

# Parks Plan

# Background

- On December 13, 2022, the city council directed staff to engage our community ensuring underserved populations have a voice in how we manage our park system.
- Last updated in 2017, the new parks plan includes an updated park inventory and assessment.

# History

- The majority of our park system infrastructure was constructed in the 1980's and 1990's.
- Since then, we have completed three previous parks plans.
- Updated plans identify and support changes to the park system to keep pace with changes in our community.



# Parks Plan

The Plan, informed by community engagement, outlines the park infrastructure needs of our community. Further, it helps to prioritize future investments in parks, trails and open spaces.

# Engagement Overview

Through a variety of methods and dialogues with over 2,690 people, we gathered feedback from the community:

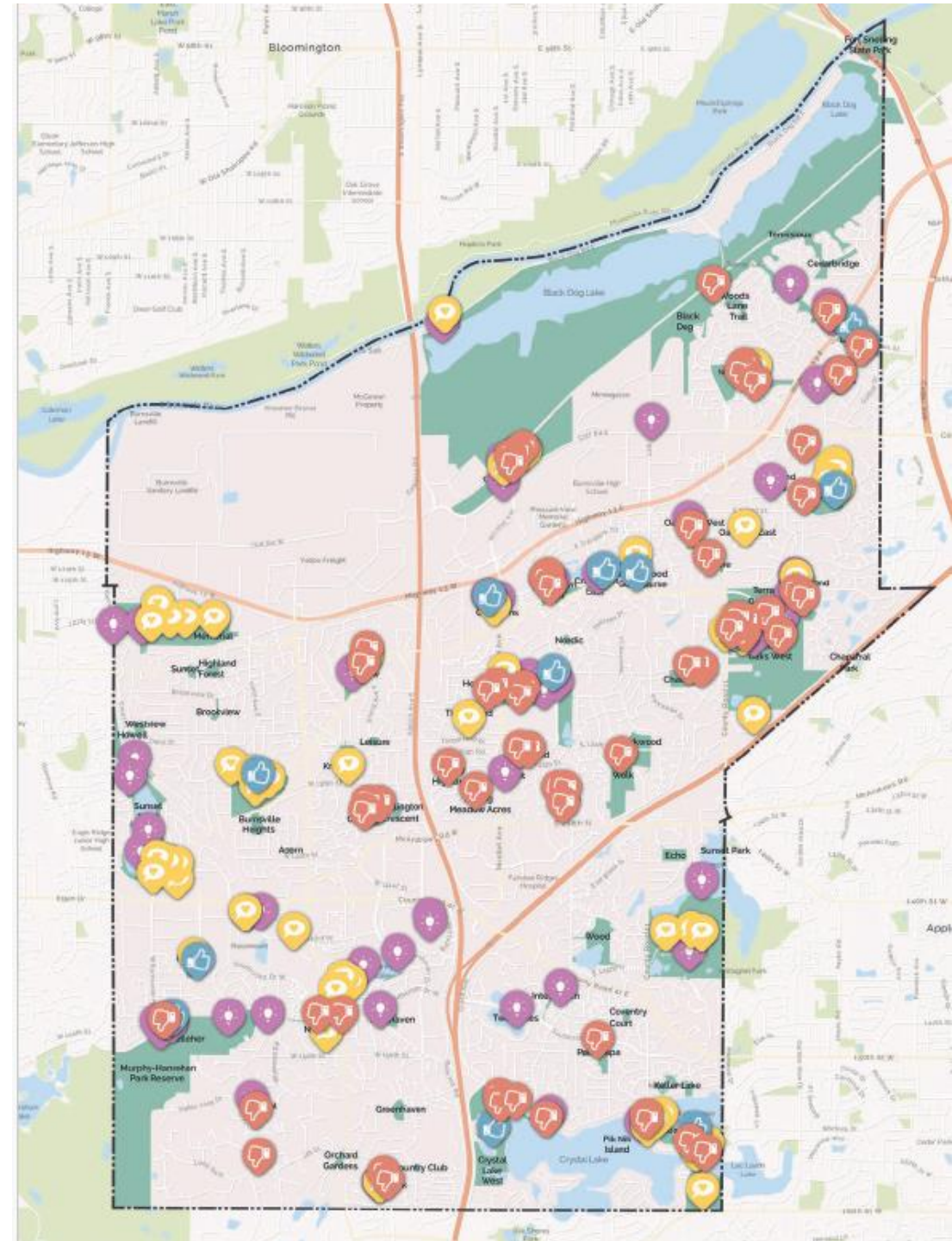
- 236% increase in engagement over the 2017 plan.
- Intentional efforts to reach BIPOC residents.
- 875 in person conversations and 1000 website responses.

# Engagement Methods

A key part of the engagement process was to connect with a diverse community in a variety of ways:

- Surveys and online
- In person public gatherings
- In person independent programs

# Engagement Tools





# Park Amenities

Playgrounds



Beaches



Health & Wellness  
*(mountain biking, hiking, swimming)*



International Festival



Concerts In the Park



Burnsville Festival & Fire Muster



Party on the Plaza



Allmagnet Dog Park



Lions Playground/Splash Pad



Burnsville Lions Skate Park



Birnamwood Golf Course



Burnsville Ice Center

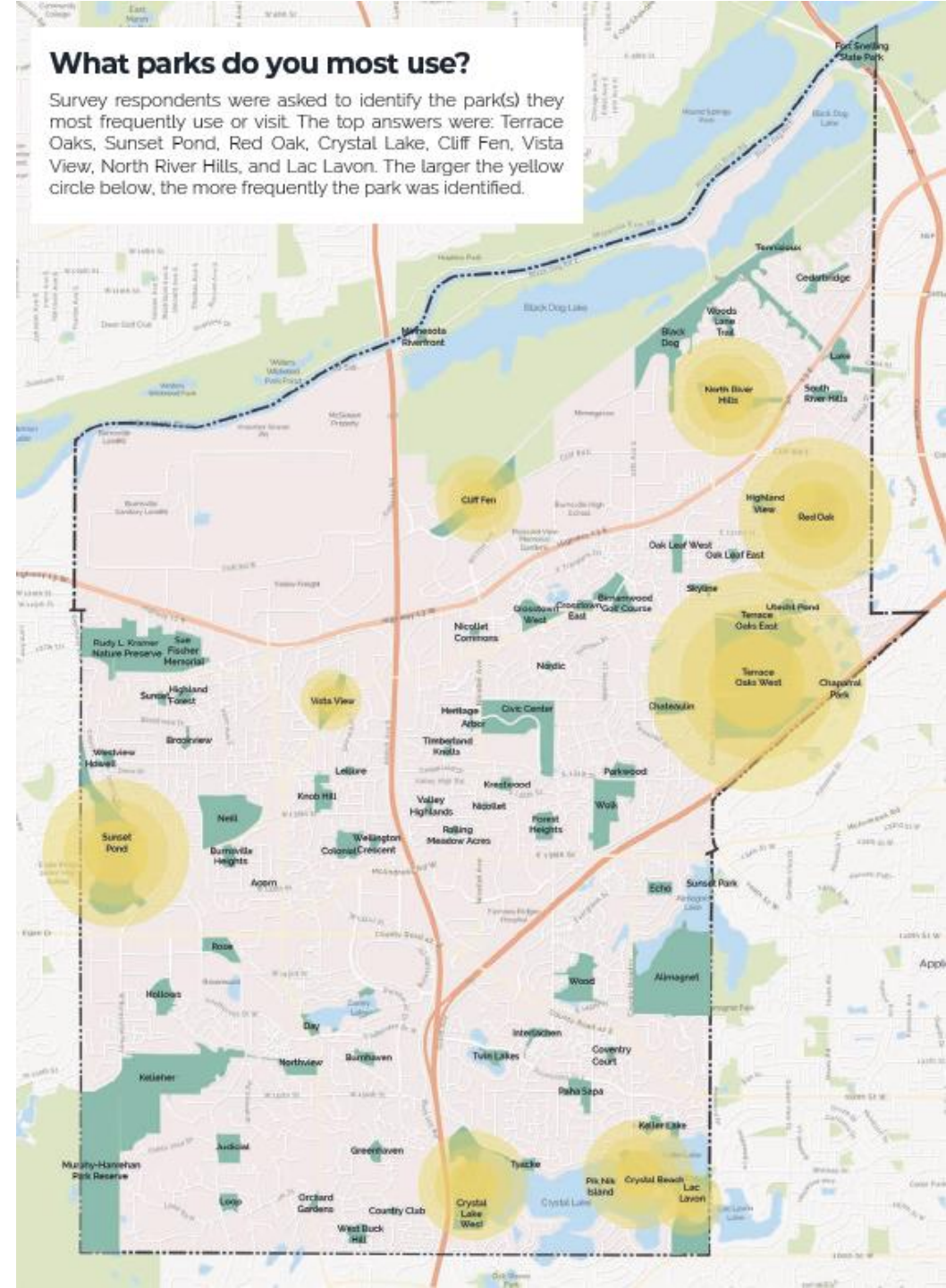




# Park Locations

## What parks do you most use?

Survey respondents were asked to identify the park(s) they most frequently use or visit. The top answers were: Terrace Oaks, Sunset Pond, Red Oak, Crystal Lake, Cliff Fen, Vista View, North River Hills, and Lac Lavon. The larger the yellow circle below, the more frequently the park was identified.



# Engagement Themes

- Parks are clean, safe & provide a variety of options.
- Need more attention to sport courts, permanent restroom facilities, playground replacements and trail connectivity.
- Favorite amenities include trails, playgrounds, natural areas sports facilities, splash pads and shelters.



# Park Inventory



# Park System at a Glance

- 76 parks covering 1700+ acres
- 21 community parks
- 27 neighborhood parks
- 19 mini parks
- 9 natural areas (no assets)

# Arc GIS

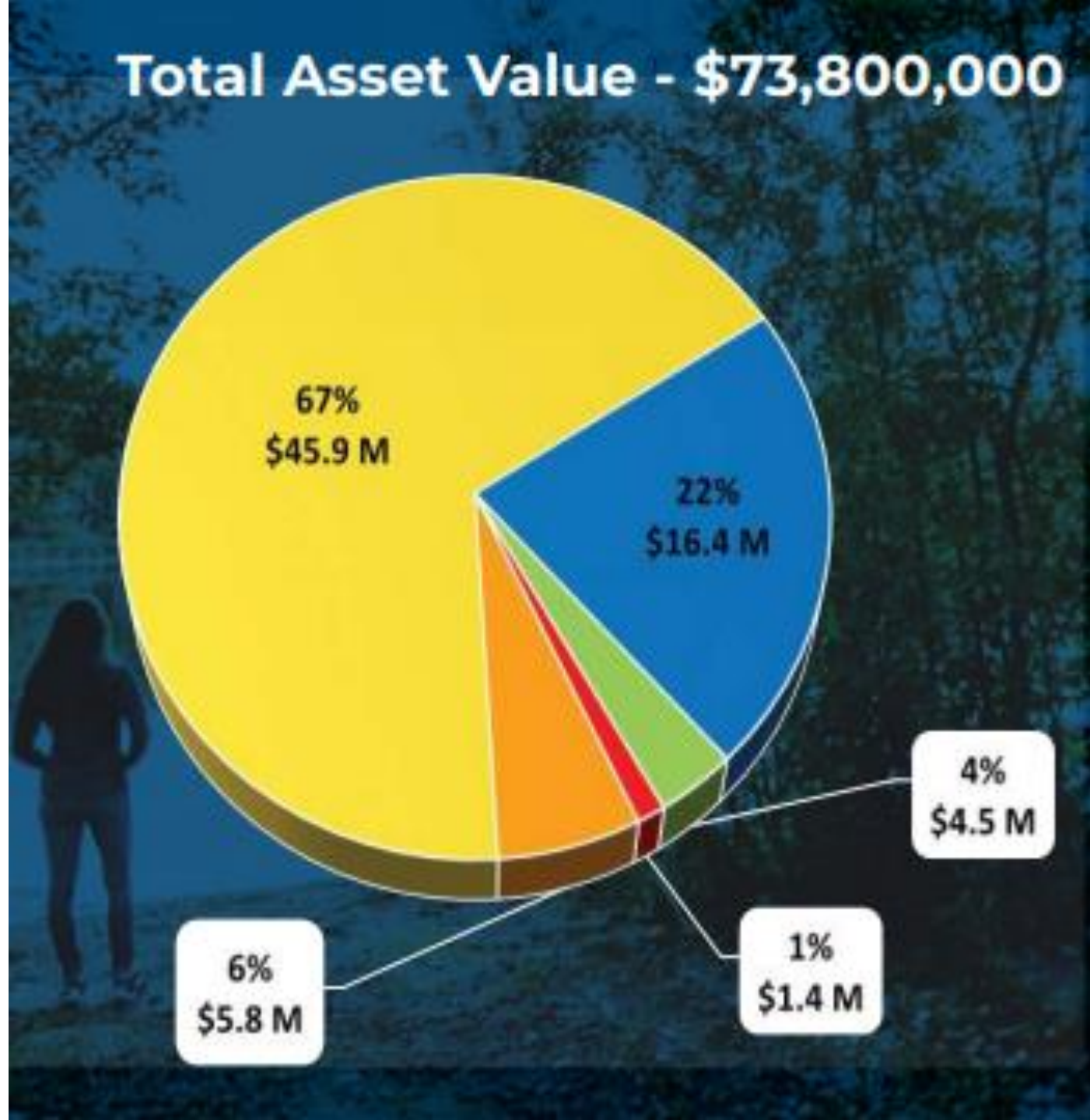
- Over 4500 assets inventoried and assessed.
- Over 130 different types of assets.
- Provides photo, condition rating, replacement cost, installation year.
- Used existing [ArcGIS](#) system to manage all data.

# Condition Rating

- Condition 1: poor and requires immediate attention
- Condition 2: below average (1-3 years)
- Condition 3: in average condition
- Condition 4: above average condition
- Condition 5: new or in excellent condition



# Assets



# Assets by Condition

- Condition 1: \$1,400,000
- Condition 2: \$5,800,000
- Condition 3: \$45,900,000
- Condition 4: \$16,400,000
- Condition 5: \$4,500,000
- Total: \$73,800,000

# Community Informed Priorities

1. Replace outdated playground equipment.
2. Improve trail connectivity.
3. Improve conditions for pickleball, tennis and basketball.
4. Improve signage and wayfinding.
5. Replace older, obsolete buildings and shelters.

# Parks CIP 2024-2028

- Parks CIP improvement: \$1,550,000
- Parks CIP replacement: \$10,325,000

# Next Steps

- Prioritize replacement or removal of condition 1 and 2 items in a revised CIP.
- Remove non-relevant amenities at end of life.
- Conduct future studies to complete a comprehensive parks plan.



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# Future Parks Plan Studies

- Operations and maintenance
- Recreation programming
- Signage and wayfinding

# Information Technology

# Who are we?

Provide strategic technology services, resources and assets that help our team deliver exceptional services to the community:

- Technical services
- Application services with GIS
- Infrastructure and engineering services

# Where are we now?

- New Service Desk
- Delivery of applications, support and integrations
- GIS strategic plan implementation
- Technology replacements
- Improved security systems

# Where are we now?

- **IT Assessment:** identify any gaps in the IT operation and help plan for future resource needs for the IT department.
- **Information Technology Plan:** identifies all city technology, the condition it is in and the appropriate actions needed to ensure security and effective operations.



# Where are we going?

- Continue to invest in, operate and maintain technology
- Optimize services and operational maturity
- Boost employee innovation, knowledge and resourcefulness





# Investing in technology

Our investment in current technology provides staff the tools they need to do their jobs, enables innovation and responsiveness to the community. Well maintained technology enhances security, safety and reliability of systems.



# Optimizing services

Adoption of modern operating standards and processes improves service delivery, enables automation, consistency of work, and minimizes human error. Transitioning from a traditional model of service delivery to a modern, mature framework prepares us for the future.



# Boosting innovation

We increase awareness of current systems and solutions,  
leverage staff training and vendor engagement to innovate  
and execute better results and improved knowledge.

# Current challenges

- Shorter lifecycles of technology
- Keeping current on critical training and growth opportunities
- Cyber security mandates and risks
- GIS resources to address growing dependencies and needs
- Project management resources with organizational knowledge



# How will we use our resources?

- Align resources through assessments
- Realign non-IT services within the organization

# City Clerk's Office

# Who are we?

The City Clerk's office exists to carry out regulatory and statutory duties of the city:

- Provide a great voting experience
- Administer online licensing and renewal
- Facilitate access to local government



# Where are we now?

- Focus on improved communication of renewal licensing process
- Facilitate data practices and record retention processes

# Where are we now?

- Promote transparency with elections through community engagement
- Expanded early voting from 6 to 18 days
- Partnered with Dakota County to provide absentee voting

# Where are we going?

- Successful execution of 2024 elections
- Improvement to business licensing
- Revise standards and improve records management



# Successful 2024 elections

We promote transparency and understanding, engaging the community to inform and educate voters.



# Improve Business Licensing

We will continue to utilize technology to improve services and alleviate paper or resource-intensive processes including on-line licensing and appeals.



# Records management

We will update workflow processes for on-line data request and record retention and continue to facilitate organization training.



# Current challenges

- Difficulty recruiting election judges
- Changes in election laws and new requirements
- Helping employees understand the records management process

# How will we use our resources?

- We deliver projects and experiences to the organization in ways that utilize our individual strengths while providing great service.
- We realigned our team to support the needs of the organization and community.



# Finance

# Who are we?

Finance exists to provide stewardship for all public funds to provide service to the community today and into the future:

- Property taxes
- Grants and Intergovernmental aid
- Utility revenues

# Where are we now?

- Detailed accounting and auditing of City funds
- Provide multiple year financial planning and budgeting of revenues and expenditures
- Maintain financial records and reporting in alignment with requirements



# Where are we now?

- Provide support for grant accounting and reporting
- Oversee debt management and capital financing
- Provide financial advice and support to other City departments

# Where are we going?

- Continue to enhance the budget and CIP processes
- Maintain and implement practices to promote financial sustainability
- Enhance our service to the organization and community



# Enhance the Budget and CIP

Budgeting makes our priorities a reality. Important to balance capital and operating needs with available resources.



# Promote Financial Stability

Practices including financial policies, internal controls and standard operating procedures work together to build a strong financial environment.



# Enhance our Service

Committed to working alongside staff and the community to provide great experiences through customer service, training and technology.



# How will we get there?

Continue to enhance the budget and CIP processes:

- Continue to make improvements to the process and increase communication
- Support and advise departments through budget development
- Incorporate capital studies into financial planning

# How will we get there?

Maintain and implement practices to promote financial sustainability

- Lead the financial statement audit
- Review and update internal finance policies and procedures
- Continue finance related training for the organization

# How will we get there?

Enhance our service to the organization and community:

- Build relationships with departments and partners
- Review and evaluate ERP system replacement and other technology tools
- Continue to evaluate and implement positions identified in the organizational analysis

# Current challenges

- Additional state and federal grant opportunities, compliance and reporting require more time and resources
- Increasing numbers of software and systems require additional support
- Standardizing procedures takes time to implement



# How will we use our resources?

- Accounting and audit
- Budget planning
- Records and reporting

# 2025 Structure

The following positions will be integrated into the finance department:

- Grants Coordinator position proposed for 2025
- Financial Analyst position proposed for 2026