

Chapter 6

Community Facilities

The Community Facilities chapter establishes our desired public facilities and services over the next twenty years or 2030, including potable water supply, waste water, storm water, flood protection, parks and open space, recreational buildings, trails, civic institutions, and public schools. Wahpeton's quality of life relies on multiple local, regional and state entities that work in partnership to provide a wide range of public facilities, utilities and services. These public partners include the municipal government, park district, school district, county, and state college system. This chapter is also intended to show the intricate web of interrelationships between the various community facilities. The Vision for the Future and Guiding Principles provide the foundation for the Community Facilities chapter. This chapter is intended to guide the evolution of our community facilities to maintain and enhance Wahpeton's high quality of life into the future as we revitalize, fill in, and expand our community.

This chapter consists of the following components:

- ***Our Community Facilities*** describes our community's public facilities, infrastructure and services that support our high quality of life;
- ***Water Infrastructure Systems*** describes and maps our potable water supply, waste water, storm water, and flood protection systems;
- ***Parks, Trails & Recreation System*** describes and maps our community's system, which consists of community and neighborhood parks, natural open space areas, recreational buildings and trails;
- ***Public Institutions*** describes our city and county facilities, local public school district, and state college, which all provide essential public services, supply jobs in the community, and enhance our community's quality of life;

Our Community Facilities

The City of Wahpeton possesses high quality community facilities and many unique community assets typically found in larger cities. The City is responsible for providing the community's water infrastructure systems, including water supply, waste water, storm water, flood protection. These public utility systems are critical to the health, function, protection and upkeep of the community. Management of and investment in these essential community facilities has major impacts on our community's quality of life and economy.

Our system of public parks, trails and recreation facilities is a highly valued community asset that significantly contributes to our community's quality of life and



Photo above shows one of the most visible components of Wahpeton's community facilities, its newest water tower completed in 2004 on the community's west side

sense of identity. The City's parks, trails and recreation facilities include two community parks, neighborhood parks, recreational buildings, Bois de Sioux Golf Course, Chahinkapa Zoo, Roger Ehnstrom Nature Center, Prairie Rose Carousel, and Prairie Rose Chapel. Wahpeton's park, trail and open space facilities are intertwined with other public facilities, such as the NDSCS campus, local schools, streets and the river levee.

As a center for manufacturing, education, recreation, professional and general services, the community offers numerous community assets for its residents as well as the larger Wahpeton-Breckenridge region. At the city level, the municipal government is responsible for providing many of the public facilities, utilities and services. The Leach Public Library is the responsibility of the municipal government. The Wahpeton Public School District #37 and the Wahpeton Park District are independent local governmental entities that provide specific services that are not addressed by the municipal government. As the county seat, Wahpeton is also home to many regional government services and the Richland County Historical Museum. At the state level, our community is home to the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) campus, which encompasses a number of educational, recreational, and cultural facilities.

As part of the Twin Towns of Wahpeton-Breckenridge, Wahpeton has a long-standing relationship with Breckenridge, its neighboring city directly across the river and the ND-MN border. In reality, Wahpeton's community assets encompass those in the City of Breckenridge as well, such as the St. Francis Healthcare Campus, Headwaters Park, Railroad Park, and Wilkin County facilities.



The river levee along the Red River of the North is a critical component of the City's water infrastructure system

Water Infrastructure Systems

The City operates and maintains four major water infrastructure systems as shown in Figure 6.1:

- Potable Water Supply
- Waste Water
- Storm Water
- Flood Protection

The City of Wahpeton recognizes the importance of their water utility systems to provide a safe and healthy environment and economically productive community. It is critical to have a potable water supply system that meets all health standards, provides for basic residential and commercial demands, supports emergency fire needs, and will not limit the ability to attract industries. The wastewater system must continue to be "hidden" – to avoid basement backups or discharges without adequate treatment to protect the international Red River of the North and minimize nuisance odors. The control of storm water runoff is required to prevent local flooding and protect the quality of the Red River, Wild Rice River, and associated waterways. The City's flood protection system needs to be maintained to minimize property damage and safety concerns with regional flooding.

The City has managed their water utility systems to meet the needs associated with changes in the community structure. However, as with municipalities all across the country, the water infrastructure needs and the associated costs are rapidly increasing and pose significant challenges for providing the service that community members have



Some water infrastructure is visible in the community, as in the above photo, while much of it is hidden underground

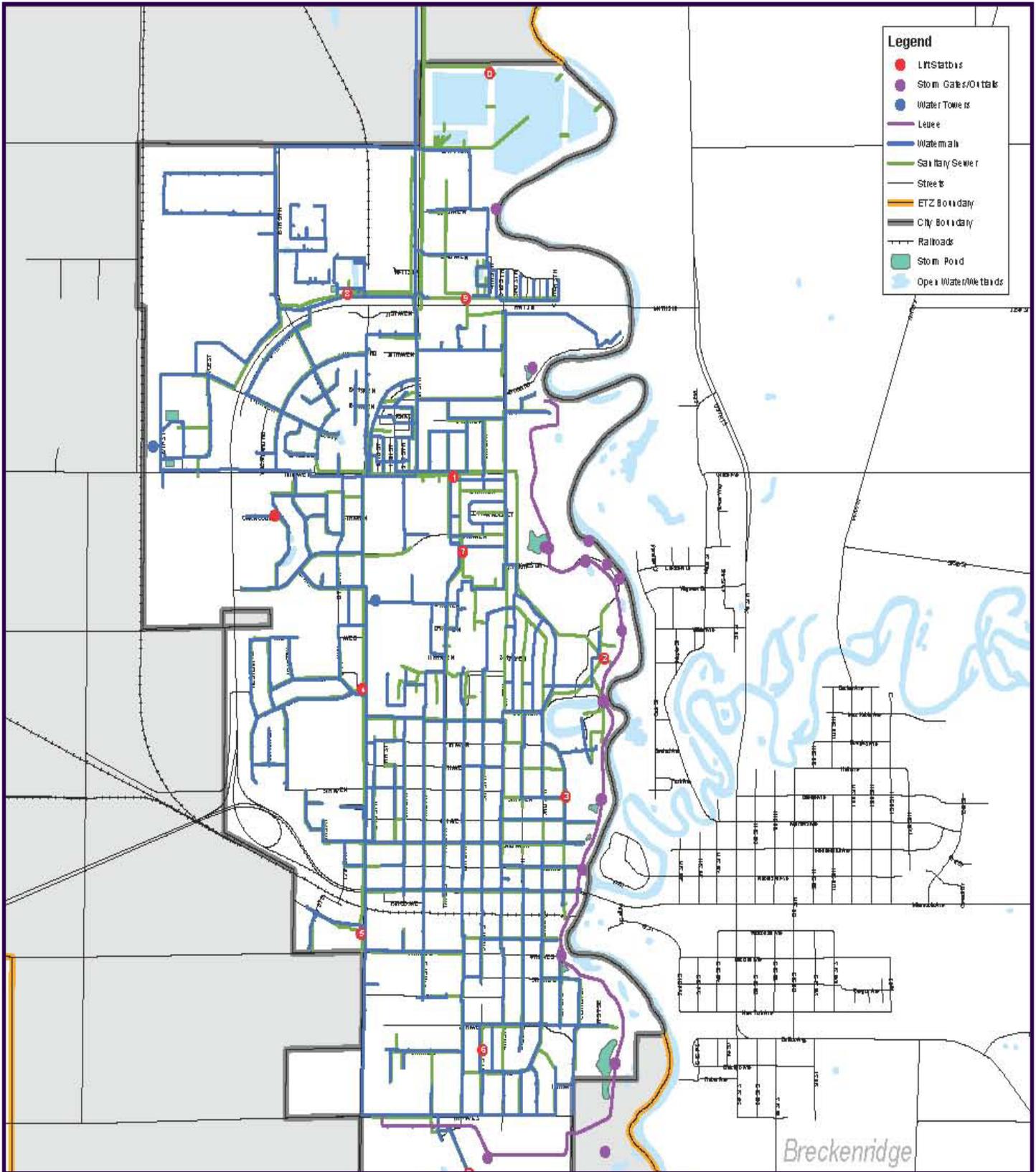


Figure 6.1: City's Existing Water Infrastructure Facilities Map

come to expect. City-wide development planning must integrate the scheduled capital improvements for the existing water infrastructure with extension infrastructure needs for new development. This vision is necessary to continue to provide cost-effective water utility services that meet the community's expectations and the public and environmental goals required of the various systems.

The City has a comprehensive capital improvement plan to address water infrastructure system requirements to continue to provide and improve service to the community. Many of the improvement needs are related to age and deterioration of the system asset, collectively considered to be required because the asset has reached its useful life, or because of capacity limitations. Table 6.1 highlights the existing water infrastructure system component needs and improvements identified by the City. Figure 6.2 visually shows the major planned improvements to the City's water infrastructure systems.

Potable Water Supply System

The City's potable water source is ground water which is supplied by three wells located north of the City (not shown in Figure 6.1). The three wells have a total capacity of 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm) with two wells rated at 1,400 gpm and a third at 700 gpm. A three million gallon per day (mgd) capacity water treatment plant provides for iron, manganese and hardness removal, in addition to disinfection and other treatment to meet health-based standards. Residual solids from the water treatment plant are stored in two lime sludge lagoons with a 12,000 ton capacity and require a biennial removal of solids to the landfill. The distribution system contains two storage facilities to deliver water to the community.

The potable water supply system's existing rated water treatment plant capacity (WTP) is adequate to meet the annual demands for the various scenario populations

What Needs to Be Improved

Table 6.1: Water Infrastructure Needs and Planned Improvements for Existing Assets

System	Item	Useful Life	Capacity
Water	Treatment Plant	Equipment and building elements need replacing	Some existing component limitations; additional supply needed for increased demand
	Well Field	New well to offset potential loss of quality supply; rehab old components	Reliability; plan for increased, reliable capacity for total system
	Distribution System	Water main looping, meter replacement and radio reading, hydrant replacement; various replacements with street improvements	
Wastewater	Sanitary Sewer	Age and corrosion issues	Critical areas with bypasses each year and basement backups
	Lift Stations	Major Improvements- No. 3 & No. 2; other minor & post-5 yr projects	
	Treatment	Aeration system improvement	Storage issues – risks with state control of discharge dependent on multiple factors
Stormwater	Multiple Facilities	Replacement with street improvements; major improvements for Drain No.1	Areas with consistent flooding; legal drain for southwest area
Flood Protection		Some equipment deficiencies for designed protection	

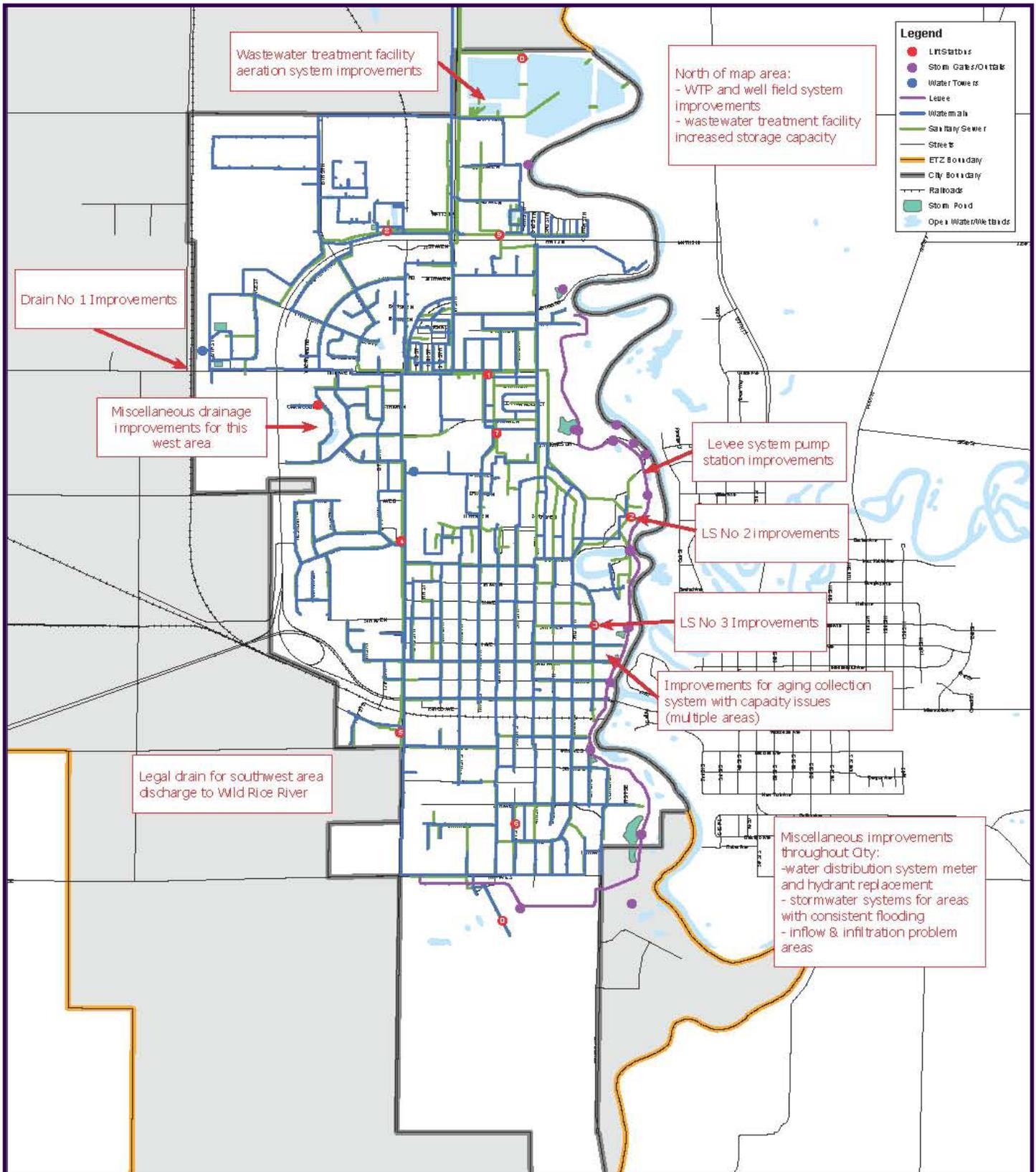


Figure 6.2: City's Water Infrastructure Planned Improvements

forecasted to 2030, assuming the following: (1) the same mix of residential, commercial, and industrial community members, and peak day needs and (2) the planned improvements for the treatment plant are completed (improvements to increase some unit process capacity issues, where current conditions do not provide the rated WTP capacity, and extend the useful life of equipment and structures). Distribution system capacity is addressed in the City's capital improvement plan.

A more detailed description of the potable water supply system assets and planned improvements is provided in Appendix A.

Waste Water System

The City's waste water system consists of 41 miles of sanitary sewer pipes and ten lift stations that convey waste water to a six-cell lagoon treatment facility, with initial treatment at facilities located at the northeast city boundary and additional treatment in lagoons about three miles north. The waste water collection system is comprised of 34 miles of gravity sewer ranging from 8 to 27 inches in diameter, including an original 33.5 by 44 inch brick sewer section, and seven miles of forcemain sewer ranging from 6 to 21 inches in diameter. The majority of the gravity system is made of vitrified clay and polyvinyl chloride and was originally a combined sanitary and storm sewer that has since been separated. This area has the highest incidence of infiltration and inflow (I&I).

The wastewater is conveyed through 10 lift stations, each equipped with two pumps, except for Lift Station (LS) No. 1 which has four pumps. Wastewater from the central community area is collected and conveyed to Lift Station No. 1 and then pumped through a 21-inch forcemain to the wastewater treatment facility. Lift stations No. 8 and 9 pump wastewater collected from the west and north parts of the City and discharge into a 14-inch forcemain that goes directly to the wastewater treatment facility.

The wastewater treatment facility is a lagoon system with coarse-bubble aeration (AerResearch, Inc system) in Cell #1, and weir controlled flow to Cell #2. Transfer pipes with valves control flow to Cell #3 and to the transfer pump station that conveys wastewater to Cells #5 and #6 located three miles north. Cell #4 (located east of Cell #3) has been abandoned. The main discharge to the Red River of the North is from Cell #6, with the capability to discharge

from Cell #3 and #5 under permitted conditions.

The Waste Water System Needs Assessment in 2006 identified considerations for increased capacity and a range of improvements to provide a more reliable collection system and treatment process. The major recommendations from the assessment are summarized below.

Recommendations – 2006 Needs Assessment

- System-Wide Flow Monitoring: A plan should be implemented to measure and monitor lift station and influent flows. This information will assist in determining the capacity limitations of the system and provide a more targeted effort to reduce infiltration and inflow (I&I). It will also provide for more accurate selection of process improvements and sizing of equipment and facilities for the treatment facility. The plan should provide water quality sampling in relation to flow for the treatment facility influent.
- Facility Plan: After flow and water quality monitoring are established, a facility plan will provide direction for the collection system and treatment facility to meet near and long-term capacity and discharge effluent requirements.
- Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study: A study and system testing aimed at I&I reduction.
- Implementation of an industrial pretreatment program and wastewater utility rate structure system.
- Treatment System Improvements
 - o Cell #1 short circuiting analysis
 - o LS No. odor evaluation



The storm water system on the City's west side relies on Drainage Ditch #1, which runs north along County Hwy 10

- o Control system needs assessment
- o Influent forcemain evaluation

A more detailed description of the waste water system assets and planned improvements is provided in Appendix B.

Storm Water & Flood Protection System

The natural drainage in Wahpeton is shallow with a flat grade all around the city. Drainage is also a major concern in Wahpeton and the vicinity due to the heavy and impermeable clay soils. Storm water is collected and discharged to either the Red River to the east or the Wild Rice River to the west, with the drainage divide along 11th Street. The original drainage system is an extensive storm sewer system east of 11th Street North that is managed through a discharge into the Red River of the North. West of 11th Street, a large drainage ditch beginning at the intersection of 16th Avenue North and Highway 210 carries stormwater west along 16th Avenue and then north along Richland County Highway 10 with discharge into the Wild Rice River through Drain No. 1 (legal drain) northwest of the city. The southwest area of Wahpeton discharges to the Wild Rice River through unnamed natural drainageways.

A levee system protects the City from flooding of the Red River and is equipped with gates and pumps to allow stormwater to be pumped out during high river periods. Eight pump stations were installed with the levee system in 1997. During normal river flow periods stormwater discharges into the Red River through gates in the levee.

At high flow periods, the pumps lift storm water over the levee to the Red River. Pads were added in 2003 and 2008 to provide for temporary pump use in critical areas.

The main storm water issues for the City are street flooding and associated property damage during summer storms and spring thaw/precipitation events and the potential for exceeding pumping capacity during high river flows when flood gates are closed.

One of the larger projects for stormwater improvements involves replacement of deteriorating systems and capacity issues on the west side and the main drain to Drain No. 1 (Wild Rice River). These improvements were coordinated with the Facility Plan for Westside Development and continue through 2013. A second phase of improvements focus on the southside drainage systems. Another area with targeted improvements to address both age and capacity issues is in the Old Town area. Minor modifications/improvements to the pump stations along the levees will increase the capacity to provide a higher level of protection during high river flows. A longer-term issue concerns drainage of the southwest area. A legal drain needs to be established to provide for proper maintenance and would include a newly constructed system (4 miles) to the Wild Rice River.

A more detailed description of the storm water and flood protection system assets and planned improvements is provided in Appendix C.



The Red River to the North is a critical component of the City's storm water and waste water systems

Water Infrastructure Goals & Policies

Goal for Potable Water Supply System:

Provide a reliable and high quality water supply for existing citizens while ensuring adequate capacity available to serve new industry and business.

Policies:

6.1 Manage the City's potable water supply system to ensure a fair and affordable cost for all citizens based on the system's operation, maintenance and upgrade costs.

6.2 Maintain high quality of the City's potable water supply to meet or exceed all applicable regulations through improvements to the water treatment plant, maintenance of aging infrastructure, and exploring the feasibility of adding a new well.

6.3 Increase the City's water supply by exploring the feasibility of municipal water reuse techniques and user water conservation strategies.

6.4 Maintain and implement a long-term potable water supply infrastructure maintenance, upgrade and expansion plan.

6.5 Evaluate and minimize the costs to existing citizens of extending the potable water supply system for new development prior to approving new development in expansion areas.

Goal for Waste Water System:

Invest in existing waste water system assets to meet regulatory requirements and minimize personal property damage.

Policies:

6.6 Establish system-wide monitoring of influent flows, lift stations and the treatment facility to identify system capacity limitations and the sources, causes and levels of infiltration and inflow (I&I).

6.7 Establish an evaluation and correction plan to prevent and reduce excessive I&I.

6.8 Upgrade the waste water treatment facility to improve the facility's capacity, aeration, odor control and quality of waste water discharge.

6.9 Develop an industrial pretreatment program and wastewater utility rate structure system.

6.10 Maintain and implement a long-term waste water system maintenance, upgrade and expansion plan.

6.11 Evaluate and minimize the costs to existing citizens of extending the waste water system for new development prior to approving new development in expansion areas.

Goal for Storm Water and Flood Protection System:

Provide a storm water system that minimizes flooding, prevents property damages for 100-year events, and provides environmental protection.

Policies:

6.12 Upgrade the storm water drainage system on the City's west side (west of 11th Street), which drains to the Wild Rice River, to address deteriorating infrastructure and capacity issues as well as potential future expansion of development into this area.

6.13 Maintain and upgrade the storm water system in problem areas on the City's east side (east of 11th Street) and south side caused by aging infrastructure and capacity issues, coordinating with street improvement projects whenever possible.

6.14 Maintain and expand the capacity of the pump stations along the river levee to provide a higher level of flood protection during high river flow periods.

6.15 Explore the feasibility of establishing a legal drain to the Wild Rice River in the City's southwest area in preparation for potential future expansion of development into this area.

6.16 Maintain and implement a long-term storm water system maintenance, upgrade and expansion plan.

6.17 Evaluate and minimize the costs to existing citizens of extending the storm water system for new development prior to approving new development in expansion areas.

Parks, Trails & Recreation System

Parks, recreational facilities and trail connections are essential components of Wahpeton's vision of being a community for all stages of its residents' lives. Parks, trails and recreational facilities are not mere expenditures, but an investment in the future well-being of individuals and groups, as well as the continued attractiveness and viability of the City.

System Operation

The City of Wahpeton is unique as it is one of the few communities in the region, if not the nation that has a separate Park District with its own taxing authority to

oversee the primary operation and maintenance of its parks, trail and recreation system. The Park District also receives funding from a voter approved 1 1/2% sales tax that extends to 2026. In 2005, collections of the tax were determined to be divided with 20% set aside for recreational needs, 33% to flood protection and 40% toward economic development projects. The remaining 7% “floats” and can be allocated annually to any of the three areas as needed.

Benefits of the Parks, Trails and Recreation System

The benefits of the system are broad-ranging and important to the quality of life in Wahpeton. The parks system consists of year-round programs, activities and special events, parks, trails, recreation facilities and open space. All of these components contribute to meeting the diverse needs of residents and visitors. The benefits of the parks, trails and recreation system include:

- outdoor and indoor recreation experiences.
- exercise and wellness.
- connected families.
- a sense of community and place.
- draws visitors to the area.
- a positive effect on property values.
- protection of open space, appreciation of the natural environment and informal outdoor educational opportunities for all ages.
- community pride.
- protects quality of surface water and assist with flood control.

Classification of Existing Parks

Wahpeton has more than 350 acres of parkland, 6 (??) neighborhood and community parks, and over XX miles of pathways. City and Park District owned parks and open spaces represent approximately 10% of the City’s land area. Wahpeton’s parks provide diverse recreational amenities including walking trails, picnic facilities, children’s play areas, skating rink, skateboard park, a swimming pool, court games, playfields, and more. Community facilities include a zoo, community center for senior activities, community center, an ice arena, and outdoor pool.



Parks serve a variety of purposes, providing active and passive recreation and open space at a neighborhood and community wide scale. For planning purposes, a park classification system categorizes parks according to their use and function. These categories include community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks and specialized facilities and are described as:

- **Community parks** are large and offer diverse environmental features, including unique natural open space. They offer many opportunities for recreation within the park.
- **Neighborhood parks** are mid-sized parks which offer opportunities for a variety of recreational activities, both organized and informal.
- **Mini-parks** are small parks intended for informal recreation, play and relaxation.
- **Specialized facilities** represent elements of the park system that should be identified for their special use and purpose.

Using these classifications, the public parks in Wahpeton can be categorized as follows.

Community Parks

Chahinkapa Park - is an 85 acre park located along the Red River north of Downtown starting at approximately 5th Ave N. (see Figure 6.4 Chahinkapa Park Facilities). The park has many access points depending on ones mode of transportation. The variety of recreational facilities include a zoo, carousel, camping facilities, pool with waterslide, baseball and softball fields, basketball courts, tennis, track and football field, skateboard park, sand volleyball court, horseshoes, trails and playground equipment. In addition to picnic areas, there are seven shelters with seating capacity from 50 to 100 people. In the winter the park boasts cross-country ski trails, a sledding hill, hockey

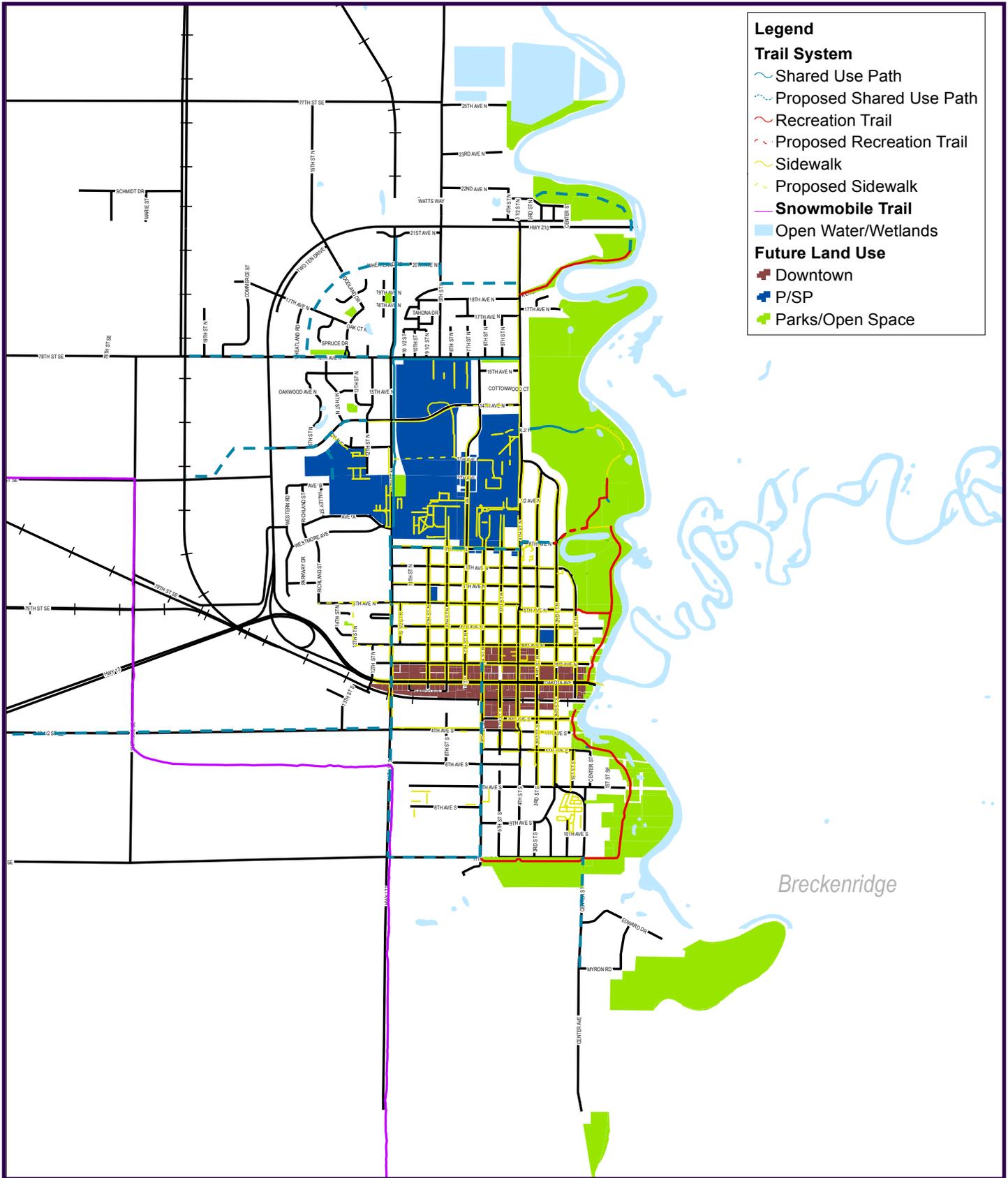


Figure 6.3: City's Existing Park, Trail and Recreation Facilities



Figure 6.4: Aerial photo of Chahinkapa Park and its recreational facilities

rink, skating pond and a warming house. Chahinkapa is home to a number of specialized facilities described later.

Kidder Recreation Area - located on the north side of the City along the Red River, this 26 acre park is largely undeveloped. It provides shoreline fishing, camping, bird watching and a boat access. It also has a fish cleaning station, fishing pier and picnic shelters. The site also hosts some community gardens. The world's largest channel catfish, "Wahpper," is located just on the south side of the Highway 210 bypass

Neighborhood Parks

Airport Park - is a 25 acre park located on the south side of the City on airport property. Facilities include a playground, basketball hoop, softball field and a picnic shelter.

Mini-Parks

- Evergreen West Mini-Park - located at 13th St N and 3rd Ave N, this 1 acre park includes a playground.
- North Meadows Mini-Park - this 1 acre park located at 13th St N and 14 1/2 Ave N has a playground.
- North Park - located at 11th St N and this 1 acre park has a playground.
- Unnamed north park - what information could be included?

Specialized Facilities

- Bois de Sioux Golf Course is an 18 hole golf course located north of Chahinkapa Park. It is unique in that half of the course is located in Wahpeton and connected via footbridge across the Red River to the rest of the course in Breckenridge. The 6,550 yard course offers numerous challenges to the experienced golfers. It is managed by a Wahpeton-Breckenridge Citizen Committee. It is operated independent of both the City and the Park District. The course offers a full service pro-shop and complete instruction program.
- Chahinkapa Zoo is one of only a few community zoos in the region. Located in Chahinkapa Park, it offers a natural environment for the 200

animals representing 70 species. Accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the zoo is open for visitors from May to October. It has a number of special events throughout the year, including

- Rodger Ehnstrom Nature Center is located adjacent to the Zoo. It offers indoor exhibits and displays related to the natural habitat offered by the Red River Valley environment.
- Prairie Rose Carousel, also part of Chahinkapa Park, is one of the few left in the county. It takes countless volunteer hours and parts gathered from all over the region to keep it operational.
- Richland County Historical Museum is located just west of Chahinkapa Park. It is open May through October and offers a large collection of Rosemeade pottery.
- Community Center, a former armory, is located south of Downtown on 5th St S. In addition to housing the parks and recreation offices, the Community Center is available for walking, court games and special events.
- Senior Citizen Center, also located south of Downtown on 3rd Ave S. offers a variety of events and programming.



Prairie Rose Carousel

- Stern Sports Arena is located on 11th St N near the Middle and High Schools. It is managed by the Red Youth Activities Association.

Related School Facilities

Wahpeton park and recreational facilities are intertwined with other public institutions, including North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) and Wahpeton School District. Facilities that are important components of the overall park and recreation system for the community include:

- Zimmerman and Central Elementary Schools' playgrounds serve the surround neighborhoods just north of Downtown.
- NDSCS has multipurpose fields, a swimming pool, tennis courts, and an activity center which are available to the community.

Park Needs Assessment

There is no precise standard measurement to determine absolute park and recreation needs for a community. Each community is unique in its needs and opportunities. However, park planners typically evaluate how many residents are within reasonable walking distance to a park. While preferred walking distances can vary by community, one typically considers a radius of 1/4 to 1/2 of a mile or a 5 to 10 minute walk from home. Given Wahpeton's relatively connected transportation pattern, the 1/2 mile or 10 minute walk standard has been applied.

As shown in Figure 6.5, most residents are within a 1/2 mile walk of an active recreational facilities such as a playground in a park. There are some small gaps throughout the community.

While adding to the park system is not currently needed to meet residents' needs. Expansion will be needed as the community grows, particularly if new neighborhoods are created across Highways 210 or 127. Parks should be located in these neighborhoods so that residents do not need to cross major roadways or other barriers for their daily needs.

Community input

- Chahinkapa is a gem that needs to be further promoted in the region
- Levee trail is an asset and starting point for further embracing of the river
- Trail and sidewalk gaps need to be addressed for both transportation and recreation purposes
- Additional marked bicycle lanes desired
- Improved access to Red River for recreation, particularly launch points for canoes/kayaks
- More opportunities needed to cross the levee to reach the river

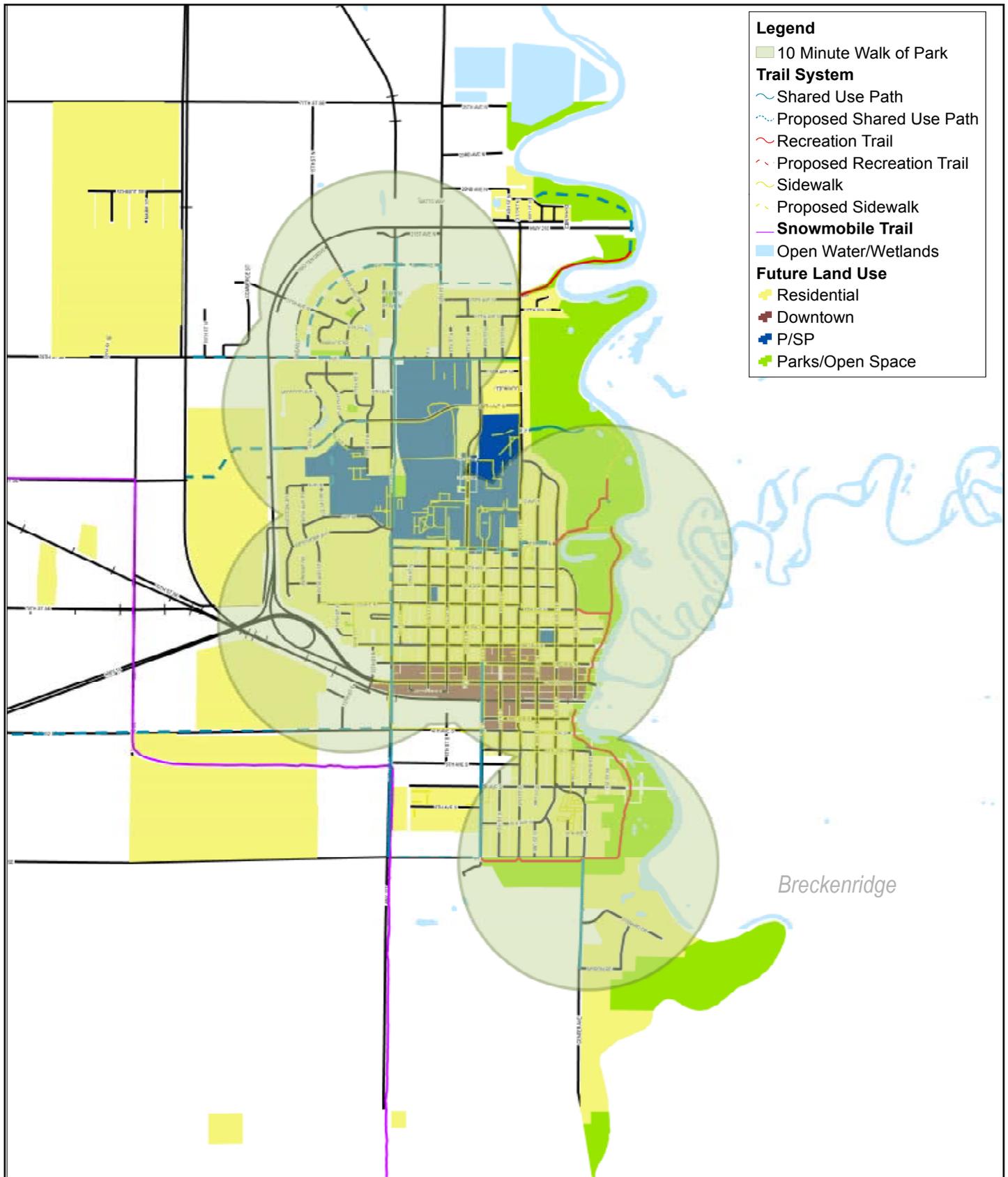


Figure 6.5: Map showing park service areas defined as a 10-minute walk

Trail System

Wahpeton is served by a system of sidewalks and trails intended to meet both recreation and transportation needs. Trails and sidewalks provide recreation and fitness opportunities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle for Wahpeton's residents, employees and visitors. The system also connects neighborhoods to parks, recreation facilities, schools and Downtown.

Wahpeton's trail and sidewalk system has drastically increased in just the last two years due to the construction of a trail as part of the levee flood control improvement project. With multi-purpose trails now available for a variety of reasons the City and Park District have recently identified a means of classifying whether a trail system component is owned and operated by the City or the Park District:

- Sidewalks - are generally maintained by the property owner. They are generally located in Downtown and the community's original neighborhoods.
- Shared Use Paths - are multi-purpose trails owned, operated and maintained by the City which function as connectors across neighborhoods. They are generally located on major roadways such as 16th Ave N and 11th St N.
- Recreation Trails - are multi-purpose trails owned, operated and maintained by the Park District. These trails, generally located within parks, are intended to provide recreational opportunities to users. The levee trail is an example of a recreational trail.

Trails are popular and use has boomed in Wahpeton according to community input. A complete and connected trail system of trails, paths and sidewalks is highly valued by residents for leisure use and for transportation. Trails are important to maintain a healthy community and high quality of life. While Wahpeton has recently made great strides in its trail and sidewalk system, there are a number of expansions and improvements that should be considered as identified on Figure 6.

The North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identifies recreational priorities for each region. Wahpeton is in Region 5, a 6 county region with over 25% of the state's population and comprised of the Red River Valley, Sheyenne River Valley and Sheyenne National Grasslands. The 12 recreational priorities for the region include:

- Trails
- Picnic Areas/Playgrounds
- Pools/Beaches
- Campgrounds
- Golf Courses
- Sports Courts
- Winter Sports Facilities
- Sports Fields
- Off Road Parks
- Open Space Parks
- Public Use Areas
- Pet Parks

Parks, Trails & Recreation Goals and Policies

Goal

Foster physical and mental well-being by providing parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities.

Policies

6.18 Create a community pathway network that connects neighborhoods to destinations for purposes of recreation as well as alternative mobility options.

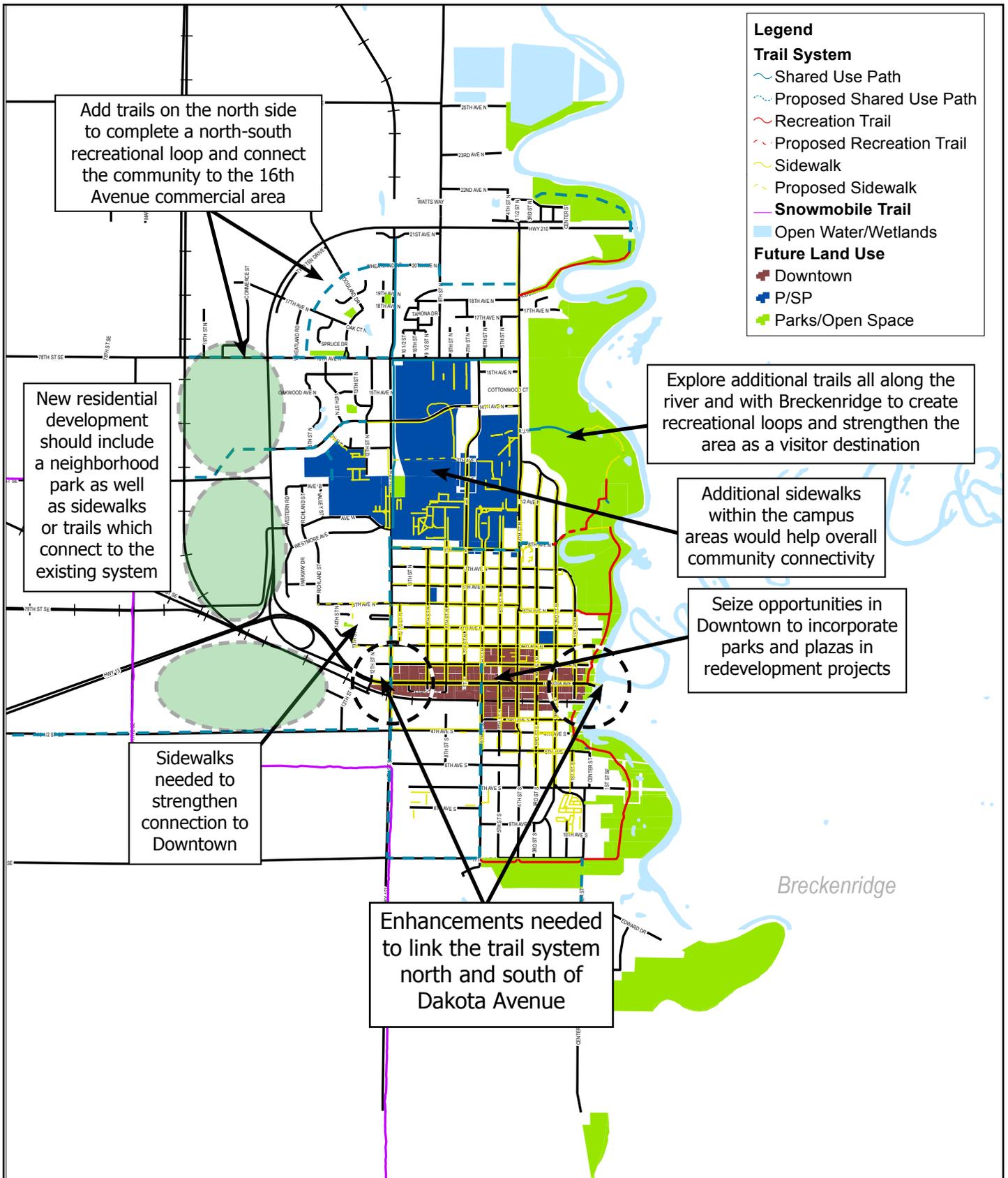


Figure 6.6: Proposed Enhancements to the City's Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities

6.19 Support development of a trail system that offers multiple looping options.

6.20 Encourage parks to be a central feature of a neighborhood rather than as an outlot or buffer, and provide adequate public access by locating new parks with at least one side fronting a public street.

6.21 Distribute parks so most residents live within a 10 minute walk of a neighborhood park and all residents live within a 15 minute walk.

6.22 Ensure there is a balance of active and passive park areas to serve the community's current activity trend for life-cycle recreational uses on a year-round basis.

6.23 Expand trailhead facilities to create trail system as a regional destination for multiple recreational opportunities.

6.24 Strive to maintain and acquire where feasible, properties that provide connections to existing parks, trail systems and open space.

6.25 Recognize the needs and preferences of pedestrians and cyclists with various skill and experience levels by providing a wide range of facilities to accommodate both functional and recreational trips.

6.26 Refurbish old and underutilized parks as needed, to reflect needs related to changes in population, age of nearby residents, recreational activities preferred, amount of leisure time available and contemporary park designs/ techniques.

6.27 Partner with schools, institutions, churches, non-profits, agencies and adjacent communities to leverage resources to optimize open space, fitness and recreation programming and facility options.

6.28 Develop park and recreation facilities that minimize the maintenance demands on the Park Board by emphasizing the development of well-planned parks, quality materials, and labor saving maintenance devices and practices.

6.29 Modify facilities as needed to retain economic viability and continue attracting a wide range of residents.

Public Institutions

Wahpeton has a wide range of community institutions that provide essential services for residents, businesses, employees, and visitors. Our community institutions are public and semi-public institutions, such as municipal services (administration, police, fire, public works, maintenance), city library, county services (administration, judicial, law enforcement), community center, senior citizens club, schools, post office, historical museum, and churches. Community institutions are those places that are open for public use, where all citizens feel welcome and have a sense of ownership, and are not profit-motivated entities.

City

Wahpeton's existing municipal institutions include the following:

City Hall

City Hall is currently located at 1900 Fourth Street North. City Hall was moved from its original building in downtown to its current location in 1999.

Fire Stations

The City currently has two fire stations:

- 204 Fifth St S (south side) since 1967
- 16th Ave & 11th St N (north side) built in 2005

Police Station

The City's Police Department is currently located at 413 Third Ave N on the north side of the County's Law Enforcement Center.

Leach Public Library

The Leach Public Library is located at 417 Second Ave N in its original building, which is designated on the National Register of Historic Places.

Community Center

The City's Community Center is currently located at 304 Fifth St S. The City renovated the Old Armory Building in 2009 as the City's new community center. The Park District's offices are also located in this facility.

Bois de Sioux Golf Course

The City owns this 18-hole public golf course, half of

which is located in Breckenridge and connected by a foot bridge across the river. It is the only public golf course in the nation to have nine holes in one state and nine holes in another state.

Wahpeton Park District

The Wahpeton Park District is an independent governmental entity from the municipal government of Wahpeton. The Park District is a major property owner within the community. The Park District's facilities include Chahinkapa Park, Kidder Recreation Area, four neighborhood parks (Airport Park, Evergreen West Mini Park, North Meadows Mini Park and North Park) and Stern Sports Center. Chahinkapa Park includes Chahinkapa Zoo, Rodger Ehnstrom Nature Center, Prairie Rose Carousel, Prairie Rose Chapel, as well as many other community park facilities and playfields.

Wahpeton Airport Authority

The Wahpeton Airport Authority owns and operates the Harry Stern Airport, which is a public use airport located about one mile south of downtown. The airport encompasses almost 600 acres and has two runways.

Richland County

Richland County's existing facilities in Wahpeton include the following:

County Courthouse

The Richland County Courthouse is located at 418 Second Ave N in its original building, which is designated on the National Register of Historic Places.

County Law Enforcement Center

The Richland County Law Enforcement Center is located at 413 Third Ave N.

County Historical Museum

The Richland County Historical Museum is currently located at 11 Seventh Ave N. The museum is adjacent to Chahinkapa Park about five blocks north of downtown.

County Vo-Tech Center

The Richland County Vo-Tech Center is currently located at 2101 9th Street N, on the north side of Highway 210.

Wahpeton Public School District #37

The Wahpeton Public School District covers a large area (255 square miles) around the City of Wahpeton. The district includes the most urban part of Richland County consisting of the cities of Wahpeton, Mooreton, Great Bend, Summit-Center, and Dwight. It also includes the townships of Center, Summit, Brandenburg, Barney, Mooreton, Dwight and Ibsen. The nucleus of this school district dates back to the first school organized in 1872 and has effectively served the city and its environs through the years.

There are two elementary schools, one middle school, and a senior high school serving the district. Central Elementary School is located on the east side of downtown and Zimmerman Elementary School is located just northwest of downtown. The middle school and senior high school form an attractive campus on the city's west side.

Circle of Nations Indian School

Circle of Nations Indian School was organized in 1904 by the federal government for the education of Indian children from North Dakota, northern Minnesota and northern South Dakota. Circle of Nations is an inter-tribal off-reservation boarding school, chartered under the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Oyate and funded by the Bureau of Indian Education. Circle of Nations serves American Indian youth in grades 4 through 8. The mission of the Circle of Nations School is to build academic achievement and foster healthy development of the whole child in a Native American cultural environment. The school's campus is located between the NDSCS campus and the Wahpeton Middle School/Senior High School campus, just north of 8th Ave N. The campus consists of academic, residential dormitory, administrative, and maintenance buildings.

North Dakota State College of Science

The North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) is an influential member of the North Dakota higher education family. The school has been in existence since 1903 and maintains a good position on the cutting edge of technical and professional education in the region. NDSCS is a two-year, comprehensive, residential college with its main campus located in Wahpeton. NDSCS offers degrees, certificates, and diplomas in over 80 academic options

in traditional career and technical studies as well as the liberal arts. The college also offers a variety of distance education and online courses. Total enrollment in 2009 was 2,651 students.

The NDSCS campus physically, culturally and economically occupies a prominent place in Wahpeton. For more than a century, NDSCS has maintained a unique blend of academic programs and campus life. Beyond the wide variety of career and technical education and liberal arts transfer programs, NDSCS has extensive facilities and organizations for a wide range of student activities. Many of the NDSCS facilities are assets for the citizens of Wahpeton as well, including the following:

- Harry Stern and Ella Stern Cultural Center
- Mildred Johnson Library
- Blikre Activities Center/Werre Arena
- Frank Vertin Athletic Field
- Earl “Skip” Bute Alumni Stadium
- Gayle Miller Softball Complex

Other Community Institutions

Wahpeton Senior Citizens Center

The Senior Citizens Center is currently located at 503 Third Avenue S.

U.S. Post Office

Wahpeton’s branch of the U.S. Post Office is located at 926 Second Ave N.

U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Center

Wahpeton is home to a U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Center, which occupies almost 20 acres at the intersection of Highway 210 & Fourth Street N.

Public Institutions Goals & Policies

Goal:

Provide and maintain the community’s system public institutions to efficiently and economically serve all segments of the community.

Policies:

6.30 Retain and expand public institutions and services within downtown.

6.31 Foster collaboration among public and semi-public institutions to provide a wide range of educational, recreational and cultural opportunities.

6.32 Explore partnership opportunities between existing community institutions to maintain cost-effective public facilities and services that are sustainable long-term and support Wahpeton’s high quality of life.

6.34 Coordinate planning and development efforts with the park district, local school district, NDSCS, Richland County and state agencies to ensure that future expansion and reinvestment projects are cost-effective and optimally located within the community.