



APPENDIX A | DEMOGRAPHICS & MARKET ANALYSIS

Demographics

COMMUNITY PROFILE

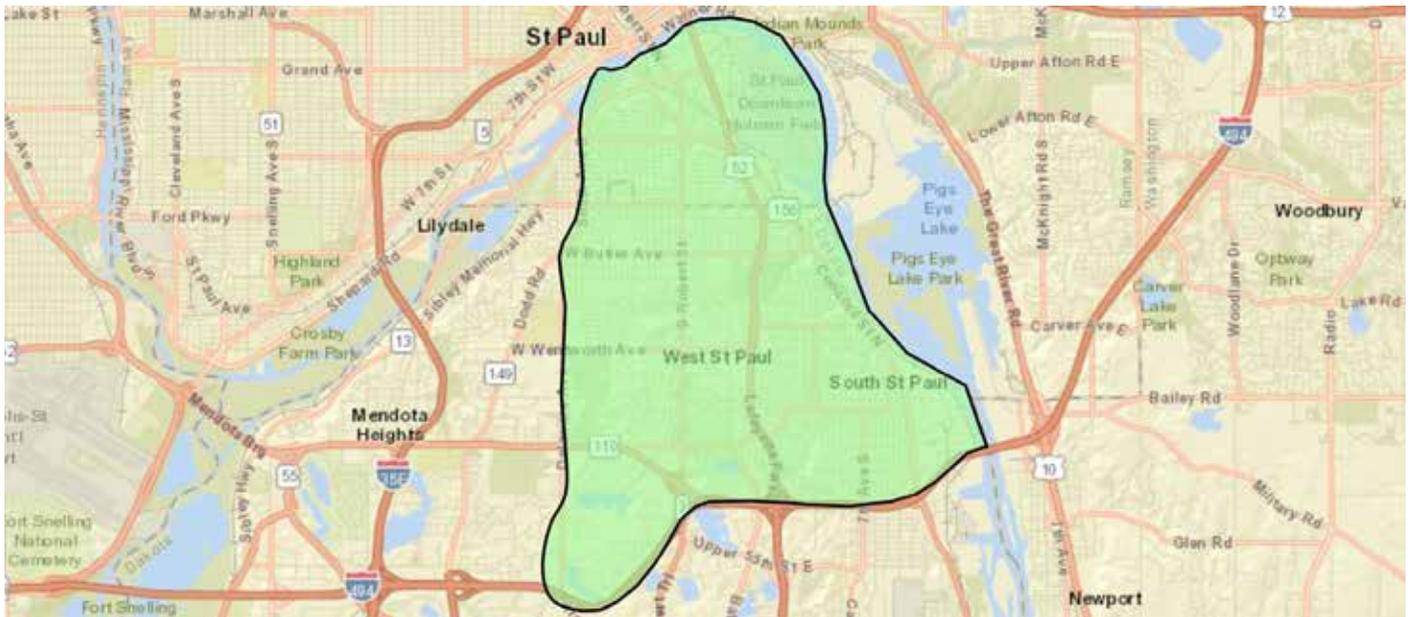
1.1 DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The Demographic Analysis provides an understanding of service area populations for Thompson Park. For purposes of this analysis, two service areas were created for Thompson Park: a 16 square mile “neighborhood” service area and a 134 square mile “expanded” service area. The analyses are reflective of the total population, and its key characteristics such as age segments, income levels, race, and ethnicity for each service area.

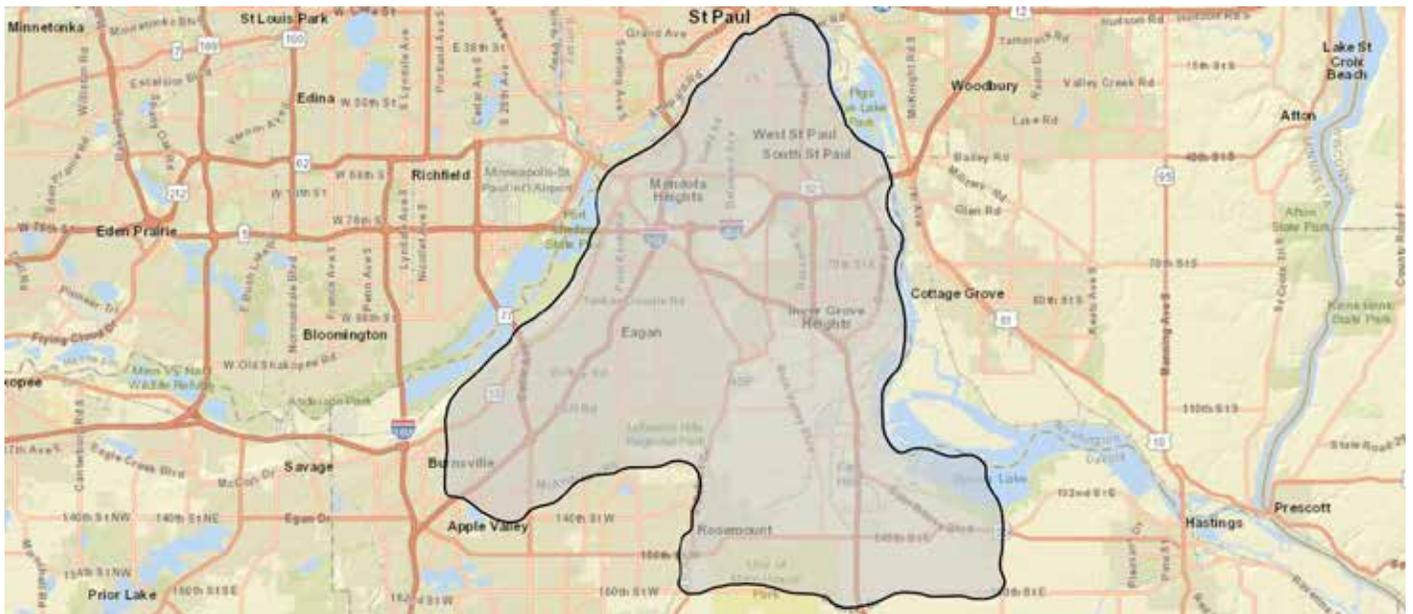
It is important to note that future projections are all based on historical patterns and unforeseen circumstances during or after the time of the projections could have a significant bearing on the validity of the final projections.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

Demographic data used for the analyses was obtained from U.S. Census Bureau and from ESRI, the largest research and development organization dedicated to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and specializing in population projections and market trends. All data was acquired in July 2018 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2010 Censuses and estimates for 2018 and 2023 as obtained by ESRI. Straight line linear regression was utilized for projected 2028 and 2033 demographics. The boundaries for each of the service areas utilized for the demographic analyses are shown below.



Neighborhood Service Area



Expanded Service Area

1.3 RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS

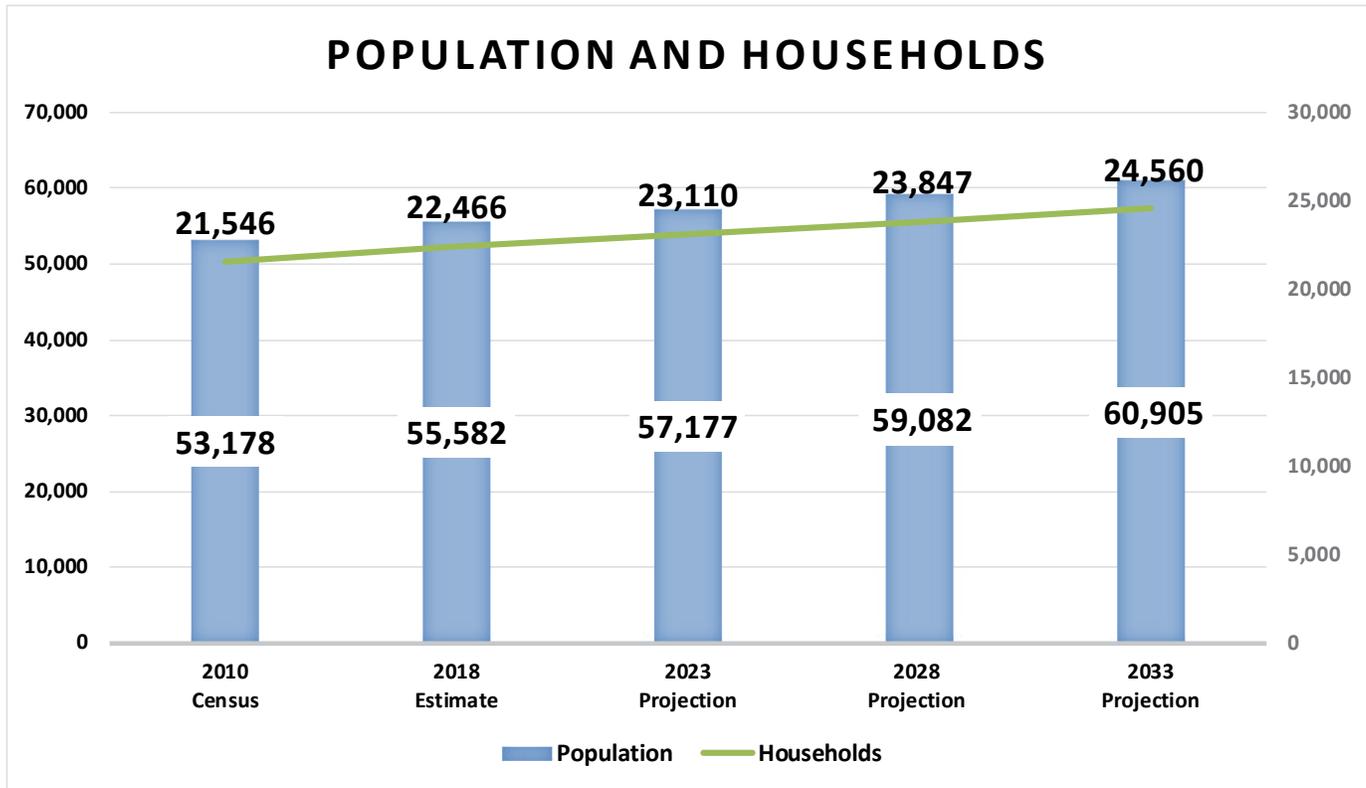
The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as below. The Census 2010 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 2000 Census and earlier censuses; caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the US population over time. The latest (Census 2010) definitions and nomenclature are used within this analysis.

- American Indian - This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment
- Asian - This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
- Black - This includes a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander - This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands
- White - This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa
- Hispanic or Latino - This is an ethnic distinction, a subset of a race as defined by the Federal Government; this includes a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race

1.4 THOMPSON PARK POPULACE – (NEIGHBORHOOD)

1.4.1 POPULATION – NEIGHBORHOOD

The “neighborhood” service area’s population has experienced a slight growing trend in recent years and is currently estimated at 55,582 individuals. Projecting ahead, the total population is expected to continue to grow over the next 15 years. Based on predictions through 2033, the service area is expected to have 60,905 residents living within 24,560 households.

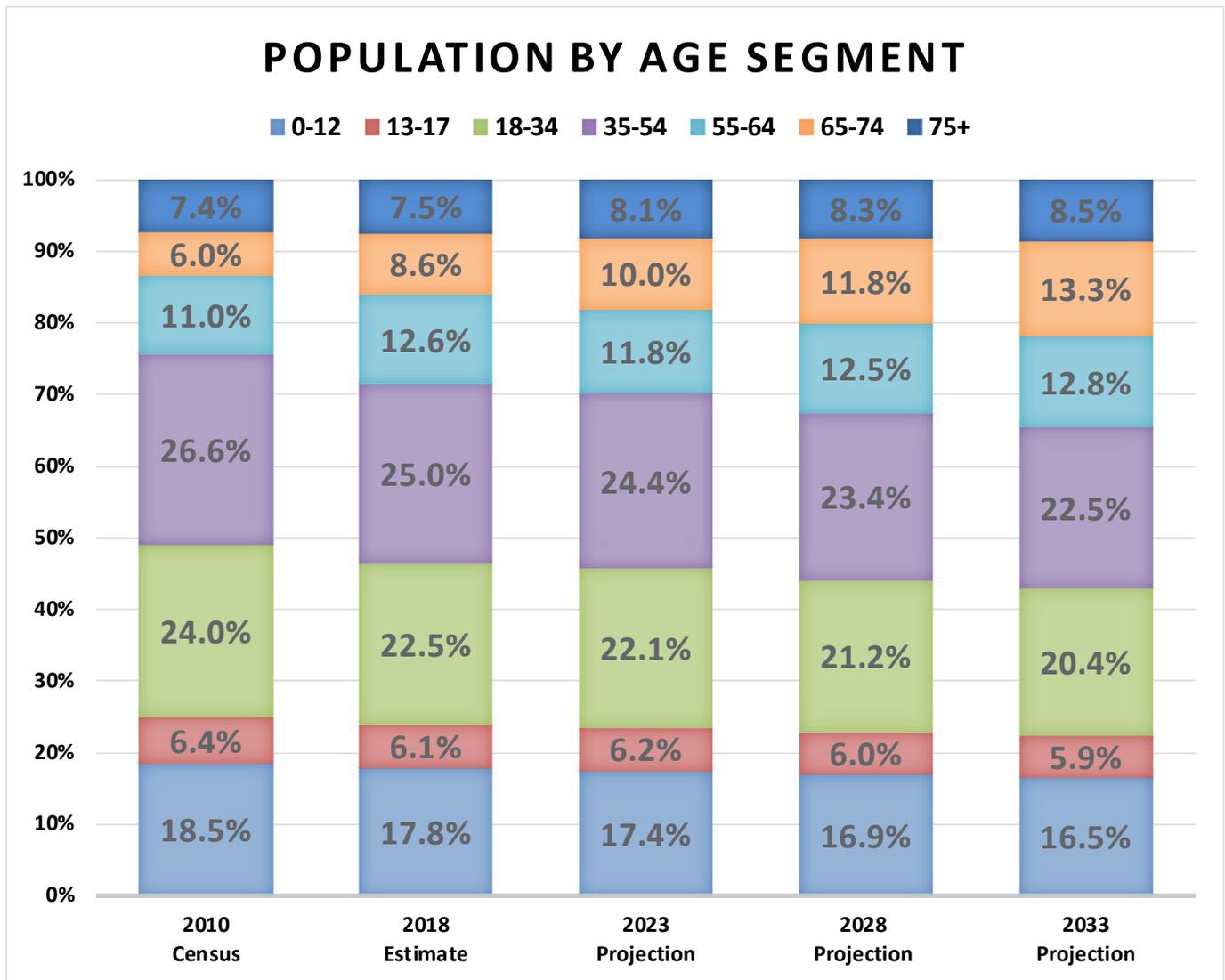


1.4.2 AGE SEGMENT - NEIGHBORHOOD

Evaluating the population by age segments, the “neighborhood” service area exhibits a fairly balanced distribution among the major age segments. Currently, the largest age segment is the 55+, making up 29.7% of the population.

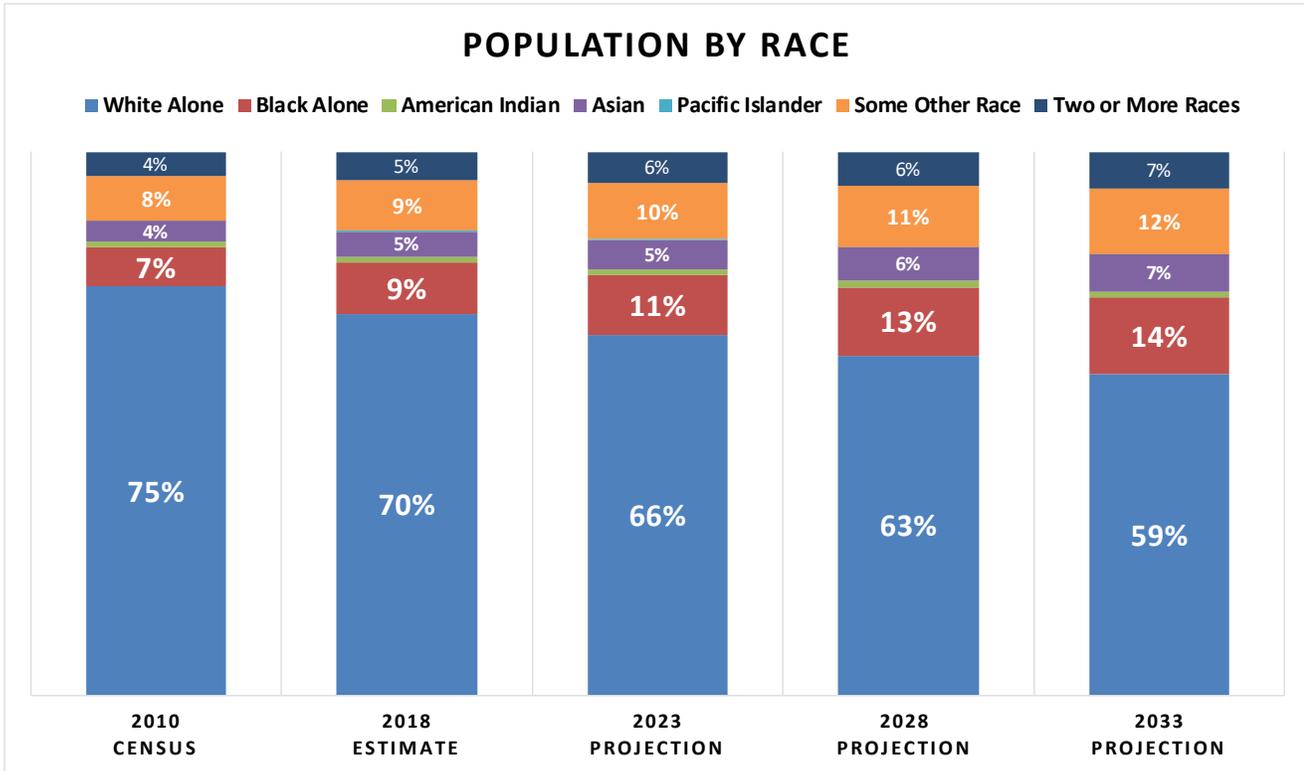
The overall age composition of the population within the service area is projected to undergo an aging trend. While most of the younger age segments are expected to remain the same or experience slight decreases in population percentage; those who are 55 and older are projected to continue increasing over the next 15 years, making up 34.6% of the population by 2033. This is assumed to be a consequence of a vast amount of the Baby Boomer generation shifting into the senior age segment.

Given the differences in how the active adults (55 and older) participate in park programming, the trend is moving toward having at least two to three different program age segments for older adults. When developing the park and recreation system, the County should evaluate park experiences that would cater to active adults who are 55-64, 65-74, and 75+ age segments.

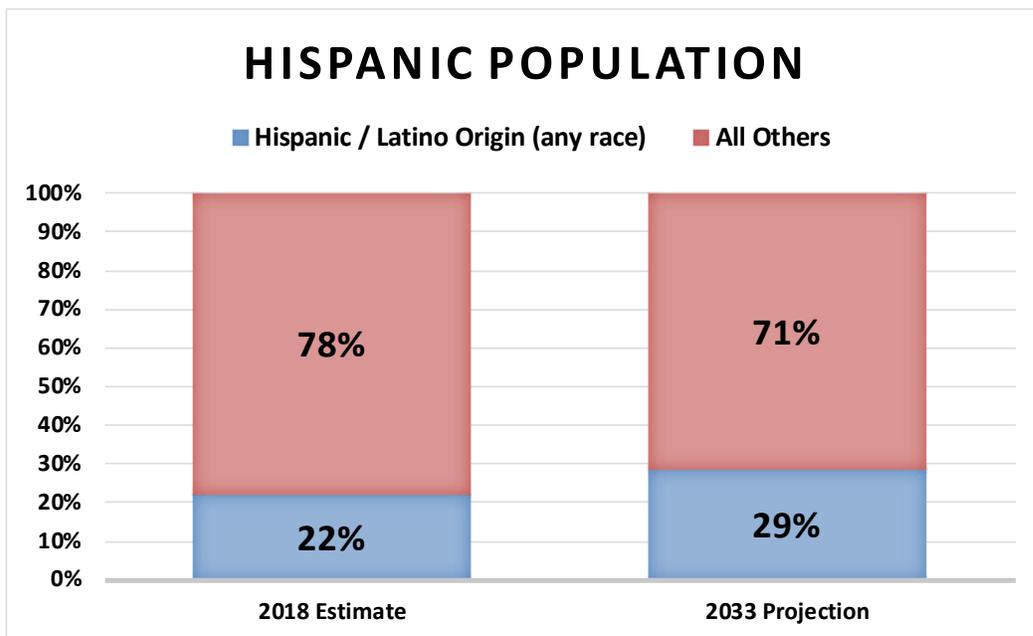


1.4.3 RACE AND ETHNICITY - NEIGHBORHOOD

In analyzing race, the neighborhood service area's current populations are predominately White Alone. The 2018 estimates show that 70% of the service area's population falls into the White Alone category, while the Black Alone category (9%) represents the largest minority. The predictions for 2033 expect that the service area's population by race will change in that White Alone will decrease by 11% while Black Alone will increase by 5% and the Asian segment will grow by 3%.

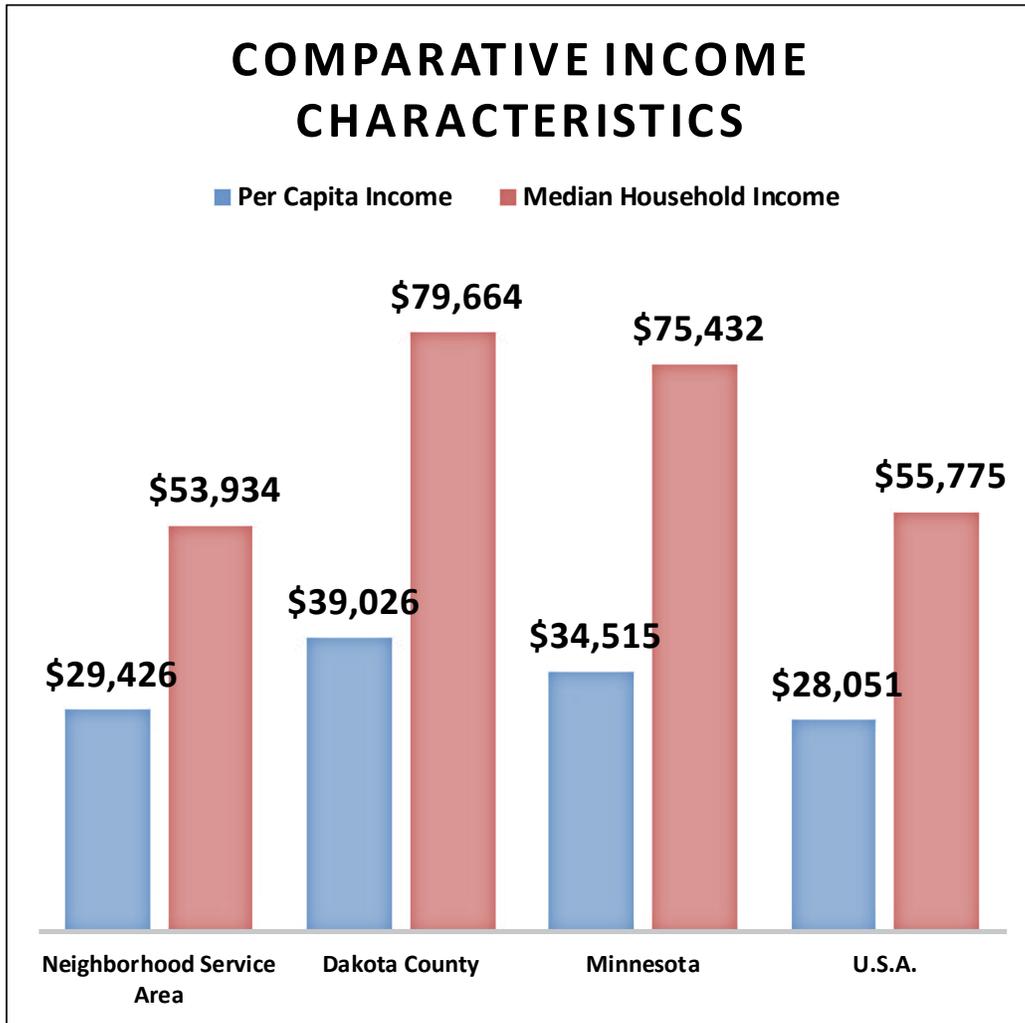


Based on the 2018 estimate, those of Hispanic/Latino origin represent 22% of the service area's total population. The Hispanic/Latino population is expected to experience an increase of 7% to 29% by 2033.



1.4.4 HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME - NEIGHBORHOOD

As seen in chart below, the service area's per capita and median household income levels are below, county, state and national averages.



1.4.5 TAPESTRY SEGMENTATION – NEIGHBORHOOD

Tapestry segmentation provides an accurate, detailed description of service area’s residents in which distinctive lifestyle segments are identified based on their socioeconomic and demographic composition.

Many service areas of 15+ square miles have 10+ tapestry segments that make up 40% of its population. The “neighborhood” service area has five segments that comprise 64% of its population. The five tapestry segments that make-up 64% of the service area’s population are illustrated in the chart below as well as how they compare to the United States.

Tapestry Segment	Descriptor	Household Size	Median Age	Median Household Income	Percent of Regional Service Area Households (2018)	Percent of US Households (2018)
Parks and Rec	Practical suburbanites, two-income married couples	2.51	40.9	\$60,000	22.5%	2.0%
Front Porches	Young families with children that rent or own older homes	2.57	34.9	\$43,700	18.8%	1.6%
Old and Newcomers	Neighborhoods in transition, renters who are just beginning their careers or retiring	2.12	39.4	\$44,900	9.6%	2.3%
Bright Young Professionals	Young, educated, working professionals	2.41	33.0	\$54,000	6.8%	2.2%
Rustbelt Traditions	Stable, hard-working consumers; Mix of married-couple families and singles living in older developments	2.47	39.0	\$51,800	6.5%	2.2%
Subtotal					64.2%	10.3%

Simply, the make-up of “neighborhood” service area is very unique. The tapestry segmentation data is useful information that can assist the department in better understanding the community that they serve.

The following provides a brief description of the five largest tapestry segments in neighborhood service area.

PARKS AND REC

These practical suburbanites have achieved the dream of home ownership. They have purchased homes that are within their means. Their homes are older, and town homes and duplexes are not uncommon. Many of these families are two-income married couples approaching retirement age; they are comfortable in their jobs and their homes, budget wisely, but do not plan on retiring anytime soon or moving. Neighborhoods are well established, as are the amenities and programs that supported their now independent children through school and college. The appeal of these kid-friendly neighborhoods is now attracting a new generation of young couples.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Cost and practicality come first when purchasing a vehicle; Parks and Rec residents are more likely to buy SUVs or trucks over compact or subcompact vehicles.
- Budget-conscious consumers stock up on staples at warehouse clubs.
- Pass time at home watching documentaries on Animal Planet, Discovery, or History channels. For an outing, they choose to dine out at family-style restaurants and attend movies. Between trips to the casinos, they gamble on lottery tickets and practice their blackjack and poker skills online.

- Convenience is important in the kitchen; they regularly use frozen or packaged main course meals. Ground coffee is preferred over coffee beans.
- Residents here take advantage of local parks and recreational activities. Their exercise routine is a balance of home-based exercise; a session at their local community gym; or a quick jog, swim, or run.

FRONT PORCHES

Front Porches blends household types, with more young families with children or single households than average. This group is also more diverse than the US. More than half of householders are renters, and many of the homes are older town homes or duplexes. Friends and family are central to Front Porches residents and help to influence household buying decisions. Households tend to own just one vehicle but used only when needed. Income and net worth of these residents are well below the US average.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Go online for gaming, watching movies, employment searches, and posting pics on social media.
- Prefer cellphones over landlines and use their mobile devices for entertainment such as streaming movies and music.
- Drink energy and sports drinks.
- Participate in leisure activities including sports, playing board games and video games.
- Watch Comedy Central, Nickelodeon, and PBS Kids Sprout.

OLD AND NEWCOMERS

This market features singles' lifestyles, on a budget. The focus is more on convenience than consumerism, economy over acquisition. Old and Newcomers is composed of neighborhoods in transition, populated by renters who are just beginning their careers or retiring. Some are still in college; some are taking adult education classes. They support charity causes and are environmentally conscious. Age is not always obvious from their choices.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Residents have a strong sense of community. They volunteer for charities, help fund raise, and recycle.
- They prefer cell phones to landlines.
- Entertainment features the Internet (employment searches, rating products, updating social media profiles), watching movies at home, listening to country music, and reading the paper.
- Vehicles are basically just a means of transportation.
- Food features convenience, frozen and fast food.
- They do banking as likely in person as online.

BRIGHT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Bright Young Professionals is a large market, primarily located in urban outskirts of large metropolitan areas. These communities are home to young, educated, working professionals. More than one out of three householders are under the age of 35. Slightly more diverse couples dominate this market, with more renters than homeowners. More than two-fifths of the households live in single-family homes; over a third live in 5+ unit buildings. Labor force participation is high, generally white-collar work, with a mix of food service and part-time jobs (among the college students). Median household income, median home value, and average rent are close to the US values. Residents of this segment are physically active and up on the latest technology.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Own retirement savings and student loans.
- Own newer computers (desktop, laptop, or both), iPods, and 2+ TVs.
- Go online and use mobile devices for banking, access YouTube or Facebook, visit blogs, download movies, and play games.
- Use cell phones to text, redeem mobile coupons, listen to music, and check for news and financial information.
- Find leisure going to bars/clubs, attending concerts, going to the beach, and renting DVDs from Redbox or Netflix.
- Enjoy a variety of sports, including backpacking, rock climbing, football, Pilates, running, and yoga.
- Eat out often at fast-food and family restaurants.

RUSTBELT TRADITIONS

The backbone of older industrial cities in states surrounding the Great Lakes, *Rustbelt Traditions* residents are a mix of married-couple families and singles living in older developments of single-family homes. While varied, the work force is primarily white collar, with a higher concentration of skilled workers in manufacturing, retail trade, and health care. *Rustbelt Traditions* represents a large market of stable, hard-working consumers with modest incomes but an average net worth of nearly \$400,000. Family oriented, they value time spent at home. Most have lived, worked, and played in the same area for years.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Residents take advantage of convenience stores for fueling up and picking up incidentals.
- Watching television is a common pastime; many households have more than four TVs.
- Favorite programming ranges from ABC Family Channel, A&E, and TNT to children's shows on Nickelodeon and the Disney Channel.
- Residents are connected; entertainment activities like online gaming dominate their Internet usage.
- Favorite family restaurants include Applebee's, Arby's, and Texas Roadhouse.
- Radio dials are typically tuned to classic rock stations.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHIC IMPLICATIONS

The following implications are derived from the analyses provided above. Each implication is organized by the outlined demographic information sections.

POPULATION

The population is slightly increasing and is projected to experience a 9.6% population growth over the next 15 years. With a growing population, park and recreation services must continue to grow to keep up with the population.

AGE SEGMENTATION

The service area has a very broad age segmentation with the largest group being 55+ with the second largest group being 35-54. This is significant as providing access to services and programs will need to be focused on multitude of age segments simultaneously and equally challenging as age segments have different likings towards activities. Equal distribution across all age segments will require the County to continue to provide programs, services, parks and facilities that appeal to all residents of the neighborhood service area.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

A slightly diversifying population will likely focus the County on providing traditional and non-traditional programming and service offerings while always seeking to identify emerging activities.

HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME

With a median and per capita household income below that of county, state and national averages, it would be important for the County to prioritize providing offerings that are first class with exceptional customer service while de-emphasizing the need to create revenue generation.

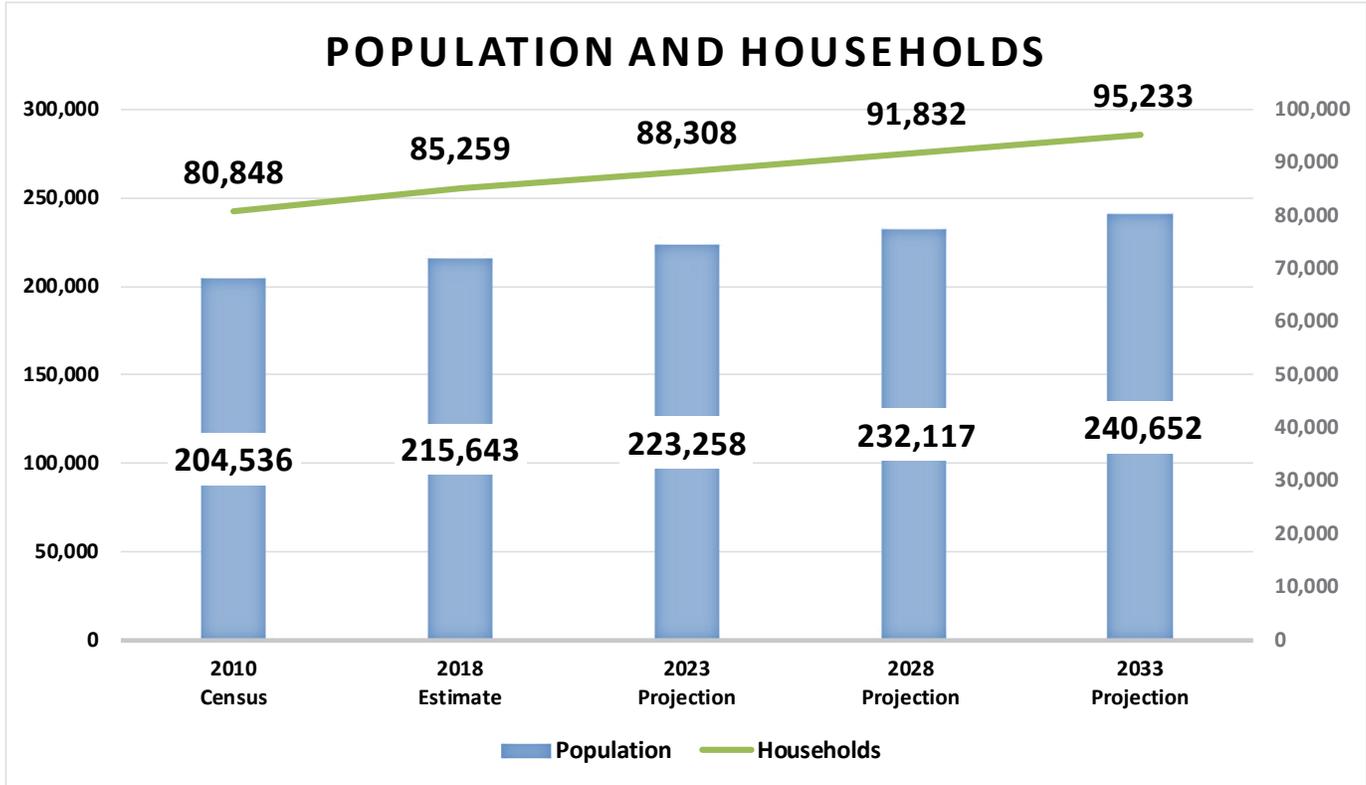
TAPESTRY SEGMENTATION

Highly unique tapestry segmentation with below average income levels and diverse recreational needs.

1.5 THOMPSON PARK POPULACE –(EXPANDED)

1.5.1 POPULATION – EXPANDED

The “expanded” service area’s population has experienced a slight growing trend in recent years and is currently estimated at 215,643 individuals. Projecting ahead, the total population is expected to continue to grow over the next 15 years. Based on predictions through 2033, the service area is expected to have 240,652 residents living within 95,233 households.

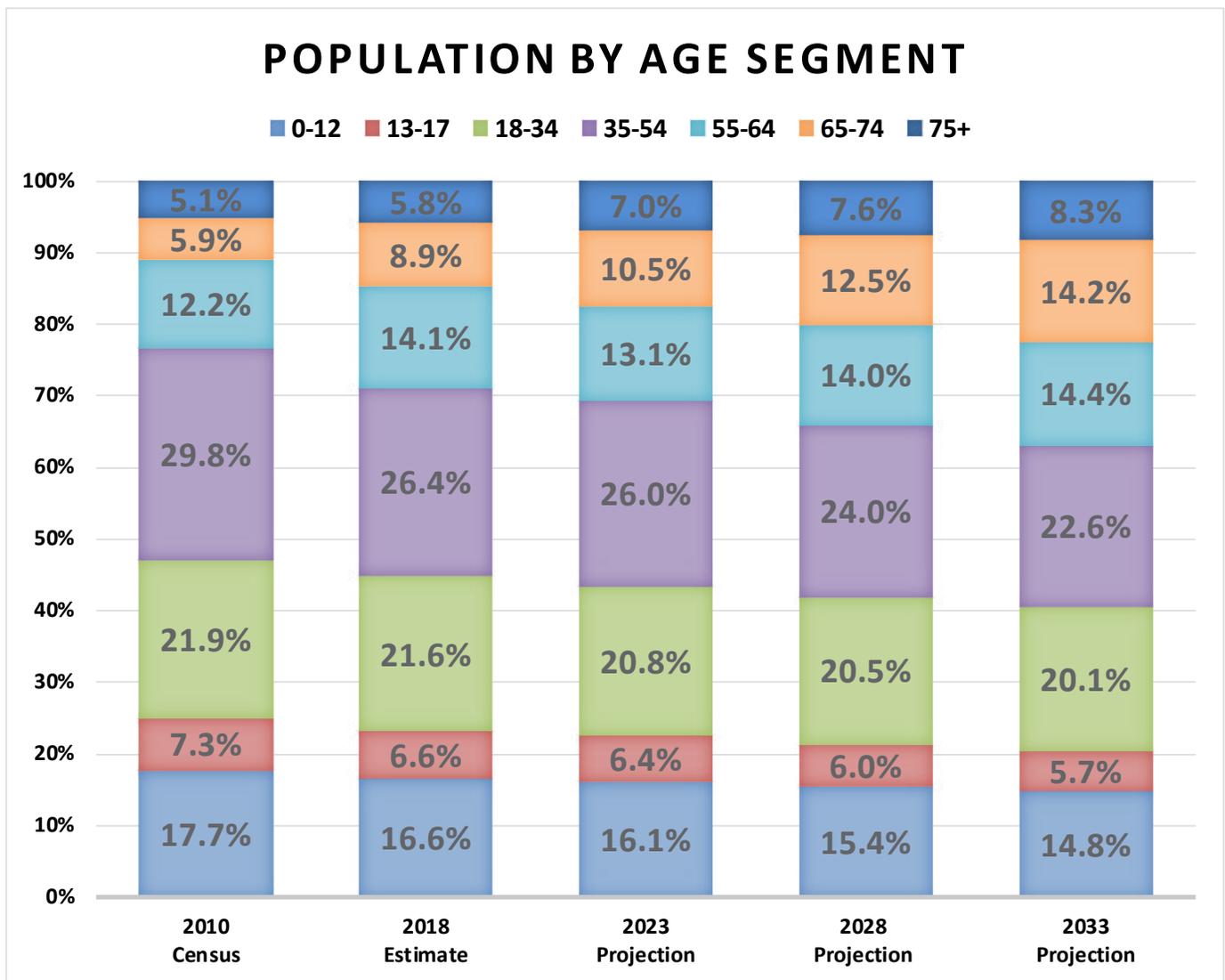


1.5.2 AGE SEGMENT - EXPANDED

Evaluating the population by age segments, the “expanded” service area exhibits a fairly balanced distribution among the major age segments. Currently, the largest age segment is the 55+, making up 28.8% of the population.

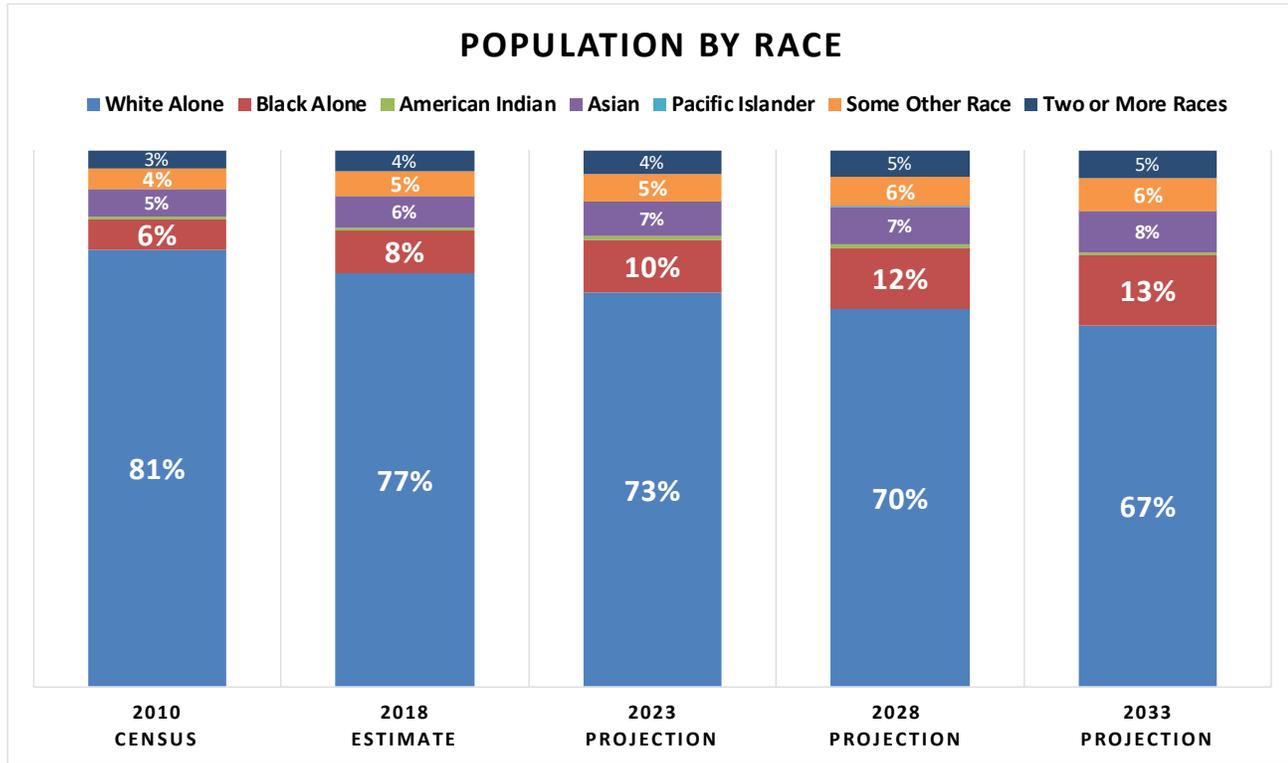
The overall age composition of the population within the service area is projected to undergo an aging trend. While most of the younger age segments are expected to remain the same or experience slight decreases in population percentage; those who are 55 and older are projected to continue increasing over the next 15 years, making up 36.9% of the population by 2033. This is assumed to be a consequence of a vast amount of the Baby Boomer generation shifting into the senior age segment.

Given the differences in how the active adults (55 and older) participate in park programming, the trend is moving toward having at least two to three different program age segments for older adults. When developing the park and recreation system, the County should evaluate park experiences that would cater to active adults who are 55-64, 65-74, and 75+ age segments.

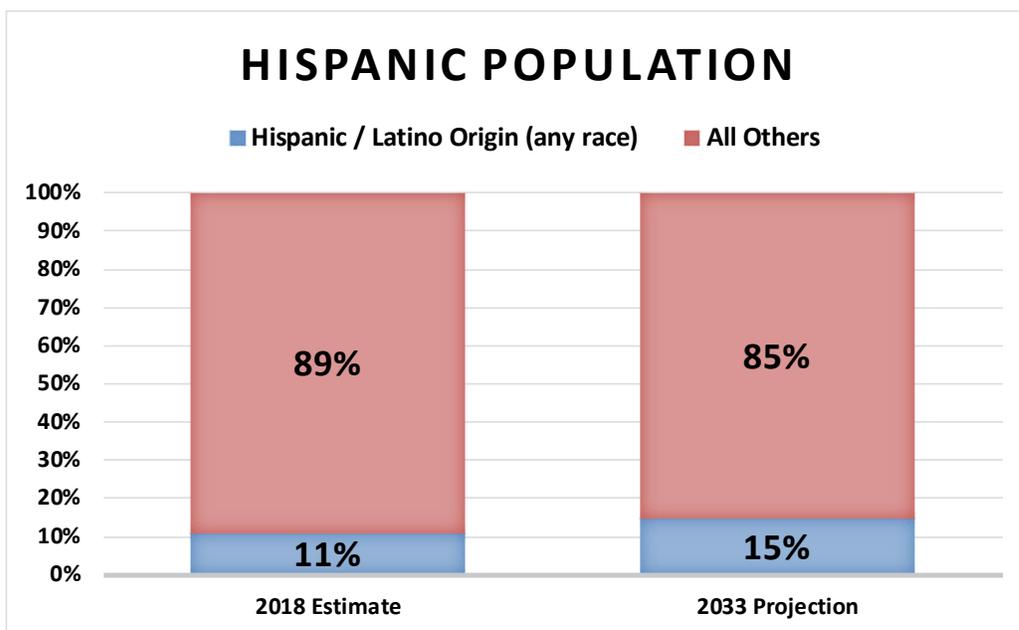


1.5.3 RACE AND ETHNICITY - EXPANDED

In analyzing race, the expanded service area's current populations are predominately White Alone. The 2018 estimates show that 77% of the service area's population falls into the White Alone category, while the Black Alone category (8%) represents the largest minority. The predictions for 2033 expect that the service area's population by race will change in that White Alone will decrease by 10% while Black Alone will increase by 5% and the Asian segment will grow by 2%.

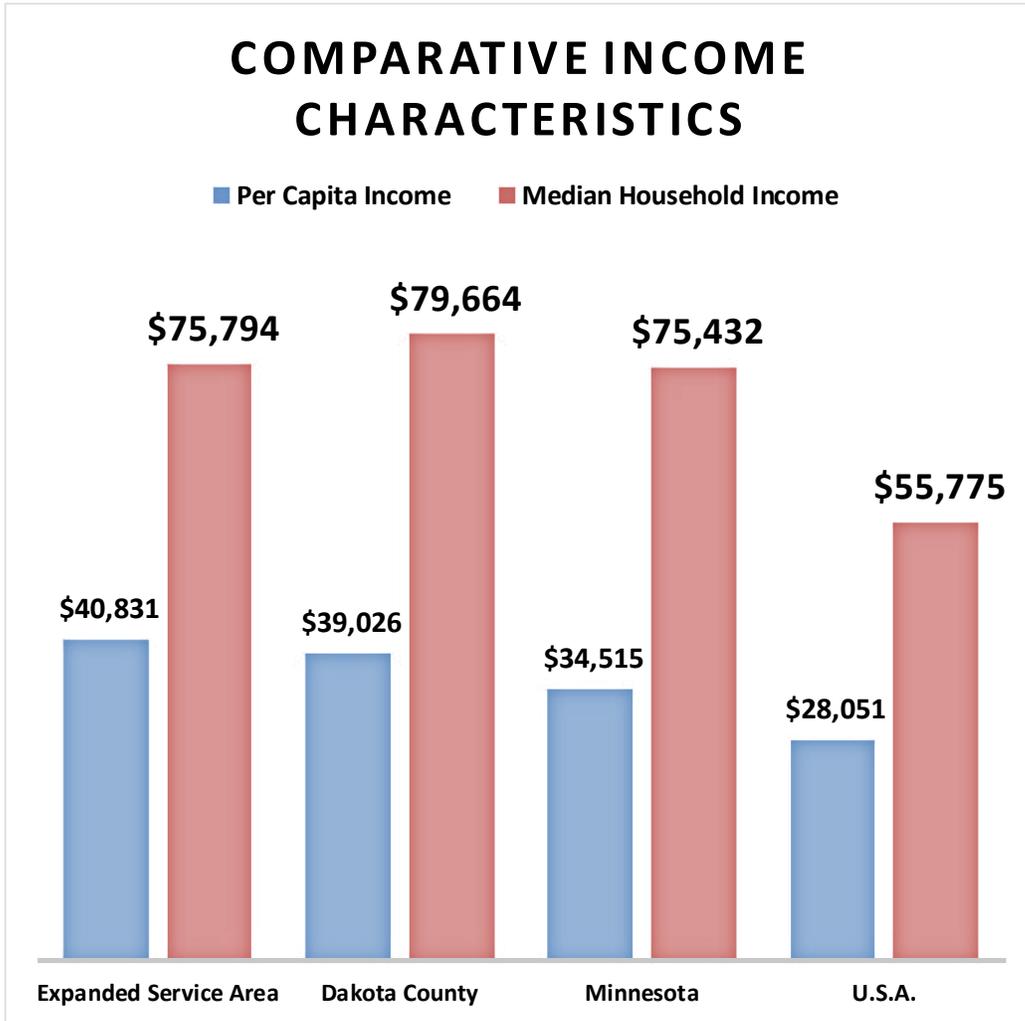


Based on the 2018 estimate, those of Hispanic/Latino origin represent 11% of the service area's total population. The Hispanic/Latino population is expected to experience an increase of 4% to 15% by 2033.



1.5.4 HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME - EXPANDED

As seen in chart below, the service area's per capita and median household income levels are above county, state and national averages.



1.5.5 TAPESTRY SEGMENTATION – EXPANDED

Tapestry segmentation provides an accurate, detailed description of service area’s residents in which distinctive lifestyle segments are identified based on their socioeconomic and demographic composition.

Many service areas of 15+ square miles have 10+ tapestry segments that make up 40% of its population. The “expanded” service area has five segments that comprise 47.8% of its population. The five tapestry segments that make-up almost 48% of the service area’s population are illustrated in the chart below as well as how they compare to the United States.

Tapestry Segment	Descriptor	Household Size	Median Age	Median Household Income	Percent of Regional Service Area Households (2018)	Percent of US Households (2018)
Bright Young Professionals	Young, educated, working professionals	2.41	33.0	\$54,000	14.3%	2.2%
Professional Pride	Upscale, affluent, suburban, working couples	3.13	40.8	\$138,100	9.6%	1.6%
Parks and Rec	Practical suburbanites, two-income married couples	2.51	40.9	\$60,000	8.8%	2.0%
Savvy Suburbanites	Well-read, well-educated, well-capitalized empty nesters	2.85	45.1	\$108,700	8.7%	3.0%
Front Porches	Young families with children that rent or own older homes	2.57	34.9	\$43,700	6.4%	1.6%
Subtotal					47.8%	10.4%

Simply, the make-up of “neighborhood” service area is very unique. The tapestry segmentation data is useful information that can assist the department in better understanding the community that they serve.

The following provides a brief description of the five largest tapestry segments in neighborhood service area.

BRIGHT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Bright Young Professionals is a large market, primarily located in urban outskirts of large metropolitan areas. These communities are home to young, educated, working professionals. More than one out of three householders are under the age of 35. Slightly more diverse couples dominate this market, with more renters than homeowners. More than two-fifths of the households live in single-family homes; over a third live in 5+ unit buildings. Labor force participation is high, generally white-collar work, with a mix of food service and part-time jobs (among the college students). Median household income, median home value, and average rent are close to the US values. Residents of this segment are physically active and up on the latest technology.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Own retirement savings and student loans.
- Own newer computers (desktop, laptop, or both), iPods, and 2+ TVs.
- Go online and use mobile devices for banking, access YouTube or Facebook, visit blogs, download movies, and play games.
- Use cell phones to text, redeem mobile coupons, listen to music, and check for news and financial information.

- Find leisure going to bars/clubs, attending concerts, going to the beach, and renting DVDs from Redbox or Netflix.
- Enjoy a variety of sports, including backpacking, rock climbing, football, Pilates, running, and yoga.
- Eat out often at fast-food and family restaurants.

PROFESSIONAL PRIDE

Professional Pride consumers are well-educated career professionals that have prospered through the Great Recession. To maintain their upscale suburban lifestyles, these goal oriented couples work, often commuting far and working long hours. However, their schedules are fine-tuned to meet the needs of their school age children. They are financially savvy; they invest wisely and benefit from interest and dividend income. So far, these established families have accumulated an average of 1.6 million dollars in net worth, and their annual household income runs at more than twice the US level. They take pride in their newer homes and spend valuable time and energy upgrading. Their homes are furnished with the latest in-home trends, including finished basements equipped with home gyms and in-home theaters.

MARKET PROFILE:

- These frequent travelers take several domestic trips a year, preferring to book their plane tickets, accommodations, and rental cars via the Internet.
- Residents take pride in their picture-perfect homes, which they continually upgrade. They shop at Home Depot and Bed Bath & Beyond to tackle the smaller home improvement and remodeling tasks but contract out the larger projects.
- To keep up with their busy households, they hire housekeepers or professional cleaners.
- Residents are prepared for the ups and downs in life; they maintain life insurance; homeowners and auto insurance; as well as medical, vision, dental, and prescription insurance through work.
- They are actively investing for the future; they hold 401(k) and IRA retirement plans, plus securities.
- Consumers spend on credit but have the disposable income to avoid a balance on their credit cards. They spend heavily on Internet shopping; Amazon.com is a favorite website.
- Consumers find time in their busy schedules for themselves. They work out in their home gyms, owning at least a treadmill, an elliptical, or weightlifting equipment. They also visit the salon and spa regularly.
- All family members are avid readers; they read on their smartphones, tablets, and e-readers but also read hard copies of epicurean, home service, and sports magazines.
- Residents, both young and old, are tech savvy; they not only own the latest and greatest in tablets, smartphones, and laptops but actually use the features each has to offer.

PARKS AND REC

These practical suburbanites have achieved the dream of home ownership. They have purchased homes that are within their means. Their homes are older, and town homes and duplexes are not uncommon. Many of these families are two-income married couples approaching retirement age; they are comfortable in their jobs and their homes, budget wisely, but do not plan on retiring anytime soon or moving. Neighborhoods are well established, as are the amenities and programs that supported their now independent children through school and college. The appeal of these kid-friendly neighborhoods is now attracting a new generation of young couples.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Cost and practicality come first when purchasing a vehicle; Parks and Rec residents are more likely to buy SUVs or trucks over compact or subcompact vehicles.
- Budget-conscious consumers stock up on staples at warehouse clubs.
- Pass time at home watching documentaries on Animal Planet, Discovery, or History channels. For an outing, they choose to dine out at family-style restaurants and attend movies. Between trips to the casinos, they gamble on lottery tickets and practice their blackjack and poker skills online.
- Convenience is important in the kitchen; they regularly use frozen or packaged main course meals. Ground coffee is preferred over coffee beans.
- Residents here take advantage of local parks and recreational activities. Their exercise routine is a balance of home-based exercise; a session at their local community gym; or a quick jog, swim, or run.

SAVVY SUBURBANITES

Savvy Suburbanites residents are well educated, well read, and well capitalized. Families include empty nesters and empty nester wannabes, who still have adult children at home. Located in older neighborhoods outside the urban core, their suburban lifestyle includes home remodeling and gardening plus the active pursuit of sports and exercise. They enjoy good food and wine, plus the amenities of the region's cultural events.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Residents prefer late model, family-oriented vehicles: SUVs, minivans, and station wagons.
- Gardening and home remodeling are priorities, usually DIY. Riding mowers and power tools are popular, although they also hire contractors for the heavy lifting.
- There is extensive use of housekeeping and personal care services.
- Foodies: They like to cook and prefer natural or organic products.
- These investors are financially active, using a number of resources for informed investing. They are not afraid of debt; many households carry first and second mortgages, plus
- home equity credit lines.
- Physically fit, residents actively pursue a number of sports, from skiing to golf, and invest heavily in sports gear and exercise equipment.

FRONT PORCHES

Front Porches blends household types, with more young families with children or single households than average. This group is also more diverse than the US. More than half of householders are renters, and many of the homes are older town homes or duplexes. Friends and family are central to Front Porches residents and help to influence household buying decisions. Households tend to own just one vehicle but used only when needed. Income and net worth of these residents are well below the US average.

MARKET PROFILE:

- Go online for gaming, watching movies, employment searches, and posting pics on social media.
- Prefer cellphones over landlines and use their mobile devices for entertainment such as streaming movies and music.
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EXPANDED SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHIC IMPLICATIONS

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POPULATION

The population is slightly increasing and is projected to experience a 11.6% population growth over the next 15 years. With a growing population, park and recreation services must continue to grow to keep up with the population.

AGE SEGMENTATION

The service area has a very broad age segmentation with the largest group being 55+ with the second largest group being 35-54. This is significant as providing access to services and programs will need to be focused on multitude of age segments simultaneously and equally challenging as age segments have different likings towards activities. Equal distribution across all age segments will require the County to continue to provide programs, services, parks and facilities that appeal to all residents of the neighborhood service area.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

A slightly diversifying population will likely focus the County on providing traditional and non-traditional programming and service offerings while always seeking to identify emerging activities.

HOUSEHOLDS AND INCOME

With a median and per capita household income above that of county, state and national averages, it would be important for the County to prioritize providing offerings that are first class with exceptional customer service while seeking opportunities to create revenue generation.

TAPESTRY SEGMENTATION

Highly unique tapestry segmentation with above average income levels and diverse recreational needs.



Trends Analysis

The Trends Analysis provides an understanding of national, regional, and local recreational trends as well as generational participation trends. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trends data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically-valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics.

1.1.1 NATIONAL TRENDS IN RECREATION

METHODOLOGY

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) *Sports, Fitness & Recreational Activities Topline Participation Report 2019* was utilized in evaluating the following trends:

- National Sport and Fitness Participatory Trends
- Core vs. Casual Participation Trends
- Participation by Generation
- Non-Participant Interest by Age Segment



The study is based on findings from surveys carried out in 2018 by the Physical Activity Council (PAC), resulting in a total of 20,069 online interviews. Surveys were administered to all genders, ages, income levels, regions, and ethnicities to allow for statistical accuracy of the national population. A sample size of 20,069 completed interviews is considered by SFIA to result in a high degree of statistical accuracy. A sport with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.31 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. Using a weighting technique, survey results are applied to the total U.S. population figure of 300,652,039 people (ages six and older). The purpose of the report is to establish levels of activity and identify key participatory trends in recreation across the U.S.

CORE VS. CASUAL PARTICIPATION

In addition to overall participation rates, SFIA further categorizes active participants as either core or casual participants based on frequency. Core participants have higher participatory frequency than casual participants. The thresholds that define casual versus core participation may vary based on the nature of each individual activity. For instance, core participants engage in most fitness and recreational activities more than 50 times per year, while for sports, the threshold for core participation is typically 13 times per year.

In a given activity, core participants are more committed and tend to be less likely to switch to other activities or become inactive (engage in no physical activity) than casual participants. This may also explain why activities with more core participants tend to experience less pattern shifts in participation rates than those with larger groups of casual participants.

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation

Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Hiking (Day)	34,378	44,900	47,860	39.2%	6.6%
Bicycling (Road)	40,888	38,866	39,041	-4.5%	0.5%
Fishing (Freshwater)	37,796	38,346	38,998	3.2%	1.7%
Camping (< 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home)	29,269	26,262	27,416	-6.3%	4.4%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	14,556	16,159	15,980	9.8%	-1.1%
Fishing (Saltwater)	11,790	13,062	12,830	8.8%	-1.8%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	14,152	12,296	12,344	-12.8%	0.4%
Backpacking Overnight	9,069	10,975	10,540	16.2%	-4.0%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,542	8,609	8,690	1.7%	0.9%
Archery	7,647	7,769	7,654	0.1%	-1.5%
Fishing (Fly)	5,878	6,791	6,939	18.1%	2.2%
Skateboarding	6,350	6,382	6,500	2.4%	1.8%
Roller Skating, In-Line	6,129	5,268	5,040	-17.8%	-4.3%
Bicycling (BMX)	2,168	3,413	3,439	58.6%	0.8%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,319	2,527	2,541	9.6%	0.6%
Adventure Racing	2,095	2,529	2,215	5.7%	-12.4%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
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1.1.2 NATIONAL TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION LEVELS

Results from the SFIA report demonstrate a contrast of growth and decline in participation regarding outdoor/adventure recreation activities. Much like the general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or within a group, and are not as limited by time constraints. In 2018, the most popular activities, in terms of total participants, from the outdoor/adventure recreation category include: Day Hiking (47.9 million), Road Bicycling (39.0 million), Freshwater Fishing (39.0 million), and Camping within ¼ mile of Vehicle/Home (27.4 million), and Recreational Vehicle Camping (16.0 million).



Hiking
(Day)
47.9 Million



Bicycling
(Road)
39.0 Million



Fishing
(Freshwater)
39.0 Million



Camping
(<¼mi. of Car/Home)
27.4 Million



Camping
(Recreational Vehicle)
16.0 Million

FIVE-YEAR TREND

From 2013-2018, BMX Bicycling (58.6%), Day Hiking (39.2%), Fly Fishing (18.1%), Backpacking Overnight (16.2%), and Recreational Vehicle Camping (9.8%) have undergone the largest increases in participation.

The five-year trend also shows activities such as In-Line Roller Skating (-17.8%), Birdwatching (-12.8%), Camping within ¼ mile of Home/Vehicle (-6.3%), and Road Bicycling (-4.5%) experiencing the largest decreases in participation.

ONE-YEAR TREND

The one-year trend shows activities growing most rapidly being Day Hiking (6.6%), Camping within ¼ mile of Home/Vehicle (-16.5%), and Fly Fishing (18.1%). Over the last year, activities that underwent the largest decreases in participation include: Adventure Racing (-12.4%), In-Line Roller Skating (-4.3%), and Overnight Backpacking (-4.0%).

CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

A large majority of outdoor activities have experienced participation growth in the last five- years, with In-Line Roller Skating, Birdwatching, Camping within ¼ mile of Home/Vehicle, and Road Bicycling being the only activities decreasing in participation. Although this a positive trend for outdoor activities, it should be noted that a large majority of participation growth came from an increase in casual users. This is likely why we see a lot more activities experiencing decreases in participation when assessing the one-year trend, as the casual users likely found alternative activities to participate in. *Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

1.1.3 NATIONAL TRENDS IN WATER SPORTS / ACTIVITIES

PARTICIPATION LEVELS

The most popular water sports / activities based on total participants in 2018 were Recreational Kayaking (11.0 million), Canoeing (9.1 million), and Snorkeling (7.8 million). It should be noted that water activity participation tends to vary based on regional, seasonal, and environmental factors. A region with more water access and a warmer climate is more likely to have a higher participation rate in water activities than a region that has long winter seasons or limited water access. Therefore, when assessing trends in water sports and activities, it is important to understand that fluctuations may be the result of environmental barriers which can greatly influence water activity participation.



Kayaking
11.0 Million



Canoeing
9.1 Million



Snorkeling
7.8 Million



Jet Skiing
5.3 Million



Sailing
3.8 Million

FIVE-YEAR TREND

Over the last five years, Stand-Up Paddling (73.3%) was by far the fastest growing water activity, followed by Recreational Kayaking (26.4%), White Water Kayaking (19.4%), Boardsailing/Windsurfing (17.5%), and Sea/Tour Kayaking (4.1%). From 2013-2018, activities declining in participation most rapidly were Surfing (-21.4%), Water Skiing (-20.0%), Jet Skiing (-17.0%), Wakeboarding (-15.7%), and Rafting (-11.3%).

ONE-YEAR TREND

Contradicting the five-year trend, Surfing was the fastest growing of all water sports/activities increasing 7.2% in 2018. Recreational Kayaking (4.6%) and Stand-Up Paddling (3.8%) also had a spike in participation this past year. Activities which experienced the largest decreases in participation in the most recent year include: Wakeboarding (-7.0%), Snorkeling (-6.8%), and Water Skiing (-5.9%)

CORE VS. CASUAL TRENDS IN WATER SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

As mentioned previously, regional, seasonal, and environmental limiting factors may influence the participation rate of water sport and activities. These factors may also explain why all water-based activities have drastically more casual participants than core participants, since frequencies of activities may be constrained by uncontrollable factors. These high casual user numbers are likely why a majority of water sports/activities have experienced decreases in participation in recent years. *Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

National Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities

Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2013	2017	2018	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Kayaking (Recreational)	8,716	10,533	11,017	26.4%	4.6%
Canoeing	10,153	9,220	9,129	-10.1%	-1.0%
Snorkeling	8,700	8,384	7,815	-10.2%	-6.8%
Jet Skiing	6,413	5,418	5,324	-17.0%	-1.7%
Sailing	3,915	3,974	3,754	-4.1%	-5.5%
Stand-Up Paddling	1,993	3,325	3,453	73.3%	3.8%
Rafting	3,836	3,479	3,404	-11.3%	-2.2%
Water Skiing	4,202	3,572	3,363	-20.0%	-5.9%
Surfing	3,658	2,680	2,874	-21.4%	7.2%
Scuba Diving	3,174	2,874	2,849	-10.2%	-0.9%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	2,694	2,955	2,805	4.1%	-5.1%
Wakeboarding	3,316	3,005	2,796	-15.7%	-7.0%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,146	2,500	2,562	19.4%	2.5%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,324	1,573	1,556	17.5%	-1.1%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
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1.1.4 PARTICIPATION BY GENERATION

Analyzing participation by age for recreational activities reveals that fitness and outdoor sports were the most common activities across all generations. Breaking down activity level by generation shows a converse correlation between age and healthy activity rates.

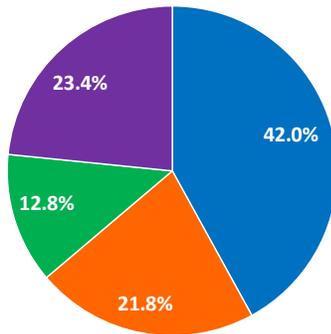
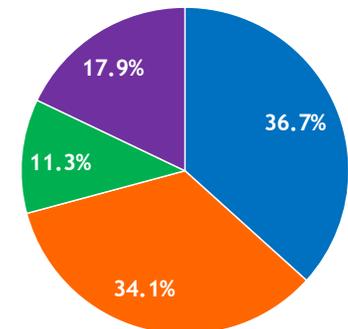
2018 PARTICIPATION RATES BY GENERATION

U.S. population, Ages 6+



Generation Z (born 2000+)

Generation Z were the most active, with only 17.9% of the population identifying as inactive. Approximately 81% of individuals within this generation were deemed high calorie burning in 2018; with 36.7% being active high calorie and 34.1% being casual high calorie.

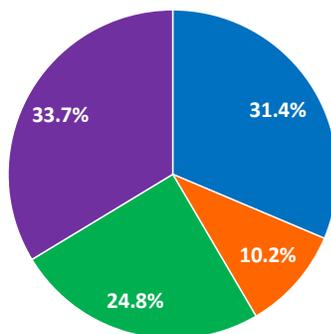
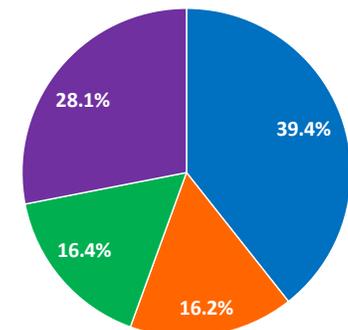


Millennials (born 1980-1999)

Almost half (42.0%) of millennials were active high calorie (35.4%) or active & high calorie (11.3%), while 24.0% claimed they were inactive. Even though this inactive rate is much higher than Generation Z's (17.6%), it is still below the national inactive rate (28%).

Generation X (born 1965-1979)

Generation X has the second highest active to a healthy level rate (35.0%) among all generations, only being 0.4% less than Millennials. At the same time, they also have the second highest inactive rate, with 28.1% not active at all.



The Boomers (born 1945-1964)

The Boomers were the least active generation, with an inactive rate of 33.3%. This age group tends to participate in less intensive activities. Approximately 34% claimed to engage in casual & low/med calorie (4.3%) or low/med calorie (29.6%) burning activities.

Definitions: Active (3+ times per week), Casual (1-2 times per week), High Calorie (20+ minutes of elevated heart rate), Low/Med Calorie (>20 minutes of elevated heart rate), Inactive (no physical activity in 2018)

1.1.5 NON-PARTICIPANT INTEREST BY AGE SEGMENT

In addition to participation rates by generation, SFIA also tracks non-participant interest. These are activities that the U.S. population currently does not participate in due to physical or monetary barriers, but is interested in participating in. Below are the top five activities that each age segment would be most likely to partake in, if they were readily available.

Overall, the activities most age segments are interested in include: Camping, Bicycling, Fishing, and Swimming for Fitness. All of which are deemed as low-impact activities, making them obtainable for any age segment to enjoy.



1.2.1 OUTDOOR/ADVENTURE RECREATION

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2013		2017		2018		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Hiking (Day)	34,378	100%	44,900	100%	47,860	100%	39.2%	6.6%
Bicycling (Road)	40,888	100%	38,866	100%	39,041	100%	-4.5%	0.5%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	19,470	48%	20,212	52%	20,777	53%	6.7%	2.8%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	21,417	52%	18,654	48%	18,264	47%	-14.7%	-2.1%
Fishing (Freshwater)	37,796	100%	38,346	100%	38,998	100%	3.2%	1.7%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	20,067	53%	19,977	52%	21,099	54%	5.1%	5.6%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	17,729	47%	18,369	48%	17,899	46%	1.0%	-2.6%
Camping (< 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home)	29,269	100%	26,262	100%	27,416	100%	-6.3%	4.4%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	14,556	100%	16,159	100%	15,980	100%	9.8%	-1.1%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	7,895	54%	9,332	58%	9,103	57%	15.3%	-2.5%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	6,661	46%	6,826	42%	6,877	43%	3.2%	0.7%
Fishing (Saltwater)	11,790	100%	13,062	100%	12,830	100%	8.8%	-1.8%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	7,060	60%	7,625	58%	7,636	60%	8.2%	0.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	4,730	40%	5,437	42%	5,194	40%	9.8%	-4.5%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	14,152	100%	12,296	100%	12,344	100%	-12.8%	0.4%
Backpacking Overnight	9,069	100%	10,975	100%	10,540	100%	16.2%	-4.0%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,542	100%	8,609	100%	8,690	100%	1.7%	0.9%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,751	44%	4,389	51%	4,294	49%	14.5%	-2.2%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	4,791	56%	4,220	49%	4,396	51%	-8.2%	4.2%
Archery	7,647	100%	7,769	100%	7,654	100%	0.1%	-1.5%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	6,337	83%	6,602	85%	6,514	85%	2.8%	-1.3%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	1,310	17%	1,167	15%	1,140	15%	-13.0%	-2.3%
Fishing (Fly)	5,878	100%	6,791	100%	6,939	100%	18.1%	2.2%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	3,761	64%	4,448	65%	4,460	64%	18.6%	0.3%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	2,117	36%	2,344	35%	2,479	36%	17.1%	5.8%
Skateboarding	6,350	100%	6,382	100%	6,500	100%	2.4%	1.8%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	3,702	58%	3,970	62%	3,989	61%	7.8%	0.5%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	2,648	42%	2,411	38%	2,511	39%	-5.2%	4.1%
Roller Skating (In-Line)	6,129	100%	5,268	100%	5,040	100%	-17.8%	-4.3%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	4,249	69%	3,853	73%	3,680	73%	-13.4%	-4.5%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,880	31%	1,415	27%	1,359	27%	-27.7%	-4.0%
Bicycling (BMX)	2,168	100%	3,413	100%	3,439	100%	58.6%	0.8%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,129	52%	2,039	60%	2,052	60%	81.8%	0.6%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,039	48%	1,374	40%	1,387	40%	33.5%	0.9%
Adventure Racing	2,095	100%	2,529	100%	2,215	100%	5.7%	-12.4%
<i>Casual (1 times)</i>	901	43%	899	36%	581	26%	-35.5%	-35.4%
<i>Core(2+ times)</i>	1,194	57%	1,630	64%	1,634	74%	36.9%	0.2%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,319	100%	2,527	100%	2,541	100%	9.6%	0.6%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	
							Mostly Casual Participants (greater than 75%)	

1.2.2 WATER SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2013		2017		2018		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Canoeing	10,153	100%	9,220	100%	9,129	100%	-10.1%	-1.0%
Kayaking (Recreational)	8,716	100%	10,533	100%	11,017	100%	26.4%	4.6%
Snorkeling	8,700	100%	8,384	100%	7,815	100%	-10.2%	-6.8%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	6,893	79%	6,721	80%	6,321	81%	-8.3%	-6.0%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,807	21%	1,663	20%	1,493	19%	-17.4%	-10.2%
Jet Skiing	6,413	100%	5,418	100%	5,324	100%	-17.0%	-1.7%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	4,407	69%	3,928	72%	3,900	73%	-11.5%	-0.7%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	2,006	31%	1,490	28%	1,425	27%	-29.0%	-4.4%
Sailing	3,915	100%	3,974	100%	3,754	100%	-4.1%	-5.5%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	2,682	69%	2,720	68%	2,596	69%	-3.2%	-4.6%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,233	31%	1,254	32%	1,159	31%	-6.0%	-7.6%
Water Skiing	4,202	100%	3,572	100%	3,363	100%	-20.0%	-5.9%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	3,069	73%	2,575	72%	2,499	74%	-18.6%	-3.0%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,133	27%	997	28%	863	26%	-23.8%	-13.4%
Rafting	3,836	100%	3,479	100%	3,754	100%	-2.1%	7.9%
Stand-Up Paddling	1,993	100%	3,325	100%	3,453	100%	73.3%	3.8%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	2,694	100%	2,955	100%	2,805	100%	4.1%	-5.1%
Scuba Diving	3,174	100%	2,874	100%	2,849	100%	-10.2%	-0.9%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	2,351	74%	2,113	74%	2,133	75%	-9.3%	0.9%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	823	26%	761	26%	716	25%	-13.0%	-5.9%
Wakeboarding	3,316	100%	3,005	100%	2,796	100%	-15.7%	-7.0%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	2,306	70%	2,101	70%	1,900	68%	-17.6%	-9.6%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,010	30%	903	30%	896	32%	-11.3%	-0.8%
Surfing	2,658	100%	2,680	100%	2,874	100%	8.1%	7.2%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	1,629	61%	1,705	64%	1,971	69%	21.0%	15.6%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,029	39%	975	36%	904	31%	-12.1%	-7.3%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,146	100%	2,500	100%	2,562	100%	19.4%	2.5%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,324	100%	1,573	100%	1,556	100%	17.5%	-1.1%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	10,960	828%	1,289	82%	1,245	80%	-88.6%	-3.4%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	234	-728%	284	18%	310	20%	32.5%	9.2%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)	More Core Participants (56-74%)	Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)	More Casual Participants (56-74%)	Mostly Casual Participants (greater than 75%)



APPENDIX B | CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES



Cultural Resources

Legislative Requirements

Federal

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. §§470a to 470w-6)

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic and cultural resources. A federal undertaking under NHPA is defined as

a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a federal agency; those carried out with federal financial assistance; those requiring a federal permit, license or approval; and those subject to State or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a federal agency. (42 CFR 137.289).

Key components of the NHPA include the following:

- » The establishment of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation;
- » The establishment of a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for each state and a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) for each federally recognized tribe; and
- » Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effect of their activities on historic properties and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) the opportunity to comment on those activities.

Under Section 106 of the NHPA, the responsible federal agency must determine whether the undertaking could affect historic properties, identify the appropriate SHPO(s) and THPO(s) to consult with, and involve the public and other potential consulting parties. Once historic properties are identified, the federal agency, in consultation with the above mentioned parties, determines which if any historic properties will be adversely affected. If the undertaking will result in an adverse effect, and the adverse effect cannot be avoided, it must be minimized and mitigated.

An example of a type of Dakota County project that must comply with Section 106 of the NHPA is any project that receives funding through the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which "provides matching grants to state and tribal governments for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites."

National Environmental Protection Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321- 4347)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), was enacted on January 1, 1969 and establishes national environmental policy as well as goals for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the environment, and provides a process for implementing these goals within federal agencies. It also established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). While it is often considered to be primarily an environmental law, one of NEPA's stated goals is to "preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage." Under NEPA, federal or federally assisted projects must also take into account effects to historic and cultural resources. The most significant section of NEPA as it pertains to planning is Section 102, which requires federal agencies to incorporate environmental considerations in their planning and decision-making through a systematic interdisciplinary approach. Section 102 specifically requires federal agencies to prepare detailed statements assessing the environmental impact of and alternatives to major federal actions significantly affecting the environment, which are known as environmental impact statements (EISs).

State

There are several state statutes that address cultural resources in Minnesota. Several of these laws are found in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 138, including the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act, the Minnesota Historic Sites Act, and the Minnesota Historic Districts Act. Other state laws relating to preservation and cultural resources include: Municipal Heritage Preservation, the Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act, and the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA). The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) also maintains several rules pertaining to the protection of cultural resources.

Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (M.S. 138.31 – 138.42), 1963

This Act creates the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA); requires licensing to engage in archaeology on non-federal public land; establishes ownership, custody, and use of objects and data recovered during survey; and requires state agencies to submit development plans to the State Archaeologist, Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for review when there are known or suspected archaeological sites in the area.

Minnesota Historic Sites Act (M.S. 138.661 – 138.6691), 1965

This Act establishes the State Historic Sites Network and the State Register of Historic Places (SRHP), and requires that state agencies consult with SHPO before undertaking or licensing projects that may affect properties on the Network, the SRHP, or the NRHP. M.S. 138.665, subdivision 2 was amended in 2017 and put into effect on March 1, 2018, as part of the transfer of the powers, duties, responsibilities, personal, assets, and unexpended funds relating to functions assigned to SHPO to the Department of Administration (Office of the Revisor of Statutes 2017).

Minnesota Historic Districts Act (M.S. 138.71-138.75), 1971

The Minnesota Historic Districts Act designates certain historic districts throughout the state and includes enabling legislation that allows local governing bodies to create commissions to maintain architectural design review control over these areas.

Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act (M.S. 307.08), 1975

The intent and scope of the Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act is to provide all human burials and human skeletal remains with equal treatment and to respect their human dignity irrespective to their ethnic origins, cultural backgrounds, or religious affiliations. The provisions of this section protect all human burials or human skeletal remains found on or in all public or private lands or waters in Minnesota and makes it a felony to intentionally, willfully, or knowingly destroy, mutilate, injure, disturb, or remove human skeletal remains or human burial grounds.

Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (M.S. 116D.01 – 116D.11), 1973

The Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) was set forth to protect environmental resources. The development of Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAW) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) were set forth in this act. The EAW is a brief description of the basic facts involved in a proposed action and is used to determine if an EIS is required. In regards to the EIS, the act states, “Where there is potential for significant environmental effects resulting from any major governmental action, the action shall be preceded by a detailed environmental impact statement prepared by the responsible governmental unit.” The purpose of the EIS is to describe the proposed action, analyze its significant environmental impacts, discuss appropriate alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts, and it explores methods by which adverse environmental impacts of an action could be mitigated. The act also specifically protects cultural resources as stated in chapter 116D.02 (d).

Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (M.S. 166B.02), 1971

The Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA) declares that each person is entitled by right to the protection, preservation, and enhancement of air, water, land, and other natural resources located within the state and that each person has the responsibility to contribute to the protection, preservation, and enhancement thereof. Within the definitions of this act, historic resources are included in the definition of natural resources. The goal of this law is to create and maintain within the state conditions under which human beings and nature can exist in productive harmony in order that present and future generations may enjoy clean air and water, productive land, and other natural resources by providing adequate civil remedy to protect these resources from pollution, impairment, or destruction. To accomplish this feat, the act enables residents and entities of Minnesota the right to a civil suit in order to protect the air, water, land, and other natural resources of the state, including historic resources.

Previous Cultural Resource Investigations

A literature review was conducted to identify known cultural resources within Thompson County Park. This literature review consisted of a review of inventory records, reports, and site files at SHPO and the OSA. For the protection of archaeological resources, no site locations are included in this report.

An archaeological survey was conducted in 2002 along a proposed 0.7-mile segment of the North Urban Regional Trail (NURT) system through Thompson County Park, in which a preliminary visual inspection was conducted to assess the archaeological potential and survey needs of the project route (Harrison 2002). One archaeological site, consisting of a lithic scatter, was recorded as Simons Ravine I (21DK74) (Harrison 2002).

Architectural History Properties

No architectural history properties have been identified within the boundaries of Thompson County Park.

Traditional Cultural Properties

No traditional cultural properties have been formally recorded within the park. This report does not address potential cultural or sacred sites of significance to Native Americans that may arise during any potential consultation between a federal agency and tribes.

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APPENDIX C | COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Phase 1 Community Engagement

Overview

Community engagement events for the first phase of the Thompson County Park Master Plan were held in June through October 2018. The purpose of the events was to engage a representative cross section of Dakota County residents, park users, and stakeholder organizations to collect meaningful input, build consensus, and generate interest for the park master planning process. The project team was especially mindful of reaching out to those who may live around the park but are not park users.

In total, there were more than a dozen engagement activities with nearly 1,000 people engaged. Events were conducted using various formats including pop-ups at existing community events, individual and agency meetings, stakeholder meetings, and emails and phone calls. Two online surveys were also conducted: a general survey was conducted on Social Pinpoint in English and Spanish and a Survey Monkey survey was sent to past renters of the North Picnic Shelter and Dakota Lodge. Event locations, date, and target populations are shown in Table 1 on the next page.

In addition to participating in local events, information about the planning process was distributed to residents in West St. Paul, South St. Paul, and Inver Grove Heights. Approximately 700 flyers were distributed to be included in block party packets for the August 2018 Night to Unite. A letter was also sent to approximately 500 residents who live around the park.



DATE	EVENT/MEETING	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	DEMOGRAPHICS
	Water Quality Open House		
May 16, 2018	West St. Paul Days - City of West St. Paul Open House	50	General community from Northern DC
May 20, 2018	West St. Paul Days - Harmon Park Festival	50	General community from Northern DC
June 10, 2018	Take a Kid Fishing at Thompson Park	350	Kids 5-10 and parents/grandparents from around Dakota County
June 24, 2018	Kaposia Days South St. Paul		
July 11, 2018	Garlough Collaborative at Southview Park	30	Kids 5-15 and parents/grandparents generally of Latinx heritage and who are from West St. Paul
July 23, 2018	Stakeholder Meetings at Thompson Park	20	Community organizations from Northern DC
July 25, 2018	Thompson Activity Center - Ice Cream Social	25	Older adults who are Activity Center users
July 26, 2018	Thompson Park Advisory Council	10	Older adults who are Activity Center users
August 6-12, 2018	Dakota County Fair, NRMP display in Natural Resource building - not staffed	5 comments received	General community
August 23, 2018	Safe Summer Nights at Southview Park	75	All ages generally of Latinx heritage who are from West St. Paul
August 24, 2018	Meeting with TCP adjacent landowner	1	Existing park user
September 6, 2018	Meeting with CLUES	1	Community organizations from Northern DC
September 14, 2018	Accessibility and Inclusion Walk	4	People living with disabilities and their families
October 9, 2018	Dakota County Arts Advisory Board		
July - August 2018	Email with survey link to past North Picnic Shelter and Dakota Lodge renters	61	Representatives of those who rented the North Picnic Shelter or Dakota Lodge
July to August 2018	Social Pinpoint Website	296	There were 93 surveys completed and 32 comments posted

Highlights

Below is a summary of the key themes from the Phase 1 engagement events. This summary encompasses the survey results, stakeholder meetings, one-on-one conversations with staff, and input from the pop-up events. A full summary of each engagement event is found in the *Individual Event Summaries Section* that follows.

Overall, the community outreach indicates that Thompson County Park is well loved. The setting, mixture of activities, and shelter/lodge rental bring a wide range of people to the park. Regular park users, as may be indicated from the Social Pinpoint results, likely come on a weekly to monthly basis. Outside of events and programming at the Activity Center, draws of Thompson County Park include walking/hiking, being in nature, picnicking, and using the playground. While Thompson County Park is nestled in a urban neighborhood, the majority of park users still come via car rather than on foot or bike. The following are major themes heard from input:

- » Retention and improvement of the natural areas - The natural areas were cited as an amenity to preserve, maintain, and improve. This includes water quality in Thompson Lake, as well as the southern half of the park.
- » Recreational use of the lake - People were interested in expanded use of the lake through additional fishing opportunities and small craft rental of paddleboards or kayaks.
- » Expanded recreation - Users would like more to do at the park. Examples of the types of activities suggested include splash pad or mister, nature ninja course, nature play area, zipline, rock wall, outdoor workout stations, and community garden.
- » Visitor amenities - Input identified a number of wishes to improve the park experience, including more picnic tables and BBQs; shade for the playground; small craft rental; equipment check-out for geocaching or lawn games; trail markers; wayfinding; benches; water fountains; port-a-potties; and nature interpretation.
- » Park maintenance improvements - Some identified an overall need for park clean-up. Others suggested improvements that would assist with maintaining the park's appearance such as dog waste stations and more recycling and trash receptacles.
- » Focus on accessibility - Many of the conversations in the first phase identified opportunities for improved accessibility. This is likely the results of many factors, including having the Activity Center, its relatively flat topography in the main activity area, and its role for community gathering. An accessibility and inclusion walk provided a lot of detailed information in the areas of trails, parking, restrooms, playground, seating, shade, wayfinding, events, and maintenance.
- » Expanded winter use - a few expressed a desire for groomed ski trails and snowshoe rental so there could be more use of the park in the winter.
- » More events - Input indicates an interest in more inter-generational events, family events, and events designed for those with special needs.

Individual Event Summaries

Social Pinpoint

Social Pinpoint is an online engagement tool that provides multiple ways for users to share their thoughts about the park. For the first phase the website used both the survey and the map based comment tools to solicit input. The website was made available in both Spanish and English.

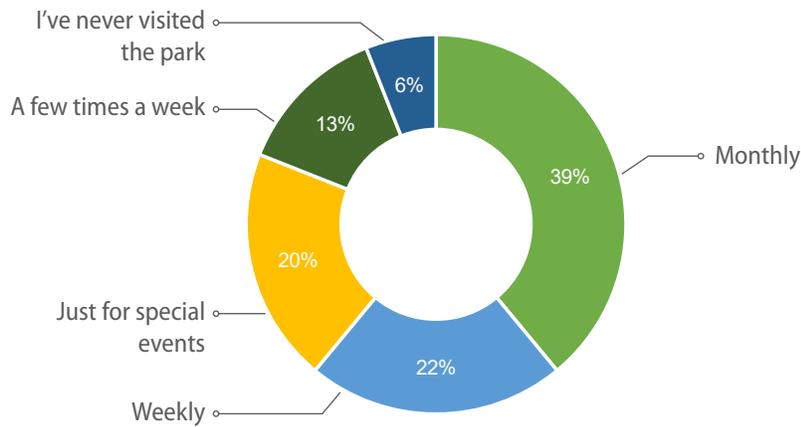
Survey Responses

Participants were also able to take part in a short survey about their visits to Thompson County Park. Overall, park users seem to visit monthly and arrive by car and are primarily interested in walking or hiking in the park. The other most popular park activities were observing or being in nature, attending programs or events at Thompson Activity Center, or playing on the playground.

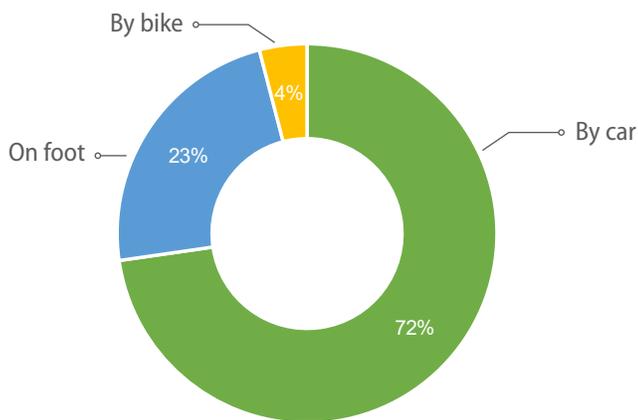
Map-Based Comments

Participants were also asked to place markers on an interactive map of Thompson Park under four different categories: I Like This, Ideas and Suggestions, Stories and Photos, This Needs Work. Comments received under each category are listed in the table on the following page and are keyed to their intended location in the figure.

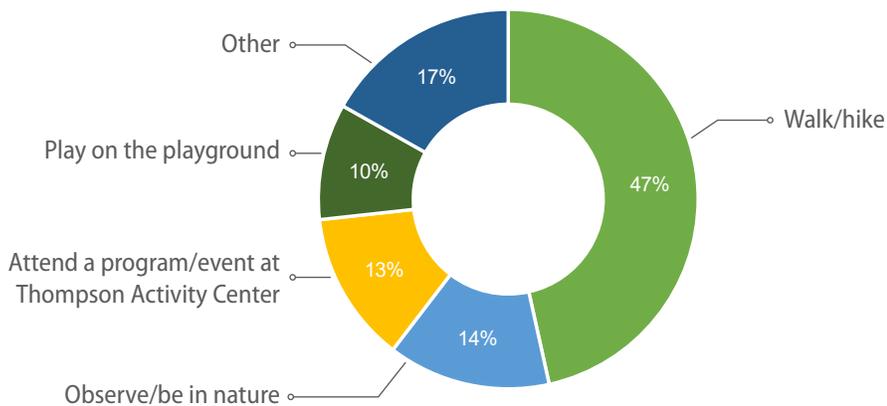
How often do you visit the park?



How do you usually arrive at the park?



What do you like to do when you visit the park?



I LIKE THIS (UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)

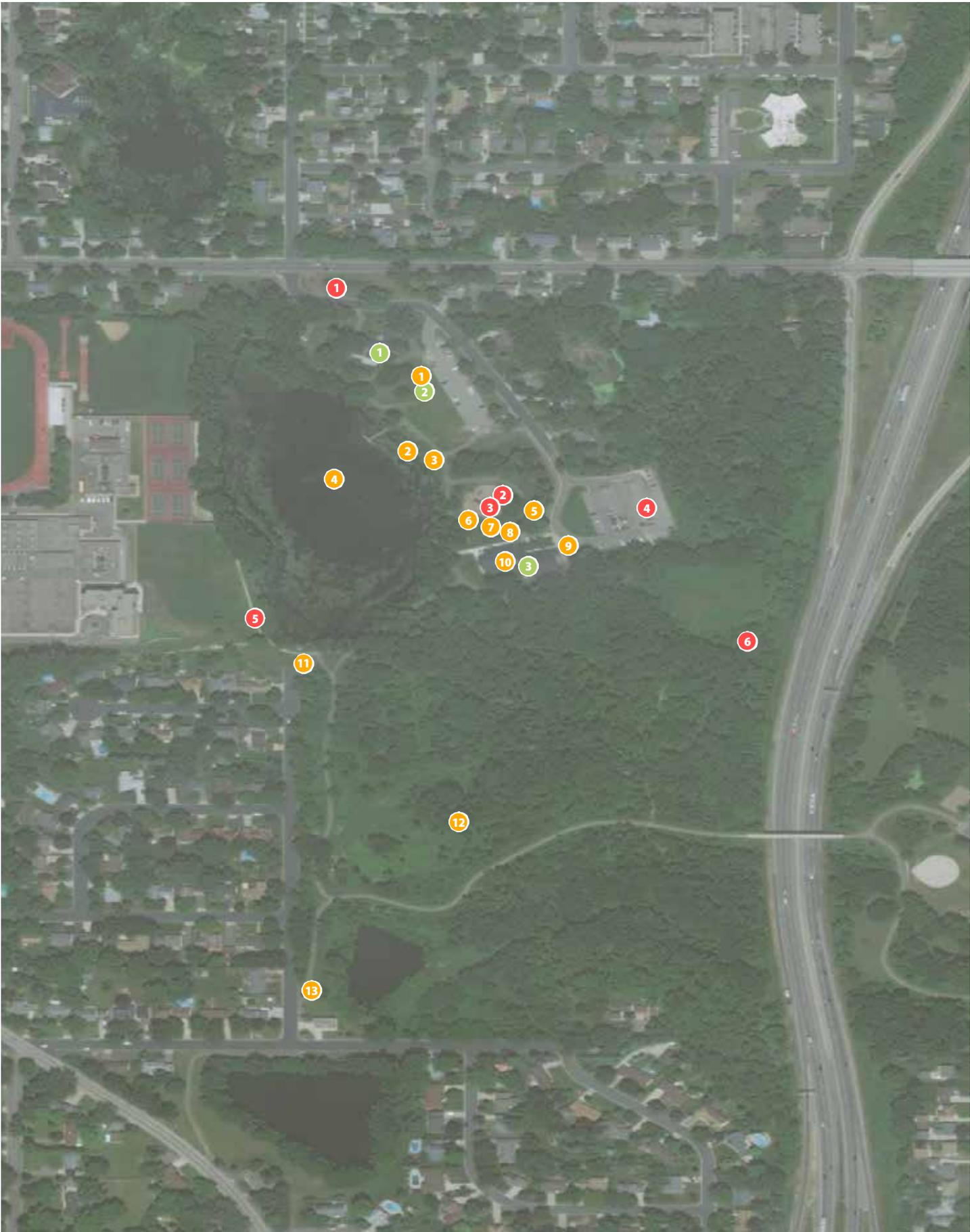
- 1 We have had three work picnics here and have loved it. It's big enough to hold 80 people without feeling cramped. (1,0)
- 2 It is nice to have this green space to play different games for our picnic. (0,0)
- 3 The indoor facilities are beautiful! Well-maintained and easy to access. Keep up the good work! (0,0)

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS (UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)

- 1 We end up bringing a variety of lawn games to our picnic but just a thought that maybe when you reserve the picnic have some lawn games for rent or to reserve. (1,0)
- 2 Would love to see canoe or paddle boat rental to allow us to enjoy some time on the water. (0,0)
- 3 Paddle boat and Kayak rental too. (0,0)
- 4 More fishing access (another pier? From shore?) and more frequent fish stocking. (0,0)
- 5 Shuffleboard (0,0)
- 6 Add one or those of those molded plastic swings that can accommodate handicapped kids and for adults to swing with kids, I'd like to see more adult-kid play together type of equipment. (0,0)
- 7 It would be great to have a more natural play area like the one at Tamarack Nature Center (a Ramsey County park) in White Bear or Whitetail Woods. (1,0)
- 8 Would love to see more picnic tables and BBQ grills around this area. Parents should be able to prep meals while still being able to watch their children on the playground. (0,0)
- 9 Need a crosswalk painted here. I always get nervous when attending events in the center and my kids run from the car to the building. There is currently no crosswalk or signs alerting drivers to be cautious. (0,0)
- 10 Provide programming for grandparent/grand kids to learn about nature, learn to canoe, archery, etc. The Roads Scholar travel programs says that grandparent/grandkid educational trips are the fastest growing segment of their travel program. Maybe this fits as a way to expand senior center participation and link it to the park. (0,0)
- 11 Could this be made into a park entrance? (0,0)
- 12 Single track circuit that is tied into the greenway plan or developed adjacent to it to increase the cyclist presence (0,0)
- 13 Make this a nicer more official park entrance. (0,0)

THIS NEEDS WORK (UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)

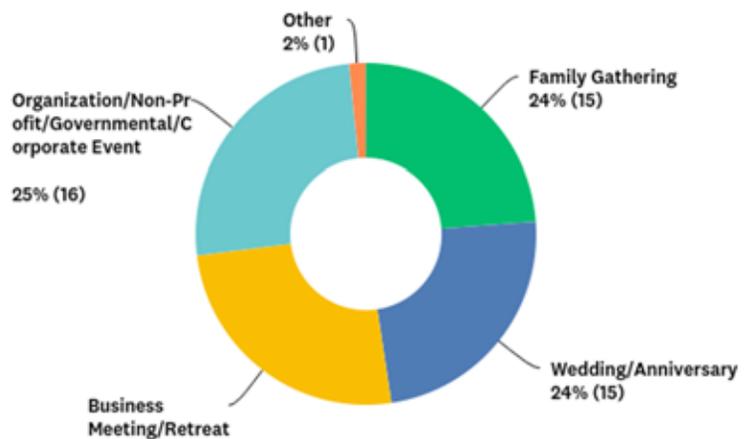
- 1 Could use some beautification. Maybe replace over grown shrubs with pollinator gardens. (1,0)
- 2 We need more seating and picnic tables around the play area. Places where parents can be close and still watch their children. Also more garbage/recycle bins. During busy times the current receptacles fill up. (0,0)
- 3 The playground equipment gets very hot in the sun. Is there anyway to add some sun shields? (0,0)
- 4 The compost door seems to come and go, would be nice to have something you can see through so you can tell if someone else is in there. Also, a spigot here or outside the park building would help rinse out buckets used to haul compost bags. (0,0)
- 5 A fully paved path around the lake that has separate lanes for walkers from wheels would be nice and make the strolling safer. (0,0)
- 6 Road noise is loud. We always walk fast through here because we can't hear ourselves talk when hiking. (0,0)



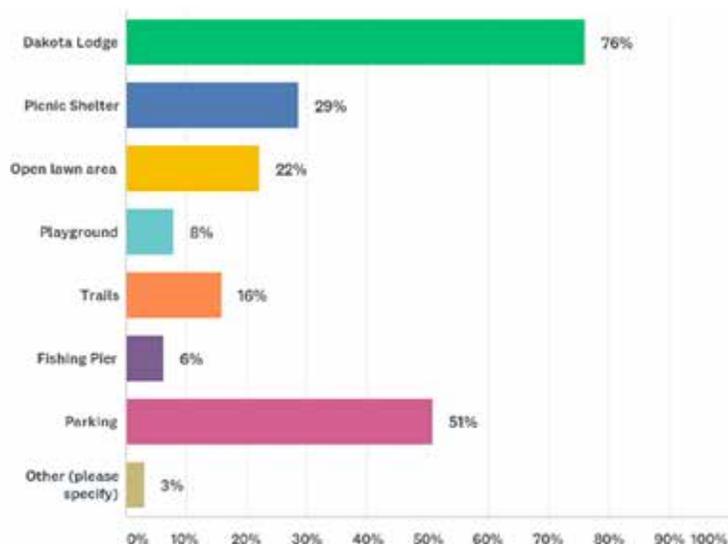
Survey Monkey

In order to better understand the experience of those who have rented the North Picnic Shelter or the Dakota Lodge, a Survey Monkey survey was created and a link to the survey was sent via email. A total of 61 surveys were received. The response rate for rental purpose was spread rather evenly among survey respondents, with business purposes (meeting/retreat and organization/non-profit/governmental/corporate event) receiving 2% more responses than family, wedding, or anniversary related events.

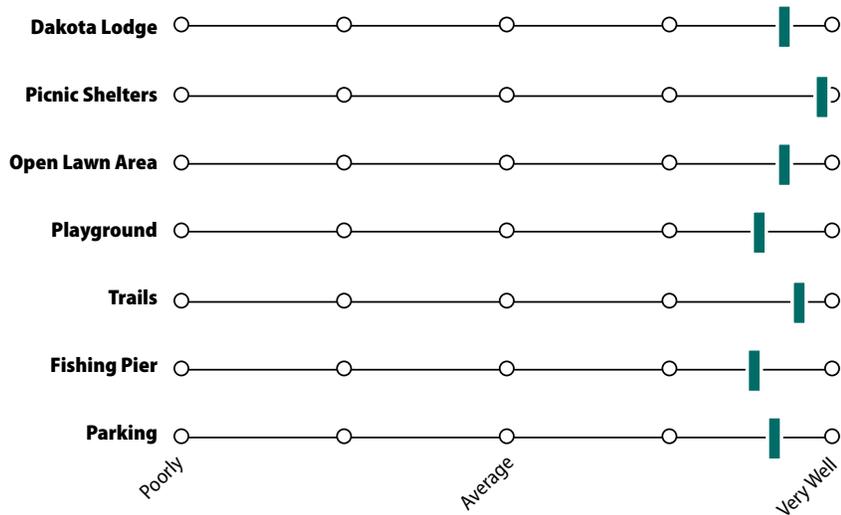
Overall, respondents seem pleased with the existing rental facilities at Thompson County Park, the most popular of which being the Dakota Lodge. Concerns that were raised regarded parking capacity, wayfinding throughout the park, park safety (particularly the need for lighting), park upkeep and maintenance, the availability of technology and technical assistance, and the proximity of park amenities.



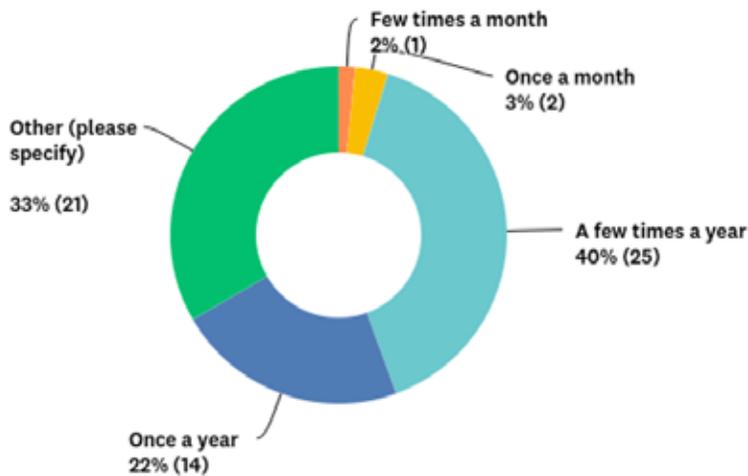
Facility usage for Thompson County Park tends to lean toward the Dakota Lodge and the parking areas, with the next highest response (picnic shelters) receiving less than half the responses as the Dakota Lodge. Other identified facilities included geocaching and horse shoes.



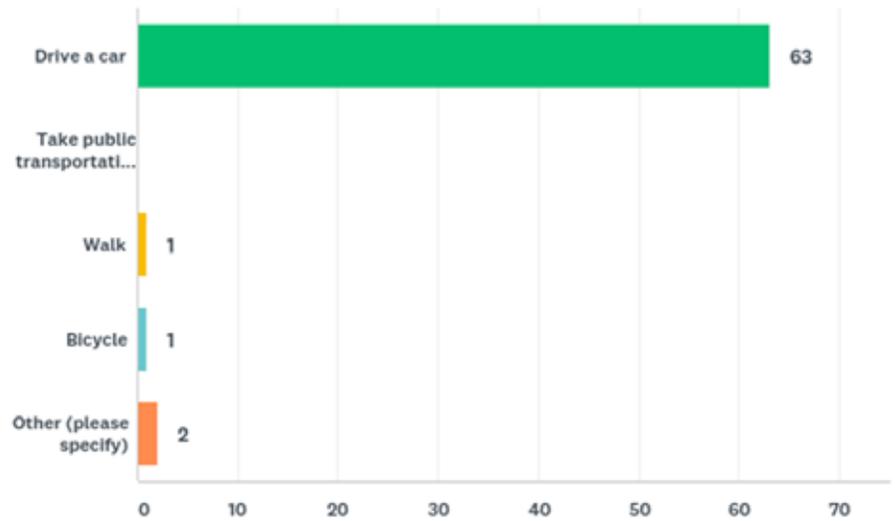
Every noted existing park facility received above a 4/5 rating on average from survey respondents, with the picnic shelter and trails gaining the highest ratings. The only comments identified a desire for more parking, as well as pathway connecting parking to other park amenities.



The majority of park users attending events use Thompson County Park a few times a year. The “Other” category received a large number of responses and was mainly populated by users who had only visited the park once for an event or activity.



Park users attending events overwhelmingly arrive by driving a car, with less than 6% of participants reporting to have arrived by alternative means of transportation.



WHAT WORKS WELL IN THE PARK TODAY?

Dakota Lodge is well kept, large amounts of parking available, greenery is nice. Ability to cater in food from anyone/make our own is a very big bonus!

The picnic shelter is great! Well covered for weather issues and the kitchen is perfect, especially with serving area, water and fridge

Nice sight, good shade

Everything worked well that we used!! The day went completely smoothly!

Dakota Lodge is a beautiful building in a great setting. The kitchen is great for catering. Being able to drive up to the kitchen door helps the caterers. There are adequate tables and chairs. The outdoor patios are great. The lobby is welcoming.

As it currently is, the park works pretty well.

The picnic shelter at Thompson is beautifully sited and designed. It functioned perfectly for our gathering.

Most everything works well. It's the nicest urban park that I can think of.

Parking

The facility is the right size for us.

Clean, well maintained, restrooms very nice

Don't visit

People can use various aspects of the park without interfering with the rental of Dakota Lodge.

Convenience for the attendees

The catering kitchen in Dakota Lodge worked wonderfully for caterer and our kitchen workers. It's a wonderful venue for wedding receptions. I've recommended it to others.

WHAT WORKS WELL IN THE PARK TODAY?

Nice to have the outdoor space for lunch breaks

Everything we needed: kitchen facilities; tables/chairs/sound system/etc.; staff assistance with set-up suggestions; staff break-down following service

Love how it's centrally located.

Love the event space. The kitchen is great.

The facility is nice, kitchen is very useful, coffee pots are nice to have.

It's a beautiful location that is very central to our friends and family.

Dakota Lodge space accommodates our large group, the technology provided, grill/kitchen on site for our annual picnic, easy to book/cancel meetings with park coordinator.

The lodge facilities are great. It would be nice if we were able to use the small meeting room as well as the large for government meetings

Nice trails to access during meeting breaks, good kitchen set-up

Trails are great. Easy to access.

We love how much space the Dakota Lodge has

Fishing available.

The lodge was spacious to host our training event, and had the accommodations of AV equipment, and projector screen to easily set up the training materials

Everything good

Everything no problems with staff or the park

Love the size of the restrooms and that the park was always clean

Perfect space for wedding, pictures, play space for kids.

The picnic shelter

Everything was perfect

Didn't use the park

We loved the rental space- it offered everything we needed: affordable, space to get ready, outdoor ceremony space, beautiful backdrop for pictures, beautiful space indoors for dinner, awesome convenient parking, ability to cater our own wedding. The support from Dakota County parks was INCREDIBLE. We could not have been more pleased.

The shelter provides a large, communal atmosphere for all of our employees who work in human services to picnic, receive some training, and have a bit of fun together. We really like this site. Thank you.

Love the kitchen facility...lots of refrigerator/freezer space. and so glad there as a sink

It's all great and even better on a day of sunshine.

The facility is clean. Well organized, knowledgeable and helpful staff. The Dakota Lodge is perfect for 100 to have a meeting. The surroundings are pleasant and location is easy to get to. Parking is ample.

Parking is so convenient. Registration is very simple.

Great gathering place to host 100 people or so.

Clean facilities

WHAT WORKS WELL IN THE PARK TODAY?

Related to Dakota Lodge:

Convenient location to the workplace in St. Paul.

Size: Can accommodate larger groups.

Beauty: Great place to hold a meeting.

Price: Can't beat it!

The setting is surprising and gorgeous for being so close to the cities. The facility was nice and clean. Staff were very accommodating.

Pretty much everything. It is a great venue with a lot of variety.

The parking for Dakota Lodge is easy. The lodge is beautiful and easy to manage.

Mostly everything. It is beautiful inside and out. We were very happy to have chosen it. The staff were very helpful in our visits and through emails.

Nice building and kitchen area to use for meetings

The facilities and how clean they were was fantastic. The staff was also accommodating and supportive. All was for a fantastic price point.

Nicely maintained, clean

Parking, picnic shelter, trails, playground all nicely maintained. Reservation system is convenient and the price for the shelter cannot be beat

Ample parking, easy to find

Seems to be plenty of parking for the size of our group. Building was neat and clean.

The kitchen is awesome

Parking, lodge space with kitchen and AV

WHAT DOESN'T WORK WELL IN THE PARK TODAY?

The lawn right outside the Lodge is a little up and down (bumpy) so when we did our ceremony outside some of the chairs were on uneven ground

Handicapped parking for shelter - to few spots and at base of small hill.

Also, playground is too far from the shelter.

Hard to find, signage is tough and once people reach the Community Center and have gone too far the one way makes it difficult to get back to the Pavilion

The handle on one of the refrigerators in the picnic shelter kitchen is broken.

Nothing that I can think of!

The lighting and A/V equipment options are limited. It would be great to also be able to set up the podium and/or A/V options to face the side windows so that the speaker can be closer to the whole group. The room is so long that the tables near the fireplace are too far from the podium and A/V screen. It is also difficult to see the screen because of the lighting and possibly the quality of the projector.

The picnic facility could use better lighting, as could the restrooms.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK WELL IN THE PARK TODAY?

The size of the park limits recreational opportunities like softball. It would be great if the county would manage Kaposia park.

NA

n/a

Would like more trash containers besides ones at picnic shelter

N/A

overflow parking for Dakota Lodge Guests is far away.

The cleaning up of the lodge that we had to do after the event.

After car break-ins, drivers are wary to park there.

Everything we needed worked well

N/A

Sound system has had some issues over the past year. Seemed to be resolved at our last event at Dakota Lodge.

Parking is a bit of an issue for those that aren't super mobile but do not have a handicap plate. Upper lot fills quickly.

No complaints

The 4-5 times our group has walked on the trail at Thompson Park there are a few parts that are covered in water/mud and make it very hard for staff to maneuver around. Limited parking space for staff, we do encourage carpooling, but even with that when we have 100+ staff that are required to attend a mandatory meeting the parking is limited.

Same as question 6. Sometimes the smaller meeting room would be better for our meetings, but it is unavailable for reservation

Acoustics are sketchy. Often presenters' voices don't reach to the back (by fireplace). Also, heating/cooling can be problematic.

Can be buggy. DL is expensive.

It's not available very often, which isn't a bad thing for you, just a bummer for us!

Need seating on the fishing dock. Need less open space in the dock walls, dangerous for small children.

Expectations of renting was clear and nothing to report that didn't go well; perhaps the cost...being another government agency, a discounted government rate would have been nice

No complaints

Nothing

The parking is a challenge when there is more than one function going on, or if the function you host has numerous attendees that didn't carpool.

Would be great to have chairs for outdoor ceremony available.

Not enough picnic tables.

N/a we had no complaints

Didn't use the park

We had no complaints!

WHAT DOESN'T WORK WELL IN THE PARK TODAY?

Didn't find any flaws

Trash bins with bugs. Otherwise, all good.

I don't know of any issues

Overnight set-ups

Paying to rent a public funded park, this is really paying for it twice.

Only one big room at Dakota Lodge available to rent -- wish there were smaller spaces.

AV needs could be improved. Hard to see screens due to lighting and inability to darken the room properly.

Kitchen amenities could be improved upon for ease in serving food.

Restroom facilities are not adequate when large group is meeting at Dakota Lodge.

I wanted to come in and do a test run with our equipment (laptop) for presentation. It was never approved. On the day of the meeting we were not able to provide audio to those we were presenting to and were out on a remote location.

Nothing comes to mind

There were no negatives.

The speaker system should be replaced or upgraded. The music was so distorted and did not sound good at all.

Technology is a challenge, especially with the microphones

The only thing I didn't like in regard to renting the lodge space was the displace case full of stuff in the lobby area.

Nothing

Nothing that I can tell

N/a

I would rather pay for cleaning staff, than have to clean up (since I was also the host of the meeting).

The playground is quite far from the picnic area maybe have it a little closer to the picnic shelter to keep a eye on kids that's with parents at picnic area

It's all good

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR PROGRAMS THAT WOULD HAVE ENRICHED YOUR EXPERIENCE OR FACILITY RENTAL AT THE PARK?

The Dakota Lodge is a great place for our agency leaders to meet because it is close to St. Paul, nice walking trails to use during lunch break.

It is good for our annual BBQ picnic for clients

N/A

Clear understanding/expectations of the check-in and check-out times.

Letting people bring chairs outside would have been nice if we had done an outdoor wedding ceremony, because otherwise the hassle of renting only chairs is too much

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR PROGRAMS THAT WOULD HAVE ENRICHED YOUR EXPERIENCE OR FACILITY RENTAL AT THE PARK?

N/a

It would have been nice if non-guests did not come through our party to use the restrooms.

No

No

Not that I can think of now

N/A

None that I can think of

Not having to do set up, and cleanup after the event.

No -- it was perfect for us

Audio/visual equipment is kind of temperamental.

No

The overhead equipment should be updated, seems a bit out of date and not user friendly.

Unsure

Flexibility to check out earlier than the time listed on the contract. I know park staff work schedules are booked around check-in and out, having a parks staff on-site during normal business hours would help to be a resource if there are issues.

No, everything else has been fabulous

More art options. Sculpture, photography walks, etc.

Larger sign post at the picnic shelter. Guests had trouble finding the party.

N/A

No

No

No, our experience in 2016 was quite good. We hosted an event that had numerous people of varying ages and abilities attend. We had no problems.

Na

Larger area for additional seating near the shelter, additional restrooms and parking.

No

No

The event coordinator was so helpful in making our entire rental experience easy and understandable. We were lucky to have such a gorgeous venue!

No

NA

The tables need to be cleaned. A few are in need of repair. I realized everyone has their own idea of clean, but when we rent a facility we don't expect to do the mopping.

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR PROGRAMS THAT WOULD HAVE ENRICHED YOUR EXPERIENCE OR FACILITY RENTAL AT THE PARK?

Free or discounted for Non-profits

Better loop trail around the lake

Not that I can think of at this time.

No

No

No other than the music we were very pleased

No

No

None

No

A few more wedding amenities - rolling clothes rack, more mirrors or lights in the extra rooms.

Cleaning service

Not for our purpose

IF YOU COULD WAVE YOUR MAGIC WAND, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS THE BEST PARK EVER?

Suggestions: projector needs to be adjusted so presentations are top and center; perhaps a screen/projector in the middle of the room (I call it the nook where the two tables are set up) this way when viewing presentations the room is not so long.

Even out the lawn outside the Lodge, and make the grills there removable (they don't look great in pictures). Also would love to have had sparklers at the wedding but it was against park rules. Lighting options outside would have been nice as well

Handicapped parking on level ground on north side of shelter

Small playground near the picnic shelter

Winter bathrooms in shelter

Closer to the other facilities like the park/outdoor gym, Community Center, and splash pad

I have no clue

A playground closer to the picnic facility. The playground is a long way from the picnic facility, so parents are unable to stay at the party and watch their children on the playground

Take over Kaposia park to make both quality venues. Thompson can't do much better unless a pool is added.

NA

Either have a crew to clean up after events, or do better inspections after cleaning. We have had to clean all of the tables after we set them up. We always wipe them down when we are done.

IF YOU COULD WAVE YOUR MAGIC WAND, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS THE BEST PARK EVER?

It would be fun if there was a food/beverage type station, but understand that might not be realistic

N/A

So far the changes I wanted made have been done, so thank you.

Better facility to have a meeting. I don't think the sound was that good either.

The lodge is frequently cold. Sometimes it's hard to see and hear from the back of the room.

It's great as-is in terms of what we needed

Easier access to the kitchen door for loading/unloading food deliveries.

I think that it is pretty great. If there were ways to have different options for room set up, i.e. two projectors and two screens that might be nice for differently sized conferences/events.

Bigger bathrooms with WAY more ventilation, better parking and up to date electronics.

More seating outdoors and more flowers.

Bigger parking space and cleaner/wider walking trail/path.

I haven't used the park for other than meetings, so I don't have many opinions on the rest of the park

It's a great place, just need to fix the problems above.

Shade over the playground. Or at least the patent seating area near the playground. And a splash pad.

Discounted rate for partnering county and state agencies

...?

No idea

More availability, parking.

I don't live close enough to visit regularly

See #8.

A sun shelter over the grills

Only used the lodge

Nothing!!! We thought it was beautiful.

Great question! I am very happy, so nothing from our team!

N/a

More time to enjoy it. Ice machine in Lodge. For training we often put the center of the room in the window section for better view and resource tables on the dance floor. Would like a screen from that angle rather than having to bring my own.

Would be nice to have a private room available for nursing mothers. On occasion we have need of a room to take a conference call and privacy is essential.

IF YOU COULD WAVE YOUR MAGIC WAND, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS THE BEST PARK EVER?

Someone on site to assist with technical things and also a fully accessible kitchen. I don't recall there being a coffee pot we could use.

More lighting

Better looking lake

Simple improvements in Dakota Lodge to accommodate larger group meetings.

Offer lawn games to rent or a partnership with local food vendors for a promotional discount to cater meetings/other get togethers

I already think it is pretty great, but maybe more trails? an area with sculptures and outdoor art?

Easier traffic to get there from Minneapolis :)

I don't have any other suggestions

In the lodge have better lighting and options to cover the windows, better connections to use technology

Nicer bathrooms in the lodge

N/A

I cannot think of anything!

N/A

Cleaning Service

Tops for the grills we couldn't use the grill on the July 4th because it rained inside the grills

WE WELCOME OTHER COMMENTS RELATED TO YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THOMPSON COUNTY PARK.

Everyone at the Dakota Lodge is great to work with.

Overall a great venue. We loved having our wedding there!

Staff has been great!

Could use better marked parking areas along Stassen drive. I know it's on one side only, but it's not clear for guests unfamiliar with the park.

It was a wonderful experience renting your facility for my wedding!

Overall, it worked perfectly for us.

The reservation was easy to make. The kitchen area was great and the design of the shelter amazed our guests. It added to the quality of our party.

NA

N/A

I rented Dakota Lodge twice and both times went smoothly and my event was great. The round tables are very big and there isn't much room between them to walk especially when people are seated making it difficult for people to circulate.

WE WELCOME OTHER COMMENTS RELATED TO YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THOMPSON COUNTY PARK.

A few guests were confused when they tried to find the lodge, depending on which map app they used. Some apps labeled it as Dakota Lodge, some labeled it as the county day program you have there.

Thanks very much for use of the Lodge and all staff assistance!

Really enjoy the beautiful facility!

The price is great. The event space is great. The staff are wonderful and friendly!

Beautiful setting!

We love the park.

The staff we work with to reserve Dakota Lodge and those who meet us for check in and check out are wonderful.

Need paved path all the way around the trail circling the pond.

It was a perfect location to host our training. We much prefer giving our business to county agencies when we host trainings vs. a hotel, etc. but the rate was a little costly for what our budget will allow; if a government rate could be offered that would definitely bring us to use this facility more often

Very clean. Awesome kitchen. Great play area for the kids.

N/a

Overall, our experience in 2016 was fantastic. We tried to host an event 2017 but were unable to access the website quick enough to secure a weekend reservation in June 2017.

Na

Sam was awesome. He was a very polite host. Really had a awesome time there. We will using the facilities again probably next year

The Dakota Lodge is a nice facility but improvement is needed with the on site facilitator. Our person was late to unlock the building and was not as helpful as we expected. Disappointing.

I can say nothing but wonderful things about my rental experience.

Staff always accommodating and helpful.

Make it better-known that there is a regional trail that goes through the park

NA

It is tough that you can only check-out at designated times. Would be nice if you could set a check-out time when you book the lodge. Also, check in has not been super reliable (someone being there to let us in) in the past.

It was easy to rent and easy to host a great event at Dakota Lodge.

Great staff, location, surroundings and facility. Just please get a better sound system for music

Great facility overall!

Wonderful experience and excellent staff

WE WELCOME OTHER COMMENTS RELATED TO YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THOMPSON COUNTY PARK.

I rented Dakota Lodge for a large meeting and it would have been nice to have had a little more customer service and assistance on the day of the event.

Your maintenance team responds quickly to issues. We had a clogged toilet and someone was there within 20 minutes tops.

N/A

I thought the park was very nice. Thank you.

Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder Meeting - July 23, 2018

Two stakeholder meetings were held at Thompson County Park. The meetings were intended to gather insight on what is working well at the park, where changes are needed, how existing partnerships can be strengthened, and what new partnerships may be possible. The meetings were attended by representatives of a mix of cities, community organizations, and community representatives, including West St. Paul Police, Wentworth Library, Family Voices MN, Dakota County Veteran Services, Dakota County Social Services, Dakota County Public Health, YMCA, City of Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County Public Arts, Caponi Art Park, and MnDNR.

HOW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS USE THE PARK NOW?

The Y doesn't use the park; could build partnerships between YMCA and County. When the River to River Greenway is finished there will be an improved connection.

Rotary uses Dakota Lodge for training/education.

West St. Paul Law enforcement uses the park and Dakota Lodge for law enforcement training and outreach events including Junior SWAT program, fishing events, and presentations to seniors.

Dakota County Social Services used Dakota Lodge for its Autism outreach. The lodge is a more welcoming and less intimidating place than other government buildings.

MnDNR partners with Dakota County on the Take a Kid Fishing event. The DNR works with Humbolt High School to stock the fish.

BARRIERS TO PARK USE OR ENJOYMENT

Many people don't know where the park ends and begins and don't understand what there is to do in the park. There is a lack of awareness in the park among people who live in the neighborhood.

The park does not have a strong street presence on Butler and the name is confusing. People think it is on Thompson Ave. The neighborhood entrances to the park are not well signed or welcoming.

The noise from Highway 52 defines the park experience on the south east side.

Better signage is needed in the park. In particular, the parking is confusing. The only visible lot is by the lake and people are not sure if they should park there or keep going.

Improved signage in the park so people know where to go and can get a sense of what the experience and conditions will be like (ie, unpaved trail, no restroom facilities, distance, elevation change, etc.)

Transportation issue for those without cars and older adults. Public transportation/walkability could be improved.

People are unaware of the park.

People need to feel safe in parks. West St. Paul Police has had successful program on Wednesdays in the summer in Southview Park. Kids bring other kids and everyone feels safe because officers are there. This program is primarily attended by Latinos who live in the immediate area.

Prohibitive cost of equipment for certain activities.

Seniors would benefit from more paved trails – particularly around the lake.

Adequate and accessible trash/recycling receptacles to facilitate a “Leave No Footprint philosophy for park users”

Fear or lack of knowledge about the outdoors and outdoor activities.

More benches are needed – it would be helpful for those who are concerned about distances to know they are out there and where they are.

Restrooms are needed, particularly on the south end of the park.

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITIES, AMENITIES, ACTIVITIES OR ACCESSIBILITY

The park design could be more inclusive particularly for people living with disabilities.

- » Family restrooms are needed so that those with sensory sensitivity can avoid hand driers and auto-flush toilets.
- » Paper towels are needed, especially in a family restroom – so that those with sensory sensitivity do not need to use the hand-driers. Paper towels are also needed for older adults when incontinence is an issue and for parents with children in diapers.
- » More paved and even trail surfaces options, benches for resting, call boxes in case of emergency.
- » A fenced playground to prevent kids who bolt/run from getting away.
- » Pay attention to ADA parking spaces; designate some spaces as van only.
- » Explore potential sponsors for a golf cart for events (City of Shoreview has this).

Programming for populations with special needs (sensory-friendly programming, programs for people with dementia and their caregivers).

Multilingual signage to be inclusive of and to reflect our diverse community makeup, including Braille on signage

Awareness walks are gaining in popularity. If you host them a place to gather is needed.

Lebanon Hills Visitor Center has a nice set up for as a community space – for instance there are Moms groups who use the space.

Dads support groups tend to enjoy activities as a way to bond. For example, snowshoeing, making beef jerky.

Utilization of the lodge in the winter as an indoor space/warming space.
Lighting would help to make trail safer.
The building needs a breastfeeding space.
Offer equipment rentals: snowshoes, kayaks; paddleboat, paddleboard.
Host family and smaller events; sleigh rides, arts and crafts, nature scavenger hunt to get people out.
The library has partnered with Dakota County Parks on Story walks, could expand to include multi lingual stories.
Could have more permanent displays around the lake for story walk, local art, or art from area schools
An idea for an event is a story walk with bonfire
Pull up bar challenges
Nature Ninja – family friendly challenge elements in the south end of the park
Family yoga, adaptive yoga
Start a Take a Kid Ice Fishing Event
Maintain geocaches around the lake or in strategic locations to draw people to places in the park.
Free events like music and movies in the park help people discover the parks.
Utilize Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles to make the park safe.
Add shade canopy.
There are not enough trash receptacles; there is trash everywhere in this park
It would be helpful to have better information about trail mileage [for trail running]
Arts are a way to bring people together, particularly different ethnic and cultural groups
Parking is a limitation. If you are going to hold events and programs you need to have adequate parking. Right-size events for available parking.
Would love to see fishing rentals & bait in this park. It is one of the only lakes in the area with a fishing pier.
Consider ways to draw people into the south end of the park. This may mean recreation more development & car access south of Dakota Lodge. More accessible trails will open the south end of the park to a broader audience.
Consider a sound wall along Highway 52
Youth Retreat Space
A shelter for programs
Add misters or a splash pad for warm days. Splash pads are very successful in Kelly Park in Apple Valley and Harmon Park in West St. Paul.
Sell ice cream
Improve the River to River Trail – better signage, water, restrooms close to the trail.
Program with trail with foot or bicycle races
Promote Simon’s Ravine for ‘hill training’. Embrace the steep grate
Add a nature play space. The new one in Patrick Eagan Park is very popular

To encourage use of the south end of the park create a hidden playground in the woods –add whimsy, for example make it a fairyland

Intergenerational programming

Community gardens; the garden at Dodge Nature Center is expensive; the Garlough Garden has struggled

Consider serving summer meals

SOLICITING COMMUNITY INPUT AND BUILDING AWARENESS OF THOMPSON PARK

People living with disabilities – there is a twin cities blog that families use; Family Voices can help us spread the word; innovations group

The Y has a community board. In Late August they host a stroke educational event with strong community attendance

August 7 Night to Unite

Dakota County Parks Ap

City websites, Facebook

Dakota County Parks/Thompson Park presence at larger West St. Paul community events including Dakota County Library-Wentworth's annual Dia de los Ninos/Dia de los Libros (usually last Saturday in April); West St. Paul Open House (usually second Wednesday in May)

Paper posers and flyers posted at community gathering places, businesses, organizations, and at Wentworth Library community events bulletin board

Garlough Elementary Family Nights

Connect with communities for a Lifetime, Living Longer and Stronger, WSP ACT on ALZ, CLUES

Surveys at West St. Paul City Hall, Northern Service Center, Wentworth Library, etc.

People in the neighborhood find out about things through NextDoor

Note that there are more Somalis in the area – seeing more families at the Y, library and Garlough Elementary School.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERPRETATION, EDUCATION, PROGRAMMING, OR MARKETING

Dakota Lodge is one of the only large meeting spaces in the area; there may be ways to partner with Dakota County Social services to better utilize Dakota Lodge as a community space.

The Wentworth Library and St. Paul Police Department partner on a Bike Rodeo. There may be a need in the future for a larger space.

West St. Paul Police department holds a Safety Camp and Safe Summer nights events. There may be an opportunity to hold these events in Thompson Park in the future.

Collaborations with neighboring Dakota tribal nations for cultural programming on traditional Indigenous scientific knowledge (star knowledge, ethnobotany, animal stories told only during winter etc.)

Partnership with the University of Minnesota for citizen scientist classes or meetups for children, teens, adults, older adults

Monthly 'current events-burning issues' discussion on community relevant issues such as climate change, groundwater pollution, mining in Minnesota, economics, environmentalism, pesticide use etc with local expert speakers.

Classes/activities/meetups including citizen scientists, naturalists, birdwatching, entomology, wildflower/plant identification/harvest, use, etc.

Partner with local arts organizations for visual and performing arts in the park

The Y has health related programs and could utilize the trails.

Thompson Park Activity Center Advisory Committee Meeting – July 26, 2018

GENERAL COMMENTS

Not enough parking in the upper is an issue on a weekly basis ~ typically during the day when there is an event at Dakota Lodge and the Activity Center is busy. Seniors parking in the lakeside lot is a problem especially in winter.

The drop off drive in front of the building is confusing, it should be one way.

Most people drive to the park, some use metro mobility.

The sightlines between the Activity Center door and the front desk need to be better for safety. There are no cameras, no security. There is a fundamental circulation flow problem between the activity center door and the front desk.

Activity Center has no identification on monument sign on Butler. There are so many events; it would be great to have electronic sign board that can be changed.

In plan, use the terminology 55+, not older adult.

It would be great to have more activities outside. If there was a better connection to the patio, outdoor classroom, shade. Any seating should have arms; it is best if it could be movable. If there was shade art classes, science, and book clubs could be outside.

More activity at the lake – paddle boards, walks for different age groups

Concerns about security on the wooded trails – both from crime and also if someone falls on the trail and can't get back to the Activity center. Some things that could help are paved trails, benches, walking with a buddy programs, call boxes.

It would be nice to have interpretive signs and signs identifying native vegetation.

Fire pits for when it is cold; misters for when it is hot.

A smooth surface ¼ mile or less would be great for outdoor 55+ exercises classes.

There are lots of dog walkers in the park

Games for Adults 55+ would be great, pickleball, bocce

Accessibility and Inclusion Focus Group - September 14, 2018

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

PAVED TRAILS

Hills and steep grades are an issue in many places: right off the parking lot, near the picnic shelter, between the building and the playground, just south of the building by the lake. In some of these places a railing would be helpful.

In many areas the pavement needs repair: heaving and sinking have led to uneven surfaces, cracking, edges of pavement by the lake is eroding.

Lime bikes parked on the trail do not leave enough space for wheelchairs

Ag lime surface on the west side of the lake means people with disabilities cannot go around the lake; it would be much better for those living with disabilities if the trail was paved

It would be nice if there was at least one additional paved trail loop south of Thompson Activity Center

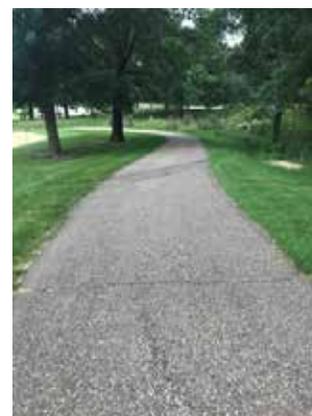
Another, less hilly trail option is needed connecting Butler Ave to Dakota Lodge



Bikes parked on trail make reduce space for wheelchairs



Pitted and cracked surface is difficult for those with mobility limitations



Railings in areas with steeper slopes would be help



ADA spaces at the parking lot corners are difficult to get out of. An even surface not next to the curb is best.



Ramps on vans often take up the entire designated space, leaving no space to maneuver. An additional 5' at van spaces.



Restroom signage should indicate that these are family restrooms and that they are accessible. The facility is good, but the communication needs to be improved.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

ROAD CIRCULATION

Entrance road needs striping so people know that it is two way

Thompson Activity Center drop off is difficult to understand – one way or two way. There should be a covered passenger drop off area, the building portico could be extended

PARKING

Additional accessible van spaces are needed. At least one along the west parking lot row would be nice. The space between van spaces must be at least 5' wider to account for the van ramp.

ADA spaces should not be adjacent to the curb. This condition leaves no space for the person getting out of the car to exit onto an even, at grade surface.

RESTROOMS

A family restroom is needed with a bench for adult diaper changing (for example, a chiropractic bench). Space around the bench needs to be wide enough for a caregiver to maneuver.

Soap dispensers need to be labeled and needing to push to dispense soap is not ideal.

All signs should indicate where the accessible family restrooms. Sign at playground does not communicate this, neither does the sign above the outdoor restrooms at the building.

WATER

More drinking fountains, add some on trails south of the building.

Drinking fountains should have levers instead of push buttons, have two heights, and a pet level.

Add a dispenser to fill water bottles in the Thompson Park Center building.

PLAYGROUND

The playground is not accessible.

There is only one paved trail leading to a playground entrance.

Resilient surfacing would be better than woodchips.

The accessible swing is nice, but the resilient surface around it needs to be twice as wide to allow a caregiver to maneuver and a wheelchair to be unloaded beside it.

Other swing options to explore adding are a wheelchair swing and swings with platform seats that are easier to get into.

Adult swings are needed, swinging is sensory.

Wood decking is in disrepair.

Signage is jumbled and difficult to read. Could be consolidated.

Restroom sign is small and faded, does not indicate that it is directing people to an accessible restroom.

A fenced playground is desirable to contain kids who run/bolt.



Loose boards on decking near playground



Example of a picnic table with space for a wheelchair



More accessible picnic tables are needed throughout the park

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

SENSORY AREA

Could have a sensory area for those with sensory sensitivity.

Sensory walk.

Sensory interpretation near trees (oak tree).

FISHING

Dock railings are loose/wobbly.

Signage in multiple languages is needed regarding fishing rules and regulations.

HORSESHOES

Not accessible.

No seating/benches.

SEATING AND PICNIC TABLES

More seating is needed. Benches along the trails should be at least every 1/8 mile.

A variety of seat types is desired. Some with arms, some with backs, some with everything.

Shade is needed where there are benches.

Seating with lake views is great, manage vegetation so lake can be seen from a seated position.

Create some more private seating 'nooks' with lake views and along the trails in the south end of the park. This will allow people to be in and enjoy nature.

Arms on benches help people get in and out of the chairs.

Accessible seating and tables are needed in the Dakota Lodge lobby.

Accessible picnic tables are needed.

Picnic table bench seating is difficult for many people to get in and out of.

Moveable chairs would be helpful.



Plexi-glass on park map is foggy and makes it hard to read

Large park map has less information than the small maps

The map dispenser is not intuitive and requires fine motor abilities

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

SHADE

Everyone loves shade.

Shade is essential for those with sun sensitivities.

Add trees and shade structures.

Picnic tables could have umbrellas.

Quarry Point Park in Apple Valley is a good example of shade structures.

MAPS AND WAYFINDING

Paper map: should have standard symbols; legend needs to be bigger; hiking and paved trail line symbols are too similar; paper map should locate accessible trails and restrooms.

PARK KIOSK

Flyers are hard to read, glass is foggy maps are faded

Large map in the kiosk has even less information than the paper maps.

Paper map dispenser is hard to maneuver/figure out.

Kiosk interior has water damage.

EVENTS

Would be great to have winter events with adaptive equipment, snowshoeing and x-country skiing.

Events are mostly advertised on Facebook. Would like to see them in the West St. Paul free paper.

DC parks could advertise events on the autism website.

PICNICKING

Informal picnic areas are not accessible.

More formalized picnicking (pad, accessible table) is needed.

PARK MAINTENANCE

Paved trail repair to meet accessibility standards.



Trimming dead tree branches near trails is needed



Acorns on trails are a hazard



Peeling recycling information stickers

Broken irrigation

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

Loose decking at playground area.

Fishing dock railings are loose.

Broken irrigation.

Gaps between foundation flashing and ground on building.

Recycling stickers coming off the tops of trash receptacles.

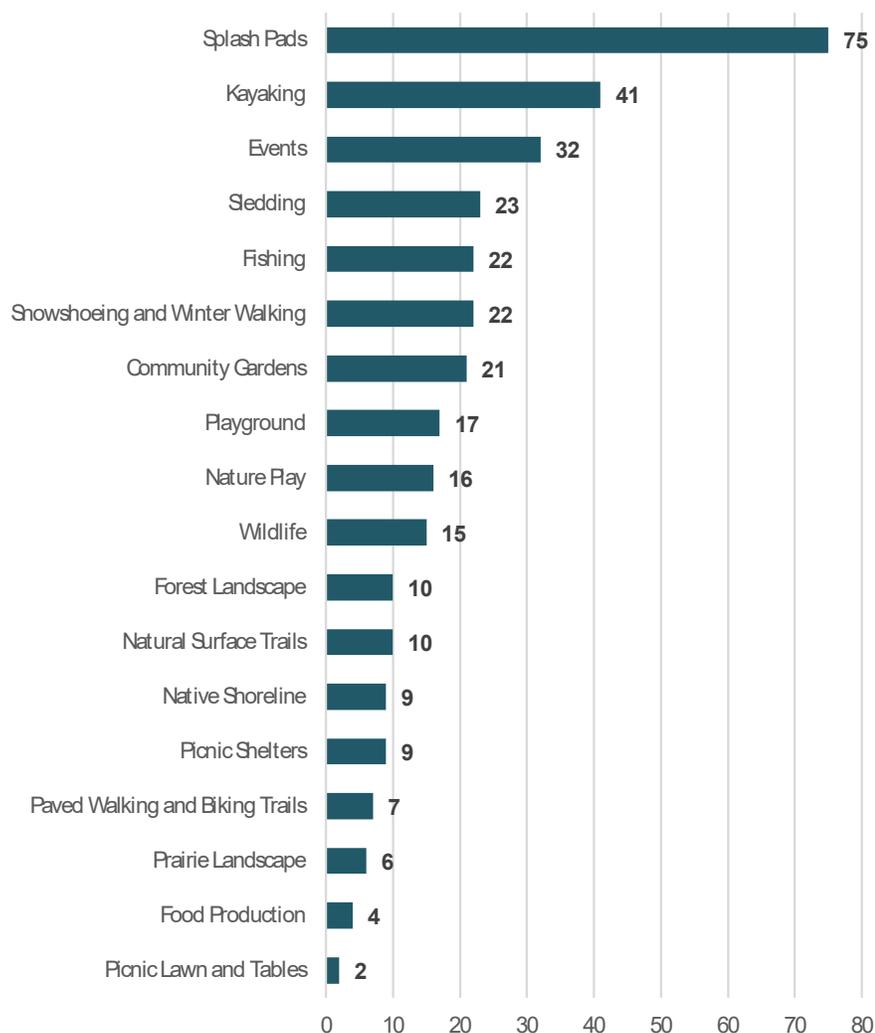
Mowing vegetation at edges of trail is needed.

Removal of dead branches on trees near the trail is needed.

Acorns are a hazard for people walking.

Pop-Up Events

Dakota County Staff and consultants participated in a number of events throughout the community during the late spring and summer of 2018. The



type of engagement activities used varied depending on the event. Some, like the Dakota County Fair, just had an unstaffed board where comments were solicited. Others, like the Take a Kid Fishing event, had activities for children as well as input opportunities for adults.

Activity Preference Board

At two events, Kaposia Days and Safe Summer Nights, attendees were able to use dots to identify activities that they would like to see in the park.

Map Comments

A map of the park was brought to a number of the events so attendees could leave their thoughts about the park. Post-its from each event were left so others could see previous comments made. The following are all of the comments received from West St. Paul Days, Kaposia Days, the Water Quality Open House, and Safe Summer Nights.

MAP BASED COMMENTS FROM MULTIPLE EVENTS

Splash Pad

Like it the way it is :)

Fire Pits

More places to BBQ; more pavilions

Like the trails (x2)

More recycling, less trash in the lake

Beach, pool, or splash pad

Fix erosion

Groom ski trails

Good wedding venue

Love the building

More prairie landscapes

Community garden plot where produce is shared with those in need

Love the nature, more restoration

Like the River to River Greenway

Add mile markers to the trails

Skate park (x2)

Trash in the lake, more clean-ups

More wildlife

Additional dog waste stations

Bike and trail map

Paved trails (x2)

Enjoy the natural feel with paved access in some areas

Trail west of lake needs repair

Benches have poor sight lines due to overgrown vegetation

If there were kayaks in the park I'd for sure use them

MAP BASED COMMENTS FROM MULTIPLE EVENTS

Easy and accessible for folks in wheelchair

Walkway between Thompson County Park and Kaposia Park should travel closer to Dakota Lodge

Still waiting on a tunnel under the roundabout

Staff the building so we can check out equipment, like geocaching unit, snowshoes, and binoculars

Lake stocked for fishing

More open space for athletic activity and play (similar to the open space between the parking lot and the lake)

Prairie garden, pollinator garden, prairie grasses (x3)

Beehives

Animals are destroying the park, trash needs to be picked up

Trails: loop on the lake, grassy trails, High School runs trail for cross country running, cross country skiing

Keep it wild - don't pave too much, you could pave the trail around the lake. Keep the southern part wild. We love the playground.

Fishing limits are not respected

Shelter costs too much and should be able to be rented longer

More senior programs - social get together, pot lucks, I like the waffle breakfast

Been bike riding for 30 years, I don't ride in winter

No baseball fields

Native American cultural interpretation; adult oriented music outdoors

Fishing limits are not respected

Fishing, bridging over the lake

Some trail sections are under water during spring thaw

When will we get to play on the fields at Kaposia Landing?

MAP BASED COMMENTS FROM MULTIPLE EVENTS

Keep the natural aspect of the park; natural stays maintained
Benches along the path
Interpretive center
Animals and flowers
Kayaks and stand up paddleboards
Hope it's cleaned up. But please don't disturb the fox dens. The red tail fox is actually out during daytime.

Thompson Lake PAH Cleanup and Stormwater Project Public Meeting - April 26, 2018

WATER QUALITY OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

MEMORIES	WISHES
Pre-wedding picnic at the shelter May 30, 2014	More animals to see and hear
Lots of good memories of walking the ravine all the way to the river	Leave it as natural as possible - We've seen coyote in winter
As kids we would go to Kaposia Park. My brother found an indian arrowhead	Make lake bigger, it is peaceful and pretty
Do backflips off rocks	That the park stays safe and clean
Got married at Thompson County Park in 2014	Porta Potties
We can play and not have just one thing to play on	Shade playground accessible for more kids, more ages, more benches
Canoe and paddlebike rentals	Daylight the stream that's piped south of the lake
Look at water	Beach/Sand volleyball net
Slide	More picnic tables and outdoor shelters
We bring our grandkids to the playground	Another picnic shelter a little one
Fishing on the dock	Curling on the lake in winter *illegible*
Caught lots of bullheads and crayfish when I was a kid	Cleaner water
Walking the trails with kids	Water craft rental
I tell people it is a hidden gem	A few benches along the trail to rest
I walk my dog here and snowshoe	Water fountains
Fire pits	Benches

WATER QUALITY OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

MEMORIES	WISHES
Won the fishing competition in April	Please restore outlet to above ground flow
Snowshoeing in Winter	I love nature but it is blocking the view, to keep seeing the lake from benches
	Daylight the outlet to the south
	Get the path on W.Side of lake more accessible for wheelchairs, wagons, strollers
	Would love music art in the park
	More people come there
	Put the horseshoes somewhere else?
	All people including those with disabilities can enjoy the park

West St. Paul Days – May 16, 2018

WEST ST. PAUL DAYS COMMENTS

MEMORIES	WISHES
We used to fish in another lake and release the fish in Thompson Lake. Then we'd get fish sandwiches at McDonalds	Huge playground
The republican group has their picnic at the shelter every year - love the trails	Monkey bars
We love the playground, the lake trail is great too	I wish for biking
We used to have the WSP Days Banquet in the park. Now it is at the golf club	Pave the trail around the lake
Regalados enjoy the trails and parks!	Needs entertainments like an outdoor movie theater
Ben and Liz married at Dakota Lodge 5-12-12	Play on the falling log
I used to run from the Y to the park and back	Pool and water goes to moor
Belle's first fishing contest	Swings
Swim	Fishing
I love that half the lake is paved and play ground, love the trails	Pave the trail around the lake
Going for walks with children	Better trail signage

WEST ST. PAUL DAYS COMMENTS	
MEMORIES	WISHES
Having GS (girl scouts) bridging ceremonies there	Share everyone
Our family doesn't use the park enough we'd like to bike this summer. I've been to an event at the lodge	Stock the lake with some big walleyes and northerns
We had mtgs in the blds about the the Robert Street Media Business Assn	Huge park with flower
I was just at the park reading a book at a picnic table by the lake	The park should be a small amount larger
I like the prairie and the lake, The trail around the lake is great	Splash pad - we love the trail around the lake
Trails are great for walking	
Our birding group meets at the park and goes to other park's looking for rare birds	
Candle light hikes	
My wedding in the park	
We had our St. Paul Royalty picnic at the shelter - we had a great time	
Winter candlelight hike	
Playing at Thompson Park	
Fun friendly trail walk - walking trails with friends a field mouse jumped out and start jumping around , bouncing - quite a show!!!	
I love the organics drop site - way to go Dakota County	
The lake seems trashed	

Take a Kid Fishing – June 10, 2018

TAKE A KID FISHING COMMENTS	
MEMORIES	WISHES
Being a park ranger and walking the trails here!	Play on the playground
The bridge	Swimming
I like to bike	Playground
Go for walk	Bigger dock
Going on walks and laughing with people	A science museum, polar bears
Coming to this park	Football field

TAKE A KID FISHING COMMENTS

MEMORIES	WISHES
Dancing	Play
Swing	Outdoor events
Swinging slides monkey bars	I want to see a pool
Fishing	Small craft rental
Multi-age playground is great	Bird feeder
Ride my bike	Animals you can see - kenji
Lovely park I was married here in 2003	More places to fish. more docks
Illegible	Play
Illegible	Canoe rental
Playing on the park!	Give us a beach
Monkey bars	Zip lines please
	Free food stand
	Add'l grills by playground
	Natural play area
	I would like to see more grass areas
	Going to the lake
	Board walk
	Hammock poles, free family activities, winter activities
	Plant more trees
	Splash pad
	More trees
	Make sure restrooms are open everyday year-round
	Add swings
	Dock that can hold more people
	Floating dock trail across lake!
	Fortnite gaming area
	Water park
	Zip line, rock wall, bridge over water, large shelters, public restrooms, swings, big slide, large open flat space, indoor shelter w/ tables
	Bigger fishing dock
	Ocean
	Water for fur babies water fountain, splash pads for kids :)
	Bigger dock
	Have a park

TAKE A KID FISHING COMMENTS	
MEMORIES	WISHES
	Outdoor workout equipment *see chutes n' ladders park
	Clean up lake!
	Less weeds in lake
	Another fishing pier
	Nature play area Richardson N.S.
	Canoe/kayak landing improvement
	Paved path all along lake
	Animals big lake sand
	Playground closer to pavilion - hard for b-days
	Swinging slides monkey bars
	Fishing
	Fishing, bird watching
	Fish
	Parks/play equipment for people with disabilities
	Hiking
	Fishing

Kaposia Days – June 24, 2018

KAPOSIA DAYS COMMENTS	
MEMORIES	WISHES
Biking	Make sure there are enough bike racks
Walk from home to lake	Walk
Laplake	Stock lake with walleyes DNR
Picnics @ the old shelter	I love playing on the tireswing
Staff dev. day at new blds. open houses	Play sculptures
My church has a picnic every year	I love bike trails
Fire department meetings	I wish that there would be more *illegible* and things to do
I drop my mom off at the senior center and walk around the lake	Longer biking trail, better markers river to river, wayfinding better
Hunting turtles on lake Thompson 1965	More \$\$\$ for parks
Sitting by the lake walking on the trails	Run in a park play on swings
Nice facility	Gaming center time limit

KAPOSIA DAYS COMMENTS

MEMORIES

WISHES

Zip line
I like to swing
Go down slides
Skate park
Tag swings slides
Single-track trail for bike and running
Adult playground like American Ninja Warrior
I like the playground
Wish of the park is to keep the wildlife *illegible*

Safe Summer Nights – August 23, 2018

SAFE SUMMER NIGHTS COMMENTS

MEMORIES

WISHES

I walk here several times a week, mostly on paved trails
When I went for a swim with my sisters and saw flamingos
Going to a party
Winter snowshoe walk
Teeter-totter
Sailboats
Kayaking
I want to have more recycling
Sandbox and Teeter-totter

Garlough Collaborative – July 11, 2018

GARLOUGH COLLABORATIVE COMMENTS

GENERAL COMMENTS

We go to the park for events, like birthdays
The park generally lacks people
People seemed generally aware of the park

TPAC Ice Cream Social – July 25, 2018

TPAC ICE CREAM SOCIAL COMMENTS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE PARK? WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? LEAVE A COMMENT AND LET US KNOW!

Location, Polka Band?, Friendly staff, Thank you for Income Tax service
I love the people, the classes, the walking group, the walking paths, the lake. Signs identifying the wild flowers, A wild flower seminar or program familiarizing walkers with the many plants and flowers that grow in the park.

TPAC ICE CREAM SOCIAL COMMENTS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE PARK? WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? LEAVE A COMMENT AND LET US KNOW!

I've lived right next door on Moreland Circle for 35 years - my kids fished in the lake way back then and we've enjoyed the park and all the improvements ever since. It's a wonderful place to walk and to enjoy nature. The covered picnic pavilion was a great addition. And having the beautiful center and all the activities there is great for the people to enjoy.

I enjoy bringing my grandchildren to the playground. I love the center and have enjoyed many of the offered activities. The trails and the pond are lovely, as well!

We would like to see more walking paths. We love TPAK for all of the activities.

Cleanliness in community center and grounds kept mowed and neat. Feels inviting. Love the music.

The senior community has lots of great programs and they are always welcoming. The park is nice, could have more things that draw the community.

I like the activities that you have had in the past...ie Ice Cream Socials and music. Story telling...tours, etc. Keep up the good work

Handicap - accessible, great location, beautiful inside and out, fun events: ice cream socials, craft shows, waffle breakfasts, etc., fun gathering with other seniors, the volunteers are so helpful and nice. Sometimes the entertainment was pretty amateurish, but most of the time, they're awesome.

Everything is great. I participate in programs at TPAC but don't use the rest of the park.

Like everything about the park and see no need for change.

I like it the way it is.

The beauty of the surroundings, Tell us the subject of the Ted talks in the newsletter, A tap dance class.

We love the Activity Center - Sr. programs, Jam session, Waffle Feed. I like the native plants!

I love the programs and volunteers

It is clean

I like the lawns

The park could have more to draw the community

I like it the way it is.

Don't use the rest of the park

I love the walking paths, more walking paths

Dakota County Fair Display – August 6-12, 2018

DAKOTA COUNTY FAIR DISPLAY COMMENTS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE PARK? WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? LEAVE A COMMENT AND LET US KNOW!

Find the drainage channels, reintroduce beaver ponds. Find ways to keep Highway 53 culvert open. Emerson Pond may already be an impoundment.

I believe this is a wonderful plan!!! God Bless.

Dog Park!

Free frisbee golf course

We live on Moreland Circle and love the woods. Please keep the wild feel! If you have to clean out trees please do it gradually so my family can still enjoy it now. We need no more paved trails or parking lots. Spend the money making a healthy natural refuge. Thanks!

TPAC (unstaffed) – August 2018

What do you love about the park? What would you change? Leave a comment and let us know!

TPAC (unstaffed) – August 2018

COMMENTS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE PARK? WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? LEAVE A COMMENT AND LET US KNOW!

The parking at the Lodge - the 2-way entrance into the upper parking lot is an accident waiting to happen. Change that to one way in & one way out of that lot. As it is now, it is especially bad in winter.

Please do not pave the trail on the west side of the lake! As a runner, this is very valuable!

I love walking around the lake. I would change the park and make it into a water park.

Put in water along the trail or at end.

TPAC serves the community. Providing social outings, tax aide programs, classes, and other programs of interest to may.

It has been a couple years since I have ridden my recumbent trike (no suspension) through Thompson Park and Simon's Ravine. The trails are bumpy and in poor condition for riding recumbent trike.

Bring back more of a beach type look to the park. To me it looks really ugly as it is now.

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PHASE 2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Phase 2 Community Engagement

Overview

Community engagement events for the second phase of the Thompson County Park Master Plan were held from the end of January through March 2019. The purpose of the events was to engage a representative cross section of Dakota County residents, park users, students, educators, and stakeholder organizations to collect meaningful input, build consensus, and generate interest for the park master planning process to assist in working towards a preferred master plan concept. The project team was especially mindful of reaching out to those who may live around the park but are not park users and considering feedback from the Dakota Sioux Indian Communities.

As shown in the following table, there were over a dozen engagement activities and meetings. In addition to an online survey, events included pop-up events with materials in both English and Spanish, individual and agency meetings, stakeholder meetings, and meetings with student groups.

This appendix begins with a highlights section that summarizes the key themes heard from all of the engagement. The highlights are followed by the results of the Social Pinpoint online survey. The in-person events are then summarized. The events are grouped by type for reference with a table listing the events included in the subsection provided first.



Phase 2 Community Engagement Events Summary - 2019

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	DEMOGRAPHICS
January 21	Lower Mississippi River WMO	2	Agency Partner, Natural Resources
January 24	Thompson Park Advisory Council	15	Existing park users, older adults
February 1-28	Thompson Park Activity Center Display	Input Display	Existing park users, older adults
January 30	CHILI Update	5	Agency Partners
February 1	St. Croix Lutheran Staff	10	Park neighbor, partner
February 11	Accessibility and Inclusion	3	Residents, potential partners, DC social services
February 11	Stakeholder Meeting	20	ISD 197, West St. Paul, IGH, SSP, Mendota Heights, St. Croix Lutheran, Dakota County Staff
February 11	Open House	30	Existing park users
February 12	Dakota County Arts Advisory Board	10	Interpretation, partners
February 13	Covington Court Apartments: 'pop-up' and comment cards	15	Latinx, lower income, people living with disabilities
February 21	Westview Park Apartments: 'pop-up' and comment cards	3	Non park users
February 21	Kaposia Education Center Family Fun Night	33	Latinx, low-middle income, youth
February 23	Inver Grove Heights Craft Fair	30	General public
February 25	South St. Paul Secondary Affinity Groups	30	High school students Latinx, LBGQ+, women, black
February 26	West St. Paul Neighborhood Meeting	15	General public
February 26	South St. Paul Secondary Food Distribution	27	Youth and families, Latinx, low-middle income
February 28	Heritage Middle School Teachers	5	Potential partners
February 28	Lincoln Elementary Food Distribution	43	Latinx, low-middle income, youth
March 4	Upper and Lower Sioux Communities	5	Interpretation, agency partners
March 8	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	1	Interpretation, agency partners
March 11	ALMAS Student Group, Sibley High School	15	High school students, Latinx
February 1-28	Surveys completed through ECFE Latinas Class	7	Families, Latina
February 1-28	On-line input - social pinpoint	400+	General public
April 25th, 2018	Prairie Island Indian Community	1	Agency partners

Highlights

Overall, the community outreach indicates that Thompson County Park is well loved and that there are many items to consider when moving forward with a preferred concept. The setting, existing trail system, mixture of activities, and shelter/lodge rental bring a wide range of people to the park, and a lot of interest has been gained for each of the two concept options. Much of the feedback received indicated that Thompson's existing users are diverse, from young children, extended families, students, and a 55+ community that may have opposing input on proposed activities. Many wish to see the park remain as natural as possible, encouraging younger users to explore and enjoy the park's natural resources, while younger user groups expressed great interest in the activity centers and features like play areas or hammock groves. Much of the commentary expressed that individuals see a lot of value in increasing the park's potential for educational purposes.

Natural Resources

The concept of not only improving the park's already existing vast natural resources, but expanding them was sought after in our engagement activities. As much as potential users of this space crave new programming, they also feel the importance of finding a balance between having more activities and preserving natural resources. They commended the expansion of the Savanna, expressed their desires to keep the wooded areas as natural as possible, wanted better care for the park's lakes and ponds, and voiced approval for the idea of managing invasive species throughout the park. Wildlife viewing was expressed as one of the main reasons for visiting, and enhancing natural resources brought excitement for the possibility to expand animal habitat.

Core Habitat

Users of all age groups expressed interest in items they considered useful for viewing wildlife. The shore fishing areas, piers, observation tower, pollinator promenade, ravine bridge, and savanna restoration showcase were all listed as proposed features that would increase their chances of experiencing wildlife. The land bridge and savanna restoration areas were identified as great features to encourage ground nesting birds or habitat connections. Forward-thinking improvements to benefit the connection of nature in a city environment through the possibility of a land bridge and expanded savanna were commended.

More to do in the park

There was excitement generated around the idea of equipment rentals within Thompson park, especially among younger users and students. Popular ideas among users were hammocks, which are important to the Latino culture, not in a grove but spread throughout the park in multiple areas, and food trucks for extended stays. Play areas, gathering areas (picnic shelters), and the sledding hill were generally well-received by family user groups.

Gathering

Adding smaller shelters as well as additional picnic tables and grills for drop in use (and no reservation fee) was a popular idea. These facilities would support smaller group gatherings, spontaneous gatherings, and encourage people to spend more time in the park.

Dakota Lodge

There was expressed interest for having Dakota Lodge available for greater public purpose through expanded uses like park orientation, warming, public rest rooms and drinking fountains, facility rentals, and environmental classes or school use. Some comments mentioned that Dakota Lodge was difficult to rent during the day but would make a great space for classes and field trips. Features such as the entry plaza were highly desired to clarify lodge access and direction for visitors, but there was also reservation about that area having too much activity.

Interpretation and Educational Value

There is an overwhelming desire for Thompson Park to be highlighted for its beautiful natural resources and its potential contribution to science and education, a gap in the Twin Cities area that is currently not being offered by many (very little competition). Comments that the park would make a great 'outdoor lab' and be used for classes and clubs was a conversation that appeared often throughout the engagement process. The desire to have plant identification labels, multi-lingual educational signage, an indoor/outdoor classroom set-up, and better access to the lake and wetland for student use represents the desire of users to come to Thompson to enjoy its natural beauty and learn more about the surrounding environment. There was a lot of enthusiasm expressed for natural play and play in nature as something that is growing in popularity and will be a feature that differentiates Thompson from other parks. Features such as the savanna restoration, pollinator promenade, and the proposed daylighted water feature were generally very well received. The Dakota County Public Art Advisory Committee is interested in further exploring how public art can be integrated into interpretation in the park.

Cultural Significance

Meetings with members of the Sioux Indian Communities revealed the need to introduce the now absent Native American narrative. Interpretation should focus on recognizing that the park is part of Dakota Homeland (rather than focusing on a specific date or place). The most effective interpretation would connect native people to the landscape. Opportunities included art created by Native American artists, educational signage that interacts with history and science school curriculums introducing cultural significant native plants and potential developing programs/permits for harvesting, and fishing. The park was also encouraged to explore activities and amenities such as food trucks, music, colorfully designed spaces, and hammocking (an activity important to the Latino culture) to appeal to a more diverse audience of users.

Desire for Connection

Enthusiasm was generated through this process for better connection within the park and better access to the park. Many like the idea of expanding the use to the southern portions, highlighting the history of Simon's Ravine and inviting exploration with a combination of natural surface and paved trails that will serve many different user groups and abilities. Positive feedback was received regarding the enhanced connection to Kaposia Park, as well as a more defined connection to the River to River Greenway and proposed trailhead. The need for improved wayfinding to guide users within the park and to the park from the neighborhoods was stressed by many participants. Several people who do not drive (too young, are disabled, or do not have a car) mentioned difficulty getting to the park due to lack of transit service and the incomplete sidewalk and trail networks leading to the park.

Accessibility

Additional paved trails would make the southern portion of the park more accessible to more park visitors. Many of the existing paved trails in the northern portion of the park, while meeting minimum ADA Standards, difficult for older adults and those with disabilities because of steep slopes. Trail access from Dakota Lodge to the playground and from the parking area to the North Shelter were specifically mentioned as locations where railings are needed. Making sure items like the fishing pier are safe and ADA accessible, while paved trails are important to visitors who have mobility challenges. Consensus that there is a large need for accessible playgrounds in WSP, as well as trail elements like benches with arms along the trails for resting. In addition, care when designing rest rooms, the addition of a comfort room to Dakota Lodge, and care when designing way finding to meet needs of people with cognitive disabilities was mentioned.

Parking

A vast amount of the input received centered around whether or not there was a need for expanded parking or if current parking would be able to provide for new programs and uses being proposed in the concepts. Many who provided input felt that current parking was sufficient when there wasn't an event of facility rental taking place at the park and are concerned about reducing natural resources for more paved space that may be underutilized. Other feedback stated that parking was a current issue and that additional uses would increase parking problems. Adding a road and parking in the

center of the park as shown in Concept B was a cause for concern for many regarding safety for users. However, others were interested in the proposed play areas in Concept B, thinking that it would add convenience for those uses and encourage further exploration of the southern part of the park. St. Croix is willing to collaborate on overflow parking for events, but only with the use of a shuttle system, which may help mitigate the issue.

Lighting and Safety

Another conversation surrounding the concepts was the need to enhance the feeling of safety and security within the park with the use of lighting. Many comments were received regarding concern for light pollution, while others would feel more comforted and encouraged to use the park in the evening with the addition of lighting along the paths. It was also suggested that lighting could help prevent the vandalism of items such as educational signs or hammock groves that are being proposed.

Facilities Management

Many comments and concerns about litter in the park, vandalism of proposed signs, existing issue with snow plowing areas or keeping trails clean appeared throughout a number of comments, as did the desire for trail and park amenities like restrooms, drinking fountains, and dog waste disposal stations.

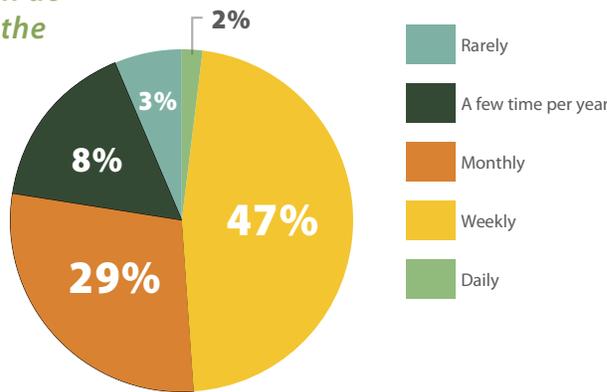
Social Pinpoint

Social Pinpoint is an online engagement tool that provides multiple ways for users to share their thoughts about the park. For the second phase, the website used both the survey and the map-based comment tools to solicit input. In addition, at many events attendees had the opportunity to provide feedback in a similar manner as was requested on Social Pinpoint. To facilitate analysis and provide an opportunity for Social Pinpoint users to also see and respond to input provided at events, feedback from pop-up events and the open house was entered into Social Pinpoint. In total there were more than 400 visitors to the Social Pinpoint website. Visitors spent, on average, 8 minutes reviewing the site and providing input. Between Social Pinpoint users and event input entered onto the site, there were more than 360 comments. On the following pages is a summary of the input received.

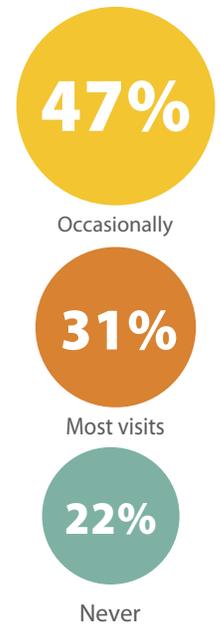
Survey Results

Participants were able to take part in a short survey about their visits to Thompson County Park and their priorities regarding the two master plan concepts. Overall, park users seem to visit monthly and arrive by car and are primarily concerned about having comfortable amenities to use during their stay, having plenty of room for picnicking, good wayfinding, areas to use for education, and the opportunity to utilize equipment rentals. Many surveyed preferred Concept A to Concept B. Many were concerned about the amount of parking and new structures being proposed, while others were excited at how much more there would be to do in the park with either concept. The survey data shows that people love and hope to preserve as much of the natural resources as possible in Thompson County Park. A total of 75 surveys were completed during Phase 2. However, as not all surveys were complete, please be aware that the number of respondents for an individual question may vary.

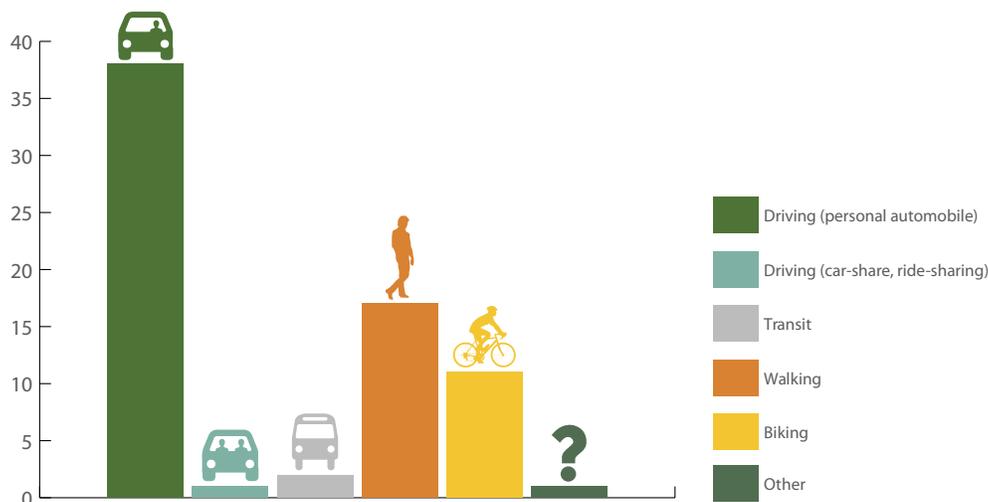
How often do you visit the park?



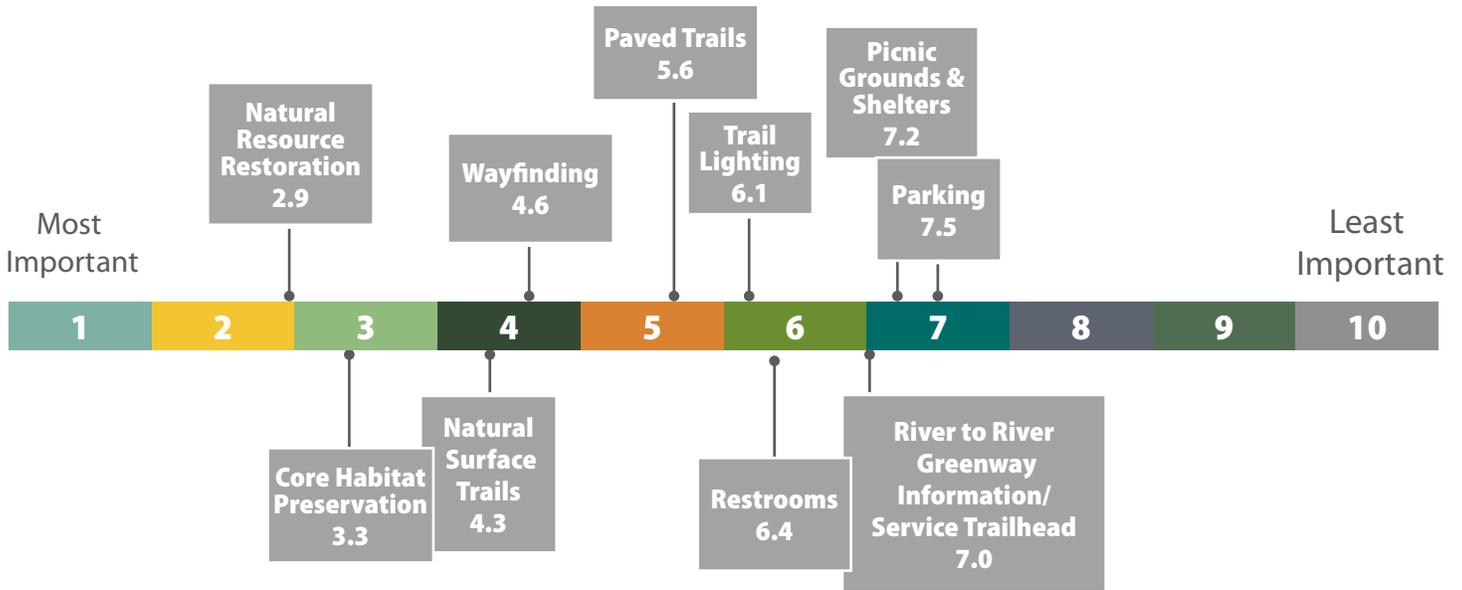
How often do you currently visit the southern part of the park?



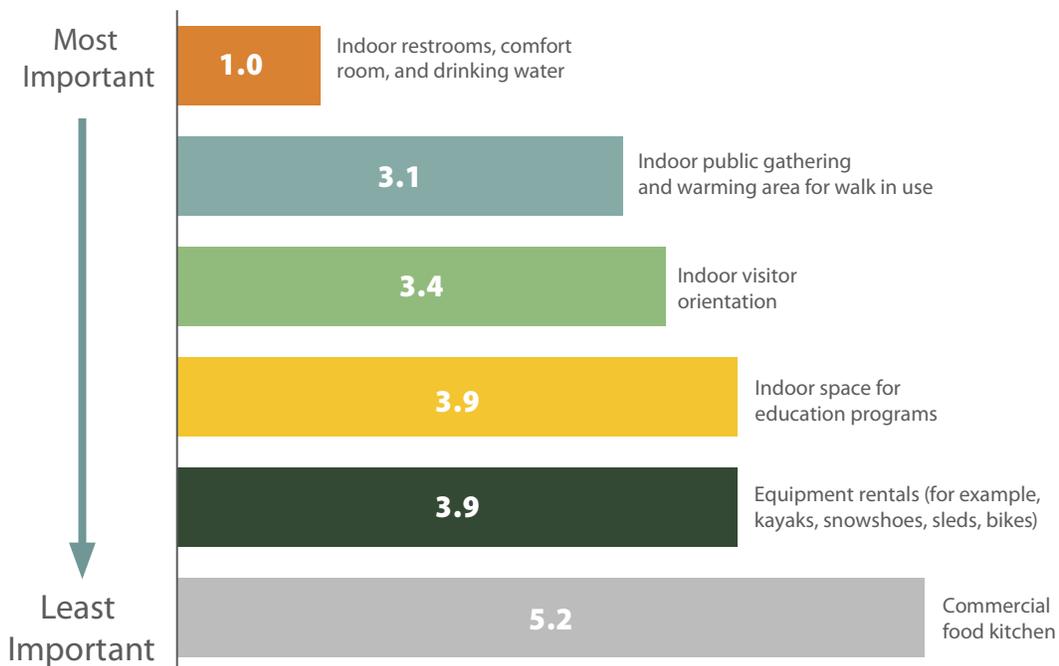
How do you usually arrive at the park?



The master plan concepts explore ideas for improvements to the southern portion of the park. Please rank the following ideas for the southern portion of the park in order of importance to you. (The average rank across all respondents is provided below)



The master plan is exploring the idea of expanding visitor services at Thompson County Park. Rank the following in order of importance to you. (The average rank across all respondents is provided below)



List your top 3 improvement priorities that would increase your use and enjoyment of Thompson County Park?

TOP 3 PRIORITIES LISTED
Fishing, kids nature play, ice fishing
Stream, cascade, lake improvement, Trees - seclusion sound barrier, Snowshoe path
Complete River 2 River Greenway, Keep as much green space as possible, Cleaner water and more access
Trails to the park, More attractions/destination (water features or more trails in the park)
Complete/Improve River to River Greenway bike/ pedestrian path, natural habitat restoration, better access to the lake.
Amphitheater that provides all kinds of venues - movies, music, plays.
Natural Playground, Amphitheater for music in the park events on Thursday nights, Any programming for kids! We will be there, Snowshoeing, candlelight events
1. Better trail signage with white numbered placards. Understand smaller park, but is consistent with other Dakota County Parks.
2. Improving lake quality and surrounding drainage infrastructure.
3. Increase trail mileage - more trails southern part of park? It is just a small loop right now.
Pavement, announcements
Boardwalk, Expanded Parking, Extra Pier for Fishing
Enhancement of natural areas, more attention to creation of authentic habitat for wildlife, a natural sanctuary sandwiched between two urban areas (WSP, SSP)
1. Sound wall along Hwy 52. This would make those trails and areas much more enjoyable. Currently we stick closer to the quieter areas on the West Side of the park.
2. I love the idea of paddle access and possible paddle rentals (canoes, kayaks, etc). Could fish habitat/stocking by the DNR be an option?
3. Natural Playground elements for the kids.
finish construction, do a monthly community letter discussing events, movies in the park more often.
More seating and picnic tables. More seating around playground. A water fountain near play area.
More fishing opportunities, hiking trails and interpretive areas.
I enjoy the park as it is. Leave the park as wild as it can be. Concept A is better than Concept B,

Public art - use legacy grant \$ from state sales tax, Observation tower would provide great look of the river valley, Water fountain or feature in the lake
Water feature, walking nature loop, inclusive play area
Sledding hill, Trail expansion, Social gathering spots (food trucks, music area, hammocks, etc., etc.)
Equipment rental, Movies/music in the park, More and better grills/picnic tables
Improved Fishing, natural trails and scenery, and playgrounds
Dog friendly, nice walking trails, keeping the park natural.
More tables and chairs, little houses (picnic shelters), Grills for meat
Cleaning up lake and shoreline, Restoring stream, Restoring forest, ponds and savanna
Increase soft trails and interpretations, along with native vegetation.
Paved trail around the lake and a little lighting, bird watching classes, and expanded visitor center would be my top choices.
A reconfiguration of the indoor space to provide a larger buffer for the Senior center from the Lodge visitors or guests, More trails, More picnic areas
Replant the trees you took down. make efforts to keep it natural. stop building it up for God's sake. Who did you ask about this "improvement"? If people want a restaurant and and building, they can go to a cafe and the mall. This is a nature Park!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Love the inclusive playground! The water focused areas are great too.
Clean up the lake to swim or at least canoe/paddle board. More natural surface trails and improve trail drainage. Mountain bike skills park like at Lebanon Hills entrance.
Inclusive park; lighted sledding hill; better lake access.
I love concept B! The boardwalk, fire area, sledding hill. A lot to love!
Clean up of lake, Individual picnic shelters, Sledding hill
(1) Accessible playground and more focus on family amenities
(2) More trails
(3) Less visible ""giant"" parking, more park visible when driving in
Regenerating the forest, daylighting the stream, maintaining as many trees as possible.

nature trails where dogs are not allowed; native plants and trees/shrubs; car parking with nice views
Increase the paved trails, Provide for good views of the lake and natural areas adjacent to the trails
Dog Park!!! Designated off-leash dog areas are so important for those without big yards and will reduce negative dog effects on the trails (feces left behind, extensive marking, off-leash dogs on trails).
recreational activities
Paved trail all around the lake, a formal entrance on the south side of the park (off of Emerson or Spearl), more small picnic areas.
Being able to get on and in the water - keeping it clean and safe, Natural and inclusive play spaces, Smaller pavilions that can be reserved.
Kid friendly, safety, accessibility.
improve water quality of the lake, reduce land pollution, improve access to trails along hwy 52
Maximize the amount of trails (paved and surface), lighted trail for evening/winter use, habitat restoration - combat invasive species
Bicycle rental, activities for kids, water park (SSP ECFE)
Pick up dog poop, Keep trails in good walking shape
Create more kiosks, more tables with benches (Spanish language survey - South Saint Paul ECFE. Code: SSP ECFE)
More games
Snowshoe in winter, Hike in Summer
Water Access, Inclusive Play Area, Fishing
More playground equipment, bathrooms
Ice fishing, Shore fishing, Paddle input
Savanna loop trail, Shore fishing, Sledding hill
Amphitheater, Ecosystem exploration loop, Kayak/boat rental
Natural playground, Eco exploration loop, Sledding hill
hiking paths, picnic area, fishing piers
Canoe rentals, kayaking, Fish pole rentals, Volleyball
Equipment rental, Education program, Space rental
Indoor restroom, Comfort room, Drinking water
Playground, Paved Trails, Natural Surface

Popular Themes of Top Three:

- *Fishing*
- *Nature/Inclusive play - more play*
- *Sledding hill*
- *Water feature*
- *Lake restoration/ Water quality improvement*
- *Lake access*
- *Equipment rentals*
- *Habitat restoration/preservation*
- *Improved access/ Greenway connection*
- *Enhanced picnicking/Social gathering spaces*
- *Trails*
- *More to do at the park/events/destinations*
- *Dog-friendly*
- *Better wayfinding/bilingual wayfinding*
- *Four-season interest*
- *Education/Art/Classes/Tours*

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

(SURVEY COMMENTS)
I really like Concept A vs. Concept B. Concept B feels gives me the impression the park would turn into a children's park. As a lifelong WSP resident who does not have kids, I would have little usage for this area if it was primarily designed for children. Concept A has good design for mixed usage by multiple generations.
Keep the park as natural/restored as possible. We don't need more pavement, parking, and hard surface areas in this part on Dakota County.
I previously used this park much more when I lived in this part of WSP and understand its importance to that part of town. I much prefer concept A, but I do like the Pollinator Promenade Loop on Concept B. I do question the need for lighting on the sledding hill and an amphitheater. I doubt either feature would get the public usage to warrant the cost (both natural resource disruption and financial). And if you must add parking to the south side of the park consider adding a small area to the edge of the park along Emerson Ave. I believe the WSP city parks close by do a decent job of handling the developed playground/picnic aspect of parks, that should leave Thompson Park to highlight the natural play/adventuring park features as much as possible.
I like concept A much more than B
"Thank You!
People will criticize things, but or family appreciates valuing parks and nature. We would volunteer to help with anything."
Don't like the south parking lot. Really like the observation tower. Taller the better. Allows a real ability to tie the people to the land. Consider a zip line. Amphitheater is great. Consider indigenous people information about this area. Picnic area in the south part of the park maybe a good idea. Like the creek restoration. More trail development. Like the land bridge. Like the water feature. Like the north lighted lake loop. Think of demonstration on buckthorn control.
I love the restoration items and enjoy the nature trails. With a toddler I would definitely use the water feature and playground more often.
thank you for investing in northern Dakota County parks.
"You should have activities in summer and winter to keep kids away from technology.
Thanks for asking for our opinions. I don't really have a lot of strong ideas but am interested in its future development.
I already enjoy the park. Please leave the park as wild as possible. We do not have more parkland. We need wild spaces in the city. If people want entertainment, they can go other places
I prefer Concept A. I do not think we need to add more parking to this park
Native American education, signage, interpretation
More soft trails
Boardwalk and bridges, everyone loves
Snowshoe rental
"Thanks for your work!
This is a small space. You are suggesting too much
There are only a few nearby places where locals can get some feeling of NATURAL beauty. Focus on preserving that.
Worried about excessive light pollution.
Adults and children can be happy wandering n the natural world. They don't need to be entertained if they have good trail and wildlife to observe.
Plan A satisfies nature preservation better than B. The extra parking in B and road are a real waste of natural space.
Public educational signs are a great amenity. but only if the budget includes regular maintenance and replacement. They quickly become shabby, and thus encourages disrespect of the park.
Rental Boats
In A I like: the stage/screen set up. Concept A is not as good as Concept B.

In B I like the observation tower, playground, enhanced picnicking, more shore fishing than Concept A. I don't like the group fire pit.
The concepts have many things in common. The only thing that concept A has as an advantage is the stage/screen set up. Add this set-up to concept B.
"In A I like the sound wall, the added pier, the land bridge, and the amphitheater.
In B I like the expanded picnicking, the picnic lawn, the group fire pit and more hiking trails.
I would like canoe and snowshoe rental
canoe rental
"I'm concerned about security
Combine education programs with equipment rental
"How bout a dog park.
I enjoy the natural setting of the southern area of the park, I do not like plan b's expansion into the natural area. I also really like the land bridge idea where it might benefit wildlife crossing the highway too.
Add elements that encourage the maintenance of our natural spaces. Remodel with as little disruption as possible. Make wayfinding easy and have maps list other areas of interest in WSP to access via the River to River Greenway.
No. 5 there are non of the services that are important to me. I come to the park to enjoy nature. There are not enough wild spaces left in the cities. The park should stay as natural as it can. We do not need any more parking, warming areas, restrooms, or anything else. We need wild spaces. I don't come to the park to be entertained, I come to the park to enjoy nature.
Lots of potential for this park. Prefer options with less parking, hard surfaces, unnecessary uses (another splash pad--we have one already down the road), and more "re-wilding"
Please keep/make it as eco-friendly as possible and do not remove wildlife habitat. Limit where dogs can be walked and don't forget benches.
I typically use this park for walking and running year round. I liked the Simon's ravine trails in Concept A better. I liked the area south of Dakota Lodge better in Concept B, with the amphitheater north of the Lodge instead. Lastly, I really liked the lighted lake loop in Concept B.
I'm not very sure on #5. The rental space seems important, though I've never used it.
No kayak rentals please. Lebanon Hills gets way to crowded with boats.
Option A has more of what would make for a great family space.
Picnic tables and Shelters: I like the idea of more smaller, non-reservable picnic areas as opposed to larger rental shelters. The larger rental shelters are great for groups looking for an inexpensive place to congregate (Birthdays, anniversaries, receptions, etc), but they don't necessarily get people to use the actual park or help the average user.
Thank you for renovating the park!
I think the water quality of the lake is very poor...we need to address all the sources of pollution of the water. I support the park plan but wonder about the wildlife. Will there be enough undeveloped space to support the deer? What happens to the deer during construction??? I would hate to see them forced out into the neighborhood and Oakdale or Butler Ave!!!!
I would love an off leash area for dogs.
Love the park, has so much potential. Organics recycling drop-site is great too!
I love this park- nice running and cycling trails and I feel safe there. It would be a huge community asset to use the lake for more than just fishing e.g. add swim or paddle opportunities.
I think 9 shelters and a hammock grove are overkill, and if there is a water feature, it needs to recycle the water. I think 2 north and two south shelters should be sufficient. Consideration needs to be given to the immediate park neighbors and the impact on property taxes. An amphitheater and education rooms would be nice, but no need to duplicate the Dodge Nature Center with a farmstead.
Would love an outdoor stage area where local performances could take place.

I dislike every option on #5 -i couldn't rank any of it!!. IT IS A PARK. Quit commercializing and pouring in concrete and metal and erecting buildings. I am totally upset that you've torn down so many large trees to make your "improvements. It is a NATURE spot in the city and you are decimating it. I am hugely disappointed that you think this is an improvement. STOP!

"Much prefer the concept A plan

thank you"

Concept A is far superior to Concept B. The inclusive park is important to add to West St. Paul as we don't have one, and Concept B paves over valuable park land for more parking. Both concepts should remove the expanded parking.

Making the lake usable and controlling mosquitoes, plus space for events. Music in the park would be great. Is ice skating on part of the lake possible? That would be awesome.

I think Concept B would make the park more accessible to people and get people down to the southern part of the park.

Thank you for putting resources into such a beloved park in our community! I love almost all aspects of Concept A. Please do not devote more than necessary space to parking!

The survey kept jumping around. Might just be connection and phone. Thanks for survey.

"Really love the commercial food kitchen idea as well

That the bathrooms be maintained/clean

Map-Based Comments

Interactive Map Feature - Social Pinpoint

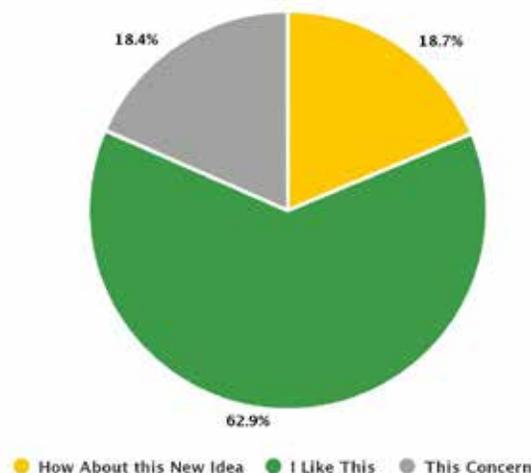
Participants were asked to place markers on an interactive map of Thompson Park under three difference categories: 'I Like This,' 'How about this new idea?' and 'This Concerns Me'.

- » 'I Like This' - Participants expressed their preference for an item by placing a green marker on or near an item they would like to see in the preferred concept.
- » 'How About This New Idea?' - Visitors placed a yellow marker in the areas of the park where they thought a new idea might be a good fit. This marker was also used to express an alternative idea to items that were being proposed.
- » 'This Concerns Me' - Participants were able to express their reservations about a proposed idea with a grey marker on each concept.

The charts are organized by the color that each marker represents. Comments are organized by marker number. Comments followed by a set of parenthesis represent comments received at in-person engagement events that were entered into Social Pinpoint. The abbreviation within the parenthesis denotes the event at which that comment was documented. A list of the event abbreviations and their meaning can be seen below. It should be noted that for some locations only a dot was placed and no comment was received. These are noted by a description that just includes the event at which the dot was placed.

Abbreviation	Event
OH	Open House
WSPA	Westview Park Apartments 'Pop-up' Event
IGH	Inver Grove Heights Craft Fair
SSPS FD	South St. Paul Secondary Food Distribution
TPAC	Thompson Park Advisory Council
LCE	Lincoln Elementary Food Distribution
KEP	Kaposia Education Center Family Fun Night
WSP	West St. Paul Neighborhood Meeting
ALMAS	ALMAS Student Group, Sibley High School

The pie chart below gives an overall view of the types of markers used most throughout both concepts. The sections that follow list comments received under each category are listed in the table on the following page and are keyed to their intended location on concepts A and B at the beginning of each section.



Social Pinpoint | Concept A - Zone 1



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
4 This is a wonderful use of space that could have potential interest beyond even people (young and old) with sensory disorders; this could also be of interest, applicable, and marketable to people with dementia and their caretakers.	(3,0)
12 We would love someplace close for rental and water usage!	(4,0)
13 Nice addition to this part of the park	(2,0)
17 Would love this	(1,0)
24 West St. Paul has a great need for inclusive playgrounds.	(4,0)
30 Playground will be used and is important (OH)	(2,0)
38 I prefer keeping all of the hard surface, lighted, and human-centered development on the North end - keep the south end through Simon's Ravine as WILD as possible, natural. (OH)	(2,0)
48 Yes! Let's be a leader in natural play.	(1,0)
44 I think this 2nd pier would get a lot of use judging from how busy the current fishing pier is. Is working with the DNR on habitat or fish stocking a possibility?	
50 Glad to see the shoreline restoration. Like that Plan A is not as heavy into infrastructure as Plan B. Overall, Plan A seems to strike a better balance between natural and built areas.	
52 I like this (WSPA)	
57 Low cost or no cost shelter (WSPA)	(1,0)
64 Picnic tables near parking areas for quick lunch picnics	
70 Overall I like Concept A but add the lights around the lake trail that are shown on Concept B. (IGH)	
71 Refurbish the playground (IGH)	
76 Make the park beautiful (IGH)	
77 I like the lights along the trail, the sand area, and the new pier to bring the community in (IGH)	
78 Add a nicer fishing dock (IGH)	
80 I prefer Concept A with the water connection shown in Concept B. Less is more. I see parks get overdeveloped and then not used. (IGH)	
81 I like the idea of widening this path (IGH)	
82 I like the playground (IGH)	(1,0)
83 I like the amphitheater (IGH)	
84 I like the savanna (IGH)	
111 It's be awesome to have "movies in the park" in this social gathering space." (SSPS FD)	
112 I like the Gathering Place (TPAC)	

114	I like the stage/screen (TPAC)	
115	I like the paddle access	
117	I would love this	
119	I like the entry plaza (TPAC)	
154	I like shore fishing. (LCE)	
155	(LCE)	
156	(LCE)	
157	(LCE)	
158	(LCE)	
171	Make the park beautiful (IGH)	
172	Everything is fine, but fishing is the best. (LCE)	
176	I would like to see more picnic and barbeque spaces. (LCE)	
179	I like the Shoreline Restoration. (KEP)	
180	(KEP)	
181	(KEP)	
182	I like gathering space. (KEP)	(4,0)
183	I like the stage/screen set-up for movies in the park (KEP)	(4,0)
184	I like the play lawn.	
185	I like the new pier. (KEP)	(0,5)
186	I like shore fishing (KEP)	(0,1)
198	(KEP)	(0,1)
199	(KEP)	(0,1)
200	(KEP)	(1,0)
201	(KEP)	(1,0)
202	(KEP)	(1,0)
203	(KEP)	(1,0)
204	(KEP)	(1,0)
205	(KEP)	(1,0)
206	(KEP)	(1,0)

HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
4 How about something like a fountain in the middle of the lake for mosquito control? Mosquitoes love still water so something that keeps the water gently moving would be great to reduce the overwhelming mosquitoes. Maybe partner with Dakota Country to get more help with killing mosquito larva in the spring.	(3,3)
11 Bike rentals and geocaching. (OH)	(4,0)
18 Steep hill behind the lake - zig-zag the path. (OH)	(3,0)
28 Trading Pokémon cards is something I like doing in the parks (IGH)	
33 Rent bike surreys ~ like at Minnehaha Park. Rent water bikes (IGH)	
35 I'm an on-line teacher and I would like to be able to bring classes to Thompson Park	
45 light the trail loop (WSP)	
46 Improve accessibility to the North Shelter with rails on the walk or another entrance (WSP)	
47 Control remote, bike trails, bike races, bike rides, volleyball, music events for kids (WSPA)	
48 Music, any type of music: around the world, bachata, nortena, rock merengue, radio rey when internet (WSPA)	
49 Zumba classes (WSPA)	
56 Make Dakota Lodge more affordable. (LCE)	

THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
1 Are there potential proactive solutions for mosquito control (bat houses, etc.), or is that a concern regarding the amphitheater's proximity to the wetland?	(4,0)
3 While I support having a space for movies in the park, I thought this particular area was planted with native plants for a reason, such as for pollinators, erosion control, etc. I'd like to know how an amphitheater would be more beneficial than native plants	(4,0)
26 Is this part of the loop going to remain dirt/rock? It would be nice to make a running/biking/walking loop around the lake.	(2,0)
36 I have never been to this park, though I do know where it is. I do not go to parks. (IGH)	
50 Fishing pier is not accessible. If the railing was lower it would be better. (LCE)	
51 I'm concerned about the ducks being disturbed with the construction for the nature restoration. (LCE)	
55 KEP	(0,1)

Social Pinpoint | Concept A - Zone 2



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
21 Yes to local bike trails!	(3,0)
37 Good to have natural surface trails (OH)	(3,0)
47 Thompson Park is the lung of our neighborhood. Thank you for encouraging tree growth. Please plan more new development around older growth.	(1,0)
53 I like this (WSPA)	(0,2)
118 I like the expanded parking (TPAC)	(0,2)
173 I like what they are doing with events at Harmon. Add Splash Pad. (LCE)	
174 Sledding trails and biking. (LCE)	
175 We go to this park so much, improvements would be great to keep the kids entertained.	
177 I'm all for this. I like everything. (LCE)	
HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
20 Park is too small - increase the park footprint (OH)	(2,0)
23 Put interpretive signage or map about how to engage with the park by the organic drop-off site - probably the most visited spot in the park (OH)	(4,0)
24 FREE EV parking. No one ever charges here because we have to pay \$3 an hour, and most of us live nearby and can charge for much cheaper at home. The location, out of the way, is perfect so the spaces are not blocked by gas vehicles. If you allow us to charge for free, we would each charge for an hour or so a visit, and it would encourage more EV drivers to the park.	(1,1)
39 Bigger restrooms with baby changing area and a place to put your bag	
42 Basketball hoops. (SSPS FD)	
43 Basketball Court, Volleyball Court (SSPS FD)	
44 More light is good for safety at night! (SSPS FD)	
55 Paved trail, playground, stream.	
57 Bathrooms closer to picnicking. (LCE)	
58 Big rocks to climb on would be a good addition (LCE).	
59 If there was a place to play video games, I would go to the park. I'm more of an inside kid. (LCE)	
60 It would be cool to have a pair of binoculars that the public can use to see the views. (LCE)	
61 Water park (LCE).	
62 I want clean bathrooms, fabulous bathrooms. (LCE)	

63 Who is Simon? (LCE)

64 I have not been to the park. (LCE)

THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)

**(UP VOTES,
DOWN VOTES)**

8 I don't think additional parking is needed.

(3,0)

15 Concern about the abuse of writing board at entry plaza. (OH)

24 Don't decrease the green space. There is almost always plenty of parking available. The only time parking is an issue is when there is a large event at the lodge, and then the lot adjacent to the lake is available or parking along Stassen.

(2,0)

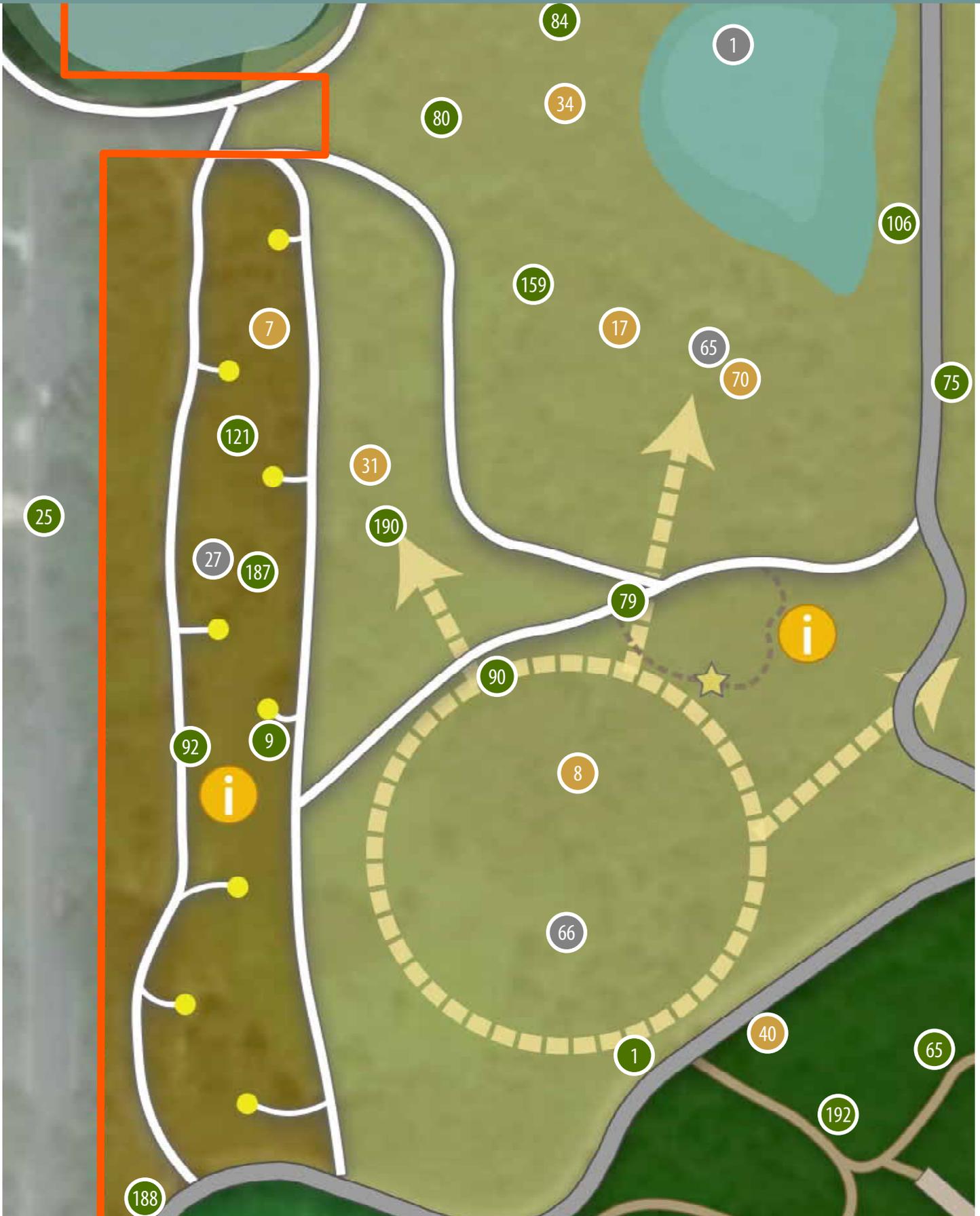
25 Please don't cut down all these trees

54 Food truck parking concerns me. (KEP)

(0,3)

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Social Pinpoint | Concept A - Zone 3



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
1 Savanna restoration is a good idea for this park.	(10,0)
9 Yay for community art!	
25 The added lighting will be great in the winter.	(1,0)
79 I like to hike. Bathroom access is essential. (IGH)	(1,0)
90 I like more paved trails (IGH)	
92 This would make the park more useable (IGH)	
121 I like the restoration showcase (TPAC)	
159 (LCE)	
187 I like the lighted restoration showcase (KEP).	(0,2)
190 (KEP)	(0,1)
HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
7 Like plan A but putting open brook from plan B rather than public art would be more natural and attractive. (OH)	(4,0)
8 Let one area be for wildlife to thrive without humans (OH)	(6,0)
17 I prefer concept A - keeping it more natural as it is a great place to walk. (OH)	(5,0)
31 Add bluebird houses. We live near the park and are part of a bluebird group. (IGH)	
34 The park could be used by area schools (IGH)	
70 I prefer forest regeneration to the wetland so we can keep the trees.	
THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
27 It is too scary to walk in the park at night, even if the path was lighted. (WSPA)	
65 I prefer forest regeneration for the majority of the park as opposed to savanna because I would not like to see all of the trees cut down. We have so few areas of trees this vast in our neighborhood. They are a huge asset. I think some savanna regeneration could be great, but I don't want the forest to disappear.	
66 Forest regeneration would be better to keep the trees.	

I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
5 This is a good idea to allow wildlife to move back and forth between Thompson Park and Kaposia Park/river.	(7,0)
8 This is a very forward thinking way to ensure we are not further disrupting the continuity of nature.	(2,0)
10 There is a lack of decent sledding hills on this end of WSP, and after the redo of Thompson Park some years ago the placement of the pavilion took a good hill out. Would be happy to see a new one at the park.	(3,2)
11 Fantastic!!!	(2,0)
14 Excellent addition to park	(2,2)
16 Great!	(1,0)
18 Yes!	(1,0)
26 Love the idea of space for sledding	(2,1)
31 Good to have sledding hill- noise will not be a problem (OH)	(0,0)
45 Love the SoundWall. trails adjacent to why 52 are too loud currently.	
46 Love it	
49 Great idea!	
54 I Like This (WSPA)	
55 I Like 'infill buffer plantings' (WSPA)	
75 I like the paved trails	
85 I like the sledding hill	
86 I like the sledding hill (IGH)	(1,0)
87 I like forest regeneration (IGH)	
88 I like the land bridge (IGH)	(1,0)
91 Let's have both the shelter and the firepit (IGH)	
106 (SSPS FD)	
120 I like the sledding hill (TPAC)	
149 I like the land bridge (WSPA)	
151 I like the sound wall and the buffer plantings (WSPA)	
160 (LCE)	
161 (LCE)	

193	(KEP)	(0,1)
197	(KEP)	(0,1)
HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
3	Archery range.	(2,3)
9	Kaposia should be restored too! (OH)	
21	Not sure it needs to be staffed full-time (OH)	(3,0)
32	Add unique trees (IGH)	
36	Dog park - I would like to walk my dog on unpaved trails in the park (IGH)	
THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
18	I think a sledding hill is unnecessary. (OH)	(1,1)
19	Other sledding areas for this in SSP and WSP, leave natural sumac. (OH)	(1,0)
38	I don't know about the land bridge. (IGH)	
64	I would prefer more forest regeneration to savanna because there are so few big areas of trees in our neighborhood, I would like them to be maintained and improved.	

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Social Pinpoint | Concept A - Zone 5



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
7 WSP could use a good vista.	(1,0)
15 Would be well used	
39 What is the nature, structure of the 'overlook' in the oak forest? I like the idea. (OH)	(3,0)
56 I like oak forest restoration (WSPA)	
65 I love to hike in the woods. (IGH)	
89 I like the overlook (IGH)	(1,0)
150 I like forest regeneration (WSPA)	
162 (LCE)	
191 (KEP)	(0,1)
192 (KEP)	(0,1)
194 (KEP)	(0,1)
195 (KEP)	(0,1)
196 (KEP)	(0,1)
229 Love the oak forest regeneration and the ravine bridge!	

HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
21 Need better Trail Markers - Maps are in the building and it is locked. Be consistent with signage system-wide. (OH)	(3,0)
40 Sign the River to River Trail (IGH)	

Social Pinpoint | Concept A - Zone 6



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
188	I like the Neighborhood Gateway. (KEP)	(0,1)
189	I like manage invasives (KEP)	(0,1)
HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
1	The south end of the Park really needs some parking spaces to support the concepts put forward in this plan.	(3,6)
25	Acquire the West St. Paul Golf Course and make it a county park. (WSPA)	
THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
16	Sticks, natural debris, lots of litter. (OH)	
17	Lots of trash ends-up in the holding pond - willing to volunteer. (OH)	(1,0)
28	This park is hidden. I didn't know it existed even though I one mile south along Oakdale. (WSPA)	
53	(KEP)	(0,1)

Social Pinpoint | Concept B - Zone 1



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
3 I love the location of this. By the water will create some really magical events!	(2,0)
6 Hammock Grove - great idea for the 10-15 age group! And some of us who are older!	(0,1)
19 More fishing opportunities are a great thing to add to this park.	
32 Like activation of lake (OH)	(1,0)
33 Boardwalk a nice feature for preferred (OH)	
34 Excited to consider the food truck! This has been active in other cities and is a great idea. (OH)	
40 "Snowshoe rentals, Ice, love to skate. (OH)	
58 I like to walk around the lake. Benches on the trail and at the fishing pier would be great. (WSPA)	
59 I can't walk long distances. I need more benches more places (WSPA)	
61 like the idea of a nicer lit walking trail around the lake (IGH)	
62 In winter we like snowshoeing on the lake (IGH)	
67 Improving the lake is great (IGH)	
72 I like the lake improvements suggested. (IGH)	
73 I enjoy walking along the water (IGH)	
93 I like ice fishing (IGH)	
94 I like the trail lights (IGH)	(1,0)
98 I like the paddle input (IGH)	
99 I like equipment rentals (IGH)	
100 I like food trucks (IGH)	(1,0)
101 I like the Hammock Grove (IGH)	
107 (SSPS FD)	
113 This would be more inclusive and handicapped accessible. (SSPS FD)	
122 I like enhanced picnicking (TPAC)	
123 I like the Hammock Grove (TPAC)	(0,1)
124 I like equipment rental/lodge expansion/sunset plaza (TPAC)	(6,0)
129 I like the wetland (TPAC)	(1,0)
130 I like ice fishing (TPAC)	
131 I like the existing pier (TPAC)	
132 I like the new pier (TPAC)	(0,2)

133	I like shore fishing (TPAC)	
134	I like the lighted lake loop (TPAC)	
146	I would like both the lighted lake loop and a lighted trail along the west edge of the park (WSP)	
147	Stock more fish (WSP)	
152	I love everything in B + the overlook from A (WSPA)	
163	(LCE)	
165	(LCE)	
166	Paved, light. (LCE)	
208	I like food truck parking (KEP)	(0,1)
210	I like enhanced picnicking. (KEP)	(4,0)
211	I like the hammock grove (KEP)	(1,0)
212	(KEP)	(1,0)
213	(KEP)	(1,0)
214	(KEP).	(1,0)
215	I like the small playground (KEP).	(1,0)
216	I like shore fishing (KEP).	(2,0)
226	(KEP)	(1,0)
227	(KEP)	(1,0)
228	I like ice fishing (KEP).	(2,0)
231	I like this!	
232	Love this!	

HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
2	An amphitheater is a great idea. This is not the park for it though. The former Thompson Oaks (golf course) park or Marthaler would be a better place for performances as it is more centrally located and has better access for all residents of WSP.	(3,0)
5	Sanitation facilities on West shore of the lake? (OH)	(2,0)
10	Prefer amphitheater without concrete retaining walls - All-natural grass as in Central Park in Roseville (OH)	
12	PLEASE - more dog poop depositories - (a non-dog owner) (OH)	(1,0)
13	It would be great to have a map about lake depth (OH)	
14	I would like to see a fishing boat to use on the lake. (OH)	
15	I would like to see the water feature and its elements incorporated into concept A: Pollinator loop and cascading water feature into holding pond. (OH)	

19	Have a cart system to bring gear down for picnic shelter instead of a road. (OH)	(1,0)
50	Events for kids and families, bike cars to rent, dances for kids, kids around the world (WSPA)	
51	Swings - you should have a park for adults to play (WSPA)	
52	Tennis courts (WSPA)	
54	Ice rink for skating and skate rental (WSPA)	
65	I would like to see a food stand or a mini store. (LCE)	
THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
6	Nice idea but I think there could be a better usage to this space.	
9	Story walk will look good for about 3 years, then begin to degrade and look shabby - prefer natural plantings. (OH)	(1,0)
11	Don't use limited space for roads and parking lots (OH)	
12	No to hammock grove - just will fall apart and need repair. Yes to naturescaping instead. (OH)	(1,0)
13	I'm a little concerned about lighting - no light pollution. (OH)	(1,0)
22	No to hammock grove - just will fall apart and need repair. Yes to naturescaping instead. (OH)	
29	"Hammocks can provide places for spiders and other insects to build cocoons. Depending on the type you're looking into, they can mildew, the fabric wears over time. People putting their shoes on the fabric ... and all sorts of other stuff ... I ride the light rail every day. Signs direct people to not put their feet on the seats. They do. The fabric gets worn, very dirty, ... from spilled drinks and food, urine..."	
39	I don't like the idea of adding lights to the lake loop (IGH)	(1,0)
40	This area gets muddy (IGH)	
44	(SSPS FD)	
47	A road into the park is a little more unsafe (SSPS FD).	
58	Food truck parking concerns me (KEP)	(2,0)
59	The new pier concerns me. (KEP)	(0,1)
63	(KEP)	(0,1)

Social Pinpoint | Concept B - Zone 2

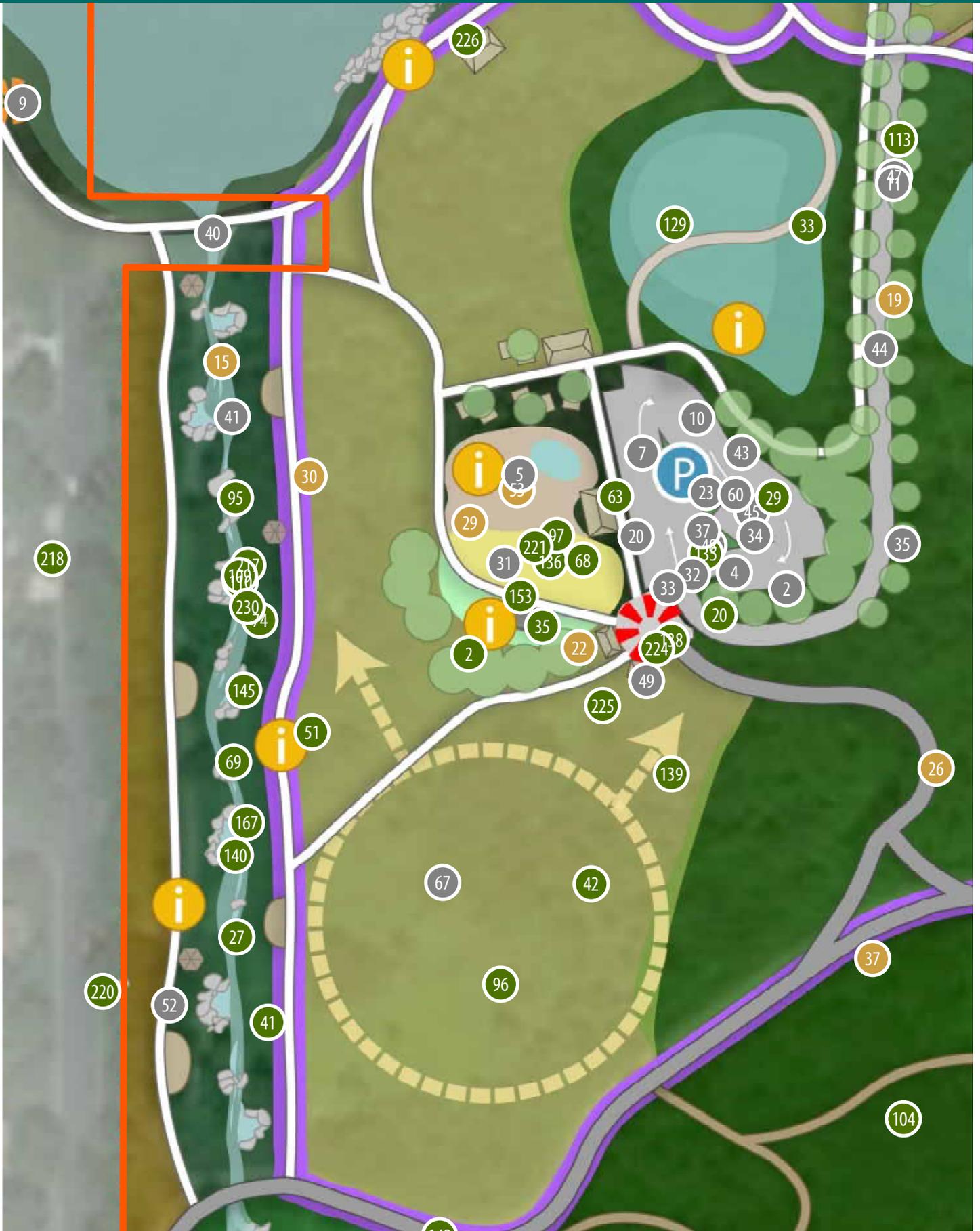


I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
43 Love the Sound wall- too much road noise along hwy 52 and adjacent trails	(1,0)
66 Concept B is more needed in West St. Paul (IGH)	
126 I like expanded parking (TPAC)	(0,2)
127 I like forest regeneration (TPAC)	(2,0)
168 (LCE)	
178 Habitat restoration is important. (LCE)	
207 I like expanded parking (KEP)	(1,0)
209 (KEP)	(1,0)

HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
38 I would like the compost drop off to be in a more central location in the County or an additional site added in Inver Grove Heights. (IGH)	
41 EV hook up should be free. It doesn't cost much to supply it and it would bring people to the park (IGH)	
66 More lighting overhead for walking at night. (LCE)	
67 I would like to see snow shoeing trails and equipment rental. (LCE)	
68 Make Kaposia Park better. (LCE)	
69 Have lights with decoration at night (LCE)	

THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
42 This parking lot is usually empty (IGH)	
56 Sound wall concerns me. (KEP)	(0,2)
57 Expanded parking concerns me. (KEP)	(0,1)

Social Pinpoint | Concept B - Zone 3



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)

**(UP VOTES,
DOWN VOTES)**

2	I love the loose nature play areas! We love this in White Bear Lake~	
20	Another visitor center located here will connect users with this portion of the park and also the connections to the east over HWY52.	
22	Go River-to-River Greenway!	(1,0)
27	Stream and Cascade is a GREAT idea! (OH)	(3,0)
29	Central parking gives better access to both sides of lake at the park (OH)	
35	Observation tower - AWESOME! (OH)	
41	Bring the pollinator promenade to concept A. (OH)	(4,0)
42	Ground nesting birds! This a great park for them. (OH)	
51	I like this (WSPA)	(0,2)
63	I like this new use area (IGH)	
68	I like this new use area (IGH)	(1,0)
69	I like the stream, it will also attract wildlife (IGH)	
74	I like the creek (IGH)	
95	I like the stream (IGH)	(1,0)
96	I like savanna restoration (IGH)	(1,0)
97	I like this use area (IGH)	(1,0)
109	(SSPS FD)	(1,0)
110	(SSPS FD)	
135	I like this parking area (TPAC)	(0,1)
136	I like the play area (TPAC)	
138	I like the tower (TPAC)	
139	I like the savanna restoration (TPAC)	
140	I like the pollinator promenade loop (TPAC)	(0,1)
145	I like the connecting water feature (WSP)	
153	I like the playground south of Dakota Lodge so people will experience the southern part of the park (WSPA)	
167	(LCE)	(6,0)
217	I like day-lighting the stream (KEP)	(7,0)
218	I like the nature play area. (KEP)	(2,0)
220	(KEP)	(1,0)

221	(KEP)	(6,0)
224	(KEP)	(1,0)
225	(KEP)	(1,0)
230	I love this!	

HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
22	It would be cool to get a drone shot or some idea of what you would be able to see from the observation tower. (OH)	(1,0)
29	Add a zip line	
30	Make walking in the woods a game. Add art, sculptures to discover or, interpretation -for example a game of finding caterpillars. (IGH)	
53	Swing, slide, water (WSPA)	

THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
2	We should not be adding surface lot area anywhere in the city, let alone our parks. Keep all areas green.	(2,0)
4	No. Additional parking is not needed on the south end, particularly 'inside' the park.	(1,0)
5	I would rather see something at this location that all ages could use.	
7	I do not think we need to pave over valuable park land to build another parking lot.	(4,0)
10	Is parking an issue? Only busy if a wedding at Dakota Lodge on Saturdays. (OH)	(1,0)
20	Where does wildlife go if we develop the area? (OH)	
23	This area of the park is currently one of the quietest and best spots to view nature-- we have seen deer here, owls, birds, and other wildlife. I think it's a huge asset. I think increasing access to the South End would be great, but could it be done with a few spots at Emerson or Sperl street entries instead of adding a lot inside the park?	(1,0)
31	Don't seclude the kids on a playground back here (IGH)	
32	I like restoration and wildlife in the city, but understand why a use area may be needed (IGH)	
33	I like the idea of adding destinations to the southern part of the park. The parking and second playground is not needed. (IGH)	
34	I'm torn between the use area in 'B' and the savanna in 'A'. I wish there was something else in the southern part of the park (IGH).	
35	I like the idea of driving into the park but this idea seems expensive (IGH)	
37	Use area is not needed (IGH)	
41	I don't like the stream (IGH)	(1,0)
43	Don't cut down trees for a parking lot (IGH)	(1,0)
45	(SSPS FD)	
48	I don't like this parking area (TPAC)	(0,2)

49	I don't like the tower (TPAC)	
52	Concerned about bees. (LCE)	
60	(KEP)	(0,2)
67	I would prefer to see more forest regeneration in this part of the park. We should keep the trees.	

Social Pinpoint | Concept B - Zone 4



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
36	Love the restored wetlands - lots of frogs and toads! (OH)	(1,0)
60	I like the fire pit (WSPA)	
102	I like the sledding hill (IGH)	(1,0)
103	I like forest regeneration (IGH)	
108	(SSPS FD)	
116	More connect and paved paths are more handicapped accessible (SSPS FD).	
125	I like the group fire pit (TPAC)	
128	I like the sledding hill (TPAC)	(0,1)
148	I like the unpaved trails in the park, don't get rid of them (WSP)	
169	(LCE)	(3,0)
222	(KEP)	(1,0)
223	(KEP)	(3,0)
HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
16	Focus on nature and wilderness habitat, not so much with landscapes, engage children in the NATURAL, not man-made environment. (OH)	(1,0)
27	"Mow the sledding hill in the summer for cardboard box sledding. The summer slide in Hastings is something to consider here. (IGH)"	
THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)		(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
14	Not sure about the sledding hill - natural resources cut down for it. (OH)	(1,0)
68	Don't cut down the trees for a sledding hill! There are already many in the area and trees are more valuable.	

Social Pinpoint | Concept B - Zone 5



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
104 I like Simon's Ravine natural surface trails (IGH)	
137 I like forest regeneration (TPAC)	
143 I like forest regeneration (TPAC)	
144 I like Simon's Ravine natural surface trail (TPAC)	
170 (LCE)	

HOW ABOUT THIS NEW IDEA (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
26 Add geocaching boxes (IGH)	
37 Add benches along the walking trail from West St. Paul to South St. Paul (IGH)	

THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
46 (SSPS FD)	
61 (KEP)	(0,1)
62 (KEP)	(0,1)

Social Pinpoint | Concept B - Zone 6



I LIKE THIS (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
23 This stream and cascade feature is pretty cool.	(2,0)
28 Love the open stream concept, but lots of trash accumulates in current holding pod, solution? (OH)	
105 I like the picnic lawn (IGH)	(1,0)
141 I like the water feature (TPAC)	
142 I like the trail (TPAC)	
219 I like the cascading water feature (KEP).	(4,0)
THIS CONCERNS ME (EVENT)	(UP VOTES, DOWN VOTES)
29 I drive to the park because there are no sidewalks on Oakdale. (WSPA)	

Meeting Notes: Stakeholder and Advisory Groups

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	DEMOGRAPHICS
January 24, 2019	Thompson Park Advisory Council	15	Existing park users, older adults
February 11, 2019	Accessibility and Inclusion	3	Residents, potential partners, DC social services
February 11, 2019	Stakeholder Meeting	20	ISD 197, West St. Paul, IGH, SSP, Mendota Heights, St. Croix Lutheran, Dakota County Staff
February 12, 2019	Dakota County Arts Advisory Board	10	Interpretation, partners

TPAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS | JANUARY 24TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments about Concepts A&B

Overall prefer Concept B.

Like the pollinator promenade. This would good for programs with school groups.

Any concept needs to have food and parking.

Really like the idea of food trucks. This supports bringing food to the park with minimal expense. Kids love to eat.

Do not favor the idea of adding extra buildings. These add operating costs and we want to encourage people to use the outside areas of the park.

Like the extra parking in Concept B. Today there is a parking problem when Dakota Lodge is rented during the day. Any improvements need to be accompanied by accommodating additional parking needs.

Love the connection to Kaposia shown in A, it really opens up so much more park. At minimum, better wayfinding is needed.

Like the Hammock grove, it appeals to middle and high school students. It is also flexible in that it is not a huge investment, so when the trend fades the space can easily be adapted for other uses.

Would like to see plant identification information, particularly for the trees. There are a lot of unusual trees in this park and many people cannot distinguish them. This could support a tree identification class.

Would like to have Dakota Park Center staffed. Would be great if this was a place that you could come and get a cup of coffee, similar to Lebanon Hills Visitor Center.

As long as we get to dream, let's think fun. Would like a zip line or a canopy walk.

There should be a mix of paved and unpaved trails ~ different types for different interests and needs. Many people who use the Adult 55+ program come to this park for even surfaces. Paved surfaces close to the Thompson Activity Center are important. Hard, even surface is more important than pavement.

Think about crisis management. This park has one entrance – how would we get in and out of the park in an emergency situation.

Things that would improve the park for Adults 55+:

- » Trail support facilities are essential: benches, drinking fountains, lighting, wayfinding, dog stations
- » If watercraft are provided, paddle pontoons are best for older adults.
- » An indoor outdoor classroom would be a great addition to Thompson Park Center. A place that has great views of the park, can be opened in summer and closed in winter. This could be used for classes and clubs.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION MEETING | FEBRUARY 11TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments about Concepts A&B

A mix of paved trails and natural surface trails is best

The entrance to Dakota Lodge needs better lighting and a better waiting area, Metro Mobility cannot find the door

Simple wayfinding signage that works on multiple levels would be very helpful. Symbol, color, identification marker

The natural areas are what make this park special. The balance is providing accessibility without degrading the natural areas

The sensory garden is a nice idea. It would be great to have not only sensory friendly destinations with in the park but also mobile sensory kits available at Dakota Lodge. It could be a backpack with noise canceling headphones; the Dakota County Libraries have them.

Any picnic facilities need to have adequate trash cans, as there is a lot of litter in Thompson Park.

Making the fishing pier more accessible is desired.

Opening Dakota Lodge to more public use is very important to making the park more accessible. People living with disabilities need a climate controlled place to relax and 'take a breather'. This can be a shared space for everyone.

Educating caregivers about the park's amenities would bring more people to the park. Care givers would then bring family members or clients to the park.

Virtual park tours, or social stories on the website are a good way to let people know what to expect from their park visit. By showing people what is in the southern part of the park, it would encourage use.

Resources

The Minneapolis Park Board ADA transition plan is a good example to look at as Dakota County Parks begins their ADA transition plan

Discussion and Comments about Concepts A&B

What works well - GENERAL

- Ecological health/natural resource based recreation. This is unique and is not provided by the cities.
- The nature play areas are important and something that differentiates the park from play in many city parks.
- The County's nature education is really filling a service gap that the cities do not do much of. If the cities and County can partner for these programs in the northern part of the County, there is synergy, not competition.
- Both concepts have a true connection to the River to River trail; this is needed The use area south of Dakota Lodge encourages exploration of the entire park.
- Lighting along the lake trail loop is a priority; this would be used by students.
- Adding non-reservation picnic shelters is needed. The park needs more grills.
- Like that there are more places for small group gathering.
- Improving the park entrance at Butler would make a big impact as far as park visibility and awareness.
- There are opportunities for the Y to complement its indoor programming with bringing people to public parks. Some areas for potential partnership include fishing, kayaking, canoeing.
- Mobile camps that can 'pop-up' in a park are an opportunity for partnership.
- If Dakota Lodge was staffed, there may be more participation of grade schools in the park.

What works well - CONCEPT A

- The inclusive playground and the sensory garden in Concept A.
- Love the sledding hill and the fire pit.
- Kids will like the ravine bridge.

What works well - CONCEPT B

- The observation tower.
- Love the sledding hill and the fire pit.
- Concept B seems like it is most effective as far as getting people into the natural areas in the park.
- Like the idea of locating the trailhead away from the main building in Concept B. There is already a lot going on in the building.
- Love the pollinator garden.

What DOES NOT work well - General

- The pier shown on the west side of the lake should be moved to the flat area on the southwest side of the lake.
- There is concern about vandalism particularly tagging on the retaining wall on the west side of the lake. Better lighting would dissuade undesirable behavior.

What DOES NOT work well - Concept A

- The water feature in Concept A. Dakota lodge is a busy area and adding a water feature would add complexity. A water feature/water play would be better closer to the picnic shelters.

What DOES NOT work well - Concept B

- In Concept B, the use area in the middle of the park may attract late night activity because it is secluded. If it is built, a gate should be added to control access. Kaposia Park has a gate that is locked at night and this works well.
- The waterway between Thompson Lake and Emerson Pond is an attractive feature, but may not be worth the expense. It may not be the highest priority if it is costly.
- Hammocking is very popular but would be more desirable if the locations were throughout the park instead of concentrated in one place.
- There are currently issues in the park with snow plowing. When the road is plowed snow blocks the north parking lot entrance. If a new access road is built from Dakota Lodge to the use area proposed in Concept B, snow clearing will have to be fine-tuned to make sure the road access remains plowed.

Other Considerations

St. Croix Lutheran Students enter the park though the south end of the lake.

A playground is needed. Be careful not to go without.

Would want the park's role as a trailhead to be in addition to trailheads at Kaposia Park (existing), and Marthaler Park (proposed).

Adding more equipment means it is importance to have a maintenance facility in the park for storage.

When the weather is cold, there are sometimes homeless people warming up in the bathrooms.

The lower field area gets a lot of runoff. It can be very wet, especially as the snow melts.

There are opportunities to cross promote between entities: Community Education, Dakota County, Businesses, and Cities. This could bring nature based experiences to new groups.

Using the theme of Health can be powerful. Many people and organizations have the common goal of health and wellness and are wanting to access healthy activities.

Discussion and Comments about Concepts A&B

Discussion

Seemed to be some consensus on preference for Concept B as it provided greater accessibility to the entire park. Comments about it being more family friendly with closer proximity to parking and park features. Also, southern access provided an opportunity to “push on” with “still more to discover”

Committee felt that the interpretive themes and subthemes made sense. The interpretive themes/subthemes is a great place to think about art and how it can amplify spaces, places and communities.

Liked the access and connections to the lake in the concepts. They might encourage people to get their feet wet.

The committee also liked the idea of bike share and kayak share in the park.

The committee discussed having games or destinations to draw visitors to the southern portion of the park. They mentioned MagiQuest in the Wisconsin Dells, magic wand with special powers that sets you off on a special quest.

Orientation / Wayfinding / Interpretation / Art – consider bilingual opportunities (e.g., translation dictionary - teach kids new words in different languages)

Citizen Science – look for opportunities to work with St Croix Lutheran, other schools and public on citizen science projects. They mentioned a good example is St Thomas Academy partnership with Mendota Heights regarding Rogers Lake.

Public Art

Consider involving the voices of Native artists to create conversations and build bridges (committee member mentioned the This American Life story on Henry Sibley)

There is an opportunity to incorporate public art in the form of found objects art or restoration art from materials removed from the lake in clean-up efforts. Since the lake clean-up occurs once or twice/year, this could be an opportunity

The committee suggested tying art to environmental awareness. There was a suggestion for a type of sculpture that might look different depending on the season/ that it changes on its own may even have bird’s nests and art links to water themes or resources.

The committee suggested working together as part of the DC Public Art 2020 work plan to designate public art project to coincide with CIP project improvements

The committee mentioned art apps that show locations of public art in the metro area. Locating a piece in Thompson could bring new visitors to the park.

Dakota Lodge

There was interest in Dakota Lodge being available for greater public purpose and use particularly for restrooms, drinking water, warmth, shade and maps/orientation. However, some commented on how affordable, nice and well-kept a facility it is and didn’t want that jeopardized.

If a sledding hill is nearby, consider opening Dakota Lodge as a winter warming space. Also consider recreation equipment rentals (sleds, snowshoes, watercraft)

Other

Who is Simon of Simon’s Ravine?

Reference Harmon Park in WSP as a place that provides some warming and restrooms to park visitors without completing opening up the building

The Public Art Advisory Committee is planning an event in Thompson Park August 4, 2019. It would be wonderful if there would be a booth related to the master plan at that event.

Meeting Discussion Notes: Native American Communities

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	DEMOGRAPHICS
March 4, 2019	Upper and Lower Sioux Communities	5	Interpretation, agency partners
March 8, 2019	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community	1	Interpretation, agency partners
April 25th, 2019	Prairie Island	1	Compliance Officer, Prairie Island Indian Community

LOWER SIOUX MEETING | MARCH 4TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments

Telling Dakota Stories in Thompson County Park is important. There is no reason to limit the Dakota story to specific places when all of the county (and beyond) is Dakota homeland.

» There is a collection of parks in metro area that are incorporating interpretation. It would be helpful to know what is being done in each of these parks so that locations tell unique stories.

It is more important to focus on indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge rather than a 'timeline' history.

» Emphasis on making a landscape connection is important. For example, a traditional garden with sunflowers, 3 sisters mound gardens, discussing star knowledge.

There is an opportunity to talk about broad issues through the Dakota lens as a way to be relevant to more people.

» A theme that can have meaning and appeal for all people is Mitakuye Oyasin (we are all related). This could be a framework for discussing climate change, for example.

» Lower Mounds Park/Lower Phalen Creek in St. Paul has adopted the theme 'Many Paths'. This idea includes indigenous people and also recent immigrants, for example Somali.

The Lower Sioux Indian Community has resources that can be used to develop interpretation.

» Elder interviews that talk about community history, gardening, star knowledge.

» The Lower Sioux Plant Guide and App is a guide to native plants, names, pronunciation, and meaning. This is a great resource for introducing native plants.

If the tower idea moves forward, be sure to consider view shed impacts from Kaposia Village – would the tower be visible from the Mississippi River?

Consider public art. Public art is at the forefront of great interpretation. For example, Bde Maka Ska, conducted a call for artists. The interpretive elements include prints on the sidewalk and technology, Mona Smith was the artist. Marlena Milos is another Native American artist.

The Twin Cities urban Indian groups that are pretty active who can provide input on projects.

UPPER SIOUX INDIAN COMMUNITY MEETING | MARCH 4TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments

Telling Dakota Stories in Thompson County Park is important. The approach is that the Dakota were not in specific area at a specific time but that the whole area was home to indigenous people.

Sacred site tours in the metro area lack a Dakota presence. The presence of non-native people can be seen everywhere ~ in buildings, cars, roads etc.

Native Americans were stewards of the land and natural areas helped with ecological balance.

There is a huge native population in the cities. If Dakota County wants input from Native Americans, the Upper Sioux can help connect to native people in the Twin Cities.

It is important to provide private areas for offering prayers.

St. Paul has established and advisory Group for Mounds Park

» There is a collection of parks in metro area that are incorporating interpretation. It would be helpful to know what is being done in each of these parks so that locations tell unique stories.

SHAKOPEE MDEWAKATON SIOUX COMMUNITY MEETING | MARCH 8TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments

Dakota County Staff provided an overview progress on the Thompson County Park Master Plan and Natural Resource Management Plan.

Michael Leek is the main contact for requests for input on Dakota County interpretive projects. All requests/notifications can be emailed to him and he will distribute to the appropriate staff. This is intended to result a timely response from the community.

If input beyond staff is desired there are several citizen work groups that hold monthly meetings. For example there is a cultural affairs work group, it would be possible to get on their agenda.

PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY MEETING | APRIL 25TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments

Acknowledging the historic broad Dakota Sioux occupation in Minnesota would be beneficial in Thompson County Park. The approach is not to pinpoint Dakota occupation to a specific time and place but recognize Thompson County Park is part of the larger Dakota Homeland.

Finding ways to connect urban Dakota people to the landscape and make it relevant for today (instead of something in the past) is a challenge. Native plants are way to do this. Nikki Buck is a great resource for information on traditional foods and native plant harvesting.

Signage can be expanded upon with technology/apps.

Fort Snelling has a project currently underway – the main contact is Johnathan with the National Park Service.

Make sure the minority voices are heard and not absent from the park.

City of Red Wing is doing interesting work incorporating memory maps. Kate Ferris (?) is the THPO for the Red Lake Ojibwe has been working with GIS and memory mapping.

Prairie Island has an Archeological Dataset. It would be interesting to see how that compares to what Dakota County knows about Thompson County Park.

Meeting Notes: School Group Meetings

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	DEMOGRAPHICS
February 1, 2019	St. Croix Lutheran Staff	10	Park neighbor, partner
February 25, 2019	South St. Paul Secondary Affinity Groups	30	High School Students Latino, LBGQ+, Women, Black
February 28, 2019	Heritage Middle School Teachers	5	Potential Partners
March 11, 2019	ALMAS Student Group, Sibley High School	15	High School Students Latino

ST. CROIX LUTHERAN STAFF MEETING | FEBRUARY 1ST, 2019

Discussion and Comments about Concepts A&B

Lighting and Safety

The students use the lake trail frequently; lighting for safety is needed. The bollard lighting shown as examples likely wouldn't be bright enough to increase visibility from a distance. Think about lighting for safety, not only facility use.

The whole northwest portion of the lake is scariest for students. Lighting in this area would improve safety.

Lighting near the playground is needed.

Visibility from the school to the west side of the lake is poor. The second pier and shore fishing opportunities should be moved to the southwest side of the lake, where there is better visibility and a larger flat area.

Lake Access

The southwest lake shore would be a good location for canoe/kayak storage, lake access, a storage shed, fishing pier, and shore fishing.

There are opportunities for St. Croix Lutheran and County to partner on providing canoes and kayaks. The school would be interested in getting kids on the lake for physical education classes and science classes. School use would be during the school day in the spring and fall - times that are lower demand for public use.

There are opportunities to partner on fishing programs.

Dakota Lodge/Rental Space

Dakota Lodge is difficult to rent as it is often booked during the day. The school would like to rent it for staff meetings/retreats. A room that accommodates about 30 people with a kitchenette is desirable. A building with restrooms, a kitchenette, and meeting space would be great near the sledding hill. The existing parking lot could be used.

Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center is a good size. The Gathering Center restroom design works well. People using the park and those renting the room can share without conflicts.

Parking

St. Croix Lutheran is open to collaborating to share parking for special events, particularly if people can be shuttled between the lot and the park. Because of the dormitory location, it is not possible to have the general public walking between the school lot and the park. Student safety is the first priority.

More to do in the park

The day-lighted water flow between Thompson Lake and Emmerson Pond is a really nice feature. It would open up a lot of opportunities for ecology /science education. The park makes a great outdoor lab.

Inviting more use of the southern part of the park is a good thing. Simon's Ravine is one of the nicest parts of the park and most people have no idea it is there.

The sledding hill presented in both concepts is a good idea.

More to do in the park

Interpretive signage throughout the park highlighting natural resources and the park's farming history are a good idea. Tree identification is also desired.

Multi-lingual signage, at minimum in Spanish and English, but even 4-5 core languages could be the standard within the park.

Community engagement

Consider reaching out to Heritage Middle School for input.

There is interest in hosting an open house for students to provide input on the park concepts at the school. Lil Leatham will follow up with Rick Gibson to schedule.

The story map Dakota County put together for the lake restoration project is really interesting and well done.

SOUTH ST. PAUL SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT AFFINITY GROUPS MEETING | FEBRUARY 25TH, 2019

MEETING FORMAT: Students divided into 4 groups and discussed the concepts. Each student placed 3 green dots on concept elements they preferred and 3 dots on concept elements they liked least. Individually, students also filled out a brief survey. The groups then discussed their preferences and prioritized park improvements. Each group presented their thoughts on the concepts to the other groups and then collectively participated in a prioritization exercise.

Improvement Preferences – Full Group Prioritization Results

At the end of the meeting, the full group discussed and participated in an exercise to prioritize the favorite ideas. The favored ideas, in order of priority were:

- 1) Hammock grove - Students were interested in small pods of hammocks located throughout the park as opposed to the central location shown in the concepts or the idea of individual locations throughout the park
- 2) Boardwalk
- 3) Restoration showcase
- 4) Observation tower - Some participants were concerned about the safety of the tower ~ people may want to climb or jump off of it and it is in a secluded location

Improvement Preferences – Individual and Small Group Results

Individual preferences: Each participant placed a green dot on their 3 highest priority ideas and a red dot on their 3 least favorite ideas

Concept A	Green Dot	Red Dot
Entry plaza with interactive water feature	1	4
Social Gathering	3	3
Event Amphitheater	1	
Simon's Ravine overlook	4	
Flowering open play field	1	1
Bollard Lighting	1	
Plaza fire pit	1	2
Lake view dock	1	1
Food trucks near entry plaza		
Shore fishing	1	1
Savanna Restoration	1	1
Interpretive signage example at Simon's Ravine Bridge		5
Community event lawn	1	
Lighted sledding hill	2	2
Sensory garden and walking loop	4	
Restoration showcase	4	3
Stormwater/BMP	1	
Savannah Loop Trail interpretive signage examples		
Inclusive play area	1	
Sand play	1	4
Entry plaza interpretive signage example		2
Wayfinding	1	

Concept B	Green Dot	Red Dot
Sunset plaza community space	1	
Lighted sledding hill		6
Farmstead interpretive area (inclusive)	2	2
Ecosystem exploration loop	2	1
Bollard lighting	1	
Enhanced picnicking areas/options		1
Observation tower	7	7
Nature play	1	1
Shore fishing	1	2
Interpretive signage example at story walk		
Picnic lawn		4
Trailhead		
Loose parts 'play in nature'		2
Pollinator promenade	5	
Stormwater/BMP	2	2
Pollinator promenade interpretive signage examples		
Hammock grove	8	1
Boardwalk	13	
Food truck access outside of Dakota Lodge		1
Wayfinding		

Group Preferences: Each group discussed their individual preferences and summarized the groups favorite ideas and why

Favorite Ideas		Why
1	Boardwalk	Looks aesthetic, cool beans, gives walking space, chance to see more wildlife
	Boardwalk	Scenic
	Inclusive play area	Inclusive
	Hammock grove	Relaxing, fun to check in with friends
2	Fire pit	Nice group thing, social, inclusive
	Observation tower	View the scenery
	Observation tower	Place to see a lot of wildlife
	Hammock grove	Hammocking has become a popular thing and it gets different age groups involved
3	Restoration showcase	Protects wildlife, realistic nature, pretty
	Boardwalk	Good for families, nature involved
	Boardwalk	Its pretty, nice view
	Hammock grove	Pretty and relaxing

LEAST Favorite Ideas		Why
1	Observation tower	Dangerous (possibly)
	Lighted sledding hill	People in our group really don't like the snow so we wouldn't use it; it is seasonal
	Lighted sledding hill	We have many sledding areas around and we feel there are better uses for the space
	Social gathering	Takes up space, unnecessary, could be used for restoration area
2	Picnic lawn	Don't need space for just picnicking
	Sand play	Messy, we have other spaces like this already
	Sand play	Messy
	Interpretive signage example at Simon's Ravine Bridge	We don't find a need for it
3	Lighted sledding hill	Not much to do in the summer
	Restoration showcase	Attracts a lot of bugs
	Observation Tower	Safety concern, no one to watch what is happening
	Farmstead interpretive play	Unnecessary

Other Notes

Members of the small group that was facilitated in Spanish mentioned they would like to see sports facilities or equipment at the park, specifically for soccer. The group also concluded they preferred not to have a building in the middle of the park as pictured in Concept B.

Individual Survey Results

How often do you visit Thompson County Park? Each person places a dot next to the answer that best describes their visits

- Daily
- Weekly
- 1 Monthly
- 8 A few times a year
- 6 Rarely
- 3 Never

How do you usually arrive at the park? Each person places a dot next to the answer that best describes how they get to the park

- 13 Driving or riding in a personal automobile
- 3 Driving - carpooling with people outside of your immediate family
- Transit
- 2 Walking
- 1 Biking
- 3 Other (write in) live too far

The master plan concepts explore ideas for improvements to the southern portion of the park. Each person places a dot next to your 3 favorite ideas

- ___4___ Wayfinding
- ___6___ Natural resource restoration
- ___7___ Core habitat preservation
- ___4___ Paved trails
- ___7___ Natural surface trails
- ___5___ Trail lighting
- ___2___ Parking
- ___6___ Restrooms
- ___4___ Picnic grounds and shelters
- ___1___ River to River Greenway Information/Service Trailhead
- ___1___ Other (write in) being with groups in an outdoor environment/taking photos

The master plan is exploring the idea of expanding visitor services at Thompson County Park. Each person places a dot next to your 3 favorite ideas

- ___14___ Indoor restrooms, comfort room, and drinking water
- ___1___ Indoor visitor orientation
- ___5___ Indoor public gathering and warming area for walk in use
- ___4___ Indoor space for education programs
- ___5___ Commercial food kitchen
- ___13___ Equipment rentals (for example, kayaks, snowshoes, sleds, bikes)

Discussion and Comments about Concepts A&B

As part of the 6th grade science curriculum, there is currently a field trip to Highland Park in Bloomington where the kids participate in canoeing, archery, rock climbing, geocaching, and Native American games. If Thompson County Park offered this type of program, it would be preferable to go to a park within the community. Even though Heritage E-Stem is less than 2 miles from the park, kids would need to be bussed.

Paved trails are really important for allowing kids with limiting physical conditions to participate in activities

A location for bus drop off and gathering is also important

Heritage-Stem partners with Dodge Nature Center for 5th and 7th grade science; Dodge staff does come to the school 2-3 times a week. They do not partner for 6th and 8th grade science, so there could be an opportunity to partner with Dakota County in these grade levels

Programs that align with curriculum include pond studies, prairie restoration, tree studies, air quality, orienteering, honey bees.

There are opportunities from for the Physical Education Department to bring the kids to the park for outdoor recreation activities

The park would benefit from bilingual signs

New Middle School Science Curriculum includes climate change and a native American component at all grade levels. Interpretive elements in the park that further understanding in these areas would support /reinforce what students are learning in school.

A virtual tour of the park would increase awareness

One meeting participant offered that as a resident, she is not in favor of the parking lot south of the Dakota Lodge shown in Concept B

All students have iPads. If there are ways that they could interact with the park ~ for example in a water quality study it would add to their experience

The park could be a demonstration site for clean energy/demonstration. The park already has some of these elements such as the electric vehicle (EV) charging station and the compost drop off. City of West St. Paul is moving towards 100% clean electric; Hy-Vee has small wind turbines at their stores.

Upcoming opportunities for general parks outreach are West St. Paul Arbor Day and Marine Team Day

HENRY SIBLEY HIGH SCHOOL – ALMAS STUDENT GROUP MEETING | MARCH 11TH, 2019

MEETING FORMAT: Students divided into 3 groups and discussed the concepts. Each student placed 3 green dots on concept elements they preferred and 3 dots on concept elements they liked least. Individually, students also filled out a brief survey. The groups then discussed their preferences and prioritized park improvements. Each group presented their thoughts on the concepts to the other groups and then collectively participated in a prioritization exercise.

Improvement Preferences – Full Group Prioritization Results

At the end of the meeting, the full group discussed and participated in an exercise to prioritize the favorite ideas. The favored ideas, in order of priority were:

- 1) Day lighted Stream and trail lighting (tie)
- 2) Food trucks (suggested Tacos and Hamburgers)
- 3) Equipment rentals and hammocks (tie)

Suggestions/Discussion

Students were most interested in features that make the park unique and cannot be found in other nearby parks

Hammocks - this is important to Latino culture, many Latinos have hammocks in their houses traditionally. To promote diversity, hammocks are a good idea, questions about whether there would be hammocks for rent or if you would need to bring your own, if they were for rent, how they would be kept clean. Student like the idea of small pods of hammocks (2-3 per location) rather than in a grove.

Park activities they like include: swings, see-saws, flowers to take pictures (senior pictures, dances, etc.) tennis, volleyball (could be net).

They find out information from their parents so the school could be a good way to contact them, professor suggested the district newsletter suggested using Instagram and SnapChat to promote the parks .

Many felt that trails in nature/natural resource restoration would not be engaging. Suggested having changing scavenger hunts in the park and or sculptures in the natural areas for views/interest.

Many students are safety conscious – particularly in terms of nature play, sand, rocks, wading in water.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for equipment rentals -canoes, kayaks, volleyball, skateboards, bikes, ice skates.

Suggested adding bike lanes to trail network (or enough space for bicycling).

Suggested adding hopscotch for kids on the sidewalk .

Suggested adding colorful features to attract people to the park.

Suggested to add lighted information boxes with announcements, open area for sports, rentals for small scale soccer, sledding hill .

Improvement Preferences – Individual and Small Group Results

Individual preferences: Each participant placed a green dot on their 3 highest priority ideas and a red dot on their 3 least favorite ideas

Concept A	Green Dot	Red Dot
Entry plaza with interactive water feature	1	
Social Gathering	1	2
Event Amphitheater		
Simon's Ravine overlook	1	
Flowering open play field		3
Bollard Lighting		
Plaza fire pit	1	
Lake view dock	2	

Food trucks near entry plaza	1	
Shore fishing		
Savanna Restoration		2
Interpretive signage example at Simon's Ravine Bridge		6
Community event lawn		
Lighted sledding hill	3	1
Sensory garden and walking loop	4	1
Restoration showcase		
Stormwater/BMP		
Savannah Loop Trail interpretive signage examples		4
Inclusive play area	2	
Sand play		5
Entry plaza interpretive signage example		
Wayfinding		

Concept B	Green Dot	Red Dot
Sunset plaza community space	1	
Lighted sledding hill		1
Farmstead interpretive area (inclusive)		
Ecosystem exploration loop		5
Bollard lighting	3	
Enhanced picnicking areas/options		
Observation tower	1	
Nature play		
Shore fishing		1
Interpretive signage example at story walk		5
Picnic lawn		
Trailhead		1
Loose parts 'play in nature'	1	2
Pollinator promenade		2
Stormwater/BMP		1
Pollinator promenade interpretive signage examples		
Hammock grove	7	
Boardwalk	1	
Food truck access outside of Dakota Lodge	6	
Wayfinding		

*Paddle access to Thompson Lake – 5 green dots

Group Preferences: Each group discussed their individual preferences and summarized the groups favorite ideas and why

Favorite Ideas		Why
1	Bollard lighting	Mostly because of safety/so parents will not worry
	Hammock grove	Relax and hang out
	Hammock grove	Put hammocks throughout the park
2	Hammock grove	Chill time
	Food truck	Get food
	Cascading water feature	Walk on the water [wading]
3	Food truck	Easier access to food
	Paddle boarding	Fun and family friendly idea; nothing like this around WSP
	Boardwalk	Don't have to walk on dirt and rocks

LEAST Favorite Ideas		Why
1	Savanna restoration	Not interesting enough – include art and/or monuments to give a view
	Savanna loop trail	Does not seem interesting
	Sand play	Rocks may be dangerous
2	Flowering open play field	The park is a play field
	Story walk	Does not seem interesting
	Loose parts play in nature	Sticks
3	Social gathering	There is already a picnic shelter
	Simon's ravine bridge	Does not seem interesting
	Pollinator Promenade water feature	Because of rocks

Individual Survey Results

How often do you visit Thompson County Park? Each person places a dot next to the answer that best describes their visits

- Daily
- 3 Weekly
- 3 Monthly
- 3 A few times a year
- 1 Rarely
- 2 Never

How do you usually arrive at the park? Each person places a dot next to the answer that best describes how they get to the park

- 7 Driving or riding in a personal automobile
- 2 Driving - carpooling with people outside of your immediate family
- 1 Transit
- 4 Walking

__3__ Biking

__1__ Other (write in) never visit

The master plan concepts explore ideas for improvements to the southern portion of the park. Each person places a dot next to your 3 favorite ideas

__2__ Wayfinding

__2__ Natural resource restoration

__1__ Core habitat preservation

__3__ Paved trails

__2__ Natural surface trails

__7__ Trail lighting

__2__ Parking

__5__ Restrooms

__7__ Picnic grounds and shelters

__1__ River to River Greenway Information/Service Trailhead

__2__ Other (write in) paddle boarding

The master plan is exploring the idea of expanding visitor services at Thompson County Park. Each person places a dot next to your 3 favorite ideas

__11__ Indoor restrooms, comfort room, and drinking water

__2__ Indoor visitor orientation

__2__ Indoor public gathering and warming area for walk in use

__2__ Indoor space for education programs

__9__ Commercial food kitchen

__11__ Equipment rentals (for example, kayaks, snowshoes, sleds, bikes)

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PICTURE	SOUTH SAINT PAUL SECONDARY FOOD DISTRIBUTION (SSPS FD)		LINCOLN CENTER ELEMENTARY FOOD DISTRIBUTION		KAPOSIA EDUCATION CENTER FAMILY FUN NIGHT		OPEN HOUSE	
	Green Dot	Red Dot	Green Dot	Red Dot	Green Dot	Red Dot	Likes	Dislikes
Concept A	Green Dot	Red Dot	Green Dot	Red Dot	Green Dot	Red Dot	Likes	Dislikes
Entry plaza with interactive water feature	4	1	5	1	2	0	1	
Social Gathering	4	1	0	6	1	0		1
Event Amphitheater	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	
Simon's Ravine overlook	3	0	1	0	4	0	2	
Flowering open play field	2	0	1	0	1	1		1
Bollard Lighting	3	0	0	0	0	1		1
Plaza fire pit	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	
Lake view dock	1	3	4	0	1	0		
Food trucks near entry plaza	2	4	1	1	1	0	2	
Shore fishing	5	0	5	0	3	0	5	
Savanna Restoration	1	2	0	0	0	2		1
Interpretive signage example at Simon's Ravine Bridge	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	
Community event lawn	1	10	4	2	2	0	1	
Lighted sledding hill	4	3	3	0	2	0	2	
Sensory garden and walking loop	4	0	0	0	1	0	4	
Restoration showcase	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Stormwater/BMP	1	1	1	2	0	2		
Savannah Loop Trail interpretive signage examples	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	
Inclusive play area	10	0	5	0	6	0	3	
Sand play	1	4	4	2	3	1	2	
Entry plaza interpretive signage example	0	1	0	2	1	1		
Wayfinding	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	
Concept B	Green Dot	Red Dot	Green Dot	Red Dot	Green Dot	Red Dot	Likes	Dislikes
Sunset plaza community space	3	0	3	0	1	0		1
Lighted sledding hill	3	1	7	0	4	0	3	
Farmstead interpretive area (inclusive)	4		4	0	1	0	1	
Ecosystem exploration loop	1	3	0	1	1	0	3	
Bollard lighting	2	0	1	1	1	1		2
Enhanced picnicking areas/options	5	0	3	0	1	0		1
Observation tower	0	5	7	2	2	0	3	
Nature play	3	0	3	0	2	0		
Shore fishing	3	0	4	0	5	0	2	
Interpretive signage example at story walk	2	0	1	1	0	3		
Picnic lawn	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	
Trailhead	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Loose parts 'play in nature'	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	
Pollinator promenade	1	2	5	1	5	0	3	
Stormwater/BMP	0	0	0	0	0	4		
Pollinator promenade interpretive signage examples	0	0	2	2	0	0		
Hammock grove	5	0	4	1	1	0	2	1
Boardwalk	6	0	6	0	2	1	2	
Food truck access outside of Dakota Lodge	1	4	1	0	0	1		
Wayfinding	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	

Precedent Imagery Voting

CONCEPT A



Entry Plaza with Interactive Plaza Water Feature



Social Gathering



Event Amphitheatre



Simon's Ravine Overlook



Flowering Open Play Field



Bollard Lighting



Plaza Fire Pit



Lake View Dock



Food Trucks Near Entry Plaza



Shore Fishing



Savanna Restoration



Interpretive Signage Example at Simon's Ravine Bridge



Community Event Lawn



Lighted Sledding Hill



Sensory Garden and Walking Loop



Restoration Shrubbery



Stormwater/BMP



Savanna Loop Trail Interpretive Signage Examples



Inclusive Play Area



Sand Play



Entry Plaza Interpretive Signage Example



Wayfinding



Wayfinding



Savanna Loop Trail Interpretive Signage Examples

CONCEPT B



x7 x1

Market Plaza and Community Space outside of Dakota Lodge



x9 x1

Enhanced Picnicking Areas/Options



x2 x1

Picnic Lawn



x12 x2

Hammock Grove



x17 x1

Lighted Sledding Hill



x12 x7

Observation Tower



x3

Trailhead



x16 x1

Boardwalk



x10

Forest-based Interpretive Play (Inclusive)



x8

Nature Play



x6

Loose Parts "Play in Nature"



x2 x5

Food Truck Access outside Dakota Lodge



x5 x4

Ecosystem Exploration Loop



x14 x3

Pollinator Promenade



x4 x4

Ballast Lighting



x15

Share Fishing



x4

Stormwater/BMP



x1 x2

Wayfinding



x3 x4

Interpretive Signage Example Along the Story Walk



x2 x2

Pollinator Promenade Interpretive Signage Examples



PHASE 3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Phase 3 Community Engagement

Overview

Community engagement events for the third phase of the Thompson County Park Master Plan were held from the end of August through early December 2019. The purpose of the 3rd phase of the community engagement process was to solicit input on the ten-year and long-term draft master plans, as well as collect feedback on the Natural Resources Management Plan for Thompson County Park. There were over a dozen community outreach events to collect input from a wide variety of sources. Phase 3 included outreach to students, families, youth, service men and women, inclusive groups, and stakeholders by means of meetings, events, open houses with bilingual materials, and an online survey.

Discussion and questions focused on surveying the strength of the concepts and how well they aligned with the needs and priorities of current and potential park users. What concerns, if any, did respondents have with the draft plans? Which proposed improvements should be made a high priority for implementation? Are there any ideas that are not currently included in the draft master plan that the public feels should be considered for Thompson?

The following pages contain a full summary of each engagement event and the feedback received.

DATE	EVENT/MEETING	ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE	DEMOGRAPHICS
August 28, 2019	COPS in the Park - Southview Park	150	Youth, Latinx, Families
October 6, 2019	Fix it / Swap It Event - Thompson County Park	15	General Public
October 8, 2019	Dakota County Public Art Citizen Advisory Committee	15	Community representatives
October 10, 2019	I Can Too Sensory Friendly Event	6	Families, youth, people living with disabilities
October 13, 2019	Latino Health Fair/Salud Latina Fair	45	Families, Latinx
November 5, 2019	Parent Time ECFE	16	Parents, Latinx
November 5, 2019	Open House - Thompson County Park	15	General Public
November 7, 2019	Open House (in conjunction with the Robert Street Open House) - Wentworth Library	19	General Public
November 11, 2019	South St. Paul Secondary Group	15	Youth, Latinx
November 12, 2019	South St. Paul Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission	6	Community representatives
November 14, 2019	Kaposia Elementary Food Distribution	15	Families, youth
November 21, 2019	Thompson Park Advisory Committee	10	Adults 55+
December 10, 2019	Henry Sibley High School - Almas Group	15	Youth, Latinx
September 26 to November 17	Online comments	6	General Public

Meeting Summaries:

FIX IT / SWAP IT EVENT | OCTOBER 6TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments

Feedback

Parking concerns:

- » Supportive restoration that will be taking place in the park
- » More cultural events in the park, specifically music
- » Excited about the prospect of nature play and an updated playground
- » More fishing opportunities on the lake

MP Priorities

- » Hammocking
- » Fishing pier x2
- » Trails
- » Forest restoration
- » Pollinator garden

DAKOTA COUNTY PUBLIC ART CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE | OCTOBER 8TH, 2019

Discussion and Comments

Discussion

Interest in expanding art and parks are a great place to do that

The arts/parks are an opportunity to engage and strengthen a stronger community connection

The arts/parks collaboration provides opportunities for interesting partnerships

Would like to engage the surrounding community in making art for this park

It would be wonderful to have an artist on site, a potter, stone painting, yarn bombing

Bring the goats to Thompson County Park

High Priorities

Seating on north lawn

Amphitheater

Nature playground

Places for art

**PARENT TIME ECFE - SOUTH ST. PAUL EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION PARENT GROUPS - 11/5/2019
PARENT TIME; GROUP OF 8 MOTHERS | NOVEMBER 5TH, 2019**

Discussion and Comments

What winter outdoor activity do you and your children enjoy?

Playing in snow, snowshoeing, hiking, being inside, downhill skiing, outdoor ice skating, going to the dog park.

Have you ever been to Thompson County Park? If so what did you do there?

All participants had been to the park

Activities: hiking around the lake, been to a meeting at Dakota Lodge, played on the playground, taken family pictures at the park, been out on the dock, the kids look for bugs and monarchs, use the compost drop off, the kids love the sand pit, catered weddings, been to the picnic shelter, been on a field trip to the park.

What improvements recommended in the draft master plan do you feel are a high priority for implementation?

- » Lighted walking trail along the lake
- » Lighted sledding hill and warming area in Thompson Park Center
- » Fire pit
- » New playground with an adjacent grassy area
- » Amphitheater – it would be great to have music in the park
- » Event lawn – it would be great to have a farmer’s market in the park
- » New playground would be great, make sure there are separate spaces for younger and older kids, but keep the equipment together to make it easier to watch kids of different ages at the same time.

Are there improvements you would like to see to the park that are not included in the draft plan?

Skating pond. [There was discussion about the skating rink at Haskell Park, a city park near Thompson County Park and the skating figure 8 in Maple Grove]

Parks Awareness and Promotion Plan

Anna Ferriss gave an overview of the project and participants discussed the questions below. These notes are abbreviated, only questions that may have relevance to Thompson County Park are included.

What makes a park welcoming?

- » Clean and good condition, kid friendly, paved trails, clean indoor bathrooms, indoor space, garbage cans with compost and recycling options, shade, picnic tables, parking, a map so you can see what is available at the park.
- » Along trails, points of interest to draw you along a trail, signs, or a scavenger hunt.
- » Open space but not too secluded from other people. The park should be well lit, especially in winter.
- » Dakota County Parks are clean and well maintained. Not all Hennepin County Parks are as well maintained.

What types of activities would you like Dakota County Parks to do more of?

- » Camper cabins
- » Kids campout night, like they do in Lorraine Park in South St. Paul
- » Music in the park – that will get the community to come
- » A market, rummage sale, or craft bazar at Thompson County Park

Discussion and Comments

What outdoor activity do you and your children enjoy?

We don't spend that much time outside, play in the park, play with sand, tire swings, playground, children's programs, just being outside, walking with friends and family

What winter outdoor activity do you and your children enjoy?

Playing in snow, snowshoeing, hiking, being inside, downhill skiing, outdoor ice skating, going to the dog park.

What improvements recommended in the draft master plan do you feel are a high priority for implementation?

- » Sledding Hill
- » More fishing opportunities
- » Community events
- » Non-reservation picnic shelters
- » Bonfire by the sledding hill
- » Movies in the park/amphitheater
- » Hammocking

Are there improvements you would like to see to the park that are not included in the draft plan?

- » Ice rink with warming house
- » Frisbee

Parks Awareness and Promotion Plan

Anna Ferriss gave an overview of the project and participants discussed the questions below. These notes are abbreviated, only questions that may have relevance to Thompson County Park are included.

What makes a park welcoming?

- » Cleanliness
- » Clean bathrooms, not port-a-potties
- » Space for family
- » Seeing police close, especially at night
- » Posted rules
- » No smoking
- » Grills are very important
- » Garbage cans, dog bags, separate spaces for kids and dogs

What do you feel are the benefits of spending time outdoors?

- » Having fun with kids
- » No noise, quiet, peaceful, relaxing
- » Meeting new people
- » Visiting new places
- » Exercise like walking
- » Trying new activities, like kayaking, with kids
- » The kids are closer to nature
- » Mental health
- » Time to rest and take a break while the kids are playing on the playground

What does the word park mean to you?

- » Free time
- » Free entertainment
- » Family time
- » Party time
- » Relaxing
- » Play
- » Natural,
- » No technology, kids have things to do so they are not on their phones
- » Mosquitos
- » A place to capture memories, photos and videos

What parks do you visit?

- » Thompson County Park
- » Lorraine Park
- » Kaposia Park
- » McMarrow Park
- » Lion's Park
- » Marthaler Park

Discussion and Comments

If you have visited Thompson County Park, who did you go with and what did you do? If you have not been to Thompson Country Park, what is your favorite activity to do in parks?

We were there for a banquet, to hang out, and to exercise

go to the swings and play/chase my big brother

Talk with my friends

If I go to the park with my friends, I like to play with them. If I only go with my mom, I like to take a book and read
play on the playground, go to the swings, go on runs, walk the trails. I go with family and friends

Play a soccer game

Attend a birthday party

Went on a walk

I went with my mom and walked my dog

I went with my family

Play soccer

I used to go a lot with my family for pizza and playground days. I also had my quinceanera there

I went with my family to hang out and play tag. My favorite activities are walking and biking

I went from my friend's Quinceanera

<i>What are the three improvements shown you would most like to see completed in Thompson County Park in the next 5 years?</i>	Votes
Trail wayfinging	1
Equipment rental	1
Picnic grove	1
Nature place	1
More fishing	5
Land space	1
Paddle boards and Kayaks	4
Music	2
New dock	
Hammocking places	7
Sledding hill	3
Amphitheater	1
Lights at night	7
Fireplace	2
Walking trails	1
Greenway rest area	1
<i>Are there any changes to the Thompson County Park 10 Year Plan that would make it better?</i>	Votes
Swimming Lake	1
Sharks in the lake	1
An observation tower	4
Soccer field	4
Mountain bike trail	1
Movie theater	

Cleaner water	
Stake park	

THOMPSON PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE | NOVEMBER 21ST, 2019

Discussion and Comments

Discussion - General support for the plan with the exception of the parking improvements

Parking concerns:

There is an existing shortage of parking when the Thompson Park Activity Center is open and there are meetings at Dakota Lodge. This happens frequently.

The 25 additional spaces currently recommended in the Draft Master Plan do not adequately addresses this shortage.

Adding new activities suggested in the Draft Master Plan will only exacerbate the current parking problem.

One way circulation at the drop off area and then through the parking lot should be considered.

Parking improvements should be one of the first improvements made.

LOWER SIOUX INDIAN COMMUNITY | JANUARY 6, 2020

Comments (via phone call)

Build on Dakota Homeland by researching and using Dakota place names, language, and other illustrations within the park.

Expand on the cultural context of the place within the Master Plan Document.

Continue outreach to Dakota communities during implementation phases to get a broader range of feedback.

HIGHEST PRIORITIES	COPS IN THE PARK	OPEN HOUSE (DAKOTA LODGE AND WENTWORTH LIBRARY)		KAPOSIA ELEMENTARY FOOD DISTRIBUTION	I CAN TOO SENSORY FRIENDLY EVENT	LATINO HEALTH FAIR/SALUD LATINA FAIR EDUCATION CENTER FAMILY FUN NIGHT	SOUTH ST. PAUL SECONDARY	ECFE	TOTAL
		Image ideas	10-year plan						
Fishing Pier	23	2	1	6	0	7	1		40
Interpretive Signage	3				0	4			7
Shoreline Plantings	10	4		2	0	3			19
Shore fishing	31	1	2	2	0	8	5	1	50
Bollard lighting	9		1		0	0	7	1	18
Canoeing/Kayaking	17	7		4	1	7	4		40
Community Event Lawn	13	3		1	0	6			23
Hammocking	39	1		4	1	6	3	2	56
Accessible Play	22	3		6	1	13		2	47
Play and Sensory Garden Plantings	17				0	5			22
Outdoor Classroom Gathering	11			1	0	2			14
Picnic Grove	5			1	0	4			10
Food Truck Parking	5			1	0	5			11
Lakeside Plaza	13	1		1	0	2			17
Amphitheater	10	3		1	0	4	1	2	21
Equipment Rentals	13	1		1	0	7	1		23
Indoor Visitor Orientation	1				0	2			3
Greenway Trailhead	3	4			0	0			7
River to River Greenway	12	5	1	1	3	7	1		30
Trail Wayfinding	8		4		0	0	1		13
Savanna Restoration	0	3			0	4			7
Forest Regeneration	13	3	4	2	1	4			27
Small Picnic Shelter	9				0	1	1	1	12
Simon's Ravine Overlook	6	4			0	4			14
Programs	7	1			0	1			9
Fire Pit	9				0	3	2	2	16
Snowshoeing	5	1			2	6			14
Natural Surface Trails	8	2			1	1	1		13
Sledding Hill	44	2	4	2	0	12		3	67
Events	18	3		4	3	3		2	33

HIGHEST PRIORITIES	COPS IN THE PARK	OPEN HOUSE (DAKOTA LODGE AND WENTWORTH LIBRARY)		KAPOSIA ELEMENTARY FOOD DISTRIBUTION	I CAN TOO SENSORY FRIENDLY EVENT	LATINO HEALTH FAIR/SALUD LATINA FAIR EDUCATION CENTER FAMILY FUN NIGHT	SOUTH ST. PAUL SECONDARY	ECFE	TOTAL
Dakota Lodge Rentals	9				0	1			10
Nature Play	7	4		3	1	1			16
Pollinator Promenade Plantings	8	9	6	1	0	5			29
Interpretation	7			3	0	0			10
Daylighted Stream	17	5	6		1	1			30
Lake loop trail			1						
Greenway rest area			1						
Invasive species management			2						
Trail connection along Butler Ave			1						

Community Engagement Top Priorities:

- » Fishing pier/shore fishing
- » Canoeing and Kayaking
- » Hammocking
- » Accessible Play
- » Sledding Hill

Secondary Priorities

- » Community Event Lawn
- » River to River Greenway
- » Equipment Rental
- » Play and sensory garden plantings
- » Forest regeneration
- » Pollinator plantings
- » Daylighted stream

Open House Comment Summaries:

11/5/19 OPEN HOUSE COMMENT SUMMARIES

Comment Cards

Respondent #1	<i>What do you like about the plan?</i>
	Approve of everything I see – wish it could all happen this year!
	<i>Is there anything that you feel needs to be changed?</i>
	Make the garden area a labyrinth for meditation.
	<i>What are your top three priorities for the future?</i>
	Accessibility, fishing (for kids especially) benches, restoration of forest is top too.
	<i>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Thompson County Park?</i>
Even handicapped parking (which fills fast) is a hike for some.	
Respondent #2	<i>What do you like about the plan?</i>
	Windows in the lodge facing the lake. Better trails, pollinator area.
	<i>What are your top three priorities for the future?</i>
	Safety in the park, more walking trails.

Project Purpose and Vision Board Comments and Placement

"Add a paint brush symbol to the public art icon"	
"Neighbors park in this driveway"	Arrow points to the south of school building
"Verify the airport height zone for the observation tower"	
"Bullet Board, Drainage, Keep"	Placed near the bottom of the board

Existing Conditions Board Comments and Placement

"Add eastern wetland to the maps"	Placed near existing plant communities
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Project Purpose and Vision Board Comments and Dots

Comments	Dots
"Handicapped access and waterfall at the N end of the lake"	
"Best fishing is on the west side of the lake"	
"Off-leash dog areas 8-10 acres"	2
"Set the park up simply; signage and signage for people who don't read very well. Symbols are HC accessible for the blind/deaf"	4
"Observation tower"	4
"Keep the park clean, pick up trash"	1

Natural Resources Board Comments and Placement

"Eagles"	Placed near the oak savanna area
"Add back the wetland trail – clear brush and repair bridge"	
"Red Headed woodpecker sighting!"	Placed near Simon's Ravine
"Blue Bunting sighting"	

Stakeholder Email Correspondence Responses:

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Draft Dakota County Thompson Park Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 4:29:52 PM

This is exciting! Such great work

[Redacted]

From: Leatham, Lil

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 2:28 PM

[Redacted]

Subject: Draft Dakota County Thompson Park Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan

Thompson County Park Stakeholder,

As you are aware, over the past year Dakota County has been developing a Master Plan and Natural Resources Management Plan for Thompson County Park, a 58-acre park located in West St. Paul. The planning process identified the park vision as: “Thompson County Park is an urban oasis that inspires people to participate in vibrant and healthy activities, is responsive to the community and encourages people to discover nature.”

Using that vision and input collected during the planning process, a Draft Master Plan and Draft Natural Resources Management Plan have been developed for the park. The Executive Summary, Draft Master Plan and Draft Natural Resources Management Plan can be reviewed by clicking on the links below:

[Executive Summary](#)

[Draft Master Plan](#)

[Draft Natural Resources Management Plan](#)

As a past stakeholder in the process, I wanted to reach out to seek your thoughts on the Draft Master Plan and Draft Natural Resources Management Plan. Please consider providing your input by replying to this email, participating in the [survey](#) (open until Nov. 17) or attending one of the two

Subject: Re: Thompson Park off-leash dog park
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 5:53:47 PM

Hi, Lil.

I couldn't understand a word of your voicemail message, but would still like to talk to you this week. Are you available tomorrow afternoon? Steve elaborated that the one county off-leash dog park is in Rosemount, which is quite a ways from West St. Paul, and none of the nearer ones are anywhere close to the amazing trails and ponds that the Three Rivers Park District maintains (which vary from about 9 to almost 30 acres). My only feedback opportunity on the Thompson Park master plan was after the two concepts had been developed, to the best of my knowledge, and I only learned of those because I started serving on the Thompson Park Activity Center advisory board this year.

Thanks for getting back to me, though. I hope to talk further!

I am following up on the voicemails that Steve Sullivan and I left you last week about your interest in including an off-leash dog area in the Thompson County Park Master Plan.

The draft Thompson Park Master Plan is available on the [project webpage](#). An off-leash dog area is not included in the draft plan as there are several city off-leash dog areas nearby.

- Kaposia Landing in South St. Paul: <http://www.southstpaul.org/398/Kaposia-Landing>
- Heritage Village Park in Inver Grove Heights: <http://www.ci.inver-grove-heights.mn.us/442/Heritage-Village-Park-and-Off-Leash-Dog->
- City of Eagan: <https://www.cityofeagan.com/off-leash-dog-park>
- City of Mendota Heights: <https://www.google.com/maps/search/off+leash+dog+area/@44.8773075,-93.1650784,1663m/data=!3m1!1e3>

Your comments and feedback on the draft plan are welcome. Over the next month you can submit comments on the project webpage (this will be available starting next week) and we are in the process of scheduling a Community Open House for early November.

Please reach out to me via phone or email if you have additional questions about the off-leash dog area, the draft master plan, or the planning process.

Kind regards,

Lil Leatham, PLA

Survey Monkey Summary Responses:

SURVEY MONKEY RESPONSES

Respondent #1	<i>What do you like about the Draft Master Plan?</i>
	The enhanced lighting around the lake, the emphasis on habitat restoration and the amphitheater
	<i>Are there any changes to the Draft Master Plan that you would like to see made?</i>
	Yes, I'd really like to see an off leash dog park added. I just went to the 9-acre Three Rivers dog park at Lake Bryant in Eden Prairie, which could be added to the forest reforestation areas, either on the east side (near existing parking) or the south, with trails between the oak restoration, some seating, a small shelter, a small dog enclosure, and a watering station, e.g. If it were on the south side, it would need parking
	<i>What do you like about the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan?</i>
	The restoration to as near native plants as possible.
	<i>Are there any changes to the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan you would like to see made?</i>
	I'd love it if adjoining neighbors (like myself) could get assistance from the county in controlling buckthorn
	<i>What are your top three priorities for the future of Thompson County Park?</i>
1) off leash dog park addition, 2) addition to interpretation of the history of the native Americans in the area, if not included already, 3) maintain use of Dakota Lodge for community education for the over 55 population of the area	
<i>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Thompson County Park?</i>	
Love the upgrades so far. I'm just a little concerned for the neighbors on Stassen with increased traffic, trash and noise. Please consider adding larger bags to the organics recycling area	

Respondent #2	<i>What do you like about the Draft Master Plan?</i>
	It seems like it has alot of well thought out areas
	<i>Are there any changes to the Draft Master Plan that you would like to see made?</i>
	I would like to see the addition of an off leash dog park
	<i>What do you like about the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan?</i>
	Seems like a good use of resources
	<i>Are there any changes to the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan you would like to see made?</i>
	No
	<i>What are your top three priorities for the future of Thompson County Park?</i>
An off leash dog park, good picnic and play areas for children	
<i>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Thompson County Park?</i>	
It would be a wonderful place for an off leash dog park	

Respondent #3	<i>What are your top three priorities for the future of Thompson County Park?</i>
	Wildlife, beauty, safety
	<i>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Thompson County Park?</i>
Pedestrian safety to and from the park from the neighborhoods should be part of the plans, especially on Butler.	

Respondent #4	What do you like about the Draft Master Plan?
	Phases and variety of additions
	Are there any changes to the Draft Master Plan that you would like to see made?
	Lower the priority of staffing information booths - hard to hire anyway
	What do you like about the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan?
	Accessibility and self-learning
	Are there any changes to the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan you would like to see made?
	Lower the price tag
	What are your top three priorities for the future of Thompson County Park?
	Increase trails, improve signage for mapping and learning, accessibility
	Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Thompson County Park?
No, thanks	

Respondent #5	What do you like about the Draft Master Plan?
	More inclusive playground, outdoor amphitheater in greenspace, and for weddings or events.
	Are there any changes to the Draft Master Plan that you would like to see made?
	Faster timeline
	What do you like about the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan?
	Not thinking I like the Bison idea.
	Are there any changes to the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan you would like to see made?
	No
	What are your top three priorities for the future of Thompson County Park?
Accommodations for more events, more inclusive playground, better groomed walking paths.	

Respondent #6	What do you like about the Draft Master Plan?
	I like the addition of lighting, adding rental equipment and adding a trail along Butler Avenue to Kaposia
	Are there any changes to the Draft Master Plan that you would like to see made?
	Yes, I would not add a sledding hill as that would cut down trees and take away from the forest feel. We also don't need a "land bridge". The current bridge functions perfectly fine, building a new one is a waste of money. I don't feel there needs to be. Another play ground at a different location. If anything they should just add to the current playground, there's plenty of room for expansion. I don't see a current need to expanding parking as I have never seen the current lot full. An observation deck sounds nice but I think it would take away privacy to the residents living nearby. An amphitheater is ridiculous and is definitely not needed. Also, the entry road is perfectly safe the way it is and doesn't need changes
	What do you like about the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan?
	I like restoring the lake and vegetation
	Are there any changes to the Draft Natural Resources Management Plan you would like to see made?
	No
	What are your top three priorities for the future of Thompson County Park?
	Adding additional lighting. Offering rental equipment such as snowshoe, skis, and kayaks. And adding the trail on Butler as they really need a sidewalk
	Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Thompson County Park?
I go the park pretty much everyday spring through fall. I would probably go in winter too if they offered snow shoe and ski rentals. I really hope you don't wreck the park I love with unnecessary changes. It is a peaceful park with beautiful nature and gets utilized by many	

ALMAS STUDENT GROUP - HENRY SIBLEY HIGH SCHOOL | DECEMBER 10, 2019

Discussion and Comments

If you have visited Thompson County Park, who did you go with and what did you do? If you have not been to Thompson County Park, what is your favorite activity to do in parks?

Play volleyball and soccer with my cousin

I went with three friends and looked at clouds and listened to music. My favorite activity is to take my niece to the playground

I go to the park with family (2)

Walks, events, playground

Play on the playground

Danced with the ALMAS dance group (3)

Walk my dog

Walk with friends

Be with family and with summer camp [at Kaposia Park]

<i>What are the three improvements shown you would most like to see completed in Thompson County Park in the next 5 years?</i>	Votes
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Stream	2
Sledding hill	2
Lighted walking paths	6
Public art	1
More public use of the building and visitor orientation	2
Amphitheater	2
Picnic grove	2
Lakeside plaza	2
Community events	2
Equipment rentals	2
Accessible playground	3
Nature play	1
Simon's Ravine overlook	1
Greenway trailhead	1
Hammocking	2
Smoother walks/natural surface trails	2
Fire pit	1
Outdoor classroom	1
Flowers	1

<i>Are there any changes to the Thompson County Park 10 Year Plan that would make it better?</i>	Votes
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Cleaner water	2
Add a path to St. Croix Lutheran so kids can walk to the park	1
Safe environment	3
Drinking fountains	1
Community pool	1



JANUARY 2020

**THOMPSON COUNTY PARK
MASTERPLAN**

