



# GOODHUE COUNTY MINNESOTA

TO EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF OUR RESIDENTS

## PARK BOARD AGENDA

CANNON FALLS CITY HALL  
918 RIVER ROAD, CANNON FALLS

NOVEMBER 3, 2016  
4:45 PM

1. Call Meeting To Order.
2. Approve Minutes From Previous Meeting.

Documents:

[09-27-16 PB MINUTES.PDF](#)

3. Cannon Valley Trail Update.
4. Goodhue Pioneer Trail Update.
5. Red Wing - Lake City Trail Update.
6. Kenyon Advisory Committee Meeting.

Documents:

[KENYON ADVISORY COMMITTEE MTG 2 PACKET.PDF](#)

7. Byllesby Advisory Committee Meeting With Dakota County.

Documents:

[BYLLESBY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MTG 2 PACKET.PDF](#)

8. Next Meeting Date.
9. Adjourn.

The minutes will be presented for approval at the next Park Board meeting.

## Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board

Meeting Date: September 27, 2016

Meeting Location: Goodhue County Public Works – Red Wing, MN

Meeting Time: 1:30 PM

### Members

Brad Anderson	Commissioner
Ron Allen	Commissioner
Mike Melstad	1 <sup>st</sup> District Rep
Vince Cockriel	2 <sup>nd</sup> District Rep
Mairi Doerr	3 <sup>rd</sup> District Rep
Andru Peters	4 <sup>th</sup> District Rep
TBD by C/Seifert	5 <sup>th</sup> District Rep
Scott Roepke	Cannon Valley Trail Rep
Roxanne Bartsh	Goodhue Pioneer Trail Rep
Greg Isakson	Staff: Director of Public Works
Jennifer Ziemer	Staff: Admin Assistant- PW
Jess Greenwood	Staff: Deputy Director/Assist Eng

Absent: Ron Allen and Mike Melstad.

Also joined by: Janie Farrar, potential 5<sup>th</sup> District Park Board Representative.

Vince Cockriel called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM.

It was moved by C/Anderson, seconded by Andru Peters, and carried to approve the August 10, 2016, Park Board Minutes.

Greg Isakson provided updates on the Byllesby Park master planning process. Stakeholder meetings were held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, with a community open house on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The consultants will now review the public input and conclude the first part of the master planning process – the inventory and research phase.

In order to use the Kenyon property as a park, the County must obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The Land Use Management Department is working on the CUP and the plat of the property. This will go before the Goodhue County Planning Commission on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. It will then go before the County Board of Commissioners on November 1<sup>st</sup> for approval. Public Works would also like to bring an agenda item for a Park Ordinance establishing rules for the Kenyon Park. These rules may need to be revised once the master planning process is complete, but would provide enforceable rules during the hunting season this fall. A Public Hearing for the Ordinance would be held at the County Board meeting as well as part of the process for adopting the Ordinance. Scott Roepke asked if it would be possible to move the County Board agenda item up to the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to provide more time to sign the park before the hunting season. Public Works staff agreed to check on this and move the agenda item up to October 18<sup>th</sup> if possible.

The Park Board reviewed the rules for Goodhue County Byllesby Park before determining proposed rules for the Kenyon Park. Several park board members suggested that we work with Dakota County to establish park hours that are consistent on both sides of the lake once the master planning process is complete. The Byllesby Park Rules Ordinance will be reviewed at that time and most likely brought before the County Board with revisions.

Using the Goodhue County Byllesby Park Rules as a template, the Park Board provided the following suggestions to adapt the rules for the Kenyon Park:

- Rule 1: Check to see what Dakota County's park hours are and keep the hours consistent at the Kenyon Park.
- Park closed during local MN deer firearms seasons should be added as Rule 2, keeping it very visible towards the top of the list. Permission should be required to retrieve game from the property.

#### *Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board is to provide a quality park, trail and recreation system which strive to preserve, protect, maintain, improve and enhance the County's park land, trails, and recreational activities, on behalf of all current and future citizens of the County of Goodhue*

- To amend the fourth prohibited activity as follows: To burn or otherwise dispose of garbage, refuse, or trash of any kind ~~except to dispose of the same in receptacles provided for that purpose. Only garbage generated at the park is allowed to be disposed of in the receptacles provided.~~ **This is a carry-in; carry-out park.**
- To amend the ninth prohibited activity to include a policy on foraging for wild berries, nuts, and fungi that is similar to state park rules. Public Works staff agreed to research the state park wording.
- To eliminate the twelfth, thirteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth prohibited activities as they are not currently applicable to the Kenyon Park property or are sufficiently covered by other rules.
- To amend the fourteenth prohibited activity as follows: To ~~use, point, discharge or display~~ **or have in one's possession** ~~uncased~~ firearms or other dangerous weapons including explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows, and arrows. The rules need to be different at Byllesby Park because hunters are using the boat launch as access and may be carrying cased firearms. That will not be applicable at the Kenyon Park.
- Rule 3: Omit the second sentence pertaining to pets in buildings and swimming areas as it does not apply to the Kenyon Park at this time. Add that pets shall not harass wildlife. Mairi Doerr suggested implementing a leash law which will be revisited after the master planning is complete.
- Rule 4: Will be left in for now, may be revised if horse trails are incorporated into the master plan.
- Rule 5: Change to prohibit fires within the park for now until development begins and designated firepit areas are constructed.

Orange Kenyon Park Boundary signs will be ordered marking the land as Goodhue County Park Property and ordering the park closed during deer hunting firearms seasons (shotgun and muzzleloader) with no trespassing. Signs will be posted every 250'. The side of the sign that faces the park land will be clearly marked with orange vinyl decals to notify park users of the park boundary. Greg Isakson proposed adding reflective cans around each post to help people find their way out of the park at night. Due to the land being heavily wooded, night can come quickly and may catch park users off guard. The Park Board was supportive of the signage and reflective cans.

Greg Isakson provided an update on the Close property acquisition for the Red Wing-Hastings Trail. The MN Parks and Trails Council is still working through the titling process. They need to quiet the title and obtain necessary signatures that were missed when the property was previously sold.

Scott Roepke provided an update on the Cannon Valley Trail. The trail has sustained some flood damages during recent high waters. They have had some asphalt loss, had a bridge offset, and have had to close some portions of the trail due to flooding. They are working on their master plan as well. They have had great public input through an online survey and will be hosting their first round of stakeholder meetings soon. They have also developed some great promotional videos that are now available on their website.

Roxanne Bartsh provided an update on the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail. There have been high water concerns by Zumbrota as well, but they have not had to close the trail. Some clearing has already begun for the construction of their trail head/visitor center in Zumbrota.

Andru Peters gave an update on the Red Wing – Lake City Trail. They have had several meetings with local landowners and interest groups throughout the summer. They now have a draft version of their master plan that is currently being reviewed.

Future meeting date is to be determined.

It was moved by C/Anderson, seconded by Mairi Doerr, and carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Ziemer  
Goodhue County Administrative Assistant

**Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Goodhue County Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board is to provide a quality park, trail and recreation system which strive to preserve, protect, maintain, improve and enhance the County's park land, trails, and recreational activities, on behalf of all current and future citizens of the County of Goodhue*

## **Goodhue County**

Kenyon Park Master Plan

Advisory Group Meeting #2

Thursday, November 3, 2016

City of Cannon Falls City Council Chamber

## **Task 2 Wrap Up**

**Meeting Purpose:** The second of five Advisory Committee Meetings. Focus will be on reviewing summaries from the Community Engagement, confirming the issues and opportunities and key considerations identified, and evaluating a potential vision statement and guiding principles.

### **Agenda:**

5:15 – 5:35 Task 2 Inventory and Research Review

5:35 – 5:55 Vision and Guiding Principles

### **Task 1 and Task 2 Summary**

The first two tasks of the project are nearly complete. Community engagement for this park included an online questionnaire and stakeholder meetings. A summary is attached for your review and consideration. The detailed summary of the questionnaire responses and notes taken at each of the stakeholder meetings are available for review at <https://hkgi.sharefile.com/d-s87b64310b3c4fabb>. The consultant team has also developed the attached Issues and Opportunities and Key Considerations for your review and discussion.

### **Vision and Guiding Principles**

The primary focus of the meeting will be on developing a draft Vision and Guiding Principles. The Vision is intended to describe what the park will be in 20 years. The Guiding Principles are intended to describe how the Vision is achieved and will be the yardstick against which we should evaluate the concepts and recommendations. Please give some thought to potential vision and guiding principle components. A draft will be presented at the meeting.

### **Next Steps**

- November 15<sup>th</sup> Update to Goodhue County Committee of the Whole
- November - January Preparation of park concepts by the Consultant Team and County Staff
- February 2017 Advisory Committee Meeting #3 – Review of Park Concepts and Discussion of Community Engagement in February to March

## Goodhue County

Kenyon Park Master Plan

10.17.2016

### Highlights from Community Engagement

Summary of: August 10<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder meetings, online questionnaire, staff input, Advisory Committee input

1. Natural resource preservation is the main priority with this park. It is important to keep in mind the intent of the former land owner (Harold Nielsen), who donated the land to the County and wanted the natural landscape maintained to let people enjoy the nature on the site.
  - a. Harold and the surrounding landowners do not want the land logged, wanted it to be a refuge
  - b. Interest in Nature Conservancy type of management of the site
  - c. Maintain the high quality natural resources on the site.
  - d. Identify key trees and plant species to save and route the public access away from these locations.
  - e. Potentially call it a “preserve” or “park reserve” rather than a “park”
2. There is a desire from the public and surrounding land owners to develop the park minimally as an outdoor education and natural resource focused site.
  - a. Kenyon-Wanamingo Senior High School science teacher may be interested in pursuing a science program/class at the park.
  - b. Potentially build a small nature center/outdoor lab facility at the park.
  - c. Projects for Boy Scouts could be identified
  - d. Keep the trails non-motorized
  - e. Think about connections to Kenyon and other locations with trails
  - f. Potential outdoor classroom, small amphitheater for educational events
3. Basic facilities are desired for nature park functionality, but preserving the natural resources is the main goal, so it is important to work around existing landscape features, such as wet areas and native plants.
  - a. Keep facilities rustic and low impact
  - b. Small parking lot – don’t cut down too many trees.
  - c. Simple natural surface trail network – potential to pave trails in the future if high use occurs
  - d. Basic restroom facility – pit toilets
  - e. Water needed for day use / camping
  - f. Potential picnic shelter/tables; campfire spots/grills
  - g. Need signage with park rules posted clearly
  - h. Potential primitive camping in the future – possibly only group camping for educational groups
  - i. Consider ADA accessibility
4. Potential programming ideas could include individual natural resource and trail activities as well as events.
  - a. Snowshoeing and cross country skiing would work well in winter
  - b. Hiking, birding, mushroom hunting, berry picking
  - c. Mountain biking may be too impactful for the site
  - d. Geocaching could attract educational groups
  - e. Kayaking/canoeing may be too difficult with water hazards, brush, and downed trees.
  - f. Events could include high school science class events, trail runs, Boy Scout programs, and group/community picnics

- g. Engage with potential partnership groups, who could help program and maintain the site – Lions Club, Rotary, MN Conservation Corps, Tree Trust, Boy Scouts, etc.
- 5. There is no hunting allowed on the site. A plan needs to be developed to manage hunters and keep them off the site.
  - a. Hunting is allowed on surrounding properties – consider closing the park during hunting season to avoid accidents with park visitors – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in November to early December.
  - b. High priority – post rules about no hunting.
- 6. There are concerns about park boundaries and access for the public. Some trespassing, dumping, and hunting occur on the site today without proper security.
  - a. All surrounding land to the park is privately owned agricultural land, concerns about trespassing onto private land.
  - b. The current access road is a minimum maintenance road on the Rice County/Goodhue County boundary line – road needs improvements for public access
  - c. Create clear trails, park boundary edges, and signage for the public.
  - d. Determine who will patrol the park – County government in Red Wing is on the opposite side of the County.
- 7. Interpretation of natural, historic, and cultural resources would greatly enhance park programming.
  - a. Potential to study the archaeological history by partnering with local colleges/universities
  - b. Existing history of Native Americans on the site could be explained through signage or landform
  - c. Access to an overlook of Zumbro River would be interesting for trail users and could interpret the regionalism/connectedness of the park
  - d. Interpret the high quality natural resources and rare native plants
  - e. Take advantage of the varied topography with trail layout
  - f. Stories about Monkey Valley



The North Fork of the Zumbro River



The park is covered with old growth oaks.

## Issues and Opportunities

The following lists of issues and opportunities were assembled from a variety of sources, including Goodhue County staff, elected officials, key stakeholders, and the general public.

### Kenyon Park Issues:

- » The park is new and not known as a park today -- issues with trespassing, illegal hunting, dumping, trouble making on the site
- » There is no established security or patrol of the park by law enforcement
- » The access road is a minimum maintenance road and needs to be improved and maintained in order to serve as a public park access road
- » The landscape consists of high quality natural resources, which will be impacted with increased public access
- » The park is surrounded by private landowners, who want to maintain privacy on their properties

### Kenyon Park Opportunities:

#### Maintain Natural Resources

- » Inventory existing plants in order to keep public access away from most valuable plant community locations
- » Avoid wet areas, steep slopes, and other delicate landscape sites with new construction
- » Construct new facilities using low impact development methods and techniques
- » Interpret and educate park visitors about the importance and functionality of the landscape history and habitat value

#### Construct Basic Park Facilities

- » Parking lot
- » Basic restroom / pit toilets
- » Picnic tables / shelter / grills / fire pits
- » Soft surface trail network
- » Signage and wayfinding
- » Potential small nature center / outdoor classroom / amphitheater for nature programming
- » Explore need for primitive camping facilities - potentially only group camping

#### Potential Programming

- » Outdoor / natural resource based education: Park could be the site of Kenyon Wanamingo High School science class projects or studies; Nature hikes or classes
- » Local clubs and organizations could complete volunteer projects, maintenance, and hold events on the site
- » Individual activities: hiking, birding, mushroom hunting, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, mountain biking
- » Small group / Family activities: picnicking, camping

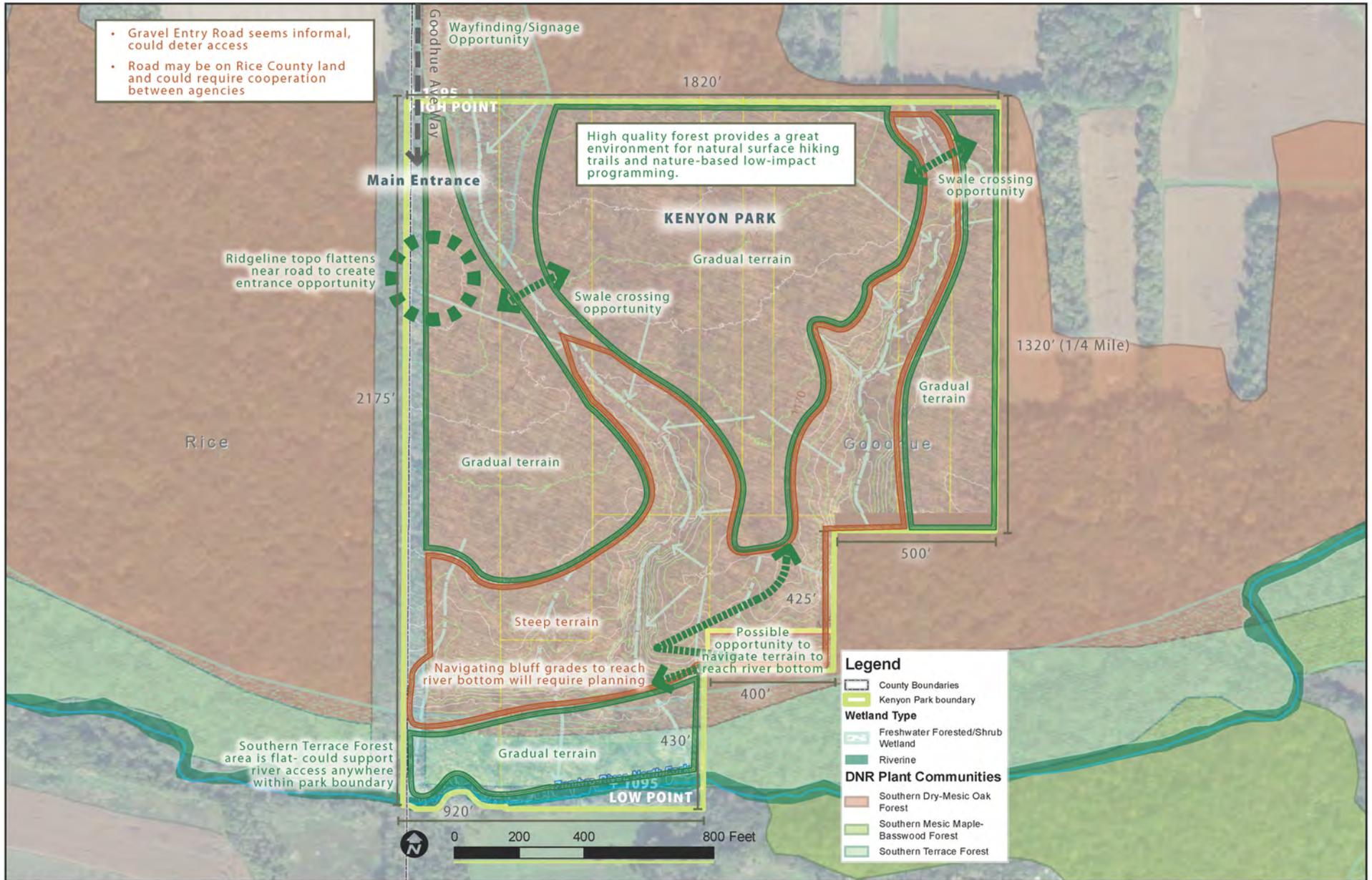
#### Operations and Maintenance

- » Since the park is not operated as an established park today, decisions need to be made about basic park maintenance activities and security/patrol
- » Partner with local law enforcement to provide park security

#### Adjacency and Trespassing

- » Ensure park visitors are informed of the land ownership boundaries and park rules
- » Ensure hunting does not take place at the park

# Kenyon Park Issues and Opportunities



## Issues and Opportunities: Kenyon Park

## Key Considerations

The following is a list of key considerations formulated from the issues and opportunities gleaned from the community engagement process. These statements will guide and inform the vision, guiding principles, and development concepts that will follow in the next chapters of this master plan:

- » Create a unified vision for the park's future with input from key stakeholders and the general public.
- » Ensure all development includes low impact construction methods and techniques in order to preserve and maintain the high quality landscape.
- » Explore partnerships with local clubs and organizations to ensure community buy in and respect for the park. Groups could include: Boy Scouts, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kenyon Wanamingo High School, St. Olaf Collage, Carleton College
- » Create a realistic plan for park operations and maintenance -- who will perform basic maintenance, such as trash removal and plowing? Who will patrol the park for vandals and illegal hunting?
- » Evaluate how to balance preserving the natural resources with limited and useful park access and facilities.
- » Evaluate road and trail connections and access points to the park from surrounding communities - Kenyon, Faribault, Northfield -- discuss the extent of regional draw for the park.
- » Create a plan for winter recreation and park access areas.
- » Contact the DNR and other natural resource agencies for feedback on natural resource management.
- » Create a phased development plan with realistic goals and priorities that looks 15-20 years into the future.



Green Headed Coneflower in the park

## **Dakota County & Goodhue County**

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan

Advisory Group Meeting #2

Thursday, November 3, 2016

City of Cannon Falls City Council Chamber

## **Task 2 Wrap Up**

**Meeting Purpose:** The second of five Advisory Committee Meetings. Focus will be on reviewing summaries from the Community Engagement conducted in August and September, confirming the issues and opportunities and key considerations identified, and evaluating a potential vision statement and guiding principles.

### **Agenda:**

- 6:10 – 6:25 Community Engagement Recap
- 6:25 – 6:30 Audience Comments
- 6:30 – 7:00 Task 2 Inventory and Research Review
- 7:00 – 7:45 Vision and Guiding Principles Development
- 7:45 – 7:50 Audience Comments
- 7:50 – 8:00 Next Steps

### **Community Engagement Recap**

The first phase of community engagement of the project occurred in August and September and included an online questionnaire, open house, and a series of stakeholder meetings. A Highlights Summary for each park has been developed that will be used in the final document to provide an overview of what was heard. A detailed summary of the questionnaire responses and notes taken at each of the meetings are available for you to review as well if you are interested at <https://hkgi.sharefile.com/d-sfc0042124384474a>. The focus of discussion at the meeting will be to clarify any questions about the Highlights Summary.

### **Audience Comments**

Time will be provided for any audience comments.

### **Task 2 Inventory and Research Review**

Task 2 of the planning process is nearly complete. The consultant team and staff are currently working on drafting the findings of that task as part of the first few chapters of the report. A brief presentation will be made at the meeting provided some highlights of the findings, particularly in the areas of cultural and natural resources. The discussion will focus on reviewing the Issues and Opportunities and Key Considerations for each park.

### **Vision and Guiding Principles**

The primary focus of the meeting will be on developing a draft Vision and Guiding Principles. The Vision is intended to describe what the park will be in 20 years. The Guiding Principles are intended to describe how the Vision is achieved and will be the yardstick against which we should evaluate the concepts and recommendations. A draft Vision and Guiding Principles will be presented at the meeting for consideration.

### **Audience Comments**

Time will be provided for any audience comments.

### **Next Steps**

- November 15<sup>th</sup> Update to Goodhue County Committee of the Whole
- November 29<sup>th</sup> Update to the Dakota County Physical Development Committee of the Whole
- November - January Preparation of park concepts by the Consultant Team and County Staff
- Early February - Advisory Committee Meeting #3 – Review of Park Concepts and Discussion of Community Engagement in February to March

## Goodhue County

### Byllesby County Park Plan

## Highlights from Community Engagement

- 207 people responded to the first online questionnaire
- 35 people attended the first Open House
- Promotion and outreach included: The County's website hosted a page with information about the park master plan, flyers were posted and sent out, press releases linked to the website, and email was used to alert Goodhue County residents about the planning process
- 9 different groups were engaged in stakeholder meetings

## Findings

1. The Mill Towns State Trail and Cannon Valley Trail connections are essential to making Lake Byllesby a significant destination along the regional recreation corridor in the Cannon River Valley. Wayfinding within the park should highlight nearby attractions and distances to them, essentially expanding the park's program offerings outside of the park boundary. Byllesby County Park should partner with other attractions in the Cannon River Valley to promote regional tourism.
2. Tourists don't see borders. Programming and facilities at Byllesby County Park should complement and not compete with those at Dakota County's Lake Byllesby Regional Park. The two parks should offer a coherent set of recreational experiences and function as a single destination in the Cannon River Valley.
3. Summer use of the park is centered around lake recreation, but concerns about water quality and a lack of support facilities limit lake usage from reaching its full potential.
  - a. Rental facilities and storage racks for canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, paddle boards, rollerblades, and bikes are desired.
  - b. Slopes along the Cannon River downstream of the dam are too steep to support water access from the Goodhue County Side
  - c. Day use tie up slips would be nice, especially since boats just pull up on shore currently
  - d. Fish cleaning station
  - e. The beach is popular (and less apt to experience wind and algae issues than Lake Byllesby Regional Park's beach) and could be improved/expanded
  - f. Parking lots fill up with boaters on weekends and parking overflows onto the grass.
  - g. Concerns exist about safety related to too many boaters on the lake
  - h. Existing pavilions highly used. Additional picnic seating areas would be beneficial.
  - i. Additional support amenities like drinking fountain, trash cans, etc. needed
  - j. Additional seating along the walking trails is desired
4. County park should focus on nature based recreation and community gathering. Athletic needs are being fulfilled by the City of Cannon Falls and additional facilities not needed as part of the regional park.
5. Night uses are not desired by adjacent property owners; however, with camping often full across the lake at Lake Byllesby Regional Park, and multi-day use of trails along the Cannon River Valley increasing, the planning process should explore camping as part of overall development concept.

6. As a nature-based recreation park, investments in natural resource restoration should be made to improve habitat and implement best management practices for water quality.
  - a. Turf replacement with native vegetation/ no-mow meadow wherever active uses aren't present
  - b. Management of the forest stand between the eastern part of the park and the cliffs
  - c. Native shoreline restoration where feasible
  - d. Multiple needs for reservoir challenging to balance – dam, fisheries, birding, fishing, boating, private property owners, etc
  
7. Winter park use is lackluster currently.
  - a. Cannon Valley Trail may be groomed for cross country skiing, so broader cross country skiing could be considered.
  - b. Despite snow being increasingly unreliable, winter fat biking has increased in popularity, and does not rely on snowy conditions the same way that cross country skiing does.

# ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following lists of issues and opportunities were assembled from a variety of sources, including Goodhue County staff, elected officials, key stakeholders, and the general public.

## Byllesby County Park Issues:

- » The parking lot overflows on weekends, and boat trailers park on the grass
- » The swimming beach gets lots of use – it is overcrowded at times
- » Weekends are especially busy at the park, current number of pavilions and picnic areas does not seem to be meeting demand
- » Cannon River is a wonderful recreational resource below the dam that is currently hard to access
- » There is a homeowners association that covers the entire lake that has desires that may be different from park users
- » There is low park use in the winter
- » Cliff jumpers are difficult to police

## Byllesby County Park Opportunities:

### Expand Activities and Connections

- » The recently constructed pedestrian/bike bridge across the Cannon River links the Goodhue County and Dakota County parks
- » A new trail will provide a connection to Cannon Falls and the Cannon Valley Trail, Byllesby County Park could serve as a trailhead
- » Interest in more day use at the park – especially from bikers and canoers
- » New bridge highlights the need to improve access to the Cannon River to provide for fishing, tubing, canoeing and kayaking

- » Goodhue Co. is interested in partnering with Dakota County for operations and rentals at their park – Goodhue has no full time staff at their park or nearby to monitor rentals or facilities
- » Research is needed to determine if there are state grants or other funding to provide rentals at the park. Rentals could include bikes (surrey, cruiser, fat tire), kayaks, cross country skis, etc.

### Improved Amenities

- » The current master plan includes a permanent restroom facility at their park
- » Additional pavilions and picnic sites

### Western Land and Cliffs

- » Goodhue County owns park land to the west of its park, which is unprogrammed. The county has a trail designed that reaches the top of this property, but additional funds are needed to construct it. Further to the west is Boy Scout owned land that contains steep cliffs with long views of the lake. The County trail is used by people who jump off the steep cliffs into the lake.

### Potential campground

- » Land was recently purchased to the east of the existing park. Some went to the County, while other parts went to the MnDNR for the trail connection. The County owned land is vacant right now and provides an opportunity for additional activities or amenities. The county explored a public-private partnership for a campground, but the project did not proceed. There is the potential for the County to ask the City to provide public sewer for a potential campground. The DNR-owned property has limits on what can be there – new trails, disc golf, etc. are okay, however, if an income generating use is constructed, then profits would need to be split.
- » There is generally more receptivity to create a campground for camper cabins and tents than for RV camping

### Opportunity to Generate Revenue

- » Goodhue County would like to see some revenue from the park – if a campground won't fit, then other options to generate revenue should be explored. Research is needed to determine if there is capacity for another campground in the area. The Dakota County campground does fill up on weekends in the summer and has had to turn campers away.
- » Bike, kayak, canoe, paddle board, and/or ski rentals should be considered

### Other

- » Potential interpretation opportunity: pine logging cleared most of the forests in the area, but the steep cliffs contain native pine trees, which were too difficult to access and clear (may be interpreted on Dakota County side)



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Following is a list of important considerations to understand, develop, and guide the park development concepts and recommendations:

- » Diversify and enhance activities available at the park to serve regional and local visitors, seek opportunities to complement rather than duplicate activities with Dakota County
- » Enhance connections to Cannon Falls and Randolph, as well as the Cannon Valley Trail and Mill Towns Trail
- » Address the condition of the shoreline – decide if removing turfgrass and replacing with a naturalized shoreline is feasible and sustainable.
- » Evaluate how to balance preserving views of the lake with the need to buffer and transition the regional park activities from adjacent residential development
- » Address downstream access to the river for kayaking/ canoeing, tubing, and fishing.
- » Identify how increased access in the western portion of the park and along the cliffs should occur
- » Continue to evaluate the opportunity for revenue generation, such as a campground on the eastern portion of the park, rentals (bike, kayak, canoe, or paddleboat), concession area, etc.
- » Create a plan for winter recreation and park access areas.
- » Develop a realistic plan for water quality in the lake – educate the public on the issues and the tasks required to solve them.



View from the swimming beach to the Dakota County RV campground across the lake