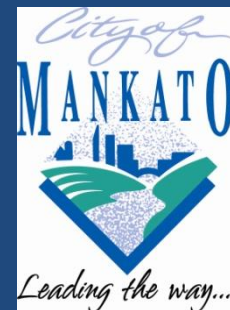


City of Mankato Sustainability

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Presentation Overview

- ⚙ Background
- ⚙ City sustainability-minded policies
- ⚙ Recent and current projects
- ⚙ Future efforts
- ⚙ Additional information at:
 - ⚙ www.mankato-mn.gov/sustainability/Page.aspx

Mankato Sustainability - Background



- ⚙ City Council adopted resolution entering into US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement on May 12, 2008.
- ⚙ As part of resolution, Council also adopted a Sustainability Statement/Plan.
- ⚙ The Sustainability Plan is grouped around 3 general goals: City policies, operations, and support of community efforts.
- ⚙ Internally, we also use them for purposes of budgeting, capital planning, and measuring service delivery.



Organization Goals

- ⚙ What can the City do, as an organization and energy and resource consumer, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on non-renewable energy sources?
- ⚙ Accomplishments: energy auditing and building improvements, LEED certification for new/updated buildings, policy adjustments (“no idling” policy), review of fleet/equipment purchases, move toward e-business and distribution, no net-loss of environmentally sensitive areas.



Public Policy Goals

- ⚙ As a local unit of government and regional center, what can Mankato undertake as policy initiatives to promote carbon reduction and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources?
- ⚙ Accomplishments: participation in GreenStep Cities program, promote multi-modal transportation (current status as MPO and new transportation planner staff), complete streets efforts, encourage low-impact subdivision design, plan for critical link sidewalks, storm water management efforts, preservation of natural areas (woodland and wetland preservation), long-range neighborhood planning efforts, capital improvement planning.



GreenStep Cities

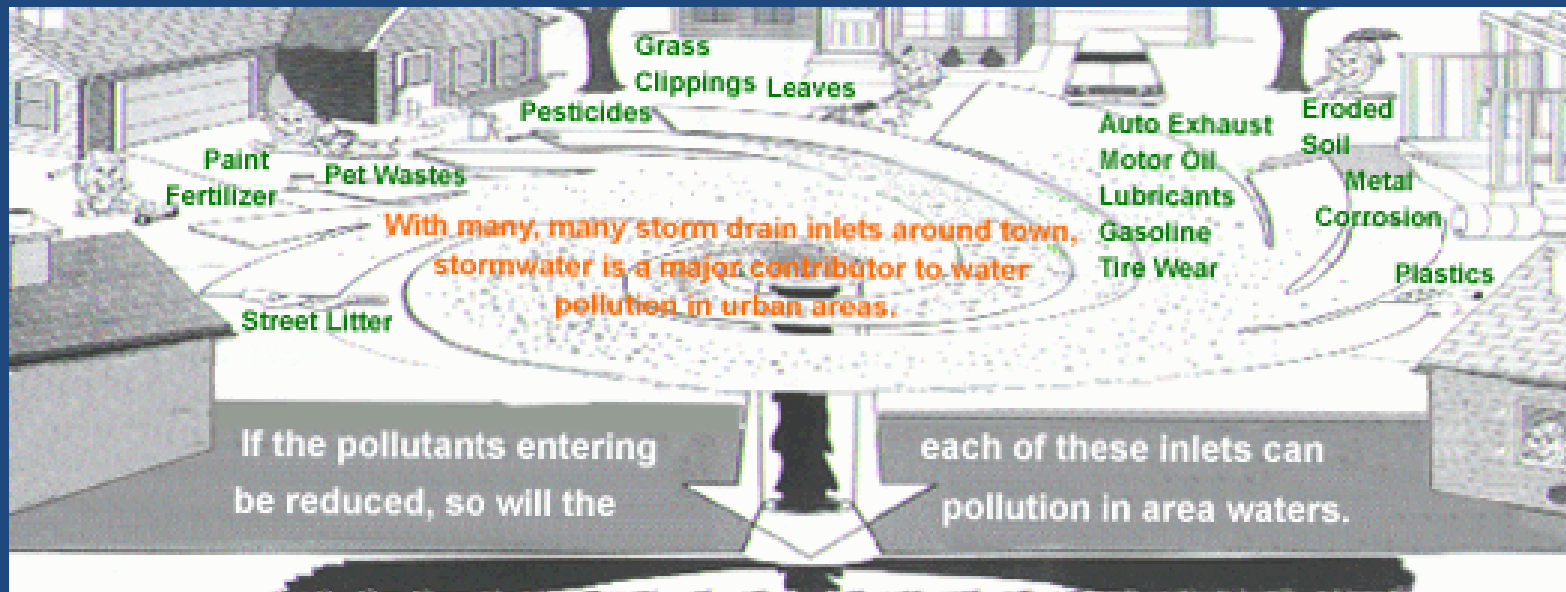
- ⚙ GreenStep Cities is a voluntary program for community sustainability improvement through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).
- ⚙ Provides extensive categories and 28 best practices to allow cities to tailor to their respective needs, and connects cities with each other for networking.
- ⚙ Relies on performance metrics for evaluation.
- ⚙ Recognition is on a “Step” level – Mankato currently Step 2 of 3 – program will likely add Steps 4-5 soon.
- ⚙ Mankato has also assisted Lake Crystal and North Mankato in GreenStep participation.
- ⚙ More info available at <http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/>



GreenStep – Example Mankato Actions

- ⚙ Pilot project for LED lighting evaluation on Val Imm.
- ⚙ Programs for financial assistance for homeowner upgrades for energy-efficient remodeling and updates.
- ⚙ Design requirements for highway corridor areas – this is currently being researched for campus/downtown areas to improve and encourage walkability.
- ⚙ Encourage infill/redevelopment/reuse of existing buildings rather than building new.
- ⚙ Utilizing fuel-efficient fleet vehicles and increasing foot/bike patrols.

GreenSteps – Water Quality





Community Goals

- ⚙ How can the City encourage energy efficiency and carbon reduction along with sustainability for citizens?
 - ⚙ Accomplishments: Envision 2020 process and task force, rehabilitation programs, school/city partnerships, participation in MN Energy Challenge, outreach to neighborhood associations and civic groups, updating and improving online presence.
 - ⚙ Offer programs like free electronics recycling, annual clean-up, curbside leaf pickup/composting, holiday tree recycling.
 - ⚙ New waste provider has single-stream recycling and uses CNG trucks – starts in 2015.

City of Mankato Strategic Plan – Sustainability Elements



- ⚙ Mankato's strategic plan is a road map that helps guide the city through the next few years. It details where the city is going and how it plans to get there, while determining measurable results. Building an environmentally responsible/sustainable infrastructure is one of the goals of the Strategic Plan
- ⚙ Examples: review and evaluate environmental impacts of equipment, facilities, infrastructure, parks and green spaces to determine how the city of Mankato can best protect the environment; and study the impact of shifting bus service from serving customers based on location to serving customers based on actual transit needs.
- ⚙ Strategic plan has benchmarks for City staff to work toward annually.



Changes Underway

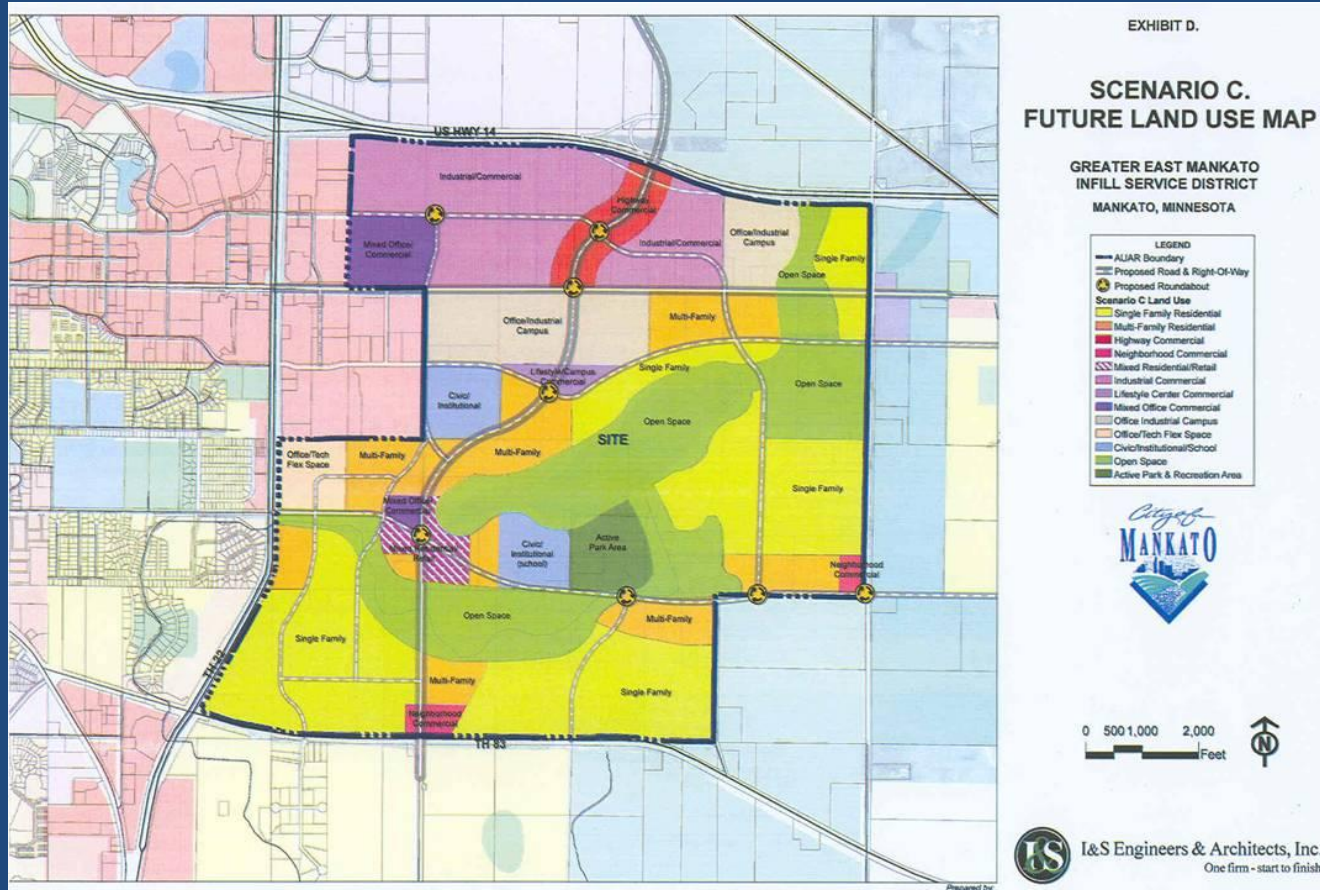
- ⚙ Improving land-use planning and development strategies
 - ⚙ Target growth in ways to reduce number and length of vehicle trips; going back to traditional neighborhood design. Example Northeast AUAR area.
- ⚙ Expand transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure
 - ⚙ Increase support to and create new programs to increase transit ridership, carpooling, bicycling, and walking. Reduce dependence on motor vehicles.
 - ⚙ Encourage and invest in mixed-use and higher density development along transit corridors.
 - ⚙ Find and support ways to make walking and bicycling more appealing and safer.



Changes Underway

- ⚙ Support jobs/housing balance
 - ⚙ Plan and zone for new housing development to be near existing jobs, and for commercial development near existing housing.
 - ⚙ Consideration of regulatory incentives to encourage range of housing types and affordability levels to support local work force.
 - ⚙ Stress is on RANGE of housing types; not all single-family detached – “lifecycle housing”.
- ⚙ Smart-growth planning elements
 - ⚙ Coordination with abutting townships via orderly annexation agreements, prevents “leapfrog” development and requires communication between local officials.
 - ⚙ New status as metropolitan statistical area triggers Metropolitan Planning Organization – additional coordination between local entities for greater good of region, additional support of long-range efforts.
- ⚙ Requires buy-in from private sector to realize full potential.

Future Land Use Scenario, East of Highway 22, South of Highway 14





Open Space Protection

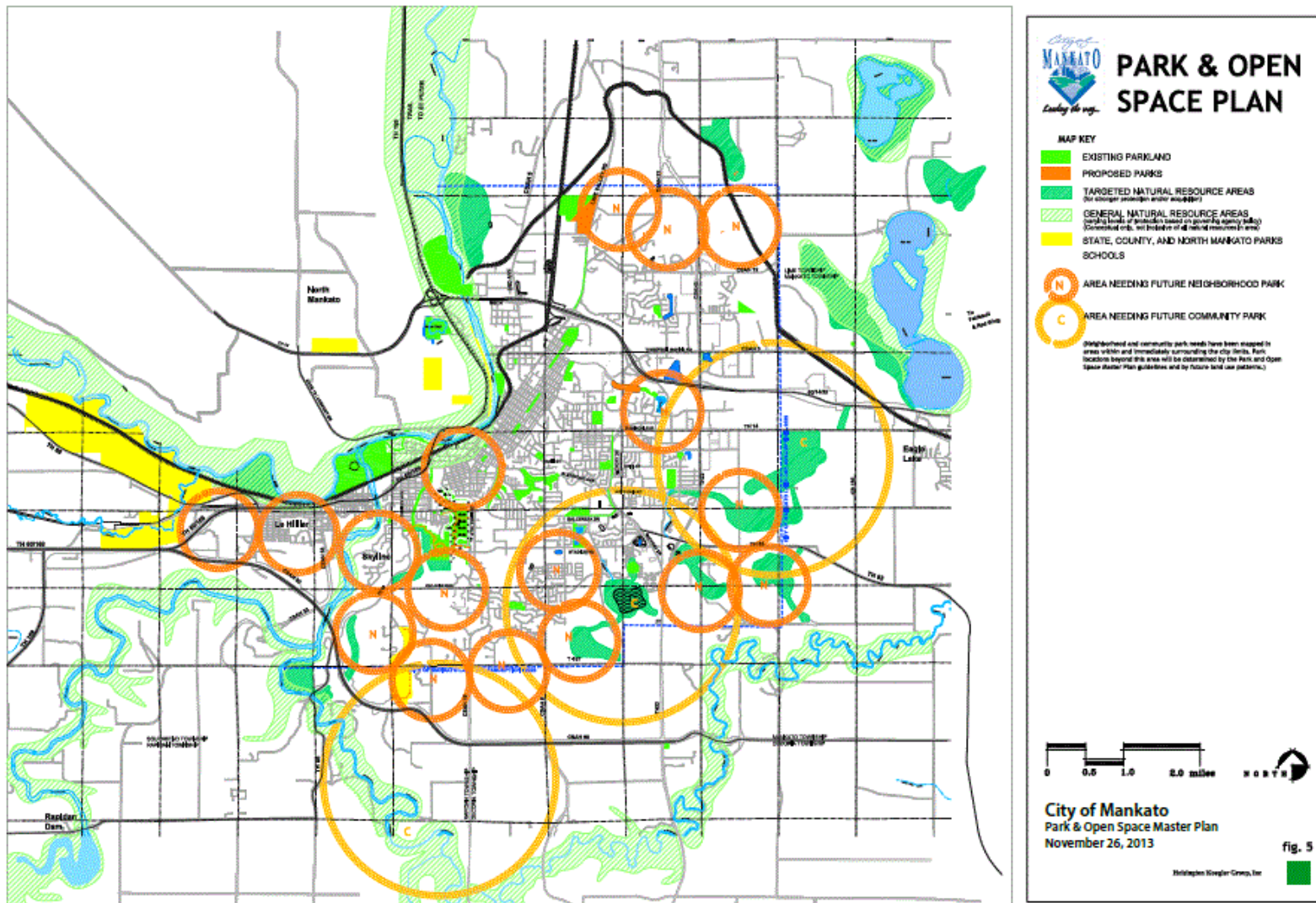
- ⚙ Wetlands are protected and their impacts regulated under Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).
- ⚙ However, regulatory gaps often exist for protection of other natural landscapes.
- ⚙ Woodland preservation
 - ⚙ Wooded areas greater than 1 acre are allowed limited impact, requires replacement of trees in-kind – no net loss.
 - ⚙ Planning staff coordinate with City foresters in review.
 - ⚙ Woodland preservation easements may be required to be dedicated with new subdivisions and recorded accordingly.



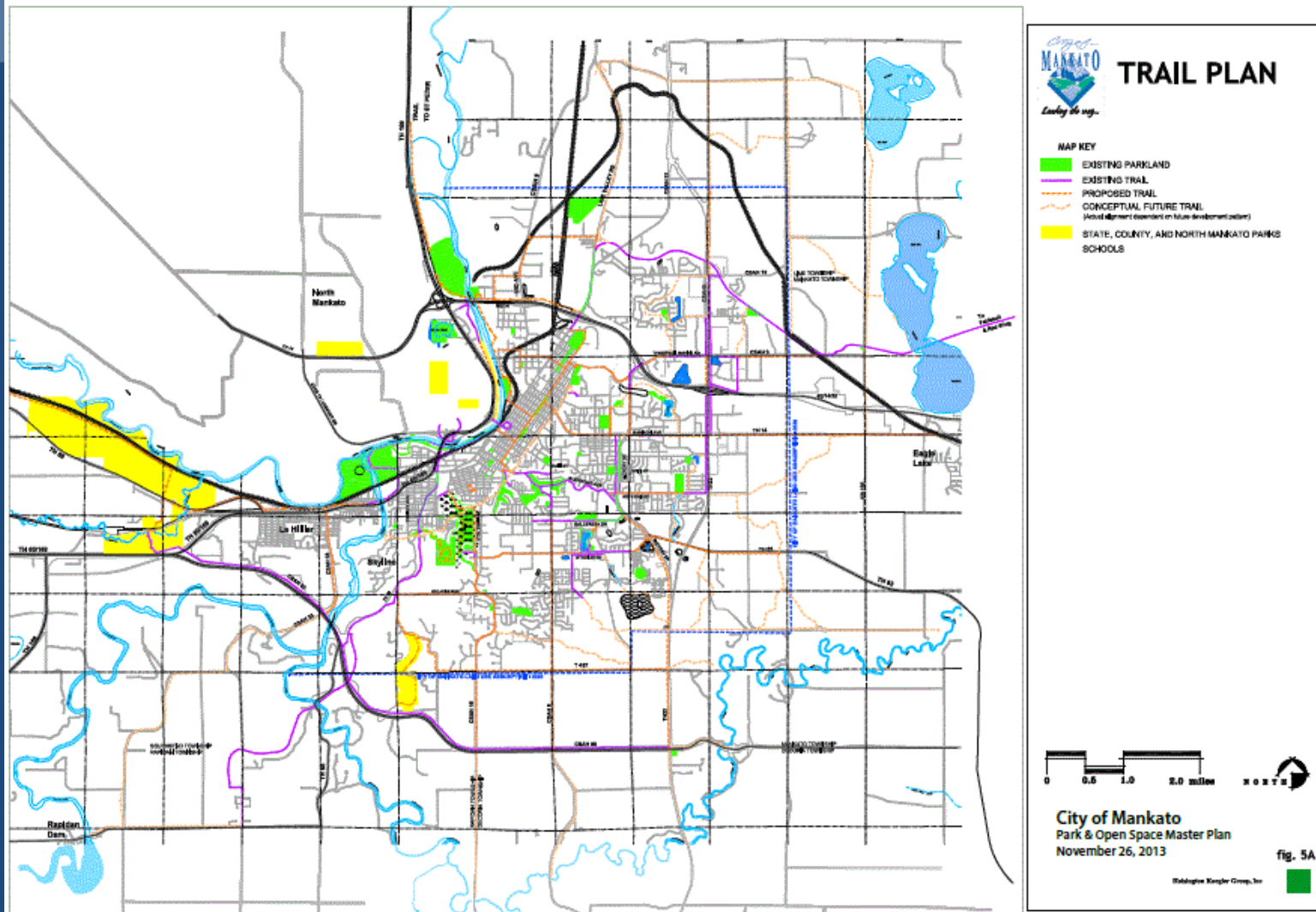
Urban Greenery

- ⚙ City requires provision of landscape plan for new developments. Combination of shade and evergreen trees, with allowance for additional plantings.
- ⚙ Rasmussen Woods natural area changes adopted last year – area to remain in natural state, as originally intended, with only absolute minimum maintenance.
- ⚙ Since 2007, Planning staff reviews all building permits for compliance with these and other applicable requirements, and coordinates corrections when needed.
- ⚙ Planning staff has also been in discussions with several groups regarding options for community gardens on public land – near-term goal.
- ⚙ Parks and open space plan guides provision of local and neighborhood parks of varying use (passive and active) – 2013/2014 update is currently being reviewed and is available for viewing at <http://www.mankato-mn.gov/upload/contents/357/DraftParks.pdf>

2013 Parks & Open Space Plan Update



Proposed Trails Plan





Wastewater Facility Upgrades

- ⚙ Organic byproducts of the wastewater treatment process are made available to area farmers for use as fertilizer. The City maintains certification with the National Biosolids Partnership for effective and efficient handling of biosolids in this land application program.
- ⚙ A new station was built in 2011 that includes a fill station where trucks can fill their tanks with City reclaimed water from the wastewater treatment plant. City employees use this water for street sweeping, sod establishment, and pipe testing, and the City is also planning to sell this water to those who have purchased drinking water in the past for such purposes.
- ⚙ Mankato's surface water well has reduced the city's use of water from deep wells (tapping the Mount Simon aquifer) by about 50 percent. Between 1.5 and 2 million gallons of treated wastewater is being used by the Mankato Energy Center for cooling, which saves the city nearly 700 million gallons of water annually and has significantly reduced phosphorous levels. The City used 1.2 million gallons of reclaimed Title 22 water in 2011 to irrigate the new Riverfront Park.



Orness Plaza

The Orness Plaza Apartment Complex, owned and operated by the Mankato Housing and Redevelopment Authority, received grant funding to assist with its rehabilitation. The 1970's era building has been revitalized with a geothermal heating system and central air conditioning, among other improvements. Reserved parking stalls for designated fuel efficient and hybrid vehicles have also been included as part of the rehabilitation program. It was certified LEED Silver in 2010.

Orness Plaza, 900 Hope Street





Public Safety Center

Completed in fall of 2012 and certified LEED Gold, Mankato's Public Safety Center has been remodeled for the future and is the most significant investment in a city of Mankato public safety facility within the last 40 years. It has been converted to bring police and fire staff together for the first time ever in one facility. The city is better positioned for optimal response times, particularly to West Mankato, the hilltop area and neighborhoods to the west, south and north of the university. Building updates have been made to last well into the future. As a remodeled, re-used building, major upgrades include: • Energy efficient--since the Public Safety Center is more than 40 percent efficient compared to a typically designed building since it uses less energy, saves costs and benefits the environment. Location-the Public Safety Center is well-placed in a downtown location surrounded by services and transportation options, providing bike racks and reserving preferred parking for hybrid vehicles and carpools. Materials and resources-the Public Safety Center is a reused building that uses reclaimed and recycled materials for sustainability. Air quality--air ventilation and filtration and a heating and cooling system provide efficient and cost-effective maintenance of building temperatures. A photovoltaic system was installed on the building in late 2013.

Public Safety Center, 710 S. Front Street





Conclusion

- ⚙ The City of Mankato has many sustainability initiatives underway, with many more being actively evaluated.
- ⚙ Sustainability practices also make fiscal sense for local government, with savings realized by the taxpaying residents.
- ⚙ Please feel free to contact me with any questions.
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