



GOODHUE COUNTY MINNESOTA

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

PARK

BOARD AGENDA

GOODHUE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
2140 PIONEER ROAD, RED WING, MN

FEBRUARY 9, 2021
1:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING NOTICE

Due to concerns surrounding the spread of COVID-19, it has been determined that in-person meetings are not practical or prudent. Therefore, Park Board meetings will temporarily be conducted by telephone or other electronic means.

The Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board will be conducting a meeting on February 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. in the Public Works Department. The Public Works Director will be present at the meeting location. All Park Board members attending may appear by telephone or other electronic means. The public may monitor the meeting from a remote site by logging into <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/421443965> or calling [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679) OR [1 571 317 3116](tel:15713173116) any time during the meeting. Access Code: **421-443-965**

1. 1:00 P.M. Call Meeting To Order.
2. Review And Approve Minutes From Previous Meeting.

Documents:

[09-09-20 PB MINUTES.PDF](#)

3. Approve The Agenda.
4. Consent Agenda.
 - 4.I. Approve Purchase Of Day Use Boat Slips.

Documents:

[DAY USE BOAT SLIPS.PDF](#)

5. Elect Chair And Vice-Chair.

Documents:

[2021 PARK BOARD MEMBERS.PDF](#)

6. 1:10 P.M. Bylesby Pavilion Design Contract.

Documents:

[PAVILION DESIGN CONTRACT.PDF](#)

7. 1:20 P.M. Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan Changes And Regional Designation Application.

Documents:

[NMP MASTER PLAN.PDF](#)

8. 1:40 P.M. Bylesby Park Ordinance Changes.

Documents:

POTENTIAL ORDINANCE CHANGES.PDF

9. 2:00 P.M. AIS Removal & Inspection Lane.

Documents:

[AIS REMOVAL LANE.PDF](#)

10. 2:10 P.M. Bylesby Park Prairie Restoration.

Documents:

[PRAIRIE RESTORATION.PDF](#)

11. 2:20 P.M. Bylesby Park Fish Cleaning Structure.

Documents:

[FISH CLEANING STATION.PDF](#)

12. 2:30 P.M. Bylesby Park Entrance Sign.

Documents:

[PARK ENTRANCE SIGN.PDF](#)

13. 2:40 P.M. Stanton Township Permitting.

Documents:

[STANTON TWP PERMITTING.PDF](#)

14. 2:50 P.M. Potential Shared Services With Dakota County.

Documents:

[DAKOTA CO AGRMT.PDF](#)

15. For Your Information.

- 15.I. Donations In Honor Of Richard Samuelson.

Documents:

[RICHARD SAMUELSON DONATIONS.PDF](#)

- 15.II. Cannon Valley Trail Update.

Documents:

[CVT UPDATE.PDF](#)

- 15.III. Goodhue Pioneer State Trail Update.

Documents:

[GPT UPDATE.PDF](#)

16. Next Meeting Date.

17. 3:00 P.M. 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 9, 2020

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

Meeting Time: 1:00 PM

Members

Brad Anderson	Commissioner
Barney Nesseth	Commissioner
Mike Melstad	1 st District Rep
Mairi Doerr	2 nd District Rep
Bernie Overby	3 rd District Rep
Barbara Pratt	4 th District Rep
Janie Farrar	5 th 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

Absent: Barney Nesseth, Barbara Pratt.

Phone: Roxanne Bartsh.

Guests: Ken Burns, Dave Garner.

Janie Farrar called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. It was moved by Mike Melstad, seconded by Bernie Overby, and carried to approve the agenda. It was moved by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Mike Melstad, and carried to approve the July 8, 2020, Park Board Minutes.

The Cascade canoe/kayak launch was discussed as a follow-up to the site visit with nearby property owners on July 8th. Most neighbors were supportive of Option A and Option B, with the exception of the neighbor that has property closest to Option B. Mike Melstad proposed increased screening to help protect/enhance the privacy of the neighbors and canoe improvements below OHWL if needed as water levels change. Scott Roepke preferred the shorter walking distance to both the launch and landing in Option A, and also suggested possibly installing lights. Commissioner Anderson preferred the practicality of Option A regarding drop off and the parking direction as it relates to headlights at night. He also supported additional screening and installing delineators to keep people on the property to avoid trespassing issues. It was moved by Mike Melstad, seconded by Scott Roepke, and carried to approve option A with additional screening for neighbors.

Greg Isakson and Jennifer Ziemer reviewed safety concerns that have been presented by the Sheriff's Office and the AIS inspector at Byllesby Park. The Park Board was supportive of an easier-to-use barricade to block off the eastern lane when the parking lot is full, staying up-to-date on blue-green algae concerns and appropriate notices, clear and professional parking signage, improving traffic flow, and adding signage at the boat landing for pedestrian safety.

Park planning priorities were discussed. Scott Roepke rated his top priority as the NMP designation, with the berm/savanna restoration project as a second top priority, and mentioned that a CPL grant may be another alternative for this project. He would like to see maximum usage of grant funding. Mairi agreed on the importance of the berm buffer project, and also discussed the length of time it takes for a prairie to become established and reduce weeds that may be present in the area. With the lake being the current main attraction to Byllesby Park, Commissioner Anderson focused on the importance of the AIS lane and the fish cleaning station. Ken Burns noted that a No Diving sign may be needed on the improved fishing pier, and that a good alternative may be a diving platform out in the water.

Ordinance changes, CUP topics, and trail updates were not discussed.

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

The next meeting date is to be determined.

It was moved by Mairi Doerr, seconded by Scott Roepke, and the motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Ziemer
Goodhue County Administrative Assistant

Mission Statement

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Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting – **Consent Agenda**
Byllesby Park Day Use Boat Slips

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board approve the purchase and installation of Wave Armor brand day use boat slips.

Background

Goodhue County approved a master plan that included relocating the fishing pier and adding boat slips for day use (no rental or overnight use). This was identified as a relatively low cost, high priority short-term improvement project that could help with traffic flow at the boat landing. The fishing pier was refurbished with new decking, railings, and floats in 2020, and moved to the new location. The Park Board evaluated different options including rolling docks and floating docks, and determined that floating docks would be the best fit for the park and its user group. Public Works staff requested quotes from both Coulee Region Docks (EZ Dock brand) in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and Bricks Boatworks (Wave Armor brand) in Savage, Minnesota. The EZ Dock estimate came in slightly lower at \$35,891.10. The Wave Armor estimate was more expensive at \$41,627.20. Staff has checked with the Wave Armor salesperson, and the new 2021 price would be \$42,743.15.

Bricks Boatworks used to sell the EZ Dock brand, but reported that they discontinued selling them due to frequent repair calls. In an effort to compare products in a high-use environment (vs. personal residential use), staff reached out to both companies to see the docks in person. I was able to test the Wave Armor docks and found them to be very sturdy and easy to assemble or take apart for winter storage. After several attempts by staff, I was unable to visit a high-use EZ Dock site.

It is difficult to evaluate two products fairly without seeing them in person. Although the EZ Dock product is lower in cost, my recommendation is to purchase the Wave Armor that I was able to see and walk on. It appears to be a high quality product and there was no opportunity to visit a similar EZ Dock.

Alternatives

- Approve the purchase and installation of the Wave Armor docks.
- Request an updated quote, purchase, and install the EZ Docks.
- Take no action and do not purchase day use boat slips at this time.

Recommendations

- It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board approve the purchase and installation of the Wave Armor docks from Bricks Boatworks.

Bricks Boatworks, Inc.

Savage, MN 55378
952-233-2191

Estimate

9/27/2019	1605

Phone # 952-233-2191 info@bricksboatworks.com
Fax # 952-402-9300

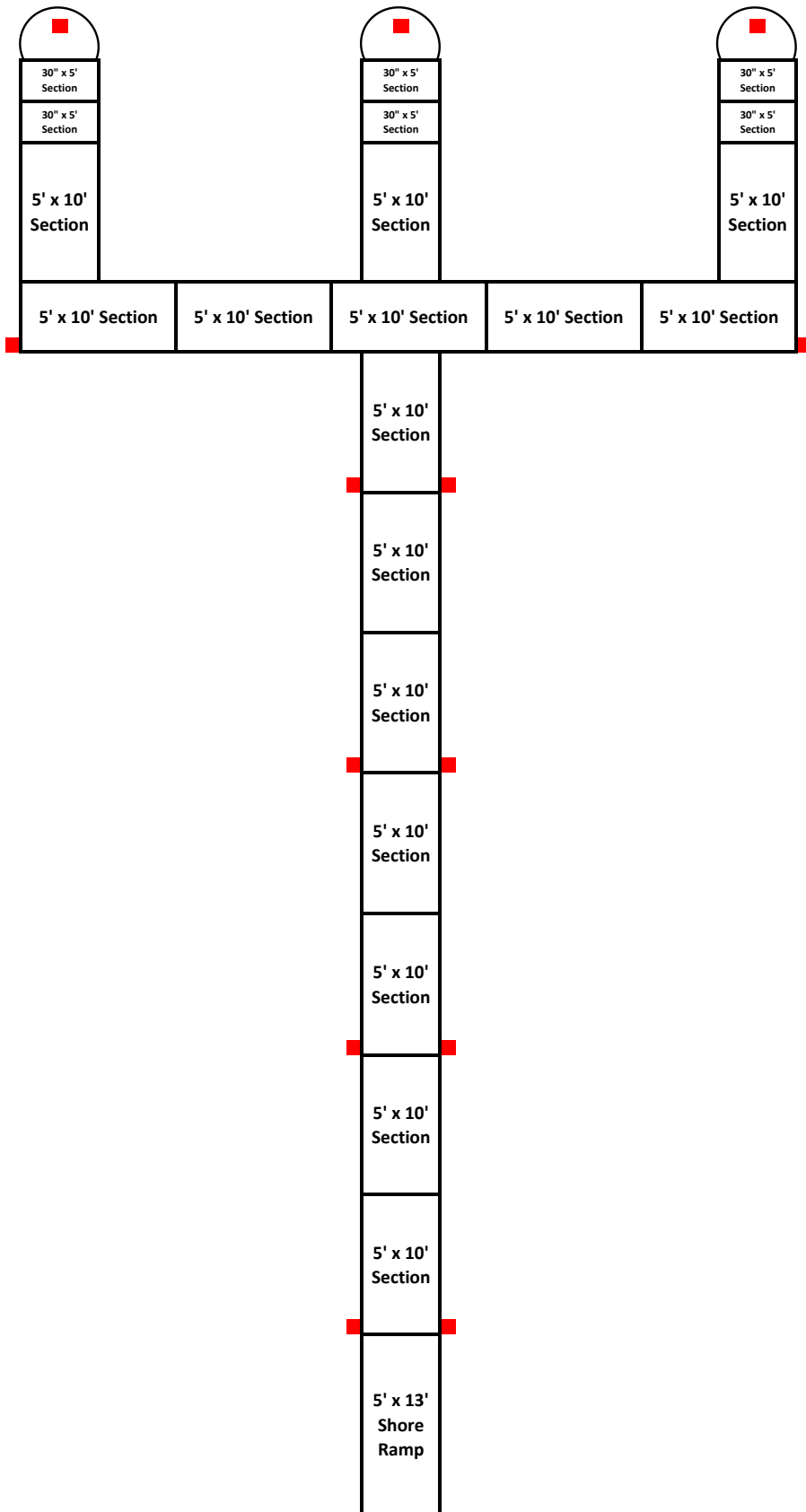
Goodhue County Public Works 2140 Pioneer Road Red Wing, MN 55066
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	JB		

Description	Qty	Rate	Total
Wave Armor 60" x 120" x 16" Dock Section	15	1,859.00	27,885.00T
Wave Armor 30" x 60" x 16" Dock Section	6	629.00	3,774.00T
Wave Armor 60" Half Round Dock End Section	3	979.00	2,937.00T
Wave Armor 152" Shore Ramp	1	1,465.00	1,465.00T
Wave Armor 50" H-Beam Kit (Qty 2)	4	269.00	1,076.00T
Wave Armor 50" H-Beam Kit (Qty 12)	1	1,479.00	1,479.00T
Wave Armor 2" Post Attachment (Pair)	5	225.00	1,125.00T
Wave Armor 2" Raised Pipe Sleeves (Qty 2)	1.5	84.00	126.00T
Wave Armor Traditional Post Cover (Qty 2)	6.5	99.00	643.50T
Wave Armor Medium Vertical Dock Bumper	16	189.00	3,024.00T
Wave Armor 10" Aluminum Dock Cleat (Qty 2)	8	69.00	552.00T
Pipe 2" ID x 7' Long	2	57.00	114.00T
Pipe 2" ID x 10.5' Long Galvanized Steel	6	84.00	504.00T
Pipe 2" ID x 14' Long Galvanized Steel	5	113.00	565.00T
Discounts & Credits - 10% OFF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS	1	-4,526.35	-4,526.35T
Hourly Rate for Barge Crew	8	250.00	2,000.00

thank you for the opportunity to work with you!		\$42,743.15
		\$0.00
		\$42,743.15

Option 1





Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Byllesby Park Pavilion Design and Construction Administration Contract

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board approve submission of the Locus Architecture contract to the County Board for their authorization. This contract provides for final design of the Byllesby Pavilion & Essential Services project, creation of project bid documents, and construction administration.

Background

Goodhue County approved a master plan that included a new pavilion shelter and modern restrooms, along with other improvements. Based upon a recommendation from the Park Board and a presentation at the 07 May 19 Committee of the Whole, the County Board approved the design of the pavilion and authorized staff to submit a grant to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) to fund the construction of the pavilion and restroom buildings, relocating an existing picnic shelter, refurbishing/replacing the well to provide potable water, and installing electricity to all picnic shelters. Locus Architecture worked with the Park Board to prepare a preliminary design and site plan to submit to GMRPTC with the grant application.

Staff received word late in 2020 that the Pavilion Project was selected for Legacy grant funding. The County Board approved the DNR contract for this project at their 02 Feb 21 meeting. All contract signatures have been placed by the County and the DNR, and work may now begin on the design of the pavilion, bath house, and other features of this project.

The attached agreement includes a timetable and cost estimate for Locus Architecture's work, which has been included as part of the grant application.

Alternatives

- Approve submission of the attached contract to the County Board for their approval.
- Request changes to the contract before its submission to the County Board.

Recommendations

- It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board approve submission of the attached contract to the County Board for their approval.



Lake Byllesby Park Pavilion



DEAR SELECTION COMMITTEE,

September 3rd, 2020

LOCUS Architecture is honored to have the opportunity to submit a proposal for the creation of a new signature pavilion at Bylesby Park.

Natural experiences are often vibrant in our recollections - from a peaceful walk in a sunlit forest to the chill of a cool wind on a sunny fall day to an (overly) close encounter with a skunk. At the same time, our experiences gathering with friends and family - especially now - are meaningful all by themselves. Our sensitivity to the importance of these moments allows us to plan and design park buildings in a way that is reflective of the landscape - sensing it, framing it, highlighting it. The clarity of our observations in the planning stage - from site to client to constituent - leads to sophisticated and nuanced projects.

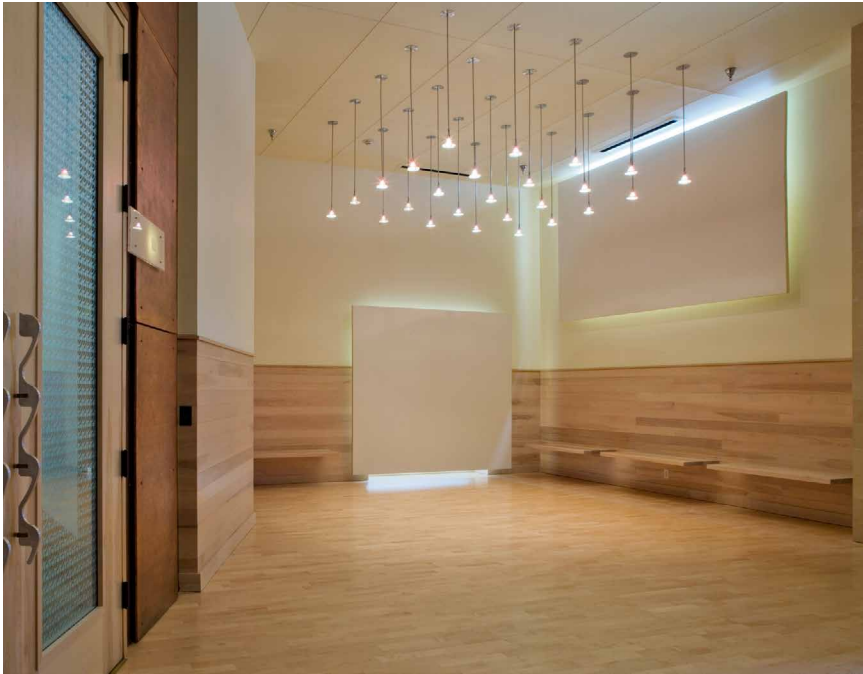
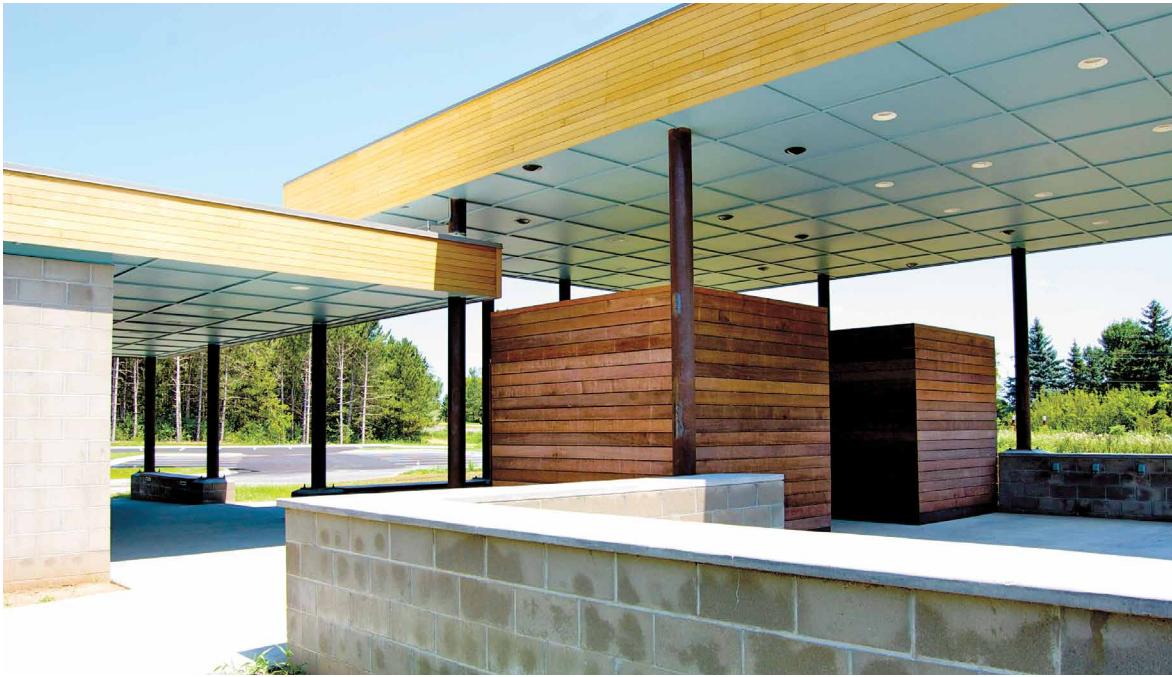
We're passionate researchers and keen observers of the world around us - from the scale and feel of a door handle to the slight undulations of a building site. Our diverse skill set, rooted in both architecture and hands-on construction experience, enables us to create unique buildings in a cost-effective manner. We are supported by our trusted team of engineers and specialists who bring years of creative experience working on challenging sites. We understand and take seriously the impact of our decisions on sensitive sites and park users - this project will inspire and support the park system for years to come. We look forward to the opportunity to continue working with Goodhue County to improve Bylesby Park, creating positive impacts for current and future park users.

Sincerely,



Wynne Yelland, AIA, LEED-AP
LOCUS ARCHITECTURE
Principal & Primary Contact
4453 Nicollet Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419





DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

MEANINGFUL AND MEMORABLE SPACES

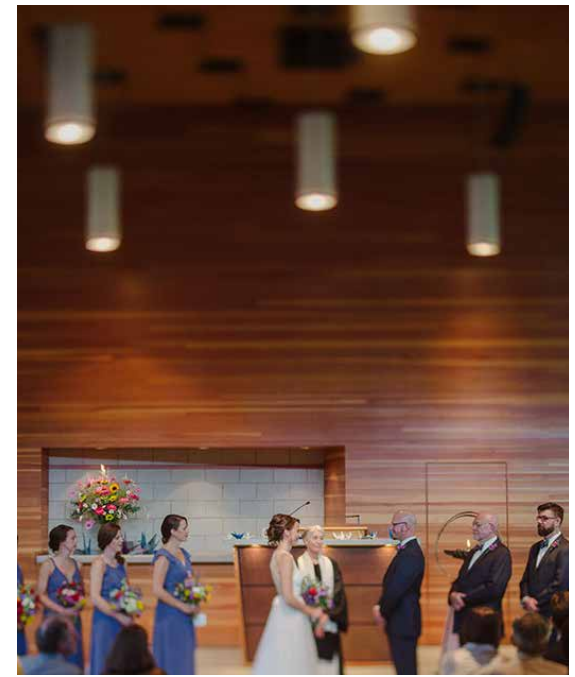
LOCUS is derived from *genus loci* - Latin for 'spirit of a place'. We believe every site and every client has a unique "story"; a LOCUS. We think of our process and work as finding the means of telling this story effectively and intelligently.

Pavilions are hubs of community activity—from serendipitous encounters between hikers chatting at a trail map to a well-attended graduation party. They are also places to pause and celebrate life. From birthday parties to weddings – meaningful memories will be made at the Pavilion.

To create meaningful and memorable spaces, our efforts will integrate your vision of what the facility can be within the context of the site. The Pavilion will not only provide functional space, but also act as a lens through which your members will view, understand, and appreciate the natural, and constructed world.

"The colorful and ingenious lakeside pavilion might be the most memorable addition to the city's park system since, well, I can't remember when. Memo to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board: More of the above, please."

- Rick Nelson writing about LOCUS' Sandcastle in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune



DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

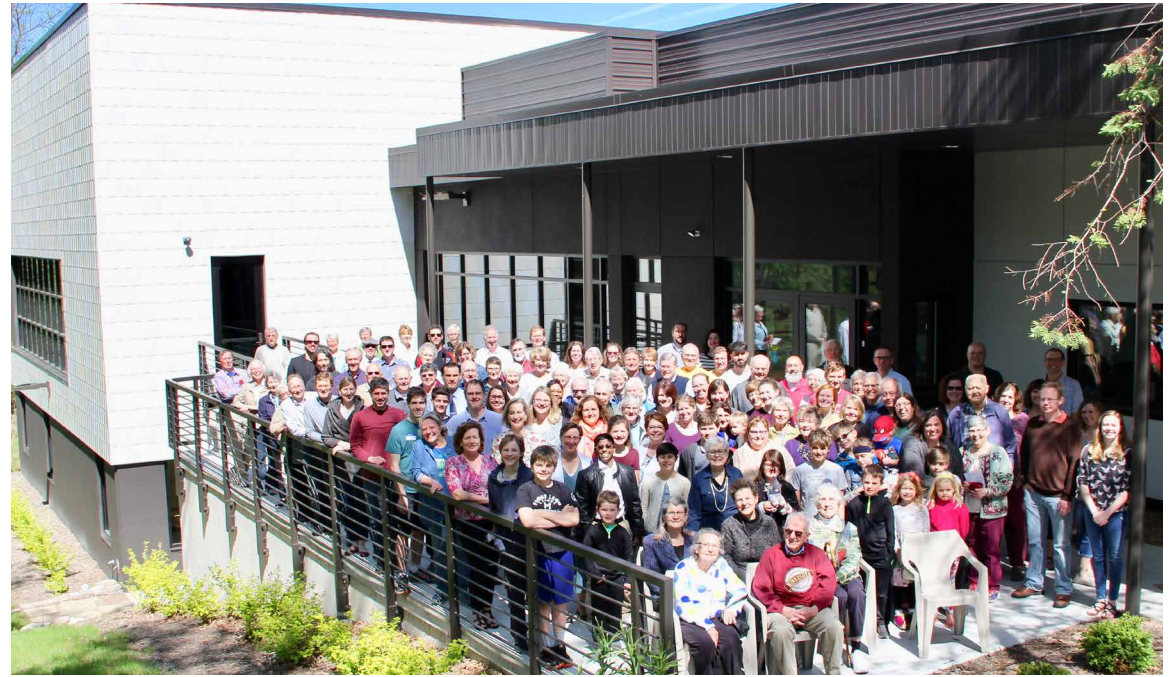
SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

To create a significant pavilion, the gathering space must reflect social, cultural, environmental, temporal and contextual relevance to the community it serves. To achieve a meaningful reflection of these elements, the community must be heard.

Listening is an art that requires practice. In our work, early participation from all parties is fundamental; it creates the basis from which weighty decisions are made. Creating shared ownership from all constituent groups, through careful listening, is something we've learned from working with county boards, congregations, municipalities, couples, restaurateurs, school directors, and business owners. Although we vary each process based on what we learn about individual groups, each one is consistent in the need to receive "buy-in" from constituents. Consequently, our work stands as a testament to our ability to create architecture that reflects our client's needs and desires.

"Starting with the concept of "dirt to dirt" and following the food from our farms to our tables to our compost bin, I know they view our project as a benefactor, not only to the larger local foods movement, but also to a sustainable environment, our local economy and our community."

- Tracy Singleton, Owner, Birchwood Cafe



DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

RESPECTFUL RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable design is in our DNA. We have a long history of implementing sustainable systems, including a completely off-grid home. We have direct experience with passive solar, geothermal, photovoltaics and battery bank integration, solar thermal, on site wind power, thermal mass design, material salvage and reuse, rainwater collection and filtration, super insulation, high efficiency HVAC systems, recycled content materials and low VOC products, just to name a few.

However, the greatest impact we have made in sustainability is helping our clients realize what space they truly need, how to most effectively use the space they already have, and advising them on what space they can live without.

For the Bylesby Park Pavilion, this involves paying close attention to the needs of the park from multiple vantage points, including park users, maintenance staff, and park planners.

The design must not only be respectful of the environment by minimizing its carbon footprint, it must also create a more meaningful connection to the environment. People will seek out the new Pavilion not only to picnic, but also to more profoundly engage with the world around them. Making memories and becoming inspired by the surrounding natural beauty go hand in hand.

*"I'm blessed to engage in the abundance and scarcity of the Land...
The heightened awareness of the great Connection."*

-Mike Larson, Co- Owner, The House the Land Built
(Off-Grid House)



DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

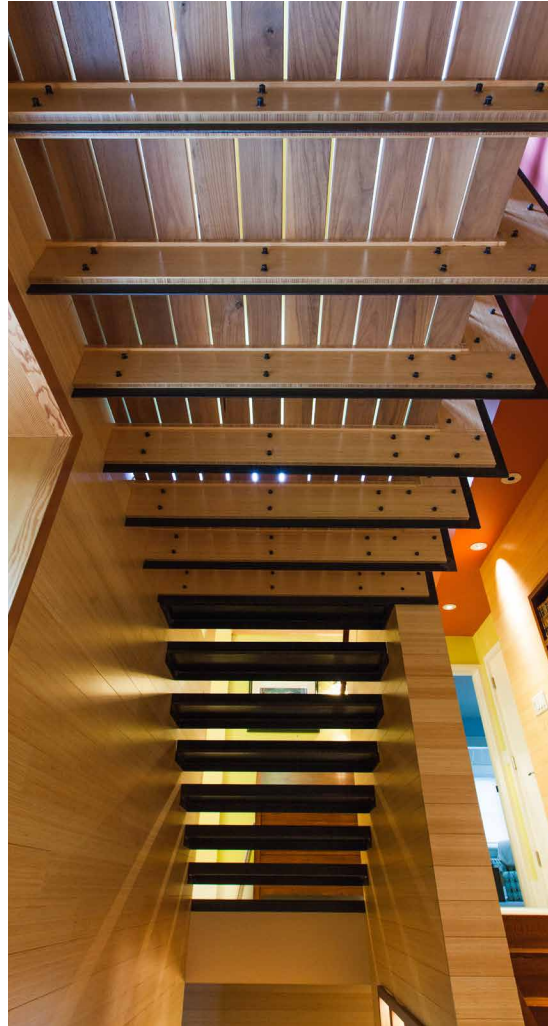
QUALITY DESIGN ON A LIMITED BUDGET

Our past projects range from the macroscopic analysis of entire city blocks down to the often-ignored level of design that occurs at a single door opening between two rooms. We have crafted designs that pay tribute to historical precedent as well as others born out of experimental innovation. One aspect of our work that has earned us acclaim is our attention to detail.

Locus began as a residential design firm, where careful detailing and material selection is fundamental to success. This experience enhances our larger projects, where fine detail is typically overlooked.

"We feel the architects maximized the potential of the site and designed a building that meets our space and program requirements. And, with the architects' ability to offer alternative finishes, creative choices for the exterior and options for flexible use we were able to get the building we need while staying within our budget."

- Christy Dachelet, UUCM BUilding in Faith Committee



PROPOSED DESIGN TIMELINE



MAJOR MILESTONES

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (DD)

- Kick-off meeting with all team members
- Finalizing grant funding with the MNDNR
- Contract for final design and construction documents
- Design process and approval

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS (CD)

- Owner progress meetings held every three months to update Goodhue County on status of Construction Documents
- Construction document and bid document preparation
- CD Estimate Review
- End of CD Meeting to review Goodhue County goals to verify the design meets all goals
- Advertise for construction bids, award bid

DELIVERABLES

- Contract in PDF and physical form
- Detailed Project Scope
- Detailed Project Schedule
- Design Documents
- Outline Specifications

- Construction documents and bid documents completed, including:
- Site Plans and Floor Plans
- Elevations and Sections
- Construction Details
- Schedules for: Finishes and doors
- Finalized plans and specifications for structural, civil, and possibly landscape and mechanical
- Final Specifications
- Code and zoning analysis
- Construction Bidding Documents and Support

SPRING
2022

FALL
2022

CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION

- Contractor Selection and Construction Start-up
- Permit applications
- Site Visits

- Project completion and closeout
- Project is complete and ready for public use

-
- Up to 6 Site Visits to answer questions, resolve issues and verify certificates for payment

- Determine substantial project completion
- Punch List
- Close Out

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

LAKE BYLLESBY PARK ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND PAVILION PROJECT

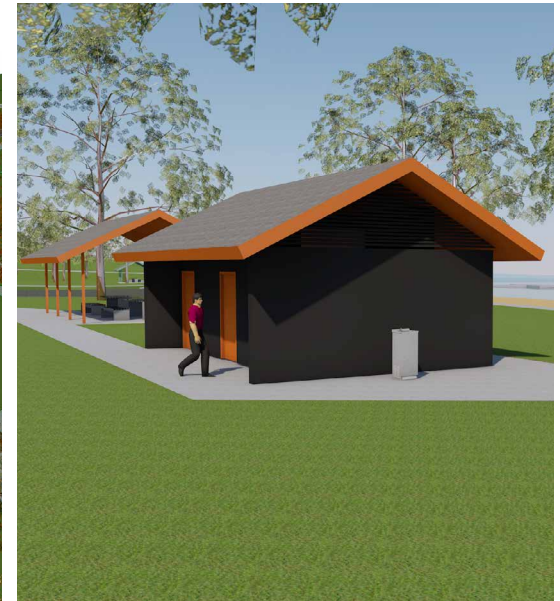
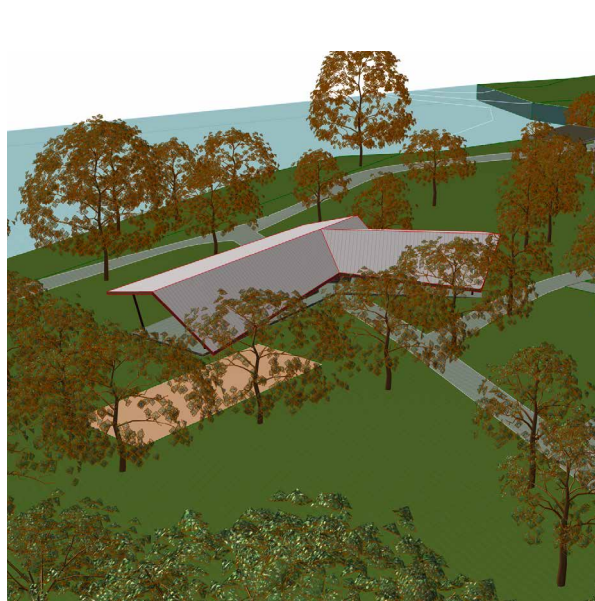
Goodhue County

Upon learning the history of the site, and seeking to understand the values and needs of park users, we worked with Goodhue County to establish goals and a program for the schematic design proposal. As illustrated in the Master Plan, the design had to address the absence of modern essential services (restrooms, wayfinding, and shelter), and more fully support the families and groups that gather at this park for the broad spectrum of various celebrations and outdoor recreational activities that occur here.

Addressing issues such as accessibility of the restroom facilities and minimum kitchen requirements for park users, Locus and Goodhue County staff worked together to create a design that highlights the experience and landscape of the lake and surrounding park.

With continued teamwork, we believe this project will help strengthen the park as a valuable community asset by providing a centerpiece. Not only will the space be functional and efficient, but also provide a framework for future creative cultural and community events and educational programming.

We appreciated teaming with Goodhue County to assemble the MN DNR grant proposal that led to Legacy Funding for this project, and are thrilled to see this initial proposal moving forward. We believe in the value of the investment being made at Lake Byllesby, and believe a signature design will draw more visitors to this park for years to come.





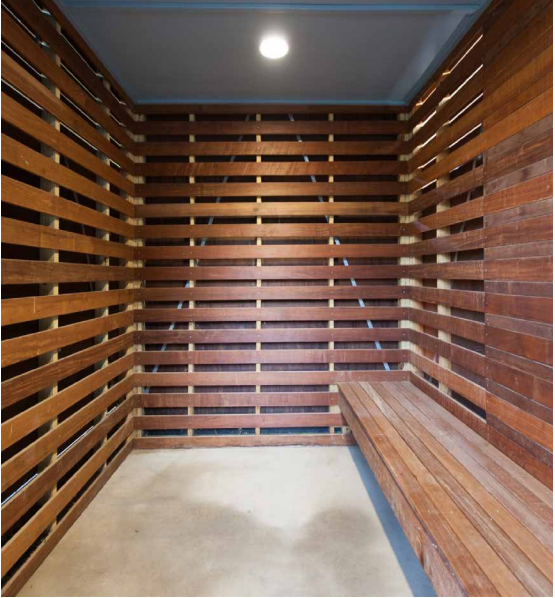
PROJECT EXAMPLES

LEBANON HILLS MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILHEAD

Eagan, MN

The project, which is potentially similar in scope, program and durability requirements to the forthcoming Pavilion, included a new parking lot, picnic pavilion, changing rooms, bathrooms, and a rain garden – all designed to endure the wear and tear of park users accompanied by mountain bikes.

Cost effective and durable materials such as concrete block, steel and ipe wood were thoughtfully arranged to create a modern and inviting trailhead. In a unique collaboration with local artist Kerry Dikken (Blasted Art) mountain bike tire treads were sandblasted onto CMU – elevating the common building material to a striking work of art. With the new facility and nearly 12 miles of single track for riders of all skill levels, Lebanon Hills has become one of the go-to trails in the metro area.





PROJECT EXAMPLES

SANDCASTLE CONCESSION AND TERRACE

Lake Nokomis, Minneapolis

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, along with Sandcastle's owners, requested a restaurant and "terrace pavilion" that respected the historical context of the original 1930's refectory while producing a destination restaurant unique to its site and time.

LOCUS fulfilled this request with notable features, such as deep roof eaves, overhead serving doors and a T-shaped plan. Historical elements are complimented by a modern, minimal treatment of the facades and the addition of a sweeping trellis.

The colors of the facade are derived from the restaurant's logo. At first glance, the siding is seen as a flat blue color, however, as one gets closer or the sun angle changes, the complimentary orange color emerges to produce complex and unexpected results. The north facade slatting covers a translucent wall and transforms the building from opaque (day) to light-emitting (night).

In a gentle arc that recalls the lake edge just beyond, the new pavilion maximizes seating along the shoreline, providing a dining experience unique among the restaurants of the Minneapolis Park system.



AIA MINNEAPOLIS MERIT AWARD



PROJECT EXAMPLES

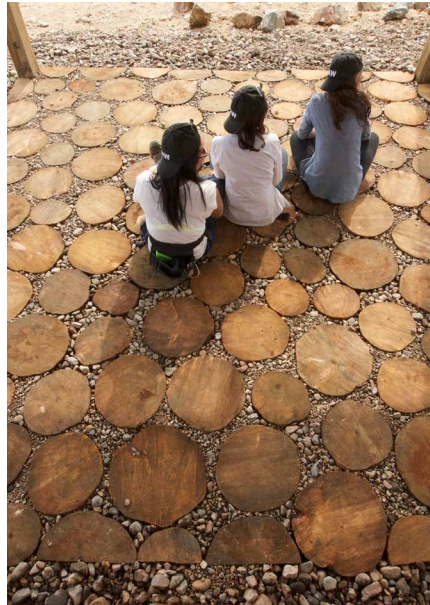
REAL ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP (RAW)

Worldwide

RAW was created by Locus founder Paul Neseth as a collection of workshops designed to teach and inspire the next generation of architects to be better designers and better citizens. Since 2010, RAW has inspired more than 100 students and volunteers from 7 countries to design and build unique projects for communities around the globe, including cooking pavilions in South Dakota, classrooms in France, an orphanage in Tanzania, and 7 support structures for an ecological preserve in Mexico.

The impact is significant. Over the course of a week, RAW designs and builds relationships and understanding between people from varied backgrounds, leaving behind an architectural gem for the community.

“RAW was a life changing experience that taught me a lot about building, spaces, culture, and teamwork... I learned so much from the incredible site, amount of design input the students had, and the full range of tools and skills developed.” - RAW student, Oaxaca '15



AIA MN HONOR AWARD



PROJECT EXAMPLES

CIRCUS JUVENTAS

St. Paul, MN

Circus Juventas, a nonprofit performing arts circus school for St. Paul youth, contacted Locus only months prior to opening their facility. With concrete already poured and utilities in place for the “big top” performing center, directors Betty and Dan Butler felt the lobby needed more panache and style than the one depicted from the original architect. We scrapped everything in the lobby and started over, fully aware of the tight timeline. Together with the Butlers, we defined a conceptual strategy for the entry that extended the performance space into the lobby. Prior to showtime, circus performers move - on catwalks, ladders, and plinths - above, around, and under spectators arriving for a performance, blurring the line between performer and audience. A combination of stretched reflective fabrics, prefabricated steel framing, and spot lighting provides a canvas for their creative expression.

Focusing on the multicultural circus arts experience provided by this organization contributed to the importance of spatial connectivity and inclusivity in the concept of the design. Challenging the commonly perceived idea of a “lobby” space enriched the audience and performer relationship, creating intimate moments of anticipation for the performance to come - heightened by the very presence of those taking the stage. Using architectural elements to enhance their art form fueled the success of this project, along with being inspired by the artistic hub this space would become for generations of students and teachers alike.

The risk taken to create a space that fully represents their mission to provide children with extraordinary opportunities, and their goal of creating a built environment to express the importance of overcoming obstacles, was well worth it. By working with our own hands to build a space to inspire imagination and hope, despite the short timeline and various hurdles, we helped embody the values Circus Juventas was hoping to instill in their performers.

“I’ll never forget, when they presented to Betty and me, maybe it was the first sketch or the first creative ideas they were coming up with, but we were just completely blown away... It’s magical when you find people that think like you.”

- Dan Butler, Co-Executive Director & Founder



AIA MN HONOR AWARD



PROJECT TEAM

ARCHITECTURAL



LOCUS Architecture was established as a collaboration of two alumni of Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. Over the years, LOCUS has undertaken a diverse body of work: public, commercial, institutional, residential and teaching design/build workshops. The design philosophy of our practice, in regards to park facilities, is the same as it is toward all our work. The work must meet the standard of design quality that has earned us the respect of the regional architectural community, but more importantly, it must enable our clients to enhance what they already do well. Yes, we design buildings, but our most important work is improving communities.

Our work centers on creating, strengthening, and educating communities by helping them use and understand the spaces they occupy. Our ability to capture clients' energy comes from patience, intense listening, passionate research and intuitive problem-solving. We capture potential energy and make it kinetic. We've chosen not to specialize in "hospitality" or "residential" or "public" buildings, but rather "community" building. This explains why we've been hired to design homes, churches, park buildings, streetscapes, restaurants, museum installations, kids' forts, and retreat centers from the Twin Cities to Biloxi, MS, to Oaxaca, Mexico.



**WYNNE
YELLAND, AIA,
LEED-AP
LOCUS FOUNDER**

Bachelor of Architecture,
U.C., Berkeley
Master of Architecture,
Harvard University

Wynne grew up inspired by architecture in a mid-century house designed by Carter Sparks, an architect friend of his parents. When Carter was over at the house, he'd lie down on the floor with Wynne, stacking blocks and tracks to zoom Matchbox cars recklessly up and down pretend city streets. Wynne was later inspired by making as he spent college summers as a carpenter and his post-Harvard years working as an architect project manager for an architecture/design/fabrication shop in Somerville, MA welding, rebuilding bicycles, forging steel, and erecting commercial projects.

From gutting and rebuilding a house for his family to teaching himself to snowboard (at 40!) in order to coach his sons' freestyle team, Wynne feels learning is fundamental to creating. He enjoys leading Locus' religious, commercial, and industrial projects, and working with groups and organizations to help them realize their potential.



**PAUL
NESETH, AIA
LOCUS FOUNDER**

Bachelor of Fine Arts,
St. Olaf College
Master of Architecture,
Harvard University

If you met Paul hiking in the mountains, you'd likely be lost. He's a well-off-the-beaten-path kind of person with a quest to stand in life where others haven't. His path into architecture is no less unique. Although Paul intended to be an architect since the age of ten, he spent many years working and studying in areas peripheral to the profession. From pouring concrete for grain-bins on Minnesota farms, to teaching woodworking to native Bajans in Barbados, to cutting mortise and tenon joints in China, Paul has merged his talents in design and construction with his desire for travel, learning and diversity.

After forming Locus with Wynne, Paul created the Real Architecture Workshop (RAW) to weave together his passions for design and making with his belief that good design should be available to all people, everywhere, regardless of their means. RAW is an educational program of design/build workshops for young architects and students, creating award winning projects in rural villages on three continents.

Paul provides creative leadership and construction know-how for Locus.

PROJECT TEAM

ARCHITECTURAL - LOCUS STAFF



**ADAM JONAS, AIA,
LEED-AP
ARCHITECT**

Bachelor of Architecture,
Iowa State University
Master of Architecture,
Iowa State University



**PHIL HOFSTED
PROJECT MANAGER**

Bachelor of Arts in Studio
Art, St. Olaf College
Master of Architecture,
University of Minnesota -
Twin Cities



**MAGGIE KRANTZ
ASSOCIATE**

Bachelor of Design in
Architecture, University of
Minnesota - Twin Cities



**KYRSHAN
HYNNEWTA
ASSOCIATE**

Bachelor of Architecture,
Goa College of
Architecture
Master of Architecture,
University of Minnesota -
Twin Cities



**EMILY
BISSEN
ASSOCIATE**

Bachelor of Arts in
Environmental Design,
Montana State University -
Bozeman

SRF CONSULTING



**MICHAEL AARON
PE (MN), LEED AP
SENIOR ASSOCIATE**

SRF's engineers, planners, and designers collaborate with their clients and their stakeholders to develop creative solutions for the most challenging projects. They create vibrant communities and dynamic experiences. Their award-winning projects range from designing roadways, trails, and bridges to planning statewide transportation systems, to revitalizing neighborhoods and urban spaces.

Mike has more than 25 years of experience in site planning, municipal engineering, highway and trail design, hydraulic analysis and stormwater management. His municipal and site development expertise includes project management, feasibility, pre-design, demolition, layout, drainage, utilities, grading, detailing, and supporting specifications as well as permitting and contract administration. He has demonstrated his outstanding civil/site skills on many of SRF's well-known parks and municipal facilities.



PROJECT TEAM

CONSULTANTS

SAFE HAVEN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING



DEREK PHILLIPS
PE, STRUCTURAL
ENGINEER

Derek Phillips has worked with Locus Architecture in the past on a wide range of projects including single family residential, Sandcastle Restaurant and Pavilion, and White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church. He has worked on a wide variety of buildings focused on “high performance” design on residential, commercial, and public projects, including new construction, additions and remodels, using a variety of construction materials such as steel, concrete, masonry, and wood.

VICTUS ENGINEERING



WILLOW NICHOLS
PE, LEED AP
PROJECT MANAGER,
ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

What started as a lunch conversation about the challenge of delivering creative, inspired engineering design has now become a firm that stands out from the crowd, headed by four experienced engineers with very different backgrounds and a common passion for efficiency and smart design.

How does such an eclectic team of engineers create great designs - more creatively and collaboratively! Victus was founded with the philosophy that great design is the result of a structured, intentional collaboration with our clients and fellow designers, infused with innovative solutions that are sound and practical.

URBAN ECOSYSTEMS



MICHAEL KEENAN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT,
ASLA PLA

Michael is a registered landscape architect and plantsman with 15 years experience whose work examines contemporary and indigenous landscape systems to project and construct new landscape strategies and typologies. His passion and knowledge of plants, water, and built systems inspire the creation of dynamic landscapes, gardens, and green infrastructure systems. Michael loves landscapes, and seeks to foster greater connections between people and the land. As Urban Ecosystems' Director of Design, Michael leads our site design projects and manages our field operations. His experience in the horticultural and construction trades give him a foundational understanding and ability to manage complex construction and management projects.

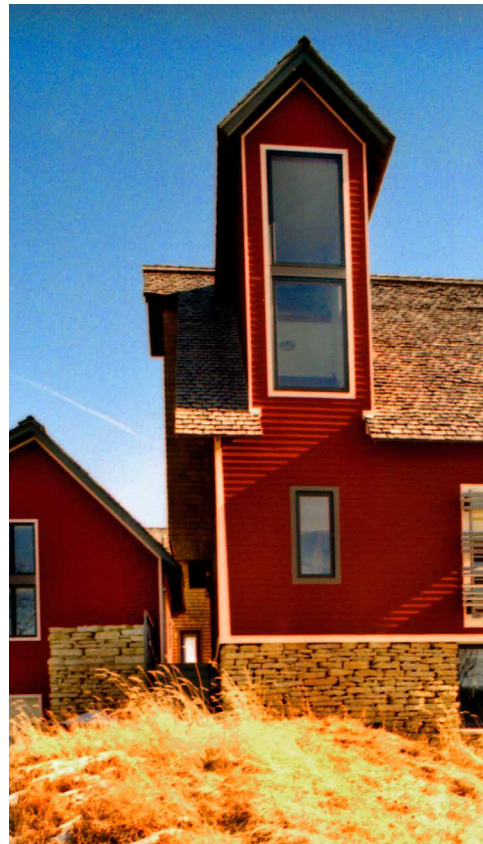


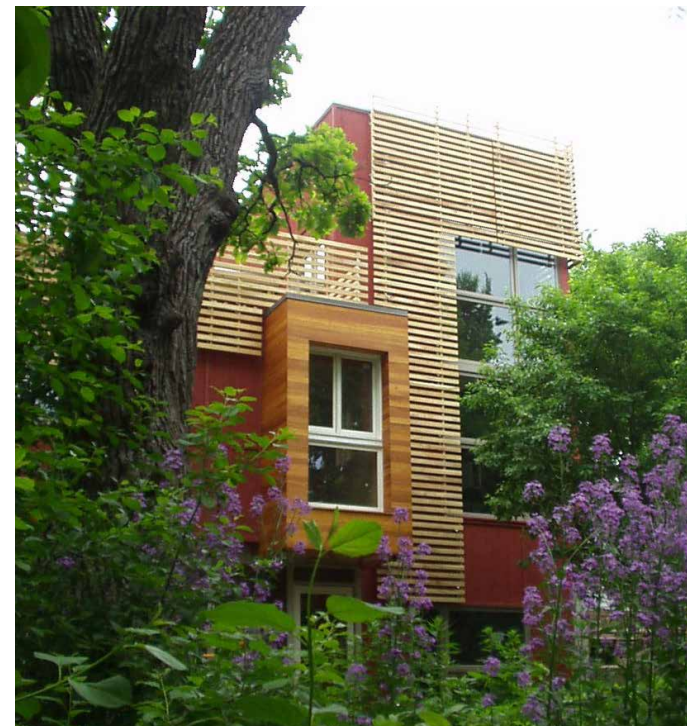
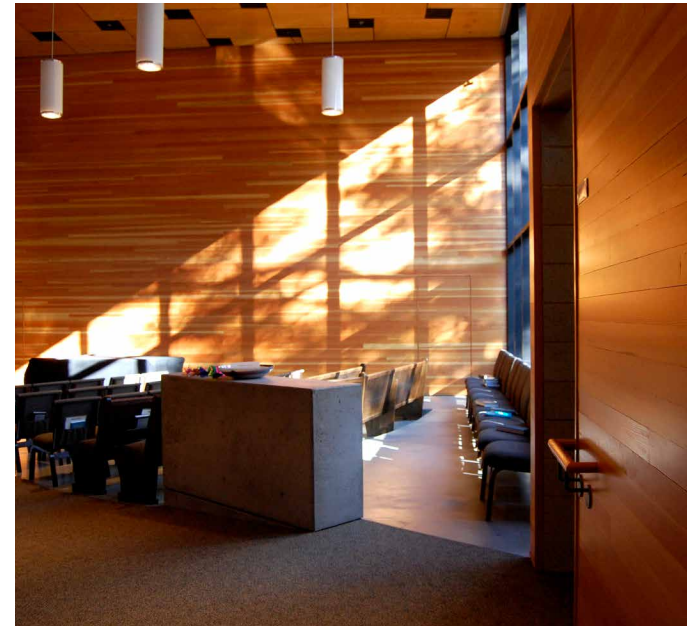
FEE PROPOSAL

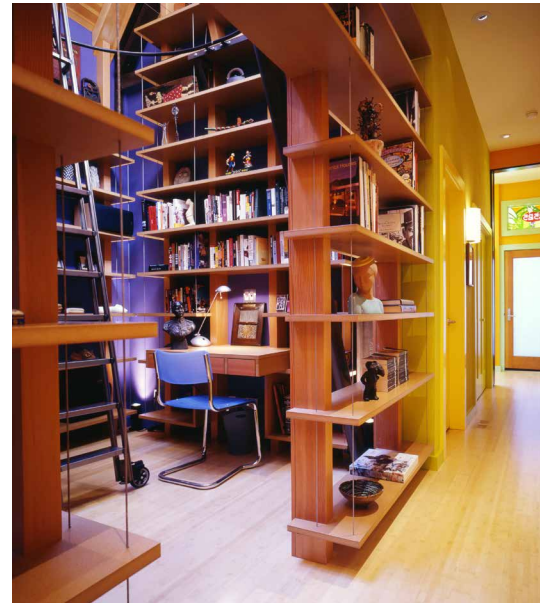
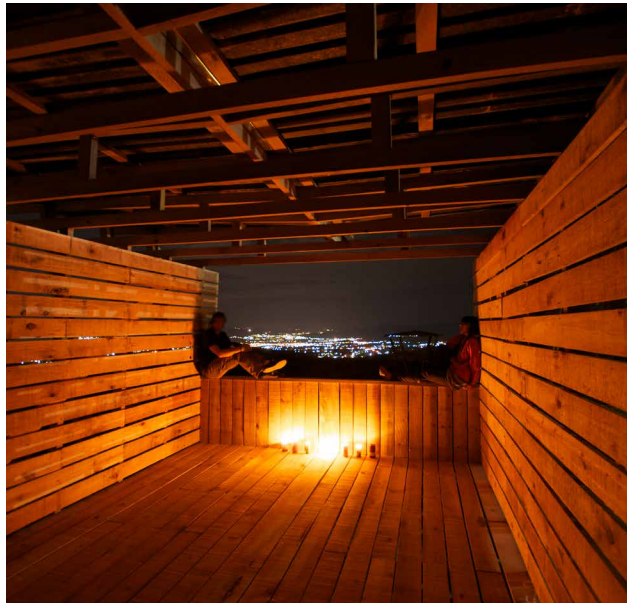
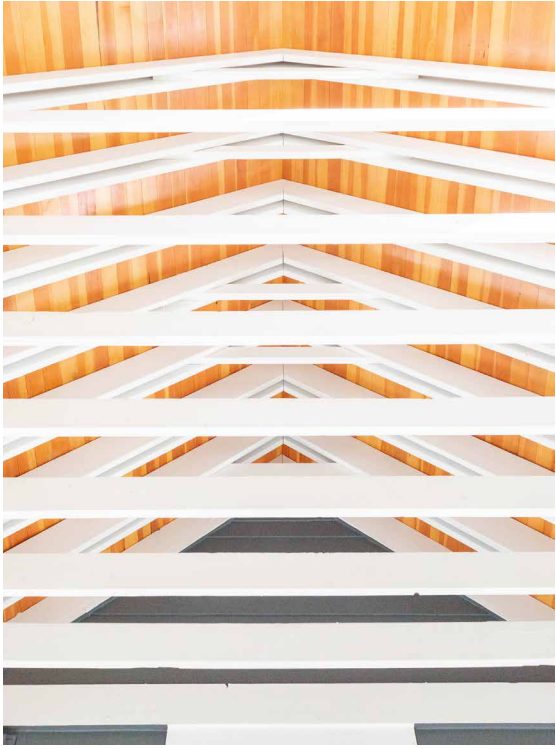
	Fee	Rimbursable Expenses
Locus - Architecture	\$102,500	\$5,000
Capell Design - Specifications	\$7,500	
Safe Haven - Structural Engineering	\$10,000	
* SRF- Civil Engineering	\$20,000	
TOTAL	\$ 140,000	\$5,000
Possible Additional Services		
Victus - Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Engineering	\$13,500	\$200
** Urban Ecosystems - Landscape	\$ 5,000	
Chosen Valley Testing - Geo-technical Engineering and Soil Borings	\$ 2,750	
*B3 Service	We will receive a bid on this consulting if determined necessary by the state of Minnesota or the DNR	
TOTAL	\$ 21,250	\$200

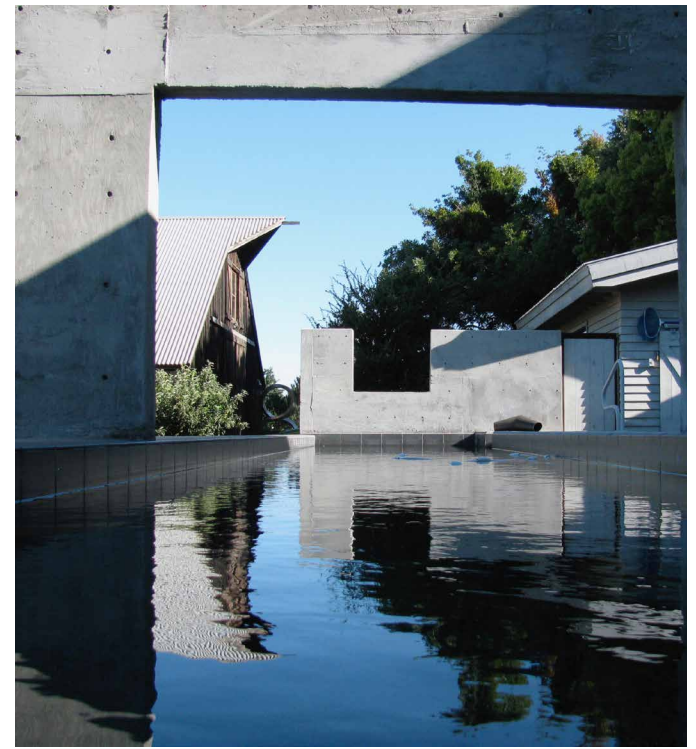
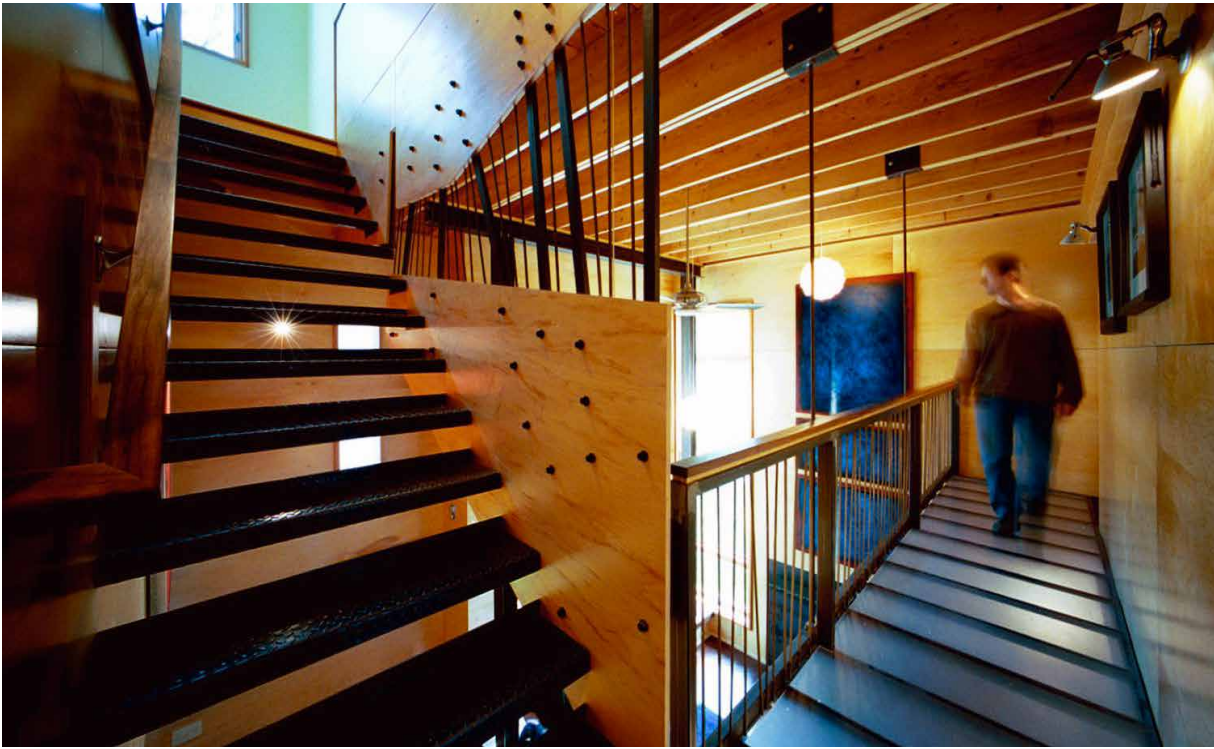
* Assumes survey completed by Goodhue County.

** We recommend Urban Ecosystems perform a site visit and concept drawing for the site, with the remainder of the landscape design provided by county staff.











Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan Revisions & Regional Designation

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board approve submission of the revised Nielsen Memorial Preserve (NMP) Master Plan to the County Board, and request their approval and authorization to submit the Master Plan to the Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission (GMRPTC) along with an application for regional designation.

Background

The original NMP Master Plan was prepared by Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc. (HKGi) and approved by the County Board on December 7th, 2017. Goodhue County then applied to GMRPTC for regional designation as a **natural resource based** park. A ranking of high regional significance would allow NMP to become part of the regional parks and trails system, and allow Goodhue County to apply for Legacy grant funds to help build the projects that were identified in the Master Plan. Unfortunately, there is quite a bit of competition in this category, and our park was only able to achieve a medium regional significance rating given its small size.

The GMRPTC review committee suggested that we reapply as a **special feature** park, focusing on outdoor education. They also asked us to better outline (in the Master Plan and in our regional designation application) how we intend the park to become a truly regional destination (not just a local destination) while still maintaining the high quality of natural resources at the park, given the park's small acreage.

While the park's vision statement remains the same, HKGi has made several changes to the Master Plan that they believe will strengthen our chances of achieving a high regional significance rating. Attached is a summary of the changes, as well as the draft revised Master Plan.

Alternatives

- Approve submission of the attached Master Plan to the County Board for their approval.
- Request changes to the Master Plan before its submission to the County Board.
- Take no action and halt the process of regional designation for Nielsen Memorial Preserve.

Recommendations

- It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board approve submission of the attached Master Plan to the County Board for their approval, and request authorization to submit a revised application to GMRPTC for regional designation as a special feature park.



MEMORANDUM

TO: JENNIFER ZIEMER, GREG ISAKSON

FROM: SARAH EVENSON, PLA

SUBJECT: NIELSEN MEMORIAL PRESERVE MASTER PLAN UPDATES

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE NIELSEN MEMORIAL PRESERVE MASTER PLAN

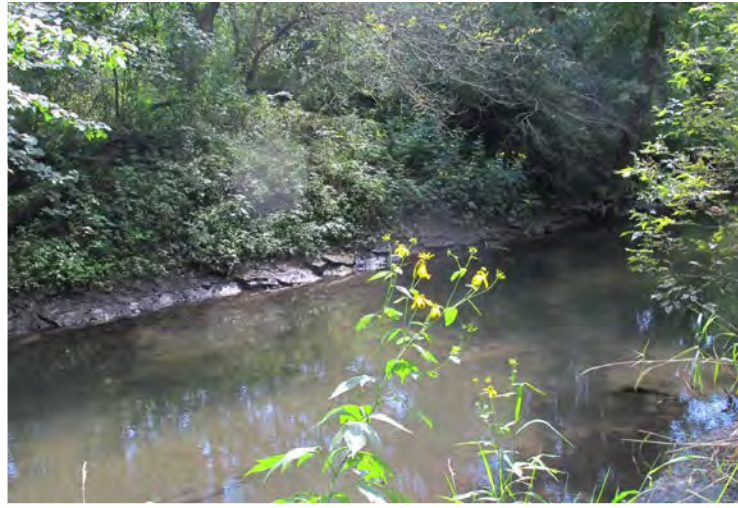
Following direction from the GMRPTC regarding the June 2019 version, we have updated the Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan in order to emphasize its “Special Recreational Feature” designation, underscore its regional significance, demonstrate a commitment to preserving its natural resources in a high-quality state, and strengthen its focus on outdoor education. The November 2020 update includes the following changes, which we hope will better position the Preserve to receive funding:

- The update reinforces the park’s “Special Recreation Feature” designation in two primary ways:
 1. **The plan adds information on the Mima mounds present within the park, showing that they present an opportunity to learn about unique and significant natural features not commonly known in Minnesota.**
 - *“Nielsen Memorial Preserve is home to more than two-dozen unique landforms known as Mima mounds. The source of these topographical phenomena is part of a robust scientific debate; and their presence on publicly-owned land provides a valuable opportunity to researchers, especially if there is a facility onsite where they can catalogue and showcase their work. The Mima mounds at Nielsen Memorial Preserve are part of the Schmidt Moundfield- the greatest concentration of Mima Mounds remaining anywhere in the Upper Midwest. Mima mounds are a fascinating part of Minnesota’s natural history that has unfortunately been forgotten or ignored for a variety of reasons. Highlighting them here at Nielsen Memorial Preserve could provide an attraction for visitors and a focus for programming.” (page 3)*
 - Expanded text on the map on page 10 highlights how the presence of Mima mounds sets Nielsen Memorial Preserve apart from other destinations in the region
 - A new full page of information on the significance of Mima mounds on page 15

- Updates to the “cultural resources” paragraph on page 16: *“During Edward Schmidt’s research into the more than 2,700 mounds in the area, he never discovered any evidence of cultural artifacts, which lends credence to the Mima Mounds hypothesis.”*
 - Expansion of “Key Considerations” on page 21 to suggest reaching out to academics interested in studying the park’s Mima mounds, and developing interpretation and education programming related to them.
 - New text in the “Unique and Compelling Features” section on page 26 adds, *“As an outdoor education-focused park where visitors can roam old growth Big Woods forest and see unique natural features like Mima mounds, Nielsen Memorial Preserve will introduce visitors to new facets of Minnesota’s natural history”* and, *“The Preserve’s Mima mounds are valuable remnant of Minnesota’s early landscape, and their mysterious origins offer visitors a compelling topic to contemplate as they explore.”*
 - Addition of mound locations to the master plan map on page 29, along with minor trail adjustments
- 2. The plan positions the Preserve as a place for outdoor, nature-based education (recommended by the GMRPTC) through an enhanced “outdoor learning laboratory” that provides flexible space for partners like local schools and universities, River Bend Nature Center, Kenyon-Wanamingo Community Ed, and others, to offer programming, teach classes, and conduct research.**
- Addition of text on the master plan concept describing how facilities and amenities will *“allow visitors and academics to observe, learn from, and preserve Minnesota’s Big Woods ecosystem and the Mima mounds of the Schmidt Moundfield”* and that the Learning Lab building *“can be outfitted for research and has classroom seating and a fireplace to support group education.”* (page 29)
 - Page 30 expands on the programming of the outdoor learning laboratory, saying it *“could be reserved for use by researchers or academics studying features in the park.”*
 - Addition of an Interpretive Plan (page 34) that lays out options for providing educational opportunities at Nielsen Memorial Preserve that could include:
 - *“signage panels, topical exploration prompts, and app-based learning in order to help interpretive messages engage a larger variety of visitors. Signage and interpretive media on a variety of topics will be developed as trails and programming are implemented. Subjects like the Mima mounds, spring ephemerals, big woods habitat, and guarding against invasive species will be essential to explore. Features that assist with interpretation, such as overlooks, can be designed to integrate interpretive*

elements. Exploration backpacks with gear and educational prompts could be checked out from the Learning Lab to guide visitors interested in specific topics. And even before formal infrastructure investments are made in the park, Nielsen Memorial Preserve-specific projects can be created in iNaturalist or other smart phone apps in order to help to guide exploration and learning on site.”

- The Long-term Improvements implementation table on page 39 has been adjusted to include \$1,250,000 for the Outdoor Learning Laboratory (up from \$400,000), and \$50,000 for a well.
- **The update illustrates a commitment to preserving the quality of natural resources within the park through the following:**
 - Adding text indicating that a Natural Resource Inventory was initiated in 2020 and is ongoing (page 17), which demonstrates progress and investment following the initial GMRPTC submission, and will help to identify ecologically-sensitive areas prior to any development.
 - Mentioning the potential to hire an additional natural resource staff person in the “Key Considerations” section on page 21, in the “Ecological and Land Resources Plan” on page 35, and in the “Operations and Management” section on page 40, which would demonstrate the County’s commitment to maintaining the Preserve’s natural resources in their high-quality state.
- Other changes in the November 2020 version include updates to the park boundary and acreage based on acquisitions.
 - Acreage update in the chart on page 13
 - Addition to “History of park development” text and map on page 14



Nielsen Memorial Preserve **MASTER PLAN**

Update: November 2020



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Goodhue County Board of Commissioners

- » Barney Nesseth
- » Brad Anderson
- » Paul Drotos
- » Jason Majerus
- » Linda Flanders

Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

- » Brad Anderson, Commissioner
- » Ron Allen, Commissionervv
- » Mike Melstad, 1st District Rep
- » Vince Cockriel, 2nd District Rep
- » Mairi Doerr, 3rd District Rep
- » Andru Peters, 4th District Rep
- » Janie Farrar, 5th District Rep
- » Scott Roepke, Cannon Valley Trail Rep
- » Roxanne Bartsh, Goodhue Pioneer Trail Rep

Kenyon City and Township Representatives

- » Bernie Overby, Kenyon Township Chairperson
- » Abigail Held, City of Kenyon Parks and Recreation Committee
- » John Mortensen, City of Kenyon City Council Member

Project Management Team

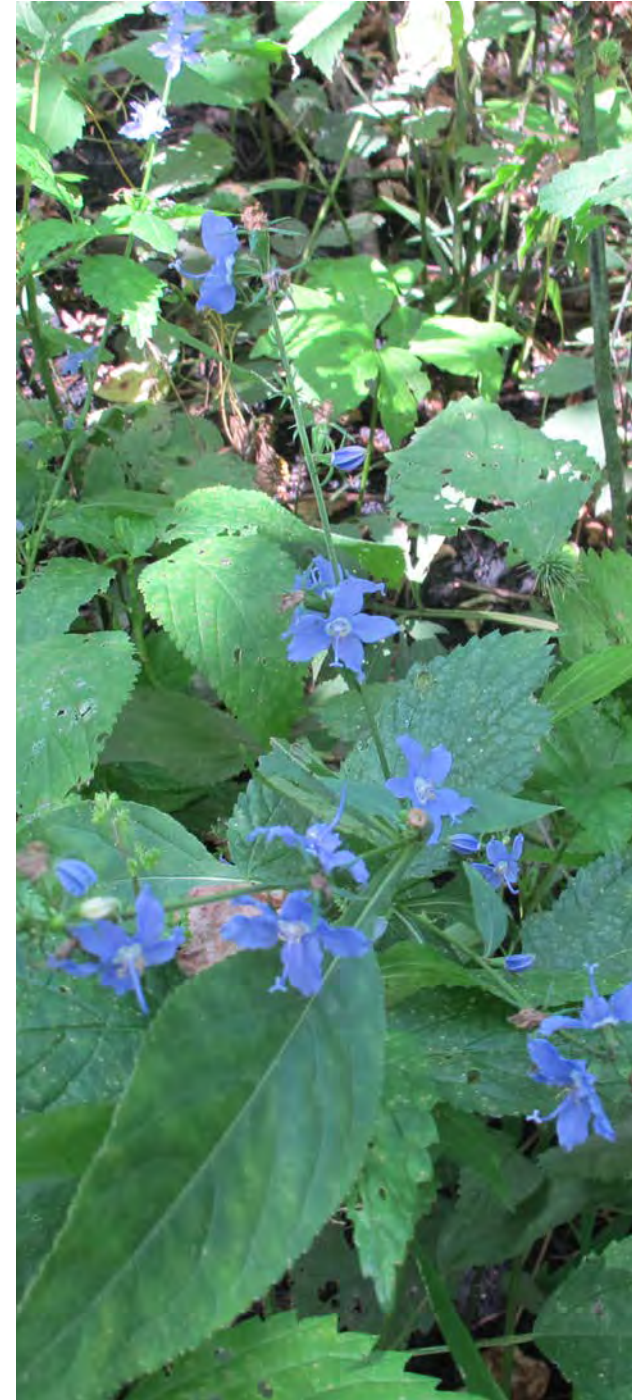
- » Greg Isakson, Public Works Director / County Engineer
- » Jennifer Ziemer, Administrative / Accounting Assistant

Consultant

- » HKGi

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Chapter 1 **INTRODUCTION**

Overview & Project Purpose

Goodhue County's Nielsen Memorial Preserve is located on 88 acres in the southwest corner of Goodhue County in Minnesota, near the City of Kenyon. The land is a "Big Woods" remnant in Section 7 of Kenyon Township. The bulk of this property was donated to the County by the estate of Harold Nielsen in early 2016. Home to a diverse range of plants and wildlife, this preserve will provide a refuge for many different species and a location for hiking, picnicking, observing, and learning about nature for visitors. The park has diverse terrain with an even, level area towards the northern side of the park, as well as several ravines that lead down to the North Fork of the Zumbro River.

Master Plan Purpose

This master plan has been developed in order to:

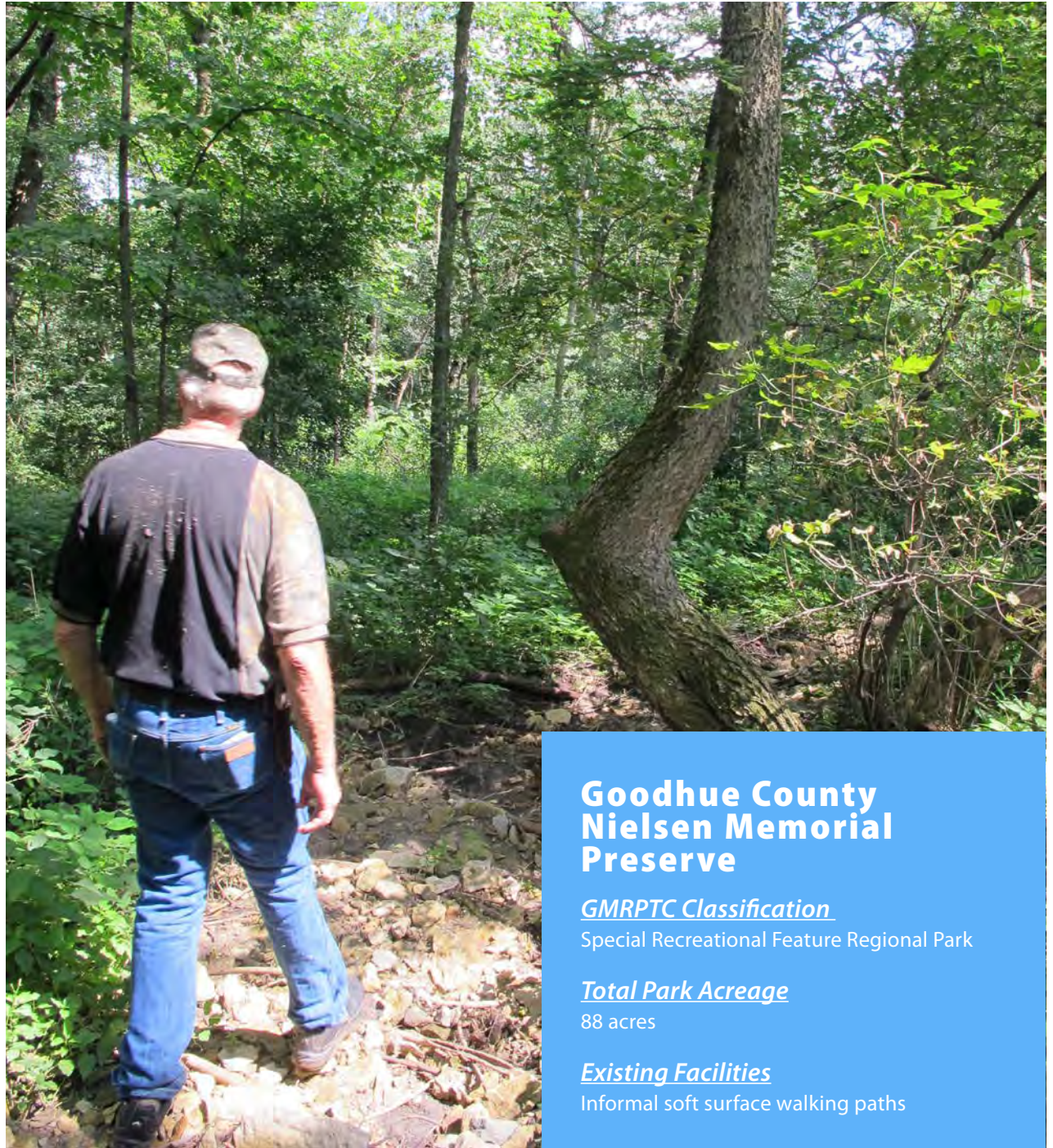
- » Create a unified vision for the future of the park
- » Plan for the next 10 to 25 years of park development
- » Guide County staff and elected officials in funding and capital improvement projects
- » Satisfy requirements for the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) in order to be identified as a regional park and qualify for Clean Water Land and Legacy Funds

Regional Significance

Nielsen Memorial Preserve consists of a high quality forest landscape in a matrix of agricultural crop land. Very few stands of native big woods remain in southeastern Minnesota, and remaining big woods habitats, like those at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, are threatened by climate change. Efforts to preserve the stands that do exist and educate about their place in the Minnesota landscape is an important way to celebrate the state's natural heritage.

Within Goodhue County, there are no nature-based education facilities, and the surrounding area has few parks that pair passive outdoor recreational options with natural resource education. To fill this gap, Nielsen Memorial Preserve will pursue programs and partnerships that emphasize nature-based education to serve a wide audience of visitors from Goodhue, Rice, Dodge, and Steele Counties. As a proposed outdoor learning laboratory, the park could host school, university, and scouting groups from across the state.

Nielsen Memorial Preserve is home to more than two-dozen unique landforms known as Mima mounds. The source of these topographical phenomena is part of a robust scientific debate; and their presence on publicly-owned land provides a valuable opportunity to researchers, especially if there is a facility onsite where they can catalogue and showcase their work. The Mima mounds at Nielsen Memorial Preserve are part of the Schmidt Moundfield- the greatest concentration of Mima Mounds remaining anywhere in the Upper Midwest. Mima mounds are a fascinating part of Minnesota's natural history that has unfortunately been forgotten or ignored for a variety of reasons. Highlighting them here at Nielsen Memorial Preserve could provide an attraction for visitors and a focus for programming. More information on Mima mounds and their significance can be found on page 15.



Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve

GMRPTC Classification

Special Recreational Feature Regional Park

Total Park Acreage

88 acres

Existing Facilities

Informal soft surface walking paths

Past Planning & Related Planning Efforts

Past planning efforts have set the stage for this master plan document. These plans have impacted the decision to complete this master plan, and they will continue to impact the park in the future.

Goodhue County Parks

The Goodhue County Public Works Department will maintain and operate Nielsen Memorial Preserve, its amenities, and its trails for recreational use. The Public Works Department is responsible for the protection and preservation of land in its natural state, while providing for high quality outdoor natural resource-oriented recreational activities.

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.

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trail Commission (GMRPTC)

Regional Park classification desire: Special Recreation Feature

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission was established by the Minnesota State Legislature in 2013 in order to approve designation of regional parks and trails in Greater Minnesota and to make funding recommendations to the legislature regarding park and trail projects. The funding is provided by the Minnesota Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund. Goodhue County aims to attain regional park designation for Nielsen Memorial Preserve using this

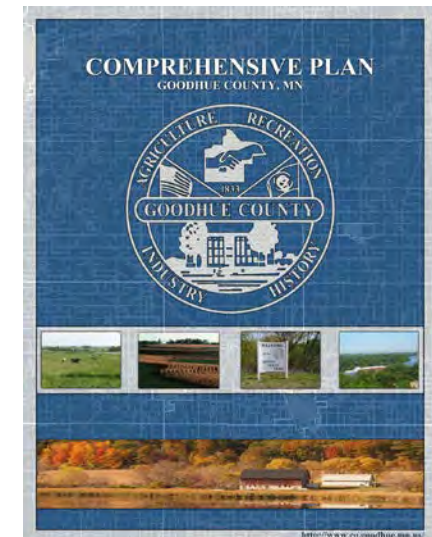
master plan. This master plan document follows the requirements set forth in the GMRPTC Strategic Plan, which was completed in 2015.

Goodhue County Comprehensive Plan (completed in 2016)

The County's Comprehensive Plan notes that there are many proposed expansions and extensions that will eventually provide a County wide parks and trails network.

The Parks and Trails Objectives identified in the recent Comprehensive Plan include:

1. Enhance the Trail systems in the County.
2. Support safe and responsible private trail systems.
3. Encourage development of new parks.
4. Continue development of Byllesby Park according to the park's master plan.
5. Develop a master plan for the Nielsen Memorial Preserve.
6. Identify and set standards for the amount of recreation infrastructure and services that the local government should strive for on a per capita basis in order to satisfy the reasonable expectations of the public.



Planning Process

The Nielsen Memorial Preserve master planning process was closely aligned with the process outlined for the Byllesby Park master planning, which occurred at the same time. The County hired a park planning consultant, Hoisington Kogler Group, Inc. to develop the master plan.

The goals of the planning process were to:

- » Create a visionary and strategic plan document with maps, graphics, and an executive summary.
- » Engage with the Goodhue County Board, Park Board, staff, and public throughout the process.

The phases of the project and schedule were as follows:

Phase 1: Project Organization

Tasks in this phase included collecting and organizing background information; touring the park and observing issues and opportunities; and meeting with staff and the Advisory Group to kick off the project.

Phase 2: Inventory and Research

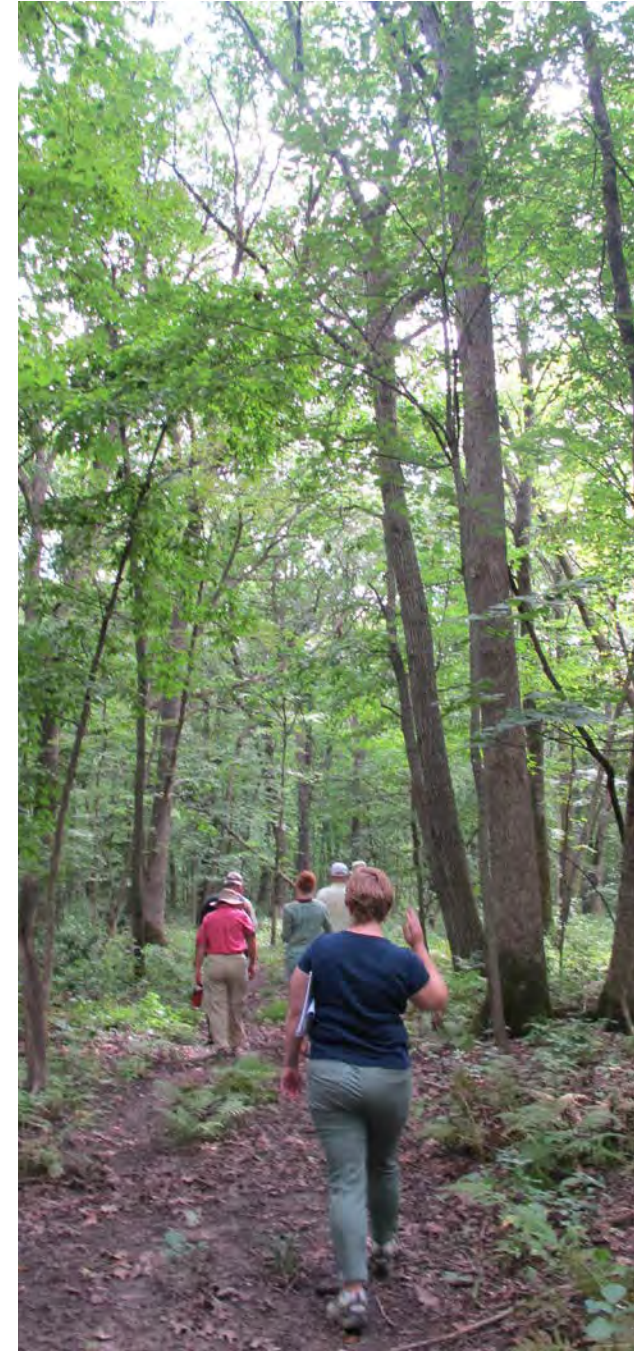
The Inventory and Research phase consisted of community engagement activities to gather input on park issues and opportunities; compilation and analysis of background data, site observations, and community input; and preparation of an Inventory and Research Report.

Phase 3: Park Concepts

The Park Concepts phase was the time for the project team to develop ideas, options, and recommendations for the future of the park. Community engagement activities aided the project team in decision making and concept review. Meetings were held with the Advisory Group, Goodhue County staff, and the Goodhue County Board.

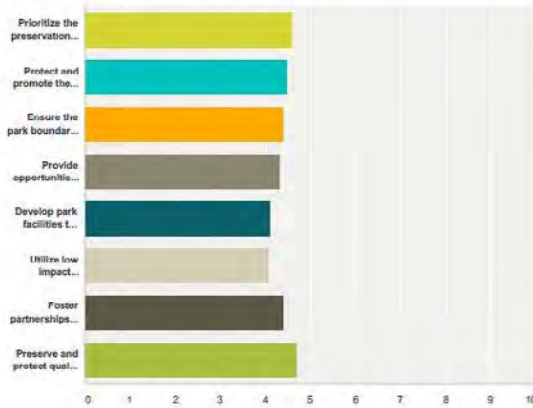
Phase 4: Plan Development and Approvals

The assembly of the master plan document occurred during this phase of the project. Revisions were made in response to input from Goodhue County Staff, the Advisory Group, the Goodhue County Board, and the community. The plan was recommended by the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board and approval sought from the Goodhue County Board.



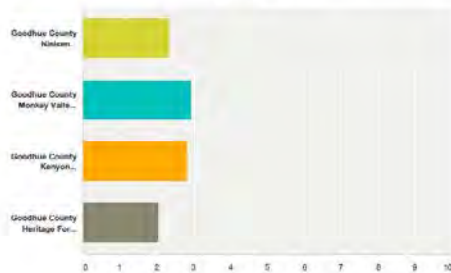
Q2 The following Guiding Principles have been drafted to support the vision for the park. Please identify how important you think each guiding principle should be in the development of the park.

Answered: 72 Skipped: 9



Q8 A name for the park has not yet been chosen. Please rank the following list of potential names identified to date.

Answered: 57 Skipped: 15



	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve	25.00% 13	19.23% 10	19.23% 10	36.54% 19	52	2.33
Goodhue County Monkey Valley Preserve	40.74% 22	31.48% 17	7.41% 4	20.37% 11	54	2.93
Goodhue County Kenyon Woodlands Preserve	20.00% 10	34.58% 19	28.48% 14	16.91% 9	55	2.82
Goodhue County Heritage Forest Preserve	10.00% 5	14.00% 7	46.00% 23	30.00% 15	50	2.04

Online questionnaires collected feedback that helped to determine the guiding principles of the plan and the name of the park, among other things.

Public Input/Participation

Community engagement for this project was built around a plan to engage and involve members of the Goodhue County Board, Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Board, Goodhue County staff, and the general public. This included key stakeholders, such as adjacent property owners, park user groups, and local, regional, and state agencies. Below is a summary of methods used to engage each of these groups. When possible, information about the planning process was shared with community members participating in the simultaneous Bylesby Park master planning process.

It should be noted that one outcome of the planning process was the naming of the park. The name Kenyon Park was used until the name of Nielsen Memorial Preserve was selected. At times, input may still reference Kenyon Park.

Promotion & Outreach

A variety of marketing and outreach methods were employed to contact potential park users and interested parties. The County's website hosted a page with information about the park master plan, and flyers were posted and sent out.

Goodhue County Park Board

The Goodhue County Park and Recreation Advisory Board was utilized as the Advisory Group for this project. The group met five times throughout the planning process to guide staff and consultants on important decisions, offer input on park recommendations, and represent constituents.

Goodhue County Board of Commissioners

The Goodhue County Board was updated two times throughout the master planning project. These updates included summaries of project materials, public input, and request for approval of master plan content.

Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder meetings were held on August 10, 2016, in Kenyon. The first meeting focused on soliciting input from local property owners, while the second meeting focused on interested recreation groups.

General feedback from the stakeholder meetings included:

- » Concerns from adjacent land owners about park access, trespassing, illegal hunting in the park, and park patrol
- » Interest in natural resource preservation and management and outdoor education focus for the park
- » Preference for low impact development at the park, including nature trails, parking lot, pit toilets, picnic shelter, and potential camp sites
- » Desire to preserve the large trees, protect seasonal wet areas on the site, and maintain the natural habitat for wildlife
- » Desire to have clear park signage with rules and boundaries marked
- » Interest in partnership with local high school science class for programming and local law enforcement for patrolling
- » Thoughts and discussion about naming the park in memory of the former land owner - Harold Nielsen

Community Open Houses

The community engagement also included information presented at open house style meetings, which were promoted to the general public. The meetings included display boards of project findings in the form of text and graphics. Meeting attendees were invited to view the materials and provide input to the project team regarding park issues and opportunities, ideas for future investments, and personal experiences in the park.

Nielsen Open House #1 – Wednesday, August 10, 2016

After the stakeholder meetings, the general public was invited to attend an open house at Schweich Restaurant and Hotel in Kenyon. Sixteen people attended and were presented with information about the new park and invited to ask questions and provide ideas. Feedback included:

- » Support for preserving the land and protecting it from hunting and logging
- » Interest in camping, hiking, birding, mountain biking, geocaching, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and picnicking in the park
- » Concern about how to delineate the boundary and prevent trespassing on adjacent properties

Joint Byllesby/Nielsen Open House – Monday, September 19, 2016

An open house was held at Cannon Falls City Hall for the Byllesby Park master planning project, and materials describing the Nielsen Memorial Preserve project were posted for attendees to view. Attendees were asked to give general input on the park. Comments included:

- » Enthusiasm and excitement about the idea of a new park in the County
- » Questions and comments about when the park would be developed and open for use

Nielsen Open House #2- Thursday, March 23, 2017

A second open house was held at Schweich Restaurant and Hotel in Kenyon. Fourteen people attended. Participants had opportunities to write comments on the concept plan, as well as respond to options for the park's name, vision, and guiding principles. The plan and other information about the park was also displayed at an open house for Byllesby Park on March 30th that drew more than 40 attendees. Comments included:

- » 50-60 vehicles anticipated during group camp use by Boy Scouts
- » A rustic paddle in campsite would be welcome along the river
- » Keep site improvements low impact
- » Try to avoid fencing the park using traditional methods- will impede habitat quality and migration
 - » Consider vegetation removal to denote boundary
- » Efforts must be made to prevent OHVs/snowmobiles from using the park
- » Toilets need to be closer to camping
- » Amphitheater should be moved to work with the topography
- » Include fire pit areas and maybe a stage in the group camp area
- » Liability a concern for ropes and archery courses
- » Consider Frisbee golf
- » Most preferred "Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve" as name (then Monkey Valley, then Kenyon Woodlands)

Joint Byllesby/Nielsen Open House- Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Another open house was held at Cannon Falls City Hall for the Byllesby Park master planning project, and updated materials describing the Nielsen Memorial Preserve project were again posted for attendees to view. Meeting attendees did not provide any specific comments on the park concept; however, an opportunity to post comments online yielded two responses. Both comments lauded the plan as being thorough and designed with care. Support was indicated for an eventual paved trail throughout the park as well as a trail from Kenyon to the Preserve.

Online Questionnaire

Online questionnaires are developed and designed to obtain feedback from those who may not have been able or interested in attending the public meetings. There were two online questionnaires developed and promoted during the master planning process around the time of public and stakeholder meetings in order to gain input from multiple sources at the same time.

Questionnaire #1 – August 2016

An online questionnaire was open for a few weeks in August, 2016, in order to gain input from stakeholders and the public. There were six total respondents. Comments included the desire for the park to maintain and preserve its existing natural state and to be developed as an outdoor educational facility. Concerns were listed about hunting on the site and trespassing on adjacent private land.

Questionnaire #2 – March 2017

A link to a SurveyMonkey questionnaire about the park concept was posted on the Goodhue County Website from mid-March to mid-April, and received 72 responses. Feedback from the Open House and questionnaire was combined with input from the Advisory Committee to formulate a preferred concept.

Questionnaire input included:

- » Significant support for the Vision and Guiding Principles, with 87% of respondents believing that the vision represented the park “Well” or “Very Well” and all of the guiding principles being rated “Important” or “Very Important”
- » A preference for “Monkey Valley Preserve” as the park’s name, with Kenyon Woodlands, Nielsen Memorial, and Heritage Forest Preserve coming in second, third, and fourth, respectively.

» Comments on park circulation:

- » Like the combination of paved and natural surface trails (provides variation in experience for biking & hiking)
- » Like the river access points (may want to have a path connecting them)
- » Since natural surface trails will be shared by bikers and pedestrians, they should be wide enough to accommodate both passing safely
- » Phase the parking lot in if needed- people could just park along entry road initially
- » Move southern lot entry to the south side of the proposed expansion to reduce future construction cost
- » Re-align path near outdoor lab to provide access to turnaround/drop off
- » Make sure there is visual separation between the group camp and the paved trail (privacy)
- » Some concern about the quantity of paved trails, especially those far away from the main area (too far to push a wheelchair anyway)- suggestion to convert some of them to natural surface
- » Many desire a trail from the park into town for those who would like to walk or bike to the park
- » Quality of the trails is key to positive experience of this park. Need to be resilient and sustainably built/maintained.

» Comments on Programming:

- » Two respondents mentioned allowing horseback riding
- » Interest in winter cross country skiing
- » Interest in geocaching
- » Concern about liability/vandalism with low ropes and archery courses.
 - » If included, would like a staff person

- » Activities for smaller children desired- perhaps a rustic nature play area with stumps, sticks, etc. for open ended, exploratory play and fort building
- » Topography of the southern Group Recreation Area may limit its use- move to the other side of the path (and move amphitheater south as well, for better topo and spacing between the relocated group rec area)
- » Unsure if amphitheater is needed- could be combined with outdoor lab
 - » If built, should be moved south where there is natural topography
 - » Should also include a fire pit
- » Some concern about mountain bikes:
 - » Not enough natural surface trails for them to really be an advertised activity
 - » Too close to pedestrians and other programming to be desirable to bikers
- » Invasive species need to be monitored and controlled, given the introduction of people into this high quality natural area.

» Comments on Accommodations:

- » One respondent desires RV camping near entrance
- » There needs to be toilets closer to the group camp and recreation areas
- » Needs to be water at least by the group camp, but the trail users would benefit from having water available elsewhere as well
- » Picnic shelters that are in park interior may not be used (who wants to haul food/coolers all the way out there?)
 - » Reposition nearer to the parking lot



Chapter 2

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Overview

The current state of Nielsen Memorial Preserve in 2020 is described in the following chapter. The sections below represent a summary of existing conditions:

- » **Park Context:** location and importance of the park within the region
- » **Existing Park Conditions:** description of existing features within the park today; brief history of park development, cultural resources, and natural resources
- » **Issues and Opportunities:** summary of important park issues and opportunities -- from Goodhue County staff, key stakeholders, and the public -- addressed in this master plan
- » **Key Considerations:** recommended list of decisions to make during the development of the concepts and recommendations for the master plan

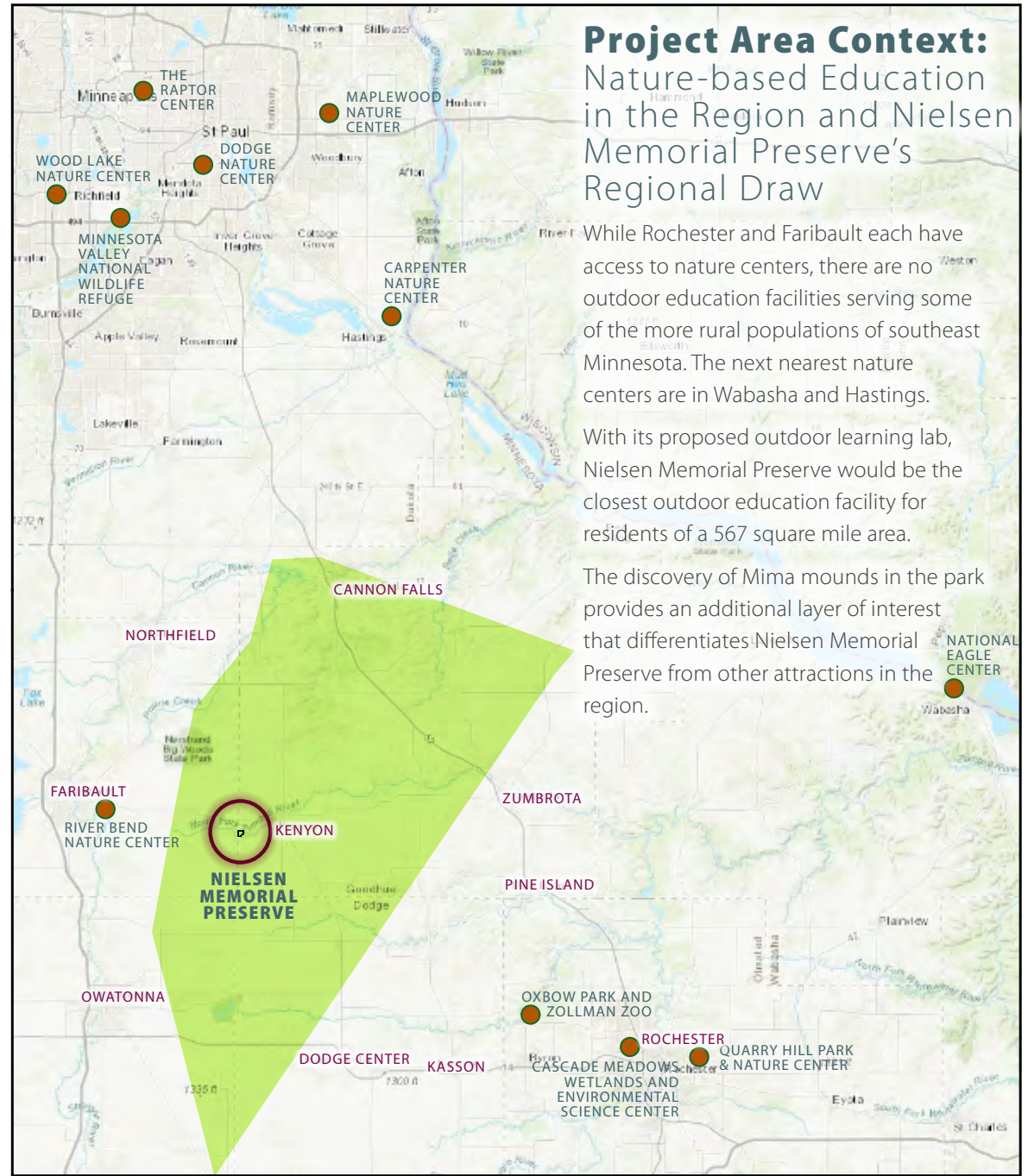
Park Context

Located just west of the city of Kenyon, on the western border of Goodhue County, Nielsen Memorial Preserve is surrounded by agricultural land. The surrounding landscape was historically the Big Woods of Minnesota, but most of the old growth trees in the region have been cut down in favor of crops. Nielsen Memorial Preserve itself is a remnant of the Big Woods heritage forest of Minnesota, with beautiful, old growth trees and a forest floor covered in ferns and other native Minnesota species. There are many rivers and streams in the driftless landscape that covers southeastern Minnesota.

The Preserve is located in rural Minnesota, about one hour from the Twin Cities and a 40-minute drive from Rochester. The park is centrally located between the local population centers of Faribault, Northfield, Cannon Falls, Zumbrota, Pine Island, Kasson, and Owatonna. Its position in the southwest corner of Goodhue County means that Nielsen Memorial Preserve is likely to draw visitors from multiple communities, spanning Goodhue, Rice, Steele, and Dodge Counties.



Native Jack in the Pulpit plants cover the forest floor

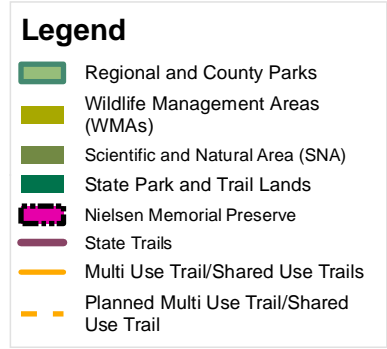
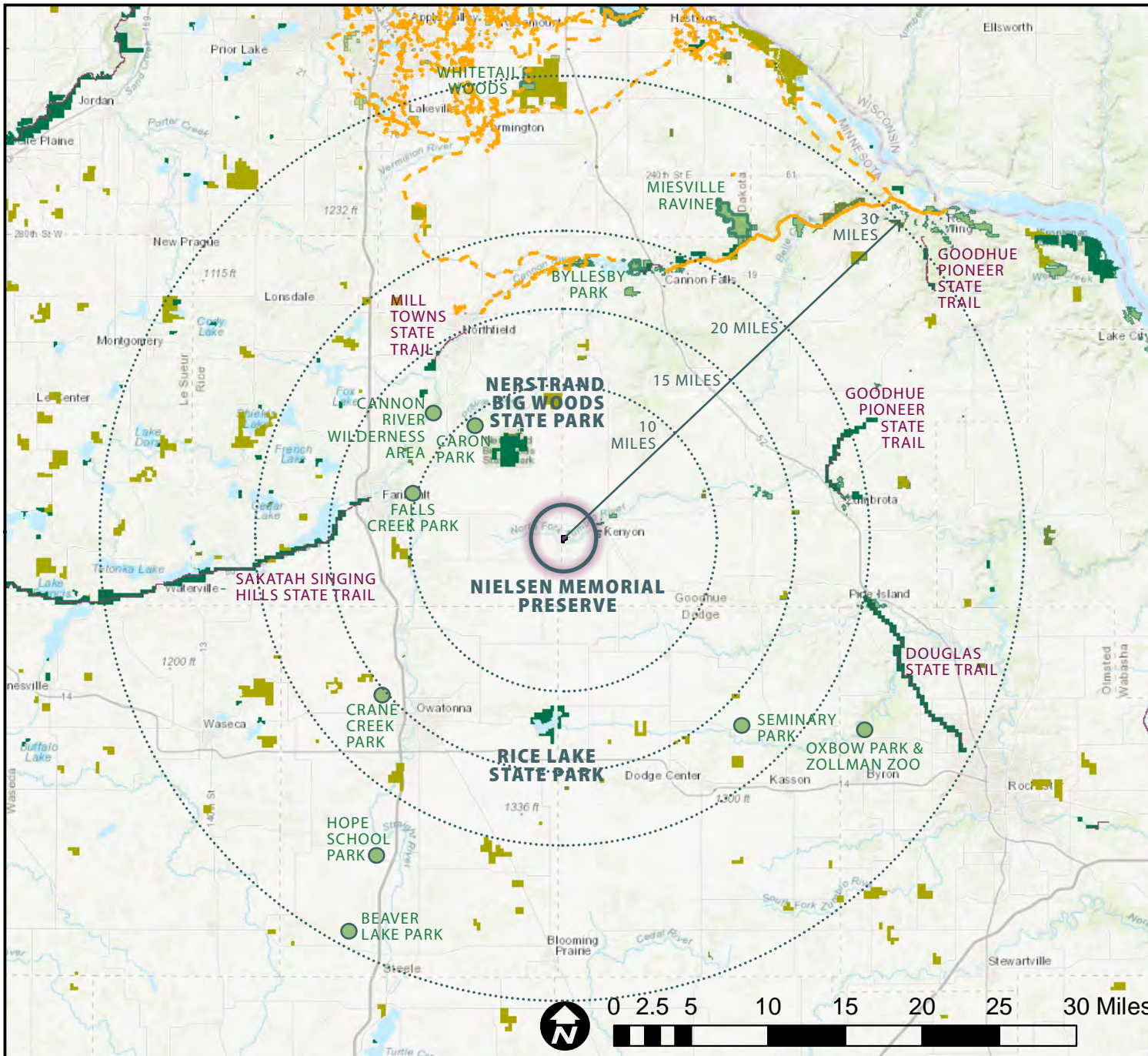


Project Area Context: Nature-based Education in the Region and Nielsen Memorial Preserve's Regional Draw

While Rochester and Faribault each have access to nature centers, there are no outdoor education facilities serving some of the more rural populations of southeast Minnesota. The next nearest nature centers are in Wabasha and Hastings.

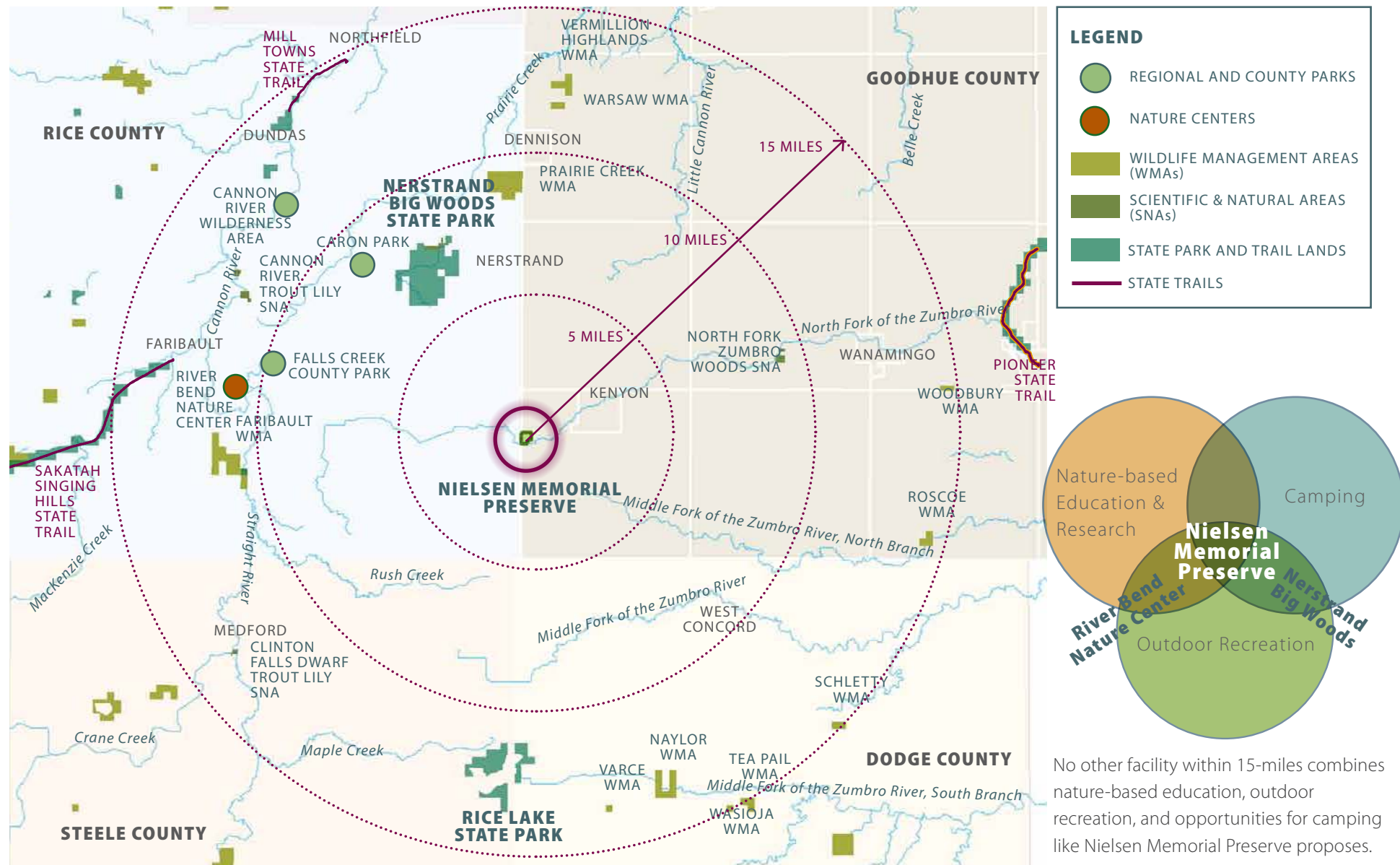
With its proposed outdoor learning lab, Nielsen Memorial Preserve would be the closest outdoor education facility for residents of a 567 square mile area.

The discovery of Mima mounds in the park provides an additional layer of interest that differentiates Nielsen Memorial Preserve from other attractions in the region.



Project Area Context: Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces within a 30-mile Radius

Project Area Context: Parks, Trails, and Open Space within a 15-Mile Radius



No other facility within 15-miles combines nature-based education, outdoor recreation, and opportunities for camping like Nielsen Memorial Preserve proposes.

Within a 15-mile radius, approximately a 20-30 minute drive of the park, there are several other recreational facilities, including: Kenyon city parks, Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, Rice Lake State Park, River Bend Nature Center, and DNR managed Wildlife Management Areas and Scientific and Natural Areas. The planned Mill Towns State Trail also traverses this area. While large population growth is not expected, the combined recreational opportunities provide destinations for active outdoor enthusiasts.

Project Area Context: Recreation Types, Activities, and Programming within a 15-Mile Radius

	Activity	Kenyon Parks	Nielsen Memorial Preserve	River Bend Nature Center	Cannon River Wilderness Area	Caron Park	Falls Creek Park	Rice Lake State Park	Nerstrand Big Woods State Park	Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)	Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs)
	Type	Local	County	Non-profit	County	County	County	State	State	State DNR	State DNR
	Acres	varies	88 acres	743 acres	850 acres	60 acres	61 acres	1,750 acres	2,884 acres	varies	varies
Passive Recreation	Nature Observation		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Geocaching		○	X					X		
	Picnicking		○	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
	Paddle Sports			X	X			X			
	Fishing		○							X	X
	Hunting			X				X		X	X
Trails	Hiking/Walking		○	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Cross-country Skiing			X			X	X	X		X
	Skijoring/ Dogsledding										
	Snowshoeing		○	X			X	X	X		X
	Snowmobiling							X			
	Horseback Riding					X					
Lodging	Tent Camping		○		X			X	X		
	RV Camping								X		
	Camper Cabins										
Active Recreation	Swimming	X									
	Playground	X						X	X		
	Low Ropes/ Nature Play		○								
	Ice Skating	X									
	Sledding										
	Archery		○	X							
	Mountain Biking		○	X		X					
	Disc Golf	X									
	Horseshoes		○						X		
	Volleyball								X		
	Athletic Fields & Courts										
Education	Interpretation		○	X							
	Citizen Science		○	X							
	Lab/Research Space		○								

○ PROPOSED

LOCAL

STATE

Existing Park Conditions

Nielsen Memorial Preserve is an undeveloped natural area that has been in private ownership until recently. The site's native forest landscape has varying topography, including the unique presence of Mima Mounds (see following page for additional detail). The North Fork of the Zumbro River traverses the south part of the park, but access to the river is difficult.

Park Access

The park is accessed from the north off of State Hwy 60 by Goodhue Ave Way, which is a minimum maintenance gravel road that runs along the border of Goodhue and Rice Counties. No other road exists to access the park.

History of Park Development

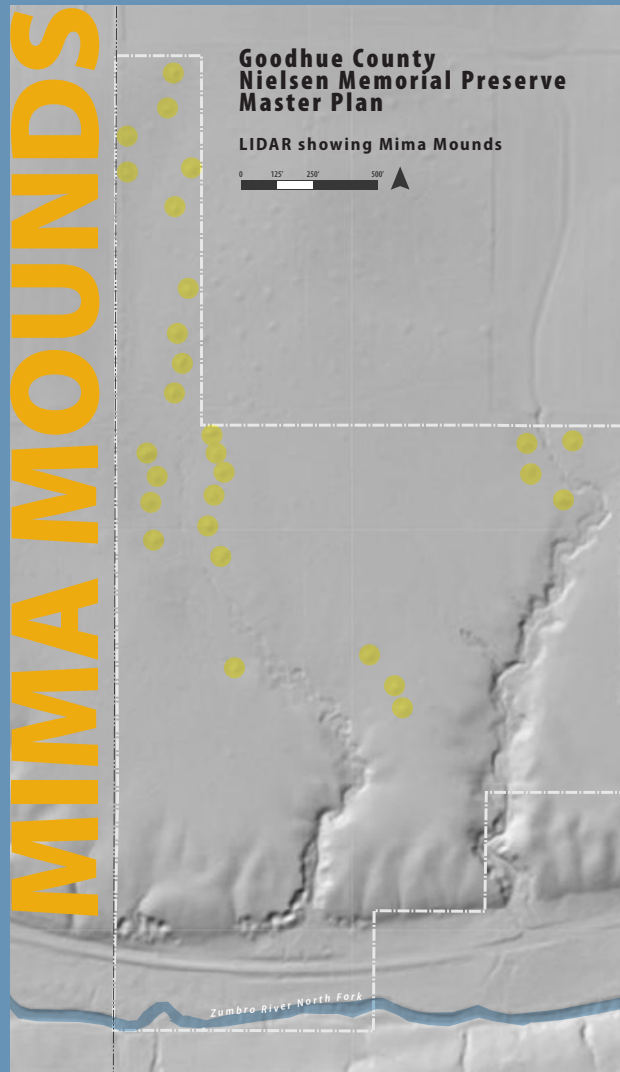
The estate of Harold Nielsen donated roughly 75 acres of land to Goodhue County in 2016 for park purposes, in order to allow people to enjoy nature and to provide a refuge for wildlife.

In 2018, Goodhue County acquired a 10-acre parcel to the north of the Nielsen property. While this land will be beneficial for providing park access and ensuring natural resource preservation (several additional mounds are located within the addition), the primary recreational and outdoor education improvements proposed in the master plan continue to be in the original master plan area. See Chapter 5: Implementation & Management for further details on property acquisition.

Existing Conditions Map with Acquisitions



Locations in the Preserve



What are Mima Mounds?

Not to be confused with burial mounds, Mima mounds are scientifically curious, naturally formed topographical features that do not contain any cultural artifacts. They are smaller than most burial mounds (typically under 2 meters tall), and tend to appear in groups, sometimes forming patterns. There are several theories as to the mounds' origins, but studies are ongoing and a definitive answer has not yet been proven. One of the more popular theories posits that the mounds were created over hundreds of years by burrowing mammals like pocket gophers. Others attribute their formation to the shrink-swell properties of clay soils, or aeolian sediment accumulation.

The LIDAR imagery on the left shows over two-dozen mounds within Nielsen Memorial Preserve. These unique topographic features are part of the Schmidt Moundfield, a collection of more than 2,700 mounds catalogued by St. Olaf's Edward Schmidt between 1906 and 1937. The moundfield spans a roughly 25-square mile area of southern Dakota County, Rice County, and Goodhue County.

Nielsen Memorial Preserve's mounds are part of the largest documented moundfield in the Upper Midwest.

A Forgotten Facet of Minnesota's Natural Landscape

Mima mounds are sometimes referred to as natural prairie mounds, and as such, are most frequently found in prairies and meadows. Agricultural practices have severely altered most of these landscapes, leading contemporary researchers attempting to locate Schmidt's mounds over the last decade to note that "nearly all have been destroyed by plowing." Fortunately, the mounds within Nielsen Memorial Preserve have been spared, due in part to their unusual presence in a heavily wooded area.

Earlier archaeologists, including Schmidt, were studying the mounds with the hope of finding artifacts. The idea that these mounds were naturally occurring and not anthropic was disappointing at the time, so little was made of their discovery. This, combined with the loss of many of these mounds due to plowing, has caused these features to be largely forgotten. However, current research into the source of these mounds is ongoing, and could be a fascinating draw for those interested in solving the mystery and exploring the natural history of Minnesota.

Regional Designation for Nielsen Memorial Preserve could help make the investments necessary to properly attract and host researchers, discover new knowledge, and teach visitors about these remnants of Minnesota's historical landscape.



A Mima mound at Minnesota's Waubun Prairie



Fields of Mima mounds in Washington State (courtesy Washington DNR)

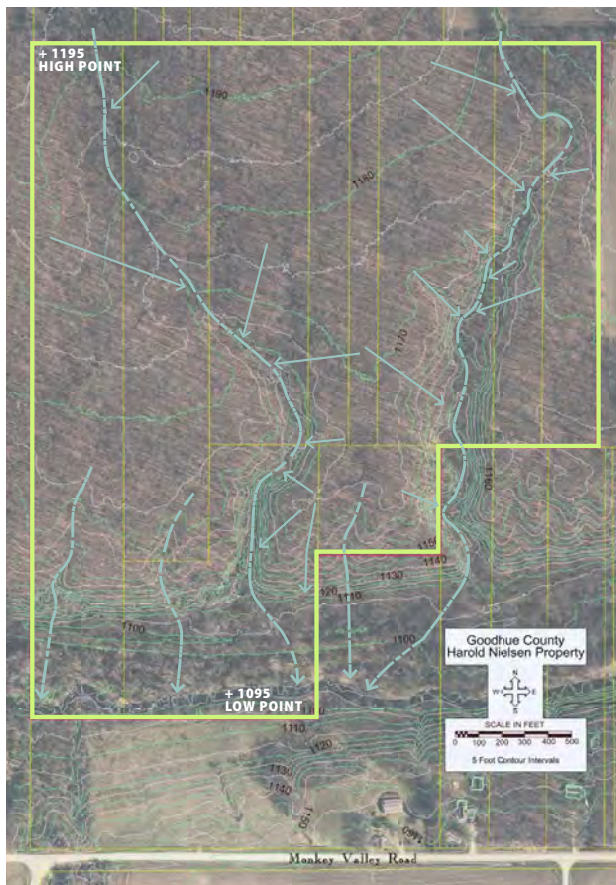


For more information on Mima mounds, see:

Finney, Fred. (2012). The forgotten natural prairie mounds of the Upper Midwest: Their abundance, distribution, origin, and archaeological implications. 10.1130/2012.2490(05).

Terrain and Topography

The northern edge and most of the park site is of relatively even terrain. The topography generally is highest along the northwestern edge and slopes downward towards the southeast. A couple of ravines traverse the site drawing water from the northern part down to the Zumbro River. Along the southern edge of the site, steep 40-foot high cliffs form the boundary between the forest and the river valley. Further exploration is needed to assess how a minimally invasive trail could be constructed to the river.



Drainage patterns and topography

Cultural Resources

During Edward Schmidt's research into the more than 2,700 mounds in the area (refer to page 15), he never discovered any evidence of cultural artifacts, which lends credence to the Mima Mounds hypothesis. Unlike the surrounding agricultural landscape, significant portions of the site have not been logged, which makes the plant communities and landscape of high value in the region. An old trapper's cabin along the park's eastern ravine is the only known cultural resource within the Preserve.

Natural Resources

The Big Woods landscape at nearby Nerstrand Big Woods State Park is threatened by climate change due to flat, poorly drained areas that are unable to dry out in between rain events. About 200 acres (10-12%) of forest within that park is dying. At Nielsen Memorial Preserve, consistent grades and the two ravines provide adequate drainage for runoff, which provides protection from the standing water that is threatening this essential Minnesota ecosystem at Nerstrand Big Woods, preserving this outstanding landscape type here for future generations.



Photo of forest death at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, MnDNR

The Preserve has been identified by the MnDNR as an area of "Outstanding Biodiversity Significance." Most of the site, including areas to the north, east, and west of the park, is identified as Southern Dry-Mesic Oak Forest. This ecotype is found in the southeastern corner of Minnesota up to the Twin Cities Metro Area. The characteristics of this plant community include:

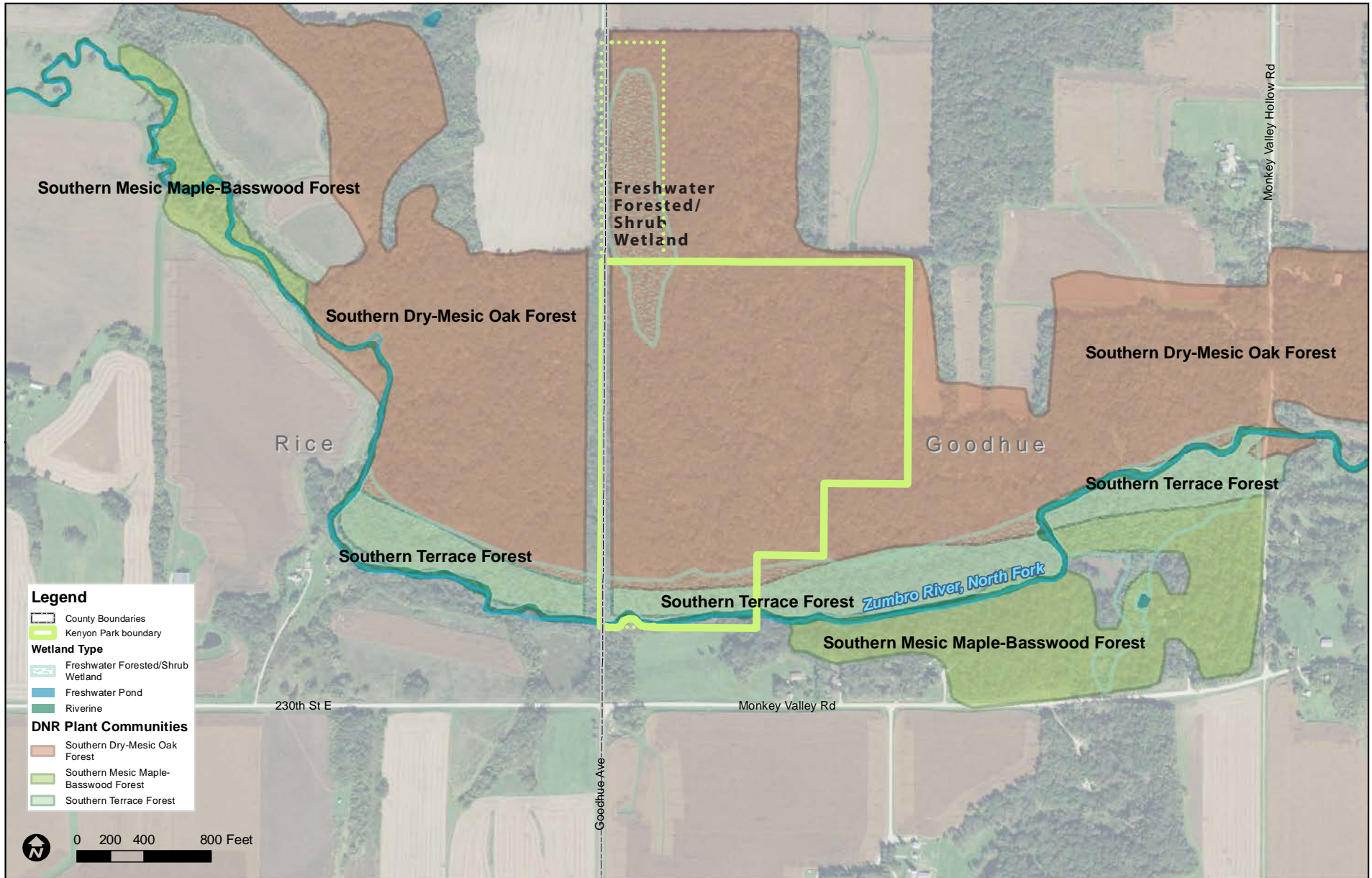
- » a patchy to continuous ground layer with species such as lady fern, trefoil, sweet cicely, and wild geranium
- » a patchy to interrupted shrub layer with northern red oak and black cherry saplings, chokecherry, American hazelnut, and pagoda dogwood
- » subcanopy cover with basswood, black cherry, northern red oak, white oak, and bitternut hickory
- » a canopy cover with northern red oak, white oak, and basswood

The southern edge of the park along the river consists of Southern Terrace Forest. This plant community extends east and west of the park along the Zumbro River. In Minnesota, the Southern Terrace Forest can be found throughout southeastern Minnesota west to the South Dakota border and north to the Brainerd area. This plant community consists of:

- » a ground cover that is interrupted to continuous with species such as wood nettle, Virginia waterleaf, coneflower, and blue violet
- » a patchy layer of woody vines and shrubs
- » an interrupted to continuous canopy with elm, ash, hackberry, basswood, box elder, and others

A 2019 walk-through by the MnDNR found that there is a general lack of invasive species found in the oak forested area of the park, but some reed canary grass does exist along the river bank. Invasives found were generally located along the entrance road due to surrounding farming.

Natural Resources Map



In addition to providing access to two plant communities, river, and wetland habitat, the entire park is ranked as an area of “Outstanding Biodiversity Significance” by the MnDNR. A formal natural resource inventory is in progress as of 2020, and will document locations of spring ephemerals and other rare species in order to better inform future park development, including the placement of park trails and programming.

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.

Issues:

- » Since the park is not operated as an established park today, there may be potential issues with trespassing, illegal hunting, dumping, or other trouble making
- » Basic park maintenance protocols and security/patrol need to be established
- » 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 may be impacted with increased public access
- » The park is surrounded by private landowners, who want to maintain privacy on their properties and would like to see minimal usage of the park

Opportunities:

Preserve and Maintain at a High Quality the Park's Natural Resources

- » Inventory existing plants in order to keep public access from disturbing the most valuable plant community locations (currently undergoing as part of the 2020 Natural Resource Inventory)
- » Reach out to the DNR's Natural Heritage and Nongame Research program to participate in the MN biological survey, Natural heritage information system, and other projects for conservation planning
- » 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 history and functionality of the Preserve's Big Woods habitat and unique Mima mound formations
- » Park could be a location for a naturalist capstone project or academic research into Mima mounds or Big Woods habitats and climate change
- » Pursue designation as a MnDNR School Forest and have a DNR Forester create a stewardship plan for the park

Construct Basic Facilities to Serve the Park

- » Entry road
- » Parking lot
- » Basic restroom / pit toilets
- » Picnic tables / shelter / grills / fire pits / water
- » Soft surface trail network
- » Signage and wayfinding
- » Learning lab and outdoor classroom / amphitheater for nature-based education and programming
- » Explore desire for primitive camping facilities - potentially only group camping

Initiate Programming

- » Outdoor / natural resource-based education: NMP could be a DNR School Forest, offering nearby schools a place for hands-on science projects or studies, nature hikes, and classes. River Bend Nature Center could use NMP as a satellite site for programming. University students or researchers could use the learning lab to conduct research on Mima mounds or the Big Woods ecosystem.
- » Local clubs and organizations could complete volunteer projects, maintenance, and hold events on the site
- » Individual activities: hiking, birding, foraging, back country skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, mountain biking
- » Small group / Family activities: picnicking, camping



The North Fork of the Zumbro River

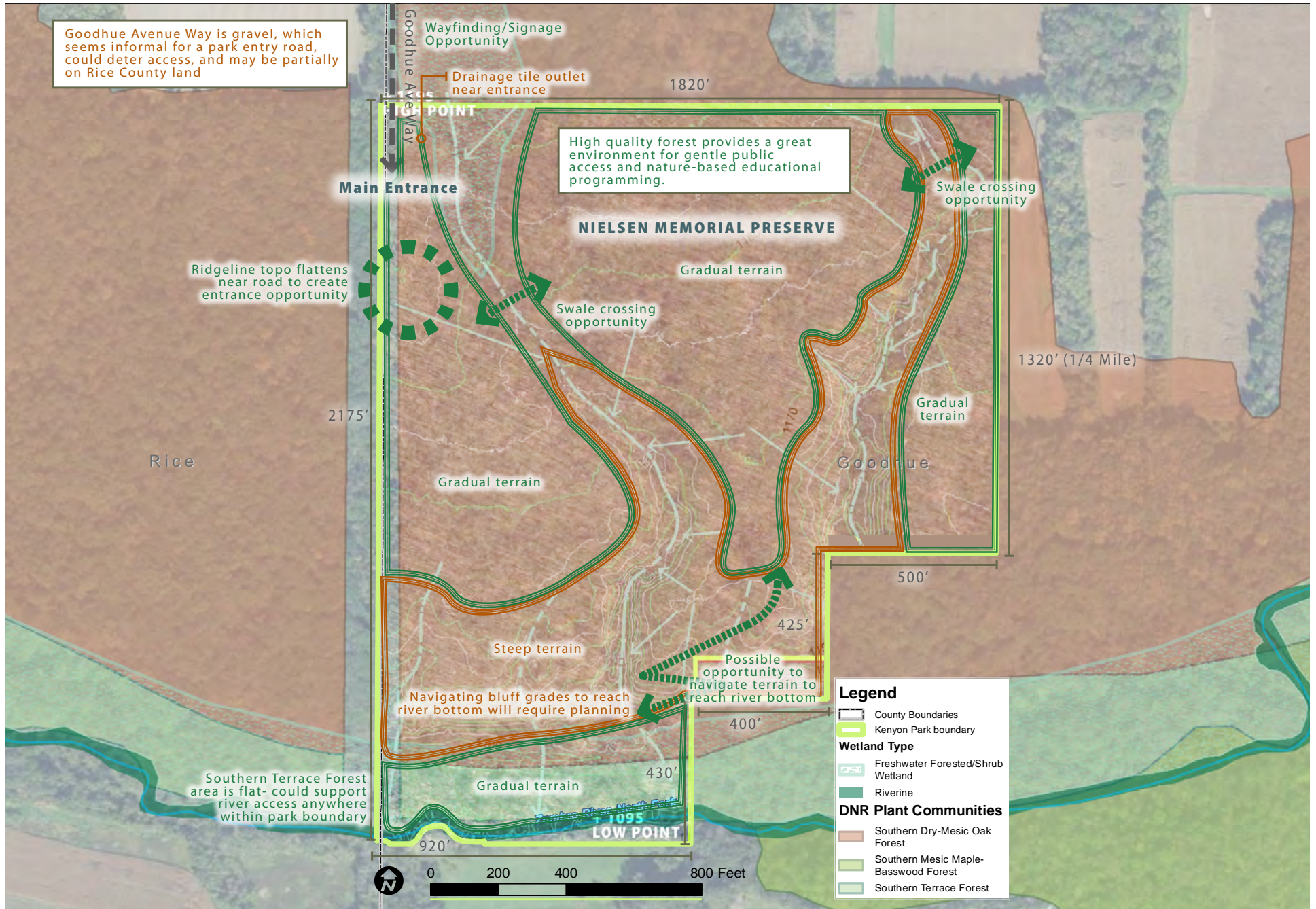


The park is covered with old growth oaks

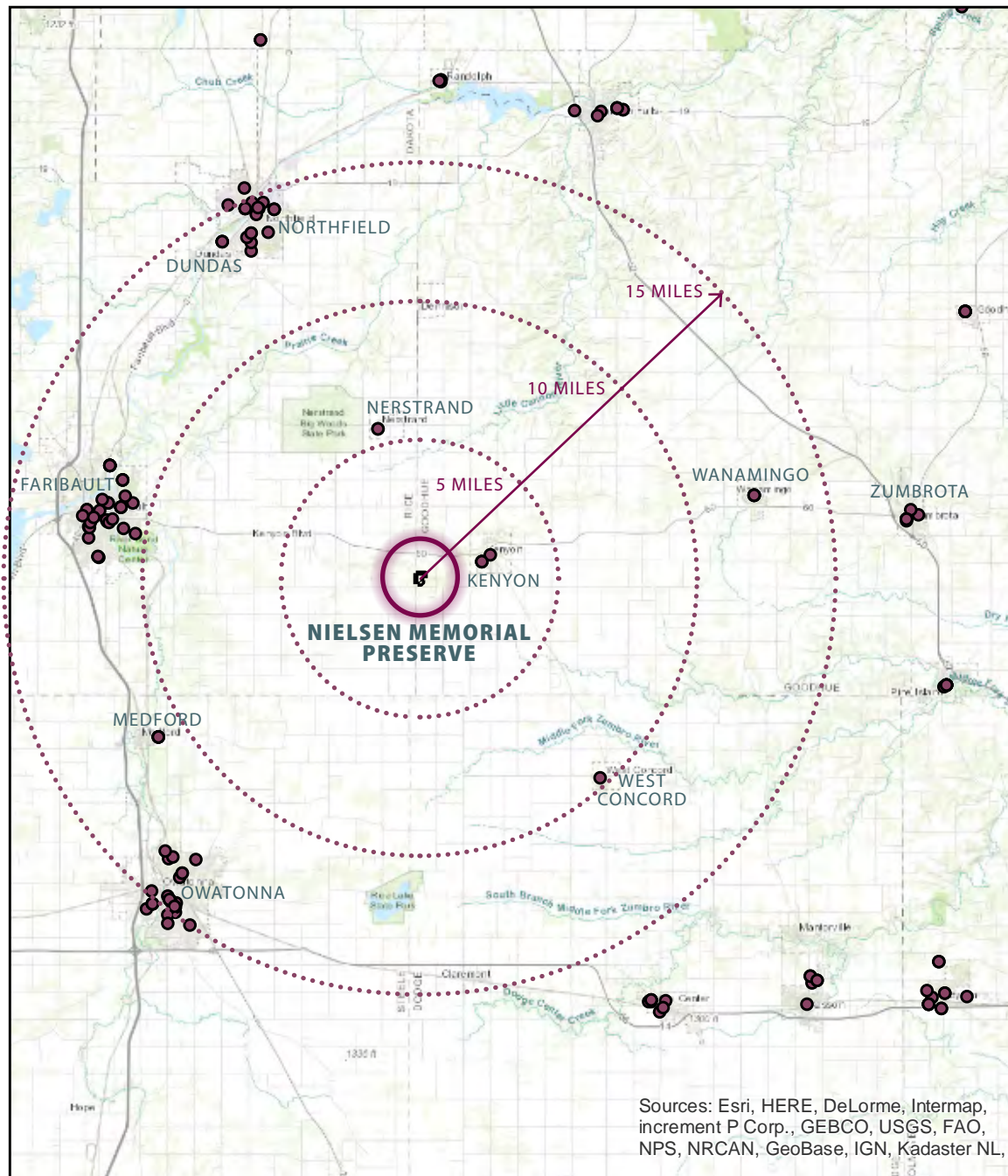


Poke Milkweed, a rare woodland native

Nielsen Memorial Preserve: Issues and Opportunities



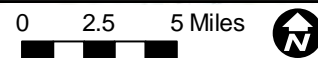
Potential School Forest Partners



Nearby schools present opportunities for educational partnerships that would increase the use and value of Nielsen Memorial Preserve. The MnDNR's School Forest Program has many benefits and could help facilitate educational programming at the Preserve for interested schools.

There are 76 Schools within a 15-mile Radius:

- » Medford High School
- » Medford Elementary
- » Kenyon-Wanamingo Elementary
- » Kenyon-Wanamingo Middle School
- » Kenyon-Wanamingo High School
- » Faribault Middle School
- » Faribault High School
- » Faribault Special Ed
- » Jefferson Elementary
- » Lincoln Elementary
- » Roosevelt Elementary
- » MN Academy for the Blind
- » MN Academy for the Deaf
- » Faribault Technical College
- » Cannon River STEM Charter School
- » Nerstrand Charter School
- » Dscovery Public School Faribault (Charter)
- » Faribault Lutheran (Independent)
- » Shattuck- St. Marys (Independent)
- » Medford ESY
- » Alexander Learning Academy (Special Ed Coop)
- » CVSEC STEP (Special Ed Coop)
- » and more...



Key Considerations

The following is a list of key considerations formulated from the existing conditions analysis and 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 schools, clubs, and organizations to ensure community buy in and respect for the park. Groups could include: Scouts, Lions Club, Rotary Club, River Bend Nature Center, Master Naturalists, Kenyon Wanamingo High School, Cannon River STEM School, St. Olaf Collage, Carleton College, Goodhue County Community Ed and others.
- » Create a realistic plan for park operations and maintenance, that could include hiring an additional County staff person.
- » Monitor for the effects of climate change and work to mitigate its impact on the Preserve's Big Woods habitat.
- » Secure the borders of the park with signage and partner with local law enforcement to prevent trespassing, vandalism, and illegal hunting.
- » Evaluate how to balance preserving the natural resources with gentle, yet purposeful park access and facilities.
- » Evaluate road and trail connections and access points to the park from surrounding communities- discuss the extent of regional draw for the park.



Green Headed Coneflower in the park

- » Reach out to academics interested in researching Mima mounds to see if Nielsen Memorial Preserve's mounds can be studied. Develop interpretation and education programs related to the presence of Mima mounds here and market the Preserve as a natural history attraction to explore.
- » Create a plan for winter recreation and park access.
- » 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.
- » Support wildlife by preserving and enhancing habitat throughout the park.





Chapter 3 **VISION, TRENDS, AND PUBLIC VALUES**

Overview

As part of this master planning process, Goodhue County brought together their Goodhue County Board, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board, stakeholders, and residents to develop the vision and guiding principles that became the foundation for Goodhue County's Nielsen Memorial Preserve master plan. The Vision says what the park will be in the future ten to twenty years, while the Guiding Principles suggest how the park will achieve that vision.

Vision Statement

Nielsen Memorial Preserve is a special recreation feature regional park along the North Fork of the Zumbro River where woodlands are preserved, wildlife can find a haven, and visitors can explore and learn about nature through trails and natural-resource based educational opportunities.

Guiding Principles

1. Prioritize the preservation and maintenance of the site's high quality natural resources.
2. Protect and promote the site for wildlife habitat.
3. Ensure the park boundaries and rules prohibiting hunting are respected.
4. Provide opportunities for nature-based recreation and events.
5. Develop park facilities to support outdoor education and natural resource interpretation.
6. Utilize low impact development.
7. Foster partnerships to build, operate, and maintain the park.
8. Preserve and protect quality natural resources for future generations.



Local and Regional Demographic Information

Growing Population

The population of Goodhue County currently stands at about 49,000 residents. Goodhue's population is expected to continue to experience population growth over the next 25 years. This number is forecasted to grow to over 55,000 residents by 2045. The demand for quality park services and recreation opportunities is likely to grow in tandem with the population.

Racial/ Ethnic Distribution

Goodhue County's population has continued to grow more and more diverse each year. Between 2000 and 2010 the growth rate in Goodhue County populations of color was over 65% higher than the national growth rate. In 2016, 7.8% of the population comprised people of color. As the population of Goodhue County changes and grows more diverse, the needs of the County parks programming and visitor services diversify and change too. Goodhue County Parks will need to address and adapt to new cultural norms and preferences of different groups.

Children & Youth

Kids are an important part of the Goodhue County population. In 2015, residents under 18 made up more than 25% of the population. According to the Minnesota State Demographer, children will still account for more than 25% of the population by 2045. This creates an unwavering demographic that have specific needs for park services and recreation opportunities. Access to parks and age appropriate programming helps to start kids with a healthy and active lifestyle while experiencing the outdoors.

Cost Burdened Households

Recently, Goodhue County has experienced a growth in the county poverty rate. The poverty rate almost doubled from 5% in 2000 to 9.6% in 2014. Cost burdened households with low median incomes are considered to be at a higher risk for sedentary lifestyle and related illnesses. Park access, affordability, and promotion of active living are especially important to households with less disposable income who tend to rely on county parks for health and recreational opportunities.



Recreational Trends

Changes in the way people recreate impact the need for improvements in the park system. The following are general trends that may impact the future of Nielsen Memorial Preserve.



Aging Actively

Baby Boomers already represent a large portion of the Goodhue County population. Like the rest of the state, Goodhue County is anticipating growth in Baby Boomer residents over the next couple of decades. As Baby Boomers age their recreation needs change. Baby Boomers will require facilities and equipment that meet their mobility needs as they age as well as programming that caters to their interests and activity level.



Active Living

Access to parks and parks programming is growing to become more and more important. The nation as a whole is experiencing a public health crisis with obesity and sedentary lifestyle related illnesses. In 2012 over 20% of Goodhue County adults were considered obese. As a result of this change, more and more people are developing an interest in active living through integrating exercise into their daily routines. This trend yields more demand for low cost recreation options. County parks can help residents to incorporate active living and recreation into their lives for a low cost.



Trail Use & Access to Nature

Trails continue to be a high demand recreational feature nation wide. The increased interest in walking, running, and bicycling as a flexible, convenient recreational experience reflects the increased construction of trail projects in Minnesota and across the country.

People are increasingly interested in “getting away” or “unplugging” from technology by escaping to the natural areas that are close to home. In our increasingly developed environment, natural preserves are important spaces of respite.

Public Health Values

Health Benefits of Nielsen Memorial Preserve

Mental health improvements including a greater sense of well-being, lower rates of depression, improved capacity to cope with stressful events, better focus, and a reduction of attention deficit disorder symptoms are associated with access to nature (APHA's Improving Health and Wellness through Access to Nature). Nielsen Memorial Preserve provides visitors with access to old growth forest, diverse terrain, and the Zumbro River. The development concept proposes providing accessible river access, which will allow fishing, a form of recreation that has been shown to decrease symptoms of PTSD (www.riversofrecovery.org/research-results). The Outdoor Foundation reports that 38% of people who fish do it as a means of relieving stress.

Nielsen Memorial Preserve will also promote physical activity beyond walking/hiking and mountain biking. Outdoor activities like orienteering, birding, geocaching, and biocaching would be perfect for this preserve. In addition, group recreation areas provide spaces for activities like a low ropes course, horseshoes, and open nature play.

The park plan will support education by providing a Learning Lab and outdoor classroom. These facilities, combined with an amphitheatre, group recreation, and camping areas will encourage social interaction and connect visitors to the natural realm.

Promoting Connections to the Outdoors

With Minnesota becoming increasingly urban, access to places like Nielsen Memorial Preserve that offer nature-based outdoor recreation is an advantage.

With the 2014-2018 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) reporting a downward trend in traditional outdoor recreation, it is more important than ever to find ways to introduce new populations to nature-based recreation, and to incorporate new activities that offer exposure to the outdoors.

The SCORP found that participation in nature-based activities “helps to produce citizenry with an appreciation of the natural world that raises social and political support for resource conservation activities, support that may decrease as participation decreases.” Fortunately, Nielsen Memorial Preserve is well positioned to implement many of the SCORP’s recommendations to connect people to the outdoors, which can help to maintain the relevancy and longevity of the park system for future generations.

In order to connect people to the outdoors, the SCORP recommends that parks:

1. Develop camping facilities that have “sites for larger groups, more separation and privacy between sites, and higher quality natural surroundings to meet expectations of current and future users.”
2. “Design facilities that support numerous activities and proactively adapt to new and emerging nature-based recreation activities (e.g. Geocaching, pet-friendly parks and trails, and archery).”
3. “Develop group-based opportunities such as group campsites, picnic areas, and gathering spaces.”



Unique and Compelling Features

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission seeks to designate parks in Greater Minnesota as “regional parks” that have unique and compelling features which make them important as regional destinations. Some of these features could include natural landscape characteristics, unique recreational opportunities, or attractive man-made sites. The following statements and descriptions represent what makes Nielsen Memorial Preserve a unique and compelling destination for southeastern Minnesota.

Nielsen Memorial Preserve Provides a Special High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

As an outdoor education-focused park where visitors can roam old growth Big Woods forest and see unique natural features like Mima mounds, Nielsen Memorial Preserve will introduce visitors to new facets of Minnesota’s natural history. The rustic, low impact facilities on the site will provide space for local schools, clubs, organizations, and individuals to immerse themselves in the Big Woods of Minnesota.

The undisturbed nature of the park makes it a special site for exploration and learning about Minnesota’s natural heritage.

Nielsen Memorial Preserve Provides a Natural and Scenic Setting Offering a Compelling Sense of Place

There are few locations in the state where untouched natural landscapes exist. Nielsen Memorial Preserve offers a glimpse back in time to the Big Woods landscape that early settlers and Native Americans experienced before the development of the surrounding landscape occurred. The Preserve’s Mima mounds are valuable remnant of Minnesota’s early landscape, and their mysterious origins offer visitors a compelling topic to contemplate as they explore.



Nielsen Memorial Preserve is Well-located to Serve a Regional Need and/or Tourist Destination

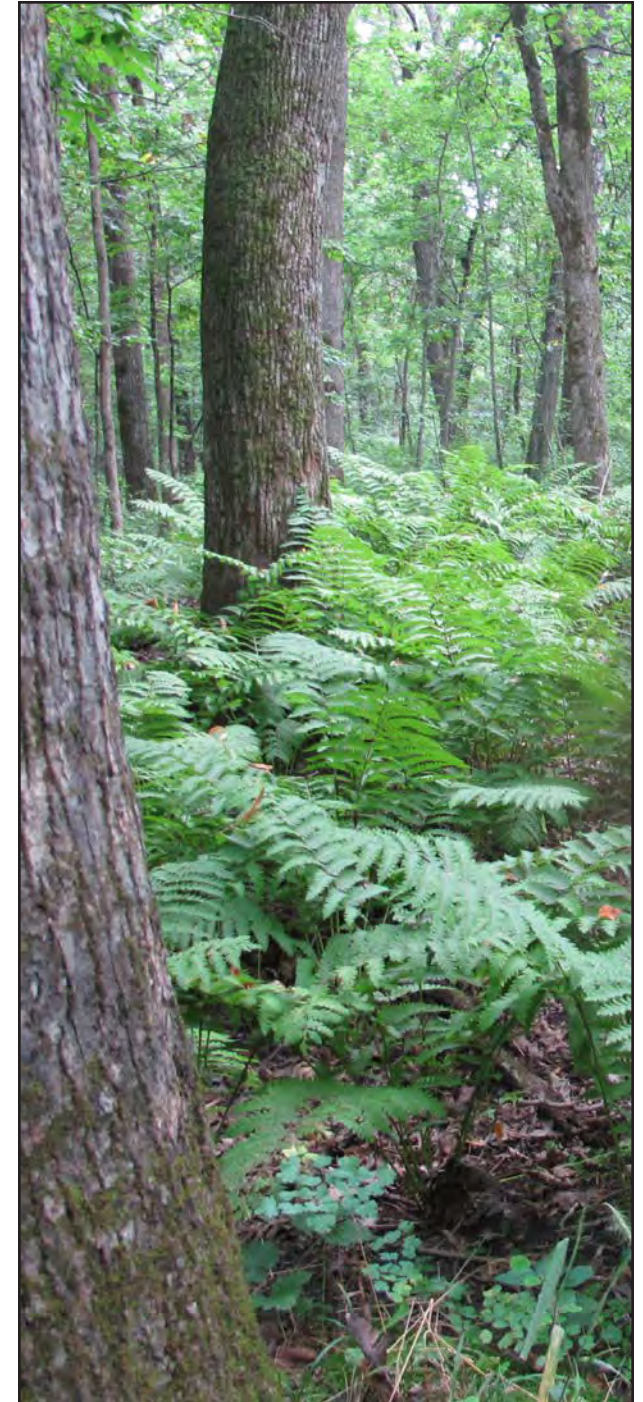
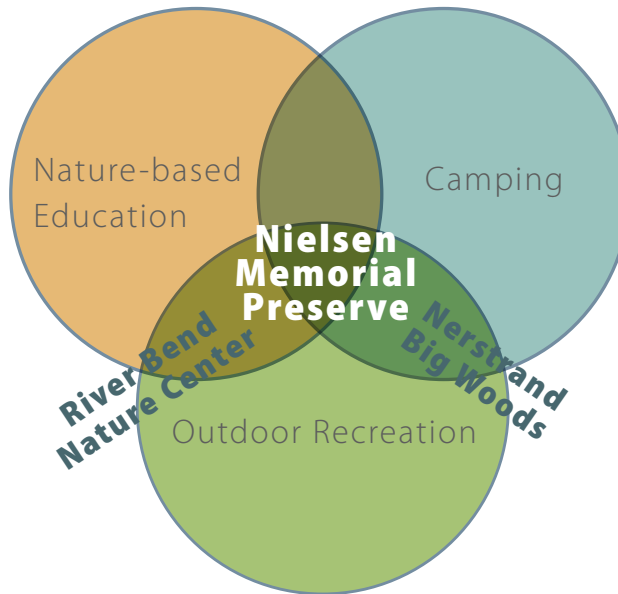
While Rochester and Faribault each have access to nature centers, there are no outdoor education facilities serving the rural populations of southeast Minnesota. With its proposed learning lab, Nielsen Memorial Preserve would be the closest outdoor education facility for residents of a 567 square mile area.

The park is about an hour's drive from the Twin Cities Metro Area, 45 minutes from Rochester, and is located 13 miles east of Interstate 35. Overnight accommodations are available in Northfield, Faribault, or camping at Nerstrand Big Woods and Rice Lake State Parks nearby. For an immersive experience, rustic camping in the park will be available to groups by reservation.



Nielsen Memorial Preserve Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

No other facility within a 15-mile radius pairs outdoor recreation in an area of outstanding biodiversity with a targeted nature-based education facility and has the opportunity to camp onsite. The development of Nielsen Memorial Preserve as an outdoor lab and learning center would serve a unique niche in the region. Its proposed recreational activities, such as hiking, picnicking, fishing, and camping are intended to be integrated into the site in a low-impact manner, maintaining the unspoiled, authentic-feeling natural environment, and providing a complement to the more developed experience offered by nearby state parks and other nature centers.





Chapter 4

DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

Overview

This chapter contains the development concept, outlining the specific physical and programming improvements proposed to be implemented at Nielsen Memorial Preserve. A graphic, along with a narrative description and precedent imagery will describe the desired design. Improvements to the park's natural resources, cultural resources and outdoor education, and visitor services will also be described in detail in this chapter.

Park Development Concept

The Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan envisions inviting visitors to explore the park's big woods environment with both natural surface and paved trails, strengthening their interest in the outdoors with a learning laboratory and classroom, and providing an immersive experience with rustic group camping and nature-based recreation areas.

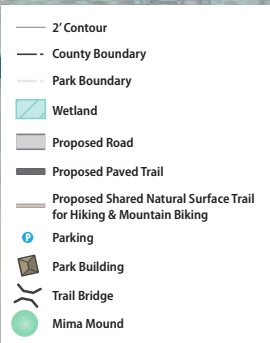
Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan

Geared toward those seeking outdoor recreation in a high quality natural setting, Nielsen Memorial Preserve's master plan includes many ways to escape into nature. Whether taking a walk through the woods after work, spending a morning fishing the North Fork of the Zumbro, camping with a Scout troop, or exploring the park and learning about its ecology in the outdoor classroom, the Preserve provides opportunities for people to connect to the outdoors.

Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan

Preferred Concept | Long-term

- Facilities and amenities to support passive and active natural resource-based use of the park are intended to allow visitors and academics to observe, learn from, and preserve Minnesota's Big Woods ecosystem and the Mima Mounds of the Schmidt Moundfield
- 25-car parking area with the potential to expand to 40 spaces
- Two picnic shelters near the parking area with an information kiosk and vault toilets
- Two rustic picnic shelters in park interior
- Paved 8' trail loop with accessible river access
- Natural surface trails built to support both hikers and mountain bikers in an effective, yet low-impact way
- Orienteering, birding, geocaching, and biocaching activities fit well with the park
- Group camping facilities for about 40 tents with tent pads and a group fire pit (available through advanced registration). Area could expand to accommodate larger groups if desired.
- Group recreation areas don't require staffing and could include archery, a low ropes course, horseshoes, open nature play/ fort building, etc.
- Learning Lab Building can be outfitted for research and has classroom seating and firepit to support group education
- Park to be closed during deer hunting season



Accessing the Preserve

Visitors can reach Nielsen Memorial Preserve from Faribault or Kenyon by turning onto Goodhue Avenue Way from Hwy 60. The northmost 10-acres of the Preserve include several Mima mounds, which will be preserved when siting a widened entry road for access off of Goodhue Avenue Way. The proposed parking lot accommodates 25 cars, with space to expand to 40. A turnaround and drop off enables buses to unload kids for field trips or camping excursions. The entry road would be gated during the shotgun hunting season, when the park will be closed.

Master Plan Improvements Summary

Short Term Development:

- » Gravel entry road and parking lot
- » Portable vault toilet
- » Natural surface trail loop
- » Rustic river access
- » Park Signage

Long Term Development:

- » Paved entry road and parking lot with turnaround and drop off
- » Trailhead kiosk
- » Learning Lab & outdoor classroom with fire pit
- » Amphitheatre
- » 5 picnic shelters (two full-sized, three rustic)
- » 2 permanent vault toilets
- » 1-acre group camp
- » Two group recreation areas (archery, low ropes course, nature play, horseshoes)
- » 1+ miles of soft surface trails
- » 1.5 miles of paved 8' wide trails
- » Accessible river access

Natural Resources:

- » Enhanced restoration efforts around recreation areas
- » Selective clearing only as needed
- » Invasive species monitoring and management
- » All development avoids Mima mounds

Accommodations & Amenities

Nielsen Memorial Preserve will have a group camping area with space for up to 40 tents. It is intended that this campsite would be available for reservation by scouting or other formal group learning programs. There is room to expand the camping area to accommodate larger groups if there is demand.

Picnic shelters and comfort amenities are focused near the parking lot for convenience and to limit degradation of the Preserve's precious natural resources. The entry road, trails, and other amenities are all sited to avoid Mima mounds and will be field adjusted according to the results of the Natural Resources Inventory (ongoing as of 2020). Visitors can stop to picnic or gather at two full-sized picnic shelters or any of three rustic (single table) picnic shelters along the park's trails. Two vault toilets serve the park. An overlook provides views from the upland forest down more than 50' to the Zumbro River below.

Recreation

In addition to trail-based passive recreation, Nielsen Memorial Preserve will have two dedicated active recreation areas. Programming is intended to suit groups, such as those using the park for camping, field trips, or classes, in addition to welcoming individual users. Activities envisioned include archery, a low ropes course, horseshoes, and a creative nature play/ fort building area. The Preserve is well-suited to other nature-based recreation such as fishing at either of the park's river access points, birding, geocaching, and orienteering.

Outdoor Education

The new Learning Lab building anchors the park entry, presenting visitors with park maps, ideas for self-guided activities, and information on upcoming events. It also provides space for groups to conduct nature-based educational programming like owl pellet dissection or examining microbes in river water. A portion of the Lab



The Learning Lab building



Flexible classroom facility in the Learning Lab



Outdoor Classroom

could be reserved for use by researchers or academics studying features in the park. An outdoor classroom and fire pit will offer a place to gather together to share and learn. The amphitheater will function as a tertiary classroom space, and could also host presentations, demonstrations, or other programming for larger groups.



Amphitheatre



Rustic Picnic Shelter & Overlook



Rustic River Access



Picnic Shelter



Group Campsite



Rustic Picnic Shelter



Vault Toilets



Accessible River Access



Trail bridges over ravines



Paved trails through woods



Shared use sustainably built natural surface trails



Invasive species removal efforts

Trails

The Preserve’s proposed trail network will allow visitors to explore the park on paved or natural surface trails, offering several loop experiences of varying distances. Two bridges help visitors navigate the park’s ravines. Trails will be shared between hikers and mountain bikes, with an ADA accessible segment linking the parking lot with the Learning Lab/classroom, fire pit, amphitheatre, and river access. Trails will not be cleared in the winter, but will be open to snowshoers or back country skiers. A trailhead kiosk off of the parking lot orients visitors to the trail network.

Programming Plan

The Learning Lab and outdoor classroom, once built, will be well-suited to hosting researchers from nearby universities, classes from area elementary or high schools, citizen scientists, and other groups interested in nature-focused gatherings. Coordination of its use will be managed by Goodhue County staff.

The Zumbro River Watershed

Goodhue County will partner with the Zumbro River Watershed on projects or research they may wish to undertake on park land. Education programs through the Zumbro Watershed Partnership could be held at the learning lab, outdoor classroom, or amphitheater.

River Bend Nature Center

Goodhue County staff have coordinated with the Executive Director at River Bend Nature Center regarding the opportunity to partner together on outdoor education. River Bend has expressed willingness to help develop complimentary programs to those offered at the Nature Center, including having one of River Bend’s naturalists come out to Nielsen Memorial Preserve to facilitate. Use of Nielsen Memorial Preserve as a satellite location for Nature Center programming could be

marketed as “River Bend on the Road” and include school field trips tailored to Nielsen’s unique landscape.

River Bend Nature Center has also offered use of their buildings as alternate program locations if a scheduled Nielsen Memorial Preserve program faces a rain day prior to the Learning Lab being built on site. River Bend Nature Center believes that partnering with Nielsen Memorial Preserve will help increase awareness of both facilities, and will help to get more people outdoors.

The MN Department of Natural Resources

The MnDNR’s School Forest Program has many benefits and could help facilitate educational programming at the Preserve for interested schools. Goodhue County staff are open to connecting with local educators and administrations to pursue a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for their use of Nielsen Memorial Preserve as a School Forest. Once built, the Learning Lab could store a variety of equipment for School Forest programs, including:

- » Plastic Tubs for water/specimen collection
- » Magnifying glasses
- » Microscopes
- » A projector and screen for presentations
- » White board(s) and markers
- » Easels and writing utensils
- » Waders
- » Snowshoes
- » Archery equipment
- » Binoculars
- » Books and other resources
- » Bug spray, sunscreen, hats, and spare winter gear
- » Exploration backpacks



A low ropes course and/or nature play area is proposed for one of the group recreation areas



Orienteering



Low ropes courses promote teamwork



Free play using found materials



Archery is proposed as a potential group recreation activity

Programming coordinated by typical School Forest educators is not contingent on there being a building available onsite, and includes:

- » Scavenger Hunts
- » Orienteering
- » Camping trips for kids and parents
- » Project Learning Tree lessons
- » Project WET lessons
- » School Forest Club
- » Summer Urban Wilderness Camp

Local Schools

Kenyon-Wanamingo High School's biology teacher says the Preserve would be an "excellent resource for their environmental curriculum." Goodhue County staff is supportive of his vision of using the park to provide hands on learning for ISD 2172 students on the following topics and programs:

- » Water quality
- » Forest ecology
- » Climate change
- » Flora and fauna
- » Dwarf trout lily census
- » Song bird census
- » Outdoor skills
- » Winter survival
- » Photography
- » Maple syruping
- » Mapping
- » Orienteering
- » Night hikes
- » Interdisciplinary school projects
- » Special units with multi-generational participation
- » History of the Land (elders tell their stories)

The Cannon River STEM School is also interested in potentially using Nielsen Memorial Preserve for education. They have a naturalist on staff who used to work for River Bend Nature Center and could guide their students in nature-focused outdoor learning.

Scout Groups

The Boy Scouts of America have expressed interest in reserving the Preserve's group camping area and utilizing the park's group recreation areas for outings or camping trips. Natural resource based activities like birding, orienteering, geocaching, and biocaching can be conducted on site with minimal infrastructure and virtually no impact to the environment.

Kenyon-Wanamingo Community Education

Nielsen Memorial Preserve can host Kenyon-Wanamingo Community Education programs that draw participants from across the County, offering events including:

- » Intergenerational Fishing Programs / Take a Kid Fishing Day
- » Photography classes
- » Family camping night
- » Nature art programs
- » Historical Days (Volunteers in traditional dress participating in teepee, lumberjack, trapper pelts, candle making demonstrations, etc.)
- » Volunteer Days (Earth day, Buckthorn busts, etc.)
- » Mushroom hunting and foraging
- » Birdhouse/Bathhouse building
- » Snowshoes and cider events
- » ECFE storytime walks
- » No-school day programs
- » Fitness classes (yoga, zumba, guided hikes)
- » Kids intro to mountain biking
- » Low ropes course team building

Interpretive Plan

Nielsen Memorial Preserve intends to offer a variety of interpretive methods including signage panels, topical exploration prompts, and app-based learning in order to help interpretive messages engage a larger variety of visitors. Signage and interpretive media on a variety of topics will be developed as trails and programming are implemented. Subjects like the Mima mounds, spring ephemerals, big woods habitat, and guarding against invasive species will be essential to explore. Features that assist with interpretation, such as overlooks, can be designed to integrate interpretive elements. Exploration backpacks with gear and educational prompts could be checked out from the Learning Lab to guide visitors interested in specific topics. And even before formal infrastructure investments are made in the park, Nielsen Memorial Preserve-specific projects can be created in iNaturalist or other smart phone apps in order to help to guide exploration and learning on site.

Marketing & Signage

Goodhue County will promote use of the Nielsen Memorial Preserve through their websites, wayfinding, signage, direct mail, and public events and meetings. A ribbon cutting will be held upon completion of the park's entry as a formal grand opening to the Preserve.

Nielsen Memorial Preserve social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram will share updates on park progress, photos, events, and programming.

Partnerships with local institutions, such as schools, local fitness organizations, community centers, and the Goodhue County Health and Human Services Department will encourage local residents to engage in healthy activities and learn about nature by visiting the Preserve.

Signs directing people to Nielsen Memorial Preserve along Hwy 60/ Kenyon Blvd will allow for easy recognition and access by travelers. Brochures and other marketing materials for the Preserve could be posted in complementary recreation facilities like Nerstrand Big Woods State Park, River Bend Nature Center, and Rice Lake State Park, for those who would like to expand their visit to include similar nearby attractions.

Ecological and Land Resources Plan

The Nielsen Memorial Preserve was so named because the land was acquired from Harold Nielsen, who donated this undeveloped forestland to the County in the interest of maintaining it for public enjoyment. Because the land is relatively untouched, restoration is not needed, making monitoring and management of the existing landscape the focus of any natural resource related efforts.

The phasing of the park was designed to facilitate gentle public use while limiting unnecessary disturbance, with soft surface trails being developed first, and then selectively paved in later stages. Trails will be sustainably designed and field staked in order to minimize tree clearing and prevent erosion. If cultural resources are encountered during park development, they will be protected, and avoided wherever possible. Interpretation regarding these features would enrich the park experience for visitors. Care will be taken to limit clearing in active recreation areas and to preserve quality oaks and other native trees. As areas of the park get developed, restoration of adjacent habitat disturbed due to construction will be necessary.

Goodhue County Staff has reached out to DNR ecologists, and is open to participating in the DNR's Natural Heritage and Nongame Research program to contribute to the MN Biological Survey, Natural Heritage

Information System, and other projects for conservation planning. Discussions are also beginning about using the Preserve for species identification training. Additionally, if a JPA is reached with a school for participation in the DNR's School Forest program, Nielsen Memorial Preserve will work with the DNR to create a stewardship plan for the park.

Bringing visitors into an environment like this can be a risk, as they have the potential to bring invasive species with them into the park, especially along trails. Providing [interpretive signage](#) about preventing the spread of invasive species will help to educate visitors. Nielsen Memorial Preserve could become a PlayCleanGo partner (like nearby River Bend Nature Center), to show their commitment to promoting environmental best practices in the park. Boot brushes will be installed at key locations and paired with informative signage, and the kiosk at the park's entry can hold informational materials. Monitoring the most trafficked areas for introduced species like garlic mustard, cutleaf teasel, tansy, buckthorn, tatarian honeysuckle, reed canary grass, phragmites, and other invasives will be essential to maintaining the land in its current state of outstanding quality. An additional County staff member may be considered to assist with park operations and maintenance.

Because hunting is not allowed within the park boundary, the deer population will be monitored. If overpopulation is a concern and deer begin to affect the quality of the understory, culling the herd should be considered to stabilize the population.

GIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THE BRUSH OFF.

Clean Your Gear Before Entering And Before Leaving The Recreation Site.



Help Prevent The Spread Of Invasive Plants And Animals.

- **REMOVE** plants, animals & mud from boots, gear, pets & vehicle.
- **CLEAN** your gear before entering & leaving the recreation site.
- **STAY** on designated roads & trails.
- **USE CERTIFIED** or local firewood & hay



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS.
PlayCleanGo.org

GIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THE BRUSH OFF.

Shoes can carry the seeds of invasive plants like garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Please brush them off before entering and leaving this area.



Wild Parrot
Perisoreus canadensis



Wild parrot has an iridescent blue-green color that is very bright in the presence of sunlight (photoluminescence).

What's The Problem?

Garlic mustard is a non-native species that is highly invasive. It is a non-native species that is highly invasive. It is a non-native species that is highly invasive.

- Non-native seed and plant parts are carried from one place to another on our shoes, vehicle tires, by the wind and flying seeds.
- Garlic mustard is a non-native invasive plant—one of many that were introduced or inadvertently introduced to Minnesota.



Garlic Mustard
Alliaria petiolata



Garlic mustard has a strong, pungent odor and is highly invasive. It is a non-native species that is highly invasive.

Other Invasive Plants On The Move...

Leafy Spurge
Sparganium angustifolium



Leafy spurge is a non-native species that is highly invasive. It is a non-native species that is highly invasive.

Common Buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica



Common buckthorn has a strong, pungent odor and is highly invasive. It is a non-native species that is highly invasive.



STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS.
PlayCleanGo.org

Clean Your Gear Before Entering And Before Leaving The Recreation Site

Examples of interpretive signage available through PlayCleanGo to educate people on best practices for preventing the spread of invasive species



Chapter 5 **IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT**

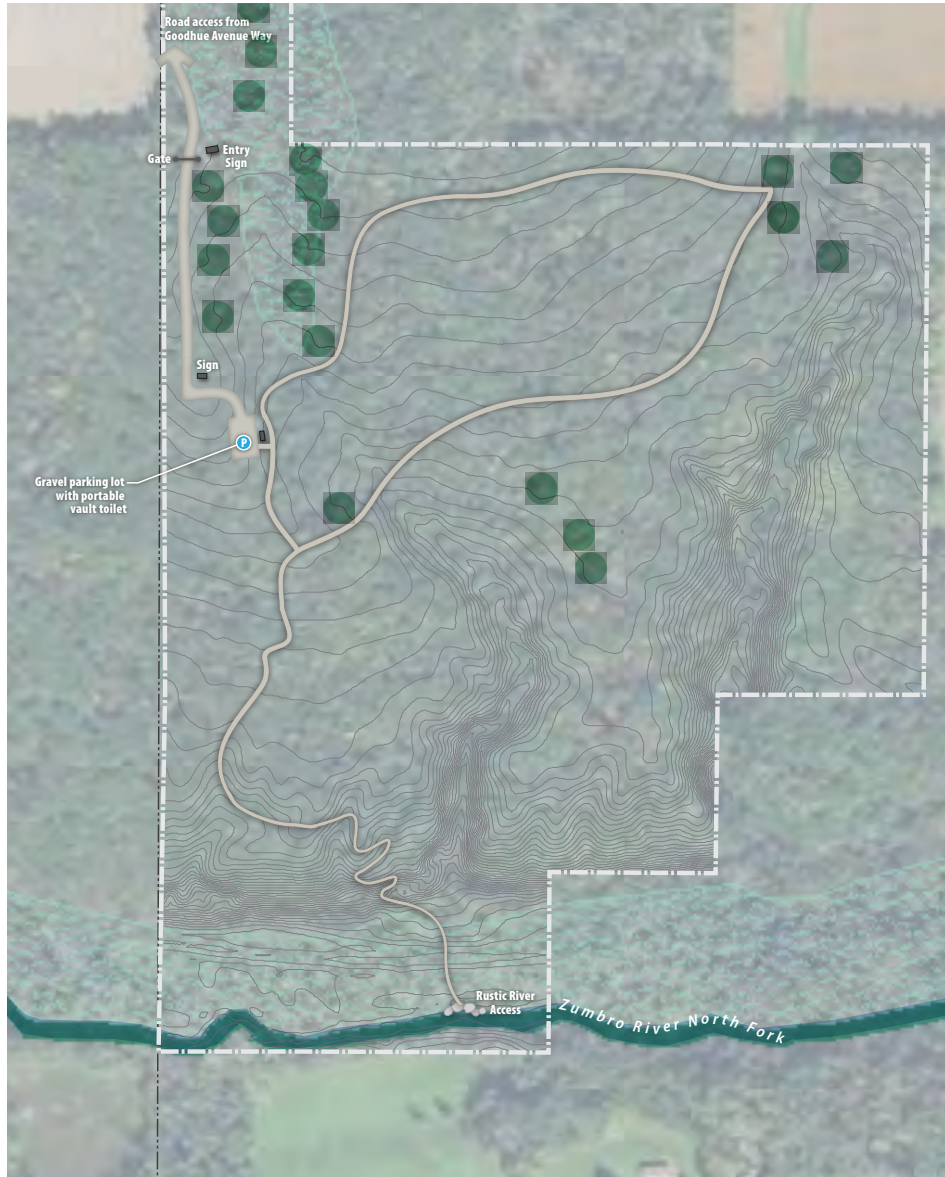
Overview

The elements in the Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan are proposed to be implemented according to the phasing and priorities listed in this chapter, but will remain flexible to accommodate changes in funding and availability over the coming years.

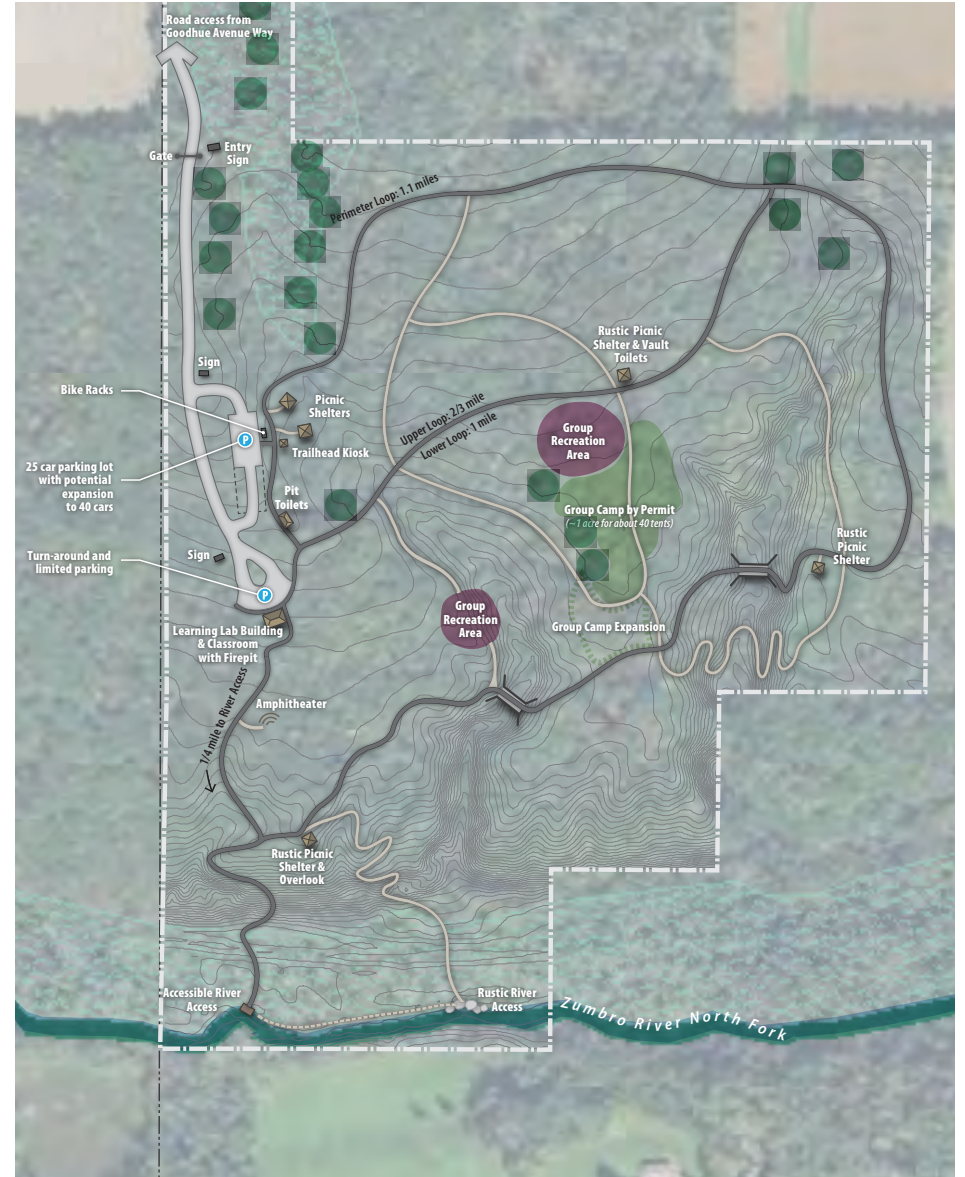
Phasing indicates when the project will be implemented. The action items have been organized into short and long-term phases:

- » Short-term projects should occur first, based on available resources, desire for use, or needing to happen before another project.
- » Long-term projects are those that will be completed after the short-term projects have been established. These are projects that will require significantly more time to gather resources, funds, and conduct further planning in order to be realized.

Phasing



Short-term



Long-term

PHASING COSTS SUMMARY

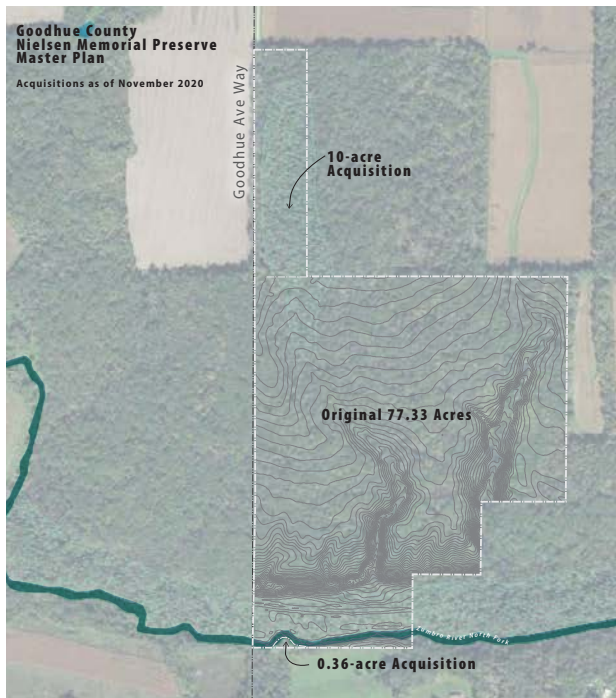
TOTAL SHORT-TERM ESTIMATE	\$327,600
TOTAL LONG-TERM ESTIMATE	\$5,197,400
TOTAL MASTER PLAN COST ESTIMATE	\$5,525,000

Short-term Improvements

PARK AREA	AMENITY	ESTIMATED COST
Park Access	Monument Sign on Hwy 60	\$20,000
General	Trash and recycling receptacles	\$12,000
Entry Area	Gravel Entry Road	\$75,000
	Signage	\$15,000
	Gate	\$2,500
	Trailhead Kiosk	\$15,000
	Gravel Parking Lot	\$7,500
	Port-a-potty	\$2,500
Trails	Phase 1 Soft Surface Upper Trail Loop	\$92,500
River Access	Rustic River Access	\$10,000
Short-term Improvements Costs	Short Term Improvements Subtotal	\$252,000
	10% Contingency	\$25,200
	20% Engineering & Design	\$50,400
	Short-term Improvements Total	\$327,600

Long-term Improvements

PARK AREA	AMENITY	ESTIMATED COST
Park Access	Paved roadway from Hwy 60/ Kenyon Blvd to Park Entry Drive	\$585,000
Entry Area	Paved Entry Drive	\$225,000
	Paved Parking Lot	\$101,500
	Well	\$50,000
	Vault Toilets	\$25,000
	Picnic Shelters	\$125,000
	Bike Racks	\$2,000
	Bus Turnaround	\$87,500
	Bus Drop Off	\$55,500
	Learning Lab	\$1,250,000
	Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheatre	\$20,000
Fire Pit at Outdoor Classroom	\$5,000	
Trails	Phase 2 Soft Surface Lower Trail Loop	\$157,500
	Soft Surface walking/biking trails (middle loop to access group camp)	\$87,500
	Upper Loop Paved walking/biking trails	\$222,000
	Ped/ Bike Bridges	\$60,000
	Soft Surface walking/biking trails (outer loop)	\$105,000
	Lower Loop Paved walking/biking trail	\$337,500
	Rustic Picnic Shelter	\$15,000
Group Camp	1-acre Group Camp	\$50,000
	Rustic Picnic Shelter with Vault Toilets	\$50,000
	Two Group Recreation Areas	\$30,000
River Access	Accessible River Access	\$12,000
	Rustic Picnic Shelter & Overlook	\$50,000
General	Benches and Lighting	\$40,000
	Natural Resource Restoration & Management	\$250,000
Long-term Improvements Costs	Long Term Improvements Subtotal	\$3,998,000
	10% Contingency	\$399,800
	20% Engineering & Design	\$799,600
	Long-term Improvements Total	\$5,197,400



Acquisition

Two acquisitions have been made since the gifting of the original parcel of land in 2016. 10 acres were acquired in 2018 along Goodhue Avenue Way. An additional acquisition of a small, 0.36-acre parcel south of the river was also completed. Together, these acquisitions expanded the boundary of Nielsen Memorial Preserve as noted above, making the total area of the park 87.69 acres.

For natural resource protection, there would also be value in acquiring adjacent properties of similar quality to the existing preserve, especially wooded properties to the north or east, which also contain Mima mounds, as well as areas along the river.

In all cases, Staff will entertain park land acquisition in the case of willing sellers. All purchases will need to be approved by the Goodhue County Board.

Park Ordinances

Goodhue County has a park ordinance for Nielsen Memorial Preserve, and may revise or update it as development occurs within the park.

Research Plan

Goodhue County will participate in the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission research initiatives (visitation counts, use profiles, recreation demands, and trends surveys, etc.) as these programs are developed over time. The County may monitor park use and conduct more surveys or questionnaires in line with the physical development of elements within this park master plan.

Operations & Management

It is envisioned that management and operations will be primarily the responsibility of the Goodhue County Public Works Department, in coordination with any future volunteers. The County will consider hiring an additional staff member who could coordinate and carry out park operations and maintenance, including monitoring and maintaining natural resources.

Management

Goodhue County establishes policies and goals for its park system and through an annual budget provides capital and operating funds for parks and trails.

General Operations

Goodhue County staff will be responsible for the operation of Nielsen Memorial Preserve.

Where there are opportunities for operational partnerships, perhaps with later stage development like the Learning Lab and outdoor classroom, Goodhue County may enter a joint powers agreement with partner agencies. When possible, the County will

encourage and advocate for volunteers to assist with outdoor education programs, patrol, park clean-ups and special events.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance activities for the park will include:

- » Trash collection
- » Tree trimming
- » Trail and pavement repair
- » Sign maintenance
- » Building/shelter repair and maintenance
- » Invasive species management and removal

Natural Resource Management

Nielsen Memorial Preserve is currently a highly functional ecosystem that provides habitat, water quality, and other ecological benefits to the area. Promoting human access to this landscape will help to connect people to nature, but also requires careful management so that impacts to the ecosystem are reduced.

Once built, trails should be monitored for signs of erosion, and repaired as needed. The plant communities in the Preserve should be surveyed for invasive species, especially where visitor traffic is present (i.e. along trails). County staff may need plant identification training to learn how to properly identify invasive species. Specialized management activities, like controlled burns or targeted invasive removal, may be contracted as needed. Aggressive, non-native species such as buckthorn should be removed seasonally in order to prevent spread. This can be done as part of a maintenance contract, or by a volunteer crew led by an experienced natural resource professional.

Developing a written management plan that prescribes specific protocol for care of the Preserve is suggested as

the park is developed. The [DNR Forester](#) may be a good resource for development of a Woodland Stewardship Plan. The DNR also has regional plant ecologists who can offer [ecological assistance](#). Managing and preventing the spread of invasive species should be included in such a plan, as well as protocol for monitoring and controlling deer populations, should they become problematic for the park.

Water Quality

The site's ravines will be monitored for erosion as the park develops. The County may reach out to Goodhue County Soil & Water Conservation District if it has concerns about erosion or sediment loading to the river, and will endeavor to prevent overall water quality impacts in park construction and management.

Pavement Management

Nielsen Memorial Preserve contains both natural surface and paved trails, in addition to a parking lot. Pavement deteriorates as it ages. Regular pavement maintenance can prolong its lifespan in a cost effective manner.

Enforcement and Security

Visitors will be informed of park and trail rules and regulations through strategically located kiosks and signs that address specific information about hours, trails, permitted and prohibited activities, and directions. Local law enforcement and public safety agencies will be responsible for emergency and criminal complaints within the Preserve. While the Preserve will be the responsibility of the Goodhue County Sheriff, collaboration with the Kenyon Police Department is anticipated to assist with providing a local law enforcement presence.

A locking gate at the Preserve's entrance is proposed so that County staff can reinforce the park's open and close times if needed and keep the area secure during hunting season and overnight use by youth groups.

Public Awareness

Goodhue County will promote use of the park and trail through their websites, wayfinding signage, direct mail, and public events and meetings. Partnerships with local institutions, such as schools, local fitness organizations, and the Goodhue County Health and Human Services Department will encourage local residents to engage in healthy activities by using the Preserve and its trails.

Conflicts

The existing park location is compatible with surrounding land uses, including private residences, whose owners participated in this master planning process. Minor conflicts will occasionally arise from private property owners' or neighboring residents' sensitivity to park and trail recreation or maintenance uses. Goodhue County will continue to work with individual landowners to resolve these issues case by case as the park is developed.

Public Services

There may be a need for additional public services as park facilities are developed. Sustainable building materials and methods, eco-friendly options such as solar powered lighting, self-composting toilets or wells, and other low impact development will be considered. Stormwater will be treated on site.

Programming

Nielsen Memorial Preserve contains passive recreational amenities that allow users to choose how and when to access the park and its trails, and for how long. Potential programming of the Preserve and its trails includes:

- » Nature-based education
- » Camping
- » Walking/hiking groups
- » Introductory or family mountain biking
- » Fishing
- » Birding
- » Orienteering
- » Citizen science
- » Restoration/maintenance volunteering

In order to fully realize the above programming options, the County may seek to partner with the following groups or others:

- » MnDNR's School Forest Program
- » Kenyon-Wanamingo Community Ed
- » River Bend Nature Center
- » Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- » Zumbro River Watershed
- » Boy Scouts of America
- » Carleton College
- » St. Olaf University
- » University of Minnesota- Rochester
- » Local school districts (ISD 2172) and schools
- » Minnesota Orienteering Club
- » Capable Partners (local non-profit that supports accessible outdoor recreation)
- » Volunteer groups
- » Master Naturalists of Minnesota

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

The development of Nielsen Memorial Preserve provides an opportunity for local groups and organizations to become engaged in the construction and maintenance of facilities that are of benefit or interest to them. For example, a volunteer day may result in the establishment of a new segment of trail, removal of a patch of invasive species, creation of a rustic picnic shelter, or construction of a new stage for the amphitheater. This level of engagement can build pride and attachment in the preserve as an asset to the community, all while teaching valuable skills and connecting participants to nature. The master plan is intended to provide a framework that ensures improvements support the long-term vision for the preserve.

Budget and Funding

Funding for initial capital cost and ongoing operations and maintenance costs is essential for a successful regional park. Funding will be primarily the responsibility of Goodhue County. There will be an emphasis on seeking outside funding in the form of grants.

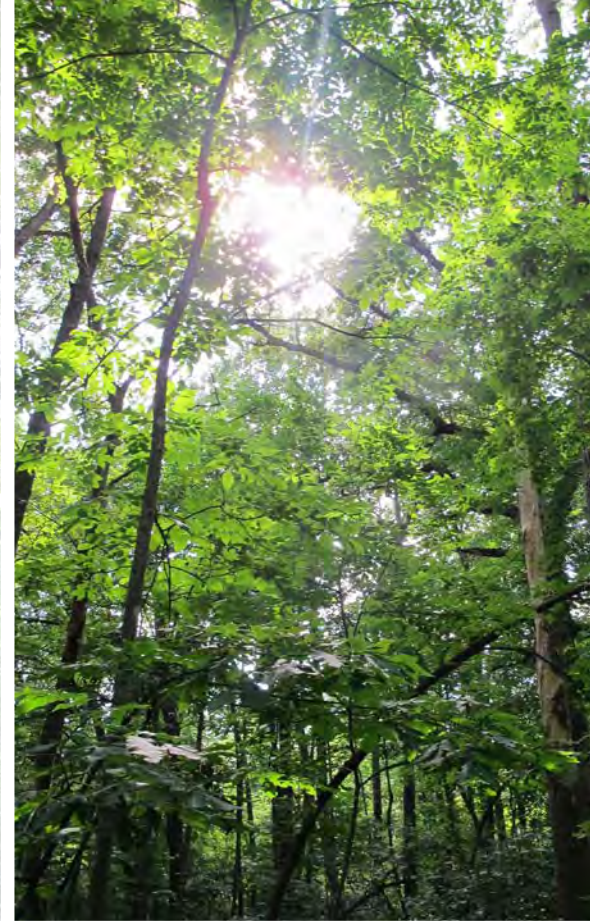
It is anticipated that a portion of future capital projects will be well-positioned to secure regional or state funds for recreation, water quality improvements, and habitat restoration. These sources will contribute to capital construction costs. Examples of outside funding sources include:

- » Park dedication funds
- » Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission funding
- » [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)
- » Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds
- » Foundations and nonprofits
- » Statewide Health Improvement Program

Funding for operating and maintaining the park and trail facilities will be the County's responsibility. Operating costs will be funded through their annual budget.







Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan



APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NIELSEN MEMORIAL PRESERVE MASTER PLAN Engagement

Highlights from Community Engagement + Key Findings

Stakeholder Meeting / Open House (August 2016) Notes

Potential User Groups and General Public

Adjacent Landowner

Online Questionnaire (August 2016)

All Responses

Online Questionnaire (March-April 2017)

All Responses

Online Questionnaire (October 2017)

All Responses

MnDNR Comments

Highlights from community engagement + key findings

Goodhue County

Kenyon Park Master Plan

10.17.2016

Highlights from Community Engagement

Summary of: August 10th Stakeholder meetings, online questionnaire, staff input, Advisory Committee input

1. Natural resource preservation is a 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 evidently wanted the natural landscape maintained to let people enjoy nature on the site, and wildlife to have someplace to live.
 - a. Harold and the surrounding landowners do not want the land logged, wanted it to be a wildlife 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 a main priority, 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 is an option, but 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 should not be 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 – 1st 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 wooded or 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

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS/ open House (AUGUST 2016) notes

Meeting #1 – Potential User Groups and General Public

Opportunities

- Like that no hunting on the property – concern about trespassing onto property; refuge
- Prevention of logging of the site
- Boy Scouts – used for eagle project (e.g. disc golf course in Kenyon, cemetery project) Manual labor – boys can't run chain saws
- Non-motorized – no four vehicles/motorcycles
- Camping – would like water – if do jamboree do 20 troops – need room for about 150 kids. Latrine. Gamehaven in Rochester a site currently use.
- Hiking and birding
- Mary Doer - saw signs of piliated woodpecker
- Nature Reserve – Mn Nature Conservancy – Dwarf/White (not sure which) Trout Lily Reserve. No hunting on that property
- If allow overnight camping then picnic areas

Favorite Part

- Geographic location in County – better to serve this area of the county
- Largest oak grove within 30 to 40 miles in all directions
- Zumbro River through the south part of it
- Varied terrain – level on north, drop to river on south, coulees on east side of property

Adjacent Land/Access Issues

- Security
- Enforcement – who is going to patrol – so far away from Red Wing
- Who owns what part of the road and how the road would it get extended
- Road impassable if rain
- South – would include crossing the river
- Private property on north and east

Facility/Amenity Needed

- Snowshoes
- Cross country skiing
- Hiking – mushroom hunters, berries, birders,
- Mountain biking – closest is Red Wing. Worth considering. More trail maintenance –erosion concerns
- Geocaching – boy scouts have been set up own course
- Zip line
- Kayak/canoe - have done it from Kenyon east – but need hand saw. Epsem bridge – 1 mile to east and then to Monkey Valley Road. Spring and after rains good time.
- Fishing – not much

Concerns

- Restrooms – should plan for some type of facility
- Parking – seems like wouldn't go much into the site. Maybe L shaped with angled parking
- Is kinda wet so may need to be paved/tiled out
- Concern about dust from road impact on neighboring property
- Road getting in one vehicle width
- Saving larger trees
- Unknown whether wetland on the site
- Well – Twp rep didn't think there would be issues with a well – no issues with groundwater. What aquifer need to hit determines the depth for the well
- Water and vault toilets basic amenity needed
- Shelter/Structure – may be good to do. Cannon Valley Trail example? More about getting out of the weather rather than as a meeting spot

Other Comments/Suggestions

- Maybe during the hunting season the park closes – not the bow hunters but shotgun/muzzle season – 1st Saturday in November to early December
- County planning on installing fence posts at regular intervals to mark the boundaries of the park. Clear cut a line to mark it. Reflective band on top to help navigate boundaries
- Need plan for what occurs if shoot deer on adjacent property and runs into the park. State law says that gun has to be left.
- Habitat – deer, woodchucks, squirrels, turkeys, grouse
- Bats to help with mosquitos
- Similar to feel of Nerstrand Big Woods
- Start with natural surface. If highly used then would look at paving
- Difference between Kenyon and Big Woods – is Kenyon just a smaller version? Mary – it does have some of the same features. Not the same access to the water (falls) – main draw for Big Woods. Kenyon is a green space. Did see some impressive oaks.
- Similar to the "Lost 40" – trails throughout with marked trees
- Potential for interpretation related to the woods?
- Brad – big difference between Kenyon and Big Woods is that this one is a lot more walkable. Big Woods more topography. Maybe could make this ADA accessible.
- Mountain biking is an activity that has been requested for Big Woods that is not going to be addressed
- Big Woods – security is really only an issue on weekends when campground is popular. During week coordinate with Rice County
- Low impact type facilities seem to make the most sense. Maintain the quality of the plant community
- Campfire areas or grills? May want to have set area so folks don't create their own place
- Focus on day use rather than overnight – maybe initial phase?
- Nerstrand – sell wood – allow if bring in certified
- Prevent scavenger of wood for campfires
- Education – signage needed about rules, wood

- West side of Kenyon there is a nature area – he takes classes to it. Should follow up with Rich Kincaid again
- Pierce County Education Forest – between Spring Valley and Ellsworth – could this be similar?
- Interpretation – Big Woods History
- Stories about Monkey Valley name – 1) circus went through and monkeys got lose 2) Place where Kenyon residents went to “monkey” around
- Bike Trail from Kenyon to here – easily done along old railroad track – property owners don’t approved. Just south of river at cross Monkey Valley Road. Go through the other reserve – way to connect together. Start at nature reserve in town. Grade still there

Meeting #2 – Adjacent Landowner

Opportunities

- Nature park
- Boy Scout camp
- Not highly developed, not similar to an RV campground – no playground, no roads
- Leave it as least disturbed and low impact as possible, trails and primitive camping, don’t cut down a lot of trees
- Mountain bike trails might create too much of an impact to the landscape
- Keep in mind the draws and the wet areas – work around with trail layout
- The intent from the former land owner (Harold) was to maintain the natural landscape and let people enjoy the nature – this can be accomplished with primitive campsites and trails
- Maintain the boundary/edge of the park to keep people in the park
- Create thoughtful layout of trails and signage to direct people to stay within certain areas
- Display the park rules clearly in the parking lot – this is needed immediately! There are people who want to hunt in the park now.
- Close the park during rifle hunting season
- There was a road from the south at one time – but a bridge would be needed over the river
- How will the access expand the road from the north?
- The road / ROW needs to be surveyed
- Can it be assumed that the parking lot and access road will be on Goodhue County property?
- Porta-potties and water will be needed, trash collection, basic services are needed, minimal would be preferred
- There is a drain tile on the NW corner of the property – it outlets on the park property, there is easement
- There are Indian teepee mounds (15-20’ diam.) in the park, in the NW corner, more visible in the spring – these would prevent a parking lot from being constructed in this area
- River overlook would be nice
- Old trapper’s cabin was near the river on the north side below the cliff, you can still see the cans
- Dwarf trout lily area owned by the Nature Conservancy east of the park, 27 acres

Favorite Part

- It's never been logged, there are very few places that have never been logged – the trees are big and old
- The oaks have taken a beating from the storms this past year
- Harold's vision (former property owner) – Nature Conservancy preservation, but the worry is that they don't have personal history or attachment to the area, he didn't want it logged, he didn't want the wildlife killed, he wanted it to be a refuge
- At the time the elms started dying, Cliff ____ started logging all the elms off people's property, but left the oaks
- Talk to the high school science teacher

Adjacent Land/Access Issues

- Concerns about hunting and trespassing on the adjacent land owners' land
- Who is technically policing this area? >>County sheriff
- Have the DNR and local police been informed of the public land at the park? Local law enforcement should be informed of the existence and location of the park. The Kenyon Police Dept. was asked if they could do a run through the property every so often by the County commissioner. There needs to be a presence out there to prevent people from causing trouble.
- The hunting fine is only \$25 – there should be more of a disincentive to hunting on the property.
- What happens if you injure a deer and it enters the park? A game warden said that you can follow the animal without your weapon and retrieve the animal. Conservation officers should also be informed of the property and the issues with it.
- From Sept-June, the high school has a county sheriff liaison that could be utilized to police the property
- The existing access road is not plowed in the winter, it is a minimal maintenance road. If there are ski or snowshoe trails, then the road will need to be improved and maintained.
- The message from Richland Township is that they don't want to maintain the road or help out with the park. Kenyon Township could help out with the road maintenance for the park.

Facility/Amenity Needed

- Camping? Most of the site is wet, so that is an issue to consider when designating camp sites.
- The science teacher likes to take kids out in winter and build "quincies" – low impact igloo-like structures
- Educational facility for the schools – nature area
- There is a snowmobile trail through the fields, but the old RR bed is pretty much gone for use for a trail

Concerns

- How are you going to keep the people in the park?
- There are 30-year old four wheel tracks that still exist today – don't allow motorized uses in the park
- Erosion and landscape impacts from cow paths and people who don't stay in the designated areas
- There have been kids partying out on the site – they leave a mess on the property

Other Comments/Suggestions

- What are we going to call the park?
 - Monkey Valley Park
 - Monkey Valley Hollow
 - Harold Nielson's Park
 - Nature Preserve / Nature Reserve, not a "park"
- What makes this site different from Nerstrand Big Woods State Park?
- Educate kids and teach them to take care of it and respect it
- Keep a steady presence of users on the site to prevent trouble makers
- Figure out the ROW on the Rice County side

Online Questionnaire (August 2016)

All Responses

Q1 What do you think are the opportunities for Kenyon Park?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	Educational, camping	8/26/2016 7:18 AM
2	I would prefer that it be a low impact park, more like a nature preserve than a park.	8/22/2016 12:48 PM
3	Hiking trails, a bluff viewing site, a larger parking/turn around area, an nature interpretive program, wood duck houses, property boundary markers, bat houses, Eagle Scout invasive species removal projects.	8/19/2016 6:34 PM
4	Recreation and hiking. Local school use for classes.	8/19/2016 1:03 PM
5	Recreation area and also possible school use for outdoor study	8/19/2016 11:52 AM
6	Education	8/16/2016 7:40 AM

Q2 Kenyon Park is located in Section 7 of Kenyon Township. What is your favorite part about this area of the County?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	Near the river	8/26/2016 7:19 AM
2	The peace and tranquility. This is a beautiful area and this property could offer people a place to walk, read, have a picnic, etc in the quiet of the woods.	8/22/2016 12:50 PM
3	Remote and yet easily assessable.	8/19/2016 6:34 PM
4	The woods and river.	8/19/2016 1:03 PM
5	mature forest ecosystem	8/19/2016 11:53 AM
6	The ecological potential for education	8/16/2016 7:40 AM

Q3 If you know of any existing land issues or access issues that concern this future park property, please explain below.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	The road access into the park will need to be addressed.	8/22/2016 12:50 PM
2	I get it that the adjoining landowners like this area as their own private hunting preserve, but this land should be available to ALL Goodhue County residents. Think of it like having a ball field area by my house that their (the Kenyon Park adjoining land owners) children couldn't play on because my children wanted it for themselves.	8/19/2016 6:40 PM
3	access roads	8/19/2016 11:53 AM
4	No	8/16/2016 7:41 AM

Q4 What park facility or amenity is needed in Goodhue County? Can Kenyon Park be a location for it?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

#	Responses	Date
1	Something similiar to shades of Sherwood ; camping, water features, recreational uses such as sand volleyball courts; something to attract guests and offer ammenities	8/26/2016 7:20 AM
2	Walking and hiking trails are very popular.	8/22/2016 12:51 PM
3	A kiosk at the parking area that gives park rules/hours and a little history of the park.	8/19/2016 6:41 PM
4	Hiking and biking trails. An amphitheater for outdoor concerts and events.	8/19/2016 1:04 PM
5	remote classroom site for area schools	8/19/2016 11:54 AM
6	No	8/16/2016 7:41 AM

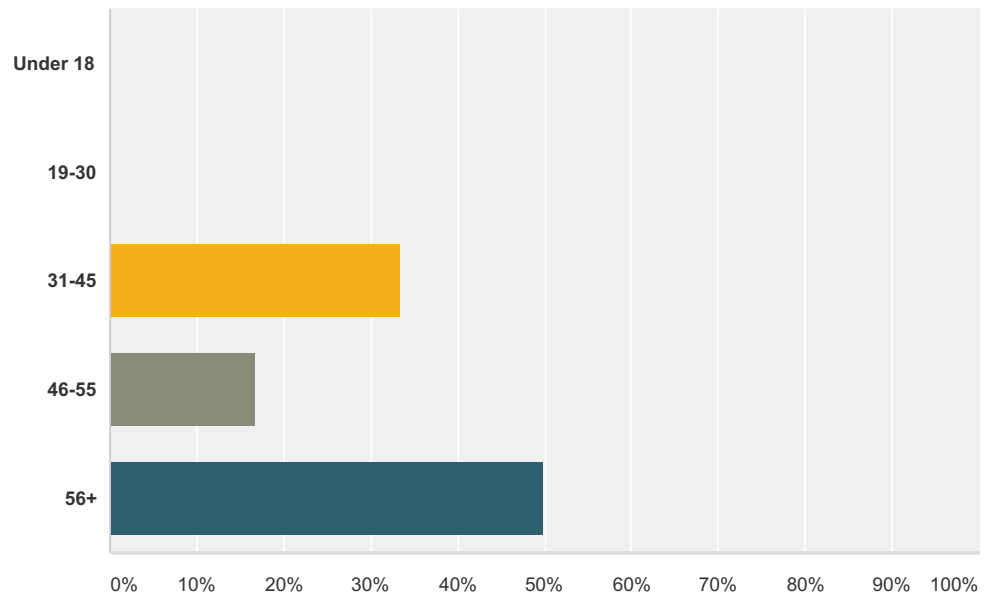
Q5 Do you have any concerns about the future development of Kenyon Park?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 1

#	Responses	Date
1	I would like the County to preserve this land so it doesn't get clear cut.	8/22/2016 12:53 PM
2	It should be kept as a passive recreation park. No play structures, ball fields, lights or buildings other than restrooms and picnic shelter.	8/19/2016 6:43 PM
3	I welcome a park that emphasizes low impact activities. Not snowmobiling. Cross country skiing would be great.	8/19/2016 1:06 PM
4	it should stay a forest ecosystem	8/19/2016 11:55 AM
5	Keep it natural	8/16/2016 7:41 AM

Q6 How old are you? (optional)

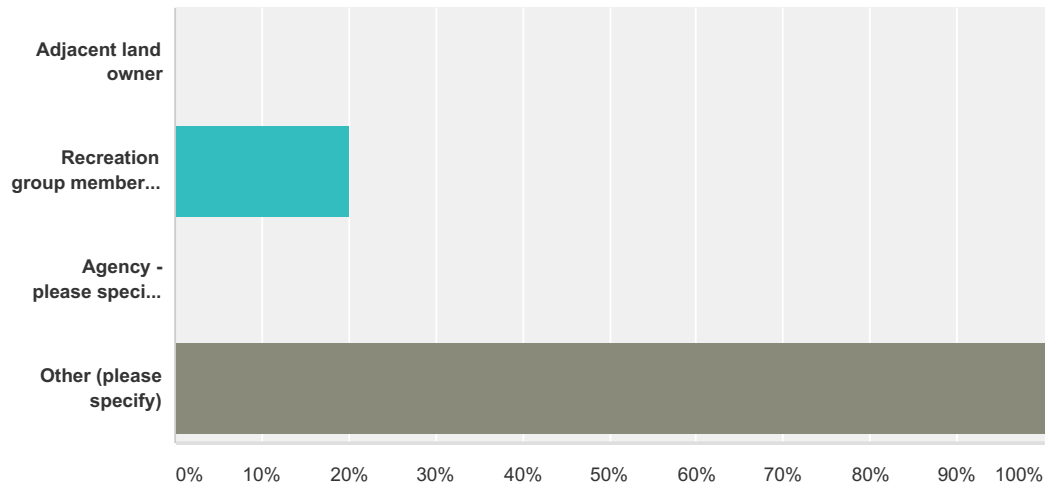
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Under 18	0.00%
19-30	0.00%
31-45	33.33%
46-55	16.67%
56+	50.00%
Total	

Q7 What is your interest in Kenyon Park?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
Adjacent land owner	0.00%
Recreation group member - please specify which group in the Other field below	20.00%
Agency - please specify which agency in the Other field below	0.00%
Other (please specify)	100.00%
Total Respondents: 5	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Resident	8/26/2016 7:21 AM
2	Kenyon resident	8/22/2016 12:54 PM
3	Goodhue County taxpayer	8/19/2016 6:44 PM
4	Local citizen who enjoys the outdoors.	8/19/2016 1:06 PM
5	school teacher	8/19/2016 11:57 AM

Q8 What city or township do you live in? (optional)

Answered: 5 Skipped: 1

#	Responses	Date
1	Cherry Grove	8/26/2016 7:21 AM
2	Kenyon city	8/22/2016 12:54 PM
3	Stanton Township	8/19/2016 6:44 PM
4	Cherry Grove.	8/19/2016 1:06 PM
5	cherry grove	8/19/2016 11:57 AM

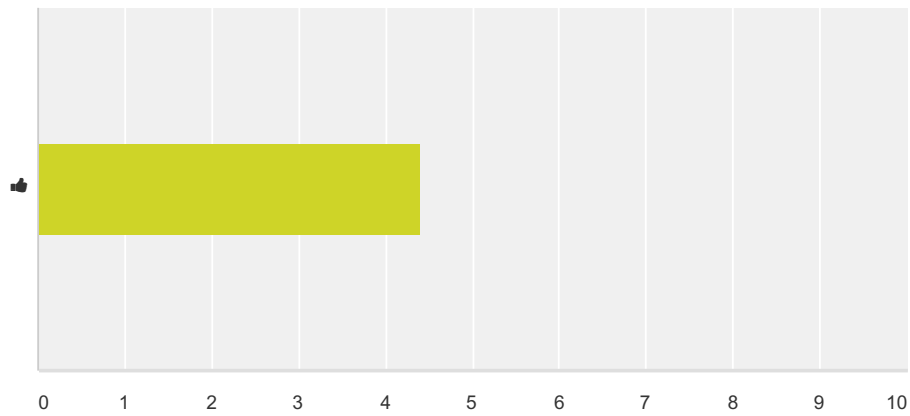
Online Questionnaire (March-April 2017)

All Responses

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q1 Goodhue County Park- Kenyon is envisioned as a natural resource-based regional park along the North Fork of the Zumbro River where woodlands are preserved, wildlife can find a haven, and visitors can explore and learn about nature through trails and natural-resource based educational opportunities. How well does this vision statement represent what you think the park should be?

Answered: 71 Skipped: 1

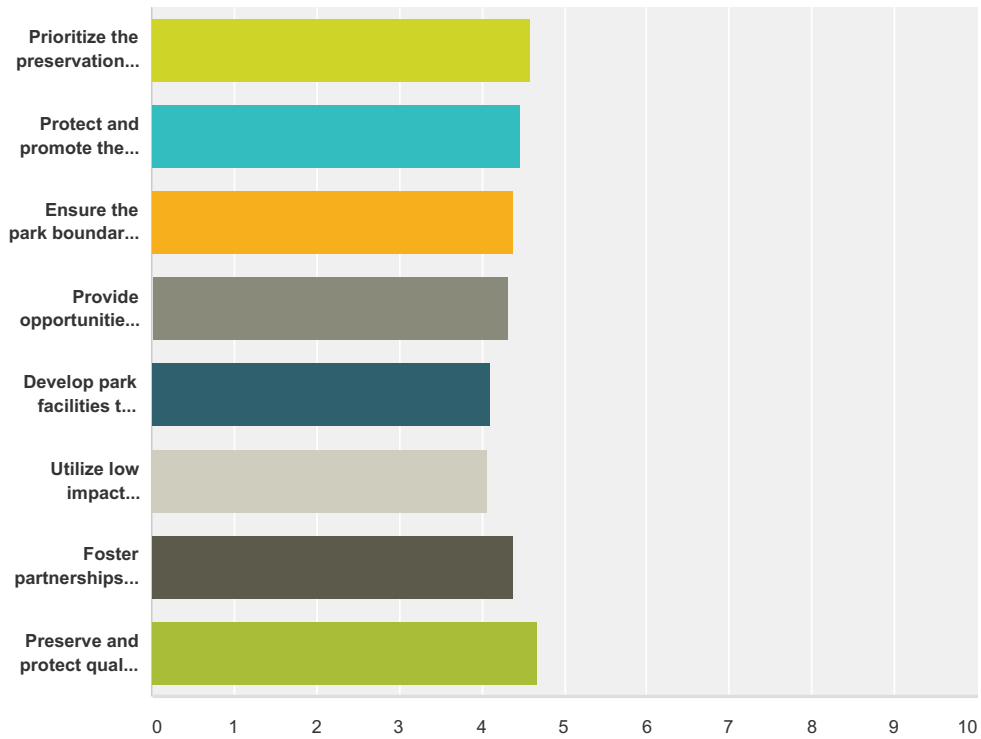


	Not Well	(no label)	(no label)	(no label)	Very Well	Total	Weighted Average
👍	0.00% 0	2.82% 2	9.86% 7	30.99% 22	56.34% 40	71	4.41

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q2 The following Guiding Principles have been drafted to support the vision for the park. Please identify how important you think each guiding principle should be in the development of the park.

Answered: 72 Skipped: 0



	Not Important	(no label)	(no label)	(no label)	Very Important	Total	Weighted Average
Prioritize the preservation and maintenance of the site's high quality natural resources.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.39% 1	37.50% 27	61.11% 44	72	4.60
Protect and promote the site for wildlife habitat.	0.00% 0	1.39% 1	5.56% 4	37.50% 27	55.56% 40	72	4.47
Ensure the park boundaries and rules prohibiting hunting are respected.	2.82% 2	0.00% 0	7.04% 5	35.21% 25	54.93% 39	71	4.39
Provide opportunities for nature-based recreation and events.	1.39% 1	1.39% 1	12.50% 9	31.94% 23	52.78% 38	72	4.33
Develop park facilities to support outdoor education and natural resource interpretation.	0.00% 0	4.17% 3	19.44% 14	37.50% 27	38.89% 28	72	4.11
Utilize low impact development.	1.39% 1	2.78% 2	22.22% 16	34.72% 25	38.89% 28	72	4.07
Foster partnerships to build, operate, and maintain the park.	0.00% 0	2.78% 2	8.33% 6	37.50% 27	51.39% 37	72	4.38
Preserve and protect quality natural resources for future generations.	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.39% 1	30.56% 22	68.06% 49	72	4.67

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

#	If you have suggestions for new guiding principles, please include below.	Date
1	Difinitely have a small campground with water, electric and sewer available.	4/6/2017 9:45 AM
2	Trails should be as scenic as possible to give people a chance to "get away" and be surrounded by nature.	4/6/2017 7:53 AM
3	Some place where families can gather for a picnic, reunion, event.	4/4/2017 2:59 PM
4	Minimize development such as buildings, etc. Focus on access through trails and try to preserve the park in its natural state.	4/2/2017 2:21 PM
5	It is possible to respect nature and love animals while being a hunter. I feel a partnership the KW Boy Scouts is one of the best ways to balance Natural Education, Primitive Camping, and Public Recreation Facilities for a ground breaking opportunity like this one.	3/27/2017 8:04 PM
6	I believe that all these goals are very important - in addition I would like to see a trail to Kenyon that could be utilized by families for walking & biking, perhaps have a playground for a respite when families arrive, and then also some additional hiking paths. Maybe tie into Trondheim so that an access path can be established for them to link to town? I believe a walking/biking path is sorely needed for our town.	3/27/2017 11:25 AM
7	Develop and post rules for dog owners. Possibly provide cleanup tools for dog owners.	3/27/2017 11:10 AM
8	Make sure there are activities for families and people of all ages (early childhood too)	3/27/2017 10:43 AM
9	I would like to see a part of the park in my community open or have other land set aside for hunting. It is a great opportunity for people who do not have land to experience the hunting experience.	3/27/2017 10:01 AM
10	A hiking/biking/running path to be utilized year-round would be a welcome asset in this area.	3/24/2017 11:33 PM
11	Enforce park borders to respect local landowners' property from trespassers outside the park.	3/24/2017 12:00 PM
12	Camp grounds would be nice.	3/24/2017 11:23 AM
13	When will groups (ie. Boy Scouts) be contacted on interests to partner and develop this park? Remember this is to be a county/ regional park.	3/15/2017 5:03 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q3 What aspects of the trail circulation would you like to keep?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 42

#	Responses	Date
1	All because I enjoy trail running as well as biking	4/5/2017 8:15 PM
2	I like that it is in a loop. This would be very easy to navigate. I also like that there is access to the river.	4/4/2017 3:12 PM
3	None	4/4/2017 5:32 AM
4	?	4/4/2017 2:28 AM
5	They all seem good.	4/4/2017 12:07 AM
6	I like the combination of paved & natural trails.	4/3/2017 10:10 PM
7	parking and campgrounds and the 2-3 miles of hiking trails	4/3/2017 8:16 PM
8	All of it.	4/3/2017 3:21 PM
9	I like the trail system, both paved and gravel to allow for different types of biking and hiking.	4/2/2017 2:25 PM
10	all	3/29/2017 6:26 AM
11	Both the paved and natural surfaces trails have good potential in their inclusion of natural terrain features. I like the mountain bike idea and hope that there are minimal conflicts with walkers. The bus turnaround is a good idea.	3/27/2017 8:25 PM
12	Looks good - don't have enough knowledge of the area to have opinion of trails and access.	3/27/2017 11:28 AM
13	I wish the proposed area would have been closer to Kenyon so that area residents could walk or bike to the park.	3/27/2017 11:17 AM
14	All aspects	3/27/2017 11:10 AM
15	I like all aspects.	3/27/2017 10:47 AM
16	I like all of the proposed options listed would especially like to keep the paved trails for handicap accessibility.	3/27/2017 10:41 AM
17	Access to river.	3/27/2017 10:24 AM
18	picnic table locations	3/27/2017 7:43 AM
19	The picnic shelters and bathrooms	3/27/2017 7:10 AM
20	Like it they way I see it here	3/26/2017 5:26 PM
21	The mix of biking and hiking paths.	3/26/2017 11:31 AM
22	No initial concerns about the trail circulation	3/26/2017 10:36 AM
23	The paved trail, although the south side could be the access to the group camp and perhaps have the middle piece a little further north to provide more separation between hikers and group camp operations.	3/25/2017 2:13 PM
24	Good trail maintenance is critical to consider. Paved paths are excellent for bikers and runners.	3/24/2017 11:40 PM
25	I like the mix between paved and natural surface trails	3/24/2017 10:40 AM
26	The perimeter trail.	3/23/2017 2:49 PM
27	Everything except the northern loop - just have parking on either side of the entry road unless there ends up being a need to develop more as time goes on (if the park increases greatly in popularity)	3/22/2017 2:41 PM
28	Trails	3/18/2017 3:43 PM
29	group camp, river access	3/18/2017 3:34 PM
30	Both paved and unpaved access to edge of river.	3/15/2017 5:03 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q4 What concerns do you have about trail circulation in this concept?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 43

#	Responses	Date
1	None the more trails the better	4/5/2017 8:15 PM
2	I think too many trails are paved. I would like to see mostly natural surface trails.	4/4/2017 3:12 PM
3	bikes and pedestrians on the same trail. It would not be a peaceful walk if you are constantly having to move over for bikes to get past.	4/4/2017 3:02 PM
4	None	4/4/2017 5:32 AM
5	?	4/4/2017 2:28 AM
6	Security and police presence. That's a big area for bad things to happen at night and the gate won't stop it.	4/4/2017 12:07 AM
7	None	4/3/2017 10:10 PM
8	None	4/3/2017 5:20 PM
9	None	4/3/2017 3:21 PM
10	Not too much of concerns. Looks like a well thought through plan.	4/2/2017 2:25 PM
11	walking only	3/29/2017 6:26 AM
12	Just that there are three bridge crossing to consider.	3/27/2017 8:25 PM
13	Same as above.	3/27/2017 11:28 AM
14	I wish the proposed area would have been closer to Kenyon so that area residents could walk or bike to the park.	3/27/2017 11:17 AM
15	None.	3/27/2017 10:47 AM
16	a smaller paved trail for handicap accessibility - proposed paved trails look a bit long if pushing a wheelchair.	3/27/2017 10:41 AM
17	Sewage from camp ground	3/27/2017 7:43 AM
18	Na	3/27/2017 7:10 AM
19	Looks good to me	3/26/2017 5:26 PM
20	To much overlap with trails,could be confusing.	3/26/2017 11:31 AM
21	Toilets are far apart. Potable water/fountain near the lab?	3/26/2017 10:36 AM
22	Would like to see the group camp more separate from the natural surface trails.	3/25/2017 2:13 PM
23	Love the paved trail concept. How many miles will it encompass? What hours will the park be accessible to the public? Any scenic overlooks?	3/24/2017 11:40 PM
24	I don't think the paved trails will be as useful that far away from the main drop off area. I would focus the paved trail on the immediate area by the drop off rather than around the perimeter. Also, with my experiences with bikers they prefer to be further from the rest of the visitors so making their main usage trails in the center seems counter productive.	3/24/2017 10:40 AM
25	Unless you have full width trails, they should be one directional.	3/23/2017 2:49 PM
26	Feasibility and cost of accessible river access.	3/22/2017 2:41 PM
27	None	3/18/2017 3:43 PM
28	more natural surface trails, less paved	3/18/2017 3:34 PM
29	Distance from toilets for group camping and group recreation areas. 1000 ft seems a long ways for a high- activity area.	3/15/2017 5:03 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q5 Do you have any concerns about the entry road, parking lot, or drop off?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 41

#	Responses	Date
1	Have a small campground with water, electric and sewer to be available for a few RV's for overnight stays or weekly stays at the entrance area.	4/6/2017 9:47 AM
2	No I like it	4/5/2017 8:15 PM
3	No.	4/4/2017 3:12 PM
4	With only one way in and out - won't it get congested - or do you not foresee that many people using it at one time?	4/4/2017 3:02 PM
5	No	4/4/2017 5:32 AM
6	no	4/4/2017 2:28 AM
7	No.	4/4/2017 12:07 AM
8	No	4/3/2017 10:10 PM
9	I'm unclear of the location off of Gate Ave Way. Is this 2-3 miles out of town or on the edge of the city limits?	4/3/2017 8:16 PM
10	No	4/3/2017 5:20 PM
11	No	4/3/2017 3:21 PM
12	Probably not enough parking. If parking becomes an issue, less people will use the park.	4/2/2017 2:25 PM
13	no	3/29/2017 6:26 AM
14	Looks Good!	3/27/2017 8:25 PM
15	Looks reasonable as long as it has room for future expansion if needed.	3/27/2017 11:28 AM
16	I wish the proposed area would have been closer to Kenyon so that area residents could walk or bike to the park.	3/27/2017 11:17 AM
17	None	3/27/2017 10:47 AM
18	none	3/27/2017 10:41 AM
19	no	3/27/2017 7:43 AM
20	No	3/27/2017 7:10 AM
21	Well thought out	3/26/2017 5:26 PM
22	No	3/26/2017 11:31 AM
23	No initial concerns about these features	3/26/2017 10:36 AM
24	No. I like having picnic shelters and toilets close to the parking area for people who come for a picnic. BTW, what facilities will be provided in the group camp?	3/25/2017 2:13 PM
25	Are parking passes required?	3/24/2017 11:40 PM
26	I think the parking lot is way too big. I would like spots for 12-15 and more natural area rather than the possibility to expand to 40. I like the idea of a bus turn around but it's not very likely that you'll get bus loads of people. Most educational groups that are visiting will be much less than a bus full unless you have an entire grade of educators that are comfortable teaching outdoors which in my experiences is extremely unlikely.	3/24/2017 10:40 AM
27	There should be a path extension at the turn-around for small buses and elderly persons drop off.	3/23/2017 2:49 PM
28	Seems over-developed, but could be done in phases as the need arises.	3/22/2017 2:41 PM
29	No	3/18/2017 3:43 PM
30	no	3/18/2017 3:34 PM
31	Where does the entry road meet the public road. Boy Scout troops would need adequate road and parking to accommodate vehicles with troop trailers. To accommodate future growth of the north parking lot, I would suggest moving the south entrance of that lot to the south end of the expansion area, so it would not be a bottleneck area if expanded.	3/15/2017 5:03 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q6 Do you have any concerns about the programming shown? Are there other types of recreation you would like to see at the park?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 33

#	Responses	Date
1	RV campground at entrance area.	4/6/2017 9:48 AM
2	No I like it all...add dirt horse riding trails?	4/5/2017 8:18 PM
3	I think it could be a real asset and addition to recreation/nature opportunities in the area.	4/5/2017 8:23 AM
4	This looks great! The outdoor lab and amphitheater would be great for elementary-high school age classes/educational opportunities.	4/4/2017 3:13 PM
5	More picnic areas - a pavilion in case it rains. More playground stuff for kids. Educational stops on the walking path.	4/4/2017 3:06 PM
6	High rope, or zip line	4/4/2017 7:54 AM
7	No	4/4/2017 5:33 AM
8	looks good	4/4/2017 2:28 AM
9	There is substantial legal liability with the ropes course and archery ideas. The other ideas look good.	4/4/2017 12:11 AM
10	All sound very appropriate	4/3/2017 10:11 PM
11	I love the idea of a low ropes course, archery and the amphitheatre. Wide natural paths would be nice noting that walkers and mountain bikes are sharing the trail. A natural play area would be a nice option for children. Open ended play with movable sticks, small stumps etc.	4/3/2017 5:26 PM
12	All programming should be educational and related to outdoor recreation or natural sciences.	4/3/2017 3:28 PM
13	I think we should minimize the large playground structures. Like the structure in Zumbrota Park gets just limited use. Spend the limited resources on good trails, bathrooms, picnic shelter. The trail quality is key. Make sure there are a lot of water stations.	4/2/2017 2:28 PM
14	walking trails for walking only	3/29/2017 7:30 PM
15	I think the amphitheater would be a better fit 150-200 feet south of its current location facing roughly 195 degrees southwards. This would place the presenter closer to the hill's cusp in order to place the benches into a potentially better angle with minimal ground work.	3/27/2017 8:33 PM
16	Frisbee golf would be a fun activity that would possibly draw youths away from their video games!	3/27/2017 1:08 PM
17	My main concern would be staffing - you would need pretty extensive staff to run and monitor for safety. I would like to see a playground for children and maybe some other fun activities that would not require staff to supervise.	3/27/2017 11:31 AM
18	make sure it is handicapped accessible	3/27/2017 11:10 AM
19	No. They look great!	3/27/2017 10:47 AM
20	Looks great! Just want to see activities suited for toddlers as well	3/27/2017 10:44 AM
21	none	3/27/2017 10:42 AM
22	Canoe/kayak launch.	3/27/2017 10:25 AM
23	no	3/27/2017 7:43 AM
24	Different ways to help preserve nature... keeping places clean	3/27/2017 7:12 AM
25	Not in favor of archery range. Too dangerous.	3/26/2017 5:27 PM
26	Would love to make a partnership to get some geocaches in the park once trails are established. It's a great way for families to have fun outside together.	3/26/2017 4:42 PM
27	I want to be sure that aspects of the trail are natural and will not cause pollution to the animals.	3/26/2017 11:33 AM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

28	Not sure if need for amphitheater	3/26/2017 11:08 AM
29	Horse trails would likely be popular, too.	3/26/2017 11:02 AM
30	Playground for young children. The rest looks great!	3/26/2017 10:53 AM
31	I like the ropes course. How will the park ensure that mountain biking does not lead to deterioration of landscape? Will the biking trail be maintained and closed temporarily due to an potential serious erosion concerns? Contact Rich Kincaid, high school Ecology and Biology teacher at Kenyon-Wanamingo high school, if you have not done so; he lead many outdoor excursion for his class, both locally and on extended trips to BWCA and would likely have suggestions/input.	3/26/2017 10:40 AM
32	Don't see the need for both an outdoor lab and an amphitheater. Maybe combine the two and place them in the group camp.	3/25/2017 2:17 PM
33	Access for cross country skiing in the winter would be wonderful.	3/24/2017 11:42 PM
34	There is way too much going on for the small area and the lack of a permanent staff person there. We have 8 staff at my park and security systems and still see a lot of vandalism. I think a nature play area would be great, simple, and less likely to be destroyed. Oxbow park (Olmsted co) just added one of these and it's a really great addition. The things that you're proposing require someone that knows how to run them and properly lead the activities. Without that they will turn into a target spot for vandals and I don't believe the funding will be there to constantly repair them. I would really look into a nature play area and scratch the archery, low ropes, and horseshoes. A fire pit near a picnic area or at the amphitheater would be a nice addition as well.	3/24/2017 10:46 AM
35	Love the idea of the archery course/target practice, and the ropes course. Fun stuff for the kids to do. My other concern is how far is the bathrooms from the camping area?	3/24/2017 10:40 AM
36	Anything that would fit with the mission statement would be fine.	3/23/2017 2:50 PM
37	I am concerned about listing mountain biking as an activity with the very small amount of natural surface trails shown on the map.	3/22/2017 2:42 PM
38	Play area, plant and flowER identification	3/18/2017 3:44 PM
39	A ropes course, while a great idea, requires staffing and monitoring for safety and liability. Archery would also require staffing, and a proper safety backdrop from other activities and pedestrian movement. Current site if amphitheater is great, close to outdoor lab and parking, but offers little natural sloping for the purpose. Potential firepit near the amphitheater would be a bonus.	3/15/2017 5:03 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q7 Do you have any concerns or recommendations about accommodations in this concept?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 38

#	Responses	Date
1	You must include an RV campground at entrance area for a few rigs with water, electric and sewer.	4/6/2017 9:49 AM
2	No it's fine	4/5/2017 8:19 PM
3	I am concerned that it won't be as cool as it sounds.	4/4/2017 3:14 PM
4	Is there electricity in the campsite? Are there lights to the bathrooms? Is the campground in a place that won't flood?	4/4/2017 3:07 PM
5	Running water , possibly a shower house in this bathroom facility.	4/4/2017 7:55 AM
6	No	4/4/2017 5:33 AM
7	no	4/4/2017 2:29 AM
8	No.	4/4/2017 12:12 AM
9	That is agile for some to get to a toilet.	4/3/2017 10:12 PM
10	None	4/3/2017 8:17 PM
11	No	4/3/2017 5:26 PM
12	toilets seem a bit far from the camping area...	4/3/2017 4:59 PM
13	I like the idea that only tent camping would be allowed.	4/3/2017 3:29 PM
14	I would move all picnic shelters to the parking lot area. People are not going to carry their coolers to the other end of the park. I would not build the outdoor lab right away, since the park is basically a lab. A shelter with some benches is all that's needed to hold a great class about natures biology. I would like to see drinking water available at a few locations around the trail.	4/2/2017 2:32 PM
15	The South recreation area might be limited for its use being placed in too steep of ground. Perhaps placing it opposite to the trail west of its current position. If the amphitheater is moved further South the recreation space will be less of a distraction to presentations.	3/27/2017 8:39 PM
16	Is there potential of toilets closer to campers? Will there be staff for camp sites or are campers on their own? What do pit toilets include? Are they basically an outhouse ? Will there be any plumbing or showers? Or is that a security risk?	3/27/2017 11:34 AM
17	no	3/27/2017 11:11 AM
18	None	3/27/2017 10:47 AM
19	Couldn't the toilets be closer to the camping?	3/27/2017 10:43 AM
20	none	3/27/2017 10:42 AM
21	no	3/27/2017 7:44 AM
22	Toilets should be closer to camp with showers included.	3/27/2017 7:13 AM
23	No	3/26/2017 5:27 PM
24	Restroom available closer to the group areas.	3/26/2017 11:34 AM
25	Toilets closer to group camping area. Access to drinkable water in areas closer to this camping area and amphitheater area where groups would rest need to stay hydrated.	3/26/2017 10:42 AM
26	Could there be a rustic trail between the river accesses? More natural surface trail along the river would be nice. What's the difference between a picnic shelter and a rustic picnic shelter? Also, will water be available in the park other than in the river? I can see campers needing a source of drinking water.	3/25/2017 2:22 PM
27	Would it be possible to host 5k walk/run events?	3/24/2017 11:43 PM
28	Drinking water would be a nice amenity.	3/24/2017 2:45 PM

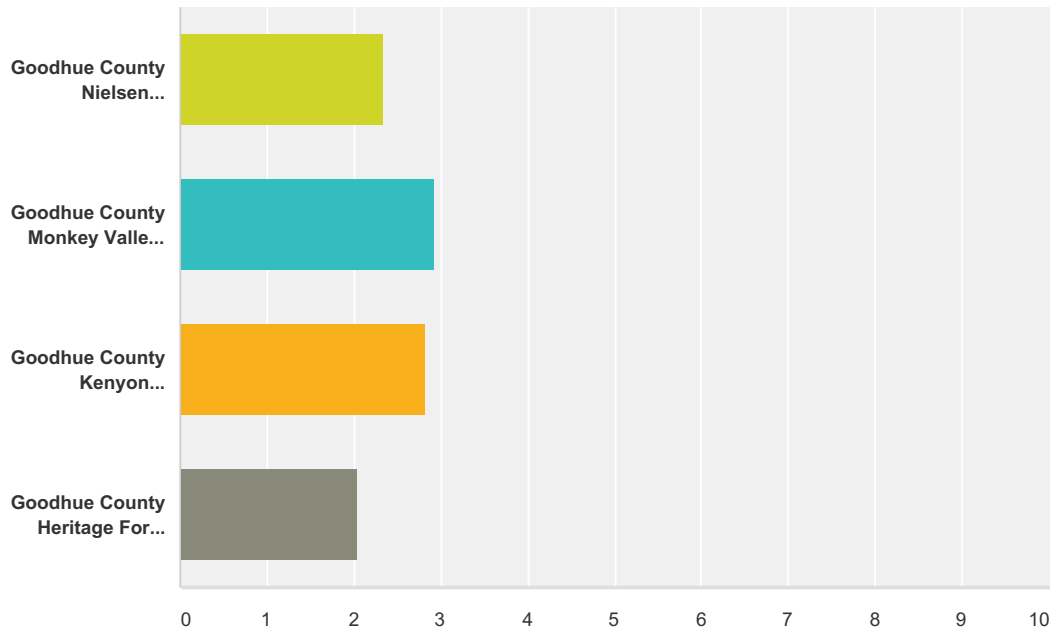
Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

29	I think it would rarely be used. Our site has a camp site open to the public. It's a DNR rustic managed site so we don't spend any of our resources maintaining it and it's hardly used. Plus we have 743 acres and are in a town with 15 times the population of Kenyon. I would rather see the site be left wild or much smaller (12 people max). Also, the more things you put off trail the more susceptible to the spread of invasive species. The area right now is pretty clear of invasives but once you attract more people that is going to majorly change and someone will have to actively manage the area so we don't compromise the purpose of the park (natural area, wildlife sanctuary)	3/24/2017 10:51 AM
30	Possibly have toilets closer to the camping grounds	3/24/2017 10:40 AM
31	No	3/23/2017 2:50 PM
32	No.	3/22/2017 2:43 PM
33	would families be able to reserve this space- or only community groups?	3/18/2017 3:38 PM
34	There needs to be closer toilet accommodations for these areas, especially group camp! Will small fire rings be allowed in group camp area? Will there be any accommodations for hauling gear to and from group site, other than by foot? Depending on the grade and vegetation, I would recommend that most of the group camp area, especially the perimeters, be kept divided into alcoves and nooks by vegetation and trees.	3/15/2017 5:04 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q8 A name for the park has not yet been chosen. Please rank the following list of potential names identified to date.

Answered: 57 Skipped: 15



	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve	25.00% 13	19.23% 10	19.23% 10	36.54% 19	52	2.33
Goodhue County Monkey Valley Preserve	40.74% 22	31.48% 17	7.41% 4	20.37% 11	54	2.93
Goodhue County Kenyon Woodlands Preserve	29.09% 16	34.55% 19	25.45% 14	10.91% 6	55	2.82
Goodhue County Heritage Forest Preserve	10.00% 5	14.00% 7	46.00% 23	30.00% 15	50	2.04

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

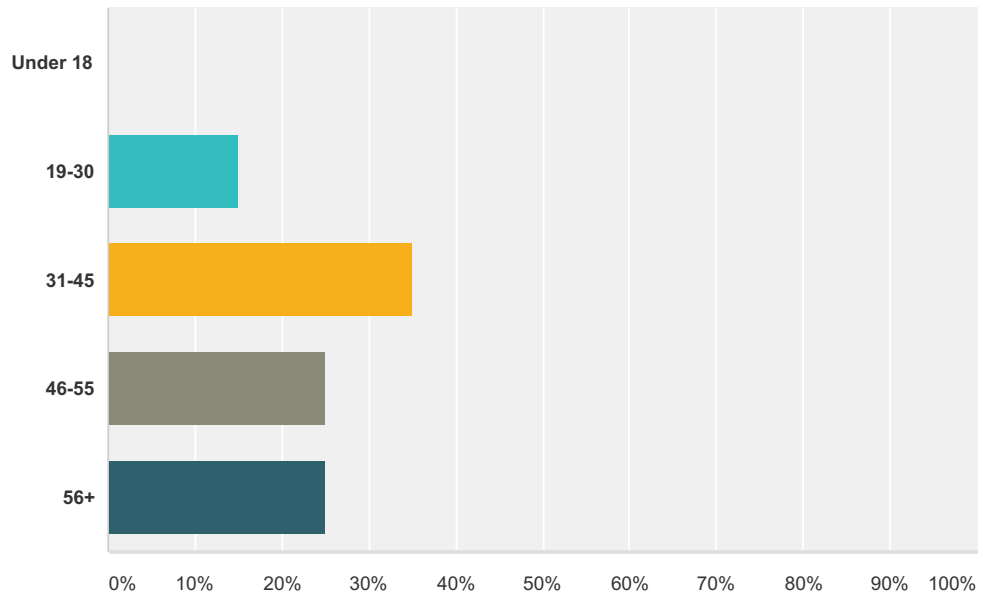
Q9 Do you have another idea for a name? If so, please list below.

Answered: 10 Skipped: 62

#	Responses	Date
1	Replace "preserve" with "Park"	4/4/2017 3:15 PM
2	Like Kenyon Woodlands Preserve - wouldn't let me rank	4/3/2017 10:14 PM
3	N/A	4/3/2017 3:30 PM
4	Goodhue County Nielsen Woodland Preserve	3/27/2017 11:36 AM
5	GC Heritage Woodlands Preserve	3/27/2017 10:47 AM
6	none	3/27/2017 10:43 AM
7	Kenyon Area County Park	3/27/2017 7:45 AM
8	No	3/26/2017 5:28 PM
9	How about changing the last one to Goodhue County Nielson Heritage Preserve	3/25/2017 2:25 PM
10	Love the idea of it being named Monkey Valley Preserve!!	3/24/2017 10:41 AM

Q10 How old are you? (optional)

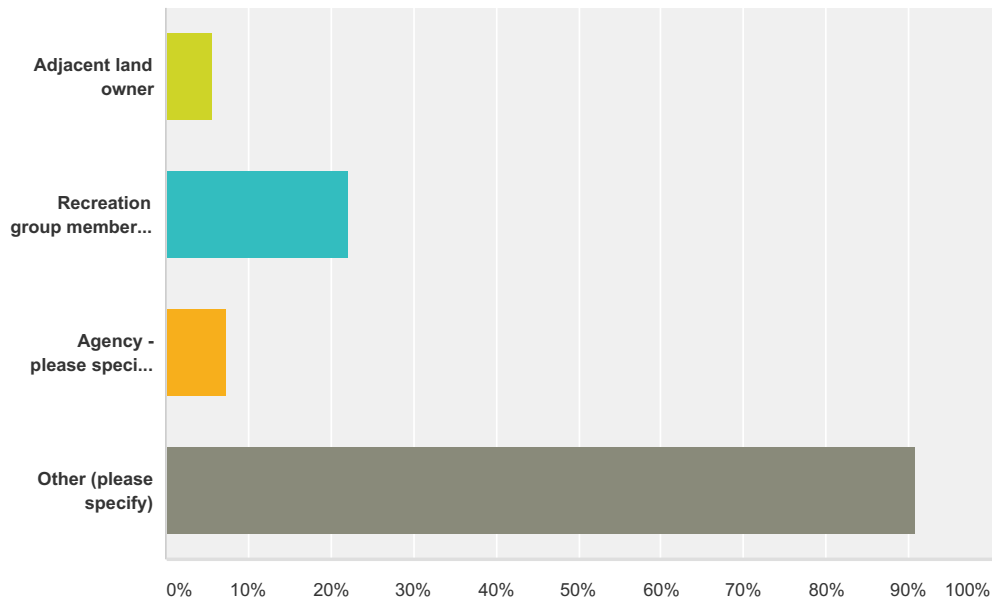
Answered: 60 Skipped: 12



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Under 18	0.00%	0
19-30	15.00%	9
31-45	35.00%	21
46-55	25.00%	15
56+	25.00%	15
Total		60

Q11 What is your interest in Kenyon Park?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 18



Answer Choices	Responses
Adjacent land owner	5.56% 3
Recreation group member - please specify which group in the Other field below	22.22% 12
Agency - please specify which agency in the Other field below	7.41% 4
Other (please specify)	90.74% 49
Total Respondents: 54	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Land owner NE of Kenyon but now spend most of my time in northern Minnesota.	4/6/2017 9:52 AM
2	Runner	4/5/2017 8:22 PM
3	none	4/5/2017 1:38 PM
4	KW graduate, live in Kenyon	4/4/2017 3:16 PM
5	community member	4/4/2017 3:09 PM
6	Work in Kenyon, children in Kenyon school	4/4/2017 7:58 AM
7	Kenyon resident	4/4/2017 5:35 AM
8	visitor	4/4/2017 2:31 AM
9	Taxpayer and local resident	4/4/2017 12:14 AM
10	Community member	4/3/2017 10:15 PM
11	Kenyon community member	4/3/2017 8:18 PM
12	Naturalist	4/3/2017 7:34 PM
13	Local parent/teacher	4/3/2017 5:29 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

14	hiking and biking	4/3/2017 5:01 PM
15	Resident of Nerstrand, employed in Kenyon. I am very excited for this opportunity for these communities.	4/3/2017 3:31 PM
16	I'm looking for a trail to ride road bike and mountain bike, as well as running and cross country skiing. If we can get a great managed groomed cross country ski trail in this area it would be a great asset to the surrounding communities as well as high school sports.	4/2/2017 2:35 PM
17	Kenyon resident	3/29/2017 7:32 PM
18	NWTF, BSA	3/27/2017 8:48 PM
19	Resident	3/27/2017 11:37 AM
20	resident of Kenyon	3/27/2017 11:19 AM
21	user	3/27/2017 11:13 AM
22	Educator for KW	3/27/2017 10:49 AM
23	close neighbor to the park	3/27/2017 10:48 AM
24	School district employee	3/27/2017 10:46 AM
25	resident of Goodhue County	3/27/2017 10:44 AM
26	Work in Kenyon and live nearby.	3/27/2017 10:26 AM
27	Area resident	3/27/2017 7:45 AM
28	Went to school in kenyon and as the science class does a big boundary waters trip every year it would be nice to have something local for kids to do too	3/27/2017 7:14 AM
29	Average Joe	3/27/2017 7:01 AM
30	County resident, potential user	3/26/2017 5:29 PM
31	Teacher and a member of the Minnesota Geocaching Association	3/26/2017 4:44 PM
32	Boy Scouts	3/26/2017 11:59 AM
33	Local Citizen	3/26/2017 11:35 AM
34	citizen of Kenyon; employer/employee in Kenyon	3/26/2017 11:10 AM
35	Community member, environmentalist, and outdoor recreation enthusiast.	3/26/2017 11:04 AM
36	Town resident	3/26/2017 10:54 AM
37	area resident, reporter for the News-Record paper	3/26/2017 10:45 AM
38	Kenyon	3/25/2017 2:27 PM
39	Kenyon resident	3/24/2017 11:47 PM
40	Family members are adjacent landowners	3/24/2017 12:05 PM
41	Geocaching	3/24/2017 11:27 AM
42	Frequent user of nearby natural, environmental educator	3/24/2017 10:54 AM
43	kenyon resident	3/24/2017 10:41 AM
44	Goodhue County park user	3/23/2017 2:53 PM
45	Goodhue County Public Works employee	3/22/2017 2:44 PM
46	Kenton garden committee	3/18/2017 3:46 PM
47	boy scouts; also family hiking/skiing/camping interests	3/18/2017 3:40 PM
48	Teacher	3/15/2017 5:59 PM
49	Boy Scout adult leader- Wanamingo troop & Gamehaven Council; Cherry Grove Township Supervisor	3/15/2017 5:05 PM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

Q12 What city or township do you live in? (optional)

Answered: 50 Skipped: 22

#	Responses	Date
1	Itasca	4/6/2017 9:52 AM
2	Holden township	4/5/2017 8:22 PM
3	Kenyon	4/4/2017 3:16 PM
4	Holden Township	4/4/2017 3:09 PM
5	Cherry grove Township	4/4/2017 7:58 AM
6	Kenyon	4/4/2017 5:35 AM
7	Kenyon	4/4/2017 2:31 AM
8	Kenyon	4/4/2017 12:14 AM
9	Holden	4/3/2017 10:15 PM
10	kenyon	4/3/2017 8:39 PM
11	Holden Township	4/3/2017 8:18 PM
12	city of Kenyon	4/3/2017 5:01 PM
13	Nerstrand, MN	4/3/2017 3:31 PM
14	Wanamingo	4/2/2017 2:35 PM
15	Holden	3/29/2017 7:32 PM
16	kenyon	3/29/2017 6:28 AM
17	holden	3/28/2017 9:09 AM
18	Wanamingo	3/27/2017 8:48 PM
19	Wanamingo	3/27/2017 1:09 PM
20	Kenyon Township	3/27/2017 11:37 AM
21	Kenyon	3/27/2017 11:19 AM
22	Kenyon	3/27/2017 10:49 AM
23	Kenyon township	3/27/2017 10:48 AM
24	City of Zumbrota	3/27/2017 10:44 AM
25	Northfield	3/27/2017 10:26 AM
26	Kenyon	3/27/2017 10:03 AM
27	Wanamingo (City)	3/27/2017 7:45 AM
28	Roscoe township	3/27/2017 7:14 AM
29	Kenyon	3/27/2017 7:01 AM
30	Zumbrota	3/26/2017 5:29 PM
31	Concord	3/26/2017 4:44 PM
32	Wanamingo Mn.	3/26/2017 11:59 AM
33	Aspelund Township	3/26/2017 11:35 AM
34	Kenyon	3/26/2017 11:10 AM

Goodhue County Park-Kenyon Concept Review

35	Cherry Grove	3/26/2017 11:04 AM
36	Kenyon	3/26/2017 10:54 AM
37	City of Wanamingo	3/26/2017 10:45 AM
38	Kenyon Township	3/25/2017 2:27 PM
39	Kenyon	3/24/2017 11:47 PM
40	Cannon Falls	3/24/2017 2:50 PM
41	Kenyon	3/24/2017 12:33 PM
42	Nerstrand	3/24/2017 12:29 PM
43	Kenyon	3/24/2017 10:54 AM
44	kenyon	3/24/2017 10:41 AM
45	Stanton Township	3/23/2017 2:53 PM
46	City of Red Wing	3/22/2017 2:44 PM
47	City of kenyon	3/18/2017 3:46 PM
48	West Concord, Dodge County	3/18/2017 3:40 PM
49	Kenyon township	3/15/2017 5:59 PM
50	Cherry Grove	3/15/2017 5:05 PM

Online Questionnaire (October 2017)

All Responses

Comments on the Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve Draft Master Plan

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, October 08, 2017 8:22:45 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, October 08, 2017 8:30:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:37
IP Address: 24.197.177.27

Page 1: Leave Your Feedback

Q1 Please share any comments you may have on Goodhue County's Nielsen Memorial Preserve Draft Master Plan.

I knew Harold and Louise, worked for them as personal assistant for the last 7 years of their lives, Harold would be very happy with your plan. He wanted the land to be enjoyed for its beauty. Thank you for your care in design and plan.

Comments on the Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve Draft Master Plan

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 13, 2017 10:21:22 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 13, 2017 10:31:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:10:21
IP Address: 108.178.200.254

Page 1: Leave Your Feedback

Q1 Please share any comments you may have on Goodhue County's Nielsen Memorial Preserve Draft Master Plan.

I favor the idea of a paved bike trail in the park, as well as developing a safe connecting path from the city of Kenyon out to the Nielsen Memorial Preserve.

The master plan looks to be very thorough and includes multiple uses from many groups. It will be nice to have this close by!

mNdnr comments

Dear Goodhue County,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Nielsen Preserve Master Plan. We appreciate the extended comment deadline. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments regarding our comments below.

- This piece of land seems like a rare gem in the landscape. We encourage the County to retain its natural features as much as possible given your need for recreational opportunities and infrastructure for the park. We recommend that you concentrate the recreation facilities with the heaviest use into one area of the park with the lowest ecological value rather than scattered throughout the park.
- Consider consulting with DNR Regional Plant Ecologists for questions regarding native plant communities, rare species habitat, and placement of infrastructure projects. The listing of contacts for ecological assistance is found [here](#).
- Protect the cultural features on site (as noted in the master plan: trapper's cabin and teepee mounds, the latter can be seen on LiDAR hillshade image below); for guidance, contact State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA).
- Consider finding funds to purchase a portion of the adjacent field (either in NW of the park in Rice Co. or the NE corner of the park) for an entrance and parking lot to eliminate the need to impact the intact forest.
- Consider the MNDNR's School Forest Program to link your park with local schools for outdoor and environmental education opportunities. Information about this program can be found [here](#).
- Consider consulting with your local DNR stewardship forester on vegetation management projects. Contact information for these foresters are found [here](#).
- We suggest that the County consider applying for a NHIS data license. As a County, you would receive the license for free. The license is provided on a two year basis. Under a license agreement, you would have access to rare features (plant, animal, native plant community) data for the County. Information on the DNR Rare Features data license can be found [here](#). Questions regarding the NHIS should be directed to Lisa Joyal, Endangered Species Review Coordinator (lisa.joyal@state.mn.us; 651-259-5109).
- We appreciate the County's dedication to monitoring the site for invasive species. Please consider adding a boot brush with interpretive signage with information about preventing the spread of invasive species by humans (cars, shoes, gear etc.) Examples of signage can be found [here](#).

Thanks again for your time and consideration. The Nielsen Preserve will be a wonderful park!

Kit Elstad-Haveles & Michelle Martin

Kit Elstad-Haveles

Regional Plant Ecologist | Ecological and Water Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1200 Warner Road

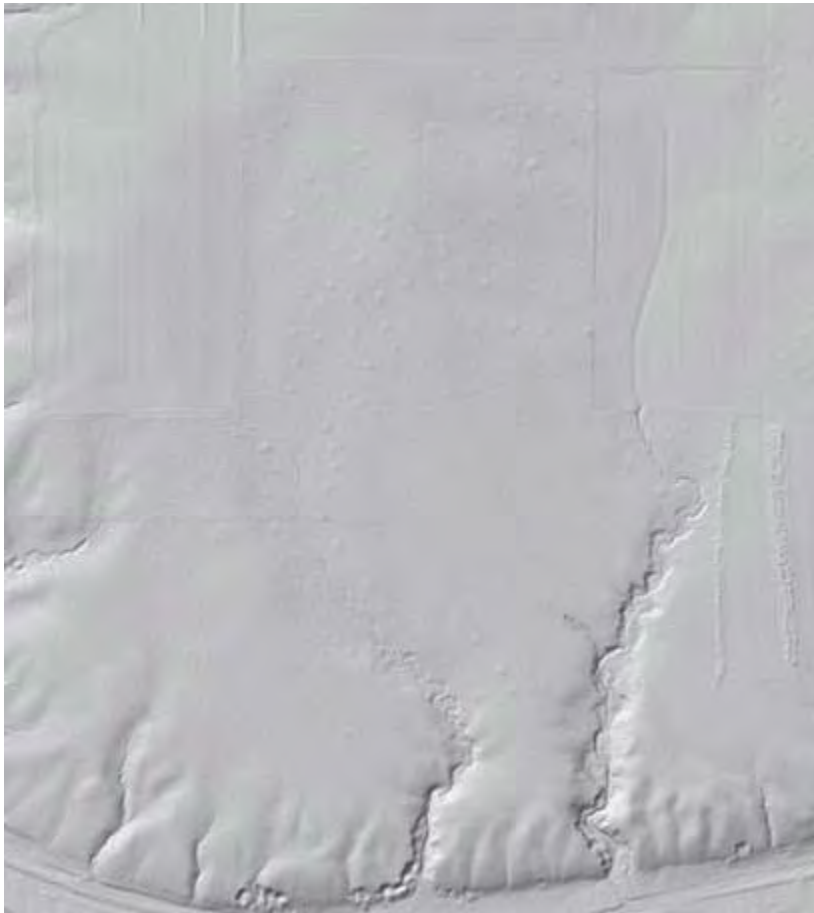
Saint Paul, MN, 55106

Phone: 651-259-5793

Email: kit.elstad-haveles@state.mn.us

Michelle Martin
Ecological Classification Systems Specialist | Division of Forestry
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-259-5836
Email: michelle.martin@state.mn.us

Figure of LiDAR Hillshade of general area, as referenced above (perhaps bumps are the teepee mounds).



MnDNR Comments

From: Froyum, Jacob (DNR) [mailto:jacob.froyum@state.mn.us]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Ziemer, Jennifer
Subject: RE: Files to download

Thank you, the Nielsen Preserve looks like a really cool park. I will try to make a visit sometime soon.

A wrote a couple things below that I noticed when looking through the plan. Don't consider this as the DNR's official stance or anything close; just a few thoughts from me as a land manager.

On p. 14 it says that there is shagbark hickory in the understory. I'd be stunned if it were there since the closest native shagbarks that I know of are probably 50+ miles away. Their native range isn't quite this far west and north. Maybe it is supposed to be bitternut hickory since that is common in the big woods.

P. 23 states a "lack of invasives". I have not been there so I don't know but that is very unlikely. Maybe it is just the wording that caught me as being bold. Maybe "a general lack of invasive plants" or something else that doesn't seem so certain.

It also says "illegal hunting" is a concern but it doesn't say anywhere if there is or will be an opportunity for legal hunting of some sort. Hunting, especially deer, should be left as an option to be regulated by the park. From my experience with similar parks in the Twin Cities and the surrounding area it is occasionally necessary to have a hunt to control deer and there are ways to make that compatible with public access.

Thank you,
Jake Froyum
Program Forester | Cooperative Forest Management | Division of Forestry

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1810 30th St. NW
Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507-333-2012 x223
Fax: 507-333-2008
Email: jacob.froyum@state.mn.us



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CENTRAL OFFICE
500 LAFAYETTE ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55155
651-296-6157
888-646-6367

September 1, 2016

Goodhue County Public Works
2140 Pioneer Rd
Red Wing, MN 55066

To Whom It May Concern:

The following information is being submitted for consideration for Kenyon Park, located in western Goodhue County, west of Kenyon, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), a work unit within the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), ranked the area that encompasses the boundary of Kenyon Park as a site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance. This ranking is given to sites that contain the best occurrences of the rarest species, the most outstanding examples of the rarest native plant communities, and/or the largest, most ecologically intact or functional landscapes.

Additionally, there is the potential for a number of listed species within the boundary of the park. More information is available in the Minnesota Rare Species Guide online:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html>

- **Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily (*Erythronium propullans*):** This species is listed as Federally Endangered and State Endangered. It is a rare ephemeral, endemic forest wildflower found in only three counties of Minnesota (Goodhue, Rice and Steele). This species has been found in the surrounding area along the North Fork Zumbro River.
- **Snow Trillium (*Trillium nivale*):** This species is listed as State Special Concern. This is an ephemeral forest wildflower found in scattered localities of southern Minnesota, including the surrounding area along the North Fork Zumbro River.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the area of the park be surveyed during the peak blooming period for the species in the spring of 2017 (late-April to early-May). Only a small portion in the lowlands near the river was surveyed for Dwarf Trout Lily in 1990. This survey should be carried out by people familiar with the species. Minnesota Department of Natural Resource Botanist, Derek Anderson, and a team of trained volunteers could conduct this survey in the spring of 2017.

If any rare species are found within the park, they should be taken into account when planning for trails or any other infrastructure. The simplest measure would be avoidance of these sensitive areas.

mndnr.gov



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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

mNdnr comments



Thu 4/27/2017 10:09 AM

Anderson, Derek (DNR) <derek.anderson@state.mn.us>

New Goodhue Co Park

To: Rita Trapp; Ziemer, Jennifer; Isakson, Greg

Message

New Goodhue Co Park.jpg (140 KB)

Hi All,

Attached is a LiDAR image of the new Goodhue County Park located west of Kenyon on the Rice/Goodhue Border. I along with 5 volunteers surveyed a good portion of the property for dwarf trout lilies on April 23rd over the course of a couple of hours (we also were on the lookout for snow trilliums as they are known to occur in the valley). We did not find any dwarf trout lilies or snow trilliums. The forest generally has a southern exposure, and as a result, we focused our survey efforts on the ravine and floodplain.

Below are some comments on specific sections of the park (as indicated on the attached map).

1) This area of the forest was oddly very wet. There was standing water in some areas and the ground was very muddy and soft. There was a fair amount of exposed soil, and diversity was low.

2) This area of the forest was of higher quality, and the abundance and diversity of spring ephemerals increased as we headed south (*Erythronium albidum*, *Dicentra cucullaria*, *Cardamine concatenata*, *Trillium cf. cernuum*, *Podophyllum pedatum*, *Anemone spp.*, *Isopyrum biternatum*, *Allium tricoccum*, etc.). The northern half of the ravine in this section was beautiful. The stream gracefully snaked its way through the forest. As you head south down the ravine, more rock is exposed, and it appears that some areas have been impacted by flooding.

3) We spent the most time surveying for dwarf trout lilies in this area, and while a bit degraded, the habitat looked most similar to the known site of dwarf trout lilies to the east. There was some disturbance in the area from flooding.

4) We did not survey this area adjacent to the river and south of the old railroad grade. It is mostly dominated by reed canary grass.

We were not able to get into the northeast corner of the site during this visit, but I do not think there are any dwarf trout lilies in this area of the site based on what we've seen in the rest of the property. I am hoping to get back out here with our regional plant ecologist (Kit Elstad-Haveles) and our regional forestry specialist (Michelle Martin) in a few weeks to further assess the higher quality areas of the property.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions,

Derek





Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Byllesby Park Ordinance Changes

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board review possible changes to the Byllesby Park Ordinance 80-1. Suggested changes will require permitting/variances with Stanton Township, public hearings, and approval by the County Board for their authorization.

Background

The current park ordinance was last amended in 1983.

Cleaning fish is currently not allowed in park buildings. If the Park Board wishes to proceed with the fish cleaning structure, this should be amended to "allowed in designated buildings only" or something similar.

Service animals are not allowed in park buildings or swim areas under the 1983 ordinance.

The current ordinance has a closing time of 10:30 PM and no set opening time. This is due to people hunting and fishing that require boat landing access at very early hours in the morning. Stanton Township currently has operating hours of 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM. Dakota County Lake Byllesby Regional Park has operating hours of 5:00 AM – 10:00 PM. It is suggested that for ease of patrol, rentals, etc., Goodhue County Byllesby Park's operating hours are changed to match Dakota County's operating hours, with the possible addition of "quiet hours" in the early morning. This would require Stanton Township approval.

Parking vehicles with boat trailers in the non-trailer parking lot, and vice versa, has become an increasing issue at Byllesby Park. I am currently working with the County Attorney to determine if changes to the ordinance are required for the Goodhue County Sheriff to issue citations for parking issues, or if this can be accomplished with improved signage.

Recommendations

It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board determine any desired changes to the ordinance, and direct staff to work with Stanton Township and the County Board as necessary.

Goodhue County Park Rules

ORDINANCE 80-1

As Amended

1. The park closes at 10:30 p.m., no overnight camping allowed.
2. The following activities are prohibited in the park:

- To engage in any brawling or fighting, or to engage in offensive, obscene, abusive, boisterous or noisy conduct or to engage in offensive, obscene, or abusive language tending reasonably to arouse alarm, anger or resentment in others.
- To display or to have in one's possession glass bottle containers.
- To use or have in one's possession alcoholic beverages in containers larger than two liters.

To be in possession of or under the influence of any drug which is in violation of federal or state law.

- 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, refuse or trash generated at the park is allowed to be disposed of in the receptacles provided.
- To dispose of cut grass, tree trimmings or personal property on the park grounds.
- To operate or park any motor vehicle within the boundaries of the park except upon designated roads or parking areas.
- To operate any vehicle in a reckless manner or at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit. (15 mph)
- To cut, damage, or remove trees, shrubs, plants, and other vegetation.
- To hunt or disturb wildlife
- To deface, damage or remove any park property
- To clean fish or wash dishes in park buildings.

- To discharge wastewater or sewage onto park property
 - To use, point, discharge or display uncased firearms or other dangerous weapons including explosives, air guns, slingshots, traps, seines, nets, bows and arrows.
 - To place picnic tables in the lake
2. Pets are permitted in county parks. No person shall allow any dog, cat, or other pet animal to enter buildings or designated swimming areas, or permit dog, cat, or other pet animal to be out of control. Such animal shall be attended and effectively controlled, and shall not run at large. All droppings must be picked up and disposed of. Pets shall not deprive or disrupt the enjoyment or use of the park by others.
 3. Horses are restricted to the roadways and designated parking areas. All droppings must be picked up and removed.
 4. Fires are allowed in grills only. Open campfires are prohibited.
 5. Any person who violates the above rules will be asked to conform to those rules or immediately leave the park, said person may be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by the law.
 6. Any person who violates this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to immediate removal from such park.

The park belongs to you. Please treat it with respect and help us to protect it by following the rules.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 80-1 REVISED

The County Board of Goodhue County, Minnesota Ordains: County Parks: Hours and conduct.

Subd. 1. Goodhue County Parks will be open each day of the year from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M., except as otherwise posted, and during emergencies. The public may be on the premises of County Parks during such open hours.

Subd. 2. No person shall, while in a County Park, use a public address system, amplifier or power equipment, or otherwise make noise of a volume tending to alarm, anger or create resentment to others.

Subd. 3. No motor vehicles will be parked overnight in any County Park.

Subd. 4. No person shall operate or have a motor vehicle within the park boundaries other than on established park roads or in established parking areas.

a. Motor vehicle. Motor vehicle means every vehicle which is self propelled, including but not limited to, automobiles, motorcycles, motorized bicycles, and snowmobiles. Motor vehicle does not include a vehicle moved solely by human power.

Subd. 5. Any person who violates this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to immediate removal from such park.



Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Aquatic Invasive Species Removal Lane

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board approve a revised location for an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) removal area, and consider constructing a small covered shelter for the inspector.

Background

Lake Byllesby does not contain significant amounts of AIS at this time. The Park Board has had several discussions regarding the high priority of protecting the lake. Discussions with the AIS inspector at Byllesby Park (as contracted by the DNR) late last summer brought up several concerns with AIS boat inspections and traffic flow issues in the boat trailer parking lot/near the boat ramp.

At that time, Goodhue County had already received a CUP from Stanton Township to construct an AIS removal lane on the west side of the boat trailer parking lot, close to the proposed location for the future fish cleaning structure. However, the AIS inspector explained that she needs to be able to stop boats as they come into the parking lot, as well as before they leave the parking lot.

By moving the AIS lane to the south side of the parking lot, the inspector would be able to stop boats that are entering as well as exiting. The fish cleaning station may also be able to be moved closer to this area so a hose would be in close proximity for people to rinse off their boats. Public Works has not had any engineering staff look closely at the grades in this area to fully explore the potential of this location. If the Park Board is agreeable to the revised location, staff will evaluate grading in this area, seek a revision to the Stanton Township CUP, and move forward with the AIS grant. Public Works Highway Maintenance staff could install the base material for the lane this fall, and bituminous paving could take place as part of the 2022 paving contract next summer.

Alternatives

- Approve the revised AIS location on the south side of the parking lot, have engineering staff evaluate the location, and pursue AIS grant funding to complete the project.
- Hire a consultant to further explore design options for this project.
- Consider building a small shade structure for the inspector.

Recommendations

It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board approve the revised AIS location and proceed with this project and a small shade structure.

Aquatic Invasive Species Removal Station



410140100

410140201

Previous AIS
Removal
Location

approx. length 150'
AIS Lane doesn't need
to be the full length

410140400

5001 HIGHWAY 19 BLVD

GOODHUE COUNTY

Future AIS
Removal
Location

100ft

3. Versatility since it can work well at access sites of all sizes and locations,
4. Flexibility with implementation, site administrators can incorporate all or just a few of the suggested components,
5. Low initial investment, and
6. Minimal maintenance costs in the absence of vandalism

The site requirements for boat clean and drain areas include:

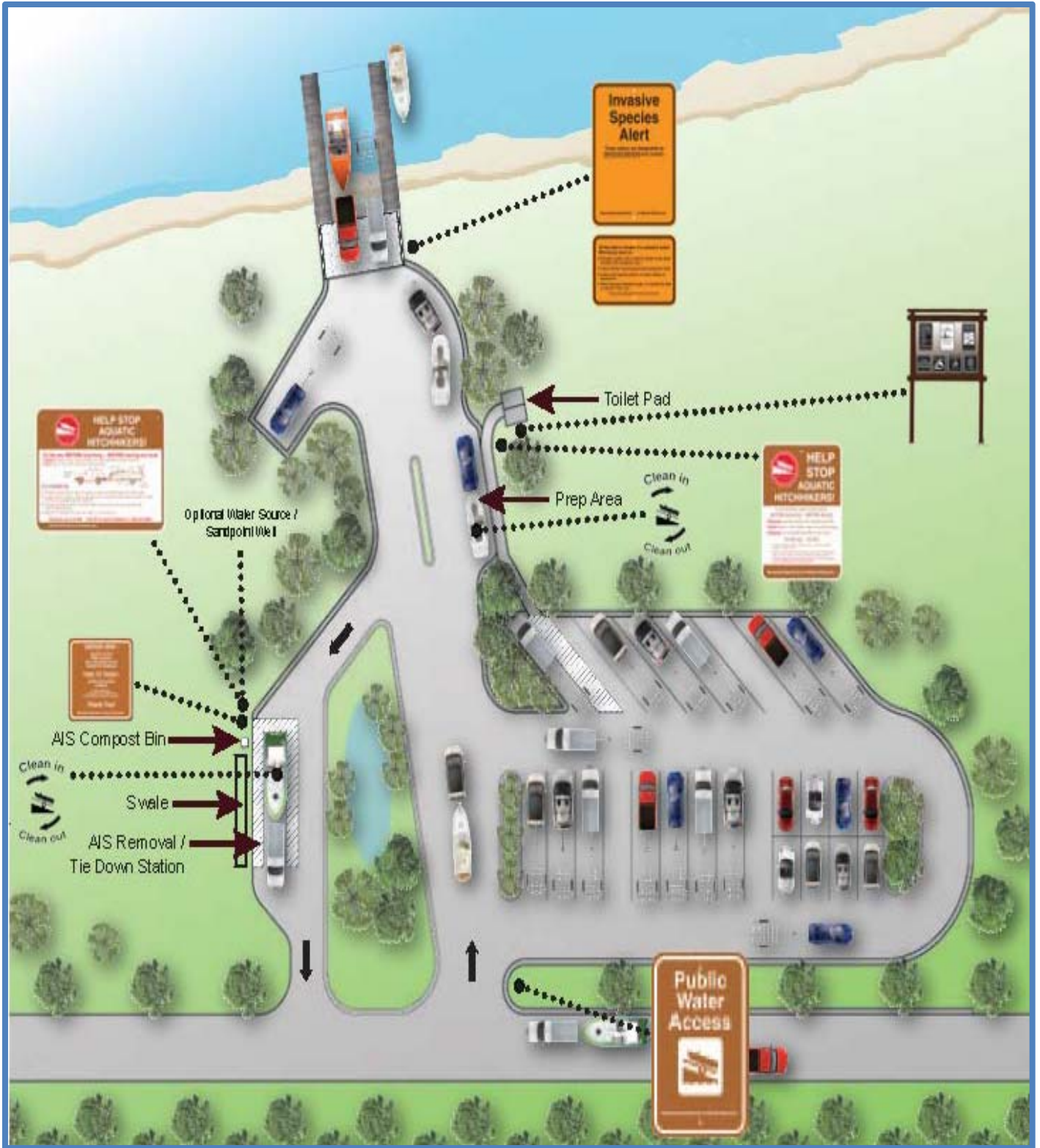
1. A large area of 21' x 54' (i.e., an 11' x 49' trailer parking stall surrounded by a 60" aisle along the side and rear) is needed for user safety and to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements,

2. A level site, no more than a 2% slope in any direction for ADA accessibility, and
3. Drainage away from the waterbody (preferably into its own filtration catchment or swale).

It should be noted that, as with many site improvements, components of clean and drain areas can be subject to vandalism, accumulation of litter, or theft. Additionally, when boating access sites are unstaffed, clean and drain facilities can be misused or underutilized by boaters.

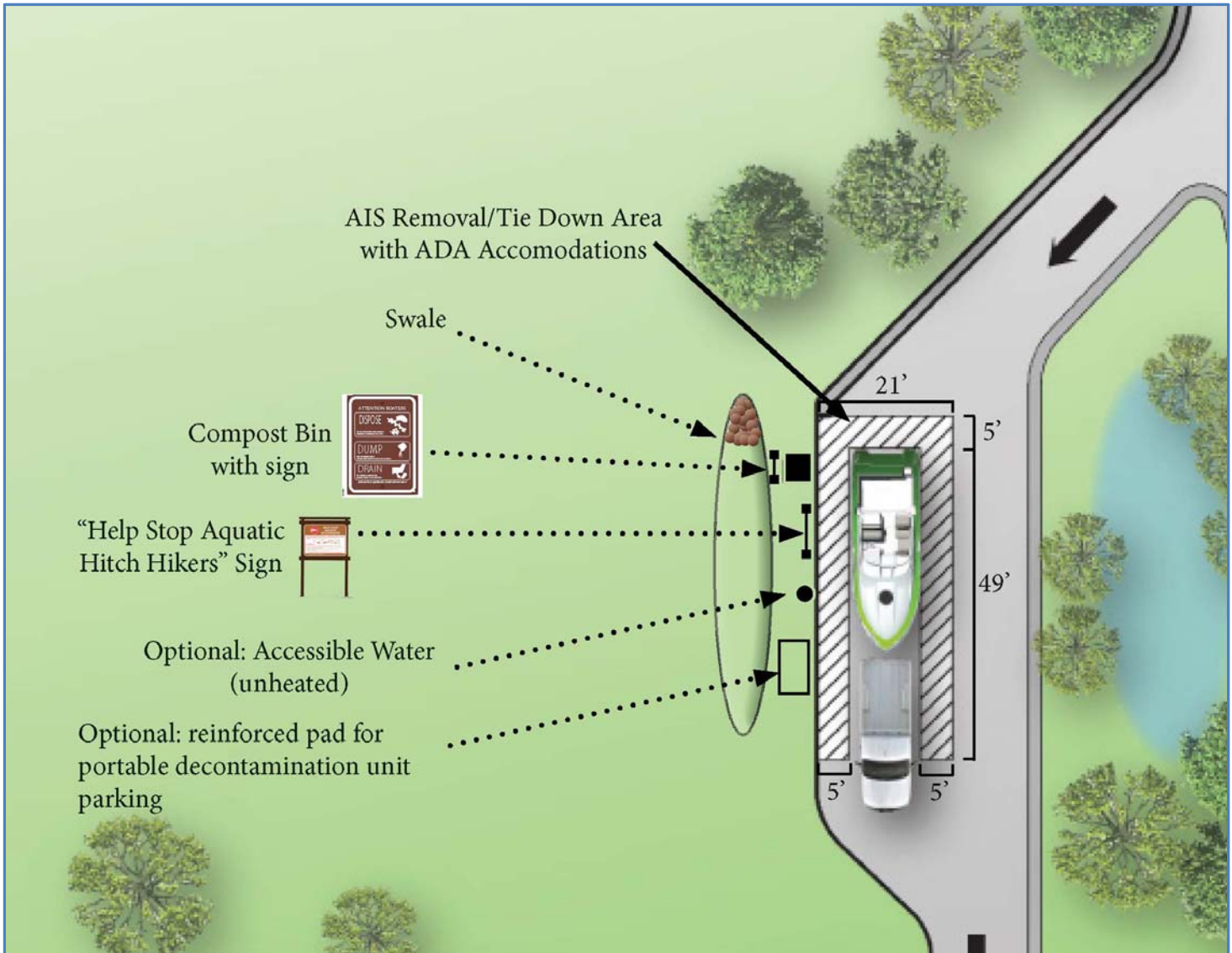


A clean drain and dry area with sign, disposal bin, and pavement stencil/parking box (MN)



Example site layout

Below is an example of a site designed by Minnesota DNR with all of the suggested components for an AIS activity area. Layouts would vary by site based on design and use patterns (MN).



Example tie-down layout with clean and drain components

Below is an example of a tie-down area designed by Minnesota DNR that incorporates clean and drain components.



Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Byllesby Park Prairie Restoration Phase I

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board authorize Public Works to proceed with Phase I of Prairie Restoration at Byllesby Park. This project would be completed and maintained by Public Works Maintenance staff, with cooperation and instruction by Goodhue Soil & Water Conservation District (GSWCD).

Background

Goodhue County approved a master plan that included prairie and oak savanna restoration. Both the prairie restoration and highway berm plantings were discussed as highly priority natural resource improvements at the 09 Sep 20 Park Board meeting. The increasing need for Monarch butterfly and other pollinator habitat, as well as the length of time it takes for a prairie to establish and become more picturesque vs. weed ridden, are driving forces behind a restoration project.

While the berm/buffer planting project will be costly and require more intensive planning, the prairie restoration project has a lower cost and the first phase could be completed by Public Works Maintenance Staff. Beginning the restoration now would provide a more aesthetically appealing prairie in 2023, when the pavilion construction will be completed. GSWCD has agreed to guide Public Works in planning this project, safe chemical application, and seed selection. They will also allow Public Works to use their seed drill for this project, and provide assistance/educational resources for the establishment and long-term maintenance of the prairie.

The first phase would target 7-8 acres of the main Byllesby Park property, replacing many infrequently mowed areas and a small amount of regularly mowed areas (see attached map). Adjacent landowners have been consulted regarding the restoration, and project boundaries have been adjusted as needed. Seed for the project can range from \$150-\$250 per acre for fewer forbs (flowers), and \$250-\$350 for a higher forb content. Considering that pollinators are a motivating factor behind this project, it is staff's recommendation to include a high forb content in the seed mix, with an approximate cost of \$2,100-\$2,800 in seed, plus the cost of chemicals. The funds for Phase I are available in the Park Fund Balance. Phase II could be completed on the Goudy property after the dirt stockpile has been moved and/or the berm project is completed. The Park Board should

determine if the buffer plantings should continue along Highway 19 to the park entrance, if some of the area closer to the entrance should be restored as a prairie or oak savanna as part of Phase I, or if this area should be left in its present state.

Alternatives

- Approve the Phase I prairie restoration project.
- Revise the scope of the project before approval.
- Take no action; do not move forward with a prairie restoration project at this time.

Recommendations

- It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board approve the Phase I prairie restoration with a high forb content in the seed mix, and determine if the area along the highway should contain buffer plantings, prairie, or remain as-is.

Sign in

.3A

.8A

5001 Highway
19 Boulevard

1.1
A
Storm
Water Basin
Restoration

No resto here-
AIS Project

Park Entrance

Prairie Restoration
1.4A

.7A

Buffer
Planting

Prairie Restoration
2.4A

.2A

Lake Byllesby
Goodhue County Park

.3A

Highway

MnDOT ROW

Hwy 19 Blvd

Park Entrance

Scout Ridge Way

Scout Ridge Way

Scout Ridge Way

Google





Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Byllesby Park Fish Cleaning Station

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board approve design of a fish cleaning structure, with the intent to submit the design with a grant funding application in 2021.

Background

A fish cleaning station was identified as an improvement project in the Byllesby Park Master Plan update in 2017. With GMRPTC approval of a Legacy grant to construct the pavilion and modern restrooms in 2022-2023, there is concern that park visitors could start violating the park ordinance and cleaning fish in the pavilion and the restroom sinks.

The City of Red Wing has a nice fish cleaning structure that could be used as a model for a structure at Byllesby Park, or Locus Architecture could be hired to design one that compliments the design of the new pavilion. Mechanical engineering will be required for this project, as water will need to be run over to the structure and fish waste will either need to drain into a holding tank near the building that is specifically for this purpose, or be pumped over to the restroom holding tanks.

If a hose is added to the outside of the structure with an area for people to wash off their boats, AIS grant funds could be used to pay for the hose, water access to the building, and some of the cost of the structure. Alternatively, the project could be submitted to GMRPTC for Legacy grant funding in 2021. This would put potential construction in 2023 as construction on the pavilion is wrapping up, which would hopefully be soon enough to prevent issues with fish cleaning in the restrooms. The AIS grant funding is State money, so it could not be used as a local match for the GMRPTC Legacy grant.

Alternatives

- Approve design of a fish cleaning structure by a local company.
- Approve design of a fish cleaning structure by Locus Architecture.
- Work with the AIS Committee to share the cost of this project, and possibly with STS to assist with construction of the structure.
- Submit the design and cost estimate to GMRPTC with a grant application in 2021 or 2022.

Recommendations

- A recommendation will be developed based on discussion at the Park Board meeting.



Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Byllesby Park Entrance Sign

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board provide direction to Public Works staff regarding desire to install an entrance sign at Byllesby Park, the design, materials, and location of an entrance sign.

Background

Goodhue County does not currently have an entrance sign at Byllesby Park, other than the signage MnDOT has installed along Highway 19. While this topic has been discussed several times, no design has been created or approved. Four sign images are attached, as an idea of different shapes and materials that could be used. The Park Board could create its own sign layout, or we could hire Locus Architecture (or another firm or sign company) to design a sign. The sign could set a branding standard for other Goodhue County park and trail facilities in the future, or be unique to Byllesby Park. It could utilize the same construction materials or echo the shapes of the pavilion, or be constructed with materials that the Park Board feels represents the natural resources of the park. Simple text and a county logo, elaborate artwork, or anything in between could be included on the sign.

Stanton Township's Zoning Ordinance specifies that a permanent sign:

- Shall not exceed 100 square feet
- Shall not exceed twelve 12 feet in height
- Shall not be located closer that 500 feet to another sign
- Shall not be closer than 250 feet to an intersection
- Shall not interfere with any highway sight distances
- Must observe setback requirements of the zoning district (100 feet for P-1 Zone)

Goodhue County would need a variance from Stanton Township to install anything that does not meet these guidelines. Previous discussions had indicated a desired sign location between Highway 19 and the regular vehicle (non-boat trailer) parking lot. However, the parking lot is only 100' from the property line.





Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Stanton Township Permitting

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board approve a list of items for Public Works staff to take to Stanton Township for approval in 2021.

Background

Byllesby Park and the Cascade property that Goodhue County acquired through tax forfeiture lie in Stanton Township. The Township revised their Zoning Ordinance in 2019 and created a Park (P-1) Zone. Byllesby Park has been re-zoned as P-1 at the Township level, and the Cascade property is still zoned as Residential (R-1). Although Byllesby Park is zoned P-1, many of the park improvements outlined in the 2017 Master Plan are either conditional uses or not included in the zoning ordinance. Therefore, many park projects in Stanton Township require Township approval. Projects that could impact adjacent property owners also require staff time to reach out to the landowners.

Cascade Property – This area is within an R-1 zone. Any park use on this property requires a conditional use permit from Stanton Township. The project will also require access from 4th Ave Way, which is a township road. It is unclear if a canoe/kayak landing/launch is considered a park use.

AIS Lane – Goodhue County has already received a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for this project, but the CUP will need to be amended to reflect the proposed new location for the AIS lane.

Fish Cleaning Station – This project will require a Township permitting. It may or may not be considered the Conditional Use K. that is listed in the Zoning Ordinance: “Auxiliary services to recreational use such as boat washing stations for AIS Removal.” The structure will also require a Township Zoning Certificate, and building permits at the County level.

Park Operating Hours – May require Township authorization if the County Ordinance is changed.

Park Entrance Sign – Any location, size, etc. falling outside the Township specifications discussed with this agenda item will require a Township variance.

Berm Buffer Planting & Prairie Restoration – No Township permitting required, but large projects such as this should be discussed with the Township so they are kept up to date on upcoming projects.

Alternatives

- Determine a list of projects to take to Stanton Township for approval.
- Delay any projects that require Stanton Township approval.

Recommendations

It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board determine a list of projects to take to Stanton Township for approval.



Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting
Agreement with Dakota County

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

It is requested that the Park Board approve services they wish to include in an agreement with Dakota County, and direct Public Works staff to begin drafting this agreement.

Background

As part of the master planning process in 2016 and 2017, the Park Board discussed utilizing Dakota County staff to provide services that Goodhue County is not currently able to provide on a daily basis at Byllesby Park. Having the same staff provide services at both parks also creates a uniform image of one large regional park.

Reservations – Dakota County currently has a reservation system for campsites and their picnic shelter. Adding our picnic shelters and pavilion to this system would be useful for visitors that are confused about which park they need to call for reservations, and would allow park users to see other reservation opportunities if facilities on one side or the other are already booked. Reservations will also need to be posted on a regular basis at the picnic shelters and pavilion.

Cleaning – Modern restrooms and a large pavilion will require more frequent cleaning than what can currently be provided by Highway Maintenance staff and STS. If the fish cleaning station is built, that will also require daily inspection and/or cleaning.

Other Services – The list of joint services may continue to grow as the park develops.

Alternatives

- Determine a list of services to work into an agreement with Dakota County.
- Request that the County Board hire additional County staff to perform these tasks.

Recommendations

It is the recommendation of staff that the Park Board determine a list of services for the Public Works Director to discuss with Dakota County, and develop a draft agreement.



Greg Isakson, P.E.
Public Works Director/County Engineer
Goodhue County Public Works Department

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office (651) 385-3025

TO: Goodhue County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Board

FROM: Greg Isakson, Public Works Director

RE: 09 Feb 21 Park Board Meeting – **For Your Information**
Donations in Honor of Richard Samuelson

Date: 02 Feb 21

Summary

The Park Fund has received donations totaling \$820 in memory of Richard Samuelson. As a former County Commissioner, he was a passionate supporter of parks and trails. We ask you to start considering possible ways to spend these donations that would honor his support.

CANNON VALLEY TRAIL UPDATE: NOTES FROM CVT JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETINGS

November 24th, 2020

Roepke reported all the work Goodhue County has done over the last several years surveying and marking the CVT boundaries is complete. Goodhue County also has platted the entire 20 miles of the CVT.

Roepke updated the board the CVT will be advertising with USA Today and Explore MN Biking Guide magazines.

January 26, 2021

Roepke gave a grant projects update:

- Phase 2 Bridge Construction Grant – working on getting into contract with MN DNR
- CPL Prairie Restoration Grant – prairies cleared and burned, seeding in spring.
- FRPT Equipment Grant – Trail counters have arrived, to be installed in spring. Mower ordered, not yet arrived.
- Signage/Vault Toilet Grant – Signs in final design stage. Vault toilets – delivery concerns by manufacturer, weak bridges in path, looking at options.

Slininger reported on the 2020 Wheel Pass Sales:

\$210,065.80 (net)

31,556 daily / 3,095 season passes sold.

Wheel Pass Sales in 2019 totaled \$112,000

Slininger reported on a fraudulent credit card activity on our website from Nov 13-14, 2020. 57,866 transactions declines were processed. This appears to be a credit master fraud – attempting to verify active credit card numbers to later be sold. Safety measures were discussed with Authorize.net and Worldpay to prevent future events. Worldpay billed the CVT for these transactions in the amount \$13,847.66. CVT requested a refund and was denied. An appeal is being planned. This may involve attorney action. The Board made a consensus for Roepke to use all means possible to get this refund. If cost exceeds \$1,000 – board approval will be required.

Roepke reported that the Trust for Public Land contacted him and may be interested in getting involved with the National Heritage Park that was outlined in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan. This is a park project that would involve the Anderson Center and other country in the area. No action required at this time.

GOODHUE PIONEER STATE TRAIL UPDATE

Roxanne Bartsh reported that the GPT has received a \$2,000 grant from the Zumbrota Community Trust. This will be used for signage about the trail in the trail head building in Zumbrota.