

Park Use Assessment



ESPM 4041W: Problem Solving for Environmental Change

Report Number 2/9

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Executive Summary

The city of West St. Paul is predicting a sharp increase in population in its city in the next few years due to several housing developments currently being built. Due to this predicted increase, they are putting a great deal of effort into ensuring that moving forward, the city puts equity at the forefront of all future decisions and changes. University of Minnesota ESPM senior students worked with Dave Schletty, the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, to develop several reports that will assist his department and other departments in the city with making changes to create an inclusive city. The recommendations made in this report have assessed the parks and how they are used and can be used to assist the Parks Department with future changes.

The methods used to develop our recommendations were: city comparisons, questionnaires for community members, and questions for potential interviewees. Our group of five used these methods to assess whether there were any limitations within the current parks system of West St. Paul. Our findings from these methods lead us to better understand who and how the parks are being used. We were also able to discover through this process that West St. Paul has similar amenities and accessibility as the cities around it. In addition, our findings showed us that the importance of green spaces is not an isolated desire to just West St. Paul but has been found to be of importance to many other communities who use their cities' outdoor public spaces. We used the insight we gained to develop two umbrella categories for recommendations with subcategories beneath them.

The recommendations developed in this report for the City of West St. Paul are as follows:

1. Equity
 - i. A community garden to be placed in a desirable location to enrich the community.
 - ii. Sports equipment rentals for families without access to the sporting equipment their children wish to use.
 - iii. Playground infrastructure update to create greater inclusivity in playground use.
2. Future Assessment
 - i. Surveying community members on a frequent and regular basis will create an element of equity amongst all new residents of West St. Paul and will ensure that everyone's voices are heard.
 - ii. Future city comparisons will allow for the city to reevaluate how they are growing in terms of equity and accessibility in comparison to the surrounding cities.

Introduction

As the country and world transitions into a new reality where equity and inclusivity are at the forefront of our daily lives, it becomes increasingly important to ensure that our green spaces reflect this mentality. Minnesota is the “Land of 10,000” lakes and beautiful wide-open spaces that Minnesotans take great pride in, and the city of West St. Paul echoes this sentiment perfectly. The residents of this city view their parks as an extension of their backyards and take their upkeep very seriously. As the population in this city continues to grow, the demographic of West St. Paul will begin to change. This will create a greater need to re-evaluate equity throughout the parks system. The residents who choose to move to this area will be from diverse backgrounds and have different interests and needs than the community living in West St. Paul for many years.

During the fall 2021 semester at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, the ESPM 4041W Problem Solving for Environmental Change class worked to create nine reports. This report is based on a thorough assessment of the parks system in West St. Paul. It was created in accordance with what the parks department and its staff focused on areas to improve, while also considering ideas from the citizens themselves.

Over the last several decades the United States has seen a vast increase in poverty and an alarming disparity between economic classes. The poor become poorer, and the rich become richer. While these events were occurring, inequality amongst green space users grew (Scott, 2013). You would imagine that the use of parks would increase amongst lower-income communities because the parks are free to use, but who are the parks being built for and where? Parks are primarily built for and in neighborhoods with higher median incomes, thus making them inaccessible to those in lower-income neighborhoods (Keeler, 2019). In addition to income inequality creating a gap in who can use public spaces there is a stark difference in what groups have access to the parks and other green spaces based on the color of their skin. The population of the United States is 40% people of color, but 70% of those that use the parks are white (Humphrey, 2020).

Environmental privilege is a concept that exists under the same umbrella as environmental justice, except the former looks at those individuals that garner the benefits of living near parks and green areas

(Rigolon, 2018). With the continued urbanization and gentrification of American cities, lower-income communities have less and less access to the parks system in their given city. Part of this is because of a trend in which development plans are put into place, and the state or city incentivizes the idea of having a privately owned park as part of the development (Rigolon, 2018). With this increasing trend, only those who have the privilege of living in these new communities will have access to the park. Where does that leave others?

As stated above, the presence of parks can mean many different things to people. Some people of West St. Paul see the parks as a continuation of their backyard (Schletty, 2021). This perception creates a very deep connection between the community and its parks, but also a very protective mentality. It is understandable that residents would be hesitant to allow change that might bring in new people to their parks or change how they're able to use their parks; but new people are exactly what West St. Paul needs. Across the country, although parks are not privately owned, they are often treated as such, and this can create an environment that does not sustain inclusivity and equity (Rigolon, 2018).

Currently, West St. Paul has fourteen parks and three other recreational facilities (West St. Paul, MN, 2021). These parks and recreational facilities offer several activities for the community members to enjoy, from Easter egg hunts to sports camps in the summertime. One park is even recognized as the smallest park in the USA (West St. Paul, MN, 2021)! There are many sports fields available in various parks and large open spaces for the community to move around in as they see fit. West St. Paul's parks are home to a few natural areas, as well, supporting various wildlife species and fishing opportunities. After a brief analysis of the West St. Paul website and event fliers it's very clear that the City has room to grow to meet its full potential in terms of equity and inclusivity.

Equity is important to the parks department and city of West St. Paul (Schletty, 2021). Now is the time to align values with what is offered to residents. The first step to make the improvements necessary to ensure that the city is inclusive of all individuals no matter their race, background, abilities, or age. To offer parks that offer opportunities to all individuals, it will be important for the city to see the bigger picture: the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area (and most other metropolitan areas) is seeing movement of people from all over the country and world.

Vision Statements:

Class

Through collaboration with the City of West St. Paul and our independent research, the values of conservation, equity, and community engagement were integrated to develop solutions that are effective and innovative. With these integrated values as a guide, West St. Paul can promote safe and sustainable public growth to serve the community and its future generations.

Group

Our vision is to work alongside the city of West St. Paul and utilize their resources and available information to assess where its park systems could see improvements and areas that are performing adequately. Our goal is that West St. Paul continues to harbor immense pride in its community members and park system. We wish to see a more complete and inclusive organization that has something for every community member, no matter their age, background, or hobbies.

Goals and Objectives:

The goal of this report is to give the city of West St. Paul a fresh new perspective on how its parks system can better service the current community and any future residents. Through this new perspective and assessment, we hope more residents will begin to use the parks, and those already utilizing them will continue to with more frequency, and we will accomplish this by the following objectives:

- Analyze previously gathered information on park use and community needs.
- Compare and contrast the parks of West St. Paul to those of cities nearby to better understand what other cities are implementing in their parks.
- Create a community survey that will be used for years to come to ensure the city stays on top of the needs of their residents.
- Develop a website and report that will encapsulate all that we have learned and wish to convey to the city of West St. Paul to aid them in their changes.

Study Area

City of West St. Paul

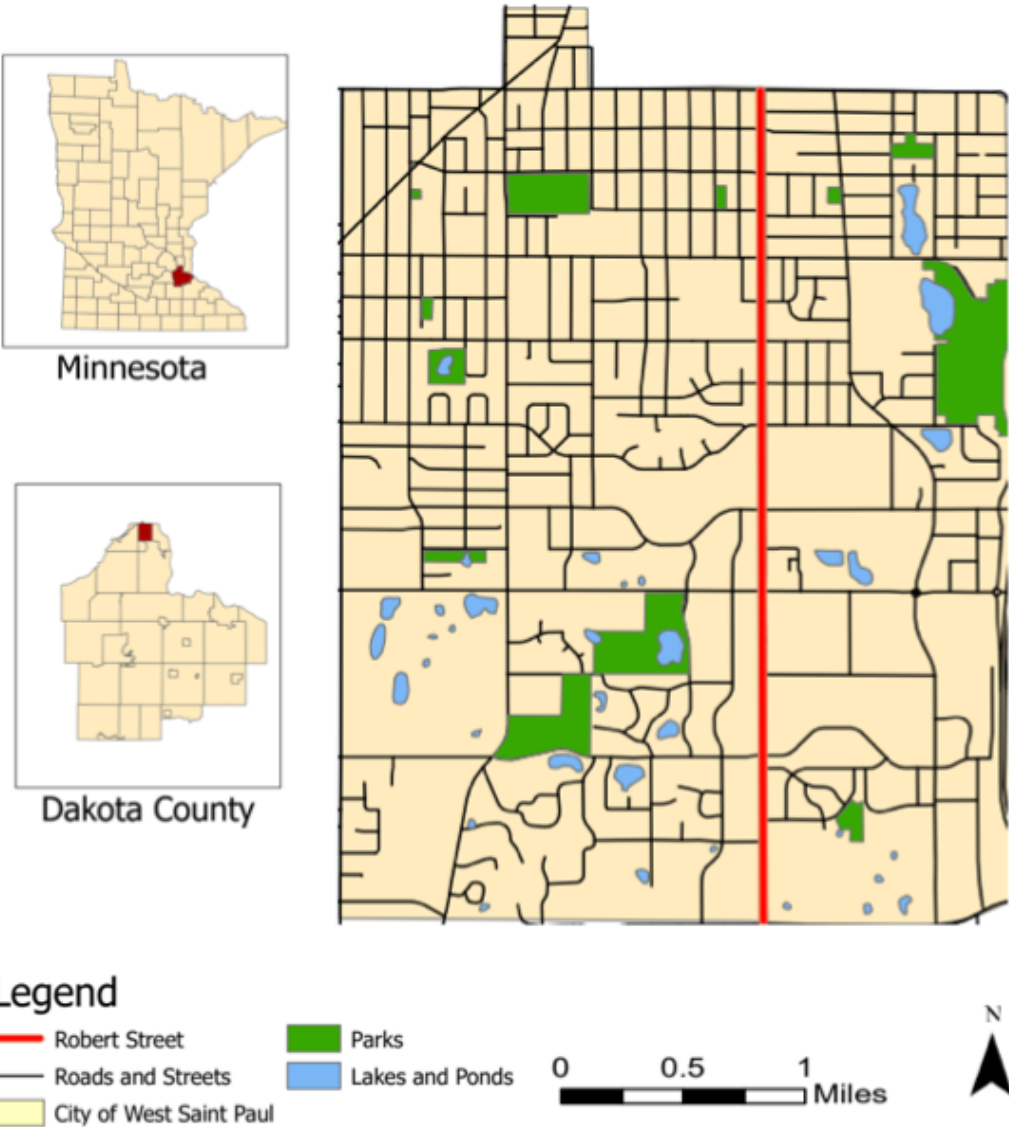


Figure 1: Map of West St. Paul Parks (Source: ESPM 4041W Class)

Methods

Site Description

The City of West St. Paul is in Dakota County, in the state of Minnesota, and is south of the state capital, St. Paul (Figure 1). The city is north of Interstate Highway 494 and Minnesota Highway 3 (unmarked Route 952), which runs through the middle of the city and into downtown St. Paul as Robert Street. As of the 2020 U.S. Census, the population of the City of West St. Paul is 20,615 (U.S. Census Bureau).

West St. Paul has fifteen parks and one sports complex (whose amenities and information are listed under Appendix A), all of which encompasses 119.5 acres. These parks range in size, with the smallest park, Albert Park, being less than 1 acre, and the largest park, Marthaler Park, being 34 acres. Albert Park is also recognized as the “Smallest Dedicated Park in the USA” by R.L. Ripley’s “Believe It Or Not”. Around 12 percent, or 398 acres, of the city is dedicated to Parks and Recreation (West St. Paul Comprehensive Plan).

About West St. Paul

West St. Paul’s misnomer comes from the fact that the original City of West St. Paul was located on the west bank of the predominantly north-to-south Mississippi River and had nothing to do with its actual orientation in relation to the city of St. Paul (West St. Paul, MN - Official Website, Retrieved November 2021). The original City of West St. Paul was organized on March 22, 1858, before the creation of the West St. Paul Township two months later. The county was open to settlement in 1854, following the formation of Dakota County in 1853, with settlers and speculators “staking claims as early as 1851”, “anticipating the treaty with the Dakota Indians which would open the land to settlement” (Mendota/West St. Paul Chapter of the Dakota County Historical Society, Retrieved November 2021). Instead, four years after its formation, the city went bankrupt and subsequently joined the township.

In 1859, the City of St. Paul built a toll bridge, Wabasha Bridge, at the crossing point between the two cities where the original City of West St. Paul was located, much to the dissatisfaction of the township citizens. Ramsey and Dakota counties voted to approve St. Paul’s annexation of the old City of West St. Paul in 1874. While the toll was dropped, following the annexation of the old city area, the West St. Paul

township lost the northern tip of its township, which became St. Paul's Sixth Ward (Mendota/West St. Paul Chapter of the Dakota County Historical Society, Retrieved November 2021).

In 1886, a group of industrial developers began buying eastern township land along the Mississippi. Following a surge in population after the creation of an industrial park and stockyard, there was a proposal for the formation of a city, which the state legislature approved (Mendota/West St. Paul Chapter of the Dakota County Historical Society, Retrieved November 2021). On March 2, 1887, the West St. Paul township became the City of South St. Paul.

Relationships between the western township farmers and the developers began to sour when the farmers "lost city representation in the first city election in 1888. The western citizens petitioned the state legislature to form a city of their own" (Mendota/West St. Paul Chapter of the Dakota County Historical Society, Retrieved November 2021). On February 22, 1889, the City of West St. Paul, as we know it today, was born. Today, the city anticipates an influx of new residents, predominantly in their 30's and looking to start families (pers.com. Dave Schletty, September 16, 2021). It is important to reevaluate West St. Paul's current park system to ensure that there is equal opportunity and representation within the park system.

Research Techniques

The focus of this report is to evaluate the equity of the City of West St. Paul's Park system and ensure that its community members and their needs are adequately addressed and represented. As stated in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the city aims to balance among their five Thrive 2040 Outcomes: Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability. The City of West St. Paul is very proud of its park system and has expressed its wish to better understand equity and areas of need through a Park Use Assessment to improve the park system further.

City Comparisons

To achieve a park system that best reflects the community of West St. Paul, it is important first to understand its people and needs. To achieve this goal, we compared the demographics of West St. Paul to those of nearby cities, which allowed us to understand the needs of their current population and its subgroups and how nearby cities cater to resident's needs, which provided us with the ideas needed to enhance future equality and representation within the community of West St. Paul. This was achieved by choosing five cities from Dakota County, the county West

St. Paul resides in, and Ramsey County, the county directly north of Dakota County. The city selection allowed a comparison of cities with similar population sizes but with different racial make-up. Cities were chosen and categorized by their city size in relation to West St. Paul (a similarly populated city, two less populated cities, and two more populated cities), and then their county and diversity (one from Dakota County and one from Ramsey County; one more diverse and one less diverse). This comparison measured frequency in the number of parks and the area of public park space regarding city size, population, diversity, and average household income (the number used for diversity was the percentage of white residents, where a high percentage represents low-diversity and where a low percentage represents high diversity). Correlation was determined by ranking cities by their city size, population, demographics, and average household income, from least to greatest, and seeing if there is a corresponding negative or positive trend in their frequencies, expressed as a ratio. We chose for comparison: West St. Paul and Shoreview, Mendota Heights and Little Canada, and Inver Grove Heights and Roseville. (Appendix A)

Park Amenities Comparison

To achieve a park system that allows for the equality of accessibility and services to the community of West St. Paul, it is important to understand the current park system standards. To achieve this goal, we compared the current park system of West St. Paul to those of nearby cities, to understand how other cities are currently catering to the residents' needs and interests and parks within West St. Paul. Our objective was to determine whether there are disparities that can be rectified or services and accessibility that can be improved upon in the current park system of West St. Paul. We achieved this by taking inventory of the current amenities offered by the West St. Paul Park system and its comparison cities. Disparities were determined by the persisting absence of certain park amenities, whereas equities were determined by persisting presence of certain park amenities. Eleven categories were built for West St. Paul's major amenities and used as a standard for the inventory of the comparison cities (Appendix A).

Facebook Post for Immediate Resident Feedback:

We designed a post for the City of West St. Paul's Facebook page requesting feedback from residents regarding what they would like to see changed in the parks system. The study population was residents of West St. Paul, and the sample those who visited the City's Facebook page. Though relatively informal, the use of social media proved an easy way to collect some of the information we were looking for and elicited a fast response rate. The post included a link to a survey (described below) asking various questions about the resident's park experiences and

opinions. The Facebook post and survey allowed residents to think creatively and elaborate on their ideas about the parks. We were able to reach members of our target audience in an effective way, obtaining detailed feedback that helped improve our project. The post was shared on November 5th, 2021, and the survey remained open until November 16th, 2021. There was a total of 33 responses. Since the sample size was relatively small, we combined results from this method with the others as examples of resident's thoughts.

Community Surveys and Questionnaires:

The utilization of previous resident surveys about parks was the next method that we used to help us understand what is important to this community. The 2017 resident survey data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Much of this survey was just not directed towards the park department. (Appendix B)

Future Surveys:

For the city's park system to effectively serve the residents, input from community members is key. One of the methods used to meet this goal was a survey polling city residents about the city-wide park system of West St. Paul. Surveys regarding park use are useful tools to gather information regarding the status of the parks, how residents interact with them, and what changes could be made to better increase equitable access to the community spaces (National Recreation and Parks Association). The goal of this assessment was to generate current opinions on West St. Paul's Park system to develop an understanding of how people view it and to make informed decisions regarding the recommendations for proposed improvements. The survey was distributed to city residents via the official Facebook page of West St. Paul. (Appendix C)

Literature Review:

To get a more comprehensive understanding of the benefits that a city can gain by conducting a park use assessment, two peer-reviewed articles were used. Campbell, et al, (2016), wrote, "A social assessment of urban parkland: Analyzing park use and meaning to inform management and resilience planning". A study in New York City provided an analysis of park use, function, and meaning to demonstrate how urban parks influence the social aspects of cities as well as fostering environmental resiliency. Talal, et al, (2021) "Visitor access, use, and desired improvements in urban parks" was conducted in Portland, Oregon. It provided insight into park visitor demographics and activities, as well as their perceptions of experiences and accessibility in urban parks. The article explores desired improvements in urban parks and provides strategies for urban

park planners, governmental agencies, and community groups to encourage positive urban park experiences and accessibility for diverse visitors.

Research Findings

Comparison of West St. Paul Parks to Other Cities

Upon comparison, the number of parks and park amenities West St. Paul and its comparison cities maintained were not correlated, either positively or negatively, to city size, population, demographics, and average household income. (Appendix A)

Based on website comparisons between West St. Paul's Park system and its comparison cities' park systems, West St. Paul's, Inver Grove Heights', and Shoreview's websites were the most detailed in their list of amenities. For amenities, the two cities with the most amenities relative to their parks were West St. Paul and Shoreview, followed by Mendota Heights.

It is important to note that there may be discrepancies in the inventory of park amenities due to differences in terminology, and amenities definitions may vary among cities. For example, many cities do not list grills, nature areas, or warming houses in their amenities. Furthermore, some parks are for memorial purposes and do not offer any amenities. Also, it is important to acknowledge that some city websites were more detailed in disclosing their park amenities than others, while some websites have not been updated in a few years.

Facebook Post

A significant limitation to this data collection method was the sample size. The survey opportunities were only available to those members of the West St. Paul community who have a Facebook account, actively use it, and follow and interact with the city's Facebook page. The responses were valuable but are not representative of the community. Facebook served mainly as a tool for distributing the survey to residents. The survey was posted with several other class surveys. In the future social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter may be a better way to reach more of the city population.

Survey Analysis:

The main finding from analyzing the 2017 survey conducted by the city was determining that residents of West St. Paul highly value the community parks within the city. Residents listed the "quality of a city's parks, trails and open spaces" as the second most important consideration when determining a community to live in. Most respondents listed the quality of the park system as "very good." In 2021 the park use assessment survey that we designed and was distributed to city residents in a posting on the

official West. St. Paul's Facebook page produced similar findings to the 2017 survey. With 33 responses, 88% of respondents ranked the current park system condition as either “excellent” or “good” condition, signifying the respondents are satisfied with current upkeep standards in the City. Nearly half of the respondents noted that the main reason they visit the community parks is for the playground. Regarding a question asking participants if they would be willing to attend a program hosted at a city park, respondents said either “Yes” (87.5%) or “Maybe” (12.5%). A survey limitation was the small respondent rate with 33 individuals. The small respondent pool made it difficult to draw any substantial conclusions or recommendations for the park system. (Appendix C)

Literature Review

Campbell (2016) found that in New York City, urban green areas are integral for cities due to access to natural areas and places where community members can share positive experiences in an environmental setting through activities and recreation. In this study, the most common activities revolve around sports such as soccer, tennis, football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, and walking. Other than these activities, parks also provided a space for solitude in nature and a time for relaxation, as 9.8% of park users were seen sitting or resting. In terms of frequency of visitation, most users reported frequenting parks on a daily (31.3%) or weekly (30.7%) basis. Park users were also asked their reasoning for coming to parks, and their responses were categorized into eight main themes: local (a park is nearby), amenities and park characteristics, nature-outdoors, refuge (get away from crowds, sounds of city), enjoyment, activity, place attachment, and sociability and social ties. These findings are from the West St. Paul community survey and helps us better understand the different uses, functions, and meanings associated with parks in an urban setting.

Talal (2021), “Visitor access, use, and desired improvements in urban parks”, found that the general demographics for urban park users in Portland, Oregon, were slightly more male visitors (54%) compared to female visitors (46%), and more adults (85%) frequenting parks than children (15%). The racial background of visitors was 78% white/Caucasian and 22% underrepresented racial ethnic groups. Park users were surveyed and asked their thoughts on improvements for city parks, and almost one third of respondents reported that accessibility was an important attribute in terms of park features and location to home or work. Other important accessibility needs included bathrooms, park layout, places to sit or rest, and wheelchair accessibility. Also, respondents also suggested improvements for park accessibility, which included updating/adding bathrooms, adding trash/recycling bins, adding informational signs in multiple languages, and updating pathways. Although this study was conducted in another city, West St. Paul can utilize this information to have a more comprehensive view on what current park visitors are generally looking for in an inclusive and equitable city park.

Recommendations

The West St. Paul Park system has the opportunity to focus on two themes, equity and future assessment. If completed, the city will reach greater equity and have a process in place to continue assessing its park system over time. As previously mentioned in this report, the City of West St. Paul is expecting a great increase in population with the completion of several housing developments. These recommendations will aid your city in creating an equitable area for all the future residents who will move to your city.

Recommendation 1: Equity

Community Garden:

The city can implement a community garden in the parks system to promote sustainable, healthy habits among residents and build connections among community members. Community gardens would be a beneficial addition to the West St. Paul parks, based on findings in the city comparisons, literature review, and resident survey feedback. While a recent attempt to establish community gardens received backlash due to the proposed garden site in an undesirable location, giving community members more of a voice in where and how the gardens are implemented will yield a positive outcome. A community garden will further address equity by providing residents with the opportunity to grow their own food, reducing food insecurity. Families and individuals of all racial and economic backgrounds would be able to grow and take food from the garden as they desire.

Sports Equipment:

Second, sports equipment rentals available in one or multiple parks is an important component of the recreational programs. Access to sports for youth causes improvements in academics, emotional, social, and physical abilities (Whitaker et. al, 2019). Whitaker, et al. found that only 52% of lower-income families reported having children in sports. This is 14% less than 66% of middle to higher-income families reporting that they had youth in sports (Whitaker et. al, 2019). Two of the main reasons parents gave for their children not participating in sports were lack of interest and financial constraints. Both of those factors could be reduced by the implementation of a sports rental program through the parks system. Instead of a parent having to spend an exorbitant amount of money on equipment and sports fees, their children could simply

test their interest by playing any number of sports with the equipment made available to them via a loan program. It would also give families who had no reason to be in the parks a newfound interest in visiting and utilizing the park spaces.

Playground Infrastructure Update:

Currently, all West St. Paul's playgrounds use wood chips. While this is a cost-effective method for surfacing playgrounds within parks, it is not entirely inclusive to all park visitors who use wheelchairs or are not fully able-bodied. For this reason, the three most visited parks in West St. Paul could be budgeted for resurfacing the playgrounds with poured rubber. Poured rubber is a favorite for safety and sanitation regarding playground surfacing and is made from natural materials. There is little maintenance required once installed, and in cold and dry states, resurfacing is a quick and simple process. The most important reason for using poured rubber over wood chips for playground surfacing is because it is much more accessible for wheelchair users and visitors who are not able-bodied. While there are many benefits to using poured rubber, it does come with an expensive initial cost. The City of West St. Paul can start with resurfacing playgrounds in only three parks, and possibly include more in the future. While this project does have an expensive upfront cost, it will provide a much more accessible recreation opportunity that is inclusive to all members of the West St. Paul community.

Recommendation 2: Future Assessment

Survey Community Members on Consistent Basis:

Community-based research is a proactive method for gathering anecdotal and descriptive data related to park use within a city (Skinner, et. al, 1977). Residents in the city view the park system in high regard, and their input should be considered when making management decisions. An effective way to incorporate public opinion into future park management applications is to release a city-wide survey on a recurring basis. The National Recreation and Parks Association noted that surveys “empower data analysis which can help agencies make informed programming decisions for their facilities, help optimize capital expenditure budgets and support master planning.” Sending out a park use assessment survey on a timeline that aligns with the city of West St. Paul's goals would establish an important tool in ensuring the park system is equitable and adequately serves the community. Data collection from this survey would serve to inform city officials and park stakeholders about the status of the park system, as well as bring forth any

needs the community may have that aren't currently addressed. This application of data can help the officials make decisions related to the park system that best serve the community in an equitable manner. A blank survey has been created for your use at the end of this report under Appendix C.

Future City Comparison:

This recommendation is quite simple: it will be beneficial to create inventory charts to continue assessing how your equity is growing in comparison to the cities that surround the City of West St. Paul. It could be simply an annual update of the tables or perhaps a more in-depth analysis that involves interviewing select cities in the area to evaluate how they have created equity within their park system.

Conclusion

This report provides an outside perspective on the equity within the city of West St. Paul. Within this perspective, the recommendations support immediate equitable change options for the parks system while also developing a system that will uphold these equitable changes into the City's future. Based on the report findings the city could make changes to make their park systems and use more accessible. At the same time, the city would greatly benefit from having a built-in equity assessment in the form of consistent questionnaires/surveys and future city comparisons. With these recommendations the City of West St. Paul will be able to create and maintain a more equitable parks system for its current and future residents.

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Appendices

Appendix A. City and Park Comparison

A1. Summary Data

A2. City Comparison

A2-1. West St. Paul

A2-2. Shoreview

A2-3. Mendota Heights

A2-4. Little Canada

A2-5. Inver Grove Heights

A2-6. Roseville

A3. Park Comparison

A3-1a. West St. Paul

A3-1b. West St. Paul - Additional Amenities

A3-2a. Shoreview

A3-2b. Shoreview - Additional Amenities

A3-3a. Mendota Heights

A3-3b. Mendota Heights - Additional Amenities

A3-4a. Little Canada

A3-4b. Little Canada - Additional Amenities

A3-5a. Inver Grove Heights

A3-5b. Inver Grove Heights - Additional Amenities

A3-6a. Roseville

A3-6b. Roseville - Additional Amenities

A4. Continued Amenities

Appendix B. 2017 Survey Questions

Appendix C. 2021 Park Use Survey

C-1. Survey

C-2. 2021 Responses

C-3. Blank Survey for Future Use

Appendix A. City and Park Amenities Comparison

Appendix A1: Summary Data

Number of Parks:City Size Across Cities			
City Name	Number of Parks	City Size	For Every 1 Park
Little Canada	11	4.487 sq mi	0.408 sq mi
West St. Paul	15	5.01 sq mi	0.334 sq mi
Mendota Heights	18	10.05 sq mi	0.5583 sq mi
Shoreview	11	12.66 sq mi	1.15 sq mi
Roseville	32	13.85 sq mi	0.433 sq mi
Inver Grove Heights	27	30.22 sq mi	1.119 sq mi
Number of Parks:Population Across Cities			
City Name	Number of Parks	Population	For Every 1 Park
Little Canada	11	10491 residents	953.727 residents
Mendota Heights	18	11367 residents	631.5 residents
West St. Paul	15	20547 residents	1369.8 residents
Shoreview	11	27100 residents	2463.64 residents
Inver Grove Heights	27	36092 residents	1336.74 residents
Roseville	32	36677 residents	1146.16 residents
Number of Parks:Diversity Across Cities			
City Name	Number of Parks	Diversity (percentage of white residents)	
Mendota Heights	18	93.76%	
Shoreview	11	85.66%	
Inver Grove Heights	27	82.30%	
Roseville	32	76.58%	

West St. Paul	15	74.43%	
Little Canada	11	66.91%	

Number of Parks:Average Household Income Across Cities

City Name	Number of Parks	Average Household Income	For Every 1 Park
West St. Paul	15	\$72,414	\$4,827.60
Little Canada	11	\$80,484	\$7,316.73
Roseville	32	\$88,347	\$2,760.84
Inver Grove Heights	27	\$105,081	\$3,891.89
Shoreview	11	\$115,773	\$10,524.80
Mendota Heights	18	\$154,186	\$8,565.89

Appendix A2. City Comparisons

Appendix A2-1

City of West St. Paul		City of West St. Paul	
Park Name	Other Amenities	City Size	5.01 sq mi
Albert Park	Monument	Population	20,547
Dodd Park		Average Household Income	\$72,414
Emerson Park	Pickleball	Demographics	
Garlough Park	Disc Golf	White	74.43%
Harmon Park	Batting Cage, Community Room, Splash Pad, Concession Stand	Other Race	10.49%
Haskell Park		Black or African-American	5.07%
Kennedy Park		Two or More Races	4.95%
Marthaler Park	Fishing, Volleyball	Asian	4.89%
Mud Lake Park	Benches	Native American	0.18%
Oakdale Park		Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%
Orme Park			
Southview Park		City of West St. Paul	
Sports Complex	Batting Cage, Horseshoe Pit, Parking	Number of Parks	15
Swimming Pool Park	Pool, Free Wi-Fi	Public Park Space	119.5 acres?
Weschcke Park	Volleyball		

Appendix A2-2

City of Shoreview		City of Shoreview	
Park Name	Other Amenities	City Size	12.66 sq mi
Bobby Theisen Park	Pickleball	Population	27,100
Bucher Park		Average Household Income	\$115,773
Heritage Park	Historic Guerin Gas Station, Historic Lepak-Larson House	Demographics	
Lake Judy Park		White	85.66%
McCullough Park	Parking	Asian	9.19%
Ponds Park		Black or African-American	2.27%
Rice Creek Fields	Batting Cages, Training Area, Bus Stop, Restroom Facilities, Water Fountain	Two or More Races	2.05%
Shamrock Park		Other Race	0.60%
Shoreview Commons	Pickleball, Haffeman Pavilion	Native American	0.14%
Sitzer Park	Parking	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.10%
Wilson Park			

Appendix A2-3

City of Mendota Heights		City of Mendota Heights	
Park Name	Other Amenities	City Size	10.05 sq mi
Civic Center	Parking, Restroom Facilities	Population	11,367
Copperfield Ponds		Average Household Income	\$154,186
Dog Park	Dog Park	Demographics	
Friendly Hills Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities	White	93.76%
Friendly Marsh Park		Two or More Races	2.70%
Hagstrom-King Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities	Asian	1.59%
Historic Pilot Knob	Parking	Black or African American	1.32%
Ivy Hills Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities	Other Race	0.49%
Kensington Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities	Native American	0.13%
Market Square Park	Parking	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%
Marie Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities		
Mendakota Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities, Volleyball	City of Mendota Heights	
Roger's Lake Park	Fishing Docks/Piers, Parking, Restroom Facilities, Volleyball	Number of Parks	18
Sibley Athletic Complex	Parking, Restroom Facilities	Public Park Space	295.7 acres?
Valley Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities		
Valley View Park			
Victoria Highland Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities		
Wentworth Park	Parking, Restroom Facilities		

Appendix A2-4

City of Little Canada		City of Little Canada	
Park Name	Other Amenities	City Size	4.487 sq mi
Firebarns Skate Park/Old Fire Hall	Benches, Community Rental Space, Interpretive Signage, Parking, Restroom Facilities, Skate Park	Population	10,491
Firefighters Historical Trail		Average Household Income	\$80,484
Gervais Lake Beach	Beach, Drinking Fountain, Fishing Pier, Parking, Restroom Facilities	Demographics	
Gervais Mill Park	Benches, Fishing Pier, Parking, Interpretive Signage, Pedestrian Bridge	White	66.91%
Nadeau Wildlife Area	Benches, Open Field	Asian	16.26%
Pioneer Park	Concessions, Open Field, Parking, Pavillion, Pedestrian Bridge, Pickleball, Restroom Facilities	Black or African American	12.32%
Rondeau Park	Benches, Parking	Two or More Races	2.37%
Spooner Park	Band Shell, Bocceball, Electricity, Horseshoes, Open Field, Parking, Pavillion, Pickleball, Restroom Facilities	Other Race	1.59%
Thunderbay/Westwinds Park	Benches, Open Field	Native American	0.55%
Veteran's Memorial	Benches, Interpretive Signage, KIA Pavers, Parking, Veterans Memorial, War Dog Memorial, Water Feature	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%
Water Works Row			

City of Inver Grove Heights		City of Inver Grove Heights	
Park Name	Other Amenities	City Size	30.22 sq mi
Arbor Pointe Park		Population	36,092
Broadmoor Park		Average Household Income	\$105,081
Community Center Park		Demographics	
Dehrer Park	Open Field	White	82.30%
Ernster Park	Volleyball	Other Race	6.21%
Groveland Park		Asian	4.35%
Harmon Park Reserve		Black or African American	4.27%
Heritage Village Park and Off-Leash Dog Park	Off-Leash Dog Park (All Breed and Small Breed Areas)	Two or More Races	2.74%
Inver Wood Golf Course	Golf	Native American	0.13%
Lions Park	Fishing	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%
Marcott Woods	Conservation		
Marianna Ranch	Conservation	City of Inver Grove Heights	
McGroarty Park	Open Field	Number of Parks	27
North Valley Park	Disc Golf, Pickleball	Public Park Space	916 acres?
Oakwood Park	Historical Landmark		
Old City Hall Park			
Rich Valley Athletic Complex	Pickleball		
River Front Park	Fishing		
River Heights Park			
Salem Hills Park	Pickleball		
Seilds Lake	Fishing		

Slimley Island Park	Fishing	
Skyview Park		
Sleepy Hollow Park	Horseshoes, Volleyball	
South Valley Park	Disc Golf	
Southern Lakes Park		
Swing Bridge Park	Bike Fix-It Stations, Historical Structures, Pier, Restrooms	
Veterans Memorial Community Center Park		
Woodland Preserve Park		








City of Roseville		City of Roseville	
Park Name	Other Amenities	City Size	13.85 sq mi
Acorn Park	Disc Golf	Population	36,677
Applewood Park		Average Household Income	\$88,347
Autumn Grove Park	Pump Track	Demographics	
Bruce Russell Park	Volleyball	White	76.58%
Central Park - Arboretum	Gardens, Wedding Rental, Orchard	Asian	8.69%
Central Park - Dale West		Black or African American	8.43%
Central Park - Lexington	Amphitheater, Bocceball, Volleyball	Two or More Races	4.79%
Central Park - North		Other Race	0.89%
Central Park - Vic Ballfields		Native American	0.63%
Central Park - Victoria West	Volleyball	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%
Concordia Park	Greenspace		
Cottontail Park		City of Roseville	
Evergreen Park	Pickleball	Number of Parks	32
Howard Johnson Park		Public Park Space	679 acres
Keller Mayflower Park	Open Field, Benches	<p>*Information on population was retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau.</p> <p>**Information on demographics and average household income was retrieved from World Population Review.</p> <p>***Information on city size was retrieved from Google.</p> <p>****Information on amenities, number of parks, and public park space was compiled from official</p>	
Ladyslipper Park	Conservation		
Langton Lake Park			
Lexington Park			
Mapleview Park			
Materion Park			
Midland Gardens Park	Nature Play Area		
Oasis Park	Greenspace, Community Garden		

Owasso Ballfields	
Owasso Hills Park	
Pioneer Park	Natural Space
Pocahontas Park	
Reservoir Woods Park	Adjacent Off-Leash Dog Park
Rosebrook Park	Wading Pool
Sandcastle Park	Greenspace
Tamarack Park	Greenspace
Unity Park	Greenspace, Hill Slide
Valley Park	
Veterans Park	
Villa Park	
Willow Pond	
Woodhill Park	








city websites and their comprehensive plans.

Appendix A3. Park Amenities Inventory by City and Parks Within Each City








Appendix A3-1.

West St. Paul Parks and Amenities	Acres			 	Grills		Nature Areas	Tables/ Shelters	Play-grounds			Warming House
Albert Park												
Dodd Park	1				x	x		x	x			x
Emerson Park	1	x	x			x		x	x		x	x
Garlough Park	23			x	x		x	x				
Harmon Park	7	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x
Haskell Park	4	x	x			x		x	x		x	x
Kennedy Park	2				x	x		x	x			x
Marthaler Park	34		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	
Mud Lake Park	8						x					
Oakdale Park	1.5		x		x	x		x	x			x
Orme Park	2					x						x
Southview Park	5.5	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Sports Complex	20	x		x	x		x	x	x	x		
Swimming Pool Park	5							x	x			
Weschcke Park	5.5		x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x

Appendix A3-2.

Shoreview Parks and Amenities	Acres			 	Grills		Nature Areas	Tables/ Shelters	Play-grounds			Warming House
Bobby Theisen Park	15		x	x		x				x	x	x
Bucher Park	25	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x
Heritage Park	3											
Lake Judy Park	5		x	x	x			x	x			
McCullough Park	75	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Ponds Park	1			x				x	x			
Rice Creek Fields	10	x		x				x	x			
Shamrock Park	23	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Shoreview Commons	40	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Sitzer Park	8	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Wilson Park	13	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x

Appendix A3-3.








Mendota Heights Parks and Amenities	Acres			 	Grills		Nature Areas	Tables/ Shelters	Play-grounds			Warming House
Civic Center	4	x		x								
Copperfield Ponds	24.9			x			x					
Dog Park	-						x					
Friendly Hills Park	15.5	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	
Friendly Marsh Park	33.4			x			x					
Hagstrom-King Park	9.6	x	x	x			x		x			
Historic Pilot Knob	25.5			x			x					
Ivy Hills Park	9.3	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	
Kensington Park	14.6			x			x	x	x	x		
Market Square Park	0.5							x				
Marie Park	6.2	x	x			x	x		x		x	
Mendakota Park	19.7	x	x	x				x	x	x		
Roger's Lake Park	9.2		x	x			x	x	x			
Sibley Athletic Complex	11	x		x						x	x	
Valley Park	94.4	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	
Valley View Park	0.7		x	x					x			
Victoria Highland Park	6.7	x	x	x					x			
Wentworth Park	10.5	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	

Appendix A3-4.

Little Canada Parks and Amenities	Acres			 	Grills		Nature Areas	Tables/ Shelters	Play-grounds			Warming House
Firebarns Skate Park/Old Fire Hall	-					x						
Firefighters Historical Trail	-			x								
Gervais Lake Beach	4			x				x	x			
Gervais Mill Park	18			x				x				








Nadeau Wildlife Area	4.96							x	x			
Pioneer Park	33	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	
Rondeau Park	2.75		x	x				x	x			
Spooner Park	25	x		x				x	x		x	
Thunderbay/Westwinds Park	8		x	x				x	x			
Veteran's Memorial	-			x				x				
Water Works Row	-			x								

Appendix A3-5.

Inver Grove Heights Parks and Amenities	Acres			 	Grills		Nature Areas	Tables/ Shelters	Play- grounds			Warming House
Arbor Pointe Park	4			x					x			
Broadmoor Park	6.46			x				x	x			
Community Center Park	-			x				x	x			
Dehrer Park	1.5											
Ernster Park	5	x	x	x				x	x			
Groveland Park	6	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x
Harmon Park Reserve	43			x			x					
Heritage Village Park and Off-Leash Dog Park	11											
Inver Wood Golf Course	275											
Lions Park	4				x			x	x			
Marcott Woods	14.5											
Marianna Ranch	64			x								
McGroarty Park	4			x								
North Valley Park	58	x		x	x			x				
Oakwood Park	15	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Old City Hall Park	1											
Rich Valley Athletic Complex	-	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	

River Front Park	2			x			x				
River Heights Park	8		x	x			x				
Salem Hills	41	x	x	x				x		x	
Seilds Lake	26			x				x			
Slimley Island Park	3			x			x				
Skyview Park	8	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Sleepy Hollow Park	10		x	x				x			
South Valley Park	93	x		x	x	x	x	x			
Southern Lakes Park	4	x		x				x			
Swing Bridge Park	18			x	x		x				
Veterans Memorial Community Center	-			x			x	x			
Woodland Preserve Park	10			x							

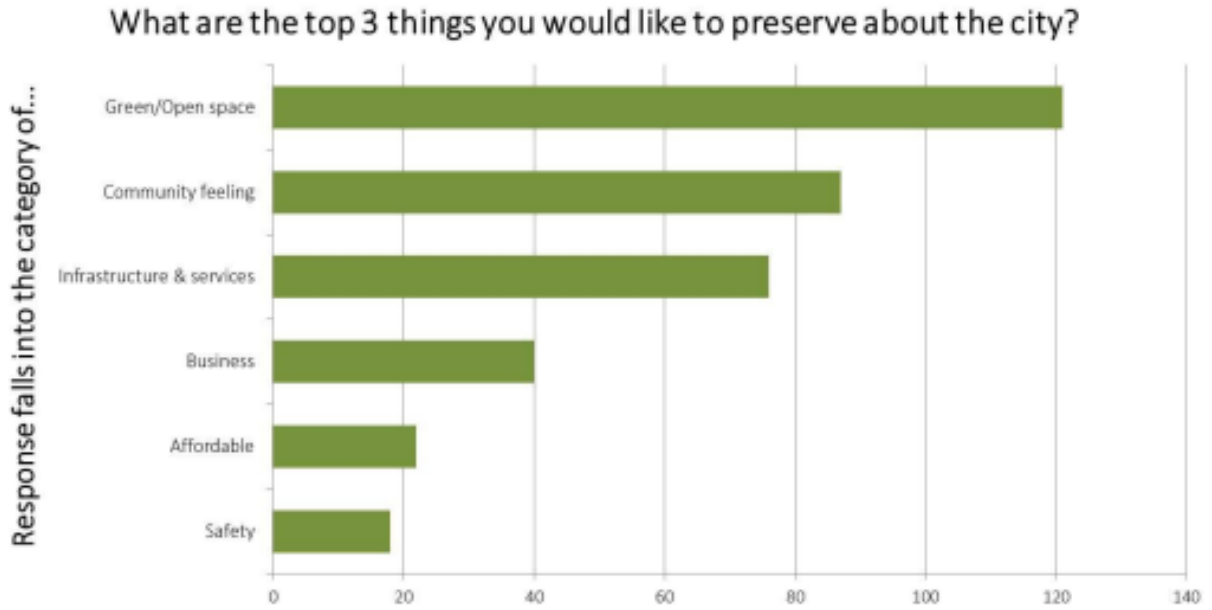
Appendix A3-6.

Roseville Parks and Amenities	Acres			 	Grills		Nature Areas	Tables/ Shelters	Play- grounds			Warming House
Acorn Park	44.6	x	x	x		x			x		x	
Applewood Park	2.9		x	x				x	x			
Autumn Grove Park	6.5	x				x			x	x	x	
Bruce Russell Park	2	x	x						x		x	
Central Park - Arboretum	19			x								
Central Park - Dale West	17	x		x	x				x	x		
Central Park - Lexington	63.5	x		x					x			
Central Park - North	17.5			x								
Central Park - Vic Ballfields	37.5	x		x	x			x	x			
Central Park - Victoria West	2.3			x					x		x	
Concordia Park	4.8	x										
Cottontail Park	6.5			x								

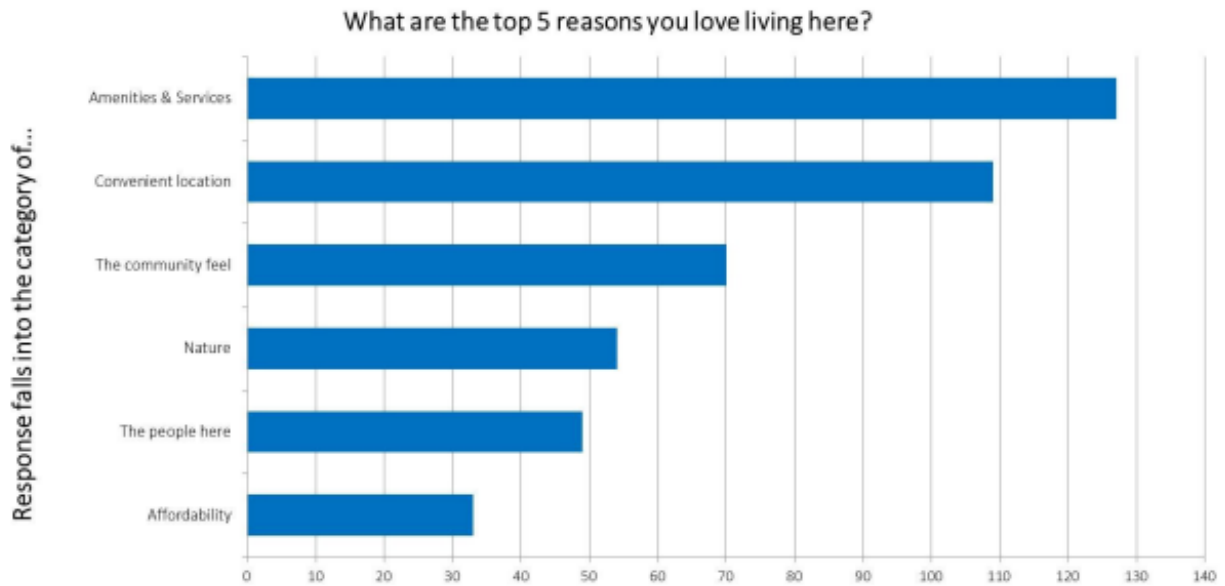
Evergreen Park	3.9	x		x					x		x	
Howard Johnson Park	9.6	x	x	x					x	x	x	
Keller Mayflower Park	2.3											
Ladyslipper Park	17.5											
Langton Lake Park	62.7	x		x					x	x		
Lexington Park	8.2	x	x	x		x			x	x		
Mapleview Park	3.3	x		x		x			x	x		
Materion Park	8.5			x					x			
Midland Gardens Park	0.6			x			x		x			
Oasis Park	15.4	x	x	x					x			
Owasso Ballfields	4.4	x										
Owasso Hills Park	8.5		x	x					x			
Pioneer Park	13.5	x	x	x					x			
Pocahontas Park	5.7	x							x	x	x	
Reservoir Woods Park	16.7			x		x						
Rosebrook Park	8.3			x					x	x	x	
Sandcastle Park	3.4	x	x	x		x			x		x	
Tamarack Park	6.9	x		x					x			
Unity Park	0.8			x					x			
Valley Park	10.6	x	x	x					x	x		
Veterans Park	3.6	x	x						x	x		
Villa Park	33.1	x		x		x			x			
Willow Pond	14.9			x								
Woodhill Park	1.3											

Appendix B. 2017 Survey Questions

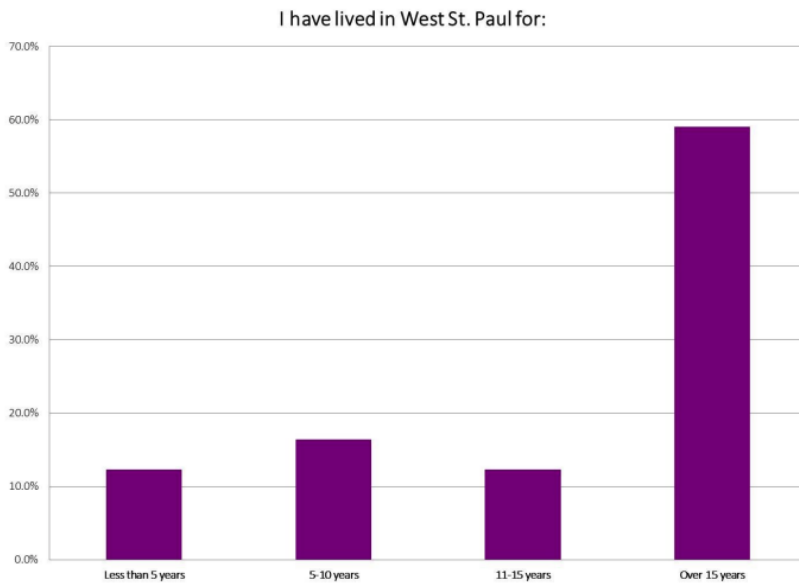
Question 3: What are the top 3 things you would like to preserve about the city?



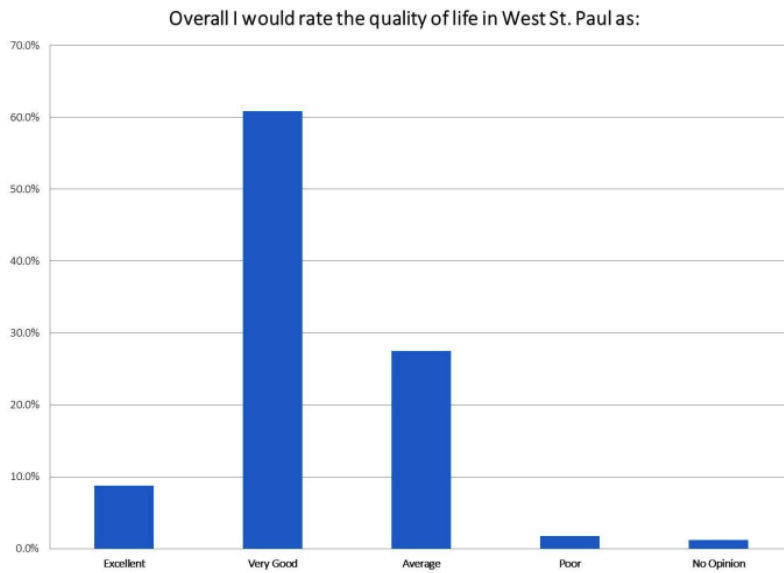
Question 5: What are the top five reasons you love living here?



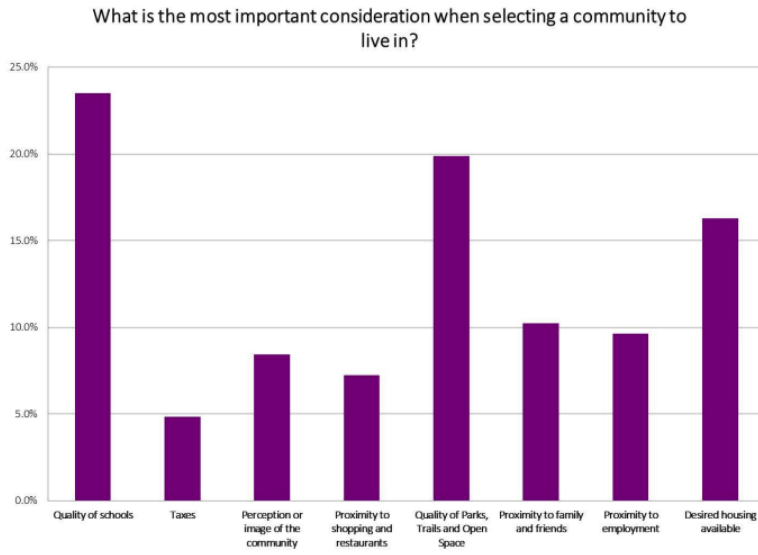
Question 9: I have lived in West St. Paul for _____.



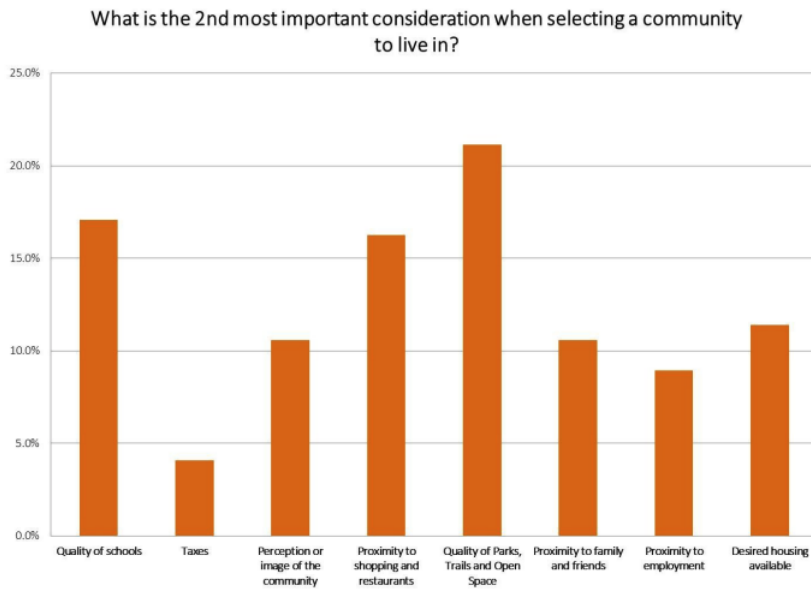
Question 10: Overall I would rate the quality of life in West St. Paul as _____.



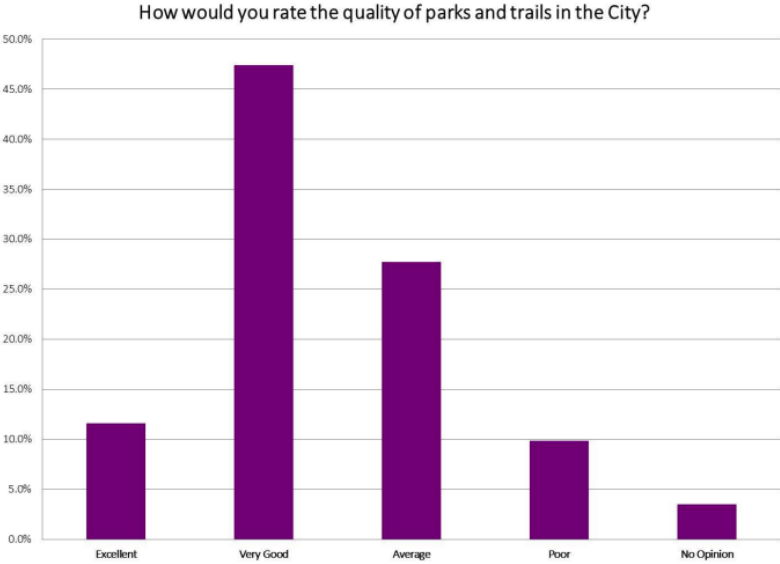
Question 14: What is the most important consideration when selecting a community to live in?



Question 15: What is the 2nd most important consideration when selecting a community to live in?



Question 23: How would you rate the quality of the parks and trails in the city?



Appendix D. 2021 Park Use Survey

C-1. Survey

1. Overall how would you rate the condition of West St. Paul's park system?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Fair
 - d. Poor
2. Do you feel as if there is close, easy, and safe access to a city park where you live?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Open Ended Response
3. How often do you visit the parks of West St. Paul?
 - a. Daily
 - b. Weekly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Less than once a month
 - e. Open Ended Response
4. What parks in our city do you visit the most?
5. What do you like most about the city's park system?
6. Which recreational opportunities do you most enjoy doing at city parks?
7. Are there any recreational opportunities you would like to see added to the city's park system? If yes, what?
8. How long do you typically spend at a park on any given visit?
 - a. Less than 30 minutes
 - b. 30 to 60 minutes
 - c. More than 60 minutes
9. Have you ever participated in a public event or program hosted by the city at one of our parks?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
10. Would you be willing to attend a public program at a park in West St. Paul?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe
11. Are there any public programs you would like to see added into our parks and recreation department? If so, what?
12. What are some barriers that would keep you from participating in public programs in a park?
13. If you identified barriers in the previous question, what can be done to remove them?
14. Do any members of your household have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe

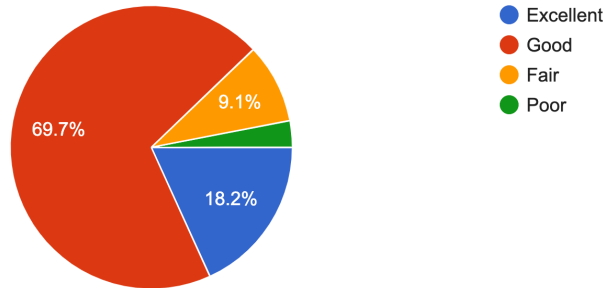
15. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, what type of accommodation is needed to serve people with disabilities in your family?
16. How would members of your household prefer to receive information about park programs and services?
 - a. City newsletter
 - b. City Facebook page
 - c. Mailings
 - d. Email and social media
 - e. Electronic city newsletter
 - f. The West St. Paul Reader
 - g. All of the above
17. What is the one thing you value the most about our park system?

D-2. 2021 Survey Responses

Question 1:

Overall how would you rate the condition of West St. Paul's park system?

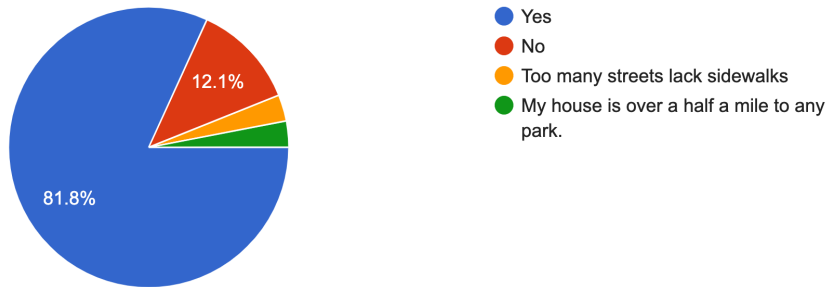
33 responses



Question 2:

Do you feel as if there is close, easy and safe access to a city park where you live?

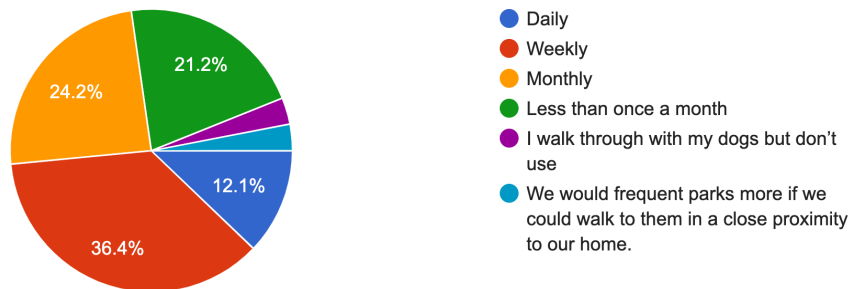
33 responses



Question 3:

How often do you visit the parks of West St. Paul?

33 responses



Question 4: What park do you visit most in your city?

Albert	1	Haskell	2
Dodd	3	Kennedy	1
Emerson		Marthaler	2
Garlough	7	Mud Lake	2
Harmon	11	Oakdale	1
Orme		Swimming Pool Park	1
Southview		Sports Complex	1
Weschcke	5		

Question 5: What do you like most about the city's park system?

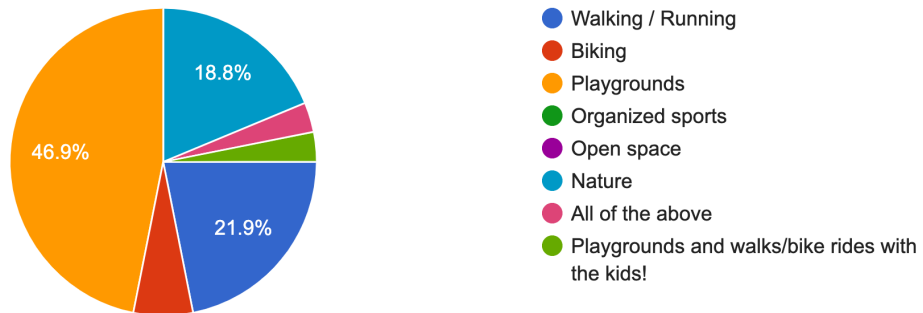
I love how many there are, and my son is a huge fan of the splash pad.
Upgrades, access via trails
They are close
Multiple options for use
Lots of parks, clean and safe, good playgrounds. The Harmon splash pad is, of course, a huge plus in a class by itself.
Splash pad
Accessibility
Kept up, safe, clean, fun neighbors!
Variety
Trails, playgrounds, nice green space
Playgrounds
I like that they are improving parks
Take kids to playgrounds
There are many close parks almost throughout the city. There is increasingly trails to and from the park.
Green space and a place for public to use
We'll maintained, playgrounds are nice/ newer
The variety. However, because of my location I spend way more time in Mendota parks vs WSP.

I love the new bike trail. Love the splash pad. Another one would be great! They are so accessible for everyone.
Accessibility and paths
The quantity and maintenance, variety of activities
Lots of them
There's a bunch to choose from so going to a park never feels too busy.
Playgrounds and ice rinks are nice
Water feature, bathrooms lots of seating and shade
Diversity on what they offer
That it's close to my house!
As a parent with very young kids, I love the porta-potty accessibility. There are a handful of good parks and walking/bike trails are improving. Marthaler playground location is not ideal, and is small for the potential volume of use, and is not toddler friendly

Question 6:

Which recreational opportunities do you most enjoy doing at city parks?

32 responses



Question 7: Are there any recreational opportunities you would like to see added to the city's park system? If yes, what?

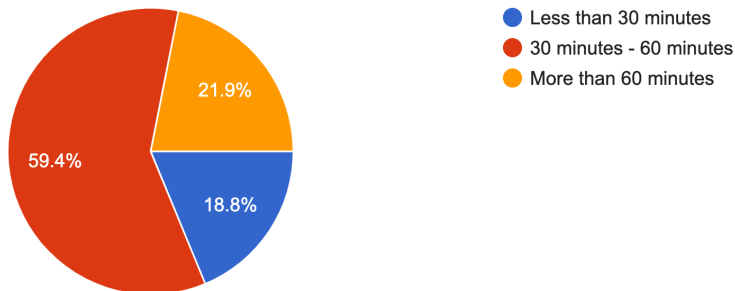
No.
Community center with indoor pool
Skate park, public amphitheater, more paved paths for walking/biking.
A skatepark, more trails
Nature playground

More community ed options like adult sport leagues, things for tiny kids, etc. It's in a good spot and getting better, so I'm looking forward to those improvements.
Dog park ; gardens
Another splash pad. I have kids so playgrounds are also important. And to have community input into the best uses of parks near them.
Pickle ball, zip line or more "older" kid/advanced activities, volleyball
Better swimming pool / water park
I would like more walking paths and gathering spaces
No
I'd like to see more natural spaces, natural resource restoration, trails and plantings. More things that appeal to adults like benches and seating among flowers and trees.
Skateboard/bmx park?

Question 8:

How long do you typically spend at a park on any given visit?

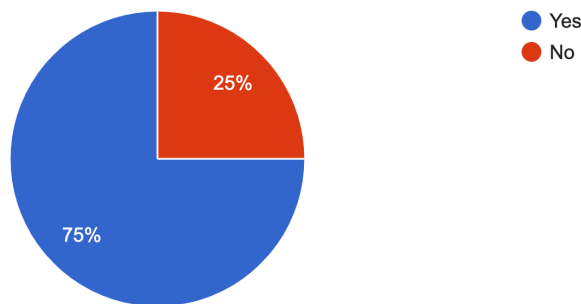
32 responses



Question 9:

Have you ever participated in a public event or program hosted by the city at one of our parks?

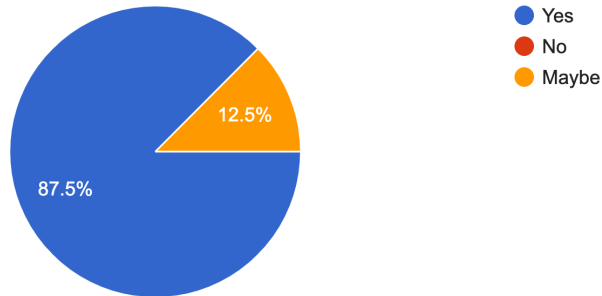
32 responses



Question 10:

Would you be willing to attend a public program at a park in West St. Paul?

32 responses



Question 11: Are there any public programs you would like to see added into our parks and recreation department? If so, what?

More events with Dodge Nature Center
Not particularly.
4th of July fireworks!
We enjoyed the Tour de Rec and would like to see more programs like this in the park.
Environmental, community organizing
More trash cans
Tennis
Dog obedience lessons
I like the types of events that have been held.
Skate board park and pickle ball might be fun!
No
Adult Pond hockey, recreational soccer and Broomball
More options for little kids, Pre-K and lower/early elementary age. More Pre-K options.

Question 12: What are some barriers that would keep you from participating in public programs in a park?

Cleanliness, the splash pad is filled with people smoking and the bathrooms are dirty
No

None. There just hasn't been a program compelling enough to get me to make time for it.
More benches as I have difficulty walking and closer parking
None
Schedule is the only one that comes to mind
If they were only held during work/school hours.
Overwhelmed by parking when it's a big event
Not walkable
Timing
The time of day when things are offered as to make them accessible to everyone.
I don't have kids. Most are kid focused (which I'm completely ok with)
Timing of event, sometimes I feel like I don't find out about them in time to fit them into the schedule
Not being informed
Work schedule
Disabled Child
Crowds, parking, date/time, not knowing if we can get dinner there or not
Gangs unless they are not causing problems
COVID
Age and inclination
Time of day if it were during work hours
Currently COVID. Generally, many Pre-K options are only available during the mornings during the week, which don't work for the reg. full time week employees. Or they're only available as drop off activities, which our children are not comfortable with (strangers. We'd prefer to be able to watch the activity).

Question 13: If you identified barriers in the previous question, what can be done to remove them?

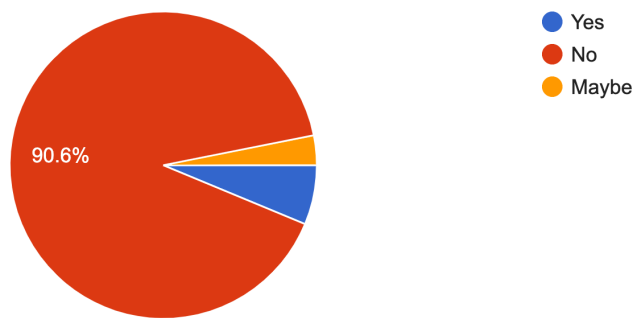
No smoking in local parks for children
N/A
More scattered parking closer to facilities
Larger variety of times programs are available.
People directing traffic?

Schedule
City can communicate them early and often in a variety of methods
More communication
More weekend programming
Parks more disability friendly
More police involvement and/or social workers present.
Vaccinations
Nothing
Schedule on weekends and evenings
Require masks and vaccinations and/or negative testing for all

Question 14:

Do any members of your household have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

32 responses



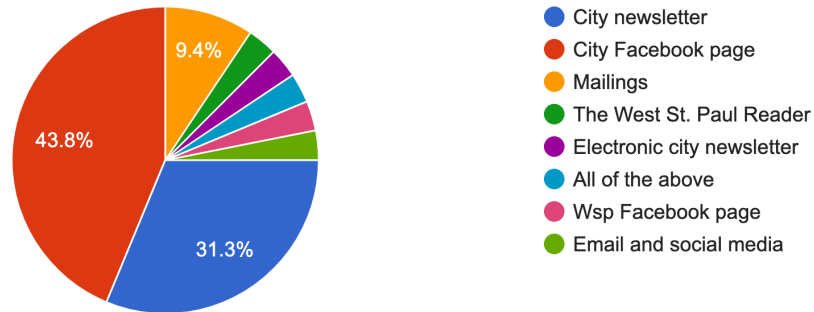
Question 15: If you answered “yes” to the previous question, what type of accommodation is needed to serve people with disabilities in your family?

N/A
More areas with railings
Paved/walkable
Sensory, quiet spaces, not so many people

Question 16:

How would members of your household prefer to receive information about park programs and services?

32 responses



Question 17: What is the one thing you value the most about our park system?

Classes and events for youth
Green space, safety, can take our dog and grandchildren
Availability
The Harmon Park Splash Pad. :)
So many to choose from
Green natural
Maintained equipment, clean/available rest rooms
Space to walk, and enjoy the view
We have a great variety of parks that are well maintained
Not sure, but I like them!
Public outdoor space is great!
Dedicated community and green space throughout the city
of parks and how they're spread out in the city.
Green space
The outdoor space
Having a safe and fun place to take my kids and meet neighbors.
Cleanliness
Keeping open green space in the city

Nature

Just being outside and being in a safe community.

That there are lots of them - most neighborhoods have one nearby. But - many people have to cross a busy street with no cross walks and no sidewalks to get to the closest one for them.

Accessibility

The splash pad

A good balance of park opportunities for most residents.

That we have these Public outdoor spaces!

Quantity? We have a handful of them. That and the county/city seems to really value having the access to parks and seem to always be improving or looking for better

West St. Paul Parks and Rec Residential Survey



1. Overall, how would you rate the condition of West St. Paul's park system?
 - a. Excellent
 - b. Good
 - c. Fair
 - d. Poor
2. Do you feel as if there is close, easy, and safe access to a city park where you live?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Open Ended Response
3. How often do you visit the parks of West St. Paul?
 - a. Daily
 - b. Weekly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Less than once a month
 - e. Open Ended Response
4. What parks in our city do you visit the most?
5. What do you like most about the city's park system?
6. Which recreational opportunities do you most enjoy doing at city parks?
7. Are there any recreational opportunities you would like to see added to the city's park system? If yes, what?
8. How long do you typically spend at a park on any given visit?
 - a. Less than 30 minutes
 - b. 30 to 60 minutes
 - c. More than 60 minutes
9. Have you ever participated in a public event or program hosted by the city at one of our parks?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
10. Would you be willing to attend a public program at a park in West St. Paul?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe
11. Are there any public programs you would like to see added into our parks and recreation department? If so, what?

12. What are some barriers that would keep you from participating in public programs in a park?

13. If you identified barriers in the previous question, what can be done to remove them?

14. Do any members of your household have a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Maybe
15. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, what type of accommodation is needed to serve people with disabilities in your family?

16. How would members of your household prefer to receive information about park programs and services?
 - a. City newsletter
 - b. City Facebook page
 - c. Mailings
 - d. Email and social media
 - e. Electronic city newsletter
 - f. The West St. Paul Reader
 - g. All of the above
17. What is the one thing you value the most about our park system?

Thank you for your time! Your responses help us improve the parks for YOU!
