

Parks and Trails System Analysis and Plan

Waconia is a vibrant and growing community. The City Council is steadfast that our community will achieve this growth in a planned and measured way. We intend to take a proactive role in our growth and maintain the unique qualities that make Waconia a great place to live, work, and play.

Waconia Parks are essential to maintaining the quality of life for our community residents. Parks, open spaces, trails, and area lakes are all key components in making a healthy and aesthetically pleasing community. As we grow, it is essential that our park and recreation efforts meet the needs of current and future Waconia residents and guests.

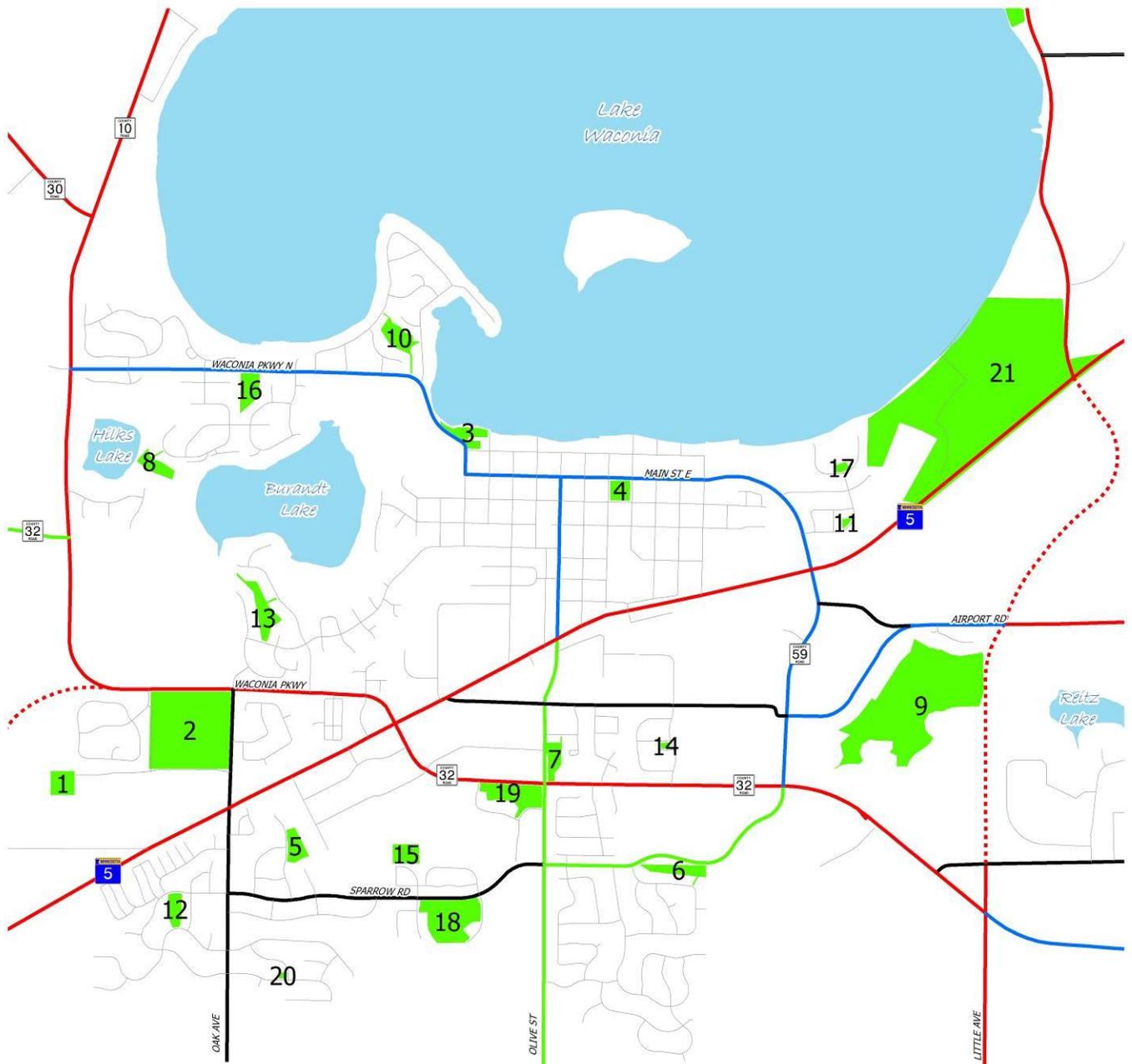
The City of Waconia is growing at a rate of 500 - 550 residents per year. It is estimated that it will cap off around 25,000 by 2030. Recommendations for renovation of our facilities and acquisition and development of future facilities are based on the anticipated growth pattern.

Parks Owned by the City of Waconia

The City has three community parks comprising nearly 70 acres, 16 neighborhood parks, Safari Island Community Center and Waconia Ice Arena. Contained within these parks are softball and t-ball fields, a baseball field, a skate park, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground equipment, and more. There are several other parks in Waconia area that serve the broader public as well. These parks are owned by the public school district, several private schools, Carver County Fairgrounds, and Carver County (Lake Waconia Regional Park).

In the pages that follow, each park facility is described with the programmed improvements identified. All of the objectives, policies, standards, and templates have been applied to each of the parks.

Table 5-1 Waconia Parks And Facilities		Playground	Baseball Fields	Softball Fields	T-Ball Fields	Outdoor Ice Rink	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Walking Trails	Open Space	Seasonal	Drinking Fountains	Concession Stand	Grills	Park Benches	Picnic Pavilion	Gazebo	Fishing Pier	Indoor Community	Skate Park	Warming House	
		Community Parks																				
1	Safari Island Community Ctr.																					
2	Waconia Ice Arena 1250 Oak Avenue					•					•											•
2	Brook Peterson 1200 Oak Avenue	•	•	•					•		•		•		•							
2	Lion's Skate Park 1200 Oak Avenue										•										•	
3	Cedar Point 130 North Cedar						•	•	•		•	•		•	•				•			
4	City Square 101 East Main Street	•							•		•	•		•	•	•	•					
Neighborhood Parks																						
5	Bent Creek 19401 Mockingbird	•			•				•						•							
6	Clearwater Mills 300 1115 th Street East	•							•	•					•							
7	Fox Run 1205 Hig13hway 284	•			•				•	•					•							
8	Hilks Lake 1568 Woodlawn Circle	•							•						•							
9	Interlaken 1270 Interlaken	•							•	•					•	•						
10	Lakeview Terrace 50 Lakeview Terrace									•												
11	Legacy Village 860 Vista Boulevard	•													•							
12	Oakpointe 1431 Sparrow Road	•					•	•		•					•							
13	Pheasant Ridge 1150 Burandt	•							•	•					•							
14	Pinehill – Under development	•													•							
15	Sudheimer -- Facilities to be determined																					
16	Sugarbush 1255 Waconia	•			•					•					•							
17	Vista Point 829 Vista Boulevard											•			•		•					
18	Waterford 1702 Ravencroft Road	•							•	•				•	•	•						
19	Wildhurst 1300 Highway 284	•							•						•							
20	Windmill Creek 1140 Windmill Creek	•													•							



City of Waconia Comprehensive Plan

City Parks

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Safari Island Community Center | 13. Pheasant Ridge |
| 2. Waconia Ice Arena | 14. Pinehill |
| 2. Brook Peterson | 15. Sudheimer |
| 2. Lion's Skate Park | 16. Sugarbush |
| 3. Cedar Point | 17. Vista Point |
| 4. City Square | 18. Waterford |
| 5. Bent Creek | 19. Wildhurst |
| 6. Clearwater Mills | 20. Windmill Creek |
| 7. Fox Run | |
| 8. Hilks Lake | |
| 9. Interlaken | |
| 10. Lakeview Terrace | |
| 11. Legacy Village | |
| 12. Oakpointe | |

County Park

21. Lake Waconia Regional Parks



Figure 5-1
Existing Parks, 2007

Community Parks

Safari Island Community Center

Location

The Safari Island Community Center is located at 1600 Community Drive.

Description

The Safari Island Community Center features a large recreational pool and 8 lane lap pool, Lion's Den indoor playground (donated by the Waconia Lion's Club), suspended walking track, four-court gymnasium, fitness center, meeting rooms. The facility houses Ridgeview Sports Medicine and provides personal fitness consultation. The Community Center is located in a building with ISD #110, which has use of the gym and the pool through a shared use agreement.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- Staff is currently developing a business plan for the facility. The business plan will be added as an addendum to this document when completed.



Waconia Ice Arena

Location

The Waconia Ice Arena is located at 1250 Oak Avenue, at the corner of Community Drive and Oak Avenue.

Description

The Waconia Ice Arena consists of a single sheet of ice, seating for 650, a heated viewing area, large mezzanine viewing area, a meeting room, pro shop, and concessions. The Waconia Ice Arena also has an attached warming house which will serve an outdoor skating area maintained by the arena's Zamboni.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.



Brook Peterson Park

Location

This community park is located at 1200 Oak Avenue at the intersection of Community Drive and Oak Avenue. It is approximately 40 acres.

Description

This park serves as the central location for community sports such as softball, baseball, hockey, figure skating, etc. This park is home to the Waconia Ice Arena, Lion's Skate Park, eight softball fields, baseball field, and an outdoor skating rink. The park has playground equipment, restroom facilities, concessions building, storage space, a drinking fountain, and electricity throughout the park.

The Waconia Lions Baseball Field is currently leased to the Waconia Baseball Association. In 2005, the City granted a seven year, \$120,000 loan to the Baseball Association to purchase and install lights at the field. The Baseball Association has a goal of replacing and expanding the existing grandstand at this facility. At this time, no funding has been identified for this project.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2008

- Install automatic lock system on restroom doors.

2010

- Construct bituminous loop trail around park.
- Construct two tennis courts in southwest corner of park.

2011

- Update/replace playground equipment.
- Outdoor hockey boards.
- Paved rink.



Cedar Point Park

Location

This community park is located at 130 North Cedar Street north of the intersection of North Cedar Street and Lake Street. It is approximately 5.2 acres.

Description

This park is the only property owned by the City adjacent to Lake Waconia. Renovation of the park is focused on providing for the community to enjoy the benefits of Lake Waconia 12 months a year.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2014

- Color coat tennis court and basketball court.



City Square Park

Location

This community park is located at 101 East Main Street at the corners of Main Street and Pine Street. It is approximately 2.5 acres.

Description

This park serves as a central gathering space for picnics, weddings, church services, playgroups, and community events such as Nickle Dickle Day, Music in the Park, Movie in the Park, National Night Out, and Holiday Tree Lighting Program. The park is home to several war memorials, a gazebo, a picnic pavilion, grills, and playground equipment. The park has restroom facilities, storage space, a drinking fountain, and electricity throughout the park.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2008

- Install automatic lock system on restroom doors.
- Install irrigation to the four corner gardens.

2012

- Update/replace playground equipment.



Lion's Skate Park

Location

The Lion's Skate Park is located at 1200 Oak Avenue at the intersection of Community Drive and Oak Avenue, adjacent to Brook Peterson Park.

Description

The Lion's Skate Park was developed with financial assistance from the Waconia Lion's Club. The 9,000 square foot blacktop area includes 10 challenging features.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.



Neighborhood Parks

Bent Creek Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1401 Mockingbird Drive. It is approximately 3 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2013

- Update/replace playground equipment.
- Construct bituminous loop trail within the park and to the playground equipment.

Clearwater Mills Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 300 15th Street East. It is approximately 5.1 acres. This park has a significant amount of open space.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2010

- Update/replace playground equipment.

20?

- Additional parkland and trails will be added as Interlaken Development expands and abuts park.



Fox Run Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1205 Highway #284 at the intersection of State Highway #284 and County Road #32. It is approximately 2.1 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.

Hilks Lake Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1568 Woodlawn Circle. It is approximately one acre.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2015

- Update/replace playground equipment.



Interlaken Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1270 Interlaken Parkway North. It is approximately 65.9 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2009

- Install picnic shade structures.
- Install benches and trash receptacles.

2010

- Reitz Lake fishing pier.
- Construct two tennis courts.
- Construct basketball court.

Lakeview Terrace Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 50 Lakeview Terrace Boulevard. It is approximately 6.5 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2008

- Review/consider installation of playground equipment and a trail to the equipment.

Legacy Village Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 860 Vista Boulevard. It is approximately 0.4 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.

Oakpointe Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1431 Sparrow Road. It is approximately 2.69 acres. This park contains a tennis court, picnic area, basketball court, and walking paths.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2013

- Color coat tennis court and basketball court.

Pheasant Ridge Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1150 Burandt Boulevard. It is approximately 1.5 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.

Pinehill Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1262 Pinehill Boulevard. It is approximately 0.4 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.

Sudheimer park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at the north end of Barton Street. It is 25 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2009

- Money has been budgeted but amenities are yet to be determined.

Sugarbush Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1255 Waconia Parkway North. It is approximately 4 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2011

- Update/replace playground equipment.
- Construct bituminous loop trail within the park and to the playground equipment.

Vista Point Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 829 Vista Boulevard. It is approximately 5.3 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.

Waterford Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1792 Ravencroft Road. It is approximately 12.8 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.



Wildhurst Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1300 Highway #284 at the intersection of County Road #32 and State Highway #284. It is approximately 1.5 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

2009

- Add trail from intersection of State Highway #284 and Wildhurst Road to intersection of Wildhurst Road and Deerfield Road.

Windmill Creek Park

Location

This neighborhood park is located at 1140 Windmill Creek South. It is approximately .25 acres.

Programmed Improvements through 2017

- None planned.

Regional Parks and Trails

The following regional parks and trails are contained in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*:

**Table 5-2
Regional Parks and Trails in Waconia**

Regional Park or Trail Unit Name	Master plan boundary of unit is set. Comprehensive plan should acknowledge boundary.	Master plan boundary is not set. Comprehensive plan should acknowledge general location with final boundary or alignment subject to park or trail master plan.
Lake Waconia Regional Park	X	
Carver North / South Regional Trail search area.		X
County Road 10 Regional Trail Search Corridor		X

Lake Waconia Regional Park

Lake Waconia regional Park is owned by Carver County and includes a beach, shelter, picnic, sand volleyball. The Master Plan for Lake Waconia Regional Park anticipates that the park will eventually cover approximately 130 acres. The development of this park is currently underway. There is an approved master plan for the park with an established boundary.

Coney Island – A Future Element of Lake Waconia Regional Park

The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* proposes adding Coney Island to Lake Waconia Regional Park. Carver County will conduct a public process that includes Laketown Township and others to amend the park master plan to determine the best way to manage the island. The park boundary including Coney Island should be reflected in the City’s comprehensive plan.

Carver North / South Regional Trail Search Area

This proposed trail search area would connect the existing Waconia Regional Park with the proposed Miller Lake and Bevins Creek / Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Parks to the Minnesota River. It would also provide a connection over the river into Scott County and the federal, state, regional and local park facilities in Scott County. The establishment of a trail alignment for this trail search area will result from a master plan process led by Carver County and done in cooperation with Waconia and others.

County Road 10 Regional Trail Search Corridor

This is a proposed regional trail search corridor along County Road 10 that will connect the planned Southwest LRT Connection Regional Trail, the proposed Twin Cities & Western Regional Trail, the Carver County North/South Regional Trail Search Corridor, the Dakota Rail Regional Trail and the Luce Line State Trail. Carver County will develop a master plan to establish the trail alignment and will include Waconia and others in the process.



April 2011

**Figure 5-2:
Proposed Addition to
The Regional Park and
Trail System**

Park Facilities Owned by Schools, Carver County or Others

In addition to the facilities that the City programs and maintains, there are several quasi-public park facilities within or near the community. The Park and Recreation Department will continue to monitor and encourage partnerships when possible with the owners of these facilities.

**Table 5-3
Park Facilities Owned by Others**

Name	Size (Acres)	Type	Owner	Facilities
Bayview Elementary	0.2	Community	School District	Play equipment, track, football field
Carver County Fairgrounds	23.3	Regional	Carver County Ag Society	Fairgrounds
Crown College	40	Private	Crown College	Disc Golf
Faith Lutheran Church	25.9	Private	Faith Lutheran Church	Open space
Knights of Columbus Park	12.1	Private	Knights of Columbus	Ball fields, picnic pavilion
St. Joseph's Catholic School	1.0	Private	St. Joseph's Catholic Church	Play equipment, open space
School Forest	12.8	Open Space	School District	Trails around Bayview Elementary
Senior High	19.3	Community	School District	Ball fields
Sierra Park	1.9	Private Neighborhood	Sierra Neighborhood Association	Play equipment, basketball court, open space
Southview Elementary School	3.1	Community	School District	Play equipment, ball field, soccer/football
Trinity Lutheran School	12.2	Private	Trinity Lutheran Church	Play equipment, ball field
Carver County Regional Parks				
Baylor Regional Park		Public	Carver County	Disc golf, camping, observatory
Lake Minnewashta Regional Park		Public	Carver County	Dog park, picnic, beach
Lake Waconia Regional Park	190.5	Public	Carver County	Play equipment, beach, picnic shelter, sliding hill, open space

Major Park and Trail Planning Issues

The following park and trail planning issues should be considered during the preparation of this comprehensive plan.

- 1. Community Athletic Field:** Should a second community athletic complex (complementary to Brook Peterson Park) be planned and built on the east side of the city? If so, what should be the location, timing, size and features of that facility?
- 2. Future Neighborhood Parks:** Should the City continue with the practice of creating 5- to 10-acre parks in each new neighborhood, or should there be fewer but larger parks?
- 3. Lakefront Parkland:** Should the City work to acquire additional park land on Lake Waconia and Lake Burandt? Should there be a lakefront park adjacent to the downtown? Should the City work with Carver County to try to establish a bicycling trail around Lake Waconia?
- 4. The Role of Parks in Urban Design:** Should the City make a conscious effort to use parks, greenways and parkways to enhance residential neighborhoods and commercial districts, reflect cultural heritage and honor civic life?
- 5. Park Land Acquisition:** Is the present system of land dedication during platting adequate for acquiring land for future neighborhood parks?
- 6. Aesthetic and Standards for Parks and Park Buildings:** Should the City write and adopt guidelines for the design of new park buildings? Should there be a consistent look or style for all park system buildings?
- 7. Ecological Stewardship:** Should portions of the park system be managed for water quality improvements, wildlife habitat, protection of sensitive features and/or natural interpretation?
- 8. Regional Trail Corridor:** What should the City do to help create regional trails on the east side of the community that would link to the Dakota Rail Corridor, Carver Park Reserve and the Miller Lake Regional Park Search Area (to the southeast)?
- 9. Bicycling Paths and Lanes:** Should off-road bicycling paths be planned adjacent to roads? What should be the minimum width of such paths? Should Waconia have a system of on-road striped bicycling lanes?

Park and Trails Plan

Future Parks and Trails

The local park system will grow with the community. New neighborhood parks will be added, a large community athletic park may be created, and Lake Waconia Regional Park will be improved by Carver County. Waconia is very fortunate to have such a marvelous location on a major lake with a county park on its doorstep!

Bicycling, walking, running and skating are popular forms of outdoor recreation and complement the park system nicely when there is a network of paved off-road trails that link the neighborhoods, parks and business centers.

- 1. Neighborhood Parks:** Land for new parks will be acquired in the approximate locations and sizes illustrated by Figure 5-2, Park System Plan, and by Figure 3-6, Land Use Plan Map. The means of acquisition will be according to Policy 3, below.

Six new Neighborhood Parks are proposed in perimeter locations. The locations, are approximate and will be adjusted during the acquisition process. City staff will negotiate with land owners and developers to specify the location and configuration of each park with the aim of acquiring the approximately six to ten acres for each Neighborhood Park and satisfying the area needed to accommodate the planned facilities. Street access, the length of public street abutting each park and the relationship to adjacent buildings will also be negotiated in that process.

Neighborhood Parks should generally be programmed and sized to accommodate the following list of features. Individual parks may vary from this list as natural features or the size and composition of the future neighborhood population suggest.

- Multi-purpose open play area
- Children's play equipment
- Hard court area
- Picnic shelter
- Looped trail

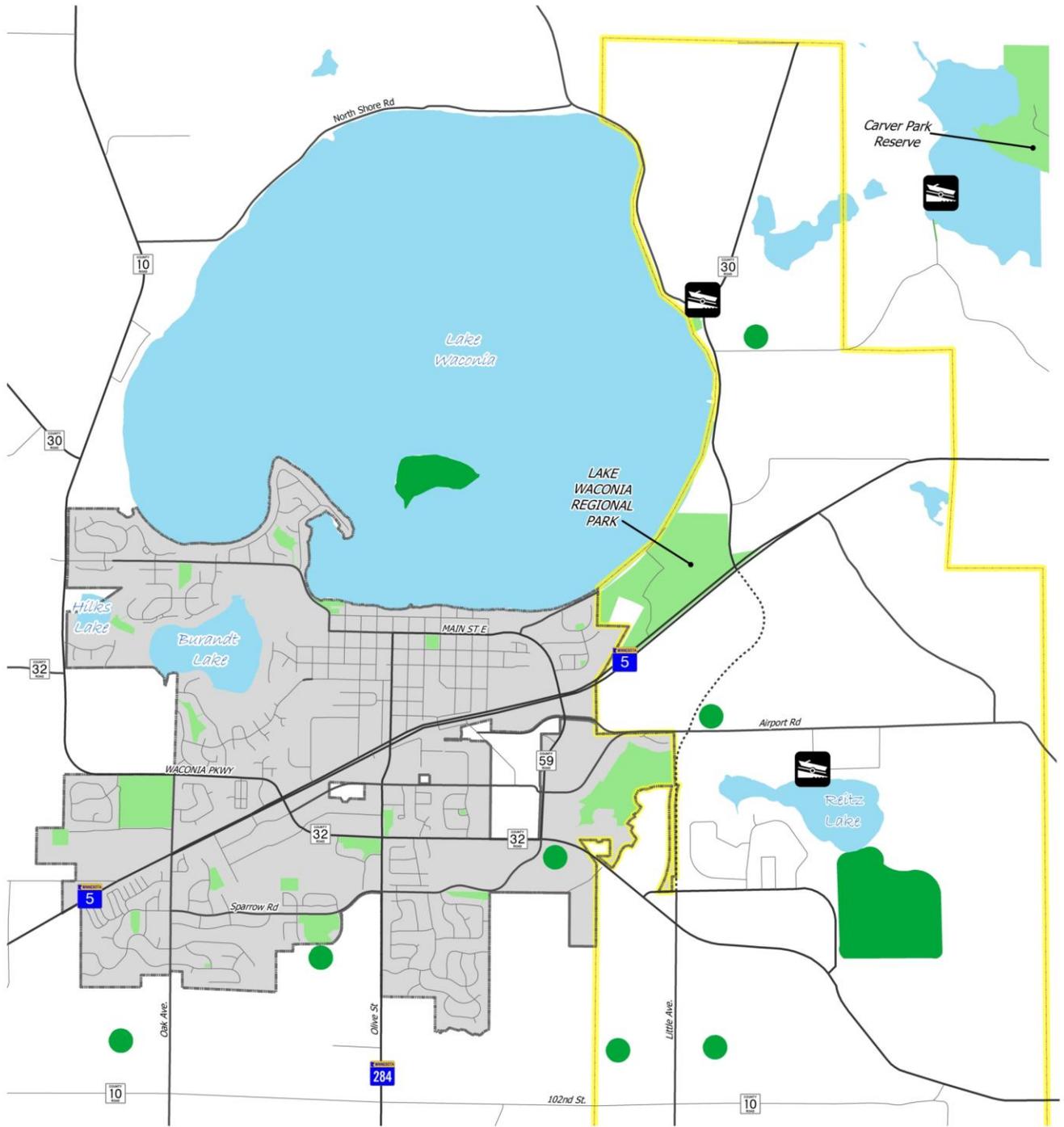
- 2. Community Park:** Approximately 80 to 100 acres of land will be sought for a community park in the future eastern neighborhoods of Waconia. A potential locations suggested by the Land Use Plan Map, although other locations could satisfy the need as well.

The community park site should be sufficiently large to accommodate intensive organized athletics from across the city. In addition, park amenities currently not provide by the City but which would fulfill a community need should be considered.

Features in the community park should include:

- Multiple softball fields with lights and irrigation
- Multiple baseball fields with lights and irrigation
- Multiple soccer fields with lights and irrigation
- Playground equipment
- Open space including woods and fields
- Fishing pier and non-motorized boat launch if adjacent to a lake (the preferred situation)
- Picnic facilities
- Disc golf
- Archery
- Dog park
- Community garden
- Skating rink
- Trails
- Off-street parking
- Refreshment, storage and maintenance buildings
- Perimeter buffer space.

- 3. Acquisition and Improvement of Neighborhood Parks:** The City of Waconia will continue to acquire Neighborhood Parks through its customary process of requiring land subdividers to dedicate land and/or money at the time a final plat is approved.
- 4. Lake Waconia Regional Park:** The City of Waconia supports the boundaries for Lake Waconia Regional Park and the acquisition of land required to meet that objective. In addition, the City supports the acquisition by Carver County of Coney Island along with another property on the northwest shore of the lake as additional elements of Lake Waconia Regional Park.



City of Waconia Comprehensive Plan

February 17, 2009

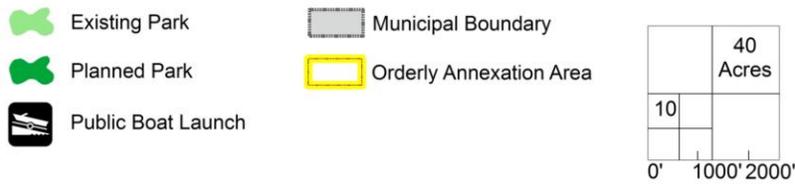


Figure 5-2
Park System Plan

5. **Lakefront Parks:** Watch for opportunities to improve the visual and pedestrian connections between the downtown and Lake Waconia.

6. **Recognize Diverse Needs:** The City will consistently try to recognize and accommodate the diverse recreational needs of the community:
 - Neighborhood level recreation facilities should be made available to each household in the City at either a neighborhood playground facility or through the joint use of school facilities.
 - Facilities provided at sites classified as Neighborhood Parks should reflect the needs of the particular neighborhood or user group within the service area.
 - Park and open space facilities need to serve all ages and the handicapped.

7. **Five-Year Improvements Plan:** Waconia will continue its process of preparing and updating five-year plans. Those plans should list actions to improve individual parks, and ranks them in priority and by year, and indicates the possible funding source. Included with each five-year plan should be an updated list, map and description of the parks in the system. Each five-year plan is drafted by the City staff and reviewed and adjusted by the Waconia Parks Commission.

The criteria used to identify and rank in priority improvement projects are:

- **Coordination:** Does the improvement coordinate well with other work currently committed for or recently accomplished at that park?
- **Physical Need:** What is the physical condition of the facility relative to other needs in the system? Is there a safety hazard?
- **Service Deficiencies:** How seriously deficient is the park system relative to that type of facility?
- **Neighborhood or District Planning:** How well would the improvement add to an overall improvement campaign in that neighborhood or district? Is it supported by a neighborhood plan?
- **Geographic Balance:** Would the improvement help to balance parks spending across the City in that year?
- **Funding Source:** Are special sources of funding available for certain areas of the City or for certain projects?

The Role of Parks in Urban Design

1. **A Network of Green Spaces:** Waconia will continue to build a system of green open spaces for recreation, urban beauty and natural protection that are linked by trails, sidewalks and on-street bicycle lanes.

2. **A System of Civic Spaces:** The City will regard the park and greenway system as one element of a larger system of civic spaces. Through a high quality of design and stewardship, these civic features will sustain the quality of life, private investment and economic competitiveness of Waconia. The system elements should be designed to complement one another visually and functionally, and should be interconnected for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Other elements of this system include:
 - Parks of all types
 - Plazas
 - Public schools
 - Civic buildings such as City Hall and the library
 - Local residential streets, sidewalks and street trees
 - Minor arterial or collector roads
 - Off-street trails and on-street bicycle lanes
 - Wetlands and ponds
 - Lake Waconia
 - Wooded areas

3. **Neighborhood Quality:** In addition to providing amenities for residents, parks should be used to improve the level of private investment in nearby housing and create lasting value in neighborhoods. These public spaces should be regarded as visual assets and designed as such. Each park should:
 - Be open to the neighborhood on at least half of its perimeter
 - Include generous landscaping to soften and direct views
 - Provide both active spaces and quiet, natural areas
 - Use civic buildings such as a gazebo or picnic shelter as a focal point
 - In a school-park situation, be designed in coordination with the facilities provided by the school.

Neighborhood parks are located within walking distance of their service areas. Consequently, off-street parking is not considered necessary for these parks.

The City will strive to ensure that development that occurs next to parks is compatible with these open space areas.

- 4. Quiet Spaces:** Parks should include quiet spaces for strolling or sitting wherever the landscape allows. Some locations in the park system should be managed to retain their wooded or otherwise natural characteristics to invite exploration and discovery. Such places offer a small refuge from the bustle of the urban environment and offer opportunities to connect with nature on a daily basis.



- 5. Civic Pride and Local Heritage:** The City will design and maintain parks and other public spaces as the highest expression of civic pride and local heritage. Parks should be beautiful as well as functional so that current generations will enjoy their use and future generations will appreciate what they represent. Parks and greenways should be inspiring and represent the best of Waconia.
- 6. Park Buildings:** Buildings and facilities in parks should follow a consistent architectural theme reflecting local materials, building practices, cultural heritage and user needs. Buildings should be classic in proportions and materials, adaptable, and long-lasting. If necessary, it is preferable to delay construction than to install a structure that is not of sufficient quality.
- 7. Associated Furnishings:** Care should be taken in selecting associated park furnishings such as benches, bicycle parking, fences, signs or trash containers. They should complement the design of the major buildings and require relatively low levels of maintenance.

Ecology and Environment

- 1. Natural Preservation and Stewardship:** Identify, preserve and enhance existing valuable natural areas such as wetlands, major wooded areas, hilltops, and native prairies (if any) and provide for appropriate public use. Identify such lands prior to the neighborhood development process.

As a primary land owner of open space and environmentally-sensitive areas, the City should set a good example of land stewardship and urban design with its parks and other public facilities.

- 2. Manage Drainageways Naturally:** Drainage swales and creeks are important for their ability to provide wildlife habitat and movement paths, cost-effectively manage stormwater, reduce flooding and serve as visual amenities. Drainageways in parks should be identified and maintained in a natural state. Mowing should be discouraged, and environmentally sensitive methods of bank protection should be used rather than engineering approaches.



The City will also try to incorporate neighborhood detention ponds into parks for the sake of park aesthetics, water quality and land efficiency. This should be done without losing the amount of land needed for active park uses, however.

- 3. Use Sustainable Plantings:** The City will work to judiciously reduce the amount of park area devoted to mowed turf and introduce in its place plant species that require less maintenance, provide habitat for birds, small animals and insects, and that improve the quality of water runoff. Invasive, non-native plant species should be controlled.
- 4. Link Open Spaces:** Major intact natural areas should be linked by corridors of native woods and grasses for the sake of wildlife habitat and movement, and urban aesthetics. Landscape elements that can be used for such links include streams and stream edges, fencerows and hedgerows, drainage swales, roadside ditches with natural vegetation, floodplains and wetlands.



- 5. Retain Unmanaged Places:** Keep a few wooded or other natural areas in the park system at a very low level of management in order to provide places for people to explore on their own and experience a rudimentary bit of wildness.
- 6. Set a Good Example:** As the major public landowner within the community, the City should set a good example of land stewardship for the private sector to emulate by following these and other principles of sustainable design.
- 7. Provide Educational Opportunities:** Educate the general public and teach park users about the physical and natural environments existing within the City's parks through the use of interpretive displays, plaques, educational programs, etc. Such efforts should address topics such as vegetation, wildlife, aquatics and geology as well as highlight significant historical events associated with a particular park.
- 8. Work with other Organizations:** The City will work with allied organizations (e.g., Carver County Parks) that are dedicated to protecting the local natural environment in order to leverage spending and volunteer help, marshal political support and evaluate resources.

Trails and Sidewalks

Sidewalks are concrete paths, typically five or six feet wide, located in the public street right-of-way and intended primarily for pedestrians. Trails are defined as asphalt or crushed limestone paths and may be located in a public street right-of-way, in a park or in their own right-of-way; trails may be used by bicycling, in-line skaters, roller skiers, runners or walkers. Municipal trails are often linked to Carver County trails, which may be part of the regional trail system funded in part by the Metropolitan Council.

Figure 5-4 illustrates the pattern of trails and sidewalks in Waconia as of 2008.

Existing Trails and Sidewalks

Previous System Planning

In 2007, existing sidewalks were mapped, rated for condition and documented in the *Master Sidewalks and Trails Improvement Plan*. That report also mapped alignments for future asphalt off-street multiple-use paths, including the Orderly Annexation Area on the east side of the community. Asphalt trails (side-paths) are planned along both sides of all County roads and all City collector streets. This plan will help ensure that adequate public right-of-way is acquired for future collector and minor arterial roads, and that the paths may be built in conjunction with new or improved roads.

Bicycling Routes

The *Master Sidewalks and Trails Improvement Plan* mapped the existing and planned bicycling side-paths (labeled as “trails”). Among the future trails are several links to Lake Waconia Regional Park.

Carver North-South Regional Trail Search Area

This proposed trail search area would connect the existing Waconia Regional Park with the proposed Miller Lake and Bevins Creek / Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Parks to the Minnesota River. It would also provide a connection over the river into Scott County and the federal, state, regional and local park facilities in Scott County. The establishment of a trail alignment for this trail search area will result from a master plan process led by Carver County and done in cooperation with Waconia and others.

Trails and Sidewalks Plan

- 1. Local Trails and Sidewalks:** In order to promote walking and bicycling, the City will implement the *Waconia Master Trail and Sidewalk Improvements Plan* (2007). That plan designates locations and estimates the cost of building or reconstructing a network of major concrete sidewalks and off-road multiple-use asphalt trails. Figure 5-5 graphically depicts the plan.

In addition to the *Master Trail and Sidewalk Improvements Plan*, Waconia will require land developers to build a six-foot concrete sidewalk on at least one side of every new local residential street and both sides of every new collector street. (A multiple-use path may be built on one side of certain collector streets.)

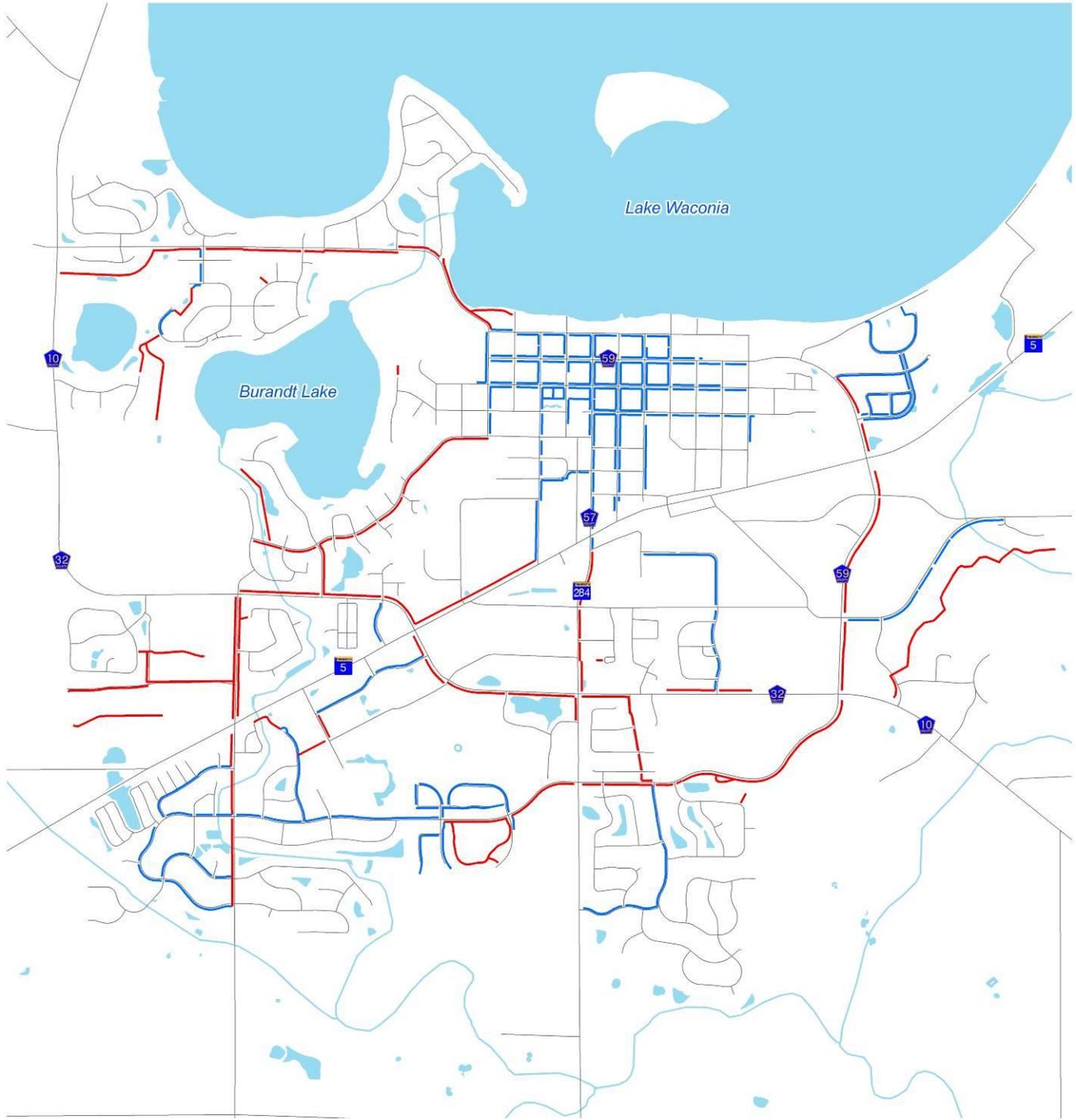
The goals of the *Master Trail and Sidewalk Improvements Plan* are:

- To link neighborhoods with other neighborhoods.
- To link neighborhoods with priority destinations (schools, parks, churches, public facilities, medical facilities and commercial areas)
- To ensure public safety by allowing a safe route for pedestrians away from major roadways.
- To provide an alternative transportation option for residents, reducing the reliance on the automobile.
- To promote healthy lifestyles and provide residents with outdoor recreation activities.
- To assist in the planning for future growth and development of the community.

The design of the future trail and sidewalk system was based on these guidelines:

- Facilities should be located to link neighborhoods.
- Facilities should be located to coincide with established pedestrian patterns.
- Facilities should be located along streets that serve as major pedestrian ways and/or carry a higher level of vehicular traffic.
- Facilities should be located to connect and make the best use of existing facilities.
- Facilities should be located to allow for the future connectivity to surrounding communities, Carver County Parks, and regional trails.

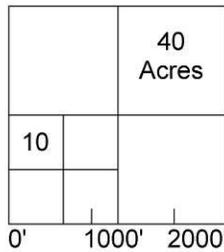
Facilities (all sidewalks and trunk trails) should be located to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



City of Waconia 2008 Comp Plan Update

Sidewalks & Trails

- Existing Sidewalk - Adequate Condition
- Existing Trail - Adequate Condition
- Roads
- Ponds/Lakes
- Streams



**Figure 5-4
Existing Sidewalks
And Trails**

Map Document: (H:\Waconia\1239615\ArcView\39615 Existing Sidewalks & Trails Figure 5-4-6.5x11.mxd)
4/15/2008 -- 2:50:45 PM

A preliminary capital improvements program was included in the 2007 master plan for new construction and reconstruction of deteriorate sidewalks and trail segments during the 2008 through 2018 period. It included:

- 28 projects
- 14 are to be included in street reconstruction projects
- One is to be included in a utility reconstruction project
- One is to be included in a park project
- The total estimated cost of the 28 projects (in 2007 dollars) was \$2,355,000.

The condition and location of sidewalks that may be rebuilt as part of street reconstruction projects will be determined at the time of the street project. Pending boulevard widths and proposed street grades, many of those sidewalk segments may be protected rather than reconstructed.

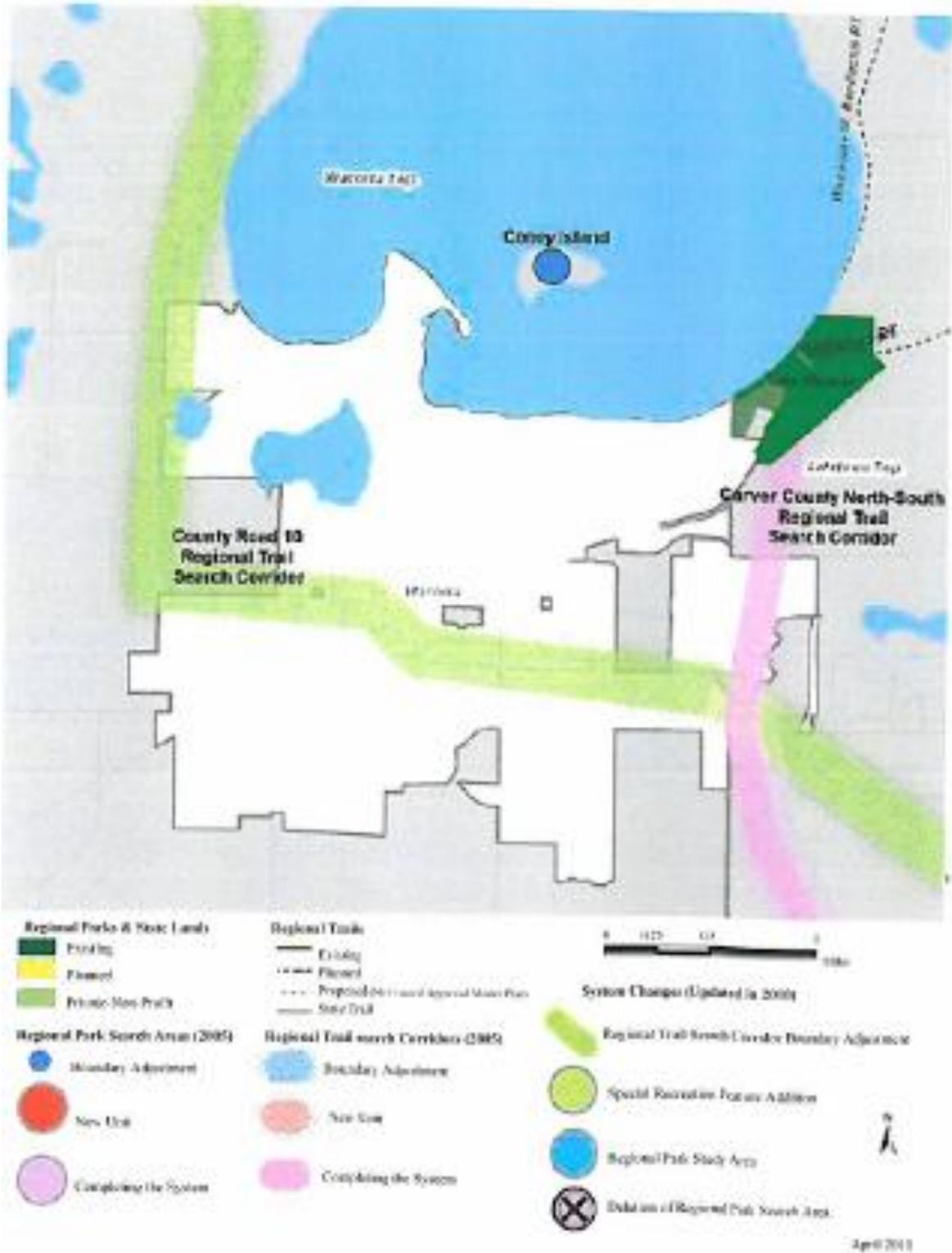
There are many other future sidewalks and paths identified in Figure 4-8 that were not included in the 2007 capital improvements program for sidewalks and trails. Those facilities will primarily be constructed and funded by new developments according to city requirements and ordinances and will not require any City cost participation.

2. Regional Trails: The City of Waconia will cooperate with Carver County and the Metropolitan Council to plan and build these trails:

- A regional trail between Lake Minnetonka Regional Park, Carver Park Reserve, the City of St. Bonifacius, the former Dakota Rail corridor, Lake Waconia Regional Park and the planned Miller Lake Regional Park (potentially to be located southeast of Waconia in Dahlgren Township). This route may utilize the planned County Road 92 right-of-way along the east side of Lake Waconia and through eastern Waconia. The final alignment and design of that trail have not yet been determined.
- A trail around Lake Waconia that may use the former Dakota Rail corridor and the existing road right-of-way.
- Connections to the trail systems in the Cities of Victoria and Cologne.

For the sake of user safety and comfort, the *Waconia Comprehensive Plan* recommends that the width of off-road asphalt multiple-use paths be 10 feet rather than the 8 feet shown in the *Master Sidewalk and Trail Improvements Plan*. White shoulder stripes and skip-dash centerlines stripes should be applied, consistent with Mn/DOT guidelines.

On-street striped lanes should be considered in conjunction with the planned side-paths in order to provide for the full range of bicyclists and promote bicycling along streets where side paths may not be physically possible or politically acceptable. Stop signs should be installed where the side-paths meet streets and the path alignment moved away from the intersection of the two street legs if possible.



**Figure 5-2:
Proposed Addition to
The Regional Park and
Trail System**

