PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

WELCOME!

¡BIENVENIDOS!

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THOMPSON PARK?

VISIT THE WEBSITE

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE LINK

¡HOLA!

Hola, hablo español!

Busca a las personas con este botón si hablan español.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Thompson County Park is currently undergoing a **Schematic Design Process** to explore options for potential projects identified in the Long-range Plan that was adopted in 2020 that could be implemented over the next few years. Dakota County Staff and the design team have created the draft concepts you see here based on recommendations from the long-range plan. We would love to hear what you're excited to see, answer any questions you may have, and discuss any concerns.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

2018 - 2019 MASTER PLAN

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS GUIDED BY THE LONG-RANGE PLAN

Thompson County Park underwent a master planning process in 2018-2019. As one of Dakota County's smallest parks, it serves over 50,000 surrounding resident's and required new programming that would meet their recreational needs. The service area for Thompson is large and diverse, so **inclusion, equity, and accessibility** were a main focus of the master planning process, programming phase, and now extend into schematic design.

In recent years, a significant number of improvements have occurred at Thompson County Park. The Long-range Plan was approved by the Dakota County Board in early-2020. Since that approval, improvements related to visitor services, natural resources, and infrastructure have been completed. The projects explored in schematic design represent a design evolution of the remaining projects identified in the Plan.

THE GOALS OF THE 2020 LONG-RANGE PLAN WERE TO:

- Guide the improvement and management of the park
- Preserve and enhance the park's natural resources
- Provide recreational amenities that meet resident's needs
- Connect visitors to the park's natural, cultural, and recreational resources

PHASE 1: 2021-2022

PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS

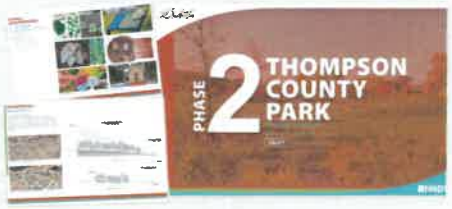
As part of the initial phase of Long-range Plan improvements:

- An inclusive playground was installed near the Thompson Park Center
- A linear lakefront plaza was developed to connect the Center to a large picnic shelter in the north end of the park
- Accessible group picnicking was added
- Additional interpretation was installed
- A pier was added at the southwest corner of the lake to support access by the adjacent school
- Restoration and maintenance of the lake shore is ongoing
- The parking lot was resurfaced and additional ADA-accessible stalls were installed
- A new trail was added to provide easy access between the Center and the River to River Greenway

DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

PROGRAMMING STUDY

The design process began by consulting areas and elements identified in the Long-range Plan and reviewing community engagement feedback received during that time. The design team explored concepts for each of the proposed park improvements, available products and materials from vendor sources, the feasibility of specific site elements, and estimated initial costs. County staff decided which projects should continue to Schematic Design.



APRIL 2024

SCHEMATIC DESIGN *(We are Here!)*

Thompson County Park's Long-range Plan was the result of extensive community engagement. The potential projects shown here represent many of the recommendations from that plan. Dakota County is seeking state bonding money and other grants to accomplish some of the projects.

As part of this Schematic Design process, each project is being priced. Depending on which funds the County is able to secure, some of the projects could move forward into final design and construction over the next few years. Long-range plans often take 10+ years to implement, so implementation of the remaining potential projects will be phased over time, as funding allows.

PROJECTS EXPLORED

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

These projects address desired program additions or improvements that were proposed in the Long-range Plan and have yet to be implemented. Each project area will be paired with interpretation that builds on the themes identified in the park's plan.

TRANSFORMATIVE TO THE PARK

* 1 THOMPSON PARK CENTER (INCLUDES PARKING LOT EXPANSION AND NEW MAINTENANCE SHED)

* 2 POLLINATOR PROMENADE, SENSORY GARDENS & PARTIALLY DAYLIGHTED STREAM

ACTIVATE NEW PARK AREAS

3 ENTRY WAYFINDING IMPROVEMENTS

4 PADDLE INPUT ON THOMPSON LAKE

5 INTERPRETIVE NATURE PLAY AREA

* 6 SIMON'S RAVINE IMPROVEMENTS

SUPPORTING FEATURES

7 AMPHITHEATER

8 EMERSON POND PICNIC AREA

9 ECOSYSTEM EXPLORATION LOOP

INTERACTIONS WITH HIGHWAY 52

* 10 LAND BRIDGE FEASIBILITY STUDY

* 11 NOISE MITIGATION

*** FEASIBILITY STUDIES:**

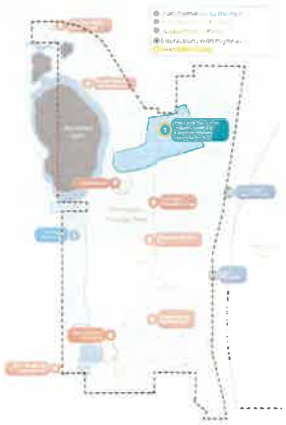
The four projects shown with an asterisk represent transformative multi-disciplinary efforts, for which multiple alternatives were explored.

HKGi MBJ EOR LOCUS LOEFFLER TOSGROUP

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION



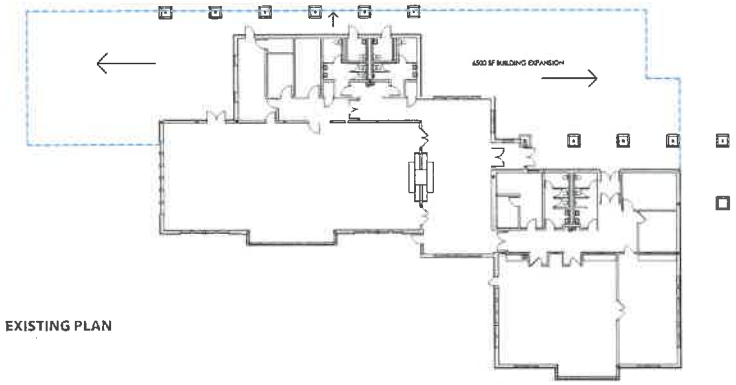
THOMPSON PARK CENTER

OVERVIEW

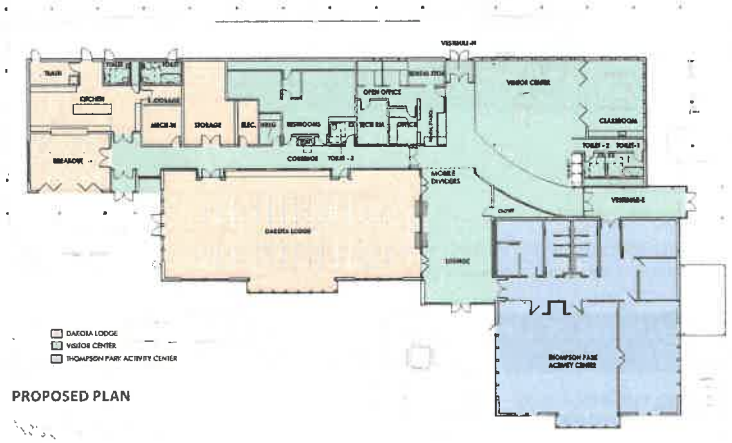
Locus Architecture's proposed concept for the Thompson Park Center opens the doors to park users with new Visitor Center spaces. This proposal is an evolution of a previous feasibility study, and includes hours of analysis, design, and collaboration with the entire design team and Dakota County staff. The Center will serve as a welcoming and informative Trailhead to the River to River Greenway, offer an assortment of rental gear (E-bikes, all-terrain wheelchairs, snowshoes, and the like), and improve event experiences at the Dakota Lodge.

FEATURES

1. The public-facing Visitor Center provides building entry from various landscape spaces; information about the park, park system, features, and programs; accessible bathrooms, flexible day-lit spaces for informal gathering, a large classroom, and flexible support space for larger Dakota Lodge events.
2. A large interior space connects the north and south areas of the park, integrating the building into the park landscape and infrastructure.
3. Staff offices provide information and equipment for park users.
4. A breakout room, catering kitchen, expanded accessible bathroom fixtures, nursing mothers' room, and enlarged storage room more comfortably support events at the Dakota Lodge.



EXISTING PLAN



PROPOSED PLAN

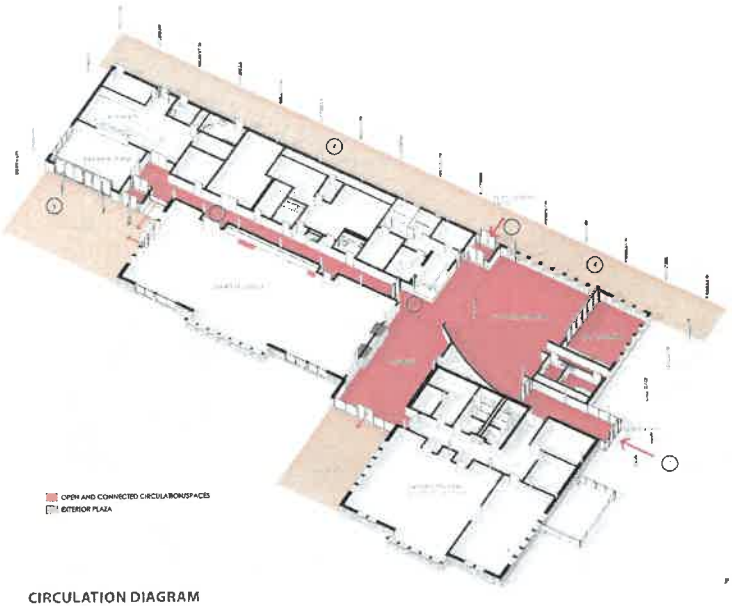
PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ANTICIPATED COST: $18.1 MILLION

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

THOMPSON PARK CENTER



CIRCULATION DIAGRAM

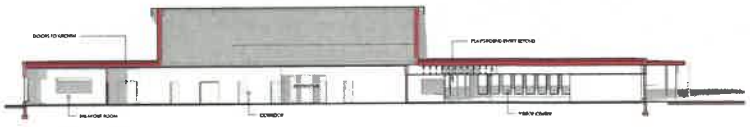
1. In order to protect the beauty of the existing mature oak trees on the south side of the building, the addition adds space west and north. The new Visitor Center provides entry from the street, parking lot, and north playground while offering views to the southern, less developed, area of the park.
2. One identifiable, weather-protected entry links the building to Stassen Lane and the parking lot – traversing a new plaza suitable for relaxing, resting, and waiting.
3. The east-west circulation spine through the building links the Visitor Center to Dakota Lodge, staff offices, bathrooms, classrooms, a catering kitchen, and TPAC. Clear wayfinding will easily orient visitors to the spaces within the building.
4. A "porch" running the length of the north facade provides shelter from weather, covered vehicle access to the catering kitchen, space for food trucks, and shaded seating overlooking the playground.
5. A lake-overlook plaza at the west end of the Dakota Lodge provides outdoor space for building functions and park users.

VIEW OF VISITOR CENTER

VIEW OF VISITOR CENTER

VIEW FROM ENTRY

N-S SECTION



E-W SECTION

ANTICIPATED COST: $18.1 MILLION

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POTENTIAL PROJECTS

THOMPSON PARK CENTER

VIEW OF BUILDING ENTRY

VIEW OF SOUTH PLAZA

VIEW OF VISITOR CENTER

ANTICIPATED COST: $18.1 MILLION

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION

AMPHITHEATER *ANFITEATRO*

OVERVIEW

Proposed as a complement to Thompson Park Center's event rentals, the amphitheater will serve wedding ceremonies, park events and group programming, and is intended to have a signature design informed by interpretation. It is located to take advantage of existing grades and proximity to the building. ADA access, ample seating, and a hard surface trail for ease of event set-up/vendor access are all included, along with electrical hookups for lighting and audio.

FEATURES

- Stage area is flush with grade and flexible. A decorative concrete pattern will add interest.
- Trails around the amphitheater are re-graded and re-aligned to make ADA-accessible where feasible - there will be impacts to trees south of the existing trail.
- Seatwalls will retain slopes and offer bench seating for approximately 112 people. Precedent "b" shows precast concrete, and precedent "c" shows cast-in-place concrete or limestone block.
- Grassy areas between seat walls allows flexible chair or blanket space for approximately 58 people.
- Grassy areas around amphitheater allow additional casual seating for approximately 92 people.
- Paved plaza provides flexible space for rental chair set up (approximately 68 people).
- Electrical for lighting and sound/power can be integrated into plaza or seat wall backdrop.
- Perimeter plantings will frame the space and provide screening where desired.

CONCEPT

PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ANTICIPATED COST: $1,400,000

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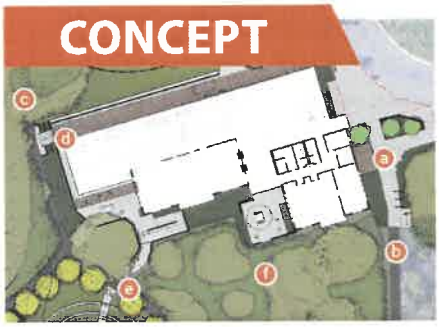
POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION

THOMPSON PARK CENTER EXTERIOR RENDERINGS

THOMPSON PARK CENTER
REPRESENTACIONES EXTERIORES

CONCEPT



ANTICIPATED COST: PART OF $18.1 MILLION THOMPSON PARK CENTER PROJECT

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION

THOMPSON PARK CENTER EXTERIOR

EXTERIOR DEL THOMPSON PARK CENTER

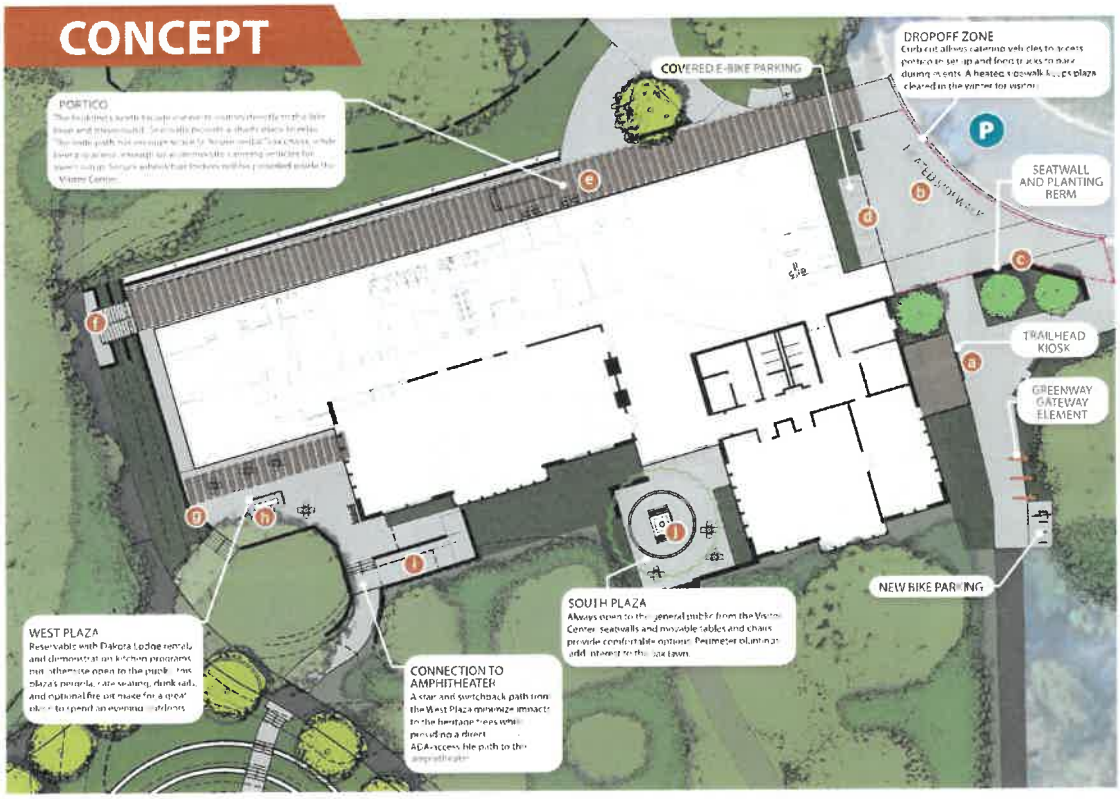
OVERVIEW

The building's exterior spaces respond to Thompson Park Center's new Vistor Center program and its role as a trailhead to the River to River Greenway. The entry plaza features a heated concrete walkway that will make winter access to the building safe and convenient for the active older adults who arrive for programming, while reducing maintenance needs and salt usage. The plaza will offer trailhead amenities including a kiosk, seating, and added bike parking. A new gateway element signals to visitors that they are connecting to the River to River Greenway. Thompson Park Center will offer E-bike and all-terrain wheelchair rentals, which will be parked under shelter with access to outlets for charging.

A small seating area south of the Visitor Center is also accessible from Thompson Park Activity Center and provides a relaxed setting to enjoy the dappled shade of the oaks. The southwest plaza is accessible from Dakota Lodge and the new demonstration kitchen. This slightly elevated patio offers sunset views and flexible seating. Drink rails along perimeter railings provide places for patrons to stand and look out across Thompson Lake. An optional gas firepit with seatwall would offer warmth and light on chilly evenings, and could include interpretation. The plaza directly connects to the proposed amphitheater, making it a great gathering place during events and rentals.

To support the building expansion, the parking lot is proposed to be expanded to the east, and a new maintenance building will accommodate equipment and personnel for park management and operations. The organics and trash enclosures will be relocated nearby. New stormwater treatment will be sited below a retaining wall along the eastern edge of the parking lot, and the natural surface trail that skirts the parking lot will be realigned.

CONCEPT



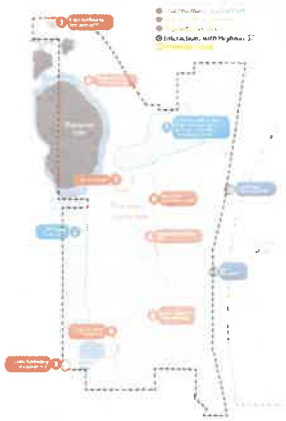
PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ANTICIPATED COST: PART OF $18.1 MILLION THOMPSON PARK CENTER PROJECT

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION



ENTRY WAYFINDING IMPROVEMENTS

MEJORAS DE SEÑALIZACIÓN EN LAS ENTRADAS DEL PARQUE

OVERVIEW

At Butler Avenue and Sperl Street, entry improvements were identified in the long-range plan. These areas are intended to have a welcoming wayfinding kiosk, seating, waste receptacle, ADA-accessible sidewalk/trail access, and plantings.

FEATURES

- Seating area
- Bicycle parking and fixit station
- Wayfinding kiosk
- Waste receptacles
- Landscape improvements

CONCEPTS

SPERL STREET ENTRY

BUTLER AVENUE ENTRY

PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ANTICIPATED COST: $150,000

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION

NOISE MITIGATION *MITIGACIÓN DEL RUIDO*

OVERVIEW

In order to reduce traffic noise from US 52 that impacts park users and wildlife, constructing a sound wall along the perimeter of Thompson County Park was recommended in the long-term plan for the park. A noise abatement study was conducted to develop a solution that will mitigate noise from Highway 52 and restore a more tranquil atmosphere to the eastern half of the park while providing visual screening of US 52 from park users. MnDOT has no current plans for improvement of Highway 52, so construction of a noise wall would need to be pursued as its own project, possibly in conjunction with construction of the proposed land bridge.

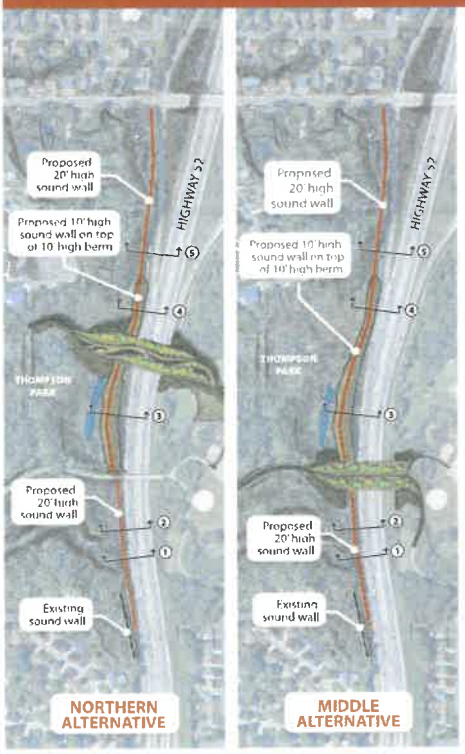
Currently, traffic noise impacts wildlife and outdoor programming around Thompson Park Center. Potential options for noise mitigation include earthen berms, vegetation, and noise walls. After a noise analysis and creation of models testing different noise wall configurations, the recommended solution is a combination wooden noise wall and earthen berm, wherever topography lends itself to earthwork, and a full height wooden wall elsewhere.

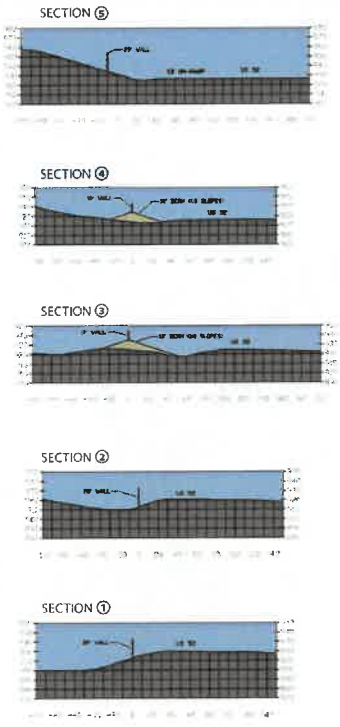
The best placement of a noise barrier should be as close to the source of noise as possible. Thus, placement of a noise barrier to provide abatement of the US 52 traffic noise would be best placed within the US 52 right-of-way and as close to the roadway as possible. Placement will need to be coordinated with MnDOT and a cooperative agreement for construction, operation and maintenance of the noise wall negotiated between MnDOT and the County prior to initiation of construction of the noise wall.

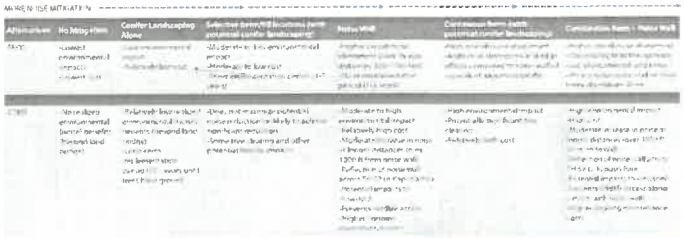
POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO WILDLIFE

Currently, Dakota County Natural Resources staff do not conduct wildlife monitoring at Thompson County Park, particularly due to the noise level associated with Highway 52. Installing noise abatement measures that reduce the ambient sound may both help in understanding what wildlife, in particular small mammals, songbirds, and breeding amphibians, are using the park, as well as provide improved conditions for wildlife to call and sign for breeding purposes. Due to the limited size of the park and the desired increase in park visitors due to additional park improvements, a noise wall would likely not improve conditions enough to provide habitat for disturbance-sensitive species, but it could enhance conditions for commonly found species that are likely already in the larger landscape.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

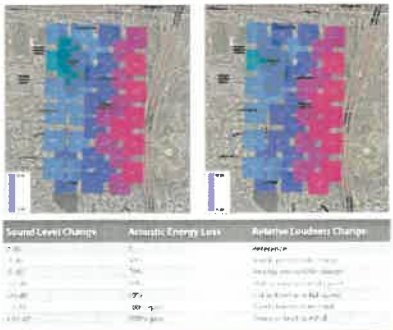






NOISE MODELING & BARRIER ANALYSIS

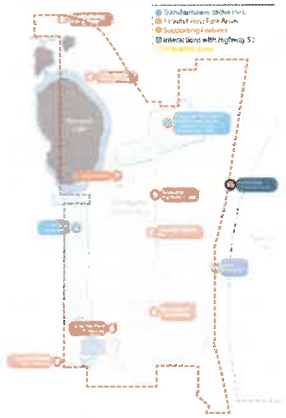
The team has proceeded with a generalized modeling effort in order to develop an existing conditions noise model for the area. Existing and projected (2043) ambient measurements have been diagrammed on maps of the park to identify areas of excessive noise. Noise mitigation mapping was also conducted for 10' and 20' barrier walls along Highway 52 with each of the proposed land bridge location options.



PRECEDENT IMAGERY

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION



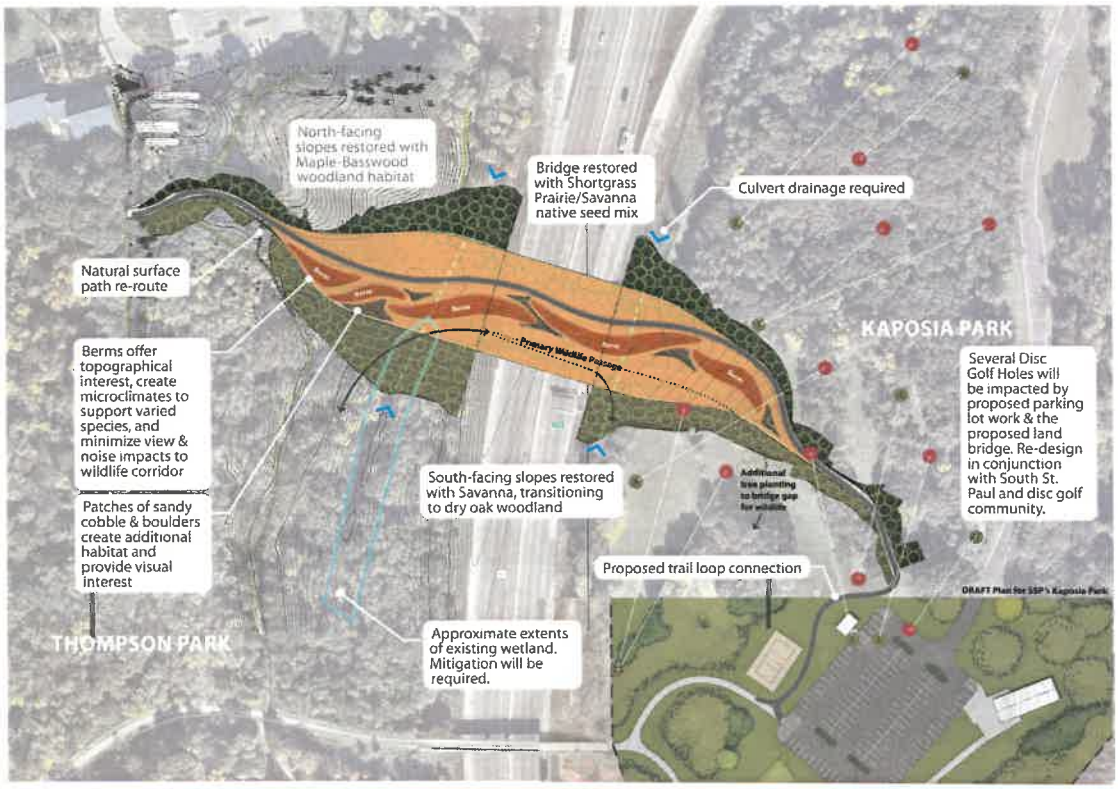
LAND BRIDGE *PUENTE TERRESTRE*

OVERVIEW

A land bridge across U.S. Highway 52 connecting Thompson County Park and South St. Paul's Kaposia Park was recommended in the long-term plan for the park. The land bridge is envisioned as a lid over the highway, roughly 150' wide, that would support trail use and habitat connectivity.

FEATURES

1. Park Connection & Amenities – Provides a more seamless park experience between Thompson County Park and Kaposia Park, reducing the barrier that Hwy 52 creates between the two parks. Park amenities including seating, landscaping, signage, and lighting will make the trail attractive and comfortable. Disc golf holes within Kaposia Park's course will be adjusted to accommodate the required grading.
2. Greenway/Trail Continuity – The land bridge creates an in-demand trail loop opportunity by connecting to the existing River to River Greenway Trail bridge just south of the proposed land bridge. This bridge has decades of useful life left, and while it was considered as a location for the land bridge, replacing it was not considered a sound investment. The land bridge will be a prime destination along the River to River Greenway's eight-mile east-west non-motorized transportation corridor.
3. Wildlife Crossing – Increases terrestrial habitat connectivity from the Mississippi River floodplain into the park by keeping the width such that small mammals, reptiles/amphibians, birds and insects can move uninhibited from one side of US 52 to the other.
4. Air/Noise Pollution Mitigation – Helps curb air pollution and mitigate noise pollution in both Kaposia and Thompson Parks, improving the visitor experience and the habitat value of both parks. The additional vegetation planted on the bridge will facilitate carbon reduction.



ECOLOGICAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES

CONNECTIVITY

- Establish a continuous native corridor between natural plant communities on each side of the bridge to facilitate small mammal and ground-based invertebrate movement.
- Keep breaks in native vegetation to a minimum number and width such as trail crossings or the amount of managed turf grass wildlife would have to cross.
- Corridor through the landbridge would be 100% native, but tying into natural (introduced or unmanaged non-native vegetation) would be acceptable.

TREE AND SHRUB BUFFER ALONG EDGES OF BRIDGE

- Tree and shrub buffer should be at least 30 feet on each side to allow for staggering of trees and shrubs.
- Provide both horizontal and vertical complexity.
- Trees – a mix of native and local ecotype deciduous and coniferous trees (50:50 mix) offset and in groups of 3. Include spring flowering trees.
- Shrubs – a mix of native and local ecotype species with bush and upright growth forms off set and in groups of 5. Include at least two species that are spring flowering and produce berries.
- Off-set spacing density should be 20-30 feet on-center for trees and 10-15 feet for shrubs with the goal of "Open" canopy coverage to allow enough when mature to maintain herbaceous ground layer.

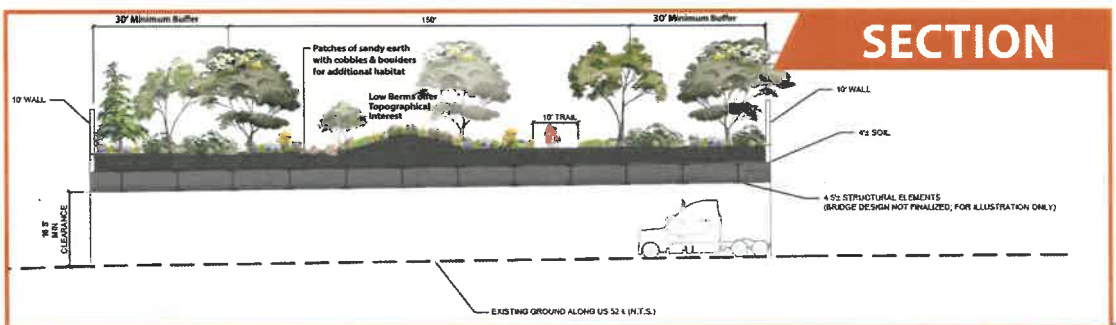
HERBACEOUS GROUND LAYER

- Clear and distinct boundaries to prevent overzealous mowing or pedestrian trampling
- Zero use of plastic netting in turf establishment mats
- Consider sandy/bare earth/cobble pockets for basking reptiles, tiger beetles, killdeer, etc. – basically not everything needs to be dense vegetation.
- Short-grass prairie-based: vegetation height promotes wildlife movement but does not limit visitor experience in understanding the scale of the landbridge
- Seed mix should provide pollinator food/habitat: continuous bloom times from spring to fall with at least 3 species per season.
- At least 15 forb species with > 50% forb seeds/ft.
- Utilize native and local ecotype seeds

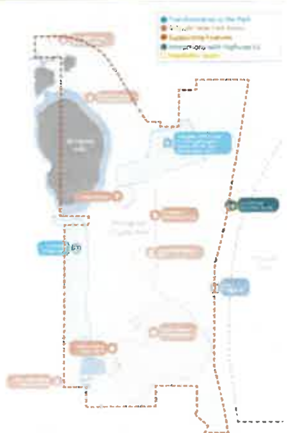
STRUCTURAL HABITAT

- Random rock piles with gaps and scattered downed logs to provide hiding places and overwintering habitat for invertebrates.
- Large rocks (1-3 ft D50) should have 90% of material buried to provide subsurface habitat and prevent damage from park visitors.
- Consider incorporation of nesting structures for birds and bats

SECTION



PROJECT LOCATION



LAND BRIDGE *PUENTE TERRESTRE*

OVERVIEW

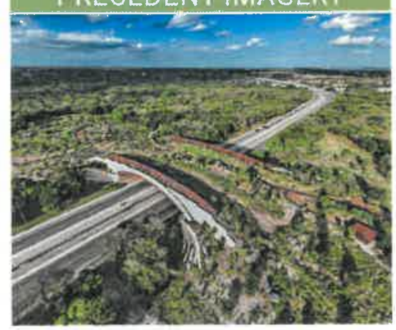
Two land bridge location alternatives are being studied as part of Schematic Design. In order to limit impacts to existing habitat and recreational uses within Thompson County Park and Kaposia Park, the land bridges shown below are both 150' wide, although wider bridges were initially considered. Weighing proximity to parking and park amenities, anticipated use by wildlife, impacts on existing infrastructure, potential locations of sensitive cultural resources, ability to create a loop trail, and a myriad of other evaluation criteria, the northern alternative appears to be the preferred option.

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Through a brief literature review and Federal grant program research, the team identified multiple possible funding sources for the land bridge and wildlife crossing which are eligible under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that was passed in 2021. Based on this effort, there are up to 15 different grant programs for which wildlife crossing infrastructure is expressly eligible under IIJA. The team identified U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT's) Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program (WCPP) as the most suitable source of funding for the wildlife crossing structures and associated fencing. In addition to WCCP, pursuing supplemental funding from USDOT's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program and/or Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) were identified as the next most suitable alternative funding options to consider. There are several other programs, but these provide the County with the best opportunity to supplement local funding for this portion of the project.

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

PRECEDENT IMAGERY



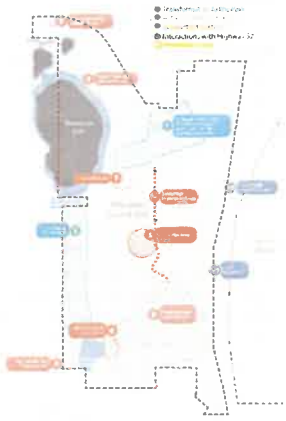
Thompson County Park
Land Bridge Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Units	Northern Alternative	Middle Alternative
[illegible] Cost (incl "soft" costs – 150' wide land bridge)	$$$	$16,270,000	[illegible]
[illegible] New Trail Length to Connect to River to River Greenway	Lineal Feet	1,450	[illegible]
Potential Wildlife Benefits – Proximity to [illegible] Ravine	Hi/Med/Low	Low	[illegible]
Potential Wildlife Benefits – Proximity to [illegible] & Open Space	Hi/Med/Low	[illegible]	Low
Potential Wildlife Impacts – Proximity to Lodges, Parking Lots & Human Activity	Hi/Med/Low	[illegible]	High
Existing Trail Accessibility During Construction *	Yes/No	[illegible]	No
[illegible] to Create Trail Loop between Parks *	Yes/No	[illegible]	No
[illegible] to TCP Lodge/Parking *	Lineal Feet	[illegible]	1,115
Potential Cultural Resources Impacts near Simon's Ravine	Hi/Med/Low	[illegible]	High
Potential Impact to Kaposia [illegible] Disc Golf Course	Hi/Med/Low	Medium (5 holes – #1, 2, 3, 4 & 27 from both TCP & KP Upgrades)	Medium (5 holes – #24 & 25 from TCP & #1, 3 & 27 from KP Upgrades)
Potential Impacts to Kaposia Parking Lot Detention Basin	Yes/No	[illegible]	Yes

* – these items were identified by Dakota County Parks Dept. Staff as important

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION



NATURE PLAY AREA

PATIO DE JUEGOS INSPIRADO EN LA NATURALEZA

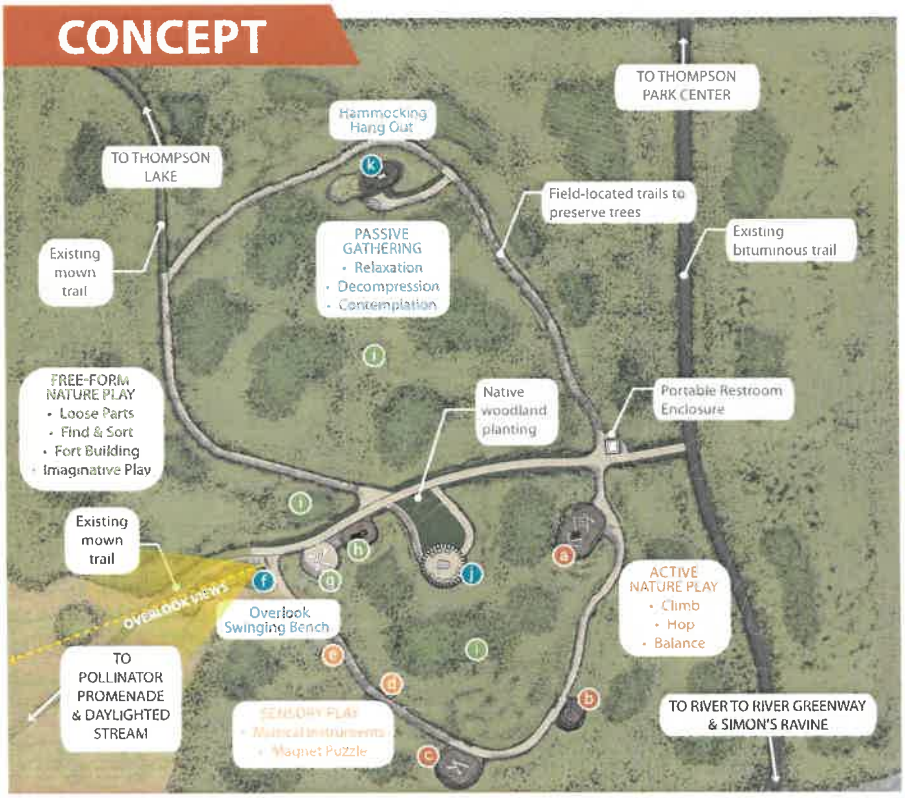
OVERVIEW

As a complement to the inclusive playground north of Thompson Park Center, the master plan proposed a more immersive nature play experience that can also accommodate individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. This nature play area activates the core of the park and functions as a stop along the paved Ecosystem Exploration Loop. Here, a quarter-mile long, ADA-accessible aggregate path meanders through the woods. Along the trail, visitors will find a variety of nature play stations, offering physically challenging active play elements, along with sensory, creative, and imaginative play areas. Areas for gathering along the trails allow for relaxation, provide views, and offers places to decompress.

FEATURES

- New ADA-accessible aggregate trails connect to existing mown trails and River to River Greenway.
- 10'x10' wood porta-potty enclosure
- "Log Pile" Natural wood playstructure (a)
- "Log Stilts" natural wood play (b)
- Balance Logs natural wood play (c)
- ADA-accessible "Magnicus" puzzle (d)
- ADA-accessible musical instruments (e)
- New swing bench for Daylighted Stream overlook views (f)
- ADA-accessible natural wood custom "loose parts" table (g)
- ADA-accessible natural wood "Chickadee" (h)
- Wooded areas for fort building and other creative play (i)
- "Gathering Circle" for relaxation and decompression (j)
- "Hammocking Hang Out" (k)
- Dakota County standard benches, picnic tables, and receptacles

CONCEPT



PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ANTICIPATED COST: $800,000

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION

PADDLE INPUT *MUELLE DE REMO*

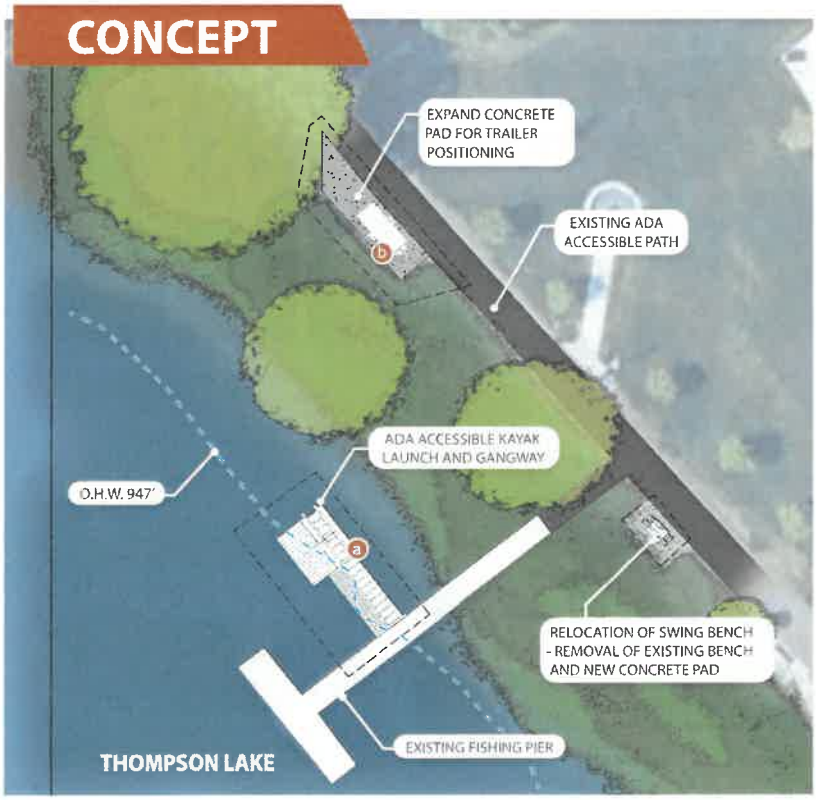
OVERVIEW

An ADA-accessible paddle launch was originally proposed southwest of Thompson Park Center, but was relocated near the existing fishing pier to take advantage of proximity to the north parking lot and improved shoreline access. A self-service trailer will offer easy watercraft rentals and streamlined winter storage.

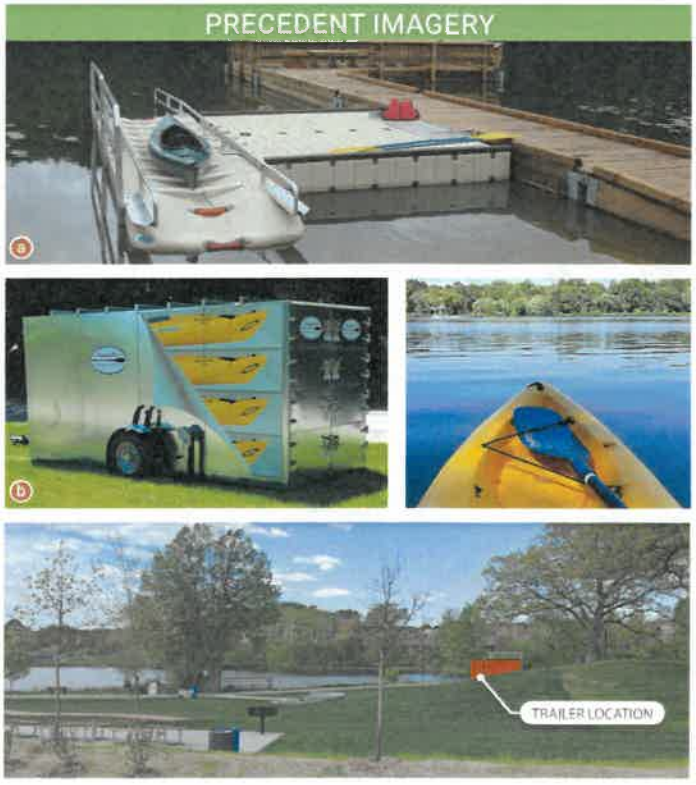
FEATURES & APPROACH

- ADA-accessible paddle launch/dock (same product as at Lebanon Hills) attaches to existing fishing pier to reduce shoreline impacts and cost of constructing new dock
- Short gangway will allow for water level fluctuations
- Modifications to existing fishing pier railing will be required
- Rental trailer (Paddle Port) placed on flattest, least visible section of path between parking lot and dock that doesn't impact mature trees.

CONCEPT



PRECEDENT IMAGERY

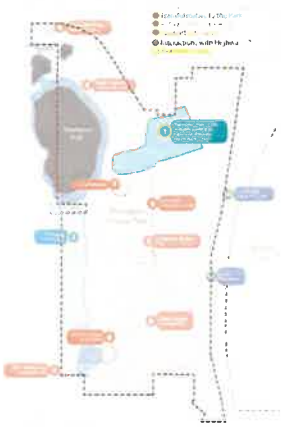


ANTICIPATED COST: $450,000

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION



PARKING LOT EXPANSION

EXPANSIÓN PLAYA DE ESTACIONAMIENTO

OVERVIEW

The parking lot expansion adds approximately 13,630 SF of bituminous pavement contributing to 33 new parking stalls. The expansion also provides access to a new 32' x 54' maintenance building as well as a connected 13' x 32' equipment storage shed for bikes and other seasonal rentals. The new maintenance building will be heated and plumbed in order to accommodate a small office space for maintenance staff, a restroom, utility sink, and equipment storage. The residential organics drop-off bins will be relocated where the trash disposal currently sits and the latter will be moved further east onto a new concrete pad.

FEATURES

- 33 additional parking spaces
- Stormwater detention basins account for impervious surface expansion
- Underground stormwater infiltration system
- Residential waste and organics dropoff bins
- New 67' x 32' Maintenance Building with Equipment Storage
- 390 Lin. FT *Monster Block* retaining walls
- Relocated natural surface trail around new stormwater basins
- Additional lighting with security cameras

CONCEPT

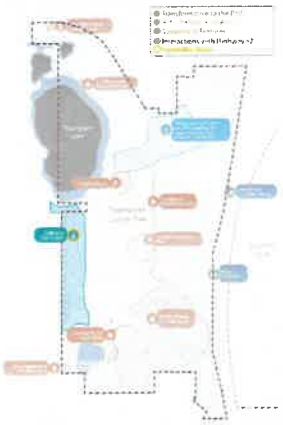
PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ANTICIPATED COST: PART OF $18.1 MILLION THOMPSON PARK CENTER PROJECT

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION



POLLINATOR PROMENADE, SENSORY GARDENS & PARTIALLY DAYLIGHTED STREAM

CAMINATA DE POLINIZADORES, JARDINES SENSORIALES Y LECHO DE ARROYO SECO

OVERVIEW

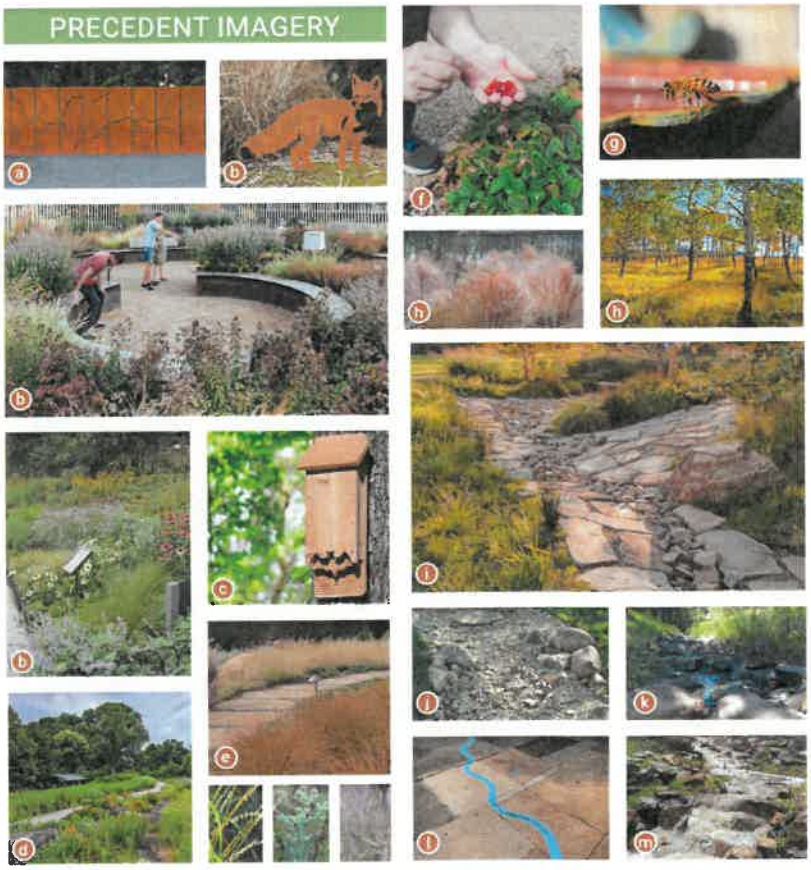
This area integrates three separate, but compatible directives from the master plan: a "Pollinator Promenade," a sensory garden, and a potential daylighted stream (still undergoing feasibility study). A paved, ADA-accessible path will run the length of the new plantings and daylighted stream, while a natural surface path weaves between existing trees, offering a a series of sensory invitations or prompts to encourage people to focus on different experiences along the path. Native seeding and structured plug plantings will be paired with the sensory prompts and interpretive signage exploring different pollinator species along the promenade.

Where the Pollinator Promenade travels along the proposed ephemeral daylighted stream, visitors will have views across the rocky creekbed and opportunities to interact with the stream when it is flowing (as water quality allows). A channel crossing will be paired with interpretive signage about flood control, the Mississippi River watershed, and water quality.

The south end of the Pollinator Promenade meets the River to River Greenway at a new "neighborhood gateway" that formalizes a frequented social trail by adding paving, an ADA-accessible curb cut to Sperl Street, seating, dog waste bags, and a waste receptacle.

CONCEPT

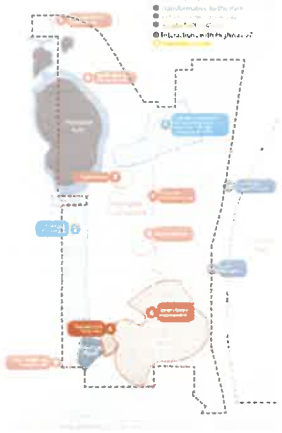
PRECEDENT IMAGERY



ANTICIPATED COST: $1,450,000

PHASE 2 THOMPSON COUNTY PARK POTENTIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT LOCATION



EMERSON POND PICNIC AREA & SIMON'S RAVINE IMPROVEMENTS

ÁREA DE PICNIC CERCA DEL ESTANQUE EMERSON Y MEJORAS EN EL BARRANCO DE SIMON

OVERVIEW

Visitors to the south end of the park and those arriving from the River to River Greenway will be able to enjoy a rest at a new picnic area on the lawn east of Emerson Pond. In addition, an ADA-accessible natural surface trail connected to the River to River Greenway will wind through wooded slopes to the new picnic area and bridge crossing Simon's Ravine. On the opposite slope, new natural surface trails (ADA-accessible) create a loop with access to the Emerson Pond picnic area.

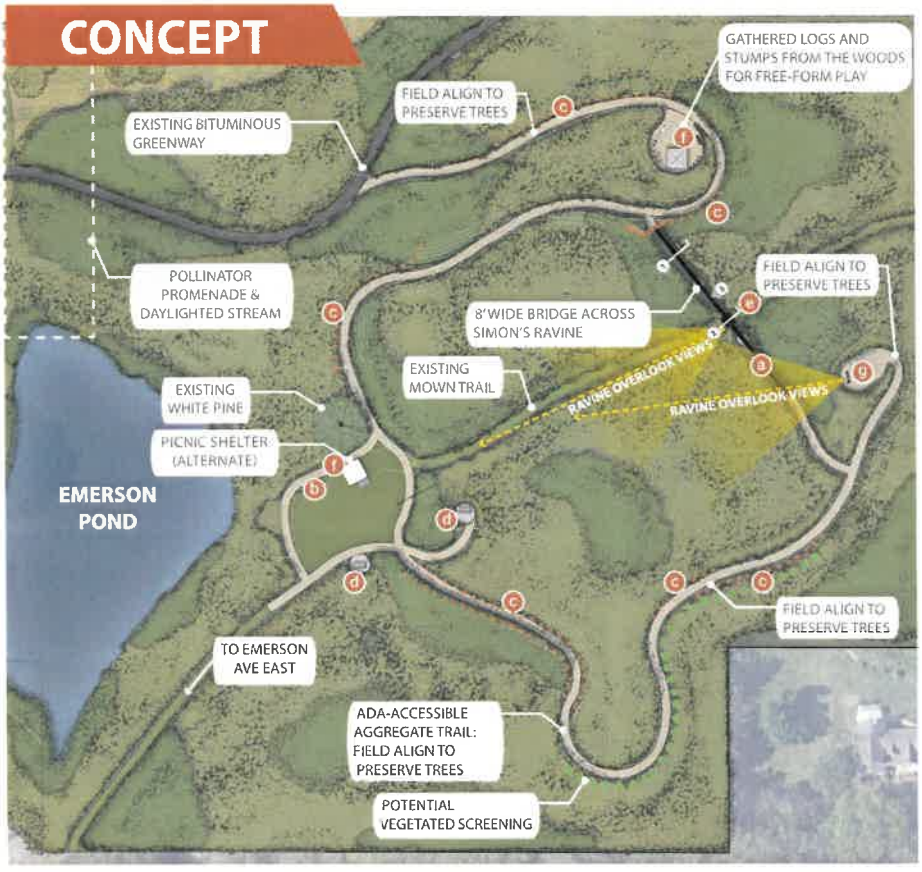
FEATURES EMERSON POND PICNIC AREA

- Dakota County standard picnic tables (ADA) and grills (ADA)
- Option for a 12'x12' timber picnic shelter for a picnic table and grill in the sunniest area of the park

FEATURES SIMON'S RAVINE IMPROVEMENTS

- ADA-accessible trails throughout the ravine area with single- and double-stacked boulder walls
- A bridge that spans 150' over Simon's Ravine and provides an overlook opportunity in the middle for framed views
- A bench swing overlooks the ravine and offers a hidden destination with integrated interpretive elements and natural stone block seating elements.

CONCEPT



PRECEDENT IMAGERY

ANTICIPATED COST: $2,250,000