

2030

ELKO NEW MARKET
park & trail plan

6.19.2009

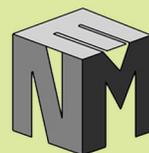


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The following individuals contributed their time and comments, which made this Park and Trail Plan possible.

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introduction

The City of Elko New Market is located thirty miles south of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, on the southern edge of Scott County. At the time of European settlement nearly 200 years ago, this area of Minnesota was a part of the Big Woods; a vast hardwood forest now mostly cleared. In its place sprang rural community centers and a landscape fabric of farmsteads, clumps of hardwood trees and wetlands. Directly adjacent to one another geographically, New Market incorporated as a City in 1865 and Elko eighty four years later 1949. Recently on January 1, 2007, the two cities merged to continue their pace of growth while providing expanded city services and facilities at a lower cost.

In recent years, these rural centers have been experiencing strong urban and suburban style development pressures to add housing and employment. From 2000 to 2004, Elko's population doubled in size and New Market's quadrupled. This fast paced growth rate is expected to accelerate in the coming years as the Metropolitan Council forecasts Elko New Market will have a population of 5,700 in 2010 and 20,800 in 2030.

Maintaining and preserving the small town character for which Elko New Market is recognized is challenging in the face of fast growth. Current and new residents expect recreation and alternative transportation amenities; preservation of open space, access to community facilities, trail networks that connect to community recreation facilities and access to a variety of recreation programs.

In effort to guide growth and development, New Market Township and the Cities of Elko and New Market jointly completed a Comprehensive Plan Update in 2005 under the leadership of Scott County. In addition to addressing growth management, land use, population and housing, transportation and public facilities, the Comprehensive Plan generally addresses natural resources, parks and trails. This chapter outlines goals and implementation strategies for protection, preservation and rehabilitation of the area's natural resources.

The 2030 Park and Trail Plan is intended to support and supplement the City's Comprehensive Plan in regards to planning and providing active and passive recreational opportunities for community residents. Specifically, the Plan is intended to provide analysis and a subsequent decision making framework to guide City officials in providing community services and facilities and to address private development proposals. In this regard, the Plan will be used to earmark future park and trail areas in advance of development. The Plan also provides implementation strategies and includes an analysis of the park dedication and funding needed to implement.

Similar to the Comprehensive Plan, this 2030 Park and Trail Plan will likely require revisions over time as the basic planning assumptions, implementation strategies and goals may change along with the City's population and recreational demands. Revisions should be considered on a regular basis to keep the Plan current with community philosophy and user characteristics.



EXISTING PLANS

The purpose of reviewing existing plans and policies is to understand the City's current situation and future projections, and how other projects might relate to City projects.

**Southeast Scott County Comprehensive Plan Update:
City of Elko and City of New Market, 2005.**

The Southeast Scott County Comprehensive Plan Update, 2005 is intended to more fully understand the long term impacts and growth demands on the area. It was completed as a joint venture with input from New Market Township and the Cities of Elko and New Market. In addition to demographics, land use, transportation and public facilities, the Plan refers directly to natural resource inventory, natural resource corridor areas, existing county and local parks and trails and outlines goals and implementation strategies. There are several themes throughout the Comprehensive Plan Update that can be directly connected to the 2030 Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan which include:

- Protect and preserve the Vermillion River and 'exceptional' and 'high quality' sites identified in the Natural Resources Inventory as unique and valuable state and regional resources.
- Improve surface water quality.
- Secure ground water resources.
- Preserve natural resources as new development occurs.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas with innovative development concepts.
- Preserve and protect non-metallic mineral deposits.
- Engage the public in environmental preservation.
- Clean up polluted sites.
- Protect designated shoreland areas.
- Protect natural resource systems.
- Protect identified natural resources.
- Implement Stormwater management.
- Implement greenway along the Vermillion River.
- Develop mandatory requirements to implement resource protection at the City and Township levels.

Interim Scott County Parks, Trails, and Open Space Policy Plan.

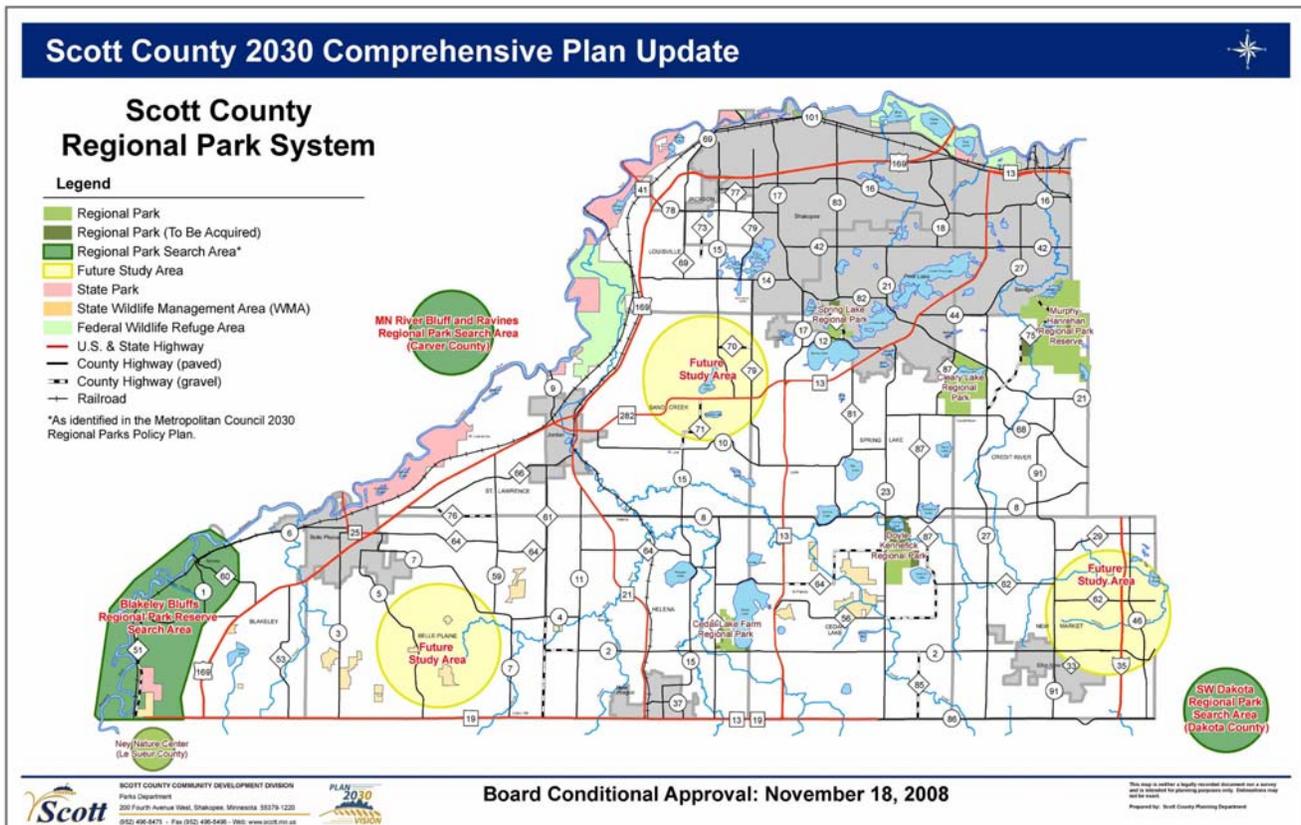
Completed and adopted in 2004, this document provides direction for development and implementation of a policy plan through establishing priorities for a system of parks, trail and open space within Scott County. It includes a comprehensive inventory of existing recreational opportunities, the natural resource base and distribution, and anticipated needs for future generations. It is intended to be used in reviewing local and regional plans, environmental review documents and to other matters referred to the Count to encourage their compatibility with the overall parks, trail and open space system.



Specifically related to Elko New Market, this document suggests three proposed county railway corridors. The first proposed county railway corridor would connect Elko New Market to the future Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, located northwest of the City. The second proposed county trail corridor would run east/west along 260th Street East (County Road 2), linking the City to the proposed Cedar Lake Regional Park. The third proposed county railway corridor would align with Natchez Avenue (Highway 91), and connect to the Vermillion River and eventually Cleary Lake and Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park Reserve.

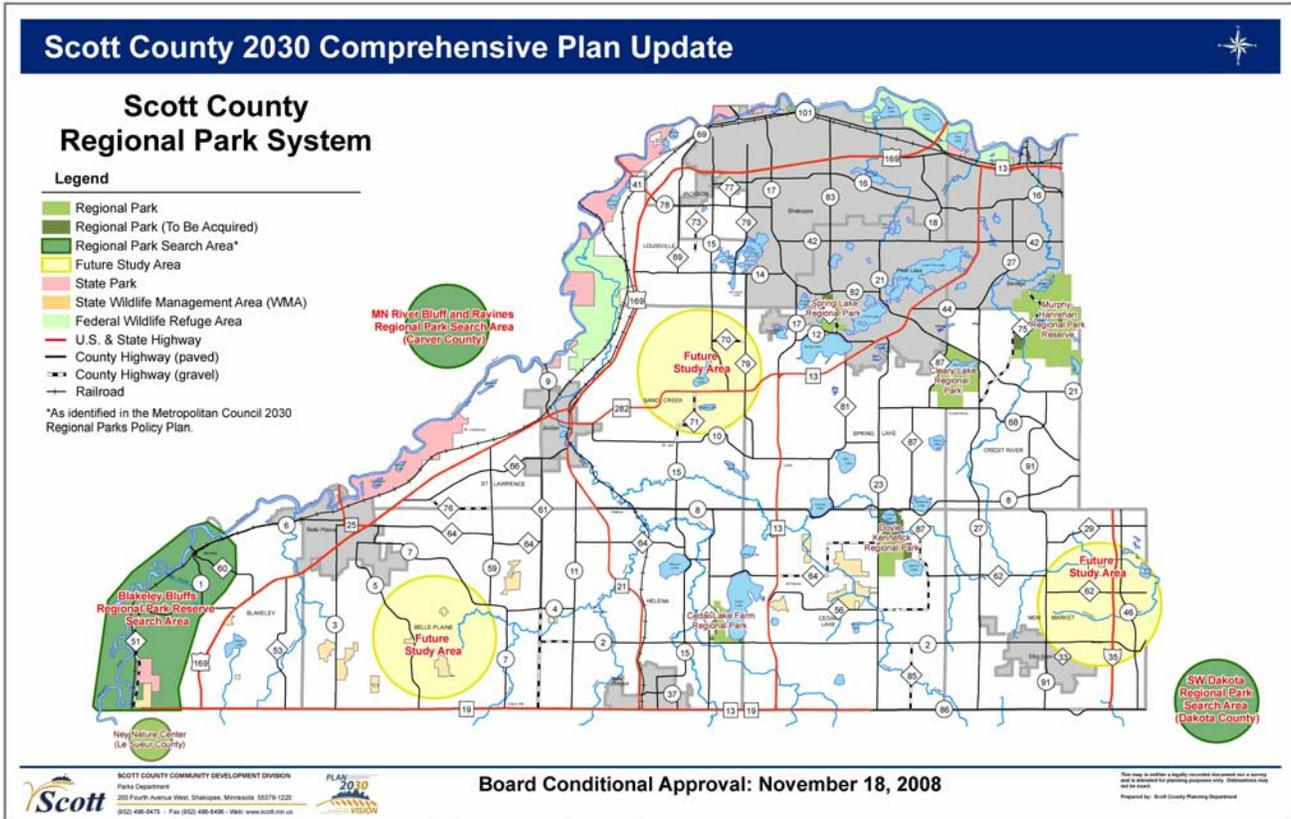
Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Scott County is currently drafting their 2030 Comprehensive Plan update. Final adoption of the update is anticipated winter 2008/2009. The 2030 Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan is cohesive with the County’s park and trail classifications and incorporates generalized goals to be consistent. The 2030 Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan is intended to be updated when new information becomes available from the County. The following are draft park and trail maps to be included in the 2030 Scott County Comprehensive Plan and are consistent with the Metropolitan Council’s 2030 Regional Development Framework.



Credit: Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Scott County - Minnesota





Credit: Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Scott County - Minnesota

City of Elko Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan, 1999 (DRAFT).

This unfinished document was drafted in 1999 by Thatcher Engineering, Inc. for the City of Elko. The report outlines typical national standards for park classifications, basic inventory of existing park and open space facilities and general policies to guide future park and open space development. While this document was not completed nor adopted, it does provide a basic framework from which to guide this Plan.



2030 Dakota County Park System Plan:

Great Places, Connected Places, Protected Places (Public Review Draft, 1/15/2008).

Due to Elko New Market's proximity to Dakota County, it is important to review adjacent park and trail plans. Dakota County is currently in the process of updating its Park System Plan as a public draft for review was issued in January of 2008. The update is intended to evaluate the existing park and trail system, establish clear vision for future direction and provide strategies for future park and trail system growth.

Of specific interest is the location of the Chub Creek Greenway Regional Trail which could potentially link the portion of Vermillion River in Elko New Market, east to Dakota County and eventually to the Mill Towns State Trail.



Credit: Dakota County Park System Plan, Dakota County - Minnesota



EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS

Park and recreational facilities serve a major function to promote community identity for cities. Regionally, Scott County is expanding its recreation activities, lakes and rivers and park system which will connect natural features with habitat/greenway corridors and trails and satisfy recreational needs of the community. The recreational needs of the City of Elko New Market will grow in conjunction with the growth of the County.

Currently, the Elko New Market park system is comprised of 11 parks (9 public and 2 private) and 3 additional planned public parks, consisting of approximately 81.42 acres. As of 2007, Elko New Market had 46,018 lineal feet or 8.72 miles of sidewalks and trails throughout the community maintained by the City. Map 1, Elko New Market Existing Parks and Trails identifies the location park and trail systems within the community.

Based upon an inventory of existing Elko New Market parks, there are six (6) general categories of parks including trails and sidewalks within the community described as follows:

Mini Park (MP). The Mini Park designation services neighborhoods on a limited recreational basis due to their small size. These parks usually include play equipment and a limited amount of informal playfields. The service area is generally $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and intended to serve a population of 1,000 people. The majority of City parks fall into this classification, constituting 6.46 acres.

Neighborhood Park (NP). The Neighborhood Park classification is intended to provide informal neighborhood open space for active residential neighborhood needs. Recreational activities include play equipment, walking trails with park benches, picnic areas and a limited amount of playfields. The service area range is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and is intended to serve a population of 1,000 people. The City currently has 6.87 acres of privately held land currently designated for Neighborhood Park purposes.

Community Park (CP). The Community Park designation includes both parks and playfields that provide facilities for more intensive recreation activities, such as ball fields, tennis courts, ice skating rinks and picnicking. Community Parks desired service area range is typically 1 mile and serves a population of 1,000 people. These parks serve the City as a whole and constitute 22.48 acres of the total park acreage inventory.

Community Playfield / Athletic Complex (CPA). The Community Playfield / Athletic Complex classification identifies parks that target organized adult and youth play and require softball fields, baseball fields, soccer/football fields, multiple tennis courts etc. The City currently has 20.06 acres of designated/planned acres for this park designation.



Conservation Area / Greenway (CA). Conservation Area / Greenways are set in natural areas of the community where preservation of the environment is the primary emphasis as opposed to active recreation and play. This designation typically includes bituminous trails, rest areas, picnic grounds and off-street parking for users. Although currently undeveloped, the City has 12.83 acres classified for Conservation Area / Greenway purposes.

Special Use Park (SUP). The Special Use Park designation includes facilities which provide special activities, unique built environments, historical sites or single purposes. The City currently classifies 12.72 acres of undeveloped/planned park acreage for this purpose.

City Trails / Sidewalks. As of 2007, Elko New Market contained approximately 58,243 feet or approximately 11 miles of trails and sidewalks maintained by the City, valued at \$1,456,075 (58,243 lineal feet of trail x estimated \$25.00 per lineal foot of trail/sidewalk). Map 1, Existing Parks and Trails identifies the location of these existing sidewalks and trails within the community. Additionally, the City of Elko New Market requires developers to install sidewalks adjacent to all local streets within new subdivisions. While the sidewalks that are required adjacent to local streets are private improvements, they are considered to be part of the City of Elko New Market Park and Trail system.



The following park inventory, aerial plates and recreation facilities chart are provided and should be periodically updated to provide a base line reference for the park and trail system.

TABLE 1
Existing Elko New Market Park Inventory

Park Facilities	(as of Dec 2007)	Park Class	Total Acres
MP MINI PARK			
1	City Hall Park	MP	0.53
2	Kelly Glen Park	MP	0.28
3	Whispering Creek North Park (Planned)	MP	0.62
4	Whispering Hills Park	MP	0.09
5	Windrose Tot Lot	MP	4.50
6	Woodcrest Park	MP	0.44
Mini Park Acreage Subtotal			6.46
NP NEIGHBORHOOD PARK			
7	St. Nicholas Church (Private)	NP	6.87
Neighborhood Park Acreage Subtotal			6.87
CP COMMUNITY PARK			
8	Elko Baseball Club (Private)	CP	2.83
9	Wagner Park	CP	12.57
10	Windrose Park East	CP	7.08
Community Park Acreage Subtotal			22.48
CPA COMMUNITY PLAYFIELD / ATHLETIC COMPLEX			
11	Mahowald Park (Planned)	CPA	20.06
Community Playfield / Athletic Complex Acreage Subtotal			20.06
CA CONSERVATION AREA/GREENWAYS			
12	Elko North Park	CA	7.90
13	Windrose Park West	CA	4.93
Conservation Area Acreage Subtotal			12.83
SUP SPECIAL USE PARK			
14	Pete's Hill Park (Planned)	SUP	12.72
Special Use Park Acreage Subtotal			12.72
TOTAL PARK ACREAGE			81.42





City of Elko New Market 2030 Park & Trail Plan

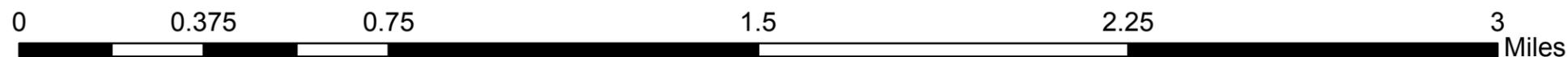
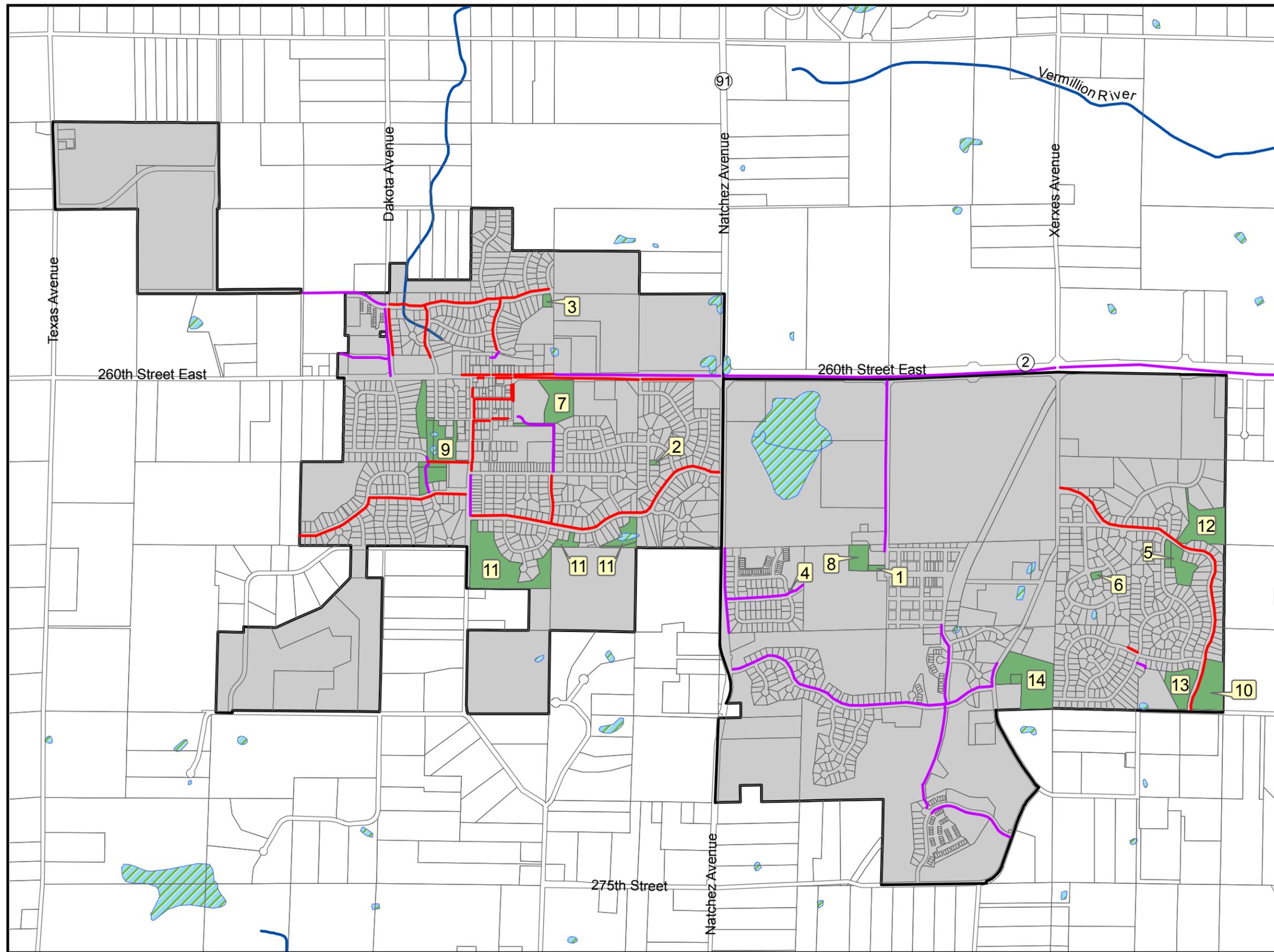
Map 1

Existing Parks and Trails

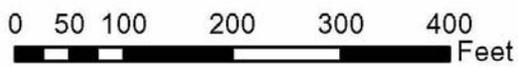
- Current Elko New Market City Boundary
- Streams
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Existing Elko New Market Park
- Existing City Trail (6.1 miles)
- Existing City Sidewalk (4.9 miles)

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14	Pete's Hill Park (Planned)	SUP	12.72
			Special Use Park Acreage Subtotal
			12.72
			TOTAL PARK ACREAGE
			81.42

April 1, 2008
Source: Scott County GIS Department,
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
& Northwest Associated Consultants, Inc.



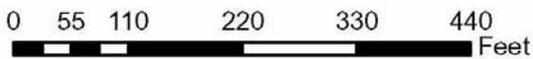
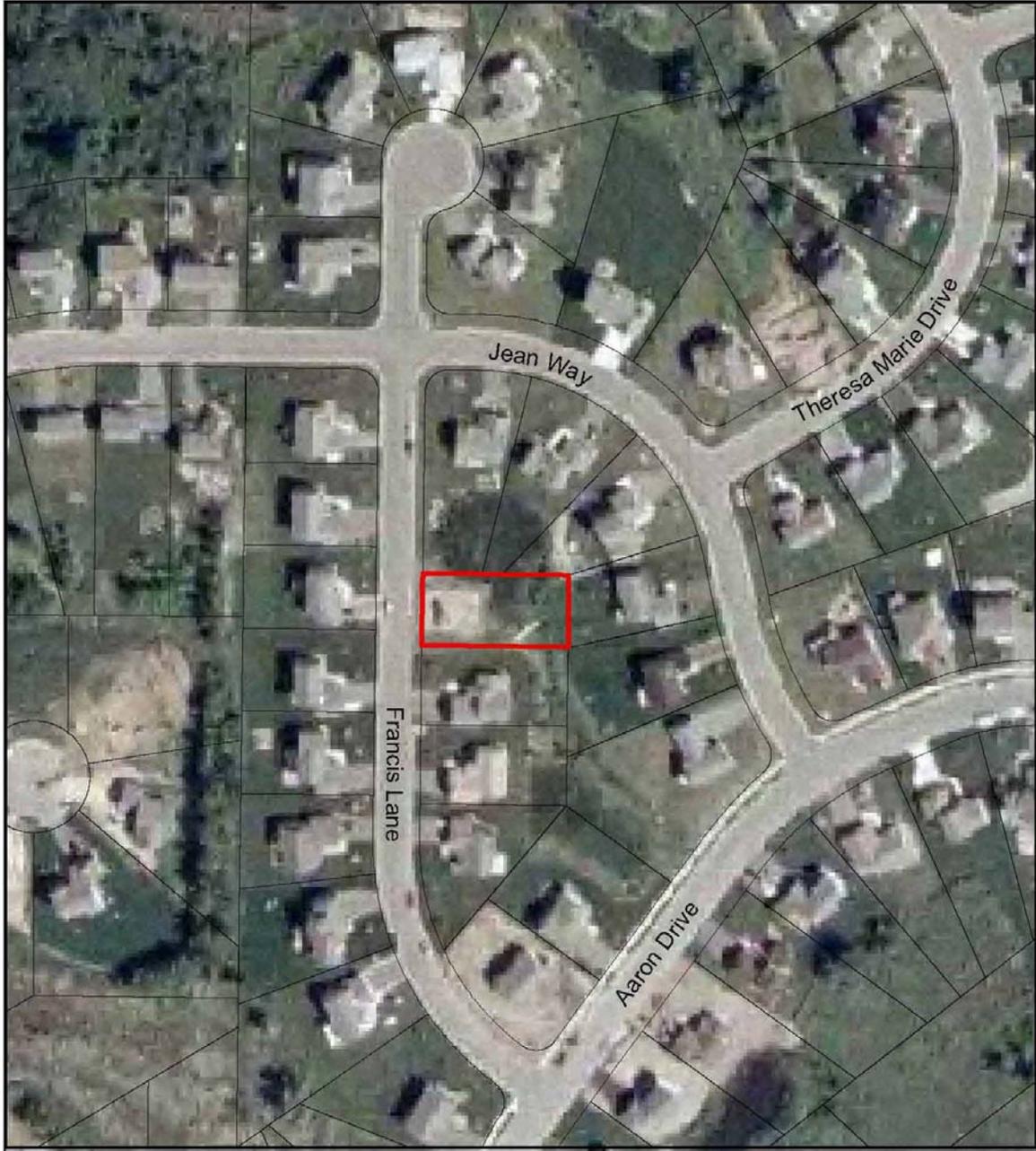
**Plate Number 1
City Hall Park**



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Telephone: 763.231.2855 Fax: 763.231.2851 planners@nacplanning.com



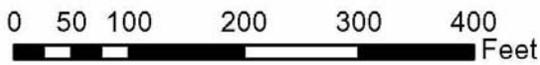
Plate Number 2
Kelly Glen Park



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Plate Number 3
Whispering Ck. N. Park

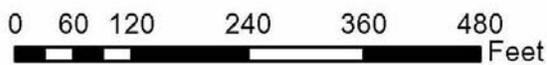
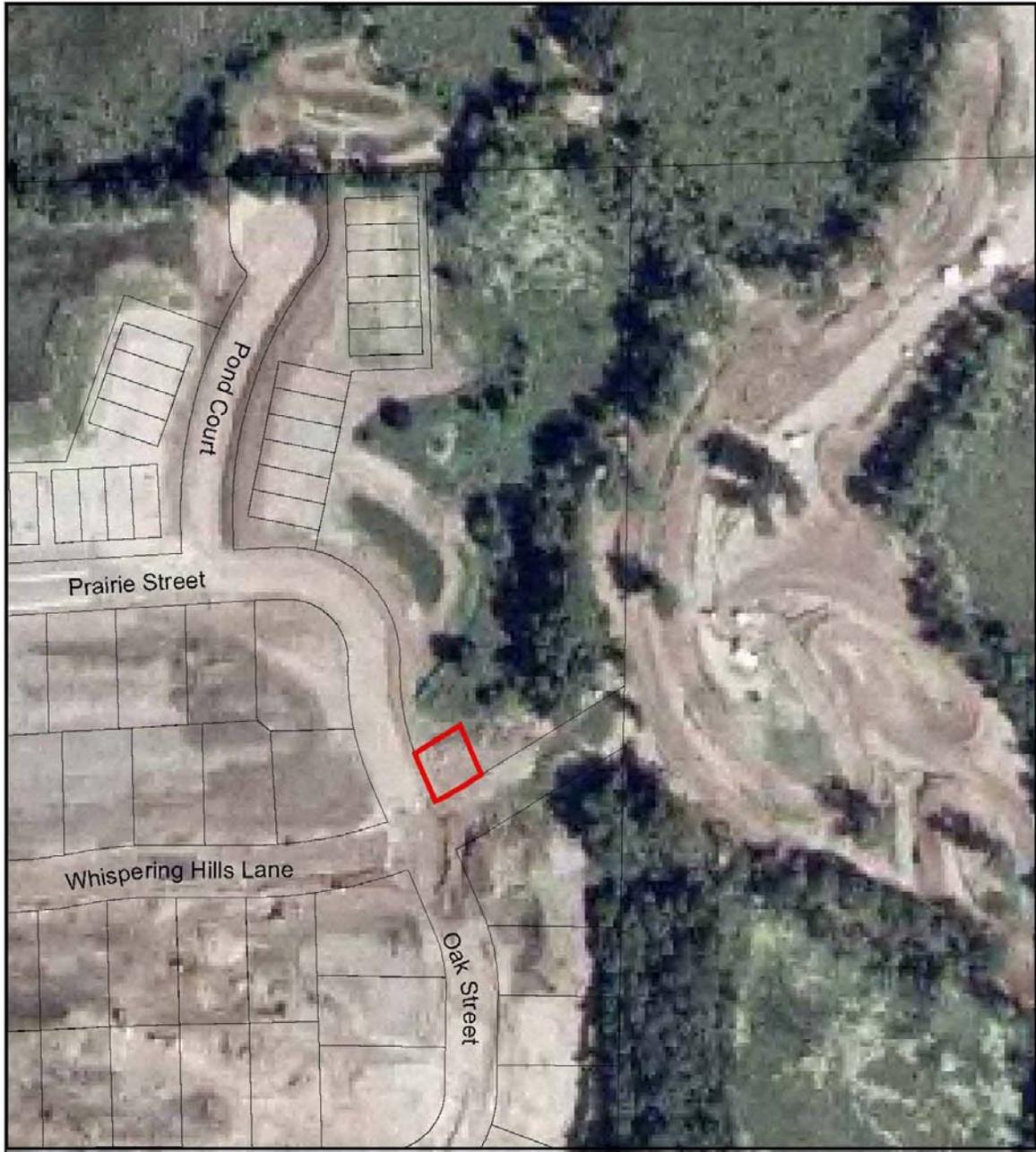


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Plate Number 4
Whispering Hills Park

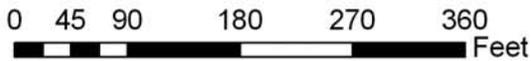


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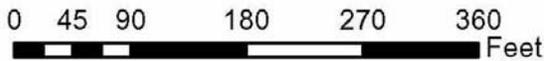
Plate Number 5
Windrose Tot Lot



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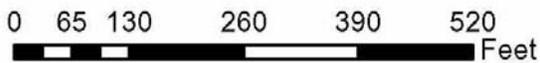
Plate Number 6
Woodcrest Park



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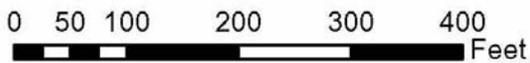
Plate Number 7
St. Nicholas Church Park



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Plate Number 8
Elko Baseball Club

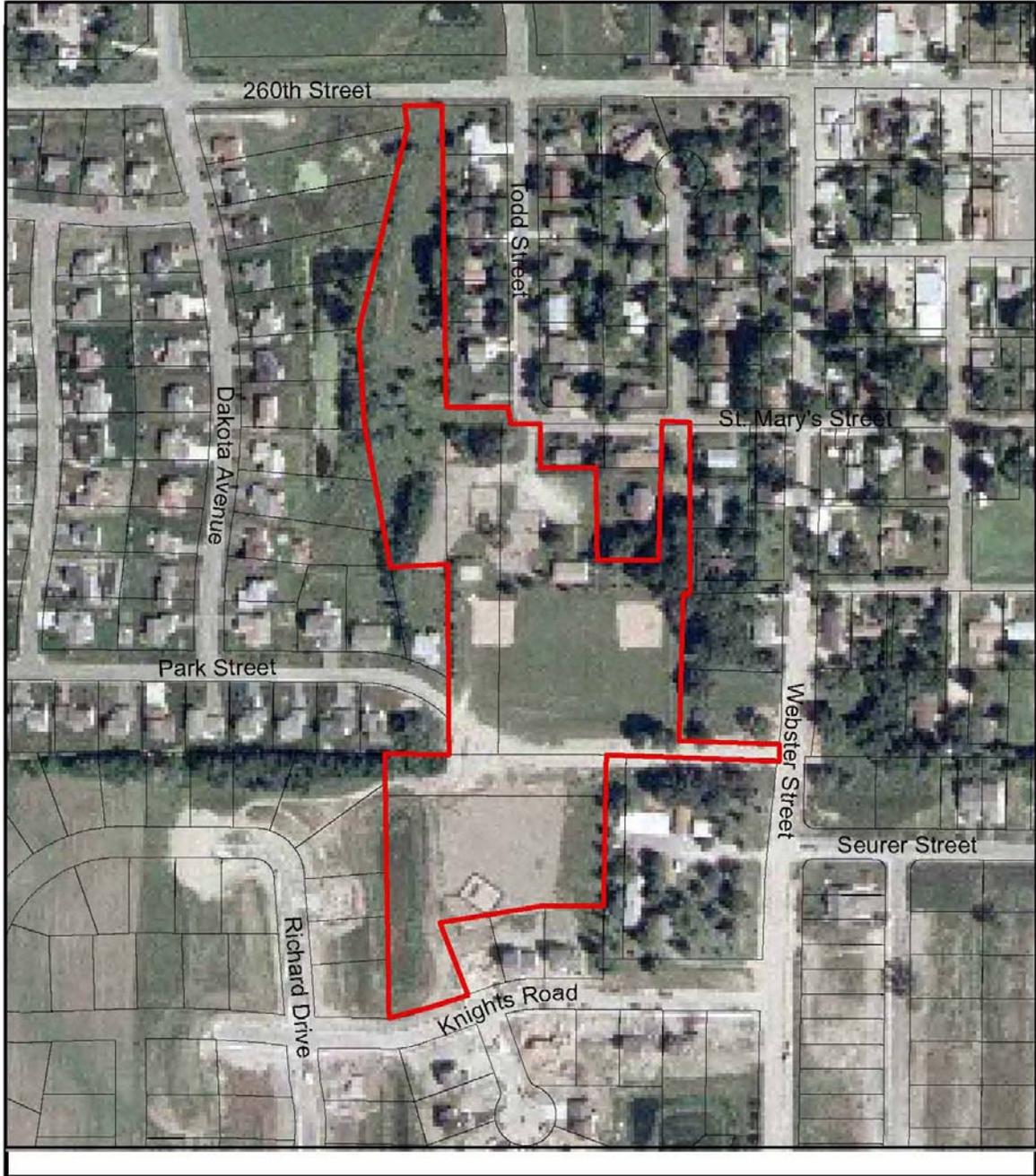


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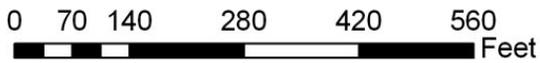
Plate Number 9
Wagner Park



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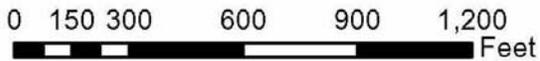
Plate Number 10
Windrose Park East



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**Plate Number 11
Mahowald Park**

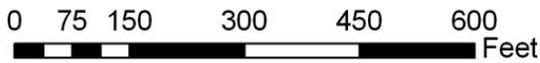


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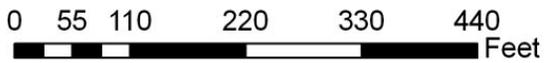
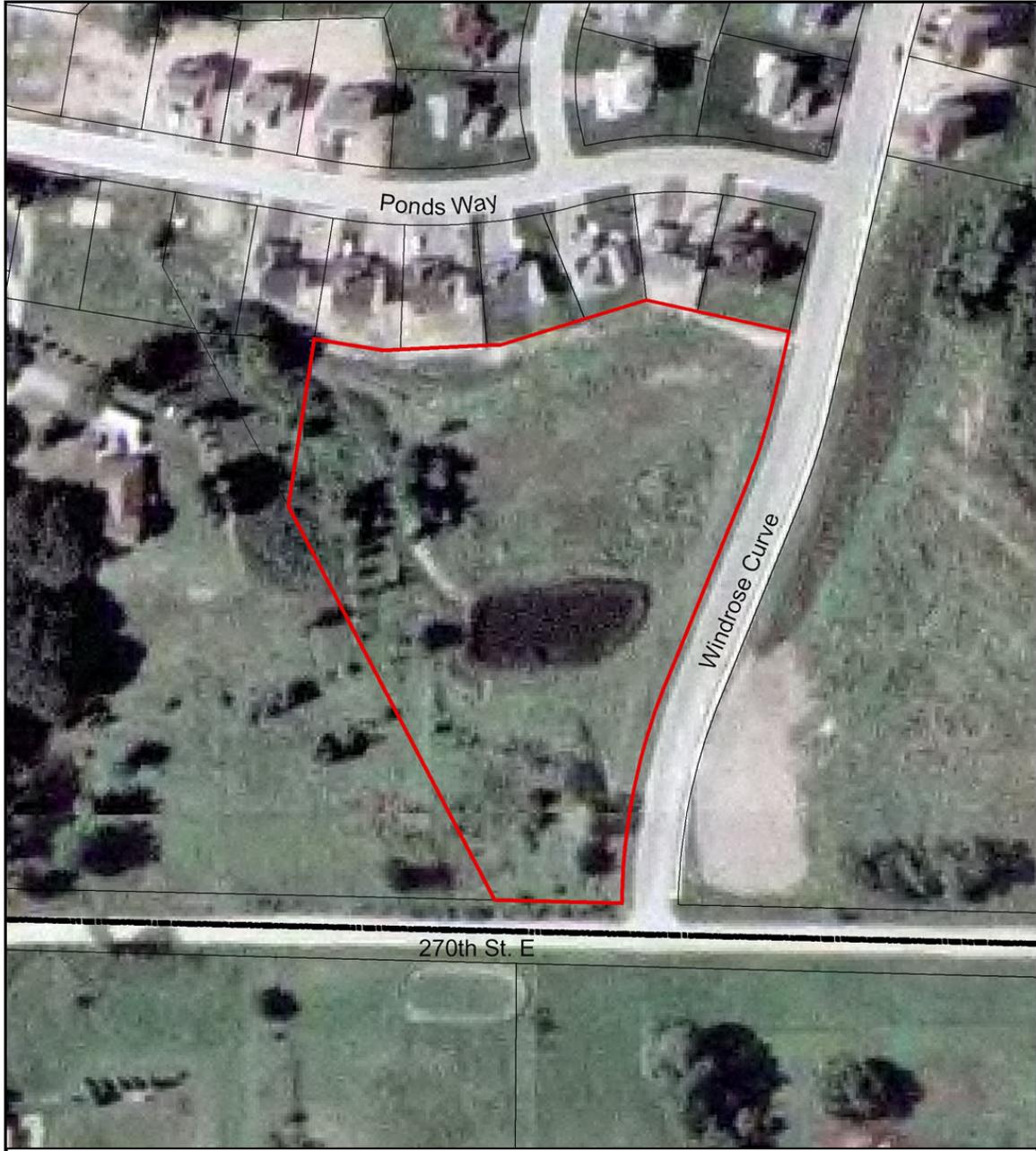
Plate Number 12
Elko North Park



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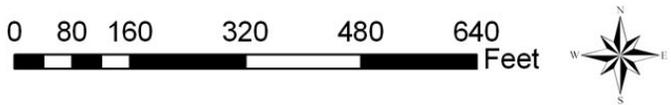
Plate Number 13
Windrose Park West



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Plate Number 14
Pete's Hill Park



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**TABLE 2
Elko New Market Recreational Facilities**

Park Facilities	(as of Dec 2007)	Park Class	Total Acres	Archery	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Biking/Walking Trails	Boat or Canoe Launch	Conservation Area	Cross Country Skiing	Equestrian Trails	Fishing	Flower Gardens	Football Field	Hockey Rink	Horseshoe Pit	Open Playfield	Park Building	Picnic Facilities	Picnic Shelter	Playground Equipment	Pleasure Skating	Restroom	Sledding	Skate Park	Snowmobile Trails	Soccer Fields	Softball Field	Swimming	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	
MP	MINI PARK																															
1	City Hall Park	MP	0.53															•	•		•		•									
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10	Windrose Park East	CP	7.08						•										•	•	•		•				•				•	
	Community Park Acreage Subtotal		22.48																													
CPA	COMMUNITY PLAYFIELD / ATHLETIC COMPLEX																															
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14	Pete's Hill Park (Planned)	SUP	12.72				•												•													
	Special Use Park Acreage Subtotal		12.72																													
	TOTAL PARK ACREAGE		81.42																													



REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

In addition to Elko New Market recreational facilities, Three Rivers Park District, Scott County, Independent School Districts 194 and 721, Cities of Lakeville and New Prague and New Market Township provide parks, trails and recreational facilities that may provide opportunities for further connections and joint development with the City of Elko New Market park and trail facilities.

Three Rivers Park District

This natural resource based park system was formerly known as Hennepin Parks. Each of the park’s facilities is located within watersheds that flow into three significant rivers; the Mississippi, Minnesota and Crow. Three Rivers Park District has an 80/20 policy for regional parks, which outlines that eighty (80) percent of the parkland must be preserved or restored to a natural state and twenty (20) percent may be developed for active use. The following is a list of Three Rivers Park District resources for Elko New Market residents:

Recreational Facilities	(as of July 2007)	Total Acres	Miles of Trails
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT			
Cleary Lake Regional Park		1,045	7
Murphy Hanrehan Park Reserve		2,400	40
Three Rivers Subtotal		3,445	47

Scott County Parks Program

Recently formed in 2005 as a result of dissolution of a joint powers agreement with the Three Rivers Park District, the Scott County Parks Program is focused on creating, operating and maintaining a system of parks, trails and open space to meet the needs of 11 (eleven) townships and 7 (seven) cities that make up Scott County, while continuing to support the existing facilities of the Three Rivers Park District. The Scott County Parks Program is focused on land acquisition and planning for the development and operation of regional and county parks and trails. The following is a list of planned county park resources for Elko New Market residents:

Recreational Facilities	(as of July 2007)	Total Acres	Miles of Trails
SCOTT COUNTY PARKS PROGRAM			
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park (Planned)		172	N/A
Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park (Planned)		882	N/A
Spring Lake Regional Park (Planned)		392	N/A
Scott County Subtotal		1,446	N/A



Lakeville Independent School District (ISD) 194

Residents living in the eastern portion of the City attend schools located in Lakeville Independent School District 194. Children residing in this district attend John F. Kennedy Elementary, McGuire Middle School and Lakeville South High School. These schools are located approximately ten (10) miles northwest of Elko New Market and are listed below:

Recreational Facilities	(as of July 2007)	Total Acres	Miles of Trails
LAKEVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 194			
John F. Kennedy Elementary		N/A	N/A
McGuire Middle School		N/A	N/A
Lakeville South High School		N/A	N/A
Lakeville ISD 194 Subtotal		N/A	N/A

New Prague Independent School District (ISD) 721

Residents living in the western portion of the City attend schools located in New Prague Independent School District 721. Children residing in this district attend Eagle View Elementary, New Prague Middle School and New Prague High School. These schools are located approximately between 2 and 13 miles west of Elko New Market and are listed below:

Recreational Facilities	(as of July 2007)	Total Acres	Miles of Trails
NEW PRAGUE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 721			
Eagle View Elementary		N/A	N/A
New Prague Middle School		N/A	N/A
New Prague High School		N/A	N/A
New Prague ISD 721 Subtotal		N/A	N/A



City of Lakeville

The City of Lakeville maintains a total of 53 parks and more than 60 miles of pedestrian and bike trails, encompassing more than 1,100 acres. For the purpose of this Plan, only community parks and conservation areas located north of 215th Street, south of 185th Street, east of Judicial Road and west of Dodd Boulevard have been highlighted due to amenities offered, proximity to Elko New Market and the associated Lakeville IDS 194 schools.

Recreational Facilities CITY OF LAKEVILLE	(as of July 2007)	Total Acres	Miles of Trails
Antlers Park and Beach		12	N/A
Casperson Park and Boat Launch		40	N/A
Meadows Conservation Area		10	N/A
Ritter Farm Park		340	N/A
South Creek Greenway		81	N/A
Wild Meadows Park		17	N/A
West Lake Marion Park		39	N/A
City of Lakeville Subtotal		539	N/A

City of New Prague

There are currently 12 municipal parks located within the City of New Prague as well as school district recreational areas and private recreational facilities. For the purpose of this Plan, only parks designated as city-wide and community parks have been highlighted due to proximity to Elko New Market, amenities offered and the associated New Prague IDS 721 schools.

Recreational Facilities CITY OF NEW PRAGUE	(as of July 2007)	Total Acres	Miles of Trails
Athletic Complex (Planned)		40	N/A
Foundry Hill Park		11	N/A
Memorial Park		143	N/A
Southside Park		12	N/A
Sliding Hill Skate Park		14	N/A
City of New Prague Subtotal		220	N/A

New Market Township

A township park at the intersection of CSAH 91 and 230th Street has been tentatively planned, but as to date, has not been constructed.



Privately Owned Recreational Facilities

Numerous other private recreation facilities are available to Elko New Market residents aside from public facilities. The following facilities identify privately operated recreational activities open to the public.

Recreational Facilities	(as of July 2007)	Total Acres	Miles of Trails
PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES			
Boulder Pointe Golf Course (Open the public)		N/A	N/A
Elko Speedway		N/A	N/A
Lifetime Fitness (Membership Required)		N/A	N/A
Private Recreational Subtotal		N/A	N/A

Boulder Pointe Golf Course

9575 Glenborough Drive
Elko New Market, MN 55020

This 185 acre golf course opened to the public in 2002 and offers an 18 hole, par 71 layout. In addition, it also offers a golf shop, PGA professional instruction, leagues for men, women and juniors, full length driving range, practice putting green and full service grill.

Elko Speedway

26350 France Avenue
Elko New Market, MN 55020

Located at the eastern edge of Elko New Market, Elko Speedway is one of sixty short tracks in the nation to be sponsored by the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR). The racetrack’s season usually begins at the end of April and continues on Friday and Saturday nights through October. Since 1991, according to officials at Elko Speedway, the track has see spectator counts almost triple, competitor car count increase five times, and corporate sponsorship involvement increase dramatically.

Lifetime Fitness

18425 Dodd Road
Lakeville, MN 55044

Recently opened in June of 2007, the Lakeville location of Lifetime Fitness offers fitness machines, basketball and tennis courts, rock climbing caverns, indoor/outdoor water parks and waterslides and childcare. This Lifetime Fitness location is open 7 days a week 24 hours a day.





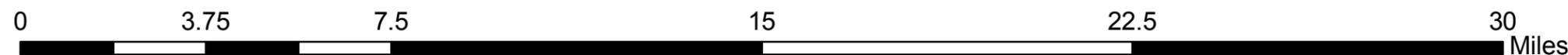
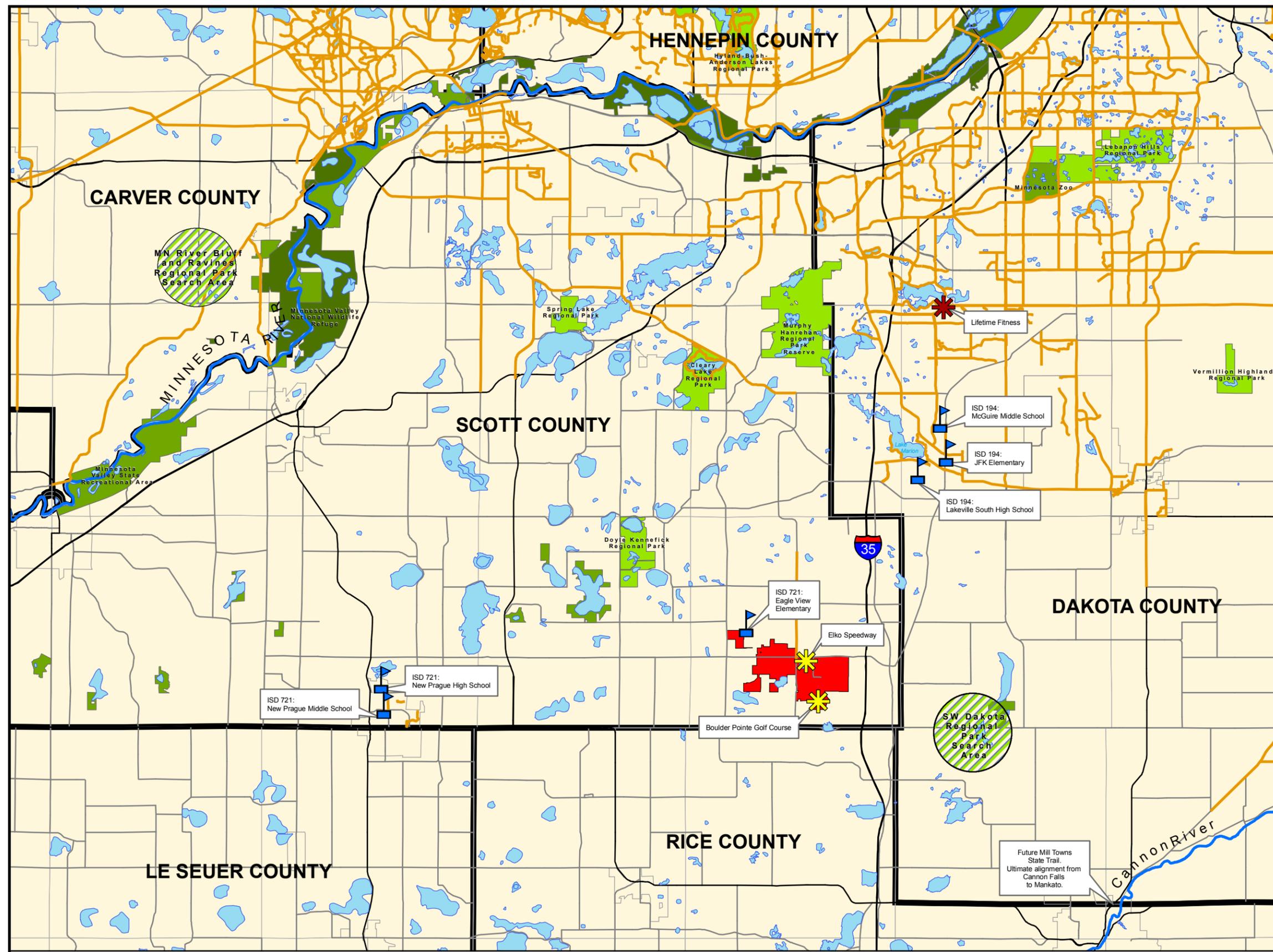
City of Elko New Market 2030 Park & Trail Plan

Map 2

Regional Recreational Facilities

- Elko New Market City Limits
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes
- Federal Park
- State Park
- Regional Park
- Private Non-Profit Park
- Existing City and County Bikeways

March 31, 2008
Source: Scott County GIS Department,
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
& Northwest Associated Consultants, Inc.



SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE

As mentioned previously, the separate Cities of Elko and New Market merged together on January 1, 2007 to form the City of Elko New Market. For the purposes of this Plan, the U.S. Census demographics data conducted for the separate cities were merged to assimilate estimates by the Metropolitan Council and authors of this Plan.

Population, Households and Employment

According to 2000 Census calculations, the combined City of Elko New Market population was 804 persons. In recent years, historically rural centers have been experiencing strong urban and suburban growth pressures. Elko New Market will continue to experience growth as the Metro Area furthers its outward expansion. By 2030, the Metropolitan Council expects the population to increase more than 6 fold from the 2006 estimate. Young families will continue to migrate to Elko New Market creating an increased need for family recreational programs and facilities. The City expects to retain many of its current residents. As current residents mature, the population will require recreational programs and facilities for all ages.

A breakdown of population and household forecasts of Elko New Market is outlined in the following table:

**TABLE 4
2030 Population, Households & Employment Forecast**

Year	Population	Household	Employment
1970	330	103	70
1980	560	179	100
1990	450	157	113
2000	804	286	248
2001	1,093	395	308
2002	1,445	542	430
2003	1,793	671	413
2004	2,311	876	414
2005	2,811	1,016	459
2006	3,305	1,068	546
2010	5,700	2,120	400
2020	13,100	4,850	900
2030	20,800	8,000	1,250

Source: 2007 Metropolitan Council



Age Distribution

The 2000 Census provided historical figures regarding Elko New Market’s population by age category. Elko New Market’s residential growth continues to be largely generated by young families. As indicated in Table 5, the City has a large percentage of its population (66%) that consist of young children to adults (ages 10 – 44 years), which are typically individuals that seek active recreation activities. The provision of active play areas and play fields within walking distance to residential neighborhoods should be a priority for the park system. As nearly 11% of the population consists of children 5 years and younger, there is a need to provide some recreation amenities designed to serve this age group as well as the older, active age groups.

**TABLE 5
2000 Population by Age Statistics**

Age Category	Elko New Market Number	Elko New Market Percent
Under 5 years	86	11
5 to 9 years	73	9
10 to 14 years	61	8
15 to 19 years	36	4
20 to 24 years	41	5
25 to 44 years	339	42
45 to 64 years	124	15
65 and older	44	5
Total Elko New Market	804	100%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, Minnesota State Demographer



School Enrollment

Elko New Market is served by Lakeville ISD 194 and New Prague ISD 721. The school district boundary between the districts roughly aligns with Natchez Avenue. Enrollments in the both Lakeville and New Prague School Districts have experienced significant increases in recent years. Due to this increasing enrollment trend, both districts have responded by adding two new schools which effect Elko New Market school children. Lakeville South High School opened during the fall of 2005 and Eagle View Elementary opened during the fall of 2006. Due to the new schools being added to the two districts so recently, it is difficult to extrapolate projection analysis from school enrollment. With this noted, Table 6 does give recent enrollment figures as baseline data for future reference.

**TABLE 6
School Enrollment for Institutions Attended by Elko New Market**

Year	Lakeville ISD 194			New Prague ISD 721		
	John F. Kennedy Elementary	McGuire Middle School	Lakeville South High School	Eagle View Elementary	New Prague Middle School	New Prague High School
2005 -2006	601	938	1,285	---	731	1,055
2006 – 2007	646	980	1,719	485	760	1,084

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, 2007.

While current school district boundaries are not anticipated to shift, it is foreshadowed as the population of Elko New Market increases the Lakeville ISD 194 district might consider a new southwestern location, closer to Elko New Market, for a new elementary school.



PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND TRAIL POLICIES

Urban development is anticipated to continue to be strong within the City and as development occurs, there is an on-going need to plan for and acquire land and equipment for future park and recreation areas. Moreover, continued expansion of the community trail and open space system is an important amenity that the City desires to provide for its residents and market to visitors. Elko New Market has the opportunity to plan and provide for parks and trails in advance of the actual need. In this regard, the City's Park and Trail Plan is an essential tool to ensure that adequate open space and recreational needs of the community are provided for. The following goals and policies are intended to serve as a guide for future system acquisition and development.

Goal 1: Protect, preserve and improve environmentally sensitive areas and natural/cultural resources.**Policies**

1. Establish the following as protection and preservation priorities:
 - a) Vermillion River corridor
 - b) Terrestrial and aquatic wildlife corridors
 - c) Shoreland areas, wetland complexes, water ways, water bodies and ponds
 - d) Ground water resources
 - e) Non metallic mineral deposits
 - f) Significant forested vegetation
 - g) Prairies and savannas
 - h) Rugged topography
2. Promote innovative development concepts that seek to protect, preserve and improve environmentally sensitive areas and natural/cultural resources.
3. Implement innovative stormwater management techniques and best management practices in existing and future park and trail projects.
4. Mitigate polluted sites.
5. Promote and engage the community in environmental preservation projects and educational material.



Goal 2: Acquire land for development of a park and trail system to fulfill the long-term needs of community residents.

Policies

1. Acquire park and trail land through land dedication, purchase, eminent domain or donation.
2. Acquire parcels that will provide for both active recreation needs and that contain natural amenities and unique landscape areas such as the Vermillion River corridor, shoreland areas, wetland complexes, water ways, water bodies, ponds, non metallic mineral deposits, significant forested vegetation, prairies, savannas and rugged topography.
2. Accept land dedication for park, trail and open space facilities in satisfaction of subdivision requirements only when the parcel satisfies the needs of the community and are compatible with surrounding parcels, as determined by the City.
3. Accept lands that serve no previously defined system purpose as a donation, but will not be accepted as part of required development contributions. Unsolicited donations will only be accepted if they are free of obligations or impacts that may limit their use.
4. Dedicate proper right-of-way for sidewalks and trails during the subdivision process or acquired as part of improvement projects.
5. Promote acquisition of land which provides public view, access and exposure to improve safety and to maximize public use for the facility. Park areas proposed behind homes or hidden from public view may not be accepted by the City for full park credit.
6. Mandate costs of acquisition and development of park and trail facilities be borne by those that benefit from the improvements.

Goal 3: Establish a comprehensive park and trail system for all residents of Elko New Market.

Policies

1. Preserve inherent natural amenities or cultural resources when planning the development of specific, park and trail sites.



2. Establish parks and trails to segregate urban land use patterns, provide public access, allow wildlife movement, and preserve open space while allowing the community to enjoy the natural amenities within the City. These natural amenities may include both buildable land and environmentally sensitive areas with a linear park design to conserve and enhance areas such as significant vegetation, water bodies, waterways, wetlands, ponds, prairies, savannas other natural resources within the community.
3. Emphasize Elko New Market as a trailway hub.
 - a) Work with the state of Minnesota to interconnect City greenway corridors and trailways to larger state-wide trails.
 - b) Interconnect Elko New Market and adjacent county's greenway corridors and trailways, specifically the Vermillion River corridor with Dakota County.
4. Maintain a balance between active and passive recreational areas and activities tailored to the needs of the entire community.
5. Integrate park and trail facilities that can be utilized during all seasons.
6. Utilize consistent design elements for park and trail facilities (buildings, play equipment, landscape plantings, signage, fixtures, etc.) that promote community identity, recognition of public facilities and safety.
7. Consider long-term costs for maintenance and operation in a facility's design and construction as part of the planning process.
8. Minimize impacts upon adjacent land uses through provision for, but not limited to the following:
 - a) Appropriate location and orientation of activity areas and buildings.
 - b) Screening and landscaping site design elements.
 - c) Structures are to be designed with appropriate scale, design and color and constructed of quality materials.
 - d) Adequate off-street parking.
9. Develop a trail system which is both functional for transportation and recreation with priority given to the following areas:
 - a) Trails connections with existing and proposed parks and trails, activity centers, school sites, natural resource areas and natural habitat / greenway corridors such as the Vermillion River.



- b) Trails along major streets that have the most direct access to destinations.
- c) Trails that are routed to minimize stop signs, cross traffic and mixing with other modes of transportation.

- 10. Coordinate the construction of trails in conjunction with State, County or City street improvement projects to minimize costs.
- 11. Mandate park and trail project be in accordance with City design standards, and to meet the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Goal 4: Ensure that the City park and trail systems are related to the needs of community residents and that the dedication requirements are roughly proportionate to the impacts generated by development.

Policies

- 1. Gauge capital improvements made to individual park facilities on the basis of relative need for developed park facilities.
- 2. Program recreational open space improvements in accordance with a Capital Improvement Program and updated on an annual basis.
- 3. Monitor park dedication fee structure to ensure that implementation of the community-wide park and trail system will be accomplished in a manner that is consistent with the law.
- 4. Require park improvements associated with development proposals be installed at the time of development to ensure that park facilities are available to neighborhood residents.

Goal 5: Develop a partnership between the City of Elko New Market, Lakeville ISD 194, New Prague ISD 721, adjacent cities, Scott County, Elko New Market Township, churches and civic organizations to provide recreation facilities and programs.

Policies

- 1. Pursue grants, joint powers agreements and other alternative funding sources for the acquisition and development of park, trail and open space facilities.
- 2. Coordinate local facility development and related services with the needs and facilities of surrounding communities, school districts, athletic associations, civic groups and other organizations.



INTRODUCTION

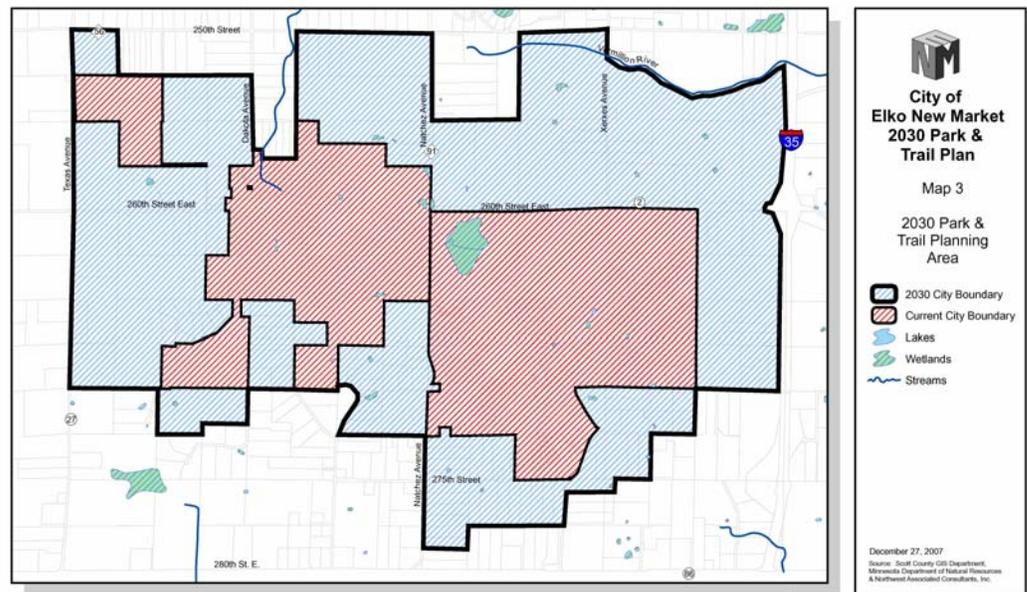
The Elko New Market 2030 Park and Trail Plan is intended to provide guidance to City Officials, developers and residents for continued development of the City’s park and trail system. Park classifications are identified herein in greater detail. The Plan projects park and trail development needs through the year 2030 and identifies search areas for future park facilities needs. It must be emphasized that the future park search areas identified herein do not target specific properties. Instead, the search areas identify general areas of acquisition toward the goal of providing the City with the ability to reserve land from development as it becomes available.

Trail development is addressed somewhat differently, in that major future trail corridors have been identified by the Southeast Scott County Comprehensive Plan. The Park and Trail Plan Map identifies these important corridors and trail segments that the City believes should be constructed in order to link community facilities to regional facilities and open space systems that exist or are being planned in adjacent communities and townships. The basic concept of the 2030 Park and Trail Plan is to provide for a pedestrian and bicycle transportation network that connects to important recreational and social centers in the community.

The comprehensive trail system should not only ensure public access to community amenities but will also provide recreation opportunities for all age groups and safer access to facilities than are currently available within the community. The comprehensive trail system can also be utilized as a marketing tool for the community as well to bring visitors to Elko New Market to support the local businesses and entertainment industry.

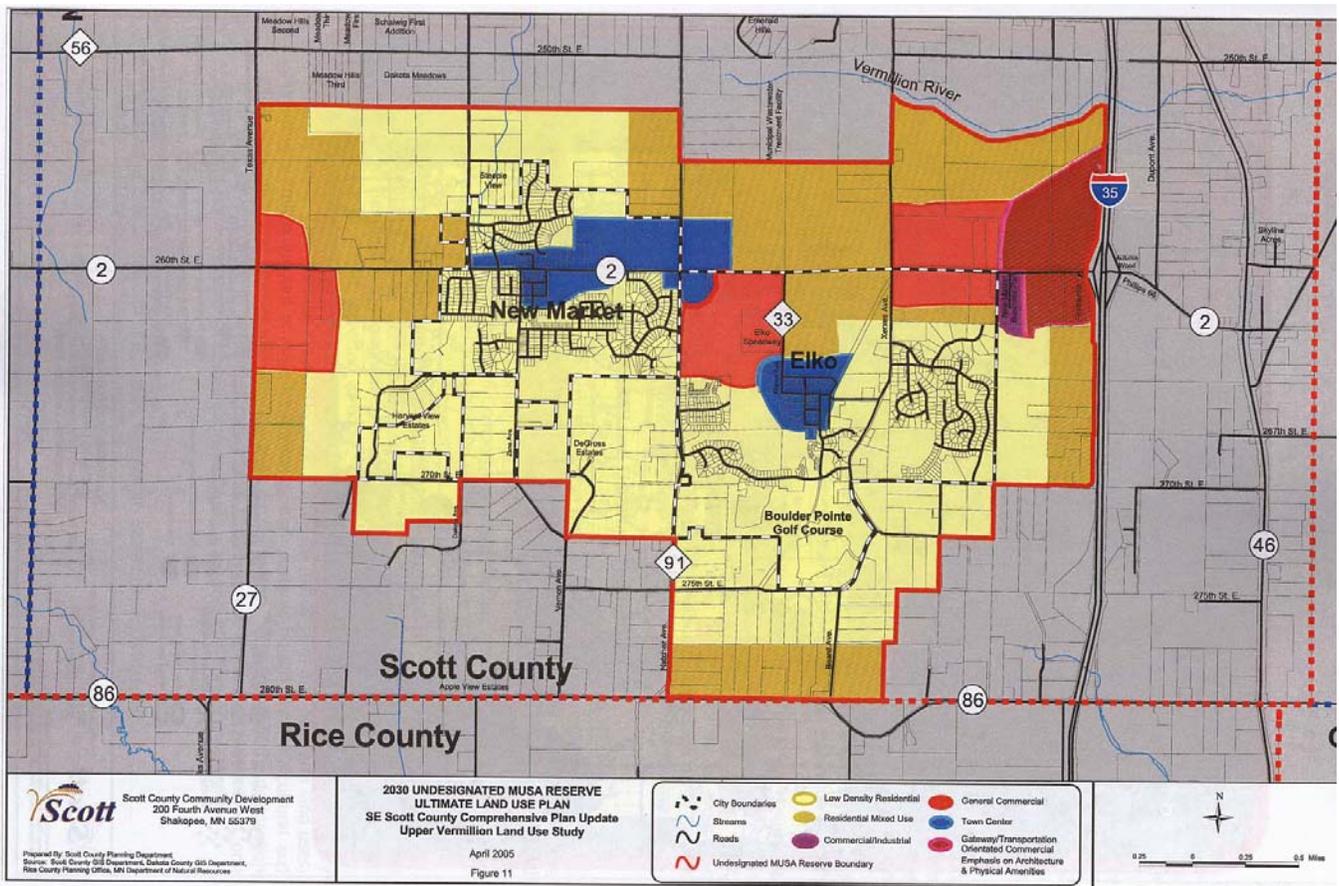
The map at right illustrates the general areas to which this Park and Trail Plan and dedication analysis apply.

MAP 3: 2030 Park and Trail Planning Area



The 2030 Park and Trail Plan recognizes that the majority of the projected 2030 population (20,800) will reside in residential areas as guided by the Southeast Scott County Comprehensive Plan. Residential land use categories are classified as low density residential and residential mixed use. The low density residential includes single family detached dwellings, townhomes, four-plexes and retirement complexes. The residential mixed use district is based on the low density, however it contains a greater portion of non-single family detached homes at higher densities than the low density residential district. The following map depicts these guided residential areas.

MAP 4: 2030 Undesignated MUSA Reserve, Ultimate Land Use (2005)



PARK FACILITY NEEDS

As previously indicated, it is anticipated that the population of the City of Elko New Market will grow to 20,800 by the year 2030. For park planning purposes, communities range in the amount of parkland that is desired per capita. Generally, the amount of park acreage per capita ranges from 10 to 20 acres per 1,000 residents. For the purpose of this Plan, the acreage per capita of “15 acres per 1,000 residents” was used to calculate park acreage needs for the community. Utilizing the population forecast from the Metropolitan Council for Elko New Market, the following table illustrates the number of acres of park that will be needed to accommodate future populations through the year 2030.

TABLE 7: PARK ACREAGE NEEDS THROUGH 2030

Year	Elko New Market Population Forecast	Required Park Acreage (15 acres/ 1,000 people)
2000	804	12
2001	1,093	16
2002	1,445	22
2003	1,793	27
2004	2,311	35
2005	2,811	42
2006	3,305	50
2010	5,700	86
2020	13,100	197
2030	20,800	312

Source: 2007 Metropolitan Council

Based upon the foregoing, the Elko New Market park system should currently include approximately 50 - 86 acres of parkland to serve the existing population. Table 1 illustrates that the City currently has about 48.02 acres of private and public park area with an additional 33.4 acres that are at various stages of development. This gives Elko New Market a current total of 81.42 acres of public and private recreation areas, which is within the recommended parameters. Approximately 312 acres of upland park/recreation area will be needed to accommodate the anticipated 2030 population of 20,800 residents. Based upon the 15 acre/1,000 population standard, a minimum of 231 acres of land will need to be added to the park system between now and 2030.

It should be noted that the acres/1,000 population figures typically pertain to the core park systems, exclusive of trail corridors and special use facilities like golf clubs, regional parks and wetland open space areas. The acres/1,000 population provides one method to evaluate park systems. The City should utilize the standard as a way to evaluate whether the overall park system acreage is generally acceptable. The City should seek to service the needs of



individual neighborhoods as well as the entire community and seek to protect its significant natural resources areas through the way in which it develops and connects its park system. As a part of the park planning effort, Park Commission members inquired about the type of facilities that should be offered within the park system for residents. The type, number and quality of park equipment, courts and fields are subject to individual goals and objectives of each community. To assist in ascertaining the type of potential facilities that a community could offer the National Recreation and Parks Association has developed a chart which identifies the type and activity per size of population based and service area. The following table summarizes the general facility guidelines based upon the existing population of the City and the projected 2030 population. It also identifies the number of various recreation facilities that the City may consider providing for its residents:

TABLE 8: PARK FACILITY / POPULATION COMPARISON*

Activity	# Units/ Population	2007 Existing Facilities							Total Recreation Facilities Needed by 2030 to Meet NRPA Guidelines (20,800 POP.)
		Three Rivers Park District	Scott County Parks Program	Lakeville ISD 194	New Prague ISD 721	Cities of Lakeville & New Prague	Private Recreational Facilities	Elko New Market City Parks	
Baseball Official	1 per 5,000	0	0	1	4	5	0	3	0
Baseball (Lighted Field)	1 per 30,000	0	0	4	4	0	0	1	0
Basketball Court (Indoor)	1 per 2,000	0	0	10	6	0	1	0	0
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1 per 2,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
Football / Soccer Field	1 per 3,500	0	0	13	9	2	0	1	0
Ice Hockey (Indoor)	1 per 100,000	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ice Hockey (Outdoor)	1 per 3,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Ice Skating Rink	1 per 2,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	9
Horseshoes	1 per 2,000	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	3
Softball/Little League Field	1 per 2,000	0	0	8	4	7	0	1	0
Swimming/Aquatics	1 per 20,000	●	●	●	0	●	●	0	0
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	0	0	12	16	0	1	0	0
Running Track	1 per 20,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Volleyball Court	1 per 2,000	0	0	8	11	5	0	2	0

* National Recreation and Parks Association Guidelines, Dept. of the Army, Handbook for Recreational Planning and Design, Brauer & Associates, Ltd.

It is important for community members to note that the above table is a guideline only and that there is no specific number or type of recreation facilities that every community should provide. As there are a number of parks that will be outfitted within the future, it may be an opportune time for the City to survey residents to determine what type of facilities they would like to provide in neighborhood and community parks.



PARK AND TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

The first step in determining the needs of the Elko New Market park system is to identify the associated park and trail classifications. The following are nationally recognized park types with modifications made for local Elko New Market conditions and needs.

The park and trail classification system is intended to guide Elko New Market decision makers in determining future park location, size and class as dictated by local circumstances. The City of Elko New Market recognizes the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards to:

1. Define minimum acceptable facilities for citizens of the community.
2. Establish guidelines to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
3. Establish a basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide recreation system.
4. Utilize the Park and Trail Plan as a means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of the City.

The standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment relating to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. Occasionally, more than one component may occur within the same site, particularly with regard to a specialized use within a larger park.



Mini Park (MP)

Mini parks are intended to service special neighborhoods due to geographic limitations. They have insufficient size to fulfill the needs of a complete neighborhood park. The sites usually have less than five (5) acres of usable land and therefore only allow for play equipment, multiuse hard-courts and possibly substandard ball fields (suitable for informal recreation). These areas are highly individual neighborhood facilities based upon the nature of the site and the needs of the immediate adjacent population.

Desirable Park Size: Minimum size of one (1) acre, maximum size of five (5) acres

Service Area: Less than ¼ mile radius preferred. ½ mile radius in select circumstances.

Per Capita Standard: 0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 population

Typical Facilities:

- Seating Areas
- Small picnic area
- Small play structure
- Facilities for seniors such as horseshoe courts (in senior residential community)
- Adequate pedestrian access
- Multi use half court/basketball hard-court

Mini Park Demand Projection

2007 Current acreage	6.46 acres
2007 Required acreage*	0.83 to 1.65 acres
2030 Projected acreage*	5.2 to 10.4 acres

*Based upon 2007 Metropolitan Council population projections.



Neighborhood Park (NP)

Neighborhood parks should provide informal neighborhood open space with provisions for active recreation use which responds to residential neighborhood needs. These recreational uses include informal playgrounds, creative play structures, trails, hard-courts, walking trails, picnic areas and pleasure ice skating. Primary users will be children and families rather than organized athletic functions. These parks are intended to be developed adjacent to or incorporated with high natural amenity areas. Neighborhood Parks should ideally range in 6 to 20 acres in size, for both active and passive uses. In some cases, joint use of elementary or middle school sites should be considered to minimize duplication of active recreation facilities. Convenient pedestrian and bicycle linkages from the neighborhood into the parks should occur along with community trail connections. Secondary site access should include streets with vehicle parking facilities provided. Adjacent land use should be residential (limited to two edges), school grounds, collector roadway or community open space.

Desirable Park Size: 6 to 20 acres

Service Area: ½ mile radius uninterrupted by principal roadways or major physical barriers. Secondary service to residences within ¾ mile radius.

Per Capita Standard: 2.5 to 3.5 developed acres per 1,000 population

Neighborhood Park Demand Projection

2007 Current acreage	6.87 acres (privately held)
2007 Required acreage*	8.26 to 11.57 acres
2030 Projected acreage*	52 to 72.8 acres

*Based upon 2007 Metropolitan Council population projections.

Typical Facilities:

Active

- Informal playground (not lighted) compatible with softball or soccer use but no programmed use
- Creative play structures and apparatus for children of varying ages including tots (2-5) years, young children (5-6) and older children (9-12)
- Trails – both internal loops and access to community system
- Sledding
- Multiuse hard surface play court (basketball, court games)
- Tennis courts (optional, can vary by location and neighborhood desires)
- Skating – both lighted hockey and pleasure skating



Passive

- Picnic accommodations for small groups
- Park benches
- Walking trails and trail connections to neighborhood and community trail system

Support Elements

- Trash containers
- Landscaping with native plant materials
- Identification sign/regulatory signs
- Off-street parking, disability accessible (20 car standard)
- Park shelter for principal neighborhood parks (15 acres and larger that area geographically distributed throughout the City)

Other Comments

- Active area should be orientated away from residential edges
- Parcels should not be fragmented in layout
- Summer programming optimal where park shelter is available
- Outdoor hockey rinks with lighting and free skating rink may be located in neighborhood parks where a park shelter is located. Additional parking amounting to 20 – 30 spaces should be provided adjacent to hockey rinks.

Potential park dedication credits may be considered for private area green space, play areas or other recreational amenities where impacts to community wide system are satisfactorily addressed.



Community Park (CP)

Community parks should be differentiated from neighborhood parks by two factors: size and function. The Community Park designation includes both parks and playfields that provide facilities for recreational activities such as walking, picnicking, viewing, water sports, hockey rinks and pleasure skating rinks, passive sports and organized community events. These parks serve the City as a whole and typically include between 2 to 20 acres of land.

- Desirable Park Size:** N/A
- Service Area:** 1 mile radius City wide
- Per Capita Standard:** 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 population

Community Park Demand Projection

2007 Current acreage	22.48 acres (which includes 2.83 acres of privately held acreage)
2007 Required acreage*	16.53 to 26.44 acres
2030 Projected acreage*	104 to 166.4 acres

*Based upon 2007 Metropolitan Council population projections.

Typical Facilities

Active

- Beach front
- Boat access
- Multiuse trails
- Active facilities compatible with large group picnics such as volleyball, horseshoes, softball or court games
- Play structures(s) for various age groups

Passive

- Picnic facilities
- Seating with attractive views
- Fishing
- Natural interpretation
- Trails (various types)

Support Facilities

- Comfort facilities with restrooms which may integrate an information center, picnic facility, storage or other building requirements
- Parking for large groups and community events
- Signage.
- Adequate waste collection and storage



Community Playfield / Athletic Complex (CPA)

Community playfield/athletic complexes are targeted towards organized adult and youth play on a citywide basis. The majority of the users for these facilities will come from beyond a walking range and as a result will require adequate parking and available restrooms. Community Playfields/Athletic Complexes should respond to the following types of athletic facility needs: softball fields, baseball fields, soccer/football fields, multiple tennis courts and swimming pools. Facility use and team competition play may require site lighting and irrigation to extend their useable hours. Community Playfields/Athletic Complexes should be maintained with more intensity than other parks due to the amount of use and level of play.

Community Playfields/Athletic Complexes generally service populations up to 25,000 however, their service base relates primarily to individual facility needs and the demands placed on them by user groups. Minimum size should not be less than 20 acres with optimum size being 30 acres or larger. Locations near thoroughfares to accommodate vehicle access and movement are preferred. Joint use of facilities with elementary, middle or senior high schools can be considered where schedules and maintenance requirements agree.

- Desirable Park Size:** Minimum of 20 acres, maximum 60 acres
- Service Area:** Community wide
- Per Capita Standard:** 2.0 to 2.5 developed acres per 1,000 population

Community Playfield / Athletic Complex Demand Projection

2007 Current acreage	20.06 acres
2007 Required acreage*	6.61 to 8.26 acres
2030 Projected acreage*	41.6 to 52 acres

*Based upon 2007 Metropolitan Council population projections.

Typical Facilities:

Active

- Baseball
- Softball
- Football
- Soccer
- Lacrosse
- Ice Hockey
- Basketball
- Tennis Complex (multiple courts)
- Free skating
- Swimming pools



- Disk golf
- Play apparatus

Passive

- Spectator seating and bleacher areas
- Picnic facilities for group events and tournaments
- Trails connective facilities and links to the community trail system

Support Facilities

- Vehicle parking for players and spectators, including buses
- Comfort facility including restrooms and concessions
- Storage facilitations



Conservation Area / Greenway (CA)

Conservation areas/greenways are set in natural areas of the community where preservation of the natural environment is the primary emphasis as opposed to active recreation and play. Hiking trails, wildlife habitat and picnic facilities are among the primary uses of such a park facility, which in turn benefit the natural wildlife of the area and nature enthusiasts. This type of facility is typically developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, skiing, roller blading, skating, canoeing etc. Developed facilities should be limited to elements compatible with resource preservation or management.

The City has approximately 12.83 gross acres of land currently designated for Conservation Area/Greenway purposes.

Desirable Park Size: Varies by use and function, but corridors are to be a minimum of 100 feet in width

Service Area: Community wide

Per Capita Standard: N/A

Typical Facilities:

- Passive trails, rest areas incorporating elements such as a small play area, benches, picnic tables, comfort facilities, interpretive and information signing, lighting, trail access points, parking areas and scenic overlooks



Special Use Park (SUP)

Special use parks are facilities which provide special activities, unique built environments, historical sites or single purposes. Their need should respond to distinct markets, demands or opportunities within the community. Characteristics vary widely in response to the facility and the demand responded to. Included in this classification are formal designations of a site with historical character or cultural significance. Uses typical of this special designation include dog parks, golf courses, nature centers, conservatories, arboretums, gardens, fishing piers, amphitheatres or downhill ski areas.

The Parks Commission should work collectively with the Scott County Historical Society and other local historical commissions to facilitate identification and designation of potentially significant historical sites within the Elko New Market.

The City has approximately 12.72 gross acres of land currently designated for Special Use Park purposes.

Desired Park Size: Varies by function and facility type. Historical features should be a minimum of one half (1/2) acre to encourage use and provide support facilities.

Service Area: Community wide

Per Capita Standard: N/A

Typical Facilities:

- Facilities vary according to function and facility type. Support facilities may include parking, comfort facilities, trail and signing.



Trailway Corridors

This trail alignment is identified by Scott County to link Blakely Bluffs Regional Park Reserve search area with a future southwest Dakota Regional Park search area. The proposed trailway corridor will require Metropolitan Council approval and incorporation into their next regional parks policy plan to become official. This alignment is a general place holder and will require a master plan to determine the exact alignment. Scott County will seek regional status during the 2009 Regional Parks Policy Plan update process.

County Trailway Corridors

The Southeast Scott County Comprehensive Plan Update guides the location of future county trailway corridors throughout Elko New Market. These detached county trailway corridors connect trail users to regional parks, open space and recreational areas located throughout Scott County. A county trailway corridor that aligns along County Road 27 extends north to Cleary Lake Regional Park and south to a future Rice County connection. An additional county trailway corridor extends northeast from Elko New Market along the Vermillion River and connects to Dakota County.

City Trailway Corridors

The Southeast Scott County Comprehensive Plan Update also guides the location of city trailway corridors throughout Elko New Market. Unlike the linear alignment of the future county trailway corridors, the city trailway corridors follow natural features and an existing railroad bed.

City Trails / Sidewalks

City trails and sidewalks supplement the aforementioned county and city trailway corridors, connecting these larger trail networks to local neighborhoods, commercial nodes, school facilities and other parks within the network. Where the city trails/sidewalks are proposed along county roads, an attached trail is proposed at time of reconstruction if space permits.



PARK SERVICE AREAS

Map 5 - Park Service Area Map indicates the location of existing parks within the City. This map is a useful tool to indicate certain areas within the 2030 city boundary that are not serviced by a mini, neighborhood or community park. A buffer is given for parks which can be related to a park service area specifically defined as: ¼ mile for mini parks, ½ mile for neighborhood parks and 1 mile for community parks. Community playfields / athletic complexes, conservation areas / greenways and special use parks do not have a defined service area as they are serviced at a community wide level.

While this map indicates distribution of its parks, it should be noted that 260th Street East (CSAH 2) and Natchez Avenue (CSAH 91) create barriers that limit the accessibility park access by younger children. The service areas for parks which are affected by these roadways have been abbreviated and condensed.

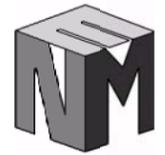
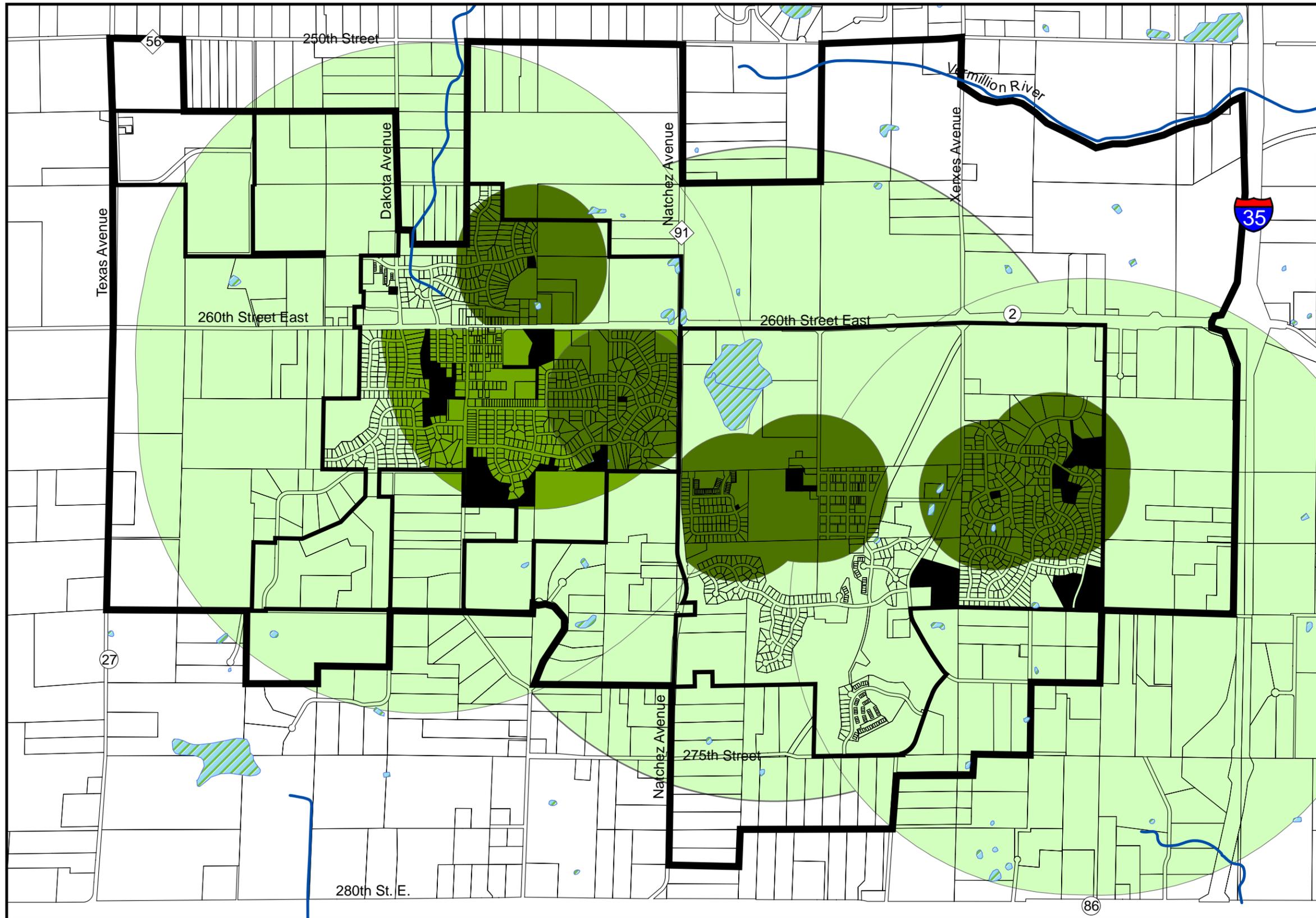
The Park Service Area Map indicates that certain areas of the community are not within a service area of a City park. The following assumptions can be derived from the aforementioned map:

Mini Park (MP). Mini park service areas are concentrated centrally within the 2030 city boundary. Generally speaking, they are located south of 260th Street East and/or west of Natchez Avenue. The two sets of two mini parks located south of 260th Street East and east of Natchez Avenue overlap their ¼ mile park service areas. The extreme northeast and southwest reaches of the 2030 city boundary lack a mini park location and are planned for residential growth.

Neighborhood Park (NP). The only privately-owned, neighborhood park is located south of 260th Street and west of Natchez Avenue. Its ½ mile park service area is abbreviated roughly by half because 260th Street East road corridor barrier. The northern, southwestern and southeastern areas of the 2030 city boundary lack a neighborhood park location and are planned for residential growth.

Community Park (CP). The three community parks located within Elko New Market are all south of 260th Street East. Their 1 mile service area overlaps significantly, but services the majority of the 2030 city boundary. The central most community park, Elko Baseball Club, is privately-owned. The northeast and southern reaches of the 2030 city boundary lack community park service area coverage and are slated for residential growth.





City of Elko New Market 2030 Park & Trail Plan

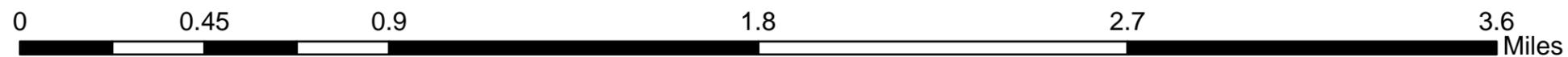
Map 5

Park Service Areas

- 2030 City Boundary
- Current City Boundary
- Existing Park
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Streams
- 1/4 mile Mini Park Service Area
- 1/2 mile Neighborhood Park Service Area
- 1 mile Community Park Service Area

December 27, 2007

Source: Scott County GIS Department,
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
& Northwest Associated Consultants, Inc.



PROPOSED PARKS RECOMMENDATIONS

Map 8 – Proposed Park and Trail Plan illustrates the location of all existing and proposed future parks to implement the 2030 Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan. According to the aforementioned 2030 population projections, approximately 230 additional acres of land will be needed for park and recreation opportunities. To address the service area gaps and provide for the recreation needs for the future 2030 population, it is suggested that the City consider adding one (1) mini park, three (3) neighborhood parks (at minimum of 20 acres each), approximately 144 acres of community parks and 32 acres of community playfield / athletic complexes the next 23 years. Proposed park search areas are based on future residential land uses, park service area deficits and proximity to existing and proposed community facilities. The following analysis is given to complement the Proposed Park & Trail Plan map.

Mini Park (MP)

- Current 2007 mini park acreage exceeds existing population demand.
- Between one (1) and four (4) additional acres will be needed by 2030, which equates to approximately one (1) mini park.
- Typical facilities should include: seating areas, picnic area, play structure, horseshoe courts, pedestrian access and multi use half court/basketball hard-court.
- Location of the proposed mini park is suggested in conjunction with future residential plat north of 260th Street East, south of the Vermillion River and west of Xerxes Avenue.

Neighborhood Park (NP)

- Current 2007 neighborhood park acreage (all privately held) is in deficit of existing population demand.
- Between forty five (45) and sixty six (66) additional acres will be needed by 2030, which equates to approximately three (3) neighborhood parks at 20 acres each.
- Typical facilities should include: picnic area, seating areas, playground with play structures, trails, multi use half court/basketball hard-court and seasonal ice hockey and skating opportunities.
- Locations for these proposed neighborhood parks are suggested in conjunction with future residential plats at the following locations:
 - 1) North of 260th Street East, south of 250th Street, east of Texas Avenue and west of Natchez Avenue.
 - 2) North of 275th Street, south of 260th Street East, east of Texas Avenue and west of Zane Avenue.
 - 3) North of 280th Street East, south of 270th Street East, east of Thomas Avenue and west of I-35.



Community Park (CP)

- Current 2007 community park acreage (which includes 2.83 acres privately held) is in within existing population demand.
- Between eighty two (82) and one hundred forty four (144) additional community park acres will be needed by 2030.
- Typical facilities should include: trails, play structures for various age groups, seating areas, large group picnic facilities, horseshoes, volleyball, softball or court games, natural interpretation, restrooms and parking.
- Locations for proposed community parks could occur:
 - 1) North of 280th Street East, south of 275th Street East, east of Natchez Avenue and west of Beard Avenue.
 - 2) North of 260th Street East, south of 250th Street, west of Xerxes Avenue and east of Natchez Avenue. This location serves to preserve the existing wetland, remnant forest patch and give connection to the Vermillion River.

Community Playfield / Athletic Complex (CPA)

- Current 2007 community playfield / athletic complex acreage exceeds existing population demand.
- Between 21 and 32 additional community playfield / athletic complex acres will be needed by 2030.
- Typical facilities should include: picnic area, trails, play structures, ice hockey and skating, active playfields such as baseball, softball, football, soccer/lacrosse, hard courts and tennis courts.
- Location for proposed community playfield / athletic complex could occur:
 - 1) North of 260th Street East, south of 250th Street, west of Xerxes Avenue and east of Natchez Avenue. This location serves to capitalize on the flat areas of un-vegetated open space in this area.
 - 2) City extension of land north of ISD 721: Eagle View Elementary existing playfield / athletic complex.



Conservation Area / Greenway (CA)

- Not based on population projections, thus 2030 acreage is based on community demand.
- Typical facilities could include if feasible: small picnic areas, passive trails, rest areas, interpretive signage and small parking area.
- Due to high natural diversity and connection to the Vermillion River, a conservation search area is proposed at the extreme northeast corner of the City.
- In conjunction with the Elko New Market Comprehensive Plan, a one hundred foot (100') buffer on each side of the Vermillion River is designated as a greenway.
- Locations for other future conservation area/greenways are dependent on quality of natural area and connectivity to larger regional environmental network.

Special Use Park (SPU)

- Not based on population projections, thus 2030 acreage is based on community demand.
- Locations for future special use parks are dependent on the availability of sites with historical character or cultural significance.
- Potential exists to extend the existing Pete's Hill Park park acreage to include land directly adjacent to the south.
- Future special parks may include provisions for an off-leash dog park as opportunity arises.



PROPOSED TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Proposed Park and Trail Plan (Map 8) identifies a number of trail segments that are proposed to connect various recreation areas, commercial nodes, schools and neighborhoods throughout the community within the vicinity of the 2030 Park and Trail planning area. The total projected linear feet of future trails that are needed to provide connections to existing and proposed park and recreation areas are approximately 212,035 linear feet or 40.16 miles (not including the proposed MinnCan pipeline and CapX 2020 trails). In order to provide the regional, county and city railway corridor links it will be important for all of the communities, including Scott County and adjacent counties, Elko New Market and New Market Township, to work together to develop an overall plan, method to acquire lands, and funding mechanism to install the trails. It will be imperative to begin working on a joint plan as soon as possible in order to acquire or preserve the lands adjacent to these features prior to development. This plan suggests that the City of Elko New Market Park Commission act as the steering committee to make contact with adjacent jurisdictions and agencies that could help provide direction to implement a joint railway system. In addition to the affected government jurisdictions, other agencies and groups that could provide insight and potential funding include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, The Trust for Public Land, 1000 Friends of Minnesota, etc. The following summary outlines the proposed plans for the 2030 trail system:

Regional and County Railway Corridors. The City of Elko New Market will continue to work with Metropolitan Council, Scott County, adjacent counties, New Market Township and associated property stakeholders to implement these railway corridors when applicable. Scott County is currently pursuing connection and extension of the county railway corridor along the Vermillion River with Dakota County to link to their proposed Club Creek Greenway Regional Trail, which in turn links to the Mill Towns State Trail. In addition, Scott County is also pursuing connection and extension of the Texas Avenue (Highway 27) county railway corridor alignment north to Clearly Lake Regional Park and south to Rice County.

City Railway Corridors. The Proposed Park and Trail map shows four city railway corridor segments. The first is a Vermillion River city railway corridor which extends east/west along the Vermillion River from Natchez Avenue to I-35. A trail extension south from this corridor links the Vermillion River south to Highway 2. Another city railway corridor is proposed southwest through the City of Elko New Market, at times following an existing railroad bed. Lastly, a city railway corridor is proposed southeast from Pete's Hill Park to I-35 and beyond into Dakota County. The City will continue to pursue construction of these trail alignments as opportunity arises.

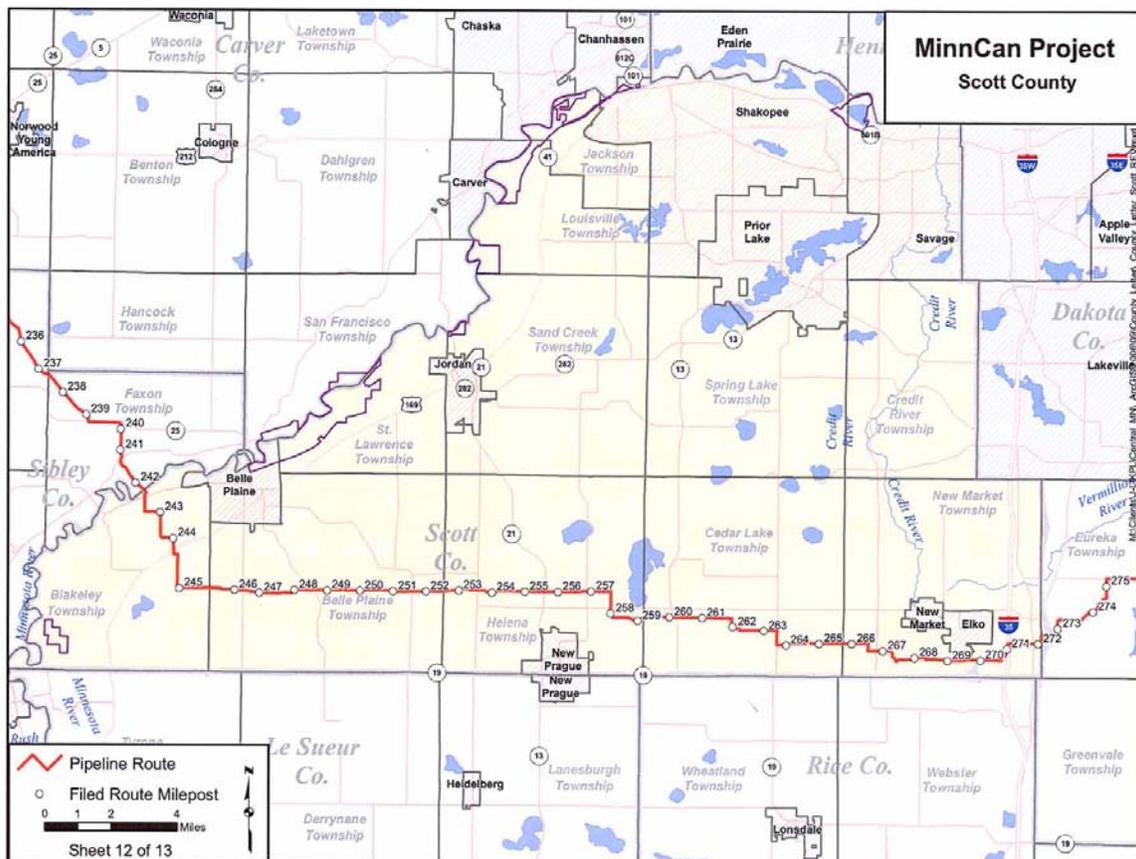
City Trails / Sidewalks. Future arterial roads which include Natchez Avenue, 260th Street East and 280th Street East are guided to receive trails on both sides of the roadway. In addition, a diverse network of residential trails and sidewalks are proposed to interconnect neighborhoods, parks and city facilities. These proposed city trail and sidewalks guided for construction dependent on future residential plats and reconstruction of county roads.



Additional Proposed City Trailway Corridors. The MinnCan natural gas pipeline is currently being constructed from Clearwater County in northern Minnesota, south to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The pipeline alignment runs west / east through the southern border of Scott County. Subsequently, the MinnCan pipeline will be aligned along Elko New Market’s current boundary and through the city’s 2030 boundary.

According to Minnesota Pipe Line Company, which is responsible for the construction of the pipeline, the route requires a fifty (50) to one hundred (100) foot buffer. This buffer must be kept clear of vegetation to service the pipeline if necessary. Although not yet identified by other Minnesota communities which are affected by the pipeline location, it has been indicated by the City of Elko New Market that this pipeline corridor offers opportunity to be included in the proposed trail system network as a passive recreational corridor. It has been indicated that separate trail easements will be required from each property owner. With the implementation of this Plan, the City will continue to pursue this 3.24 mile trailway corridor potential.

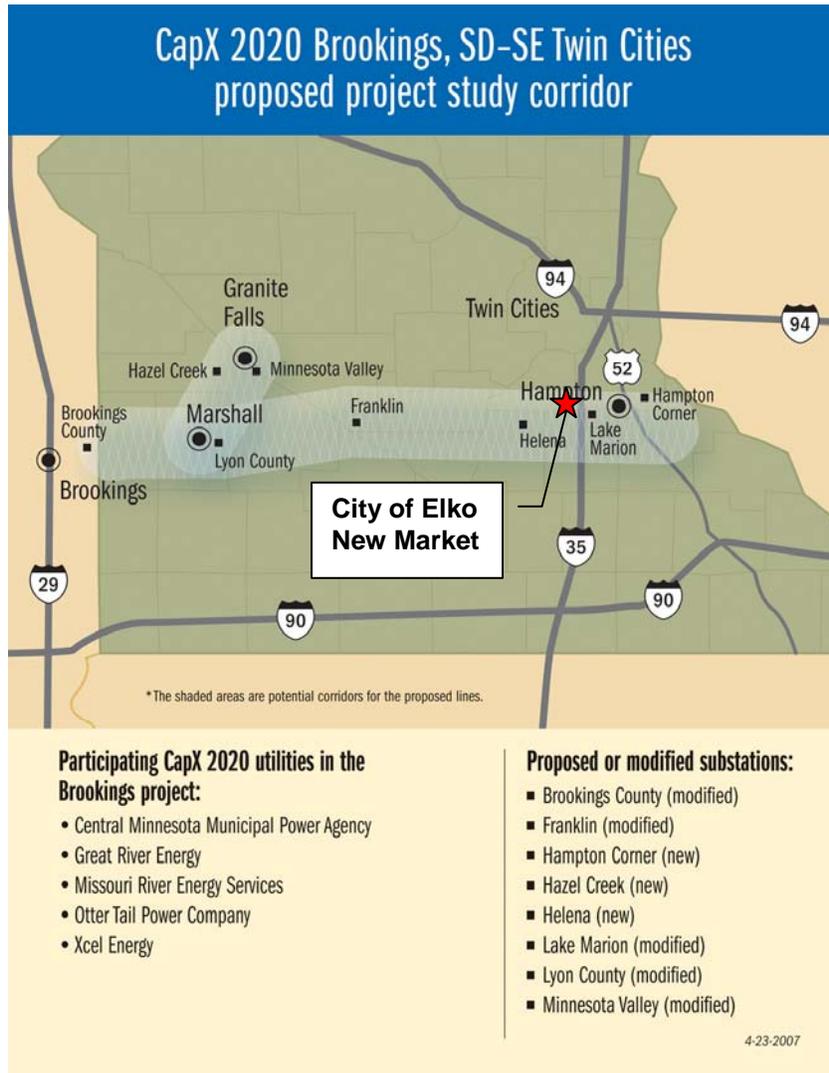
MAP 6: MinnCan Pipeline Route

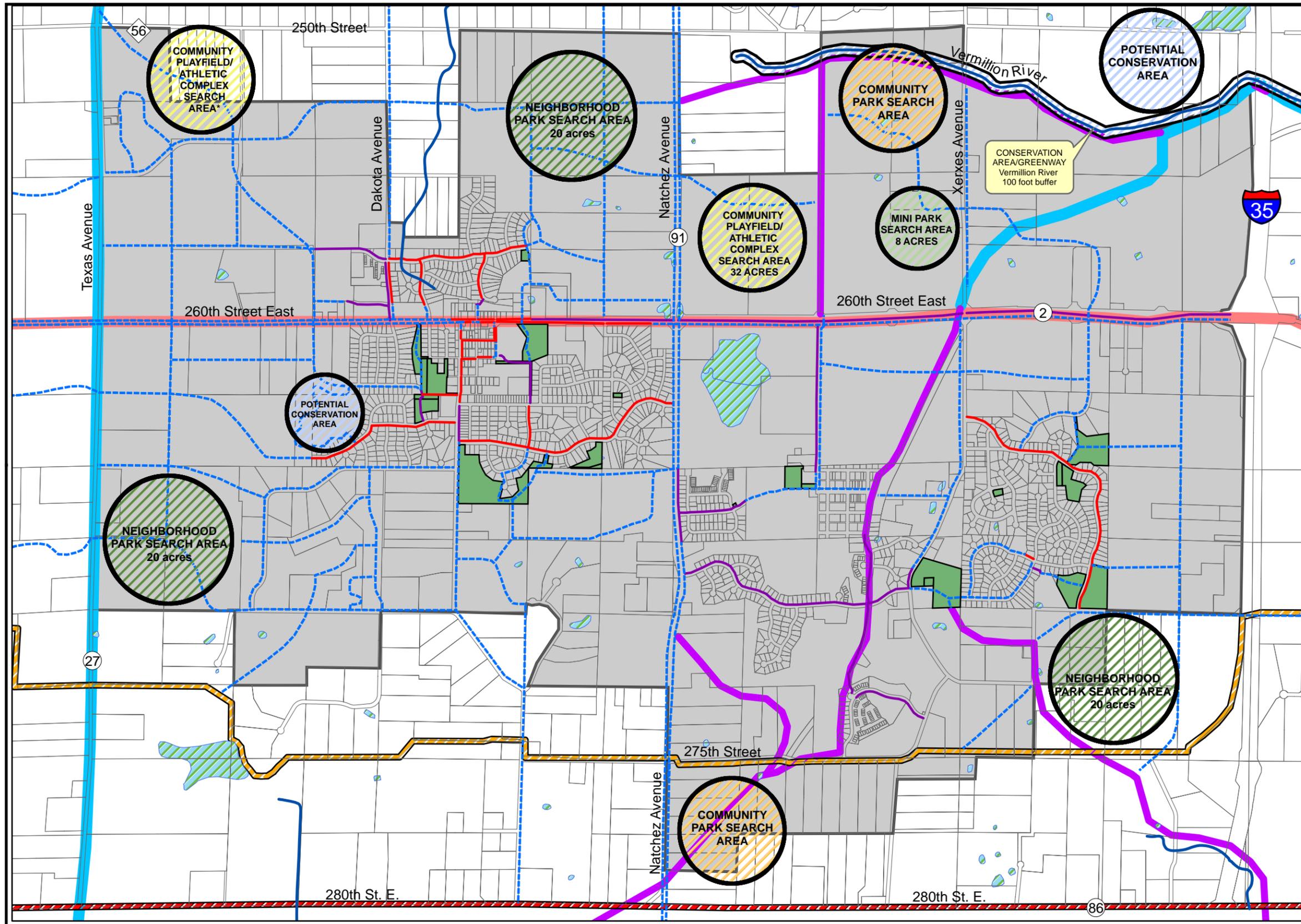


Another potential railway corridor lies with the CapX 2020 project. The CapX 2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid. A new transmission line is proposed to be constructed from Brookings, South Dakota to Southeastern Twin Cities. Targeted service dates for this transmission line are 2012-2013.

As seen in the map below, the current alignment between South Dakota and the Twin Cities is still in the planning phases and is not yet finalized. Favorable potential for development of a railway corridor in the Elko New Market vicinity alludes to a CSAH 86 (280th Street East) transmission alignment. A finalized alignment is expected spring of 2009. As with the MinnCan project, the City will continue to pursue this railway corridor potential.

MAP 7: CapX 2020 Alignment





City of Elko New Market 2030 Park & Trail Plan

Map 8

Proposed Park & Trail Plan

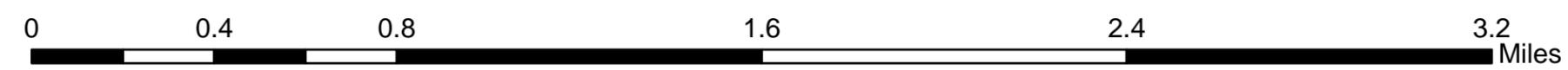
- 2030 Elko New Market City Boundary
- Streams
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Existing Elko New Market Park
- Existing City Trail
- Existing City Sidewalk
- MinnCan Pipeline Route (Potential Trail)
- CapX 2020 Route (Potential Trail)
- Proposed City Trails / Sidewalks
- Proposed City Trailway Corridor
- Proposed County Trailway Corridor
- Proposed Trailway Corridor*

*Scott County will seek regional status from the Metropolitan Council.

March 4, 2009

Source: Scott County GIS Department,
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
& Northwest Associated Consultants, Inc.

*Explore City extension of Eagle View Elementary existing playfields and athletic complexes.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This section of the Park and Trail Plan identifies the tools and processes to implement the Plan. The following implementation strategies are suggested:

1. The Park Commission will review and update neighborhood park needs and service areas as development occurs so that new barriers and changing recreational needs are acknowledged and accommodated.
2. The Park Commission will review and evaluate each development project to ensure it provides appropriate park land dedication, open space preservation and trail connections to the planned citywide park, trail, greenway, schools, and commercial/industrial developments.
3. The Park Commission will review and prioritize trail needs and recommend a schedule and funding framework to the City Council.
4. The Park Commission will investigate the use of grants, donations, partnerships, and opportunities for additional joint powers agreements for the development of park, trail and recreation facilities.
6. Pursuant to the park dedication analysis provided herein, the Park Commission recommends that the City Council amend its fee schedule to incorporate current state statute language. This language states that the City may require that a reasonable portion of the buildable land, as defined by the City's ordinance, of any proposed subdivision be dedicated to the public or preserved for public use as parks, recreational facilities and open space.

The City may choose to accept a cash fee as set by ordinance from the applicant for some or all of the new lots created in the subdivision, based on the average fair market value of the unplatted land for which park fees have not already been paid that is, no later than at the time of final approval or under the city's adopted comprehensive plan, to be served by municipal sanitary sewer and water service or community septic and private well as authorized by state law. For purposes of redevelopment on developed land, the municipality may choose to accept a cash fee based on fair market value of the land no later than the time of final approval.

In establishing the portion to be dedicated or preserved or the cash fee, the regulations shall give due consideration to the open space, recreational, or common areas and facilities open to the public that the applicant proposes to reserve for the subdivision.

The City must reasonably determine that it will need to acquire that portion of land for the purposes stated in this subdivision as a result of approval of the subdivision.



Cash payments received must be placed by the municipality in a special fund to be used only for the purposes for which the money was obtained. Cash payments received must be used only for the acquisition and development or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space based on the approved park systems plan.

Cash payments must not be used for ongoing operation or maintenance of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space. The City must not deny the approval of a subdivision based solely on an inadequate supply of parks, open spaces, trails, or recreational facilities within the municipality. Previously subdivided property from which a park dedication has been received, being resubdivided with the same number of lots, is exempt from park dedication requirements. If, as a result of resubdividing the property, the number of lots is increased, then the park dedication or per-lot cash fee must apply only to the net increase of lots.

There must be an essential nexus between the fees or dedication and the City purpose sought to be achieved by the fee or dedication. The fee or dedication must bear a rough proportionality to the need created by the proposed subdivision or development.

7. The Park Commission recommends that the City Council consider incorporating park redevelopment infrastructure planning as part of the 5-year Capital Improvements Plan. Minnesota Statutes specify that park dedication fees may not be used for maintenance purposes and therefore it is important for the City to continue to provide a separate budget fund for maintenance. As the park system ages, there will be an increased need to retrofit existing facilities, as they will have aged beyond their useful life in the older parks. Park dedication fees can be used to replace some facilities and infrastructure however, the City will need to establish other sources to pay for replacement of the park system facilities in fully development neighborhoods or park service areas.
8. The Park Commission recommendations for future land dedication will be based on the park land need defined by the Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan. Active park areas shall be exclusive of wetlands, slopes exceeding 12 percent, ponding areas, or other features unsuitable for active park development. The City may accept natural open space as part of the parkland dedication. Selection of parkland for dedication shall be at the discretion of the City Council, based upon the policies and recommendations of the Park Commission and Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan.
9. The Park Commission will act as the steering committee to further investigate options and agency participation for development of the greenway/natural habitat corridor and trail system outside of the 2030 planning area.



FUNDING MECHANISMS

Financing the park and trail improvements will be a challenge for the City. The acquisition and development of the park and trail system will not occur without adequate funding and taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. The financing of the park and trail system will occur one of two ways, either by raising revenue or incurring debt. Revenues provide the means to make investments in the park system and can be saved to finance improvements. Borrowing money provides upfront funding and pledges to repay the debt. A brief description of potential funding sources is provided as follows:

Park Dedication. Pursuant to Minnesota State Statutes, the City requires the dedication of either land or cash, or combination thereof at the time that residential property is subdivided. Dollars collected from park dedication fees represent the primary source of park and trail revenue.

Property Taxes. The City has the ability to raise property taxes to help to pay for the park and trail system. As this Plan indicates, the current population has paid for more than their proportionate share of park and trail improvements. However, this may not continue to the case. In the event that future changes to the Park and Trail Plan, growth projections, land areas subject to the dedication analysis or other changes occur, the park dedication will need to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. Property taxes are a means to raise revenue for the part of the Park and Trail system that should be borne by existing residents. The use of property tax may be limited by overall financial management of the City or by State imposed levy limitations.

Special Assessments. The ability of a city to levy assessments for park improvements is governed by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429. This statute defines eligible park improvements as “acquire, improve and equip parks, open space areas, playgrounds, and recreational facilities within or without the corporate limits.” This definition would cover the vast majority of projects anticipated by this Plan. A special assessment represents the portion of a park improvement costs levied against benefiting properties. The special assessment tool must be reviewed carefully to identify whether historic park dedication fees have been collected and applied to the benefiting properties to ensure that owners are not charged twice for park and trail improvements. Also, an analysis would need to be done to identify which properties receive benefit from the park and trail improvement as there must be a rational nexus between the charge and benefit received. The typical method would be to levy an equal assessment on each benefiting parcel. The assessment could be for all or any portion of the improvements. At least 20% of the costs of the improvement must be assessed to gain the authority to issue bonds. If less than 100% of the costs are assessed, then park dedication fees, property taxes, or other available revenues would be needed to pay back the debt.



Referendum – Voter Approved Bonds. The City may place a referendum on voter ballots for consideration by the public to support park and trail improvements. Voter approved debt service levies are spread on the market value of property. This funding mechanism is typically utilized for major improvements such as a community center, athletic complex or to acquire high amenity park and recreation areas.

Grants. The City should continue to apply for available grants for development of its Park and Trail Plan through agencies such as but not limited to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Scott County, and any other agencies.

Private Donations. The City should establish a list of facilities that can be provided to the public, charitable institutions, on the City website etc., identifying Park and Trail needs and the process the public can use to donate revenue or equipment. Additionally, the Park Committee could proactively contact private foundations such as “The Trust for Public Land, 1,000 Friends of Minnesota, McKnight Foundation, Metro Greenways” and others to identify potential funding sources for the community Park and Trail System.

