INTRODUCTION

The 2040 Park and Trail Plan is intended to support and supplement the City's Comprehensive Plan as it relates to planning and providing active and passive recreational opportunities for residents. Specifically, the Plan provides an analysis and a subsequent decision-making framework to guide City officials in providing recreational opportunities and to address private development proposals. The Plan will be used to earmark future park and trail areas in advance of development. The Plan also provides implementation strategies and includes an analysis of the park dedication and funding needed to implement.

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Based upon an analysis of community conditions and needs, there are six general classifications of parks existing or proposed within Elko New Market. These classifications include: mini park (MP), neighborhood park (NP), community park (CP), community playfield / athletic complex (CPA), natural area / greenway (NA), and special use park (SUP). These classifications are nationally recognized park types with modifications made for local Elko New Market conditions and needs. Table 10-1 provides a description, service area radius, and size criteria for each of the park classifications.

Table 10 - 1

Park Classifications			
Classification	**General Description**	**Service Area Radius**	**Size Criteria**
Mini Park	Provides limited recreational opportunities due to their small size. Usually include play equipment, multiuse hard-courts, and a limited number of playfields.	¼ mile	1-3 acres
Neighborhood Park	Provides neighborhood open space with provisions for active and passive recreation use which responds to residential neighborhood needs. Recreational uses could include play equipment, trails, multiuse hard-courts, open playfields, ball fields, picnic areas and ice skating rinks. Primary users will be children and families rather than organized athletic functions.	½ mile	3-10 acres
Community Park	Includes both parks and playfields that provide facilities for more intensive recreation activities, such as ball fields, tennis courts, ice skating rinks and picnicking.	1 mile	10+ acres
Community Playfield /	Targeted towards organized adult and youth play and require baseball / softball fields,	Community Wide	40+ acres

Athletic Complex	soccer / football fields, tennis courts, etc.		
Natural Area / Greenway	Natural areas where preservation of the environment is the primary emphasis. Primary uses typically include hiking trails, wildlife habitat and picnic facilities.	Community Wide	Varies. At least 100 feet in width.
Special Use Park	Provides special activities, unique built environments, historical sites or single purposes. Respond to distinct markets, demands or opportunities within the community.	Community Wide	Varies. Historical features should be a minimum of ½ acre.
Source: National Recreation and Parks Association			

The park classification system standards should be utilized to guide Elko New Market decision makers in determining future park location, size and amenities as dictated by local circumstances. The City of Elko New Market recognizes the importance of using park and recreation standards to:

1. Define minimum acceptable facilities for residents of the community.

2. Establish guidelines to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation facilities.

3. Establish a basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a comprehensive recreation system.

4. Utilize the Park and Trail Plan as a means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of the City.

EXISTING RESOURCES

The Elko New Market park system is comprised of approximately 59 acres of parkland including 14 existing parks, three of which are platted parks to be developed in the future. The approximate park acreage pertains to the core park systems, exclusive of trail corridors and wetlands. In addition, Elko New Market has approximately 81,000 lineal feet or 15.3 miles of public trails and sidewalks throughout the community. Figure 10.1 depicts the existing parks, trails, and sidewalks within the community.

Existing City Parks

Of the 14 existing parks in Elko New Market, six are mini parks, two are neighborhood parks, one is a community park (includes both Wagner and Rowena Pond parks), and four are natural areas / greenways. The City does not currently have any existing community playfields / athletic complexes or special use parks. The existing park inventory is summarized in Table 10-2.

Table 10 - 2

Existing City Park Inventory		
Park Name	**Classification**	**Total Acres**
Historic Elko Park	MP	0.94
Kelly Glen Park	MP	0.21
Little Windrose	MP	2.80
Whispering Creek Park	MP	0.62
Whispering Hills Park	MP	2.63
Woodcrest Park	MP	0.44
Mini Park Acreage Subtotal		**7.64**
Boulder Heights Platted Park (Undeveloped)	NP	1.49
Windrose Park	NP	7.61
Neighborhood Park Acreage Subtotal		**9.10**
Wagner/Rowena Pond Park	CP	10.5
Community Park Acreage Subtotal		**10.5**
Elko North Park	NA	3.43
Farm 3rd Addn Platted Park (Undeveloped)	NA	8.80
Pete's Hill Park	NA	14.5
Pete's Hill Platted Park (Undeveloped)	NA	5.01
Natural Area / Greenway Acreage Subtotal		**31.7**
TOTAL PARK ACREAGE		**59.0**
Source: City of Elko New Market GIS		

Fifteen different park amenities can be found throughout the City. These amenities include: baseball / softball fields, basketball courts, natural areas, disc golf, ice rinks, off-street parking, open playfields, park buildings, picnic facilities, picnic shelters, playground equipment, restrooms, skate parks, and trails. Amenities located within each of the developed City parks are identified in Table 10-3.

Table 10 – 3

Existing City Park Amenities															
Park Name	**Baseball Field**	**Basketball Court**	**Natural Area**	**Disc Golf**	**Ice Skating**	**Off Street Parking**	**Open Playfield**	**Park Building**	**Picnic Facilities**	**Picnic Shelter**	**Playground Equipment**	**Restroom**	**Skate Park**	**Softball Field**	**Trails**
Elko North Park			•												
Historic Elko Park						•					•	•			
Kelly Glen Park									•		•				
Little Windrose		•	•		•				•		•	•			
Pete's Hill Park			•						•						•
Rowena Pond Park	•		•						•		•	•		•	•
Wagner Park	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Whispering Creek Park									•		•				
Whispering Hills Park			•						•		•				
Windrose Park			•	•			•		•	•	•	•			•
Woodcrest Park		•							•		•				
Source: City of Elko New Market GIS															

Figure 10.2 depicts the location of existing parks within the City and their service areas based on park classification. This map is a useful tool to indicate certain areas within the 2040 City boundary that are not serviced by a mini, neighborhood or community park. A buffer is given for parks which can be related to a park service area specifically defined as: ¼ mile for mini parks, ½ mile for neighborhood parks and 1 mile for community parks. Community playfield / athletic complexes, natural areas / greenways and special use parks do not have a defined service area as they are utilized at a community wide level.

It should be noted that 260th Street East (CSAH 2) and Natchez Avenue (CSAH 91) create barriers that limit the accessibility of parks within the community. The service areas for parks which are affected by these roadways have been abbreviated and condensed.

Existing City Trails

As of 2019, Elko New Market contained approximately 81,000 feet or 15.3 miles of trails and sidewalks maintained by the City. Of the approximately 15.3 miles, approximately 9.0 miles are trails and approximately 6.3 miles are sidewalks. Figure 10.3 depicts the existing trails and sidewalks within the community.

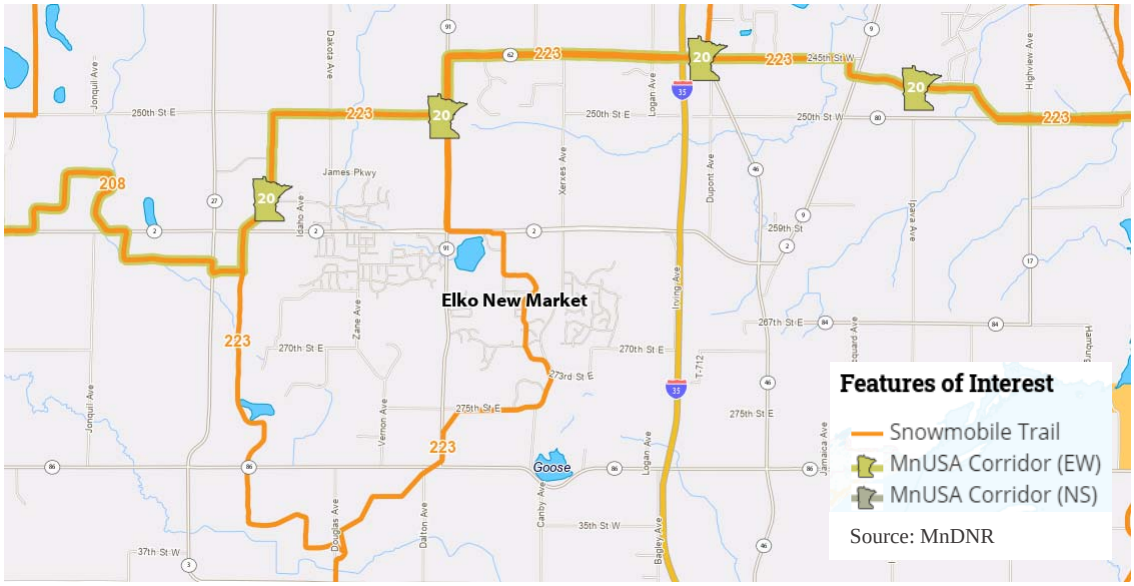
Existing School Facilities

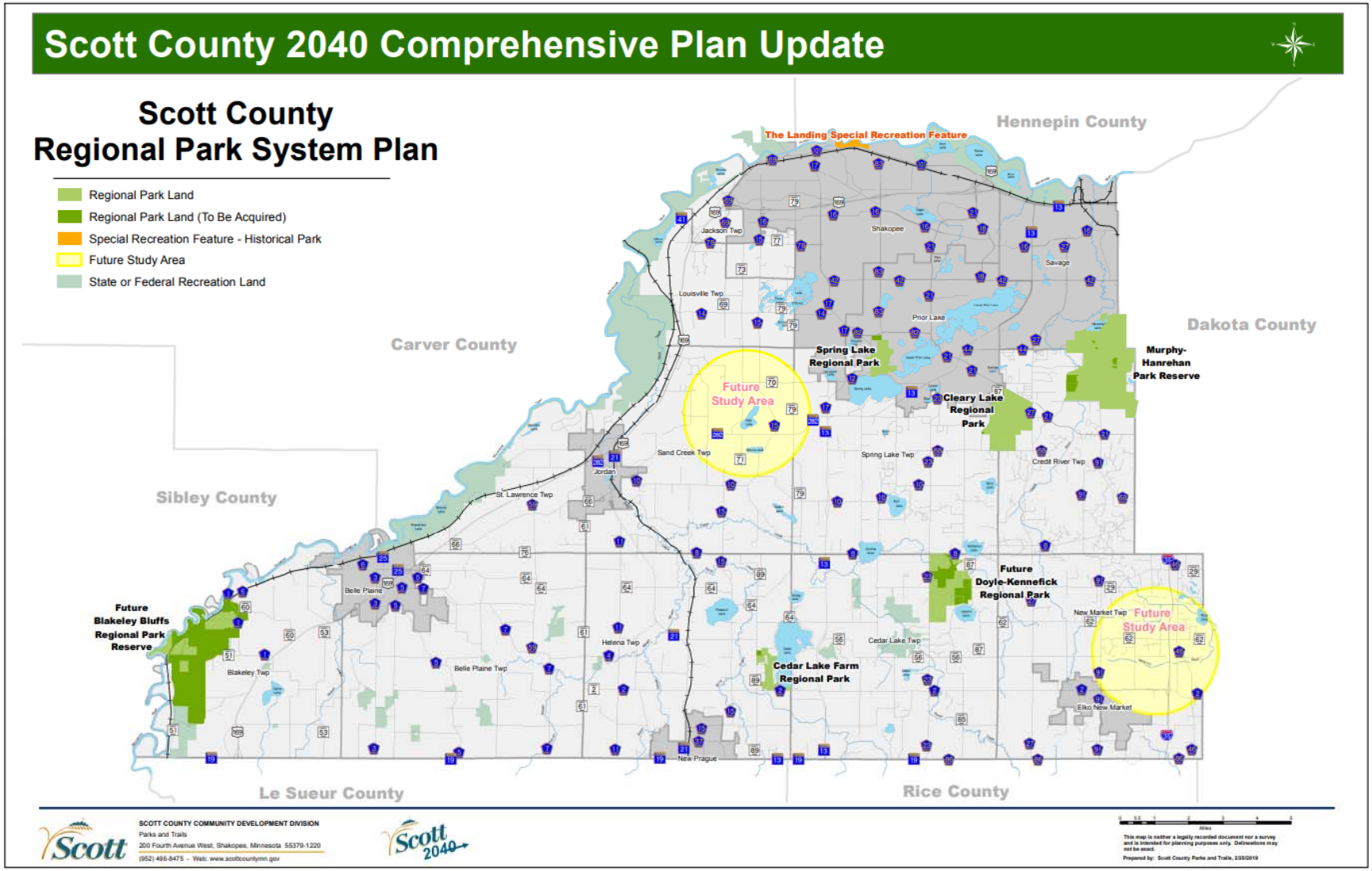
The City of Elko New Market is served by two school districts: Lakeville Independent School District 194 and New Prague Independent School District 721. Eagle View Elementary, which is part of the New Prague district, is the only school located in Elko New Market. Eagle View Elementary supports the park system by providing baseball / softball fields, multiuse hard courts (including court games and basketball hoops), open playfields, and play equipment. Facilities at Eagle View Elementary function primarily as a neighborhood park and are available for use by the Elko New Market community through a joint powers agreement. The location of Eagle View Elementary is depicted on Figure 10.1.

REGIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

No Regional Parks System facilities exist in Elko New Market. However, Scott County, in partnership with the Three Rivers Park District, provides parks, trails and recreational facilities that serve Elko New Market residents. The Scott County Parks Program is focused on creating, operating and maintaining a system of parks, trails and open space to meet the needs of 11 townships and seven cities that make up Scott County, while continuing to support the existing facilities of the Three Rivers Park District. The Scott County Parks Program is focused on land acquisition and planning for the development and operation of regional and county parks and trails. The map included on the following page depicts the existing and planned Regional Parks within Scott County while Table 10-4 summarizes the amenities located at each.

State-supported grant-in-aid snowmobile trails are also located in Elko New Market and are connected to an extensive network of snowmobile trails throughout the region and state. More information about snowmobiling and snowmobile trails is available through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at dnr.state.mn.us/snowmobiling/index.html.





Source: Scott County

Table 10-4:

Regional Recreational Facilities																						
Recreational Facilities	**Total Acres**	**Miles of Trails**	Archery	Bike/Boat Rental	Boat Launch	Biking/Walking Trails	Camping	Conservation Area	Cross Country Skiing	Dog Off-Leash Area	Equestrian Trail	Fishing	Golf	Interpretive Programming	Mountain Bike Trails	Park Building	Picnic Facilities	Picnic Shelter	Playground Equipment	Restroom	Snowmobile Trails	Swimming
Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve (Planned)	2,440					•		•														
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park	172	1.3		•	•	•	•					•		•		•	•	•	•	•		•
Cleary Lake Regional Park	1,045	8.5		•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•	•		•
Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park (Planned)	882	13				•	•	•			•			•		•	•	•				
Murphy Hanrehan Park Reserve	2,400	40			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•					•		
Spring Lake Regional Park	373	3.5				•		•		•							•			•	•	
Source: Scott County and Three Rivers Park District																						

PARK AND TRAIL GOALS / POLICIES

Continued expansion of the City park and trail system is an important amenity that the City desires to provide for its residents and market to visitors. Elko New Market can plan and provide for parks and trails in advance of the actual need should funding be available. The City's Park and Trail Plan is an essential tool to ensure that adequate open space and recreational needs of the community are provided for both now and in the future. The following goals and policies are intended to serve as a guide for future system acquisition and development.

Park and Trail Goal #1: Protect, preserve and improve environmentally sensitive areas and natural/cultural resources.

Policies:

- Establish the following as protection and preservation priorities:
  - Vermillion River corridor.
  - Shoreland areas, wetland complexes, water ways, water bodies and ponds.
  - Ground water resources.
  - Significant forested vegetation, prairies, and savannas.
- Promote innovative development concepts that seek to protect, preserve and improve environmentally sensitive areas and natural/cultural resources, as well as take advantage of any unique features for enjoyment by residents.
- Implement innovative stormwater management techniques and best management practices in existing and future park and trail projects.
- Promote and engage the community in environmental preservation projects, such as cleanups, education, pollinator habitats, and native grass, wildflower and tree plantings.
- Consider adopting a pollinator friendly resolution.

Park and Trail Goal #2: Acquire land for development of a park and trail system to fulfill the long-term needs of community residents.

Policies:

- Acquire park and trail land through land dedication, purchase, or donation.
- Acquire parcels that will provide for both active recreation needs and that contain natural amenities and unique landscape areas such as the Vermillion River corridor, shoreland areas, wetland complexes, water ways, water bodies, ponds, significant forested vegetation, prairies, and savannas.
- Accept land dedication for park, trail and open space facilities in satisfaction of subdivision requirements only when the parcel satisfies the needs of the community and is compatible with surrounding parcels, as determined by the City.
- Accept lands that serve no previously defined system purpose as a donation, but do not accept the lands as part of required development contributions. Unsolicited

donations will only be accepted if they are free of obligations or impacts that may limit their use.

- Dedicate proper right-of-way for sidewalks and trails during the subdivision process or acquired as part of improvement projects.
- Promote acquisition of land which provides public view, access and exposure to improve safety and to maximize public use for the facility.
- Require that costs of acquisition and development of park and trail facilities be borne by those that benefit from the improvements.

Park and Trail Goal #3: Establish a comprehensive park and trail system for all residents of Elko New Market.

Policies:

- Preserve inherent natural amenities or cultural resources when planning the development of specific park and trail sites.
- Establish parks and trails to segregate urban land use patterns, provide public access, allow wildlife movement, and preserve open space while allowing the community to enjoy the natural amenities within the City. These natural amenities may include both buildable land and environmentally sensitive areas with a linear park design to conserve and enhance areas such as significant vegetation, water bodies, waterways, wetlands, ponds, prairies, savannas other natural resources within the community.
- Emphasize Elko New Market as a trailway hub:
    - Work with the state of Minnesota to interconnect City greenway corridors and trailways to larger state-wide trails.
    - Interconnect Elko New Market and adjacent county's greenway corridors and trailways, specifically the Vermillion River corridor with Dakota County.
    - Work with Scott County to interconnect City trails with County parks and trails.
- Maintain a balance between active and passive recreational areas and activities tailored to the needs of the entire community.
- Integrate park and trail facilities that can be utilized during all seasons.
- Utilize consistent design elements for park and trail facilities (buildings, play equipment, landscape plantings, signage, fixtures, etc.) that promote community identity, recognition of public facilities and safety.
- Consider long-term costs for maintenance and operation in a facility's design and construction as part of the planning process.
- Minimize impacts upon adjacent land uses through provision for, but not limited to the following:
    - Appropriate location and orientation of activity areas and buildings.
    - Screening and landscaping site design elements.
    - Structure designs with appropriate scale, color and materials.
    - Adequate off-street parking.

- Develop a trail system which is both functional for transportation and recreation with priority given to the following areas:
    - Trail connections with existing and proposed parks and trails, activity centers, school sites, natural resource areas and natural habitat / greenway corridors such as the Vermillion River.
    - Trails along major streets that have the most direct access to destinations.
    - Trails that are routed to minimize stop signs, cross traffic and mixing with other modes of transportation, but are not limited to trail crossings at controlled intersections.
- Coordinate the construction of trails in conjunction with State, County or City street improvement projects to minimize costs.
- Require park and trail projects to be in accordance with City design standards, American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and National Recreation and Park Association and playground standards.

Park and Trail Goal #4: Ensure that the City park and trail system is related to the needs of community residents and that the dedication requirements are roughly proportionate to the impacts generated by development.

Policies:

- Evaluate capital improvements made to individual park facilities on the basis of relative need for developed park facilities.
- Program recreational open space improvements in accordance with a Capital Improvement Program and update on an annual basis.
- Monitor park dedication fee structure to ensure that implementation of the comprehensive park and trail system will be accomplished in a manner that is consistent with the law.
- Require park improvements associated with development proposals be installed at the time of development to ensure that park facilities are available to neighborhood residents.

Park and Trail Goal #5: Develop a partnership between the City of Elko New Market, Lakeville ISD 194, New Prague ISD 721, Scott County, Elko New Market Township, churches and civic organizations to provide recreation facilities and programs.

Policies:

- Pursue grants, joint powers agreements and other alternative funding sources for the acquisition and development of park, trail and open space facilities.
- Coordinate local facility development with the needs and facilities of surrounding communities, school districts, athletic associations, civic groups, etc.
- Coordinate recreational programming with the needs of surrounding communities, school districts, athletic associations, civic groups, etc.

PARK AND TRAIL PLAN

The Elko New Market 2040 Park and Trail Plan is intended to provide guidance to City Officials, developers and residents for continued development of the City's park and trail system. The Plan projects park and trail development needs through the year 2040 and identifies search areas for future park needs. It must be emphasized that the future park search areas identified herein do not target specific properties. Instead, the search areas identify general areas of acquisition toward the goal of providing the City with the ability to reserve land from development as it becomes available.

Trail development is addressed somewhat differently, in that some of the future trail corridors have been identified by the Scott County Comprehensive Plan. The proposed park and trail system (Figure 10.4) identifies these important corridors and trail segments that the City believes should be constructed in order to link community facilities to regional facilities and open space systems that exist or are being planned in adjacent communities and townships. The basic concept of the 2040 Park and Trail Plan is to provide for a pedestrian and bicycle transportation network that connects to important recreational and social centers in the community. The comprehensive trail system should not only ensure public access to community amenities but should also provide recreation opportunities for all age groups and safer access to facilities than are currently available within the community.

Park Needs

The population of the City of Elko New Market is projected to grow to 11,900 by the year 2040. For park planning purposes, communities range in the amount of parkland that is desired per capita. Generally, the amount of park acreage per capita ranges from 10 to 20 acres per 1,000 residents. Utilizing the population forecast from the Metropolitan Council for Elko New Market, Table 10-5 summarizes the number of acres of park that will be needed to accommodate future populations through the year 2040.

Table 10-5

Park Acreage Needs through 2040				
		Required Park Acreage		
Year	Elko New Market Population Forecasts	Low (10 acres per 1,000 residents)	Mid (15 acres per 1,000 residents)	High (20 acres per 1,000 residents)
2018	4,769	48	72	95
2020	6,100	61	92	122
2030	8,600	86	129	172
2040	11,900	119	179	238
Source: Metropolitan Council				

Based on the 10 to 20 acres per 1,000 residents standard, the Elko New Market park system should currently include approximately 48 to 95 acres of parkland to serve the existing (2018)

population. The City currently has approximately 59 acres of public park land, which is within the recommended parameters. A minimum of 119 acres of park / recreation area will be needed to accommodate the anticipated 2040 population of 11,900. To meet the 119 acre total, 60 additional acres of land will need to be added to the current park system between now and 2040.

It should be noted that the acres per 1,000 residents standard typically pertain to the core park systems, exclusive of trail corridors and special use facilities like golf courses, regional parks and wetland open space areas. The acres per 1,000 residents standard provides one method to evaluate park systems. The City should utilize the standard as a way to evaluate whether the overall park system acreage is generally acceptable.

In addition to the acres per 1,000 residents standard, the City should utilize the per capita standards for each park classification to ensure sufficient acreage of each park type is provided in the community. Table 10-6 summarizes the park classifications per capita standards and acreage needs through 2040.

Table 10-6

Park Acreage Need through 2040 By Park Classification

Classification	Per Capita Standard (acres per 1,000 residents)	Existing Acreage	2018 Required Acreage[1]	2040 Required Acreage[2]	Additional Acreage Needed by 2040 to Meet Requirements[3]
Mini Park	0.25 to 0.5	7.64	1.2 to 2.4	3.0 to 6.0	**0.00**
Neighborhood Park	2.5 to 3.5	9.10	11.9 to 16.7	29.8 to 41.7	**20.7 to 32.6**
Community Park	5.0 to 8.0	10.5	23.8 to 38.2	59.5 to 95.2	**49.0 to 84.7**
Community Playfield / Athletic Complex	2.0 to 2.5	0	9.5 to 11.9	23.8 to 29.8	**23.8 to 29.8**
Natural Area / Greenway	N/A	31.7	--	--	--
Special Use Park	N/A	0	--	--	--

[1] Based on 2018 Estimated Population: 4,769
[2] Based on 2040 Projected Population: 11,900
[3] Difference between existing acreage and the 2040 required acreage.
Source: National Recreation and Park Association, Metropolitan Council

Based on the per capita standards for each park classification, Elko New Market needs a minimum of 21 additional acres of Neighborhood Park, 49 additional acres of Community Park, and 24 acres of Community Playfield / Athletic Complex. No additional Mini Park acreage is needed for the projected 2040 population.

As a part of the park planning effort, Park Commission members inquired about the type of facilities that should be offered within the park system for residents. The type, number and quality of park equipment, courts and fields are subject to individual goals and objectives of each community and the amount of land available. As there are a number of parks that will be

outfitted within the future, it may be an opportune time for the City to survey residents to determine what type of amenities they would like to have in future parks.

Proposed Park Recommendations

To provide the park acreage needs for the projected 2040 population and address service area gaps, the Parks Commission recommends that the City consider adding a minimum of 21 acres of neighborhood parks, 49 acres of community parks, and 24 acres of community playfield / athletic complex over the next 20 years. Meeting these minimum recommendations would result in 94 additional acres of parkland bringing the total projected park acreage to 153. The projected total of 153 parkland acres by 2040 results in just over 13 acres per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the minimum required acreage to serve the projected 2040 population.

The City should also consider the development of natural areas / greenways and special use parks as the need or opportunity arises. Figure 10.4 depicts the proposed 2040 Park Plan. Proposed park search areas are based on future residential land uses, land topography, park service area deficits and proximity to existing and proposed community facilities.

When planning for future parks, Elko New Market decision makers should utilize the park classification standards to determine the exact park location, size and amenities provided. The standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment relating to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. Occasionally, more than one component may occur within the same site, particularly with regard to a specialized use or natural areas within a larger park. The following descriptions supplement the standards summarized in Table 10-1 by providing additional guidelines for each of the park classifications and noting proposed search areas, if applicable.

Mini Park. Mini parks are intended to service special neighborhoods due to geographic limitations. They have insufficient size to fulfill the needs of a complete neighborhood park. The sites usually have less than five acres of usable land and therefore only allow for play equipment, multiuse hard-courts and possibly substandard ball fields (suitable for informal recreation). These areas are highly individualized based upon the nature of the site and the needs of the immediate adjacent population.

Desirable Park Size: 1 to 3 acres.

Service Area: Less than ¼ mile radius preferred. ½ mile radius in select circumstances.

Per Capita Standard: 0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Typical Facilities:
Active

- Play equipment
- Multiuse hard courts (basketball, court games)

- Ball fields

Passive
- Park benches / seating areas
- Picnic facilities

Search Areas: No search areas have been identified as the City has sufficient mini park acreage to accommodate the projected 2040 population.

Neighborhood Park. Neighborhood parks should provide neighborhood open space with provisions for active recreation use which responds to residential neighborhood needs. These recreational uses could include play equipment, open playfields, ball fields, multiuse hard-courts, multiuse trails, picnic areas and ice skating. Primary users will be children and families rather than organized athletic functions.

Convenient pedestrian and bicycle linkages from the neighborhood into the parks should occur along with community trail connections. Adjacent land use should be residential (limited to two edges), school grounds, collector roadway or community open space. In some cases, joint use of elementary or middle school sites should be considered to minimize duplication of active recreation facilities.

Desirable Park Size: 3 to 10 acres.

Service Area: ½ mile radius with secondary service to residences within ¾ mile radius.

Per Capita Standard: 2.5 to 3.5 developed acres per 1,000 residents.

Typical Facilities:
Active
- Play equipment
- Open playfields
- Ball fields
- Multiuse hard-courts (basketball, court games)
- Tennis courts (optional, can vary by location and neighborhood desires)
- Trails – both internal loops and access to community system
- Sledding
- Ice rinks

Passive
- Park benches / seating areas
- Picnic facilities

Support Elements:

- Trash containers
- Landscaping with native plant materials
- Identification sign/regulatory signs
- Off-street parking, disability accessible (20 car standard)
- Park shelter for principal neighborhood parks (15 acres and larger that are geographically distributed throughout the City)

Search Areas:
- North of 260th Street, South of 250th Street East, East of Dakota Avenue, and West of Natchez Avenue.
- North of James Parkway, South of 250th Street East, East of Nevada Avenue, and West of Dakota Avenue.
- North of 270th Street East, South of 260th Street East, East of Texas Avenue, and West of Zane Avenue.
- North of 275th Street East, South of Glenborough Drive, along Natchez Avenue.

Community Park. Community parks should be differentiated from neighborhood parks by two factors: size and function. The Community Park designation includes both parks and playfields that provide facilities for recreational activities such as walking, picnicking, viewing, water sports, ice skating, passive sports and organized community events. These parks serve larger sections of the City and are typically more spacious than neighborhood parks.

Desirable Park Size: 10+ acres.

Service Area: 1 mile.

Per Capita Standard: 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 residents.

Typical Facilities:
Active
- Active facilities compatible with large groups such as volleyball, horseshoes, baseball / softball, soccer, football, court games, etc.
- Play equipment
- Multiuse trails
- Beach front
- Boat access

Passive
- Picnic facilities
- Seating areas with attractive views
- Fishing
- Natural areas

Support Elements:
- Trash containers
- Comfort facilities with restrooms which may integrate an information center, picnic facility, storage or other building elements
- Off-street parking for large groups and community events
- Identification sign / regulatory signs

Search Areas:
- North of 260th Street East, south of 250th Street, along Xerxes Avenue. This location serves to preserve the existing wetland, remnant forest patch and give connection to the Vermillion River. It may also provide an opportunity to work with Scott County, the State DNR and conservation organizations to finance the environmental protection of the area.
- City extension of land South, East, and West of Windrose Park.

Community Playfield / Athletic Complex. Community playfields / athletic complexes are targeted towards organized adult and youth play on a citywide basis. The majority of the users for these facilities will come from beyond a walking range and as a result will require adequate parking and available restrooms. Community playfields / athletic complexes should respond to the following types of athletic facility needs: baseball / softball fields, soccer / football fields, multiple tennis courts, swimming pools, etc. Facility use and team competition play may require site lighting and irrigation to extend their useable hours. Community playfields / athletic complexes should be maintained with more intensity than other parks due to the amount of use and level of play.

Community playfields / athletic complexes generally service populations up to 25,000 however, their service base relates primarily to individual facility needs and the demands placed on them by user groups. Optimum size for a community playfield/athletic complex is 40 acres or larger. Locations near thoroughfares to accommodate vehicle access and movement are preferred. Joint use of facilities with elementary, middle or senior high schools can be considered where schedules and maintenance requirements agree.

Desirable Park Size: 40+ acres.

Service Area: Community wide.

Per Capita Standard: 2.0 to 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Typical Facilities:
Active
- Ball fields
- Ice rinks
- Basketball
- Tennis (multiple courts)

- Swimming pools
- Disk golf
- Play equipment

Passive
- Spectator seating and bleacher areas
- Picnic facilities for group events and tournaments
- Trails connecting facilities and linking to the community trail system

Support Elements:
- Trash containers
- Off-street parking for players and spectators, including buses
- Comfort facilities including restrooms and concessions
- Storage facilities

Search Areas:
- North of 260th Street East, South of 250th Street East, East of Natchez Avenue, and West of Xerxes Avenue.
- City extension of land South of Eagle View Elementary and North of 260th Street East.

Natural Area / Greenway. Natural areas / greenways are set in natural areas of the community where preservation of the natural environment is the primary emphasis as opposed to active recreation and play. Hiking trails, wildlife habitat and picnic facilities are among the primary uses of the park facility. This type of facility is typically developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, skiing, roller blading, skating, canoeing, etc. Developed facilities should be limited to elements compatible with resource preservation or management.

Desirable Park Size: Varies by use and function, but corridors are to be a minimum of 100 feet in width.

Service Area: Community wide.

Per Capita Standard: N/A

Typical Facilities:
Active
- Small play area

Passive
- Park benches / seating areas
- Picnic facilities
- Passive trails

- Scenic overlook

Support Elements:
- Comfort facilities
- Interpretive / informational signage
- Lighting
- On / off-street parking

Search Areas:
- North of 260th Street East, South of 250th Street East, East of Xerxes Avenue, West of I-35, along the Vermillion River.
- City extension of land South, East, and West of Pete's Hill Platted Park. This location serves to preserve the existing Natural Area Corridor and DNR protected water basins.

Special Use Park. Special use parks are facilities which provide special activities, unique built environments, historical sites or single purposes. Their need should respond to distinct markets, demands or opportunities within the community. Characteristics vary widely in response to the facility and the demand responded to. Included in this classification are formal designations of a site with historical character or cultural significance. Uses typical of this special designation include dog parks, golf courses, nature centers, conservatories, arboretums, gardens, fishing piers, amphitheaters or downhill ski areas.

The Parks Commission will work collectively with the Scott County Historical Society and other local historical commissions to facilitate identification and designation of potentially significant historical sites within the Elko New Market.

Desired Park Size: Varies by function and facility type. Historical features should be a minimum of one-half acre to encourage use and provide support facilities.

Service Area: Community wide.

Per Capita Standard: N/A

Typical Facilities:
- Facilities vary according to function and facility type

Support Elements:
- Parking
- Comfort facilities
- Multiuse trails
- Identification / informational signage

Search Areas: Future special use parks are dependent on market demand and the availability of sites with historical character or cultural significance.

Proposed Trail Recommendations

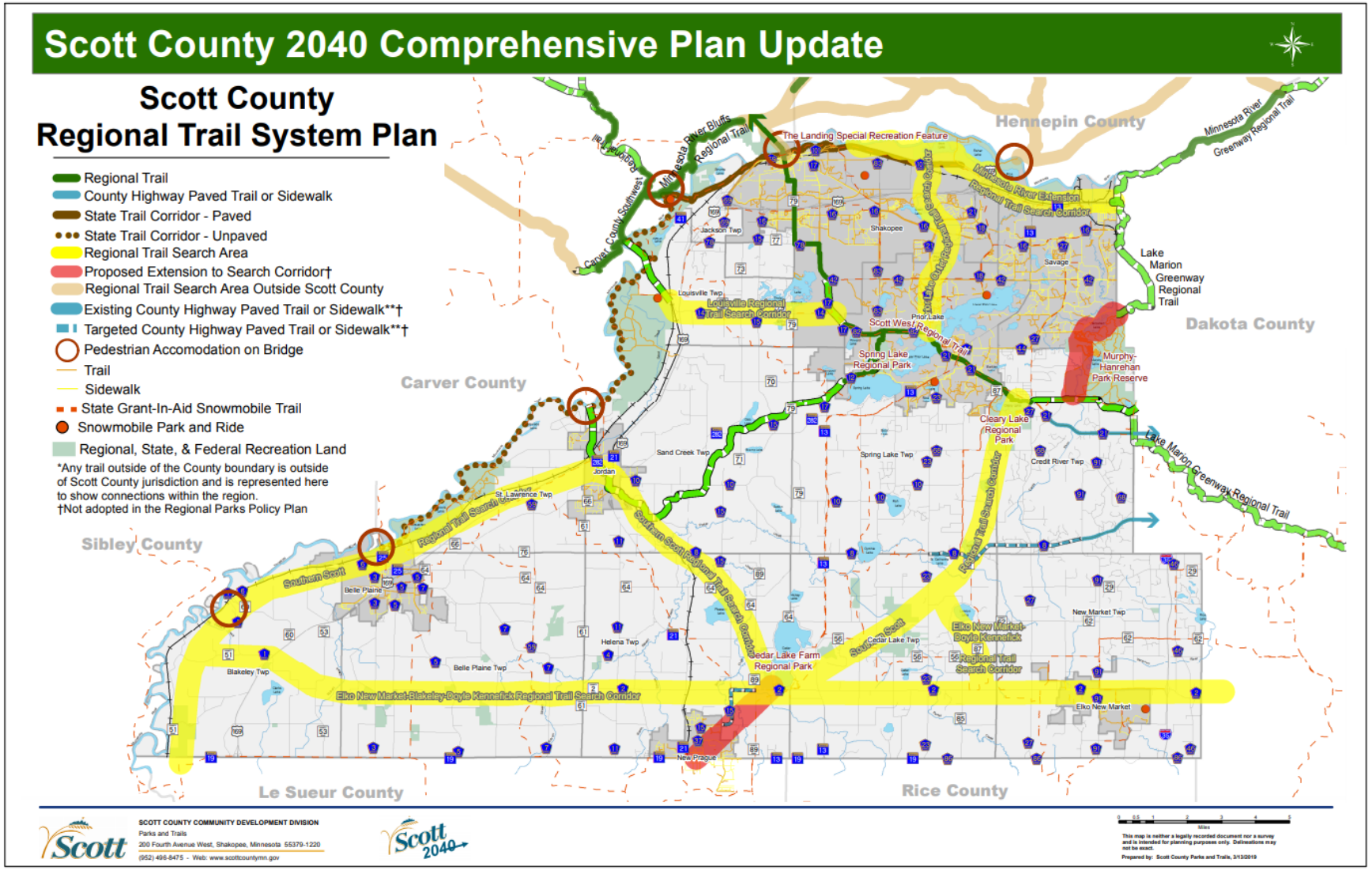
Figure 10.4 identifies trail segments that are proposed to connect various recreation areas, commercial nodes, schools and neighborhoods throughout the community within the 2040 planning area. The total proposed distance of future trails and sidewalks that are needed to provide connections to existing and proposed park and recreation areas is approximately 382,000 linear feet or 72.3 miles.

In order to provide the regional, county and city trailway corridor links, it will be important for all of the communities, including Scott County and adjacent counties, Elko New Market and New Market Township, to work together to develop an overall plan, method to acquire lands, and funding mechanism to install the trails. It will be imperative to begin working on a joint plan in order to acquire or preserve the lands adjacent to these features prior to development. The 2040 Park and Trail Plan suggests that the City of Elko New Market Parks Commission act as the steering committee to contact adjacent jurisdictions and agencies that could help provide direction to implement a joint trailway system. The following summary outlines the proposed plans for the 2040 trail system:

Regional and County Trailway Corridors. The City of Elko New Market will continue to work with Metropolitan Council, Scott County, Dakota County, New Market Township and associated stakeholders to implement regional and county trailway corridors when applicable. Scott County has identified CSAH 2 through Elko New Market as part of the Elko New Market-Blakely-Doyle Kennefick Regional Trail Search Corridor. This corridor is proposed to connect Elko New Market to Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park and the Minnesota River.

In addition to the above mentioned regional and county trailway corridor, the Minnesota Pipe Line Company has indicated that a passive recreational corridor could extend through Elko New Market over the MinnCan natural gas pipeline. The MinnCan natural gas pipeline was constructed from Clearwater County in northern Minnesota, south to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The pipeline alignment runs west / east through the southern border of Scott County, along Elko New Market's current boundary and through the City's 2040 boundary.

According to Minnesota Pipe Line Company, which is responsible for the construction of the pipeline, the route requires a 50 to 100 foot buffer. This buffer must be kept clear of vegetation to service the pipeline if necessary. Although not yet identified by other Minnesota communities which are affected by the pipeline location, it has been indicated by the City of Elko New Market that this pipeline corridor offers opportunity to be included in the proposed trail system network as a passive recreational corridor. It has been indicated that separate trail easements will be required from each property owner. With the implementation of this Plan, the City will continue to pursue this 3.24 mile trailway corridor potential.



Source: Scott County

City Trailway Corridors. The proposed Park and Trail Plan depicts four city trailway corridor segments. The first is a Vermillion River city trailway corridor which extends east / west along the Vermillion River. A proposed city trailway corridor south from this corridor links the Vermillion River to CSAH 2. Another city trailway corridor is proposed southwest through the City of Elko New Market, at times following an existing railroad bed. Lastly, a city trailway corridor is proposed southeast from Pete's Hill Park to I-35 and beyond into Dakota County. The City will continue to pursue construction of these trail alignments as opportunity arises, along with other links, such as along Xerxes Avenue.

City Trails / Sidewalks. City trails and sidewalks supplement the aforementioned county and city trailway corridors, connecting these larger trail networks to local neighborhoods, commercial nodes, school facilities and other parks within the network. Future arterial roads which include Natchez Avenue and 260th Street East are guided to receive trails on both sides of the roadway. In addition, a diverse network of residential trails and sidewalks are proposed to interconnect neighborhoods, parks and city facilities.

These proposed city trails and sidewalks guided for construction are dependent on future residential plats and reconstruction of county roads. The City's Subdivision Ordinance and Transportation Plan require construction of sidewalks and / or trails along roadway corridors with new developments. In general, trails are required on arterial, commercial collector, and major collector roadways and sidewalks are required on minor collector and local residential roadways.

Implementation

This section of the Park and Trail Plan identifies the tools and processes to implement the Plan. The following implementation strategies may be used:

1. The Park Commission will review and update neighborhood park needs and service areas as development occurs so that new barriers and changing recreational needs are acknowledged and accommodated.

2. The Park Commission will review and evaluate each development project to ensure it provides appropriate park land dedication, open space preservation and trail connections parks, trails, greenways, schools, and commercial/industrial developments.

3. The Park Commission will review and prioritize trail needs and recommend a schedule and funding framework to the City Council.

4. The Park Commission will investigate the use of grants, donations, partnerships, and opportunities for additional joint powers agreements for the development of park, trail and recreation facilities.

5. The Park Commission recommends that the City Council amend its City Code to incorporate current state statue language associated with park dedication. This language states that the City may require that a reasonable portion of the buildable land, as defined by the City's ordinance, of any proposed subdivision be dedicated to the public or preserved for public use as parks, recreational facilities and open space. The City may also accept a cash fee, based on fair market value, in lieu of land dedication. The land dedication or cash fee must bear a rough proportionality to the need created by the proposed subdivision or development.

   Cash payments received must be placed by the municipality in a special fund to be used only for the purposes for which the money was obtained. Cash payments received must be used only for the acquisition and development or improvement of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space based on the approved park systems plan. Cash payments must not be used for ongoing operation, maintenance, or redevelopment of parks, recreational facilities, playgrounds, trails, wetlands, or open space.

6. The City will develop comprehensive maintenance and management plans for its Park and Trail System. Minnesota Statutes specify that park dedication fees may not be used for operation or maintenance purposes and therefore it is important for the City to continue to provide a separate budget fund for maintenance and management.

7. The Park Commission recommends that the City Council consider incorporating park redevelopment infrastructure planning as part of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. It is anticipated that significant funding over many years will be needed to enhance or redevelop aging parks and provide facility improvements.

8. The Park Commission recommendations for future land dedication will be based on the park land need defined by the Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan. Active park areas shall be exclusive of wetlands, slopes exceeding 12 percent, ponding areas, or other features unsuitable for active park development. The City may accept natural open space as part of the parkland dedication. Selection of parkland for dedication shall be at the discretion of the City Council, based upon the policies and recommendations of the Park Commission and Elko New Market Park and Trail Plan.

9. The Park Commission will act to further investigate options and agency participation for development of the greenway / natural habitat corridor and trail system outside of the 2040 planning area.

Funding Mechanisms

Financing the park and trail improvements will be a challenge for the City. The acquisition and development of the park and trail system will not occur without adequate funding and taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. A brief description of potential funding sources is provided as follows:

Park Dedication. Pursuant to Minnesota State Statutes, the City requires the dedication of either land or cash, or combination thereof at the time that property is subdivided. Dollars collected from park dedication fees represent the primary source of park and trail revenue and should be used for parkland acquisition or park / trail development.

Property Taxes. The City has the ability to raise property taxes to help to pay for the park and trail system. In the event that future changes to the Park and Trail Plan, growth projections, land areas subject to the dedication analysis or other changes occur, the park dedication will need to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. Property taxes are a means to raise revenue for the part of the Park and Trail system that should be borne by existing residents. The use of property tax may be limited by overall financial management of the City or by State imposed levy limitations.

Special Assessments. The ability of a city to levy assessments for park improvements is governed by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 429. This statute defines eligible park improvements as "acquire, improve and equip parks, open space areas, playgrounds, and recreational facilities within or without the corporate limits." This definition would cover the vast majority of projects anticipated by this Plan. A special assessment represents the portion of a park improvement costs levied against benefiting properties. The special assessment tool must be reviewed carefully to identify whether historic park dedication fees have been collected and applied to the benefiting properties to ensure that owners are not charged twice for park and trail improvements. Also, an analysis would need to be done to identify which properties receive benefit from the park and trail improvement as there must be a rational nexus between the charge and benefit received. The typical method would be to levy an equal assessment on each benefiting parcel. The assessment could be for all or any portion of the improvements. At least 20% of the costs of the improvement must be assessed to gain the authority to issue bonds. If less than 100% of the costs are assessed, then park dedication fees, property taxes, or other available revenues would be needed to pay back the debt.

Referendum – Voter Approved Bonds. The City may place a referendum on voter ballets for consideration by the public to support park and trail improvements. Voter approved debt service levies are spread on the market value of property. This funding mechanism is typically utilized for major improvements such as a community center, athletic complex or to acquire high amenity park and recreation areas.

Grants. The City should continue to apply for available grants for development of its Park and Trail Plan through agencies such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Scott County, and any other agencies.

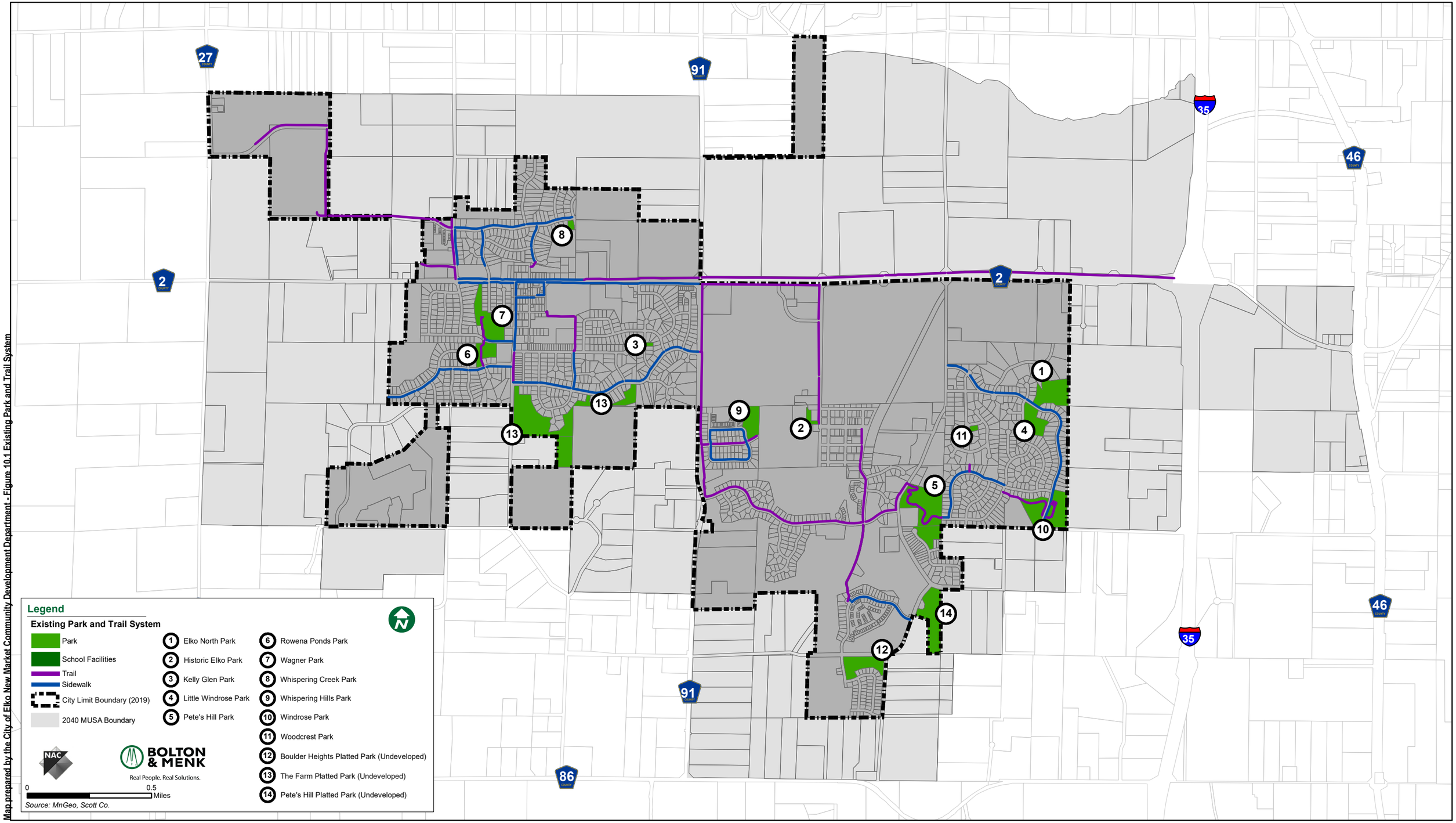
Private Donations. The City should establish a policy identifying park and trail needs and a process the public can use to donate revenue or equipment to meet those needs. The City should also consider establishing a Community Foundation for use for park projects and equipment. Additionally, the Park Commission should proactively contact private foundations such as The Trust for Public Land, 1,000 Friends of Minnesota, McKnight Foundation, Metro Greenways and others to identify potential funding sources for the community park and trail system.

CITY OF ELKO NEW MARKET
SMALL-TOWN CULTURE. EMERGING POSSIBILITIES.

2040 Comprehensive Plan

Elko New Market, MN

Existing Park and Trail System
Figure 10.1

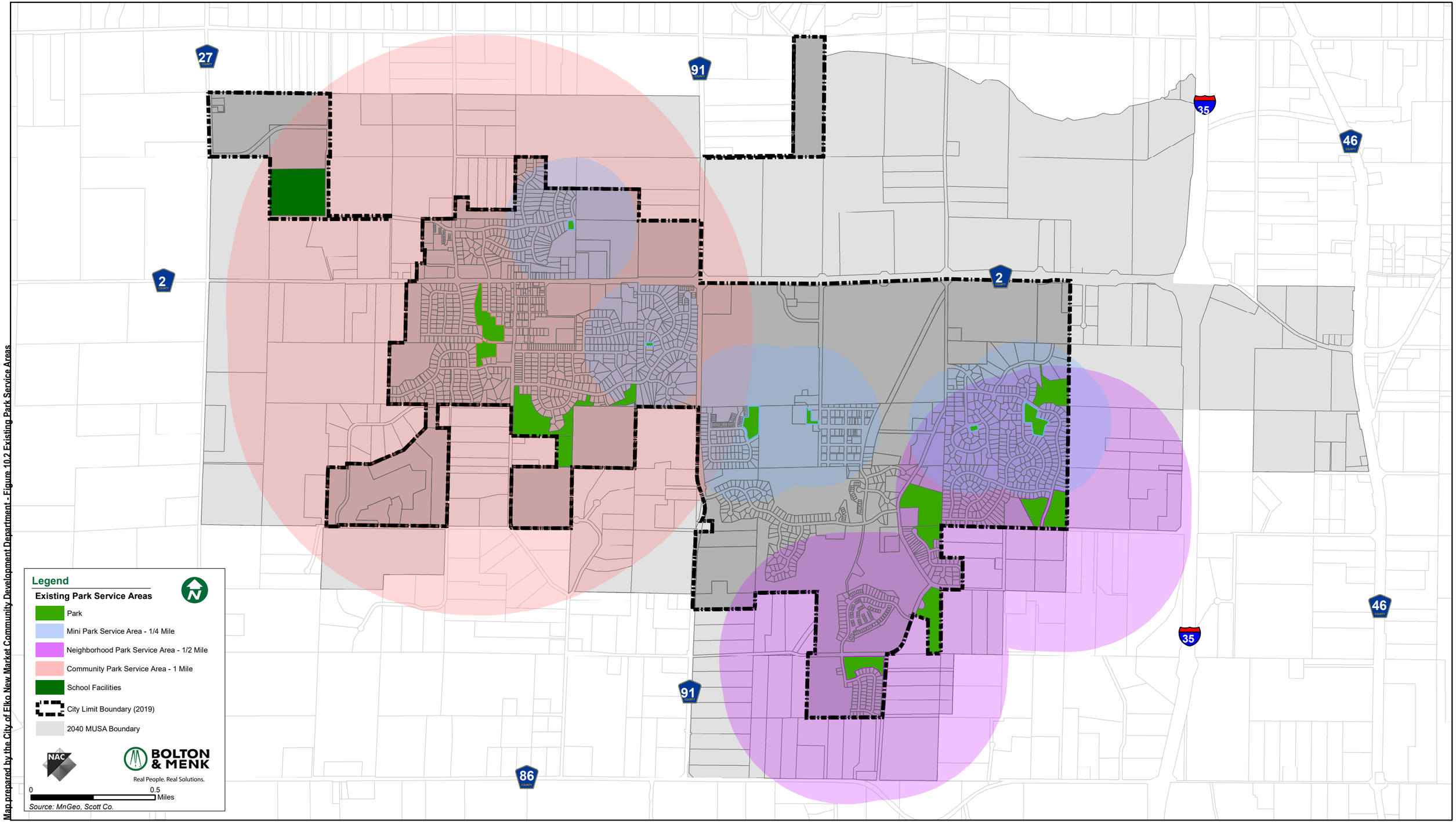


Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 10.1 Existing Park and Trail System

2040 Comprehensive Plan

Elko New Market, MN

Existing Park Service Areas
Figure 10.2



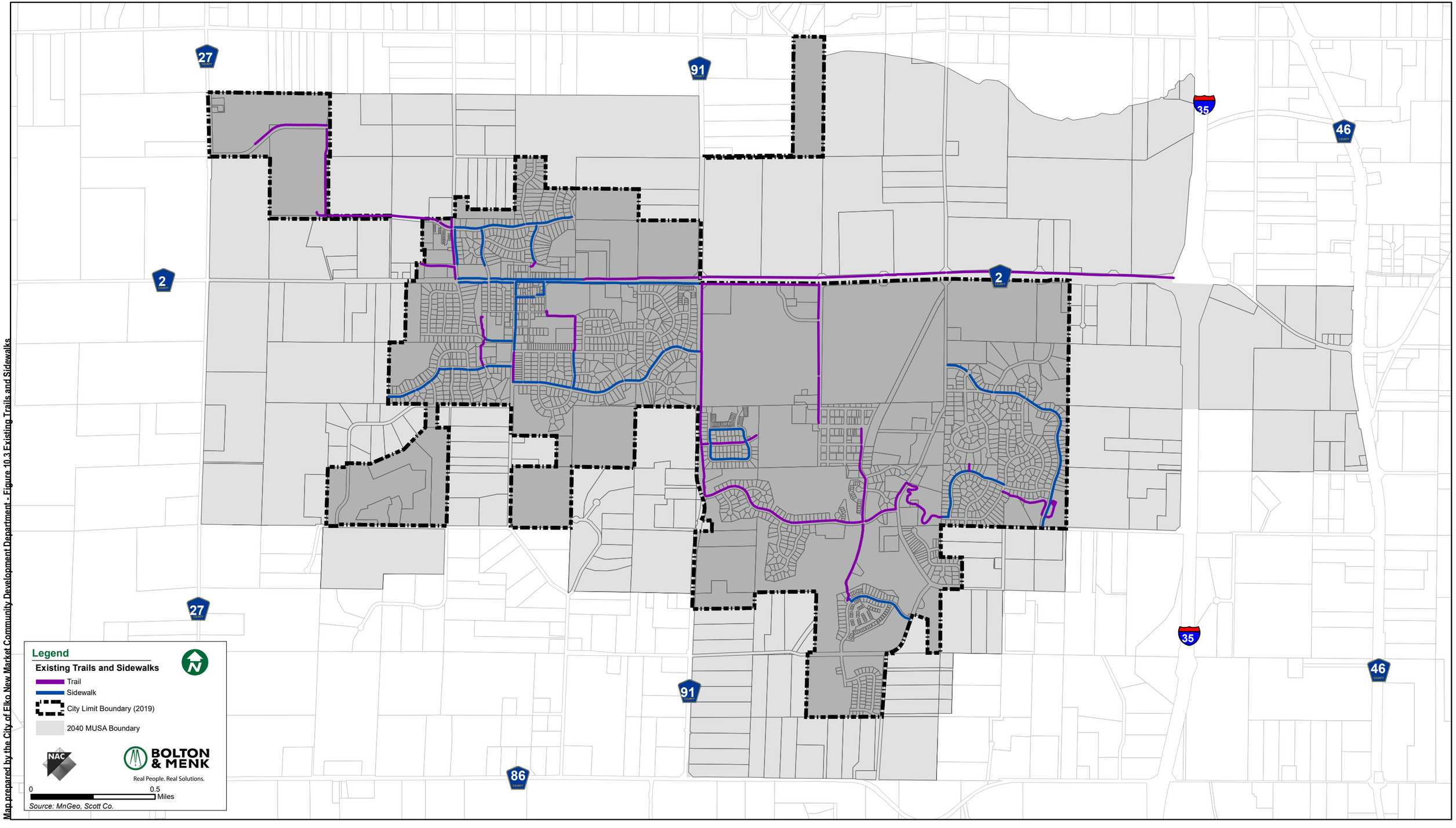
Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 10.2 Existing Park Service Areas

CITY OF ELKO NEW MARKET
SMALL-TOWN CULTURE. EMERGING POSSIBILITIES.

2040 Comprehensive Plan

Elko New Market, MN

Existing Trails and Sidewalks
Figure 10.3



Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 10.3 Existing Trails and Sidewalks

CITY OF ELKO NEW MARKET
SMALL-TOWN CULTURE. EMERGING POSSIBILITIES.

2040 Comprehensive Plan

Elko New Market, MN

Proposed Park and Trail System
Figure 10.4

Neighborhood Park Search Area
Neighborhood Park Search Area
Community Playfield / Athletic Complex Search Area
Community Park Search Area
Potential Natural Area
Neighborhood Park Search Area
Community Park Search Area
Neighborhood Park Search Area
Potential Natural Area

27
91
35
46
2
2
27
91
86
35
46

Legend

Proposed Park and Trail System

- City Limit Boundary (2019)
- 2040 MUSA Boundary
- Wetlands
- River / Stream
- Park
- School Facilities
- Existing Trail
- Existing Sidewalk
- Proposed Trail
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Proposed City Trailway Corridor
- Proposed Regional / County Trailway Corridor
- Potential MinnCan Pipeline Route (Passive Trail)
- Proposed Park Search Area

NAC

BOLTON & MENK
Real People. Real Solutions.

0 0.5 Miles

Source: MnGeo, Scott Co.

Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 10.4 Proposed Park and Trail System