



# 2050 Vision Park, Greenway, and Natural Systems

Lil Leatham, Dakota County Principal Planner  
Niki Geisler, Dakota County Parks Director  
Bruce Chamberlain, Lead Consultant, Tlal-li  
Physical Development Division

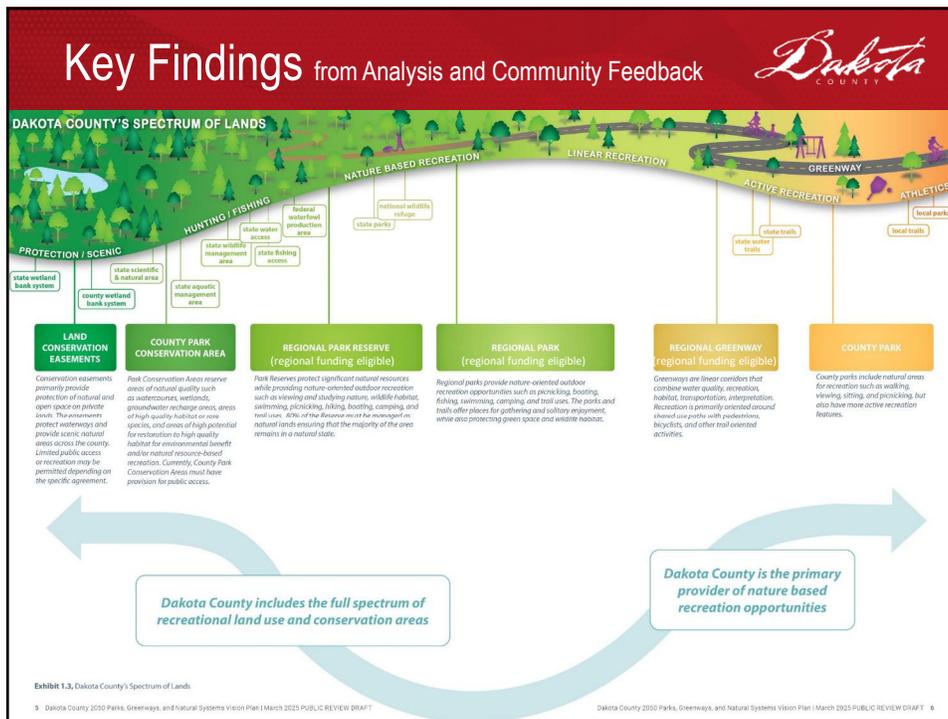
1

## Overview

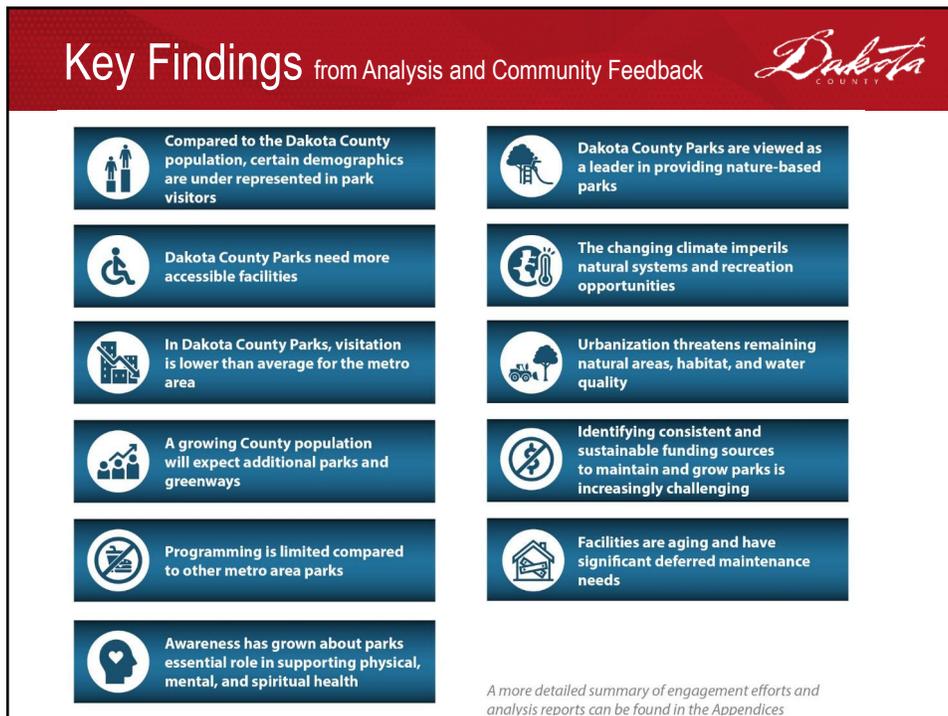


<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Findings</li> <li>2. 2050 Vision Framework</li> <li>3. Park, Greenway, and Natural Systems</li> <li>4. Implementation</li> <li>5. Requested Action</li> <li>6. Questions/Discussion</li> </ol>	<p><b>Process</b></p> <p>Spring – Fall 2024: <i>Research, Community Engagement</i></p> <p>Fall 2024-Winter 2025: <i>Vision Framework and Develop Draft Plan</i></p> <p><b>Spring 2025: Public Review Draft Plan, Community Engagement</b></p> <p>Spring - Summer 2025: <i>Final Plan and Approvals</i></p>
--	--

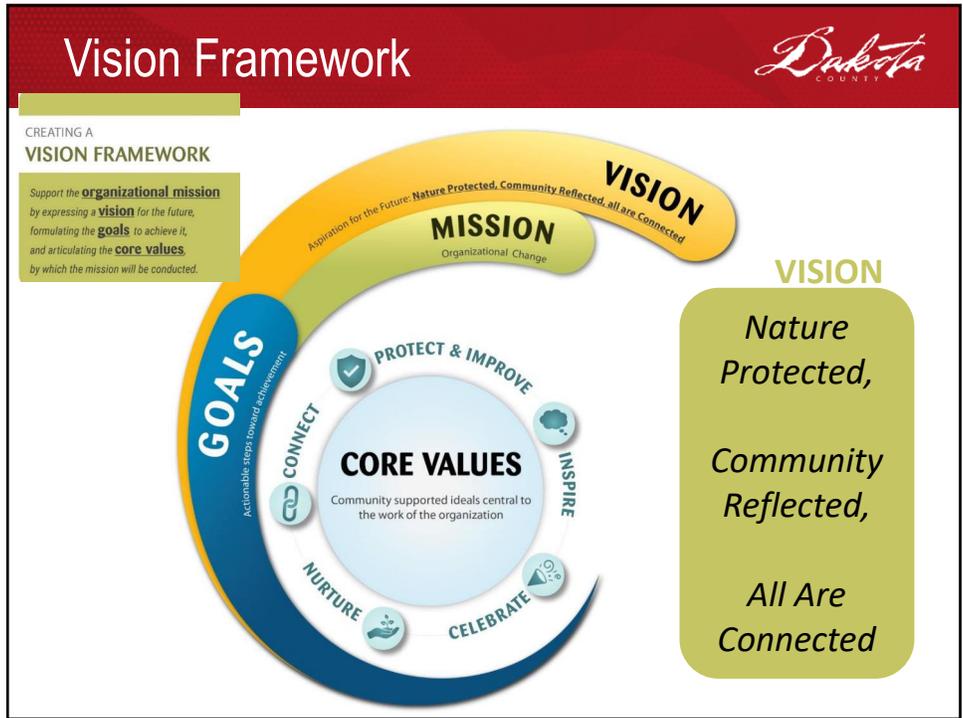
2



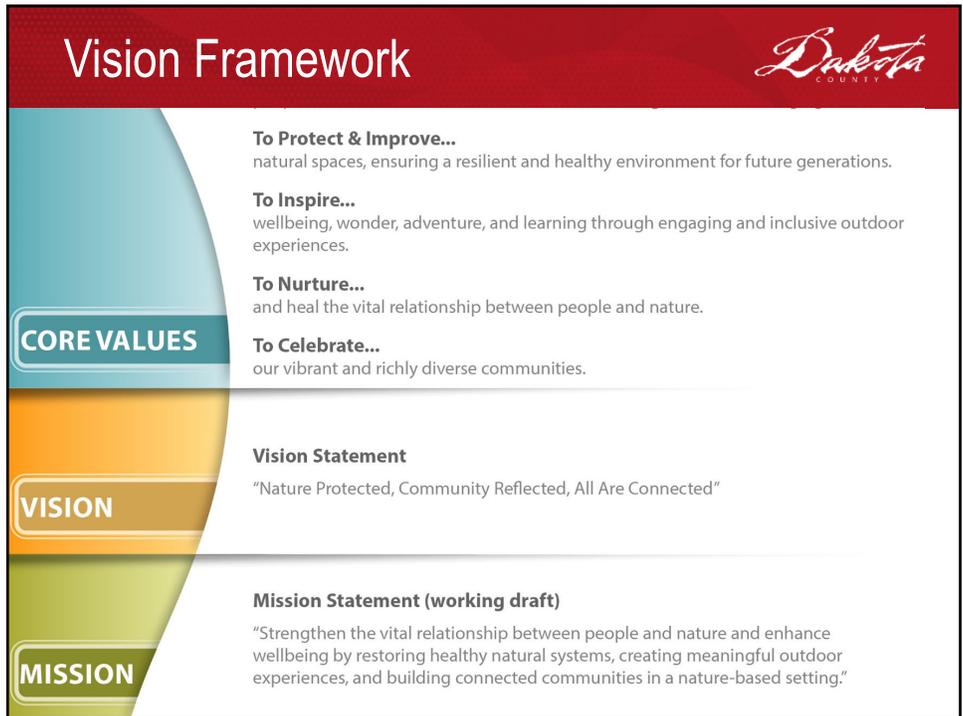
3



4



5



6

# Vision Framework



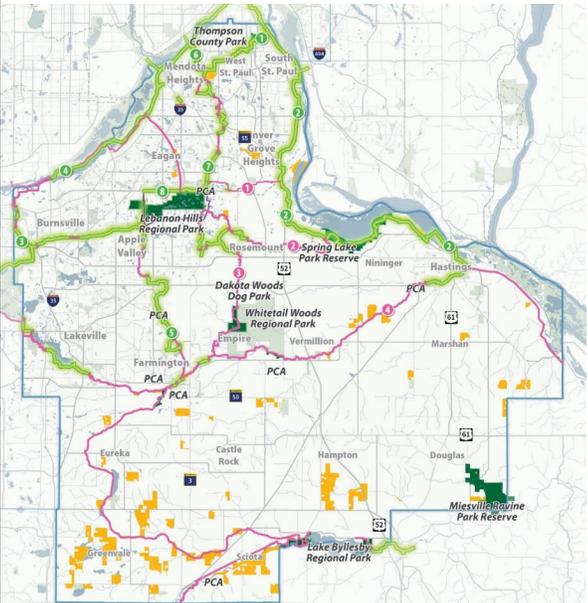
## GOALS

<p><b>Goal 1</b> Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.</p> <p><b>Goal 2</b> Cultivate belonging by engaging and serving the community, with an emphasis on those who are under-represented in the outdoors.</p> <p><b>Goal 3</b> Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.</p> <p><b>Goal 4</b> Create dynamic spaces with unique and memorable experiences.</p> <p><b>Goal 5</b> Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.</p>	<p><b>Goal 6</b> Offer opportunities to improve physical, mental, and spiritual health.</p> <p><b>Goal 7</b> Strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities for the protection of lands and traditions.</p> <p><b>Goal 8</b> Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreational assets.</p> <p><b>Goal 9</b> Lead and support on ecological stewardship and climate resilience.</p> <p><b>Goal 10</b> Elevate cultural richness through arts, historic preservation, interpretation, and storytelling within the park system.</p>	<p><b>Goal 11</b> Seek values-based and mission-driven partnerships.</p> <p><b>Goal 12</b> Care for the system through sustainable and innovative funding.</p> <p><b>Goal 13</b> Invest in a thriving parks workforce that represents the communities served.</p> <p><b>Goal 14</b> Support local and sustainable economic development.</p> <p><b>Goal 15</b> Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.</p>
--	---	--

7

# Current System





**LEGEND**

- Reserves, Regional Parks, and County Park
- PCA** Park Conservation Areas (PCA)
- Conservation Easements
- Non-County Public Lands
- Non-County Trails
- Existing/In Development County 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
- 2030 Greenway Vision
  - 1 Veterans Memorial Greenway
  - 2 Rosemount Greenway
  - 3 Vermillion Highlands Greenway
  - 4 Vermillion River Greenway
- Greenway Ring Route

8

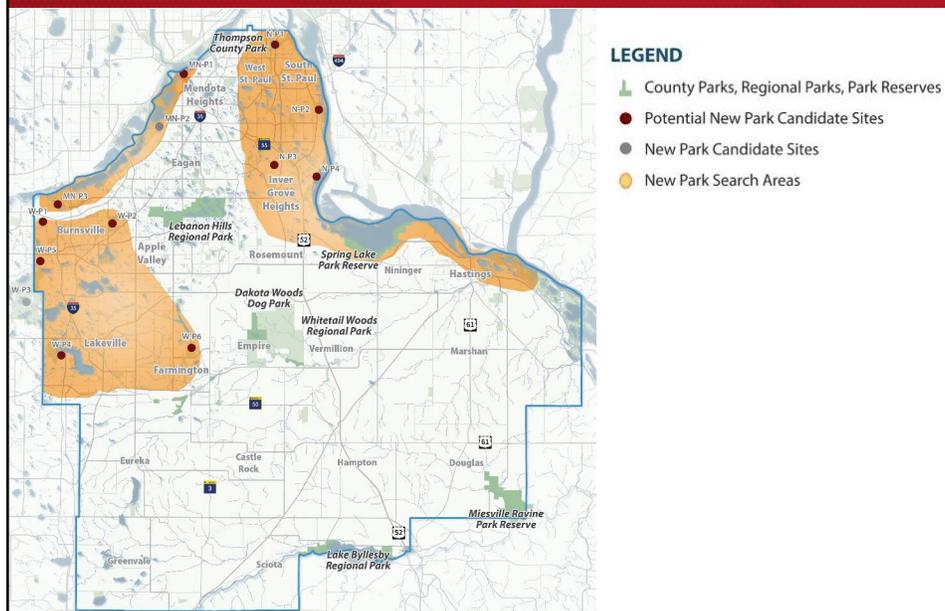
## Park, Greenway, and Natural Systems

Chapter 3 offers guidance on system-wide land conservation and park and greenway development

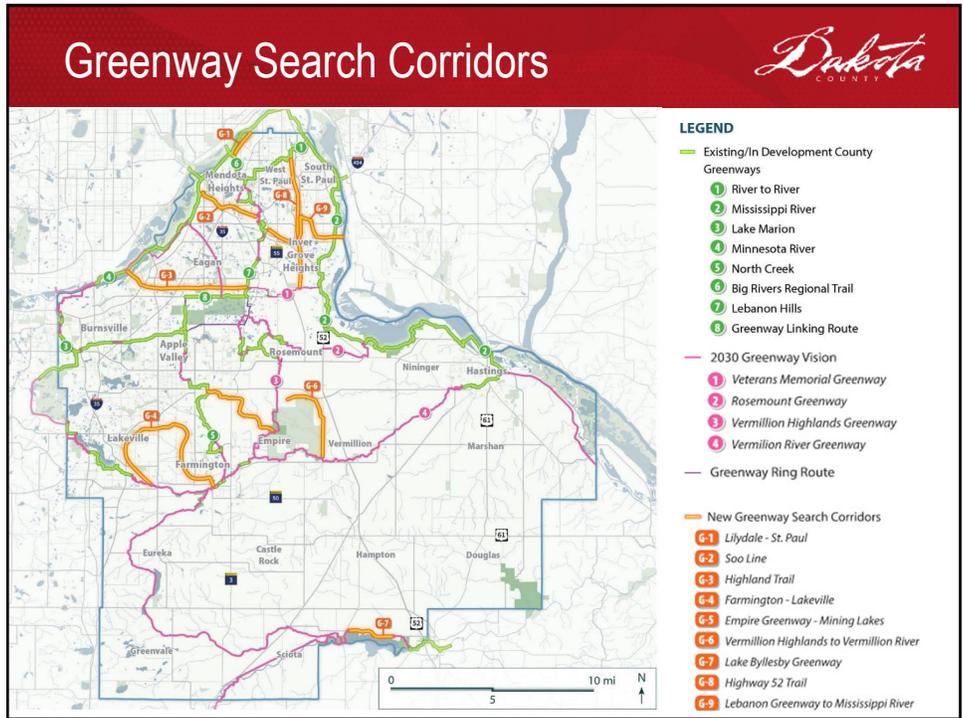
- Park Classification
- Core Services and Amenities
- Signature Facilities
- Accessibility
- Conservation Focus Areas
- Park Search Areas
  - Search areas with known candidate sites identified
- Greenway Search Areas
  - Existing: trails, trailheads, natural resource restoration
  - New: nature base recreation, community trail connections

9

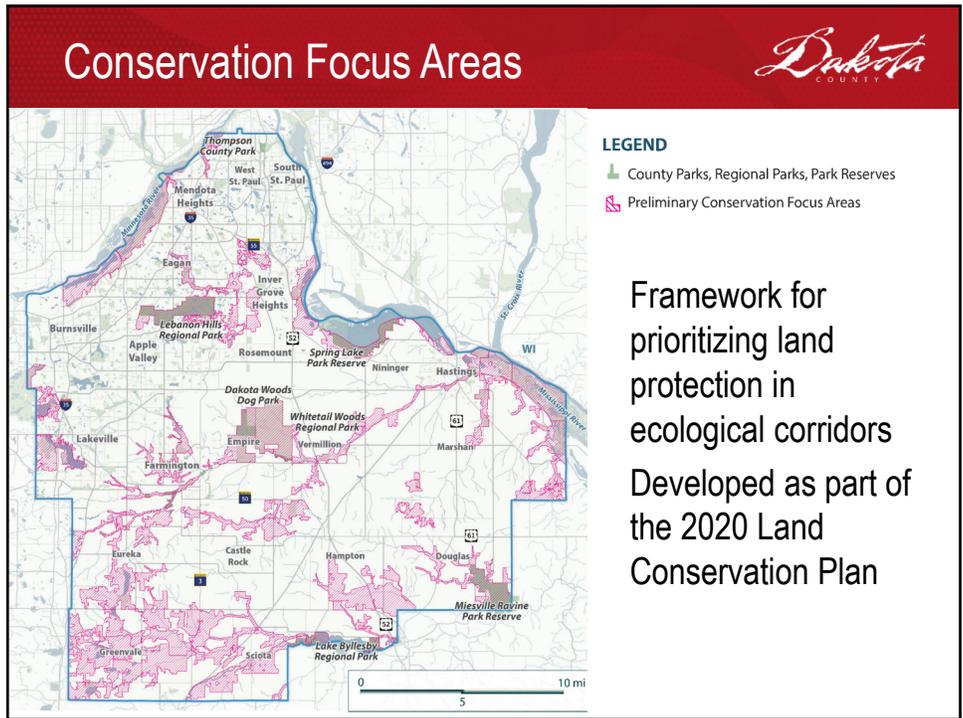
## Park Search Areas



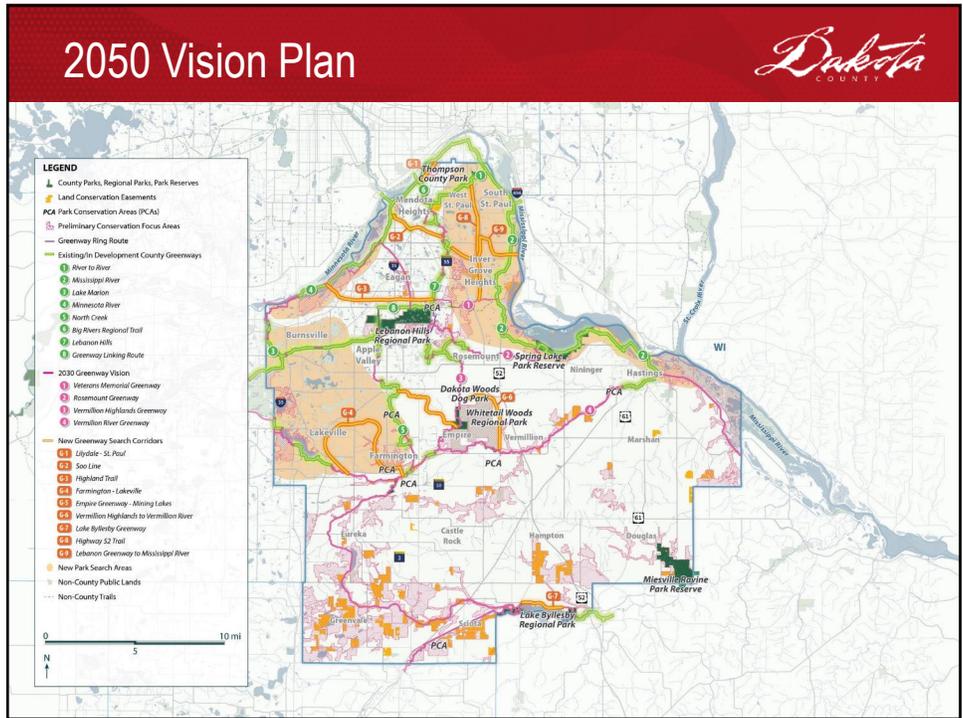
10



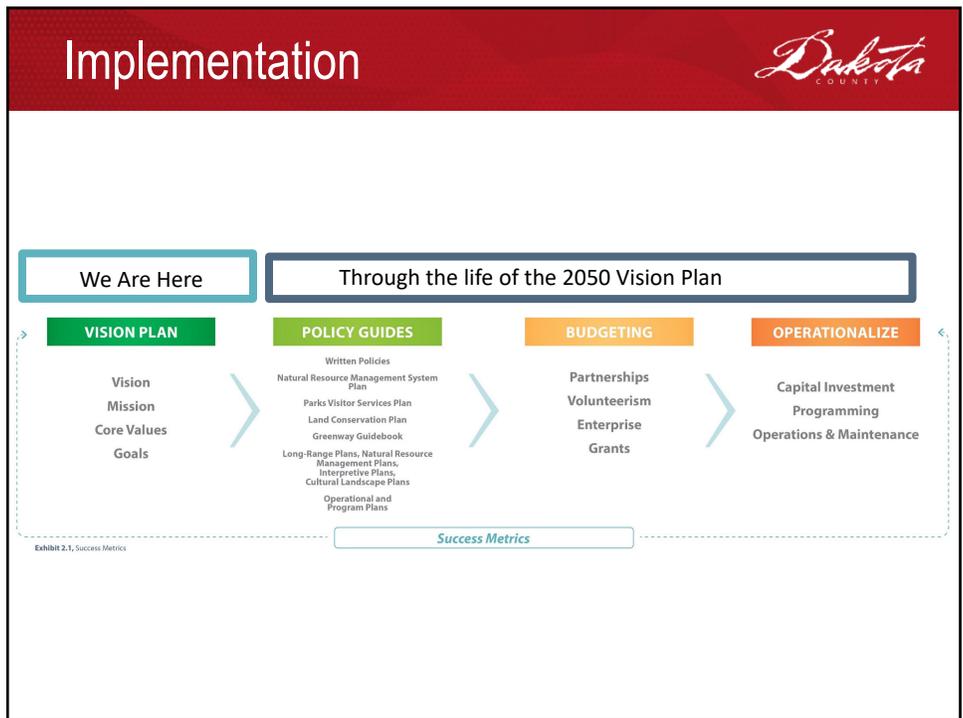
11



12



13



14

## Implementation – Sustainable Funding



### Tools:

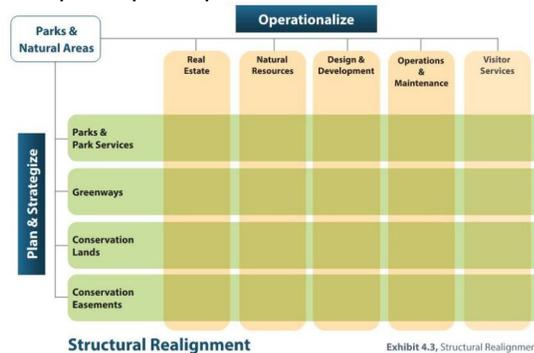
- Regional funding
- County levy
- Grant programs
- Bond measures
- Philanthropic donations
- User fees
- Partnerships
- Revenue generating activities
- Creation of a Special Park District

15

## Implementation – 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



16

## Implementation - Update Operational Plans *Dakota* COUNTY

- Natural Resource Management System Plan
- Land Conservation Plan
- Visitor Services Plan
- Greenway Guidebook



17

## Implementation – Parks and Greenways *Dakota* COUNTY

- Continue to implement the 2030 greenway vision
- Incorporate new search areas into Met Council Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Develop long-range plans for park and greenway search areas
- Prepare land acquisition plan/partnership plan for new parks
- Develop long-range and natural resource management plans for County Park Conservation Area
- Prepare phase two ADA transition plan (park outdoor facilities)

18

## Implementation – Indigenous Partnership

- Establish consultation protocols and collaborative processes
- Conduct Traditional Cultural Places surveys
- Develop plans for Indigenous sites
- Apply Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) that stewards healthy water and land

19

## Requested Action

Recommendation to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole to release the Draft Park, Greenway, and Natural Systems 2050 Vision Plan for public review.

20

## Questions and Discussion



### Next Steps

- April 15, PDC – Public Review Draft
- April 22- May 20: Public review
- June, Planning Commission – Final Plan
- July, PDC – Final Plan

*Thank you!*