New Brighton Comprehensive Plan

Environmental Protection

Introduction

The natural environment is an essential element of community life and protecting such an environment is vital to the success of any community. Wetlands, lakes, streams, trees, and other vegetative cover all play an important role in the physical and socio-economic development of a community. Many natural features function as filtration systems to help clean rainwater runoff, which eventually becomes our drinking water. In addition to providing cleaner water, natural features help purify the air especially in the urban environment. The natural features and natural areas of the community also help define the character of the community and provide a visual relief from the urban (built) environment.

Environmental protection is becoming more and more of an emphasis in community planning. Over the years, much of the natural features have been cleared to make way for urban development. But many of the resources have been preserved through efforts by the community in providing open space, recreational parks, and trails and through protecting stands of trees and wetlands from being overcome by urban development.

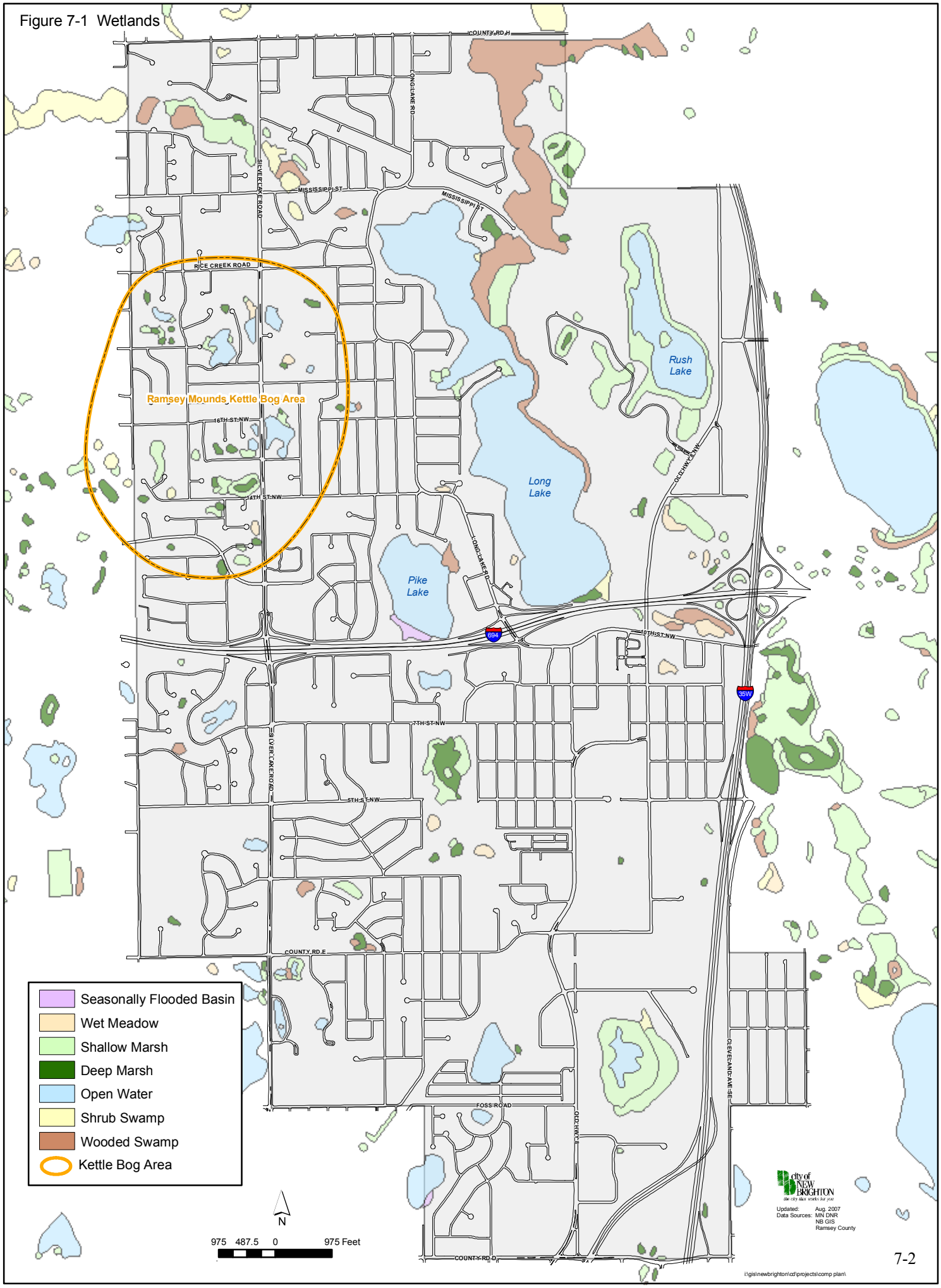
This chapter of the comprehensive plan includes goals, policies and strategies that can be applied to both the public and private sector to help preserve, protect and re-establish our natural environment.

Inventory of Natural Features and Patterns

Lakes and Wetlands (National Wetland Inventory)

The City of New Brighton has many lakes (open water) and wetland features as identified through the National Wetlands Inventory in Figure 7 - 1. The predominant wetland features include swamps and marshes with some wet meadows. The most prominent locations of wetlands in the community are along drainage ways and Rice Creek as it spans the northwest portion and northeast portions of the community. A significant pocket of wetlands is also located west of Silver Lake Road between Palmer Drive and Rice Creek Road. Many of the wetland features are located in parks and residential back yards. Many of the open water features are protected under the DNR's protected waters inventory and include the following: Long Lake, Pike Lake, Rush Lake, Poplar Lake and Jones Lake.

Figure 7-1 Wetlands



Topography, Waterways and Drainage Ditches

New Brighton generally has topography of rolling hills with an upper, middle and lower terracing affect. Southwest New Brighton is the higher ground with a lower valley running through the center of the city generally including Long Lake, Pike Lake and Jones Lake.

New Brighton is part of the Rice Creek Watershed District through which its watershed impacting developments are regulated. Surface drainage in New Brighton generally drains through a county ditch system through Long Lake and into Rice Creek where it eventually drains into the Mississippi River. Figure 7-2 illustrates general drainage directions in New Brighton.

Natural Communities and Rare Species

The Minnesota DNR produces the Minnesota County Biological Survey identifying natural communities and rare species. The survey, completed in 1994 identified where evidence of rare plants and animals exist in New Brighton along the northwest edge of Rush Lake in Long Lake Regional park. This area has significant swamp and marsh type wetlands. The survey also identified the original vegetation of New Brighton as mostly oak openings and barrens, which consist of scattered trees and groves of oaks of scrubby form with some brush and thickets. The RCWD also identified groundwater dependent resources known as the Ramsey Mounds Kettle Bogs. The bog areas are located in the western portion of the City, Between Rice Creek Road and Innsbruck Drive. These resources are very unique to this area. These resources are identified as high priority natural resources in the RCWD and as having significant restoration potential.

Tree Canopy

Tree canopy throughout New Brighton is somewhat sporadic; however, groupings of oak can still be found interspersed throughout various parklands and along some of the major water bodies. The residential areas of the City are fortunate to have many mature trees that were preserved or planted during the major periods of development in the community.

Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS)

The Minnesota Land Cover Classification System is a relatively new tool that fills an important information niche for natural resource managers and planners. The MLCCS was developed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with other state, federal and local agencies. This system is unique in that it categorizes urban and built-up areas in terms of land cover rather than land use. The Rice Creek Watershed District has assembled MLCCS data for all of New Brighton, shown in Figure 7-3. The land cover types present in New Brighton include:

- Cultivated Vegetation
- Forested
- Forested Wetland
- Herbaceous Vegetation
- Herbaceous Wetland
- Impervious Surfaces
- Open Water
- Shrub Wetland

- Shrubland
- Woodland

This information should be a tool used in ensuring preservation of the city's natural resources for current and future residents.

Surface Water Management Plan

The City of New Brighton has a Surface Water Management Plan, which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 103B.235, Minnesota Rules 8410, and the Rice Creek Watershed District *Water Resource Management Plan*. The purpose of the Surface Water Management Plan is to:

- Project, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
- Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- Promote groundwater recharge;
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
- Secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and groundwater.

The New Brighton surface water management plan addresses these purposes. The plan in its entirety is included as Appendix B.

Impaired Waters

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to adopt water-quality standards to protect waters from pollution. These standards define how much of a pollutant can be in the water and still allow it to meet designated uses, such as drinking water, fishing and swimming. The standards are set on a wide range of pollutants, including bacteria, nutrients, turbidity and mercury. A water body is "impaired" if it fails to meet one or more water quality standards. To identify and restore impaired waters, Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to:

- Assess all waters of the state to determine if they meet water-quality standards
- List waters that do not meet standards (also known as the 303d List) and update every even-numbered year
- Conduct TMDL studies in order to set pollutant reduction goals needed to restore waters.

Federal and state regulations and programs also require implementation of restoration measures to meet TMDLs. MPCA responsibilities include performing assessment activities, listing impaired waters, and conducting TMDLs in Minnesota.

Known Impaired Waters in New Brighton – Also Refer to Figure 7-4:

- Rice Creek –impaired for aquatic life
- Pike Lake – impaired for aquatic recreation as a result of excess nutrients
- Long Lake – impaired for aquatic recreation as a result of excess nutrients
- Jones Wetland (62-76W) – impaired for aquatic life

Figure 7-2 Drainage Patterns

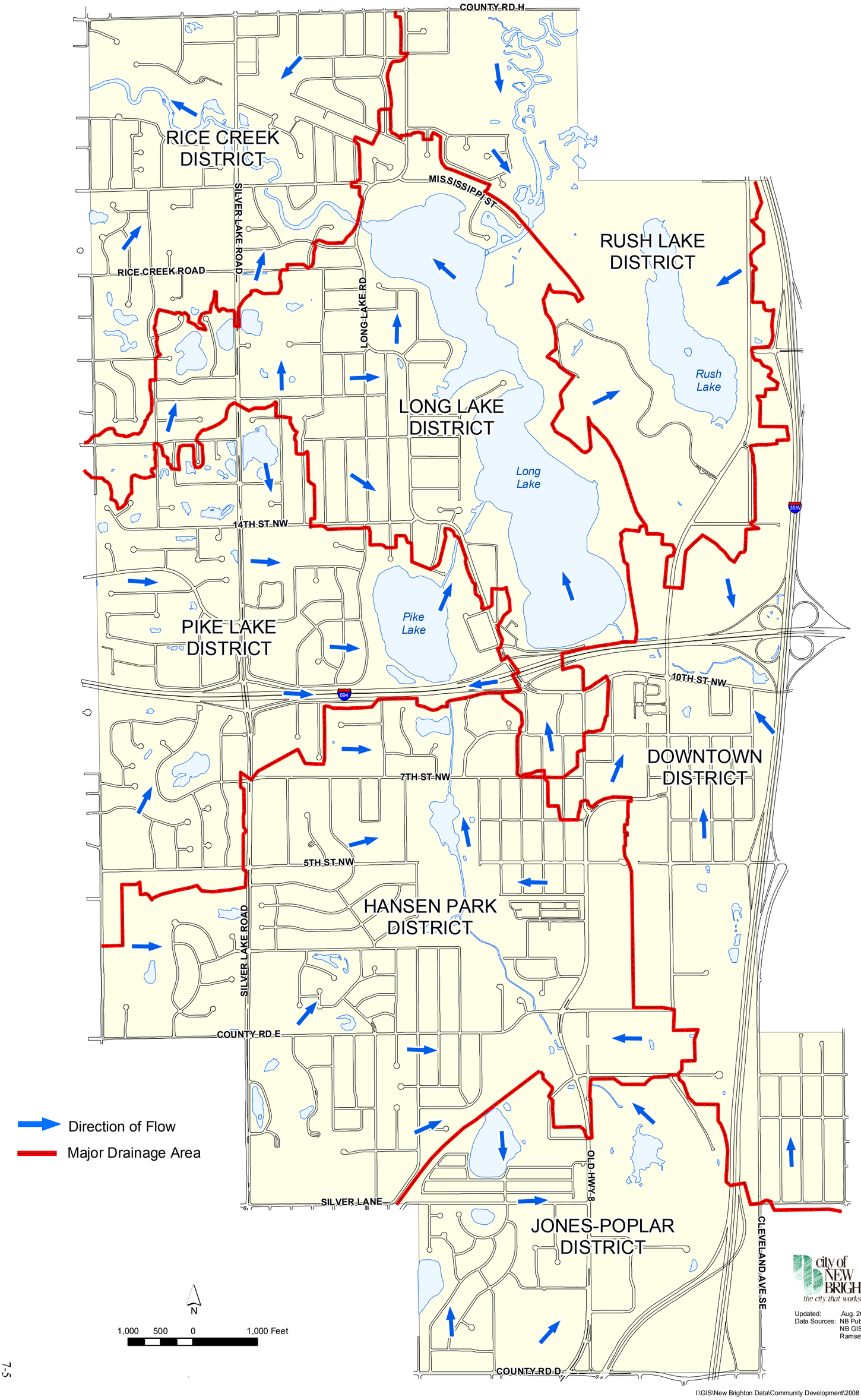


Figure 7-3 MN Land Cover Classification System

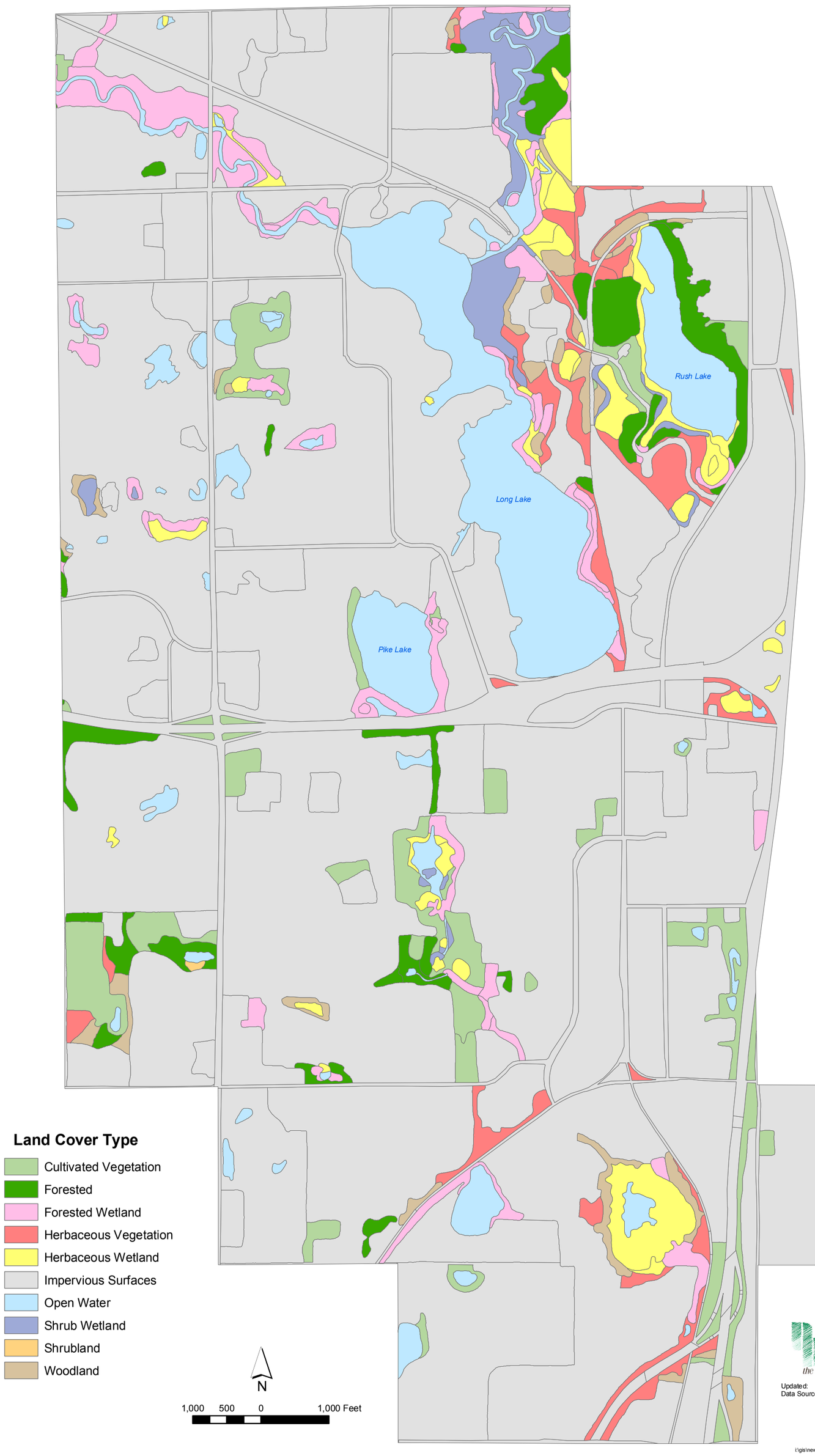
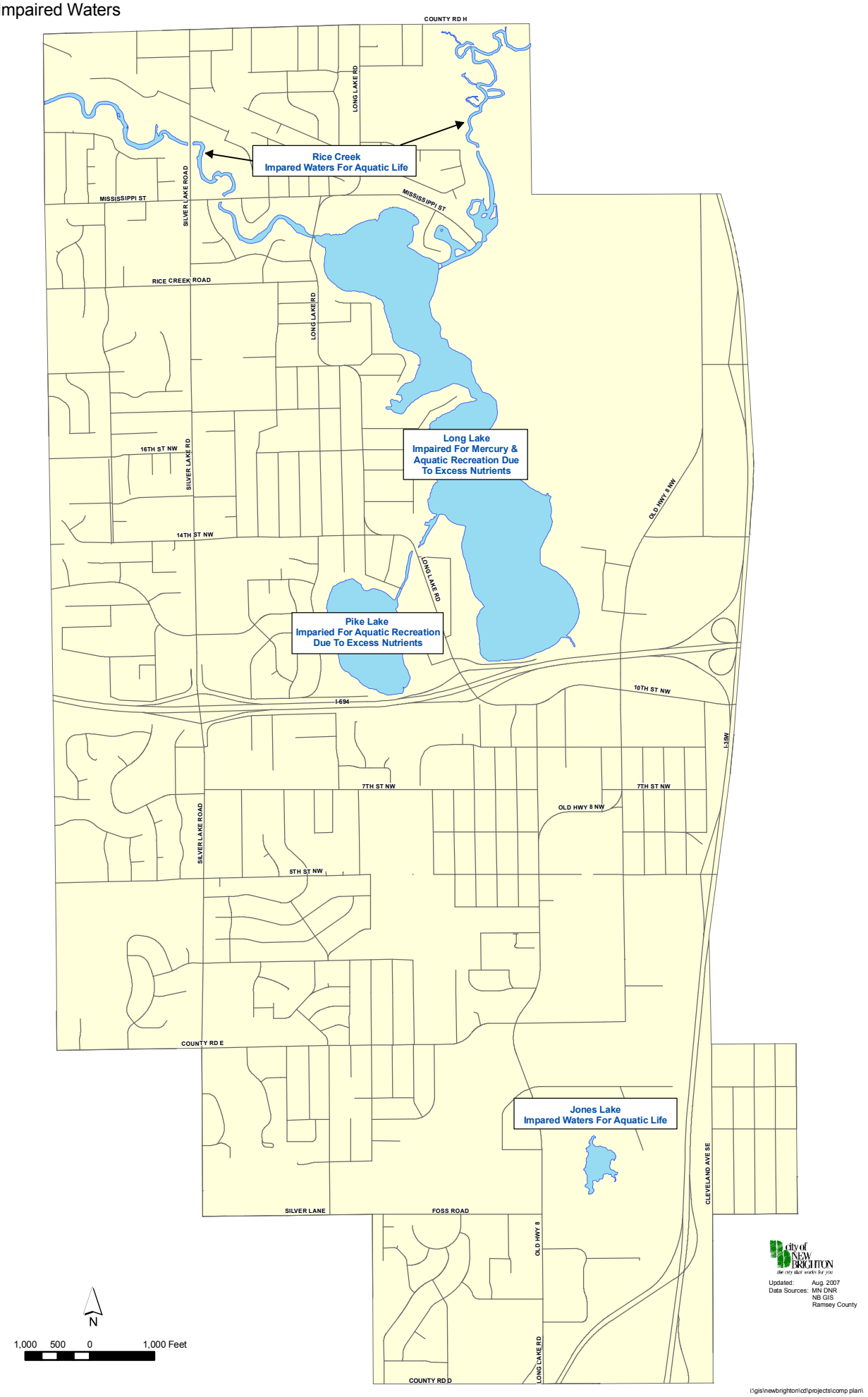


Figure 7-4 Impaired Waters



Environmental Problems and Concerns

As a community becomes urbanized, the natural environment subsequently suffers. Increased impervious surface creates more rapid runoff causing siltation problems in lakes and streams. Roof tops, streets and parking lots also cause a warming affect on cold water streams thus changing the habitat conditions to where some species cannot survive. More residential development creates more lawns, which need fertilizers to grow greener. Fertilizers containing phosphorus wash into wetlands, lakes and streams and create new forms of growth that are hazardous to existing and native plant life. Urban growth creates more noise and air pollution as freeways and roads become more congested and more and more industry is developed to provide jobs and a source of living.

Most of these problems are not new to New Brighton, nor are they unique to New Brighton. They are just as much of a regional issue as they are a local issue. The City of New Brighton must think regionally when making decisions that will impact the environment and its natural features.

NPDES Permit

The permit requires New Brighton to:

1) Write a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) explaining how the permit requirements will be met.
2) Meet six control measure requirements (Public Education and Outreach, Public Participation, Illicit Discharges, Construction Site Runoff Controls, Post Construction Stormwater Management, Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.
3) Assign a person responsible and have a budget for each program.
4) Work with other entities to solve pollution problems.
5) Meet all other state, federal and local laws regarding wetlands, environmental review, special waters, impaired waters, drinking water source protection areas, threatened or endangered plants and animals, historical or archeological sites.
6) Maintain all records pertaining to the five year permit three years after the permit expires. We will apply for our next permit in 2011. The first permit was applied for in 2003 and approved in 2008.

Ordinances Related to MS4 Program / NPDES Permit

In 2008, the City adopted three ordinances related to the City's NPDES Permit:

a. An Ordinance Requiring a Permit for Land Disturbing Activities; adding New Brighton Code Article 3, Section 14-24.
b. An Ordinance Related to Connections and Discharges to the Storm Water System; adding New Brighton Code Article 2, Section 31-8.
c. An Ordinance Related to amending the Storm Water Utility Chapter to include storm water inspections every 5 years and provide credits for rain gardens; amending New Brighton Code Article 1, Sections 31-2 and 31-4.

The City of New Brighton is required to maintain permit coverage under the NPDES permit program administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). These ordinances as proposed would satisfy the MPCA and not jeopardize our NPDES permit coverage.

The first proposed ordinance is a new ordinance establishing requirements for a permit to allow construction activities that would result in land disturbance of one acre or more of land. The permit applicant would be required to submit an erosion control plan describing steps to be taken to control construction impacts on water quality such as soil erosion, discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter and sanitary waste.

The second proposed ordinance is a new ordinance establishing requirements for connections and discharges to the storm water system. This ordinance would provide a mechanism to regulate, prohibit, and abate illicit discharges and connections to the public storm sewer system.

The third and final ordinance amends Chapter 31, Sections 2 and 4 of the Storm Water Utility. These amendments would provide post construction inspections every five years to confirm properties which are currently receiving storm water credits have continued to maintain the storm water treatment device for which they are receiving credits in proper working order.

Six Minimum Control Measures

Public Education and Outreach

City Webpage will be a communication tool to advertise public participation opportunities, a source of pollution prevention education, report illicit discharges, report construction site runoff concerns, provide a medium for the public to review and comment on the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Web surfing public will be aware of date, time and location of public meetings and public participation activities occurring in the New Brighton area.

Web surfing public will know how to report illicit discharges and be aware what an illicit discharge is. Illicit discharge web page will contain information describing what an illicit discharge is and a contact list to report discharges. The web page also has an interactive data base (Request Partners) that the web surfing public can use to report illicit discharges. The data base will give the web surfer a username and password that can be used to view the progress made on the request they entered.

Web surfing public will know how to report construction site runoff and be aware what construction site run-off control are acceptable. Construction site run-off web page will contain information describing what construction site run-off controls are acceptable and a contact list to report construction site runoff. The web page also has an interactive data base (Request Partners) that the web surfing public can use to report construction site runoff.

Web surfing public will be aware of Rice Creek Watershed District and MPCA post-construction Stormwater management water quality and quantity requirements. The City's Stormwater web page will have links to Rice Creek Watershed District and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency web pages. The page will explain what post-construction Stormwater management systems exist in the City and why.

Water Treatment Plant Tours/Talks education program includes describing the water cycle, the mistake the US Army and its contractors made in not understanding the water cycle and how other smaller public illicit discharges contribute to water quality problems.

Public Participation/Involvement

Catch Basin Marker Program builds community sense of ownership. Neighborhood groups (town home or lake associations, boy/girl scouts, and churches) in the community will gain knowledge in what illicit discharges are, the impact discharges have on water bodies and things they can do at home to reduce impact of Stormwater runoff. They will share the information with their neighbors by distributing educational handouts and placing vinyl catch basin markers in their own neighborhood. Neighborhoods where stormwater has a high impact on receiving waters will be selected first.

Annual public hearing meetings on MS4 updates are held at the Park Recreation and Environmental Commission prior to turning in the annual report to the MPCA. A legal notice in local paper is publish 30 days prior to meeting and post on City's News & Events web page several weeks in advanced to give opportunity for public to comment in person or in writing.

Recycling Program and Clean Up Days invites the public to dispose of household hazardous waste properly. Once a year a clean up day is held to collect household and hazardous waste from residents. Prior to the clean up day the activity is promoted by local newspaper articles and city newsletter. Waste correctly disposed of or recycled does not find its way into the environment.

Wood Chip Mulch Distribution Program provides the public with free wood chip mulch to be used for landscaping purposes. Wood chips are beneficial in controlling erosion, retaining moisture around trees and shrubs, and can slow water run off rates.

Illicit Discharges

Stormwater Ordinance 762 Prohibit illicit discharge defined by 40 CFR 122.26(b)(2) and enforcement procedures. It is a regulatory mechanism to prohibit non-storm water discharges into New Brighton's storm sewer system.

Illicit Discharge Enforcement Program Illicit discharges are found by staff investigations from inspections and reports from the public. A letter is sent to suspected property owners explaining what was found, what laws might have been broken and the possible impact the discharge could have on the named downstream water bodies. If there is no change of behavior then use enforcement actions. This includes nuisance code enforcement, City crews doing street sweeping then charging the owner the cost plus penalty, contacting other entities inspectors and stop orders. The Public Works Director, Building Official, City Sanitarian and Fire Marshall will all have regulatory authority for enforcement.

Storm Sewer System Discharge Inspections New Brighton has a storm sewer system inspection program where the storm sewer system is inspected in areas scheduled for annual city street reconstruction. An inspection book is used to record the inspection of manholes, catch basins, and pipes, and includes noting any evidence of illicit discharge entering the system. A review of the inspection report identifies needed system repairs which are then scheduled to be made as part of the street reconstruction project.

Hazardous Material Mapping New Brighton's Fire Inspector inspects businesses to determine fire code compliance and to identify any hazardous materials used and stored on the premises. The type and location of hazardous material is recorded in City GIS mapping records. In the event of a fire the Fire Department will know if they are dealing with hazardous materials and be able to take necessary actions to prevent or mitigate spills if they occur. Educational material to be develop in 2010 and handout with the 2011 fire inspections will attempt to change Commercial Properties/Businesses behavior to store

outside material properly. Firefighters will have the knowledge of the type and the location of hazardous materials on Commercial Properties/Businesses properties. In the event of a fire they will be able to take necessary actions to prevent or mitigate spills if they occur.

Construction Site Runoff Controls

Construction Site Permitting Commercial and industrial properties undergo a site plan review process before the Planning Commission and City Council. Part of this process involves submission of a grading and drainage plan that is reviewed by the engineering department for down stream impacts to water quantity and quality. Included within that plan must be temporary erosion control practices, sediment controls, dewatering plans, BMP maintenance practices, solid and hazardous waste controls, permanent stormwater management controls, and permanent cover over all soils exposed upon completion of the construction activity as part of any site plan approval.

For all residentially zoned properties the City has a process whereby at the building permit review City staff reviews the site plan (which is already a submittal requirement) for erosion control practices and down stream impacts to water quantity and quality. The building permit review City staff includes building official, fire marshal, city forester, city planner and engineering. This includes temporary erosion control practices, sediment controls, dewatering plans, BMP maintenance practices, solid and hazardous waste controls, permanent stormwater management controls, and permanent cover over all soils exposed upon completion of the construction activity.

The City of New Brighton is located entirely within the Rice Creek Watershed District; therefore, almost all construction projects within New Brighton are required to obtain a RCWD permit. As part of the City's formal construction site plan approval process it is required that all construction site permits be reviewed and permitted through RCWD. As part of the current RCWD review and permitting process, developments are required to meet rate control equal to predevelopment conditions for the 1 and 100 year storm events, NURP treatment levels for site runoff, specific infiltration requirements, grading and erosion control requirements, meet reviews and requirements from the NPDES II construction permit along with other state and federal rules on historical sites, endangered species, and wetlands. These NPDES II construction permit and RCWD permit requirements will be reference to in City Code.

New Brighton's Construction Site permitting process:

1. To require all construction site projects in the City of New Brighton to obtain the required construction site permits and reviews from the City, watershed district, County, state and federal.
2. To require all construction site projects applicants to provide topographical maps of existing and proposed grades in contour intervals.
3. Handout permit informational packet when ever someone applies for a permit regarding construction. Builders applying for building permits will be aware of City, Watershed district and MPCA rules regarding erosion and waste control. Attempt to change Builders behavior to store hazardous material properly and reduce erosion from construction sites.
4. Building permit review staff meets once a month to review all applications and discuss issues

Status of Storm Water Treatment Map The Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) includes a GIS base map of sub-watersheds showing the existing type of storm water treatment runoff receives in that sub-watershed, if any. The map includes water body, storm sewer pipe, catch basin, outfall locations, 303d listed impaired water bodies drainage area and drinking water vulnerability areas. The tables in the GIS are data bases of pipe and sub-watershed characteristics.

The Engineering Department uses this GIS map during site plan reviews of redevelopment projects and improvement projects to help with the evaluation of down stream impacts to water quantity and quality. Proposed stormwater infiltration in drinking water vulnerability areas are carefully reviewed to check that adequate pretreatment removes potential pollution prior to infiltration before plans are approved.

The map also identifies a few areas that are feasible to receive some treatment at a future date. Facilities are plan and constructed after review of Status of Treatment Map.

Construction Site Controls Plans approved by the Construction Site Permitting Program, include temporary erosion control practices, sediment controls, dewatering plans, BMP maintenance practices, solid and hazardous waste controls, permanent stormwater management controls, and permanent cover over all soils exposed upon completion of the construction activity. The City's first inspection associated with the building permit would be to ensure these erosion control methods and waste controls are installed properly.

The Engineering Department develops construction plan for City Construction Projects. At least one staff member in the engineering department shall have erosion control certification for City Projects. City Construction Project greater than one acre require plans with temporary erosion control practices, sediment controls, dewatering plans, BMP maintenance practices, solid and hazardous waste controls, permanent stormwater management controls, permanent cover over all soils exposed upon completion of the construction activity, meet reviews and requirements from the NPDES II construction permit, reviewed and permitted through RCWD along with other state and federal rules on historical sites, endangered species, and wetlands.

Issues with construction site runoff controls during any construction are found by routine inspections by regulators, City staff and/or reports from the public (see Request Partners Program). A letter is sent to suspected property owners explaining what was found, what laws might have been broken and the possible impact the discharge could have on the named downstream water bodies. If there is no change of behavior then use enforcement actions. This includes nuisance code enforcement, City crews doing street sweeping then charging the owner the cost plus penalty, contacting other entities inspectors, and stop building orders. The Public Works Director, Building Official, City Code Officer and Fire Marshall will all have regulatory authority for enforcement.

Post-Construction Management

Street Sweeping Policy New Brighton believes street sweeping is a necessary component of maintaining good water quality and also address' other environmental concerns. The City has for many years followed a street sweeping program that prioritizes areas to be sweep in the spring by locations distance to water bodies and amount of traffic. All City streets are sweep every spring and fall. As time permits or if needed the streets are sweep in the summer. Additional street sweeping will be considered in areas draining to 401c impaired water bodies and drinking water vulnerability areas. Construction site run-off is reduced from entering our waterways by having the City do the sweeping and then charging the property owner when they violate erosion control practices on their sites. If the owner continues to discharge sediment on to the city street, then the fee for the City doing the sweeping doubles from the pervious violation. Public Works street sweepers will be aware of priority areas to be sweep during the spring season. Public Works street sweepers will have access to the street sweeping priority map. Engineering Department gives street sweeping priority maps to Public Works annually.

Stormwater Utility New Brighton has set up a storm water utility fund where residents and business are charged a fee with the rates based on amount of runoff contributed from different land classifications. Properties meeting criteria to improve quality/quantity prior to reaching New Brighton's storm water system receive a discounted rate. Businesses/Commercial properties will be aware of what Stormwater systems they have, if they receive a Stormwater utility credit, requirements to maintain the credit and how to keep the devices in good operational condition. Businesses/Commercial properties with Stormwater treatment systems will be occasionally inspected by the City staff. Those properties in compliance will receive a credit. Properties with problem will be told to fix the problem. If problem is not fixed, the City will correct the problem and charge the property the cost plus a penalty. The storm water utility fund ordinance providing credits is implemented and calculated after a new or redevelopment project is completed.

Pollution Prevention by Good Housekeeping Practices

Fleet Management Plan All City vehicles have an electric record stored in the fleet management database. The database is used to keep track of what maintenance was done when and to what vehicle or piece of equipment. The database is also used to keep track of when to do routine inspections and maintenance. Mechanics attend Ramsey County hazardous waste training and are knowledgeable in checking for automotive fluid leaks, proper disposal of fluids or other hazardous waste and spill clean up procedures. All vehicles are washed in designated wash-bay areas.

Open Space Management Plan Parks and Recreation Department maintains the City's green spaces. Part of this maintenance includes the application of fertilizers and pesticides, mowing grass and maintaining outside stockpiles. The use plan was developed to reduce pollution runoff from reaching water or storm sewers.

Parks Maintenance & Forestry Crews will gain knowledge of how grass clippings, pesticides and Pesticides could be potential sources of illicit discharges and change their operational procedures to reduce and eliminate illicit discharges. Parks Maintenance & Forestry Crews will have a training session to review how cut grass and obtain a certification if they apply pesticides. Park Maintenance Crews & Forestry Crews will gain skills how to mow grass and apply chemicals to reduce illicit discharges into water bodies.

Stormwater Treatment Facility Cleaning and Maintenance The City of New Brighton constructs and maintains Storm Water Treatment Facilities such as sedimentation basins, storm water detention ponds, and structural pollution controls (trap manholes, grit chambers, sumps, floatable skimmers and traps, separators), to remove sediment and debris from storm water run off before it enters major water bodies. Many off these basins and ponds have outlet control structures which regulate the discharge flow rates. In time these SWTF fill with sediment and debris and must be cleaned on a regular basis and control structures repaired or replaced.

Objectives of Environmental Protection

Preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural environment will be important to the community's health and quality of life. The following are the City's objectives for Environmental Protection.

1. To preserve and capitalize on the remaining opportunities for open space preservation and management of natural habitat and vegetation.
2. To maintain the natural function and environmental quality of our lakes, streams, and other natural drainage features.
3. To make the natural environment a more prominent feature in the urban landscape of New Brighton.
4. To protect, preserve and enhance the supply of clean water and clean air for the current and future generations of New Brighton citizens and businesses.
5. To reduce the waste-stream and create a sustainable environment.
6. To preserve and maintain the City's mature trees.

Policies for Environmental Protection

The City's policies for Environmental Protection are to:

Intergovernmental Cooperation

1. Work with the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) in formulating and maintaining a district-wide surface water management plan, and by enforcing appropriate regulations to control surface water run-off especially during construction projects. The RCWD adopted revised Rules at the February 13, 2008 Board of Managers meeting.
2. Enforce all local, regional and federal codes, ordinances and laws that work to protect the environment and its natural features.
3. Work with the Rice Creek Watershed District to collect baseline water quality data on major City Lakes and conduct regular monitoring to assure compliance with appropriate standards.
4. Continue to cooperate with the MPCA in enforcing non-point discharge standards.

Development Controls

5. Adopt development controls consistent with National Urban Runoff Program (NURP) standards and the MPCA's urban best management practices to reduce non-point source pollutant loading in storm water runoff.
6. Except where already developed, protect the shoreline areas of lakes and streams as public resources.
7. Require storm water management and erosion control plans for urban developments including redevelopment projects.
8. Prohibit or strongly restrict development on slopes that area susceptible to erosion.
9. Require vegetative cover or other stabilization mechanisms to reduce erosion or slippage problems on steep slopes especially during construction activities.
10. Prohibit alterations or developments that adversely affect wildlife habitat specifically that which may contain unique or endangered species.
11. Incorporate permanent public open spaces as part of future redevelopment projects.

Educational Attainment

12. Encourage and practice the use of sustainable land treatment activities such as using organic phosphorus free fertilizers and discourage the use of herbicides or pesticides.
13. Support city-wide recycling, recovery and reuse of waste materials for both residential property and businesses.

Implementation Strategies

In order to enhance the community's environmental protection and preservation capacity, the City of New Brighton should consider the following strategies:

Ordinances

As a regulatory tool, ordinances can provide standards that define areas or features that need protection or preservation. Ordinances should be established to address the following issues:

- Establishing plans for replacement and preservation of vegetative cover.
- Providing guidance on proper tree species to protect against disease or to maximize its usefulness as a shade tree or windbreak.
- Establishing guidelines for quantity and species for boulevard plantings and landscaping.
- Determines general planting location guidelines to prevent conflicts with site lines and to maximize energy efficient landscaping techniques.

Brownfields Cleanup

Brownfields are defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as "abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination." Typically brownfields contain underground tanks that were used for storage of hazardous materials (gas stations), old vacated industrial sites where hazardous chemicals were used (e.g. pole yards), or heavy industrial sites where petroleum products were evident (asphalt plant). Federal and regional financial assistance is available for cities to help bridge the financial gap of redevelopment and clean up environmentally hazardous sites.

Working with citizens, businesses, and schools to foster environmental stewardship and awareness

One of the most cost effective and efficient means to protecting and enhancing the environment is through education. Many programs and events take place yearly on a regional and national level that focus on preserving the environment. These include Arbor Day, Earth Day, National Recycling Week, Bike to Work Day and others. State law requires recycling, but more can be done in the way of reducing waste materials and coming up with innovative ways to reuse materials. The City should focus on including environmental awareness projects or sessions during City events and festivals. The City should work with schools in funding education programs that focus on sustainability, waste reduction and environmental awareness.