

Dakota
COUNTY

Recommendation to Adopt the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Long-range Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan

Dakota County Planning Commission
January 25, 2024
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Physical Development Division

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Land Acknowledgement

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Overview *Dakota* COUNTY

- Project Purpose and Process
- Plan Highlights
- Public Review Process
- Public Review Comments and Plan Changes
- Questions and Discussion
- Planning Commission Action



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Project Purpose & Process *Dakota* COUNTY

<p>Traditional Cultural Places Survey</p> <p>Update 2005 Master Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Term and 10 Year Plans • Interpretive Framework <p>Natural Resources Management Plan</p>	<p>Process</p> <p>Summer – Winter 2022: <i>Research and Vision</i></p> <p>Winter - Spring 2023: <i>Concept development</i></p> <p>Summer – Fall 2023: <i>Draft Plan</i></p> <p>Winter - Spring 2024: <i>Final Plan and Approvals</i></p>
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NRMP Highlights *Dakota* COUNTY

- Restore the entire park in 35 years
- Maintain all restored areas into the future
- Restore Trout Brook, starting with the upper reaches
- Provide a diverse and rich habitat for native wildlife
- Foster a resilient ecosystem
- Collaborate and partner with adjacent landowners
- Achieve regionally outstanding ecological quality

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Park Development LONG-TERM

- Two new trailheads (with ADA accessible portable restrooms)
- 11 miles hiking trails
- ADA Cannon River trail
- Improved picnicking
- Improved Cannon River access
- Connection to Cannon Valley Trail
- Rustic camping
- East Cannon River water access & Picnic area

Phasing

- 5-year
- 10-year
- Long-term

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Cultural Landscape Recommendations *Dakota* COUNTY

- All park improvements will occur with further cultural and environmental study, Tribal consultation, and monitoring.
- Work with representatives of associated Indigenous tribes and nations, the Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) for additional understanding.
- Consult with THPOs as part of developing scopes of work and making decisions about maintenance and management of the landscape

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Interpretive Themes *Dakota* COUNTY

1. People: We all thrive here
2. Place: An oasis for nature
3. Stewardship: Caring for the future




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Public Review Process

October-December

- Community open houses & pop-up event
- Stakeholder outreach
- On-line review and comment
- On-line questionnaire



MIESVILLE RAVINE PARK RESERVE PLANNING

WHAT'S GOING ON?
Dakota County recently released a draft of the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve long-range plan and natural resources management plan.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
Attend a community meeting:
Learn about the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve long-range plan and natural resources management plan update, view the 10-year and long-term draft plans, and provide your input.

When: Wednesday, Nov. 8
5-6 p.m.

Where: Zoom meeting
Visit www.dakota-county.us and search Miesville plan or scan the QR code to the right to access the meeting link. *Online presentation followed by time for questions.*

When: Wednesday, Nov. 15
5-6:30 p.m.

Where: Cannon River Lutheran Church
10960 200th Street
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
Open house format. Come and go anytime during the meeting. Staff will be on hand to explain the plans and for questions.

Review draft plans and provide online input.
Visit www.dakota-county.us and search Miesville plan. *Online input will be open through Dec. 17.*

Keep up with project updates by visiting www.dakota-county.us and searching Miesville plan and check for updates on the Dakota County Parks Facebook Page.

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Public Review - NRMP


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Across all engagement activities support for natural resources, habitat, and wildlife.


What are your top natural resources improvement priorities that would increase your use and enjoyment of Miesville Ravine Park Reserve?

Habitat restoration	52% (16)
Trout Brook restoration	52% (16)
Improved wildlife viewing (by removal of invasive vegetation)	48% (15)
Other	32% (10)

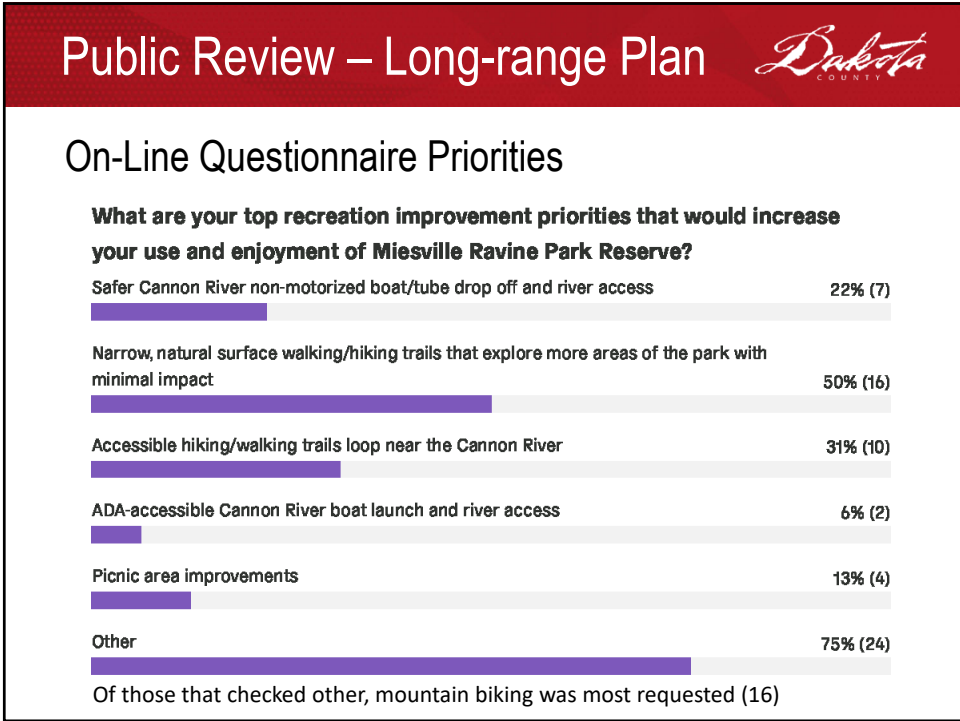
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Public Review and Updates- NRMP 	
Comment(s)	Response/Revision
<p>Background and Introduction.</p> <p>Clarify inholding acres, and total acres of the park without inholdings.</p>	<p>p vii, p. 1 MRPR is 1,847 acres, but there are 332 acres of inholdings, so the total acres, not county inholdings, are 1,515.</p>
<p>2.5.3 Ecological Condition.</p> <p>There is a large amount of duplicate text.</p>	<p>P 46 Deleted the duplicate text</p>
<p>4.1.1 Vision</p> <p>Add text addressing diversity and equity for parks users as part of the vision.</p>	<p>p. 77 Encourages a diverse and equitable usage of the parks in a safe setting for all.</p>
<p>4.1.2 Park-Wide Goals</p> <p>Add text addressing safety and equity as a goal.</p>	<p>p. 78 Work with Visitor Services and Park Patrol to make the park reserve open and safe to all types of people.</p>
<p>4.2.1 Goals: Trout Brook and Tributaries</p> <p>Add language addressing the goals of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) working with DNR to encourage brook trout conservation and 2) to utilize volunteers to help restore the stream and surrounding land. 	<p>p. 81, 83 Work with DNR to encourage brook trout and reduce competition from brown trout. p. 83 Work with volunteers to control invasive species and improve habitat for game and non-game wildlife</p>
<p>Appendices: Comments From Public Outreach</p> <p>Add all comments received during the public comment period regarding the final draft of the NRMP, including via webpage, phone calls, emails, and from public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and from public surveys.</p>	<p>25 pages added to the Appendix, in Appendix G.</p>


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Public Review – Long-range Plan 	
<p>Confirmation of priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural resource restoration and wildlife viewing 2. Trail based recreation 3. River access safety and recreation 4. Access and accessibility 	<p>Open Houses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in natural resource management • Suggestions for park boundary clarification <p>Pop-up Input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High priority on wildlife viewing, Cannon River recreation (kayaking, canoeing, tubing), and trail recreation <p>On-line Questionnaire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for natural resource management and trail recreation <p>On-line document review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in Trout Brook restoration

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Public Review- Long-range Plan 

Mountain biking is not being recommended at this time to protect the natural and cultural landscape

- Steeply sloped areas with fragile soils that are highly sensitive to erosion
- Minimize potential soil erosion flowing into Trout Brook
- Ravine slopes contain plant communities designated by the State of Minnesota as Vulnerable and Imperiled
- Minimize impact to Indigenous Traditional Cultural Places (TCP)

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Public Review – Long-range Plan

Wayfinding

- Requests to clarify boundary, multiple languages, indicate winter use

Restrooms are a priority

- ADA portable restrooms at minimum and included that the possibility of full restrooms with septic, running water, and adult changing stations will be evaluated when trailhead improvements are made

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Public Review - Long-range Plan

Legend

Boundaries

- Missile Park Boundary

Circulation

- ADA-Accessible Trails
- Natural Surface Trails
- Trailhead Paths and Sidewalks
- Maintenance Access
- Roads/Drives
- MN Water Trails

Existing Conditions

- Power Lines
- 30' Corridors
- Scientific & Natural Area
- Cannon River
- Trout Brook

Amenities

- Discoverable Springs
- Proposed Stairs
- Interpretation
- Parking
- Existing Restroom
- Portable Toilet
- Picnic Shelter
- Highlights existing features included in the Long-term Plan (10+ years)
- Fishing Opportunity
- Watercraft Input
- Overlook
- Picnic Area
- Bridge
- Boardwalk
- Information/Wayfinding

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Next Steps



Final Edit

February 20- PDC considers recommendation to County Board for adoption

March – Submit LP to Metropolitan Council for adoption



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Discussion



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Requested Action



Recommendation to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole to adopt the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Long-range Plan and the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Natural Resources Management Plan and authorization to submit the Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Long-range Plan to the Metropolitan Council for Approval