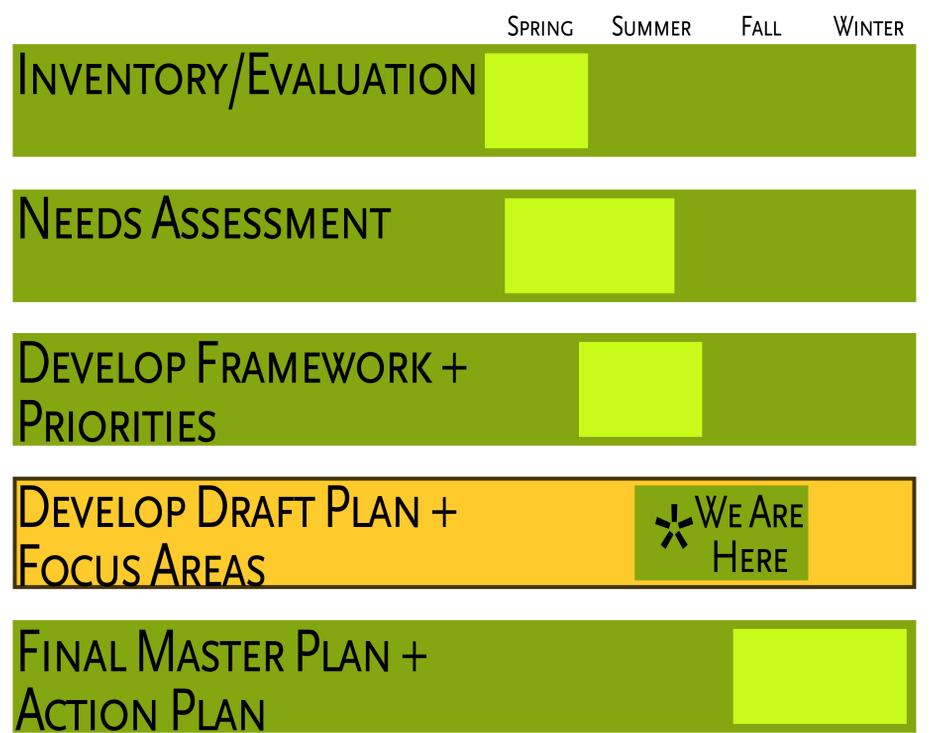


# WELCOME!

## WHAT IS A PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN?

- LONG RANGE (10-25 YEARS) VISION AND GUIDE FOR GOALS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS RECREATION IN ELK RIVER
- GUIDE FOR COMMISSION AND COUNCIL DECISIONS FOR FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION INVESTMENT
- STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

## WHAT IS THE PROJECT'S SCHEDULE?



## WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

INPUT GIVEN TONIGHT WILL HELP SHAPE THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT AND CONCEPTS FOR KEY PARKS, TO BE DEVELOPED THIS SUMMER. WAYS TO PROVIDE INPUT TONIGHT INCLUDE:

- VIEW DISPLAY BOARDS/PRESENTATION
- TALK TO CITY OF ELK RIVER STAFF & CONSULTANTS
- PROVIDE INPUT ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS & PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE ON THE BOARDS
- INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN FEEDBACK FORMS
- PROVIDE COMMENTS ONLINE



[WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/S/ELKRIVERPARKACTIONS](http://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/S/ELKRIVERPARKACTIONS)

## NEXT STEPS:

- **FALL/WINTER** – MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT AND APPROVALS

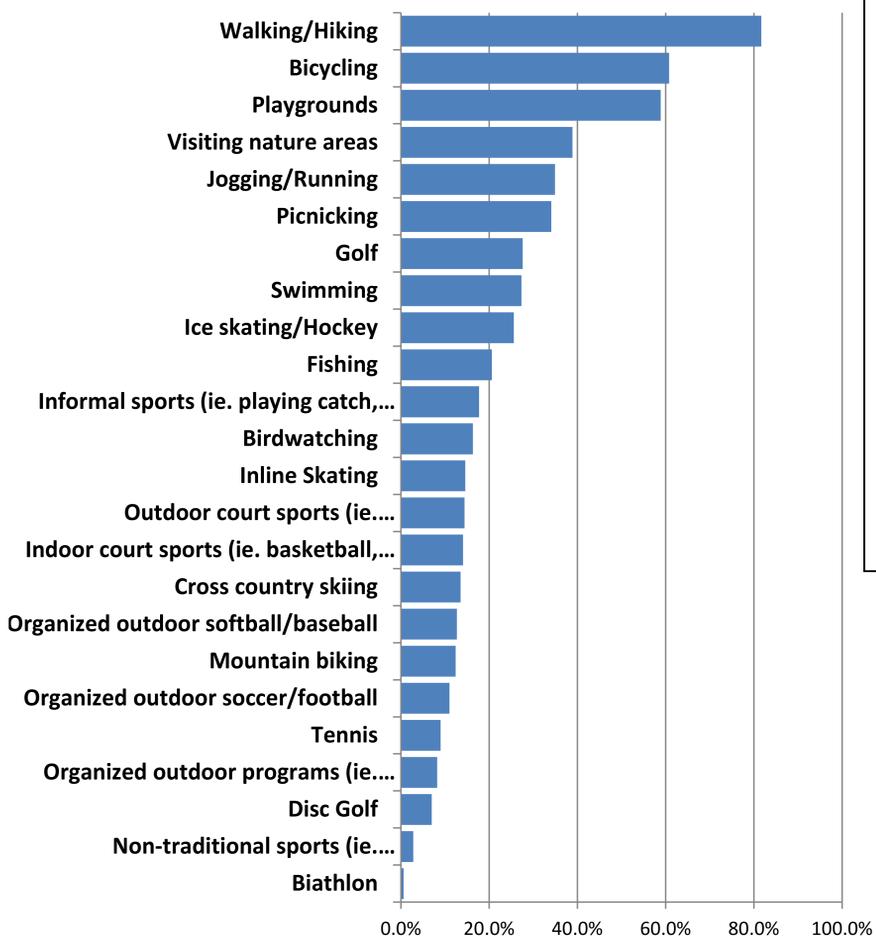
# SURVEY & ONLINE INPUT

## SURVEY

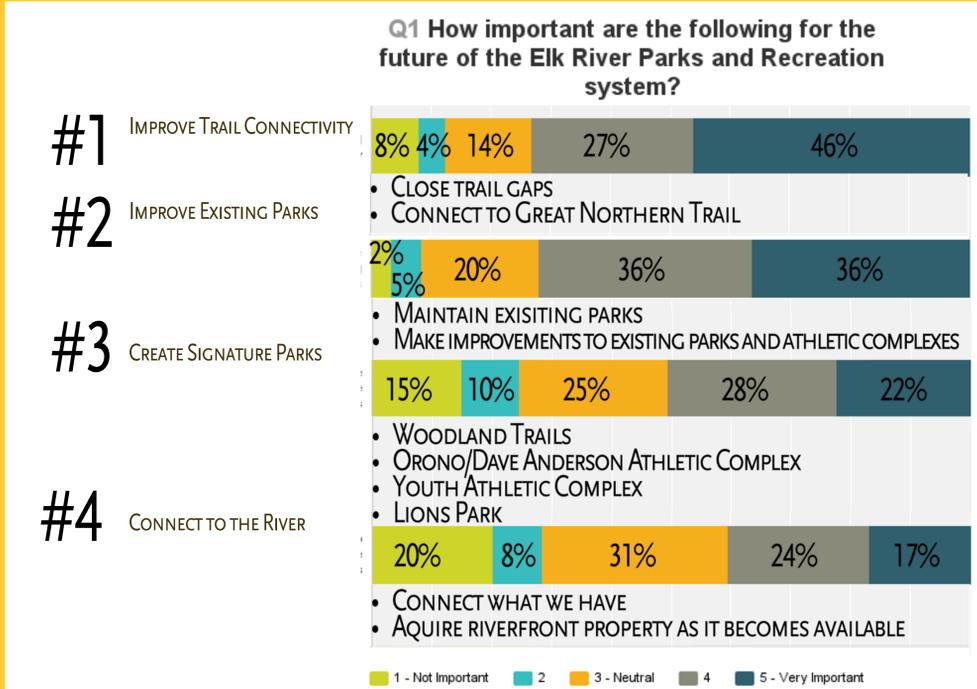
THIS PAST SPRING, AS PART OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLANNING PROCESS, THE CITY OF ELK RIVER CONDUCTED A STATISTICALLY VALID, MAILED, COMMUNITY SURVEY ABOUT HOW RESIDENTS USE PARKS TODAY AND THEIR PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

- 384 responses
- Over 1/2 of respondents use parks at least monthly
- Over 90% use parks annually
- Trails based activities are the most popular features of the park system
- Playgrounds also highly used
- Woodland Trails and Orono Park are most visited
- Swimming pool/Aquatics and trails were most desired features in Elk River
- People are generally satisfied
- While people were satisfied with maintenance and trails, they were also identified as the highest priorities
- Bike/Walking trails are the only improvements/additions that had over 50% "Great Support"

IN WHICH ELK RIVER ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PAST THREE (3) YEARS?

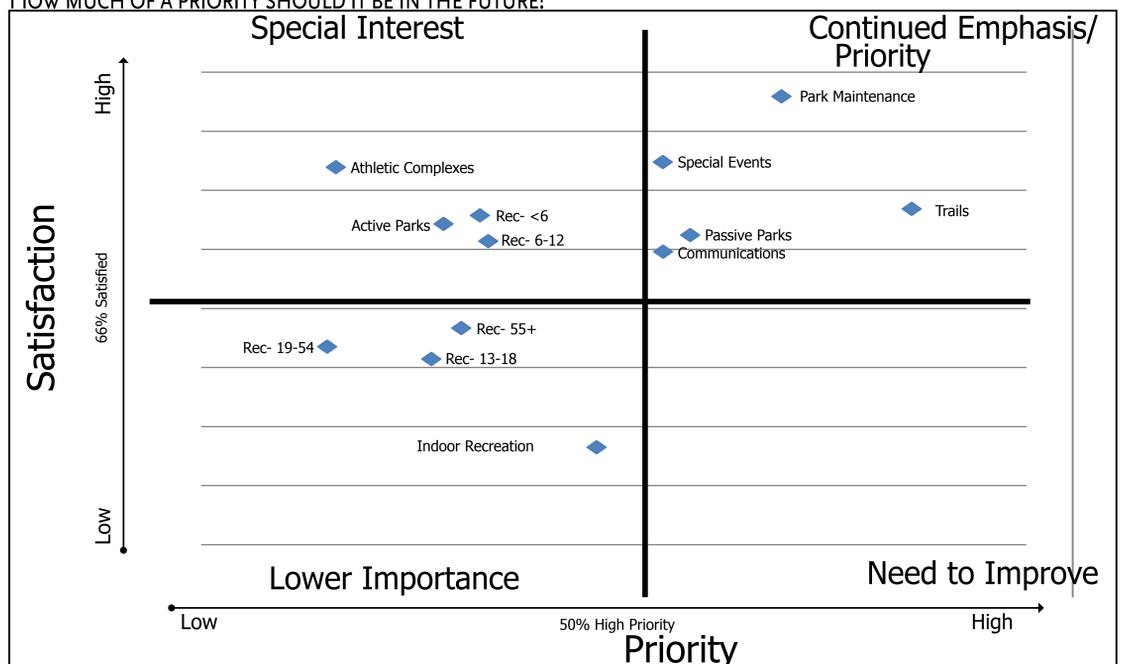


## ONLINE INPUT ON PRIORITIES



IN JUNE AND JULY, WE CONDUCTED AN ON LINE QUESTIONNAIRE TO HELP DETERMINE PRIORITY DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS NOT STATISTICALLY VALID, BUT GIVES A SNAPSHOT OF COMMUNITY INTEREST. THERE WERE OVER 300 PARTICIPANTS.

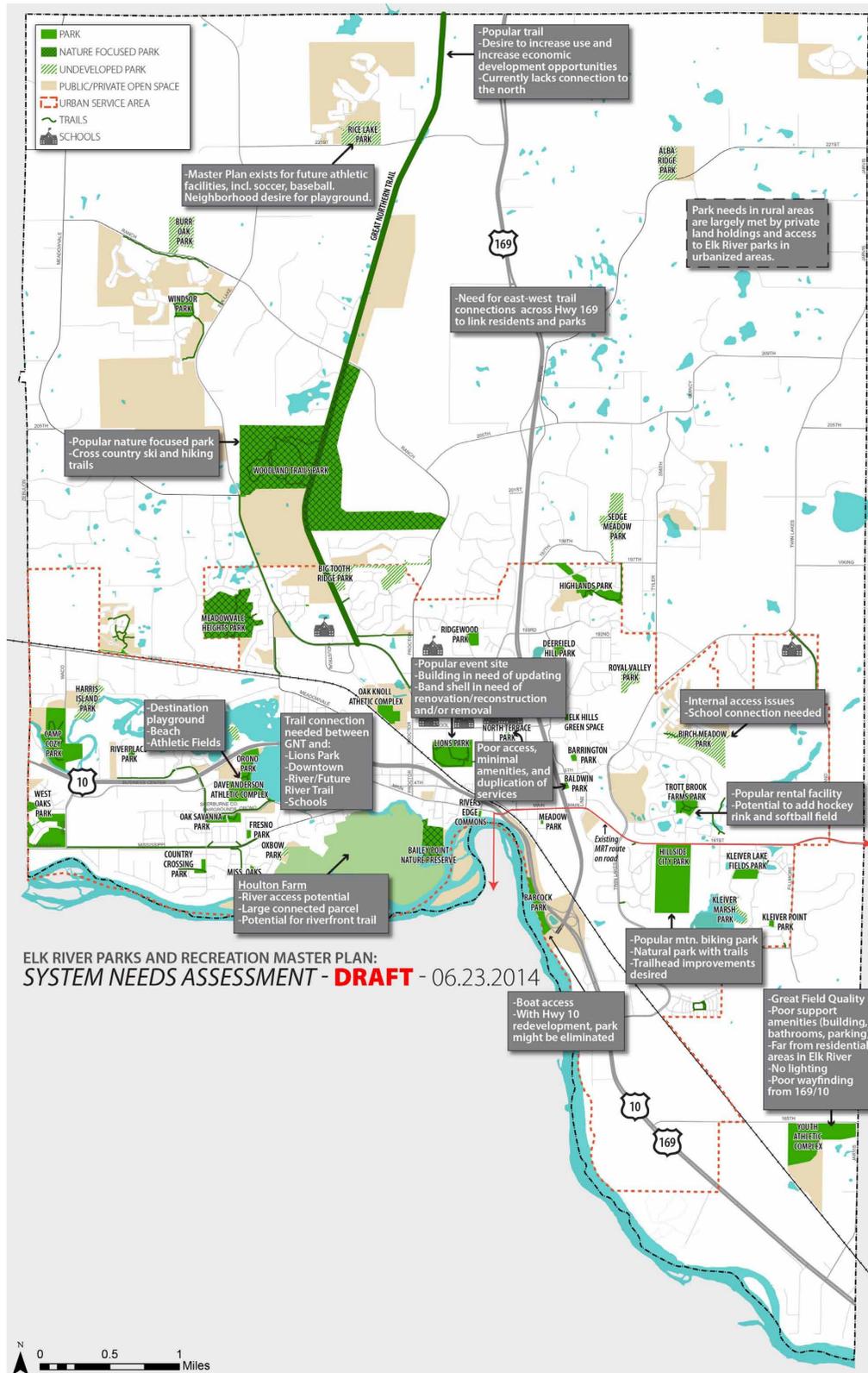
HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING?  
HOW MUCH OF A PRIORITY SHOULD IT BE IN THE FUTURE?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS/ADDITIONS TO THE ELK RIVER PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SUPPORT? (IE. THROUGH A BOND REFERENDUM - TEMPORARY ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE)

Answer Options	Great Support	Marginal Support	No Support
Biking/Walking trails - add to and extend them	58%	25%	17%
A splash pad/spray park (water play area)	31%	29%	41%
A nature center	28%	41%	31%
Community Passive Parks - Acquire land	24%	39%	37%
Elk River Ice Arena	22%	28%	50%
Multi-use fieldhouse	22%	36%	43%
Athletic Complexes - make improvements to existing facilities	20%	42%	38%
Community Athletic Facilities - Acquire land	19%	33%	48%
An expanded senior activity center	17%	45%	37%
A teen center	15%	39%	45%
Skateboarding/Climbing - Include more non-traditional recreation	12%	33%	55%

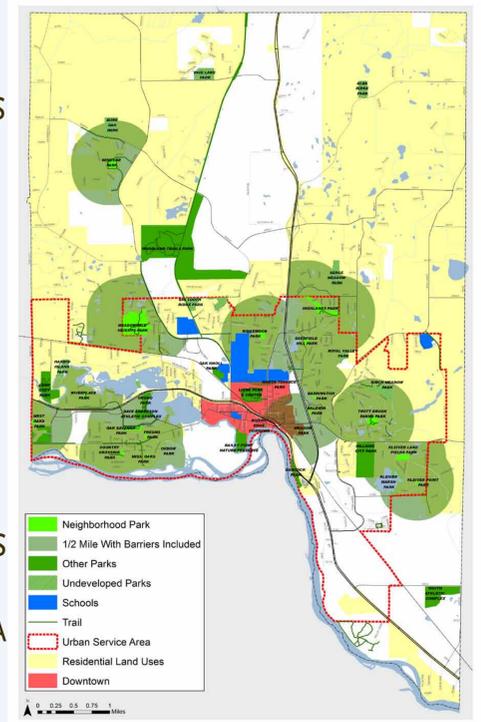
# NEEDS OVERVIEW



PARK AND RECREATION NEEDS WERE DETERMINED BY THE COMMUNITY SURVEY, FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS, COMPARISON OF FACILITIES TO RECREATION STANDARDS AND BENCHMARK COMMUNITIES, AND STAFF INPUT.

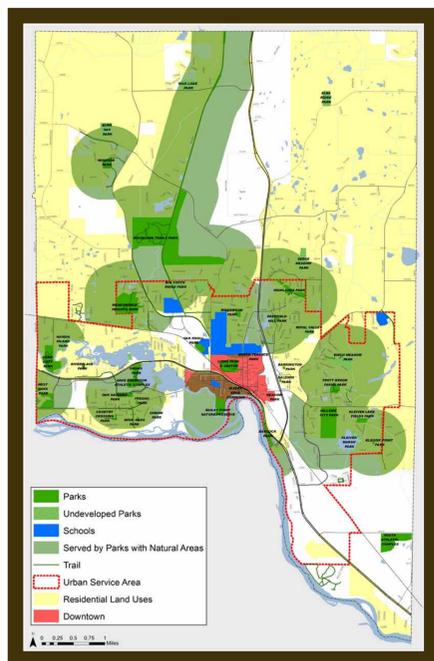
## PARKS:

- IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING PARKS ARE NEEDED
- EMPHASIS ON DESTINATION PARKS OVER NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN URBAN SERVICE AREA
- APPROXIMATELY 90% OF RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN 10 MINUTE WALK OF A PARK
- AS ELK RIVER GROWS THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR NEW PARKS
- IMPROVED SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING IS NEEDED



## MAINTENANCE:

- PARK MAINTENANCE RECEIVED HIGH MARKS FROM THE COMMUNITY
- CLEAN, WELCOMING PARKS ARE A PRIORITY FOR THE FUTURE
- VOLUNTEER EFFORTS ARE SIGNIFICANT, PARTICULARLY AT WOODLAND TRAILS PARK AND HILLSIDE PARK

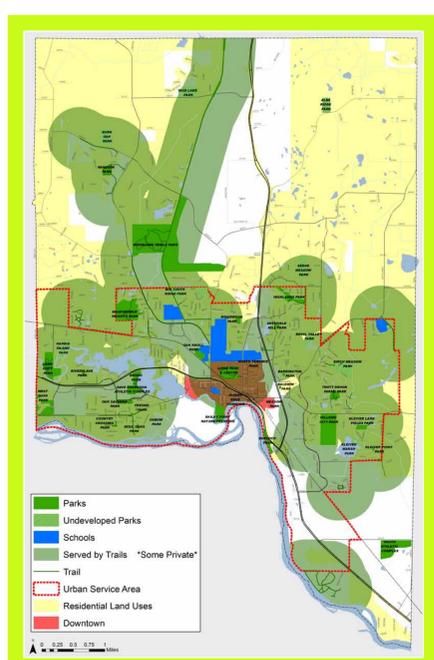


## NATURAL AREAS + RIVER ACCESS

- GOOD ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS
- LARGE LOTS AND PRIVATE LAND ADDRESS GAPS IN THE NORTH
- NEED FOR STRONGER NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT/PRIORITY, PARTICULARLY AT WOODLAND TRAILS AND HILLSIDE
- STRONGER CONNECTIVITY TO RIVER IS NEEDED

## ATHLETICS

- ADULT ATHLETICS - DAVE ANDERSON ATHLETIC COMPLEX, OAK KNOLL
- YAC FOR YOUTH ATHLETICS - EXPANSION, PARKING LOT, BUILDING, LIGHTING
- ICE ARENA - REPAIR ROOF, UPGRADE MECHANICAL/REFRIGERATION, EXPAND COMMON SPACE FOR TOURNAMENTS, SEATING
- HEAVY RELIANCE ON SCHOOLS FOR SOME FACILITIES - FIELDS, GYMS, TENNIS, TRACK
- DESIRE FOR INDOOR FIELD HOUSE AND ARTIFICIAL TURF



## TRAILS

- GENERALLY GOOD TRAIL ACCESS
- 169 ACTS AS A SIGNIFICANT BARRIER
- TRAIL GAPS AFFECT USABILITY
- GREAT NORTHERN TRAIL IS AN ASSET, BUT LACKS CONNECTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOODS AND DESTINATIONS
- TRAILS ARE ONE OF THE MOST USED REC FACILITIES AND A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE FUTURE

## ARTS

- INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ART IN THROUGHOUT PARK SYSTEM AND CITY
- INTEGRATE ARTS INTO INFRASTRUCTURE
- ADDITIONAL EVENTS TO RAISE AWARENESS & ENTHUSIASM

# PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

BASED ON A COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY AND PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT, DRAFT PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED

## DEVELOP SIGNATURE PARKS

- DEVELOP A SIGNATURE COMMUNITY PARK TO SERVE ALL OF ELK RIVER
- IMPROVE YAC TO BE THE PREMIERE ATHLETIC COMPLEX
- PROMOTE WOODLAND TRAILS PARK AS A REGIONAL DESTINATION IN THE METRO AREA

## CONNECT TO THE RIVERS

- ACQUIRE HOULTON FARM PROPERTY
- IMPROVE RIVERFRONT CONNECTIVITY
- WHERE FEASIBLE, DEVELOP A RIVERFRONT TRAIL
- IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE WATER (DOCKS, BEACHES, LAUNCHES, ETC.)

## DEVELOP TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- CONNECT GREAT NORTHERN TRAIL TO PARKS, DOWNTOWN, & THE RIVER
- DEVELOP CONNECTIONS FROM NEIGHBORHOODS TO GNT WITH THE GNT ACTING AS A RECREATION SPINE
- SUPPORT EXTENSION OF GNT NORTH TO PRINCETON
- CLOSE GAPS IN THE TRAIL SYSTEM

## IMPROVE EXISTING PARKS

- CONTINUE MAINTAINING EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES
- CONTINUE TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS TO RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEEDS AND RECREATION TRENDS

## IMPROVE PROGRAMS

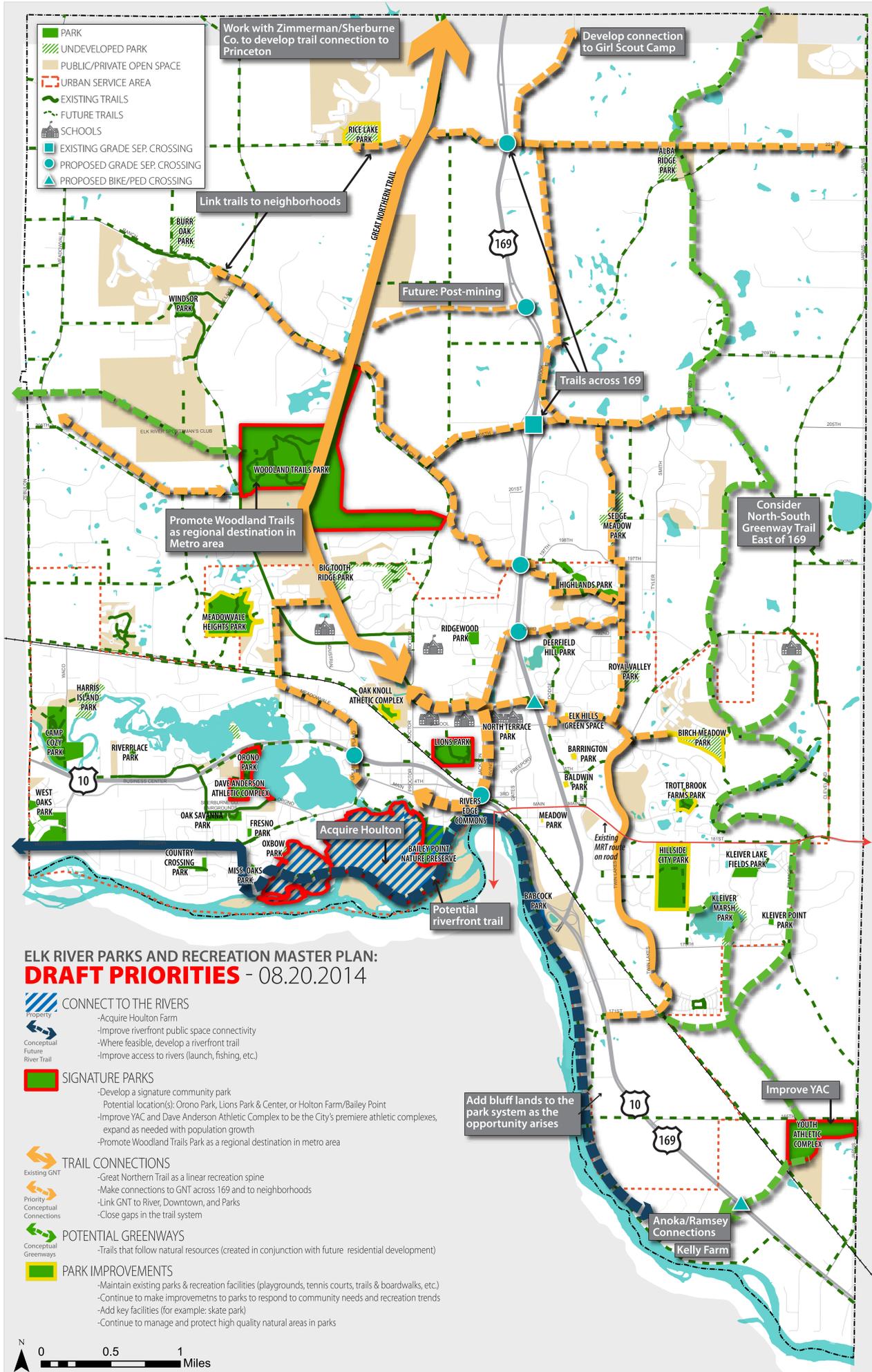
- INCREASE FOCUS ON PROGRAMS FOR TEENS
- EXPAND PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS AS THE BABY-BOOMERS AGE
- CONTINUE TO HOLD EVENTS THAT FACILITATE COMMUNITY GATHERING AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PRIDE AND IDENTITY
- IMPROVE FACILITIES AT INDOOR PROGRAM LOCATIONS (ACTIVITY CENTER, LIONS CENTER, YMCA)

## INCORPORATE ART INTO THE PARK SYSTEM

- WORK WITH PARTNERS TO INCREASE ARTS RELATED PROGRAMS
- INCORPORATE ART INTO PARK INFRASTRUCTURE (BRIDGES, BENCHES, PICNIC SHELTERS, ETC.)
- PRODUCE AN ANNUAL ART EVENT TO RAISE AWARENESS AND SUPPORT (FOR EXAMPLE, AN ART PARADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COUNTY FAIR OR ART SOUP)

## NATURAL RESOURCES

- CONTINUE TO PROTECT HIGH QUALITY NATURAL AREAS AS PARKLAND AS THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPS
- ACTIVELY MANAGE RESOURCES IN NATURE FOCUSED PARKS
- CREATE GREENWAYS (LINEAR NATURAL RESOURCE CORRIDORS) WITH TRAILS WHERE APPROPRIATE
- CONTINUE TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS EFFORTS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT







# CONNECT TO THE RIVERS

GIVE US YOUR OPINION:  
 ● AGREE ● DISAGREE

## DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS:

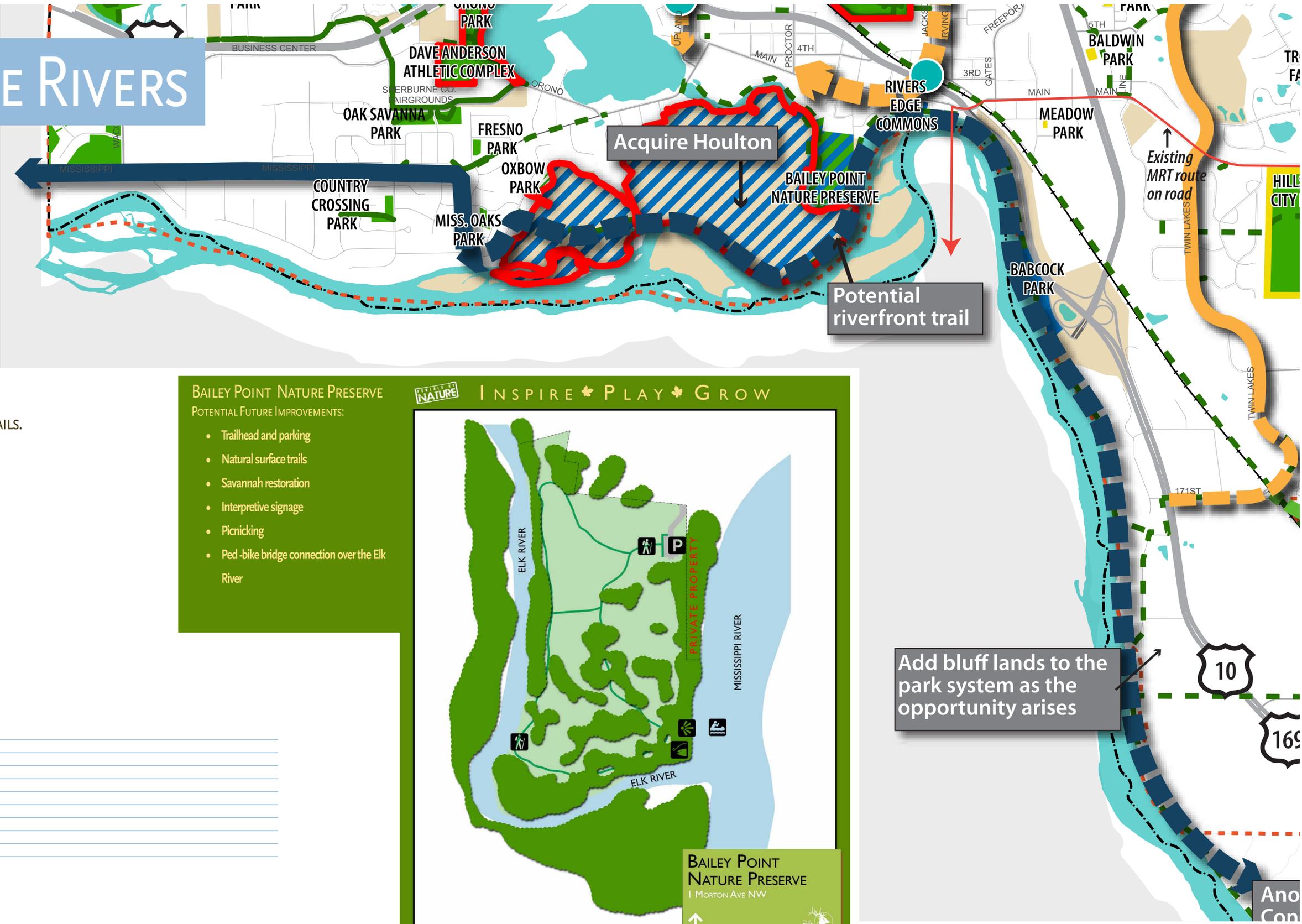
### 1. IMPROVE RIVERFRONT CONNECTIVITY

- STRATEGIES**
- As opportunities arise consider adding riverfront property to the City's park system.
  - Improve wayfinding signage to increase awareness of existing riverfront parks and trails.

### 2. CONNECT PUBLIC RIVERFRONT PROPERTY WITH PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRAILS.

### 3. IMPROVE BAILEY POINT NATURE PRESERVE.

### 4. ACQUIRE HOULTON FARM PROPERTY.



**BAILEY POINT NATURE PRESERVE**  
 POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS:

- Trailhead and parking
- Natural surface trails
- Savannah restoration
- Interpretive signage
- Picnicking
- Ped -bike bridge connection over the Elk River

**INSPIRE • PLAY • GROW**

**BAILEY POINT NATURE PRESERVE**  
 1 Morton Ave NW

www.ElkRiverMN.gov/parksandrec

## PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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## COMMENTS:

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