



APPLETON AREA OHV PARK

Master Plan

Adopted by the
Swift County Board of Commissioners
on December 21, 2021

VISION

The Appleton Area OHV Park provides a unique environment for OHV users to experience the outdoors and socialize with other OHV enthusiasts from around the country, while also serving diverse recreational interests of the local community.

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1. Swift County OHV Park

Appleton OHV Park

GMRPTC Park/Trail ID# 15-086D, District 3

Park Type: County Park

Location Description:

The Appleton OHV Park is located approximately ½ mile northeast of the City of Appleton on US Highway 59.

740 HWY 59 SW, Appleton, MN 56208

GPS location: 45.21700925, -96.00299835

Lead Applicant:

Swift County

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Joint Applicants: N/A

Other project supporters:

Regional partnerships include the Swift County Board, the City of Appleton, The Appleton Project, Western MN Prairie Waters, Appleton Chamber, Snowmobile Club, Regional ATV Club and local Appleton businesses. There is a desire to work with the neighboring Sportsman’s Club to make sure uses of each entity supports the other.

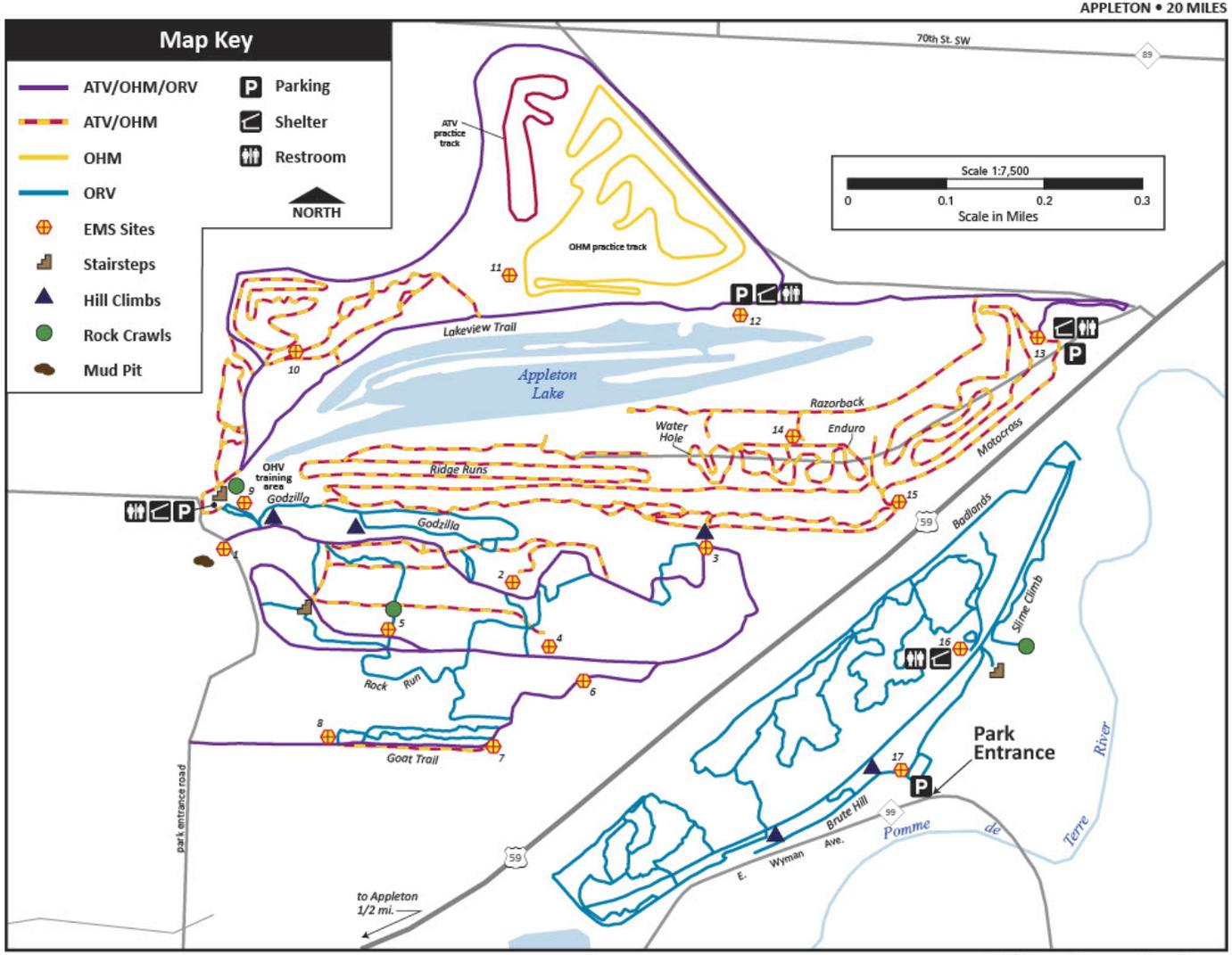
2. Description Tab

Regional Significance Statement

The Appleton Area OHV Park offers a robust OHV experience in a natural setting. The 348-acre Park provides a rare opportunity for all four OHV vehicle classes to have dedicated space with a practice track for OHM beginners. The Park is situated in an abandoned gravel pit providing 20 miles of trails with a variety of terrain. A man-made lake in the center of the park provides park users with beautiful views and water recreation.



Site Map Uploads

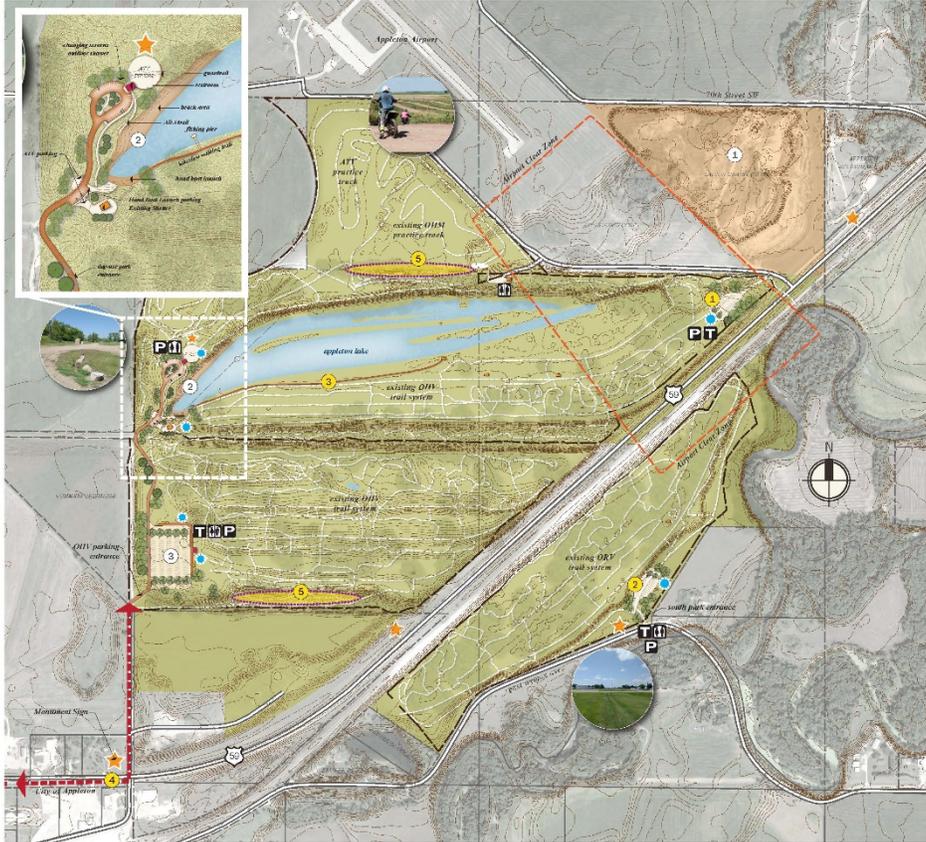


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Appleton Area OHV Park Masterplan

December 2021 - Swift County



VISION STATEMENT

The Appleton Area OHV Park will provide a unique family environment for OHV users to responsibly experience the outdoors in a space specifically designed for off-highway vehicles. Attract the youth people from around the country, and serve the diverse recreation interests of the local community.

Goals of the Appleton Area OHV Park

- Maintain character as primarily an OHV park
- Serve multiple age groups so entire families can enjoy the park
- Maximize the use of existing local amenities
- Place in the park as critical greenspace, highlighting the clean lake and trees
- Attract diverse user groups with in the on-street OHV users
- Improve connection to the City of Appleton to better serve the local community
- Expand the park to take advantage of adjacent disturbed landscapes
- Provide an opportunity for OHV users to avoid environmentally sensitive landscapes
- Make it the park is a premier that encourages people to return
- Increase and strengthen community image and create areas of place
- Provide a challenging and safe place for local residents and regional visitor
- Improve facilities to attract new visitors and encourage repeat visitors

PARK LEGEND

- Park Area
- Future Acquisitions
- Trailheads
- Passenger Car Parking Only
- Restroom
- Existing Structure
- Proposed Structure
- Water Spigots/Fountains
- Signed Trail Entrance
- Park Signage
- OHV/ATV/UTV Trail System
- Guardrails

In addition to the improvements listed below the partners involved in the Appleton OHV project are constantly seeking out grant funding to improve the quality of trails and park features of the park.

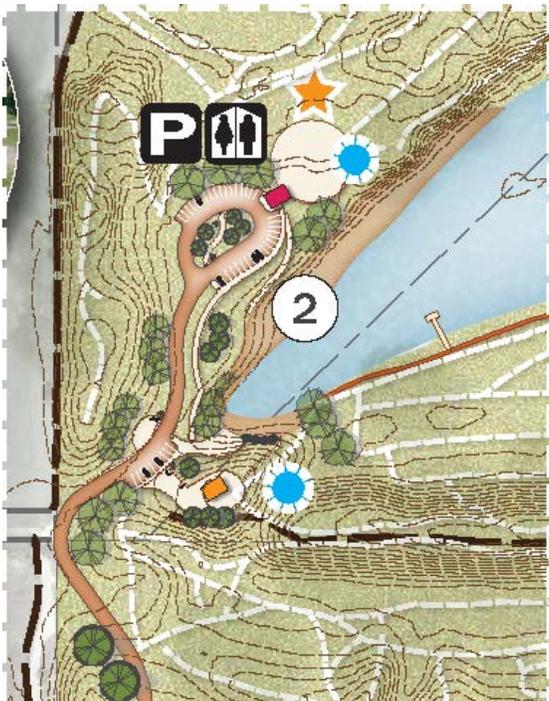
Phase 2 of Funding request

PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS

- Land Acquisitions**
- Day-Use Beach Park**
 - Flush Restrooms
 - Gravel/Asph drive and parking areas
 - (30) spaces north turnaround
 - (11) spaces hand launch
 - Drifted New Beach & hand boat launch
 - Impervious Spillway walls
 - Gravel Trails for ADA Restroom, Shelter and Beach access
 - (1) Outdoor shower
 - (1) Screened changing areas for riders
 - (2) Water Spigot
 - ATV designated for designated parking areas
- Main Trailer Parking Lot**
 - Double Vault Toilet
 - (10) Gravel Trailer Spaces
 - (2) High use Wash Stations
 - (2) Water Spigots
 - (4) Signed Trail Entrances
 - Monument Sign at Park Entrance

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

- East Side Trailhead**
 - Re-grade and formalize gravel parking area for (12) Trailer Spaces
 - (1) Vehicle Wash Stations
 - (1) Water Spigot
 - (2) Signed Trail Entrances
- South Parcel Trailhead**
 - Single Vault Toilet
 - Class 5 Gravel Parking Area w/curbs
 - (1) Vehicle Wash Stations
 - (1) Water Spigot
 - (1) Signed Trail Entrances
- Lakeview Walking Trail**
 - Walking Trail out to fishing pier & old structure
 - (2) Benches at old structure for walkers
 - (1) existing path improvements
 - Soft Fall Fencing
 - Asph oval Signage
 - Fishing Pier near hand boat launch
- Formalize Connection Trail to Camping area**
 - Signage Signage and Striping
- Spectator View Area**
 - Re-grade flat areas on high-points for viewing
 - (5) Benches
 - (5) Shade Trees



Classification

Special Recreational Feature Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Appleton Area OHV Park is located on a former gravel mining site with a small man-made lake in the northern section of the park. Mining left behind sand and gravel well suited to manipulation into climbs and dunes. Over time, trees have grown up in the park and many of the trails are wooded on both sides. Low elevation areas are prone to periodic flooding, creating ideal mud runs for OHVs in small areas of the park. The rolling topography, trees, and open areas on the north side of the park provide for a variety of trail riding experiences and ample opportunities for shade. The man-made lake in the center of the park has some of the clearest water in the region providing water recreation and beautiful views.

USER GROUPS

The main user groups for the park include Class I and Class II ATV users, off-highway motorcycle (OHM) users, and off-road vehicle (ORV) 4x4 truck users. While the park is designed primarily for these OHV users, the park is also used for walking, fishing, kayaking, cross country skiing, and bike riding. People using the park for these activities have said that they monitor the OHV activity within the park and visit the park when there are few, or no, OHV riders. There are no fees attached to this park. Elderly, low-income, minorities and persons with physical disabilities can enjoy this park and will have more opportunities after the project improvements.

FACILITIES

The site offers approximately 257 acres for snowmobile, ATV, and off-highway motorcycle (OHM) use and another 68 acres for an ORV 4x4 truck park. In 2021, 23 acres were added to the park for a total of 348 acres. The site also offers beginner or training courses and an area with more advanced level features. The truck park offers an amenity in a separate area specifically designed for truck use. The park lacks electricity and running water but has four picnic shelters and portable toilets.

The park currently has two sides separated by US Hwy 59. North side of the park contains the main parking areas, three shelters -west, north, and east - and portable toilets. The 1.5-mile practice OHM track, 5 miles of ATV and OHM trails, and lake are also on the north side of the park. A mud run, sand dunes, and ORV log climb are specific design features of this portion of the park.

The 10 miles of trails on the south side of the park is exclusively for ORVs or 4x4 trucks and is characterized by steep hills, wooded paths and other challenging terrain specifically designed for ORVs. There is also one shelter house and portable toilets on this side of the park.

PROGRAMS

Swift County does not organize any events in the park, but the park has been used by organizations in the past. There have been opportunities for youth OHV training held in the park.



Total Acreage or Mileage

The Appleton OHV Park currently covers 348 acres with approximately 20 miles of trails.

Acquisition and Development Status

Acquisition and Development Status

- New Park or Trail (no land acquired or developed)
- Existing Park or Trail

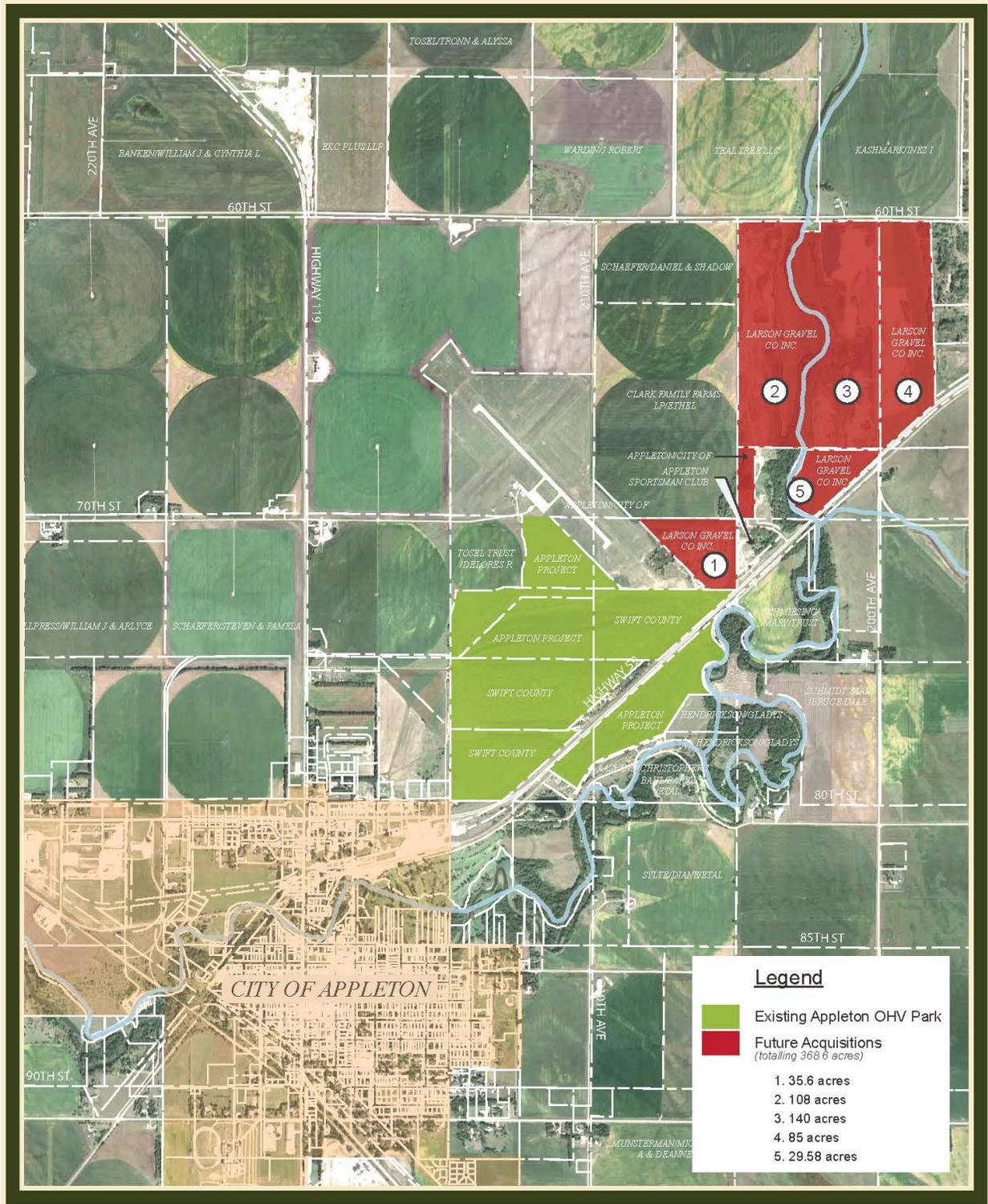
Describe land acquisition status

Percentage of land acquired

Development status

- No development
- Some development, but more proposed
- New facilities proposed
- Existing facilities to be upgraded
- Fully developed

Many acquisition areas identified in the master plan will improve access in the park and provide buffers essential for protecting sensitive areas. Conversations are ongoing with neighboring landowners. Swift County hopes to acquire more land as opportunities present themselves.



Appleton OHV Park Aquisition Map

Swift County Parks System



Scale 1:30,000
 0 1,000 2,000 US Survey Feet

Regional Context

Swift County manages two parks, the Appleton Area OHV Park and the Swift Falls County Park in Swift Falls. Swift Falls County Park is located along the Chippewa River and features a waterfall, wooded trails with bridges spanning the river, playground and camping accommodations for both tents and RVs. Swift Falls is 40 miles from Appleton to the northeast. Benson is 25 miles from Appleton and home to Ambush Park. Ambush Park has camping accommodations for short or long-term RVs serviced by thirteen sites with water, sewer, and electric hookups. Benson also has a dog park and golf course.

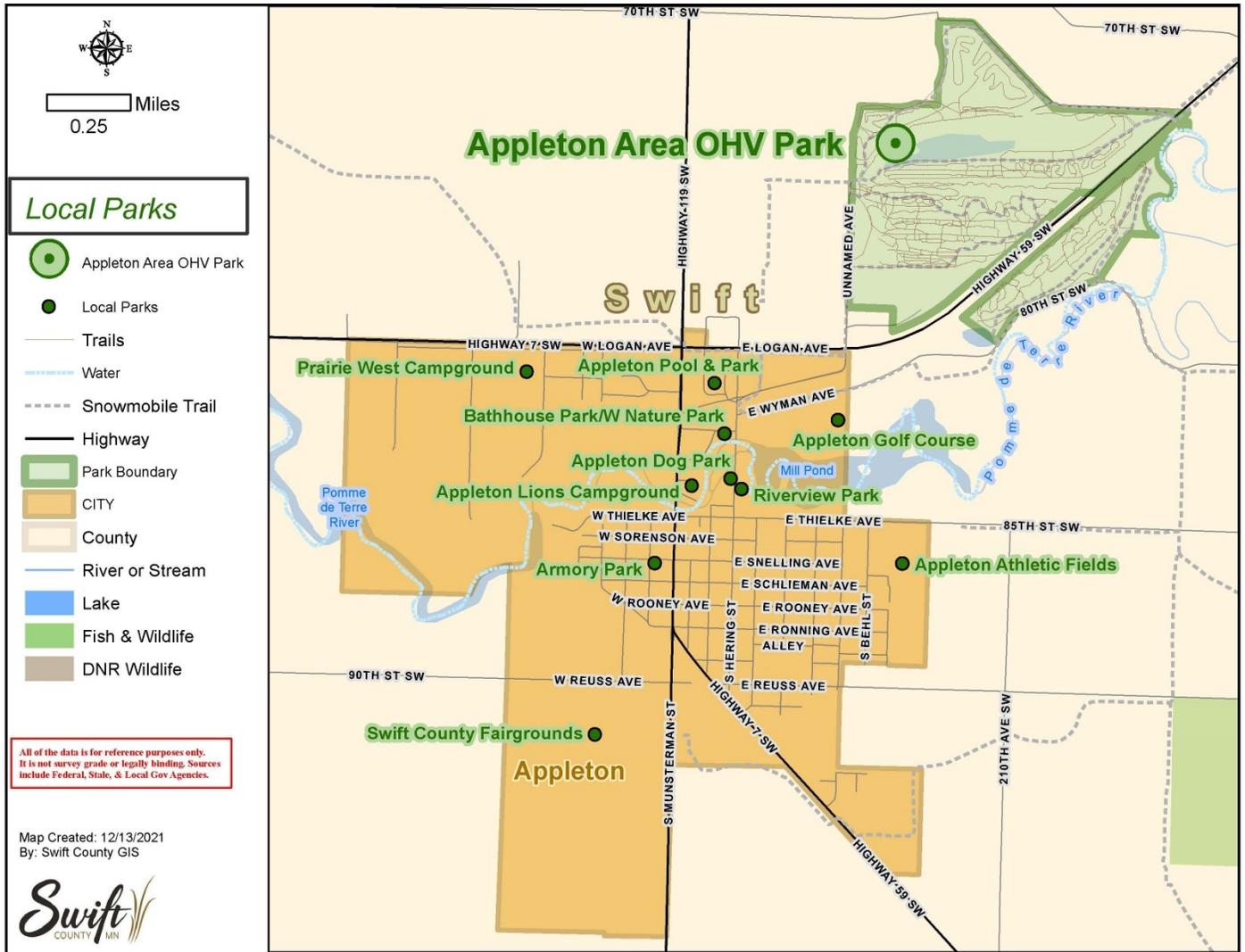
North of Appleton are multiple waterfowl production areas, two state wildlife management areas, and Artichoke Lake, a shallow, medium sized lake with variable fishing conditions. The City of Morris is 31 miles north of Appleton and is home to the University of Minnesota Morris campus. Morris has eight city parks, one of which is Pomme de Terre Park which includes camping facilities, shelter with kitchen, playground, and restrooms with showers.

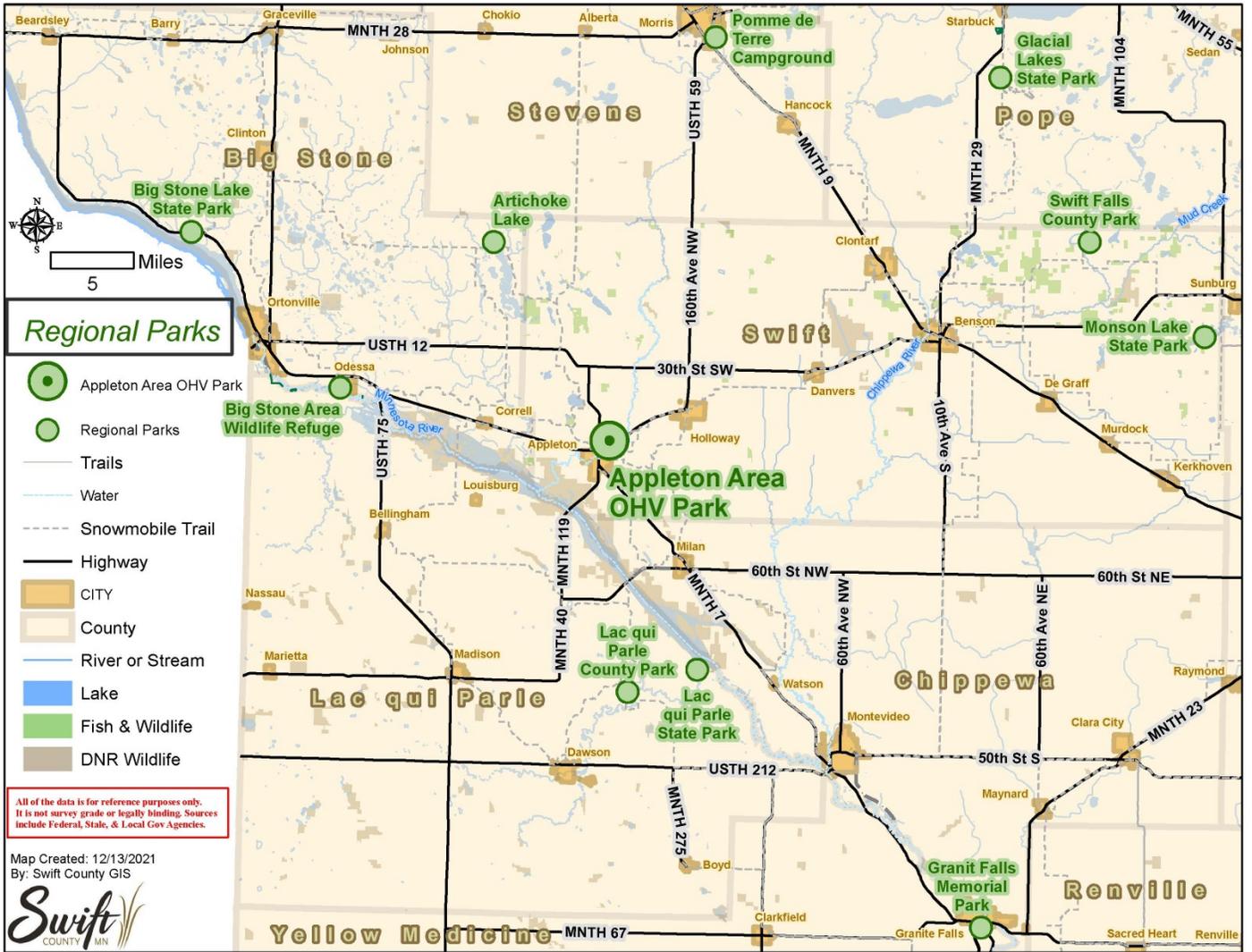
The Appleton Area OHV Park is located 16 miles northwest of Lac qui Parle State Park. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages Lac qui Parle State Park as part of the state park system. Lac qui Parle State Park features trails accessible by foot, historic Fort Renville and Lac qui Parle mission sites and the 33,000-acre Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area. Popular activities in Lac qui Parle State Park are camping, fishing, bird watching/winter eagle sightings, hunting, canoeing and cross-country skiing.

The Appleton Area OHV Park is located 20 miles southwest of Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge and the adjacent Lac qui Parle State Wildlife Management Area. These two locations together consist of 36,364 acres primarily dedicated to providing habitat for migratory ground-nesting waterfowl. Both locations contain remnant prairie with the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge claiming 1700 acres of this rare landscape. The entire Minnesota River corridor contains many locations with excellent views of the surrounding area and opportunities of viewing migrating birds and other plant and animal species distinct to the granite outcrop ecosystem.

These two areas can be enjoyed by rustic trails or by boat and is accessible by several parking areas and public boat access points. The nearest OHV park to Appleton Meeker County OHV Park is 90 miles east. This park consists of 40 acres of ATV and OHM trails. Shady Oaks Native Prairie Adventure Trails is five miles of trail on private land and is 68 miles south of Appleton. Approximately 50 miles to the north is the Grant County Youth Trail. This park is designed as a practice facility primarily designed for beginners. In North Dakota, the 400-acre Kimball Bottoms OHV Area accommodates all four classes of OHVs identified by the DNR. This park is owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The two OHV parks identified on South Dakota's Game, Fish, and Park's website, (ATVs 2021) Oahe Downstream OHV Area and Revheim Bay OHV Area are both about 250 miles from Appleton. Because the Appleton park offers access to all four classes of OHV and covers a large area, it can regularly draw visitors from 200-300 miles away.

Regional Map Uploads





3. Site Information Tab

Existing Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites
- Electric/water campsites
- Electric campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins

OTHER CAMPING RELATED

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)
- Swimming
- Lake Access for power boats
- Canoeing Facilities
- Fishing Piers
- Visitor Center
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme.
- Dog Parks
- Archery/Shooting ranges
- Climbing (natural/man-made)
- Zip Lines
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

OTHER

Proposed Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites
- Electric/water campsites
- Electric campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins

OTHER CAMPING

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)
- Swimming
- Lake Access for power boats
- Canoeing Facilities
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- Visitor Center
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme
- Dog Parks
- Archery/Shooting ranges
- Climbing (natural/man-made)
- Zip Lines
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

OTHER

ADA trails with crushed granite
Kayak Launch
Changing house
Electricity
Water on the north side of the park
Holding tank for sewer
Restroom with showers
Vehicle wash stations

General Site Characteristics

The Appleton Area OHV Park is a landscape resulting from the mining of sand. Over time, trees have grown up in the park and many of the trails are wooded on both sides. The rolling topography, trees, and open areas on the north side of the park provide for a variety of trail riding experiences and ample opportunities for shade. Also on the north side of the park, a man-made lake provides a scenic focal point for the trails as well as an opportunity for kayaking, swimming, and fishing in the cleanest water in the region. Isolated from surrounding agricultural surface drainage, the spring fed lake is a rare asset for the park.

The scenic beauty of the park serves as an important greenspace for local residents to walk, and bike when OHV activity is low. Because of the low elevation leftover from mining, parts of the park are prone to flooding, especially the section of the park south of US Hwy 59. During these times of flooding, water settles into smaller areas which are ideal mud runs for OHVs. Because the topography of the park is a result of mining, there is significant variety in the nature of the trails, and the opportunity to manipulate conditions to appeal to the changing interests of OHV users. One of the primary benefits of siting an OHV park in a disturbed landscape such as this former mining site, is to restrict OHV here in the park and preserve more valuable landscapes outside of it. Inherent to the concentrated use of OHVs is the occurrence of erosion and environmental impact. Even though this is the case, Swift County has an interest in establishing trails and encouraging riders to ride in designated areas within the park. There are areas of the park that are appropriate for all age groups, ability levels, and OHV vehicle.

Site Characteristics Images Upload







4. Trends/Public Values Tab

This section summarizes public input, demographics, recreational trends, public values, and economic opportunities that influenced master plan outcomes. While most of the rest of the Master Plan describes “WHAT” will be built, this section details “WHY.”

- *The Commission expects that all regional facilities will be selected, designed, and built based upon substantial public involvement and practical research or evidence of demand.*
- *Refer to the GMRPTC website (gmrptcommission.org/news) for additional demographic, parks and trails research, and public values information that may be pertinent to this park or trail.*

Public Involvement Summary

VISION STATEMENT

The Appleton Area OHV Park provides a unique environment for OHV users to experience the outdoors and socialize with other OHV enthusiasts from around the country, while also serving diverse recreational interests of the local community.

GOALS FOR THE PARK

AMENITIES: Improve park facilities to expand uses in the park, promote family use, and attract visitors.

CONNECTION: Improve connections for park users to the City of Appleton and camping locations.

EXPANSION: Address demand for the park by purchasing adjacent land appropriate for OHV use.

MAINTAIN: Maintain the park in a manner that encourages people to return.

OBJECTIVES

AMENITIES:

1. The park meets the needs of visitors.
2. The park serves multiple ages and ability levels.
3. Non-OHV activities are supported.

CONNECTION:

1. Wayfinding in the park is clear.
2. Connections to the City of Appleton are improved.
3. Existing camping facilities are fully utilized.

EXPANSION:

1. Locate entrances and parking areas for conflict resolution.
2. Develop new trails for all classes of OHV.
3. Total acreage of the park is increased.

MAINTAIN:

1. Avoid flood-prone and ecologically sensitive areas.
2. Users are encouraged to return to the park.
3. Secure traditional and non-traditional sources of funding.

COMMON THEMES, TRENDS AND VALUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Generational Family Park: The park should serve multiple age groups so entire families can enjoy the park.
2. OHV: The park serves primarily OHV users.
3. Greenspace: The park serves an important function as a place for people to enjoy the outdoors. The trees and clean man-made lake are part of what makes the park special.

DEMAND

The main user groups for the park include Class I and Class II ATV users, Off-highway motorcycle (OHM) users, and off-road vehicle (ORV) 4x4 truck users. While the park is designed primarily for these OHV users, the park is also used for walking, fishing, kayaking, cross country skiing, and bike riding. People using the park for these activities have indicated that they monitor the OHV activity within the park and visit the park when there are few, or no, OHV riders.

Park users benefit by having an area to ride designed specifically for them with limited instances of non-OHV user group conflict or the degradation of environmentally and socially sensitive areas.

According to the Minnesota DNR, there are only seven locations within the lower third of the state that are open to OHV users. Of these seven locations, only one – the Appleton Area OHV Park - is open to all classes of OHVs (Off-highway 2021). County leadership know that the park is well-loved and regularly used by visitors from 300 miles away. The park is also used by residents for walking, biking, and fishing. The City of Appleton has passed ordinances to make it possible for OHVs to legally drive on city streets for the purpose of connecting local campgrounds and residents to the park after acquisition of a free permit

With an estimated 5% of Minnesotan owning 300,000 OHVs (Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota 2020), it is understandable that people would look for places to use those vehicles, but public OHV parks and trails are concentrated in the northeastern part of the state (Figure 5). While an individual OHV may not have much of an adverse impact on the landscape, concentrating use from multiple vehicles in a limited area, such as public forests and grasslands, does have significant adverse environmental effects. These adverse effects include noise, litter, erosion, and habitat destruction, among others (Hughes and Paveglio 2019; Becker, Wilson, and Snyder 2010; and Martinson 2010).

The Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota estimates that about 3.96 million of the 4 million acres of state forest open to OHV use in come capacity and only 214,000 acres of state park (Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota 2020). According to Minnesota State Statute 86A.05 governing Minnesota state parks, critical characteristics of state parks is the protection and enjoyment of natural resources by current and future generations (Office of the Revisor of Statutes 2020), conditions at odds with frequent OHV use.

The perceived adverse impacts of OHV use have also limited the number of private landowners who allow OHV use on their property. Becker, Wilson, and Snyder (2010) found that 64% of landowners surveyed prohibited OHV use on their land, 26% allowed friends and family, and only 3% allowed public access. Because of these conditions, siting of dedicated OHV spaces is critical to mitigating the negative environmental effects of OHV use. Disturbed lands, such as former mining sites, are not likely to be returned to pre-mining conditions, nor have a similar level of ecological value (Hancock Duque and Willgoose 2020) and therefore, use of the site as an OHV park can be a feasible post-mining use (Kivinen 2017).

Fortunately, the park is in this type of landscape and there are viable expansion possibilities on adjacent gravel mining properties that ensure that expansion of the park will not impede upon natural areas or farmland. With the known environmental concerns around OHV use, siting the OHV park in this landscape is a prudent use of these locations.

Restrictions on OHV use in state lands, the limited opportunities for OHV use on private property, and the significant number of OHV owners in the state make the Appleton Area OHV Park an important recreation asset.

PRIORITIES AND KEY OUTCOMES FOR THE PARK

1. Maintain OHV character.
2. Enhance the visitor experience.
3. Provide greater access to the City of Appleton.
4. Establish wayfinding plan.
5. Provide a range of technical difficulty in trails.
6. Clarify usage.
7. Serve entire families.
8. Maintain the park in a manner that encourages people to return.

CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

(1) This is primarily an OHV park.

Park improvements should be undertaken with the goal of preserving the park as a unique OHV destination for users throughout the country. Proposed improvements will draw more OHV enthusiasts.

(2) Mixed uses of the park – Will this be an issue if other non-motorized uses grow?

Reducing conflicts between OHV and non-OHV use is an important consideration in the planning of proposed improvements.

(3) Maintenance of proposed improvements and sustainable funding.

The county board will be approving the improvements with the idea of maintenance costs.

(4) Overnight camping and increased usage for a park that is not staffed.

Some of the ways to address this will be: clear rules on signage, local law enforcement alerted to the rules to monitor the park, surveillance cameras to be used and to have the park appeal to those who will take care of it. It is also recognized that the park staffing etc. may need some changes if/when usage increases.

It was decided to not allow overnight camping in the OHV park to alleviate these concerns and to close the park at night.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Appleton Area OHV Park Master Planning process involved a very robust public engagement effort. The following activities helped get the public's input for the park:

(1) A PUBLIC SURVEY in the summer of 2020.

We receive 274 online and paper surveys through the following outreach methods:

- * Facebook
- * Press releases and newspaper ads.
- * Paper surveys at park shelters.
- * Prairie Waters and UMRDC social media.
- * Local users and groups shared via social media.
- * Poster with online survey link put up in Appleton locations.
- * ATV Association MN and MN4WD Association shared survey digitally

Who uses the park?

Highest age group was 36-54 (53%). The smallest age group was 16-21 (9%).

How long do people stay?

59% of responders stay a full day. Only 11% stay multiple days.

How do people learn about the park?

Just over half (51%) of park users found out about the park from friends or family. County website (10%), Facebook (19%) and some other way (35%). Many of the people in this "Other" category indicated the DNR website.

What do you do at the park?

Top votes were: 4x4 Off-road vehicle (53%), ATV Class 1 (43%), ATV Class 2 (35%), Off-highway motorcycle (13%), Snowmobile (5%). **Non-motorized:** Picnic shelter and Hiking/walking (7% each).

What would you like to see added?

Public bathroom (63%), Camping near park (57%), Wash station (51%), Trail connection to town (48%)

Main Take Away by Location Group

Depending on how far away from the park you are, issues change

- **Appleton** –
 - Wide range of activities desired
 - All age groups represented – lower numbers of 0-15 than "Local"
 - Trail Connection, bathrooms, camping, playground, Hiking, XC skiing, Kayaking
 - Truck wash was less important overall
- **Local** – areas bordering Appleton
 - Wide range of ages represented
 - Same main interests in new amenities
 - Slight reduction in interest for kayaking, hiking, xc skiing, playground, etc.
- **Minnesota** – Other (In-State, but outside "Local", Granite Falls is in this category)
 - Wide range of ages represented – less than "Local" above
 - Same main interests in new amenities
 - General reduction of other interests, but more interest in bicycle related activities
- **Out-of-State**
 - Mainly 36-54
 - Stay for full-day and regular visitors
 - 9 of 16 responses mention Camping Near Park
- **Over 200 Miles Away** (4 of 25 were from out-of-state)
 - 16 of 25 want camping near the park
 - 15 of 25 want bathrooms
 - 13 of 25 want a trail connection to town
 - 11 of 25 want a vehicle wash
 - 4 of 25 have never visited
 - Comments were generally reflective of other groups

(2) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Steering committee #1 held June 1, 2020, Online Zoom Meeting

Introduction, goals, timeline, public participation plan, existing conditions/ideas to date

Attendance:

Committee: 7

Staff: 3

Steering committee #2 held October 1, 2020, East Park Shelter

Introduction, public participation plan, analysis and inventory of park, core values discussion, map work

Attendance:

Committee: 6

Staff: 3

Steering committee #3 held December 18, 2020, Online Zoom meeting

Introduction, vision and goal discussion, improvements, map review, next steps

Attendance:

Committee: 7

Staff: 3

Steering committee #4 held January 26, 2021, Online Zoom meeting

Beach discussion, parking lot, land acquisition discussion, phasing plan

Attendance:

Committee: 5

Staff: 3

Steering committee #5 held April 7, 2021, Appleton Council Chamber

Present final draft of plan map and concepts

Attendance:

Committee: 6

Staff: 3

Steering committee #6 held December 1, 2021

Reviewed public comments, acquisition, master plan, approved for adoption.

Committee: 5

Staff: 2

Swift County Board adoption date: December 21, 2021

Presented the plan to the county commissioners of the plan with cost estimates and design features.

Committee: 0

Staff: 1

(3) **PUBLIC DRAFT OF THE PLAN** available online on the Swift County Facebook page and county website. Outreach was done with:

* Facebook

* Press release to all papers within the region

Poster boards with the master plan map, cost estimates and surveys were made available at the Appleton Civic Center and Swift County Fair. The master plan document was made available on the Swift County website and shared via the UMRDC, Swift County, and City of Appleton social media.

A survey was conducted asking what people liked and disliked about the master plan. There were 17 surveys collected in September 2021. The results of this survey were:

Positive comments

- 1) Liked proposed amenities
- 2) Liked the expansion plans

Negative comments

- 1) Costs too much
- 2) Worried about sportsmen’s club conflicts
- 3) Worried about wayfinding between park and Appleton
- 4) Wish camping was in the plan.

Public Involvement Support Material Upload

Give your input on the future of the Appleton Area OHV park!

Park advocates and local leaders are looking for input into expanding and improving the park. Fill out the survey to help direct the master plan for this park which will determine development of the park in the years to come.



You can take the survey online at:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/AppletonOHV



We want your input (again!) on the future of the Appleton Area OHV Park!

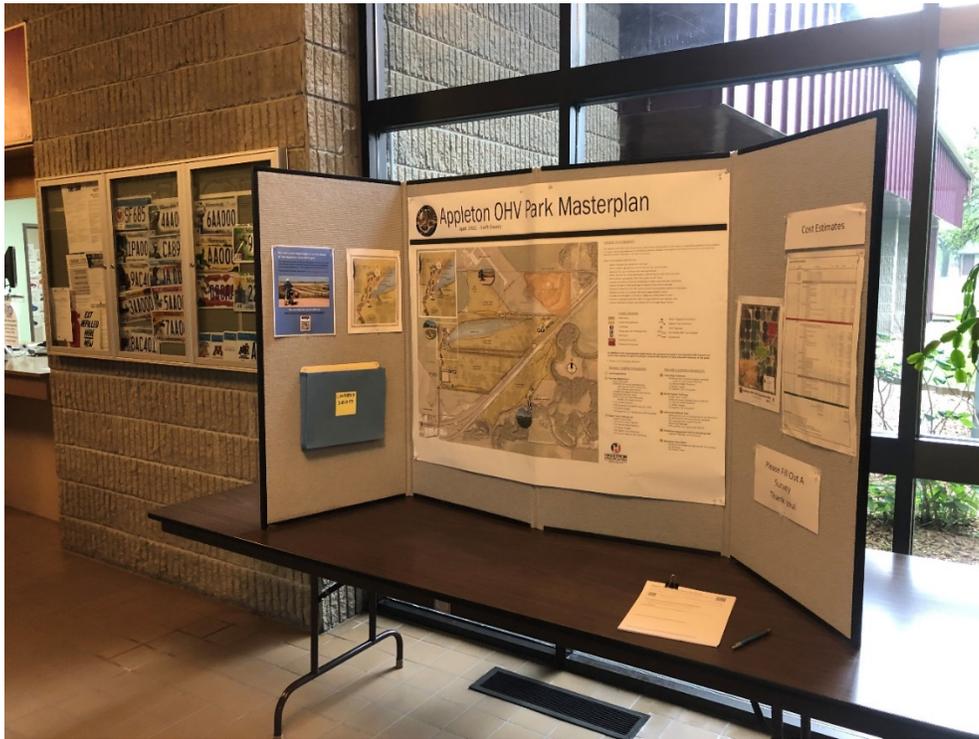
Park advocates and local leaders have developed a master plan for the park using your input. Fill out the survey and give them your feedback on the recommendations for addressing the future needs of the park.

You can view the master plan map at the [Swift County OHV Park Website](https://www.swiftcountymn.gov/ohv).



You can take the survey online at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FutureOHV>





Regional Demographic Information

Appleton, Minnesota, and the surrounding region has seen consistent population decline since the 1960s. At the time of the 2010 Census, Swift County had 9,783 residents which was down from 14,936 at the time of the 1960 Census. All five counties within the UMRDC service region have similarly lost population over this period.

Demographic Support Material Upload

Table 1: UMRDC Region Population Change 1960 to 2018

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2018	% Change
UMVRDC Region	69,063	61,806	59,822	50,845	50,011	45,190	42,711	-38.2%
Big Stone County	8,954	7,941	7,716	6,285	5,820	5,269	4,989	-44.3%
Chippewa County	16,320	15,109	14,941	13,228	13,088	12,441	11,924	-27.0%
Lac qui Parle County	13,330	11,164	10,592	8,924	8,067	7,259	6,658	-50.1%
Swift County	14,936	13,177	12,920	10,724	11,956	9,783	9,345	-37.4%
Yellow Medicine County	15,523	14,415	13,653	11,684	11,080	10,438	9,795	-37.0%

Source: US Census Bureau

Public Health Values

- Promotes physical activity
-
- Connects people to the outdoors
- Enhances mental health
- Encourages social interaction

Public Health Values Additional Information

Enjoyment of nature, developing personal relationships, freedom, and tranquility are some of the shared values between OHV and non-OHV user groups. OHV users are less inclined to seek solitary experiences in nature and more inclined to activities centered around physical fitness fun, social bonding, and stress relief (Kil, Holland and Stein 2012).

PROMOTES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

The park is used for both OHV and non-OHV activities. Many people use the park for walks and getting outside. The park also offers the opportunity for kayaking, and in the winter, snow-shoeing and cross-

country skiing.

CONNECTS PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS:

The park's diverse trails pass through sand dunes, woodlands, mud pits and around a small man-made lake creating a variety of natural features for users to explore. The park is appreciated as an important green space by both OHV and non-OHV who share a desire for outdoor activity (Kil, Holland and Stein 2012).

ENHANCES MENTAL HEALTH:

Numerous sources translate the benefits of nature on mental health. According to the American Society of Landscape Architects, "living close to parks, or at least near lots of trees, can have far-reaching mental health benefits for people" (ASLA 2021). With a limited number of OHV parks in Minnesota, the park offers an important reprieve from daily life and serves as a regional destination for campers and outdoor enthusiasts.

ENCOURAGES SOCIAL INTERACTION:

The Appleton Area OHV Park provides a valuable resource for OHV enthusiasts to gather for shared experiences. OHV users place high value on the social experiences that come with visiting OHV parks and ranked "being with similar people" as the highest value in the study (Kil, Holland, and Stein 2012).

Public Health Values Support Material Upload





Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities

The user survey done in the Summer of 2020, which yielded 274 responses, showed that the Appleton Area OHV Park is currently a regional destination. Responses came from 113 cities in four states: North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. Grand Marais, Minnesota (360 miles) was the furthest location a survey respondent was from. Because there are so few dedicated OHV parks within the southern Minnesota, and within 300 miles of the park in general, the park draws from a wide area. Since all four classes of OHV identified by the DNR can use the park, the entire spectrum of OHV user visits the park in Appleton.

Once the park is enhanced to provide travelers a better experience, this tourism will undoubtedly increase. Aside from the OHV specific elements, the park will have opportunities for canoeing and kayaking, fishing, bird watching, and nature hiking. There will be nearby camping, (both tent, and RV) and park is well connected in the region by the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway.

The Western Minnesota Prairie Waters website lists 62,000 acres of public land refuge, public management areas, state parks, and private lands in the Minnesota River Valley form one of the most in-tact river ecosystems in the United States all within 20 miles of the Appleton Area OHV Park. There are opportunities for paddling, biking, birding, fishing, hunting, and exploring the unique ecosystem of the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge and the annual waterfowl migration.

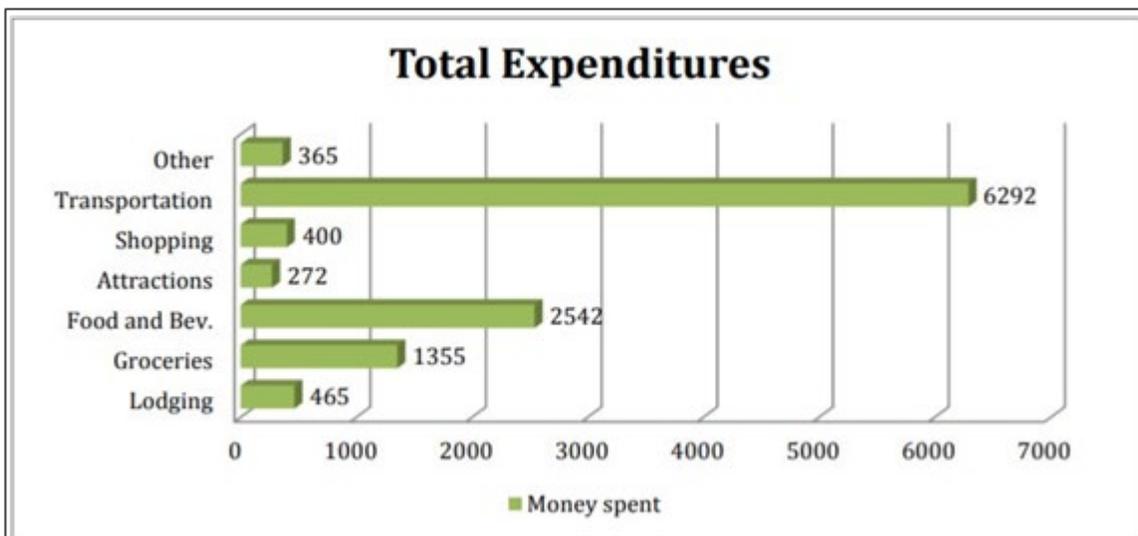
The region has a wide variety of lodging options available from a farm stay in a small studio or traditionally decorated Scandinavian home, to full-service RV sites, hotels, and rustic camping.

The area is also home to many museums and historical sites including county museums displaying local history and a WW II museum which features working WW II era aircraft, other military vehicles and memorabilia.

The Meander art crawl is an annual event held on the first weekend in October which features 40 local artists all through the Minnesota River Valley and surrounding communities. This event draws hundreds of people from across the state. 2020 total sales were \$23,740, a result of changes to the event due to COVID-19 compared to total sales of \$116,944 in 2019.

In 2012, students from the University of Minnesota Morris Center for Small Towns (CST) conducted an in-person user survey at the OHV park. Based on the feedback from 140 surveys, they determined that the two largest expenditure areas were food and beverage and transportation. The fact that only 24 of the 140 respondents stayed 1-3 nights, shows the importance of expanding on the over-night lodging options in the near vicinity of the park and expanding the park to provide opportunities for spending more time within the park. With limited drivers of tourism for the area, any draw to local businesses is valuable. The survey found that the total amount spent by people who completed the survey to be \$11,691 (Ashe, Beyer, and Thompson 2012).

Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities Support Material Upload



****The Appleton Municipal Campground is CLOSED for the season****

Appleton Municipal Campground

Located on the Pomme de Terre River directly off of State Hwy 7/59. **Campsites are limited due to COVID-19 starting June 1. All sites must have a reservation**

Fees are as follows:

Non Hook-up(tents) \$15/night

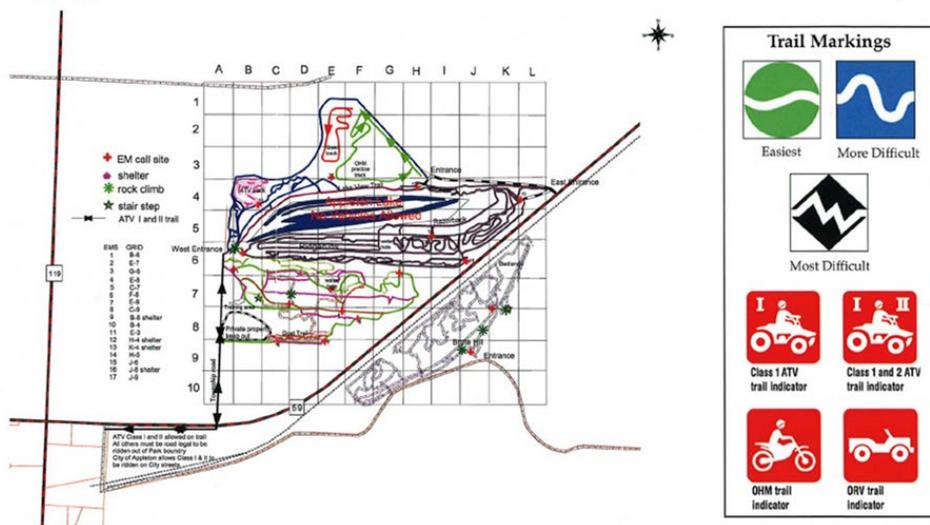
- Hook-up(camper/motorhome) \$25/night
- Weekly non hook-up \$90/week
- Weekly hook-up \$150/week
- LIMITED Hook-up spots with Water & Electric, Areas for Tenting
- All sites available by reservation ONLY! Click [HERE](#) for more information



Amenities at the Campground

- Handicap Accessible Fishing Pier
- Shelter ****No groups larger than 10, social distancing enforced****
- Restroom Building with showers ****CLOSED DUE TO COVID****
- Cleaning Building for fish and game ****CLOSED DUE TO COVID****
- Sewer Dump Station
- Fire rings and picnic tables

Appleton Area Recreation Park



Recreational Trends Information

According to the Minnesota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024, the Minnesota population is aging. The plan recommends that park services adapt for this population trend by adjusting their expectations for park visitor attendance and the specific needs of older park users. Because the Appleton Area OHV park is primarily geared toward visitors with OHVs, reductions in park attendance due to aging visitors may not be as noticeable.

The Appleton Area OHV Park is an important regional destination for OHV users. According to the Motorcycle Industry Council has seen a significant increase in OHV sales since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the park accommodates all four classes of OHV based on Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) criteria, the park is a rare amenity in the state that can meet the demands of increased OHV users.

Of the 274 people surveyed, 83% have visited the park more than once. 21% of this group have visited more than 10 times.

People in the 36-54 age group are the highest user of the park.

59% stay a full day.

11% stay multiple days.

63% would like to see bathrooms improved.

57% would like to see more camping near the park.

Improved amenities and park expansion will not only attract increased local users but will increase regional visitors. According to the North Dakota Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program Strategic Summary 2021-2026, “47% (173 respondents) indicated the majority of their riding was outside North Dakota”, including competition from Minnesota. There is a great opportunity and demand for facilities and amenities to be offered in this park which will increase usage. Facilities and amenities such as bathrooms with running water, electricity, vehicle wash, and connection to local camping, beach and changing house will increase usage and increase regional demand for the park. The natural beauty of the park and the range of trail difficulties adds to the interest for park visitors of all ages.

Recreational Trends Support Material Upload

Our user survey showed the following:

Location	Total Responses		Average	In Party		Distance Traveled			
						Average			
Appleton	38		3.1	118		3.7			
Local	43		3.8	167		22.7			
MN Other	164		4	662		115			
Out of State	16		3.4	54		145			
Local = Within about 30 miles				Total Visitor	1001		Grand Marais was furthest at 360 miles		

Survey Results

Age

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-15	18.43%	47
16-21	8.63%	22
22-35	38.04%	97
36-54	52.55%	134
55+	17.25%	44
Total Respondents: 255		

How long is your typical stay?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 hour	3.15%	8
1 - 2 hours	25.20%	64
Full day	58.66%	149
Multiple days	10.63%	27
Other (please specify)	9.45%	24
Total Respondents: 254		

How many times have you visited the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 - Never visited	8.24%	21
1 - This is my first visit	9.41%	24
2-10 - I've visited a few times	61.96%	158
10+ - I'm a regular visitor	20.78%	53
Total Respondents: 255		

What additions would you like to see at the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public bathroom	62.75%	160
Playground	13.33%	34
Camping near the park	56.86%	145
Hiking	10.59%	27
Mountain bike trail	6.67%	17
Winter fat-tire bike trails	3.92%	10
Cross country ski trail	8.24%	21
Kayaking/canoeing	12.16%	31
Dock/boat ramp	6.67%	17
Wash for ATV/Trucks	50.59%	129
Trail connection to Appleton across the highway	47.84%	122
No amenities should be added	2.35%	6
Other (please specify)	13.33%	34
Total Respondents: 255		

How did you learn about the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Friend/family	51.17%	131
County website	10.16%	26
Facebook page	19.14%	49
Other (please specify)	35.16%	90
Total Respondents: 256		

Why do you visit the park?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
ATV Class 1	43.14%	110
ATV Class 2	34.90%	89
4x4 Off-road Vehicle	52.94%	135
Off Highway Motorcycle	13.33%	34
Swim	3.53%	9
Fish	6.27%	16
Picnic Shelter	7.06%	18
Hiking/walking	7.06%	18
Mountain bike (Off-road non-motorized bike)	1.18%	3
Fat-tire bike	0.39%	1
Snowmobile	4.71%	12
Ice skating	0.39%	1
Ice fishing	2.75%	7
Other (please specify)	4.71%	12
Total Respondents: 255		

5. Classification Details Tab

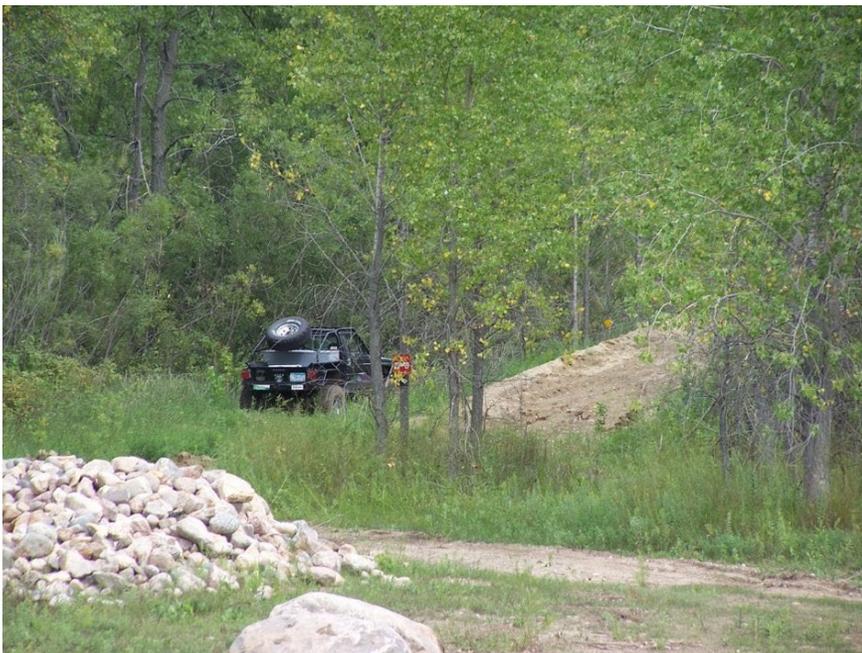
Criteria 1: Provides a Special High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Criteria #1 – Provides a Special High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience Overview: Places a priority on providing facilities/amenities that are relevant to existing/common user groups and also serve to broaden the appeal of outdoor recreation to new or expanded populations. Park serves as a destination unto itself, attracting regional users and (potentially) drawing tourists from outside the regional area. Premium is placed on quality of experience to encourage visitors to return time and again. Although facilities/amenities must be of regional significance, this classification purposefully emphasizes innovation and new ways of engaging residents and tourists to participate in outdoor activities.

The Appleton Area OHV Park has attracted users and encouraged them to get outside and enjoy natural resource-based outdoor recreational activities. The park provides the opportunity for OHV users to gather and enjoy the challenges of the park in a space that is designed and intended for OHV use. Users who are looking for the excitement of loud machines, dust, mud, and speed can experience those things here. Because the park accommodates all four classes of OHV there is something for everyone at the park, including young people learning to ride OHMs, a clear example of how Swift County sees the park as a family destination.

The park is also a place for quietly enjoying a slower ride through the park if you come at the traditionally less busy weekdays. Local residents know that they can walk or bike out to the park to enjoy the natural beauty of the park. The man-made lake is an ideal kayak location because of the clear water and lack of competition with larger motorized boats, and the south side of the park is an ideal place to cross country ski.

Because there are so few OHV parks in the SW part of the state, the Appleton Area OHV Park regularly draws people from 200-300 miles away and groups with multiple classes of OHV can come to the park and ride together.





**Challenging Trails
To Accommodate All
OHV Skill Levels From
Beginner to Advanced.**

Park Features:

- 10 Miles of Truck Trails
- 15 miles of ATV/ OHM Trails
- 1.5 mile OHM Practice Track
- 3 Enduro Tracks
- Youth ATV Training Course
- Youth OHM Practice Track
- Groomed Snowmobile Trails
- Hiking Path
- Jumps
- Motorcycle Trails
- Play Areas
- Sand Dunes
- Shelter/Picnic Area
- Other OHV Activities

**Free Admission:
No Cost To Ride!**

**Hours:
Sunrise to Sunset
7 Days a Week!**

All OHV's Must Be Registered.
Contact Any DNR Conservation Officer.
www.dnr.state.mn.us

Please Stay On The Marked Trails!

The Appleton Area Recreation Park
is a GIA Trail and Funded
by the DNR Through the
Minnesota Trails Assistance Program.



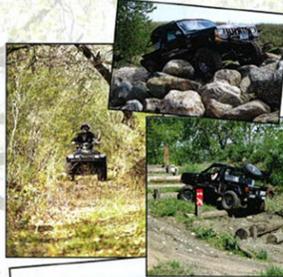
Appleton is 150 Miles West of
Minneapolis/St. Paul on State Hwy. 7



For More Information
Area Lodging and Dining
Visit Swift County's Website:
www.swiftcounty.com
Look For The "County Parks" Link
or call (320) 843-5341

**Welcome to
Appleton Area
Recreation Park**

Southern Minnesota's
First OHV Recreation Area



*Miles of trail and other OHV
activities for your enjoyment!*





Criteria 2: Provides a Natural and Scenic Setting Offering a Compelling Sense of Place

Overview: Although at a smaller scale than Natural-Resource-Based Regional Parks, priority is still placed on providing a natural and scenic setting offering a compelling sense of place and uniqueness. Access to water (lakes, rivers, and streams) and/or historically/culturally-significant features is also emphasized. Lands must be suitable for and large enough to accommodate desired recreational uses without undue impacts to the land resource.

The Appleton Area OHV Park offers a natural setting and an appropriate space where OHV users are welcome. The bowl-shaped old gravel mine keeps noise and dust at a minimum while providing a unique and exciting space for the OHV users. OHV users are not able to share other parks and natural settings without adverse impacts noise, litter, erosion, and habitat destruction, making dedicated parks for OHV users an ideal situation and an important part of preserving other diverse or historically important landscapes.

OHV is the main use of the park, but there is also access to water. The man-made lake within the park is one of the highlights of the park as an important greenspace asset for the local community. It is the cleanest body of water in the region because it is isolated from other surface drainage. This body of water is an excellent place to kayak and fish and with the addition of an improved kayak launch and swimming beach, this feature of the park can be appreciated by more people.

While the park is large enough to accommodate current usage, there are viable expansion possibilities on adjacent gravel mining properties that ensure that expansion of the park will not impede upon natural areas or farmland. Expansion is important as use has and will continue to increase.



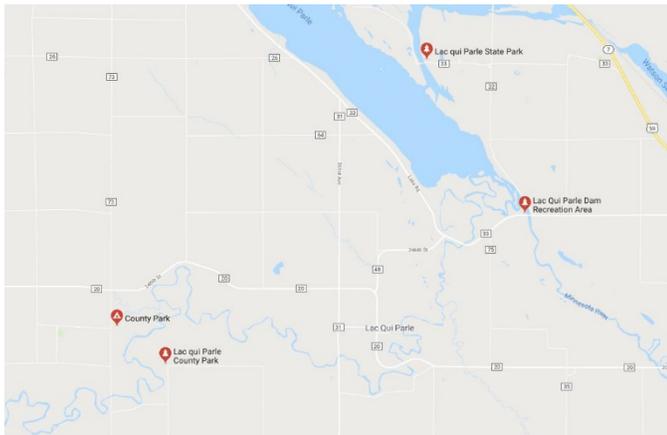
Criteria 3: Well-located to Serve a Regional Need and/or Tourist Destination

Overview: Places priority on special recreational features being located in or close to a densely settled, rapidly growing, and/or an established regional center or well-established tourist destination. By vehicle, optimal travel distance is less than 10 miles by driving distance. (Using radius is of limited value in many cases since natural (e.g., rivers, lakes) and built (e.g., roadways systems) land features greatly affect the ease of access.) Connectivity to the park via local, regional, or state-level trails also factors into the rating under this criteria.

The Appleton Area OHV Park is currently a regional destination for more than 100 cities in four states, with visitors regularly traveling 200 miles to visit the park.

The park serves a large region where there are no other OHV parks, and is very accessible. The park is located on US Highway 59 and near US Highways 12, 7, and 75, within 30 miles of Benson, Ortonville, Morris, and Montevideo and the Lac qui Parle State Park. It is easily accessible from Marshall, Alexandria and Willmar, all large regional centers in western Minnesota, as well as locations in eastern South Dakota.

Major roads map – 100 miles with population



Criteria 4: Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

Overview: Places a priority on areas in which a high quality outdoor recreational opportunity of a similar nature is not otherwise available within the region and/or within a reasonable distance. Fills a discernible and critical gap in an area with a recreation opportunity shortage. Complements (and does not duplicate) recreational opportunities otherwise available in the region.

With an estimated 5% of Minnesotan owning 300,000 OHVs (Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota 2020), it is understandable that people would look for places to use those vehicles. The demand for this recreational opportunity is high since there are restrictions on OHV use in state lands and the limited opportunities for OHV use on private property. A designated OHV park prevents adverse environmental affects in sensitive areas and provides an appropriate place for this recreational opportunity.

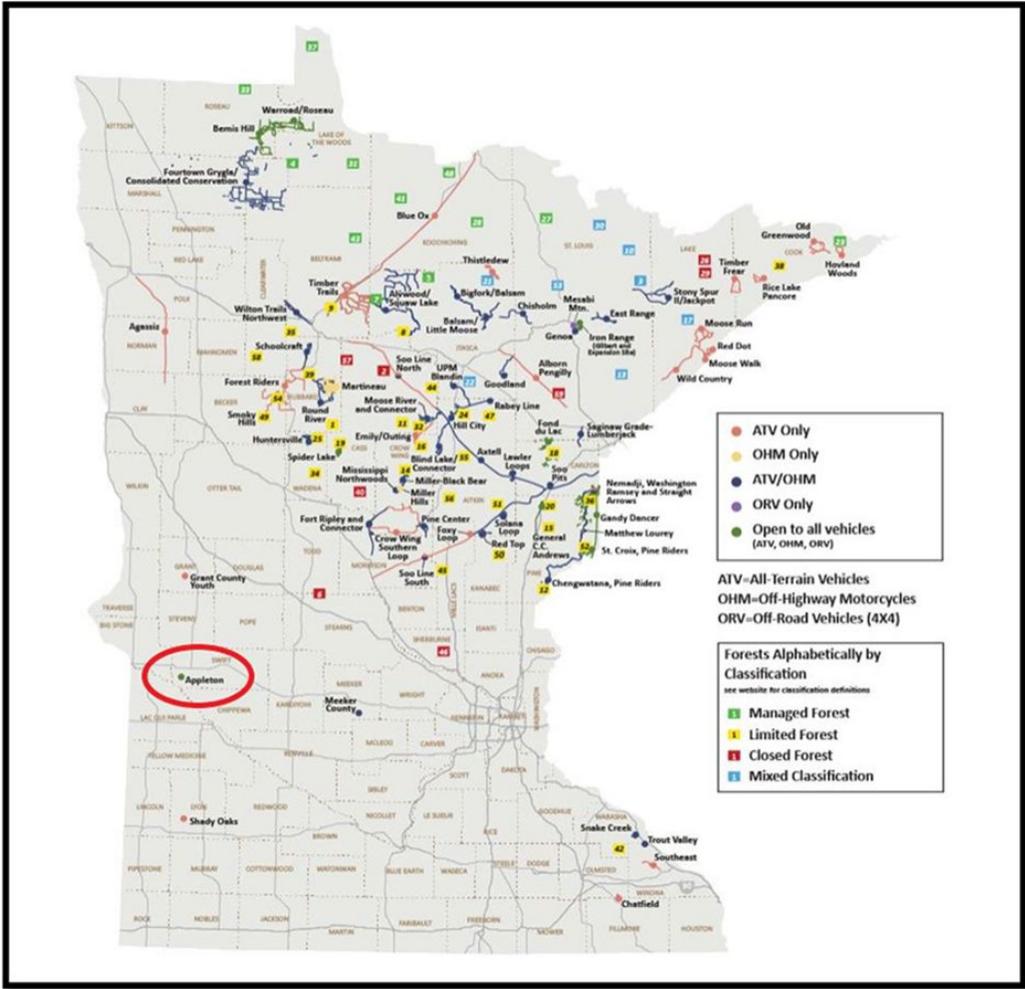
The Appleton Area OHV Park is filling a gap for OHV parks in our part of the state. Public OHV parks and trails are concentrated in the northeastern part of the state. According to the Minnesota DNR, there are only seven locations within the lower third of the state that are open to OHV users (Figure 5). Of these seven locations, only one – the Appleton Area OHV Park - is open to all classes of OHVs (Off-highway 2021).

The main user groups for the park include Class I and Class II ATV users, Off-highway motorcycle (OHM) users, and off-road vehicle (ORV) 4x4 truck users. The park in Appleton is unique, offering the opportunity for all four classes of and areas that are dedicated to off-highway motorcycles (OHM) and off-road vehicles (ORV) only. Park users benefit by having an area to ride designed specifically for them with limited instances of non-OHV user group conflict or the degradation of environmentally and socially sensitive areas.

While the park is designed primarily for these OHV users, the park is also used for walking, fishing, kayaking, cross country skiing, and bike riding. People using the park for these activities have indicated that they monitor the OHV activity within the park and visit the park when there are few, or no, OHV riders.

MN DNR OHV Classifications				
	Class 1 All-terrain vehicle (ATV) 	Class 2 All-terrain vehicle (ATV) 	Off-highway Motorcycle (OHM) 	Off-road vehicle (ORV) 
	ATVs 50 inches wide or less	ATVs greater than 50 inches wide but less than 65 inches	Motorized, off-highway vehicle with two wheels and a seat designed to be straddled	Vehicle capable of cross-country travel without benefit of road or trail
Includes	Vehicles with 3 to 6 wheels	Vehicles with 3 to 6 wheels	On-highway vehicle specifically registered for off-road use	
Does not include	Golf carts, mini-trucks, dune buggies, go carts or vehicles designed for other purposes			Snowmobile, ATV, motorcycle watercraft, or other vehicle not used for its intended purpose

Source: Department of Natural Resources 2021



6. Development/Acquisition Plan Tab

Development Plan Overview

The improved Appleton Area OHV Park upgrades the current popular public amenity into a unique regional destination for outdoor recreation centered around OHVs. The proposed master plan divides the park into multiple zones to offer visitors a diversity of OHV trail experiences and day-trip amenities while providing more convenient access to the man-made lake at the center of the park. This is done by adding a swimming beach, changing house, fishing pier and non-motorized boat launch all accessed by ADA compliant trails and day use parking that minimizes conflicts with OHVs. Upgrading convenience amenities and vehicle washing stations with running water and electricity will better serve the needs of park visitors (see attached Concept Plan Zones map).

All proposed features will meet regional design and applicable accessibility standards.

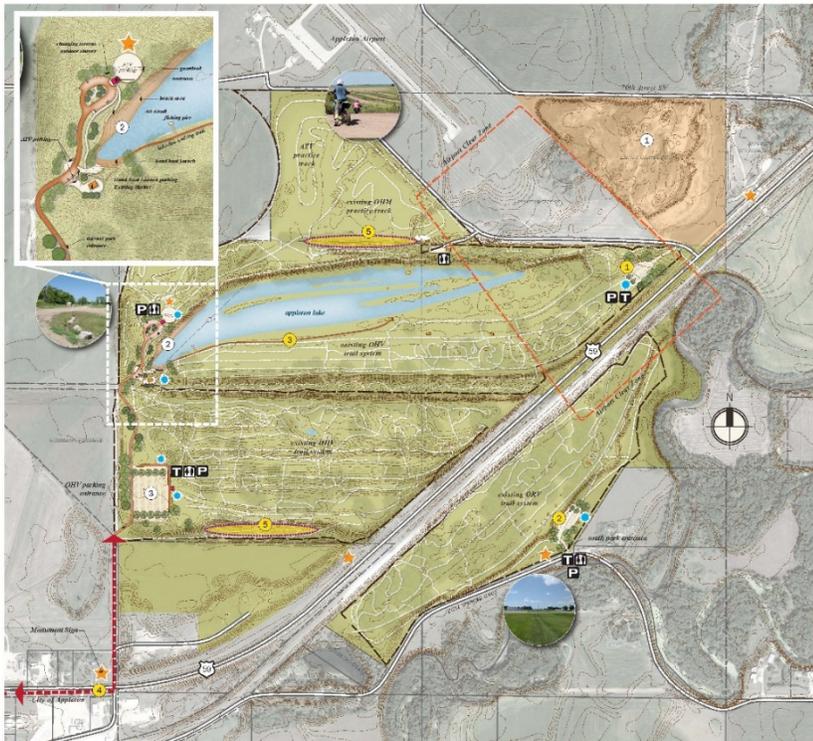
The improved Appleton Area OHV Park will make staying all day at the park a more convenient experience for entire families. These changes will allow the user to enter the park and feel that the park has been designed specifically with OHV users in mind and encourages them to return.

Development Plan Items/Images Upload



Appleton Area OHV Park Masterplan

December 2021 - Swift County



VISION STATEMENT

The Appleton Area OHV Park will provide a unique family environment for OHV users to responsibly experience the outdoors in a space specifically designed for off-highway vehicles, accessible to all with people from around the county and serve the diverse recreational interests of the local community.

Goals of the Appleton Area OHV Park

- Re-use structures as primarily an OHV park
- Create multiple age groups to visit facilities can enjoy the park
- Maximize the use of existing local camping facilities
- Include the park as central recreation, highlighting the scenic lake and town
- Allow diverse user groups within the context of the town
- Improve connectivity to the City of Appleton to better serve the local community
- Expand the park to take advantage of adjacent disturbed landscapes
- Provide an opportunity for OHV users to avoid environmentally sensitive landscapes
- Maximize the park as a premier trail encourages people to return
- Increase and strengthen community engagement and create areas of place
- Provide a challenging and safe place for local residents and regional visitors
- Improve facilities to attract new visitors and encourage repeat visitors

PARK LEGEND

- Park Area
- Future Acquisitions
- Trailhead
- Passenger Car Parking Only
- Restroom
- Existing Structure
- Proposed Structure
- Water for govt/Fountains
- Signed Trail Entrance
- Park Signage
- ATV/Off-Highway Trail System
- Guardrails

In addition to the improvements listed below the partners involved in the Appleton OHV project are currently seeking out grant funding to improve the quality of trails and park features on the park.

Phase 2 of Funding request

PHASE 1 IMPROVEMENTS

1. **Land Acquisitions**
2. **Day-Use Beach Park**
 Flush Restroom
 OHV/ATV drive and parking areas
 (10) access ramps turn-around
 (2) access hand launch
 Dredge Key Beach & hand boat launch
 Improve Boulder walls
 Gravel Trails for ADA Restroom
 Shelter and Booth access
 * (1) Outdoor shower
 * (2) Screened changing areas for riders
 * (3) Water storage
 * (4) ATV guard rail for designated parking areas
3. **Main Trailer Parking Lot**
 Double Row Trail
 (75) Drive Trailer Spaces
 * (2) Vehicle Wash Stations
 * (3) Water storage
 * (4) Signed Trail entrances
 * (5) Manurem Sign at Park Entrance

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

1. **East Side Trailhead**
 Re-grade and formalize gravel parking area for (15) Trailhead Spaces
 (1) Vehicle Wash Station
 (2) Water Storage
 (2) Signed Trail entrances
2. **South Parcel Trailhead**
 Single Row Trailhead
 Class 3 Gravel Parking Area w/Islands
 (2) Vehicle Wash Station
 (1) Water Storage
 (2) Signed Trail entrances
3. **Lakeview Walking Trail**
 Walking Trail out to fishing pier & old structure
 (2) Benches at old structure for walkers
 (2) Gravel path improvements
 Split Rail Fencing
 Additional Signage
 Fishing Pier near hand boat launch
4. **Formalize Connection Trail to Camping area**
 Single Signage and Striping
5. **Spectator View Areas**
 Re-grade flat areas on high-points for viewing
 (5) Benches
 (5) Shaded Tables

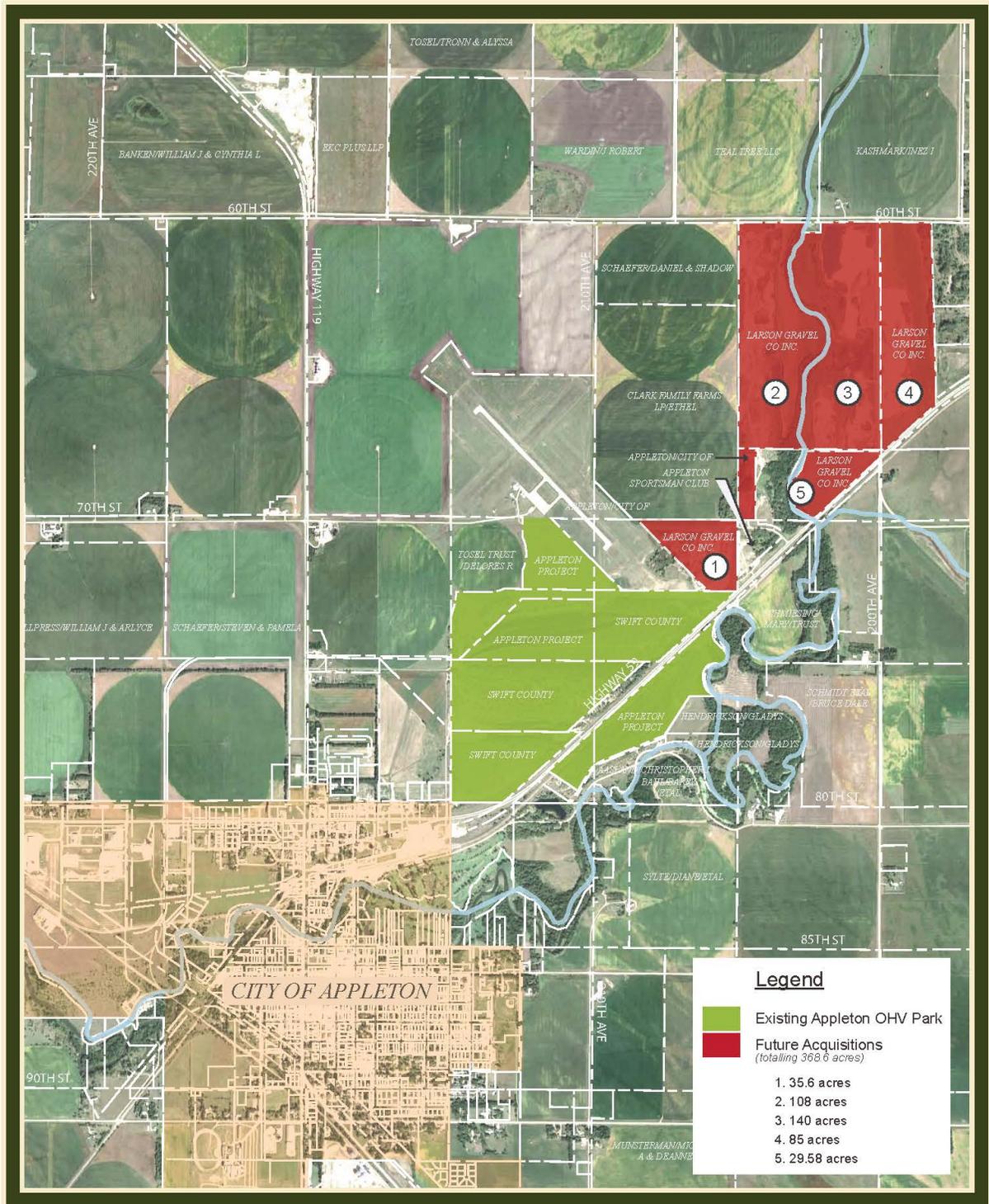


Acquisition Plan Overview

Swift County recently purchased or is in the process of purchasing two adjacent parcels of land. The county finalized negotiations with MnDOT to purchase the property directly south of the western side of the park. The parcel labeled #5 is being purchased by The Appleton Project and will be made available for the county to purchase from them. Swift County will also be working with the Sportsman's Club with some potential trades as they finalize this purchase.

Swift County has also had preliminary conversations with the landowners regarding parcels 2-4 on the map and these conversations have been positive.

Acquisition Plan Items/Images Upload



Appleton OHV Park Aquisition Map

Swift County Parks System

Scale 1:30,000

0 1,000 2,000 US Survey Feet



Development features

Land Acquisition

There are multiple areas around the park identified for acquisition. There are five parcels identified on the Acquisition Map. Swift County is actively working to purchase the property adjacent to the east side of the park. All properties have been or are currently being mined for gravel making for ideal additions to the existing park. Acquisition of all identified properties would double the size of the park.

Day-Use Beach Park

This area located on the NW section of the man-made lake will include a 500 sq ft flush restroom facility, GEOPAVE drive with parking area, boulder walls, beach with hand boat launch, ADA gravel trails, outdoor shower and changing screens, water spigot, guardrails, septic system, regulatory trail entrance signs, landscaping and well to supply water.

Main Trail Parking Lot

This area will see significant upgrades including two vehicle wash stations with concrete pads, two water spigots, parking lot surface improvements, landscaping, trail entrance signs, double vault toilet, well to service water spigots and entrance signage.

East Side Trailhead

This area will see updates to the existing trailhead including regrade and formalize the gravel parking area for (12) Trailer Spaces, add one (1) Vehicle Wash Stations, add one (1) Water Spigot, and allow for two (2) Signed Trail entrances

South Parcel Trailhead

This area located on the south side of Hwy 59 will add a Single Vault Toilet, enhance the parking area to a class 5 Gravel Parking Area w/islands, add one (1) Vehicle Wash Stations, add (1) Water Spigot and one (1) entrance sign.

Lakeview Walking Trail

This area will add a walking trail out to fishing pier & old structure, (2) Benches at old structure for walkers. The path will be reshaped into an 8' class 5 dedicated walking trail and fence, with signage. A fishing pier will be added near hand boat launch.

Formalize Connection Trail

This item will help people connect to services in the city of Appleton with an upgrade to signage and stripping along Hwy 59.

Spectator View Areas

This will re-grade flat areas on two different high points for viewing adding five (5) benches and five (5) shade trees.

Development Feature and Development Feature Support Material Upload

PROPOSED PARK FEATURES

APPLETON OHV PARK MASTER PLAN, APPLETON MN





GRAVEL PARKING WITH CONCRETE MEDIANS



BEACH AREA ACCOMMODATING GRADE CHANGE WITH WALL



FISHING PIER



TRU-GRID PAVING SYSTEM



FENCING - ATV BARRIERS - BOULDERS



ATV WASH



FLUSH RESTROOM



WATER SPIGOT



SIGNAGE TO CLEARLY DEFINE MULTI-USE SYSTEMS

Outreach, safety and user tracking

Marketing materials were identified as a need in our public outreach. Information about the park can be found on the City of Appleton website, Swift County website, Prairie Waters, and DNR website. Survey respondents indicated that word-of-mouth is an important method of spreading information about the park. Social media for various groups including local government, Prairie Off Roaders, and individuals also helps to get information out about the park. There is no formal communications plan other than the information hosted on the Swift County website.

At the moment, anecdotal feedback on the park indicates that attendance at the park is high and that the greatest need is adding the amenities and expansion of the park to attract more users. Because there is no fee to enter the park, there is no formal system of monitoring attendance.

There is no specific plan to address monitoring park attendance, but Swift County would be open to a system that captures attendance.

7. Implementation Plan Tab

Implementation Plan

Development of Appleton Area OHV Park's features has been divided into three phases, two development phases and one land acquisition category. To balance the matching requirements of each phase, some minor Phase I improvements will be postponed and included in a Phase II request.

Phase I will include improvements to the Day-Use Beach Park area including dredging to create a more appropriate swimming area and landscaping. Anchoring this area will be new flush toilet restroom building with a septic system and new well. Parking improvements will include GEOPAVE parking and drive areas and 6' Class 5 gravel trails linking facilities with the beach.

The Main Trailer Parking Lot will be improved with a vault toilet, two vehicle wash stations, and drinking water spigots served by a new well. The parking lot will have Class 5 gravel parking area with concrete curb islands, and a stormwater pond.

Phase II items include an East Side Trailhead that may be located on expansion parcel 1 which would include re-grading and topdressing of the gravel parking area. This trailhead area will also include a vehicle wash station, well and trail entrance signs. A trailhead on the south parcel of the park will include a vault toilet, Class 5 gravel parking lot, entrance sign as well as vehicle wash station and drinking spigots served by a new well.

On the north side of the park, the lakeview walking trail will establish a path to a new fishing pier on the south side of the man-made lake that will be indicated by signage warning OHV users of walkers in the area. Spectator viewing areas with new benches and trees and a formalized connection crossing Hwy 59 (done in cooperation with MnDOT) are the main elements of Phase II. Remaining Phase I elements consist mainly of signage, landscaping, guardrails and outdoor shower stations and water spigots in the beach area.

In the short term, approval to alter the man-made lake to create a better swimming beach will depend on the outcome of completing an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The longer-term priorities depend upon the addition of land to the park, which makes phasing of the park beyond two phases difficult. Connecting adjacent parcels of land parallel to the Pomme de Terre River could be done with a bridge that serves OHVs and another large parking area may be necessary on the north side of these parcels should park attendance warrant the addition.

Summarize Acquisition and Development Costs To-Date

The grant requests to the Federal Recreational Trails Program 2002 and 2004 were used to designate the park as a dedicated OHV park and then to expand the park. Requests to the DNR OHV Grant-In-Aid in 2018 and 2021 were for park expansion. Swift County make annual request to the DNR OHV Grant-In-Aid Program for park maintenance.

Some of the funding resources available to the Appleton Area OHV Park include:

- Swift County: Matching dollars will be available through the county. These funds are allocated from the general fund.
- Department of Natural Resources Off-highway vehicle Grant-In-Aid Program (DNR OHV GIA): provides funds for trail construction and maintenance per mile. Can be used for both Acquisition and Development for new trail and Maintenance for existing trails. Needs a local sponsor.

- Federal Recreational Trails Program: This is a federal funding source for new trail acquisition and development. Requires a local unit of government (LUG) as a sponsor (counties can often play this role). \$150,000 maximum award, and also requires a match in funding. Appleton has been awarded funding from the DNR OHV GIA program to match the F RTP requirement. NOTE: In 2002, this was called the National Recreation Trail Program
- Bonding dollars through the State Legislature
- T.R.A.I.L.S. grant program offered by OHV manufacturer, Polaris: This grant is intended to support the activities of ATV clubs and other local rider groups that help maintain local parks. Grant awards are capped at \$10,000 but groups may apply twice per year. The deadlines for applications are on March 1st and September 1st.
- EDA Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program 2021-2022. To help communities that have been hardest hit by Covid-19 Pandemic challenges facing the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors to invest in infrastructure, workforce or other projects to support the recovery of the industry and economic resilience of the community in the future.
- DNR Staff Resource: DNR is able to do maintenance on trails with their existing staffing capacity.

Investments to Date from Various Sources

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

- Acquisition \$0
- Development \$0
- Total \$0

Non-Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

- Arts & Cultural Heritage Legacy \$0
- Clean Water Legacy Funding \$0
- Outdoor Heritage Legacy Funding \$0
- Total \$0

Local and Other Funding Sources

2002 - \$78,900 National Recreation Trail Program
 \$78,900 Local Match

2004 - \$100,000 Federal Recreational Trails Program
 \$40,000 Local Match
 \$260,000 DNR OHV Grant-In-Aid Program

2018 – \$134,500 DNR OHV Grant-In-Aid Program
 \$134,500 Swift County match

2021 - \$148,575 DNR OHV Grant-In-Aid Program
 \$148,575 Swift County match

\$1,123,950

Annual maintenance DNR OHV Grant-In-Aid Program request since 2004 - \$47,000 (\$752,000)

\$1,875,950 - total

Acquisition and Development Cost Projections

Cost projects for the Appleton Area OHV Park Master Plan have been detailed both by priorities as well as by site or program area. Cost estimates for the acquisition have been developed using previous tax records and estimated county land values.

Cost Estimate Support Information Upload

Appleton OHV Park Cost Estimate							
Phase	Map #	Tentative Construction Year	Item Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
1	1		Land Acquisitions				
		2021-2022	Larson Gravel Co. # 01-0091-000 (36.5acres)	LS	1		\$ -
		2022-2023	Larson Gravel Co. # 01-0001-000 (108 acres)	LS	1		\$ -
		2023-2024	Larson Gravel Co. # 01-0001-000 (140 acres)	LS	1		\$ -
		2023-2024	Larson Gravel Co. # 01-0001-000 (85 acres)	LS	1		\$ -
			Total Cost Land Acquisitions				\$ -
		2023-2025	All improvements listed by priority				
1	2		Day-Use Beach Park				
		2023	Beach area (dredging and sand)	CY	4,589	\$ 40.00	\$ 183,560.00
		2023	Boulder Walls	SF	200	\$ 20.00	\$ 4,000.00
		2023	GEOPAVE Drive and parking areas	SY	7,200	\$ 30.00	\$ 216,000.00
		2024	Flush Restroom Building (500sf)	EA	1	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
		2024	Septic system	EA	1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
		2024	Drill Well	EA	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
		2025	6' Class 5 Gravel Trails w/ stabilizer	SF	5400	\$ 3.00	\$ 16,200.00
1	3		Main Trailer Parking Lot				
		2023	Double Vault Toilet	EA	1	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
		2023	6" Class 5 Gravel Parking area with concrete curb islands	SY	3,500	\$ 25.00	\$ 87,500.00
		2023	Stormwater Pond	LS	1	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
		2025	Vehicle Wash Station - 2 areas w/2 hoses at each area	LS	2	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
		2025	Water Spigots	EA	2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
		2025	Drill Well	EA	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
			Total Cost Phase 1				\$ 703,260.00
		2026-2031					
2	1		East Side Trailhead (potential relocation based on acquisition)				
		2027	Re-grade, topdress, gravel parking area and entrance drive with islands	SY	4757	\$ 5.00	\$ 23,785.00
		2027	Vehicle Wash Station -1 areas w/1 hose	LS	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
		2027	Drill Well	EA	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
		2030	Trail Entrance Signs (regulatory)	EA	2	\$ 350.00	\$ 700.00
2	2		South Parcel Trailhead				
		2027	Single Vault Toilet	LS	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
		2027	Class 5 Gravel Parking area with islands	SY	1,200	\$ 25.00	\$ 30,000.00
		2028	Vehicle Wash Station -1 areas w/1 hose	LS	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
		2028	Drill Well	EA	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
		2028	Water Spigots	EA	1	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
		2030	Entrance Sign	LS	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
2	3		Lakeview Walking Trail				
		2028	fishing pier	EA	1	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
		2029	reshape existing for 8' class 5 dedicated walking trail	SF	1900	\$ 3.00	\$ 5,700.00
		2030	split rail fencing	LF	175	\$ 25.00	\$ 4,375.00
		2030	regulatory signage (small on t-posts)	EA	4	\$ 150.00	\$ 600.00
2	4		Formalize Connection Trail to Camping Area				
		2030	regulatory signage (small on t-posts)	EA	8	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,200.00
		2030	pavement stripping and symbols	LF	3650	\$ 1.00	\$ 3,650.00
2	5		Spectator Viewing Areas				
		2030	Re-grade, topdress, gravel area	SY	9000	\$ 3.50	\$ 31,500.00
		2030	Benches (2 locations)	EA	10	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
		2030	Shade Trees (2 locations)	EA	10	\$ 500.00	\$ 5,000.00
			Additional Items to complete Phase 1 Areas				
	1	2026	Outdoor Shower and Changing Screens (4 screens)	EA	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	1	2026	Water Spigots	EA	2	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
	1	2026	Trail Entrance Signs (regulatory)	EA	4	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,400.00
	1	2026	Landscaping (parking islands, perimeter canopy trees)	LS	1	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
	1	2026	Guardrails	LF	500	\$ 10.00	\$ 5,000.00
	2	2026	Trail Entrance Signs (regulatory)	EA	4	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,600.00
	2	2026	Monument Sign at Park Entrance	LS	1	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	2	2026	Landscaping (parking islands, perimeter canopy trees)	LS	1	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
			Total Cost Phase 2				\$ 258,010.00
			Construction Total				\$ 961,270.00
			Design/Engineering Cost (8% of total)				\$ 76,901.60
			15% Contingency				\$ 144,190.50
			Total Project				\$ 1,182,362.10

Notes and Assumptions:

1. Cost estimate does not include demolition and disposal of existing features.
2. Phase 1 is anticipated to proceed into construction within the next 1-3 years.
3. Phase 2 is anticipated to proceed into construction within the next 3-7 year.
4. Additional 30,000 CY of material assumed to be moved on south shore is not included in estimate.
5. Additional 30,000 CY of material assumed to be moved on south shore is not included in estimate.
6. Dredging beach area assumes all material can stay on site and will not be hauled off-site. Assumes excavation min. of 2' over all areas.

Acquisition and Development Phasing Plan

Development of Appleton Area OHV Park's features has been divided into three phases, two development phases and one land acquisition category. To balance the matching requirements of each phase, some minor Phase I improvements will be postponed and included in a Phase II request.

Implementation of park development phases will depend heavily upon Swift County supporting grant requests to the GMRPTC with matching funds. While there are elements within the implementation matrix that other entities are responsible for - MnDOT, the City of Appleton, the DNR – most of the responsibility lies with Swift County. Swift County has initiated the process of park expansion by committing to the purchase former gravel mining property labeled Phase I adjacent to the east side of the park. See attached park acquisition map.

In the short term, approval to alter the man-made lake to create a better swimming beach will depend on the outcome of completing an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The longer-term priorities depend upon the addition of land to the park, which makes phasing of the park beyond two phases difficult. Connecting adjacent parcels of land parallel to the Pomme de Terre River could be done with a bridge that serves OHVs and another large parking area may be necessary on the north side of these parcels should park attendance warrant the addition.

Phasing Plan Support Information Upload

Refer to CE plan. Phasing is outlined in that document.

Cost Projections for Implementation Plan

Acquisition \$148,575 (DNR) \$148,575 (Swift County-2021)

Development \$1,176,980

Projected Total \$1,474,130

8. Operational Plan Tab

Joint Organizations Responsibilities

N/A

Maintenance/Operations Plan

The Appleton Area OHV Park is maintained and managed by Swift County Parks, Drainage, and Wetlands. Improving the maintenance of the park was one of the primary categories when survey comments were reviewed. There is currently one part-time person responsible for regular maintenance of the park.

Maintaining the park in a manner that encourages people to return, avoiding flood prone and ecologically sensitive areas, and financial security are the main objectives that not only relate to the current park, but more importantly are objectives to meet when the park is expanded. The park is an important green space and while the trees in the park are highly valued, they must be occasionally pruned back. OHV activity has

inherent adverse effects on the landscape (Martinson 2010) and must be both contained on designated trails and mitigated. Careful consideration of locations for new trails that maximize maintenance efforts will be important for park development going forward. Inevitably, expanding the park will increase the number of trails that need maintenance. Swift County plans to create a maintenance plan and will consider adding staff as the park grows.

While the DNR Off-highway Vehicle Grant-in-Aid program provides funds for trail construction and maintenance per mile, ensuring long-term financial security for the park may include diversifying the funding sources used to support park functions. One possibility is the T.R.A.I.L.S. grant program offered by OHV manufacturer, Polaris. This grant is intended to support the activities of ATV clubs and other local rider groups that help maintain local parks. Grant awards are capped at \$10,000 but groups may apply twice per year. The deadlines for applications are on March 1st and September 1st.

Annual expenses to maintain the park are currently:

\$47,000 Total maintenance per year

Long-term management costs of new amenities will have to be determined and budgeted for.

Swift County commissioners are committed to maintaining the Appleton Area OHV Park for its visitors. As facilities are added to the park, Swift County commissioners will budget for ongoing maintenance.

M/O Support Material Upload

Ecological/Land Resources Plan

Swift County is working towards a plan to manage their ecological and land resources better. Because the OHV park is a former gravel mining site, the vast majority of the park is a disturbed landscape. Avoiding flood-prone and ecologically sensitive areas are the main objectives that not only relate to the current park, but more importantly are objectives to meet when the park is expanded. Expanding the park should provide the opportunity to assess whether trails in flood-prone, highly eroded, or those impacting lake water quality should be abandoned. The park is an important green space and while the trees in the park are highly valued, they must be occasionally pruned back. As a public body of water, the DNR is involved with the condition of the man-made lake. This lake is considered to be the cleanest body of water in the region.

SHORELINE CONVERSION

Description: Park steering committee members have explored, and are actively working towards, making significant changes to the NW side of the man-made lake to make improvements geared toward a swimming beach. Currently, the beach does not accommodate easy access to the beach. DNR staff are involved with this process.

9. Programming Plan Tab

Currently, programming in the park is done by outside groups. Swift County does not sponsor any activities in the park at this time. The local ATV group, Prairie Offroaders, has hosted an annual event called Prairie Thunder Off-Road Rally. This event had been held for five consecutive years before being cancelled for COVID-19 considerations.

Groups work with Swift County to utilize the park.

The Prairie Off-roaders have held an annual event on Labor Day weekend at the OHV park. Activities include prizes, tours, obstacle courses, mud run, and ATV bowling. There is an event at a local bar to wrap up the weekend events.

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters has held their annual gathering at the OHV park. Activities included food, presentation on the history of the park, demonstrations and prizes.

It is hoped that as the amenities grow in the park that programming could be increased, especially with youth and other OHV groups, and in collaboration with MNDNR.

Currently, the cost to provide these programs is the maintenance to get the park ready. There are no fees associated with the programming. Some are fundraisers that provide funds for projects in the park.

Programming Support Material Upload



LABOR DAY
WEEKEND
SATURDAY
AUG. 31ST

Appleton Area
← **OHV Park**

One mile Northeast of
Appleton, MN on Hwy 59

PRAIRIE THUNDER

**DOOR
PRIZES**

2019
4TH ANNUAL Off-Road Rally

DIRTY GOOD TIME

Family
Fun!

PRIZES
&
Bragging
rights

ATV MUD RUN
BLINDFOLDED BARREL RUN
OBSTACLE COURSE
ATV BOWLING
PARK TOURS
FOOD AVAILABLE

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Spectators
Welcome

HOSTED BY PRAIRIE OFF ROADERS OHV CLUB



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST



9:30am-3pm **REGISTRATION & EVENT INFORMATION**
PRAIRIE OFF ROADERS WELCOME TENT
Door Prizes Sign Up | Mud Run Sign Up | Club Memberships

10am-Noon **ATV Bowling**

10am-Noon **Tours of the Park**

10am-Noon **ATV Obstacle Course and Blindfolded Barrel Run**

Noon **Door Prize Drawings at the welcome tent**
Must be present to win

1pm **ATV Mud Run – Multiple Classes & Prizes!**
Pre-register at the welcome tent before event

Starting
at 5pm **Rally Wrap Up Party at Shooter's Bar & Grill**



SPECTATORS WELCOME

MORE INFO: PRAIRIEOFFROADERS.ORG

Follow us on Facebook for updates & details

f FACEBOOK.COM { PRAIRIE OFF ROADERS }



Registration
& license
required for
all ATVs

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
**WESTERN MINNESOTA PRAIRIE WATERS
ANNUAL GATHERING**

AT THE
APPLETON OHV PARK

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2012

5:00 TO 6:30 P.M.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! RAIN OR SHINE



**BRING
THE WHOLE
FAMILY!**

**HAVE YOUR OWN
ATV, DIRT BIKE
OR 4x4?
BRING IT!**



**FREE
BRATS, HOT DOGS,
CHIPS & COOKIES**

THE OHV PARK IS
1 MILE EAST OF APPLETON, MN
ON HWY 59. LOOK FOR THE BROWN SIGNS!

**LEARN ABOUT THE OHV PARK!
DEMONSTRATIONS OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES & ATVS!
FREE FOOD! DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS!
LEARN MORE ABOUT PRAIRIE WATERS
& ALL WE DO TO PROMOTE THE REGION!**



www.PRAIRIEWATERS.com
1-866-866-5432



Annual Programming Cost

\$0

Annual Revenues from Programming and Fees/Charges Total

\$0

Outreach and Marketing Plan

The Appleton Area OHV Park informs the public through Swift County's website, Facebook page and word of mouth. There are few signs in the park to help guide the user. The Park Board has many goals to better inform the public about the park's offerings, rules, and history.

The current marketing and outreach goals are:

1. Clarify the rules of the park and make available on signage, websites, and brochures.
2. Create signage for better wayfinding to and throughout the park.
3. Guide users to preserve and take care of the park.
4. Provide better amenities that attract users to the park.
5. Ensure park users are aware of local camping resources.

Currently, the park utilizes the following for outreach and marketing:

1. Events – events provide a way for the general public to learn about the park.
2. Facebook page – volunteers are available to answer questions that people post.
3. Website – Swift County and the City of Appleton host information about the park including park maps.
4. DNR – The DNR has a website with information about the park.
5. Specific event advertising in newspaper and radio.
6. Swift County Fair booth - provided public input opportunity.
7. Regional tourism – Swift County is a part of Western Minnesota Prairie Waters, a regional tourism entity promoting the park through a website, visitors guide, Facebook page and advertising.

The park intends to continue all the above tasks. Additional future outreach and marketing ideas are:

8. Online guestbook
9. GMRPTC website
10. Geocaching programming
11. Additional events
12. Better signage with rules, boundaries and wayfinding information including an OHV route through town (See map attached).

Objectives in this recommendation include the development of clear wayfinding in the park, improving the OHV connection to the City of Appleton, and utilizing existing camping facilities. The park is currently served by two entrances. The west entrance is considered the main entrance into the park including the largest parking area, and the east entrance leads to two small parking locations, one on the north side of the park, and the other on the east end of the park.

Park user feedback showed a desire for an improved connection to the City of Appleton. There is currently a dedicated path from town out to the park, but this path requires crossing Highway 59. There are currently no crossing improvements at this intersection. The speed limit at this location is just changing from 60 mph to 45

in this vicinity. Walkers and bicyclists also cross the road to enter the park at this location. The steering committee has requested that MnDOT add traffic calming signs warning drivers of the OHV crossing. See proposed crossing improvements map in Appendix I.

Camping

Park user surveys have shown strong interest in adding camping in the park. There is currently no camping within the park and the steering committee unanimously agreed that camping would not be added. The committee felt that improving connections to the existing camping locations in Appleton would address the demand for the near future. The City of Appleton’s campground is currently accessible by OHV and the Swift County Fairgrounds camping site will be accessible upon approval of a connecting route through the city to the park

Outreach and Marketing Support Upload



- City Council ▶
- City Administration ▶
- City Departments ▶
- COVID-19 Response ▶
- Pay My City Bill
- Contact the City ▶
- Forms
- Wellhead Protection Plan
- Chamber of Commerce ▶
- Appleton EDA ▶
- Appleton Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network
- Appleton Comprehensive Plan 2017-2027
- Applefest ▶
- History ▶
- Small Cities Development Program

Appleton Area OHV Park

2 miles northeast of Appleton on Hwy. 59. [\(Map it!\)](#)

- 330 Acre Park for ATV's, Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM) & Off Road Vehicles (ORV)
- 10 Miles of ORV Trails
- 5 Miles of ATV/OHM Trails
- 1.5 Mile OHM Practice Track
- 3 Enduro Tracks
- Youth ATV Training Course
- Youth OHM Practice Track
- Groomed Snomobile Trails
- Jumps, Water Hole, Sand Dunes, Hill Climbs, Rock Crawls
- Hiking Path
- Play Areas
- Shelter/Picnic Areas

FREE ADMISSION
Hours: Sunrise to Sunset 7 Days a Week!

- All OHV's Must Be Registered
- Contact any DNR Conservation Officer. See OHV Regulations Link Below

-The City of Appleton has a city license that should be obtained for driving ATVs on City Streets. This license is free of charge. Information that needs to be provided is: Name, Address, Telephone Number, DNR license number of vehicle and a signature. The form can be found below. ***Please return to the city office at least 1 week prior to your visit so you can receive your approved permit.***







Visit Us. Thrive with Us.

Quietly Beautiful - Wildly Connected

[Home](#) / [Outdoor Adventures](#)

Outdoor Adventures



Hunt & Fish

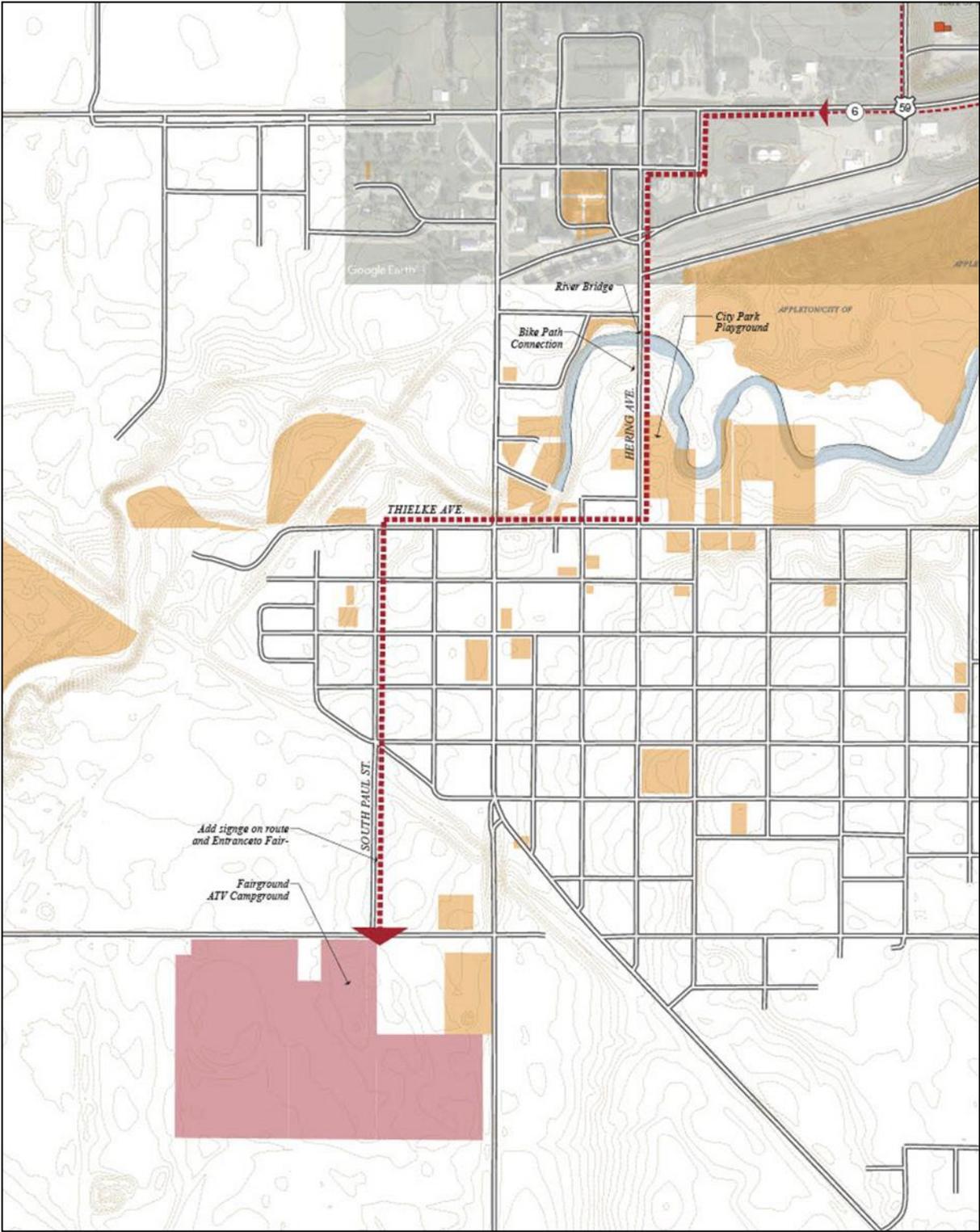


Off-road & Trails



Biking

The Minnesota River, along with its major drainages of the Chippewa, Pomme de Terre and Yellow Medicine rivers, and plentiful lakes including Big Stone and Lac qui Parle are a recreational magnet for fisherman, hunters, birders, paddlers and nature enthusiasts.



User Metrics and Research Plan

The Swift County OHV Park Steering Committee is interested in continuing to survey and track users to gauge what is needed in the park. Some ideas include: a counter cable for vehicles, online surveys, online guest book and paper guest book in the shelters.

COUNTER CABLE FOR VEHICLES

Working with the transportation department, the county could put a counter cable to count the number of vehicles entering and leaving the park.

ONLINE SURVEYS

The survey done as part of this plan could be done again to follow up and find out how many people are using the park

ONLINE GUESTBOOK

There could be an online guestbook where people could sign in and offer comments.

PAPER GUEST BOOK IN THE SHELTER AREAS

There could be an old-fashioned guestbook in the picnic shelters that could be used as a way to tell each other what they found in the park that day.

Swift County will participate in Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) research initiatives as programs are developed and implemented over time.

User Metrics and Research Support Upload