Section 3
VISION PLANNING

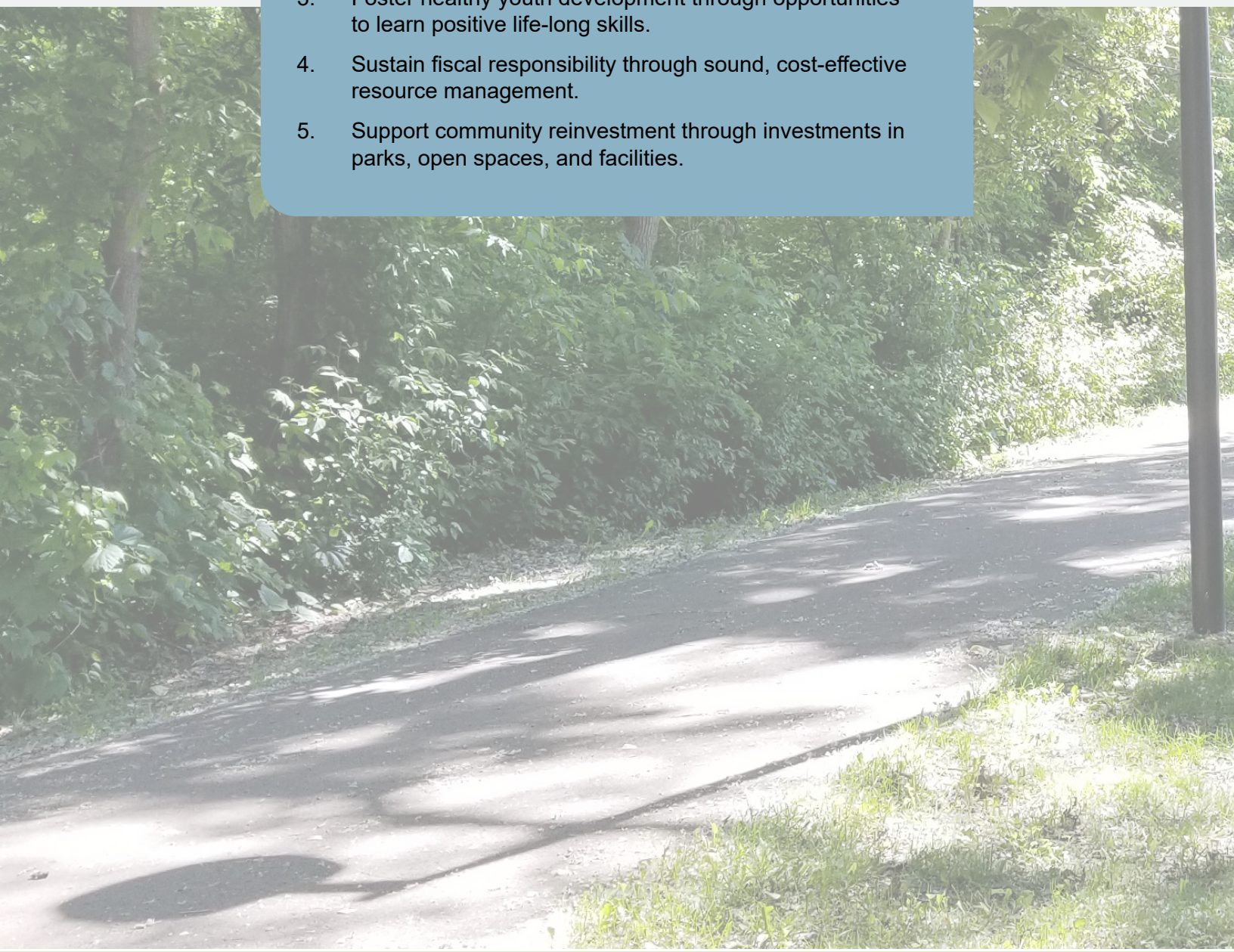
INTRODUCTION

The vision for the New Brighton park and trail system plan builds upon the framework developed during the 2040 Comprehensive Plan project as it directly relates to parks, trails, recreation and open spaces. A vision is a set of goals and policies define high level statements that will help achieve the overall vision statement and are meant to guide decision-making processes for future development and priorities.

2040 Comprehensive Plan

The City of New Brighton recently completed their 2040 Comprehensive Plan in 2019. The plan identified five key objectives and policies relating to parks, trails and open spaces, including:

1. Improve the health of the community through safe, convenient, and accessible facilities and services for all and increased overall participation in programs.
2. Protect natural resources through sustainable policies and practices that preserve the environment for future generations.
3. Foster healthy youth development through opportunities to learn positive life-long skills.
4. Sustain fiscal responsibility through sound, cost-effective resource management.
5. Support community reinvestment through investments in parks, open spaces, and facilities.



Core Values of the Parks and Trails System

- Inclusive & Welcoming to All
- Focus on Health & Wellness
- Create Identity and Sense of Place
- Safety & Connectivity
- High Quality Recreation Facilities
- Enhancement of Natural Resources

The project Vision Statement establishes the long-term vision that the community is to aspire to for its parks, trails and recreation.

The following vision statement was developed during the planning process that defines the vision that New Brighton aspires to attain by the year 2040.

VISION STATEMENT

The parks and trails system of New Brighton shall provide residents with interconnected, high-quality, and accessible parks and corridors for recreation, while protecting and enhancing its natural resource assets. Parks will be neighborhood gathering and community building areas where everyone is welcome to participate. Trails will connect residents to parks, the Community Center, schools and destinations within the city and regionally, and within a greenway network to allow for active, healthy living options.

Vision Plan Goals and Initiatives

The Vision Plan Goals set in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, as they relate specifically to parks, trails, recreation and open spaces, include the following categories taken from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan with previous and expanded objectives and policies listed beneath each below.

Strengthen Community Connections

- Develop a regionally significant multi-use trail route through New Brighton between Long Lake Regional Park and Tony Schmidt Regional Park, with an extension south to St. Anthony.
- Provide an interconnected system of high quality, accessible multi-use trails and greenway network for recreation and transportation to improve overall health, accessibility and community equity with safe connections across major transportation barriers and connection to primary destinations.
- Provide recreation programs to meet the varying demographics, ages, abilities and cultures of New Brighton residents
- Develop and implement an ADA transition plan for improved access to communications, parks, trails and recreation.

Create a Sense of Place and Feeling of Community

- Strengthen community identity through consistent signs, pedestrian lighting, furniture (benches, bicycle parking, waste receptacles), and wayfinding throughout all parks and trails.
- Foster a sense of community, collaboration, volunteerism, and a shared identify through recreational programs and opportunities.
- Implement a wayfinding signage system that identifies the community at key locations, celebrates the culture and history of the community, and effectively guides users throughout the system.
- Provide appropriate, fun, educational, unique, and effective recreation programs meeting diverse needs and demographics
- Provide opportunities to effectively communicate with community members through consistent active engagement methods to identify current needs and desires.
- Expand youth leadership opportunities to participate in City decision-making processes.

Vision Plan Goals and Initiatives (cont.)

Create Places to Gather & Interact

- Provide a balanced and sustainable system of parks, trails and open spaces within a quarter to half-mile of all New Brighton households.
- Create safe and inviting spaces that encourage social interaction across all demographics, abilities and ages.
- Create flexible space for civic gatherings, events and celebrations that will encourage community participation and strengthen the civic identity of New Brighton.
- Provide unique recreational experiences with varying levels of challenge to balance use out across the system.

Safe, Comfortable & Attractive Streets

- Develop attractive streetscape corridors with safe pedestrian routes in New Brighton that enhance the community identity, calm traffic, and guide users to primary destinations through effective wayfinding.
- Incorporate a variety of shade, seating and places of rest along trails and walks.
- Provide safe and aesthetic lighting of street corridors, pedestrian crossings and trails, as appropriate.
- Implement appropriate trail design standards, lighting, and pavement markings to improve safety, minimize conflict zones and allow for safe pedestrian crossings over transportation barriers.

Vision Plan Goals and Initiatives (cont.)

Celebrate Parks as Neighborhood Activity Centers

- Balance park developments to ensure they provide fun, unique and celebratory spaces for diverse users and abilities during all four seasons.
- Create a flexible park system that responds to the evolving demands of recreational trends, populations and demographics.
- Encourage play and physical activity by providing active and passive recreation facilities and programs for all ages and demographics.

Sustain Fiscal & Environmental Responsibility

- Maximize opportunities through the development of fair and equitable working partnerships (between the city and local recreation providers, the school district, adjacent cities and townships, the county, churches, and civic organizations) or expand community partnerships to enhance investments.
- Plan for long term renewal by routinely identifying and evaluating priorities for strategic investments that balance needs with current fiscal realities.
- Protect and enhance community investment by prioritizing maintenance and updates to facilities through the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- Secure funding necessary to carry out the vision and priorities of the park and trail system plan.
- Maximize park, trail and recreation opportunities that benefit the City of New Brighton through revenue generation.
- Create standards and guidelines for the design and development of park, trail and recreation amenities that ensure high quality construction methods and materials for extended life spans and minimizing maintenance needs.
- Build and maintain park, trail and recreation facilities through sustainable design, operations and management techniques.