

i Interpretation

The Thompson County Park master planning process considered the place-specific historical, cultural, and natural resources to be interpreted and the demographics of the people who use the Park to develop relevant messages and integrate those messages in the visitor's Park experience. This plan describes the key resources in Thompson County Park, whether they are natural, recreational, or cultural, and identifies key locations for potential interpretive elements. It is important to note that as park development is undertaken, the interpretation will evolve. The County's outdoor education program will bring resources to life through various methods including guided opportunities, such as programming and events, self-guided experiences, and interpretation informing and integrated into landscape and building design.

The goal for interpretation at Thompson County Park is to:

"Foster the wellbeing of social and natural communities through intergenerational play, gathering, and exploration."

The interpretive framework builds on the themes in the previous Park master plan and input from Dakota County staff, community stakeholders, and the project team. It also takes into consideration the Dakota County Parks' mission and vision and the vision statement and guiding principles related to the overall Park experience.



Ecosystem Exploration Loop



Pollinator promenade



Audio Tour

Interpretive Theme:

"At Thompson County Park, people connect with nature and each other through recreation, exploration, and social gatherings, building a strong and resilient community that is committed to stewardship and sustainability."

Subthemes



Social Gathering: Find community here



Water Resources: Follow the flow



Natural Resources: Leave a sustaining legacy



Healthy Lifestyle: Play in the park



Cultural History: You are part of a bigger story

