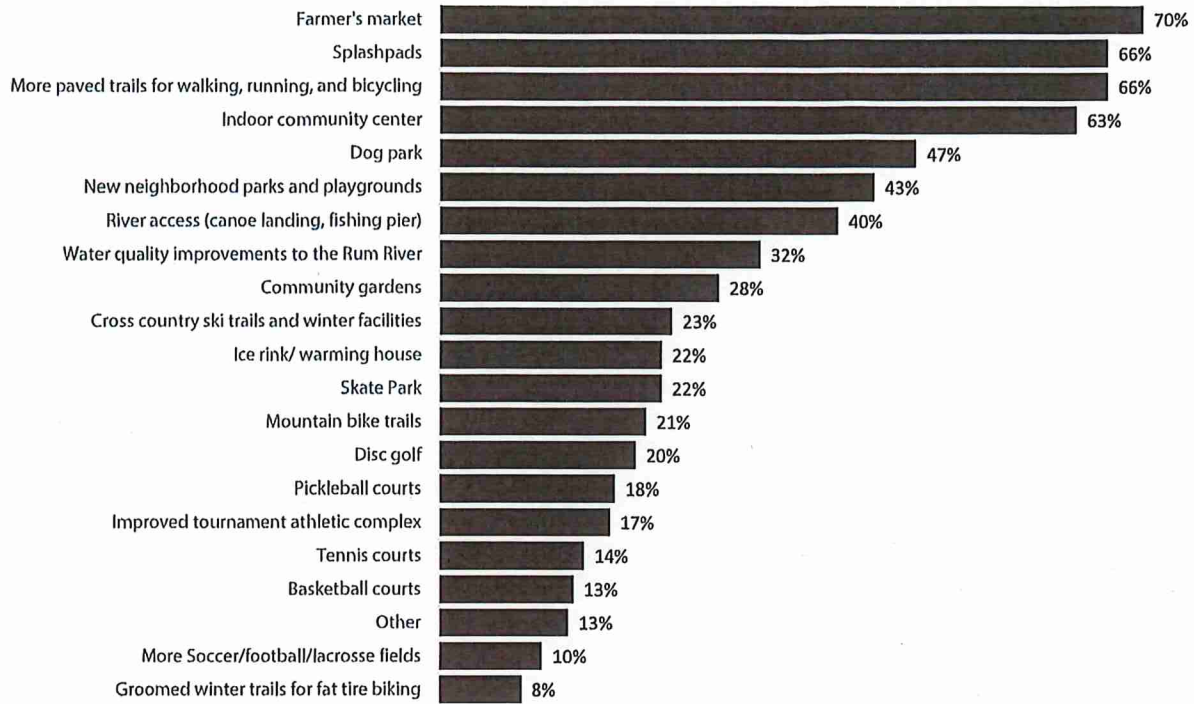


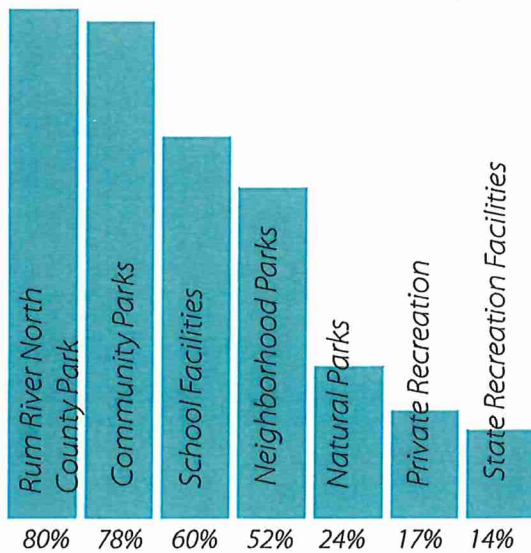
Which new or expanded parks and recreation facilities would you be interested in using in St. Francis?



Based on 188 responses

Have you visited any of the following parks and/or facilities in the City of St. Francis?

Based on 127 responses



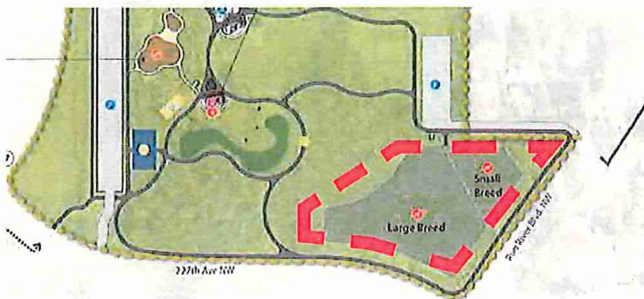
**PRIORITIES FOR THE ST. FRANCIS PARK SYSTEM BASED ON SURVEY RESPONSES:**

- Effort should be concentrated on development of a community center, splash pad, and youth sports
- Some areas are high use but not a high priority as they are already meeting the needs of the community. Maintain these should be a priority: sports facilities and playgrounds
- Pave off-road trails that would encourage more residents to make use of existing infrastructure
- Based on responses an ice rink/ warming house is a low priority for the community at this time

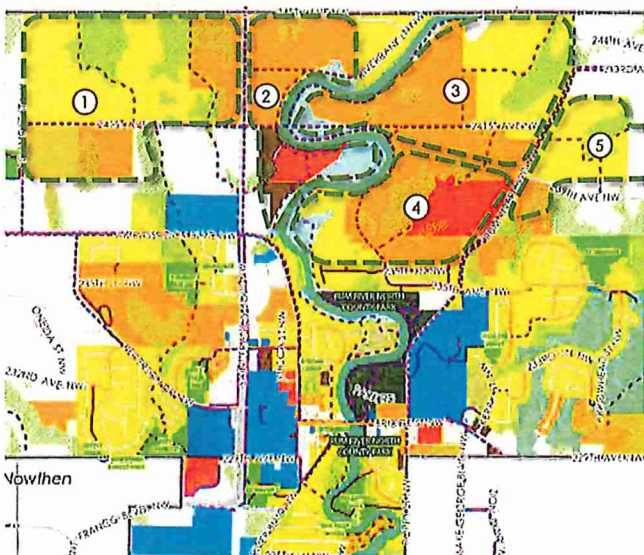




Off-leash dog park location within the NW 40-acre parcel concept plan



Off-leash dog park location within the Community Park concept plan



St. Francis 2040 Comprehensive Plan: New Park Search Areas Map

## Consider development of an off-leash dog park

An off-leash dog park was identified as a desired facility in the community engagement process.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

- Two locations within the park system have been identified as potential spots for a future dog park.
- The Community Park Concept Plan includes space for an off-leash dog park in the southeast corner of the park--this would be a wooded, fenced in site. This site is approximately 2.5 acres.
- A concept for the NW 40-acre parcel across from Hidden Ponds Park identifies a dog park that would include trails and wetlands. This site is almost 9 acres.

### RESPONSIBILITIES / PARTNERS / COSTS

- The City Public Works Department would construct, operate, and manage the dog park
- City pet license fees or off-leash dog park access fees could help provide revenue for the dog parks
- Costs would include fencing, signage, brush and tree clearing, trash receptacles, and wood chips or mulch as needed.

## Develop New Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds

### STEPS/CONSIDERATIONS:

- Build parks as development occurs
- Consider concept plans for improvements to existing parks in the city
- Establish a minimum list of features and standards for new neighborhood parks: play equipment, picnic tables, benches, park sign, trail loop, small shelter, trash and recycling receptacles, trees/shade

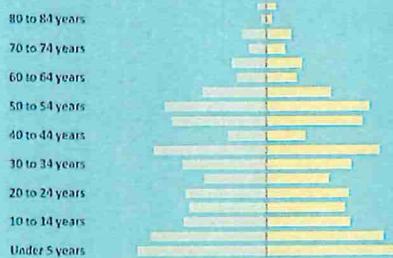
### RESPONSIBILITIES / PARTNERS / COSTS

- Utilize and update Park Dedication Policy
- Work with developers to identify accessible and desirable land for future parks



## PLANNING FOR FUTURE RECREATIONAL NEEDS

The City currently has a smaller community of older adults than Minnesota as a whole, but an increasing and aging population indicate a coming shift in park use. Older adults are often regular park users, especially retirees with additional free time. Typical recreation activities for this group are geared towards staying active, both physically and socially. Providing facilities such as trails, pickleball courts, and other venues for casual or organized socialization are geared toward senior use.



The age 45-60 population in Saint Francis is approaching retirement age and the predictable shifts in recreational needs that typically accompany that major life transition.

Demographic Trends (Above) and Community Outreach Comments (Right) from the Saint Francis Park System Plan

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT

### What We Heard From Community Park Users

Community Park is one of the most frequently visited parks in the City's system. Those responding to the Park System Plan's community engagement process felt that recreation for seniors and youth and comfort amenities were among the highest priority improvements to existing park facilities. Top on the list of new facility desires was a new splash pad and more paved trails.

Community Park is also uniquely positioned in the City's overall park system to provide additional information via both dynamic and traditional bulletin signage, to better engage and inform users about upcoming recreational opportunities in the wider park system.

Overall the recommendations of this feasibility study will address community interest in providing a splash pad, paved trails, dog park, new playgrounds, and water quality facilities as part of the wider framework of improvements recommended in the park.

### Directly Addressing Community Priorities

Below is a selection of comments made by community members during the engagement process, with highlighted items being part of the proposed improvements in Community Park over the next decade.

- "Pickleball Courts!"
- "Would love more parks and recreation areas outside neighborhoods. Would love more hiking/walking trails."
- "Large playground/activity park for kids with water"
- "Inclusive park for people of all abilities"
- "Pave the ice rink so it can be used in summer for roller rink or roller hockey"
- "More interconnected trails"
- "Dog park"



# CONCEPT PLAN



## Summary of Park Facilities and Amenities

A typical community scale park provides amenities that serve the community at multiple scales. More specialized and unique facilities like a splash pad or performance pavilion will draw users from throughout the community, while more common features like trails and picnic facilities serve the everyday recreation needs of neighborhood residents.

### Community Facilities:

- Splash Pad
- Performance Stage / Picnic Pavilion
- Concession Building with Picnic Shelter and Restrooms
- Large and Small Breed Dog Park
- Multi-age Playground with Nature Play
- Diamond Field with Shaded Spectator Areas
- Ice Rink with Warming House
- Pickleball Courts

### Neighborhood Facilities:

- Basketball Court
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Lit Paved Walking Trail Loops
- Picnic Shelter with Grills and Picnic Tables
- Open Lawn Space

## PROPOSED PRIORITY PROJECTS

### Hockey Upgrades, New Courts and Dog Park

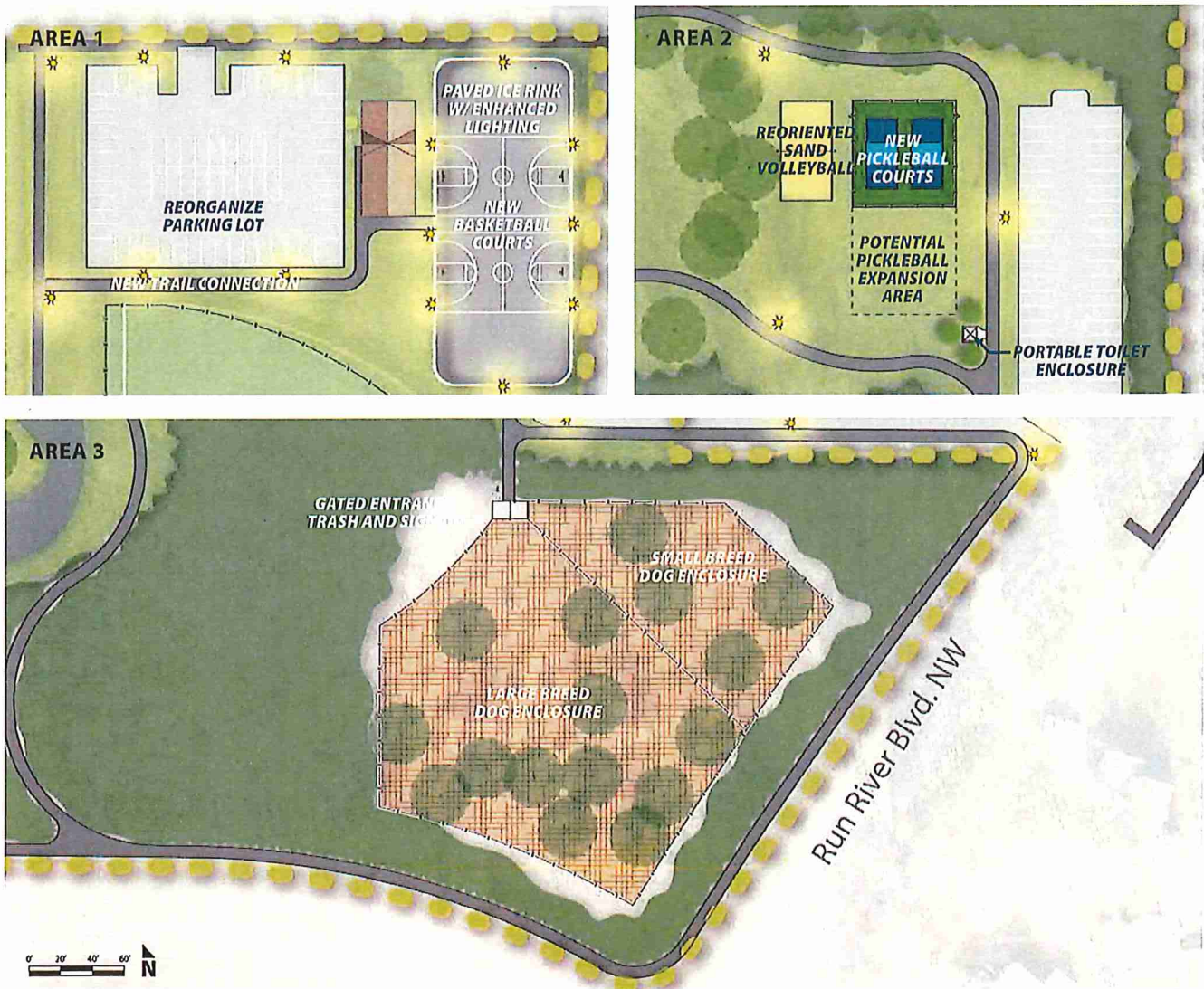
ESTIMATED COST: \$800,000

While not a priority project from a community input perspective, the condition of the rink's boards make this a priority project. Replacing the boards and lighting will substantially reduce maintenance inputs and improve user experience and safety. Paving the rink will extend ice longevity on both sides of the season, making for easier ice establishment in early winter and reducing ice loss in the spring. Paving the rink also provides a surface for summer season use as a location for basketball and roller hockey.

This project would shift the existing summer rink use (as a dog run) to the newly acquired property to the southeast, by creating a fenced dog park with separate areas for large and small breed dogs. These recommended improvements better utilize existing parking on the east side, utilize shaded open areas conducive to a typical dog park program, and isolate dog activity from other park uses.



Priority Project Locations within Community Park



Detail Plans of Community Park Priority Projects

# **Benefits to the City**

## Dog Park Defined

A dog park is a clearly defined location where dog owners can safely and legally exercise and socialize their dog's off-leash.

## Safety

- Dog parks decrease the number of off-leash dogs in public spaces, making it easier for leash laws to be enforced elsewhere in town.
- Dog parks also reduce the likelihood that dogs will be let loose in park areas where they could interfere with other park users such as bicyclists, skateboarders, and rollerblading.
- Providing separate areas for dog exercise segregates dog owners from the other users and reduces the risk of collisions, etc.
- Pedestrian Safety: those without access to sidewalks would have a place to exercise their dog.
- All Residents that live in multi-unit dwellings or have mobility challenges will now have a designated space to exercise their dog safely.
- Years of experience at dog parks across the country indicate that dogs are less aggressive in open areas because they are on neutral territory and not constrained by their leashes.
- Dog socialization reduces anxiety toward new situations, creating calmer dog-neighborhoods. Less barking, a tired dog is a quiet dog.
- A dog park is an attractive amenity for prospective residents of St. Francis.
- Safety: additional presence of the dog park would deter loiterers and others who may use the nearby land for prohibited activities.

## Health Issues/Concerns

City of St. Francis Public Works Department is committed to monitoring park usage along with park users to be sure that they are well maintained, safe, secure, and clean. Dog park experience in hundreds of parks across the United States indicates that users cooperate to keep their designated areas clean and maintained.

Dedicated dog parks improve public health by keeping dog waste confined to one area. Peer pressure encourages dog owners to pick up after their dogs and keep the park clean.

\*Other features of the dog park might include (future): paved trail and natural play features such as boulders and/or agility equipment.

## **Dog Park Stats/Info**

- Property Area – 2.5 acres.
- Project Area (Dog Park Fenced area) – 1.21 acres (leaves room for future trail around dog park)
- Need 534<sup>2</sup> ft Asphalt for Trail Entrance from the Parking lot (may extend parking lot at a future date)
- Fencing: 1500 Linear Feet
- Fencing will be 8 Gauge (black coated), 5 feet in Height
- Fencing will need bottom tension wire
- Underfence (for Minimal Maintenance): 1500 Linear Feet
- Will need 2 Gates for the inner fencing space in the transition area of dog park to separate Big Dog/Small Dog space as well as the 1 Main Gate to the Transition Area (to leash and unleash dogs entering and exiting from the fenced area).
- Will need 2 double-gates for entrance of mowers, skid steer (One set on Big Dog Side/One set on Small Dog Side), etc.
- Potable water line being installed for a drinking fountain.
- Drinking Fountain installed for Dogs & Humans near the transition “entrance” area.
- A Dog Waste Station will be installed to keep the park clean of refuse.

## St. Francis Dog Park

<u>Work to be Completed</u>	<u>Quotes</u>	<u>Total Expenditures</u>
DW Site Prep1 - Berm removal, ditch work (SW funds)	\$ 4,844.00	
DW Site Prep2 - Excavation/Grading	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 4,850.00
DW Site Prep3 - Clearing Out Trees	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 4,950.00
Waterline	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 4,950.00
Drinking Fountain (SHIP Grant 2024 attained)	\$ 3,209.73	
Installatino of Drinking Fountain (Dusty's)	\$ 3,919.00	\$ 3,919.00
Fencing 1 - Century Fence	\$ 35,464.00	\$ 35,464.00
Fencing 2 - Arrow Fence Co.	\$ 43,000.00	
Fencing 3 - Northstarfence	\$29,700 to \$39,700	
Asphalt 1 - Erickson Asphalt	\$ 7,500.00	
Asphalt 2- Rum River Contracting Company	\$ 6,880.00	\$ 6,880.00
Underfencing	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00
Dog Waste Stations (SW funds)	\$ 236.77	
<hr/>		
Totals		\$ 67,613.00

Notes:

Funded by Grant or Stormwater Funds	
Low Bid	
3 Benches (SHIP Grant - Future)	\$ 2,576.55