

REGIONAL PARKS & FORESTRY MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS CENTER

Project Overview

The current Parks & Forestry Operations Center is adjacent to the riverfront and Mayo Field, a baseball field that is home to the Rochester Honkers, a Northwoods League team. It is outdated and inadequate to provide efficient service for the City and region. The parks and forestry maintenance operations center provides service to the three state-designated regional parks in the city of Rochester (Cascade Lake Regional Park, Quarry Hill Regional Park, and Gamehaven Regional Park). The equipment and services provided by the Rochester Parks and Recreation Department team services 80 acres of trails owned by Olmsted County, mutual aid agreements with nearby communities, partnerships with neighboring cities on regional recreation and parks, and regional approaches to hazardous materials management. Rochester is a regional center in SE MN, with over 20,000 visitors daily, hosting the state's largest employer, and over 2 million visitors each year—many of which utilize the city's parks and trails and benefit from forestry services.

This project would provide updated, accessible, centralized space for parks and forestry services that serves regional parks system. There is operational efficiency to be gained by moving to existing Public Works and Transit Operations Center facilities with similar infrastructure in place for vehicle storage and maintenance (i.e. gas/diesel/EV charging infrastructure; maintenance apparatus). Repositioning out of the existing facility provides opportunities for a redevelopment site at riverfront and next to Mayo Field along with water quality improvements.

Project Funding Details

\$17.5 million (50% of project cost)

Background

The current parks and forestry operations center does not have adequate space for the full time and seasonal employees that operate from the facility. The current facility has only one entrance/exit that is shared with the baseball field and visitor parking to access maintenance vehicles. Limited options currently exist for injury-prevention exercises and there is only one locker room, which is also located as the main thoroughfare into the garage bays.

