

C Community Development Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 30, 2011

Item: 2011-70

Date March 22, 2011
Prepared:
Subject: Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan, Anoka County

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan (Referral No. 50004-1).
2. Require that Anoka County submit a negotiated cost sharing agreement related to the development of the pedestrian overpass described in Phase 5 of the master plan to the Metropolitan Council prior to seeking regional parks funding for the project, in order for the Council to determine the eligible costs for regional funding.
3. Advise Anoka County to work with the City of Ramsey to ensure that the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and Wild and Scenic River programs and standards are implemented during the park development phases.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Chair Cunningham inquired about the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area designation. Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst, described that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees the Mississippi River Critical Area Program. The Critical Area Corridor follows the Mississippi River and stretches from the City of Ramsey in Anoka County past Hastings in Dakota County. The DNR establishes rules for protecting the river, similar to zoning code requirements, which are implemented by local municipalities.

The Community Development Committee unanimously approved the recommendation.

MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN



ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
December 2010
Approved by Met Council April 2011

Prepared by:
Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department
550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW
Andover, MN 55304



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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John VonDeLinde, Director

Karen Blaska, Park Planner

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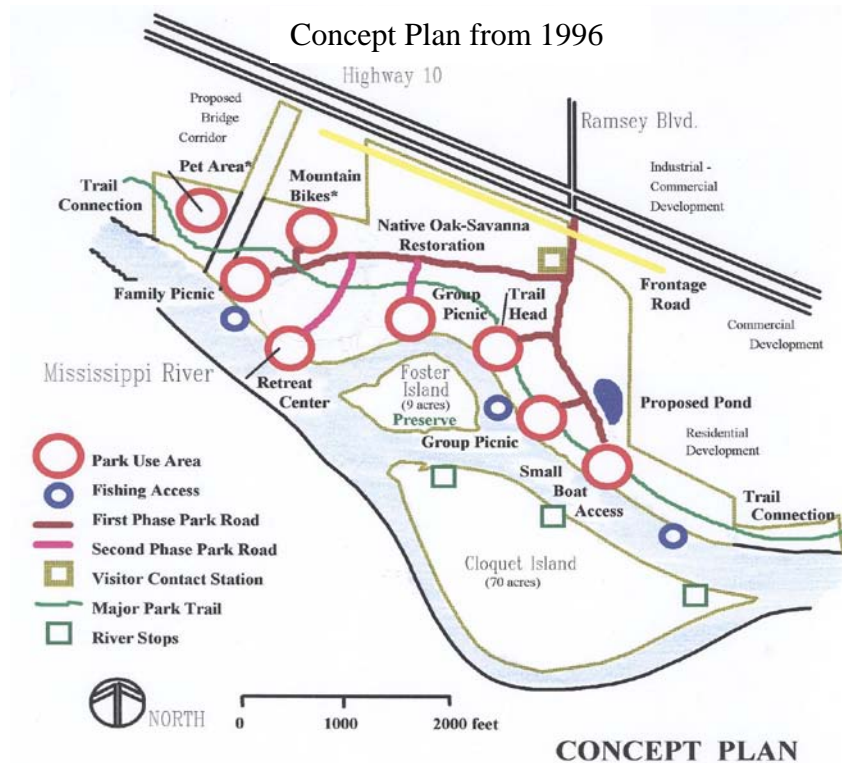
APPENDIX

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mississippi West Regional Park is a 273 acre park located within the City of Ramsey between the Mississippi River and Trunk Highway 10. The park has 1-1/2 miles of shoreline along the Mississippi River and offers a unique setting to provide recreational and educational opportunities in the area. It is part of the Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area and the Mississippi National River Recreation Area.

In 1996, a concept master plan was approved by the Metropolitan Council and the park was incorporated into the metropolitan regional park system. Since then it has been updated with the Anoka County 20/20 Parks and Recreation Vision Plan and then again in 2006, when Anoka County adopted a new Parks and Recreation Comprehensive System Plan. Input for the system plan was obtained through a variety of stakeholders, including a 20 member citizen advisory group and all local units of government in Anoka County. The system plan addresses current and future system needs, including an updated concept plan for Mississippi West Regional Park.

This master plan was developed based on the conceptual plan from 1996, the history of the land, the existing conditions, nature resources in the area, sustainability, demand for additional recreational and educational facilities and accessibility.



Planning Proposal for:
Mississippi West Regional Park
Anoka County Department of Parks and Recreation

Prepared by:
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The proposed development concept for Mississippi West Regional Park includes many recreational amenities typically found in the regional parks; picnic areas, restroom buildings, trails, roads and parking lots. The central feature proposed for Mississippi West Regional Park is an interpretive or visitor center that would serve as a “living laboratory” that incorporates best management practices in sustainability and natural resource restoration, i.e. minimizing impervious surfaces and using native plant species. Interpretive information regarding best management practices will educate visitors regarding restoration of disturbed sites in ways that enhance the natural resources and promote long term conservation. In addition, an arboretum style garden will educate visitors on the differences between native and non-native plant species in the area and the required maintenance for each type. Facilities of this type require a supporting maintenance facility that would be included in the park development.

Development is proposed to occur in phases. The first phase of development is the design, engineering and construction of a temporary road, boat launch and fishing pier on the river. The next phase will be the construction of the necessary infrastructure such as roadways, trails, parking lots, utilities, and lighting. Following that, construction of new picnic facilities, restroom buildings, a gatehouse, additional trails, and a play structure will occur. The fourth phase of development will include an interpretive and/or visitor center with additional parking, trails and interpretive features, an arboretum style garden, as well as natural resource restoration.

As proposed by the City of Ramsey, there could be an additional phase that would include a pedestrian overpass for Truck Highway 10 that would connect the park with Ramsey Town Center. This phase could occur earlier depending on available funding.

Estimated costs for each phase are as follows:

Concept Development Estimate	
Item	Total Cost
Phase I - Boat Launch Construction	\$ 400,000
Phase 2 - Infrastructure Development	\$ 2,290,000
Phase 3 - Park Facility Development	\$ 1,570,000
Phase 4 - Visitor Center Development	\$ 1,780,000
Phase 5 - Pedestrian Crossing Development	\$ 2,585,000
Total	\$ 8,625,000

Annual operations and maintenance costs for the park are estimated to be about \$140,000.

Anoka County will be responsible to provide the on-going daily and general routine maintenance of the park. Anoka County will inspect the park and trails regularly and will provide any capital improvements the park requires, such as bituminous overlays, reroofing, etc. Park signs will be provided and maintained by the county.

Revenue for the operation and maintenance of the park will come from the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department's annual operations and maintenance budget, which includes revenues from picnic shelter rentals, room rentals, programs, and park entrance fees. Supplementary funding is provided through the Regional Park Operations and Maintenance Grant Program.

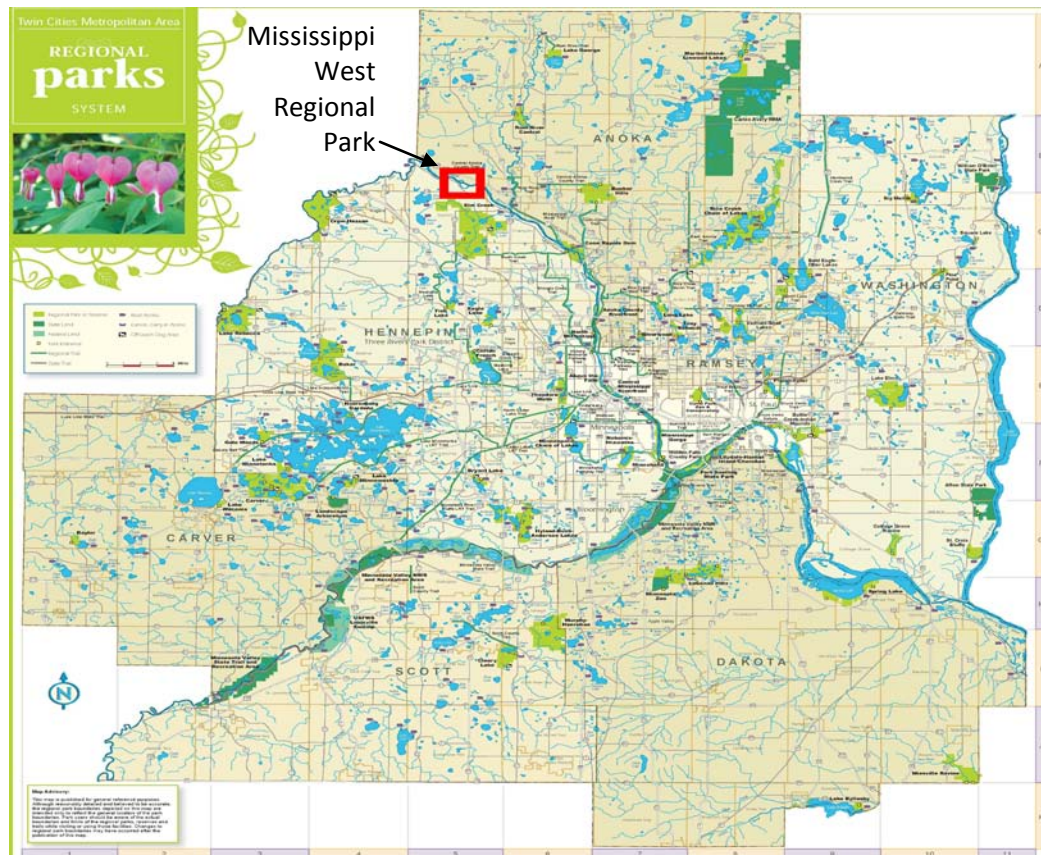


Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park

II. BACKGROUND

A. Park History

Mississippi West Regional Park was incorporated into the metropolitan regional park system in 1996. Since then, little recreation development has occurred due to a life estate within the park, which ended in 2007. The County has restored 49.9 acres of fallow fields to native prairie habitat and continues to restore the remaining fields as funding allows. In 2008, the County partnered with the City of Ramsey on a storm water outlet project related to the development of the Ramsey Town Center. This project ultimately provided a bituminous trail on top of a storm water outlet to the Mississippi River providing easy access to the river. Outside of this trail and a few fire breaks which serve as natural surface walking trails, there are no other recreational amenities in the park currently.



B. Existing Conditions

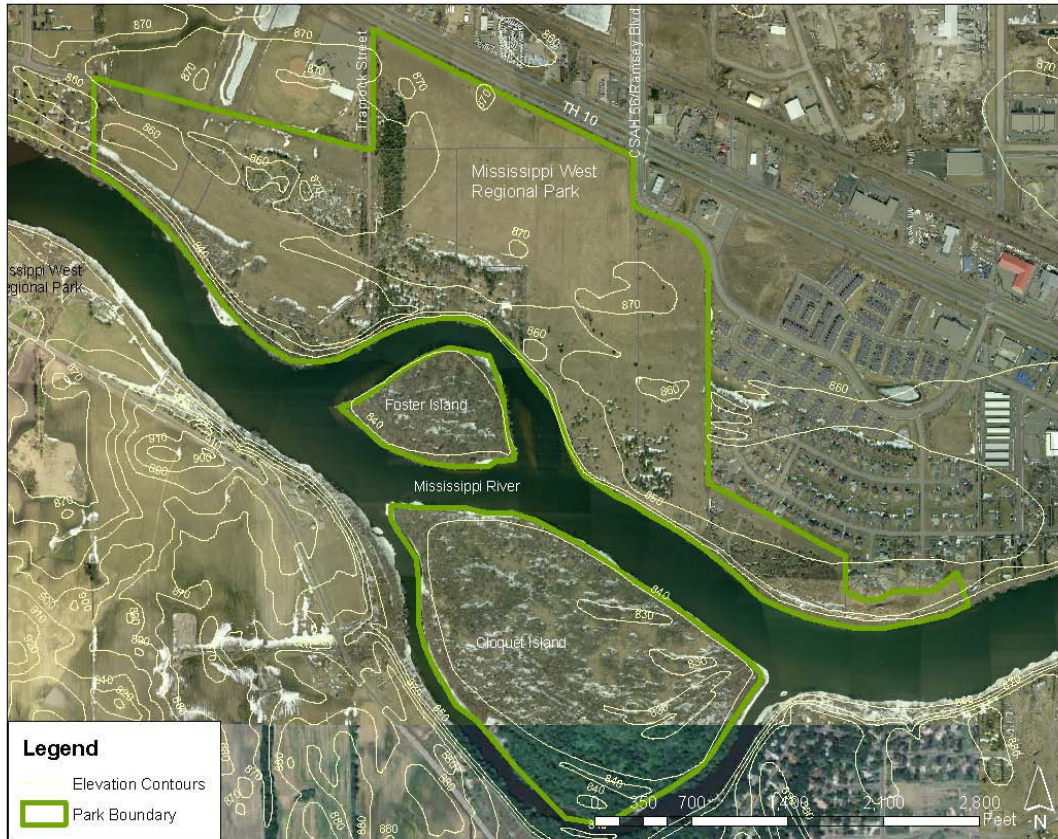


Aerial view of Mississippi West Regional Park

First and foremost, the park has approximately 1-1/2 miles of river frontage along the Mississippi River, which provides several extraordinary scenic vistas of the river. Foster and Cloquet Islands have remained relatively undisturbed.



View of Mississippi River from the park



Elevation contours in park

The park contains fairly level topography with the majority of relief located at an old gravel pit and along the river. Due to the relief in those areas and erosion that has occurred, sections of the banks should be repaired to reduce and avoid further sediment loading into the river.

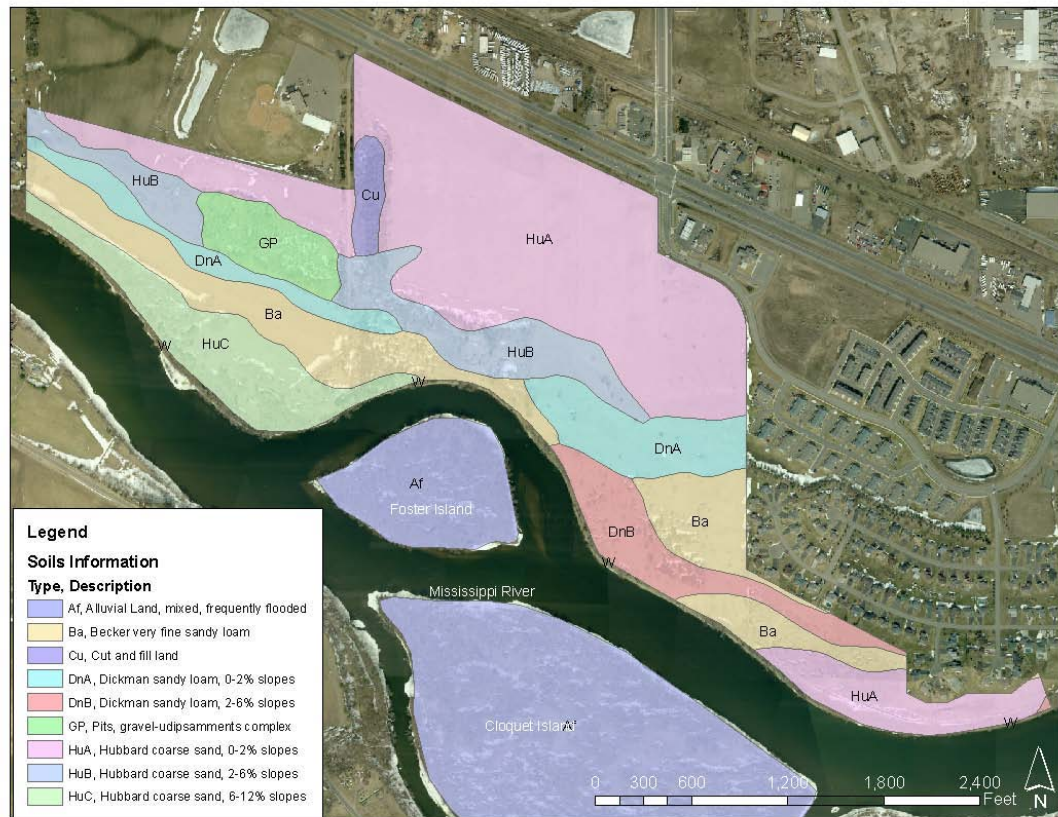


Mississippi River bank erosion

Copyright © 2007 Pictometry International Corp.

The majority of the soil types within the park are Hubbard course sand with 0-12% slopes. The remaining soils are Becker, very fine sandy loam and Dickman sandy loam with 0-6 % slopes. There are a few small areas that have been cut and filled along the existing road. Therefore, overall the soils in the park are very suitable for development.

The soils of Foster and Cloquet Islands are an alluvial mix that floods frequently, therefore no development is proposed for the islands, although some natural resource restoration may occur.

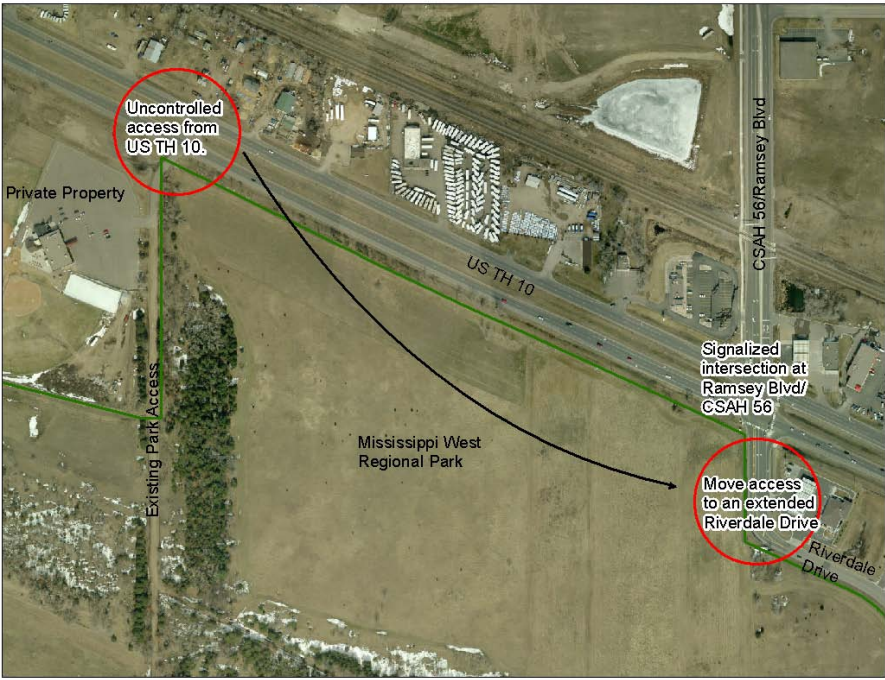


Soil Types

A wetland review was performed in September 2010. Anoka County Soil Survey and the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) were referenced as well as conducting an onsite review. There were no hydric soils and no wetlands as inventoried by the NWI except for those directly associated with the river. See Appendix.

Other existing natural resources include previously disturbed woodland and grassland areas, riparian edges and river bluffs, which contain several invasive species that will need to be eliminated and restored with native species. Native prairie has been restored in some areas of the park and the remaining fields are scheduled to be restored to a native grassland/prairie sometime in the future.

Current access to the park is through an uncontrolled intersection off Trunk Highway 10 and follows a gravel road (Traprock Street) back into the park. Long-term plans will provide access off of Riverdale Drive through a signaled intersection at CSAH 56/Ramsey Blvd.



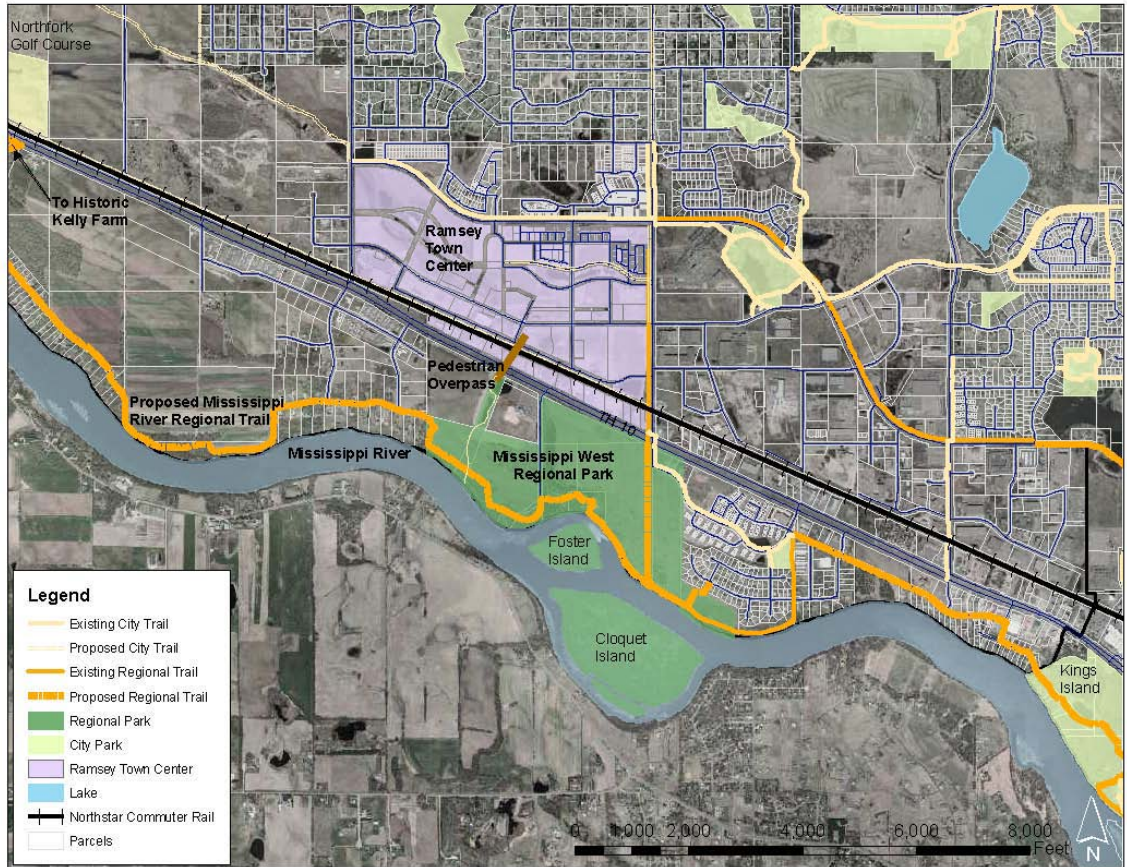
Move Park Access

Currently, there are a few existing structures in the park: one habitable house, one uninhabitable house, a few garage buildings and several outbuildings. Most structures, other than the habitable house, are in a state of disrepair and pose liability issues. The structures are proposed to be demolished and removed.



C. Surrounding Amenities

A few of the surrounding amenities include the proposed Mississippi River Regional Trail (MRT), which runs adjacent to the river from Elk River to Minneapolis and traverses through Mississippi West Regional Park.



Amenities around Mississippi West Regional Park

Ramsey Town Center (RTC) is a 369.5 acre development north of Highway 10 and the park. RTC was planned to include 2400 residential units and 1.65 million square feet of commercial, industrial, and institutional space. In addition, the City of Ramsey proposes a Northstar Commuter Station and a pedestrian overpass over Trunk Highway 10.

Approximately one mile west of the Anoka County/ Sherburne County line is the historic Oliver Kelley Farm. This farm is owned by the Minnesota Historical Society and is used as an interpretive center and working example of an 1860's Farm.



D. Historical/Cultural Background Information

At this time, the County is unaware of any known or suspected archaeological resources in the area that will be affected by this project. The State Historical Preservation Office will be consulted for further information as park development occurs.

III. BOUNDARIES AND ACQUISITION COSTS

All parcels within the park boundary are currently under County ownership. Therefore, there will be no boundary changes or acquisition costs related to the proposed master plan development. To address potential park impacts due to a proposed interchange at CSAH 56/TH 10, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Metropolitan Council, MN Department of Transportation, MN Department of Natural Resources and Anoka County. See Appendix.



Park Boundary

IV. STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Management and stewardship of the park thus far has entailed natural resource restoration throughout the park. Approximately 50 acres of fallow agricultural fields have been restored to a native grassland prairie mix and current plans are to restore another 23

acres. Future plans include woodland restoration, bluff/riparian edge restoration and completing the remaining grassland prairie restoration.

Currently, there is a Parks and Recreation staff member who lives in the existing house and serves as caretaker for the park. This staff member has been able to notify the Department of any maintenance or operations issues that arise, allowing quick resolution.

Future park development would require balancing the impacts of recreational development with the restored natural resources in the park and sustainable development.

V. DEMAND FORECAST

Regional parks and trails have been increasing in popularity and as the population grows, the need for additional recreation sources and amenities grows as well. The population in Anoka County has been growing steadily and is predicted to grow 38% in the next 25 years. The City of Ramsey is predicted to grow approximately 32% from the year 2010 to the year 2030. This will create a very high demand for recreational opportunities.

Population Forecast*

	<u>City of Ramsey</u>
2010	30,000
2020	43,000
2030	44,000

*Metropolitan Council 2030 Regional Development Framework – System Statement

The outdoor recreational use patterns in the metropolitan area have been growing steadily. From 1995 to 2009, recreational visits to Anoka County regional parks and trails increased by almost 70% and is currently over 3.0 million visits per year.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey of Minnesotans, nearly 82% indicated that outdoor recreation is “very important” or “moderately important” in their lives. Popular trail related activities are walking, hiking, biking, running, jogging or inline skating.

In addition, the Statewide Health Initiative Program (SHIP) is promoting living longer, healthier lives through the reduction in obesity and increased physical activity. Currently, Anoka County has received a SHIP grant to increase access to parks and trails and increase education regarding health, wellness and outdoor recreation.

With the population growth expected, the increase in recreational visits to regional parks and trails, and the increased concern for health and wellness, the demand for additional recreational facilities will increase.

VI. DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

The proposed development concept for Mississippi West Regional Park includes many recreational amenities typically found in the regional parks: picnicking areas, restroom buildings, trails, roads and parking lots. The central feature proposed for Mississippi West Regional Park is an interpretive or visitor center that would serve as a “living laboratory” that incorporates best management practices in sustainability and natural resource restoration. In addition, an arboretum style garden will educate visitors between the differences of native and non-native plant species in the area and the required maintenance for each type. Best management practices will educate visitors about restoring disturbed sites in ways that enhance the natural resources, promote long term conservation, and use less costly alternative energy sources. In addition, a supporting maintenance facility will be included in the development.



Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park

Development would occur in phases. The first phase of development is the design, engineering and construction of a temporary road, boat/canoe launch and fishing pier providing access to the river.



Phase 1 Development at Mississippi West Regional Park

Phase 1: Boat Launch Development Estimate	
Item	Total Cost (2010)
Design/Engineering (in-kind)	\$ -
Boat Launch Road/Parking Lot	\$ 190,000
Boat Launch	\$ 40,000
Temporary Access Road	\$ 50,000
Fishing Pier	\$ 40,000
Signs	\$ 5,000
Topographic Survey / Construction Staking	\$ 10,000
Removal/Demolition of House and Hazard Material Abatement	\$ 40,000
Permits (City, Watershed, DNR, COE, NPS)	\$ 5,000
Subtotal	\$ 380,000
Contingency and Fees	\$ 20,000
Total	\$ 400,000

The next phase of development will be the design, engineering and construction of the main infrastructure for the park. This would include construction of roadways, parking lots, trails, utilities, installation of city water or a well, installation of city sanitary lines or a septic system and a maintenance facility. In addition, there would be some natural resource restoration and the installation of an observation deck or two. Lighting, signing and site furnishings for the roadway, parking lots and trails would be included in this phase as well. Existing structures would be torn down and removed.



Phase 2 Development at Mississippi West Regional Park

Phase 2: Infrastructure Development Estimate	
Item	Total Cost (2010)
Design & Engineering	\$ 170,000
Roadways / Parking Lots	\$ 950,000
Regional and Park Trails	\$ 250,000
Maintenance Facility	\$ 300,000
Utilities - Water/Sanitary/Electric/Fiber	\$ 150,000
Observation decks	\$ 100,000
Natural Resource Restoration	\$ 25,000
Lighting/Signage and Site Furnishings	\$ 25,000
Geotechnical Survey/Wetland Delineation and Assessment	\$ 25,000
Survey/Construction Staking	\$ 25,000
Material Abatement	\$ 60,000
Permits (City, Watershed, DNR, COE, NPS)	\$ 10,000
Subtotal	\$ 2,090,000
Fees and Contingency	\$ 200,000
Total	\$ 2,290,000

After the infrastructure is in place, the next phase of development would include the construction of a few new facilities, such as three picnic shelters, one to two restroom buildings, a gatehouse, additional trails, a play structure, utilities, lighting and site furnishings as well as some additional natural resource restoration.



Phase 3 Development at Mississippi West Regional Park

Phase 3: Park Facility Development Estimate	
Item	Total Cost (2010)
Design - Architectural & Engineering Services	\$ 120,000
Picnic Shelters (3)	\$ 600,000
Restroom Building (2)	\$ 200,000
Entrance Gate/POC station	\$ 100,000
Connector Trails	\$ 150,000
Play Structure	\$ 100,000
Utilities	\$ 50,000
Natural Resource Restoration	\$ 25,000
Lighting, Signage and Site Furnishings	\$ 25,000
Geotechnical Survey/Wetland Delineation and Assessment	\$ 25,000
Survey/Construction Staking	\$ 25,000
Permits (City, Watershed, DNR, COE, NPS)	\$ 10,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,430,000
Fees and Contingency	\$ 140,000
Total	\$ 1,570,000

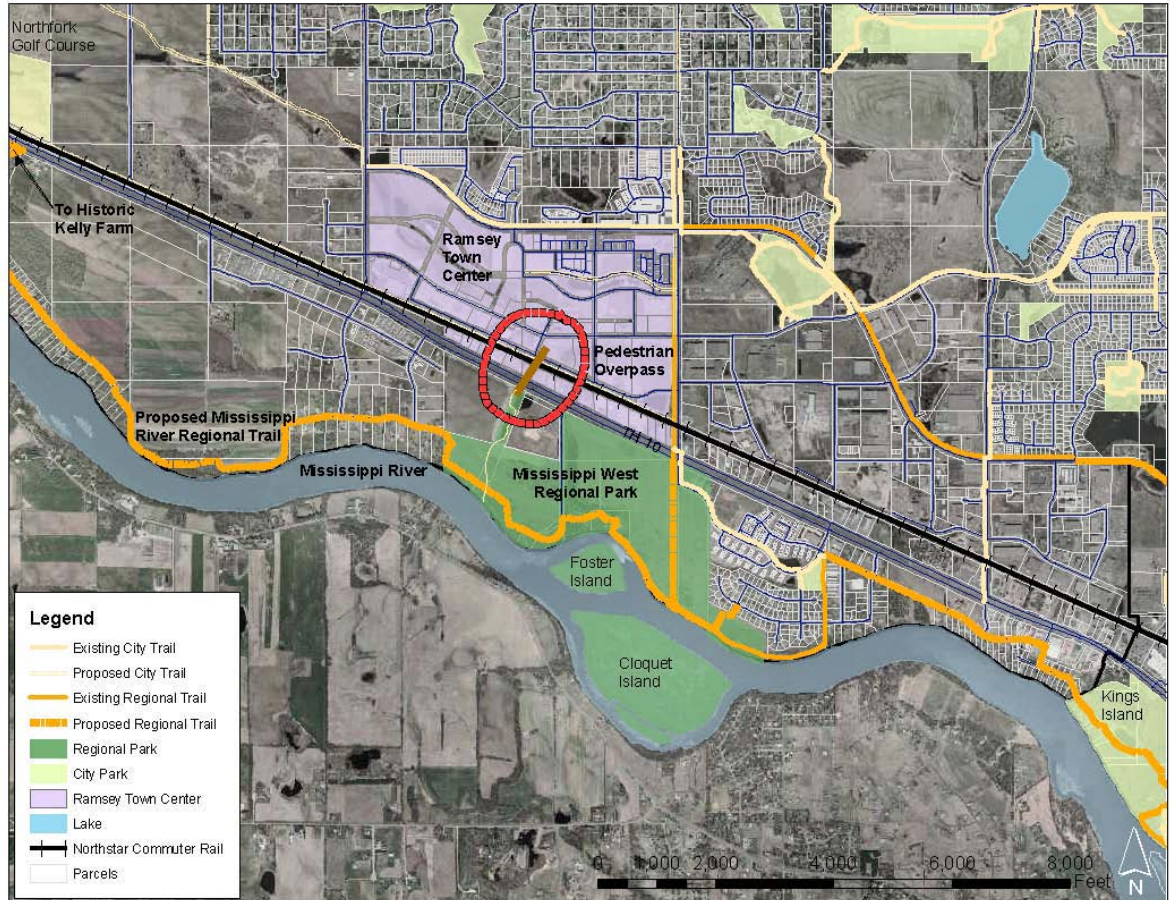
The fourth phase of development would include an interpretive and/or visitor center with additional parking, trails and interpretive features, as well as natural resource restoration and maintenance.



Phase 4 Development at Mississippi West Regional Park

Phase 4: Visitor Center Development Estimate	
Item	Total Cost (2010)
Design - Architectural & Engineering Services	\$ 120,000
Interpretive / Visitor Center	\$ 800,000
Site Work and Parking Lot	\$ 300,000
Trails and Interpretive features	\$ 150,000
Natural Resource Restoration	\$ 40,000
Utilities	\$ 100,000
Lighting, Signage and Site Furnishings	\$ 50,000
Geotechnical Survey/Wetland Delineation and Assessment	\$ 25,000
Survey/Construction Staking	\$ 25,000
Permits (City, Watershed, DNR, COE, NPS)	\$ 10,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,620,000
Fees and Contingency	\$ 160,000
Total	\$ 1,780,000

The final phase of development would include a pedestrian overpass for Trunk Highway 10 that would connect the park with Ramsey Town Center. Estimated costs for the overpass would mostly likely shared between the MN Department of Transportation, Anoka County and the City of Ramsey.



Phase 5 Development at Mississippi West Regional Park

Phase 5: Pedestrian Connection Estimate	
Item	Total Cost (2010)
Design & Engineering Services	\$ 200,000
Pedestrian Bridge	\$ 2,000,000
Lighting, Signage & Site Furnishings	\$ 75,000
Survey/Construction Staking	\$ 50,000
Geotechnical Survey/Wetland Delineation and Assessment	\$ 50,000
Permits (City, Watershed, DNR, COE, NPS)	\$ 10,000
Subtotal	\$ 2,385,000
Fees and Contingency	\$ 200,000
Total	\$ 2,585,000

VII. CONFLICTS

Conflicts related to park development will be kept to a minimum through proper planning and community involvement. With any new development in an existing residential area, there are common concerns among the area residents that are adjacent to the park or trail.

One of these concerns is the effect the increased usage of the park will have on their safety, security and privacy. Generally, regional parks in the metropolitan area do not have a high number of criminal activities related to park use. Privacy is always a concern and Anoka County will work with the affected residents to minimize perceived impacts. Various methods will be used, such as vegetated buffer or shifting a trail when possible, with the best methods being determined by Anoka County.

Conflicts between pedestrians and vehicular traffic will be kept to a minimum by creating an entrance road at the signalized intersection of TH 10 and CSAH 56.

There are plans to construct an interchange at Trunk Highway 10 and CSAH 56/Ramsey Blvd. This will impact the park by requiring approximately eight (8) acres of parkland be converted to highway uses for the project. To minimize the impacts to the park in the future, current plans avoid any development in the potentially impacted area and replacement land has been tentatively identified. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Metropolitan Council, MN Department of Transportation, MN Department of Natural Resources and Anoka County that addresses with issue. See Appendix.

Where the park is in close proximity to Highway 10, additional screening and buffering will be utilized to enhance the safety, aesthetics and quality of the park.

In addition, signage within the park will alert users of potential conflict areas, i.e. street crossings, driveway crossings, pedestrian cross-traffic, etc., and provide wayfinding and interpretive information.

VIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

As outlined in the Development Concept, the planned public services and facilities for the park will occur in phases, but initial development will provide a temporary access road, a boat/canoe launch and parking lot for access to the river. Portable toilets will be provided until a restroom building can be constructed.

IX. OPERATIONS

Anoka County Ordinance #2007-1 regulates the parks and trails under the jurisdiction of Anoka County and will be enforced by the local police departments and the Anoka County Sheriff's Department.

Anoka County will be responsible to provide the on-going daily and general routine maintenance of the park. This will include such maintenance as mowing, sweeping, plowing, clearing, debris removal, etc. Solid waste will be collected from trash and recycling receptacles located at high use areas and at regular intervals along the park trails. Anoka County will inspect the park and trails regularly and will provide any capital improvements the park requires, such as bituminous overlays, reroofing, etc. Park signs will be provided and maintained by the County.

Annual operations and maintenance costs for the park are estimated to be about \$140,000.

Revenue for the operation and maintenance of the park will come from the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department's annual operations and maintenance budget, which includes revenues from picnic shelter rentals, room rentals, programs, parks entrance fees and the County general fund. Supplementary funding is provided through the Regional Park Operations and Maintenance Grant Program.

The County will research the most energy efficient models in sustainable construction methods when developing the park. Currently, Anoka County employs remote building automation systems that save the department \$5,000-\$10,000 per year compared to traditional energy monitoring systems. New building construction would include alternate heating and cooling methods, such as geo-thermal heating and cooling.

Anoka County through the Environmental Services Department has a refuse and recycling policy that requires recycling of paper, plastics, etc. In the past, Anoka County has typically used recycled materials as much as possible for buildings and furnishing for the low maintenance these materials require.

X. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Anoka County works with regulatory agencies and local units of government in the master planning process. The Mississippi National River Recreation Area, a part of the National Park System, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was allowed the opportunity to comment on this Master Plan. City of Ramsey staff and City Council members were invited to comment on the plan as well.

In addition, an open house was held on October 20, 2010. A notice was published in the local weekly newspaper and on the Anoka County website a few weeks prior to the meeting. In addition, post card invitations were mailed out to nearby residents and local city and county officials.

A total of 18 citizens attended the open house. Virtually all attendees were in support of the proposed plan. Residents were particularly appreciative of the current and planned protection and restoration of natural resources in the park and the minimized impact to adjoining residences through careful design and setbacks of any planned development.

Some additional comments and suggestions were:

- Allow for pontoon use of the boat launch;
- Post a sign to advise boaters of shallow waters or low water conditions;
- Restrict launch use to non-motorized boats because of shallow waters;
- No buildings near residential areas;
- Excited for the trails and connectivity between Ramsey and Anoka through the Mississippi River Trail.

Comments specific to the boat launch will be addressed and incorporated into the design phase of that project.

Refer to Appendix for the public notices.

XI. PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness is an important component to regional park and trail systems.

As development occurs, the County will provide public education efforts through the Metropolitan Council's regional-wide awareness program, as well as, public information maps, websites, publications and brochures provided by Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department. Since the park is located in the Mississippi National River Recreation Area, Anoka County will also work with National Park Service staff to provide information regarding the park.

XII. ACCESSIBILITY

Anoka County continually strives to provide equal access to all residents of Anoka County. Park and trail use is open to any and all citizens. There is a nominal \$5.00 vehicle entrance fee to help offset maintenance and operations costs, but if visitors use public transportation, walk or bicycle to the park, entry is free, which minimizes economic barriers for park visitors. In addition, to public transportation, the Anoka County "Traveler" provides transportation services to the citizens of Anoka County for a minimal fee. This service offers rides to specific locations and is available to those in need.

The facilities and amenities within the park, as well as, access points will conform to the standards mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

XIII. NATURAL RESOURCES

Anoka County has maintained a strong commitment to preserving and restoring natural resources within its parks and open space system. The expansive 10,500 acre park system contains a diverse system of wildlife species and natural areas including upland forests, deciduous woodlands, upland prairies, forested wetlands, shrub wetlands and open wetlands. To manage the natural resources and maintain the parks identity and natural connection to the river, Anoka County will provide for:

- The protection, restoration and enhancement of native plant and animal habitats throughout the park;
- Protection and improvement of water and soil resources;
- Increase public awareness regarding the diverse natural resources in the area; and
- Sustainable practices related to park development, operations and maintenance.

General natural resources management strategies include identifying and assessing remnant plant and animal communities, monitoring rare species, controlling invasive species, ecologically restoring native plant and animal habitat, controlling detrimental insects and disease, wildlife management, enhancing water quality, erosion control and cooperative land stewardship.

A sustainable development framework is utilized in all new park and trail development and redevelopment to ensure ecologically sound land stewardship with an emphasis on maintaining the longevity of the facilities for public benefit.

The following natural resource management components are an integral part of Anoka County's planning efforts associated with the development of Mississippi West Regional Park:

1. Anoka County's Natural Resources Unit will be directly involved with the design, construction and monitoring of the proposed park development. A concerted emphasis will be placed on avoiding and minimizing any adverse impacts to the plant and animal habitat, as well as to the overall watershed. In addition, Anoka County will focus on incorporating local native seed and plant material that will compliment the ecology and function of the surrounding native plant communities.
2. Protection of surface water and ground water resources will be a top priority for this project. Anoka County will work very closely with the Cities of Ramsey and Anoka, the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization, the National Park Service's Mississippi National River Recreation Area, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council to ensure the standards and requirements for resource protection are consistent with the Council's model ordinance for storm water management.
3. The overall vegetation management goal for Anoka County is to identify restoration needs and to define and implement adaptive management strategies that will sustain the biological diversity, production, and function of native plant communities. Vegetation management within Mississippi West Regional Park will focus on preserving native plants, introducing local native plants, maintaining water quality within the watershed and providing for linear plant and wildlife corridor connections. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reference

“Guidelines for Managing and Restoring Natural Plant Communities Along Trails and Waterways” will be used as part of the long term management plan for this park.

Considering that ecosystems are dynamic and continually changing over time and space, an adaptive management approach and framework fits very well with the County’s practice of ecological restoration and stewardship. In the context of ecological restoration, the following adaptive management principles will guide the stewardship plan for Mississippi West Regional Park;

1. **Problem Assessment:**
Define the scope of degradation to the site, synthesize the existing knowledge about it, and explore the potential outcomes of alternative restoration actions.
2. **Design:**
Design a restoration plan and monitoring program that will provide reliable feedback and information about the effectiveness of restoration methods.
3. **Implementation:**
Effective restoration is usually a multi-step process, requiring not only installation, but many years of maintenance and monitoring. Anoka County’s Natural Resources Unit has begun restoring natural plant communities within Mississippi West Regional Park. At the time of acquisition, 121 acres of the property consisted of agricultural fields and pasture land. Since acquisition, Anoka County’s Natural Resources Unit has restored 49.9 acres to native prairie with another 23.3 acres scheduled for restoration in 2011. The objective of the Natural Resources Unit is to restore the remaining acreage as funding becomes available.
4. **Monitoring:**
Biological indicators are monitored to determine how effective the restoration methods are in meeting the project objectives.
5. **Evaluation:**
The actual outcomes are compared to the anticipated outcomes. In addition, the reasons for the underlying differences are interpreted.
6. **Adjustment:**
Practices, objectives, and models used during the restoration process may lead to reassessment of the problem, new questions, and new options to try in a continual cycle of improvement for a given project.

Management and stewardship practices for maintenance in the park will include periodic mowing, prescribed fire management, invasive species surveys, hazard tree assessments, seed collection and propagation, invasive species removal, turf management, brush and tree maintenance, erosion control, forest health assessments and maintenance, wildlife surveys and management as needed, and interpretive signage. Maintenance and stewardship practices also include regular trimming of trees and vegetation along roadways, trail corridors, park facilities and structures.

Appendix

List of Appendices:

County Context Map

Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan

Portions of Park Development Chapter of the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive System Plan

Portions of the 20/20 Vision Plan for the Anoka County Parks and Recreation System

Hakanson Anderson wetland review information

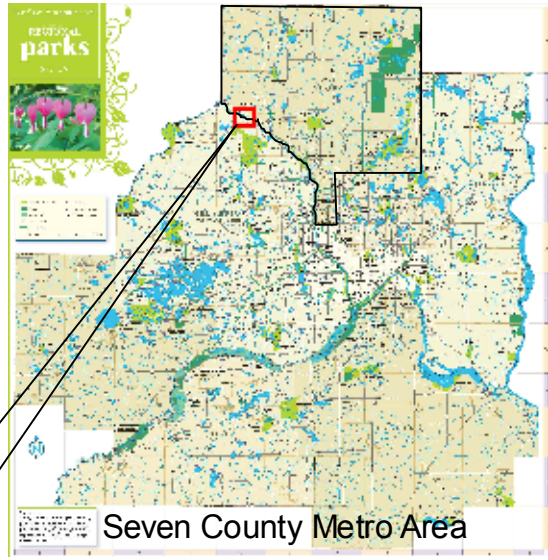
Memorandum of Understanding between MNDNR, MNDOT, Metropolitan Council and Anoka County

Minnesota Land Cover Classification System information

Anoka County Resolution

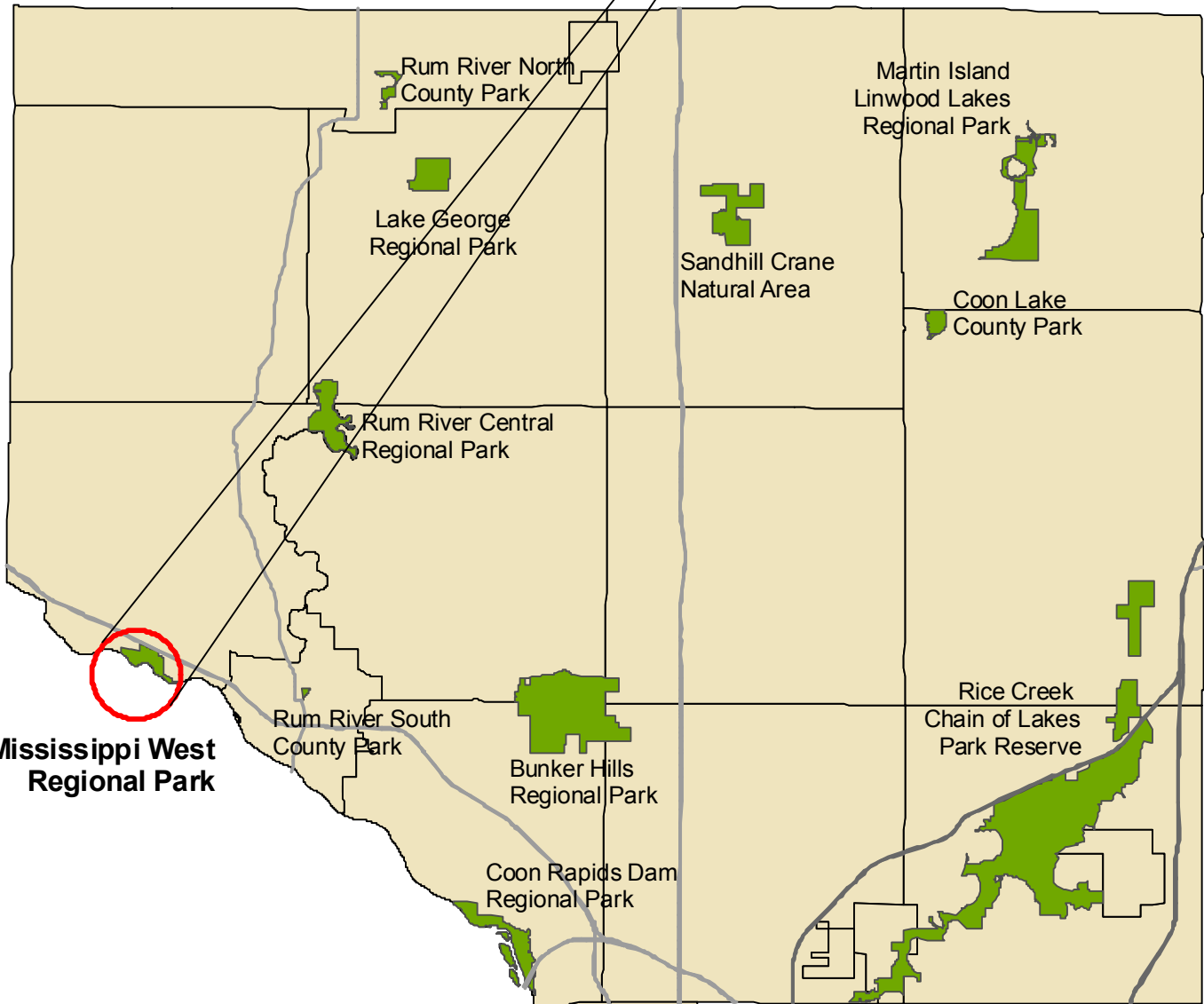
Review request letters to City of Ramsey, National Park Service and MN Department of Natural Resources

Public Meeting Notice



Anoka County Park System

Seven County Metro Area



Mississippi West Regional Park

Rum River North County Park

Lake George Regional Park

Rum River Central Regional Park

Rum River South County Park

Bunker Hills Regional Park

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

Manomin County Park

Islands of Peace

Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park

Martin Island Linwood Lakes Regional Park

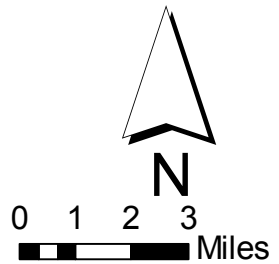
Sandhill Crane Natural Area

Coon Lake County Park

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve

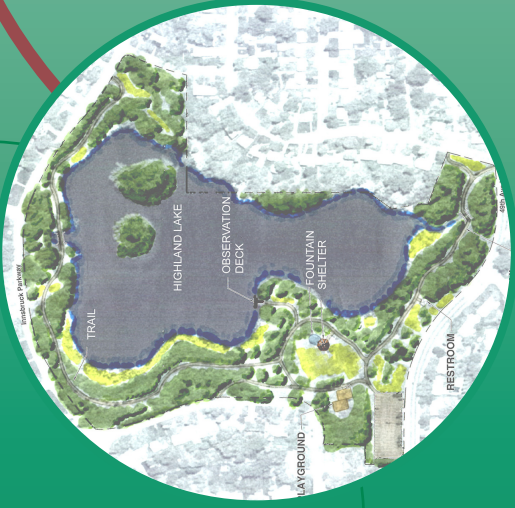
Rice Creek West Regional Trail / Locke

Kordiak County Park





MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN
 Conceptual Design
 (10.01.2010)

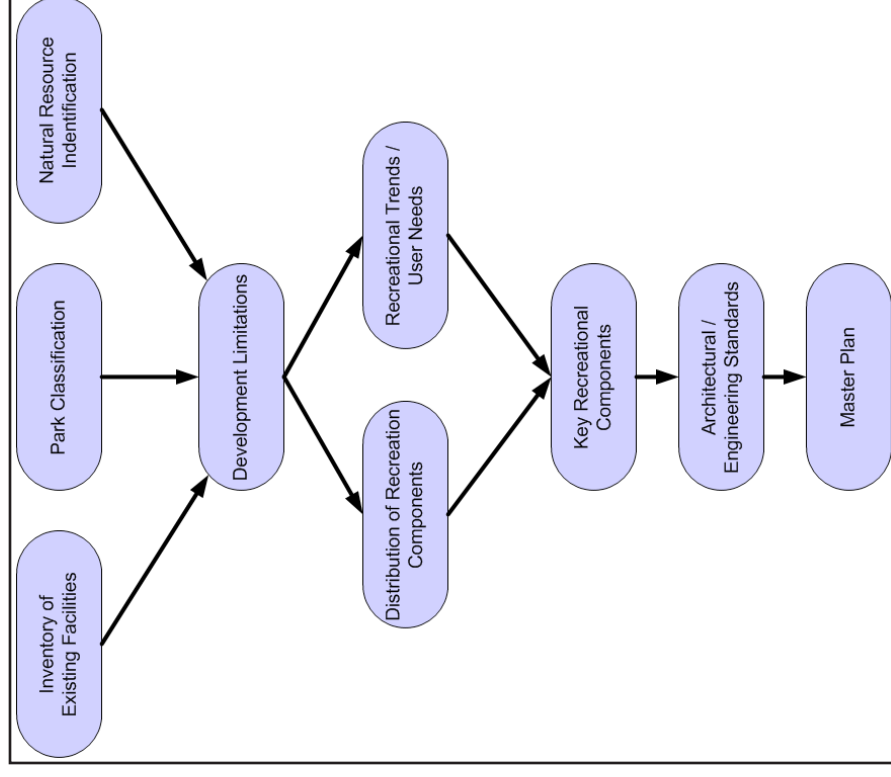


PARK MASTER PLANS

Introduction

Since the mid-1990's, Anoka County has invested in the renovation, upgrading and expansion of recreation and support facilities within the park system. Approximately \$28 million, mostly from outside funding sources, has been spent on improvements. This effort was guided by the 2020 Vision Plan and has led to substantial enhancements to the park system. Facility enhancements have provided many dividends to our customer base, which is evident by the response from users and the increasing popularity of the park system. Today, the parks are much more appealing, usable and safe.

Because of the increased popularity and satisfaction from users, the same principles that guided the development through the 2020 Vision Plan, are again used to plan, design and develop the park system from this point forward. A review of the recreation trends, survey of users, understanding the natural resource base and its limitations, modern design standards and increased accessibility, are all components that enable proper recreational development. In addition, existing facilities and desired future development was reviewed by a multi-disciplinary team of individuals ensuring a wide variety of perspectives. This planning process will create park development that is of high quality, efficient, accessible and aesthetic to all users.



Planning Process

The master planning process for each park included a review and analysis of several different categories. These were inventory of existing facilities; review of park classification; identification of natural resource and ecosystems; review of development limitations; identification of key recreational components; distribution of recreational facilities; identifying recreation trends and user needs; and review of architectural and engineering standards. In addition, a complete inventory of land parcel ownership and boundary alignment was conducted in detail. A review of each category follows.

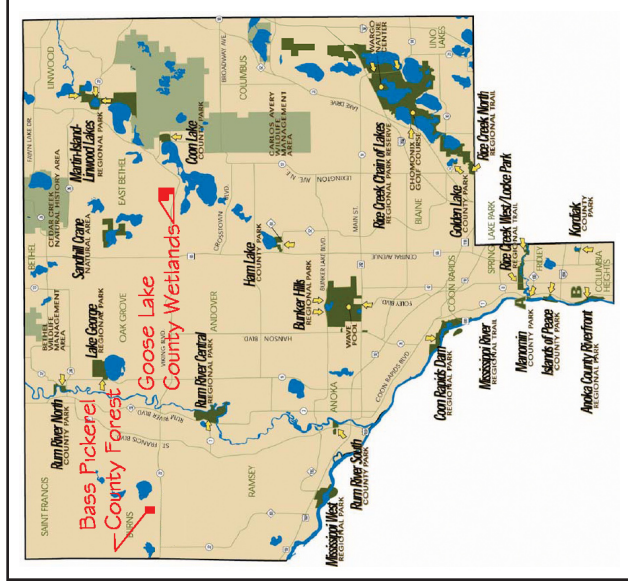
Inventory of Existing Facilities

An overview of the existing facilities in each park was made. This included quantitative aspects of trails, recreational and interpretive facilities, support facilities, special use facilities and other amenities. A qualitative assessment was made as well, including the accessibility, aesthetic functionality and condition of existing facilities. Understanding the existing structure of the park enables planners to better identify future redevelopment needs and costs. The inventory also codifies all facilities throughout the county for future reference.

Park Classification

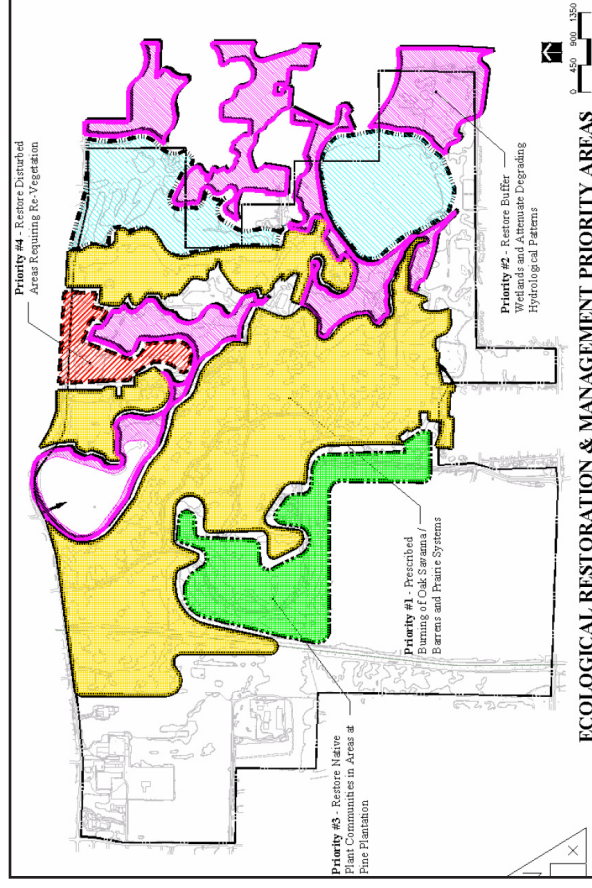
A review of the each park’s classification was made, being either regional or county, to determine the current appropriateness of its classification. This review assists in determining the best value and direction to take to meet the future needs of the citizens. Parks that have experienced substantially increased use, in light of population expansion, were analyzed to see if reclassification would assist in future development. Regional designation would allow

a park to receive additional dollars, in terms of both development funding and operations and maintenance funding. On the other hand, parks that receive very little regional use could be identified as potential transfers to local jurisdictions.



Natural Resource Identification

An overview of the existing natural resources was taken to determine the areas of significant resource value and the suitability for development. Identifying the high-quality natural ecosystems, and areas for potential restoration, will ensure continued preservation of our natural resources. High quality resources also enhance the park user’s experience. Planned park development should not cause excessive impact to quality resources. Designs should reflect limited impact and limited fragmentation of existing natural communities. Through these efforts, forests, prairies and water resources will be improved.



Development Limitations

A review of existing site characteristics, including soils, vegetation, hydrology and topography is incorporated into the master planning process. This type of information enables park designers to minimize impacts to the landscape, as well as, reduce development and long-term maintenance costs by designing appropriate facilities within the existing site conditions framework.

Key Recreational Components

Unique features within each park, either natural or man-made, can provide a contextual framework for the design of the Master Plan. Creating a common theme will provide uniformity and a “sense of place.” In addition, points of interests or unique landscapes can be incorporated into the design to enhance the educational or recreational experience.

Distribution of Recreational Components

A review of existing facilities was conducted throughout the park system to establish a quantifiable measure of recreational opportunities. It is important to ensure that different types of recreation offerings are distributed “evenly” throughout all areas of the county so that all citizens will have relatively “equal” access to the types of recreation provided by the county. The county has a strong history of locating parks in a well dispersed fashion, thus recreational opportunities should be available throughout as well.

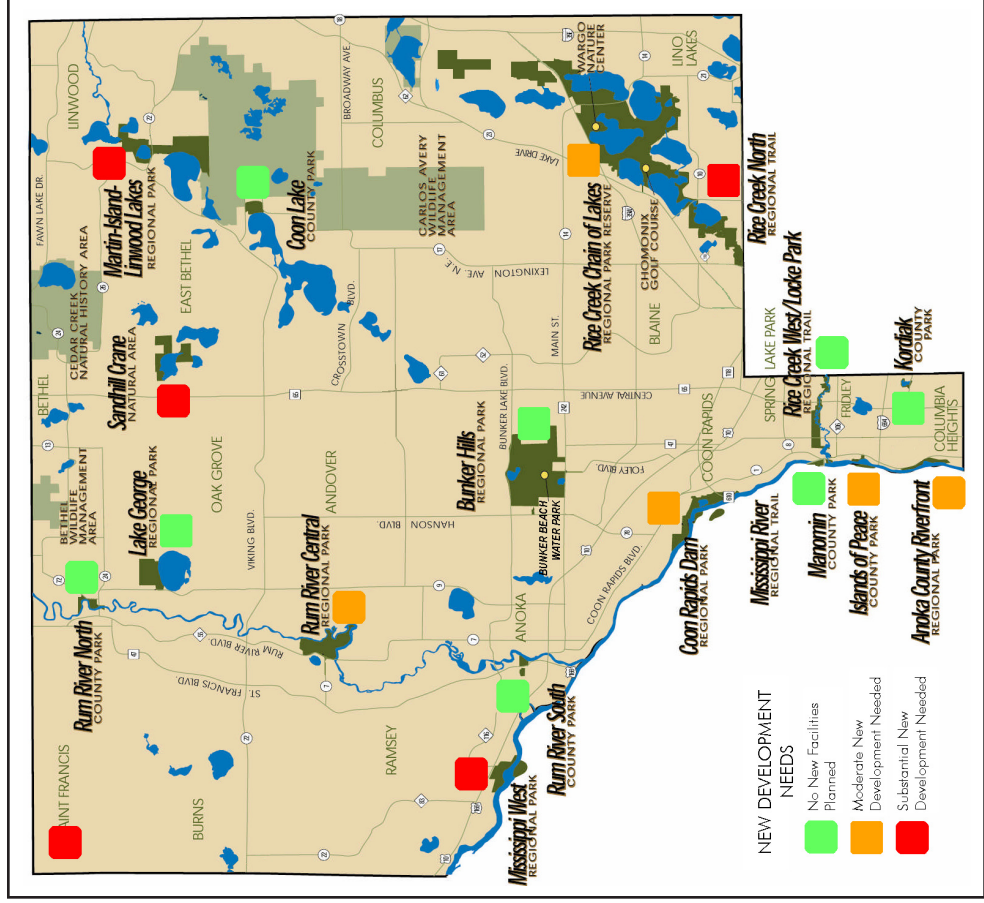
Recreational Trends and User Needs

While there are ‘tried and true’ recreational uses that the regional park system offers, the county should anticipate recreational trends and needs of the future park users. The increase in fitness and health awareness, for example, is just one of the many changing demands that will play an important role in the use and design of the park system. In the past, the county has been attentive to the demographic groups that utilize the park system and the Master Plans will remain flexible and evolve through user input and discussion.



Architectural/Engineering Standards

With recent technological advances and increased ecological understanding of our environment, it is imperative that the county incorporate modern utility and function in park and facility design. The county will follow state and local energy and environment codes and perform ‘best practices’ in a structured planning process in order to offer park visitors with the high-quality, environmentally sensitive, and long-lasting recreational facilities. In addition, the design process will incorporate standards of: Universal Design, ADA Accessibility, Public Safety,



Cost Efficiency, and Uniformity. Underlying these standards is the goal of creating a design that is visually and aesthetic pleasing that will attract continued use of the park system.

Park Master Plans

Each regional and county park has a master plan incorporating the above elements. Each park master plan has a written description that gives a brief synopsis of the park, its natural features and existing facilities, a planning concept and key elements of the master plan. Future facilities, acquisition and development are identified along with estimated costs. Selective areas or recreational features are highlighted on some parks.

Acquisition and development of the Anoka County park system began in the 1960's and was based on the goal of providing outdoor, natural resource-based recreation. Connected with this goal was the objective of protecting the county's natural landscapes and resources. Since the unfolding of the 2020 Vision plan, many of these goals were maintained and expanded upon. The goals and objectives developed in this plan will assist in the continued development and stewardship of the county's parks and open spaces.

As is shown in each Master Plan, future development will focus primarily on upgrading existing facilities to meet current growing demand of outdoor recreation and adding new facilities that provide additional passive or unstructured recreational opportunities. Projects will be planned and designed that will result in facilities and use patterns that are compatible with the surrounding landscape. Design objectives have been established to maximize recreational value, while maintaining natural resources.

System Development Costs

The table below lists the total anticipated amount for all acquisition, development and redevelopment. While the total is fairly sizable, it should be noted that for the past eight years since the establishment of the 2020 Vision plan, over \$20 million has been spent on developing and redeveloping the park system. This equates to expenditures of approximately \$2.5 million per year. Following this same average of financial commitment, the proposed park development efforts outlined in this chapter would extend out over the next ten years.

In the past, the county has been aggressive in securing financial support for development and redevelopment projects. This effort will continue. Funding sources, such as, the Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, and others will be pursued for financial commitments. The county has established an excellent track record working with these agencies in fulfilling commitments through various grant agreements. Grants have been direct support, as well as, matching grants through financial or force-account sources. These agreements will continue to benefit the county through the next phase of development.

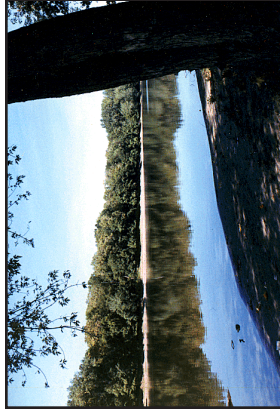
Regional Parks	
Anoka County Riverfront/Islands of Peace	\$1,825,000
Bunker Hills	7,125,000
Coon Rapids Dam	1,910,000
Lake George	1,370,000
Martin-Island-Linwood	5,680,000
Mississippi West	6,000,000
Rice Creek Chain-of-Lakes	5,470,000
Rum River Central	2,730,000
Sugar Hills	15,600,000
County Parks	
Coon Lake	\$1,290,000
Kordiak	330,000
Locke	280,000
Manomin	355,000
Rum River North	375,000
Rum River South	355,000
Special Units	
Sandhill Crane	\$605,000
Total	\$51,300,000

Mississippi West Regional Park

Mississippi West Regional Park is located in the city of Ramsey between the Mississippi River and Highway 10. With over a mile of shoreline, two islands and 273 acres, the park offers a unique setting to provide recreation and education within this scenic and fast developing area.

Features:

- 273 Acres
- Mississippi River
- Old Farmstead
- Oak Forest
- Flood Plain Islands
- Prairie Restoration Area



Existing Facilities:

- None

Master Plan:

The Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park proposes the development of a Center for the Sustainable Landscape. It could include an educational/interpretive center to serve as a “learning laboratory” and best management practices to utilize sustainable design and “green architecture” for implementation and construction of the park. Recreational facilities will include roadways and parking lots, picnic facilities, restrooms, hike and bike trails, interpretive facilities, regional trail access and prairie restoration areas. In addition, observation and scenic overlooks along with fishing platforms would be built along the river. Canoe camping is proposed for Foster and Cloquet islands.



Site Plan for Landscape Center

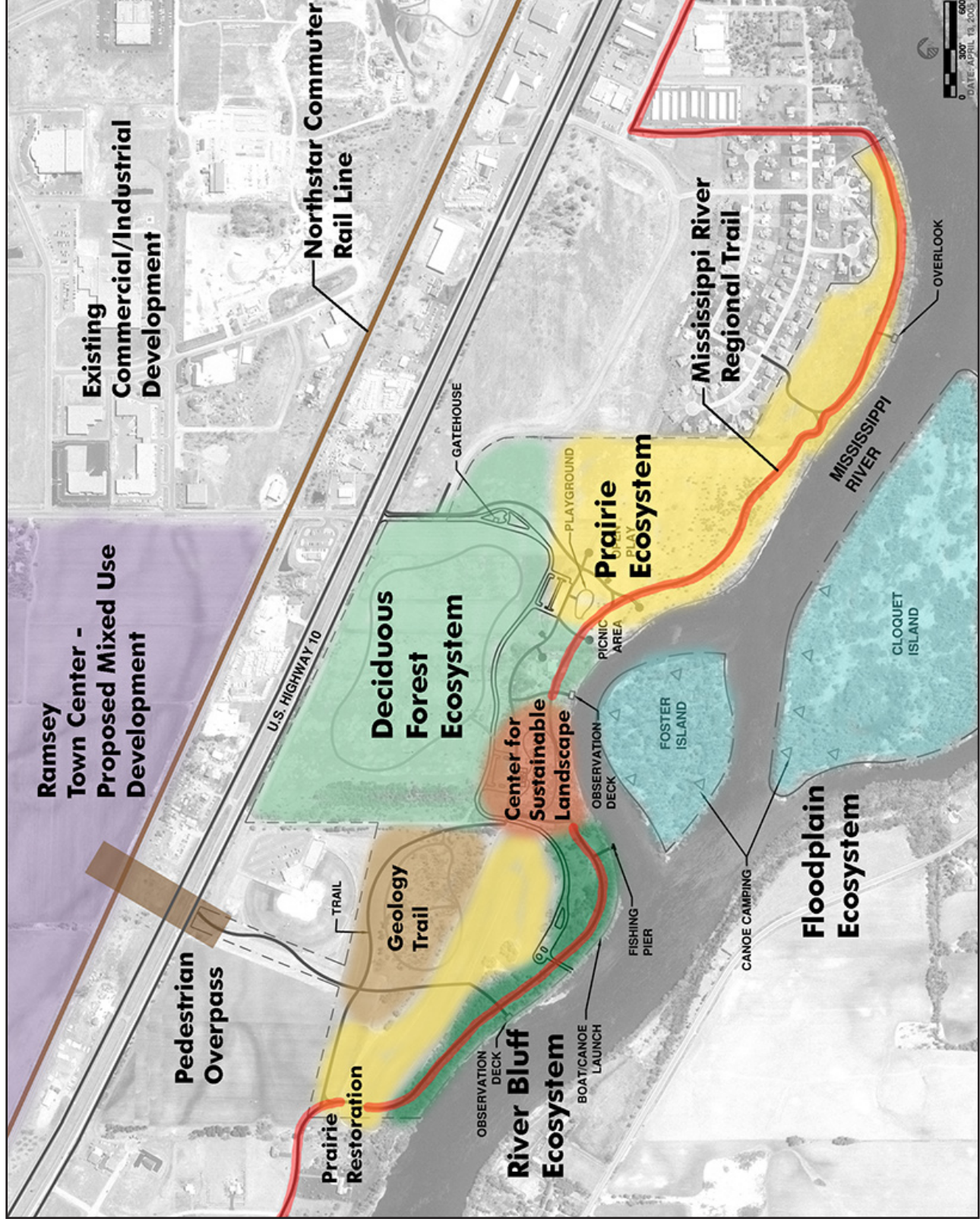
Planning Context:

As a regional entity, the park will incorporate facilities to accommodate a large and growing population. The park should take advantage of the river’s wild and scenic qualities, while creating visual or physical buffers from the busy highway traffic. The park will incorporate the Mississippi River Regional Trail Corridor and plans for a connection to the future Ramsey Town Center are proposed. As a regional entity, serving a large user base, planning and design should incorporate the growing trends of the general population and governmental agencies to restore and protect natural resources and the environment.

Future Needs / Development:

- Picnic / Restroom Facilities \$1,000,000
- Roadways, Parking lots, Utilities 800,000
- Sustainable landscapes / gardens 400,000
- Trails and interpretive features 200,000
- Recreational amenities 500,000
- Boat / Canoe Launch 400,000
- Regional Trail 200,000
- Gardens and Landscape Restoration 400,000
- Outdoor exhibits and displays 200,000
- Connection to multi-modal node / town center 400,000
- Interpretive / Educational Facility 1,500,000

Total Projected Future Cost: \$6,000,000



Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan

**CHAPTER 12 - PARK DEVELOPMENT AND
LAND STEWARDSHIP**



ANOKA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM PLAN

CHAPTER 12

PARK DEVELOPMENT AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Complete version

12.1 INTRODUCTION

Many of the recreation facilities in the Anoka County Park System are in need of upgrading as a result of heavy use, changing safety and design standards, growing recreation demand and changes in leisure time interests. The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department will pursue redevelopment of existing facilities, development of new facilities and expansion of park lands in its effort to continue to provide a high quality recreation service to the county residents.

The 2020 Vision planning process has shown that county residents have a strong interest in outdoor recreation activities. The high percentage of family households, the influx of new home buyers and the large population of aging baby boomers suggests that recreation facilities must appeal to a broad cross-section of age groups. There is a need to serve children with an interest in activities such as swimming and active play; teenagers and young adults with interests such as roller blading and volleyball and older adults with interests such as hiking and picnicking.

The planning process also has shown that residents are interested in natural resource based recreation activities such as hiking in natural areas and bird watching and that they support the protection and enhancement of natural areas in the park system. The mission statement prepared during the planning process expresses this clearly by saying: The purpose of the Anoka County Park and Recreation Department is to provide parks, open space and leisure services for the public. Our primary mission encompasses the protection, preservation, and restoration of a natural, resource-based park system.

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is pursuing improvements to recreation facilities throughout the various park types in the system. The park system is comprised of the following park classifications:

Regional Park Reserve

Park land classified as a regional park reserve serves a multi-county area and is characterized, by the Metropolitan Council, as an area of natural or ornamental quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, boating, camping and trail uses. A park reserve is over 1,000 acres in size and of sufficient area to encompass the resource envisioned for preservation. It has a diversity of unique resources, such as topography, lakes, streams and marshes. The Metropolitan Council requires that no more than 20% of the land area be developed with

any type of constructed improvements including buildings, outdoor recreation facilities, roads, paths and the like.

Regional Park

Park land classified as a regional park serves a multi-county area and is characterized, by the Metropolitan Council, as an area of natural or ornamental quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses. A regional park is typically 200-1000 acres with a natural setting contiguous to water bodies or water courses.

County Park

Land classified as a county park is an area of natural or ornamental quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as limited primitive camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming and trail uses. Although the service areas are intended to be county-wide, in many cases the county parks are used primarily by the communities that surround them or are nearby. The park sites can be 10 to 200 acres in size and the settings are generally contiguous to water bodies or water courses.

Linear Park/Greenway

Land classified as a linear park/greenway is developed for one or more varying modes of recreation travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and driving or is intended to protect a sensitive, linearly occurring natural resource such as a wetland or upland native plant community. The service area may be local or regional in scale. The linear park/greenway must be of sufficient width and length to provide maximum protection of resource or maximum use as a trail corridor. Trail routes may utilize man-made or naturally occurring resources such as utility corridors, road rights-of-way, drainage ways, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, etc.

Special Feature

A special feature is a specialized or single-purpose recreation facility such as golf course, nature center, marina, arboretum and sites of historic or archaeological significance. The service area may be county-wide or regional. The size of the site matches standards for a specific facility (e.g. golf course) or is determined by the area occupied by the featured item (e.g. historic building).

The special features included in the Anoka County Park System include 4-H Camp Salie in Martin Island Linwood Lakes Regional Park, Chomonix Golf Course in Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve (RCCL), Wargo Nature Center in RCCL, Banfill House in Manomin County

Park, Riedel Farm Estate in Riverfront Regional Park, and Coon Rapids Dam in Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park and the Wave Pool in Bunker Hills Regional Park. Discussion of each feature in this chapter is included in the section devoted to the park in which the feature is located.

Conservancy Lands

“Conservancy lands” are areas of unique quality such as watercourses and wetlands that are preserved for environmental or aesthetic benefits to the community and/or because of the negative environmental or economic effects of development in them. The service area may be a municipality, township or county. The site should be sized adequately to protect the resource.

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department will utilize the 2020 Vision plan and individual park master plans as tools for identifying appropriate improvements or expansion for each park in the system. Cooperative efforts with municipalities and with other local, regional and state agencies are also key to effective development and maintenance of recreation facilities in the county.

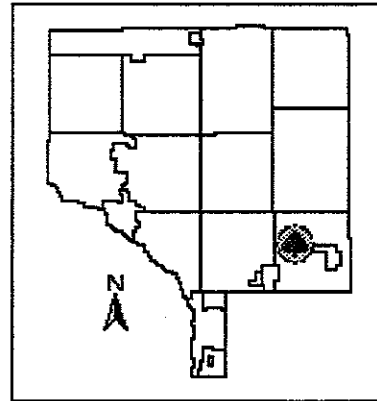
This chapter includes:

- a. Discussion of development, redevelopment, natural resource management and expansion of Anoka County Parks;
- b. Recommendations for possible disposition of several existing parks that are classified as “county parks”;
- c. Recommendations concerning the possible disposition of parks that are classified as “conservancy lands”;
- d. Recommendations concerning sale of non-park property currently owned by the parks and recreation department.
- e. Discussion concerning the protection of natural areas that are currently in private ownership.

12.2 REGIONAL PARK RESERVES

“Park reserves” are typically the largest of the park types in a county park and recreation system. They are managed to provide recreation opportunities but are also intended to protect major natural resource areas. Because of their large size, the parks provide opportunities to preserve regionally significant plant communities and wildlife habitat areas. Refer to Chapter 11 - System Standards for more information on the role that a regional park reserve plays in the Anoka County Park and Recreation System.

Park: RICE CREEK CHAIN OF LAKES REGIONAL PARK RESERVE



Size: 2,550 acres
Estimated visitors in 1996: 178,300

OVERVIEW

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes is the only “Regional Park Reserve” in Anoka County. It is expected that it will become a major focal point in the Twin Cities regional park system. The park currently attracts visitors from throughout the metro area and offers a wide array of educational opportunities with its broad scope of natural history, cultural and archaeological resources. In addition, the Wargo Nature Center, Chomonix Golf Course, camping facilities, water based activities and future trails make it an attractive destination similar to Morris T. Baker Park Reserve in Hennepin County or Lake Elmo Park Reserve in Washington County.

The Wargo Nature Center and Chomonix Golf Course are classified as two of the park system’s “special features” (see Chapter 11). Wargo is an outdoor learning center designed to be used by the community. The 10,000 square foot center is nestled on a beautiful peninsula overlooking George Watch Lake. Environmental education classes for school children of all ages are held both at the Wargo Nature Center and the Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center. They are designed to assist educators in meeting the state’s environmental education learner outcomes and to provide children with a better understanding of the natural world. Over 10,000 students participated in environmental education programming during the 1996-97 school year. Programming is developed to promote positive environmental values and is available for persons of all ages and abilities. Public programs are held at various locations around the county. Program content changes with the seasons and includes topics such as maple syruping, pond studies, apple cidering and snowshoeing. With financial support from Anoka Electric Cooperative, the Wargo Nature Center has been able to develop and implement the Wildlife Outreach Program; an environmental education program for grades 1-6 which

takes place in the schools. It is made available to schools in Anoka/Hennepin School District 11 at no cost. These programs have been tremendously successful with over 40,000 students participating each year.

Chomonix Golf Course is an 18-hole, par 72 championship facility. The focus of Chomonix is to provide a positive and pleasurable golf experience to all players at a reasonable cost. The golf course hosts corporate and general public golf tournaments, golf leagues, junior golf programs and lessons during the summer months. Winter activities include cross-country skiing. The facility has about 6.5 miles of groomed, double tracked trails. A special winter event is the annual "Ski by the Light of the Moon". In 1997, the facility hosted 41,664 golfers and countless numbers of walkers, joggers and cross country skiers. The course is one of Anoka County's Enterprise Funds with operating expenses of \$500,000 to \$600,000 per year. Revenues generated are \$800,000 - \$1 million per year.

Future development and redevelopment in the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes will focus on upgrading the quality and accessibility of existing facilities and increasing their carrying capacity. The extensive system of lakes and waterways in the park offer extraordinary, but largely undiscovered, opportunities for canoeing that make it unique in the Twin Cities area.

Rice Creek Chain of Lakes is surrounded by municipalities (Lino Lakes, Blaine, Centerville and Circle Pines) and is also close to population centers located in Ramsey County. Because it is located within a short of distance of a large population base and completely within the 2020 Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA), it will be developed to a higher level in the near term than parks in rural areas. Its "park reserve" status limits development to 20% of the total land area, but carefully managed facility development and programs can greatly expand its carrying capacity without undue threats to its natural and archaeological resources.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Proposed Development:

Playground; thirty new campsites at existing campground; courtesy docks at boat launch; campground amphitheater

Proposed Redevelopment:

Upgrade sand blanket and reduce slope at Centerville beach and construct beach playground.

TRAILS

Proposed Development:

Three trail bridges over Rice Creek, 8 miles of bituminous trail, 12 miles of soft surface trail; boardwalks in wetland areas

SPECIAL FEATURES

Proposed Development:

Construct building to enclose archeological dig at Heritage Lab Site

INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Proposed Development:

Archeological dig site including displays and active dig site; interpretive displays on Native American culture; interpretive prairie shelter; boardwalks

BUILDINGS AND SHELTERS

Proposed Development:

Multi-use building including trail head, equipment rental, gathering space, concessions, toilets; picnic pavilion and restrooms at Centerville Beach; screened pavilion and restrooms at existing campground; large event pavilion at Chomonix Golf Course; contact station

Proposed Redevelopment:

Maintenance shop and club house renovations at Chomonix Golf Course; upgrade four existing restroom facilities at scattered park sites

ROADS AND PARKING

Proposed Development:

Parking lot at boat launch; security lighting at campground parking lots

Proposed Redevelopment:

Pave all main roads and parking lots and roads at Heritage Lab site and campground; new signage at campground

LANDSCAPING AND AMENITIES

Planting at existing campground to define spaces, provide shade and improve appearance

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Continue to protect heron rookery and maintain nesting data base; conduct white-tailed deer population density study; Wargo Nature Center to continue focus on forest resource and prairie management.

ACQUISITION, EASEMENTS AND LAND TRUSTS

A land swap is currently underway in which the county will receive land located south of Centerville Lake in exchange for property located to the east of the I-35W interchange near the northwest corner of the park.

The county and the MNDNR are exploring the possibility of acquiring and protecting wetlands adjoining Rice Creek

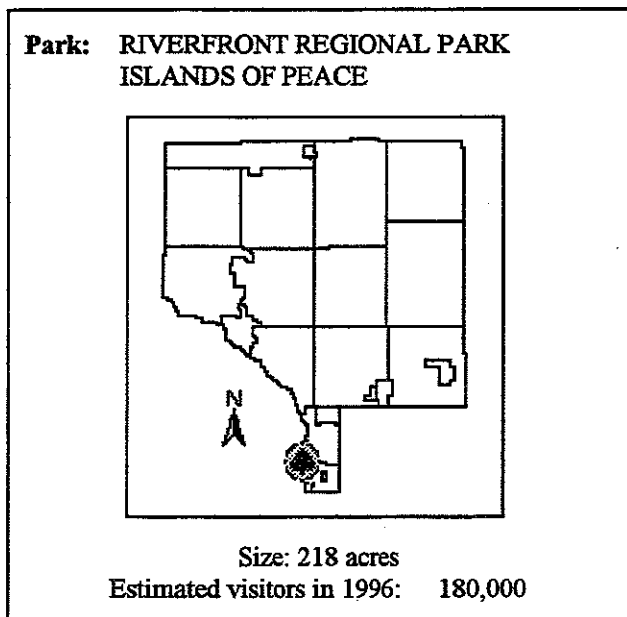
and extending from I-35W at the north end of the park to Howard Lake. The area currently appears as a possible greenway corridor on the MNDNR's draft map titled Potential Greenways & Natural Areas for the Metro Region. This would link Rice Creek Chain of Lakes to Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area and Coon Lake Park.

ESTIMATED COST OF FULL DEVELOPMENT

\$4,419,000.00 in 1997 dollars for projects not including Chomonix Golf Course-related improvements; \$1,521,000.00 for Chomonix Golf Course improvements (refer to Chapter 17 for information on development priorities).

12.3 REGIONAL PARKS

A "regional park" is generally 200 to 1,000 acres in size and provides a variety of natural resource-based recreation opportunities but also preserves and protects significant natural areas. There are seven "regional parks" in Anoka County including Bunker Hills, Coon Rapids Dam, Lake George, Martin Island/Linwood Lakes, Riverfront, Rum River Central and Mississippi West Regional Parks. Because of their size and regional significance, these parks, along with Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve, form the core of the Anoka County Park System. Refer to Chapter 11 - System Standards for more information on the role of regional parks in the Anoka County Park and Recreation System.



OVERVIEW

Riverfront Regional Park is considered to be the gateway to the Anoka County Park System at the south end of the county. The park is in a densely populated area within the

current MUSA boundary and is surrounded by industrial uses. It is located on the bank of the Mississippi River and adjacent to major vehicular and bike routes. Because the park is highly visible, it makes a bold statement that reflects on the image of the park system as whole.

Future development and redevelopment in the park will focus on enhancing its esthetic character to project a strong and positive image. Designs will emphasize the river setting and the historic character established by the Riedel Farm Estate and the Banfill House in nearby Manomin Park. There will be continuity in the design of site elements such as lighting, signage and landscaping in Riverfront/Islands of Peace and Manomin Parks to help clarify that they are both part of the county parks system.

Recreation facilities at Riverfront Park will continue to be passive or unstructured in nature with an emphasis on providing for social gatherings, picnicking and hiking. In addition to these activities, regional trail use at Riverfront is a focus as a result of the park's relationship to the Mississippi River Regional Trail that follows East River Road adjacent to the site.

The historic Riedel Farm Estate is classified as one of the park system's "special features" (see Chapter 11) and offers unique opportunities for special programming. The farmstead was built in the 1880's by Albin Riedel and was purchased from F.M.C. by the Parks and Recreation Department in the 1980's. The house is currently available to the community for special events and is commonly used for groom's dinners, wedding receptions, business meetings and corporate retreats. Some additional programs to be considered in the future include use of the house as an extension of the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts and use as a day conference center. A renovation plan has been completed recently to guide future improvements to the house and site.

The Islands of Peace building facility will continue to accommodate social activities of the surrounding neighborhoods by serving as a meeting and gathering place. This area of the park is also a possible mooring place for boaters enjoying upper reaches of the Mississippi River south of the Coon Rapids Dam. In addition, Islands of Peace is an important node along the Mississippi River Regional Trail serving as a trail head and rest stop.

Riverfront/Islands of Peace is about one mile from the Minneapolis City limits and is closer to the core of the current Metropolitan Urban Service Area than any other regional park in Anoka County. This urban context creates high demand for the recreation opportunities that the park has to offer. For this reason, park development and redevelopment projects will be scheduled at a somewhat faster rate than parks in rural areas.

INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Proposed Development:

Information kiosk; trail interpretive signs

BUILDINGS AND SHELTERS

Proposed Development:

Three picnic pavilions; interpretive/multi-use building; restrooms; visitor contact station

ROADS AND PARKING

Proposed Development:

Bituminous parking lot at new boat ramp; security lighting

Proposed Redevelopment:

Bituminous access road and parking lot upgrades

ACQUISITION, EASEMENTS AND LAND TRUSTS

The county will consider acquiring three residential properties located on County Highway 7 on the west side of the park (see figure 12.3). All three properties are surrounded on three sides by park land. The total acreage of the three parcels is approximately 9 acres.

The county proposes to partner with the City of Andover in purchasing land (none specified at this time) on the east side of the river and providing vehicle parking and pedestrian access to the park, by bridge, from the east.

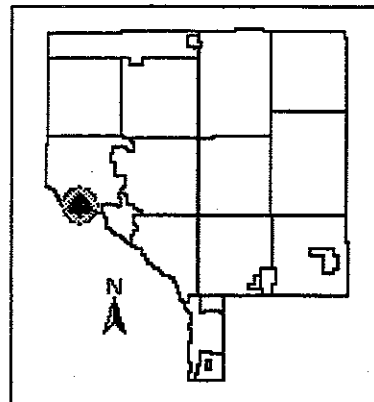
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Riverbank stabilization; oak savanna restoration; conduct butternut regeneration study

ESTIMATED COST OF FULL DEVELOPMENT

\$2,605,000.00 in 1997 dollars not including Phase I improvements which are currently underway (refer to Chapter 17 for information on development priorities)

Park: MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK



Size: 273 acres

OVERVIEW

Mississippi West Regional Park is located on the Mississippi River and is the newest addition to the Anoka County Park system. It was incorporated into the Metropolitan regional System in 1996. The park is located on a State Highway 10 within the MUSA boundary and in a rapidly developing urban area. The land is currently undeveloped and is comprised of woodland habitat and cultivated fields. The property was donated to the county but the benefactor maintains a residence there along with another homestead having a life estate. No development will be scheduled until the property is vacated and can be arranged through the Metropolitan Council.

Mississippi West's location along the river and on the Mississippi River Regional Trail corridor, creates strong ties to Anoka's Peninsula Point Park, Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Manomin County Park and Riverfront/Islands of Peace Regional Park. The river binds the five parks together, but each is different in character and displays a unique, natural and cultural history. The relationship creates excellent opportunities for development of a variety of water and land-based facilities and interpretation of the river environment and the history of the sites and surrounding areas. Site elements such as signs, furniture, lighting and landscaping will be designed to create continuity in the image and appearance of the parks and to identify them with the "Mississippi River System of Parks".

Mississippi West will provide access to the Mississippi River and to the regional trail system. The topography at the river and the shoreline condition provide a good opportunity for boat and canoe access. In addition, the location of the park near the west end of the Mississippi River Regional Trail in Anoka County makes it attractive for location of a major trail head.

Other development in the park will focus on passive, unstructured activities such as hiking, picnicking, education and cultural and historic interpretation. Development of an arboretum will also be considered for the site. A master plan has been completed for the park that defines proposed improvements for the park more completely.

TRAILS

Proposed Development:
Mississippi River Regional Trail head; hiking and biking trails throughout the park

BUILDINGS AND SHELTERS

Proposed Development:
Picnic pavilions; restrooms; interpretive building facility; visitor contact station; retreat center (existing Anderson residence); picnic furnishings

ROADS AND PARKING

Proposed Development:
Paved roadways and parking lots to serve all areas of the park

LANDSCAPING AND AMENITIES

Arboretum development; picnic furnishings, benches, signs, lighting, etc. having designs consistent with Parks and Recreation Department standards

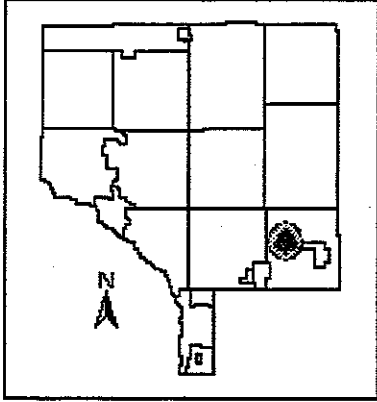
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Prairie restoration

12.5 LINEAR PARKS

“Linear parks” or trails provide important connections between regional parks in the county park system and between parks and population centers in the county. There are three existing linear parks in Anoka County including Rice Creek North Regional Trail, Rice Creek West Regional Trail and Mississippi River Regional Trail. Refer to Chapter 11 - System Standards for more information on the role of linear parks in the Anoka County Park System.

Park: RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL



Size: 389 acres - 3.8 mile developed trail length
Estimated visits in 1996: 49,000

OVERVIEW

Rice Creek North Regional Trail is a greenway/trail connection between Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve and a trail length in Ramsey County that is planned to extend through Shoreview and the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant site. Heading west, the trail will then link with Rice Creek West Regional Trail in Fridley. The greenway/trail is a valuable regional trail link that protects sensitive wetland and creek habitat areas and provides attractive undeveloped open space. In addition, the trail links to several local parks and trail systems. There is also a Native American burial mound in the park that will be protected.

Improvements planned for the park focus on development of trails and support facilities and on interpretation of the Native American heritage represented by the burial site located there.

TRAILS

Development:
Two foot bridges; boardwalk; bituminous trail expansion; trail connection into Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park; trail directional signage

INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Development:
Native American interpretive plaque

ROADS AND PARKING

Development:
Bituminous parking lot including security lighting

September 22, 2010

Scott Yonke
Anoka County Parks and Recreation
550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW
Andover, MN 55304

Re: Wetland Review for Mississippi West Regional Park, Ramsey, MN

Dear Mr. Yonke:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the wetlands for this site. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

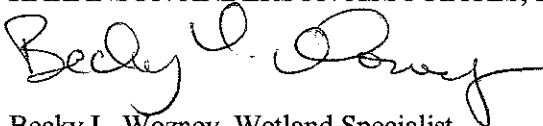
I reviewed the Anoka County Soil Survey and the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) as well as an onsite review along the location of the access road (shown as 139th Lane on soils map) and proposed boat/canoe launch areas. There were no hydric soils per the soil survey and no wetlands as inventoried by the NWI except for those directly associated with the river. Also, no jurisdictional wetlands were identified using the Routine Determination methodology described in the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (Waterways Experiment Station, 1987) and the appropriate regional supplement as required by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. I did not review any other proposed trails or facilities as shown in the Master Plan dated 5/25/2010.

There may be wetlands associated with the Mississippi River below the Ordinary High Water level. Please contact Kate Drewry at 651/259-5753 in regards to this and the MNRRA program.

The Corps of Engineers could also require a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please contact Tim Fell at 651/290-5360.

If you have questions or need additional information please call me at 763/427-5860.

Sincerely,
HAKANSON ANDERSON ASSOCIATES, INC.

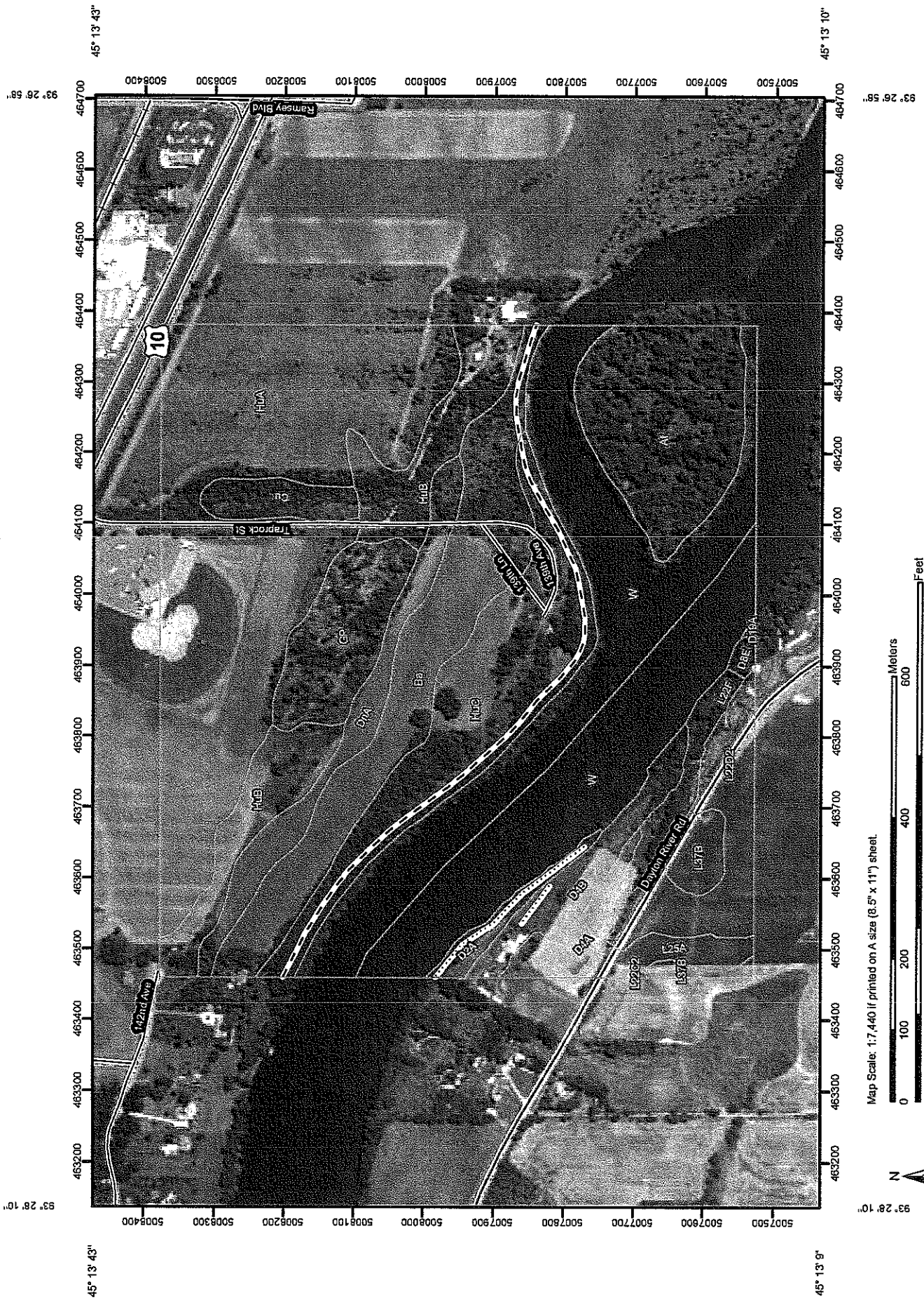


Becky L. Wozney, Wetland Specialist
Certified Wetland Delineator

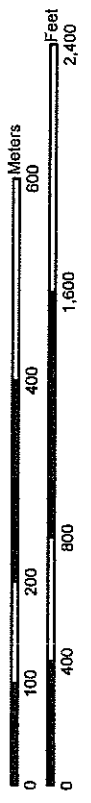
Cc: Steve Jankowski, Lower Rum River WMO
Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks and Recreation
Dennis Rodacker, Anoka Conservation District
Lynda Peterson, Board of Water and Soil Resources

Att: Anoka County Soil Survey
National Wetland Inventory
Master Plan

Soil Map—Anoka County, Minnesota, and Hennepin County, Minnesota
(Mississippi West Regional Park)



Map Scale: 1:7,440 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.



Map Unit Legend

Anoka County, Minnesota (MN003)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Af	Alluvial land, mixed, frequently flooded	14.6	7.5%
Ba	Becker very fine sandy loam	17.7	9.1%
Cu	Cut and fill land	2.9	1.5%
DnA	Dickman sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	6.7	3.5%
GP	Pits, gravel-Udipsamments complex	7.8	4.0%
HuA	Hubbard coarse sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes	43.9	22.6%
HuB	Hubbard coarse sand, 2 to 6 percent slopes	12.7	6.6%
HuC	Hubbard coarse sand, 6 to 12 percent slopes	17.4	9.0%
W	Water	25.4	13.1%
Subtotals for Soil Survey Area		149.2	77.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		193.9	100.0%

Hennepin County, Minnesota (MN053)			
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
D2A	Elkriver fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	1.7	0.9%
D4A	Dorset sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	2.8	1.5%
D4B	Dorset sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	4.9	2.6%
D8E	Sandberg loamy coarse sand, 18 to 35 percent slopes	0.4	0.2%
D19A	Fordum-Winterfield complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, frequently flooded	0.1	0.0%
L22C2	Lester loam, morainic, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	0.1	0.1%
L22D2	Lester loam, morainic, 12 to 18 percent slopes, eroded	7.6	3.9%
L22F	Lester loam, morainic, 25 to 35 percent slopes	2.9	1.5%
L25A	Le Sueur loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	2.4	1.2%
L37B	Angus loam, morainic, 2 to 5 percent slopes	2.7	1.4%
W	Water	18.9	9.8%
Subtotals for Soil Survey Area		44.7	23.1%
Totals for Area of Interest		193.9	100.0%



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service









National Wetlands Inventory

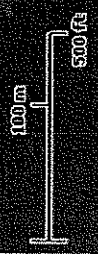
Mississippi West Regional Park

Sep 22, 2010



Wetlands

-  Freshwater Emergent
-  Freshwater Forested/Shrub
-  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
-  Estuarine and Marine
-  Freshwater Pond
-  Lake
-  Riverine
-  Other



This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy of the Base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

User Remarks:



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Memo

Metro Program Delivery
Waters Edge
1500 West County Road B2
Roseville, Minnesota 55113


Rd No.
File:

TH 10
02-596-10
Environmental
Section 4(E)

Office Tel: 651.234.7722
Fax: 651.234.7609

May 28, 2009

To: Distribution

From: Mark J. Lindeberg 
North Area Engineer

Subject: MOU for Park taking
TH 10 in Ramsey
SP 0202-90

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2009

ANOKA COUNTY
HIGHWAY DEPT

Enclosed is a fully executed copy of the MOU that addresses the mitigation of the taking of Park land for the future construction of an interchange at TH 10 and Ramsey Boulevard (CSAH 56). We have all been involved in the development of this MOU and our respective agencies have signed the MOU. Please retain this file for your agencies future use.

Please contact me with any questions that you may have.

Distribution:

Marybeth Block
Department of Natural Resources
DNR Central Regional Headquarters
1200 Warner Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55106

Jan Youngquist
Metropolitan Council
Parks Department
390 Robert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Jack Corkle
Anoka County Highway Department
1440 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

Rick Dalton
Minnesota Department of Transportation
1500 West County Road B-2
Roseville, MN 55113

 COPY
Orig. at CAO

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PURSUANT TO SECTION 4(f) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 1966 AMONG THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MN/DOT), THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, (MNDNR), THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL, AND THE COUNTY OF ANOKA REGARDING TRUNK HIGHWAY 10 PRELIMINARY INTERCHANGE DESIGN (S.P. 199-010-09 AND S.P. 02-596-10)

CITY OF RAMSEY, COUNTY OF ANOKA, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), the County of Anoka and the City of Ramsey in partnership are preparing preliminary engineering and environmental documentation in support of right of way preservation for a future project to convert the segment of Trunk Highway (TH) 10 in Ramsey from an expressway to a freeway, including construction of grade-separated interchanges at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 56 (Ramsey Boulevard) and CSAH 57 (Sunfish Lake Boulevard) and replacement of direct access to TH 10 with access from frontage/backage roads (Project); and

WHEREAS Mississippi West Regional Park (Park) (Figure 1 attached) is located in the Project area vicinity; and

WHEREAS, the Project includes the extension of Riverdale Drive west of realigned Ramsey Boulevard, in order to restore access to properties that will lose direct access to TH 10 through its conversion from expressway to freeway; and

WHEREAS, the proposed extension of Riverdale Drive severs the corner of land within the Park that is located in the southwest quadrant of the proposed TH 10/Ramsey Boulevard interchange from the remainder of the Park; and

WHEREAS the Park is (1) owned by the County of Anoka, (2) part of the regional park system which is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Council, and (3) the site of a native prairie restoration funded by a Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) grant administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR); and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of federal funding, the Project is being reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a Class III Action (Environmental Assessment) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (Statute 42 USC 4321 et seq.); and

WHEREAS Section 4(f) legislation as established under the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303, 23 USC 138) (Section 4[f]) provides protection for publicly owned parks from conversion to a transportation use.

NOW THEREFORE Mn/DOT, County of Anoka, Metropolitan Council, and MnDNR (Signatory Agencies) agree as follows:

1. Before takings for the Project, the Park parcel contains approximately 274 acres. Based on preliminary engineering conducted for the current study, the right of way needed for the Project plus the severed parcel totals 8.0 acres of Park land, (Parcel A depicted in Figure 1 attached), the acquisition of which constitutes a use under Section 4(f). Parcel A is also part of the LCMR-funded native prairie restoration area within the Park.
2. Minimization of impacts through the removal of the extension of Riverdale Drive west of Ramsey Boulevard from the Project will not be part of this Project because this extension, which is consistent with the City of Ramsey's transportation plan, is needed to restore access to properties on the south side of TH 10.
3. Mitigation of the Project's Park land acquisition impact is subject to approval by the Metropolitan Council in accordance with the requirements for conversion of regional parks system lands to other uses as outlined in the Regional Parks Policy Plan. Lands within the regional park system can only be converted to other uses if approved by the Metropolitan Council through an equally valuable land or facility exchange.

Mitigation of the Project's Park land acquisition impact will occur through one of the following methods:

- a. Acquisition of replacement land of reasonably comparable to the value to Parcel A. Replacement land will be adjacent to the Park or another regional park within the County of Anoka.
- b. Financial compensation to Anoka County Parks, in an amount equal to the value of the acquired Park land, for the purpose of Park development.
- c. A combination of the two methods above in amounts that together are reasonably comparable to the value of Parcel A.

The Metropolitan Council makes the final decision on whether or not there is an equally valuable land or facility exchange.

4. Mitigation of the Project's impact to the native prairie planting on Parcel A will involve native prairie restoration (with local ecotypes) of an area, like in size, elsewhere in the Park, the location and details of which will be subject to MnDNR review and approval.
5. Mitigation of Park impacts may occur in advance of Project construction if opportunities arise. Mitigation details and agreements will be finalized among the Signatory Agencies prior to implementation of mitigation or prior to Project construction, whichever occurs first.
6. In consideration of the above-referenced Project impacts and mitigation provisions the Signatory Agencies with jurisdiction over the Park resource agree that the Project does not adversely affect the activities, features or attributes of the Park.

7. The Park impact, proposed mitigation, and a proposed Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding will be reported in the Environmental Assessment (EA) that is being prepared for the Project. This EA will be published and a public hearing held to provide the opportunity for public comment on the features, activities and attributes of the Park. The final determination of Section 4(f) *de minimis* applicability will be made by FHWA following a review of any public comments received.
8. This Memorandum of Understanding will be re-evaluated and amended, if required, upon any of the following conditions:
 - a. Proposal by any of the Signatory Agencies to implement specific Section 4(f) impact mitigation measures; and, as specific mitigation is defined, documenting the terms of agreement between Mn/DOT and the County of Anoka regarding the proportion of mitigation costs to be paid by each agency.
 - b. Re-evaluation of the Project under NEPA.
 - c. Request by any of the Signatory Agencies.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Mn/DOT)

By: [Signature] 4/27/09
DATE

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MnDNR)

By: [Signature] 3/26/09
DATE

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

By: [Signature] 3-19-09
DATE
P. Hees

COUNTY OF ANOKA

By: [Signature] 2/27/09
DATE
Dennis D. Berg, County Board Chair

Attest

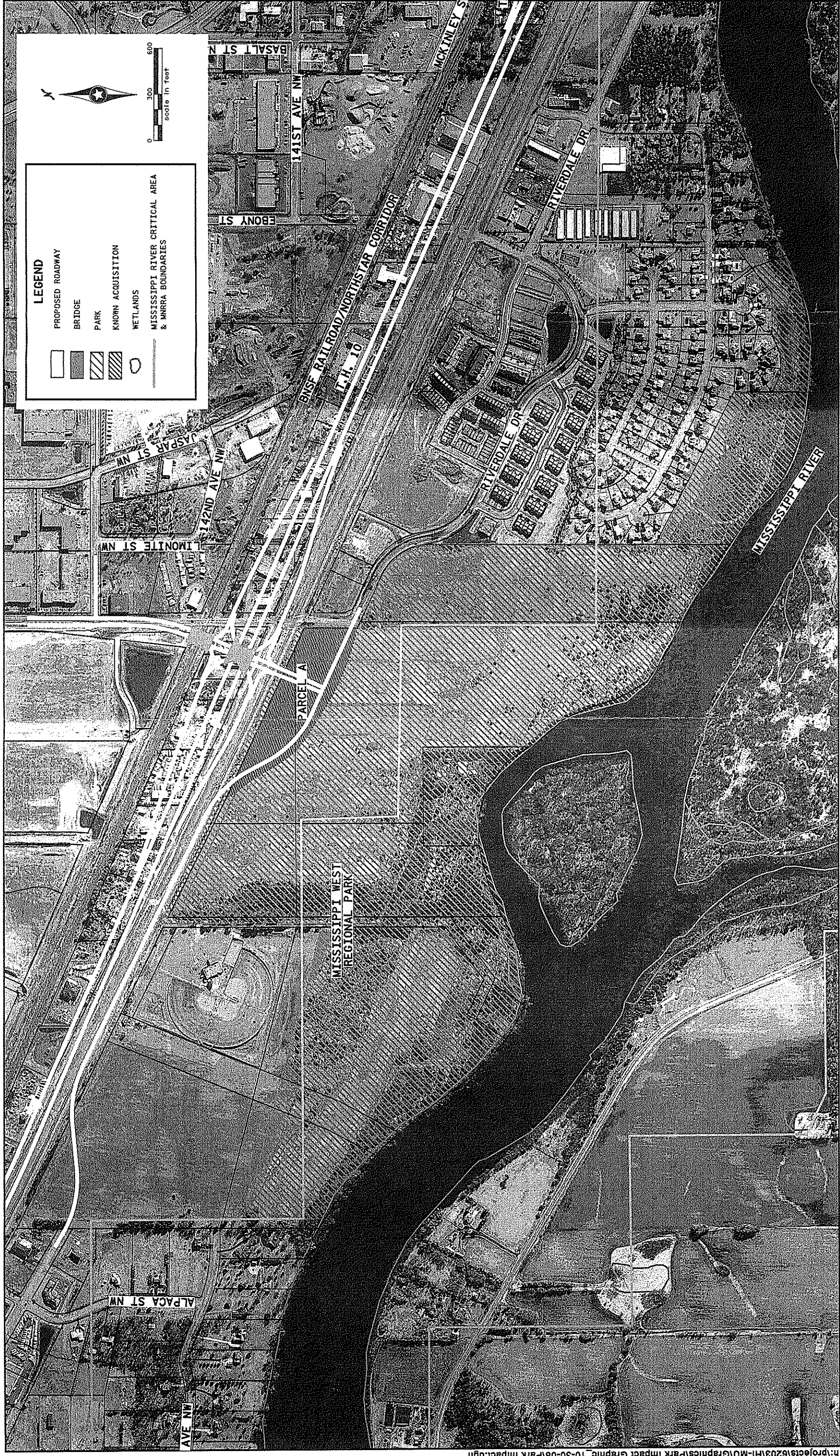
By: [Signature] 2/27/09
DATE
Terry L. Johnson, County Administrator

Approved By

By: [Signature] February 13, 2009
DATE
John VonDeLinde, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Approved as to Form

By: [Signature] 3-3-09
DATE
Robert M. A. Johnson, County Attorney



Section 4(f) Park Impact

TH 10 in Ramsey
 S.P. 199-010-09, S.P. 02-596-10, HPPH MN196(002)
 Anoka County, City of Ramsey, Mn/DOT
 Job: 6203
 10/30/2008

Figure 1

MLCC Legend for Mississippi West Regional Park:

11229	Artificial surfaces with deciduous trees...other deciduous trees (4.6 acres)
21110	Upland soils with planted, maintained or cultivated coniferous trees (9.6 acres)
21213	Planted, maintained or cultivated deciduous trees...other deciduous trees (6.5 acres)
23211	Planted or maintained grasses...short grasses (4.1 acres)
24210	Upland soils with cultivated close grown cropland (3.7 acres)
32170	Upland deciduous trees...altered/non-native deciduous forest (54.7 acres)
32210	Upland deciduous forest...floodplain forest (5.2 acres)
32211	Upland deciduous forest...floodplain forest, silver maple subtype (46.5 acres)
41130	Upland coniferous woodland...eastern red cedar woodland (7.4 acres)
42130	Upland deciduous woodland...altered/non-native deciduous woodland (1 acre)
43110	Mixed coniferous – deciduous woodland...altered/non-native woodland (11.7 acres)
61110	Tall upland herbaceous vegetation...mesic prairie (19.7 acres)
61213	Medium-tall upland herbaceous...dry prairie, sand-gravel subtype (13.9 acres)
61220	Medium-tall upland herbaceous...medium-tall non-native dominated herbaceous vegetation (72.2 acres)
61320	Tall upland herbaceous vegetation...wet-meadow-temporarily flooded (1 acre)
62140	Grasslands with sparse deciduous trees...non-native dominated herbaceous vegetation with sparse deciduous trees (6.6 acres)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anoka County, Minnesota

DATE: December 14, 2010

RESOLUTION #2010-168

OFFERED BY COMMISSIONERS: Lang and LeDoux

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE
APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE
MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest for the County of Anoka to provide open space recreational facilities within the County; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka has worked with the City of Ramsey and other regulating agencies in a cooperative effort to locate and develop a regional park in the city; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka and the Metropolitan Council have designated Mississippi West a regional park; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka has through studies and evaluations developed a park development program for Mississippi West, which is required to be approved by the Metropolitan Council; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requires a Mississippi West Master Plan for this regional park; and,

WHEREAS, the local city representatives have reviewed and commented on the plan:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan which is dated December 2010, a copy of which is on file in the office of Anoka County administrator, 2100 3rd Ave., Anoka, MN 55303, and authorizes its submission to the Metropolitan Council for its approval so that park development will be eligible for future Metropolitan Council grant funding.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution and Master Plan be forwarded to the Metropolitan Council, Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department, and the City of Ramsey.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ANOKA) ^{ss}

I, Terry L. Johnson, County Administrator, Anoka County, Minnesota, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution of the county board of said county with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office, Anoka County, Minnesota, as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board at a meeting duly held on December 14, 2010, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness my hand and seal this 14th day of December 2010.


TERRY L. JOHNSON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
DISTRICT #1 – BERG	X	
DISTRICT #2 – LANG	X	
DISTRICT #3 – WEST	X	
DISTRICT #4 – KORDIAK	X	
DISTRICT #5 – LEDOUX	X	
DISTRICT #6 – SIVARAJAH	X	
DISTRICT #7 – ERHART	X	



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

October 20, 2010

Susan Overson
National Park Service
Mississippi National River Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Draft Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park

Dear Susan:

Enclosed please find a draft master plan for Mississippi West Regional Park located in Ramsey, MN.

As you know, the park is located within the Mississippi National River Recreation Area and is located along the Mississippi River Trail. When complete, the development of the park will provide a convenient stopping point along the MNRRA corridor either by boat or by bicycle.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to review and comment on the plan at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to working with you on the development of this park. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 763-767-2865 or via e-mail at karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Thank you and regards,

Karen Blaska
Park Planner

OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

October 20, 2010

Molly Shodeen
Department of Natural Resources
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

Re: Draft Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park

Dear Molly:

Enclosed please find a draft master plan for Mississippi West Regional Park located in Ramsey, MN. As you know, the park is located along the Mississippi River and provides great access to the river.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to review and comment on the plan at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to working with you on the development of this park. If you have any questions, you can contact me at 763-767-2865 or via e-mail at karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Thank you and regards,

Karen Blaska
Park Planner

OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES



Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

October 11, 2010

Amber Miller
Planning Manager
City of Ramsey
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

Re: Draft Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park

Dear Amber:

Enclosed please find a draft master plan for Mississippi West Regional Park located in Ramsey, MN. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to review and comment on the plan at your earliest convenience.

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is holding a public meeting on October 20th, 2010 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Ramsey Municipal Center, to obtain public comment on the plan.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at 763-767-2865 or via e-mail at karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Thank you and regards,

Karen Blaska
Park Planner


OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES

Public Meeting Notice

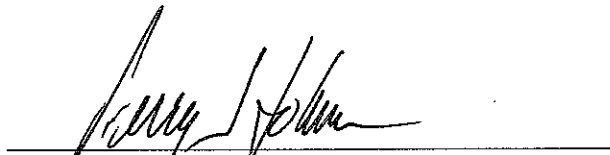
Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public meeting on October 20, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Dr NW, Ramsey, MN 55303 to obtain public comment on the master plan for Mississippi West Regional Park located in Ramsey, MN. Proposed plans include picnic facilities, restroom buildings, trails, interpretive center, boat launch, fishing pier, observations decks, natural resource restoration, roadways and parking lots.

Anyone interested in learning more about the master plan or wanting to offer comments is invited to attend the meeting. Those who have questions, but are unable to attend, may contact Karen Blaska, Park Planner at 763-767-2865.



Kathryn Timm
Assistant County Attorney



Terry L. Johnson
County Administrator

Publish In:
Anoka County Union: October 8 and October 15, 2010