along roadways are part of a separate city budget)</b>											
Aspen	\$ 68,000										
Grant	\$ 70,000										
Roosevelt										\$ 280,000	
Spring Creek			\$ 360,000								
Connection - Ames to Sechler					\$ 1,500,000						
System-wide Wayfinding								\$ 300,000			
<b>Total investment by year</b>	<b>\$ 138,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 360,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 280,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,578,000</b>

**PARK MAINTENANCE**

The matrix at left includes priority projects for maintenance of existing park equipment, amenities and facilities.

City of Northfield Capital Improvement Plan for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Facilities											
Priority Initiatives											
Location or Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	10-yr total
<b>PARK MAINTENANCE</b>											
<b>Replacement of dated playground equipment to serve a wider age range and address accessibility</b>											
Central	\$ 185,000										
Dresden Hill	\$ 250,000										
Grant										\$ 200,000	
Heritage				\$ 175,000							
Heywood (rubber mulch only)							\$ 16,000				
Jefferson							\$ 175,000				
Oddfellows		\$ 175,000									
Spring Creek								\$ 285,000			
Tyler					\$ 175,000						
Washington			\$ 200,000								
Way Park						\$ 250,000					
<b>Replacement/rehabilitation of dated park structures (gazebos, pavilions or warming houses)</b>											
Heritage (picnic shelter)					\$ 85,000						
Oddfellows (gazebo, pavilion)	\$ 40,000	\$ 200,000									
Roosevelt (warming house)										\$ 350,000	
Tyler (gazebo)							\$ 40,000				
Washington (warming house)								\$ 500,000			
<b>Improvements to existing courts and fields (baseball/softball, volleyball, basketball)</b>											
Heritage (basketball court overlay)					\$ 25,000						
Memorial (volleyball court)										\$ 15,000	
Roosevelt (baseball/softball)							\$ 150,000				
Washington (basketball court)			\$ 17,500								
<b>Parking lot and other improvements</b>											
Central (wall repairs)					\$ 100,000						
Memorial (parking lot)							\$ 90,000				
Spring Creek (parking, bridge, lighting, misters)								\$ 405,000			
<b>Total investment by year</b>	<b>\$ 475,000</b>	<b>\$ 375,000</b>	<b>\$ 217,500</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 385,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 471,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,190,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 565,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,103,500</b>

City of Northfield Capital Improvement Plan for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Facilities											
Priority Initiatives											
Location or Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	10-yr total
<b>PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>											
<b>New playground equipment</b>											
Sibley Swale (consolidate playgrounds)			\$ 200,000								
<b>New park structures (gazebos, pavilions or warming houses)</b>											
Central (small picnic shelter)	\$ 85,000										
Grant (small picnic shelter)							\$ 85,000				
Heywood (small picnic shelter)					\$ 85,000						
Sibley Swale (picnic shelter)			\$ 100,000								
<b>New courts and fields (baseball/softball, volleyball, basketball)</b>											
Grant (basketball half court)							\$ 40,000				
Heywood (basketball full court)					\$ 70,000						
Memorial (basketball full court)	\$ 70,000										
Sibley Swale (basketball half court)			\$ 40,000								
Way Park (ball field backstop)			\$ 6,500								
<b>Other new park improvements</b>											
Hauberg Woods Disc Golf Course									\$ 15,000		
Hauberg Woods (gravel parking lot)									\$ 50,000		
Heywood Park skating rink				\$ 300,000							
Liberty parking lot			\$ 250,000								
Liberty tennis/pickleball courts					\$ 250,000						
Liberty skate park								\$ 200,000			
Liberty skating/hockey rink						\$ 350,000					
Par Meadow (overlook/benches)							\$ 25,000				
Spring Creek (crossing structure) (crossing, bridge, misters, lighting)	\$ 185,000										
<b>City-wide and Community Park improvements</b>											
Accessibility to existing restrooms									\$ 50,000		
Additional winter rec. amenities							\$ 75,000				
Added tennis/pickleball courts									\$ 250,000		
Memorial (skate park expansion)				\$ 200,000							
Purchase land for new park	\$ 1,500,000										
<b>Total investment by year</b>	<b>\$ 1,840,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 596,500</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 405,000</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 225,000</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 365,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,481,500</b>

**PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

The matrix at left includes new improvements to existing parks including playground equipment, park structures, new courts, field and other improvements. The matrix also include the purchase of land for a new park.

**RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN**  
 The matrix at left includes both park maintenance and implementation of the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan. Additional information on the plan is available in the appendix and on the city website.

City of Northfield Capital Improvement Plan for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Facilities											
R											
Location or Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	10-yr total
<b>RIVERFRONT PARK MAINTENANCE</b>											
<b>Replacement of dated playground equipment to serve a wider age range and address accessibility</b>											
Riverside Lions (playground 1)	\$ 300,000										
Riverside Lions (playground 2)					\$ 200,000						
<b>Replacement/rehabilitation of dated park structures (gazebos, pavilions or warming houses)</b>											
Sechler (shelter, toilet expans., ADA)				\$ 1,000,000							
Sechler (pavilion replacement)				\$ 120,000							
<b>Improvements to existing courts, fields and rinks (baseball/softball, soccer, ice)</b>											
Replace outdoor rink / lights by Ice Arena				\$ 350,000							
<b>Lighting and other improvements</b>											
Riverside Lions trail lighting					\$ 150,000						
Sechler Parking Lot Maintenance					\$ 500,000						
Sechler Baseball Scoreboards			\$ 32,000		\$ 32,000		\$ 32,000		\$ 32,000		
Sechler replace field lights with LED			\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		
<b>Total investment by year</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 182,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,470,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,032,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 182,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 182,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,348,000</b>
<b>RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS</b>											
<b>Implement Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan</b>											
Bridge Square Phase 1 - Design	\$ 300,000										
Bridge Square Phase 2 - Construct		\$ 4,000,000									
Ames Plan Implementation (1)				\$ 1,117,000							
Babcock Plan Implementation (2)						\$ 4,210,000					
Riverside Lions Picnic Shelter/Restrooms	\$ 1,000,000										
Riverside Lions Splash Pad	\$ 1,000,000										
Riverside Lions Plan Implementation (3)					\$ 287,500						
Sechler Phase 1 Implementation (4)			\$ 2,500,000								
Sechler Phase 2 Implementation (5)								\$ 1,405,000			
<b>Total investment by year</b>	<b>\$ 2,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,117,000</b>	<b>\$ 287,500</b>	<b>\$ 4,210,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,405,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 15,819,500</b>

(1) Ames Park Plan includes: gateway, promenade, point lookout, specialty gardens, seat wall, boulevard gardens, iconic playground, stormwater gardens, interpretive walk, plant screening, informal seating, flex lawn, river stage & steps, riverwalk connection, picnic shade and shared parking

(2) Babcock Park Plan includes: adventure park hq, rental storage and repair, kayak/canoe launch, plaza, wayfinding, BMX terrain park, paved pump trac, event lawn/flex space, plant screening, native plant stormwater gardens, multiuse trail, habitat shoreland restoration, parking lot

(3) Riverside Lions Park Plan includes: stormwater/pollinator gardens, nature playground pods, pergola and winter skating, flex lawn, art/story walk, boat launch, adult fitness pods along trail, gathering spaces with game tables and lounge seating, passive recreation (bocce, shuffleboard), new trail, and potential relocation of dog park

(4) Sechler Park Plan Phase 1 includes: field 1 & 2 irrigation and field lighting, a new iconic shelter with restrooms, expanding fields and parking for more tournaments, install sewer service to replace holding tanks.

(5) Sechler Park Plan Phase 2 includes: new crossing and paved trail at RR crossing, wayside rest and overlook, mountain bike trail, wooded bike trail loop, trailhead, new picnic shelter, new field, new parking at picnic area, new pedestrian bridge, fitness focused playground

City of Northfield Capital Improvement Plan for Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation Facilities											
Priority Initiatives											
Location or Area	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	10-yr total
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>											
<b>Improvement, updates or additions to indoor recreation facilities</b>											
FiftyNorth addition/renovation (1)								\$ 14,000,000			
NCRC Renovations								\$ 4,000,000			
Memorial Pool - replace climbing wall, add spray/play feature					\$ 300,000						
New Ice Arena (City/School District/Private partnership)		\$ 7,000,000									
Feasibility study for all inclusive recreation center							\$ 75,000				
Indoor Recreation Center										\$ 20,000,000	
<b>Total investment by year</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,000,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ 18,000,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 20,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 45,375,000</b>

(1) There could be a saving of \$2,500,000 if the walking track and pickleball courts were built/available for the public with the High School Fieldhouse

**POOL AND INDOOR FACILITIES**

The matrix at left includes a breakdown of the proposed 10-year plan for indoor facility investments.

The addition/renovation to FiftyNorth is based upon a recently completed planning study. If partnering opportunities for shared use of a future high school fieldhouse are proposed, then the size and scope of the expansion at FiftyNorth may be able to be reduced.

Costs for a new ice arena in this matrix are based upon a city/school district/private partnership for capital cost sharing.

## FUNDING

### POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Additional funds are needed to support new park features and programs, revitalization efforts, maintenance and operations, park planning and outreach, etc. Northfield needs significant investment to provide for, maintain, and operate the parks, open space, and trails system outlined in this plan. In planning for future park investments, the city should consider the following funding sources and partners.

### GENERAL FUNDS

General funds are typically used to maintain and improve parks, open space, and trail systems. General funds are the primary funding source for on-going maintenance, operations, and amenities. Many grants also have a matching requirement, which is often met by general funds.

### DEDICATED TAX LEVY

A city can hold a referendum for a dedicated tax levy with proceeds directed specifically for parks and recreation. The levy can fund capital projects as well as operations and maintenance. Proceeds may replace or supplement general funds.

### BONDING

General Obligation Bonds, Annual Appropriation Bonds, Tax Abatement Bonds, and Revenue Bonds can be used to provide additional sources of implementation funding for new park facilities, as well as repairs and/or upgrades to existing facilities.

### LOCAL SALES TAX OPTION

Minnesota Statutes 297A.99 provides the authority to levy a local sales tax with special legislation of a dedicated tax. The statute requires that a resolution also be passed by the jurisdiction including, at minimum, information on the proposed tax rate, how the revenues will be used, the total revenue that will be raised before the tax expires and the estimated length of time the tax will be in effect. Once legal authority has been granted, an election must be held prior to a jurisdiction actually levying the sales tax. The election will permit the use of the sales tax for specific capital improvements.

### STATE AID FUNDS

State aid funds are available for pedestrian and bicycle improvements on state aid streets. This funding source is particularly useful at the time of street construction or reconstruction. Minnetonka should consider this option for funding needed trail and sidewalk improvements as part of the Trails Improvements Plan.

### PARK AND TRAIL DEDICATION

Minnesota Statutes allow local governments to require dedication of land or cash in-lieu of land for parks and trails from new subdivision development. The dedication must be reasonable and related to the park needs and recreation demand created by the proposed development. It may only be used for new equipment or park facilities, not replacement of old facilities.

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The city partners with the Northfield School Districts, particularly in the use of athletic fields. The continued collaboration between the city and the School District is important in ensuring adequate access to athletic facilities and minimizing overlap in programs. Communication should occur on at least an annual basis about planned projects and additional opportunities to jointly develop open space and public facilities as appropriate.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with both public and private organizations are important opportunities to fund park facilities and programming. Organizations with partner funding can also provide assistance with design, outreach and maintenance.

### DONATIONS

Private donations are another potential funding source. These may be financial donations from individuals or private corporations.

### VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer efforts of labor from volunteer groups and associations have been very successful in Minnetonka to help raise awareness and defer costs of maintenance of trails and open spaces.

### GRANTS

Grants are another great opportunity to supplement funding for park facilities and programs. Below are some examples of grant opportunities that may be available to assist with funding of park improvements and programming:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**  
 The DNR provides state funding for parks and trails, offering a variety of grant programs and technical assistance. Grant programs provide assistance for nordic skiing trails, mountain biking trails, horseback riding trails, and recreational trails. Some programs also offer assistance for the development of park or for trail amenities such as shelters, restrooms, lighting, and seating.
- Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)**  
 MnDOT offers funding for trail or bikeway improvement projects. These may utilize a portion of federal dollars. Federal highway funding reauthorization may include funding for trail or sidewalk improvement projects under programs such as Safe Routes to School or the Regional Solicitation managed by the Metropolitan Council Transportation Advisory Board.
- Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment**  
 In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution to: protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Legacy Amendment increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent. The program began in 2009 and continues until 2034. The additional sales tax revenue is used to fund clean water, outdoor heritage, arts and cultural heritage, and parks and trails.

- Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**  
 In 1988, Minnesota's voters approved a constitutional amendment establishing the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Trust Fund). The purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide a long-term, consistent, and stable source of funding for activities that protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources for the benefit of current citizens and future generations.
- Foundations and Non-Profits**  
 Several foundations and non-profits support local projects such as park and trail improvements. The Minnesota Council of Foundations is a good place to identify foundations for potential funding of parks and trails in Northfield.

