

Section 7: Community Facilities Element



7.1 Introduction

The delivery of public services requires appropriate physical facilities. This element provides future planning direction for Bloomington community facilities used to provide education, recreation, fire protection, and other government services. When well delivered, these services together with housing, transportation, employment, and shopping opportunities improve the quality of life and provide a competitive edge in attracting and retaining residents and businesses. It is Bloomington's intent to provide and promote high quality community facilities to fully meet public service needs.

7.2 Parks, Recreation, and Arts



This section provides an overview and assessment of the City's parks, recreation, and arts resources and makes recommendations to preserve, improve, and enhance these resources in the future. It is Bloomington's intent to provide passive and active recreation and arts opportunities through well balanced parks and facilities.

History

As Bloomington transitioned from a rural to urban community, local government began to create the present public park and open space system through dedication and purchase. Bloomington's first parks, Beaverbrook and Lower Bryant, were dedicated to Bloomington Township in 1946. The Village of Bloomington made its first park purchase in 1954: 28 acres of Moir Park for \$60,000. A Park Board was established in 1946, followed by a Park and Recreation Advisory Commission in 1955. The City Subdivision Regulations were amended to require park dedication in 1958.

The 1960s brought successful parks bond referendums and

federal grants. In the 1970s, the federal Land and Water Conservation Program (LAWCON) created additional opportunities for park and open space acquisition. LAWCON purchases resulted in acquisition of major park and open space areas including North Corridor Park, Marsh Park, Tierney's Woods and Pond-Dakota Mission Park. Bloomington's park system has been significantly enhanced through metropolitan funding of the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve and federal funding of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The character of Bloomington's parks and open spaces reflects surrounding natural features as well as the timing and pattern of surrounding development. With few limiting natural features and a relatively flat landscape, development in the eastern portion of the City occurred very rapidly and in a grid pattern. Correspondingly, there are few passive open space resources (with the exception of the Minnesota River Valley). Park facilities in this area generally focus on active recreation and fit within the grid pattern.

Park and open space areas in central Bloomington primarily follow a similar pattern except that the valley and marshlands of Nine Mile Creek have been largely set aside as park and open spaces. Central Bloomington also provides an accessible location for community wide facilities such as the Bloomington Ice Garden, the National Guard Armory, and Creekside Community Center.

In addition to being more topographically varied, the western portion of Bloomington developed at a slower pace and at a later date, when the City was better equipped to undertake proactive park planning. Park and open space planning was an important part of the *Western Area Plan* in the 1970s and in the *1980 Bloomington Comprehensive Plan*. In addition to playfields and neighborhood parks, the City planned for and then required dedication of many open space corridors to link larger open space areas and facilitate wildlife movement.

Inventory

The Bloomington park and open space system encompasses close to one third of the land area of the City. Park and open space property is an extensive land resource particularly when compared to other cities within the metropolitan area. *Figure 7.1* depicts the location of parks in the City. Each park is assigned a classification based on its role. Classifications are described in *Table 7.1*. *Table 7.2* summarizes the amount of parkland in each classification. A complete park inventory with information on each park is included in the appendix.

Bloomington's parks provide diverse recreational amenities,

Table 7.1 Park Classifications (continued next page)

Playlot	
Use:	Intended for children up to ten years of age. Usually includes play apparatus and turf areas.
Service Area:	1/2 Mile radius
Size:	1 to 2 Acres
Location:	Frequently within neighborhood playgrounds or community parks.
Neighborhood Playground	
Use:	Intended to meet primary play needs of 5 to 17 year olds. Usually includes play apparatus and areas for field games, court games and skating.
Service Area:	1 Mile radius
Size:	5 to 20 Acres
Location:	Co-locate with elementary schools and spaced throughout community to serve neighborhoods.
Community Park	
Use:	Intended for use by all ages. Usually includes areas of natural or ornamental quality for walking, bicycling, viewing, sitting or picnicking. Often includes playlot.
Service Area:	4 to 16 Square miles
Size:	20 to 50 Acres
Location:	Determined by existing natural features.
Playfield	
Use:	Emphasis on facilities for organized and individual sports. Usually includes lighted athletic fields, areas for court games and skating.
Service Area:	9 to 16 Square miles
Size:	20 to 50 Acres
Location:	Determined by existing natural features and good transportation access.
Large Urban Park	
Use:	Attractive natural features contrast to urban environment. Caters to nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, walking and skiing.
Service Area:	Southwest metropolitan area
Size:	100+ Acres
Location:	Determined by existing natural features.
Regional Park	
Use:	Continuous or groupings of open spaces offering facilities/activities determined by natural assets. Recreation development limited to no more than 30 percent of the total acreage; much of park retained in a natural state.
Service Area:	Metropolitan area
Size:	250+ Acres
Location:	Determined by existing natural features.

Table 7.1 Park Classifications (continued)

Conservation Area	
Use:	Protects natural environment rather than satisfying demand for recreation opportunities or scenic quality. Ensures proper functioning of natural systems, especially hydrologic. While secondary, passive or active recreation uses coexist with primary conservation function.
Service Area:	Metropolitan area
Size:	250+ Acres and water quality ponding areas
Location:	Determined by existing natural features and proximity to water resources.
Corridor Park	
Use:	Developed for recreational travel including hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or horseback riding. Serves as corridors for wildlife movement.
Service Area:	Metropolitan area
Size:	Sufficient width to provide maximum use and protection of resource. Sufficient length to serve recreational travel purposes.
Location:	Where linear resources such as watercourses or bluff lines occur. Link recreation system components.
Special Areas (Historic Parks, Arts Facilities, Indoor Ice Arenas)	
Use:	Preserve and maintain buildings, sites, or objects of historical or archeological significance. Provide for fine arts activities. Indoor ice facilities.
Service Area:	Varied
Size:	Varied
Location:	Where resource occurs.
Golf Course	
Use:	Daily fee golf course and associated facilities such as driving ranges, putting greens, and clubhouses.
Service Area:	40,000 Population
Size:	120 to 180 Acres for 18-hole course
Location:	Determined by existing natural features.

Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division, March 2000

including hiking trails; biking trails; picnic areas and shelters; horseshoe pits; basketball courts; soccer fields; tennis courts; a disc golf course; playground equipment at 53 locations; benches; nature areas; restored prairie planting areas; in-line skating

facilities; volleyball courts; a swimming beach; a swimming pool; a wading pool; a bocce ball court; softball and baseball diamonds; wetlands; hockey rinks; and pleasure skating rinks.

[Insert Figure 7.1 -
Recreation/Arts
Facilities, 11 x 17
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Special Facilities

The parks and open spaces described in the inventory are enhanced by the following special recreational and cultural facilities, which are maintained and operated by the City of Bloomington.

Golf Courses

The City of Bloomington maintains and operates two public golf courses: Dwan and Hyland Greens. Dwan Golf Course is an executive length, par 68 golf course. Hyland Greens Golf Course consists of a long par 3 course, a “pitch and putt” par 3 course, and a 12-station practice range.

Bloomington Ice Garden

The Bloomington Ice Garden currently meets the community’s needs for indoor skating venues except during the most sought-after prime hours. The existing facilities are in need of some extensive capital replacement, specifically the roofs on Rinks 1 and 2 and the rink and freezing system in Rink 1. Additional indoor skating facilities should be considered only when the debt on the existing facilities is nearly retired.

Bloomington Arts Center

The Bloomington Arts Center, at Penn Avenue and West Old Shakopee Road, is occupied by the Bloomington Fine Arts Council. The Bloomington Fine Arts Council receives operating support from the City. The Arts Center provides a limited physical space for basic arts activities including some art classes, small meetings and display.

Bloomington History Center

The Bloomington History Center is sited adjacent to the Bloomington Arts Center at the intersection of Penn Avenue and West Old Shakopee Road. The actual building, which was moved to its pres-

Table 7.2 Park Classification Summary

Classification	Quantity	Acres
Playlot	17	25.4
Neighborhood Playground	28	255.5
Community Park	7	228.1
Playfield	3	110.4
Large Urban Park	2	269.7
Regional Park	3	6,870.8
Corridor Park	1	15.6
Conservation Area	30	969.4
Special Area	4	29.3
Golf Course	2	152.8
Total	97	8,927.0

Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division, March 2000

ent location in 1924, was the original Bloomington Town Hall. The building serves as a depository for historic artifacts, photos and documents and provides limited meeting space.

Pond-Dakota Mission Park

Pond-Dakota Mission Park was acquired with federal LAWCON funds in the late 1970s. The park includes the Gideon Pond house and farm, which is notable for its historic and architectural attributes. The Gideon Pond house, initially constructed in 1854, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Major Regional Public Park and Open Space Facilities

The Bloomington park and open space system is fortunate to have two major regional facilities with unique physical and natural characteristics. These facilities are the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve. As large park and open space areas, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities within a diverse natural environment.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established by Congressional act in 1976 to preserve the Minnesota River valley’s natural resources, develop recreational opportunities, and to provide a wildlife interpretation and education center. The Refuge boundaries extend from the northeast boundary of Bloomington south and west along the Minnesota River valley to Louisville Swamp near the city of Carver.

The Refuge within the City extends the entire length of the Minnesota River valley between the river and the 722 foot elevation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns and maintains a significant portion of this refuge, specifically the Long Meadow Lake refuge unit and the Bloomington Ferry refuge unit. The Long Meadow Lake unit

includes the river bottoms area from the northeast City boundary to I-35W and the Bloomington Ferry unit includes the river bottoms area from the Canadian Pacific Railroad right of way (south of Auto Club Road) west to the City boundary. The refuge area between the Long Meadow unit and the Bloomington Ferry unit is the Bloomington Open Space unit, owned and maintained by the City of Bloomington.

The wildlife refuge in Bloomington constitutes a regional and large corridor park. It is designated for conservation uses on the City's land use guide plan and serves as major habitat for resident and migratory wildlife. Included within the refuge is the proposed Minnesota Valley State Trail alignment that will connect refuge units. The visitor center and refuge headquarters is located at 3815 East 80th Street in Bloomington.

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Regional Park Reserve

The 2,611 acre Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve is a part of the metropolitan parks and open space system. This regional park reserve consists of seven individual park units: Hyland Lake, Bush Lake, Anderson Lakes, Tierney's Woods, North Corridor, South Corridor, and Normandale Lake. Six of the park units are located entirely within the city of Bloomington and the seventh (Anderson Lakes) is split between Bloomington and Eden Prairie. The City of Bloomington and the Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District are joint implementing agencies for the Regional Park Reserve as they each own and operate several of the individual park units.

Bush Lake, Tierney's Woods, North Corridor, South Corridor

and Normandale Lake park units are owned by the City of Bloomington. Hyland Lake and Anderson Lakes park units are owned and operated by the Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District. The Hyland Lake park unit is the largest of the park units that comprise the Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve with 1,060 acres or 41% of the total area.

Hyland-Bush-Anderson Regional Park Reserve provides a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities and outstanding facilities that were developed by both the City of Bloomington and the Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District. Most notable are the picnicking and beach facilities at Bush Lake Park, the Hyland Hills Ski Area, 70 meter ski jump, and the Richardson Nature Center.

Recreation and Arts Programming

The City of Bloomington provides over 50 different recreation and arts programs on an annual or seasonal basis. These programs are summarized in *Table 7.3*.

Recreation and arts programming in Bloomington is supported by community arts and recreation organizations that provide a broad array of programs to meet community needs and interests in arts, cultural activities, and sports for various age groups and populations within the city. The City of Bloomington has been successful in working cooperatively and in partnership with community arts and recreation organizations.

Support of arts programming dates back to 1963 when the Parks and Recreation Division promoted the establishment of the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra through financial support from the City Council. Fine arts program-

ming has expanded significantly with the growth of community arts organizations. Cultural, arts, and leisure activities are supported by community groups such as the Bloomington Fine Arts Council members (Angelica Cantanti, Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, Bloomington Medalist Concert Band, Continental Ballet Company, Bloomington Civic Theater, Normandale Choral Society, and NOTE-able Singers); the Bloomington Garden Club; the Bloomington Swirlers; the Bloomington Historical Society; and the Gideon Pond Heritage Society.

Recreation and sports programming supported by community recreation organizations offer numerous programs for adults and youth in Bloomington. The Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) offers youth baseball, basketball, floor hockey, football, golf, ice hockey, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling. Other organized athletic groups include the Bloomington Amateur Hockey Association (BAHA), Barracuda Aquatics Club, Bloomington Adult Sports Association (BASA), Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association, Broomball, Classic League, Fall Ball, Bloomington Figure Skating Club, Girls' Fast Pitch, Horseshoe Club, Legion Baseball, Legion Gun Safety, North Star Diving, Bloomington Junior Soccer Club (BJSC), Town Team Baseball, Southdale YMCA, and Born Again Jocks (BAJ).

Table 7.3 City Recreation and Arts Programs

Program	Season			
	SP	S	F	W
Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange (AR&LE)				
Adult Drop-in Center	■	■	■	■
Adult Softball		■		
Bowling			■	■
Happenings I	■	■	■	■
Integrated Softball		■		
Teen Explorers	■	■	■	■
Travel Club	■		■	■
Youth Softball		■		
Adopt-A-Park	■	■	■	
Arts in the Parks		■		
Basketball League				
Men			■	■
Women			■	■
Bloomington Historical Museum	Mar	■		Dec
Bloomington Loves Its Kids				■
Bloomington Jazz Festival		■		
Canoe Rack Rentals	May 1	■		Oct 31
Day Camp				
Environmental		■		
History		■		
KOTA		■		
Discovery		■		
Football, Fall			■	
Galaxy Youth Center	■	■	■	■
Garden Plots	May 1	■		Oct 15
Gideon Pond Open House and Special Events	■	■	■	
Halloween Party			■	
Lifeguard Training		■		
Parks Garden Club	■	■	■	
Program	Season			
	SP	S	F	W
Public Swimming				
Bush Lake		■		
Valley View Pool		■		
River Rendezvous			■	
Sand Castles		■		
Shape Up Challenge	■			
Skating Rinks				■
Snorkeling Lessons		■		
Softball				
Co-Rec.	■	■	■	
Men	■	■	■	
Women	■	■		
Summer Fete		Jul 3		
Summer Spectrum		■		
Supervised Summer Playgrounds		■		
Swim Lessons				
Bush Lake		■		
Valley View Pool		■		
Talent Show		■		
Tennis				
Ladder, Men's Doubles		■		
Ladder, Men's Singles		■		
Ladder, Women's Doubles		■		
Ladder, Women's Singles		■		
Lessons, Adult	■	■	■	
Senior		■		
Volleyball				
Co-Rec.			■	■
Daytime	■		■	■
League, Women			■	■
Sand		■	■	■

Source: Bloomington Parks and Recreation Division, March 2000

Future Directions in Parks, Recreation, and Arts

The City will continue to provide quality parks, recreation, and arts opportunities by building upon the solid foundation of existing facilities and programs and by being responsive to the changing needs of the community. Future park planning efforts will strive to:

- develop new facilities based on a comprehensive parks, recreation, and arts planning process;
- provide facilities that are accessible on a city, neighborhood, and individual level;
- maintain and enhance parks, recreation, and arts facilities as an aspect of community reinvestment;

- facilitate public awareness of parks and open space facilities as safe places for recreation and enjoyment;
- maintain a range of recreation and arts programs responsive to changing community needs; and,
- ensure continued cooperation between the City, other governmental agencies, and community recreation and arts organizations.

Parks and Recreation Division staff will complete an extensive and inclusive revision of the *1973 City Park Plan* during the years 2000 and 2001. Revising and updating the *City Park Plan* through careful research and evaluation will enable the Parks and Recreation Division to effectively plan for the future of parks, recreation, and arts in Bloomington. This section

of the comprehensive plan provides an overall framework and guiding policies for the more detailed and site-specific discussion and recommendations to be included in the updated park plan.

7.3 Schools



Quality educational facilities are an essential component of a prosperous, desirable community. Bloomington is home to many learning facilities including Independent School District #271, Normandale Community College, Northwestern Health Sciences University, and several private schools and training centers. The City will work cooperatively with education providers to ensure that Bloomington's schools successfully meet future resident and business needs.

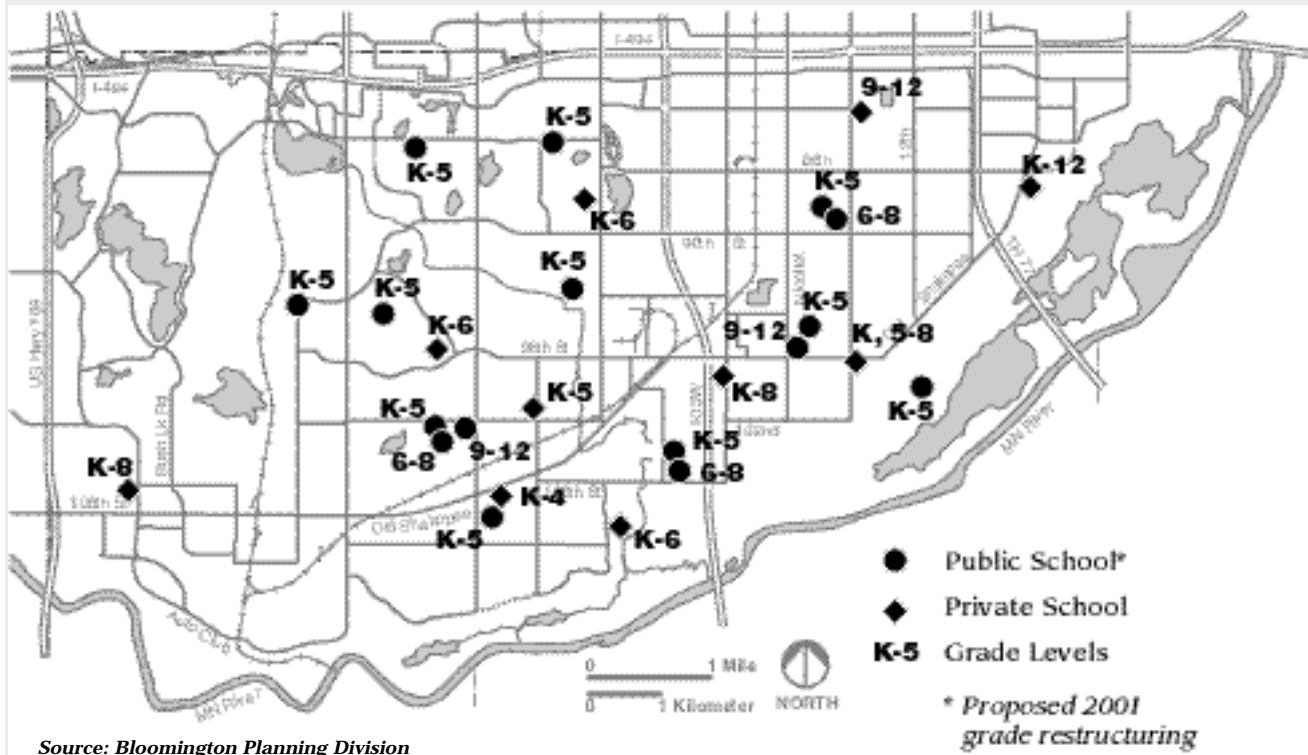
History

The majority of Bloomington lies within Bloomington Independent School District 271, commonly referred to as the Bloomington School District. Small portions of northwest Bloomington lie within Eden Prairie School District 272 and Edina School District 273. District 271, a unit of government separate from the City of Bloomington, operates all public Bloomington kindergarten through grade 12 schools and the community education program.

Public school enrollment skyrocketed in the 1960s reaching a peak of 25,000 students, 28 schools, and 2,000 staff members in 1969. Since that time, family sizes have decreased and many of the homes purchased by child-rich families in the 1960s are now owned by empty nesters. Enrollment fell sharply until it stabilized in the late 1980s. In 2000, the School District has around 11,000 students, 17 schools, and 1,500 staff.

The rapid decline in enrollment resulted in the closure and sale of several schools. These schools have been successfully redeveloped or converted to other uses, including private schools, a community center, office building, and church. The fact that enrollment began dropping as western Bloomington was being developed led to an inefficient distribution of schools. There are no public schools west of the Hyland Park Reserve and only one public school west of Normandale Boulevard, a fact that leads to longer distance busing of children. The location of public and private K-12 schools in Bloomington is depicted in *Figure 7.2*.

Figure 7.2 Public and Private Schools, K - 12



Source: Bloomington Planning Division

Table 7.4 Bloomington Public School K - 12 Enrollment History and Projections

School Year	Enrollment
1995-96	11,415
1996-97	11,298
1997-98	11,143
1998-99	11,094
1999-00	10,921
2000-01	10,706
2001-02	10,376
2002-03	10,108
2003-04	9,788
2004-05	9,423

Source: Bloomington School District, Enrollment Report, October 1999

Challenges

The School District forecasts a 12% decrease in K-12 enrollment over the next five years, from 10,706 in the 2000-2001 school year to 9,423 in the 2004-2005 school year. A similar percentage decrease is anticipated statewide for the same period. No additional Bloomington school closures are anticipated. Rather, the declining enrollment will allow some restructuring of classroom use and of average classroom sizes. Community education enrollment has been increasing, with courses serving around 40,000 students in 1999. Historic and forecast K-12 enrollment levels are depicted in Table 7.4.

Schools across the country are experiencing changing facilities needs. The need for computers, media centers, new special education, community education, and

athletic programs among other factors requires space and infrastructure not needed in 1960s era schools. In response to these changing needs, Bloomington voters approved a \$107 million bond referendum in May of 1999 to fund facility improvements. Changes and updates are proposed for all 17 Bloomington schools. The School District is also redesigning its instructional programs and reorganizing its grade level structure. By 2001, the District will offer grades K-5 in 11 elementary schools, grades 6-8 in 3 middle schools, and grades 9-12 in 2 high schools.

To reduce present costs and better control future costs, the School District purchased and began operating its own fleet of buses in 1999. A supporting bus maintenance and storage facility was acquired at 8801 Lyndale Ave. S.

7.4 Public Buildings



In addition to human resources, the provision of public services requires physical resources such as libraries, fire stations, offices, and community centers. It is Bloomington's intent to provide high quality, long-lasting public buildings that support the efficient and economical provision of desired services.

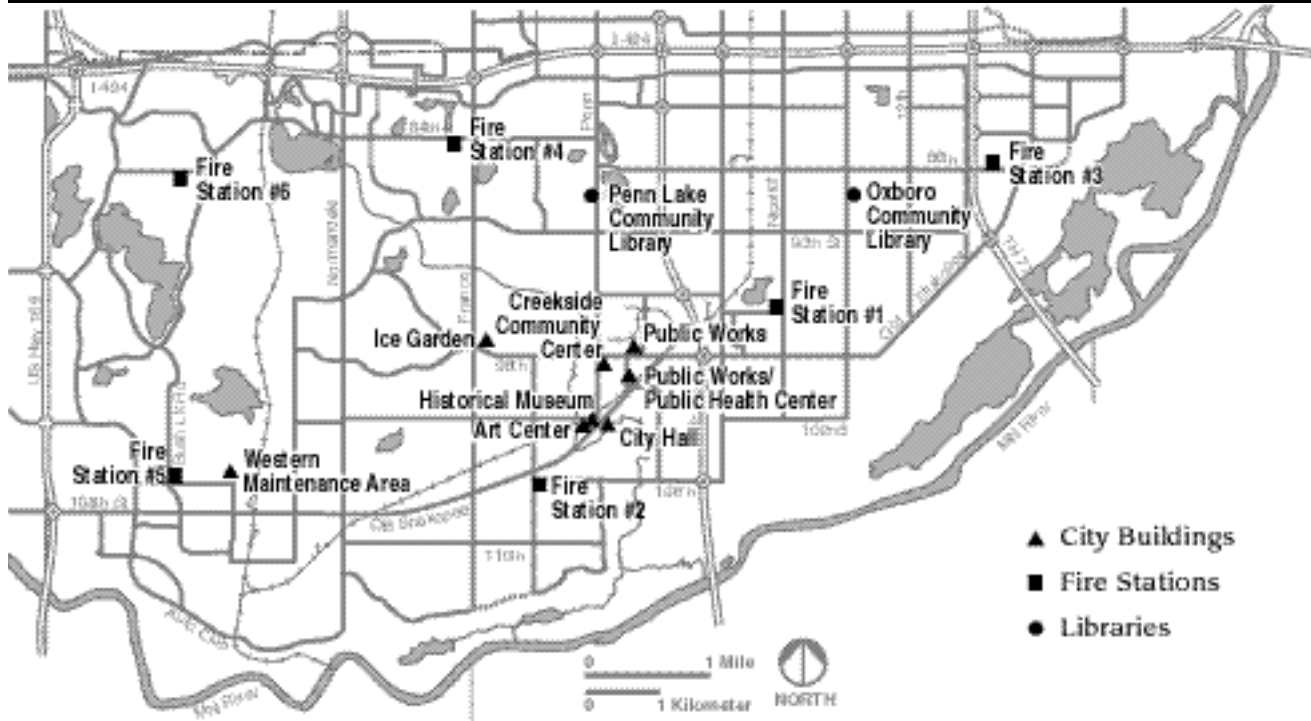
At the center of public service provision is City Hall. The present City Hall at 2215 West Old Shakopee Road was built in 1964, expanded in 1972, and dedicated with the motto "built from savings, dedicated to progress." Thirty-six years later, City Hall is undersized and ill equipped to meet the service needs of a much larger city. In 1999, the City Council appointed a 14-member citizen task force to study City police, office, and vehicle storage needs. The task force recommended constructing a new City Hall, police facility, and vehicle storage facility with a new dedication motto, "built from savings, dedicated to service".

Bloomington's senior citizen services are centered in the heavily used Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue S.

Creekside is a former elementary school constructed in 1960 that the City acquired from the School District for \$500,000 in 1975. In addition to meeting room rentals and senior citizen programs, the center is also utilized for Human Services programs, noon and evening meal services, nutrition programs, and serves as offices for eight human service agencies. With a rapidly growing senior population and increasing demand for all-purpose facilities, the City will find it difficult to meet future service needs within the existing Creekside facility. Constructing a larger, more comprehensive community center has been discussed for years. The discussion has been fueled in part by the City's lack of indoor recreational facilities, facilities which have become common in newer suburban communities. Clearly, there is a strong need for such a facility and its funding, role, and location will be the subject of future study.

Fire protection service is delivered from the City's six fire stations. These stations are located throughout the community to pro-

Figure 7.3 Public Buildings



Source: Bloomington Planning Division

protect life, safety, and property. Bloomington's fire protection service is provided by a 150-member volunteer department of highly trained firefighters. The City holds an ISO Class III insurance rating, a reflection of excellent service that keeps insurance rates low.

Keeping the City's fire fighters at the highest performance levels requires extensive training at specialized facilities. The City currently maintains a fire training facility at 600 West 95th Street in an area proposed for redevelopment. To construct a more comprehensive fire and police training facility, several area public safety agencies, including the City of Bloomington, have teamed up to propose a new, joint facility.

Construction of this facility is on hold pending state funding decisions.

Given high levels of anticipated commercial redevelopment, most notably in the Airport South District, fire station facilities and equipment should be periodically re-evaluated to ensure excellent fire protection service.

Bloomington is home to two libraries, Penn Lake Community Library at 8800 Penn Avenue S. and Oxboro Community Library at 8801 Portland Avenue S. Hennepin County owns and operates both facilities. More extensive library services are provided nearby in Edina at the Southdale Regional Library, 7001 York Avenue S.

Figure 7.3 depicts the location of public buildings in Bloomington.

7.5
Goals,
Policy
Objectives,
Implementation
Actions



**Community
Facilities
Goal 1**

Provide accessible park, recreation, and arts facilities and programs to serve the needs of Bloomington residents.

**Policy
Objective 1.1**
Meet resident needs and desires for leisure time activities through appropriate facilities and programs.

Implementation Actions

- Explore the development of additional parks, arts, and recreation facilities as an aspect of the comprehensive parks, recreation, and arts planning process.
- Develop innovative parks, arts, and recreation facilities and programs.
- Enhance programming and facilities at Dakota-Pond Mission Park. Increase interpretive programming and fund capital improvements (e.g. interpretive center/barn).
- Develop level of service (LOS) indices to identify specific facility needs on the neighborhood or area level.
- Develop a community recreational profile to track demographic changes in order to modify programs and facilities to meet population needs.
- Maintain adequate funding levels for a range of parks, recreation, and arts programming opportunities.
- Establish a parks, recreation, and arts capital improvement evaluation process to determine project priorities.
- Establish alternative funding mechanisms to supplement traditional funding sources for park improvements, acquisition, recreation programs, and maintenance.

Policy Objective 1.2

Develop a comprehensive parks, recreation, and arts planning process that allows the City to be proactive in the development of facilities and programs to meet changing community needs.

Implementation Actions

- Revise the *City Parks, Arts, and Recreation Master Plan* by 2002 and then revise/update it at least every fifteen years.
- Create a computerized database to better manage the park system.
- Map the parks using GIS to identify and locate the various amenities and features in the parks.
- Develop computerized park historical files identifying the various park improvements made and to address future capital improvement projects.

Policy Objective 1.3

Involve and inform the public on parks, recreation, and arts issues.

Implementation Actions

- Expand use of the Internet to share information, respond to resident comments, register for programs, and reserve facilities.
- Expand cable television programming for parks, recreation, and arts items.
- List the benefits of Parks and Recreation services and the positive impact they have on Bloomington.
- Include the residents in the planning of parks, recreation, and arts facilities and programs through solicitation of public input (e.g. public meetings, surveys, evaluations, feedback, task forces, etc.).
- Address resident concerns in a timely manner.
- Improve utilization of volunteers and develop a comprehensive volunteer recognition program.

Policy Objective 1.4

Continue to support cooperative relationships with other governmental agencies and community recreation and arts organizations to enhance and improve the Bloomington parks, recreation and arts facilities and programs.

Implementation Actions

- Work closely with the Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District, the State Department of Natural Resources, the Metropolitan Council, the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies in the improvement of regional recreation facilities.
- Negotiate agreements with the Bloomington School District to maintain continued public use of recreation facilities after schools are closed.
- Explore partnerships with other service providers for parks, recreation, and arts services and facilities (e.g. YMCA, School District, youth athletic associations, Lion's Club, community service organizations, neighborhood groups, etc.) Partnerships can be for programming, fund-raising for park facilities, etc.

Policy Objective 1.5

Provide park facilities and amenities that meet or exceed standards set through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Implementation Actions

- Make reasonable accommodations for individuals with special needs except where an undue burden exists (i.e. some facilities may not be accessible due to extreme topography and the excessive cost to make the facilities ADA compliant).
- Identify barriers to participation or use of facilities and take steps to reduce or eliminate these barriers.
- Provide specialized recreation facilities and programs for the elderly, handicapped, and other people with special needs.
- Implement the *Accessibility Evaluation Transition Plan*.

Policy Objective 1.6

Develop comprehensive facilities to meet the visual and performing arts programming needs of the community.

Implementation Actions

- Take advantage of facilities already existing in the community for arts programming (schools, city, etc.).
- Consider construction of a visual and performing center for the arts.
- Construct the Normandale Lake Bandshell and Park Shelter as a venue for Bloomington arts in the regional park system.

Community Facilities Goal 2

Work cooperatively with education providers to ensure high quality, safe learning environments responsive to the needs of local residents and businesses.

Policy Objective 2.1

Coordinate City and school planning efforts to cooperate on joint objectives.

Implementation Actions

- Establish regular joint meetings between the City Council and School Board.
- Coordinate planning on multi-use community center facilities and adult educational programming to ensure City and School facilities and programs complement one another and to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.
- Coordinate planning on community/school bicycle and pedestrian linkages.
- Include School District in citywide traffic demand management discussions.
- Cooperate with the School District to continue to provide drug abstinence education and youth activity programming.
- Coordinate Bloomington promotional strategies and marketing efforts with the School District.
- Continue to provide Police Department liaison services to public middle and high schools.
- Continue joint school/police emergency response training and simulations.
- Encourage a continued closed campus environment for all schools.

Community Facilities Goal 3

Policy Objective 3.1

Develop new facilities to meet community needs.

Support the efficient and economical provision of public services with high quality, long-lasting public buildings.

Implementation Actions

- Construct a new City Hall, police station, and vehicle storage facilities as recommended by the Facilities Task Force in 1999.
- Continue to study the funding, role, and location of a new community center.
- In conjunction with other area public safety agencies, pursue development of a joint, comprehensive fire and police training facility.
- Periodically review fire station facilities and equipment for adequacy as redevelopment occurs.