



Dakota County Parks 2050 Vision Plan

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Physical Development Committee of the Whole
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Overview



1. 2050 Vision Framework
 - Vision & Core Values (review)
 - Goals (new)
2. Strategies for new parks and greenways

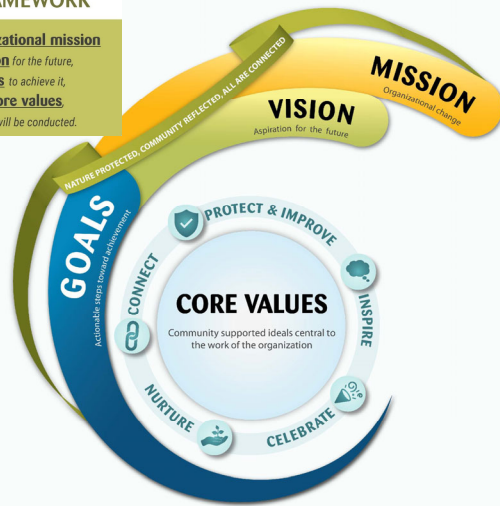
Vision Framework



CREATING A

VISION FRAMEWORK

Support the **organizational mission** by expressing a **vision** for the future, formulating the **goals** to achieve it, and articulating the **core values** by which the mission will be conducted.



VISION

*Nature
Protected,
Community
Reflected,
All Are
Connected*

Vision Framework - Goals



Dakota County Parks will:

1. Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.
2. Cultivate belonging by engaging and serving the whole community, with an emphasis on those that are under-represented in the outdoors.
3. Provide core services and amenities at a level where people feel safe, have a positive experience, and become return visitors.
4. Create dynamic spaces with signature recreation experiences.

Vision Framework - Goals



Dakota County Parks will:

5. Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.
6. Offer opportunities to improve physical, mental, and spiritual health.
7. Strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities to protect culturally significant lands and traditions within parks.
8. Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreation assets.
9. Lead on ecological health and climate resilience.

Vision Framework - Goals



Dakota County Parks will:

10. Elevate cultural richness through arts, historic preservation, and interpretation.
11. Seek values-based and mission-driven partnerships.
12. Care for the system through sustainable and innovative funding.
13. Invest in a diverse and thriving Parks Department workforce that represents the communities we serve.
14. Support sustainable economic development.

New Park and Greenway Units

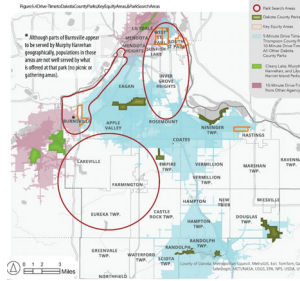


Goal 8

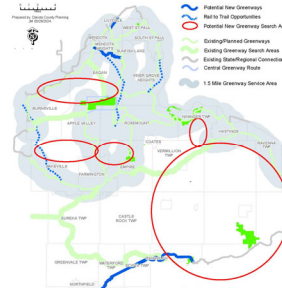
Locate new park units close to people or to protect community open space and recreation assets.

Strategies for discussion:

- A. New search areas to locate new parks and greenways close to people
- B. Expand Greenway Collaborative to partner with cities for more nature-based recreation along greenways
- C. Community trail loops



Park Service Area Gaps



Greenway Service Area Gaps

New Park and Greenways



Process

- Discussed with County Commissioners.
- Met with City Staff.
- Candidate sites refined by project team.

Tools to address needs



Regional System

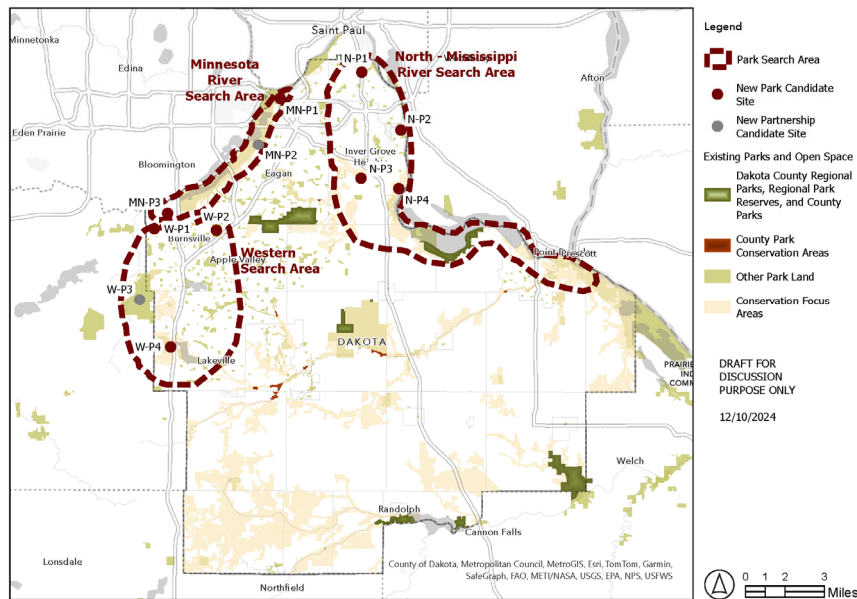
- Regional Park
- Regional Park Reserve
- Regional Greenway
- Expanded Greenway Collaborative *
- Bridging Facility*
- Special Recreation Feature*
- Cultural Landscape and Open Space Classification*

County System

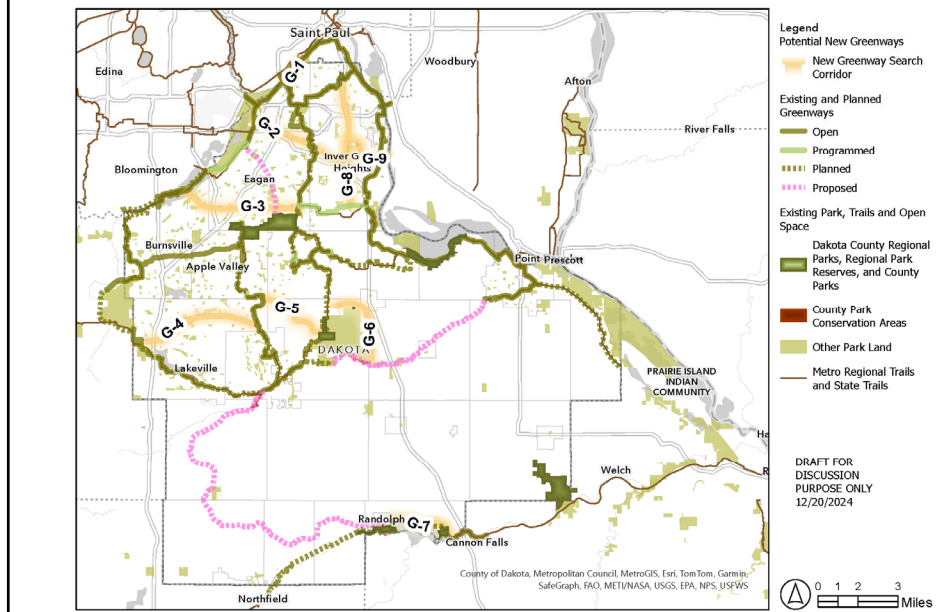
- County Park
- County Park Conservation Area*
- Community Trail Loop*

*New for Dakota County since 2030 Plan

A. Park Search Areas



A. Greenway Search Corridors

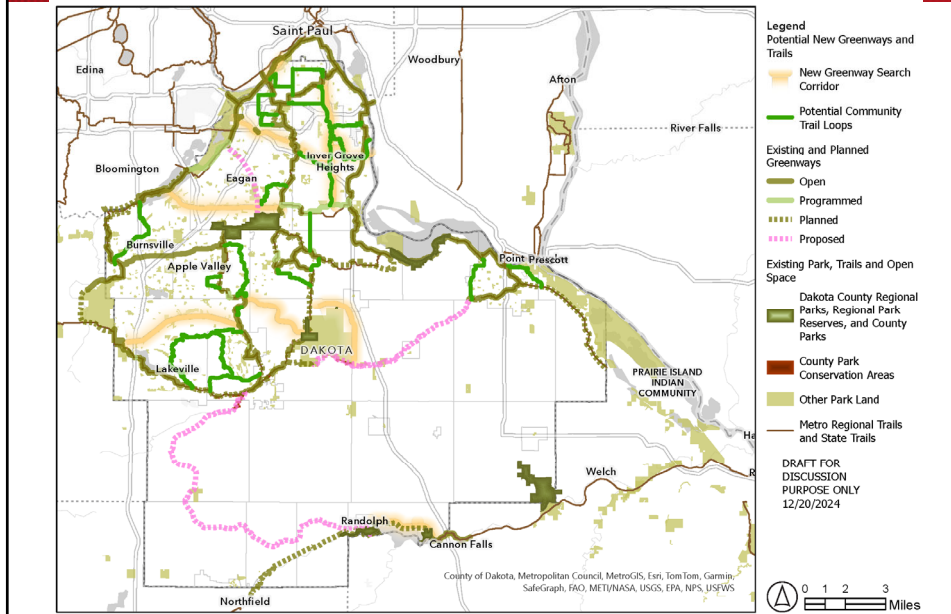


B. Expand Greenway Collaborative



- B. Expand collaboration efforts to include partnership to advance equity and accessibility in the outdoors.
- Provide more nature-based recreation offerings.
 - County would help fund, city would construct and maintain.
 - Examples:
 - Fishing piers
 - Walking scale accessible trail loops
 - Nature play areas
 - Overlook

C. Community Trail Loop Concept



C. Community Trail Loop Concept



- Locally led trail loops connected to greenways
- Possibilities for County support
 - Less – Political and technical support
 - Some – Grant writing support, potential local match
 - More – Cost share partnerships with cities to build
 - Most – Cost share partnership to operate

- A. Support for new park and greenway search areas?
 - *New units would be further explored in each search area.*
- B. Support for expanded regional greenway collaborative concept?
- C. Support for community greenway loops concept?