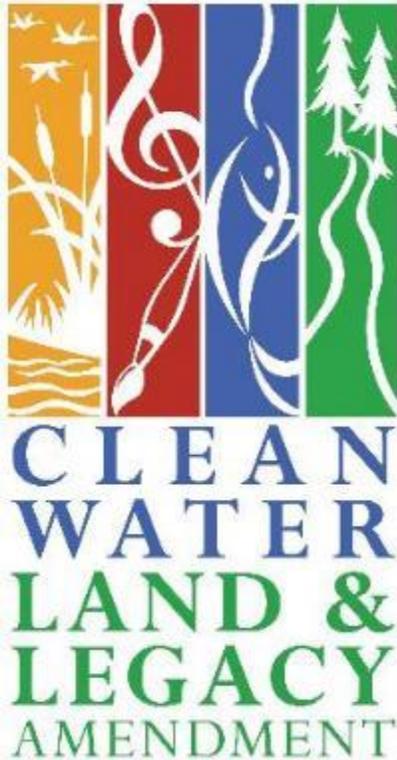


Parks and Trails Legacy Partner Agency Update

House Legacy Finance Committee • March 6, 2024



**Greater Minnesota Regional
Parks and Trails Commission**



**Metropolitan Council
Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails**



**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Trails Division**

Minnesota 25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan



VISION: In 2035, our world-class parks and trails connect everyone to the outdoors.

Minnesota 25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

PILLARS: Strategic Priorities for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund...



Connect People and the Outdoors



Acquire Land, Create Opportunities



Take Care of What We Have



Coordinate Among Partners



METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director
Community Development Division

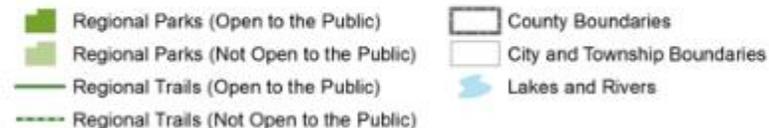
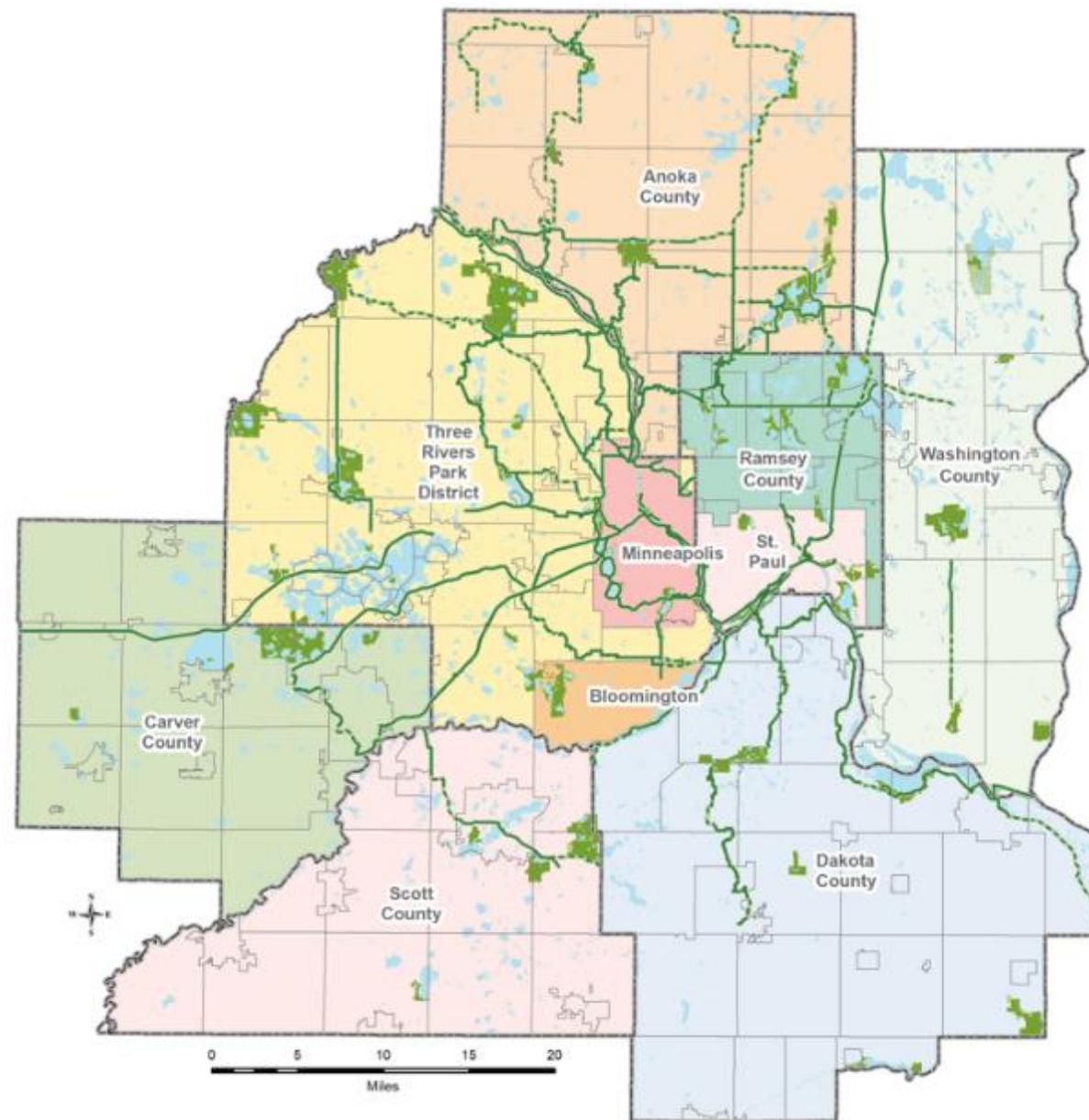
March 2024



Collaboration and cooperation

10 Regional Parks Implementing Agencies

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Washington County
- Bloomington
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- Saint Paul
- Three Rivers Park District



Regional park system



NATURE-BASED SYSTEM PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT GREENSPACE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT



8 SPECIAL RECREATION FEATURES (LIKE COMO PARK ZOO & CONSERVATORY AND GALE WOODS FARM)



56 REGIONAL PARKS AND PARK RESERVES



OVER 415 MILES OF INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL TRAILS



65 MILLION VISITS IN 2021



54,500 ACRES OF LAND

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Cross Country Ski World Cup – Theodore Wirth Regional Park

- **Share Winter Foundation** provided generous support to make it a free event.
- **Minneapolis Park Board** has eliminated all program fees for people living with lower incomes.



Credit: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Theodore Wirth Regional Park

Parks and Trails Legacy
Funding at work

Credit: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



Ramsey County



Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area

- Snowmaking on the east side of our Metropolitan Region!
- Expanding opportunities to prioritized communities.

Carver County

Paradise Commons at Lake Waconia Regional Park

- Paradise Commons Visitor Center Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening, February 2024



Dakota County



Outreach Programs

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding at work

- Expanding opportunities to prioritized communities including a wide range of fun, outdoor programming.
- Many programs include Spanish language options to try new outdoor activities
- All events are free and open to the public. Equipment is offered at no charge.

Three Rivers Park District

Systemwide Vision: Every person can connect with nature every day.

- Committed to removing barriers for all communities.
- Recreation Pass Plus program: free equipment rentals and free programs



City of Saint Paul



Outdoors Program

- Program centers Black, Indigenous and People of Color in the Twin Cities to recreational activities.
- Free programs and equipment help teach fun recreational opportunities – to help participants learn to do the activity on their own.
- Program provides equipment such as snowpants for skiing and snowboarding at Mount Como.
- Current efforts to expand programming through volunteer program that will train BIPOC folks to become outdoor leaders.



mn MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund: DNR Overview

Laura Preus | Division of Parks and Trails

Minnesota State Parks and Trails System

State Parks and Recreation Areas

- 75 State Parks and Recreation Areas
- Nearly 5,000 camping and lodging units
- 240,000 acres of land managed, including critical habitat for the state's threatened/endangered species and cultural resources of statewide significance.

State and Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Trails

- 25 state trails
- 1,500 miles of developed state trails
2,700 are designated
- 24,600 miles of Grant-in-aid trails

State Forest Recreation Areas

- 43 state forest campgrounds
- 12 state forest horse campgrounds
- 29 forest day-use areas

Water Recreation

- 35 state water trails
- 1,700 public water accesses
- 360 fishing piers



Minnesota State Parks and Trails

FY24-25 DNR Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Spending Plan

Connect People to the Outdoors

Outcome: Everyone invited and welcomed to build skills and experience outdoor recreation in Minnesota.

Acquire Land, Create Opportunities

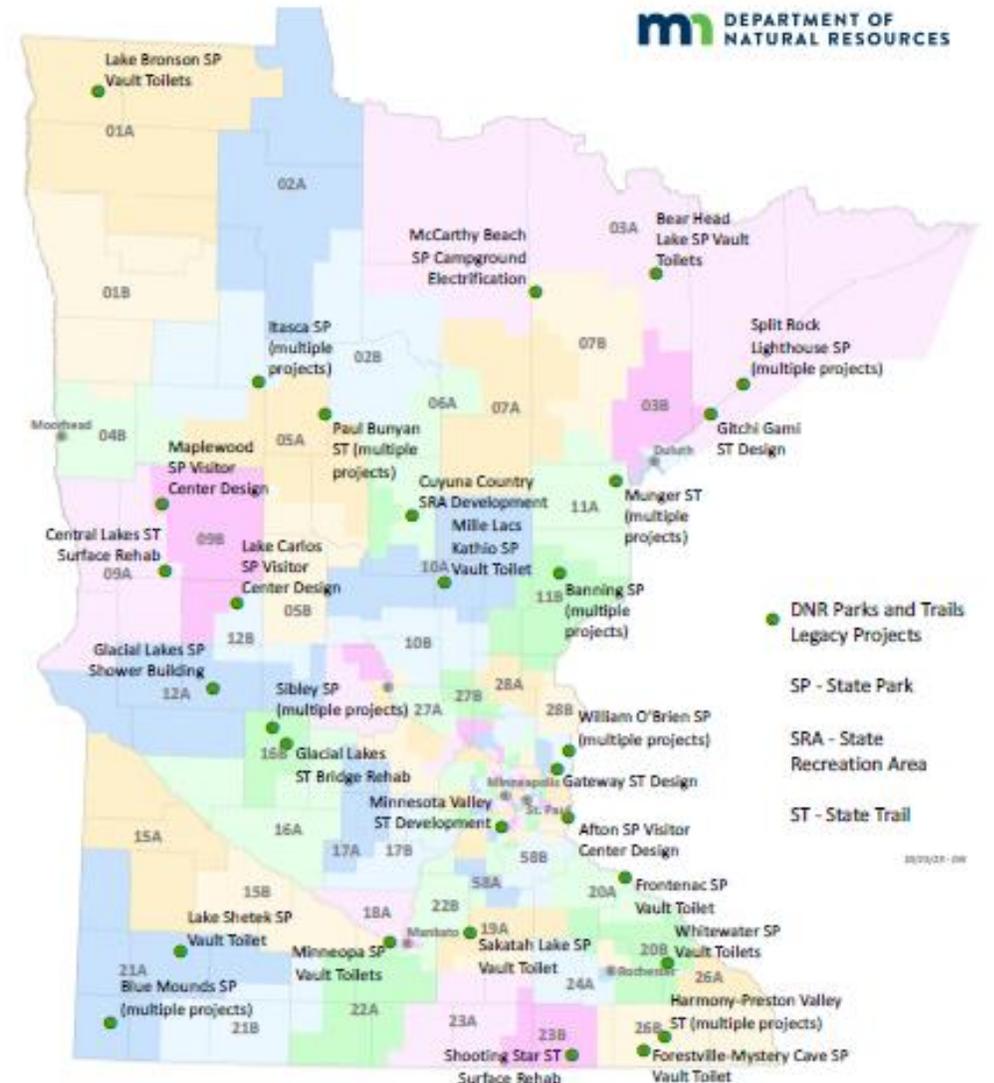
Outcome: New and expanded park and trail opportunities serve current users and create outdoor recreation opportunities for new and future users.

Take Care of What We Have

Outcome: Parks and trails meet current needs and provide high-quality recreation opportunities for a variety of users with diverse interests, needs and abilities.

Coordinate with Partners

Outcome: Parks and trails of state and regional significance welcome all Minnesotans to a seamless and integrated network of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Minnesota



Minnesota State Parks and Trails Connect People and the Outdoors

I Can!... Programs



Minnesota State Parks and Trails Connect People and the Outdoors

Library Pass Program



Junior Ranger Program



Minnesota State Parks and Trails Take Care of What We Have

Gateway State Trail Westminster Street Bridge replacement was completed in October 2023. The bridge, built in 1919, had an 11-foot, 6-inch clearance above Westminster Street which created safety hazards.



Minnesota State Parks and Trails Take Care of What We Have

Maplewood State Park Shower Building



New Shower Building has capacity to serve not only campground visitors, but also the projected increased bicyclist traffic projected with the future connection of a bike trail to the park.

Fort Ridgely Restroom/Shower Building



New accessible shower building features LED lighting and occupancy sensors for energy efficiency.

Minnesota State Parks and Trails Take Care of What We Have

Tettegouche State Park



Tettegouche State Park camp buildings were constructed between 1911-1925. While many different renovations have occurred over the last century, it had been several decades since a major rehabilitation project was conducted on these buildings.

Minnesota State Parks and Trails Acquire Land, Create Opportunities

Casey Jones State Trail



The upgrade and improvement of the final 2.3-mile segment of the **Casey Jones State Trail** between Pipestone and Woodstock was completed in November 2023.



Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Renee Mattson
Executive Director



About the Commission and its Facilities

6 Districts across 80-Counties

13 Commissioners Appointed by the Governor
2 in each District and 1 At-Large

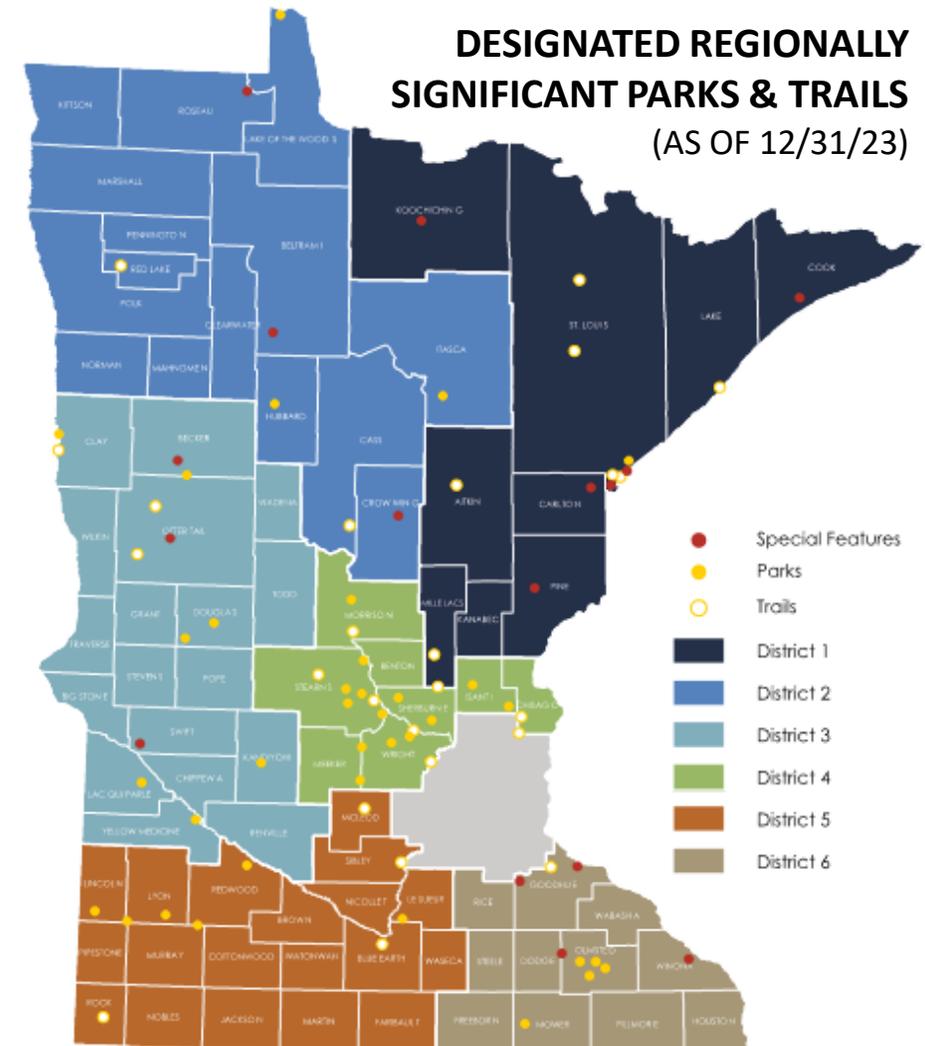
77 Facilities

35 Natural Resource Based Parks

26 Regional Trails

16 Special Features

19 Designation Eligible Facilities



2023 Projects Report



Connecting People with the Outdoors grants enabled three designated facilities to purchase track wheelchairs. The chairs are available to be borrowed for “testing” at other facilities across the Greater Minnesota system and the plan is to earmark an amount of CPO funds for more track wheelchair grants.

Garvin Park new Track Wheelchair

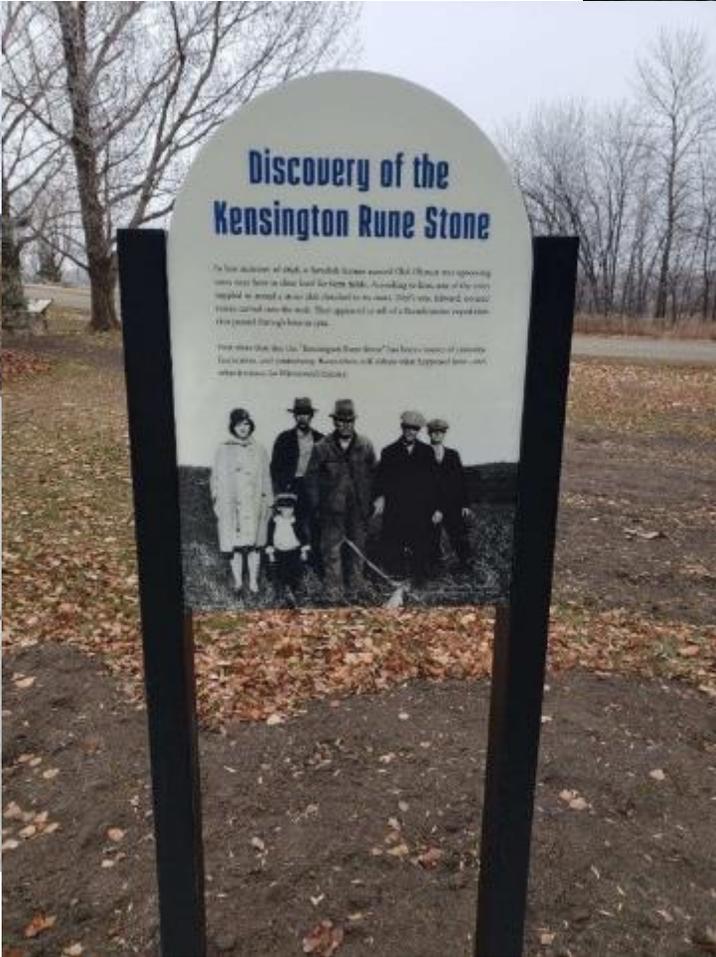
Sandstone Robinson Quarry Park District 1



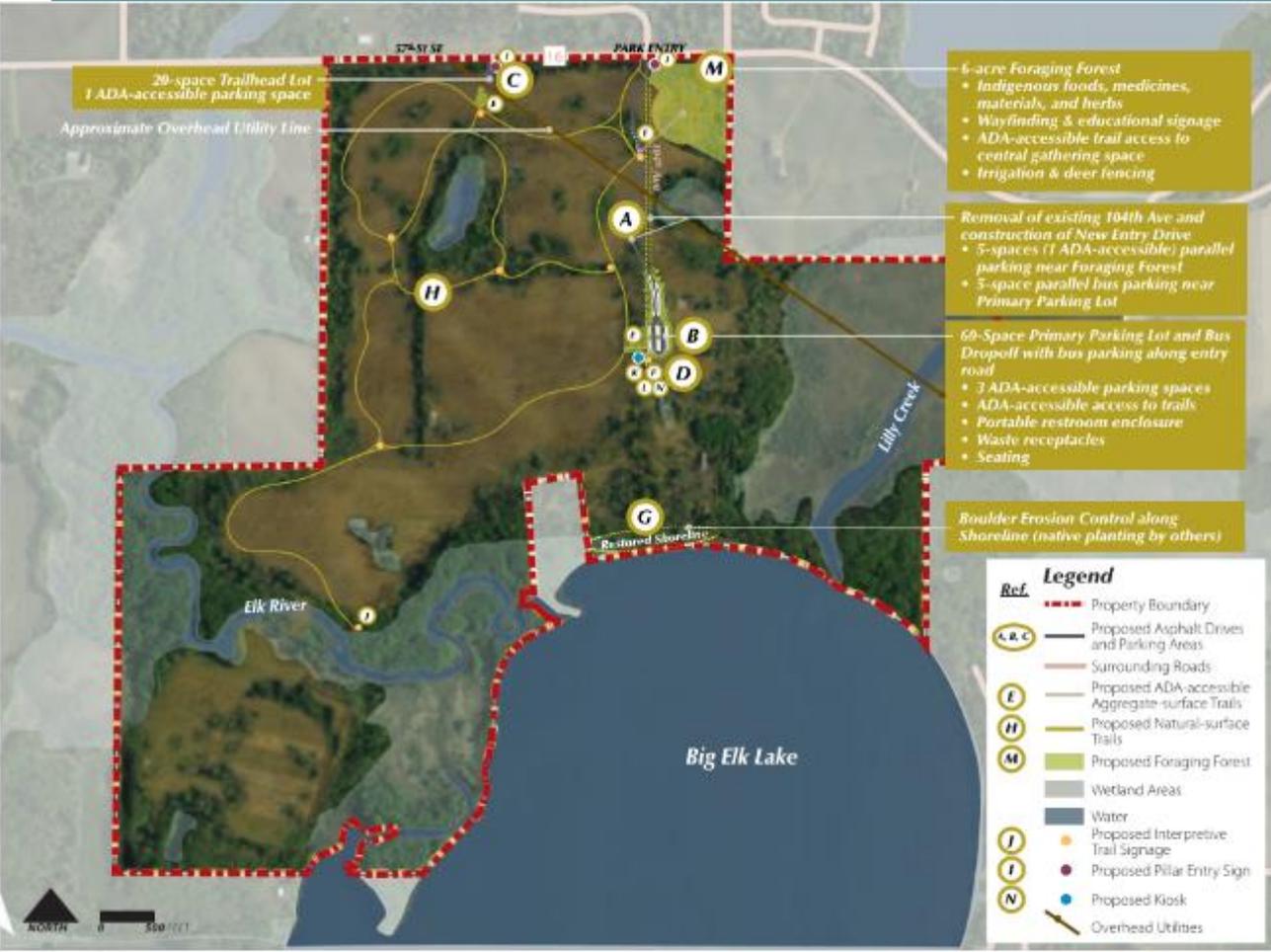
Gull Lake Trail – Nisswa, Lake City and Fairview Township District 2



Douglas County Kensington Rune Stone Park District 3



Sherburne County Two Inlets at Bde Hehaka-Omashkooz Zaaga'igaans Regional Park District 4



Park Map: Proposed Phase 1 Park Development at Bdé Heháká - Omashkooz Zaaga'igaans Regional Park



Luverne Loop & Blue Mounds Trail District 5



Rochester Cascade Lake Park District 6





Mountain Bike Trail Development
Guidelines for Successfully Managing the Process



Thank You



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**