

H: CAC RECOMENDATION SUMMARY

Trail Strategies

The CAC recommends that the City consider the following when developing trails:

1. Install signs along the City's on-road trails within the next year. Encourage Hennepin County to install signs along their on-road trails. Fully investigate the City's liability when installing signs.
2. Subdivision of parcels or donation of parcels or acquisition of parcels present an opportunity for the City to consider existing right of ways and how the City could develop additional trails to:
 - link the Ox Yoke Area to the School Area,
 - link the School Area to Dakota Rail Area, and
 - link Kings Point Area to Connectors.
3. Go forward with trails on either side of roads depending on the future actions of landowners alongside the roads.
4. Maximize use of public property, easements and right of ways where practical.
5. Connections to local points of interest and regional parks and trails
6. Impacts on natural areas
7. Impacts on wildlife
8. Impacts on private property
9. Safety
10. Accessibility
11. Fundability—CAC had no opportunity to fully investigate trail funding.
12. Physically build able
13. Developing trails for specific uses will depend on the local need or demand for that specific trail use.
14. Fully investigate the potential City liability in developing trails with different uses.
15. Aesthetic beauty, scenic value.

Conceptual Trails
Citizens Advisory Committee on Green Infrastructure and Natural Areas

Dakota Area

Dakota Area Priority: Dakota Rail—multi-use trail—surfaces=crushed limestone & paved

Other trails in the Dakota Area include:

- Farm Hill
- Flanagan
- Ojibwe
- Pleasant Farm
- Saunders Trail (already built)
- Schuller Trail

Kings Point Area

Kings Point Priority: Park Place (development)—multi-use, off road trail

- Austin
- Park Place (development)

Ox Yoke Area

Ox Yoke Priority: County Road 26 west to Luce Line (bike and/or horse) see Hennepin Gap Map

Other trails included in the Ox Yoke Area include:

- Historic Indian (bike)
- Historic Indian (horse)

School Area

School Area Priority: Develop on-road trails—surface=paved shoulder or on gravel

Long term goal: off-road and paved trails

Other trails in the School Area include:

- Armstrong Loop
- Arnold Spur
- Little Long Horse
- Little Long Spur
- Painters
- School Spur

Connectors

Connectors Priority: St Boni (County Road 92)—off road

Other Connector trails include:

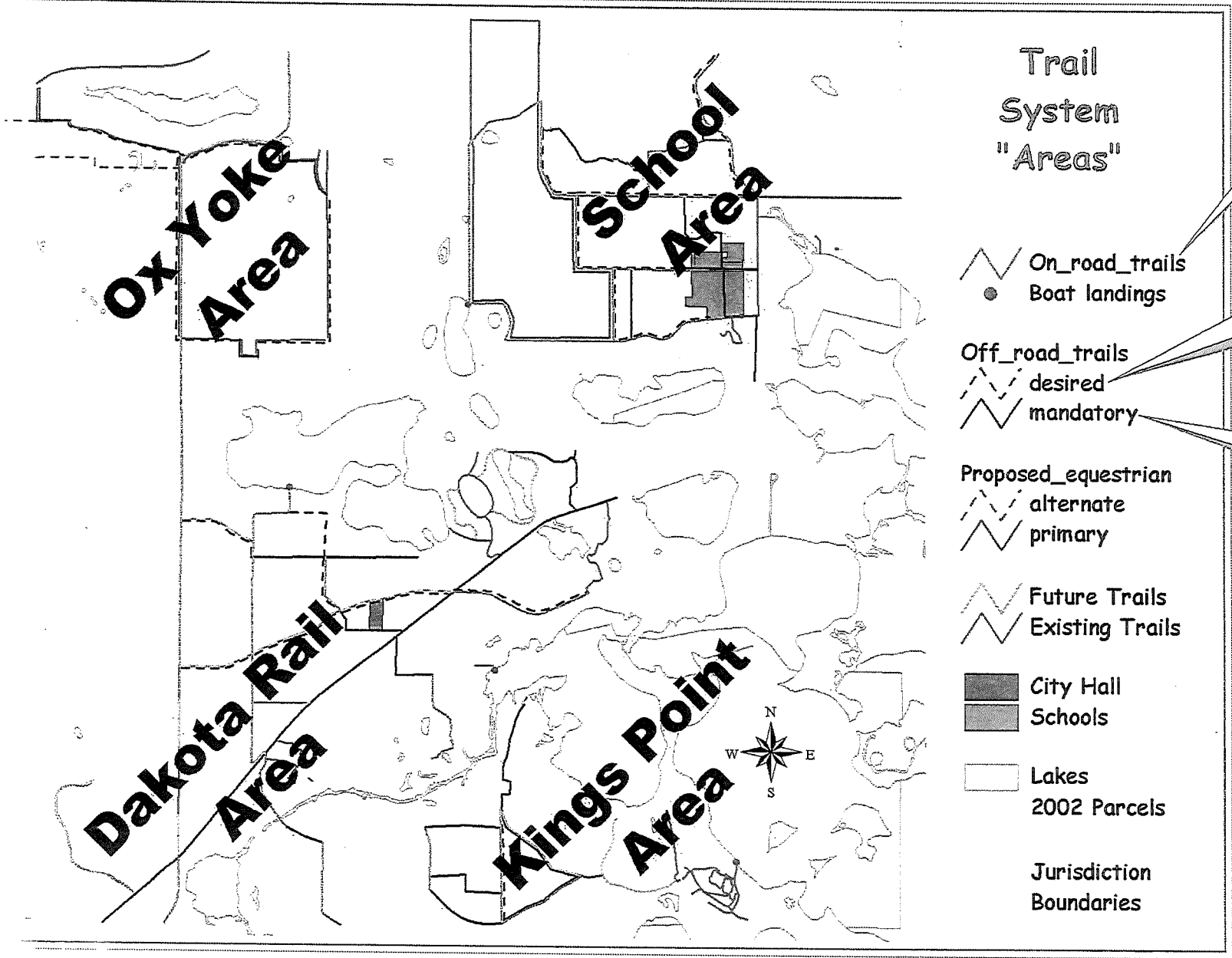
- Dakota Rail
- Highland
- Highway 110 north and 110 west (already built)
- Luce Line (already built)

Lower Priority

- Jennings Trail

Timeline for Trail Development
Citizens Advisory Committee on Natural Areas and Green Infrastructure

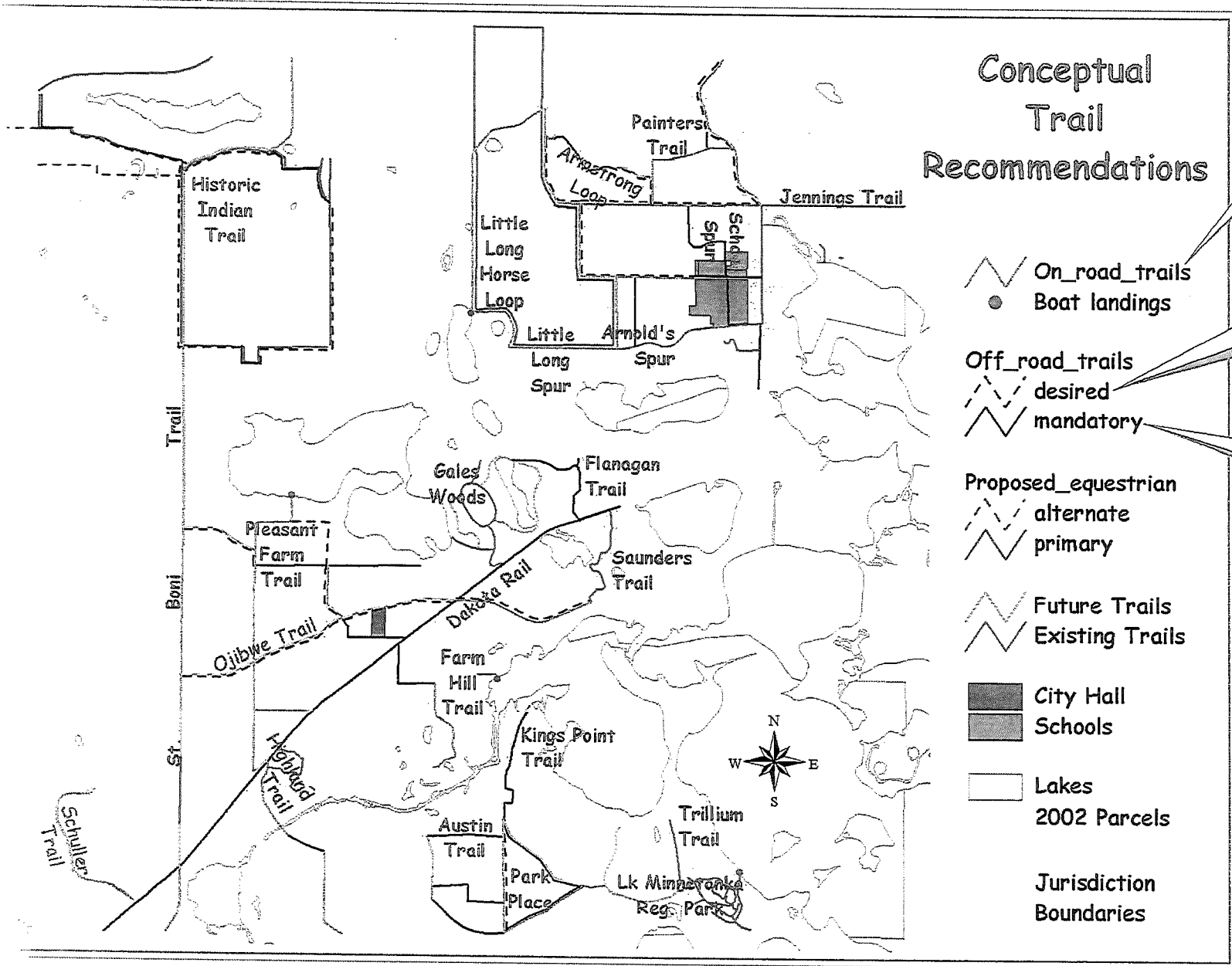
| Within the Next Year (six trails & one connector) |
|---|
| <p>Dakota Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ojibwe (signage) ○ Saunders Trail (already built) ○ Schuller Trail (already built) <p>School Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arnold's Spur (signage) ○ Little Long Horse (signage) ○ Little Long Spur (signage) <p>Connectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highland (signage) |
| Within the Next Five Years (four trails & two connectors) |
| <p>Dakota Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dakota Rail (dependent on Hennepin County & other jurisdictions) ○ Farm Hill <p>Kings Point Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kings Point ○ Park Place (development) multi-use, off road trail <p>Connectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highland (off-road) ○ St. Boni |
| Beyond Five Years (thirteen trails & two connectors) |
| <p>Dakota Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flanagan ○ Pleasant Farm <p>Kings Point Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austin <p>Ox Yoke Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ County Road 26 west to Luce Line (bike and/or horse) ○ Historic Indian (bike) ○ Historic Indian (horse) <p>School Area (all off-road trails)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Armstrong Loop ○ Arnold Spur ○ Little Long Horse ○ Little Long Spur ○ Painter ○ School Spur <p>Connectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highway 110 north and 110 west (already built) <p>Lower Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jennings Trail |



These corridors were identified for on-street trails

Along certain on-street corridors, there are places where an off-street trail may be desired, but is not mandatory as an on-street option exists.

These are recommended trails that do not follow existing right-of-ways. Therefore, an off-street trail is MANDATORY in these areas.



Conceptual Trail Recommendations

On_road_trails
 Boat landings

Off_road_trails
 desired
 mandatory

Proposed_equestrian
 alternate
 primary

Future Trails
 Existing Trails

City Hall
 Schools

Lakes
 2002 Parcels

Jurisdiction Boundaries



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October 2003
 Minnetrista CAC on
 Green Infrastructure;
 NA's

CAC Guiding Principles

Minnetrista Citizens Advisory Committee on
Green Infrastructure and Natural Areas

Why the CAC has made these recommendations:

1. To preserve the natural beauty/heritage of the City.
2. To preserve rural character, in part, by maintaining agricultural uses in the Minnetrista comprehensive plan and zoning.
3. To preserve the scenic qualities and panoramas of the City
4. To preserve and protect the open spaces and natural areas of the City

Why protect natural areas and open spaces?

1. Enhances quality of life
2. Maintains the rural character of the City
3. preserves natural heritage of the City
4. Enhances property values

Definitions

Natural areas include, but are not limited to lands with significant natural characteristics, native vegetation, natural remnants or lands with the potential for restoration of significant natural characteristics.

Significant natural characteristics include lands that have:

- o Biological or ecological significance
- o Wildlife habitat
- o Are adjacent to any aquatic resource (e.g., river, lake, wetland, etc.)
- o Provide environmental benefits such as water quality protection or flood control

Open spaces can include natural areas but may additionally provide scenic, aesthetic, recreational or conservation benefits.

Priority Protection Criteria/Rationale

Minnetrissa Citizens Advisory Committee on
Green Infrastructure and Natural Areas

General Criteria/Rationale

1. The CAC (Citizens Advisory Committee) recommends that the City use the map entitled, 'City of Minnetrista, Conceptual Greenway Corridor' (created and presented by David Thill, Natural Resources Specialist, Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services, at the November 6, 2003 meeting of the CAC) when considering greenway and natural area protection strategies.
 - o The CAC recommends that the City use the map, which identifies the boundaries of the Conceptual Greenway Corridor, when considering how to prioritize lands for protection.
 - o The map also identifies natural areas, B and C quality natural communities (as determined by Jason J. Husveth, Ecologist, who conducted the natural resource inventory for the City of Minnetrista), and other select natural areas outside the Conceptual Greenway Corridor.
2. The CAC recommends that the City fully support landowners who express interest in taking advantage of any opportunities to protect open spaces, natural areas or agricultural land.
3. The CAC recommends that the City consider accepting donations of agricultural land, natural areas or open spaces for protection.
4. The CAC recommends that the City consider parcels of any size containing natural areas or open spaces for protection.
5. The CAC recommends that when the City is fully developed that every section (square mile) of the City contain at least one of the following: an open space, a natural area or a recreational trail. This will ensure that all of the citizens of Minnetrista have an opportunity to enjoy these amenities.

6. The CAC encourages the City to follow the recommendations made by Jason J. Husveth, Ecologist, Critical Connections, Inc. as written in the summary of Land Cover Classification and Natural Resource Inventory, City of Minnetrista, Hennepin County, Minnesota, p. 23). The recommendations include the following:

Conceptual Greenway/Open Space Corridor

For the purposes of this discussion, a greenway is defined as "privately or publicly owned corridors of open space which often follow natural land or water features and which are primarily managed to protect and enhance natural resources". However, greenways can and often do incorporate corridors for pedestrian movement (such as trail systems), active recreational spaces (such as athletic fields or golf courses), and other public open spaces that may provide minimal ecological functions and values. A greenway plan for the City of Minnetrista should be based on the following concepts:

- o Connect large publicly owned open spaces with a natural or semi-natural vegetation corridor, whether these lands are publicly or privately owned.*
- o Incorporate, connect and/or buffer the highest quality remaining natural areas within the city.*
- o Incorporate water resources and large permanent wetland systems within the corridor (directly or indirectly), as wetlands, lakes, and streams provide beneficial wildlife habitat and are not likely able to be developed*
- o Consider opportunities for active recreation and pedestrian movement through the greenway system, while avoiding direct impacts to sensitive natural areas wherever possible or necessary.*

Within the City of Minnetrista, there are many opportunities to develop a viable greenways system as the city grows over the next ten to twenty years. The land cover and natural resource data indicate that the highest quality natural vegetation remnants are clustered among Whaletail and [Little] Long Lakes, and provide a "backbone" for a conceptual greenway alignment. Several large maple-basswood forest stands are located to the south and east of Whaletail Lake.

Minnetrista's lakes provide significant wildlife habitat and opportunities for recreation. Whaletail Lake, Ox Yolk Lake, and several smaller lakes associated with [Little] Long Lake present another chain of resources with the potential for increased landscape connectivity through a greenway system. Several large wetland systems represent yet another opportunity to connect and buffer higher quality natural resources and wildlife habitat corridors within the city.

Two large regional parks are located within southeastern Minnetrista, Lake Minnetonka Regional Park and a Hennepin Parks open space just south of Whaletail Lake. Furthermore, the Carver Park Reserve lies on the southeastern boundary of Minnetrista (south of sections 34 and 35). Furthermore, the Luce Line Trail is an existing state trail in northwestern Minnetrista connecting the city to adjacent communities. Another exempt railroad right-of-way is located within southern Minnetrista and St. Bonifacius, and could be converted to a trail system to provide active recreational opportunities and pedestrian access to a greenway system.

7. The CAC recommends that the City consider the following when selecting natural areas for protection:
 - o ecological significance
 - o located within the Conceptual Greenway Corridor
 - o threatened by development
 - o available for purchase
 - o available by donation from landowner

8. The CAC recommends that the City consider the following when selecting open spaces for protection:
 - o located near developed areas
 - o located close to schools
 - o provide active or passive recreational opportunities
 - o connected to other public areas, natural areas or open spaces
 - o included in comprehensive park plan
 - o located within the Conceptual Greenway Corridor

Priority Natural Areas

Minnetrista Citizens Advisory Committee on
Green Infrastructure and Natural Areas

1. Little Long Lake Watershed and Surrounding Areas

- o contains natural remnants
- o provides wildlife habitat
- o ecological value
- o scenic value
- o located within the Conceptual Greenway Corridor

1a. Little Long Lake and Watershed

- protects exceptional water quality of Little Long Lake

1b. Area Around West Edge of Dutch Lake

- connects Little Long Lake to Dutch Lake
- protects tamarack bogs, rich fen
- protects high quality woodlands/forests

1c. Area Around Minnetonka Sportsman's Club

- tamarack bog/wetland

1d. North Side of Kingswood Road

- floating bogs

2. Six Mile Creek Corridor

- o protects water quality of Halstead's Bay
- o protects unique wildlife corridor
- o located within the Conceptual Greenway Corridor

3. Whaletail Lake Southeast Corner

- o incorporates high quality Maple Basswood Forest
- o connects to Gale Woods
- o preserves scenic value of southeast bay
- o located within the Conceptual Greenway Corridor

4. Section 34

- o connects to Lake Minnetonka Regional Park
- o high quality Maple Basswood forest
- o located within the Conceptual Greenway Corridor

5. Northwest Area of City, Alongside Highway 92

- o connectivity of agricultural land and land owners—agricultural corridor
- o encourage restoration of natural areas
- o protect and restore wetlands
- o existing and potential prairie restorations

Strategies for Implementing the CAC Recommendations

**Minnetrissa Citizens Advisory Committee on
Green Infrastructure and Natural Areas**

- 1. Make full use of the park dedication ordinance to protect natural areas and open spaces**
- 2. Incorporate the Conceptual Greenway Corridor as an integral part of the comprehensive park plan**
- 3. Consider revising the cluster ordinance to encourage developers to protect natural areas and open spaces**
- 4. Create a natural areas and open space advisory committee**
 - (include stakeholders who own land within the Conceptual Greenway Corridor) to assist City Council in implementing the CAC's recommendations
- 5. Actively seek outside funding to protect natural areas and open spaces located throughout the city**
 - Accept cash donations
 - Accept grants
 - Accept land donations
 - Accept endowments
- 6. Encourage landowners to restore their natural areas and protect them long term by offering local educational events**
- 7. Consider providing periodic educational events for landowners interested in protecting their land or restoring their natural areas**

Tdw 11/12/03