



Park and Recreation Plan **2008**

INTRODUCTION

Lent Township is located in Chisago County and is bordered by Wyoming Township to the south, North Chisago Lakes Township and Chisago City to the east, and the City of North Branch to the north. The Township's western border is predominantly shared with Isanti County, and approximately one mile is shared with Anoka County. The City of Stacy is situated in the southwest, within Lent Township.

Lent Township provides a variety of recreational opportunities for its residents through the efforts of its Town Board and Park Commission. The Township anticipates continued growth in population and increasing residential development, which will create demand for more leisure and recreational facilities. Recognizing this demand, current and potential parks and recreational facilities need to be identified and planned. Currently, there are no Chisago County parks within Lent Township. However, nearly one-third of the Township's land area is occupied by the Carlos Avery State Wildlife Management Area, which is operated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. There is also a major north-south State recreational trail, the Sunrise Prairie Trail, running the length of the Township.

For the purposes of this document, the terms "Park" or "Recreational Facility" shall include, but are not limited to the following types of activities or facilities:

- Sports fields or courts for baseball, basketball, hockey, running, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, etc.
- Playgrounds
- Open space areas for kite flying, model rocketry, radio-controlled models, etc.
- Trails for biking, hiking, horseback riding, inline skating, jogging/running, snowmobiling, etc.
- Picnic areas
- Access areas to non-Township recreational areas and trails

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Plan is to:

- Identify parks and other recreational facilities currently available to Township residents;
- Establish realistic and attainable objectives for the number, size and location of Township parks;
- Determine funding sources for the upgrade and maintenance of current park facilities and the purchase and development of future parks; and
- Create a map of the current and potential future parks and recreational facilities within the Township.

TYPES OF PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following types of parks and recreational facilities either already exist or should be provided for within Lent Township:

Community Parks and Playgrounds

- Established within or near residential areas for use by local residents.
- A community park may be included with any new development or subdivision requiring approval from the Township (see Lent Township Subdivision Ordinance).
- Possible Township purchase of land within or near a residential development for use as a park or playground.
- Lands donated to the Township may be used for a community park or playground.
- Trails for biking, hiking, horseback riding, inline skating, jogging/running and snowmobiling may be established through existing parks or future park areas.

Amenities that the Township may provide for community parks include:

- Athletic fields or courts & field fittings (baseball, basketball, hockey, running, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, etc)
- Bleachers, benches and dugouts
- Parking areas
- Picnic shelters and/or tables
- Playground equipment
- Safety & security fences
- Sandboxes or horseshoe pits
- Trails
- Water and toilet facilities

Non-Township recreational facilities

- Carlos Avery State Wildlife Management Area
- Sunrise Prairie Trail
- Various established and/or marked snowmobile trails

FUNDING

Funding for parks and recreation facilities may come from several sources:

- Funds contributed during the subdivision of property within Lent Township which are designated and held for the development of park and recreation facilities;

- Funds allocated via the Township budgeting process solely for the maintenance and/or development of park and recreation facilities;
- Funds donated by public or private entities for acquisition, development and/or maintenance of park and recreation facilities.

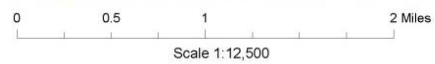
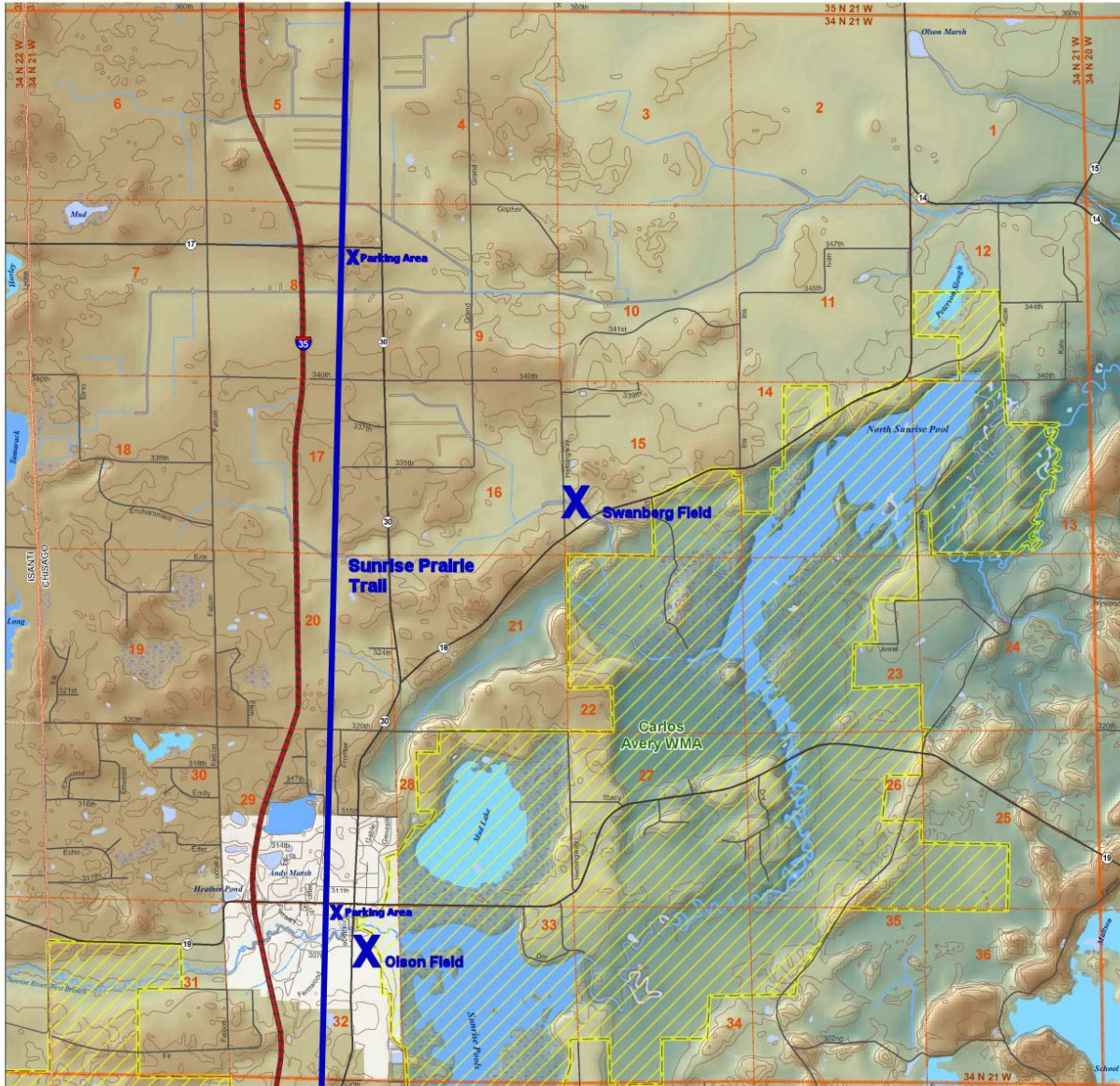
COMMUNITY PARKS WITHIN LENT TOWNSHIP- CURRENT AND PROPOSED

- ***Gordon Swanberg Ballfield*** - Located immediately adjacent to the Lent Town Hall at 33155 Hemingway Avenue. Amenities include a fenced softball field with backstop, benches, bleachers, parking area and toilet facilities.
- ***Reiger Olson Ballfield*** - Located adjacent to and behind the Stacy-Lent Fire Hall at 30785 Forest Boulevard. Amenities include a fenced softball field with backstop, benches, bleachers, dugouts, parking area and toilet facilities.
- ***Proposed*** - (to be developed by the Lent Township Park Commission).

NON-TOWNSHIP RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN LENT TOWNSHIP

- ***Carlos Avery State Wildlife Management Area*** - Approximately 7,500 acres of undeveloped lands and waters owned and managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife. These lands are managed and maintained for public hunting and wildlife protection. The majority of public use takes place during the “open seasons” for hunting. However, the diversity of lands and waters within this area offer significant opportunities for recreational pursuits during ALL times and seasons of the year. Lent Township should work cooperatively with the Division of Wildlife to encourage and provide appropriate and compatible uses within and adjoining the Carlos Avery State Wildlife Management Area.
- ***Sunrise Prairie Trail*** - Approximately 6 miles of paved and groomed trail occupying the former roadbed of the Burlington Northern Railroad. This State trail follows the original Lake Superior and Mississippi Rail Line constructed from 1867 to 1870. It was abandoned by Burlington Northern Railroad in 1989 and converted into a multi-use recreational trail in the spring of 1998. The Sunrise Prairie Trail, together with the Hardwood Creek trail to the south, provides a 24-mile continuous trail extending from Hugo in Washington County to North Branch in Chisago County. The paved areas of the trail are reserved for bikers, hikers, inline skaters and walking (cross-country skiing is not an allowed use). The turf areas of the trail are available for horseback riding in the summer and snowmobiling in the winter. In addition, this scenic, level trail is fully accessible to wheel chairs.
- ***Snowmobile Trails*** - (to be identified and listed by the Lent Township Park Commission).

LENT TOWNSHIP



Lent Township
Township 34 N - Range 21 W
Chisago County, MN

Park Plan

March 2008

Adoption and Date of Effect

This Park Plan has been legally adopted by the Lent Township Board of Supervisors on March 18, 2008, following an official public hearing as required by Law. This Plan shall be in full force and effect as of the date of adoption by the Lent Township Board of Supervisors. A copy of this Plan has been placed on file with the Chisago County Recorder's Office and shall be made available to the general public at the office of the Lent Township Clerk and online at the Lent Township website:

<http://www.lenttownship.net/>

Passed and approved this 18th day of March, 2008, by the Lent Township Board of Supervisors.

Gene Olson

Gene Olson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Roxanne Kahler

Roxanne Kahler, Township Clerk