

City of Tonka Bay: CityScape Parks Improvement Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CityScape Parks Improvement Plan provides the City of Tonka Bay with recommendations for park improvements and successful park system planning. The plan is an accumulation of research conducted by graduate students from Minnesota State University (MSU), Mankato, with input from Tonka Bay's City Administrator and Park Committee. With the help of the Parks Committee, the students conducted a parks survey to gather resident opinions, identify who is using the parks, and learn why residents use certain parks. The responses revealed that the residents are very passionate about their community parks and would likely support measures to increase funding for future improvements. In addition to the survey, a parks inventory was completed to identify and assess the condition of each park.

Before developing a park system plan for the Parks Committee and the City, the MSU team developed mission and vision statements to provide direction going forward. Recommendations were made to improve the park aesthetics, functionality, safety, and accessibility along with making capital improvements. The parks improvement plan focuses on the following areas; individual park recommendations, options for trail improvements, marketing and advertising solutions, available grants, and park management best practices. The main goals of the recommendations are to bring more people into the parks and to provide a framework for future improvements that are cost effective and environmentally friendly.

The parks improvement plan designates parks into one of two categories, either a "community park" or a "neighborhood park". Community parks are those parks that are used by everyone in the community unlike neighborhood parks which are mostly used by residents that

live near to the park. Along with completing low-cost improvements to each of the City's five parks, the plan recommends allocating the majority of current and future resources into "community parks" and trails. This plan gives Tonka Bay both 5-year and 10-year recommendations for improvements they can make to their parks, plus solutions for implementing these changes. Although additional funding options have been identified, full implementation of the plan may require a significant commitment from the community.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of this project was to help the City Administrator and newly formed Parks Committee of Tonka Bay, Minnesota to:

- Take stock of the current state of the City Parks
- Gain resident insights and opinions about the Tonka Bay Parks
- Gather resources about grants and best practices
- Create a park vision and capital improvements plan
- Create advertising and marketing solutions
- Provide parks programming ideas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank and acknowledge City Administrator of Tonka Bay, Lindy Crawford, the City of Tonka Bay Parks Committee, Drs. Fricano and Porter, and emeritus professor Dr. Wood for all of your help with this project.

Thank You!

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: EXPLANATION OF MAIN ISSUES

The Tonka Bay Parks Committee was created to improve Tonka Bay's parks system and is focused on improving the condition and connectivity of the parks to better meet the needs of the community. The committee is made up a variety of people including city staff, council members, and citizens of the community. A prior parks committee focused on improving the trail system and collaborated with Hennepin County to construct a trail along County Road 19 (Manitou Road). This parks committee disbanded when their collaboration efforts failed, and a trail was not created. Before disbanding, the committee worked to establish a parks donation program and create design standards for uniform trash receptacles in all the parks.

The parks committee will act as stewards of the Tonka Bay's parks and create a plan for the entire park system, as this is important to the long-range goals of the City of Tonka Bay. The committee would also like to foster an environment that attracts citizens to participate in the planning process. Goal two of the Comprehensive Plan is "Parks, Open Spaced, Trails and the Lake: Establish a system that blends park land, trails, the lake and natural open spaced into a unified system". The parks committee is working to meet this goal by addressing the demand and interest in establishing a trail system, adding additional boat slips, providing additional access to Lake Minnetonka, and protecting the environment of Tonka Bay's parks and trails. Our team will provide recommendations and implementation steps the committee can take to meet this goal and also provide additional park planning ideas for the future.



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PROJECT PROCESS

The process for creating a Parks Improvement Plan for the City of Tonka Bay involved close consultation with the City's Parks Committee and City Administrator. The plan was developed in four phases: The first phase involved determining the overall scope of the project and the goals and objectives for a final product. The second phase consisted of the creation, implementation, and analysis of a resident survey. In the third phase, recommendations were created based on the resident survey data, input from the Parks Committee, and the expertise of the student consultants. The fourth phase of the plan saw the formal creation of the final plan outlining a mission and vision for Tonka Bay's parks. The final plan serves as a guide for improving the parks by providing the following; funding options, a five year and ten year plan for each park, trail recommendations, marketing and advertising solutions, maps, and best management practices.

PHASE I: DETERMINE THE OVERALL SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AND THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR A FINAL PRODUCT

The first phase began with a meeting between the Minnesota State University, Mankato team and the City Administrator, Lindy Crawford, on September 3, 2015 where the overall scope of the project was communicated to the group. During phase one, the student consultants completed the following tasks:

- A full park inventory on each of the five parks
- Initial assessment/recommendations for improvement
- Development of a plan outline
- Designation of individual research tasks based off the plan outline
- Construction of a detailed timeline with specific deadlines for individual and group tasks

PHASE II: CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A RESIDENT SURVEY AND ANALYZE THE RESULTS

The second phase of the project began with the creation and design of a draft survey. The MSU team collaborated with the Parks Committee to create a survey that would be accessible to residents and provide data that would help guide the plan. After coming to a consensus on the overall layout, delivery method, and content of the survey, the survey was sent out by e-mail to 366 Tonka Bay residents. With a response rate of 23%, the student consultants analyzed the survey data and presented it to the Parks Committee.

PHASE III: CREATE RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE RESIDENT SURVEY DATA, INPUT FROM THE PARKS COMMITTEE, AND RESEARCH DONE BY THE STUDENT CONSULTANTS

The third phase of the project involved bringing all of the information together to draft the formal parks improvement plan for the City of Tonka Bay. Student consultants collaborated to complete their respective sections of the project.

PHASE IV: CREATE A FINAL PLAN THAT SERVES AS A GUIDE FOR IMPROVING THE PARKS

In the final phase, the work of the MSU team members was brought together with a presentation to the Tonka Bay City Council, as well as completing a final report. The team also presented to the Tonka Bay Parks Committee and the students and faculty of MSU, Mankato. The MSU team presented to the Urban Studies Studio class on three different occasions, receiving valuable feedback from Dr. Miriam Porter, Dr. Russell Fricano, and emeritus professor Dr. Perry

Wood. Throughout phase four, the student consultants met frequently to condense and improve the clarity of the information contained in the presentation.

At their final meeting with the Parks Committee on November 17, 2015, the student consultants presented their draft parks improvement plan to the Parks Committee. After receiving feedback from the Parks Committee, adjustments were made to the presentation and report to include more recommendations for the use of renewable energy and implementing sustainability practices.

After making the recommended changes, the student consultants presented their final parks improvement plan to the Tonka Bay City Council on November 24, 2015. The final City of Tonka Bay: Cityscape Parks Improvement Plan gives the City a guide for improving their parks containing a 5-year and 10-year plan for their parks as well as funding options, marketing and advertising solutions, a mission and vision for Tonka Bay's parks, maps, and park management best practices.

OVERVIEW OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE MSU TEAM AND THE TONKA BAY PARKS COMMITTEE

September 15, 2015 Meeting

- Introductions
- Parks Committee members spoke about their views on the current condition of the parks and specific improvements they would like to see
- The creation of a resident survey was discussed
- Student consultants were assigned the task of creating a draft survey to be presented at the September 29 meeting

September 29, 2015 Meeting

- Student consultants presented draft online survey
- Student consultants received feedback/made revisions to survey
- Feedback included the following:
 - Include more demographic and park specific questions
 - Change the order of some questions
 - Better assess the level of satisfaction with the parks

October 6, 2015 Meeting

- Student consultants presented revised survey
- Discussed changes to online survey
- Revisions were requested by the Parks Committee
- October 14 – Target date for survey launch

October 13, 2015 Meeting

- Student consultants presented revised survey
 - Final changes were requested
 - Goal: Launch the survey by October 14

October 26, 2015 Meeting

- Presented survey results/discussed findings
 - Received input from Parks Committee
 - Discussed priorities for park improvements

November 17, 2015 Meeting

- The student consultants presented their first draft of the parks improvement plan
- Feedback included:
 - Incorporate more sustainable solutions
 - Take more time to explain each slide
 - Make revisions to the mission and vision statement
 - Make changes to the best management practices

HISTORY OF TONKA BAY AND THE PARKS

In 1853, Peter Gideon came to what is now Tonka Bay. Gideon was an apple farmer and horticulturist who created a type of apple that could survive Minnesota winters. Stephen Hull was another early settler of Tonka Bay. Hull made the first channel that connected the lower and upper lakes of Lake Minnetonka. Today, Hull's Narrows and Gideon's Bay pay homage to the legacies of both men.

In 1879, a grand hotel was built on Echo Bay across from Big Island. It became a summer tourist destination (especially in the summer months). People from the southern states were able to escape the intense summer heat and go to Tonka Bay to enjoy the lakes and comfortable weather. The popular hotel attracted many tourists and was known for its amateur theater, steamboat rides, luxurious porches, and gourmet cuisine¹. In addition to the hotel, expensive cottages were built along the shores of the lake. Tonka Bay was incorporated in 1901.

Tonka Bay is home to five parks that all have unique name origins.

- Manitou was named after a rail stop named Manitou Junction dating back to the 1890s.
- Wekota Park dates back as far as the 1880s. Wekota was a name of a street that was later changed to "Tonka Bay Road"².
- Old Orchard Park, located next to Tonka Bay's City Hall, was named after the Wilcox estate that was named "Old Orchard" dating back to the 1880s.
- Pleasant Park is nestled in a neighborhood and its name origin is unknown.
- Crescent Park is a quaint secluded beach with a dock to sunbathe on, its name origin, however, is also unknown.

¹ "Tonka Bay Marina: A Long and Storied History." Tonka Bay Marina. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Oct. 2015.

² Stevens, Lisa. "Tonka Bay Park History." 27 Sept. 2015. E-mail. Lisa Stevens, Volunteer at Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

2030 Tonka Bay Comprehensive Plan Review

Parks SWOT Analysis

SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

Strengths

- Engaged parks committee
- Existing relationships with associations and community groups
- Variety of parks amenities
- High park use by residents

Weaknesses

- Available funding
- Aging equipment and facilities
- Poor infrastructure connecting parks

Opportunities

- Increase community engagement
- Establishing trail connections between parks
- Long term strategic planning
- Life cycle planning

Threats

- Competition from larger surrounding cities
- E.coli contamination
- Safety concerns

SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The survey was sent to 366 residents (about 25% of the City's population) via email and was administered using Survey Monkey. 85 residents (23% of those surveyed) responded and gave some terrific insight about what they think about the Tonka Bay parks. We anticipate that more citizen involvement will follow as plans are created and implemented. A snapshot of the survey responses are below (Figures 1-6) and the complete survey is included in the appendix.

CITIZEN INFORMATION & PARTICIPATION: *How citizens were engaged in this process*

Working with the Tonka Bay Parks Committee, the MSU team created a survey to gain resident insight on current conditions of the parks, determine which improvements are viewed as most important to the residents, and ask residents why they use each park. Secondly, a determination of resident's overall vision of the parks and trails system would become central to creating a final plan. In the survey, questions were asked concerning resident opinion of the current park and trail operations and the different amenities that could be added to the parks. The team obtained valuable information about the current level of support for the parks and asked residents to share other thoughts about the parks and trails system.

SURVEY RESULTS

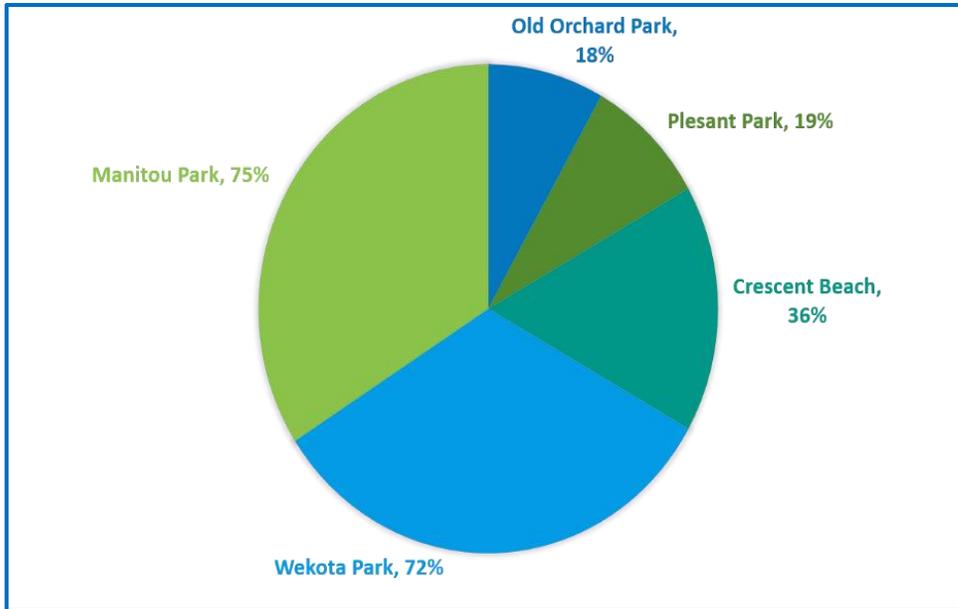


Figure 1: Most Visited Parks

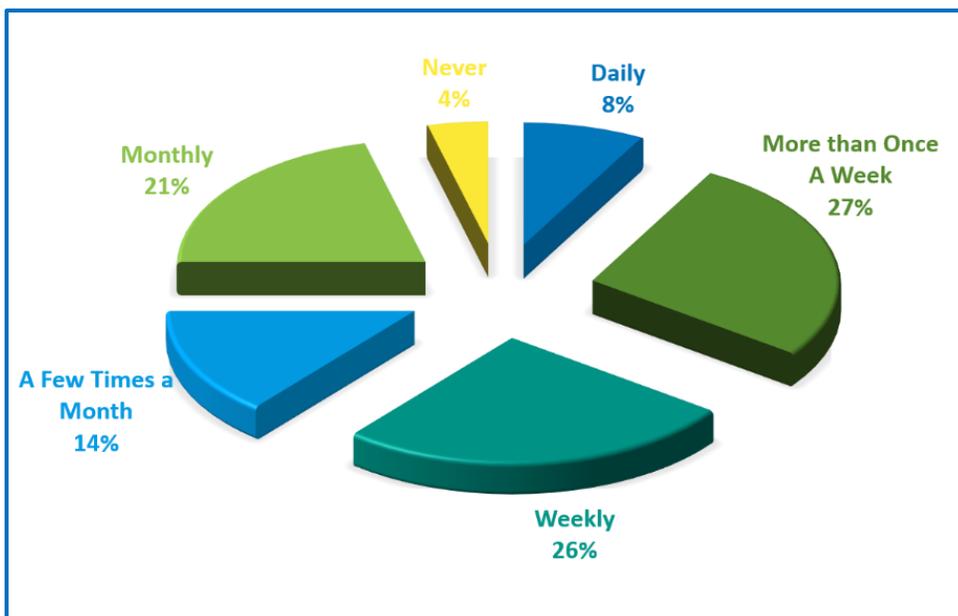


Figure 2: How Often Do You Visit Tonka Bay's Parks?

SURVEY RESULTS

**Figure 3:
Overall
Park
Condition**



**Figure 4:
Additional
Amenities**

SURVEY RESULTS

Figure 5: Paying for Park Amenities

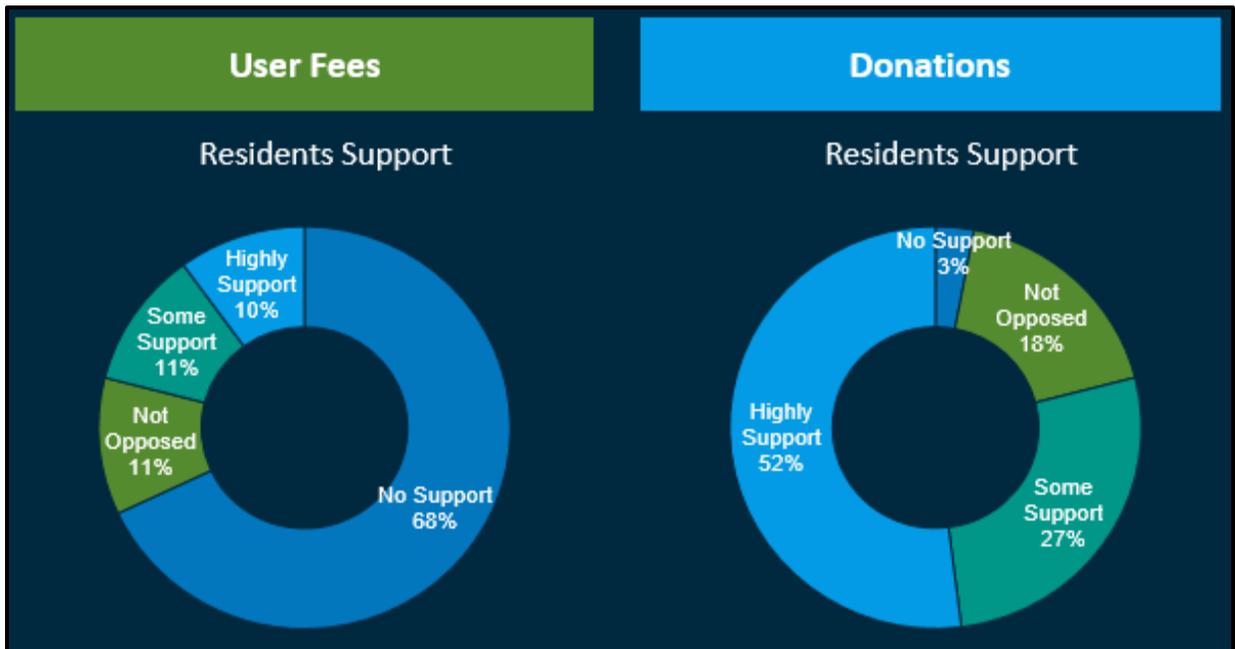
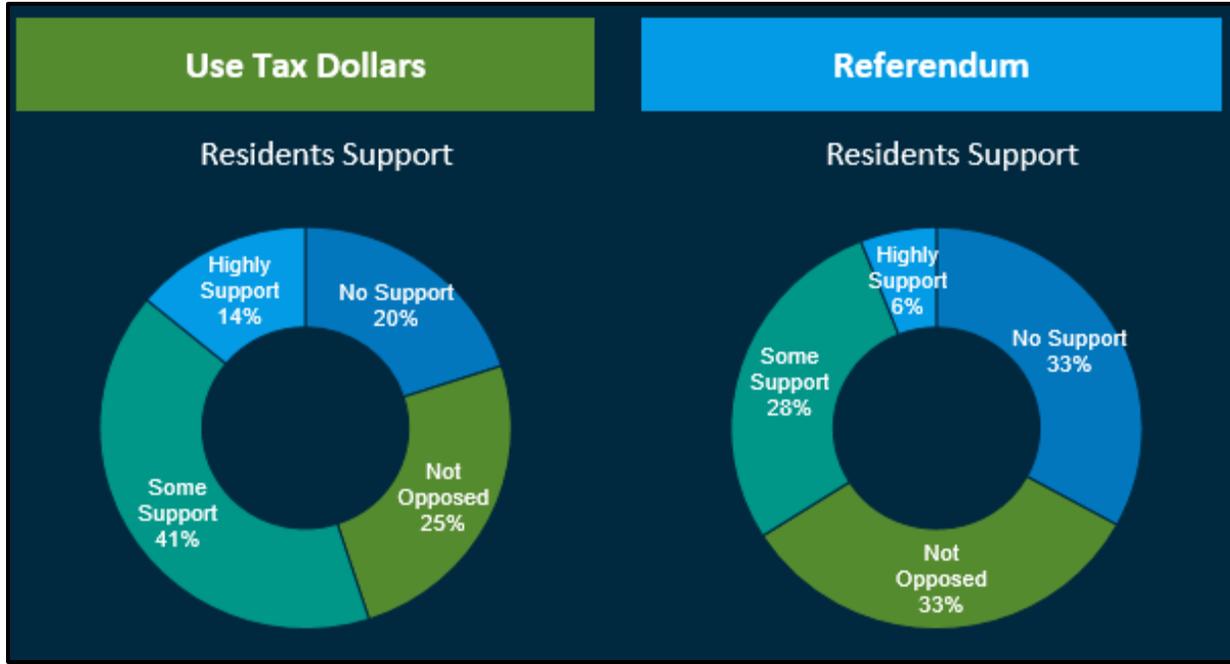


Figure 6: Paying for Park Amenities

The survey responses from residents were mostly positive in regards to the Tonka Bay Parks system, but there were notable suggestions for improvement. When we asked the residents what three words they would use to describe Tonka Bay Parks, our analysis showed that three-quarters of the responses were positive (see Figure 7 for a visual representation). The most common terms used were “small/quaint” and “clean”, followed by “safe”, “fun”, and “beautiful”. The most common negative response categorized the parks as “non-inspiring”, “bland”, “basic”, and unattractive”.



Figure 7: Three words to describe Tonka Bay Parks

By a fairly wide margin, survey respondents said they visited Manitou Park and Wekota Park the most, 75% and 72% respectively, while only 18% said they visit Old Orchard Park (see Appendix A). This seems logical as Manitou Park offers residents athletic fields and facilities and Wekota Park has tennis courts and a beach, while Old Orchard is mostly visited by people who have a boat slip rental.

In addition, survey respondents rated Manitou and Wekota Park highest in overall park condition, with Pleasant Park scoring the lowest. This too seems logical that if residents are highly satisfied with the condition of a park that they are more likely to use it. Pleasant Park has very few amenities and is mostly an open field, plus the park has had issues with sinkholes, all of which likely contributed to the residents rating.

When asked why residents do or do not visit a park, location of the park was the biggest factor. In addition, many survey respondents said they did not use certain parks because they did not know where they are located. This feedback led the group to believe better marketing of the parks is needed along with better signage within the city to guide residents to local parks. Residents were more likely to use Manitou Park for their athletic fields and facilities along with Wekota Park for swimming and tennis. Multiple survey respondents said they did not visit Crescent Beach because of intermittent E.coli concerns and also because the beach was not kept in very good condition. The MSU group believes there should be a renewed plan to rid Crescent Beach of its annual E.coli issues and to improve the overall condition of the beach.

Survey respondents showed that there is a strong interest in the parks, with over 60% of resident respondents saying they use the parks at least once a week. Only 4% of respondents said they never use the parks. Respondents were also asked if they used any of the parks in the winter months and 68% said they used Manitou Park. This result was not surprising, as Manitou Park has a hockey rink within the park.

The MSU team was also interested in obtaining feedback from residents about what additional amenities they would like to see implemented in the parks. The highest ranked responses were increased recreational options (play equipment, picnic areas, and grills) and improved

aesthetics (landscaping, rain gardens, and art). Based on those survey results and independent research, it is recommended that the city should look at replacing older play equipment, as well as adding additional picnic tables and grills, and also implement a beautification of the parks with updated landscaping.

PARKS STANDARDS

The following standards have been set forth by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Community Parks

Community parks have a great abundance of space in order for the park to have more recreational, special facilities and natural environments for the community to grow and prosper throughout the years to come.

Size

2 acres per 1,000 population each community park would be 5 to 50 acres in size

Need

3.2 acres to serve the 1,600 planning population

Location

Serves a surrounding area with a two-mile radius and should be within a five to ten minute drive of any residence in the service area. Community parks should be centrally located in the service area or adjacent to schools, waterways or to undeveloped public open space.

Facilities

Community parks provide facilities to serve the community at large (i.e., large athletic fields, extensive cooking and picnic facilities, moderate to large sheltered space, open space, trails, paths, natural areas, a community center, swimming pools). Community parks should be equipped with restrooms and provide for vehicle parking. To the extent that a community park also serves as a neighborhood park for the immediate area, it should also be equipped with those facilities (play equipment, etc.) specified for a neighborhood park.

Existing Community Parks

Manitou Park- The size of the park and amenities provided there designate Manitou as a community park. Association with different cities in having correlated sports events would increase parks visitors. As far as the size of the park goes, it is sufficient for population targeted within the City and visitors from adjacent cities as well.

Wekota Park- The park has adequate services for neighborhoods located in the northern side of the City.

Figure 8: Community Parks

| Facility | Approximate Size (Acres) | Playground Area | Playground Equipment | Sports | Marina | Special Facility |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|------------------|---|
| Manitou Park | 7.5 | Wide large open space | Play structure | Basketball Hockey Baseball Soccer | None | Warming House Picnic Shelter Grills |
| Wekota Beach Park | 3.36 | Flat open space | Play structure | Tennis Basketball | Access to Marina | Beach |
| Total community park acres | 10.8 | | | | | |

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are important for social and recreational activities focusing on residential areas. These parks will increase active and passive activity opportunities for the community. Neighborhood parks are primarily pedestrian parks and normal street parking should be adequate. Restrooms may or may not be provided in neighborhood parks.

Size

2.5 acres per 1,000 population in addition to land for community parks. Neighborhood parks can be less than ½ acre and up to 5 acres in size

Need

4 acres to serve the 1,600 planning population

Location

Serves a surrounding area of one-quarter mile radius. Neighborhood parks should be centrally located and accessible by pedestrians without crossing major thoroughfares. If located next to a school, some facilities can be shared.

Facilities

Neighborhood parks should be furnished with play equipment, both hard surfaced and sand play areas, benches, tables, small shelter, outdoor cooking facilities, basketball court, multi-purpose field or grassy area (if space is available), trees, and vegetation.

EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Pleasant Park- This is a typical neighborhood park based on its location and size. It has sufficient space for the surrounding neighborhood and it is not located on residential streets which provides a safer environment.

Old Orchard Park- This park is small and though it has some specialized uses such as the boat slips, its range of facilities are limited.

Crescent Beach- This is a small beach located at the edge of the city and is used by residents of Shorewood as well.

Figure 9: Neighborhood Parks

| Facility | Approximate Size (Acres) | Playground Area | Playground Equipment | Sports | Marina | Special Facility |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Old Orchard Park | 1.3 | Small, linear space | Swing set, picnic tables | None | 3 Access gates to marina | Fishing pier |
| Pleasant Park | 3 | Flat open space | Swing set | Volleyball | None | None |
| Crescent Beach | 0.24 | Small sandy space | None | None | None | Beach |
| Total community park acres | 4.54 | | | | | |

Miniature Parks

Size

2,500 square feet to .50 acre in size

Location

Serves a surrounding area within a one-eighth mile radius. A miniature park should be selected for its unique aesthetic features (waterways, public buildings, commercial areas, etc.) and be designed to serve pedestrians during daytime hours and/or provide an attractive open space area within a developed area of the community.

Facilities

Miniature parks may be furnished with benches, tables, interpretive displays, walkways, murals, small play areas, lighting, fountains, restrooms, trees, and low maintenance vegetation.

Comments

Miniature parks need to be carefully designed to serve pedestrian needs. Street parking should be adequate.

Figure 10: Park Standards

| Type | Services Area | Desirable Size | Acres/1000 Residents | Desirable Site Characteristics and Facilities |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Neighborhood Parks | ¼ to ½ Mile | 5-15 Acres | 1 to 2 Acres | Serve the surrounding neighborhood with open space and facilities such as basketball court, children's play equipment and picnic tables |
| Community Parks | 1-2 Miles | 25+ Acres | 5 to 8 Acres | May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. Easily accessible to nearby neighborhoods and other neighborhoods. |
| Regional Parks | Several Communities | 200+ Acres | 5 to 10 Acres | Contiguous with or encompassing natural resources |
| Special Use Areas | No Applicable Standards | Variable Depending on use | Variable | Area for specialized or single purpose recreation activities such as campgrounds, golf courses, etc. |

TONKA BAY PARKS

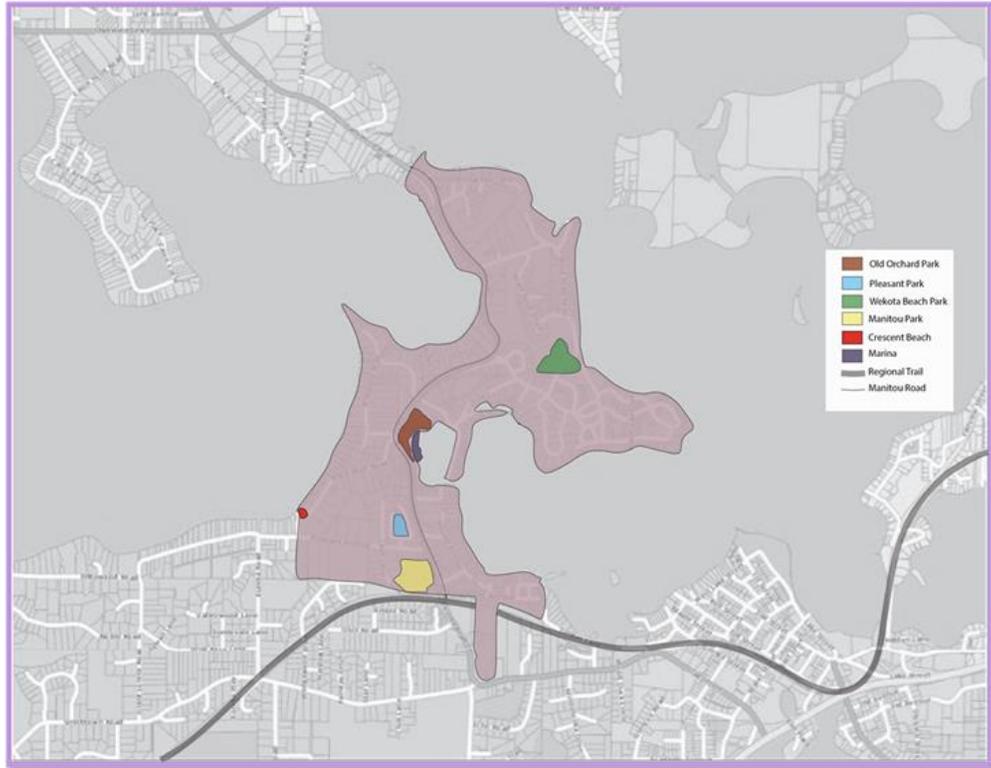


Figure 11: Map of Tonka Bay Parks



Figure 12: Old Orchard Park



Figure 13: Manitou Park



Figure 14: Wekota Park



Figure 15: Crescent Park



Figure 16: Pleasant Park

PARKS ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

MANITOU PARK

Park Designation

Community Park

Current Assessment

Located on County Road 19 (Manitou Rd.) at the southern edge of Tonka Bay, Manitou Park is a large community park that offers a wide variety of activities and is considered Tonka Bay's most visible park. The park has an ice rink, baseball fields, a soccer field, and a sport court along with a picnic shelter, barbecue grills, and picnic tables. With its many amenities and attractive layout, residents and visitors find that there are opportunities for both relaxation and play.

Residents ranked Manitou as their most preferred park to visit in the survey. Some common responses from residents were that they liked to use the ice rink, sport court, and playfields in the park and enjoyed the playground equipment and open green space. Residents also said that they thought the overall condition of the park was very good and that it was in a good location. Lastly, some residents commented that they thought Manitou Park was a great place to have a picnic and relax.

Recommendations

These recommendations are separated into five and ten year plans for park improvements. The five year plan provides recommendations for more inexpensive improvements while the ten

year plan provides recommendations for more ambitious projects. These recommendations are based on results from the resident survey, input from the Parks Committee, and research conducted by the student consultants.

**Figure 17:
Manitou Park**



5 year plan

- Offer lacrosse, soccer, and field hockey (multi-use)
- Host Events
- Improve lighting in picnic area
- Make repairs to the ice rink
- Adopt-a-Tree
- Add low-maintenance landscaping
- Landscaping to buffer hockey rink

10 year plan

- Add solar lighting to the park sign
- Add accessible & sensory play equipment
- Install a horseshoe pit by picnic area
- Repair and extend existing trail
- Make trail connections to the Regional Trail and Pleasant Park
- Add exercise stops at spots around the park

OLD ORCHARD PARK

Park Designation

Neighborhood Park

Old Orchard Park is located in the center of the City, right next to the city hall, and shares a parking lot with it. The park is mainly used for access to the City marina which has rental boat slips and rental storage space for kayaks and canoes. The park is linear in form, right next to the main road in the City, Manitou Road. It has a single swing set and picnic tables. The marina is the main element in the park, therefore enhancing the accessibility to it would improve quality. The park includes a fishing pier and boat slips, both of which need maintenance.

Current Assessment

The capacity of the parking lot is excessive, and is lacking in several safety features. In addition, there is no proper buffer between the playground and Manitou Road.

Survey Results for Old Orchard Park

The survey results show that Old Orchard Park is the least visited park among the all five City parks. The reasons given for not visiting the park were the following; the most common response is not owning a boat, which indicates the slips are the main element in the park. The second reason was they did not know where the park is located, which was surprising since the park is located along the main road in the City. The residents were also asked about improvements they would like to see in their parks, and the second highest response was for accessibility improvements.

Recommendations

The park should have better accessibility, safety features, and a better sign, preferably lighted signs to help the park be better identified.

5 year Plan

- Install rain gardens, swales, low-maintenance/native landscaping, and remove swing set (see Figures 18 and 19)
- The swing set is in a dangerous location with no buffer protection or a fence to prevent interactions with automobiles. Therefore, the need to change its location to a safer one is necessary
- The swing set and picnic table should be moved closer to the fishing pier
- Install lighted signage. The park is located on the main road of the City, therefore, the addition of lighted signage would entice passersby into the park
- Install combination lock on marina gates access to marina.

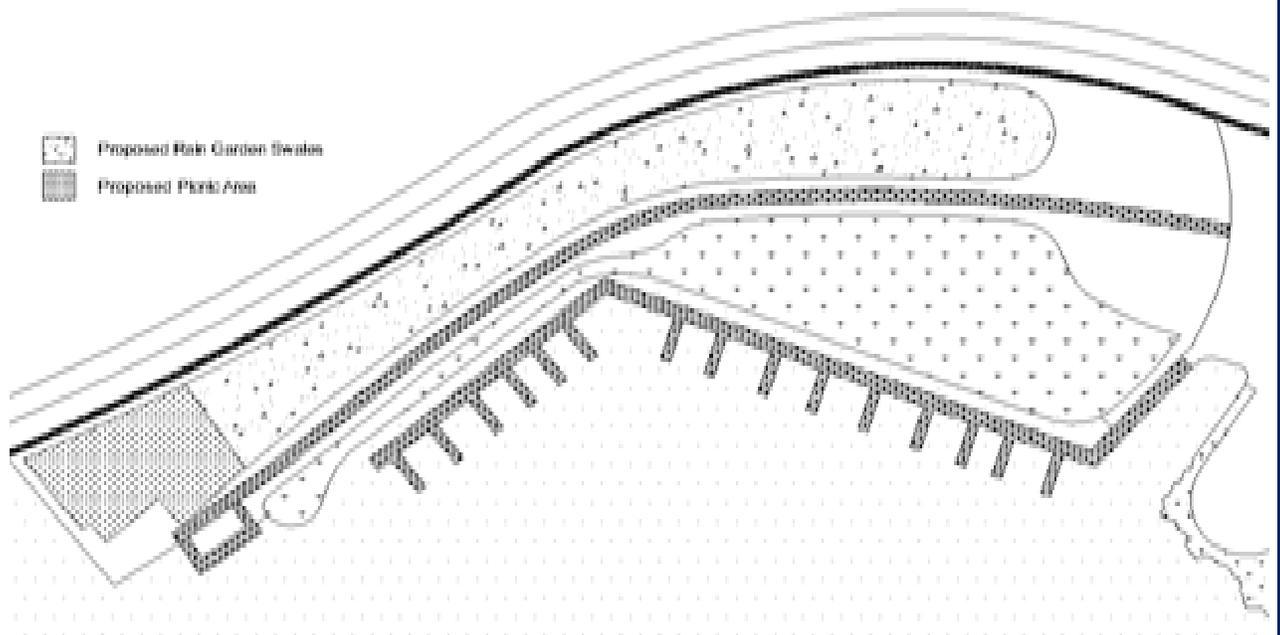


Figure 18: Proposed Swale and Picnic Area

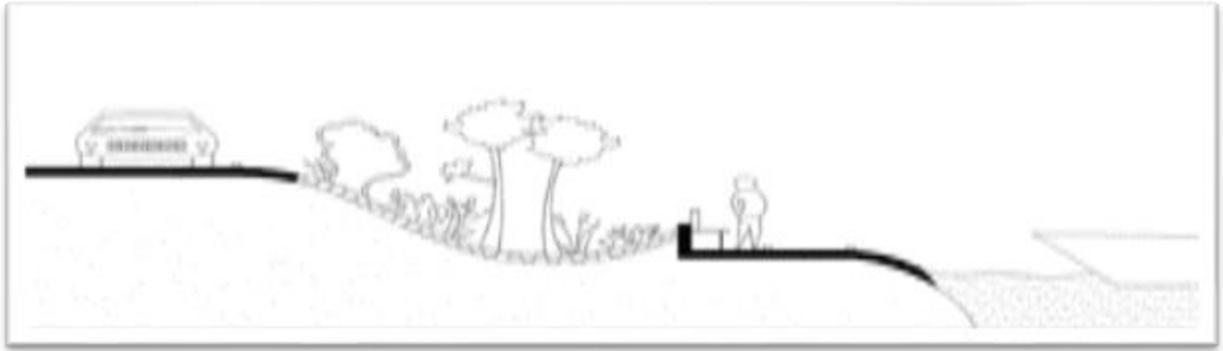


Figure 19: Proposed Swale

10 Year Recommendations

- Lighting on the pathway from City Hall
- Repair and improve the fishing pier and boat slips

CRESCENT BEACH

Park Designation

Neighborhood Park

Located off of Birch Bluff Road in the southeast section of the City, Crescent Beach offers residents the opportunity to swim in Lake Minnetonka, relax on the beach, and take in beautiful sunsets. When the MSU team performed inventory of Crescent Beach, they found the beach and shoreline to be in fairly poor condition. Sand was pouring out into the parking lot and there were also tire tracks on the beach. The lifeguard stand, while probably adequate, was found to be rather short. In addition, the lifeguard stand and storage cabinet were found to be in rather poor condition and could use a new coat of paint, to improve aesthetics. The dock was not in the water at the time of the MSU team's visit so they were unable to view its condition. The shoreline was also in poor

shape, with seaweed and other debris lying on and around the area. The parking lot appeared to be in reasonable condition with parking spaces still clearly marked. The only issue with the parking lot was the sand spilling onto it from the beach.

Current Assessment

When surveying the residents of Tonka Bay about the park system, there were mixed messages about Crescent Beach. Location was a primary reason respondents chose to use or not use the beach. In addition, residents who visited Crescent Beach did so to go swimming.

In addition to not living close to the beach, many respondents said that they did not use Crescent Beach because of E.coli concerns. For many years the beach has struggled with containing E.coli outbreaks at different times during the summer. Residents said they did not feel it was worth the risk to swim there and would instead go to Wekota Park to use that beach instead. Residents also said the condition of the beach and shoreline was poor and not kept weed and garbage free.

5 Year Recommendations

- Implement an updated maintenance plan with the City of Shorewood that establishes renewed guidelines for beach maintenance
- Partner with Hennepin County, the DNR or any local agency that could assist them in containing and removing the E.coli threat that has affected Crescent Beach
- Complete some simple aesthetic projects that include installing a border to keep the sand in the beach area
- Repaint the lifeguard stand and storage box

PLEASANT PARK

Park Designation

Neighborhood Park

Pleasant Park is a classic Neighborhood Park. It serves mainly the local neighborhood and does not have the large amenities or infrastructure of a Community Park. This factor, along with input both from citizens, through the survey, and the Parks Committee have led to a set of recommendations which are limited in cost and investment, but would go a long way toward making the park a better place to visit and use.

5 year recommendations

- Pleasant Park was ranked second lowest in terms of condition of the park by respondents. Planting a rain garden swale around the perimeter of the park would not only add aesthetic interest, but would improve storm water drainage, filter groundwater before it enters the nearby wetlands and ultimately Lake Minnetonka, and provide habitat and/or food for butterflies, birds, and bees³. Selecting native flowers and grasses would minimize the need for maintenance because they are already well suited to this environment⁴.



Figure 20: Rain Garden

³ Bannerman, Roger. (2003). Rain Gardens, A How-To Manual For Homeowners. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, DNR Publication PUB-WT-776 2003.

⁴ IBID

- Add a trail from where Pleasant Lane splits into Pleasant Lane East and Pleasant Lane West, through the woods, and to the field. This would not only serve the interest of making the park integrate better into a citywide bike trail/route plan, but would make better use of the woods as a source of recreation activities such as bird watching.

**Figure 21:
Proposed
Trail**



- Mark off the lines of the volleyball court (currently it is just a net with no out of bounds lines)
- As a low cost way to make the park more like, as one survey respondent described it, “Everyone's back yard,” a fire pit could be added, along with a picnic table or two.



**Figure 22:
Proposed Fire Pit**

- Because many residents do not know where the park is, adding a specific Pleasant Park way-finding sign along Pleasant Avenue would help local residents discover the park without attracting in more traffic than the park can handle if the sign was on the main through street of the city.

**Figure 23: Way
Finding Sign**



- The swing set is getting old and should be assessed for safety and possible removal and replacement.

10 Year Recommendation

- Because it would be added expense and because other parks should take priority in terms of infrastructure improvements, turning the volleyball court into a sand volleyball court is something to consider in the next 10 years.

**Figure 24:
Proposed
Sand
Volleyball
Court**



**Figure 25:
Proposed
Water
Fountain**

- If more residents will be using the park, adding a drinking fountain would help with the enjoyment of the park. Again, because of expense, this should be a long-term goal.

WEKOTA PARK

Park Designation

Community Park

Wekota Park is a community park that provides resident's access to Lake Minnetonka. The beach area is large and well kept. The park also offers playground equipment including an accessible swing, tennis courts, a half basketball court, ample amount of open space and other amenities including 4 picnic tables, 9 benches and 3 bicycle racks. The name Wekota dates back as far as the 1880s, Wekota was a name of a street that was later changed to "Tonka Bay Road"⁵.

⁵ Stevens, Lisa. "Tonka Bay Park History." 27 Sept. 2015. E-mail. Lisa Stevens, Volunteer at Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

Current Condition

The current condition of the paved trail that separates the beach area from the play equipment and recreational space is in poor condition. The paved trail is bulging and cracking because of a significant tree root. There are unmarked pipes sticking out of the beach area. The beach was in good condition and the open space was very green and well maintained. Trees surrounding the tennis courts and half-court basketball are beginning to encroach, reducing the amount of sunshine reaching the surface. The overall condition of the pavement of the courts was good, with few major cracks and minimal smaller cracks. The basketball hoop was missing a net, and the pavement had some critical cracking. The play equipment was in decent condition.

Survey Results for Wekota Park

Wekota Park is the second most visited park according to survey respondents, Over 70% of respondents have visited the park, and half of the survey respondents visit the park in the winter months. Many of the comments from the survey respondents reflect good visions and condition of Wekota Park. The location of this park was a common theme for why respondents visit this park, 37% of respondents said the park was in their neighborhood or in close proximity to their home. However, almost 20% of respondents do not visit Wekota Park because they are not familiar with the park or visit other parks. Ten of the respondents use the park for the tennis courts. Although 53% of respondents rated the overall condition of Wekota Park as excellent or very good, a few concerned citizens commented about the inadequately maintained beach, and poor conditions tennis courts and benches.

**Figure 26:
Wekota Park**



Recommendations/Concluding Thoughts

The residents of Tonka Bay highly value the mixture of activities this park has to offer. The access to Lake Minnetonka, open space and recreational opportunities make Wekota Park appealing. Improving the opportunities this park offers will attract more people to the park and provide a safe environment for all residents of Tonka Bay. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan outlines the programs planned from 2010 to 2020 to enhance and upgrade the northwest side of the park. The Comprehensive Plan also include programs to link the park to the trail system and expand the park to the northwest after 2020.

A park plan for Wekota Park should be prepared focusing on overall condition of the park, and utilizing the recreational opportunities that are unique to this park, when compared to other parks in Tonka Bay. Building from the programs and policies of the Comprehensive Plan, the main issues of Wekota Park that should be addressed during park improvements within the next 5 years include:

5 Year Recommendations

- **Safety Improvements:** There are numerous park features that offer safety concerns, including the bulging walking trail and pipe heads protruding the sand on the beach. These areas should be marked and addressed to decrease the opportunity for accidents.
- **Additional Recreational Activities/Amenities:** The tennis court should be able to accommodate pickle ball, as little investment would be required to offer additional activities on the courts.
- There should be a foot washing station implemented to offer citizen the convenience of leaving the sand at the beach.
- The open space should incorporate more BBQ stands and benches should be updated.

- Accessibility: The park is hidden within a neighborhood and is rather hard to locate if you are not familiar with the area. Signs should be placed within the proximity of the park to guide people to the park.
- The play equipment should also be updated to

10 Year Recommendations

- General Improvements: The pavement on the tennis courts and half-basketball court should be reconstructed to eliminate accidents from unmaintained pavement.
- The parking lot should also be repaved to decrease unsafe conditions.
- Additional Recreational Activities: The City should offer canoe and paddleboard rentals to visitors of Tonka Bay. The operation could be self-operating and low-maintenance while providing residents with a recreational activity that is not offered within the City.

Many of the residents approve of the condition of this park. Maintaining the residents desired standards of Wekota Park requires looking to the future, and recognizing opportunities. Implementing the above recommendations will provide a pathway for improving the characteristics and conditions of Wekota Park.

ALL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enhance the aesthetics of all parks through landscaping and hardscaping
- Install ADA compliant playground equipment when replacing equipment
 - Encourage all-inclusive play for children of all abilities
- Adapt a Plant-a-Tree campaign
 - Encourage residents to plant a tree in honor of a loved one
- Update park signage
 - To reflect the correct park hours
- Introduce compost receptacles
- Construct screening around portable restrooms
- Add more park signage around the city
- Enlist community volunteers

TONKA BAY BIKE TRAIL SYSTEM

To better connect the parks of Tonka Bay to one another and to adjacent cities as well as the Minnetonka LRT Trail, it is recommended that a system of bike trails be put in place.

Regional Context

In order to plan strategically, it is important to take a look at what is happening with the development of regional bike trails. The Three Rivers Park District is developing a plan to link Carver Regional Park in the south with Baker Regional Park in the north, through a series of on and off-road bike trails (see Figure 27)⁶.

Figure 27:
Proposed
Regional Trail



⁶ Three Rivers Park District. (2015). Baker to Carver Park Reserves: Proposed Regional Trail Master Plan. <https://www.threeriversparks.org/about/planning-and-construction/planning-projects/current-initiatives/carver-baker-rt-mp.aspx> Retrieved 11/01/2015.

The Carver/Baker regional trail will be implemented over the next two decades. The next logical north/south connection that would link those two parks and also Noerenberg Gardens and the Lake Independence Regional Trail, The Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail, and the Dakota Regional Trail (see Figure 28). It is recommended that Tonka Bay approach the county and 3 Rivers Park District as soon as possible to begin discussing the possibilities of implementing a regional bike trail along Route 19.

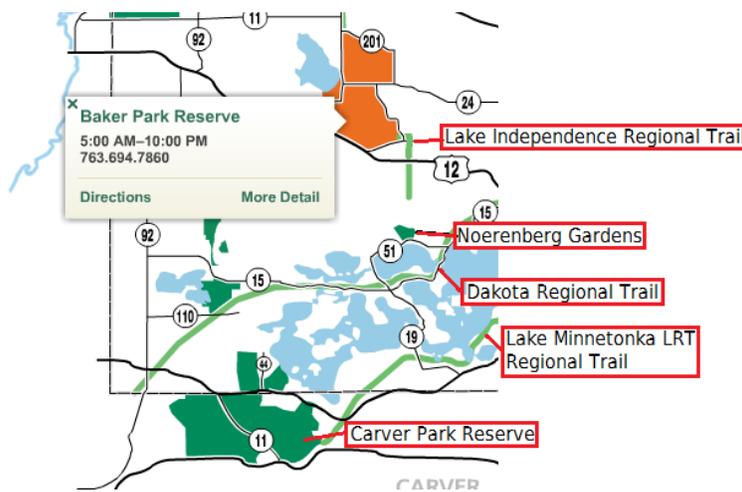


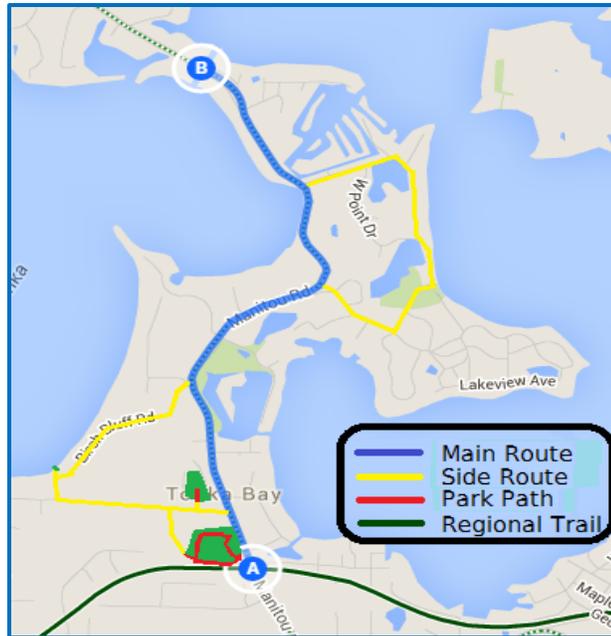
Figure 28:
Carver/Baker
Regional Trail

The suggested network of bike trails in Tonka Bay (see Figure 29) would connect all the parks, provide safe routes through neighborhoods, and connect to the existing Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail. It is recommended that the system be comprised almost entirely of on-street routes using painted markings to designate routes as bike routes (see Figure 30). This will produce considerable cost savings over altering streets or adding off-street paths, while still signaling to drivers to watch out for bicycle traffic and also branding the city as friendly to bicyclists⁷.

For the main route along Manitou Rd., it is recommended the county be approached to discuss the possibility of converting the existing shoulders into bike lanes. A low-cost option for

⁷ "Complete Streets: Answering the Costs Question" Smart Growth America

doing that would be using raised reflectors (see Figure 31) which would provide somewhat of a physical barrier between cars and pedestrians and bicyclists, and also act as a psychological barrier to drivers, causing them to slow down and be mindful of bicycle traffic⁸. By promoting bicycling, the City also reduces the need for parking lots at the parks, another cost savings⁹.



**Figure 29:
Proposed Bike
Trail**



Figure 30: Proposed Painted Markers

Figure 31: Proposed Raised Reflectors

⁸ IBID

⁹ Keeler, Sharon. (2015). "ASU study: Cities need to limit parking to decrease automobile use and encourage public transit" Full Circle. <https://fullcircle.asu.edu/research/asu-study-los-angeles-parking/>

MANITOU PARK PATH

It is recommended that a paved path be installed around the perimeter of Manitou Park (see Figure 32). This would help connect the various facilities at the park better and add additional recreation opportunities. It is further recommended that the city look at the possibility of connecting this path to the southern end of Lilah Ln. and also to the Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail somewhere on the southern edge of the park. This would provide alternate routes to and from the park and between parks that would not include the need to use Manitou Rd.

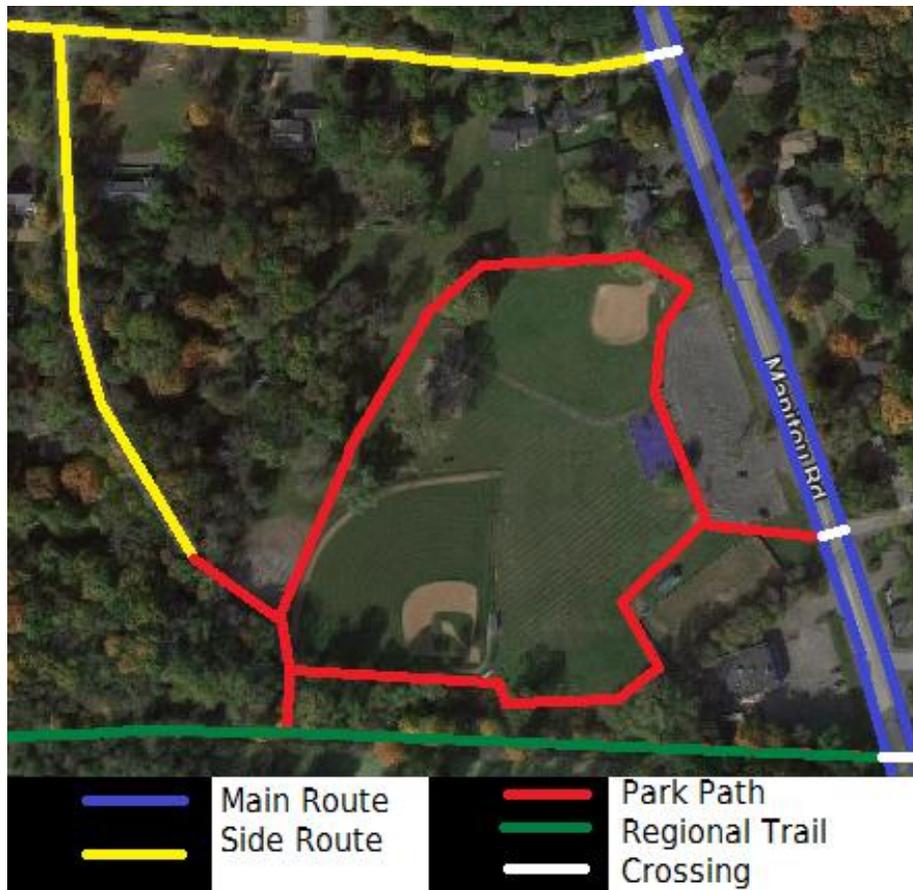


Figure 32: Manitou Park Path

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING SOLUTIONS

This plan offers marketing and advertising solutions for raising the profile of the City's parks with a focus on bringing more people into the parks. For the marketing and advertising strategy, the student consultants visited the parks, took photos, and compiled a list of the positive amenities for each park. The plan provides recommendations for improvement in these five areas:

I. Online

- Update the website to give the parks a more prominent position
- Improve each park's website to include amenities, more vibrant photos, and positive narratives
 - Figure 33 is the existing webpage for Old Orchard Park. Figure 34 is an example of what the page could look like with the suggested improvements

Old Orchard Park



A peaceful rest stop adjacent to the lake

Old Orchard Park is located along County Road 19 (Manitou Road) next

to the City Hall (4901 Manitou Road). Dock spaces are available for boat rental, but there is a several year waiting list. Also available for rental are boat slides and canoe racks. Call



Come and fish!

City Hall if you would like more information.



Have a picnic under a shady tree.

Grills, picnic tables, swings, and a fishing pier are available for all to enjoy at Old Orchard Park.

Figure 33: Old Orchard Park Webpage

Old Orchard Park



Old Orchard Park is located next to the historic City Hall offering fun and relaxation on the lake. Have a picnic, monkey around on the monkey bars, fish off the large fishing pier, or simply relax and enjoy the breathtaking views. Don't miss the beauty of the shoreline restoration area! You will see glorious flowers, plants, birds, and other wildlife. The park includes gated boat slips for rent (please inquire about rentals at city hall).

*Example of a
new park page*

Figure 34: Example Webpage

Park Amenities

Below is a summary of the amenities at each park. These could be incorporated into future narratives for the parks. Findings are based on an amenity inventory conducted by the student consultants.

Old Orchard Park

Old Orchard Park has gated boat slips for rent, a large fishing pier, and picnic tables. There is a shoreline restoration area where you can find native wildlife including birds, butterflies, and bees. It is located next to historic City Hall and offers peaceful and tranquil views.

Wekota Park

This community park has a large sandy beach, a picnic area, and a playground. There is a tennis court, a half basketball court, a donated drinking fountain, and a bench that a resident donated in honor of a loved one. There are many benches to relax and there is a lot to do in the park.

Pleasant Park

The park is perfect for a quiet picnic or volleyball game. With its large open grass field and wooded landscape, it has plenty of room for children to play. Grab a blanket and watch the stars at this great neighborhood park.

Crescent Beach

This quaint sandy beach offers breathtaking views of Lake Minnetonka. Crescent Beach offers swimming with a part time lifeguard on duty. It also has a dock for sunbathing.

Manitou Park

This community park offers a variety of sporting and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The park possesses an ice rink with a newer warming house, soccer field, two baseball fields, and a sport court. The vast amount of open space, picnic shelter, grills, and picnic tables allow visitors to have large cookouts.

- Social media
 - Promote the progress of park improvements and activities available
 - Post park events

II. Events

Organize community events in all of the City's Parks. Collaborate with community organizations and local media to promote these events. Some of these events might include:

- Tree lighting
- Easter egg hunt
- Family ice skating
- Movie night

III. Donations

- Promote and enhance current donation program
 - Donation boxes at each park
 - Create a donation program on main webpage

IV. Volunteers

- Create a volunteer program “Friends of the Parks”
- Encourage volunteers to promote and help maintain parks

V. Overall Branding

- Promote the parks as hubs for active lifestyles
- Promote sustainability and native vegetation

PARK FUNDING

Current Assessment

The City of Tonka Bay does not have a dedicated maintenance or capital improvement fund for its parks.

The following options are available for increasing park funding:

| Funding Source | Survey Rank |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Donations | #1 |
| Taxes | #2 |
| User Fees | Last |
| Grants | Mentioned in comments |

Figure 35: Funding Options

Option 1: Increase donations

Ranked #1 in survey

Figure 36: Increase donations

| Pros | Cons |
|--|---|
| Allows those that use the parks to fund park improvements | May be difficult to generate sufficient revenues |
| Connects people to the parks (i.e., honor/recognize a loved one) | Costs of promoting/administering a donation program |

Option 2: Raise property taxes

Ranked #2 in survey

Figure 37: Raise property taxes

| Pros | Cons |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Substantial increase in park funding, may allow for a CIP and operating fund | Possible resistance from taxpayers |

Option 3: Referendum

Ranked #3 in survey

Figure 38: Referendum

| Pros | Cons |
|---|--|
| Effective way to gauge overall support for the City's parks | Citizens may not support a significant increase in funding for parks |

Option 4: User Fees

Ranked #4 in survey

Figure 39: User Fees

| Pros | Cons |
|--|--|
| Can be used to fund additional programming/equipment | Often lacks the ability to produce sufficient revenues |

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adopt a comprehensive funding strategy using revenue from property taxes, donations, and grants.
- Create a dedicated fund for park operations and incorporate park projects into Tonka Bay's capital improvement program

AVAILABLE GRANTS

The charts below offer a summary of the popular grants available for some of the recommended capital projects outlined in this plan. These grants are generally awarded on a competitive basis, therefore, it is recommended that project plans and local funding commitments are in place before applying for these grants.

Areas of Emphasis:

Trails

- Construction of new trails
- Improve existing trails
- Connect existing trails

Playground Equipment/Athletic Playfields

- Replace playground equipment in Wekota Park
- Add exercise stops in Manitou Park
- Ice rink improvements
- Baseball field improvements
- Multi-use field construction

Storm Water Filtration

- Rain gardens/native vegetation installation

Green Initiatives

- Solar
- Shoreline Preservation

Trails/Playground Equipment

Manitou Park:

- Trail linkages to LRT Regional Trail and Pleasant Park
- Extension of existing trail

Wekota Park:

- Playground replacement

Federal/State Grants ^{10 11 12 13}

Figure 40: Federal Grants

| Grant Source | Description | Bike/Walking Trails | Playground Equipment |
|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Outdoor Recreation Grant Program (Land and Water Conservation Fund, DNR) | Maximum Grant: \$100,000 Requires a 50% match | X | X |
| Local Trails Connection Program (State Lottery) | Grant Amount: \$5,000 - \$150,000 Provides 75% project reimbursement, Priority: trail connectivity | X | |
| Met Council: TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) | Grant Amount: \$100,000 - \$1 Million Requires a 20% match | X | |
| Federal Recreational Trail Program (Federal Highway Trust Fund, DNR) | Requires a 25% match below \$75,000 Priority: Recreational trail linkages | X | |

¹⁰ "Outdoor Recreation Grant Program." Outdoor Recreation Grants; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Oct. 2015.

¹¹ "Local Trails Connection Program." Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, n.d. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.

¹² "Metropolitan Council: Metropolitan Council: Transportation Alternatives Program." N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Oct. 2015.

¹³ "Federal Recreational Trail Program." Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, n.d. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.

Private Grants ^{14 15 16}

Figure 41: Private Grants

| Source | Description | Bike/Walking Trails | Playground Equipment |
|--|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| America Walks, Everybody Walks! Micro Grant | Award amount: Up to \$2,500,000 Objective is to fuel community demand for better walkability | X | |
| The Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation | Award amount: \$5,000 to \$25,000 Community Improvement Projects | X | X |
| People-for-Bikes Community Grant (U.S. bicycle industry) | Award amount: \$4,500 to \$8,000 Objective is to leverage federally funded bike trail projects | X | |

Playfields/Ice Rink/Outdoor Fitness ^{17 18 19}

Manitou Park:

- Ballfield improvements
- Ice-rink improvements
- Construction of exercise zones

Figure 42: Playfields/Rink/Fitness Grants

| Source | Description | Baseball | Hockey | Playground | Multi-use Fields | Outdoor Fitness Equipment |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Hennepin Youth Sports Program | Award amount \$1,000 to \$325,000 | X | X | X | X | |
| Minnesota Twins: Fields for Kids | \$1,000 to \$10,000 50% Match | X | | | | |
| Go Greenfields Grant | 50% equipment match up to \$25,000 | | | | | X |

¹⁴ "Call to Action: Every Body Walk! Collaborative Micro Grants." America Walks. N.p., 9 Sept. 2015. Web. 21 Nov. 2015.

¹⁵ Lowe's Charitable and Education Fund. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2015.

¹⁶ "People for Bikes: Community Grants." People for Bikes. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Nov. 2015.

¹⁷ "Hennepin Youth Sports Program." [Http://www.hennepin.us/henn-youth-sports](http://www.hennepin.us/henn-youth-sports). Hennepin County, MN, n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2015.

¹⁸ "Twins Community Fund - Fields for Kids." Minnesota Twins. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Nov. 2015.

¹⁹ "Go Greenfields Grants." Go Greenfields Outdoor Fitness, 24 Aug. 2015. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.

Storm Water Filtration^{20 21}

All Parks:

- Raingardens/native vegetation

Figure 43: Storm Water Filtration Grants

| Source | Description/Overview |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Hennepin County – Good Steward Grant | Typical grant amount: \$5,000 to \$15,000 Projects that improve water quality, enhance natural areas and promote environmental stewardship in the community. |
| Hennepin County – Opportunity Grant | Typical grant amount: \$25,000 to \$50,000. Covers up to 75% of total eligible project costs. Larger scale projects to improve water quality, preference for funding partnerships. |

Green Initiatives^{22 23}

All Parks:

- Shoreline Preservation
- Solar

Figure 44: Green Initiatives Grants

| Source | Description | Solar | Shoreline Preservation |
|--|--|-------|------------------------|
| Guaranteed Energy Savings Program (MN Dept. of Commerce) | Financial assistance for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements | X | |
| Midwest Climate and Energy Program (McKnight Foundation) | Projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions/enhance resilience to climate change | X | X |

20 "Good Steward Grants." *Natural Resources Project Funding and Assistance*. Hennepin County, Minnesota, n.d. Web. 21 Nov. 2015.

21 *Opportunity Grants*. Hennepin County, MN, n.d. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.

22 "Guaranteed Energy Savings Program (GESp)." *Energy Savings Program*. Minnesota Department of Commerce, n.d. Web. 21 Nov. 2015.

23 *Midwest Climate And Energy Program*. The McKnight Foundation, n.d. Web. 10 Oct. 2015.

Figure 45 shows average awards for some of the grants mentioned above.

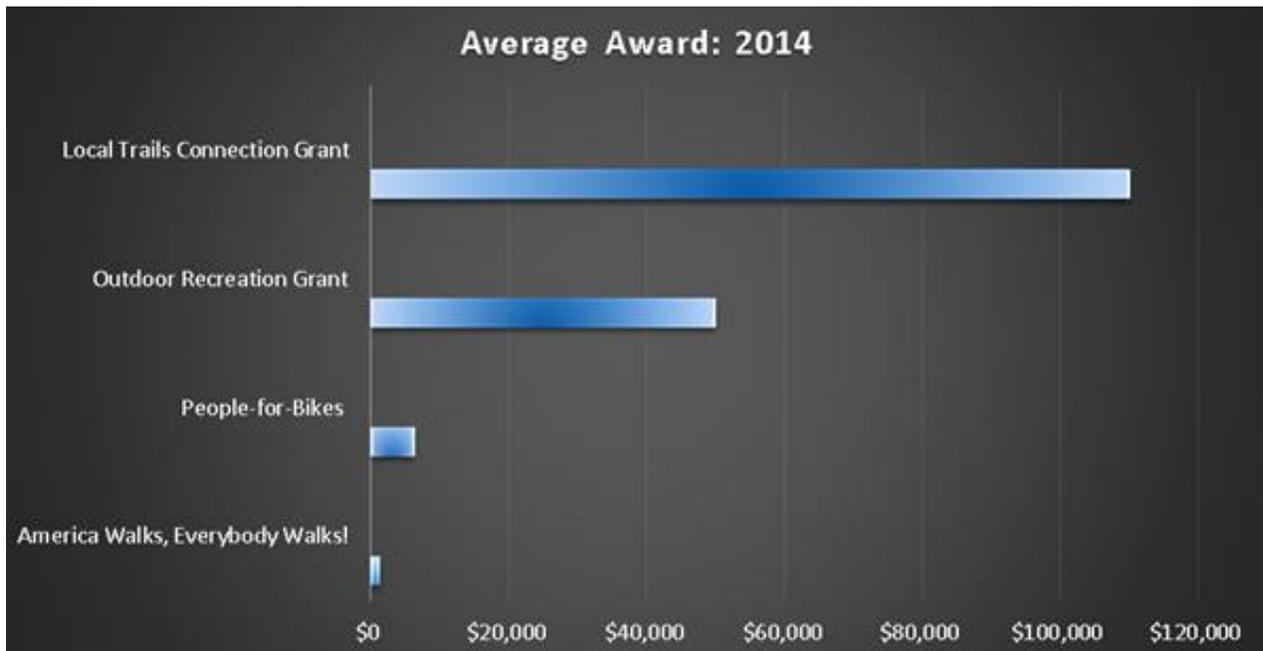


Figure 45: Average Award: 2014

Although these grants can provide significant funding for certain types of projects, additional sources of funding will be needed to qualify for a majority of the grants listed above.

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

The MSU team after consulting the Tonka Bay Parks Committee, the residents of Tonka Bay, and after doing extensive independent research, recommend the following vision and mission statements be adopted by the Tonka Bay Parks Committee.

Vision: “Providing multi-purpose, sustainable, community enriching parks for our residents.”

Mission: “To offer our residents fun and safe recreation options while acting as stewards of our environment.”

CAPRA RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) is an accreditation program offered by the National Recreation and Park Association to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of parks by providing benchmarks of quality standards.

It is recommended that the Parks Committee and the City pursue, as a start, the following CAPRA standards²⁴:

2.6 Feasibility Studies

A feasibility study is an analysis of an idea of improvement through a documented process of thinking through the idea from its logical beginning to end. It is mainly carried out to assess new projects by:

- Focusing on a specific project
- Narrowing down the alternatives based on resources
- Identifying new opportunities
- Identifying reasons not to proceed

The standard requires studies to be done for determining the feasibility of proposed facilities. A process of two phases beginning with a financial feasibility analysis and parks development followed by creating implementation strategies. A financial feasibility analysis contains budget capacity and determines the ability to provide basic park needs. If possible, provide a list of ideal facilities and settings of the parks for easier monitoring and updating. For the City of Tonka Bay

²⁴ <http://www.nrpa.org/Professional-Development/Accreditation/CAPRA/CAPRA-Standards/>

parks improvements, it is recommended to have a financial feasibility analysis which estimates the total capital requirements.

2.7 Site Plans

The importance of maps in the planning realm is undeniable. Site plans are primarily focused on a specific area of study. Initiating site plans for parks would lead to easier design, maintenance, updates, preservation of natural resources, and implementing design standards. Compliance with ADA standards would be possible if site plans are provided. These are fundamental elements which will potentially require compliance in the future. Without providing site plans, the City might rely on public maps which may not be accurate.

Site plan regulations require that certain elements be shown: access, parking, landscaping, buffering, drainage, utilities, roads, curbs, lighting, and emergency access.

4.7 Volunteer Management

Economic resources are limited in the City, the need for assistance from stakeholders is crucial. At the very basic level, it is a process of selecting, supervising, and engaging volunteers. This is based on two main factors; raising awareness of its benefits to the parks and getting commitment from volunteers. A volunteer base should be built over time, therefore, initiating a framework will provide the City with residents that participate more often. Volunteers with various experience levels are highly sought after for initiating volunteer programs.

6.1 Recreational Programming Plan

Establish programs to help maintain and expand events in collaboration with adjacent communities. The goal of creating such programs is to draw more people to parks when appropriate. The plan would primarily include assessments of recreation trends and issues, which would help direct the expansion of recreation programs, services and facilities.

7.2.1 ADA Existing Facility and Site Access Audit

The City should establish a process that is periodically updated to provide better accessibility to parks and recreational facilities. That would help in gradually keeping the City's parks assessable for everyone. If park accessibility is constantly updated and in compliance to ADA standards, they will be more accessible for everyone. The process of updating parks accessibility would be much easier if site plans are provided.

PARKS BEST PRACTICES

Parks are an essential component of Tonka Bay and offer residents a number of different recreation options. Tonka Bay's parks are widely used by their community so it is important that Tonka Bay commits to providing high quality parks. Not only do well-managed and maintained parks increase resident's quality of life, but they also provide environmental benefits as well.

An important component of a successful parks system is the planning and management of the parks. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has identified several factors as key to park excellence, which are:

1. A clear expression of purpose

- Establishing a park vision, mission and goals

2. An ongoing planning and community involvement process

- A plan that includes an inventory of the parks, a needs analysis, implementation strategy, a budget, plan for community involvement, and a commitment to review the plan annually
- Plans should be kept to 3 and 5 year time lines as circumstances such as funding and public opinion can fluctuate quickly in a short time period
- Forming public/private relationships to care for the parks are very beneficial and are effective at raising funds (ex. Friends of the Parks)

3. Equitable access

- Parks and their amenities should be accessible to everyone regardless of age or ability
- Parks should have connections to trails, crosswalks accessing the parks, and bike racks within the parks

4. User satisfaction

- It is important that cities periodically survey who is using the parks (park users demographics, visit times, park activities, user satisfaction, etc.)

5. Safety from crime and physical hazards

- Residents will only use the parks if they feel safe, which includes personal safety from crime but also safety from hazards like poor trails, fields, docks, etc.

To achieve park excellence, implementing best practices that cover park planning, maintenance, sustainability, and programming should be implemented. The best practices recommended below are not an all-encompassing list of practices and strategies a city could employ, but rather a list of recommendations that Tonka Bay could use manage their own park system.

I. Planning

Peter Drucker has said that, “Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes...but no plans”. So while creating an overall vision for a park system is a great first step, without commitment to follow through on your ideas, generally nothing will change for the better. Therefore, Tonka Bay should look to implement the following planning strategies:

Park Planning Strategies

- Define parks vision, mission, goals, and objectives
- Inventory parks current park equipment, athletic facilities, structures, natural resources, and park land condition
- Generate list of necessary park improvements and a time line to implement
- Establish ongoing funding strategy for park improvements
- Develop a long-range plan for connecting parks via trails
- Plan Adaption

II. Park Sustainability

Environmental sustainability has been defined as “Responsible interaction with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources and allow for long-term

environmental quality”²⁵ The overall goal of sustainable parks should be to promote sustainable practices, increase the useful life of park facilities, protect natural ecosystems, and in turn reduce expenses for maintaining the park.

Economy, Society, Environment: A Nested Relationship



Figure 46: Economy, Society, and Environment: A Nested Relationship

Tonka Bay should strive to be a leader in the use of sustainable park practices to maintain their parks.

Sustainability Strategies

- Implement sustainable landscapes that help enhance local ecology
- Implement practices to limit soil erosion and shoreline degradation
- Protect natural habitat areas
- Work with the natural configuration of the land to protect natural systems
- Use non-toxic pest and disease control for plants, trees, and shrubs

²⁵ Gillapsy, Rebecca. (n.d). Environmental Sustainability: Definition and Application. Online Course Lesson. Retrieved from: <http://study.com/academy/lesson/environmental-sustainability-definition-and-application.html>

- Implement recycling and composting practices to minimize pollution from park users
- Utilize “green” technology (solar power, recycled materials for benches and park equipment)
- Educate the public about the value of protecting natural resources and having a healthy ecosystem
- Incorporate signage on parks that highlights environmental practices
- Provide an interconnected park system that encourages the use of trails and adds bike racks to all parks
- Develop public/private partnerships to care for the parks (ex., Friends of the Parks)
- Look into the city becoming part of the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program, a comprehensive list of sustainability best practices which includes sections for parks²⁶

III. Park Maintenance

Park maintenance practices that are cost effective and protect the environment are a necessary complement to sustainability practices. Commitment to a high level of park maintenance will keep the amenities functioning longer and create a more pleasing park experience.

Park Maintenance Strategies

- Establish park maintenance schedules that list activities and guidelines
 - For example, how often to cut the grass and to what length
- Set up a weekly schedule to search for and remove physical hazards
 - Establish process for park users to report any problems
 - An example could be a form on the city website or posting a phone number of park signs

²⁶ Minnesota GreenStep Cities. <http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/>

- Incorporate campaigns that communicates a zero tolerance approach toward littering and vandalism
- Install uniform signage that defines park hours and uses
- Establish a schedule for inspection of park equipment, docks, lighting, ball fields, and athletic facilities
- Ensure that any park graffiti gets removed immediately
- Establish annual landscaping schedule
- Schedule frequent beach maintenance
- Perform preventative maintenance on all applicable park amenities and trails

IV. Programming Partnerships

Having fun, interesting, well-run programs in Tonka Bay parks creates energy within the park system that should lead to increased park usage, improved safety, and greater user experience.

Partnering with community associations and organizations to offer activities that all residents of Tonka Bay can enjoy should continue to be pursued. Instead of competing with local cities by offering similar park programming, consider partnerships with groups that offer different activities not offered by local cities. Park programs should be implemented for all seasons and should appeal to people of all ages and abilities.

Park Programming & Partnerships Strategies

- Foster existing relationships with athletic associations and community groups
- Develop new relationship with other athletic and community organizations.
- Add new park amenities (horseshoes, pickleball, and Frisbee golf)
- Partner with local schools for field trips to the parks
- Encourage and support small-scale activities, such as music in the park and food trucks
- Offer additional seasonal events that brings the community together (ex., Artic Blast)

PROJECT SUMMARY

The MSU team believes that the Tonka Bay Parks are reasonably well-positioned to serve residents in the near future. Based on survey results, residents are fairly satisfied with the parks. Residents said they would like additional recreational amenities added to the parks and for the City to address the E.coli issue at Crescent Beach. The MSU team recommends implementing a capital improvement plan that addresses aging playground equipment and athletic facilities.

MSU TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

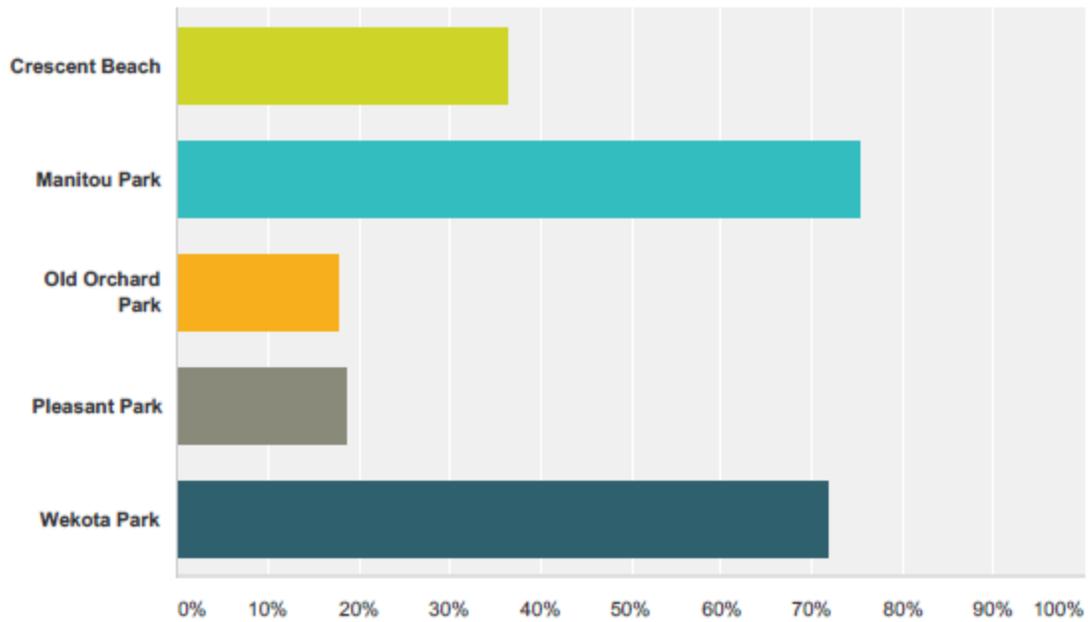
- Implementing various improvements to the parks system, individually and as a whole
- Implementing a trail system that connects all the parks and also connects to the regional trail system
- Offsetting costs for parks improvements by enhancing the parks donation program and using monies from the dock fund
- Incorporating park programming that offers a wider selection of activities and also offers intergenerational activities
- Pursue various grant opportunities
- Adopt parks best practices and some CAPRA standards
- Update marketing materials and techniques
- Continue collaborating with athletic associations and other cities for additional park programming and events

APPENDIX A

SURVEY

Q1 Of the parks listed below, please check all of the parks you visit.

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses (Percent) | Responses |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Crescent Beach | 36.4% | 31 |
| Manitou Park | 75.29% | 64 |
| Old Orchard Park | 17.65% | 15 |
| Pleasant Park | 18.82% | 16 |
| Wekota Park | 71.76% | 61 |
| Total Respondents: 85 | | |

Q2 Please tell us why or why you do not use each of the parks (ex. children outgrew, safety, do not know where they are located).

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0

| Answer Choices | Responses (Percent) | Responses |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Crescent Beach | 74.12% | 63 |
| Manitou Park | 64.71% | 55 |
| Old Orchard Park | 71.76% | 61 |
| Pleasant Park | 71.76% | 61 |
| Wekota Park | 71.76% | 61 |

Question 2 Comments

| Crescent Beach | |
|--|--|
| Time and sometimes condition, E.coli | Walk the dog down there after hours for play time x3 |
| Distance x9 | We swim at our lake property now x2 |
| Location x11 | Do use |
| No idea where it is | Children grown x6 |
| Swimming, sunbathing with friends/family | Live closer to Wekota Beach x2 |
| Not know location | We use it occasionally to visit the beach |
| Wekota Park has the more convenient beach with a playground x2 | Grandkids swim or wade |
| Wonderful sunset viewing x2 | Smelly beach – E. coli x2 |
| Couldn't use/closed E.coli | Just a beach, not a park x2 |
| Close by x4 | Close to home for our doggie walks |
| Jogging and bike rest stop | E. coli risk x3 |
| Don't like that it kept closing because of E.coli | Don't swim in Tonka |
| Lived closer to Wekota for swimming x2 | Not kept weed free x3 |
| Swimming x2 | Love the beach! Visit often and it is well kept |
| Too small x3 | Within walking distance |
| Use the beach when Wekota beach is closed | Beautiful vistas |
| Beach within walking distance of our house | No reason to go there, use other parks |
| We ice skate there | |

| Manitou Park | |
|--|--|
| Children grown x8 | Near trail |
| Like walking the wide open space and using the picnic area | We use it less now that the kids are a bit older, but we still occasionally visit the playground |
| Adjacent to the LRT Trail and the playground equipment | Grandkids like the basketball court |
| Nice to rest | Not close x3 |
| Enjoy the various sporting areas, hockey rink | Close to home x2 |
| Kids skate and play baseball | Location/rink/playground |
| Visit with my dog | Nice park |
| Ice skating and basketball | Basketball, Baseball |
| Bring grandchildren to the park | Enjoy the skating park in the winter but don't seem to use other times of the year |
| Ice skating x3 | Events |
| Use green space and playground equipment. park my car there when I bike the trail would love easier access to bike trail | No need for more than 1 park to use |
| Big and spacious | On main road |
| Location, playground | Not convenient |
| Enjoy this park and run this direction | Always use for soccer & trail |
| We use the playground equipment, run in the fields, look forward to using the hockey rink this winter, and also walk through the park to get to trails | Nearest park to our house, playground, ice rink, picnic shelter |
| Hockey Rink | Arctic Fever event |
| Easy to get to. Lots of parking. Nice warming house | No shade over the playground equipment gets too hot to use. Equipment could be upgraded for a little older children. warming house could have better hours to be open such as when Minnetonka has no school and a little later in the evenings |
| Play structure | Walkable |
| Love it! | |

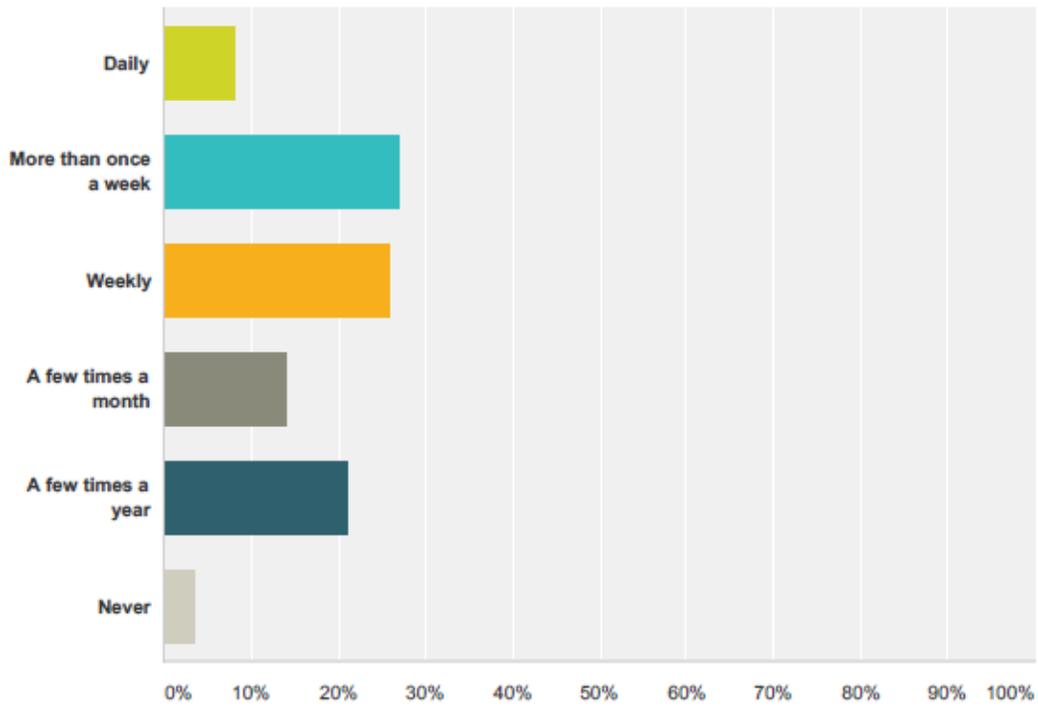
| Old Orchard Park | |
|--|---|
| Don't know where it is x22 | Forget that it's there |
| Don't have a boat x2 | Children grown x4 |
| On a walking route, like new restoration effort | No amenities that I use x2 |
| No reason to go there x3 | Not close x10 |
| Use fishing dock occasionally | Used to use marina, now bike through park occasionally |
| Walk dogs, area by where we dock our boat through city | We ride bikes to it or walk dogs. Equipment needs to be updated |
| Fishing, boating | Location/docks |
| Fishing | Inconvenient x2 |
| No need for more than 1 park to use | Too small |
| Too many non-residents there | Don't know where it is plus my kids are in high school now |
| Safety concern being right off Cty Rd 19 without fencing to keep little ones from running into the busy road | Visited when we had a boat slip but we have no reason to travel here except maybe to fish from the dock |
| Good location | Because it is at the docks we use it occasionally. I really enjoy that there is a fishing dock and that it is open to everyone. We often chat with the people that come to fish and am glad to share the lake in this way |
| Not much to play on | Junky |

| Pleasant Park | |
|---|--|
| Good location x3 | Don't know where it is x22 |
| Seems like more a private neighborhood park | Children grown x6 |
| Not on my traffic path x2 | Not familiar with this park |
| My kids live in the neighborhood and sometimes play with friends in the park | Part of a neighborhood and not sure what it has to offer x2 |
| Not close/convenient x11 | Nothing in park to interest me x4 |
| Wonderful undeveloped space, we use it every day, unique location in the center of our neighborhood (it's everybody's front yard!) | No playground equipment, too off the main thoroughfares |
| Never used | Grandchildren use it x2 |
| Volleyball | No need for more than 1 park to use |
| My kids build forts in the wooded area. In the grassy area, we play whiffle ball, fly kites, use the swings, and just run to play tag. We love that space. We had our neighborhood night out there this August, as well | Central park between neighborhood friends. Good for lawn games, safe area being a cul-de-sac, nice wooded area for kids play |

| Wekota Park | |
|--|---|
| Beautiful park, we love it | Bad location |
| We go here because it's a 1/2 block from our home | We use the park |
| Play tennis x3 | It's the best-the view, the courts, the beach, parking |
| Not familiar | Kids outgrown x4 |
| Good playground equipment | Beach and metal detecting |
| Good location x7 | Use Crescent Beach |
| Don't use, other parks are closer | Closely located to house, spend time at beach |
| Love the beach! Dislike the playground | Used to enjoy swimming beach, but poor condition of tennis courts |
| Close to home plus it has a wonderful little park with play structures. It also has a nice beach | Best beach on Lake Minnetonka Shhhh |
| Walk through it on our West Point walks | No reason to use |
| Beautiful beach. Basketball and tennis courts are great. Sitting area and Picnic area are wonderful. Play equipment is good for kids under 12 | I go for walks everyday with our 2 1/2 year old son and SO appreciate this park |
| Nice beach/location x2 | Use it often when walking the dog or just walking the neighborhood |
| Good location, use occasionally, walk through | Enjoy beach, walkway through & play area for grandboys |
| In my neighborhood/lifeguard | Beach and play tennis |
| Convenient, kids love beach and playground | Proximity, beach, playground, tennis courts, restroom, water fountain |
| Use all the time, beach, and playground green space tennis courts. it's close to my house | No need for more than 1 park to use |
| Nice green space. Watch fireworks on Independence Day | Location & beach |
| Closest to home. Clean. Well maintained | Always use best beach & close to tennis courts |
| Next door to house | Crescent Beach and Manitou are closest |
| Would have to drive and no reason to go with Crescent Beach nearer to us | Close with beach, playground, tennis courts, field |
| Use it because of proximity to home, a nice place to look at the lake, use the tennis courts and there is a porta potty if needed. I thought it would be nice to have the beach, but without any maintenance on it I would rather just swim off the boat in the lake. If it were groomed/cleaned more I would use it | We go here because it's close by, convenient, small and off the beaten path. A nice place for a picnic, to swim and to swing! |
| Great beach, walking path | I do not know where this is x3 |

Q3 How often do members of your household visit any of the Tonka Bay Parks?

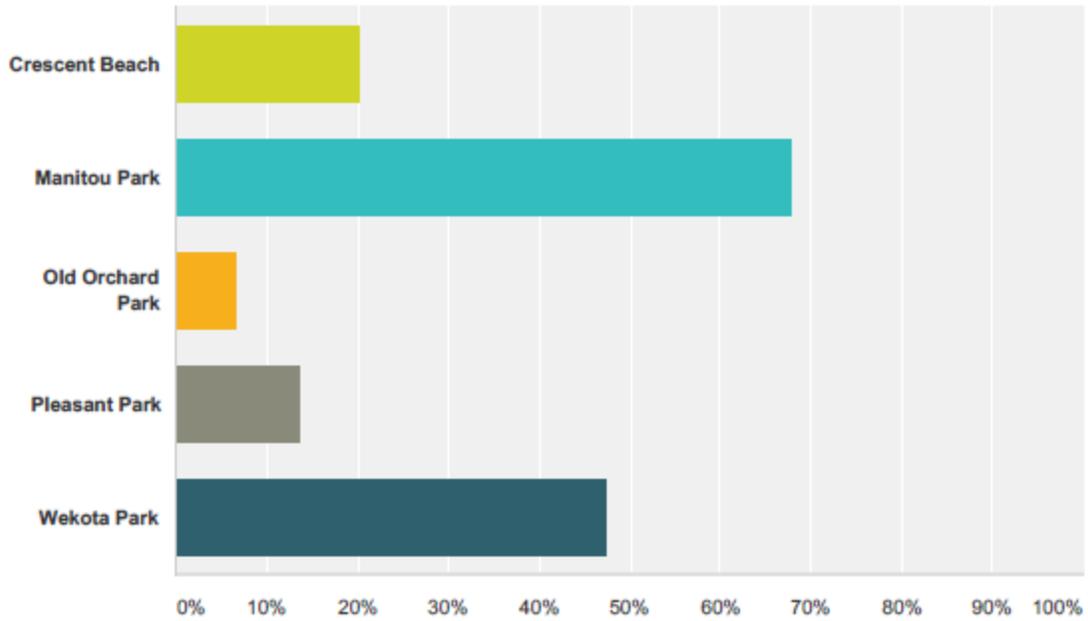
Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses (Percent) | Responses |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Daily | 8.24% | 7 |
| More than once a week | 27.06% | 23 |
| Weekly | 25.88% | 22 |
| A few times a month | 14.12% | 12 |
| A few times a year | 21.18% | 18 |
| Never | 3.53% | 3 |
| Total | | 85 |

Q4 Do you visit any of Tonka Bay's parks during the winter months? (check all that apply)

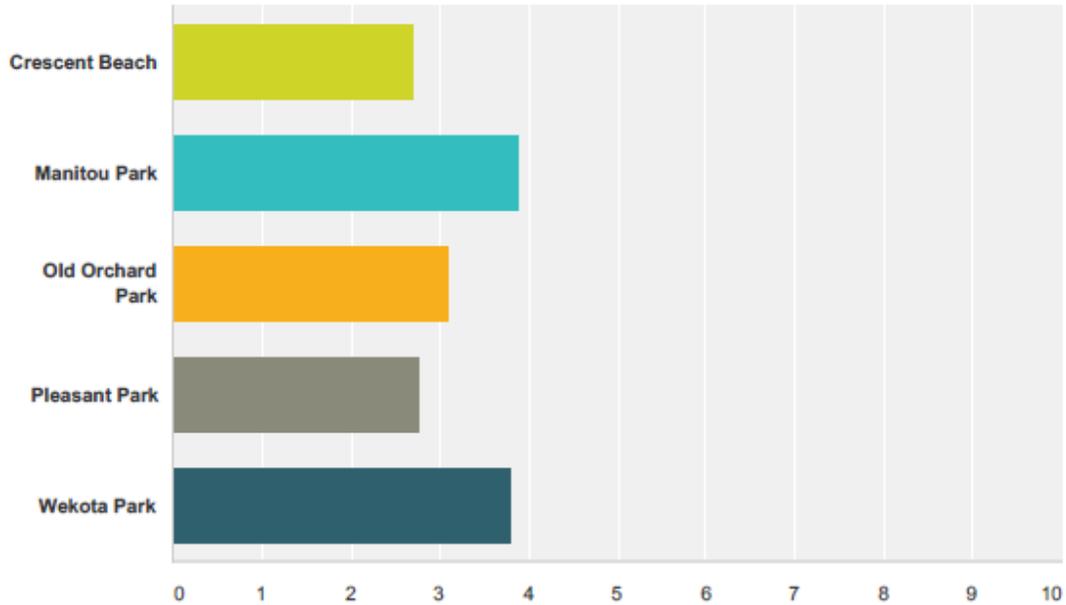
Answered: 59 Skipped: 26



| Answer Choices | Responses (Percent) | Responses |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Crescent Beach | 20.34% | 12 |
| Manitou Park | 67.80% | 40 |
| Old Orchard Park | 6.78% | 4 |
| Pleasant Park | 13.56% | 8 |
| Wekota Park | 47.46% | 28 |
| Total Respondents: 59 | | |

Q5 Please rate the overall condition of the parks below.

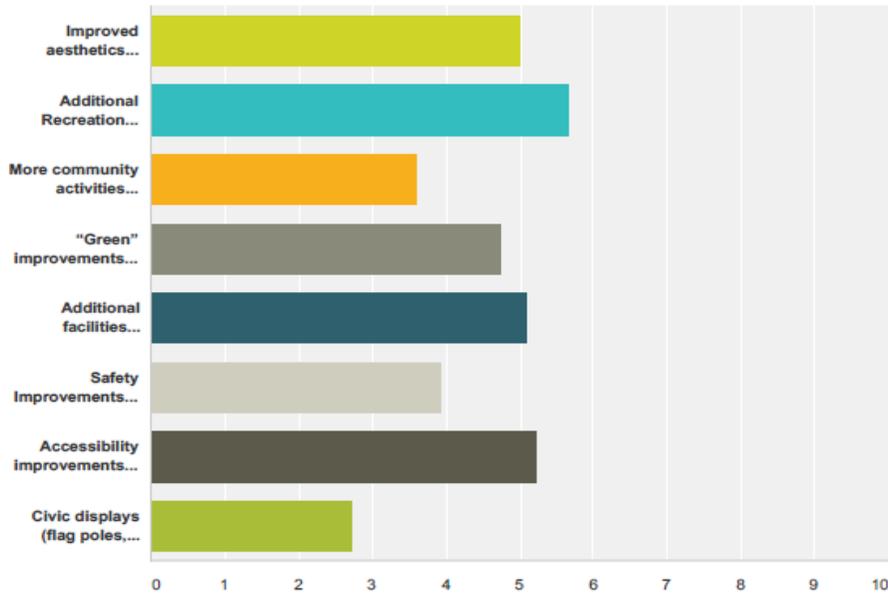
Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



| Park | Poor | Fair | Good | Very Good | Excellent | N/A | Total | Weighted Average |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Crescent Beach | 11.43% 8 | 12.86% 9 | 24.29% 17 | 7.14% 5 | 5.71% 4 | 38.57% 27 | 70 | 2.72 |
| Manitou Park | 0.00% 0 | 2.53% 2 | 24.05% 19 | 35.44% 28 | 20.25% 16 | 17.72% 14 | 79 | 3.89 |
| Old Orchard Park | 0.00% 0 | 12.50% 9 | 12.50% 9 | 8.33% 6 | 4.17% 3 | 62.50% 45 | 72 | 3.11 |
| Pleasant Park | 5.88% 4 | 13.24% 9 | 5.88% 4 | 10.29% 7 | 2.94% 2 | 61.76% 42 | 68 | 2.77 |
| Wekota Park | 1.27% 1 | 5.06% 4 | 20.25% 16 | 35.44% 28 | 17.72% 14 | 20.25% 16 | 79 | 3.79 |

Q6 Please rank in order of importance which amenities you would like to see implemented in our parks.

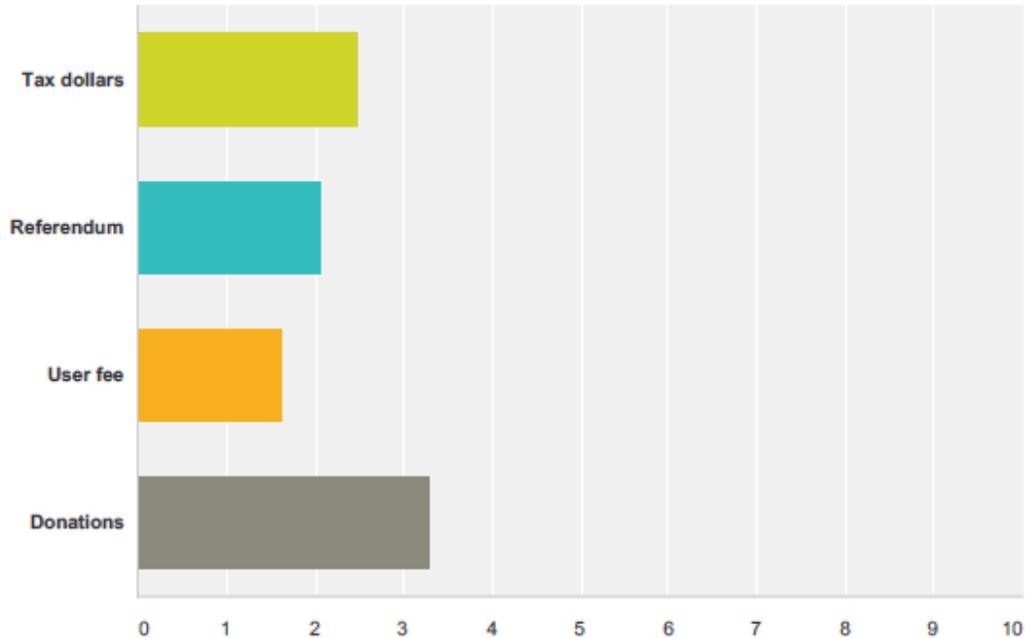
Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Score |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Improved aesthetics (landscaping, rain gardens, art, etc.) | 11.76% 10 | 15.29% 13 | 24.71% 21 | 9.41% 8 | 10.59% 9 | 14.12% 12 | 5.88% 5 | 8.24% 7 | 5.01 |
| Additional Recreation Options (play equipment, picnic areas, grills, etc.) | 22.35% 19 | 25.88% 22 | 15.29% 13 | 8.24% 7 | 5.88% 5 | 9.41% 8 | 8.24% 7 | 4.71% 4 | 5.66 |
| More community activities (yoga, sports, etc.) | 7.06% 6 | 3.53% 3 | 10.59% 9 | 15.29% 13 | 14.12% 12 | 8.24% 7 | 18.82% 16 | 22.35% 19 | 3.62 |
| "Green" improvements (recycling options, shore improvement, etc.) | 11.76% 10 | 15.29% 13 | 11.76% 10 | 17.65% 15 | 12.94% 11 | 11.76% 10 | 8.24% 7 | 10.59% 9 | 4.74 |
| Additional facilities (restrooms, drinking fountains, foot wash, ect.) | 15.29% 13 | 10.59% 9 | 20.00% 17 | 14.12% 12 | 14.12% 12 | 16.47% 14 | 7.06% 6 | 2.35% 2 | 5.09 |
| Safety Improvements (better lighting, emergency call stations, etc.) | 2.35% 2 | 8.24% 7 | 5.88% 5 | 17.65% 15 | 23.53% 20 | 17.65% 15 | 20.00% 17 | 4.71% 4 | 3.92 |
| Accessibility improvements (walking paths, connection to trails, parking, etc.) | 25.88% 22 | 16.47% 14 | 7.06% 6 | 9.41% 8 | 10.59% 9 | 11.76% 10 | 14.12% 12 | 4.71% 4 | 5.22 |
| Civic displays (flag poles, bulletin boards, history monuments) | 3.53% 3 | 4.71% 4 | 4.71% 4 | 8.24% 7 | 8.24% 7 | 10.59% 9 | 17.65% 15 | 42.35% 36 | 2.73 |

Q7 How would you support paying for additional city park amenities?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



| | No support | Not opposed | Some support | Highly support | Total | Weighted average |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------|------------------|
| Tax dollars | 20.24% 17 | 25.00% 21 | 40.48% 34 | 14.29% 12 | 84 | 2.49 |
| Referendum | 32.93% 27 | 32.93% 27 | 28.05% 23 | 6.10% 5 | 82 | 2.07 |
| User fee | 67.90% 55 | 11.11% 9 | 11.11% 9 | 9.88% 8 | 81 | 1.63 |
| Donations | 2.50% 2 | 17.50% 14 | 27.50% 22 | 52.50% 42 | 80 | 3.30 |

COMMENTS/OTHER

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Don't have any additional amenities, parks are fine as is | Annual special assessment on houses valued over \$1million (specifically for park improvements) | Parks like these should be open public spaces and user fees would inhibit the spontaneous use of the parks |
| Family memorials, paver projects | Fee per user Community Ed activities/sports | I don't think donation option is promoted at all!?!? |
| Grants like Manitou sport court | Allocate 100% of dock fees to the parks | Fundraising events x2 |
| Grants x2 | Events as fundraisers for the parks | |

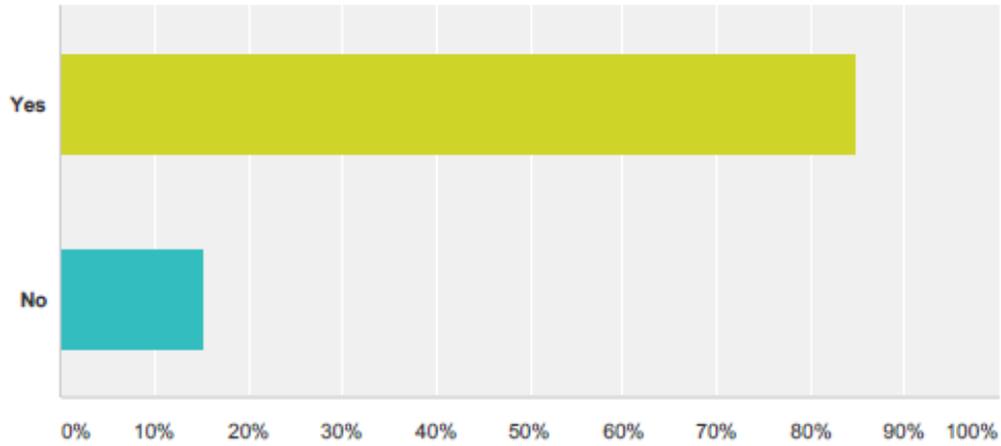
Q8 What three words would you use to describe Tonka Bay parks?

Answered: 71 Skipped: 14

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Doing Pretty Well | Accessible, friendly, large | Clean family fun |
| Nice, small, local | Perfect as is | Pleasant peaceful cherished |
| Small town quaint | Ok for level of use | Adequate, available, non-inspiring |
| Clean inviting safe | Nice to have, not accessible, underutilized | Nice for a small community. Don't feel like they are promoted very much?!? |
| Classic city parks | Small, clean, homey | Clean, convenient, close |
| Gems | Beautiful Beaches Green | Unknown, little usage |
| Uninspiring limited facilities | Ordinary, plain, unattractive | Right size |
| Modest but useful | Neighborhood, safe, nature | Our green space! |
| Fun, beautiful, special | Basic | Unique, picturesque, varied |
| Lucky to have them | Bland | Great for kids - nicely maintained |
| parks help community | Tired | Diversified |
| Inviting, natural, simple | Beaches/Playgrounds/Boating | Small gems |
| We love them! | Best kept secret | Close, safe, fun |
| Great for children, great view of lake from some parks, green space for TB | Boring, Nothing to draw bigger crowds, dirty | Beautiful (Wekota has a great view), scenic, lake life |
| Mostly for Families | Same old parks | Beautiful, scenic, fun |
| Quiet Vistas Clean | Love open space! | Clean, Well maintained, Safe |
| Quaint and nice | Nice | Quiet |
| Typical small town park | Outdated | Variety, drab, accessible |
| Fun, pretty, something to do | Quaint, safe, local | Not very natural |
| They are fine | Beach needed work | Vast, open, adventurous |
| Nearby, multiuse | Clean, usable, quiet | Nice |
| Clean, small, well maintained | Accessible, clean, practical | Adequate and welcoming |
| Quaint, Neighborly, Quiet | Underutilized | yet another asset |
| Need updating and care, tennis courts at we kids are dangerous, trees have overgrown onto courts, back surface gets no sun due to tree overhang, and courts are muddy and slippery and dangerous. When I call they say they will take care of this but it never happens. Leaves and debris should be cleaned off regularly and are not | | |

Q9 Have you ever brought a visiting guest to any of the Tonka Bay parks?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 84.71% 72 |
| No | 15.29% 13 |
| Total | 85 |

Q10 How would describe the city of Tonka Bay to someone who has never visited our city?

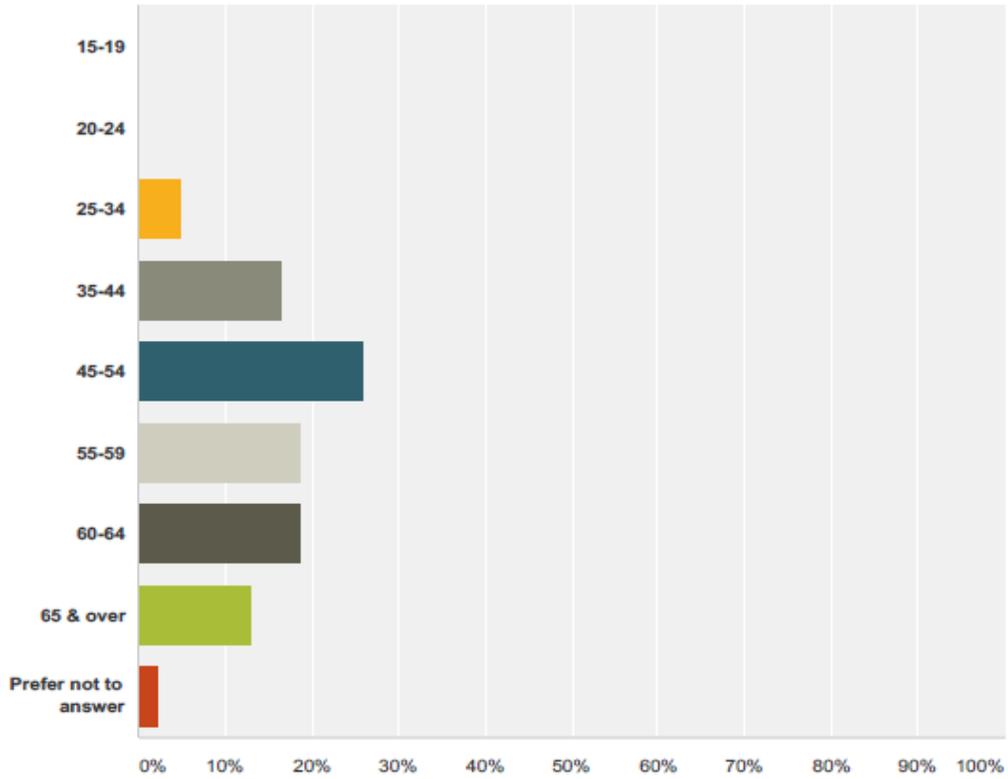
Answered: 85 Skipped: 0

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Pretty nice parks. Fair amount for the size of the city | Friendly, shores of Lake Minnetonka, walkable | Low key. Not enough info about city news and events |
| Lots of lake | Pretty peaceful and quiet | Has good city water |
| Small, homey, historic, friendly, community, neighborly, outdoorsy, pretty, economically diverse, neat, tidy, clean | A very special place on the water with a sun rise on one side and a sunset on the. Like living in nature yet close to other amenities | Its geography is long and spread out, without a center or common gathering place. It doesn't feel like a city unto itself. It relies heavily on nearby cities for shopping and services. It is surprisingly diverse in its economic makeup |
| Amazing beaches, safe environment, relaxed atmosphere | Beautiful quaint city tucked into lake Minnetonka | Small town American located in a large urban area |
| Small community | Nice little community | Like the playground equipment |
| A nice little town on the lake | A gem | Quiet streets |
| Small town. Well run | Best kept secret | Surrounded By the lake |
| Small city, bedroom community, mostly lakeshore, part of the south lake cities, next to Excelsior | Small community with beautiful trees and shoreline, an isthmus with a variety of real estate options, excellent school district | Depending on the park, minimal facilities (picnic shelters, restrooms, water fountains), not easily handicap accessible, great green space in the city, over looked by visitors |
| A quiet, calm city with a nice blend of people that all get along | A small community that is close to everything | Beautiful city in the heart of the lake |
| A small boutique community where everyone's voice can be heard and changes for the community's good can happen. Small enough for issues to be addressed and dealt with. Good water and street conditions | Wekota beach is a hidden gem. Many people don't know it is there, except the neighborhood residents. Manitou is well used for many sports, as well as playground and covered picnic area | A small, well-run city with a more personal feel, even though we are in a large metro area. Great access to other small cities like Excelsior with many activity, entertainment, dining |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Small lakeside town with great views, community amenities, and varied housing | Lovely village on Lake Minnetonka | We have a lot of parks that are easily accessible to us that are safe, clean and open |
| Small x2 | Small / retro | A hidden gem |
| A small village on the shores of Minnetonka | On the shores of beautiful Lake Minnetonka | Quaint. Surrounded by Lake Minnetonka. Residential |
| Small town park feel | Lake oriented residential | Cozy little lake community |
| Small, quiet community | Small lakeside community | Nice amenities |
| We love Wekota Park because it is quiet, has plenty to do and is mainly used by the residents so it is never too busy. Please keep it like this! | Friendly, lots of green space, great recreation, Lake Minnetonka, small community, low density population, many walkers, bikers | A quiet, cozy lakeside community that is a mix of sophistication and relaxation. A niche community nestled within Lake Minnetonka |
| They discriminate against shore anglers | Quaint little area, same as most others | Good open space for activities that aren't overcrowded |
| The best place to live, like stepping back in time to when neighbors all knew each other and said hello | A small wonderful community on a lake that does a great job with everything they do! | A little city between Excelsior and Navarre, surrounded by water. I've heard our West Point neighborhood referred to as Venice because of all the little inlets/canals |
| Quaint | Small and safe | Small and quiet |
| Summer vacation area | Prestigious | A modest, older lake community |
| Small township within a bigger town | Wonderful small town feel without burdening rules | Less than a square mile of land with a lot of lakeshore homes |
| It's a nice place to live | Nice | Family friendly |
| Small and pretty | Good | Quiet and safe |
| A nice small town, by the water, with some history | Small town feel but part of a large community | Tight little community, right next to Excelsior |
| A small town in the middle of a metropolitan area | Beautiful city but beaches need to be more presentable | A village of 600+ residences; quiet city on a beautiful lake |
| Small, quaint little town with a little bit of everything | Charm, great value and location, diverse population, water community | Small town with access to everything |
| Beautiful | Still needs work | Small town up north without the drive |
| Beautiful area with the lake, trails and parks | | |

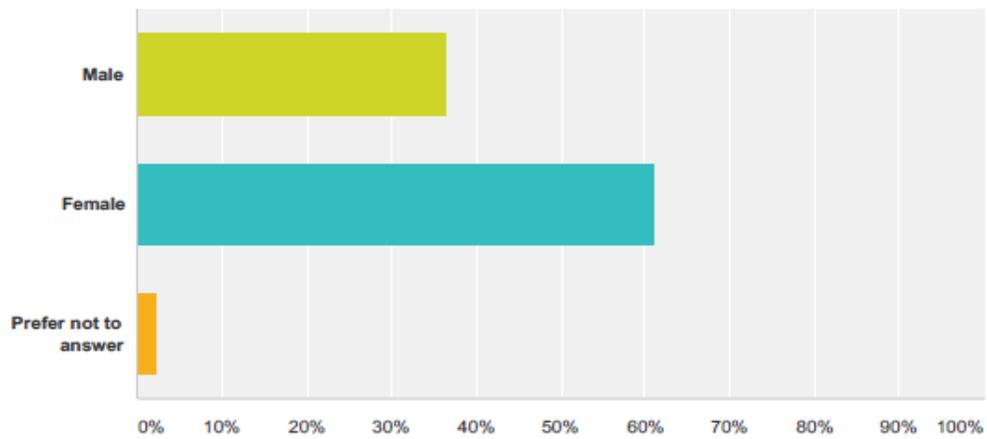
Q11 What is the age range of the individual completing this survey?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



Q12 What is your gender?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



Q13 Please list the ages of any children living at your residence with whom you visit the parks.

Answered: 55 Skipped: 30

Q14 Is there anything else you were not asked about Tonka Bay parks that you'd like to share?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 44

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>What about the tennis courts? They should be lit and maintained. Fee per play for non-residents, parking permits to raise revenue?</p> | <p>Please do a better job of fixing the sinkholes in Pleasant Park. Also, Pleasant Park should remain undeveloped due to its unique positioning in our neighborhood</p> | <p>The fire lanes were not included. They have been marked and someone should be checking on them to make sure they are not be encroached on by abutting homes and are open to the neighbors for use</p> |
| <p>Parks need beautification, tennis courts are in terrible condition, updating, city signs need updating, street signs were, but need to be again. Gardening Clubs/volunteers/Senior and Youth/community involvement. Tonka Bay signs and surrounding landscape is neglected.</p> | <p>Old Orchard Park is consistently busy and well-used during the summer. It is disheartening and disappointing that the playground facilities were not improved and revived after the car hit them several years ago</p> | <p>Improving the maintenance of our parks and park amenities as they currently exist is feasible within our current budget and can be done now. I think improvements to the ice rink, a path connecting Manitou to the bike trail, improved maintenance of Crescent Beach and more community events in the parks are on the top of my list</p> |
| <p>Parks are essential to the community and we should take greater care to maintain and improve them</p> | <p>This is more of a city comment: in the West Point neighborhood, it would be nice if the invasive buckthorn and willow saplings could be removed so that everyone can continue to enjoy our view of the lake</p> | <p>Yes, the primary thing I'd like to see changed is having the warming house at Manitou open many more hours especially on holidays, days off school too. That is when it gets used!</p> |
| <p>Upgrade playground equipment</p> | <p>Enforce loose dog rules</p> | <p>Wish we still had the baseball field</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>The lack of upkeep at Crescent beach, especially during the summer. Too much seaweeds and trash almost daily on the shoreline that's never cleaned up. Trash can isn't emptied often enough. I miss the "telephone" poles that used to border the beach as we used them for sitting on (especially in the evening to watch the sunsets). The beach seems to be disappearing due to grass and weeds growing in there, the trees/brush on the north side are over-shadowing and encroaching on the beach. Over-all, just not as nice as it was 15-20 years ago</p> | <p>Really value the green spaces, please plow a cross country ski trail at Manitou, prevent cars from driving thru Wekota park in winter to access lake They go right over the tarred path, increased police presence at parks often people are abusing parks after hours, discover why so many out of town people have huge parties at TB parks, encourage public works to get fallen leaves removed from parks in the fall recognize that adults also use the parks on a regular basis, walking, sitting, sun tanning, swimming, playing tennis do better t keeping dogs out of parks</p> | <p>Want to see efforts and education on controlling invasive (buckthorn, garlic mustard) and native plants restoration. Also, move to lower turf square footage in unnecessary areas and replace with savannah natives. Shoreline buffers should be added to Wekota as educational demonstrations. Stop using herbicides</p> |
| <p>I really like the way public works mows the lawns now</p> | <p>Why do we have to do any park improvement?</p> | <p>More shade trees and benches and biffs!!!</p> |
| <p>Use money from shore wood community center as that really worked out</p> | <p>A big improvement to Manitou Park would be to connect the Three Rivers Park District trail to the park</p> | <p>Pleasant Park needs to be cleaned up of tree debris. The buckthorn needs to be pulled. That park used to be full of wild flowers. It's sad to see it deteriorate</p> |
| <p>There should be bike paths connecting old orchard with the trail system</p> | <p>Parks don't offer much for single, elderly adults</p> | <p>Need Walking/Running/biking trails!</p> |
| <p>Love this city</p> | <p>Could not be happier here</p> | <p>They're fine the way they are</p> |
| <p>There are too many Canadian geese in all the parks making them unclean</p> | <p>Thank you to public works for keeping it a clean well-groomed small community</p> | <p>I don't think the parks we go to need any improvements</p> |
| <p>Spend less time mowing and building tennis courts, more time planting trees. Mark and enforce the boundaries better</p> | <p>Regular monkey bars like at Excelsior Commons park</p> | <p>I would love to see a dog friendly park in Tonka Bay</p> |
| <p>Yes, please remember they are just parks, that's all they need to be</p> | <p>Beach periodically needs fresh sand</p> | <p>Looking forward to seeing the future vision for the parks!</p> |
| <p>Keep up the good work</p> | | |

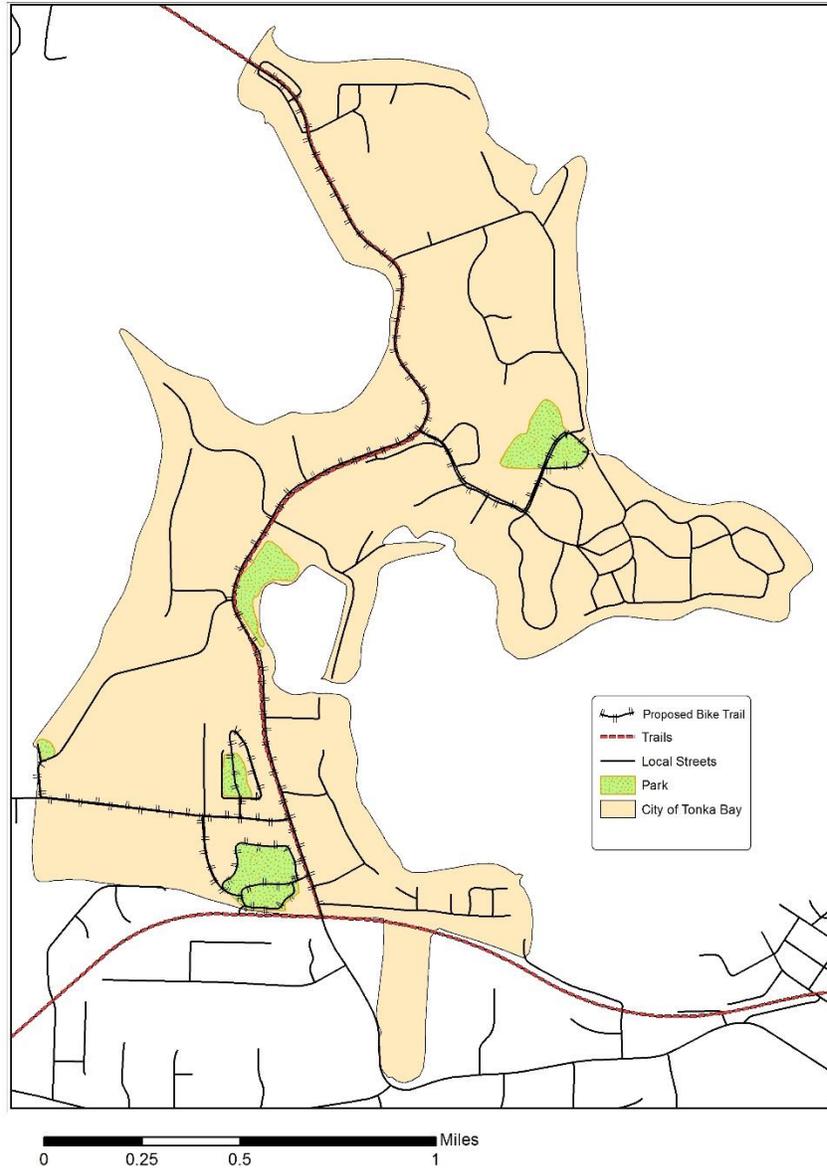
Q15 If you would like to further discuss your feedback with a representative from the Tonka Bay Parks Committee or City Council, please include your name, email address, and phone number and someone will contact you. Thank you!

Answered: 10 Skipped: 75

APPENDIX B

GIS MAP

Tonka Bay Proposed Bike Trail



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