



2050 Vision Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems

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Overview



1. Findings
2. 2050 Vision Framework
3. Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems
4. Implementation
5. Requested Action
6. Questions/Discussion

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

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Key Findings from Analysis and Community Feedback

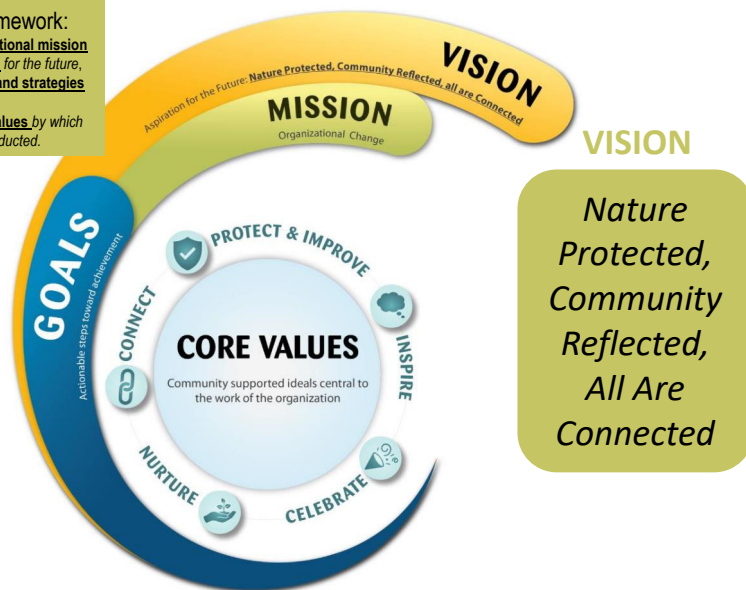


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Vision Framework



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.



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Vision Plan 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.
- To **Protect & Improve**... natural spaces, ensuring a resilient and healthy environment for future generations.
- To **Inspire**... wellbeing, wonder, adventure, and learning through engaging and inclusive outdoor
- To **Nurture**... and heal the vital relationship between people and nature.
- To **Celebrate**... our vibrant and richly diverse communities.

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Vision Framework



GOALS

Goal 1

Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.

Goal 2

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

Goal 3

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

Goal 4

Create dynamic spaces with unique and memorable experiences.

Goal 5

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

Goal 6

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

Goal 7

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

Goal 8

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

Goal 9

Lead and support on ecological stewardship and climate resilience.

Goal 10

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

Goal 11

Seek values-based and mission-driven partnerships.

Goal 12

Care for the system through sustainable and innovative funding.

Goal 13

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

Goal 14

Support local and sustainable economic development.

Goal 15

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

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System Wide Guidance

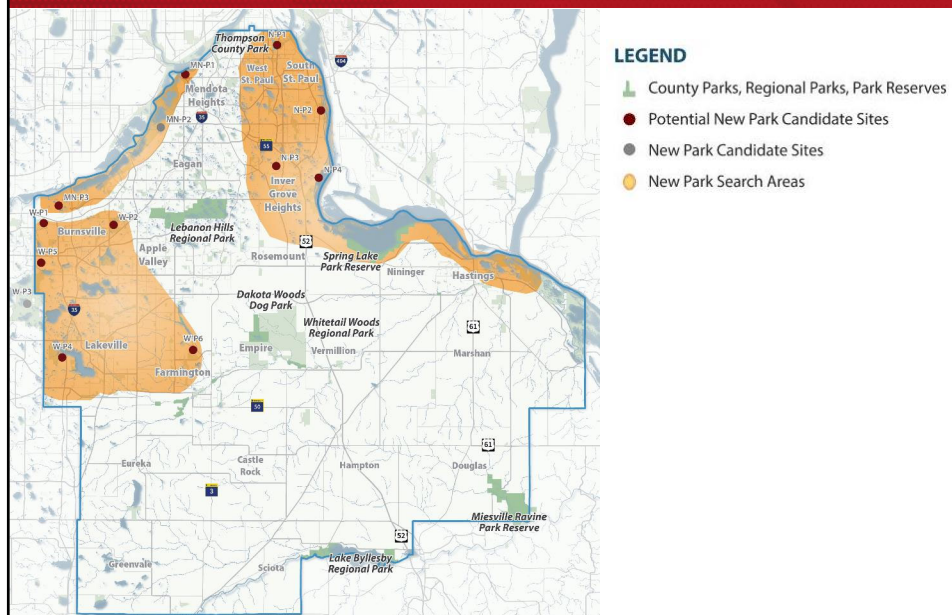


Chapter 3 contains system-wide approaches for

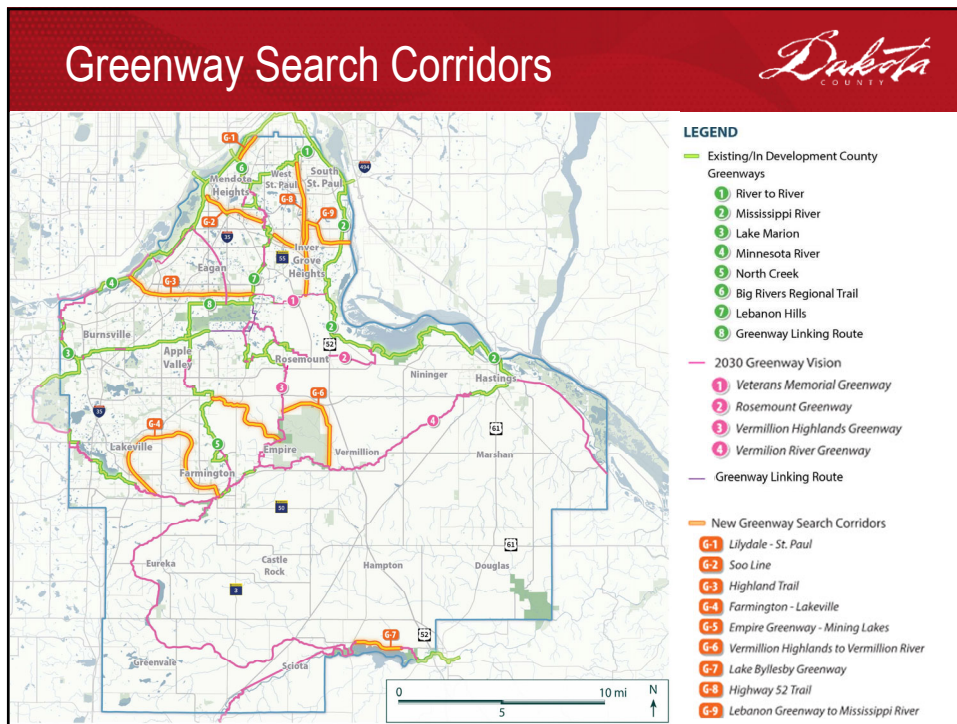
- Park Classification
- Core Services and Amenities
- Signature Facilities
- Accessibility
- Conservation Focus Areas
- Park Search Areas
- Greenway Search Corridors
- Expansion of Greenway Collaborative New: nature base recreation, community trail connections

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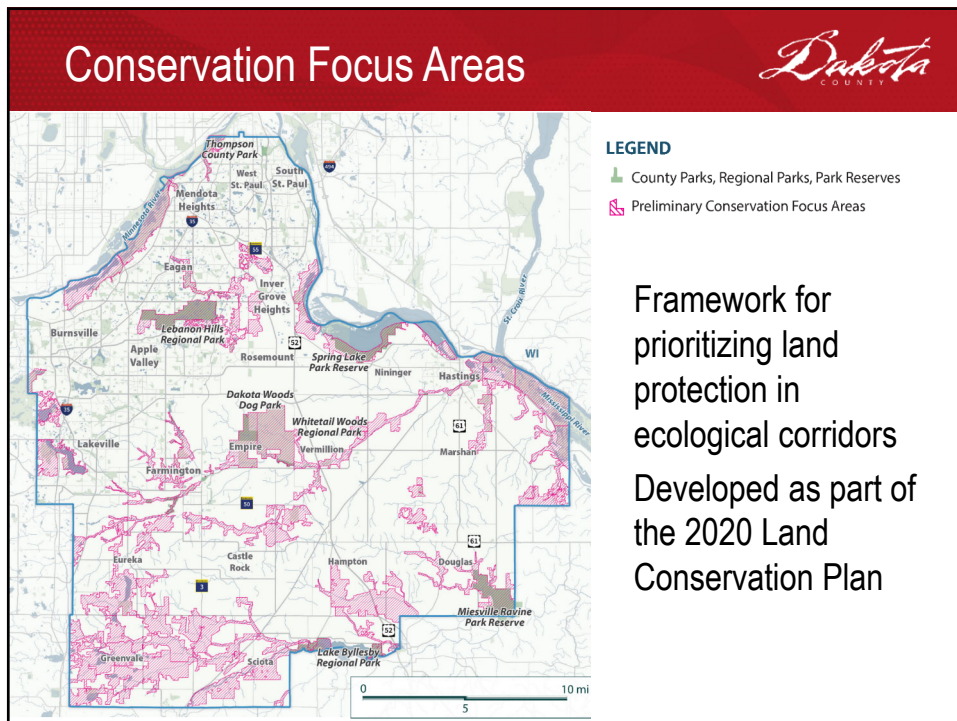
Park Search Areas



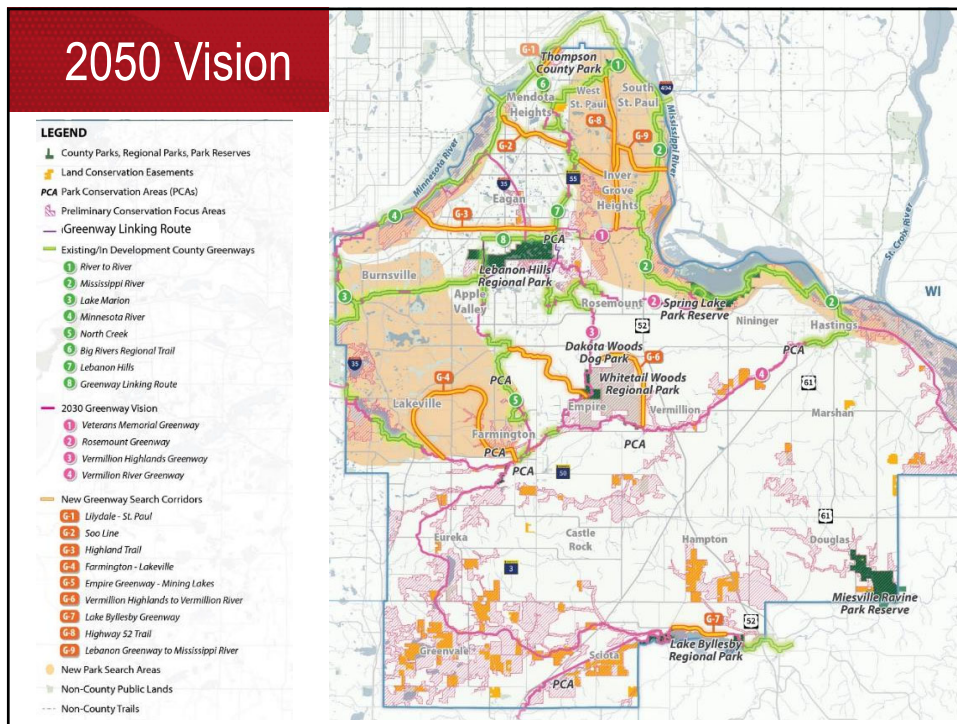
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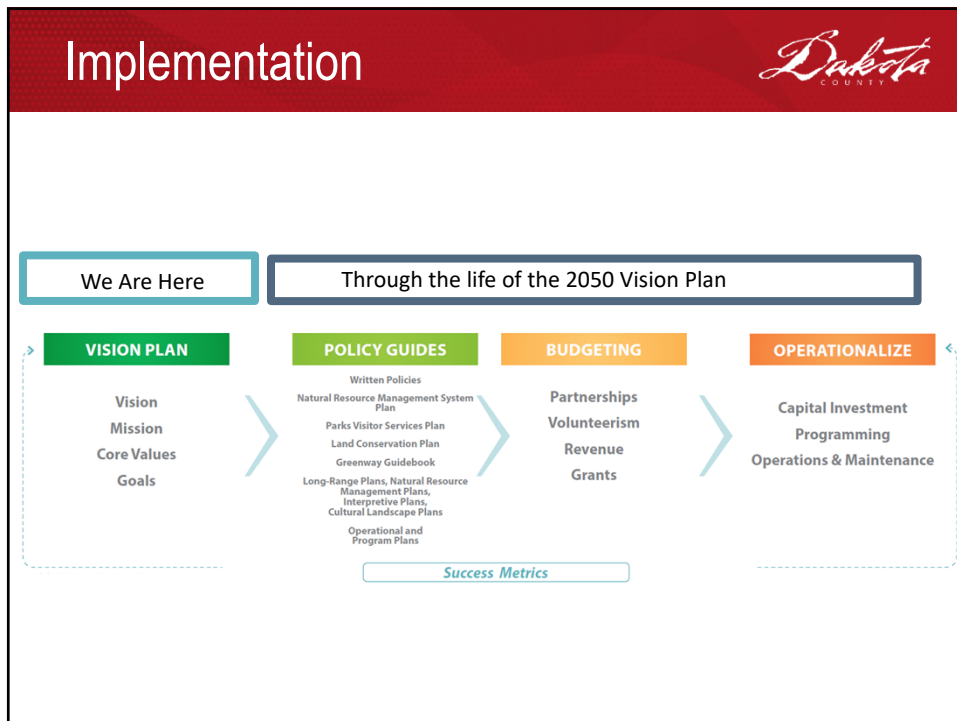
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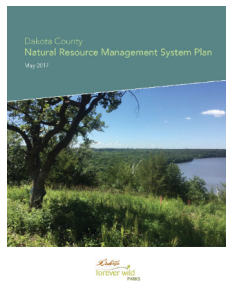


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Next Steps - Update Operational Plans



- Natural Resources Management System Plan (NRMSP)
 - Land Conservation Plan (integrate into NRMSP)
- Visitor Services Plan
- Greenway Guidebook



Land Conservation Plan
for Dakota County

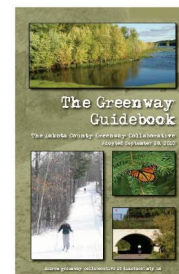


Adopted on November 17, 2020



Dakota County Parks
Visitor Services Plan

Revised October 15, 2021



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Next Steps – Sustainable Funding



Tools to explore:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Regional funding | • Partnerships |
| • County levy | • Revenue generating activities |
| • Grant programs | • Creation of a Special Park District |
| • Bond measures | |
| • Philanthropic donations | |
| • Rental and permit fees | |

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Next Steps – Operations & Staffing



- Develop a Capital Replacement Program
- Develop a strategy to add operations staff along with system growth
- Develop staffing model with less dependence on seasonal staff for year-round operations
- Evaluate benefits of organizational structural changes that would improve park operations

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Next Steps – Parks and Greenways



- Continue to implement the 200-mile greenway vision
- Incorporate new search areas into Met Council Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Develop long-range plans for greenway search areas
- Prepare land acquisition plan/partnership plan for new parks
- Develop long-range and natural resource management plans for County Park Conservation Areas
- Prepare phase two ADA transition plan (park outdoor facilities)

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Next Steps – Indigenous Partnership



- Establish consultation protocols and collaborative processes
- Conduct Traditional Cultural Places surveys
- Develop protection and management plans for Indigenous sites
- Apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) that stewards healthy water and land
- Consider using Met Council's Cultural Landscape designation within the parks system

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Requested Action



Recommendation to release the Draft 2050 Vision Plan for Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems for public review.

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Questions and Discussion



Next Steps

- April 22- May 20: Public review
- June: Planning Commission – Final Plan
- July: PDC – Final Plan

Thank you!