

# DAKOTA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Dakota County Western Service Center – Room L139

14955 Galaxie Avenue

Apple Valley, MN 55124

Thursday, August 25, 2022

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

---

## Agenda

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Public Comments:**

Anyone wishing to address the Planning Commission on an item, not on the agenda may address the Planning Commission at this time (comments are limited to 5 minutes).

**IV. Approval of the Agenda**

**V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (June 23, 2022)**

**VI. Recommend Approval of North Creek Greenway Natural Resources Management Plan – Action** (Chris Klatt - Parks)

**VII. Review Process for Updating Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Master Plan** (Lil Leatham – Planning Office)

**VIII. Planning Manager Update and County Board Actions at Physical Development Committee**

- Authorized agreement with Apple Valley to purchase a portion of Magellan property for North Creek Greenway
- Authorized acquisition of conservation easement on Bauer property adjacent to Spring Lake Park Reserve

**IX. Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach**

Meeting	Details
County Road 50 and Flagstaff Intersection Improvement Open House	Tuesday, September 27, 4:30pm-6:30pm Farmington City Council Chambers
County Road 60 (185 <sup>th</sup> St.) Preliminary Design Open House	Tuesday, September 13, 4:30pm-6:30pm Lakeville Water Treatment Facility <a href="https://185thstimprovements.com">https://185thstimprovements.com</a>

**X. Topics for Next Meeting** (Thursday, September 22, 2022)

- Review Updated Draft Parks Ordinance

**XI. Planning Commissioner Announcements/Updates**

**XII. Adjourn**



# Meeting Minutes: Dakota County Planning Commission Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 06/23/2022

Minutes prepared by: Liz Hansen

Location: Western Service Center, Conference Room L139

## Attendance

### Members Present

- Amy Hunting
- Tony Nelson
- Jerry Rich
- Jill Smith
- John Ross
- Nate Reitz
- James Guttman
- Dennis Peine

### Staff Present

- Kurt Chatfield
- Liz Hansen
- Valerie Neppel
- Chris Klatt
- Tom Lewanski

### Others Present

- Ashley Gallagher, Soil and Water Conservation District

## Meeting Called to Order

- Time: 7:00 p.m.
- Due to Chair Oxley's absence, Vice-Chair Amy Hunting leads the meeting.
- By: Chair Hunting

## Audience items not on the agenda

- Comments/Notes: No one was present in the audience.

## Approval of Agenda

- Amendment to the Agenda by the removal of item VII "Recommend approval of North Creek Greenway Natural Resources Management Plan" from the agenda (action on the North Creek Greenway NRMP was

postponed in order to make a presentation to and receive comments from the Apple Park and Recreation Committee scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022).

- Motion by: Commissioner Smith
- Second: Commissioner Nelson
- Vote: Unanimously approved.

## **Approval of Minutes (from May 26, 2022)**

- Amendment to the approval of the Minutes, pg. 5 change of sentence “The chair did not call for a first and second motion” to “The chair sought unanimous consent to adjourn”
- Motion by: Commissioner Neitz
- Second: Commissioner Nelson
- Vote: unanimously approved.

## **Item #1 Recommend approval of Lake Marion Greenway Natural Resources Management Plan – Action**

Chris Klatt, Natural Resource Specialist, presented this item and responded to questions. Tom Lewanski, Natural Resources Manager, was also present.

Comments/Notes:

Questions and comments by Commissioners along with responses from staff (*italics*):

The Planning Commission reviewed and discussed the amendments to the draft Lake Marion Greenway Natural Resource Management Plan. At least one Planning Commissioner had attended the Lakeville Park and Natural Resources Committee presentation and expressed gratitude to staff for presenting at that meeting.

The Planning Commission discussed how water levels have risen on Lake Marion and other lakes along the greenway since the 1937 areal photography. *Staff responded that water levels had risen significantly since that time in part due to urban runoff.*

Several Planning Commission members commented on the thoroughness and quality of the plan and thanked staff for their work.

## **Item #2 Recommend that the Agricultural Reduction Effort (ACRE) Plan be released for public review – Action**

Valerie Neppl, Groundwater Protection Supervisor, presented this item and responded to questions. Jill Trescott, Senior Environmental Specialist, and Ashley Gallagher from the Soil and Water Conservation District were also present and responded to questions.

Comments/Notes:

Questions and comments by Commissioners along with responses from staff (italics):

A Planning Commissioner asked whether the state regulates nitrogen application in agricultural areas similar to the way that phosphorus is regulated in suburban areas. *Staff responded that nitrogen use is not restricted in the same way and that farmers determine how much nitrogen to apply based on a variety of factors such as soil type and time of year. Fall application of nitrogen fertilizer is regulated by the state and is not allowed for much of Dakota County because of the sensitive soils.*

The Planning Commission discussed whether the voluntary strategies in the ACRE plan will work without regulatory strategies. *Staff responded that it is too soon to know how many farmers will follow the voluntary strategies in the plan, but that monitoring efforts should provide a clear picture of whether nitrates and pesticides are being reduced. If voluntary efforts are not effective, the County will have good data from which to decide whether the plan needs to be amended to include regulations.*

A Planning Commissioner asked about the role of WMOs in the development of the draft ACRE Plan. *Staff responded that WMOs have been part of the plan development process. Dakota County worked closely with North Cannon River and the Vermillion River watersheds, both of which consist primarily of agricultural land.*

A Commissioner asked staff to describe whether the economics of the incentives were studied. *Staff responded that for many of the strategies in the plan, Dakota County farmers will be in a better economic position than they are today. In the public outreach efforts, many farmers expressed an interest in multi-generational farming and would like to be able to farm sustainably into the future. Staff stated that cost-share incentives appear to be an important motivator to changing farming practices.*

Planning Commissioners discussed the need to modify this plan after 5-10 years based on the effectiveness of the strategies as informed by the monitoring data. *Staff agreed that both data gathered during the next 5-10 years as well as new agricultural science should be used to periodically update the plan.*

The Planning Commission discussed the benefits of using a single farm where all of the groundwater protection strategies are applied as a “model” from which other farmers could learn. The model farm may require significant monetary incentives to mitigate the financial risks associated with the new strategies. *Staff agreed that a model farm is a good idea and that there may be some opportunities to work with the University of Minnesota at UMORE to test some of the strategies. The SWCD could also recognize and promote land owners in that area using innovative practices.*

A Commissioner expressed that farmers may need hard figures for persuasion based on complex economic models. *Staff responded that there are demonstration projects and nitrate certification programs.*

A Commissioner asked whether nitrate and pesticide contamination is a factor in adjacent counties and if there are impacts on Dakota County. *Staff responded that northern Goodhue County has similar soil and geology and, therefore similar problems. However, because of the direction of groundwater flow, Goodhue County groundwater contamination is not likely to impact Dakota County groundwater. It would make sense to work with Goodhue County and other counties toward common solutions through the Department of Agriculture.*

A commissioner commended staff for the work on this plan.

## **Item #4 New County Commissioner Districts for 2023 – Information**

Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, presented this item and responded to questions.

In response to questions raised at the May Planning Commission meeting, staff provided an overview of how the redistricting of County Commissioner districts would impact the Planning Commission. Staff described that the Planning Commission will serve in its current format through the end of the year. At the first meeting of 2023, the County Commissioners will appoint members to the Planning Commission according to the new districts.

Staff presented the new County Commissioner district boundaries that will go into effect in 2023, and Planning Commissioners were able to locate their homes relative to the new boundaries. Planning Commission members were provided with the following link to review the boundaries via email after the meeting:

<https://dakotacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f2499633bfb542548c21df4917cc229e>

## **Planning Manager Update and County Board Actions at Physical Development Committee**

Kurt Chatfield, Planning Manager, provided the Planning Commission with an update on the following County Board Actions:

Comments/Notes:

- Authorized acquisition of the McMenomy Woods property along the Vermillion Highlands Greenway in Rosemount
- Awarded bid for Thompson Oaks segment (former city golf course) along the River to River Greenway

## **Upcoming Public Meetings – Community Outreach**

- County Road 26 (Lone Oak) Open House Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm-6:30pm Eagan Community Center
- Veterans Memorial Greenway Interpretive Plan Open House, Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm-6:30pm Inver Grove Heights Veterans Community Center
- County Road 11/Burnsville Parkway Roundabout Open House, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 4pm – 6pm (exhibits up until 9pm) Nicollet Plaza, Party on the Plaza, Pop-up tent at Nicollet Commons Park

## **Topics for next meeting (Thursday, June 23, 2022)**

- None at this time – Meeting may be canceled

## **Planning Commissioner Announcements/Updates:**

A Commissioner asked for an update on the Reintroduction of the Bison this fall. *Staff responded that October 2022 is when the bison are scheduled to be introduced to Spring Lake Park. Currently, the fencing has been installed.*

## **Adjourn**

- Motion by: Commissioner Guttman
- Second: Commissioner Reitz
- Vote: unanimously approved.
- Time: 8:40 p.m.

**Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., Dakota County Western Service Center, Apple Valley**

## **DAKOTA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

---

**Date: 08/25/2022**

**AGENDA ITEM:** North Creek Greenway Natural Resource Management Plan

### **PURPOSE**

Provide Planning Commission:

1. A summary overview of the Public Engagement activities suggested comments and changes made to the final Draft of the North Creek Greenway NRMP
2. A Request to recommend adoption of the North Creek Greenway NRMP to the County Board

### **BACKGROUND**

Dakota County Staff seek recommendation for adoption of the North Creek Greenway NRMP. An overview of the public engagement process for the Plan will be discussed, and a summary of changes made to the final Draft of the North Creek Greenway NRMP will be presented.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: [North Creek Greenway Natural Resource Management Plan](#)

### **QUESTIONS**

The following questions are intended to help assist in review of the packet materials.

1. Do you have recommendations for how the County should proceed with public engagement for future Greenway Natural Resource Management Plans?
2. What role could other government agencies (State, County, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Water Management Districts/Organizations) enact in implementing some of the recommendations in this Plan?



# North Creek Greenway Natural Resource Management Plan

Christian Klatt, Natural Resource Specialist  
Parks Department  
Physical Development Division

1

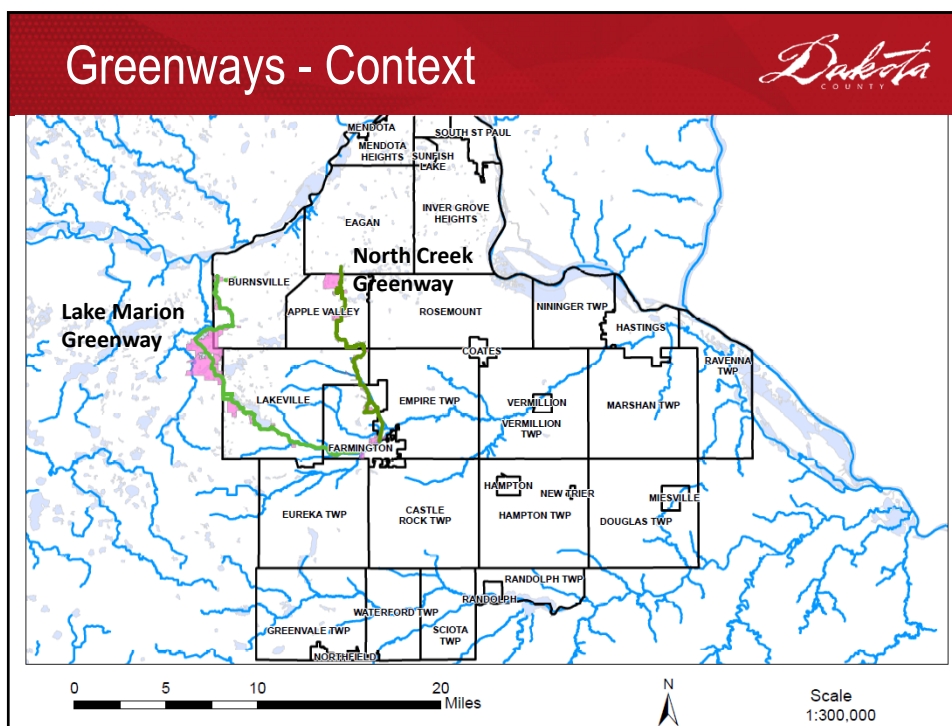
## Overview



- Greenways Context
- Public Engagement
- Requested Actions
- Questions/Comments

2





3

## Summary

- **Red bold** – Updates to Final Draft
- North Creek Greenway 14 miles of trail
  - **1,469 (+6.2)** acres of public lands considered
  - Total of **\$1.3 million (+\$250,000)** in natural resource projects identified

4

## Public Engagement



- Contacted **638** residents adjacent to Greenways via mailings, and two announcements made via social media
- 1<sup>st</sup> Open House – City of Lakeville  
Wednesday, March 23, Heritage Library
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House – City of Apple Valley  
Wednesday, April 13 Western Service Center
- Ten (10) participants at both Open House Meetings

5

## Public Engagement

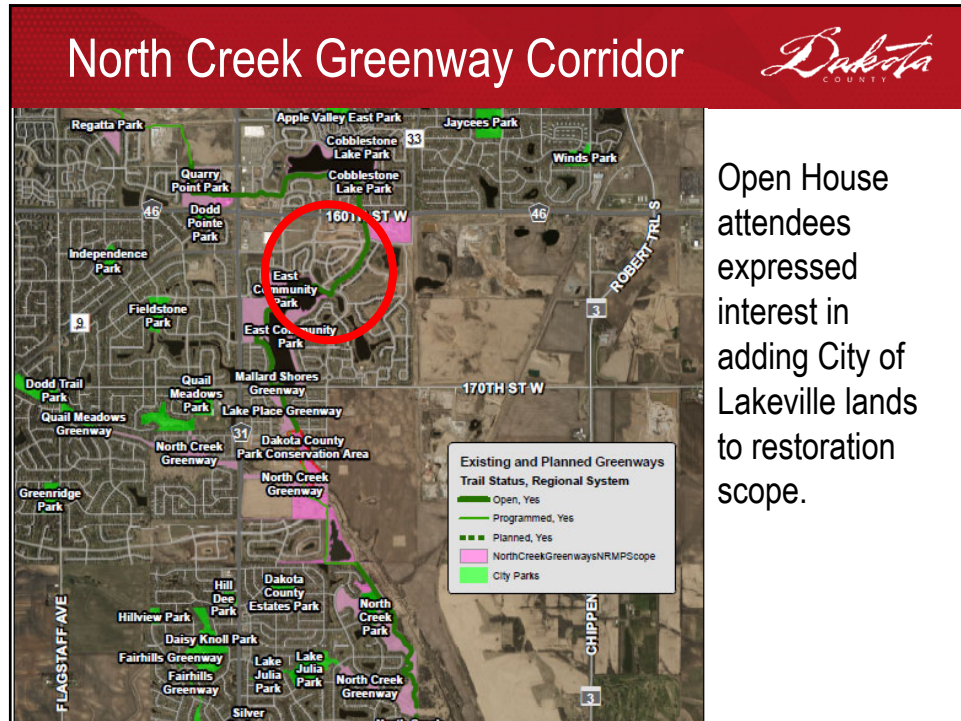


Digital Public Comment Submission was made available on map-based website, but no comments were recorded using this method during the 60-day review period.

Five (5) individuals submitted comments by email, and two (2) phone calls were received.

Municipal Citizen Advisory Committees: August 2022  
- City of Apple Valley Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

6



7



8

## Changes After Public Review



- The inclusion of the City of Lakeville land adjacent to the Brantjen Farms Development will be included for possible future restoration.
- Additional budget and language was added to both NRMPs to include the option of generalized future lawn-to-prairie projects, locations to be determined.

9

## Project Timeline and Engagement



### Project Timeline:

RFP Issued	May 2021
Execution of Contract	July 2021
Project Start	July 2021
Meetings with City Staff and Technical Advisory Group	Aug. – Oct. 2021
Research and Project Inventory	June-Nov. 2021
First Draft Presentation to Planning Commission	Feb 2022
Public Comment Period (60-days)	Apr – May 2022
Public Open Houses for NRMPs	Apr – May 2022
Public Meetings with City – Advisory Councils	Aug 2022
<b><u>Final Draft Presentation to Planning Commission</u></b>	<b><u>Aug 2022</u></b>
Plan Adoption	Sept 2022

10

## Requested Actions



County Staff asks for your recommendation to adopt the final draft of the **North Creek Greenway NRMP**.

11



Questions?

12



## **DAKOTA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

---

**Date: 8/25/2022**

### **AGENDA ITEM: Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Plan**

#### **PURPOSE**

Project Update

#### **BACKGROUND**

Miesville Ravine Park Reserve is 1,707-acres and is in Douglas Township at the confluence of Trout Brook and the Cannon River. The park is one of two Park Reserves within the Dakota County Park system and contains some of the largest and highest-quality plant communities owned and managed by Dakota County.

The 2005 Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Master Plan currently guides park improvements:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/parks/About/ParkMasterPlans/Documents/MiesvilleMasterPlan.pdf>

The Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Master Plan was last updated in 2005. An update is needed to reflect system-wide planning efforts, including the 2008 Park System Plan, the 2017 Visitor Services Plan, and the 2017 Natural Resources Management System Plan.

Hoisington Koegler Group with 106 Group has been hired to prepare the plan update which will occur in 2022-2023. The Planning Commission toured the park last summer and received an update on the Natural Resources Management Plan and Park Plan update last fall.

A Traditional Cultural Properties Survey is currently being conducted by the Upper Sioux Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The project team is currently preparing for the first round of community engagement, scheduled for September – October 2022.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

##### **A. Plan Update Presentation**

#### **QUESTIONS**

The following questions are for discussion and consideration.

1. Given the park's remote location what community engagement techniques do you feel are best suited to this project?
2. Do you have suggestions for existing or potential stakeholders that should be engaged during the planning process?



# Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Master Plan Update

Lil Leatham, Senior Planner  
Office of Planning  
Physical Development Division

1

## Overview



- Project Purpose
- Park Overview and Context
- Schedule Update
- Community Engagement
- Questions/Comments



2

## Project Purpose



### Update 2005 Master Plan

- Long Term and 10 Year Plans
- Interpretive Framework

Meet Met Council  
Requirements for  
Regional Park Reserves

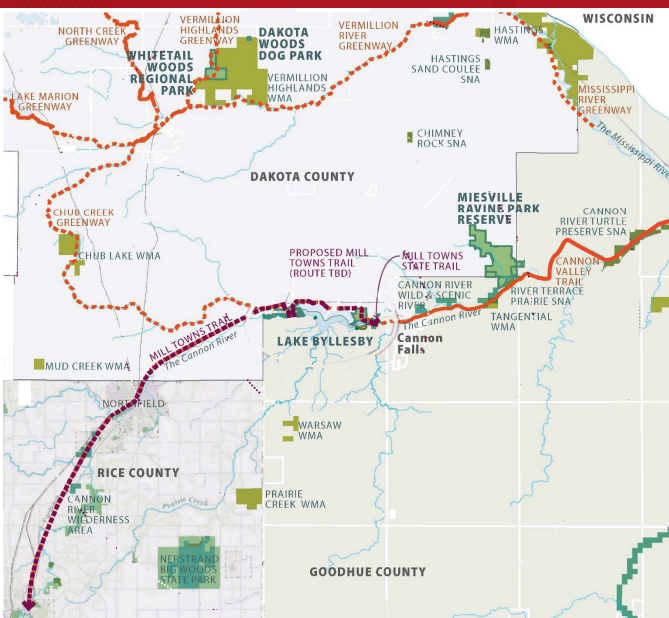


3

## Regional Context

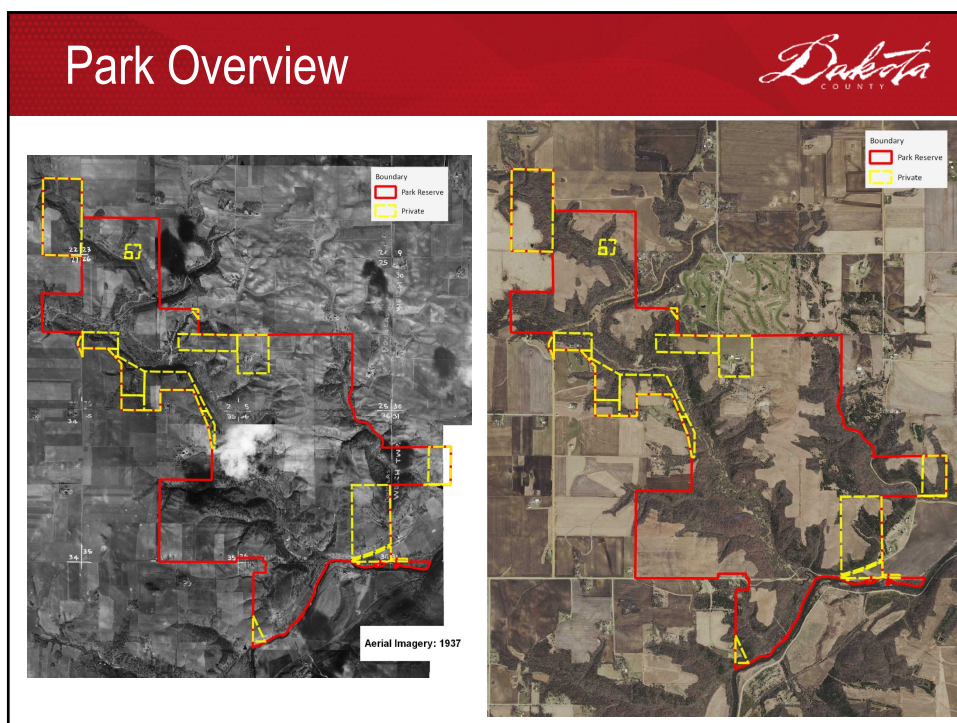


Cannon River  
Valley  
Destination



4





5



6

## Concurrent Studies



### Traditional Cultural Properties Survey

- Upper Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Office
- Field work complete



### Natural Resources Management Plan

- EOR
- 80% complete

7

## Schedule 2022-2023



### 1. Research, Findings and Vision

*August-November 2022*

### 2. Explore Options for Future

*December 2022 – June 2023*

### 3. Plan Development and Draft

*June - October 2023*

### 4. Approvals

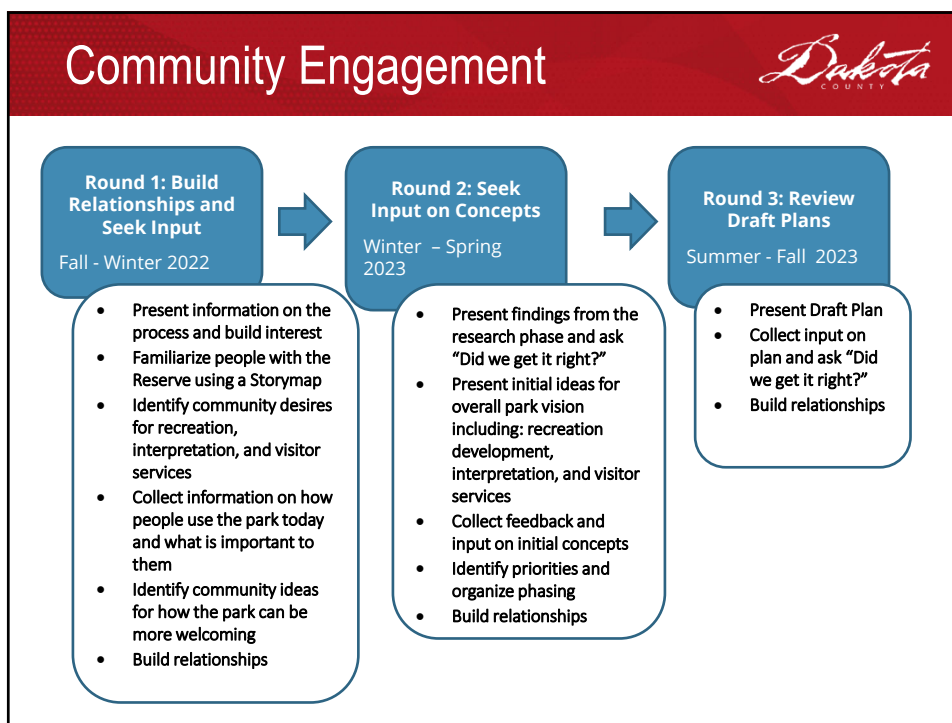
*October - November 2023*

### Submit to Metropolitan Council

*December 2023*



8



9



10



## Stakeholders



- Adjacent landowners
- Xcel Energy
- Cannon Falls and Dakota County Historical Societies
- School District
- North Cannon WMO
- Clean Water Partners
- Audubon and MN Ornithological Society
- Trout Unlimited
- MnDNR
- Cannon River Valley Recreation and Tourism
- Potential Recreation Providers/Partners
- Current Park Visitors
- Potential Park Visitors
- Under Represented Audiences
- General Public

***Other stakeholders that should be engaged?***

11

## Discussion



12