

City of Sauk Rapids Parks Inventory 2008

Parks in **BOLD** are Regional Parks

<u>PARK NAME/CITY OWNED PARKLAND</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>PAGE #</u>
Autumn Ridge Park	2270 Parkview Lane NE	2
Benedict Acres	320 10th Ave N	3
Bob Cross Park	40 10th Ave S	4
Church Hill East	1176 Orchid Dr NE	5
Church Hill Heights	2615 Olive Lane	6
Eastern Star Park	1911 Eastern Star Circle	7
Edgewood Park	446 13 th Ave S	8
Fairview Farms Park	3210 Oxen Trail NE	9
Garden Brook Park	1210 10th Ave NE	10
Hidden Acres Preserve		11
Island View Park	1469 River Ave N	12
Lions Park	95 River Ave N	13
Little Acorn Park	1220 Oak Crest Dr	14
Mayhew Creek Park & Ball Fields	2974 Mayhew Lake Rd NE	15
Mayhew Lake Preserve Park	1605 Peach Dr NE	16
Municipal Park	1001 River Ave N	17
Vacant lots N of Municipal Park	1309 & 1317 River Ave N	17
North Acres Park	1405 2 nd Ave N	18
Oak Lane Park	260 11 th St N	19
Oakridge Park	2008 Highview Dr	20
Oakwood Village Park	1658 2 nd Ave N	21
Pleasantview Park	551 11 th St N	22
Prairie Gardens Park (Prairie View Lane)	1316 6 th Ave N	23
Scenic View Park	800 8 th St N	24
Southside Park	103 River Ave S	25
Tower Park	1902 Summit Ave N	26
Recreational Trails	Various Locations	27
Bob Cross Nature Preserve	8th Ave So & ½ St So	28

AUTUMN RIDGE PARK

PARK SIZE:	10.86 acres
DESCRIPTION:	Autumn Ridge is a regional park located in Autumn Ridge Development East of Highway 10.
ADDRESS:	2270 Parkview Lane NE
HISTORY:	The park and open space was acquired in 2003 through parkland dedication for the development. The facilities opened in 2006.
FACILITIES:	The Park boasts the cities first splash pad, a summer water feature with water spraying equipment. The park also has playground equipment, swings and a sheltered picnic area with picnic tables and restrooms that are open from Mid-June through Mid-September, depending on the weather.
FUTURE GOALS:	The city hopes to construct walking trails throughout the park and open space.
FEATURES:	The property is a fairly large green space with diverse ecosystems including wetlands, woodlands and grasslands.

BENEDICT ACRES PARK

PARK SIZE:	1.05 Acres
DESCRIPTION:	Benedict Acres Park is a small neighborhood park designed to serve the residents in close proximity to the park.
ADDRESS:	320 10 th Ave N
HISTORY:	The property was acquired through the 1978 plat of Benedict Acres Addition.
FACILITIES:	Playground equipment, swings and picnic tables.
FUTURE GOALS:	Landscaping
FEATURES:	The Park is secluded in a mature pine forest and surrounded by mature hardwoods.

BOB CROSS PARK

- PARK SIZE:** 46.41 Acres
- DESCRIPTION:** Bob Cross Park is a regional park that provides the Sauk Rapids community and surrounding areas with many different activities. In the year 2000, the City rebuilt the softball fields, built a large concession building with restrooms and relocated the tennis courts. This was done with the assistance of a DNR grant. The City renamed the active area the **Sauk Rapids Athletic Complex**. The last of the 4 softball fields was lit in 2008 with generous funding assistance of the Softball Association. The association also extended the concession buildings' roof for shade and foul ball protection, built a small shelter for selling tickets and assisted in paying for an additional paved walkway. To the northwest of the ball fields the Rotary Trail winding through a wetland/nature area that is used for hiking and skiing. The southwestern area has a wading pool, playground equipment and swings.
- ADDRESS:** 40 10TH Ave South
- HISTORY:** The land was acquired by the City in various parcels from 1972 through 1975.
- FACILITIES:** Softball, baseball, little league field, wading pool, 4 tennis courts, playground equipment, swings, restrooms, shelters, picnic tables, concessions, the crushed aggregate Rotary Trail.

CHURCH HILL EAST

PARK SIZE:	2.91 Acres
DESCRIPTION:	This park is the first publically owned, privately maintained city property. The City negotiated that the City would own the land but the homeowner's association would have to maintain it.
ADDRESS:	1176 Orchid Dr NE
HISTORY:	The land was acquired in 2003 through parkland dedication of the Church Hill East Developments.
FACILITIES:	Playground equipment, swings, picnic tables, benches, paved walking trail and a basketball half court. The length of the walking trail is approximately 0.27 miles.
FUTURE GOALS:	To make connections from other developments to the trail and sidewalk system and become part a Regional Trail System.
FEATURES:	This park is beautifully landscaped with a variety of trees and plantings highlighted near the benches along the trail.

CHURCH HILL HEIGHTS PARK

PARK SIZE:	6.32 Acres Central Park Area 2.56 Acres Other Parkland Areas
DESCRIPTION:	This park is a large neighborhood park that is the center of the development with all the backyards facing the park.
ADDRESS:	2615 Olive Lane.
HISTORY:	The land was acquired in 1999 through parkland dedication of Church Hill Heights Additions.
FACILITIES:	A paved walking trail, playground equipment, swings, picnic tables, benches. The length of the walking trail is approximately 0.30 miles.
FUTURE GOALS:	To make connections from other developments to the trail and sidewalk and become part of a Regional Trail System.
FEATURES:	The park is beautifully landscaped with a variety of trees and plantings highlighting benched seating areas.

EASTERN STAR PARK

PARK SIZE:	1.67 Acres
DESCRIPTION:	This neighborhood park overlooks a unique wetland with a paved walking trail meandering through the development.
ADDRESS:	1911 Eastern Star Circle
HISTORY:	The land was acquired through parkland dedication through the Eastern Star Developments.
FACILITIES:	Monkey Bars, swings, a slide, a picnic shelter, a baseball backstop and a paved walking trail. The length of the walking trail is approximately 0.57 miles and connects to the trail in Prairie Gardens Park.
FUTURE GOALS:	To connect the trail to a Regional Trail System.
FEATURES:	The park is located atop a hill overlooking the wetland. The trail is very unique winding through a complex wetland system that supports a variety of wildlife.

EDGEWOOD PARK

- PARK SIZE:** .51 Acre
- DESCRIPTION:** Edgewood Park is a small neighborhood park located along Highway 10 in the Edgewood Additions.
- ADDRESS:** 446 13th Ave S
- HISTORY:** The park was acquired in 1994 through the Edgewood Addition Plats.
- FACILITIES:** Playground equipment, swings, park bench and picnic table.

FAIRVIEW FARMS PARK

PARK SIZE: 2.61 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This is the second park to be a city owned park that is homeowner association maintained. It has a walking path around the holding pond and 2 docks for observation. It also overlooks a large wetland.

ADDRESS: 3210 Oxen Trail NE

HISTORY: This park was dedicated to the City in 2004 through the Fairview Farm Plat.

FACILITIES: Playground equipment, swings, benches, park shelter with picnic tables, observation docks, walking trail. The length of the walking trail is approximately 0.17 miles.

FUTURE GOALS: To connect the trail to a Regional Trail System.

FEATURES: There is a large open wetland with diverse species of plants and wildlife. The picnic shelter is large enough for family gatherings.

GARDEN BROOK PARK

- PARK SIZE:** 14.19 Acres
- DESCRIPTION:** Garden Brook Park is a large open space that includes a large wetland complex.
- ADDRESS:** 1210 10th Ave NE
- HISTORY:** This park was acquired in 2000 through the Freihammer Farm Development Plats.
- FACILITIES:** Playground equipment, swings, walking trail. The length of the walking trail is approximately 0.68 miles.
- FUTURE GOALS:** Picnic areas and observation benches. To connect the walking trail to a Regional Trail System.
- FEATURES:** The paved trail borders a large wetland.

HIDDEN ACRES PRESERVE

PARK SIZE: 7.0 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This land is listed on the Benton County Biological Survey as being native, undisturbed pre-settlement land. The parcel contains native plant communities of oak, aspen, alder thicket, mesic and wet-mesic prairie, wet prairie and sedge meadow. There is only 1.6% of the land in Benton County that is listed as being in pre-settlement condition.

LOCATION: This park is located adjacent to the southeasterly corner of the Church Hill East Developments.

HISTORY: This land was purchased in 2005 with a \$150,000 DNR Remediation Grant, \$5,000 Mid-MN Mississippi RC & D Council donation and regional park funds. The owner was considering splitting the land into lots and developing them with the residential lots to the south. With such a small portion of Benton County recorded as native and untouched, the DNR put priority on preserving this land and the grant made that possible.

FACILITIES: None

FEATURES: This unique property offers an undisturbed haven for many species of animals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. The former owner reported that a pair of horned owls nested year after year on the site. The diversity of plant and animal species present at the site give visitors an opportunity to observe and examine several different ecosystems.

ISLAND VIEW PARK

PARK SIZE: 14 Acres ±

DESCRIPTION: Island View Park is part of the cities regional park network along the Mississippi River. The park has a paved trail going through it and is part of the Oxcart Trail that connects all the cities river parks.

ADDRESS: 1469 River Ave North

HISTORY: This area was first mapped as the Osauka Addition in 1867 and the land was acquired through various conveyances. The land was officially designated as Island View Park in 1996. The historic Red River Oxcart Trail ran through the area and was used for transporting goods in carts pulled by oxen between trading posts and forts prior to the railroad being built.

FACILITIES: Paved recreational trail, footpath worn trails, nature observation, and fishing.

LIONS PARK

PARK SIZE: 10 Acres±

DESCRIPTION: Lions Park is a regional park located on the bank of the Mississippi River and was adjacent to the old Sauk Rapids Bridge that was removed in 2007. There is a paved trail that connects Southside Park and Lions Park and continues through Municipal Park and Island View Park.

ADDRESS: 95 River Avenue North.

HISTORY: In 1962 Northern States Power and United Power and Land Companies deeded the land to the City to be used as public parkland subject to easement rights reserved by the companies. The Sauk Rapids Lions Club funded improvements to the park including restrooms and shelters. This area once housed the Neil's Lumber Company sawmill and the river was used for transporting the logs to the site. The Stanton Flour Mill was also in this area and was destroyed by the cyclone of 1886. Some of the granite foundation can still be seen along the rivers edge.

FACILITIES: Recreational paved trail, fishing, picnic areas, shelters, restrooms, playground equipment and swings.

FUTURE GOALS: With the removal of the old Sauk Rapids Bridge in 2007 and the opening of the new bridge, plans to revamp the park have begun. The old roadway abutment will become a promenade with walking trails and an outlook structure near the river. The promenade will have native plantings, observation areas and benches. Shoreline restoration is also planned with the aid of a DNR grant.

FEATURES: The rapids in the river between Lions & Southside Parks influenced the towns name along with the confluence of the Sauk River entering the Mississippi on the western shore. Kayakers use these rapids for recreation.

LITTLE ACORN PARK

PARK SIZE: .65 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This park is actually houses a lift station that services some residential and industrial areas on the East side of Highway 10.

ADDRESS: 1220 Oakcrest Drive

HISTORY: The property has been used for a lift station since 1989. In 2000 the City landscaped the area and put in a picnic area to compliment the residential development and somewhat screen the lift station.

FACILITIES: Grills, picnic tables.

FEATURES: The area overlooks a wetland complex.

MAYHEW CREEK PARK

- PARK SIZE:** 155 Acres
- DESCRIPTION:** Part of Mayhew Creek Park is designated as a nature preserve. This is the largest regional park the city owns. The Sauk Rapids/Rice School District purchased land adjacent to the park and constructed a High School which opened in September of 2003. The 24 acres near the water tower are developed for softball, baseball, soccer and football fields. The sledding hill and trails are located to the north of the high school.
- ADDRESS:** 2974 Mayhew Lake Rd NE
- HISTORY:** In 1998 the City purchased the land that had previously been farmed. The 24 acres near the water tower along with 11 acres of school property was developed into sports fields for football, soccer, baseball and softball in conjunction with the schools construction. The grading for the school had excess soil that was used to build the sledding hill. City crews have installed two trail loops that are surfaced with crushed aggregate and used for walking, running and cross country skiing school activities.
- FACILITIES:** Sledding hill, recreational trails, sports fields and observation benches. The length of the recreational trails is approximately 1.1 miles.
- FUTURE GOALS:** The city has future plans for more trails, outdoor classrooms, wetland, woodland and prairie restoration projects, multipurpose hockey/rollerblading rink, skating rink and a park pavilion/warming house.
- FEATURES:** The land has wetlands, woodlands and an open remnant hay field. The sledding hill provides a hilltop lookout to the surrounding area and was planted with native grasses.

MAYHEW LAKE PRESERVE PARK

- PARK SIZE:** 2.65 Acres
- DESCRIPTION:** This is a neighborhood park serving the residents of the development.
- ADDRESS:** 1605 Peach Dr NE
- HISTORY:** This parkland was dedicated through the Mayhew Lake Preserve Plat in 2003.
- FACILITIES:** Playground equipment, small shelter with a picnic table, exposed aggregate walking trail. The length of the walking trail is approximately 0.11 miles.
- FUTURE GOALS:** The city would like to construct a boardwalk through the wetland to connect the northern and southern sections of the development. This would allow safe access to the park for the residents on the northern half of the development and would add a recreational walking trail.
- FEATURES:** The park overlooks a large wetland complex.

MUNICIPAL PARK

PARK SIZE: 12.0 Acres±

DESCRIPTION: Municipal Park is a well-known park with a regional reputation. The park is visited by a large number of people for a variety of activities including the Rapids River Food Fest in June of each year. The park is connected to three other regional river parks by a paved recreational trail. Many residents and non-residents rent the buildings for family gatherings and company picnics.

ADDRESS: 1001 River Ave N

HISTORY: This area was first mapped as the Osauka Addition in 1867 and this land was obtained through various conveyances to the City. In 2009 the City replaced one of the buildings (Sportsman) with a new modern building with its own restrooms and kitchen area.

FACILITIES: Recreational paved trail, boat landing, 2 enclosed buildings available to rent, a large open air shelter, grills, picnic tables, campfire pit, softball field, volley ball court, basketball court, horseshoe pits, observation swings, playground equipment and swings. The park also has restrooms that are available with a building rental or there are portable toilets at the site seasonally.

FEATURES: The park boasts large oak trees for shade and beautiful views of the Mississippi River. The boat landing is an asset to the area. The playground equipment is the most popular in the area and has something for all ages and abilities.

NORTH ACRES PARK

PARK SIZE: 3.54 Acres

DESCRIPTION: The park provides playground equipment and open space to several building of multiple family dwellings in the area and adjoining the park.

ADDRESS: 1405 2nd Ave N

HISTORY: This park was dedicated in 1991.

FACILITIES: Playground equipment and swings, observation benches.

OAK LANE PARK

PARK SIZE: .66 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This is a neighborhood park located between a major roadway and a residential cul-de-sac.

ADDRESS: 260 11th St N

HISTORY: The land was acquired as part of the plat of North Oaks Second (1972) and again in 1980 within the plat of the Partial Rearrangement of North Oaks Second Addition.

FACILITIES: Playground equipment and swings, walking path, picnic tables and observation bench. The length of the walking trail is approximately 0.10 miles.

FUTURE GOALS: Landscaping.

OAKRIDGE PARK

PARK SIZE: 1.97 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This is a neighborhood park utilized primarily by the residents in the Oakridge area which is located in the northwesterly part of the city.

ADDRESS: 2008 Highview Drive

HISTORY: The land was acquired as part of the Oakridge Third plat in 1968 and was annexed by the city in 1983.

FACILITIES: Playground equipment, swings, picnic shelter, ½ basketball court, ice skating rink and warming house, picnic tables and observation benches.

FUTURE GOALS: Expansion of the skating rink.

OAKWOOD VILLAGE PARK

- PARK SIZE:** .74 Acres
- DESCRIPTION:** This is a neighborhood park with playground equipment and an ice skating rink.
- ADDRESS:** 1634 2nd Ave N
- HISTORY:** This land was acquired in 1993 as part of the plat for Oakwood Village Addition.
- FACILITIES:** Playground equipment, swings, skating rink, observation benches.
- FUTURE GOALS:** Addition of walking trail and a warming house.

PLEASANTVIEW PARK

PARK SIZE: 3.88 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This is a community park situated north of Pleasantview Elementary School. The park is highly visible in a busy neighborhood. The park is used by the recreation program.

ADDRESS: 551 11th St N

HISTORY: The southern half of the park was deeded to the city in 1968 and the northern half was deeded in 1976 and then platted in 1989 through Larson's Parkland Addition Plat 2.

FACILITIES: Lighted Hockey and skating rink with a warming house, playground equipment, swings, picnic tables and observation benches. Portable toilets are on site in the winter.

FUTURE GOALS: Construct a new warming house with restroom facilities.

PRAIRIE GARDENS PARK (Prairie View Lane)

PARK SIZE: 5.93 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This park has 3 acres of holding ponds and wetlands that are encircled by a paved, lighted walking path. The area was extensively landscaped and is designed for observation and exercise.

ADDRESS: 1316 6th Ave N

HISTORY: The land was acquired in 1991 as part of the Prairie Garden Plat. In 1993 the development was selected by the DNR as an exemplary project for wetland preservation.

FACILITIES: Lighted walking trail, observation benches, and ponds. The walking trail is approximately 0.77 miles and connects to the trail from Eastern Star Park.

FUTURE GOALS: Maintaining the trail and landscaping.

SCENIC VIEW PARK

PARK SIZE: 1.97 Acres

DESCRIPTION: This is a neighborhood park and was acquired through the platting of 3 separate developments.

ADDRESS: 800 8th St N

HISTORY: Part of the land was acquired in 1980 as parkland requirements for the Garding property and then was platted in 1991 as part of the Morning Hills Estates Plat. The other part of the land was acquired in 1980 as parkland requirements for the Scenic View Plats.

FACILITIES: Playground equipment, swings, ½ basketball court, softball field and backstop, picnic tables and observation benches.

FUTURE GOALS: Walking trail.

SOUTHSIDE PARK

- PARK SIZE:** 4.60 Acres±
- DESCRIPTION:** This regional park is located on the bank of the Mississippi River and was adjacent to the old Sauk Rapids Bridge that was removed in 2007. This is the southern most of the river parks and is the starting point of the paved trail that links the four river parks.
- ADDRESS:** 103 River Avenue South
- HISTORY:** The land was acquired in 1976 with the assistance of LAWCON Funds and in 1992 through the development of Mississippi Landing.
- FACILITIES:** The beginning of the Oxcart Trail, a paved trail connecting the 4 river parks. The park has two fishing piers.
- FUTURE GOALS:** With the removal of the old Sauk Rapids Bridge in 2007, plans to revamp the park have begun. The old roadway abutment will become a promenade with walking trails, an outlook structure near the river, native plantings, shoreline restoration, fishing piers and a meditational labyrinth. Playground equipment and swinging benches. A new park building with restrooms is planned.
- FEATURES:** Beautiful scenic areas overlooking the Mississippi River and the rapids provide an opportunity for photography and observation. This area is very popular for fishing and kayaking.

TOWER PARK

- PARK SIZE:** .57 Acre
- DESCRIPTION:** This is a neighborhood park situated next to the “balloon” water tower near Highway 10.
- ADDRESS:** 1902 Summit Ave N
- HISTORY:** This land was acquired in 1996 through the platting of Summit Oaks Plat 2.
- FACILITIES:** Gazebo, picnic tables, playground equipment.
- FUTURE GOALS:** Add swings.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Sauk Rapids has 5 main off road recreational trails used for biking, hiking, rollerblading and cross country skiing.

Ox Cart Trail is the most popular trail the city has, it is a paved trail that travels along the banks of the Mississippi River and through 4 city's parks and is 2.18 miles long. The trail begins at Southside Park and goes through Lions Park heading North along River Ave and into Municipal Park. The trail continues North and goes through Island View Park ending at Fischer's Trailer Court where the road connects back up with North Benton Drive and leads to Sartell. This trail roughly follows a portion of the historic Red River Oxcart Trail that was used in pioneer days to move supplies and trade goods between St. Paul to Pembina, North Dakota and into Canada. The convoys of wooden 2-wheeled carts pulled by oxen could be heard coming 5 miles away, long before they were seen. The large wheels on the carts held in place with leather hide material, let out a very loud screeching noise that travelled far, some of these convoys were 200 carts long. This means of transportation and historic lively tradition slowly died away as the railroads expanded their lines.

Mayhew Creek Park Trail is the most recently completed trail in the City. It is located in Mayhew Creek Park North of the High School and is 1.1 miles long. There are two loops, one going around the sledding hill and one around the perimeter of the park. These are crushed aggregate at this time but may be paved in the future.

Prairie Lane Trail and **Eastern Star Trail** are paved trails that can be used jointly by crossing 18th St N. Prairie Lane trail winds among four storm water-holding ponds and is beautifully landscaped and has benches and appropriate lighting. Across 18th St N. the Eastern Star Trail is also paved and winds through a complex wetland that is very unique. The trail ends at Eastern Star Park that provides playground equipment and a small picnic shelter.

Rotary Trail is a crushed aggregate nature trail originally constructed by the Sauk Rapids Rotary Club. The trail meanders through a wooded wetland complex Northwest of Bob Cross Park to Bob Cross Nature Preserve. This trail has boardwalks and observation outlooks and is quite secluded.

Church Hill Heights Trail was constructed in 2001 within the circle development of Church Hill Heights.

Garden Brook Trail is another inner development trail that borders a wetland.

BOB CROSS NATURE PRESERVE

- PARK SIZE:** 11.95 Acres
- DESCRIPTION:** Bob Cross Nature Preserve is a regional park. The Rotary Trail winds through this wetland/nature area that is used for hiking and observation of wildlife.
- LOCATION:** North of the intersection of 8TH Avenue South and Half Street South
- HISTORY:** The land was acquired by the City in various parcels from 1963 through 1986 with some property originally owned by Bob Cross. Bob Cross was the oldest Benton County Resident when he died at 101 years old in 1966. He was believed to be the last survivor of the cyclone that struck Sauk Rapids on April 14, 1886, killing 44 people and causing millions of dollars of damage.
- FACILITIES:** Observation deck and the crushed aggregate Rotary Trail.