



Dakota County

Physical Development Committee of the Whole Agenda

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

9:00 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us. Emails must be received by 7:30am on the day of the meeting. Instructions on how to participate will be sent to anyone interested.

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Note: Any action taken by this Committee of the Whole constitutes a recommendation to the County Board.

2. Audience

Anyone in the audience wishing to address the Committee on an item not on the Agenda or an item on the Consent Agenda may send comments to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us and instructions will be given to participate during the meeting. Verbal comments are limited to five minutes.

3. Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On September 17, 2024

4.2 *Environmental Resources* - Approval Of Solid Waste Transfer Facility License For Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., Empire

4.3 *Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management* - Authorization To Execute First Contract Amendment With Ebert Inc. For Law Enforcement Center Locker Room Expansion Project And Amend 2024 Facilities Capital Improvement Program Budget

4.4 *Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management* - Authorization To Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad Company Related To Construction Of Minnesota River Greenway In Cities Of Burnsville And Eagan, County Project P00127

- 4.5 *Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management* - Authorization To Execute Contract With Friends Of The Mississippi River For Natural Resources Project Management
- 4.6 *Transportation* - Authorization To Amend Contract With Alliant Engineering Inc., To Provide Additional Preliminary Engineering Services And To Execute A Joint Powers Agreement With City Of Eagan For County State Aid Highway 43 In Eagan, County Project 43-55
- 4.7 *Transportation* - Authorization To Execute Contract With Kimley-Horn And Associates, Inc. And Execute Joint Powers Agreement With City Of Inver Grove Heights For County State Aid Highway 63 And Interstate 494 Interchange Footprint Study In Inver Grove Heights, County Project 63-29
- 4.8 *Transportation* - Authorization To Execute Amendment To Contract With HDR Engineering, Inc., For County Road 86 Railroad Bridge Replacement In Castle Rock Township, County Project 86-34
- 4.9 *Transportation* - Authorization To Execute Contract With WSB LLC For Design Services At County State Aid Highway 31/Pilot Knob Road And Upper 147th Street In City Of Apple Valley And Amendment Of 2024 Transportation Capital Improvement Program Budget, County Project 31-118

5. Regular Agenda

- 5.1 *Environmental Resources* - Authorization To Submit 2024--2044 Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan To Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner For Review And Approval
- 5.2 *Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management* - Discussion On Parks, Greenways, And Natural Systems Draft 2050 Values And Vision Statement
- 5.3 *Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management* - Update On 2024 Parks Greenway Capital Improvement Construction Projects

6. Physical Development Director's Report

7. Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment

- 8.1 Adjournment

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<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>
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Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3832

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3834

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On September 17, 2024



Dakota County

Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

9:00 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commissioner Holberg.

Present

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Joe Atkins
- Commissioner Laurie Halverson
- Commissioner William Droste
- Commissioner Liz Workman
- Chairperson Mary Liz Holberg
- Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; Georg Fischer, Physical Development Division Director; Liz Hansen, Administrative Services Coordinator.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

2. Audience

Commissioner Holberg asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda. No one came forward and no comments were submitted to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us.

3. Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Liz Workman

On a motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Workman, the agenda was unanimously approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: 7

4. Consent Agenda

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

On a motion by Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the consent agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

Ayes: 7

4.1 Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On August 20, 2024

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Ayes: 7

4.2 Authorization To Amend Joint Powers Agreement With City of Mendota Heights To Operate Residential Organics Drop-Off Site

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 471.59 authorizes local governmental units to jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County and the City of Mendota Heights are governmental units as that term is defined in Minn. Stat. § 471.59; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan counties are responsible for waste management policy and programs (Minn. Stat. § 115A.551); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 18-493 (September 18, 2018), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2018-2038 Solid Waste Master Plan (County Waste Plan); and

WHEREAS, the County Waste Plan includes a strategy to expand opportunities for residential organics recovery; and

WHEREAS, the County Waste Plan includes a tactic to co-develop and provide assistance for residential organics drop-off sites with municipalities; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-264 (May 18, 2021), Dakota County and the City of Mendota Heights executed a joint powers agreement (JPA) to operate a residential organics drop-off site until December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the County receives Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) funds from the State to implement landfill abatement programs; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 115A.557 requires the County to expand a portion of the State-allocated SCORE funds on organics programming; and

WHEREAS, allocated SCORE funds are used for residential organics drop-off sites at 11 locations throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, due to several factors, including increased costs for compostable bags and organics hauling, a JPA amendment is necessary to account for increased costs over the JPA term; and

WHEREAS, the original JPA with the City of Mendota Heights was signed for \$28,500; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to the JPA in the amount of \$29,000 requires County Board approval and will bring the JPA maximum to a total of \$57,500 over the six-year term; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends executing an amendment to the existing JPA with the City of Mendota Heights for continued operations at the residential organics drop-off site through December 31, 2027, for a maximum amount of \$57,500; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Environmental Resources Operating Budget includes sufficient funding to provide the County's organics drop-off program, which is funded by SCORE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Environmental Resources Department Director to execute an amendment to the joint powers agreement with the City of Mendota Heights for residential organics drop-site operations through December 31, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$57,500 for the total joint powers agreement, subject to the approval of the County Attorney's Office to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

4.3 Authorization To Execute Household Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 18-493 (September 18, 2018), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved the 2018-2038 Regional/Dakota County Solid Waste Master Plan (Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, as part of the Master Plan, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners encourages residents and businesses to properly manage hazardous wastes and recyclables to protect public health, surface water, and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, Dakota, Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties each provide a household hazardous waste (HHW) management program for their residents; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners desires to maintain a significant public service whereby County residents may use HHW management facilities in any of the metro counties; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners wishes to recover the cost of collection and disposal of HHW to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS, the metro-county negotiated terms for an HHW metropolitan inter-county reciprocal use agreement (Agreement); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement authorizes monetary transfers between counties to compensate each county for residents delivering HHW to sites in other counties; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement terms include a five-year term, from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2029; a flat annual per-vehicle service fee each year of the Agreement; encouraging product reuse at no cost to residents; and continuing to require a 180-day notice from a county that wishes to withdraw.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Board Chair to execute the Household Hazardous Waste Metropolitan Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement with each metro county to allow residents to use facilities, as substantially presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on September 17, 2024, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

4.4 Authorization To Execute A Joint Powers Agreement With City Of Lakeville And Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization For Launch Park Wetland Restoration Preliminary Engineering Design And Permitting Coordination

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, South Creek is included in the Environmental Protection Agency's 303d Impaired Waters List for Total Suspended Solids (TSS); and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakeville acquired land previously in agricultural production with the intent of converting it to wetland to reduce TSS loading in the South Creek Subwatershed in accordance with the City's Water and Natural Resources Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County must annually report on pollutant reductions achieved by the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Launch Park Wetland Restoration project will result in stormwater volume attenuation as well as total phosphorus and total suspended solids pollutant reductions; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Management Plan includes:

implementing sediment reduction and/or volume reduction BMPs within publicly owned lands in the South Creek subwatershed near South Creek Waterbody ID 527 (Goal A), working with partners to protect and restore wetlands through revegetations for flood protection and pollutant filtration (Goal F); and implementing sediment-reducing BMPs within the highest sediment-yielding subwatersheds (Goal G); and

WHEREAS, prior to implementation, preliminary engineering design and permitting coordination in support of the Launch Park Wetland Restoration must be completed; and

WHEREAS, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, County, and City have agreed to cooperatively participate in the Project and have funding available in their respective budgets to jointly participate in the costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorizes its Chair to execute a joint powers agreement with the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and the City of Lakeville for the Launch Park Wetland Restoration project preliminary engineering design and permitting coordination.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

4.5 Authorization To Execute Third Contract Amendment With Ebert, Inc. dba Ebert Companies For Law Enforcement Center Integrative Health Unit Addition

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, the 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget as amended for the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Integrative Health Unit (IHU) Addition project is a total of \$14,400,000; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-379 (August 29, 2023), the County Board approved the original contract in the sum of \$10,573,800 with an award to Ebert, Inc., dba Ebert Companies; and

WHEREAS, a first (no cost) contract amendment was formally executed by way of that authorization to establish a construction completion deadline of late-February 2025; and

WHEREAS, with the original contract authorization, staff was also authorized to execute up to \$250,000 worth of post-award changes; and

WHEREAS, \$247,756.03 in a second contract amendment has already been formally executed by way of that authorization; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$262,392.91 worth of post-award changes are

requested for authorization to complete a third contract amendment to the contract with Ebert Companies; and

WHEREAS, these project cost increases to the construction contract will be paid for with uncommitted funds available within the CIP budget for this project; and

WHEREAS, the total authorized contract amendments to this contract would then be \$510,148.94 for reimbursement of all construction change orders on the project; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds within the CIP budget for the project (1001292) are available for this amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Facilities Management Director to execute a contract amendment with Ebert, Inc., dba Ebert Companies, 23350 County Road 10, Corcoran, MN 55357 in an amount not to exceed \$262,392.91 for a maximum contract total not to exceed \$11,083,948.94, subject to approval by the County Attorney's office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

4.6 Authorization To Execute Joint Powers Agreement With City Of Empire For Statewide Health Improvement Partnership Funding For A Pedestrian And Bicycle Plan

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 20-382 (August 18, 2020), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized the Community Services Director to execute a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) and accept future funding for the period of November 1, 2020, through October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the SHIP 2024-25 work plan includes funding for work in active living; and

WHEREAS, one of Dakota County's strategies in the SHIP proposal is to implement permanent and sustainable changes that create healthy and active communities by increasing (a) opportunities for non-motorized transportation (walking and biking), (b) healthy eating/access to healthy foods, and (c) health equity; and

WHEREAS, SHIP 2024-2025 funding (\$35,000) was allocated to provide awards to cities and the County to facilitate progress toward these goals; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County departments and cities were invited to submit applications for sub-grant funding for pedestrian and bicycle plans; and

WHEREAS, applications were distributed on March 19, 2023, with responses due on June 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS, an application was submitted by the City of Empire for \$35,000 for a pedestrian and bicycle plan, and the application included the required 10 percent local match; and

WHEREAS, the application was scored on the following criteria: project alignment with SHIP goals, equity, community engagement, benefit to SHIP priority populations, and enduring value; and

WHEREAS, a review committee with representatives from the County (Planning, Public Health, Transportation), cities, and MDH met on June 11, 2024, to evaluate the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the application exhibited a strong opportunity for increased active living opportunities city-wide that can be implemented with future development, and the committee recommends approval of the project; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to execute a joint powers agreement with the City of Empire for \$35,000 for a pedestrian and bicycle plan; and

WHEREAS, there is \$35,000 in SHIP funding available for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Physical Development Director is hereby authorized to execute a joint powers agreement in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 with the City of Empire, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint powers agreement shall contain a provision that allows the County to immediately terminate the contracts in the event funds from County, State, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Physical Development Director is hereby authorized to amend said contract, within the amount budgeted, to alter the number and types of clients served, rates, and types of services provided and the contract term, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

4.7 Update On Planning Commission

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Information only; no action requested.

Ayes: 7

4.8 Authorization To Submit Bridge Priority List To Minnesota Department Of
Transportation

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, Dakota County has determined that the following substandard bridges on the county State aid highway, county road, and township systems are a high priority and require replacement, rehabilitation, or removal within the next five years:

Construction Year	Agency	Road	Bridge Number
2025	Dakota County	CSAH 85	19504
2025	Marshan Township	205th St.	L-3249
2025	Hampton/Douglas Townships	Inga Ave.	L-3285
2026	Dakota County	CSAH 31	19512
2026	Castle Rock Township	230th St.	L-3253
2027	Dakota County	CSAH	542951
2027	Castle Rock Township	230th St.	L-3254
2027	Sciota Township	Boyd Ave.	19524
2027	Castle Rock Township	Audry Ave.	19505
2027	Greenvale Township	Eveleth Ave.	19509

; and

WHEREAS, local roads play an essential role in the overall state transportation network, and local bridges are a critical component of the local road systems; and

WHEREAS, State support for the replacement, rehabilitation, or removal of local bridges continues to be crucial to maintaining the integrity of the local road systems and is necessary for the County and the townships to proceed with the bridge projects described above; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County intends to proceed with the replacement, rehabilitation, or removal of these bridges as soon as possible when State transportation bond funds and town bridge account funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of

Commissioners hereby requests authorization from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to replace, rehabilitate, or remove high-priority substandard bridges and requests financial assistance, including eligible approach grading and engineering as provided by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Dakota County hereby commits that it will proceed with the design and contract documents for said bridges immediately after notification by MnDOT that funds are available in order to permit construction to take place within one year of notification; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Engineer to submit this resolution to MnDOT along with the Dakota County Bridge Priority Replacement List as presented to the County Board on September 24, 2024.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

4.9 Authorization To Execute Detour Agreement No. 1057489 With Minnesota Department Of Transportation For Trunk Highway 316

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) on State Project (SP) No. 1926-23; and

WHEREAS, construction work will begin in 2025 on Trunk Highway (TH) 316 to grade, resurface, and improve drainage on TH 316 between Tuttle Drive and the south junction of TH 61; and

WHEREAS, detours will divert TH 316 traffic onto County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 54 (Ravenna Trail), CSAH 62 (190th Street East), CSAH 68 (200th Street East), and CSAH 91 (Nicolai Avenue) during construction; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 161.25 authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to designate any public street or highway as a temporary TH detour when it is determined that such detour is necessary for the construction or maintenance of any TH; and

WHEREAS, MnDOT Agreement No. 1057489 allows the State to reimburse the County approximately \$21,000 for the road life consumed by the detour based on the income determined by the "Gas Tax Method" in accordance with the Detour Management Study Final Report; and

WHEREAS, executing this agreement is necessary for the State to reimburse the County for road consumption from the detour and for the project to continue; and

WHEREAS, the \$21,000 will be deposited in the Transportation Capital Improvement Program fund; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends executing Agreement No. 1057489 with MnDOT to accept reimbursement for SP 1926-23 TH 316 detour on CSAHs 54, 62, 68, and 91.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute Agreement No. 1057489 with the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of Minnesota for the County to receive the State's reimbursement of \$21,000 for the road life consumed by the Trunk Highway 316 detour through State Project 1926-23, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Approval Of Schematic Design For Wentworth Library Renovation

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Trish Bremer, Sr. Project Manager, Jay Biedny, Capital Projects Manager and Margaret Stone, Library Director presented this topic and responded to questions.

During the meeting, staff and commissioners discussed the possibility of establishing a satellite library in response to the upcoming 12-month closure of Wentworth Library due to the proposed renovation.

This discussion included exploring the feasibility of setting up a hold pick-up location, creating browsing stations, and providing library patrons with access to laptops. Staff will consider various factors such as accessibility, demand, and community need to ensure the effectiveness of the potential satellite library location.

The commissioners also emphasized that it is crucial for staff to be intentional and mindful in their design efforts, ensuring that every decision and action is purposeful and well-considered.

WHEREAS, the 2024-2028 Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget includes a project to renovate the Wentworth Library as part of the next cycle of library renovation work; and

WHEREAS, the scope of work includes professional design services; and

WHEREAS, Leo A Daly was selected as the consultant firm to lead the design efforts for the project by Resolution No. 24-105 (February 27, 2024); and

WHEREAS, Leo A Daly worked with a Core Planning Group to confirm the programmatic needs and develop the project through the schematic design phase; and

WHEREAS, public input was solicited through an open house event, sharing materials at the library and on the project webpage; and

WHEREAS, over 150 public comments were submitted and shared with the design team for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the cost estimates prepared for the schematic design developed to date are slightly higher than the estimated project budget. The construction funding will be included in the 2025 Building CIP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the recommended schematic design for the Wentworth Library Renovation as presented.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

5.2 Approval Of Schematic Design For Law Enforcement Center Boiler And Chiller Replacement Project

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Laurie Halverson

Joe Lexa, Sr. Project Manager and Jay Biedny, Capital Projects Manager presented this topic and responded to questions.

During the meeting, staff emphasized the significance of this latest capital investment, highlighting its status as the largest one in a considerable period of time. The commissioners expressed their gratitude to staff for their dedication to the upkeep of our facilities and their proactive approach to managing replacements.

WHEREAS, the 2024 Building Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget authorized the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Boiler and Chiller Replacement project; and

WHEREAS, the design team, led by CMTA, met with the Core Planning Group five times to develop the schematic design for the LEC Boiler and Chiller Replacement project; and

WHEREAS, two steam boilers will be replaced with two hot water boilers; and

WHEREAS, two chillers will be replaced, but the existing cooling tower will be re-used; and

WHEREAS, 13 air handling units and steam piping will be converted to hot water; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the County Board approve the schematic design based on Option 2 of the Central Plant Study from June 2023, as presented by County staff to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on September 17, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the recommended schematic design for the Law Enforcement Center Boiler and Chiller Replacement as presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on September 17, 2024.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

5.3 Authorization To Submit Comments On Imagine 2050 Policy Plans To Metropolitan Council

Motion: William Droste

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, presented this item and responded to questions.

The committee suggested making several language adjustments to the draft letter to better reflect their support for a walkable Dakota County. Additionally, they addressed the complexities of transit in rural versus suburban areas, acknowledging each area's unique challenges.

Commissioners suggested expanding the search areas for new regional parks to encompass not only Thompson County Park but other areas in northern and western Dakota County. This expansion aims to broaden the scope of potential locations for developing regional parks, allowing for more diverse recreational areas for the community.

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council released for public review and comment Imagine 2050, a series of updated policy plans for the seven-county Metropolitan Region; and

WHEREAS, the plans establish the vision and goals for the region related to housing, transportation, water, land use, and parks; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the plans and prepared a draft comment letter for County Board consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Board Chair to submit the letter to the Metropolitan Council.

This item was approved as amended and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 7

5.4 Discussion On Transit In Dakota County

Gina Mitteco, Regional, and Multi-Modal Transportation Manager presented this topic and responded to questions.

Staff indicated that a more detailed discussion about Dakota County transit will occur on October 29, 2024. Following today's discussion, the future workshop will focus on Dakota County's Transit Roles, including:

1. Mobility Management and Micro Transit
2. Stakeholder
3. Technical Resource
4. System Improvements

Information only; no action requested.

5.5 Discussion Of State Trunk Highway 13 Funding

Erin Laberee, Transportation Director/County Engineer, presented this item and responded to questions.

The committee discussed updating the draft Capital Improvement Program for 2025-2029 to include \$2 million for the State Trunk Highway 13 project in Scott and Dakota County. As noted, this is an exception to our current policy.

The commissioners directed staff to postpone discussion on the broader conversation on trunk highway funding until early 2025.

Information only; no action requested.

5.6 Establish New Official Name For Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway

Motion: Laurie Halverson

Second: Mike Slavik

Mary Beth Schubert, Communications Director, and Tony Wotzka, Greenway Manager, presented this item and responded to questions. Niki Geisler, Parks Director, was also in the audience and spoke to this item.

Based on the discussion, the Commissioners officially supported renaming Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway to Lebanon Hills Greenway.

WHEREAS, the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway was created as the name for the trail when it was established in northern Dakota County, and the master plan

was adopted in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the County Board is authorized to establish and name County parks pursuant to Minn. Stat. §389.32; and

WHEREAS, the County Board directed Communications staff to establish recommendations for a new official name for the regional trail; and

WHEREAS, Communications staff followed best practices for naming parks, such as dominant physical characteristics, historic features or events, and appropriate individuals or groups after whom to name the trail, and

WHEREAS, the three name options have broad appeal, are descriptive of the trail, are memorable, work well with the other park system names and the Park's brand identity; and

WHEREAS, based on best practices and research, Communications and Parks Department staff recommend adopting one of the three proposed names.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts Lebanon Hills Greenway as the official name for the Mendota-Lebanon Greenway located in northern Dakota County, as discussed at the General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole on September 17, 2024.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/24/2024.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Chairperson Holberg, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Commissioner Workman

6. Physical Development Director's Report

Georg Fischer, Physical Development Director, provided the Committee with a written Division update.

7. Future Agenda Items

Chair, Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, asked the Committee if anyone had a topic they would like to hear more about at an upcoming Physical Development Committee of the Whole. No Commissioners requested topics for future meetings at this time.

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Hansen
Administrative Coordinator

DRAFT



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3705

Agenda #: 4.2

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Resources

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Approval Of Solid Waste Transfer Facility License For Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., Empire

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a new solid waste transfer facility license for Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., located in the City of Empire.

SUMMARY

Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., applied to Dakota County to operate a solid waste transfer facility at 16555 Clayton Avenue East in Empire. Dakota Area Transfer, Inc. will collect municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris, and source-separated recyclables from curbside hauler routes, commercial accounts, and drop-offs. Recyclable materials will be processed, baled, and stored for shipment to end markets. The City of Empire has indicated that this is a permitted use at the property, which is within the City's Light Industrial District. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has issued a draft permit for public comment.

Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., is affiliated with Nitti Sanitation, Inc., and Lightning Disposal, Inc. Dakota Area Transfer, Inc. has proposed financial assurance in the form of a single-access cash account in the amount of \$45,000 for closure activities of a solid waste and recycling collection and transfer facility. Department staff, the County Risk and Homeland Security Manager, and the County Attorney's Office find the financial assurance amount and mechanism and the financial institution acceptable.

Separately, the Transportation Department will continue to work with surrounding cities on any changes to County Road 46 and County Road 81 located near this facility, as part of a future County Capital Improvement Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Department staff reviewed the facility license application submitted by Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., for a solid waste transfer facility license and found that the application conforms to the requirements of County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, and recommend that the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of the license for the time period of October 29, 2024, through December 31, 2025, at which time the license will be considered for a two-year renewal.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

Dakota Area Transfer, Inc. will pay a license of \$17,825.56 and an application fee of \$2,289.14.

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in accordance with Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, Dakota Area Transfer, Inc. submitted a license application to Dakota County to operate a solid waste transfer facility in the City of Empire; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., shall provide financial assurance in accordance with Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, in the amount of \$45,000, in the form of a bond in favor of Dakota County to cover potential closure costs associated with the storage of up to 170 tons of unprocessed, mixed recyclables, subject to the approval of the Dakota County Risk and Homeland Security Manager and the Dakota County Attorney’s Office as to form and financial institution; and

WHEREAS, County staff reviewed the application from Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., and determined the proposed solid waste transfer facility conforms to the requirements of Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the issuance of a license pursuant to Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, to Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., to operate a solid waste transfer facility in the City of Empire for the period of October 29, 2024, to December 31, 2025, subject to compliance with all applicable federal, state, local, and County laws, rules, and ordinance requirements or special conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., shall operate the solid waste transfer facility in accordance with the plans and information approved as part of its license application to Dakota County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That pursuant to Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, Dakota Area Transfer, Inc., shall provide and maintain financial assurance in the form of a \$45,000 bond in favor of Dakota County, subject to the approval of the Dakota County Risk and Homeland Security Manager and the Dakota County Attorney’s Office as to form and financial institution.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Site Map

BOARD GOALS

- A Great Place to Live A Healthy Environment
 A Successful Place for Business and Jobs Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Nikki Stewart

Author: Dave Magnuson



Dakota Area Transfer Station
16555 Clayton Avenue East, Empire



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3774

Agenda #: 4.3

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Authorization To Execute First Contract Amendment With Ebert Inc. For Law Enforcement Center Locker Room Expansion Project And Amend 2024 Facilities Capital Improvement Program Budget

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize the execution of a first contract amendment with Ebert Inc. to complete the construction of two additional sallyports in support of the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Locker Room Expansion project in Hastings, MN. This project was included in the 2023 Adopted Facilities Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget.

SUMMARY

Dakota County's LEC has outgrown the space provided within the original locker room on the main floor, and a new second-floor locker room will be constructed soon, as was authorized by Resolution No. 24-251 (May 21, 2024). During the bidding of the LEC Locker Room Expansion project, a bid alternate sought to add sallyports on the first and second floor to fully place the new locker room outside of the secure perimeter. The 2023 Adopted Facilities CIP Budget funds were insufficient to add this alternate scope to the original contract award and so, the alternate was not selected within the contract award to Ebert Inc.

However, Dakota County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) staff believes that these added sallyports will activate the full potential of the Locker Room Expansion project because they will allow for employees to both prepare for duty and changeout during shift change, all outside of the secure perimeter. DCSO staff believes that this operational improvement is of greater value than the LEC Staff Breakroom Expansion project, which was included within the 2024 Adopted Facilities CIP with a budget of \$145,000. Pricing for re-incorporating then a modified scope of the additional sallyports has been provided from Ebert Inc. with a proposed cost of \$143,500. Staff requests authorization to execute a first contract amendment with Ebert Inc. to incorporate the sallyports into the LEC Locker Room Expansion project. This will require the cancelation of the 2024 CIP authorized LEC Staff Breakroom Expansion project and the utilization of the entire budget of that project to fund the additional sallyports scope into the LEC Locker Room Expansion project.

RECOMMENDATION

Sufficient funds exist within the LEC Breakroom Expansion project to cover the costs of additional sallyports at the LEC Locker Room Expansion project. DCSO staff prefers the additional sallyports to the approved breakroom expansion project. Staff recommends authorizing a first contract amendment with Ebert Inc. in the sum of \$143,500 for the additional construction improvements

needed to build the two new sallyports for the benefit of the LEC Locker Room Expansion project. To pay for this increase, staff recommends canceling the LEC Breakroom Expansion project and transferring its full funding to the LEC Locker Room Expansion project.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

Prior Facilities CIP budgets did not include funding for the creation of additional sallyports within the LEC. However, the 2024 Adopted Facilities CIP included the LEC Breakroom Expansion with a budget of \$145,000 which is sufficient to complete the two new sallyports as part of the LEC Locker Room Expansion project. A budget amendment is needed to move funding from the LEC Breakroom Expansion project to the LEC Locker Room Expansion Project.

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2023 Building Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget authorized the Law Enforcement Center Locker (LEC) Room Expansion project; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board Of Commissioners authorized the award of construction of the LEC Locker Room Expansion project to Ebert Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$373,300 by Resolution No. 24-251 (May 21, 2024); and

WHEREAS, Dakota County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO) staff believes that additional sallyports will activate the full potential of the Locker Room Expansion project because they will allow for employees to both prepare for duty and changeout during shift change, all outside of the secure perimeter; and

WHEREAS, Ebert Inc. has provided a price of \$143,500 for the additional construction improvements needed to build the two new sallyports for the benefit of the LEC Locker Room Expansion project; and

WHEREAS, the LEC Staff Breakroom Expansion project was included within the 2024 Adopted Facilities CIP with a budget of \$145,000; and

WHEREAS, DCSO staff believe that the operational improvement of two additional sallyports within the jail is of greater value than the LEC Staff Breakroom Expansion project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Facilities Management Director to execute a contract amendment for the Law Enforcement Center Locker Room Expansion project to Ebert Inc., 23350 County Road 10, PO Box 97, Loretto, MN 55357, in an amount not to exceed \$143,500, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the previously approved Law Enforcement Center Breakroom Expansion project is canceled and its funding reallocated to the Law Enforcement Center Locker Room Expansion project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2024 Buildings Capital Improvement Program budget is

hereby amended as follows:

Expense

Law Enforcement Center Breakroom Expansion (2000257) (\$145,000)

Law Enforcement Center Locker Room Expansion (2000022) \$145,000

Total Expense **\$0**

Revenue

Law Enforcement Center Breakroom Expansion (2000257) (\$145,000)

Law Enforcement Center Locker Room Expansion (2000022) \$145,000

Total Revenue **\$0**

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

24-251, 05/02/24

ATTACHMENTS

None.

BOARD GOALS

A Great Place to Live

A Healthy Environment

A Successful Place for Business and Jobs

Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Mike Lexvold

Author: Mike Wiese



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3783

Agenda #: 4.4

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Authorization To Execute Agreements With Union Pacific Railroad Company Related To Construction Of Minnesota River Greenway In Cities Of Burnsville And Eagan, County Project P00127

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize the execution of overpass and construction access agreements with Union Pacific Railroad Company (Union Pacific) to construct a temporary, at-grade track crossing for construction activities and to construct a pedestrian bridge over Union Pacific right of way for the Minnesota River Greenway (P00127) in cities of Eagan and Burnsville.

SUMMARY

Dakota County is proceeding with the Minnesota River Greenway Fort Snelling Segment (P00127) to construct 3.7 miles of the Minnesota River Greenway between trailheads located near Nicols Road and Lone Oak Road in Eagan, including a pedestrian bridge to cross over railroad owned by Union Pacific (Attachment: Project Map). Construction of the trail portion of the project began in Fall 2023, with construction of the pedestrian bridge planned to begin in 2025. Project staff has been cooperating with Union Pacific to obtain the authorization for bridge construction and necessary at-grade crossing of their tracks to enable greenway construction. Union Pacific has recently granted design approval of the bridge and crossing and has developed agreements for each element. Execution of these agreements will allow for continued construction of the greenway and will enable advertisement for bids for bridge construction in the near future. Through these agreements, Dakota County assumes responsibility for damages to Union Pacific property related to the construction of the pedestrian overpass and also indemnifies Union Pacific against any loss arising from injury, damage, or regulatory violations related to the construction and operation of the temporary crossing.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the execution of agreements, as approved by the County Attorney's Office, with Union Pacific to authorize construction of the greenway bridge and temporary construction crossing over Union Pacific track.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The total fee associated with these agreements is \$257,500, including \$121,975 for bridge authorization and related management and review expenses and \$135,525 for construction, maintenance and demolition of the temporary crossing, all of which may only be performed by Union Pacific. The 2024 Parks Capital Improvement Program includes a total project budget of \$15,173,020, with all funding budgeted in prior years. Sufficient funds within the project budget are

available for these agreements.

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Greenway runs along the south side of the Minnesota River in Eagan and Burnsville, extending from I-35W in Burnsville to Lilydale Regional Park in Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 11-516 (October 18, 2011), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted the Minnesota River Greenway Plan; and

WHEREAS, the rapidly developing and robust recreational network that has developed in the area has created increased demand for the completion of the trail connection between the recently constructed Lone Oak Trail Head, the Cedar Nicols Trailhead, and the Minnesota River Greenway Black Dog Segment to the west; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Fort Snelling segment of the Minnesota River Greenway began in November 2023; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County is preparing to proceed with the construction of a pedestrian bridge for the Minnesota River Greenway necessary to complete the project and provide a crossing of the adjacent Union Pacific Railroad track for construction activities; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has sought and received approval from Union Pacific Railroad Company to construct the pedestrian bridge through their right of way; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has sought and received approval from Union Pacific Railroad Company for a temporary, at-grade crossing of their right of way to allow for construction access to the project area; and

WHEREAS, Union Pacific Railroad Company has identified a total of \$257,500 in fees and construction costs associated with these agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a public overpass agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company to authorize the construction of a pedestrian bridge for the Fort Snelling segment of the Minnesota River Greenway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a construction agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company to authorize the construction of a construction access for the Fort Snelling segment of the Minnesota River Greenway.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

11-516; 10/18/11

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Project Map

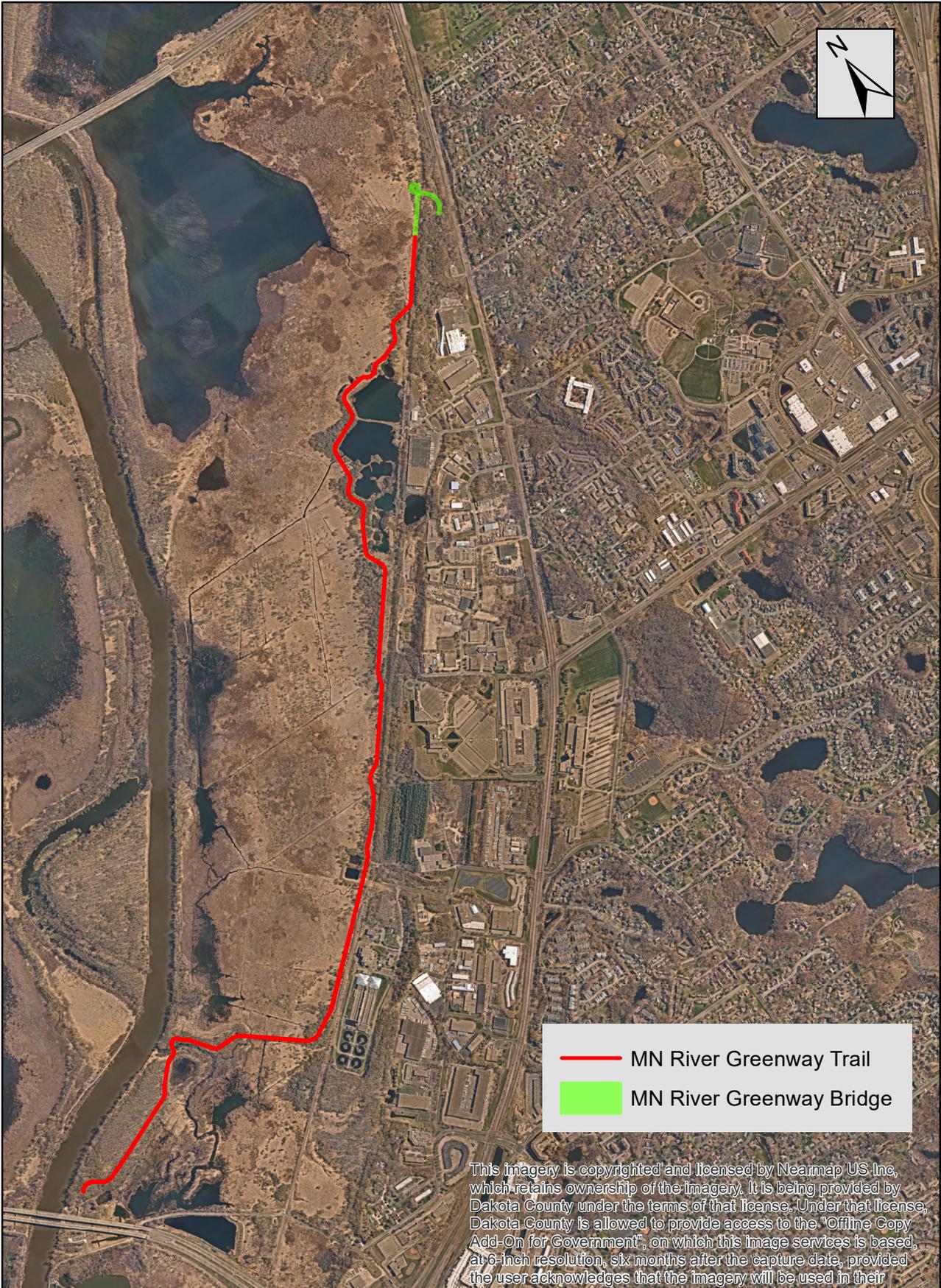
BOARD GOALS

- A Great Place to Live
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs
- A Healthy Environment
- Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Niki Geisler
Author: Joe Morneau

Attachment: Project Map





Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3565

Agenda #: 4.5

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Authorization To Execute Contract With Friends Of The Mississippi River For Natural Resources Project Management

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize the execution of a contract with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) for natural resource restoration project management on conservation easements, Park Conservation Areas, and greenways.

SUMMARY

The 2020 Land Conservation Plan adopted by Resolution No. 20-568 (November 17, 2020) identified 24 Preliminary Conservation Focus Areas and directed staff to pursue conservation easements with willing landowners within these Focus Areas.

Through successful Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant proposals, accepted by County Board Resolutions 17-287 (May 23, 2017), 18-293 (May 22, 2018), and 22-334 (August 23, 2022), the program has acquired several new conservation easements that are eligible for natural resources restoration funding from these same sources. The number of projects queued for restoration exceeds current Parks and Soil and Water Conservation District staff capacity.

On January 6, 2022, a Request for Qualifications was released to determine vendor interest and labor rates for a variety of Land Conservation activities (Attachment: RFQ). FMR's response for natural resources project management was the lowest cost response. FMR has a successful track record of providing high-quality services on other Dakota County Land Conservation projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorization for the Parks Director to execute a three-year contract with FMR for natural resources restoration project management and ecological consulting services at the amounts and rates listed in the RFQ response for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027. Staff further recommends that service rates for contracts authorized for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027, shall be increased annually by the inflation rate used in the Dakota County budget process as authorized by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

Funding for this contract will be derived from the ML 22 Outdoor Heritage Fund grant monies (\$261,378.32), 2024 Parks Planning funds (\$10,135), and 2024 Land Conservation Administrative funds (\$40,434.48). A 6 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment has been applied to the service rates for

2026 and 2027 as applicable.

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 2020 Land Conservation Plan identified 24 Preliminary Conservation Focus Areas and directed staff to pursue conservation easements with willing landowners within these Focus Areas; and

WHEREAS, through successful Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant proposals, the program has acquired several new conservation easements eligible for natural resources restoration funding from these same sources; and

WHEREAS, the number of projects queued for restoration exceeds the current capacity of Parks and Soil and Water Conservation District staff; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2022, a Request for Qualifications was released to determine vendor interest and labor rates for a variety of Land Conservation activities; and

WHEREAS, Friends of the Mississippi River’s (FMR) response for natural resources project management was the lowest cost response, and FMR has a successful track record of providing high-quality services on other Dakota County Land Conservation projects.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approves a three-year contract with Friends of the Mississippi River for natural resources project management and ecological consulting services in an amount not to exceed \$311,947.80, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That service rates for this contract shall be increased by the inflation rate used in the Dakota County budget process as authorized by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners effective January 1, 2024, as applicable.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

- 20-568; 11/17/20
- 17-287; 05/23/17
- 18-293; 05/22/18
- 22-334; 08/23/22

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Request For Qualifications

BOARD GOALS

- A Great Place to Live A Healthy Environment
 A Successful Place for Business and Jobs Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Niki Geisler
Author: Meghan Manhatton



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
For**

**Land Conservation Program Services
Dakota County Environmental Resources Department**

Release Date: January 6, 2022

Statement of Qualifications Due Date: February 4, 2022

Dakota County Environmental Resources Department
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

For additional information please contact:

Lisa West
Senior Project Manager
lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us
952-891-7018

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INTRODUCTION AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. Background

Dakota County land conservation efforts have expanded during the past 20 years. Initially focused on acquisition of permanent conservation easements and land, now, the Land Conservation Program includes restoration activities, and management and maintenance of restored areas on protected land.

Using a \$20M open space bond referendum, approved by County voters in 2002, the County acquired permanent easements on private land from voluntary participants and provided funding to acquire fee title to protect land now managed by other public entities. There are four, primary components to the Dakota County land conservation vision: County and regional parks, regional greenways, park conservation areas, and voluntary, permanent natural area and agricultural conservation easements. These components often overlap and are integrated into the overall open space system. To date, over 11,900 acres of land, outside the County parks and trails system, is permanently protected through the County's land conservation initiatives.

A new Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (Plan) was approved in November 2020, and refocuses County and leveraged resources toward continuing to protect natural areas, but also emphasizes wetland restoration projects, and projects that retain more water on the land. It has been several years since a RFQ for Natural Resource Services was issued by Land Conservation staff; it's time to update the list of qualified contractors that can assist the County with natural resource-related activities.

B. Program Description

The natural resource services for which Dakota County is seeking assistance are briefly described here:

Conservation Focus Area Analyses

For more than 18 years, Dakota County land conservation priorities have evolved to reflect concerns related to surface and groundwater quality, groundwater recharge, climate resilience, non-native invasive species, the loss of native species diversity, and the loss of habitat and rich farmland to development. Changes to external funding have contributed to a greater emphasis on improving Countywide environmental quality, but with less emphasis on protecting working farmland.

Additional protection opportunities for Dakota County and its partners include:

1. Unprotected natural areas and representative landscapes of Dakota County
2. Connecting corridors between natural areas
3. Natural area buffers to improve ecological functions and habitat quality
4. Wetlands for surface and groundwater quality
5. Source-water protection and groundwater recharge areas

Refined priority areas for the Plan were developed through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis of:

1. Surface water and hydrology
2. Presence of larger drained wetland basins
3. Public and private protected lands, and existing land cover
4. Natural resource quality and upland restoration potential
5. Natural area connectivity
6. Land ownership

These factors were used to identify 35 preliminary Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs) throughout the County. The CFAs encompass 80,200 acres, of which approximately 34,000 acres are permanently protected. County staff needs additional detailed information to refine each of the CFAs for protection and restoration activities. County staff is producing CFA Summary Sheets that provide basic information about each CFA, but lack detail in terms of existing groundcover, ecological health, and focused restoration opportunities. A copy of a sample summary sheet is included as Attachment F.

Ecological Assessments

An on-site assessment will, at a minimum: inventory species diversity (vegetation and wildlife), overall ecological health of a proposed acquisition area, and restoration potential. A general A-F grade scale will be provided by the County. An assessment would be required at the beginning of the acquisition process, as part of the scoring and ranking evaluation of project applications. See Attachment G.

Property Reports

A Property Report (PR) is prepared for each conservation easement. The purpose of a PR is to provide baseline documentation of the condition of the land area within the conservation easement (Protected

Property) at the time the easement is conveyed/sold by the landowner to Dakota County. The PR becomes the basis for evaluating the condition of the Protected Property over time. The PR is not updated unless significant natural disasters or other major occurrences trigger a need to revise the PR to document significantly altered conditions for ongoing monitoring purposes. A qualified firm will be asked to prepare the PR along with a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP – described next), because it is essentially an executive summary of the site evaluation portion of an NRMP. The PR can be drafted at the same time as the NRMP, but the contractor should anticipate time needed to photo-document the Protected Property as close to County acquisition as possible. County staff will work with the contractor to schedule the photographic documentation part of the PR.

The natural characteristics, ecological and aesthetic features, physical condition, present uses, and conservation values are documented in the Property Report, which includes appropriate reports, maps, photographs, and other needed information. The PR includes the status of existing roads, trails, fences, utility systems, small structures, stormwater conveyance, points of access, types of motorized use, other allowable uses that would otherwise be restricted by the easement, and the current or allowable location of signs. The PR also records special or unusual geographic or geologic features, waterways and other water features, and basic vegetation or land cover descriptions. See Attachment H – Property Report Table of Contents example for specific elements of the PR.

Natural Resource Management Plans

The County’s conservation easement deed requires a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) that provides: an assessment of the natural resource condition of the Protected Property; management needs, issues, recommendations, and priorities; cost estimates for recommended restoration and maintenance efforts; and a proposed timeline for restoration activities. The NRMP is prepared jointly with landowners, revisited every five years, and updated as necessary. The NRMP is developed during the acquisition process, prior to closing, so County staff can present acquisition, restoration, and maintenance cost estimates to the County Board for project approval.

The County developed and uses a NRMP template. County staff manages and initially completes basic information for portions of the template, thereby allowing contractors to focus their expertise on: natural resource assessments; appropriate research, information and data gathering, compilation and synthesis; developing restoration, management and maintenance strategies; and developing cost and schedule estimates for implementing restoration, management and maintenance activities. The tasks/activities listed in a 5-Year Work Plan in the NRMP will be specific enough to be used in a Request for Proposal. See Attachment I: NRMP Table of Contents example. The Contractor’s role is to provide data for the areas marked “Contractor.”

Implement Natural Resource Management Plans

NRMPs are accompanied by required, jointly developed Management Agreements (MAs) between the County and the landowner. The MA reflects agreed on restoration, management and maintenance activities listed in the 5-Year Work Plan developed in the NRMP. The MA records mutual tasks, responsibilities, shared costs, and timelines. The activities in the NRMP/MA can include: streambank restoration design and installation, invasive species removal, seeding, prescribed burns, spraying, forestry mowing, tree removal, and many other activities for which contractors are needed to assist. Through requests for proposals, contractors will be asked to submit proposals to perform the restoration activities listed in the MA. See Attachment J for an example MA Work Plan of restoration activities.

Annual Easement Monitoring Inspections and Reports

Through a contractor, Dakota County completes an annual monitoring inspection and report for each natural area conservation easement. There are currently 47 natural area easements, ranging from 2 to 163 acres in size that must be thoroughly inspected each year to ensure compliance with easement requirements and restrictions. A report form is provided by the County that must be completed, with photographic documentation of new and ongoing changes, as needed. See Attachment K for the Monitoring Report Template.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Dakota County is requesting a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for the preparation/completion of Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs) Analyses; Ecological Assessments; Property Reports; Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs); Implementing Natural Resource Management Plans; and Annual Monitoring Inspections and Reports. The SOQ need only include the services for which a contractor is interested in preparing/completing for the County. The term “contractor” will be used throughout this RFQ to refer to individuals and companies.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Please review the following instructions and attachments.

Submitted SOQs must include, at a minimum, the following two sections:

Section 1: General Information and Qualifications (maximum six pages, including letter of interest)

This section should include a letter of interest or transmittal. The SOQ must be submitted on official business letterhead. All SOQs shall bear the official seal of the contractor, if applicable, along with the signature of a duly authorized officer. The letter's purpose is to transmit the SOQ and must identify all materials and enclosures being forwarded collectively as a response to this RFQ.

At a minimum the SOQ Section 1 response must include the following, relative to services of interest:

1. Identification of the offering contractor(s), including name, mailing address, telephone number, email address of the contractor(s).
2. Acknowledgement of receipt of the RFQ addenda, if any.
3. Name, title, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of the contact person for the County evaluation of the SOQ.
4. A statement to the effect that the SOQ shall remain valid for a period of not less than 120 days from the date of submittal.
5. Introduction to the contractor that provides a brief company history and organizational structure.
6. Staff organization of the contractor that provides a chart/list of the team members/key personnel, their individual qualifications to provide the scope of services requested by this RFQ, and area(s) of responsibility. If appropriate, provide subcontractor company name, mailing address, contact person, email address, and telephone number.
7. Qualifications and experience for similar projects undertaken by the contractor within the last five (5) years. For each project, provide the name, email address and telephone number of a contact person currently available, who is familiar with contractor's performance on each project listed. Work project descriptions, if included, may not exceed one-page each.
8. Work Plan demonstrating the contractor's understanding of the RFQ and a clear description of the methods or processes to be used to complete each service area listed in Section 2.
9. Any conflicts of interest or potential conflict of interest the contractor may have in performing the services listed in Section 2 of this RFQ.
10. List any exceptions and deviations to the requirement of this RFQ. Please segregate exceptions and deviations as a separate element of the SOQ under the heading "Exceptions and Deviations."
11. Attachments A and C set forth the Dakota County Standard Assurances and Contract Terms and Conditions. The SOQ should indicate the contractor's willingness to agree to the contract terms and conditions.
12. Attachment B sets forth the Dakota County insurance requirements. The SOQ should indicate the contractor's ability to provide the level of insurance required to work with Dakota County.

Note: Section 1 may not exceed six pages, including the letter of interest.

Section 2: Service Area Qualifications

The second section should provide a summary of your qualifications, unique expertise, and fees in each of the following service areas you wish to be considered for future work. Each service area qualification narrative may not exceed one (1) page.

1. Conservation Focus Area Analyses
2. Ecological Assessments (vegetation and wildlife)
3. Prepare Property Reports

4. Prepare Natural Resource Management Plans
5. Implement Natural Resources Management Plans (example activities listed beginning on page 6)
6. Annual Easement Monitoring and Reports

Provide current fees and costs in the following two tables to indicate your interest in performing the various types of work listed. The tables will assist Dakota County staff in gauging interest and potential costs for proposed work, and in ultimately choosing contractors to receive requests for proposals for future work.

RFQ Tasks	Hourly Rate for Principal/Crew Leader	Estimated # of Hours	Hourly Rate for Support	Estimated # of Hours	Total Estimated # of Hours
CONSERVATION FOCUS AREA ANALYSES					
Conduct One Area Analysis					
Conduct Multiple Area Analyses					
ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS					
Conduct One Ecological Assessment					
PREPARE PROPERTY REPORTS					
Prepare One Property Report					
PREPARE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS					
Prepare One NRMP					
IMPLEMENT NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS (Use Table of Page 5)					
ANNUAL EASEMENT MONITORING AND REPORTS					
Complete 35 to 47 Inspections/Reports					
Other Fees					
Mileage Fees				Rate:	
Other Associated Fees (List)				Rate:	

Detailed RFP Task and Acre Examples (may add other appropriate examples)	Hourly Rate for Principal/Crew Leader	Estimated # of Hours	Hourly Rate for Crew x #	Estimated # of Hours for Crew	Total Estimated Staff Cost	Estimated Material/Equipment Cost
Project Management			----	----		
Mechanical Removal of Buckthorn (10 acres)						
Chemical Spraying Reed Canary Grass in a Riparian Area (5 Acres)						
Converting smooth brome field to native prairie (10 acres)						
Prescribed burn of existing native prairie (20 acres)						
Installing cedar revetments on streambank (100 feet)						
Assessing/surveying natural resources and/or wildlife						
Wetland restoration (10 acres)						
Streambank restoration design						
Installing cedar revetments on streambank (100 feet)						
Forestry Mowing (10 acres)						
Tree Removal (30 trees)						

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (SOQ) SUBMITTALS

Dakota County Land Conservation staff will review submittals and determine which contractors are best qualified in each area listed in the two tables. Those contractors qualified in each service area will be placed in a pool of contractors for calendar years 2022 through 2025. Land Conservation staff will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to appropriate pool contractors as needed. Contracts will be awarded based on the best contractor, relative to the work needed, and the overall value to the County. Awarded work may be project management, professional services, labor and materials, or a combination of services.

Dakota County Land Conservation staff reserves the right to reject any or all SOQs, and otherwise take such action deemed in the best interest of the Land Conservation Program.

Dakota County Staff Responsibilities

- Distribute RFQ
- Respond to contractor questions received, per the schedule, by the schedule date (page 11)
- Use specified criteria to review SOQs
- Notify contractors of contractor pool decisions by the schedule date (page 11)
- Notify contractors of schedule delays

Contractor Responsibilities

- Indicate intent to respond to RFQ by January 14, 2022
- Submit RFQ questions per the schedule date (page 11)
- Submit complete SOQ, per RFQ specifications, by the schedule date (page 11)
- Respond in a timely manner to additional questions about or requests for information

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTRACTOR

A. Contact Person

The Contractor's sole point of contact for this RFQ is:

Lisa West, Senior Project Manager
Dakota County Environmental Resources Department
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124
lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us
Phone: 952-891-7018
Fax: 952-891-7588

B. Questions

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted by email to Lisa West and must be received no later than January 21, 2022. Questions will be answered by Lisa no later than January 27, 2022. Lisa will be out of the office from January 7-18, 2022, returning on January 19, 2022. **Do not forward RFQ questions to any other County staff during Lisa's absence**; she will address your questions when she returns to work.

C. Addenda/Clarifications

Any revisions or modifications to the RFQ will be made by County staff in writing and emailed to all contractors that have conveyed an intent to submit a proposal by January 14, 2022. No verbal modification will be binding.

D. Examination of Qualifications Documents

By submitting an SOQ, the Contractor represents that it has thoroughly examined and become familiar with the work required under this RFQ and that it is capable of performing quality work to achieve the objectives of this RFQ.

E. Pre-Contractual Expenses

Pre-contractual expenses are expenses incurred by the Contractor in: 1) preparing its SOQ in response to this RFQ; 2) submitting an SOQ to the County; or 3) any other expenses incurred by the Contractor prior to the date of execution of a contract. The County will not, in any event, be liable for any pre-contractual expenses incurred by a Contractor in the preparation of its SOQ. A Contractor will not include any such expenses as part of its SOQ.

F. Contract Award

Issuance of this RFQ and receipt of SOQs does not commit Dakota County to award a contract. Dakota County reserves the right to: postpone SOQ review at its own convenience; to accept or reject SOQs based on evaluation of the submitted information; to accept other than the lowest cost qualifications; to negotiate with other than the selected Contractor, should negotiations with the selected Contractor be terminated; to negotiate with more than one Contractor simultaneously; or to cancel all or part of this RFQ.

G. Public Records and Requests for Confidentiality

Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 13.591, the names of all entities that submitted a timely SOQ to Dakota County will be public once opened. All other information remains private until Dakota County has completed negotiating a contract with the selected Responder. After a contract has been negotiated, all information received is public information except "trade secret" information as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37. All information submitted by a Responder therefore shall be treated as public information by Dakota County unless the Responder properly requests that information be treated as a confidential trade secret at the time of submitting the SOQ.

Any request for confidential treatment of trade secret information in a Responder's SOQ must sufficiently describe the facts that support the classification of information as confidential trade secret. The request must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized by the Responder to answer any inquiries by Dakota County concerning the request for confidentiality. This information shall be provided on the Trade Secret Information Form, see Attachment E. Dakota County reserves the right to make the final determination of whether data identified as confidential trade secret by a Responder falls within the trade secret exemption in the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

The envelope or mailing container of any documents submitted with the SOQ that the Responder believes contain confidential trade secret information must be clearly marked as containing confidential trade secret information. Each page upon which trade secret information appears must be marked as containing confidential trade secret information.

In addition to marking the documents as confidential, the Responder must submit one paper and one digital copy of the SOQ from which the confidential trade secret information has been excised. The confidential trade secret information must be excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the information removed while retaining as much of the document as possible.

The Responder's failure to request confidential treatment of confidential trade secret information pursuant to this subsection will be deemed by Dakota County as a waiver by the Responder of any confidential treatment of the trade secret information in the SOQ.

Requests by the public for the release of information held by Dakota County are subject to the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13. Responders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these provisions prior to submitting a SOQ.

By submitting this SOQ, Responder agrees to indemnify and hold the County, its agents and employees, harmless from any claims or causes of action relating to the County's withholding of data based upon reliance on the representations that the information is a trade secret as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 13.37 and therefore is not public, including the payment of all costs and attorney fees incurred by the County in defending such an action.

Public Data Requests can be submitted on the County's website:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/DataPractices/Pages/default.aspx>

H. Joint Offers

Where two or more contractors desire to submit a single SOQ in response to this RFQ, they should do so on a prime-subcontractor basis, rather than as a joint venture. Dakota County intends to contract with a single contractor and not with multiple contractors doing business as a joint venture.

I. Dakota County Rights

County staff may investigate the qualifications of any Contractor under consideration, require confirmation of information furnished by a Contractor, and require additional evidence of qualifications to perform the work described in this RFQ. County staff reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all SOQs, if such action is in the public interest
- Cancel the entire RFQ
- Issue a subsequent RFQ
- Remedy technical errors in the RFQ process
- Appoint evaluation committees to review SOQs

- Establish a short list of Contractors eligible for interview after evaluation of written SOQs, if needed
- Negotiate with any, all, or none of the RFQ respondents
- Reject and replace one or more subcontractors.

This RFQ does not commit Dakota County to enter into a contract, nor does this RFQ obligate Dakota County to pay for any costs incurred in preparation and submission of qualifications or in anticipation of a contract.

SUBMISSION OF QUALIFICATIONS

A. Qualifications Submittal

The Contractor must review the attached specifications, scope of services, and exhibits and submit one electronic copy of a SOQ **by 4:00 p.m. on February 4, 2022** to lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us .

B. Qualifications Format

1. All SOQs by corporations shall bear the official seal of the corporation, if applicable, along with the signature of a duly authorized officer of the corporation.
2. All text and exhibits should be succinct and relevant to the RFQ requirements.

C. Qualifications Contents

The SOQ must include, at a minimum, the following sections:

1. Letter of Transmittal

The SOQ must be submitted on the contractor's official business letterhead. The letter is to transmit the SOQ and must identify all materials and enclosures being forwarded collectively as a response to this RFQ.

Include, at a minimum, the following:

- a. Identification of the offering contractor(s), including name, address and telephone number of each contractor;
- b. Acknowledgment of receipt of RFQ addenda, if any;
- c. Name, title, address, telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address of contact person during period of SOQ evaluation;
- d. A statement to the effect that the SOQ shall remain valid for a period of not less than 120 days from the date of submittal; and
- e. Signature of a person authorized to bind the offering contractor to the terms of the SOQ.

2. Contractor Introduction

Provide a brief company history and organizational structure, including an outline of the contractor's previous and current projects demonstrating qualifications to provide the scope of services requested by the RFQ.

3. Contractor Team Organization

In this section, state in writing or provide an organization chart showing the team members and key personnel. Identify the team members' areas of responsibility. Provide subcontractors' company name, address, contact person, email and telephone number.

4. Qualifications and Experience

Identify similar projects undertaken by the Contractor within the last five (5) years. For each project, provide the client's name, address and telephone number for a contact person currently available who is familiar with the firm's performance on each project listed.

5. Work Plan and Budget for Scope of Services

The Contractor's SOQ must demonstrate the Contractor's understanding of the Program and scope of services as described herein. The Contractor's SOQ must include a clear description of the methods or processes to be used to complete each item in the scope of services. In addition, the Contractor must include a preliminary work plan that details tasks, timelines and work products if different or supplemental to the Scope of Services. The selected Contractor will work with County to make any necessary adjustments to the work plan as determined by the County, in consultation with the Contractor, during the contract period.

The Contractor must provide a detailed budget for the Program. The budget should include items such as professional fees, direct expenses, and contract labor.

6. Conflict of Interest

The Contractor must identify any potential conflict of interest it may have with this RFQ. See Attachment D: Non-Collusion and Conflict of Interest Statement.

7. Exceptions and Deviations

Any exceptions to the requirements in this RFQ must be included in the SOQ submitted by the Contractor. Segregate such exceptions as a separate element of the SOQ under the heading “Exceptions and Deviations.”

8. Contract Terms and General Conditions

Attachment A of this RFQ sets forth the Dakota County standard Contract Terms and General Conditions. SOQ should indicate the firm's willingness to agree to such provisions.

9. Registration and Good Standing

All responders must be in compliance with Minnesota law governing transaction of business in the [State of Minnesota](#). Upon award of the contract, the County will verify compliance prior to contracting.

TIMELINE AND BUDGET

A. Program Timeline

This RFQ will be conducted according to the following tentative schedule. This tentative schedule may be altered at any time, at the discretion of County staff.

Schedule

1. Release RFQ: January 6, 2022
2. Indicate Intent to Submit a Statement of Qualifications: January 14, 2022
3. Contractor Questions Due By: January 21, 2022
4. County Responses to Questions Provided Before or By: January 27, 2022
5. SOQ Due in electronic format: February 4, 2022
6. Contractor Pool(s) Established by: March 4, 2022

Provide the SOQ in electronic (.pdf) format and email to lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us. Notification of whether a firm is accepted into the pool of qualified respondents for its indicated areas of interest, to receive future RFPs, will be provided to each firm by March 4, 2022.

B. Budget and Payment

1. Contractor Budget

Contractor must identify the budget necessary to perform the services identified in the Scope of Services. The Contractor, when establishing cost estimates for the total Program, shall include all direct expenditures, such as, but not limited to: Contractor fees, travel costs, necessary material purchases (subject to County approval), etc. Materials provided to Contractors as a part of their participation in the Program, such as labels, containers and compostable bags, will be procured by the County. Indirect rates or overhead costs – such as rent, utilities, or incidental copying – will not be allowed under this contract.

2. Payment for Services

The consultant shall submit a SOQ based on hourly charges and reimbursables up to a maximum not to exceed total for all work within the scope of the project. The consultant's SOQ is to include the chargeable hourly rate of each team member, the anticipated number of hours spent on the project for each team member, and the fee maximum. The overall fee shall reflect a maximum not to exceed based on the sum of the tasks.

Billing for completed services shall be based upon a monthly invoice submitted by the Contractor. The invoice shall indicate the hours of labor performed by each person charging time to the Program, their charge out rate, and itemizations of the reimbursable expenses charged to the Program. County staff will have the right to inspect the Program timesheets. The invoice must also indicate the total contract amount, the total paid to date, the remaining amount to be paid, and the estimated percent of Program completed. County staff, at staff's option, may retain a portion of the total fee to ensure that sufficient fees are available to complete the Program.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Inclusion in the contactor pool will be based on, but not limited to, the following factors:

1. Qualifications and experience of principal contractor and supporting staff – related to the types of projects described in this RFQ
2. Performance on similar projects – based on performance of the team members and the consulting firm with successful delivery of recent similar projects
3. Submission Materials – quality and clarity of materials describing qualifications and interest in natural resource management documentation and restoration work
4. Fee Estimates – requested compensation reflects an accurate understanding of the services required and level of experience and quality of service
5. Time Estimates – time estimates demonstrate a basic understanding of the types of projects described in this RFQ and the general amount of time needed to complete them.

ATTACHMENT A - STANDARD ASSURANCES

1. **NON-DISCRIMINATION.** During the performance of this Contract, the Contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran's status or public assistance status. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without unlawful discrimination because of their race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran's status, or public assistance status. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices which set forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

The Contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, marital status, veteran's status, or public assistance status.

No funds received under this Contract shall be used to provide religious or sectarian training or services.

The Contractor shall comply with any applicable federal or state law regarding non-discrimination. The following list includes, but is not meant to limit, laws which may be applicable:

A. The Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* which prohibits discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

B. Equal Employment Opportunity-Executive Order No. 11246, 30 FR 12319, signed September 24, 1965, as amended, which is incorporated herein by reference, and prohibits discrimination by U.S. Government contractors and subcontractors because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

C. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 701 *et seq.* and 45 C.F.R. 84.3 (J) and (K) implementing Sec. 504 of the Act which prohibits discrimination against qualified handicapped persons in the access to or participation in federally-funded services or employment.

D. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* as amended, and Minn. Stat. § 181.81, which generally prohibit discrimination because of age.

E. The Equal Pay Act of 1963, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d), which provides that an employer may not discriminate on the basis of sex by paying employees of different sexes differently for the same work.

F. Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A, as amended, which generally prohibits discrimination because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age.

G. Minn. Stat. § 181.59 which prohibits discrimination against any person by reason of race, creed, or color in any state or political subdivision contract for materials, supplies, or construction. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor and any second or subsequent violation of these terms may be cause for forfeiture of all sums due under the Contract.

H. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 through 12213, 47 U.S.C. §§ 225, 611, with regulations at 29 C.F.R. § 1630, which prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of a disability in term, condition, or privilege of employment.

I. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, *et seq.* and including 45 CFR Part 80, prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of national origin which includes not discriminating against those persons with limited English proficiency.

J. Equal Protection of the Laws for Faith-based and Community Organizations-Executive Order No. 13279, signed December 12, 2002 and as amended May 3, 2018. Prohibits discrimination against grant seeking organizations on the basis of religion in the administration or distribution of federal financial assistance under social service programs, including grants and loans.

K. Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C. 4212, with regulations at 41 C.F.R. Part 60-250, which prohibits discrimination in employment against protected veterans.

2. **DATA PRIVACY.** For purposes of this Contract all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by Contractor in the performance of this Contract is subject to the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 and the Minnesota Rules implementing the Act now in force or hereafter adopted as well as any applicable Federal laws on data privacy. Contractor must comply with the applicable data management requirements as if it were a governmental entity. The remedies in Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the Contractor. Contractor does not have a duty to provide access to public data to the public if the public data are available from the governmental agency (County), except as required by the terms of this Contract. All subcontracts shall contain the same or similar data practices compliance requirements.

3. **RECORDS DISCLOSURE/RETENTION**. Contractor's bonds, records, documents, papers, accounting procedures and practices, and other evidences relevant to this Contract are subject to the examination, duplication, transcription, and audit by the County and either the Legislative or State Auditor, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, subd. 5. Such evidences are also subject to review by the Comptroller General of the United States, or a duly authorized representative, if federal funds are used for any work under this Contract. The Contractor agrees to maintain such evidences for a period of six (6) years from the date services or payment were last provided or made or longer if any audit in progress requires a longer retention period.

4. **WORKER HEALTH, SAFETY AND TRAINING**. Contractor shall be solely responsible for the health and safety of its employees in connection with the work performed under this Contract. Contractor shall make arrangements to ensure the health and safety of all subcontractors and other persons who may perform work in connection with this Contract. Contractor shall ensure all personnel of Contractor and subcontractors are properly trained and supervised and, when applicable, duly licensed or certified appropriate to the tasks engaged in under this Contract. Each Contractor shall comply with federal, state, and local occupational safety and health standards, regulations, and rules promulgated pursuant to the Occupational Health and Safety Act which are applicable to the work to be performed by Contractor.

5. **CONTRACTOR GOOD STANDING**. Contractor shall maintain Good Standing status with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, and shall notify County of any changes in Good Standing status within 5 calendar days of such change. Foreign business entities must maintain a certificate of authority (foreign corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships, and limited liability limited partnerships), or a statement of foreign qualification (foreign limited liability partnerships), or a statement of partnership authority (general partnerships). See Minn. Stat. §§ 303.03 (corporations); 322C.0802 (limited liability companies); 321.0902 and 321.0907 (foreign limited partnership); 321.0102(7) (foreign limited liability limited partnerships); 323A.1102(a) (foreign limited liability partnership); 321.0902 and 321.0907 (foreign general partnerships).

6. **CONTRACTOR DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND RESPONSIBILITY CERTIFICATION**. Federal Regulation 45 CFR 92.35 prohibits the State/Agency from purchasing goods or services with federal money from vendors who have been suspended or debarred by the federal government. Similarly, Minn. Stat. § 16C.03, subd. 2 provides the Commissioner of Administration with the authority to debar and suspend vendors who seek to contract with the State/Agency. Vendors may be suspended or debarred when it is determined, through a duly authorized hearing process, that they have abused the public trust in a serious manner.

By signing this Contract, the Contractor certifies that it and its principals* and employees:

A. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from transacting business by or with any federal, state, or local governmental department or agency; and

B. Have not within a three (3) year period preceding this Contract: 1) been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract; 2) violated any federal or state antitrust statutes; or 3) committed embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; and

C. Are not presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity for: 1) commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction; 2) violating any federal or state antitrust statutes; or 3) committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; and

D. Are not aware of any information and possess no knowledge that any subcontractor(s) that will perform work pursuant to this Contract are in violation of any of the certifications set forth above; and

E. Shall immediately give written notice to the Authorized Representative should Contractor come under investigation for allegations of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, or performing a public (federal, state, or local government) transaction; violating any federal or state antitrust statutes; or committing embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.

*"Principals" for the purposes of this certification means officers; directors; owners; partners; and persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g. general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment and similar positions).

Directions for Online Access to Excluded Providers

To ensure compliance with this regulation, identification of excluded entities and individuals can be found on the Office of Inspector General (OIG) website at https://oig.hhs.gov/exclusions/exclusions_list.asp

ATTACHMENT B - INSURANCE TERMS

Contractor agrees to provide and maintain at all times during the term of this Contract such insurance coverages as are indicated herein and to otherwise comply with the provisions that follow. Such policy(ies) of insurance shall apply to the extent of, but not as a limitation upon or in satisfaction of, the Contract indemnity provisions. The provisions of this section shall also apply to all Subcontractors, Sub-subcontractors, and Independent Contractors engaged by Contractor with respect to this Contract, and Contractor shall be entirely responsible for securing the compliance of all such persons or parties with these provisions.

APPLICABLE SECTIONS ARE CHECKED

1. Workers Compensation. Workers' Compensation insurance in compliance with all applicable statutes including an All States or Universal Endorsement where applicable. Such policy shall include Employer's Liability coverage in an amount no less than \$500,000. If Contractor is not required by Statute to carry Workers' Compensation Insurance, Contractor agrees: (1) to provide County with evidence documenting the specific provision under Minn. Stat. § 176.041 which excludes Contractor from the requirement of obtaining Workers' Compensation Insurance; (2) to provide prior notice to County of any change in Contractor's exemption status under Minn. Stat. § 176.041; and (3) to hold harmless and indemnify County from and against any and all claims and losses brought by Contractor or any subcontractor or other person claiming through Contractor for Workers' Compensation or Employers' Liability benefits for damages arising out of any injury or illness resulting from performance of work under this Contract. If any such change requires Contractor to obtain Workers' Compensation Insurance, Contractor agrees to promptly provide County with evidence of such insurance coverage.

2. General Liability.

"Commercial General Liability Insurance" coverage (Insurance Services Office form title), providing coverage on an "occurrence" rather than on a "claims made" basis, which policy shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for Bodily Injury, Property Damage, Personal Injury, Contractual Liability (applying to this Contract), Independent Contractors, "XC&U" and Products-Completed Operations liability (if applicable). Such coverage may be provided under an equivalent policy form (or forms), so long as such equivalent form (or forms) affords coverage which is at least as broad. An Insurance Services Office "Comprehensive General Liability" policy which includes a Broad Form Endorsement GL 0404 (Insurance Services Office designation) shall be considered to be an acceptable equivalent policy form.

Contractor agrees to maintain at all times during the period of this Contract a total combined general liability policy limit of at least \$1,500,000 per occurrence and aggregate, applying to liability for Bodily Injury, Personal Injury, and Property Damage, which total limit may be satisfied by the limit afforded under its Commercial General Liability policy, or equivalent policy, or by such policy in combination with the limits afforded by an Umbrella or Excess Liability policy (or policies); provided, that the coverage afforded under any such Umbrella or Excess Liability policy is at least as broad as that afforded by the underlying Commercial General Liability policy (or equivalent underlying policy).

Such Commercial General Liability policy and Umbrella or Excess Liability policy (or policies) may provide aggregate limits for some or all of the coverages afforded thereunder, so long as such aggregate limits have not, as of the beginning of the term or at any time during the term, been reduced to less than the total required limits stated above, and further, that the Umbrella or Excess Liability policy provides coverage from the point that such aggregate limits in the underlying Commercial General Liability policy become reduced or exhausted. An Umbrella or Excess Liability policy which "drops down" to respond immediately over reduced underlying limits, or in place of exhausted underlying limits, but subject to a deductible or "retention" amount, shall be acceptable in this regard so long as such deductible or retention for each occurrence does not exceed the amount shown in the provision below.

Contractor's liability insurance coverage may be subject to a deductible, "retention" or "participation" (or other similar provision) requiring the Contractor to remain responsible for a stated amount or percentage of each covered loss; provided, that such deductible, retention or participation amount shall not exceed \$25,000 each occurrence.

Such policy(ies) shall name Dakota County, its officers, employees and agents as Additional Insureds thereunder.

3. Professional Liability. Professional Liability (errors and omissions) insurance with respect to its professional activities to be performed under this Contract. This amount of insurance shall be at least \$1,500,000 per occurrence and aggregate (if applicable). Coverage under such policy may be subject to a deductible, not to exceed \$25,000 per occurrence. Contractor agrees to maintain such insurance for at least one (1) year from Contract termination.

It is understood that such Professional Liability insurance may be provided on a claims-made basis, and, in such case, that changes in insurers or insurance policy forms could result in the impairment of the liability insurance protection intended for Dakota County hereunder. Contractor therefore agrees that it will not seek or voluntarily accept any such change in its Professional Liability insurance coverage if such impairment of Dakota County's protection could result; and further, that it will exercise its rights under any "Extended Reporting Period" ("tail coverage") or similar policy option if necessary or appropriate to avoid impairment of Dakota County's protection. Contractor further agrees that it will, throughout the one (1) year period of required coverage, immediately: (a) advise Dakota County of any intended or pending change of any Professional Liability insurers or policy forms, and provide Dakota County with all pertinent information that Dakota County may reasonably request to determine compliance with this section; and (b) immediately advise Dakota County of any claims or threats of claims that might reasonably be expected to reduce the amount of such insurance remaining available for the protection of Dakota County.

4. Automobile Liability. Business Automobile Liability insurance covering liability for Bodily Injury and Property Damage arising out of the ownership, use, maintenance, or operation of all owned, non-owned and hired automobiles and other motor vehicles utilized by Contractor in connection with its performance under this Contract. Such policy shall provide total liability limits for combined Bodily Injury and/or Property Damage in the amount of at least \$1,500,000 per accident, which total limits may be satisfied by the limits afforded under such policy, or by such policy in combination with the limits afforded by an Umbrella or Excess Liability policy(ies); provided, that the coverage afforded under any such Umbrella or Excess Liability policy(ies) shall be at least as broad with respect to such Business Automobile Liability insurance as that afforded by the underlying policy. **Unless included within the scope of Contractor's Commercial General Liability policy, such Business Automobile Liability policy shall also include coverage for motor vehicle liability assumed under this contract.**

Such policy, and, if applicable, such Umbrella or Excess Liability policy(ies), shall include Dakota County, its officers, employees and agents as Additional Insureds thereunder.

5. Additional Insurance. Dakota County shall, at any time during the period of the Contract, have the right to require that Contractor secure any additional insurance, or additional feature to existing insurance, as Dakota County may reasonably require for the protection of their interests or those of the public. In such event Contractor shall proceed with due diligence to make every good faith effort to promptly comply with such additional requirement(s).

6. Evidence of Insurance. Contractor shall promptly provide Dakota County with evidence that the insurance coverage required hereunder is in full force and effect prior to commencement of any work. At least 10 days prior to termination of any such coverage, Contractor shall provide Dakota County with evidence that such coverage will be renewed or replaced upon termination with insurance that complies with these provisions. Such evidence of insurance shall be in the form of the Dakota County Certificate of Insurance, or in such other form as Dakota County may reasonably request, and shall contain sufficient information to allow Dakota County to determine whether there is compliance with these provisions. At the request of Dakota County, Contractor shall, in addition to providing such evidence of insurance, promptly furnish Contract Manager with a complete (and if so required, insurer-certified) copy of each insurance policy intended to provide coverage required hereunder. All such policies shall be endorsed to require that the insurer provide at least 30 days' notice to Dakota County prior to the effective date of policy cancellation, nonrenewal, or material adverse change in coverage terms. On the Certificate of Insurance, Contractor's insurance agency shall certify that he/she has Error and Omissions coverage.

7. Insurer: Policies. All policies of insurance required under this paragraph shall be issued by financially responsible insurers licensed to do business in the State of Minnesota, and all such insurers must be acceptable to Dakota County. Such acceptance by Dakota County shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. An insurer with a current A.M. Best Company rating of at least A:VII shall be conclusively deemed to be acceptable. In all other instances, Dakota County shall have 15 business days from the date of receipt of Contractor's evidence of insurance to advise Contractor in writing of any insurer that is not acceptable to Dakota County. If Dakota County does not respond in writing within such 15 day period, Contractor's insurer(s) shall be deemed to be acceptable to Dakota County.

8. Noncompliance. In the event of the failure of Contractor to maintain such insurance and/or to furnish satisfactory evidence thereof as required herein, Dakota County shall have the right to purchase such insurance on behalf of Contractor, which agrees to provide all necessary and appropriate information therefor and to pay the cost thereof to Dakota County immediately upon presentation of invoice.

9. Loss Information. At the request of Dakota County, Contractor shall promptly furnish loss information concerning all liability claims brought against Contractor (or any other insured under Contractor's required policies), that may affect the amount of liability insurance available for the benefit and protection of Dakota County under this section. Such loss information shall include such specifics and be in such form as Dakota County may reasonably require.

10. Release and Waiver. Contractor agrees to rely entirely upon its own property insurance for recovery with respect to any damage, loss or injury to the property interests of Contractor. Contractor hereby releases Dakota County, its officers, employees, agents, and others acting on their behalf, from all claims, and all liability or responsibility to Contractor, and to anyone claiming through or under Contractor, by way of subrogation or otherwise, for any loss of or damage to Contractor's business or property caused by fire or other peril or event, even if such fire or other peril or event was caused in whole or in part by the negligence or other act or omission of Dakota County or other party who is to be released by the terms hereof, or by anyone for whom such party may be responsible.

Contractor agrees to effect such revision of any property insurance policy as may be necessary in order to permit the release and waiver of subrogation agreed to herein. Contractor shall, upon the request of Dakota County, promptly provide a Certificate of Insurance, or other form of evidence as may be reasonably requested by Dakota County, evidencing that the full waiver of subrogation privilege contemplated by this provision is present; and/or, if so requested by Dakota County, Contractor shall provide a full and complete copy of the pertinent property insurance policy(ies).

K/CM/Exh/Insure-Prof-Liability-CM.doc
Revised: 10/07

ATTACHMENT C - SAMPLE CONTRACT

(Work w/ Contracts Staff to determine correct Boilerplate & Insurance Terms)
[Sample Contracts - SharePoint](#)

ATTACHMENT D – NON-COLLUSION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Please print or type (in ink)

CONTRACTOR NAME: _____ FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____ email: _____

In signing this RFQ, Contractor certifies that it has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of the competition; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a SOQ; that this SOQ has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other party submitting SOQ, competitor or potential competitor, that this SOQ has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of RFQ to any SOQ competitor; that the above statement is accurate under penalty or perjury.

Contractor also certifies that to the best of its knowledge none of its owners, directors, officers or principals (collectively, "Corporate Executive") are closely related to any County employee who has or may appear to have any control over the award, management, or evaluation of the contract. A Contractor's Corporate Executive is closely related when any of the following circumstances exist:

1. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract are related by blood, marriage or adoption; or
2. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract are current or former business partners, co-workers, or have otherwise previously worked closely together in the private or public sector; or
3. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract share a personal relationship that is beyond that of a mere acquaintance, including but not limited to friendship or family friendship.

If one or more of the above circumstances exist, Contractor must disclose such circumstance(s) to Dakota County in writing. Failure to disclose such circumstances invalidates the Contract.

Contractor will comply with all terms, conditions, specifications required by the party submitting a SOQ in this Request for Qualifications and all terms of our RFQ response.

Authorized Signature	Title	Date
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You are advised that according to Dakota County Board Resolution 18-485 and Policy 2751, if there is a question as to whether there may be an appearance of a conflict of interest, the contract shall be presented to the County Board for approval, regardless of the amount of the contract. Whether a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest exists is a determination made by Dakota County.

Submit this form as part of the SOQ response.

V.7 Revised: MMH (06-19)

ATTACHMENT E - TRADE SECRET FORM

Trade Secret Information Form

The following form must be provided by Responder to assist the County in making appropriate determinations about the release of data provided in Responder's qualifications.

All responders must select one of the following boxes:

- My SOQ **does not** contain "trade secret information", as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, Subd. 1(b). I understand that my entire SOQ will become public record in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13.591.
- My SOQ **does** contain "trade secret information" because it contains data that:
1. (a) is a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process; **AND**
 - (b) is the subject of efforts by myself or my organization that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy; **AND**
 - (c) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.
2. I have submitted one paper and one digital copy of my qualifications from which the confidential trade secret information has been excised. The confidential trade secret information has been excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the information removed while retaining as much of the document as possible **AND** I am attaching an explanation justifying the trade secret designation.

Please note that failure to attach an explanation may result in a determination that the data does not meet the statutory trade secret definition. All data for which trade secret status is not justified will become public in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13.591.

Submit this form as part of the SOQ response

Revised: 6/28/2018

Authorized Signature

Title

Date

Natural Resource Conservation Focus Area

Marcott Lakes



SIGNIFICANCE

The Marcott Chain of Lakes is a scenic area of forested hills, wetlands and small lakes in Inver Grove Heights. As a result of unique geology and limited residential development, the lakes have high water quality and the high-quality, contiguous forests and natural areas provide important wildlife habitat.

Size.....	687 acres
Surface water and wetlands.....	239 acres
Shoreline	?? feet
Public land (including road ROW).....	124 acres
Protected private land.....	223 acres
Unprotected private land.....	??? acres
Number of Landowners.....	92

VEGETATION

Due to the rolling terrain, wetlands and lakes that prevented natural fires, this area was part of the Big Woods, prior to European settlement. Forest species growing on north-facing slopes and other protected areas included aspen, basswood, cherry, red and white oak, and sugar maple. More level, fire-prone areas would have been predominantly native grasses and flowers. Non-forested areas were mostly converted to cultivated or pastured land following settlement. More recently, many areas were fragmented by State Highway 3, local streets and low-density, residential use.

High-quality canopy tree remnants of the Big Woods remain today. Former agricultural areas that are undeveloped are dominated by cottonwoods, boxelder and green ash, with an understory of invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. Non-native grasses and plants are common, which contributes to less biodiversity. Many wetlands remain intact but are subject to higher-fluctuating water levels and an increasing presence of non-native, hybrid cattails and other aquatic plants.

WILDLIFE

Mammals: An estimated 27 species including opossum, bats, raccoons, mink, weasels, fox, coyote, gophers, muskrat, rabbit and deer.

Birds: More than 145 species, including common loon, pelican, heron, bald eagle, hawks, sandhill crane, woodpeckers, colorful warblers and many others.



Reptiles and amphibians: Eleven species, including snapping and painted turtles, red-bellied and garter snakes, chorus and tree frogs, and tiger salamander.

Fish: An estimated 15 species, including crappie, sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, carp, stickleback and darters. **Note:** There is no public fishing access.

WATER

Marcott Lakes is in the Lower Mississippi River Watershed. Surface water generally flows northwest to southeast through interconnected lakes and wetlands, with groundwater 50 to 100 feet below the surface. There are two DNR-classified lakes – Rosenberger Lake is 26 acres, with a maximum depth of 26 feet; and Ohman Lake is 32 acres and more than 50 feet deep, with very high clarity and water quality. Five open-water marshes function like small lakes.

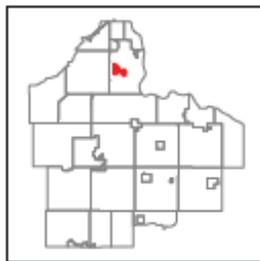
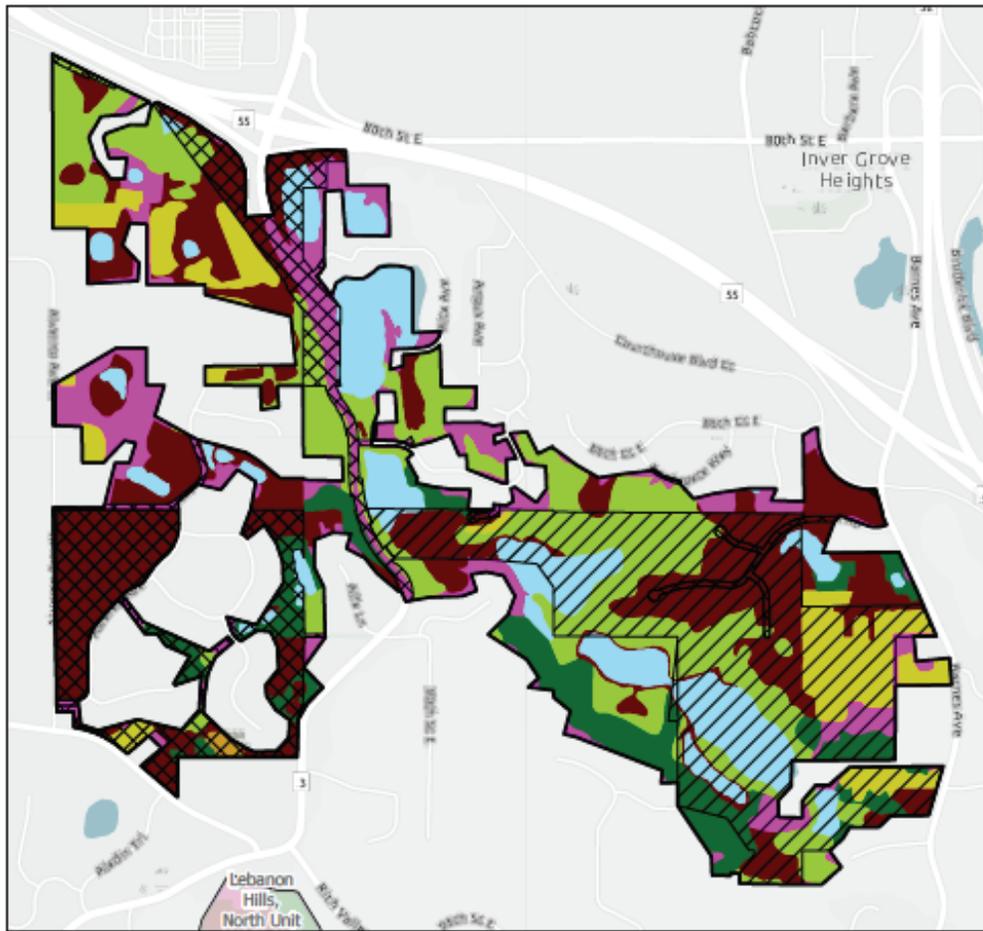
CONSERVATION CONCERNS

- Spread of invasive species – including buckthorn, garlic mustard and carp – which can increase erosion and lead to poorer water quality and less biodiversity.
- Fragmentation of forests and existing open space, which reduces wildlife habitat.
- Increased paved surfaces, which can reduce groundwater infiltration.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Informing landowners about invasive species on their property.
- Providing financial and other assistance to landowners to improve natural resources on their property.
- Protecting existing open space.

Marcott Lakes



CONTACT

Dakota County Land Conservation Program

14955 Galaxie Ave.
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-891-7000

www.dakotacounty.us, search *land conservation*

ATTACHMENT G – ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

An on-site assessment will, at a minimum: inventory species diversity (vegetation and wildlife), overall ecological health of a proposed acquisition area, and restoration potential. A general A-F grade scale will be provided by the County as part of an RFP for each assessment and will reflect the information in this Attachment. An assessment would be required at the beginning of the acquisition process, as part of the scoring and ranking evaluation of project applications.

Use a “Quality Index” score that provides a general measure of whether a land cover unit or subunit is a degraded (score = D) or an intact (score = A) ecosystem, based on the evaluation of the criteria in the Table. A high score of A, for example, would indicate a community with high plant diversity, very good species composition, high species representation, and good community structure. A plant community with a score of A would indicate that all functions and natural processes are intact. Such a community would also tend to be large, though absolute size varies among community types. Most plant communities in the County are impacted by invasive plants and animal species, lack of natural processes and other impacts, so a score of A is very unlikely.

The County’s Natural Resource Management System Plan converts numerical scores to letter grades consistent with DNR guidelines to evaluate the health of landcover. The conversion is the following:

D for a numerical score less than or equal to 1

C for a numerical score less than or equal to 2, but greater than 1

B minus or B/C for a numerical score less than or equal to 3, but greater than 2

A- or A/B for a numerical score less than or equal to 4, but greater than 3

A for a numerical score greater than 4

Note: There is no F in the DNR system.

The DNR guidelines rate a management unit is in “excellent” condition or “poor” condition, based on several factors. Scoring is on a continuum of “A” through “D,” where “A” indicates an excellent-quality natural community, and “D” indicates a poor-quality natural community. To assess quality, ecologists primarily consider the presence or absence of unnatural human-induced disturbances, such as logging, plowing, overgrazing and development. These guidelines were written by Minnesota Natural Heritage Program ecologists, based primarily on field experience to date. Most communities in Dakota County have impacts from invasive plants and animal species, lack of natural processes and other impacts, so a score of an “A” is very unlikely.

ATTACHMENT H – PROPERTY REPORTS

The Property Report is a baseline document that records the condition of an easement property at the time the easement is purchased by the County. It is essentially a subset of the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP), pulling information from the NRMP to complete the document. For this reason, it should take minimal time to draft and submit to the County for final review and editing.

Property Report Table of Contents

Purpose Statement/Contacts – COUNTY

Easement Information – COUNTY

Easement Map – COUNTY

Pictometry – COUNTY

Current Conditions **CONTRACTOR**

Streambank (if applicable) **CONTRACTOR**

Fence Location Map (if applicable) **CONTRACTOR PROVIDES INFORMATION –
COUNTY PRODUCES MAP**

Photographic Documentation **CONTRACTOR**

Photographic Location Map **CONTRACTOR PROVIDES INFORMATION – COUNTY
PRODUCES MAP**

Prohibitions and Permitted Uses – COUNTY

Acknowledgement of Condition – COUNTY

Example of Easement Monitoring Report – COUNTY

ATTACHMENT I – NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN: TABLE OF CONTENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

List of Tables

List of Figures

- I. Executive Summary **CONTRACTOR**
 - II. Purpose of the NRMP
 - Contacts
 - III. General Conservation Easement Information
 - IV. Introduction
 - A. Natural Area Protection
 - B. Farmland Protection
 - V. Landscape Context **CONTRACTOR**
 - A. Location
 - B. Historic and Existing Land Use
 - C. Adjacent Land Use
 - D. Rare Features of the Protected Property
 - VI. Physical Conditions
 - A. Geology
 - B. Aquifer Sensitivity and Water Quality Considerations
 - C. Soils **CONTRACTOR IDENTIFIES SOILS AND COUNTY PREPARES TABLE**
 - D. Topography
 - E. Hydrology
 - 1. Groundwater
 - 2. Surface Water
 - VII. Vegetation **CONTRACTOR**
 - A. Historical
 - B. Ecological Communities
 - C. Plant Community Assessment
 - 1. Land Cover
 - D. Noxious and Invasive Plants
 - E. Recommended Target Vegetation Communities
 - VIII. Land Management **CONTRACTOR**
 - A. General Restoration Process
 - B. General Goals
 - C. Priorities
 - D. Five-Year Work Plan
 - E. Goals and Methods for Targeted Plant Communities
 - IX. Wildlife
 - A. Historical
 - B. Existing Populations **CONTRACTOR**
 - C. Other Considerations **CONTRACTOR**
- APPENDICES **CONTRACTOR – Except for Appendix A**
- Appendix A: Natural Resource Management Agreement – **COUNTY**
 - Appendix B: Plant Species Recorded at the Protected Property
 - Appendix C: Plant Species for Restoration of the Protected Property
 - Appendix D: Potential Ecological Impacts
 - 1. Fire Suppression
 - 2. Disease
 - 3. Exotic and Overpopulated Animals
 - 4. Climate Change
 - Appendix E: List of Noxious and Invasive Plants
 - Appendix F: Methods of Controlling Exotic, Invasive Plant Species
 - Appendix G: Suggested Native Shrubs for Replacing Common Buckthorn
 - Appendix H: Seed Mixes for Target Plant Communities

ATTACHMENT J – SAMPLE NRMP/MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WORK PLAN

WORK PLAN

Landowners:

Property Location:

Protected Property Tract No.:

Restoration and Enhancement Activities, Budget and Schedule

The following tasks and budget are based on estimated costs and project needs developed at the time of the Final Natural Resource Management Plan. Final activities and estimated costs will be determined based on selected contractor bids, and landowner and County priorities. The Work Plan timeline, tasks, schedule, and estimated costs are subject to change, due to weather, ground conditions and other factors. The Parties agree to amend this Work Plan, as necessary, in response to these conditions.

Below is a list of priority restoration/enhancement activities, locations, timeline, estimated costs, responsibilities and associated costs to the Landowner and the County. The location of each Unit within the Easement, referenced in the table, is attached as **EXHIBIT B**.

Task No.	Year	Location	Task	Estimated Cost	Landowner Responsibility	County Responsibility
1	1	Unit 1	Cut/stack/burn buckthorn and Siberian elm. Herbicide-treat stumps to prevent resprouting	\$7,297.20	\$0	\$7,297.20
2	1	Unit 1	Install native shrubs (see shrub list, Appendix B)	\$2,410.70	\$0	\$2,410.70
SUBTOTAL UNIT 1				\$9,707.90	\$0	\$9,707.90
3	1	Unit 2	Herbicide-treat Canada thistle	\$2,144.30	\$0	\$2,144.30
4	1	Unit 2	Verify species of bittersweet and eradicate, if needed	\$1,139.80	\$0	\$1,139.80
5	1	Unit 2	Cut/stack/burn buckthorn. Herbicide-treat stumps to prevent resprouting	\$9,942.50	\$0	\$9,942.50
6	1	Unit 2	Install native shrubs (see shrub list, Appendix B)	\$2,745.52	\$0	\$2,745.52
SUBTOTAL UNIT 2				\$15,972.12	\$0	\$15,972.12
7	1	Unit 3	Cut/stack/burn buckthorn. Herbicide-treat stumps to prevent resprouting.	\$7,094.50	\$0	\$7,094.50
8	1	Unit 3	Install native shrubs (see shrub list, Appendix B)	\$2,343.78	\$0	\$2,343.78
SUBTOTAL UNIT 3				\$9,438.28	\$0	\$9,438.28
9	1	Unit 5	Cut/stack/burn buckthorn and Siberian elm. Herbicide-treat stumps to prevent resprouting	\$3,617.00	\$0	\$3,617.00
10	1	Unit 5	Prescribed burn, with adjacent units	\$1,355.00	\$0	\$1,355.00
11	1	Unit 5	Broadcast native prairie seed after controlled burn	\$1,193.00	\$0	\$1,193.00
12	3	Unit 5	Plant bur oak trees	\$652.18	\$0	\$652.18
13	2 - 5	Unit 5	Follow up exotic and invasive weed control	\$2,444.00	\$0	\$2,444.00
SUBTOTAL UNIT 5				\$9,261.18	\$0	\$9,261.18

14	1	Unit 6	Spring site preparation for fall seeding (spray/prescribed burn/spray/disc/seed)	\$1,260.00	\$0	\$1,260.00
15	2	Unit 6	Mow 2 or 3 times (8" height) during first growing season	\$476.50	\$0	\$476.50
16	3	Unit 6	Plant bur oak trees	\$326.09	\$0	\$326.09
17	2 - 5	Unit 6	Follow up exotic and invasive weed control	\$1,222.00	\$0	\$1,222.00
18	4	Unit 6	Prescribed Burn	\$460.50	\$0	\$460.50
SUBTOTAL UNIT 6				\$3,745.09	\$0	\$3,745.09
19	1	Unit 7	Spring site preparation for fall seeding (spray/prescribed burn/spray/disc/seed)	\$4,284.00	\$0	\$4,284.00
20	2	Unit 7	Mow 2 or 3 times (8" height) during first growing season	\$1,620.10	\$0	\$1,620.10
21	3	Unit 7	Plant bur oak trees	\$1,108.69	\$0	\$1,108.69
22	2 - 5	Unit 7	Follow-up exotic and invasive weed control	\$4,154.80	\$0	\$4,154.80
23	4	Unit 7	Prescribed Burn	\$1,565.70	\$0	\$1,565.70
SUBTOTAL UNIT 7				\$12,733.29	\$0	\$12,733.29
24		Unit 8	Limit spread of reed canary grass to adjacent Units	\$1,953.00		\$1,953.00
SUBTOTAL UNIT 8				\$1,953.00		\$1,953.00
25	1	Unit 9	Spring site prep for fall seeding (spray/prescribed burn/spray/disc/seed)	\$1,260.00	\$0	\$1,260.00
26	2	Unit 9	Mow 2 or 3 times (8" height) during first growing season	\$476.50	\$0	\$476.50
27	3	Unit 9	Plant bur oak trees	\$326.09	\$0	\$326.09
28	2 - 5	Unit 9	Follow-up exotic and invasive weed control	\$1,222.00	\$0	\$1,222.00
29	4	Unit 9	Prescribed Burn	\$460.50	\$0	\$460.50
SUBTOTAL UNIT 9				\$3,745.09	\$0	\$3,745.09
30	1	Unit 10	Spring site prep for fall seeding (spray/prescribed burn/spray/disc/seed)	\$2,268.00	\$0	\$2,268.00
31	2	Unit 10	Mow 2 or 3 times (8" height) during first growing season	\$857.70	\$0	\$857.70
32	3	Unit 10	Plant bur oak trees	\$586.95	\$0	\$586.95
33	2 - 5	Unit 10	Follow-up exotic and invasive weed control	\$2,199.60	\$0	\$2,199.60
34	4	Unit 10	Prescribed burn	\$828.90	\$0	\$828.90
SUBTOTAL UNIT 10				\$6,741.15	\$0	\$6,741.15
25	1	Chub Creek	Install live stakes and erosion control blanket on eroded streambanks	\$2,895.00	\$0	\$2,895.00
26	1	Chub Creek	Install cedar tree revetment	\$9,500.00	\$0	\$9,500.00
27	1	Chub Creek	Install native shrubs (see shrub list, Appendix B)	\$321.00	\$0	\$321.00
28	2	Chub Creek	Evaluate and replace live stakes and revetment as needed	\$500.00	\$0	\$500.00
29	1	Chub Creek	One-time site visit with selected design consultant	\$850.00	\$0	\$850.00
SUBTOTAL UNIT 11 Chub Creek Installation				\$14,066.00	\$0	\$14,066.00
30		Chub Creek	Design Assistance	\$5,500.00	\$0	\$5,500.00

31		Chub Creek	Design-Build construction assistance with selected contractor	\$11,410.00	\$0	\$11,410.00
32		All	Two Monitoring Site visits and Monitoring Report	\$5,500.00	\$0	\$5,500.00
SUBTOTAL UNIT 11 Chub Creek Design Assistance, Construction Assistance, and Monitoring				\$22,410.00	\$0	\$22,410.00
33	2019	All	Landowner Cash Payment	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$0
	2019 and 2020	All	Attend at least two pre-construction and post-construction meetings with design consultant and contractors	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$0
	2019 and early 2020	1-3, and 5-11	Design Oak Planting Locations and Size working with budget and contractor staff	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0
	Spring 2020	1-3, and 5-11	Document and verify planting locations of native shrubs and oaks. Provide report to County of locations.	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$0
	Fall 2020 and Fall 2021	1-3, and 5-11	Over two period monitor and assess survival of planted stock	\$320.00	\$320.00	\$0
	Summer and Fall 2021 and 2022	1-3, and 5-11	Over two-year period mulch planted shrubs and Oaks. Water if needed.	\$640.00	\$640.00	\$0
	Fall 2020 and Fall 2021	1,2,3, and 5	Over two-year period, Assess areas of Buckthorn control for re-growth	\$320.00	\$320.00	\$0
	Fall 2020 and Fall 2021	1,2,3, and 5	Foliar Spray of buckthorn re-growth as needed. Over two years. Assume 20 percent of Unit area experiences re-growth.	\$1,410.00	\$1,410.00	\$0
	2020 and 2021	11	Evaluate Live staking and replace as needed	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$0
TOTAL subject to Landowner Match				\$87,353.10	\$9,630.00	\$87,353.10
TOTAL for Payment Maximum (to three different contractors)				\$109,763.10	N/A	\$109,763.10

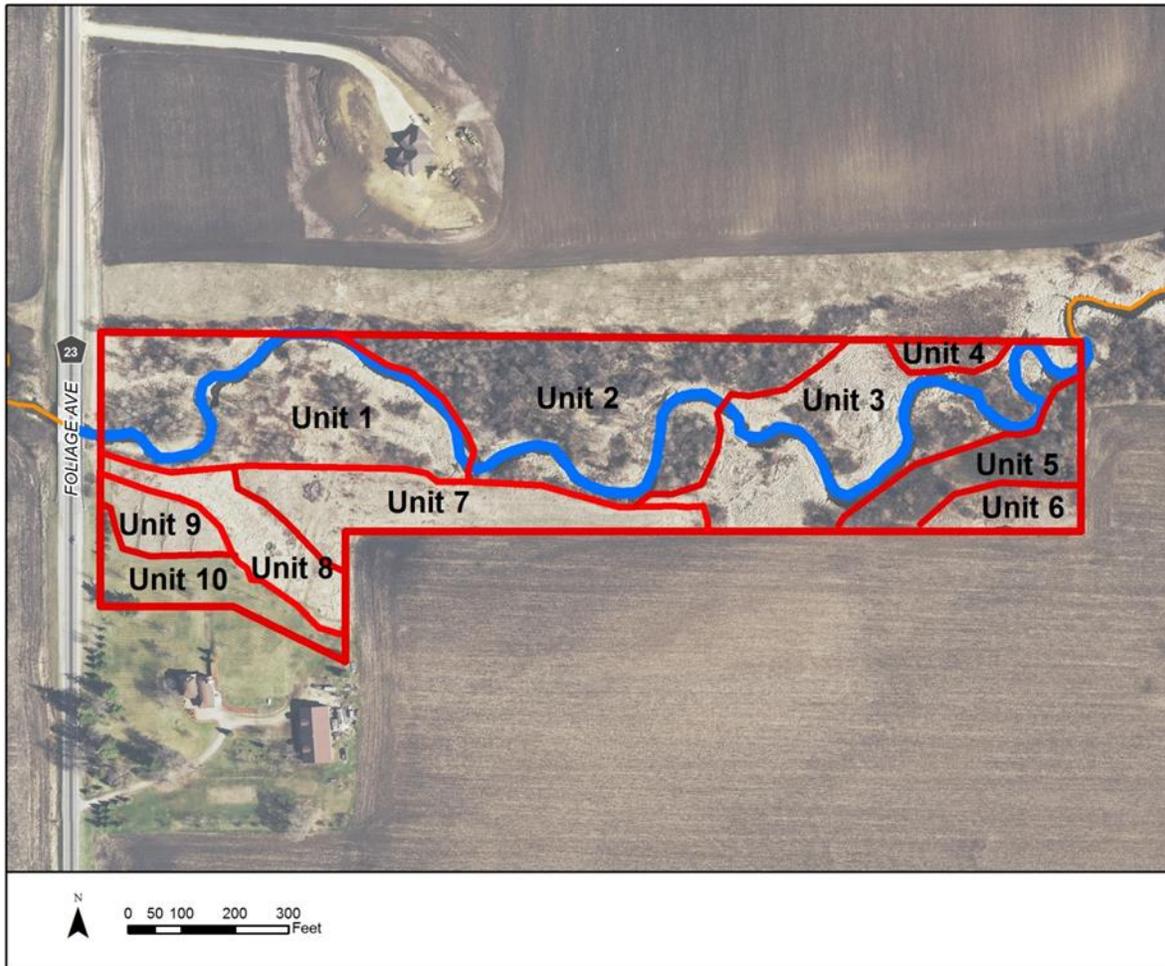
Maintenance Activities and Schedule

The following maintenance activities are the responsibility of the Landowner and are based on the above restoration and enhancement activities. Actual maintenance activities may change depending upon the restoration and enhancement activities that are completed and other considerations. Any revisions to the maintenance activities and schedule will be agreed to by all parties prior to completion or termination of the Restoration and Enhancement portion of this Agreement. Below is a list of maintenance activities, locations and timeline:

	Timeline	Location	Task
1	2023 - 2025	Units 1-3, 5-7, 9 and 10	Water, mulch, and repair protective fencing around native shrubs and oak tree, as needed
2	2023-2025	Units 1-3, and 5	Eradicate buckthorn seedlings, if they become present
3	2023-2025	Units 5, 6-10	Maintain savanna areas free of weeds

Land Cover Management Unit Map

Figure 16. Land Cover Units



ATTACHMENT K – SAMPLE MONITORING REPORT FORM

DAKOTA COUNTY ANNUAL EASEMENT MONITORING REPORT

Tract ID# [REDACTED]

Type of Easement:	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Area	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenway
Landowner Name(s):	[REDACTED]		
Landowner Property Address:	[REDACTED]		
Landowner Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]		
Parcel Number(s):	[REDACTED]		
Landowner Email:	[REDACTED]		
Last Monitoring Date:	[REDACTED]	Type of Previous Monitoring:	<input type="checkbox"/> Offsite <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite
Name of Previous Monitor:	[REDACTED]		
Name of Current Monitor(s):	Company: [REDACTED]		
Current Monitoring Date:	[REDACTED]	Report Date:	[REDACTED]
Landowner Contacted and/or Interviewed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date:	[REDACTED]
Contact Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email		
Was Current Land Ownership Verified?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Verification Date:	[REDACTED]
Verification Method:	<input type="checkbox"/> Landowner <input type="checkbox"/> County Info - Other: [REDACTED]		
Did the Property Owner/Representative Participate in the Site Visit?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA offsite only		
Date of Report Completion:	[REDACTED]		

NEW LANDOWNER INFORMATION

- NO CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP
- NEW OWNERSHIP (If NEW Ownership, complete Section #1.)

1. Has the new landowner been notified about the easement?
 Yes No

New Landowner Name(s): [REDACTED]
Landowner Address: [REDACTED]
Follow-Up Requested By Landowner: Yes No
Landowner Phone Number: [REDACTED]
Landowner Email: [REDACTED]
Has the new landowner received a copy of the PR, NRMP, SP, Easement?
 Yes No

Comments: [REDACTED]

MONITORING METHODS

Photographs from designated points are required when conducting OnSite monitoring.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Offsite	Review most recent aerial photography; confirm ownership through GIS data; and contact the landowner, preferably by phone, to ask if there are any changes/updates, issues or concerns; notify County of any issues.
<input type="checkbox"/> Onsite	Review most recent aerial photography; confirm ownership through GIS; contact the landowner, preferably by phone, to ask if there are any changes/updates, issues or concerns and to notify them of a upcoming site visit; inspect the property; notify County of any issues.

2. Was the Property Report Reviewed? Yes No
3. Was the Natural Resource Management Plan/Stewardship Plan reviewed? Yes No
4. Were aerial photos reviewed? Yes No N/A
 If yes, date(s) of photos:
 Additional Comments:

OBSERVATIONS

5. Are the terms and conditions of the easement deed being met? (Check all that apply).
 Yes No
 If no, check all that applies below and list comments under Findings page
 If yes, but an area should be monitored, put comments under Findings.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment | <input type="checkbox"/> New or Expanded Buildings/Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> New or Expanded Utilities (phone, gas, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining (includes peat/gravel) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Plots | <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Impervious Surfaces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haying/Mowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Seed Production | <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timber Harvest/Cutting | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Production | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology Alteration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burning | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Unauthorized Easement Subdivision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New/Expanded Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of Private Drainage | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed municipal solid and/or Industrial Waste (vehicles, equipment, hazardous or toxic substances) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New/Expanded Road | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dumping | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parked Equipment | | |

6. Has the land use changed since the last monitoring report? Yes No
 If yes, describe type of change and potential impact to the Protected Property:

7. Any noticeable changes to the adjacent properties? Yes No

If yes, describe type of change, and indicate location on map/photos and the potential impact to the Protected Property from adjacent property:

8. Have any nature-related changes, such as high winds, floods, fire, etc. occurred since the last monitoring visit? Yes No

If yes, describe type of change, and indicate location on map/photos:

Are the changes significant enough to warrant County involvement in exploring restoration or other assistance? Yes No

Describe:

9. Are there any other observations, suggestions or concerns that should be documented or addressed?

Yes No

If yes, describe the observations or concerns:

10. Has the Monitoring Report been discussed with the Landowner/Representative? Yes No

If yes, with:

Date:

OnSite Only

11. Are there non-native, invasive or pest species present? Yes No

If yes, describe:

12. Is there a County easement sign present? Yes No
If yes, what is the condition of the sign? Good Fair Poor
Should the sign be replaced? Yes No

13. Is there a Funding source signs present? Yes No

If yes, which funding sign(s)?

If yes, what is the condition of the sign? Good Fair Poor
Should this sign be replaced? Yes No

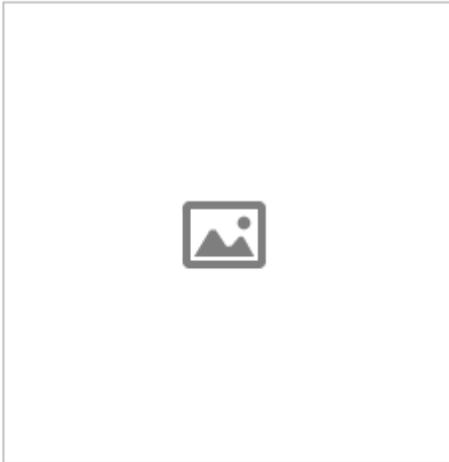
Site Overview Map with Photos on the following page



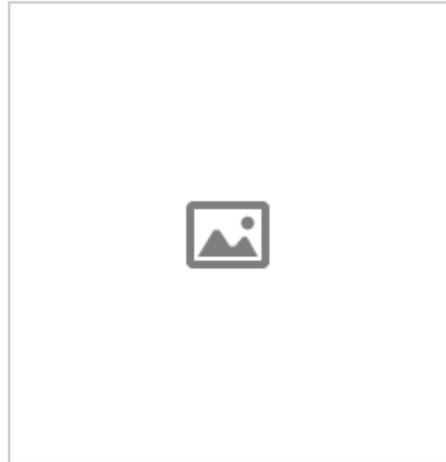
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Site Photos

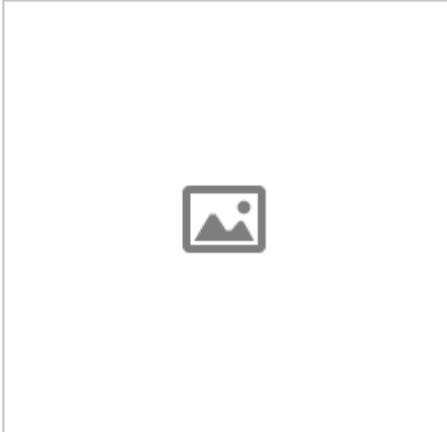
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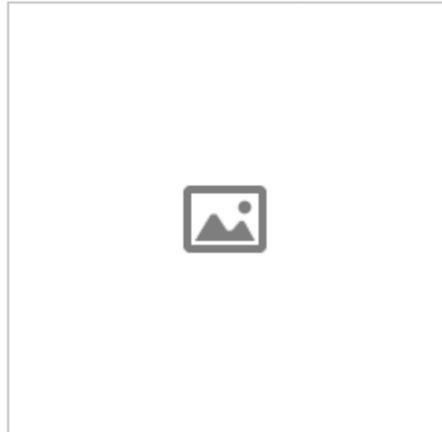
Photopoint 2



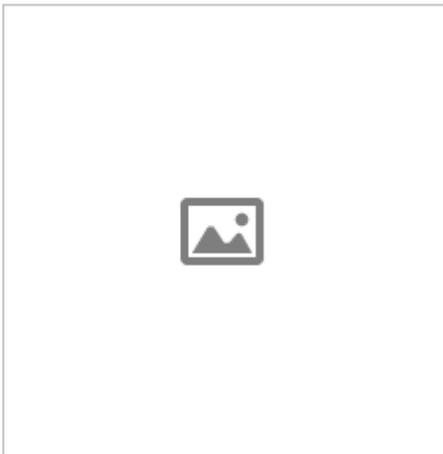
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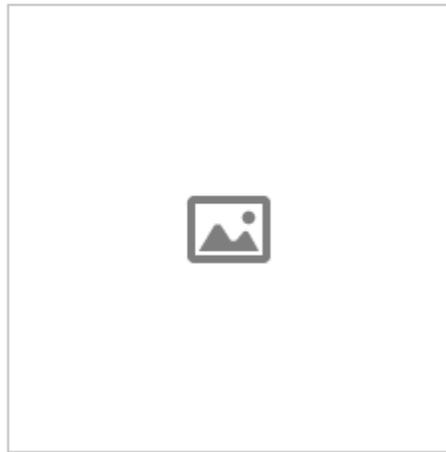
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Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3729

Agenda #: 4.6

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Authorization To Amend Contract With Alliant Engineering Inc., To Provide Additional Preliminary Engineering Services And To Execute A Joint Powers Agreement With City Of Eagan For County State Aid Highway 43 In Eagan, County Project 43-55

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Authorize the execution of a contract amendment with Alliant Engineering Inc., for preliminary engineering services of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 43 (Lexington Avenue) from CSAH 32 to Wescott Road in Eagan, County Project (CP) 43-55.
- Authorize the execution of a joint powers agreement (JPA) with the City of Eagan to establish roles, responsibilities, and cost share for CSAH 43 from CSAH 32 to Wescott Road in Eagan, County Project (CP) 43-55.

SUMMARY

To provide a safe and efficient transportation system for all users, Dakota County (County) is proceeding with CP 43-55, the CSAH 43 roadway lane reduction, and the bicycle and pedestrian crossing improvements project in Eagan (Attachment: Project Location). County Project 43-55 will improve CSAH 43 by reducing the number of through lanes on the roadway while providing enhancements to multimodal travel. The lane reduction will be part of a more extensive rehabilitation and improvement project on CSAH 43, between CSAH 32 and Westcott Road. It includes milling and overlaying CSAH 43, conducting an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) review, resurfacing most of the multimodal trails on both sides of CSAH 43, and constructing an enhanced pedestrian crossing area near Northview Park Road and Patrick Eagan Park. The project includes reconstructing the traffic signal at CSAH 30, which has reached the end of its service life. The CSAH 43 corridor is significant for Dakota County and the neighboring communities and serves as one of the main north-south roadways for the city of Eagan.

By Resolution No. 23-587 (December 19, 2023), the County Board authorized the execution of a contract for \$264,520 with Alliant Engineering Inc., for preliminary and final design services for CP 43-55. Since the contract was awarded, the project scope has expanded to include preliminary engineering for intersection control (including a roundabout) at Northview Park Road and consideration of additional multimodal improvement locations. Based on recommendations at Northview Park Road, the County and City may program a project in the future separate from CP 43-55 due to timing and the need for pavement preservation work and signal improvements in 2025.

The additional work includes:

Project Management

Further effort must be made to manage tasks associated with additional traffic analysis, multimodal analysis, and extended contract time.

Associated Fees/Expenses: \$3,050

Public Engagement

Based on turnout and heightened public interest from the first public engagement event, it was decided to add one additional open house event and increase efforts for social media, website, and newsletter content.

Associated Fees/Expenses: \$13,580

Multimodal Analysis

The original scope identified two prioritized areas to assess for potential multimodal crossing enhancements: the Northview Park Road intersection and the mid-block crossing 400 feet to the south. Based on public engagement feedback, additional locations along the corridor could benefit from multimodal enhancements and will be analyzed between the Goat Hill Park driveway and Wescott Road.

Associated Fees/Expenses: \$31,790

Preliminary and Final Design

The County requested a layout for the Northview Park Road intersection concepts and any enhanced multimodal crossing recommendations.

Associated Fees/Expenses: \$10,509

Corridor Analysis

Through the public engagement process, concerns were raised regarding the safety and operations of the existing intersection control at Northview Park Road. As a result, the County is requesting an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) report for Northview Park Road and a corridor study to include the consideration of impacts at Westbury Drive and Savannah Road.

Associated Fees/Expenses: \$49,735

Parcel Sketches

The County requested parcel sketches to document land agreements between City-owned parcels and the County for the JPA agreement.

Associated Fees/Expenses: \$1,440

The total amendment for preliminary engineering totals \$110,500, bringing the amended contract total to \$375,020. The original scope for preliminary engineering was established with F.15 Small Safety Projects. The Project Management, Public Engagement, Multimodal Analysis, and Parcel Sketch sections of the amendment will be fully covered under the cost share of the original contract since they are related to the pavement preservation construction in 2025. The Corridor Analysis

section of the amendment falls under the cost share policy F.13-Roundabouts since the analysis will center around the viability of a roundabout intersection control at Northview Park Road and Lexington Avenue. The 4-legged intersection has two legs owned by the County and two legs owned by the City. The cost share for the Corridor Analysis section of the amendment will be 55 percent for the County and 45 percent for the City. The Preliminary and Final Design section of the amendment includes work for multimodal concepts which are covered under the original cost share policy of the contract in addition to Roundabout concepts. The cost share for this section will be divided based on the nature of the concept work being completed. A more detailed description of all tasks associated with the negotiated scope increase is provided by Alliant Engineering Inc. (Attachment: Amendment Memorandum).

A JPA between the County and the City of Egan is necessary to outline cost participation, preliminary and final design responsibilities, future maintenance responsibility, and construction for CP 43-55. Costs will be shared in accordance with County policy. The County is the lead agency for design and construction phases.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends executing a contract amendment with Alliant Engineering Inc., in the amount of \$110,500, increasing the total amount to \$375,020 for CP 43-55.

Staff also recommends the authorization to execute a JPA with the City of Egan to formalize cost contributions and responsibilities for the design and construction of CP 43-55.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The Transportation Capital Improvement Program Budget includes \$1,800,000 for preliminary engineering, final design, and construction of CP 43-55. Sufficient funds are available for the requested contract amendment.

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County is proceeding with County Project 43-55; and

WHEREAS, County Project 43-55 is for preliminary and final engineering of improvements to County State Aid Highway 43 (CSAH 43) in Egan from CSAH 30 to Wescott Road; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-587 (December 19, 2023), the County executed a contract with Alliant Engineering Inc., for preliminary and final design engineering consulting services for an amount not to exceed \$264,520; and

WHEREAS, County staff recognizes and recommends that the proposed additional tasks are necessary to complete the project successfully; and

WHEREAS, staff negotiated an amount of \$110,500 with Alliant Engineering Inc., to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2028 Transportation Capital Improvement Program Budget includes \$1,800,000 for County Project 43-55; and

WHEREAS, a joint powers agreement (JPA) between the County and the City of Eagan is necessary to outline cost participation, preliminary and final design responsibilities, future maintenance responsibility, and construction for County Project 43-55; and

WHEREAS, the cost participation for the Project outlined in the JPA will be in accordance with the adopted Cost Share Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute an amendment to the contract with Alliant Engineering Inc., for additional services necessary for County Project 43-55 in an amount not to exceed \$110,500 resulting in a total amended contract not to exceed \$375,020 subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a joint powers agreement between Dakota County and the City of Eagan for the design and construction of County Project 28-44.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

23-587; 12/19/24

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Project Location

Attachment: Amendment Memorandum

BOARD GOALS

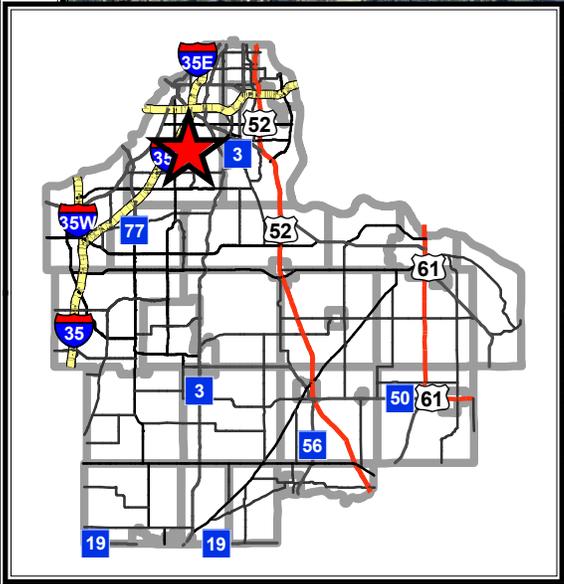
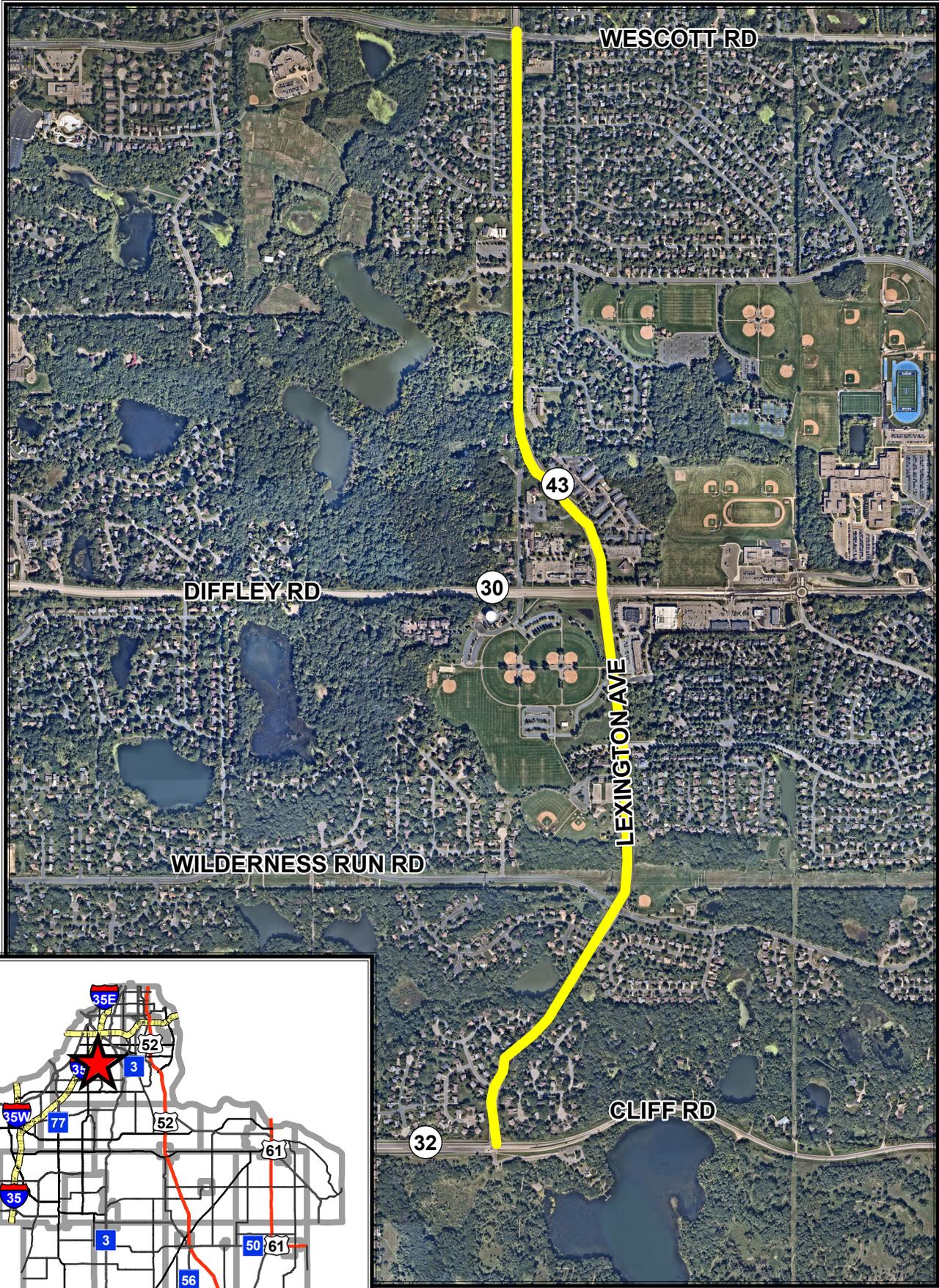
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| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service |

CONTACT

Department Head: Erin Laberee

Author: Keelee Roggenbuck

Prepared by Dakota County Physical Development Division



County Project 43-55



ALLIANT

August 2, 2024

Ms. Keelee Roggenbuck
Dakota County Transportation Department
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124
(sent via email)

**RE: CSAH 43 (Lexington Avenue) - Eagan
Request for Additional Services**

Dear Ms. Roggenbuck,

Alliant Engineering, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to provide you with the following Proposal for Professional Services. Our proposed Scope of Services includes additional services related to public engagement, traffic, and multimodal analysis and reporting for the Lexington Avenue improvements in Eagan. Additional scope is being requested to address preliminary feedback gathered during the initial round of public engagement. Feedback included concerns regarding operations and safety at the Northview Park Road intersection and concerns about multimodal crossing safety along the corridor. Specific additional scope items are listed below.

Task 1.0 Project Management

Task 1.6 Additional Agency Meetings and Coordination

The initial project schedule assumed the study and final design would be completed in August 2024. With the level of public engagement to date, additional investigation will be needed. The completion of the majority of the deliverables is extended out to November 2024. The completion for the additional analysis tasks included in this amendment request related to Northview Park Drive will be extended to February 2025. The longer schedule will result in additional Project Management Team meetings, agency coordination meetings and coordination meetings with Dakota County staff and the City of Eagan. Additional project management and administrative tasks will be needed.

Service Fee \$3,050.00

Task 2.0 Public Engagement

Task 2.1 Additional Open House

The original scope included two public open houses. An additional open house is being requested. The first project open house was used to gather feedback on the existing conditions. Open House #2 will gather feedback on design concepts. Open House #3 will present the recommended alternative and present information related to construction staging and schedule. The additional open house will include in-person event and online components. Alliant will prepare all notices, meeting exhibits, static boards,

materials, refreshments, and meeting summaries. The County will be responsible for printing and mailing notices.

Service Fee \$9,800.00

Task 2.2 Additional Communications

Initial public participation has been intensive for the project to date. The County desires to enhance the communications with the public. Additional efforts may include preparation of content for website updates, summary documentation, and newsletters. The original scope included two preparation of two newsletters. A third newsletter will be developed to communicate project progress and design concepts to the public in the immediate vicinity of the project. Alliant will develop the newsletter. Dakota County will print and mail the newsletters.

Service Fee \$3,780.00

Task 8.0 Preliminary and Final Design

Task 8.3 Preliminary Design – Northview Park Drive Intersection

Alliant will prepare 10% design layouts for up to 3 intersection concepts that are evaluated in the ICE report. Design will consist of colored layouts depicting the following:

- Design turning movements (Autoturn analysis)
- Lane and shoulder dimensions
- Approximate construction limits
- Conceptual drainage scheme
- ROW/easement needs

Cross sections will not be required. A high-level grading design will be prepared to estimate construction limits. We will prepare 10% level cost estimates for up to 3 layouts.

Service Fee \$6,710.00

Task 8.4 Preliminary Design – Multimodal Crossing Layouts

Alliant will prepare conceptual layouts up to a 10% level design for up to 3 crossing concepts along Lexington Avenue. Design will consist of colored layouts depicting the following:

- Roadway configuration and dimensions
- Pedestrian/bicycle facility configuration and dimensions
- Approximate construction limits

Service Fee \$4,195.00

Task 11.0 Corridor Study

Based on public comments received at Open House 1 and results of initial analyses, Dakota County requested additional evaluation of the CSAH 43 (Lexington Avenue) and adjacent intersections.

Task 11.1 CSAH 43 (Lexington Avenue) Corridor Study

Task 11.1.1 Data Collection

- Collect 24-hour typical weekday vehicle, truck, and ped/bike counts at the following locations (includes camera setup, pick up, and video processing):
 - Lexington Ave/Savannah Road

- Lexington Ave/Westbury Drive
- Wescott Rd/Danbury Trail
- Wescott Rd/Westbury Dr
- Northview Park Road/Clinton Trail
- Northview Park Road/Savannah Rd
- Collect 24-hour recreational event weekday vehicle, truck, and ped/bike counts at the following locations (includes camera setup, pick up, and video processing):
 - Lexington Ave/Patrick Road
 - Lexington Ave/Lexington Pointe Parkway/Kensington Trail
 - Lexington Ave/Goat Hill Park driveway (300' south of Lexington Point Parkway)
- Collect 24-hour typical weekday vehicle, truck, and ped/bike counts at the following locations (includes camera setup and pick up):
 - Lexington Ave/Holiday Gas Station Access (400' north of Diffley Road)
- Set radar equipment to record Lexington Avenue speed data for at least 24 hours at the following locations:
 - Lexington Ave between Northview Park Rd and Patrick Eagan Park ped crossing
 - Lexington Ave between Patrick Rd and Lexington Point Parkway

Task 11.1.2 Existing Conditions

Task 11.1.2.1 Existing Operations and MOE

- Analyze existing year 2024 AM and PM peak hours for existing conditions using Synchro/SimTraffic at the following intersections:
 - Lexington Avenue & Northview Park Road
 - Lexington Avenue & Westbury Drive
 - Lexington Avenue & Savannah Road
 - Wescott Road & Westbury Drive
 - Wescott Road & Danbury Trail
 - Northview Park Road & Clinton Trail
 - Northview Park Road & Savannah Road
- Summarize Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) results (intersection delay and LOS, worst approach delay and LOS, average and 95th percentile queues) for the intersections

Task 11.1.2.2 Traffic Forecasts

- Develop 20-year traffic forecast AM and PM peak hour volumes assuming no access modifications.
- Utilize MnDOT traffic mapping application, MnESAL, and Dakota County 2040 Transportation Plan to develop historical growth rate.
- Traffic growth rate to be shared with County and approved before proceeding with further analysis
- Assumes analysis for 2 segments (one on Lexington Avenue and one on Northview Park Road)

Task 11.1.2.3 Warrant Analysis/RAB Capacity

- Perform all-way stop warrant analysis for existing conditions at the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Northview Park Road under existing year 2024 and forecast year no build 2044 traffic volumes
- Perform traffic signal warrant analysis for existing conditions at the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Northview Park Road under existing year 2024 and forecast year no build 2044 traffic volumes

- Perform roundabout capacity analysis for the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Northview Park Road under existing year 2024 and forecast year no build 2044 traffic volumes to determine the number of approach, circulating, and bypass lanes that will be needed

Task 11.1.2.4 Crash Analysis

- Perform 5-year (2019-2023) crash analysis at the following intersections:
 - Lexington Avenue and Northview Park Road
 - Lexington Avenue and Westbury Drive
 - Lexington Avenue and Savannah Road
 - Lexington Avenue and Patrick Road
 - Lexington Avenue and Lexington Pointe Parkway/Kensington Trail
- Calculate crash and K/A rates, critical rates, critical index, and compare to statewide averages
- Summarize crash types and trends
- Create collision diagram for each intersection

Task 11.1.2.5 Gap Analysis

- Perform 60-minute AM and PM peak hour gap analysis for vehicles and pedestrians at the following intersections using video collected for turning movement counts
 - Lexington Avenue and Northview Park Road
 - Lexington Avenue and Westbury Drive
 - Lexington Avenue and Savannah Road
 - Lexington Avenue and Patrick Road
 - Lexington Avenue and Lexington Pointe Parkway/Kensington Trail
 - Lexington Avenue and Patrick Eagan Park
- Conduct 60-min vehicle and pedestrian gap analysis in-field at up to 4 locations to confirm/compare with gap analysis results completed using video. 60-minute study period will fall within the identified AM or PM peak hour

Task 11.1.2.6 Review Video at Lexington Avenue and Holiday Gas Station Access

- Review video at Lexington Ave/Holiday access and note northbound left-turn operational or safety concerns during 2 hour AM and 2 hour PM peak hours

Task 11.1.2.7 Access Management Assessment

- Analyze access spacing along Lexington Avenue between Westcott Road and Wilderness Run Road. Reference the Dakota County 2040 Long Range Plan for access spacing policy and assess which guidelines are met or not.
- Research origins-destinations of traffic at locations that do not meet access spacing guidelines utilizing County provided StreetLight license.
- Provide access recommendations at all full access driveways and intersections
- Assess potential RIRO or $\frac{3}{4}$ access at the intersections of Lexington Avenue and Westbury Drive and Lexington Avenue and Savannah Road. Document impacts to traffic and pedestrian routes as relates to access spacing guidelines. Discuss results with County to agree upon up to two access modification scenarios to use in task 11.1.3.2

Task 11.1.2.8 Multimodal Analysis

- Evaluate the crossing locations listed below using Dakota County's *Pedestrian Crossing Assessment* and the *20 Design Flags to Evaluate Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety at Alternative and Other Intersections*
 - Lexington Avenue & Savannah Road
 - Lexington Avenue & Westbury Drive
 - Lexington Avenue & Northview Park Road
 - Lexington Avenue & Patrick Road
 - Lexington Avenue & Lexington Pointe Parkway/Kensington Trail
 - Lexington Avenue & Goat Hill Park Driveway
- Document pedestrian generators, pedestrian destinations, and feedback received during public

- engagement to date
- Document existing multimodal volumes, results of the pedestrian gap analysis (Task 11.1.2.5), and 85th percentile speeds (Task 11.1.1) in figure(s) format
- Develop one preliminary recommendation (results of the *Pedestrian Crossing Assessment*) and one final recommendation at each location based on engineering judgement, multi-modal/area context, and results of the *20 Design Flags* evaluation
 - Document data needs for the Dakota County Pedestrian Crossing Assessment at each intersection in excel format, including the following:
 - AADT of crossing roadway
 - Multimodal volumes
 - Pedestrian/bicycle crashes from the most recent 10 years (2014-2023)
 - Available stopping sight distance to the point of crossing
 - Location distance to nearest marked crosswalk
 - Key destinations and active transportation facilities
 - Number of lanes and roadway configuration at the crossing
 - Posted speed limit
- Perform warrant analysis for turn lanes at the following intersections using *MnDOT's Access Management Manual*:
 - Lexington Avenue & Patrick Road
 - Lexington Avenue & Lexington Pointe Parkway/Kensington Trail
- Perform photometric analysis at crossings where a marked crosswalk is proposed, if applicable (number of locations not yet determined)
 - Create a map summarizing results of the analysis for City coordination with electric company

Task 11.1.3 Alternatives Analysis

Task 11.1.3.1 Develop Access Modification Volume Scenarios

- Develop volume scenarios for the network for up to two access modification scenarios as identified in Task 11.1.2.7. Volume scenario will assume a portion of Westbury Drive and Savannah Road traffic re-routes throughout the network. Research origins-destinations of traffic in the neighborhoods served by Savannah and Westbury utilizing County provided StreetLight license. Traffic volume methodology shall be approved by Dakota County before development of the volume scenarios

Task 11.1.3.2 No Build & Build Alternatives Operations Analysis

- Perform analysis of the alternatives listed below using modeling tools and volume scenarios as stated. Assume operations analysis not performed in VISSIM. All build alternatives will be analyzed with Lexington reduced to a 3-lane roadway
 - TWSC (Synchro/SimTraffic) for the following volume scenarios:
 - Existing Volumes
 - 20-Year Forecast No Build Volumes
 - Access Modification Scenario 1
 - Access Modification Scenario 2
 - Traffic Signal – only if warranted (Synchro/SimTraffic) for the following volume scenarios:
 - Existing Volumes
 - 20-Year Forecast No Build Volumes
 - Access Modification Scenario 1
 - Access Modification Scenario 2
 - Roundabout with lane geometry recommended in Task 11.1.2.3 (Arcady/HCS7) for the following volume scenarios:
 - Existing Volumes

- 20-Year Forecast No Build Volumes
 - Access Modification Scenario 1
 - Access Modification Scenario 2
 - Undefined Alternative for the following volume scenarios:
 - Existing Volumes
 - 20-Year Forecast No Build Volumes
 - Access Modification Scenario 1
 - Access Modification Scenario 2
- Report intersection delay and LOS, worst approach delay and LOS, and average and 95th percentile queues by approach (MOE) in tabular format for the following intersections:
 - Lexington Avenue & Northview Park Road
 - Lexington Avenue & Westbury Drive
 - Lexington Avenue & Savannah Road
 - Wescott Road & Westbury Drive
 - Wescott Road & Danbury Trail
 - Northview Park Road & Clinton Trail
 - Northview Park Road & Savannah Road
- Develop recommendations for mitigation strategies at the intersections of Wescott Road and Danbury Trail and Northview Park Road and Clinton Trail as a result of redistributed traffic, if applicable

Task 11.1.4.1 Corridor Study Report

- Provide draft and final corridor study report that summarizes the analysis completed in Task 11.1
 - Include a public engagement section that summarizes public feedback received.
 - Summarize operational results of the alternatives identified in Task 11.1.3.2 in an alternatives evaluation matrix. Document expected safety impacts and other key considerations (at a high-level: expected construction cost and impacts, R/W impacts, public perception, access considerations, multimodal impacts). Recommend an alternative for implementation.
 - Summarize analysis and results of the multimodal evaluation.
- Create a one-page handout summarizing the analysis and results of the corridor study in an easy-to-read format to include in newsletter and to be posted on the website.
 - Include project timeline, next steps, and contact information

Deliverables:

Draft and Final Corridor Study Report
 Turning Movement Counts
 Excel file documenting existing conditions at crossing locations as studied
 One page summary handout

Service Fee \$64,071.00

Task 11.2 Intersection Control Evaluation

Task 11.2.1 Operational Analysis

- Calculate operational benefit at the intersection of Lexington Avenue & Northview Park Road for each alternative evaluated in Task 11.1.3.2

Task 11.2.2 Safety Analysis

- Estimate expected number of crashes, crash rate, and safety benefit at the intersection of Lexington Avenue & Northview Park Road for each alternative evaluated in Task 11.1.3.2 using CMFs and other safety studies as applicable

Task 11.2.3 Benefit-Cost Analysis

- Calculate benefit/cost at the intersection of Lexington Avenue & Northview Park Road for each alternative evaluated in Task 11.1.3.2 using safety and operational benefit and construction cost estimate

Task 11.2.4 Concept Development (Design)

- Develop preliminary concept layouts and construction cost estimates in 2024 dollars for the alternatives as detailed in Task 11.1.3.2

Task 11.2.5 Intersection Control Evaluation Report

- Create an Intersection Control Evaluation summarizing all of the analysis completed in Task 11 and clearly state the recommended alternative for the intersection as a result of Task 11.1 Corridor Study

Deliverables:

Draft and Final ICE Report

Service Fee \$17,905.00

Task 12.0 Parcel Sketches

Alliant will prepare parcel sketches for up to four parcels to depict Right-of-way encroachments, temporary and permanent easements. Sketches will be 8 ½ X 11 and will be depicted over an aerial photo. Easement areas will be depicted and quantified.

Service Fee \$1,440.00

Total Service Fee Not to Exceed = \$110,951.00

We ask that you consider this proposal for additional services. Please call me at 612-767-9347 should you have any questions or comments regarding the contents of our proposal or associated service fees.

Sincerely,

Alliant Engineering, Inc.



Steve Weser
Principal

cc: File



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3730

Agenda #: 4.7

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Authorization To Execute Contract With Kimley-Horn And Associates, Inc. And Execute Joint Powers Agreement With City Of Inver Grove Heights For County State Aid Highway 63 And Interstate 494 Interchange Footprint Study In Inver Grove Heights, County Project 63-29

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Authorize the execution of a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for preliminary engineering and consulting services for a study in the anticipated footprint area of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 and Interstate 494, County Project (CP) 63-29 in Inver Grove Heights.
- Authorize the execution of a joint powers agreement (JPA) with the City of Inver Grove Heights to establish roles, responsibilities, and cost share for the interchange footprint study in the area of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 and Interstate 494, County Project (CP) 63-29, in Inver Grove Heights.

SUMMARY

To provide a safe and efficient transportation system for all users, Dakota County (County) is proceeding with CP 63-29, a study to investigate and map the location and footprint for a future interchange on Interstate 494 (I-494) at a future extension of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 in Inver Grove Heights, MN.

The work's primary outcome will be preserving the land areas needed for future roadway infrastructure to prevent land use conflicts with the interchange and the CSAH 63 corridor. This will be accomplished by mapping roadways, trails, and stormwater management for long-term design flexibility. The study will also include traffic study information, planning for local roadway connections to the County system, and other transportation recommendations.

A JPA between the County and the City of Inver Grove Heights is necessary to outline cost participation and responsibilities. Dakota County is the lead agency for the study.

Scope of Work and Project Goals. The required consultant services include data gathering, a traffic study, community engagement, developing Interchange and CSAH 63 design concepts, and investigating connecting network opportunities. This work provides for the development of footprints and maps for the future interchange and CSAH 63 corridor from 65th Street to I-494, land use or platting scenarios, and draft and final study reports and recommendations for next steps.

This study aims to achieve state, regional, and local governments’ acceptance and agreement on preserving resources for a future interchange project to maximize the long term flexibility of the overall transportation system. The study will result in a high-quality footprint to preserve land to allow for a flexible interchange design while maintaining the full potential for the surrounding area to develop in the interim time frame.

Consultant Selection. The Dakota County Transportation Department issued a request for proposals (RFP) for comprehensive transportation project design services. Four proposals were received and evaluated by the County and City of Inver Grove Heights. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. was selected as the preferred professional engineering consultant based on the following criteria: best value cost proposal, project approach, project understanding, expertise of key project personnel, quality management plan, and past performance on similar projects.

The proposals were evaluated to determine whether the project understanding, work plan, and staff qualifications were sufficient to complete all project requirements. The proposal from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. provided the most complete response to the services needed. The Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. proposal was exceptional in demonstrating a review of critical issues and was the strongest proposal for the following reasons:

- Most experience in the project area
- Strongest staff and project manager experience
- Most comprehensive project understanding
- Most detailed approach to the scope of work to right-size the effort

A Consultant Evaluation Summary detailing the proposal process, review team, evaluation criteria and results, and best-value cost evaluation is included (see Attachment: Consultant Evaluation Summary).

The consultants submitted cost proposals as follows:

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost/Hour</u>
Alliant	\$325,399	2,257	\$144.17
Kimley-Horn	\$342,210	1,866	\$183.39
SEH	\$338,422	1,769	\$191.31
WSB	\$399,185	2,487	\$160.51

Cost Participation

The City will fund one-third, and the County will fund two-thirds of the engineering costs based on actual consultant contract costs, including amendments.

RECOMMENDATION

- Staff recommends the executing a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the professional design services for CP 63-29 for actual costs not to exceed \$342,210.
- Staff recommends authorization to enter a JPA with the City of Inver Grove Heights to formalize cost contributions and responsibilities for CP 63-29.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The Transportation Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget includes an approved amount of \$470,000 for preliminary engineering and design services for CP 63-29. The cost share for CP 63-29 consulting services is 66.66 percent for the County and 33.33 percent City of Inver Grove Heights.

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County is proceeding with County Project (CP) 63-29; and

WHEREAS, CP 63-29 is the preliminary engineering and consulting services for a study in the anticipated footprint area of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 and Interstate 494; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Department sent a request for proposals (RFP) to four qualified professional consultants; and

WHEREAS, the proposals received were evaluated by County and City staff; and

WHEREAS, the proposal from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. provided the most complete response to the RFP, including project details and the most comprehensive cost for all the services needed; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2028 Transportation Capital Improvement Program Budget includes \$470,000 for CP 63-29 engineering consulting and design services; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends the execution of a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for engineering consulting services for CP 63-29 for actual costs not to exceed \$342,210 and

WHEREAS, the City’s staff concurs with this recommendation; and

WHEREAS, a joint powers agreement (JPA) between the County and the City of Inver Grove Heights is necessary to outline cost participation and responsibilities for CP 63-29; and

WHEREAS, the County’s cost share for CP 63-29 consulting services is 66.66 percent for the County and 33.33 percent for the City of Inver Grove Heights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to perform engineering consulting services for County Project 63-29 in an amount not to exceed \$342,210, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a joint powers agreement with the City of Inver Grove Heights for County Project 63-29 Interchange Footprint Study.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Project Location Map

Attachment: Consultant Evaluation Summary

BOARD GOALS

A Great Place to Live

A Healthy Environment

A Successful Place for Business and Jobs

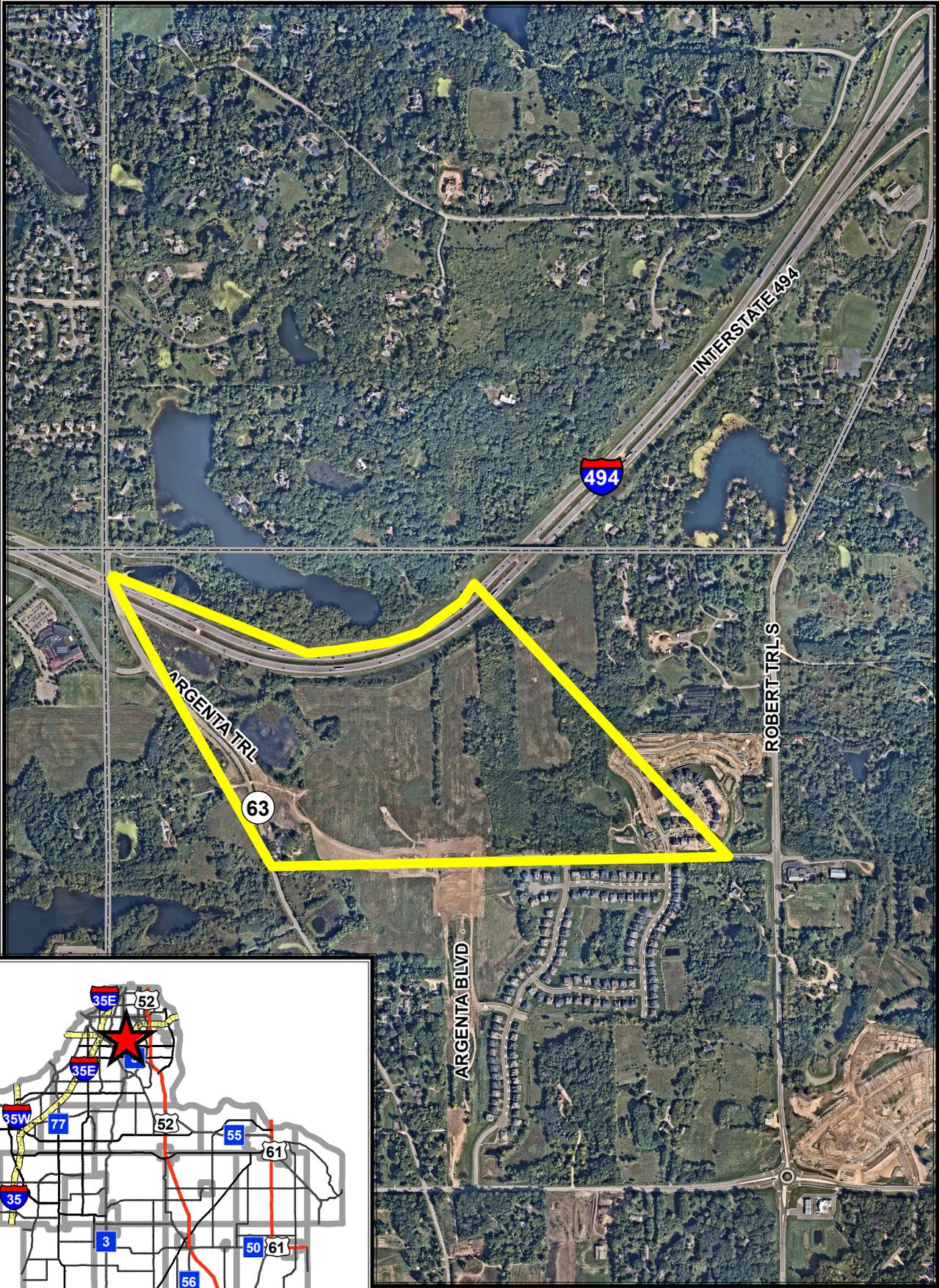
Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Erin Laberee

Author: Keelee Roggenbuck

Prepared by Dakota County Physical Development Division



County Project 63-29 Interchange Study

Consultant Evaluation Summary For County Project 63-29

Consultant Services Description:

CP 63-29 includes a traffic analysis, corridor study, and preliminary engineering to investigate and map the location and footprint for a future interchange on Interstate 494 (I-494) at a future extension of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 in Inver Grove Heights, MN. The work's primary outcome will be preserving the land areas needed for future roadway infrastructure to prevent land use conflicts with the interchange and the CSAH 63 corridor. The secondary outcomes will include traffic study information, planning for local roadway connections to the County system, and other transportation recommendations.

Scope of Consultant Services:

The required consultant services include data gathering, a traffic study, community engagement, the development of design concepts for the Interchange and CSAH 63, and investigation of connecting network opportunities. This work includes the development of footprints and maps for the future interchange and CSAH 63 corridor from 65th Street to I-494, the development of land use or platting scenarios, the development of draft and final study reports, and recommendations of next steps.

Deliverables:

The contract's deliverables include technical reports and conceptual layouts as follows: (1) survey data; (2) Traffic Reports; (3) Design Reports (4) Corridor Recommendations Report (5) Interchange Composite Footprint Map (6) Conceptual Layouts (for other roadway key recommendations made in the reports) (7) Ghost Platts (8) Funding Strategy Report. The contract deliverables will also include project management services and public/agency engagement as outlined below.

Public and Agency Engagement:

Dakota County required two public open houses, web page content, business stakeholder coordination, and two pop up events in the request for proposals.

Schedule:

The contract schedule is planned from October 2024 to October 2025 (approximately 12 months).

Consultant Selection Summary:

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the required consultant services was released on April 23, 2024, and was sent to the following three (4) consultant firms: Alliant Engineering, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH), and WSB Engineering. These four firms were invited to submit proposals because of proven expertise and ability to complete complex corridor study projects. Four (4) proposals were submitted to the County by the due date of May 10th, 2024, by the firms invited to the proposal listed above.

Review Team and Process:

The four (4) proposals were reviewed by staff from Dakota County and the city of Inver Grove Heights, including staff representing expertise in traffic engineering, urban planning, and preliminary layout development. Proposals were reviewed and evaluated independently by review team members. The review team members met on May 22nd, 2024, to discuss the proposals, share information regarding individual member evaluations, and reach consensus on a recommended consultant. The consensus reached by the proposal reviewers supported negotiating a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates.

The proposals were evaluated and ranked based on the following 6 criteria:

1. Understanding Scope of Work, Deliverables, and Schedule (15%): Based on completeness of the proposal, and clear understanding of the project scope, complexities, focus areas, deliverables, project decisions, and scheduling of tasks.
2. Project Approach (30%): Based on conceptual and technical approach to delivery priorities and proposed tools or techniques to provide good value and quality.
3. Project Design Team and Expertise of Key Personnel (20%): Based on qualifications and experience of the Project Manager and key staff proposed to work on the project.
4. Quality Control (15%): Based on approaches to proactively manage risks and delivery of quality products on time and budget.
5. Past Performance on Similar Projects (20%): Based on demonstration of projects the firm has successfully delivered that have similar goals and scope to the project.
6. Best Value Cost Proposal: Considered the quality and feasibility of the proposal and services for fee; the cost proposed vs. value to be provided; and the approach to complete the work within budget and schedule

Evaluation Results:

Dakota County staff selected Kimley-Horn and Associates based on the detailed work plan provided in the firm’s proposal and the forethought for the complexity of the project. The Kimley-Horn and Associates proposal was the strongest in discussion of existing conditions and interim stages leading to the ultimate vision. They demonstrated a good level of detail for each individual task item in their work plan to achieve the deliverables with quality and within expected budget. All members of the evaluation committee selected the Kimley-Horn proposal as the preferred consultant.

Elements that were the strongest or only present in the Kimley-Horn proposal included:

- Showcasing the most experience working in the area in both planning and final design. Their key team members proposed for the project worked on six of the seven studies described in the RFP as relevant to the project.
- Emphasis on coordination with MnDOT and FHWA. The proposal recommended an additional task item for MnDOT GDSU meetings that was chosen to be included in the final scope.
- Demonstrated capacity for land development staff assistance for ghost platting and business outreach.
- Demonstrated effort and anticipation for the project with potential interchange concepts in the proposal
- Set up their proposal in a “question and answer” format that showcased their deep project understanding above and beyond what was described in the RFP.
- Provided a project manager that the selection committee felt confident could deliver a project of this type and complexity as well as set the project area up for long term success.
- Provided the most detail in project approach compared to other proposals received.

Summary of Proposed costs:

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost/Hour</u>
Alliant	\$325,399	2,257	\$144.17
Kimley-Horn	\$342,210	1,866	\$183.39
SHE	\$338,422	1,769	\$191.31
WSB	\$399,185	2,487	\$160.51

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the consulting engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates be awarded a contract for CP 63-29, including traffic analysis, a corridor study, and preliminary engineering to investigate and map the location and footprint for a future interchange on Interstate 494 (I-494) at a future extension of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 in Inver Grove Heights, MN. Given the scope and complexities anticipated in the design work, the Kimley-Horn and associates proposal offered the best project understanding, most detailed work plan, best approach to managing the complex scope, and the most credible staffing among the four (4) submitted proposals.



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3749

Agenda #: 4.8

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Authorization To Execute Amendment To Contract With HDR Engineering, Inc., For County Road 86 Railroad Bridge Replacement In Castle Rock Township, County Project 86-34

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize the execution of an amendment to the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., (HDR) for reviewing the submittals for changes to the railroad bridge replacement over County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 86.

SUMMARY

To promote a safe and efficient transportation system throughout the County, Dakota County is replacing the original timber railroad bridge over CSAH 86 as part of the roadway reconstruction project (County Project 86-34).

Any changes to the bridge plans or material approval requests must go first to the Bridge Engineer who designed the bridges (shoofly and replacement), which is HDR. After HDR reviews and approves the submittals, the change is submitted to the railroad for review and approval. This review process was not included in HDR's original design contract.

The shoofly bridge has been constructed, and the contractor is now working on constructing the replacement bridge. The completion date for the bridge is October 31, 2024.

The current contract is in the amount of \$90,000. With two more months of construction and several more materials to be reviewed and approved, project costs will exceed this amount.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends authorizing a contract amendment with HDR, in the amount of \$50,000 for costs to review materials and changes to the railroad plans.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The entire project, both roadway and bridge, is funded through Sales & Use Taxes. Sufficient project funds are available.

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County is replacing the original timber railroad bridge over County State Aid Highway 86; and

WHEREAS, the design of the bridge plans was done by HDR Engineering, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a contract was executed with HDR Engineering, Inc., for the review of materials and plan changes; and

WHEREAS, the current contract amount is \$90,000; and

WHEREAS, the bridge completion date is October 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorizing the execution of an amendment to the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$50,000 funded by Sales & Use Tax.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute an amendment to the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$50,000 for additional review and approval of materials and changes to the bridge plans for County Project 86-34, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Location Map

BOARD GOALS

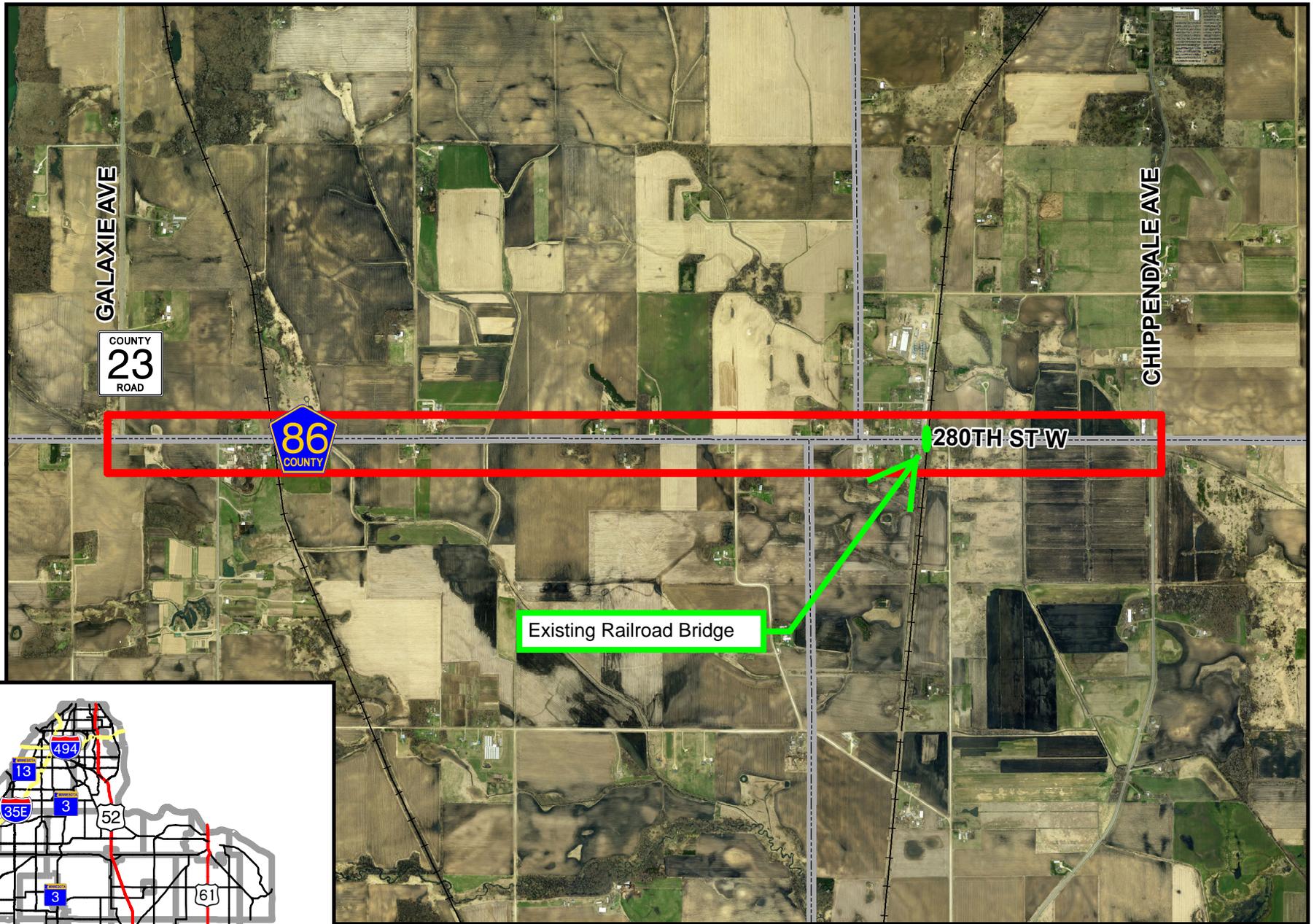
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Great Place to Live | <input type="checkbox"/> A Healthy Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service |

CONTACT

Department Head: Erin Laberee

Author: Jeannine Briol

Prepared by the Dakota County Transportation Department



Existing Railroad Bridge

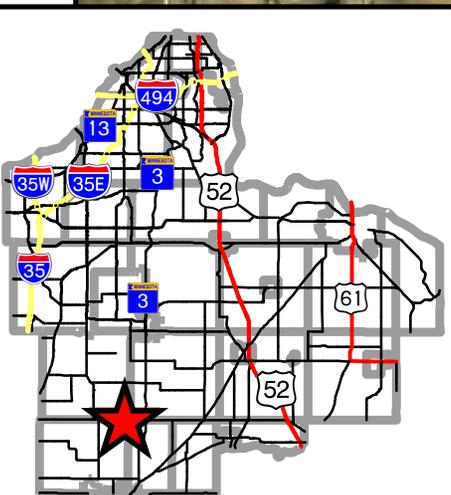
COUNTY
23
ROAD

86
COUNTY

280TH ST W

GALAXIE AVE

CHIPPENDALE AVE



County Project 86-34



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3773

Agenda #: 4.9

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Authorization To Execute Contract With WSB LLC For Design Services At County State Aid Highway 31/Pilot Knob Road And Upper 147th Street In City Of Apple Valley And Amendment Of 2024 Transportation Capital Improvement Program Budget, County Project 31-118

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

- Authorize the execution of a contract with WSB LLC for County Project (CP) 31-118 for design services at CSAH (County State Aid Highway) 31 (Pilot Knob Road) and Upper 147th Street in the City of Apple Valley
- Amend 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget to include an additional \$287,997 in funding for this project.

SUMMARY

To provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County is partnering with the City of Apple Valley on CP 31-118. County Project 31-118 is a preliminary and final design project to develop plans and associated services for converting the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 31 (Pilot Knob Road) and Upper 147th Street into a restricted three-quarter access intersection in the City of Apple Valley (Attachment: Project Location Map). This intersection has undergone previous analyses which determined this intersection reconstruction will improve safety and traffic operations at this location.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent to three consulting firms on August 15, 2024, and three proposals were received on September 4, 2024. Three consulting firms were ranked by criteria set by the RFP, and a selection team of County and City of Apple Valley staff ranked the three consultant proposals.

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Proposal Cost</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost/Hour</u>
WSB LLC	\$287,997	1,651	\$174.44
KLJ	\$276,725	1,787	\$154.85
Stonebrooke Engineering, Inc.	\$157,720	1,234	\$127.81

The proposals were evaluated to determine whether the project understanding, work plan, quality control plan, past performance on similar projects, and staff qualifications were sufficient to complete all project requirements. Despite the other proposals having lower cost and cost per hour proposals, there were some underlying issues in the proposals and quality control. As such, the proposal from

WSB LLC provided the most complete response to the services needed. The WSB LLC proposal was the strongest proposal for the following reasons:

- Most experience in the project area
- Quality work in nearby location providing additional context
- Strongest staff and project manager experience
- Comprehensive quality control plan built into workflow

A Consultant Evaluation Summary detailing the proposal process, review team, evaluation criteria and results, and best-value cost evaluation is included (see Attachment: Consultant Evaluation Summary).

The internal estimate for CP 31-118 was \$300,000 and the selected consultant project cost was \$287,997. County staff reviewed and negotiated this estimate and found it to be acceptable. County Staff is requesting an amendment to the CIP budget to include this funding amount, coming from the Safety and Management Set Aside.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends executing the contract to WSB LLC for CP 31-118 and to amend the CIP budget by transferring \$287,997 to CIP from Safety and Management Set Aside to fund this project.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The 2024 Transportation CIP Adopted Budget does not contain funds for this project. The 2024 CIP budget is requested to be amended to add \$287,997 to fund the design services of this project. Additional programming for CP 31-118 is included in the draft 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program with construction planned in 2026.

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, to promote a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County (County), in cooperation with the City of Apple Valley, is proceeding with County Project (CP) 31-118; and

WHEREAS, the County is the lead agency for the project; and

WHEREAS, CP 31-118 is a project to develop preliminary and final design plans and associated services in the City of Apple Valley; and

WHEREAS, the project consists of developing preliminary design, final design, and other associated services for the conversion of the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 31 and Upper 147th Street intersection into a three-quarter restricted access; and

WHEREAS, programming is included in the draft 2025-2029 Transportation Capital Improvement Program with construction planned for 2026; and

WHEREAS, three proposals were submitted by consultants for the project; and

WHEREAS, WSB LLC was scored highest by a selection team of County and City of Apple Valley staff ranking the three consultant proposals; and

WHEREAS, WSB LLC project cost was \$287,997, and staff determined this estimate to be acceptable; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends awarding the project to WSB LLC; and

WHEREAS, the design services of this project are anticipated to cost \$287,997.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute the contract with WSB LLC for County Project 31-118, not to exceed \$287,997, based on their selected and negotiated proposal, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form, and to amend the 2024 Capital Improvement Program budget by an additional \$287,997 to fund the design services of this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2024 Transportation Capital Improvement Program is hereby amended as follows:

Expense:

CP 31-118	\$287,997
Safety & Management	<u>(\$287,997)</u>
Total Expenses	\$0

Revenue:

CP 31-118 (CSAH)	\$287,997
Safety & Management (CSAH)	<u>(\$287,997)</u>
Total Revenue	\$0

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment: Project Location Map
- Attachment: Consultant Evaluation Summary

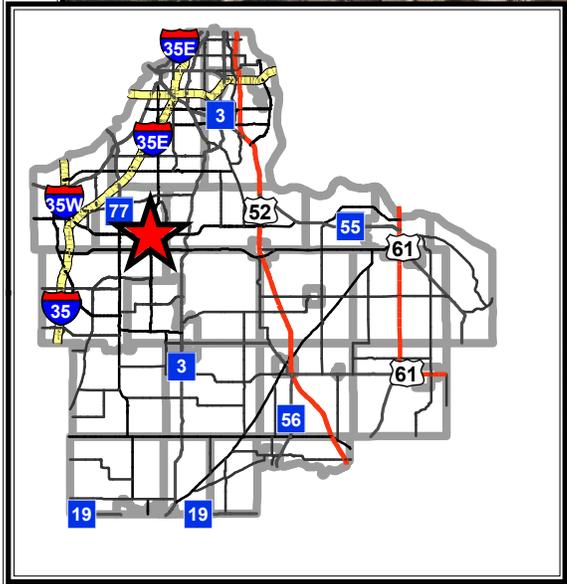
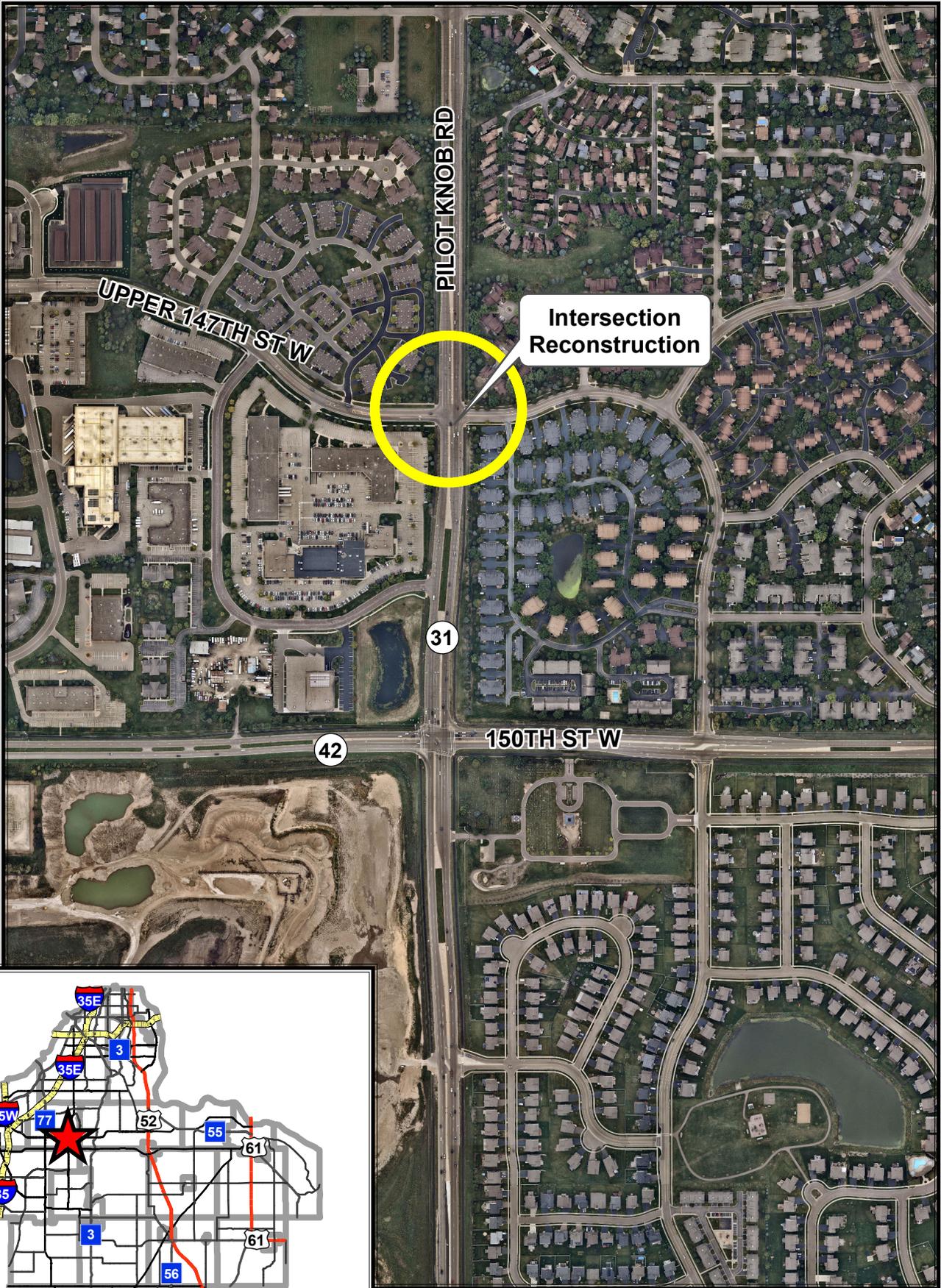
BOARD GOALS

- A Great Place to Live
- A Healthy Environment
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs
- Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Erin Laberee
Author: Tyler Krage

Prepared by Dakota County Physical Development Division



**County Project 31-118
Intersection Reconstruction**

Consultant Evaluation Summary For County Project 31-118

Consultant Services Description:

County Project (CP) 31-118 includes providing a public involvement process, design alternatives analysis, preliminary design, and final design, and other associated services at the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 31 and Upper 147th in Apple Valley to be reconstructed into a restricted three-quarter access intersection.

Scope of Consultant Services:

The scope of the consultant services includes public involvement, collection of survey data, environmental assessment, geotechnical evaluation, public/private utility coordination and identification, stormwater/hydraulics evaluation, design alternatives development, preliminary design, final design, right of way mapping, intersection photometrics, permits/approvals, and associated construction administration.

Deliverables:

The contract's deliverables include technical reports and conceptual layouts as follows: (1) survey data; (2) Environmental Assessment Memo; (3) Design Alternatives Memo; (4) Preliminary Layout/Construction Limit; (5) Parcel Sketches; (6) Photometric Report; (7) Permits and Approvals. The contract deliverables will also include project management services and public/agency engagement as outlined below.

Public and Agency Engagement:

Dakota County required three public open houses, web page content, business stakeholder coordination, and five resident/business meetings.

Schedule:

The contract schedule is planned from October 2024 to December 2026 (approximately 26 months).

Consultant Selection Summary:

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the required consultant services was released on August 15, 2024, and was sent to the following three (3) consultant firms: Stonebrooke Engineering, Inc., KLJ, and WSB LLC. These three firms were invited to submit proposals because of proven expertise and ability to complete complex corridor study projects. Three (3) proposals were submitted to the County by the due date of September 4th, 2024, by the firms invited to the proposal listed above.

Review Team and Process:

The three (3) proposals were reviewed by five total staff from Dakota County (four) and the city of Apple Valley (one), including staff representing expertise in traffic engineering, project management, and preliminary layout development. Proposals were reviewed and evaluated independently by review team members. The review team members met on September 13th, 2024, to discuss the proposals, share information regarding individual member evaluations, and reach consensus on a recommended consultant. The consensus reached by the proposal reviewers supported negotiating a contract with WSB LLC.

The proposals were evaluated and ranked based on the following six criteria:

1. Understanding Scope of Work, Deliverables, and Schedule (15%): Based on completeness of the proposal, and clear understanding of the project scope, complexities, focus areas, deliverables, project decisions, and scheduling of tasks.

2. Project Approach (35%): Based on conceptual and technical approach to delivery priorities and proposed tools or techniques to provide good value and quality.
3. Project Design Team and Expertise of Key Personnel (30%): Based on qualifications and experience of the Project Manager and key staff proposed to work on the project.
4. Quality Control (5%): Based on approaches to proactively manage risks and delivery of quality products on time and budget.
5. Past Performance on Similar Projects (15%): Based on demonstration of projects the firm has successfully delivered that have similar goals and scope to the project.
6. Best Value Cost Proposal: Considered the quality and feasibility of the proposal and services for fee; the cost proposed vs. value to be provided; and the approach to complete the work within budget and schedule

Evaluation Results:

Dakota County staff selected WSB LLC based on the detailed work plan provided in the firm’s proposal and the forethought for the complexity of the project. The WSB LLC proposal was the strongest in understanding the context of the area and its needs and their project team/expertise. They demonstrated a good level of detail for each individual task item in their work plan to achieve the deliverables with quality and within expected budget, and their past work supports that. The composite scoring of all consultant proposals yielded WSB LLC as the highest scoring across all reviewers.

Elements that were the strongest or only present in the Kimley-Horn proposal included:

- Most experience in the project area
- Quality work in nearby location providing additional context
- Strongest staff and project manager experience
- Comprehensive quality control plan built into workflow

Summary of Proposed costs:

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Proposal Cost</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost/Hour</u>
WSB LLC	\$287,997	1,651	\$174.44
KLJ	\$276,725	1,787	\$154.85
Stonebrooke Engineering, Inc.	\$157,720	1,234	\$127.81

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the consulting engineering firm WSB LLC be awarded a contract for CP 31-118, includes providing a public involvement process, design alternatives analysis, preliminary design, and final design, and other associated services at the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 31 and Upper 147th in Apple Valley to be reconstructed into a restricted three-quarter access intersection. Given the scope and complexities anticipated in the design work, the WSB LLC proposal offered the best project understanding, most detailed work plan, best approach to managing the complex scope, and the most credible staffing among the three (3) submitted proposals.



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3576

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Resources

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

Authorization To Submit 2024-2044 Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan To Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner For Review And Approval

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize submittal of the draft 2024-2044 Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan (Attachment: 2024-2044 Management Plan) to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner for review and approval.

SUMMARY

Background: In Minnesota, counties are responsible for developing projects and programs to achieve state goals for waste management. On January 30, 2024, the MPCA adopted the 2022-2042 Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (Policy Plan), providing the framework for solid waste management in the Twin Cities metropolitan area with a 20-year time horizon. Minn. Stat. § 473.803 requires metropolitan counties to submit revised solid waste management plans to implement the Policy Plan within nine months of Policy Plan adoption (no later than October 30, 2024). The Policy Plan prescribes strategies that must be incorporated into County plans, including specific required strategies and optional strategies that must meet a minimum point threshold.

Stakeholder Engagement: Three rounds of stakeholder engagement were conducted to develop the 2024-2044 Management Plan. An initial round of public engagement (September 1-October 15, 2023) sought to identify waste management barriers and opportunities. A second round of engagement (April 1-24, 2024) gathered comments on implementation timing and needs for a preliminary set of required and optional strategies from the MPCA Policy Plan. From September 2023 through April 2024, more than 2,000 responses were received from residents, businesses, schools, public entity officials, waste industry representatives, and other stakeholders. By Resolution No. 24-368 (July 30, 2024), the County Board authorized the release of the draft 2024-2044 Management Plan for a 21-day public review and comment period. More than 50 public comments were received (Attachment: Public Comments).

2024-2044 Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan: The revised draft 2024-2044 Management Plan was developed in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 473.803 and 115A. It communicates Dakota County's vision, policies, strategies, tactics, and timing for solid waste management over the next 20 years. It includes all Policy Plan required strategies, Policy Plan optional strategies that meet the minimum point value (total 82 points of required 75 points), and continuing County strategies for ongoing activities from the 2018-2038 Solid Waste Master Plan, with implementation timelines based on the Policy Plan and stakeholder feedback. Tactics for each

strategy provide implementation details as required by Minn. Stat. § 115A.46. On September 26, 2024, the Dakota County Planning Commission recommended submittal of the 2024-2044 Management Plan to the MPCA for review and approval. The recommended 2024-2044 Solid Waste Management Plan builds on and will replace the 2018-2038 Solid Waste Master Plan adopted by the County Board by Resolution No. 18-493 (September 18, 2018).

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize submittal of the 2024-2044 Solid Waste Management Plan to MPCA Commissioner for review and approval.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

None at this time. Implementation and costs will be determined annually as part of the County Board of Commissioners work plan priorities and approval of the Environmental Resources Department budget.

- None Current budget Other
 Amendment Requested New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Minnesota counties are responsible for developing projects and programs to achieve state goals for waste management; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) adopted the 2022-2042 Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (Policy Plan) on January 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 473.803 requires each metropolitan county to revise its current solid waste management plan to implement the revised Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, revised metropolitan county solid waste management plans must be submitted to the MPCA Commissioner for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Plan prescribes strategies that must be incorporated into county-specific plans, including required strategies and optional strategies that must meet a minimum point threshold; and

WHEREAS, stakeholder engagement was conducted and gathered comments on waste management barriers and opportunities and timing and needs for a preliminary set of required and optional strategies from the MPCA Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-368 (July 30, 2024), the County Board authorized the release of the draft 2024-2044 Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan (2024-2044 Management Plan) for a 30-day public review and comment period; and

WHEREAS, the revised 2024-2044 Management Plan incorporates input from stakeholder engagement, public review, the Dakota County Planning Commission, and the County Board; and

WHEREAS the 2024-2044 Management Plan was developed in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 473.803 and 115A; and

WHEREAS, the 2024-2044 Management Plan communicates Dakota County's vision, policies, strategies, and tactics for solid waste management over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS the 2024-2044 Management Plan includes Policy Plan required strategies and optional strategies that meet the minimum point value; and

WHEREAS, tactics and timelines have been included as required by Minn. Stat. § 115A.46; and

WHEREAS, implementation and costs will be determined annually as part of the County Board of Commissioners work plan priorities and approval of the Environmental Resources Department budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes Dakota County staff to submit the 2024-2044 Management Plan to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner for review and approval.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

24-368; 7/30/24

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: 2024-2044 Management Plan

Attachment: Public Comments

BOARD GOALS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Great Place to Live | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Healthy Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service |

CONTACT

Department Head: Nikki Stewart

Author: Renee Burman



Dakota County, Minnesota

DRAFT 2024-2044 Solid Waste Management Plan

October 29, 2024

Approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on [insert date].

Adopted by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners on [insert date].



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Acronyms and Initialisms

CLIF Closed Landfill Investment Funds

EAB Emerald ash borer

ELF Environmental Legacy Fund

GHG Greenhouse Gas

HHW Household hazardous waste

JPA Joint powers agreement

LRDG Local Recycling Development Grant

MDA Minnesota Department of Agriculture

MLAA Funding and Metropolitan Landfill Abatement Account

MLCAT Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust Account

MMCD Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

MNCC Minnesota Composting Council

MnDOT Minnesota Department of Transportation

MPCA Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

MRF Materials recovery facility

MSW Mixed municipal solid waste/municipal solid waste

Non-MSW non-municipal solid waste (industrial, construction and demolition waste)

PP Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan

PSI Program and Service Inventory

REC Recycling Education Committee

SCORE Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment

SSOM Source separated organic materials

TCMA Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

TPD Tons per day

VSQG Very Small Quantity Generator

WTE Waste-to-energy



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Dakota County 2024-2044 Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) is to guide solid waste management activities in the county. This revised Plan replaces and builds on the strengths of the 2018-2038 Solid Waste Master Plan.

The Plan includes prescribed strategies to implement the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042 (Policy Plan) adopted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in January 2024. Minnesota statute requires Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) counties to update county solid waste plans every six years with strategies that implement the waste management goals and objectives in the MPCA's revised Policy Plan. The Policy Plan includes key themes, policies, goals, strategies, and numeric objectives that guide counties in reducing unnecessary disposal of mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) to support improved waste management in accordance with Minnesota's Waste Management Act. The four key themes from the metropolitan Policy Plan include:

- Sustainable material management is a holistic and systematic approach to use and reuse materials more productively over their entire life cycle.
- There are potential greenhouse gas reductions to be found throughout the solid waste management system.
- The benefits and burdens of the waste management system must flow equally to everyone.
- Extended producer responsibility presents great opportunities for shifting the burden of management from the counties to the producers.

The Policy Plan also sets new county-specific plan focus areas for metropolitan counties, including:

- Increased emphasis on waste reduction and reuse to achieve the 15 percent target for reducing overall mixed municipal waste generation by 2042. Special emphasis is placed on food waste prevention.
- Sustainable building materials: Counties must focus on sustainable management of construction and demolition materials, which previously have not had state-established reduction targets.
- Wood waste: Anticipating a substantial increase in tree waste related to the Emerald Ash Borer, there is new emphasis on managing trees to delay the need for removal and on expanding regional capacity for handling wood waste. Counties must develop tree waste management plans.
- Organics (Food Scraps) diversion is not new to the Policy Plan, although expectations for implementation are more definite. The Policy Plan requires residential curbside organics collection to be available in cities with a population greater than 5,000 by 2030.

The following table lists the Policy Plan waste objectives in percentages through 2042 for the TCMA's MSW management system. These objectives are intended to maximize the upper end of the hierarchy, emphasizing product stewardship, source reduction, and reuse, and achieving the legislative goals for recycling and organics recovery.



	2022 7 Metro Counties (Actual)*	2022 Dakota County (Actual)*	2025 Goals	2030 Goals	2036 Goals	2042 Goals
Waste Reduction	--**	--**	2.9%	6.4%	10.7%	15.0%
Recycling	31.7%	24.5%	36.9%	47.4%	47.4%	47.4%
Organics Recovery	17.3%	30.2%	21.5%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
Resource Recovery	21.6%	2.2%	24.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Landfilled	29.3%	43.2%	17.6%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%

*2022 SCORE Report data as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#). Total does not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Actual reduction and reuse measures have not yet been defined for measurement and reporting purposes.

Comprehensive stakeholder engagement informed the Plan update, with more than 2,000 residents, businesses, public officials, and others providing insights on solid waste issues, barriers, and potential strategies.

This Plan is intended to guide waste management in the county through 2044. However, the Plan is revised every six years, so most of the strategies focus on making progress toward the 2030 objectives established by the MPCA in the Policy Plan. Other strategies lay the foundation for achieving the long-term goals. The Plan is organized into two main chapters with multiple appendices:

- **Part One: Introduction** – consists of the Plan introduction, purpose, and framework.
- **Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan** – consists of Dakota County’s solid waste vision and policies; specific strategies and tactics; and Plan implementation details. The Plan includes 62 strategies to meet MPCA requirements and manage waste more sustainably. Strategy types include:
 1. Policy Plan required strategies (32 strategies) that the MPCA prescribed must be included in all metropolitan county plans for regional consistency.
 2. Selected Policy Plan optional strategies (12 strategies, 82 points) were chosen from the list of strategy options identified as best management practices in the Policy Plan that counties needed to select from to reach a minimum of 75 points.
 3. Continuing county strategies (18 strategies) that are existing county programs and practices that will be continued and refined, as necessary, and are not incorporated under Policy Plan strategies.
- **Appendices** – consist of an overview of Dakota County’s existing waste management systems and programs; a Plan development summary; environmental justice information; performance and accountability details; strategy timing and implementation tables; and a checklist of statutory Plan requirements.



PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

A. Introduction

The Dakota County 2024-2044 Solid Waste Management Plan defines Dakota County’s guide for managing solid waste. Dakota County adopted its first Plan in 1982 in accordance with Minnesota Statute (Minn. Stat. §§ 473.803 and 115A) and updated it five times since then. This revised Plan replaces and builds on the strengths of the 2018-2038 Solid Waste Master Plan and incorporates prescribed strategies in the state’s Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan 2022-2042 (Policy Plan) as required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

State statute requires Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) counties (Figure 1) to update county solid waste plans every six years with strategies that implement the waste management goals and objectives in the state’s Policy Plan. The Commissioner of the MPCA adopted the revised Policy Plan on January 30, 2024, establishing the framework for managing solid waste in the TCMA through 2042. The Policy Plan includes key themes, policies, goals, strategies, and numeric objectives that guide counties in reducing unnecessary disposal of mixed municipal solid waste.

Comprehensive stakeholder engagement informed update. More than 2,000 responses from residents, business and industry representatives, public officials (city, township, school), and others provided insights on solid waste issues, barriers, and solutions and feedback on potential strategies. See Appendix B for information on engagement.

Figure 1: Counties in the TCMA



This Plan is consistent with Dakota County’s Strategic Plan goal: “A healthy environment with quality natural areas” and the Environmental Resources Department’s mission to “Protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for the health, enjoyment, and benefit of current and future generations.” This Plan will inform the 2050 Dakota County Comprehensive Plan and city comprehensive plans in Dakota County (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Relationship of Waste Plans to Local Plans



County Comprehensive Plan: Dakota County’s Comprehensive Plan establishes the long-range vision and high-level guidelines for key systems in Dakota County, including transportation, land use, environment and natural resources, and parks. The next major update to the Comprehensive Plan is due in 2028. The Plan provides the next level of detail for solid waste management.

City Comprehensive Plans: The Solid Waste Management Plan and Dakota County’s Comprehensive Plan serve as a framework to inform revisions to comprehensive plans for cities in Dakota County. City Comprehensive Plans are amended as needed and the next major update will be due in 2028.

Connections to Other County Plans and Key Initiatives: The Solid Waste Management Plan intersects with other Dakota County plans and county program areas (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Solid Waste Management Plan Connections to County Plans and Key Initiatives



The first part of this Plan describes the Plan purpose and framework, including statutory waste management goals and requirements. The second part presents the County’s vision, policies, goals, and strategies for solid waste management in accordance with the Policy Plan. Appendices at the end of the Plan provide an overview of the solid waste management system, the Plan update process and stakeholder engagement, environmental justice, performance and accountability, strategy timing and implementation, and a crosswalk of this Plan against statutory requirements.

The Plan is intended to guide waste management in the county through 2044, but most of the strategies focus on meeting the 2030 objectives established by the state in the Policy Plan. Other strategies lay the foundation for achieving the long-term goals. Implementation progress will be reviewed regularly, and revisions and new strategies will be developed as appropriate to continue progress towards achieving the primary outcomes.

B. Plan Purpose and Framework

1. Plan Purpose

The Plan communicates Dakota County’s vision, policies, strategies, and tactics for solid waste management over the next twenty years, with revisions every six years following Policy Plan revisions.

2. Plan Framework

Dakota County’s Solid Waste Management Plan provides a framework for county residents, businesses, municipalities, waste industry and others to properly manage solid waste; performance measures to assess progress; and reporting mechanisms for accountability. The Plan identifies Dakota County’s approaches toward Policy Plan objectives, the statutory 75 percent recycling rate goal, and achieving other statutory requirements.

The county’s Plan was developed to align with the Policy Plan. The MPCA’s Policy Plan that metropolitan counties must follow supports improved waste management in accordance with Minnesota’s Waste Management Act (Minn. Stat. § 115A) and puts more emphasis on the following:

- Pollution prevention
- Sustainable materials management
- Conservation of natural resources
- Reduced reliance on landfills and waste-to-energy facilities
- Reduced toxicity of waste
- Equitable improvement public health for all residents
- Supporting the economy
- Reduce impacts from climate change

The following key themes in the Policy Plan underlie all elements for TCMA counties to follow:

1. Sustainable material management is a holistic and systematic approach to use and reuse materials more productively over their entire life cycle.
2. There are potential greenhouse gas reductions to be found throughout the solid waste management system.
3. The benefits and burdens of the waste management system must flow equally to everyone.
4. Extended producer responsibility presents great opportunities for shifting the burden of management from the counties to the producers.

The state’s Policy Plan objectives (Table 1) are intended to maximize the upper end of the hierarchy, emphasizing product stewardship, source reduction, and reuse, and achieving the legislative goals for recycling and organics recovery. The objectives are percentages of total TCMA MSW. Percentages generated in 2022 by the TCMA and Dakota County are provided as a comparison and baseline. All stakeholders, including the MPCA, Dakota County, municipalities, waste generators, and system operators, will be held accountable for meeting these objectives. Objectives were not set for toxicity reduction or non-MSW, including construction and demolition waste.



Table 1: Policy Plan MSW Management System Objectives for the TCMA, 2025 - 2042

	2022 7-Metro Counties (Actual)	2022 Dakota County (Actual)	2025 Goals	2030 Goals	2036 Goals	2042 Goals
Waste Reduction	--*	--*	2.9%	6.4%	10.7%	15.0%
Recycling	31.7%	24.5%	36.9%	47.4%	47.4%	47.4%
Organics Recovery	17.3%	30.2%	21.5%	27.6%	27.6%	27.6%
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Landfilled	29.3%	43.2%	17.6%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%

2022 SCORE Report data as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#). Total does not equal 100% due to rounding.

*Actual reduction and reuse measures have not yet been defined for measurement and reporting purposes.

The Policy Plan also sets new county-specific focus areas for metropolitan counties, including:

- Increased emphasis on waste reduction and reuse to achieve the 15 percent target for reducing overall waste generation by 2042. Special emphasis is placed on food waste prevention.
- Sustainable building materials: Counties must focus on sustainable management of construction and demolition materials, which previously have not had state-established reduction targets.
- Wood waste: Anticipating a substantial increase in tree waste related to diseases such as the Emerald Ash Borer, there is a new emphasis on managing trees to delay the need for removal and on expanding regional capacity for handling wood waste. Counties must develop tree waste management plans.
- Organics (food scraps) diversion is not new to the Policy Plan, although expectations for implementation are more definite. The Policy Plan requires residential curbside organics collection to be available in cities with a population greater than 5,000 by 2030.

3. Statutory Waste Management Goal and Requirements

The Waste Management Act (Minn. Stat. § 115A) was passed in 1980 to protect the state’s land, air, water, natural resources, and public health. It requires the county to reduce solid waste generation (Minn. Stat. § 115A.55). In 2014, State law was changed to require TCMA counties to achieve a 75 percent recycling rate goal (up from 50 percent) by 2030 (Minn. Stat. § 115A.551). Additional waste management statutory requirements for counties that are addressed in this Plan include:

- Ensure that residents have the opportunity to recycle (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552);
- Ensure at least one recycling center is available in the county to collect recyclable materials (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552);
- Provide information on how, when, and where materials may be recycled (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552);
- Develop a promotional program that publishes notices at least once every three months and encourages separation of recyclable materials (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552);
- Implement a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) management plan including broad-based HHW education, reduction, separation from trash and collection, storage, and proper management (Minn. Stat. § 115A.96);
- Encourage building owners and managers to provide appropriate recycling services (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552);
- Ensure that materials separated for recycling are taken to markets for sale or to recyclable material processing centers (Minn. Stat. § 115A.553);

- Develop a solid waste plan to implement the Policy Plan (Minn. Stat. § 473.803);
- Develop and implement – or require political subdivisions to develop and implement – programs, practices, or methods designed to meet the state-established recycling goal (Minn. Stat. § 115A.551).
- Include in its solid waste management plan a recycling implementation strategy for meeting the state-established recycling goal (Minn. Stat. § 115A.551);
- Provide for the recycling of problem materials and major appliances (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552);
- Develop and implement a permanent program to manage HHW (Minn. Stat. § 473.804);
- Include in its solid waste management plan a hazardous waste management plan with a public education component, household hazardous waste reduction strategy, and a strategy for separation and proper management of HHW (Minn. Stat. § 115A.96);
- Establish and revise ordinances, rules, regulations, and standards for solid waste facilities within the county and ensure compliance (Minn. Stat. § 473.811); and
- Submit an annual certification report to the MPCA (Minn. Stat. § 473.848).

Waste management in the TCMA is an integrated system of many public and private entities with varying roles and responsibilities, ranging from direct service provision to regulation. Dakota County does not provide direct waste management services but has regulatory oversight and waste abatement programs to protect the environment and public health, and support waste management at the highest and best use in accordance with Minnesota’s waste management hierarchy. A variety of private waste management facilities located in Dakota County play a significant role in managing waste for the region and supporting the waste management hierarchy, including two recycling facilities, an aluminum recycling facility, a lead and plastic recycling facility, a food waste composting facility, a food processing facility, six non-MSW landfills, and two MSW landfills. More information about each of these facilities is contained in Appendix A.

Substantial progress has been made since Dakota County issued its first solid waste plan in the 1980s; however, recycling is not at the level it could and should be. The MPCA conducted a statewide waste characterization study in 2013 to assist with planning efforts. Results identified diversion opportunities based on the largest quantities of recoverable materials found in the waste stream, including organics (31 percent), paper (25 percent), and plastics (18 percent).

This revised Plan focuses on providing the strong start needed for better resource conservation and environmental protection, and to achieve, or make significant progress toward, the aggressive Policy Plan objectives and statutory waste management requirements.



PART TWO: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section outlines Dakota County’s solid waste vision, policies, strategies, tactics, and timing. Policies, strategies, and tactics in the Plan are intended to implement the Policy Plan and advance the MSW management system objectives for the region (i.e., TCMA counties).

A. County Solid Waste Vision

The following vision defines Dakota County’s desired solid waste management system to be implemented by the public and private sectors through efforts identified in the Plan:

A comprehensive waste management system that protects, preserves, and enhances the environment and public health.

B. County Solid Waste Policies

The following policies define the position on specific issues, and roles or actions the county generally will take:

1. Prioritize waste management in preferred order: waste and toxicity reduction, reuse, recycling and organics recovery/diversion (prevention, consumable food rescue for people, food scraps for livestock, food for industrial uses, and then composting), resource recovery, land disposal.
2. Regulate waste in accordance with county ordinances.
3. Implement projects and programs toward achieving state laws, rules, and Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan goals and objectives.
4. Employ multiple approaches including educational, regulatory, and financial to efficiently and effectively meet the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan goals and objectives.
5. Collaborate with the private and public sectors to address waste management issues.
6. Hold all persons, including waste generators and waste system operators, accountable for proper waste management and for following the Plan.
7. Advocate for practical State and Federal product stewardship laws that support producer-led toxicity reduction, source reduction, reuse, and recycling.
8. Seek external sources of funding to implement this Plan and for long-term and post-closure care of landfills.
9. Strive for just treatment, meaningful involvement, and equitable implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan for all community members.

The vision and policies align with the Environmental Resources Department’s mission to “Protect, preserve and enhance the environment for the health, enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations.”

C. Strategies and Tactics by Topic

Strategies are steps that will be taken to meet Policy Plan and statutory requirements.

This Plan includes three types of strategies:

1. **Required Policy Plan Strategies** that must be included in all TCMA county plans. The MPCA’s Policy Plan identifies these 32 prescribed strategies as relatively simple to implement or have significant environmental benefit. All 32 required strategies are included in this Plan. Strategies are also referenced by their numbers in the Policy Plan.



2. **Selected Policy Plan Optional Strategies** that total a minimum of 75 points (of available 194 points) must be included in all TCMA county plans. The Policy Plan identifies 28 optional strategies for counties to select from with assigned point values based on level of difficulty and environmental benefit. This Plan consists of 12 selected optional strategies that total 82 points, exceeding the 75-point minimum. Strategies are also referenced by their numbers in the Policy Plan.
3. **Continuing County Strategies** are existing county programs and practices that will be continued and refined, as necessary, and are not incorporated under Policy Plan strategies. Appendix A provides detailed program descriptions about all county solid waste programs and practices. This Plan includes 18 continuing strategies.

Table 2 identifies the strategy topics, the number of strategies TCMA counties are required to include in each topic, and optional strategies included in the Plan with their corresponding point values.

Table 2: Policy Plan Strategies Incorporated into the Solid Waste Management Plan

Strategy Topics	# of Required Strategies	# of Optional Strategies Selected	Point Value of Optional Strategies Selected
1. Improve the Reliability of the Data	2	1	7
2. Education and Regional Planning	5	-	-
3. Waste Reduction and Reuse	8	4	27
4. Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices	8	2	14
5. Waste-to-Energy	1	-	-
6. Landfilling	1	-	-
7. Household Hazardous Waste and Toxicity Reduction	3	1	9
8. Sustainable Building and Deconstruction	1	2	16
9. Wood Waste	3	1	5
10. Cost and Finance	-	1	4
Total Strategies	32 (32 required)	12	
Total Point Value of Optional Strategies			82 (75 required)

Tactics are specific actions or activities that will be taken to implement strategies. Strategies include a range of tactics that vary in degree of specificity. This reflects the uncertainty in predicting future conditions often seen with a long-range plan. For example, a more specific tactic identifies how it will be implemented if the mechanism for implementation is evident (e.g., county ordinance update), while other tactics are written more broadly to allow evaluation and implementation of the most effective implementation method (e.g., a county ordinance versus new programs).

Projected timing is provided for each selected Policy Plan strategy and county-continuing strategy in Appendix E. Strategy implementation timelines align with the general timelines identified in the Policy Plan.

Implementation of a given strategy or tactic is subject to County Board approval through annual budgeting and work planning processes.

The implementation framework was developed to allow flexibility in executing the different strategies and tactics, and to provide options for the County Board to choose from when developing annual budgets and work plans. For example, some tactics would only be implemented if the funding and staff were available to execute. Non-county funds will be leveraged as much as possible through grants, fees, or other funding sources to support implementation.

The county will coordinate with state and regional partners to develop annual priorities and work plans, as appropriate. The MPCA and county will annually evaluate progress. Other influences, such as changes in industry and market conditions for materials, may also influence strategy timing and implementation. Therefore, the actual timing of strategy implementation may be different than presented in this Plan based on approved approaches, strategy phasing, future conditions, and interactions with other implemented strategies.

1. Topic: Improving the Reliability of the Data

The MPCA desires to “accelerate the availability of data and information in a self-service format.” One of the best ways to accomplish this is to ensure that data is consistently collected through the most reliable sources and that all waste and waste reduction be tracked.

Dakota County must include two Policy Plan strategies in this category, as listed below. The Plan also includes one selected Policy Plan optional strategy, worth seven points toward the 75-point total required minimum.

Required Policy Plan Strategies

1. **Increase compliance with hauler reporting per Minn. Stat. § 115A.93. (PP [Policy Plan] 1)**
 - a. Continue to implement county requirements for hauler reporting.
 - b. Inform haulers of reporting requirements at least once per quarter.
2. **Provide required county reporting. (PP 2)**
 - a. Continue to annually submit required reporting to the MPCA (e.g., SCORE, certification, annual reports).
 - b. Continue to collaborate with the MPCA, TCMA counties, and regulated parties to improve waste management data collection and reporting.
 - c. Collaborate with the MPCA and TCMA counties to identify and implement an effective measurement tool for source reduction and reuse.

Optional Policy Plan Strategies

3. **Improve recycling data collection at businesses within the county. (PP 4, 7 points)**
 - a. Continue to implement Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements for commercial entities (e.g., business, schools) to annually report recycling data to the county to improve waste management data.

2. Topic: Education and Regional Planning

Counties are responsible to provide education to the public on how, when, and where materials can be recycled and promote activities to encourage recycling at least quarterly (Minn. Stat. § 115A.552). The Policy Plan states that it is practical to implement certain strategies at the regional level by collaboratively designing and modernizing a materials management system that will benefit all TCMA counties, and requires this Plan include five specific strategies for regional solutions, as listed below.

A continuing county strategy will support ongoing landfill waste abatement education efforts.



Required Policy Plan Strategies

- 4. Participate in an annual joint commissioner/staff meeting on solid waste. (PP 9)**
 - a. Collaborate with partners (e.g., MPCA, TCMA counties) to implement meetings with the MPCA, county staff, and a county commissioner to support effective solid waste policies in the region.

- 5. Commit to standardized outreach and education. (PP 10)**
 - a. Continue to provide information on how, when, and where to properly manage solid waste and encourage source-separation of materials to support management of materials and waste at the highest levels of the State of Minnesota’s Waste Management Hierarchy and the EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy to all persons in Dakota County.
 - b. Continue to provide consistent, broad-based education to the community on proper waste management (e.g., solid waste, problem materials, household hazardous waste) using county-standardized educational, outreach, and communication resources.
 - c. Continue to collaborate with partners (e.g., MPCA, TCMA counties, Recycling Education Committee, recycling and composting associations) to leverage existing resources by incorporating state and regionally developed materials in county communications.
 - d. Update Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 to require haulers to provide customers feedback when they are not sorting recycling or organics correctly and provide standardized messaging to customers on a quarterly basis at minimum.
 - e. Continue to promote county programs and collection services (e.g., The Recycling Zone) and drop off opportunities (e.g., plastic bag and film recycling) to promote proper management of solid waste.
 - f. Promote the benefits of the use of compost.

- 6. Engage in efficient and value-added infrastructure planning. (PP 11)**
 - a. Continue to collaborate with the state, TCMA counties and the private sector on planning efforts for infrastructure development (e.g., organics, wood waste).

- 7. Develop plans for large facility closures to reduce landfill reliance. (PP 12)**
 - a. Develop plans for potential closures at large facilities (e.g., recycling facilities, food waste compost facilities, transfer stations) located in the county.
 - b. Continue to collaborate with the state, landfill owners/operators, and municipalities that host landfills to develop post-closure monitoring and mitigation plans.
 - c. Continue to enforce Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements that prohibit source-separated materials, including recyclables and food waste, from being landfilled.
 - d. Continue to ensure facilities maintain closure and pre-closure plans and adequate financial assurance to implement those plans, as required by Dakota County Ordinance No. 110.

- 8. Participate with the Product Stewardship Committee under the Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA). (PP 60)**
 - a. Continue to participate in a regional product stewardship committee to develop and expand practical product stewardship initiatives.
 - b. Continue to provide data for legislative changes that improve product stewardship initiatives (e.g., for paint, electronics).



Continuing County Strategy

The following strategy is an existing county practice not incorporated in the above Policy Plan strategies. The strategy will be sustained and refined, as necessary.

- 9. Provide messages and education programs to all audiences using communication methods most effective for the intended audience.**
 - a. Develop engagement methods using innovative, evidence-based approaches proven to motivate behavior change.
 - b. Deliver messages using mass communications methods (e.g., print, online, mobile) most effective for each intended audience.
 - c. Use a variety of learning engagement methods (e.g., presentations, tours, multilingual/multicultural outreach).
 - d. Require municipalities to use elements of county-standardized outreach, educational, and promotional program materials.
 - e. Use the Recycling Ambassador program to engage more audiences (e.g., teachers, municipal staff) to increase waste management awareness and waste diversion actions in the community.

3. Topic: Waste Reduction and Reuse

Counties are responsible for advancing prevention and reuse along with other solid waste management strategies. Waste reduction means not generating any materials that require further recycling, composting, disposal, or other management. The Policy Plan Waste Reduction objective is 2.9 percent by 2025 and 15 percent by 2042 for TCMA counties.

Dakota County is required to include eight specific strategies in this category, as listed below. The Plan also includes four selected optional strategies, worth a total of 27 points toward the 75-point required minimum. Continuing county strategies provide ongoing support for existing residential, municipal, business and school reduction and reuse education and project efforts.

Required Policy Plan Strategies

- 10. Provide grants for access to software that can track food waste. (PP 13)**
 - a. Continue to provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance, best management tools) for tracking tools and equipment (e.g., LeanPath, Phood) to schools and commercial kitchens to prevent food waste in their purchasing and practices.
- 11. Establish partnerships between food rescue organizations and restaurants/stores to increase food rescue. (PP 14)**
 - a. Provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to organizations (e.g., food shelves, restaurants, grocery stores, schools) to improve collection, safe storage and transportation of surplus edible food to food rescue organizations.
 - b. Collaborate with food rescue organizations to provide education to donors on donation opportunities, including donation liability protections.
 - c. Provide resources (e.g., educational materials) to businesses and schools on food rescue options during county waste regulation inspections.
- 12. Launch bi-annual sustainable consumption challenges for residents. (PP 15)**
 - a. Conduct bi-annual sustainable low-waste living challenges (e.g., plastic reduction) for residents and provide tools (e.g., reusable containers) to reduce barriers to sustain low-waste actions.



- b. Continue to provide information on waste reduction and reuse opportunities for residents (e.g., donation, curbside collection, lending, renting, repairing).

13. Implement a formal county sustainable purchasing policy using MPCA guidance. (PP 16)

- a. Continue to implement standards and practices for environmentally preferable products and services in accordance with County Policy 2740 (Procurement) and educate employees on practices that reduce waste in county operations.
- b. Adopt and implement a county policy that allows donation of assets to non-profit organizations.

14. Participate in Responsible Public Purchasing Council meetings. (PP 17)

- a. Continue to participate in MPCA-led Responsible Purchasing Council meetings and host at least two meetings by 2030.
- b. Continue to provide resources (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to public entities to participate in the MPCA's Responsible Purchasing Council meetings and implement waste reduction and reuse in their operations.

15. Offer grants or rebates for organizations to transition to reusable food and beverage service ware. (PP 19)

- a. Continue to implement county business and municipal waste abatement programs that provide resources (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to improve waste reduction and reuse within internal operations, including for supplies and reusable service ware.
- b. Modify the existing school program to expand support (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to increase use of reusable service ware, including for infrastructure (e.g., washing and collection equipment).

16. Offer grants for waste reduction, reuse, and repair. (PP 20)

- a. Continue to provide resources (e.g., funding, technical assistance) through the business, school, multifamily, and municipal waste abatement programs to improve waste reduction within internal operations.
- b. Provide start-up resources (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to businesses and organizations to implement waste reduction with large-scale community-wide impact.
- c. Use non-county funding opportunities (i.e., grants or additional state funding) to research best practices and pilot opportunities to increase deconstruction and use of reusable building materials.

17. Implement a green meeting policy. (PP 21)

- a. Continue to implement standards for green meetings in accordance with County Policy 2740 (Procurement) and educate employees on green meeting practices.
- b. Explore and implement additional opportunities (e.g., food donation, reusable serviceware, select use of dishwashers) to reduce waste at county meetings.

Selected Policy Plan Optional Strategies

18. Work with health inspectors to educate restaurants and other establishments that have excess prepared food to donate. (PP 18, 7 points)

- a. Collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Health to educate state-licensed food establishments about food rescue opportunities.



- 19. Join and/or actively participate in a reuse network, like Reuse Minnesota, to provide county and city staff with learning opportunities to broaden their reuse expertise. (PP 24, 6 points)**
 - a. Continue to be a member of and participate in Reuse Minnesota and implement learnings in county operations.
 - b. Continue to provide resources (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to municipalities to participate in reuse networks and implement reuse in their operations.
- 20. Establish a Repair Ambassador program, like the Recycler/Composters (RCAs) Ambassador programs. (PP 25 – 7 points)**
 - a. Continue to implement the Fix-it Clinic Program with a volunteer base to support repair of broken household items.
 - b. Implement a repair ambassador program to recruit and provide trainings for new volunteers to support Fix-it Clinics.
- 21. Establish a reuse location for residential drop-off and pick-up (PP 26 – 7 points)**
 - a. Increase residential reuse opportunities using county collection facilities (e.g., Recycling Zone, Recycling Zone Plus) for household items that are challenging to reuse (e.g., household hazardous waste, problem materials, bicycles, and mattresses).

Continuing County Strategies

The following strategies are existing county programs and practices not incorporated in above Policy Plan strategies. These strategies will be sustained and refined, as necessary.

- 22. Implement residential waste reduction and reuse programs and opportunities.**
 - a. Provide food waste prevention education and resources (e.g., prevention tools) and information about food shelf donation opportunities to residents.
 - b. Promote existing building materials reuse opportunities and services for residents.
- 23. Implement municipal, school and commercial waste reduction and reuse programs and opportunities.**
 - a. Provide reuse opportunities (e.g., partnerships with non-profits for on-site collections) for multifamily residents.
 - b. Provide support (e.g., technical assistance, funding) to municipalities to increase access to reuse and repair opportunities for residents in their community, including reuse opportunities at clean up events.
 - c. Provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance) and education through current municipality, business, and schools programs to increase reuse, food waste prevention, and food rescue.

4. Topic: Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices

The Policy Plan prioritizes recycling and organics management, along with collection best practices, to increase the recycling rates in the region. The Policy Plan Recycling objective is 36.9 percent by 2025 and 47.4 percent by 2042 for TCMA counties. The Policy Plan Organics Recovery objective is 21.5 percent by 2025 and 27.6 percent by 2042 for TCMA counties. The Policy Plan recycling and organics objectives are intended to achieve the statutory recycling goal (includes organics) of 75 percent by 2030 for TCMA counties.

Dakota County is required to include eight specific Policy Plan strategies related to recycling management, organics management, and collection best practices, as listed below. The Plan also includes two selected Policy Plan optional strategies, worth a total of 14 points toward the 75-point required minimum, along with several continuing strategies.



Required Policy Plan Strategies

24. Collect recyclables, organics and trash on the same day. (PP 30)

- a. Update Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 to require haulers to collect recyclables, trash, and organics (if collected) on the same day from residential customers.
- b. Provide resources (e.g., technical assistance, model language) for municipalities to update local codes.

25. Recruit a minimum of 12 commercial businesses a year to recycle at least three materials from their operations and promote the environmental and resource benefits. (PP 35)

- c. Continue to provide standardized resources (e.g., education materials, labels, training) and technical assistance to commercial entities through the business recycling program to improve recycling within their operations.
- d. Modify the business recycling program to focus funding support for recycling infrastructure (e.g., containers) on small commercial entities.
- e. Inform businesses about and enforce Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 commercial recycling requirements.

26. Establish mandatory pre-processing of waste at resource recovery facilities and landfills by 2030. (PP 36)

- a. Update County Ordinance 110 to require landfills to submit a license amendment to implement pre-processing. The amendment application must include materials, methods, and an evaluation of effectiveness for optimal upfront processing.

27. Provide assistance to multifamily properties to improve recycling. (PP 37)

- a. Continue to provide standardized resources (e.g., education materials, labels, training), funding support for infrastructure (e.g., containers), and technical assistance to multifamily properties to improve recycling within their operations.
- b. Continue to provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance, educational resources) to municipalities to implement the county's multifamily recycling program.
- c. Continue to work with municipalities to ensure building planning and construction supports recycling and to develop multifamily mechanisms (e.g., rental licenses, inspections) consistent with city codes and County Dakota County Ordinance No. 110.

28. Make residential curbside organics collection available in cities with a population greater than 5,000 by 2030. (PP 40)

- a. Update Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 to make curbside organics collection available for residential customers in suburban cities (e.g., require hauler implementation plan, prohibit container delivery charge).
- b. Provide start-up resources (e.g., compostable bags, educational materials) to residents and municipalities to remove participation barriers.
- c. Provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance, educational resources) to interested municipalities to research or implement best waste management collection practices (e.g., zoned contract areas, hauler franchise agreements).
- d. Continue food waste credits in county landfill host agreements to encourage adequate capacity for organics generated in Dakota County.



29. Expand backyard composting outreach and resources for residents. (PP 41)

- a. Continue to provide educational resources to municipalities to support residential backyard composting.
- b. Increase resident education about backyard composting and provide resources (e.g., compost spreading equipment) to reduce barriers to use of compost.
- c. Continue to provide incentives (e.g., discounts) to residents to participate in regional compost bin sales (e.g., Recycling Association of Minnesota) and provide distribution locations in the county.
- d. Provide compost bin sale opportunities at county drop off sites (e.g., Recycling Zone Plus).

30. Require management of organics from large commercial food generators by 2033. (PP 42)

- a. Continue to implement Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements for large generators of organics.
- b. Modify the business recycling program to focus funding support for organics infrastructure (e.g., containers) on small commercial entities to improve back-of-house organics recovery within their operations.
- c. Continue to provide standardized resources (e.g., education materials, labels, training) to all interested commercial entities (e.g., businesses, schools) to improve organics recovery within their operations.

31. Require food-derived compost in county construction and landscaping projects. (PP 55)

- a. Collaborate with regional partners (e.g., MPCA, MNCC, TCMA counties) to revise MnDOT specifications for separate yard waste and food derived compost standards.
- b. Develop a county policy to use MnDOT specifications for compost to expand use of yard waste- and food waste-derived compost in county earthworks projects (e.g., transportation, stormwater, landscaping).
- c. Provide support (e.g., educational materials, compost product) to residents and community partners that participate in county landfill abatement programs to increase use of compost in earthworks projects.

Selected Policy Plan Optional Strategies

32. Collect recycling weekly by 2030. (PP 31, 7 points)

- a. Continue to implement Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements for haulers to provide weekly recycling to residential customers and update requirements to include a variance for rural parts of the county if additional recycling opportunities are provided.

33. Establish additional organics recycling drop off sites. (PP 43, 7 points)

- a. Continue to provide drop off opportunities (e.g., drop sites) to collect organics from residents and expand to areas that will not be served by curbside organics collection (e.g., apartment complexes, rural areas).
- b. Continue to provide resources (e.g., compostable bags, educational materials) to residents to remove participation barriers.
- c. Continue to collaborate with municipalities and other partners and provide assistance (e.g., start-up funding, resident education, training) for residential organics drop-off sites.

Continuing County Strategies

The following strategies are existing county programs and practices not incorporated in above Policy Plan strategies. These strategies will be sustained and refined, as necessary.



- 34. Improve the consistency and accountability of waste materials collection.**
- a. Promote a standardized list of traditional recyclables with proven markets to be collected.
 - b. Provide research (e.g., economic, efficiency, GHG emissions) and funding for municipalities to consider best management collection options (e.g., zoned contract areas, hauler franchise agreements).
- 35. Support the collection of household items that are challenging to recycle.**
- a. Promote opportunities for residents to recycle challenging materials (e.g., mattresses).
 - b. Provide municipalities with implementation resources (e.g., funding, technical assistance, model contracts) to increase opportunities to recycle challenging household items such as mattresses through city collections events.
 - c. Support collection of waste agricultural and marina film plastic until private sector efforts are widely available.
- 36. Ensure the opportunity to recycle.**
- a. Provide a year-round drop-off facility/ies (e.g., The Recycling Zone) to collect recyclables (e.g., paper, plastic, metal/scrap metal, glass) from residents.
 - b. Require MSW haulers to offer recycling collection to their customers in accordance with Dakota County Ordinance No. 110.
- 37. Provide support to schools to improve recycling and organics recovery in their operations through the school program.**
- a. Provide resources (e.g., funding, labels, technical assistance, education) to implement best management practices to increase recycling and recover organics at schools including for outdoor recycling infrastructure.
- 38. Implement recycling and organics diversion at events.**
- a. Implement Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements for recycling and back-of-house organics diversion and collaborate with municipalities on city code implementation of their event requirements.
 - b. Provide support (e.g., technical assistance, funding, educational resources) to municipalities to continue collection of recyclable and organics materials at events and enhance event check-out program for residents.
 - c. Provide a check-out container program and assistance (e.g., technical assistance, infrastructure, educational resources) to implement a uniform system of well-labeled and paired trash and recycling containers at community events.
 - d. Facilitate a group of volunteers to implement recycling, organics, and waste reduction best management practices at community events and document event diversion results.
- 39. Provide recycling and organics recovery/diversion opportunities in county operations, including in public and employee areas.**
- a. Use model contracts, such as resource management contracts, to manage waste from county operations.
 - b. Implement a uniform system of well-labeled, paired trash, recycling, and organics containers in county operations.



5. Topic: Waste-to-Energy

The Waste Management Act identifies that waste-to-energy (WTE) is preferred over landfills. The Policy Plan identifies that WTE recovers more materials and energy compared to landfills. The Policy Plan Resource Recovery objective is 24 percent by 2025 and 20 percent by 2042 for TCMA counties. Progress toward this objective will remain difficult until new capacity is reasonably available for Dakota County waste.

Dakota County is required to include one Policy Plan strategy in this category, as listed below.

Required Policy Plan Strategies

40. Counties must continue to support the implementation of Minn. Stat. § 473.848 Restriction on Disposal. (PP 58)

- a. Continue to support state efforts to maximize the use of existing resource recovery facility capacity serving the TCMA while considering geography and environmental impacts.
- b. Work cooperatively with the MPCA as the State enforces provisions found in Minn. Stat. § 473.848 while considering distance to resource recovery facilities, sustainable materials management principles, and related environmental impacts (e.g., facility air quality permits, GHG emissions/equivalent).
- c. Continue to annually gather and submit information and data for the MPCA's annual certification report.
- d. Continue to manage the lease for county-owned land in Empire to support transfer capacity to a resource recovery facility through 2027, with possible extensions available through 2037.

6. Topic: Landfilling

The Policy Plan includes system objectives to reduce land disposal to five percent of MSW generation within the next ten years, recognizing that some MSW is not processible. According to the Policy Plan, if MSW cannot be prevented, reduced, reused, recycled, or composted, it should first go to a resource recovery facility and only be landfilled if it is not processible. The Policy Plan Landfilling objective is 17.6 percent by 2025 and 5 percent by 2042 for TCMA counties. The Policy Plan does not have numeric targets for non-municipal solid waste (non-MSW). Non-MSW includes industrial, construction, and demolition debris.

Dakota County is required to include one Policy Plan strategy in this category, as listed below. This section also includes several continuing county strategies focused on regulation and proper management of non-MSW.

Required Policy Plan Strategies

41. Require waste composition study at least once every five years at all landfills that are located within your county. (PP 3)

- a. Review and update Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements for MSW and non-MSW disposal facilities to conduct waste composition studies to be consistent with state law and MPCA implementation mechanisms (e.g., facility permit schedules), including a start date no sooner than 2029.
- b. Collaborate with the MPCA on the waste composition schedule and methodology at landfills.

Continuing County Strategies

The following strategies are existing county programs and practices not incorporated in the above Policy Plan strategy. These strategies will be sustained and refined, as necessary.



- 42. Regulate solid waste generators, haulers, facilities, and generators to achieve compliance and protect public health and the environment, in accordance with County Ordinances.**
 - a. Regulate solid waste generators, solid waste facilities, and waste haulers to achieve compliance with county licenses and ordinances.
 - b. Enforce waste and material bans and restrictions.
 - c. Prohibit licensed haulers from mixing source-separated materials with MSW.

- 43. Regulate hazardous waste generators and facilities to protect public health and the environment, in accordance with County Ordinances.**
 - a. Regulate hazardous waste generators and facilities to achieve compliance with county ordinance.
 - b. Continue partnerships with the County Sheriff's Department and public entities (e.g., rural towns, townships) to reduce toxic releases caused by mismanagement of waste (e.g., burning waste).

- 44. Provide opportunities to recycle and properly manage non-MSW that is banned from disposal.**
 - a. Collect tires at county collection sites (e.g., The Recycling Zone) and encourage municipalities to offer tire collections at community clean-up events.

- 45. Regulate non-MSW haulers and facilities in accordance with County Ordinance.**
 - a. Regulate waste haulers that collect and transport non-MSW and work with the region to evaluate licensing of non-MSW waste haulers as part of the regional hauler licensing program and implement findings.
 - b. Regulate facilities that manage non-MSW.

7. Topic: Household Hazardous Waste and Toxicity Reduction

Household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities reduce the toxicity of the solid waste stream by providing households with an opportunity to bring pesticides, drain cleaners, mercury thermometers, stains, or varnishes, and other such products to drop-off sites. County HHW collection programs are statutorily mandated to remove hazardous materials from the solid waste stream.

Dakota County is required to include three specific Policy Plan strategies in this category, as listed below. The Plan also includes an alternative strategy as a substitution for one Policy Plan optional strategy, worth a total of 9 points toward the 75-point required minimum. The alternative strategy to build and operate a second permanent HHW and recycling drop off facility in partnership with Scott County will exceed the intended benefits of the original optional strategy to host monthly drop-off sites. A continuing county strategy is also included in this section for sustained HHW, problem material, and recycling services at The Recycling Zone.

Required Policy Plan Strategies

- 46. Encourage retailers to increase consumer awareness of responsible end-of-life handling for products containing lithium-ion batteries. (PP 61)**
 - a. Continue to promote safe disposal of batteries to residents including county and private sector HHW drop-off opportunities.
 - b. Collaborate and provide resources (e.g., funding, educational materials) to municipalities to provide tobacco retailers that are licensed by municipalities with information on county HHW drop-off options for responsible resident lithium-ion batteries management, such as from vaping products.

- 47. Continue participation in the reciprocal use agreement for HHW collection sites. (PP 62)**
 - a. Continue to use reciprocal use agreements to recover funds for HHW that is generated in other counties and managed by the county.



- b. Continue to participate in agreements, partnerships, or both with private and public sectors to reduce costs, liability for managing hazardous waste and problem materials, or both (e.g., Department of Agriculture, PaintCare, Dakota Electric, Xcel Energy, State).

48. Partner with cities to increase participation in HHW collection. (PP 63)

- a. Provide support (e.g., technical assistance, funding) to municipalities for education on county HHW drop off opportunities to their residents.
- b. Continue to collaborate with municipalities to provide interim collection opportunities for proper management of materials (e.g., pharmaceutical waste) as state and private sector product stewardship initiatives develop.
- c. Continue to collaborate with cities to provide year-round collection of limited HHW (e.g., CFL bulbs) and problem materials (e.g., string lights).

Selected Policy Plan Optional Strategy

49. In partnership with Scott County, increase drop off opportunities for problem materials, household hazardous waste management (HHW), and business hazardous waste at a second permanent county facility by 2029. (PP 64 Alternative Strategy, 9 points)

- a. Continue to collaborate with Scott County to develop a joint permanent year-round hazardous and household hazardous waste, recycling, and problem material collection facility (i.e., The Recycling Zone Plus).
- b. Provide opportunities for proper hazardous waste management for public entities, commercial entities, and hazardous waste generators.
- c. Work to secure additional state funding to assist with building and construction costs.

Continuing County Strategy

The following strategy is an existing county program not incorporated in above Policy Plan strategies. The strategy will be sustained and refined, as necessary.

50. Continue to provide year-round drop-off site (e.g., The Recycling Zone) to collect problem materials and hazardous and household hazardous waste from residents.

- a. Continue to provide consistent and cost-effective household hazardous waste, hazardous waste, and problem material management services.
- b. Continue to provide reuse opportunities at the county year-round drop-off site (e.g., The Recycling Zone) and household hazardous waste/problem material collections to reduce the amount of hazardous waste disposal.

8. Topic: Sustainable Building and Deconstruction

The Policy Plan notes that traditional demolition of buildings is wasteful and destroys usable, valuable materials and that better handling and preservation of existing materials reduces unnecessary waste. For example, materials like concrete, wood, and metals can be diverted for reuse or recycling.

Dakota County is required to include one specific Policy Plan strategy in this category, as listed below, focused on developing plans for Dakota County's buildings and projects. The Plan also includes two selected optional strategies, worth a total of 16 points toward the 75-point required minimum.

Required Policy Plan Strategies

51. Implement the use of a Building Material Management Plan. (PP 65)



- a. Continue to use the county’s High Performance Design and Construction Standards for county building construction, demolition, and remodeling projects.
- b. Share information regarding waste reduction, reuse, and recycling opportunities with public entities and encourage public entity adoption of such practices.
- c. Utilize existing resources to implement a building material management plan for county-owned buildings, and use non-county funding opportunities (i.e., grants or additional state funding), when available, to document the destination of materials in projects during and after project completion.

Selected Policy Plan Optional Strategy

52. Host a building material collection event or swap. (PP 67 – 8 points)

- a. Provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to municipalities to partner with building materials reuse organizations to provide building material collection events for residents when non-county funding opportunities (i.e., grants or additional state funding) are available.
- b. Provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to promote building material collection opportunities and events for residents.

53. Provide deconstruction training. (pp 69 – 8 points)

- a. Provide assistance (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to organizations to provide education (e.g., presentations, classes) to the deconstruction workforce (e.g., contractors, builders) to increase proper sorting and reuse of building materials.
- b. Participate in state and regional information-sharing and coordination for deconstruction training to the region.

9. Topic: Wood Waste

According to the Policy Plan, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation combined with more frequent, severe storms have led to large volumes of wood waste in Minnesota. The state projects a trajectory of five to ten years to reach peak volumes of wood waste in TCMA counties.

Dakota County is required to include three specific strategies in this category, as listed below. The Plan also includes one selected optional strategy, worth a total of five points toward the 75-point required minimum.

Required Policy Plan Strategies

54. Develop plans to prevent and manage wood waste in each county and throughout the region. (PP 45)

- a. Continue to license yard waste and wood waste processing facilities and require reporting of wood and yard waste received, managed, stored, and processed.
- b. Participate in the MPCA Wood Waste Task Force to plan for potential volumes of wood waste from diseased tree species in the county and to identify facilities and industries (e.g., mulch producers, tree care companies) that manage wood waste from county generators.
- c. Identify and implement opportunities to manage wood waste from county operations to the greatest environmental benefit (e.g., preservation, biochar).
- d. Collaborate with partners (e.g., state, municipalities, wood waste industry, SWCD) to promote information on existing tree management resources (e.g., tree care to prevent tree diseases, funding assistance for tree removal).

55. Promote existing programs that use EAB-affected wood for furniture, home goods, flooring and other purposes. (PP 46)

- a. Promote opportunities for residents and businesses to use products made from EAB-affected trees.



- b. Use EAB-affected wood in county operations as relevant.

56. Composting and mulching operations must continue to be supported. (PP 47)

- a. Continue to manage the lease for county-owned land in Empire to support regional capacity of yard waste and food waste composting through 2027, with extensions available through 2037.
- b. Provide public education on yard waste and wood waste management options, including drop off and pick up options.
- c. Update Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 to require haulers to provide customer education and labels on yard waste containers that follow county standardized messaging requirements.
- d. Continue to regulate yard waste and wood waste to ensure proper waste management in accordance with Dakota County Ordinance No. 110.
- e. Collaborate with partners (e.g., municipalities, private sector) and provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance) to expand drop off opportunities for residents to properly manage yard waste and tree waste when non-county funding opportunities (i.e., grants or additional state funding) are available.

Selected Optional Policy Plan Strategies

57. Expand composting and mulching capacity beyond existing markets. (PP 52, 5 points)

- a. Allow the lease for county-owned land in Empire to support organics operations (e.g., source-separated organics, yard waste composting) and allow operations to include biochar production.
- b. Allow beneficial use of biochar at landfills through the county licensing process.
- c. Increase biochar generation in county operations and explore opportunities to use biochar in county earthworks projects (e.g., Transportation, Parks).

10. Topic: Cost and Finance

The Policy Plan does not include a numeric objective related to this category. This section is included because the county is committed to making effective use of public resources and allocating costs equitably to waste generators while ensuring environmental protection. This section includes one optional strategy, worth a total of four points toward the 75-point required minimum, in addition to several continuing county strategies for continued management of fees and use of county and external funding for abatement programs.

Selected Optional Policy Plan Strategies

58. Implement additional fees to better account for the externalities of land disposal. (PP 59, 4 points)

- a. Continue to implement a fee structure to fully fund regulatory hazardous and solid waste programs and activities.
- b. Continue to negotiate host fee agreements with waste management facilities to influence waste generators to manage waste in priority order: reduce, reuse, recycle, organics recovery, resource recovery, land disposal and support waste abatement activities, including to charge more for out of county waste in host agreements at MSW landfills.
- c. Continue to manage and use state funding (e.g., SCORE, LRDG) and other outside grant opportunities to implement waste abatement programs and practices.

Continuing County Strategies

The following strategies are existing county programs and practices not incorporated in the above Policy Plan strategy. These strategies will be sustained and refined, as necessary.

59. Collect and manage waste fees to implement waste management programs.



- a. Negotiate and collect host fees for MSW and non-MSW facilities during the operational life of the facilities to support waste abatement activities.
- b. Implement a fee structure to fully fund regulatory hazardous and solid waste programs and activities.
- c. Use state funding (e.g., SCORE, LRDG) to implement waste abatement programs.

60. Provide performance-based grant funding and resources to municipalities to implement landfill abatement programs within their operations and in the community.

- a. Annually provide funding, technical assistance, and infrastructure and standardized educational resources to support city and township recycling and waste abatement programs in accordance with Dakota County Ordinance No. 110, including education for residential organics curbside organics collection.

61. Institute funding incentives to divert waste from landfill disposal.

- a. Provide support (e.g., technical assistance) to encourage proposals from private and public entities to add or expand landfill diversion capacity in the county.

62. Implement long-term revenue sources for landfill abatement programs that encourage waste diversion.

- a. Evaluate non-levy revenue models (e.g., generator fees) that sufficiently support solid waste programs and support waste management at the highest and best levels, anticipating facility closures and resulting host fee reduction or elimination.
- b. Advocate that all collected Solid Waste Management Tax that is distributed to the State's general fund be redistributed to counties for landfill abatement.
- c. Advocate to fully fund the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust Account (MLCAT) and Closed Landfill Investment Funds (CLIF).
- d. Advocate for continued funding from the Local Recycling Development Grant (LRDG).

D. Plan Implementation

1. Public Education

Public education will be critical in implementing each strategy in the Plan, whether it is a continuing, expanded, or new effort, as identified in Appendix E. Public education is shifting beyond traditional information-sharing to a more robust engagement that develops community awareness of solid waste issues and individual roles and responsibilities to properly manage waste. To move more waste up the waste management hierarchy, community outreach will need to leverage partnerships more effectively, use proven science-based educational messages and methods, enhance message delivery and consistency, and apply multiple communication methods that best reach the intended audience.

A communications work plan will be developed annually by the Environmental Resources Department and County Communications to identify priority messages and venues to promote waste messages to the community.

2. Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people as environmental laws, rules, and policies are developed, implemented, and enforced. This Plan establishes a framework to incorporate equity and environmental justice in solid and hazardous waste program areas upon which Dakota County can continuously improve. The Policy Plan requires this Plan be developed with an environmental justice review lens. Environmental justice is incorporated into a policy in this Plan: *Strive for just treatment, meaningful*



involvement, and equitable implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan for all community members. See Appendix C for more details on Dakota County's environmental justice review and plans for continued equity as Plan strategies are implemented.

3. Phasing and Collaboration

Collaboration between county staff and stakeholder groups will be fundamental for successful strategy implementation. Dakota County has a long history of solid waste service provided by private businesses and nonprofits. Therefore, the private sector, nonprofits, and other stakeholders play a significant role in implementing the Plan. County staff will build on stakeholder engagement approaches developed during the Plan revision process, continuing to nurture existing and develop new relationships so the county can consider additional tools to influence change. County staff will engage stakeholders on the Plan strategies to develop implementation approaches that are achievable, consider stakeholder perspectives, and help the county meet state objectives. County staff will apply multiple methods to engage stakeholders in a meaningful and equitable way, such as through local community cultural events.

County staff recognizes the need to phase in certain approaches over multiple years (see proposed timing in Appendix E). Collaborative efforts with interested stakeholders are anticipated to help develop time-phased approaches, refine, and strengthen existing programs, and develop new programs.

Stakeholders include:

State: The county will actively work with the MPCA on emerging technology efforts, recycling and organics market development approaches, continued waste reduction measurement, support for product stewardship initiatives, and efforts to improve Non-MSW management data and increase reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste. The county will collaborate with the MPCA on work planning and annual priority setting.

Region: The county will work with TCMA counties to strengthen and refine regional programs (e.g., hauler licensing and reporting, HHW reciprocal use) and collaborate with interested counties on implementation phasing for similar program approaches. The county will actively look for stakeholder groups to participate in that improve regional consistency and advance the objectives of the Plan.

Waste Industry: The waste industry provides collection and management services. It will be essential to engage haulers and facility operators as new or expanded approaches are being considered to address potential collection and capacity issues, develop effective implementation approaches, and implement effective transitions in program approaches.

Municipalities (Cities and Townships): The county will actively work with cities and townships to explore strategy approaches and timing that addresses the needs of each community. The county will work to engage decision-makers to further identify roles and responsibilities that best align with municipal goals while also meeting county goals. The county will continue collaborating with municipal staff for waste abatement work planning, project implementation, and to share information.

Waste Generators: The county will engage underserved and interested waste generators (e.g., residents, businesses, public entities, multi-unit dwellings) to refine plans for new strategy approaches and implementation timing.

4. Performance and Accountability

Proper waste management and successfully meeting Policy Plan and statutory requirements requires new strategies and increased accountability. Because everyone makes decisions about and produces waste, the Plan includes strategies to be implemented in whole or in part by various stakeholders, including the state, county, public entities, residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the waste community.



Performance evaluation is undertaken at the project/program level (e.g., pounds of materials reused and number of participants at a Fix-It Clinic; number of inspections and compliance actions). Formal performance evaluation and reporting is required annually at the program level (e.g., diverted tons, costs, participants in programs) to establish work plans and budgets, from regulated parties (e.g., hauler and facility reports) and through multiple state reports to measure progress on Policy Plan and statutory requirements. Appendix D describes the required annual reports, program reporting requirements, and contains tables with the Plan strategies, key entities for implementation, measures, and primary mechanisms for measurement.

Additionally, the county measures performance annually through Program and Service Inventory (PSI) reporting, which is an outcomes-based accountability framework. The county's PSI serves as a key component in providing transparency to the work carried out by providing a list of key county services key solid waste program and regulatory activities, serving as a reference point for staff, the County Board, and residents to understand the work of the county.

PSI reporting is used to assess the effectiveness of programs and initiatives by focusing on outcomes rather than outputs. It involves asking specific questions to determine the impact of actions taken, including for solid waste programming:

- "How much did we do?" refers to measuring outputs, such as the number of people served, pounds diverted, or people educated.
- "How well did we do it?" evaluates the quality and efficiency of county solid waste programs.
- "Is anyone better off?" examines the broader impact and outcomes achieved, assessing whether desired changes or improvements have occurred to meet the county's solid waste goals.

This framework provides a structured approach for Dakota County to measure and improve performance across our programs, leading to more accountable and impactful decision-making.



Appendix A: Existing Waste Management System and County Programs

This appendix identifies waste management roles and responsibilities, demographics, waste projections and composition, waste amounts and management methods, facilities, and Dakota County’s programs and activities.

A. Waste Management Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities

State and local government and the private sector all have roles in implementing solid waste policies and operating the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) waste management system. The public sector is responsible for establishing policies, quantifiable waste management objectives, and programs to conserve natural resources and protect public health and the environment. The private sector largely owns and operates the TCMA solid waste service provisions and infrastructure. The extent and complexity of the TCMA’s solid waste system has required coordination among the following groups:

State – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): The MPCA regulates solid waste facilities and sets solid waste policy through the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (Policy Plan) to meet goals and requirements prescribed in State law. The Policy Plan establishes waste management objectives and the framework for TCMA counties and municipalities to follow. The MPCA reviews and approves county plans to ensure the Policy Plan is implemented. The MPCA also distributes State funding to TCMA counties for solid waste abatement activities.

Region: Joint Power Agreements between TCMA counties continue for household hazardous waste (HHW) reciprocity and regional hauler licensing. The TCMA counties staff gather informally to discuss program and policy issues and share information to build on successes, reduce redundancy in the system, and maximize capacity.

County: In accordance with State law (Minn. Stat. §§ 115A and 473), county governments play the primary role in planning, implementing, and maintaining solid waste programs for proper management of waste generated within their jurisdictions. Dakota County collaborates with the state, region, public entities, residents, businesses, community groups, and the waste industry to develop the Plan and programs to meet state goals. Dakota County licenses and regulates haulers and facilities for collection, management, and related services and waste generators for management. Dakota County does not own or operate waste management facilities; however, it does lease out county-owned land in the City of Empire for waste management purposes. Unlike some counties, Dakota County does not exercise general land use authority such as zoning and has a limited role in other areas such as rural shoreland and floodplain permitting.

Municipalities (Cities and Townships): Cities and townships play an integral role in implementing local waste management programs and providing education to residents and businesses. Minn. Stat. § 115A.551 allows political subdivisions within the county to develop and implement programs and practices designed to meet Plan requirements. Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 Section 16 requires cities to implement programs and activities for local abatement and to report on achievement of performance standards. Municipalities are required to comply with the Plan, ensure solid waste collection in their community, and have authority to license waste haulers for collection of waste and recycling.

Rural Solid Waste Abatement Grant Program: Because the rural area of the county has unique needs, Dakota County established the Rural Solid Waste Abatement Grant Program in 2019 to support waste abatement projects that align with the Plan. County-coordinated services provide rural residents with standardized waste abatement education and a collection event for non-traditional recyclable materials.

Public Entities: State laws hold public entities, including counties, cities, townships, and public schools to a higher standard in managing their waste. Public entities are responsible for carrying out proper waste reduction, recycling, and disposal activities as part of business operations. Public entities are required by statute and county ordinance to recycle.



Waste Industry (Private Sector): For decades, State law has included a preference for private-sector waste management and waste facility operation. In Dakota County, the private sector is primarily responsible for the collection, processing, and brokering of waste and materials. The private sector establishes fees for these services.

Waste Generators (Residents, Businesses, and Organizations): Residents, businesses, and organizations generate waste either as private individuals or as contributors to business, industrial, construction, or demolition activities. Waste management choices reflect various influences and situations, including having the opportunity for waste management options, cost, knowledge, and responsibility. Residents and businesses drive the amount of waste that is generated and discarded, and thus needs to be managed.

B. Demographics

With a population of 444,985, as estimated by the Metropolitan Council for 2022, Dakota County remains Minnesota’s third most populous county, growing by approximately one percent since the 2020 Census (439,882). Between 2020 and 2022, cities in Dakota County with the largest population increases were Lakeville (4,338 new residents, 6.2 percent growth), Rosemount (1,293 new residents, 5.0 percent growth), and West St. Paul (554 new residents, 2.7 percent growth). The State Demographer projects Dakota County’s population will exceed a half million by 2040.

Because this is a long-range plan, it is important to recognize demographic changes that are underway and consider their potential implications for waste management. Dakota County’s waste management system and programs will need to respond to projected growth and changes in population.

Demographic Summary (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates)

Land Area:	587 square miles
Land Use:	1/3 urban/suburban, with 96 percent of the county population; 2/3 rural, with 4 percent of the county population
Median Age:	38.4 years, a slight increase over the 2010 Census
Populations of Color:	22.0 percent
Total Households:	169,404
Median Annual Household Income:	\$101,360

As the county’s population grows, increased waste generation will place additional stress on the waste management system, requiring a focus on waste reduction and reuse. Population changes include a shift from a young, family-centric population to an older retiree population. It is possible that waste composition could be somewhat different than projected (e.g., increased pharmaceuticals). Dakota County’s population is also becoming more diverse. For the 2022-2023 school year, the Minnesota Department of Education reported that 20.9 percent of students enrolled in Dakota County schools spoke one of 161 different non-English languages as their primary language at home. As the trend for growing diversity continues through this Plan horizon, it is important to understand audience language and cultural needs when developing effective communications on waste management.

C. Waste Projection and Composition

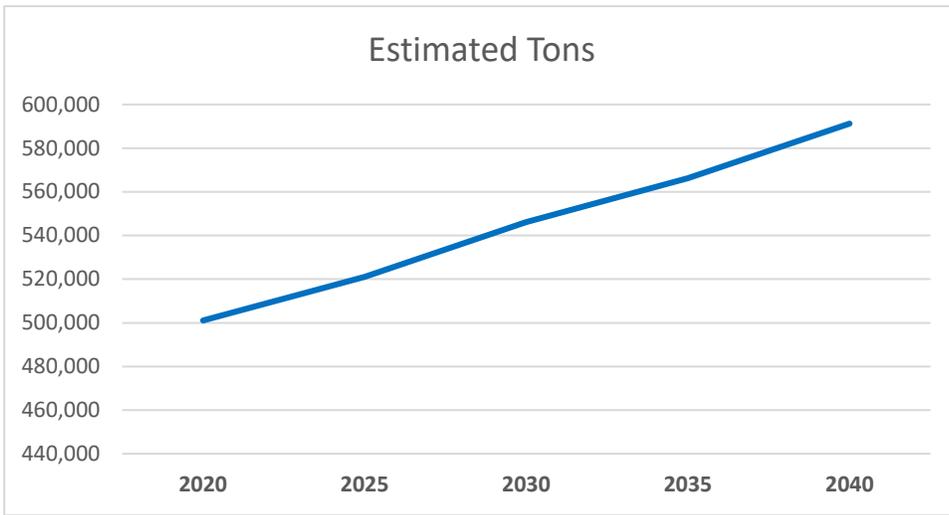
For this Plan, mixed municipal solid waste (MSW) includes garbage, refuse, and other solid waste from residential, commercial, and community activities, with exclusions as defined in State law. To effectively plan solid waste management to address the expected increases in waste generation, it is necessary to project the amount of MSW likely to be generated in the future. It is also important to have complete and current data on the types and quantities of waste for good planning, implementation, and evaluation of solid waste programs.

Projected MSW Growth: Dakota County’s waste projection is shown in Figure 4, with 2020 annual reporting data as the base year. Assuming the MSW per capita rate remains fairly constant with minor yearly fluctuations,



waste generation is expected to increase by roughly 18 percent from 2020-2040, driven by an anticipated population increase of 18 percent (from 439,882 to 520,980), based on Metropolitan Council population forecasts. In 2020, 501,060 tons of MSW was managed. MSW is projected to increase to 591,251 tons by 2040.

Figure 4: Projected Growth of MSW Managed in Dakota County 2020-2040

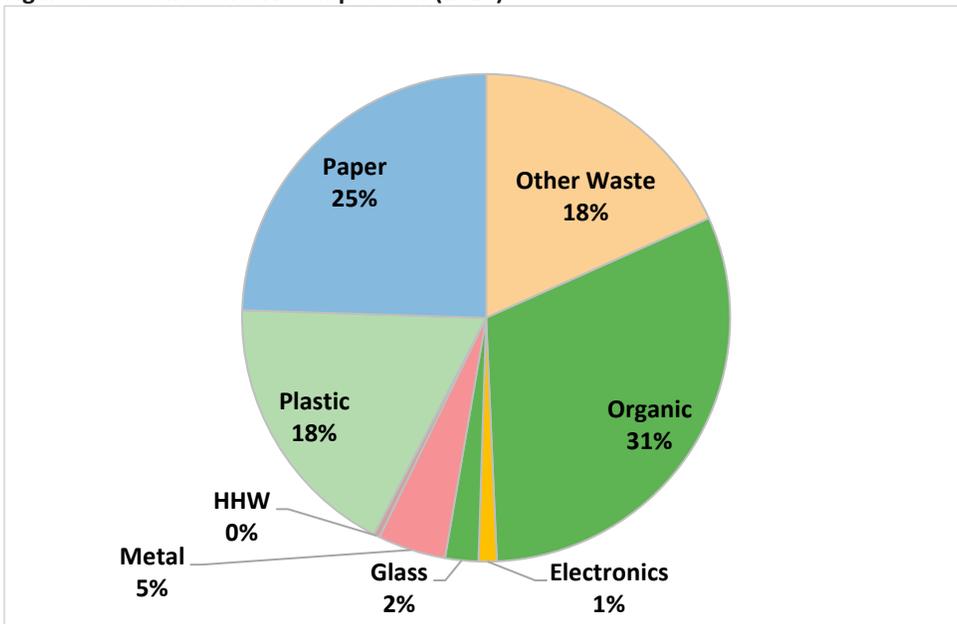


Composition of Municipal Solid Waste

The MPCA conducted a statewide waste characterization study in 2013 to assist with planning efforts for managing MSW. Results of the waste composition study are shown in Figure 5.

The study identified potential diversion opportunities based on the largest quantities of recoverable materials found in the waste stream, including organic waste (food, non-recyclable paper, yard waste), paper, and plastic.

Figure 5: Statewide MSW Composition (2013)



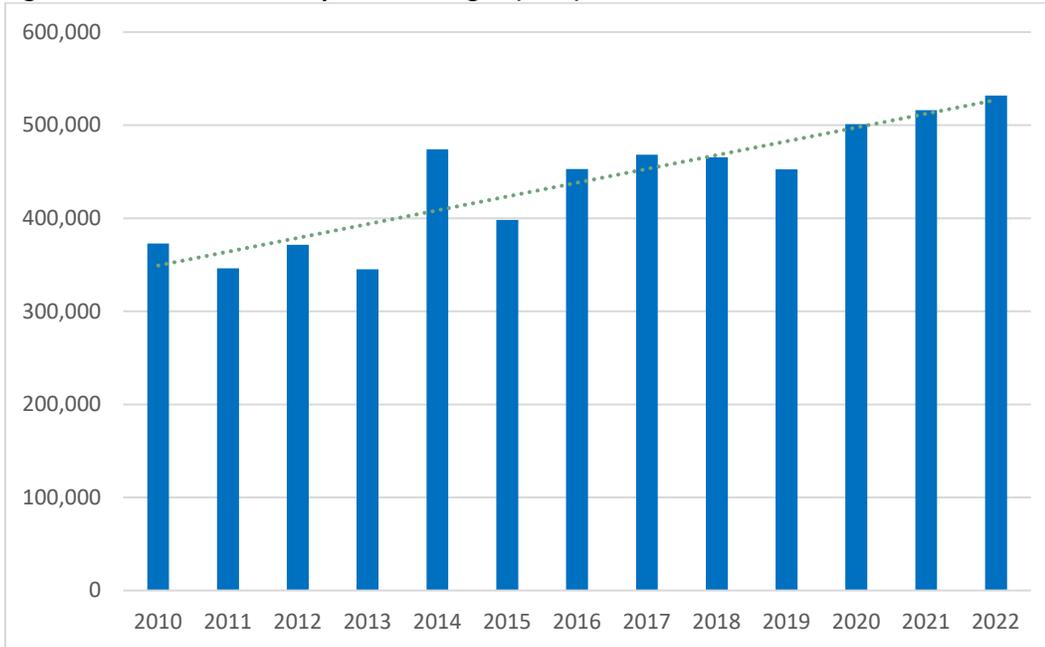
D. Waste Management in Dakota County

This section looks at the amount of MSW generated in the county from residents, businesses, and public entities over time and how it has been managed. Results shown in the graphs below are from 2014-2022. The MPCA has certified SCORE data through 2022.

Total MSW Managed

Total Dakota County MSW managed fluctuates from year to year and has increased over the past decade at a pace similar to population growth. (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Total Dakota County MSW Managed (Tons)



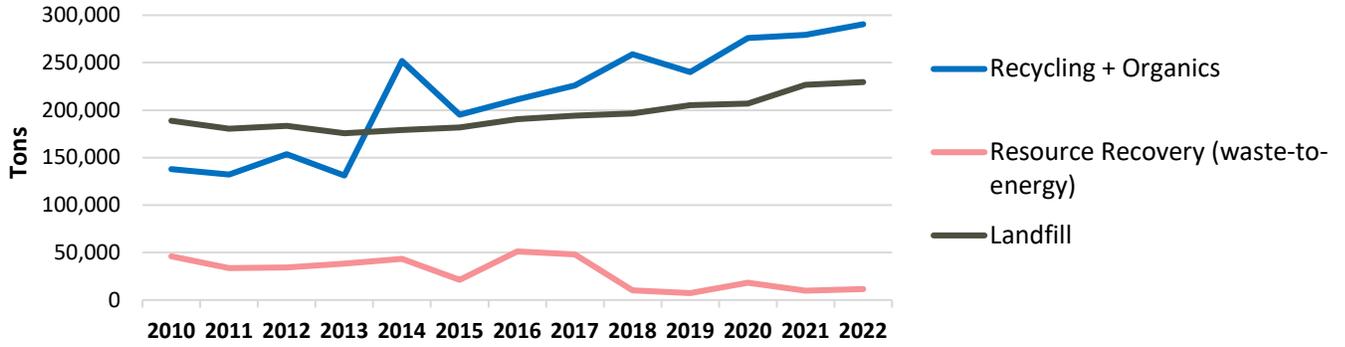
Data Source: MPCA Score Data, 2010 – 2022 as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#).

Annual variations in the amount of waste managed may be due to several factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, prevailing economic conditions or reporting methods provided by haulers and facilities. The consistent increase in waste managed may be related to Dakota County’s nearly 11 percent growth in population between 2010 and 2022.

Waste Managed by Predominant Management Method

Dakota County tracks the amount of recycling, organics recovery, resource recovery, and land disposal. The amount of MSW managed by each method is calculated from data reported by licensed organics and recycling facilities, MSW landfills, and resource recovery facilities. Data accuracy relies on waste haulers properly claiming county-of-origin when they deliver waste to each facility. Figure 7 provides trend data over the past thirteen years for recycling (includes organics), resource recovery, and land disposal for waste generated in the county.

Figure 7: Management of MSW Generated by Dakota County Residents and Businesses (Tons)



Data Source: MPCA Score Data, 2010 – 2022 as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#).

County Progress Toward Policy Plan Objectives

Waste management in the TCMA is an integrated system with many public and private entities having varying roles and responsibilities, ranging from direct service provision to regulation. Dakota County does not provide direct waste management services but has regulatory oversight and waste abatement programs to protect the environment and public health, and support waste management at the highest and best use in accordance with Minnesota’s waste management hierarchy.

Substantial progress has been made since Dakota County issued its first solid waste plan in the 1980s; however, recycling is not at the level it could and should be. The MPCA conducted a statewide waste characterization study in 2013 to assist with planning efforts. Results identified diversion opportunities based on the largest quantities of recoverable materials found in the waste stream, including organics (31 percent), paper (25 percent), and plastics (18 percent).

The following graphs show how waste generated in Dakota County was managed from 2014 to 2022 by management method.

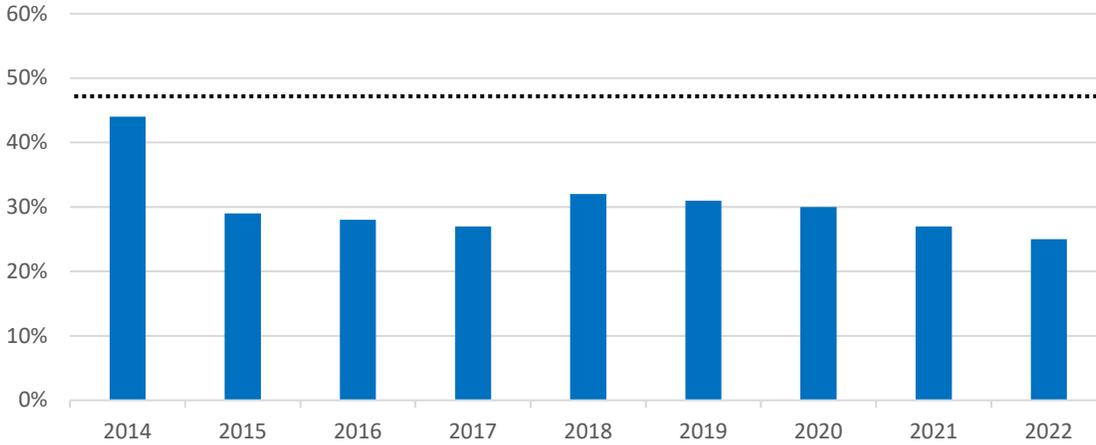
2042 Policy Plan TCMA Reduction and Reuse Objective: 15 Percent

A Policy Plan objective for the TCMA counties is to reduce waste fifteen percent by 2042; however, the MPCA has not defined actual reduction and reuse measures for reporting purposes. Measuring changes in the total amount of MSW managed is not sufficient in tracking progress for source reduction efforts because it does not take into account increases in the county’s population or trends in how much American households are purchasing.

2042 Policy Plan TCMA Recycling Objective (excludes organics): 47.4 Percent

Figure 8 shows that the county’s recycling rate (excludes organics) is not going in the direction needed to achieve the TCMA Recycling objective of 47.4 percent by 2042. The recycling rate is defined as total tons recycled divided by the total tons of MSW managed. Despite new technologies and processes that have improved the ability to handle, sort, and recycle materials, the recycling rate in Dakota County is declining. This is partly due to state changes in the recycling rate calculation methodology (e.g., removed source reduction and yard waste credits, no longer allowed to estimate commercial tonnages). It is also due to changes in the waste stream such as changes in material mix and packaging getting lighter. For example, recyclables such as plastics are becoming lighter so there is less weight being generated and less weight being recycled. In addition, less paper is being generated and therefore recycled as more information is consumed digitally. New approaches and greater system capacity are needed to maintain and maximize separation of recoverable materials from trash.

Figure 8: 2014-2022 Recycling Rate (Excludes Organics), Compared to 2042 TCMA Recycling Objective of 47.4 percent

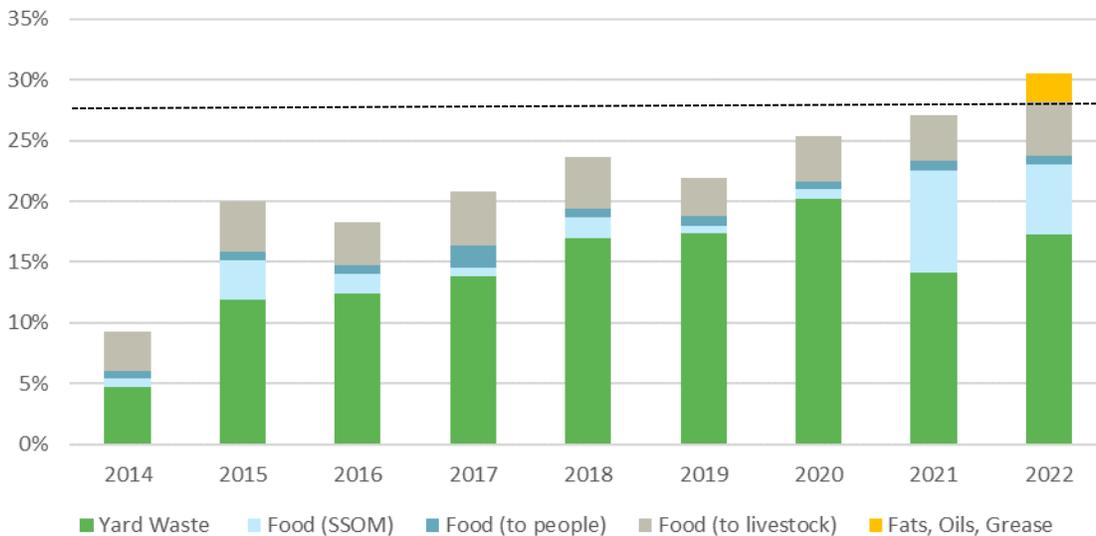


Data Source: MPCA Score Data, 2010 – 2022 as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#).

2042 Policy Plan TCMA Organics Recovery Objective: 27.6 Percent

Figure 9 shows that the county’s organics recovery rate increased from 2014 to 2022. Organics material includes food waste, compostable products (e.g., non-recyclable paper), and yard waste. Organics are currently managed in five different ways: food-to-people (donation of excess food); food-for-livestock (animal feed); source-separated for composting (source-separated organics materials for commercial composting or SSOM); yard waste composting; and fats/oils/greases (animal feed). The organics recovery rate has increased significantly from nine percent in 2014 to 30 percent in 2022. Since 2022, the county’s organics recovery rate has exceeded the TCMA Organics Recovery objective of 27.6 percent by 2042; however, this is largely due to the MPCA’s decision to allow counties to count yard waste composted at commercial composting sites toward the organics recovery rate beginning in 2014. The intent of the TCMA objective is to increase the amount of organics managed through source-separated programs (e.g., food-to-people, food-to-livestock, and food for composting). In 2022, thirteen percent of the MSW in Dakota County was managed through source-separated programs.

Figure 9: 2014-2022 Organics Recovery Rate, Compared to 2042 TCMA Organics Objective of 27.6 percent

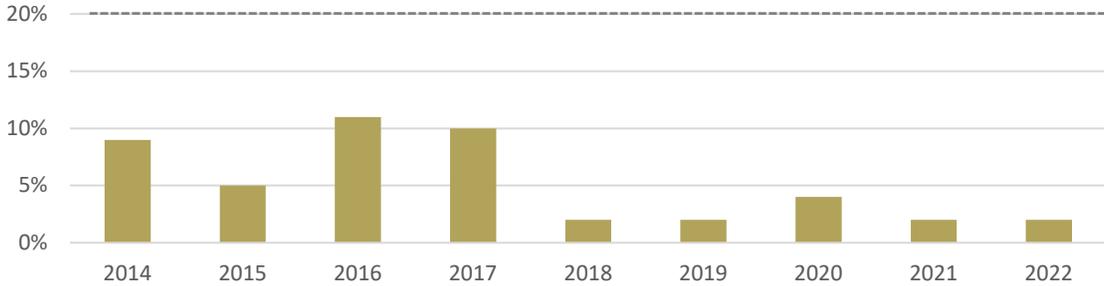


Data Source: MPCA Score Data, 2010 – 2022 as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#).

2042 Policy Plan TCMA Resource Recovery Objective: 20 Percent

The county’s resource recovery rate (for energy recovery) remains low at two percent (Figure 10). The county is not on track to make significant progress toward the TCMA Resource Recovery objective of 20 percent by 2042. Progress will remain difficult until new capacity is reasonably available for Dakota County waste.

Figure 10: 2014-2022 Resource Recovery Rate, Compared to 2042 TCMA Recovery Objective of 20 percent (dotted line)

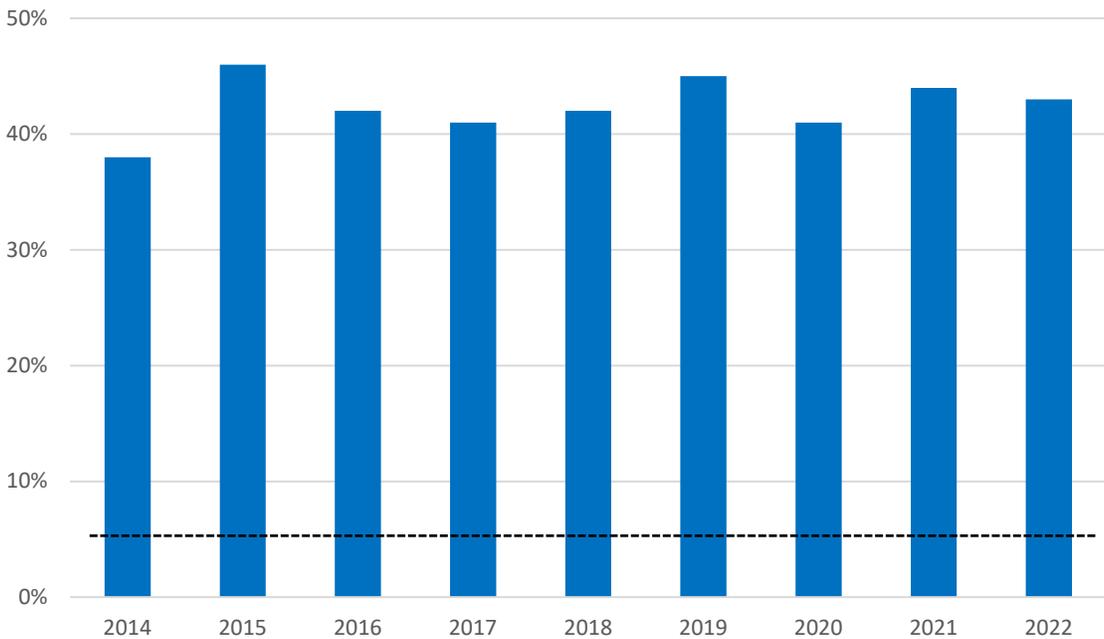


Data Source: MPCA Score Data, 2010 – 2022 as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#).

2042 Policy Plan TCMA Landfill Objective: 5 Percent

The county’s landfill disposal rate is at 43 percent (Figure 11). Achieving the TCMA landfill objective of five percent by 2042 will be extremely challenging, unless aggressive, new approaches can influence and shift waste management to methods higher in the State’s waste hierarchy.

Figure 11: 2014-2022 Landfill Disposal Rate, Compared to the 2042 TCMA Maximum Landfill Objective of 5 percent (dotted line)



Data Source: MPCA Score Data, 2010 – 2022 as presented on the [MPCA Data Website](#).

E. Dakota County’s Waste Programs and Activities

Dakota County’s Environmental Resources Department has responsibility for developing and implementing waste management programs to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment and public health in the county. Department responsibilities include:

- Providing communications, education, and outreach on waste management with county, municipality, hauler, and community partners.
- Providing technical assistance to cities, partners, and the regulated community.
- Providing financial assistance, infrastructure, or both to support municipalities, schools, businesses, and non-profit community organizations.
- Coordinating the collection and management of recyclables and household and business hazardous waste at The Recycling Zone.
- Developing and implementing waste reduction and reuse programs.
- Establishing and collecting solid waste landfill host fees, license, and other fees.
- Leasing county-owned land as a transfer station, yard waste composting site, and a fully permitted source-separated organics composting facility that serves the region.
- Enforcing county ordinances covering licensing and disposal restrictions for solid waste facilities, hazardous and solid waste generators, and waste haulers.

1. Regional Solutions

Regional Resources Promoted by the County: County staff works with TCMA county peers, the Recycling Education Committee (REC), Reuse Minnesota, and the Association of Recycling Managers to share ideas, techniques, and successes. Members of these organizations have developed terminology for recycling and organics to provide consistent education across the TCMA, making it easier for residents and businesses to learn and understand the messages.

Reciprocal Residential Use: Convenience is inherent to a successful household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program. Although The Recycling Zone is within 10 miles of 70 percent of Dakota County residents, it can be more convenient to use another regional HHW facility during business hours. Dakota County maintains reciprocal use agreements with all TCMA counties to accept hazardous waste from TCMA residents at any TCMA facility.

Regional Policy Coordination: County staff are members of the Solid Waste Administrator Association (SWAA) which works on solid waste program information sharing and policies that advance statewide county solid waste goals.

County Hauler Licensing System: Dakota County participates in a regional hauler licensing program with Anoka, Carver, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties. Approximately 90 haulers are licensed to haul MSW in Dakota County. Of these, 35 are based in Dakota County, and the others are based in other metro counties.

2. Source Reduction and Reuse Programs and Activities

Dakota County's efforts in reduction and reuse have focused on reuse opportunities at The Recycling Zone, demonstrating waste reduction and reuse in county operations, and providing education and resources on reuse to residents and businesses.

Projects and Programs in the Community

Reuse at The Recycling Zone: Residents and businesses can drop off or take usable materials, such as paint, fertilizers, household cleaners, and other household items at no charge. Reuse reduces county costs by offering materials that would otherwise need to be managed through disposal methods.

Fix-It Clinics: Dakota County began sponsoring monthly Fix-It Clinics in 2016. The county offers them monthly at varying locations to improve access for residents. Residents bring clothes, small electronics, and other household items that need repair and receive free guided assistance from skilled volunteers.



Reduce and Reuse Business Locator Map: In 2021, Dakota County launched an interactive online map to help residents find locations to sell or drop off gently used items, rent or repair items, and to donate or buy used items. Items include clothing, household goods, building materials, books, furniture, tools and more. Users select filters for their specific needs to generate their own specific map of locations and can click-through for location hours and information.

Outdoor Gear Swaps: Since 2019, Dakota County Environmental Resources and Parks staff have partnered to provide residents with opportunities to take old gear they no longer need and swap for a new-to-them item. Gently-used items not claimed during Swaps are donated to local reuse organizations.

Food Waste Challenge: Food is the largest single component of waste delivered to landfills with typical households throwing away about a quarter of the food that was purchased. Wasted food costs consumers and wastes the water, fuel, land, and labor that went into growing it. In 2019, Dakota County launched its Food Waste Challenge to help residents understand what foods they throw away and why. Through this program, residents receive educational tools to simplify meal planning, shopping, food storage and kitchen inventories.

Projects and Programs in County Operations

Waste reduction and reuse are emphasized in county buildings and on county grounds, including:

- Promoting reuse as a first step in county asset disposal.
- Providing a green meeting toolkit, guidance, and resources to help reduce waste at county-sponsored events.
- Providing recurring reuse messages for employees on DakotaWorks (employee website).
- Promoting the Employee Reuse, Recycling, and Disposal Guide to educate employees on reusing office items.
- Using an Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) to convert many processes from paper-based to electronic-based applications. EDMS manages contracts, financial documents, employee benefits, and other types of documents.
- Using a Managed Print Service program throughout the county to reduce paper use and wasted supplies. MPS allows the county to define processes, run reports, and optimize supply and service fulfillment.
- Applying environmentally preferable practices: the county's Procurement Policy (2740) requires purchasing of environmentally preferable products beyond what State statute requires, including acquiring products and services that reduce waste or reduce toxins and pollution, reusing, supporting recycling markets, rewarding manufacturer responsibility, and reducing water and energy use. The county implements the policy through standards for recycled content products, contract requirements with vendors and other practices that minimize the use of virgin materials in products and supplies or service life cycle. Whenever practical, products and supplies with a specific minimum amount or percent of recycled content based on criteria established by governmental or widely respected third party authorities will be specified and procured.
- Dakota County auctions surplus county property. The county uses Public Surplus to sell surplus furniture and office equipment. Items are posted on an as-needed basis.

3. Collection Best Practices

Solid Waste Hauler Licenses: Hauling companies that collect MSW generated in the county or transport MSW within county boundaries must obtain an MSW hauler license. Dakota County participates in a regional MSW hauler licensing program.

Cost and Finance: Dakota County's waste abatement activities, including the Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste regulatory programs, are funded through a variety of programs. Specific amounts budgeted toward waste abatement activities within each of these funding categories can vary widely from year to year.



4. Revenue Sources

Dakota County's waste abatement and HHW management programs are funded by a combination of state grants, negotiated landfill host fees, waste-related fees, reimbursements, and property taxes.

- **Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) Funding:** SCORE funds are derived from a percentage of the State tax for MSW and non-MSW management services (Solid Waste Management Tax-SWMT). Services subject to this tax include collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of waste materials. Service providers (haulers and disposal facility operators) who directly bill generators or customers are responsible for collecting and remitting the tax to the State. Over \$70 million is generated annually through the tax statewide. SCORE funds are administered by the MPCA. In 2023, Dakota County received \$1,290,777 in SCORE funding and provided the required 25 percent match.
- **Local Recycling Development Grant (LRDG) Funding and Metropolitan Landfill Abatement Account (MLAA):** LRDG is a grant program (Minn. Stat. § 473.844) funded by the MLAA and used for landfill abatement projects in the TCMA. The focus of the program is consistent with the Waste Management Act, and it implements the policies and programs outlined in the Policy Plan. Funding for the MLAA program is generated from a \$2.00 per cubic yard (or \$6.66 per ton) surcharge on MSW disposed of at Metropolitan landfills. The MLAA funds the LRDG program, with grants offered to the TCMA counties. The LRDG Program is designed for planning, developing, and implementing new, enhanced, or more effective waste reduction, yard waste composting, and recycling programs for residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional generators of MSW. Counties must support and maintain effective municipal recycling as a condition of receiving LRDG funds and must match LRDG funds with an equal county contribution. LRDG funds are distributed from the MLAA and administered by the MPCA. In 2023, Dakota County received \$307,627.12 in LRDG funding and provided the required 100 percent match.
- **Landfill Host Fees:** In accordance with negotiated agreements, Dakota County collects host fees from the six landfills located in the county, including two MSW Landfills, an industrial waste landfill, and three construction/demolition landfills. Host fee revenues are deposited in Dakota County's Environmental Legacy Fund (ELF) along with Gravel Tax revenues. The ELF was established by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners on December 15, 2015, to protect, preserve, or enhance the environment (Resolution No. 15-663). ELF supports environmental activities related to brownfield redevelopment, environmental capital projects, Environmental Resources Department operations, gravel pit remediation, natural area and shoreland conservation, park and greenway management plan improvements, and implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plan and Solid Waste Management Plan.
- **Fees:** The county collects fees from solid and hazardous waste facilities and haulers that it regulates. Fees vary depending on the facility type, and the type and volume of waste managed. Additional fees are collected for specific services, such as electronics recycling and use of the business services at The Recycling Zone.
- **Reimbursements:** Reimbursements include payments from organizations for product stewardship initiatives (e.g., architectural paint) and through agreements with organizations (e.g., Excel Energy for fluorescent bulbs, Minnesota Department of Agriculture for pesticides, TCMA counties for HHW reciprocity).
- **Property Taxes:** Property taxes support essential County functions, including transportation and transit, safety, parks, libraries, and waste management programs all to support and improve the health of residents and protect the environment.

5. Recycling Management Programs and Activities

Dakota County launched its recycling program in 1988 to ensure that residents would have the opportunity to recycle.



a. Projects and Programs in the Community

Curbside Collection: Dakota County’s residential curbside recyclables collection program began in 1989. Curbside recycling collection programs generally are provided by subscription service (e.g., open hauling system). Residents of Hastings and Farmington are served by a city/hauler contract-provided service (e.g., organized hauling system). In 2019, Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 began identifying a minimum list of recyclable materials that haulers must collect in single-stream recycling and generators must place into properly labeled carts or dumpsters. The designated list of recyclable materials includes paper, cardboard, cartons, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles, containers and jugs with SPI Codes #1, #2, or #5. Residential curbside pickup of recyclable materials occurs in all cities and townships. Waste haulers must offer weekly recycling service to all residential customers (limited exemptions apply in rural parts of the county). In addition, waste haulers must provide standardized solid waste abatement messaging that is consistent with county standards to all customers. Messaging (print or electronic) must be delivered to each customer at initial service acquisition and annually thereafter.

Community Waste Abatement Grant Program: Dakota County partners with the 14 largest cities to advance Plan objectives through programs, practices, or methods designed to meet waste abatement requirements. Dakota County provides performance-based funding for waste abatement education and recycling infrastructure and enters into formal agreements with communities. These agreements require that a specified level of service be offered to residents, and that communities annually submit a work plan, itemized budget, and final report. The purpose of the Community Waste Abatement Grant Program is to help implement the Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan objectives including to ensure that residents have the opportunity to recycle; and to develop, implement, and maintain projects, programs, practices, and methods to meet waste abatement objectives as described in the Plan. The program supports the County’s efforts for broad-based education and implementation of local programs and projects for waste reduction, reuse, recycling, hazardous waste management, and organics diversion as described in the Plan.

Eligible activities relate to government leadership, operational needs, community education, and targeted priorities identified by the county. Dakota County provides waste abatement education to residents in collaboration with the cities and townships using electronic and print newsletters, websites, utility bill inserts, educational presentations, and pilot projects. The county also provides best practices guidance, assistance with measuring diversion weights and rates, and other types of technical assistance to support municipal waste abatement activities. In 2022 Dakota County distributed approximately \$494,000 to the cities and townships. Some communities also contribute their own funds to support their recycling programs and thereby increase the total amount spent on recycling programs.

Recycling at Municipal Parks: Beginning in 2014, Dakota County emphasized municipal park and public area recycling. The Community Waste Abatement Grant Agreement between Dakota County and each city requires use of a consistent set of best practices to help park visitors know what to recycle and to meet Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements. As a result, 341 city parks, buildings, and other facilities meet Dakota County recycling requirements.

Recycling at Municipal Events: Dakota County enhances recycling at community events held on city property through technical assistance, education, and on-site support, in partnership with city staff and volunteers. Dakota County requires event organizers to provide recycling and implement recycling best management practices.

Multifamily Recycling Program: Since 2018, the Multifamily Recycling Program has assisted property owners, managers, staff, and residents with recycling and waste prevention at apartments, condominiums, townhomes, and independent senior living centers. Up to \$10,000 per location is available to eligible sites for containers, labels, signage, and training sessions. Dakota County requires multi-unit building properties to provide recycling and implement recycling best management practices.



Self-Service Checkout System: Dakota County offers free event recycling containers and educational resources to residents and community partners throughout the year to help reduce waste, increase recycling, and educate other. Resources include education kits, activities, and external recycling containers for events. In 2021, Pickup Point was introduced on the county's website. Pickup Point is a designated shed located at the Western Service Center where resources can be temporarily housed awaiting pickup and return. An online platform was developed allowing users to request items, notifies them when items are available for pickup, and provides a keycode for access.

b. Recycling Drop-Off Locations

The Recycling Zone: As required by Minn. Stat. § 115A.552, the county provides for at least one recycling center – The Recycling Zone. At no charge, residents can drop off traditional recyclable materials such as paper, cardboard, cans, and bottles and non-traditional materials such as cooking oil, and holiday lights. Businesses can also drop off recyclables at no charge.

Hastings Paper and Cardboard Drop-Off: Since 2006, the waste hauler for the City of Hastings has provided a centrally located recycling container for businesses and residents to drop off paper materials, including cardboard, magazines, newspapers, junk mail, and box board.

Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII): CII entities include businesses, manufacturers, schools, and local governments. Private waste haulers serve CII entities and collect the county's required designated recyclable materials.

Curbside Mattress Pickup: Mattress recycling is challenging for some residents who face transportation barriers or physical limitations that make it difficult to take these bulky items to drop-off events or recycling sites. Since 2020, Dakota County has collaborated with Certified Recycling and Bridging to offer affordable curbside pickups for Dakota County residents, making it more convenient and accessible for single-family and multifamily residents to recycle or reuse their unwanted mattresses at the curb.

Projects and Programs in County Operations

Recycling is emphasized in county buildings and on county grounds, including:

- Providing standardized, paired, and labeled containers. All recycling and trash containers on building grounds, both indoors and out, must be paired and properly labeled according to county labeling requirements.
- Providing recurring recycling messages for employees on DakotaWorks (employee website).
- Promoting the Employee Recycling and Disposal Guide to educate staff on what to recycle. Required waste abatement and recycling training is provided to new employees during onboarding and to staff several times per year.
- Providing campground visitors with a paper bag to collect recyclables during their visit. The paper bag includes standardized messaging, images of acceptable materials and preparation instructions.
- Dakota County's Resource Management program allows collaboration between county staff and the county's hauler to evaluate data and implement changes to reduce waste and increase diversion.

6. Organics Management Programs and Activities (Includes Programs Combined With Recycling)

The county's primary roles in supporting organics recovery include regulation, providing residential organics drop-off sites, managing a lease on county-owned land for waste management purposes, education, technical assistance, and promoting and requiring recycling at all events and certain back-of-house food scraps collection at community events.



Organics Regulation: The county regulates source separated organic materials and yard waste management facilities. The county prohibits land disposal of yard waste, Christmas trees, and holiday plant decorations. Collected yard waste must be placed in a compostable bag, and yard waste self-hauled to a facility must be dropped off in a reusable container or in a compostable bag. The state and county prohibit mixing yard waste with MSW; however, yard waste can be collected by MSW haulers using separate collection vehicles or by special yard waste collectors, such as lawn services, and delivered to yard waste sites. The County requires large generators and certain events to have recycling and back-of-house food scrap collection.

Lease for Food and Yard Waste Capacity: County-owned land in the City of Empire is actively managed through a lease with a private firm to operate both source-separated organics composting and yard waste composting facilities. This lease was recently extended for another five-year period with extensions possible through June of 2037.

a. Projects and Programs in the Community

Composting at Home: Dakota County promotes residential backyard composting. The county website informs residents where to purchase a backyard composting bin or how to build their own, a recipe to create the right mix of materials, and how to use compost in home projects.

Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale: Each Spring, the Recycling Association of Minnesota partners with local governments and other organizations to provide quality compost bins and rain barrels made from 100 percent recycled materials at low cost to Minnesota residents. Dakota County supports these sales through promotion and by providing additional discounts to county residents.

Residential Organics Drop-Off: In October 2016, Dakota County launched its first residential organics drop site at Thompson County Park in West St. Paul. Since that time, the county and city partners have added an additional 10 drop sites throughout the county. The county provides education and compostable bags to participating residents. Collected organics are delivered to a local commercial compost facility.

Yard Waste Disposal: Yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves, and twigs are prohibited from weekly trash collection. Residents have several options for managing yard waste, including composting, collection by a licensed hauler, or delivery to a yard waste compost facility.

Zero Waste at Public Space Venues: Dakota County was awarded an Environmental Assistance Grant through the MPCA for a zero waste pilot project at four municipal ice arenas and three high school stadiums to assess and implement organics collection; update containers, labels and signage following best management practices; introduce certified compostable food service supplies; and educate staff and patrons. The project concluded that school stadiums may have greater zero waste potential than arenas, as post-program diversion findings show that 37-56 percent of overall arena waste generated is true trash.

School Waste Prevention & Recycling Grant Program: In 2009, the County initiated an Enhanced School Recycling Program to improve recycling in public schools. In 2013, the program was expanded to include organics diversion and was extended to private schools. In 2020, the school program was updated to include outdoor recycling, waste reduction, reuse, and wasted food prevention initiatives. The new School Waste Prevention & Recycling Grant Program offers grants to public and private schools and provides technical assistance, infrastructure, and educational resources for schools to prevent wasted food, reduce waste, divert recycling and food scraps from the trash, and educate students and staff on proper waste management practices. As of 2023, 77 public schools and 12 private schools have participated, representing roughly 55 percent of all K-12 public and private schools in Dakota County. Dakota County hosts an annual free School Recycling Workshop inviting administrators, buildings and grounds personnel, kitchen staff, teachers, and Green Teams to learn about industry updates, best practices information, creative solutions, and free resources. The annual workshop is designed to assist all schools in improving their waste reduction, recycling and organics programs.



Dakota County Schools Receive Free Compost: In 2021, Dakota County began providing free compost to School Recycling and Organics Program participants. Quantities of one to five cubic yards of compost were offered to schools as a way to close the loop on organics composting education and raise awareness on the benefits of compost as a valuable soil amendment. Schools used the compost in vegetable and flower gardens, on-site plantings, potted plants, and turf topdressing.

County Fair Recycling and Organics Collection: Since 2003, Dakota County and volunteers have worked with fair staff to decrease the amount of material going into the trash at the County Fair, which attracts over 120,000 visitors each year. Organics collection was added for the public in 2014, but recent efforts engaged only County Fair food vendors. In 2022, all 63 food vendors received a recycling guide and were offered a green five-gallon bucket and compostable bags to collect food scraps from food preparation in their booth. Seventy-nine percent (79 percent) of food vendors chose to participate.

City and Community Events for Recyclables and Organics Collection: The county and cities make recycling resources available for small and large events, including free portable recycling and organics containers, bags, signs, and litter grabbers. The county works with the municipalities and haulers to collect event data.

Business Recycling Incentive Program: In August 2016, the county's first business recycling program launched. It serves commercial entities within North American Industry Classification (NAICS) Codes 42-81 that are required by state law to recycle a minimum of three materials. The program provides up to \$10,000 per eligible business to address the most frequently encountered barriers (e.g., up-front costs, lack of knowledge/information to develop successful program). Participants work with county staff to complete applications and identify and implement best waste management practices (employee training, placement of bins, consistent signage), and measure results. In 2022, the program served 58 businesses in obtaining over \$80,000 in funding to implement waste reduction and recycling initiatives. Food and beverage and grocery store/food processor sectors had the highest number of program participants, and they also had the highest volumes of waste, offering large diversion potential. A reported 257,783 pounds of new material was diverted from program partners in 2022, of which 172,985 pounds of organics and 4,160 pounds of food donations.

Large Events and Festivals: Beginning in 2024, certain large events are required to properly sort and collect food scraps from back-of-house areas, provided the event generates food scraps in back-of-house areas, has at least 300 attendees, and generates at least 1 ton (8 cubic yards) of trash per location. Back-of-house means pre-consumed food waste from the kitchen, food preparation, dishwashing and storage areas that are not accessed by members of the public. It does not include food waste generated from food that has been served to members of the public.

b. Projects and Programs in County Operations

Dakota County's internal recycling program covers all county buildings and grounds, including park facilities, libraries, service centers, and transportation facilities. Ongoing efforts include:

- Providing standardized, paired, and labeled (e.g., organics, recycling, and trash) containers in key conference rooms and employee areas. Many county buildings have organics collection bins in staff areas for food scraps, paper towels or napkins, and certified compostable products. Public restroom areas have organics collection bins for paper towels.
- Recycling confidential papers, non-confidential papers, glass and plastic bottles and cans, cardboard, library books, batteries, toner cartridges, fluorescent and LED bulbs, and computers and computer equipment.
- Providing recurring recycling messages for employees on DakotaWorks (employee website).
- Providing annual employee trainings on what to recycle in county buildings.
- Conducting periodic waste sorts at county buildings to measure progress and reporting findings to employees.



- Developing a Resource Management waste and recycling contract to provide building-specific organics, recycling, and trash services, evaluation, and service improvement recommendations.

7. Non-Municipal Solid Waste Programs and Activities

Non-MSW includes non-hazardous industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, materials banned from disposal with MSW, problem materials, infectious waste, and other waste streams that are not MSW or otherwise defined or regulated as hazardous waste. The county's non-MSW program consists of regulatory oversight of non-MSW at facilities in the county and promoting reuse, recycling, and processing of non-MSW.

a. Non-MSW Regulation

Although some non-MSW is routinely recycled, a significant portion is landfilled. Dakota County's primary role is regulating the three non-MSW landfills in the county that serve the region. The county issues facility licenses, collects fees, conducts landfill inspections, and provides technical assistance and enforcement as necessary to ensure compliance with Dakota County Ordinance No. 110. The county also works closely with the MPCA on non-MSW regulatory issues, including rule revisions and compliance.

b. Projects and Programs in the Community

Tire Collection Program: Proper tire management minimizes potential breeding habitats for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Dakota County and Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) provides funding to townships and rural cities for waste tire collection events. This program provides an incentive for residents to easily recycle this problem material. Tires are also collected at The Recycling Zone and at community clean-up events.

Non-Traditional Materials: The county started seasonal collection of agricultural film plastic (e.g., silage and grain bags, bunker covers, and greenhouse film) in 2015 and added boat wrap in 2016, with 10 tons collected annually. Material is taken to processors that can recycle bulky plastic. The program is annually promoted to boat storage locations and about two dozen dairies and livestock farms.

c. Projects and Programs in the County Operations

High Performance Buildings: The Dakota County Design Construction Sustainability Standards are required in county capital building projects to reduce waste generation, increase reuse and recycling, and minimize the county's environmental footprint. The Standards include guidelines for building deconstruction and demolition, construction waste reuse and recycling, use of sustainable building materials, native landscaping, restoring soil through compost, storm water management, and energy conservation.

8. Landfill Abatement

a. Communications, Education, and Outreach Programs and Activities

The county committed financial and staff resources to meeting statutory requirements for public waste education. Minn. Stat. § 115A.552, subd.3, requires counties to "provide information on how, when, and where materials may be recycled, including a promotional program that publishes notices at least once every three months and encourages source separation of residential, commercial, and institutional materials." Additionally, Minn. Stat. § 115A.96 requires counties to have an educational component to their HHW management plans.

County Communications: An annual communications plan identifies target audiences, priority messages and outlets to promote waste management information. Ongoing resident education includes brochures, monthly e-news, mailers, website information, and classes. The Business Recycling Incentive Program provides brochures, bi-monthly e-news, employee posters, employee training, container labels, direct mailers, and website information. Students and staff are educated through the School Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant Program, waste sorts, posters, recycling guides, container labels, activity sheets, presentations, and training.



County-Funded Education through Cities: The county has annual JPAs with municipalities for local residential recycling and education programs. Each municipality must maintain websites, distribute county products, publish county messages, and provide in-person education and outreach.

Rural Newsletter: The county’s Rural Solid Waste Abatement Program provides standardized education for residents. Rural households receive an annual newsletter that informs them on various recycling options for materials like mattresses, electronics, tires and other items that can’t go in the trash. Information on proper pesticide disposal, agricultural film plastic recycling, and the hazards of illegally dumping or burning waste are also included.

Educational Tours: An annual Tour de Trash and the Recycling Ambassadors Program invites residents to visit a recycling facility, landfill, compost site, and The Recycling Zone to understand how waste is managed.

Technical Assistance: County staff provides technical assistance to residents through phone, email, and website inquiries. The Business Recycling Incentive Program provides resources and technical assistance for qualifying businesses. Public and private schools are eligible for the School Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant Program for help to increase waste diversion. Technical assistance is provided to municipalities through the JPA. Regulated facilities receive county recommendations for waste management improvements during facility inspections.

Recycler/Composter Ambassador Programs: Twice each year, Dakota County offers a six-week training course for residents on recycling and composting. After completing the course, graduates volunteer 30 hours to public outreach.

b. Education Resources for the Community

Recycling Guide: The Recycling Guide is an online resource on how to reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, dispose of, and properly manage more than 100 household items. Information includes pick-up and drop-off services available to county residents.

E-news: Electronic newsletters (e-news) are sent to six different audiences with regular information on waste reduction, recycling, and organics diversion. Monthly e-news is sent to 2,300 residents and nearly 400 businesses, including hazardous waste generators. Monthly e-news is also sent to 339 Recycling Ambassadors and 514 Fix-It Clinic participants. Quarterly e-news for schools is received by 767 teachers, administrators, custodians, and food service personnel. Timely e-news on the organics drop-off program is received by nearly 8,300 residents.

Education Kits and Displays: Resources for teachers, students, community groups, and other organizations are available for check-out and include displays, activity kits, learning kits, and banners.

Presentations and Booths: County staff and volunteers regularly present at schools, meetings, and events.

9. Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulation Programs and Activities

The county regulates waste haulers, generators, and facilities using ordinances, licenses, compliance inspections, technical assistance, and enforcement. Compliance inspections are conducted regularly to evaluate solid and hazardous waste facility operations for compliance with license conditions. Inspection frequency is based on the type of facility, potential risk to the environment, and compliance history. If a facility is found to be out of compliance, a range of actions ensue, typically beginning with formal notification of inspection findings and providing opportunities to correct the problem.

a. Regulatory Mechanisms: Ordinance and Licensing

County Solid Waste Ordinance: Dakota County’s solid waste regulation program began in the 1970’s with adoption of Dakota County Ordinance No. 110, which includes standards for regulating solid waste management and the operation of solid waste facilities, including infectious waste facilities; requirements for certain facilities



on a disposal site; and provisions for application and license fees, financial assurance, and penalties for lack of compliance with these provisions. New requirements in the ordinance as part of implementation of the 2018-2038 Solid Waste Master Plan include:

- **Residents** – recycle designated materials
- **Commercial entities (businesses, schools, municipalities, events)** – recycle designated materials following best practices (standardized labels, staff education, co-locating recycling and trash bins) and large organics generators must recover back-of-house food scraps.
- **Multifamily properties** – provide sufficient recycling service capacity for tenants and recycle designated materials following best practices.
- **Waste haulers** – properly label each customer container, provide annual education to customers, collect designated materials for recycling, itemize customer invoices, and provide weekly service to all residential recycling customers.
- **Collection sites and transfer stations** – reduced regulations for small-volume collection and transfer of materials (e.g., organics, construction and demolition waste, certain recyclables) and allowance to co-collect organics in durable compostable bags.
- **Landfills** – complete composition studies every five years, starting in 2025.
- **Municipalities over 10,000 population** – adopt a code consistent and no less restrictive than Dakota County Ordinance 110 and adopt and enforce the county’s multifamily and event recycling requirements.

County Hazardous Waste Ordinance: The county’s hazardous waste regulatory program began in 1977 with the passage of the Waste Management Act and County Board adoption of Dakota County Ordinance No. 111, Hazardous Waste Regulation (Ordinance 111). Ordinance 111 establishes standards for generating, storing, processing, or managing hazardous waste in Dakota County.

Solid Waste Facility Licenses: Solid waste management facilities must have a license from Dakota County to operate. The county licenses MSW, industrial, and demolition landfills; waste processing and recycling facilities; transfer stations; yard waste compost sites; and organics composting facilities. The county issues solid waste facility licenses for a two-year period. Dakota County regulates landfills that receive combustor ash, process residuals, and bypass from regional resource recovery facilities.

Hazardous Waste Generator Licenses: Dakota County annually licenses hazardous waste generators, with fees based on the amount of hazardous waste generated. Minimal generators, those that generate ten gallons or less of hazardous waste and no acute hazardous waste, are not required to have a license; however, are required to register with the county and obtain a Hazardous Waste Identification Number (HWID) from the MPCA.

Hazardous Waste Facility Licenses: Dakota County licenses hazardous waste facilities, including storage facilities, ten-day transfer facilities, storage and recycling facilities, treatment facilities, special hazardous waste storage sites, HHW and Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) collection sites, universal waste sites, and used oil collection sites.

The county’s role in MSW land disposal is regulating sanitary landfills and MSW transfer stations located in the county that serve the region. Landfills accept waste from the region, state, and surrounding states. Although landfilling is the least preferred management method, it is necessary in an integrated waste system. The county regulates acceptance of waste at facilities located within the county, including material bans and prohibitions.

b. Material Bans

Materials and wastes banned from disposal at MSW landfills located in Dakota County include:



- Recyclables (designated materials)
- Trees and branches, including Christmas trees and holiday decorations
- Tires
- Lead-acid batteries
- Major appliances
- Waste oil/used oil and used oil filters
- Yard wastes
- Mercury-containing waste as listed in Minn. Stat. § 115A.932
- Telephone directories
- Cathode Ray Tubes
- Other listed wastes exceeding thresholds (e.g., liquids, sludges, radioactive waste, etc.)

c. Prohibitions

Unprocessed Waste: Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 restricts the acceptance of processible waste at MSW landfills located in the County from metropolitan area generators, unless certain conditions are met.

Recyclables and Yard Waste: Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requires source-separated materials, such as recyclables and yard waste, to be delivered to the respective facilities, and prohibits land disposal of source-separated materials and other banned materials.

Burning and Burying of Waste: Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 effectively prohibits burning and burial of solid wastes at unlicensed facilities. In 2009, the County Board eliminated the farm exemption.

Yard Waste Collection: Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 prohibits the use of plastic bags for yard waste collection. Yard waste must be collected in paper bags or other biodegradable containers, or placed in a container that can be reused.

Co-Disposal Program: requires all businesses and industries to evaluate their waste to determine if it is hazardous. Industries that “co-dispose” non-hazardous industrial waste with MSW must demonstrate proper evaluation in accordance with the law; comply with a state-approved Industrial Waste Management Plan; and, in Dakota County, comply with Dakota County Ordinance No. 110. County requirements ensure that accepted waste is below hazardous waste limits. The Co-Disposal Program also documents industrial waste characteristics and the types and amounts landfilled.

Landfill Cover Programs: addresses essential landfill cover requirements for daily, intermediate and final cover. The Alternative Daily Cover Program addresses daily cover requirements at MSW landfills and intermittent cover at the industrial waste landfill in the county. The Alternative Daily Cover Program makes it possible for landfills to meet essential requirements with materials other than clean soil, including contaminated soil for daily cover. Other approved alternative daily cover options include tarps and foam, which do not consume landfill space.

The county provides technical assistance, as requested, to the MPCA for its Land Management Plan, Closed Landfill Program, and regulatory efforts to address landfill contamination issues.

10. Household Hazardous Waste, Toxicity Reduction, and Problem Material Management Programs and Activities

The county’s HHW management services began in 1985 with Minnesota’s first HHW collection. County services have grown to include a year-round facility for residential and business hazardous waste and problem materials collection. Minn. Stat. § 115A.96 requires counties to implement a HHW management plan. Dakota County provides for collection, storage, and proper management of HHW and problem materials through collection programs at The Recycling Zone, at community collection events, and drop-off locations for select HHW wastes.



a. The Recycling Zone Services

Residential Material Drop-Off: Residents drop off HHW and problem materials at no charge, including: oil-based paint, flammable solvents, pesticides, automotive fluids, aerosols, propane tanks, fluorescent bulbs, and batteries. In August 2016, a fee was implemented for the collection of televisions and monitors. Other electronics, including small household appliances, remain free for residents to drop-off. The Recycling Zone accepts problem materials that aren't necessarily hazardous but can be difficult to manage in the normal solid waste stream, such as latex paint, household cleaners, used oil, sharps, and tires (for a fee). Additional materials collected at no charge include cooking oil, ink cartridges, lead fishing tackle, eyeglasses, alkaline batteries, and string lights.

Business Universal Waste, Electronics, and Fluorescent Lamp Collection: For a minimal fee, businesses can bring in universal waste, electronics, and spent fluorescent lamps to the Recycling Zone by appointment. Dakota County partners with Xcel Energy to offer businesses free disposal of up to ten bulbs per year, as part of Xcel Energy's compliance with State law (Minn. Stat. § 216B.241). Dakota Electric also provides funding for lamp disposal.

Business Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) Program: Because more than 90 percent of businesses in Dakota County qualify as a VSQG, the county offers a program to help businesses that produce small amounts of hazardous waste to comply with the hazardous waste rules. Technical assistance is provided, and businesses are required to make an appointment to participate in the program and pay a disposal fee.

Paint Collection: Dakota County accepts business and household architectural paint at The Recycling Zone, and HHW collection events, at no charge. Minn. Stat. § 115A.1415 requires that for architectural paint sold in the state, producers must implement and finance a statewide product stewardship program. PaintCare, Inc. was established to represent paint producers and operate the paint product stewardship program in Minnesota. Through an agreement, PaintCare provides funds to Dakota County to pay for collection, transport, and processing of architectural paint.

Pesticide Collection Program: Dakota County accepts business and household pesticides at The Recycling Zone at no charge. Minn. Stat. § 18B.065 requires the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to establish and operate a waste pesticide collection program for Minnesota counties. The MDA enters into cooperative agreements with counties to fund collection of business and household waste pesticides.

b. Residential Collection Events

Dakota County has collaborated with municipalities to provide one to four HHW collection events every year since 1985. Under JPAs, the county provides equipment, staff, publicity outside the collection area, and HHW disposal. Information on the hours, location, and materials accepted at The Recycling Zone are distributed on event days. Cities typically provide event sites, staff, and local publicity. HHW collection events accept paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, and other hazardous materials.

c. Residential Sharps and Pharmaceuticals Collections

Dakota County has collected residential sharps (e.g., needles, syringes, and lancets) at The Recycling Zone since 2007. In 2012, Dakota County piloted a program to collect pharmaceuticals at three law enforcement facilities, in partnership with the County Sheriff's office. The pilot program was a success and there are now 10 drop-off locations.

d. Projects and Programs in County Operations

Dakota County emphasizes proper hazardous waste management in its buildings and on its grounds, including:

- The Recycling Zone manages hazardous waste from county operations, such as fluorescent bulbs, paints, batteries and electronics.
- The Recycling Zone properly manages hazardous waste illegally dumped on county property.



- Online Employee Reuse, Recycling, and Disposal Guide to educate employees on proper management of hazardous waste at the office, such as cell phones and cell phone batteries.

11. Resource Recovery Programs and Activities

Resource recovery, or waste processing for energy, is part of an integrated waste system, but only one step above land disposal. In 1985, the Minnesota Legislature adopted a law requiring that all MSW generated in the seven Metropolitan counties that is not reduced, reused, or recycled must be sent to a resource recovery facility (Minn. Stat. § 473.848).

County Lease for Transfer Station: In the early 1990’s, Dakota County worked to site an incinerator on county-owned land. Although permitted by the state in 1992, the facility was not developed and the land is currently leased to a private firm for source-separated organics composting, yard waste composting, and transfer to a resource recovery if capacity is available.

Landfill Host Fee Incentives: Dakota County’s host fees are negotiated such that landfills pay a higher fee for accepting processible waste than they pay for non-processible waste and process residuals.

F. Collection and Transportation of Waste

In Dakota County, private-sector companies collect and transport residential and business waste to waste management facilities. The county does not collect or transport solid waste.

1. Hauling Systems in Dakota County

MSW, recyclables, organics, and yard waste in the county are collected and transported largely through an open hauling system (e.g., subscription service), where businesses and residents contract with a private waste hauler of their choice.

Municipal Ordinances/Codes: Dakota County municipalities have ordinances for MSW and recycling collection in their respective areas (Table 3). Municipal ordinances ensure the opportunity to recycle exists, and address residential services, including multifamily dwellings, and commercial services. With the exception of the townships and most small cities (under a population of 500), all municipalities license MSW haulers. Some municipalities have expanded ordinance requirements. For example, the city of Apple Valley has instituted hauling zones/districts and times that collection services can be provided.

Table 3: Municipal Solid Waste Ordinances and Codes

Municipality	Solid Waste Ordinances/Codes
Apple Valley	Title V: Public Works - Chapter 50: Garbage Title IX: General Regulations, Chapter 93: Prohibited Materials
Burnsville	Title 7: Health and Sanitation – Chapter 7-3: Waste Management , Chapter 7-4: Solid Waste Landfills , Chapter 7-5: Trash and Recyclables , Chapter 7-6: Construction Debris Disposal Fee , Chapter 7-7: Composting
Eagan	Chapter 10: Public Protection, Crimes and Offenses - Section 10.01 Storage, Deposit, and Disposal of Refuse
Empire	Ordinance 290 – Solid Waste Collection
Farmington	Title 7: Health and Sanitation – Chapter 1: Solid Waste Collections , Chapter 4: Sanitary Landfills
Hastings	Chapter 50: General Provisions – 50.06 Mandatory Solid Waste Collection Requirements , 50.07 Garbage and Refuse Haulers , 50.08 Recycling Haulers
Inver Grove Heights	Title 8: Water and Sewer; Public Services – Chapter 6: Solid Waste Collection and Disposal
Lilydale	Lilydale City Code , Chapter 10: Solid Waste Abatement
Lakeville	Title 4: Health and Sanitation – Chapter 2: Mixed Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclables
Mendota Heights	Title 4: Public Health and Safety – Chapter 2: Solid Waste Abatement



Municipality	Solid Waste Ordinances/Codes
Rosemount	Title 5: Health and Sanitation - Chapter 1: Solid Waste , Chapter 4: Composting
South St. Paul	Chapter 46: Solid Waste
West St. Paul	Title IX: General Regulations – Chapter 92: Health Provisions

Municipality Requirements: In November 2019, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners adopted a revised Dakota County Ordinance No. 110, Solid Waste Management to implement strategies in the 2018-2038 Solid Waste Master Plan to reduce waste going to landfills, improve the quality of materials recycled, and make progress toward the state's goal to recycle 75 percent of waste by 2030. The following is a summary of the requirements that impact municipalities:

City Hauling and Licensing Systems: Roughly 90 percent of county residents live in communities with open hauling for trash and recyclables, although some organizations such as townhome associations may develop single waste contracts for their members. Cities using open hauling require haulers to have city-issued licenses. The city determines the number of licensed haulers to allow, and some cities limit the number of hauler licenses to reduce wear on roads. The number of licenses for residential collection in open hauling cities ranges from four haulers (City of Mendota) to ten (City of Inver Grove Heights).

Under organized collection, a city provides or contracts for collection services. The City of Hastings uses an open bid process and contracts with one hauler to collect and transport residential MSW, recycling, and yard waste. Commercial sector waste in Hastings is managed through an open hauling system.

The City of Farmington has a one-hauler system for recycling and trash collection. City code requires that all residential and commercial properties must use the city’s contracted hauler. An exemption to this code only exists in the event that the city-contracted hauler cannot service the user due to the waste characteristics. In 2022 both cities directed collected trash to resource recovery facilities.

Hauler Collected Fees: Hauler fees for trash and recyclables collection vary because the private sector establishes and negotiates rates with their customers. Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 includes the following requirements related to hauler collected fees:

Waste hauling fees must be weight- or volume-based and must increase with the volume or weight collected.

- Section 15.08 L.1: Charges for the collection of mixed municipal solid waste in Dakota County shall increase with the volume or weight of the waste collected.
- Section 15.08 L.4: Fees for service that are not based on volume or weight are prohibited.

Recycling cannot be penalized, i.e., waste haulers cannot impose a greater charge on residents that recycle than those that do not recycle.

- Section 15.08 L.2: Collectors of mixed municipal solid waste in Dakota County are prohibited from imposing a greater charge on residents who recycle than on residents who do not recycle.

Residential waste reduction is promoted by requiring haulers to offer a 35-gallon or less base unit fee.

- Section 15.08 L.3: Haulers shall offer a 35-gallon or less base fee for mixed municipal solid waste generated by a residential source. Incremental service levels shall not increase by more than thirty-two (32) gallons, with the exception of fees charged for bulky items.

Existing Rates and Charges in Dakota County: Dakota County conducted a non-scientific survey of haulers, customers, and cities with organized collection contracts, and found a range of published service rates for monthly residential MSW and recycling services (excluding State taxes and fees):

- 35 gallon: \$11.28 to \$15.72 (MSW) + \$7.69 to \$9.60 (Recycling) = \$20.88 to \$23.41 per month
- 65 gallon: \$13.20 to \$20.98 (MSW) + \$7.69 to \$9.60 (Recycling) = \$22.80 to \$28.67 per month
- 95 gallon: \$14.79 to \$25.76 (MSW) + \$7.69 to \$9.60 (Recycling) = \$24.39 to \$33.45 per month



In addition, several cities with open hauling markets published the following residential service rates for monthly MSW and recycling services (excluding taxes and fees):

- 35 gallon: MSW + Recycling = \$15.00 to \$44.68 per month
- 65 gallon: MSW + Recycling = \$15.00 to \$45.06 per month
- 95 gallon: MSW + Recycling = \$17.00 to \$47.79 per month

A survey of select haulers for commercial services found a range of published commercial rates for weekly recycling services (excluding State taxes and fees):

- 95 gallon (Recycling): \$25.00 to \$43.69 per month
- 4 yard (Recycling): \$89.00 to \$132.80 per month
- 8 yard (Recycling): \$124.00 to \$211.75 per month
- 95 gallon (MSW): \$92.50 to \$102.54 per month
- 4 yard (MSW): \$190.94 to \$235.94 per month
- 8 yard (MSW): \$304.46 to \$355.01 per month

Published hauler rates provide the best cost comparison, because charges vary with container size, location, and the type of materials being collected. Inconsistent city contracting methods and strong competition in the region result in diverse hauling charges that are not comparable across cities, businesses, or residents.

Obtaining pricing from private-sector facilities is difficult. Contracts are negotiated between the facility and their customers and it is considered private information. Contract pricing varies based on volume, location, and other factors. MSW land disposal facilities located in Dakota County allow for public drop-off of waste and are required to post a non-contract per ton fee or “gate rate.”

Pricing and rebates at the recycling facilities vary, in part, because the recycling markets vary. Pricing also depends on other factors, including whether the waste is from residential or business generators, composition of the materials, and the cleanliness of the materials. Contracts are negotiated between the recycling facility and the waste hauler and are not considered public information.

Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 473.848, Dakota County’s Resource Management contract requires the hauler to deliver trash generated from county libraries, service centers and parks to the Red Wing Waste Campus for waste processing. The 2024 tip fee at the Red Wing Waste Campus is \$118 per ton plus 17 percent Minnesota Solid Waste Management Tax. In addition, trash collected under city collection contracts in Farmington and Hastings is delivered to the Red Wing Waste Campus.

Table 4 identifies reported rates for facilities that accept Dakota County waste for disposal. Rates were gathered from annual reports to the MPCA or reported by facility staff to Dakota County.

Table 4: Fees for Facilities that Accept Dakota County Waste

Facility	Waste Type	Average Rate Per Ton	Source
Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Burnsville	MSW	\$78.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Burnsville	Demo	\$78.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
Elk River Landfill, Elk River	MSW	\$220.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
Elk River Landfill, Elk River	Demo	\$130.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
Frattalone’s Dawnway Landfill, Inver Grove Heights	Demo	\$8.47/CY*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill, Inver Grove Heights	MSW	\$63.79*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
WM Empire Transfer Station	MSW Transfer	\$138.00	Waste Management, Inc. (2023)



Facility	Waste Type	Average Rate Per Ton	Source
SKB Rosemount Industrial and Demolition Landfill, Rosemount	Demo	\$75.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
SKB Rosemount Industrial and Demolition Landfill, Rosemount	Industrial	\$75.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
SKB Rosemount Industrial and Demolition Landfill, Rosemount	MSW Ash	\$105.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)
WM Empire SSOM Compost	SSOM	\$75.00	Waste Management, Inc. (2023)
Spruce Ridge Landfill, Glencoe	MSW	\$75.00*	Annual Report to MPCA (2023)

*Rates reported in the “average tip fee” column in Annual Reports submitted by the facility to the MPCA.

G. Waste Management Facilities

1. Waste Flow

Unless directed by the waste generator to a particular facility for processing or disposal, waste haulers determine where to deliver collected waste – to a recycling, organics, yard waste, resource recovery, or land disposal facility – based on a variety of factors, including the type of material collected, facility distance, tip fees, contracts, state law or permit conditions, and whether a facility is owned by a competitor or waste hauler’s company. Dakota County does not own or operate waste management facilities. It is anticipated that haulers will continue to select and deliver waste to the following existing facilities and to new facilities as business decisions are made.

2. Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)

Residential and business recyclables are delivered to MRFs (recycling facilities) in and outside of the county. Two recycling facilities located in Dakota County accept recyclables from haulers across the Region.

Table 5: Licensed Material Recovery Facilities in Dakota County

Material Recovery Facility	Owner
Allied Recyclery, Inver Grove Heights	Republic Services, Inc.
Recycle Minnesota, Lakeville	Recycle Minnesota, LLC

Allied Recyclery: The MRF was constructed in 1991 to manage recyclables collected from Republic Services and other waste haulers. The MRF was one of the region’s first private facilities designed specifically for recyclables. Now owned by Republic Services, Inc., it is located in Inver Grove Heights next to Republic’s Pine Bend MSW landfill. The MRF has been adapted over time to accommodate changes in recyclable sorting systems. The facility’s capacity is estimated at 6,000 tons of recyclables per month.

Recycle Minnesota: Recycle Minnesota, located in Lakeville, received a permit-by-rule from the MPCA and were first licensed by Dakota County in 2014. Recycle Minnesota has a permitted capacity of up to 200 tons per day and accepts less than 100 tons per day of residential, single-stream recyclables and less than 50 tons per day of old corrugated cardboard.

3. Organics Management Facilities

Organics recovery consists of food waste managed as food-to-people, food-for-livestock, source-separated organics composting, and yard waste.

Food-to-People: Food rescue for human use is poorly documented. A concerted effort will be made to improve data tracking methods for organics diversion through food rescue.



Food-to-Livestock: Without private-sector facility expansion (i.e., ReConserve), food recovery for conversion into livestock feed might not have the same expansion potential as source-separated organics composting. ReConserve, located in Dakota County, is the only facility serving the region and is often at capacity. Direct food-to-hogs programs have been used by schools and businesses in Dakota County, although the major hog operations that accept food waste are in the north Metro, distant from Dakota County.

Source-Separated Organics Composting: Organics programs are developing across Dakota County with significant interest in collecting source-separated organics from residents and in schools; and at large food-producing establishments, such as grocery stores and restaurants.

Yard Waste: Yard waste has increased substantially since Emerald Ash Borer was detected in the county in early 2015. Yard waste, not identified by county-of-origin, can be transferred into the county.

Residential and business organics are delivered to three commercial facilities in and outside of Dakota County. The three active facilities are used by haulers from across the region.

Table 6: Licensed Organics Recovery Facilities in Dakota County

Organics Management Facility	Owner
Reconserve of Minnesota, Rosemount	ReConserve of Minnesota, Inc.
WM Empire SSOM Compost, Empire	Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc.

Reconserve of Minnesota: Located in Rosemount, the facility was first licensed by the county in 1998 to recycle food waste and other organic materials into an adjunct ingredient sold in bulk to the livestock feed industry. The facility is licensed to accept 200 to 300 tons of food waste per day (no meat or meat by-products). This is the only food-to-livestock facility serving the region and is often at capacity.

WM Empire SSOM Compost: This facility is on county-owned land in the City of Empire that the county has leased to SET for organics composting since 2002. The County Board recently authorized a five-year lease extension with possible extensions available through June 2037. This facility is permitted as a source-separated organic materials (SSOM) compost facility, a solid waste transfer and processing building, and a yard waste composting facility. The compost facility is permitted to accept 300 tons per day (tpd) of material (150 tpd of SSOM and 150 tpd of yard waste). In 2023, the facility accepted 1,632 tons of SSOM.

Although not in Dakota County, in 2023, SSOM from the county was delivered to the Mdewakanton Sioux facility (929 tons).

4. Yard Waste Facilities

Residential and business yard waste is delivered to yard waste facilities in and outside of the county. Five yard waste compost facilities are licensed in Dakota County.

Table 7: Licensed Yard Waste Compost Facilities in Dakota County

Yard Waste Facility	Owner
B & D Composting, Greenvale Township	B&D Composting
Gertens RES Yard Waste Compost Facility, Eagan	Gertens Greenhouse & Garden Center, Inc.
South St. Paul Yard Waste Compost Facility, South St. Paul	City of South St. Paul
WM Empire Yardwaste Compost, Empire	Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc.
WM Burnsville, Burnsville	Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc.

B & D Composting: This facility has operated since 1996 in Greenvale Township. B & D manages yard waste, brush, and tree waste, and is licensed to receive up to 20,000 cubic yards per year. In 2023, it accepted 18,758 tons of Dakota County yard waste. Yard waste compost is sold to the public and tree waste is sawed for lumber, cut for firewood, ground for mulch, or sold to District Energy in St. Paul for fuel.



Gertens RES Yard Waste Compost Facility: Gertens Garden Center operates a yard waste compost facility on land owned by Gopher Resource Corporation. Gertens purchased an adjacent parcel in 2016 from the City of Egan, with plans to relocate its composting operations. The facility is licensed to accept greater than 40,000 cubic yards of yard waste per year, and in 2023 accepted 11,242 tons of Dakota County yard waste. The facility accepts yard waste that is loose or is in compostable bags, prunings, brush and tree waste. End-products include yard-waste compost, blended soils, and wood mulches.

South St. Paul Yard Waste Compost Facility: This small, city-owned and operated facility accepts only de-bagged yard waste or yard waste in paper bags. Brush or tree waste is not accepted. Residency is not required to drop off yard waste. Capacity is 10,000 cubic yards per year and in 2023 it accepted 1,100 tons of Dakota County yard waste. The facility generates 1,000 cubic yards of yard waste compost per year, offered to the public at no cost.

WM Empire Yardwaste Compost: This facility is located in Empire on county-owned land. All types of yard waste in compostable bags and loose material are accepted. Its county-licensed capacity is greater than 40,000 cubic yards per year and in 2023, it accepted 32,503 tons of Dakota County yard waste. The facility is also permitted by the state to accept 300 tons per day (tpd) of material, including 150 tpd of source-separated organic materials (SSOM) and 150 tpd of yard waste. End-products available for sale include compost, blended soils and several kinds of landscape mulches.

WM Burnsville: This facility has an annual capacity greater than 40,000 cubic yards and accepted 25,092 tons of Dakota County yard waste in 2023. Grass and leaves must be in compostable bags or reusable containers. The facility also accepts tree and brush waste. End-products include yard waste compost, blended soils, wood chips, and several kinds of landscape mulches.

5. Resource Recovery Facilities

Three resource recovery facilities serve the region, although none are located in Dakota County and not all can or will accept waste generated in Dakota County.

The Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC): The HERC is located in Minneapolis and uses a mass-burn technology, producing energy for district heating and electricity. Hennepin County owns the facility and contracts for operations. The facility's permit capacity is 365,000 tons annually. HERC capacity is typically filled with Hennepin County waste; however, 2023 reports indicate 256 tons of Dakota County-generated waste was delivered to HERC.

The Recycling and Energy Center: The Recycling and Energy Center is a refuse-derived fuel (RDF) facility now owned by Ramsey and Washington Counties and operated by their contractor. The facility is in Newport and is managed by the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board. MSW is delivered, shredded, and separated into three waste streams: RDF, recyclable metal, and residue. RDF is burned to generate electricity at Xcel Energy power plants in Red Wing and Mankato. Metals are recycled, and residue is landfilled. Permitted capacity is 500,000 tons per year. In 2023, 335 tons of Dakota County-generated waste was delivered to the facility.

Red Wing Waste Campus: The Red Wing Waste Campus is an RDF facility owned and operated by the City of Red Wing. Waste is sorted into RDF, recyclable metal, and residue. RDF is burned to generate electricity at Xcel Energy's power plant in Red Wing. The city's permitted capacity is 36,000 tons annually. In 2023, 11,372 tons of Dakota County-generated waste was delivered to this facility.

6. MSW Land Disposal Facilities

Residential and business waste is delivered to MSW land disposal facilities in and outside of the county. Seven landfills receive TCMA waste with a collective capacity of 10.2 million cubic yards. Two MSW landfills serving the region are located in Dakota County. Both operate methane gas-to-energy systems.



Table 8: Licensed MSW Landfills in Dakota County

MSW Landfill Facility	Owner
Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Burnsville	Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Inc.
Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill, Inver Grove Heights	Republic Services, Inc.

Burnsville Sanitary Landfill: This landfill is in a commercial area in northwest Burnsville, and is owned by Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc. The landfill was first permitted by the MPCA in 1971. In 2022, 24.2 million cubic yards of capacity remained with an estimated life span of 2072. In 2023, 117,906 tons of Dakota County-generated waste was delivered to this landfill.

Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill: This landfill in Inver Grove Heights is owned by Republic Services, Inc./BFI Waste Systems of North America, LLC., and was originally permitted in 1971. The landfill is currently permitted at 29.8 million cubic yards of air space. At the end of 2022, 3.5 million cubic yards of airspace remained, and it is estimated that landfill capacity will be consumed by 2030 - at current use rates and a permit capacity of 29.8 million cubic yards. Pine Bend is pursuing an 8,185,000 cubic yard expansion that will extend the life to about 2048 if approved. In 2023, 82,099 tons of Dakota County-generated MSW was delivered to this landfill.

In 2023, Dakota County-generated waste was also delivered to out-of-county landfills including Waste Management, Inc. Elk River Landfill in Sherburne County (379 tons) and the Advanced Disposal Seven Mile Creek Landfill in Eau Claire, Wisconsin (2,407 tons).

7. Non-MSW Land Disposal Facilities

The TCMA is served by nine Non-MSW landfills. Five Non-MSW landfills in Dakota County accept construction, demolition, and industrial wastes from generators in and outside of the county. The two MSW landfills in the county also accept non-MSW, generally industrial waste and contaminated soil within the MSW cells.

Table 9: Licensed Non-MSW Landfills in Dakota County

Non-MSW Landfill Facility	Owner
Burnsville Demolition and Construction Landfill, Burnsville	Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Inc.
Frattalone’s Dawnway Demolition Landfill, Inver Grove Heights	Frattalone Companies
Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill, Inver Grove Heights	Republic Services, Inc.
SKB Rich Valley Demolition Landfill, Inver Grove Heights	SKB Environmental, Inc.
SKB Rosemount Industrial and Demolition Landfill, Rosemount	SKB Environmental, Inc.

Burnsville Demolition and Construction Landfill: This landfill is located in Burnsville and owned by Burnsville Sanitary Landfill, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Waste Management Inc. The construction and demolition waste cell is within the footprint of the Burnsville Sanitary Landfill. In 2022, the cell had a capacity of 2.75 million cubic yards and an estimated life of approximately ninety years. This facility is currently inactive.

Frattalone’s Dawnway Demolition Landfill: This landfill is a 51-acre facility on the border between Inver Grove Heights and South St Paul, within the footprint of a pre-existing sand and gravel pit that closed in 1980. The facility accepts demolition debris waste materials. No industrial waste is accepted. Originally developed to accept waste only from its owner, the landfill now accepts wastes from pre-screened contractors. In 2022, the landfill had a total capacity for construction and demolition waste of 1.33million cubic yards and remaining facility life is estimated at about seven years.

Pine Bend Sanitary Landfill: See description in previous section.

SKB Rich Valley Demolition Landfill: The landfill is in the City of Inver Grove Heights on property owned by SKB Environmental, Inc. The facility accepts only construction and demolition wastes but is currently inactive as operations were consolidated by SKB at the nearby Rosemount facility. In 2007, an expansion of the landfill was approved, but has not yet been fully constructed. In 2022, the landfill had a total capacity for construction and demolition waste of 2.3 million cubic yards and remaining facility life is estimated at nineteen years.



SKB Rosemount Industrial and Demolition Landfill: The landfill is located in Rosemount and accepts industrial waste, MSW incinerator ash, and demolition waste. The landfill was originally permitted to accept only industrial waste in 1992. In 1998 the MPCA permitted the acceptance of MSW incinerator ash at the landfill. In 2003 the MPCA approved a major modification to the facility for disposing of construction and demolition debris. A 2008 landfill expansion significantly increased demolition and industrial capacity. In 2022, the facility had a capacity of 13.9 million cubic yards for construction and demolition waste and industrial waste; and 1.3 million cubic yards for MSW incinerator ash. Remaining facility life estimates are four years for construction and demolition waste and industrial waste, and sixteen years for incinerator ash.

8. Non-MSW Processing Facilities

Two licensed Non-MSW processing facilities located in Dakota County receive TCMA waste.

Table 10: Licensed Non-MSW Processing Facilities in Dakota County

Non-MSW Processing Facility	Owner
Gem-Ash/SKB Rosemount Solid Waste Processing, Inver Grove Heights	SKB Environmental, Inc.
SKB Rosemount Processing, Rosemount	SKB Environmental, Inc.
Dakota Wood Grinding, Coates	Dakota Wood Grinding, Inc.
Dunham Brothers Shavings, Lakeville	Dunham Brothers Shavings Co., Inc.

Gem-Ash/SKB Rosemount Solid Waste Processing: This facility was licensed in 2014 to operate an ash recycling facility. The facility processes municipal solid waste incinerator ash and separates ferrous and non-ferrous metals for recycling. In 2023, the facility marketed 2,688 tons of ferrous metals and 3,913 tons of non-ferrous metals.

SKB Rosemount Processing: This facility is a multi-operational solid waste facility licensed for waste processing. The landfill sorts out recyclable metals, clean wood, and concrete and processes waste shingle materials (market dependent) from the construction and demolition wastes. Metals are also sorted and recycled from the MSW incinerator ash cell. In 2023, the facility recycled 14,773 tons of metals and 8,469 tons of concrete.

Dakota Wood Grinding: This facility was licensed in 2021 to operate a wood waste processing facility. The facility processes wood waste to be used as a biofuel at District Energy St Paul; providing heat and steam to downtown St. Paul.

Dunham Brothers Shavings: This facility was licensed in 1997 to operate a wood waste processing facility. The facility primarily processes untreated waste wood pallets into animal bedding used at farms and facilities in the Metro and beyond.

9. Hazardous Waste and Problem Materials Facility

The Recycling Zone opened in 1997 and provides a year-round location for residents to drop off recyclables, household hazardous waste, and problem materials and for businesses a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) program by appointment.

Table 11: Licensed HHW Facilities in Dakota County

HHW Facility	Owner
The Recycling Zone, Eagan	Gopher Resource Corporation

Dakota County contracts with Gopher Resource, LLC (Gopher), to provide the site, facility, and most on-site labor. Since 1997, the County Board has approved contracts for services at the Gopher facility. In 2023, a five-year contract extension was executed with Gopher, extending operation through 2028. The contract includes:

- Thirty-six hours per week for residential HHW and recyclables drop-off, including two evenings.



- Facility rental space of 9,850 square feet.
- Recyclables drop-off for residents including mixed containers, mixed paper/cardboard, and scrap metal.
- HHW, electronics and problem materials drop-off.
- Dakota County is responsible for costs relating to collection, disposal, recycling, labor, supplies, and facility rental.
- Gopher increased fulltime staffing (2024) to manage the increased participation and waste. Gopher staff sort, pack, and store materials on-site until shipped to disposal and recycling facilities.

Dakota County maintains separate contracts with hazardous waste and problem material management companies to provide for proper recycling or disposal of materials collected at The Recycling Zone. Dakota County oversees the operations at The Recycling Zone and the management company contracts. To better serve the needs of residents and businesses, Dakota County is:

- A PaintCare collection site for residents and businesses to dispose of latex and oil-based paint (2015).
- Continues to expand the list of materials collected.
- Offers a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) collection program to businesses.

In 2017, Dakota County staff conducted a needs assessment for countywide maintenance facilities, including whether a future maintenance facility could include a second HHW drop off facility. Findings indicated The Recycling Zone services and facility use are not compatible to share a site with county maintenance facilities. An independent assessment will be conducted to determine near-term needs and plan for future growth in the county.

Planning for a second household hazardous waste site

In 2021, Dakota County received two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in state funding for Phase I design and property acquisition. Dakota County purchased property in Lakeville for the proposed new regional household hazardous waste and recycling drop-off facility. Dakota County and Scott County entered into a Joint Powers Agreement in 2024 for the design and construction of the new Recycling Zone Plus. Dakota County was not successful in requests to the Minnesota Legislature for eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) for Phase II of the project for facility construction for Capital Assistance Program (CAP) funding in 2020, 2023, or 2024, but will seek funding again in 2025. The project has been postponed until Phase II funding has been granted.

Appendix B: Management Plan Development

Dakota County initiated its Plan revision process in 2023 to prepare for the anticipated release of a new Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan (Policy Plan). The planning process included three technical phases (research, draft Plan development, and Plan review and adoption), with comprehensive stakeholder engagement throughout.

The Plan was prepared by Dakota County Environmental Resources and Planning Department staff with assistance from the Dakota County Planning Commission. Because Dakota County transitioned to a County Manager system in 2014, the Dakota County Board itself performs the duties and exercises the powers required of a solid waste management advisory committee under Minn. Stat. § 473.803.

Dakota County Planning Commission (Commission): The County Board appoints two members from each County Commissioner district to the 14-member citizen advisory committee. The Commission is charged with reviewing environmental and natural resources proposals and making recommendations to the County Board. The Commission meets monthly and meetings are open to the public. The Commission was engaged on the Plan revision. On September 26, 2024, staff requested Commission recommendation to the County Board on submittal of the draft Plan to the MPCA for review and approval.

Dakota County Board of Commissioners (County Board): The County Board is a seven-member Board, elected by residents in each commissioner district to establish county policy and funding for services. Written updates and presentations were provided to the Board throughout the Plan development process. Board meetings were open to the public and were attended by representatives from the MPCA.

A. Research Phase

1. Studies

Dakota County conducted the following studies on waste management issues and barriers to inform the development of the Plan:

a. Residential Reuse Behavior (Dakota County – Problosky Research, 2023)

Description: Statistically significant residential survey of residents' reuse knowledge and behavior to understand perceived and actual barriers to reducing waste at home.

Summary of findings:

- The vast majority, 95 percent of residents, say that it is important to recycle at home.
- In the last year 92 percent of respondents recycled household items, 76 percent used a refillable container for water, and 71 percent used a reusable bag while shopping.
- The most common phrase for respondents to use when describing secondhand goods is “used,” but the most desirable term was “gently-used.”
- There is high interest in both donating and buying second-hand goods, and most (95 percent) are aware of a store near them that sells second-hand goods.
- The biggest motivation listed by respondents for purchasing second-hand goods was that the items are cheaper.
- For respondents who don't purchase second-hand goods the most significant reasons for not doing so are safety/hygiene concerns and lack of choice in second-hand goods.
- The most common goods to donate (in order) are clothing, footwear, books, and household goods and the items that respondents would be most comfortable receiving or buying (in order) are books, household goods, clothing, and bikes.



- Compared to other types of items asked about, respondents were more likely to be willing to use national online reselling sites or social media for clothes. Trends were very similar among different types of appliances and tools, with the majority preferring to use local online exchanges or garage sales.

b. Residential Organics Collection Options in Dakota County (Dakota County – SCS Engineers, 2024)

Description: Overview and analysis of the economics, environmental impacts, and potential diversion rates for residential curbside organics (food scraps) collection systems within the county and recommendations for the county to develop one or more of the options identified.

Summary of findings:

- Organized weekly curbside organics collection using a separate dedicated cart with organized every-other-week trash collection provides the overall best annual performance in terms of costs, food waste diversion, emissions reduction, road miles and collection trucks needed.
- Co-collecting organics with trash is not currently available to Dakota County, and use of the Recycling and Energy Center (REC) in Newport for sorting is reserved for waste from Ramsey and Washington counties. Co-collecting organics with trash in Dakota County would require significant investment in a new waste sortation capacity able to recover co-collected organics from durable compostable bags.
- Everyone pays for organics collection services, whether they participate in the service or not. This 2023 determination by the MPCA clarified that residents cannot be billed more to participate in recycling (including source separated organics materials) than residents who do not recycle (Minn. Stat. § 115A.93.3c).
- There are currently 38 curbside organics collections programs in Minnesota. Of these programs, 71 percent have separate cart collection and 52 percent are in an organized hauling market where the municipality manages, contracts and coordinates residential curbside collection.

c. Wood Waste Study (Dakota County Office of Performance and Analysis, 2024)

Description: Information about wood waste management in Dakota County

Summary of findings:

- The study documents the regulations related to wood waste management, the volume of wood waste from sources around the county, where the wood is going for disposal or reuse, and how the municipalities within Dakota County are currently handling wood waste.
- Recommendations include: (1) publish more information and resources for tree contractors and residents on Dakota County’s website, (2) as feasible, divert larger wood products to local wood reclamation retailers, and smaller pieces such as undyed mulch to garden centers, (3) consider expanded use of on-site biochar kilns and use of finished biochar, and (4) look into feasibility/appropriateness of possible new regulations, such as banning open burning by commercial entities and licensing certain wood waste management companies to help determine inventory and amounts managed.

d. Compost Utilization Study (Dakota County Office of Performance and Analysis, 2024)

Description: Information about compost utilization in Dakota County and the region

Summary of findings:

- The study documents compost utilization in landscape, transportation, and other projects, compost utilization within the TCMA, existing county and external municipal guidelines and policies, and best practices.
- Recommendations include: (1) collaborate with regional municipalities and the Minnesota Composting Council (MNCC) to develop guidance on the utilization of compost in earth works projects, (2) utilize soil testing to help determine which projects will benefit most from application of compost, (3) incorporate Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Grade 2 compost in Dakota County earth works

projects, (4) model county policy on leading State and local standards, and (5) address financial and other resource barriers to compost application in county earth works projects.

County staff also gathered additional information on regional lending libraries, regional reuse organizations, food waste prevention policies by state, opportunities and barriers to expand reuse stores in Dakota County, commercial recycling in Hastings, biochar initiatives in Dakota County and statewide, and regional building materials reuse organizations, services, and grant programs.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement during the research phase of the Plan update focused on identification of solid waste management issues, barriers, and solutions, including the new strategy topics presented in the draft Policy Plan.

Round 1 of public engagement (September 2023 – mid-October 2023) included audience-specific online surveys (available in English, Spanish, Russian and Somali for residents), meetings with waste industry and public entities, and intercepts (staffed events and unstaffed interactive displays). Table 12 summarizes participation counts (green), engagement methods (pink) and outreach (orange) used for each stakeholder group.

Table 12: Round One Participation, Engagement Type, and Outreach Methods By Stakeholder Group

Audience	Number Participating	Online Survey	Intercepts	Meetings	Newsletters, Emails	Social Media	Project Webpage
Residents	897	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Businesses and Schools	15	◆			◆		◆
Public Entities	23	◆		◆	◆		◆
Waste Industry	11	◆		◆	◆		◆
Food Rescue	-	◆		Offered	◆		◆
Deconstruction	3	◆		Offered	◆		◆
Reuse	2	◆		Offered	◆		◆
Tree Waste	4	◆		Offered	◆		◆

Nearly 1,000 stakeholders collectively identified the following barriers and opportunities:

- More frequent and clearer information is needed to ensure that resources are not being landfilled and waste is managed in environmentally beneficial ways.
- Convenient and cost-effective approaches can help motivate increased reuse and recycling of non-traditional items (e.g., mattresses, building materials).
- There is interest in curbside organics collection, although concerns included odors, pests, and educational needs to prevent contamination.
- Greater manufacturer and producer responsibility is needed to make more sustainable products and packaging, that are repairable, reusable, and recyclable.
- Information and assistance is needed to increase sustainable management of reusable building materials (e.g., construction materials and fixtures).
- There is a widespread lack of knowledge on proper care of trees to prevent wood waste and management of wood waste from diseased trees.

Results of stakeholder input were published on the county’s website and shared with stakeholders, the Planning Commission, the County Board, and used to develop potential strategies.

B. Draft Plan Development Phase

Policy Plan requirements and comprehensive stakeholder engagement informed selection of strategies.

1. Strategy Selection

The Policy Plan format allowed TCMA counties to select from a list of required and optional strategies. All 32 Policy Plan required strategies are included in this Plan. The 12 selected Policy Plan optional strategies in the county’s draft plan total 82 points, exceeding the required 75-point minimum. Optional strategies were selected that 1) align with the existing 2018-2038 Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan implementation efforts (i.e., county initiatives currently ongoing) or 2) align with public findings from stakeholder engagement (Fall 2023, Spring 2024).

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Round 2 of public engagement (April 1 - 21, 2024) collected feedback on potential waste management strategies selected from the Policy Plan and included online (non-scientific) surveys for residents, businesses, and schools (in English and Spanish), two intercept events with Latino residents to collect survey responses in person, one in-person focus group with Latino residents, meetings with waste industry and public entities. Stakeholders were asked about their support for specific strategies to help prioritize strategy selection and about preferences and potential resource needs that could facilitate successful strategy implementation.

Table 13: Round Two Participation and Engagement Methods by Stakeholder Group

Audience	Number of Participants	Online Survey	Intercepts	Meetings/ Focus Group
Residents	1,326	Yes	Yes	Yes
Businesses and Schools	24	Yes	-	-
Public Entities	19	-	-	Yes
Waste Industry	9	-	-	Yes

More than 1,300 stakeholders provided input:

Residents rated the following actions as moderately to very helpful:

- More frequent education on recycling, organics (food scrap) collection, and reuse.
- Hauler feedback when materials are sorted incorrectly.
- Organics curbside collection available within three years, collected with weekly trash pickup.
- Curbside collection of reusable items, and more reuse drop-off options.
- Information about funding for diseased tree removals; options for tree waste drop-off; information on tree disease prevention.

Businesses and schools rated the following actions as moderately to very helpful:

- Frequent education on recycling, organics collection, and reuse options.
- Hauler feedback when materials are sorted incorrectly.
- Funding and technical assistance for recycling, food scrap management, and waste reduction and reuse; training for employees and tenants.

Municipalities identified actions to facilitate strategy implementation:

- Frequent education on food scrap collection, reuse, and trees waste.
- Technical assistance and information to help reduce waste; funding for waste reduction and equipment/infrastructure such as dishwashers and reusable service ware.
- Regarding curbside organics collection, opt-in resident participation for curbside organics collection with educational messaging focused on “food scraps;” minimize the number of organics trucks on the roads; expanded drop sites to provide multifamily residents options; and options to minimize costs on low-income residents.



- Promote tree care options; consider more disposal options for tree waste.
- Information about vendors available to reuse building materials and assistance for event/swap costs.

Waste Industry representatives identified actions to facilitate strategy implementation:

- More education on proper disposal of food scraps, tree waste, recyclable materials, and hazardous waste, especially lithium-ion batteries as a fire hazard.
- Provide pre-curbside organics program resident notification, promote opt-in participation, and provide educational messaging focused on “food scraps;” maintain organics drop-off sites; and some identified consideration of organized collection for more efficient and cost-effective organics curbside collection.
- More discussion in needed on approaches to implement the MPCA’s required pre-processing and disposal facilities; residents and businesses need to be responsible for improved sorting of their recyclables.

Stakeholder input was used to further refine potential strategies and their implementation. Findings were published on the county’s website and shared with stakeholders and the County Board.

An update on the Plan revision was presented at the May 25, 2024, Dakota County Managers/Administrators meeting to gather input from municipal leadership for further refinement on strategies and their implementation.

C. Plan Review and Adoption Phase

The draft Plan was presented to the Dakota County Physical Development Committee of the Whole on July 23, 2024, with a recommendation for a 21-day public review and comment period.

The public review and comment period was conducted from August 1 through August 21, 2024. Residents, businesses, schools, and waste industry representatives were invited to comment by email at wasteless@co.dakota.mn.us, mail or in person. Comments were requested using a variety of promotions, including:

- County website
- Press release
- E-newsletters (Residential, Haulers, Businesses, Parks, Recycling Ambassadors, Schools, Multifamily, Fix-it Clinic, and Organics Drop Sites)
- Social media platforms
- Emails to haulers and facilities, city administrators and recycling staff, rural city and township contacts, reuse organizations, food rescue organizations, tree waste organizations, and deconstruction organizations.

Staff also invited public comment at a display table in the Natural Resources building at the Dakota County Fair on August 9 and 10, 2024. Several dozen visitors stopped to talk about the Plan update and waste-related topics.

Twenty-two individuals representing the viewpoints of residents, municipalities, schools, and waste industry submitted written comments on the draft Plan. County staff considered all public comments and provided recommended revisions to the County Planning Commission on September 26, 2024, and the Dakota County Physical Development Committee of the Whole in September on October 22, 2024, with a recommendation for to submit the Plan to the MPCA for agency review and approval.

The County Board adopted the MPCA-approved Plan on [insert date], Resolution [insert resolution #].



Appendix C: Environmental Justice: Review And Framework for Plan Implementation

A. Background

The Policy Plan requires counties to conduct an environmental justice review in developing their waste plans. The MPCA defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

The MPCA Policy Plan identifies potentially affected communities in areas of concern for environmental justice. This is defined by the MPCA as census tracts using data from the U.S. Census and American Community Survey and meet one or both demographic criteria. These two criteria are defined as:

- Total population of people of color greater than 40%
- At least 35% of people reported income less than 200% of the federal poverty level

B. Engagement During Plan Development

The county conducted an extensive stakeholder engagement process during the development of this Plan, including multi-lingual online surveys, phone surveys, workshops, and meetings. Engaging people through a variety of formats created better opportunities for stakeholders of all backgrounds to provide feedback on strategies during two rounds of public engagement (Fall 2023 and Spring 2024). The county will continue inclusive engagement efforts for strategy implementation.

Since Spanish is the most spoken language other than English in the county, with over 8,700 households speaking Spanish as their primary language and 2,238 of those households having limited English-speaking members, the county sought to engage and solicit feedback from Hispanic and Latino residents and Hispanic and Latino-owned or managed businesses. The county hired a communications and engagement consulting company to provide culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate engagement to receive feedback on the strategies. The consultant identified areas with the highest concentration of Hispanic and Latino residents in Dakota County as specific areas for engagement. Methods to engage this audience included online (non-scientific) surveys for residents, businesses, and schools, in English and Spanish, promoted through the following:

- County social media posts in Spanish.
- Paid print and online ads in Spanish (La Voz) and a paid online ad in Spanish (La Prensa).
- Utility bill inserts in English and Spanish were mailed to 3,204 households in Apple Valley to areas with high populations of Spanish speaking residents.
- Flyers in Spanish distributed at Open Door mobile food pantry event in South St. Paul.
- In-person intercepts (staffed information tables at existing events and venues) with Latino residents.

One in-person focus group was held with Latino residents of a mobile home community to gather feedback on how strategies in the Policy Plan could work in Dakota County and to identify resources needed for successful implementation.

C. Plan Implementation

For county Plan focus, the MPCA Policy Plan identified waste-related facilities in areas of concerns for environmental justice, based on potentially affected communities defined by the MPCA as census tracts using data from the U.S. Census and American Community Survey and meet one or both demographic criteria. These two criteria are defined as:

- Total population of people of color greater than 40%



- At least 35% of people reported income less than 200% of the federal poverty level

The MPCA chose these two criteria because “research indicates that people of color and low-income people are disproportionately exposed to pollution, and bear disproportionate health impacts from pollution, regardless of other population characteristics.”

The priority of the Plan is to ensure the proper management of waste to protect human health and the environment. The Plan also supports reducing waste and increasing recycling. The strategies in the Plan are intended to reduce the environmental impacts associated with waste.

- 1. Impact and Assessment:** Dakota County is home to waste management facilities. Implementing the strategies identified in the Plan will divert waste from landfills to recycling and organics recovery facilities. When considering license renewals or new license applications in areas of concern, the county will:
 - Identify facility types that warrant additional actions based on potential for adverse effects.
 - Increase civic engagement to ensure that everyone can provide comment, particularly in cases when public notice is required.
- 2. Impact review.** Dakota County will continue to license facilities to minimize impacts to the environment and human health. Dakota County does not exercise land use authority outside the shoreland/floodplain area but will encourage municipal partners to site facilities in locations that minimize impacts to the environment and human health.
- 3. Engagement.** Dakota County’s Solid Waste Management Plan policy, “Strive for just treatment, meaningful involvement, and equitable implementation of the Plan for all community members provides direction for an intentional and equitable approach as Plan strategies are implemented. The goal is an environment where all people enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to decision-making for a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. This approach follows a public health model of prevention to protect people, their communities and the natural environment.

The county will build on the inclusive engagement efforts conducted during Plan development for strategy implementation. As this Plan is implemented and programs, ordinances, and efforts are initiated, the county will work to be intentional about engaging all populations, including stakeholders living or working in MPCA-identified areas of concern. Several strategies in the Plan would directly benefit communities in areas of concern for environmental justice. For example, the Plan includes strategies to provide resources to improve multi-unit dwelling recycling, including for hard-to-recycle items like mattress, and access to organics recovery through expansion of strategic organics drop sites. These efforts can lead to reductions in illegal dumping, a concern sometimes in lower income communities. Additionally, the Plan includes a strategy to implement curbside organics collection with tactics to provide resources to remove barriers for residents to successfully participate in the program, including providing education in a variety of methods to be inclusive of all residents. The county will continue inclusive engagement efforts for effective strategy implementation.



Appendix D: Performance and Accountability

A. Evaluating Progress

Dakota County is committed to identifying performance measures to monitor and evaluate progress on strategies identified in the Plan. These metrics apply to all aspects of the solid waste management system described throughout this Plan. Performance measures are important to ensure ongoing program improvement and to evaluate progress in meeting Plan objectives. More detailed progress measures will also be specified in the county's annual work plans, implementation projects, and in ongoing process improvement efforts.

Dakota County is accountable to the MPCA for Plan development and advancement, but all stakeholders – including all levels of government, waste generators, and operators of the waste management system – are expected to participate and have accountability in implementing this Plan. Dakota County will continue to monitor compliance of regulated waste generators and the waste industry to measure Plan progress.

The MPCA's Policy Plan acknowledges that the complexity of the TCMA solid waste system makes it difficult to measure how MSW is managed according to the system objectives. Some data is more verifiable, such as the waste amounts delivered to waste facilities, because material is weighed, and records are kept. Other data is not easily measured, such as the amount of material recycled by commercial establishments. Statute requires the MPCA to evaluate SCORE data collection and management and to make recommendations to the Legislature for its improvement. Continued evaluations will improve the reliability of measurement tools used to assess progress in attaining the Policy Plan's TCMA objectives.

B. County Reporting Requirements

Progress updates will be submitted to the MPCA through annual reports required by State law. Counties share data to account for waste that crosses county lines and also obtain data for waste that is sent outside of the region or state to ensure that data is as complete as possible. Reports summarize trends, project and program outcomes, and activities over the course of the previous year, including relevant data to identify progress. Annual reports submitted to the MPCA include:

- **SCORE Report/Survey** is an annual report that gathers qualitative and quantitative on recycling rates, waste reduction efforts, waste management data and practices, finance, and administration. The county will submit the report by the required deadline each year.
- **Certification Report** is an annual solid waste resource recovery and land disposal report. The MPCA reviews the report for consistency with the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 473.848 and the Policy Plan. The county will annually submit the report by the required deadline each year.
- **Local Recycling Development Grant (LRDG) Report** is an accounting to the MPCA of how LRDG funds were used in county programs and efforts. The county will submit the report by the required deadline each year.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Report** provides the MPCA with data on the amount and type of HHW collected during the previous year. Financial data and the number of county and out-of-county households served are reported. The county will submit the report by the required deadline each year.
- **Annual Report** provides the MPCA with a progress report on Plan implementation, including timelines for implementation and partners involved. Information submitted includes work and activities completed and priorities planned for the following year. The county will submit the report annually by the required deadline.

C. County Oversight of the Private Sector, Municipalities, and Program Partners

The solid waste management system serving Dakota County is comprised of both public- and private-sector services. State law includes a preference for private-sector ownership and operation of solid waste facilities (Minn. Stat. §§ 473.803 and 115A.46). Therefore, the private sector (both public and not-for-profit



organizations) plays a critical role in carrying out solid waste functions within the county and directly influences the ability of the county to achieve Policy Plan objectives and meet statutory requirements.

Minn. Stat. § 473.803 indicates:

A county may include in its solid waste management master plan and in its plan for county land disposal abatement a determination that the private sector will achieve, either in part or in whole, the goals and requirements of sections § 473.149 and § 473.803, as long as the county:

(1) retains active oversight over the efforts of the private sector and monitors performance to ensure compliance with the law and the goals and standards in the metropolitan policy plan and the county master plan;

(2) continues to meet its responsibilities under the law for ensuring proper waste management, including, at a minimum, enforcing waste management law, providing waste education, promoting waste reduction, and providing its residents the opportunity to recycle waste materials; and

(3) continues to provide all required reports on the county's progress in meeting the waste management goals and standards of this chapter and chapter 115A.

The tools Dakota County uses to hold the private sector, municipalities, and program partners accountable include:

1. **Regulation** – through assuring compliance with county ordinances and, as appropriate, state laws that relate to solid waste management.
2. **Monitoring and reporting** – by gathering information from entities to monitor actions related to the solid waste system and Plan implementation.
3. **Contracts/Agreements** – through assuring compliance with voluntary agreements entered into between Dakota County and other entities.

The county implements oversight of the private sector providing waste management services, municipalities implementing waste abatement programs, and program partners receiving funding or services to implement projects through the following:

- **Solid waste facilities: license and reporting requirements.** All landfills, transfer stations, yard waste, and organics management facilities provide data on the amounts and types of waste they receive as part of their annual reports to the county. All waste management facilities in Dakota County are privately-owned. Through regulation and reporting requirements, facilities are accountable.
 - The county establishes and collects host fees from MSW landfills and to support landfill abatement programs.
 - Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requires licensing and reporting for all landfills, recycling facilities, special waste storage facilities, energy recovery facilities, transfer stations, infectious waste facilities, and compost facilities. It also requires all commercial generators to report recycling and municipal solid waste data.
 - All solid waste facilities are licensed to monitor compliance with environmental and public health requirements. Landfills, recycling facilities, and compost facilities are inspected for compliance. The county has authority to issue penalties for non-compliance.
 - Landfills and transfer stations report waste sources by municipality. Materials recovery facilities (for recyclables) report the amount of incoming waste and how much waste is separated for recycling. The county will update facility report forms, as necessary, to ensure relevant and accurate data is submitted.

Standard for approval of licenses and reports: The county will approve solid waste facility licenses and reports if they meet Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements.



Procedures:

- **Required License and Report:** The county will provide a license application and report forms and notify regulated facilities of license and reporting obligations and submittal deadlines, as specified in Dakota County Ordinance No. 110. The county provides the forms and instructions for completion.
 - **County Review and Approval:** The county will review and approve applications and reports if they are determined to be accurate and meet Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements. If applications or report forms are incomplete or inaccurate, the county will work with the facility on a complete submittal or can deny them.
- **Waste hauler license and reporting requirements:** Haulers must report the amount of residential and commercial recyclables hauled and the number of accounts that they serve, by city. Haulers are accountable to Plan objectives through Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 and licensing. Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 establishes standards for collection and transportation of solid waste and recyclable materials in the county. Standards include requirements for licensing, reporting, providing the opportunity to recycle, record keeping, collection fee structure, equipment and operations requirements, standardized customer education, standardized billing, and a prohibition for mixing MSW and source-separated recyclables. The county enforces Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 by licensing MSW haulers. The license requirement includes a checklist to report which recyclable materials each hauler accepts and the frequency of collection. The county provides the application form and instructions for completeness that outline the information and communicates to waste haulers on the required submittal dates. In addition, licensed haulers are required to report information about collection and processing of recyclable materials. Effective 2017, haulers report residential and commercial waste collection data directly to the MPCA. The county will work with the MPCA to ensure accurate data is submitted. In addition, Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 has long-required haulers to submit collection data to the county. County forms require the number of accounts per city and total tons collected by material. The residential form also collects the number of multifamily accounts. The county will monitor the ongoing need for haulers to continue to submit data directly to the county given the change in the MPCA collection of hauler data. Licensing and reporting holds haulers accountable for Plan objectives to implement recycling programs.

Standard for approval of licenses and reports: The county will approve hazardous waste hauler licenses and reports if they meet Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 and regional hauler licensing requirements.

Procedures:

- **Required License and Report:** The county will collaborate with regional partners, as appropriate, to annually develop a license application and notify haulers of license and license obligations specified in Dakota Ordinance No. 110. The County will notify haulers of reporting obligations specified in Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 and will collaborate with the state to compare state and county data submitted by haulers. Application and report forms outline information and data that is required to be submitted.
 - **County Review and Approval:** The County will review and approve applications and reports if they are determined to be accurate. If applications or forms are incomplete or inaccurate, the County will work with the hauler to complete an accurate submittal or can deny the application/reports.
- **Hazardous waste generators and facilities: license and reporting requirements:** Regulated generators and facilities report the amount of waste generated and managed, sorted by hazard category, and waste type. Private-sector generators are accountable to Plan objectives based on their status as hazardous waste generators. Hazardous waste generators are accountable through Ordinance 111 which establishes standards based on generator size for training, licensing, generating, storing, processing, and managing hazardous waste in Dakota County. The County licenses, inspects, and trains hazardous waste generators and facilities. Licensing is renewed annually. Inspection and training frequency depends on size. Large and



small generators are inspected every year, very small quantity generators every two years, and minimal quantity generators every five years. Inspections and training requirements hold private-sector hazardous waste generators accountable for meeting Plan objectives for proper hazardous waste management.

Standard for approval of licenses and reports: The County will approve hazardous waste generator and facility licenses and reports if they meet Ordinance 111 requirements.

Procedures:

- **Required License and Report:** The County will annually provide a license application and report forms and notify generators and facilities of license and reporting obligations and submittal deadlines, as specified in Ordinance 111. Forms outline information and data that is required to be submitted.
 - **County Review and Approval:** The County will review and approve applications and reports if they are determined to be accurate. If applications or forms are incomplete or inaccurate, the County will work with the generator or facility to complete an accurate submittal or can deny the application/reports.
- **Solid waste generators: reporting requirements:** Regulated commercial generators (e.g., businesses) report the amount of waste generated and managed and waste type. Commercial solid waste generators are accountable through Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 which establishes standards for reporting and implementing recycling best practices (i.e., co-locating containers, collecting designated recyclables, labeling containers with standardized labels, training employees) and larger generators of organics must collect back-of-house food scraps following best practices. The County inspects commercial solid waste generators, prioritizing those that generate large volumes of food scraps.

Standard for approval of licenses and reports: The County will approve commercial solid waste generator reports if they meet Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements.

Procedures:

- **Required License and Report:** The County will annually provide a report form and notify generators of reporting obligations and submittal deadlines, as specified in Dakota County Ordinance No. 110. Forms outline information and data that is required to be submitted.
 - **County Review and Approval:** The County will review and approve reports if they are determined to be accurate. If forms are incomplete or inaccurate, the County will work with the generator to complete an accurate submittal or can deny the report.
- **Municipalities: reporting requirements**
 - a. **Community Waste Abatement Grant Program.** Municipalities in suburban areas report progress toward achieving waste abatement objectives and Plan requirements, in accordance with Community Waste Abatement Grant Program JPAs. Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requires all municipalities to have a solid waste abatement program in compliance with the Plan.

Community Waste Abatement Grant Program dollars are distributed to each suburban city based on annual work plans. To receive funds, suburban municipalities annually submit an application, work plan, and budget. Funds must be used for residential recycling programs, education and outreach, and priority issues indicated in the JPAs. Municipalities must submit a reports to the County with qualitative and quantitative measurements resulting from work plan projects and programs. Work plans focus on meeting several Plan objectives: outreach and education, recycling and other waste abatement activities. The Annual Report is used to measure performance. If a municipality fails to meet Dakota



County Ordinance No. 110 or JPA requirements the County can implement a program on the municipality's behalf, request the return of funds, or both.

An excerpt of Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 for a municipal solid waste abatement program is below:

16.01 MUNICIPALITY SOLID WASTE ABATEMENT PROGRAM.

- A. *Each municipality shall have a solid waste abatement program. Each municipality's program must:*
 - 1. *Be consistent with the County Solid Waste Master Plan; and*
 - 2. *Ensure the opportunity to recycle exists for all residents and commercial generators.*
 - 3. *Deliver solid waste abatement messaging as determined by the Department.*
 - 4. *Support the implementation of the County Solid Waste Master Plan.*
- B. *By January 1, 2021, each municipality with a population over 10,000 shall enact or modify and enforce an ordinance that must:*
 - 1. *Be consistent with and no less restrictive than this ordinance.*
 - 2. *Require property owners of multi-unit residential buildings to comply with section 16.03, except for 16.03 (A) (5).*
 - 3. *Require event sponsors, owners and operators of large event venues with organics to comply with section 16.05.*
- C. *If a municipality does not maintain a solid waste abatement program, the county may implement a solid waste abatement program in that municipality consistent with the county's solid waste master plan and this ordinance.*
- D. *The county may recover its costs for developing, implementing, and operating a solid waste abatement program including, but not limited to, administrative, monitoring and public education costs, from any municipality or group of municipalities, which does not maintain a solid waste abatement program. Costs may be pursued through a service charge established pursuant to Minn. Stat. §400.08 or through such other means deemed appropriate by the county board.*
- E. *Each municipality shall submit a completed annual report to the department on a form prescribed by the department by February 15 of the following year. Failure to submit a report shall be construed by the department as a failure on the part of the municipality to have a solid waste abatement program and shall be subject to sections 16.01(C) and 16.01(D).*

Standard for approval of funding and annual report: The County will approve the annual funding if grant agreement and Dakota County Ordinance No. 110 requirements are met, or if municipalities demonstrate progress toward grant agreement objectives, as documented in the required Final Report.

Procedures:

- **Required Report:** The County will annually provide a Final Report and notify municipalities of reporting obligations and reporting submittal deadlines, as outlined in the grant agreement. Forms will outline information and data that is required to be submitted.
- **County Review and Approval:** The County will review the Final Report to determine if the municipality has met grant agreement requirements. If the municipality fails to meet requirements, the County will notify the municipality and work with them to identify action steps to achieve grant agreement requirements. If the municipality continues to fail to make adequate progress, County



staff will discuss options with the municipality and the County Board for remedial actions that include implementing the program on behalf of the community, having the municipality return funding to the County, or both.

- b. Rural Solid Waste Abatement Grant Program.** The County provides funding to interested rural townships and the rural cities to implement local waste abatement projects and programs consistent with this Plan. Interested municipalities must enter into a grant agreement/contract with the county for funding.

Standards for approval of contracts: The Guidelines establish eligible items and funding amounts for activities (e.g., collections, resident education). The County will approve grant funding in application's if projects meet eligible activities and funding amounts identified in Guidelines.

Procedures:

- **Required Program Reports:** The contract requires that participating municipalities submit an annual application. Grant Guidelines establish eligible activities and funding. Funding is performance-based and uses a reimbursable model. Reimbursement must demonstrate proof of purchase and payment of County-approved items.
 - **County Review and Approval:** The County will review and approve the program forms to determine if they meet Guidelines and contract obligations. If they do not, and until any issues are resolved, the County will not issue reimbursement for project items.
- **School Waste Prevention and Recycling Grant Program: reporting requirements:** The County requires schools to enter into a grant agreement/contract with the County to participate in program to establish program roles and expectations. The agreement supports Plan goals to implement and document results of waste reduction and improved recycling (including organics recovery) actions.

Standards for approval of contracts: The contract establishes program eligibility and requirements to use County technical assistance to ensure schools follow best management practices (e.g., paired, labeled, color-coded bins, green teams, update internal policies) and measure waste diversion progress.

Procedures:

For the contract to be approved by the County for participation in the program, the school must agree to comply with agreement obligations. The County works closely with school participants to ensure program expectations are achieved. If they are not, the County can remove any waste management system infrastructure (e.g., recycling bins) provided by the County.

- **Multifamily Recycling Program: reporting requirements:** The County requires multifamily properties to enter into a contract with the County to participate in the Multifamily Recycling Program. The program provides recycling containers and other recycling and waste reduction equipment up to \$10,000 in value per location, along with free on-site technical assistance, labels, signage, and education for residents and staff. Program guidelines and contract language support Plan goals to implement and document results of recycling improvements. Guidelines establish funding eligibility, details on how the funding will be used, reporting requirements, and project plans.

Standards for approval of contracts and program report forms: For contracts to be approved by the County, waste abatement activities identified in the required County-developed application must be consistent with the program's guidelines and contract. Once the contract is approved for program



participation, program staff assist the multifamily property to ensure successful implementation of the contract activities.

Procedures:

- **Required Program Reports:** The contract requires that participating multifamily properties complete a final report that demonstrates fulfillment of the project plans outlined in the application and contract.
- **County Review and Approval:** The County will review and approve the program forms to determine if they meet program guidelines and contract obligations.

Agreements/contracts are used with the private sector to provide incentives to support Plan goals and establish mechanisms for reporting:

- **Business Recycling Incentive Program: reporting requirements:** The County requires businesses and organizations to enter into a contract with the County to participate in the Business Recycling Incentive Program. The program provides up to \$10,000 for eligible businesses subject for implementation of eligible activities identified in program guidelines. Program guidelines and contract language support Plan goals to implement and document results of waste reduction and improved recycling (including organics recovery). Guidelines establish funding eligibility, details on how the funding will be used, reporting requirements (e.g., Application, Baseline Report, Final Report), and requirements to use County technical assistance to ensure businesses follow best management practices (e.g., use standardized color-coded bins and labels). The County will reimburse the business for County-approved items identified in the contract, following proof of payment by the business.

Standards for approval of contracts and program report forms: For contracts and reports to be approved by the County, waste abatement activities identified in the required County-developed Application must be consistent with the program's Guidelines and Contract. Once the contract is approved for program participation, the business is required to submit reports to demonstrate diversion improvements in their waste management program.

Procedures:

- **Required Program Reports:** The contract requires that participating businesses complete a Baseline and Final Report and identifies the submittal timeline and report content requirements. Guidelines establish funding eligibility, details on how the funding will be used, reporting requirements, and project plans. Forms outline information and data that is required to be submitted. Baseline Reports require reporting on quantitative (pre-program trash and recycling volumes at the businesses) and qualitative measures (general awareness of recycling). The Final Report must be submitted within 12 months of program participation (when project is complete). In addition, for payment of County funds for items identified in the contract, the businesses must submit a Reimbursement Form that demonstrates proof of purchase and payment of County-approved items.
- **County Review and Approval:** The County will review and approve the program forms to determine if they meet Guidelines and contract obligations. If they do not, and until any issues are resolved, the County will not approve reports and will not issue reimbursement for project items purchased by the business.

The County will individually, and with state and regional partners, routinely evaluate aforementioned forms and related measurement requirements. The County will revise forms as necessary to ensure data is accurate and relevant and assist in reporting of Plan implementation.



Appendix E: Plan Strategies and Projected Implementation Timing

The tables below show the Plan strategies, planned implementation schedule and interested parties that may have a role to support strategy implementation. Projected timing is provided for each required and selected optional strategy from the Policy Plan and for each continuing county strategy. Strategy implementation timelines align with the general timelines identified in the Policy Plan.

Individual implementation and prioritization of strategies are subject to County Board approval through annual budgeting and work planning processes.

Table 14: Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan Strategies and Projected Implementation Timing

Improving the Reliability of the Data	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
1. Increase compliance with Hauler reporting per Minn. Stat. § 115A.93.	1	x			Ongoing	Haulers, industry, county staff
2. Provide required county reporting.	2	x			Ongoing	County staff
Selected Optional Strategies (7 points)						
3. Improve recycling data collection at businesses within the county. (7 points)	4				Ongoing	County staff, businesses
Education and Regional Planning	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
4. Participate in an annual joint commissioner/staff meeting on solid waste.	9			x	Annually	County staff and board
5. Commit to standardized outreach and education.	10	x			Ongoing	County staff, MRFs, residents
6. Engage in efficient and value-added infrastructure planning.	11	x			Ongoing	County staff, SW facility operators
7. Develop plans for large facility closures to reduce landfill reliance.	12			x	2029	County staff, SW facility operators
8. Participate with the Product Stewardship Committee under the Solid Waste Administrators Association (SWAA).	60	x			Ongoing	County staff
Continuing County Strategies						
9. Provide messages and education programs to all audiences using communication methods most effective for the intended audience.		x			Ongoing	County staff

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Waste Reduction and Reuse	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
10. Provide grants for or access to software that can track food waste.	13		x		2027	County staff, restaurants, cafeterias
11. Establish partnerships between food rescue organizations and restaurants/stores to increase food rescue.	14		x		2026	County staff, food rescue orgs, restaurants, grocery stores
12. Launch bi-annual sustainable consumption challenges for residents.	15		x		2025	County staff, residents
13. Implement a formal county sustainable purchasing policy using MPCA guidance.	16	x			Ongoing	County staff, vendors
14. Participate in Responsible Public Purchasing Council meetings.	17	x			Ongoing	County staff, MPCA
15. Offer grants or rebates for organizations to transition to reusable food and beverage service ware.	19		x		Ongoing	County staff, restaurants, organizations serving food
16. Offer grants for waste reduction, reuse, and repair.	20		x		2026	County staff, repair and reuse businesses
17. Implement a green meeting policy.	21	x			Ongoing	County staff
Selected Optional Strategies (27 points total)						
18. Work with health inspectors to educate restaurants and other establishments that have excess prepared food to donate. (7 points)	18			x	2025	County staff, MN Department of Health, restaurants and other food producers
19. Join and/or actively participate in a reuse network, like Reuse Minnesota, to provide county and city staff with learning opportunities to broaden their reuse expertise. (6 points)	24	x			Ongoing	County staff
20. Establish a Repair Ambassador program, like the Recycler/Composters (RCAs) Ambassador programs. (7 points)	25	x			Ongoing	County staff, residents
21. Establish a reuse location for residential drop-off and pick-up. (7 points)	26	x			Ongoing	County staff, residents
Continuing County Strategies						
22. Implement residential waste reduction and reuse programs and opportunities.		x			Ongoing	County staff, residents
23. Implement municipal, school and commercial waste reduction and reuse programs and opportunities.		x			Ongoing	County staff, municipalities, schools, businesses

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Recycling and Organics Management Strategies with Collection Best Practices	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
24. Collect recyclables, organics and trash on the same day.	30			x	2026	County staff, residents, haulers
25. Recruit a minimum of 12 commercial businesses a year to recycle at least three materials from their operations and promote the environmental and resource benefits.	35	x			Ongoing	County staff, businesses
26. Establish mandatory pre-processing of waste at resource recovery facilities and landfills by 2030.	36			x	By 2030	Haulers, landfill operators, transfer station operators
27. Provide assistance to multi-family properties to improve recycling.	37	x			Ongoing	County staff, property managers
28. Make residential curbside organics collection available in cities with a population greater than 5,000 by 2030.	40			x	By 2030	County staff, residents, haulers
29. Expand backyard composting outreach and resources for residents.	41		x		Ongoing	County staff, residents
30. Require management of organics from large commercial food generators by 2033.	42	x			Ongoing	County staff, commercial food generators
31. Require food-derived compost in county construction and landscaping projects.	55		x		2028	County staff, industry
Selected Optional Strategies (14 points)						
32. Collect recycling weekly by 2030. (7 points)	31	x			Ongoing	County staff, residents, haulers
33. Establish additional organics recycling drop off sites. (7 points)	43		x		Ongoing	County staff, residents
Continuing County Strategies						
34. Improve the consistency and accountability of waste materials collection.		x			Ongoing	County staff, waste industry, municipalities
35. Support the collection of household items that are challenging to recycle.		x			Ongoing	County staff, waste industry, municipalities
36. Ensure the opportunity to recycle.		x			Ongoing	County staff
37. Provide support to schools to improve recycling in their operations through the school recycling program.		x			Ongoing	County staff, schools
38. Implement recycling and organics diversion at venues.		x			Ongoing	County staff, municipalities, event coordinators
39. Provide organics recovery/diversion opportunities in County operations, including in public and employee areas.		x			Ongoing	County staff

Waste-to-Energy	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
40. Counties must continue to support the implementation of Minn. Stat. § 473.848 Restriction on Disposal.	58	x			Ongoing	County staff, industry, facility operators
Landfilling	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
41. Require waste composition study at least once every five years at all landfills that are located within your county.	3	X			2029	Landfill operators
Continuing County Strategies						
42. Regulate solid waste generators, haulers, facilities, generators to achieve compliance and protect public health and the environment, in accordance with County Ordinances.		x			Ongoing	County staff, waste generators, industry and facility operators
43. Regulate hazardous waste generators and facilities to protect public health and the environment, in accordance with County Ordinances.		x			Ongoing	County staff, generators
44. Provide opportunities to recycle and properly manage non-MSW that is banned from disposal.		x			Ongoing	County staff, residents
45. Regulate non-MSW haulers and facilities in accordance with County Ordinance.		x			Ongoing	County staff, haulers, facility operators
Household Hazardous Waste and Toxicity Reduction	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
46. Encourage retailers to increase consumer awareness of responsible end-of-life handling for products containing lithium-ion batteries.	61		x		2026	County staff, retail store operators
47. Continue participation in the reciprocal use agreement for HHW collection sites.	62	x			Ongoing	County staff, metro counties
48. Partner with cities to increase participation in HHW collection.	63		x		Ongoing	County staff, municipalities

Household Hazardous Waste and Toxicity Reduction	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Selected Optional Strategies (9 points)						
49. In partnership with Scott County, increase drop off opportunities for problem materials, hazardous waste management (HHW) and hazardous waste at a second permanent county facility by 2027. (9 points)	Alternative to 64		x		By 2029	MN Legislature, Dakota and Scott counties, residents
Continuing County Strategies						
50. Continue to provide year-round drop-off site (e.g., The Recycling Zone) to collect problem materials and hazardous and household hazardous waste from residents.		x			Ongoing	County staff, residents
Sustainable Building and Deconstruction	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
51. Implement the use of a Building Material Management Plan.	65		x		Ongoing	County staff, county contractors
Selected Optional Strategies (24 points)						
52. Host a building material collection event or swap. (8 points)	67			x	2027	County staff, residents, municipalities
53. Provide deconstruction training. (8 points)	69			x	2027	County staff, builders and contractors
Wood Waste	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Required Strategies						
54. Develop plans to prevent and manage wood waste in each county and throughout the region.	45			x	2025	County staff, yard waste processors, municipalities, tree care companies
55. Promote existing programs that use EAB-affected wood for furniture, home goods, flooring and other purposes.	46			x	2026	County staff, local artisans and producers of wood products
56. Composting and mulching operations must continue to be supported.	47	x			Through 2032	County staff, composting and mulching operators
Selected Optional Strategies (9 points)						
57. Expand composting and mulching capacity beyond existing markets. (5 points)	52		x		2027	County staff, industry

Cost and Finance	Policy Plan #	Continue	Expand	New	Projected Timing	Interested Parties
Selected Optional Strategies (4 points)						
58. Implement additional fees to better account for the externalities of land disposal. (4 points)	59		x		Ongoing	County staff, industry
Continuing County Strategies						
59. Collect and manage waste fees to implement waste management programs.		x			Ongoing	County staff, industry, generators
60. Provide performance-based grant funding and resources to municipalities to implement landfill abatement programs within their operations and in the community.		x			Ongoing	County staff, municipalities
61. Institute funding incentives to divert waste from landfill disposal.		x			Ongoing	County staff, generators, industry
62. Implement long-term revenue sources for landfill abatement programs that encourage waste diversion		x			Ongoing	County staff, generators, industry



Appendix F: Checklist of Statutory County Management Plan Requirements

Metropolitan counties are required by Minn. Stat. § 473.803 to submit a revised Plan to the MPCA for approval. Below is a list of statutorily required components and the location in the Plan where they are addressed.

Table 15: Checklist of Statutory County Plan Requirements and Location in the Dakota County Plan

STATE LAW COUNTY PLAN REQUIREMENTS	LOCATION IN DAKOTA COUNTY PLAN
<i>County Solid Waste Master Plan to implement the Policy Plan</i>	Part One: Introduction Section A: Introduction Section B: Plan Purpose and Framework Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section B: County Solid Waste Policies Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Section D: Implementation
<i>County solid waste activities, functions, and facilities</i>	Appendix A: Existing Waste Management System and County Programs Section A: Waste Management Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities Section E: Dakota County’s Waste Programs and Activities Section G: Waste Management Facilities
<i>Existing system of solid waste generation, collection, processing, and disposal</i>	Appendix A: Existing Waste Management System and County Programs Section C: Waste Projection and Composition Section D: Solid Waste Management in Dakota County Section E: Dakota County’s Waste Programs and Activities Section F: Collection and Transportation of Waste Section G: Waste Management Facilities
<i>Proposed mechanisms for complying with the recycling requirements of § 115A.551</i>	Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section B: County Solid Waste Policies Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Subsection 2: Education and Regional Planning Subsection 4. Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Subsection 7: Household Hazardous Waste and Toxicity Reduction Subsection 11. Landfilling
<i>Proposed mechanisms for the household hazardous waste management requirements of § 115A.96, subd. 6</i>	Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section B: County Solid Waste Policies Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Subsection 7. Household Hazardous Waste and Toxicity Reduction
<i>Existing and proposed county and municipal ordinances and license and permit requirements relating to solid waste facilities and solid waste generation, collection, processing, and disposal</i>	Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section B: County Solid Waste Policies Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Subsection 1. Improving the Reliability of the Data Subsection 2. Education and Regional Planning Subsection 4. Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Subsection 6. Landfilling Subsection 7. Household Hazardous Waste Subsection 9. Wood Waste Subsection 10. Cost and Finance Appendix A: Existing Waste Management System and County Programs Section A: Waste Management Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities Section E: Dakota County’s Waste Programs and Activities Section F: Collection and Transportation of Waste Section G: Waste Management Facilities



STATE LAW COUNTY PLAN REQUIREMENTS	LOCATION IN DAKOTA COUNTY PLAN
<p><i>Existing or proposed municipal, county, or private solid waste facilities and collection services within the county together with schedules of existing rates and charges to users and statements as to the extent to which such facilities and services will or may be used to implement the Policy Plan</i></p>	<p>Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Subsection 2. Education and Regional Planning Subsection 4. Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Subsection 5. Waste-to-Energy Subsection 6. Landfilling Subsection 7. Household Hazardous Waste Subsection 9. Wood Waste Subsection 10. Cost and Finance Appendix A: Existing Waste Management System and County Programs Section A: Waste Management Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities Section E: Dakota County’s Solid Waste Programs and Activities Section F: Collection and Transportation of Waste Section G: Waste Management Facilities</p>
<p><i>Any solid waste facility which a county owns or plans to acquire, construct, or improve together with statements as to the planned method, estimated cost and time of acquisition, proposed procedures for operation and maintenance of the facility</i></p>	<p>N/A - Dakota County does not own or plan to acquire any solid waste facilities.</p>
<p><i>A proposal for the use of each facility after it is no longer needed or usable as a waste facility</i></p>	<p>N/A - Dakota County does not own or plan to acquire any solid waste facilities</p>
<p><i>The master plan shall, to the extent practicable and consistent with the achievement of other public policies and purposes, encourage ownership and operation of solid waste facilities by private industry</i></p>	<p>Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Subsection 5. Waste-to-Energy Subsection 9. Wood Waste Subsection 10. Cost and Finance</p>
<p><i>For solid waste facilities owned or operated by public agencies or supported primarily by a public agency, the master plan shall contain criteria and standards to protect comparable private and public facilities already existing in the area from displacement unless the displacement is required in order to achieve waste management objectives identified in this plan</i></p>	<p>N/A - Dakota County does not own or plan to acquire facilities</p>
<p><i>Include a land disposal abatement element to implement the Metropolitan Land Disposal Abatement Plan adopted under § 473.149, subd. 2d (consistency with the “Policy Plan”)</i></p>	<p>Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section B: County Solid Waste Policies Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Subsection 1. Improving the Reliability of the Data Subsection 2. Education and Regional Planning Subsection 3. Waste Reduction and Reuse</p>



STATE LAW COUNTY PLAN REQUIREMENTS	LOCATION IN DAKOTA COUNTY PLAN
	Subsection 4. Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Subsection 5. Waste-to-Energy Subsection 6. Landfilling Subsection 7. Household Hazardous Waste Subsection 8. Sustainable Building and Deconstruction Subsection 9. Wood Waste Subsection 10. Cost and Finance
<i>Implement the local abatement objectives for the county and cities within the county as stated in the Metropolitan Abatement Plan</i>	Part One: Introduction Section B: Plan Purpose and Framework Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section B: County Solid Waste Policies
<i>Include specific and quantifiable county objectives, based on the objectives in the Metropolitan Abatement Plan, for abating to the greatest feasible and prudent extent the need for and practice of land disposal of mixed municipal solid waste and of specific components of the solid waste stream generated in the county, stated in six-year increments for a period of at least 20 years from the date of the Policy Plan revisions</i>	Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section C: Strategies and Tactics by Topic Subsection 1. Improving the Reliability of the Data Subsection 2. Education and Regional Planning Subsection 3. Waste Reduction and Reuse Subsection 4. Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Subsection 5. Waste-to-Energy Subsection 6. Landfilling Subsection 7. Household Hazardous Waste Subsection 8. Sustainable Building and Deconstruction Subsection 9. Wood Waste Subsection 10. Cost and Finance Appendix E: Plan Strategies and Projected Implementation Timing
<i>Include measurable performance standards for local abatement of solid waste through resource recovery and waste reduction and separation programs and activities for the county as a whole and for statutory or home rule charter cities of the first, second, and third class, respectively, in the county, stated in six-year increments for a period of at least 20 years from the date of the Policy Plan revisions</i>	Part One: Introduction Section B: Management Plan Purpose and Framework Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section D: Implementation Appendix D: Performance and Accountability Section B: County Reporting Requirements Section C: County Oversight of the Private Sector, Municipalities, and Program Partners
<i>Performance standards must implement the metropolitan and county abatement objectives</i>	Part One: Introduction Section B: Plan Purpose and Framework Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section B: County Solid Waste Policies Section D: Implementation Subsection 4. Performance and Accountability Appendix D: Performance and Accountability Section A: Evaluating Progress Section C: County Oversight of the Private Sector, Municipalities, and Program Partners
<i>Include performance standards and procedures to be used by the county</i>	Part Two: Solid Waste Management Plan Section D: Implementation



STATE LAW COUNTY PLAN REQUIREMENTS	LOCATION IN DAKOTA COUNTY PLAN
<p><i>in determining annually under subdivision 3 whether a city within the county has implemented the plan and satisfied the performance standards for local abatement</i></p>	<p>Subsection 4. Performance and Accountability Appendix D: Performance and Accountability Section A: Evaluating Progress Section B: County Reporting Requirements Section C: County Oversight of the Private Sector, Municipalities, and Program Partners</p>
<p><i>Plans for required use of resource recovery facilities. Plans proposing designation shall evaluate the benefits of the proposal, including the cost of the proposal (direct and indirect) and adverse long-term effects.</i></p>	<p>N/A – Dakota County does not currently or plan to designate waste to a resource recovery facility.</p>
<p><i>The County Plan may include a determination (delegate) that the private sector will achieve, either in part or whole, the goals of the Policy Plan and Master Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. County monitors performance</i> <i>b. County continues to meet responsibilities under law (education, opportunity to recycle, promote waste reduction)</i> <i>c. Continues to provide required annual reports</i> 	<p>N/A – Dakota County is not delegating Plan goal achievement to the private sector.</p>
<p><i>Recycling Implementation Strategy that identifies how to reach recycling goals along with mechanisms for providing financial incentives to generators to reduce the amount of waste and to separate recyclables). (Minn. Stat. § 115A.55)</i></p>	<p>Part One: Introduction Section B: Master Plan Purpose and Framework Part Two: Solid Waste Landfill Abatement Plan Section C: Strategies and Tactics, and Timing Subsection 1. Improving the Reliability of the Data Subsection 2. Education and Regional Planning Subsection 3. Waste Reduction and Reuse Subsection 4. Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Subsection 6. Landfilling Subsection 7. Household Hazardous Waste Subsection 8. Sustainable Building and Deconstruction Subsection 9. Wood Waste Section D: Implementation</p>





Public Comments on the 2024-2044 Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

The draft 2024-2044 Draft Solid Waste Management Plan (2024-2044 Management Plan) was presented to the Dakota County Physical Development Committee of the Whole on July 23, 2024, and was available for public review and comment from August 1 through August 21, 2024. Residents, businesses, schools, and waste industry representatives were invited to comment by email at wasteless@co.dakota.mn.us or by mail. Comments were requested using a variety of promotions, including:

- County website
- Press release
- E-newsletters (Residential, Hauler, Business, Parks, Recycling Ambassadors, Schools, Multifamily, Fix-it Clinic, and Organics Drop Site)
- Social media platforms
- Emails to haulers and facilities, city administrators and recycling staff, rural city/township contacts, reuse organizations, food rescue organizations, tree waste organizations, and deconstruction organizations.

Staff also invited public comment at a display table in the Natural Resources building at the Dakota County Fair on August 9 and 10, 2024.

In total, 22 individual commenters provided 54 comments. Comments and staff recommendations for responding to the comments in the 2024-2044 Management Plan are included below.

Revision To Strategies Recommended from Comments

Plan revisions are recommended based on the following public comments:

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Phil Shaffer	National Waste & Recycling Association	Pre-processing of Waste: National Waste & Recycling Association questions the requirement to separate steel and aluminum. We certainly could extract steel from the waste stream by using a magnet. However, the requirement to remove aluminum from the waste stream is much more challenging and extremely expensive, requiring extensive technology. If implemented, this policy would almost certainly ensure that more waste will be disposed of at facilities outside of Dakota County that do not have such onerous requirements. We question whether the county's intention here is to require an upfront "dirty" MRF at landfills and transfer station, since that would be the primary means of removing aluminum. If so, the cost implications would lead National Waste & Recycling Association to strongly oppose this draft requirement in the Dakota County Master Plan. We believe that	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 26 (pg. 13)	Change Strategy 26 by removing the minimum list of materials required for pre-processing and identifying that landfills will need to submit a license amendment with an amendment application that identifies the materials, methods, and effectiveness for optimal upfront processing.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
		aluminum and other recyclable materials, especially OCC and paper, that are removed at the source by the generator and placed in the recycling bin have much higher market value than being sorted out of trash. Further, aluminum is already the most highly recovered recyclable material by generators, so we question the need for this requirement. Last, would a requirement like this create complacency for recyclers, negatively impact residents' and businesses' commitment to recycle, since there would be technology that will sort their trash for them, so they don't have to. Additionally, extending this requirement to Non-MSW facilities for Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) and industrial waste (primarily contaminated soil) is unreasonable. While Non-MSW facilities are currently removing ferrous metal such as steel from C&D using a magnet and recovering clean concrete, attempting to recover small quantities of aluminum (approximately 1%) would require an indoor building and expensive processing equipment. Furthermore, steel and aluminum are simply not present in the vast majority of industrial waste.		
Janae Barriuso	Unknown	I am concerned about the numbers of garbage hauler companies in my neighborhood. I do not see anything in the plan about this issue. Every Thursday a minimum of 12 dump trucks are on our streets. This is a poor use of our resources: wasted gas, polluted air from truck exhausts, wear & tear of our roads, and safety concerns. It would make sense for the cities to contract with the garbage haulers so that each neighborhood would have 3 garbage trucks from one hauler each week.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	Change strategy #28 by expanding to provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance, educational resources) to interested municipalities to research or implement best waste management collection practices beyond just for organics collection to all waste streams (organics, recycling, trash), consistent with the county's 2018-2038 plan.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	My neighborhood has five different trash haulers (Nitti, WM, DSI, Republic & Buckingham). They each send three truck (Waste, Recycle and yard waste) though our neighborhood each week for a total of 15 truck-trips. The environmental impact of this process is mind boggling. I also often wonder at the environmental impact to the water as I rinse our spaghetti sauce jars, etc..... for recycling? Did I do more harm than good?	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	Change strategy #28 by expanding to provide support (e.g., funding, technical assistance, educational resources) to interested municipalities to research or implement best waste management collection practices beyond organics collection to all waste streams (organics, recycling, trash), consistent with the county's 2018-2038 plan.
Phil Shaffer	National Waste & Recycling Association	Rates: We just want to note that it appears as though there is a mix of gate rate and "all in" (the rate includes host fees, taxes, etc.) rate information from the various facilities serving Dakota County. We respectfully request that this be noted in the plan.	NA - Appendix A facility tables (pg. 45)	Change Appendix A by adding details about the source of the rate data for Table 4.

No Change Recommended

The following public comments were considered, but no plan changes are being recommended:

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
CarolAnn Hook	Resident of Burnsville	I'm really excited about the proposals for improving the county's recycling rates and the amount that we are including in our organics waste collection. My husband and I	Recycling and Organics Management	No change. Comment of support. Strategy includes providing

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
		<p>had a YIMPY composter for years and it was too complicated for me to really get good compost from it. It seemed like it was too dry, too wet, both at the same time somehow; it became a home for wasps in two different summers – which was kind of cool to see since at least someone was using it successfully. So when we learned of the food waste collection program, we got on board right away, initially having to drive about 15 minutes to drop off our scraps and such, but later being able to drive 2 minutes. We love the program and have seen a dramatic reduction in waste in our household. However, when encouraging both my sister’s family and my mom to start doing it, they complained that they didn’t have time to drive it there. I don’t know if this is a fair complaint, but I think offering regular pickups at residents’ home would make it much more likely that individuals like my family members would try it more. I think we will definitely need more guidance on how to manage smells and animal interactions, though. We have a small, aluminum container that we line with the bag in our home, and a second plastic bucket with a lid in the garage. The metal never gets stinky, so we just have to wash it sometimes to get it clean again. The bucket came from my school and had pickles in it, so I don’t know if it smells when it’s empty. We’ve had flies lay eggs in the bucket (leading to maggots, of course) in the summer months. I’m a gardener, so I just rinse them out on the driveway, hoping the birds will find the easy meal, but the eggs stick to the sides and have to be wiped off and the maggots are very squirmy and generally make me wash my hands a couple times after cleaning them off.</p>	<p>with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)</p>	<p>residents with education and removes barriers to participation.</p>
<p>CarolAnn Hook</p>	<p>Resident of Burnsville</p>	<p>I’m intrigued on the communication about recycling and would love to see more specific feedback on which plastics are truly being recycled. I’ve seen videos and articles suggesting that the public, at large, is being lied to about which plastics are even recyclable (at a reasonable cost) and this has given corporations the excuse to continue to mass produce plastic that will be unlikely to ever be recycled. I’d love to be more informed on whether my own choices are making an impact and how they can be improved</p>	<p>Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)</p>	<p>No change. Comment of support for education on waste reduction and strategies to provide more frequent information on what, when and where to recycle.</p>
<p>CarolAnn Hook</p>	<p>Resident of Burnsville</p>	<p>I apologize that I have not read the entire report and am only commenting on a couple of sections. I am eager to see the encouragement for businesses to be more environmentally responsible</p>	<p>Recycling and Organics Management Strategies 25 and 30 (pgs. 13, 14)</p>	<p>No change. Comment of support. Plan strategies #25 and #30 support continued implementation of requirements for businesses to recycle and divert organics and provide resources to implement best waste management practices.</p>
<p>CarolAnn Hook</p>	<p>Resident of Burnsville</p>	<p>I’m especially excited to see the push for events to figure out how to be more environmentally friendly. I am so frustrated and disappointed when I’m at an event (in our city or another city) and I see that there’s still just one or two HUGE wastebins and people are throwing in food, aluminum cans, glass bottles, and non-recyclable plastic wrappers, all together. But, without another 2-4 bins, the only other option is for individuals to walk around an event, carrying recyclables and food waste, and we know that won’t happen. Thanks for all of your work on this. I’m looking forward to seeing how our community can improve even more.</p>	<p>Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 38 (pg. 15)</p>	<p>No change. Comment of support to continue to provide support for event recycling requirements and for events to divert organics.</p>

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Diane Grier	Resident of Apple Valley	We would enthusiastically support having curbside collection of organic waste. We have been using the county sites for years and my husband has included the grandchildren in the "Dump Team" and my daughter in law even made dump team T-shirts. It has reduced our waste to the landfill by at least 60%.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics.
Diane Grier	Resident of Apple Valley	The only suggestion I have for recycling is to pressure companies to reduce the amount of black plastic that is unrecyclable.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 8 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for county participation in state and regional product stewardship initiatives for increased producer responsibility that result in more sustainable products.
Diane Grier	Resident of Apple Valley	Also much more education for folks to know what they can recycle and where. I have done the Tour de Trash tour and really enjoyed learning more. Thank you for your endeavors.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for education strategies to provide more frequent information on what, when and where to recycle.
Phyllis Stratman	Unknown	I am advocating that businesses be fully included in this plan. There is much that businesses dispose of which are office supply products, recyclable materials and organic waste. As a former business owner, the option to recycle was not easily accomplished through our waste carrier or otherwise. Please make these county taxpayers also a part of your plan.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 25 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support. The plan includes a variety of strategies to improve management of waste generated by businesses.
Kim Currier-Bloom	Unknown	I am really happy to see a plan for residential organic waste. One of the things that I am very interested in seeing is an option for Dakota County residents to have access to both mulch and compost from residential organic waste. The City of St. Paul has this option for their residents for free, but I would even pay a nominal fee as a verified resident. As a someone who lives in a townhome and gardens exclusively in raised beds, I have to turn over and amend the soil every year. I would love a way to recycle used raised bed soil and find an easy and cheaper alternative to purchasing compost or top soil from a store.	Wood Waste Strategy 56 (pg. 20)	No change. Comment of support. The plan includes a strategy to expand drop off opportunities for residents to properly manage yard waste and tree waste when non-county funding opportunities (i.e., grants or additional state funding) are available.
Lois Parsons	Resident of Mendota Heights	Let's make curbside organics recycling available much sooner! 2026! The public bins are getting lots of use. Curbside pickup will make it easier for everyone to participate! Thanks for your work in these important issues.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Residential curbside organics is currently not offered anywhere in the county, and a required timeline by 2030 gives waste industry time to plan and make necessary infrastructure investments (trucks, facility capacity, labor, etc.). The plan does not prohibit municipalities or waste haulers from providing curbside organics collection prior to 2030.
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Hauler feedback when customers don't recycle right: Most of the education needs to be done and is better served by being done by the county and cities. With single sort, automated collection, there is very little opportunity for a hauler to even recognize contamination and by extension, most contamination will not be seen and nothing can be done. Could implement a countywide rule that if a hauler does not notify a customer of contamination (whether it's an educational tag left behind or direct phone call or email)	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Plan strategies support frequent education to residents by multiple entities (county, municipalities, haulers) for reach. County staff will engage stakeholders on specific approaches for hauler feedback to customers during ordinance development.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
		that a hauler is required to provide a credit for the missed pickup or an off-day pickup at no charge		
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Pre-processing at resource recovery facilities and landfills by 2030. Highland Sanitation does not own or manage any landfills, so we have no comment on this other than that landfills are stupid and shouldn't exist. Landfill methane leaks are wildly underreported in numerous studies and they should all be closed and replaced with facilities that manage waste in a more sustainable and environmentally friendly way.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 26 (pg. 13)	No change. No change requested.
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Recycling, organics and trash collection on the same day: This should not be a problem at all for any hauler. Any hauler who says that it is a problem is lying and being disingenuous to get in the way of progress.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 24 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for the same day collection strategy.
Bobby Stewart	Highland Sanitation	Curbside food scraps collection for residents by 2030: This is an excellent idea, but is only financially affordable for residents if the individual cities put out RFPs for organics collection so that it's a single hauler servicing a community. Additionally, this will be an environmental net negative impact unless organics is combined with yard waste collection, as organized organics/yard waste that are co-collected would result in a net decrease of trucks on the road and by extension, substantial reductions in not just pollution, but also road wear and tear. Touching on above, not co-collecting yard waste with organics and pushing to make that a reality is hugely idiotic and creates additional trucks on the road and by extension, increases environmental pollution and therefore should not be considered unless this hurdle can be overcome.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics. The strategy includes support to municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas. The plan does not prescribe one organics collection method over another (separate cart, co-collection, etc.). Waste industry, markets, collection and management costs, facility availability, and stakeholder input are some of the factors that will drive collection methods.
Kim Benton	Garlough Environmental Magnet School	The plan is thorough and comprehensive. My biggest point of feedback is supporting schools with training at the start of EVERY school year for students, teachers, support staff AND building engineers. Do not assume that teachers know how to sort (they don't always) and one time training is not enough. Training needs to happen year to year, especially when things (items accepted or not, introduction of reusables) or processes change. Schools should be required to have a plan when staff are hired mid year and may have missed the initial beginning of the year training. Who will be responsible for this training? Training for students, staff, teachers and building engineers should be done with ACTUAL items used at the site, not ambiguous plastic #1. For example, if a school cafe serves juice cups vs juice boxes- use the item used at that school to show students and staff if it should be recycled or not. If compostable boats are used, show that they go into the organics or trash. Most adults have questions about particular items that are not necessarily satisfied/answered with the pictures on the stickers attached to sorting bins.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 37 (pg. 15)	No change. Comment of support for strategy to continue to provide education (e.g., training assistance) and resources for school recycling improvements.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Kim Benton	Garlough Environmental Magnet School	Lastly, I would like to see more of an emphasis on (and support for) the reduction of single use plastics in schools. If reducing is the preferred option, support schools who want to make this leap but are not sure how to communicate with school nutrition staff. Thank you for allowing feedback from the public.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategies 16 and 23 (pgs. 11, 12)	No change. Comment of support for strategies to provide resources for reusable foodware and implement waste reduction efforts at schools.
Katrina Gerenz	Unknown	Thanks for the information. My priority is to get Eagan to require garbage services to pick up organics. This should be available now not by 2030. It's a simple change and I continue to be confused why this is taking so long. Other suburbs already have it.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics, with request to implement sooner. Residential curbside organics is currently not offered anywhere in the county, and a required timeline by 2030 gives waste industry time to plan and make necessary infrastructure investments (trucks, facility capacity, labor, etc.). The plan does not prohibit municipalities or waste haulers from providing curbside organics collection prior to 2030.
Janae Barriuso	Unknown	I am excited for the compost pickup in the future. However, that will be at least 4 more trucks to avoid during my walks in the neighborhood.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics. The strategy includes support for municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas.
Susan Brezny	Resident of Mendota Heights	I skimmed through the report and from what I could see it looks great; very comprehensive. Really glad it's in the plan to add organics pick up in the future.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics.
Susan Brezny	Resident of Mendota Heights	Could Dakota County mandate that retailers only provide recyclable bags (of various sizes) at the request (& purchase) of the customers? It would be to encourage people to bring their own bags and if they don't, they have to pay for a reusable bag. It's just a matter of retraining ourselves to reuse and it would add to less plastic bags blowing around in the wind. Chet's Liquors on Hwy 13 in Mendota Heights gives you a reusable bag that can hold 4 bottles of wine. If you bring the bag with you whenever you buy a bottle or more of wine, you get a discount. It's a small effort, but it's helpful. Thanks for all you do!	N/A	No change. Laws of this type are normally passed at a city level since cities typically have more authority related to businesses within their boundaries.
Pat Lieb	Unknown	Appreciate Dakota County's initiatives in recycling. However would welcome pickup arrangement in near future. I find that having to frequently take recycled food products to a collection point results in not participating in the program. Also deal with odor despite closed container.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics. The strategy includes support for municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Marietta Sears	Unknown	An idea other states have city do leave pick up from each street in the fall and recycle all the leaves to compost ! It's a huge help to residents and a service to the community! Thank you	Wood Waste Strategy 56 (pg. 20)	No change. The county does not have authority to mandate that cities collect yard waste. Waste haulers provide yard waste curbside collection services throughout the county.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	I REALLY think that providing recycle feedback to homeowners will have the opposite effect as intended. When in doubt, people will throw things in the trash instead of the recycle to avoid getting a bad recycle report card.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Broad stakeholder support was demonstrated through public engagement process for hauler feedback to customers when recycling and organics items are not properly sorted.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	Incentivize waste reduction and pick-up reduction. A homeowner who generates half as much trash and needs half as many pick-ups shouldn't pay the same as their neighbor who generates twice as much. Imagine if your water bill was the same no matter how much water you used.	N/A	No change. Volume-based pricing for trash is already required by the state and county, and volume-based pricing for recycling is prohibited by state statute.
Jon Derik Dautel	Resident of Lakeville	Just one person's feedback. My household of two has seen a huge reduction in our recycling. We stopped taking the newspaper, consolidate our online shopping for fewer boxes and often times receive envelopes instead of boxes. We also try to avoid single use cans and/or bottles. Unfortunately, our efforts actually make the math come out poorer when applied to the goal of imposed goal of 75% recycling rate. If we were at 75lbs recycling and 25lbs solid waste (per the goal), by dropping to 50lbs recycling we now are only at 67%. Additionally, our trash haulers are now required to send a truck every week to pick-up recycling that could easily wait 2-3 weeks. My overall thoughts: Goals need to be independent of each other (Reduce landfill waste to XX/CuFt per person, per year). Goals need to be more focused on the broader environmental impact (i.e. Don't send a recycle truck every day just to improve recycle rate by 1%).	N/A	No change. The Minnesota Legislature established the 75% recycling rate goal by 2030, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency set numerical objectives for other management methods through 2042. As part of plan implementation, county staff will continue to participate in state and regional discussions on improved measures.
P L Brust	Unknown	Leaning towards hauler feedback	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for hauler feedback to customers when recycling and organics items are not properly sorted.
Douglas Moran	Unknown	I had the pleasure of interacting w/2 of the employees at the Natural Resources Bldg at the Dakota Cty Fair yesterday. They encouraged me to provide comments, so I am. The plan looks great.....I would strongly support the idea of providing curbside food waste/scraps pick-up! While I've been composting most of my home's food scraps, I think composting presents to many barriers to entry for most home owners. Having it curbside would be GREAT! And, I'd support adding a fee to cover it.....say in the range of \$20-\$30/yr. Hope this helps and thanks for your service!	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. The waste industry, not Dakota County, provides services and sets rates. The plan includes a strategy to provide support to municipalities to research and implement best collection practices, such as zoned contract areas which can reduce rates for residents.
Patricia Pecholt	Unknown	I love the ability to compost! I keep a bucket in the garage & put the filled compostable bags in there & when full I take it to the compost bin! So easy!	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for organics drop sites.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Patricia Pecholt	Unknown	Keep up the good works of educating & encouraging reduction of garbage! We, on a whole, need to do better for our future generations.	Education and Regional Planning Strategy 5 (pg. 9)	No change. Comment of support for education initiatives included in the plan.
Patricia Pecholt	Unknown	We live in an HOA & we currently have a small recycling bin & a large garbage bin & I wanted to swap those for a large recycling & a small garbage, but was told they only do large garbage bins in HOAs. We could get a large recycling, but without getting a small garbage they wouldn't fit nicely in our garage. I think this is a crazy policy since I also compost so our garbage bin typically only has 1-2 Walmart size bags of garbage per week from our 2 person residence.	N/A	No change. The county requires haulers to provide recycling, but cart size is the decision of the HOA.
Robert Warmka	Resident of Eagan	Excellent plan you've all come up with! I think the goals of achieving 27.6% organics recovery (not including yard waste), 47.4% recycling, 20% resource recovery, and 5% landfill diversion is quite ambitious, particularly the last two, but rapid progress in these directions is good regardless of meeting these goals by 2044 or not, so I support these goals.	N/A	No change. Comment of support. The state sets numeric goals, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency includes yard waste in organics recovery goals.
Robert Warmka	Resident of Eagan	As a resident of Eagan, I particularly like the requirement of all waste haulers to provide curbside organics bins and weekly pickup by 2030, along with efforts to increase organics recovery (food to people, food to animals, and composting) from local restaurants, grocery stores, farms, and other large producers and distributors of food, and I like the plans to increase production and usage of biochar. I find resident-facing programs particularly important in this plan, not only because I myself am a resident, but primarily because when people participate in new services they not only utilize the service, changing their behavior, but using the service changes the way they think. I believe providing curbside organics bins will not only increase organics recovery immediately, but will also get more people interested in learning and doing more with proper waste management and usage. Essentially, I see it not only as a valuable public service improvement, but also an excellent marketing and advertising tool to get more people participating in proper and smart waste management. Thank you, and keep up the good work!	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support for residential curbside organics and other organics recovery initiatives in the plan.
Robert Warmka	Resident of Eagan	I like the plans to increase production and usage of biochar.	Wood Waste Strategies 54 and 57 (pgs. 19, 20)	No change. Comment of support. The plan includes a strategy to expand composting and mulching capacity beyond existing markets.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Tracy Young	Resident of West Saint Paul	I'm an avid composter from way back. I had a homemade compost bin in my yard when I had a house in St. Paul, and now that I live in West Saint Paul am delighted to be able to take our compostable material to the bins at Thompson County Park. In fact I collect for our small condo building here on Imperial Drive. There are eight households here that participate. My letter today is to bring attention to the compost bins at Thompson Co. Park. They were recently changed to a larger version with greater capacity. While I understand this move was likely made to handle a larger volume of compost - great news if our bins fill up quickly - the issue I have is that the top opening of the bin is so high up I can only lift the lid about four inches due to my smaller stature. This makes it nearly impossible for me to empty our (five gallon) buckets. I know the onus is on me to solve my problem - likely I'll invest in a stool or small stepladder to bring with me when I come to dump compost. However I thought I'd bring the issue to your attention for consideration in the future when you contemplate making other such changes. Thank you and keep up the good work!	Recycling and Organics Management Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. The accessibility issue raised with respect to the existing organics dumpster at the Thompson County Park was referred to the program manager to evaluate for improvements.
Todd	Resident of Dakota County	I would like to see a weekly or permanent site in Dakota County for Fix-It Clinics.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 20 (pg. 12)	No change. Comment is supportive of the Fix-it Clinic strategy. Changes in Fix-it Clinic locations and frequency will be evaluated during plan implementation with the intent not to compete with existing repair retail options.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan's sustainability initiative will be an enthusiastic partner for the bi-annual low waste living challenge.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 12 (pg. 10)	No change. Comment of support for strategy to conduct low-waste living challenge.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan attempted its first deconstruction project in 2023. We saw the positive environmental outcome of salvaging reusable building materials and diverting waste from landfills. The city is supportive of the county prioritizing sustainable material management and providing funding opportunities to the community and for municipal projects to continue to bring this practice to Eagan.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 16 (pg. 11)	No change. The plan includes a strategy to use non-county funding opportunities to research best practices and pilot opportunities to increase deconstruction and use of reusable building materials.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan is supportive of expanded organics recycling opportunities for the community, especially for residents in multifamily homes who will not be impacted by the 2030 curbside organics requirement.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for expanded organics drop sites.
Gillian Catano	City of Eagan	The City of Eagan has had success partnering with r.World to provide reusable cups at the largest city event for the last two years, with the support of funding through the county's waste abatement program. We would like to explore the opportunity of introducing reusable service ware through the r.World products at some of our permanent locations that do not have a dishwasher. We hope there will be funding opportunities through the county's waste abatement program for opportunities like this in the future.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 15 (pg. 11)	No change. The plan continues funding for municipal waste abatement activities. The county will continue to collaborate with cities and set annual work plan priorities in alignment with available funding to implement the plan.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Of course, Dakota Valley Recycling loves the Community Waste Abatement grant program, and we look forward to many more years of working together! With the updates to both the MPCA Solid Waste Policy Plan and now the Dakota County Solid Waste Management Plan including strategies on topics such as curbside organics collection and deconstruction, Dakota Valley Recycling would appreciate it if those topics could be included in future Community Waste Abatement grant programs. We feel these are opportunities to have a big impact on waste abatement in our cities, and would love to be involved with any city-led efforts.	Cost and Finance Strategy 60 (pg. 21)	No change. County staff will collaborate with partners to implement the plan and identify appropriate activities for the Community Waste Abatement Program. The County will explore additional funding sources to implement initiatives in the plan, and funding for programs will be determined during the plan implementation process.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	We greatly appreciate the funding available to municipalities to help with organized collection of organics. Dakota Valley Recycling requests that it be added to the Community Waste Abatement program in future years so that we can help our municipalities with the coordination and implementation of organized curbside organics collection (and potential recycling and/or trash as well).	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. County staff will collaborate with partners to implement the plan and identify appropriate activities for the Community Waste Abatement Program. The County will explore additional funding sources to implement initiatives in the plan, and funding for programs will be determined during the plan implementation process.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	On the topic of waste reduction and reuse, we also think it would be great if Dakota County were to take the lead on a Tool Library sometime in the future. Dakota Valley Recycling would love to host one, but space and staff resources are limited in our cities, unless Dakota County provided funding to help construct a small storage shed on one our city-owned properties.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 23 (pg. 12)	No change. The plan focuses on promoting existing tool libraries and continues municipal waste abatement funding which may be considered for city tool lending/reuse purposes. The county will continue to collaborate with cities and set annual work plan priorities in alignment with available funding to implement the plan.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling would like to encourage our cities to add additional drop-sites and assist with the coordination and implementation as much as possible.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 33 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for expanded organics drop sites. County staff will continue to collaborate with cities on implementation.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling looks forward to implementing a building material collection or swap for residents.	Sustainable Building and Deconstruction Strategy 52 (pg. 19)	No change. Comment of support for strategy to implement building material swaps.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling agrees it is important to education to contractors and builders on proper sorting and reuse of building materials, but we also know deconstruction comes with an added price. It would be great if Dakota County could provide—or add to the Community Waste Abatement grant program—additional funding for municipalities to include deconstruction in municipal facility renovation projects. We’re concerned that even with training on the topic, deconstruction will not occur without funding opportunities.	Sustainable Building and Deconstruction Strategy 53 (pg. 19)	No change. Plan includes tactic to use non-county funding opportunities to research best practices and pilot opportunities to increase deconstruction and use of reusable building materials.

Name	Given Affiliation	Comment	Strategy	Recommended Change to Plan
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling would be supportive of Dakota County adding the following optional strategies to the Solid Waste Management Plan. This strategy is for county-owned buildings, but Dakota Valley Recycling would love for our cities to consider the same SMM strategies when demolishing or renovating city-owned buildings. Of course, additional finance assistance from Dakota County would be great to help implement those SMM strategies, specifically deconstruction.	N/A	No change. The county does not have authority to require use of a building materials management plan for non-county projects or other publicly owned buildings. Municipalities can choose to adopt their own requirements.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling would be supportive of Dakota County adding the following optional strategies to the Solid Waste Management Plan. This strategy uses Hennepin County's deconstruction grant as an example. While Dakota County doesn't have as many old homes as Hennepin or Ramsey counties, there are still opportunities in Dakota County for residents, businesses, or municipalities to include deconstruction into their renovation plans. Again, financial assistance from Dakota County would be great.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 16 (pg. 11)	No change. The strategy includes use of non-county funding opportunities to research best practices and pilot opportunities to increase deconstruction and use of reusable building materials.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Firstly, Dakota Valley Recycling appreciates the funding Dakota County provided as part of the Community Waste Abatement that helped us purchase a dishwasher and reusable service ware for the City of Burnsville Maintenance Facility. We will continue to look for opportunities to make similar purchase at other city-owned facilities, but we know there are some facilities where washing on-site is not feasible. For these facilities, such as ice arenas, community waterparks, or the Ames Performing Arts Center in Burnsville, it would be very helpful if the Community Waste Abatement program would allow Dakota Valley Recycling to pay for—or at least pilot—reusable vendor services. We would like to get enough city-owned facilities on board with reusables that a vendor could establish a route to collect and replenish reusable food and beverage service ware on a weekly basis. This would help us to eliminate thousands of disposable service ware items that are currently in use at these venues.	Waste Reduction and Reuse Strategy 15 (pg. 11)	No change. The plan continues funding for municipal waste abatement activities. The county will continue to collaborate with cities and set annual work plan priorities in alignment with available funding to implement the plan.
Jackson Becker	Dakota Valley Recycling	Dakota Valley Recycling supports a container delivery charge prohibition. Too often, we hear from residents who switch haulers and are charged both for the pick-up of their old containers, as well as delivery for new containers. We know this is specifically about organics containers, but we would be in favor of prohibiting container delivery or pick-up charges for trash and recycling containers as well.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 28 (pg. 13)	No change. Comment of support to prohibit haulers from charging for organics cart delivery, with request to expand prohibition to recycling and trash cart delivery charges as well. County staff will explore the legality of restricting container delivery fees as part of any ordinance changes.
Phil Shaffer	National Waste & Recycling Association	Variance Process: We appreciate your willingness to memorialize the variance process for implementation of weekly recycling, same day recycling, trash, and organics in rural areas of Dakota County where there is little to gain from an environmental standpoint given the fuel use, GHG emissions, and low population density from weekly recycling in rural areas. The variance allows us to focus our time and resources on areas where we can make the biggest impact on recycling volumes and allows us the flexibility to implement other options, such as larger carts, to attain the goal.	Recycling and Organics Management with Collection Best Practices Strategy 32 (pg. 14)	No change. Comment of support for ordinance variance for residential weekly recycling in rural areas.



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3252

Agenda #: 5.2

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Discussion On Parks, Greenways, And Natural Systems Draft 2050 Values And Vision Statement

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Discuss and provide direction on the draft 2050 values and vision for parks, greenways, and natural systems.

SUMMARY

The Dakota County Parks Department is currently updating the 2030 Parks System Plan with a Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems 2050 Vision Plan. The first phase of the project, research and community engagement, is complete (Attachment: October 2024 Interim Project Report-out).

During this phase, the project team assessed the current system and progress since the 2030 Park System Plan was adopted in 2008, analyzed demographic, societal, natural resource, and recreational trends, and sought input from the County Board and community. Over the summer and fall, more than 500 people provided input at 25 events (pop-up and focus group meetings) and over 400 people participated in the online questionnaire.

Based on preliminary research, engagement, and Dakota County Board and Parks Department staff input, the project team has developed a draft Vision Framework of core values and vision statement. In a separate and parallel process, the Parks Department will be updating mission statement to align with the updated core values and vision statement. The vision statement and core values will guide the development of goals and action steps in the next phase of the project. The core values and vision statement will be fine-tuned based on input from the Planning Commission, County Board, and staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

None.

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

24-218; 4/27/24

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: October 2024 Interim Project Report-out

BOARD GOALS

- A Great Place to Live
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs
- A Healthy Environment
- Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

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Author: Lillian Leatham



DAKOTA COUNTY PARKS

2050 VISION PLAN

October 2024 Interim Project Report-out

Dakota
forever wild
PARKS

TUÁL-Ū 197
collaborative





INTRODUCTION

The TLÂL-LI Collaborative team including Full Circle Indigenous Planning + Design, Zan Associates, and Visible City have been working closely with Dakota County staff for several months and are nearing conclusion of the first stage of work on the 2050 Vision Plan. Our efforts so far have focused on four primary fronts.

1. Analyzing Dakota County, its system of parks and natural lands, and how the community interacts with them.
2. Projecting future change in the county and adaptations in parks and natural lands that may be needed to remain a vital part of the community.
3. Building deep understanding of community values and organizational interests, concerns, needs, and vision.
4. Translating this range of understanding into a draft “Vision Framework” of core values and vision statement to set the stage for the next step in the process of developing goals/action steps. In a parallel process, the Park’s Department will be updating it’s mission statement to align with the updated core values and vision statement.

The following pages provide to-date snapshots of draft Vision Framework followed by the Engagement Snapshot. Full summaries of all engagement activities are included as an appendix.



VISION FRAMEWORK

CREATING A VISION FRAMEWORK

Re-invigorate the Parks Department mission by articulating core values, expressing a vision for the future, and formulating the goals to achieve it.

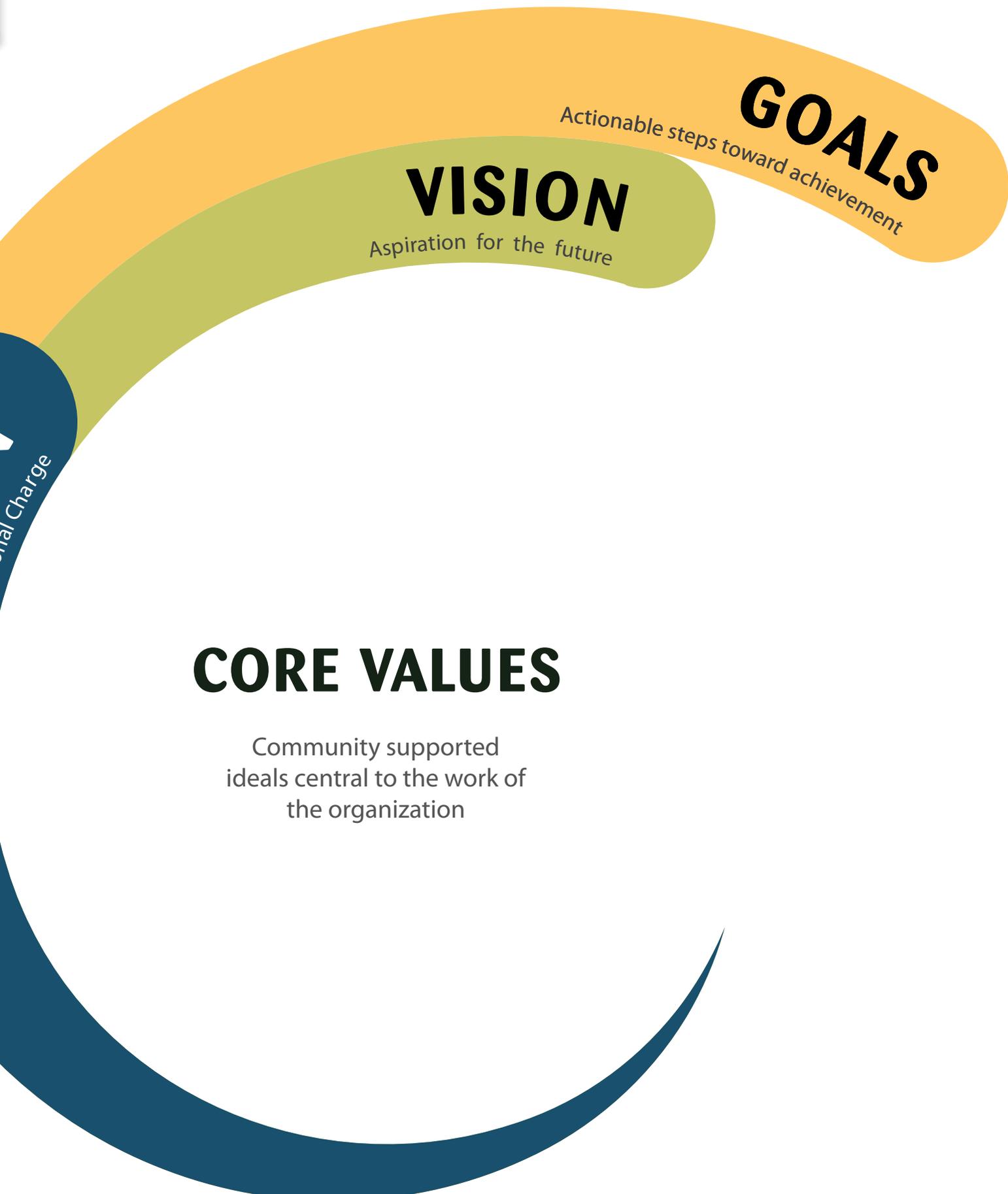
It is around these four elements (mission, values, vision, goals) that the Vision Framework is constructed. The Vision Framework is intended to establish the basis for both the 2050 Vision Plan itself and the work of the organization in decades to come.

The combined Dakota County staff/Tlalli project team has committed significant effort and thought to formulating numerous draft values, vision, and value statements and refining down to the proposed statements written on the following pages. The team will do the same for goals in the next stage of the planning process. In a parallel process, the Parks Department will be aligning department mission to align with the updated values and vision. The selected words and statements are the result of community, staff, and leadership engagement as well as analysis conducted for the project.

In addition to carefully choosing words and statements, the team has created an infographic that will eventually animate in digital formats to describe the inter-relationship between the four elements.

The following pages state the recommendation for each element and provide basic background on the topic.

MISSION
Organization



GOALS

Actionable steps toward achievement

VISION

Aspiration for the future

CORE VALUES

Community supported
ideals central to the work of
the organization

Strategic Charge



MISSION
Organizational Charge

VISION
Aspiration for the future

GO
Actionable steps toward achievement

CORE VALUES

Community supported
ideals central to the work of
the organization

Core Values are the community-supported ideals central to the work of the organization. They are the primary influencer in future direction and operational conduct.

Community values were referenced in the 2030 Park System Plan but not used in as direct a way as recommended with this process. Recommended value statements rely heavily on input received from community, staff, and leadership engagement.

recommended **CORE VALUES**

1. To **CONNECT** people to each other and the natural world, fostering a sense of belonging for all.
2. To **PRESERVE** and protect natural spaces, ensuring a resilient and healthy environment for future generations.
3. To **INSPIRE** wellbeing, wonder, adventure, and learning through engaging and inclusive outdoor experiences.
4. To **NURTURE** and heal the vital relationship between people and nature.
5. To **CELEBRATE** our vibrant and richly diverse communities.





The Mission is what the organization is charged with carrying out.

Dakota County Parks' current mission statement is "Provide high quality recreational and educational opportunities in harmony with natural resource preservation and stewardship. In a separate and parallel process, the Parks Department will be updating their organizational mission to align with the updated values and vision.

existing **MISSION** statement

Provide high quality recreational and educational opportunities in harmony with natural resource preservation and stewardship.



GO

Actionable steps toward achie

VISION

Aspiration for the future

MISSION

Organizational Charge

CORE VALUES

Community supported
ideals central to the work of
the organization

The Vision statement is an aspiration for future state of being.

Dakota County Parks' current vision statement is "Great Places, Protected Places, Connected Places.

Modification to the current statement is recommended to better reflect the breadth of Dakota County Parks' work. An example is that it's difficult to place outdoor education and programming in the current statement.

recommended **VISION** statement

Dakota County Parks and Natural Lands:

Nature Protected, Community Reflected, All Are Connected.



GO

Actionable steps toward achievement

VISION

Aspiration for the future

MISSION

Organizational Charge

CORE VALUES

Community supported
ideals central to the work of
the organization

Goals are actionable/measurable steps toward achieving the vision and mission.

Goals will be drafted in the next stage of the process.



ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

As part of the Dakota County 2050 Vision Plan, the Dakota County team and their partners conducted in person and online engagement of the Dakota County community. Online engagement included a vision board (i.e., one question which asked what people would like to see in the future of Dakota County park, greenways and natural systems), survey, and interactive map. In-person engagement included meetings with community groups, pop-up events (i.e., tabling in parks or at existing events), and focus groups. The engagement approach sought to reach a wide variety of residents across Dakota County as well as build upon the existing relationships that Dakota County has formed with community organizations. The engagement activities completed are shown below.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES HELD AND PLANNED INCLUDED:

NAME	DATE	APX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPANTS
Online Idea Board Comments	August 7, 2024- September 23, 2024	40 comments from 33 people	General Public
Online Survey Responses		423 respondents	
Online Interactive Map Comments		146 comments from 48 people	
Take a Kid Fishing Thompson County Park	June 9, 2024	~5 respondents	Current Park Visitors
Open Door Pop-up Northern Service Center	June 11, 2024	4 respondents	General Public
Parks Team Meeting Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center	June 18, 2024	25 participants	Parks Staff
Canoe or Kayak Program Lebanon Hills Regional Park	June 24, 2024	7 respondents	Families participating in Parks program
Open Door Pantry, Eagan District 3	July 2, 2024	8 respondents	General Public
Mexican Consulate St. Paul	July 3, 2024	10 respondents	General Public, Spanish-speaking, mostly non-DC residents
Tour de Rec, Mendota Elementary, Mendota Heights	July 9, 2024	5 respondents	General Public , Youth
Open Door Pop-up, Rambling River Center, Farmington	July 16, 2024	5 respondents	General Public, Low Income

NAME	DATE	APX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPANTS
Wilderness in the City, Stakeholder meeting	July 17, 2024 6-7pm	Organization board members	Community organization
Burnsville International Festival	July 20, 2024	5 respondents ~20 interactions	General Public
Mighty Machines Wescott Library, Eagan	July 23, 2024	6 respondents	General Public
Water Play Day Whitetail Woods Regional Park	August 2, 2024	9 respondents	Current Park Visitors
Outdoor Career Success Lebanon Hills Visitor Center	August 19, 2024	20 interactions	Youth
Thompson County Park 50th Birthday Thompson County Park	August 20, 2024	4 respondents	Current Park Visitors
Party on the Plaza Nicollet Commons Park, Burnsville	August 22, 2024	100 interactions	General Public
Eagan Market Fest Community Night	August 28, 2024	30 interactions	General Public
Burnsville Festival and Fire Muster	September 5, 2024	39 interactions	General public
Inver Grove Heights Days	September 8, 2024	113 interactions	General public
Interactive display, unstaffed Apple Valley Library	September 13-22, 2024		General public
Latino Conservation Week Lebanon Hills Regional Park District 4	September 14, 2024	25 participants	Latino
Focus Groups with contracted Parks Liaisons Virtual meetings	September 17 and September 19, 2024	10 participating organizations	Contracted Parks Liaisons working with demographic groups underrepresented in park visits
Somali Women Focus Group Lebanon Hills Regional Park	September 18, 2024	15 participants	Somali women
School of Environmental Studies, Student Engagement	September 20, 2024	180	Youth
Public Art + Policy + Ping Pong + Pizza Party in a Park Lebanon Hills Regional Park	September 22, 2024	60	Current Park Visitors
Hike in the Park with Residents of Color Collective (ROCC)	September 27 2024	4	Residents of Color, Families, Current Park Visitors
Indigenous Consultation Minneapolis American Indian Center	September 28, 2024		Indigenous cultural knowledge bearers, language speakers, and cultural educators
Indigenous Peoples Day at Friendly Hills Middle School Apple Valley	October 14, 2024 (future)		Indigenous, Families

Full summaries of in-person events and results of the online engagement are included in the Appendices. Below is a summary of key points from each engagement approach.

ENGAGEMENT KEY TAKEAWAYS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Across all engagement methods there was strong appreciation for the beauty of the parks systems and the access it provides to nature and scenic views. Respondents to the online survey shared strong support for environmental sustainability, pointing out need for invasive species management and control of development to protect open spaces. Focus groups provided additional insight to feelings of belonging and safety and the importance of Dakota County's organizational outreach to community organizations.



In-Person Events

The engagement teams interacted with approximately 550 people at pop-ups and meetings across the county. Engagement focused on understanding what people love about the park system and what they would like to see changed. Interpreting the responses to these questions, the following themes emerged:

ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE, SCENIC VIEWS AND NATURAL AREAS

There is significant appreciation for the Dakota County park system in connecting people to nature. The words “tranquility,” “peace” and “oasis” were descriptions of the park spaces. People communicated the appreciation of the opportunity to be immersed in nature and enjoy scenic views, comments most commonly connected with Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

While it is desirable to be immersed in nature, the remoteness of some park locations can be a deterrent, as there are safety concerns. People mentioned fear of being alone in the woods or, in some cases, harassment when alone. Consideration for access to staff, clear sightlines and other safety features should be considered.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Many people expressed the importance of land protection, including controlling invasive species, minimizing development and increasing native habitat. “Keep up the restoration, keep parks healthy with native plants and free of invasive species.”

CLEAN AND WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS AND TRAILS

Many people mentioned the cleanliness of park spaces. This creates a feeling of welcome and safety. Many people mentioned the importance of human comfort amenities in parks, such as access to bathrooms and water/drinking fountains. While parks are a place to get away and enjoy nature, they are places for people. Easy access to comfort amenities is an important feature of the park system.

ACCESS TO EXTENSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TRAIL SYSTEM

The extensive trail system was repeatedly mentioned as a most-loved part of the system. Wide, paved paths through natural areas and near lakes provide access to many. There is strong support for the park system to be interconnected in the future by greenway trails.

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is an important consideration for trails and play equipment. Parks should be made more accessible to serve people of all ages and abilities. Low/no cost amenities and programming also make park spaces accessible to more people. Free parking should be maintained to ensure all are welcome to come to parks.

FAMILY/CHILDREN-FRIENDLY SPACES

Parks are key places for children and families. People appreciate the many playgrounds, splashpads and programming for children. Many people come to the parks specifically for their children. Continued focus on youth-focused design and programming are desired.



Focus Groups

Similar to online and pop-up participants, focus group participants appreciate clean and well-maintained parks and the access to nature and scenic views that the Dakota County Parks offer. In addition, focus group participants shared unique perspectives on what they value in public open space and how the Dakota County Parks System can support their communities and encourage greater park participation.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL SPACES

People are looking for park spaces that offer more to do for the whole family. For example, a basketball court, playground, walking path and comfortable places to sit in the shade all in one space. These are areas where multi-generational families can gather, see and interact with each other and still have independent activities that attract all members of the family.

COMMUNITY-CENTERED SPACES AND PROGRAMMING THAT PROVIDES SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Community-focused amenities in parks, such as grills or rentable shelters, invite larger families or community groups to park spaces. Many focus group participants shared that they value connecting with their larger community, which is not possible in smaller households or in spaces that require fees. Programming that provides education or recreational activity while allowing for social interaction are appreciated. More of this is desired.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE/AWARE SPACES

Facilities that support visitor's cultural needs would improve belonging. Spaces for prayer, washing areas, signs in multiple languages would increase the sense of belonging.

REPRESENTATION

Focus group participants shared that they would like to see stronger racial and cultural representation in park materials and in park staff. This would include people with many shades of skin, wearing different cultural clothing, and in multiple languages. These changes not only make people feel more welcome, but also increase the sense of safety by communicating to other park goers that all people belong in parks.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community organizations are a key connection to the parks system, especially for new immigrants or people from other cultures. Focus group participants spoke of their connection to Anna Ferris and her key role in connecting Dakota County Parks to people. An expanded outreach program could bring a more diverse population to park spaces.

Belonging: 63.83% of respondents strongly agree with this statement: “I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks.” 28.61% somewhat agree; 7.57% somewhat or strongly disagree or are unsure.

- Many of those who feel a sense of belonging mention that they grew up here, have frequented the parks and feel very at home in these spaces.
- Others pointed out that they would like to see more diversity in the parks in order to increase their sense of belonging. Cultural acknowledgement and information about the history of the land would increase belonging.
- Others added that better accessibility would increase welcoming and belonging for more people.
- Additional comments pointed out that adequate signage and clear wayfinding increase belonging by making the space easy to navigate.

Looking to the future: Respondents were asked “What are the most important benefits or services Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems will provide in the future?” Respondents ranked statements in order of priority, with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority. The top three responses were:

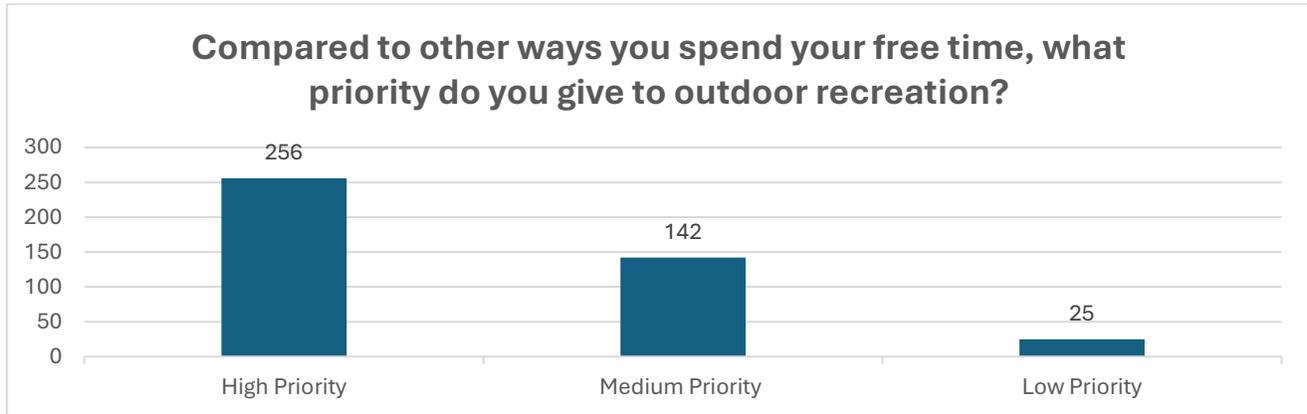
1. Physical and mental health benefits of time in nature and/or nature-based recreation – Score: 2.16
2. Protection and restoration of natural habitat – Score: 2.44
3. Ecological benefits (e.g. shade for cooling, groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, surface water quality) – Score: 2.75

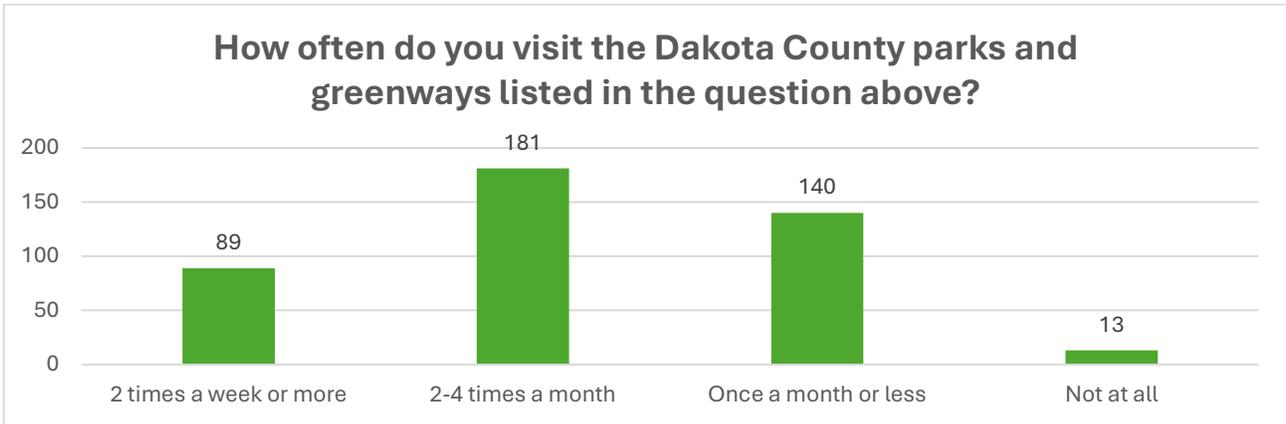
Respondents are looking for:

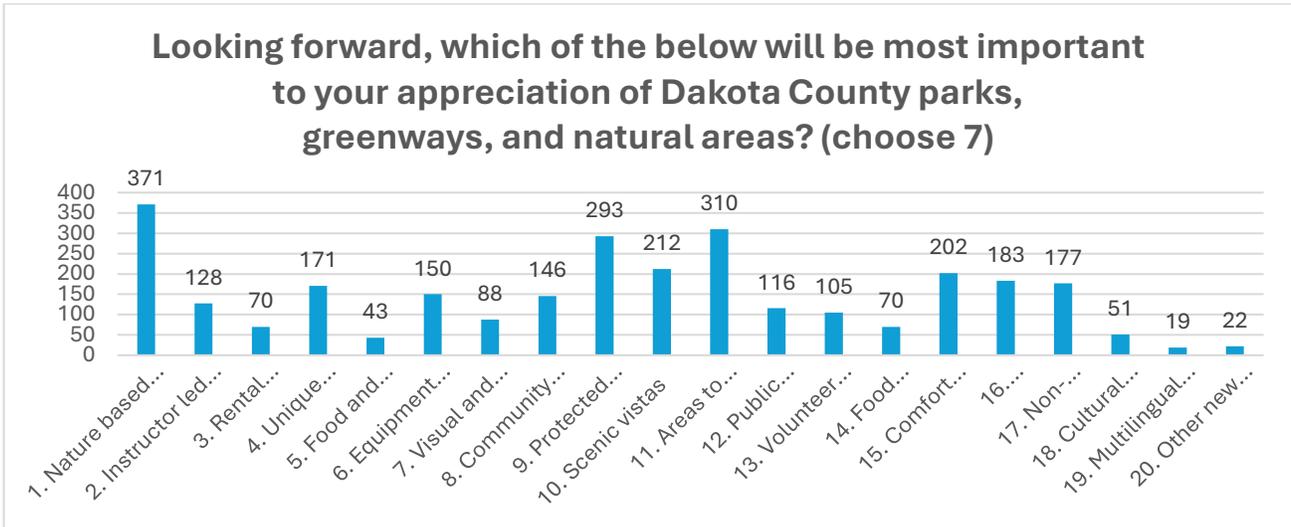
- More interconnect trails
- Invasive species management and natural preservation
- Accessible facilities
- Programming that attracts more diverse audiences

Appendix A: Online Engagement

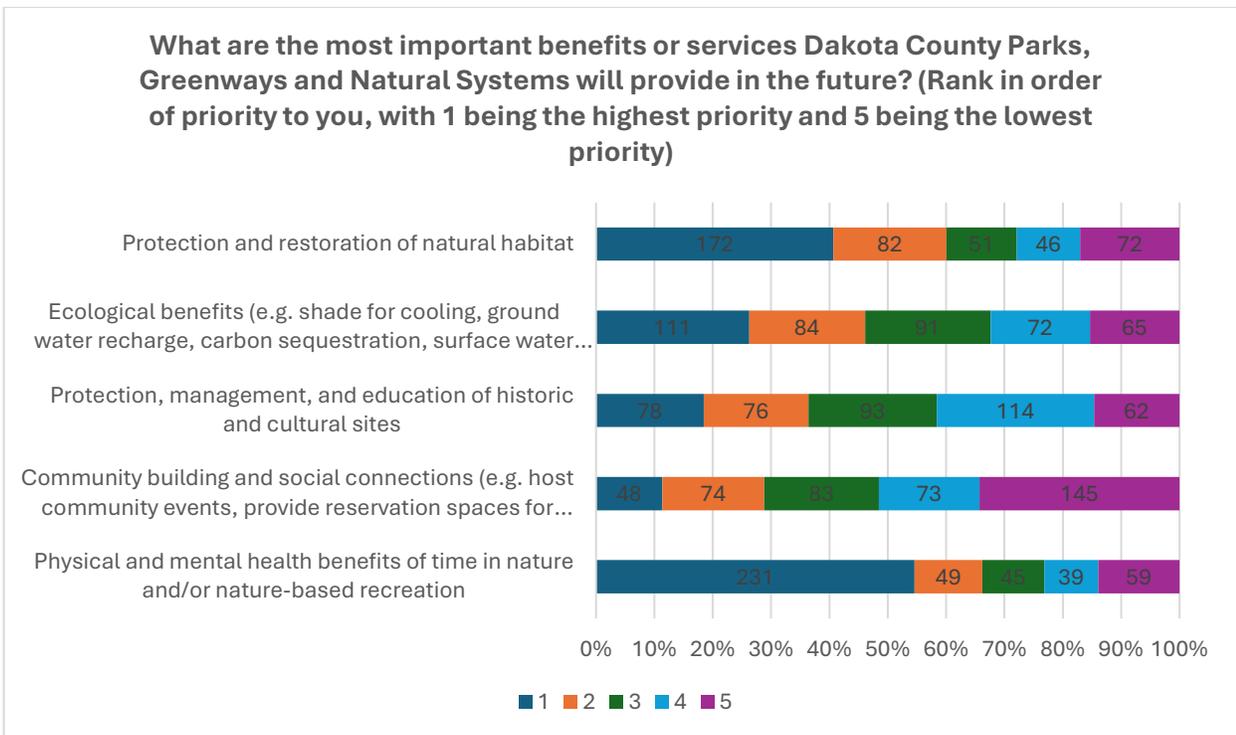
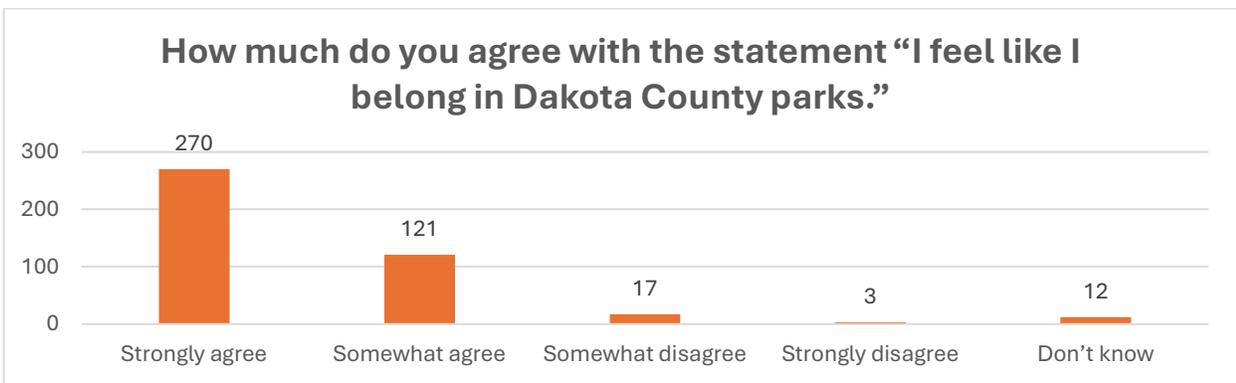
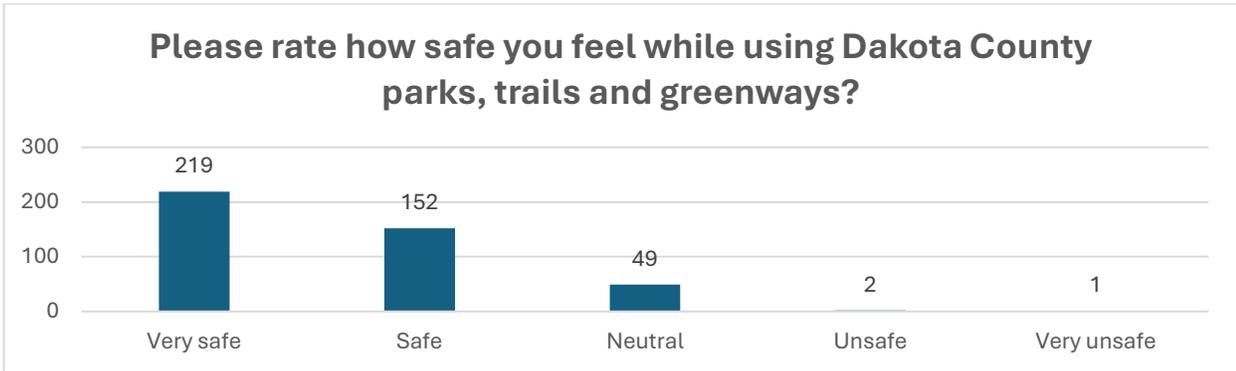
Online Survey Results



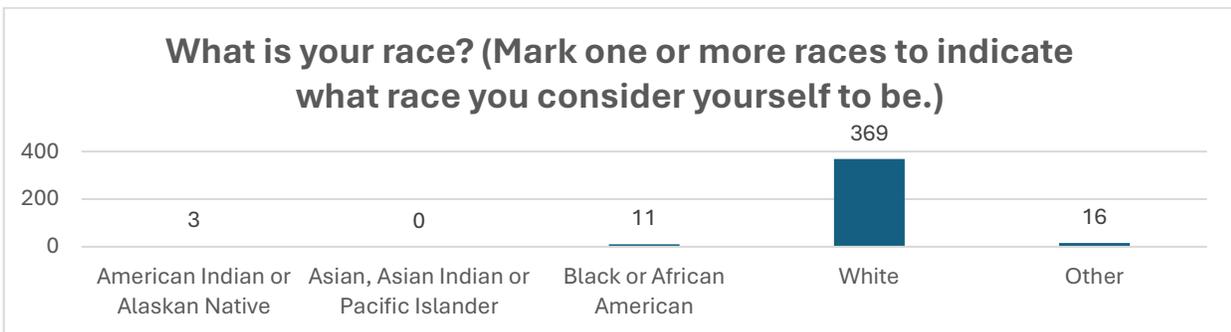
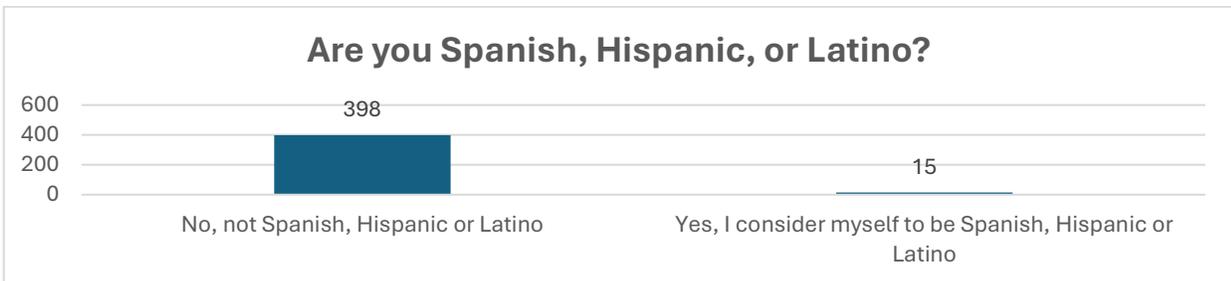
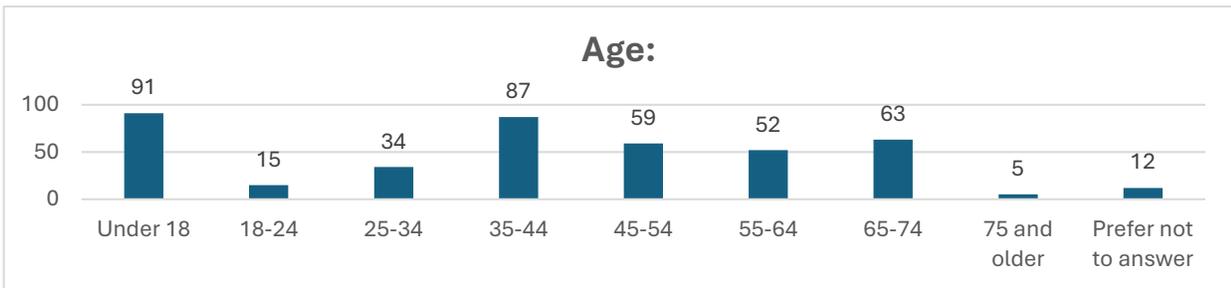
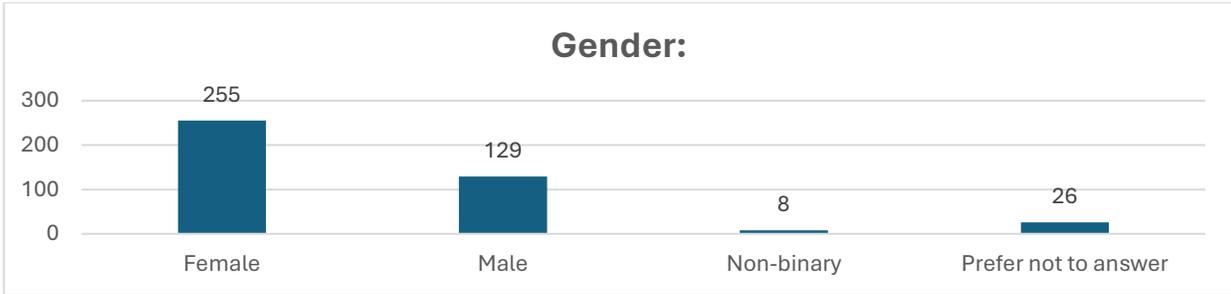




1. Nature based recreational opportunities (e.g. hiking, canoeing, picnicking)
2. Instructor led recreation skills, environmental, and cultural education programs (e.g. archery lessons, guided bird hikes, nature appreciation programs)
3. Rental spaces for ceremonies and social activities (e.g. large picnic shelters, indoor space)
4. Unique signature facilities to parks (e.g. camper cabins, destination playground, nature center)
5. Food and beverage concessions
6. Equipment rentals (e.g. cross county skis, watercraft)
7. Visual and performing arts (e.g. sculpture garden, music in the parks)
8. Community events (e.g. New Year’s Eve at Lebanon Hills, candlelit trail walk)
9. Protected and restored habitat (e.g. prairie, woodlands, forest, wetland)
10. Scenic vistas
11. Areas to quietly enjoy being in nature
12. Public safety features (e.g. staff presence, wayfinding, lighting, emergency shelters)
13. Volunteer opportunities
14. Food production (e.g. community garden, foraging forest)
15. Comfort facilities (e.g. benches, wayfinding, restrooms)
16. Neighborhood loop trails for walking and biking that connect to the greenway trail system
17. Non-motorized regional trails in greenways
18. Cultural events (or events that celebrate a diversity of cultures)
19. Multilingual offerings (services, programming, signage, etc.)
20. Other new facilities



Survey Demographics



Survey Open Ended Questions

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.
I live in Savage (Scott County) so I feel more pride in parks closer to my home. However, I still feel very welcome in Dakota county too!
What makes me feel welcome is that there's a huge community of people who visit these parks and they can come from anywhere. We all have a common goal which is to enjoy these parks and have fun. So I believe that people from all around could easily find a sense of belonging here.
If there were more
The parks are open and accessible to all.
I'm typically around like minded people in parks
I think having more access history of the area, specifically indigenous people's history, would have a huge positive effect.
I feel lucky I grew up next to one. I think some are getting very busy, and some development is still encroaching on parks. I also understand the need to provide spaces for all to recreate as they wish, but avoiding as much motorized recreation as possible is exactly what makes the natural spaces in Dakota County feel really special.
More protected green space.
They're easy to navigate and allow me to disconnect
Don't see many Hispanics in the parks I usually visit. Build awareness to encourage people of color to visit the parks.
I am a SES student and I feel as one with the park because I have worked in the woods
I've been going to Dakota County parks since I was a kid, and I still enjoy all the things there, such as the hiking trails, canoe and kayak rentals, and more.
None
I always feel at peace in nature and parks are some of the easiest ways for me to be there
Theres clear diversity in each and every park that brings a sense os belonging to a wider group of individuals.
better lights and info
Yes
I love going and walking off the trials and exploring the different spaces of nature. Maybe add more smaller trails or spot that over look water of some sort.
-
I always feel welcome and like I belong.
Idk
I like being in nature
More activities for the community
I do feel like I belong whenever I'm there, I just don't go enough to truly feel like it.
I agree, but it depends on the person, see if they like it.
It feels weird when I go to a playground and there's a bunch of little kids

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.
It's very easy to feel like I belong. A way to include others would be to make signage in multiple languages
I enjoy being outdoors and have never felt unwelcome in a Dakota County Park. Events targeted to young people would make me feel more welcome.
Idk
I grew up here and I visited a lot of trails growing up and I have sentimental value
I feel like I am always welcomed.
I feel like everyone belongs in a park
Having a welcoming environment with good people, people who value protecting nature
Maybe interactive or engaging pieces of history spread around that I can relate to.
Not much to say
better maps
I just don't have super easy access but if I'm there it is a joy, pleasure and fun to be there.
Neutral.
I feel like there is something for everyone but maybe in the smaller parks it can be hard to find your sense of belonging because there isn't as much variety
Nothing is saying I'm not
Maybe less waist around the outside
IT JUST DEPENDS HOW MUCH OF A NATURE PERSON YOU ARE
I think I feel a sense of belonging just fine, I'm just not an outdoorsy person.
Anyone and every one can go to these parks
I just live there, so I guess I belong
I am more of an inside person, but I still feel like I would be welcome in a park.
Neither
I don't go enough to belong
I feel like I belong quite well
I've lived here my entire life so I don't really know what to answer
More natural scenery
Overall I feel like I belong, but an improvement would to be clearly post foraging regulations/guidelines in the parks.
I feel like I belong more when nature surrounds me completely
Having more opportunities to relax. (Hammocks, garden, etc.)
The parks are an amazing start. I love that they are focusing on repairing the natural environment. But there is like no history about the native population. No land acknowledgment.
I personally feel like I belong in Dakota County parks, but I think that others who come from different background then I do may feel differently. Indigenous people who don't see an acknowledgment of their culture and their land may feel a disconnect from the parks. A land acknowledgment could aid this.
No

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.

I feel like I belong when I can truly take time for myself in a silent setting without a heavily disturbed area of land.
I like nature and feel I belong in the park.
I certainly don't feel like I don't belong - but there's not a lot to make me feel like I belong too much, either.
When I go to the parks I do feel calm and a sense of belonging being in nature but all I see are white people, makes me feel out of place
Idk
Some of the paths are paved which makes it good to walk on and other are paved or not but have place where you can trip
More docks, trails and natural flowers and plants
Improving the accessibility of the various trails etc would make it feel more belonging to me personally (ie benches). I feel like there also needs to be acknowledgment of the indigenous peoples and communities that had the space before as to have them also belong.
It just feels like I'm in a park. There's no sense of belonging or un-belonging, just there and not there.
The parks seem very open to the public and it makes me feel like I belong.
I feel welcome and everyone is nice. The only thing that would improve my sense of belonging would be more signs saying the the culture and history of the park.
I just think they're really cool, although I live in savage so I spend more time in Scott county parks
I've grown up mountain biking at Lebanon Hills Mountain Bike Trail
It's a place where you can be you and don't have to worry about others.
Events to connect us all together.
I feel my thoughts and feelings mean absolutely nothing to Dakota County. You only want my money and how I can serve Dakota County. Money is allocated and spent with no public input. And Dakota County keeps creating more areas for upkeep so the constant need for money and more, more, more never ends. Dakota County has eminent domained areas and that is wrong on so many levels. And by requiring 7 responses above illustrates the point how Dakota County does not care what I think. I don't care about any of these areas.
Ways to promote participation of folks like me, low financial barrier to entry
Bike paths that connect from my community to the parks.
Dakota County parks should feel welcoming to every person. I believe they hit this mark, with one exception. I think the parks/trails could be made more accessible to those with physical disabilities: additional benches, offering all terrain wheelchair rentals, etc.
More signs about the history of the land
Lebanon park is my happy place.
Based on how I want to use the parks, I'm able, and the county offers lessons when I'm trying to learn a new skill to belong.
I've lived in Dakota County for over 50 years. I've always enjoyed the parks.
Ease of access, proximity to where I live, ease of use.
I like the many natural (not paved) trails winding through natural beauty.

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.

I would love to see the existing gravel infrastructure utilized in a manner that incorporates an "off asphalt" opportunity in the U More Park and Whitetail Woods area, near Rosemount and Farmington. Some beautiful and natural routes exist as a rarity in any suburb. Not to mention access to Lone Rock...

I enjoy being outdoors and as long as everyone was included in the parks, I'd feel the sense of belonging.

As a nature lover and someone who cares deeply about sustainability and the future of our planet, I feel like Dakota County prioritizes infinite economic growth and inefficient use of land (detached single-family housing, chain/national/multinational corporation branch locations) over preservation of the remaining green space that we have. As a resident, I would feel better about the future of Dakota County if the county prioritized the creation and preservation of new parks and protected natural areas.

Please finish paving and connect the bike paths so i can get to other parks and locations on a bike

Acknowledgment of indigenous history

Like the park and feel liked by the park!

I live in Washington County so I don't technically belong to a Dakota County Park. The parks are free in Dakota County and they are also far superior to Washington County Parks in terms of natural habitat so I prefer them to Washington County. Spring Lake Park really stands out with the bison herd and far better natural habitat with less invasive plants than Washington County. Please help Washington County improve their parks to be more like Dakota County Parks and please continue to restore the native habitat.

There are many park users who need to spend less time worrying about the rules. Some rules are outdated, many don't make sense (allow biking on the XC Ski Trails when they are closed to horses but not snow covered). Just relaxing on common-sense rule enforcement would be nice. We can't make full loops with a 4yr old skier, so should we not ski? We get yelled at almost every time for going wrong-way on a one way with a 4 year old. One vest yielding volunteer went far enough to say "well then you should stay home if your 4 year old can't make the full loop". That was disappointing to hear.

I often go to the parks alone or with a relative. I haven't participated in any community events at the parks, so I haven't met any new people at the parks or developed a sense of community or belonging at the parks beyond individual recreation. I would be open to participating in community activities at parks like invasive species removal, local food production, foraging, gardening. I feel like those kinds of activities can bring people together and build community. I feel like it's hard to find many opportunity like these in Dakota County.

Volunteering gives me a sense of ownership---having worked so hard to restore areas of this park makes me feel like it is a little part of me, like I am a little part of the park.

I don't know enough about the park and trails system or what is available, how to use different equipment. Some other patrons make me feel like I do not belong when I am new to the area or the particular activity and others are more seasoned. They are not always welcoming, do not help people learn and sometimes belittle those who are trying to learn and newly engage in the activities - those experiences discourage folks from returning or accessing the amenities. Trying to sign up for a class was difficult, especially when trying to register more than one person when multiple email addresses were needed.

My spouse and I enjoy the Dakota County parks a great deal, and appreciate the way they are maintained. Perhaps planning a few more community events to attract new participants would expand our sense of belonging.

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.

More natural areas with trails and native plants.
I live on the border of Scott County, so my daily/weekly visits are to a Three Rivers Park within walking distance. Dakota County Parks are a half hour drive, so they are more special events, but they are great! (You can see from my trail concerns, we have a local issue with some people misusing certain trails and being resistant about complying when there is no consequence.) Never had a restroom issue, but that is huge for women feeling safe.
Lots of opportunities for women and children and families
As a Lebanon Hills Park volunteer, I feel welcomed and appreciated.
I visit many different parks across Minnesota but I live in Dakota County so when I visit parks near home there's always a bit more pride in those adventures I don't believe I could improve my sense of belonging
I grew up in outdoor spaces. I also have privilege as a white person. I welcome seeing people of color and sign/events that highly Indigenous people, people of color.
Lebanon hills is one of my favorite places to go to be in nature
Not sure
I feel they do community outreach and different public activities, so that's great! Also, I see all kinds of people using the parks all the time, so I feel like I fit in too.
Very dog friendly hiking trails big I would love to see more trails that I can bikjor on in summer with my dog.
The horse trails in Lebanon make me feel welcome as a rider.
Welcoming and open feeling for park systems
Na
Not sure.
I'm at home in the woods - I love being outdoors and have always felt included and represented by the park system.
Seems weird.
I spend a lot of time at E. Spring Lake Park, In the winter you don't have much for people who like to walk or snowshoe. Too many trails that we can't go on, you have to be a skier to use them. I've met individuals when I've been there who asked where are the trails that I can walk on. Very few want to walk a bike trail because there is so much more wind. Walkers usually want to be in the woods and there is only one trail and it isn't a loop. There are no snow shoe trails. I will snowshoe in the woods and blaze my own trail, but my friends don't like to do that. In the summer it grieved me that you made it so when I walk the zigzag, that you enter near the playground, that I can't come back out to the tree line. You blocked it off with a whole bunch tree logs. I use to come out and walk the tree line to the bike trail and follow it until the last trail back into the woods that brings you to the cliff edge trail. This was the longest loop I could take. So I feel you are making it harder and harder for me to do the walks that I love to do.
I need to explore more of the parks and greenways
I like that the parks are focused on nature and recreation - no extra agendas please
I guess I feel like I being there as much as anywhere else
All places I have visited are easy to access and provide good signage which help make me feel like I know what I'm doing.

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.
Don't live in Dakota county
I live here and feel like it's part of our community.
NA
I come and go as I please and no one bothers me.
I would love more recreation classes. My daughter wants to learn to fish and there are no fishermen in our lives. I haven't been able to get into one of the classes!
I think it's helpful to have signs that remind people the parks are for everyone, if your skiing they are also for hiking; if your hiking they are also for skiing; if your biking they are also for walking; if you are doing whatever you are doing fast the trails and space also for the slow; if you are experienced outside these spaces are also for people who are not. (I hope that made sense)
I started to feel this way when anna ferris started visiting our ecfe class and getting input from families who would be using the parks. And then seeing her and other familiar faces at family events!
I find Dakota county parks accessible.
Close by, safety feeling
We really enjoyed the new Antlers Park in Lakeville this summer. We got to paddle board, boat, swim, eat at Lakeville Brewing and food trucks. It is a great destination. We also did archery at Spring Lake Park. We would have benefited from smaller groups. We often use the parks for family pictures and senior pictures. We could use more middle school age activities/camps. We love to walk & hike the parks, but don't always know the best routes for young kids, dogs and getting exercise.
Just feels good to get out.
Continuing to keep programs and services as affordable as possible.
I appreciate that Dakota county promotes their parks and greenway and are always looking for ways to improve. The sense of community and importance the county puts into it's resources is admirable.
I am a tax paying citizen who respects the parks and therefore I belong.
N/a
Volunteering at the parks gives me a bit of ownership.
I belong in nature. Fortunately nature is close even in the suburbs
You don't reach farmington like you don't care- so ... bring yourself here. Whitetail is way the heck- you have to drive there. Our teens/kids/young adults need something closer.
They always feel welcoming for either individual adventure or to gather as a group
I love the outdoors and having spaces for people to be outside enjoying the earth and the many great things about it.
As I get older I greatly appreciate information that helps me to choose my activities - for example: information about trail difficulty or length, rest areas, bathrooms, and how to access help when needed.
More information to the public on accessibility, availability & amenities that we have & how to get there Just more info out there
As I have aged, I find it harder to walk long distances and hence use the parks less often
More unique parks and features, our kids love fawn crossings, the new park at Thompson, the vision at spring lake

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.
I just feel comfortable at the parks. The hiking trails are marked well & there are shorter length options for me which I appreciate. I can't think of anything else that would improve my comfort level.
Connecting recreation bike trails
I use the horse trails 2-3 times per week. Mostly others with horses who enjoy the parks as much as I do.
Keep them well kept. Replace old signs, keep pathways groomed, etc
Staff is always welcoming and signage is helpful.
I have been able to volunteer with plants, weeding, and music in the parks. There were a variety of times available and everyone has been very welcoming. Having clean bathrooms, drinking fountains, and paved trails makes me feel comfortable inviting all kinds of people to come to the park with me.
The more you ask to see how i feel and i belong, that itself makes it clear we're in la la land, not actual reality.
the park spaces feel welcoming to me, and I haven't noticed anything that would make someone feel unwelcome
I just moved to the Amber Fields neighborhood in June and have yet to get any community involvement magazines or community education packets. I would have liked to see more FREE activities at the Irish days festival. I've heard there's suppose to be a food truck thing coming up but I only heard that because I watched a City Council election on YouTube. I don't know where when what food trucks prices etc. No, I do not use social media, which is probably where this info is. Also considering this is a new neighborhood why isn't there any neighborhood involvement activities for us? I can't be the only new family in this area, right?
Making trails more interconnected
I feel like I am welcome when the rules are being followed. The rules make sure everyone is enjoying themselves. Dedicated winter trails for hiking and different trails for skiing make me feel safer. Enforcement is very important
I am not sure why I wouldn't belong. Parks are for everyone
N/A
Better signage for no bikes in east leb off 120th street
I feel a part of the parks because of the many hours that I volunteer doing natural resource restoration.
The nature, birds, plants and the fresh smell of the woods is the best part. I enjoy the nature walks and feel very connected.
multilingual signage as appropriate, environmental educational tools (signs, placards, handouts) for visitors
Parks feel welcoming to me, in part it is how they have been designed within nature's characteristics.
We attend knee high naturalists with our daughter quite often and enjoy some of the other places as well and the parks are very family friendly and inclusive from my experiences.
Garrett has done a great job helping people get involved thru the volunteer program. I sometimes feel the park board listens more to big business then they do the patrons using the parks.
More signage and maps to know where trails go in the parks. I get afraid of getting lost or going too far out of my way so I don't explore new areas or trails.
More open hiking/snow shoeing trails in the winter and fewer cross country ski only trails.

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.
I have been going to Lebanon Hills since I moved to Eagan in 1993. I feel at home on the trails.
I walk my dog at Thompson Park almost every morning.
They are clean, and the staff is friendly when I have a question. Trails are well marked and maintained, and I see a variety of other people (ages, languages, individuals, couples, families) enjoying the same space.
More single track mountain bike trails, especially starting to incorporate more modern trail building techniques/features. More machine built trails with focus on progressive jump lines, technical features, drops/wood features. A bike park would be amazing.
I feel like Dakota County provides good information about the parks. I love trees, plants, and animals and I feel like I can enjoy them at the DC parks I visit.
Admittedly, I am a white person and feel comfortable in the parks. Most people I see in the parks seem like me. I think for the future of the parks, attracting new types of visitors and gaining their support is essential. I think more people means more support for nature and conservation, which is a good thing.
No suggestions for improvement.
We've been enjoying Dakota County parks ever since moving to MN over 20 years ago and never felt out of place.
Since the pandemic I've become more sedentary so haven't been in the parks much I'm 72 years old and have gained 25 pounds since 2020
Dakota County has done a super job of keeping areas for parks / green space so we have options. And a good job of advertising the options. The e-bikes are getting too aggressive on some trails. I have had to jump or move out of their way when they should have waited for "traffic" of walkers and pedal bikes to move along so they could pass. Include more signage as the parks develop and have the signage oriented the same way across the county. For example, when I'm looking at way finding, am I facing N, S, E or W?
Public art that focuses on national pride as Americans.
Ensuring that all users are treating nature respectfully.
I use the parks often and also volunteer in them.
I think the Parks does a good job of trying to cover a very wide demographic of people, ideas, and backgrounds. You can't please everyone all the time. I would suggest making sure that park quality and staff service are the top things staff are striving to accomplish, Meeting that makes everyone, no matter who they are, feel welcomed and enjoy their time.
I like seeing the preserved areas and the emphasis on recycling.
Welcoming staff
There is not enough seating and lighting.
There needs to be more of a focus on nature, on habitat restoration and expansion of natural areas, and on connecting parks through greenways and making them accessible by modes of transportation other than cars.
I feel like I belong. I'm not sure that statement would apply if I wasn't a white middle-class female. Representation is important, and people that feel less comfortable on trails could really benefit from more group hikes that are specific to BIPOC, etc.
I would like more paved/gravel bike trails

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.
Being listened to about keeping the Natural Resources from being over-run by trails and facilities
There are no Dakota County parks in Lakeville. I have to travel 20 minutes by car to get to Whitetail or Lebanon. Hard to feel like I belong there when they are so far removed from Lakeville.
I personally feel like the facilities, parking lots, recreation are well signed and inclusive. Improvements could be adding multilingual signage and/or some more education on the Indigenous peoples land that we walk on in our parks.
I've lived here for over 50 years. Tunnels and bridges to cross busy highways.
Easy to access
I love our parks but would like them better lite with LED lighting.
Being in nature is welcoming to all - nature doesn't discriminate and nothing in the DC park system is discriminatory. There may not be a significant amount of things that would help people feel welcome, but that doesn't occur in nature either. The park system should aim to welcome all without feeling obligated to add things that would help others feel more welcome - this can actually lead to others feeling discriminated, especially in a nature environment. Reserveable spaces are a great way to allow individuals/groups to customize the space to their desires temporarily.
The park system is easily accessible. There is minimal invasiveness of crowds (unless you seek a particular event). The parks are well maintained.
Connecting with our natural world is what keeps us grounded, centered, and happy.
Great
Welcome staff and/or volunteers who are knowledgeable and can help with way finding and providing information on the park on site
I am an active volunteer and interact with natural resource staff regularly. They are knowledgeable and dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the high quality natural environment in the parks. I am unable to think of anything that would improve my sense of belonging. The county just has to maintain the budget and resources to keep on track to achieve the vision of our "Forever Wild" park system
I feel like I belong. No issues
Ability to volunteer with Dakota County Parks is a huge reason lots of people, myself included, feel a sense of belonging.
Love all the signage and staff when I see them are very friendly
I feel perfectly at home on Dakota County Greenways and in Parks
I generally feel like I belong in the parks. The Dakota County "Forever Wild" motto really resonates with me.
Continued quiet trails for walking in wilderness-like areas.
When you own property out of state, local parks are not important.
I feel like i belong
My enjoyment from experiences and activities in the parks contribute to my sense of belonging. Positive interactions with other people in these parks does also.
Having bathrooms/ port-a-potty open all year round.
The greenways tie our neighborhoods together.
I've in Dakota County for 43 years and love biking, hiking, skiing and paddling in our County Parks. I only wish my house was right next door to a park or greenway.

Tell us more about your answer and what would improve your sense of belonging.

The trails are well-maintained and I can hike on the trails and enjoy hiking, bird watching and spending time with friends and no one looks at me with suspicion.
Opportunity to volunteer in various ways from trash pickup or learning how to care for water/ponds
Please do not cut down any more trees. Too many trees have been cut down at Spring Lake Park Reserve and Dakota Woods dog park. There are very few wooded areas in our county and they are a precious resource. Please add more kayak access to the river.
I would like them to remain parks, and not become recreational centers. More payment means less places for the native flora and fauna to survive.
Keep up the good work
I volunteer a lot in the parks with very committed people. We feel that in our stewardship, an ownership of the park—like it's in our care.
We need more interpretative signs and learning opportunities on signage. Also making sure that access to parks is equal across demographics (maybe needing to add more parks in the future to more areas?).
Don't steal land. Don't steal money to pay for parks via taxation.
I am a person with a disability and need to use a walker. At Whitetail Woods I can use the paved sidewalks; at Spring Lake Park my walker gets caught in the paved walkways which have funny stones in them and I cannot walk there. I would like to get to Schaar's Bluff before I die.
Already answered— taking the survey again. I was kicked out before I finished.
Love the nature trails. More benches for resting on long sections of trail.

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

When I'm in a Dakota country park a lot of other people are there too. Knowing that I'm in the company of good people, typically families, that I can reach out too if there's a problem makes me feel safe. Also, having a designated community facility with county employees helps improve safety too. Along with having a public phone to use, just in case.
Other people around
Park is well kept, no homeless people or shelter, patrolling, no drug group hanging out
Moderate lighting, level trails, presence of other park users.
Being off busy streets
Being in a place away from busy streets and high traffic areas but still close enough to shelter and emergency services is what makes me feel safe.
Lighted and WELL MARKED paths. Weather shelters.
Good wayfinding pieces, having not too many people but some around.
Fewer people, fewer houses nearby.
Cleanliness
Have not heard of past incidents, the parks are quiet, families use the parks.
I feel safe because I feel like I can walk around the park and not feel like i am being followed
Maps to guide us, clear trails so you don't get lost
Parks in general are pretty safe, only thing that makes me feel at risk is the lack of lights
Ahhhhh しずかに。
Lights in open areas (especially parking lots) and being with other people I trust
The diversity and uniqueness to each and every park. Alongside their attractions and nature views, there is something different, big or small, in every park that makes me want to explore more of the Dakota County Parks knowing they're all ran by the same organization.
good lighting at night and info on plants and animals
Lights
Quiet areas with no creepy people
There are maps around so I know where on the trail I am. The trails are a relatively good size.
Signs and maps which tell me where I am! I like to see signs fairly often
I like being able to see what's around me and being in a place that's well lit in places where people are if it's dark.
Idk
Knowing where I am
Surrounding community
Having people who work at the parks in the general area so I know there's at least someone to go to if something bad happens. Also having a main space that's fairly open and easy to see around.
When you with family or friends.
Not too many people nothing feels secluded
Clearly marked trails, lack of hostile plants and animals, easily navigated paths.
Clear line of sight. Lots of trail maps so I don't feel lost.

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
Knowing there are park rangers to speak to or contact if I need help
Being near residential but still being secured within the greenery of the trail
The trail markers, info signs, accessible trails, and more.
The lack of people
Other friendly people, maps to know where you are, good community
A clean path that is easy to follow. Some sense of security. Cameras?
Being in the woods
Im strong asl so I can run up on any opps that try to catch me lacking
the fact that i have cell service and am close to a hospital safe trails
The community that is near enough to reassure me that there aren't people out there.
Being around other people in a public space.
Good maps, nice community and friendly rangers
It's clean
Maps how calm and clean they are
HOW PEACEFUL
I feel pretty safe since I'm a 6 foot tall white man. Other than that I think that the parks have plenty of trail postings so you don't get lost
How often it is used and how well it is maintained.
I don't have an option on how save and unsafe.
The maps
Well-kept and taken care of.
Well kept and marked paths and a very familiar area keeps me feeling safe
The mapped trails and other people
Knowing the area
All of the rangers present
Idk
Lights
It just feels comfortable
Lighting in necessary areas
The woods
Railings on the edge of cliffs
The way finding maps and the fact that the parks are within cities. It is easy to use your phone to call for help, and the maps make it so that you know exactly where you are.
I feel like at the beach for example I have a lot of people close by if something happens
When I have phone service.
When walking in the woods at parks there is a map at every fork in the road
Very open areas, not incredibly secluded
Natural biodiversity

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
When I can be in a quiet place in nature and not have a motorized vehicle speed past me
Being alone out there
Adequate lighting in the parking lots, open space, and well kept areas all make me feel safe in parks/greenways..
Lighted trails and less people nearby
Seeing other people walking by, the signs and maps that tell me where I am, the employees being around
I'm sigma
Trail maps so I know where I am
That it away from people but that also makes it more hard to call for help
Nothing in particular just like being in nature
Although most trails and areas are separated, you always feel as though someone else can see you. Plus there is never really a bad feeling.
not a lot of people, paths aren't visible to one another
Easy to read maps
Widened paths and lights, along with an office or building with information and people you can go to for help.
Knowing I can call for help if needed
It feels very secluded and secure
Proximity to civilization, not as isolated as backcountry
The fact that it has cell reception and availability to the public.
Being with other people, having safety features
The paths are straight and wide.
Having lights, cell service and park rangers or officials nearby
The sense of place and piece and quiet I have while I'm out there.
People
I don't really know
Lighting, and overall well kept maintained areas.
Nothing the county does makes me feel safe.
Signage outlining guidelines, lighting in parking areas, occasional presence of staff or patrol vehicles.
Lighting
Other people present at the same time as me. A busy park.
Occasional police presence. Well-marked trails.
Cleanliness & a sense that the park is well taken care of/maintained often
Presence of peace officers/staff
The park is clean, there are not damaged equipment or graffiti on buildings or signs. The trails are well kept and used and other families are using the space.
No issues to deal with

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
Well up kept trails and facilities, staff that are present and active.
Trails generally well-maintained with clear map indicators of location.
There are usually other people enjoying the park at the same time. Undesirable people don't often spend their time in the parks.
Well maintained trails/paths, minimal congestion
Well-maintained trails, lighting, periodic presence of park staff
Daylight, other people, and familiarity.
Trails are well marked and well maintained. The parks are used by others so if I need help I know that someone is nearby.
Well-kept trails with not a lot of people.
Other people around enjoying the park responsibly, especially families
Just nature. I've never felt unsafe, but I know some ethnicities don't feel this way.
Well lit, open spaces, occasional patrol on biked
Trails are well maintained and used; I don't feel like I'm alone The periodic presence (visual) of DaCo staff The addition of lighting at the dog park
Other park visitors and on Site staff
Not worrying about something getting stolen or crimes. I had a catalytic converter stolen on Christmas Eve at Spring Lake Park. It was scary. I noticed cameras installed temporarily later. I hope they have better security in the future so that does not happen. People who obey the rules and keep their pets leashed. People who don't control their pets and pick up after them should not be allowed in the parks. It is the wildlife's home and they need to be respected just as if you were visiting a person's house. The wildlife should feel safe and not feel threatened by people and pets.
Signage, people around, lights.
Healthy surrounding community.
Well maintained trails Sightlines to other areas Wayfinding maps & signage Presence of other trail users
Other people are around, familiarity with the park
Signage with wayfinding and using parks and greenways during daylight hours
Well lit spaces, emergency facilities (accessible phones to call for help), keeping out the riff raff (no loitering or drug deals, etc.).
I feel very safe in nature. I trust that people using the parks are also there to be respectful of nature and each other.
Trails are typically well marked and maintained, and signage is good.
Not safe - car break-ins at Ritter Farm Park in Lakeville.
Have my car NOT broken into while hiking.
Natural landscape with people hiking, instead of loud groups.

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
No motorized vehicles. Zero bikes on unpaved trails. Only leashed dogs. Clear and enforced policies regarding these, which means occasional staff presence, giving consequences. Signs in big parks to check location when hiking. Safe restrooms-well lit if appropriate, no people sheltering or loitering there, easy viewing around and in to check for safety.
No trash, no graffiti, no people just hanging around, no drugs, rangers or employees onsite
Lighted visible parking lots. Staffed visitor center.
Generally the people I meet are there for the same reason I am - to enjoy activities in the park.
The parks are always so peaceful and scenic it gives an air of safety
not a lot of other people around, good lighting, lack of trash/not dumpy looking/no vandalism
Clear path, clear where to go for help
open paths, lights
Cleared of downed trees/branches, weeds and garbage.
Good signage to make sure you don't get lost
Lighting, access to nearby people -- whether it's staff, neighborhoods, a main event center, or something. Also I feel physically safe because they clearly do tree maintenance and watch out for dangerous limbs or blocked paths.
Well marked trails and maps that are easy to read.
Physical space from other people.
Fellow park users that are encountered, have never experienced incident that makes me question safety
Volunteers
Not too remote, good signage.
Other people being around.
Great signage and volunteers
lighting, many people
Good signage so I don't feel lost - A well used park so I don't feel completely alone Seeing park staff out and about occasionally Well maintained and lit (in appropriate places) Cell phone coverage in remote areas
Trails and maps
Having passable and groomed trails in all seasons.
Clean facilities. Good lighting. Friendly people. Well kept and cared for parks and facilities. No graffiti.
It's nature and it seems pretty safe with the low risk of a bear or other large animal being sighted
How many other people are using it and my dog makes me feel safe on our walks too.
Amazing trail maps and signage. Lots of lights in parking lots. Location of Parks
Well lit areas, accessible trails
Well kept paths and maintained trails
People and families are present, signage is helpful. Visibility of park rangers and staff.

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
Other people being around in the general area.
Clear maps showing the trails
A visitor center, good lighting, a parking lot with good lighting, maps and easy to read signage along the trails
It helps when there are other people around.
No reports of crimes.
Well maintained trails and lighting (where appropriate); being away from traffic (particularly when biking)
Nothing
The park layouts, seeing other folks hiking or walking on the paths. Lighting in the parking areas.
Environment, friendly people. Never have any issues.
typically I am walking with a 70lb dog. I am often the only one walking where I am walking.
There are generally many people around
Well marked trails
Lack of crime, well-maintained parks
Most likely my privilege; but that aside- signs, maps, classes (taking a class helps me to feel like I belong doing whatever it is I'm doing where I'm doing it), knowing the rules and conventions also help.
Staff around, others using the park, clear signage, designated parking, lights in parking area.
Often see very few other people. Nature = serenity. Wild spaces give me a sense of security.
Factor in other individuals.
Presence of other people
Well marked trails. Other people and families around.
Well-maintained facilities and trails, clear signage
Well lit parking lot, well kept trails, seeing other people enjoying similar activities
Signage.
I think the people who visit these parks are generally safe and mindful. Approachable and kind staff also helps.
No graffiti or trash or dog poop Park amenities clean and in working order Well lit parking lots and buildings The rules and laws of various areas are respected by the public and enforced by county employees
Not a lot of other people around. Or if they are around, there's enough space between.
Lighting, presence of other families
Being with a group of nature lovers.
Number of other people. Feeling like I'm in nature but also close to help if needed
I'd like to see trees cleared At vermilion in farmington it's kinda creepy- and yet want it nature based - kayaks canoes Pattle board rentals (cheap so affordable but something for (especially) our teens & young adults to do)
Open, we'll used, not a lot of litter to suggest crime (needles, beer cans, etc.)

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
Lack of seclusion , history of safety, preparedness/awareness
Good lighting, a lot of people, and often park and police presence.
Clear trails, good signage, maps, lighting near buildings and parking area. Banning guns within the parks/trails.
Well lit spaces, open, visible, amenities available
I've only been to parks with a group Versus on my own
People seem friendly
Good trails, clean, good signage
There are always people around so if I were to need help, I'm confident I could get that. I walk alone a lot or with my dog & I've never felt uncomfortable at a Dakota County Park. Keep in mind that I only visit the parks in the daytime.
Enough open space that I encounter few people
Knowing there are other people around; trails that are well marked and decently clear
I've never experienced any safety issues while using the park. I do see park staff in the park, along with law enforcement checking in.
Lots of other people around. A popular park is a safe park. NYC is relatively safe because there are so many people around.
I feel safe because there are usually enough other people around that make it feel like I am not alone, yet I can still feel alone in nature.
I bike hundreds of miles a year through Dakota County Parks and the bikeways, river paths, & green way connections make this an area of the Twin Cities that I feel the safest from vehicle traffic. I've been biking for the last 12 years throughout the Twin Cities and Dakota has improved this more than any other area of the Cities. Hopefully it continues to get better!
People--there is a fair amount of people using the park. I know that when there are trash cans and bathrooms, staff will eventually come around as well. It might be helpful to have some emergency call stations
Signage--it's helpful for planning hikes and knowing how to get back
Nothing, there exists danger everywhere.
How the park is situated, having people around but not too many people
Staff, volunteers, community members. Everyone I have come across is very friendly kind and considerate.
Gates to control park access (closed after hours/rain), signs indicating emergency trails, etc.
I feel safe when I see a dog has a leash. I feel like I belong and I am safe when I see the signs that say cross-country skiing only. I feel like there's at least some effort being put forth for skier safety and enjoyment.
Location of parks
Other people around
Quiet and good trail markers
Adequate signage/wayfinding, lights

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

I'm grateful for the lights in Dakota County parks because often when we are able to go enjoy them after work, it is beginning to get dark. I appreciate when trails are maintained and easy to casually hike and enjoy.
I go hiking/walking at most of these parks and with so many paths leading towards different directions, there are signs at every intersection plus the benches some parks to rest. Also how the walk trails are separated from Bike trails.
Well maintained, well used, high quality, well designed to limit risk
Absence of troublesome individuals.
Staffed areas at Lebanon hills, moderate usage (more people than just me/my family there), Good and updated signage/maps on bike trails. Adequate lighting for winter after dark.
No reason, I just do
There are often other people around.
DCSO Park Rangers making regular patrols
Good signage. Well-maintained trails. Friendly people sharing the trails.
I have my dogs with me.
Other than occasionally seeing off leash dogs I have never had a problem.
Clearly marked trails, clean environment.
In general, the people who use the parks are respectful and kind. The few negative experiences have been anomalies.
Clear visibility on the walkway without too much overhead branches or blocked views around corners.
The city of Eagan is a safe place to live and do things.
Ease of finding personal space
They are typically not overly crowded.
I feel most of Dakota County is pretty safe in general. Dakota County provides great maps.
The wayfinding and national grid signs.
Primary use is for outdoor recreation rather than a gathering place for loitering.
Guests that I encounter in Dakota County parks are like-minded people who are out to enjoy nature - not to harass others.
Cameras
Lights and other people
Seeing other people and only being out in the day time
Seeing other solo hikers or families and seeing county employees. When grasses are cut down at least 6 feet away from the trail as at Whitetail Woods.
Active park with lots of people using it. Free of homeless encampments and litter.
Rarely see other people and those that I do are out enjoying nature as well
No shady people lurking in parking lots, no theft, no litter, lighting, no graffiti
I always feels safer in nature and than on the streets. But tripping hazards on paved trails are unsafe.
Presence of staff and volunteers at many areas of our parks.
The areas are always clean and well-lit.

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
Signage
Signs, staff
Lighting
Ample lighting, an emergency call box, maps of the park.
Proximity to nature, trails, sightlines, other people.
Open trails, other people around
Being familiar with my surroundings. Seeing other people (but not too many!). Good signage so I feel comfortable that I won't get lost. Trails that are well kept.
lighting safety personnel cameras
Nature, respectful users
Maps
Well lit area, good signage.
I never feel there's a negative threat at the parks I've been to.
Clean trails and trailheads. There aren't people living in the woods. I think having an officer or two in the parking lots also helps keep it feeling safe.
I feel very safe on our fabulous paved Greenways. I put on 2500-3000 miles per year mostly on Dakota County paved trails and Eagan sidewalks. Below I will list the 5 reasons I "occasionally" feel unsafe on Dakota trails: 1) I feel unsafe when I am riding my bike on a paved trail with a skim of wet dirt or thick dry sand, typical of riding the MN Greenway after a flood. As of Aug 24, this MNG paved trail that parallels Black Dog plant road was still not cleaned up from the flood. 2) I try to avoid riding on the Hwy 13 shoulder, but at least twice per day I have to ride on the shoulder from Eagan's Four Oaks rd to the Lone Oak trailhead. It would be nice to have a sidewalk on the east side of Hwy 13 from Four Oaks or McCarthy road to Lone Oak trailhead. I know Lone Oak rd is planned for a trail from Pilot Knob to the trail head. It will be nice to have but very steep incline to climb. McCarthy or Four Oaks rd would be ideal. 3) Occasionally the Lillydale stretch of the Big Rivers Trail is closed (rockslide, tree down, new uplift station). When this occurs it forces many more bikers onto hwy 13 shoulder. I have met some folks on the trail that will not risk hwy 13. It is especially dangerous riding down on the southbound side with virtually no bike lane. I was almost run over by a car 2 years ago during the months long uplift station install. It would be nice to have an alternate trail when BRT is closed for work and better marking to tell autos to yield to bikes. 4) I emailed Mike Lexvold 4 photos of a huge cotton wood tree that root system is exposed along the cliff overlooking the Big Rivers Trail. The hwy 13 culvert directs water into that big cotton wood root system, 1/3 of which is totally exposed on the trail side. I and other riders believe in the storms we have of late it will fall either on the trail or Hwy 13 and will create a bad rock slide that could injure folks. It would be good to work with MNDOT to proactively remove the tree. 5) Throttle only based (no pedalling) ebikes that are obviously going too fast have been a hazard on a few of my rides this past year. Not sure what could be done to prevent speeding. Thanks for listening and for our awesome trails and parks !
Other people around, ways to get in touch with people

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
I'm 73 and bike ride. It takes a lot to shake me.
Seeing staff and number of people
Not overly secluded
Well maintained trails, workers
I would like better lighting in some of the parks and especially the tunnels.
I have never felt in any danger and have observed open areas that can be enjoyed without fear of someone "lurking". I have seen patrol vehicles come through on occasion as well.
Dedicated path away from car traffic
Parking lots are well lit, ample directional signing on trails, frequent visits from park sheriff
Presence of others
Confident of surroundings, clear markings of trails
Good signage when on trails. Park patrol presence from time to time in parking lots (where break-ins can take place).
Knowing that my car won't be broken into while I am out hiking.
Lighted parking lot, good maps, good cellphone service
Visibility of families and park staff
Confidence in knowing my location and destination when hiking in the parks, especially Lebanon Hills, as a result of excellent maps and signage, as well as my familiarity with the trail systems. In addition, fellow trail users are generally friendly and we exchange greetings. The staff at the Lebanon Hills Visitor Center are friendly and helpful and responsive when I call in downed trees or other issues I observe while hiking.
I feel safe because the parks I go to most often are busy and there are lots of people there.
I am at parks often, and I know where I am going, feel comfortable in nature. Also, many other kind, friendly people out hiking.
Lighting, safety features, emergency phones
I only go in daytime. I would like more staff presence
Being with another person. I would not use the park alone.
The lack of motorized traffic and the bountiful nature.
Visitors are generally well behaved. In most instances dog walkers will control their pets if they are not on a leash. However, off leash dogs can sometimes be a problem.
I simply feel safe in the Dakota County parks I visit.
Do not use them.
Other people around, good lighting
I've never had any problems, negative encounters or experiences in any of these parks and that helps me feel safe in them.
There's cell phone reception in case of an emergency. There's a shelter to protect me from sudden weather changes.
Well maintained site.
I'm always with someone.

What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
Parking lot with streetlights, well maintained and groomed trails, well-used park.
Lighting and free of trash)
Because they are well maintained (cleared roads, litter picked up, clean bathrooms, and daily visits by Dakota Sheriff's department. I have been hiking the paths since 1986 and have never had any reason to be worried.
There are other users around
Good community
That it's not totally empty, that it's clearly well-maintained, there are bathrooms, there are ways to reach help, that my car won't be broken into
Never had a negative interaction on them
Cellphone service, legible signage, wayfinding, ranger patrol, staff accessibility
I've never lost cell service in the parks
Knowing that they are frequently used so I know there's always someone not far around. Also nature makes me feel safe and I try not to worry about what "could" happen.
To know that it wasn't land stolen by eminent domain laws or paid for by a punitive tax system.
Other people.
Other people around

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?
Keep reaching out to schools in the area! So many kids get stuck inside a building all day and need to get outside. I go to the School of Environmental Studies next to the MN Zoo and, compared to my previous high-school (Priorlake), it has been a great joy to actually get out into different spaces. We had some fourth graders come in and visit SES for a field day and while we walked them around they were extremely observant and excited about the environment. They were restless when we didn't move so we gave them lots to do. In fact, the kids made up a lot of their own fun by throwing rocks and sticks in the pond, collecting different items, or just being observant. Elementary through highschool kids can and will definitely enjoy field days away from their school. Just keep reaching out! The whole reason I'm filling out this survey is because you guys sent Lil, a county employee, to my school. So thank you!
Too many trees are cut down for houses. Too many new neighborhoods don't have parks. Need more trails around water. Would like to rent pontoon on Lakeville lake. Would like community pool. Not enough parking at parks. Need unique parks (huge playground, treetop walking path, scavenger hunt, nature tree logs, bridges, story pages, landmark signs).
Access to trails is restricted due to county roads not having safe methods to cross. For example pilot knob road has no safe way to cross by walking or biking because it is high speed vehicle traffic. I would like to see a bridge crossing over pilot knob road at junction of 195th street to go over the round about or some type of light system that a pedestrian could push to stop traffic. I fear for my life when I cross that road on my bike.
More loop trails!! 2-3 miles in length. Greenway are nice, but not conducive to walking for most. If you do and "out and back" from a parking lot, you only get to enjoy a small portion of the trail
Continue to lean towards habitat restoration! Your ecological staff are outstanding.
I love the Dakota County parks system. I greatly appreciate the smaller bits of protected land as well. My only hope for the future of Dakota County, is to continue or even accelerate protecting any portion of land while they remain undeveloped. Witnessing the rapid development of Rosemount and everywhere else around the metro has been extremely saddening to say the least.
The parks in Dakota County are by far the nicest and most well maintained I have visited in the Twin Cities. Great work!
Nope
There have been all terrain track chairs that have become available for rent at some state parks. These are for people who need help getting through more difficult trails, and I think it would be nice if people could have access to all of the different trails around the parks, not just paved paths.
None
Just staying up to date with "trends". Such as, adding more charging stations for electric vehicles, adding more signage along trails also with QR codes on them to read more about the space you're in and what invasive or unique species surround it.
No
I hope that it becomes more normal for schools to come and just walk around the parks. I think it would be cool for kids to get an early on experience of nature.
No
No
No

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

Nope
I think it would be helpful if the portages were more accessible.
Cleaner lakes.
No.
Nah
rain gardens
It would be cool to have animal rehabilitation programs such as the bison that are in various Minnesota parks.
They should have bat boxes
No
I hope there are more off road hiking trails that don't have path ways.
I think I have high hopes for the parks. They're currently well-maintained and enjoyable and I can only hope that they continue to be.
Less invasive species
No
Nah
Control the bikers 🚲🚫
N/A
Better maps and signage please
I think facilities should be updated so that quality is maintained- strong bike racks, efficient plumbing, handicap accessible trails maintained, functional drinking fountains, etc. I also think common foraging plants should be checked on every so often to monitor/control over harvesting. More pollinator gardens should be implemented in the parking lot areas of parks- similar to Holland Lake's, but bigger. Navigator maps that have been worn down should be redone.
Try to get the younger generation involved with field trips!!
No.
I hope to see installations that reflect on other aspects of nature besides the science behind it, ie. the mental benefits, the influence on literature, the history of the land etc.
No
Consider more area of natural wildflower growth
I like all the trails, would like to see more docks
Jah
Get better bathrooms
No there isn't.
Please tell Scott county how to make a good park
No
More protection

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

How many more areas are you going to take over??? And then expect the few remaining private land owners to pony up and pay the bill Dakota County created?

Please continue to develop the longer connected walk, bike, hike, running ect paths such as big rivers trail. Continue to add to the Lake Marion trail. Also consider doing some of the trails as packed gravel instead of pavement. Thank you!

I would like to see additional habitat protected as housing grows in Dakota county so all residents have equal access to trails

More paved paths for walking please. Build more bike paths in Dakota County that connect all the communities and parks.

I would love to see more nature play areas - these are wonderful spaces that let kids play but also blend into the scenic landscape and there are not many currently

Love our parks!! Would like more bike trails through nature areas. Love the Hastings trail and one in IGH and look. Forward to when they're connected!

I hope that the park system expands programs to invite and welcome all the diversity of Dakota Co residents and visitors well protecting our beautiful natural resources.

I would love a more robust approach to invasive species removal and restoring native habitat. The woods near the mountain bike trails at Lebanon Hills over nearly overrun with buckthorn and garlic mustard and it is depressing.

Expanded areas of undisturbed natural areas, or with minimal maintenance trail access

More programming at Lake Byllesby in general, and more Dakota County Parks presense at the campground, similar to what Lake Elmo Park Reserve does with campfire programming. Partnership with Dakota County Libraries, possible story times at Lake Byllesby and/or art in the park, education about the Dam and the Cannon River. Night sky programming, cultural storytelling about the night sky from native storytellers, programs about the auroras, women retreats like Three Rivers Park District.

I really like the visitor center / event space at Spring Lake Park. Nice modern architecture and features of energy efficiency. That is an outstanding facility.

I would love for there to be a disc golf course somewhere on this park. There are fabulous disc golf courses at similar county parks but nothing available in Eagan. Three Rivers Park has Bryant Lake Park disc golf course and Elm Creek disc golf course.

Keep it natural and non-motorized and not paved. Sure, there could be one paved (or tightly-packed dirt) trail in each park for wheelchair users but keep the rest natural. No playgrounds--or if there are any, keep them on the outer perimeter by the parking lot.

Areas to legally forage for food

I believe there is an untapped potential in creating a bicycling/hiking gravel corridor near the Lone Rock and Whitetail Woods area, which could potentially become a future route for tours or races etc. Potential for Cyclo cross exists as well.

More classes, events. Perhaps an artist in the park series

I don't want nature to be changed too much. Trees, natural areas, etc... If the greenway doesn't have to go "through" Lebanon Hills, that'd be great. Alongside - is fine! Animals (birds included) should still have a home.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

I wish Dakota County would higher prioritize the creation and expansion of natural systems and "green spaces". As a current Lakeville resident and former Farmington resident, over the last 5-10 years I have watched as so much of the nature in the area has been destroyed and removed for the creation of single-family detached housing units. The level of suburban sprawl and poor, inefficient use of land in this area is very sad to see. I wish more of this land would be preserved and designated for nature to thrive.

Please connect and finish paving the paths!

Love the park system and the thoughtful connections. Would like to see continued greenway expansion in the more rural parts of the county. Consider how the county could leverage other assets (vermillion river, vermillion highlands) and work with other jurisdictions. DaCo has more assets than many of these smaller jurisdictions so your financial lead may also be necessary. Continue to seek input in a variety of ways. Thank you for doing this!

Repair the Bridges around Jensen Lake

I would like more events with traditional ecological knowledge from indigenous people and nature walks. More volunteer events to help restore habit. People need to give more back to nature. More educational events.

We need a greenhouse to grown our own native and to partner with the Dakota County Master Gardeners!

Take a look at Carver Park and Lake Rebecca, Elm Creek among others.
Blow snow for skiing, create multi-use paths to navigate across the park via something other than foot or hoof. Reduce horse trail options, they are rarely used. Revamp the middle of Leb, it is beautiful but mostly unused. Biking is popular, people want more mountain bike trails, trail builders are growing in numbers and do amazing low damage work, don't listen to the people who yell the loudest. The leb "old guard" is changing and now is the time to go with some new ideas. And clean up the lakes! The cattails/lily are winning and filling up with muck. As a canoe-er I've seen it firsthand the past 20 years. One thing Dakota Cty could do with Leb that basically no other park can do is make those waterways even better by turning them into real small pond/lakes with fish and aeration. The list goes on, and they are all good problems to have. We love our parks!!!!

Unless you live within walking distance of a park, it seems like a private vehicle is the primary way people access the parks. Most parks aren't even accessible to me by bike due to distance & hills. I wish the parks were easier to access via transit, as is the case in other parts of the country. I would love to see the county do more to show environmental leadership at parks and build community around that. Solar energy and perhaps wind energy in more rural parks, net zero energy buildings, restoring the natural hydrology, more ecological gardening and local sustainable food production with opportunities for community members to participate. I wish we had something like a public botanical garden or arboretum in Dakota County. Encourage people to get out in the parks, showcase their work and build community by hosting nature photography competitions and publishing residents' work in county publications and putting local parks photography on display at county buildings.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

To me, the parks represent the best of Natural Resources in bringing back environmental habitats and the inter-connectedness of flora and fauna. Green space is shrinking all around us. Urban sprawl seems to be accelerating. Protecting these jewels of the county for all to experience and enjoy, no matter income or race, is paramount. The healing power of being in wild spaces is well documented. Let's concentrate our efforts on the natural world and its benefits for all.

I want the parks to be as ADA accessible as possible and to work to prevent and manage the presence of invasive species. I've visited some nearby state parks and SNAs that are choked with garlic mustard and buckthorn and it's kind of sad.

The online sign up system and website need to be updated. They are complicated, difficult to use, and it makes no sense why you cannot register more than one person for an event (like the Patio Pots class) in one registration. It should not require a separate email for each individual. Stuff is too hard to find, especially without a class ID number.

The restoration of the park land from turf or buckthorn and other invasives to a much richer diversity of plants and animals making the parks home is of top priority. the natureplayground at Whitetail Woods is worth replicating. Offering ISD 196 more opportunities to bring all students to the parks is also a top wish. Repairing the quality of the lakes (Jensen, Bridge) so that people could once again canoe and kayak them would be awesome.

More shaded play grounds. They always seem in full sun and unusable in the afternoons

Install limestone steps at Whitetail Woods, where there are worn short cuts (with erosion) for those who don't want to walk the entire winding paved path from the parking lot to the lower elevation.

You have done a great job with mixed use management. I enjoy the Spring Lake bike trail connection to other trails, but for me, unpaved bike-free hiking trails will always be central to my happiness and will drive my choice of where to live. Thanks for saving habitat and having a long range plan as population grows!

More mountain bike trails. Jr Biology classes/camps. Opportunities for children/families to engage in scientific research. Marble track trail like in Switzerland.

Continued funding for Natural Resources - staff, programs, restoration. More interested in taking care of what we already have and making the parks system as healthy ecologically as possible.

I hope Dakota County continues to support our parks.

I'm unsure why so many mature trees were removed along the trails just south of Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center at Spring Lake Park. The trails used to be much prettier and shadier. Perhaps more signs explaining the need. Thanks.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

<p>1. I would like the assurance that ALL parks have full access for special-abled persons - wheelchair and blind person access on trails and other special needs facilities. "All-Terrain" wheelchairs would be great to have available if park has more rugged trails - with only access for persons who request one for a visit.</p> <p>2. I would like to see a parcel of land somewhere in southern Dakota County that will serve as a "Memorial Park". New trees, bushes, and gardens filled with favorite plants or, even better, native plantings by using loved one's ashes incorporated in the soil. It would be a more joyous place for grieving families to visit a "memory tree" dedicated to their loved one as well as know the earth is benefiting from newer growth of trees, plants, et.al. I want a place like that for my son who loved to be outside and would often watch the leaves flutter in the trees. I also envision this park to have trails and some open spaces throughout for ALL persons to be able to enjoy the outdoors. This "Memory Park" would be a life-giving place.</p>
<p>More places to mountain bike in Dakota County parks to help with the crowding at Lebanon Hills</p>
<p>I like what you're doing, so keep it up! Remember to keep making decisions that aren't just sustainable for the environment, but sustainable for the workforce, too. It takes a lot of staff to maintain so much land, so please be sure to take care of that great workforce! They clearly do great do great work!!</p>
<p>Please consider making horse trails bikjoring/multiuse trails.</p>
<p>Please continue to support the horse trails, and consider expanding to other parks.</p>
<p>More mountain biking trails!!!</p>
<p>Continue to build paved bike trails. Through Lebanon Hills and connected to both Minnesota Greenway and Mississippi greenway. Build additional mountain bike trails. Large loop from West trailhead over to visitor center and back.</p>
<p>Continued connection and access points in/around park systems, including more pathways curated to provide multiple options to explore and experience park.</p>
<p>Need lit ski trails and snow making for winter cross country skiing</p>
<p>At Lebanon Hills, I don't venture very far on the trails because I'm afraid I'll get lost. Better maps and signage would be awesome.</p>
<p>Cross Country Skiing is very important to me as there is not much else for physical activity in the area during winter but due to the lack of snow, snow making is needed.</p>
<p>Keep focusing on long term ecological benefit management, less chemicals the better and improving plant diversity slowly over time.</p>
<p>I'd love to see more variety in the cross country ski trails in the Dakota County park system. Winter in MN is LONG! Help us enjoy it outdoors. The classic ski trails at Lebanon Hills are great, but the skate trails (at the Mountain bike area of the park) are VERY CHALLENGING and not fun at all. I'd love to see some of the existing classic ski trails made into (or shared) with classic skiers. Also, a lighted loop would be really awesome!</p>
<p>I would like to see project funded solely by Dakota County dollars. The cost participation with cities essentially double charges residents, once on the city tax side and another on the county tax side. If project can't be solely county funded then they should be re-prioritized.</p>

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

We need more natural space with trails. Lebanon hills is a very unique park system that gets people outdoors in various ways. I wish there were a lot more parks modeled after Lebanon.

A suggestion for Spring Lake Park Gathering Center paved lower side of the loop, there are benches to sit on. It is beneficial to not allow the brush/bushes to block the view of the river. One time I was there and the park had allowed, over time, for a lot brush to grow to the point there was no view and individual asked me where the best place to go to in the park to see the river. I had to tell them it didn't exist. I'm noticing it's growing back and the visibility is getting less and less. When we sit in the benches we want to see the river.

- Dedicated bike paths between parks that could connect them
- Upgraded skills bike path at Lebanon
- Bike trail through Lebanon camp grounds
- Nice shaded areas near playgrounds

Continue to protect the park and fulfill the "forever wild" slogan that Dakota County Parks proudly displays. Please don't overdevelop the parks. Keep it wild. I was so disappointed to see a maintenance facility being built at Lebanon. That is as far from wild as we can get. I attended a woodcock walk earlier this Spring and we learned all about how important the park is for these birds whose population is declining. One of their main areas they use in the park is so close to the future home of the maintenance facility. So sad to see so much clearing of preserved land to be a garage for loud trucks leaving at all times of day/all days of the year.

More bike paths that have a physical barrier from the roads (grass strip, concrete barriers, etc). More interconnected pathways, green walkways, and bike paths between parks to link them together. A bike path or large walking trail thru the Lebanon campground connecting the Eastern and Western parts (the Lebanon Visitor Center and the Mountain Bike park).
 Less grass turf around the existing parks and more wildflowers or clover.
 Beehives (if feasible) at parks to encourage pollinators.
 Lebanon Hills mountain bike park's walking paths aren't as kept up as they could be. Frequent erosion makes some paths hard to walk.

Accessibility for all physical abilities

Continue to connect current trail systems together and provide maintenance (trimming and path repaving) on an appropriate schedule

make use of trees that are cut down instead of leaving the whole tree to turn to rotten wood. WISE USE of our natural resources instead of total waste. There is a demand for logs, lumber, firewood and it will be met by other suppliers in the form of living trees cut down. So why not make use of this wood rather than let it go to waste.

No

Don't waste our taxpayers money on your ridiculous ideas. Maintain and nurture nature, have clean spaces and areas and make it safe for women. That is more than I can ask for

It would be very awesome if Dakota County had a space where one could train their hunting dogs. Similar to Four Brooks WMA.

I hope Dakota County continues the current trend of investing in parks and making climate-friendly decisions

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

I really like the I can! Program through the DNR. I feel really privileged to have access to green spaces and appreciate the work and planning you do.

I love the classes dakota county offers. I would love to see more folk art/ hobbies/craft classes (ie axing out spoon blanks, making grass brooms, diy pizza oven, knife forging, sharpening hand tools, ect) offered with a sliding scale for payment so all families have an opportunity to partake. And if a class fills up quickly, try to offer that more often as the needs of the community can be met. I love all the classes I've taken so far, like watercolor, spoon carving, fly tying, and fly fishing for women!

Keep it clean. Clear out buckthorn!

Would love to see a play area for children like they have in Hyland Lake Park Reserve in Bloomington.

Continuing to connect parks and green spaces with walking and biking paths, as well as increasing environmental education programming

I think Dakota County does a great job of providing areas to enjoy nature. I love Lebanon Park.

Please use social media more to promote any news or changes with Dakota county parks etc.

Thank you for keeping equipment rental costs low. I think you are doing a great job and should continue down your current path. I was disappointed when you chose to locate a massive utility building on a beautiful prairie in Eagan on Cliff road instead of re-using the preexisting location. It is an eyesore at the entrance of our beautiful park. Did the public have any say in this choice?

It would be fun to have a nature playground in one of the more south parks. I hope they don't put one in Thompson - it's already in the city, it would be nice to keep as much of the woods in tact as possible

Dakota County has one of the best park systems in the country.

Please consider coming into farmington. We need bike trails and walk ways to high school- to connect to Lakeville- safe ones.

Watch Netflix the blue line- how to live longer- make our town better & so people can bike places. Canoe kayak paddle board- fish? etc. clear some trees from bridge in farmington - make it seem and beautiful-. You focus on little kids but not preteen/ young adults- they are bored. And we are too.

Bike path Access to LH mountain biking trail from east side of LH so I don't need to load up bikes & drive there, but could ride my bike.

All in all clean parks with many services bring people outside. Less impact on earth with AC, we spend less and it brings people and communities together. There are all upsides to having greater access to more parks and activities outdoors. I know I didn't check rental gear. I spend 60-70% of my free time outside. Having gear available and in good order will encourage more people outside and make activities more accessible.

Additional interpretive signage - names of plants, wildlife to watch for, features of a particular habitat, strategies to maintain the habitat and adapt to changing climate. Lighted cross country ski trails.

Keep all places well maintained get information out there

More x country skin trails

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

I would like to see more adaptations for people with physical disabilities and/or limited mobility. I appreciate paved trails that are shorter for those of us who aren't able to go long distances on uneven terrain. I wonder if the county parks could afford to have the powered all terrain chairs that are available at some state parks? I think anything you can do to include all people regardless of physical ability is really important.
Don't take private property in order to expand.
Accessibility can always use a boost; including spaces for people of varying ability and who utilize mobility aids is a great way to boost a sense of the parks being for everyone in the community.
Hope future plans includes keeping equestrian trails. They are few this close to community barns. Such a treasure for us equestrians to have such a beautiful park to enjoy.
Expanding if possible. They aren't making anymore land in Dakota County. Developers will get their hands on everything eventually. Also to make sure lower income families have good access.
I think we should consider a "natural playground" similar to the natural play area at the MN Zoo.
Plan like you are planning for your grandchildren and make this effort is fully funded. These decisions being made now are what will make Dakota Country a great place to live in the next generation.
Maybe some places could add a bike fix up station with air.
I love to see signage explaining the plants and animals in the area.
Maintain the parks as well as they currently are, and add on additional spaces as able
I want to build friendships and have my kids build friendships. I have a high schooler who is new and says it's very click-e- at Rosemount. She did join tennis but she says no one has reached out. I'm also finding it difficult to be a positive member of Rosemount if the new residents aren't willing to get to know one another. But maybe I need to be doing it more than I currently am. I will continue my efforts.
Snow making equipment for CC ski trails would be great in the absence of snowfall
It's important for me that the trails and Greenway are connected to each other.
Horse riding trails
Multi use trails in summer for hikers horses
I think finding more ways to engage with parks and greenways would be awesome! More walking and biking trails and pickleball courts would encourage my spouse and I to spend more time there.
While the parks are very well maintained, some areas especially at the Lebanon hills regional park walk area with mud slides is hard to go up. Unfortunately I don't have ideas to share as I know it's not easy maintenance but if something could be done for those deep ditches especially while going uphill or coming down will be helpful.
keep doing what you're doing
I would like to see increased efforts placed on connecting various public lands together and to complete trails where gaps between segments exist.
The more you can connect natural spaces with trails that minimize having to be on road, it will help a lot for the future. I see more and more people on bikes and ebikes but this is a tough area to get around still worrying about traffic. We live in IGH and I'm looking forward to the new greenway to connect to Eagan but I think a lot more can be done to connect the city and county parks with trails.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

There are a lot of Minihaha style parks, but very few Lebanon Hills style parks. I hope the park board understands and appreciates what we have by leaving it as natural as possible.

Clearly you don't care about the environment since you are planning on cutting down all the hundred year old trees on lone oak road and destroying everyone's properties. Shame on you. Stop lying that you care about the citizens because you don't you only care about wasting my property tax money on stupid crap to justify your jobs. And then you raise my taxes for more worthless projects.

I'd really like the parks to become more and more sustainable. Less turf grass that needs to be mowed and more natural prairie or woodlands with trails. I think we need to look at alternatives to blacktop paved parking like permeable pavers. Look into solar panels to provide electricity to run buildings. We also need more destination playgrounds for older kids.

Thank you for all of your work to plant native species along the river to river greenway in WSP!!! Washington county has a cool bluegrass festival.

Excellent signage for trails that needs to be maintained. Very proud of our parks and I enjoy them immensely. They add great appeal to Dakota County (along with its libraries.)

Allowing under utilized horse trails to be used by cyclists. Specifically not mountain biking trails with MTB features, but trails suitable to gravel cycling that are separate from vehicle traffic and allow quiet time in nature.

Keep up the good work!

Handicap accessibility. There are pot holes around Thompson Lake and the bridge is not wheelchair friendly. There is a ridge that I would hate to navigate on both ends of the bridge.
REquiring a certain # of responses meant that I had to pick some I didn't really care about

I think we shouldn't cut back the forests for easier walking areas. I walk at Patrick Eagan park and I find they are mowing areas and cutting trees for opening up areas. We need to keep our trees and forests. Also I think that people should not be allowed to walk there dogs off leash in parks. Dogs trample nests and scare off deer and birds.

Thorough elimination of invasive to reflect the natural environment as it should be with proper stewardship

Pickle Ball courts are a nuisance when outdoors and should not be located within sound distance to any residential properties.

Minnesota is fast becoming a Mountain Bike destination from across the U.S. I would like to see Dakota County incorporating this into their long term plan. Mountain Bikers are some of the best stewards of the nature area's at our parks and put a lot of volunteer time and effort into not only maintaining trails, but also ensuring the natural environment around the trails is clean and enjoyable for all users.

I would hope to see Parks collaborate with other county departments to bring nature into more urban spaces. I.e. I would love to see pocket prairies or "mini parks" at all the libraries and other public-facing county facilities.

There is no dividing line between "nature" and "not-nature"! Let's make it easier for residents to connect with our shared natural environment and invite more wild creatures back into our cities.

Please preserve as many non-motorized and non-developed spaces as possible for the animals and people to have a quiet and natural environment.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

I always support more off-street bike trails and connectivity. I also support any effort to restore habitat and use native plants. Programming and educational opportunities are important to me too.

I would love to have a track chair available to increase access. I recently hiked in a state park with a friend who used one; she was thrilled to be able to be out in nature again, but none of them are close enough for regular use.

Let's not build a paved path through the middle of Lebanon Hills Regional Park, as proposed several years ago. Also, continue efforts to mitigate invasive species in the county parks.

Snowmaking for XC ski trails would be nice

Obtaining the "wheelchair / scooter" with tracks so those non mobile can enjoy the parks.
If a park will conduct community events, ensure the park has lighting to find our way back to parking lots.

A destination adult calisthenics park.

Keep nature natural

Keep foraging free and accessible, it's one of the biggest draws but because of stereotypes few people will admit that is why they go.

Repave all old biketrails. They are not fun to ride on, too rough.

Have you seen the amazing playground and facilities at Clifton E. French Regional Park in Plymouth? That playground area is amazing and a huge draw to the area for families. Every time we go, it is packed. On the other hand, our kids get stumps to play with at Whitetail Woods. Last summer, I remember a whole bus of parks & rec staff (obviously from a conference of some sort) got out to tour the whole thing at Clifton. I've never seen that kind of interest at our county parks. That park is also very wild and protects their land. Yes, you can have both.

To continue preserving natural habitats. I really enjoy seeing native plants, flowers, and grasses instead of grass I see all over my neighborhood.

Safety in the parking lots.....too many break ins.

Would really like expanded class offerings for adults as well as families. Also more connected greenways, we like to ride our bikes on them (very hesitant to ride on the road since we have a toddler) but there are many places that aren't connected.

My family and I are so grateful for the great parks and all the work that you all do to maintain them!

More beginner level mountain bike trails

Finish the greenways! More parks! More protected and restored habitat. More acquisition of farmland for restoration. More partnerships to accomplish these goals.

I love the parks but frequent 3 rivers parks because of the amount of family and adult classes they offer (forest bathing, education for young children and families(not homeschool programs) I would love to see more offerings like that in our natural spaces. I volunteer and the hoop house in particular is one of interest but as a working adult it is unavailable.

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

I would love to see a splash pad and/or natural playground at Spring Lake Park. Hastings not not have either.

Signage (names) for parking lots would be nice at Spring Lake Park, since there are so many. When meeting people at the park it would be nice to clarify where to meet when referring to parking. Example- Meet in the "eagle parking lot"

Lebanon Hills is my "happy place". I love that it is wild and I can run five miles on dirt trails. I know that not everyone can do that, and accessibility is important, but I think Lebanon is different, and I hope the county decides to keep it wild!

Population demographics should drive park planning. Meaning older adult-friendly spaces and activities should be the focus.

Something closer to Lakeville area would be great. All of the current parks are so far away to drive to for a quick visit.

I appreciate and support the county's provision of technical assistance to local municipalities that lack the staff knowledge to plan and carry out natural resource maintenance and restoration procedures. Unfortunately, the local elected and appointed officials must be educated the most. To set priorities and make resources available to apply regenerative principles based on place, not on projects. In my community, in particular, the orientation towards development prevents them from understanding that the built environment is not always desirable. Taxpayer dollars wasted on converting open spaces into Parking lots, athletic complexes, Water Parks, Arenas, and even golf courses require a Hundred Million dollars to Build, a Hundred Million dollars to Operate, a Hundred Million dollars to maintain, and a Hundred Million dollars to renovate—all in the name of Sports. Not to mention separating families from shared meals because parents are too busy having to shuttle children back and forth by motor vehicles out of their neighborhoods to engage in play. In the meantime, a large portion of community members' recreational needs go unmet in the very neighborhoods in which they live—not even considering Nature's valued social and economic health benefits in many aspects. Viable ecosystems support clean air and water, reduce the heat island effect that shade trees provide, and sequester carbon. Wetlands and upland native plants not only filter stormwater runoff by retaining the flow, but some of the water has the chance to infiltrate and recharge aquifers, which has a side benefit in reducing flooding. These are the economic benefits saving us from having to build infrastructures to handle the intensity of rainfall events that a warmer shift in our atmosphere has brought about. Yet society continues to encroach upon what little natural areas are left with the mentality of build and destroy. Parks should live up to the slogan "to enjoy naturally" or "Naturally Wild." Human existence depends upon us leaving a livable world as our legacy.

We need a Dakota County park in Lakeville!

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

I love Dakota County Parks and thier efforts to maintain and restore the few wild places we have left. In the age of constant/endless development of any "non-productive" land, I'm very happy that I have many great high quality parks to choose from.
 My biggest want would be adding more land to the parks system to keep people from developing the land.
 My second want would be maybe more signage signage to show people how amazing the wild areas in thier local area actually are and the ecosystem services they provide for very low cost. I think many people don't realize how cool and important to thier lives our wild areas are.
 Third, I love seeing the restorations and seeing the Bison come back. I'd like more of this!
 Thanks!

Dear Dakota County Parks Team:
 I appreciate so much when I am on the trail and see something, I call the 952-891-7000. most the time talk to a Dakota County employee, sometimes a recording (probably a wkend). When I see something on the trail that needs attention, they have acted quickly to get the issue fixed. Examples: 1) day after recent August storm Big Rivers Trail from Mendota Hgts trailhead to Mendota bridge was strewn with debris. Other rider and I tried cleaning but much too extensive. The day after I talked to a DC person on the 7000 number this portion of trail was clean as a whistle ! 2) July 2024 one of the Dakota peoples history placks at Mendota trail head had fallen off and was on the ground. After I called the 7000 number a team was there in 45min, they fixed it back onto the black iron/wood circle and it still looks good as new ! 3) Several times I have called in a tree down and the 7000 number person responded with a team that cleared it up in a day or two.
 Thanks for all you all do for us Dakota County residents !
 Mark Dobbelmann (lived in Eagan since 1972)
 612-221-3198

East Lake park development

Love the increasing interconnectivity.

I am looking forward to continued growth of the park system without significant changes to how it operates. Recent changes have been excellent - particularly the bison.

More interconnected bike paths, for commuting

Increase the green space of the county (not necessarily for human use).
 Limit growth (seriously, where are we getting our water???)!
 I could rant on, but you get the picture.

Would like to see an extensive, long-distance, primitive hiking trail system (single-track / low ecological impact footprint type trail) developed at Miesville Ravine Park. I think it would be a unique offering in the Dakota County Park systems repertoire.

Keeping Lebanon's New Year's Eve party. It is centrally located and the buildings for staff are much appreciated there, while having other sites further out as primitive is fantastic.

Great

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

<p>I think of our National and State park systems as worthy of emulating in our County regional park system. Our regional parks were created to protect the highest quality natural resources in the county. We need to preserve and restore these natural areas and to encourage nature based recreation. We need to resist the temptation of trying to be all things to all people by collaborating with the planners of city and neighborhood parks and recreational facilities so that inappropriate uses are not created in regional parks.</p>
<p>I love Lebanon Hills and Whitetail Woods parks. Those are the parks I go to the most. We like the playgrounds and walking and hiking paths.</p>
<p>I appreciate Dakota County's vision for natural resource restoration and preservation of county parks and land. As the population continues to grow, our parks are a refuge for both the flora and fauna in the natural world and the people in our communities. Please keep up the great work, and continue on this strong, forward looking path.</p>
<p>Thank you for adding the trail from Holland lake to visitor center along Cliff road. Thank you for adding path into the campground from Johnny Cake ridge road. Please address bike riders on walking trails through the area between Johnny Cake and Galaxie. There are more riders that use the walking trails. Also, please address walking trail quality in the area especially on hills. It seem that there are just rocks to control erosion which are difficult to walk up and down. please reroute the trail to switchbacks instead of straight up and down hills. Thanks!</p>
<p>Maintenance of paved trails, some are getting a bit bumpy</p>
<p>Addition of social activities for virtual workers and others - music in the park, happy hours etc . Hyland/Three Rivers in Bloomington does some of these.</p>
<p>I'd like to see more Greenways and connections to Greenways throughout Dakota County. The Greenways are not only amazing pieces of infrastructure on their own, but the more they can be connected to each other and to the communities in Dakota County the more those communities can leverage the network effect of the extended network, for recreation, sport, or productive transportation for commuting, errands, or transportation for other destinations (restaurants, bars, shopping, etc.) The natural systems and parks are excellent overall, keep up the good work and keep the naturalists taking care of our parks! The clearing of buckthorn, burdock, garlic mustard, and the other invasive plants that had taken over our natural spaces has been wonderful to see and experience, and I want to see the job finished and maintained to keep our parks natural and free of said invasives.</p>
<p>I visit Lebanon Hills most often. The Jensen Lake trail is in danger of being over-used. Would like to see really good landscaping shielding the new maintenance yard from view at the visitor center entrance drive because it takes away from the sense of getting away to the park. Hopefully, the old facility and location will be completely rewilded. More could be done with the walking/hiking trails at Spring Lake Park. The "new" paved bike is amazing and great for walking in Winter! However, it is so popular that in fairer weather it's not so great to share with bicycles. Thank you!</p>

Is there anything else you want to tell us about your hopes for the future of Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems and/or is there something you've seen at another park that you think Dakota County should consider in the future?

I appreciate your hard work and generally excellent facilities. My husband and I, however, are disappointed in the construction of the new service facility at the entrance to the Lebanon Hills visitor center. The now past natural setting of the entrance was very welcoming. It no longer is. The old service facility in the middle of the park is not particularly attractive, but it does not take much away from the surrounding trails. It has always taken a bit of walk to reach, so the sight of civilization in the middle of the park has been ok.

On the other hand, we love all the new facilities and amenities at both Spring Lake Park and Whitetail. Congratulations on your excellent planning and construction in each park!

Let's be very careful about spending more on parks. It seems like we need to spend more of our resources on crime prevention and safety.

Appreciate good bike trails and ability to stay off roads while biking

Safely connect bike paths for longer distances.

I really enjoy the experience in the camper cabins in the parks and hope for those to continue and would enjoy more cabins in additional, different locations.

North creek greenway has some nice trail signs in Apple Valley. Would like to see quality signage from Northeast lakeville down to Farmington and more updates made to the north creek greenway trail.

I'd love to see bird banding and annual bird counts (like the Christmas Bird Count) done at Dakota County parks, as well as guided bird watching hikes led by a trained naturalist, and nature-based merit badge classes for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts, offered at Dakota County parks.

This is great- thanks for allowing community insights

Please finish the kayak launch at spring lake. Please do not cut down more trees. It is very sad and disappointing for residents.

Focus on enhancing, restoring, and preserving natural areas. We desperately need to act on this front. Part of that is creating ways for people to engage with nature, but that's a less immediately important goal to me.

I especially appreciate the restored natural areas. Volunteering there is fun, rewarding and fulfilling.

More signage for no bikes on trails and dogs must be on lease.

More acknowledge of indigenous land and learning opportunities. I love the signage along the Minnesota river greenway by black dog road. I love that indigenous artists were hired to provide education and art in our parks.

I live in fear of all you good intentions. Everything you do is a treat to me. Please leave people alone.

Better upkeep. Maintenance before more new developments.

Online Vision Board Results

If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?
More hiking trails with scenic overlooks. Additional indoor rental spaces (simple to keep them affordable) for groups.
local biodiversity/ecology research opportunities!
I'd love to have place where I know the indigenous peoples are considered when molding the part
More areas for off leash dogs.
Continued improvement of the land through restoration of native ecosystems & robust natural resource staffing & volunteer involvement.
I would like to see walking / snow shoe paths alongside the horse/cross country ski paths on the northeast part of the park
More funding and staffing for invasive removal and habitat restoration
More nature play areas! Similar to the play area at Tamarack nature center. Spaces that blend into the natural landscape
Preserve the natural sense of trail hiking in Lebanon Hills Park. Specifically avoid adding paved trails.
Would love a disc golf course somewhere in Dakota parks. Could also use it for skate ski cross country skiing
Want an place where ANYONE can go for a hike and feel safe. if trail needs to be flat, do the outside of park, not thru the park.
It would look like Carver Park, or Lake Rebecca but be way cooler cause Leb is the GOAT.(we need to realign and add multipurpose connectors)
Demonstration gardens with ecological landscaping using native perennials & pollinator friendly plants to give people ideas for their yards
More visible & innovative green infrastructure: collect & use rainwater, rain gardens, bioswales, natural filtration & retention on-site
Demonstrate environmental leadership: renewable energy, netzero buildings/facilities, native plantings, minimize use of pesticides
Better bike & pedestrian & bus connectivity between neighborhoods & parks.
save native plants and animals. abundant planting of native flowers, trees. indoor nature walking trail with no sports (Thompson Park)
More diverse cross country ski trails. Skate ski trails (not the really hard hilly ones at the MTB park). A lit ski trail and snow making!
Indoor walking trail with trees, dirt paths and yoga area to get a break from the cold, ice and rain. Solar powered and rainwater collection
More dedicated bike paths connecting neighborhoods and parks. More parks, more mountain biking parks that aren't just Lebanon Hills
Our family would love to see an outdoor skate park like Rosemount has and or a bike skills park similar to Taft bike park in Richfield.

If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

Connected bike trails throughout Dakota County
Bike trails connecting all residential neighborhoods in Dakota County to Dakota County regional parks
More mountain biking/bike trails
Path to FHS./ Clear river down in farmington. The old "lab" building by the bridge made into a park area- where you can rent kayaks, etc-
Emphasis on planting trees & native plants that are adaptable to climate change More programs that are tailored for older adults
Horse riding trails
-dedicated pickleball courts -bike & walking trails connecting multiple cities -community pool in Burnsville -outdoor fitness equipment
Plant more fruit trees and native trees/plants.
Stronger signs of stewardship w/ a more thorough elimination of invasive and interpretive signage to help public understand work.
Why do you ask people to take the survey, then you won't accept it?
More programming and amenities that bring people of all backgrounds. More support and participation means more appreciation of nature!
Adult Calisthenics Park equipped with various height pull-up bars & dip bars. A running track with mile markers, and water station.
A CONTINUOUS dedicated bike trail connecting Burnsville to other cities, especially to Lakeville, Apple Valley, and Savage.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Easy access from multiple points •Preservation of native grasses, flowers, trees and spaces •Frequently used by all demographics
Natural space with a lot of activities for everyone, including diverse communities.
the Magic Wand would get rid of buckthorn and all invasive plants!
Preserve more historic landmarks in the form of parks and trails.
We need a community pool
I'd love to see bird banding, guided birdwatching hikes, and an annual bird count done at at least a few of these areas

Online Interactive Map Results

Access - Are there any issues with accessing parks and trails?	Park/Greenway
sure would be nice to be able to ride a bike through this part of the park. multi-use multi surface (non winter) option.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
What is a dead end horse trail doing here? Time to get with the times and link a bike path across the park... get campers to the swimming beach and visitor center safely. Reorganize and reduce unused horse trails. Focus equestrian use to Spring Lake Park.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
A paved multi use trail connecting all three sections would be awesome. Having to ride/walk along Cliff or McAndrews is a bummer.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
These neighborhood access points are great... but they can be outside walking range for many. It feels bad to have to drive to a local access point... could we get bike racks?	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
There needs to be a bike lane or trail access on this road. The road is currently unsafe for walking or biking. And there needs to be a crosswalk for the neighborhood across Cliff to access the main road to the park.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
With a new housing development coming in across the street, I expect parking to become very limited at this entrance. Finding a way to keep a few parking spots would be great.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Thank you for adding path along Cliff from Holland Lake to Visitor Center. Thank you for adding path from Johnny Cake to Campground.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Lilly Lake is essentially a private lake, which can be okay. But then I see yard signs that say, "Support Lilly Lake" or something, as if they want public support? I understand it's probably public land, but it's all private backyards and a church, and without public access, it doesn't feel like a public lake. I think I would at least prefer a clearer understanding of the lake's role?	Other - Lilly Lake

Idea - Share your ideas with us!	Park/Greenway
This section of ski trail should be two-way. From marker #38 -> #50 is a ridiculous forced loop for younger and older populations looking to ski. A little signage change between #7 #38 would be a very welcome change, especially for locals who access the park away from the visitor center.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Why not utilize some old access road and connect to the Maint. Facility Access Road (once it has moved over to Cliff) to 120th Street. This would be an awesome multi-use trail and require VERY little cost / trail re-alignment to achieve.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Please pave the whole trail from the parking lot to the canoe access and provide carts.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Add a loop of lighted ski trails	Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Idea - Share your ideas with us!	Park/Greenway
Would love to see some of the cross country ski trails (maybe less used further from visitor center) have the ability to be used for skate skiing. The trails at the mountain bike park are too hilly and difficult for beginners.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
The skills course at Leb is decent, but aging fast. Innovations in techniques and ideas in the mountain bike world have shown our course to be lacking in what it could be. This mountain bike park is phenomenal and truly a trophy of the metro area, having a newly designed and built skills course would really amp up the kids who come to ride and set them up for success in the long haul. The MORC volunteers (of which I am one) would love the skills course to be revamped and would love to help build it!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Consider adding more guided nature walks w/park staff/volunteers, and also more "nature bathing" and contemplative activities	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Consider offering canoe/kayak rental at this location. The lake is large enough to make it a more interesting outing than the lake by the visitor's center	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Add a paved bike path throughout lebanon hills and connect it to Mississippi parkway	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Add additional mountain bike trails that connect the West trail head to the visitor center	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Provide more sitting benches around this paved path and lake.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Add signage and highlight the old mine shaft entrance. This is some great local history about the area as well as the 56ft deep lake!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Add a board walk on the lower section of trail. This area is usually soggy/muddy. It's almost level with the water.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Work with DNR to add more predator species. Such as bass, pike, or walleye this would help with the stunted bluegills and add more target species for catch and release.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Fishing pier. Would love to see more access to fishing in this pond	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Add poopbag stations	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I love Lebanon Hills. The wayfinding is great. I would like more interpretive signs along the trails!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Please address the bike riders using walking trails. Also, please reroute the walking trails to switchbacks to control erosion rather than just adding a bunch of rocks. The rocks are difficult to walk on up and down the steep hills.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
The 6 ft round x 2ft high beautiful stone monument engraved with the rivers and Dakota names for rivers areas. This year the bushes growing to about 4 ft all around, hide the monument & speaker stand. Perhaps trimming / thinning the bushes would allow folks to see and enjoy this beautiful interpretive monument. Thanks to Dakota Parks for this monument and other monuments (black circles with the interpretive plaques along trails)	Mendota Heights Trailhead

Idea - Share your ideas with us!	Park/Greenway
Add a small parking area here. People with trouble walking may not be able to walk the whole distance to see the bison when there are moved to this location.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Add more winter hiking and snowshoe trails in SLP woods. There are no snowshoe trails at all. Where are we suppose to go for these two sports in this park in the winter? Could they make the ski trails wide enough to accommodate both skiing and hiking/snowshoeing?	Spring Lake Park Reserve
The people of Hastings would LOVE a mtn bike trail here. What amazing landscape to carve a beautiful trail into. Plenty of trail-builders to connect with for ideas in the midwest nowadays.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Several bison viewing areas/raised platforms with viewing binoculars. Would love he chance to do a drive through like minneopa, even if it was timed in a parks vehicle.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Add raised viewing platform so easier for people to see the bison.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Be proactive and partner with UM Extension/State DNR for this 8,000 some acres. Do not allow this beautiful land to be developed with Rosemount/Farmington expansion plans. They are being very aggressive in developing right now.	Vermillion Highlands Research Recreation and WMA
Please allow biking on the maintained summer XC Trail Paths. There is so much potential combined with UMORE Lone Rock Trail for a rustic prarie-views mountain/e-bike/fatbike riding.	Whitetail Woods Regional Park
I really like Whitetail Woods! What would get me out of the metro on a weekend would be more seasonal activities -- guided wildflower walks in spring, fall foliage hikes, hikes w/naturalists to see owls or other wildlife.	Whitetail Woods Regional Park
Would like to see a boardwalk through this area and the Dodge Nature Center property so that people can value the existing wetland	Other - Friendly Marsh Park
Wayfinding and signage to show people how to get from this park to the greenway	Other - Mendakota Park
Would love to have a better place for the 4th of July fireworks. (The old location at the high school was great!) We no longer even attend fireworks in Lakeville.	Other - King Park
A trail all along then creek from Steve Michaud Park to Cedar Avenue would be a great addition to the trail system in the area.	Other - Foxborough Conservation Area
Purchase this property to save from development. Oaks and wetlands.	Other - 205th St W & Keystone Ave

Idea - Share your ideas with us!	Park/Greenway
<p>This is 200 acres of land that is currently one private property with cattle and is directly adjacent to the Soberg Waterfowl production area. The woodlands on and near this property are mainly oak woodlands and there are several nice wetlands as well. This would be a great location to reestablish prairie in the open lands and improve the woodland. This is the only location in Lakeville that I've seen yellow headed blackbirds. Suggest the County purchase this land for park. Also suggest that the County continue to look for lands to protect to the north of this location to eventually connect to Ritter farm park. All areas south of Ritter & west of 35 should be looked at to preserve as long term park and protect from development.</p>	<p>Other - 215th St W & Laigle Ave</p>
<p>Why no county parks in Lakeville and/or Burnsville? Local residents would love to have something accessible to them in our own backyard.</p>	<p>Other</p>
<p>Would it be possible to provide better access to Quarry Island?</p>	<p>Other - Quarry Island</p>
<p>Add poopbag stations around this lake.</p>	<p>Other - Day Park</p>
<p>This location is the McMenomy farm and contains a 'Hidden Gem' in Dakota County. The hidden gem is an original trail established when the farm was first established in the 1800's. It was used to move cattle from one pasture to another. It is approximately 1 mile long. I've been working the farm for over 20 years and would like to see this beautiful trail preserved. The farm is surrounded by development and is threatening the trail.</p>	<p>Other - McMenomy Farm</p>
<p>Next time there is construction where beautiful prairie once grew consider relocating native plants to public property (provide signage) or providing opportunities for private property owners to have pocket gardens.</p>	<p>Other - Patrick Eagan Park</p>
<p>There needs to be an additional garbage can installed here as some park goers are too lazy to walk to the trash can by the tennis court to dispose of their trash. I often bring a bag to pick up trash around the playground and I think the distance of the garbage can is part of the problem.</p>	<p>Other - Ridgecliff Park</p>

Needs Work - What needs improvement?	Park/Greenway
<p>Huge cottonwood tree on the edge of the cliff overlooking trail has about 1/3 its rootball exposed on trail side. A culvert on Hwy13 feeds runoff directly to this huge tree. I think Dakota County and MNDOT are looking into if it should be proactively cut down before it falls onto the trail and creating a huge mess and potentially injuring someone.</p>	<p>Big Rivers Regional Trail</p>
<p>This is a real challenge very thin 1ft down hill bike lane right next to curb and gaurd rail, and on a curve. I have been almost hit by a car 2 years ago. It would be ideal but a MNDOT challenge to figure a way to widen this HWY here to allow for safer southbound side bike lane. At very least maybe more signage and or make clearer that the northbound bike lane could be used for southbound bikes.</p>	<p>Big Rivers Regional Trail</p>

Needs Work - What needs improvement?	Park/Greenway
The trail on the south side of the Minnesota River has a few sections that can become impassible because of water. A few small bridges would make this trail great.	Fort Snelling State Park
There is so much buckthorn and garlic mustard on this section of the park, it's starting to feel hopeless. There is also no current plan for addressing invasive species in this section.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
We were told this space will be 100% returned to a natural state. But we have our doubts as we didn't see any funding/written documentation in the new Facility Plan for it. Please follow through on the guarantee. Such a beautiful location nestled between bodies of water.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I get yelled at for biking and recieve weird looks of concern when I ride a bike on this path. Let support two wheels at leb (non-mtn bike), there is an entirely new aging population looking for beautiful places to ride e-bikes. We've seen how quickly a forest recovers from trail building at Spring Lake Park. What are we waiting for at Leb?	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Leb has done amazing things, but have they had a freshwater shallow lake/pond rehabilitation study performed to manage these amazing bodies of water? The cattail growth and thick vegetation has spiraled over the past 20 years and the lakes are literally filling into muck before our eyes. Please help these small bodies of water by investing more in rehab and maintenance (invasive weed removal, aerators, fish, etc.). There is SO much potential with these connected bodies of water in a protected park. The BWCA might be the only other place to compare to and that is saying so much for Leb's small but unique waterway system.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
The damage walkers do to ski trails are a real bummer when we have to pay extra for use of the trails. The available signs are nice but there needs to be more and some enforcement as well. These trails are a regional magnet for skiers and for folks to travel far and wide to have to spend money to ski beat up trails is a bad experience.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
There's a yearly flooding problem and it's only going to get worse. I object strongly to spending tax dollars on a trail that's not usable for months of every year. This section needs to be re-engineered (maybe an elevated boardwalk?)	Minnesota River Greenway
This beautiful trail from Nichols trailhead to 35W usually is cleared of flood mud / silt within a few weeks, now a month later it is not cleaned yet?	Minnesota River Greenway
The Greenway here has languished for a long time. Once construction is finished, partner on habitat restoration with adjacent landowners.	Mississippi River Trail - Pine Bend Trail
Need signage here for entrance to this beautiful park.	Pine Bend Bluff SNA
Could there be signage/wayfinding at Marie to direct people to the trail in this area? It's not easy to find.	River to River Greenway
Would like to see a bike lane and/or pedestrian trail on Dodd Road to connect to the greenway	River to River Greenway - Dodd Road

Needs Work - What needs improvement?	Park/Greenway
This very old Lillydale Trail to Marie Ave to Dodd needs very badly to be repaved to be a much better and inviting addition to the River to River trail.	River to River Greenway
River to River trail is great, but can be a challenge to find the correct route. The signage along its length could be much better. I think more folks would use it if there is improved signage.	River to River Greenway
I'm confused why the mature trees were removed. I love shade and woods. Perhaps add a sign explaining the need to remove the trees. Maybe this was done and I missed it.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Less of this.	Other - Amazon MSP6
People drive insanely fast on this road and it's a coin flip whether or not they will stop for you at the pedestrian crossing. The trail between Casperson Park and Antlers Park is one of my favorite locations in Lakeville and the two crossings on 205th St W feel very unsafe.	Other - 202nd St W
Please consider turning this for-sale lot and the surrounding area behind Target into a park or conservation area. The green spaces in this area have become so heavily fractured and whittled away through recent building of the Panda Buffet, the massive medical complex, and the wholly unnecessary "pet spa". More regional and city green spaces - less national/multinational branch locations and unnecessary businesses!	Other - Kenrick Ave & Orchard Trail
Please finish this connect path so we can safely ride from Burnsville to ST Paul	Other - Nicols Road
Please finish the road so you can get to the trail from Blmtn	Other - Lyndale Ave S
Entire trail needs to be fixed. The city council here seems disinterested in supporting citizens goals for trails	Other - Adkin Road
The bridges on the trail are awful. The city seems to spend no money on trail maintenance.	Other - Native Prairie Planting Park
agree with other post. This section of 70th is not safely bikeable and I hope there are plans to update since the other portions of 70th/Lone Oak are nice now.	Other - 70th St East
Add poopbag stations to address people leaving their dogs' excrement everywhere.	Other - Alimagnet Park
Old bike trails need to be resurfaced as they are very bumpy and hard to ride on, even dangerous as some weeds come through the blacktop.and are a tripping hazard for walkers. The new trail is nice and smooth.	Other - Adkin Road
This area is really scary on bikes road virtually has no shoulder and bike lane is about 1 ft wide. I avoid this area and now take 80th after a few scary situations along this stretch	Other - 70th St East
riding bikes down four oaks rd to get to Lone Oak trail head places you on hwy 13 shoulder then crossing at the light. It would be safer to have a sidewalk on hwy 13 east side to Lone Oak light. I know Lone Oak trail from Pilot Knob is planned but Lone Oak is just too steep for some folks biking.	Other - Sibley Memorial Highway
The overhanging brush and garbage in the pond need to be addressed.	Other - Crosstown West Park

Needs Work - What needs improvement?	Park/Greenway
The old sidewalk pavement is so badly cracked by tree roots. The raised cracks in pavement are at least 3-4 inches above the paved surface creating a potential hazard.	Other - Schwanze Lake
Would be very nice to have a paved sidewalk / trail all the way to Lone Oak. I have talked with many riders that dislike hwy 13 shoulder.	Other - Sibley Memorial Highway

More of This - What would you like to see more of?	Park/Greenway
The Big River trail is wonderful, using it at least 5-6x/wk daily. The team that maintains this trail is amazing especially appreciated after the recent storms. Thank you for what I think is the best and most beautiful trail in Dakota County! Now with Mendota Bridge open again we even have more routes!	Big Rivers Regional Trail
Finish the Lake Marion Greenway. It's been a few years since the nice trail was added in Burnsville near Sunset Pond, now it needs to be finished so we can bike safely into Lakeville and beyond.	Lake Marion Greenway
Love all the work being done with the vegetation/restoration in woodlands and grasslands! Keep it up throughout the park!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
The mountain biking at Leb has been the best in the metro for years. Many new trails are being built in the metro however, that are equal or better. Adding more trails to the existing Leb network that are more current in their style would keep Leb on the top of the metro list of places to ride. There are several professional trail building companies now that can design and build additional top notch trails, further expanding the usability and popularity of the trails.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Excellent recently re-paved and newly added trails along Cliff Rd plus the roundabouts are so great for pedestrians safety !!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Looking very forward to more and faster progress on completion of the new trail from here to Lone Oak trail head. It would be great to see an updated plan given the delays caused by flooding and etc. I believe it was planned completion trail & bridge by EO 2025	Minnesota River Greenway
Very cool area, needs some cleaning and repair but very cool The rental kayaks are a cool idea but I wish they would be open longer	Other - Lilydale-Harriet Island Park
LOVE WTW ❤️ Think adding historical info would be great	Whitetail Woods Regional Park
Finish all the bike trails so that St. Paul is connected to Hastings.	Other - Minnesota Hwy 55
More partnerships with State and local entities to protect and restore habitat that isn't just a Dakota County-owned park.	Other - Hampton Woods WMA
Looking very forward to the completion of the Veteran Memorial Trail that will take us from Dodd Rd all the way to the Mississippi trails that take us to Pine Bend and Swing Bridge Trail heads	Other - Veteran Memorial Trail
Excellent recently re-paved trail and smooth transitions from trail to driveways	Other - Silver Bells Road

More of This - What would you like to see more of?	Park/Greenway
Excellent recently re-paved trail and smooth transitions from trail to driveways	Other - Sibley Memorial Highway

Favorite Place - What is your favorite place?	Park/Greenway
This is an amazing trail everyone enjoys, the 2 rivers, views, bald eagles, trees lining the path, paddle wheel boats, etc. And its always 2-4 degrees cooler in the summer than sunny portions of the trail.	Big Rivers Regional Trail
Excellent and quick work on excavating a longer S curved with new pavement for the approach to the just re-opened Mendota Bridge trail. The Facebook "Biking Minnesota" group were all excited to hear of the new approach and bridge open!	Big Rivers Regional Trail
This Trailhead has it everything including amazing sunsets over the lake and river. It is the most utilized trailhead. It is very impressive what Dakota County Parks has invested this historical overlook. The design, facilities, time, maintenance, security very impressive! Thank you	Big Rivers Regional Trail - Mendota Heights Trailhead
Excellent Trailhead and trail, bike tools, map, seating, picnic benches, plenty of parking. Very anxious to utilize the trail btwn here and Nichols Trailhead.	Big Rivers Regional Trail - Lone Oak Road Trailhead
Great additions of water and lights - thank you!	Dakota Woods Dog Park
Please, please protect the native plant remnant communities near this area! The new development social trails are somewhat of an issue.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Love these remote, undeveloped areas at Lebanon. Keep up the great work with invasive removal and native ecosystem restoration. Lebanon is a priceless refuge, in a developed metro area, for wildlife and people alike.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
We love the main area of Lebanon Hills. We use the beach, we hike, we sled, we snowshoe, we canoe... we've had work meetings in the A-Frame. The New Year's Eve Party is such a blast. They pack a lot of fun into a small area	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
100% 5+ Stars for relocating the Maint. Facility to this location. Can't wait to see the restoration take place at the old site.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Schulze Lake is our favorite local beach. Sandy, clean, bathrooms/changing rooms, gradual depth entry, and free. Thank you for making a place for those of us who don't have family cabins to enjoy "lake life."	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Camp Sacajawea is a fabulous option for groups. Please keep it for that use!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
The A-Frame is my favorite place at Lebanon. I love the scenic view, and it's just gorgeous! It feels a bit secluded, but not too secluded.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Absolutely love the hiking trails and really enjoy the geocaches as well!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
The visitor center, Schulze Lake and McDonough Lake are family friendly, accessible, beautiful and fun! We love the community events offered for kids and adults, as well as the beach and walking trails!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Favorite Place - What is your favorite place?	Park/Greenway
The Lebanon Hills Campground is top notch! It's a true oasis in the city and you feel like you're really far away from 'the city'! The campground is exceptionally maintained and the staff is always pleasant to work with!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
The trails here are great but too many people abuse the trails by riding them when conditions are not good. If more can be done by the county to support volunteers to keep people off wet and muddy trails that would be awesome!	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I love this section of trail	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I love this park. It's unique in its scale in the metro area -- and you can walk on dirt paths and have a sense of being out in the woods/wild area. We need more of this.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I love Lebanon Hills for walking, programming, sitting, and the native plant communities.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Been in Eagan since 1972, this park has been a blessing: hiking, snow showing, nature & photography.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
We love walking around Jensen lake as a family and the kids like the playground. I like that there are bathrooms and a drinking fountain. I also like that it's pretty busy so I feel pretty safe going by myself.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I love this park. I use the horse trails and they are always in great shape. I love that I have an opportunity to ride in a beautiful park so close to my home. Please do not change this park - it deserves to stay as is as it supports so many people through hiking/snow shoeing trails, horseback riding, nature walks, etc.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Great Mt biking	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
Lebanon Hills is a gem during any season. I've enjoyed the kayaking and wreath making classes. My husband and I hike and ski there, and were even interviewed by WCCO TV news once while hiking there on a day with hoarfrost.	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I love this park	Lebanon Hills Regional Park
I love to go to Miesville Ravine to get away from busy life. It's a great place for bird watching.	Miesville Ravine Park Reserve
I love this trail. It's close to my house, it's a great wildlife viewing area, and it's bike- and walking-friendly	Minnesota River Greenway - Cedar Ave Trail Bridge
Beautiful on the water dock platform overlooking BDLk is awesome: very peaceful, and great for watching migratory birds, especially awesome watching 50-100 American Pelicans 2x/year..	Minnesota River Greenway - Black Dog Lake

Favorite Place - What is your favorite place?	Park/Greenway
<p>The bike trail out from Hastings past Schaar's Bluff to the current end-of-the-line is amazing! I love the views from up high and also all the native wildflowers alongside the trail. My husband and I ride it multiple times a year and it's our favorite metro bike ride.</p> <p>Last time, however, the young grass mowers chose to roar right around us while we sat on the bench at Schaar's Bluff resting. I wish they would have started on another section of the vast area they were mowing since we were the only folks to work around at the time. Maybe a training item for next year?</p>	Mississippi River Regional Trail
I love this area. I run here all the time and having bathrooms and water fountains is great. The view of the river is very pretty too.	Pine Bend Bluff SNA
I love that they added this bridge over the water and the paths around the library area! It's great!!	River to River Greenway - Near Wentworth Library
Beautiful creek/gorge segment of the River to River Trail!	River to River Greenway - Kaposia Park
I love the bison and we visited them often.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Beautiful park! I also appreciate the nice, clean facilities, too. Nice work with pollinator-friendly vegetation, too.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Love the bison and habitat restoration. Happy to be a volunteer.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Love the bike trails through Spring Lake Park. Hope they can finally connect to IGH soon.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Spring Lake park is amazing.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
Beautiful park with great views of the river, wonderful walking and biking trails. It is a great place to enjoy year round.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
I love the view of the river and the hiking trails here, I'd love to see bird banding and guided bird watching hikes offered here.	Spring Lake Park Reserve
This accessible playground is a favorite with my kids and we love the nature theme, just wish it had some shade in the summer!	Thompson County Park
This accessible playground is such an asset to our community. My kids have friends who use wheelchairs and walking aids and this is a place they can all gather and play together.	Thompson County Park
Local and easy access; I walk here all the time! I love to see all the families at the playground and picnic shelters. They did a nice job updating the park and I'm so glad to see it!	Thompson County Park
Love the playground here with the pumps and water features. Love the trails. Have been wanting to come to a music in the park and just have not been able to make it on weeknights. Maybe consider a couple weekend music events in the summer as well?	Whitetail Woods Regional Park

Favorite Place - What is your favorite place?	Park/Greenway
Whitetail Woods is amazing.	Whitetail Woods Regional Park
We love walking at Whitetail Woods park. The kids like the nature playground. We also want to try out the sledding hill someday. I think the camper cabins look super nice too. We like that this park has super nice bathrooms.	Whitetail Woods Regional Park
W spot no cap. You can fish, bike, walk and they have a great park for children.	Other - Blackhawk Park
Great DISC golf course. Fund it with county budget and make it a free (and/or optional donation) supported.	Other - South Valley Park
Kenwood Trail DISC golf course is one of the best in the area! Keep this excellent course.	Other - Kenwood Trails Disc Golf Course
Absolutely love the diversity and uniqueness built into this playground! My kids could spend all day here!	Other - Woodhaven Park
What a beautiful and sacred place!	Other - Pilot Knob Preservation Site
Definitely a great park - shelter, playground, walking path, fishing peer, nature, etc. We love it!	Other - Blackhawk Park
Patrick Eagan Park is a gem of a location with natural trails and a wilderness inspired playground. There are benches (made from trees from the park, I think) that offer respite while walking the extensive trail system. The overlooks are nice - although the one on the East side of the park no longer overlooks much since the trees have grown so much over the years. The trails can be very steep and there are tree roots and rocks on the trails so it is not very accessible, but I do love this park and the ability to immerse yourself in nature here.	Other - Patrick Eagan Park
I really like the walk around Blackhawk Park. It's accessible all winter long. And you can snowshoe on the lake once it's frozen.	Other - Blackhawk Park
We love the walking path around Sunset Pond!	Other - Sunset Pond

E-mail Input

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2024 6:28 AM

To: Leatham, Lil

Subject: Suggestions for development of new objective for Parks and Greenways

Dear Lil

Hi

My name is [redacted]. We met at the kiosk of Dakota Library at Central Common at the Eagan farmer's market on Wednesday, August 28. As I mentioned that day, I am an urban planner, and with my experience in planning, I wanted to suggest some ideas for developing new objectives for parks and greenways. (Dakota County 2050 Vision Plan)

1. Development of Viewpoints along the park's water bodies and scenic terrain for visitors to stop by and experience the views. some seating areas/gazebos could be added.
2. Stargazing is a wonderful way to connect with the cosmos and community with similar interests, and the best locations for this activity are typically away from city lights, in areas with clear skies and minimal light pollution. Some parks in the city could be proposed with these designated stargazing arenas within the parks and have switching-off light systems/mechanisms when required by people to minimize light pollution. These parks could be identified based on location, higher altitudes, and minimum tall trees to view clear skies. celestial events such as meteor showers, northern lights, and blue moon nights can be observed from these parks.
3. Theme-based gardens within parks which could be maintained outdoors, if weather permits, or indoors/ in a Greenhouse. Various themes could be
 - i) The garden of 5 senses- fragrance, colorful, aesthetically appealing
 - ii) Garden of Herbs/ Herbal Gardens
 - iii) Starter Plant Libraries
4. Open Gym Area / designated areas/ Platform to Practice Yoga with soft rubber padded floor areas.

I have shared all my ideas above. Please feel free if you need to discuss these further or need more information.

Thanks and Regards

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Friday, August 30, 2024 11:15 AM

To: Leatham, Lil

Subject: 2050 Vision Plan

Happy Friday Ms. Leatham,

My name is [redacted] and have enjoyed living in Dakota County for 43 years. I was interested in the ‘Dakota County 2050 Vision Plan’ project and submitted an idea on the website. It was the one about the ‘Hidden Gem’ in Dakota County consisting of a ‘trail’ or ‘lane’ located on the McMenomy farm in Rosemount that was established when the farm was first settled in the 1800’s. What I had neglected to mention, is that every year in the first part of September, there is a massive migration of Monarch Butterflies that congregate for about a week in and around this trail. There are literally tens of thousands of them at that time on there way back to winter in Mexico. I’m not sure who to contact, actually, on who to help preserve this area, as it is being squeezed by surrounding development. As I had mentioned in my idea, I have been helping the owner farm this property for over twenty years, and I know a potential beautiful, historic trail when I see one, as I have hiked several trails throughout the country, including the Appalachian trail, Haleakala National Park in Maui, Cloud Peak Wilderness Area in

Wyoming, The Boundary Waters Wilderness Area, Superior Hiking Trail, North Shore State Trail, and several other Minnesota state and county park trails. It would be a shame for a developer to come along and just bulldoze this area into oblivion and build more housing. This would be a trail in Dakota county with a long standing history and with trees that have been there since before Minnesota was a state!

Thank you for your consideration

From: [travovager](#)
To: [Leatham, LJ](#)
Subject: 2050 Vision Plan
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 11:15:16 AM

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Happy Friday Ms. Leatham,

My name is Jeff Wilcziek and have enjoyed living in Dakota County for 43 years. I was interested in the 'Dakota County 2050 Vision Plan' project and submitted an idea on the website. It was the one about the 'Hidden Gem' in Dakota County consisting of a 'trail' or 'lane' located on the McMenemy farm in Rosemount that was established when the farm was first settled in the 1800's. What I had neglected to mention, is that every year in the first part of September, there is a massive migration of Monarch Butterflies that congregate for about a week in and around this trail. There are literally tens of thousands of them at that time on there way back to winter in Mexico. I'm not sure who to contact, actually, on who to help preserve this area, as it is being squeezed by surrounding development. As I had mentioned in my idea, I have been helping the owner farm this property for over twenty years, and I know a potential beautiful, historic trail when I see one, as I have hiked several trails throughout the country, including the Appalachian trail, Haleakala National Park in Maui, Cloud Peak Wilderness Area in Wyoming, The Boundary Waters Wilderness Area, Superior Hiking Trail, North Shore State Trail, and several other Minnesota state and county park trails. It would be a shame for a developer to come along and just bulldoze this area into oblivion and build more housing. This would be a trail in Dakota county with a long standing history and with trees that have been there since before Minnesota was a state!

Thank you for your consideration,

-Jeff Wilcziek- 12800 Bacardi Ave, W. (612) 839-2981

From: [Eva](#)
To: [Leatham, Lil](#)
Subject: Suggestions for development of new objective for Parks and Greenways
Date: Saturday, August 31, 2024 6:30:11 AM

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Dear Lil

Hi

My name is Eva Gupta. We met at the kiosk of Dakota Library at Central Common at the Eagan farmer's market on Wednesday, August 28. As I mentioned that day, I am an urban planner, and with my experience in planning, I wanted to suggest some ideas for developing new objectives for parks and greenways. (Dakota County 2050 Vision Plan)

1. Development of Viewpoints along the park's water bodies and scenic terrain for visitors to stop by and experience the views. some seating areas/gazebos could be added.
2. Stargazing is a wonderful way to connect with the cosmos and community with similar interests, and the best locations for this activity are typically away from city lights, in areas with clear skies and minimal light pollution. Some parks in the city could be proposed with these designated stargazing arenas within the parks and have switching-off light systems/mechanisms when required by people to minimize light pollution. These parks could be identified based on location, higher altitudes, and minimum tall trees to view clear skies. celestial events such as meteor showers, northern lights, and blue moon nights can be observed from these parks.
3. Theme-based gardens within parks which could be maintained outdoors, if weather permits, or indoors/ in a Greenhouse. Various themes could be
 - i) The garden of 5 senses- fragrance, colorful, aesthetically appealing
 - ii) Garden of Herbs/ Herbal Gardens
 - iii) Starter Plant Libraries
4. Open Gym Area / designated areas/ Platform to Practice Yoga with soft rubber padded floor areas.

I have shared all my ideas above. Please feel free if you need to discuss these further or need more information.

Thanks and Regards

Eva Gupta
Urban planner
Eagan

+1-612-987-4507

Sent from my iPhone

Appendix B: In-Person Event Summaries

Take a Kid Fishing

Event date: June 9, 2024

Event location: Thompson County Park

Event leader: Dakota County

Questions

1. Things people really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - The trails, fishing access, Dakota language teaching spots
 - How clean the parks are.
 - Positive Environment, family-friendly
 - Very beautiful park, nice job with the event (second time at Thompson, Spanish translated)
 - Fishing, Trails, Play Area, Picnic Tables
 - Lots of things to do and climb on
 - The rentals
 - The trails
 - Family-friendly activities
 - The art

2. One thing people would change:
 - More things to climb on (from a young adult respondent)

Open Door Pantry

Event date: June 11, 2024

Event location: Northern Service Center

Event leader: Dakota County

4 Total respondents

Questions

1. One thing people love about Dakota County Parks & Greenways:
 - Access to nature close by
 - Public pool / water area / shade cave (add)
 - Kid-safe climbing area (add)
 - Nerf war (add)
 - My kids love parks with splash pads
2. One thing people would change:
 - More single-track trails; none paved
 - Thompson County Park is unsafe for blind people
 - Portable toilets get messed up in some parks; get rid of them

Canoe or Kayak Program (Spanish program)

Event date: June 24, 2024

Event location: Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Event leader: Dakota County

7 total respondents

Questions (Spanish)

1. Cuéntenos algo que realmente le guste de los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:
 - La seguridad y los lindos paisajes que podemos disfrutar. *The security and the beautiful landscapes we can enjoy*
 - Me encanta la naturaleza, la playa de los lagos y el servicio que les dan. *I love nature, the lake beaches and services.*
 - Las condiciones excelentes todo muy limpio y mucho para conocer. *Excellent conditions, everything is very clean, and a lot to know.*
 - Las diferentes actividades que realizan, lo limpio y el personal que atiende. *The different activities, how clean they are, and the staff.*
 - Es una excelente oportunidad de disfrutar de la naturaleza. *It is an excellent opportunity to enjoy nature.*
2. Díganos algo que cambiaría/mejoraría en los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:
 - Nada cico, siempre me ha paicado un lugar lindo y seguro. *Nothing fancy, I have always like a nice and safe place.*
 - Realmente yo no cambiaría nada. *Really, I wouldn't change anything.*
 - Nada, todo es hermoso. *Nothing, everything is beautiful.*
 - Que puedan realizar mas actividades y personal de habla español. *Offer more activities and spanish speaking staff.*
 - Cambiar nada es algo muy divertido ojalá más familias pudieran disfrutar de esto. *Change nothing, this is very fun, I wish more families could enjoy this.*
3. ¿Algo más que quieras contarnos?

- Muchas gracias y hacer este tipo de actividades para poder pasar más tiempo de calidad. *Thank you very much and hold these types of activities here to be able to spend more quality time.*
- Me encanta la atención que nos dan a todos y solo quiero agradecer por tener todos los programas gratuitos y enfocarse en las familias Latinas. *I love the attention you give us and I want to thank you for having all the free programs and focusing on Latino families.*
- Solo dar las gracias por sus parques recreativos y familiares. *Only to say thanks for parks for recreation and families.*
- Todo es muy lindo. *Everything is very nice.*
- Si que las personas voluntarias son magníficas gracias por todo. *Yes, the volunteers are magnificent, thank you for everything.*

Questions (English)

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - The biodiversity of plants and the general conservation state of the park is just amazing. Keep up the good work!
 - We love Lebanon Hills Park. It provides my family with quiet space to walk around the lake, walking trails, and benches to sit and breathe fresh air.
2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - I saw some polythene papers around. It would be great to do a weekly/daily checkup if you guys usually don't do!
 - Water fountain would be very helpful to provide fresh drinking water.
3. Anything else you want to tell us?
 - This is a great place, I met wonderful people here.
 - Me and my family have built a connection with this park. We lived in Eagan in 2021 and this was our go to place to walk. Now we come here from Bloomington.

Open Door, Eagan

Event date: July 2, 2024

Event location: Open Door Pantry

Event leader: Dakota County

8 total respondents

Questions

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:

- Preservation of areas to not be developed.
- Amazing, well kept trails
- They are clean
- Dakota County parks connect us to nature
- What I love is that the parks are clean and family friendly.
- Love the natural nature. Hiking trails. Buffalo reserve is so special. Trails through neighborhoods.
- I love lakes and trees in the trekking trails.
- Paths at Lebanon Hills

2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:

- Increase in water fountains with bottle fillers
- Adding more!
- More sitting space
- I would add nature playgrounds
- Maybe add exercise equipment for the parents.
- Nothing I can think of
- Signals and lights for
- Need to maintain walkability on trails in Lebanon
- Make greenways local destination places

3. Anything else you want to tell us?

- I would like if there were safe walkways to and from many of these parks. Like to Lebanon Hills, also public transport there. I enjoy walking around the lakes and the length tends to be adequate.
- Dakota County Parks are fine as they are.
- Love the art mixed throughout. Love the basketball courts – ping pong etc. [She may have been thinking of Eagan Parks?]

Mexican Consulate

Event date: July 3, 2024

Event location: Saint Paul

Event leader: Dakota County

10 Total respondents

Overall observation

All respondents at this event were Spanish-speaking and none of the respondents lived in Dakota County, though some lived nearby in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Their home locations are with their comments. Many came from a long distance. Gaby from Parks filled out the survey as well (she lives in Egan). These responses give a more general idea of what the Spanish-speaking population in the region is looking for in parks.

Questions

1. Cuéntenos algo que realmente le guste de los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:
 - Me gusta porque podemos salir a caminar, jugar, montar bicicleta, y distraernos un poco (WI) *I like it because we can go for walks, play, ride bikes, and have a little fun*
 - 3 times a year (St. Paul)
 - Flores y fuentes de agua; camino para correr (Austin, MN) *Flowers and water fountains; path to run*
 - Todo muy limpio (St. Paul) *Everything very clean*
 - Áreas verdes y muchos arboles (Freeman, SD) *Green áreas and many trees*
 - Así como están se me hacen muy bien muchas áreas verdes y bellos jardines (Blaine)
 - Me encantan que los parques tengan mucho arboles verdes, plantas de flores y juegos para los parques. (St. Paul)
 - Correr, andar en bicicleta (Willmar, MN)
 - Acampar, nadar, pescar (Willmar, MN)
 - I like that they are free. Bathrooms are clean and there are a lot of greenways and trails to hike and run. (Egan, MN) – Staff comment

2. Díganos algo que cambiaría/mejoraría en los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:

- Mas áreas verdes (WI)
- Have more bike trails (St. Paul)
- Mas juegos (St. Paul)
- Reforestar más arboles (Freeman, SD)
- Organizar algunos eventos de vez en cuando (Blaine)
- Mas bien pover [?] más de verdes (St. Paul)
- Control de insectos (Willmar, MN)
- Control con los mosquitos (Willmar, MN)
- None

3. ¿Algo más que quieras contarnos?

- No, todo de maravilla (St. Paul)
- Felicitados por fomentar la integración familiar, así como a la sociedad felicidad por su esfuerzo (Freeman, SD)
- Que nosotros estamos satisfechos por el trato la vigilancia y están haciendo buen trabajo (Blaine)
- Que los parques tuvieran juegos para los niños, más vegetaciones verdes. (St. Paul)
- Me gustan mucho caminar viendo los árboles. (Willmar, MN)
- Mas árboles, baños más higiénicos (Willmar, MN)
- Pienso que es una buena oportunidad para hacer conciencia y cuidar nuestros parques (Willmar, MN)

Tour de Rec

Event date: July 9, 2024

Event location: Mendota Elementary (Partnership between West St Paul Parks, Mendota Heights Parks, Dakota County, and School Districts)

Event leader: Dakota County

5 Total respondents

Questions

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - Well distributed throughout the county. Well maintained. Good programs.
 - Love the trail systems for running and biking. Rest areas are plentiful and hills are mostly kid friendly.
 - The variety of activities/rental equipment there is available
 - Accessibility
 - I have many things that I love about DCP/G&NA especially the connection with the community through the events. So many fun events
2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - More shade trees at playgrounds (or non-natural shade awnings until trees grow). More loop running trails.
 - Nothing comes to mind
 - Maybe mail out more flyers with information about upcoming events. Some people don't use social media.
3. Anything else you want to tell us?
 - Love the emphasis on pollinator habitats! More barriers between roadways and paths (trees, shrubs, etc) would be great!
 - I appreciate the effort to communicate the park projects, changes, etc.
 - Keep bringing the fun.

Open Door Pantry, Farmington

Event date: July 16, 2024

Event location: Rambling River Center, Farmington

Event leader: Dakota County

5 total respondents

Questions

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - The clean wide paths
 - Haven't really been to many parks / Like flowers, lakes/water
 - Clean parks nearby home
 - It is clean and well maintained
 - The trails are easily accessible and clearly marked.

2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - More rest areas for elderly
 - Flowers, lakes, picnic areas
 - More kid friendly/baby friendly [activities?]. Splash pads
 - More bathrooms available daily and hand sanitizer
 - More benches

3. Anything else you want to tell us?
 - N/A

Burnsville International Festival

Event date: July 20, 2024

Event location: Nicollet Commons Park, Burnsville

Event leader: Dakota County

8 total respondents

Overall observation

This event was well attended by a diverse audience, including many families. I interacted with many people and most (I'd estimate 3/5, especially people of color) did not know that the Dakota County Parks and Greenways existed. Everyone that I spoke with who lived in Dakota County expressed interest in learning more about the parks and programming. Several people also noted how the parks are not close by where they live in Burnsville.

Questions (Spanish)

1. Cuéntenos algo que realmente le guste de los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:
 - Las caminatas/naturaleza & las actividades culturales
2. Díganos algo que cambiaría/mejoraría en los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:
 - N/A
3. ¿Algo más que quieras contarnos?
 - Keep up the great work!!

Questions (English)

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - How well-maintained they are
 - I like the trails and how much greenery there is. More natural scenery.
 - Love the paved trails @ Lebanon hills. The super clean facilities are also nice.
 - Beautifully maintained
 - Paved bike trails, playgrounds
 - Very clean and well-maintained campgrounds
2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:

- Easier to read trail maps.
 - N/A
 - Not a thing
 - Easier access to animals. Biking paths separate from walking paths
 - More bike trails
 - Nothing!
 - More available camping, including cabins
3. Anything else you want to tell us?
- Stay cool <3
 - Love the parks!
 - Thank you
 - Thank you for having so many spaces for us

Mighty Machines

Event date: July 23, 2024

Event location: Wescott Library, Eagan

Event leader: Dakota County

6 total respondents

Overall observation

People enjoy the parks and have little to say about improving them. Some people have not been to the parks.

Questions

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - Clean bathrooms and camping at Lebanon Hills
 - Long walks on paved paths by lakes – for strollers and kids’ bikes
 - I like the tranquility when walking on the trails
 - How many parks, activities there are to do
 - Trails, camping in Lebanon
 - Trails, playgrounds
2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - More accessible parks/playgrounds – separated by age
 - Update the maps or make them easier to understand
 - N/A
 - Not really
3. Anything else you want to tell us?
 - Thanks for everything, my backyard is Lebanon so I love going there. Thanks.

Water Play Day

Event date: August 2, 2024

Event location: Whitetail Woods Regional Park, Farmington

Event leader: Dakota County

9 Total respondents

Overall observation

This event drew young families with only a few people of color present.

Questions (Spanish)

1. Cuéntenos algo que realmente le guste de los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:

- Me gusta la integración que generan y tienen en todos los ámbitos, me gusta que ayudan de manera divertida y entretenida a los niños a aprender y a relacionarse con el entorno.

2. Díganos algo que cambiaría/mejoraría en los Parques, Vías Verdes y Áreas Naturales del Condado de Dakota:

- Todo ha sido y estado bien por lo pronto. No tengo comentarios

3. ¿Algo más que quieras contarnos?

- Mis niños aman este tipo de actividades.

Questions (English)

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:

- Availability
- The play park area how it is incorporated into nature. The paved paths and trails.
- Well kept.
- The large “natural” kids play area
- Most of the parks we visited are kid friendly and had kids play areas which we really like.
- A lot of County Parks available in Dakota County
- I love that there is such variety and they are all over. Trees. Accessibility.

2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:

- Bugs
- The bugs are not fun.
- More shade on play areas.
- More waste receptacles along the paths
- I know it is impossible to change but mosquitoes are horrible to enjoy the parks sometimes
- More opportunities and areas where two and under can play. Toddler-inclusive aspects in parks. In Lakeville/Farmington/Apple Valley – splash pads.

3. Anything else you want to tell us?

- The bison were a great addition. Love the hiking trails and water play area and natural play areas.
- Love Whitetail and Lebanon
- You guys are doing a really good job keeping these parks nice for us. Thank you 😊
- Thanks for doing what you do!

Outdoor Career Success Youth Activity

Event date: August 19, 2024

Event location: Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center

Event leader: Dakota County

Event format: Focus Group/Activity

Key questions and information shared: Short introductory presentation about planning careers, park planning, and the Vision Plan project. Staff facilitated a prioritization activity where participants were divided into groups, asked to discuss and fund, with play money, activities in twelve categories. Each small group then shared their priorities with the larger group.

Prompt:

1. Read the twelve category cards together as a group.
2. Discuss which ones you think are the most important and why. Think about the future of the parks and greenways and how you would like it to be in 25 years. We are taking your feedback into consideration for the actual plan.
3. As a group, choose how you want to invest your money into the categories. You can put more than one bill in a jar. Make a note on this page which categories you chose and how much for each.
4. When you are finished, select a spokesperson to put the money into the jars in the amounts the group chose. This spokesperson will report out to the larger group what the group chose and why.

How many people attended the event: 20

How many people we interacted with: 20

Demographic information: Youth

Activity Summary

Group 1:

Experiences with nature and not disturbing it – nature hikes. Less trash, less people, less damage to ecosystems.

- **Natural Resources: \$600**
- Special Events: \$400
- **Water Quality: \$500**
- **Land Conservation: \$500**

Group 2:

- **New Parks \$450**

- New Greenways \$300
- Maintenance \$200
- Natural Resource Restoration \$200
- Water Quality \$100
- ADA \$50
- Programming in Greenways \$50
- New Conservation Lands \$50

Group 3:

- **Water Quality \$500**
- **Signature Facilities \$500**
- New Parks \$250
- Special Events \$200
- Maintain Parks \$100
- Natural Resources \$300

Group 4:

- **Water Quality \$300**
- **Programming in Parks \$300**
- **Trail and Sidewalk Access \$300**
- Programming on Greenways \$250
- Improve ADA Access \$200
- Natural Resource Restoration \$200
- Special Events \$200
- Signature Facilities \$150
- New Parks \$100

Group 5:

- **Natural Resources \$650**
- Water Quality \$200
- ADA Access \$150
- Special Events \$150
- Programming \$150
- Signature Facilities \$100
- Maintenance \$100
- New Greenways \$200
- Sidewalk Access \$50
- New Parks \$50
- Programming on Greenways \$100

Key takeaways

- Groups differed in their top priorities: new parks, water quality, signature facilities, and natural resource facilities all rose to the top.
- Taking all of the group's budget allocations together, natural resources and water quality were by far the top priorities. This was likely skewed slightly by Group #1's strategy of focusing funding on natural resources, water quality, and special events.
- Aggregate 'budget'(all five groups added)
 - Natural Resource Restoration \$1,950 (19.5%)
 - Water Quality \$1,700 (17%)
 - Special Events \$900 (9%)
 - New Parks \$900 (9%)
 - Signature Facilities \$700 (7%)
 - Land Conservation \$700 (7%)
 - Trail and Sidewalk Access \$600 (6%)
 - New Greenways \$500 (5%)
 - Improve ADA \$450 (4.5%)
 - Programming \$400 (4%)
 - Programming on Greenways \$400 (4%)
 - Maintain Parks and Greenways \$400 (4%)

Thompson County Park, 50th Birthday Party

Event date: August 20, 2024

Event location: Thompson County Park

Event leader: Dakota County

4 total respondents

The event had about 40 people in attendance and was a somewhat diverse crowd.

Questions

1. Tell us one thing you really love about Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - Love hiking and wildflowers
 - I LOVE Thompson Park because of its location and accessible playground – The Lodge is always a perfect place to hold events.
 - The attention to MN native plants and ancestral environmental zones
 - Convenient green space within the urban area
 - The lodge, the trails, the park for the kids. We love the staff (Anna)
2. Tell us one thing you would change/improve in Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas:
 - Place an info marker about Thompson in Thompson County Park
 - More cultural designed events for the Black community
 - The Bison should not be considered wild, but I think all the right people know that
 - More events?
 - Cleaning the pond. If you have kayaks we can get a group of people to clean up the lake.
3. Anything else you want to tell us?
 - As a former resident of Hennepin County, I speak objectively; Dakota County Rocks!! Great Commissioner, great reps, great volunteers. So glad I moved here! Fabulous parks!!
 - Hiking events at Thompson Park would be awesome for those new to hiking or who are not able to go up north.
 - Thank you for your hard work!

- Very interested in the long-term plan for the parks specifically Thompson. Would like development kept to a reasonable minimum.

Party on the Plaza

Event date: Aug. 22, 2024

Event location: Nicollet Commons Park, 12550 Nicollet Avenue Burnsville, MN 55337

Event leader: Dakota County/Zan

Event format: Pop-Up

Key questions and information shared:

- Vision board with Post-It notes: If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?
- Map board with flags: What is your favorite place (in Dakota County parks system)? What needs improvement? Do you have a great idea?
- Handout with information and QR code to Social Pinpoint site.

How many people attended the event: ~300+

How many people we interacted with: ~100

Demographic information: N/A

Common themes

- Many people love Lebanon Hills for its many paths and trails, markers/maps, pavilions, accessibility (easy to get to), bathrooms, playgrounds, range of activities, and water/drinking fountains.
- People would love to see more organized activities and social events at parks and in natural areas.
- Many people mentioned amenities for children, particularly playground equipment.
- Younger park visitors are most appreciative of playground equipment, while older park visitors are most interested in seeing more walkways and clean, serene natural spaces. Families with children also valued bathrooms and water/drinking fountains at parks.
- Because of its large size, people would appreciate more signage at Lebanon Hills directing them where they can go.
- Interest in seeing the park system be interconnected in the future by a trail, similar to the Grand Rounds trail system in Minneapolis.
- Many people are not familiar with what a “greenway” is.

Other comments

- One mother mentioned wanting to see structures/activities at the parks that are directed towards older kids. Her younger kids use the parks often, but her older son did not. She suggested adding an obstacle course.
- Other parks outside of Dakota County that were praised include Terrace Oaks West in Burnsville and Alimagnet Park (nice walking paths, water, and natural spaces), Kelley Park in Apple Valley (feels safe), and Hidden Valley (obstacle course, feels safe, river, optimal sledding hill).
- One person was underwhelmed with her visit to Spring Lake Park Reserve because she felt there wasn't much to do, and she would have appreciated more trails.
- One frequent Lebanon Hills visitor expressed frustration with the Holland Lake Picnic Shelter because families tend to come early and take up all the tables. She would love to see a reservation system and more benches throughout the park.

Tables

Map Board Results			
Location	Flag color – comment topic	Count	Comments
Lebanon Hills	Green – favorite place	11	Appreciates ease of access, bathrooms, and playgrounds. “Lebanon offers a lot for everyone.”
			Loves the beautiful landscaping, wood bridge, and good wildlife viewing.
			Loves paths, markers, and wild nature.
	Red – needs work/concern	1	Invasive buckthorn.
Thompson County Park	Green – favorite place	1	Enjoys the many places to sit and relax, the water fountains for drinking, and the overall cleanliness.
Lake Byllesby Regional Park	Red – needs work/concern	1	Water quality concern (e. Coli).
Big Rivers Regional Trail	Green – favorite place	2	
Spring Lake Park Reserve	Green – favorite place	2	
	Blue - idea	1	More trails and activities to get visitors to stay longer.

Vision Board Responses
Spaces to sit and enjoy nature.
More accessibility throughout.
Big playgrounds.
Slides and fun!
Something for everyone.

Something to get older kids to keep coming.
Community events.
Easier to access.
Swimming in lake.
Kid-friendly spaces.
Signage and information on how current trails connect to broader systems.
A trail system that connects the parks like the Grand Rounds trail in Minneapolis.
Bridges that allow you to walk over water and view wildlife.
Monkey bars!
Private/serene.
More benches.
Interaction with water.

Notes (staff notes from conversations)
More accessibility
Loves Lebanon Hills for its paths, helpful markers, wild nature. Frustrated by families that can take over the Holland Trail Pavilion by getting there early in the morning and spreading their stuff over every table. Would love to see a reservation system and more benches throughout.
Loves Thompson Park because it has places to sit and relax, water fountains for drinking, less trash which makes it look cleaner.
Loves Lebanon Hills because it is easy to get to, has bathrooms, playgrounds, a lot for everyone.
Would love more organized activities, social events that could help with isolation at parks.
Loves the waterfall and trail at Hastings. Would love more hiking trails, more education on what you can do at each park, and cleaner parks overall.
Doesn't live close to park, wants more social events to draw them to the parks.
A mom with her three young boys- Wants more playground structures like obstacle courses, initiatives that keep older kids interested because oldest son used to use parks a lot and now doesn't as much. Mom loves when parks have bathrooms and water fountains.
Loves live music at Whitetail and cross country skiing and biking.
Loves playgrounds.
Prioritizes recreation activities.
Likes slides.
Likes walkways, puppets (activities?), pretty/well-kept spaces. Lebanon Hills or another park nearby is gated or appears gated and this feels restrictive.
Likes Nine Mile because it feels enclosed by nature, very serene.
Alimagnet, Terrace Oaks, Crystal Lake, Sunset Lake and Early (?) are awesome parks because they've got walking paths, water. Would love to see more natural areas in Dakota County parks.
Had been to Spring Lake but didn't find much to do. Would love more trails here or activities.
Horse trails at Lebanon are awesome.
Loves the walking trails in Lebanon, and it is close to home. But it could use more signage, be easier to get to, and have more paths that get you to the park.
Loves the walking paths, hiking, camping, wildlife and nature at Lebanon Hills.

Likes clean and organized events at the parks like Party on the Plaza.
Lebanon needs more signage. Kelley is a great park because it's safe. Safety is #1.
Cleanliness is #1.
Loves biking in Lebanon, as well as fishing, camping, the bathrooms, hiking, water fountains. Hidden Valley Park has an awesome obstacle course, river, safety, sledding hill.
Loves walking trails.
Loves the community that can be found at parks, grew up near one.
Spring Lake trails are great.
Spring Lakes running, biking, group bikes are fun. Whitetail is great for skiing, has easy and challenging hills (something for everyone) but could use more connecting trails. Lebanon has a variety of trails which is good.
Paved paths are nice.
Possible improvements to parks in general: zipline system, bike black dog trail, bike systems with better signage, better connections of Dakota County trails to broader system.
More interactions w/ water.
Bathrooms/accessibility.
Bike trails that connect to the whole system.
Lebanon Hills is very clean.
Trails and lake access are important.
There's an underdeveloped trail by Cannon River. Rural, outdoorsy trails are awesome.
Crystal Beach could be cleaned up.
Quiet views are good. Trails as well.
Lebanon Hills has invasive buckthorn.
Mountain biking in Lebanon.
Lebanon has awesome mountain biking off road trails.

Photos



Party on the Plaza visitors shared their favorite places and ideas for improvement within the Dakota County Parks System with us.



Bubbles, handouts, and big boards attracted visitors.

Eagan Market Fest, Community Night

Event date: August 28, 2024

Event location: City Center Park, Eagan

Event leader: Lil Leatham, Dakota County

Event format: Pop up

Key questions and information shared: Map based pin up board and idea board

How many people attended the event: Community event

How many people we interacted with: 30

Demographic information: Not collected

Common themes

- Favorite Places:
 - Lebanon Hills Regional Park (13)
 - Whitetail Woods Regional Park (1)
 - Dakota Woods Dog Park (1)
 - Spring Lake Park Reserve (1)
 - Thompson County Park (1)
 - Blackhawk Park (city park, 1)
 - Minnesota Zoo (1)
 - Minnesota River Greenway (1)
 - Big Rivers Regional Trail (1)
 - Mississippi River Greenway/Kaposia Landing (1)
- Ideas/Concerns
 - Veterans Memorial Greenway (1) - Keep parking lot on Dodd Blvd, do not build one on Atlantic Drive.
 - Complete the Rosemount segment of the Mississippi River Greenway (1)
 - River to River Greenway (2) - Add wayfinding signage, repave the Lillydale to Marie trail that connects to the River to River Greenway
 - Minnesota River Greenway (1)- Finish the Fort Snelling segment

- If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways and Natural Areas Look Like in 2050?
 - Charging for electric bikes at all trailheads
 - More zip lines
 - Volunteer trail ambassadors who can identify and call in maintenance issues
 - Re-energize buckthorn removal
 - Do not build a 6-mile paved trail through Lebanon Hills Regional Park
 - More places for dogs
 - More safety lighting
 - Water fountains with foot activation
 - As much natural space with unpaved hiking access as possible. Limit paved trails to a few for ADA access.
 - More long bike trails, finish the connections to on the Mississippi River Greenway and Minnesota River Greenway
 - More bike trails
 - The more trails the better
 - Geolocators on trail signage. If you need to ask for help, there is no way to tell someone where you are. Also, the signage should be lit. Hiking trails in Lebanon Hills Regional Park need this.
 - Lebanon Hills Regional Park signage is too complex. Would like a few color-coded loops. It is really easy to get lost, and the park is scary when you don't know where to go.
 - Invasive species control and information on volunteering
 - More wildlife viewing – all kinds birds to chipmunks
 - More accessible features
 - Walking access to parks
 - New parks along waterways
 - Restored natural areas

Key takeaways

- Eagan residents are aware of Dakota County Parks and visit many. Visits to Lebanon Hills Regional Park are by far the most frequent. Most had not visited further away parks like Miesville Ravine Park Reserve and Lake Byllesby Regional Park.
- Passionate trail bicyclists and support for more trails

- Many appreciated hiking in natural settings
- Support for natural resource management
- Several comments about making parks and greenways safer/more comfortable with better wayfinding, lighting, and accessibility.

Public Art and Policy in the Park

Event date: Sept 22, 2024

Event location: Lebanon Hills Regional Park, 860 Cliff Road, Eagan, MN 55123

Event leader: Dakota County

Event format: Pop-Up

Key questions and information shared:

- Vision board with Post-It notes:
 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?
- Map board with flags:
 - What is your favorite place (in Dakota County parks system)?
 - What needs improvement?
 - Do you have a great idea?
- Handout with information and QR code to Social Pinpoint site.

How many people attended the event: ~150

How many people we interacted with: ~60

Demographic information: N/A

Common themes

- People appreciate the parks and appreciate that they are free, clean, and well maintained.
- Many people would like to see the parks remain natural resource based and a focus on natural resource restoration.
- Many people would like to see more playgrounds in the parks and specifically at the Lebanon Hills Visitor Center. Some specifically asked for nature play.
- Several people mentioned interest in bike trails.
- Several people mentioned interest in more volunteer opportunities, particularly for older adults.
- Several people expressed interest in seeing more animals. Birdwatching, butterfly gardens, and partnership with Como Zoo and the Raptor Center were mentioned.
- Several people mentioned interest in outdoor education and interpretation. History, science, and Indigenous culture were mentioned specifically.

Other Comments

- One person mentioned that they would like to see greater collaboration with cities on Natural Resource restoration and management in city parks.

- One person expressed that they really like hiking trails but do not feel comfortable in the more remote areas of the park. Worried about falling, other people who may cause personal harm, or a wild animal. Would really like some sort of trail patrol.

Tables

Map Board Results			
Location	Flag color – comment topic	Count	Comments
Lebanon Hills	Green – favorite place	16	Love Jensen Lake.
	Red – needs work/concern	2	New maintenance shop construction. Lots of dust in the air from the project. There needs to be better communication with neighbors before a construction project starts.
	Blue- idea	1	Nature center.
Thompson County Park	Green – favorite place	1	Love the restoration, pollinator plantings in the parking lot.
	Red – needs work/concern	1	Boardwalk needs repair.
Lake Byllesby Regional Park	Green – favorite place	1	
Big Rivers Regional Trail	Green – favorite place	1	Like the Dakota plant names in the garden and the Indigenous culture interpretation. This acknowledgement is so important.
	Blue- idea	2	More native flowers and restored nature at Cedar.
Spring Lake Park Reserve	Green – favorite place	5	Bison. Love the bike trail.
	Blue - idea	2	Nature center.
	Red – needs work/concern	1	
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve	Green – favorite place	3	The prairie plants are amazing.
Whitetail Woods Regional Park	Green – favorite place	2	Love the nature playground.
Minnesota River Greenway	Green – favorite place	1	
	Blue - idea	2	Nature center.
St. Croix River	Green – favorite place	1	

Vision Board Responses
Love all the parks, love the bike trails. Love the electric bike rentals in Hastings. Electric bikes are increasing trail congestion, would like to see separated walking and biking paths.

Suggest adding places to wash feet off after a hike. Would like to see this especially at LHRP, Jensen Lake Trailhead.
Easier access to playgrounds and more accessible playgrounds.
Keeping the playgrounds well maintained is essential.
Parks are an oasis for people and habitat. They are an oasis for blanding turtles and rusty patch bumblebee.
More public access to undeveloped open space with hiking trails. Not everything needs to be developed and connected.
Organize events to encourage people to get out in the parks. The Great Park Pursuit is a scavenger hunt that other communities have put on. There are prizes for the winners.
Love Lebanon Hills Regional Park because it is clean and well cared for, love the swimming beach in particular. Love the camping gear swap at Thompson County Park.
Have wider shoulders on roads.
Get the North Creek Greenway completed. Better, more complete information on the website about current/future projects.
A playground in Lebanon Hills Regional Park near the visitor center, especially now that there is a safe trail connection.
Greater collaboration with cities on Natural Resource restoration and management in city parks.
I like the direction things are going.
The Twin Cities has the best park system I have ever lived by and I love that it is all free.
Keep up the restoration, keep parks healthy with native plants and free of invasive species.
Someone is doing a great job marketing the Mountain Bike facilities, my friends who live across the country know about mountain biking in LHRP. The BMX course in Eagan in awesome too.
I want hiking, biking, foraging, outdoor education (nature education and outdoor recreation classes).
Less recreation development in the parks, prioritize land protection in the future.
Centralized area on the county website for information about accessible spaces.
Really love Halls Farm Park and would like to see something similar in Dakota County Parks. It is a traditional farm and is a great place to spend the day. There is also a harvest festival.
Climate action.
Move biking and walking trails away from roads.
I wish for great water quality.
Provide easier access to hiking trails in the southern part of Lebanon Hills Regional Park in the Star Pond area near the equestrian trailhead.
My main interest is natural systems. Establish a volunteer docent program to education public about the importance of natural systems. There are a lot of older adults who would love to share their knowledge.
Winter sledding hills.
Combine art and nature programing – more events like this one!
Mini golf in the park
Some playgrounds with sand surface, my kids prefer playing in the sand.
Keep volunteer programs strong, they are a great community resource.
Love the volunteer programs.
A lot more animals all around.
Reduced rate camping for bicycle camping at Lake Byllesby Regional Park.

We like the beach at Lebanon Hills Regional Park the best.
Love bird watching in Lebanon Hills Regional Park because of the variety of plants that go to seed in the fall.
Shorter trail loops near trailheads.
Nature play at visitor center at Lebanon Hills Regional Park.
Access to seeing animals. Partner with the Raptor Center, Como Zoo to have events with animals.
Todos los parques nos encantan. <i>We love all the parks.</i>
Keep nature oriented. Less concrete, more native plants and user friendly yet NATURAL.
Make it easier for all people to reduce carbon – climate equity. Nature will save us.
Public art.
Being close to nature and opportunities to learn about issues! Great Parks!
Climbing rocks, waterfalls, natural paths (not paved), butterfly garden, beach.
More nature play like at Whitetail Woods at Jensen. Love the nature play at Patrick Eagan Park.
Amplifying resilient experiences with art. Address science and food security.
More nature.
Love the lake loop trails (Shulze Lake, McDonough Lake Lake, Holland Lake). Like that Three Rivers Park District has both biking and hiking trails.
Nature center at Lebanon Hills Regional Park.
Nature center at Whitetail Woods Regional Park.
More self guided interpretation. Historic, science, link to website for more information on the topic.
Focus on maintaining prairies and dealing with the weeds.
More Indigenous history at parks.
Permaculture.

Notes (staff notes from conversations)
Really likes hiking trails but does not feel comfortable in the more remote areas of the park. Worried about falling, other people who may cause personal harm, or a wild animal. Would really like some sort of trail patrol.

Residents of Color Collective (ROCC)

Event date: Sept 27, 2024

Event location: Thompson County Park

Event leader: Dakota County

Event format: Pop-Up

Key questions and information shared:

- Vision board with Post-It notes:
 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?
- Map board with flags:
 - What is your favorite place (in Dakota County parks system)?
 - What needs improvement?
 - Do you have a great idea?
- Handout with information and QR code to Social Pinpoint site.

How many people attended the event: ~4

How many people we interacted with: ~8

Demographic information: Residents of Color, Families

Tables

Map Board Results			
Location	Flag color – comment topic	Count	Comments
Thompson County Park	Green – favorite place	6	
Whitetail Woods Regional Park	Green – favorite place	1	
Dakota Woods Dog Park	Green – favorite place	1	

Vision Board Responses
Wish there were more kids/more things for kids to do
I love waterfalls in parks
I love navigating the trails with a map. I'd like more trail intersections to keep it interesting.

Galaxie Library

Event date: Sept 10 - 24, 2024

Event location: Galaxie Library, Apple Valley, MN

Event leader: Dakota County

Event format: Unstaffed

Key questions and information shared:

- Vision board with Post-It notes:
 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?
- Map board with flags:
 - What is your favorite place (in Dakota County parks system)?
 - What needs improvement?
 - Do you have a great idea?
- Poster with information and QR code to Social Pinpoint site.

How many people attended the event: NA

How many people we interacted with: NA

Demographic information: N/A

Common themes

- Many people expressed desire for more and better walking and biking trails both to parks and on local roads.
- Many people mentioned desire for more to do, playgrounds, kids activities, fat tire biking, beaches.
- A couple people suggested making equipment available – hammocks and supplies for fishing.
- One person expressed desire for restored natural areas.
- One person requested more diverse staff.
- On person requested some playgrounds be fenced for greater accessibility.

Tables

Map Board Results			
Location	Flag color – comment topic	Count	Comments
Lebanon Hills	Green – favorite place	4	Love the visitor center. Lots to see and do. Try a community greenhouse and garden.

Dakota Woods Dog Park	Green – favorite place	1	Awesome job.
Mississippi River Greenway	Green – favorite place	1	
Spring Lake Park Reserve	Green – favorite place	1	Nice view.
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve	Green – favorite place	2	Lots to see. Love, but allow fat tire bikes.
Whitetail Woods Regional Park	Green – favorite place	2	Love the kids play area and trail around the lake. Quiet regional park.

Vision Board Responses
Push Button flashing yellow lights for crossing roads that connect to bike trails!!
Drivers rarely stop for bikes on walkers.
Paths following natural curves. More trees for feathered friends. Nature playgrounds incorporated.
More of those big circle swings.
Free.
More connections for bike trails.
More beach areas by lakes.
More study rooms.
More kids activities!
Hire more diverse team members.
More fat tire biking trails. Natural trails for bikes.
You spend too much.
Free hammocks to use.
Thanks!!
Thank you to all who make our parks beautiful and plentiful.
Less lawn, more prairies.
Community greenhouses and gardens. Food growing. Compost drop-offs to support food production. Circular sustainable gardening with pond harvesting for fertilizing.
Bike paths along TH3! More bike paths to bridge parks.
Better bike/walking along Diamond Path N. of 140 th to Pilot Knob
Resorted natural areas free of invasive species. Improved walking and hiking trails. Trash cans along trails.
Better connection of trails on Pilot Knob, Diamond Path, and McAndrews so you can get to Lebanon Hills Regional Park safely from the south.
Bait and tackle store in the area for the fishing community.
Fences in some play areas to make more accessible for ND kids and their families.

Appendix C: Focus Groups

Wilderness in the City

Event date: July 17, 2024 7:30-8:30 pm

Event location: Lebanon Hills Visitor Center – Discovery Room

Event leader: TLÂL-LI, Dakota County

Event format: Listening Session

Overview

Bruce Chamberlain, TLÂL-LI, Niki Geisler, Dakota County Parks Director, and Lil Leatham, Dakota County Principal Planner gave an overview of the Parks, Greenways and Natural Systems 2050 Vision Plan, followed by discussion with Wilderness in the City Board members. Key questions were given to the organization, who filled them out in writing and returned them via email. Wilderness in the City responses to the questions are below.

Discussion Questions

1. **What is one aspect of another park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County could emulate?**
 - What is it?
 - Authentic nature-based experiences and opportunities for all ages and abilities is one aspect of another park system that Dakota County could emulate.
 - What park system?
 - Minnesota State Parks and Trails System
 - How is it important to them?
 - This important aspect provides the MN State Parks system guidance throughout the decision-making process, and consistently offers visitors unique opportunities not found elsewhere.
 - Why could it be important to Dakota County?
 - Ongoing support of the ‘Forever Wild’ Parks System is prudent both environmentally and fiscally, which meets priorities of residents. Dakota County would expand their draw of visitors from the metro and beyond by promoting their unique “forever wild” opportunities.
2. **What is an asset of Dakota County that could be taken greater advantage of for the future of the system?**
 - What is it?

- To preserve Dakota County’s highest quality natural areas, which is the greatest asset of Forever Wild Parks, the relatively new Natural Resource department should be taken greater advantage of by allowing their input to have greater influence throughout all park planning phases.
 - How is it not leveraged today?
 - Although the Natural Resource staff’s input is often requested, their input is given lower priority and influence in the final decision.
 - The recent draft CIP (PDC, July) shows the natural resource base funding severely cut to levels we haven’t seen in nearly 10 years. If this is implemented, or worse, implemented and carried forward, the lack of commitment is counter to what the county has touted in recent years.
 - What could be the benefits of better leveraging it in the future?
 - Better leveraging of the Natural Resources department would provide consistent high-quality visitor experiences, with lowered ongoing associated costs.
 - An added benefit would be the decrease in ongoing but unfunded maintenance expense for built infrastructure.
- 3. What are 3 threats to the Dakota County system, why, and what are your ideas for addressing them?**
- Striving to be “all things to all people” - in each county park - threatens to decrease the full enrichment offered by negatively impacting a limited resource. Increased collaboration with city and private parks and rec systems would provide the public with greater information on what opportunities exist, thereby providing all things for all people throughout the entire system, while maintaining the integrity of a county-wide nature based parks system.
 - The lack of a dedicated source of funding for restoration and ongoing management of natural areas is a threat that reduces the viability of a healthy and sustainable Nature-based parks system. This can be somewhat alleviated by reducing the built environment throughout Dakota County Parks to only that which is necessary for a natural experience. On a broader scale, the funding distribution formula for the regional parks policy plan should be revised to incorporate restored acres of land being actively managed, rather than focused on park visitation numbers alone.
 - Lack of awareness/marketing of our Forever Wild parks is a threat. Having people visit these amazing parks will continue to build public support for what we have. This could be addressed with a strategic marketing effort showcasing the unique experiences Forever Wild Parks offer so close to home.
- 4. What will be the 5 most important services provided by Dakota County public open spaces in 2050 and why?**

- Educational Services specific to a natural system and environment within a highly developed metro environment.
 - Volunteer services and opportunities.
 - Meeting and event space should be offered to community groups at a greatly reduced cost, like services provided by Dakota county libraries but in a natural setting.
 - Providing access for underserved communities by utilizing greenways, shuttles, and inner city partnerships.
5. **If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County parks, greenways and natural systems be like in 2050?**
- Provide visitors of all abilities access to the “experience” of natural areas that offer respite from an ever-increasing hustle and bustle of life.
 - Be fiscally and environmentally responsible.
 - Build the reputation of a destination experience that becomes the standard that other regional parks strive to emulate.

Huellas Latinas Focus Group

Event date: Sept. 14, 2024

Event location: Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center

Event leader: Zan Associates/Dakota County

Event format: Focus group

Key questions and information shared: The focus group was introduced by Luisiana Mendez (Huellas Latinas) and Lil Leatham (Dakota County). Linda Spohr (Zan Associates) led the focus group with interpretation by All in One Translations.

The focus group covered two topics:

- What do you love most about the Dakota County parks system? What would you like to see more of?
- Do you feel that you belong in Dakota County Parks? What could improve your sense of belonging?

Supporting materials available:

- Vision board with Post-It notes
- Map board with flags
- Project handout in Spanish (English and Somali also available)

How many people attended the event: ~25

Demographic information: Most participants Hispanic/Latinx

Key takeaways

What people love about parks/park system

Place to experience nature and enjoy scenic views – People appreciate the connection to nature, scenic views, and recreational opportunities. One person mentioned the seasonality and ability to enjoy nature all year long in the parks. Two people mentioned how they loved that parks and connecting with nature is very normalized culturally in Minnesota.

Connection to home – Several people alluded to how the parks connect them to their childhood or their home. The Mississippi River connects one person to their home in Venezuela. Another person mentioned that park space reminds her of her childhood home. Another person stressed the universality of nature and how our connection to it transcends our differences: “We are nature.” Another person mentioned that the Adirondak chairs in Lebanon Hills Regional Park made it feel homey and welcoming and made them want to return to the park with their parents.

Connection to people – Several people mentioned that being in the parks is a way to meet other people. This includes family and friends, but several people also alluded to the fact that you can talk with others

that you may not know in the park. One person mentioned he can talk to other people about the greenways.

Clean and well maintained (4+ mentions) – People appreciate the care for the parks and cleanliness of park facilities. Several people mentioned this, and several others nodded along in agreement.

Park buildings and shelters, amenities and rentals (5 mentions) – Building and shelter rental is appreciated in order for people to bring family events to the parks. People appreciate that buildings are clean and that amenities (even showers) are available.

Accessible (5 mentions) – Accessible trails and children’s activities. Many parks and many areas of the parks are accessible.

Free parking (6 mentions) – Free parking makes the park more accessible, both by making it easy to get to as well as affordable for all.

Signage – Maps within the parks are good. Digital maps have been updated.

Overall access – Many parks are close by and easy to access overall.

Areas for improvement / What people would like to see more of

History of the land; connection to the indigenous history – One person mentioned (with others agreeing) that there should be a stronger effort to communicate Dakota County history and the indigenous connection to this land. The parks are the perfect place to do this.

Marketing/Communications – People desire better communication about what is available. People don’t know about all of the park amenities, especially about things to do beyond hiking. More information about what there is for children and grandparents to do in parks. Better communication would help them to feel more invited in and that these are spaces for everyone. People do not know where to find information.

Signage - While there were positive comments on signage within the parks, there were several mentions of a desire for better directional signage overall as well as translation of signage. Signs in other languages not only communicates literally, it also communicates that you are welcome here.

Partnerships – More partnerships with community organizations that serve people of different cultures to bring more people to the parks system. There is a desire for more diversity in the parks.

Connection to the school system – By incorporating park visits into school curriculum you teach children about the parks and encourage them to visit.

Transit access – “I don’t drive.” What is the transit access? Could it be better?

Sense of belonging

Representation – People expressed that they would experience a stronger sense of belonging if they saw more people that looked like them. The park system is not as diverse as the general population. In part this is racial (“I would like to see more melanin”), but also economic, referencing the economic demographic of the surrounding community nearest to Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

“I feel a sense of belonging in this room,” but not necessarily in the park overall.

“It helps when you see yourself out here.”

“I want to see us in every space.”

The importance of community partnerships – Organizations are a key connection to the parks system. “Huellas Latinas creates belonging.” Several attendees were at Lebanon Hills for the first time; mentioning that were only there because of the Huellas Latinas event. Many mentioned their connection to Anna Ferris and her key role in connecting Dakota County Parks to many people. One person said that organizations can help to communicate that “this is a safe space.”

Diversity – While links to organizations that reach out to specific people of many cultures is desired, events that are designed to bring a *variety* of people should be encouraged (and better advertised). Anyone can come to a Huellas Latinas event. How was it advertised? There should be more opportunity for diversity; not just events for one group of people.

Dakota County staff representation – Several people expressed a desire for more people of color in leadership at Dakota County. More people leading events. “More people in leadership relating to me.” Many people expressed appreciation for Anna Ferris specifically, but there was concern that Dakota County was “putting it all on her.” There is a desire for more staff similar to Anna.

Communication – It is more than translation. Translation is the minimum, and Dakota County could be doing more with signage and programs in Spanish language. It is culture, tradition, vision. Is the event/amenity/communication/marketing relevant and appropriate to different cultures?

Park-specific notes

Lebanon Hills Regional Park

- Favorite park for many. Lots to do here. The building is great. The amenities are great — can swim in the lake and have access to a shower afterward.
- Free parking
- Accessible
- Nice park buildings. Appreciate the ability to rent spaces for meetings or events.
- Winding entry road is very beautiful
- Chairs and firepits make it feel very homey
- Entry markings and maps are good throughout the park
- Like the Jensen Lake trailhead and trail

Thompson County Park

- Very clean and cared for
- Accessibility
- Easy to access
- Love the phase 1 updates
- Ample chairs and tables for everyone to use

Lake Byllesby Regional Park

- Arrival is difficult. It is easy to get lost. Sometimes the GPS does not send you to the right place, especially when there is road construction.
- Camping is great

- Buildings and picnic shelters are great

Greenways

- Greenway connections – improvement of the greenway system over the last five years is greatly appreciated

Virtual Focus Group 1

Event date: Sept. 17, 2024

Event location: Zoom

Event leader: Zan Associates/Dakota County

Event format: Focus group

Key questions and information shared: The focus group was led by Lil Leatham (Dakota County).

The focus group answered these questions:

- What do you love most about the Dakota County parks system? What would you like to see more of?
- What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?
- Do you feel that you belong in Dakota County Parks? What could improve your sense of belonging?

Supporting materials:

- Presentation

How many people attended the event: 5

Demographic information: Groups represented: HACER (Latino), Isuroon (Somali women), Corazón Caminante (Latino), ROCC (People of color), and a post-secondary student.

Key takeaways

What people love about parks and park system

Easy to access: Several participants emphasized how easy the parks are to get to and reserve for group events. One group noted that they use ~20+ vehicles to get to and from the park, so they appreciate ample parking.

Wonderful scenery and facilities: Participants love the scenery within Dakota County Parks and the trails that allow them to enjoy it. One participant also shared that these spaces were “some of the most wonderful facilities in the metro.”

Positive interactions: One participant noted how often their community shared stories of positive social interactions within the parks. Being able to meet and connect with strangers is an exciting opportunity that cannot be found just anywhere.

Parks staff: Every participant repeatedly expressed their appreciation for Anna Ferris, noting how welcome she makes each community feel and how helpful she has been in connecting these communities with the parks. Participants were pleased with this opportunity to share their thoughts and experiences. They also mentioned that the process for planning outreach events is very easy, thanks to Anna. Anna has been responsive and addressed past concerns, for example, streamlining the participant waiver forms. She has also been instrumental in making sure outreach partners are aware of resources available – such as connecting groups with pre-approved food truck vendors.

Social media presence: A participant shared that members of their community get most of their information and updates on what is happening in Dakota County Parks through social media. Another mentioned that Dakota County does a great job with social media, but not everyone uses it. Communicating on WhatsApp and program information in grocery stores are good ways to reach more people.

Amenity accessibility: A participant shared that they notice a lot of children playing in the parks that are more accessible and love seeing children of all abilities enjoy time outside.

Areas for improvement / What people would like to see more of

Communication: One participant shared that many people living in West St. Paul are unfamiliar with the parks available to them and all the great resources offered through them, noting that members have told her “I didn’t come to [this event] because I didn’t know about it.” There is a large Latino community, and many people don’t know about all of the park amenities or think about hosting events like quinceañeras at parks.

More parks in West St. Paul: Proximity to parks is key to many Dakota County residents and visitors. A participant shared that many of his family members living in West St. Paul are older in age and don’t want to go to Lebanon Hills because it is too far. Though they appreciate Thompson County Park, it is not as immersive; an opportunity to experience the same sort of activities offered at Lebanon Hills in more areas throughout the county would be exciting.

More opportunities to see wildlife: A participant shared how much he loved the chance to learn about animals and experience wildlife at Como Park Zoo. Other participants agreed that seeing more wildlife in the parks would be cool.

Study areas: A post-secondary student said that she would love it if the parks catered to post-secondary students like herself with things like outdoor study spaces.

More activities: Other parks/groups run initiatives like step challenges that Dakota County should adopt to get more people outside and interacting. One participant mentioned that Center

Park in Roseville has great activities. Activities desired are senior citizen walk days and book club events in parks, similar to the ones Three Rivers Park District hosts.

A unique space for cats: A participant shared that she would love a cat-specific enclosed space outside for cats and their owners to enjoy.

The importance of community partnerships: Community organizations are a key connection to the parks system, and current partners would like to see partnership with more organizations that create programs for a variety of activities. Partnering with Charter Schools is particularly important. Sometimes these schools get left out.

Sense of belonging

Community-centered activities create welcome spaces: One participant noted that Thompson County Park was not well visited by the Black community before grills were added to the park. Now, they feel less afraid and more invited to the park. This participant noted that community-specific/directed activities make certain groups feel welcome and included. Another participant wanted to see designated walk days for specific minority groups, including senior citizens.

Supervision: Participants were divided on their opinions surrounding security and supervision within the parks. One participant shared a story of what had happened to a woman of color that had circulated well beyond their community: a dog had started coming after her and neither the owner nor anyone else around reacted to help her. Both the incident and how far it had spread by word of mouth made that community feel uneasy and unwelcome. The size of Lebanon Hills can cause fear, with one participant noting that “if you scream, no one will hear.” While participants expressed the importance of feeling safe, not all participants agreed that increasing security/police presence would make them feel safer. One participant shared that the Latino community, in particular, doesn’t want to feel as though they are being followed. Some participants suggested including surveillance cameras or other security measures near the parking lots or entrances to the parks so at least there is a way of tracking attendance if something happens.

Friendly conversations: One participant shared that she has many warm interactions with strangers in the parks which boost her self-esteem, mood, and sense of belonging.

Park-specific notes

Lebanon Hills Regional Park

- Its size and the privacy it offers can be scary for minority communities.

Thompson County Park

- Adding another grill would be of interest to the Black community.

- There's an adequate amount of security/surveillance here.

Somali Women Focus Group

Event date: September 18, 2024

Event location: Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center

Event leader: Linda Spohr, Zan; Lil Leatham Dakota County, Kadra Warsame, Dakota County Parks Outreach Partner

Event format: Focus Group

Key questions and information shared:

- 1. What is one thing you love about the parks system today?**
 - *What do you love about it? Where would you like to see more of this? How could this benefit the greater community?*
- 2. What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?**
 - *What do you love about it? How is it beneficial to their community? Why could it be beneficial to your community?*
- 3. How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?**
 - *What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces? What hinders belonging?*
- 4. What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?**
- 5. How do you envision your community organization being a connector to the park system?**
 - *How can your organization increase a sense of belonging in the parks?*
 - *Could your organization help make people feel that the parks system is a safe space for them?*
- 6. If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?**

How many people attended the event: ~ 15

Demographic information: Somali women

Key takeaways

What people love about parks/park system

Many participants did not have much experience in Dakota County parks, so the question covered parks in general.

Place to experience nature and enjoy scenic views – Many participants expressed that they love the parks for walking, picnicking, hiking, and being in parks with their families and kids. One participant

shared strong memories of sitting under a tree for a picnic or climbing trees as a kid. One participant expressed that winter was their favorite time in the park and that they loved learning to cross country ski, playing winter games, and the bonfire/s'mores.

Place to be active with family – Several participants mentioned that sports are big draw. Many mentions of basketball, particularly to attract teenagers to the park. Volleyball and tennis were also mentioned.

Connection to people – Several people mentioned the importance of coming to the park as part as an outreach program and that they enjoyed being in the park with friends and family. Bringing their families, coming with friends as part of 'ladies night out' events.

Clean and well maintained– People appreciate the care for the parks and cleanliness of park facilities. Several people mentioned this, and several others nodded along in agreement. One participant mentioned that cleaner grills would be appreciated.

Accessible – Accessible children's activities. One person has a child with autism and would appreciate enclosed spaces where they can be confident their child will not run off. Kids with special needs need to be outside more than anyone, and it isn't fair when spaces are not accessible to them.

Low cost or free – **Participants appreciate that visiting the parks is low cost.** One participant said that she takes her kids to the Mall of America in winter, but it is expensive.

Areas for improvement / What people would like to see more of

More activities at one destination – More spaces built for multiple generations that can serve the whole family.

- **More to do for older kids** – Several expressed that there is not enough for teenagers to do in the park. They would like to come to the park with both their older and younger children, but the older kids are more interested in active sports like basketball, volleyball, and tennis. Not everyone is interested in walking.
- **More to do for the whole family** – several parks were mentioned as desirable because they have activities for the whole family so everyone can enjoy being together. Playgrounds, picnic areas, basketball, climbing. For example, a basketball court, playground and walking path in one space. The children can play, adults can walk and visit while still keeping an eye on the kids.

Programming that is both educational and social – Participants liked the Somali Ladies only classes that were done through Dakota County. They would like to see more opportunities to learn and socialize.

Expanded senior programming, particularly walking clubs – For many seniors, Somali seniors in particular, walking was always a part of life. It is cultural to walk. The parks department could provide more opportunities to encourage walking and building community connections.

More events in the winter – Families need a place to go in the winter indoors where they can spend a large part of the day. Outdoor events are good, but it is too cold to stay a whole day.

Places for washing and prayer – Muslims pray 5 times a day and clean for prayer. Participants requested restrooms with running water and a place for washing as well as a safe place for prayer. When

praying, you are vulnerable, your head is down and you are not looking around at your surroundings. Several participants mentioned being harassed while praying in a public place.

More programs with equipment provided – canoeing, snow tubing, bike lessons

Free rental of indoor space for events and parties.

Large destination playground – Desire for a large destination playground in Dakota County (Three Rivers Park example).

Outdoor cat area – We have dog parks – what about a cat area?

Marketing/Communications – People desire better communication about what is available. Better communication would help them to feel more invited in and that these are spaces for everyone. People do not know where to find information. Dakota County’s outreach programs are really important to introduce people to the parks. Many people are unaware that these programs are free/low cost. They assume that the programs will cost a lot and don’t look into it.

Outreach to charter schools – Dakota County has partnerships with public schools; many children in Dakota County also attend charter schools.

Ideas from other parks

Kelly Park, Apple Valley – Several people mentioned that they live near Kelly Park. Their kids love the splash pad, the music events, and the place to connect with friends and neighbors. Living in close proximity makes it easier to visit frequently.

Trees – One person shared that one of her happiest memories is of a park in Africa with a big tree that she sat under and had a meal and kids were climbing the tree.

French Park, Three Rivers Park District – One person mentioned they liked to take their kids to the large playground at French Park. The playground has a walking trail around it and they can walk while watching their kids. They would like to see a destination playground in one of Dakota County’s parks.

Sense of belonging

Representation – People expressed that they would experience a stronger sense of belonging if they saw more people that looked like them both in the park and in the park’s marketing materials. Show families or children playing to normalize their presence. This will make Somali people feel more welcome and will also communicate to others that it is normal for Somalis (women in particular) to participate in every activity that others do.

The importance of community partnerships – Organizations are a key connection to the parks system. Several attendees were at Lebanon Hills for the first time. Many mentioned their connection to Anna Ferris and her key role in connecting Dakota County Parks to many people. The connection with Shannon Bailey in Public Health, who has retired, was mentioned; the participant was curious who was now doing the work she had done.

Culture – Facilities that support visitor’s cultural needs would improve belonging. Spaces for prayer, washing areas, signs in Somali language would increase the sense of belonging.

Safety

Water Safety - Many participants expressed that they are uncomfortable around open water. They requested walking paths or parks away from lakes and the desire for lifeguards at swimming beaches. They were interested in parks without lakes.

Personal safety in remote areas – Some participants reported being uncomfortable walking alone in the woods. Wearing a hijab draws unwanted attention. In the remote areas of Lebanon Hills Regional Park, there is nobody around who can help if you need it.

Word of mouth – Many participants expressed that hearing about other people’s experiences can make them feel safe or unsafe, depending on the experience. When people have negative experiences, such as being harassed by teenagers or scary experiences with off leash dogs is a major deterrent to spending time in that place.

Being in a park with friends and family – Many expressed that they love to visit parks other people but were afraid to go alone, especially to more remote areas.

Park patrol and security cameras – Participants expressed that the presence of park patrol made them feel safe, that there is someone in the park to help if needed. Some participants thought that more security cameras would make them feel safer, others feel that cameras are useless unless there is someone who is monitoring them and can help if needed.

Finding the park – Some participants mentioned being unsure they were in the right place because of the long entry road with minimal signage. Some also mentioned that map direction apps don’t always direct you to the correct location within a park.

Virtual Focus Group 2

Event date: Sept. 19, 2024

Event location: Zoom

Event leader: Zan Associates/Dakota County

Event format: Focus group

Key questions and information shared: The focus group was led by Lil Leatham (Dakota County) and Anna Ferris.

The focus group answered these questions:

- What do you love most about the Dakota County parks system? What would you like to see more of?
- What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?
- Do you feel that you belong in Dakota County Parks? What could improve your sense of belonging?
- What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
- How do you envision your community organization being a connector to the park system?
- If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

Supporting materials:

- Presentation

How many people attended the event:

Demographic information: Representatives from the South St. Paul CDLU program (Latino/youth), Esperanza United (Latino), CLUES (Latino), SEWA-AIFW (South Asian) and Corazón Caminante (Latino).

Key takeaways

What people love about parks and park system

Variety of activities: Participants were pleased with the variety of activities available in the Dakota County Parks and natural spaces. Kayaking and fishing were cited as favorites.

Cleanliness: Participants repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the cleanliness of the parks, especially the bathrooms.

Parking: One participant noted that having available parking is not only convenient but makes them feel welcome at the parks.

Appendix C: Focus Groups

Areas for improvement / What people would like to see more of

Mental health focus: A participant expressed the desire to see spaces/resources/opportunities outside the usual classroom to discuss and advocate for mental health.

Winter events and activities: One participant said that they would like to see more events and activities in the winter, since there seem to be more opportunities to get involved at the parks in the summer. A participant shared that they would like to see more events like Fiesta en la Nieve.

Informational videos: A participant suggested that informational videos on the parks/spaces/activities available would be helpful to post and share with their organization.

Opportunities for connection: One participant wondered if the parks could help connect organizations not only internally, but with other organizations and communities.

Lighted trails: A participant shared that Three Rivers Park District parks have lights on their trails that turn on each evening, which would be a nice addition to Dakota County so that people can enjoy these spaces and feel safe for longer.

Outdoor gym: Highland Park in Three Rivers has an outdoor gym at the end of one of their trails. It is great to see accessible equipment and people staying active.

Sense of belonging

Staff that are welcoming and representative of the community: The Dakota Parks Staff are helpful, making participants feel welcome and included. A participant noted that the Staff can always be more representative of the community, however, by hiring people that look like the community, are bilingual, and understand different community members' experiences. Another participant agreed that having liaisons that speak their language is important.

Translations: Multiple participants noted that seeing signs in different languages makes them and their communities feel welcome at the parks. If it is difficult to include multiple languages on signs, can they be included in literature/programs?

School of Environmental Studies workshop with senior class

Event date: Sept. 20, 2024

Event location: School of Environmental Studies (SES), 12155 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Event leader: Dakota County/SES

Event format: Workshop

How many people attended the event: Approx 180 total, over two sessions.

Demographic information: High School Seniors, primarily Dakota County residents.

Overview

The focus group was led by Lil Leatham (Dakota County) and Brooks Autry (SES). Following an introductory presentation, students divided into groups of 8-10 to discuss the focus group questions. Discussion was recorded by students/teachers. Students then spent some time providing their individual thoughts on the project social pinpoint site (questionnaire, idea board, map). A poster of the idea board and map were also left at school for other students to participate through 9/26.

The groups answered these questions:

- What do you love most about the Dakota County parks system? What would you like to see more of?
- What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?
- Do you feel that you belong in Dakota County Parks? What could improve your sense of belonging?
- What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
- How do you envision your community organization being a connector to the park system?
- If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

Supporting materials:

- Presentation

Key takeaways

What people love about parks and park system

Park access: Participants were pleased with the variety of parks to explore and proximity.

Connection to nature: Most participants Love opportunity to connect with nature in less in natural settings that are not heavily impacted by development. Participants mentioned a lot of variety in ways they enjoy connecting with nature: hiking, photography, swimming, hanging out, mountain biking, biking on bike paths, fishing, Nordic skiing, and others.

Variety of experiences: A strong theme with the students is that there is not a singular way to be in a park. Many students mentioned appreciating that there are both social and contemplative spaces, the variety of scenery such as woods, prairies, and being near water. They appreciate the variety of trail experiences with some being accessible, some trails longer and more challenging. They also appreciated the parks being large enough to explore and discover less visited areas while still having spaces that are easy to get to from park entrances and parking areas.

Areas for improvement / What people would like to see more of

Ecological health and clean water. Most participants expressed appreciation for restoration efforts and would like to see more of it. More native plants, less invasive species, clean water for swimming and fishing, connected ecological corridors were mentioned.

Cleanliness: Participants expressed their gratitude for the cleanliness of the parks and many wished that the parks were cleaner. Many stressed the importance of clean parks and park facilities and many suggested more trash cans and education about recycling and composting.

Trails: Many commented on the trails wanting to ensure that there are accessible experiences and natural surface trails. They expressed concern about trail sustainability, run-off and and erosion. A few mentioned better walking and biking connectivity to parks and requested separated walking and biking trails to reduce conflicts.

Signage: Many people mentioned appreciation for the wayfinding signage and requested more if it in more places.

More to do: There were many comments about providing more to do in parks. Diverse activities were suggested: zip line, more geocaching, hammocking, disc golf, more docks for lake access, more camper cabins, more tent camping, more climbing opportunities, paddle boats, splash pad, more ways to bring your dog to the park, fire pits, basketball , grills, open fields for more active play, overlooks and views, longer hiking experiences, picnic shelters, winter activities, community gardens, special events, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Outdoor Education - nature and Indigenous culture: Participants wanted more guided and self-guided education opportunities to learn about nature in the park. Several mentioned wanting to learn about the natural environment and several mentioned wanting to learn more about Indigenous culture. As one commenter requested *“A park that’s approved by and works with indigenous peoples...A park where I don’t need to question the legitimacy of its history.”*

Basics and visitor services: Students are very interested in ensuring the basics are present- bathrooms, drinking water, signage, benches, and trash receptacles. They also are interested in equipment rental, food for purchase (restaurant, food trucks, and vending). One group hoped for gift shops and another for more staffed visitor centers.

Wildlife: Several participants expressed desire for more wildlife and to interact with animals.

Sense of belonging

Most, but not all, participants said they feel they belong in Dakota County Parks. Overall, participants are comfortable in nature and natural settings. Many expressed the importance of providing accessible trails and recreation experiences. Some groups mentioned that those who are BIPOC, non-English speaking, have limited physical mobility, or not comfortable in nature probably would feel less belonging.

Fee based activities vs general park use: One group mentioned that because they enter Lebanon Hills Regional Park through the campground area, they felt that they were intruding and did not have as much of a right to be there as those camping, who pay a fee.

Improving belonging and awareness: Though almost all participants had been to Lebanon Hills Regional Park through school, and about half to other Dakota County Parks, some mentioned that they were unaware of the park system or didn't utilize the park system. Representation of all demographic groups in advertising, directing engagement with organizations and groups that represent more diversity, more partnerships with schools, active community partnerships, and more information about accessibility, multilingual signage, staff available to help and answer questions were mentioned as ways to improve awareness and belonging.

Suggestions to improve safety: More lighting, benches for resting, drinking water, ability to find people to help when help is needed, familiarity, cell service, being knowledgeable about available ways to get out of a space, clear signage, emergency call buttons at key locations, keeping things clean and well maintained improve safety. *Though many mentioned wanting more lighting, they suggested ways to reduce negative impacts of lighting such as solar lighting, strategic placement, and bollard lighting.*

Things and situations that feel unsafe: Feeling trapped, not knowing where to go, other people who are perceived as threatening, vandalism, wildlife, off-leash dogs all detract from a sense of safety.

Narrow, natural surface trails: Many participants appreciate natural surface trails but several mentioned that narrow, natural surface trails are uncomfortable and do not feel welcoming because they are so cramped.

Other people: Many participants mentioned that they feel safe when in the park with other people they know, when other people are present, or when they know that help is available if needed. A few mentioned that they feel more comfortable when they are alone or in areas of the park without other people. Others mentioned specific interactions that have felt unsafe, such as being followed by a group of college boys and interactions with aggressive older adults.

Group discussion note

GROUP 1A
<p>Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>Where would you like to see more of this?</p> <p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<p>Access to different parks, more flowers and get rid of invasives like buckthorn and replace with prettier things that are native.</p> <p>Better access in winter, doesn't feel like its open in the winter. Better info on winter activities.</p> <p>No camping fees.</p> <p>Great that trying to put more native species in the park.</p> <p>Not many trees, open fields with burnt areas.</p> <p>More things to learn, opportunities to learn about things (like birds), better info to learn.</p> <p>More info stands and more interactive things.</p> <p>Zipline!</p>
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<p>Spring Adventure in WI (big maps of the park were nice).</p> <p>Geocaching, or more of it.</p> <p>Better information about programs and opportunities in the parks (talks, crafts, activities).</p> <p>State Parks: have good programs and events, fun things to do.</p>
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p>

<p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<p>I don't know anything about DCP.</p> <p>Feels like it;s closed in the winter.</p> <p>I don't go to them.</p> <p>When we go as a school in big groups, it feels like we're intruding (other users like campers, walking). We aren't paying to be there like campers. Fee payers: it feels like they have more of a right to be there.</p> <p>Trails are narrow in some places, cramped. Doesn't feel as belonging or welcoming. Especially after it has rained and the trails are slippery.</p> <p>Value in going off the trails, but it's hard to get to.</p> <p>No crosswalk across Johnny Cake from SES. There's not great access to the Wheaton area, just a big gate. Not welcoming (referencing to students who did Wheaton for Pond Profile).</p> <p>There's a sense like we should pay to be there--user fee.</p>
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<p>More lights. Even solar powered lights. Some lights along the trails like at Lac Lavon (not many, just a few).</p> <p>Docks.</p> <p>More places to sit, benches.</p>
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<p>Not polluted (trash in water, visual pollution, trash on ground).</p> <p>More native flowers, no buckthorn.</p> <p>For hills or steep areas, supports for getting up (rope, steps).</p> <p>Better drainage on trails especially after it rains (like ropes, stakes).</p> <p>Hammock rentals.</p> <p>More seating areas that don't disrupt the natural environment, made of natural materials like wood.</p> <p>More trash cans for clean-up. Trash cans and dog poop bags every-so-often on trails so there isn't</p>

as much trash or poop around.

GROUP 2A

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?
 What do you love about it?
 Where would you like to see more of this?
 How could this benefit the greater community?

Love the the nature, photography
 Natural areas that don't need to be reserved
 Love dirt hiking trails -visiting in nature, not taking over nature
 Free, Nature should be accessible to every one
 Choose between more rigorous trails and easy trails
 There is a park for everything, social and contemplative spaces
 Lots of variety in experiences
 Trash cans, dog walking clean up
 Places to explore, places that are obvious
 Like that people are more aware, love the interpretive signs. Love that that the signs are short and sweet, not a lot of reading is needed

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?
 What do you love about it?
 How is it beneficial to their community?
 Why could it be beneficial to your community?

Hastings park, beach, path you can walk through, along the path statues of books, all the books were talking about the environment. Silent spring, poetry, less about the scientific aspects of the environment, but more about the human relationship. More interpretation, so impactful.
 Whitebear lake, rainwater garden signs, really explained the benefits of the rainwater garden, benefits of nature
 Not a lot of benches, shouldn't overwhelm with structure, but really need to keep people who

need to rest

Benches at Jensen lake are not functional, angles that are not usable. Using nature to create seating (rocks and logs).

Wisconsin Ice Age Trail, 25 miles, started in a park went in to rural areas/natural areas

Nice views, but that still look natural, but not a giant platform. Love a look out spots.

Gift shop could be so fun; sweatshirts, little pins, environmental nature pins, competition

Stickers, water bottles,

Junior rangers at national parks - get kids into nature

Get kids outside ipad kids, really need to get out side

Indigenous made products, Dakota language

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

Scott county, so things are a little far.

Better, but could improve.

Overall feel like belong

Peace and in nature

Thinking about indigenous people, make sure that they are acknowledged in the parks, is crucial to recognize that.

There is no land acknowledgement , there should be one, what did the Indigenous cultures about

More accessible information

Have a person at the visitor center to answer questions (Indigenous); volunteers to teach the kids

Field trips, we don't want to go to the mall,

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

Also makes you feel safe,

<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<p>GROUP 3A</p>
<p>Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>Where would you like to see more of this?</p> <p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Like climbing trees - Like that I can train my dog in the natural enviro - For the most part, pretty clean! Don't have to worry about clearing off benches or other things - How well they're made, especially the mtn bike trails - Like how calm it can be; wide open, you can have your own space, don't feel crowded, not a lot of things lying around everywhere - Like having a forested area in the city that we can hike around, that trails connect different parts of the city, I can get from one palace to another on trails (another student: it feels like teleporytation!) - Yeah, I like that around this area you can have both! Restaurants, houses, but then nearby be in the woods - Like the feeling of wilderness/more natural, where there's less pavement - Love how it mimics the backcountry feeling without having to travel a whole day to get there or be far from civilization - nice and less nerve-wracking - Really great signage and maps - so much better than any other park
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Really like places that have dog waste disposal bags and signs available - Sometimes DC parks have a lot of litter especially cigarette butts - Wish there was less paved trails! Roots push up the concrete which makes them hard to walk on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I disagree, pavement makes it more handicapped accessible - But they're not maintained well enough!

- Need better maintained handicapped accessible trails
- More barefoot trails!! (not everyone knew what that meant)
- More benches
- More pollinator gardens around the parking lots
- Most parks are pretty good at this, but actual bathrooms - would help for people with medical needs who need a clean indoor private space. Also porta potties get super hot inside in the summer
- More functional drinking fountains - a lot of them don't work
- More handicapped accessible bathrooms (bars on the walls in the stalls)
- Instead of just more benches, leaning bars for resting on along the trails could be nice (and take up less space)
- For each park, updated bike racks - some of them are not as good (Holland Lake has a good bike rack in their new front area)
- Would be nice to add more lower drinking fountains to get water for dogs

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

- All of the benches in Lebanon Parks, i can't sit on, because they don't have backs or bars or anything around them to help me stand back up. Benches are not always accessible to me.
- I have more of the feeling of belonging in DC Parks than in any other park because it has more of that nature/wilderness feeling to it. It doesn't feel like it's here for "money."
- I really do like the parks and feel like I belong in them. I have the most memories in my life in the parks. It feels like home.
- I don't feel like I belong as much because I don't like nature as much.
- Surveyed the whole group, mix of 3-5 (mostly 4-5, 5 is most belonging)

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

- Map system helps me feel very safe and always know where I am
- Proximity to civilization, never too far from help
- Once I tripped and fell and had nothing to pull myself up
- Once a group of college boys followed me and my dog through the dog park

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

- Greenway area accomplishes all parts of sustainability and land preservation
- Honestly, relatively the same (just with updated facilities)
- Several students chimed in to agree,
- More pollinator-friendly and native plants
- More walking trails, I like the feeling of dirt, plus barefoot trails (they have these in

Germany; different surfaces to walk on for your feet)

- More places where dogs can be off leash and more places for dogs to swim and get water

GROUP 4A

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?

What do you love about it?

How is it beneficial to their community?

Why could it be beneficial to your community?

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

-Signage for access

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

GROUP 5A
<p>Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>Where would you like to see more of this?</p> <p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Biodiversity... less grass and monoculture (at least a high ratio of habitat) -I bring my little sister to park.. Want to see species and habitats -Features like MTB trails and dog parks -Love mixed woods... understand going for one type of ecosystem (oak savannah), but also want diversity and wooded areas of mixed trees -Love deer trails and small trails.. Limited pavement, but some for access and riding -Signage for the “deer trail” type trails helps me feel safer
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Love ways to enforce or encourage correct waste sorting -Mixed pollinator grasses / clover instead of monoculture grass
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3 Rivers feels more human-centric.. Dakota County Parks feels more -more upfront challenge levels and times listed for trails... want to match trails to our needs day to day.. Sometime more challenging, sometime easy and quick

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

-Being surrounded by more nature feels more safer.. Grass and open space feels unnatural and less safe.. “exposed”

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

- Publishing / advertising more volunteer opportunities.. Advertise in schools! We need community service hours
- More opportunities to volunteer instead of just clean-ups
- More advertisements for demographic groups.. Inviting more folks in for sessions
- Direct engagement with organizations and groups that represent more diversity
- Have County parks come into schools and share their programming and opportunities

GROUP 6A

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

I use a lot of the trails, especially at Leb Hills. Instead of going to eat or hang out at Target, we go to the Trails as a Third Space.

We had hiking club last year and did that.

I end up in the parking lot of parks a lot.

Members of my family find some of the access difficult because of steep hills.

Maybe refurbish some of the paths.

Schultz does a good job of accessibility– wide paths, mix of paved and gravel. Need more of that in other parks.

White Tail Woods access is too steep

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?

What do you love about it?

How is it beneficial to their community?

Why could it be beneficial to your community?

Flowers- more gardens that are aesthetically pleasing

Less grass and more prairie and wild lands

More trash cans to prevent littering. They're only in parking lots now and many people don't wait that long

More benches and seating areas, possibly more swing sets or natural playground areas

Disc golf course

Informational signs about the park that work as a self-guided tour or game, like at the zoo or the aquarium. Something that's more interactive for kids so hiking is more fun. Encourages you to explore the entire park instead of just go around the lake.

If the park has a lake, it's nice to have big docks to go out on

If there's an area that already exists that food trucks or a restaurant like Sea Salt could be accommodated, that would draw more people in.

Bike rentals, paths that are bike specific, or have electric scooter systems. Make kayak and canoe rental services more visible- I know they exist, but not sure how or where to go.

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

thumbs up

I like the parks

Sidewalks and trails help me feel this way

The diversity of scenery helps make it feel like there's not a singular way to be in a park

Accessibility is pretty good- wider trails and paved. But could be more so.

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

Openness for some, closed spaces for others
 The paths aren't that windy, so I can see in front and behind me.
 People are using the trails so I don't feel alone out there. Lots of families and dogs.

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

Less polluted
 More undergrowth in the treed areas. Without that, it feels too manicured.
 More removal of invasive species

GROUP 7A

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?
 Where would you like to see more of this?
 How could this benefit the greater community?

Students like dirt paths, but understand accessibility needs. So, a mix is nice.
 Appreciate the dog waste bags that are provided
 Like the porta-potties and trashes throughout
 LOVE the maps/stations/markers
 Appreciate the variety- SO many trails!

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?

What do you love about it?
 How is it beneficial to their community?
 Why could it be beneficial to your community?

<p>Maybe more benches and rest places for resting (park in Northfield), especially at the tops of hills and by maps</p> <p>Maybe more stairs on trails?</p> <p>Water Bottle filling stations throughout</p>
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<p>Very much!</p> <p>They are very accessible- we love that they're in our neighborhoods</p>
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<p>Other people are there- it's secluded but well-used</p> <p>Good signage so we don't get lost</p> <p>Paths are navigable</p>
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<p>Lots of trees</p> <p>Very nature-focused and well established</p> <p>Accessible to all</p> <p>Interconnected?</p> <p>Promote them more! Have more events there to get people there</p> <p>Have a variety of rigor levels on the trails</p>

GROUP 8A
<p>Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>Where would you like to see more of this?</p> <p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Trails ● The Fishing ● Appreciate how accessible everything is ● More porta potties (or actual bathrooms—that aren't locked) ● More rental opportunities (kayaks, canoes, facility, etc.)
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a park with more tent camping available ● Parks that have a lot to climb on ● Baker Park-Cabins for rentals
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I don't live in Dakota county. So, I feel like I don't know as much ● If you are white→Yes. If you are not white→ Probably not as much
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Being alone→I don't feel safe when there are other people around me ● Park security, workers, etc. ● Some trails that are more paved or have lights on them ● Really clear signs

<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lots of butterflies ● More fishing ● Cooler docks ● Less algae ● Less mosquitos ● More swimming areas
<p>GROUP 9A</p>
<p>Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>Where would you like to see more of this?</p> <p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<p>Maps of the trail. Simplicity and number of maps so you can move around and not get lost. Helps me feel comfortable.</p> <p>Spots to sit down on the little benches and open areas to hang out.</p> <p>Informational things about trees, nature, animals, etc.</p> <p>More areas of trail off the road so you can get lost in nature. Trees above my head and no cars.</p> <p>Accessibility ramps.</p> <p>Canoe Rental, docks, snowshoe rental</p> <p>Vending machines</p> <p>Drinking fountains for people and dogs. Outdoor showers.</p>
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<p>Floating dock in the middle of the lake for swimming</p> <p>Pedal-boats</p>

<p>Frisbee golf course within the woods. Fun to have things to do other than just walking.</p> <p>North shore - more off trail hiking</p> <p>Designated splash pad for kids</p>
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<p>Agree overall they belong.</p> <p>Connected to the areas that are more surrounded by nature, less connected to areas near roads and houses.</p> <p>Really like the friendliness of others in the park.</p> <p>Close to "civilization" makes us feel less belonging.</p> <p>Put more little kid things in nature to make little people feel more connected early in life.</p> <p>Vandalism</p>
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<p>Lights at the beginning of trails and parking lots.</p> <p>Bathrooms in more public areas.</p> <p>Informational spots in parking lots.</p> <p>Wide paths.</p> <p>Emergency panic buttons at check-points</p>
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<p>Clear and healthy lakes for swimming!</p> <p>Less invasive species (buckthorn)</p> <p>More learning opportunities about nature and history (informational signs)</p> <p>Valuing and acknowledging indigenous culture</p> <p>No graffiti (maybe a specified place for it)</p>

GROUP 10A
Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?
<p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>Where would you like to see more of this?</p> <p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<p>What do you love about it? Nordic ski trails bike paths, can rent kayak or canoes, can bring own canoe and not carry it to far, well kept trails, bridges, mtn bike trails & shelter.</p>
Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?
<p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<p>Pretty accessible by all. Add water stations, food, community food truck, restaurant like Minnehaha, more picnic tables, bike rental, swim park for dogs</p>
Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?
<p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<p>Agreed yes I belong. Horses and horse people are scary, maybe more signs. More signage for hunting season and horses.</p> <p>Hinders diversity - "see to many white people", host community events,</p>
Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?
<p>Well lit areas, life jackets, when there is some space in the sides of the trails, maps,</p>
Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

Big sledding hill, down hill skiing hill, more community events, concerts, Events not known - better marketing needed. Areas with no trails, foraging area and classes

GROUP 1B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?
 What do you love about it?
 Where would you like to see more of this?
 How could this benefit the greater community?

How private my backyard is. I get a look at what's going on, like the wildlife, lake and pine trees, not a housing development.
 Free, don't have to sign up for anything to access them.
 Just that we have them--it helps.
 I like flowers.
 The streams and ponds, agreed, also lakes and any water source--the gurgle sounds.
 Things are in their natural states, here's the path but the rest is left alone.
 It's free and that's nice, unlike having to pay for the MN Zoo.
 Near my house there are woods and that's nice.
 A lot isn't paved so there aren't issues with run-off.
 Not totally developed, a lot is left alone but taken care of.
 I like the controlled burns and how much they take care of it.
 I don't like them because they remove so much wildlife, also the harm for the people who live in the area (smoke, people with asthma), also as the wildlife shift in an area makes it more crowded in other parts.
 I'm sure they do it in an educated way.
 There's a concern about it spiraling out of control and burning down houses. Counter: there has to be person from the fire department.

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?
 What do you love about it?
 How is it beneficial to their community?

Why could it be beneficial to your community?

There are little cabins at Baker, like at Whitetail, to stay at.

Big Bog SP has informative signage along the boardwalks about plants and animals that live there. That would be nice to have at Lebanon.

Trails around Split Rock that get you down to the water.

Accessible beaches. Regulate beaches better--especially trash.

Schulze Lake is FULL of trash, also Crystal Lake. Nasty.

Local ponds and water management is important (talk of local run-off ponds issues with trash, goldfish, etc.)

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

Ehh, I don't know what that means.

You belong anywhere you feel like you do.

It's a public place, so I don't feel a strong thing, but it's nice that we have it.

Belonging to the area isn't about feeling included, just that it's accessible to the area.

When people decide to have parties late at night, not good for people who live in the area.

I tend to feel like I don't belong if there's a lot of pavement, I like it a little natural at least.

There aren't specific things that don't make me feel like I belong, it's more of a neutral.

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

No people.

Lights, I like them even though it's bad pollution. You don't feel like you're going to get killed in the woods.

Unsafe: coyotes, you can hear them at night calling. Coyotes and foxes sound like people when they scream. We've heard coyotes attack small dogs.

Need to update the lighting in the parking lots (example given is from a city park). The lighting is too dim, and shady stuff is happening in the cars that are parked there at night. It doesn't feel OK that they're there.

Information on how to deal with dangerous wildlife. Signs warning not to touch wildlife (baby

<p>animals like deer).</p>
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<p>Completely eradicated of invasive species. More animal info. Completely clean lakes and ponds. Get rid of the trash in the woods and along the trails. Make the geese and swans a lot quieter! They are so annoying.</p>
<p>GROUP 2B</p>
<p>Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?</p> <p>What do you love about it? Where would you like to see more of this? How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<p>I like being outside, I like busy parks, don't see streets. Like the diversity of things you can do at the parks, I love the kayaks Lebanon Hills Specifically Parks separated from trails, get out from trails Love that you can explore parks, hidden areas Wheaton Pond needs a dock, specifically I love whitetail, the path and the boardwalk along the lake Shultz lake trails got flooded this year, it is OK , but really muddy, would be nicer not to be muddy Like trails that are shaded, less heat, and sun protection.</p>
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p>

<p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<p>Area in the woods that you can walk your dogs off-leash</p> <p>Love Murphy Hanrahan because it is big, don't have to buy x-country pass (unlike Dakota county). I don't ski in Dakota county</p> <p>need you are here signs or you get lost</p> <p>map is so confusing, the numbers, too much information.</p> <p>I go camping up north a lot, the trails here Lebanon and Spring Lake Park have nice trails.</p> <p>Like parks with shade,</p> <p>Love where there are dog poop dispenser bags.</p> <p>Groom and mark trails in the winter, markers on trees</p>
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<p>Making us pay to go skiing - doesn't support belonging.</p> <p>Parking lot at Shultz is scary, can't see very well, very crowded, pull through spots, tight curves, open it up.</p> <p>Love to kayak, fishing, paddle board, good trails, easy trails</p> <p>Love the variety of difficulty.</p>
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<p>Yes, feel safe, If you stay on the trails, you shouldn't get lost. Most places you have cell service, so it would be hard to get really lost - disoriented but not lost</p> <p>Cell service makes us feel safe. We plan ahead to make sure our phones are charged, don't add charging, makes it feel like a screenager place.</p> <p>Mostly take photos with phones in parks. Could charge by bathroom.</p> <p>I feel familiar with parks, and they are not huge.</p> <p>Well marked and maintained trails make us feel safe</p> <p>Being in a familiar area makes me feel safe</p>

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

They would look beautify,
 Add little things like a dock
 No buckthorn.
 SES students would want to remove buckthorn - great earth day activity.
 We do volunteer with the parks, garlic mustard pulling, tree planting
 Don't take down trees if possible, plant more trees
 Rain Gardens in parking lots, sustainable design and native plants. Rain Gardens are really nice.
 Path in prairie at Schultz lake, love to walk through there without getting ticks. Dirt path, not a paved path
 Boardwalks are great material

GROUP 3B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?
 What do you love about it?
 Where would you like to see more of this?
 How could this benefit the greater community?

- Love the trails in the parks, really nice to walk around on
- Love the signs on the different trail routes, like that there are a lot of signs
- Love the locations, like being near water, like the recreation facilities and having so many rentals available (like paddleboards etc)
- Like that you can just go, don't cost anything
- It's green
- Put in effort to maintain wildlife
- Like the size of it and how much stuff they have
- Big trees
- Like that there are always at least one paved trail, good for accessibility
- Good accessibility for people who aren't able to walk
- Like when there's a big map that shows everything. Nice when it shows distances of trails.
- Like it when the trails are built around a pond

<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could be some newer benches, a lot of the benches are covered in moss or bending over - Adding more water bottle stations on longer trails - More places to rent bikes or other things like that - More places to make it easy to hammock or hang your hammocks (in some parks but not all)
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Almost everyone in this group gave a 5 (fully belonging), one 3 and one 4 - Don't feel like I fully belong because I'm not a nature person - For someone who doesn't speak English, they might feel like they don't belong because the signs and maps are all only in English - I feel like I belong because my dad works for the parks - It has a lot of the stuff that I like - being outdoors, the trails
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sometimes feel unsafe going on a walk at night, would help to add lights to the trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Especially if they're designed to limit light pollution - Could add phone boxes to call for help like they have on college campuses - Sometimes feel nervous when I hear sounds of wild animals, but it's their home so they belong there - There are some trails where the trail gets overgrown by grasses where it's hard to get through, more risk of ticks which makes me nervous, could keep a clear pathway through - Asked everyone to rate 1-5 (1 is very unsafe and 5 is very safe), everyone said 4 - There's always some risk to being in nature - Mostly it's just being there at night/after dark when it feels unsafe
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>

- I like how it is now
- The parks should be bigger, with more trails going more places
- I'm the wrong person to ask, because I prefer going to the woods rather than a park
- Making the lakes more habitable, a lot of the portages are very steep or ways to access the lakes are not very accessible
- Maybe more picnic shelters that you can walk or bike to
- Some of the lakes and ponds are overgrown with algae and lake plants, could be treated to clear up the water a little

GROUP 4B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

-Love diverse habitats and color of plants across the seasons

-Like accessibility, but also want the secluded feel and some trails that are more rugged

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?

What do you love about it?

How is it beneficial to their community?

Why could it be beneficial to your community?

-How do we enforce smoke-free zones?

-Cleaner beaches and clearer water... want to swim!

-Signage that let's folks know the distance, challenge level, and estimated time range for trails

-More diversity of species and habitats.. More unique wildlife would be so great to have

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

-I feel like I belong when I'm having fun.. Slides, sledding, features for play

<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<p> </p>
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<p>-Gardens where we can access and harvest!</p> <p>-More challenging hiking trails and access to fun features</p>
<p>GROUP 5B</p>
<p>Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>Where would you like to see more of this?</p> <p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<p>-Like the spread of Dakota parks.. Always near one!</p> <p>-More access to enter the parks... not just roads into parks, but also sidewalks / bike trails to enter the parks</p> <p>-</p>
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<p>-Some have had really nice bathrooms.. Keeping them clean and bug free</p> <p>-Love more challenging hiking trails... how can we share / highlight which ones are more challenging?</p>

-Features that draw wildlife to the entrances and trail center areas, including small ponds

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

-centralized areas being well-lit

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

-More park rangers present would be great for connecting to parks and feeling safe

-Wildlife, diverse plants, safety

-Filter out the unhealthy items in the ponds/lakes.. Want more swimming opportunities

GROUP 6B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

Good place to have fun

They feel well-maintained, clean.

Lots of action to restore prairies

I like how many there are! A good balance between nature spaces and development. Many options
 The beaches!
 Openness– not specific way to go, you can just explore. I like the efforts to include the history of the Dakota people
 Accessible to a lot of people, and seem to be very involved in the community (the park organization)
 There’s something for everybody. Beaches, paved trails, dirt trails, longer hiking trails– lots of variety!

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?

What do you love about it?
 How is it beneficial to their community?
 Why could it be beneficial to your community?

I want bison!
 A lot of state parks have longer trails that Dakota County parks lack. Many of them are 1-2 miles.
 Adding some natural playgrounds (big mounds of grass, tree stumps, etc). Show kids that nature can be a playground
 Places to immerse self in environment without the trails and lights and signs everyone
 Paved trails can somewhat ruin the nature immersion experience. Can some parks not have them? But also understand that helps with accessibility. Maybe packed dirt/gravel instead of pavement? Can that be done without waiting over time?
 Bring more diversity into natural parks. Do more education and outreach to different communities to inform them of the park opportunities and bring more types of people into the parks

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?
 What hinders belonging?

Yeah, I guess so. But could see I maybe wouldn’t if I had limited physical mobility.
 Sometimes I feel like I’m not the “right” demographic to be in the more natural park areas. Maybe more outreach would be good.

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

Having available exits– being to get from one area to another without feeling trapped. Many parks have one path that you feel stuck on. More short cuts.

I would never go into a park or greenway alone. I would not feel safe. Not sure what to implement to make that different. Some college campuses and greenways have those blue emergency response systems– more of those?

I would only go with friends or parents. Even a dog wouldn't make me feel that safe.

Never experienced the greenways, but in my local parks they sometimes get so overgrown that I don't know where to go or how to get out if something happens. If it's a designated path, it needs to stay clear

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

More gardens.

A park that's approved by and works with indigenous peoples. A piece of land that fits the culture and is a public space available for them to gather and tell stories and interact with nature. A park where I don't need to question the legitimacy of its history.

More signs about the histories and stories of the land the park is located on. (like at the Big Rivers Trail Overlook)

More interactive trail experiences (like fairy house exhibits and pumpkin carvings). Since it's community space, bring the community in for activities. Hold more events at the parks to bring community in.

GROUP 7B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

- Love that we have the parks and are accessible
- Paved and non paved trails
- Great signage, feels safe
- Thought the goats eating buckthorn was cool.
- More Wildflowers
-

<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most have been in the county - Roof gardens on all the buildings - Butterfly gardens– More bugs! - More pollinators - Bat boxes - Balance between having a large number of people at parks and wanting people to have access to the parks.
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police in the parks hinders - Signage in multiple languages - Basic amenities are nice. Bathrooms and whatnot.
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other people - Cleanliness, water, facilities - Signage - Well marked trails - Lit parking lots
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than anything feel more clean - Reintroduction of natural species and wild life - Compost bins, and signs for sorting trash, recycling, and compost - More advertisement of the cool things that the parks offer– social media - Could be good opportunities for renewable energy. Using that energy for buildings - Community spaces - Clean boundaries - Dog disposal spots

- More bathrooms that are accessible for all

GROUP 8B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

- A lot of parks! Hard to not find a park
- For the most part pretty clean
- Well maintained
- Good mix of type of parks
- Good variety of walking trails

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?

What do you love about it?

How is it beneficial to their community?

Why could it be beneficial to your community?

- More wildlife
- Like when it is by water

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

- Feel like you belong

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

- Lights
- Well maintained
- Workers present

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

- Less Pollution
- More facility rental type things

GROUP 9B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

A lot of parks have secret things. Thompson County Park: They have a lake and a path around the lake; trails and a playground. There's a park like that by my house and it leads to so many different neighborhoods OR wilderness. If I want to walk or bike ride... i have a trail that's out in the open and another trail is kind of off.

I like the variety. Different things to do like most parks... depends on which park, but most parks have different things to do: trails, visitor centers, playgrounds, different things for different people to do so there's variety, even if it's not your thing, there's something for everyone.

Diversity - like Lebanon has trails for walking and biking, a lot of trees, and you can tell the growth has been in progress for a long time and they keep up with it really good. Lake Marion is a great lake and it's so different. You get to enjoy the water aspect of it as well.

Would LIKE more of RENTALS:

Renting kayaks & paddleboards and being able to interact more with the water than swimming.

Some have it but more of that would be great.

A lot of parks are starting to do it now, but separate or painting on sidewalk for WALK vs BIKE paths. More of this.

Seating around the lakes. More lounge chairs provided by the park.

FIRE pits. Some have those janky grills, but fire pits would be fun & some families stay into the evening and when it's chilly, it would be nice to have fire pits to dry off & be around together. Some have places you can camp so in that general area without having to actually camp.

<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<p>More bathrooms! Some have bathrooms, others don't. Young kids- it's really challenging to get them to go when they don't want to. There's maybe a porta potty but it's disgusting. Keep up with that (being cleaner), but having BATHROOMS would make a big difference.</p> <p>They should normalize those trash cans & provide bags for DOGS.</p> <p>Water fountains should also have a pet/dog water station/fountain.</p>
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<p>They've done well at keeping up with changes & trends. Different parks are making improvements - they're constantly trying to make improvements & meet more peoples needs.</p> <p>Some people have music too loud & that's too much. Enjoy your music but not everyone else around you might not enjoy your music.</p>
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>
<p>SIGNS to know where I am and also where I might go.</p> <p>MAPS that have the PIN of you are right here are VERY helpful!</p> <p>MAPS with DISTANCES.</p> <p>LIGHTS at night when you're trying to walk it feels unsafe. DIM lights (so we don't contribute to light pollution). Maybe lights that on the ground to light the path where you're walking... maybe SOLAR motion lights on the PATH so they don't contribute to light pollution.</p>
<p>Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?</p>

All the things we talked about. Don't add more concrete! Humans have a thing with adding concrete to everything, it would great to keep it natural.

Add more recycling.

Eliminate all trash or littering.

Community Gardens.

Don't have factories very close to bodies of water or parks. (NO pollution.)

Charging stations for your cars. Solar powered charging stations.

No pollution in the lakes.

If there are vending machines in parks, switching to sustainable packaging (compostable or fully recyclable) to reduce litter.

Signs - what if you add QR codes to learn more on those signs/maps - learn more about the park, nature, the plant or animal life. e.g. showing what plants or species are invasive IF you want to educate people or encouraging people visiting the park to help pull out invasive species plants.

GROUP 10B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

How could this benefit the greater community?

What do you love about it? Seeing animals - squirrel feeder, trails, off trail hiking, accessibility

Where would you like to see more of this? More attention to trails, more trash cans and signs about trash,

Slow walkers with headphones - distracted, more levels for various hikers - easy-difficult, something like a basketball or play area in the park, more bathroom accessibility, more edible berries, signs about edible plants. Dog poop bags, fishing pole or bike rentals, more natural trails, water bottle filling stations.

How could this benefit the greater community?

Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?

What do you love about it?

How is it beneficial to their community?

Why could it be beneficial to your community?

Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

What hinders belonging?

What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?

When at parks with friends, climbing trees, interacting with nature, been going since I was a kid, makes me more connected to nature, when there with people I know and like, place to explore,

What hinders belonging? Parking to far from trail, run out of water, too many old people - some are aggressive, need more benches, dogs - afraid of them

Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?

Wide trails, lights, openness, emergency buttons like at universities, flashlights, a staff member/security being present.

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

Bigger. More connected parks/greenways, dogs only areas or no dog areas, more benches and accessibility for wheelchairs. Parks retired to their historic past, Wheelchairs that can go off trail, Zipline,

GROUP 11B

Question 1 - What is one thing you love about the parks system today?

What do you love about it?

Where would you like to see more of this?

<p>How could this benefit the greater community?</p>
<p>They are easily accessible</p> <p>Adds green spaces to urban areas</p> <p>Give a place for people to gather and hang out.</p>
<p>Question 2 - What is one aspect of another park or park system you are familiar with that you think Dakota County should add?</p> <p>What do you love about it?</p> <p>How is it beneficial to their community?</p> <p>Why could it be beneficial to your community?</p>
<p>Basketball courts - space for people to be active. Builds community</p> <p>Visitor centers to give information about the area.</p> <p>Big open recreational fields</p> <p>Grills</p>
<p>Question 3 - How much would you agree with the statement "I feel like I belong in Dakota County parks"?</p> <p>What are some things that help you feel that you belong in these spaces?</p> <p>What hinders belonging?</p>
<p>Close and accessible</p> <p>No restriction signs</p> <p>Well maintained</p> <p>Benches and tables for people to gather and hang out and eat</p> <p>Creepy people</p> <p>Vandalism</p> <p>Litter</p>
<p>Question 4 - What makes you feel safe when you are in a park or greenway?</p>

Lights in playgrounds, parking lots
Paved pathways, accessibility
Maps you can carry, along with posted maps on signs.
More park rangers/security people visible
Emergency/panic boxes

Question 5 - If you could wave a magic wand, what would Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas look like in 2050?

Native plant species/less invasives
Less trash/clean
Clean and usable water for swimming and fishing
Opportunities for recreation

Tribal Engagement Workshop

Event date: Sept. 28, 2024

Event location: Minneapolis American Indian Center

Event leader: Full Circle

Event format: Focus group consultation

Participants: Indigenous cultural knowledge bearers, language speakers, and cultural educators.

Overview

As part of the Dakota County 2050 Vision Plan, Dakota County seeks to update the vision and goals to take the county park system into the next 20 years. The new plan will respond to and mitigate critical issues facing society, such as: changing ecological conditions and trends, climate change, equity, and Indigenous Traditional Cultural Places protection and management.

To guide and inform plan development, the project team conducted in-person engagement with Indigenous cultural knowledge bearers, language speakers, and cultural educators and leaders (i.e., THPOs). The engagement approach sought to reach a variety of tribal community members and build upon existing relationships that Dakota County and its consultants have formed.

Engagement Key Takeaways

Many of the participants had limited knowledge of Dakota County Parks sites. Accordingly, conversations were focused on sites that participants were familiar with, namely: Black Dog Village, Spring Lake Park Reserve (specifically the bison), and Miesville Ravine Park Reserve. The group noted that a site tour would be helpful to better understand the range of sites and opportunities.

Participant feedback focused on three topics areas: include Dakota/Indigenous people at all levels of Dakota County Parks work, care for the land first and foremost, and support cultural practices.

Topic Area 1: Include Dakota/Indigenous people at all levels

Whether as employees, liaisons, partners, or engaged community members, including more Dakota/Indigenous people with knowledge of cultural practices at all levels of county, and specifically Parks, management and project work is critical to caring for the land, providing appropriate space for traditional practices, and creating inclusive and welcoming places for Dakota people to feel a sense of belonging and being “home.”

Topic Area 2: Care for the land

Caring for the land and water is essential. By caring for land and water first, plants and animals thrive, followed by people. Building on involvement of more Dakota people, developing co-management plans and methods that honor traditional ecological knowledge foster healthy ecosystems.

Topic Area 3: Cultural practices

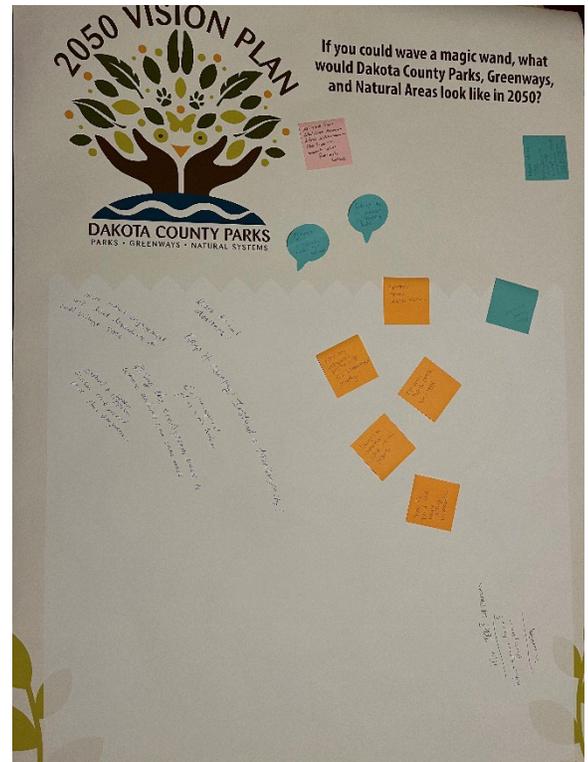
Providing appropriate spaces, managed by Indigenous people, for traditional practices such as inipi (sweat lodge), harvesting bison, gathering plant medicines, and other cultural practices is important for generating a feeling of belonging and home. Restoring Dakota names to places was also discussed as a way to express Dakota presence on the landscape since time immemorial.

Workshop Feedback

(transcribed from activity sheet)

Topic Area 1: Include Dakota/Indigenous people at all levels

- Conduct more robust engagement with descendants of old village sites
- Hire more tribal monitors
- Expand and better support liaison work (need more than one person)
- Hire people with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) at Dakota County Parks
- Work with Tribal Natural Resource Departments to develop vegetation stewardship plans for each site
- Hire Dakota people with cultural knowledge in all county/parks departments
- Bring a collective Indigenous voice to all projects
- Welcome Dakota people here as their home/homeland
- Return Indigenous presence to the landscape and county



Topic Area 2: Care for the land

- Develop co-management plans with tribes
- Heal the land and water—foster a healthy landscape
- Bring the ecosystem back to where animals can come back and thrive here (based on what grew here previously and what can support a healthy landscape considering a changing climate)
- Incorporate cultural burns into the land management/stewardship regimen
- Keep it country instead of a tourism city (specific to the bison and other “attractions”)

Topic Area 3: Cultural practices

- Interrupt the zoo narrative by harvesting buffalo (Minnesota Bison Collaborative contact: Mary Mallinger)
- Partner with an Indigenous-led organization for inipi (sweat lodge) management (see Rapid City example)
- Restore Dakota names



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3795

Agenda #: 5.3

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

DEPARTMENT: Parks, Facilities, and Fleet Management

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Update On 2024 Parks Greenway Capital Improvement Construction Projects

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Receive an update on the 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) greenway construction projects.

SUMMARY

To provide a safe and efficient greenway system, Dakota County annually invests in the regional Greenway trail transportation system through various construction projects. The majority of construction projects identified in year 2024 of the 2024 - 2028 Parks CIP budget are underway or near completion. Staff will provide the Board with an overview of these Parks Greenway construction projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The 2024 construction projects are funded through the approved Parks CIP budget.

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action required.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

BOARD GOALS

- A Great Place to Live
- A Healthy Environment
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs
- Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

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Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3833

Agenda #: 8.1

Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

Adjournment