



Dakota County

Physical Development Committee of the Whole Agenda

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

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

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 May 13, 2025

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Parks - Adoption Of 2050 Parks, Greenways, And Natural Systems Vision Plan

5.2 Parks - Approval Of Schematic Design For Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Site Improvement Project

5.3 Parks - Approval Of Right Of Way Acquisition And Authorization To Initiate Quick-Take Condemnation For Trail Easement For Veterans Memorial Greenway In City of Eagan, County Project P00147

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-4622

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 7/22/2025

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4623

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 7/22/2025

Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On May 13, 2025



Dakota County

Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

9:30 AM

**Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings**

(or following General Government and Policy)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 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

2. Audience

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

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

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

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

Due to the public's presence regarding item 5.3, Information And Direction On Existing Acquisition Option On Vance B. Grannis Jr. Trust Property In Inver Grove Heights, Commissioner Holberg proposed moving this item to be presented to the committee second.

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

Ayes: 7

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On April 15, 2025

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Ayes: 7

4.2 Authorization To Amend Contract With HKGi For Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Site Improvement

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-444 (September 26, 2023), the 2024 -2028 Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget includes a project to design and construct site developments making Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (MRPR) a better place to serve the adjacent communities; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-091 (February 27, 2024), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized the MRPR Master Plan, which outlines the site improvement plans; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-545 (November 12, 2024), the Board approved to select HKGi to provide professional design services; and

WHEREAS, since December 2024, staff has worked with a design team led by HKGi to progress the design and related review process; and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the initial concept with tribal partners virtually on February 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a public open house was held in person on February 6, 2025, and project materials were published online for public comments; and

WHEREAS, a public and private stakeholder workshop was held in person on February 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, due to the complicated physical site conditions and the extensive permitting process, an additional service fee of \$98,650 is required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes a contract amendment to increase the contract with HKGi by \$98,650 to a total \$272,595, 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 5/20/2025.

Ayes: 7

5. Regular Agenda

5.1 Presentation Of Dakota County Soil And Water Conservation District Annual Report

Dakota County Soil & Water District Manager Ashley Gallagher provided an overview highlighting the crucial role of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in managing natural resources and maintaining high water quality standards.

The commissioners commended the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for providing cost-efficient services amid urbanization challenges. They stressed the importance of diverse representation in decision-making, supported by a five-member board.

Concerns were raised about the green scum in local ponds, which harms ecosystems and aesthetics. In response, SWCD staff highlighted their “Landscaping for Clean Water” program, which aims to educate residents on improving water quality and reducing runoff.

The SWCD is committed to community engagement and sustainable practices to protect Dakota County’s natural resources for future generations.

Information only; no action requested.

5.2 Update On County State Aid Highway 54 Expansion In Ravenna Township, County Project 54-011

John Sass, Transportation Project Manager, and John Mertens, Principal Planner, presented this item and responded to questions.

Commissioners discussed the importance of acquiring right-of-way for future projects to avoid additional costs later, despite varying levels of community support. They also examined alternative alignments and discussed possible future funding through active transportation dollars.

Staff were directed to pursue right of way acquisition to include the trail option and to provide detailed information on the costs and feasibility of the various design options for future County Board consideration. They were also directed to seek funding sources to enhance active transportation infrastructure for the trail component.

Additionally, the alignment options in the Prairie Island area should be reassessed to address community concerns.

Finally, a thorough investigation of road shoulders and bike infrastructure in Goodhue County is needed to identify necessary safety and accessibility improvements.

Information only; no action requested.

5.3 Information And Direction On Existing Acquisition Option On Vance B. Grannis Jr. Trust Property In Inver Grove Heights

Eddie Buell, Real Estate Supervisor, introduced a new initiative led by the Grannis family to preserve land for public enjoyment and conservation. Vaughn Grannis, the sole trustee for the Vance B. Grannis Jr Trust, discussed the land's status, prospects, and the formation of a task force to explore potential uses. The initiative aims to raise \$3.7 million for an endowment to hire an environmentalist and enhance accessibility to the land.

The County currently has an option to purchase the 124.5-acre easement area and the 8.71-acre homestead in fee. In order to move forward with this project, the Trust has requested that the County terminate its' current options to purchase the property. In return, the Trust has offered to provide options to purchase right-of-way from two properties on the adjacent Barnes Avenue for a future bike trail. The goal is to finalize agreements and begin fundraising by summer, which showcases the community's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Staff were directed to work with the Trust to develop an agreement that would terminate the current options and secure the right-of-way required for the future Barnes Avenue bike trail.

Information only; no action requested.

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: William Droste

On a motion by Commissioner Mike Slavik, seconded by Commissioner William Droste, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Hansen
Administrative Coordinator



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-3255

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 7/22/2025

DEPARTMENT: Parks

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

Adoption Of 2050 Parks, Greenways, And Natural Systems Vision Plan

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt the 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan.

SUMMARY

The Dakota County Parks Department has been updating the 2030 Parks System Plan with the 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan (Vision Plan). The plan frames future work and investment in Dakota County's parks, greenways, and natural systems for the next 25 years. The plan is designed to be visionary, aspirational, and optimistic while also addressing some of the most pressing challenges faced today and anticipated in the future. The updated vision statement is "Nature Protected, Community Reflected, All Are Connected." The vision is supported by goals and strategies. The plan prioritizes continued support and development of healthy ecological spaces, providing residents with access to and a sense of belonging in nature-based settings, and a strong organization with appropriate funding to achieve the vision. Detailed tactics, along with the necessary metrics and targets to operationalize the vision, will be identified in updates to the Natural Resource Management System Plan, the Visitor Services Plan, and the Greenway Guidebook.

By Resolution No. 25-196 (April 22, 2025), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners (County Board) authorized the Vision Plan to be released for public review April 22 - May 20, 2025. During the review period, over 400 people were reached at in-person events, and 66 responses to the online questionnaire were received. Participants were asked if they supported the updated vision and their highest priority goals, and they had the opportunity to provide open-ended comments. Online participants were asked additional questions about draft plan strategies. Input received was weighted toward interests already engaged in the County and city park systems rather than non-park users.

For the most part, feedback was supportive. For those who provided feedback, the five most important goals are:

- Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.
- Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.
- Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.
- Locate new park units close to people or protect natural areas and recreational assets.
- Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.

Plan changes are summarized in the 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan

Public Review Comment Summary and Plan Response and are highlighted in yellow in the plan document. A more robust summary of comments can be found in the 2050 Vision Plan Document, Appendix B, Community Engagement, pages 162 -169. Full comments and meeting summaries are in Appendix B, Community Engagement, pages 318 - 356.

Vision Plan links:

- 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan
<<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/About/VisionPlan/Documents/2050VisionPlanJune.pdf>>
- 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan Appendices
<<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/About/VisionPlan/Documents/2050VisionPlanAppendicesJune.pdf>>

On June 26, 2025, the Dakota County Planning Commission recommended adoption of the Vision Plan. The Planning Commission minutes contain a summary of their discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff and the Dakota County Planning Commission recommends adoption of the 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Current budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> New FTE(s) requested | |

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Parks Department has been updating the previous 2030 Parks System Plan with the 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan (Vision Plan); and

WHEREAS, the plan frames future work and investment in Dakota County's parks, greenways, and natural systems for the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the updated vision is "Nature Protected, Community Reflected, All Are Connected"; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 25-196 (April 22, 2025), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners (County Board) authorized the Vision Plan to be released for public review April 22 - May 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, for the most part, feedback was supportive; and

WHEREAS, the plan document has been revised to reflect public comment; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2025, the Dakota County Planning Commission recommended adoption of the Vision Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

24-218; 4/27/24

25-196; 4/22/25

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan Public Review Comment Summary and Plan Response

Attachment: 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan Executive Summary

Attachment: Presentation Slides

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: Lillian Leatham

Summary: Public Review Period Comments and Draft Plan Changes

Community engagement activities for the Public Review phase of the 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan (2050 Vision Plan) update were held April 22 – May 20, 2025. The purpose was to offer Dakota County residents, park visitors, stakeholder representatives, partners, and staff the opportunity to review the plan, to suggest changes, and provide feedback priority goals and strategies.

For the most part, feedback was supportive of the plan vision, goals and strategies. For those who provided feedback, the five most important goals are:

- Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.
- Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.
- Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.
- Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreational assets.
- Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.

Participation in the final round of engagement was not as robust the first round. While certainly helpful, the results are likely not representative of the breadth of interests held by County residents. Survey responses and input received was weighted toward interests already engaged in the county and city park systems rather than non-park users.

Below is a summary of comments and plan changes. Changes responding to comments are noted in the table below and are highlighted in yellow in the plan document. A more robust summary of comments can be found in the 2050 Vision Plan Document, *Appendix B, Community Engagement, pages 162-169*. Full comments and meeting summaries are in *Appendix B, Community Engagement, pages 318-356*.

Comment	Plan Changes
Dakota County Disability Advisory Council	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall support for the plan vision, goals and strategies (strategies related to goals B and C were discussed at the meeting) Request that parks have more representation from the disability community on future project committees. Access should be integrated into everything (e.g. infrastructure, park locations, visitor services, communications, operations). Appreciation that the plan aims to go beyond ADA – that is the floor, not the ceiling. 	No changes General comments.
Goal B Strategy 9 should be clarified – what kind of advisory committees?	Page 29 Strategy #8 clarified to include advisory committees at the regional, county, parks, or project level.
Goal B, Strategies 4 and 7 could be combined to reduce the overall number. Suggestion <i>Establish accessibility goals to reduce barriers to park services through supportive, accessible, affordable services.</i>	Page 29 Strategies combined into new strategy #4.

Numbering of the goals implies importance/priority. They should be lettered.	Pages 27, 28-42 Goal numbers replaced with letters. Minor reordering of goals to group similar goals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parks Department needs to acknowledge what will be done to improve access in the future as well as communicate about when ADA is not possible because the impact to natural resources is too great (example, redwood forests in CA). Create a page on the County website to list of all the accessible facilities/spaces in one location. Include information on what to expect in each location and virtual tours. Include a comment box on the website to report maintenance needs/safety issues – make reporting easy and the process clear. An overall park accessibility assessment is needed and tracking when issues have been addressed. 	Page 63 Edited existing language to clarify that the website information should be centralized. Added: - Include information on what parks will do to improve access in the future. - Consider virtual park tours to help visitors understand what to expect in each location. - Include information about when ADA is not possible and why. - Include a process for reporting maintenance and safety needs. - Develop a public facing tracking to communicate progress being made to improve access.
Dakota County Planning Commission	
Under Goal L, Seek and sustain values-based and mission driven partnerships, add nature-based nonprofits to the list of organizations to seek strategic partnerships with.	Page 39 Nature based nonprofits added to the first bullet.
There is inconsistency in the Core Services and Amenities Chart. It indicates that there will be non-motorized access with a paved trail in <u>many (M)</u> regional parks and that there will be bicycling on a paved trail in <u>all (Y)</u> regional parks. Change biking to many, to maintain consistency.	Page 57 Introduction edited to better explain the purpose of the Core Services and Amenities exhibit. Page 59 Biking in regional parks changed from all (Y) to many (M).
General Public	General Public
At engagement events and in the on-line questionnaire participants were asked “What is the most important thing Dakota County could do to improve Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems?” Themes included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be good stewards of the land Keep parks natural Focus on comfort facilities and amenities Build for all ages Expand and maintain trails and greenways Take care of what we have 	Page 30 Most of the themes heard were like themes heard in the first round of engagement and addressed. A strategy was added to goal C to address taking care existing facilities and lands.
Suggestions included many specific ideas to support the goals and strategies.	No change

	Specific suggestions will be considered as tactics in the operational plan updates.
Comment: provide recreation in all seasons	Page 31 Goal D, strategy 4 revised to reflect year-round recreation.
Please pursue any rails to trails possibilities in the county and provide separate walking and bicycle paths where possible.	Page 49 Section about converting rail corridors to trails added.
Oheyawahe Task Force/City of Mendota Heights	
Oheyawahe isn't a park, avoid classification, or refer to as open space.	Pages 7-10 <i>Locally Managed Land</i> text edited to clarify purpose and include more nature-based recreation locations and to remove the park description.
Physical Development Committee	
Develop staffing model with less dependence of seasonal staff is very specific. Generalize.	Page 41 Goal N Strategy 1 revised. Page 73, Next Steps <i>Develop staffing model with less dependence on temporary staff for year-round operations</i> edited to <i>Develop a staffing model that addresses the shift from seasonal to year-round services.</i>
Interest in Dakota County supporting local trail connections and loops to greenways by assisting cities political and technical support.	Page 35 Goal H, strategy 9 revised Page 73, Next Steps Language added regarding establishing the level of support for local trail loops connecting to greenways and nature-based recreation in city parks adjacent to greenways in the update for the 2010 Greenway Guidebook.
Indigenous Engagement Workshop	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about mound management and funding Issue that places are sacred but unfamiliar to many Dakota/Indigenous people. Need a forward-thinking plan for and with Dakota/Indigenous community members. Encourage cross-generational knowledge sharing. Concern about how state and tribal teachings will be address, how artifacts will be cared for. Priority to have elders involved in processes. Create an Indigenous Committee in Dakota County. 	No changes. Goal G strategies address partnership with Dakota/Indigenous community, reconnecting Native people with park lands, naming, and public awareness. Goal B, strategy #8 addresses advisory committees.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the 100-year plan? 	
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization	
<p>Add the types of rare species for the restoration bullet point? How about the naming the invasive species that were eradicated?</p> <p>Within <i>Protected Places</i>, consider mentioning partnerships with VRWJPO and Trout Unlimited for trout stream protection/enhancement projects.</p>	<p>Page 4 Example species added.</p> <p>Partnerships added.</p>
<p>The VRWJPO also operates a Watershed Wetland Bank Easement program (similar to BWSR easements). Please include under <i>Locally Managed Land</i>.</p>	<p>Page 7 Added VRWJPO wetland bank easement program.</p>
<p>Valley Lake Park in Lakeville provides fishing opportunities, trail surrounding the lake (ADA accessible), two pollinator gardens (one with nature-based play equipment), a rain garden, an additional conservation area, etc. Please include.</p>	<p>Pages 9-10 Edited section listing nature-based parks to be a more complete representation of nature-based recreation locations.</p>
<p>Can you add watersheds to the partnerships on pages 32, 39, and 74?</p>	<p>Pages 32, 39, 74 Added.</p>
<p>Goal J, would it be possible to state the names of the watershed organization (VRWJPO) in item 2 under strategies?</p>	<p>Page 37 All 6 Watershed organizations listed.</p>
<p>The Vermillion River is the only stream in the TC metro that supports a naturally reproducing trout population. Please consider highlighting this amenity by adding a strategy that protects/enhances natural areas adjoining/near this unique recreational asset.</p>	<p>Page 37 Added 'springsheds' to the important areas to protect to protect coldwater trout stream springs.</p>
Wilderness in the City	
<p>Overall support for the plan and the emphasis on natural systems. Common themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns expressed about changing the Parks tagline of "Forever Wild". Support for the plan's overall focus on natural resources. Support for the connector trail not being shown on the map in the plan. 	<p>Page 21 Added a bullet addressing the need for on-going and increasing funding needs for natural resource management.</p> <p>Page 29 Goal B, revised strategy 9 to: <i>Consider developing a process for modification of the Dakota County Parks tagline to better reflect new vision and mission as well as community feedback.</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern about finding sustainable funding source for natural resource management projects (post restoration). 	
Dakota County Staff	
Typos, corrections, and clarifications	Throughout document, not highlighted
Edit introductory text to reflect current board goals.	Page 1 Update made.
Add the year that the parks system was started, 1960	Page 1 Year started added.
Update visitation with 2024 numbers	Pages 2, 19 Update made.
Define the terms shown in Exhibit 1.2: <i>Restored, managed stabilized, yet to be restored.</i>	Page 3 Definitions added.
In the <i>Connected Places</i> text, add interpretive plans, recognize the Garlough tunnel mural, and define greenways.	Page 4 Updates made.
County Park Conservation Areas, remove the “or” from this statement: “that are preserved for environmental benefits and/or natural resource-based recreation.” Currently, the only ability to own these parcels in fee is under the County Parks authority in Minn. Stat. 398.32, which requires recreational purposes for the use of the land.	Page 5, 47, 50 <i>Or</i> removed, and <i>access</i> replaced with <i>for public park purposes and related outdoor recreational purposes</i>
The definition of SNA and WMA are inaccurate.	Page 7 SNA and WMA definitions corrected.
Map 1.1 correct the greenway ring route to show long term alignment, differentiate between Master Planned Greenways and Greenway Search Corridors.	Page 8 Map 1.1 corrected.
In the <i>Parks History Timeline</i> , add information on establishment of Lebanon Hills Campground, Lake Byllesby Campground, the Spring Lake Retreat Center	Page 12 Additions made.
Update the community engagement summary to include Public Review Draft engagement.	Page 14 Update made.
Add that increased operations will be needed with system growth.	Page 15 Added.
The use of the term Over-Represented seems odd in this context.	Page 16 Definitions of overrepresented and underrepresented added.
Under findings, <i>programming is limited compared with other metro area park systems</i> , add that limited indoor program space impacts the ability to provide outdoor education programming throughout the park system, that Dakota County has fewer outdoor education staff than other regional	Page 18 Update made.

park agencies, and that the seasonal and temporary staffing model impacts program delivery.	
Under findings, <i>the changing climate threatens natural systems and recreational opportunities</i> , add air quality and fire danger to the impacts to recreation, programming, and visitor experience.	Page 20 Update made.
Include the current Parks Department Mission.	Page 26 Draft mission replaced with current mission.
Goal A, add volunteer involvement to the metrics	Page 28 Addition made.
Goal G, remove first metric, <i>Consistent presence of Native American people in the system</i> , there is no way to measure this.	Page 34 Metric removed.
Goal H, replace <i>additionally</i> with <i>or</i> .	Page 25, 35 Update made.
Goal I, a strategy is needed for designating resource sensitive areas to better manage and protect natural features, species, and/or cultural sites. Add acres restored and acres maintained to metrics.	Page 36 Strategy #10 added. Metrics added.
Goal J, add strategy <i>Restore and manage natural spaces to support and nurture wildlife and plant communities</i> .	Page 37 Strategy #7 added.
Goal K, add metric “number of public art installations”	Page 39 Metric added.
Goal L, revise goal from <i>Seek values-based and mission-driven partnerships</i> . To <i>Seek and sustain values-based and mission-driven partnerships</i> .	Page 25, 39 Goal revised.
Goal M, include strategies to explore possibility of a parks district and voter approved bond referendum. This goal is missing a strategy speaking to sustainable funding. Add strategy: <i>Identify and allocate consistent and dedicated funding for operations and maintenance</i> .	Page 40 Strategies added.
Goal O, strategy # 1, <i>In long range and natural resource management plans, identify how broader economic systems are being served/enhanced</i> , is overly specific and prescriptive. Revise to: <i>In future planning efforts, consider how broader economic system are being served and enhanced</i> . Strategy #7 is written in a confusing way. Reword to clarify.	Page 42. Strategies revised.
Location description for Regional Park Reserves is incorrect.	Page 47 Location description updated consistent with Metropolitan Council 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan.
Map 3.2, differentiate between existing and planned greenways and greenway search corridors, update symbol	Page 51 Map updated.

and include long term alignment for greenway ring route, change the symbol for the Mill Towns State Trail.	
Add a map that depicts the 2050 vision.	Page 55-56 Map 3.4 added.
Core Services and Amenities Chart – review and edit to remove errors and inconsistencies.	Page 57-62 Corrections to the <i>Core Services and Amenities</i> table made.
In the next steps chart, “Continue to implement the acceleration of the 2030 Greenway Vision” is listed twice, replace with “Continue to incorporate self-guided interpretive features in parks and greenways.”	Page 74 Change made.
Next steps chart, <i>Funding</i> , add three next steps: - Evaluate benefits of creating a special parks district; - Explore options for a park referendum. - Increase revenue generating programs and facilities.	Page 75 Addition made.
Build in a way to update the plan to address changes in the parks that have significant impact.	Page 75 Updating the plan addressed.
Public Review Draft Plan - engagement and comments.	Pages 162-169 , not highlighted Summary – Process and Key Findings Pages 318-356 , not highlighted Comments, meeting/event summaries, on-line results.



2050 VISION PLAN

DAKOTA COUNTY PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

Nature Protected, Community Reflected, All Are Connected

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JULY 3, 2025

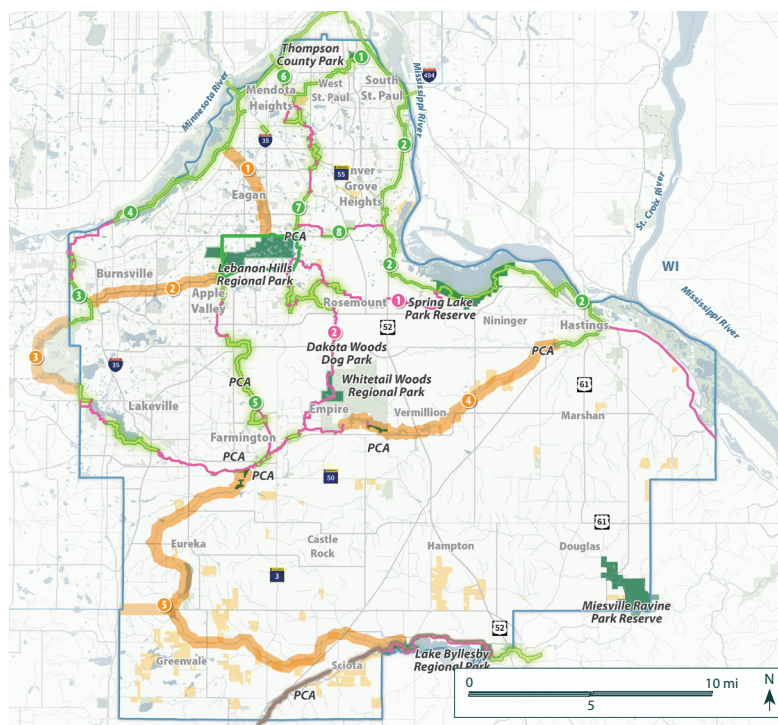
INTRODUCTION

During its over 60-year history, the Dakota County Parks System has played a pivotal role in protecting and stewarding lands, enhancing environmental quality, developing and caring for recreational facilities, and serving residents and visitors through access to the outdoors and nature-based education and recreation. Community members routinely share that the work of Dakota County Parks is fundamental to their quality of life. The system operates in a diverse and dynamic environment, serving a wide range of stakeholders with varying interests. The lands and services of Dakota County Parks are emblems of community desirability as a place where people thrive, a healthy environment, a robust atmosphere for business and jobs, and excellence in public service. Dakota County parks are a reflection of the County's overall strategic plan goals.

Dakota County is one of 10 regional park implementing agencies across the Twin Cities metropolitan area. As a result, the County derives some of its park funding through the State and Metropolitan Council. In return, Dakota County protects, develops, and programs its designated "regional" facilities according to certain parameters established for regional facilities.

This plan looks to the next 25 years, suggesting how community values continue to shape an evolving vision for Dakota County's park system, greenway system, and natural system.

Map 1.1, Existing Parks, Greenways, and Conservation Easements



LEGEND

- Reserves, Regional Parks, and County Park
- Park Conservation Areas (PCA)
- Conservation Easements
- Non-County Public Lands
- Non-County Trails
- Regional Greenway and Trail Search Corridors
 - Lebanon Hills - Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail
 - Lebanon Hills - Lake Marion Regional Trail
 - Lake Marion - Big Woods Regional Trail
'Coordinate with Scott County'
 - Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail
 - Elko New Market Blakely-Dayle Kennefick Regional Trail
'Coordinate with Scott County'
- Planned Regional Greenways
 - Rosemount Greenway
 - Vermillion Highlands Greenway
- Greenway Linking Route
- Mill Towns State Trail
- Existing Regional Greenways
 - River to River
 - Mississippi River
 - Lake Marion
 - Minnesota River
 - North Creek
 - Big Rivers Regional Trail
 - Lebanon Hills
 - Veterans Memorial Greenway

FINDINGS

Recent decades have been a time of growth and increasing depth for Dakota County’s park system, much of it shaped by visionary and thoughtful planning. The planning process for the 2050 Vision Plan has also included analysis of Dakota County as well as the outside influences that shape it.



The percentage of park visitors who are youth, people of color, lower income, and older adults is lower than their percentage of County population



Dakota County park visitors expect more accessible facilities



Visitation of Dakota County Parks is lower than metro area average based on population



A growing County population will expect additional parks and greenways



Programming is limited compared to other metro area park systems



Awareness has grown about the parks’ essential role in supporting physical, mental, and spiritual health

A more detailed summary of engagement efforts and analysis reports can be found in the Appendices



Dakota County is viewed as a leader in providing nature-based recreation and education



The changing climate threatens natural systems and recreational opportunities



Urbanization impacts remaining natural areas, habitat, and water quality



Securing consistent and sustainable funding is a growing challenge



As the system ages and grows, capital reinvestment and operations demands will also naturally grow

Data Sources:

- 2024 Engagement Online Survey
- 2024 Engagement
- 2024 Tribal Engagement Meetings
- 2021 Met Council Regional Parks and Trails Visitor Study
- 2022 US Census ACE Estimates
- 2022 Minnesota State Demographic Center, Long-Term Population Projections for Minnesota, 2020
- 2023 Dakota County Adult Health Survey
- Metropolitan Council Local Forecasts to 2050
- 2020 Dakota County Parks Awareness and Promotion Plan: Report of Community Engagement Findings
- July 2023 Met Council Annual Use Estimates

VISION FRAMEWORK

The Dakota County 2050 Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan serves as a forward-looking guide to the protection, enhancement, and development of the county's cherished outdoor spaces. The Vision Framework sets a foundation for ensuring that lands, facilities, operations, and visitor services meet the needs of the County's growing and diverse population now and in the

future. By clearly articulating long-term goals and the actionable strategies required to achieve them, Dakota County is preparing for a future that includes environmental stewardship, recreational opportunities, and the well-being of its residents and visitors. The full plan document articulates strategies associated with each goal.

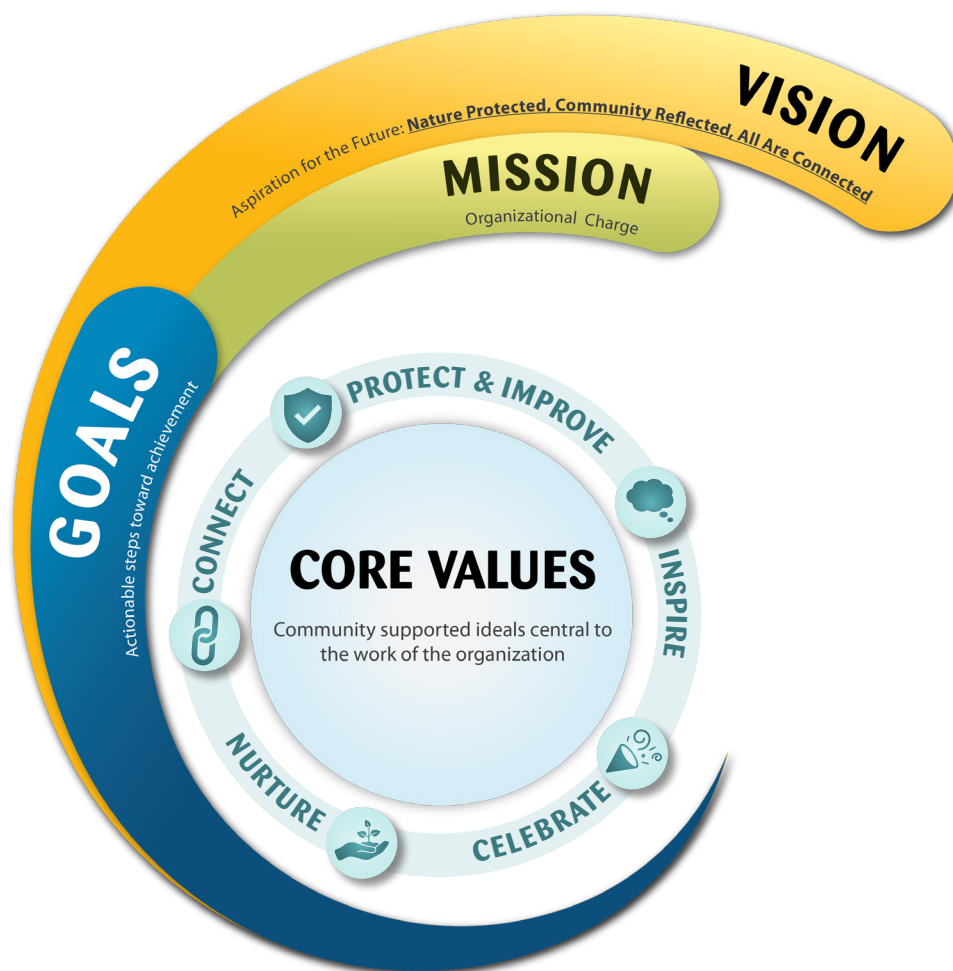


Exhibit 2.2, Vision Framework

CORE VALUES

In alignment with Dakota County's core values of Integrity, People, Service, and Innovation, this plan's core values are:

To Connect...

people to each other and the natural world, fostering a sense of belonging for all.

through engaging and inclusive outdoor experiences.

To Nurture...

and heal the vital relationship between people and nature.

To Protect and Improve...

natural spaces, ensuring a resilient and healthy environment for future generations.

To Celebrate...

our vibrant and richly diverse communities.

To Inspire...

wellbeing, wonder, adventure, and learning

VISION

Vision Statement

Nature Protected, Community Reflected, All Are Connected

MISSION

Mission Statement

To enrich lives by providing high-quality recreation and education opportunities in harmony with natural resource preservation and stewardship.

Goal A

Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.

Goal B

Cultivate belonging by engaging and serving the community, with an emphasis on those who are under-represented in the outdoors.

Goal C

Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.

Goal D

Create dynamic spaces with unique and memorable experiences.

Goal E

Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.

Goal F

Offer opportunities to improve physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Goal G

Strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities for the protection of lands and traditions.

Goal H

Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreational assets.

Goal I

Lead and support ecological stewardship and climate resilience.

Goal J

Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.

Goal K

Elevate cultural richness through arts, historic preservation, interpretation, and storytelling within the park system.

Goal L

Seek and sustain values-based and mission-driven partnerships.

Goal M

Care for the system through sustainable and innovative funding.

Goal N

Invest in a thriving parks workforce that represents the communities served.

Goal O

Support local and sustainable economic development.

GOALS

PARKS, GREENWAYS, AND LAND CONSERVATION



The Dakota County system has three basic categories of land holdings: conservation lands, greenways, and parks. Together, these areas form a diverse and well-integrated network that plays a crucial role in preserving the County's natural resources, fostering outdoor recreation, and enhancing overall community well-being.

CONSERVATION FOCUS AREAS

Dakota County's 2020 Land Conservation Plan identifies and prioritizes land protection based on the combination of natural features, connectivity, hydrology, and land ownership with a renewed emphasis on water. Protection of these lands, called Conservation Focus Areas, aims to increase voluntary protection and stewardship of private lands and improve coordination with other land conservation agencies and organizations.

GREENWAY SEARCH CORRIDORS

Dakota County is home to a diverse and growing network of greenways that serve as essential connections between communities, natural landscapes, and recreational destinations. Dakota County intends to build out this system, fill current gaps, and expand into future residential growth areas, ensuring that greenways remain accessible, functional, and ecologically beneficial for generations to come.

In 2010, Dakota County created a program called the Greenway Collaborative as a model for building greenways with partners (local

communities, developers, and stakeholder organizations).

PARK SEARCH AREAS

Park search areas represent a strategic approach to ensuring that residents across the county have equitable access to high-quality nature-based parks, especially where they serve demographic groups who visit parks at a lower rate than expected, compared to the demographics of the County population.

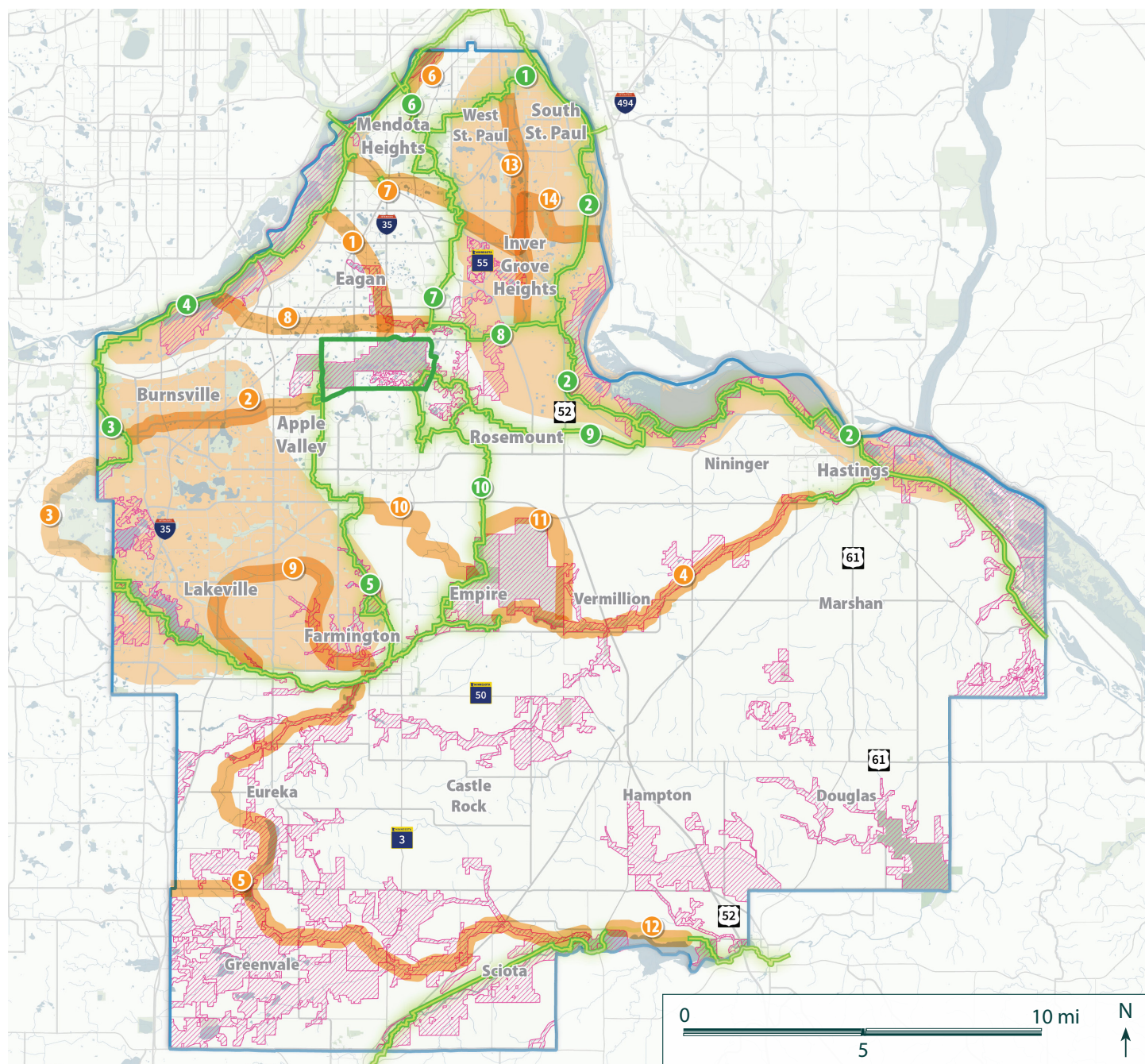
COUNTY PARK CONSERVATION AREAS

County Park Conservation Areas (CPCA) are a tool for land protection using fee title ownership by Dakota County. The focus is on natural quality such as watercourses, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, rare species, and high-quality habitat (or potential restoration thereof) that are preserved for environmental benefits and natural resource-based recreation.

PRIVATELY OWNED RECREATION AREAS

In addition to the park candidate sites identified, Dakota County will consider preserving land previously owned/operated by private or public entities that may no longer be in active use but that provide significant community recreation or natural resources value by transforming them into protected public open space.

Map 3.4, 2050 Vision Map



LEGEND

Existing and Planned Regional Greenways

- 1 River to River
- 2 Mississippi River
- 3 Lake Marion
- 4 Minnesota River
- 5 North Creek
- 6 Big Rivers Regional Trail
- 7 Lebanon Hills
- 8 Veterans Memorial Greenway
- 9 Rosemount Greenway

10 Vermillion Highlands Greenway Regional Greenway and Trail Search Corridors

- 1 Lebanon Hills - Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail
- 2 Lebanon Hills Lake - Marion Regional Trail
- 3 Lake Marion - Big Woods Regional Trail
'Coordinate with Scott County'
- 4 Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail
- 5 Elko New Market Blakely-Dayle Kennefick Regional Trail
'Coordinate with Scott County'
- 6 Lilydale - St. Paul
- 7 Soo Line

- 8 Highland Trail
- 9 Farmington - Lakeville
- 10 Empire Greenway - Mining Lakes
- 11 Vermillion Highlands - Vermillion River
- 12 Lake Byllesby Greenway
- 13 Highway 52 Trail
- 14 Lebanon Greenway - Mississippi River

- Greenway Linking Route
- Preliminary Conservation Focus Areas
- New Park Search Areas

CORE SERVICES AND AMENITIES

Goal C highlights the importance of core provisions in fostering safety and comfort in parks. Establishing a foundation of facilities that provide essential visitor support and the most sought-after activities helps visitors know what to expect and look for. For some visitors, particularly first-time or infrequent visitors, large natural areas can be disorienting. The goal is to allow all visitors to enjoy the full park experience with the comfort of knowing that they are supported along the way.

Three tiers of activities can be expected in most parks:

1. Base activities and facilities that can be expected in all parks.
2. Activities that have broad popularity and can be expected in many parks.
3. Activities that can be expected in some parks to provide unique experiences.

SIGNATURE FACILITIES

Many activities and facilities will occur less frequently within Dakota County parks and along greenways but contribute greatly to a park's or place's overall identity. Strategically locating these unique amenities across the system, paired with core services, creates a consistently supportive park environment that also offers a variety of experiences.

Signature Experiences

If an activity is not indicated as base, or appropriate for all, many, or some parks and greenways, it can be considered as a signature activity for that park and greenway classification as part of the unit's long-range plan.

ACCESSIBILITY

Embracing accessibility and universal design are an important way for Dakota County to set expectations that make visitors confident and comfortable in core services. Universal design strives to move beyond "separate but equal" access to make all places and facilities functional for everyone. While the goal is to strive for universal design across the system, this standard is especially critical for the core services and amenities. Inviting all people to integrally use the essential visitor support functions in every area sends a strong message about belonging and equity. This section of the full plan provides initiatives and guidelines to maximize accessibility across the system.





IMPLEMENTATION

The Dakota County Parks, Greenways, and Natural Areas 2050 Vision Plan lays out a bold and transformative path for the future of the County's outdoor spaces. To bring this vision to life, a well-structured implementation strategy is essential; one that balances ambition with feasibility, leverages available resources, and fosters strong partnerships.

FUNDING TOOLS

Dakota County has historically and continues to apply a broad range of funding tools to its system of parks, greenways and natural areas. A key next step will be exploring financially sustainable options for revenue and funding. The following list offers a snapshot of general funding sources that are either relatively standard (sustainable) or require unique actions (innovative) with more detail offered in the full plan.

Regional Funding (sustainable)

County Levy (sustainable)

Federal Grants and Programs (innovative)

State Grants and Programs (innovative)

Bond Measures (innovative)

Sponsor Recognition (innovative)

Philanthropic Donations (innovative)

Program and User Fees (sustainable)

Public/Private Corporate Partnerships (innovative)

Revenue-Generating Activities (Sustainable)

Special Park District (innovative)

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIP

The partnership with a philanthropic organization could enhance funding, engagement, and long-term sustainability. Agencies with philanthropic partners can experience benefits through private donations, grants, and sponsorships while fostering community involvement and stewardship.

A critical early decision in partnering with a philanthropic partner is determining the extent of direct engagement by Dakota County. Some agencies find success through direct formation and hands-on operational leadership while others take an arms-length approach to the relationship with a not-for-profit specifically organized to support the mission of the park agency. The earlier may demand special legislative authority.

COST RECOVERY

In recent years, park agencies across the United States have been rethinking their cost recovery models to prioritize equity and access. Traditionally, these models were designed to maximize revenue generation through user fees, partnerships, and sponsorships. However, as communities recognize the vital role parks play in community well-being, agencies are shifting to models that ensure access for all.

The transformation of cost recovery models to prioritize equity and access represents a fundamental shift in how park services are valued. Rather than over-emphasis on revenue-generating entities, parks are increasingly recognized as vital public assets that should be accessible to everyone. As this shift continues, the challenge will be balancing financial sustainability with the goal of ensuring that no one is excluded from the benefits of parks due to cost.

REVENUE GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Even in evolving approaches to cost recovery, revenue generating activities remain an important subset of services. They are intended to generate at least as much revenue as the cost to provide them. They serve to buffer challenging financial times, bolster operating efficiency, and enhance visitor experience. Most importantly, they diversify revenue streams to support the broader mission and vision. Revenue generating activities can:

Generate and Diversify Revenue

Increase Operational Efficiency and Cost Recovery

Enhance Infrastructure Investment and Asset Optimization

Enhance Marketing, Branding, and Community Connections

Leveraging innovative revenue streams, strategic investments, and efficient operations through revenue generating activities can deepen a healthy balance between community service, conservation, and fiscal responsibility.



2050 Vision Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems

Lil Leatham, Dakota County Principal Planner
Physical Development Division

1

Overview



1. Project Purpose and Process
2. 2050 Vision Framework
3. Public Review Process
4. Public Review Comments and Plan Changes
5. Questions and Discussion
6. Requested Action

2

Purpose and Process



- Update 2030 Vision
- Update Goals and Strategies to guide parks department work over the next 25 years

Process

Spring – Fall 2024:
Research, Community Engagement

Fall 2024-Winter 2025:
Vision Framework and Develop Draft Plan

Spring 2025: *Public Review Draft Plan, Community Engagement*

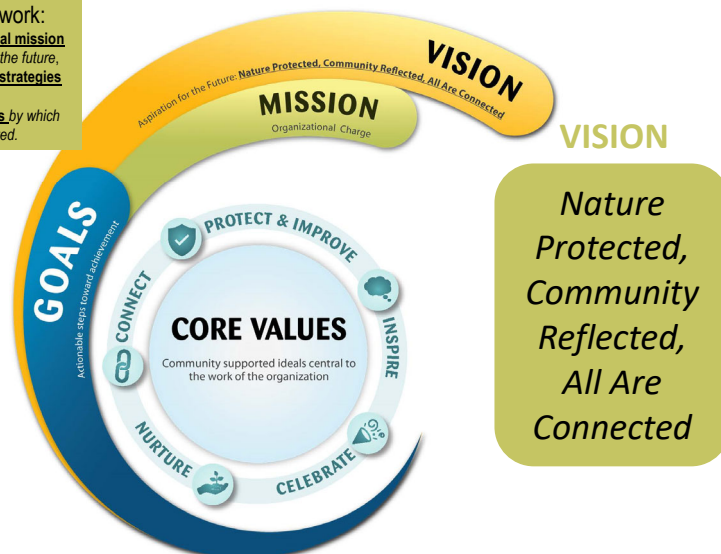
Spring - Summer 2025:
Final Plan and Approvals

3

Vision Framework



The Vision Framework:
Supports the organizational mission by expressing a vision for the future, formulating the goals and strategies to achieve it, and articulating the core values by which the mission will be conducted.



4

Goals

Goal A
Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.

Goal B
Cultivate belonging by engaging and serving the community, with an emphasis on those who are under-represented in the outdoors.

Goal C
Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.

Goal D
Create dynamic spaces with unique and memorable experiences.

Goal E
Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.

Goal F
Offer opportunities to improve physical, mental, and spiritual health.

Goal G
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Goal H
Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreational assets.

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Goal J
Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.

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Elevate cultural richness through arts, historic preservation, interpretation, and storytelling within the park system.

Goal L
Seek and sustain values-based and mission-driven partnerships.

Goal M
Care for the system through sustainable and innovative funding.

Goal N
Invest in a thriving parks workforce that represents the communities served.

Goal O
Support local and sustainable economic development.

GOALS

5

Public Review Process

April 22-May 20

- Community Open House
- Online review and questionnaire
- Pop-up events
- Stakeholder Meetings and Advisory Committee Meetings

Over 400 people were reached at in-person events, and 66 online survey responses were submitted.

6

Public Review



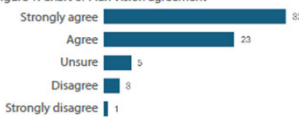
Key Themes

- Be good stewards of the land
- Keep parks natural
- Focus on amenities
- Build for all ages
- Expand and maintain trails
- Take care of what we have

86% of online survey respondents strongly agree or agree with the plan vision.

"Do you feel that this vision and the supporting values will serve to improve the quality of life in Dakota County?" 64 respondents via the online survey

Figure 1: Chart of Plan Vision agreement



7

Public Review



Five highest priority goals:

- J. Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.
- A. Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.
- E. Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.
- H. Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreational assets.
- C. Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.

8

Public Review Findings and Residential Survey Alignment



- A. Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.
 - Residents ranked County Parks and recreation and Trail and Bikeway systems in the top three services provided by Dakota County.
- H. Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreational assets.
 - 22% of residents report that they don't visit Dakota County parks or greenways more often because "Locations are inconvenient" and "Not easy to get there by bus, bike, or walking".
- J. Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.
 - 81% of residents support investment in "Protecting and improving natural areas".
 - 81% of residents support investment in "Protecting and improving wildlife habitat".
 - 88% of residents support investment in "Protecting and improving water quality".

9

Public Review Findings and Residential Survey Alignment



- C. Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.
 - Dakota County's "Outdoor recreational opportunities" are rated "Much higher" in comparison to the benchmark.
 - Residents rating of feeling safe "While using Dakota County parks, trails and greenways" was at it lowest since 2004 (rated 75 out of 100 in 2025).
- E. Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.
 - 70% of residents consider "Increasing public access for outdoor recreation" very important or essential.

10

Plan Changes



- Accessibility content updated
- Greenway maps updated
- Clarification of strategies
- Updates, corrections, and omissions
- Community suggestions will be considered as tactics in the operational plan updates

11

Questions and Discussion



12

Requested Action



The Dakota County Board of Commissioners
adopt the 2050 Parks, Greenways and Natural
Systems Vision Plan.



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4627

Agenda #: 5.2

Meeting Date: 7/22/2025

DEPARTMENT: Parks

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

Approval Of Schematic Design For Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Site Improvement Project

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the schematic design for Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (MRPR) Site Improvement Project, County Project #2000236.

SUMMARY

The Parks 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes a project to design and construct site developments to make MRPR a better place to serve the adjacent communities. By Resolution No. 24-091 (February 27, 2024), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized the MRPR Master Plan, which outlines the site improvement plans.

Following the five-year plan from the MRPR Master Plan, this project will complete improvements, including at the Cannon River and Trout Brook Valley. The scope includes: a new gravel entry road and turnaround with parking, a kayak launch, a trout brook touch point, and fishing platforms; restoring the existing picnic area; upgrading the existing trail accessibility; creating new trails; providing running water; and replacing the footbridge over Trout Brook. In addition to these improvements, interpretation elements will be provided.

By Resolution No. 24-545 (November 12, 2024), the Board approved the selection of HKGi to provide professional design services. Starting in December 2024, staff worked with HKGi to develop schematic design (Attachment: Presentation Slides). Staff reviewed the initial concept with Tribal Partners virtually on February 6, 2025. A public open house was held in person on February 6, 2025, and project materials were published online for public comments (Attachment: Public Engagement). Public and private stakeholder workshops were held in person on February 7, 2025.

The site is located on wetland and in a floodplain. Multiple permits are required from both Dakota County and Goodhue County. Due to the complexity of design, the Board approved a contract amendment with HKGi, by Resolution No. 25-242 (May 20, 2025). A wetland delineation was conducted in May 2025. Current design addresses the restriction imposed by the wetland boundary.

Based on the preliminary design, cost estimating was conducted in February 2025. Staff worked on strategies to lower the cost, including simplifying the stormwater treatment, reducing road shoulder, and not upgrading existing restrooms. Based on updated cost estimation in June 2025, the construction cost has come down from those in February and is well within the Project Budget.

Staff will continue consulting Tribal Partners, carrying out onsite archaeology work, and obtaining related permits for construction of the MRPR site Improvement Project. Advertisement for competitive bids is scheduled for bid opening in the spring of 2026. Construction will begin in the early summer of 2026 and is planned to be complete in the winter of 2026-2027.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the County Board approve the schematic design as presented at the July 22, 2025, Physical Development Committee of the Whole.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The Parks 2024 CIP includes a budget of \$1,704,889 for site improvement and vegetation restoration in MRPR. Additionally, staff recommends adding \$1,200,000 of Parks and Trails Legacy Funds, available to the project in the summer of 2025, to the 2024 budget. This creates a new overall Project Budget of \$2,904,889. Formal commitment of these additional funds will be presented in an upcoming budgeting Board action. With this addition, funding for construction of MRPR site improvements as presented in the schematic design will be fully funded.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-444 (September 26, 2023), the 2024 Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Adopted Budget includes a project to design and construct site developments making Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (MRPR) a better place to serve the adjacent communities; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-091 (February 27, 2024), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized the MRPR Master Plan, which outlines the site improvement plans; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-545 (November 12, 2024), the Board approved to select HKGi to provide professional design services; and

WHEREAS, since December 2024, staff have worked with HKGi to progress the design and related review process; and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the initial concept with tribal partners virtually on February 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a public open house was held in person on February 6, 2025, and project materials were published online for public comments; and

WHEREAS, public and private stakeholder workshops were held in person on February 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 25-242 (May 20, 2025), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners authorized to amend the contract with HKGi for unforeseen complexity of the site; and

WHEREAS, schematic design was developed, incorporating the result of wetland delineation; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the County Board approve the schematic design for the MRPR Site Improvement project as presented by County staff on July 22, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the schematic design for the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Site Improvement project as presented at the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on July 22, 2025.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

24-091; 2/27/24

24-545; 11/12/24

25-242; 5/20/25

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Public Engagement

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

- ☐ Thriving People ☐ A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
☐ A Successful Place for Business and Jobs ☒ Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Niki Geisler

Author: Yao Xiao

Thank you for coming!

First and Last Name

Email

Phone

Dan Reine
Jennifer Ziemer
Barbara Flynn
Jeff Reed
Scott Roepke
Ross Nelson
~~Bill Boord~~
Tom Murphy
John Schumacher
Red Bank S
Harry & Jean Hoofs
James Sieh - email pictures/plans
Bob Richardson
Mike Richardson
Mike Slawik
Bob McGy

Comment Card

Ideas or Concerns?

Write them down and leave this card in the comment card box before you go!

Put a parking lot on the north end
of the park off Miesville Trail.



Dakota
forever wild
PARKS

Comment Card

41

Shawn Klamr

Ideas or Concerns?

Write them down and leave this card in the comment card box before you go!

It would be nice if you would open the park up for horseback riding from May 1st thru dusk on October 31st. For the concerns about erosion, you could do like they do in the IA parks. All trails closed for a 48 hrs after rain or more if needed. Could also be an extra income by charging \$7/day pass or \$35 for a season pass. There are many of us who are looking for places to ride close to home without having to haul an hour away. Thank-you. Parking could be on the North side of the park.

Dakota
forever wild
PARKS

Comment Card

Ideas or Concerns?

Write them down and leave this card in the comment card box before you go!

Curious to know if a bridge spanning the Cannon River is being discussed. A bridge was discussed several years ago. A bridge would connect several areas of recreation - State Land and the Cannon Valley Trail.

Scott Roepke - Trail Manager
Cannon Valley Trail



Dakota
forever wild
PARKS



Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Site Improvement Schematic Design Review

Jerome Biedny, Capital Projects Management
Yao Xiao, Senior Project Manager

Physical Development Committee Meeting
July 22, 2025

1

Overview

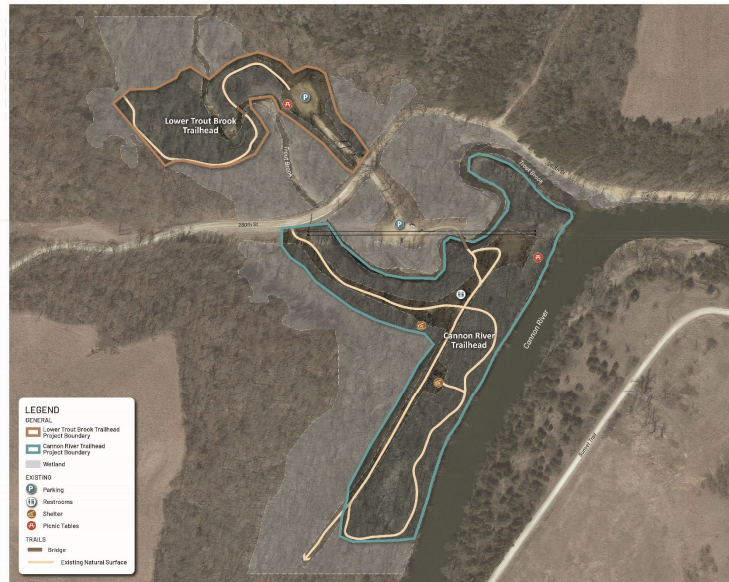


- Background
- Design
- Schedule
- Budget
- Approval
- Questions

2

Background

Dakota
COUNTY



3

Design- Overall Site Plan

Dakota
COUNTY



4



5



6

Design- Cannon River Trailhead

Dakota
COUNTY



7

Design- Lower Trout Brook Trailhead

Dakota
COUNTY



8

Design- Lower Trout Brook Trailhead




9

Schedule



Archaeological Work	Aug 2025
Design Development	Sep 2025
Construction Docs	Feb 2026
Bidding and Award	Mar to May 2026
Construction	Jun '26 to May '27
Occupancy	Jun 2027

10

Budget		
Natural Resource costs:	\$ 190,000	
Construction costs:	\$1,900,000	
Project soft costs:	<u>\$ 814,889</u>	
Total Project Costs:	\$2,904,889	
2025 Parks & Trails Legacy Funds	\$1,704,889	
2026 Parks & Trails Legacy Funds	<u>\$1,200,000</u>	
Total Project Funding:	\$2,904,889	

11

Requested Actions	
<p>Approve the schematic design for the</p> <p>Miesville Ravine Park Reserve</p> <p>Site Improvement Project</p>	

12

Questions



Questions?



Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4673

Agenda #: 5.3

Meeting Date: 7/22/2025

DEPARTMENT: Parks

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

Approval Of Right Of Way Acquisition And Authorization To Initiate Quick-Take Condemnation For Trail Easement For Veterans Memorial Greenway In City of Eagan, County Project P00147

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve right of way acquisition and authorize quick-take condemnation for County Project (CP) P00147.

SUMMARY

Dakota County is proceeding with Veterans Memorial Greenway County Project P00147 to construct approximately two miles of shared-use regional trail, including a bridge over Trunk Highway 3, with construction planned for 2025. Phase II of this project is being funded in part through federal funds, which require timely acquisition of right of way easements for authorization of project bidding.

County Project P00147 requires the acquisition of permanent regional trail easements and temporary construction easements over private property to accommodate trail construction and associated grading, restoration, and retaining wall construction. The Dakota County Board of Commissioners previously authorized acquisition through direct negotiation for four parcels by Resolution No. 24-594 (December 3, 2024). Easement acquisitions from the Cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights for trail construction and maintenance on city property were also necessary.

Since that time, updated survey and final design have modified the easement areas, and negotiations with property owners have continued. Easement acquisitions on city parcels have been successfully concluded. Acquisition of easements from Parcel 6 (Church of St. Thomas Becket) have also been successfully negotiated and concluded. Further offers and negotiations have not resulted in settlements for easements on Parcels 3, 4, and 5. These three parcels are the last remaining acquisition needs for the project to move forward. Therefore, to maintain the project schedule and comply with federal funding timelines, it is necessary to proceed with acquisition by initiating quick-take condemnation.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of right of way acquisition and authorization of condemnation for the right of way necessary for CP P00147.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

Acquisition costs are included in the approved 2025 Parks Capital Improvement Program and will be funded through Acquisition Opportunity Funds (AOF) and AOF matching funds. If AOF funds are not available, Environmental Legacy Funds (ELF) will be used. Fiscal details will be discussed in closed session as part of the real estate negotiation strategy.

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dakota County is proceeding with County Project P00147, the Veterans Memorial Greenway, to construct approximately two miles of regional trail, including a bridge over Trunk Highway 3 in the City of Eagan; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County is the lead agency for design, construction administration, and right of way acquisition for the Project; and

WHEREAS, construction is proposed to begin in 2025 and the project is being partially funded with federal funds, which require timely acquisition of right of way for authorization of project bidding; and

WHEREAS, the County Board previously authorized acquisition of right of way for Parcels 3, 4, and 5 through direct negotiation by Resolution No. 24-594 (December 3, 2024); and

WHEREAS, negotiations have not resulted in acquisition agreements for Parcels 3, 4, and 5; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the project schedule and comply with funding requirements, Dakota County must proceed with quick-take condemnation to acquire the required easements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Attorney's Office to initiate quick-take condemnation of the following parcels:

20-58500-04-070 - Jacquelynne and Scott Baker - Parcel 3

A permanent easement for greenway purposes over, under, and across the north 60.27 feet of Lot 16, Block 1, Lakeside Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, Dakota County, Minnesota.

Said greenway easement contains approximately 6,026 square feet.

10-44300-01-170 - Robert Snyder - Parcel 4

A temporary easement for greenway purposes over, under, and across the south 15.00 feet of the north 75.27 feet of Lot 17, Block 1, Lakeside Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, Dakota County, Minnesota.

A permanent easement for greenway purposes over, under, and across the north 60.27 feet of Lot 17, Block 1, Lakeside Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, Dakota County, Minnesota.

Said temporary easement contains approximately 1,506 square feet.

Said greenway easement contains approximately 6,054 square feet.

10-44300-01-180 - Nicole Medin - Parcel 5

A temporary easement for greenway purposes over, under, and across the south 15.00 feet of the north 75.27 feet of Lot 18, Block 1, Lakeside Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, Dakota County, Minnesota.

A permanent easement for greenway purposes over, under, and across the north 60.27 feet of Lot 18, Block 1, Lakeside Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, Dakota County, Minnesota.

Said temporary easement contains approximately 1,501 square feet.

Said greenway easement contains approximately 6,023 square feet.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

20-430; 9/1/20

22-376; 9/6/22

22-567; 12/13/22

24-594; 12/3/24

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Project Location Map

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

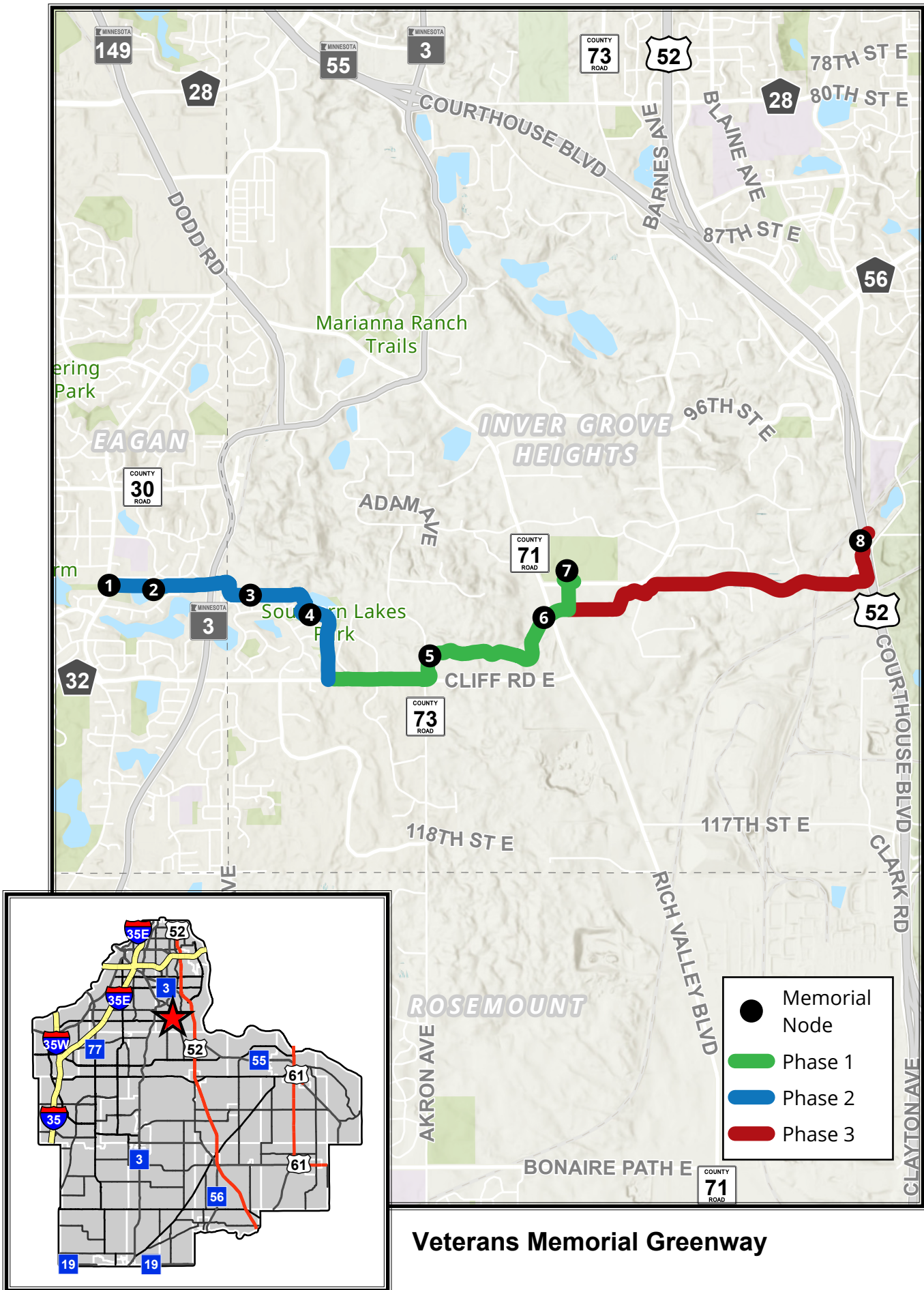
- ☐ Thriving People ☒ A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
☐ A Successful Place for Business and Jobs ☐ Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Niki Geisler

Author: Bryce LeBrun

Attachment: Project Location Map





Veterans Memorial Greenway Phase II Right of Way

Physical Development Committee

July 22, 2025

Eddie Buell, Real Estate Supervisor

Tony Wotzka, County Greenways Manager

1

Presentation Outline



- Veterans Memorial Greenway Overview
- Phase II – Agreements and Easements
- Discussion and Questions



Request: Approval Of Right Of Way Acquisition And Authorization To Initiate Quick-Take Condemnation For Trail Easement For Veterans Memorial Greenway In City of Egan, County Project P00147

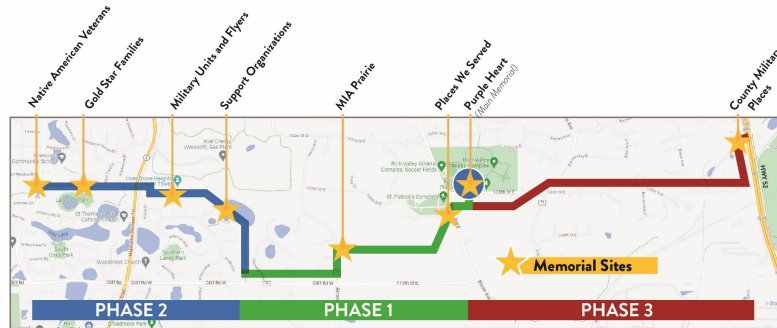


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Project Overview



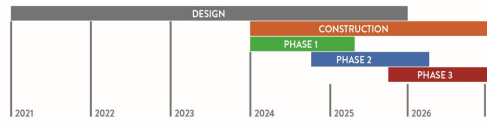
Veterans Memorial Greenway



Phased construction

Veterans Memorial Greenway construction will take place in three phases with a planned completion in late 2026 or 2027. Tentative construction estimates are:

- Phase 1 (central) — 2024-2025
- Phase 2 (west) — 2024-2025/2026
- Phase 3 (east) — 2025-2026/2027



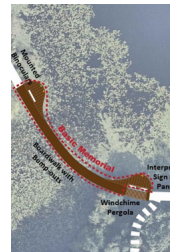
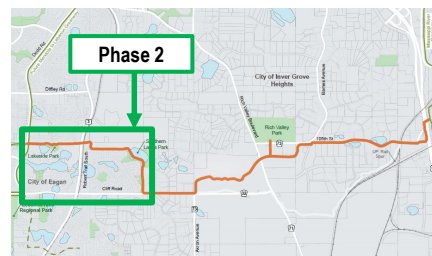
For more information about Veterans Memorial Greenway, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search **veterans greenway**

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Phase 2 Overview



- Final Design Nearly Complete with construction proposed in 2025
- Includes four Memorial Nodes
 1. Native American Veterans
 2. Gold Star Families
 3. Military Units and Flyers
 4. Support Organizations
- Includes a Highway 3 grade-separated bridge
- Trail improvements in Lakeside Park (Eagan) and Southern Lakes Park (IGH) and IGH city property with transmission lines.



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Phase II – Easements & Agreements



- Regional Trail Easement
- Construction Agreement or Permit

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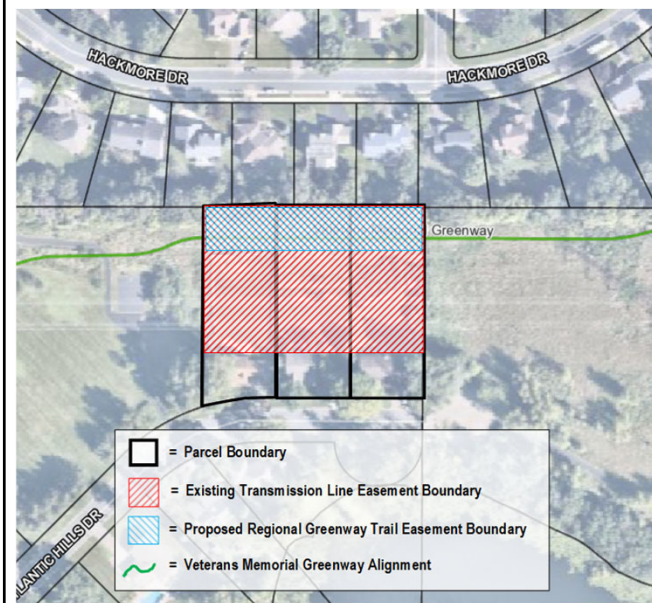
Phase II – Negotiations



- Orange: properties/easements acquired from private landowners
- Blue: properties acquired via agreement
- Red: properties that remain unsettled

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Phase II – Negotiations



This map depicts the existing 200-foot-wide Xcel Energy transmission line easement that runs through the backyard of the subject properties (shown in red hashmarks)

The proposed 60-foot-wide greenway trail easement (shown in blue hashmarks) is located entirely within the existing Xcel Energy easement

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Phase II – Negotiations



Summary of VMG Trail Easement Negotiations

Parcel	3	4	5
Parcel number	10-44300-01-160	10-44300-01-170	10-44300-01-180
Owner	Jacquelynn and Scott Baker	Robert Snyder	Nicole and Chris Medin
Perm Easement (sq-ft)	6026	6054	6023
Temp Easement (sq-ft)	0	1506	1501
Appraised Value total	\$24,000	\$25,850	\$24,850
First Offer	\$24,000	\$25,850	\$24,850
Property Owners 1st Counteroffer	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Owner Concerns	Screening & security	Screening & security	Screening & security
Screening cost	Part of Project Cost	Part of Project Cost	Part of Project Cost
Security cost	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Second Offer	\$34,000	\$35,850	\$34,850
Property Owners 2nd Counteroffer	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

After directly addressing property owners' concerns with our 2nd offer, the owners remain firm that \$100,000 is their price, despite the lack of justification for such a value

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Project Budget Summary



Budget & Funding Source Summary	Budget Amounts	Expiration or Obligation Dates
*External & Internal Funds		
• ML2020 State Bonding	\$5,000,000	12/31/2027 Grant Expiration
• Federal Directed	\$4,950,000	9/30/2026 Funds Expire
• ML2023 State Bonding	\$5,000,000	12/31/2027 Grant Expiration
• Federal Directed Highway 3 Bridge	\$1,000,000	9/30/2026 Funds Expire
• MN Department of Admin – Tunnel Mural	\$20,000	6/30/2026 Funds Expire
• Previously Approved County Funds (ELF, Park, Rail)	\$13,400,000	
Total External & Internal Funds	\$29,370,000	
Trail Construction Costs		Construction Costs
• Phase I – Trail & Tunnel		\$3,345,699
• Phase II – Trail and Bridge Highway 3 <i>Estimate</i>		\$7,000,000
• Phase III – Trail and Bridge/Tunnel US 52 <i>Estimate</i>		\$9,500,000
Total Trail Construction Estimate		\$19,845,699

* Applications and awards for external funding includes trail construction, bridges, underpasses and Memorial Nodes (enhanced)

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Request



Approval Of Right Of Way Acquisition And Authorization To Initiate Quick-Take Condemnation For Trail Easement For Veterans Memorial Greenway In City of Eagan, County Project P00147

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Physical Development Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4624

Agenda #: 8.1

Meeting Date: 7/22/2025

Adjournment