INTRODUCTION

The Town of May is fortunate to have many surface water bodies, wetland areas, and natural habitat areas within its jurisdiction. The Town owns and operates one park, Marv Schroeder Park, and has two regional parks and several regional trails within its boundaries.

Marv Schroeder Park, a 12-acre park located adjacent to the Town Hall, has been expanded over the years to include a second ball diamond, two playground equipment areas, a picnic area with pavilion, a sport court and a wildflower garden.

Square Lake Regional Park is a 27-acre park located on the southeastern tip of Square Lake. This park has a 720-foot beach, an area for fishing (including a pier), a boat launch, scuba diving and a two-acre area for picnicking. Square Lake is an important natural resource and the Town is committed to the overall preservation of water quality. Along with the Town of May, the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) is overseeing the Square Lake Clean Water Partnership. This project, funded by an MPCA grant, closely monitors the quality of water in Square Lake.

Big Marine Regional Park Reserve is proposed to have approximately 2,000 acres of open space located on the south end of Big Marine Lake. As of 1999, the County had acquired approximately 600 acres of the planned park reserve. Acquisition will continue from willing sellers over the next decade. This park represents the only reserve that is representative of the St. Croix Valley/NE ground moraine geology. The wetland wildlife habitat is especially significant to preserve, and Big Marine will benefit from an improved and controlled access.

The first phase of development of Big Marine Park, lying north of CSAH 4, opened in 2008.

There are two regional trails planned to run through the Town of May. One is an east/west trail that will run along 170th Street North, to be known as Glacial Hills Regional Trail. The other is a north/south trail running along Manning Avenue, to be known as the Washington County Greenway Regional Trail.

The Gateway Trail Extension Taskforce, which includes the Department of Natural Resources, the Gateway Trail Association, the Minnesota Trails Initiative, and local government units such as May Township, are working to create a Gateway Trail extension which would facilitate an eventual connection between the City of St. Paul and the City of Duluth. At this point, the Gateway Trail has extended north and east from downtown St. Paul to Pine Point Park in Stillwater Township at the southern border of May Township. The next step of the process is to gain access via easements north and east through the Town of May to William O’Brien State Park. The goal is not to condemn land, and as such these easements must be obtained by willing property owners.
The Town has encouraged the Gateway Trail extension by providing a one lot development bonus to properties that have agreed to an easement allowing the Gateway Trail Extension access through their property, and by waiving the Town’s park dedication fee for new lots created that directly border the Gateway Trail. There are several easements currently in place in the Town.

**PARK AND RECREATIONAL GOALS**

- Maintain parks, open spaces and trails that are part of the Town park system.
- Provide active and passive recreational opportunities for the residents of May.
- Work in cooperation with outside agencies as additional parks and trails are planned, sited and implemented.
- Preserve the Town’s natural features.
- Have a voice in the development of all park facilities within and bordering the Town, including the facilities at Regional Parks. The Town believes that all Town residents should have free access to such parks.

**PARK AND RECREATION POLICIES**

- Support orderly development of parks that serve Town residents.
- Consider acquisition of parklands and trailways as needed to adequately provide the residents of the Town with active and passive recreational opportunities.
- Encourage regional trail systems that are designed to accommodate multiple uses, such as: walking, jogging, bicycling, in-line skating, snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding.
- Require land dedication or cash equivalent for park purposes for all residential subdivisions.
- Encourage developers to provide private parks, trails, and open space to satisfy the needs of their residents without requiring acquisition, construction or maintenance by the Town.
- Cooperate with County and Regional plans for preservation and wise land use management of the river valley and blufflines along the St. Croix River.
• Continue to support extension of the Gateway Trail by the DNR from Pine Point Park, through the Town, to William O’Brien State Park. The Town will continue to provide incentives, including:
  • Providing a one lot development bonus for properties that have agreed to host the extension by explicit easement.
  • Support the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program.
2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Parks & Trails

Existing Parks
- Regional Park
- Local Parks
- Open Space
- Improved/Recreational Area

Planned Parks
- Regional Park
  (Non-Public Owned Property)

Existing Bikeways/Trails
- County Bikeways
- State Bikeways

Planned Bikeways/Trails
- Regional Trails
  - Gateway Trail Extension

This map is for planning purposes only.
Source: Washington County, Metropolitan Council, MN DNR,