

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS

Minnesota State Statute protects parks and open spaces in the Metropolitan area because of their significance to the quality of life for the residents in the Metropolitan area.

The Metropolitan Council adopted the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* in June of 2005. This is the metropolitan system plan for regional recreation open space with which local comprehensive plans must conform. Significant elements of the system plan apply specifically to the City of St. Francis. The City of St. Francis also recently adopted a *Park and Trail System Plan* in December of 2005. The following text is an attempt to integrate the goals of the Metropolitan Council, along with the goals of the City of St. Francis, in meeting the growing park needs of the residents.

Existing Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces

The following is a list of the existing parks, open spaces, and trails within the City of St. Francis:

Existing Parks, Opens Spaces, & Trails		
Source: City of St. Francis Park and Trail System Plan (2005)		
Park Facilities	Agency	Land Description
Community Park	City	15 acres
Deer Creek Park One	City	16.52 acres
Deer Creek Park Two	City	10.38 acres
Durigan Locher	City	1 acre
Degardner Park	City	1 acre
Degardner Park Two	City	13.42 acres
Dellwood River Park	City	10 acres
Edgewild Park	City	4.5 acres
Hidden Ponds Park	City	6.7 acres, rural
Highland Woods Park	City	1 acre, MUSA
Rum River Woods Park	City	1 acre, MUSA
Seelye Brook Park	City	1 acre, MUSA
Stone House Ridge Park	City	1/3 acre, MUSA
Woodbury Park	City	<1 acre
Rum River North County Park	Anoka County	80 acres
Open Space	Agency	Land Description
Bethel Wildlife Management Area	State – DNR	
Trails	Ownership	Land Description
8' Arterial Trail System	City	4.57 miles
10' Arterial Trail System	City	2 miles

Proposed Parks, Trails, and Open Space

The following table illustrates the proposed parks, open spaces, and trails within the City of St. Francis, both local and regional. It is important to note that the City has plans to update many of the existing park facilities with specific amenities, which are not

identified in this text, but can be found in the *Park and Trail System Plan*. If additional acreage is being added to an existing park or trail, or if a new park or trail is proposed, it is mentioned in the following table:

Proposed Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails		
<i>Sources: Francis Park and Trail System Plan (2005) & Met Council's 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan</i>		
Park Facilities and Open Spaces	Agency	Land Description
Full Sports Complex	City	40-60 acres, rural
½ Sports Complex	City	28 acres, rural
New Regional Park Unit/ Northwest Anoka County Search Area	City, Anoka County	Master plan boundary is not set' Probably acres=1,000; Maximum acres=2,500
Trails	Agency	Land Description
8' Arterial Trail System	City	22.92 additional miles
Rum River Regional Trail	City, Anoka County	Master plan boundary is not set.
Northwest Anoka County Regional Trail Corridor Search Area	City, Anoka County	Master plan boundary is not set.

Full Sports Complex – The City of St. Francis is proposing a new full sports complex facility in its Park and Trail System Plan, adopted in 2005. The facility is planned to be located on 40 to 60 rural acres and will contain numerous amenities, including, but not limited to the following: two hockey rinks, one skating rink, two baseball fields, 6 little league softball fields, six soccer fields, four tennis courts, a play structure, park shelter, concession stand, and other amenities.

Half Sports Complex – The City is also proposing a Half Sports Complex, to be located on 20 rural acres and will contain the following amenities: two hockey rinks, one skating rink, three little league softball leagues, four soccer fields, two tennis courts, a concession stand, and numerous other amenities. The Half Sports Complex may be expanded to a Full Sports Complex based on land availability. If expanded, the park search area located east of the Half Sports Complex location may be relocated further north.

New Regional Park Unit / Northwest Anoka County Search Area – The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* includes three new regional park units needed to serve the expanding population by 2030 throughout the region. The Anoka County Parks Departments will be reviewing the potential for a new park on the west side of the City of St. Francis as a part of their process of updating the County Park System Plan. This new regional park is planned to be located on 1,000 acres likely, but could be up to 2,500 acres. This park unit has been identified as a reserve in order to protect the high quality natural resources found in this area, which are unique in Anoka County. This park is reflected on the City's park plan as the western of the two large scale park complexes.

Rum River Regional Trail – This proposed regional trail would connect the Mississippi River (Anoka County segment) regional trail with the Rum River Central Regional Park. It would also provide a connection to Bunker Hills Regional Park via the Central Anoka County Regional Trail. It currently does not have an approved master plan. Anoka County and the City and others shall work together in the future to plan and implement this trail, which is also reflected on the City’s approved trail plan.

Northwest Anoka County Regional Trail Corridor Search Area – The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* includes a number of proposed park system units described as *The Last Best Places – Completing Acquisition of the System*. This includes a northwest Anoka County trail corridor search area in St. Francis. On the east end, the proposed trail corridor would connect the Rum River Regional Trail, north of Lake George Regional Park, to the newly proposed Northwest Anoka County Regional Park unit in St. Francis and continue west to connect to the proposed trails in Sherburne County. The trail corridor search area is primarily in the City of St. Francis and is reflected on the City’s master trail plan.

The following map illustrates the existing parks, open spaces and trails within the City of St. Francis. It also identifies the approximate locations of planned parks and trails, both local and regional, within the City limits.

Park and Trail Map

Trails

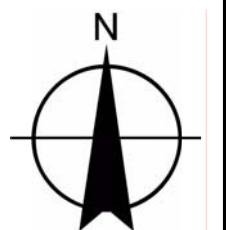
- Existing Bituminous Trail
- Existing Concrete Sidewalk
- Existing Limestone Trail
- Existing Regional Trail
- Future Proposed Trail Segments
- Proposed Regional Trail

Parks

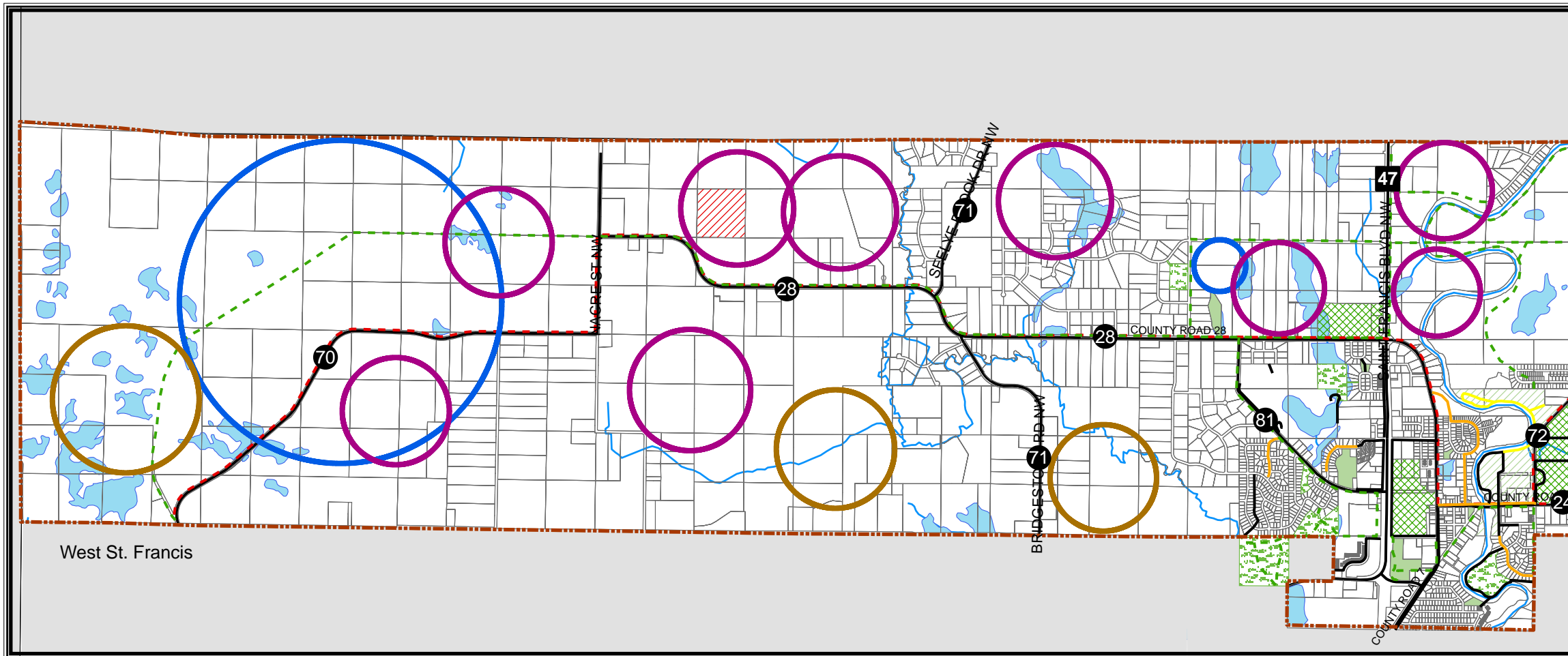
- City Park
- City Park (undeveloped)
- County Park
- School Land
- State Land
- Rivers & Streams
- Protected Waters
- City Boundary

Future Park Search Areas

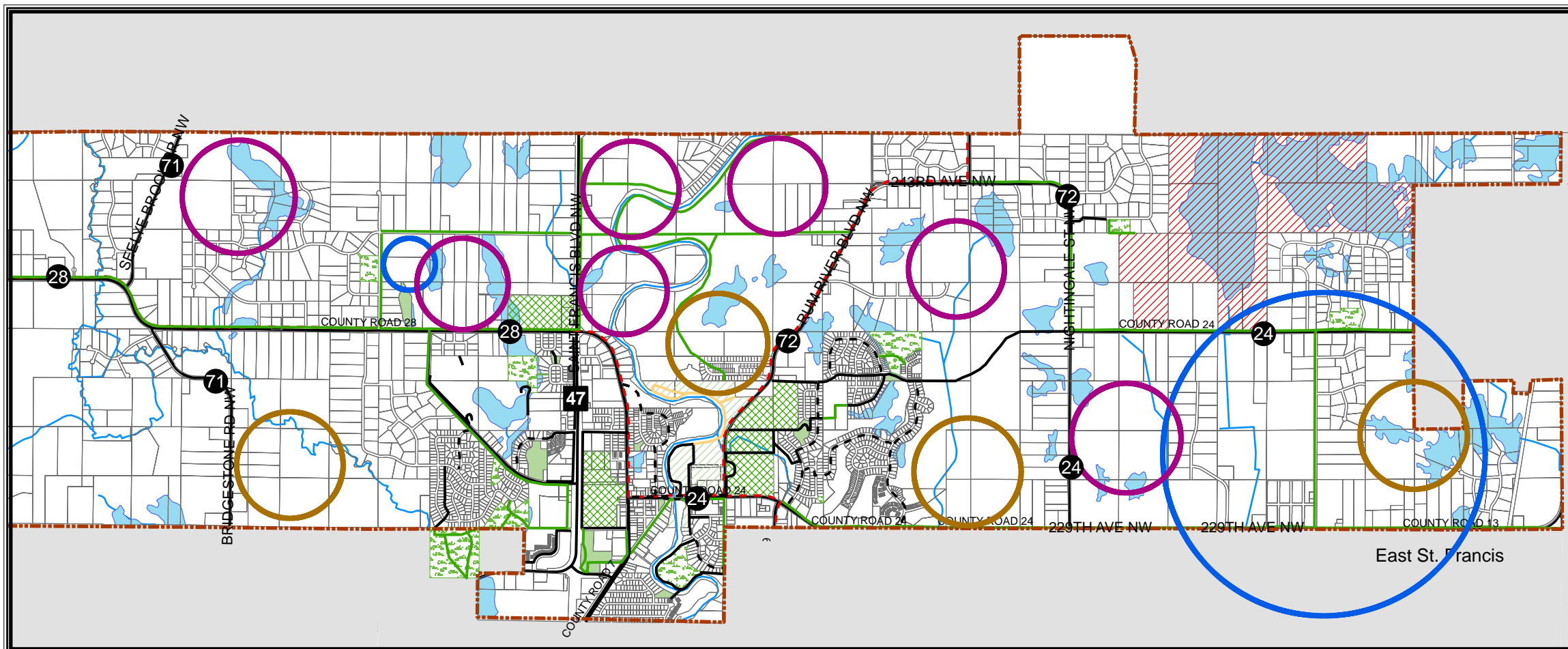
- Complex
- Mid Size Park
- Small Passive



Source: Anoka County GIS; Minnesota DNR;
Bolton and Menk, Inc; Northwest Associated Consultants
Date: February 2009



West St. Francis



East St. Francis