



Chapter 4 **VISION**

As the City of Chanhassen develops and changes over the course of the next 20 years, its Parks and Recreation System must likewise evolve. New opportunities will present themselves, as will new challenges. Sustaining a desirable park and recreation system throughout this evolution will require a shared community vision and set of guiding principles.

The vision seeks to describe how the community will look, feel, and function over the next 20 years. The community's shared vision identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan, ***“Chanhassen is a Community for Life – Providing for Today and Planning for Tomorrow,”*** captures the community's intent of being a desirable place to live, work, and recreate for all ages.

Guiding Principles

Shaping the implementation of Chanhassen's vision specifically in the Parks and Recreation System is a set of four Guiding Principles. These Principles provide an over-arching framework that informs the development of specific goals, policies, and initiatives. They are also a tool for future decision-making, serving as a yardstick to measure the results of this plan and the appropriateness of future initiatives.



Stewardship

Stewardship is one of the hallmarks of Chanhassen's Parks and Recreation System. An extensive network of preserves gives residents the opportunity to explore and learn about Chanhassen's rich web of natural resources. Greater awareness of Chanhassen's prairies, wetlands, lakes, rivers, forests, and wildlife has led to a greater understanding of the role those resources play in making the community a great place. Chanhassen's citizens have embraced their role as stewards of their city's natural resources. They understand the need to conserve Chanhassen's natural resources so they will continue to enrich future generations, and they advocate continuing to incorporate sustainability practices such as sustainable design, native plant diversity, and ecological maintenance into the system's planning and daily operations.



Connectivity

Connectedness is at the heart of Chanhassen's Parks and Recreation System. The system itself is connected; its parks, preserves, and trails knitted together to create a network of recreation and open spaces that reaches every corner of the community. This network connects residents, neighborhoods, and destinations to one another, strengthening the community and enabling all to enjoy safe, easy, and convenient travel throughout the community and to neighboring cities. Likewise the system's facilities and programs not only connect residents to one another, but they also connect residents to the outdoors and to Chanhassen's wealth of natural resources.



Engagement

Chanhassen's Parks and Recreation system welcomes residents of all ages and all abilities, enabling them to lead active, healthy lives in which they engage with the outdoors, with art and culture, and with one another. Partnerships with private entities, neighborhood and community organizations, athletic associations, user groups, businesses, and schools have created a sense of shared ownership and pride across all segments of the community, leading to active participation in system planning, operation, and maintenance. The system's high quality facilities and programs are a source of community pride that inspire life-long discovery, learning, and socializing.



Adaptable

As Chanhassen has evolved, becoming a larger, more economically and culturally diverse community, its Parks and Recreation System remains adaptable in the way it responds to new needs and challenges, and dynamic in its ability to deliver high-quality programs, facilities, and services. Increased partnerships with groups, organizations, and businesses representing all segments of the community have resulted in new and diverse sources of funding and an infusion of new ideas, energy and enthusiasm. These partnerships have increased the system's versatility, enabling staff and volunteers to adjust to lifestyle changes, respond to new trends, and enhance the system's quality and efficiency.