

# **Pine City Parks & Recreation System Assessment**

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Accepted by City Council on September 4, 2019

# The Importance of Parks & Recreation

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Parks are often the most important and highly prized components of any community. They are sources of civic pride and are essential to the physical, economic, environmental, and social health of cities and their residents. Planning is essential to the cities parks and recreation system in order to continue to meet the needs and wants of the community. It is important to always keep in mind the variety of benefits that parks and recreation add to the community.

## Health

Parks and trails encourage healthy, happy, active lifestyles by providing a venue for physical activity. Whether walking or biking on the city's trails, playing a pickup baseball or softball game, participating in an organized soccer league, or snowshoeing on the trails, parks and trails provide essential places for people to exercise. When people have access to park facilities and programming, they are more likely to be active, therefore improving their physical health. Additionally, exposure to the natural areas that parks and open space provide is a proven link to improved psychological health.



## Cultural and Social

In a time when social media defines the interactions of many people, parks and recreational centers are places to meet face-to-face, catch up with family members and friends, and feel like part of the larger community. As a focal point of neighborhoods, parks help develop connections between residents by providing a venue for community-building gatherings, like farmers markets, school trips, festivals, and celebrations. Significant natural features, like Cross Lake, Snake River, and social gathering areas, like Robinson Park, have events for the enjoyment of both present and future community members. A variety of programming can set Pine City aside from its surrounding communities.



# The Importance of Parks & Recreation

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## Property Values

Numerous studies have shown that proximity to parks, trails, and open space has a positive impact on property values. Commercial property values can also be increased with proximity to these amenities, creating potential for these sites to act as catalysts for future growth and development.

## Beautification

Parkways, tree-lined streets, gardens, lush landscaped areas, views of water bodies, stately woods, and public art are all attributes of cities that are beautiful places to live, work, play, and shop. Visitors often remember a place by its access to beautiful natural areas, contributing to a positive community image. All of these attributes contribute to the livability and vitality of a city.

## Nature Value and Environmental

Healthy grasslands, prairies, forests, and wetlands all inherently improve air and water quality while providing habitat and allowing ecosystems to thrive for diverse species of plants and animals. These areas also play a role in stormwater management and protecting the quality and vitality of natural areas. Sound management of natural areas can reduce the prevalence of invasive species and improve environmental outcomes for neighboring properties.



# The Importance of Parks & Recreation

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## Recreational Opportunities

Recreation programs that are offered for all ages and income levels promote lifelong learning opportunities and a supportive community atmosphere. Specific programs can provide enjoyable learning activities for youth, keep seniors active and connected, or educate all community members about the importance of active living and sustainability.

## Overarching Themes

The park system provides a foundation for examining how well the current system fulfills the wants and needs of the community. As part of the inventory process, the project team worked with City Staff to inventory the City's parks and that information is detailed later in this assessment. Throughout the inventory process and the project teams conversations with City Staff several overarching themes and goals emerged varying from maintenance needs, CIP considerations and accessibility for everyone.



# Regional Context

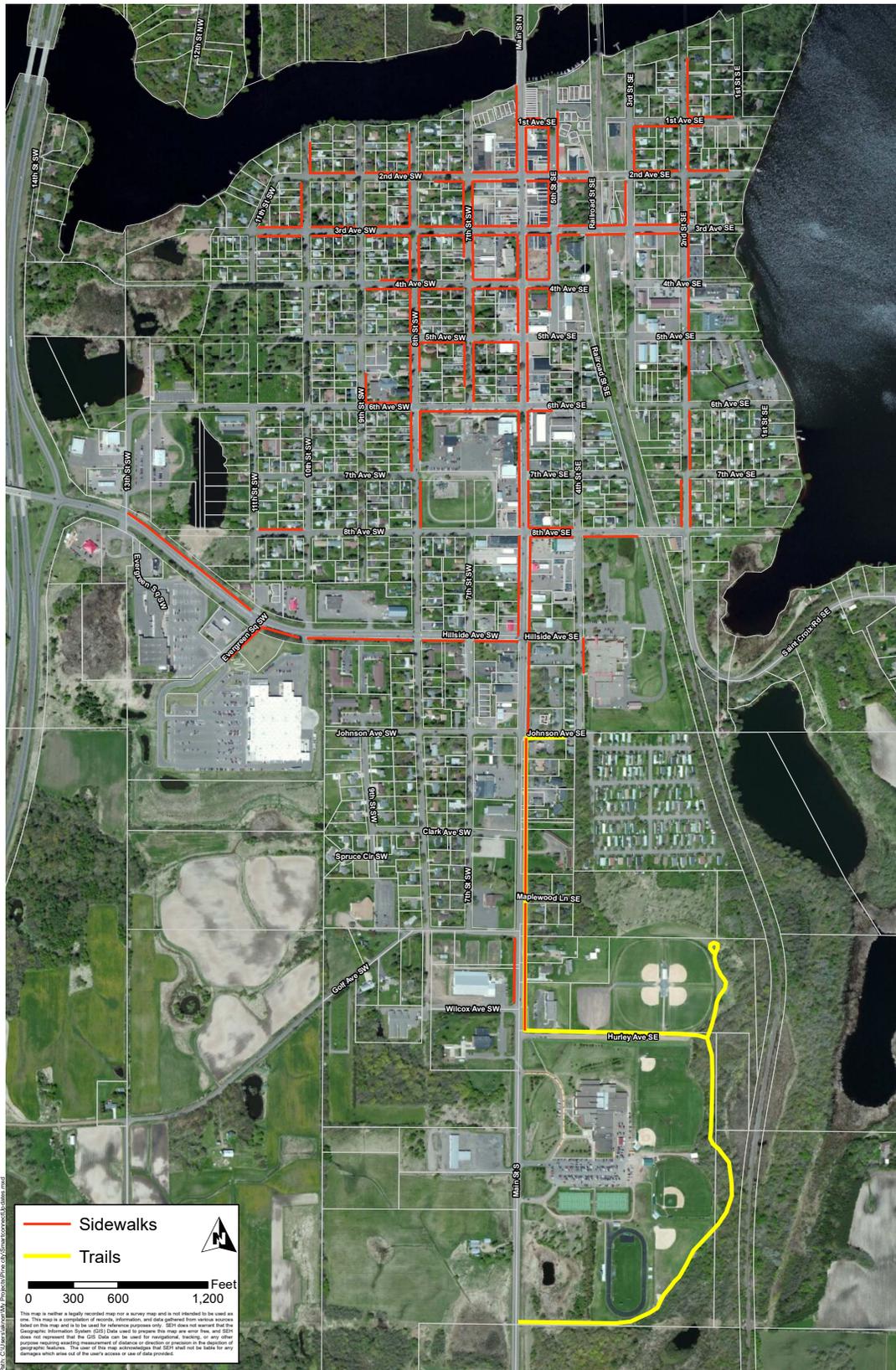
The City of Pine City (pop. 3,127) is the county seat of Pine County Minnesota and is approximately 63 miles north of St. Paul. Fur trading initially attracted seasonal settlers to the area. The City quickly became a logging community and the surrounding lakes made it a resort town. Today, it exists in part as a commuter town to jobs in the Minneapolis–Saint Paul metropolitan area. The city has 12 city parks, which include two (2) undeveloped parks (Cross Lake Preserve Park, Fawn Meadows Park); two (2) passive parks, manicured but lacking recreational equipment (Meadow Ridge Park, Thomas Park); and eight (8) active parks, with playgrounds and/or sports facilities.

Regionally, the City is located along Cross Lake, just east of Pokegama Lake, along the Snake River. There are numerous other lakes and recreation areas in the area around Pine City, shown on the map below. The City enjoys a high quality life for many reasons, one of the larger contributing factors being the easy access to high quality recreational facilities.

Additionally, west of Pine City is the reconstructed Snake River Fur Post (#1 on map below). Established in 1804 by John Sayer of the North West Company, the post operated for several years before it was destroyed by fire. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and operated as a historic site. The post has been reconstructed and furnished to represent the period from the winter of 1804–05. The museum is open in the summer, and costumed guides help interpret the site. The visitor center features exhibits about the post's history, a great room, fireplace and retail store.

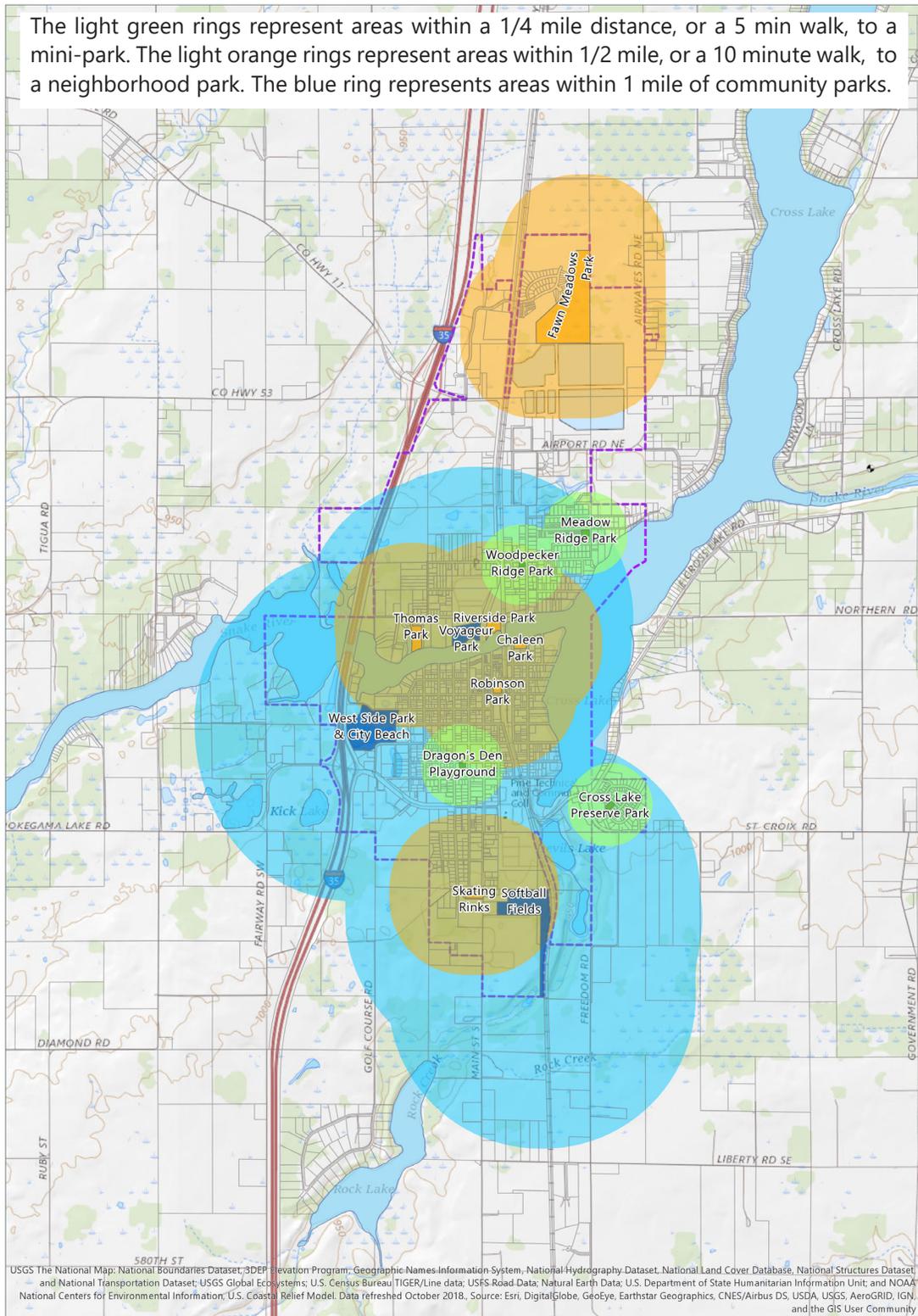


# Trail & Pedestrian Network



# Park Types & Service Areas

The light green rings represent areas within a 1/4 mile distance, or a 5 min walk, to a mini-park. The light orange rings represent areas within 1/2 mile, or a 10 minute walk, to a neighborhood park. The blue ring represents areas within 1 mile of community parks.



USGS The National Map; National Boundaries Dataset; 3DEP Elevation Program; Geographic Names Information System; National Hydrography Dataset; National Land Cover Database; National Structures Dataset; and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information; U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed October 2018. Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Data Sources: City of Pine City

- Mini Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Municipality
- Lakes
- Mini Park Service Area (0.25mi)
- Neighborhood Park Service Area (0.5mi)
- Community Park Service Area (1.0mi)



## PARK TYPES & SERVICE AREAS

PINE CITY PARKS ASSESSMENT

CITY OF PINE CITY  
PINE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

# Park & Open Space Standards

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## Classifications

The definitions used in this assessment are modifications of definitions used by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). They are used to classify the existing recreation system and to guide planning for the future. Neighborhood and community parks are normally provided by municipalities. Larger recreation areas are normally provided by larger units of government or private developers.

### Mini-Parks

Also sometimes referred to as a "Tot Lot" or "Pocket Park" typically located on a small lot, generally a ¼ acre or less, within a residential neighborhood. Often these sites were originally intended for residential use, but due to various factors (e.g. poor lot design, environmental concerns, etc.), have been converted to a park. Mini-parks generally are limited to one facility, such as a playground or fountain, with associated benches.

- Desirable size: 2 acres or less
- Acres / 1,000 population: 0.25 to 0.5 acres
- Service Area: 1/8 to 1/4 mile radius

### Neighborhood Playground

A neighborhood playground mainly serves the active recreational needs of children from 5 to 15 years of age, and it may offer passive recreation opportunities to adults. It is often provided in conjunction with play apparatus; open areas for games, fields for baseball or football, courts for basketball or volleyball; and toilet and shelter facilities. Buffered play areas are desirable. If size permits, an area for more constrained activities, such as quiet games or handicrafts, is advised. Population density is important for determining the space needs and service area of a neighborhood playground. It should be within easy walking distance of intended users.

- Desirable size: 2 to 4 acres
- Acres / 1,000 population: 0.5 to 1.5 acres
- Service Area: 1/4 to 1/3 mile radius

### Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park provides open space for the passive recreation of all age groups in a neighborhood and enhances the overall neighborhood environment. An attractive, natural setting such as a lake, stream or woods is a desirable location for a neighborhood park. In addition to neighborhood playground facilities, neighborhood parks include benches and tables, open areas for sitting and sunning, paths, shelters, drinking fountains, lighting, and toilet facilities. Population density is important in determining the space needs and service area of a neighborhood park. The greater the density, the more space is needed. It should be within easy walking distance of intended users. Playgrounds may also be included in neighborhood parks.

- Desirable size: 3 to 7 acres
- Acres / 1,000 population: 1.0 to 2.0 acres
- Service Area: 1/4 to 1/3 mile radius

# Park & Open Space Standards

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## Community Playfields

The community playfield provides for the active recreational needs of several neighborhoods. It provides more unique facilities than a neighborhood park. Such facilities may include: a tennis complex, swimming pool, multipurpose courts, community center, fields for sporting competition, ice-skating area, sanitary facilities, a playground and landscaping to buffer the playfields from surrounding properties. A community playfield might adjoin a public junior or senior high school. Population size and density are important for determining the space needs of a community playfield. Neighborhood facilities might be included in a community playfield.

- Desirable size: 5 or more acres with 15 to 40 acres being most common
- Acres / 1,000 population: 5.0 to 8.0 acres
- Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius

## Community Parks

The community park is intended to serve the passive recreational needs of a number of neighborhoods or a medium-sized municipality. It may include wooded areas, varied topography, water features, undisturbed natural areas, scenic lookouts, picnic areas, hiking or riding trails, boating and swimming areas, and some area for active recreation on a less formal scale than the community playfield. The park may also be utilized for winter activities. Community park size should be determined by size and density of population. Community parks also serve as neighborhood facilities for the surrounding neighborhood.

- Desirable size: 5 or more acres with 15 to 40 acres being most common
- Acres / 1,000 population: 5.0 to 8.0 acres
- Service Area: 1 to 2 mile radius



## Special Purpose Parks

Special purpose parks may be created by a municipality or by a larger unit of government. These areas are located to take advantage of natural or unusual features of the landscape, or to preserve areas of historic value and provide a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Special purpose parks might be created to provide access to lakes and rivers or to protect ledges and areas with steep slopes. Sites of cultural, archaeological or historic importance might be designated special purpose parks. Certain recreational facilities such as golf courses, trails, boat launching ramps and marinas might be considered special purpose parks.

- Desirable size: Varies - depends on function
- Acres / 1,000 population: Varies – depends on function
- Service Area: Varies - depends on function

# Park & Open Space Standards

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## Reservations and Preserves

Reservations and preserves are usually located outside urban concentrations and include large tracts of land that are undeveloped or have limited development. Such areas are usually provided by county, state, or federal governments and have the primary function of resource protection. Reservations and preserves may be established to conserve forest lands, marshlands, floodplains, wildlife habitats, and other areas having cultural, scenic, or natural values. Normally, reservations and preserves include several hundred acres of undeveloped land, although some improvements may be provided which are incidental to the enjoyment of the natural scenery. Improvements are usually located in one section on the reservation or preserve so that the area remains largely undeveloped. Improvements may include parking areas, interpretive centers, and scenic waysides. Hunting may be a primary recreational activity in such areas. Other recreational uses might include backpacking, camping, trail use, picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, and water sports.

- Desirable size: Varies - depends on function
- Acres / 1,000 population: Varies – depends on function
- Service Area: Varies - depends on function

## Greenbelts

The greenbelt has basically the same characteristics and functions as the reservation or preserve; however, a greenbelt may be used to shape urban development. It may be a buffer between an urban area and surrounding rural areas and may connect parks within an urban area.

- Desirable size: Varies - depends on function
- Acres / 1,000 population: Varies – depends on function
- Service Area: Varies - depends on function



## Waysides, Welcome Centers, and Historic Markers

These are special purpose parks designed to serve motorists. They are important to a tourist industry as a means of providing rest and information. They may include restrooms, picnic areas, shelters, or other facilities needed by motorists. The size and location of special purpose parks depends upon natural features and the functions they are intended to serve. If oriented to motorists, traffic volumes must be considered.

- Desirable size: Varies - depends on function
- Acres / 1,000 population: Varies – depends on function
- Service Area: Varies - depends on function

# Parks & Recreation Inventory

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The following section documents existing park and recreational facilities and activities within the City of Pine City as well as the surrounding area.

## Waterways

### **Pokegama Lake**

This is a 1,536 acre lake containing walleye, northern pike, large mouth bass, crappie, sunfish, catfish, sturgeon, perch and some muskie. Public access is on the south end of the lake off of County Road 7/ Pokegama Lake Road. Public access to the north end of the lake is off of County Road 11/Henriette Road.

### **Snake River**

Public access is from Riverside Park. You can take the Snake River from the access east of Cross Lake, you can canoe, kayak, or tube down to the St. Croix. Since the water level changes constantly, check with locals before attempting this trip. This trip can take from 2-6 hours depending on water levels.

### **Cross Lake**

This is a 938 acre lake with an average depth of 16 feet. Cross Lake contains basically the same species of fish as Pokegama.



# Parks & Recreation Inventory

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## Parks

### ***Robinson Park - Neighborhood Park***

This park is in the heart of downtown and essentially forms the town square, with the old train depot to the east, the newly remodeled and expanded library to the south and many locally owned specialty shops and restaurants lining 5th Street on the west side of the park. Featuring a lovely brick gazebo, it's a popular place for family gatherings and the community's various events. The attached stage is used by picnickers and as a backdrop for musical and performing arts groups that entertain on Friday evenings in the summer. A playground area is a favorite of the kids. Picnic tables, benches and electrical outlets are among the park's other amenities.



### ***West Side Park - Community Park***

This park, located near the freeway on Sixth Avenue SW, offers a swimming beach open to the public during the summer months. The beach is the best place to spend those hot summer days, with lifeguards on duty daily and public indoor restrooms. There are many other things to do at West Side Park; two playground areas, a skateboard park, beach volleyball, basket ball court, picnic shelters and grilling facilities. Paddle boats can be used free of charge and life jackets are provided. The fishing pier is a local favorite of all ages. Bring your horseshoes, the park has eight pits available for the public and league play.



### ***Dragons' Den - Mini-Park***

This non-City owned playground is for children ages 1-12, is located on Pine City Elementary school grounds off downtown's Main Street. This expansive, multi-level structure offers a variety of ramps, bridges, slides, swings, climbers and much more! The playground was constructed in 2007 and is open to the public daily from 7:30am to sundown, except while school is in session hours are 3pm to sundown.

### ***Voyageur Park - Community Park***

This park was built in-part by the Pine City Lions Club and community volunteers, it graces the banks of the Snake River in Pine City. The park's focal point is the famous 35 foot redwood Voyageur statue, carved by local area craftsman Dennis Roghair. A beautiful gazebo and second picnic shelter with tables and grills borders the Snake River. A fishing dock rests along the river bank for the public to use. Walking paths and a nature pond make this an ideal facility for outdoors enthusiasts. The park has outdoor bathroom facilities and is fully accessible to persons with disabilities. In 2009, the City added a playground area, and new in 2010 is a 9 hole, par 3, disk golf course.



# Parks & Recreation Inventory

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## ***Challeen Park - Neighborhood Park***

This park is on the south bank of the Snake River at the end of 3rd Street SE. There is a large fishing pier and picnic areas for your enjoyment, as well as a community garden for anyone wishing to participate.

## ***Hilltop Park***

This park is located north of the Pine City Civic center. There are three (3) ice rinks that operate during the winter season, a warming house and bathrooms. Additionally, flag football/soccer fields are maintained at Hilltop Park.

## ***Riverside Park***

This park is on the north bank of the Snake River just off of Main St./Hwy 61. This park provides public access to the Snake River and Cross Lake. Lake access is operated by the MnDNR and offers a boat ramp and park shelter.

## ***Softball Fields - Community Park***

This park sits just north of the Pine City High School off of Main St./Hwy 61. This community park offers four (4) ballfields, trail access, and restrooms. Many community leagues utilize the facilities and please contact the City of Pine City for reservations.

## ***Fawn Meadows Park - Neighborhood Park***

This park is located at the northern edge of the City just off of Main St./Hwy 61. This neighborhood park is nature base with a bird watching platform overlooking an undeveloped wetland and bird habitat.

## ***Thomas Park - Neighborhood Park***

This park is on the north bank of the Snake River of 1st Ave. NW. This park is nature based with a wooded walking trail to the river.

## ***Cross Lake Preserve Park - Mini-Park***

This park is located just south of Cross Lake within the Cross Lake Development. There are plans to install swings, a playground, a basketball court and a picnic area in this currently undeveloped park.

## ***Woodpecker Ridge Park - Mini-Park***

This park is located at 5th Ave. NE and 2nd St. NE. This mini-park offers a quiet playground and plenty of open space to play kickball.

## ***Meadow Ridge Park - Mini-Park***

This park is located at 7th Ave. NE and Lake St. NE. This mini-park offers a reflection area overlooking a pond.



# Parks & Recreation Inventory

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## Golf

### ***Pine City Country Club:***

Located at 10413 Golf Course Road SW, this club offers a nine-hole course, driving range, and clubhouse and is open to the public. Grill and bar along with banquet facilities are available as well. 10413 Golf Course Road SW.

### ***Pokegama Lake Golf Course***

Located four miles west of Pine City on County Road 11 at Woischke's Pokegama Lake RV Park. This is a nine-hole course and is open to the public.



## Snowmobile

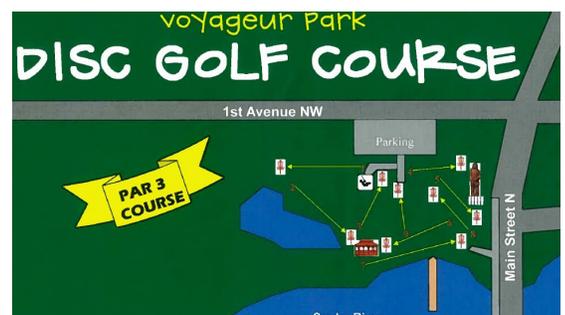
Snowmobile enthusiasts will find plenty to do in the Pine City area. With 460 miles of marked and groomed trails within its boundaries and 1,200 in adjoining areas, Pine County is well connected for winter fun.

The Pine City/Hinckley Flames maintain the local trails and information about the club and trail conditions can be found at [www.flamessnowmobileclub.com](http://www.flamessnowmobileclub.com). For additional trail information, visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website. Trail maps are also available at the Voyageur Bottle Shop, Chamber of Commerce offices, and the Pine County License Center.



## Disc Golf

Voyageur Park is home to a nine (9) hole Par 3 disc golf course that is free to play. The course provides disc golfers a great round with beautiful views of downtown Pine City along the scenic Snake River.



## All Terrain Vehicles

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) enthusiasts may use the designated trails in the Chengwatana State Forest, located just a few minutes northeast of Pine City. Interested persons may visit the Northern Pine Riders website: <http://northernpineriders.com>



# Parks & Recreation Inventory

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## Pine City Civic Center

The Pine City Civic Center is located at the south end of town at 1225 Main Street S. Home of the Pine City youth and high school hockey, the indoor arena and recreational skating facility is busy during the cold weather months. Open skating is offered during designated hours. A Broom ball league plays on Sunday evenings. The facility may be leased for community events during the off season.



## Hilltop Park Ice Rinks

During the winter months the outdoor Skating Rinks, located north of the Civic Center building, are open daily after school and all day on non-school days. There are two boarded rinks for organized and recreation hockey activities and one open rink for recreational use. The lighted skating rinks offer nighttime skating for people of all ages, with outdoor bathroom facilities and a warming house. There is a first aid certified attendant on duty seven days a week. The park offers flag football and soccer during spring, summer and fall.



## Pine City Summer Recreation Programs

The Summer Recreation program begins at the end of the school year and offers children ages 4-18 a variety of sporting experiences; including soccer, tennis, softball, track, golf, t-ball, softball, and baseball which are facilitated throughout Pine City. For more information visit the Pine City Summer Recreation website at <http://pcsummerrec.weebly.com/>.

## Pine Center for the Arts - Summer Arts

The Summer Arts Program is an opportunity for students to spend a few hours each week learning to explore different artistic mediums. Open to students that have completed Grades K-12. Priority placement is given to students in the Pine City School District as 100% of the funding for this free program has been contributed by businesses & organizations in this region. For more information visit the Pine Center for the Arts website at: <https://www.pinecenter.org/>.



# Parks & Recreation Inventory

PINE CITY, MN - PARK FACILITIES						
Park	Cross Lake Preserve Park	Fawn Meadows Park	Meadow Ridge Park	Thomas Park	Challeen Park	City Ball Fields
Type	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Passive	Passive	Active	Active
Problems	Preserved outlot	Land Locked (outlot)		Church Donation (restriction)	Problems w/ illegal actives	
Notes		Bird Watching (street completion is a must)	Elderly Housing Development		Fishing Piers and Community Garden (Lift Station)	Purchased in 2010 for \$132,000 next to City high school
Size (Acres)	?	?	?	?	0.70 and 1.03	25.84
PID#	426277000	426086000	425952000	425902000 425901000 425900000 425899000	(420216000 Park) (425004000 Gardens)	420001001
Sign						
Zoning						
Ownership	City of Pine City	City of Pine City	City of Pine City	City of Pine City	City of Pine City	City of Pine City
Address	?	?	490 7TH AVE NE	?	10 3RD ST SE	?
Reservable Facilities						
Water					Water Spigot	Water
Restroom					Portapotty	Bathrooms (and Women's showers)
ADA Bathroom						Not ADA Bathroom
Kitchen/Prep Space						
Electricity						Electricity
Air Conditioned						
Heated						
Fireplace						
Open Air						
Screened Enclosure						
Concessions						1 Concession Stand
Picnic Tables			2 Picnic Tables		4 Picnic Tables	6 Picnic Tables
Shelters					1 Owned by Master Gardeners	1 Picnic Shelter
Grills						No Grills
Playground Equipment						Tot Playground
Natural Playscape						
Baseball/Softball						4 Softball
Tennis						
Football						
Soccer						
Ice Skating/Hockey						
Volleyball						
Basketball						
Horseshoes						
Shuffleboard						
Skate Park						
Disc Golf						
Hiking				Trails		Hiking trail on adjacent parcel
Cross Country Skiing						
Off-Street Multi-Use Paved Trail						
Unpaved Multi-Use Trails						
Spray Park/Splash pad						
Water front				inlet waterway	Water Front	
Swimming						
Boat Ramp/ Docks					1 Fishing Dock	
Scenic Overlook Natural Areas						
Interpretive/Education						
Band Shell						
Landscaping/ Flowers					Community Gardens	
Monument/ Memorial						
Benches			1 Bench			
Parking	No Parking	No Parking	On Street Parking	No Parking	Small Turnaround/ Paved lot	Gravel parking on Hurley Ave
Trash Cans					1 Trash	
Bike Rack						

## FACILITIES AND AMMENITIES

(4)	Hilltop (Ice rinks 3)	Robinson	Voyageur & Riverside	West Side	Woodpecker Ridge/ Lions Park	Dragon's Den Playground Elementary School
	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active
	Parcel and Boundry ?s	Parcel and Boundry ?s	Boundry and Ownership ?s Handshake deal parking	Parcel and Boundry ?s		
01 Pine bl		Art in the Park (summer Fri) Market in the Park & Musical groups and other events	Historical Monument Disc golf record set	Swimming Beach but listed as cemetery		Great Playground
	19.11 and 0.79	?	?	2.75 and 1.68 and 5.07	?	2.24
	(420006000 Rinks and Cemetery) (420008001 warming house)	425318001 (Fire and library)	420201000 425446003 425446000 (425446001 VFW) 425446002	(425504000 Parking and green space) (420219000 (Beach) 420196002 (fishing)	425639000	425554000
	City Welcome Sign		Community Welcome Sign			
y	City of Pine City	City of Pine City	Pine County Ag Society & City	City of Pine City	City of Pine City	?
	1205 MAIN ST S	?	?	1305 6TH AVE SW	?	?
		Water/ 1 Drinking Fountian		Water		
d er) om	Portapotty	Portapotty	Portapotty	Bathroom Not ADA Bathroom	Portapotty	
	Electricity	Electricity		Electricity		
nd				1 Concession Stand		
	3 Picnic Tables	10 Picnic Tables	15 Picnic Tables	17 Picnic Table		
r	1 Warming House	1 Gazebo 1 Grill	2 Picnic Shelters 4 Grills	3 Picnic Shelters No Grills	Fence	
d		1 Swing Set	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
	2 Flag Football rinks 2 inside rink boards (3??) 2 rinks w/boards			2 Volleyball 1/2 Court Basketball 8 Horseshoe Pits		
				Skate Park		
			Disc Golf			
acent						
			Water Front	Water Front Beach and Life Guards		
			1 Dock Lookout	2 Docks/ 1 Fishing Pier		
		1 Band Shell				
			Historical Monumnet			
	4 Benches	14 Benches	3 Benches	4 Benches		2 Benches
off	Gravel and paved Parking	On Street Parking	Parking agreement?	Paved parking lot (56)	No parking (problem)	Parking at school
	3 Trash	6 Trash/ 1 Dog	4 Trash	7 Trash/ 1 smoking	1 Trash	
		1 Bike Rack				1 Bike Rack

# Parks & Recreation Department Evaluation

The "NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) Park Metrics are the most comprehensive source of data standards and insights for park and recreation agencies." These metrics are used to help evaluate Pine City's Parks Department operations. The summary below compared the Pine City with other parks departments that reported with populations between 2,000 - 5,000 across the nation.

Agency Summary Effectiveness Ratios	Reporting Communities	Communities 2K - 5K in pop.	
	#	Median	Pine City
Operating expenditures per capita	12	\$96	\$55
Revenue per capita	11	\$21	\$4
Total revenue to total operating expenditures	11	22%	7%
Operating expenditures per acre of parkland	8	\$2,503	\$1,602
Operating expenditures per FTE	12	\$109,115	\$24,073
FTE's per 10,000 population	10	10	23
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	8	20.9	34.1
Number of residents per park	8	994.3	240.5
Number of acres per park	8	9	8.2

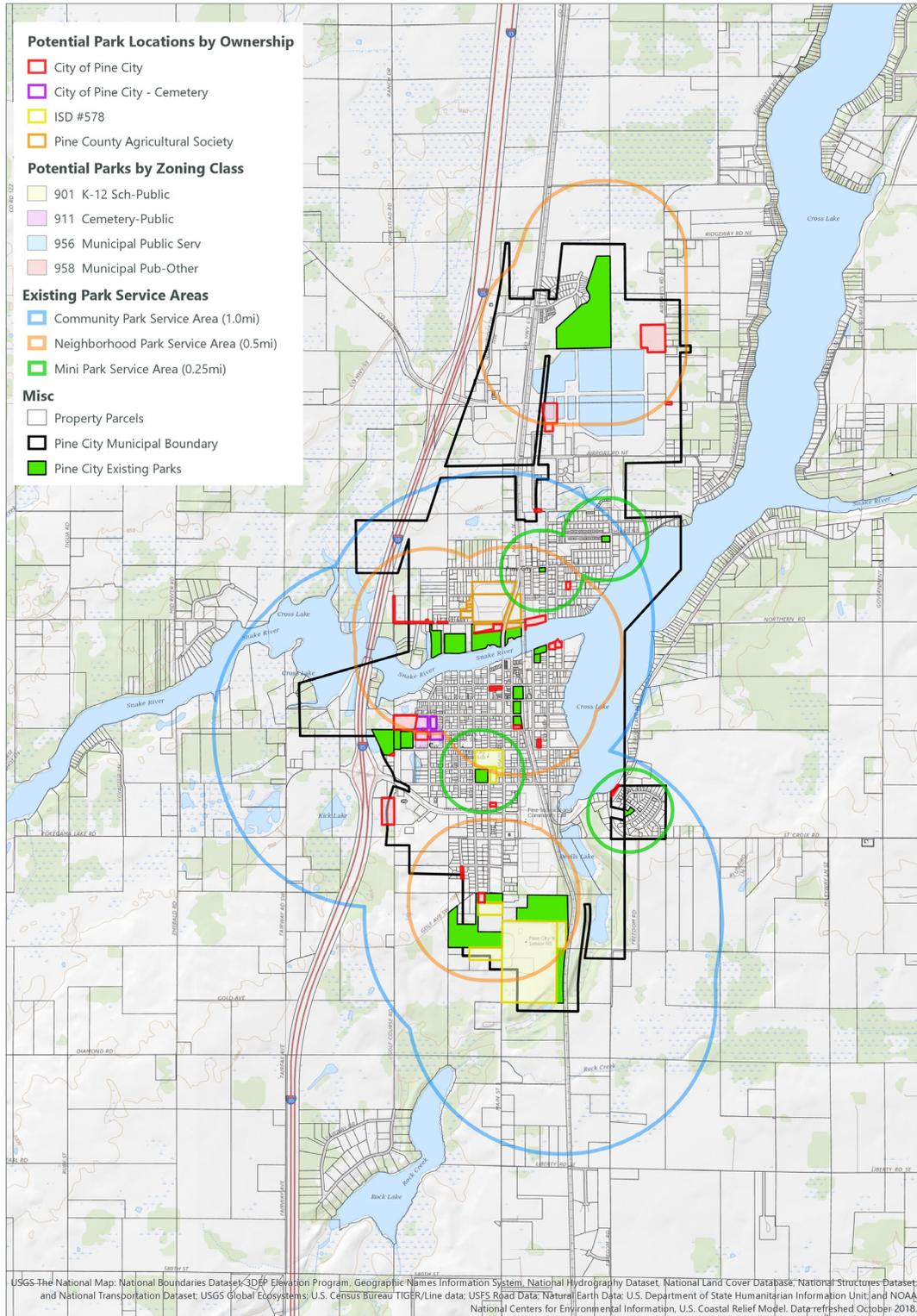
Pine City Parks Department Benchmarks	
Pine City Pop.	3,127 (2010 Census)
Pine City Total Parkland (Acres)	106.71 acres (estimated)
Number of Parks (2019)	13
Parks Department Total FTE	7.1 (average)
Annual Revenue (Avg. of 2017+2018)	\$12,310
Operating Expenditures (Avg. of 2017+2018)	\$170,917

## Department Evaluation Findings

The recommendations below are based on the findings from the NRPA Park Metrics community comparison:

- The City of Pine City has an adequate number of parks and more acres of parks per 1,000 than surveyed communities.
- Based on the info above and current park service areas new parks or parkland is not required unless there is significant population growth and/or residential growth outside of the current park service areas; additional growth outside services areas could require additional neighborhood parks.
- Pine City's revenue per capita, expenditures per capita, expenditures per acre of parkland, and expenditures per full-time equivalents are all less than comparable surveyed communities.
- There may be opportunities to capture additional revenue from the parks facilities or programs and increase the operating expenditures - balanced increases are likely needed.
- The number of full-time equivalents per 10,000 residents in Pine City is more than twice the average reported by surveyed communities yet the expenditures per full-time equivalents in Pine City is about 18% of than the average reported.
- Seasonal beach staffing adds a considerable number of part-time employees, potentially skewing the City's full-time equivalent calculation.
- The City does not have any full-time dedicated Park staff.
- The City might consider hiring a full-time staff member - the increased cost for management should be linked with a goal of increasing revenue.

# Future Parks & Recreation Opportunities



Data Sources:  
 Parks - City of Pine City and Pine Co GIS  
 Potential Parks - Parcel Analysis of  
 04/2019 Pine Co Parcels



## POTENTIAL PARK LOCATIONS

PINE CITY PARKS ASSESSMENT

CITY OF PINE CITY  
 PINE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

# Vision & Assessment Objective

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## Vision

During this planning effort, the City of Pine City has been working to complete an update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. While forecasting growth in Pine City and the region surrounding the community stakeholder have focused on improving the quality of life for residents and visitors. Under that direction, the City identified a need to improve its parks and recreation offerings for current and future residents. There some actives in the works and others brought to light through the plan update.

Overall, the City's vision is to offer fun activities and programs for citizens of all ages. Diversifying recreation amenities and improving those that already exist to meet community needs is another important priority. Critically important to successful implementation of the City's plans is that the recommendations are attainable and align with the capacity of the Parks and Recreation Department as well as other effected city departments, but first and foremost represent the voice of the community.

## Assessment Objective

Develop a comprehensive, usable, living document which outlines the current assets and improvements of the park system and creates a path for improvement and growth of parks and recreational offerings to improve the overall quality of life across the community.

# Goals

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**Goal:** A goal is a long-term target that states what the community wants to accomplish. Written in general terms, the statement offers a desired condition.

- Goal 1** Provide a framework for on-going, short-term, and long-term improvements and growth opportunities for existing and future parks, open space and trails.
- Goal 2** Develop a plan for future expansion of park facilities to serve under-served areas of the community with the assistance of City, Parks Board, and stakeholders.
- Goal 3** Provide new opportunities to increase and broaden park and recreation users.
- Goal 4** Improve access and inclusiveness of equipment within Pine City parks and their amenities.



# Potential Funding Sources

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There are five common areas of funding available to help fund park and recreation improvements:

- **General Municipal Funding** – It is assumed that some general municipal funds/borrowing will be required to assist with the completion of projects or as a matching source for state or federal grants.
- **Special Assessments** – Particular projects that benefit individual properties (e.g. sidewalk/trail installations) could be funded through special assessments whereby the City recoups initial design and construction costs through increased real estate taxes on those properties for a set period of time.
- **Private Donations** – Some improvements could be partially or fully funded through private donations or public fundraising.
- **State and Federal Grants** – There are many different state or federal grants that may be able to offset the costs of some of the identified projects. Only those programs most likely to award funding to Hiawatha are listed.
- **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)** – Tax increment financing (TIF) is a program where the additional taxes generated from development in a TIF district would go towards specified public improvements in a community. This program helps waylay the impacts of new development on a community while improving the attractiveness of the City.



# Action Plan

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The Action Plan is designed as a guide to help the Pine City Parks and Recreation Department, along with City officials and community leaders prioritize opportunities and address issues within the City of Pine City and the surrounding area as it relates to parks and recreation. The desired vision for Pine City cannot be created overnight. However, by incrementally implementing and at least annually adjusting the recommendations within this Action Plan, Pine City can achieve the desired outcomes set forth in this assessment.

## Funding and Other Resources Key

**This list of acronyms/abbreviations below corresponds to in the following Funding and Other Resources cells in the following Action Plan. Hyper-links have been included in the acronyms/abbreviations where applicable.**

- City - General Fund, Special Funds, TIF or Assessments
- County - General Fund, Special Assessments, TIF
- HC - Hire Consultant
- PO - Property Owner by Special Assessment
- TIF - Tax Increment Finance
- [PCEDA - Pine City Economic Development Authority](#)
- [MNDOT - Minnesota Department of Transportation](#)
- [SRTS - Safe Routes to School](#)
- [SALT - State Aid for Local Transportation](#)
- [MNDNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [GMRPTC - Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission](#)
- [PTF - Parks & Trails Fund \(Minnesota Legacy\)](#)
- [OHF - Outdoor Heritage Fund \(Minnesota Legacy\)](#)
- [ACF - Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund \(Minnesota Legacy\)](#)
- [CWF - Clean Water Fund \(Minnesota Legacy\)](#)
- [ENRTF - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \(Minnesota Legacy\)](#)
- [LAWCON - Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)
- [LTCP - Local Trail Connections Program](#)
- [TAG - Transportation Alternatives Grants](#)
- [HSIP - MNDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program](#)

<b>Action Plan Priority Color</b>	<b>Priority</b>
	High
	Medium
	On-Going

# Action Plan

	Strategy/Action
Parks	1.a Develop Concept for Improvements to Challeen Park
	1.b Begin Design of Improvements to Challeen Park (after 1. a is completed)
	1.c Make Designed Improvements to Challeen Park (Sync with 3.g)
	1.d Develop a Master Plan Cross Lake Preserve Park
	1.e Make Designed Improvements to Cross Lake Preserve Park (Sync with 3.g)
Trails and Access	2.a Develop an Active Transportation Plan to Review Trail and Pedestrian Network Connection Needs (Especially to/from Recreation Facilities) and Develop Recommended Improvements
	2.b Pursue Recommended Improvements to Trails and Pedestrian Network (Sync with 3.g)
	2.c
	2.d
	2.e

	Priority			Potential Non-city Funding	Other Resources
	2019-2021	2022-2029	On Going		
	Red	Grey	Grey	Light Red	Light Red
	Red	Grey	Grey	White	White
	Grey	Red	Grey	Light Red	Light Red
	Grey	Yellow	Grey	White	White
	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Light Red	Light Red
	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Grey	Light Grey
	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	White
	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Blue	Light Blue
	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	White
	Grey	Grey	Grey	Light Blue	Light Blue

# Action Plan

## Strategy/Action

	Strategy/Action
<b>Parks and Recreation Department</b>	3.a Order and Install New Signage for Park Facilities
	3.b Promote awareness of local resources. Consider a marketing campaign to help communicate Pine City Parks and Recreation Department events, activities and announcements.
	3.c Consider acquiring additional staff based on the Department Evaluation on page 1-18 of this plan
	3.d Consider the strategies to capture more revenue to maintain high level of service and offerings based on the Department Evaluation on page 1-18 of this plan
	3.e Evaluate the need to increase operational budget to meet the needs and high level of service base on the Department Evaluation on page 1-18 of this plan
	3.f Develop a cohesive way-finding signage in coordination with City to direct residents and visitors to Pine City towards desired park and recreation facilities and attractions
	3.g Work annually with City Council to update CIP with costs for park and recreational facilities improvements
	3.h Review existing activities and programming to determine the need for additional opportunities for all ages, especially seniors and educational/learning activities based community feedback
	3.i
	3.j
<b>Facilities</b>	4.a Complete an ADA Access Assessment for City Parks and Recreational Facilities
	4.b Budget for Necessary Access Improvements Identified in 4.a (Sync with 3.g)
	4.c Design and Construct Improvements According to 4.b (Sync with 3.g)
	4.d
	4.e

	Priority			Potential Non-city Funding	Other Resources
	2019-2021	2022-2029	On-Going		
					City
				Schools, PCEDA	City, County, HC, PCEDA, Schools
					City
					City
					City
				Schools, PCEDA	City, HC, County, PCEDA, Schools
					City
				Schools, PCEDA	City, County, HC, PCEDA, Schools
				MNDOT, SRTS, PTF, TAG	City, County, HC, Schools
					City, Schools
				MNDOT, SRTS, PTF, TAG	

