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**INTRODUCTION**

The health of the ecological environment has a direct impact on human health. If the air we breathe, the water we drink and the lakes we swim in are clean, we will live happier, longer, more productive lives. The built environment – the presence of play areas and walking trails – has a direct impact on physical activity and public health, but so does the ecological environment. For example, smog and high pollen counts tend to increase asthma attacks and bacteria in lakes could prohibit swimming. For this reason we have tried to integrate discussion about the preservation of our natural resources into this section of the Comprehensive Plan.

**EXISTING PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

Table 6-1 divides parks and open spaces into categories based on a combination of function and size. This classification system will be used to define recreational facilities within the city limits:

**Table 6-1  
Parks and Open Spaces Classifications**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>SERVICE AREA</b>	<b>SIZE</b>
Community Park	Park areas used for a variety of active and passive recreations including picnicking, hiking, and organized outdoor sports.	City and adjacent communities	5 acres or more
Dock	Public dock extending into a Lake for public swimming/fishing.	¼ to ½ mile	Less than 1 acre
Mini Park	Small park that serves a limited population or specific group such as tots or seniors.	¼ mile	1 acre or less
Neighborhood Park	Park area for intensive active use by the abutting neighborhood – usually involving play or outdoor sports activities.	½ mile	1 to 10 acres
Open Space	Area of natural quality such as water courses and wetlands that are preserved for environmental or aesthetic benefits and are to remain undisturbed. Typically double as drainage facilities for stormwater.	Varies	Variable
Playfields	Park area for intensive, usually highly organized athletic activity, lighted fields, parking, and bleachers.	City and adjacent communities	10+ acres
Special Facility	City owned property for specific use, such as golf course, nature center, conservatory, arboretum, gun club or historic building.	City and adjacent communities	Variable
Urban Plaza	Small pocket park designed for moderate to intensive urban use, typically integral to the built environment.	City	Variable

Classifications defined by City Staff, loosely based on the Metropolitan Council’s classification system.

**INVENTORY**

Table 6-2 includes a tabular inventory of the city’s parks and open space. This list is intended to highlight the recreational amenities - it is not a comprehensive list of all possible amenities. Amenities which may be present and are not included herein include: drinking fountains, barbeque grills, benches, signage, lighting, emergency phone, bike racks and trash cans.

**TABLE 6-2  
2008 INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

<i>City Recreation Areas</i>		ACRES			FACILITIES
NAME	TYPE	Land	Water	Total	
Armory	Special Facility	.28	0	.28	Rental hall
Bossard Park	Community Park	15.95	.70	16.65	Picnic tables, pavilion, restroom, softball, soccer, play equipment
Clark Ave. Boulevard	Special Facility/Dock	NA - ROW	0	NA - ROW	Historic monument, scenic seating/lookout, dock on White Bear Lake
Cottage Preserve	Open Space	1.93	0	1.93	No facilities
Ebba Park	Neighborhood Park	1.37	0	1.37	Softball, play equipment, ice rink, picnic tables and benches
Handlos Dock	Dock	Included	in	Lkwd	On Handlos Lake
Hidden Hollow Park	Neighborhood Park	8.95	0	8.95	Picnic tables, play equipment, walking trail
Highway 96 Wetland	Open Space	6.62	26.49	33.11	No facilities
Hiner’s Pond	Open Space	3.51	11.74	15.25	No facilities
Jack Yost Memorial Park	Neighborhood Park	4.5	0	4.5 + ROW	Picnic tables, pavilion, restroom, baseball, play equipment, ice rink, ice rink
Lakeview Park	Mini Park	NA-ROW	0	NA-ROW	Canoe launch, picnic table
Lakewood Hills Park	Community Park	63.06	17.07	80.13	Parking (192+unmarked overflow) shared with White Bear Ice Arena, picnic tables, pavilion, restrooms, soccer, play equipment, trail, softball, historic monument, concession stand, shelter with kitchen and fireplace.
Lions Park	Neighborhood Park/Dock	1.83	0	1.83	Parking (15), picnic tables, restroom, canoe rack, fishing dock on White Bear Lake
Mainstreet Square	Urban Plaza	.1	0	.1	Seating and decorative landscaping
Matoska Park	Community Park	5.65	0	5.65	Parking (40), picnic tables, restroom, boat launch, boat mooring, gazebo, swimming beach, trail, historic memorial
McCarty Park	Neighborhood Park	2.3	0	2.3	Open area, play equipment, picnic tables
Otter Lake Road Dock	Dock	.11	0	.11	On Birch Lake

<i>City Recreation Areas, Continued</i>		ACRES			FACILITIES
NAME	TYPE	Land	Water	Total	
Peppertree Pond	Open Space	.22	5.91	6.13	No facilities
Podvin Park	Community Park	17.80	0	17.80	Parking (80), picnic tables, pavilion, restroom, basketball, play equipment, soccer, ice rink, concession stand, shelter w/ kitchen, historic monument.
Public Works Wetland	Open Space	6.27	15.36	21.63	No facilities
Railroad Depot Building	Special Facility	.21	0	.21	Street car building
Railroad Park	Urban Plaza	.36	0	.36	Gazebo, decorative fountain
Ramaley Park	Neighborhood Park	2.79	0	2.79	Parking (10), picnic tables, pavilion, restroom, basketball, play equipment, softball, ice rink
Ramaley Wetland	Open Space	3.61	5.54	9.15	No facilities
Rotary Nature Preserve	Special Feature	14.54	21.69	36.23	Parking (15), restroom, trail, pavilion
Seventh St. Dock	Dock	Included	in	Matoska	On White Bear Lake
Spruce Park	Neighborhood Park	2.0	0	2.0	Picnic tables, restroom, play equipment, ice rink, softball, basketball
Stellmacher Park	Community Park	9.30	0	9.30	Picnic tables, pavilion, restroom, basketball, softball, play equipment, ice rink, trail
Stillwater/Long Wetland	Open Space	2.0	3.23	5.32	No facilities
Twelfth/Long Wetland	Open Space	.13	4	4.13	No facilities
Varney Lake Park	Open Space	11.56	8.6	20.16	No facilities
Veteran's Memorial Park	Mini Park/Dock	.2	0	.2	Pier on White Bear Lake, memorial wall
West Park/Memorial Beach	Community Park	4.6	0	4.6	Picnic tables, pavilion, restrooms, swimming beach, play equipment, volleyball poles
Weyerhaeuser Park*	Playfield	8.68	0	8.68*	Parking (110), picnic table, restroom, baseball fields, batting cage
White Bear Lake Sports Center	Special Facility	8.42	9.77	18.19	Parking (111+unmarked overflow), ice rink, racquet ball courts, aerobic classrooms
Willow/Buerkle Wetland	Open Space	18.17	59.0	77.17	No facilities
Willow Marsh Reserve	Open Space	11.66	3.0	14.66	Interpretive nature trails
<b>City Totals</b>		<b>238.68</b>	<b>192.10</b>	<b>430.87</b>	

Source: Ramsey County GIS and White Bear Lake Public Works Department

Note: The Fillebrown House is considered a quasi Public Facility, but is not included in the above table because it is not owned by the City, it is owned by the Historical Society.

\* Weyerhaeuser Park is considered to be 14.76 acres in size, however, only 8.68 acres is owned by the City. 2.1 acres is on Weyerhaeuser Corp. property though a use agreement.

For information on the City's trails, please refer to the Trails and Pedestrianways Map found in the Transportation section of this comprehensive plan.

**TABLE 6-2  
2008 INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES, CONTINUED**

<i>County Recreation Areas</i>		<i>ACRES</i>			<b>FACILITIES</b>
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>Land</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Manitou Ridge Golf Course	Special Facility	138.16	2.01	140.17	Public, County-owned 18-hole golf course
Ramsey County Beach	Community Park	10.72	2	12.72	Parking, picnic tables, restrooms, boat launch, swimming beach, play equipment
White Bear Ice Arena	Special Facility	9.8	0	9.8	Parking (see Lakewood Hills Park), Ice arena
<b>COUNTY TOTALS</b>		<b>158.68</b>	<b>4.01</b>	<b>162.69</b>	

For information on the County’s trails, please refer to the Trails and Pedestrianways Map found in the Transportation section of this comprehensive plan.

Currently, the City of White Bear Lake has roughly 430 acres of city-owned parks. This figure includes an estimated 192 acres of wetland and 238 acres of parkland. Also located within the City’s limits are Ramsey County facilities including: Ramsey County Park and Beach, Manitou Ridge Golf Course, and White Bear Ice Arena totaling 163 acres. If the 11 school district sites are included in the count, that’s an additional 274 acres of upland and 13.6 acres water. All together, the recreational lands within the City total roughly 888 acres.

The city’s 2010 population estimate is 27,000. Using the standard of 12 to 15 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons divided by the population estimate of 27,000, the city should have between 324 and 405 acres of “usable parkland.” Usable parkland includes land which residents can actively use for recreational activities. Excluding all open water and wetland included in the above-mentioned figures, as well as the Manitou Ridge Golf Course, the city’s total usable parkland equals approximately 532 acres. The amount of parkland within the City’s boundaries, therefore, exceeds the aforementioned parkland standard – it is closer to 20 acres per 1,000. However, the City and County land alone, without including the school district land, is at roughly 10 acres per 1,000.

**TABLE 6-2  
2008 INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES, CONTINUED**

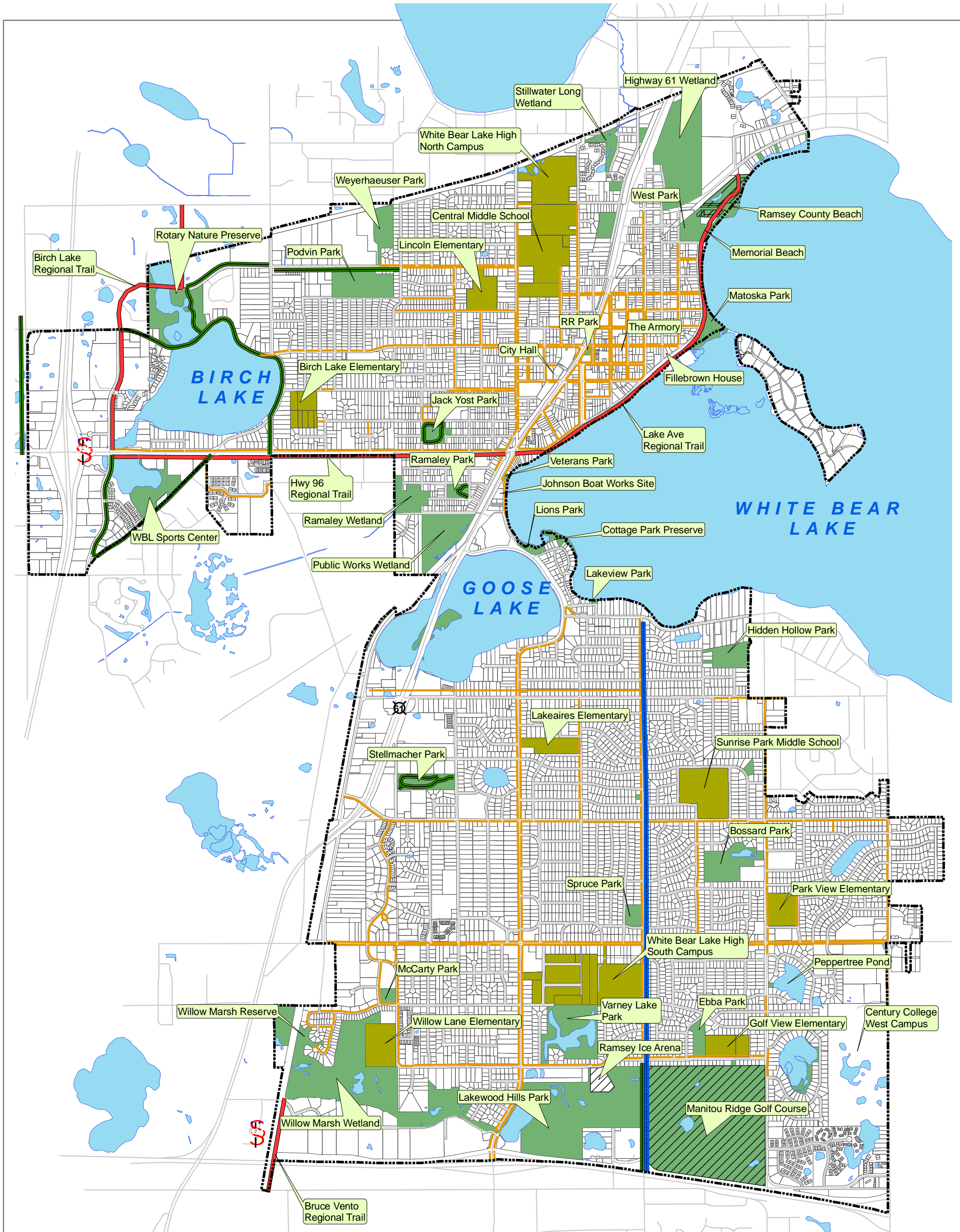
<i>Major Lakes</i>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
White Bear Lake	General Development	2,425
Goose Lake	Recreational Development	115
Birch Lake	Recreational Development	114
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,654</b>

Lake type is per DNR classifications. Recreational Development Lakes usually have between 60 and 225 acres of water per mile of shoreline, between 3 and 25 dwellings per mile of shoreline, and are more than 15 feet deep. General Development Lakes usually have more than 225 acres of water per mile of shoreline and 25 dwellings per mile of shoreline, and are more than 15 feet deep.

There are other lakes within the City, however, White Bear, Goose and Birch Lakes are discussed herein because they are the largest and are most easily accessible to the general public. Some of the City's other lakes do have public access, though they are generally smaller in size and are not as widely utilized. The other lakes will be addressed in the Water Management part of the Utilities Section.

White Bear Lake is governed by a Conservation District, which has been in place since 1971. The Conservation District regulates the types and number of boats which are permitted to use the lake. It also monitors development along the lake and partners with other agencies to treat existing and prevent future pollution. The district also maintains and polices the public facilities such as beaches and docks.

The residents which abut Birch Lake have established an improvement district to provide funding and resources for the study and improvement of the water quality. Residents from the improvement district work in conjunction with the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization which serves as a technical resource.



- School Recreation Area
- County Facility
- Park
- Mixed Use Trail\*
- Regional Trail\*
- On-Road Bike Lane\*
- Sidewalk\*



0 1,050 2,100 Feet

\*All trails are existing. For proposed trails, see Transportation Section, Trails Map.



**CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE  
2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS MAP**

Created January 24, 2008  
By the Community Development Department  
Utilizing Ramsey County GIS Data  
For More Information, Call 651-429-8561



## **PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCE NEEDS**

According to “Health and Community Design, The Impact of the Built Environment on Physical Activity”, by Lawrence D. Frank, et al, “where people live, where they work, how they get around, how much pollution they produce, what kinds of environmental hazards they face and what kind of amenities they enjoy are a direct product of how communities are designed. The city’s parks, open space and trails system is a key influence over behavior, physical activity and the health outcomes associated with them. Physical inactivity is an enormous health problem, contributing to, among other things, premature death, chronic disease, osteoporosis, poor mental health and obesity. The environments in which most people spend their time – the modern American city and the suburbs and exurbs that have been the dominant form of development in this country for over half a century – are an important contributor to this problem. The cities and suburbs that we inhabit are not now, and have not been for a long time, places that encourage some critically important forms of physical activity. In short, our physical environment inhibits many forms of activity, such as walking, and has become a significant barrier to more active lifestyles.”

In the City of White Bear Lake, we have been trying to reverse this trend for many years. Although WBL was originally developed as a free-standing, traditional town, which embodied many of the pedestrian-friendly features which many cities aspire to today, the City still suffers from fragmentation and decentralization which plagues many of its suburban neighbors. State, County and local transportation decisions made over the last 50 years have led to isolation of neighborhoods and the associated lack of pedestrian connectivity. In order to enhance recreation and connectivity the City has invested heavily in its parks and trail system.



Lake Avenue roadway and trail under reconstruction, Summer of 2007.



Over the past 10 years, the City has completed many projects to strengthen and beautify the city's park system. Successes have included the implementation of 3 regional trail segments, the restoration of the Clark Avenue historic boulevard, and Podvin Park enhancements. Not resting on its laurels, the City foresees many opportunities to further enhance its park and trail system, including the Bruce Vento Trail along Highway 61 and the completion of the Around the Lake Trail, as well as the unification of West Park and Memorial Beach.

The City's plan for strengthening neighborhoods includes continued park reinvestment and defining and implementing a system of local neighborhood trails, as shown on the Plan for Bicycles, Pedestrians and Trails, located in the Transportation Section. The capital improvement plan for the next 5 years, (see the CIP Section) includes continued efforts to improve community health through the creation of amenity-rich recreational opportunities - ever mindful of how the built environment influences activity levels.

There are two types of physical activity, recreational and utilitarian. Recreational activity is those forms of exercise which are undertaken for discretionary reasons on someone's leisure time, such as jogging, weight lifting, basketball, soccer, etc. Utilitarian activity is the by-product of achieving some other goal that the person has in mind, for example walking or bicycling to work, school or the store. The City has historically focused on enhancing opportunities for recreational activity, and has not put forth an equal amount of effort towards facilitating utilitarian activity. Efforts to improve neighborhood connectivity over the next 20 years will strengthen community health by facilitating greater utilitarian activity.

In early 2007, graduate planning students from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota collaborated with Active Living Ramsey County to produce a report on changes that could be made to promote active lifestyles within the City of White Bear Lake. Some of the recommendations from this report have been incorporated into this Comprehensive Plan. The City will continue to consider the appropriateness of other recommendations as the City progresses in this area.

Because there are few vacant properties remaining in the city, and further opportunities to acquire parkland will be limited, the future challenge for maintaining and improving the city's parklands will be to maximize the use of existing park facilities and attempt to expand on adjacent White Bear Lake lakeshore parks. The expansion of lake front parks may prove difficult but would ensure that the community as a whole can enjoy the natural beauty of the lake.

## Marina Triangle

In 2002, the city adopted the Marina Triangle District Master Plan, see Appendix B. The plan envisions two recreational amenities – an urban plaza and a lakeside linear park, connecting Lion’s Park to Veteran’s Park. The plan includes a compact and walkable community that is active throughout the year. Tree lined streets with gracious sidewalks, benches and attractive lighting lead to a beautiful new waterfront promenade and marina. A new village green will open onto the promenade and lake creating a focal point and gathering place for the district. The promenade and its mixed-use trail are a vital link in the “Around-the-Lake” trail network. There are two businesses and seven single-family homes located north of Veteran’s Park which could be acquired to enhance and expand the proposed waterfront promenade. These properties are located between Highway 61 and White Bear Lake on narrow, substandard lots. The acquisition of this land would enhance the “Around the Lake” trail by providing more green area and opening up expansive lake views from Highway 61 and the trail.



Aerial views of the Marina Triangle District, taken circa January 2006.

## Community Center

The idea of a community center is one which city officials have visited on and off for many years. Most recently, a joint effort between the YMCA, adjacent cities and White Bear Lake and Mahtomedi School Districts and White Bear Lake included a 2007 study which showed an interest in improved indoor recreational facilities and meeting areas. A 2008 market study is currently underway to determine specific market demands and financial viability.

The city currently owns the White Bear Lake Sports Center and adjacent passive park which is located south of Highway 96 on the western portion of the city. Currently the sports center houses an ice rink, racquetball courts, and an aerobics gym. The City recently acquired an adjacent vacant parcel for possible future expansion of the facility. This additional land, along with the sports center and passive park, brought the total area to just over 12 acres. There are also three single family homes which front on Birch Lake Boulevard South that could also be acquired. The expanded site could accommodate a variety of indoor recreational options, including a full-service community center which could incorporate facilities such as a walking track for winter months, expanded aerobics and weight training, swimming, diving, gym activities, and youth and adult sports.

## Lakes

Our lakes are some of the City's greatest assets. The maintenance of their water quality is imperative to the City's image as a lake community and to the quality of life of its residents. Improving the water quality our lakes, including White Bear Lake which is listed as impaired for mercury, is not only important to White Bear Residents, but has an impact on our region. For example, Vadnais Lake, which is the primary source of drinking water for the City of St. Paul, is downstream of the City of White Bear Lake. The native flora and fauna also rely upon the lake for survival.

## Wetlands

The City is rich in wetlands, open water areas and natural amenities important to the quality of life, both human and other species. The City's wetlands range in size from less than 70 square feet to 68.6 acres. Wetlands and open water constitute approximately 11% of the total area within the City.

Societal view of wetlands has changed considerably over the last few decades. Interest in the preservation of wetlands has increased as the value of wetlands to society has become more fully understood – that the loss of wetlands affects fish and wildlife habitat, and the environment as a whole, particularly in relation to water management. Wetlands perform many vital functions such as aquifer recharge, filtering stormwater runoff and retention of floodwaters. Wetlands have become integral, organizing components of the land use plan.



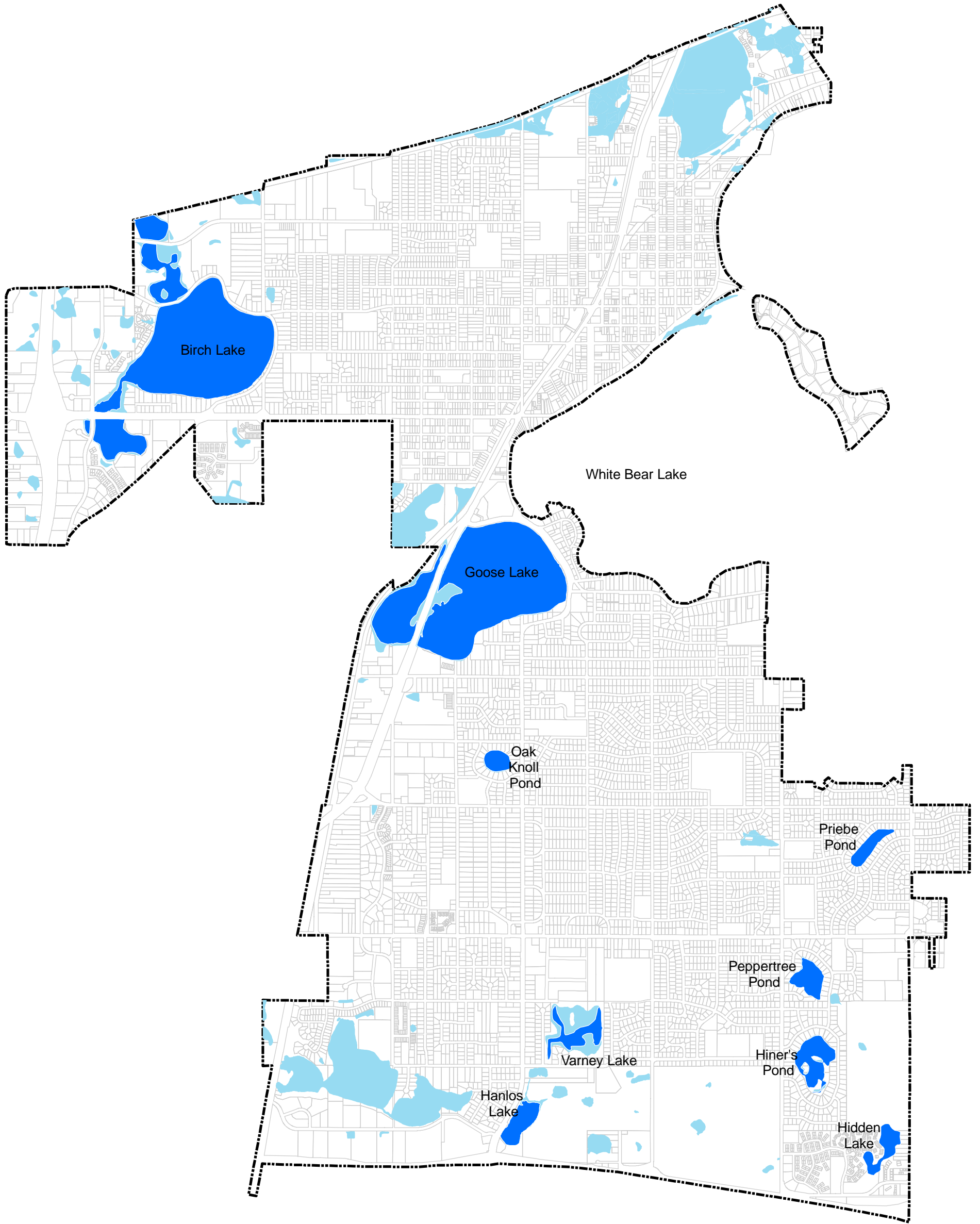
Taymark pond/wetland, located on the northwest corner of White Bear Parkway and Otter Lake Road, Fall of 2007.

The wetlands in the southern half of our city are upstream of other larger water bodies such as the Phalen chain of lakes in Maplewood and St. Paul. Because of this, the existence of our wetlands is important to the City and other neighboring communities and the City has a strong interest in preserving and protecting the existing wetlands. In the 1980's, the City Council amended the Zoning Code by adding the Wetland Overlay District. All development within this district must be compatible with this ordinance in addition to general zoning requirements. This ordinance requires a permit prior to any development or construction that would potentially affect the wetland area. Activities such as filling, dredging or construction that would alter or infringe on the wetland area strongly discouraged and only permitted where the impact would be limited.

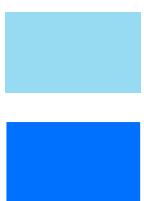
The City currently defers the authority for the Wetland Conservation Act to the watershed districts which have jurisdiction over the wetlands within the City. The City has four watershed districts within its municipal boundaries:

- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)
- Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD)
- Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)
- Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD)



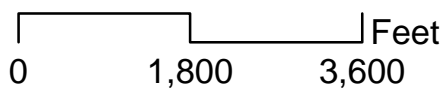


# Legend



Wetlands (RWMWD, VLAWMO, RCWD)  
(402.19 Total Acres)

Lakes within City  
of White Bear Lake  
(339.9 Total Acres)

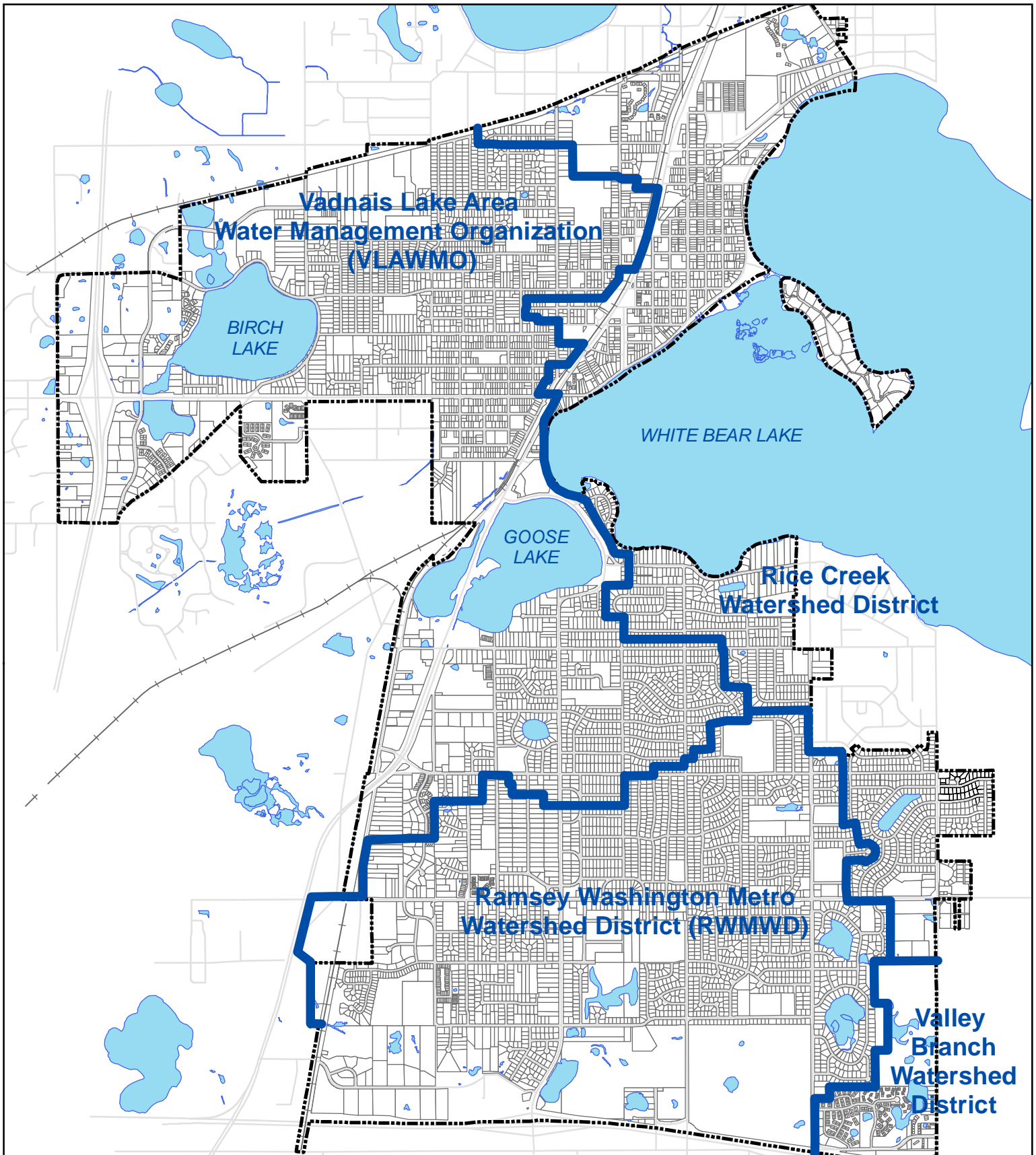


Wetland Data compiled from Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed Management Organization, and Rice Creek Watershed District. (Valley Branch Watershed District data missing)



## CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WETLANDS MAP

Created April 15, 2008  
By the Community Development Department  
Utilizing Ramsey County GIS Data  
For More Information, Call 651-429-8561



**CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE  
2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
WATERSHED DISTRICTS**

Created March 28, 2008  
By the Community Development Department  
Utilizing Ramsey County GIS Data  
For More Information, Call 651-429-8561



Scale = 1":32,000'



## **Air Quality**

Good air quality is important for our environment. Substances we put into the air can affect the health of plants, animals and people, can limit views and visibility, and can contribute to global warming. Luckily, Minnesota air is relatively clean, and the City of White Bear Lake would like to take some steps to help keep it that way.

Our “urban forest” is one method that may provide some mitigation. Trees modify air temperature, solar and thermal radiation exchanges, wind, and humidity of the air, and all of these influence human comfort. Trees provide social, ecological, and economic benefits. Their beauty inspires writers and artists, while their leaves and roots clean the air we breathe and the water we drink. Also, healthy trees provide valuable environmental benefits. The greater the tree cover and the less the impervious surface, the more the ecosystem is served in terms of reducing stormwater runoff, increasing air and water quality, storing and sequestering atmospheric carbon and reducing energy consumption due to direct shading of residential buildings.

The City of White Bear Lake has participated in the Tree City USA program since 1989. The program is designed to recognize communities that effectively manage their public tree resources and to encourage the implementation of community tree management based on four Tree City Structures:

- 1) A Tree Board or Department (the City Engineer and Public Works Staff)
- 2) A Community Tree Ordinance
- 3) A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2 per capita
- 4) An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

The program provides structure for a community forestry program and provides for an awareness and appreciation of trees among the residents of White Bear Lake. The program also has a Growth Award which recognizes environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care by additions or significant improvements to the city’s tree program. White Bear Lake has received a Growth Award nine times (2007 was the ninth year, although, not consecutively). White Bear Lake should continue to participate in this program and strive to achieve the Growth Award as often as possible.

## **Energy Conservation**

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a standard that promotes a "whole-building green design" concept where all the components of the building (roof, wall, windows, lighting, HVAC system) complement each other so the project functions at optimal performance with minimal environmental impact. The City would like to see an increase in the use of LEED standards during construction of both public and private projects.

During an audit, Xcel’s energy auditors spend one-and-a-half to two hours inspecting homes and businesses from attic to basement and talking with owners about their energy use. At the end of the audit, homeowners are left with written recommendations describing which measures to take to save money, ensure safety, and increase comfort. Blower door tests and infrared scans may

also be completed to further diagnose a home's energy efficiency. The City has used this program on City Hall and would like to eventually use it on all public buildings. The City would like to see residents and businesses take advantage of the opportunity as well.

### **Climate Protection**

The City of White Bear Lake was among the first of Minnesota communities to sign the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and join ICLEI, an international non-profit organization that promotes and supports local sustainable efforts. As a member, the City is using ICLEI software to measure its carbon output and establish goals for reduction. The City's "Commission on Environment and Sustainable Practices" is actively engaged in initiatives to educate the community on sustainable practices. It advises the City in its efforts and assists in on-going promotional efforts.

#### *Refuse*

Through an ordinance and municipal contract White Bear Lake residents have been provided citywide refuse collection services for more than 75 years. With organized collection, only one hauler drives down a neighborhood street one day per week. Among the many advantages of this system there is considerably less fuel consumption and carbon release. The City has also moved to an automated service which requires universal use of carts provided by the hauler. Automated service reduces idling time for trucks, reduces the number of trips due to increased capacity of new automated trucks, reduces the number of trucks per route by 20%, and allows for the pick-up of bulky items with use of newly designed trucks so the hauler does not have to call out an extra truck. Lastly, the City also encourages waste reduction and recycling through a three tiered pricing system that subsidizes the cost of 30-gallon service at the expense of the 90-gallon service. There is also a considerable gap in cost between the 90 and 60 gallon services. This is done to encourage residents to recycle aggressively so they can reduce their garbage service levels and save money.

#### *Recycling*

White Bear Lake first implemented its curbside recycling program in 1988, whereby each household was provided a blue bin for its weekly curbside service. The recycling program has evolved considerably over the years, and the City continues to weigh program options in consideration of their environmental impact. As of 2008, residents are required to sort recyclables into two categories, rigids and fibers. This system minimizes contamination and maximizes use of glass for recycling. The City has also added new materials to its curbside program and will continue to do so as the markets allow.

#### *Yard Waste*

White Bear Lake residents may subscribe to a compost service available through the City's contacted hauler to have their soft-bodied yard waste picked up at the curbside. Or, residents may bring their yard waste to a Ramsey County brush and compost site free of charge. The

closest site for White Bear Lake residents is located in White Bear Township off County Road J, west of Centerville Road.

### *Household Hazardous Waste*

Household hazardous wastes are managed at the county level. Ramsey County operates a free collection site at Bay West, Inc. in St. Paul and at a variety of seasonal sites around the county throughout the year. The City of White Bear Lake hosts a seasonal site during the month of May in conjunction with its annual Spring Clean-up.

### *Electronic Waste*

Electronic video display devices (VDDs) such as televisions, computer monitors, and laptop computers are banned from the waste stream. These devices include cathode-ray tubes (CRTs), which have been categorized as hazardous waste. White Bear Lake residents may dispose of VDDs free of charge at either of the City Clean-ups, which are held twice a year. Other places throughout the metro area collect them free of charge throughout the year. Or, residents may have them picked up at their curbside for a fee.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following goals and objectives will help the City maintain and expand a healthy and diverse system of parks and natural resources.

### **Parks**

Goal: Maintain and improve the recreational system (including parks, trails and open space) and its services for current and future community use and enjoyment.

#### Objectives:

1. Provide for safe, easy access to all parks and services within the community by continuing to fund the improvement of all parks and services through the use of the City's Park Capital Improvement Fund, building permit park fees, and also through miscellaneous contributions. (ongoing)
2. Provide accessibility for all individuals through the use of handicap accessible play equipment, parking spaces, and paved trails where possible. (ongoing)
3. Ensure continual citizen participation in the planning, development, and operation of recreational facilities by supporting the work of the Parks Commission and when appropriate, hold public hearings for input into the improvement and design of existing and future parks and trails. (ongoing)
4. Improve existing lakeshore parks and their connectivity to ensure the community as a whole can enjoy the natural beauty of the lakes. (ongoing)

5. As funding and land become available, acquire land north of Veteran's Memorial Park creating an extension of the proposed lake front promenade. (as the opportunity arises)
6. As funding and land become available, acquire the land next to the Sports Center. (as the opportunity arises)
7. Maximize the use of current parks and facilities by researching, introducing, and implementing contemporary, alternative sports activities at selected public parks. (short-term)
8. Continue researching the City's need for a community center including: public approval, facilities desired, financial options, and location. (short-term)
9. Work with the White Bear Lake School District, citizen groups and other interested parties to develop a sustainable turf management plan, including green maintenance methods, such as reducing the use of chemical applications and equipment powered by fossil fuels and increasing the use of local materials and naturalized landscape treatments in park design. (mid-term)
10. Utilize planning guidelines to promote the close proximity of daily living activities, services, and setting so that walking to work school and shopping is both possible and convenient. (ongoing)
11. Provide connected networks of pedestrian-friendly pathways that link residential neighborhoods to each other, residential neighborhoods with community services and community services with each other. (on-going)
12. Continue to partner with the school district in support of their recreational programs for community residents, such as adult open gym. (on-going)

### **Lakes**

**Goal:** Work to insure the long-term viability of our aquatic resources by improving water and shoreline quality.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Encourage natural vegetation around the lake which is integral to maintaining the water quality and ecological functions that lakes provide. (ongoing)
2. Work with the watershed districts to create an educational program about shoreline restoration in both video and print format to be mailed to lakeshore property owners. (mid-term)
3. Research and develop shoreline design standards for lake front properties (ie: 25% natural) and consider the possibility of providing incentives to homeowners to retrofit existing improvements to comply with standards. (mid-term)

4. Encourage the formation of new lake improvement districts and support existing ones. (ongoing)
5. Continue to coordinate with DNR regarding shoreline management and other policies that affect our aquatic resources, including the protection and enhancement of fish habitat. (ongoing)
6. Create additional impervious area regulations beyond the Shoreland District boundaries in the City's historic neighborhoods. (short-term)
7. Provide leadership to and collaborate with surrounding communities regarding water quality improvements. (ongoing)
8. Collaborate with citizen groups, water management organizations, the White Bear Lake Conservation District, and other agencies to conduct City-wide water quality monitoring. (short-term)

### **Wetlands**

Goal: Continue to preserve and protect all wetlands, both publicly and privately owned.

#### Objectives:

1. Establish a building and hard-surface setback from wetland edges. (short-term)
2. Encourage the establishment of appropriate vegetated buffer zones around wetlands and the use of permanent markers to communicate the location of the buffer edge and no-mow zone. (short-term)
3. Look for opportunities to acquire private wetlands for public preservation. (ongoing)
4. Continue to coordinate with the watershed districts to insure the smooth application of and compliance with the wetland conservation act. (ongoing)
5. Look for opportunities to protect and enhance wildlife habitat within wetlands and other natural spaces within the City. (ongoing)

### **Air Quality**

Goal: Implement a few measures which will help to improve air quality.

#### Objectives:

1. Expand landscape requirements to all zoning districts. (short-term)
2. Expand the City's tree preservation regulations to all new development. (short-term)
3. Strengthen/simplify tree-replacement requirements. (short-term)

4. Lead by example – When a general fleet vehicle (such as a pick-up truck) requires replacement, strive to purchase a low emission vehicle. (ongoing)
5. Continue to participate in the Tree City, USA program. (ongoing)

### **Energy Conservation**

Goal: Implement a few measures which will help to conserve energy.

Objectives:

1. Encourage property owners to take advantage of Xcel’s Electricity Audits programs. Research the possibility of providing financial assistance through the HRA or Business Loan for participation in this program. (mid-term)
2. Research and implement incentives or requirements to incorporate LEED Design principals and other green infrastructure practices in new buildings. (mid-term)
3. Lead by example – design new public works building to incorporate LEED practices. (ongoing)
4. Promote the expanded use of CDBG funds for home energy improvement projects for rental and owner-occupied units. (short-term)

### **Climate Protection**

Goal: Reduce our impact on factors that contribute to climate change.

Objectives:

1. Complete carbon output study, establish reduction goals and create a work plan for achieving goals. (short-term)
2. Continue to promote sustainable practices through public education and involvement. (ongoing)
3. Continue to expand the recycling program and waste disposal options as the markets allow. (ongoing)
4. Continue our on-going examination and modification of City policies and practices that impact the environment as practicable. (ongoing)