



Parks + Recreation Master Plan SYSTEM PLAN OVERVIEW



What is it?

- 1 The 2016 Rochester Parks and Recreation System Master Plan sets the direction for parks and recreation in Rochester for the next 20 years.
- 2 The System Plan ensures the park system continues to meet the community needs now and in the future.
- 3 The System Plan weighs community needs and desires with financial realities to ensure the system is economically sustainable and responsible with tax dollars.
- 4 The System Plan determines priorities for future investment.

Guided By

Development of the System Plan was guided by the following principles:



Support Excellence - by maintaining system quality, condition, and safety; identifying state-of-the-art improvements; being a regional destination for tournaments/events; and strengthening partnerships.



Cultivate Health - by providing a diversity of facilities for life-long activity; expanding the pedestrian/bicycling network; protecting environmental health; and partnering on health education and programming.



Create Connections - by developing a connected system; expanding opportunities for gathering; improving accessibility; and strengthening links to neighborhoods and diverse communities.



Encourage Exploration - by making the system easy to navigate; expanding access to nature; and inspiring discovery of new places, activities, arts, and culture.



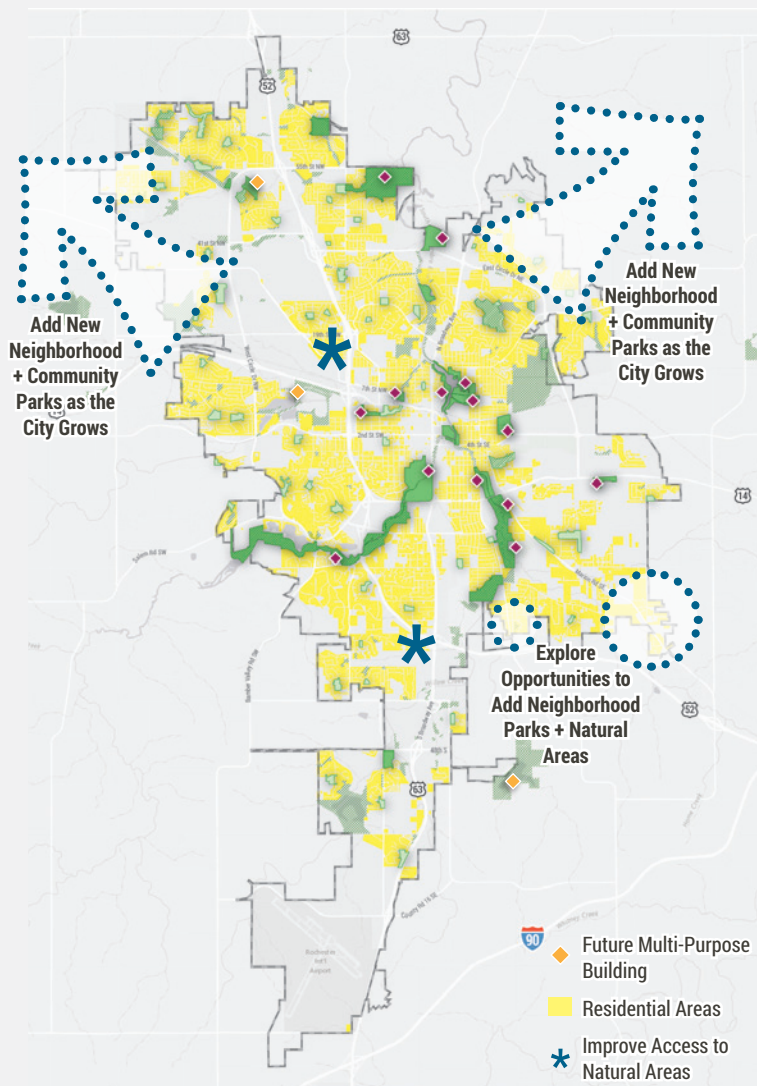
Be Flexible and Responsive - by supporting all users; adapting to new trends; collaborating on park/facility development; and capitalizing on technology.



Grow Gracefully - by ensuring distribution of parks and facilities; pursuing financial stability; staffing appropriately to maintain a quality system; and engaging volunteers to expand capabilities.

Access Recommendations

- Provide a **Neighborhood Park** (2-15 acres) within a 10-15 minute walk of every resident
- Provide a **Community Park** (15-100 acres) within a 5 minute drive or a 15 minute bike ride of every resident
- Ensure all residents are within a 10-15 minute walk of a **Small Natural Area** and a 5 minute drive or 15 minute bike ride of a **Large Natural Area**
- Provide a **Large Picnic Shelter** or a **Small Multi-Purpose Building** within each Community Park
- Target Areas** for improvements



Trails

- » Expand trails that connect across the City and to other communities in the region.
- » Expand the number and length of recreational trail loops.
- » Diversify and expand the types of trails to include natural surface, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing.



Are there trail gaps near your home, work, school, or park that should be addressed? Are there ways we can make the trails safer for you or your family?

Public Art

- » Add artist designed park features like benches, picnic tables, etc.
- » Support temporary art displays in the parks.
- » Partner with cultural groups to develop public art that can highlight our community.
- » Encourage use of designated park spaces for public performances.



Would your group be interested in partnering on public art or performances?

Programming

- » Promote informal or self-direction recreation (like a “visit your park” program).
- » Collaborate with cultural groups to provide community events in the parks.
- » Expand opportunities for affordable or low-cost recreation in the parks.



What prevents your family from participating in local events or programs?

Facilities

Rochester has been divided into five zones (NW, NE, SE, SW and Central) and 14 subzones to help ensure facilities are distributed conveniently across the city. Many of the facility recommendations refer to these zones/subzones to help demonstrate the number of facilities in each zone.



Provide at least one full-sized **Basketball Court** per zone in a Community Park and at least one half court within each subzone.



Provide a set of 2 to 3 **Soccer Fields** (or other rectangular fields) per zone, maintain Faud Monsour, and develop a new complex with 10 to 12 fields. Continue to offer multi-purpose fields at Soldiers Field, Kutsky, and East parks. Make sure half of all parks in each zone have open turf areas for pick-up games.



Provide a set of 2 to 4 **Tennis Courts** in each zone and one set of 6 courts in a community park.



Provide a set of 2 to 3 **Baseball/Softball Fields** in each zone and provide Watson, McQuillan and RYSA for tournaments.



Maintain **Aquatics** at the Recreation Center and the beaches. Replace the lap pool at Soldiers Field and add a children's activity area and pool activities like water basketball and climbing wall. Add small interactive water features throughout the City to provide free access to water play.



Make sure each zone has at least one outdoor **Hockey/Skating Rink** and identify 2 to 3 locations for **Sledding**.



Expand and improve the Silver Lake **Skate Park**.



Provide a **Community Garden** within each zone.



Are there any other recreation trends that should be considered?

More Information

The System Plan has more recommendations than are provided in this overview. Additional information can be found at:

www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/master-plan-project

The City is seeking feedback on the System Plan recommendations. In addition to commenting on the specific recommendations, the (?) provided in each section are intended to spark additional discussion. Please send any input to:

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