

# PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

## and Meeting of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners\*\*

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.  
Bunker Hills Activities Center, Oak Room

### Department Updates

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### County Board Items

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1. Metropolitan Council Parks and Trail Legacy Grant Authorizations
2. Bid Award – Wargo Nature Center Roadway and Parking Lot Improvements

### Informational Items

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3. Projects Update – Single Track Trails at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve
4. Contracts Processed

### Public Comments

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*Please Limit to Two Minutes*

*\*\* Actions taken by this Committee do not bind the County Board. In addition to the County Commissioners appointed to this committee, additional County Commissioners may attend. Non-committee Commissioners may choose to participate in the discussions and/or ask questions, but they will **not** vote on any item, nor will they agree to take a specific action on business conducted by the committee. If their attendance and limited participation in the committee meeting is considered a meeting of the County Board, this shall serve as notice of a County Board meeting. This shall also serve as notice of a County Board Meeting for any committee comprised of four or more members of the board.*

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ANOKA  
COUNTY  
PARKS

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## EVENTS AND UPDATES

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From the Director	3
Rice Creek Bridge Maintenance	4
Camping Nights	4
Ash Trees Get Injections to Control Emerald Ash Borer	5
Islands of Peace Trail Improvements	5
Virtual Summer Camps	6
Chomonix Golf Course - Membership Spotlight	7
Oven Improvements at Bunker Beach	7



## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The seven-county Twin Cities Metro Area is home to a system of regional parks and trails that are nationally renowned for their beauty, size and variety of features. The system includes 56 regional parks and preserves (totaling 54,000 acres) and over 400 miles of interconnected trails. It provides a wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation, exercise, and relaxation. It also preserves significant natural areas, water resources, and wildlife habitat.

Anoka County's portion of the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System is comprised of 8 regional parks (totaling 9,400 acres) and 10 regional trails (totaling 100 miles currently open for use). Every year, the Anoka County Parks Department conducts park use counts to estimate the number of annual visits to Anoka County's regional parks and trails. Anoka County provides the park use data to the Metropolitan Council for further analysis and for producing the Regional Parks System Annual Use Estimate.

In 2019, regional parks in Anoka County had a significant gain in visits with more than 376,800 additional visits. An estimated 5.028 million visits were made to Anoka County's Regional Parks System. Overall, 70% of the visits were to Regional Parks while the remaining 30% of visits were to regional trails. Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve was the most visited park in 2019, accounting for 757,658 visits. The most visited regional trail was Rice Creek Trail West in Fridley with 279,355 visits.

In addition to the regional parks and trails, Anoka County has 5 County Parks, 2 Conservation Areas, and 1 Natural Area that are not accounted for in the above annual use estimates. The estimated annual park use for the county parks is approximately 800,000 visits. As a result, the combined total park use estimate across the entire Anoka County Park System in 2019 was an impressive 5.828 million visits.

The escalating popularity and use of Anoka County's Parks System directly correlates to the hard work, pride, and passion of the entire Parks Department team and their underlying desire to best serve the public. Lastly, the County Board continues to provide strong policy support and balanced decision making that results in a premier park system for the residents of Anoka County, the Metropolitan Region and beyond.

Jeff Perry

# RICE CREEK BRIDGE MAINTENANCE



The Anoka County Parks System is largely natural resource based - nearly every park is associated with a lake, river or creek. Rice Creek is the dominant creek that flows from eastern Anoka County in the Columbus area south and east towards the Mississippi River in Fridley. Columbus Lake Conservation Area, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, Chomonix Golf Course, Locke Park, Manomin County Park, Rice Creek North and Rice Creek West Regional Trails are all located along this prominent natural corridor. As would be expected, there are walking, hiking and biking trails along the creek with multiple bridge crossings. On those trails, Anoka County Parks maintenance is responsible for the upkeep of 14 bridges that cross Rice Creek. One of the larger bridges is along Aqua Lane which leads to Chomonix Golf Course in Lino Lakes.



The bridge over Rice Creek on Aqua lane was designed and built in the early 90's – and is both road and trail separated by a large railing. Over the past 30 years, the wooden pedestrian trail portion was slowly degraded by snowmobile traffic, weather and the elements. Parks maintenance staff assessed the bridge for repairs in summer 2019 with the intent to get the decking replaced this year. The decking needed was custom 3"x 12" treated rough timber and was ordered and milled from a local lumber yard. Repairs are underway by Parkkeepers, which include the total replacement of the decking, with the end result will be of a bridge surface which should last another 25-years for people to enjoy. Thanks for the hard work by the maintenance team!

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## CAMPFIRE NIGHTS

When the warm winds of summer blow over Bunker Hills Regional Park and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park, they carry with them a distinct and familiar smell: campfire smoke. The smell is a compass, pointing campers towards an evening of relaxation and restfulness. Campers have flocked to the Bunker Hills and Rice Creek campgrounds this year. They've brought with them RV's and tents of all sizes, and many of them, the appetite for a night under stars and in front of a fire. More than 3,100 bundles of firewood have helped to fuel those nights. Each one of the nearly 21,000 logs was bundled and stacked by Anoka County's Natural Resources crew before being sold to a new happy camper. Those bundles have fueled stories and songs, they've cooked hotdogs and smores. They've warmed campers on cool summer nights and have taught little ones how to build a fire. In the midst of a season with so many changes, these moments have proved to be a point of consistency; campfires will burn, and good times will be had.





## ASH TREES GET INJECTIONS TO CONTROL EMERALD ASH BORER

Birch Tree Care Company has been contracted to treat selected ash trees in the parks to control Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The treatment is an injection which will protect the tree for 2-3 years. Trees were selected for treatment based on their importance in the landscape, overall health and condition, and their potential for continued importance in the landscape. Approximately 100 trees were treated across the park system and at Chomonix golf course. Supplemental tree plantings will be done to mitigate the loss of those trees not selected for treatment. These plantings will focus on adding diversity to the landscape so that when the next insect or disease comes through, the park system won't realize such an impact with the loss of elm trees and now ash trees. The goal is to have a tree community that is comprised of no more than 5% of one species, 10% of a single genus and 20% of a plant family. Not only will this provide a level of protection from the next pest that comes down the road, but it will also add visual interest due to the variety of species that park patrons will have to enjoy.

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## ISLANDS OF PEACE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Islands of Peace located in the City of Fridley, opened to the public in 1973 and was one of the first parks in the Twin Cities area at the time to be considered accessible to people with disabilities. In August some much-needed trail work will begin at the park. The trail redevelopment project consists of removing existing paved trails, replacing culverts, reconfiguring and paving trails, which will reduce impervious surface by more than 30%), adding boulder steps for access to the river bank, interpretive signage about the Mississippi River Flyway, native floodplain forest on the islands, and the importance of pollinator friendly vegetation, as well as over 7 acres of custom site-specific seeding inside and outside the construction limits. The Parks Department has partnered with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to include bank stabilization, increased shoreline native plant community diversity for habitat enhancement and seeding the island for pollinator species in this project. Construction is anticipated to beginning in August and be complete before winter. This project is being funded through grants from the Metropolitan Council's Parks and Trails Legacy program and the Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization.





## VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMPS

When working with kids is what you do during the summer, and you can't actually be with kids in-person, you create something different! Wargo Nature Center staff has been working hard to create a new virtual summer day camp experience for children this summer. Most of the camps that are usually offered are back – just in a virtual format. Each camp has an on-line component as well as themed daily activities found in their activity packet. Each camper also receives a Camp in a Box which provides them with a day camp t-shirt and specialized items to enrich their experience. These items can include guidebooks, magnifying lenses, clay, glue, paracord – all items that they will use as they complete their daily activities. Thanks to a generous donation from Connexus Energy, this Camp in a Box experience is free! Campers “meet” with naturalists on-line for about an hour every morning. During this time, they participate in games like and, the themed activities for the day are introduced. After this virtual session is over, campers create, explore, and learn from their daily activities. At the end of the session, the whole group again meets on-line to share what they have learned.



# CHOMONIX GOLF COURSE - MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Mikel "Lu" Lamor enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1989 and retired from the Army in 2017. He says after putting on 30 lbs. of retirement weight he was looking for an activity to get back in shape while still being socially conscious and maintaining physical distancing.

Having been a golf fan for years, but only recreationally golfed a few times, he thought this would be the perfect time to take it up as a hobby. He purchased some beginner's gear, then a membership to Chomonix, and quickly became a regular on our course.

"I knew I would enjoy it, but had no idea just how much!" he told us. "It's become my zen place... like church, gym, and therapy all rolled into one. The staff are all friendly and helpful, the course is beautiful and challenging, and I have met some really fun and interesting fellow golfers."

Having already played 62 rounds this season (sometimes two or three rounds a day), always walking with his push-cart, he highly recommends the sport to everyone he meets. "In less than 3 months I've lost the 30 extra pounds I packed on since retirement, and have never felt better... emotionally, mentally, or physically. Wish I'd taken it up sooner!"

He's looking forward to finding a league to join next year, but for now he's trying to hit his goal of playing 100 rounds this year. As a birthday treat to himself he signed up for our Moniker Open tournament, so if you see Lu out there wish him a happy 50th!

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## OVEN IMPROVEMENTS AT BUNKER BEACH

2020 is all about improving efficiencies and the guest experience for Bunker Beach. Tidal Wave Café is now equipped with an oven that will cook five times as much food at one time as we could before. Staff participated in a training learning how to program and properly clean the oven. The new Combi-Rational allows for ten pans of food to be cooked at once! Staff will be able to utilize an app that provides 24/7 assistance for oven operations and cooking tips. Bunker Beach Staff will work closely with a professional chef to determine correct heat and time settings on menu items for the 2021 season.



# COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEM 1 – AUTHORIZATION OF PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY GRANT AGREEMENTS

## Parks Committee

Committee Date: August 4, 2020

County Board Date: August 11, 2020

### Action Requested

For the Committee to recommend to the County Board to authorize two Metro Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Agreements for projects within the regional parks system.

### Previous Committee / County Board Action

February 2019 - 10-year Project Forecast Review

### Background / Analysis

The County will be receiving two Metropolitan Council Parks and Trails Legacy grant agreements for two projects within the regional parks system FY2021. They are as follows:

1. \$1,385,249.88 for Bunker Beach Wave Pool's reconstruction and Asset Management. (Anoka County Contract# C0008066).
2. \$100,000 for hiring CCM or staff to conduct natural resource management and maintenance within the regional park and trail system. (Anoka County Contract #C0008067).

Since these projects are funded through the State's Legacy Program, the grant amounts are based on sales tax revenue receipts from across the State. As a result of COVID 19, the initial financial projections anticipated up to a 50% reduction in these grant funds, or approximately a \$852,000 cut.

Fortunately, there is only a 13% reduction in grant funds, or a \$220,678 cut. Accordingly, the Bunker Beach original budget will only be reduced by \$160,678 and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota budget will be reduced by \$60,000.

Per the Metropolitan Council, fully executed grant agreements must be in place prior to any project expenditures. The Parks Department is requesting authorization of these grant agreements in August, so that once the funding agreements are received, they can be signed by the Board immediately and returned to the Met Council for full execution.

### Conclusion / Recommendation

For the Committee to recommend to the County Board to authorize two Metro Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Agreements (Anoka County Contract #C0008066 & #C0008067) for projects within the regional park system, upon review and approval by the County Attorney's office as to form and legality.

### Supporting Documents

N/A

### Lead Staff

Karen Blaska, Park Planner

**COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEM 2 –AWARD OF BID - WARGO NATURE CENTER ROADWAY AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS**

**Parks Committee**

**Committee Date: August 4, 2020**

**County Board Date: August 11, 2020**

**Action Requested**

For the Committee to recommend to the County Board to award a contract for the Wargo Nature Center Roadway and Parking Lot Improvement Project to Northwest Asphalt from Shakopee, MN in the amount of \$582,035.75 (Anoka County Contract #0007926).

**Previous Committee / County Board Action**

July 2020 – Project Update – Informational Item  
February 2020 – 10 year forecast information item  
June 2019 – Grant Authorization – Wargo Entrance Road Reconstruction

**Background / Analysis**

The Department has been working on the design and engineering of the entrance road and parking lot at Wargo Nature Center, located within Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve in Lino Lakes, MN. This project will reconstruct the entrance roadway with a bike lane and reconstruct the parking lot. A request for bids was issued in June. Bids were opened July 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. There were 5 bidders. Northwest Asphalt from Shakopee, MN was the lowest most responsive and responsible bidder with a base bid of \$573,210.75. There was one alternate for the removal and installation of signs and the installation of a vehicular gate across the road for \$8,825.00. Parks staff recommends including the alternate for a total contract price of \$582,035.75 which is well within the allocated budget.

This project is financed with a Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvements Grant (State & Metro Council bonds).

**Conclusion / Recommendation**

For the Committee to recommend to the County Board to award a contract for the Wargo Nature Center Roadway and Parking Lot Improvement Project to Northwest Asphalt of Shakopee, MN for total contract amount of \$582,035.75. (Anoka County Contract #0007926).

**Supporting Documents**

Bid Summary

**Lead Staff**

Danielle Sanborn, Landscape Architect



## COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 3 – PROJECT UPDATE – SINGLE TRACK BIKE TRAILS

### Parks Committee

Committee Date: August 4, 2020

County Board Date: August 11, 2020

#### Action Requested

Provide the Committee an update on the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Single Track Bike Trail Development Project. This item is for informational purposes only and no action is required.

#### Previous Committee / County Board Action

February 2020 - Resolution to enter a cooperative professional and technical services contract with Minnesota Department of Transportation and HDR, Inc. for archaeological investigation.

February 2019 – Resolution Authorizing Submission of Funding Application.

May 2018 – Authorization to Hold Open House regarding single track trail at park.

January 2018 – Resolution of Support for the RCCOL Master Plan amendment (to include single track trails).

#### Background / Analysis

As part of the grant funding process for the single-track trails at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, the County was required to conduct an archaeological survey. The County entered into a three-party contract with the MnDOT and HDR for the work. It is a three-way agreement because the MnDOT is covering 80% of the survey costs. HDR concluded the first part of their archaeological survey. The survey revealed there were certain sites within the project area that needed more detailed investigation. This additional survey work will determine the extent of the archaeological sites, as well as determine what areas will need to be avoided when building the trails. The survey and report are scheduled to be completed by the end of September. This will delay construction of the trails to late fall or spring of 2021.

MnDOT will amend the three-party contract between the County, MnDOT, and HDR. The original contract amount was \$70,979.19, of which the County was responsible to pay 20%, or \$14,195.84. The additional work will add a total of \$28,827 to the contract, of which the County will be responsible for 20%, or \$5,765.40. The total amount to be paid by the County will be \$19,961.24. This project is being funded through a Federal Recreation Trails Grant.

#### Conclusion / Recommendation

Informational Item - No action required.

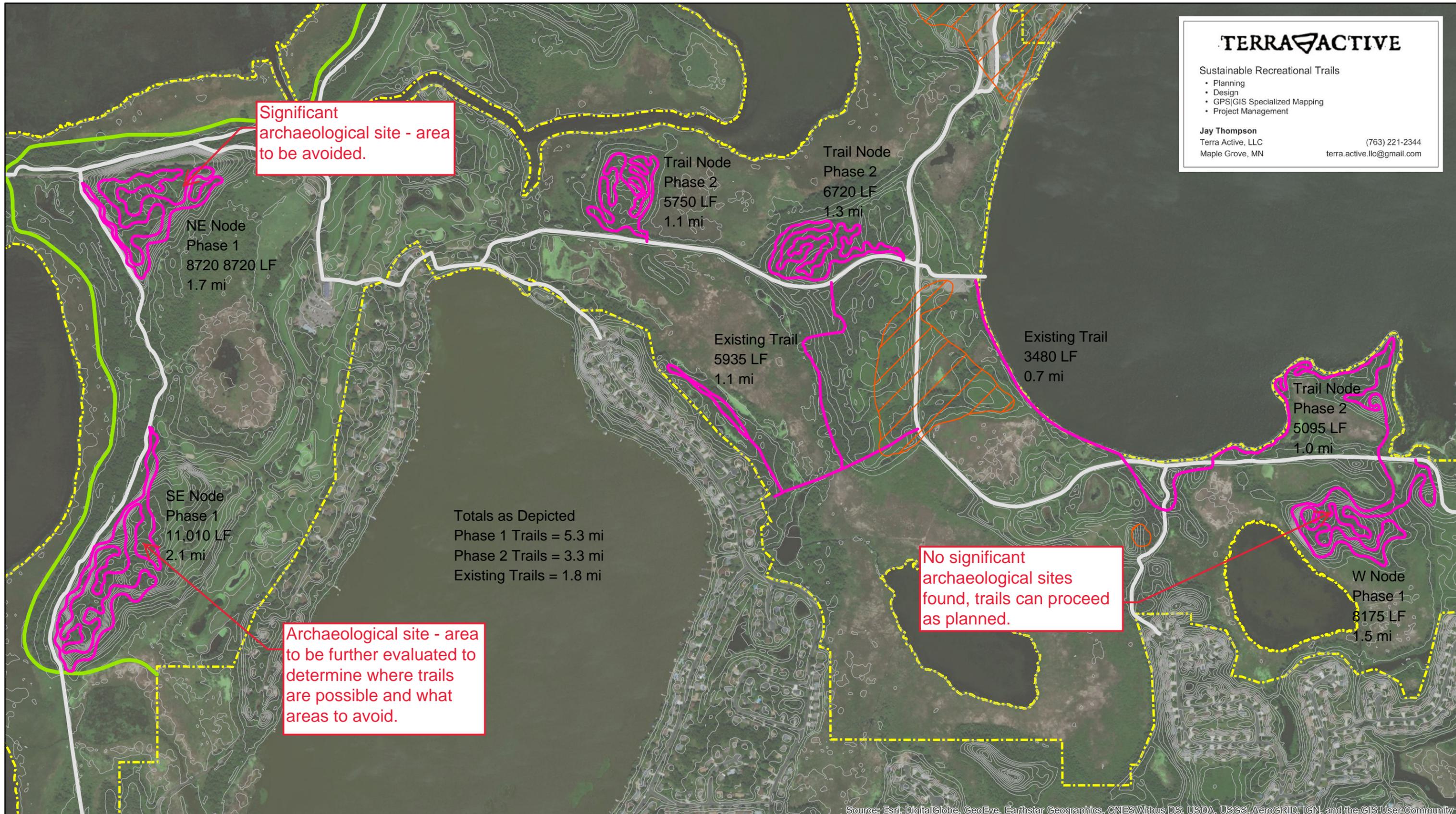
#### Supporting Documents

Project plan showing the archaeological sites and the areas under review.

#### Lead Staff

Jake Thompson, Landscape Planner

- Planning
- Design
- GPS/GIS Specialized Mapping
- Project Management



Significant archaeological site - area to be avoided.

NE Node Phase 1  
8720 LF  
1.7 mi

Trail Node Phase 2  
5750 LF  
1.1 mi

Trail Node Phase 2  
6720 LF  
1.3 mi

Existing Trail  
5935 LF  
1.1 mi

Existing Trail  
3480 LF  
0.7 mi

Trail Node Phase 2  
5095 LF  
1.0 mi

SE Node Phase 1  
11,010 LF  
2.1 mi

Totals as Depicted  
Phase 1 Trails = 5.3 mi  
Phase 2 Trails = 3.3 mi  
Existing Trails = 1.8 mi

No significant archaeological sites found, trails can proceed as planned.

W Node Phase 1  
8175 LF  
1.5 mi

Archaeological site - area to be further evaluated to determine where trails are possible and what areas to avoid.

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

# Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve

## Proposed Singletrack Trail Project Overview



## COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM 4 – CONTRACTS PROCESSED

### Parks Committee

Committee Date: August 4, 2020

County Board Date: August 11, 2020

<b>Action Requested</b> To provide information to the Committee regarding contracts executed by the Parks Department since the last Committee meeting.
<b>Previous Committee / County Board Action</b> Monthly Update
<b>Background / Analysis</b> C0008017 Edward Jones -Tee Box Advertising C0008027 Coon Creek Watershed – BB Wave Pool C0008061 CenterPoint- Right of Entry Residential Pipeline C0008062 Lino Lake Real Estate -Tee Box Advertising C0008064-Right of Entry Scott Kastner- Fire Break in Cedar Creek C0008069 Collaborative Design Group Inc.- Engineering for Lake George Pavilions C0008054 AIS Grant Agreement Coon Lake Improvement District CLID C0008055 AIS Grant Agreement Centerville Lake Association C0008056 AIS Grant Agreement Crooked Lake Association C0008058 AIS Grant Agreement Martin Lakers Association
<b>Conclusion / Recommendation</b> No action requested.
<b>Supporting Documents</b> N/A
<b>Lead Staff</b> Andy Soltvedt, Operations and Visitor Services Manager