

CHAPTER 6: PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE

The City of Savage is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and existing recreational facilities that create a unique and pleasing environment for its residents. The Minnesota River, Eagle Creek, and the Credit River provide opportunities for linear parks, greenways and the formation of important open space linkages throughout the community. In addition, significant areas of wetlands, forests and steep slopes merit protection from development and create additional opportunities for open space preservation. These environmental resources combined with a strong existing park plan provide a foundation and framework from which the City of Savage can ensure a high-quality open space, park and trail system in the future.

This chapter of the comprehensive plan assesses existing and planned park and trail facilities in light of existing and projected population and proposes a park plan to meet the expected future needs of the residents of Savage. The plan also delineates proposed trail corridors to link all existing and future parks and regional facilities, specifically the Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Kraemer Park Preserve in Burnsville.

PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

This chapter of the comprehensive plan was based in large part on previous work completed by the city during the completion of its Parks, Trails & Open Space System Plan (Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc., December 2006) and subsequently updated with additional planning efforts. These include, but are not limited to:

- Envision Savage—The 2005 Vision, Goals and Action Plan for the City
- 2006 Parks and Recreation Task Force report—multi-agency planning for athletic facility needs
- The Savage Natural Resources Inventory³
- The Park chapter of the Savage Comprehensive Plan (2009)
- 2016 Parks and Recreation Study
- 2017 Community Park Master Plan
- 2018 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

The Savage Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Commission were involved in all steps of the planning process and guided the preparation of the System Plan.

MISSION AND GOALS

The mission of Savage Parks and Recreation is: "Enhancing quality of life and building community through people, parks and programs."

The Savage Parks and Recreation Department is committed to:

- Strengthening community image and sense of place
- Supporting economic development
- Strengthening safety and security
- Promoting health, wellness and active living
- Fostering human development
- Increasing cultural unity
- Protecting environmental resources
- Providing recreational experiences
- Delivering efficient services and facilities

The commitment to these values will be used as a framework to communicate the benefits of parks and recreation to the community.

GOALS OF THE SYSTEM PLAN

The following are key goals for the Savage Park and Recreation system. These goals will help guide acquisition, management, investment and operation. Goals A, B, and C are also guiding principles from Envision Savage, the 2005 long-term strategic plan and vision for the City of Savage.

- Goal A: Savage will preserve and enhance our natural amenities and maximize recreational opportunities for our community.
- Goal B: Savage will foster a pride of place that capitalizes on the unique qualities and history of our community.
- Goal C: Savage will maintain and promote a high level of public safety to meet the demands of a changing community.
- Goal D: Savage will create a trail and sidewalk system that provides safe and convenient access between neighborhoods, community destinations and surrounding communities.
- Goal E: Savage will offer and maintain quality recreation facilities, programs and services to meet the diverse needs of the community.
- Goal F: Savage will continue to use and expand partnerships to provide efficient delivery of services and facilities.

EXISTING PARK LAND

Twenty-three (23) park facilities are located within the City of Savage. Among these are three Community Parks (CPs), one Mini Park (MP), three Natural Resource Areas (NRs), 15 Neighborhood Parks (NPs), one School Park (SP), and one Special Use Parks (SU). In addition, the city is well served by a developed system of trails and sidewalks. The park system includes portions of two regional parks and three lake access points (FIGURE 6-1). TABLE 6-1 lists the 23 parks and pertinent details, including park classification, area, and recreation facilities. Total land area of the 2018 park system is 430 acres.

The 2018 population estimate indicates Savage has a population that just surpassed 30,000 individuals. The resulting ratio of parkland to population is 14.3 acres per thousand. This compares favorably with the national standards of 10 acres per thousand and on par with the current City standard of 15 acres per thousand individuals.

It is assumed for regional and municipal planning purposes that, by 2040, Savage will have a population of just over 42,000 individuals. The vast majority of this population growth will be accommodated in the area south of CSAH 42. In order for the City to attain the desired standard of 15 acres per one thousand individuals, an additional 200 acres of parkland must be dedicated over the next 21 years.

The City also has established criteria for community and neighborhood parks to ensure convenience and accessibility to City residents. The current standard expects that neighborhood and community parks to be distributed at a maximum of one-half mile radius. Future park locations should attempt to conform to this standard.

In 2018, the Savage City Council adopted the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The intention of this plan is to be the guiding document regarding the City of Savage's trail network. This plan identifies the existing conditions, a list of issues and opportunities, best practices, recommendations and an implementation plan.

FIGURE 6-1: EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS MAP

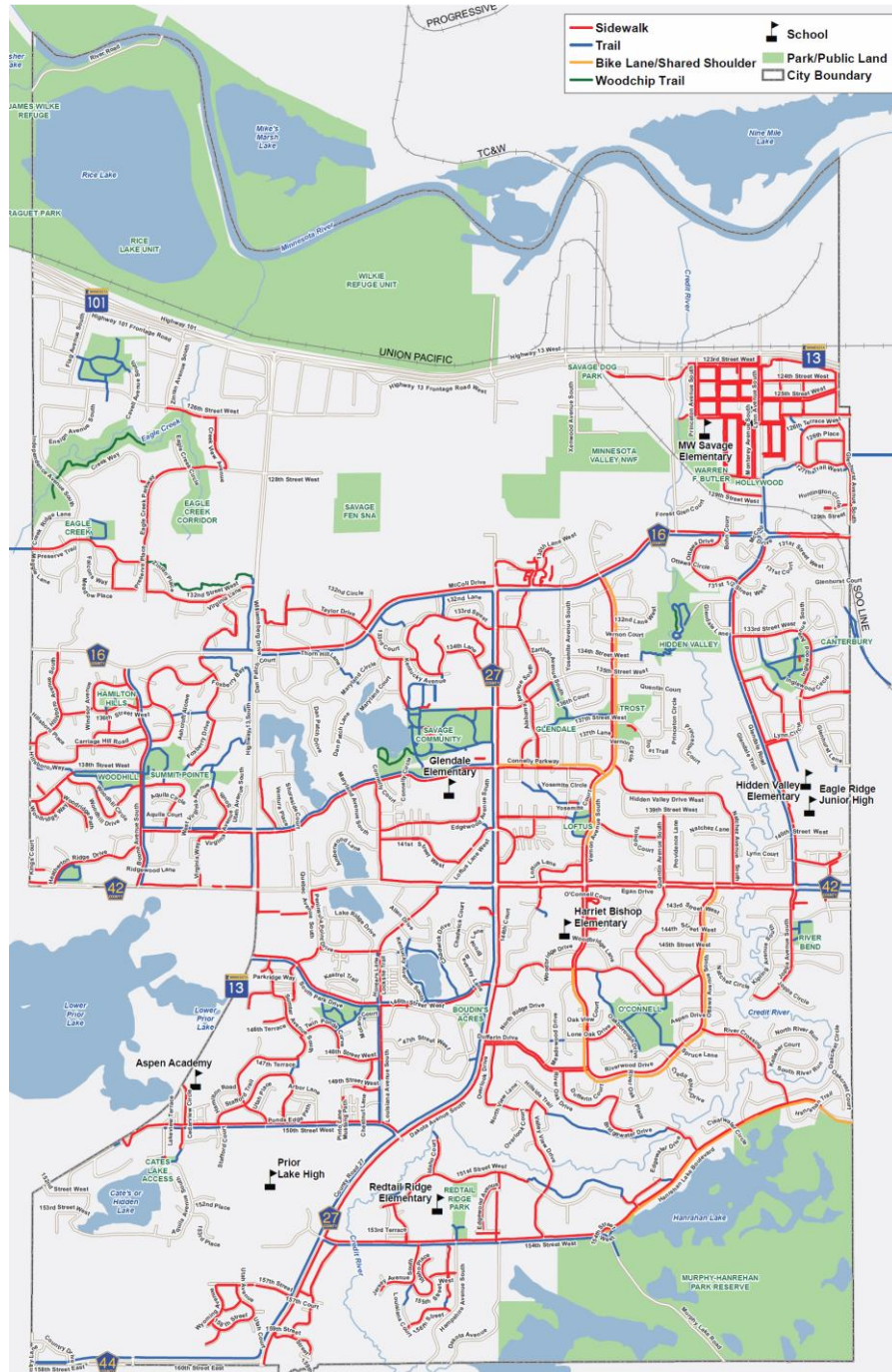


TABLE 6-1 PARK CLASSIFICATION AND INVENTORY

SAVAGE PARKS		Park Classification	Acres	Trail Areas	Baseball/Softball	Nature Areas	Horseshoe Pits	Tennis Courts	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Volleyball Courts	Playground	Pleasure Skating Rink	Hockey Rink	Warming House	Archery Range	Park Shelter/Picnicking	Lake Access
1.	Canterbury Park	NP	19.2	x	2			2	x		x	x	x	x			x	x
2.	Cates Park	SU/NR	20.6	x		x				x		x					x	x
3.	Chadwick Park	NR	21.7	x								x					x	
4.	Boudin's Acres Park	NP	6.0	x	1													
5.	Eagle Creek Corridor	NR	85.0	x		x												
6.	Eagle Creek Park	NP	6.3	x						x		x					x	
7.	Glendale Park	NP	8.6	x	1		x				x	x					x	
8.	Hamilton Hills Park	NP	5.8	x	1				x	x		x					x	
9.	Heatherton Ridge Park	NP	3.9	x					x	x	x	x					x	
10.	Hidden Valley Park	CP	43.0	x	1						x	x				x	x	x
11.	Hollywood Park	NP	2.8							x	x	x						
12.	Loftus Park	NP	5.0		1				x	x	x	x						
13.	O'Connell Park	NP	29.0	x	2			2	x	x		x	x	x	x		2	
14.	River Bend Park	NP	5.4		1				x	x		x	x		x		x	
15.	River Bend Tot Lot	MP	0.5															
16.	Savage Community Park	CP	55.8	x	6	x		4	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	
17.	Schroeder's Acres Park	NP	24.7	x	3				x			x	x	x	x		x	
18.	Summit Pointe Park	NP	21.7	x	2				x	x		x					x	
19.	Woodhill Park	NP	8.3	x					x			x		x			x	
20.	Trost Park	NP	11.1		1							x	x	x	x		x	
21.	McCann Park	NP	12.6	x	2				x	x		x					x	
22.	Warren Butler Park	CP	19.6		5		x	4	x				x		x		x	
23.	Redtail Ridge Park	SP	10.7	x		x			x									
TOTAL ACREAGE			427.3															

- CP Community Park
- MP Mini-Park/Tot Lot
- NR Natural Resources Area
- NP Neighborhood Park
- SP School Park
- SU Special Use Areas

EXISTING PARK CLASSIFICATION

The City of Savage designates seven types of park and recreational facilities. These classifications include Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, Linear Parks, Mini-Parks, Natural Resource Parks, and Special Use Areas. TABLE 6-2 summarizes each of these classifications and standards. These classifications are in place for planning purposes and are not intended to dictate actual park use.

TABLE 6-2 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Type	Use	Service Area	Size	Acres per 1,000	Location/Siting
1. Neighborhood Park	Basic unit of the park system developed for both active and passive activities. Design criteria should anticipate the changing demographic profiles of the neighborhood to be served, as to provide appropriate facilities. Focus on informal and unstructured activities.	½ mile radius	4 - 10 acres	2.5 to 3.5	Easily accessible to the neighborhood population with safe walking and biking access utilizing trail networks. Parking facilities limited to a minimum. Site should have well-drained soils and not include topography of excessively steep slopes.
2. Community Park	Area designed for community scale recreation either active (athletic fields, etc.), passive (picnic facilities, nature study, etc.) or a combination of both.	Community wide	20-65 acres	2.5 to 3.5	Site should be suited for community use; be easily accessible to the population it is intended to serve. Located near high traffic areas such as schools and major thoroughfares.
3. Mini-Park	Specialized park that serves a concentrated population (i.e. tots or seniors) or geographic area. Used in areas where geographic barriers prevent access to a neighborhood park.	Less than ¼ mile radius	0.5 to 2 acres	0.25 to 0.5	Typically, near higher density housing that does not have access to a neighborhood park or as a supplement to a neighborhood park.

4. School Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements of other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, athletic complex and special use.	Driven by the location of the school property.	Varies	Varies	Land should typically be suited for active recreation use but may also include natural areas.
5. Linear Park / Greenway	Trails incorporating ROW widening and land acquisition along major rivers and natural areas	Community wide	Varies	Varies	Along major river corridors, sensitive areas and existing roadways. Incorporate multi-use and multi-modal trails
6. Natural Resource Parks	Area possessing natural qualities preserved for environmental, open space or aesthetic purposes. Facilities should be compatible with the preservation of the resource.	Community wide	Depends on resource	Varies	Significant natural areas which merit preservation and would be adversely affected by development, i.e., Savage Fen Complex and Boiling Springs.
7. Special Use Areas	Specialized use area such as public golf courses, water access, arenas, gardens, plazas, and other specialized recreation uses.	Community wide	Varies	Varies	Site Specific

FUTURE PARK NEEDS DEFINED BY PARK SEARCH AREAS

FIGURE 6-2 describes six Planning Search Areas (PSAs) within which locations for new park and trail facilities were identified. The PSAs show a half-mile radius service area which reflects the Savage standard that residents should be within convenient walking distance of a park facility. New parks should be located near the center of the PSA to provide maximum coverage, but the actual location for new facilities will need to be based on factors such as suitable terrain, access, natural resources, and the road and trail system.

FIGURE 6-2: PARK AREA SEARCH MAP

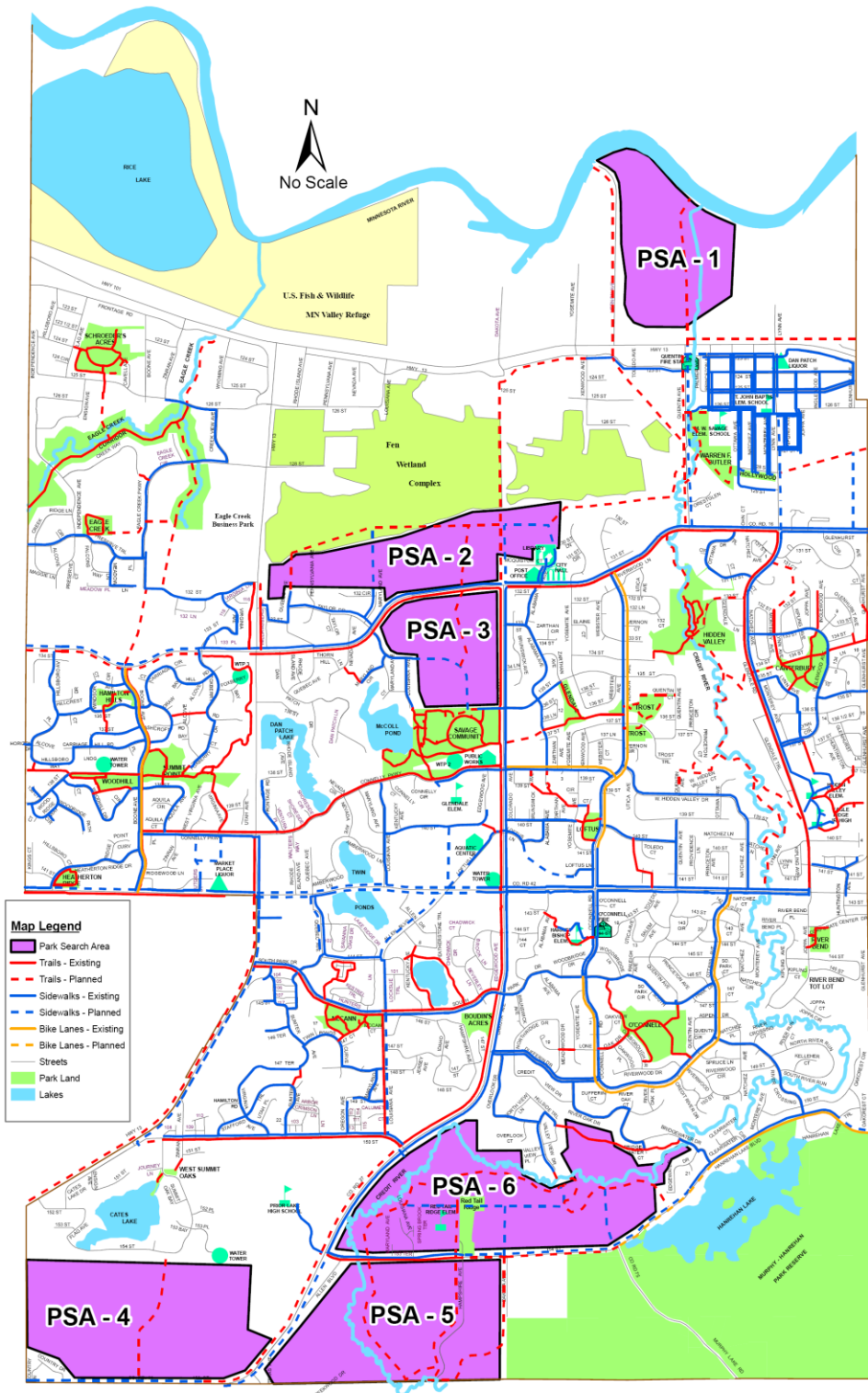


TABLE 6-3 details the City’s future parks, by PSA, by park type, size, and by the facilities and services to be provided.

If the City were to add the parklands that are shown in TABLE 6-3, it will obtain approximately 53 to 146 acres of new parkland plus open space, greenways, and trail corridors. The following sections provide more detailed descriptions of the six PSAs and the planned park and trail facility enhancements.

TABLE 6-3: SUMMARY OF FUTURE PARK PLANNING

Park Search Area	Park Type	Approx. Size	Recommended Park Facilities
PSA 1	SU	10-50 AC	Minnesota River Park: River overlook, picnic facilities, play equipment, parking, trails along the Minnesota River. Access could be from Quentin Street, and from a trail along the Credit River.
PSA 2	NP	4-10 AC	New Neighborhood Park: Parking, picnic, ½ ct. basketball, playground backed up to the wooded bluff surrounding the Fen Wetland Complex
PSA 3	CP	-----	2017 Community Park Master Plan is the guiding plan for development of the remaining open space at Community Park. No additional land acquisition is planned.
PSA 4	NP/SP	4-10 AC + school land	New Neighborhood Park: Parking, picnic, ½ ct. basketball, playground and other neighborhood facilities located toward the western edge of this area. On the eastern side, this area is planned to also include a new elementary school and expanded athletic fields adjacent to the current high school athletic fields.
PSA 5	NP	2-5 AC	If opportunity arises, a neighborhood park element: picnic, open green space, ½ court basketball, playground, trail head and natural resource preservation.
PSA 6	NP	2-4 AC	In addition to the existing elementary school and city park in this area, if the opportunity arises to have additional land donated to the City, a small neighborhood park should be considered to include picnic shelter, and a playground container/equipment (focusing on 2-5-year-old size).

DETAILED FUTURE PARK NEEDS

Park Search Area #1 — Minnesota River Access and Park

The intent of this search area is to provide the City of Savage access to the Minnesota River. Savage is a river town without public access to the river. A riverfront park with river access is needed. The city should work with private landowners regarding trail access and passive park space. The likely location is land along the Minnesota River between Vernon Avenue and Quentin Avenue. The land is floodplain of the Minnesota River that is inaccessible to the public due to private land ownership and railroad crossings.

Access to the area would most likely be from Quentin Avenue at State Highway 13. The Quentin Avenue and Highway 13 intersection has signalization and a new pedestrian crossing as of 2009. Quentin Avenue currently does not extend north of Highway 13. Public right-of-way or an easement is needed for future street/driveway and trail access. Vernon Avenue is presently a gravel road that extends to the Minnesota River. This road would need to be upgraded if used for park purposes.

In addition, there would be two sets of railroad tracks to be crossed. The feasibility of a grade separated pedestrian crossing of Highway 13 should be evaluated prior to any major intersection changes along Highway 13. The land is in the flood plain, so structures and facilities would need to be constructed to withstand flood events. Fort Snelling State Park (on the Minnesota River) provides a good model for floodplain suitable park use. Facilities envisioned include:

- River overlooks
- Looped trails
- Picnic shelter
- Play equipment
- Parking lot
- Ballfield backstop
- Grade separated pedestrian crossing of Highway 13

Park Search Area #2 — North of McColl Drive/West of CR 27

The intent of this search area is to provide a neighborhood park in a developing part of the city where there are no existing park facilities and access to other parks is difficult due to barriers; the Fen Wetland Complex to the north, McColl Drive to the south and State Highway 13 to the west. Within the search area are wooded bluffs adjacent to the Fen, rural residential and agricultural lands that were guided as future residential. The best location for the park is adjacent to the wooded bluff, which would be complementary to, active recreational uses on the uplands. Potential uses include:

- Trails and trail access to the Fen
- Parking
- Picnic shelter
- Neighborhood playground
- Basketball court
- Open field area

Park Search Area #3 — Savage Community Park

In 2017 the City completed a Master Plan for Savage Community Park. This plan has two parts, with options for future development of the existing lands. No additional land acquisition is planned. (See figures XX-YY for the Community Park Master Plan)

Park Search Area #4 — Prior Lake Aggregate Area

The intent of this search area is to provide a neighborhood park function in a developing portion of the city. The area is an active gravel mine and a highly disturbed landscape. The area is roughly bound by Cates Lake to the north, Prior Lake High School to the northeast, and County Road 44 to the south and the City of Savage boundary to the West. Neighborhood parks are typically 4-10 acres of relatively level usable land area. The eastern portion of this area will include a new elementary school with recreational amenities and expanded athletic fields near the existing high school soccer/softball fields. These new amenities will provide for expanded opportunities in this search area. The new park should be well connected to the city's trail network and located towards the western side of proposed development. The Reuse Plan for the gravel mine will influence the park locations and its potential uses. A suitable park site should be determined in conjunction with approval of any reuse of the area. Other potential uses include:

- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Parking lot
- Basketball court
- Looped and connecting trails
- Open field area
- Connection to the high school property
- Stormwater ponds as amenity features

Park Search Area #5 — Credit River/South of 154th Street

Land in this search area is quickly becoming developed and land for a neighborhood park is becoming more difficult to acquire. The intent of this search area is to explore the possibility of a neighborhood park function in this portion of the city if the opportunity should arise. This area is roughly located between County Road 27 on the

west, the Credit River to the north and west, and the city boundary to the south. Within this area are high value natural resources identified by the city's Natural Resources Inventory and should be considered when locating and developing a neighborhood park. Potential uses for the park include:

- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Basketball court
- Looped and connecting trails
- Open field area
- Trail head

Park Search Area #6 — 154th Street School/Park

Within Search Area #6 Redtail Ridge Park, a 10.7 acres park and contains a large wetland complex and wooded area in the northern two-thirds of the site have been constructed. The wetland and wooded area is intended to remain for passive recreational uses. The southern portion includes an area the size of a half-size soccer field, currently used for small side lacrosse, and a parking area. Joint use of the adjoining athletic fields and school playground on the elementary school site has expanded recreational opportunities. If additional land in this search area becomes available through dedication or donations, the City will consider adding more park land with the intended use of for picnicking, playground equipment and open/flexible green space.

REGIONAL PARKS AND PROPOSED TRAIL CORRIDOR PLAN

Regional parks provided by Scott County and Three Rivers Park District serve to compliment rather than duplicate facilities and programs offered by the City of Savage and other recreational providers. Such parks offer natural resources based recreational opportunities for Savage residents that are not typically found at a similar scale within city parks. Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, located partially within the city, consists of 2,482 acres and provides diverse outdoor recreation opportunities within a regionally significant mesic oak forest/prairie landscape. Cleary Lake Regional Park, located just south of the city limits within Credit River Township, accommodates broader and more intensive recreational use within its 1,046 acres including trails, picnic areas, swimming beach, lighted cross-country ski trails and a golf course.

Trail development at the regional level includes efforts to link together existing state, county and city trails, with Scott County serving to coordinate such efforts at a planning level. Plans for several regional trails throughout the region have been identified and included in the 2018 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, as illustrated on [FIGURE 6-3](#) and within the Scott County Regional Trail System Plan as shown at the following:

<https://www.scottcountymn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9995/Regional-System-Map--Update-20171106>.

Shown on **FIGURE 6-4** is the Minnesota River Extension Regional Trail Search Corridor. This corridor extends from the Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail west from Burnsville through Savage and Shakopee as it connects Prior Lake Outlet Regional Trail Search Corridor, The Landing, and Minnesota Valley State Trail. Scott County will lead a planning process in the future to determine the alignment of the regional trail.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following actions are designed to implement the Savage Park, Trail and Recreation Plan recommendations. These recommended actions are based on past planning efforts (Envision Savage, PAR Task Force, 2017 Community Park Master Plan and 2018 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan) and input and direction received during the park system planning process. Achievement of these recommendations is dependent upon many factors including; the commitment of city leaders to these actions, available resources, partnership and funding opportunities, the timing of land development, etc. Therefore, this section is intended to act as a general guide to annual budgeting and priorities, project decision-making and long-term capital and strategic planning.

Goals, actions and priority actions are listed for each topic area along with suggested timing. The timing recommendations are listed by 1-5-year, 6-15 year and on-going actions. It is recommended that the City review and update these actions on an annual basis to assure that the plan reflects changing conditions and needs.

Key Goals and Actions

Trail System

Goal: Complete a comprehensive trail network in Savage, including trail and walkway underpasses where feasible.

Action (on-going): Implementation of the 2018 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

Action (on-going): Actively pursue trail funding opportunities including, State, Federal and private sector grants.

Action (on-going): Assure that planned trails, walks and grade-separations associated with road and intersection projects occur as an integral part of the improvement project.

FIGURE 6-3: PLANNED SIDEWALK AND TRAIL NETWORK

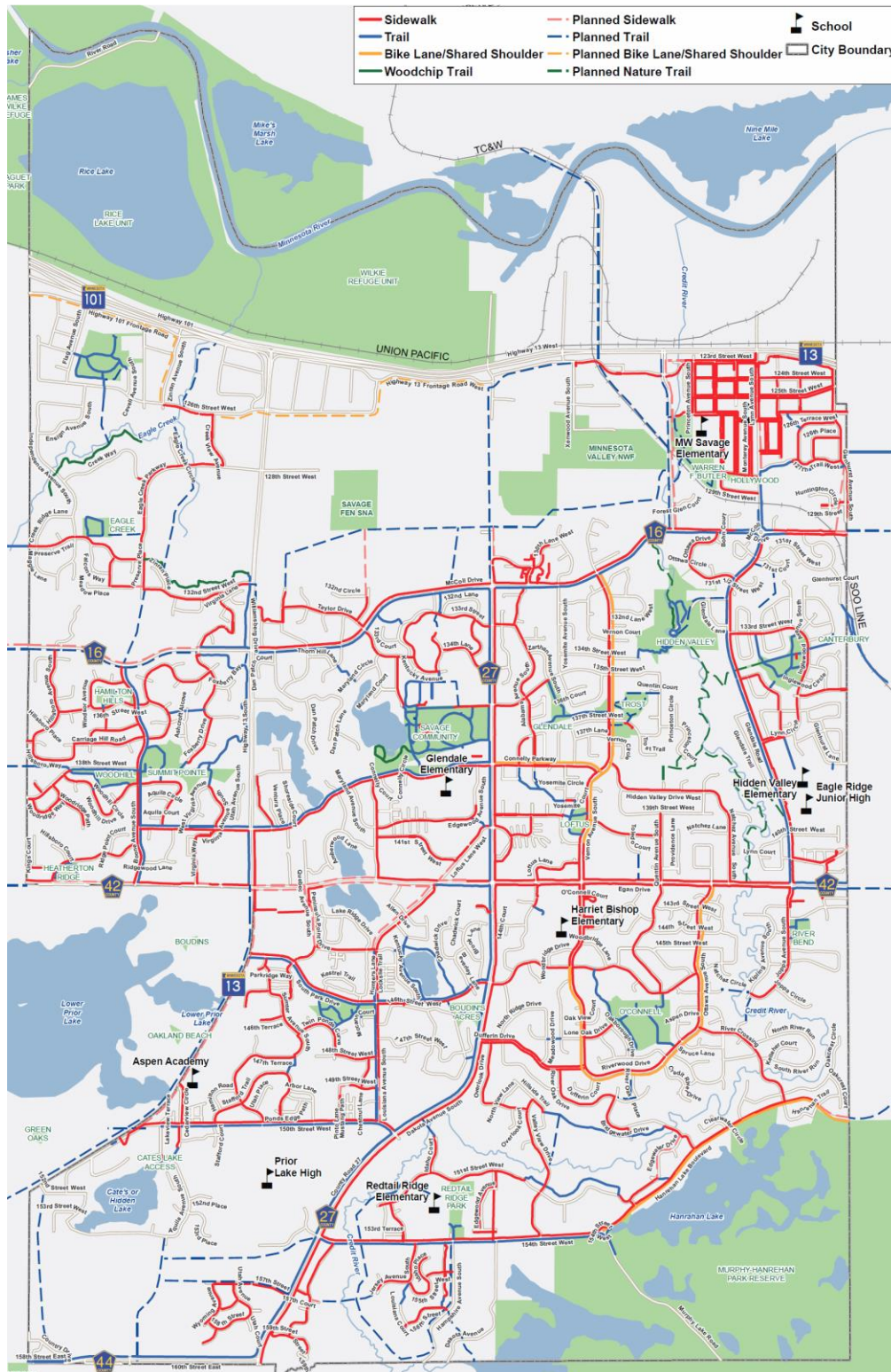
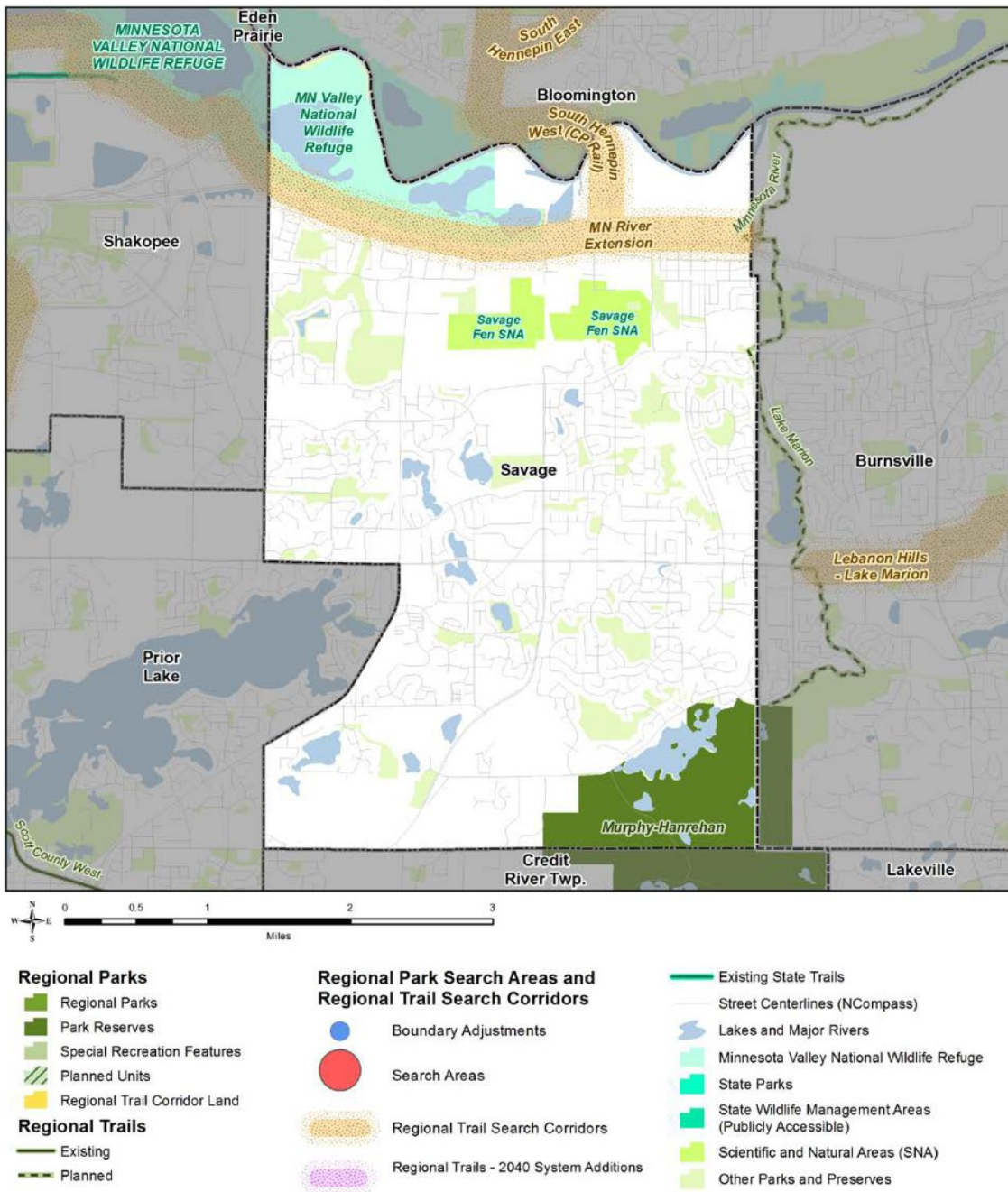


FIGURE 6-4: REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM FACILITIES IN AND ADJACENT TO SAVAGE

**Regional Parks System
City of Savage, Scott County**



Source: Metropolitan Council, 2015 System Statement: City of Savage

Existing Parks

Goal: Continue to re-invest in existing parks to keep them safe, high quality and meeting resident's needs.

Action (on-going): Replace and upgrade facilities on a regular basis through a facility management program and retain a high standard for park maintenance.

Priority Action (1-5 years): The strategy is to ensure a proportional share of improvements to community and neighborhood parks.

Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Goal: Maximize use of existing athletic facilities through schedule improvements and field enhancements.

Goal: Provide recreation facilities to meet existing community needs.

Priority Action (1-5 years): Initiate partnerships for youth recreation facilities. Partnership options include:

- Youth Athletic Groups and Schools- work collaboratively with PLAY, BAC, Prior Lake Soccer Club and ISD 191 and 719 to maximize use of current athletic fields. This includes determining what increased maintenance needs there are to bring existing fields into higher quality condition.

New Parks

Goal: Assure that there are adequate parks, trails and recreation facilities to meet the needs created by new development.

Action (on-going and related to land subdivision activity): Based on the timing of new development and the availability of land, implement the park search area plans as developed.

Indoor Recreation Facilities

Goal: Evaluate and select best options for indoor recreation and community facilities.

Action (1-5 years): Initiate the development of one to three Neighborhood Centers in key locations in City parks to serve as gather spaces for a variety of uses.

Action (5-10 years): Based on development in neighboring communities, evaluate the ability for the City of Savage to continue to be in the business of providing dome space during the winter months. Determine if an alternate indoor facility is warranted.

Natural Resources

Goal: Expand access to key natural resource areas.

Action (on-going): Provide appropriate public access to Minnesota River, Savage Fen, Boiling Springs Credit River and McColl Pond.

Priority action (ongoing): Look for opportunities to have discussions with riverfront landowners regarding a future Minnesota River park and public access.

Action (6-15 years): Obtain land for a riverfront park and road and trail access to the river.

Action (1-5 years): Develop site specific natural resources management/maintenance plans for key resource areas.

Community Identity

Goal: Enhance City identity and build sense of community.

Action (1-5 years): Coordinate public art activities and installations with the Savage Art Council and initiate priority public art projects.

Action (on-going): Explore funding, partnerships and design options for community arts and history.

Action (on-going): Develop and hold events that bring the community together to celebrate the City's unique qualities and history.

Action (1-5 years): Install park and trail system maps, entrance monuments and historic markers.

Action (1-5 years): Initiate a policy discussion about dedicated funding for public art.

Recreation and Operations

Goal: Continue to ensure safe parks and public spaces.

Goal: Enhance awareness of parks, trails and recreation programs.

Action (on-going): Develop and implement an action plan to promote safe parks.

Action (on-going): Continue to enhance recreation offerings and focus on promoting active living.

Action (on-going): Utilize the City recreation strategies to consistently portray the benefits of parks and recreation.

Action (on-going): Develop a cost recovery model to be adopted in order to provide direction to staff for establishing the appropriate fees for programming.

Funding

Goal: Obtain a balance of funding sources to implement plan actions.

Action (1-5 years): Evaluate using a bond referendum to fund a mix of natural resource, park expansion and trail improvement projects.

Action (1-5 years): Update park dedication regulations and fees. Fees to match cost of park and trail improvements need to serve new growth.

Action (1-5 years): Develop an annual competitive matching funds program to encourage partner groups to match City funds for park and trail improvements.

Action (on-going): Seek trail grants such as Federal T-21, MNDNR and Safe Routes to Schools.

Action (on-going): Budget for park revitalization, trail development and new park and open space land using general funds, park dedication and grants.

Park Dedication

Savage and other cities in Minnesota use their authority granted under Minnesota State Statutes to obtain park land or cash dedications from land developers to provide for the park, trail and recreation facilities needed to serve that development.

MN. Statute 462.358 allows cities to require dedication of a reasonable portion of the buildable land of any proposed subdivision to be dedicated to the public or preserved for public use for park purposes. The City may choose to accept a cash fee as set by ordinance from the applicant in lieu of land dedication. Due consideration must be given to the open space, recreational, or common areas and facilities to be provided as part of the subdivision that are open to the public. Cash payments can be used only for acquisition and development. These monies cannot be used for ongoing operation or maintenance. Use of this money for land acquisition and development must be based on the approved park, trail and open space system plan.