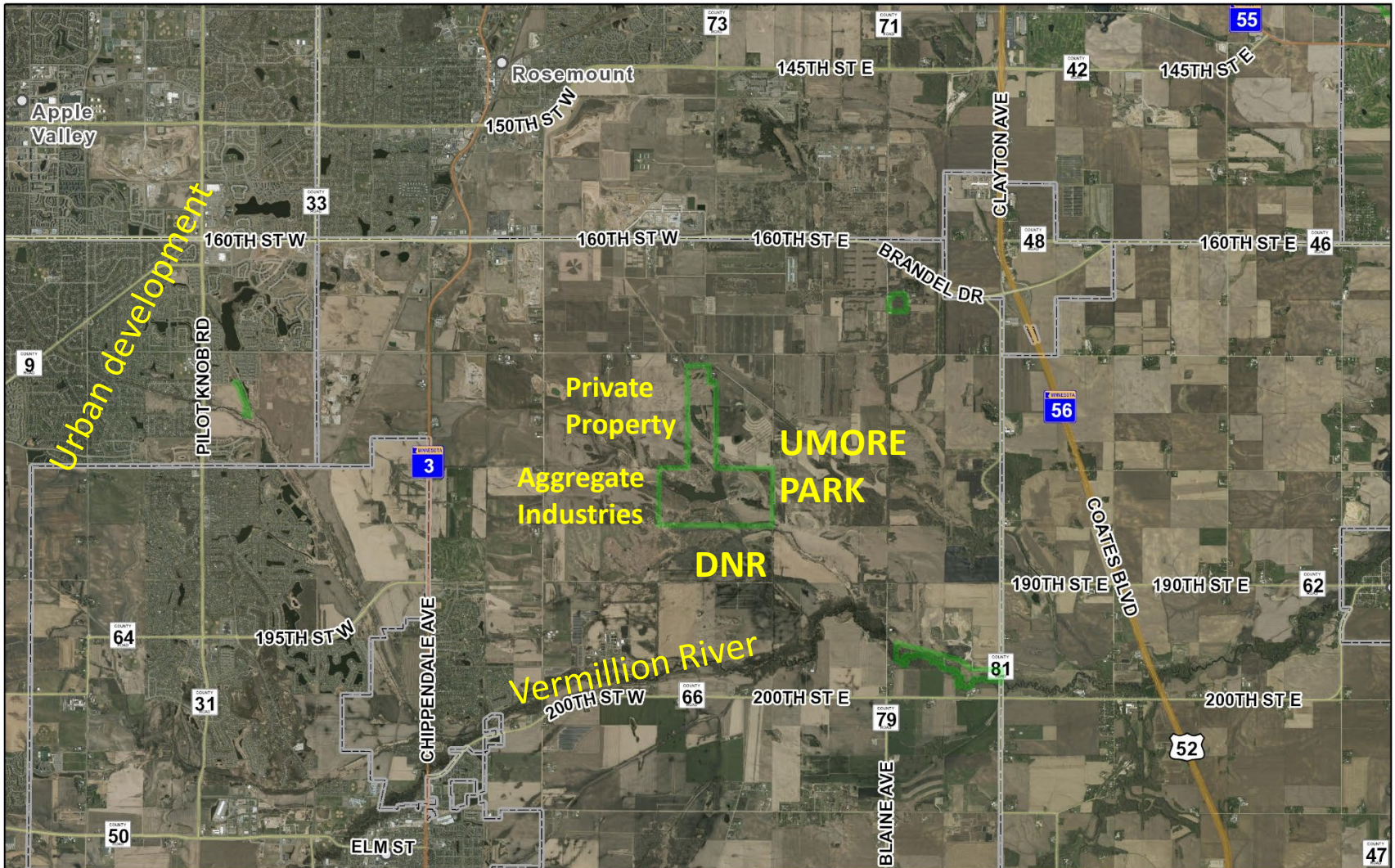


NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WHITETAIL WOODS REGIONAL PARK: FINAL DRAFT AND RECOMMEND RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

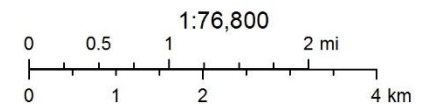
Joe Walton, Senior Ecologist

Tom Lewanski, Natural Resource Manager

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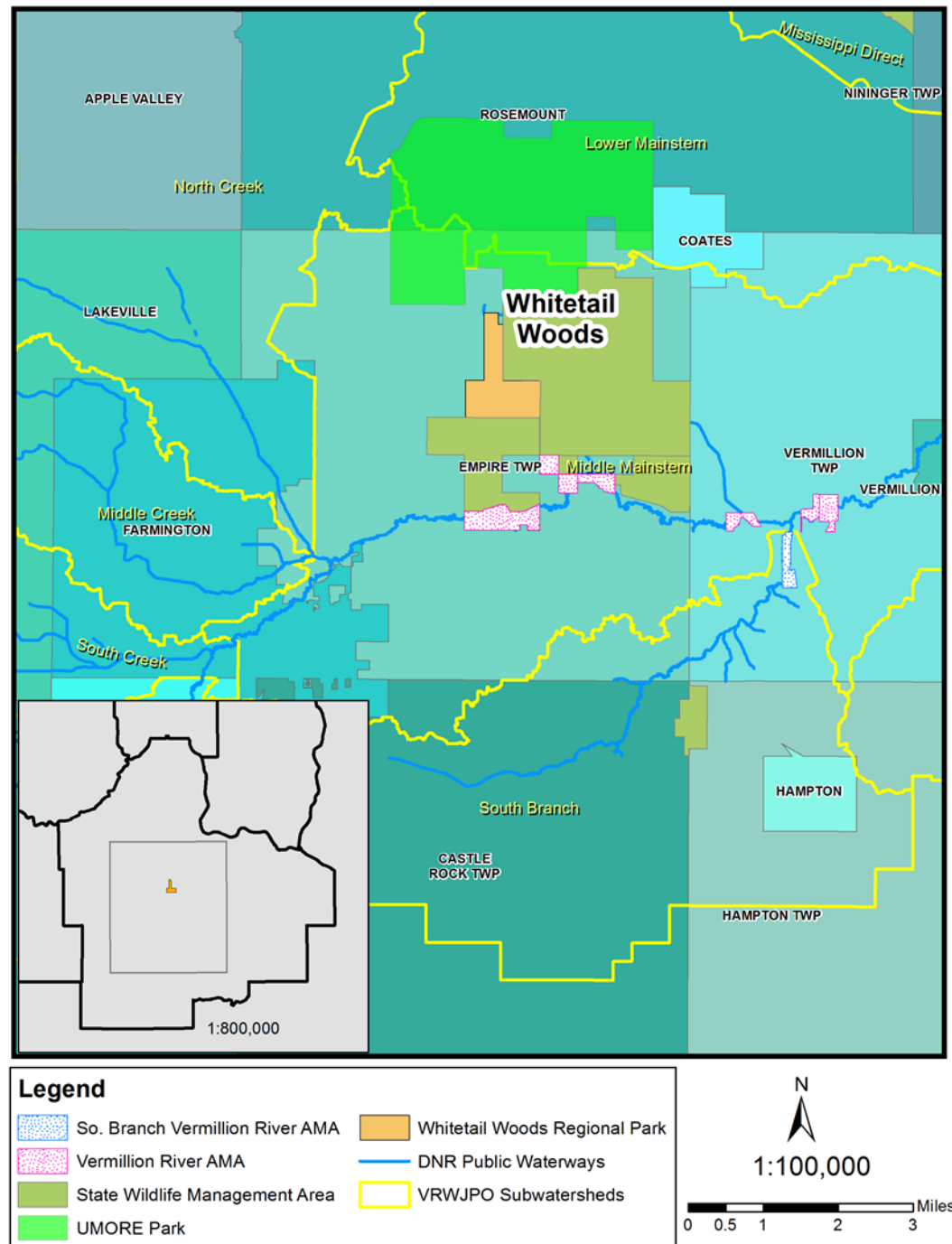
May 26, 2020

Property Information
Parks & Recreation

Disclaimer: Map and parcel data are believed to be accurate, but accuracy is not guaranteed. This is not a legal document and should not be substituted for a title search, appraisal, survey, or for zoning verification.

Highlights from the Plan

- Collaborate with Adjacent Landowners:
 - DNR
 - Vermillion JPO
 - University of Minnesota
 - Empire Twp.



VISION FOR NATURAL RESOURCES



Efficient, Effective, Responsive

The water, vegetation, and wildlife of Dakota County Parks will be managed to conserve biodiversity, restore native habitats, improve public benefits, and achieve resilience and regionally outstanding quality, now and for future generations.

Whitetail Woods Regional Park is a healthy mosaic of natural and community spaces that restore the human spirit, where people can gather, celebrate, and be inspired. Outstanding recreation and learning experiences heighten awareness and appreciation of our relationship with nature.

PROJECT RECAP



Efficient, Effective, Responsive

- Research & Findings
- Goals
- Recommendations
- Priorities



Highlights from the Plan: Wildlife Projects



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Bird Conservation:
e.g., osprey tower
installed



Herptile
Conservation:
e.g., Blanding's
Turtles

At-Risk Wildlife Species

- Some Species Observed in the park
 - Dickcissel
 - Sandhill Crane
 - Red-headed woodpecker
 - Baltimore checker-spot
- Some species not observed in the park, but expected
 - American bittern
 - Upland sandpiper
 - Eastern fox snake
 - Prairie vole

Highlights from the Plan: Current Wildlife Project



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Example: Beavers in the Park—Can We Coexist with Them?



nsive



WORK PLAN: Vegetation Tasks and Costs per Work Unit



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Novel PC Code	Resto Time-line	Unit Description	Old Unit(s) Names	NRMP Unit	Acres	Mgmt Activity 1 Proposed (Year 1)	Cost per acre	Cost 1	Mgmt Activity 2 Proposed (Year x)	Cost per acre	Cost 2	Mgmt Activity 3 Proposed (Year x)	Cost per acre	Cost 3
16	short	Small diameter black walnut	F4 (19ECP4	PR-e4	1.18	Begin managing with fire (Yrs 1-10)	\$ 500	\$ 590	Seed with diverse prairie mix. (Yrs 2-10)		\$ -	Plant bur oaks (Yrs 10-20)	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,950
17	short	Red pine and cottonwood	F4 (19ECP4	PR-e4	0.59	Site prep and seed prairie. (Yr 1-5)	\$ 750	\$ 443	Ongoing management (duration)	\$ 300	\$ 177			
		Old field	H7	PR-e5	1.29	Convert weedy old field to native prairie. Blend into surrounding units as best as possible. (Yrs 1-5)	\$ 500	\$ 647	Broadcast herbicide as many times as necessary to flush out weed seed bank. Include site prep burns as necessary. (Yrs 1-5)	\$ 700	\$ 905	Prepare soil as necessary. Break up clumps. Seed with a medium diverse native savanna mix. (Yr 3)	\$ 500	\$ 647
		Weedy grassland	E1	PR-e6	0.56	Small grassland opening in woodland. Remove woody invasives. Blend into surrounding units as best as possible. (Yrs 1-5)	\$ 1,000	\$ 557	Broadcast herbicide as many times as necessary to flush out weed seed bank. Include site prep burns as necessary. (Yrs 1-5)	\$ 700	\$ 390	Prepare soil as necessary. Break up clumps. Seed with a medium diverse native savanna mix. (Yr 3)	\$ 500	\$ 278
		Walnut plantation	2 (clearcut	PR-e7	1.86	Clearcut B2 segment (Years 1-5)	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,310	Manage with fire (start yrs 1-5)	\$ 500	\$ 931	Site prep and seed native prairie. (Yrs 1-5)	\$ 750	\$ 1,396
		Roadside	25A-East	PR-m-road-side	1.99	Ongoing management--burn on rotation, spot spray occasionally, overseed following burns, monitor. (duration)	\$ 300	\$ 596			\$ -			\$ -

WORK PLAN: Vegetation



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Summary Table of the Vegetation Work Plan

Enhancement Cost, Yrs 1-5	Enhancement Cost, Yrs 6-10	Enhancement Cost, Yrs 11-20	Total Enhancement Cost, Yrs 1-20	Ongoing Maintenance (Yrs 1-20)	Sum Total Enhancement + Maintenance (Yrs 1-20)
\$539,243	\$93,340	\$59,643	\$692,226	\$181,708	\$873,934

Work Plan: Water Resources



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- Continue to monitor water quality, AIS, and fish species of Empire Lake
 - \$12,250 per first five years
- Improve and enhance the emergent and submergent vegetation of Empire Lake
 - \$320,000, but depends on many factors
- Restore wetlands and wetland hydrology to the south side of the park.
 - Wetland Restoration Plan, \$10,000-\$40,000
 - Example: plug the ditches south of Empire Lake
 - Costs to be determined

Work Plan: Wildlife



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- Full spectrum of taxa and species
 - Species of Greatest Conservation Need
 - Wildlife-focused projects
 - NRMSP allocated \$180,000 for the first five years
- Monitoring and collecting baseline data
 - \$10,000 for the first five years
- Species Re-introductions
 - To be determined

Work Plan Summary with Anticipated Funding



Efficient, Effective, Responsive

	<i>Estimated External Funding</i>	<i>Estimated County Funding</i>	<i>Total Estimated Funding Years 1-5</i>	<i>Estimated External Funding</i>	<i>Estimated County Funding</i>	<i>Total Estimated Funding Years 6-20</i>	<i>Total Estimated External Funding Years 1-20</i>	<i>Total Estimated County Funding Years 1-20</i>	<i>Total Estimated Funding Years 1-20</i>
Management Sphere									
Vegetation Resources									
Enhancement	\$431,360	\$107,840	\$539,200	\$122,400	\$30,600	\$153,000	\$553,760	\$138,440	\$692,200
Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Maintenance	\$36,320	\$0	\$36,320	\$109,040	\$27,260	\$136,300	\$145,360	\$27,260	\$172,620
VEG SUBTOTAL	\$467,680	\$107,840	\$575,520	\$231,440	\$57,860	\$289,300	\$699,120	\$165,700	\$864,820
Water Resources									
Empire Lake Enhancement	\$52,500.00	\$17,500.00	\$70,000	\$187,500	\$62,500	\$250,000	\$240,000	\$80,000	\$320,000
Empire Berm	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250	\$0	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Wetland Restoration	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Water Monitoring	\$360	\$5,640	\$6,000	\$1,080	\$16,920	\$18,000	\$1,440	\$22,560	\$24,000
AIS Monitoring	\$625	\$625	\$1,250	\$1,875	\$1,875	\$3,750	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000
Fish surveys	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Planning	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000
WATER SUBTOTAL	\$53,485	\$70,015	\$123,500	\$190,455	\$100,045	\$290,500	\$243,940	\$170,060	\$414,000
Wildlife Resources									
Full spectrum of species, plus those of conservation interest and concern	\$126,000	\$54,000	\$180,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$126,000	\$54,000	\$180,000
Monitor and collect baseline data	\$600	\$9,400	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$9,400	\$10,000
WILDLIFE SUBTOTAL	\$126,600	\$63,400	\$190,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$126,600	\$63,400	\$190,000
SUM TOTAL	\$647,765	\$241,255	\$889,020	\$421,895	\$157,905	\$579,800	\$1,069,660	\$399,160	\$1,468,820

NEXT STEPS



Efficient, Effective, Responsive

Planning Commission, May 28

Physical Development Committee, July 7

Release for 30-Day Public Review, July-August

Receive and Incorporate Comments, July-August

Plan Adoption, September 2020

NEXT STEPS



Efficient, Effective, Responsive

Action Requested:

Recommend to the Physical Development Committee that the draft Natural Resource Management Plan for Whitetail Woods Regional Park be released to the public for a 30-day review period.



What do you think of the plan?

Do you think it is complete?

Is there anything missing?

QUESTIONS? |