

Community Vision

3.1 Overview

The City of Prior Lake Vision Statement defines the long-term vision that the community is to aspire to for parks, trails and recreation. A set of goals and objectives define high level statements that will help achieve the overall vision statement and are meant to guide decision-making processes for future development and priorities.

3.2 Vision Statement

The following vision statement was developed during the planning process that defines the vision that Prior Lake aspires to attain by the year 2040.

The City of Prior Lake contains safe, attractive and fun outdoor recreational experiences that encourage a healthy lifestyle, meet the diverse needs of its residents, connect people to the outdoors, preserve the natural resources and open spaces, and highlight its cultural resources.



3.3 Goals and Objectives

The following goals are broad statements that reflect specific parts of the Vision Statement for parks, trails and recreation and build upon the goals and objectives identified in the Prior Lake 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

The goals represent the end conditions that the City of Prior Lake is striving to attain. The objectives are key actions or strategies that are intended to accomplish the stated goal.

Connectivity

A. Goal: Provide an interconnected and accessible park, trail and greenway system for recreation and transportation.



A.1. Trail Connection Objectives

- i. Support active living and wellness by connecting residents to parks, schools, adjacent communities, and regional destinations with quality multi-use trails and safe pedestrian crossings.
- ii. Connect residents to varying natural environments for improved physical and mental health while encouraging ongoing stewards.
- iii. Provide a variety of trail types and experiences that will meet the varying needs and preferences of the diverse users.

A.2. Accessibility Objectives

- i. Provide a balanced and sustainable system of parks, trails and open spaces within a half-mile of Prior Lake households.
- ii. Construct, maintain and identify ADA compliant park amenities, trails and access routes.
- iii. Provide public access to lakes and water bodies for viewing, enjoyment and water related recreational activities.



- iv. Use print, broadcast, and website medias to promote community civic events and celebrations in various methods and languages, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- v. Provide a variety of transit and multi-modal opportunities for residents to access parks and recreational areas from their place of residence.

A.3. Sense of Community Objectives

- i. Provide convenient and diverse recreational programs and opportunities for varying age groups, income levels, interests and abilities.
- ii. Strengthen community identity through the use of attractive and effective wayfinding signage, public art, pedestrian furniture, lighting and materials.
- iii. Foster a sense of community and cultural diversity through community celebrations, collaborations and volunteer opportunities.
- iv. Implement inclusive design practices to encourage social interaction and strengthen inclusion.
- v. Develop strategies for routinely engaging with the community to identify and meet the programming needs of the community and promote participation.
- vi. Communicate success stories to the public to identify the direct benefits to the community.



Quality



B. Goal: Create a unique and high-quality park and trail system that responds to the evolving demands of recreational trends, populations, demographics, and income levels.

A.1. Objectives

- i. Create a flexible, unique and high-quality system that responds to varying interests and evolving recreational trends.
- ii. Prioritize development, maintenance and improvements at community parks to sustain at a high-quality performance level.
- iii. Develop, improve and maintain a minimum of one high-quality neighborhood park within each neighborhood service area.
- iv. Provide proper lighting and security measures at appropriate locations, and ensuring cell phone coverage in parks.
- v. Preserve prime open space, such as shoreline, significant natural areas, and greenway corridors ahead of development and redevelopment.
- vi. Secure park lands suitable in size and character for meeting the vision and goals of the park system plan with development in line with recreational needs.
- vii. Implement a natural resource management plan for proper management of quality natural resource areas that enhance the community characteristics.
- viii. Ensure proper oversight and management of the park, trail and recreation system by a qualified park professional.
- ix. Implement recommendations of the Park and Trail System Master Plan.
- x. Budget for and prioritize the development, maintenance and replacement of trails and park amenities through dedicated funding from the Prior Lake Capital Improvements Plan.



Sustainability



C. Goal: Create a sustainable park, trail and recreation system that adequately meets the needs of the community.

A.1. Objectives

- i. Minimize over-duplication of amenities through consolidation and complementary opportunities and experiences.
- ii. Maximize partnership opportunities through the development of fair and equitable working joint partnerships.
- iii. Seek grants and other funding mechanisms to supplement city funding.
- iv. Identify and update revenue-generating mechanisms to help support ongoing maintenance and improvements.
- v. Utilize quality construction methods and materials that may have higher initial costs but will result in an increased life span and reduced maintenance needs.
- vi. Protect and manage the parks, trails and natural resources through sustainable management methods and policies.
- vii. Foster environmental stewardship through awareness, educational programs and grant opportunities to promote environmental practices.
- viii. Prioritize capital improvement projects that are in line with community sentiment and interests.
- ix. Acknowledge the balance necessary between ongoing operations and maintenance needs of existing facilities in relation to development of new facilities.
- x. Incorporate newer methods, technology and equipment that increase efficiency in terms of energy, maintenance and replacement.

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