



Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Long-Range Plan and Natural Resource Management Plan

Zoom Open House

November 8, 2023

Lil Leatham, Principal Planner

Joe Walton, Senior Ecologist

Staff Introductions & Agenda



Lil Leatham, *Principal Planner*

Joe Walton, *Senior Ecologist*

Niki Geisler, *Parks Director*

Kurt Chatfield, *Planning Manager*

Agenda

- Presentation
 - Natural Resources Management Plan
 - Long-Range Plan
- Questions and Discussion
- Next Steps

Meeting Format



Please:

- Ask questions using the chat feature anytime
- Hold verbal comments/questions until the Q&A
- Stay on mute unless you are speaking
- Visit the project page for more information
www.dakotacounty.us search *Miesville RavinePlan*

Land Acknowledgement

Dakota
COUNTY



Project Purpose & Process



- Update the Long-range plan for the park to guide recreation development
- Develop Natural Resources Management Plan

Process

Summer – Winter 2022:
Research and Vision

Winter - Spring 2023:
Concept development

Summer – Fall 2023: *Draft Plans*

Winter - Spring 2024: *Final Plan and Approvals*

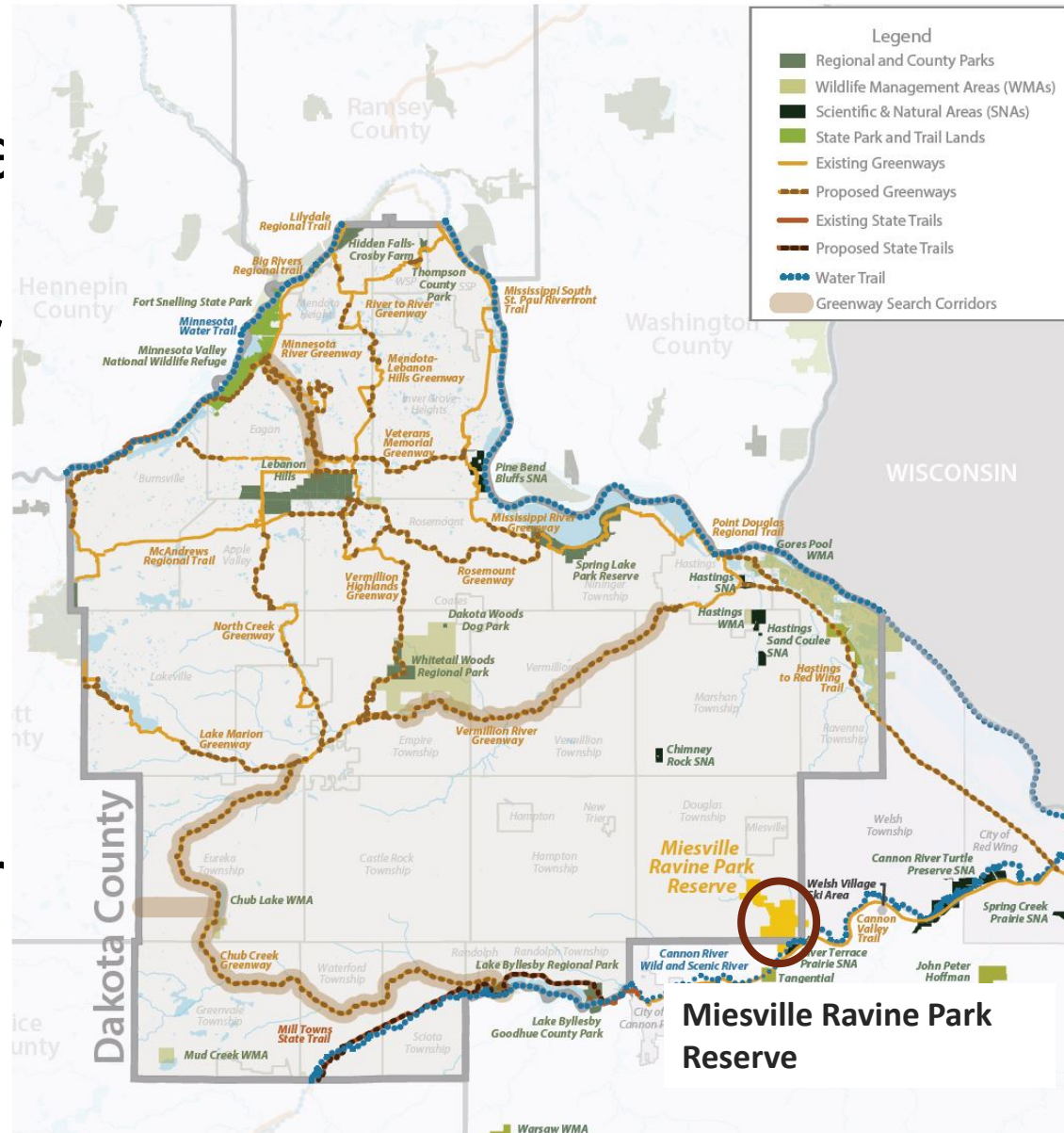
About the Park

Southeast corner of the county

Part of the regional park system

Park Reserve

- 80% managed as native plant communities
- Current- 98% natural
- Long term – 96% natural



Park Highlights

- Cannon River Frontage
- Trout Brook
- Ravine Landscape
- High quality natural resources
- Over 700 acres restored prairie

I love spotting fish in Trout Brook. The water is so clear

I'd love to be able to hike at least 6 miles in the park

The beauty of the park is that it is relatively unimproved compared to other parks. Keep it as natural as possible

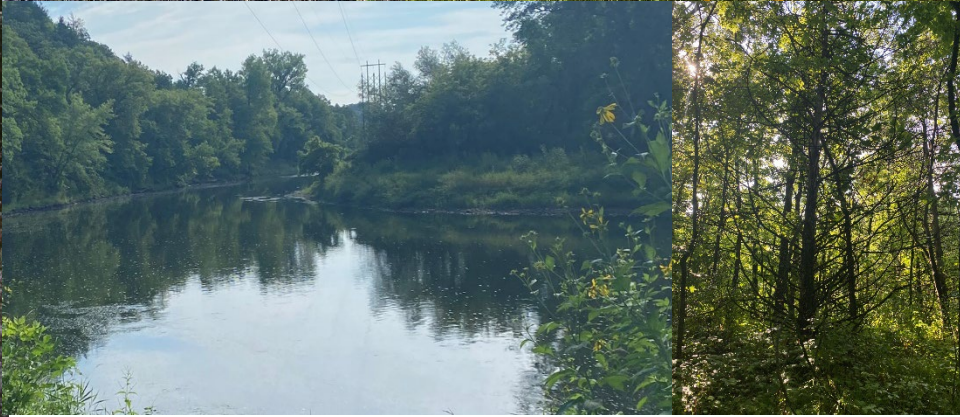
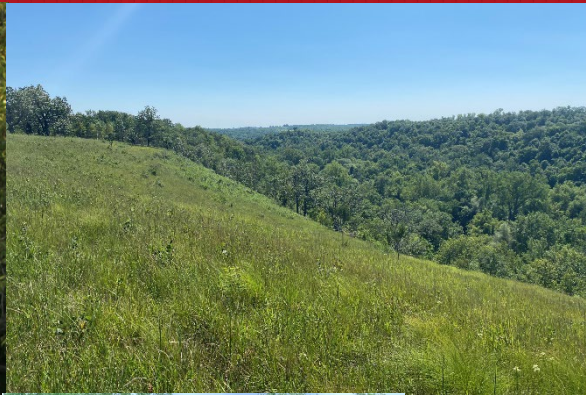
Explain some of the history of the park

There is no drinking water

I'd like more picnic tables with views of the river

Natural Resource Management Plan

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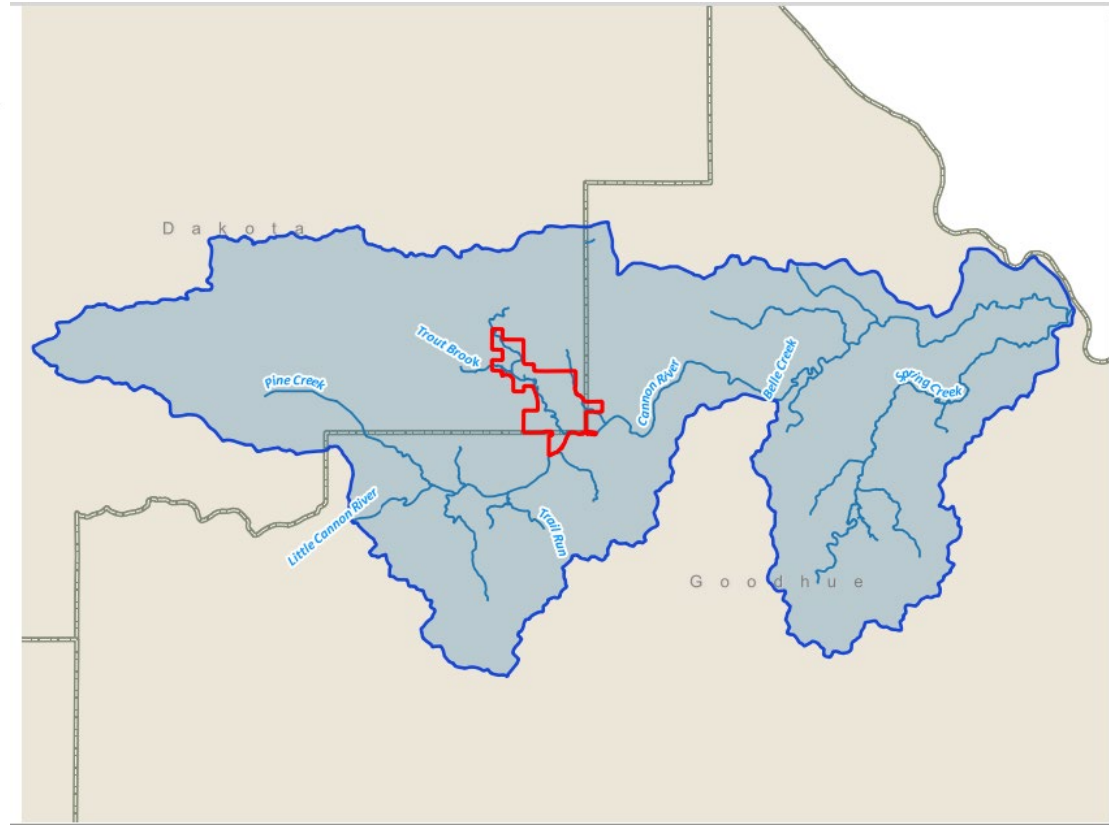
Natural Resources Management Plan



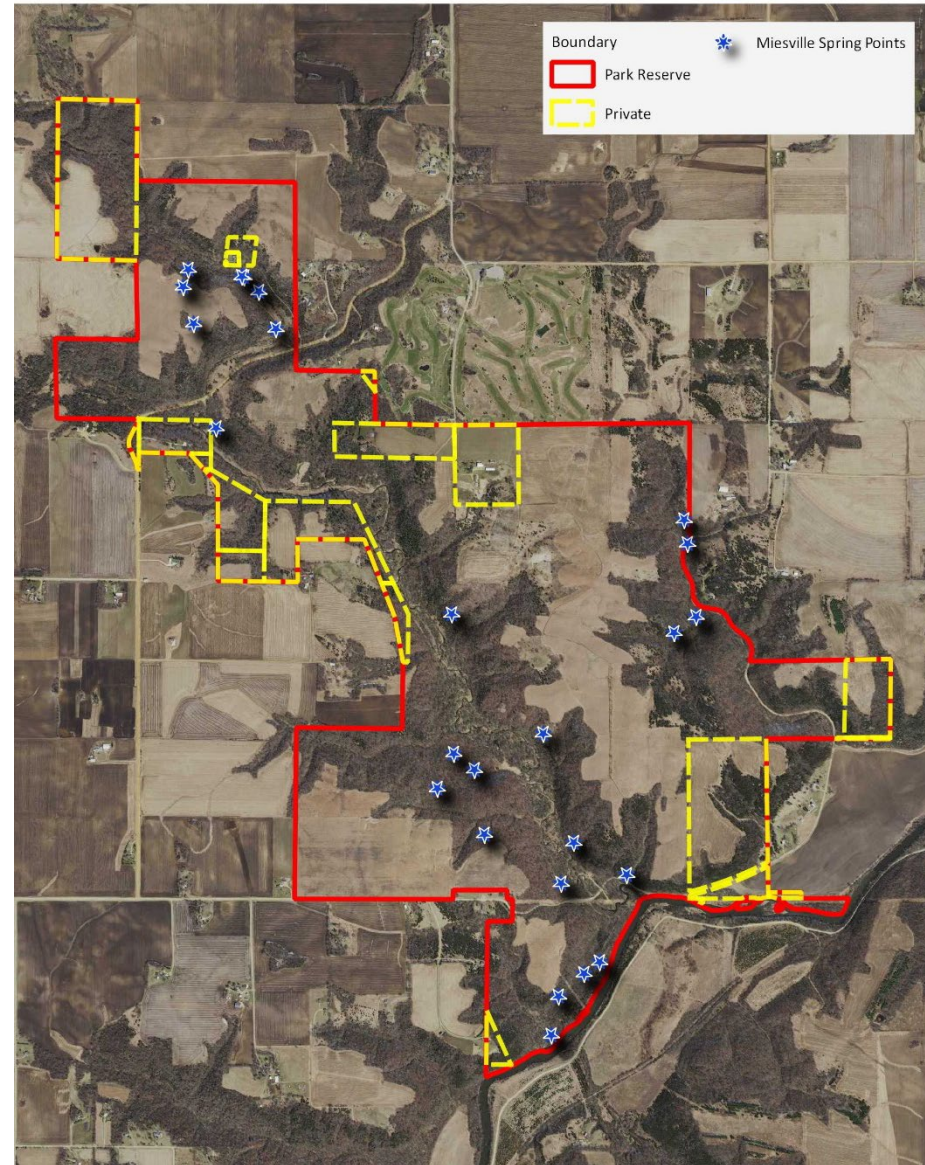
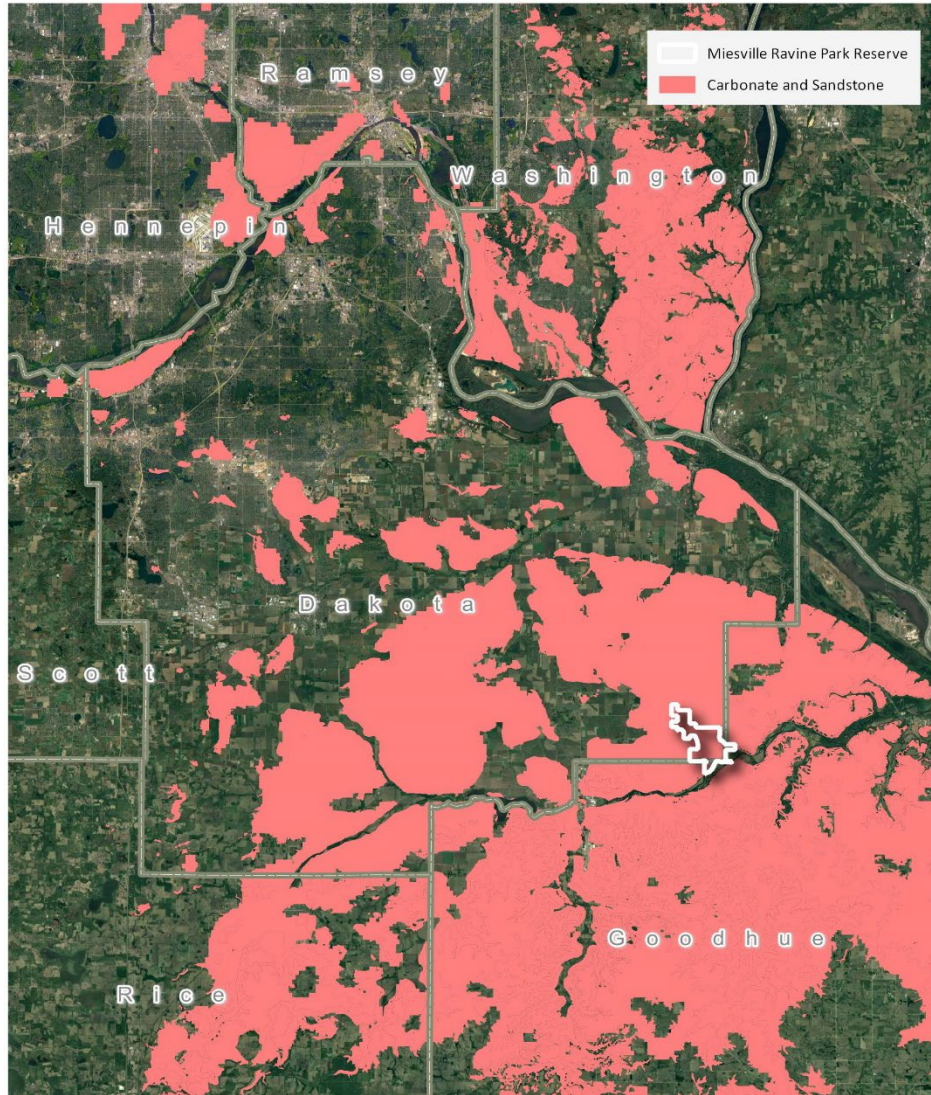
- Over 1,800 acres of significant habitat
- Nature at its finest
- Spectacular views
- Draft plan completed:
 - Ecological context
 - Current condition
 - Opportunities and challenges
 - Vision and goals
 - Management recommendations
 - Implementation and work plan



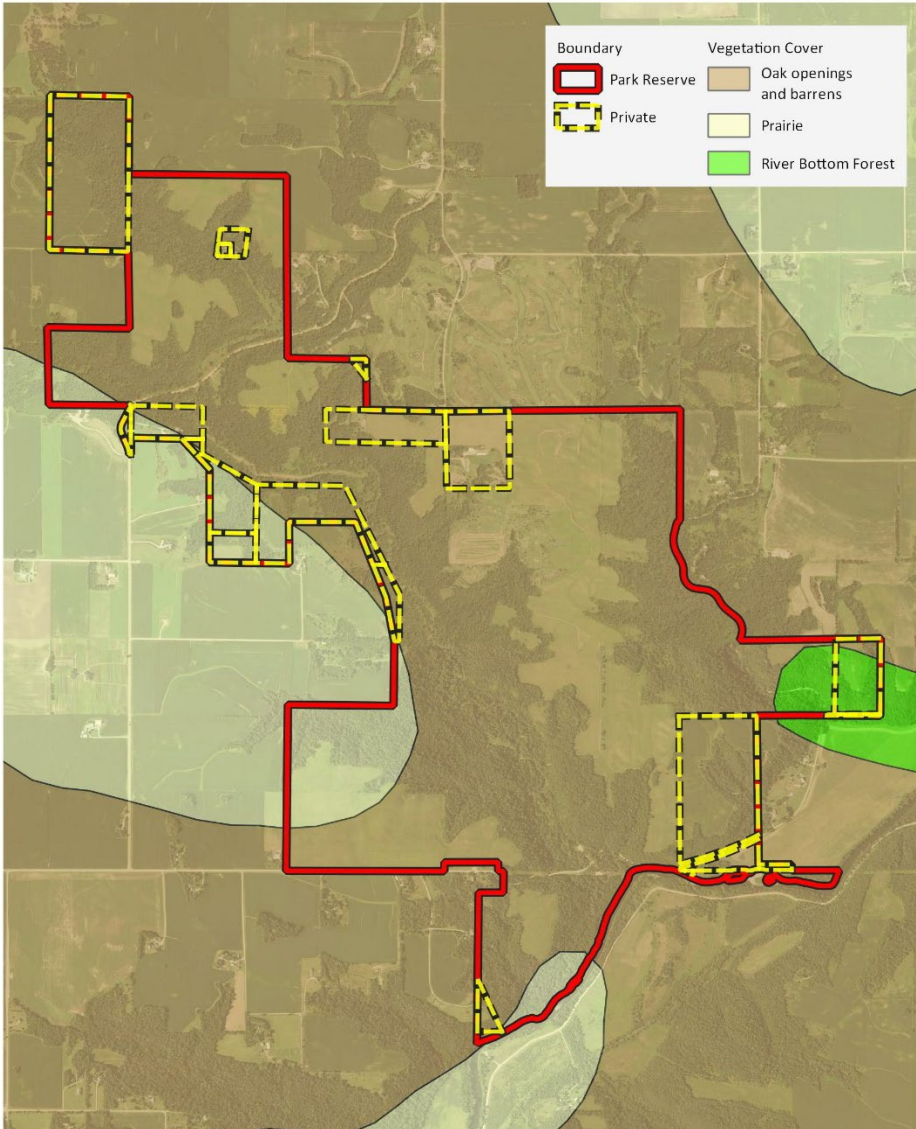
Cannon River Watershed



Karst & Springs



Pre-settlement Vegetation



Original Land Survey-
converted by Marschner

Oak Openings & Barrens

Prairie

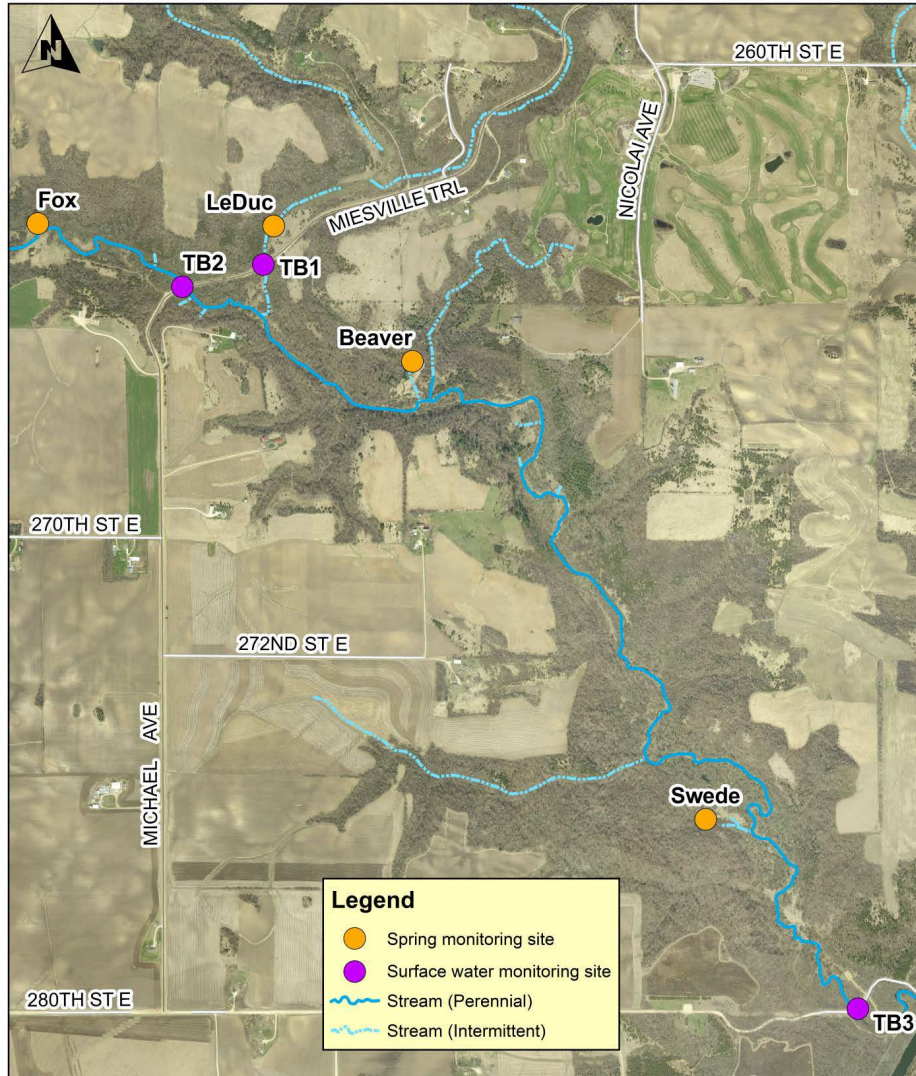
River Bottom Forest

Water Quality



Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District
Copyright: Dakota SWCD, 2014

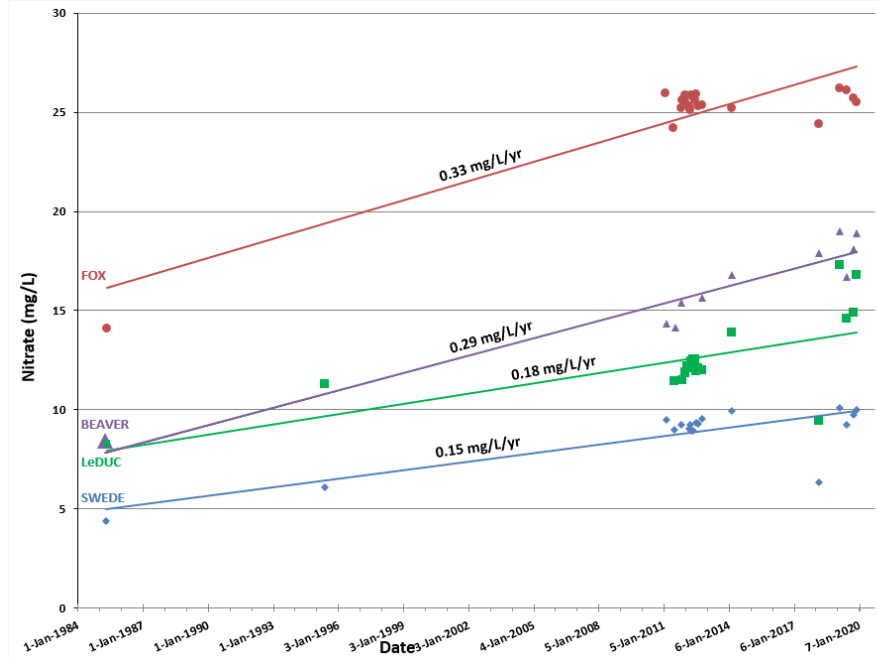
Trout Brook Watershed Nitrate Monitoring Sites



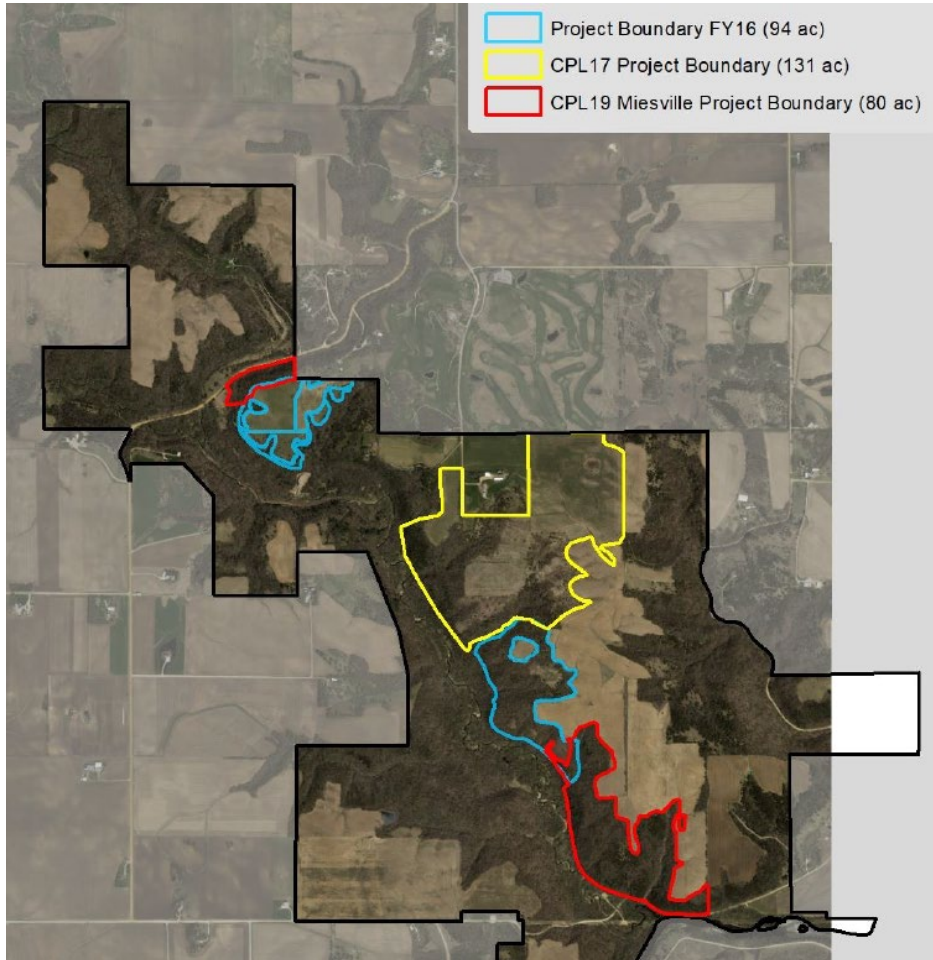
TB1 is located on the eastern tributary to Trout Brook. Dissolved oxygen levels were lower here than at other sites, but remained well above the standard all season. *E. coli* levels were higher than at other sites, with highest readings collected in late summer.

TB2 has the highest nitrate levels in the watershed. Nitrate levels are 2x higher than the state drinking water standard for the majority of the monitoring season. Fox Spring is upstream from this site and its high nitrate levels influence readings at TB2.

TB3 is located at the bottom of the watershed, upstream of the confluence with the Cannon River. Nitrate levels are much lower than samples from TB2, due to dilution from the eastern branch. Phosphorus and suspended solid levels are very low all season.



Restoration Projects



Fiscal Year Initiated	Name	Acres, (*lineal feet)	End Date
1998	Restored prairie east of the church on the south end of park.	16	
1999	Shortgrass prairie north of 280 th Street on the south end of the park.	16	
2006	Prairie restored north of the church on the south end of the park.	95	
2008-10	Prairie restored on the former Banks property in the northwest end of the park	161	
2009	Prairie restored on the former Bauer property in the northwest end of the park.	36	
2010	Prairie restored on the former Weber property in the northwest end of the park.	42	
Various	Streambank stabilization projects (Trout Unlimited and SWCD Projects)	3,000+*	Several
2016	Bluff Prairies of Miesville Restoration, Phase 1	94	June 30, 2019
2017	Bluff Prairies of Miesville Restoration, Phase 2	137	June 30, 2021
2019	Bluff Prairies of Miesville Restoration, Phase 3	80	June 30, 2022
TOTAL		677	

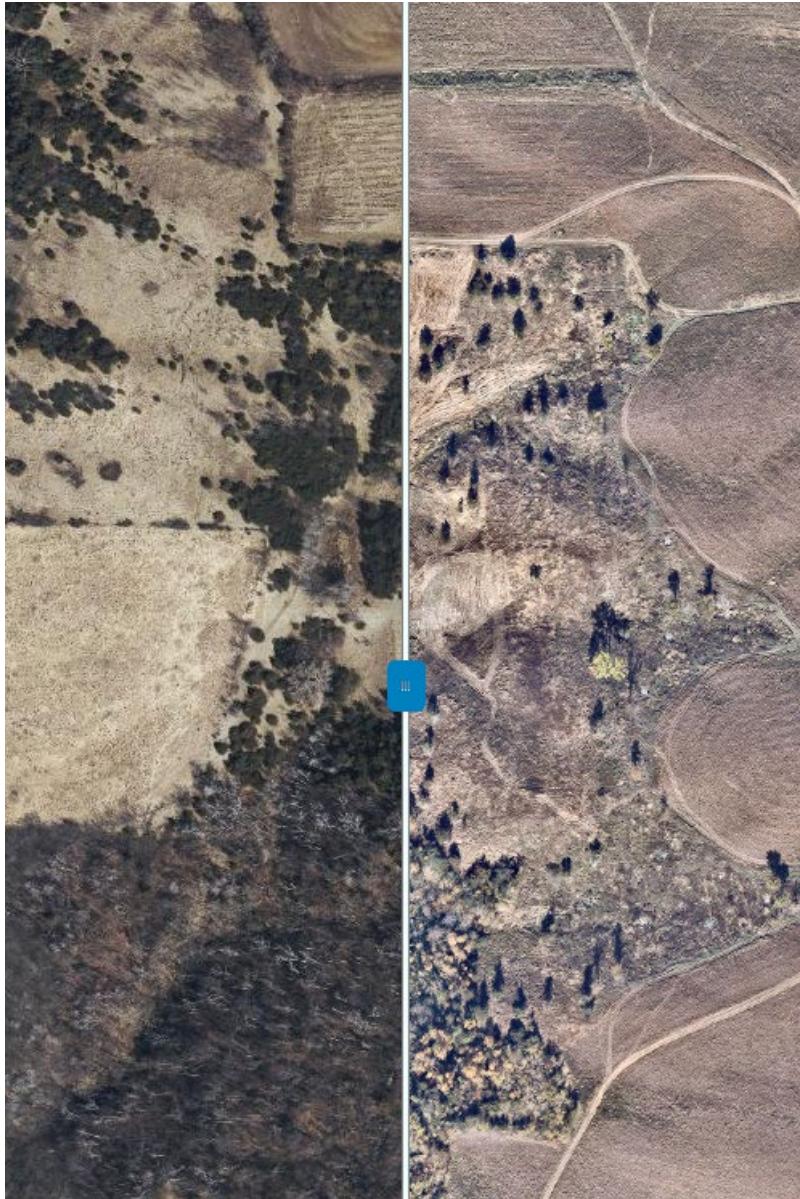
Site Observations: Natural Features



- Maple-Basswood Forest
- Floodplain Forest
- Wet-Mesic Forest
- Oak Forest
- Oak Woodland
- Remnant Savanna
- Bluff Prairies
- Restored Prairie/Savanna
- Old Fields
- White Pine Stands
- Ravines
- Riparian (brook & river)



Concepts



- Control garlic mustard in key areas
- Deer mgmnt and targeted fencing to prevent over grazing in sensitive areas
- Earthworms- what can be done?
- Goats- pre and post buckthorn clearing, target steep areas and slopes
- Forestry mowing- in areas of less steep topography
- Establish ground cover to support burns
- Seeding- consider phases over time
- Chemical treatments- to control invasive plants
- Headcutting/erosion- stabilize these areas
- Watershed restoration- SWCD projects and landcover conversion
- Stream habitat- focus on fish and aquatic life.

Concepts



Concepts



Concepts

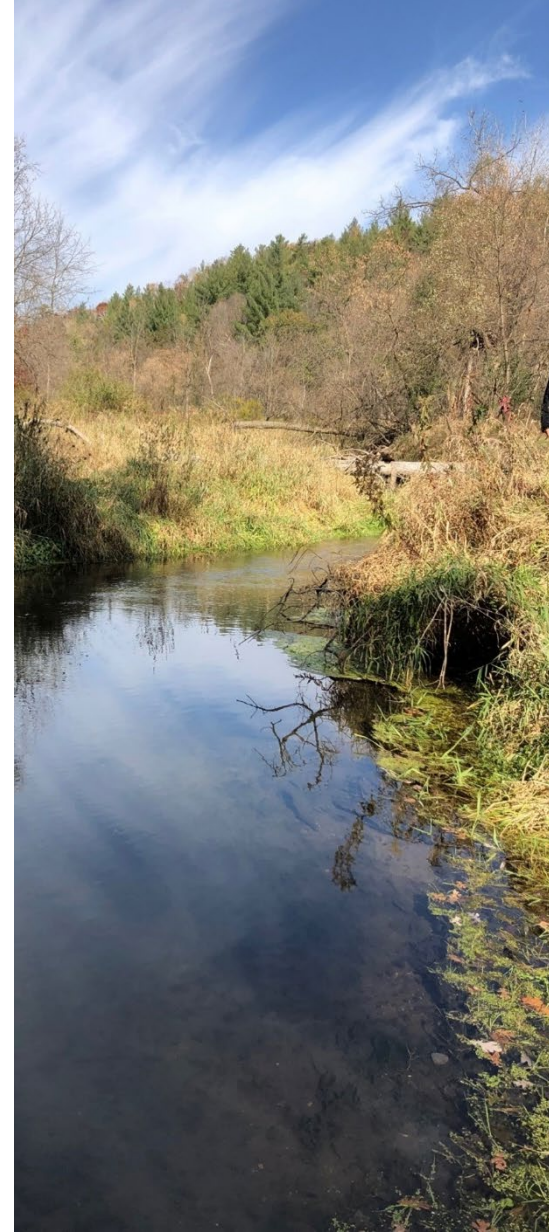


Concepts



Management Goals

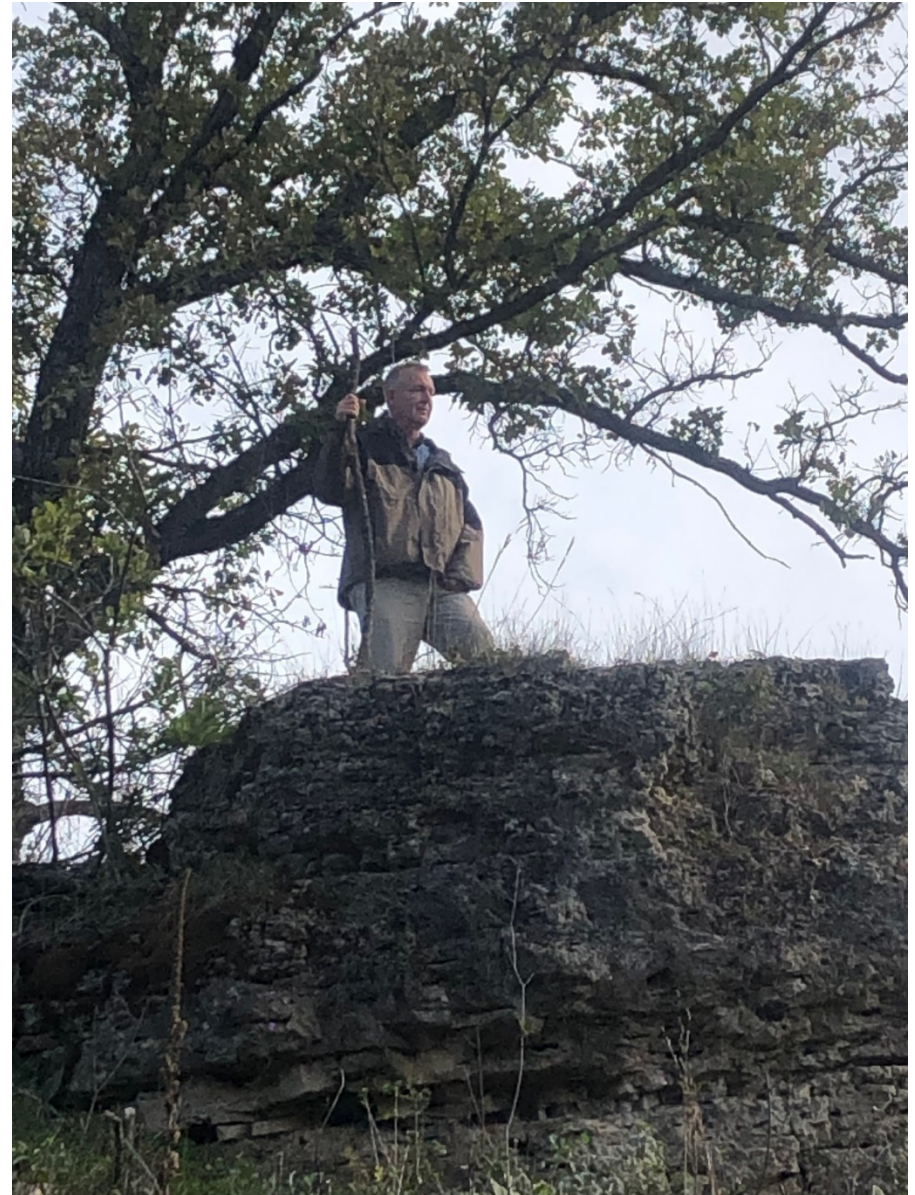
- Restore and manage plant communities at a landscape level
- Increase native plant diversity and abundance
- Minimize invasive species presence and abundance
- Provide habitat for rare species and SGCN
- Enhance landscape connectivity
- Explore the reintroduction of grazing methods
- Restore natural hydrology and habitat to Trout Brook
- Focus recreation to low-impact activities
- Nurture collaboration to address landscape-level issues
- Practice adaptive management



Management Goals and Recommendations

Remnant Prairie-Savanna

1. Prairies with <5% shrub/tree cover
2. Savannas <50% tree cover
3. Restore to historical conditions, as possible
4. Connect prairie fragments
5. Conserve dry prairie specialists



Management Goals and Recommendations

Citizen Outreach

1. Increase public interest and support
2. Reduce labor costs; leverage in-kind and volunteer grant match
3. Site monitoring
4. Natural resource education and stewardship



Management Goals and Recommendations



Partnerships

1. Partner to share resources, leverage funds, and collaborative efforts
2. Volunteerism
3. Private landowners in the greater watershed

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PROJECT FACTSHEET 21-IPP-35

MAUREEN J FASBENDER TRUST
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE

DAKOTA COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



PRACTICE:

- Grade Stabilization Structure

BENEFITS:

- 443 tons of sediment per year prevented from traveling downstream
- 443 lbs. of phosphorus per year prevented from traveling downstream

PARTNERS:

- Dakota County
- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

WATERSHED:

- Cannon River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Trout Brook

INSTALLATION:

- Fall 2021

FUNDING:

Project Cost:	\$102,063
Cost Share Amount:	\$91,857
Landowner Amount:	\$10,206

LOCATION: Douglas Township

Clean Water Fund:
Protecting and restoring Minnesota's waters for generations to come.

DAKOTA COUNTY

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY FUND

4100 220th Street W, Suite 102, Farmington, MN 55024 Tel: (651) 480-7777 Fax: (651) 480-7775 www.dakotacountyswcd.org Revised: 11/2/2021

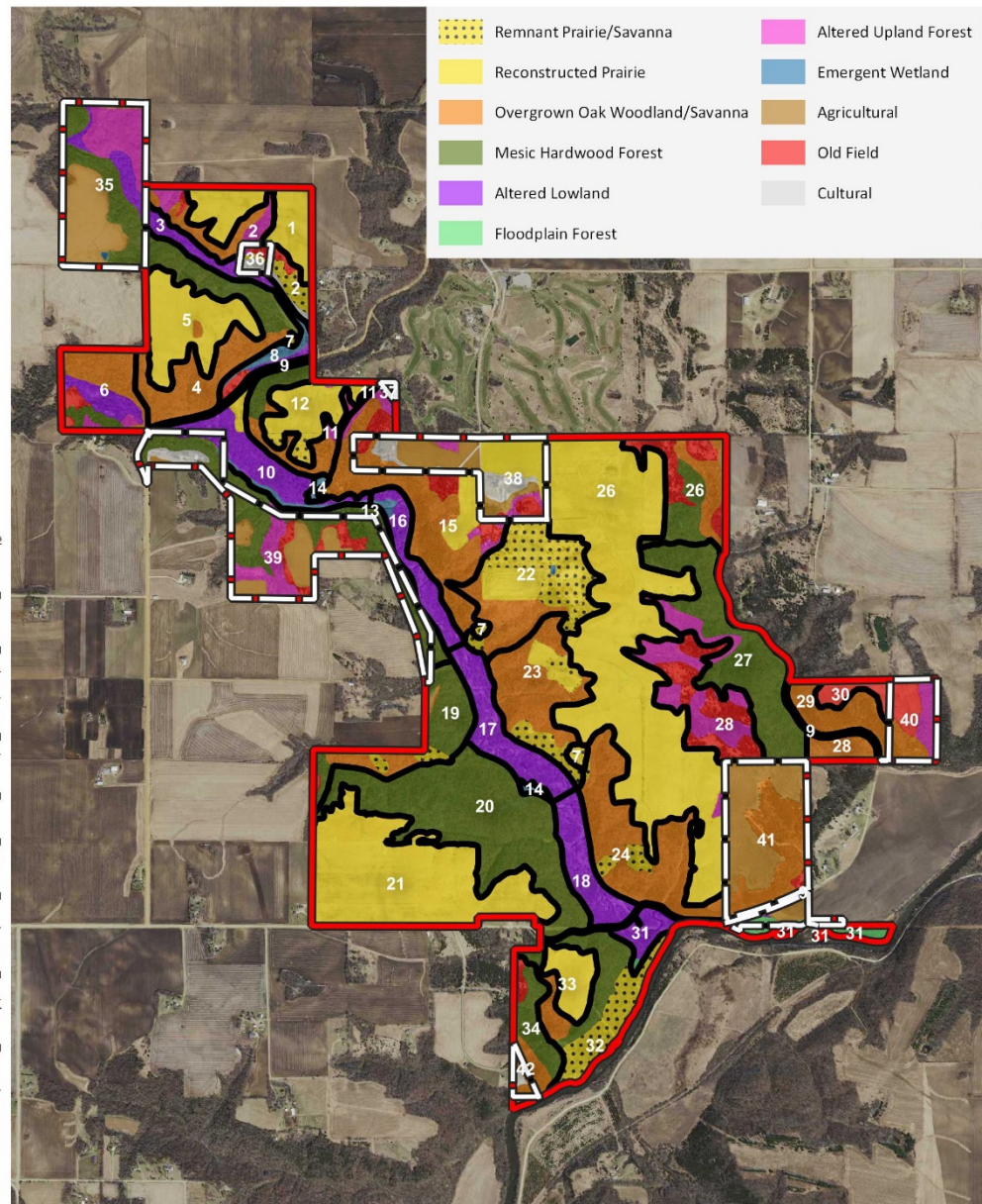
Management Units



Estimated Restoration and Management Costs over 30 years

• Vegetation:	
○ Restoration	\$ 6,000,000
○ Maintenance	\$ 800,000
Water Resources:	\$ 1,250,000
Wildlife Resources:	\$ 250,000
Total	\$ 8,300,000

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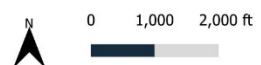


-  Park Reserve
-  Private Inholdings
-  Management Units



Miesville Ravine Park Reserve

Existing Vegetation



Long-range Plan

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10-year Plan

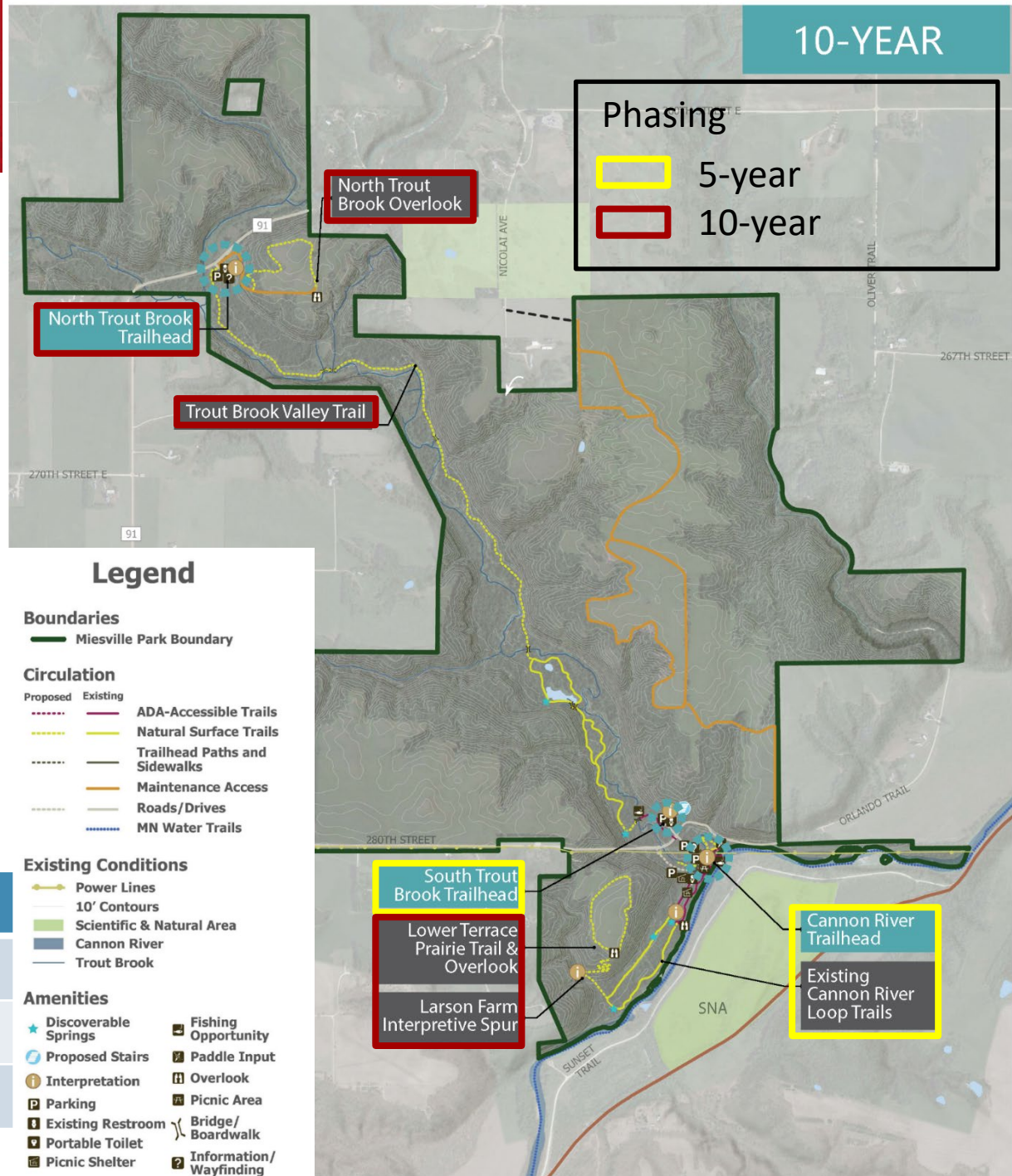
Natural Resource Restoration

Trailhead improvements

- South Trout Brook
- Cannon River

New North Trout Brook Trailhead

Additional trail access



Phase	Total Capital Cost*
5 year	\$ 1,609,000
10 year	\$ 2,118,000
Total	\$ 3,727,000

*Includes natural resource restoration

New entry drive and turnaround

Expanded parking (10-year or when needed)

ADA-accessible water access and fishing

Trout Brook access

Existing Kiosk

Improved picnicking

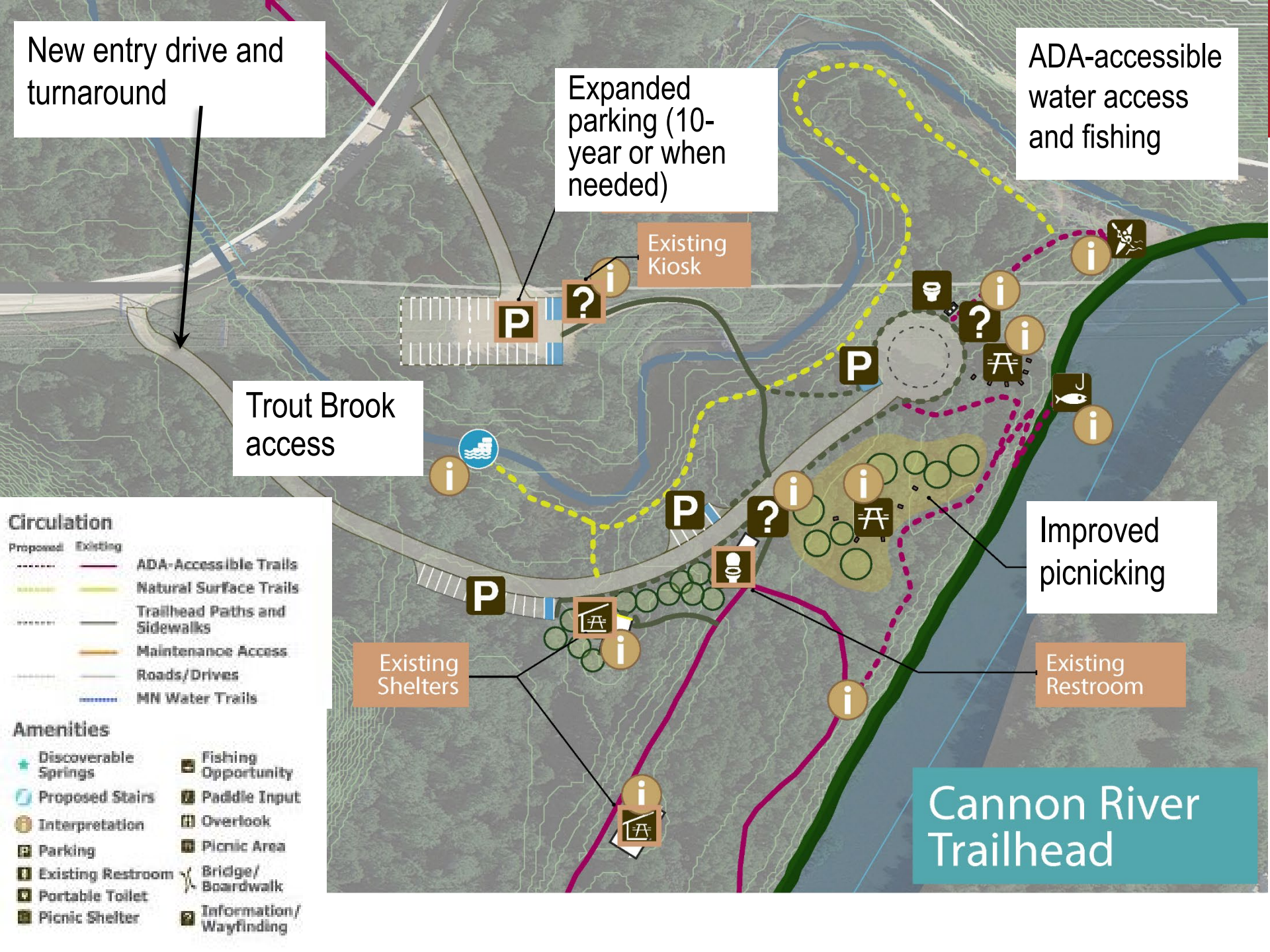
Existing Restroom

Existing Shelters

Cannon River Trailhead

- Circulation**
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Proposed | Existing | |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | ADA-Accessible Trails |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | Natural Surface Trails |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | Trailhead Paths and Sidewalks |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | Maintenance Access |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | Roads/Drives |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | MN Water Trails |

- Amenities**
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Discoverable Springs | Fishing Opportunity |
| Proposed Stairs | Paddle Input |
| Interpretation | Overlook |
| Parking | Picnic Area |
| Existing Restroom | Bridge/Boardwalk |
| Portable Toilet | Information/Wayfinding |
| Picnic Shelter | |

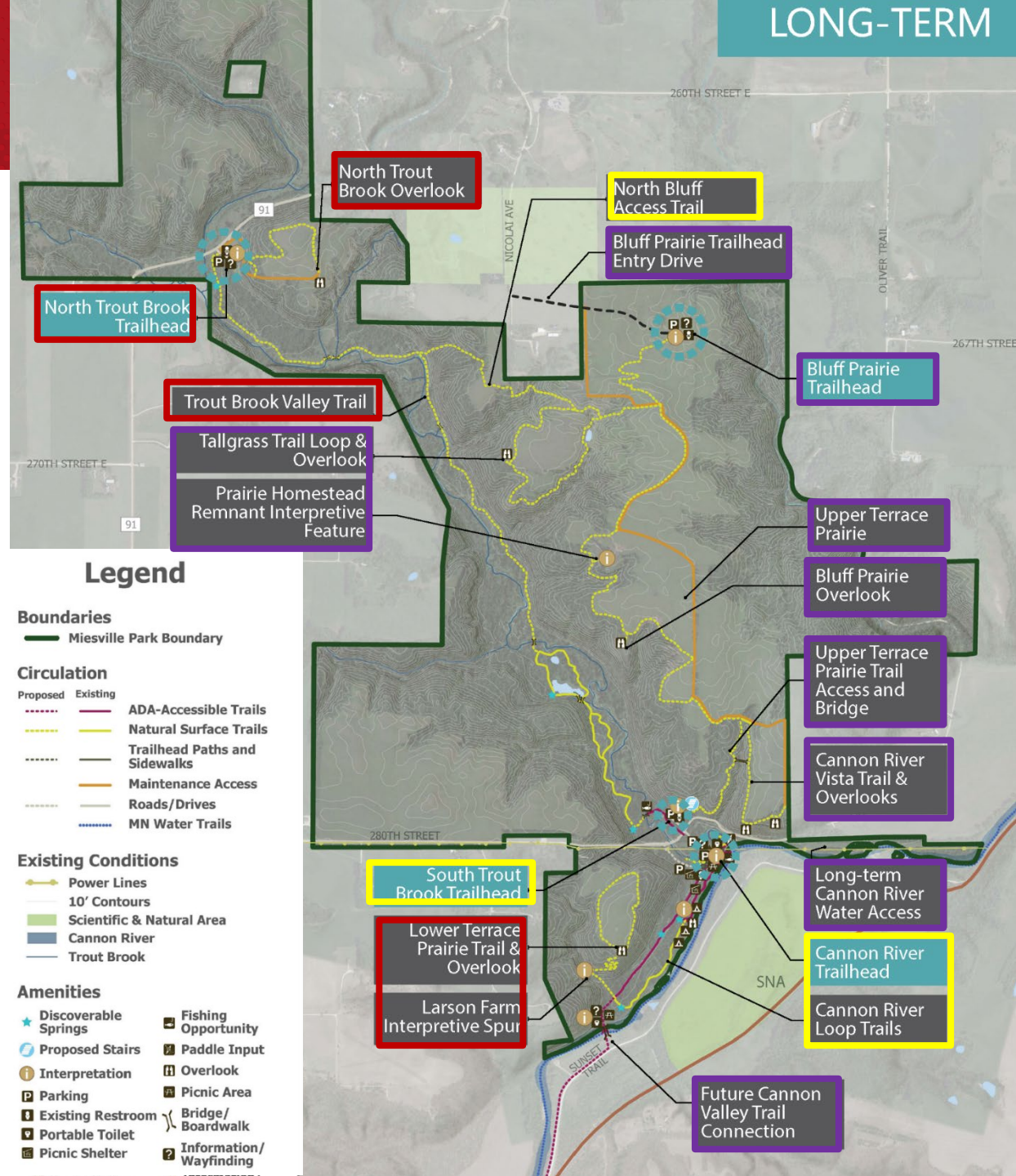


Long-term

- Two new trailheads
- 11 miles hiking trails
- ADA Cannon River trail
- Improved picnicking
- Improved Cannon River access
- Connection to Cannon Valley Trail
- Rustic camping

Phasing

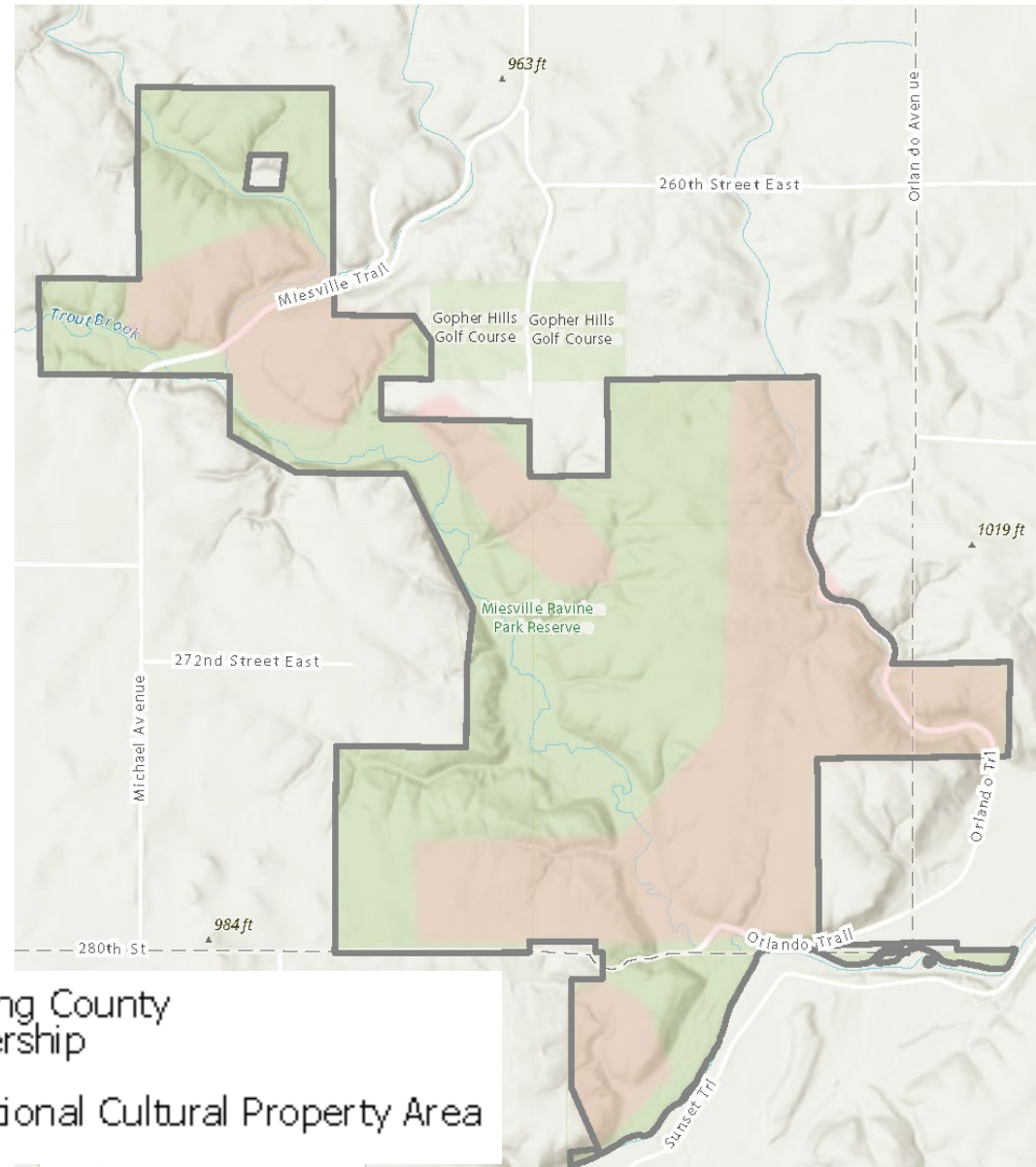
- 5-year
- 10-year
- Long-term



Cultural Landscape Stewardship

Recommendations

- Establish partnership with Indigenous communities
- Learn more about priority cultural areas



Interpretive Trails

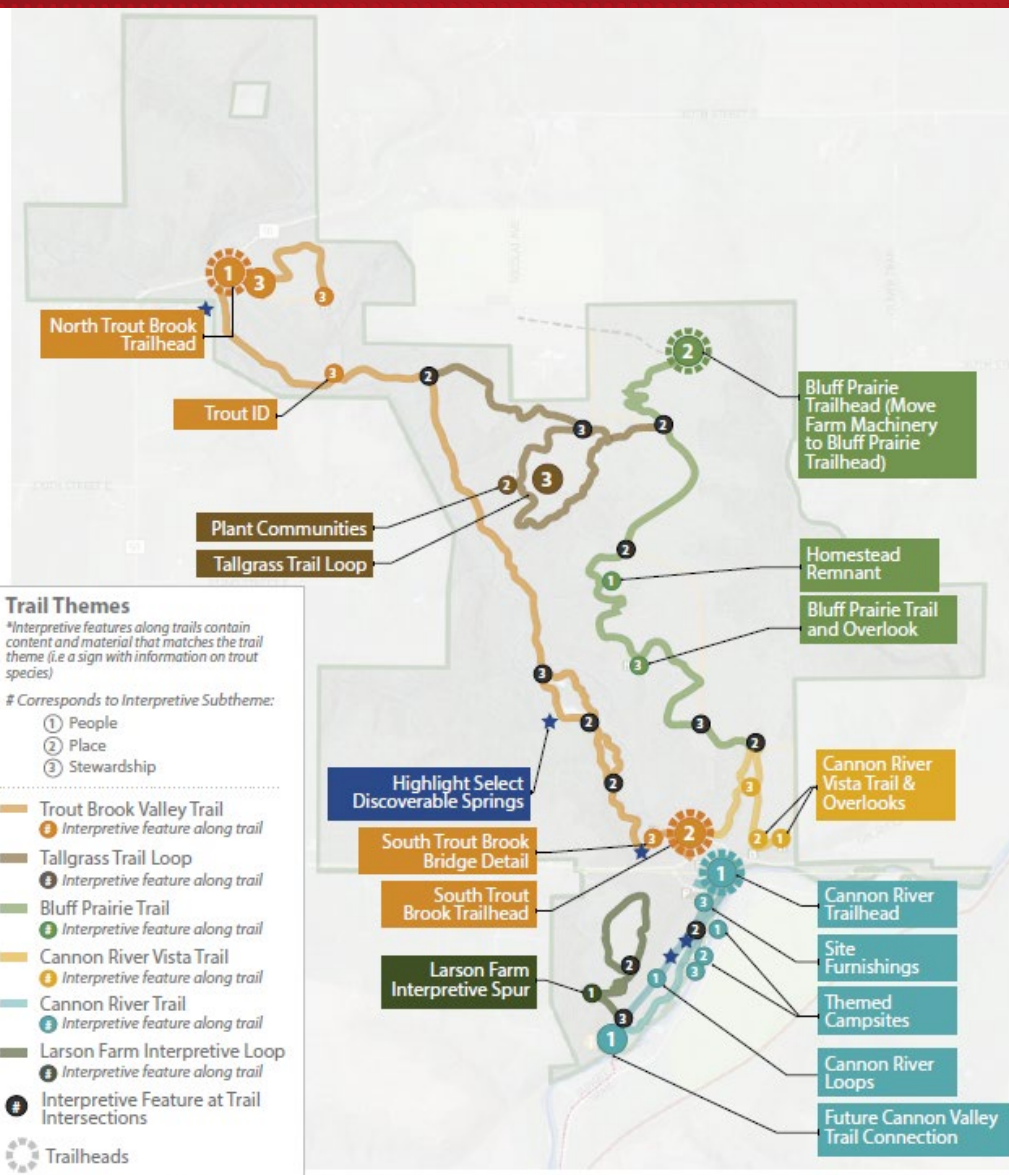


Figure 6.10 Miesville Ravine Park Reserve Interpretive Framework Diagram (Depicting Long-term Plan)



Help Plan the Future!



Online Input

Now-Dec 20

Community Open House

In-person

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 5-6:30 p.m.
Cannon River Lutheran Church
10960 280th St.
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

More information

www.dakotacounty.us

search *miesville ravine*
plan

- Follow Dakota County Parks on Facebook
- Sign up for the Parks e-newsletter

Next Steps

Plan Approvals

- January - Planning Commission
- February – County Board
- Spring 2024 - Long-term plan, Metropolitan Council



Questions and Discussion

- Ask questions using the chat feature anytime
- Raise your hand if you would like to speak
- Have a question after the meeting? Contact:

Lil Leatham, Principal Planner

Lil.Leatham@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US

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