

05



WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

This Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan will be a decision-making guide for improvements over the next 20 years. It serves as a framework and a vision to promote the natural assets in Faribault and provide an inclusive parks and recreation system that is sustainably built, maintained, and utilized. The success of this plan requires the collaboration of everyone in the community, including the City Council, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, City staff, regional partners, local non-profits and the public.

UPDATED PARK MASTER PLANS

Updated park master plans were generated based on the goals, policies, and action items outlined in the previous section of this master plan. They are a guiding vision and framework for improvements. Plans are organized by park classification and available in Appendix.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Making this vision a reality will not happen all at once. This master plan recognizes that the success of each action item is dependent on a variety of factors including cost, community priority, and opportunity. The following represents a timeline for proposed improvements that have been deemed high priority and/or represent a catalyst project.

Goal 1: Diversify Park Facilities

- 1.2 Upgrade aging play equipment and park amenities such as benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains**
- 1.3 Develop a sustainable schedule for replacing park equipment and incorporate costs into future CIP's routinely**
- 1.7 Add site amenities that extend the use of parks into colder seasons**
- 1.8 Promote a dedicated sledding hill in the community**

Goal 2: Connect the Parks with Trails

- 2.1 Expand the trail network to connect the parks**
- 2.2 Upgrade on-street bicycle facilities to protect riders, pedestrians, and drivers**

Goal 3: Create Accessibility for All

- 3.1 Upgrade all existing park facilities that do not meet ADA regulations**
- 3.4 Ensure parks have adequate pedestrian circulation**

Goal 4: Utilize Gathering Spaces

4.2 Use lawn space strategically

4.3 Enhance picnic facilities

4.4 Continue to promote pop-up activities such as coffee shops, outdoor movies, lawn games, and saunas

4.5 Encourage pop-up parks throughout the community, especially Downtown

Goal 5: Create Connections to the Natural SPaces & Activate the Rivers

5.2 Expand fishing areas

5.3 Add nature-themed play areas

5.4 Provide areas for people to learn about nature, wildlife, and the environment

5.7 Conserve important/rare species, trees, plants, and wildlife

5.8 Utilize the parks, trails, and open space in Faribault to increase the tree canopy

5.9 Promote River Bend Nature Center

Goal 6: Use a Sustainable Approach

6.1 Move ball fields from Teepee Tonka Park to Prairie Ridge Park

6.3 Introduce goats for invasive vegetation control

6.4 Develop stewardship agreements with local landowners

6.5 Continue to strengthen partnerships with local organizations to improve the environmental health of Faribault

6.6 Increase stormwater capacity in the parks, trails, and open space

| Action Item | | Community Value | Priority | Implementation Strategy |
|---|---|---|----------|---|
| Goal 1: Diversify Park Facilities | | | | |
| [01] Improve existing park facilities | | | | |
| 1.1 | Reduce maintenance needs of parks where possible by reducing lawns and improving edge conditions | Innovation, Excellence, Sense of Place | Medium | Identify specific sites; work with the City's Park and Recreation Department and install native species in lieu of lawn; should be installed in phases |
| 1.2 | Upgrade aging play equipment and park amenities such as benches, picnic tables, and drinking fountains | Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Identify parks with highest needs; develop a standard for equipment and work with limited suppliers; engage the surrounding neighbors for desired amenities |
| 1.3 | Develop a sustainable schedule for replacing park equipment and incorporate costs into future CIP's routinely | Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Conduct an inventory of equipment needed for upgrade and incorporate costs in a sustainable manor for upcoming CIP's |
| [02] Introduce new park facilities that improve the quality of the parks | | | | |
| 1.4 | Introduce multi-generational park facilities throughout the community | Excellence, Sense of Community | High | Identify specific sites; prioritize parks near senior care facilities; install complementary facilities |
| 1.5 | Include park features designed specifically for aging communities near existing care facilities | Excellence, Sense of Community | High | Prioritize multi-generational improvements near senior care facilities |
| 1.6 | Add unique equipment throughout the park system | Innovation, Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Place | High | When making improvements, utilize a variety of park equipment available; engage the surrounding neighbors for their desired visual preferences |

| Project Partners | Feasible Timeline | Preliminary Cost Estimate | Possible Funding Sources |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec; Residents | 0-10 years | Medium | CIP |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-2 years | Low | CIP |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | Low | CIP |
| City of Faribault: Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | Low | CIP |
| City of Faribault: Parks & Rec; Residents | 0-10 years | Low | CIP |

| Action Item | | Community Value | Priority | Implementation Strategy |
|--|--|---|----------|--|
| [03] Improve multi-seasonal use | | | | |
| 1.7 | Add site amenities that extend the use of parks into colder seasons | Innovation, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Identify specific sites; clear areas and perform necessary grading for sledding hills in warmer months |
| 1.8 | Promote a dedicated sledding hill in the community | Sense of Community | High | Identify specific sites; after constructing the hill, use various outreach methods such as social media to promote the amenity |
| [04] Balance the park facilities throughout the community | | | | |
| 1.9 | Add new park facilities throughout the community | Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Identify specific sites, giving priority to smaller, neighborhood parks |
| 1.10 | Develop additional park space Downtown | Innovation, Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | Medium | Identify space Downtown to introduce new parkland; develop programming for each site and implement as funding is secured |
| 1.11 | Add additional park space in areas that are under serviced | Opportunity, Sense of Community | High | As development occurs, use parkland dedication to develop new parks in under serviced areas |
| Goal 2: Improve Connectivity to Greenspace | | | | |
| [01] Connect the parks with trails | | | | |
| 2.1 | Expand the trail network to connect the parks | Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Place | High | Identify areas where the trail network can be connected; work with engineering to determine best locations |
| 2.2 | Upgrade on-street bicycle facilities to protect riders, pedestrians, and drivers | Innovation, Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Identify areas where the trail network can be connected; work with engineering to determine best locations |

| Project Partners | Feasible Timeline | Preliminary Cost Estimate | Possible Funding Sources |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Low | CIP |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-2 years | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | High | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | High | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | Market dependent | Medium | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Engineering | 0-15 years | High | CIP |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Engineering | 0-15 years | High | CIP |

| | Action Item | Community Value | Priority | Implementation Strategy |
|---|---|---|----------|---|
| 2.3 | Identify and promote trail loops that accommodate a range of rider abilities and connect key locations in Faribault | Opportunity, Sense of Community | High | After trail loops are constructed, use engagement strategies such as social media to promote the connections |
| [02] Utilize trailheads at key locations in the community | | | | |
| 2.3 | Install trailheads at key locations within the park system | Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community | Medium | Identify specific sites; install trailheads as parks and trails are developed |
| 2.4 | Enhance amenities at trailheads | Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Install trail amenities at the existing trailhead at White Sands and as new ones are constructed |
| Goal 3: Create Accessibility for All | | | | |
| [01] Ensure all park features meet or exceed ADA standards | | | | |
| 3.1 | Upgrade all existing park facilities that do not meet ADA regulations | Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community | High | Develop a community task force to lead efforts; identify specific sites that need improvements; Prioritize high profile parks first |
| 3.2 | Involve everyone in the community when implementing changes | Sense of Community | High | Continue to utilize public engagement when making upgrades |
| 3.3 | Provide ongoing evaluation of effectiveness of the park facilities | Excellence, Sense of Place | Medium | Utilize community task force to develop metrics for success and continue to evaluate improvements |
| [02] Provide access within every park | | | | |
| 3.4 | Ensure parks have adequate pedestrian circulation | Sense of Place | High | Install walkways where connections are missing |

| Project Partners | Feasible Timeline | Preliminary Cost Estimate | Possible Funding Sources |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 5-15 years | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works; Parks & Rec | 5-15 years | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Parks & Rec | 0-2 years | Low | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | High | |
| City of Faribault | On-going | Low | |
| City of Faribault | 0-10 years | Low | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | Medium | |

| Action Item | | Community Value | Priority | Implementation Strategy |
|--|--|---|----------|--|
| Goal 4: Utilize Gathering Spaces | | | | |
| [01] Create areas for group gathering | | | | |
| 4.1 | Utilize flexible spaces to expand the usability of the parks, trails, and open space | Innovation, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | Low | Encourage linking activities in parks together to promote social interaction |
| 4.2 | Use lawn space strategically | Innovation, Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Identify specific sites; install native species; train staff on new maintenance techniques |
| 4.3 | Enhance picnic facilities | Sense of Community | Low | Install shelters and picnic tables at identified sites; Include food and beverage sales at large parks with high concentration of athletic uses |
| [02] Expand pop-up activities in the park | | | | |
| 4.4 | Continue to promote pop-up activities such as coffee shops, outdoor movies, lawn games, and saunas | Innovation, Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Work with local non-profits and business owners to schedule additional pop-up activities. Encourage public participation and crowd source activity ideas |
| 4.5 | Encourage pop-up parks throughout the community, especially Downtown | Innovation, Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Work with local non-profits and business owners to schedule additional pop-up activities. Encourage public participation and crowd source activity ideas |

| Project Partners | Feasible Timeline | Preliminary Cost Estimate | Possible Funding Sources |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | Medium | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Low | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | On-going | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | On-going | Low | |

| Action Item | | Community Value | Priority | Implementation Strategy |
|---|--|--|----------|---|
| Goal 5: Create Connections to the Natural Spaces & Activate the Rivers | | | | |
| [01] Expand nature-based activities | | | | |
| 5.1 | Improve access to the Cannon and Straight rivers | Opportunity, Sense of Place | Medium | Identify sites for improved connection to the rivers and install necessary amenities |
| 5.2 | Expand fishing areas | Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Identify specific sites; install necessary access to waterways |
| 5.3 | Add nature-themed play areas | Innovation, Excellence, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Identify specific sites; install a variety of nature-themed play areas that range from small clears, to more formal play equipment |
| 5.4 | Provide areas for people to learn about nature, wildlife, and the environment | Excellence, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | Low | Identify specific sites; install educational wayfinding where feasible |
| [02] Enhance ecological buffers | | | | |
| 5.5 | Expand riparian buffers along the Cannon and Straight rivers | Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Identify potential sites to expand riparian buffers; work with engineering to meet water quality standards |
| 5.6 | Reduce underutilized lawn space where possible | Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Identify specific sites; install native species; train staff on new maintenance techniques |
| 5.7 | Conserve important/rare species, trees, plants, and wildlife | Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Identify areas with important/rare species; ensure development does not occur in those areas; add wayfinding signage to educate community |
| [03] Improve the tree canopy in Faribault | | | | |
| 5.8 | Utilize the parks, trails, and open space in Faribault to increase the tree canopy | Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Partner with local organizations to help increase the tree canopy |

| Project Partners | Feasible Timeline | Preliminary Cost Estimate | Possible Funding Sources |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Medium | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | High | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Low-Medium | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Low | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Engineering | 0-15 years | High | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-10 years | Medium | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Low | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Local Non-Profits\ | 0-5 years | Low | |

| Action Item | | Community Value | Priority | Implementation Strategy |
|--|---|---|----------|--|
| [04] Promote the natural amenities in the parks, trails, and open space | | | | |
| 5.9 | Promote River Bend Nature Center | Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | High | Partner with River Bend Nature Center Staff and use online and print resources to promote the park |
| 5.10 | Promote access to the regional trails | Opportunity | High | Utilize online and print resources to market and promote the regional trail connections |
| 5.10 | Develop nature-based excursions through Faribault | Opportunity, Sense of Community | Low | Partner with local and regional experts to introduce excursions in Faribault; Encourage local hospitality businesses to promote them |
| Goal 6: Use a Sustainable Approach | | | | |
| [01] Move existing park uses that are not complementary to their geographic location | | | | |
| 6.1 | Move ball fields from Teepee Tonka Park to Prairie Ridge Park | Innovation, Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Work with engineering and public works to develop a plan to move the ball fields; begin construction of new stormwater amenities at Teepee Tonka |
| [02] Utilize innovative maintenance techniques to improve the quality of natural spaces | | | | |
| 6.2 | Reduce pesticides for maintenance | Innovation, Excellence | High | Develop policy to eliminate pesticide use |
| 6.3 | Introduce goats for invasive vegetation control | Innovation, Excellence | High | Work with local suppliers and park maintenance staff to develop new process |
| 6.4 | Develop stewardship agreements with local landowners | Innovation, Excellence, Opportunity, Sense of Community, Sense of Place | Low | As improvements are made, work with local residents and business owners to develop stewardship agreements to assist in the on-going maintenance |
| 6.5 | Continue to strengthen partnerships with local organizations to improve the environmental health of Faribault | Sense of Community | High | Continue to involve local organizations in the decision making process |

| Project Partners | Feasible Timeline | Preliminary Cost Estimate | Possible Funding Sources |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | On-going | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | On-going | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Local & Regional Partners | 0-5 years | Low | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Engineering | 0-2 years | High | |
| | | | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-2 years | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | 0-5 years | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Local Residents & Business Owners | On-going | Low | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec | On-going | Low | |

| Action Item | | Community Value | Priority | Implementation Strategy |
|---|---|--|----------|--|
| [03] Use the parks, trails, and open space for environmental stewardship | | | | |
| 6.6 | Increase stormwater capacity in the parks, trails, and open space | Innovation, Excellence, Sense of Place | High | Identify specific sites; work with engineering to develop adequate stormwater catchment in parks |
| 6.7 | Add more pollinator plants | Excellence, Sense of Place | Medium | Promote and educate how businesses and property owners can add pollinators; plant more pollinator species where possible |

| Project Partners | Feasible Timeline | Preliminary Cost Estimate | Possible Funding Sources |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| City of Faribault: Public Works, Parks & Rec, Engineering | 0-10 years | High | |
| City of Faribault: Public Works; GROWS club | 0-3 years | Low | |