



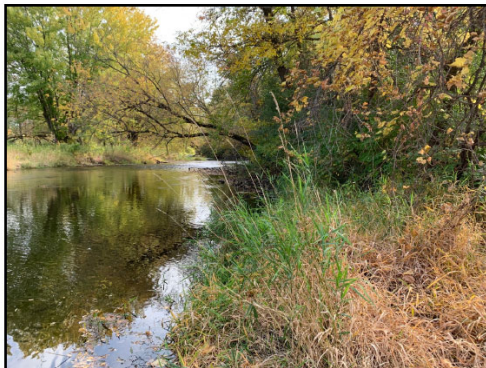
# Vermillion-Hastings Greenway Natural Resources Management Plan: Final Draft Review and Comments

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Planning Commission Meeting  
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## Project Purpose



Vermillion River Greenway

Natural Resource Management Plan  
2023

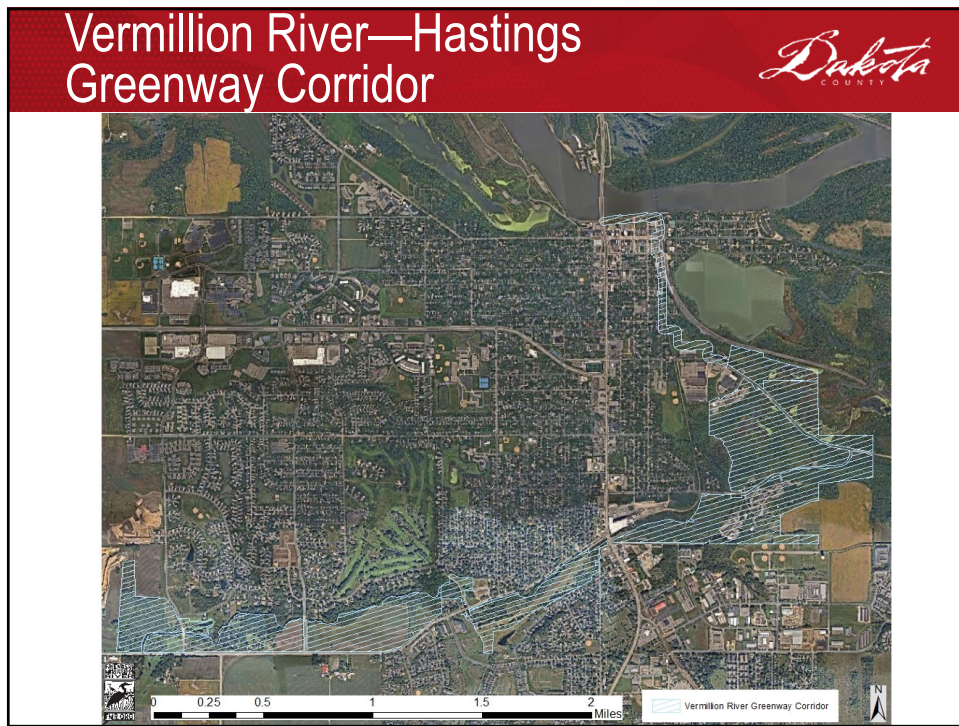
For the *natural communities* and  
*features* of the corridor:

- To gain a better understanding
- Develop priorities
- Guide the management
- Protect and preserve

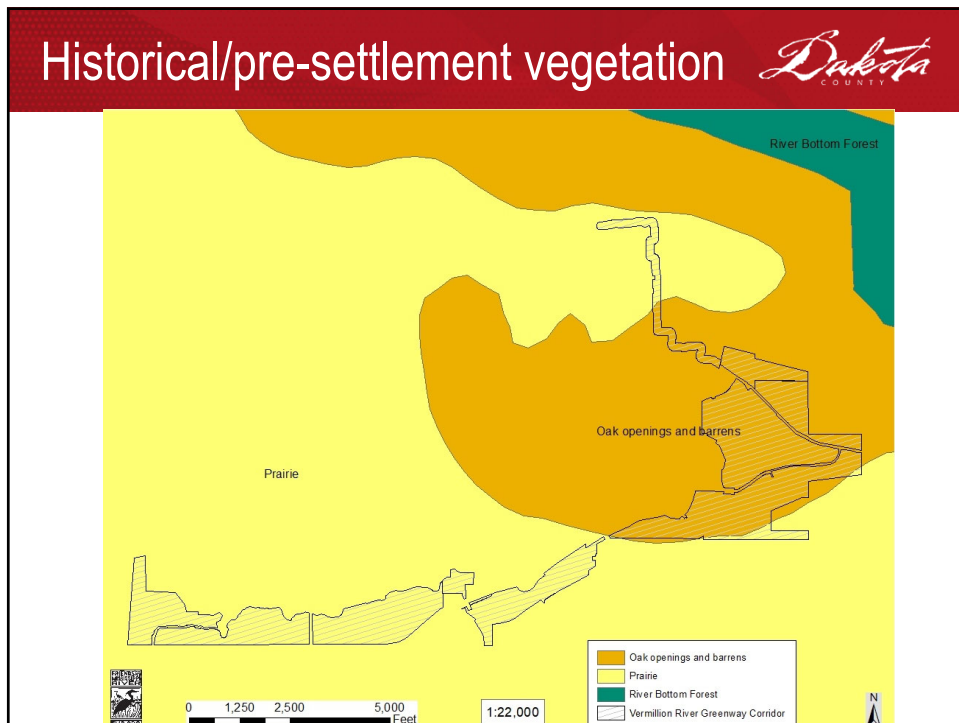
Inform future *construction activities*

Develop a natural resources  
management *work plan*

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## Planning Process



### City of Hastings

Summary of Issues and best ways to address them:

- Park Master Plans
- Terms of existing easements
- Future acquisition
- Changing land use patterns

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## Natural Resources Management Plan Recommendations



- Maximize native plant diversity and increase plant community resiliency
- Conserve and Promote Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Enhance Water Quality
- Build a strong relationship with the City of Hastings

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## Purpose of Natural Resources Management Plan



- Describe the historic and present conditions of the natural resources
- Lay the groundwork for developing a Joint Powers Agreement and a Management Agreement with City of Hastings

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## Vision



*"The water, vegetation, and wildlife of Dakota County Parks [and Greenways] will be managed to conserve biodiversity, restore native habitats, improve public benefits, and achieve resilience and regionally outstanding quality, now and for future generations (Natural Resources Management System Plan, 2017)."*

Improving the ecological value of the public lands outside but adjacent to the County's landholdings and easements

Opportunities to partner with other interested organizations to build larger corridors of conservation land

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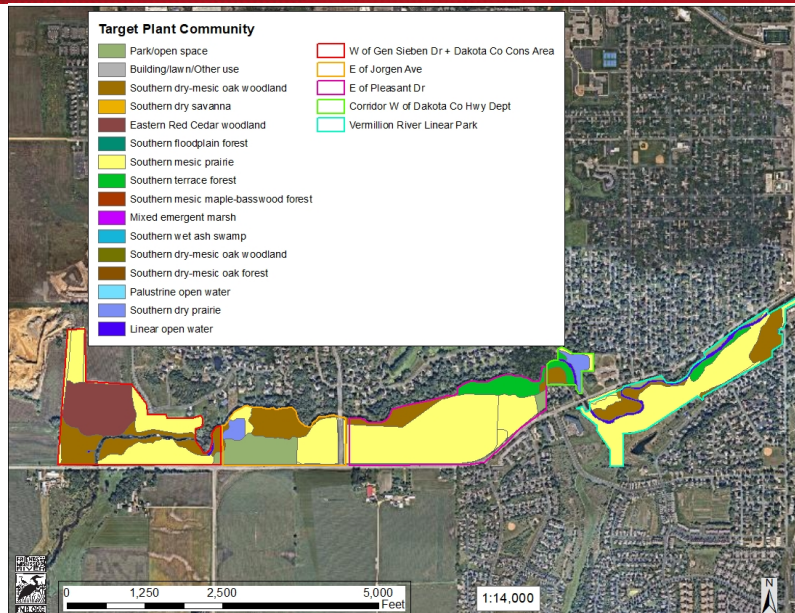


## Approach: Adaptive Management



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## Target Plant Communities



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## Past and Current Vegetation Restoration



Greenway Segment	Plant Community	Activity	Year Initiated
Vermillion Linear Park	Mesic Prairie	Restoration: Invasive plant control, seeding, prescribed burning	2016
	Floodplain Forest	Restoration: Invasive plant control, streambank revetment, seeding	2018
Vermillion Falls Park	Oak Savanna	Restoration: Invasive plant control, seeding	2022
	Woodland	Restoration & enhancement: Invasive woody control, prescribed burning, seeding	2019
Old Mill Park	Oak Savanna	Restoration & enhancement: invasive plant control, seeding, Rx burn	2013
	Oak Woodland	Enhancement: invasive woody control	2013
Hastings SNA	Forest (all)	Enhancement: invasive woody control	2012

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## Work Plan



- Greenway corridor divided into twelve segments
- Restoration Sequence
- Management and restoration tasks are identified
- Costs for each task are estimated
- Timeline and implementation schedule developed

Estimate for completing the entire greenway:

- \$915,000
- Phased over 5, 10, or 20 years

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## Implementation and Funding Considerations



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## Implementation and Funding Considerations



Greenway Roles / Location	30-foot Easement	100 – 300-foot Corridor	Natural Lands Beyond Corridor
Grant Match Cost Share	County	County and Landowner have equal cost share (50/50).	County/Landowner cost share to be stipulated in future Joint Powers and Maintenance Agreements.
Restoration Project Management	County	County/Landowner Partnership.	County/Landowner cost share to be stipulated in future Joint Powers and Maintenance Agreements.
Maintenance	County	County/Landowner agreement.	County/Landowner cost share to be stipulated in future Joint Powers and Maintenance Agreements.

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## Recent Updates to the Natural Resources Management Plan



- Added 13 pages based on preliminary feedback
- Work Plan (Executive Summary p.10 and pp. 79-88)
- Implementation and Funding Considerations (Executive Summary pp. 10-12)
- Introduction: Land Conservation Plan
- Strategic Partnerships of Implementing Greenway Natural Resource Projects (pp. 90-94)

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## Timelines and Schedules



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • August 2022: Contractor was hired                                      | • February 2023: Draft Plans  |
| • October 2022: Stakeholder meeting with City of Hastings Park's staff   | • June-July 2023: comment period and final Planning Commission review |
| • August-December 2022: Site survey and background information collected | • July 2023: Final public drafts                                      |
|  | • August 2023: Final adoption   |

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## Requested Actions



1. Can we release this plan for public comments?
2. Have we covered everything? Are there any gaps?
3. What are your overall impressions?