

Parks, Trails and Recreation

I. INTRODUCTION

Parks, trails and recreational facilities are valuable community resources that contribute positively to the quality of life in a community. Parks and trails have a positive impact on a city's environmental and economic value as well as its residents' physical and social health. Parks with trees and shrubs and open space help reduce the carbon footprint in communities. Studies have shown the market values of homes adjacent to parks are higher than those greater distances from parks. Parks and trails provide greater opportunities for residents to participate in physical activities increasing the overall health of a community and finally, parks provide gather spaces for social interaction and locations for community events.

This Chapter will provide an overview of:

1. Demographics Served
2. Park Classifications
3. An Inventory Existing Park Facilities
4. Existing and Future Park Facility Needs
5. Recreational Facility Standards
6. Existing Trails and Pedestrian Ways
7. Proposed Future Trails and Pedestrian Ways
8. Recreation and Fitness
9. Community Input;
10. Administration, Maintenance and Operations
11. Recommended Goals and Policies for Future Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities and Programs.

The following maps are included:

- 9-1 City Parks and School Recreational Facilities
- 9-2 Park Service Areas
- 9-3 Park Search Areas
- 9-4 Existing Sidewalks and Trails
- 9-5 Trail and Sidewalk Plan
- 9-6 Park Search Areas and Trail/Sidewalk Plan

II. INTENT

It is a goal of this Comprehensive Plan to provide parks, trails and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and incomes, now and in the future. Providing quality recreational opportunities begins with proper planning. To assure adequacy and maximum usability, recreational areas and facilities shall be developed with regard for the needs of the people and the area they serve. Proper planning must take into consideration a number of factors, including but not limited to, location of existing recreational areas (i.e. proximity to the area served, separation from incompatible land uses), adequacy of existing facilities, site planning for the location of future facilities, access to current and future facilities, provisions for recreation programs, and financing, maintenance and management of existing and proposed parks, trails and recreational facilities.

III. DEMOGRAPHICS SERVED

In order to plan for existing and future parks, trails and recreational programming, it is important to understand the market we served in the past, the market we now serve and the market we anticipate serving in the future.

Population Changes

The City of Montgomery grew 5.8% between 2000 and 2010, from 2,794 residents to 2,956. The City is planning for a population of up to 5,000 by the year 2035. As a result, the Parks, Trails and Recreational Chapter includes an analysis of current facilities and programs as well as facilities which may be needed to serve an additional 544 residents by 2020, and an additional 2,044 residents by 2035.

Age of residents/market

The median age of Montgomery residents was 33.6 years in the year 2000. The median age in 2010 was 35.1 years. The Minnesota State Demographer's Office projects the largest increases in population over the next 20 years will be in the 60+ year segment of the population, therefore increasing the median age over time. This Chapter recognizes the importance of planning park facilities and recreational programs for all age groups.

Income of our residents/market

The median family income in Montgomery in 2000 was \$48,011. This increased to \$64,828 in 2010. According to the U.S. Census's 2007-2011 American Community Survey, an estimated 18.5% of individuals and 15.3% of all families in the City of Montgomery were below the poverty level. This compared to 11.6% of individuals and 7.5% of families in Minnesota. This Chapter recognizes the need to provide recreational opportunities for individuals/families of all income levels.

Household/family make-up

In 2010, 64.1% of all households were "family households", with 35.9% of households "non-family households".

IV. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City of Montgomery features a number of existing park and recreational facilities. Recreational facilities within the City can typically be described according to their type, population served and location. The following terms and descriptions shall be used to classify existing and future recreational facilities:

Neighborhood Parks provide open space for passive recreation for all ages within a neighborhood, particularly for the elderly and families with young children. An ideal neighborhood park site is scenic or wooded and located a maximum of one-quarter mile, which is normal walking distance, from primary users. The minimum suggested size for this type of park is one acre. Site development should include sidewalk, benches, landscaping, and play features for preschoolers. Neighborhood parks should connect with trails, which connect to other parks and neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Playgrounds are usually provided in conjunction with education and institutional facilities and primarily serve the recreation needs of children ages two (2) to five (5) plus years. Individual neighborhood playground size is dependent on the types of activities it supports and the facilities it provides. Play features, ball fields, basketball and tennis courts, and open play fields are common components. The service area is highly variable, but it usually has a radius of one-quarter mile.

Community Parks typically serve several neighborhoods and are under municipal administration. Although size may vary, community parks are usually more spacious than neighborhood parks or playgrounds. In addition to the kinds of facilities provided at neighborhood parks, these parks may provide swimming pools, picnic areas, more

elaborate play fields, restroom facilities and tennis courts. Community parks serve people of all ages and have an effective service area radius of one-half mile.

City-wide Parks may serve some or all types of a community's recreation needs. They can provide a wide range of activities for all age groups or may be very specific. In addition to some of the facilities provided by other types of parks, city-wide parks may contain an area for nature study, hiking and riding trails, pond fishing, spectator sports and numerous other activities. However, in many small communities, a city-wide park is sometimes designated as such not because of its size and/or variety of recreational facilities, but because it is the only park available to the community.

Specialized Recreation Areas may include but are not limited to golf courses, historic sites, conservancy area, linear trail, and floodplains. Most specialized recreation areas have limited active recreation value, are not developed as multi-purpose recreation areas, or are not always available for use by the public. Specialized areas are an important adjunct to a community and its park and open space program.

Regional Parks may include but are not limited to conservancy areas, trails, floodplains, hiking and riding trails, recreational fields, spectator sports, and fishing. Regional parks serve people of all ages and serve a regional population.

V. EXISTING PARK AND RECREATION INVENTORY

A. MUNICIPAL PARKS

There are four (4) municipal owned parks located within the City of Montgomery. In addition, there are a number of recreational areas owned by the school district in the community. Following is a summary of existing park and recreational facilities existing in the City of Montgomery. **Map 9-1** illustrates the locations of these facilities:

A. **Memorial Park – 500 5th Street S.E.**

Size: This 15.92 acre park is the largest park in Montgomery.

Classification: City Wide Park (CWP)

Community Use: Memorial Park serves as the location for the community's annual Kolachy Days. The baseball field within the park is home to the Montgomery Mallard's baseball team, both drawing large crowds to the park. As of 2014, twenty-two teams participated in the horseshoe league which competes in Memorial Park. Volleyball leagues also play in the park during the summer months, with 72 participants as of 2014.

Recreational Amenities: Lighted baseball field with grandstands which hold 2,000 fans, batting cages, concession stand, playground equipment, eight lighted horseshoe pits, two lighted volleyball courts and a half-sized basketball court. A band shell, two picnic shelters, restroom facilities and off-street parking areas are also located in the park. A historic cabin is also located within this centrally located city wide park. A drinking fountain is also provided for visitors to the park.

Community Involvement: Memorial Park has benefitted from the contributions of many local organizations. The Horseshoe pits and volleyball courts were built by the Montgomery Lions Club. The Community Club donated \$2,500 in 2013 for garbage cans and signage. The Baseball Association funded the concession stand, score boards and speaker system at the ball park along with batting cages with

artificial turf and helps maintains the field. Businesses sponsor improvements with advertising signs on the fencing of the ball field.

Future Improvements: Future improvements to the park may include the installation of trails to the park and within the park to amenities to make them handicap accessible. Improvements to the volleyball courts are planned for the fall of 2014.

B. North Side Park- Near 740 Rodgers Drive

Size: This 7+ acre park is located adjacent to the Montgomery National Golf Club.

Classification: Community Park (CP)

Community Use: The Softball Association utilizes the ball fields at North Side Park for games. The Cross Country Team parks at North Side Park for cross country races which occur at the adjacent Montgomery National Golf Course.

Community Involvement: The local Softball Association helps to maintain the softball fields.

Park Amenities: Playground equipment, two picnic shelters, picnic tables, a full-size basketball court, two lighted regulation size tennis courts, two lighted softball fields and a batting cage are among the park's amenities. Bleachers, concessions and restroom facilities are located near the fields. An off-street gravel parking lot is located off Rodgers Drive.

Future Improvements: The tennis courts are in need of repair with weeds evident on the courts and new nets needed. The cost is estimated at \$100,000. Slides on the playground equipment are older and could be replaced. Off-street parking could be improved if paved. An open grassy area to the south provides an opportunity for future soccer fields, if the City were to acquire this parcel.

C. West Side Park- 501 Spruce Avenue NW

Size: This 0.33 acre park is located one block west of 4th Street NW.

Classification: Neighborhood Playground (NP)

Amenities: New large playground, basketball court, picnic tables and benches. West Park serves primarily youth in the area. Those traveling to the park use on-street parking.

Community Involvement: The City funds improvements to this park.

Future Improvements: If the City wanted to expand this park in the future, it could consider acquiring land to the north. Restroom facilities could be provided as well.

D. Veteran's Memorial Park – 300 Boulevard Avenue NW.

Size: This 0.13 acre park honors Veteran's who served in war or in peace.

Classification: Specialized Recreation Area (SRA)

History: This is the City's newest park. It was dedicated on Memorial Day, 2012.

Amenities: An open picnic area and a memorial, which includes a number of flags and statues, are located at this site.

Community Involvement: This park was designed and developed through donations from the American Legion, VFW, Mobilize Montgomery Veterans Project, the City of Montgomery and others.

Future Improvements: Veteran's Memorial Park is in excellent condition. At this time, no future improvements have been identified.

B. SCHOOL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

School Facilities - In addition to the City owned parks there are also a number of school facilities and playgrounds that are utilized for recreational activities. The City and the School District do not have a formal joint powers agreement. Although these are not "municipal parks", the amenities are available to serve the public at times in which school or extracurricular activities are not underway. It is important to note that the School District includes not only Montgomery and surrounding townships but also the cities of Lonsdale and Le Center. The facilities, especially the athletic fields, serve a much larger population than the city limits. Following is a brief description of school recreational facilities:

- A. **Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and School – 206 Vine Ave. W.** The school recreational facilities include a basketball court, playground, picnic area and off-street parking.
- B. **Tri-City United Montgomery Elementary and Middle School and Swimming Pool – 101 2nd Street NE.** The TCU Montgomery Elementary and Middle School recreational area includes softball fields, soccer fields, a playground, hockey rink, picnic area and off-street parking. An indoor swimming pool is also located in the school which is used for school activities as well as open to the public for swimming lessons, birthday parties, etc.
- C. **Tri-City United High School – 700 4th St. NW.**
A number of indoor recreational opportunities exist including gymnasiums used for high school and youth wrestling, basketball, volleyball, etc. Outdoor recreational amenities include baseball fields, football field, and off-street parking.

C. LE SUEUR COUNTY PARKS

Le Sueur County has eleven primitive parks. The Ney Park, Lake Washington Park and Richter Woods Park have self-guided trails. The County also has a number of public access points to lakes and three accesses to the Minnesota River. The closest County Park is Richter's Woods, located three miles west of Montgomery along County Road 163. This park features hiking trails, a picnic shelter, play areas, and bird watching.

D. OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

In addition to public parks and school facilities, Montgomery has a number of privately owned/operated recreational facilities.

Golf. The Montgomery National Golf Club is an 18-hole golf course located at 900 Rogers Drive. The golf course was designed by Golf Architect Joel Goldstrand. It features eight holes with water hazards, bunkers and tree-lined

fairways. The Montgomery National Golf Club offers banquet facilities. The course and facility are open to a variety of leagues as well as the public.

Bowling. The privately owned Pla-Mor Lanes are located at 314 1st Street South providing recreational opportunities for individuals and leagues.

Fitness. A 24-hour SNAP Fitness Center is located in the City of Montgomery, offering individuals an opportunity to use free weights and a number of fitness machines.

E. AMOUNT OF PARK LAND

The percent of a city's acreage which is park land varies by community. The existence of the golf course in Montgomery results in a higher percent of open space than some communities. For example; in 2005 the City of Belle Plaine had 3,379 acres with 95.55 acres of park land (2.5% of the total acreage). The City of Jordan, in 2006, had 2,150 acres in the city. Of this 107.76 acres were park land or 5.0% of the total acreage. In 2012, 217.22 of New Prague's 2,428 acres were park land and golf course or 8.81% of the total land area.

Table 9-1 Park Land as a Percent of All City Acreage

Land Use Category	2013 Park Acres	% of all City Acreage 2013
Parks and School Recreational Facilities	24 acres (67 acres combined)	1.5 % or 4.2% with school facilities
Golf Course	143.9	9.1%

Table 9-2 Montgomery Park & Recreational Inventory

Montgomery Park Inventory	Park Classification	Acres	Trail Areas	Baseball/Softball	Nature Areas	Horseshoe Pits	Tennis Courts	Soccer Fields	Basketball Courts	Football Field(s)	Volleyball Courts	Playground	Swimming	Pleasure Skating Rink	Hockey Rink	Warming House	Disc Golf Course / Archery Range	Skate Park	Restroom facilities	Handicap Access	Picnic Area	Parking (off-Street)
Memorial Park	CWP	15.92		BB	X	X			X		X	X							X		X	X
North Side Park	CP	7.07		SB	X		X		X			X							X		X	X
West Side Park	NP	0.33										X										
Veteran's Memorial Park	SRA	0.13																			X	
Tri-City High School		22.69		X					IND	X	IND								IND			X
Middle School-Elementary		18.11		X				X		X		X	IND	X	X	X			IND		X	X
Most Holy Redeemer School		2.1							X			X									X	X

CP= Community Park
 LL = Little League Field
 PR=Portable Restroom
 BB= Baseball Field
 PT=Picnic Tables only
 SW=Sidewalk
 *July 2014

NP= Neighborhood Park

NPL=Neighborhood Playgrounds

CWP= City Wide Park
 Undeveloped

SRA = Specialized Recreation Area SB= Softball Field

RP= Regional Park

IND= Indoor

VI. EXAMINATION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE PARK FACILITIES

The City's combination of recreational activities, golf course, Lake Pepin to the northwest of the City and existing parkland and open space provide residents and visitors with a variety of recreational opportunities. **Map 9-2** indicates areas served by existing recreational facilities. As indicated, parks are located to serve the needs of most residential areas of the City, however additional facilities would benefit residents in the northwesterly and northeasterly portions of the City. As future annexation occurs additional parks in the southwest corner of the city would also be beneficial.

A. Search Areas. **Map 9-3** indicates park search areas. As noted in the park classifications, the service area will vary depending on the type of park. This plan does not identify additional locations for smaller neighborhood parks, rather only those facilities which would serve a greater population and those within a ½ mile radius of the park. Additional neighborhood parks and playgrounds should also be considered as residential neighborhoods develop.

The City should closely review the topography, natural resources on sites, access and future roadways, etc. prior to the actual acceptance of dedicated park land to ensure it fits the community's identified park use needs.

B. Accessibility

¹The American with Disability Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The law requires local and state governments, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to persons with disabilities. ADA statutes affect the City of Montgomery and other local and state park and recreation facilities in the following ways:

- Newly constructed buildings (after January 26, 1993) must be constructed to be readily accessible.
- Renovations or alterations occurring after January 26, 1992 to existing facilities must be readily accessible.
- Barriers to accessibility in existing buildings and facilities must be removed when it is "readily accessible". This includes the location and accessibility to restrooms, drinking fountains and telephones.

Other requirements include but are not limited to:

- One accessible route from site access point, such as a parking lot, to the primary accessible entrance must be provided. A ramp with a slope no greater than 1:6 for a length no greater than two feet may be used as a part of the route. Otherwise a slope with a maximum 1:12 is allowed.
- One accessible public entrance must be provided.
- If restrooms are provided, then one accessible unisex toilet facility must be provided along an accessible route.
- Only the publicly used spaces on the level of the accessible entrance must be made accessible.
- Any display and written information should be located where it can be seen by a seated individual and should provide information accessible to the blind.

Parks which are developed with items such as parking lots, swimming pools, tennis courts and basketball courts should have routes which are accessible. Nature parks or areas with limited development should have the

¹ Source: Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, James D. Meres, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. © 1996, National Recreation and Park Association

minimum of accessible routes to the site. The National Park Service provides design guidelines for accessible outdoor recreation.¹

As the City redevelops city parks, it will be important to include ADA standards in the design. Installation of curb cuts and pathways within the park, designation of handicap parking in the parking lots, remodeling of restroom facilities to provide a handicap accessible stall in each of the men's and women's facilities and pathways to shelters and recreational amenities has been recommended as a method to achieve accessibility goals.

VII. RECREATIONAL FACILITY STANDARDS

As parkland is acquired either through dedications or purchase, it is important to plan space according to the desired recreational contents. In existing parks, it is important for the City to be aware of space requirements and orientation recommendations to determine if it is feasible to include the item(s) within the park. Following are facility standards for a number of recreational activities:

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Local Need Identified
Baseball Diamond	3 to 3.85 acres	1. Official: Baselines-90' Pitching dist-60.5' Foul lines-min 320' Center field-400'+ 2. Little League: Baselines-60' Pitching Dist.-46' Foul lines-200' Center field-200'-250'	Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound to run east-northeast.	1/6,000 Based on current population- 1 By 2035 need one	Approximately ¼ to ½ mile radius Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of a community complex	One at Memorial Park	Meets current and future needs per standard.
Softball/ Youth Diamond	1.5 to 2 acres	Baselines 60' Pitching dist- 45' men, women-40', Fast pitch field radius from plate – 225' Slow pitch 275' men, 250' women	Locate home plate so the pitcher is not throwing across the sun, and the batter is not facing sun. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound to run E/NE	1/ 1,500 Based on current population- 5 By 2035 need three	Approximately ¼ to ½ mile radius	Two fields located at North Side Park, one at the High School and two at the Elementary/ Middle School	Meets current and future needs per standard
Tennis Court	7,200 sq. ft. / court. 2 acres/ complex	36' x 78' with 12' clearance on both ends	Long axis north-south	1/2000 Based on current population- 2 By 2035 need three.	¼ to ½ mile radius. Best in batteries of 2 to 4. Located in neighborhood/community parks or near a school	Two at North Side park	Meets needs through 2030, but improvements to courts needed.

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)
Basket-ball	0.25 to 0.59 acre Youth: 2400 to 3036 sq. ft High School: 5040 to 7280 sq. ft	Youth: 46' to 50' x 84' High School 50' x 84'	Long axis north-south	1/2000 Based on current population- 2 2035-3	¼ to ½ mile radius Outdoor courts in neighborhood/ Community parks. Indoor as part of schools	Three – located in Memorial Park, North Side Park and West Side Park. Plus-Indoor at schools and one at Holy Redeemer	Per standard should serve a population up to 2035
Volleyball	4,000 sq. ft	30' x 60' with a minimum clearance of 6' on all sides	Long axis north-south (outdoor)	1/2000 Based on current population- 2 2035-3	½ to 1 mile	Three-3 located at Memorial Park	Per standard adequate for now and through 2035.
Football Field	1.5 acres	160' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides.	Long axis northwest or southeast	1/3000 Based on current population- 1 2035-2	Approx. 2 mile radius	Two -one at Tri-City United High School and one at Elem/ Middle school	Per standard adequate for now and through 2035.
Soccer Field	1.7 to 2.1 acres	195 to 225' x 330' to 360' with 10' clearance on all sides. Size depends on age group using field	Long axis northwest or southeast	1/3000 Based on current population- 1 2035-2	Approx. 1 to 2 mile radius	None in city parks. Open area at Tri-City United Elementary-Middle School	If soccer grows as a sport may need to add fields.
Ice Arena	2 acres	Rink 85' x 200' (min. 85' 185') Addt. 5000. 22,000 sq. ft to include support area	Long axis is north-south (outdoors)	1/20,000 Based on current and future population - 1	15 to 30 minute travel	Hockey Rink at Elementary-Middle School	Per standard adequate for now and future. Improvements needed.
Warming House	Variable	Variable	Variable	1/rink area	1 hocking rink/skating indoor 2 outdoor rinks & house outdoor.	Yes one at the ice rink.	Per standards one needed at outdoor rink.
Picnic Area Shelter	Variable	Variable	Variable	1/5000 Based on current population- 1 2035-2	2 mile radius	Five. Two at Memorial , Two at North Side, & one at Veteran's	Per standard meets requirements Include in future parks.

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)
Play Equipment	0.5 acre	Variable	Variable	1 acre/park	2 to 3 mile radius	Three at City Parks –North Side, West Side and Memorial. Two at Schools.	Per standard meets requirement now and in the future. Include with new parks.
Sliding Hill	2-4 acres	Variable	Variable	1/7,500 Based on current population- ____ needed. 2035 - needed	1 mile radius	None	Local demand identified.
Archery Range	0.65 acre	300' length x min. 10' between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range min. 30'. Clear space behind targets min. 90' x 45' with bunker	Archer facing north + or – 45 degrees	1/7,500 Based on current population- 0 2035-1 ?	30 minute travel time. Part of a regional complex	None	Possible addition with Sportsman's Club near gun range.
Community Center/ Senior Center	15-25 acres	Varies	Varies	1/20,000	--	None	Not currently a local need.
Horseshoe courts	0.1 acre			1/2000 Based on current population- 2 2035 -3	--	Seven (7) at Memorial park	Meets needs through 2035.
Swimming Pool	1 to 2 acres	Teaching- min. 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft. Competitive- min. 25 m x 16m. Min. of 25 sq. ft water surface per swimmer. Ratio of 2 to 1 deck to water	No recommended pool orientation but care must be taken in locating life stations in relation to afternoon sun	1/10,000 Based on current population- 1 2035- 1	150 person capacity 15 minute travel	One indoor within the Elementary/ Middle School.	Meets standards to population of 10,000

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)
Disc-Golf Course	Size depends on number of holes: 9, 12, 18, 24 or 27.	Average 200-240' per hole. Hard surface tee pads of textured cement or asphalt are preferred. Preferred size is 5 ft wide by at least 12 ft long (1.8x3m). Maximum size is 6 ft wide by 20 ft long with the back end flaring out to 10 feet wide. (Source: Disc Golf Association)	Fairways should not cross one another and should be far enough apart so errant throws aren't constantly in the wrong fairway. Fairways should not cross or be too close to public streets, sidewalks and other busy areas where non-players congregate. The 1 st tee should be closest to parking. (Source: Disc Golf Assn)	No standard found.		None; however discussion to include at the Elementary/ Middle School	Possible local demand in the future.
Mountain Bike Skills Course				No standard found.		None	Possible local demand in the future.
Off-leash Dog Park	1 to 2 acres for a neighborhood dog park.			No standard found		None.	Requested by 38% of Community Survey respondents (43 hsholds) therefore a current local request.
LaCrosse		Outside dimensions: 60 yds x 110 yds. The "wing area" is 10 yds in from sidelines (20 yards in from center) of field. The "attack area" & "defensive area" are marked 35 yds from the end lines. Goal is surrounded by a 9' radius. The Lacrosse goal is 6' high by 6' wide by 7' deep.	Long axis northwest or southeast	No Standard Found.		None	Not currently identified as a local demand or need.

Unit	Land Required	Recommended Size & Dimensions	Recommended Orientation	No. of Units For Population Recommended (National standards)	Service Area	Existing Facilities	Surplus/ Deficit / Standard (Local Standards)
Off-Street Parking	300 S.F Per Car	Typically 9' x 20' with a 20' driving lane	Variable	NP: 8-12 cars CWR: 25-100 cars SR: 25-100 cars	NA	Memorial Park and North Side Park (gravel lots). Paved lots at the schools.	May need off street parking at new parks and improvements to existing gravel parking lots.
Restroom Facilities	Varies	Per building code	Variable	1 double unit per park	1 park	Memorial Park and North Side Park. Indoor facilities at the schools.	Portable or permanent at West Side and at new trailhead.

* Derived from the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Standards with local standards applied.

Summary of needs identified:

- Improvements to existing tennis courts at North Side Park
- Improvements to the hockey rink
- Soccer fields (if sport grows) on a multi-functional green space
- Sliding Hill
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
- Playgrounds at new parks
- Picnic shelters at new parks
- Restroom facilities at new parks
- Archery facility- coordinated with the Sportsman's Club
- Disc Golf in the future
- Nature or passive recreation areas
- Mountain Bike Skill Course possible in the future
- New Parks to contain picnic areas, playgrounds, off-street parking and restroom facilities!

VIII. TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

This Section outlines the types of trails in the community, the classifications of trails in the City of Montgomery, the future construction of sidewalks and trails, maintenance of existing trails, and public input on trails. Policies and recommendations related to trails are found at the end of this Chapter.

Trails or sidewalks should be designed with the following goals in mind (1) Safety – protect users (depending on the type of trail) from adjacent or crossing vehicular traffic, (2) Linkages - provide links between local parks and recreational areas and regional trail systems, (3) Natural Environment – when designing the trail system protect the natural environment and natural features, and (4) Continuity – provide continuous trail systems with as few interruptions in user movement as possible.

Trails and sidewalks provide many benefits to a community including:

- Increased safety for non-motorized traffic
- Health and wellness
- Access to natural resources
- Economic development with links to the historic downtown
- Non-motorized commuting options

A. TYPES OF TRAILS

Following are design guidelines suggested by the National Recreation and Park Association for the various types of pathways:

1. Park Trails

Type I: These separate or single purpose trails are typically ten feet wide and hard surfaced for pedestrians, bicyclists and/or in-line skaters.

Type II: These multi-purpose trails typically include a natural buffer; such as shrubs, trees or changes in topography, from adjacent uses on either side of the trail. A 50-foot right-of-way to accommodate the buffers is common with a ten foot paved surface.

Type III: Nature trails are generally six to eight feet wide and are soft surfaced. Trail grades vary depending on the topography of the area in which they are located. Interpretive signage is common along nature trails.

2. Connector Trails

Type I: Separate/single-purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent right of way (e.g. old railroad right of way). Typically greenways focus on one or more of the following goals:

- Conservation greenways (or sections of interconnected, multiple purpose greenways) which exist to protect, preserve, enhance, and/or restore essential environmental and ecological functions.
- Recreational greenways (or sections of interconnected, multiple purpose greenways) which are created for informal, low-impact recreation purposes by residents, visitors, and tourists.
- Route greenways (or sections of interconnected, multiple purpose greenways) which protect viewsheds, scenic vistas, historic landscapes and/or provide for pedestrian access along a road, highway or a waterway.

- Comprehensive greenway corridors may be based on natural landforms or may be an assembled network of greenway types that link various resources together to create a greenway system or network.

Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrian or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road right of way. The trails may be developed on one or both sides of the roadway and may include one or two-way traffic. The trail is typically separated from the roadway with a boulevard, grass and/or plantings.

Separate or single-purpose hard surfaced trails are designed for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters and to get people from one area to another. If designed for pedestrians only, a six to eight foot width is common. If designed for bicyclists/in-line skaters, a ten foot paved surface is recommended.

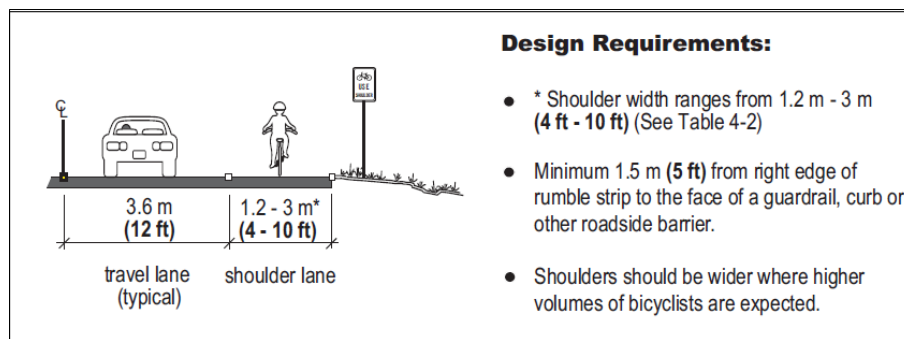
3. On-Street Bikeways

On Street Bike Lane: Bike Lanes are typically designed as a five-foot lane adjacent to the driving lane. On-street parking may occur between the on-street bike lane and the curb or edge of the road. In essence each side of the roadway is divided into three sections (1) driving lane, (2) on-street bikeway and (3) on-street parking.

On Street Bike Route: This bicycle route is typically designated with signage. On Street Bike Routes are typically paved shoulders along roadways.

The MnDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual, Chapter 4, contains design guidelines for both urban and rural on-street bikeways and provides information on various options. Following is one example.

Source: MNDOT Bikeway Facility Design Manual, Chapter 4, March 2007



4. Special Use Trails

All Terrain Bike Trails: Design and length vary depending on the topography in the area. These trails are generally a part of a larger regional park or natural resource area.

Cross Country Ski Trails: The design of the cross-country ski trail is dependent upon its intended use. The traditional diagonal skiing typically includes a packed groomed trail with set tracks. Skate-skiing designs include a wider packed and groomed surface. The length of the trails may vary. Cross-country ski trails may be designed to be used as equestrian trails during summer months.

Equestrian Trails: These horseback riding trails, typically are designed with woodchips or grass surface. They are located in larger parks and natural resource areas where conflict with other trail users may be avoided. The length of an equestrian trail varies but is generally looped.

Snowmobile Trails: Single purpose trails that are regional in nature and cover large distances due to the speed of travel. Usually developed and maintained by private groups or clubs. The Montgomery Snow Drifters are the local group responsible for the coordination of the snowmobile trail locations.

B. TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS IN MONTGOMERY

There are currently two segments of trails and many sidewalks in the City of Montgomery. As depicted on Map 9-4, this includes the West trail and a trail in Fischer Estates as well as sidewalks in the original plat of Montgomery.

There is an opportunity for the City to add park land and a trail head in the Fischer Estates on the west side of the City and connect an existing trail to abandoned railroad on the southwest side of the City.

A future goal is to connect existing trails, provide connectivity between park, places of employment and residents to places of commerce. See Map 9-5.

Trails within communities are often classified by their purpose, type of improvement and location. The following table includes a description of seven types of pathways/trails and identification of the trails within Montgomery which are included in each category.

Classification	General Description	Description of each type	Existing Facilities
Park Trail	Multi-purpose trails located within greenways, parks and natural resource areas. Focus in on recreational value and harmony with the natural environment	<p>Type I: Separate/single purpose hard –surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters.</p> <p>Type II: Multi-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters.</p> <p>Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard or soft surfaced.</p>	None
Connector Trails	Multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on	Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists/in-line skaters located in independent R.O.W (e.g. old railroad R.O.W).	Segments exist with the West Side trail and Deer Trail.

	recreation. Green way trails focus on viewsheds, conservation/ protection & the natural environment	Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrian or bicyclists/in-line skaters. Typically located within road R.O.W.	
On-Street Bikeways	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic	<p>Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.</p> <p>Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists, such as paved shoulders.</p>	None
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	None
Cross Country Ski Trail	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.	None
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multi-purpose with hiking and all-terrain biking. These trails are developed so conflict can be controlled.	None
Snowmobile Trails	Trails for winter snowmobile use	Single purpose trails that are regional in nature and cover large distances due to the speed of travel. Usually developed and maintained by private groups of clubs.	Outside of City

C. FUTURE TRAIL AND SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION

The City's Subdivision Ordinance requires the construction of sidewalks along all "collector", "major" and "arterial" streets and in such other areas as are necessary to adequately provide for the safety and welfare of pedestrians. The City currently does not have a policy regarding the installation of trails with new or reconstruction projects. It is recommended this be discussed in an effort to implement the Sidewalk and Trail Plan.

Trail Gaps - Although there are sidewalk and trails in the city, there are areas in which gaps in the pedestrian and non-motorized system exist. Map 9-5 illustrates the locations of existing trails and sidewalks (solid lines)

as well as proposed future sidewalks and trails. These segments are recommended to improve connectivity of the existing pathway system.

Future Trails – In addition, Maps 9-5 and 9-6 illustrate proposed locations of trails in the City’s future land use growth boundary. These trail locations were identified based on future park search areas (connecting future parks with a trail system), take advantage of scenic and natural resources and existing and future roadway corridors. Proposed trail locations were also identified to allow for smaller as well as a more comprehensive looped system.

Special Use trails such as cross country ski trail could be located within the golf course on the cart path trails.

Regional Connectivity – It is recommended the City plan a trail system which takes into account the proposed “Czech Area Trail” which would link Montgomery to the cities of New Prague and Lonsdale. Planning and coordination with the County to develop a trail to connect the City of Montgomery to Richter’s Woods is also recommended.

D. MAINTENANCE OF THE TRAIL AND SIDEWALK SYSTEM

It is not only important to create a walkable community through the installation of sidewalks and trails, but it is equally important to maintain the trails and develop a plan to ensure sufficient funding and staffing is available to do so, especially as the system grows and ages.

It is recommended the City of Montgomery complete an inventory and develop a maintenance program.

E. PUBLIC INPUT

In 2014, the City of Montgomery received a Safe Routes to School Planning Grant. Region 9 Development Commission administered the grant on behalf of the City. At the time of this Comprehensive Plan update, recommendations were not yet available.

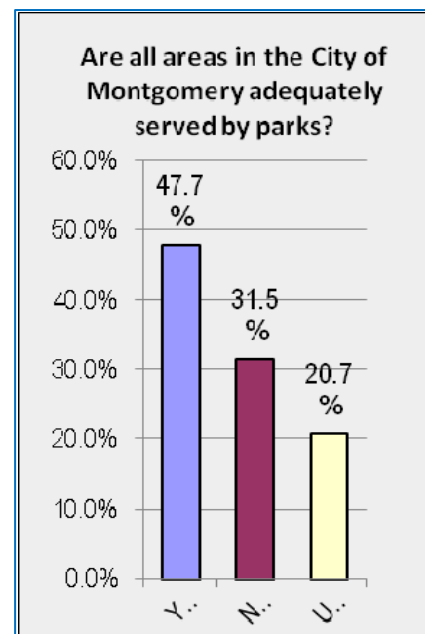
Parks and Recreation. In 2013, an on-line survey was conducted with 114 responses received. Residents were asked if all areas in the City are adequately served by parks. Nearly ½ indicated they are, 31.5% noted they are not and 20% were uncertain.

If residents noted areas were not adequately served, they were asked to identify locations where additional parks are needed. The most common responses were in North Ridge Addition, the north side of the city, in new subdivisions, the west side, and the need to update current parks.

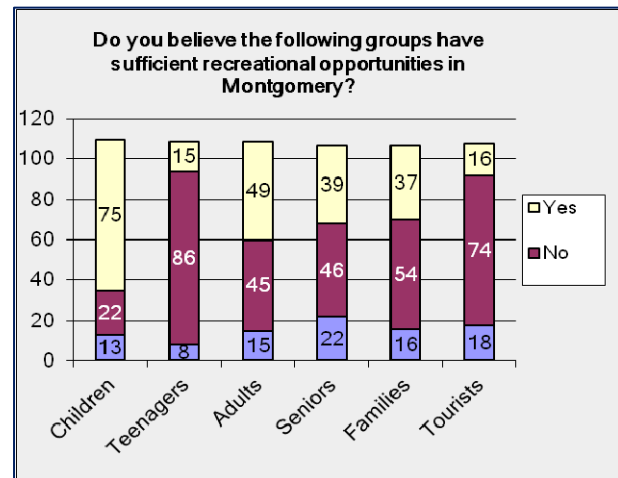
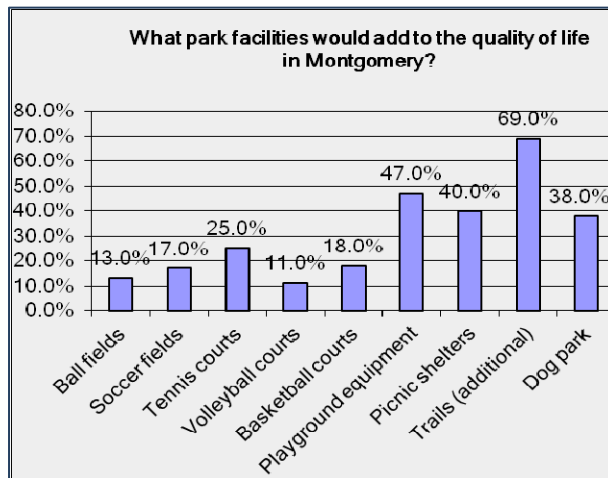
The Comprehensive Planning Committee also provided input on locations in which parks are needed. Areas included by North Ridge Addition, northwest of Lexington and Welco Drive, by Meadow Ridge, a future Lake Pepin regional park to be coordinated with the county and DNR, and a neighborhood park by Country Ridge Subdivision.

Additional Park Facilities.

Residents were asked what additional park facilities would add to the



quality of life in Montgomery. The top responses were additional trails, additional playground equipment and a dog park. Other responses are illustrated in the chart.



Other suggestions included an archery range, skate park, disc golf course, a recreation center for youth, skate park, BMX park, quiet sitting garden with benches, updated sand volleyball courts, upgrades to existing parks, future baseball and softball fields, water park or outdoor pool, campground, wildlife preserve, coordination with the DNR to create something with Lake Pepin and a coordinated trail system with the county and neighboring communities. The Comprehensive Planning Committee also identified a need for the items listed on page 13 of this Chapter.

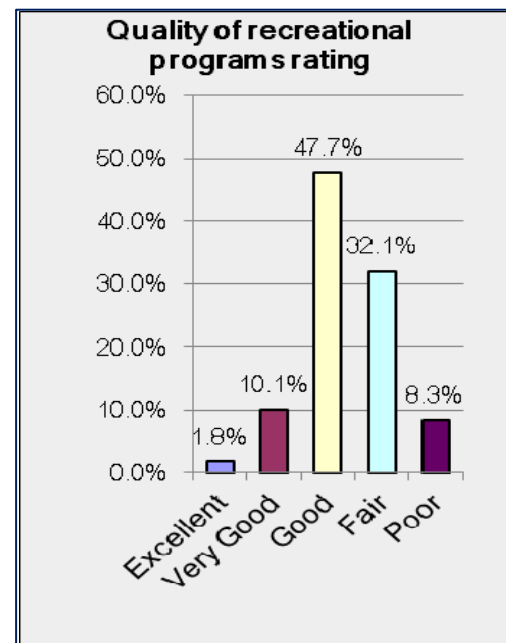
Recreational Opportunities. Residents were asked if there are sufficient recreational opportunities for various groups in the community. Following are the responses. A majority felt there are sufficient opportunities for children and adults. A vast majority felt there was a lack of recreational opportunities for teenagers and tourists.

Quality of Recreational Programs. Residents were also asked to rate the quality of recreational programs in the City. The results are illustrated in the following chart. Nearly one-half of respondents rated educational programming as “Good”, following by nearly one-third ranking them as “Fair”.

Types of Future Parks. Survey respondents provided input on the type of parks the city should plan for in the future. A majority feel both active and passive recreational parks are needed. Results are illustrated in the chart below:

What types of parks are needed in the City?

Answer Options	Response %	Response Count
Active Parks (athletic fields, playgrounds)	15.7%	16
Passive Parks (natural resources)	29.4%	30
Both	54.9%	56
Other (please specify)		7
answered question		102
skipped question		12



IX. RECREATION AND FITNESS

There are a number of coordinated and uncoordinated recreational opportunities in and around Montgomery. The Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan recognizes the importance of partnerships with other governmental units, the coordination of plans and collaboration on future improvements and grant applications to implement the Plan. The following agencies have been identified as partners in future parks, trails and natural resource planning and projects:

- Tri-City United School District/Community Ed
- Le Sueur County
- Department of Natural Resources
- Local Sports Clubs and Organizations (baseball, softball, volleyball, horseshoe, etc.)

A. Tri-City United School District Community Education Program. Community Education is organized through the Tri-City United School District. The School District provides facilities such as the swimming pool and ball fields at the schools. Many of the recreational activities are offered within school facilities and serve residents within the Tri-City United School District which expands well beyond the city's boundaries.

B. Recreation Organizations. Montgomery has a large number of organizations which coordinate recreational programs including but not limited to the Montgomery Mallards baseball league, softball association, horseshoe and volleyball leagues.

X. ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

A. Park Board. The City Council has appointed a Park and Recreation Board, which meets monthly to plan for the development and redevelopment of Montgomery's park and trail system. The Montgomery Park and Recreation Board reviews current and future community park and recreation needs, programs and facilities and recommends policies and improvements to promote the implementation of the City's parks, trails, and recreational plans. The City Clerk-Treasurer serves as the staff to the Park Board.

The Park Board consists of seven voting members who are appointed by the City Council to serve staggered three-year terms. One member of the City Council serves as a non-voting liaison.

The City Code identifies the following duties and responsibilities of the Park and Recreation Board:

"It is the duty and responsibility of the Park and Recreation Board to advise the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Council in all matters relating to acquisition and development of property for future recreational needs. These duties and responsibilities shall relate, but not be limited to the following:

- A. Plan future park and recreation development.
- B. Propose rules and regulations for use and maintenance of these public facilities.
- C. Prepare a report at the close of each calendar year enumerating the facilities the programs made available during the year with an estimated count of use or participation.
- D. The use of school facilities through the cooperation of the School District should be provided as a matter of economy and convenience.
- E. Prepare before September 1 of each year, a proposal for the future year together with a proposed budget for the ensuing year."²

² City Code 210.03 Subd. 2

B. The City of Montgomery's Public Works Department maintains the city parks.

Full-time employees assist with mowing, maintenance of the parks and restrooms within and trail cleaning.

In addition to City staff, various volunteers and volunteer organizations assist in park maintenance and improvements. Examples include the baseball association, softball association, Lion's Club, Community Club, VFW and American Legion.

C. Future Needs for Administration, Maintenance and Operations.

A Trail Replacement and Seal Coating Plans are recommended which includes the age of the trail segment, its condition and plans for seal coating. This should be incorporated into a larger Park and Trail Capital Improvement Plan.

The City should continue to evaluate staffing needs as well as intergovernmental sharing of staff and equipment as the number of park acres and miles of trails grow.

XI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The City budgets for operational expenses through its annual budget process. The City currently utilizes user fees, donations from organizations and individuals, grant programs, park dedication land, fees, the general tax levy, and volunteer labor to cover expenses relating to parks. Maintenance of parks is included in the general fund budget, while park dedication fees are tracked in a park dedication fund.

A. Park Land Dedication Fund. The City has a dedicated fund for park improvements. The purpose of all funds derived is to pay for all or part of the acquisition of parkland, park equipment and park improvements as established by the City Council. All revenues derived from the park land dedication fees are credited to the Park Land Dedication Fund.

Park Land Dedication Ordinance. MN State Statute 462.358 subdivision 2b, grants cities the authority to, "require that a reasonable portion of the buildable land, as defined by municipal ordinance, of any proposed subdivision be dedicated to the public or preserved for public use as streets, roads, sewers, electric, gas, and water facilities, storm water drainage and holding areas or ponds and similar utilities and improvements, parks, recreational facilities as defined in section [471.191](#), playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space." Statutes require that, "If a municipality adopts the ordinance or proceeds under section [462.353](#), subdivision 4a, as required by paragraph (a), the municipality must adopt a capital improvement budget and have a parks and open space plan or have a parks, trails, and open space component in its comprehensive plan..."

The City's Subdivision Ordinance includes parkland dedication requirements. At the time of this Chapter, new subdivisions are required to dedicate 10% of the land being platted or a fee-in-lieu of the land equal to the value.

B. Grants. The city has an opportunity to apply for a number of park and trail grants. These include but are not limited to the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program, Walkable Community Program, MnDOT Community Roadside Landscape Grant, MnDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant and DNR Grant for the Prairie Restoration.

XII. GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan

The city's park and trail systems are important assets of the City. If the City is to maintain these areas as an integral part of the community, as well as incorporate other park areas as the population increases the following should be considered:

A. General Goals and Recommendations

1. **Adopt an Active Living by Design Philosophy and Culture.** This may be accomplished through built environments such as the construction of additional trails as well as programs which encourage physical activity and healthy eating. Examples include promotion of local farmers markets, community gardens and promotion of riding bicycles versus driving in cars.
2. **Provide Recreational Opportunities and Resources for all Demographics.** This may be accomplished by improving handicap accessibility within parks and leading to trails and inclusion of recreational amenities within parks to serve all age groups. Recreational programs and activities for youth, families, young adults and seniors are also suggested.
3. **Build Partnerships with Local, Regional and State Agencies.** It is recommended the City continue to coordinate future park, trail and natural resource projects with other local, regional and state agencies.
4. **Tourism, Marketing and Promotion.** The City of Montgomery's Kolachy Days sponsors a 5K and children's' runs in July of each year. The City should market itself as an Active Community through brochures, maps, trail signage and social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, web sites, etc.
5. **Educate the public** on the resources available. Methods of accomplishing this include but are not limited to:
 - **Expand uniform signage** to identify parks and trails. Along trails identify trails by names/loops and include signage to identify the direction and distance of each trail segment. Include signage directing trail users to key areas including parks, historic sites and key commercial areas.
 - **Promote educational programs** in coordination with the schools such as promoting the use of helmets for bicycle and skater safety.
 - **Continue to provide** information on Montgomery's parks, trails and recreation. Distribute brochures to local businesses, residents and various constituencies as well as make them available at the City offices and on the city's web site.

B. Park and Open Space Goals and Recommendations

1. Encourage **cooperative planning**, development and use of park and recreational facilities by the School District and the City. Continue to share facilities with the School District.
2. **Develop a plan for a new park on the west side of the community – Fischer Estates.** In 2014, the City acquired lots within Fischer Estates through tax forfeiture. The City should identify the land to retain for a park, master plan this park and identify future trail connections.
3. **Future parks**, generally acquired at the time of platting of subdivisions, should be designed for the appropriate size to accommodate a variety of the uses including active parks designed for social

interaction and activity as well as areas to reconnect with nature. Future parks should be sought in areas identified in Map 9-5.

4. **Community parks should be at least 15 acres in size**, should offer diverse resources to allow both active and passive recreational activities, and should be designed to be accessible via a collector road as well as a trail or greenway corridor.
5. **Passive parks** should be planned to protect areas of high environmental value and scenic areas. Maintain open space in environmentally sensitive areas.
6. Review the **life cycle of parks** as they relate to the changing demographics and types of active and recreational uses requested (e.g. bike trails, dog parks, etc.). Budget for and review park improvements as recommended in this Chapter.

C. Trails, Greenway and Sidewalk Recommendations

Following are Policies and Recommendations related to existing and future trails, greenways and sidewalks:

1. **Trails should be developed with safety in mind.** Efforts should be made to protect non-motorized and motorized users (depending on the type of trail) from adjacent or crossing vehicular traffic,
2. **Trails should be developed to create linkages and connectivity.** It is the intent of this plan to identify the primary trails which are needed for connectivity, to remove ambiguity when reviewing plats. Along with those areas identified on the future sidewalk and trail map, trails and sidewalks are recommended to provide connectivity to:
 - Downtown and commercial areas
 - Schools
 - Existing and future parks
 - Lineal trails in passive recreation areas or around natural resources and open spaces.
 - Regional trail systems
 - Residential areas

Gaps in the existing trail system should be reviewed with a capital improvement plan developed with potential timeframes for development, ideally coordinated with new street or street reconstruction projects and/or grant opportunities.

The City should consider the development of a policy for the construction of sidewalks and trails for street reconstruction projects, with priority for routes identified to fill gaps and provide connectivity.

- 3 **Natural environment.** Trail systems should be designed to protect the natural environment and natural features.
4. **Collaboration with other entities.** As future trails and greenways are planned, it is important to coordinate plans with other entities such as MnDOT, Le Sueur County, the DNR, the school district (safe routes to schools), the township, railroad companies, landowners and developers.
5. **Future trail design** should take into consideration the purpose of the trail (commuter, bicycle, multi-purpose, commuting, greenway, etc.). The location of the trail may be somewhat dependent upon the intended users and purpose of a trail. For example, a commuter trail may be constructed in road

right- of -way, while the greenway trail, which is designed to access natural resources and take advantage of scenic opportunities, should be designed away from roadways.

6. **Maintenance.** The City should develop information on the age and condition of trails and prepare plans for the maintenance and replacement. This should be coordinated with the City's Capital Improvement Plan and reviewed with the Parks and Public Works Departments.
7. **Bicycle racks.** The City should consider adding bicycle racks in city parks and the downtown to accommodate increases in bicycle use as the trail system expands.

D. Financial Planning Goals and Recommendations

1. Create a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Park System

The City of Montgomery through the Montgomery Park and Recreation Board, should create a five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the existing and future park and trail system. The CIP should include the types of equipment and other amenities necessary to the Park System, the cost of such items, and the year in which the City is projecting to fund such improvements. This CIP should then be included in the overall Capital Improvement Program for the City.

2. **Pursue grant programs** to assist with funding including but not limited to grants offered through MnDOT and the DNR. The City should pursue grant opportunities to continue to expand its trail system, especially segments which link to school and regional park and trail systems.

3. **Create a budget for and schedule improvements** within existing parks identified in this Chapter.

4. **Land Acquisition Planning.** Identify areas which will be acquired through future park land dedication and areas which may need to be acquired with City funds. Begin budgeting for future land acquisition and improvements to the Park in Fischer Estates.

5. **Operations and Maintenance.** Prepare a management plan for City trail facilities, pathways, sidewalks, and bikeways. Operations and maintenance costs should be included in the annual budget.

6. **Subdivision Regulations.** Maintain, and as needed update, the section which outlines the dedication of parkland and installation of sidewalks and trails.

This Chapter is intended to be a guide for the development of parks and trails and recreational programs within the community. As events and circumstances within the community change, the Chapter should be reviewed and updated, as appropriate. Amendments should be considered if there have been significant changes within the community or opportunities arise which were not anticipated by the Chapter.