

APRIL 13, 2017



MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT



Anoka County
PARKS & RECREATION

ANOKA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
550 BUNKER LAKE BLVD NW, ANDOVER, MN 55304

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Crystal Passi, Landscape Planner

Andy Soltvedt, Marketing and Visitor Services Manager

Nicole Greenwell, Communication Specialist

MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

BACKGROUND

Mississippi West Regional Park is a 273-acre park located within the City of Ramsey adjacent to the Mississippi River and Trunk Highway 10. Refer to Figure 1 for the park's location in the county. Figure 2 shows that the main portion of the park consists of approximately 183 acres of upland along the river and two islands within the river of



FIGURE 1

approximately 90 acres. Since the main portion of the park has 1-1/2 miles of shoreline along the Mississippi River, it offers a unique setting to provide recreational and educational opportunities in the area and 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.

Moving forward from the 2006 comprehensive system plan, an amendment to the existing Mississippi West Regional Park master plan was developed and approved by the Met Council in 2011. This master plan outlined a five phase park development plan. Since that time, the County has reassessed the conceptual plan from 2006 based on the existing conditions, the natural resource restoration within the park and the proposed recreational and educational facilities. The County, with this master plan amendment, is proposing to change the vehicular access of the park, adjust the park boundary to accommodate the City of Ramsey's Riverdale Drive frontage road extension, add a few canoe camping sites on the islands and reprioritize the current phasing of the development plans. Development costs

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Moving forward from the 2006 comprehensive system plan, an amendment to the existing Mississippi West Regional Park master plan was developed and

approved by the Met Council in 2011. This master plan outlined a five phase park development plan. Since that time, the County has reassessed the conceptual plan from 2006 based on the existing conditions, the natural resource restoration within the



FIGURE 2

associated with this amendment are approximately \$1,163,000 and are anticipated to be completed within the next five to ten years.

BOUNDARIES

The current park boundary contains 273 acres and approximately 3 -1/2 miles of shoreline, including the islands of Foster and Cloquet, as shown in Figure 2.

A future City of Ramsey Riverdale Drive frontage road extension project is anticipated to impact the park boundary adjacent to Highway 10. It is anticipated that this project will impact approximately five acres of the park in a linear fashion between Ramsey Boulevard and Traprock Street. See Figure 3 for proposed layout plan of the

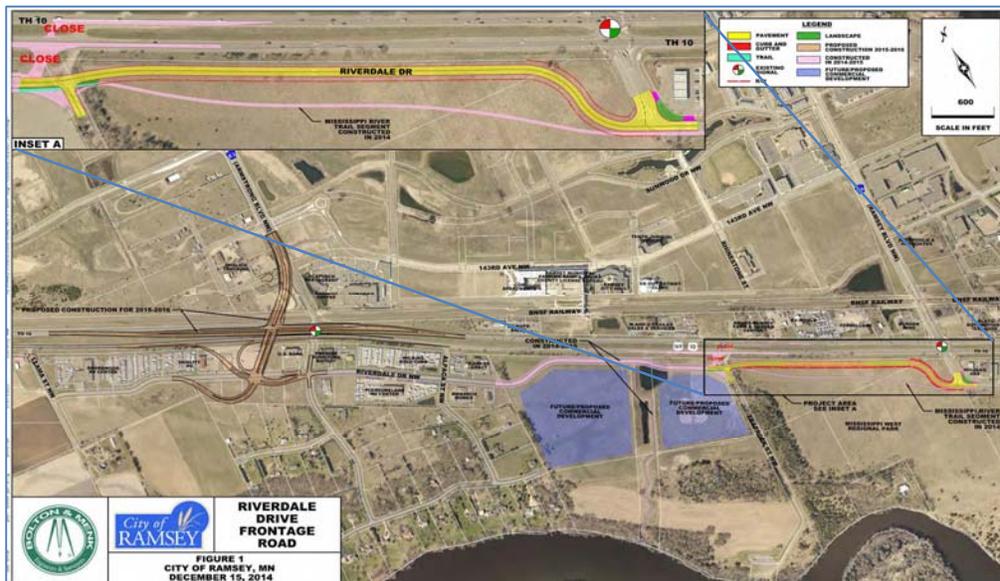


FIGURE 3

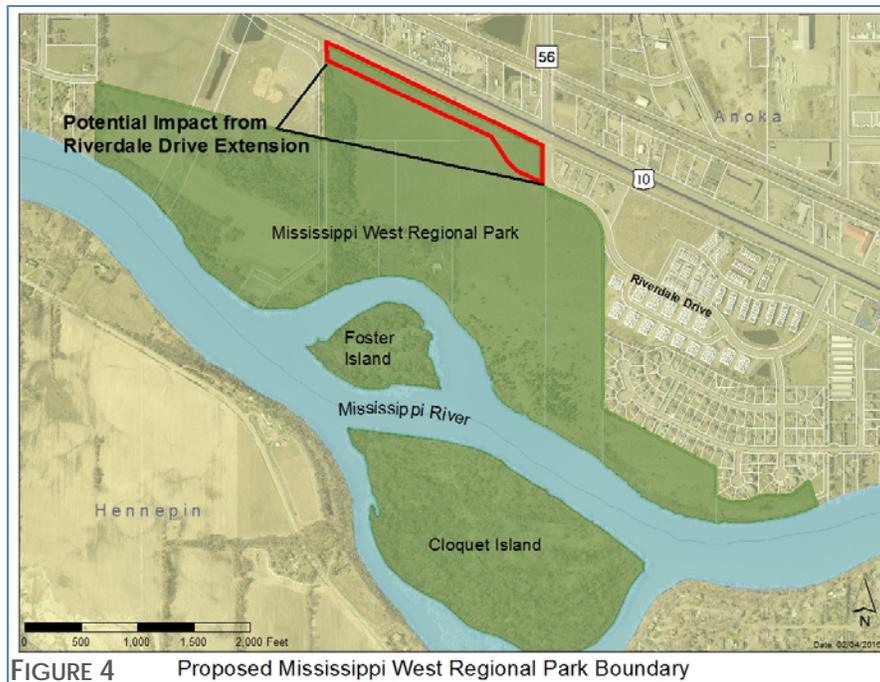


FIGURE 4 Proposed Mississippi West Regional Park Boundary

project and Figure 4 for the approximate impact to the park. It is anticipated that the City of Ramsey will provide the market value of \$200,000 for the parkland impact to the County, which will be used for equally valuable facility improvements within the park. Some of these improvements include constructing a paved entrance road, constructing a parking lot and/or constructing additional trails within the park. Refer to the Development Concept and Exhibit 1 & 2 in the Appendix for more information on the City of Ramsey project.

There are no parcels that need to be acquired for this boundary adjustment, therefore no acquisition costs associated with this amendment are to be incurred. After the boundary adjustment the park will consist of 268 acres. There are no other anticipated special assessments or other conditions that would affect park development.

STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Future management and stewardship of the park will continue as regional recreation open space in the regional system. Since this park is only partially developed as far as amenities and recreational opportunities go, the stewardship plan for the park thus far has focused on natural resource management and restoration. The County has conducted several restoration projects to restore the previously fallow farm fields to native prairie and grasslands. Future restoration projects are proposed within the riparian area along the river and to the riverbank itself, as well as planting a diverse variety of trees and shrubs to increase the biodiversity in the park.

Since the park is relatively undeveloped, the majority of the current operational and maintenance expenses relate to the on-going management of the native prairie and grassland restorations. Funds for those expenses have been offset by the parks general operating budget, the Metropolitan Council's Operations and Maintenance grant program and the Lottery in Lieu of program. Future development of the park will increase the operations and maintenance requirements within the park, but those expenses are anticipated to be offset by an increase in revenues related to the sale of daily and annual park passes, rental fees and special use permit fees as well as an increase in the operating budget.

There are no non-recreational uses planned for in the development of this park.

DEMAND FORECAST

Regional parks and trails have been increasing in popularity and as the population grows the need for additional recreation resources and amenities grow as well. The population in the City of Ramsey is anticipated to grow, as is Anoka County. The table below shows the Thrive 2040 MSP – Forecasts as of July 8, 2015.

Population Forecast¹

YEAR	RAMSEY	ANOKA COUNTY
2010	23,668	330,844
2040	34,700	438,820

According to the Metropolitan Council Regional Forecast to 2040, the metro regional area is anticipated to grow by 22% between 2010 and 2040. By 2040, seniors are expected to comprise 20% of the population and people of color will comprise 40%. As the population increases, diversifies, and ages, demand for easily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities and open space increases.

The outdoor recreational use patterns in the metropolitan area have also been growing steadily. Recreational visits to Anoka County regional parks and trails have increased from approximately 2.7 million visits in 2005 to over 3.4 million in 2015.² Visitation to Mississippi West Regional Park increased from 158,800 in 2012 to almost 200,000 in 2015 after the construction of the boat launch.³ The additional development within the park, is anticipated to meet the future demands of the public and thus visitation is expected to increase.

The community engagement process revealed the importance of trails, as hiking and biking were two of the top three preferred uses in the parks as shown by the survey results in Figure 5.

Based on the 2014 Met Council's "Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color", it is anticipated that future proposed

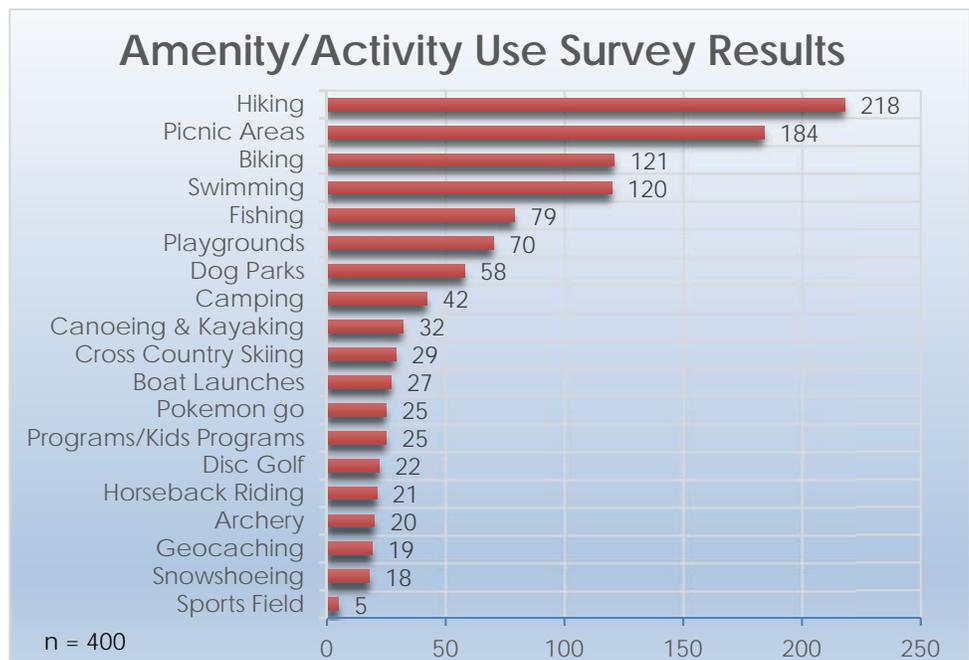


FIGURE 5

¹ Metropolitan Council, Thrive MSP 2040 Forecasts, Adopted May 28, 2014 and revised July 8, 2015

² Annual Use Estimate of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for 2005 & 2015, Metropolitan Council

³ Annual Use Estimate of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for 2012 & 2015, Metropolitan Council

development within the park, i.e., picnic pavilions and trails will appeal to currently underserved populations who noted picnicking, walking/biking and gathering with family as their preferred outdoor activity. In addition, based on the park location on the river, it is anticipated that the fishing opportunities provided within the park will generally appeal to Asian Immigrant and Asian American populations as their preferred outdoor activities were noted as walking, fishing and rest or relaxation.

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

The development concept for the park was laid out in the 2010 Master Plan Amendment and illustrated in Figure 6. The amendment included the construction of a boat launch, infrastructure development, park facility development, visitor center development and a pedestrian crossing.



FIGURE 6: 2010 MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

Since that time, some development has occurred and the current existing conditions, as shown in Figure 7, include a gravel roadway, a boat launch, a paved parking lot for the launch, some trails, two observation points, and the existing homestead site. The existing homestead site consists of a house and several outbuildings which is planned to be removed in 2017, prior to the construction of the Mississippi River Regional Trail through the park.

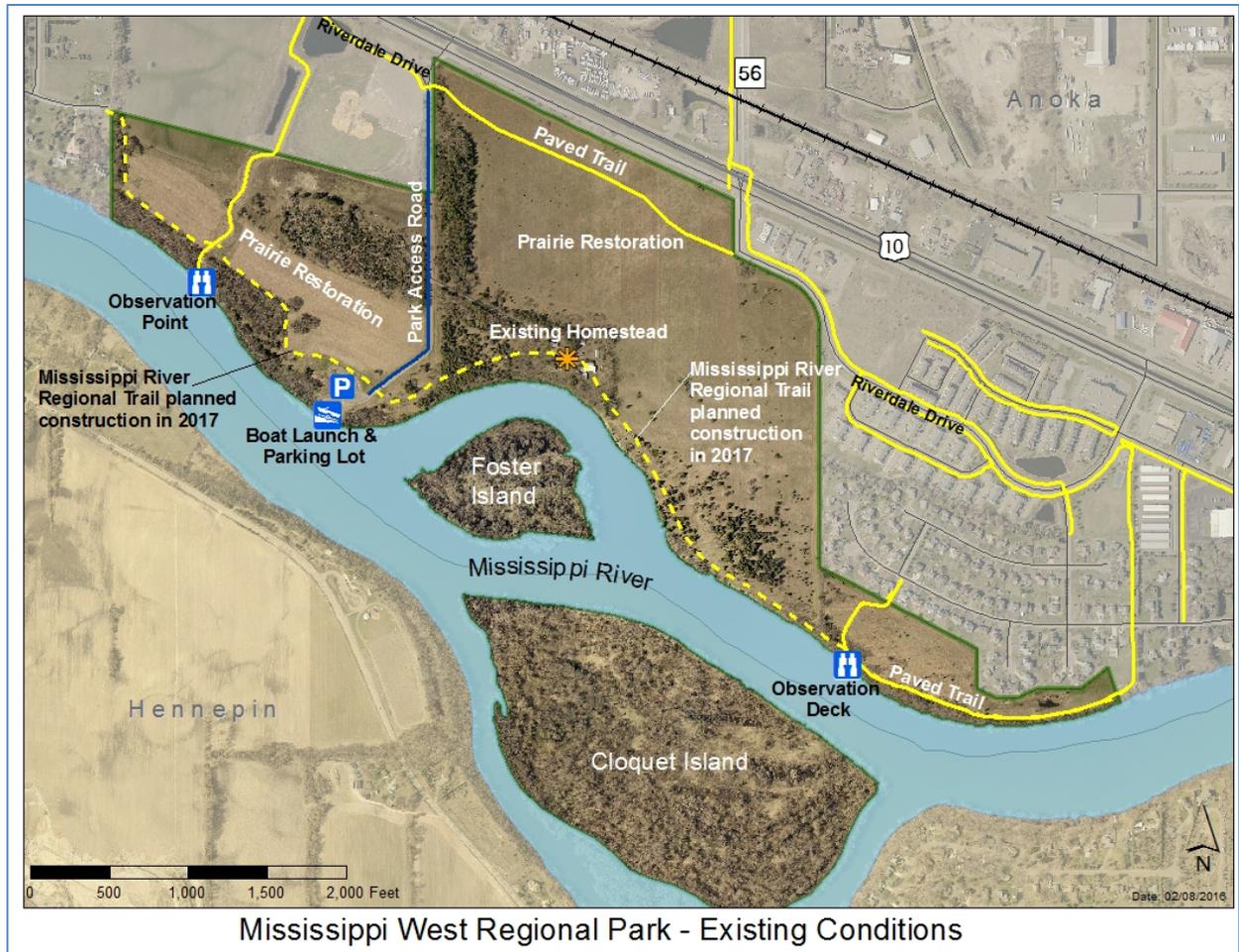


FIGURE 7

This master plan amendment proposes to change the vehicular entrance proposed in the 2010 master plan amendment. Per the 2010 master plan amendment, the vehicular entrance was proposed to be located off of Ramsey Boulevard and Riverdale Drive. To eliminate disturbance and reduce fragmentation in the park, yet still provide easy access to the park, the County is proposing to utilize Traprock Street for access into and out of the park. The road would need to be reconstructed and widened to a minimum of 24 feet to allow safe two-way traffic. In addition, a small parking lot and additional trails are proposed. Refer to Figure 8 for proposed projects. The cost estimate for this work is approximately \$643,000. Some of these development costs are anticipated to be offset through the funding for the equally valuable facility exchange for the 5 acres needed for the City of Ramsey’s frontage road project.

In addition, the County is proposing to add 3 to 5 canoe camp sites on Foster and Cloquet Islands. These would be primitive type sites with latrines. Total cost for this project is anticipated to be \$10,000, but the schedule for implementation of these projects is out 5-10 years.

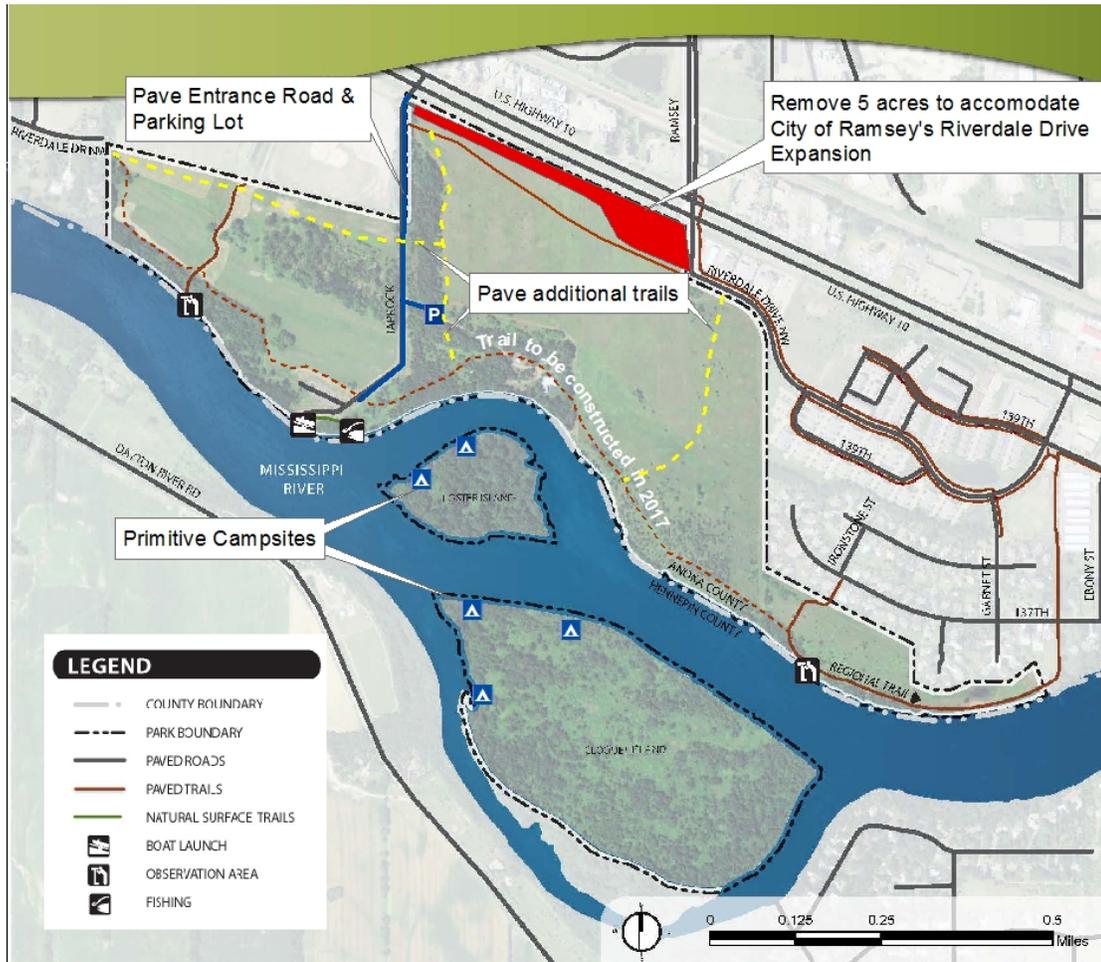


FIGURE 8: ADDITIONAL PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE ADDED TO MASTER PLAN

Wayfinding within the park includes several different types of signs. A monument entrance sign will be located near the vehicular entrance to the park, as illustrated in Figure 9. Vehicular scaled directional signs will be placed along roadways for visitors to quickly find their way within the park. Trailhead signs and directional signs are placed at trailheads to provide an overview of the parks and help users orient themselves to the park. An example of a trailhead sign is shown in Figure 10. Directional and map signs will also be located at decision-making points along the trails. The estimated cost for signs throughout the park is approximately \$50,000. Overall park signage will be implemented when the other development occurs in 5-10 years.



FIGURE 9



FIGURE 10

While there is a well for water on the site, there is not drinking water available at the park. Future plans include hooking into the city water and sewer services during the restroom and shelter phase of development. A sanitary sewer hook-up location is currently located along the existing Riverdale Drive. Water service locations will be completed as part of the frontage road extension project. The cost to hook into these services is estimated to be about \$350,000, which will occur in 5-10 years.



FIGURE 11: OVERALL MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

The development costs for the proposed projects in this master plan amendment are listed in the following table.

Project Description	Development Cost
Roadway, Trail, Parking Lot Construction	\$ 643,000
Canoe Campsites	\$ 10,000
Signage	\$ 50,000
Utility Connections	\$ 350,000
Total Development Cost	\$ 1,053,000

The remaining development plans outlined in the 2010 master plan are still being planned for, but the phasing has been adjusted. The County is now proposing to construct the majority of the infrastructure (roads, additional parking lots, trails), one to two picnic shelters, a restroom, a playground and other smaller amenities within the next 5 to 10 years. A maintenance facility would also be part of that development. The remaining picnic shelters, restrooms, visitor center, and remaining infrastructure as outlined in the 2010 master plan will be implemented within the next 15-20 years as funding allows. Figure 11 illustrates all the projects proposed for the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan.

CONFLICTS

Conflicts related to park development will be kept to a minimum through the proper planning and community engagement. See additional information regarding engagement in the Public Engagement and Participation section of this document.

The park is adjacent to Highway 10 to the north and the Mississippi River to the south. The highway and proposed frontage road will create experiential conflicts for users. Therefore, additional vegetated screening and buffering will be used to enhance the safety, aesthetics and quality of the park experience.

It is anticipated that the proposed City of Ramsey Riverdale Drive Extension project will impact about 5 acres of the park along the northern boundary. This impact is anticipated to be mitigated through an equally valuable facility exchange as illustrated in Figure 8.

It is anticipated that development will impact some of the native prairie and grassland restorations established within the park. The County anticipates temporary impacts to those areas will be restored. In areas where impacts are unavoidable, the County will mitigate those impacts by restoring other non-native areas within the park.

Conflicts between pedestrians and vehicular traffic will be kept to a minimum by reducing the number of trail and road crossings within the park and by working with the City of Ramsey to ensure safe crossings at city road intersections. Treatments for

these areas may include signing, striping and signalized pedestrian crossings. In addition, signs within the parks will alert users of potential conflict areas, i.e. street crossings, driveway crossings, pedestrian cross-traffic, etc., and will provide way-finding and interpretive information.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Since this park is mostly undeveloped, currently there are no public services available within the park. As discussed in the development concept, future development will include hooking into city services for water and sanitary. Current city sanitary service is located near the northeast of the park and proposed city water service will be made available as part of the city's Riverdale Drive extension project. When restroom and pavilion development occurs, these services will be included as part of those development plans.

OPERATIONS

Anoka County Ordinance #2012-01, which will be updated in 2017, regulates the parks and trails under the jurisdiction of Anoka County and is enforced by the local police departments as well as the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. Park Service Specialists (formerly known as Park Rangers) provide education to the public regarding ordinances and other park information.

Current annual operations and maintenance costs for the park are estimated to be about \$23,000. This includes staff time for on-going daily and general routine maintenance within the park, such as cleaning, mowing, sweeping, plowing, debris removal, and sign maintenance, as well as equipment expenses, repairs, service contracts and supplies and utility expenses. Once fully developed the operations and maintenance costs are anticipated to be around \$150,000 annually. Expenses are typically offset by revenue generated through daily and annual park pass sales, picnic pavilion rentals, programs, special events and the parks operating budget. Additional supplementary funding is provided through the Regional Park Operations and Maintenance Grant Program.

Operationally, the proposed canoe campsites are intended to be minimally maintained. It is anticipated that the sites will be monitored weekly to ensure they are clean and safe, with the sites being signed to notify campers to pack out any resulting trash generated from their use. The City of Ramsey has expressed interest in providing the maintenance and operations of the sites for a five-year period or until the park is fully developed. This would be executed through a Joint Powers Agreement prior to any campsites being installed.

Anoka County currently employs a remote building automation system that saves the department \$5,000-10,000 annually compared to traditional energy systems by realizing energy reductions in heating, cooling, lighting, and domestic water during unoccupied and off-peak periods. The program enables staff to monitor, adjust, and troubleshoot building mechanical systems at all of the wide-spread park facilities from a single location, aiding in prompt management and repair. The County has recently

undertaken a project to convert lighting in key facilities to LED technology, in an effort to reduce energy demands. The Maintenance and Parks Services Units utility vehicle fleets include a growing number of electric powered vehicles. Turf irrigation systems employ "rain sensor" technology to avoid using valuable water during periods of precipitation. The County has encouraged employees to go "digital" to reduce the amount of paper in the workplace, by utilizing smaller more portable laptop computers and tablets. The county also recently consolidated its contract filing system so as to reduce the amount of paper files, as well as digital files.

The County, through the Recycle & Resource Solutions Department employs a refuse and recycling program that requires recycling of paper, plastics, etc. Refuse that cannot be reused or recycled is collected and disposed of consistent to applicable laws.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

INTRODUCTION

The public engagement and participation plan identifies local cities, population groups and organizations that are specifically targeted to enable the County to engage the public in an inclusive, accessible and results oriented manner in developing the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan Amendment.

It also describes the approaches and methods used for engagement.

Stakeholders targeted for inclusion in community engagement activities included:

- Diverse population groups not currently represented
- Children and young people
- Elderly people
- Residents in the local and regional area's
- Government Officials/City and County Staff

Outcomes anticipated by the engagement process associated with the development of this master plan are as follows:

- Build positive relationships with local communities/residents.
- Build awareness of the County's regional park and trail system.
- Build community ownership of and understanding of the park and the County's planning process.
- Identify community priorities and expectations for the future of the park.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The County developed a "Plan Your Parks" marketing strategy to share the master plan amendment projects with community members, local cities, staff and other governmental agencies for feedback and input. Multi-lingual postings, e-mail blasts, social media, and pop-up events were included within the strategy and different

methods of engagement were employed to understand what works best for different community groups.

Plan Your Parks - Voting

The County placed static picture boards on easels at different locations throughout the county, i.e. Driver's License Center, Library, etc., to share the proposed projects and allow the public to share their preferred park amenities, preferred trail surfacing, ways of accessing the parks and park safety. Refer to Figure 12. This method was considered successful in the amount of responses received, but unsuccessful in that this method could not track actual number of respondents or if diverse population groups were participating.



FIGURE 12

Plan Your Parks - Social Media

The County shared a “Plan Your Parks” advertisement on social media and the County Parks home page. Refer



FIGURE 13

to Figure 13. The post on social media specifically targeted underserved minority populations within a 20-mile radius and reached almost 8000 people. The post included a short anonymous survey in English, Spanish and Somali that asked for input on access to parks, transportation to parks, preferred amenities and activities, preferred trail surfacing, park cleanliness, city respondent was from, age, sex and ethnicity. There were 100 survey respondents and most were regular park users. The majority of respondents were female, Caucasian, between 25-64 years of age and from Anoka County. Other respondents were between 15-24 years of age, were American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latino or of another ethnicity not specified. Some respondents were from Hennepin and Sherburne counties.

Plan Your Parks - Public Events

The County conducted two public events to reach non-park users and under-represented populations. One event was held at a local mall during a busy shopping season and the other was held at the County's Blaine Service Center. Refer to Figures 14 and 15 for images of the events. At both events, staff attempted to track age, ethnicity and gender of each individual engaged. The mall event engaged approximately 75 people. Of those 75 people, approximately half were considered part of the targeted under-represented population. About half the people were estimated to be between 25-64, while the others were split between the over 65 years of age range or under 25 years of age range. This event is considered a success in that half of those engaged were part of the targeted under-represented population.



FIGURE 14



FIGURE 15

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

There was an estimated total of 400 people engaged during the public participation process. Of the total number engaged, 132 people were actively engaged by providing feedback through one on one discussions at the pop-up events. The others participated through anonymous online surveys and/or "sticky dot" surveys conducted at a variety of locations throughout the County.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics of those 132 people actively engaged were tracked to ensure the Department was actively engaging the under-represented diverse population groups. While the majority of those engaged were part of the existing service population, those who already use the park system, 40% engaged were part of the diverse population groups under-represented in the park system. Figure 16 illustrates the difference.

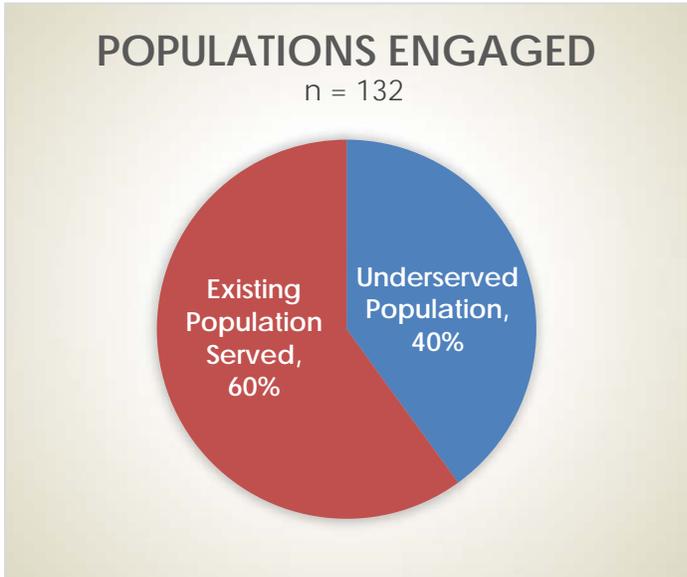


FIGURE 16

Of those engaged, 62% were female and 38% male as shown in Figure 17. Ages categories are shown in Figure 18 and generalized race/ethnicities are shown in Figure 19.

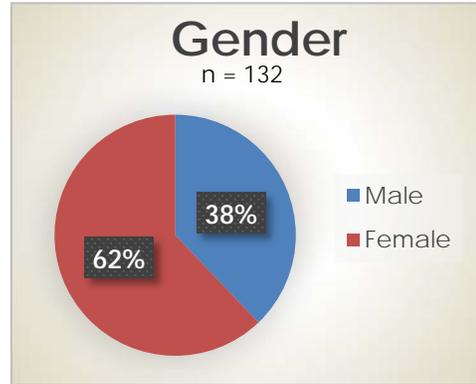


FIGURE 17

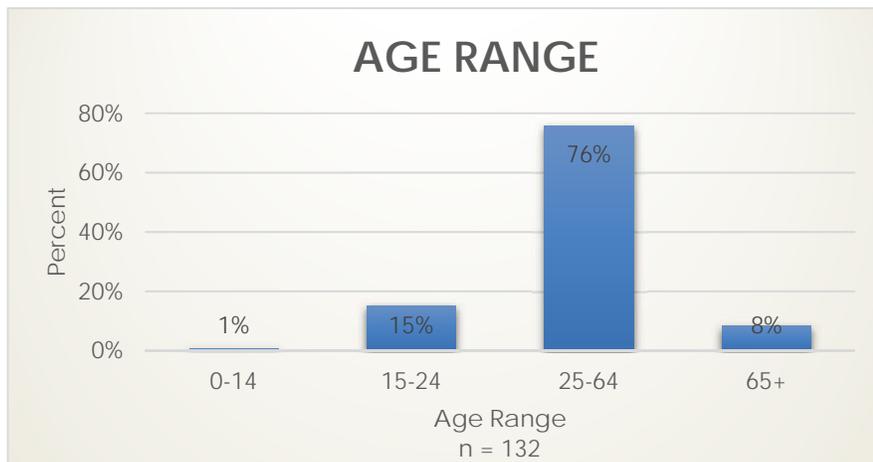


FIGURE 18

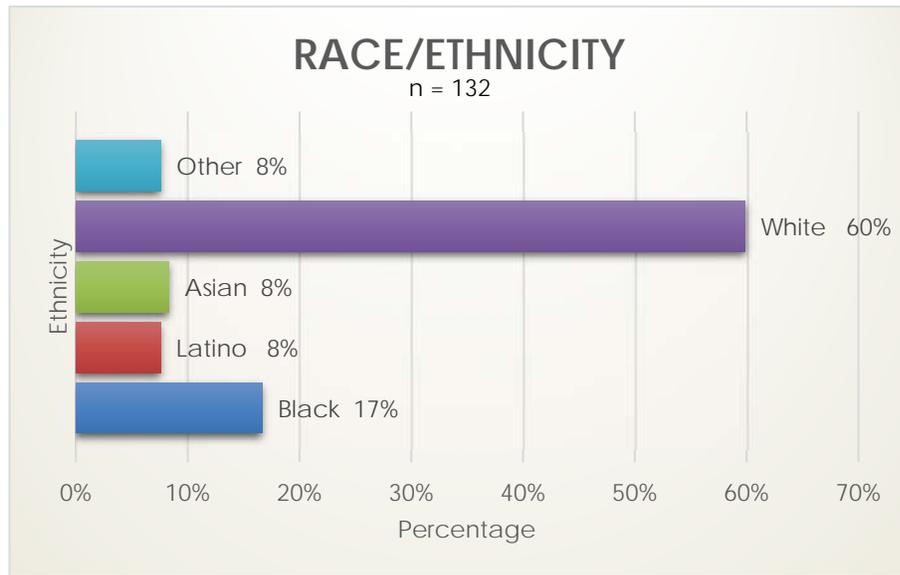


FIGURE 19

SURVEY RESULTS

Throughout the engagement process park amenity use for regional parks was surveyed. Results are shown in Figure 20. Respondents were asked to pick their top three preferred activities. The survey results show that the top three activities for parks and trails were hiking, biking and picnicking, followed closely by swimming, fishing and use of playgrounds. These results for the hiking, biking and picnic areas, provide support for the projects outlined in this master plan amendment. As does the preferred trail surfacing

results as shown in Figure 21. In addition, when asked how users typically access the parks, the majority said drive, but 41% said walk or bike, as shown in Figure 22. Figure 23, shows the preferred method of accessing a park. 62% would prefer to walk or bike to a park as opposed to having to drive. Again, this shows support for the trail projects outlined in the amendments and

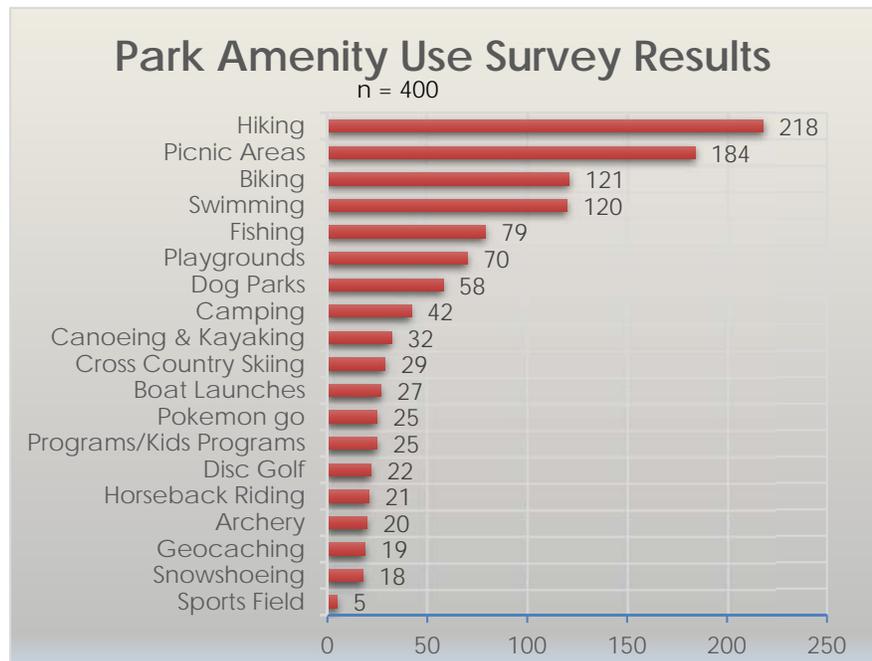


FIGURE 20

shows the importance of connectivity throughout the local and regional trail systems.

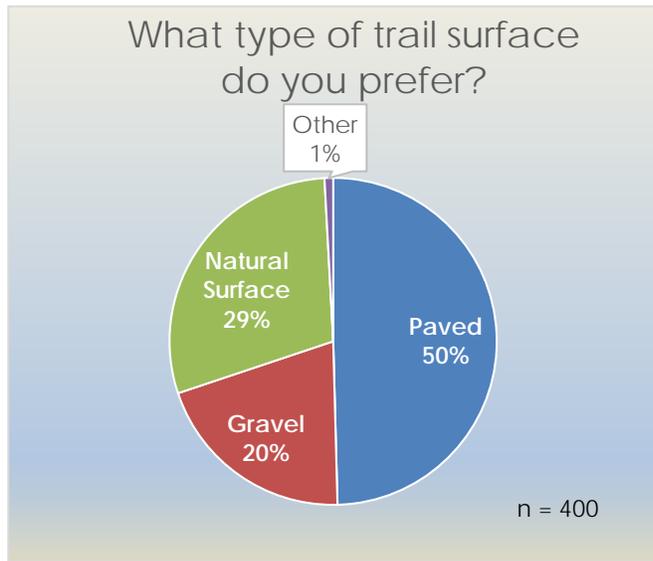


FIGURE 21

This survey information also shows that the lack of public transportation options, that the County believed to be an issue, is not an issue among those surveyed. But, going forward, the Parks and Recreation Department will work closely with the County Transit Department, the County's Transportation Management Organization and the Metropolitan Council to find solutions to increase transit access to the regional parks and trails.

The Department also surveyed participants about safety in the parks and whether they feel safe when they are in the parks. Resoundingly, 91%

said yes, they feel safe. Refer to Figure 24. While the County strives to create safe and welcoming spaces, future engagement events should delve deeper into that 9% that did not feel safe in the parks to determine what could be done to ensure everyone feels welcome and safe.

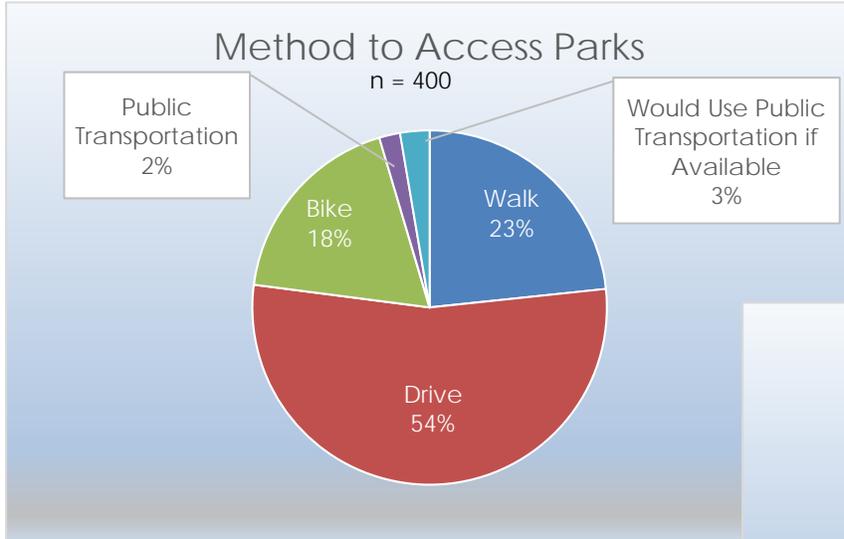


FIGURE 22

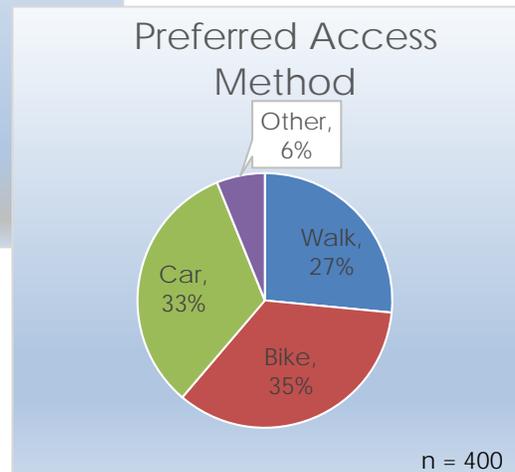


FIGURE 23

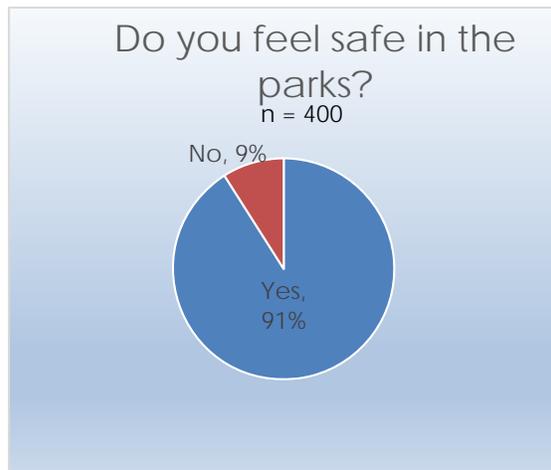


FIGURE 24

ENGAGEMENT GOING FORWARD

Since engaging the public for these master plan amendments, there are a few a few items that stood out and should be explored in more detail.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The Department should continue to reach out to the underserved populations, establish connections and build relationships. The pop-up events worked great for reaching underserved populations, but didn't provide for in-depth discussions. The Department should continue to explore other locations that will be more inviting and welcoming to underserved populations and implementing listening sessions for more in-depth conversations. Due to the majority of respondents being between 25-64, the Department should look at targeting the youngest and oldest age groups for input in the future.

AMENITIES

While hiking, biking and picnicking are the Department's bread and butter and those are the most demanded amenities, the lower participant numbers for some of the other amenities should be explored to see what could be done to increase participation.

ACCESS

Since the majority of participants end up driving to the parks and trails, the Department should work with County's Transportation Division, local cities and the Metropolitan Council to ensure multiple modes of transportation options exist for access to the system and that future trail provide the needed connections between the residential areas surrounding the park.

SAFETY

While the majority of participant's felt safe in the parks, it is advisable to explore why some people might not feel safe or welcome in the parks and evaluate solutions.

AWARENESS

While participants were not specifically asked whether they were aware of the Anoka County Parks and Recreation System, anecdotally, many participants were unaware

of all the regional parks and trails within the system. They may be familiar with a park they live near, but they aren't aware of all the other parks and amenities the County has to offer. Therefore, any future engagement events should help to create awareness about the overall system.

While some of the above issues are not specific to the proposed projects in this amendment, they do show larger scale issues that need to be addressed. The lack of knowledge of the park system show the need for additional marketing, programming and engagement efforts. The lack of participation in some amenities will need to be further analyzed to determine why people don't participate and why they do not feel safe in parks and the County will need to work with the Anoka County Transportation Division and the Metropolitan Council's Transit Department to provide better public transportation access to the parks.

The County requested input on this Master Plan Amendment from the City of Ramsey, other County staff, and other agencies.

Finally, the County will keep the public informed by continuing engagement beyond the planning process, by providing the public with information regarding the plans progress and future opportunities for engagement and input via websites, social media and local and County governmental meetings.

The resulting approved plan will be posted online for the public to access easily.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness is an important component to regional park and trail systems. The County will provide public education efforts through the Metropolitan Council's regional-wide awareness program, as well as, public information maps, websites



and brochures provided by Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department and Commute Solutions, the County's Transportation Management Organization. In addition, any future public engagement events that occur will include information on the system to increase awareness and



promote the park amenities and recreational opportunities throughout the County. Since the park is located in the Mississippi National River Recreation Area, Anoka County will also work with National Park Service staff to engage the public and provide information regarding the park through their website, social media, publications and brochures.

ACCESSIBILITY

Anoka County continually strives to provide equal access to all residents of Anoka County and the region. Park and trail use is open to any and all citizens. A few of the regional parks have a nominal \$5.00 daily entrance fee, which is used to help offset the operations and maintenance for the parks. This fee is not anticipated to be collected until the park fully developed, which is not expected to occur for 10 to 15 years.

Figure 25 illustrates existing transit access near the park. Currently transit is limited to Metro Transit Bus Route 887 and Northstar Commuter Rail Route 888 with no direct stops at the park, although the park can be reached via trail. The future City of Ramsey pedestrian bridge across Highway 10 is proposed to provide a safe crossing over Highway 10 and provide access to the park via the city's trail system.

In addition, the Anoka County Traveler Transit Link and Metro Transit's Mobility Link provide dial-a-ride services for a minimal fee. Transit Link will pick up and drop off passengers anywhere there is an address. The address for the park is 13935 Traprock Street. Currently all of the vehicles are equipped with bike racks so passengers wishing to bike on the trail could use Transit Link to preschedule a drop-off and return trip.

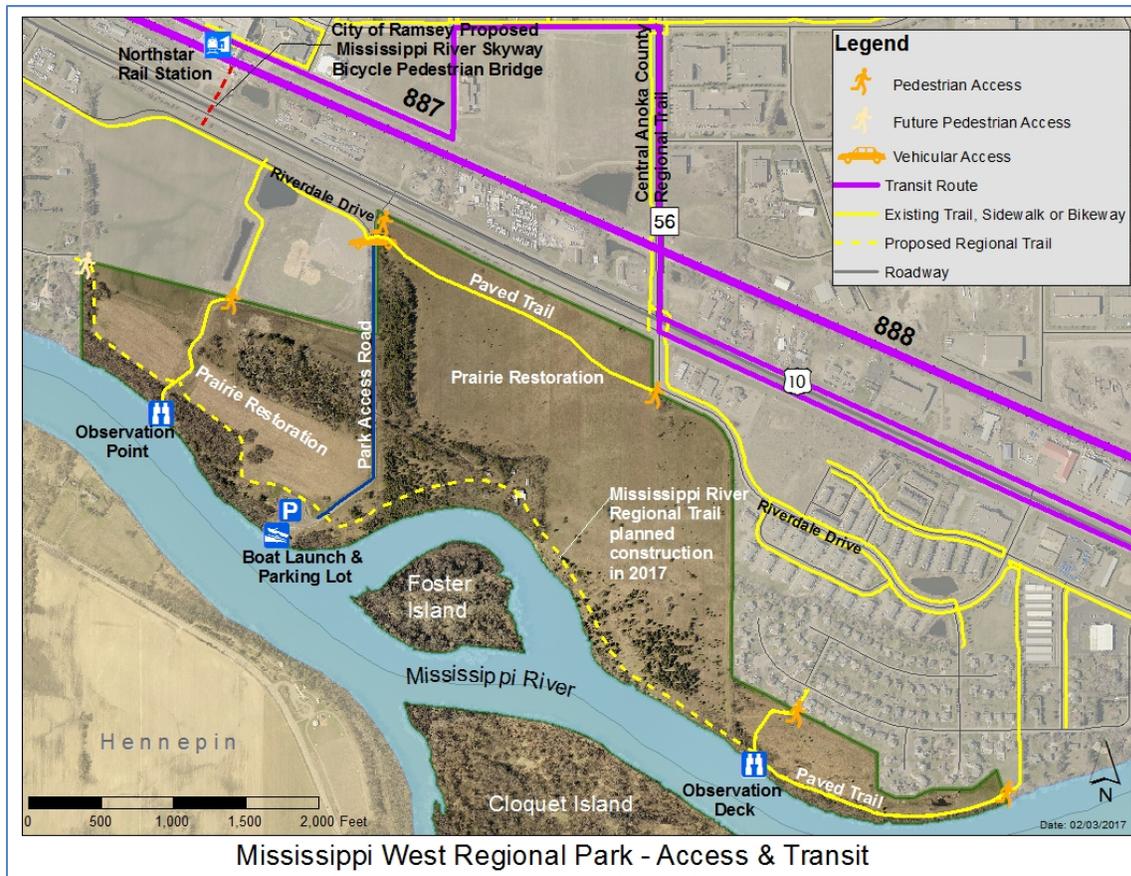


FIGURE 25

Facilities and amenities within the park will conform to the standards mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Anoka County has maintained a strong commitment to preserving and restoring natural resources within its park, trails and open space system. The expansive 11,000-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 parks and trails 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 and along the trail corridor;
- Protection and improvement of water and soil resources;
- Increase public awareness regarding the diverse natural resources in the area;
- 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

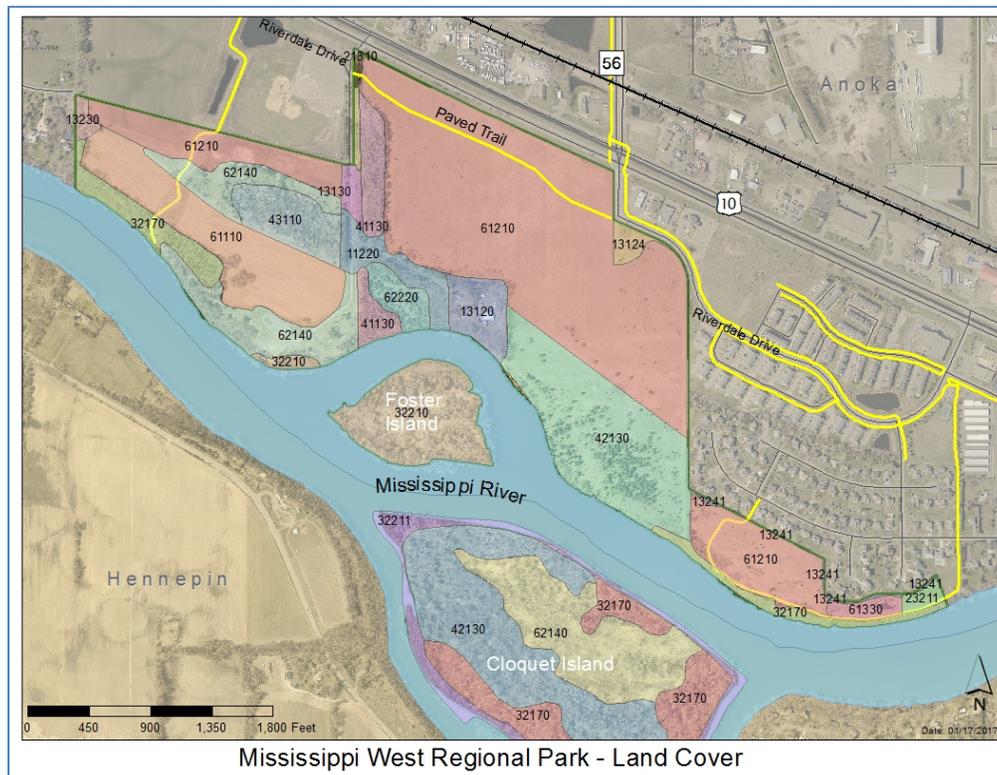


FIGURE 26

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.

Figure 26 shows the existing land cover in the park, based on the Minnesota Land Cover Classification. The legend can be found in the Appendix as Exhibit 3.

Based on the land cover and restoration projects that have occurred within the park, 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:

- Anoka County's Natural Resources Unit will be directly involved with the design, construction and monitoring of the proposed park redevelopment. A concerted emphasis will be placed on avoiding and minimizing any adverse impacts to the plant and animal habitat, as well as to the river. 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.
- Protection of surface water resources will be a top priority for this project. Anoka County will work very closely with the City of Ramsey, the local Watershed Management Organization, the National Park Service's Mississippi National River Recreation Area, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Metropolitan Council to ensure that the standards and requirements for resource protection are met. The MPCA's best management practice guidance document recommendations will be followed in the design and incorporation of stormwater pollutant and runoff flow reduction measures constructed in conjunction with Park upgrades.

The MPCA best management practices guidance documents can be found at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/stormwater/index.html>.

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 the park will focus on preserving native plants, introducing local native plants, eradicating invasive species, 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 the Mississippi West Regional Park:

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.

Design:

Design a restoration plan and monitoring program that will provide reliable feedback and information about the effectiveness of restoration methods.

Implementation:

Effective restoration is usually a multi-step process, requiring not only installation, but many years of maintenance and monitoring.

Monitoring:

Biological indicators are monitored to determine how effective the restoration methods are in meeting the project objectives.

Evaluation:

The actual outcomes are compared to the anticipated outcomes. In addition, the reasons for the underlying differences are interpreted.

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, prescriptive 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.

The two highest priority projects for natural resources would be:

- 1) Removal of invasive species throughout the park through the use of bio-control agents.
- 2) Planting of native trees throughout the park as replacement for anticipated losses due to disease or storm damage.

A review of the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) revealed that there is known occurrences of rare features within the park. Rare features that *may* be adversely affected by the proposed project include:

- The Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*), a state-listed special concern mussel, has been documented in the Mississippi River near the park.

- Blanding's turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*), a state-listed threatened species, have been reported within a one-mile search radius of the park and could very well be encountered on site.

The area is an important migratory stop for waterfowl, waterbirds, raptors and neotropical migrants and as such is designated as part of the North Metro Mississippi River Important Bird Area. In the past, Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and colonial waterbirds have been known to nest on Cloquet and Foster Islands. Therefore, the County had a survey conducted to locate any nests near the project area. The only nest found was a Bald Eagle's nest, which is currently located across the river from the park and is greater than 660' from any proposed disturbance. Therefore, no further action should be required to comply with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, but prior to each phase of development, a new survey shall be conducted to verify nesting locations and ensure compliance with Protection Act.

The County is confident it can avoid disturbance to the listed species during the development of the park using recommendations and best management practices as outlined by the Department of Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

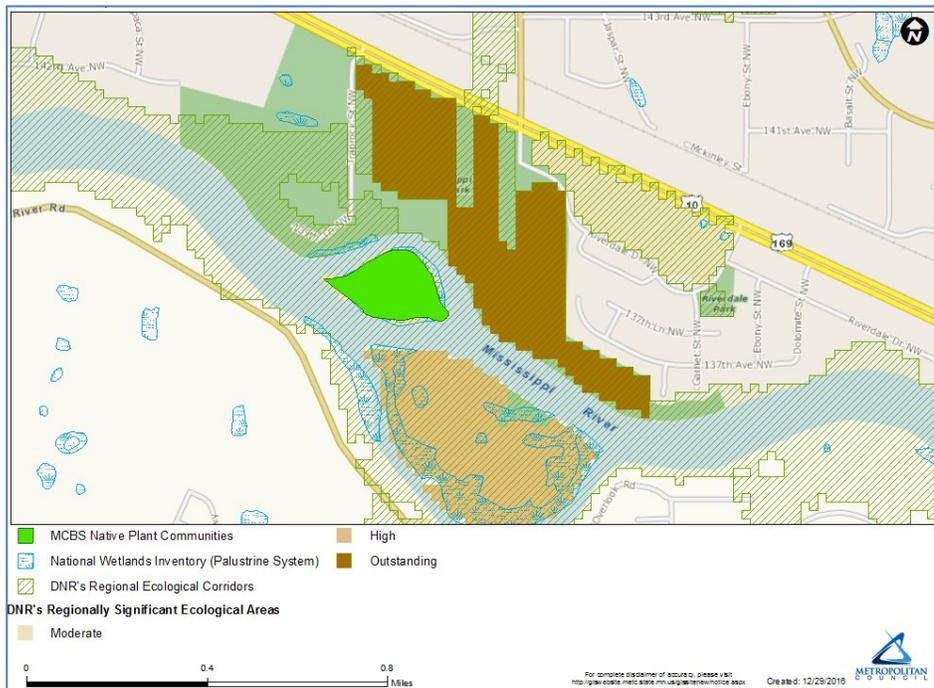


FIGURE 27

As shown in Figure 27, Areas within the park and Foster and Cloquet Islands are listed as sites with High or Outstanding biodiversity significance, therefore any proposed development strive to enhance the biodiversity within the park and not negatively impact it.

Care will be taken during the planning and design phase of development to ensure minimal impacts and maximize diversity.

APPENDIX

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anoka County, Minnesota

DATE: April 11, 2017

RESOLUTION #2017-39

OFFERED BY COMMISSIONER: Look

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

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 and the Metropolitan Council have previously designated Mississippi West Regional Park as a component of the Metropolitan Regional Park System; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka has developed a revised park development program for Mississippi West Regional Park which will remove 5.31 acres for Riverdale Drive extension, realign the entrance road to Traprock Street, improve the road, add parking and trails; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requires an updated Master Plan for this regional park be approved by the Metropolitan Council; and,

WHEREAS, the local city representatives, the general public, area residents and local businesses were given the opportunity to review and comment on the plan amendment; and,

WHEREAS, there is strong support for the changes proposed in the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan Amendment:

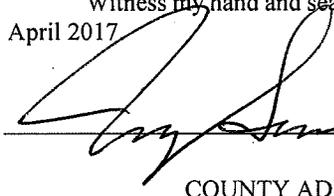
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts this amendment to the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan which is dated April 11, 2017, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Anoka County administrator, 2100 3rd Ave., Anoka, MN 55303, and authorizes 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 and the city of Ramsey.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ANOKA) ss

I, Jerry Soma, 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 April 11, 2017, 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 11th day of April 2017


JERRY SOMA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
DISTRICT #1 – LOOK	X	
DISTRICT #2 – BRAASTAD	X	
DISTRICT #3 – WEST	X	
DISTRICT #4 – KORDIAK	X	
DISTRICT #5 – GAMACHE	X	
DISTRICT #6 – SIVARAJAH	X	
DISTRICT #7 – SCHULTE	X	

Councilmember Kuzma introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #17-04-098

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ANOKA COUNTY'S MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, safe access to parks, trails, and recreation areas, are essential to the quality of life, health and welfare of the City of Ramsey and the region's residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey and County of Anoka continue to work with other agencies and partners in a cooperative effort to develop Mississippi West Regional Park and other regional connections within the city; and

WHEREAS, these cooperative efforts include funding by the City of Ramsey for the boat landing, construction of the trail from Riverdale Drive to the river with overlook, development of the Mississippi River Regional Trail from Anoka to MNDOT's Wayside Rest, the acquisition of an easement to the west of the park for the 2017 trail project, the acquisition of the touch-down easement for the completion of the future pedestrian bridge over Hwy 10 to the Mississippi River Regional Trail, and the contribution of \$490,000 from the National Park Service for the Final Plans and Specifications for the aforementioned bridge; and

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka has developed a park development program for Mississippi West Regional Park, which includes a park boundary adjustment to accommodate Riverdale Drive's extension, realigns the park entrance road to Traprock Street, and includes additional road and trail improvements, together with other future phased improvements named in the original 2010 Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park and;

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requires an amendment to the Master Plan for Mississippi West Regional Park be approved by the Metropolitan Council; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey's Park and Recreation Commission and Environmental Policy Board have reviewed and provided recommendations to Ramsey City Council on the plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

- 1) That the City of Ramsey hereby offers support to Anoka County for the Mississippi West Regional Park Master Plan Amendment

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Shryock and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Councilmember Kuzma
Councilmember Shryock
Councilmember Johns
Mayor Pro tem LeTourneau

and the following voted against the same:

Councilmember Riley
Councilmember Williams

and the following abstained:

None

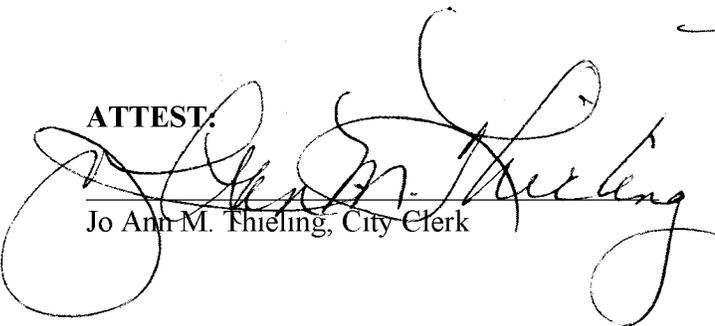
and the following were absent:

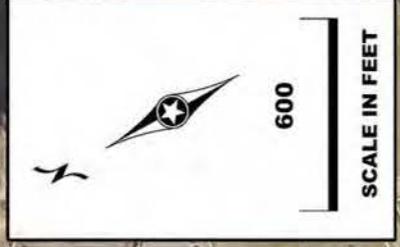
Mayor Strommen

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 25th day of April 2017.

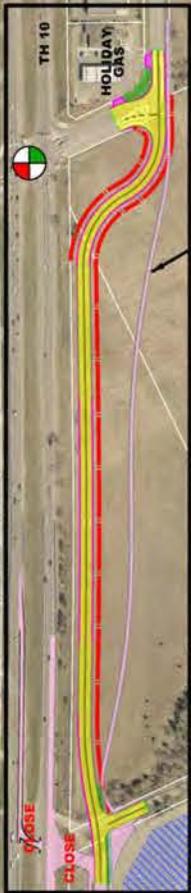
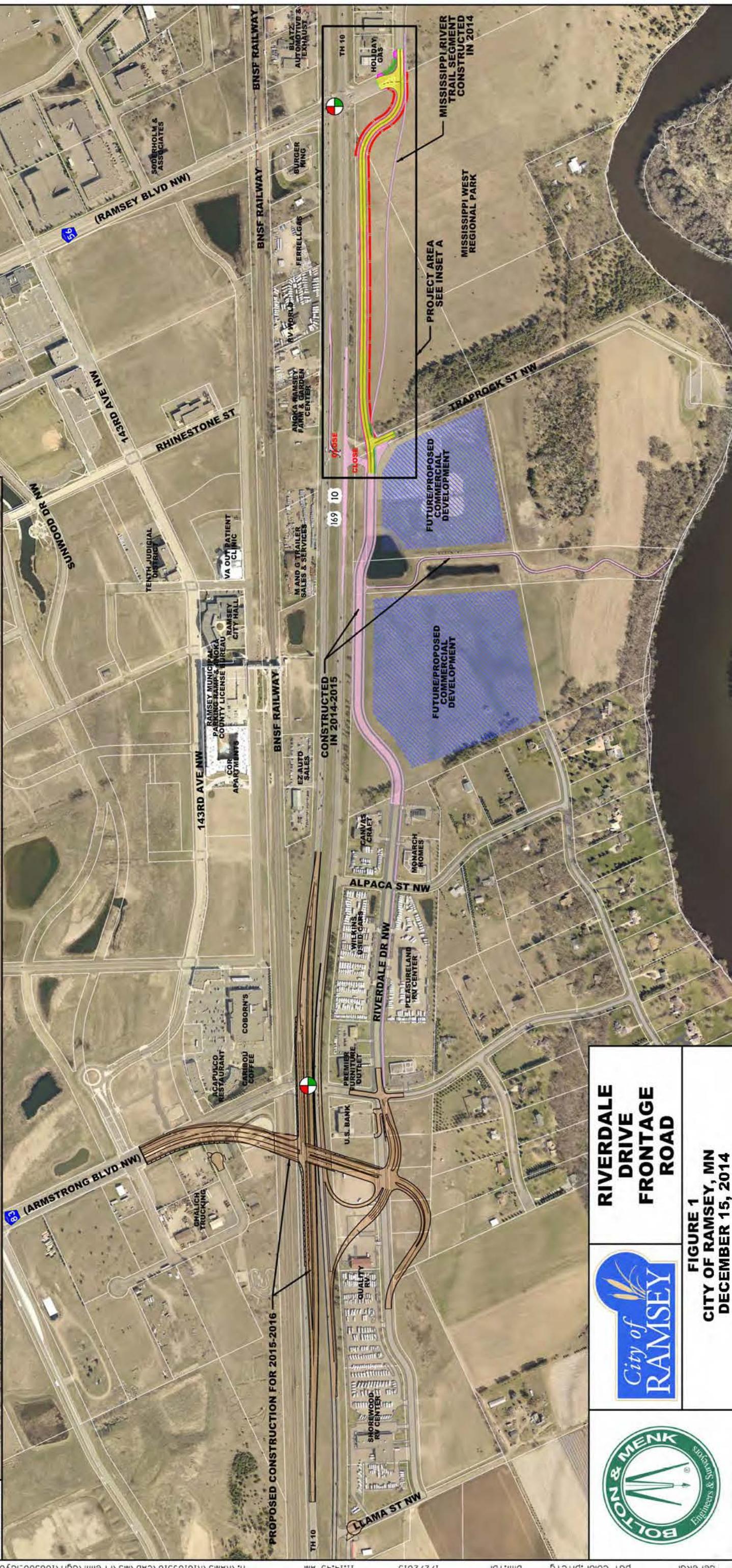
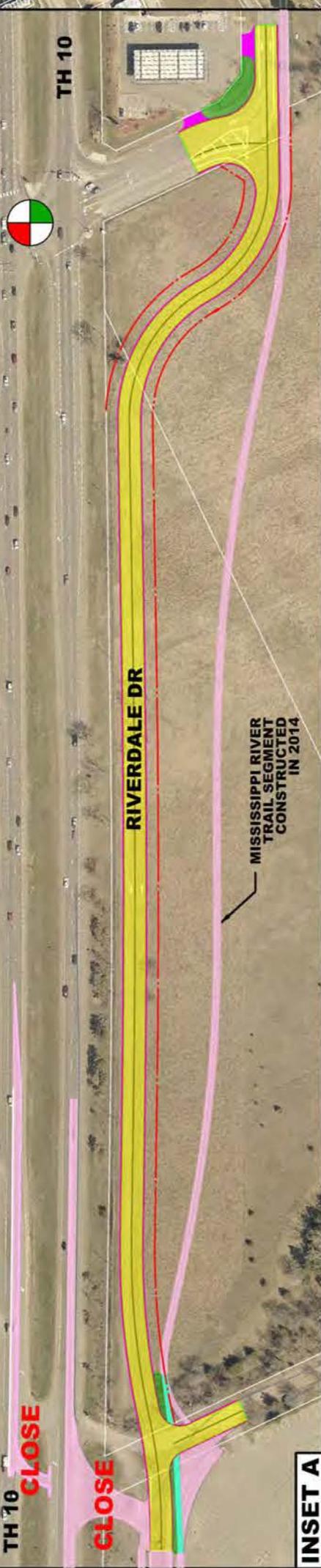

Sarah Strommen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jo Ann M. Fhieling, City Clerk



LEGEND	
	PAVEMENT
	CURB AND GUTTER
	TRAIL
	EXISTING SIGNAL
	R/W
	LANDSCAPE
	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION 2015-2016
	CONSTRUCTED IN 2014-2015
	FUTURE/PROPOSED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT



RIVERDALE DRIVE FRONTAGE ROAD



FIGURE 1
CITY OF RAMSEY, MN
DECEMBER 15, 2014

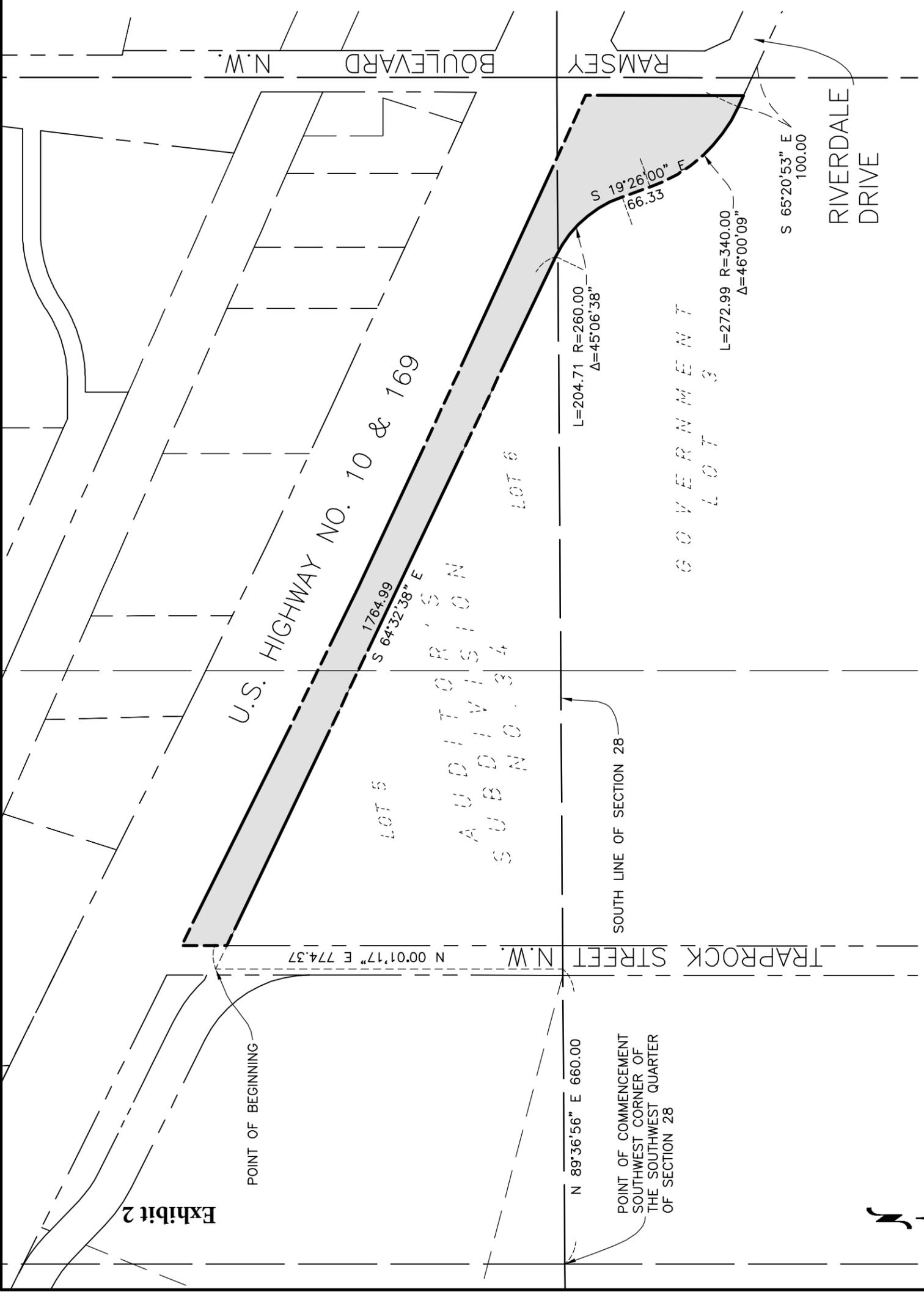
PROPOSED DESCRIPTION

Those parts of Lots 5 and 6, AUDITOR'S SUBDIVISION NO. 34, according to the recorded plat thereof, Anoka County, Minnesota and that part of Government Lot 3, Section 33, Township 32, Range 25, said Anoka County, which lies southerly of U.S. Highway No. 10 & 169 per Minnesota Department of Transportation Monumentation Plat 02-05, lies easterly of Traprock Street North West, and northerly of the following described line:

Commencing at the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 28, said Township 32; thence North 89 degrees 36 minutes 56 seconds West, assumed bearing along the southerly line of said Section 28, a distance of 660.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 01 minutes 17 seconds East, a distance of 774.37 feet to the point of beginning of the line to be described; thence South 64 degrees 32 minutes 38 seconds East, a distance of 1764.99 feet; thence southeasterly, a distance of 204.71 feet, along a tangential curve concave to the southwest, having a radius of 260.00 feet, and a central angle of 45 degrees 06 minutes 38 seconds; thence South 19 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds East, tangent to the last described curve, a distance of 66.33 feet; thence southeasterly, a distance of 272.99 feet, along a tangential curve concave to the northeast, having a radius of 340.00 feet, and a central angle of 46 degrees 00 minutes 09 seconds; thence South 65 degrees 20 minutes 53 seconds East, tangent to the last described curve, a distance of 100.00 feet and said line there terminating.

EXCEPTING therefrom that part lying within Ramsey Boulevard (formerly known as Riverdale Drive) as delineated and dedicated on the plat of RIVENWICK THIRD ADDITION, according to the recorded plat thereof, Anoka County, Minnesota.

PROPOSED RIGHT OF WAY TO BE ACQUIRED CONTAINING 231,394 SQ. FT.

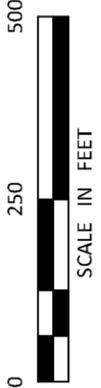


SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this survey was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly licensed land surveyor under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

Nathaniel T. Stadler
 Nathaniel T. Stadler
 License Number 43934

02/08/2016
 Date



RIGHT OF WAY TO BE ACQUIRED EXHIBIT
 RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

BOLTON & MENK, INC.
 Consulting Engineers & Surveyors

7533 SUNWOOD DR NW, SUITE 206
 RAMSEY, MINNESOTA 55303
 (763)-433-2851

LOTS 5 & 6 AUDITOR'S SUBDIVISION,
 ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
 GOVERNMENT LOT 3, SECTION 33,
 TOWNSHIP 32, RANGE 25

FOR: CITY OF RAMSEY



U.S. HIGHWAY 10

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

ACCESS ROAD

MAINTENANCE FACILITY

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

OBSERVATION DECK

BOAT/CANOE LAUNCH

OBSERVATION POINT

PRAIRIE RESTORATION

TRAIL

POTENTIAL FRONTAGE ROAD

PICNIC AREA

OPEN PLAY

RESTROOM FACILITY

SHELTER

PLAYGROUND

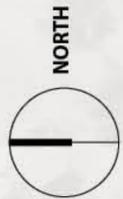
OBSERVATION DECK

FOSTER ISLAND

CANOE CAMPING

CLOQUET ISLAND

OBSERVATION DECK



MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Conceptual Design
(2.9.2017)

Legend

Land Cover

-  11220, 11% to 25% impervious cover with deciduous trees
-  11230, 26% to 50% impervious cover with deciduous trees
-  13120, 11% to 25% impervious cover with perennial grasses and sparse trees
-  13124, Short grasses and mixed trees with 11-25% impervious cover
-  13130, 26% to 50% impervious cover with perennial grasses and sparse trees
-  13211, Short grasses with 4-10% impervious cover
-  13230, 26% to 50% impervious cover with perennial grasses
-  13241, Short grasses with 51-75% impervious cover
-  23211, Short grasses on upland soils
-  32170, Altered/non-native deciduous forest
-  32210, Floodplain forest
-  41130, Eastern Red Cedar woodland
-  42130, Altered/non-native deciduous woodland
-  43110, Altered/non-native mixed woodland
-  61110, Mesic Prairie
-  61210, Dry Praire
-  61330, Temporarily flooded altered/non-native dominated grassland
-  62140, Grassland with sparse deciduous trees - altered/non-native dominated vegetation
-  62220, Grassland with sparse conifer or mixed deciduous/coniferous trees - altered/non-native dominated
-  32170, Altered/non-native deciduous forest
-  32211, Floodplain forest silver maple subtype
-  42130, Altered/non-native deciduous woodland
-  62140, Grassland with sparse deciduous trees - altered/non-native dominated vegetation
-  RAILROAD
-  ROAD
-  Existing Trail, Sidewalk or Bikeway
-  WATER