



PARKS, BEACHES, NATURAL AREAS AND TRAILS

# MASTER PLAN

DOCUMENT 1: EVALUATION AND STRATEGY



APRIL, 2016

CONFLUENCE

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# 1. INTRODUCTION / OVERVIEW

## HISTORY AND CONTEXT

Deephaven was settled in the mid-1850's and incorporated as a village in 1900. In 1879, the Hotel Saint Louis was built, and became the first on Lake Minnetonka to offer luxury vacation options to visitors, putting Minnetonka on the national destination map. It was originally intended as a “health and pleasure resort” for Southerners to escape the heat of the City. The hotel had unobstructed views of Ice Boat Club Island, Yacht Club Island, and Big Island. Deephaven's shoreline began to grow with charming cottages among the wooded hills. The area has kept this quiet charm over the years, never becoming the major tourist destinations like Wayzata or Excelsior. Wealthy industrialists were initially attracted to the area's rustic beauty and made their vacation homes along the shore.

This same character defines Deephaven today, and the City has maintained its quiet charm, even as large scale homes replace original cottages and smaller scale homes. Connections to the past are evident in Deephaven's public buildings, the success of the Cottagewood General Store, and the general tone of community that strives to maintain a semblance of the historic lifestyle. Deephaven's outdoor public spaces and parks have greatly helped the city preserve this character by providing access to Lake Minnetonka for all, even those not living on the lake. Lake Minnetonka, natural wetland preservation, and mature trees are the dominant natural elements throughout the City and are so strong that they overshadow and buffer the man-made elements that are contrary to the historical quaintness – including the large scale housing replacing historic cottages.

Additionally, the parks and trails of the park system provide the community with opportunities for healthy recreation and connections to nature – similar to the original St. Louis's Hotels “health and pleasure resort” focus. Recreational facilities in the parks are focused on activities that have historically been very popular in the City and area, including tennis, baseball, hockey/ skating, and traditional playground structures. Trails throughout the system are well used and an important part of the city's park system, including interior park nature trails and the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail. The LRT Regional Trail has created an important east-west pedestrian/ bike connection through the city and to adjacent areas. These pedestrian/ bicycle connections have positively added to the quality of life Deephaven and helped preserve the unique character of the City. Increasing these pedestrian connections, where they make sense, is a recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan and an opportunity the following plan explores.



## RELATIONSHIP TO THE REGION

Deephaven is a part of the Minnetonka region that provides numerous recreation and programming opportunities, especially in youth athletics. Minnetonka Community Education also provides educational programming for Deephaven residents and is located in the City. This longstanding relationship allows Deephaven residents the opportunity to participate in a much larger offering of activities than the park system could otherwise provide. Deephaven's facilities informally support some of these programs by hosting practices and overflow field space for several youth athletic programs. The quality and scope of Deephaven's facilities has limited the use to practice time only and they are not able to host games at this time. This relationship is important to meeting resident needs and should be maintained and potentially improved into the future.

## CONNECTION TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Strategic Parks Plan builds on the recommendations made in the City's Comprehensive Plan by including community and public input in design, making recommendations to update the system to address current resident needs, and how to best preserve and integrate the exceptional natural resources of the community into the fabric of their daily lives. The quantity and proximity of existing parks is well within generally accepted guidelines, so the focus of past planning efforts has focused on maintaining and tweaking the parks to best support resident needs, as the following goals and policies state. The following GOALS for Deephaven's Park System were identified in the Comprehensive Plan: Establish a park, recreation and open space system that conserves natural resources, protects environmentally sensitive areas, and fulfills the recreational needs of the citizens of Deephaven.

POLICIES of the park system as identified in the Comprehensive Plan include:

1. *Develop and maintain a park system and open space plan which complement the development pattern of the City of Deephaven.*
2. *Provide open space areas which assist in the conservation and protection of ecologically sensitive areas.*
3. *Provide a balanced park system which includes neighborhood parks, community parks, special use facilities, schools, and open space areas.*
4. *Encourage citizen participation in the planning and development of park and open space areas.*
5. *Continue to seek assistance from citizens and community groups in the planning and development of recreation areas.*
6. *Encourage a cooperative effort between the school district and the city in the acquisition, development and usage of recreational facilities.*
7. *Provide park and open space areas that emphasize accessibility.*



- 8. Continue to improve and upgrade the Deephaven park system to keep pace with the changing needs of the community's population.*

### **PLAN AND PROCESS**

The following Strategic Master Plan is based on input from the community, stakeholders, city staff, and park commission input that was collected in the summer of 2015. This plan represents the direction received through surveys, open house workshops, focus groups, general idea brainstorming and the consultants input and evaluation of the system. Additionally, a community survey was completed in 2008 and the results were factored into the overall system analysis, though not weighed as heavily as more recent input.

### **PLAN PURPOSE**

The Strategic Park Master Plan provides a framework for the City to continue refining their park system to meet the needs of current and future residents. Having a strong vision for the park system, based in strong community input, will allow the park commission to set a course that will maximize the cost/benefit of park infrastructure for the city. Responding to changing recreation needs, infrastructure and technology updates, and modern lifestyles are important considerations for the Strategic Plan. Equally important is maintaining the unique character and quiet charm of the city. The park system can play an important role in balancing progress and tradition as the city and its housing stock modernize. The natural resources of the parks will continue to be a critical element in defining the character of Deephaven in the future.



## 2. CHANGES AND TRENDS

### CHANGING PARKS FOR CHANGING COMMUNITIES

Deephaven residents have voiced their overall support for the parks and beaches of the city, and recognize the benefits they provide to their quality of life. As the city looks to make improvements and maintain the existing park system, it is important to look at how both the city and parks and recreation are changing over time. The following issues provide a glimpse of how the park system could best support residents in the future, and the opportunities and challenges that have emerged during analysis for this Strategic Plan. ADA and accessibility challenges, changing recreation interests, increased competition for financial resources, highly scheduled/ programmed youth activities, large scale home construction, increasing pressure and use on open spaces, and environmental pressures are a few of the issues that will continue to challenge the parks and recreation system in Deephaven.

- Field sports growing in popularity compared to baseball/ softball. Soccer continues to become increasingly popular throughout the country as well as other sports such as lacrosse. These sports compete for valuable field space with sports like baseball and football, that have diminished in popularity over time. However, this trend may not be as pronounced in Deephaven due to the influence and popularity of Minnetonka Youth Baseball programs that continue to attract healthy populations of players.
- Trail usage continues to grow rapidly grow nationally and regionally. The Metropolitan Council identified trail usage as the top activity in occurring in regional parks. People are desiring trails for recreational purposes, as well as a general transportation option that is safe, efficient, and interesting. Trails of multiple uses are increasing such as general walking and bicycling, mountain biking, nature trails and hiking, and winter trails.
- Health and fitness trends have started to reverse the obesity epidemic nationally and more people are leading active, healthier lifestyles. This is especially true of the baby boomer generation who continues to seek options for engaging in physical and social activities. This trend continues across the seasons, with cross country skiing, hockey, snowshoeing, and other winter activities seeing increased usage throughout the state.
- Family dogs are increasingly common in the Metro and are integrated into a number of family and social activities. Dog walking is a very popular activity and a great excuse to get people out of the house and using trails and the parks. However, there is a greater need to control off-leash dogs, provide for adequate pet waste disposal, and define areas for people, and for dogs. These conflicts were voiced throughout the public input process.
- Programs, schedules, and specialized sports are increasingly a part of modern childhood. However, mounting evidence is showing that providing opportunities to engage youth in a un-programmed activities are also healthy for development. This was recognized by many throughout the public input process, and the community would like to maintain a form of this unstructured natural and play areas for youth.
- Several non-traditional sports and activities are rapidly growing in popularity that attract a much broader user group than those that play in traditional sports. This reflects the changing nature of recreation and is something for Deephaven to consider in the future of their parks. A number of these activities are highlighted in the recreation trends section that could fit into Deephaven's park system.



## RECREATION TRENDS

There are some key national trends that may have implications locally in Deephaven. The following recreation activities are increasing in popularity, have been identified by the consultant team as having potential in Deephaven Parks, and/ or were identified as being desired in the public input sessions:



**PICKLE BALL**- Pickle ball has become increasingly popular with aging populations and there is likely a need for courts in Deephaven. Courts can be striped into existing tennis courts without affecting tennis playability. This activity is recommended to take advantage of, and add value to the surplus of tennis courts throughout the city. The City could start with one experimental location to test.



**FRISBEE GOLF** - Frisbee golf is an activity open to all ages, skill levels, and is a low impact activity. The necessary infrastructure is affordable compared to other recreational activities and could easily fit into larger parks like Thorpe. While this activity saw limited interest in the survey and open house, it would be an easy addition to Thorpe Park to increase the usage.



**ARCHERY** - Archery is growing in popularity across the State, and Minnetonka Community Education has identified it as one of their most rapidly growing activities. There are currently no formalized places for archery in the parks system and there may be benefits to setting up a structured area for archery practice. Archery facilities are relatively inexpensive compared to other recreation activities. The Minnesota State Archery Association and/ or MnDNR could be coordinated with for education programs and events. Thorpe Park, Burton Park, and potentially Village Hall Park are potential locations.



**COMMUNITY GARDENS/ URBAN AGRICULTURE** - Community gardens have become healthy, social hubs for a number of communities and were highly preferred in the public input results. Infrastructure for informal community gardens is relatively affordable compared to other recreation activities. Soil tests should be performed prior to installation and raised beds created if any evidence of contamination is shown. Organic leaf compost is an excellent addition to soils to increase production and condition



existing soils. Garden sites could be managed by volunteers using the plots to minimize city maintenance needs. The gardens would likely function best in parks adjacent to smaller lots that don't have room, or enough sunlight, for a garden. Thorpe and Shuck Park are potential locations.

**OUTDOOR SPLASH PADS** - Smaller scale outdoor splash pads are becoming increasingly popular as an attractive alternative to outdoor pools. There are currently no pool or splash pad facilities in the city, however, residents have identified it as a wish list item in input sessions. Splash pads should be prioritized lower due to limited water supply at parks and the proximity of beaches on Lake Minnetonka that provide water access to residents. If water supply issues are addressed, Thorpe Park is the best place to place the splash pad due to the existing infrastructure, parking, and distance from the Lake.



**FUTSAL** - Futsal is a form of soccer that is mainly played indoors, or on tennis courts outside. It is played on a smaller field that is typically a faster surface, with a smaller ball, and 5 people per team. This version of soccer could be another activity to get greater use out of tennis court spaces, and potentially hockey rink areas in the summer.



**SAND VOLLEYBALL** - Also known as Beach Volleyball, sand volleyball is a team sport played by two teams of two players on a sand court. With the many beaches in Deephaven, sand volleyball could be a new added amenity, that provides more recreation opportunities for the City's teen population. Deephaven Beach and Cottagewood Park are potential locations for sand volleyball.



**HOCKEY & BROOMBALL**- According to USA Hockey, there were 519,417 registered hockey players in the U.S. in 2013-14, an increase of 9,000 over the previous year (1.7%). Minnesota continues to reign as the State of Hockey. According to USA Hockey, the 10-year growth rate in Minnesota hockey participation from 2002-2013 was 20.2%. Hockey will continue to be a major focus of Deephaven Parks for the foreseeable future.



Broomball is a popular league sport in Minnesota, and there are



## OTHER TRENDS THAT MAY AFFECT THE PLAN

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Recent climate trends, and future forecasts will impact parks facilities with increased storm intensities, longer periods of drought between storms, higher temperatures (summer and winter), decreased snow cover, impacts to traditional vegetation, and increased threats from insects and invasive species. These changes will have significant impacts on the park systems ability to provide key services throughout the seasons, protect park user's during and after storms, and support quality turf grass required for active field play. Storm damage will likely increase and these issues can create additional pressures for City and Park system resources. Emerald ash borer outbreaks and new pathogens and infestations are likely to strengthen in intensity and frequency and will require a dedicated plan to remediate.



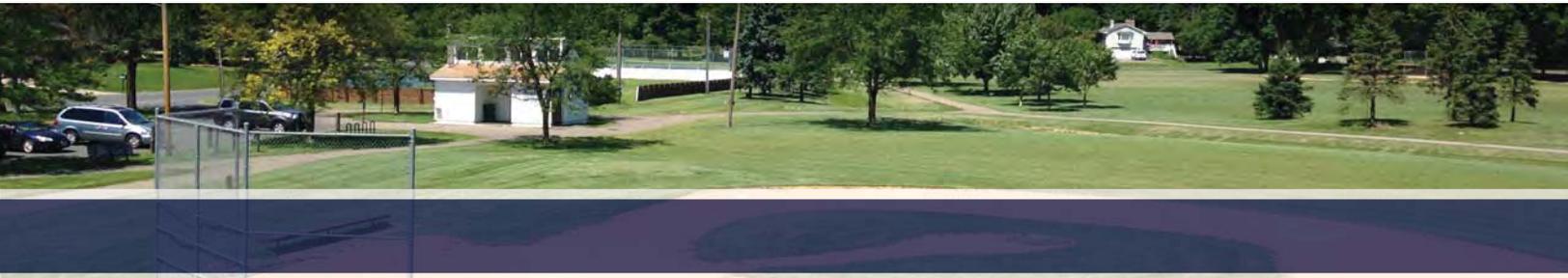
### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The general public's increased awareness of environmental issues in Minnesota, such as clean water, air, and energy efficiency have put increased demands on the City of Deephaven to provide more quality natural resources and areas. People associate the natural world with healthy environments and view the parks department as stewards of the natural environment in their city. Additionally, the parks department has an opportunity to foster sustainability throughout the community by providing leadership in advancing environmentally sensitive practices. Sustainable development and redevelopment, native landscapes, environmentally friendly stormwater management, and energy efficiency are all commonly understood aspects of sustainability that are directly impacted by parks and facilities.



### 3. EXISTING PARK SYSTEM





## RECREATION PARKS

**1. THORPE PARK** - The largest of Deephaven’s Parks, Thorpe Park is the centerpiece for the Deephaven park system. Thorpe has a wide range of facilities including tennis courts; a basketball court; two ball diamonds; a couple multi-use fields; a permanent hockey rink and warming house; a large hill for sledding and viewing the park; a pond; several walking paths; play areas; horseshoes; grills and a picnic shelter; and a garden maintained by the Cottagewood Garden Club. The tennis courts are in heavy use in this park and since a third adjustable basketball hoop was added to the basketball court, there has been a noticeable increase in activity. The ball diamonds have newer backstops and are mainly for practice. The multi-use field is mainly used for soccer (Minnesota United Soccer) and seems to be in good condition. The hockey rink is also used for youth soccer. There is no irrigation at this park, but the turf appears to be in good condition. This park gets good winter use with the hockey rink, open skating rink and a popular, but unofficial sledding hill. The hockey rink is used 2-4 nights a week by Minnetonka Youth Hockey practice. The hockey goal nets need replacing on a yearly basis. The warming house is very dated and could use replacement. The walking path is maintained and plowed throughout the winter and gets year-round use. The pond has a significant amount of algae, which has been a complaint of the park users. The outlet for the pond is at Purgatory Creek. The playground has three structures, two of which are older. There is very limited seating in the playground area, and none that is shaded from the hot sun. There are no restrooms at Thorpe, but there is a drinking fountain and water access and there is a portable toilet on site.



**2. VILLAGE HALL PARK** - Village Hall Park adjoins Deephaven City offices and provides a variety of facilities including three tennis courts; one ball diamond; a permanent hockey rink and warming house; a playground and gazebo. The parking lot also allows many residents to easily access the popular LRT Regional Trail. There is a path that cuts through the site from the parking lot to the LRT trail. The tennis courts and gazebo are the most visible features of the park as they abut Cottagewood Road, the only road that borders the park. The tennis courts heavily used, mainly for private tennis lessons. The ball diamond is seldom used, mainly as a practice field. In the winter the outfield is flooded for open skate. This slope is difficult to flood due to a low spot between the ball diamond and tennis courts. Village Hall Park host an annual winter festival. The playground is not very visible from the parking lot which may contribute to its lack of use. The warming house is dated and in poor condition. There are no restrooms in the warming house so a portable toilet is brought on site.



## EXISTING PARK SYSTEM



**3. BURTON PARK** - Burton Park (shown left) is a beautiful nature trail offering scenic views of the back bay of Carson's Bay and a fishing pier. Located next to the LRT Trail, Burton Park provides hikers with a unique view of Lake Minnetonka. There is one main path maintained by the city that includes benches and waste containers. Several informal man made paths exist throughout the park.

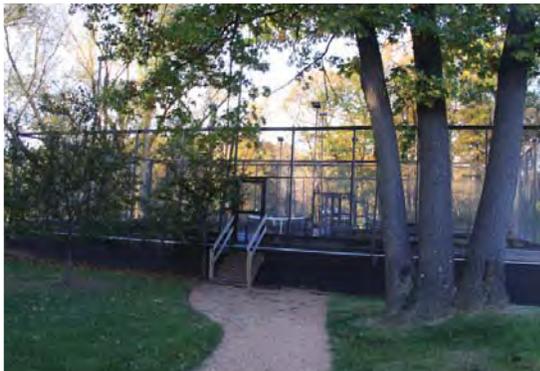
**4. COTTAGEWOOD CHILDREN'S PARK** - Cottagewood Children's Park (shown right) is a quiet park with two playgrounds; a couple of picnic tables and benches; a gazebo; and a sculpture water feature which was donated to the park. The Cottagewood General Store is conveniently located across the street. Because of its proximity to the General Store, and the flexible open space, Cottagewood Children's Park is often used for community events and gatherings.



**5. SHUCK PARK** - Shuck Park (shown left) is a quiet neighborhood park that offers two recently renovated tennis courts, a small basketball court and playground equipment for kids. There are no paths at Shuck and there seems to be a lack of entry into the park. There seems to be some wear and tear on the turf to the north of the tennis courts, as this is the probable access to and from the park/playground. The basketball court is a half-court concrete pad, with a non-adjustable hoop and its overall condition is fairly poor. The playground is outdated but when a new, donated playground was proposed, it was turned down by the community because it didn't "fit" the desired look. Instead, the old playground was fixed-up. There are no trash or recycling receptacles at this park.



**6. DONKEY PARK**- Donkey Park (shown right) is a small triangular open space bounded by 3 roads and surrounded by single family homes. The property is maintained and mowed by the city, but has no park signage. Amenities are minimum and include a picnic table. A small tree swing was put up by neighboring residents.



**7. HARALSON PARK** - Haralson Park (shown left) is a wooded wetland that most prominently features the City's paddle tennis court, a nature trail along the wetland and public parking for people looking to enjoy boating and the LRT Trail. The paddle tennis was donated to the city and has a heating unit. Also on-site is the Public Works building. There is a large parking lot on site that is utilized for trail parking as well as park n ride for the city buses.

**8. PUMP PARK** - Pump Park (shown right) is a scarcely developed park property between the storefronts on Minnetonka Boulevard. This park could provide shoppers an opportunity to sit and relax in a small scenic setting, but would need improvements.





## BEACHES



**9. DEEPHAVEN BEACH** - Deephaven beach (shown left) is the largest and most popular of Deephaven's 6 beaches. The 2.7 acres of lake-front, offers users a wide range of facilities including a maintained beach; a grill, picnic tables and a gazebo; a swimming dock and fishing pier; a sports court; and monkey bars. The beach is located in scenic St. Louis Bay, near the Deephaven Marina and the Minnetonka Yacht Club. The beach is heavily used. There were several bicycles on site, none of which were utilizing the bike racks. The gazebo was very heavily used and a suggestion for towel/bag racks was made. The one grill gets used and there were

ashes dumped in the lawn next to it. The path running the length of the beach is made out of porous asphalt, and needs maintenance. A drain was added between the pathway and the beach to prevent sand erosion. The fitness/monkey bars do not appear to be used. The sports court is in good condition, but doesn't. The municipal marina is always full and there is an extensive waiting list for boat slips. There are two permit-required parking lots on each end of the beach.

**10. ROBINSON'S BAY BEACH** - Robinson's Bay Beach (shown right) is a small, scenic beach located on picturesque Robinson's Bay. After Deephaven beach, Robinson's Bay Beach is the second most populated beach in the summer. This beach is supervised by a lifeguard, and there is a moderately sized permit parking lot, which makes this beach a great destination. There is a picnic table and grill, as well as a portable toilet. The fence along the property is in poor condition and should be repaired or replaced. There are a couple of Ash trees on site, which may need further inspection.



**11. SANDY BEACH** - Sandy beach (shown left) is noted for its excellent beach and arresting view of the Lower Lake. This property contains a beach, swimming dock, bench, picnic table and portable toilet. There is no parking, so it is assumed that visitors live nearby and walk or bike. The beach area is clean and the swimming dock appears to be in good condition. There is a lifeguard at Sandy beach.



**12. ROCKY BEACH** - Rocky Beach (shown left), as its name implies, is noted for its rocky shoreline and stunning views of the Lower Lake. The beach is quite and shady due to two large Ash trees on site. Due to the high shade, the grass is tough to get growing in this area. There is one lounge chair at Rocky beach as well as a built in bench on the swimming dock. Rocky beach is not supervised by a lifeguard and there is limited on-street parking.

**13. NOCOMO/WALDEN BEACH** - Nocomo Beach (shown right) is a small neighborhood beach ideal for swimming and for viewing Brown’s Bay and Smith’s Bay across the lake. The beach is sometimes refereed to as Walden beach because of its location in the Walden Neighborhood. There are no lifeguards or swimming docks at this beach, but permit parking is available. The amenities that exist on site include one picnic table, two benches, and a portable toilet. A French drain was put in along the north edge of the site to try and help mitigate drainage issues. This beach can get a lot of geese which, along with drainage issues, has caused the beach to become polluted with ecoli. In the winter, Nocomo beach is a heavily used by snowmobiles for access onto the lake.



**14. LINWOOD BEACH** - Linwood Beach is a small, secluded neighborhood beach with a beautiful view of Lake Minnetonka. This beach has a long access road and no wayfinding signage, which makes finding it more difficult.

## NATURAL PARKS, OPEN SPACES & TRAILS

**CLEVELAND TRAIL ON LAKE LOUISE** - This natural park and trail extends throughout the wetlands surrounding Lake Louise. This land is tax fortified property that connect to natural areas surrounding Lake Louise. There are two entries (one on Virginia Avenue and on Hamilton Avenue).



**NORTHOME TRAIL** - Northome Trail (shown left) provides a scenic access to Deephaven Beach for those residents living in the northwest corner of the city.



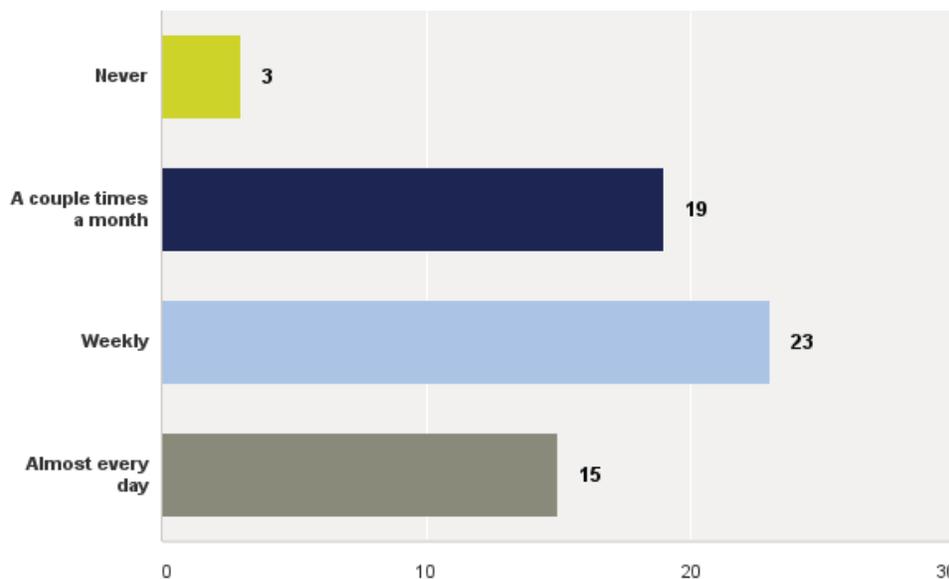
## 4. COMMUNITY INPUT

A critical element of the parks and recreation master planning process is community engagement, which is necessary to effectively deliver a community-oriented parks and recreation system. Community engagement for this project was carefully planned in order to accurately capture all major community needs and included conducting a public workshop, stakeholder and staff interviews, and an online survey. Several needs and desired amenities were identified.

### ONLINE SURVEY & OPEN HOUSE

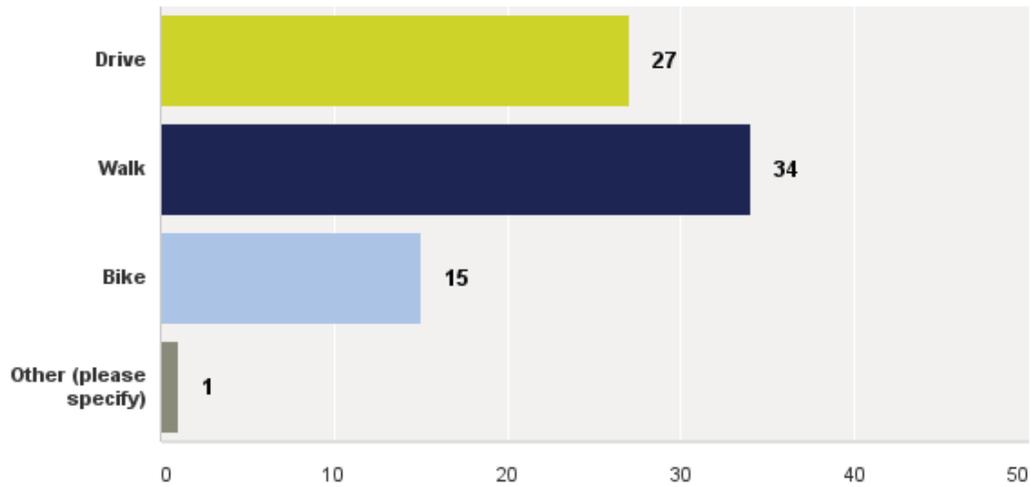
The consultant team hosted an open house on Wednesday, August 18th in the Deephaven Room at Minnetonka Community Education Center. An online survey was open during a 4 month span during this same time frame. Both input methods were advertised throughout the Deephaven Parks. There were over 25 members of the community who showed up to the open house, and over 60 responses to the online survey. The following summarizes information gathered at both the open house and the online survey.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY VISIT DEEPHAVEN BEACH DURING THE SUMMER?





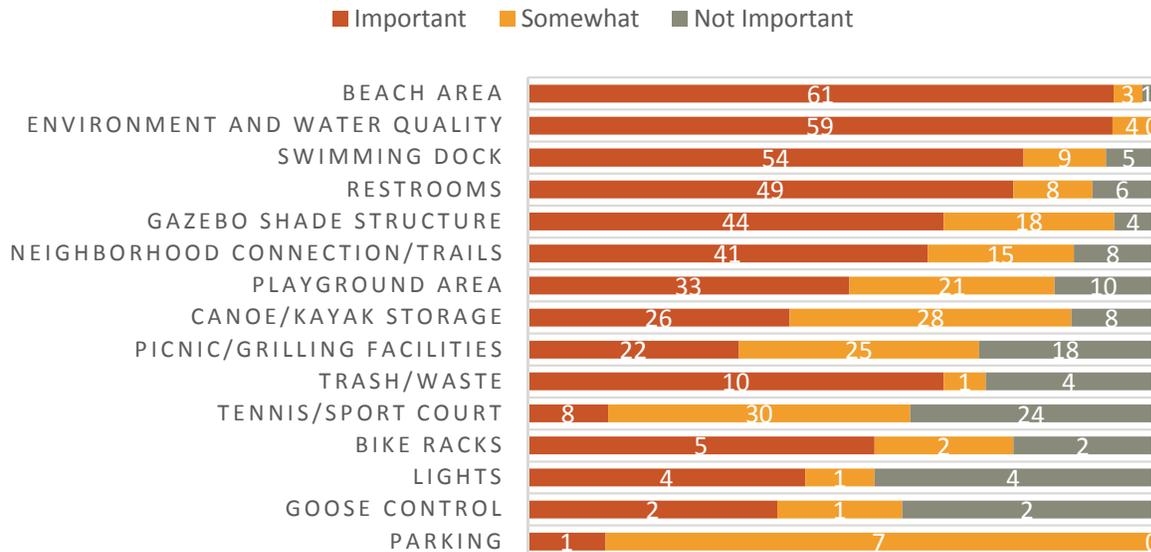
HOW DO YOU USUALLY GET THERE?



WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY CURRENTLY ENGAGE IN MOST OFTEN AT THE BEACH?



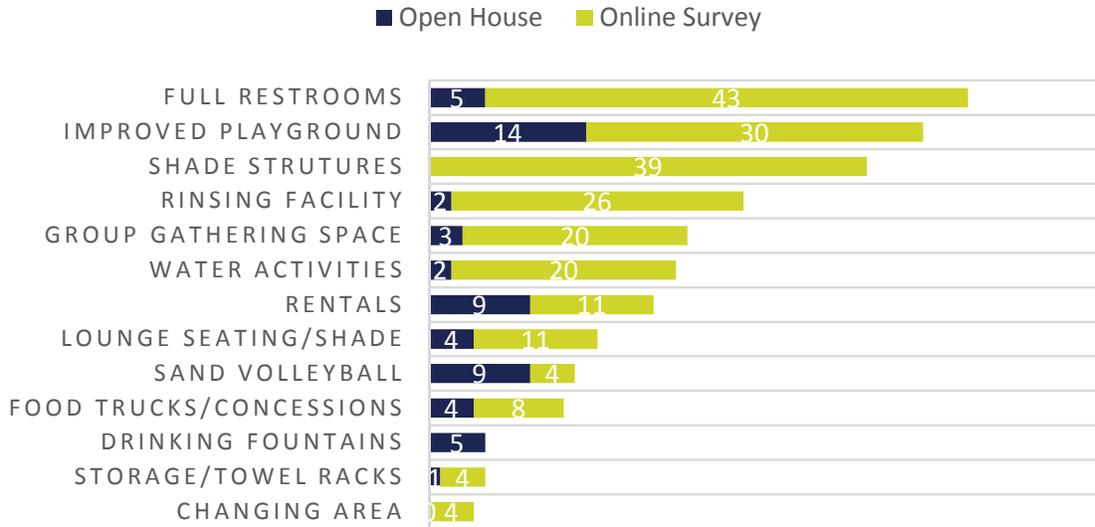
HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING EXISTING AMENITIES TO DEEPHAVEN BEACH ?



# COMMUNITY INPUT



## WHAT NEW OR DIFFERENT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT DEEPHAVEN BEACH ?



### TOP 5



## Comments/Suggestions about Deephaven Beach:

*“Replace swim docks, add paddle board racks”*

*“Keep Deephaven Beach a simple neighborhood beach. Don’t overthink this. Sometimes less is more.”*

*“Canoe/kayak share similar to Sunfish Lake Park”*

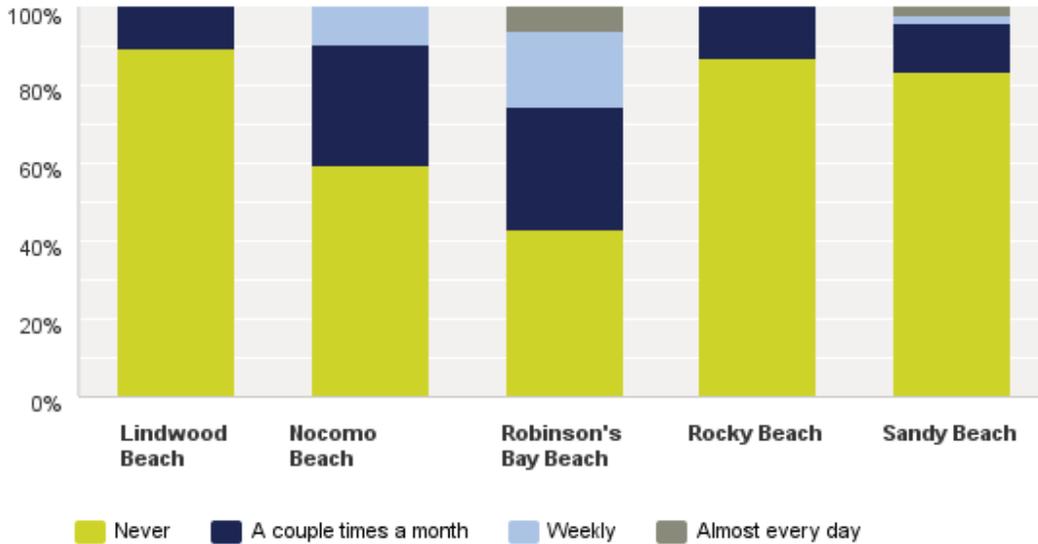
*“Fix erosion, invasive buckthorn, vegetation overgrowth and poison ivy that’s all over the slope above the beach.”*

*“It’s perfect the way it is... Just continue to maintain what is there. Small is what makes it special!”*

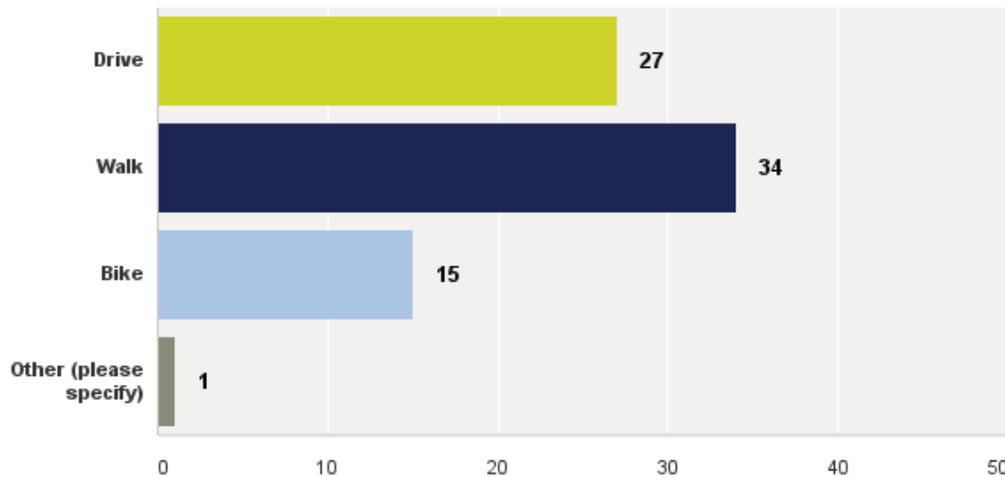
*“New swim dock, better boardwalk and picnic shelter decking”*



HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY VISIT THE NEIGHBORHOOD BEACHES DURING THE SUMMER?



HOW DO YOU USUALLY GET THERE?



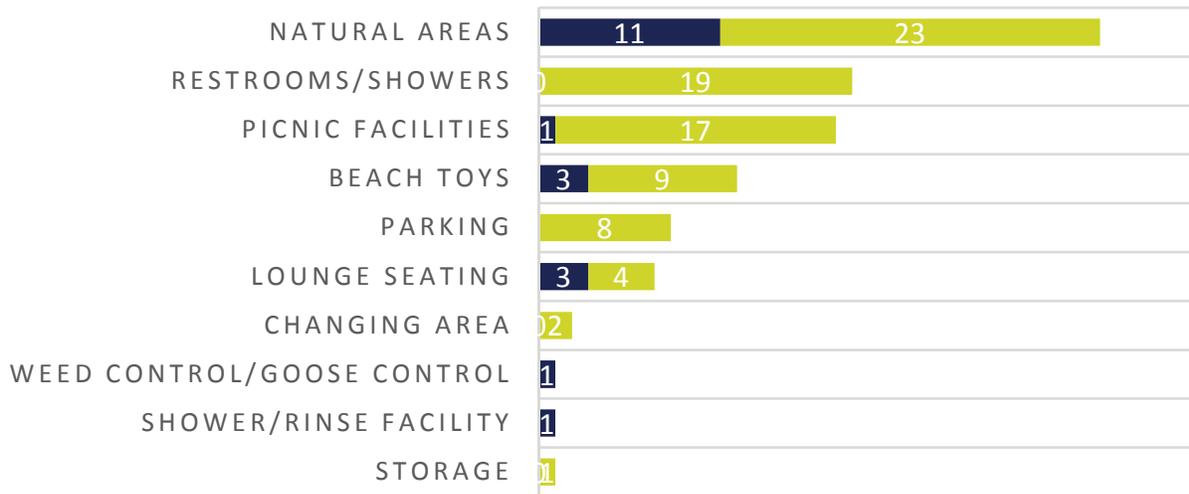
WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU CURRENTLY ENGAGE IN MOST AT NEIGHBORHOOD BEACHES?

Playing Swimming Socialize  
Walking Picnic Kayaking



WHAT NEW OR DIFFERENT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD BEACHES ?

■ Open House   ■ Online Survey



TOP 5



Comments/Suggestions about Neighborhood Beaches:

*“Weed Control and Goose control”*

*“They are perfect the way they are... Small and Quite”*

*“Cleaner beaches no weeds. Better trash bins or holders.”*

*“Clean up the nastiness/slime/goose poop at Nocomo. I don’t think you need to add more stuff to maintain, please just maintain the areas we do have. Nocomo’s maintenance has really gone downhill the last 4 years.”*

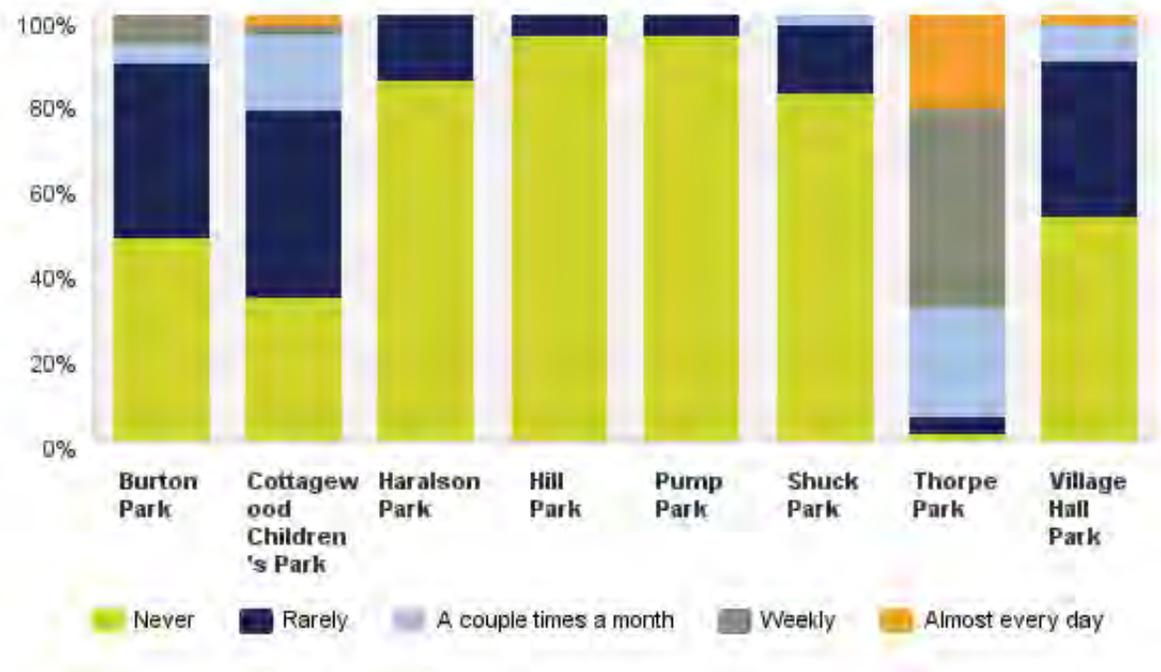
*“None. These tiny beaches should*

*remain small neighborhood treasures.”*

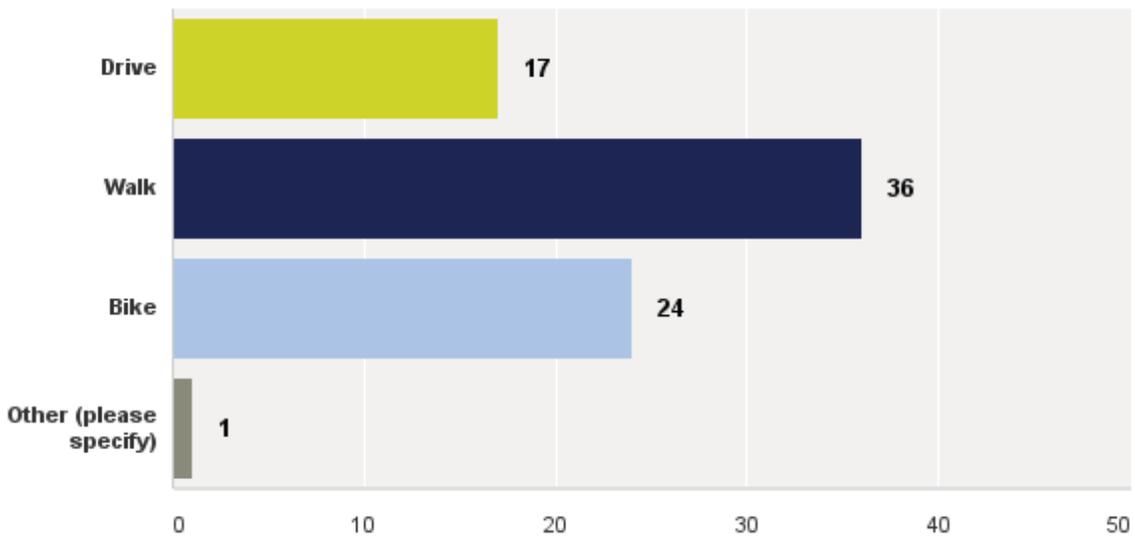
*“Umbrellas and nice level shaded areas”*



HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY VISIT DEEPHAVEN PARKS?



HOW DO YOU USUALLY GET TO THE PARK?

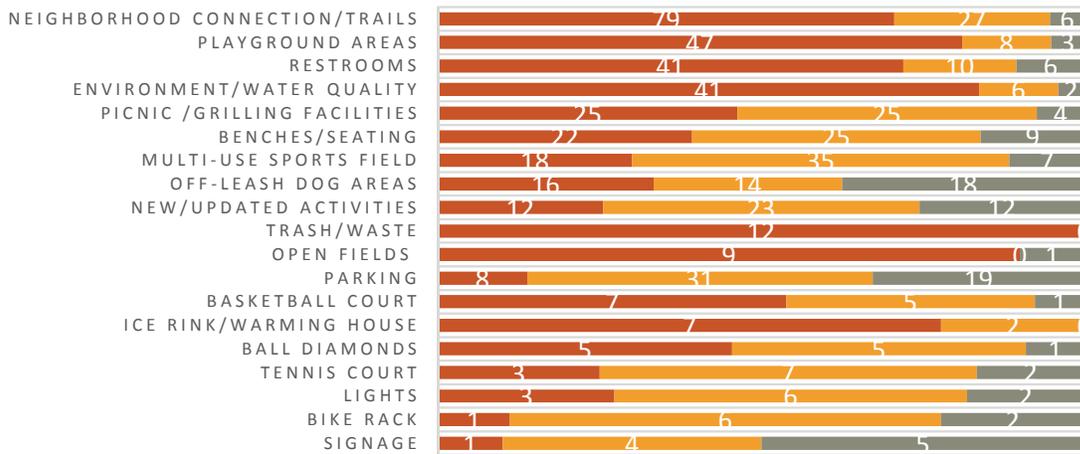


# COMMUNITY INPUT



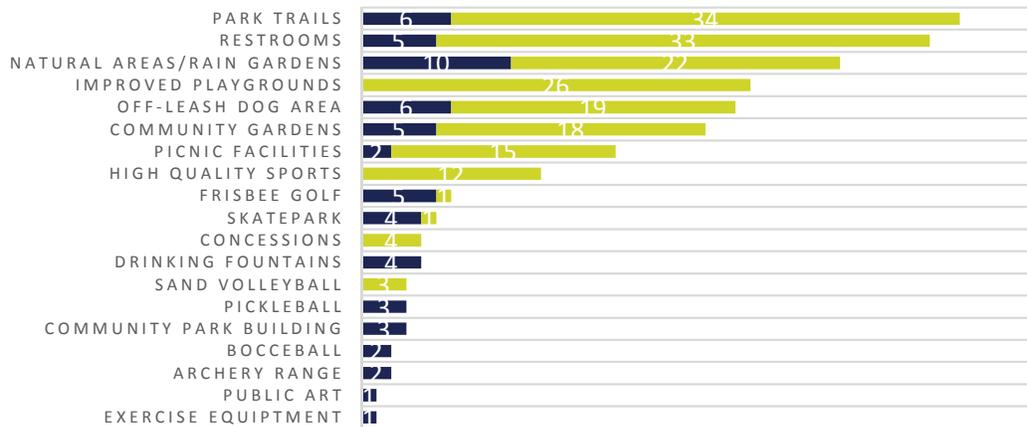
## HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING EXISTING AMENITIES AT MOST PARKS?

■ Important   ■ Somewhat   ■ Not Important

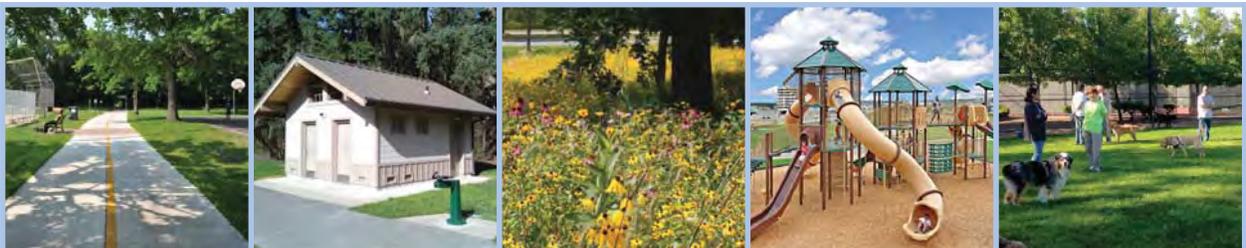


## WHAT NEW OR DIFFERENT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE PARKS?

■ Open House   ■ Online Survey



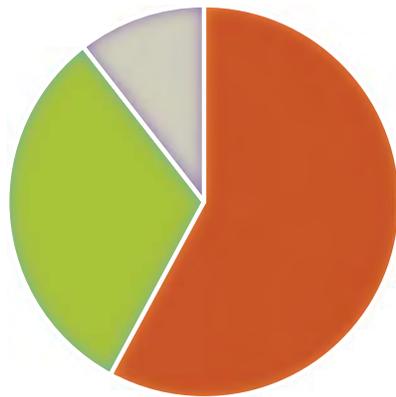
## TOP 5





TYPES OF PLAY PREFERRED:

■ Natural Play Area   
 ■ Themed Play area   
 ■ Conventional Play Area



NATURAL PLAY



Comments/Suggestions about Parks:

*“A splashpad would be highly desired and used”*

*“Convert a Tennis Court to a multi-use court including basketball, pickle-ball, etc.”*

*“Frisbee Golf could be used by so many ages for low cost and no maintenance.”*

*“SPLASH PAD, POOL, WADING POOL”*

*“Off leash dog Park”*

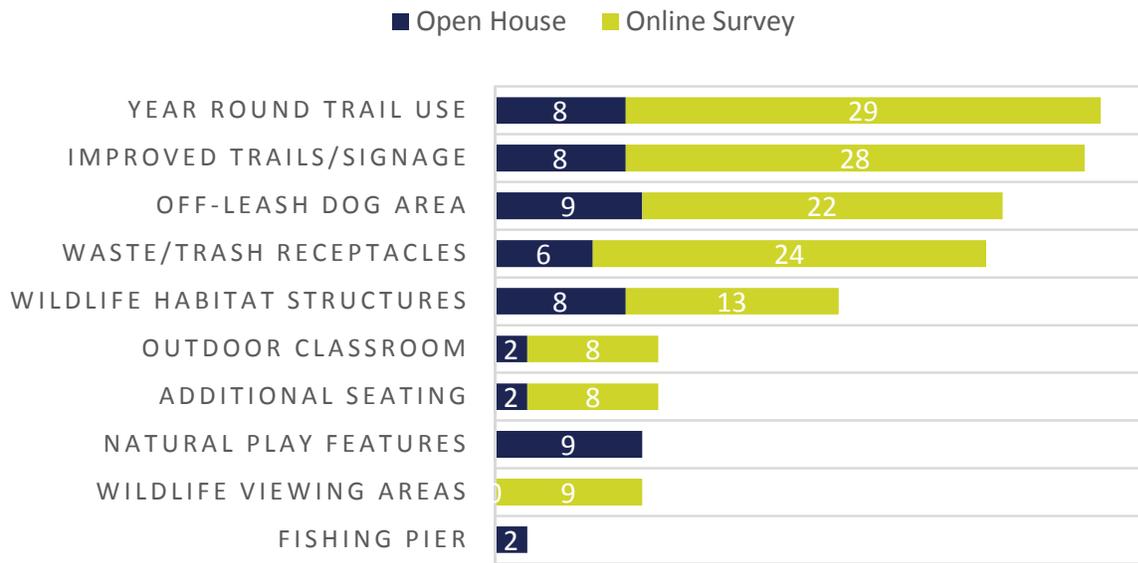
*“Clean pond -- no scum. tree debris picked up weekly”*

*“Decommission horseshoes”*



WHAT NEW OR DIFFERENT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE NATURAL PARKS?

## PREFERRED NEW AMENITIES



### TOP 5



### Comments/Suggestions about Natural Parks:

*“People disregard pet leash laws all the time in Deephaven and treat every area as an off-leash dog area--I’m not sure why we would add anything to encourage the practice”*

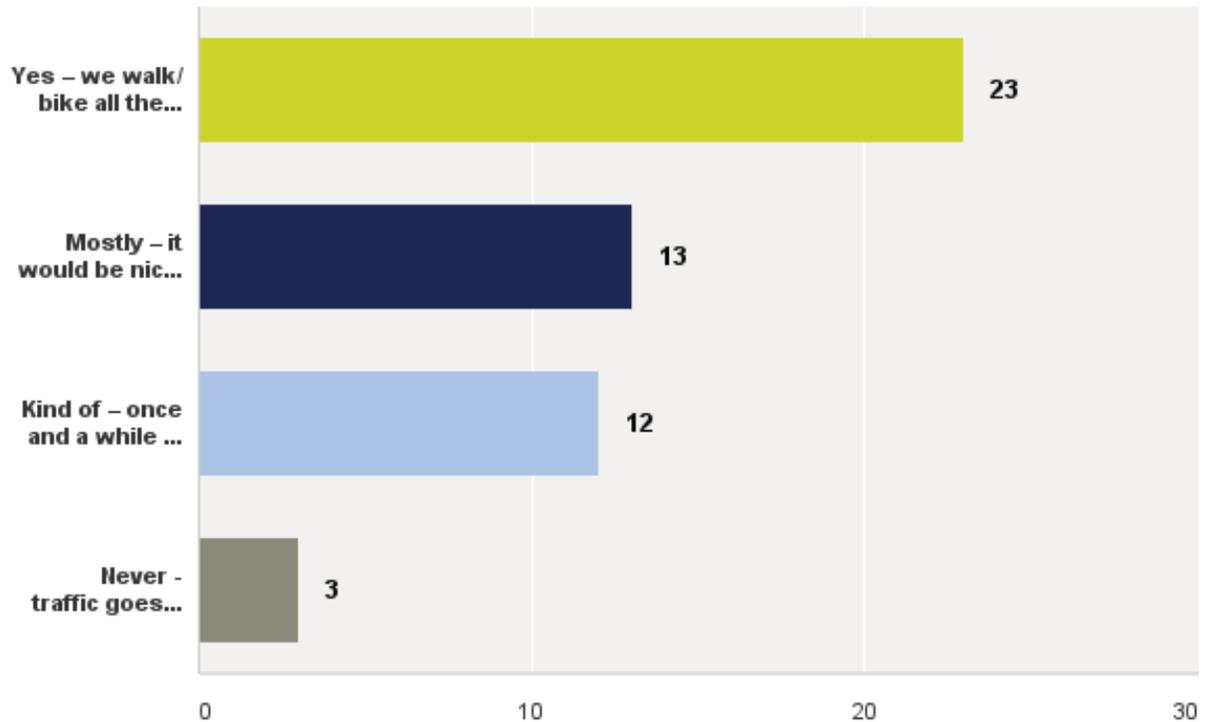
*“NO MORE SIGNS. Deephaven is over run with signage as it is now.”*

*spreading to resident properties too. Remove poison ivy. I have had it four times this summer from main beach and Northome trail.”*

*“Remove invasive species. Buck-thorn is taking over trails and*



DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FEEL SAFE WALKING OR BIKING TO THE PARKS AND BEACHES?



Comments/Suggestions about Trails:

*“Better neighborhood access to LRT. “*

*“Love the idea of Greenway land lease.”*

*“Connect Trails - determine “main trails” vs connecting trails. Some trails are used for transport and some more for recreation.”*



## PREFERRED SURFACE TYPE

■ Boardwalk ■ Woodchip ■ Dirt ■ Gravel ■ Paved



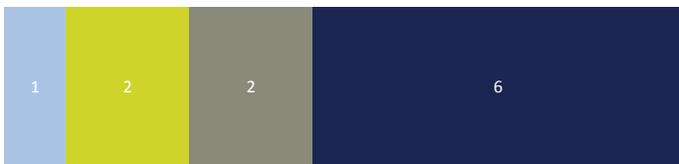
## PREFERRED SIGNAGE

■ Interpretive ■ Entry ■ Directional Wayfinding ■ Simple Markers



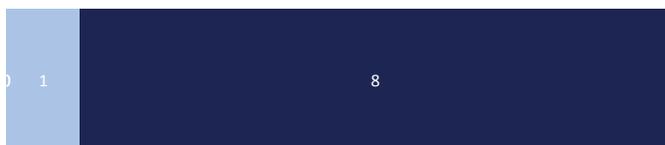
## PREFERRED TRAIL TYPE

■ Roadside ■ Nature ■ Sidewalk ■ Bike



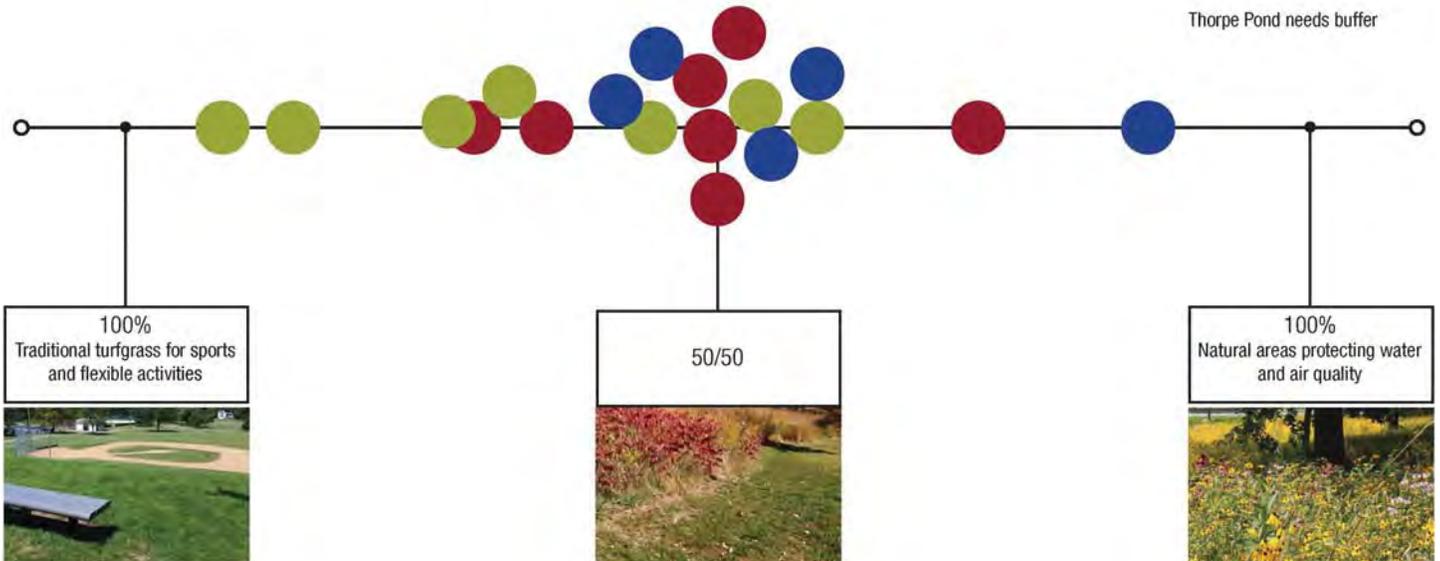
## PREFERRED AMENITIES

■ Water fountain ■ Shelter ■ Seating ■ Trash/Receptacle

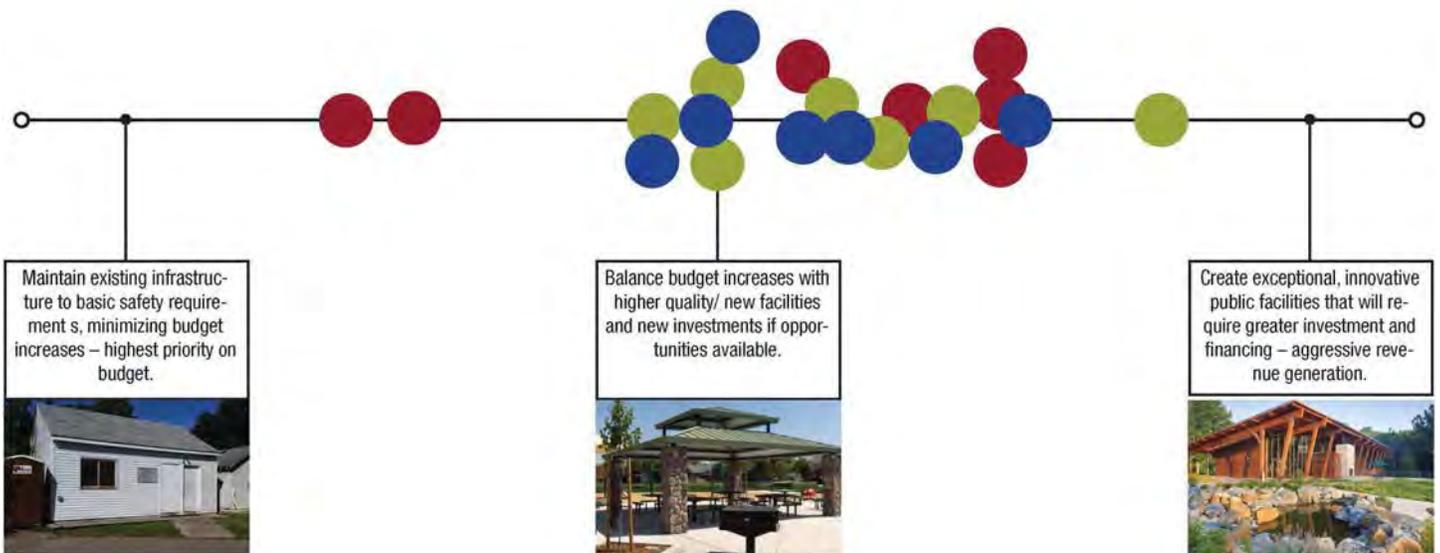




## PREFERRED LANDSCAPE STYLE

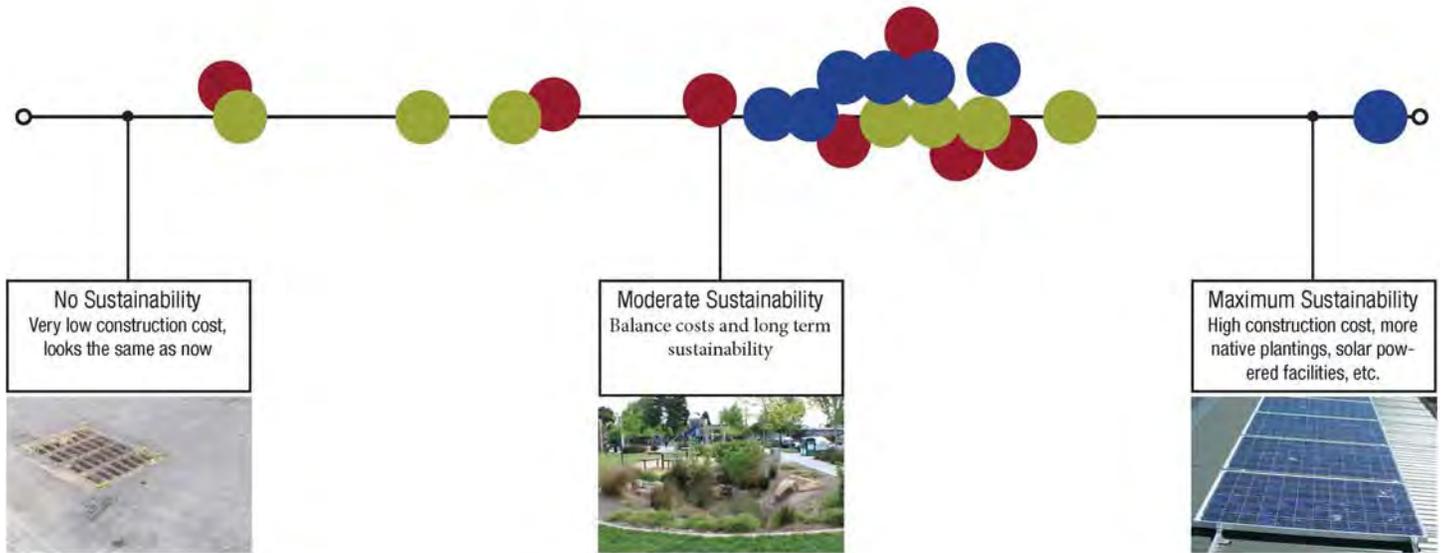


## PARK INVESTMENTS

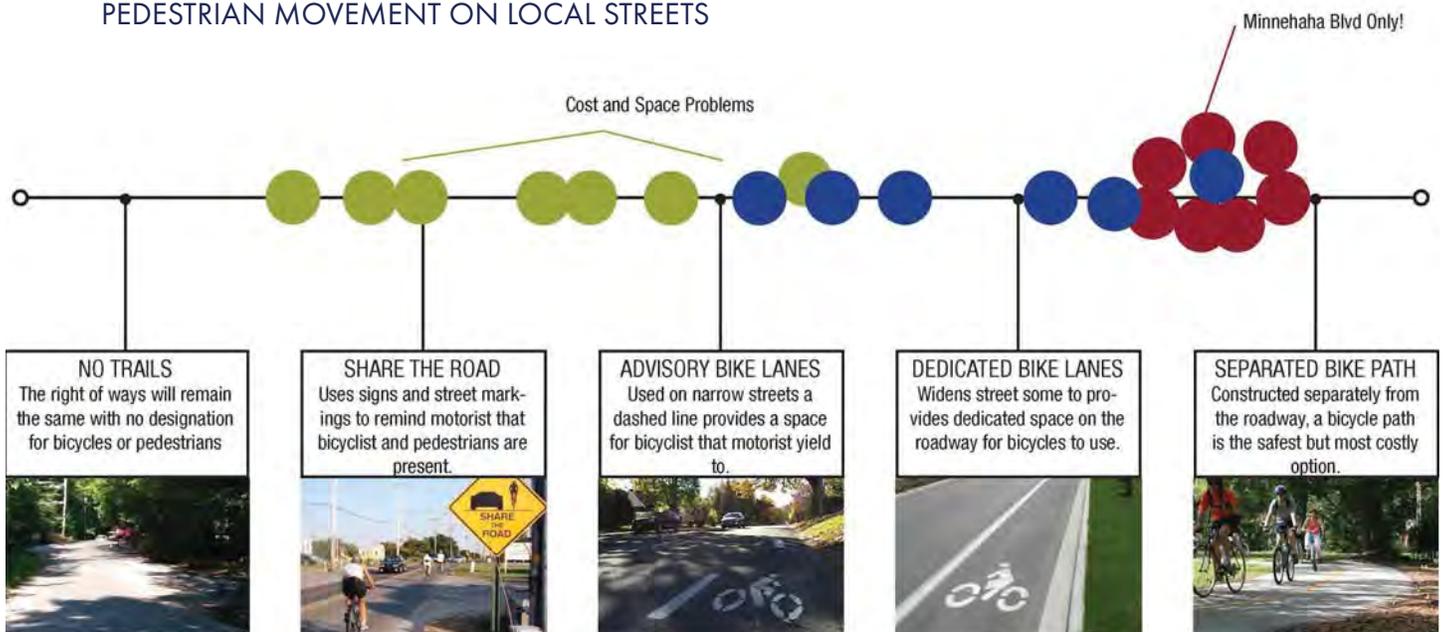




ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES



PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT ON LOCAL STREETS





**STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

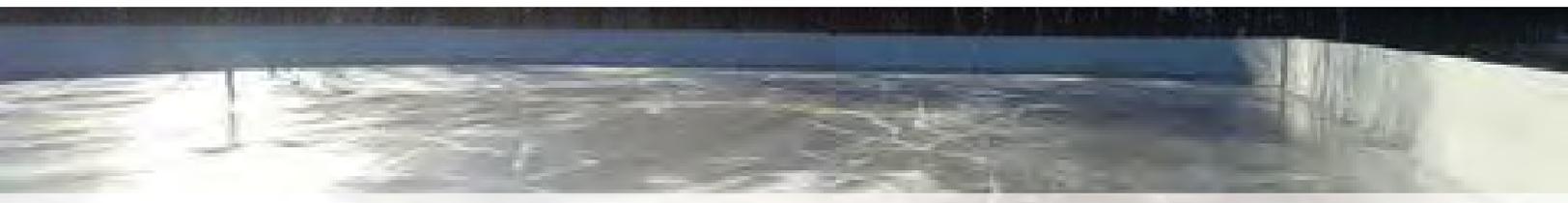
The consultant team hosted a Stakeholder Meeting Wednesday, September 9th in the Council Chambers at Deephaven City Hall. The attendees represented key associations including Minnetonka Community Education, Three Rivers Park District, Minnetonka Baseball Association, Tonka United, and Minnetonka Youth Hockey; Lacrosse. The following summarizes information gathered from the attendees:

**WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE PARK SYSTEM THAT WE NEED TO BUILD ON FOR THIS MASTER PLAN?**

1. Baseball – there is a long standing relationship and good partnership
  - Mainly utilize Thorpe and Town Hall Park for practices – generally up to 12-year old practices.
  - Mentioned they are always looking for fields for both practice and games. Game fields require additional issues to be addressed i.e. parking, irrigation, bleachers, lights, etc.
2. Soccer – Mainly use the education center fields. Used to use Thorpe for practices and clinics but haven’t in a number of years. Maybe local coaches and teams use informally.
3. Community Education – Excited to be invited and engaged in the dialogue, not a strong engagement history between the City and Community Education
  - Thorpe is useful because of proximity, size and multi-functionality – serves a need
  - Minnetonka Blvd. is a barrier to the parks because of safety issues. Comm. Ed would welcome a chance to help Deephaven address.
4. Hockey/ Lacrosse – Mainly utilize Thorpe and Deephaven Beach ice rinks in the winter, sometimes Village Hall
  - Lacrosse uses St. Therese fields, but also Thorpe on occasion. Thorpe has limited field space available for Lacrosse – they have used the hockey rink but have run into conflicts with soccer practice in the rink at the same time.
  - No football practice known at Thorpe.
5. Trails – LRT big asset to the Community - providing connections important.

**WHAT ARE THE KEY OUTCOMES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE COME FROM THIS PROCESS?**

1. Fields – can more space be made available? All of the sports associations would take it including:
  - Lacrosse – May through early July season. 40x60’ field needed for youth leagues under 9-yr.
  - Hockey throughout winter – ice quality is poor at city rinks and practices often have to move to rink at Deephaven Beach– improve ice quality.
  - Soccer season –April through Mid. July and again from September through October
  - Baseball – always looking for quality field space. Game field ready not critical but would be welcomed.



- Recreational skating – not adequately lit at Village Hall and Thorpe. Lights with timers would help make more attractive to residents after dark.

### DO YOU HAVE IDEAS ABOUT CHANGES, ADDITIONS, OR IMPROVEMENTS FOR PROGRAMS, PARKS, TRAILS AND/OR RECREATION FACILITIES IN DEEPHAVEN FOR THE FUTURE? & ARE THERE RECREATION FACILITIES OR AMENITIES MISSING IN DEEPHAVEN THAT WE SHOULD ADDRESS IN THIS MASTER PLAN?

1. Community Ed – Building with walls and doors for gathering/ meeting. Mainly for summer uses at Thorpe. Would allow programming in Deephaven and not on the west side of Minnetonka – more local offerings to local residents. Could be a 3 season facility.
2. Improve ice quality and skating rink areas: Warming house is of poor quality and faces the wrong way, Lighting is poor at rinks – additional lights with timer. Smaller kids get pushed to the outside of the ice when crowded and there is low light in these areas. Thorpe and Village Hall identified as greatest need. Needs exists for increased ice and/ or improved quality – ice quality limits use.
  - Minnetonka hockey has 25 teams K-3 approx. 325 kids with ¼ of those from Deephaven. Provide quality local ice for Deephaven kids.
  - Hockey tries to split rink with neighborhood kids when busy but often ice is so poor it can't be used
  - If ice is better quality – it will be used more
  - Using lake water with sand/ salt mixed in and truck sediment creates poor quality ice and melting issues. Is there a way to change how ice is made
  - Nets and other equipment at Thorpe are in poor shape and old.
3. Would like to see the City spend money on facilities and programs that benefit Deephaven kids. More kids affected with improvements to parks than new adult facilities like paddle board courts.
4. Trails – Improve access to LRT trail
  - Mentioned there are some federal grants that could help. Difficult to get but Three Rivers could be a resource to help garner.
  - Three Rivers doesn't typically build local trails or trail connections.
  - Agreement with railroad dictates a lot of design – 60 day vacate notice:
  - Gravel surface
  - Hesitant to do a lot of long term planning
  - Mentioned Three Rivers has just started a long term trail systems plan – one of the objectives is to identify gaps in the system, barriers to existing trails, and other issues. This plan has just started.
5. Community Education –
  - Gym space is always needed – realize unlikely in Deephaven parks
  - Tennis courts are well used by community ed. – especially Village Hall



- Building space for enrichment classes would be well used to serve the east side
- Archery space is needed – rapidly growing activity with minimal facilities. 15 meters is all the space they need.
- Increase safety of trails, streets, etc. for pedestrians and bikes. Safety issues. ex. Manholes and poor street quality difficult to bike on.

### HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE CITY'S ABILITY TO MARKET ITS SERVICES, AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE RESIDENTS?

1. Low key/ soft sell
2. Unique community likes how things are currently – don't want to be like other/ traditional cities and suburbs
3. City is sometimes "penny wise and pound foolish" – example of boardwalk and gazebo given.
4. Don't advertise a lot.

### HOW SHOULD THE FUTURE GROWTH OR CHANGES OF THE DEPARTMENT BE FUNDED TO MATCH THE GROWTH, REDEVELOPMENT OR CHANGES OF THE CITY?

1. A number of stakeholders mentioned opportunities for partnerships and relationships to be explored in the future including fees for usage and money or volunteer labor in exchange for assurances of field space. Most stakeholders acknowledged that the parks should remain a place for un-programmed uses and wanted to balance their needs with this fact. Potential partnerships include:
2. Baseball – they currently have relationships with several cities for using their facilities and are very open to exploring relationships with Deephaven. Opportunities include the following (don't have existing relationship with Deephaven):
  - Per usage fee – Excelsior. They pay for the number of times they use the fields
  - Per player fee – Shorewood. \$10/ player. In Shorewood Minnetonka baseball also paid to install irrigation – they get to operate irrigation and mowing.
  - Labor – Cities will often provide ag. Lime and other materials at the field site and Tonka Bball will spread or perform maintenance.
  - Facilities – Cities will provide a storage shed or lockers for maintenance items – rakes, bases, etc. that Tonka Bball will use to maintain fields
3. Hockey – willing to provide funding/ investment in exchange for increasing available ice time. Mentioned they have had some preliminary discussions with the City including:
  - Outdoor refrigerated rinks – portable
  - Second dedicated recreational rink at Thorpe or Village Hall with one prioritized to Youth Hockey.
  - Recognize city water issues but would like to figure out how to provide alternate water source for ice making. Mentioned Edina's outdoor rinks as an example of quality ice and have given contact information to Public Works.
4. Soccer – Don't currently utilize Deephaven facilities but would like to. Their offices are in Deephaven



so they already have a local presence.

- Storage for facilities – nets, cones, etc.

### IF THERE WAS JUST ONE THING THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO MAKE SURE THE MASTER PLAN COVERS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

1. Baseball – Keep youth programs strong and stay away from academy/ club teams. Support connection with local teams.
  - Maintain existing relationship with the City at a minimum. Practice field time is critical, game fields would be nice and utilized, but practice time is very important.
  - Storage lockers at fields would be beneficial and help them maintain fields.
  - Tonka Bball reconsidered the game field at Thorpe – They would be willing to pay/ provide significant assistance to place lights on one field at Thorpe and change into a game field. Irrigation also, if possible. They would pay but request priority scheduling for games. Lighted fields are highly desirable in the Minnetonka area.
2. Hockey – Improve ice quality. This would help with numbers and ice time throughout the City and Minnetonka area.
3. Encourage Deephaven kids to get out of the house and stay active all year long with structured and unstructured activities.
4. Community Education – define indoor space to support youth and adult programming – mainly at Thorpe.
  - Increase safety of Minnetonka Boulevard/ Vine Hill Road for pedestrians and cyclists. Make wider with a separate trail if possible. Mentioned upcoming road work that might be happening.
5. Three Rivers/ Trails
  - Questions - Is there a Central theme or gathering area in Deephaven? Respondents – maybe Thorpe and Deephaven Beach but different areas use different parks and can be very informal and neighborhood specific.
  - Dog parks wanted by the population?
  - Three Rivers would like to help with connections from neighborhoods to connect to the regional trail. Could help with design standards, potential funding source identification, etc.
  - Written note - More trail connections that are standardized/ safe.
6. Written note - For cyclists and walkers, having north/ south connections to the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail are important. Converting identified “streets and trails” to narrower road lanes and adding a bike lane can be an effective method for traffic calming and providing a more identified space for bikes/ pedestrians. It also improves safety. Even adding “sharrows” to residential streets can raise awareness, while also minimizing changes to the small town feel of a community.
7. Soccer – irrigation at Thorpe would be desirable. Practices could occur. Thorpe might be a good place to focus on littlest kids – beginners. They have done this at St. Therese before.





## 5. VISION AND STRATEGY

### KEY AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

Key Areas of Development - Constitute broad categories of improvements, activities, and initiatives necessary to implement the Strategic Plan. These were developed as reoccurring themes that came up in public input sessions, discussions with the Parks Commission, and observed as a part of our analysis.

- 1) ACCESS AND CIRCULATION
- 2) PARKS AND RECREATION
- 3) WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
- 4) OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

**VISION STATEMENTS** – These statements will help guide recommendations and park master plans, and will provide a means of measuring the success of the Strategic Master Plan. If the plan helps achieve the following vision statements then it was successful.

- 1) **ACCESS AND CIRCULATION** – Provide safe pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile access to Deephaven's parks and beaches that connect the community and maintain the unique character of our neighborhoods.
- 2) **PARKS AND RECREATION** – Support outdoor recreation and community gathering for all residents throughout the seasons that complement the area's existing programs and activities.
- 3) **WATER AND ENVIRONMENT** – Protect Deephaven's irreplaceable water and natural resource assets to maintain our distinctive quality of life for current and future residents.
- 4) **OPERATIONS AND FINANCE** – Maximize fiscal responsibility and adjust funding sources to meet the needs of current and future residents.



## CONTEXT

PARK GOAL

(FROM THE 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN)

*“Establish a park, recreation and open space system that conserves natural resources, protects environmentally sensitive areas, and fulfills the recreational needs of the citizens of Deephaven.”*



## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION



### MAINTAIN EXISTING CHARACTER OF LOCAL STREETS

- Protect mature trees and encourage replanting
  - Ash replacement
  - New construction tree replacement
- Consider street marking in key routes
- Encourage native/ natural shrub and perennial gardens in parks and residences
- Post speed limits in areas of concern



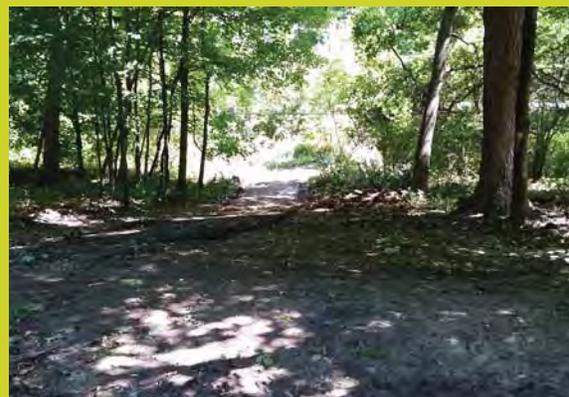
LRT trail is popular with walkers & bikers

### IMPROVE ACCESS TO MINNETONKA LRT TRAIL

- Make informal connections to trail safer
- Improve trail to Deephaven Elementary
- Work with Three Rivers Park District on connections design and standards
- Define auto parking, circulation, and pedestrian and bike zones at Haralson



Steep slope and erosive ruts make the trail connection at Deephaven elementary unsafe



Trail spurs that cut through private land are steep, rutted, and unsafe in some locations.



MINNETONKA BLVD - TODAY



ROADWAY NORTH OF DEEPAVEN - HENNEPIN COUNTY



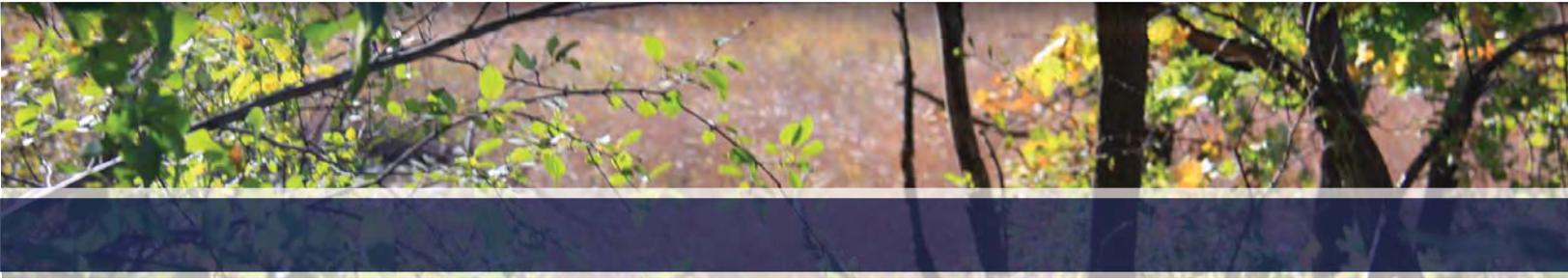
IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ROUTE ALONG MINNETONKA BOULEVARD AND VINE HILL ROAD

- This route identified as biggest issue in the City
- Minnetonka Blvd. could be strong north-south connection but isn't safe in current condition
- Work with County in upcoming resurfacing/ redesign work Precedent with CSAH 101 design
- 2040 Hennepin County Bike Plan calls for on-street trail in this location
- On-street trails should be clearly marked, painted and separation dividers included to maximize safety
- Cross walks, signals, and clear signage should be explored presently

IMPROVE ADA ACCESSIBILITY AND UNIVERSAL DESIGN

- Current laws require
- Improves park experience for less mobile residents
- Make it a priority to improve trails at Burton Park and Cleveland
- Explore accessibility improvements at Deephaven Beach
- Provide accessible restroom facilities (porta-toilets) at major parks including Deephaven Beach and Thorpe





## PARKS AND RECREATION

### TRADITION VS. TREND

Tradition and history are a big part of Deephaven's richness and high quality of life. However, people and recreation trends are constantly changing.

#### TRENDS

- More natural - landscapes and play
- More scheduled/ programmed activities
- More non-traditional athletics - more soccer
- More pets - in the metro.
- More biking - recreation, and enjoyment.

TRADITION:



TREND:





**UPDATE PLAY AREAS AND PLAYGROUNDS**

- Provide a greater diversity of play areas and structures.
- Target a broader range of ages - diversify equipment.
- Ensure older playground infrastructure is safe.
- Nature play is desired in the community, beneficial for child development, and can be an inexpensive option to complement traditional play structures.
- Deephaven’s beaches are a unique asset; however, splashpads were desired by some in the community

*Is there a balance between the past and present in recreation opportunities available in Deephaven?*

NATURE PLAY



DIVERSITY OF AGES



WATER PLAY





### IMPROVE ICE AND FIELD QUALITY

- Improved ice quality will attract more skaters, both:
  - Hockey association participants
  - General resident skating
- Athletic associations have requested to pay for improvements in exchange for more access

*Are Deephaven residents interested in exchanging quality of field and ice improvements for reduced access and availability during peak times?*

*Field quality improvements are needed but to what scale?*



IMPROVE PARK RESTROOMS

SHORT TERM

- Create a consistent, attractive screening enclosure
- Provide an accessible facility at Deephaven Beach and Thorpe



MID-LONG TERM

- FULL RESTROOMS AT KEY PARKS WOULD BE WELCOME BY RESIDENTS
- Costs for full restrooms likely too steep unless city water is available in the future.
- Explore other non-water restroom options at high traffic parks:
  - Additional costs for sanitary hookup - \$30,000
  - Additional costs for water hookup - \$30,000
  - City water line - ??? city wide costs

<p>PREFABRICATED VAULT TOILET \$40,000 +</p>	<p>ECO COMPOSTING TOILET \$60,000 +</p>	<p>TRADITIONAL RESTROOM BUILDING \$75,000 - \$120,000</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No water and sewer needed</li> <li>• Low smell if maintained</li> <li>• 90 users/ hour</li> <li>• Pumping still necessary</li> <li>• Vandal resistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low smell if maintained</li> <li>• Permitting challenges</li> <li>• Periodic pumping required</li> <li>• Potential hook-up to sanitary</li> <li>• Eco-friendly - compost reusable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires water hook-up</li> </ul>



## WATER AND ENVIRONMENT



Implement Raingardens and Swales to protect the lake and pollinators



Discourage geese from the shoreline with landscaping

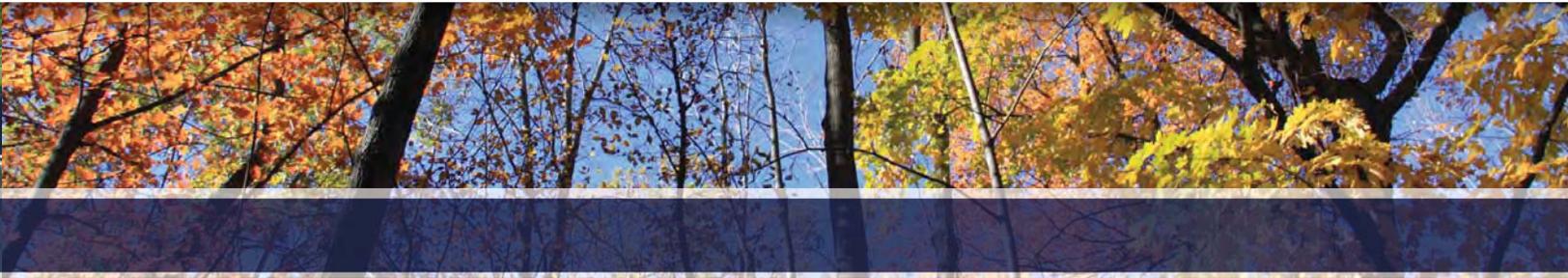


Pond and lake buffers protect water quality

### IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

#### LOW COST, LOW IMPACT STRATEGIES

- Utilize raingardens and vegetated swales to control and treat stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces
- Use native landscaping to deter geese from problem areas, particularly at neighborhood beaches
- Buffers on lake and pond shorelines help deter geese, filter pollutants and fertilizer runoff, provide pollinator habitat, and add aesthetic value
- Explore grants, volunteer efforts, as potential funding



## MAINTAIN DEEPHAVEN'S FORESTS

### THREATS

- Buckthorn limits a healthy understory and the forest's ability to regenerate, blocks key views in Burton and other parks, and will rapidly increase throughout the area without management.
- The emerald ash borer will impact Deephaven's landscapes and parks. A tree replacement plan is critical.
- Large home renovation/ expansion often cut mature trees down, detracting from the historic quality of Deephaven's streets and landscape.



Invasive buckhorn and poison ivy threaten Deephaven's forest



Mature ash trees make an impact on the parks - plan for their loss



Mature trees help create the quaint character

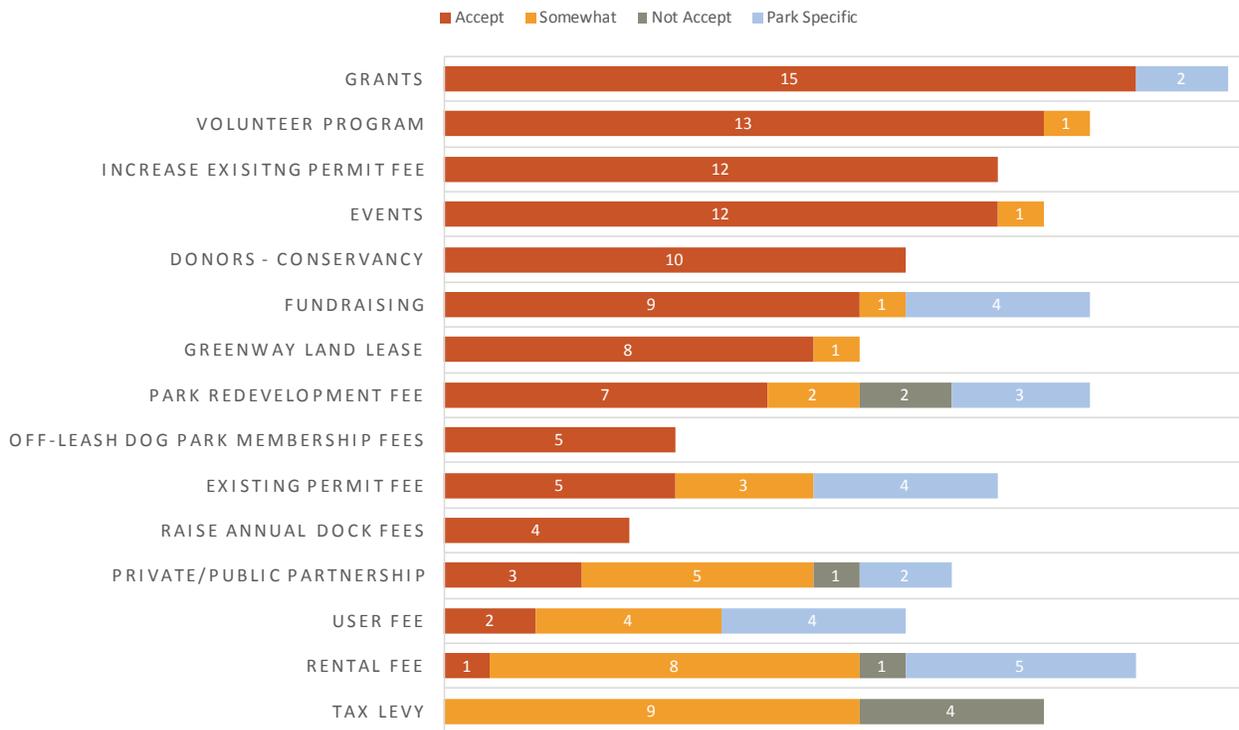


## OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

### ADDITIONAL REVENUE

Open house attendees identified their ranking for increasing revenue to maintain and provide capital improvements for Deephaven's Parks.

#### FUNDING STRATEGIES



### NEW AND UNTAPPED SOURCES



**FEES** - youth athletic associations are currently using the fields/ ice and have arrangements with other cities for payment. Coordinate with associations.

**REDEVELOPMENT FEES** - Fees for major renovations and additions that would go toward park maintenance and improvements - mitigate impact to City Forest.

**DEDICATED CITY FUNDING** - Devote a percentage to park maintenance and improvements each year in the Capitol Improvements Plan



**MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEERS**

**NO-MOW & NATURAL AREAS** - no-mow lawns can significantly reduce mowing frequency after establishment. Consider using in low traffic smaller parks and neighborhood beaches.

**NATURAL AREAS** - Lower quality natural areas can be less maintenance over time, after establishment. Grants and can often be received for natural areas establishment and some maintenance. It is often more economical to hire consultants to maintain natural areas.

**VOLUNTEERS** - Volunteers for invasive species removal, athletic association field maintenance, and several other possibilities exist if the Parks Commission actively recruited and organized.



No-mow Fescues at low traffic parks



Athletic Association Maintenance - Provide storage of equipment



Volunteer Buckthorn/invasive removal