

ACTIVE LIVING RAMSEY COMMUNITIES



Purpose

Active Living is a way of life incorporating physical activity in daily routines. Active Living initiatives improve health through community engagement by implementing policy, system, and environmental changes. These initiatives transform the built environment to make physical activity safer, easier, and more enjoyable, as well as to inspire behavioral change. These strategies help to make the healthy choice become an easier choice, encouraging day-to-day activities such as walking, biking, taking the stairs, and using recreational facilities - like playgrounds, beaches, and tennis courts.

ACTIVE LIVING RAMSEY COMMUNITIES

Active Living Ramsey Communities is a broad-based coalition of community leaders, practitioners, and residents working together to improve health through community engagement by promoting and creating environments that make it safe and easy for everyone to integrate physical activity into their daily routine.

Ramsey County Vision, Mission, and Goals

Active Living Ramsey Communities' work aligns with and helps carry out Ramsey County's vision, mission, and goals.

Vision: *A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive.*

Mission: *A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life.*



Goal One: *Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being through effective safety-net services, innovative programming, prevention and early intervention and environmental stewardship.*

Physical activity contributes to the health and well-being of Ramsey County residents. Active Living Ramsey Communities engages the community to improve health and increase physical activity. It works with leaders, practitioners, and residents to promote and create environments that make it safe and easy for everyone to integrate physical activity into their daily routine. Active Living Ramsey Communities has been on the forefront of helping to create a countywide connected multimodal transportation system that is safe, accessible, and efficient for all pedestrians and bicyclists in Ramsey County.



Goal Two: *Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty through proactive leadership and inclusive initiatives that engage all communities in decisions about our future.*

Active Living Ramsey Communities used an equity lens in developing the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, and continues to update and encourage implementation of the plan. The plan provides a framework for developing a connected Ramsey County where communities and residents are engaged in the process of building a great place for people of all ages and abilities to walk and bike safely and comfortably. The included engagement and equity tools help identify areas where bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure investment would have the most impact on people with the least transportation options, such as areas of concentrated financial poverty and historically underrepresented communities.



Goal Three: *Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses through connections to education, employment and economic development throughout our region.*

Active Living Ramsey Communities seeks to empower local communities with the framework and tools to enhance their local network with countywide benefits. The Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan identifies a Connected Ramsey Communities Bicycle Network. When fully realized, the bicycle network will connect residents and businesses to education, employment, and other key destinations throughout Ramsey County and the metropolitan region. The Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan led to the creation of the All Abilities Transportation Network, an organization-wide approach to ensure that transportation projects prioritize the most vulnerable users first. The Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan includes performance measures to evaluate progress toward implementing an all abilities transportation network as it relates to pedestrian and bicycle facilities. These measures help Ramsey County to evaluate the safety, comfort, and quality of the pedestrian and bicyclist experience.

**Goal Four:** *Model fiscal accountability, transparency and strategic investments through professional operations and financial management.*

Active Living Ramsey Communities engages the community to improve health by promoting and creating environments that make it safe and easy for everyone to integrate physical activity into their daily routine. This is an evidence-based prevention strategy that improves health and reduces the costs of chronic disease related to physical inactivity, such as heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. Active Living Ramsey Communities encourages conversations between transportation agencies and community members to identify community needs as early as possible in the transportation planning process (especially in environmental justice communities). This leads to better outcomes, such as cost-efficient implementation, meeting schedules, and eliminating barriers that lead to racial and other disparities.

BACKGROUND

Active Living Ramsey Communities is a countywide collaborative effort to bring community members together to pursue their collective vision for active living. This effort is coordinated by a dedicated Active Living Ramsey Communities staff member in the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department. Active Living Ramsey Communities collaborates closely with Ramsey County municipalities and county departments, particularly:

- Ramsey County Parks and Recreation
- Ramsey County Public Works
- Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health
- Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority
- Ramsey County Information Services

An ad-hoc Active Living Leadership Team is comprised of Ramsey County Department Directors from the departments listed above.

HISTORY

In December 2004, a small group of leaders came together to form an active living initiative, originally known as Active Living Ramsey County. They were especially concerned about the rising trend in childhood obesity and the many other health issues related to physical inactivity. The group quickly learned that active living affects people's lives in many ways, and that it intersects with many parts of Ramsey County's mission and goals, including transportation, parks and recreation, public health and regional rail. In the spring of 2005, residents, community and business leaders, elected officials, and representatives from organizations including cities, the county, schools, and nonprofits launched Active Living Ramsey County. Since its inception, the coalition has been meeting every quarter to advance its mission. Later, Active Living Ramsey County changed its name to Active Living Ramsey Communities to clarify that the coalition works with all local communities throughout Ramsey County, not just Ramsey County as a governmental entity.

Ramsey County Board Actions adopted related to Active Living Ramsey Communities

- **Active Living Ramsey County Planning Grant Resolution**
 - Adopted by the Ramsey County Board on August 22, 2006 (Resolution # 2006-292)
- **Active Living Ramsey County Coordinator Position Resolution**
 - Adopted by the Ramsey County Board on February 12, 2008 (Resolution # 2008-073)
- **Active Living Ramsey County Strategic Plan 2008—2012; and to integrate Active Living principles into the work of County departments:**
 - Adopted on August 8, 2008 (Resolution # 2008-251)

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- **Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan**
 - Adopted by the Ramsey County Board on February 2, 2016 (Resolution # [B2016-54](http://agenda-suite.com:8080/agenda/ramsey/ProposalHistory.html?select=1301))
<http://agenda-suite.com:8080/agenda/ramsey/ProposalHistory.html?select=1301>
- **All Abilities Transportation Network**
 - Adopted by the Ramsey County Board on December 13, 2016 (Resolution # [B2016-434](http://agenda-suite.com:8080/agenda/ramsey/ProposalHistory.html?select=1756))
<http://agenda-suite.com:8080/agenda/ramsey/ProposalHistory.html?select=1756>

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over Active Living Ramsey Communities' ten-year-plus history, many active living strategies have been implemented throughout the community. One example of each strategy in action is described below:

Policy Change

Ramsey County All Abilities Transportation Network Policy

The All Abilities Transportation Network Policy provides a framework for developing a connected Ramsey County where community decision makers, practitioners, and residents are engaged in the process of building a great place for walking and bicycling for all ages and abilities. The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners adopted the policy on December 13, 2016. To support the implementation of the All Abilities Transportation Network, the county board approved a measure to merge Active Living Ramsey Communities and the Transit Planning and Development Division into the Department of Public Works on June 5, 2018.

All Ages Vision

Planning and designing for all ages means children as young as eight can walk and bike independently from their parents, and older people can get around comfortably without a car.

All Abilities Vision

Planning and designing for all abilities means people using assistive mobility devices and those with vision, hearing, or other impairments can safely and conveniently travel throughout the transportation network. Crossings, intersections, and facilities are designed with users of all abilities in mind, prioritizing the most vulnerable users first.

System Change

Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

The Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan provides a guiding framework and supportive resources for building a connected and accessible county where people of all ages and abilities can bike, walk, and roll - safely, easily, and comfortably throughout the county. The plan addresses bicycle and pedestrian facilities across multiple jurisdictions, and provides tools, analyses, and actions to help community members implement and realize the plan's vision.

The Ramsey County Board voted to officially approve the plan on February 2, 2016. Nearly all the municipalities in Ramsey County plan to include the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and the Connected Ramsey Communities Network in their 2020-2040 comprehensive plans.

Plan Vision

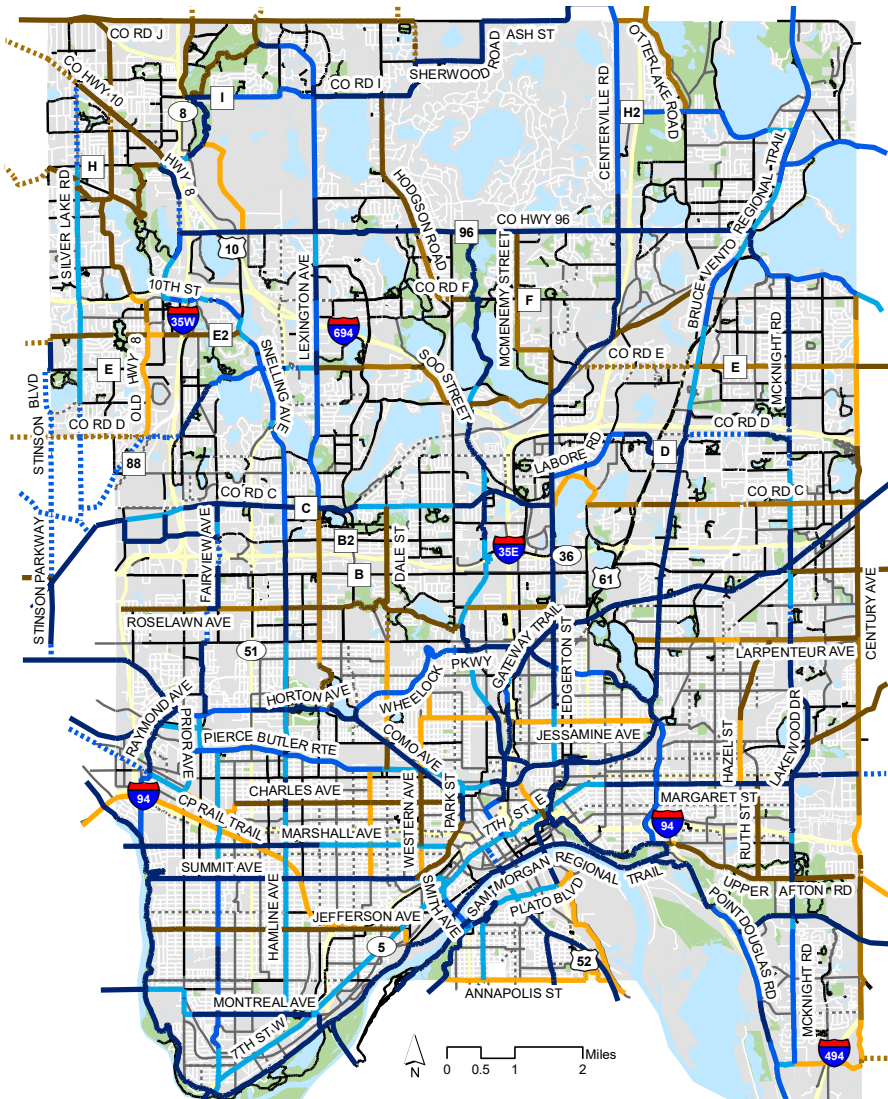
Pedestrians and bicyclists move freely on a safe and well integrated system that connects people and places in Ramsey County. Walking and bicycling is a comfortable and integral part of daily life in Ramsey County for people of all ages and abilities.

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Plan Goals

1. Improved Health through Active Mobility for All
2. A Complete and Connected Multi-Modal Network
3. A Safe Transportation System for Pedestrians and Bicyclists of All Ages and Abilities
4. Equity and Social Justice in the Transportation System
5. A Coordinated Approach to Filling Gaps in the Pedestrian and Bicycle System
6. A Transportation System that Contributes to Sustainable and Prosperous Communities

Connected Ramsey Communities Network



Connected Ramsey Communities Network

Major Countywide Corridors

- Existing
- Planned Upgrade
- Planned
- Identified Need

Countywide Connectors

- Existing
- Planned Upgrade
- Planned
- Identified Need

Local Bikeways

- Existing
- Planned
- Identified Need

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Connected Ramsey Communities Network - Type and Status 8.5x11
Prepared by Active Living Ramsey Communities 10/8/2018
ALRC@Co.Ramsey.MN.US

The Connected Ramsey Communities Network provides a collaborative vision for a countywide bicycle network. This network, crafted from existing bikeways, municipal bicycle plans, and input from community engagement, guides governmental agencies in Ramsey County to build a comprehensive and well coordinated bicycle system.

When fully developed, the Connected Ramsey Communities Network will connect people in Ramsey County with desirable destinations throughout the county and the metropolitan region. Successful implementation of this plan will be a process of improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the county and monitoring progress toward a connected, safe, and accessible pedestrian and bicycle system for all. The corridors shown below represent a future vision that is subject to change throughout the implementation process and is not an exhaustive assessment of all the bicycle facility needs in Ramsey County.

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Regional Planning Context

The Metropolitan Council plans two regional networks for trails and bikeways throughout the Twin Cities: Regional Trails and the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN).

Regional Trails provide access to natural features and connect regional parks. These trails are managed by park agencies and oriented toward recreation, but also serve utilitarian trips well due to their separation from traffic.

The Metropolitan Council's Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) is a comprehensive regional network of bikeways oriented toward transportation. This network includes selected regional trails, streets managed by public works or transportation agencies, and trails managed by park agencies. The RBTN identifies specific alignments in cases where a facility already exists or has been planned by a local partner. The RBTN also specifies broader corridors where a specific alignment has not yet been planned.

The Regional Bicycle Transportation Network has important implications for comprehensive planning requirements and the allocation of grant funding. It is imperative that Ramsey County, the Metropolitan Council, federal, state, regional and local transportation and parks agencies collaborate to ensure coordinated planning and implementation of each agency's plans.

Community Engagement

Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning Process

Many Active Living Ramsey Communities partners contributed to the planning process. In 2015, Active Living Ramsey Communities worked to expand the number and diversity of voices providing guidance for the planning, design, and implementation of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in Ramsey County through the development of the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Engagement efforts focused on equity by purposefully connecting with people who have been historically underrepresented in planning efforts, and who experience health and other disparities because of race, socioeconomic status, age, disability, and/or gender. By doing this, Active Living Ramsey Communities learned about residents' needs and aspirations for active living, and incorporated them into the planning process to inform all aspects of the plan.

To accomplish the goal of equitable engagement, the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle System Plan Project Team collaborated closely with partners and community groups to:

1. Work with specific populations and communities
2. Participate at neighborhood and community events
3. Offer multiple opportunities in a variety of formats for residents and other stakeholders

They took the the engagement events to the people and created easily accessible materials.

These collaborative efforts included a variety of opportunities for stakeholder involvement and distributing engagement materials in a targeted and strategic manner, with the goal of making it easier for people to share their ideas, insights, and experiences.

Community group partners who contributed to this planning and engagement process included:

- Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES)
- Cycles for Change
- Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging
- Olmstead Implementation Office
- Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- Rondo Avenue, Inc.
- Roseville Area Senior Program
- Saint Paul Public Housing Authority

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Engagement Opportunities

Working alongside community partners on developing the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, Active Living Ramsey Communities brought engagement to places where people gather - setting up booths at neighborhood and community events to make participation easy and fun, and organizing and facilitating meaningful and fun small-group activities. Robust online engagement, including a project website, online survey, and an interactive map expanded the project's reach.

To effectively communicate with members of the public, Active Living Ramsey Communities developed welcoming, accessible project materials. These materials used clear visual designs and plain language to help residents who aren't familiar with planning processes. All figures in electronic documents have an embedded caption with a brief explanation of the image. The project website was ADA accessible and could be translated in multiple languages.

In-person Engagement Opportunities

- Pop-up workshops
- Booths at neighborhood and community events
- Listening sessions
- Open houses
- Community meetings
- Internal advisory group meetings
 - Project Advisory Team
 - System Advisory Team

Online Engagement Opportunities

- Project website
- Public survey
- Interactive online map

Community Engagement Findings

- Pedestrians and cyclists want more separation from motor vehicle traffic.
 - At most events, participants said they feel unsafe walking and bicycling next to cars, trucks, and buses.
 - "More separation from motor vehicles" was a top priority for participants who answered the online survey.
 - Walkers preferred sidewalks over shoulders.
 - People who ride bikes preferred off-street trails and protected bike lanes over conventional bike lanes and shared travel lanes. (Protected bike lanes are separated from traffic by a curb, planters, or plastic bollards.)

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- People walk and bike for both transportation and recreation.
 - About 50% of survey participants either walk to go shopping, bike to school, or bike to work at least once a week.
 - In addition, parks and recreational opportunities were popular destinations for walking and biking trips.
- Participants want a connected network across barriers.
 - Highways, railroad tracks, and bodies of water can act as barriers and prevent people from walking or biking where they want. Participants expressed a desire for a countywide connected network with seamless facilities across barriers.
- People who have not been involved in planning processes in the past want more opportunities for meaningful engagement.
 - Many participants at engagement events - especially people with disabilities and young people of color - expressed strong interest in becoming meaningfully involved in planning and implementation decisions.
 - Youth apprentices from Cycles for Change expressed interest in opportunities for engagement and career opportunities in urban planning.
 - At the listening session coordinated with the Olmstead Implementation Office for people with disabilities, participants expressed frustration that decision-makers design streets without learning from the experiences of people who use a wheelchair.
- Maintenance, especially in winter, is important to allow people to walk and bike safely.
 - Uneven sidewalks, snow banks, and icy surfaces can make everyday activities inconvenient and dangerous for seniors and people with mobility or sight limitations. Survey respondents prioritized removing snow and ice from sidewalks and trails for walking, and creating level and smooth road and trail surfaces for biking.

Community Participation

The Active Living Ramsey Communities coalition collaborates with a wide range of communities and stakeholders throughout Ramsey County. The coalition continues to meet quarterly. Communities, stakeholder groups, and professionals who participated in 2017 coalition activities include:

Community residents and groups

- African Heritage Community
- Asian Pacific Communities
- Disability Community
- Latino Community
- Senior Community

Federal, state, regional, and local government practitioners from:

- 15 Ramsey County Municipalities
- Community Planning, Development, and Asset Management
- Design, Traffic, and Operations Engineering
- Construction and Maintenance Management
- Geographic Information Systems Management
- Landscape Architecture
- Law Enforcement
- Libraries
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning

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- Public Health
- Public Works

Private sector, nonprofits, and schools

- Business
- Geriatric Social Work
- Health Care
- Universities
- Bike and Pedestrian Advocates

Local Elected Officials

Government Agency Planners, Engineers, and Park Professionals

Teams

Active Living Ramsey Communities establishes teams and action groups to pursue its mission, including:

1. Active Living Ramsey Communities Coalition
2. Biking and Walking Team
3. Go Ramsey Team
4. Ramsey County Leadership Team
5. Project Advisory Team
6. System Advisory Team

Sample of Current Work:

Pedestrian and Bicycle Performance Measures Report

Ramsey County's All Abilities Transportation Network Policy requires all county transportation projects to consider the most vulnerable users of the transportation system first. Active Living Ramsey Communities will help the county to better serve all users by annually evaluating the completeness, safety, and comfort of the bicycle and pedestrian network in Ramsey County. Measuring and evaluating the performance of the pedestrian and bicycle system enables Ramsey County to identify deficiencies and areas of need, and to direct infrastructure improvements and policy changes accordingly.

The results of this evaluation are presented in the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Performance Measures Report. Specifically, the report analyzes the annual construction of new facilities, user experience, crashes, and demographic disparities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The report evaluates user experience according to two measurements: Pedestrian Level of Service and Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress. Pedestrian Level of Service measures how comfortable a facility is for pedestrians according to the presence/absence of sidewalks, the posted speed limit of the adjacent roadway, and the type of nearby land use. Based on these factors, facilities receive a rating of "good", "fair", "poor", or "hostile".

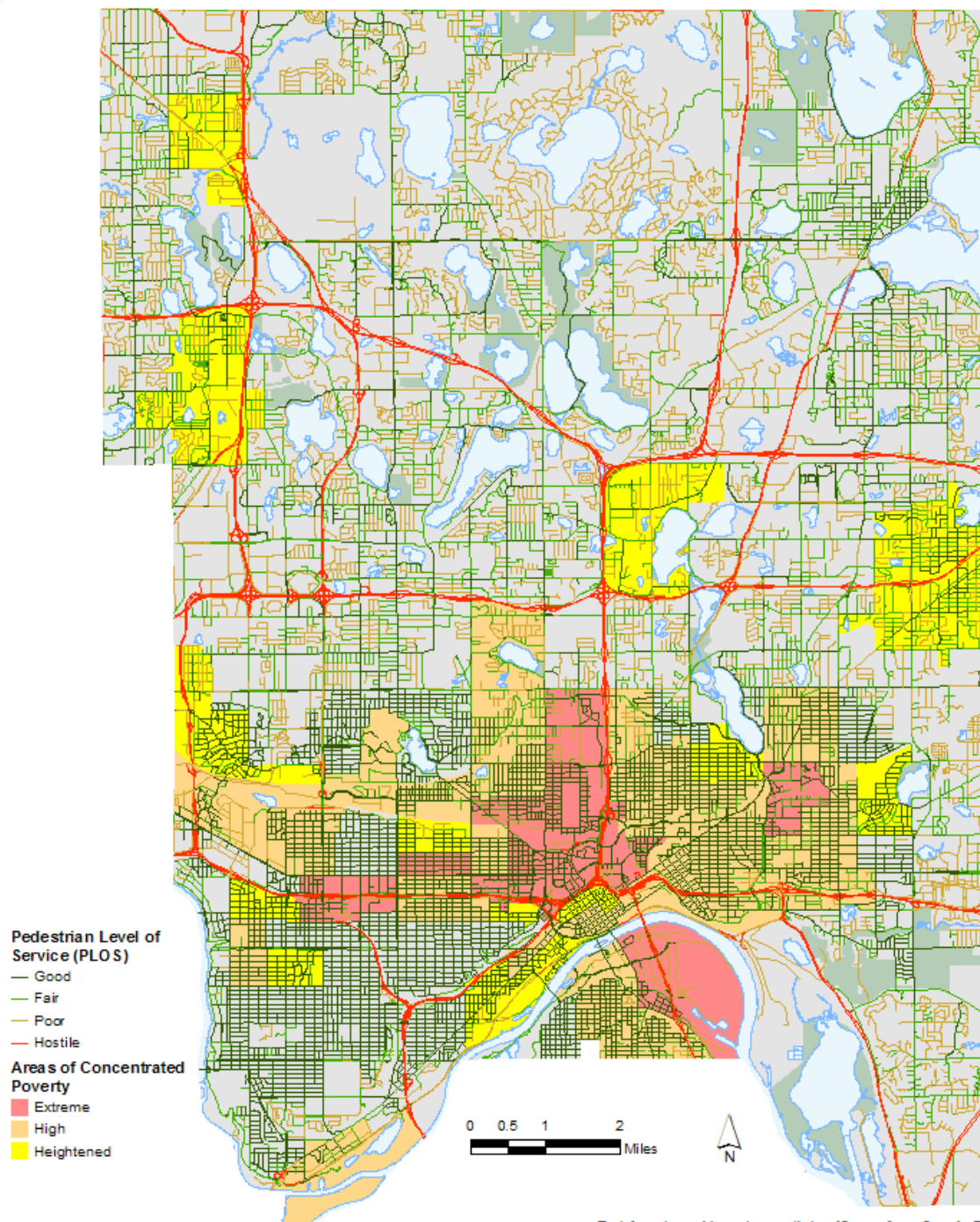
The table below describes some typical characteristics of streets in each category. Because the Pedestrian Level of Service rating represents a combination of multiple factors, these descriptions may not match every street segment in a given category.

A street with this Pedestrian Level of Service rating:	Typically has one or both of these characteristics:
Good	Sidewalks Low speed limit
Fair	Residential street Wide shoulders
Poor	High speed limit Narrow shoulders or no shoulders
Hostile	High speed limit No shoulders

Disparities in Pedestrian Level of Service

Viewing Pedestrian Level of Service through the lens of concentrated poverty reveals notable barriers to active living for some areas of Ramsey County. Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACP) are census tracts where at least 15% (Heightened), 20% (High), or 40% (Extreme) of households earn incomes below the federal poverty level. Most of Ramsey County's Areas of Concentrated Poverty are located in Saint Paul, but others are located in Lauderdale, Roseville, Little Canada, North Saint Paul, New Brighton, and Mounds View. Throughout the county, Areas of Concentrated Poverty tend to have a higher percentage of roadways with a 'good' Pedestrian Level of Service (PLOS). This is mostly due to the higher number of sidewalks in these predominantly urban areas. However, Areas of Extreme Concentrated Poverty have a higher share of roadways with a 'hostile' PLOS due to the higher number of high-speed, heavy-traffic arterial roads and freeways located in these communities.

MAP: PEDESTRIAN LEVEL OF SERVICE (PLOS) IN AREAS OF CONCENTRATED POVERTY



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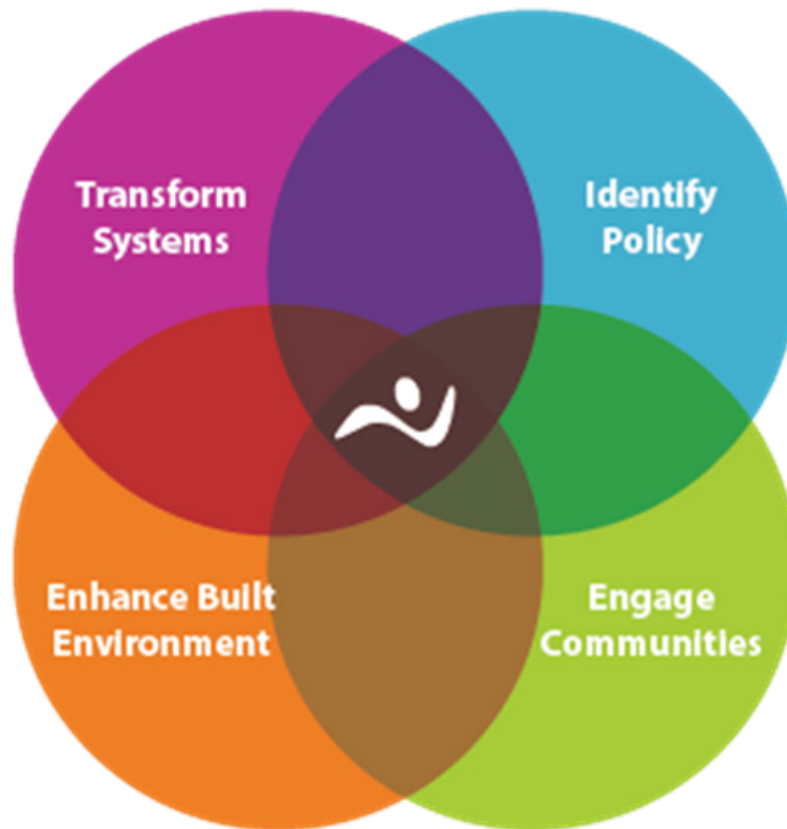
Prepared by Active Living Ramsey Communities | RCGISMetaData@Co.Ramsey.MN.1
PLOS_ACP_COMP 3/1/2018

STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK

The Active Living Ramsey Communities strategic framework utilizes overlapping strategies to advance the mission of improving health:

1. Identify policy
2. Transform systems
3. Enhance built environment
4. Engage communities

Implementation actions that incorporate multiple strategies are the most impactful in achieving Active Living Ramsey Communities' vision and mission.



Policy identification, system transformation, environmental enhancement, and community engagement are evidence-based strategies that produce sustainable, long term impacts in reducing chronic disease, preventing health problems, and improving health in communities. Active Living Ramsey Communities works with communities all across Ramsey County to make healthy choices the easy choice, seeking locally driven solutions that advance active living. Making Active Living options safe, convenient, and easy helps to increase the opportunity for physical activity. Active Living Ramsey Communities convenes, collaborates with, and strengthens the capacity of communities to create their own healthy futures.

The voices of Ramsey County community members have informed and shaped the Active Living Ramsey Communities Strategic Plan and the implementation actions described below. These community members participated in engagement activities such as open houses, project advisory meetings, pop-up events, community celebrations, focus groups, listening sessions, interactive maps, and surveys including the Ramsey County Parks System Survey detailed in the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation System Survey Findings section below.

ACTIVE LIVING RAMSEY COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC PLAN

The Active Living Ramsey Communities Strategic Plan incorporates the strategic framework described above to develop strategies and actions for policy, system, and environmental change.

Identify Policy

Active Living Ramsey Communities identifies community-based policies at the local and county levels to support active living, active transportation, and mobility for all.

1. Community coordinated winter maintenance policies and practices for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
2. Identify disparities and needed community-based policies to support active living for all.
3. Identify community-based policies to make it safe, accessible, and comfortable for people to use trails, sidewalks, bikeways, and roadways.
4. Identify community-based policies to prepare for and address emerging and new transportation technologies that may impact pedestrians and people who bike (e.g. shared mobility services, electrification, dockless bike shares, and connected and automated vehicle technologies).
5. Promote health in all policies, practices, and projects.
6. Provide technical assistance to Ramsey County and its municipalities to incorporate active living principles and goals, bicycle and pedestrian system plans, and implementation strategies into their comprehensive plans.

Transform Systems

Active Living Ramsey Communities works to transform systems by collaborating across agencies and departments to prioritize active living, active transportation, and social and health equity in plans, designs, studies, and processes.

1. Collaborate and provide technical assistance to responsible governmental units on developing policies, practices, priorities, and strategies to fully implement the:
 - a. Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
 - b. Connected Ramsey Communities Network
 - c. All Abilities Transportation Network
 - d. Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Performance Measures
2. Maintain a GIS database of Pedestrian and Bicycle System (PBS) data including existing facilities, plans, and identified needs throughout Ramsey County.
 - a. Manage and document pedestrian and bicycle data for:
 - i. Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
 - ii. Connected Ramsey Communities Network
 - iii. All Abilities Transportation Network
 - b. Share maps with Ramsey County, general public, and community partners in various formats.
 - c. Collaborate with Ramsey County municipalities and other metropolitan governmental units to coordinate and update shared data and schema for parks, trails, and bikeways.
3. Identify, measure, and track pedestrian and bicycle performance measures, such as pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements, crash data, and all-abilities functionality.
4. Produce annual performance measure reports with a particular emphasis on equity and all-abilities access.
5. Convene communities and stakeholders to evaluate progress, share best practices, and collaborate.

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6. Track the number of crashes involving pedestrians and bicycles, along with the number of resulting fatalities and injuries. Identify methods to reduce the frequency and severity of these crashes.
7. Support initiatives to reduce pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and injuries, such as implementing Toward Zero Deaths initiatives and exploring Vision Zero implementation in Ramsey County.
8. Promote health and active living in all Ramsey County departments, municipalities, and active living partnerships.
9. Build capacity and educate decision-makers, practitioners, community partners, and residents to advance active living through:
 - a. Technical assistance
 - b. Training and workshops
 - c. Planning and implementation tools
 - d. Convening gatherings
 - e. Communication and information sharing
10. Collaborate with government agencies, community partners, and residents to implement the Connected Ramsey Communities Bicycle Network and realize the All Abilities Transportation Network.
11. Incorporate equity principles, practices, and tools into community engagement, policy, system, and environmental changes.
12. Ensure equitable access to the transportation network for people of all communities, ages, and abilities.
13. Address inequities and barriers to the full enjoyment of Ramsey County's active transportation system.

Enhance Built Environment

Active Living Ramsey Communities collaborates with government agencies, community partners, and residents to promote safe, efficient, accessible pedestrian and bicycle networks. Enhancements to the built environment include transportation infrastructure improvements, land use planning, and community design.

1. Update, expand, and implement the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.
2. Provide the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and related resources on Ramsey County's website for decision-makers, practitioners, community partners, and residents.
3. Assist Ramsey County and municipal partners to incorporate the All Abilities Transportation Network core principles into projects such as capital improvements, master plans, and the annual mill & overlay program. These core principles include:
 - a. Ensuring equitable access to people of all abilities to use the county's transportation network.
 - b. Ensuring safety for all when using the county's transportation network.
 - c. Implementing an integrated and fully interconnected transportation system utilizing a variety of modes.
 - d. Aligning all transportation principles and policies with comprehensive planning.
 - e. Incorporating sensitivity to environment and context in all transportation planning.
 - f. Incorporating meaningful engagement with communities.

4. Apply the All Abilities Transportation Network core principles to a hierarchy of prioritized transportation system users that ensures that the most vulnerable users of the transportation network are always considered first during transportation planning and implementation:
 - a. Pedestrians
 - b. People Who Bike
 - c. People Who Use Transit
 - d. Drivers/Parkers
 - e. Freight Operators
5. Share best practices for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and update Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Primer as a guide for best practices throughout Ramsey County communities.
6. Provide community partners with information on funding opportunities and letters of support for active transportation projects.
7. Ensure transportation projects account for community needs, active living opportunities, environmental context, environmental justice, and civil rights. Incorporate best practices such as context-sensitive solutions and all abilities transportation network principles by working with the following partners:
 - a. MnDOT
 - b. Ramsey County departments
 - c. Municipalities
 - d. Other agencies
8. Encourage the inclusion of end-of-trip and corridor facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, such as restrooms, benches, lighting, bike racks, bike pumps, repair stations, and showers for bike commuters.
9. Encourage Ramsey County municipalities to:
 - a. Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities and connectivity into community plans and projects.
 - b. Engage with community members and address their active transportation needs.
10. Facilitate and provide technical assistance for the implementation of:
 - a. Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
 - b. Connected Ramsey Communities Network
 - c. All Abilities Transportation Network
11. Facilitate communication and collaboration among practitioners, residents, and other stakeholders to create a safe and comfortable pedestrian and bicycle network throughout Ramsey County.
12. Facilitate the implementation, updates, and completion of the Connected Ramsey Communities Bicycle Network. Facilitate filling in pedestrian and bicycle network gaps to create continuous connectivity through major and connecting corridors in Ramsey County.
13. Analyze pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to Ramsey County parks, trails, facilities, and neighboring jurisdictions. Share analysis results with county staff and community partners to inform planning and implementation.

Engage Communities

Active Living Ramsey Communities engages with local communities in all of its planning projects, and actively seeks to expand the diversity of voices in this process. Community engagement strengthens community capacity to improve health and provide input on their unique needs and vision.

1. Facilitate, maintain, and attract new participation in the Active Living Ramsey Communities coalition and special teams with a special emphasis on representation from communities who experience disparities.
2. Utilize equity strategies, concepts, and tools in the work of Active Living Ramsey Communities.
3. Increase the diversity of active living participants to better reflect the demographics of Ramsey County.
4. Collaborate with and convene stakeholders to solve problems and eliminate barriers to Active Living.
5. Consult people living with disabilities to understand obstacles to a complete an All Abilities Transportation Network.
6. Evaluate ways to use new technology and facilitation methods to engage and communicate with coalition members, community residents, and other stakeholders (e.g. the Go Ramsey 2.0 web mapping application).
7. Share information related to active living and active transportation with coalition members regarding:
 - a. Trainings, conferences, workshops
 - b. Webinars
 - c. Funding Opportunities
 - d. Community meetings and open houses
 - e. Resources
 - f. Current news stories

RESILIENCE

Potential Shocks and Stressors

Climate change will seriously impact active living in the communities of Ramsey County. In the summer, higher average temperatures will make outdoor activity more strenuous and increase the risk of dehydration or heat stroke. Higher temperatures in the winter could potentially encourage more year-round activity, but would also bring more frequent freeze-thaw cycles. These cycles cause ice to build up on trails, sidewalks, and bikeways, making them dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. The increased frequency of severe storms and surface flooding throughout the year from a changing climate will also impede active living.

As climate change causes more severe weather, which causes people to drive more frequently rather than walk or bike, the greenhouse gas emissions from these car trips can accelerate climate change even further. However, with continued efforts to mitigate climate change and improve the quality and accessibility of active living infrastructure, this cycle can be interrupted and even reversed.

While many residents of Ramsey County have the option to travel by car and exercise indoors, others will have to cope with the adverse effects of a changing climate. Many of Ramsey County's people with disabilities, older people, young people, and others who cannot drive may be isolated in their homes during periods of severe weather, extreme heat, or surface flooding. Households without access to a car, or those with limited access, may also struggle to meet their transportation needs.

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Residents with decreased mobility may have more difficulty accessing jobs, schools, groceries, libraries, parks, and other routine needs. Residents' total physical activity may decrease, leading to future health problems. Small businesses that rely on pedestrian traffic for customers will likely see their revenue decrease.

Some people may feel unwelcome or unable to voice the needs of their community, and to have those needs adequately addressed by government agencies. Historical patterns of disservice or discrimination by government, persistent legal or practical barriers, and various personal and community experiences have exacerbated this issue among some communities of color, low incomes, limited English proficiency, LGBTQ, immigrants, and undocumented residents. To promote climate resilience in all of Ramsey County's communities, the county and its municipalities can proactively work together to ensure that high-quality, well maintained pedestrian and bicycle facilities are equitably distributed and easily accessible by all residents.

Current Capacity to Respond

Maintenance programs for existing trails, sidewalks, and bikeways will play a major role in keeping facilities accessible in response to climate challenges. The Active Living Ramsey Communities Coalition provides an opportunity for residents, organizations, community leaders, and government staff to connect and collaborate on strategies to mitigate climate impacts on active living. The Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan and the All Abilities Transportation Network Policy establish a vision and commitment for Ramsey County to maintain a resilient pedestrian and bicycle system.

Future Preparation

Active Living Coalition

Active Living Ramsey Communities will continue to convene the Active Living Coalition to encourage collaboration and communication. Active Living Ramsey Communities will provide letters of support to community partners to install trails and other facilities such as benches, water fountains, wayfinding signage, bicycle repair stands, and bicycle parking to make active living easier in the face of climate change. These and other strategies for active living will also be important to ensure that Ramsey County continues to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Implementation

Improving the quality and coverage of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in Ramsey County supports climate change resilience. The Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan provides resources to help transportation, public works, and parks departments in Ramsey County implement these improvements and maintain a climate-resilient pedestrian and bicycle system. The Connected Ramsey Communities Network presents a vision for a countywide bicycle network. The sidewalk coverage map and underlying GIS data identifies where pedestrian facilities in the county are lacking.

The Infrastructure Design Primer included in the Ramsey County-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan provides best practices for trail, sidewalk, and bikeway engineering, including recommendations for tree placement, snow storage, and drainage to keep facilities accessible and comfortable year-round.

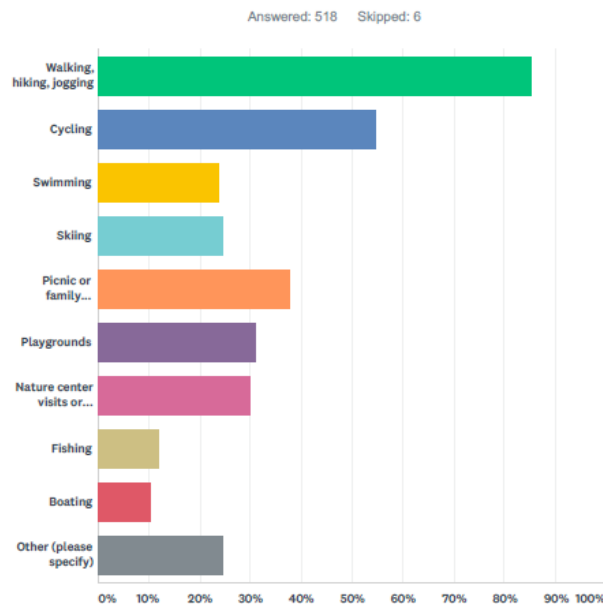
RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM SURVEY FINDINGS

In Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department's 2018 Parks System Survey, respondents identified pedestrian and bicycle connections to parks and filling gaps in pedestrian and bicycle corridors as important to them. This survey was available both online and at community events. Key themes and findings from the survey related to walking and biking are provided below, followed by graphics and charts detailing survey question responses.

How do you use Ramsey County parks?

- Walking, hiking and jogging are the most popular uses for county parks by a wide margin. 85% of respondents use county parks for these activities.
- About 55% of respondents use county parks for bicycling.

Q2 How do you use Ramsey County parks?



What recreation activities or facilities do you feel are missing from Ramsey County parks?

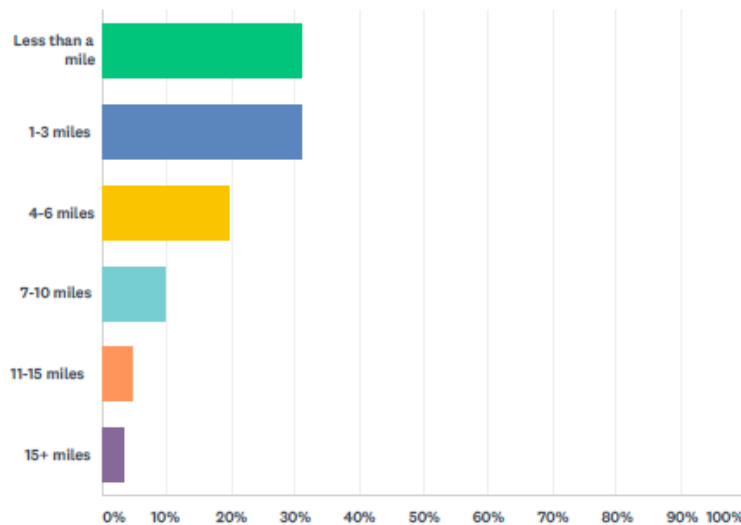
- Trails that connect to parks
- Interconnected network of walking and biking path system
- Rustic, forested, and nature areas and unpaved trails for hiking and walking
- Dedicated bicycle paths and trails
- Mountain bike trails
- Trailheads
- Long hiking trails
- Dedicated running parks
- Family-friendly connected bike routes
- Loop walking paths

ACTIVE LIVING RAMSEY COMMUNITIES**How far do you travel to reach a Ramsey County park?**

- Many park users travel less than a mile, or less than a 20 minute walk, to reach a county park. Nearly one third of respondents travel this distance.
- Many park users travel one to three miles, a leisurely 10 to 20 minute bike ride, to reach a county park. Over 30% of respondents travel this distance.

Q7 How far do you travel to reach a Ramsey County park?

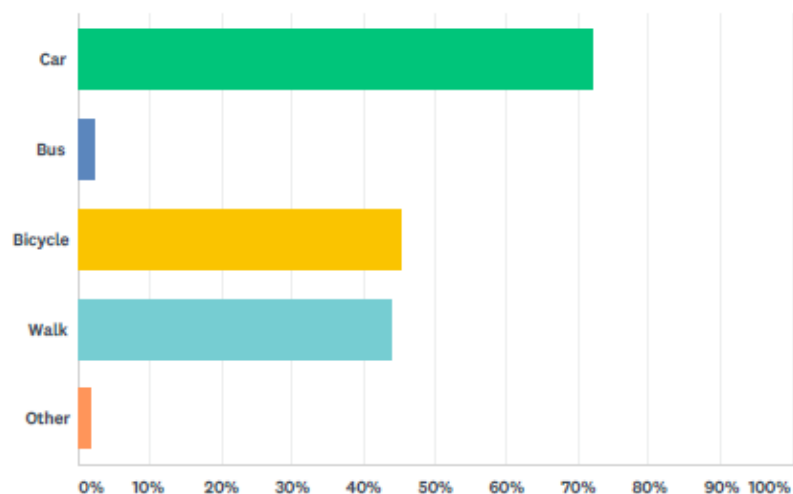
Answered: 511 Skipped: 13

**What mode of transportation do you use?**

- Nearly half of park users surveyed walk and/or bike to county parks.
- Currently, almost three quarters of park users drive to county parks. Since many of these trips are under three miles, there is a huge potential for people to turn these trips into active transportation opportunities by walking or biking.

Q8 What mode of transportation do you use?

Answered: 517 Skipped: 7



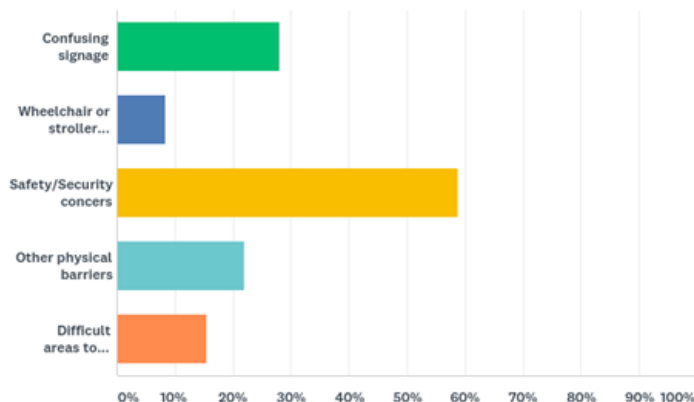
Are Ramsey County parks and facilities easy to access?

- Some visitors have trouble accessing parks by bicycling or walking. Respondents cited barriers such as:
 - Winter maintenance and accessibility
 - Frequent flooding of trails
 - Accessibility for people with disabilities
 - Incomplete trail connections
 - Dangerous road crossings
- Many respondents also noted barriers to accessing parks by transit, such as:
 - Distance from light rail
 - Lack of transit service to parks
 - Time-consuming and confusing bus route connections
 - Poor bus stop facilities

When asked about barriers to enjoying Ramsey County parks, respondents cited the following issues specifically in relation to trails:

- Personal safety concerns
- Lack of lighting
- Condition of pavement
- Branches, leaves, and flooding on trails
- Missing or confusing wayfinding signage
- Dangerous road crossings
- Incomplete trail network and lack of connectivity

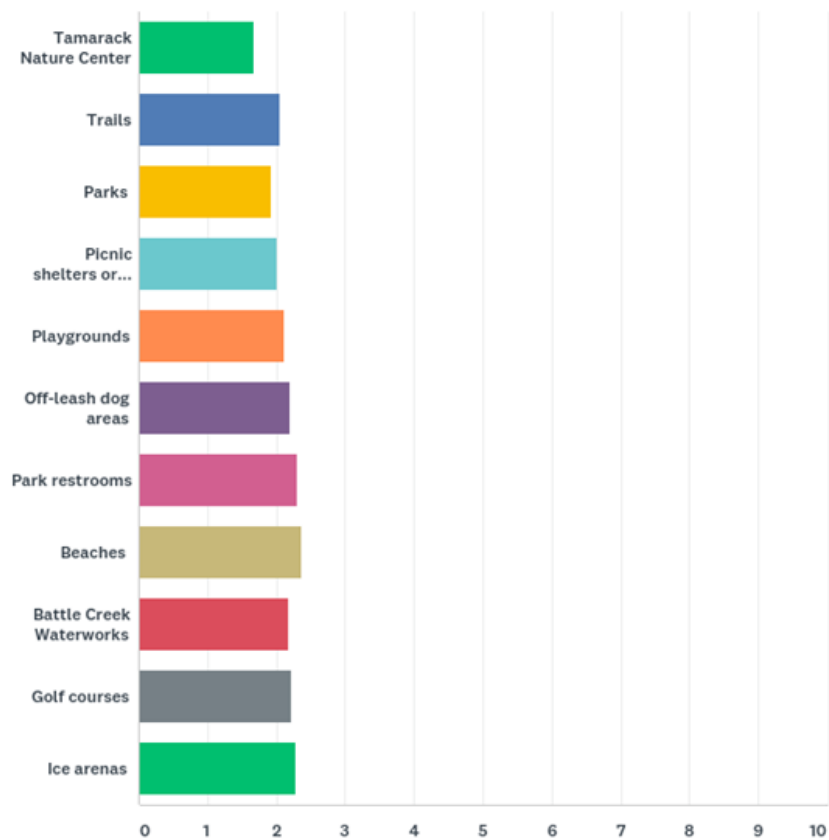
Q10 Have you encountered any of the following barriers to enjoying a Ramsey County park?



Additional comments from respondents about county park trail conditions included:

- Wheelchair accessibility
- Need for additional garbage cans
- Need for separated bicycle and pedestrian trails

Q14 How would you rate the condition of Ramsey County parks?



What recreation programs or facilities should be added?

- Mountain biking trails
- Trails within parks, hiking trails, wood chip or gravel trails, and wilderness access
- Walking trail network connecting to parks
- Workout equipment along trails