

## **Appendix A**

# **Monticello Parks and Pathways Plan**

## **Park System Survey**

**Conducted January – March, 2011**

**On-line, voluntary response**



## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Monticello Parks File

FROM: Stephen Grittman

DATE: April 19, 2011

RE: Monticello Parks Plan – Survey Summary

NAC FILE: 191.10

This memorandum summarizes the information in the electronic survey conducted for the Monticello Parks and Trails Plan between January and March of 2011. The survey questions and a summary of the answer data is attached to this memorandum.

A total of 261 responses were received. Because the survey was conducted as an on-line, voluntary response survey, most respondents skipped various questions. The average question response number was about 75% to 80% of the total respondents.

In general, the responses indicated a highly favorable opinion of the Monticello Parks system, and broad support for continued park development. The Bertram Lakes facility was strongly supported by the respondents, with no negative comments received, and some respondents specifically suggesting a “transfer” of resources from other, smaller park facilities to encourage continued acquisition and development of Bertram Lakes.

The Monticello Community Center was also well supported, with as many as 70% of the respondents indicated some use of the facility. For the MCC, the primary indication of need related to interest in additional classes of various types and age groups. Respondents indicated a desire for expanded gymnasium, running track, and fitness facilities, and racquetball was the most commonly mentioned facility not currently available.

With regard to the overall system, there were two primary categories of interest. The first is a general interest in increasing water-oriented facilities. This ranges from additional outdoor swim opportunities (sometimes voiced as beach, sometimes as outdoor pool and/or waterpark), several requests for a “splash park” or splash pad

facility, and related to this – extensive interest in increased access to, and use of, the Mississippi River. These interests were wide-spread throughout the survey, and appeared to cross most of the demographic categories.

The second category of support related to trails and natural open space development. In the questions offering an opportunity to increase trail development, this answer was consistently chosen in the top tier of responses. Specifically, in Question 8 (a question asking respondents to identify the highest priorities for new facilities), the top “Very High Priority” response related to “Natural Areas such as nature trails . . .”, and the highest “High Priority” response was “Passive Community Parks with walking trails, etc. . .”

In other open-ended questions, trails were also highly supported. When asked in Question 3 to identify the one amenity most wanted to be added to the park most visited, the top individual response was trails (these options were self-identified, rather than asking to choose from a list). Further, in Question 2 where respondents were to identify the most commonly-used park system amenities from a list of 16 items, Walking/Bike Paths received the most responses, with the MCC second (these were the only two with received an average ranking of greater than 4.0 on a scoring scale from 0-5).

Apart from these two categories, there were two notable aspects to the various questions. The most commonly mentioned self-generated new facility was for a dog park, which was mentioned more often than any other new amenity other than trails. The second observation (not related to the first) is a strong interest in improvements to Groveland Park, which received the highest amount of attention from the respondents.

Inclusion of Groveland in the list of Community Parks is supported by this interest. Supplementing the Parks Plan to give some attention to the design and elements in this facility would be valuable in serving its long-term role in the system.

Apart from these observations, the survey supports many of the objectives already identified by the City and by the Parks Commission, which include the following:

- Concentration of resources on the Bertram Lakes facility.
- Refocus park system prioritization on larger, broad-impact facilities, rather than many smaller neighborhood parks.
- Extensive increase in trail development, from closing existing gaps to expanding the reach of the trail system.
- Focus on increasing access and use of water-oriented facilities, both natural and man-made.
- Increasing attention on natural areas for park and trail access, including passive park design and development.

# City of Monticello Park and Pathway System Survey

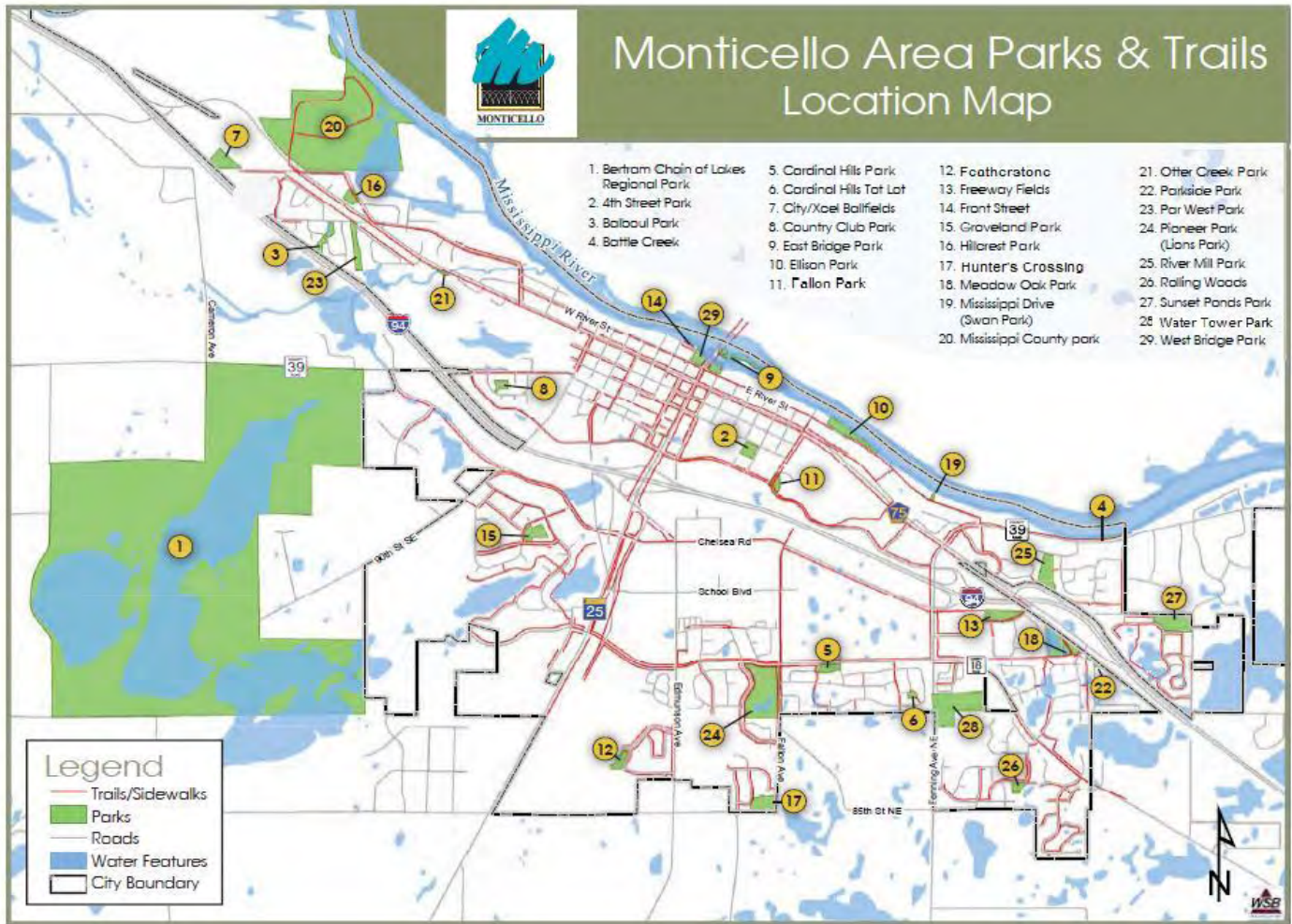
**We want to hear from you!** Please take a few moments to complete this survey. The information you provide will assist the City of Monticello in understanding the park and pathway system needs and desires of the Monticello community.

- Referring to the enclosed Park Location Map on page 7, please identify the frequency of your park use in the community. Please indicate with an “X” your frequency of use and how you arrive there.

County/City Parks	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Walk/Bike	Drive
1. Bertram Lake Regional Park*	2	7	23	57	11	72
2. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Park	1	10	16	30	10	38
3. Balboul Park	0	0	3	11	2	10
4. Battle Rapids Park	0	2	5	10	4	8
5. Cardinal Hills Park	4	2	3	13	7	10
6. Cardinal Hills Tot Lot	2	1	3	9	2	9
7. City/Xcel Ball Fields	3	10	9	16	5	28
8. Country Club Park	1	1	4	11	3	8
9. East Bridge Park	4	16	43	48	42	66
910. Ellison Park	5	29	63	44	47	91
11. Fallon Park	1	2	3	7	4	7
12. Featherstone Park	2	0	4	7	4	7
13. Freeway Fields	5	16	10	12	19	22
14. Front Street	3	9	10	14	19	11
15. Groveland Park	8	15	8	10	22	12
16. Hillcrest Park	3	10	6	10	16	12
17. Hunter’s Crossing Park	1	0	2	6	1	4
18. Meadow Oak Park	8	9	10	8	24	8
19. Mississippi Drive (Swan Park)	2	4	16	46	10	48
20. Montissippi Park**	17	46	61	25	43	99
21. Otter Creek Park	7	18	17	16	35	16
22. Parkside Park	1	3	2	7	6	6
23. Par West Park	5	4	7	9	13	10
24. Pioneer Park (Lion’s Park)	7	28	30	40	33	65
25. River Mill Park	3	9	7	10	18	11
26. Rolling Woods Park	1	6	1	6	8	4
27. Sunset Ponds Park	8	6	5	9	16	8
28. Water Tower Park	0	2	6	9	6	7
29. West Bridge Park	8	35	50	43	49	79

\*Bertram Lakes is a facility jointly developed and operated by Monticello and Wright County

\*\*Montissippi Park is a Wright County Park within the city limits of Monticello



2. Please identify the amenities you or your family members use in the City parks. Select an option that represents the frequency of those amenities you use from "Rarely Used" to "Often Used".

	Rarely Used		Occasional Use		Often Used	Average
Walking/Bike Paths	5	3	23	35	116	4.40
Community Center	14	8	28	19	96	4.06
Playgrounds	32	2	24	11	91	3.75
Play Equipment	36	11	21	18	74	3.52
Restrooms	22	14	53	30	58	3.50
Picnic Tables	19	11	74	28	45	3.39
Events (Music, Movies, Festivals)	21	29	65	34	13	2.93
Picnic Shelters	33	20	59	19	27	2.92
Winter activities (sled, skate)	36	17	59	23	26	2.91
Pet Exercise	76	7	17	15	40	2.59
Ball Fields	71	18	26	14	23	2.34
Fishing Docks	62	25	30	18	15	2.33
Boat Launches	82	17	29	9	14	2.05
Indoor Ice Rink	91	12	25	12	14	2.00
Basketball Courts	87	22	30	8	6	1.85
Disc Golf	110	11	11	7	4	1.49
Other Amenity (specify below)						

**2. (Continued)**

17 Other (please specify):

Wide variety of responses to “Other” – nothing that was unique or dominant

**3. If you could have one amenity added to the park you most often visit, what would it be?**

	Dog Park	Ice Rink	Splsh Park	Tennis	Play-grnd	Field sport	More Trails	Horse Trail	Sled Amen	Outd Swim	Rest rooms	Picnic Shltr	Other
1. Bertram Lake	2			1	1			1		2	1		a,k,p
2. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Park		i			1								
3. Balboul Park					2								
4. Battle Rapids													
5. Cardinal Hills					1						2		
6. Card Hills Tot													
7. City/Xcel Ball					1								
8. Country Club													
9. East Bridge			1										e
10. Ellison													
11. Fallon													
12. Featherstone													g
13. Freeway Fld											1		h,l
14. Front Street													
15. Groveland		3	2	1	1,j	2					2		
16. Hillcrest													n
17. Hunter's X'g													
18. Meadow Oak	1				j						1		o
19. Miss'ippi Dr													
20. Montissippi	2						1	1			1	1	b,d,f,k
21. Otter Creek													
22. Parkside					1								
23. Par West					3								
24. Pioneer	2		4							2			
25. River Mill							1		2				
26. Rolling Wds													
27. Sunset Pds						1						3	c
28. Water Twr													
29. West Bridge		i	3		1								e,q
Any Park OK	6		4	1			7			2			m
	Dog Park	Ice Rink	Splsh Park	Tennis	Play-grnd	Field sport	More Trails	Horse Trail	Sled Amen	Outd Swim	Rest rooms	Picnic Shltr	Other

**3. continued below**

- a. Dirt Bike/4-Wheeler Trails at Bertram
- b. Garbage Cans at Montissippi
- c. Basketball Court at Sunset Ponds
- d. Drinking Fountain at Montissippi
- e. More BBQ Grills at E/W Bridge
- f. Rope Play Structure at Montissippi
- g. Existence at Featherstone
- h. Improve dugout and bleacher area at Freeway Fields
- i. Add hours to warming house at 4<sup>th</sup> Street, W Bridge
- j. Younger play equipment at Groveland, Meadow Oak
- k. Add Cross-country skiing at Bertram, Montissippi
- l. Add parking at Freeway Fields
- m. Add a fitness course anywhere
- n. Improve backstop/sunscreen at Hillcrest
- o. Benches at Meadow Oak
- p. Improved canoe launch at Bertram
- q. Add tow rope at East Bridge

Also Noted (non-specific locations):

- a. More maintenance of landscaping in street medians
- b. Creation of a pleasure garden with fountains, statues, etc.
- c. Some restroom comments related to adding running water, or permanent restrooms instead of port-a-potties.
- d. Create a screened gazebo as a picnic shelter/gazebo
- e. Some splash-park comments included desire to have benches at edge of fountain for adult seating, etc.

**4. In your opinion, is there a particular park that needs improvement? Please indicate the name of the park and the improvement needed.**

**Name of Park:** Answers varied, reflected answers to Question 3.

**5. Is there a place that you would like to walk/run/bicycle/skate, but no trail or pathway currently exists? Please indicate a beginning and ending location, such as an intersection, park, or building.**

**Trail Beginning:** See map

**Trail Ending:**

**6. In your opinion, is there a particular trail or pathway segment that needs improvement? Please indicate a beginning and ending location, such as an intersection, park, or building.**

**Beginning Point:** Answers reflected Question 5.

**End Point:**

**Type of Improvement:** Primary comments related to completing segments to get beyond neighborhoods

7. Please indicate how you feel about the following statements (check appropriate box).

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Parks are important / essential to our community for a better quality of life..	155	32	2	0	3
The primary focus of our City should be to maintain and improve the facilities that we have rather than build new facilities or amenities.	47	58	36	44	4
It is important to continue to add to the City walking and biking path system.	96	61	19	12	3
It is important to create safer pathway crossings.	74	72	28	11	2
It is important to continue to improve water and waterfront access.	53	65	58	11	1
It is important to continue to improve opportunities to use and enjoy the Mississippi River.	62	77	43	6	0
The City should increase its emphasis on flowers, plantings and landscaping in the parks.	28	49	59	49	2
The City should add additional picnic pavilions in the parks where possible.	29	63	58	34	2
Non-residents should pay a higher fee when renting or using City taxpayer supported parks and facilities.	45	62	37	25	17
The City should improve handicap access to City parks.	22	34	119	7	2

8. Which of the following types of parks & trails do you feel are currently needed to better serve community residents (check appropriate box to indicate level of priority)?

Park Type	Low Priority	High Priority	Very High Priority	No Opinion
Tot lots (small 1 - 2 acre parks with limited playground equipment, benches, etc.)	89	46	13	26
Neighborhood parks (3 - 10 acres with ball fields, playgrounds, basketball, tennis court, ice skating, etc.)	50	75	40	12
Active community parks (10 acres+ with lighted fields, concessions, swimming facilities, tennis courts, etc.)	56	66	46	10
Passive community parks (10 acres+ with walking trails, picnicking, playgrounds, wading pool, geocaching, etc.)	38	82	52	8
Natural areas such as nature trails, wildlife viewing, interpretive nature centers focused on rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, woodlands, etc.	45	59	66	12
Bicycle and pedestrian trails which utilize existing public right-of-ways	51	66	51	10
Bicycle and pedestrian trails which utilize off-road corridors and more natural settings	45	61	66	9
Bicycle and pedestrian trails which include markers indicating trail distances	63	48	60	11



9. How satisfied are you with the current park facilities provided by the community (check appropriate box)?

Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
72	104	14	0

The following questions (10 - 14) relate specifically to the Monticello Community Center (MCC).

10. How often do you or your family members presently use the Community Center facility (check appropriate box)?

Never	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
18	30	59	56	29

11. If you use the facility, how do you get to and from the Center (check appropriate box)?

Walk / Bike	Drive
29	170

12. If you never or rarely use the MCC, please tell us why.

Answers clustered in three areas: (1) Cost. (2) Hours and convenience. (3) Crowds and conflicts between adult/children activities.

13. If you or your family members use the Monticello Community Center, please indicate the specific amenities which you utilize (check all that apply)

139	Pool / Indoor Water Park	61	Gymnasium	27	Birthday Party Room
121	Walk/Jog Track	59	Indoor Play Area	22	Fitness Classes
93	Fitness Center	47	Climbing Wall	19	Drop-in Daycare
62	Special Events	42	Food / Concessions	14	Senior Center
11	Other (please identify) <u>11 responses related to specific events at the MCC.</u>				

14. Are there any activities which are not currently provided at the Community Center which you or your family members desire. For instance, some which have been discussed are racquetball courts, additional gymnasium, expanded water park, splash park, expanded fitness center, or other activities you believe would be beneficial.

Answers clustered in 3 primary areas: (1) Water facilities – including outdoor pool, splash park; (2) Increased access to classes and class capacity; (3) Expanded gym and addition of racquetball courts, including expanded walking/jogging track.

**The following questions refer to events, activities, or programs that you or your family may participate in throughout the community (not just the Community Center).**

**15. Of the activities, events and programs listed below, which do you or your family members currently participate in (check all that apply)?**

- |                          |                       |                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 64 Aerobics / Fitness    | 1 Cheer America       | 8 Learn to Skate    |
| 13 Community Garden      | 72 Movies in the Park | 1 Friendship Island |
| 33 Pre-school Programs   | 56 Swimming Lessons   | 10 Softball Leagues |
| 5 School of Self Defense | 22 Teen Activities    | 48 Youth Programs   |

**16. Of the activities, events and programs listed below, which do you or your family members have an interest in participating in at a future time (check all that apply)?**

- |                           |                       |                      |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 87 Aerobics / Fitness     | 4 Cheer America       | 33 Learn to Skate    |
| 36 Community Garden       | 86 Movies in the Park | 16 Friendship Island |
| 40 Pre-school Programs    | 57 Swimming Lessons   | 26 Softball Leagues  |
| 31 School of Self Defense | 48 Teen Activities    | 69 Youth Programs    |

**17. Are there any classes, events and programs not listed above which you or your family members would like to see provided by the Monticello Community Center or Parks Department?**

Answers varied widely, strong interest in classes of all sorts – Community Education, etc.

**18. How satisfied are you with the current recreation programs provided by the community (check appropriate box)?**

Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
55	108	11	1

**19. Do you currently use the Mississippi River for any type of recreation? If so, how?**

More than 100 yes responses – primarily fishing, with a large number walking and viewing river/wildlife, etc.

20. What types of activities, programming, or improvements would you like to see developed for the future use of the Mississippi River (check all that apply)?

85 Kayaking

95 Canoeing

55 Organized youth fishing programs

55 Interpretive markers and signs

83 Nature programs

105 Tubing/Float Trips

Others? (Please identify) 12 "Other" responses – primarily related to enhancing river use.

21. For the future acquisition and development of major park facilities and improvements, the community may consider the option of a property tax levy. Please indicate how supportive would you be of such a levy by indicating a yearly amount that would be added to your annual property tax bill.

20 \$0

11 \$1 - \$5

17 \$6 - \$10

4 \$11 - \$15

25 \$16 - \$20

18 \$21 - \$25

14 \$26- \$30

8 \$31-\$40

27 \$41-\$50

30 more than \$50

Median Response - \$23.50 per year

22. How do you prefer to receive information related to recreational classes, events and programs to community residents (check all appropriate boxes)?

19 Cable Television

69 Direct Mail

141 Email

47 Fliers

6 Network Television

72 Newspaper

41 Social Media (i.e. Facebook)

4 Radio

76 City Website

23. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions related to the City's park and trail system?

See answers attached.

These last few questions will help us with an understanding of your family’s demographics so we can better develop a park system that meets the needs of the community.

24/25. Please indicate the number of people in your household in the following age groups:

Age:	0-5 yrs	6-12	13-18	19-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	65+
Female	55	41	29	10	58	64	24	17	6
Male	63	38	27	21	48	62	24	18	5

26. What is the zip code of your place of residence?

\_\_\_\_\_

27. Do you live or work in the area (check all that apply)?

	City limits of Monticello	Monticello Township	Other
Live	146	12	32
Work	73	8	110

Thank you for helping us improve Monticello’s park and recreation facilities!

Please return your completed, printed survey by January 31st to City Hall, 505 Walnut Street, Monticello, Minnesota 55362. You may also fill the survey out online at:

[www.Surveymonkey.com/s/MonticelloParksPlanSurvey](http://www.Surveymonkey.com/s/MonticelloParksPlanSurvey) (a link to this site is also available on the City’s website at [www.ci.monticello.mn.us](http://www.ci.monticello.mn.us))