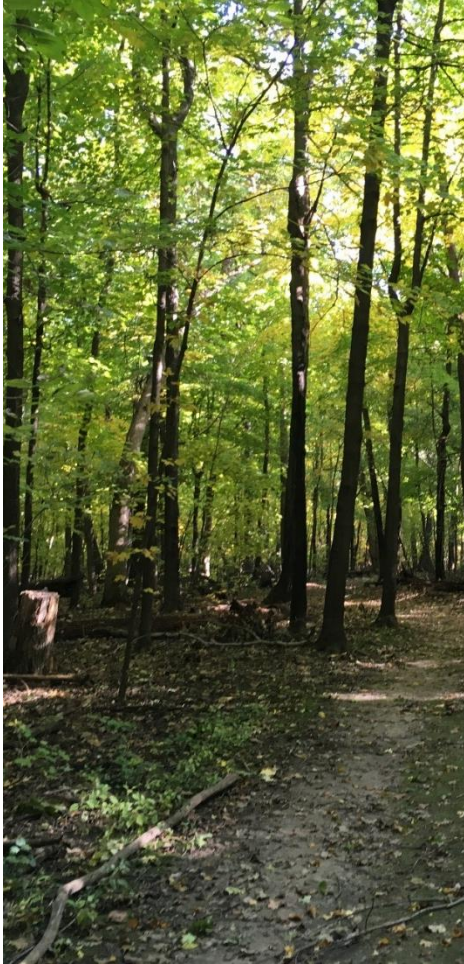


Spring Lake Park Reserve Master Plan and NRMP Update

Dakota County Planning Commission

11/21/2019

Overview



1. Objectives
2. Key Considerations
3. Cultural Landscape Overview
4. Natural Resource Overview
5. Existing Conditions
6. Service Area
7. Initial Community Engagement Outcomes
8. Draft Vision and Guiding Principles
9. Questions & Comments

Objectives

1. Develop a plan for park improvements that invite people to experience the park while preserving the natural and cultural integrity of the land
2. Update the 2003 Master Plan
 - Recreation
 - Visitor Services
 - Interpretation
 - Operations Analysis
3. Prepare a new Natural Resources Management Plan

Key Considerations

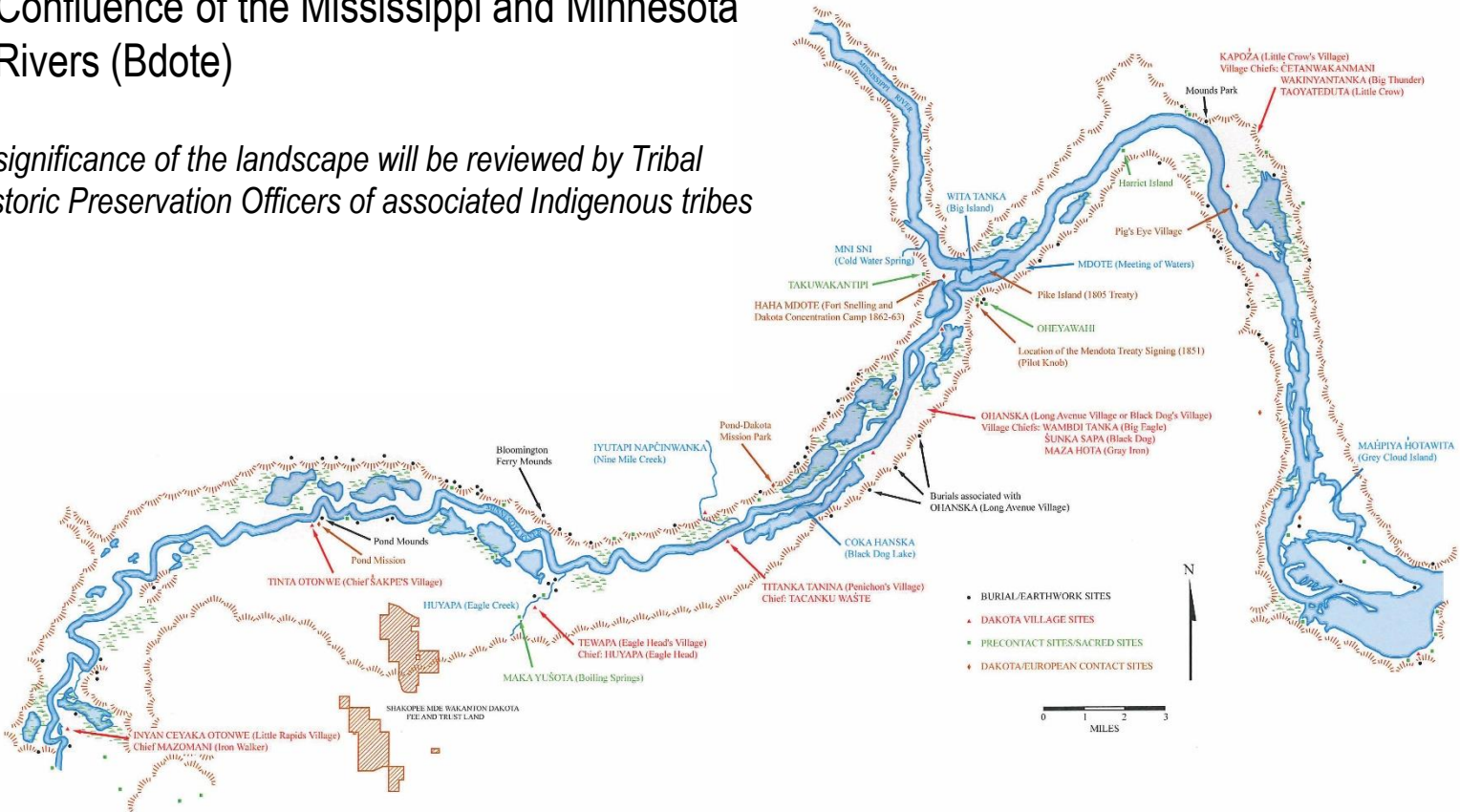
- The park is a unique cultural and natural landscape that doesn't harness the full experiential potential of its assets.
- The park is not well known.
- The park is on the Mississippi River but has limited connectivity to the water.
- Visitors love the trails, but the offerings are also limited.
- The natural resources in the park are impacted by forces outside the park boundary.

Cultural Landscape Overview

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ETHNOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE

+ Confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers (Bdote)

*** significance of the landscape will be reviewed by Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of associated Indigenous tribes*



For more information about the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community, please visit www.shakopeedakota.org or contact the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community, Cultural Resources Department, 2330 Sioux Trail NW, Prior Lake, MN 55372, IS-mail: culturalresources@shakopeedakota.org.



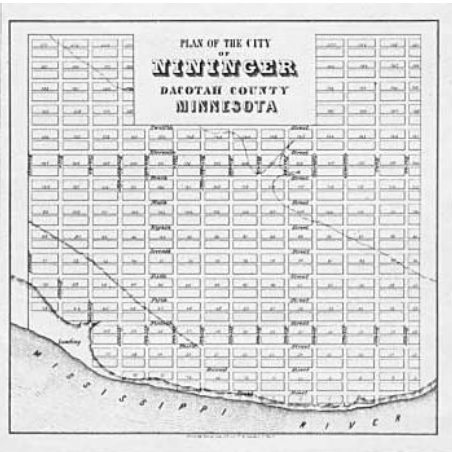
© 2003 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community
 Printed for Big River Journey Program, National Park Service
 For additional classroom resources, please visit the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community web site: www.shakopeedakota.org.

Cultural Landscape Overview

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT VERNACULAR LANDSCAPE

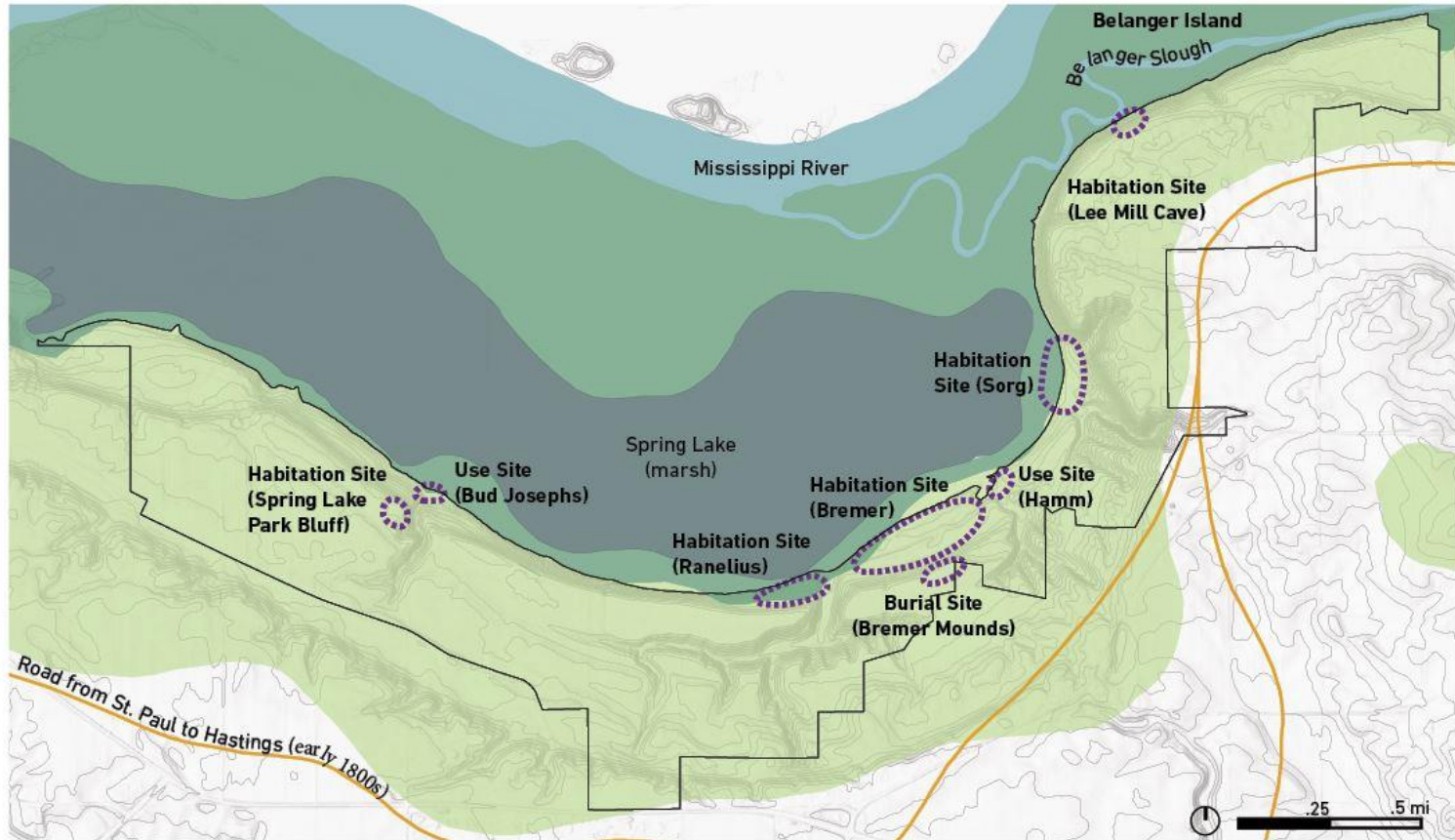
+ The McCarriel's Mill

- period of significance 1854 - 1932
- early Euro-American settlement patterns
- “boom town” of Nininger



Cultural Landscape Overview

THE WATERS PROVIDE: INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION AND USE



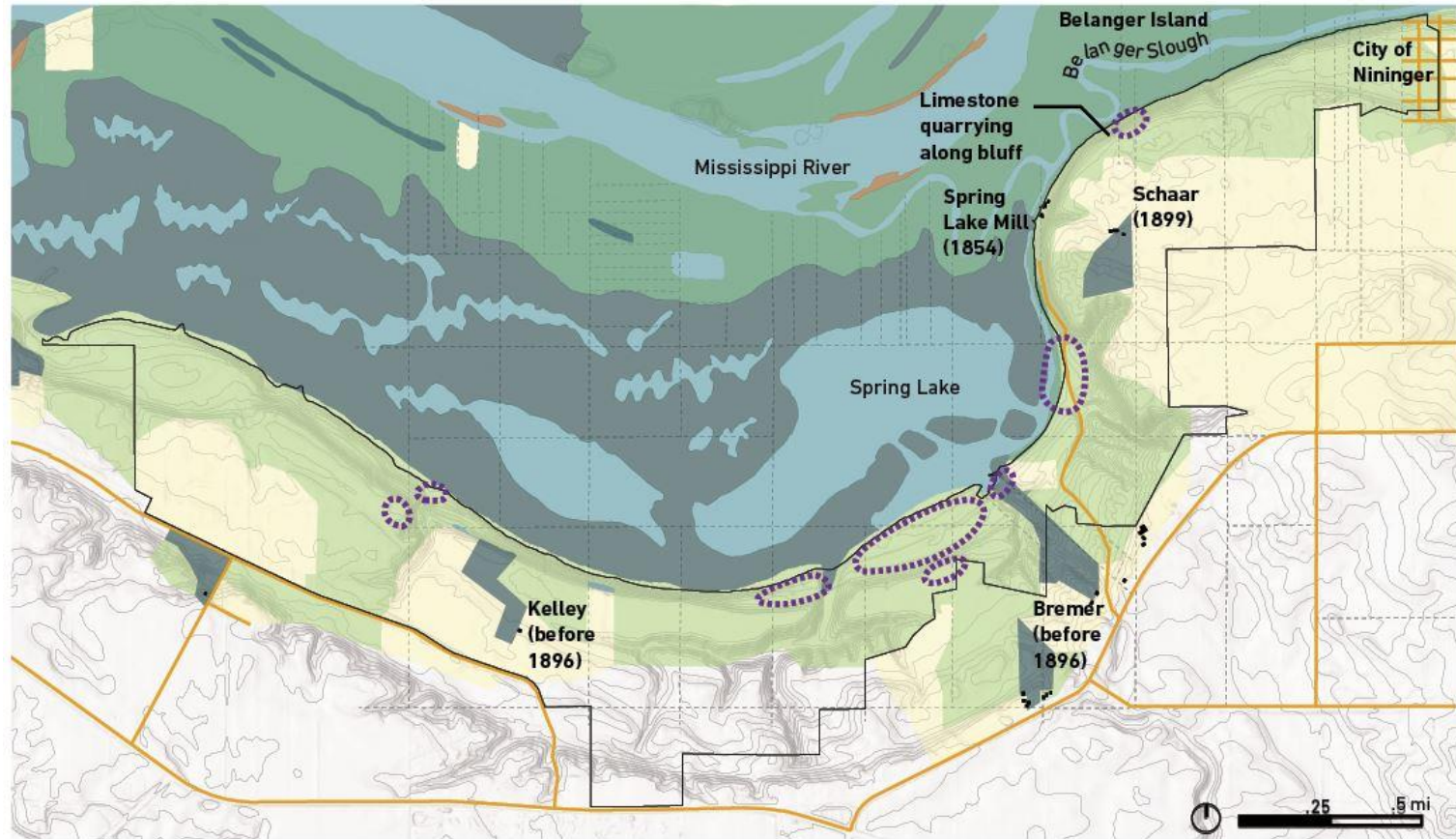
HISTORIC PERIOD PLAN ca. 6000 BCE - CE 1847

Sources:
 1855 General Land Office Map
 1855 General Land Office Map from 1983 Spring Lake Master Plan
 2003 Spring Lake Master Plan
 USGS National Elevation Data Set



Cultural Landscape Overview

THE LAKE RISES: EARLY EURO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT



HISTORIC PERIOD PLAN 1847-1929

Sources:

1927 Aerial Photography

USGS National Elevation Data Set

1890 Survey: Mississippi River Commission

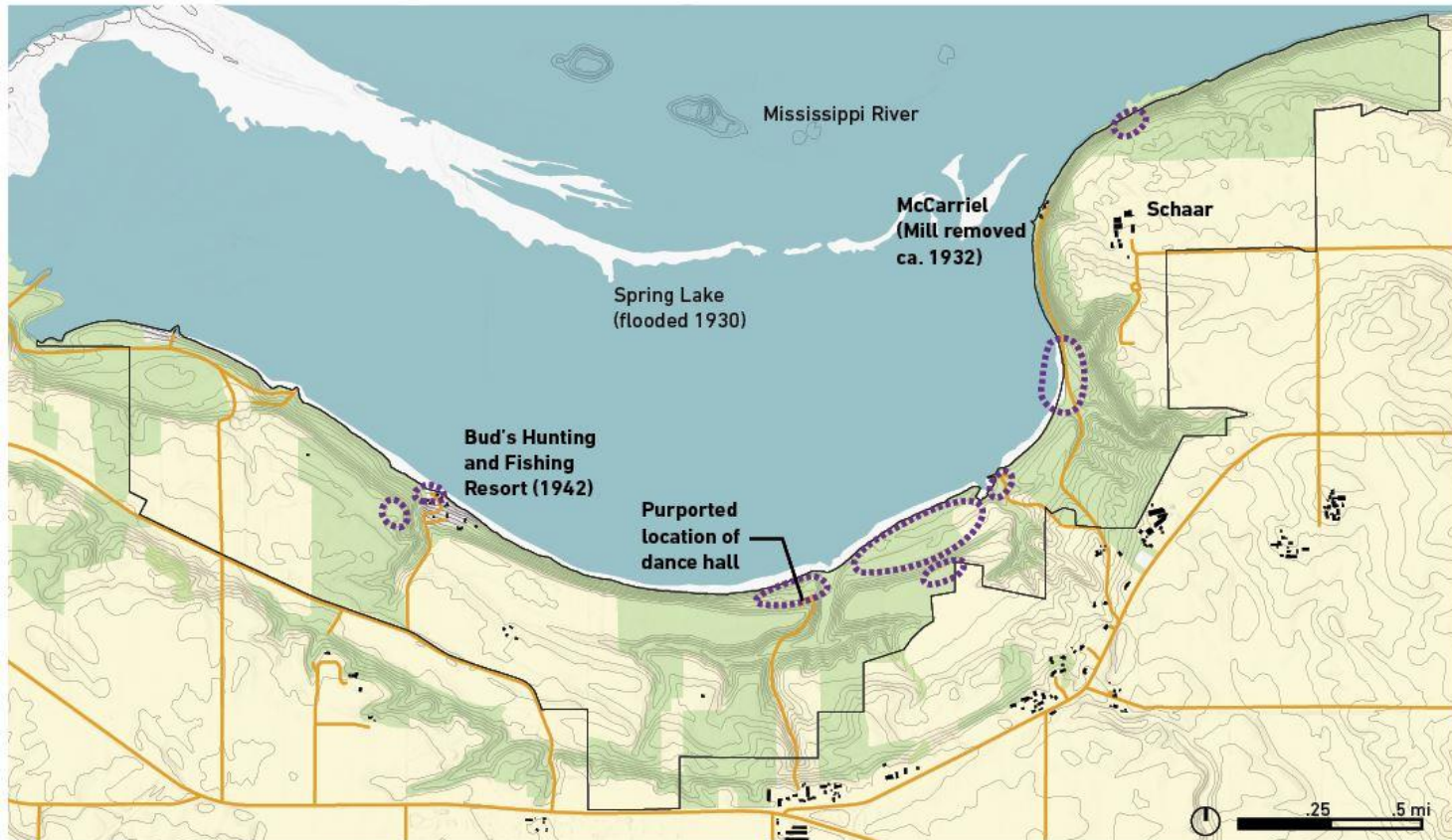
1896 Nininger Plat

2003 Spring Lake Master Plan



Cultural Landscape Overview

THE RIVER RISES: LOCKS AND DAMS, CE 1929-1972

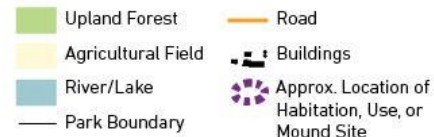


HISTORIC PERIOD PLAN 1930-1973

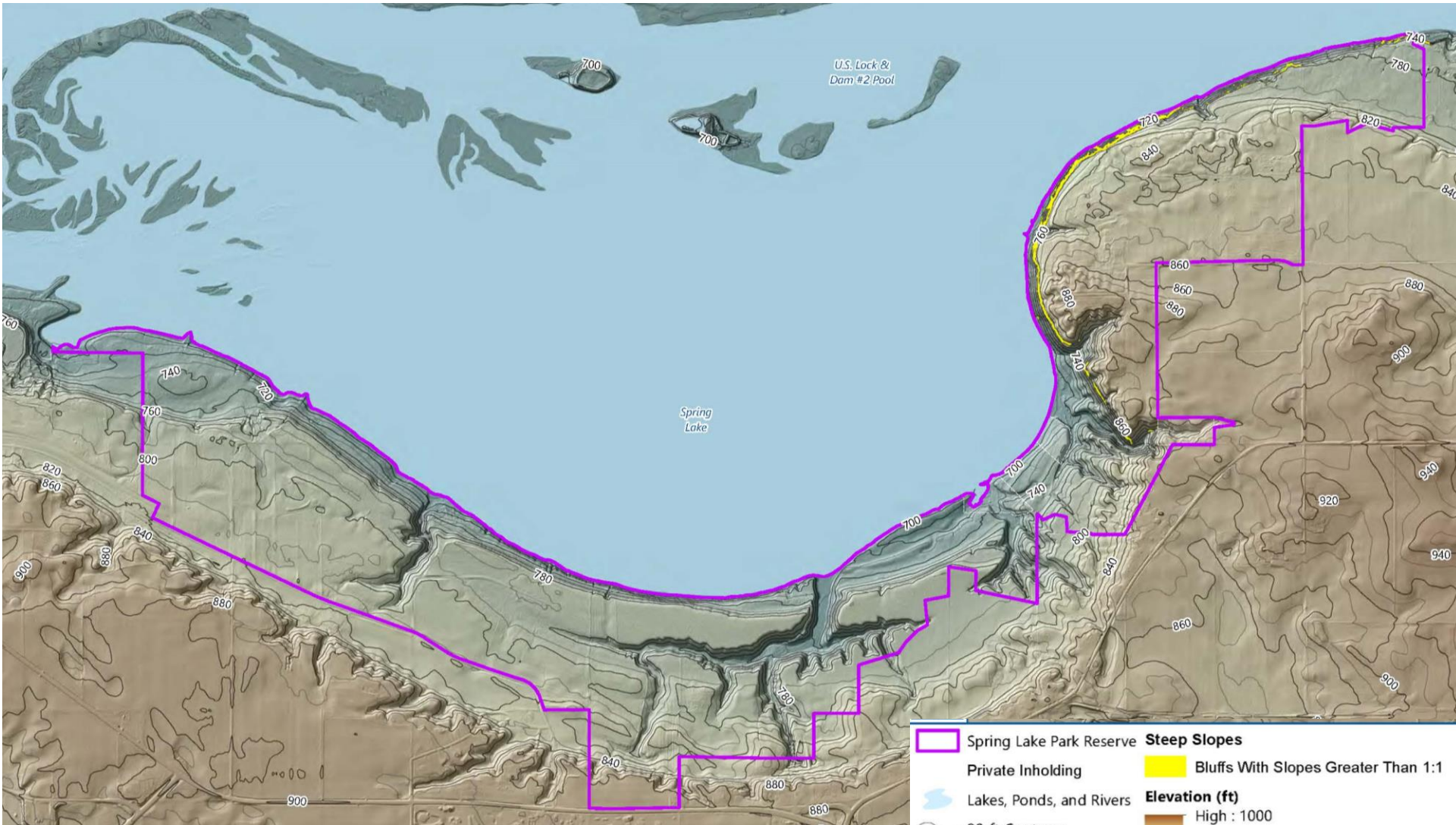
Sources:

1937 Aerial Photography
1947 Aerial Photography
1970 Aerial Photography
1955 Photographs and Personal Surveys of G.A. Leisman

2003 Spring Lake Master Plan
USGS National Elevation Data Set



Natural Resource Overview

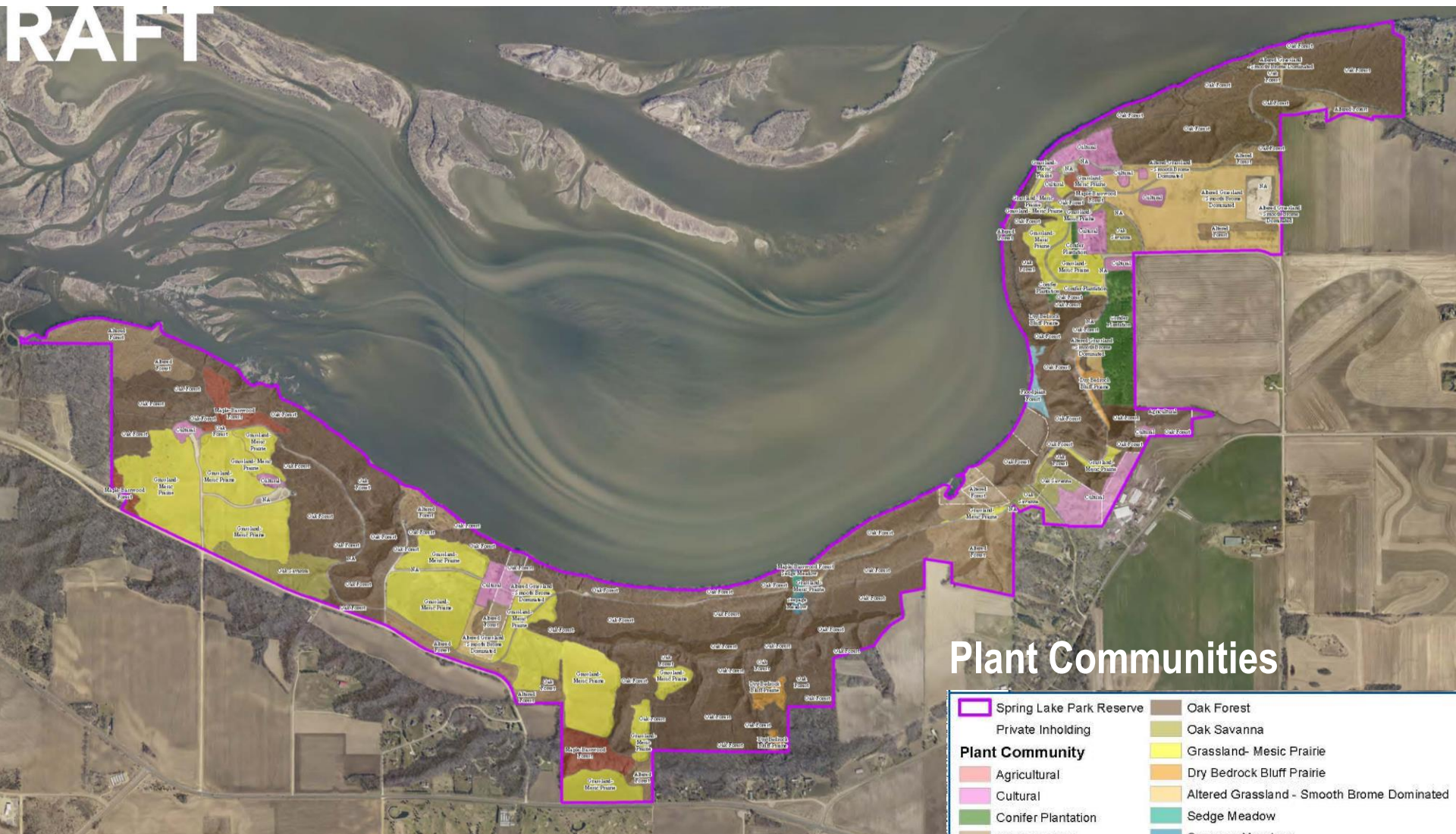


Natural Resource Overview



Natural Resource Overview

RAFT



Natural Resource Overview

DRAFT



Natural Resource Overview



Natural Resource Overview



Natural Resource Overview



Natural Resource Overview



Natural Resource Overview



Natural Resource Overview

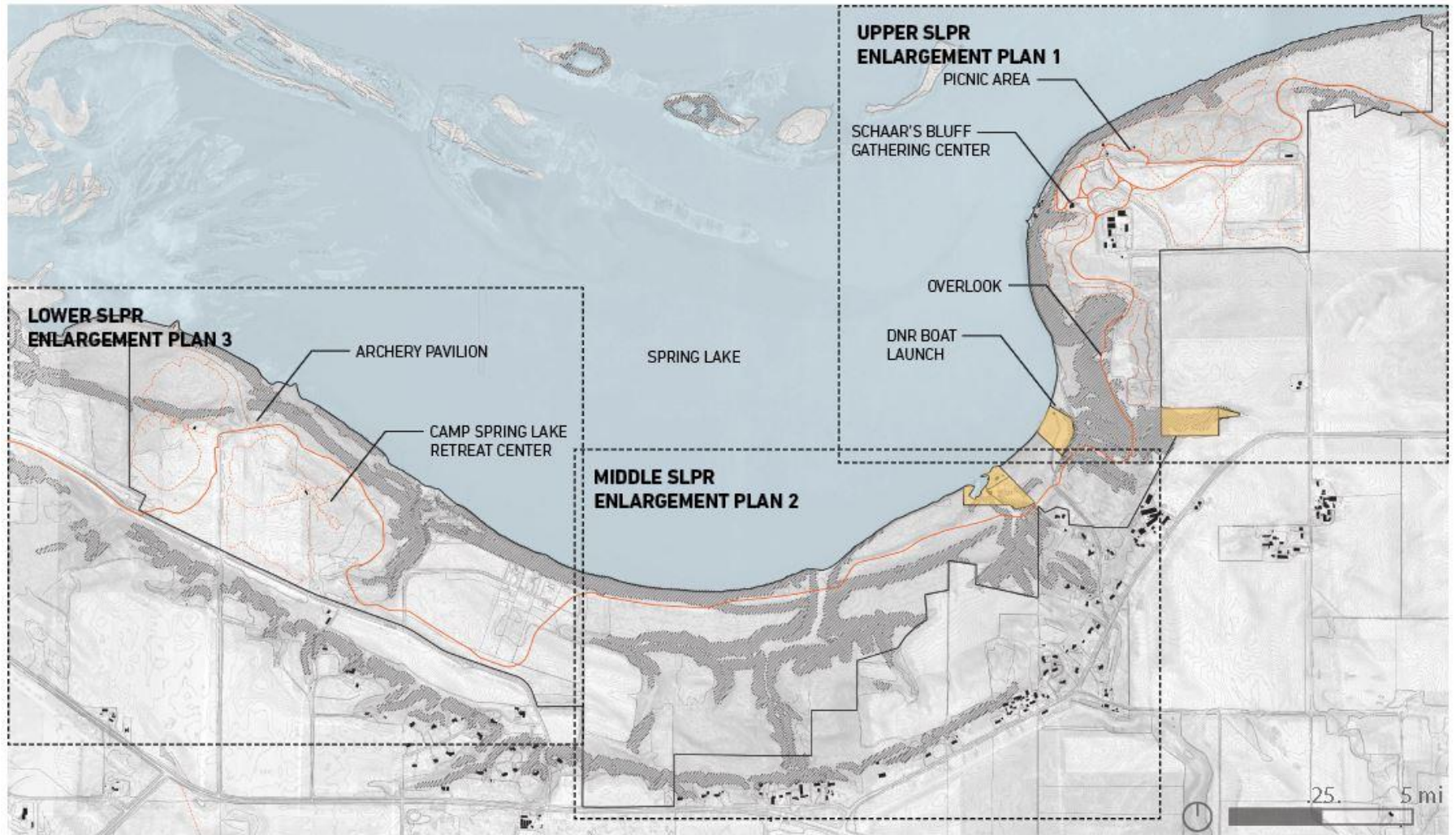


Natural Resource Overview

Issues & Opportunities

- Habitat Fragmentation
 - Human Disturbance
 - Native Plant Diversity
 - Invasive Species
 - Lack of Past Management
 - Ravine Erosion
 - Climate Change
- 

Existing Conditions



LEGEND

Private Inholding

Mississippi River

Bluff Impact Zone

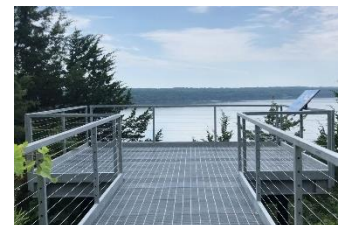
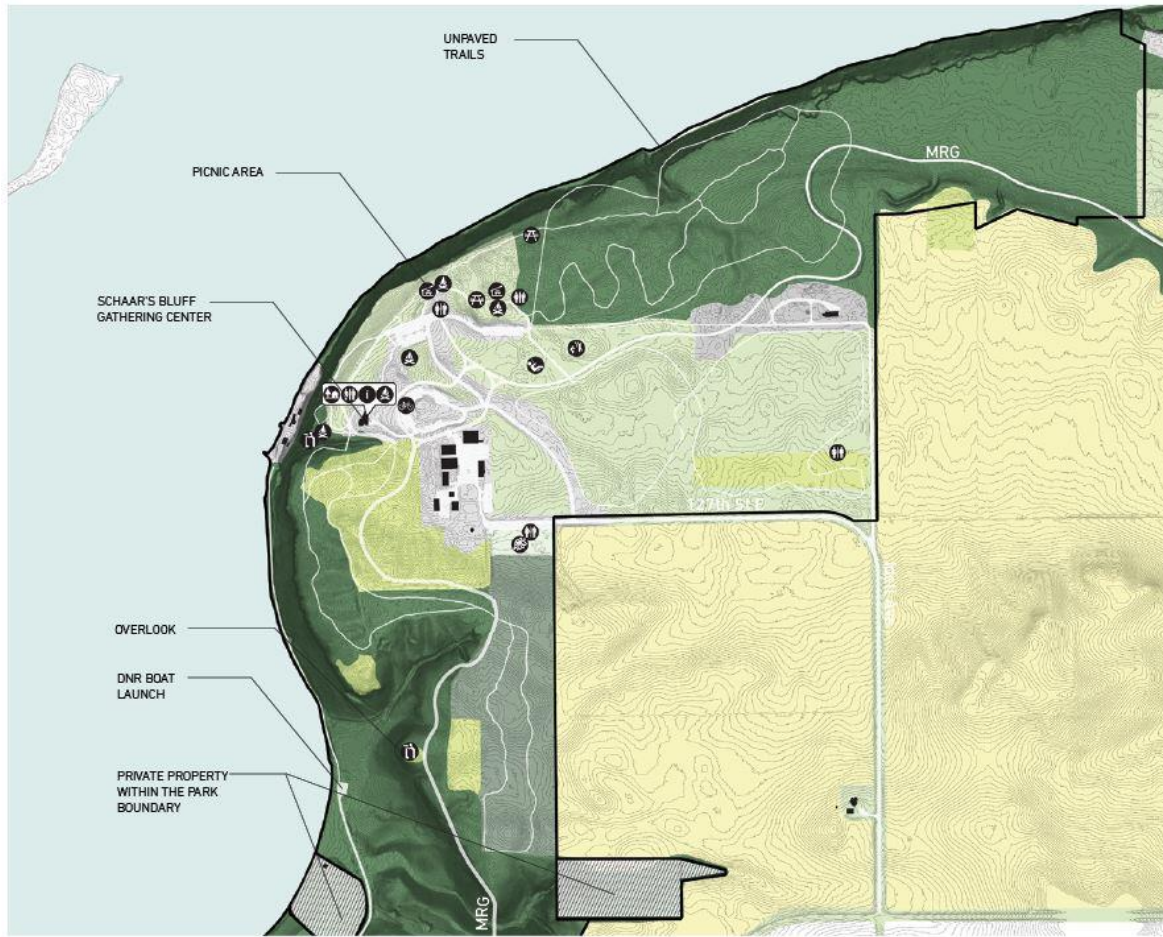
Buildings

Park Boundary

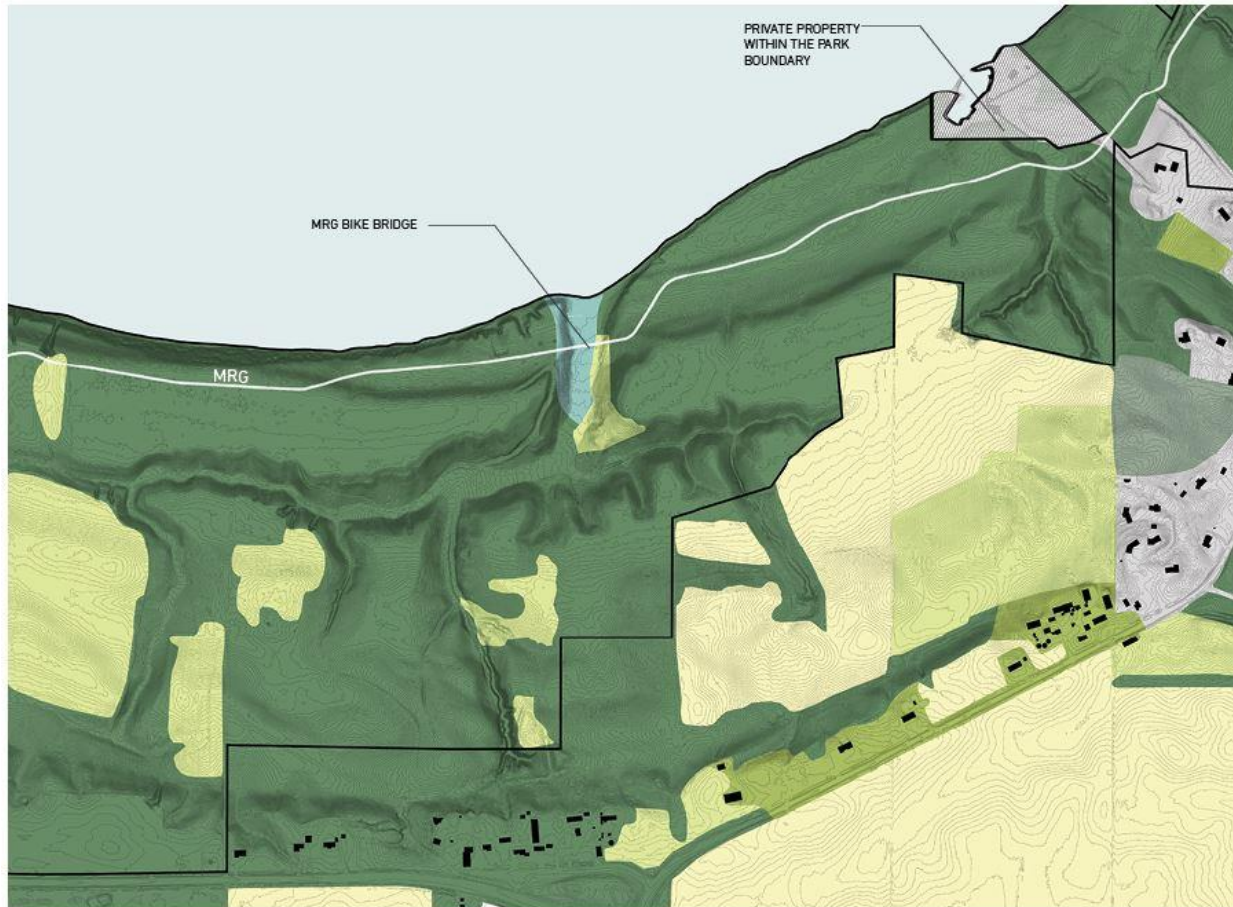
Mississippi River Greenway

Unpaved Trail

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions



PARK AMENITIES

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Shelter | Playground | Nature Observation Area |
| Bike Trailhead | Picnic Area | Fire Ring |
| Restrooms | Volleyball (Sand Court) | Private Property Within the Park Boundary |
| Retreat Center | Information Center | |

PLANT COMMUNITY TYPE

- Tall Grass Prairie
- Short Grasses
- Farmland
- Developed Area
- Woodlands

Existing Conditions



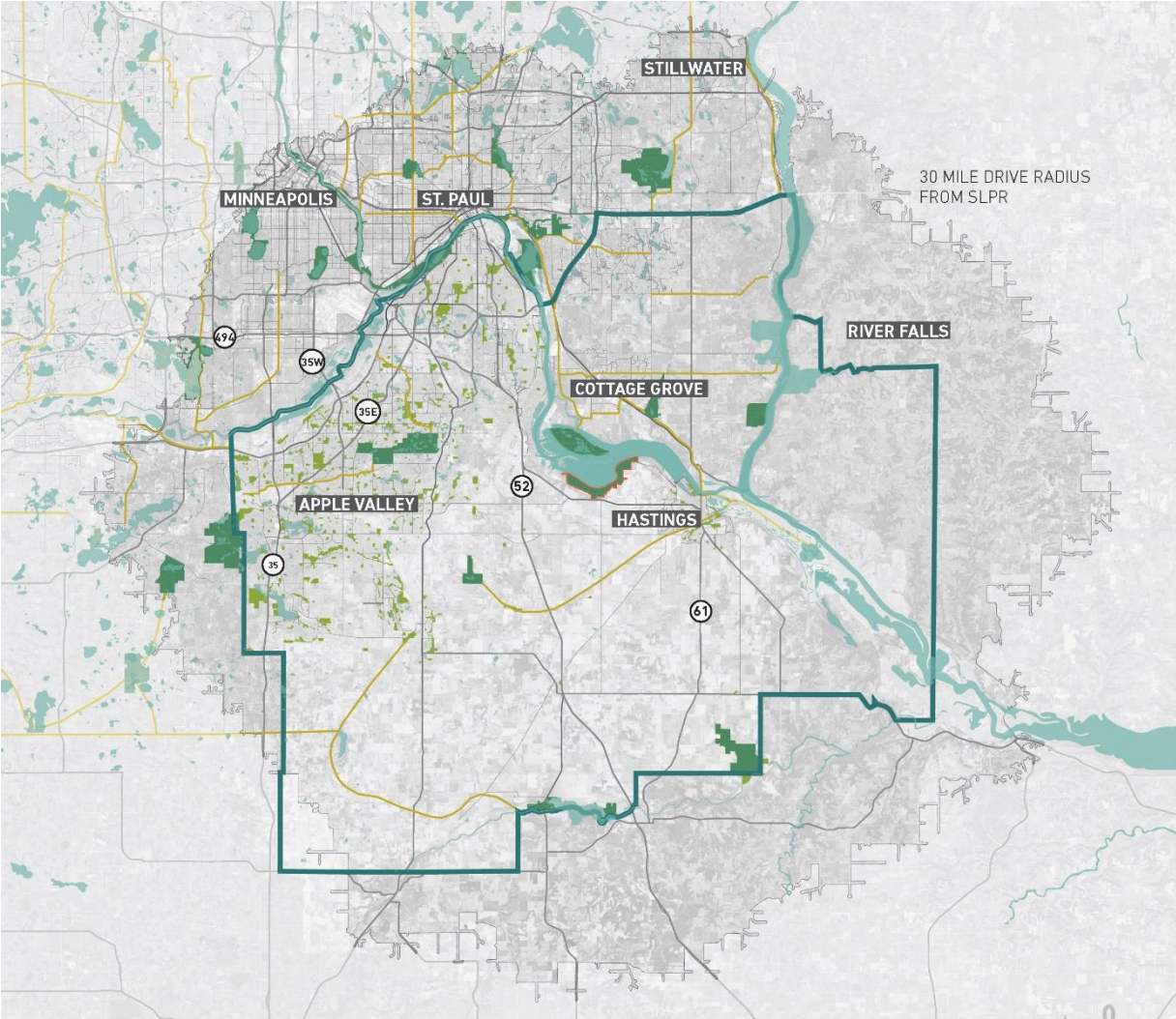
PARK AMENITIES

- Shelter
- Bike Trailhead
- Restrooms
- Retreat Center
- Playground
- Picnic Area
- Volleyball (Sand Court)
- Information Center
- Horseshoes
- Fire Ring
- Archery
- Private Property Within the Park Boundary

PLANT COMMUNITY TYPE

- Tall Grass Prairie
- Short Grasses
- Farmland
- Developed Area
- Woodlands

Service Area



Water Features Regional Parks Local Parks Regional Trails SLPR Service Area

SERVICE AREA HIGHLIGHTS

POPULATION:
554,464

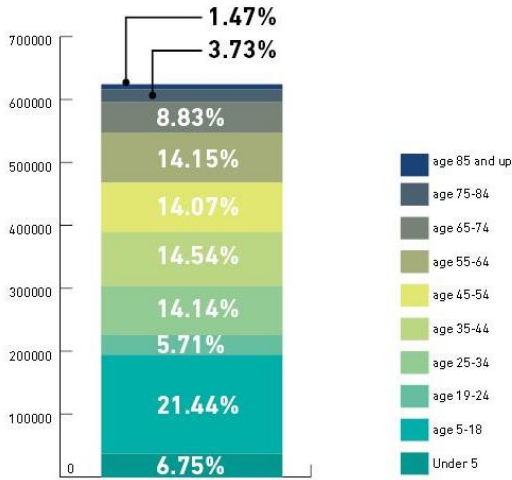
HOUSEHOLDS:
273,110

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:
\$85,450

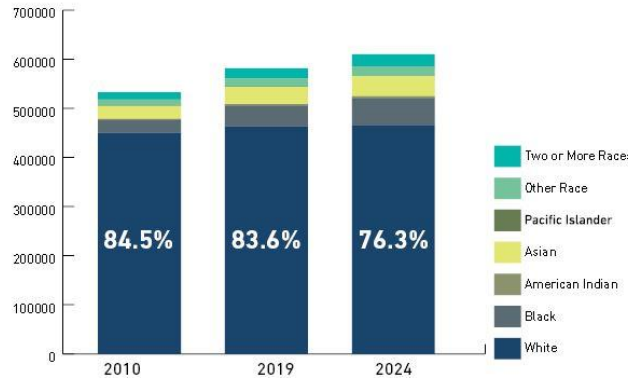
PRIMARY AGE GROUP:
50-59

PRIMARY NONWHITE ETHNIC GROUP:
HISPANIC

Service Area Demographics



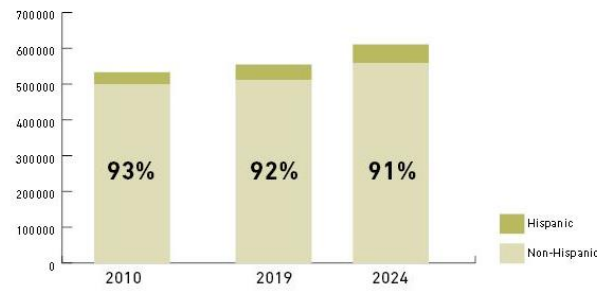
2019 Population by Age in Service Area



2010 - 2019 Population by Race in Service Area



2019 Population by Household Income in Service Area



2019 Population by Ethnicity in Service Area

CONSIDERATIONS

GROUPS UNDERREPRESENTED IN PARK VISITS :

Older Adults, Foreign born Latinos, South Asian Indians, Youth, African Americans, Vietnamese, People living with Disabilities, Somalis, US-Born Latinos, ****Indigenous Peoples**

SERVICE AREA TRENDS:

Aging population
Growth in non-white population
Mid-range income level (Met Council)

Recreation Trends

National Recreation Trends



1. Running / Jogging / Trail Running
2. Freshwater, Saltwater, & Fly Fishing
3. Road, Mountain & BMX Biking
4. Hiking & Walking
5. Car, Backyard, & RV Camping

Regional Benchmarking



1. Lebanon Hills Regional Park – recreation and amenities
2. Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve – natural resource preservation
3. William O'Brien State Park – similar cultural & natural resources
4. Marine Mill – similar cultural resource
5. He Mni Can, Barn Bluff – cultural resource management
6. Fort Snelling State Park – cultural landscape & recreation
7. Minneopa State Park – natural resources & bison

Community Engagement



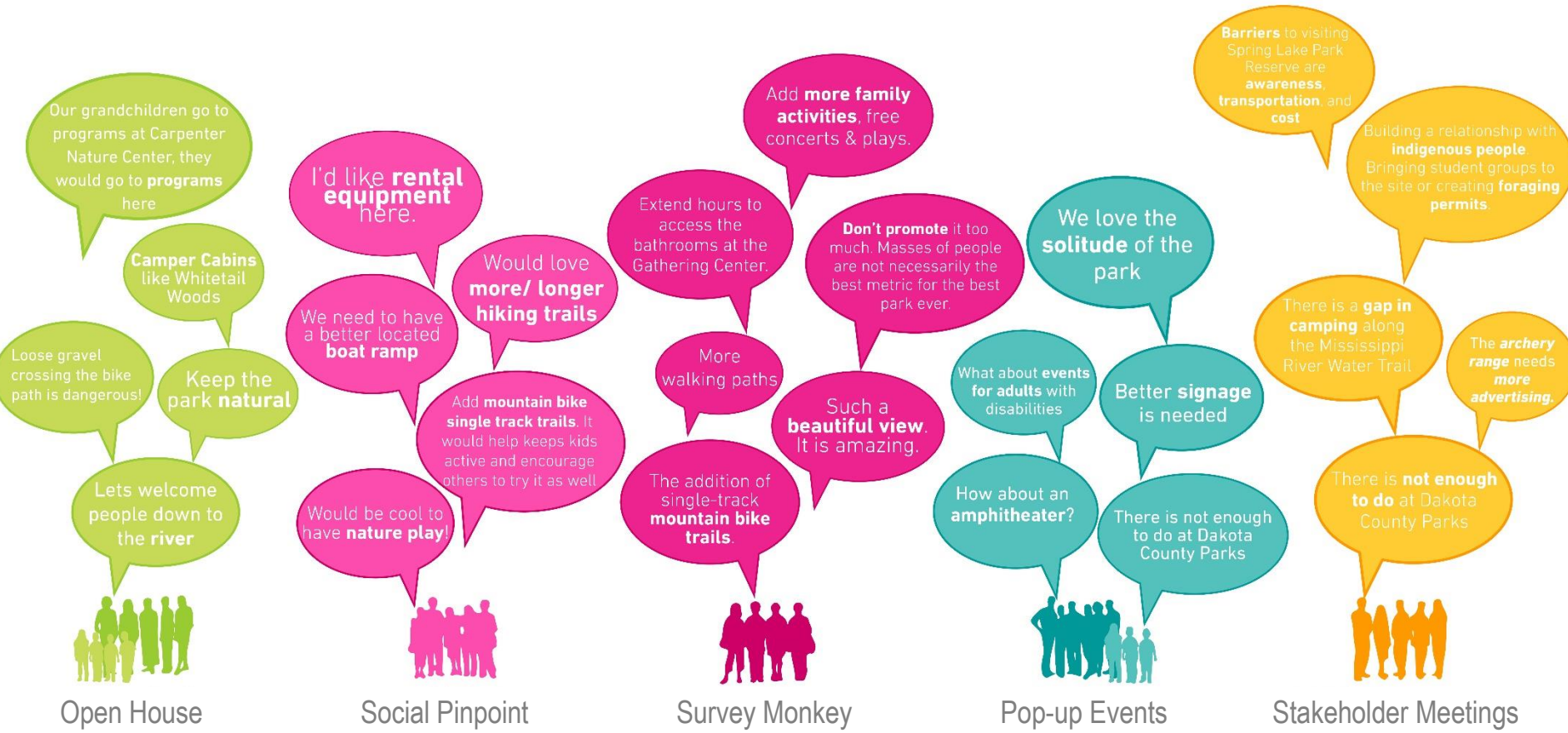
TOP 5 REASONS TO COME TO SLPR:

1. Being in Nature
2. Mississippi River Valley Views
3. Enjoying Summer Trails
4. Observing Wildlife
5. Using the Mississippi River Greenway Trail

Community Engagement

Cultural Traditions Programs
Play **Community Events**
Star Gazing **Overlook**
Outdoor Education Programs **Camping** Adventure Racing
Foraging **Winter Sports**
Climate Resilience
Picnicking **Winter Trails**
Medative / Silent Space
Biking **Birding** **Cycling Hub**
Bison Observation
Trail Running **Off-Leash Dog Area**

Community Engagement



Key Considerations

- The park is a unique cultural and natural landscape that doesn't harness the full experiential potential of its assets.
- The park is not well known.
- The park is on the Mississippi River but has limited connectivity to the water.
- Visitors love the trails, but the offerings are also limited.
- The natural resources in the park are impacted by forces outside the park boundary.

Vision Update

2003 Master Plan Vision:

Create a park reserve that focuses on preserving the ecological and cultural integrity of the land while providing appropriate recreational and educational opportunities.

Draft Updated Vision:

Spring Lake Park Reserve is a regional destination where visitors experience integral relationships between humans and the changing landscape, inspiring respect to guide present and future needs.

Guiding Principles Update

2003 Master Plan:

1. *Address Spring Lake Park as a “Reserve” with a maximum development footprint of 20% of the park land.*
2. *Balance ecological, cultural resource protection with recreation and education.*
3. *Maximizes educational opportunities and tell the story of the park’s cultural and ecological history.*
4. *Celebrate the park’s river context in terms of regional, state, and federal riverway designations.*
5. *Evaluates existing and future uses from a regional perspective.*
6. *Is practical and can be implemented and identifies priorities and strategies for implementation.*
7. *Consider innovative approaches to combine recreational and educational activities with preservation and protection.*

Draft Update (Abbreviated):

1. *Protect and manage natural resources. Respect Spring Lake Park as a “reserve” with a maximum development footprint of 20% of the park.*
2. *Be a gateway to the treasures of the Mississippi River Valley. Preserve and enhance existing habitat for birds and wildlife, preserve bluff views, and give visitors access.*
3. *Become a regional, four – season destination. Connect to the regional tourism network.*
4. *Celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the area. Maximize educational opportunities to tell the past, present and future stories of the park’s assets.*
5. *Integrate Ecological, Cultural, Educational and Recreational Experiences. Consider innovative approaches to integrate recreational and educational activities with resource protection.*
6. *Provide Inclusive, Memorable, and Relevant Experiences for All.*

Next Steps

December 3 – Update to Physical Development Committee

December – Refine issues, opportunities, vision and guiding principals

Winter 2020 – Concept Development

March – Next Planning Commission Update

Questions and Discussion

1. Are there key issues and opportunities that are not identified that you feel are important for guiding the development of plan alternatives in the next phase of the project?
2. *Do you feel the draft vision and guiding principles capture the unique qualities of this park? Do you feel they will serve as a foundation for development of the Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan? Do you have suggestions for changes or additions?*