

OTSEGO PRAIRIE PARK MASTER PLAN

City of Otsego, MN

ADOPTED BY OTSEGO CITY COUNCIL
ON AUGUST 26, 2024



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Acknowledgements



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City Council

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Tina Goede Council Member
Brittany Moores Council Member
Jeffrey Dahl Council Member
Ryan Dunlap Council Member

*Thank you to all the residents, stakeholders,
and members of the public who provided
valuable input during the planning process!*





PARKS Recreation

Welcome to the SPLASH PAD

The City of Otsego is proud of its parks and open spaces. Please enjoy the amenities this park has to offer, while keeping these things in mind:

- DO NOT RUN!**
- WATER SHOES ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
- No climbing on equipment.
- No bathing.
- Clear the splash pad during inclement weather.

SPLASH PAD HOURS: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Questions or comments:
Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department
at 735-226-3348 or recreation@ci.otsego.mn.us



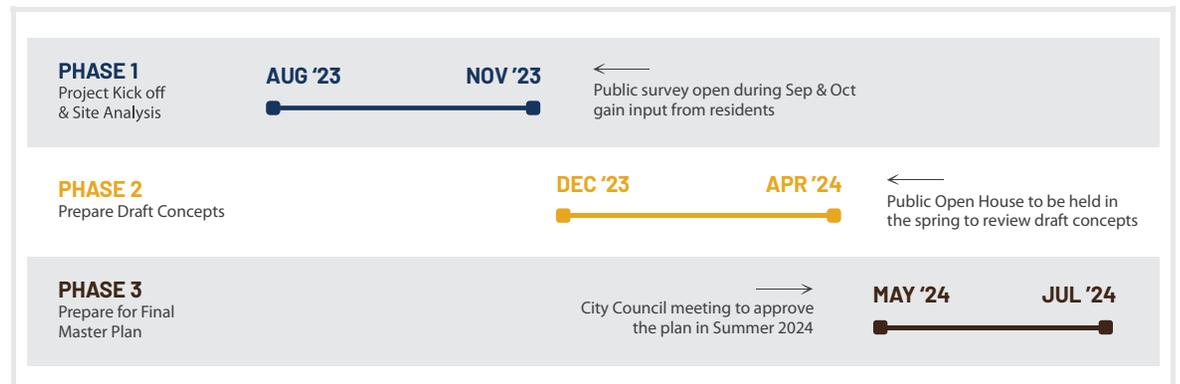
Introduction & Background Information

Project Purpose

The purpose of the park master plan is to provide a comprehensive and strategic framework for the development, enhancement, and management of Prairie Park over a long-term period. The master plan aims to *engage residents and stakeholders* in the planning process, *identify existing issues and opportunities*, and *explore ideas and concepts for the park's future*. A key component of this process is *developing a preferred concept plan* that reflects the collective vision of the community. By establishing a clear vision, the master plan helps guide resource allocation, ensuring that improvements are implemented in a cohesive and phased manner. It includes *cost estimates and funding strategies* to support the feasibility of proposed projects. It also *provides priorities and phasing for park improvements*. Overall, the park master plan seeks to create a vibrant and accessible park that enhances the quality of life for residents and visitors of Otsego.

Project Schedule

The project process spanned from August of 2023 to July of 2024 and included two phases of community engagement.





Advisory Committee 2 - concept development



Advisory Committee 2 - concept development



Advisory Committee 2 - concept development

Advisory Committee Process

Residents and stakeholders were invited to participate in an Advisory Committee to assist staff and consultants with decision making during the planning process.

Expectations for Advisory Committee Members

- Participate in three Advisory Committee meetings.
 - Meeting #1 (October 11, 2023): View the park's existing conditions, discuss park issues and opportunities, discuss potential concept ideas, discuss and suggest ways to engage community members in the process, and review and discuss the project schedule
 - Meeting #2 (March 24, 2024): Review feedback received during the Phase 1 community engagement process; Provide input and work together to develop draft concepts and ideas; discuss Phase 2 of community engagement
 - Meeting #3 (July 16, 2024): The Advisory Committee will review the Draft Master Plan document; discuss cost estimates and phasing for implementation of the plan recommendations.
- Provide honest and open feedback on project materials that are presented and on the future of the park within the context of the City's parks and recreation system.
- Listen to other stakeholders on the Advisory Committee and be respectful of the needs and desires of the broader community.
- Spread the word about public engagement opportunities to your networks.

Advisory Committee Members

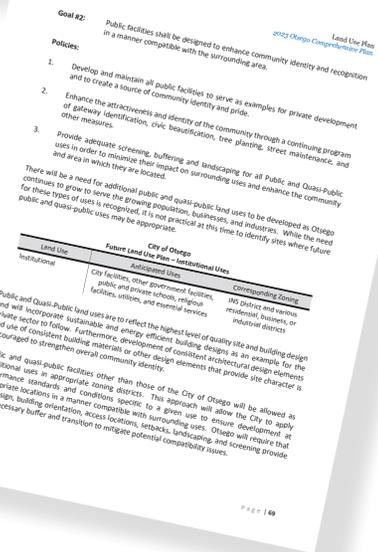
- Brittany Moores, City Council
- Kitty Baltos, Park and Rec Comm. Chair
- Kurt Baldry, Parks and Rec Comm.
- Norm Witteborg, Parks and Rec Comm.
- Betsy Engel, President of Baseball
- Ben Goettsche, Exec. Dir. Soccer
- Jonie Freeberg, President of Softball
- Diane Von Arx, Resident
- Michelle Lund, Resident
- Scott Meneley, Resident
- Terry Mattila, Resident
- Gina Norris, Resident
- Ashley Schwening, Resident
- Bridget Eliason, Resident



Otsego Comprehensive Plan

The 2023 Otsego Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the City Council, outlines the community's growth and development strategy for the next 20 years. It provides updated guidelines on land use, residential, commercial, and industrial development, and infrastructure including sewer, water utilities, parks, and transportation. Key findings include projected population growth, the emphasis on fiscally responsible urban expansion, and a focus on maintaining environmental quality and community identity. Additionally, it found that almost half of households in Otsego include families with children, reflecting a growing community with diverse household types.

The plan addresses the need for comprehensive park development to enhance the quality of life in Otsego. It emphasizes the expansion of parks, trails, and open spaces to provide equitable recreational opportunities and preserve natural resources. This focus on parks and open spaces aims to foster a strong sense of community identity and improve connectivity between neighborhoods and recreational areas.

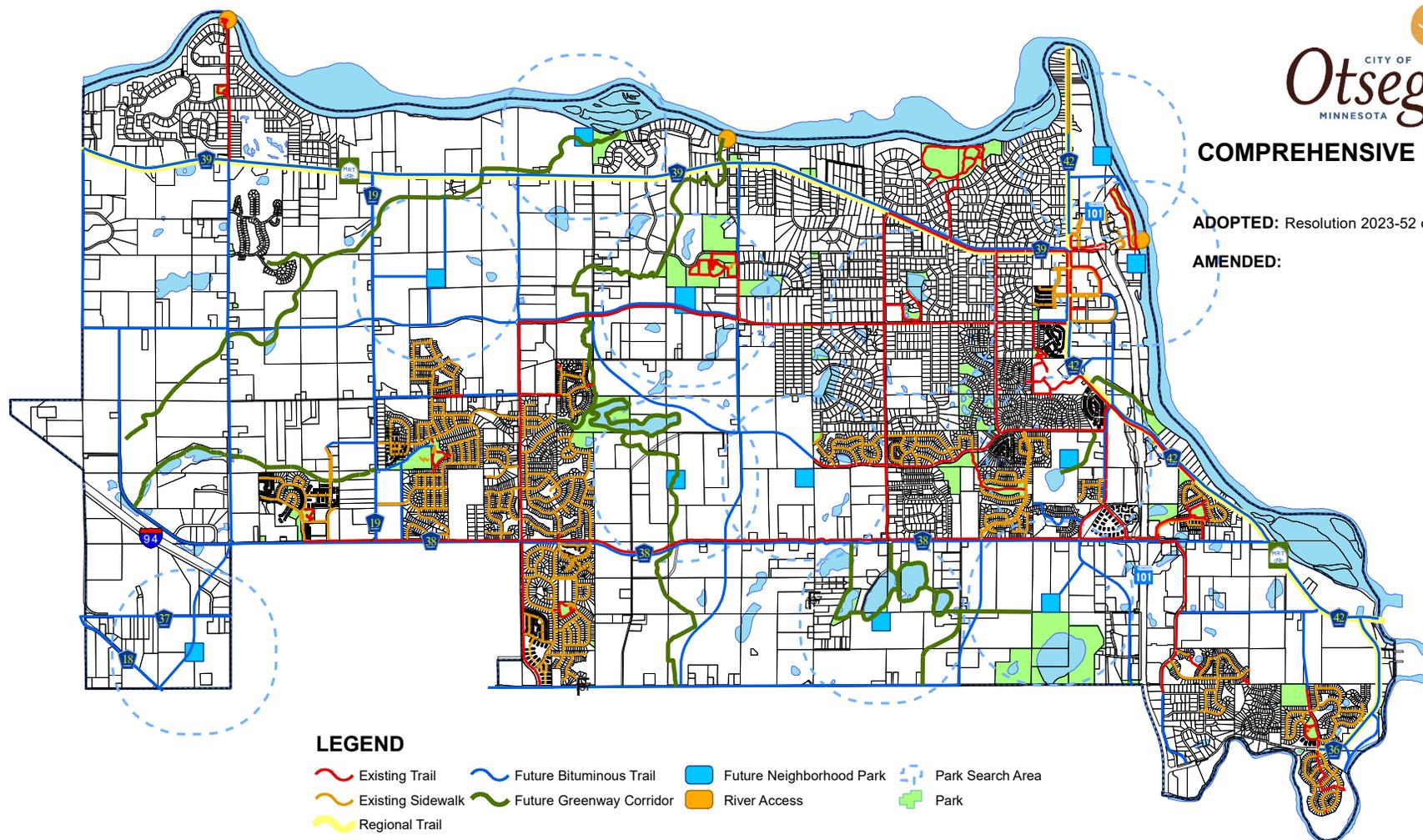


Population and Households 2000-2040					
Households & Population	Actual			Forecast	
	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040
	2,062	4,736	6,743	10,800	14,800
6,389	13,571	19,966	30,780	41,440	

Table 2.1 City of Otsego | Population and Households 2000-2040 (Source: U.S. Census, TPC)

Household Size 2000-2040				
	Year	Population	Households	Persons per Household
Actual	2000	6,389	2,062	3.08
	2010	13,571	4,736	2.86
	2020	19,486	6,743	2.96
Forecast	2030	30,780	10,800	2.85
	2040	41,440	14,800	2.80

Table 2.2 City of Otsego | Household Size 2000-2040 (Source: U.S. Census, TPC)



LEGEND

- ~ Existing Trail
- ~ Existing Sidewalk
- ~ Regional Trail
- ~ Future Bituminous Trail
- ~ Future Greenway Corridor
- Future Neighborhood Park
- River Access
- Park Search Area
- Park



**FUTURE PARK
AND TRAIL SYSTEM**

DISCLAIMER:
This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Figure 2.3 Otsego Park System Plan from Comprehensive Plan





Existing Conditions & Site Analysis

Introduction

Prairie Park is 63.5-acre community park located in central Otsego, Minnesota. The park includes the Prairie Center building, which hosts City Council and other city commission meetings, contains parks and recreation offices, and includes meeting rooms and flex space used for recreation programming. Recreation features in the park include: 4 baseball/softball diamonds, soccer fields, a playground, a splash pad, 4 pickleball courts, a basketball court, a dog park, an open-air picnic shelter, a skate park, an archery range, an RC track, a veterans memorial, a sledding hill, trails, a wooded area with and parking lots.

A site tour with city staff and multiple site visits were conducted during the planning process to develop an inventory of the existing facilities and conditions in the park. The following maps and images describe the state of the park in 2023/2024, as well as identify potential site improvement opportunities and limitations.



Park trail



Shade sail



Pickleball courts



Sledding hill



Interpretation



Splash pad



Playground



Veterans memorial



Picnic shelter



Baseball diamond



Skate park

Issues and Opportunities

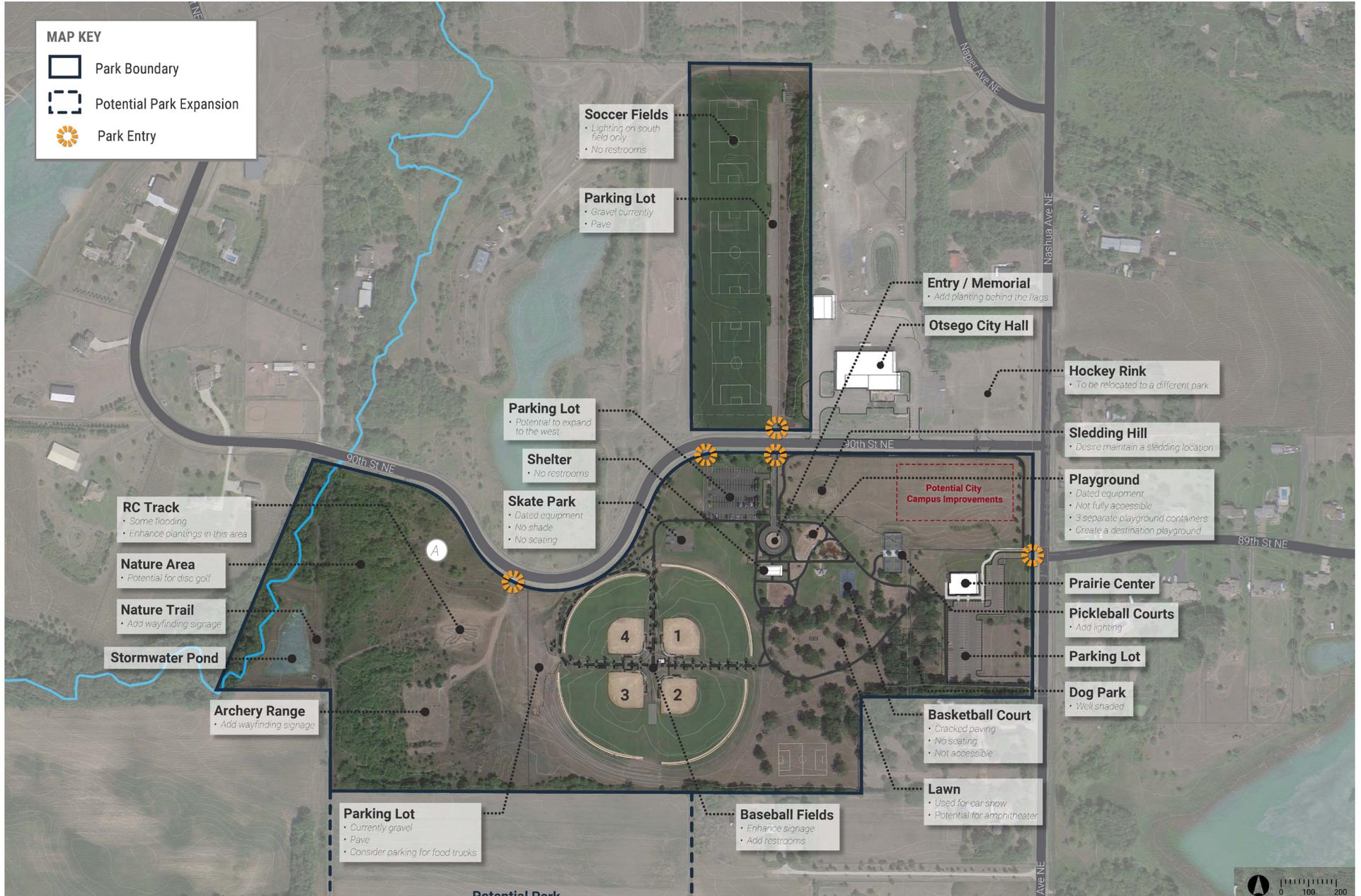


Figure 3.5 Issues and Opportunities



Flooding at RC Track



Enhance and provide access to western trails



Enhance park edges with prairie areas



Screen site utilities



Enhance and provide views of creek



Parking lot wear and tear and ADA accessibility from parking lot



Resurface basketball court



Provide permanent restrooms

Site Constraints & Limitations

There are more ideas for park improvements and new facilities in Prairie Park than space allows. There is an opportunity to look at the city's system and identify potential acquisition needs or moving facilities to other parks.

- Facilities that have significant space and parking demands:
 - Community Center
 - Athletic complex / tournament level facility
 - Amphitheater / performance space







Public Input & Concept Exploration

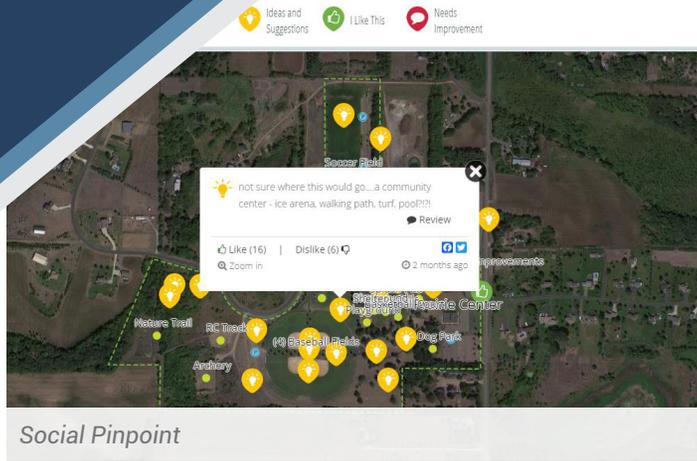
Introduction

A primary driver for the Prairie Park design process is to understand how people are using the space today, and encourage them to communicate and share their ideas on how the space could be used in the future. A two-phase approach to engagement was completed during this plan. During the first phase, ideas were generated and gathered through an interactive map and survey. During the second phase of engagement, community members and stakeholders responded to concept plan options. The preferred concept plan reflects the feedback collected and is a refined version of a concept plan that takes into account a variety of community viewpoints and perspectives.

Phase 1 Input Summary

Interactive Map

The city of Otsego used a website called Social Pinpoint to create an interactive map of Prairie Park. The interactive map allows viewers to zoom in and out of an existing aerial and place their comments on the map. Comments consisted of three categories: ideas and suggestions, I like this, and needs improvement. These comments were available for others to see and like or dislike. The interactive map launched in September 2023, and closed in December 2023. Over this time, the site was viewed 676 times. There were 393 unique stakeholders/IP addresses and the map received 59 comments.



Social Pinpoint



Otsego Prairie Park Master Plan - Phase 1 Survey

The City of Otsego is in the beginning stages of developing a master plan for Prairie Park. The park has served as the main community park for almost three decades. Several planned and proposed projects in and around the park, including the planned construction of new city facilities, have led to the need for a park master plan that is based on community and stakeholder input. This survey is directed to residents of Otsego to provide feedback on how they use the park today and what they envision the needs of the park to be for the next 10-20 years. In addition to input from city staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City Council, this survey will provide a basis for recommended improvements. Please help the city plan by responding to this survey! It should take about 6 minutes to complete the survey.

September, 2023

*1. How often do you visit Prairie Park?

Engagement screenshots

☑ A few times a month

676
Total Site Visits

393
Unique Stakeholders

59
Map Comments

Interactive Map Responses

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS			
#	Likes	Dislikes	Comment
1	8	1	Additional lighted soccer fields
2	7	2	Paved parking for the soccer fields
3	24	4	Permanent public restrooms
4	1	1	Add light up crosswalk signs
5	20	0	Permanent warming house and better rink lighting
6	0	0	Move sledding hill here to be by the (new) warming house
7	16	8	Sports dome
8	17	1	Add a sidewalk that continues north to Co Rd 39. We sometimes bike to Prairie Park and find it to be dangerous to bike on Nashua (especially when ball game traffic is coming and going in summer evenings). We cut through the Nason Court/94th Street neighborhood and head east along dirt service road on 39 to reach our house. This would help connect a few neighborhoods with a longer sidewalk on Nashua Ave. Thanks!
9	0	0	Expand the community center to have an indoor play area, fully equipped gym, etc. Think Plymouth community center, Monticello community center.
10	8	2	Indoor playground/gym area for school age kids
11	6	3	Public pool! Even a super basic pool without waterslides would be so amazing.
12	8	7	Tennis courts
13	16	4	We would like more pickleball courts and lights for the courts
14	1	0	A frisbee golf course throughout the park would be really fun!
15	16	0	Additional shade sails

16	3	3	Community pool in place of splashpad
17	4	1	Splash pad is very cold water
18	2	0	Pool!
19	0	0	Such an eye sore! Way too cold for little kids, only a small range age group has fun with this, and it screams "Otsego has a rust problem!"
20	37	4	Permanent restrooms at playground/splashpad/pavilion
21	18	2	Accessible playground equipment. Swings for bigger kids who need more support. Easy to climb or ramped play areas.
22	5	2	A ninja course for older kids would be awesome!
23	0	2	A community pool, larger playground, and enclosed restrooms and shelters. The area doesn't need another hockey rink. Offer something unique and revenue generating.
24	2	2	Community garden. Fresh food exchange program. Seed exchange.
25	6	1	A new Montessori/adventure area for kids that's helpful and fun for kids. Slides are great but kids need more.
26	19	7	Pollinator garden
27	10	1	Nature playground! Mud kitchen, small (man made) stream, sand & rocks & sticks! (See the nature playground in Elk River, Maple Grove, or the gold standard at Tamarack Nature Center)
28	17	1	Would love to see a nature play area
29	14	5	Workout stations along the walking paths
30	41	0	Addition of batting cages and shade sails at ball fields. Replacing field dirt / aggregate on ball fields to fill in low spots and areas that are worn out. Upgraded dugouts with ADA compatibility
31	34	4	Please include permanent restrooms & concession stands near ball fields. It will bring so many more people to our park!

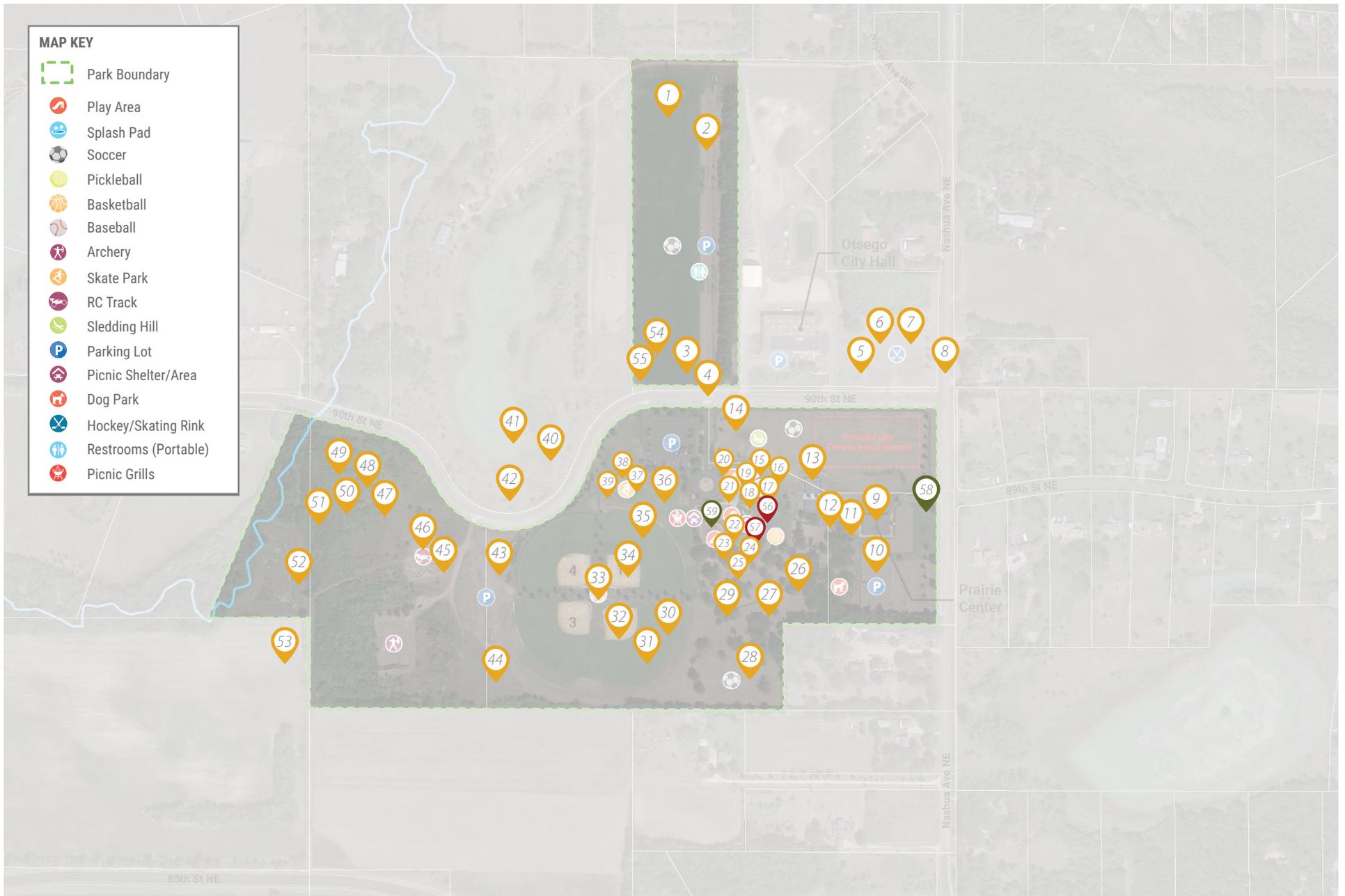
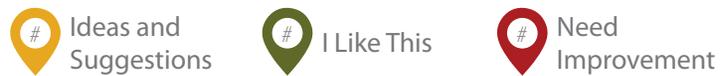


Figure 4.6 Social Pinpoint Results Diagram



32	23	0	Additional trees or shade structures for baseball and softball fans.
33	56	1	Building with restrooms, concessions, storage for baseball and softball.
34	2	5	Modify to a Little League Field
35	22	8	Not sure where this would go....a community center - ice arena, walking path, turf, pool?!?!?
36	5	1	Great place for a pump track
37	3	0	Drinking fountain
38	3	0	Shade canopy
39	3	0	Benches or seating of some kind
40	3	0	Community center which would include an indoor hockey area.
41	4	0	Miss the skating loop around the hockey rink. Also need better warming house!
42	14	14	Hockey arena
43	22	2	Better defined parking
44	15	1	More trees or grassland
45	3	0	Benches and shade would be nice for those watching the RC cars.
46	2	0	Use the existing dirt/rock pile to build a RC rock crawler space. Some shade and a driver's stand for the track. Power would be nice to be able to recharge batteries. Picnic tables would be nice for a place to work on cars if you break them
47	13	4	Consider a combination ice rink for leisure skating and a boarded hockey rink. Consider a mixed use dome for 4 season athletics. A permanent restroom, changing room, warming house and concession stand to service the whole park. Consider upgrades that generate revenue and support mixed uses that will entice clubs and schools to invest in usage licenses/permits.
48	2	0	Add an Ice rink and warming house! Our kids deserve it!

49	5	4	Full size baseball field
50	20	5	Disc golf course throughout the park
51	4	4	Single track mountain bike trail
52	7	1	Pollinator garden, habitat restoration for pollinators, educate communities, advance research (UofM), and collaborate for greater impact. Native flowers, education on seed collection, monarch migration and the importance of pollination. Community could harvest seeds each year and contribute to the growth and or expand to own yards.
53	3	1	Have a community center with indoor facilities, such as walking, pool, possibly, and some indoor courts. Maybe adding your City Hall to this, and putting it to a vote would probably pass then.
54	0	0	Handicap accessible bathrooms - private restroom with a bench/changing table that can accommodate adults.
55	0	0	Permanent concession stand and storage

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT			
#	Likes	Dislikes	Comment
56	4	0	The splash pad water is freezing. We end up driving to Delano to use their heated splash pad!
57	0	0	This shade spot seems too far away from everything. With little kids, parents stand directly next to the play areas, not way over there in that area.

I LIKE THIS			
#	Likes	Dislikes	Comment
58	4	2	New sign!
59	0	0	Love having a tiny playground for the littles but wish there was more!

Interactive Map Summary



PERMANENT RESTROOMS

Comments showed a strong desire for permanent restrooms. Currently, the park has port-a-potties that are used as the primary restroom. Comments indicated wanting restrooms at the playground and/or near the baseball fields.



CONCESSIONS

One of the top comments, with 56 likes, expressed a desire for a concession stand near the baseball fields. This comment wanted the concession stand, ballfield storage room, and restrooms in one building.



SHADE

Shade was mentioned in 7 comments. Commenters would like to see shade over the spectator seating at the ballfields, next to the RC track, and closer to the playground. Shade sails, shade structures, and trees were all mentioned.



PAVED PARKING

Two comments that received a lot of likes mentioned structured parking. These comments were located at the soccer fields and west of the baseball fields. Currently the parking lots in these area are gravel.



DISC GOLF

Two comments mentioned adding a disc golf course - receiving a total of 21 likes. The comments were located north of the playground near the sledding hill and northwest of the RC track.



IMPROVED PLAYGROUND

Several comments mentioned a desire for an improved playground area. Ideas for this area included wanting an accessible playground, more playground equipment for little ones, swings, and nature playground components.



ICE RINK + WARMING HOUSE

5 comments mentioned wanting a more enhanced hockey rink experience, varying from add boards and a warming house to an indoor hockey arena. The comment mentioning a hockey arena received 14 likes and 14 dislikes.



PUBLIC POOL

There were 6 comments that indicated a desire for a public pool. All of the comments were located near the splash pad/playground area.

Most Popular Comments



Building with restrooms, concessions, storage for baseball and softball.

Like (57) | Dislike (1)



Addition of batting cages and shade sails at ball fields. Replacing field dirt / aggregate on ball fields to fill in low spots and areas that are worn out. Upgraded dugouts with ADA compatibility

Like (41) | Dislike (0)



Permanent restrooms at playground/splashpad/pavilion

Like (37) | Dislike (4)



Please include permanent restrooms & concession stands near ball fields. It will bring so many more people to our park!

Like (34) | Dislike (4)



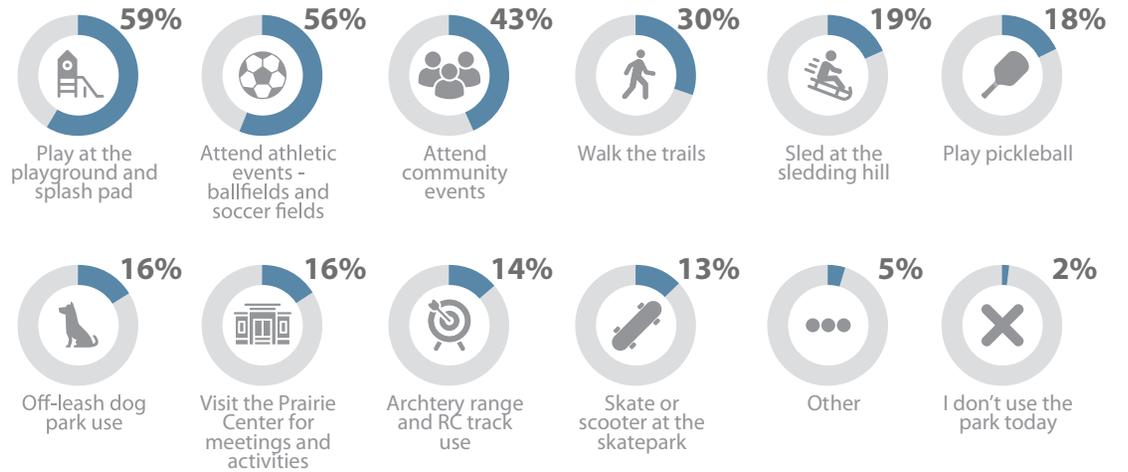
Outreach and promotional materials

Community Survey

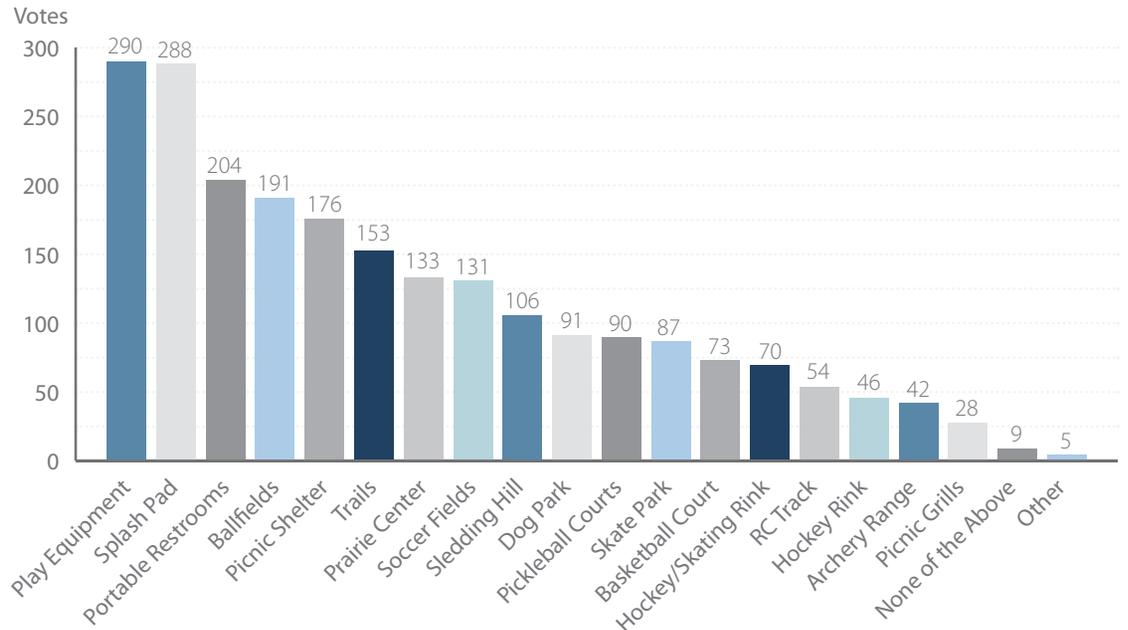
An online community survey was launched at the beginning of the park planning process. This survey consisted of 12 questions and was designed to take 10-15 minutes to complete.

Summary Results

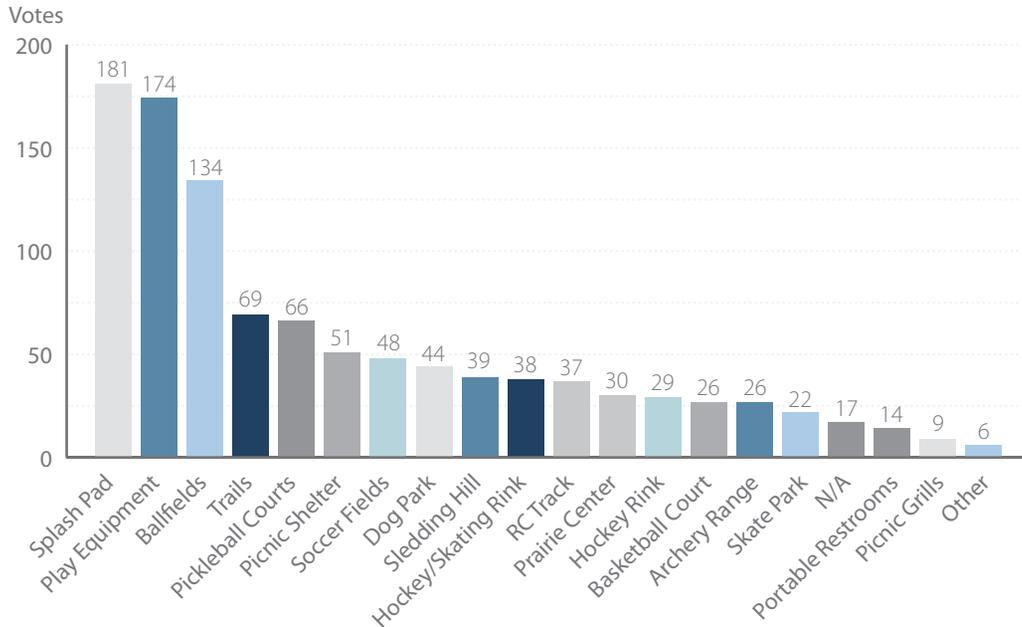
1 Select the best description of how you use Prairie Park today. Select all that apply.



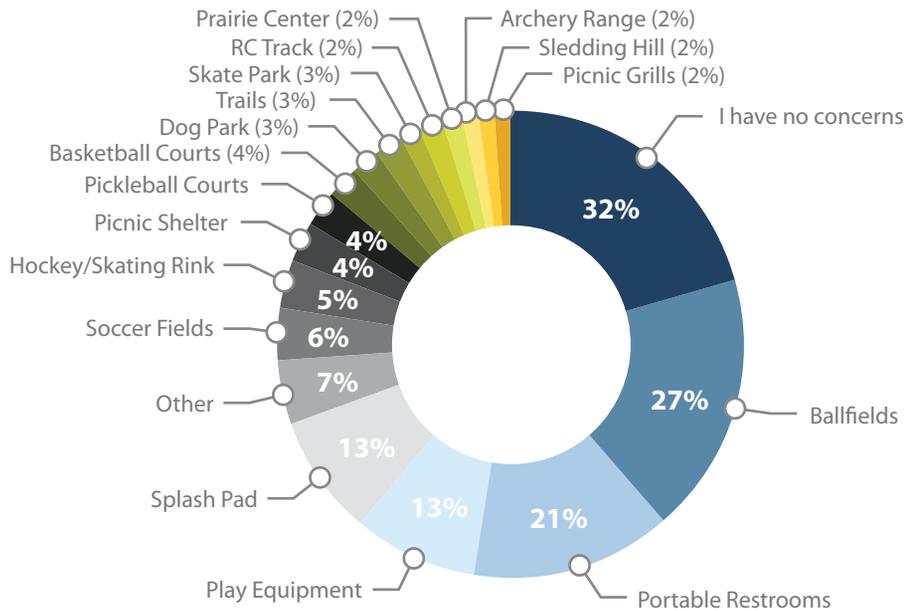
2 What features have you used at the park?



3 Of the features [in question 2], which are your favorite facilities?

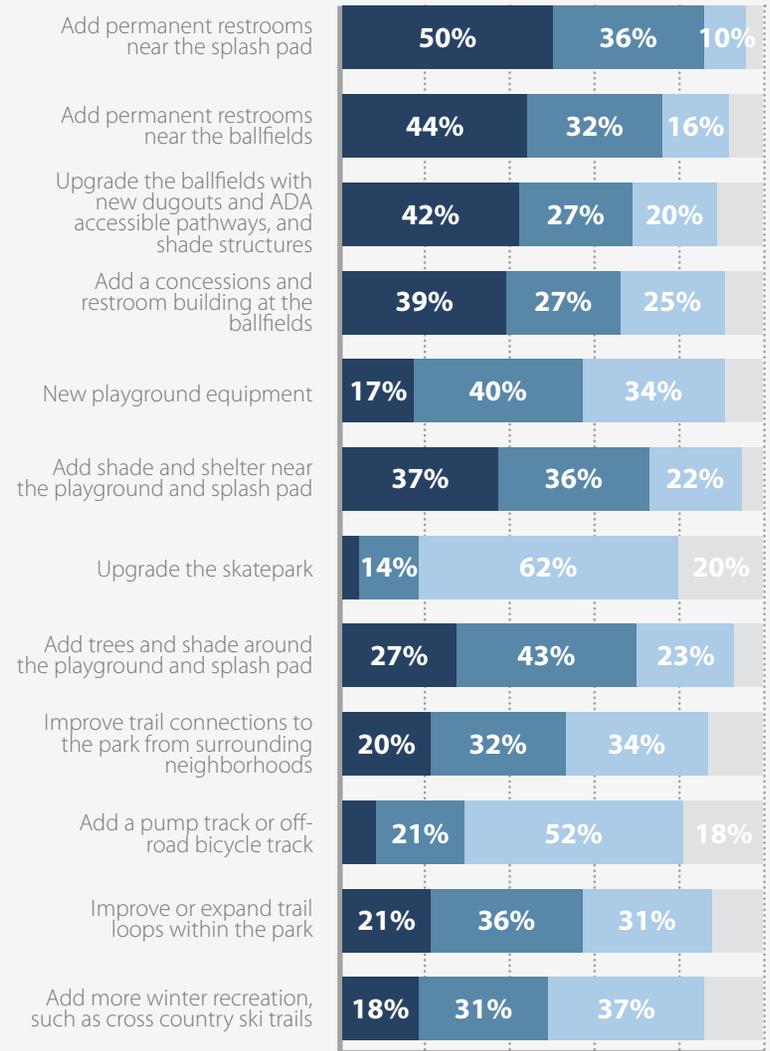


4 Do you have any concerns with existing features in the park?



5 Please review the list of potential improvements to Prairie Park.

- Very Important
- Somewhat Important
- Not at all Important
- N/A



Respondent Demographics

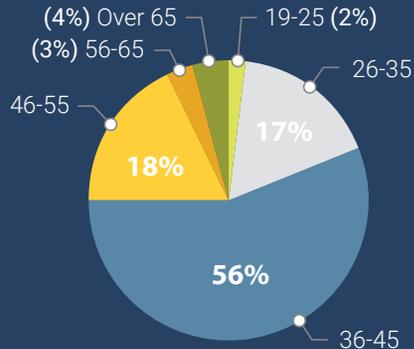
1. Are you a resident of Otsego?



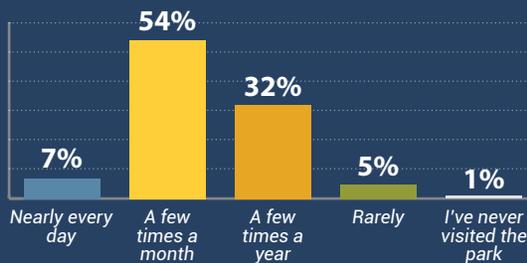
80% of respondents were from Otsego. The remaining **20%** of respondents were from towns such as:

- Rogers
- Elk River
- Albertville
- Monticello

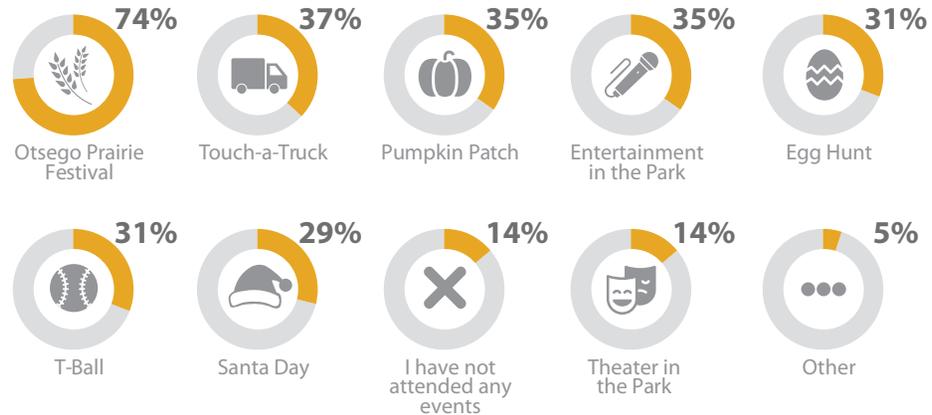
2. How old are you?



3. How often do you visit Prairie Park?



6 Of the events listed below, select those that you have attended.



7 Please describe any other features or improvements you think would help make Prairie Park a better community park.

Upgrades at the ball fields to create an improved environment for hosting league games and local weekend tournaments. The 3 items already listed in the survey are great, new restrooms, concessions and upgraded dugouts (ADA). That said, the 4 ball fields are all in need of adding new field dirt / aggregate to reduce the amount powder and to fill in low spots. Additionally, batting cages would greatly increase the use of fields for practices and tournaments by local team.

Additional pickleball courts

We ought to be investing in a community center that has outlets for various ages and interests but serves as a community gathering space.

The soccer fields need to be improved. Please water and level. These are used for all ages and are so important. They are also a great place to picnic when not being used for ball.

Permanent concessions for ball field tournaments

Top Themes Heard:

- Improve ballfields
- Build a community center
- Build permanent restrooms/ changing rooms
- Add more pickleball courts
- Enhance accessibility at playground and around park
- Create more programming
- Build a concessions
- Increase size of dog park
- Enhance ice rink and add a warming house
- Add lighting to trails, pickleball courts, basketball courts, and soccer fields
- Plant native plantings
- Pave all parking lots
- Add a community pool
- Add more shade at the playground and ballfields
- Irrigate soccer fields

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Provide input on our survey to help the city develop a plan for Prairie Park.

- WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PARK TODAY?
- WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGED OR UPDATED IN THE PARK?



Scan Here To Take The Project Survey, Thanks!

Or visit [surveymonkey.com /r/PrairiePark2023](https://surveymonkey.com/r/PrairiePark2023)

The City of Otsego is in the beginning stages of developing a master plan for Prairie Park. The park has served as the main community park for almost three decades. Several planned and proposed projects in and around the park, including the planned construction of new city facilities, have led to the need for a park master plan that is based on community and stakeholder input. This survey is directed to residents of Otsego to provide feedback on how they use the park today and what they envision the needs of the park to be for the next 10-20 years. In addition to input from city staff, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City Council, this survey will provide a basis for recommended improvements. Please help the city plan by responding to this survey!



PROJECT MAP
Prairie Park Existing Conditions



Scan to Link to an Interactive Map Where You Can Provide Comments!

Or visit [hkgi.mysocialpinpoint.com /otsego-prairie-park-map#](https://hkgi.mysocialpinpoint.com/otsego-prairie-park-map#)

PROJECT SCHEDULE

PHASE 1
Project Kick off & Site Analysis

AUG '23 — NOV '23

Public survey open during Sep & Oct gain input from residents

PHASE 2
Prepare Draft Concepts

We're here!

DEC '23 — APR '24

Public Open House to be held in the spring to review draft concepts

PHASE 3
Prepare for Final Master Plan

City Council meeting to approve the plan in Summer 2024

MAY '24 — JUL '24



The board above was posted at the September 2023 Prairie Festival to spread the word about the project and ways to provide input.

Advisory Committee Input

At its first meeting, the Advisory Committee provided input by conducting a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise, brainstorming goals for the master planning process, and suggesting concept ideas for park improvements.

SWOT Results

STRENGTHS	Large park
	Centrally located
	Lots of facilities
WEAKNESSES	Parking is difficult
	Restrooms are needed
	Accessibility is needed
OPPORTUNITIES	Grants
	Update facilities
	Build a new community center
	Pickleball court lights
	More courts
	Youth sporting events—bring in revenue
	Tournaments—soccer, baseball, softball, pickleball
THREATS	Cost/financial barriers
	Maintenance of facilities
	Over usage by residents and non-residents
	Trends in recreation use—not being able to draw in enough people
	Traffic/access

Goals for the Planning Process from Advisory Committee

WHO

- Engage as many residents as possible
- Ensure that the final plan recommends something for everyone
- The whole community should be able to enjoy the park, but it should also be affordable for the community
- Provide activities for everyone
- Ensure fiscal responsibility and communication
 - Put the information in the newspaper
- We need to ensure we get lots of ideas from lots of people during this process
- People were not happy about the city hall process, so make sure that we spread the word early for this process
- More partnerships with schools

HOW

- Programming is important
 - Use what we have
 - There is so much here already
 - Think creatively about revenue
- Maintain what we have—Otsego already has a lot of variety—we don't need to provide everything
- Use the facilities that we have more
- Bring revenue in to the city more for baseball tournaments—we have not had tournaments here because the complex is not up to par with other complexes—Bathrooms and Concessions are needed
 - How do we fund the improvements needed to create a tournament experience?
 - Consider Multi-use facilities—restrooms that serve the ballfields and the play features
 - Evaluate Concessions (cheap for park users, expensive for the city to manage) vs. Food Trucks (the perception is that they are expensive for park users, convenient for the city, more variety, less infrastructure)

- Consider revenue potential
- The Identity factor for Otsego is tough—some residents say or think they live in Rogers, Albertville, or Monticello

WHAT

- Include the arts in some way (bandshell, sculpture)
- Consider a fitness walk
- Include ADA bathrooms
- Think about how other communities either compete with or complement what Otsego offers (e.g. non-residents use the pickleball courts at Prairie Park)—does Otsego really need a community center, or are there enough indoor facilities in the surrounding communities?
- Basketball, hockey associations need indoor space
- Gym space is needed for several activities
- Accessibility is top priority
- Food and toilets are top priorities
- Include trails, walking, cross-country skiing
- Promotion and awareness are important
 - Wayfinding
 - Archery
 - RC track
 - West trails
- Connect the two sides of the park
 - Add signs and clean it up
- Add a trail from the park to CR 39
- Make connections—trails
- Add a warming house and walking trail
- Add disc golf
- Look up Accessibility grants



Advisory Committee 2 - Concept Development



Advisory Committee 2 - Concept Development



Advisory Committee 2 - Concept Development

Concept Ideas from Advisory Committee

- Trails
- Covered bandshell
- Disc golf
- Sauna
- Hockey rink
- Warming house
- Combined basketball/hockey/pickleball arena
- Toilets/concessions/warming house in one building
- Provide information about existing programming
 - How to do this to reach a lot of people?
- Address safety
 - Trail/sidewalk is needed on Nashua up to CR 39
- Accessibility
- Toilets
- Space for rental events
 - Centrally located and indoor
- Park expansion
 - Address traffic and access
- Nature playground (e.g. Eastman Nature Center, White Bear Lake)
- Inclusive playground (poured in place surface)
- “If you build it, they will come” – baseball complex (similar to Elk River YAC)

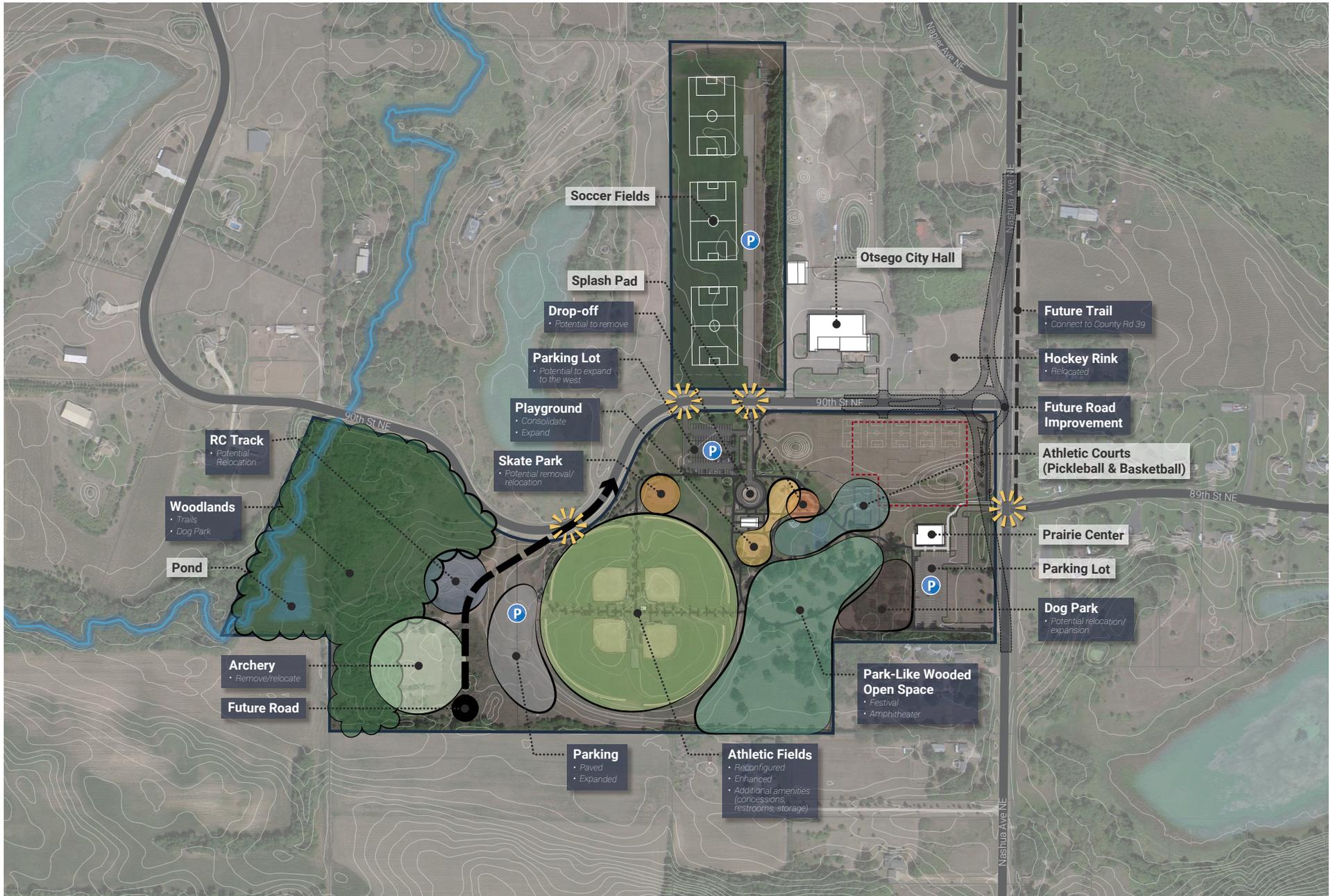


Figure 4.8 Opportunities Diagram

Concept Development & Phase 2 Input Summary

Several concepts were developed to explore ideas in the park. The concepts were reviewed by city staff, the Advisory Committee, the Park Commission, and City Council. Following review, two final concepts were presented to the public at the Touch a Truck event on May 14, 2024, and on a Social Pinpoint interactive website, open during May 2024. The two concepts are described and shown on this page and the following page.

Concept A

- Create winter/summer nature trails
- Snow shoeing and winter walking
- Relocate sledding hill to southwestern part of the park
- New pump track on western part of park
- Relocate RC Track
- Add a picnic shelter near trailhead/pump track
- Add paved parking
 - Near nature trails
 - West of the ballfields
 - West of the parking lot near the skate park
 - Near northern soccer fields
- New warming house/restroom building/ concessions to the west of the ballfields (4,000 SF)
- Hockey relocated to southern part of park
- Enhance ballfields for youth softball and baseball (covered dugouts, new fencing, and ADA accessible paths)
- Improve the existing picnic shelter as a restroom building
- New adventure playground
- Updated basketball court
- Expand 4 pickleball courts east of existing courts
- Add wayfinding signage throughout the park
- Trail connections along Nashua Ave
- Future Nashua Ave expansion to 4 lanes
- Road connection to the south

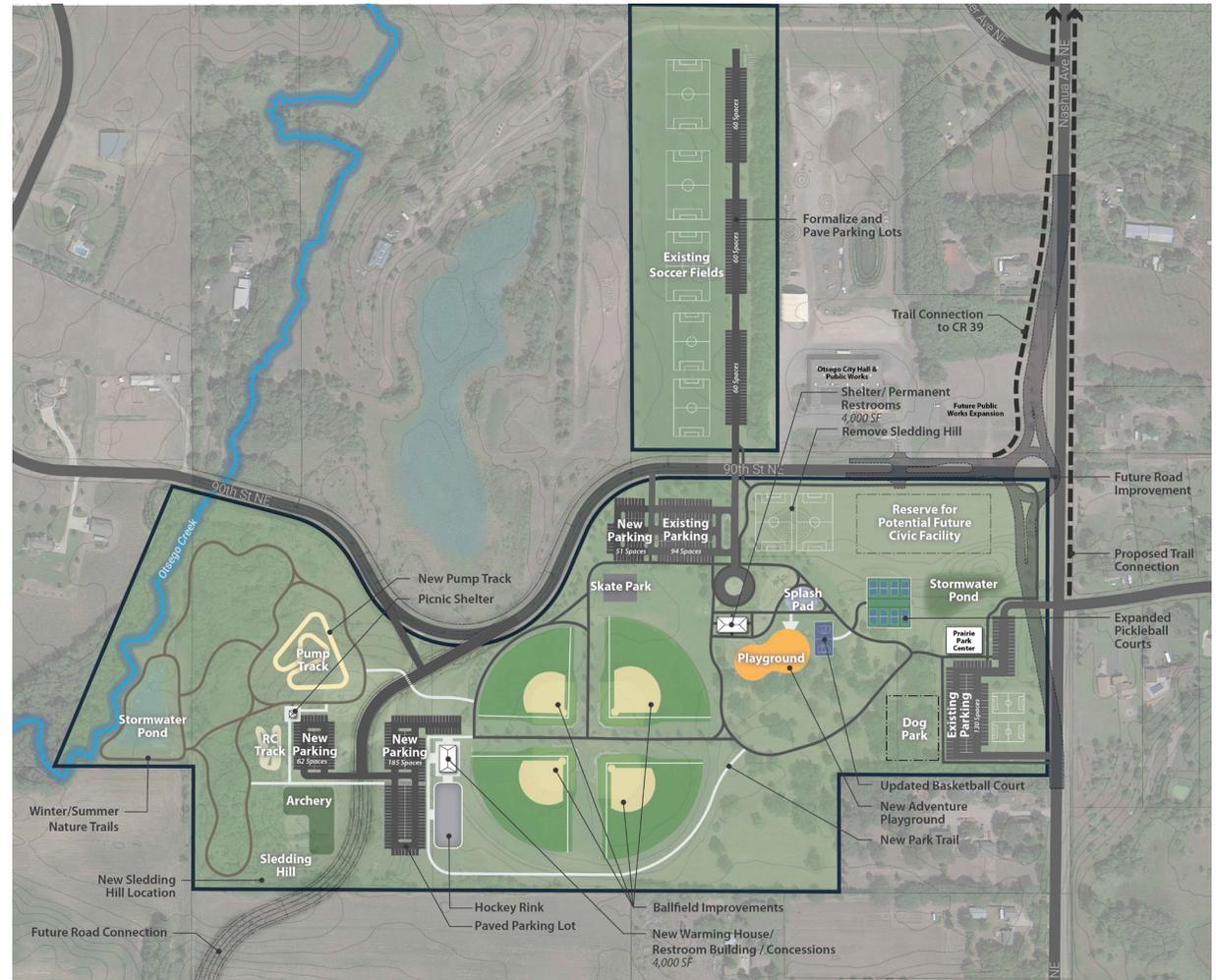


Figure 4.9 Concept A

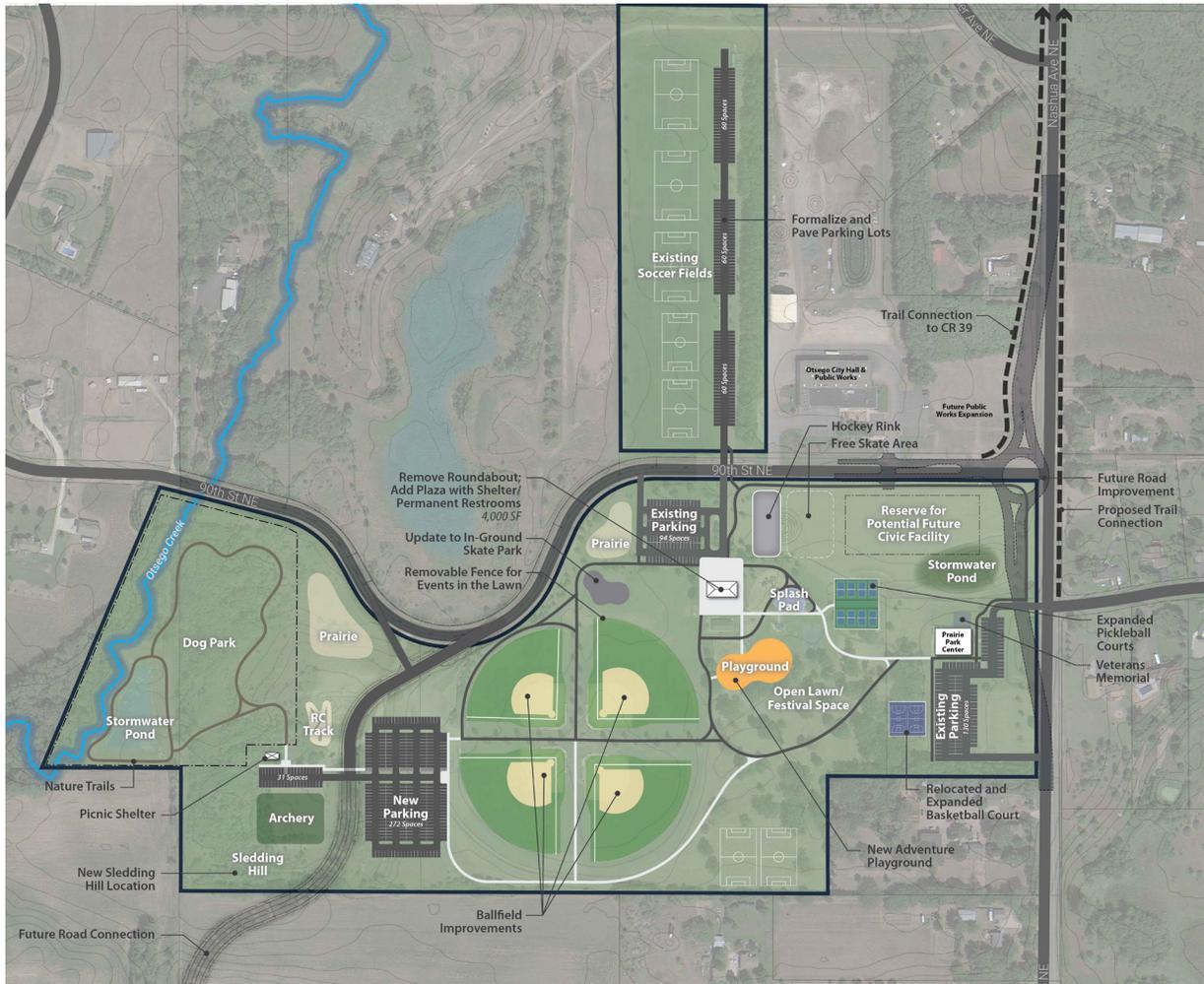


Figure 4.10 Concept B

Concept B

- New dog park with nearby picnic shelter in western part of park
- Relocate sledding hill to southwestern part of the park
- Relocate RC Track
- Add paved parking
- Near dog park
- West of the ballfields
- Near northern soccer fields
- Update (4) ballfields for youth softball and baseball; add a removable outfield fence to the northeast field to allow for events in the lawn
- Update skate park to an in-ground skate park
- New warming house/restroom building/ concessions in place of roundabout and Veterans Memorial (4,000 SF)
- New adventure playground with shade integrated from existing trees
- New hockey rink with a free skate area to the east
- New veterans memorial near Prairie Park Center
- Expand pickleball courts-add (4) courts west of existing courts
- (2) New basketball courts
- Add wayfinding signage throughout the park
- Add trail connections along Nashua Ave to the north and south
- Nashua Ave expanded to 4 lanes
- New road connection to the south

SOCIAL PINPOINT RESULTS

Top 5 Themes:

- **ENHANCE PLAYGROUND**
Requests for a nature playground and/or adventure playground that includes climbing areas and accessible play features
- **UPDATE SPLASH PAD**
Suggestions to make the splash pad warmer and slip-resistant
- **ADD PICKLEBALL COURTS**
Requests for additional pickleball courts, including courts that double as tennis courts
- **PROVIDE COVERAGE SHELTERS**
Requests more coverage shelters in the park to provide shade
- **OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER**
Interest in creating an outdoor amphitheater or stage for performances and music

-  Make a rope, rock climbing area - similar to Central Park in Maple Grove
 Like (35) |  Dislike (0)
-  Outdoor Amphitheater/Stage for performances.
 Like (24) |  Dislike (0)
-  Create a MN native wild flower garden to help with pollination and saving butterflies/ bees. Can be used in conjunction with U of M to further efforts of land conservation and education for generations to come. Otsego Parks and Recreation can combine forces with locals who can teach others adults and children about the importance of land conservation, seed collection, where our food comes from etc.
 Like (22) |  Dislike (1)
-  Update splash pad
 Like (24) |  Dislike (2)
-  More coverage shelter
 Like (23) |  Dislike (1)

TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT



TOUCH-A-TRUCK INPUT SUMMARY

DOG PARK

Mixed feelings on the smaller vs. larger dog park with slightly more support for the larger dog park

CONSIDER SECURITY OF PARK GUESTS

MORE SHADE

There was a suggestion to add more shade options throughout the park

LIKES THE VETERANS MEMORIAL

GRATITUDE

Several kids participated by adding sticky notes that said "I like this place"

ADD A ZERO ENTRY KIDS POOL

SPLASH PAD

5 comments requested an update to the existing splash pad

ADD LIGHTS TO PICKLEBALL COURTS

SLEDDING HILL

2 commenters asked that the sledding hill remain in the same location

KEEP THE GAGA PIT



Master Plan Concept

Preferred Concept

The preferred concept incorporates needs and desires identified through public input, Advisory Committee discussions, and review from city staff, the Parks Commission, and City Council. Master plan elements are described according to the area of the park in which they are located:

- General Park-wide Improvements
- Dale Lehrke Fields
- Prairie Center and Eastern Park
- Central Park Area
- Ballfields
- Winter Recreation Area
- Western Park

General Park-Wide Improvements

- Add paved parking
 - Near dog park
 - West of the ballfields
 - Near northern soccer fields
- Add wayfinding signage throughout the park
- Add lighting in and around the parking lots and dog park for safety
- Add trail connections along Nashua Ave to the north and south
- Future planned expansion of Nashua Ave to 4 lanes

- New north-south road connection between 90th St NE and 85th St NE

Recommended New Structures

Building 1: Park Pavilion near playground and existing picnic shelter

- Approximately 3,000+ SF total
- 4 unisex restrooms (400 SF)
- Concessions area and window (400 SF)
- Year-round enclosed multi-purpose rental space (2,000 SF)
- Storage area (200 SF)

Building 2: Warming house / restrooms / concessions west of ballfields

- Approximately 4,000 SF
- 4 unisex restrooms (400 SF)
- Concessions area and window (400 SF)
- Warming house (1,600 SF)
- Storage area (1,600 SF)

Building 3: Small shelter near western dog park entrance

- 400 SF
- Open air shelter





Figure 5.11 Park Concept Plan



Figure 5.12 Dale Lehrke Fields Plan

Dale Lehrke Fields

- Formalize and pave existing gravel parking lots
- Add field lights to northern fields

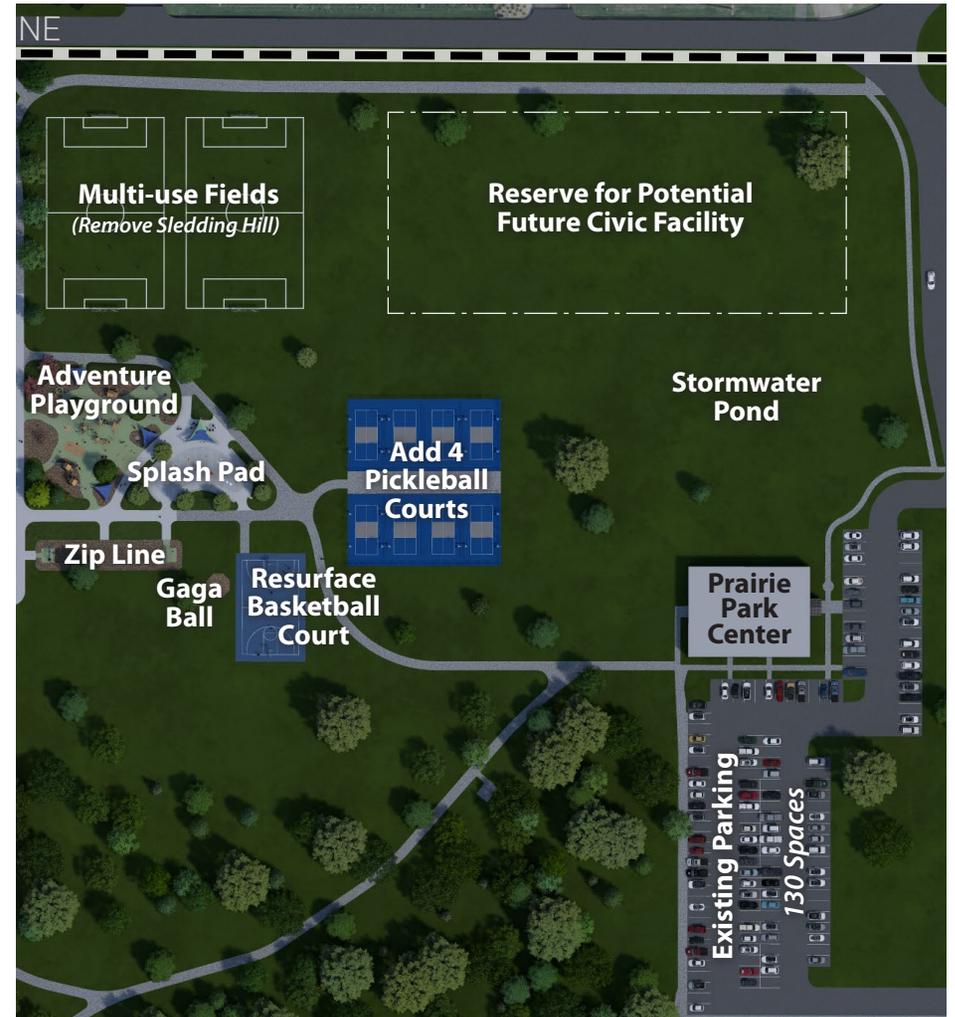


Figure 5.13 Prairie Center and Eastern Park Plan

Prairie Center and Eastern Park

- Remove dog parks and restore area to picnic area and flexible open space
- Reserve right-of-way for future Nashua Ave expansion
- Add trail connections along Nashua Ave to the north and south

Central Area

- Develop a new adventure, nature-themed playground with accessible elements and shade structures. Include climbing features and a zip line.
 - Consider involving parents of handicapped or disabled children to participate in the selection of play equipment
 - Consider donating or re-purposing the existing playground equipment
- Construct a new park pavilion building with indoor rental space and public restrooms in place of roundabout and veterans memorial (approximately 3,000+ SF). Utilize as concessions for ballfields until future concessions/warming house building is constructed west of the ballfields. The new pavilion would facilitate current Prairie Park events using a hybrid of an indoor/outdoor event in order to accommodate participants for large events.
- Add a drinking fountain with filtered water to be able to refill water bottles.
- Upgrade and expand the parking lot with ADA parking with close access to the building entrance
- Relocate veterans memorial to plaza adjacent to new pavilion
- Remove and relocate sledding hill to southwestern part of the park, replace existing sledding hill area with multi-use field space
- Update skate park with new equipment; add shaded seating area and trail connections to skate park.
- Convert northeast ballfield outfield fence to removable to allow for large flex lawn event space
- Expand pickleball courts-add (4) courts west of and adjacent to existing courts
- Resurface the existing basketball court
- Maintain the existing splash pad, picnic shelter, and gaga ball pit
 - Because of the splash pad's recent updates, no further improvements are planned at this time

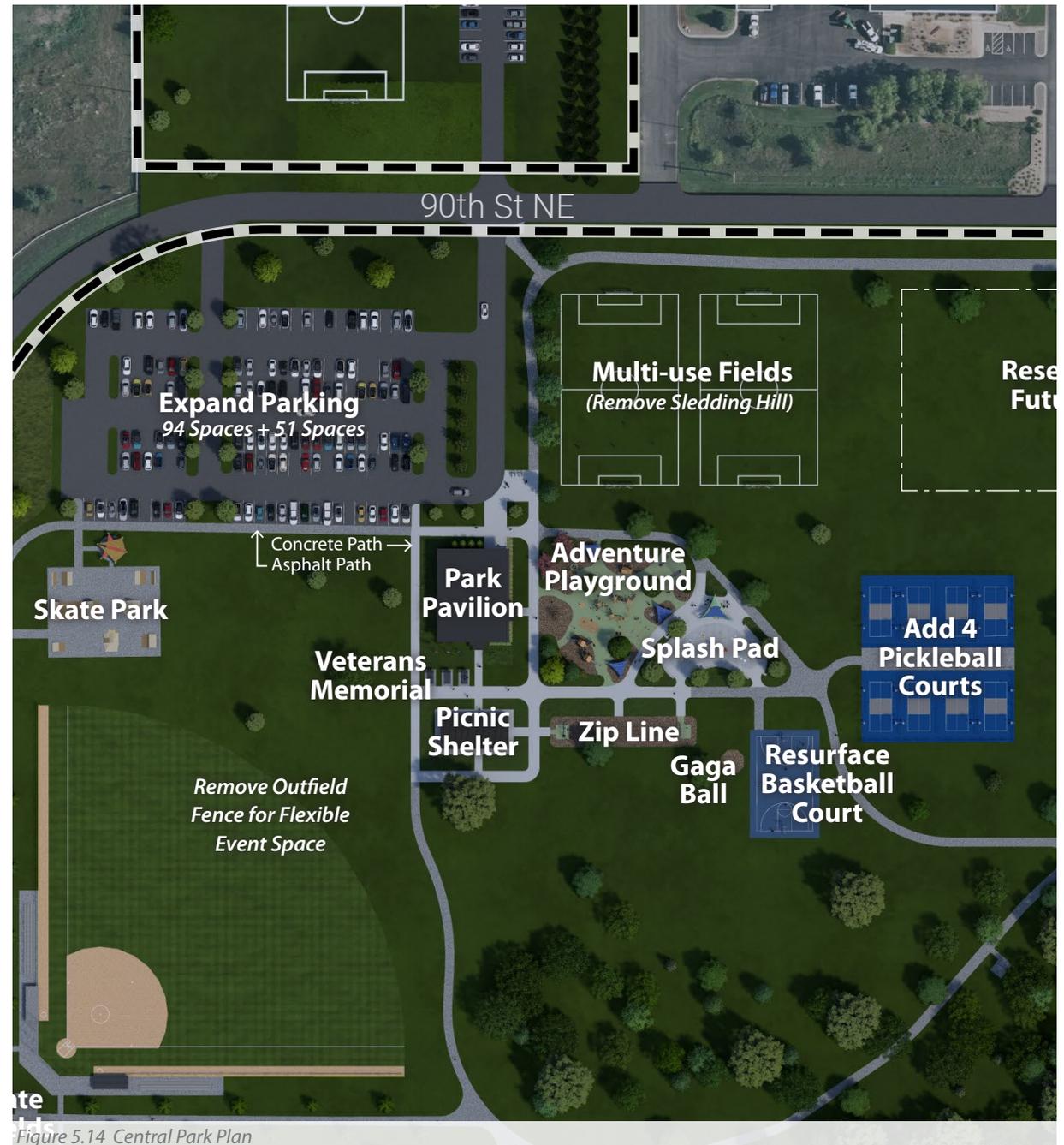


Figure 5.14 Central Park Plan



Figure 5.15 Birds Eye of Proposed Park Building and Playground



Figure 5.20 Playground Age 2-5 Play Features



Figure 5.19 Playground Swings



Figure 5.16 Playground Tower



Figure 5.17 Playground Nature Play Feature



Figure 5.18 Playground Zipline



Figure 5.21 Proposed Shade Sails North of the Existing Splash Pad



Figure 5.22 Existing Park Shelter with Proposed Veterans Memorial



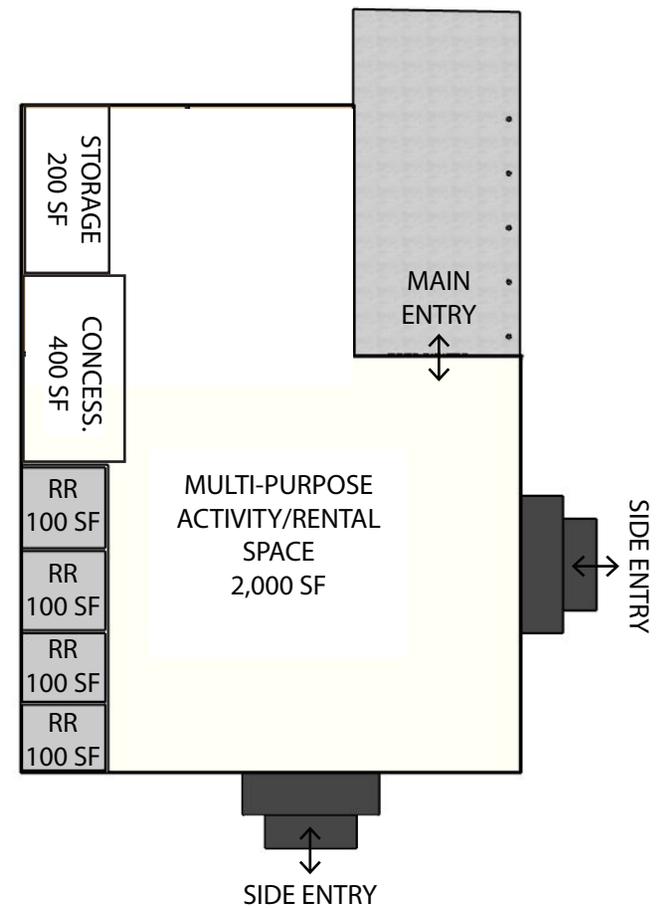
Figure 5.23 Proposed Veterans Memorial



Figure 5.24 Proposed Park Pavilion

Proposed New Park Pavilion

- 3,000 SF total
- 4 unisex restrooms (400 SF)
- Concessions area and window (400 SF)
- Year-round enclosed multi-purpose rental space (2,000 SF)
- Storage area (200 SF)
- At least one restroom will have an adult changing table to be able to use for adults and children who are disabled and/or incontinent.



Ballfields

- Update (4) ballfields for youth softball and baseball;
 - Add a removable, user-friendly outfield fence to the northeast field to allow for events in the lawn
- New covered dugouts
- Accessibility upgrades to paths and trails between the fields
- Add paved trail connections around the fields
- Consider additional netting to protect spectators from foul balls
- Add concession building/restrooms/warming house to the west of the ballfields with expanded, paved parking lot
- Add a drinking fountain with filtered water to be able to refill water bottles.

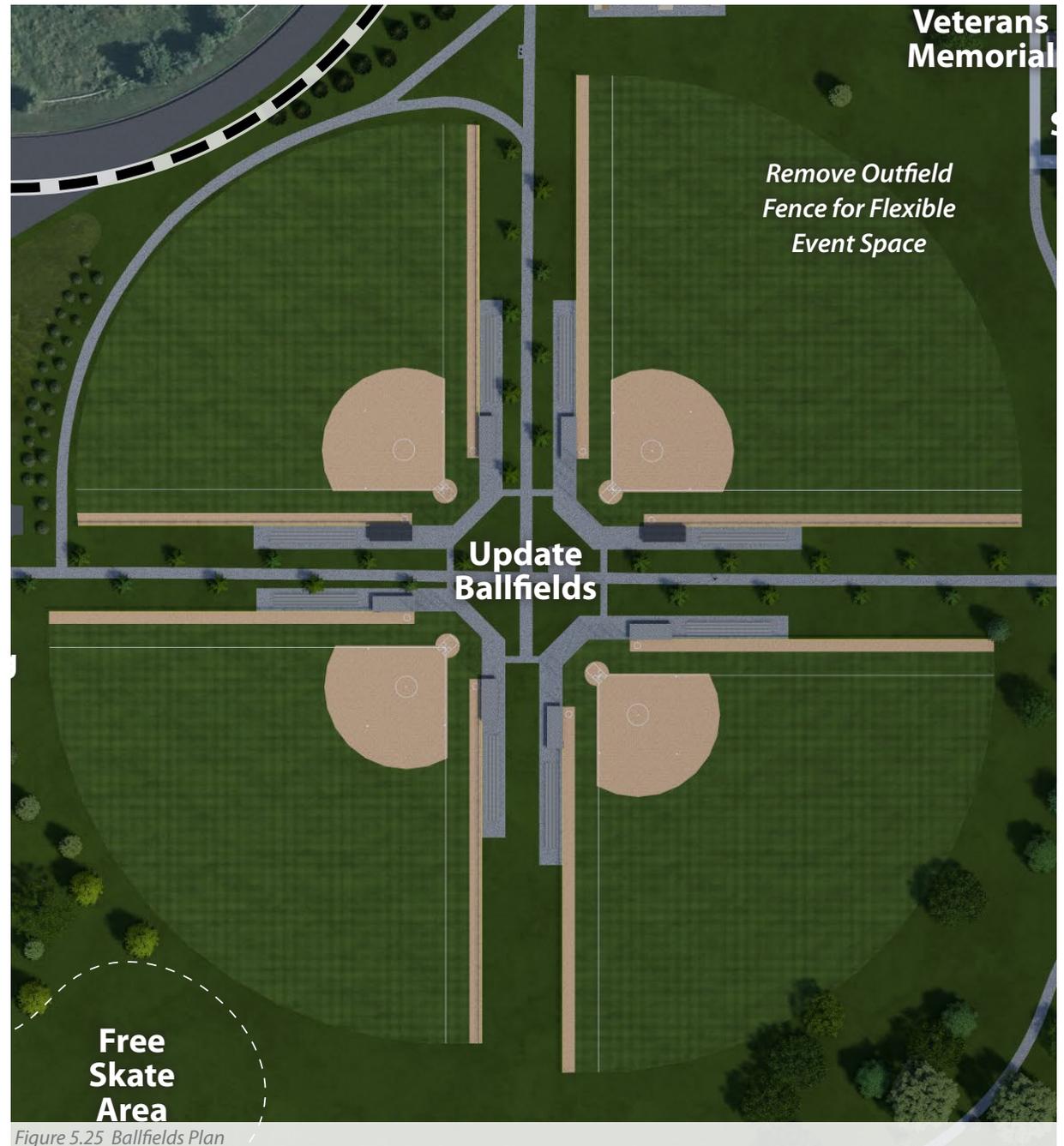


Figure 5.25 Ballfields Plan



Figure 5.26 Birds Eye of Ballfields

Winter Recreation Area

- New warming house/restroom building/ concessions west of ballfields (approximately 4,000 SF)
 - 4,000 SF
 - 4 unisex restrooms (400 SF)
 - Concessions area and window (400 SF)
 - Warming house (1,600 SF)
 - Storage area (1,600 SF)
- New hockey rink with a free skate area to the south and east of hockey
- New parking lot with approximately 185 stalls with ADA parking provided near the ballfield trail access and building entrance
- Future realignment of 90th St NE and future north-south road connection between 90th St NE and 85th St NE



Figure 5.27 Winter Recreation Area Plan



Figure 5.28 Birds Eye of Winter Recreation Area



Figure 5.29 Proposed Warming House/Concessions Building

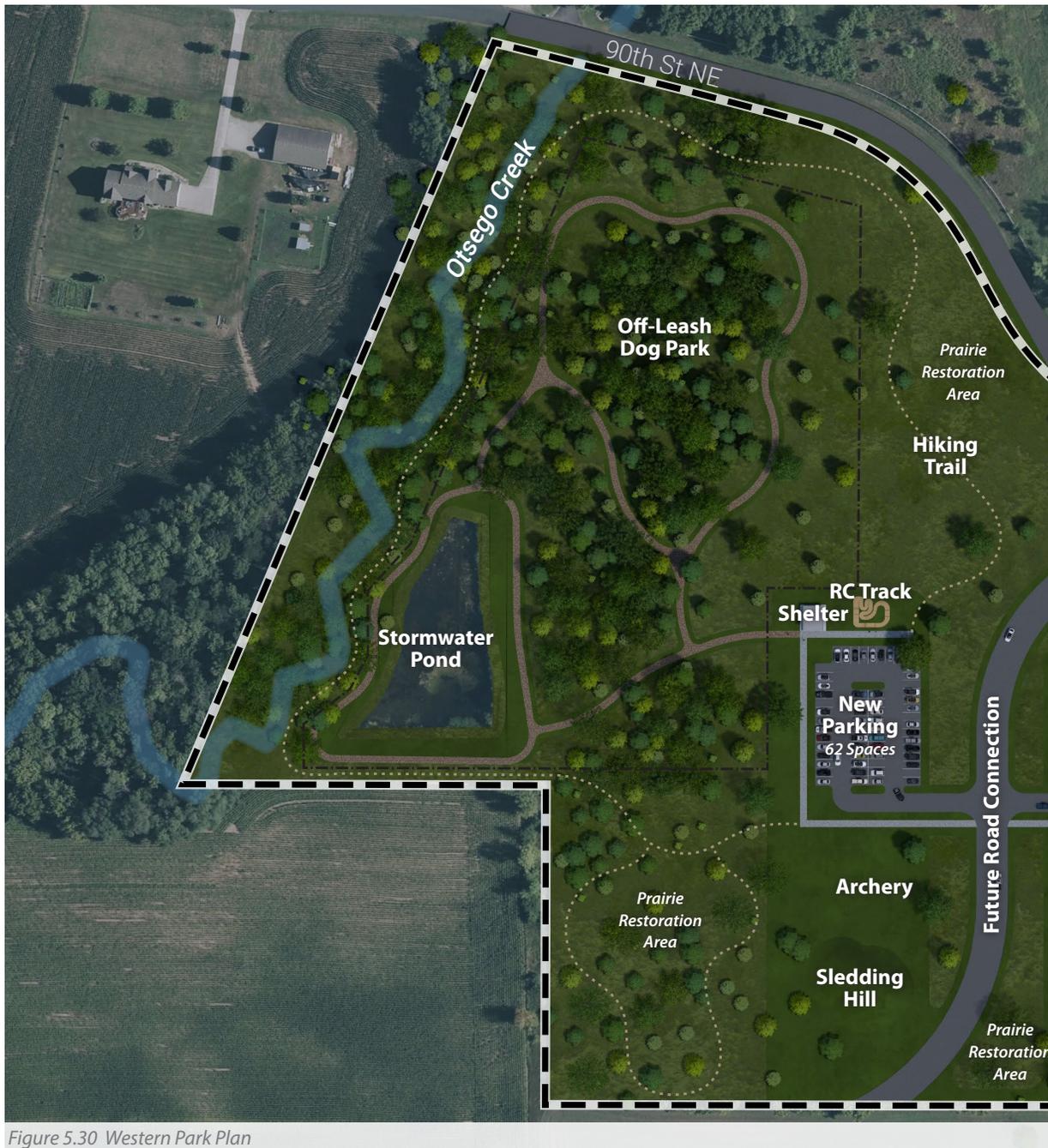


Figure 5.30 Western Park Plan

Western Park

- New off-leash dog park with soft surface trails through woods, adjacent to stormwater pond and creek
 - Fence placed outside of the creek corridor to protect the creek from pollution and erosion from dogs
- New trail (outside of the dog park) for hiking and snowshoeing
- Open-air picnic shelter (approximately 20'x20') to support dog park, RC track, archery, sledding hill, and trail users
- New paved parking lot to serve RC track, archery range, dog park, and sledding hill, with approximately 62 parking stalls
- Relocate sledding hill to southwestern part of the park, south of new parking lot and relocated archery range
- Relocate RC track to be closer to new parking area and south of prairie area
- Future north-south road connection between 90th St NE and 85th St NE



Figure 5.33 Proposed Open-air Shelter, Relocated RC Track, and Western Parking Lot



Figure 5.31 RC Track and Open-air Shelter



Figure 5.32 Off-leash Dog Park



Implementation Phasing & Cost Estimate

Prioritization

The proposed Prairie Park improvements will be implemented over the next 5-10 years as funding and opportunities allow. The highest prioritization for improvements are listed in the cost estimate in Phase 1.

Phase 1 projects include:

- New Adventure Playground
- New Park Building/Pavilion with accessible restrooms, multi-purpose recreation and event space, and concessions area
- Shade and drinking fountains to support the playground
- Veterans memorial relocation and upgrade
- Parking lot repaving and expansion
- Stormwater allowance and trees

Input from the public, Advisory Committee members, Parks and Recreation Commissioners, City Councilors, and city staff informed these priorities.

All other projects shown in this master plan are identified as Phase 2.

Phase 2 includes:

- Ballfield updates
- New warming house/restrooms/concessions building
- New hockey rink and free skate area
- New parking lot west of ballfields
- New off-leash dog park, parking, shelter, RC Track, and Archery area
- Relocated sledding hill in SW area of park
- Basketball court resurfacing
- Soccer field parking lots and lighting



Park Programming

The city currently plans and runs many recreation programs and events in Prairie Park. With additional indoor facilities, there is the potential to add year-round activities in the park. Current programs include:

- Otsego Prairie Festival
- Entertainment in the Park
- Egg Hunt
- Touch-a-Truck
- Santa Day
- T-Ball
- Pumpkin Patch
- Theater in the Park
- Soccer
- Girl Scout Meetings
- Community Ed programming
- Color run
- Softball
- Sports jamborees and tournaments
- Pickleball
- Twins softball clinic
- Tuesday morning kids events during the summer
- Sports sampler program

City-wide Park System Considerations

During the Prairie Park master planning process, there were several park facilities and amenities that were identified by community members as desired in Prairie Park. These facilities were considered but ultimately were not included in the master plan for Prairie Park. The following facilities should be kept in mind for future park improvements in other locations in the city:

- Disc golf
- Community center
- Bicycle pump track
- Large Athletic complex/tournament level facility
- Amphitheater/performance space
- Archery (potentially move the range to another park)

Operations & Maintenance

Existing and future park and facility operations and maintenance activities will be performed by a combination of full-time employees (FTE) and summer seasonal workers. The table below identifies existing and potential future duties with anticipated staff responsible for duties. As new facilities are built, parks and recreation staff will need to take on more responsibilities and more workers will need to be hired to account for additional tasks. Efficiencies, such as automatic locks on buildings and restrooms, will be considered to reduce staffing burden.

Park hours are sunrise to sunset.

It is anticipated that after the completion of Phase 1 park improvements, the city would need to hire one additional seasonal worker annually to support operations and maintenance of new facilities (approximately \$12,500 per year). Additional utility costs

(water, sewer, electric) for each new park pavilion should also be considered (approximately \$5,000 per year).

After completion of Phase 2 park improvements, the city should hire a 2nd additional seasonal worker and one additional FTE (approximately \$90,000 per year). These new employees would also support other parks and open space operations and maintenance in the city's system, so the costs would not be isolated to Prairie Park alone.

Total Estimate O&M cost increases:

- After Phase 1 completion: \$17,500 per year (one seasonal worker plus utilities)
- After Phase 2 completion: \$125,000 per year (one FTE plus two seasonal workers plus utilities)

O&M Tasks

Facility	O&M Activity
Ballfields (4)	Aglime raking and debris removal
	Mowing grass
Soccer fields	Mowing grass
	Trash pick up
	Parking lot maintenance, clearing
New Park Pavilion(s)	Year-round clean up of building and restrooms
	Locking and unlocking (consider automatic timed locks)
Picnic Shelter, Pickleball courts, Basketball court	Trash pick up and general debris removal
Playground and Skatepark	Playground and skate equipment inspections and upkeep
Splashpad	Equipment maintenance and pavement clearing
Archery and RC Track	General clean up of brush and debris
	Mowing grass
	Target and track maintenance and upkeep
Equipment maintenance	Daily oil and fuel checks before equipment is taken out
	Weekly checks and small fixes of mowers
	Annual service of mowers
General groundskeeping and trail maintenance	Daily rounds for trash clean-up and empty receptacles
	Weekly mowing and weed whipping May - October
	Weekly dog waste bag station restock and empty receptacles
	Tree trimming in late winter/early spring; Fallen tree removal after wind storms
	Tree planting in the spring
Parking lots	Tree watering throughout the summer season
	Snow plowing
Hockey and ice skating rinks	Stormsewer and gutter clean up and debris removal
	Making ice, clearing ice
Dog Park and wooded trails	Mowing/clearing soft surface trails for debris and fallen trees
	Fence checking and upkeep

Prairie Park Master Plan Cost Estimate (2024)

Description	Qty.	Unit	Unit price	Phase 1	Phase 2	Notes
Phase 1 Projects						
Removals: playground	1	LS	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		Consider reuse or donation of old play equipment
Removal, grading, and restoration of sledding hill	1	LS	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00		Move / stockpile soils to southwest area of park for new sledding hill
Common excavation and general grading	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		
Central Parking Lot: resurface existing	46,770	SF	\$ 3.00	\$ 140,310.00		mill and overlay
Central Parking Lot: expansion	18,652	SF	\$ 8.00	\$ 149,216.00		includes curb and gutter
Concrete Plazas	13,674	SF	\$ 11.00	\$ 150,414.00		
Stormwater allowance	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00		includes pipe and catch basins
Veterans Memorial-relocated and upgraded	1	LS	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00		Design tbd, allowance for stone, flags, landscaping
Destination Playground	1	LS	\$ 1,183,385.00	\$ 1,183,385.00		Nature play features, zip line, climbing; Cost includes PIP, EWF, sand, artificial turf, and shade structures
Drinking Fountain	1	EA	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00		
Bldg 1: New Pavilion with restrooms and concessions	3,500	SF	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,800,000.00		includes new utilities-water and sewer
New irrigation: around pavilion and splashpad	90,000	SF	\$ 1.00	\$ 90,000.00		
New trees	25	EA	\$ 750.00	\$ 18,750.00		
Phase 2 Projects						
Common excavation and general grading	1	LS	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00	
Dog park removal and restoration	1	LS	\$ 30,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	
New Soccer Fields Parking Lots	57,371	SF	\$ 8.00		\$ 458,968.00	includes curb and gutter
Soccer Field Lights on northern fields	4	EA	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 400,000.00	
Pickleball Courts: 4 new	1	LS	\$ 275,000.00		\$ 275,000.00	
Basketball Court--resurface and new coating	1	LS	\$ 60,000.00		\$ 60,000.00	
Skate Park-equipment upgrades	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	
Skate Park: seating and shade	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	
Bldg 2: Winter Warming House/Concessions building	3,000	SF	\$ 800.00		\$ 2,400,000.00	includes new utilities-water and sewer
Excavation and Earthwork	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	
Ballfields/Warming House Parking Lot	54,859	SF	\$ 8.00		\$ 438,872.00	includes curb and gutter
Ballfield updates	1	LS	\$ 850,000.00		\$ 850,000.00	covered dugouts, netting, fencing, spectator updates, accessible paths
Irrigation on ballfields - new/upgraded	1	LS	\$ 305,000.00		\$ 305,000.00	4 fields- \$60000 per field, added mainline, \$15000. Booster pump, \$50000. Tap and 4" backflow by mep or civil.
Warming House and Parking Lot Outdoor Lighting	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	
Hockey Rinks (concrete surface)	1	EA	\$ 200,000.00		\$ 200,000.00	
Hockey Rink Lighting	1	LS	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00	
New Dog Park: Fencing	2,823	LF	\$ 20.00		\$ 56,460.00	
New Dog Park: soft surface trails	2,712	LF	\$ 20.00		\$ 54,240.00	
New Parking Lot near dog park	21,778	SF	\$ 8.00		\$ 174,224.00	includes curb and gutter
Bldg 3: Covered Shelter near dog park	1	EA	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00	
Archery range: relocation	1	LS	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	
RC track: relocation	1	LS	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	
Sledding hill: rebuild in SW area of park	1	LS	\$ 50,000.00		\$ 50,000.00	utilize cut from existing sledding hill, building foundations, and new parking areas.
Prairie restoration areas	1	AC	\$ 7,500.00		\$ 7,500.00	north of RC track
Stormwater allowance	1	LS	\$ 60,000.00		\$ 60,000.00	utilize infiltration areas and rain gardens where feasible
Mill and overlay existing paved trails	5,479	LF	\$ 22.00		\$ 120,538.00	all paved trails 10' wide
Concrete Sidewalk - 8' width	6,848	SF	\$ 11.00		\$ 75,328.00	
New Bituminous Trails - 10' width	2,509	LF	\$ 90.00		\$ 225,810.00	
Pedestrian-scale lighting allowance	1	LS	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 100,000.00	
Subtotal				\$ 4,837,075.00	\$ 6,881,940.00	
Mobilization (5%)				\$ 241,853.75	\$ 344,097.00	
Construction + Design Contingency (15%)				\$ 761,839.31	\$ 1,083,905.55	
Design and Engineering (15%)				\$ 876,115.21	\$ 1,246,491.38	
Total				\$ 6,716,883.27	\$ 9,556,433.93	

Project Total

\$ 16,273,317.20

