

**Inver Grove Heights
Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
8150 Barbara Avenue
7:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS – Items that don't require action
 - A. Presentation on Little Free Library at the VMCC/Grove – Katie Alojado/Elizabeth Ponto
 - B. Review of Summer Recreation Programs – Jen Graham/Al Vandehoef
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our web site at www.invergroveheights.org
 - B. Find us on Facebook at Inver Grove Heights Parks & Recreation
 - C. Follow us on Twitter at @IGHParks
 - D. Next Meeting; May 9, 2018 Regular Meeting 7:00pm
5. CONSENT AGENDA – All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the Commission at least two days prior to the meeting; the items will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commission member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from this Agenda and considered in normal sequence.
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2018
6. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the Agenda. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please state your name and address for the record. This section is for the express purpose of addressing concerns of City services and operations. It shall not be used to clarify individual's views for political purposes. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Items that are brought back to the Commission for action from a previous meeting.
8. REGULAR AGENDA - Items requiring action that are new to the Commission.
 - A. Discuss Future of River Heights Park
 - B. Consider Establishment of North/South Valley Park Subcommittee
 - C. Review of Park and Recreation Section of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan
9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS - Items that need to be discussed without any actions.
 - A. Department Happenings
10. COMMISSION COMMENTS – A chance for Commissioners to ask questions or make comments.
11. ADJOURN

Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided to the Commission on each agenda item in advance from Staff; decisions are based on this information and past experiences. In addition, some items may have been discussed preliminarily at Work Sessions. If you are aware of information that has not been discussed, please raise your hand to be recognized. Comments that are pertinent are appreciated.

This document is available upon a 3 business day request in alternate formats such as Braille, large print, audio table, etc. Please contact Eric Carlson at 651.450.2587 or TDD/TTY 651.450.2501

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sethre called the February 21, 2018, Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Kevin Sethre; Vice Chair Kathryn Bauer; Commissioners: Al Eiden, Willie Krech, Patrick Farley, Mark Freer, Deb Tix, and Mary Gerhardt
Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Commissioner Joe Boehmer
Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

3. PRESENTATIONS:

None

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our web site at:

www.invergroveheights.org

B. Find us on Facebook at Inver Grove Heights Parks & Recreation

C. Follow us on Twitter at @IGH Parks

D. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m. (Change due to staff conflict)

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2018

Motion by Commissioner Eiden second by Commissioner Gerhardt to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Consider Park Dedication for Industrial Equities LLP – Case NO 18-09PUD

Park and Recreation Director Eric Carlson stated that Industrial Equities LLP is considering an industrial site on 8.3 acres located on the western border between the Cities of Inver Grove Heights and Eagan. He stated that the City does not have plans for parks in the area so the City is recommending that the developer pay Cash Dedication in the amount of \$5,000 per acre for a total of \$41,500. They are requesting that the developer provide a trail easement for the future Dakota County-Mendota Lebanon Hills Regional Trail that has been identified between the City of Mendota Heights and Lebanon Regional Park in Eagan.

Chair Sethre asked where the trail easement was located?

Director Carlson responded it would be located along the western border of the property.

Motion by Commissioner Sethre, second by Commissioner Krech, to Consider Park Dedication for Industrial Equities LLP – Case NO 18-09PUD

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

B. Consider Approval for Design Services/Plans and Specification for the Replacement of Rich Valley Tennis Court

Director Carlson stated that at your January Work Study Session, Superintendent Swoboda spoke to you about redoing the tennis courts at Rich Valley Park. He stated those tennis courts were closed last year due to the size of the cracks and was a safety concern. They have proposals from different firms to help with the development, plans, and specifications for that project at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. He is recommending to hire Fred Kolkman Tennis & Sport Surfaces, LLC., to put together those plans and specifications. He stated they hope to return to the Commission with bids in April.

Commissioner Freer asked how many courts were located there. He commented that if North Valley doesn't end up having tennis courts, maybe they would need to expand to this location to have a bigger tennis area within the City.

Director Carlson responded it is a single court at Rich Valley. He stated that they didn't feel the need to expand the tennis courts that they have in the Community. They feel the courts we have in our parks system and the middle school were enough to serve the tennis population.

Commissioner Farley asked if this was going to be an overlay or complete reconstruction?

Director Carlson responded it will be a complete reconstruction.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, second by Commissioner Freer, to approve the estimates and bids for Design Services/Plans and Specification for the Replacement of Rich Valley Tennis Court as presented.

Chair Sethre stated he had read about having soil sample done.

Director Carlson responded that they plan to do a soil analysis of what is underneath the tennis court to make sure the soil is suitable to get the longest life possible out of the tennis court.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happening

Chair Sethre commented that he had noticed an article in the Sunday newspaper's Metro Section regarding the west rink reconstruction.

Director Carlson stated the City Council approved the Joint Powers Agreement for the west rink. He stated they have met with the engineering firm to start the plans and specifications. They have also received bids for the purchase of a new Zamboni and expect the Council to approve that in the next meeting or two. They also hope to have the Council approve a Contract in early May.

Chair Sethre mentioned that the Golf Course was getting a starter building, some new timber steps and a new scorecard design.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Freer commented on how well the ice conditions were at the outdoor ice rinks this year.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Farley, second by Commissioner Freer to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Discuss Future of River Heights Park

Meeting Date: April 11, 2018
 Item Type: Regular Agenda
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:

- ☐ None
☐ Amount included in current budget
☐ Budget amendment requested
☐ FTE included in current complement
☐ New FTE requested – N/A
☒ Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approval of the disposal of real property, commonly referred to as River Heights Park, located at 8780 Inver Grove Trail. The parcel is 326,700 S.F. or 7.5 acres. The Commission is asked to recommend to the City Council that the land be divided into three 2.5-acre lots and used for single family residential development served by private well and private septic.

It is recommended that all proceeds from the sale of the three lots be deposited into the Park Acquisition and Development Fund (Fund 402).

SUMMARY

In 2009, the City of Inver Grove Heights disposed of park land owned by the City commonly referred to as Cameron Park located at 6501 Concord Blvd. The parcel was 56,430 S. F. or 1.3 acres in size. The purpose of disposing of the site was to provide a location for a business to relocate to because of the reconstruction of Concord Blvd.

The City of Inver Grove Heights currently has 28 parks which have 608 acres of park land not including Inver Wood Golf Course. The City strives to provide quality park and recreation services to the residents of Inver Grove Heights in the most cost effective way possible.

The southern portion of the City is guided for large lot development with minimum lot sizes of 2.5 acres and is currently not in the Metropolitan Urban Services Area (MUSA). The City does have six parks in the southern portion of the City as follows:

Park	Address	Acres	Park Development
Broadmoor	11306 Strafford Lane	7	Yes
Marcott Woods	2830 90 th St E	14	No
Marianna Ranch	9125 Alvarez Ave	64	No
Rich Valley	1841 105 th St E	71	Yes
River Heights	8780 Inver Grove Trail	7.5	No
Southern Lakes	10810 Alison Way	4	Yes

In the fall of 2015, the Commission worked on a plan to “Right Size” the city’s park system by serving the urban, northwest, and rural areas differently based on their density and development patterns. The Parks and Recreation Commission is interested in allocating resources effectively and wanted to provide good quality vs. quantity of park amenities.

Based on the fact that some of the current park land in the rural area was undeveloped, the Commission suggested to the City Council that some park properties might be best repurposed and sold for residential development including:

- Marcott Woods Park – 2830 90th St E
- River Heights Park – 8780 Inver Grove Trail

The City Council was interested in the concept and directed staff to verify each park property's ability to be sold. After researching the property, the City Attorney indicated that there are no restrictions on selling these park properties.

Options for consideration include:

- Develop property as a public park with a park ID sign, parking lot and other park amenities
- Sell park land to allow for the development of three (3) 2.5-acre residential lots served by well and septic
- Sell park land to a private party and allow property to be protected as "open space"
- Leave park "as is"
- Other suggestions

Before the City can dispose of any park property, it is important to reach out to the neighborhood to allow them to provide input into the process and, in that regard, over 200 notices were mailed out to property owners in the area to outline the public meetings they could attend to voice their support/disapproval. On Wednesday, April 4th, we hosted an informational meeting to provide property owners with information on the potential repurposing of River Heights Park. There were approximately 13 property owners in attendance

The Parks and Recreation Commission should allow those in attendance to address the Commission. After taking testimony, the Commission should discuss the pros and cons of selling or keeping River Heights Park and make the appropriate recommendation to the City Council. The next step in the process, after the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, is for the City Council to review the Park and Recreation Commission's recommendation and have public discussion at their Monday, May 7th City Council Work Study Session.

There are several attachments provided as background and additional information as follows:

Presentation	PowerPoint presentation for meeting
Neighborhood Meeting Information	letter, sign-in sheet and communications received
On-line survey monkey	https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RiverHeightsPark
August 2017 Information	Information compile from the last discussion in August 2017
SE Inver Grove Heights Open Space Map	Open space map of south east Inver Grove Heights
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA)	Map of the MNRRA corridor in Inver Grove Heights. The MNRRA corridor stretches from Dayton to Hastings and is 72 miles long

PRESENTATION



Ethics, Excellence, Engagement

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS Future Use of River Heights Park

8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

651-450-2500

www.invergroveheights.org

City Mission/Values

The City Mission:

The mission of the City of Inver Grove Heights is to provide services and facilities that enhance the quality of life in our vibrant community.

The City Values:

Ethical decisions by doing the right thing
Engaged people by delivering collaborative results
Excellence by setting high standards and exceeding expectations

Framing Decisions:

Ability to remain fiscally stable
Improve or stabilize operational efficiencies
Improve customer service
Staying attentive to our regulatory environment



History

- City has 608 acres of parkland in 28 parks
- City has 26 miles of bituminous trails
- Community survey indicated residents generally liked the existing amenities in the park system and wanted them to continue to be provided
- Finding the necessary financial resources to reinvest in the park system has been challenging

Value of Park System Assets

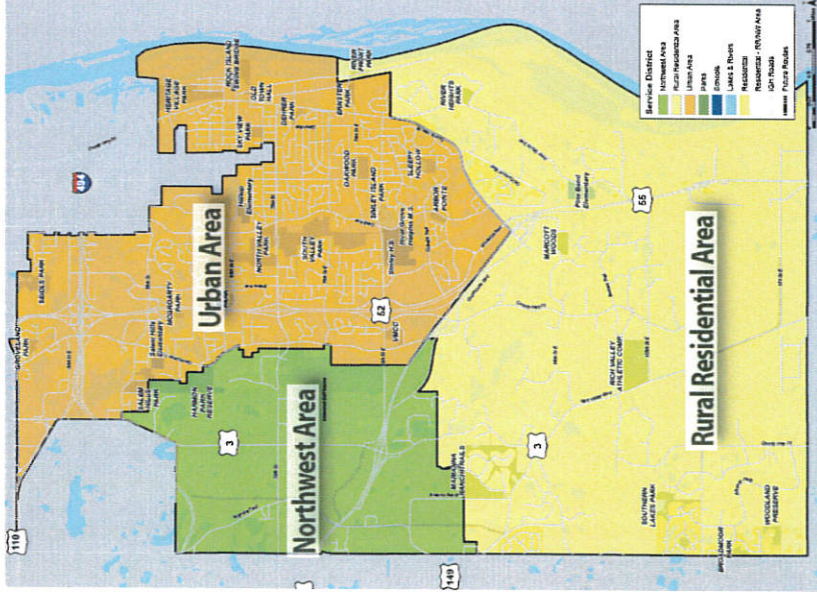
- \$7,600,000 in assets in the park system (tennis courts, playgrounds, lighting systems, shelters, buildings, etc.)
- Does not include trails or parking lots
- Does not include the value of the land

Financial Overview

- Approximately \$275,000 needed annually to provide for capital replacement
- Currently \$250,000 coming from the General Fund
- There is a gap in funding of approximately \$25,000 annually

Right Size Parks & Recreation

- Serve Urban Area, Northwest Area, Rural Area
- Focus on what to keep and repurpose
- Allocate resources effectively
- Quality vs. Quantity



8150 Barbara Ave. Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-450-2500 www.invergroveheights.org

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Should the City Repurpose Park Land?

- Consideration given to repurposing of park land
 - Marcott Woods (14 acres)
 - River Heights (7.5 acres)
- Use proceeds to help fund needed park system improvements
- Put property on the tax rolls

River Heights Park - 8780 Inver Grove Trail

- 7.5 acres
- 2.5 acre residential lots surround the park
- Mowed trail
- Natural area/open space



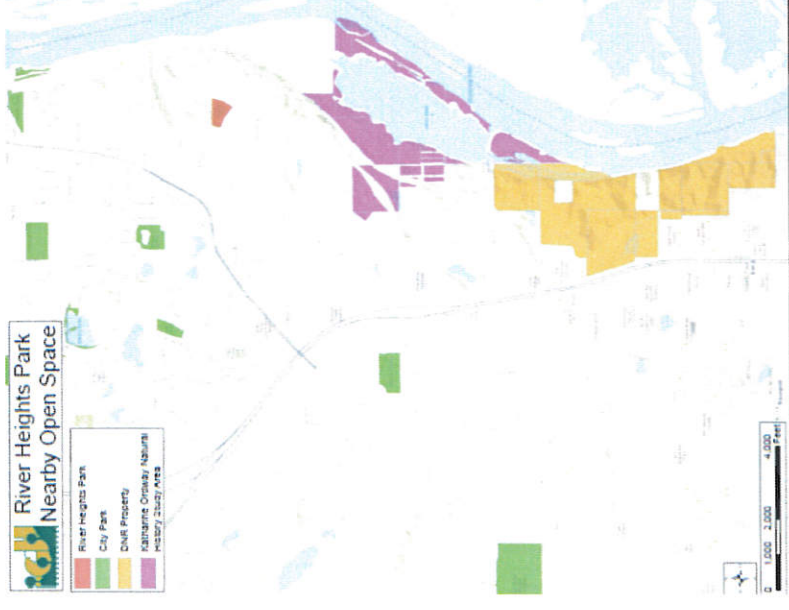
8150 Barbara Ave. Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-450-2500 www.invergrovehights.org



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How Much Open Space is Enough?

- Majority of parcels in the area are 2.5 acres or larger
- MN DNR Pine Bend Bluff SNA – 250 acres
- Katherine Ordway Natural History Study Area 300 acres



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651-450-2500 www.invergroveheights.org

What is the Best Future Use of River Heights Park?

- Develop property as a public park (park ID sign, parking lot, other amenities) – city owned public park
- Sell park land to allow for the development of three (3) 2.5 acre residential lots served by well and septic – put on tax roll
- Sell park land to private party and allow property to be protected as “open space” – put on tax roll
- Leave park “as is” – city owned public open space
- Other suggestions

Future Meetings

Date	Purpose	Time	Location
Wednesday, April 11, 2018	Park and Recreation Commission Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
Monday, May 7, 2018	City Council Work Session	6:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
TBD	City Council Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.



QUESTIONS?

Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation Director

ecarlson@invergroveheights.org

651.450.2587

8150 Barbara Ave. Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-450-2500 www.invergroveheights.org



**NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING LETTER, SIGN-IN SHEET
AND COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**



City of Inver Grove Heights
Parks and Recreation Department
"Discover the Opportunities"

8055 Barbara Avenue • Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 • Phone: 651-450-2585 • Fax: 651-450-2490 • www.invergroveheights.org

March 22, 2018

Dear River Heights Park Area Resident

Subject: River Heights Park

In July of 2017, the city considered selling portion(s) of River Heights Park. After listening to resident feedback, the City developed alternate plans and the Council never acted on the concept of selling portion(s) of River Heights Park.

The City Council is interested in continuing to explore the possibility of how to best utilize the River Heights Park property moving into the future and invites residents living in the area to participate in the process. Potential scenarios include:

- Development of the property as a public park which may include some of the following: a park ID sign, 10-15 car paved parking lot, paved loop trail, playground equipment, basketball court, etc.
- Sale of a portion, or all the property for residential development
- Sale of the property to a private party(ies) to allow the property to be protected as "open space"
- Other ideas/suggestions

The City of Inver Grove Heights will be hosting a public information meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers at 8150 Barbara Ave., to discuss the future use of River Heights Park.

Residents in the area are invited to attend a series of meetings to give input as there will be several opportunities to share your feedback. The tentative schedule is as follows:

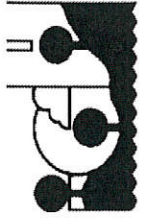
Date	Purpose	Time	Location
Wednesday, April 4, 2018	Public Information Meeting	6:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
Wednesday, April 11, 2018	Park and Recreation Commission Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
Monday May 7, 2018	City Council Work Study Session	6:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
TBD	City Council Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.

Should you be unable to attend a meeting, please feel free to email, call or send me a letter prior to the meeting with your comments regarding the park. My email is ecarlson@invergroveheights.org and my phone number is 651.450.2587.

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Inver Grove Heights

CC Mayor and City Council
Park & Recreation Commission



Sign-in Sheet River Heights Park Meeting

Name	Company	Phone	Email
Charles Kavalovski	Resident	651-457-2671	
Stephen T. Ash	Resident	612-965-6567	
Kerry Hotter	Resi	651-450-6039	
Danette Tranks	resident	763 234 1704	
Ron + Truse Wanger	resident	651-271-7878	twanger@hotmail.com
Greg Bauer	resident	651 455-5696	SHIRGregBauer@gmail.com
Denise Wilkens	resident	651-457-2476	
Janet Wilkens	resident	651-457-0139	
Kelly McCarthy	resident	651-457-0139	
Thomas Wilkens	resident	651-457-2476	
Alia Wacker	FMR	651-222-2193	autarek@fmr.org
Geoff Dittmer		612-309-6304	autarek@fmr.org
ALAN MEGHAN	SELP	651-260-9178	amegan@comcast.net

Eric Carlson

From: Linda Levi <llevi@churchofstpatrik.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

A few comments regarding River Heights Park:

In consideration of the rather small amount of land within the park boundaries and the parks location (residential homes all on 2 ½ acres or more, except for the Summit Pines area on the west side of Inver Grove Trail) being a more “rural” style area without the benefit of city sewer and water, we believe the current usage of the park suits the area perfectly.

The parkland is home to an abundance of wildlife-deer, turkey, birds of many varieties, etc. The mowed trail allows visitors to walk through the area without disturbing the wildlife inhabitants and keeps the serene river valley atmosphere intact.

We believe the idea to add a 10-15 car paved parking lot is unnecessary. The out-of-the way location could attract unwanted activity (teen parties, possible drug deal interactions). Also because home owners in the area have large properties those wishing for play facilities already have them installed on their own property. Seems unlikely that persons not living nearby would drive to a small park for this type of usage when they most likely have a neighborhood park in their home area. Why drive (bad for the environment and costly usage of gasoline) when you have the same in your neighborhood park?

IGH is currently developing several residential and commercial properties. This is great for our city. Open space is environmentally sound. There is only so much land – once developed, you can’t get it back.

As proud and lifelong residents of Inver Grove Heights, we feel the best usage of River Heights Park is to remain underdeveloped – keeping the current model with mowed trails, perhaps added some benches for seating.

Respectfully,

Tim and Linda Levi

Eric Carlson

From: WILLIAM ADAMS <plbgbywm@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 3:31 PM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

Hello Eric,

We are still of the same mindset to sell the property as 2.5 acre residential properties and not a "development" like what happened across the street.

If it's sold to private parties as open space, we may very well be back to this point again in the future.

It's our opinion that there would be more cost to the city if it's made into a public park considering the cost of maintenance. We are also of the opinion that the opponents of development are not in favor of more traffic or a parking lot.

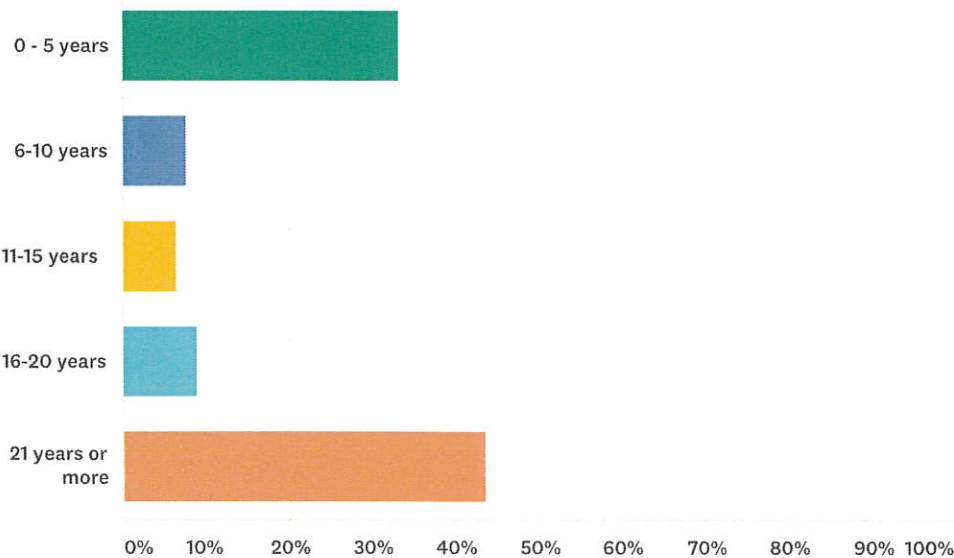
Bill and Mary Adams
8825 River Heights Way

ON-LINE SURVEY MONKEY

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RiverHeightsPark>

Q1 How long have you lived in Inver Grove Heights?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

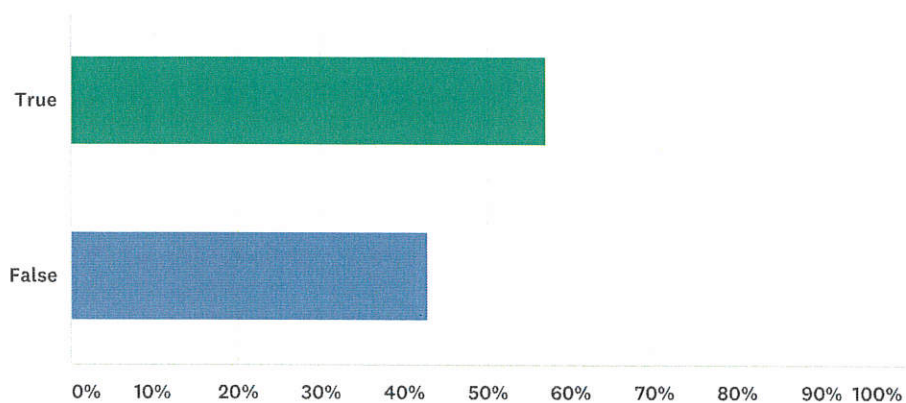
- 0 - 5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 21 years or more
- TOTAL

RESPONSES

33.33%	26
7.69%	6
6.41%	5
8.97%	7
43.59%	34
	78

Q2 My lot is a typical suburban lot size of 10,000 square feet or less

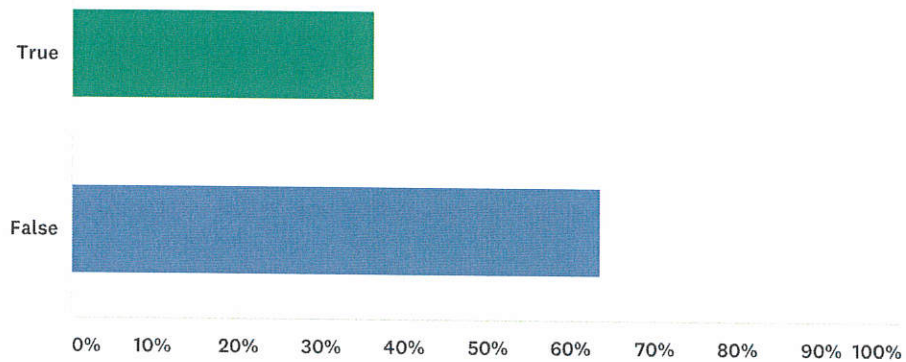
Answered: 77 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
True	57.14%	44
False	42.86%	33
TOTAL		77

Q3 My lot is a rural residential lot size of 1 acre or greater

Answered: 77 Skipped: 1

**ANSWER CHOICES**

True

False

TOTAL

RESPONSES

36.36%

63.64%

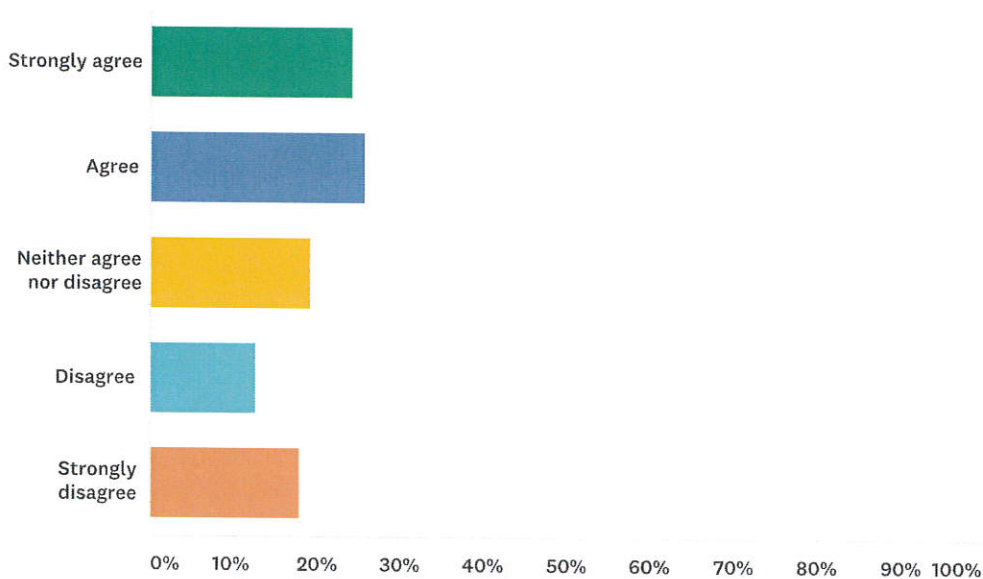
28

49

77

Q4 I think the City should develop the park land as a public park with a park ID sign, off road parking lot, and other park amenities

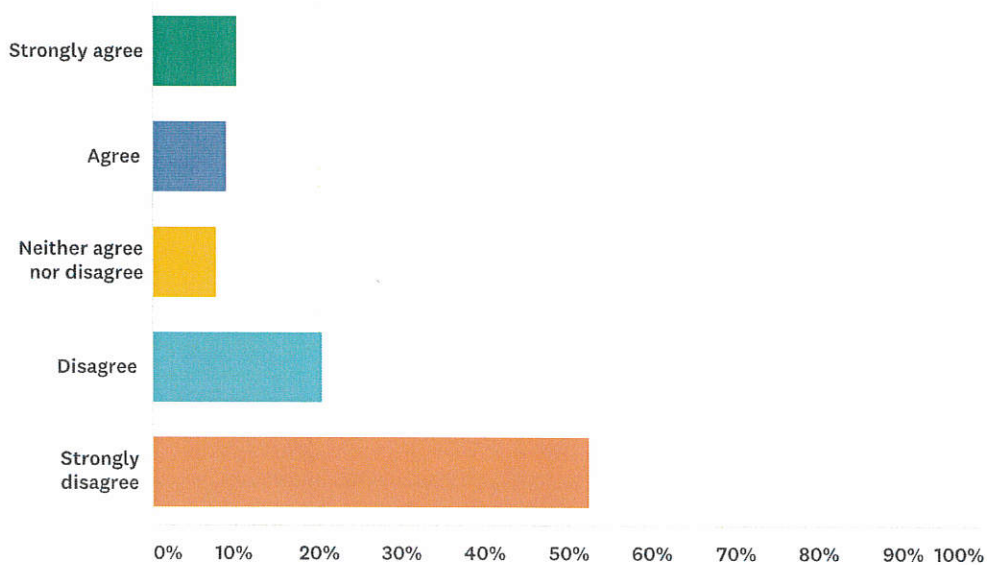
Answered: 78 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	24.36%	19
Agree	25.64%	20
Neither agree nor disagree	19.23%	15
Disagree	12.82%	10
Strongly disagree	17.95%	14
TOTAL		78

Q5 I think the City should sell the park land to allow for the development of three 2.5 acre residential lots served by well and spetic

Answered: 78 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

TOTAL

RESPONSES

10.26%

8.97%

7.69%

20.51%

52.56%

8

7

6

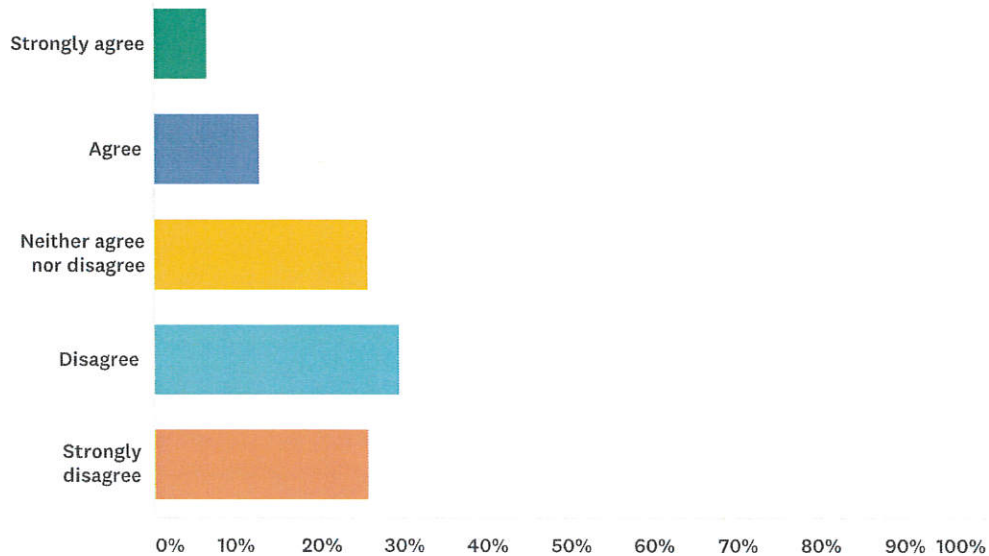
16

41

78

Q6 I think the City should sell the park land to a private party and allow the property to be protected as "open space"

Answered: 78 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

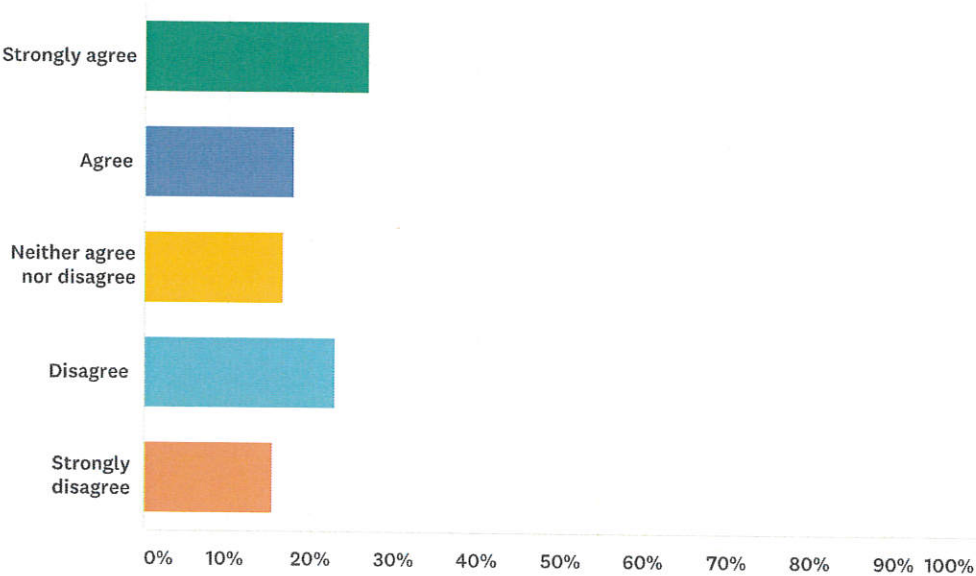
TOTAL

RESPONSES

6.41%	5
12.82%	10
25.64%	20
29.49%	23
25.64%	20
	78

Q7 I think the City should leave the park land "as is"

Answered: 78 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	26.92%	21
Agree	17.95%	14
Neither agree nor disagree	16.67%	13
Disagree	23.08%	18
Strongly disagree	15.38%	12
TOTAL		78

Q8 I have the following comments

Answered: 42 Skipped: 36

Q8 I have the following comments

Answered: 43 Skipped: 36

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Property should be sold and monies be used to help Maintain our remaining parks. The majority of tax payers Should benefit not the minority .	4/6/2018 11:04 AM
2	Keep park with a park monument and a tar path in the future.	4/5/2018 5:59 PM
3	If its not presently bring taxed and is instead draining public funds, find a way for it to generate revenue to offset current expenditures	4/5/2018 4:12 PM
4	Please put up sign	4/5/2018 2:15 PM
5	Dog park	4/5/2018 1:13 PM
6	Most of the residents in this area have acreage and no need for additional recreational space. Three more houses would be minimal impact.	4/5/2018 8:46 AM
7	Parks are a good thing. This one in particular is a nice natural area. Leave it alone. Pretty soon Inver grove will just be a bunch of houses. Why don't you focus on the area by Target. That was sure a success. Bad planning in this city.	4/5/2018 7:09 AM
8	Develope the park with a sign and parking so those outside the immediate are can use better. However, keep it just one or a few paths as a rustic getaway.	4/5/2018 5:40 AM
9	I do live off of the trail and we do need a walking distance park for the kids.	4/4/2018 10:40 PM
10	Do not sell IGH park lands and put conservation easement on River Heights Park and all other city parks within the MNRRA.	4/4/2018 9:28 PM
11	The park would be a great addition to our community with a paved walking and bicycle path.	4/4/2018 9:00 PM
12	The park is inside the MNRRA leave it as is.	4/4/2018 8:57 PM
13	None	4/4/2018 8:27 PM
14	If the city was smart they would leave the park as is	4/4/2018 8:18 PM
15	Keep the park as is! The one thing I love about this city is some of the open spaces it has! Foolish to do away with that.	4/4/2018 8:15 PM
16	The residents in the surrounding area use the park. Why aren't other parks considered to be sold?? The city would be absolutely stupid to get rid of green space, because you will never get it back. I think it's time for a new city council.... The planning in this city is ridiculous. Time to get some people who know what they are doing.	4/4/2018 8:06 PM
17	I think more parks are a great thing! The more access for kids and families to get out with each other in their neighborhoods is a bonus. Good parks within walking distance is strongly encouraged.	4/4/2018 7:17 PM
18	Don't sell to developers	4/4/2018 6:55 PM
19	NA	4/4/2018 5:30 PM
20	Put in a splash pad!	4/4/2018 5:23 PM
21	We sent an email to Eric Carlson expressing our opinions about River Heights Park.	4/4/2018 5:11 PM
22	This topic came before the council not too long ago and the consensus was to not sell the parcel of land. Why is it still being discussed? We need more green spaces in this town.	4/4/2018 5:00 PM

23	I live across the road from the park. It gets used by area residents as is so don't know why this comes up all the time. A more developed park would bring traffic and residents outside of the Inver Grove Trail and surrounding area. I suspect park patrons will also be parking on River Heights Way and our side of the street (on our grass) across from the park at all hours. If city doesn't want it area residents might buy it, or work with the city to keep it mowed, to keep it as open space. We don't need another paved parking lot, residents in this area have their own swings, basketball hoops, etc. The area is relatively small and fits the neighborhood as is.	4/4/2018 4:44 PM
24	As long as the city is maintaining it, make it a usable space for city residents, if it is going to be inaccessible like private land, sell it to private buyers.	4/4/2018 4:05 PM
25	Do Not sell off park land. It is meant to be there to preserve open spaces. That's why builders were made to set aside land! I've lived here for 41 years.	4/4/2018 4:01 PM
26	I am unsure if we can attend the meeting but would strongly like to see the area protected as open space. once anything is developed you can never go back so the original I keep seeing comments posted about the size of the lots of the homes near there...why is that even an issue?? If everything becomes developed where does all the wildlife go?	4/4/2018 3:56 PM
27	It seems the residents of this area use it more as "their" park and don't like any improvements/sale of, etc. to occur. That said, if this truly is a City Park, it should be labeled as such, with a Park name marker, trash cans, parking, and marketed as such. If the surrounding residents don't like that idea, sell it to be developed.	4/4/2018 3:38 PM
28	Environmental or all natural playground or both...	4/4/2018 3:15 PM
29	No more apartments please	4/4/2018 3:13 PM
30	The city should start developing commercially in order to have income coming back into the city and be able to improve and keep the city moving forward into the future.	4/4/2018 2:55 PM
31	Either developed it so all can use it. Or sell it	4/4/2018 2:31 PM
32	We built our house in 1986 across the street from the park on River Hts Way. The green space was an amenity for us and part of the agreement between the developer and the city to plat and sell these lots. I believe that agreement should still be honored today	4/4/2018 2:29 PM
33	Public land is at a premium, they aren't making any more anytime soon. Let's keep what we have for the enjoyment of all.	4/4/2018 1:44 PM
34	The openness of the property is nice to have instead of even more houses people can't move into or open building that companies don't buy.	4/4/2018 1:24 PM
35	Would like to see this land developed for everyone to use, or to sell it.	4/4/2018 1:05 PM
36	I think it should be developed for everyone to use or it should be sold.	4/4/2018 1:01 PM
37	I would rather the city use its time and energy and focus on all the unused retail areas. This park has been a blessing to me as I was going through my cancer journey. Please leave it as it is.	4/4/2018 12:59 PM
38	Sell it, it's too small fo a park and the only people that benefit are those that live near it, the city should sell it and use the money to upgrade other parks	4/4/2018 12:56 PM
39	The city does not have enough parks for it's residents. The thought that the space you actually already own would be sold for residential homes is absurd!!! There are residents complaining that they have been harassed about selling their land for park space???	4/4/2018 12:49 PM
40	Something should be done with it. Either a park for area residents (i.e. Summit Pines etc.) or developed to fit in with existing area homes.	4/4/2018 12:42 PM
41	Let's keep green parks in inver grove!	4/4/2018 12:39 PM
42	Any option that protects the land as green space is fine. Do not sell it for development.	4/4/2018 12:35 PM
43	It is city land and all residents should have access, if access is not developed than the city should sell it to be developed	4/4/2018 12:29 PM

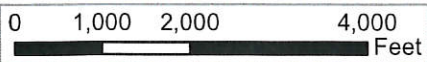
Q8 I have the following comments

MNRRRA_{Paved} Walking Distance Natural Houses
Open
Going Space Property Residents
Future Sell_{Sign} Developed_{Instead} Grove_{Path}
River Heights Park_{Public} Planning in this City

SE INVER GROVE HEIGHTS OPEN SPACE MAP



-
- River Heights Park
Nearby Open Space**
- Legend:
- River Heights Park
 - City Park
 - DNR Property
 - Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area
- Map features include:
- River Heights Park** (Red area)
 - City Park** (Green areas)
 - DNR Property** (Yellow area)
 - Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area** (Purple area)
 - Mississippi River**
 - Local Streets:** 7th St E, 8th St E, 9th St E, 10th St E, 11th St E, 12th St E, 13th St E, 14th St E, 15th St E, 16th St E, 17th St E, 18th St E, 19th St E, 20th St E, 21st St E, 22nd St E, 23rd St E, 24th St E, 25th St E, 26th St E, 27th St E, 28th St E, 29th St E, 30th St E, 31st St E, 32nd St E, 33rd St E, 34th St E, 35th St E, 36th St E, 37th St E, 38th St E, 39th St E, 40th St E, 41st St E, 42nd St E, 43rd St E, 44th St E, 45th St E, 46th St E, 47th St E, 48th St E, 49th St E, 50th St E, 51st St E, 52nd St E, 53rd St E, 54th St E, 55th St E, 56th St E, 57th St E, 58th St E, 59th St E, 60th St E, 61st St E, 62nd St E, 63rd St E, 64th St E, 65th St E, 66th St E, 67th St E, 68th St E, 69th St E, 70th St E, 71st St E, 72nd St E, 73rd St E, 74th St E, 75th St E, 76th St E, 77th St E, 78th St E, 79th St E, 80th St E, 81st St E, 82nd St E, 83rd St E, 84th St E, 85th St E, 86th St E, 87th St E, 88th St E, 89th St E, 90th St E, 91st St E, 92nd St E, 93rd St E, 94th St E, 95th St E, 96th 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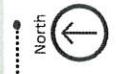
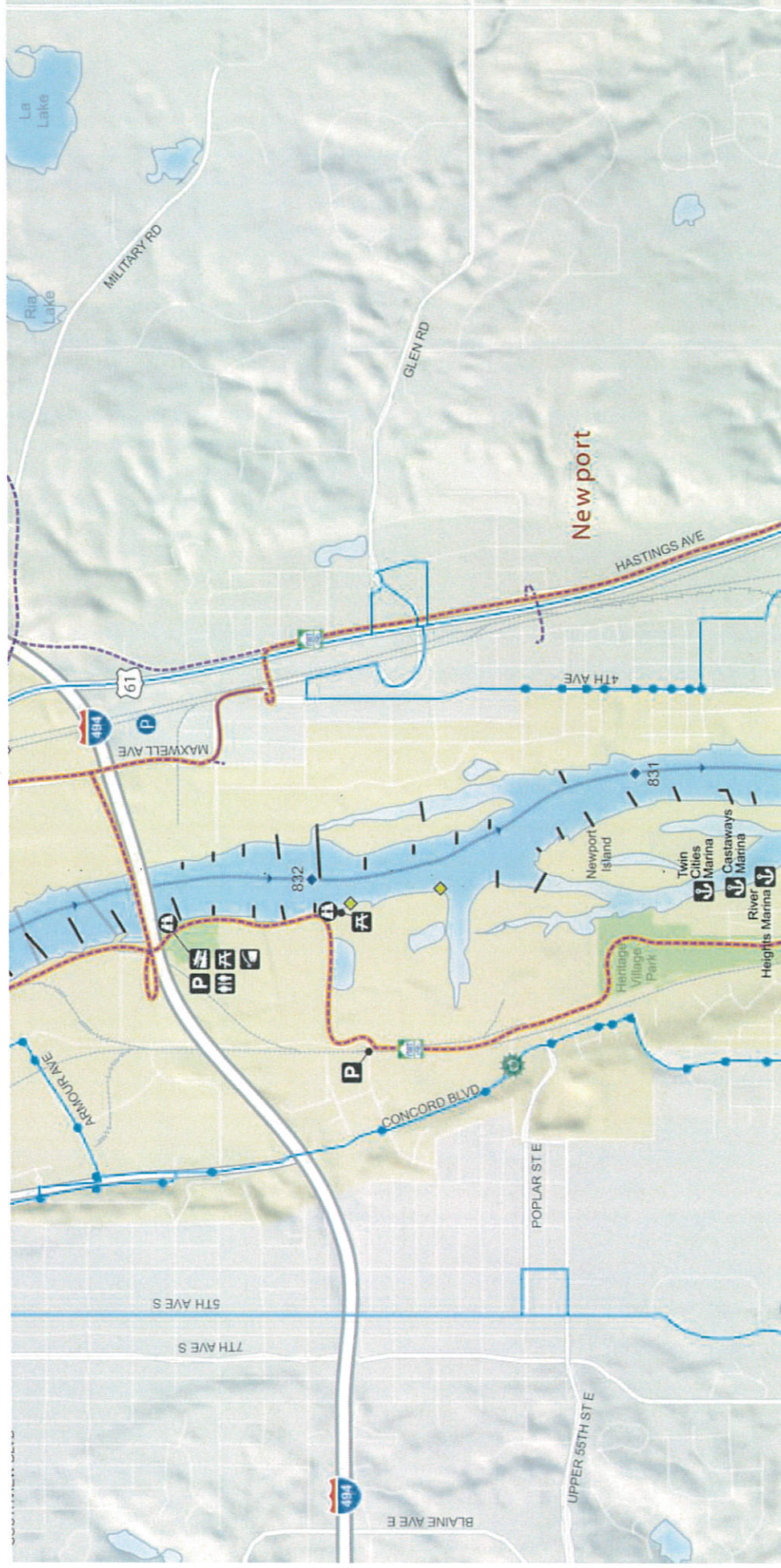
**MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER
AND RECREATION AREA
(MNRRA)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Mississippi River Companion - Map E59 (river miles 833 to 831)



1 mile

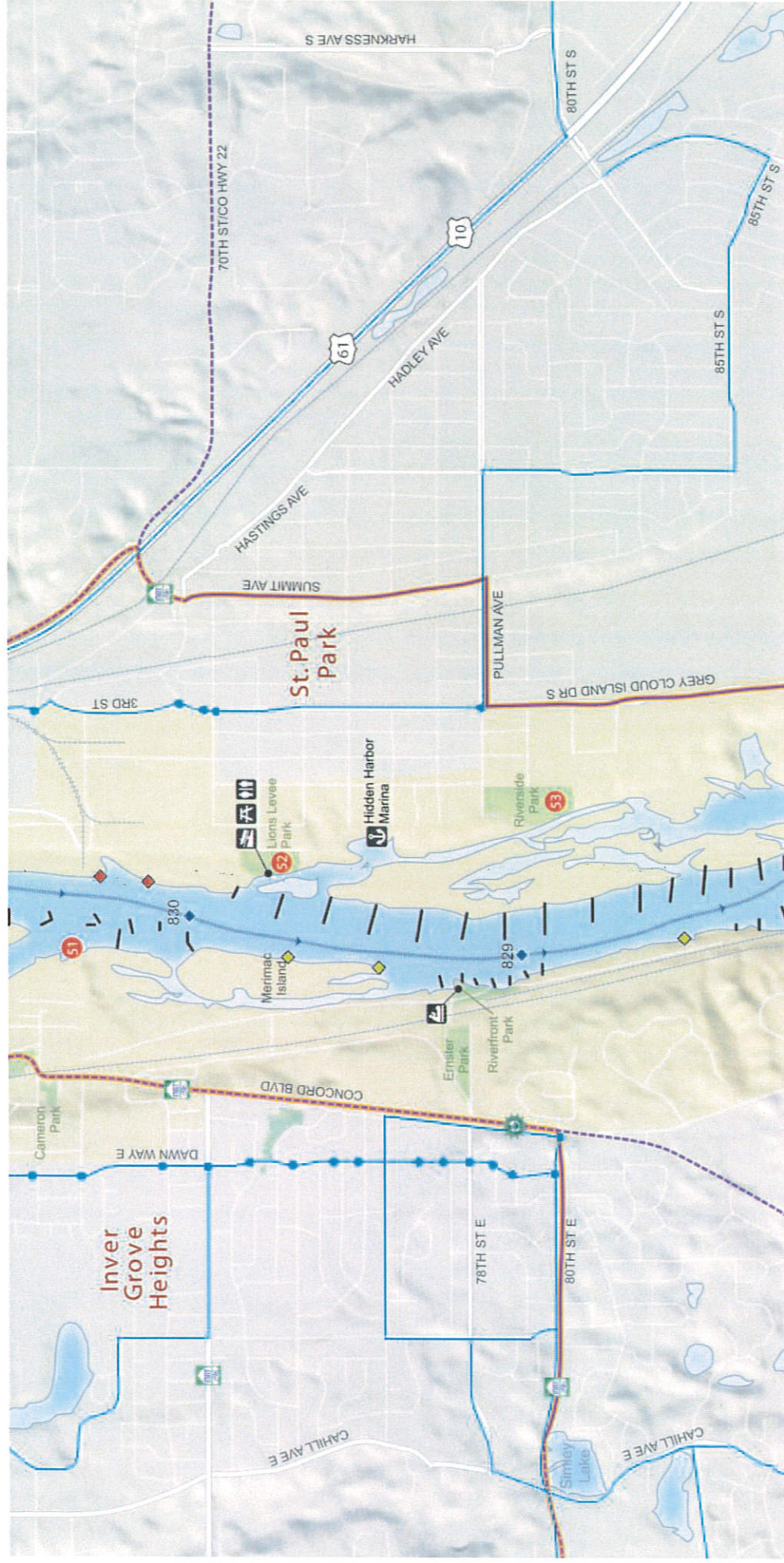
River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
833	N 44.889473	W 93.018574
832	N 44.875740	W 93.014830
831	N 44.862358	W 93.008663

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Mississippi River Companion - Map E60 (river miles 830 to 829)



1 mile

North

River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
830	N 44.921715	W 93.051860
829	N 44.909676	W 93.044166

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Mississippi River Companion - Map E61 (river miles 828 to 826)



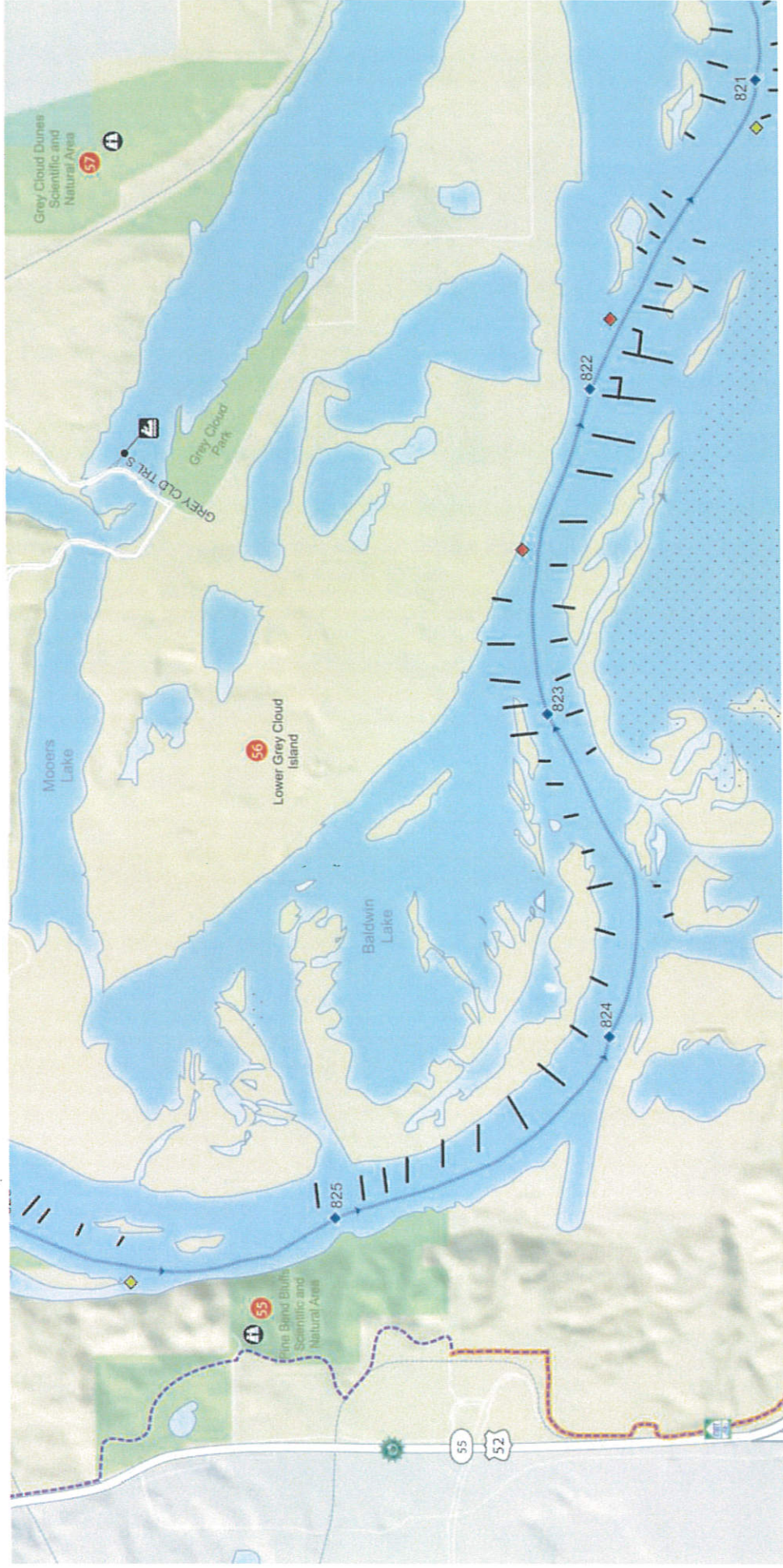
1 mile

River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
828	N 44.898084	W 93.033990
827	N 44.807516	W 93.009768
826	N 44.797302	W 93.021924

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Mississippi River Companion - Map E62 (river miles 825 to 821)



1 mile



River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
822	N 44.772982	W 92.973654
821	N 44.766189	W 92.955739

River Mile	Latitude	Longitude
826	N 44.797302	W 93.021924
825	N 44.783585	W 93.021339
824	N 44.772358	W 93.010858
823	N 44.774893	W 92.992392

AUGUST 2017 INFORMATION

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, August 9, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the June 14, 2017 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Kevin Sethre; Vice Chair Kathryn Bauer; Commissioners: Al Eiden, Patrick Farley, Deb Tix, Mark Freer, Joe Boehmer, and Mary Gerhardt
Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Commissioner Willie Krech
Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

3. PRESENTATIONS:

None

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our web site at:
www.invergroveheights.org

B. Find us on Facebook at Inver Grove Heights Parks & Recreation

C. Follow us on Twitter at @IGHParks

D. Next Meeting: September 13, 2017. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2017

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Commissioner Eiden, seconded by Vice Chair Bauer.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Consider Disposing of River Heights Park

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson wanted to clarify that the Commission is going to be discussing the possibility of disposing of River Heights Park. It's not to build a Fire Station at River Heights Park. It would be for residential purposes only; the Fire Station isn't a part of this item. This conversation that you are going to have with this Commission would have happened with or without a Fire Station. The Commission and the City Council wanted to explore the possibility of selling three different parks in the Community, one being River Heights Park. Eventually we would have had this conversation, regardless of whether the Fire Station started this process. The two are not connected.

The Commission is being asked to consider disposing of River Heights Park which is located at 8087 Inver Grove Trail. The parcel is 7.5 acres in size and the Commission is asked to consider having it split into three 2 ½ acre residential lots which would be similar in size to those surrounding the park. In 2009 the City of Inver Grove Heights disposed of Cameron Park which is located at 6501 Concord Boulevard. That parcel was 1.3 acres in size and the City disposed of that park at that time so we would be able to relocate a business, Cameron Liquor Store, to the park site due to the reconstruction of Concord Boulevard. Currently the City has 28 parks in our park system with about 608 acres of parkland, not including the 235 acres that is Inver Wood Golf Course. The southern portion of the City is guided as large lot development with minimum lot sizes of 2.5 acres. That is what is found around River Heights Park. We do have six parks in the southern portion Broadmoor, Marcott Woods, Marianna Ranch, Rich Valley, River Heights, and Southern Lakes. In the Fall of 2015 the Commission worked on a plan to right size the park system and wanted to make sure we were serving the three different parts of the Community. The Urban part, the Northwest area, and the Rural area, based on their density and development patterns. One of the concepts was the notion of potentially disposing of three parks: Marcott Woods, River Heights Park, and Dehrer Park. This evening we are at the juncture to have a conversation with the River Heights Park neighborhood to see if there is support or not for the thought of potentially selling all or portions of River Heights Park. The City Council was interested in the concept, so we investigated. We find no legal reason why the park couldn't be disposed of. Before the City would considering selling, or changing the use of the park in any way shape or form, we would want to hear from the neighborhood. We sent out more than 200 notices, which is far more than we are used to sending out as we wanted to get healthy conversation from the Community that surrounds the park regarding the future of that park. On Tuesday, July 25th we held an informational meeting, 12 people showed up. People in attendance liked the park the way it is. They didn't believe we should change the use. They would hate to see it sold for residential development and they believed the City has other opportunities for land acquisition for a Fire Department. Within your packets you have all of the emails that he has received, and all information from the public about the topic. Now the Commission will open the item up for public comment.

Chair Sethre wanted to state in order to respect everyone's time, if you have a point that has already been offered by a previous speaker, please consider not coming up to speak. We want to respect your time and everybody's else's time here. Please state your name and address when you come up to the podium. Please try to limit your time to three minutes per comment. If someone wishes to come up please do so.

Irene Jones, River Corridor Program Director with Friends of the Mississippi River, located at 101 East 5th Street in St. Paul. Friends of the Mississippi River, (FMR), is a Twin Cities based non-profit organization that works with local citizens and other stakeholders to protect and enhance the natural and cultural assets of the Mississippi River and its watershed in our region. We were founded in 1993 to bring community and citizen voice and perspective to the newly established Mississippi National River and Recreational Area. It's National Park that runs right through your City. The only National Park in America that is focused on protecting and celebrating the Mississippi River itself. We have been a promoter of preserving and restoring public open space within our Park for almost 25 years. They are opposed to the sale of River Heights. FMR has been in partnership with the City of Inver Grove Heights for over a decade. We appreciate the good work of the City and this Commission to expand and enhance public parkland along the Mississippi River. We have worked with the City and volunteers in regards to Heritage Village Park and the Swing Bridge in the past. We look forward to continuing this partnership going into the future. We only take an issue with this one decision before you. We respectfully request that you oppose the proposed sale of all or part of River Heights Park. They have no opposition to the Cities need for a new Fire Station or increased revenue, they strongly believe that selling the land for the publics needs is short

sighted and not in the best interest of our National Park or of the residents of Inver Grove Heights. Although this is a small park, it is one of many key park pieces that make our National Park great. Natural open space at this location is contributing to the health and beauty of the National Park for both people and wildlife. The park not only provides residents with a trail through a natural area, it also contributes to the Mississippi River Flyway, which is an internationally migratory corridor used by birds and other wildlife. The proximity of this park to Pine Bend Bluffs is also significant because of its high value. Pine Bend bluffs is the most high-quality area of the developed Twin Cities. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, also known as MNRA, was established in 1988 to work in partnership with local communities to protect the Natural resources within the Corridor. Since MNRA owns very little land within the corridor, they rely on local communities and regional park agencies to provide parks, trails, and other open space within the corridor to help realize the goals of the park and corridor. Inver Grove Heights has been a good steward of the river and our National Park, we strongly encourage you to recognize the significance of River Heights Park in that context and protect it from development. In doing that you would reinforce your policy from your Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide as well as honoring the concerns of local residents who deeply value this park and want to enjoy this special place well into the future.

Ms. Jones stated she also submitted a letter along with her contact information if you want to call or email with questions.

Director Carlson stated that a copy of that letter was emailed to the Commission this morning.

Karen and Al Meyman, 8915 River Heights Way.

Mr. Meyman stated he had an updated petition to handout to the Commission.

Ms. Meyman passed it out to the Commissioner's.

Director Carlson let the Commission know that they did receive a copy of the petition on July 25th. What you are receiving now is probably an updated petition with more signatures.

Mr. Meyman commented there are quite a few more signatures on there.

He stated the petition statement is as follows: River Heights Park is a dedicated green space when this area was developed and was part of the character of River Heights Way. We do not want any part of our neighborhood park to be sold. He would also like to read the cover letter. Included in the attached petition are 140 signatures representing 95 households that completely surround River Heights Park. This is the voice of our neighborhood. We implore you to listen to our unified voice to leave our park unchanged.

Tom Wilkins, 8959 Inver Grove Trail is asking to save the neighborhood park. To reject staff's recommendation and recommend City Council save the park in its entirety and remove it from the sell list. The sell list was approved by the City Council back in August of 2016. Councilmember Piekarski Krech told him that the sell list was created in an open manner with possibility of public input. Looking through the minutes of the Park and Recreation meetings, there are holes where we have minutes missing. In those minutes, he finds no mention of River Heights Park. Back in June of 2016 he found a comment from Chair Eiden that he had been approached by the City asking if this Commission would be willing to sell three parks. Those parks were not named. After that there was no further discussion, no motions made. Two months after that the City Council approves a working list of 125 potential properties in the City that could be sold. He made two trips to City Hall to try to get copies of the sell list. He did get a copy, there were only 10 – 12 properties on the list that had been approved for sale. One is Inver Grove Heights Park, River Heights Park, and Marcott Park. He is sure other residents have not been informed that those parks are on the sell list. He looked through the minutes and found a handout prepared by staff to benefit incoming Councilwoman Kara Perry, to get her up to speed on Parks and Recreation issues. In that handout, there was no mention that there were parks on the sell list. He continued to look and found no mention of River Heights Park at all. If you have discussed this, it was not at your regular meetings. It could have been in work sessions, with City Council, or City Staff. In the April 12th, 2017 minutes, he saw Commissioner Bauer commented on how informational and helpful the tour of the parks has been to see what is happening with the different parks. He would like to ask if you visited River Heights, Marcott, or Dehrer? He doesn't know how this

decision came about. He doesn't know if this Commission had any input, as he can't find it in the minutes. He came here tonight prepared to ask this group to separate the park sale issue from the Fire Station acquisition. He is glad they have done that. He would like to recommend to the City Council to keep River Heights Park as a whole and remove it from the sell list. The park is appreciated and used by the neighborhood and the fact that it lies alone in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area should have been enough to keep it off the sell list.

Director Carlson wanted to comment on some of the things that Mr. Wilkins had spoken of. If you go to the November 2nd 2015 City Council Work Study Session that is when the topic of the three parks was discussed between the Commission and the City Council. He can provide a copy of the minutes if he would like them, he would be happy to pass those on.

Mark Hatfield, 8810 River Heights Way stated everyone who is close to the park loves it. It's an important part of the flyway. One of the things you can do to make the rest of the Community love the park the way they do would be to make a prairie restoration on the park as there is a clear absence of pollinator friendly plants around their area. That is what they need to migrate. He thinks everyone that is pro park would be in favor of a prairie restoration. It would be a big asset for the whole City to enjoy. You can do butterfly releases that the schools can participate in as well. It's a huge asset that you cannot replace if you eliminate it.

Steve Cook, 9250 Inver Grove Trail stated he and his wife moved to Inver Grove Heights about four years ago. The park system has really impressed them. He has enjoyed a lot of the developed parks. He discovered this undeveloped park. We know that parks are often thought of as areas of where there is a trail and picnic tables for people to use. But here, people can walk in if they want to, there are bluebird houses, and wildflowers. They have really enjoyed the site and enjoy the park that way. We have seen it as a jewel and was surprised it could be eliminated. When he thinks of three lots coming out of it, it doesn't seem like a great trade. He understands that development is important, and that others want to move here. He appreciates that staff looks at how we attract businesses and how we grow as residential, but also how we protect resources that are part of Inver Grove Heights, otherwise they may be gone someday. Now is our chance before all of that is gone, especially when this has been a designated area. He asked that if down the road do we want to be known as a City that is really protecting some of our natural beauty from development at the cost of development? We should be saving it for our own to appreciate as we go forward as well as for future generations.

Carol Nankivel, 8875 Inver Grove Trail, is a close neighbor to the park. She wanted to talk from the perspective of a long-term citizen of Inver Grove Heights. The City needs money, parks need money, we have unused properties, etc. We have a short-term need, let's address it through this park situation. We understand that dilemma, when the furnace goes out, we tap retirement, or for a car, go through kid's savings, we live through that dynamic all the time. She found a map of Inver Grove Heights from the early 1960's and she thought of how those people on the City Council knew what we are going to need. The highlights of Inver Grove in 1960's were that we had little Detroit, which was three car dealerships, a gas station, Farmers Union, a trailer park, and a nice home. That's what we had to show for Inver Grove Heights. The map doesn't extend to the south. The City Council said we will be different, it won't always be farms, fields, and trees, that we needed to come up with money for the parks. We don't have as many parks as other Communities. You are in the position of understanding the needs today, but 50 years ago, people were smart enough to set aside parks, and 50 years from now someone will thank you for keeping River Heights the way it is. We may need it. She hopes you will reject this notion to sell our existing parkland.

Harold Parsons, 8840 River Heights Way, stated the back of their lot abuts the park. He recommends that you reject the sale of the park. There is wide support for the park from the neighborhood, it's used by residents in the area a lot. People are walking the park with their dogs all the time. Most importantly, it's used by wildlife. There is a lot of that there. It's full of deer. When he moved there in 1984, you would rarely see a fox there. Now we have a lot of that there, and part of that is because they have habitat now. It's great to see this as a part of our

National Park Heritage and to keep that available for the City and the other residents around Minnesota. He's asking that you reject this.

Kerry Hofner, 8715 River Heights Way. He has lived there for 30 years. He built there, saw the map of lots and plats, and it said park. He's never really complained about paying taxes, for supporting other parks, the Golf Course, supporting when the City Council spent money on the Swing Bridge project, etc. Those projects are more visible for Inver Grove Heights. This is why he views this as our Community park. You want to split this up, take it away, put homes there, so it's a money issue. Where would the money go for this? Would it go 100% to the parks, or to the Fire Station? He did speak to the Fire Chief, it was a great conversation. There isn't a park sign, so someone driving by can't see there is a park there. He requests to say no, investigate other ways to create funding. When you know there is going to be new development, or you know you need a Fire Station, that should be a part of long range planning so that you know how you are going to come up with those dollars.

Mr. Wilkins, 8959 Inver Grove Trail, additionally commented that this meeting should have been held over a year ago, before the park was placed on the sell list. You should have sought out neighborhood input at that time.

Mike McDonald, 8304 Delaney Circle, commented his folks have a home at 8875 River Heights Way. He used to live up by Skyview Park, when he drives by that, unless there were ballgames and things going on, it was a vast wasteland. Every time he goes to his parent's home, he sees someone walking through. There is a car parked nearby, there is a lot more people that use the park the way that it is then people realize. It is a nice park for that. You can enjoy the peace and wildlife that is around.

Chair Sethre stated this isn't an issue about maintenance or dollars spent maintaining it.

Mr. Hofner, 8715 River Heights Way, mentioned that you say it isn't about maintenance, but the park department doesn't have as much money as it would like to have to update parks. To him this is about money. If there was enough money, why would you want to sell it.

Chair Sethre responded that they spend a lot of manpower and resources out there. It's not that we are trying to eliminate a significant item from our budget, it is more a reprioritization of City property.

Mr. Hofner felt that you would technically like the money that the sale of these lots would generate to do other things with.

Commissioner Tix stated they don't know where the money would be going. They can make a recommendation based on what would happen and on what we decide to do. But they don't know where that money would go.

Mr. Hofner responded that under that indication, then you should all vote no. You would be selling something that the neighbors all want, and money isn't the issue. Then it should be the City Council that decides on some method for creating funds.

Commissioner Farley commented he didn't think money is the issue. Public safety is the issue. We have a conflict in that a Fire Station protects lives, property value, etc., and a park. Both are worthy things. In this frame of reference when we speak about the Fire Station needing land and how it's positioned, etc., we have not been a part of that conversation. These are the specs that that department has come up with what they need. They found that elsewhere. That person has found something else in exchange for that land and this is the option. There are two issues here. The sale of the park, and the installation of the Fire Department. It's not about the money, that is a byproduct, that's not the main motivation.

Mr. Hofner commented that your Commission is about the parks. The Fire Station is a separate issue, but someone wants that property. Should their community park be the people who finance the land for the Fire Station? That is the City of Inver Grove's issue, not our communities issue.

Mr. Meyman, 8915 River Heights Way, stated the Fire Station keeps coming back into this. It is part of this even though it has been said it's not. The process to get us to this point was done in the wrong order and inappropriate. The City put our park on the list to be sold without consulting the neighborhood that would be directly affected by that sale. The City floated the idea of using one of the lots in the park as an incentive of another lot in the City that is wanted by the Fire Station. The neighborhood still wasn't aware of this. The seller of the lot for the Fire Station said he wanted that park land on Inver Grove Trail. Another thing people should know is that the lot wanted for the Fire Station has a brother on the Parks Commission, Mr. Krech, and also a relative on the City Council. The City comes to our Community for input on this. This should have done if they were considering selling parkland. The City should contact all people that are affected by their decision to sell their park. If the neighborhood doesn't want that park anymore, the property should be rezoned. The land can be sold because it is zoned to be sold. The Fire Station should not even be in the conversation if the correct process had been followed. By following the bad process, the Community input has been obtained last instead of first as it should be. Under the table deals done without public knowledge are just plain wrong.

Chair Sethre stated has heard comments about under the tables deals. He is not privy to all discussions, some of these things take a while to ruminate. A letter was sent out to everyone last month offering a public meeting and then this meeting. He doesn't quite follow the under the table activity or the suggestion. Sometimes these things get proposed, they go through due process and then they show up in the light of day. He doesn't appreciate accusations to this group that is was done under the table in any fashion.

Mr. Parsons stated this was a decision about whether this was a worthy park to keep, whether it is being utilized enough to have it continue to be a park, or do we sell it to have three homes and do away with the park. The idea that the park is being traded, or sold to another department for them to build a Fire Station. This feels more like why are we even here, is anything we say going to make a difference? The Fire Chief is stating they want the land that is being proposed, they want part of this park, it seems like a deal. It doesn't feel like an under the table deal so much that we have been left out if it. We felt like our input would make some difference, maybe minds might be still open to thinking of this park as a valuable piece of the park system to have in Inver Grove. He doesn't feel that is the case anymore as this feels like a done deal. He hopes you will reconsider that. There has to be another way that a Fire Station could have other possibilities. We can't go back and make this park again. We can't make these kinds of parks going forward.

Director Carlson stated in his opening remarks that he reminded the Commission and the audience that this isn't about the Fire Station. As he stated earlier, the Parks Commission and the City Council put parks on a list and said let's decide whether this adds value to the Community or not. The City Council said, let's explore that, so we invited the neighborhood in to get your reaction to that concept. This is your chance to say we value our park. If it gets to the City Council, you can show up to that meeting and say similar things. Someone may be thinking about purchasing those lots, but this has nothing to do with a Fire Station. This has to do with the fact of trying to find out if this park has value to the Community, is it valuable to the neighborhood, does this Commission think it's valuable, does the City Council think it's valuable, and if they do they will keep it, if they don't they won't. This has nothing to do with the Fire Station. It just so happens that someone who may buy a lot if the City doesn't value it as a park, is a part of the transaction of the City trying to create or build a Fire Station. They are not connected. It has everything to do with knowing if the park is valuable to the City or not. It's for the City Council to decide on that fact. You are giving your input to the Commission who will then give a recommendation to the City Council. It really has nothing to do with the Fire Department. The Fire Station issue forced us to have this conversation.

Mr. Wilkins appreciated Director Carlson's comments and appreciated the fact that at the beginning of the meeting it was separate issues. Since Commissioner Farley has brought it up, nobody here is against the construction of a new Fire Station or a need for one. He came here this evening hoping that we could separate the two issues. In a conversation with Mayor Tourville a few weeks back he stated the City had the funds outright to purchase the desired Fire Station site. He said that they would sell bonds for the construction and equipping for the station. The sale of this park was not a done deal. He spoke to Councilman Hark, he assured him that the sell

list was created months before the owners of the proposed Fire Station site were ever contacted. He also told him that it was not a done deal.

Chair Sethre stated this is not a done deal. He is hoping nobody has the impression that is a done deal. It is a part of due process.

Commissioner Freer stated they have talked about parks, more than these three, over the last three or four years in regards to the value of the Community. Are they being used? One was this park, and that was years ago. This isn't new. We have spoken about a lot of different parks, a lot that we wouldn't sell. The Fire Station thing forced the issue today. These types of conversations will go on into the future, it doesn't mean we are going to sell them, we need to have conversations about the parks, what to do with them, what not, what amenities are being used, what are not. This wasn't developed for the Fire Station. He will say the comments have been very good this evening. We form an opinion before you show up, the comments that have been made here are very persuasive. Don't get frustrated with the process. You've been positive, have shown good reasons why the park is there, the usage, etc. He himself has been over there before, has taken his dog, and while he hasn't seen anyone there while he has visited, he knows the value of that park. The positives of what you are telling is going over well in his mind.

Vice Chair Bauer stated that all she knew about this before the last few weeks is what was on paper. She needed to see for herself the park and the neighborhood. She visited this week. She felt her visit was worthwhile and informative. She's lived in Inver Grove Heights for 27 years and has never visited this park. Mr. Wilkins, this was not on their tour, and she's been on several tours over her last three years on this Commission. She found this park to be a hidden gem. There is a lot there for residents who do not know it is there. Inver Grove Heights values it's unique neighborhoods, we have charm, character, and that's why people choose to live here. Our parks of the future may look a lot like this open park area. Unpaved, natural trails, no equipment, minimal maintenance, greenspace, areas for kids to run, dogs to explore, and family and friends to be together. She is listening, you are articulate in your arguments and she appreciates what you have to say. She thanks you for your petitions and the time it took to put it together. Your time was not wasted. You found out where you are at with those in your Community. She doesn't think the City should come up with a solution in a vacuum. Let's go back and review what is on the table. She is in favor of a solution that listens to everyone's needs. This doesn't look like that. If there is a motion to approve the disposal, she will vote no. Once it's gone it's gone. It's a valuable park and your comments and presence here, as well as her own visit there, have proven that to her.

Chair Sethre asked if anyone wanted to approve a motion to close the public comment period.

Motion made by Commissioner Farley, seconded by Commissioner Tix.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Freer stated that Carol made a nice comment, as she always does when she attends these meetings. She's a long-time resident that always brings up some nice issues. He is surprised at the amount of people that say they use the park. He thinks it's a pleasure that this many people came out. Thank you to everyone for showing up and speaking.

Commissioner Eiden stated he has been on this Commission for several years. If you want to be angry with someone he brought up the issue of selling this property among others several years ago. He looks at Inver Grove Heights as a total Community. We are now at 35,000 and growing to 50,000 people. There are things we have to do with parks. We have financial challenges with the parks and there are some that are not in the best interest of the City and this happens to be one of them simply because of you residents in the neighborhood. He also recalls three times at least when we tried to do something with that park and there was adamant objections to the point of lawsuits. With the area, you have there and the lot sizes, you don't want any development, just want open space, and that's wonderful. He is skeptical of the fly zone, he has wild animals in the back of his home too. He has to

look at this in terms of the challenges of the City and the City in its entirety. This neighborhood could do very well without that vacant piece of that property whereas the City could make better use of that property, as well as the other two properties. He also needs to remind those that when the process the City uses to do things, they make plans first, as we do, and it's always open to public meetings for the people that will be affected by the decision. We have had to make decisions for other neighborhoods for the good of this City. He thinks this neighborhood is wonderful, he has been there. He is not against you having something in your neighborhood, but in perspective, this City has changed, it was far different than it was 50 years ago. We have an obligation to look for the general good of the City and what is happening and how detrimental is anything that ceases to exist in its present home. He appreciates and sympathizes with you for your adamant desire to maintain the property. In this particular case, he thinks it would be good to make some change.

Commissioner Freer stated the item is to sell all three lots at one time. We should discuss whether or not selling one lot or all three makes more sense.

Commissioner Tix wanted to note that we are not the City Council. We have different goals than the City Council. If she was on the City Council she may have a different decision. They have to look at all the different departments when thinking of these items. We are just talking about parks and the usage of the parks. You are showing us the usage of the parks by being here tonight.

Commissioner Gerhardt stated she actually lives near this park and didn't even know it existed. She is the newest member to the Advisory Commission, so she has made an effort to get to know the various parks around the City that she has never been to. There is no sign here, she didn't even know it existed. She visited a few times over the last few weeks. You may be seeing her there more often. She thinks it's a great park for this neighborhood and for the lot size in the area they live in. She understands the need for this in the Community. She understands people came here thinking we already made our decision. She has been out there a few times and has not seen anyone there. Seeing you all come out here and give testimony and speaking, having a petition, saying this park is important to you, she appreciates them taking the time to come out here and making the effort to come here this evening.

Commissioner Boehmer stated it's great that everyone that wants the park. Once it's gone it's gone. He can't see selling the whole park. He has been there too, he has seen Turkey and Deer. It's amazing how many people you have that signed this and support this.

Commissioner Freer stated it was the betterment of the communities is where these resources would go. We are struggling to maintain the parks we have. If some of this funding could go to the 402 Fund to help maintain these parks, it would be very helpful. We don't have the money we need to maintain what we have and right now we are looking at what we can eliminate in our parks. We can't fix them all or buy new stuff for everything because the budget isn't there. The equipment in some areas is getting old enough, maybe we don't need it in the park anymore, maybe we don't need that many tennis courts. The part of selling this for the betterment of the Community, it would come to the parks, or maybe even the Fire Station if it needed it. The balancing of this is very tough. It's true, once it's gone it's gone. 50 years from now he would like his Grandchildren to enjoy open space too. It's a hard decision.

Chair Sethre commented that we are all citizens and tax payers in Inver Grove Heights. Difficult proposals are brought forward. Nobody says it's easy or fun, but sometimes we have to deal with certain things that are less than desirable. Hard decisions and issues pop up. We really appreciate you being here and being very civil. We do appreciate the input.

Motion by Commissioner Eiden to accept the issue as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Freer.

Chair Sethre stated we have a request here for action in disposing of River Heights Park.

Aye: 2 (Sethre, Eiden)
Nay: 5 Motion fails.

Motion by Commissioner Farley to ask the City Council that they may consider selling one of the lots and that they maintain the other two lots. No second.

Motion fails.

Commissioner Eiden stated if we are in this position, then there is no recommendation going to the City Council.

Commissioner Tix asked if we can put out a recommendation that we do not sell the property?

Chair Sethre felt that is pretty much what we decided.

Motion by Vice Chair Bauer that we remove this park from a list under consideration to be sold, and that we affirm the value of this park, of the open space, for not only the people in that area, but the entire City and the wildlife. Seconded by Commissioner Boehmer.

Aye: 4 (Bauer, Tix, Gerhardt, Boehmer)
Nay: 2 (Eiden, Sethre)
Abstain: 2 (Freer, Farley) Motion carried.

Chair Sethre wanted to let those know that every spring the City Council is looking to fill various Commission positions. Planning, Environmental, Parks, etc. If you get an Insights flyer in the mail, please look at that and see the various positions. It's a very enlightening experience. It's all a part of civic duty. Please keep that in mind.

Director Carlson stated this item is still an item that the Planning Commission will take up on September 5th. The recommendation from here is to stay as is. They will weigh in on the technical aspects of it. If you are still interested in this, please attend that meeting as well.

Commissioner Eiden stated the motion was to take that property off the list for sale. It's not to leave it as is. It's to take it off the list.

Director Carlson responded in essence you are leaving it as it is.

Commissioner Eiden stated we have taken an extra step to take it off the list of properties that are listed for possible sale.

Director Carlson wanted to verify that the park will stay as is and it's not on the list for sale anymore.

Commissioner Eiden stated in his mind that was two different things. Keeping it as it is means we don't sell that property. Her motion is that we take it off of the list of properties for sale. In perpetuity that is not viable for the City Council in our recommendation to consider for sale.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Director Carlson will stand by and answer any questions in regards to what is in the report.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Consider Disposing of River Heights Park

Meeting Date: August 9, 2017
 Item Type: Regular Agenda
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:

- ☐ None
☐ Amount included in current budget
☐ Budget amendment requested
☐ FTE included in current complement
☐ New FTE requested – N/A
☒ Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the disposal of real property, commonly referred to as River Heights Park, located at 8780 Inver Grove Trail. The parcel is 326,700 S.F. or 7.5 acres. The Commission is asked to recommend to the City Council that the land be divided into three 2.5-acre lots and used for single family residential development.

With the exception of the newly created lot closest to Inver Grove Trail, which would be used to help facilitate a land transaction for a third fire station, it is recommended that all proceeds from the sale of the remaining two lots be deposited into the Park Acquisition and Development Fund (Fund 402) and that the remaining two properties be subject to Park Dedication per the City Ordinance.

SUMMARY

In 2009, the City of Inver Grove Heights disposed of park land owned by the City commonly referred to as Cameron Park located at 6501 Concord Blvd. The parcel was 56,430 S. F. or 1.3 acres in size. The purpose of disposing of the site was to provide a location for a business to relocate to because of the reconstruction of Concord Blvd.

The City of Inver Grove Heights currently has 28 parks which have 608 acres of park land not including Inver Wood Golf Course. The City strives to provide quality park and recreation services to the residents of Inver Grove Heights in the most cost effective way possible.

The southern portion of the City is guided for large lot development with minimum lot sizes of 2.5 acres and is currently not in the Metropolitan Urban Services Area (MUSA). The City does have six parks in the southern portion of the City as follows:

Park	Address	Acres	Classification	Development
Broadmoor	11306 Strafford Lane	7	Neighborhood Park	Yes
Marcott Woods	2830 90 th St E	14	Conservancy Land	No
Marianna Ranch	9125 Alvarez Ave	64	Conservancy Land	No
Rich Valley	1841 105 th St E	71	Community Athletic Complex	Yes
River Heights	8780 Inver Grove Trail	7.5	Conservancy Land	No
Southern Lakes	10810 Alison Way	4	Neighborhood Park	Yes

In the fall of 2015, the Commission worked on a plan to “Right Size” the city’s park system by serving the urban, northwest, and rural areas differently based on their density and development patterns. The Parks and Recreation Commission is interested in allocating resources effectively and wanted to provide good quality vs. quantity of park amenities.

Based on the fact that some of the current park land in the rural area was undeveloped and under used, the Commission suggested to the City Council that three park properties might be best repurposed and sold for residential development including:

- Marcott Woods Park – 2830 90th St E
- Dehrer Park – 4085 Dehrer Way
- River Heights Park – 8780 Inver Grove Trail

The City Council was interested in the concept and directed staff to verify each park property's ability to be sold. After researching the property, the City Attorney indicated that there are no restrictions on selling these park properties. Ultimately, the City went through a process to vet all of the properties it owns to determine their highest and best use. After reviewing a list of properties that exceeded more than 100 parcels, the list was narrowed down to a dozen or so properties.

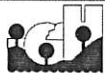
In 2012, the City commissioned a study of our Fire Service and determined that adding a third fire station was important to continue providing reliable, efficient, and effective fire protections. The City is currently negotiating with a private property owner to purchase their property and they would like to continue living within the City. As a part of the negotiations, the City is agreeable to selling a 2.5-acre parcel of River Heights Park which lies closest to Inver Grove Trail pending City Council approval. The purpose of the sale would be for the private property owner to build a single family home.

Before the City can dispose of this park property, it is important to reach out to the neighborhood to allow them to provide input into the process and, in that regard, over 200 notices were mailed out to property owners in the area to outline the public meetings they could attend to voice their support/disapproval. On Tuesday, July 25th, we hosted an informational meeting to provide property owners with information on the potential repurposing of River Heights Park. There were 12 property owners in attendance and they submitted a petition (attached) which supports keeping River Heights Park "as is". A summary of the meeting is as follows:

- They like the park "as is" and don't want any improvements, they appreciate the "open space"
- They don't believe that the park costs the City much to operate and can't see why the City would consider selling it
- They would hate to see any of the park sold for residential development as they believe they should have access to their neighborhood park
- They believe the City must have other options regarding land acquisition for the Fire Station

The Parks and Recreation Commission should allow those in attendance to address the Commission. After taking testimony, the Commission should discuss the pros and cons of selling or keeping River Heights Park and make the appropriate recommendation to the City Council. The next step in the process, after the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, is for the Planning Commission to review the item and this is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5th, at 7:00 pm.

PARK SERVICE AREA MAPS

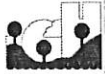


CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

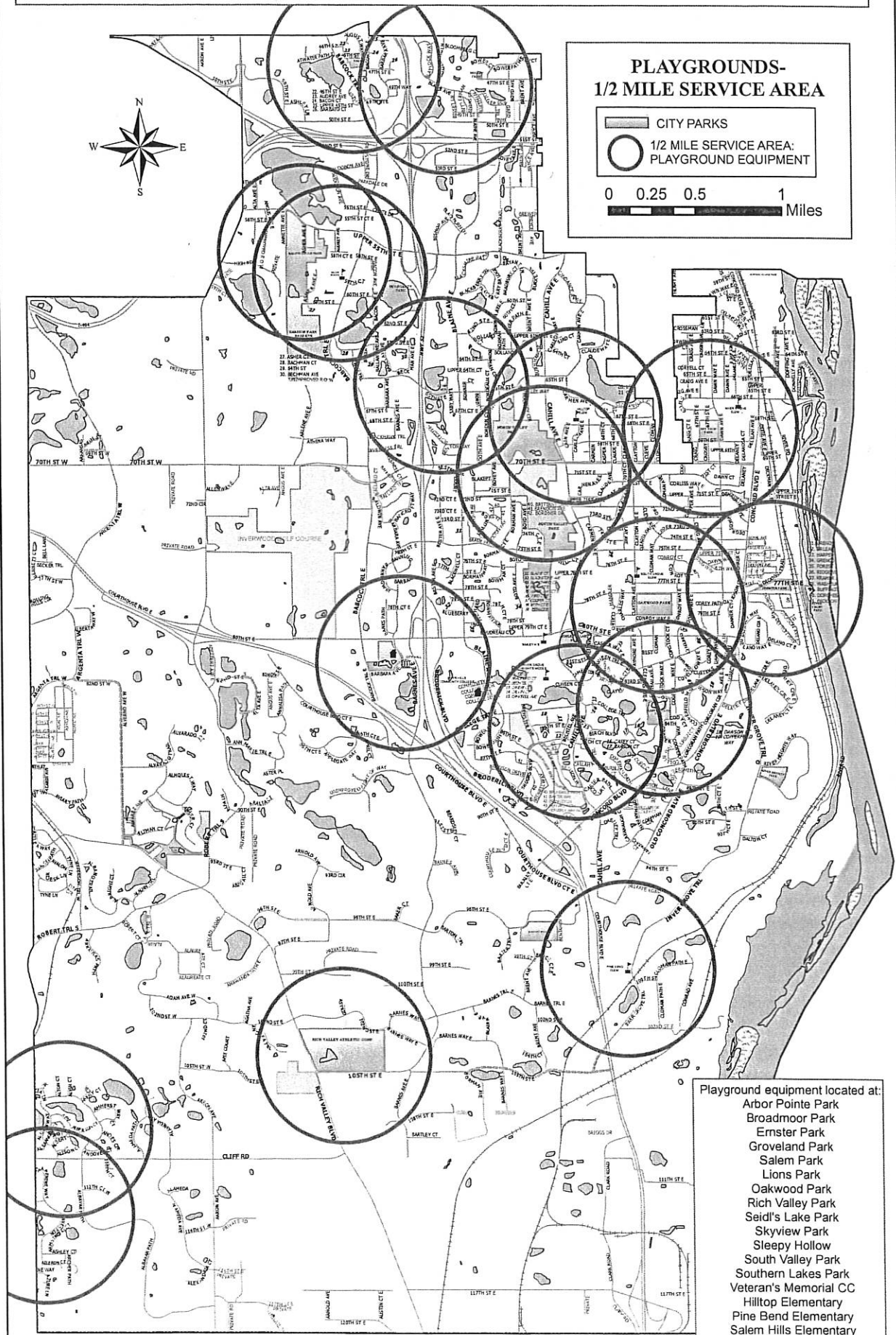


THIS DRAWING IS NEITHER A LEGALLY RECORDED MAP NOR A SURVEY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS ONE. THIS DRAWING IS A COMPILED OF RECORDS, INFORMATION AND DATA LOCATED IN VARIOUS CITY, COUNTY AND STATE OFFICES AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS TO BE USED FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. THE CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INACCURACIES HEREIN CONTAINED.

MAP PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS
JUNE 2008

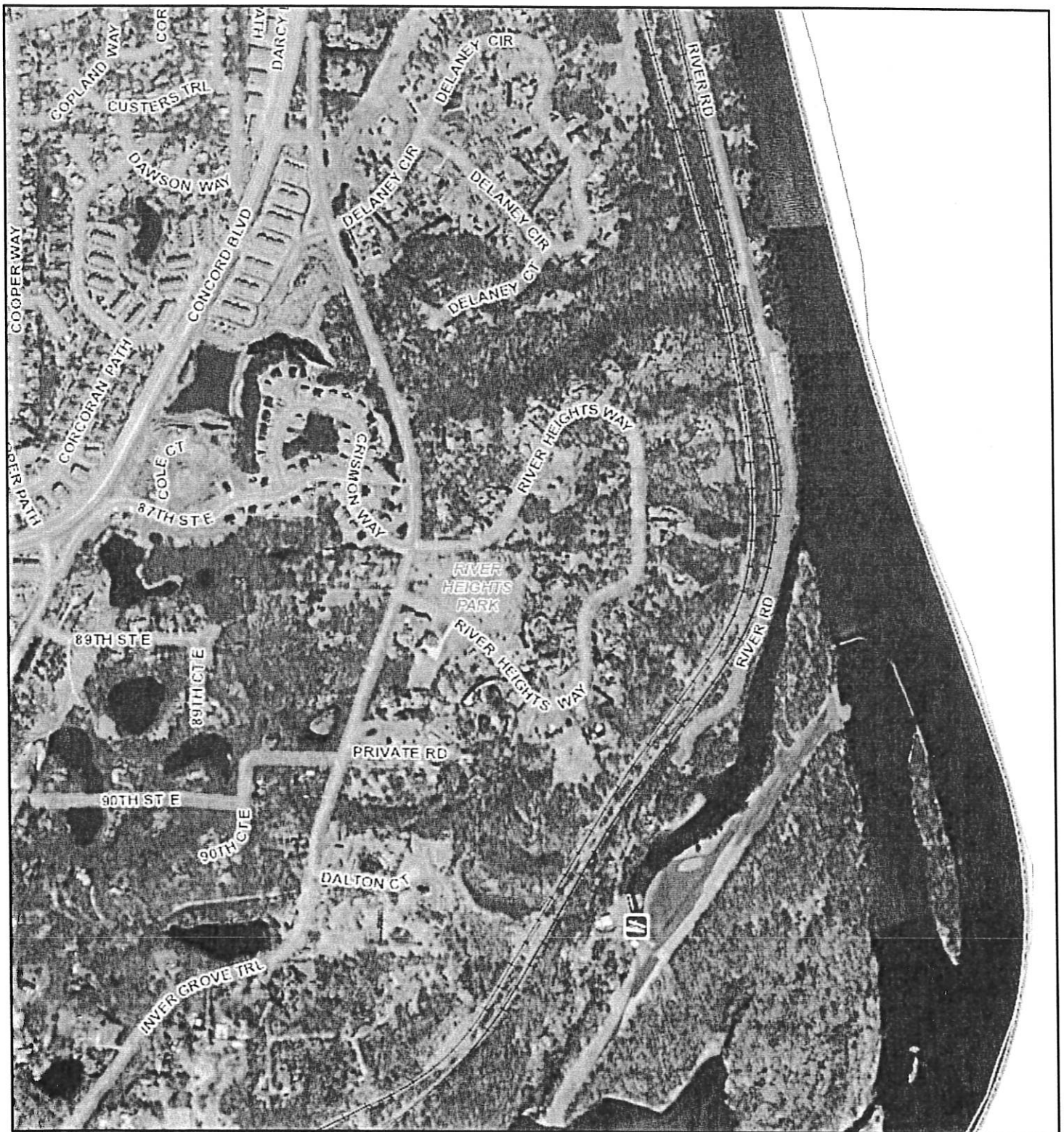


CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS



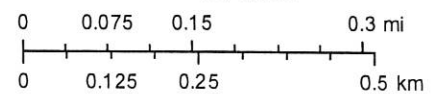
GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

River Heights Park

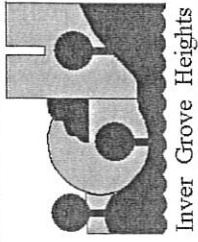


July 11, 2017

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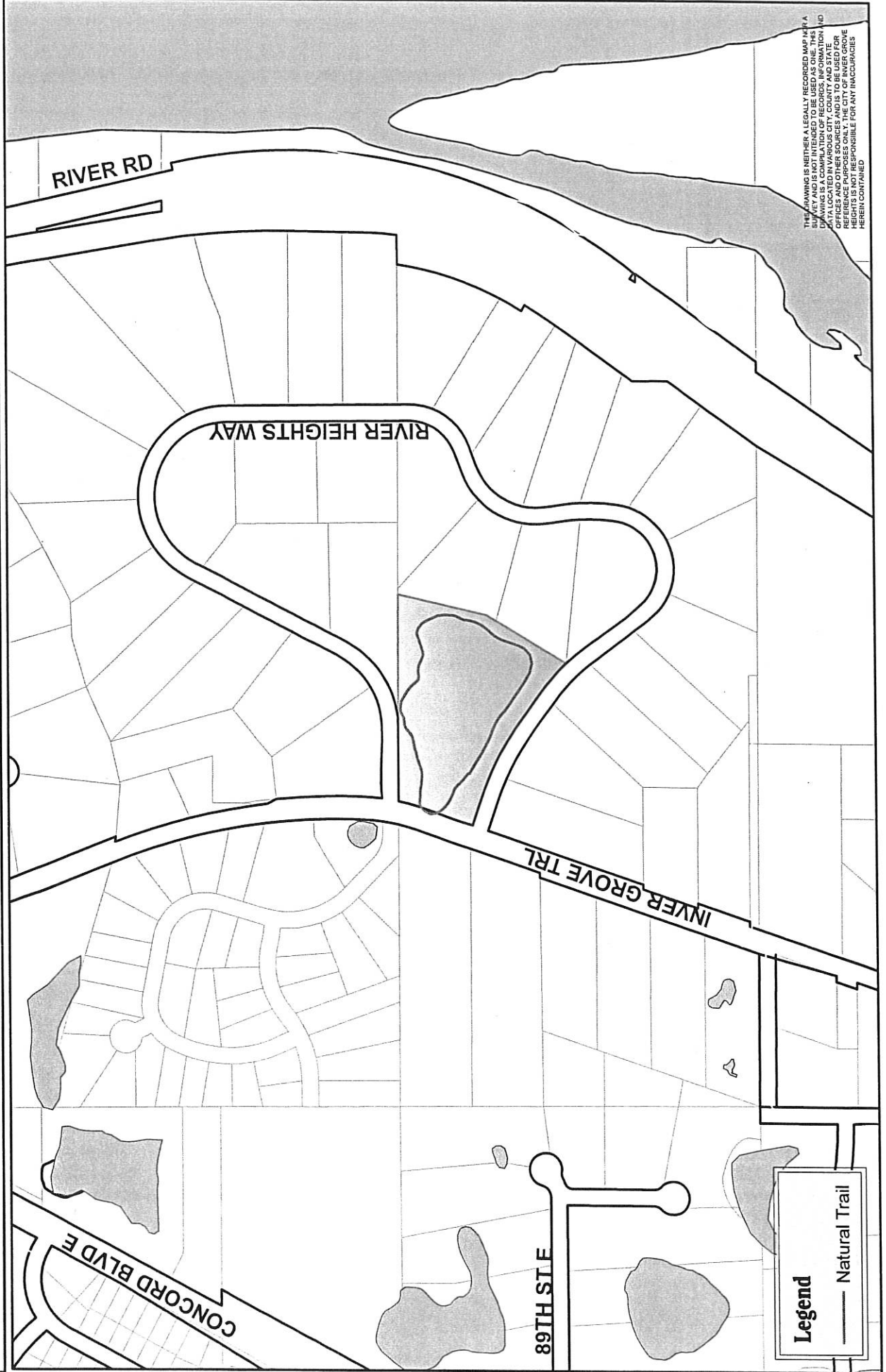
PARKS & RECREATION



Inver Grove Heights

RIVER HEIGHTS PARK

November 2007
Map produced by the City of Inver Grove Heights



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Property Card	Parcel ID Number 20-25700-01-010
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Owner Information	
Fee Owner CITY OF INVER GROVE HTS	
Mailing Address 8150 BARBARA AVE INVER GROVE HEIGHTS MN 55077-3412	
Property Address	
Address	
Municipality INVER GROVE HEIGHTS	

Parcel Information	
Last Qualified Sale	Total Acres 2.50
Sale Value \$0.00	R/W Acres
Uses EXEMPT	Water Acres
	Plat FALCON RIDGE
	Lot and Block 1 1
	Tax Description

2017 Building Characteristics (payable 2018)*		
Building Type	Year Built 0	Bedrooms
Building Style	Foundation Sq Ft	Bathrooms
Frame	Above Grade Sq Ft	Garage Sq Ft
Multiple Buildings	Finished Sq Ft	Other Garage

Miscellaneous Information					
School District 199	Watershed District LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER	Homestead NON HOMESTEAD	Green Acres	Ag Preserve	Open Space

Assessor Valuation		
	Taxable	Estimated
2017 Land Values (payable 2018)	\$0.00	\$157,000.00
2017 Building Values (payable 2018)*	\$0.00	\$0.00
2017 Total Values (payable 2018)*	\$0.00	\$157,000.00
2016 Total Values (payable 2017)*	\$0.00	\$149,500.00

Property Tax Information		
Net Tax (payable 2017) \$0.00	Special Assessments (2017) \$0.00	Total Tax & Assessments (2017) \$0.00

* Manufactured Homes Payable the Same Year as Assessment.

Disclaimer: Map and parcel data are believed to be accurate, but accuracy is not guaranteed. This is not a legal document and should not be substituted for a title search, appraisal, survey, or for zoning verification.

1042270

1042270

No delinquent taxes and transfer entered; Certificate
of Real Estate Value () filed (/) not required
Certificate of Real Estate Value No. 1042270, 19 86

James N. Doian
County Auditor

by S. S. S. S. S.
Deputy

STATE DEED TAX DUE HEREON: \$ -0-

Date: April 15, 19 86

CERTIFIED THAT THE WITHIN
INSTRUMENT WAS FILED FOR
RECORD IN THIS OFFICE
ON AND AT

MAY 12 30 PM '92

1042270

DOC. NO
JAMES N. DOIAN, COUNTY RECORDER

DEPUTY Sm FEE 15.00

CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ CHARGE ☒
CHARGE WHOM Owner from Heights
REFUND

DO NOT REMOVE

FOR VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, Derrick Land Company
a corporation under the laws of
Minnesota, Grantor, hereby conveys and quitclaims to City of Inver Grove
Heights, a municipal corporation, Grantee (X),
real property in Dakota County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Lots One (1), Two (2), and Three (3), in Block One (1), of
Falcon Ridge, according to the plat thereof on file and of
record in the office of the Dakota County Recorder.

James N. Doian
DAKOTA COUNTY TREASURER

Exempt from State Deed Tax

(if more space is needed, continue on back)

together with all hereditament and appurtenances belonging thereto.

Exempt from Dakota County Tax
James N. Doian
Dakota County Treasurer

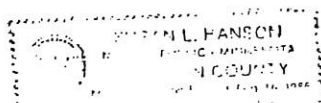
Derrick Land Company
By [Signature]
Its President

By _____
Its _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
COUNTY OF Hennepin } ss.

The foregoing was acknowledged before me this 15 day of April, 19 86,
by Roger D. Derrick,
the President of Derrick Land Company, a corporation
under the laws of Minnesota, on behalf of the corporation

NOTARIAL STAMP OR SEAL (OR OTHER TITLE OR RANK)



Susan L. Hanson
SIGNATURE OF PERSON TAKING ACKNOWLEDGMENT

See Statements for the real property described in this instrument should
be sent to (Include name and address of Grantee):

City of Inver Grove Heights
c/o Finance Director
8150 Barbara Avenue
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55075

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY (NAME AND ADDRESS):

John J. Todd
1535 Livingston Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118
Attorney Reg. No. 11022X

Return This Instrument to:
Timothy J. Kuntz
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 298
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Property Card	Parcel ID Number 20-25700-01-020
----------------------	-------------------------------------

Owner Information	
Fee Owner CITY OF INVER GROVE HTS	
Mailing Address 8150 BARBARA AVE INVER GROVE HEIGHTS MN 55077-3412	
Property Address	
Address	
Municipality INVER GROVE HEIGHTS	

Parcel Information	
Last Qualified Sale	Total Acres 2.51
Sale Value \$0.00	R/W Acres
Uses EXEMPT	Water Acres
	Plat FALCON RIDGE
	Lot and Block 2 1
	Tax Description

2017 Building Characteristics (payable 2018)*		
Building Type	Year Built 0	Bedrooms
Building Style	Foundation Sq Ft	Bathrooms
Frame	Above Grade Sq Ft	Garage Sq Ft
Multiple Buildings	Finished Sq Ft	Other Garage

Miscellaneous Information					
School District 199	Watershed District LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER	Homestead NON HOMESTEAD	Green Acres	Ag Preserve	Open Space

Assessor Valuation		
	Taxable	Estimated
2017 Land Values (payable 2018)	\$0.00	\$157,000.00
2017 Building Values (payable 2018)*	\$0.00	\$0.00
2017 Total Values (payable 2018)*	\$0.00	\$157,000.00
2016 Total Values (payable 2017)*	\$0.00	\$149,500.00

Property Tax Information		
Net Tax (payable 2017) \$0.00	Special Assessments (2017) \$0.00	Total Tax & Assessments (2017) \$0.00

* Manufactured Homes Payable the Same Year as Assessment.

Disclaimer: Map and parcel data are believed to be accurate, but accuracy is not guaranteed. This is not a legal document and should not be substituted for a title search, appraisal, survey, or for zoning verification.

1042270

No delinquent taxes and transfer entered; Certificate
of Real Estate Value () filed (X) not required
Certificate of Real Estate Value No. _____

_____ 19 86

_____ County Auditor

by _____ Deputy

STATE DEED TAX DUE HEREON: \$ -0-

Date: _____ April 15, 19 86

CERTIFIED THAT THE WITHIN
INSTRUMENT WAS FILED FOR
RECORD IN THIS OFFICE
ON AND AT

MAY 12 30 11 '92

1042270

DOC. NO. _____
JAMES N. DOIAN, COUNTY RECORDER

DEPUTY _____ FEE \$15.00

CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ CHARGE ☒
CHARGE WHOM _____
REFUND _____

DO NOT REMOVE

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_____ ^{exempt}
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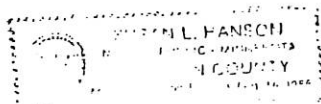
Exempt from Dakota County Deed Tax
_____ ^{exempt}
Dakota County Treasurer

Derrick Land Company
By _____
Its President
By _____
Its _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA }
COUNTY OF Hennepin } ss.

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Susan L. Hanson
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Inver Grove Heights, MN 55075

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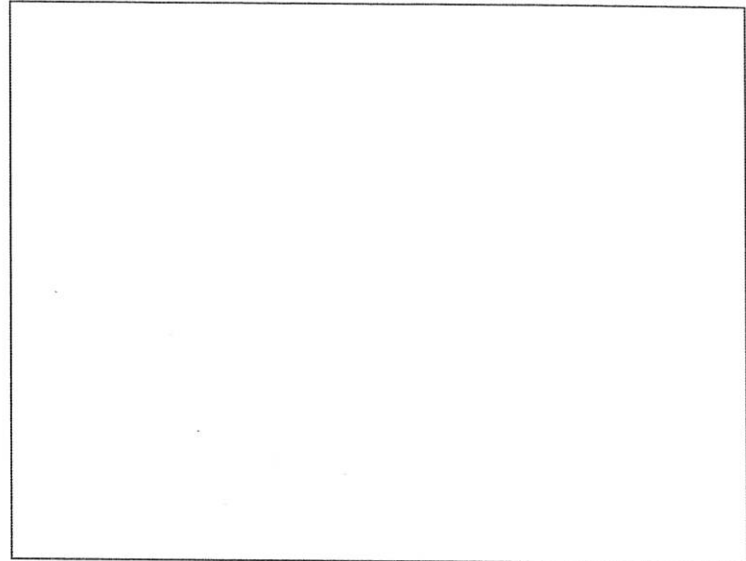
John J. Todd
1535 Livingston Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118
Attorney Reg. No. 110224

Return This Instrument to:
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Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 198
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Property Card	Parcel ID Number 20-25700-01-030
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Fee Owner CITY OF INVER GROVE HTS
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Property Address
Address
Municipality INVER GROVE HEIGHTS



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ON AND AT

MAY 8 12 30 PM '92

1042270

DOC. NO. _____
JAMES N. DOI AN, COUNTY RECORDER

DEPUTY Don FEE \$15.00

CASH ☐ CHECK ☐ CHARGE ☒
CHARGE WHOM Don Don
REFUND _____

DO NOT REMOVE

1042270

No delinquent taxes and transfer entered; Certificate
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Certificate of Real Estate Value No. _____

May 8, 19 92

Thomas V. Kuntz

County Auditor

by S. S. S. S. S.

Deputy

STATE DEED TAX DUE HEREON: \$ -0-

Date: April 15, 19 86

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Exempt from Dakota County Deed Tax

Thomas V. Kuntz
Dakota County Treasurer

Derrick Land Company
By Roger D. Derrick
Its President

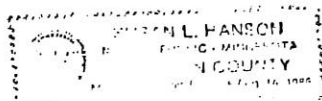
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Susan L. Hanson

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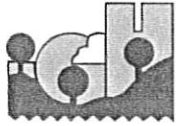
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Timothy J. Kuntz
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 298
South St. Paul, MN 55075

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING INFORMATION



City of Inver Grove Heights
Parks and Recreation Department
"Discover the Opportunities"

8055 Barbara Avenue • Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 • Phone: 651-450-2585 • Fax: 651-450-2490 • www.invergroveheights.org

July 17, 2017

Dear Resident

Subject: River Heights Park

In August of 2016 the City Council adopted a list of City owned property that could potentially be sold to encourage development and increase the tax base. For the last several years, the Park and Recreation Commission and the City Council have been challenged to find adequate resources to maintain our existing park system. As part of reviewing the future needs of the parks system, the Park and Recreation Commission has determined that repurposing all or portions of River Heights Park, Marcott Woods Park, and/or Derher Park may potentially be viable options for the City to consider.

The City is in the process of improving fire service to residents and has determined that adding a third fire station to serve the community is necessary. The City is working to secure land for the new fire station and is considering selling a portion of River Heights Park as a part of the acquisition process.

The City of Inver Grove Heights will be hosting a public information meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers at 8150 Barbara Ave., to discuss the potential repurposing of River Heights Park.

Residents in the area are invited to attend a series of meetings to give input as there will be several opportunities to share your feedback. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Date	Purpose	Time	Location
Tuesday, July 25, 2017	Public Information Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
Wednesday, August 9, 2017	Park and Recreation Commission Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
Tuesday, September 5, 2017	Planning Commission Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.
TBD	City Council Meeting	7:00pm	City Hall - 8150 Barbara Ave.

Should you be unable to attend a meeting, please feel free to email, call or send me a letter prior to the meeting with your comments regarding the park. My email is ecarlson@invergroveheights.org and my phone number is 651.450.2587.

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Inver Grove Heights

CC Mayor and City Council
Park & Recreation Commission

[illegible]

[illegible]

NEIGHBORHOOD PETITION

Please cross my
name off the petition

Bill was impressed
that you answered
the phone the other
day + it didn't go to
voicemail

Mary Adams

River Heights Park – PAC

**Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Inver Grove Heights**

August 9, 2017

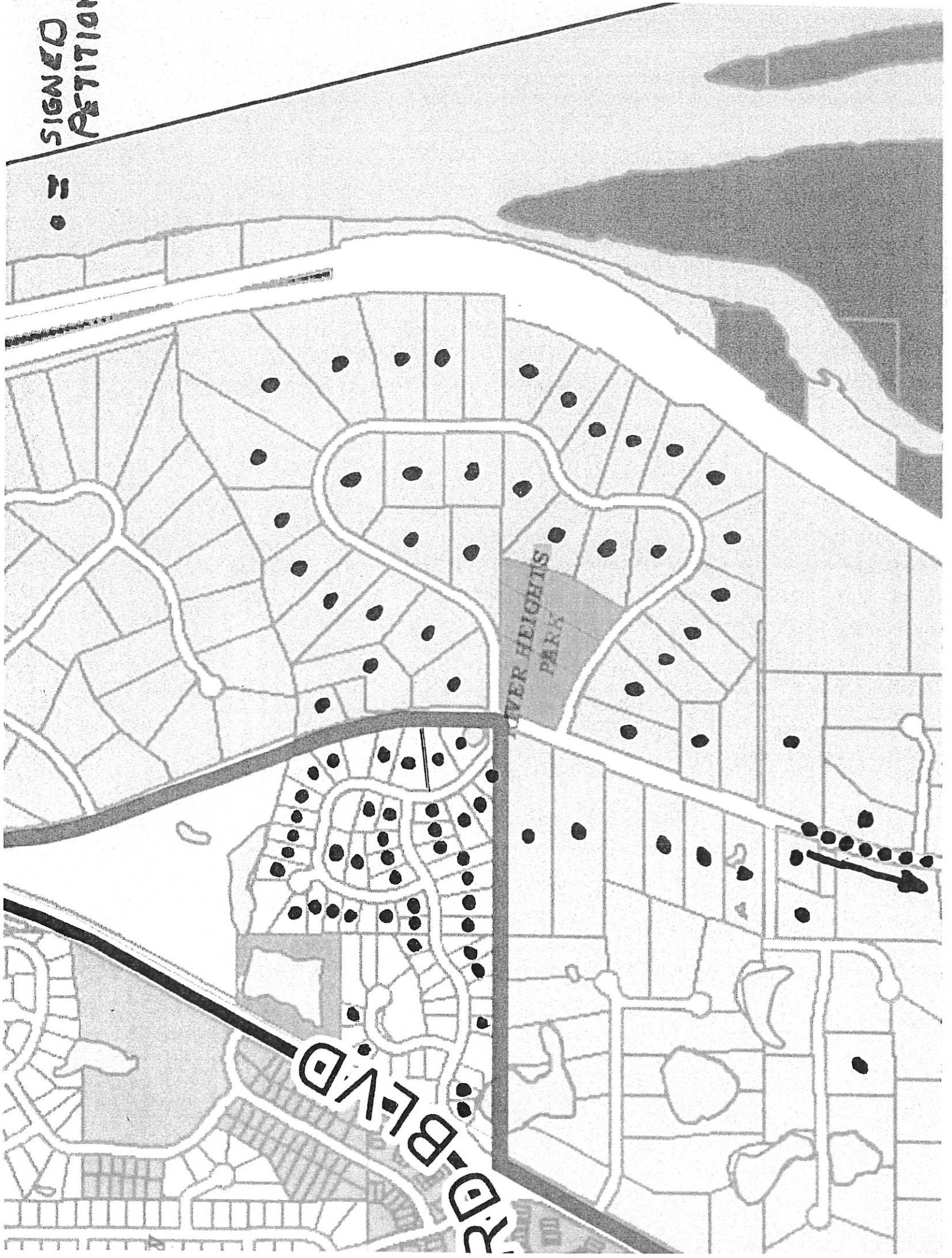
Dear Commissioners:

Included in the attached petition are 140 signatures, representing 94 households that completely surround our River Heights Park. This is the voice of our neighborhood and is speaking in no uncertain terms. We implore you to listen to our unified voice to leave our park unchanged.

Sincerely,

River Heights Park - PAC

SIGNED
PETITION



River Heights Park – PAC

Eric Carlson
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Inver Grove Heights

July 25, 2017

Dear Eric Carlson:

Represented in the attached petition are over 50 households that literally surrounds our River Heights Park. This is the voice of our neighborhood and is speaking in no uncertain terms. We implore you to listen to our unified voice to leave out park unchanged.

Sincerely,

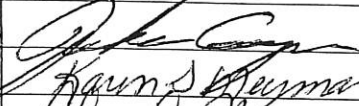
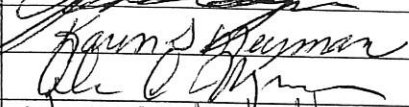
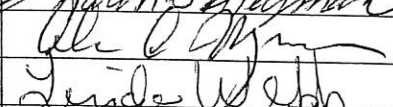
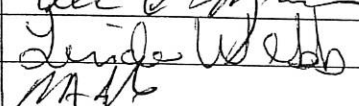
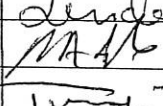
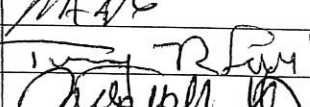
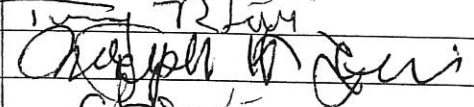
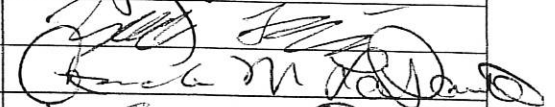
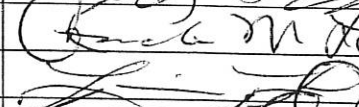
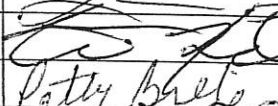
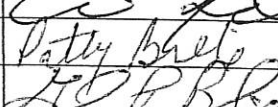
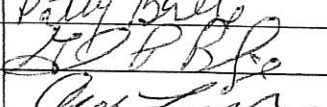
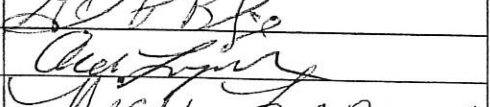
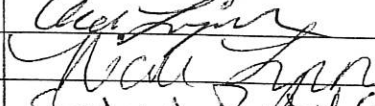
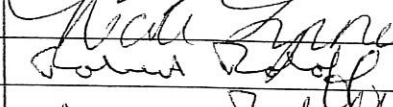
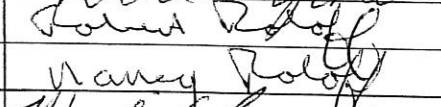
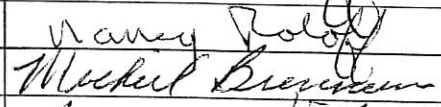
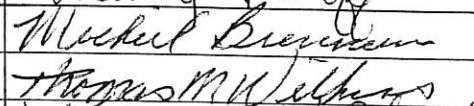
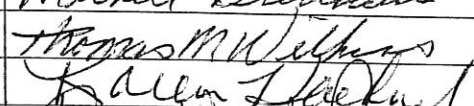
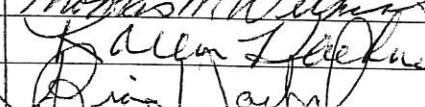
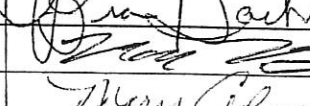
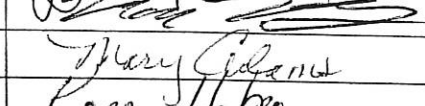
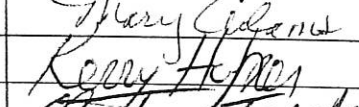
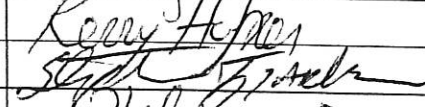
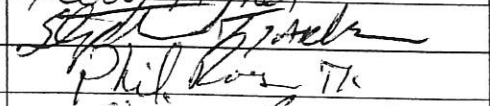
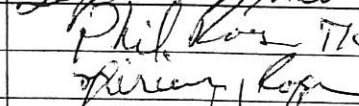
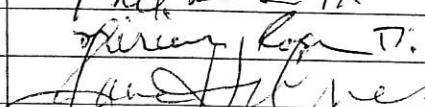
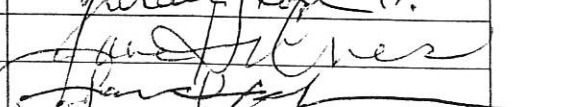
River Heights Park – PAC

River Heights Park was dedicated green space when the area was developed and is part of the character of River Heights Way. We do not want any part of our neighborhood park to be sold.

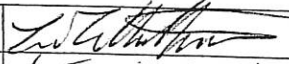
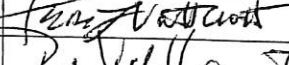
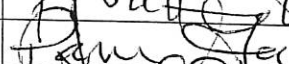
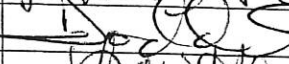
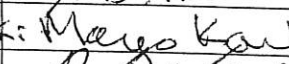
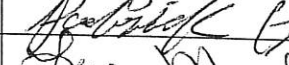
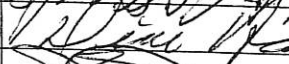
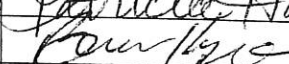
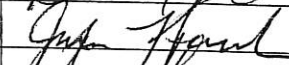
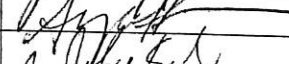
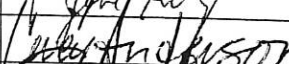
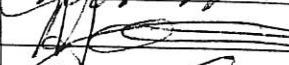
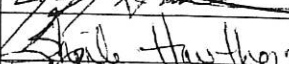
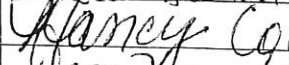
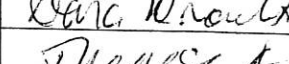
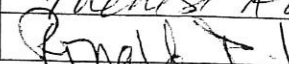
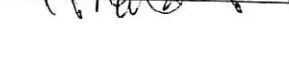
Address

Printed Name

Signature

8905 River Hts Way	John Cooper	
8915 RIVER HGTS WAY	Karen Meyman	
8915 RIVER HGTS WAY	AL MEYMAN	
8925 River Hts Way	Linda Webb	
8832 RIVER Hts Way	ROGER ICENOGLE	
8860 River Hts Way	Timothy R Levi	
8803 Inver Grove Trail	Joseph H Levi	
8803 Inver Grove Tr.	Samille Levi	
8803 Inver Grove Tr.	Zachary Levi	
8800 River Hts Way	Amanda LaPanta	
8860 River Hts Way	Linda Levi	
8860 River Hts Way	Ethan Kelly	
8730 River Hts Way	Patty Brelje	
8730 River Hts Way	Gordon Brelje	
8855 River Hts Way	Aaron Lynner	
8855 River Hts Way	Nicole Lynner	
8800 River Hts Way	Robert Poloff	
8800 River Hts Way	Nancy Poloff	
8845 RIVER HGTS WAY	MICHAEL BRENNAN	
8959 INVER GROVE TRAIL	THOMAS WILKENS	
8830 River Hts Way	Karen Hachnel	
8830 River Hts Way	Brian Hachnel	
8810 River Heights Way	Mark Hatfield	
8825 River Hts Way	Mary Adams	
8715 River Hts Way	Kerry Hofner	
8710 River Hts Way	Stephen Trakbs	
8760 River Hts Way	Phil Rogers	
8760 River Hts Way	MIRIAM ROGERS	
8885 RIVER HGTS WAY	Jane Holmes	
8885 River Heights Way	Jaime Holmes	
8895 RIVER HEIGHTS WAY	ANITA GOULETT	
8895 RIVER HEIGHTS WAY	JOHN GOULETT	

River Heights Park was dedicated green space when the area was developed and is part of the character of River Heights Way. We do not want any part of our neighborhood park to be sold.

Address	Printed Name	Signature
8775 River Heights Way	Lulse Halloran	
8775 RHW	Teri Vatterott	
8775 River Heights Way	Pierce Vatterott	
8755 River Hts Way	Pam Gabriel	
8755 River Hts Way	Todd Gabriel	
8725 River Hts Way	Lori Howard	
8725 River Hts Way	Tyler Howard	
8765 " " "	Charles Kavalouski	
" " " "	Margo Garrett Kavalouski	
8865 River Hts. way.	Patrick Gustafson	
8850 River Height way	Lucy Marshall	
8855 River Heights Way	Jim Marshall	
8795 River Hts Way	Diane Tokort	
8785 River Hts Way	Jim Macdonald	
8735 River Heights Way	Patricia Haugo	
8735 River Heights Way	Dr. Bruce Haugo	
8769 River Heights Way	Jake Horsch	
8769 INVERMORE TRAIL	Amyale Horsch	
8723 Crismon Way	Jake Kelly	
4118 87th St. East, IBH	Corey Anderson	
4118 87th St. East, IBH	Ronala Anderson	
8714 CRISMON WAY IBH	DAVID P. SABAKI	
8714 CRISMON WAY IBH	KARA SABAKI	
8717 CRISMON WAY	Todd Kniss	
8733 CRISMON WAY	Michelle Kniss	
8732 CRISMON WAY	SEAN CURRAN	
8745 River Hts Way	Jepp Hawthorne	
8745 River Heights Way	Shale Hawthorne	
8905 River Heights	Nancy Cooper	
8705 River Heights Way	Dara Knowlton	
3880 90th St East	Therese Wanzler	
3880 90th St East	Ron Wanzler	

Signature

[illegible]

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

From: Kenneth Tupper [mailto:K_tupper@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:58 AM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: Re: River Heights Park Letter

OK, I think you are misguided.

Either you wish to expand an already expanded government and waste more money, or you are trying to decrease response times. However, with an ALL Volunteer Fire Crew, that point is moot!

From: Eric Carlson <ecarlson@invergroveheights.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 8:18:04 AM
To: 'Kenneth Tupper'
Cc: Joe Lynch; Judy Thill
Subject: RE: River Heights Park Letter

Ken

Thanks for your email and questions regarding the letter that was sent related to River Heights Park. We have identified three existing parks that depending on public input we may decide to sell in their entirety or sell portions of them, they are as follows:

River Heights Park - 8780 Inver Grove Trail
Marcott Woods Park - 2830 90th St E
Dehrer Park - 4085 Dehrer Way

The City has determined a need for a third Fire Station and based on the inventory of land currently owned by the City we are unable to find an adequate piece of property that meets the criteria needed to develop a Fire Station (location, size, topography, site development costs, etc.)

Given the fact we don't own an appropriate piece of property we are in the process of negotiating with a private property owner to purchase their land to build the Fire Station. The location of this property meets our criteria and is ideal for a Fire Station so fire personnel can provide adequate response times for emergency calls.

The land owner desires the ability to continue to live in Inver Grove Heights so instead of purchasing another piece of property we are considering providing them with a portion of River Heights Park since we have determined our long term plan suggests we may not need all or portions of the park. Providing the private property landowner with property currently owned by the City ultimately helps make the acquisition of the private property less expensive to the City.

Hopefully this helps answer some of your question and concerns, if you have others please feel free to email me or call me at 651.450.2587.

Hope you have a great day!

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson

From: Kenneth Tupper [mailto:K_tupper@msn.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 5:04 PM

To: Eric Carlson

Subject: River Heights Park Letter

OK, I reviewed the letter; My notes are as follows:

First, I cannot figure out what you are trying to address. It seems that you have NO Plan at all.

Second, I have NO Idea where Marcott Woods Park is located. It is not on Mapquest or Google Earth.

Third, Is there a particular reason that a New Fire Station could NOT be placed at the Current property owned by the City at 8150 Barbara avenue or thereabouts?

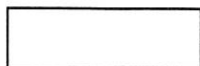
Seems to me that you Gubbiment officials are again wasting public money. resources and time.

Ken Tupper

Eric Carlson | Park and Recreation Director

Tel: 651-450-2587 | Fax: 651-259-8032

City of Inver Grove Heights | Parks & Recreation | 8055 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077
ecarlson@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org



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Eric Carlson | Park and Recreation Director

Tel: 651-450-2587 | Fax: 651-259-8032

City of Inver Grove Heights | Parks & Recreation | 8055 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077
ecarlson@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org

Eric Carlson

From: Eric Carlson
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 10:57 AM
To: 'Tony Guinta'
Cc: Joe Lynch; Judy Thill
Subject: RE: River Heights Park

Tony

Good morning and thanks so much for your email.

The River Heights Park property would be intended for the private property owner to build a new home to live in....it is not our intention to locate the fire station in River Heights Park.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Eric

From: Tony Guinta [<mailto:tonyguinta@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 9:05 AM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: Re: River Heights Park

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Thank you for the letter explaining the consideration of selling a portion of River Heights Park for the purpose of acquiring a new fire station. Would you please be kind enough to clarify whether or not the intention is to build a new fire station at the location of River Heights Park or is the intention only to sell it to raise capital for building a fire station elsewhere?

My concern is that I live on Inver Grove Trail and River Heights Park is right down the road from me. I would have great concerns if there were plans to build a fire station on our quiet country road, but I'll reserve those as I don't want to jump to conclusions.

I will greatly appreciate any time you take to answer my question.

Thank you,
Tony Guinta

9281 Inver Grove Trl
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
651-206-0055
tonyguinta@gmail.com

Eric Carlson

From: Greg Bauer [greg.bfc@popp.net]
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 11:13 AM
To: Eric Carlson
Cc: 'George Tourville'; 'Paul Hark'; Joe Lynch; Judy Thill
Subject: RE: River Heights park

Eric and All,

There are lot's of people in the neighborhood of River Hts , IG Tr, and Crismon who are in complete disagreement with this and there is a petition going around. Hope we can resolve this!
Have a good weekend as well.

Greg Bauer

From: Eric Carlson [mailto:ecarlson@invergroveheights.org]
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 11:03 AM
To: Greg Bauer
Cc: George Tourville; Paul Hark; Joe Lynch; Judy Thill
Subject: Re: River Heights park

Greg

Thanks so much for your thoughts and comments. I will be sure to share them with the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission. Hope you have a great weekend.

Eric Carlson
763.350.8850
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 22, 2017, at 10:00 AM, Greg Bauer <greg.bfc@popp.net> wrote:

Dear Eric,

We are writing to you to express our disapproval of using River Heights park or any other for that matter, to increase the tax base for funding a fire station. It is true that we need a fire station in this part of town but to remove park land seems a little short sighted, in our opinion. Granted, it is not a heavily used area like maybe Sleepy Hollow, but it does serve a purpose in this neighborhood and if I'm not mistaken, was required, back in 1980 when the land was developed, to have a park. This is a park that seems to require very little maintenance so I am questioning that fact. It is unfortunate that our city does not put the quality of life in our neighborhoods over finances, or so it seems.

There are many empty buildings along the Concord/Cahill area that need occupancy which certainly would help to not only enhance the finances of our city but bring more business to the area. (and make it possible for the landlords to pay their property taxes!) What's being done about that issue?

Inver Grove Trail is already a very busy road, even dangerous to walk on and this addition of the number of homes (probably similar to Crismon Trail and 87th St. development) would be another detriment to pedestrian safety. (I'm not even sure that there is a speed limit sign along our road)

We and our neighbors do hope that another solution can be worked out rather than taking away some of the natural beauty (and potentially, the safety) of our community. This is not to take away from the need for additional fire protection in our community and neighborhoods.

We will be out of town for the 1st 2 meetings noted: on 7-25 and 8-9, but we wanted to express our feelings to you.

Sincerely,

Greg and Shirley Bauer

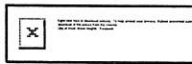
8955 Inver Grove Trail

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Eric Carlson | Park and Recreation Director

Tel: 651-450-2587 | Fax: 651-259-8032

City of Inver Grove Heights | Parks & Recreation | 8055 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077
ecarlson@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org



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Eric Carlson

From: Eric Carlson
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 12:19 PM
To: 'Nankivel, Carol (MPCA)'
Subject: RE: question for you about park land/capita

Carol

Thanks for your email and questions regarding River Heights Park and how Inver Grove Heights compares to other cities.

It is true that the City is considering selling a portion or potentially all of River Heights Park for single family lots (2.5 acres per lot). Ultimately the City Council will decide if this is something that happens and I am sure they will be interested in peoples perspective on the issue.

Regarding how does Inver Grove Heights compare to others I can provide you with the following which is taken from a document I have recently put together on the service level of the City's park and recreation system. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Eric

Level of Service

The Level of Service (LOS) analysis produces guidelines that help the City make investment decisions related to parks, facilities, and other built amenities in our park and recreation system. LOS puts the City's inventory of parkland and facilities in terms of "units per population" and creates recommendations based upon multiple resources:

- Average of "smaller communities" (Rosemount, Andover, Roseville, Shakopee, Cottage Grove, S. St. Paul, Farmington and West St. Paul)
- Average of "larger communities" (Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Lakeville)
- National Standards collected by the National Recreation Park Association (NRPA)

These standards should be used as a guide and are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment related to the particular situation and needs of the City of Inver Grove Heights. By applying these facility standards to the population of Inver Grove Heights, gaps and surpluses in park and facility/amenity types are reveled and funding decisions can be adjusted appropriately.

Assumptions: Average small city population 28,000
City of Inver Grove Heights population 34,000
Anticipated City of Inver Grove Heights full development population 50,000
Average large city population 59,000

Prior to adding, repurposing, or removing park infrastructure, a strong effort to engage the impacted neighborhood community should be used to gain support and understanding. Understanding the initial capital investment, on-going operational investments, and future capital replacement investment should be a part of the discussion process when making these decisions.

Parks

					Future Build Out @ 50,000	
	Inver Grove Heights Current	Smaller Cities Average	Larger Cities Average	National Cities (20K – 50K) Average	National Standard	To meet our current ratio
Number of parks	28	31	60			
Per capita	1,214	901	977	1,901		
IGH need to meet ratio	28	37	35	18	NA	41

- NW Area Park Plan assumes we will add 5-6 parks in the NW area at full development.
- The City will have 34 – 35 parks at full development.

Park Land

					Future Build Out @ 50,000	
	Inver Grove Heights Current	Smaller Cities Average	Larger Cities Average	National Cities (20K – 50K) Average	National Standard 24.75 per 1,000	In order to meet our current ratio
Acres of Parkland	608	583	1,272			
Acres per 1,000	17.88	20.87	21.69	9.6		
IGH need to meet ratio	608	709	737	326	1,237	894

- NW Area Park Plan assumes we will add 56-82 acres in the NW area at full development.
- The City will have 665-691 acres of park land at full development.

Bituminous Trails

					Future Build Out @ 50,000	
	Inver Grove Heights Current	Smaller Cities Average	Larger Cities Average	National Cities (20K – 50K) Average	National Standard .75 per 1,000	In order to meet our current ratio
Miles of trail	26	35	90			
Miles per 1,000	.76	1.25	1.55			
IGH need to meet ratio	26	42.5	52.7	NA	38	38

- NW Area Park Plan assumes we will add 10-15 miles in the NW area at full development.
- Closing the priority gaps in the trail gap study would add approximately 7 miles of trail
- The City will have 42 – 48 miles of trails at full development.

From: Nankivel, Carol (MPCA) [<mailto:carol.nankivel@state.mn.us>]

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 9:02 AM

To: Eric Carlson

Subject: question for you about park land/capita

Hi Eric, as expected, our neighborhood is all shook up about the proposal to sell River Heights Park. I don't know my own mind about it yet. I'm opposed to it just on principle but I understand the dynamic of parks needing to provide return on investment.

I'm planning to come to the meeting on Tuesday to hear more. But I was wondering if there are any figures about what the "right" amount of parkland is. Does IGH have comparable acreage of parkland per person when compared to other suburban communities? Are we higher, lower or in the same ballpark (little park/rec pun there)? You don't have to reply back, just wanted to let you know that I'll be asking that question.

Carry on.

Eric Carlson

From: Eric Carlson
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 2:29 PM
To: 'Margo Garrett'
Cc: Joe Lynch; Judy Thill; Kristi Smith; Tom Link
Subject: RE: Tuesday night Public Information Meeting

Margo

Thanks so much for your email and questions concerning River Heights Park, I will do my best to answer the questions you have:

What zoning exists to protect us from indiscriminate construction?

The current zoning of the property is P/Institutional, if the Council approves of the repurposing of the park, City staff will recommend zoning of R1-C which is appropriate for single family residential homes

Are you considering placing a fire station on River Heights Park land?

No, the City does not intend to locate a new fire station in River Heights Park.

.....If we must, we must increase taxes. I personally will want to review the entire budget/actual expenses of the city to determine other possible sources of support. Are they online?

The City Council is sensitive to increasing taxes, here is link to the 2017 City Budget so you can review the City's overall budget <http://www.ci.inver-grove-heights.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/5325>

May I suggest that one week's notice - your letter was dated July 17 and surely could have arrived not before the 18th or 19th - is not enough time to guarantee attendance by all who would wish to be there? We are a case in point. Are there provisions for us to know all the information to be shared tomorrow night? Streaming? A recording secretary and letters sent online or via hard copy?

My apologies for not providing more notice before Tuesday's meeting, Tuesday's meeting is meant to be informational in nature, gives residents an opportunity to ask questions etc, there will be no decisions made on Tuesday and no recording/minutes of the meeting. As outlined in the letter, the first public meeting is the Parks and Recreation Commission scheduled for Wednesday, August 8th, and then the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 5th. At these meetings the advisory commissions will review a staff report and take visitor testimony, all of this information will be broadcast live, and in tape delay on the local cable TV channel, in addition minutes of the meetings will be taken for the record. All of

the comments, letters, emails, and testimony will be provided to the City Council prior to their meeting which has yet to be scheduled.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson

-----Original Message-----

From: Margo Garrett [<mailto:margogarrett@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 1:10 PM

To: Eric Carlson

Subject: Tuesday night Public Information Meeting

July 24, 2017

Hello Mr. Carlson:

I am also known as Margo Kavalovski. My husband, Charles (Chuck) Kavalovski and I live at 8765 River Heights Way, IGH but are sadly unable to be at tomorrow's meeting. I am working for a month in Massachusetts and Chuck is here visiting family in the area.

If we had had earlier notice of this meeting, Chuck would have chosen to be at the meeting rather than travel here, so important does it seem to us. I know he has written or spoken to you, but I wanted to also speak for myself.

I vehemently object to the selling of even a portion of any of the current parks. I can only speak for what River Heights Park means to us, as I do not use Marcott Woods or Derher Parks. Indeed, the purchase price of our home, which seemed high to us in 2003, was agreed upon, largely because of the setting the the park provided the neighborhood, a desirable separation between the peacefulness of our cup de sac and the faster pace of Inver Grove Trail's traffic and beyond into, now, all the new home construction. Our home values will absolutely be affected negatively in the park is sold.

And what zoning exists to protect us from indiscriminate construction?

Certainly, you are not considering putting a fire station actually on the River Heights Park land! But perhaps I should rephrase this into a question. ARE you considering placing a fire station on River Heights Park land?

Why take away parks in order to find adequate resources to maintain the park system? Nonsensical. You are simply taking services away from your citizens. If we must, we must increase taxes. I personally will want to view the entire budget/actual expenses of the city to determine other possible sources of support. Are they online? I will certainly look, but if you know I won't find them online, I would appreciate how I might study these.

May I suggest that one week's notice - your letter was dated July 17 and surely could have arrived not before the 18th or 19th - is not enough time to guarantee attendance by all who would wish to be there? We are a case in point. Are there provisions for us to know all the

information to be shared tomorrow night? Streaming? A recording secretary and letters sent online or via hard copy? I request knowing what is planned for those unable to attend.

Thank you for reading and for your answers to my questions,

Respectfully and sincerely,

Margo Garrett Kavalovski
917-685-8533

Eric Carlson

From: Eric Carlson
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 2:34 PM
To: 'Zachary Alsterlund'
Cc: Joe Lynch; Judy Thill; Tom Link
Subject: RE: River Heights Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Zach

Good afternoon and thanks for your email. The City Council is considering the future of River Heights Park over the course of the next few months. At this point I'm not sure if the Council will elect to sell any or all of the current Park property. I would suggest you check back with me towards the middle of September to see what decision the Council has made/is thinking about.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Eric

-----Original Message-----

From: Zachary Alsterlund [<mailto:zalsterlund@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

Hi Eric

I have some friends in the River Heights Way/Inver Grove Trail area and I recently heard the River Heights park lots may be on the market in the near future. I am very interested in purchasing one of the lots. I am unable to attend the public information meeting tomorrow regarding the properties - can you please send me the meeting minutes/any and all information regarding the potential sale/timeline of those lots?

Thank you

Zachary Alsterlund
612-309-8479

Eric Carlson

From: rita meyer [ritakob@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 4:24 PM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

I am opposed to selling any of River Heights Park for any reason. Building a fire station there is preposterous. The road is already very small and narrow and the neighbors don't need the added traffic or noise. Don't destroy our neighborhoods.

Rita Meyer

And those who were seen dancing were thought to be
insane by those who could not hear the music - Nietzsche

Eric Carlson

From: Williams,Misty A [MAWILLI6@travelers.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Eric Carlson
Cc: Tom Link; Nicole Cook; Joe Lynch; Misty Williams (crabbymisty@gmail.com)
Subject: RE: Question regarding a proposed development

Hi Eric,

Thank you for the quick follow up to my inquiry and thank you for resending the notice! I double checked and didn't find one, but we were out of town for a couple of weeks so it's possible that it got missed or lost in the shuffle.

I will be unable to attend the August 9th meeting, but will try to attend the future meetings for this topic. In the mean time I wanted to share my thoughts about the possible sale of all, or part, of River Heights Park:

Though River Heights park is undeveloped, it does not appear to be under-utilized. I walk to River Heights Park from my house every morning and enjoy the park with my dogs, and I routinely run into other IGH residents who are also enjoying the park. I think a boy scout troop even did a project in the park last year and hung bee hives which were aimed at trying to revive the Mason Bee population.

In speaking to residents in the neighborhoods next to, and surrounding the park, it appears to be commonly agreed that the park is a value-add for the area, and several residents have told me that the River Heights wooded park was promoted as a selling feature when they purchased their homes in the new development near the park.

Another thought about park-usage: the park trail does not seem to get routinely mowed unless residents send multiple emails requesting for it to be done. The grass will often times be chest-high before the trail gets mowed and that could be a turn-off for anyone looking to use the park.

My other concern with developing the park is that there would be a disruption to the animals and birds that call River Park Heights home. My dogs and I often encounter a family of deer that bed-down in the field. We also have come across foxes, turkey, pheasants, and a multitude of birds and other creatures that live within the park boundaries. Is there a plan in-place to address this disruption?

As a last thought: The homes immediately surrounding River Heights Park all have 2+ acre lots. Though I can't speak for the owners, I can't imagine that these residents would be in-favor of disrupting their development by adding additional housing to a previously wooded and secluded area.

Again, I appreciate the quick response and thank you for taking the time to read my comments on this proposal. Please let me know if I should direct them elsewhere or if you have any feedback.

Regards,
Misty Williams
8830 Coppersmith Ct
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Misty Williams | Associate Account Executive | Private & Non-Profit Liability
Travelers Bond & Specialty Insurance

P: 651-310-5533 | F: 800-851-1390

mawilli6@travelers.com

www.travelersbond.com

TRAVELERS 

★

From: Eric Carlson [mailto:ecarlson@invergroveheights.org]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:11 PM
To: Williams,Misty A <MAWILLI6@travelers.com>
Cc: Tom Link <mlink@invergroveheights.org>; Nicole Cook <ncook@invergroveheights.org>; Joe Lynch

<jlynch@invergroveheights.org>

Subject: RE: Question regarding a proposed development

Misty

Good afternoon and thanks so much for your email. It is accurate that the City is currently considering selling all or a portion of River Heights Park located at 8780 Inver Grove Trail. To be clear, the potential sale of the park is related to the City's acquisition of private property and the property owners interest in continuing to live in the City, if sold the park area would be developed into a private residence, not a Fire Station. We are not considering the sale of River Heights Park or any other park to fund the construction of a Fire Station. The potential sale of River Heights Park, Marcott Woods, and/or Dehrer Park(s) is based on the Parks and Recreation Commission's determination that these parks may not be needed in the future because they are located in the rural area of the community and are currently undeveloped. The Commission and City Council will be taking public comment at upcoming meetings and you are encouraged to participate in the process, please see the attached letter for more information.

We mailed out approximately 200 notices and the address you have listed (8830 Coopersmith Ct) is on the list we mailed too, so I'm not sure why you didn't receive a letter.....I am attaching one now for your review. Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson

From: Williams, Misty A [mailto:MAWILLI6@travelers.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 1:48 PM

To: Eric Carlson

Subject: FW: Question regarding a proposed development

Hi Eric,

I was recently informed by another resident that the city is proposing a sale of one of three parks (River Heights Park, Dehrer, and ?) in Inver Grove Heights to fund an additional Firehouse.

I never received a notice about this and I am an IGH resident. Can you help me or get me to the correct person to learn more information about this proposed land sale/development?

Thank you!

Misty

612-964-5612

8830 Coppersmith Ct

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

Misty Williams | Associate Account Executive | Private & Non-Profit Liability
Travelers Bond & Specialty Insurance

P: 651-310-5533 | F: 800-851-1390

mawilli6@travelers.com

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Eric Carlson

From: Eric Carlson
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 11:42 AM
To: 'Gregory Schouweiler'
Subject: RE: River Heights Park
Attachments: River Heights Park Presentation 7.25.17.pdf

Nancy

I promised I would follow up with you on Monday, here is a copy of the presentation I used on 7/25. As a point of clarification, if the City sells River Heights Park, it is our intention to develop 1-3 2.5 acre residential lots, it is not our intention to place the fire station at that location. You can find more information on our website about Wednesday's Parks and Recreation Commission meeting by visiting www.invergroveheights.org.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson

-----Original Message-----

From: Gregory Schouweiler [<mailto:gschouweil@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 2:08 PM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

Dear Eric,

I am responding to your July 17, 2017 letter regarding River Heights Park. Unfortunately I did not receive the letter until late in the day on July 25, 2017 and was unable to change my plans in order to attend the Public Information Meeting that was scheduled for that evening. If there were handouts at that meeting, would it be possible to have them forwarded to me?

My husband and I were more than disappointed to hear of the potential plans to build a fire station on the River Heights Park land. We realize that it may be very easy to overlook the Park as an existing part of the City's park system since it isn't a traditionally developed City Park and isn't even listed as a Park on the City's website. However, to the residents of this area, (we have been here 30 years), it is an important piece of open space. We, and our neighbors, chose to live in this area because of its rural character and River Heights Park is part of that character. I recall being part of a survey of our neighborhood 10 or so years ago asking if we wanted the Park developed and we declined. We like our open space. Our neighborhood is just as deserving of a neighborhood Park as is the practice for other neighborhoods in the City.

I know the City has started working on the 2040 Comp Plan, however I believe the 2030 Comp Plan is still the guiding tool. According to the 2030 Plan, one of the Guiding Principles is to Retain the Rural Character and one of the ways to do so is to protect open spaces. In addition, the 2030 Regional Development Framework indicates our area as Rural Residential. The addition of a fire station as described in the Executive Summary of the Fire Department Study, as posted online, is not conducive to the Rural Residential description in the Framework. Since a Rural Residential area is low density residential with a minimum of 2.5 acre lots and this particular neighborhood is nearly built out, it will not have the growth necessary to demand the service of a new fire station in comparison to other parts of the City.

According to the Fire Department Report as posted online, which indicated the River Heights Park location as the primary site, there were a number of criteria for the numerical grading of the potential fire station sites. (The other potential sites were not listed in the Report's Executive Summary.) Of those criteria, a number of them did not meet the standard as applied to the River Heights Park location.

The criteria include: no municipal water supply, limited public access or visibility, no municipal storm water access, no municipal sanitary sewer access, and the traffic hazard of limited street width, (actually Inver Grove Trail and River Heights Way do not meet residential street standards).

The nature and design of Inver Grove Trail with limited access and its somewhat remote location within the City also detracts from the River Heights Park site for a fire station.

Please let me know if this email will be forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, the Mayor and the City Council. If not I will contact them accordingly.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my email.

Sincerely,
Nancy Schouweiler
Former Dakota County Commissioner
4000 90th St. E.
IGH, MN 55076
651-455-6440

Sent from my iPad

Eric Carlson

From: Kymn Paulson [kymnpaulson@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 7:22 AM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

IGH Park Director Eric Carlson and IGH Park & Recreation Committee:

I am saddend to hear that IGH is considering selling all or even part of River Heights Park. One of the perks of living in IGH is its excellent parks and natural areas and this is something we pride ourselves on. We need these natural areas and parks for our residents, pollinators, and wildlife. Twenty-five years ago, when I moved to IGH, I walked and biked around town with a map searching for and enjoying these parks. I still do this. Lets others have this same experience with River Heights Park.

Please don't sell River Heights Park; please find another way to find the needed funds.

Kymn Paulson
3222 72nd St E
IGH, MN

--

Canoe Diem - Kymn Sent from my Gmail Canoe

Eric Carlson

From: Eric Carlson
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 10:07 AM
To: 'Shatek, Carrie'
Cc: 'Andy Shatek (biff@frana.com)'
Subject: RE: Update on River Heights Park in preparation for meeting August 9
Attachments: River Heights Park Presentation 7.25.17.pdf

Carrie

Thanks for your email and interest in River Heights Park....I am attaching a presentation that I used on July 25th...you can get additional information about the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting from our website at www.invergroveheights.org

Just to be clear, if the City sells a portion or all of River Heights Park it would be for single family residential...the fire station is not going to be located at River Heights Park.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson

From: Shatek, Carrie [<mailto:Carrie.Shatek@chsinc.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 9:18 AM
To: Eric Carlson
Cc: Andy Shatek (biff@frana.com)
Subject: Update on River Heights Park in preparation for meeting August 9

Hi,

Could you share with me any updates or information from the Public Info meeting that was held on July 25th regarding the repurposing/purchase of part of the River Heights Park?

I'm concerned about the noise from a potential fire station close to my home off of 89th street, as well as taking away a more natural looking park.

I am planning on attending the meeting August 9th.

Thank you,

Carrie Shatek

Eric Carlson

From: Kymn Paulson [kymnpaulson@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 7:22 AM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

IGH Park Director Eric Carlson and IGH Park & Recreation Committee:

I am saddend to hear that IGH is considering selling all or even part of River Heights Park. One of the perks of living in IGH is its excellent parks and natural areas and this is something we pride ourselves on. We need these natural areas and parks for our residents, pollinators, and wildlife. Twenty-five years ago, when I moved to IGH, I walked and biked around town with a map searching for and enjoying these parks. I still do this. Lets others have this same experience with River Heights Park.

Please don't sell River Heights Park; please find another way to find the needed funds.

Kymn Paulson
3222 72nd St E
IGH, MN

--

Canoe Diem - Kymn Sent from my Gmail Canoe

From: Dar tiarks [dtiarks@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 4:29 AM

To: George Tourville; Tom Bartholomew; Rosemary Piekarski-Krech; Kara Perry; Paul Hark

Subject: River Heights Park

Dear City Council Members:

My husband and I recently purchased our home directly adjacent to River Heights Park at 8710 River Heights Way.

When we learned about the potential sale/development of the park, it came as a shock to us.

One of the reasons that we purchased our home, versus others we had looked at, was the privacy and the country feel

that the park provides in our backyard. It would be our hope that the park remains intact in it's current state. When our family/friends visit

our new home, each and every one of them comment about the park area and how much they like the natural state of the land.

We were unable to attend the previous meeting in July, but it is our intent to attend the meeting August 9th, providing

our work schedules allow. Please take note of our thoughts and desires to keep the park just the way it is.

Thank you for your time!

Steve and Darlene Tiarks

Joe Lynch | City Administrator

Tel: 651-450-2511 | Fax: 651-259-8021

City of Inver Grove Heights | 8150 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077

jlynch@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org

From: m muyres [matt.muyres@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 12:02 PM
To: George Tourville
Cc: Tom Bartholomew; Rosemary Piekarski-Krech; Kara Perry; Paul Hark; mkennedy@invergroveheights.org
Subject: IGH PARK

We need trees and space.

We dont need homes and more humans, cars, traffic, congestion.

The city wont implode without this development.

Jesus, get a clue-

Joe Lynch | City Administrator
Tel: 651-450-2511 | Fax: 651-259-8021
City of Inver Grove Heights | 8150 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077
jlynch@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org

From: Lori Howard [loriannhoward@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 1:50 PM

To: George Tourville; Tom Bartholomew; Kara Perry; Rosemary Piekarski-Krech; Paul Hark

Subject: River Heights Park

Here we go again. Once again, the residents of River Heights Way are having to fight to protect the land that was dedicated green space when developed years ago. If the residents of River Heights Way haven't changed their expectations of that agreement, why does the City keep trying to change their terms?

Our neighborhood is pretty low maintenance - we're one of the last to have our street plowed, we just finally got some repaving done (this road was in horrible condition for quite a few years) and we're not on city sewer and water. We've been good neighbors. I urge the City of Inver Grove Heights to be good neighbors as well and quit trying to change the layout of the land.

Our city does not need to develop every existing piece of green space. I urge you to leave River Heights Park in the hands of Mother Nature.

Thank you.

Lori Howard

Joe Lynch | City Administrator

Tel: 651-450-2511 | Fax: 651-259-8021

City of Inver Grove Heights | 8150 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077

jlynch@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org

From: Nancy Cooper [nkcooper@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 10:49 AM
To: Kara Perry
Subject: Saving Park located on River Heights Way

Hello officials of IGH,

Please note our interest in saving the park located in our circle. I have lived in IGH 50 plus years and have followed the

concept of IGH being a rural community when different opportunities have arisen for more of a city "look" has been

turned down by the officials such as yourself. I understand that we need another fire department and should be located out

towards new developed housing and the area that you have selected. But... the bargain that was made to "trade" land

for another piece of land (our IGH park) is not acceptable. The city of IGH needs to keep open spaces and develop a park

that can be used by children, adults and alike! We bought our house due to the park designation.

Still can't figure out what the culture is of IGH? Look at Rosemount, Farmington, Lakeville that are booming with small businesses,

new houses and economy... their school system is awesome ... IGH is stagnant ... why is that? The planning of IGH is so

darn confusing and does not have a flow... PLEASE do not make another mistake with the park and its promise for the

future!

Appreciate your ear..

Nancy and John Cooper

Eric Carlson

From: Joe Lynch
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 4:09 PM
To: Eric Carlson; Michelle Tesser
Subject: FW: River Heights Way park proposal.

FYI for records for the meeting.

From: Kara Perry [mailto:kperry@invergroveheights.org]
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 3:32 PM
To: Joe Lynch <jlynch@invergroveheights.org>
Subject: FW: River Heights Way park proposal.

From: ROBERT S ROLOFF [DRROLOFF@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 2:23 PM
To: George Tourville; thartholomew@invergroveheights.org; Rosemary Piekarski-Krech; Kara Perry; Paul Hark
Subject: River Heights Way park proposal.

My wife and I have lived on River Heights Way since 1985. We would like to see this park remain a green space as it was initially designed to be.

Joe Lynch | City Administrator
Tel: 651-450-2511 | Fax: 651-259-8021
City of Inver Grove Heights | 8150 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077
jlynch@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org

Eric Carlson

From: svobp@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 7:54 AM
To: Eric Carlson
Subject: River Heights Park

Hi Eric!,

When I saw the article in the PP about River Heights Park being possibly sold as part of a deal I thought at first, "OH NO! The City's selling off the parks!" but when I located it on the map in the Park and Rec booklet I changed my mind about it. The neighbors there denied IGH a dog park so, I'm in FAVOR of the deal!

Charlotte Svobodny

Eric Carlson

From: George Tourville
Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2017 10:40 AM
To: Eric Carlson; Joe Lynch
Subject: Fwd: River Heights Park

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dar tiarks <dtiarks@yahoo.com>
Date: August 8, 2017 at 4:29:30 AM CDT
To: "gtourville@invergroveheights.org" <gtourville@invergroveheights.org>, "tbartholomew@invergroveheights.org" <tbartholomew@invergroveheights.org>, "rpiekarskikrech@invergroveheights.org" <rpiekarskikrech@invergroveheights.org>, "kperry@invergroveheights.org" <kperry@invergroveheights.org>, "phark@invergroveheights.org" <phark@invergroveheights.org>
Subject: River Heights Park
Reply-To: Dar tiarks <dtiarks@yahoo.com>

Dear City Council Members:

My husband and I recently purchased our home directly adjacent to River Heights Park at 8710 River Heights Way.

When we learned about the potential sale/development of the park, it came as a shock to us.

One of the reasons that we purchased our home, versus others we had looked at, was the privacy and the country feel

that the park provides in our backyard. It would be our hope that the park remains intact in it's current state. When our family/friends visit

our new home, each and every one of them comment about the park area and how much they like the natural state of the land.

We were unable to attend the previous meeting in July, but it is our intent to attend the meeting August 9th, providing

our work schedules allow. Please take note of our thoughts and desires to keep the park just the way it is.

Thank you for your time!
Steve and Darlene Tiarks

George Tourville | Mayor
Tel: 651-450-2507 | Home: 651-455-4465
City of Inver Grove Heights | 8150 Barbara Ave | Inver Grove Heights | Minnesota | 55077
gtourville@invergroveheights.org | www.invergroveheights.org



*Working to protect the Mississippi River
and its watershed in the Twin Cities area.*

101 East Fifth Street
Suite 2000
Saint Paul, MN 55101

651-222-2193
www.fmr.org
info@fmr.org

August 8, 2017

Inver Grove Heights Park & Recreation Commission
Attn.: Parks & Recreation Director Eric Carlson
8150 Barbara Avenue
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

RE: The proposed sale of a portion of River Heights Park.

Inver Grove Heights Park & Recreation Advisory Commission:

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a local non-profit community-based organization that works to protect and enhance the natural and cultural assets of the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities. We have 1,800 active members, and more than 3,000 volunteers who care deeply about the river's unique resources. FMR has long been an active and ongoing defender and promoter of preserving and restoring public open space within our National Park, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), since 1993.

We are writing today to respectfully request that you oppose the proposed sale of a portion of River Heights Park. While we have no opposition to the city's need for a new firehouse or increased revenue, we strongly believe that selling public parkland to accomplish these needs is a poor choice for our National Park and IGH residents.

National Park

Riverview Heights Park is within our local National Park, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a 72-mile corridor along the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities. MNRRA was established in 1988 to work in partnership with local communities to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational resources within the national park corridor. Since MNRRA owns very little land in the corridor, it relies on local communities and regional park agencies to provide parks, trails, open space and other public amenities within the corridor. Natural open space at this location is contributing the health and beauty of the National Park for both people and wildlife. River Heights Park not only provides residents with a trail through a natural area, but also contributes key habitat to the Mississippi River Flyway – an internationally significant migratory corridor used by millions of birds and other wildlife throughout the year. The proximity of this park to the Pine Bend Bluffs is also significant, because its high ecological value. This conservancy parkland is one of many key park pieces that make our National Park great.

IGH Residents

Inver Grove Heights has recognized the significance of parkland for residents in the city's 2009 Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide.

Parks, trails and open spaces are important to residents. Parks define neighborhoods, offer recreation opportunities, and serve as open space and wildlife habitat. The City of Inver Grove Heights parks act as neighborhood gathering points and strengthen the sense of community. The City of Inver Grove Heights is committed to meeting its residents' needs and will plan wisely for the future (pg. 6).

We completely agree that parks provide immense benefits to the community.

The Comprehensive Park Plan goes on to explain that River Heights Park serves the entire community, is worthy of preservation and would be adversely affected by development. This information is found through the park's classification as conservancy land. The service area given by the plan is "community wide" and the site is described as one of IGH's "Significant natural areas, which merit preservation and would be adversely, affected be [by] development" (pg. 20). The decision for this land classification was made as recently as 2009. Considering such a drastic change in land use from conservancy to sale for development in just eight years, the Parks Commission should reject this change, as it is inconsistent with city-adopted policy.

In addition, the city has a goal "To provide a well balanced park and recreation system" (pg. 36). Taking River Heights Park out of the mix, or partially out of the mix, would remove parkland from a portion of the city that is already fairly disconnected from other public parkland and reduce the city's already small amount of natural trails.

- Selling River Heights Park while meeting the goal above, as we see it, is not possible, because there is no new (replacement) parkland available in the surrounding neighborhoods. While no other potential parkland is available, there are numerous locations where fire protection services could be located.
- Simply removing parkland from this portion of the city also goes against this city goal. When looking at the maps showing IGH park amenity service areas (immediately following pg. 112), River Heights Park does not fall within any of the ½-1 mile services area listed. Therefore, providing parkland for area residents should be a priority for the city to ensure open space is accessible to all residents.
- Removing River Heights Park would also reduce the small amount of planned natural trails shown on the 2030 Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan Map (page 6-10, immediately following pg. 110). Removing or shrinking one of the few natural trails would go against the city's policy "To offer a variety of activities in the park system including cultural, conservation, passive, active and organized recreation areas" (emphasis added, pg. 36).

Funding

We understand that the city is looking to save money and generate revenue. However, the City's Park Maintenance Operating Budget Funding Pro-forma (PDF pg. 129), indicates that

River Heights Park will not cost the city significant maintenance until 2028. Therefore, keeping the park would not be a significant burden to the city and the community wide benefits of natural parkland should outweigh the revenue the city could generate from selling eight acres of land.

Restoration Opportunity

The plan suggests that the city will “develop forest restoration plan” (pg. 88) for River Heights Park. We would strongly encourage the restoration of this important site within the MNRRA corridor. We have two professional ecologists on staff that write management plans and implement them all along the MNRRA corridor. We would be happy to work with the city to pursue funding, complete a restoration management plan and engage community members in restoring and enhancing the site, so it will support a greater diversity of wildlife and pollinators. We also are committed to our restoration sites long-term and do ongoing ecological management. One example of such work is at the nearby Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area, where FMR has been assisting the DNR with ecological restoration and management for the past 15 years. Last year we entered into a partnership with IGH to conduct restoration activities with volunteers at Heritage and Swing Bridge Parks and we were able to leverage \$20,200 in state funds towards this work. We would welcome an opportunity to assist with restoration of River Heights Park in the future.

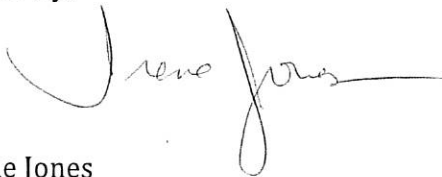
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Duties and Functions

Finally, the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission official duties and functions per city code include “periodically examining the need for new parks and open space...” but it does not mention considering the sale or disposition of existing parkland. We ask that you demonstrate the courage to do the right thing for the health, well-being and quality of life of the residents of Inver Grove Heights, and protect River Heights Park for current and future generations.

We strongly encourage you to uphold your community’s vision for the parkland and adhere to your existing Comprehensive Park Plan by opposing the sale of River Heights Park in any amount.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please feel free to reach out to Irene Jones, River Corridor Program Director (ijones@fmr.org, x11) or Alicia Uzarek, Policy Advocate (auzarek@fmr.org, x29) with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Irene Jones", written in dark ink.

Irene Jones
River Corridor Program Director

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Consider Establishment of Sub-Committee for North and South Valley Park Master Plan

Meeting Date: April 11, 2018
Item Type: Regular Agenda
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:

☐	None
☐	Amount included in current budget
☐	Budget amendment requested
☐	FTE included in current complement
☐	New FTE requested – N/A
☒	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Establish a sub-committee of the Park and Recreation Commission consisting of four (4) Commissioners, Superintendent Swoboda, Superintendent Petersen, and Director Carlson

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Commission establish a subcommittee consisting of the following members:

- Chair Sethre
- Commissioner Eiden
- Commissioner Freer
- Commissioner Gerhardt

The purpose of the sub-committee would be to review the draft master plan report produced by HKGI and make recommendation to the full Commission.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Review of Park and Recreation Section of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Meeting Date: April 11, 2018
Item Type: Regular Agenda
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ | None |
| ☐ | Amount included in current budget |
| ☐ | Budget amendment requested |
| ☐ | FTE included in current complement |
| ☐ | New FTE requested – N/A |
| ☐ | Other |

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Commission is asked to review the draft of the Park and Recreation Section of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and make any necessary comments before the draft plan is presented to the City Council.

SUMMARY

Cities, townships and counties in the seven-county area prepare comprehensive plans as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act every 10 years. The 2040 Comprehensive plan for the City of Inver Grove Heights is mostly an “update” of the existing plan. Commissioners should discuss what is/isn’t included in the plan and make appropriate comments of necessary changes or amendments to the existing draft copy.

PARKS & RECREATION

CHAPTER 6

INTRODUCTION

Inver Grove Heights is well served by its developed parks, trails, recreation facilities and open spaces. These elements are important to residents and are a significant factor in maintaining a healthy community with a high quality of life. Parks define neighborhoods, offer recreation opportunities, and serve as open space and wildlife habitat. Parks act as neighborhood gathering points, strengthen the sense of community and set the stage for active living. The developed park system provides a solid foundation from which the City can expand to serve future residents. Inver Grove Heights is committed to meeting its resident's parks and recreation needs and will plan wisely for the future.

Since the adoption of the previous Comprehensive Plan, the City of Inver Grove Heights, along with Dakota County, has engaged in a number of development and improvement projects, as well as the development of park-specific master plans. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan focuses on the following key elements, to guide the improvement and development of the park and recreation system for the next 20 years:

- Acquisition of parks in the Northwest Area for new planned residential growth.
- Continued development of historical and cultural resources.
- Enhancing trail and bikeway connectivity.
- Preservation and management of natural resource lands.
- Leadership in sustainability.
- Improvements to promote a healthy and active community.

Accomplishments Over the Last 10 Years

Since the adoption of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, the following improvements and developments within Inver Grove Parks and Recreation:

- Inver Wood Driving Range, Irrigation
- Playgrounds replaced at Oakwood Park, Skyview Park, Arbor Pointe, and Groveland Park
- Development of Heritage Village Park
- Development of Swing Bridge Park
- Re-purposed Skyview ballfields to soccer/football fields
- Added a community garden
- Development of Veterans Memorial Community Center (VMCC) East and West Rinks
- Aquatic play equipment added at VMCC
- Artificial turf added at VMCC
- Development of Mississippi River Regional Trail (Dakota County)
- Pine Bend Bluff Trailhead installed (Dakota County)
- Planning for dog park at Heritage Village Park
- Development of Mendota to Lebanon Hills Greenway (Dakota County) - in progress
- Development of Rich Valley Greenway (Dakota County) - in progress



INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

EXISTING PARKS SYSTEM

Inver Grove Heights's developed park system consists of 832 acres of park and natural areas and over 79 miles of combined trails and sidewalks not including those located on school sites. Schools provide an important recreational amenity for a number of neighborhoods in Inver Grove Heights and the City partners with the school district for some of its needs. This system was achieved through parkland dedication, partnerships with the school districts, donations and land acquisitions all designed to meet neighborhood and community recreation needs.

City Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Inver Grove Heights Park System is comprised of two community parks, 11 neighborhood parks, one linear park, one greenway, two special use parks, a historic site, five neighborhood playfields, one community athletic complex and five natural areas. City-owned parks and natural areas represent roughly 5% of the City's land area. There are approximately 18 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, not including school district athletic facilities or Inver Wood Golf Course. Schools provide additional space for athletic fields and facilities through joint powers agreements for use and maintenance of them; however, hours are limited to school off-hours. Natural areas provide additional open space and access to natural resources. Within the park system are key community park and recreation facilities that provide community gathering, athletic fields and facilities, passive recreation and access to natural, cultural and historic resources including Veterans Memorial Community Center, Rich Valley Athletic Complex and Inver Wood Golf Course and Heritage Village Park. A summary of the existing parks and recreation facilities can be found in Table 6-1

Natural Areas

There are five City-owned natural areas in the park system consisting of 139 acres of oak savanna, oak woodlands, wetlands, creeks, ponds and natural prairie areas that offer residents opportunities to access open space and natural resources. These sites include Harmon Park, Marianna Ranch, River Heights Park, Woodlands Preserve Park and Marcott Woods. In addition, there are other natural areas owned by regional public agencies or private institutions that offer conservation and natural resource oriented park amenities. These include Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area, a 256-acre area owned by the Minnesota DNR, the Katherine B. Ordway Natural History Study Area, and a 278-acre preserve owned and



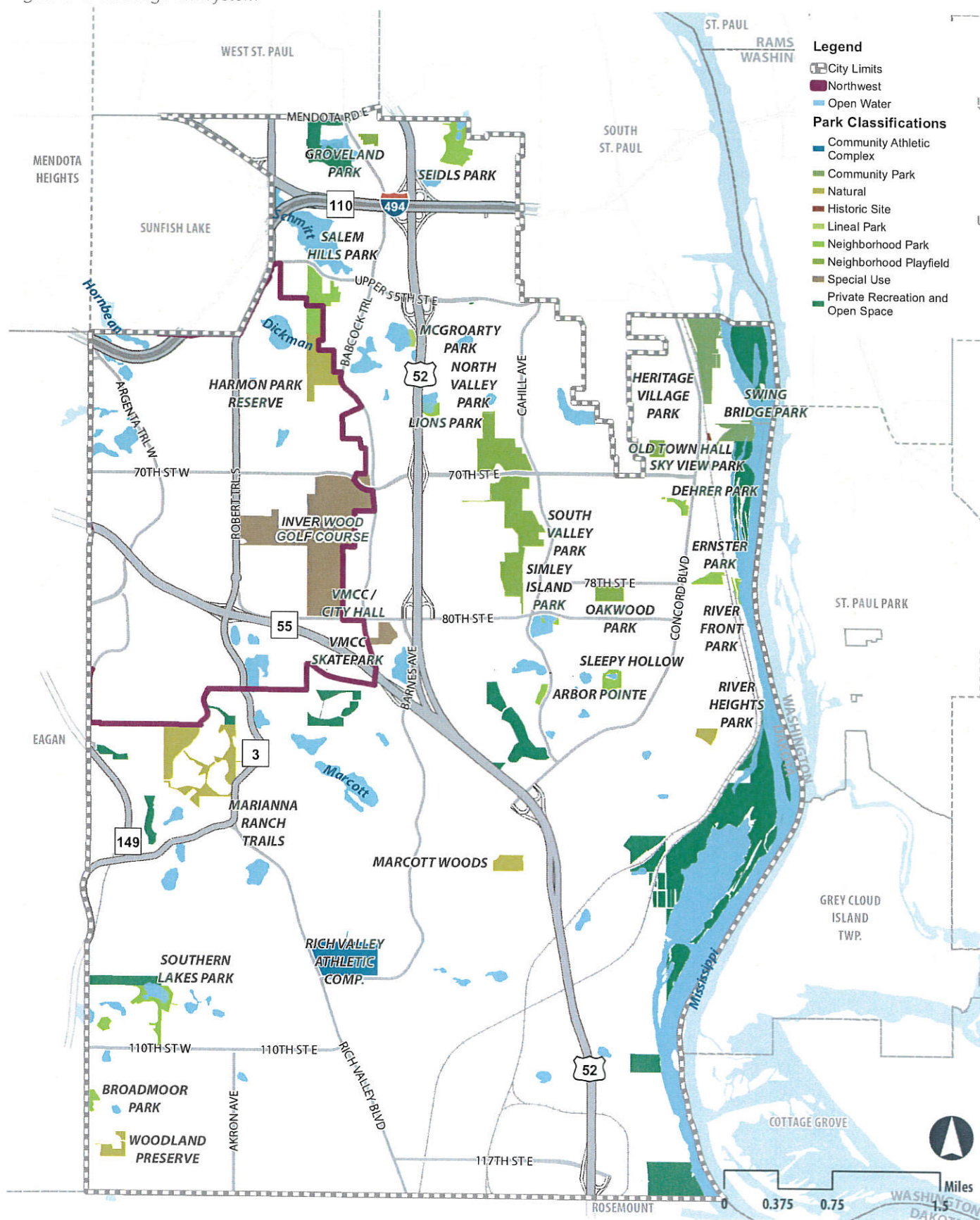
Harmon Park

Table 6-1. Inver Grove Heights Facility Grid

City of Inver Grove Heights Park and Facility Table																														
	Land Area (Acreage)	Water Area (Acres)	Picnic Shelter	Parking Lot (spaces)	Playground	Baseball/Softball Fields	Basketball Courts	Soccer Fields	Football/LaCrosse	Tennis Courts/Pickleball Courts (lighted)	Tennis Courts/Pickleball Courts/Judo/Aerobics/Sand Volleyball Court	Enclosed Shelter	Hockey Rinks (lighted)	Pleasure Rink	Sliding Hill (lighted)	Horseshoe Pits	Fishing	Fishing Pier	Disc Golf Course	Skate Boarding	Benches	Picnic Table(s)	Grill(s)	Water Fountain(s)	Tree Nursery	Paved Trail (ft)	Natural Trails (ft)	Min Bike Trails (ft)	Community Garden	
Community Park																														
Heritage Village Park 65th Street and Concord Blvd.	57																				1					4,280				
Swing Bridge Park 4465 66th St	18		1	45									1				1				5	10	2			2,800				
Community Athletic Complex																														
Rich Valley 1841 105th St. E (105th & RichValley)	71	2	2	603	1	9	1	4			1	2										67	27	4	5		8,604			
Neighborhood Playfield																														
Groveland 1900 46th St. (46th & Audrey Ave.)	6			19	1	1	1				1	1	1	1							3	3				756				
North Valley 2800 70th St. (70th St. & Cahill Ave.)	58	3		87		2					4								1		10	3		3		4,970				
Oakwood 3534 78th St. E. (78th St. & Clayton)	15		1	40	1	3				2		1	1	1							10	4	2			3,336				
Skyview 6765 Dawn Ave. (69th & Dawn)	8			20	1		1	2	1	2		1	1	1							10	3		1		711				
South Valley 2810 70th St. (70th St. & Cahill Ave.)	93	2	1	37	1	1						1	1	1	1				1		11	7	3			6,840				
Neighborhood Park																														
Arbor Pointe Park 8545 Cahill Avenue	4	1			1																2					1,821				
Broadmoor Park 11306 Stratford Lane	7				1																	2	1			203	737			
Dahrer 4085 Dahrer Way	5																													
Emster Park 7750 Dickman Trail	7				1	1	1				1				1						2	1				2,540				
Lions Park 2423 65th Street E.	4	8	1		1												1	1			6	5	1							
River Front Park 7782 River Road	2			12													1					2	1							
Salem Hills 1642 Upper 55th (Asher & Upper 55th)	41			26	1	1	1				2											6	2		1	1	2,151			1
Seld's Lake Park 2655 47th Street E.	26				1												1				1					166				
Simley Island 3110 80th St. E. (80th & Cahill Ave.)	3	15	1	6													1	1			1	3				120				
Sleepy Hollow 3645 84th Street E.	10	2			1		1				1				1						9	2				4,095				
Southern Lakes Park 10810 Alkon Way	4	0			1	1								1							2	1				102				
Natural Areas(Conservancy Land)																														
Harmon Park Reserve 1642 Upper 55th Street E.	43	2																									1,812	22,294		
Marianna Ranch 9125 Alvarez Avenue	64																										9,681			
River Heights Park 8780 Inver Grove Trail	8																										1,937			
Woodland Preserve 11666 Azure Ln	10																													
Marcott Woods 2830 96th Street E.	14																													
Historic Site																														
Old Town Hall 6701 River Road	1																													
Lineal Park/Greenway																														
Hwy 52 Trail McGroarty Park Co. Rd. 18 & Blaine Avenue	4	17															1				1					15,840				
Special Use Area																														
Inver Wood Golf Course 1650 70th St. E.	235			280																										
Championship 18 and Executive 9 hole golf courses, driving range, Two weather shelters																														
Veterans Memorial Grove Community Center 8055 Barbars Ave.	13	2	1	365	1															1										
The Veterans Memorial Community Center, Grove Fitness and Aquatics Center, Parks and Recreation Office																														
TOTAL	832	53	8	1,540	14	19	6	6	1	4	8	2	7	3	5	1	2	6	2	2	1	149	74	13	#	1	59,115	14,167	22,294	1

	Land Area (Acreage)	Playground	Baseball/Softball Fields	Stadium Football/Soccer Field	Tennis Courts (not lighted)
<i>Simley High School</i>					
2320 - E 80th St	80		3	1	8
<i>Simley Middle School</i>					
8167 Cahill Ave	-		3		
<i>Salem Hills Elementary</i>					
5999 Babcock Trail	11	1			
<i>Hilltop Elementary</i>					
3201 - 68th St E	13	1	2		
<i>Pine Bend Elementary</i>					
9875 Inver Grove Trail	26	1			
TOTAL	109	3	8	1	8

Figure 6-1: Existing Park System



operated by Macalester College for education and research purposes. The Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area is open to the public and includes a trailhead provided by Dakota County. The Katharine B. Ordway Natural History Study Area is only open to the public on a limited basis with advanced approval.

Historical and Cultural Resources

The City of Inver Grove Heights has a rich history as a River City. There remain two historic buildings, the old town hall and school house as well as property along the Mississippi River that the City has been acquiring for Heritage Village Park. Heritage Village Park encompasses the old "Village" settlement and rail yard transportation hub along the Mississippi River. The park will provide passive recreation, historic displays, a dog park and a community gathering space.

Swing Bridge Park, near Heritage Village Park, consists of the remains of an old roundhouse foundation and the Swing Bridge. The City and the County have worked in cooperation to restore the Swing Bridge and create the park. The Swing Bridge, also known as Bridge 5600, is a double decked rail and vehicle bridge that served the railroad, stockyard, and travelers from 1894 until 1999 and connected Inver Grove Heights to Saint Paul Park.

These artifacts add to the historical and cultural significance of the Concord Avenue commercial area and riverfront area and provide abundant opportunities for interpretation and education.

Trails and Bikeways

Trails are an integral component of the City's park system. There are over 27 miles of off-road, on-road and internal park trails located throughout the developed community. Trails offer residents safe access to many city-wide destinations such as schools, shopping areas, parks and a wide variety of natural resources. Some trails are destinations in themselves, offering scenic walks such as the trails in South Valley Park. In addition to City trails, county trails, paved shoulders and sidewalks provide pedestrian and bicycle transportation to community destinations (see Figure 6.3).

The Dakota County Mississippi River Regional Trail Corridor (MRRT) follows the Mississippi River, connecting Harriet Island Regional Park in St. Paul, Spring Lake Park Reserve and the City of Hastings (see Figure 6-3).

Conservation

Natural areas are community open space that contain significant natural resources and are preserved for environmental, open space & aesthetic purposes.

Historical Sites

Historical Sites contain historical features for preservation and interpretation.



Swing Bridge Park



Old Town Hall



Bridge 5600



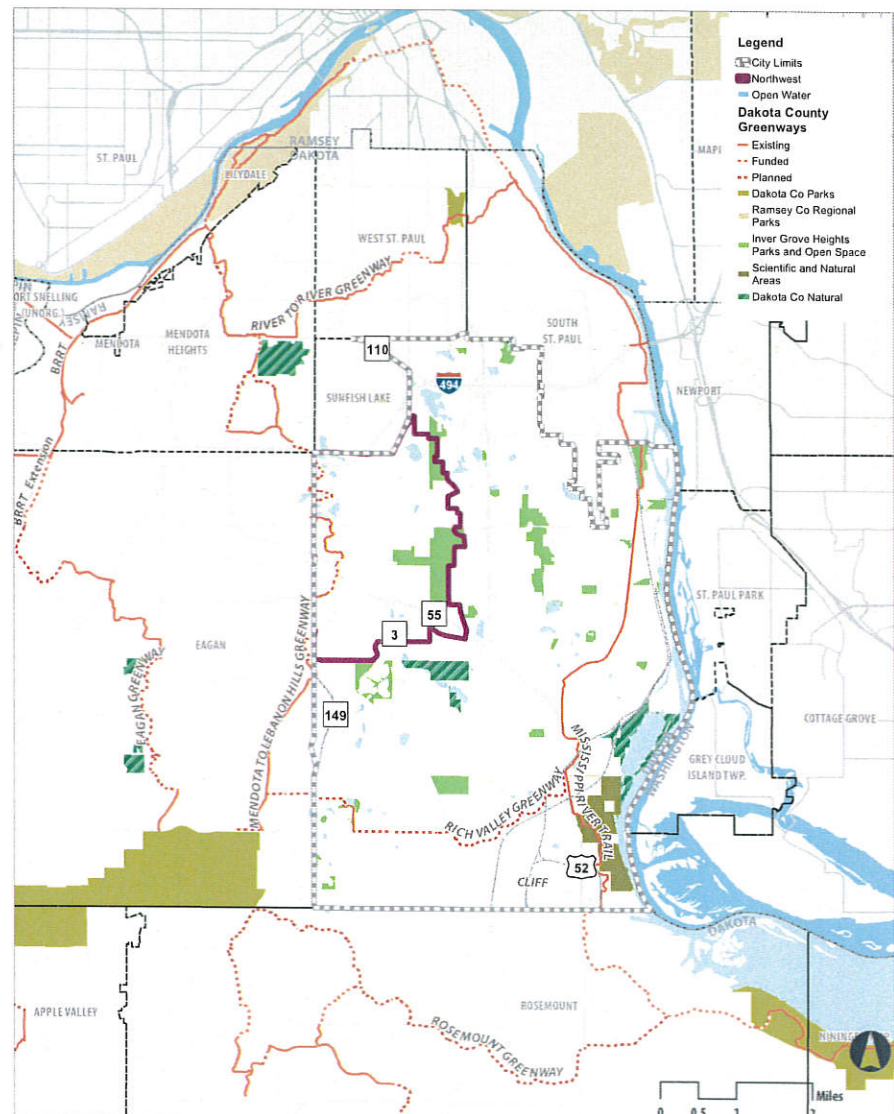
View from Pine Bend Bluffs

A trailhead with parking and restrooms are provided at Swing Bridge Park and Pine Bend Bluffs.

Mendota to Lebanon Hills Greenway is a proposed 8.5-mile regional trail connecting Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights and Eagan. As of the completion of this Comprehensive Plan, the first phase has been constructed, consisting of a 0.5-mile trail segment and pedestrian underpass of Highway 110 in Mendota Heights.

Rich Valley Greenway is a regional trail and open space corridor that will provide a link between Lebanon Hills Regional Park and the Mississippi River in central Dakota County. The 5-mile corridor stretches east and west within the cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights.

Figure 6-2: Dakota County Regional Trails



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PARKS SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

Introduction

Park, recreation, open space and trail connections are essential components of a healthy community. Decisions about parks, trails and open space affect the entire community, enhance sense of community and affect the quality of life in the City. The following park system framework was prepared to guide park planning and decision making. The framework criteria are based on national park and recreation standards developed by the National Parks and Recreation Association modified based on local conditions. This framework should be used as a guide and should be adjusted over time as local conditions change with community needs and trends.

Overall Park Area Standard

One accepted measurement of a park system is the quantity of parkland per 1,000 persons. The National Recreation and Parks Association developed a minimum standard of ten acres per 1,000 residents. In the Twin Cities, the accepted minimum standard is a range from 10 - 20 or more acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Parkland acres refers to neighborhood parks, playfields and community parks and typically does not include trail corridors, special use parks, school lands, regional parks or natural areas. This park area standard should be viewed as a benchmark for comparison purposes.



Lions Park Pier

Park Classifications

Parks serve a variety of purposes, providing active and passive recreation and open space at a neighborhood and community wide scale. For planning purposes, the City has adopted a uniform park classification system that classifies parks according to their use and function. The existing park classifications include community parks, neighborhood playfields, neighborhood parks, special use areas, historic sites, natural areas, linear parks and park/school recreation. The future park classifications applicable to future urban residential areas outside the present developed urban areas exclude neighborhood playfields and linear parks. Community active recreation needs are better served by Community Athletic Complexes which are the preferred park type for community-wide active recreation.

Although park/school recreation areas are not City property, they are classified in the classification system as school lands offering active recreation opportunities for Inver Grove Heights residents even if on a limited basis. The City's park classifications for future growth areas are summarized in Table 6.2. A map of the City's parks can be found on Figure 6-1. Existing Park System.



Simley Island Park

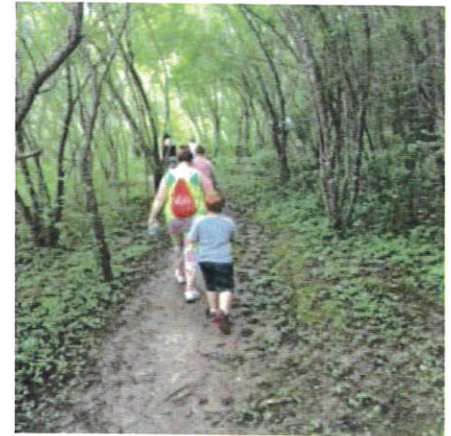
Table 6-2. Inver Grove Heights' Park Classifications

Park Classification	Use/Design Direction	Service Area	Size	Acres/1,000	Site
Neighborhood Park	Basic unit of the park system, developed for both active & passive activities. Design criteria should anticipate the changing demographic profiles of the neighborhood served, as to provide appropriate facilities. Focus on informal and unstructured activities. Typical facilities include: • Playground • Open field area • Trails • Parking evaluated as needed	1/2 mile radius	4 to 10 acres	2.5 to 3.5	Easily accessible to the neighborhood population with safe walking and biking access utilizing trail networks. Site should have well-drained soils and not include topography of excessively steep slopes.
Neighborhood Playfield	Similar to a neighborhood park, but with more emphasis on organized youth athletics. Provides active & passive activities. Design criteria should balance neighborhood and community youth athletic needs. Typical facilities include: • Playground • Athletic fields (lighting not recommended) • Trails • Parking facilities designed to accommodate scheduled athletic use.	1/2 to 1 mile radius	6.5 to 15 acres	2.5 to 3.5	Easily accessible to the neighborhood and the community with a mix of local and collector street access.
Community Park	Area possessing natural qualities conducive to passive recreational activities. Typical facilities include: • Playground • Picnicking facilities • Trails • Natural resources • Community facilities (special uses) • Parking facilities designed to accommodate uses	2 to 2.5 mile radius	20 to 80 acres	2.5 to 5	Site typically affords a variety of natural features, well-drained soils, positive drainage, varied topography and accessible to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Park Classification	Use/Design Direction	Service Area	Size	Acres/1,000	Site
Natural Areas	Area possessing natural qualities preserved for environmental, open space or aesthetic purposes. Facilities should be compatible with the preservation of the resource.	Community Wide	Depends on resource	Varies	Significant natural areas, which merit preservation and would be adversely, affected by development
Community Athletic Complex	Area for intensely programmed recreation facilities and uses. Typical features include: • Athletic fields - youth and adult (lighted) • Swimming pools and other special use facilities • Playground • Trails • Parking designed to accommodate uses.	Community Wide	25 to 80 acres	3.0 to 4.0	Site should be suited for intense development that is easily accessible to the population it is intended to serve. Located near high traffic areas such as schools and major thoroughfares, preferably in non-residential areas.
Linear Parks	Linear parks and open spaces developed for varying modes of recreational travel such as walking, biking, skiing, in-line skating, etc. or for preservation of wildlife corridors, streams, etc. Features include: • Trails	Site specific & Community Wide	Sufficient width for intended use. Minimum 30 feet wide	Variable	Built or natural trail corridors used to link parks, natural resource sites, and/or community facilities such as schools, libraries, and commercial areas. Certain uses such as wildlife corridors require sufficient width to ensure proper function.
Special Use	Highly specialized use area for community recreation facilities such as: • Community golf courses • Arenas • Gardens • Plazas • Pools • Community Center • Other specialized recreation uses	Community Wide	Variable	Variable	Site Specific
Historic Sites	Area set-aside for preserving and interpreting historical features such as landscapes and architecture. Features include: • Interpretive signs • Parking • Museum	Community Wide	Variable	Variable	Size should be adequate to provide support facilities such as picnic area, parking, etc.

Trail Classifications

Trails in Inver Grove Heights are classified based on function, design and location. Trails are designed to serve differing users depending on their location. Trails are designed to connect neighborhoods, parks, schools and commercial areas. Some trails are used primarily for recreation and others for transportation purposes. Trails in Inver Grove Heights include use-separated trails (parallel pedestrian and bicycle trails) within the same corridor, combined trails for both pedestrians and bikes, bike lanes (paved shoulder next to the street) and unpaved natural trails and special use trails (mountain bike, cross county ski, horse and snowmobile). Trail classifications and criteria are summarized in Table 6.3. The function and design of trails within parks will be determined as part of individual park master plans. A map of the City's existing trails can be found on Figure 6.3.



Harmon Park Preserve

Table 6.3: Trail Classification

Trail Classification	Location and Use	Surface	Width	Slope	Notes
Class I - Separate pedestrian and bicycle trails.	Off-street	Bituminous or bituminous and concrete	5-6 feet for pedestrians 8-10 feet for bicycles	0-5% pedestrian 0-3% bike	
Class II - combined pedestrian and bicycle trail	Off-street	Bituminous	10 feet	0-3% average	
Class III - Bikeway lane	On-street - one way per side	Striped lane next to vehicle lane	8-10 feet	Slope to match road	One way lanes
Nature trail	Within parks and conservation areas	Aggregate, wood chip or turf	4-6 feet	0-5% desirable 10% maximum	
Cross country ski trail	Within parks and conservation areas	Snow	10-14 - varies for one or two way	0-15% + depending upon difficulty	Diagonal and skate tracks
Snowmobile trail	Off-street	Snow	10-14 feet	0-10%+	
Horse trail	Off-street	Turf or wood chips	10 feet	0-10%+	12 foot overhead clearance



Preserving Natural Resources (Harmon Landscape)

General Park and Trail Criteria

Park classifications describe criteria applicable to each park type. The following park and trail criteria are applicable to all parks:

- The location of parks and trails will be determined by the City using the 2040 Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan as a guide.
- Parkland shall be suitable to its intended use. This means adequate size, parcel shape, soils, slope, access and relationship to adjacent land uses.
- Parkland shall be continuous and undivided by roadways, railroad tracks, pipelines, or other impassible or unusable barriers.
- Parkland shall be free from any contaminants or debris.
- Trail land shall be of sufficient width and slope to accommodate 10' wide trails and appropriate buffer areas. General guidelines include a minimum width of 20' – 30', a maximum slope less than 12 percent and an average slope not to exceed four percent.
- When park land is dedicated, the developer is required to grade the park land and pave access and perimeter trails (not internal park trails) and sidewalks within the park and adjoining rights of way. All construction must meet City specifications.

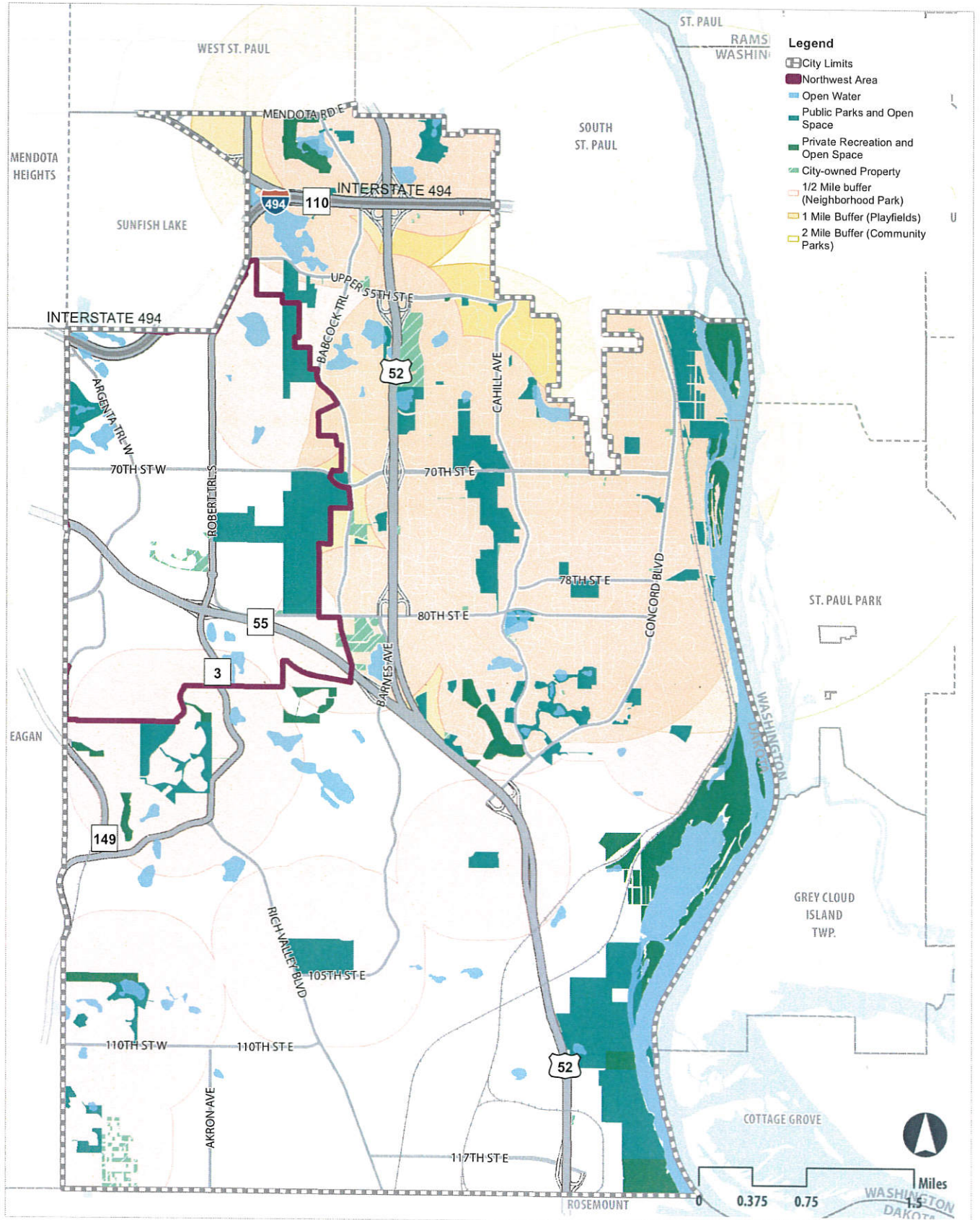
Where topographic constraints pose barriers to achieving the above criteria, the City encourages a collaborative design process to minimize the degree of deviation from these criteria.

PARK SYSTEM NEEDS

Introduction

There is no single standard or measurement to determine community parks and recreation needs. Each community is unique and has its own needs and opportunities. Inver Grove Heights' park and recreation needs were determined through a public process that included community and stakeholder input; guidance from City staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission; and an analysis of the park system considering growth forecasts and recreation trends and using the Park System Framework. With 18 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, Inver Grove Heights exceeds the standard benchmark for minimum park acreage per 1000 residents. An analysis of park service areas shows good access to parks and facilities from most neighborhoods (see Figure 6.4 – Park Service Area Analysis).

Figure 6-4: Park Service Area Analysis



Both suggest that the City has done well to provide adequate parkland to meet neighborhood and community recreation needs. To continue this level of service in future residential growth areas, additional parkland is needed in the Northwest Area of the City.

Neighborhood Park Needs



Oakwood Park Playground

Neighborhood Parks in Inver Grove Heights are the cornerstone of the park system providing passive recreation to neighborhoods within a safe half-mile walk for most residences in the urbanized portions of the City. Existing neighborhood parks are generally in good shape and serve the neighborhoods well. Based on the application of the Park System Framework to future growth areas, an additional 4-5 Neighborhood Parks may be needed to accommodate neighborhood recreation needs of future residents in the Northwest Area, (see Figure 6-6: Northwest Area Park Service Areas Analysis). Typical neighborhood park amenities will be needed, although an opportunity exists to cater the parks to the character of the neighborhood and the site and to specific local needs. Community input suggests that the following improvements are needed in existing neighborhood parks:

- Looped trails, shade and seating areas.
- Handicap accessibility improvements.
- Ongoing life-cycle replacement of playgrounds and facilities.
- Landscape improvements.

Community Park and Recreation Facility Needs

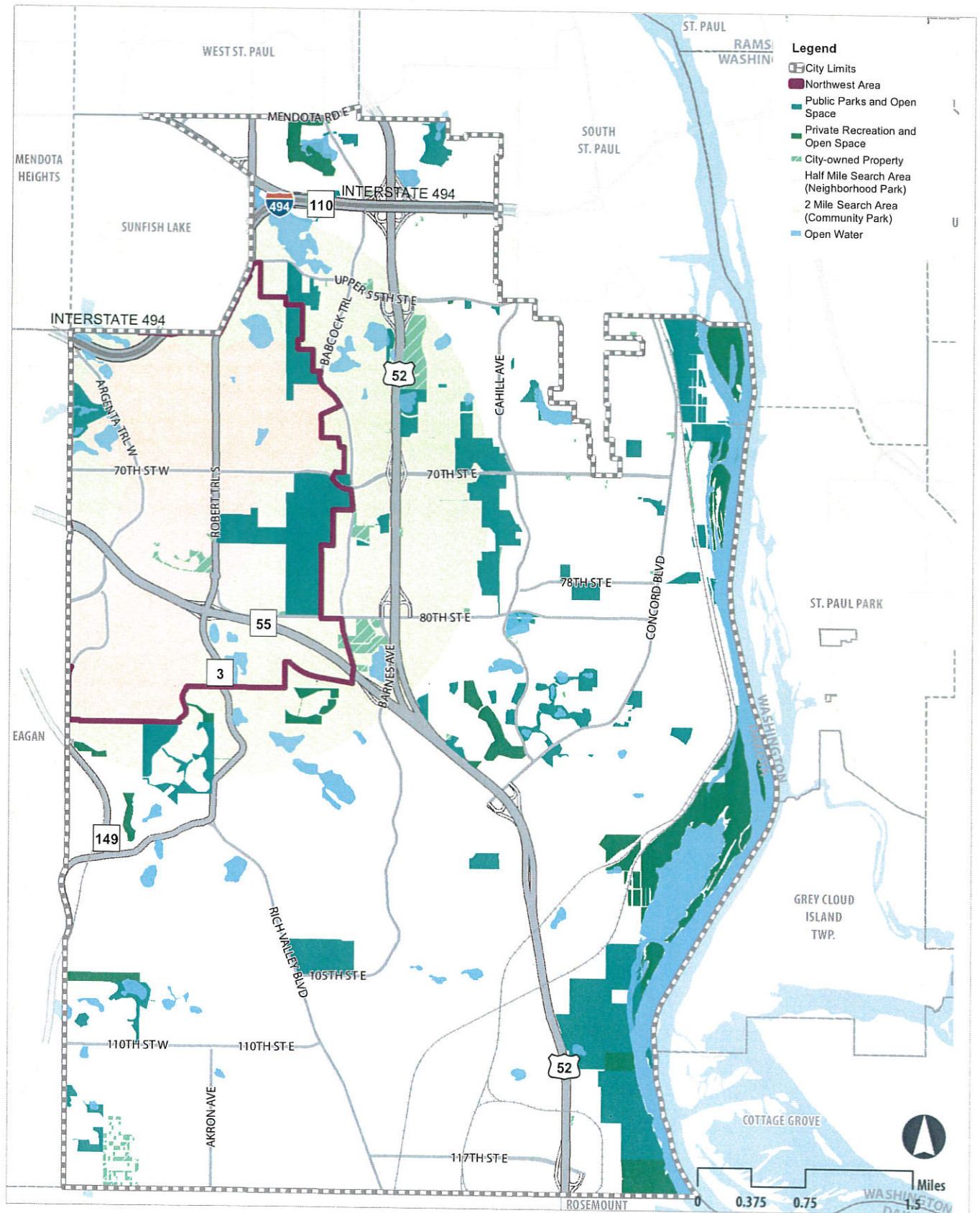


Community garden plots at Salem Hills Park

The Rich Valley Athletic Complex and existing neighborhood playfields reasonably meet existing needs for community-wide active recreation. There is also a need to maximize the use of the City's existing fields through lighting, irrigation, and scheduling improvements. While community survey results showed that a majority of residents are satisfied by the existing parks and recreational facilities offered, there are a number of facility improvements that would help to meet the more specific needs of the community:

- Youth Soccer/lacrosse/football fields
- Disc golf area improvements
- Archery range(s)
- Dog exercise area
- Expansion of community gardens
- Larger gathering areas for community events
- Large community picnic shelters with electrical service and food serving area

Figure 6-5: Northwest Area Park Service Area Analysis



- Skills course for mountain bikes
- Accessibility improvements
- Looped trails, seating areas and shade
- Continued life-cycle replacement of existing recreation facilities
- Nature-based play areas
- Pickleball courts



Veterans Memorial Community Center Water Park

Special Use Facilities Needs

The park system contains two special use facilities that are popular with residents and serve important community recreation needs, the Inver Wood Golf Course and the Veterans Memorial Community Center. These facilities provide for year-round opportunities to promote healthy active living lifestyles for all ages of the population. Continuation of general maintenance is needed at these facilities.

Open Space and Natural Resources Needs

The City's natural areas provide open space and natural resource preservation for all residents. Open space and natural resources are valued by Inver Grove Heights residents and they have been identified as important to maintaining a healthy community. As the City develops into the Northwest Area, open space and natural resource preservation is needed to protect existing natural resources identified in the City's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and preserve areas for stormwater management (see Figure 6-5: NRI of Northwest Area).

The Mississippi River corridor is a vast natural resource that the City depended on for its very existence in the early days. Access to this resource is very limited in the City. The Mississippi National River Recreation Area is working with numerous partners to protect the natural resources of the river corridor and to provide continuous trail connections along it. The City should work cooperatively in these efforts and should work to create connections to the River at every opportunity.

Community input suggests that there is a need for natural resource interpretation and education as a way to connect youth with the environment. The City's natural areas provide such an opportunity. Another opportunity is at the Katharine B. Ordway Natural History Study Area. Past plans have suggested a cooperative agreement for public use of the Katharine B. Ordway Natural History Study Area. Today, groups and individuals must receive prior approval from Macalester University prior to visiting or utilizing the area. As the City grows it should explore all

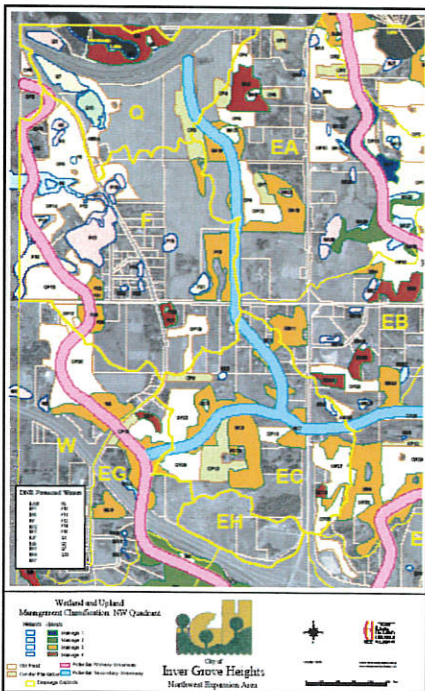


Figure 6-6: NRI of NW Area

opportunities to provide natural resource education and interpretation, whether through a provision of interpretive signs in City parks and natural areas, through a cooperative agreement to access the Macalester College site, or as a unique City facility dedicated for that purpose.

It is not enough to preserve open space and natural resources. Management of these valued resources is needed to protect them from degradation caused by invasive species, disease and deer browse. The City needs to develop and implement natural resource management plans as new open space is preserved.

Trail and Bikeway Needs

Trails are popular and use has boomed regionally and in Inver Grove Heights. Trails are used for safe and convenient access to parks, open space, neighborhoods, commercial areas and destination beyond the City. A complete and connected trail system of trails and bikeways is highly valued by residents for leisure use and for transportation. Trails are important to maintain a healthy community and high quality of life. Increased access to trails and hiking was identified as the most popular park amenity that residents would like to see more of, especially within the City, according to community input.

Trail users have differing needs depending on their skill level and purpose for riding. Those riders with advanced skills most often ride for convenience and speed and want direct access to destinations with a minimum of detour or delay and are comfortable riding on roads with motor-vehicle traffic. Those riders of lesser skill level or riding for leisure will avoid high traffic areas and will more likely use routes with bike lanes, off-street trails or trails in parks and open spaces depending on the skill level. To accommodate the full range of trail users, there is a need to provide connectivity to destinations in and outside of the City. To maintain active lifestyles, the City needs a coordinated trail and bikeway network to provide non-motorized and recreation options.

Community input suggests the following trail and bikeway needs:

- A coordinated trail and bikeway network to provide non-motorized and recreation options.
- Develop the trail network into future growth areas.
- Provide better signage of the community's sidewalk and trail system.
- Work with Dakota County to develop master plans for regional trails in the City.



Lion's Trail



Rich Valley Trail

- Increase access to the Mississippi River and to regional trails.
- Provide trails to natural resources and open space.
- Provide trail connectivity to adjacent City's trail networks.
- Continue to close gaps in the trail system

Sustainability Needs

The City of Inver Grove Heights, through its community vision, is committed to the preservation and enhancement of its natural environment and to greater sustainability. The park system represents a visible opportunity to provide leadership in achieving greater sustainability. Opportunities for sustainability in the park system include:

- Development of new facilities in the park following Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.
- Consideration of life-cycle costs in the planning and development of park and recreation facilities.
- Consideration of solar-power as an energy source for future park facilities.
- Restoration and management of the City's natural resources.
- Use of native plants to reduce landscape maintenance requirements, to serve as a source of food and shelter for wildlife, to buffer shorelines, to control runoff and to manage geese populations.
- Seek biologic controls for invasive species.
- Exploration of greater use of pervious pavers, rain gardens, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) in park projects.
- Develop natural resource and environmental interpretation/education component to City Parks and Open Spaces.



Salem Hills tennis courts

Healthy Community Needs

Part of the City's vision is for Inver Grove Heights to be a healthy active community. Such a community offers a balance of active and passive recreation options, is interconnected through a multi-modal transportation system including a component of off-street trails and bikeways, trails link community destinations such as parks, open spaces, places of work and shopping and to home, encourages walking with pedestrian environment that is attractive with looped walking routes. There is an opportunity for the park system to provide key components of this City goal through targeted improvements to parks, trails and open spaces.

PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

Introduction

A comprehensive park trail and open space system is a key element of a healthy community with a high quality of life. As The City of Inver Grove Heights grows in population and new areas of the City develop, additional recreational opportunities will be needed. This plan insures new residents will have access to quality neighborhood parks that are connected to a larger park network that includes Community parks and open spaces, and natural resources.

The 2040 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan, Figure 6-7 shows existing parks and trails and general locations of proposed parks and trails. The proposed new park locations are designed to provide neighborhood recreation for future residential growth that are interconnected to trails. Proposed new trails are designed to link neighborhoods to parks, to community resources and to create loop trail opportunities.

The 2040 Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan is a guide to park system improvements and development of the park and recreation system to the year 2040.

Neighborhood Parks

Four new neighborhood parks are proposed to accommodate the neighborhood recreation needs of future residential growth in the Northwest Area representing 20 - 40 acres of new parkland. New Neighborhood Park Search Areas are shown on Figure 6-7: 2040 Park, Trail and Open Space map. These search areas represent an approximate location of future neighborhood parks that are intended to meet the needs of the specific neighborhood they generally serve within ½ mile walk with no barriers such as busy roads or large water bodies to inhibit park access. Neighborhood parks are also located to be connected by a system of trails that may include varying facilities and may incorporate natural features to create unique amenities in a neighborhood.

Community Parks

One new community park is proposed to accommodate the community recreation needs of future residential growth in the Northwest Area representing 20 - 40 acres of new parkland. The Community Park Search Area shown on Figure 6-7: 2040 Park, Trail and Open Space map represents an approximate location of the future community park to meet

the community park needs within a 2 mile distance – a distance that encompasses all of the Northwest Area.

The City has acquired all but one property intended for the full development of Heritage Village Park, a community park with cultural and historical significance in the City. A portion of the park will be improved as a 10-acre dog park. As the Heritage Village Park area redevelops, the City should encourage adjacent land uses and public improvements that will activate the park with people to create a vital place and destination in the community. Such improvements might include development of a retail hub with restaurants or other destination oriented gathering places around or near Heritage Park and an enhanced water front area that enables public access and improved pedestrian connections to adjacent neighborhoods and the Concord Avenue commercial area. Currently, the area does have access to a private commercial marina.

Open Space & Natural Resources

The City's 2003 Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) of the Northwest Area was conducted to plan for the management, protection and enhancement of natural resources (see Figure 6-5: Northwest Area NRI). The NRI identified and ranked existing natural resources according to ecological and local values. Opportunities for expanding open space areas should be explored to meet the community's desire for natural resource preservation.



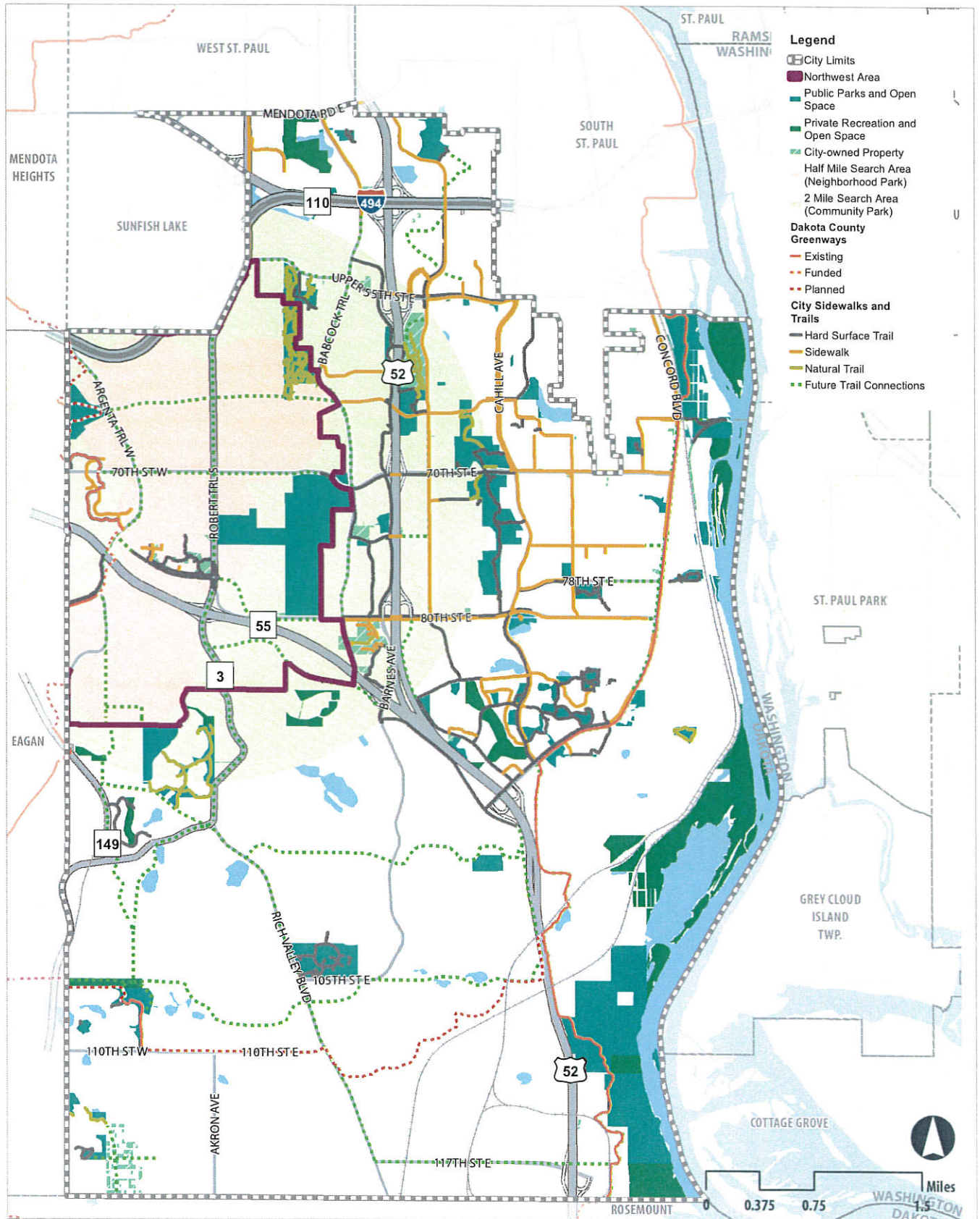
Swing Bridge Park

Trails and Bikeways

The 2040 Comprehensive Trail Plan (Figure 6-8) is a 20 year plan for a trails and bikeways in the City that will connect residents to parks, open spaces, schools, commercial areas and to regional trails and trails of adjacent communities. The plan suggests improvements to provide access to natural resources and open spaces and trails that provide key connections to destinations in the City, to regional trails and to trail system of adjacent cities and new trails in the Northwest Area. New trails will promote a healthy active community and will accommodate a range of uses including walking, bicycling, in-line skating, etc., and a wide variety of trail user skill levels.

The 2040 Comprehensive Trail Plan identifies trail alignments that are conceptual in nature. Their locations have been identified to achieve stated objectives such as connecting residential areas to local park facilities, open spaces, natural resources and other destinations. The actual locations of such trails shall be determined through negotiations and mutual agreements between land owners/developers and the City.

Figure 6-7: 2040 Parks, Trails & Open Space Plan (The proposed trail alignments are conceptual.)



The plan serves as a statement of policy that trail connections are desired in certain areas. Precise alignments that achieve this desired goal need to be the product of more detailed design.

Regional Trails and the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network

The 2040 Comprehensive Trail Plan incorporates Regional Trail Corridor Search Areas. The Metropolitan Council recently created the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), which was adopted in January 2015. The TPP establishes a vision for the metro region over the next 20 years and provides detail about how this vision will be reached. The Regional Bicycle System Study was completed in 2014 to develop a more complete understanding of how the region's on-street bikeways and off-street trails connect and how they work together to serve regional transportation trips by bicycle. As a result of the study, the TPP has established the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) with the goal of creating an integrated seamless network of off-street bikeways and off-road trails that complement each other to most effectively improve conditions for bicycle transportation at the regional level.

The RBTN is divided into tiers for regional planning and investment prioritization, including:

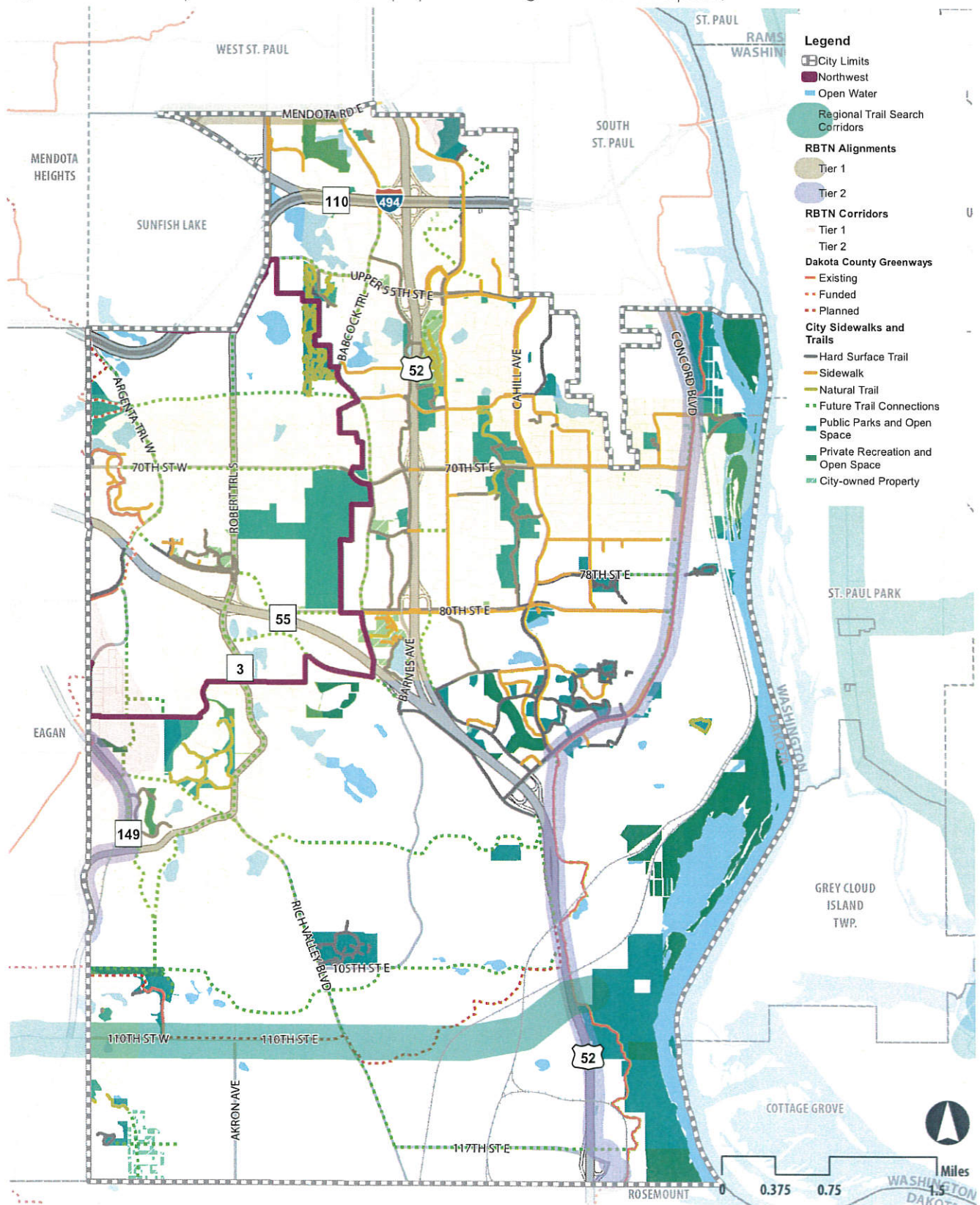
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 Regional Bicycle Transportation Corridors:
 - » Tier 1 Corridors reflect those locations where improvements can most effectively enhance mode choice in favor of biking and walking.
 - » Tier 2 Corridors represent the remaining corridors in the overall Regional Bicycle Transportation Network.
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 Regional Bicycle Transportation Alignments:
 - » Tier 1 Alignments reflect improvements that would provide direct transportation connections to and between regional destinations.
 - » Tier 1 Alignments represent the remaining alignments in the overall Regional Bicycle Transportation Network.

As the City and the County develop master plans for new trails and trail segments, active participation by adjacent property owners will help determine the final alignments. As the alignments are finalized, the City should enter into joint powers agreement between the County and Inver Grove Heights for each of the trails that outline management and maintenance responsibilities.

Equestrian Trails

Horse stables are prominent in some rural residential neighborhoods and the need exists for off-street riding areas. Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan provides trails for horseback riding but until the Rich Valley Regional Trail is completed, there is no trail connection into Inver Grove Heights.

Figure 6-8: 2040 Comprehensive Trail Plan (The proposed trail alignments are conceptual.)



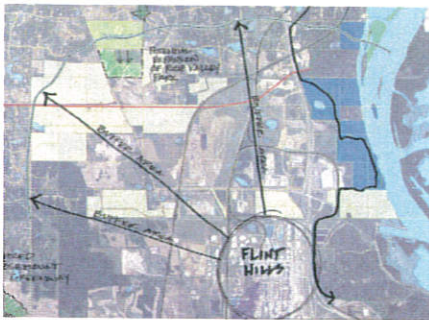


Figure 6-9: Flint Hills Buffer Area

Because of limited public resources for equestrian trail development, trail construction in the near future may be completed by private entities such as trail clubs or a group of users. The City of Inver Grove Heights supports private trail development. It may be possible for private groups to reach an agreement with Flint Hills Resources to utilize some of the buffer land that surrounds the refinery for equestrian trails (see Figure 6-9: Flint Hills Buffer Area).

Community Recreation Facilities

The City's community recreation facilities are important to City residents and are key to providing a healthy active community. As such, the Comprehensive Plan Update envisions continuing the use of Inver Wood Golf Course as a public golf course. Improvements to Inver Wood Golf Course were completed in 2016 and Veterans Memorial Community Center is improved annually to better keep and attract members and guests. Improvement plans should be developed to improve aesthetics, provide alternative uses or multiple uses and provide community meeting and program space.

Natural Resources

Preserving and maintaining the City's natural resources are important to Inver Grove Heights residents. Access to natural resources is important to maintaining a healthy community. Natural resources exist on both City and private property. The City should continue to encourage the preservation and management of natural resources on private property through enforcement of City regulations, forestry and educational programs and communications. The City should develop management plans and utilize best management practices for the maintenance of natural resources on City property.

Additionally, the City should consider providing natural resource interpretation throughout City parks and natural areas. There is also an opportunity for the City to partner with Macalester College for public use of the Katharine B. Ordway Natural History Study Area. The City might also consider making natural resource and interpretive improvements to the Harmon Nature Preserve. Within the existing developed City and future growth areas, there may be other natural resource areas that are worthy of preservation and interpretation. The following is an example of a nature center in Inver Grove Heights that could serve as a model:

- Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) is a Department of Natural Resources property in Inver Grove Heights. SNA's contain rare natural resources and in some cases provide parking facilities and interpretive kiosks to help visitors identify key features and processes for self guided tours.

The City should also encourage and support the development of private nature centers on private property as a means to preserve environmentally sensitive natural areas and further encourage residents to participate in nature-based activities and education.

An excellent example of such a private nature center is the Dodge Nature Center located in West St. Paul and Mendota Heights. Dodge has a diversified and beautiful area of prairies, hardwood forests, lakes, wetlands, miles of hiking trails, a working farm orchard and bee apiary. Dodge offers a variety of unique experiences for people of all ages. It has an expansive environmental education curriculum for children.

Sustainability

Greater sustainability in the park system will be achieved by the incorporation of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards for new park buildings, consider life-cycle costs in the planning and development of park and recreation facilities, utilization of best management practices, such as the use of rain gardens, permeable pavers and other innovative stormwater retention techniques in new parks and park renovations and through use of native plants in landscaping. The City can provide leadership through enforcement of City regulations related to natural resources, through educational and recreation programming and by providing interpretation of natural resources in the City's parks and open spaces. Greater sustainability can be achieved by the development of a system of connected open spaces, or the preservation of natural resource areas.

Healthy Active Community

The park system is central to achieving a key goal of the City's Comprehensive plan, to maintain a healthy active community. Priority should be given to park system improvements that encourage greater use of the park system, and that provide amenities for diverse park system users.



The Oakdale Discovery Center



Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific Nature Area



Veterans Memorial Community Center Skatepark



Disc golf at North Valley Park

Active living integrates physical activity and healthy eating into daily routines of residents. There are many ways to engage in daily exercise, such as biking, walking or gardening. Daily physical exercise can be achieved without expensive gym memberships or rigorous workout routines designed for athletes. Active Living can be achieved through small changes in our lifestyles, and can contribute to increasing social interactions and our connections to nature.

The City's ability to integrate active living practices into parks, trails, and open spaces is heavily influenced by the following environmental factors:

- A varied mix of land uses
 - » Locating places where we live, work, study, shop, eat, and play near each other make walking and biking more convenient
- Functional, inviting, and attractive parks
 - » Providing places that are engaging and inviting encourages us to get outdoors and enjoy physical activity
- Safe and comfortable access to parks and the outdoors
 - » Providing places where people of all ages, abilities can safely and comfortably access parks is one of the most influential factors to active living in the community. This includes providing visible signage and safe road crossings for pedestrians.
- Access to healthy foods
 - » Providing places where people can access healthy, fresh, and affordable food is a serious consideration for Active Living. There are a number of ways that parks can provide access to healthy foods, such as serving as a drop-off point for CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), and providing community garden plots.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

"CPTED is the proper design and effective use of the built environment which may lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement of the quality of life."

- National Crime Prevention Institute

Improvements should be made that provide increased public safety, such as those that utilize Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques to create safe and welcoming parks, trails and recreation facilities; improvements that include amenities for a variety of age and skill levels; improvements that include looped trails of varying lengths and trails to provide access to natural resources and other key destinations in the City. Parks improvements should focus on providing places to rest with benches and shade that are spaced to serve all users with a variety of abilities.

The Four Strategies of CPTED

1. Natural Surveillance - A design concept directed primarily at keeping intruders easily observable. Promoted by features that maximize visibility of people, parking areas and building entrances: doors and windows that look out on to streets and parking areas; pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and streets; front porches; adequate nighttime lighting.

2. Territorial Reinforcement - Physical design can create or extend a sphere of influence. Users then develop a sense of territorial control while potential offenders, perceiving this control, are discouraged. Promoted by features that define property lines and distinguish private spaces from public spaces using landscape plantings, pavement designs, gateway treatments, and "CPTED" fences.
3. Natural Access Control - A design concept directed primarily at decreasing crime opportunity by denying access to crime targets and creating in offenders a perception of risk. Gained by designing streets, sidewalks, building entrances and neighborhood gateways to clearly indicate public routes and discouraging access to private areas with structural elements.
4. Target Hardening - Accomplished by features that prohibit entry or access: window locks, dead bolts for doors, interior door hinges.

IMPLEMENTATION

Park System Goals and Policies

In order to guide the future park system, the following park system policies have been proposed by the Inver Grove Heights Parks and Recreation Commission:

Planning Goals & Policies

The following planning goals and policies will guide the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Planning Goals & Policies

Planning Goals:

- Develop and adopt a System-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan based on the needs and demands of all segments of Inver Grove Heights's population.
- Locate parks when they are geographically, financially and physically feasible, and based on park and recreation needs.
- Coordinate the efforts of local, state and federal governments and agencies to plan and develop the Park and Recreation System.
- Increase community engagement and input during the planning process for parks, trails, and recreation.

Planning Policies:

1. The Park and Recreation Plan will seek to be compatible with adjacent local community plans and metropolitan, state and federal plans and programs.

2. Public school facilities and their recreation areas will be considered in the planning of the park and recreation system. Maximum cooperation, coordination and participation with school districts will be sought in the planning of the development and operation of the park and recreation system.
3. The description and standards established in the park classification system will be a basis for developing the park and recreation system.
4. Park and recreation services and facilities should be provided where recreational opportunity is deficient or non-existent. This will be done in conjunction with the resources of the volunteer-based organizations, Community Education and the private sector, where appropriate.
5. Continue to develop master plans for individual parks and integrate the goals, policies, and implementation strategies into a System-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan
6. Consider creating Community Advisory Committees with diverse representation for future park planning processes that will work in tandem with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.
7. Look for ways to encourage diversity, education, and equity in future parks planning, with an extra effort to engage with seniors, youth, people with lower incomes, and minority populations.

Park Goals & Policies

Parks Goals & Policies

The following park goals and policies will guide the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Park Goals:

- Promote park development that will best encourage and/or control use.
- Provide a well balanced park and recreation system.
- Strengthen the image of the Parks as a System which provides community services and recreational facilities.

Park Policies:

1. Offer a variety of activities in the park system including cultural, conservation, passive, active and organized recreation areas.
2. Acquire parkland and develop existing parks at a rate and level commensurate with the needs of Inver Grove Heights's changing population.
3. Establish and promote high quality design standards in the development of the park system.
4. Encourage joint use of facilities by incorporating school facilities with park and recreation programs whenever possible.



South Valley Park Sliding Hill

5. Encourage multi-use park facilities that will maximize accessibility and use by area residents.
6. Allow the conversion of park and public open lands to other uses only when no feasible alternative exists and community needs are not compromised. When conversion is unavoidable, the taking agency should pay for the replacement of land and facilities to serve the needs of the people in that area.
7. Specific park development priorities will be discussed, reviewed, analyzed and measured for progress annually.
8. Ongoing information and education process will be conducted, making the residents aware and knowledgeable of park and recreation facilities and programs.
9. Parkland will be acquired in accordance with the Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide.
10. Require a park dedication from all developers pursuant to City Ordinance.
11. Wetlands and storm water ponding areas will not be accepted as fulfillment of park dedication requirements.
12. Provide public access into City park areas by a variety of transportation modes, with an emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.
13. A consistent signing policy will be developed for all park and recreation areas buildings, etc., including directional and information signs.

Trail System Goals & Policies

The following trail system goals and policies will guide the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Trail System Goals:

- Promote safe, convenient and coordinated facilities for alternative means of transportation throughout the City of Inver Grove Heights.
- Provide Inver Grove Heights residents with sections of trail that focus on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment.

Trail System Policies:

1. Coordinate the use of a city-wide trail plan.
2. Plan bicycle and pedestrian access to parks, open space areas, schools and neighborhood shopping areas to encourage maximum use of these facilities.
3. Encourage the utilization of utility easements and transportation right-of-ways for trail development.
4. Provide ramped curbs to meet accessibility standards and to accommodate bicyclists.

Trail System Goals & Policies

Natural Resource/Open Space Goals & Policies

5. Trails should be bituminous or concrete, except in nature areas, and be multi-use facilities when uses are compatible.
6. Trails will be integral to larger scale development and will be installed and paved at the developers' expense. These trails should connect to the existing and proposed extensions of the Inver Grove Heights trail system.
7. Inver Grove Heights trail system will be coordinated with the trail systems for Dakota County, surrounding cities and Metropolitan Council.
8. All existing and proposed trails should be mapped, reviewed and updated annually.
9. Off street trails will be coordinated with the future location of on-street bikeways (bike lanes) to create an integrated non-motorized recreation and transportation system.

Natural Resource/Open Space Goals & Policies

The following natural resource/open space goals and policies will guide the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Natural Resource/Open Space Goals:

- Preserve and protect the natural environment with emphasis on the conservation of needed and useful natural resources for the present and future benefit of the community.
- Use natural resource areas to provide an overall open space system to satisfy the physiological and psychological needs of the people, considering their needs as individuals and as a community.

Natural Resource/Open Space Policies:

1. Conserve a variety of natural resource areas including wetlands, soils, ground water recharge areas, woodlands, lakeshore, drainage ways and steep slopes.
2. Encourage the assistance of metropolitan, state, and federal agencies to, where appropriate, preserves natural resource areas.
3. Open space areas should be used as a structuring element linked to other park and open space areas within projects and from one project to another, whenever possible.
4. Natural resource open space can be used to physically separate elements, which are incompatible, by scale or function.
5. Preserve natural drainage ways and wetlands and where feasible, reconstruct former natural drainage ways and wetlands to handle storm water runoff.

6. Encourage the use of contained storm water systems that treat the water on-site as much as possible.
7. To establish, maintain or restore natural conservation areas for wildlife management and educational and scientific purposes.

Sustainability Goals & Policies

The following sustainability goals and policies will guide the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Sustainability Goals & Policies

Sustainability Goals:

- To be a leader in sustainability and natural resources management.

Sustainability Policies:

1. Encourage new park buildings to be constructed using LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards.
2. Parks will have recycling receptacles in addition to trash receptacles.
3. New facilities and significant renovation of existing facilities include a sustainability evaluation of materials, energy use, operating cost and lifecycle replacement.
4. Innovative stormwater retention techniques should be utilized in new park development and in the renovation of existing parks, such as permeable paving and rain gardens.
5. Native plants, such as prairie plantings, should be used in parks and open space to reduce landscape maintenance requirements, to provide food and shelter for wildlife, to buffer shorelines, to control runoff and to manage geese populations.
6. A natural resource and environmental interpretation/education component will be developed for City parks and open spaces.
7. Natural resource management plans will be developed for the preservation of natural resources in City parks and open space.
8. The City should continue the "adopt-a-park or open space" program to encourage community involvement in park maintenance and safety, and look for ways to increase participation and active stewardship of residents.
9. Continue to follow the adopted Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan

Healthy Community Goals & Policies

Healthy Community Goals & Policies

The following healthy community goals and policies will guide the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Healthy Community Goals:

- To promote active healthy living for all.

Healthy Community Policies:

1. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission asks that park users refrain from smoking and tobacco use in parks.
2. Ensure convenient and equitable access to parks and recreation facilities by locating new parks within ½ mile of all residents
3. Special attention should be given to park and open space improvements that provide for handicap accessibility consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Building and Facilities and universal design principles.
4. Special attention should be given to parks and open space improvements providing seating, shade and a trail loops of varying lengths to encourage active living for an aging population.
5. Special attention should be given to providing safe walking and biking routes to schools, parks and trails from neighborhoods.
6. The City will provide bicycle parking at park system destinations to encourage bicycle use.
7. To encourage the financial assistance of metropolitan, state, and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to fund healthy active living initiatives.
8. The City will implement the 2040 Comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan.
9. That public safety improvement will be made as needed utilizing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to ensure park and trail user's well being.
10. Demonstrate and encourage healthy choices by offering nutritious foods in park vending and at events.
11. Promote the benefits of active living through Parks and Recreation Department communications and programming.



Youth sports at Rich Valley Athletic Complex

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Department Happenings

Meeting Date: April 11, 2018
Item Type: Administrative Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks &
Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:

☒	None
☐	Amount included in current budget
☐	Budget amendment requested
☐	FTE included in current complement
☐	New FTE requested – N/A
☐	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

No action required. Item is for informational purposes and Commissioners are encouraged to ask appropriate questions.

SUMMARY

Items included:

- Department Happenings Report
- Miscellaneous



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



PARKS DIVISION

Cricket Pitch

We have been approached by a resident that enjoys the game of Cricket and would like to see an area where Cricket could be played. A Cricket Pitch is an area that is approximately 300' x 300' (think soccer field) and is played with a small ball and wooden paddle. Staff has given the group a few locations to investigate. We will update the Council and Commission as our discussion move along.

Doffing Ave. Property Acquisition

The following is an update on property acquisition of the Doffing Ave. properties:

Hay – Final written offer has been sent to the Hay Family via registered mail.

Kramer – The Kramer Family was happy to hear that the City accepted their offer to purchase their property. The City Attorney will begin drafting a purchase agreement with a closing date set for around May 1st.

Walser – A draft copy of the purchase agreement has been shared with the Walser Group and we are working back and forth on language changes. It is expected that Council will approve the agreement in April and a closing date will be set for June 13th.

LSS – The Sanders and staff will meet on Tuesday, April 10th.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



GOLF COURSE DIVISION

Inver Wood Refreshes Logo

Inver Wood has updated the logo used at the course. The original logo established in 1992 served the course well over the years. The updated logo compliments the on course improvements completed in 2016 and will be found on our updated scorecard, flags, and marketing materials.



Golf Course Marketing Program

We have had a chance to talk to the Council about the golf course marketing proposal and we are moving forward with implementing the plan. We will begin targeted marketing of the new membership starting this week. We will keep the Council and Commission updated on the success of the campaign. The membership will be sold at \$177, will be limited to tee times after 11am on Saturday, Sundays, and Holidays and will allow holders to make a tee time up to 3 days in advance. The membership will provide the holder unlimited golf within the limitations listed above for a three year period.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



RECREATION DIVISION

VMCC/GROVE DIVISION

Lap Pool Heat Exchanger

There are four (4) heat exchangers that serve the Grove Aquatic and Fitness Center, one for each pool (dive, lap, splash, spa). Since the inception of the facility, we have had to replace each of the heat exchangers. Each time we replaced the heat exchangers with the same size and used the recommended materials (cupronickel).

After the last failure of our heat exchangers staff spent some time touring some other Community Centers to see how they heat their water and what kind of heat exchangers they had. As you can imagine, everyone does things a little differently and heat exchangers come in all shapes and sizes. One thing we noticed consistently was that all of the other heat exchangers seemed to be a lot smaller than ours.

We started talking to different engineers, the manufacturer, and other pool operators to try and figure out why ours continue to fail in a relatively short period of time and what we have concluded is the Grove's heat exchangers are grossly oversized.

This week we started having issues with our boilers losing pressure. Our staff investigated our system for leaks and couldn't find any. Ultimately, we turned off the heat exchangers for the pools to see if we could isolate them and discovered there seems to be a leak in the heat exchanger for the lap pool. One of our HVAC vendors is going to try and make a repair of our existing heat exchanger, if they are successful, we may be able to get the heat exchanger up and running again. If they are not successful, we will be without heat for the lap pool water for an undetermined amount of time.

Long term, we will not be replacing the heat exchangers with the existing size/material/configuration. We are working with a mechanical engineer to decrease the size of our heat exchangers. We will be switching to a low temperature plate and frame heat exchanger that will be properly sized and will hopefully give us a 20-year life expectancy. We are using low temperature heat exchangers so that down the road, when it is time to replace our boilers, we can install high efficiency boilers that will be less expensive to install and more cost efficient to operate.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



All of the other pools are operating as normal and, knock on wood, should be fine. We will try to keep everyone posted.

Rochester Bus Lines

Earlier this year we reported that Rochester Bus Lines has approached staff about the possibility of using the VMCC parking lot for their park and ride operation from the Twin Cities to Rochester. They estimate that approximately 30 cars would use the west end of the VMCC parking lot Monday – Friday between 5am and 6pm. We are currently working out the details of an agreement and will bring something forward to the City Council in the near future.

VMCC/Grove Electronic Sign

After 16 years of providing electronic information to passers-by, the electronic reader board at the VMCC/Grove is no longer operable. Advancement in technology over time make it unfeasible to repair the sign. The sign has been turned off and we are going to monitor the number of comments/feedback we receive before deciding to replace the sign. We are securing quotes for replacement and expect the investment to be between \$25,000 - \$35,000.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Commission Comments

Meeting Date: April 11, 2018
 Item Type: Commission Presentations
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:

☒	None
☐	Amount included in current budget
☐	Budget amendment requested
☐	FTE included in current complement
☐	New FTE requested – N/A
☐	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

No action required. Commissioners are encouraged to make appropriate comments.

SUMMARY

None.