



CITY OF CHANHASSEN

Chanhassen is a Community for Life - Providing for Today and Planning for Tomorrow



2018 **AWARD RECIPIENT**

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Contact: Annie Lundell

Phone: 952.227.1100

Email: alundell@ci.chanhassen.mn.us

City of Chanhassen Parks and Recreation System Plan Receives APA MN Award of Excellence in Community Engagement

CHANHASSEN, Minnesota (September 18, 2018) – The City of Chanhassen’s Parks and Recreation System Plan has been selected as recipient of the Excellence in Community Engagement Award for 2018 by the American Planning Association Minnesota Chapter. An awards ceremony will be held on the evening of September 26 at the 2018 APA MN Conference in Rochester. The Parks and Recreation System Plan, completed in 2017 at a cost of \$68,000, is a landmark document for the city that will provide guidance to civic leaders in their efforts to enhance and maintain one of the state’s highest quality parks and recreation systems.

The primary goal of the plan was to provide the community with a road map to guide the evolution and maintenance of the parks and recreation system for the next 20 years. The second key goal was to engage the community in creating the plan. Collaborating with a planning consultant HKGi, parks and recreation user groups, and, most importantly, members of the community, city staff and elected officials documented community input about the parks and recreation system and used that input as the foundation for the recommendations and initiatives found in the plan.

In a community of approximately 23,000 people, nearly 10% of the community participated in the planning process, which is roughly three to five times higher than participation rates in a typical project of this nature. The high level of engagement provided planners and the city with valuable information about how residents use the parks and recreation system; what elements of the system they like the most; where residents see areas for improvement; and what ideas they have for enhancing the system and the services it provides. The broad community participation in the process, and the quality responses that the city generally received, also demonstrated to city administrators and elected officials the support that the parks and recreation system enjoys from taxpayers and user groups throughout the community.

On the evening of its adoption Mayor Laufenburger said this about the plan, “I think there is great value in having a document that not only informs future councils, future park and recreation department and commission members, but also tells the interested public our priorities and puts guardrails on what we do in the next 10, 15 and 20 years”. To view the Chanhassen Parks and Recreation System Plan, please go to www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us/systemplan.

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If you should have any questions, please call Todd Hoffman, Park and Recreation Director, by phone at 952.227.1129 or by email at thoffman@ci.chanhassen.mn.us.

PH 952.227.1100 • www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us • FX 952.227.1110

7700 MARKET BOULEVARD • PO BOX 147 • CHANHASSEN • MINNESOTA 55317