

1. Lac qui Parle County Park Master Plan

Lac qui Parle County Park

GMRPTC Park/Trail ID# 15-006D, District 3

Park Type: County park

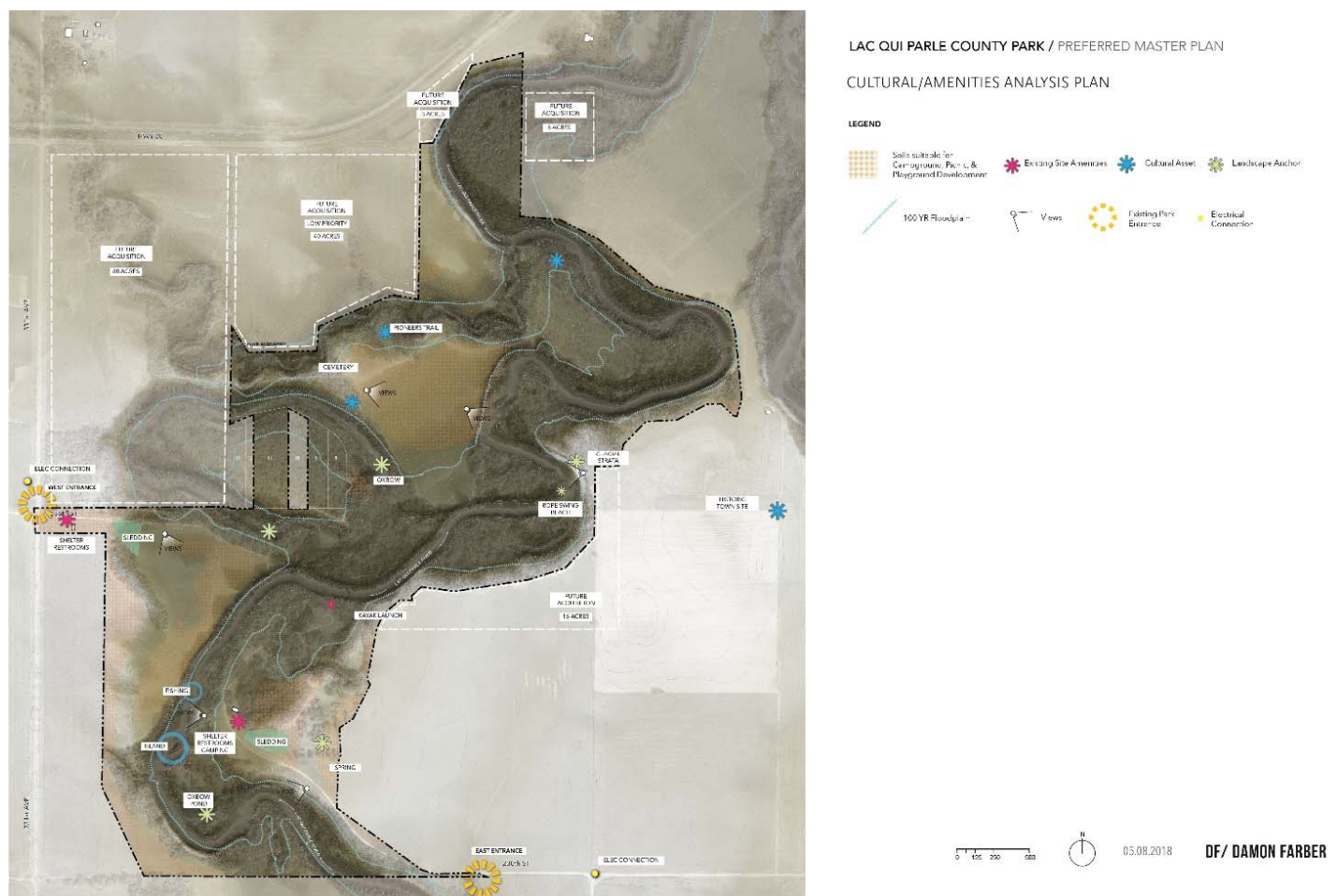
Location Description:

The park is located in Section 31, Lac qui Parle Township, Lac qui Parle County, MN

GPS location at the shelter is 44.996873, -95.975187.

2299 337th Avenue, Dawson, Minnesota, MN 56232

44.99718453, -95.97501326



Lac qui Parle County Park

Lead Applicant:

Lac qui Parle County

Jake Sieg

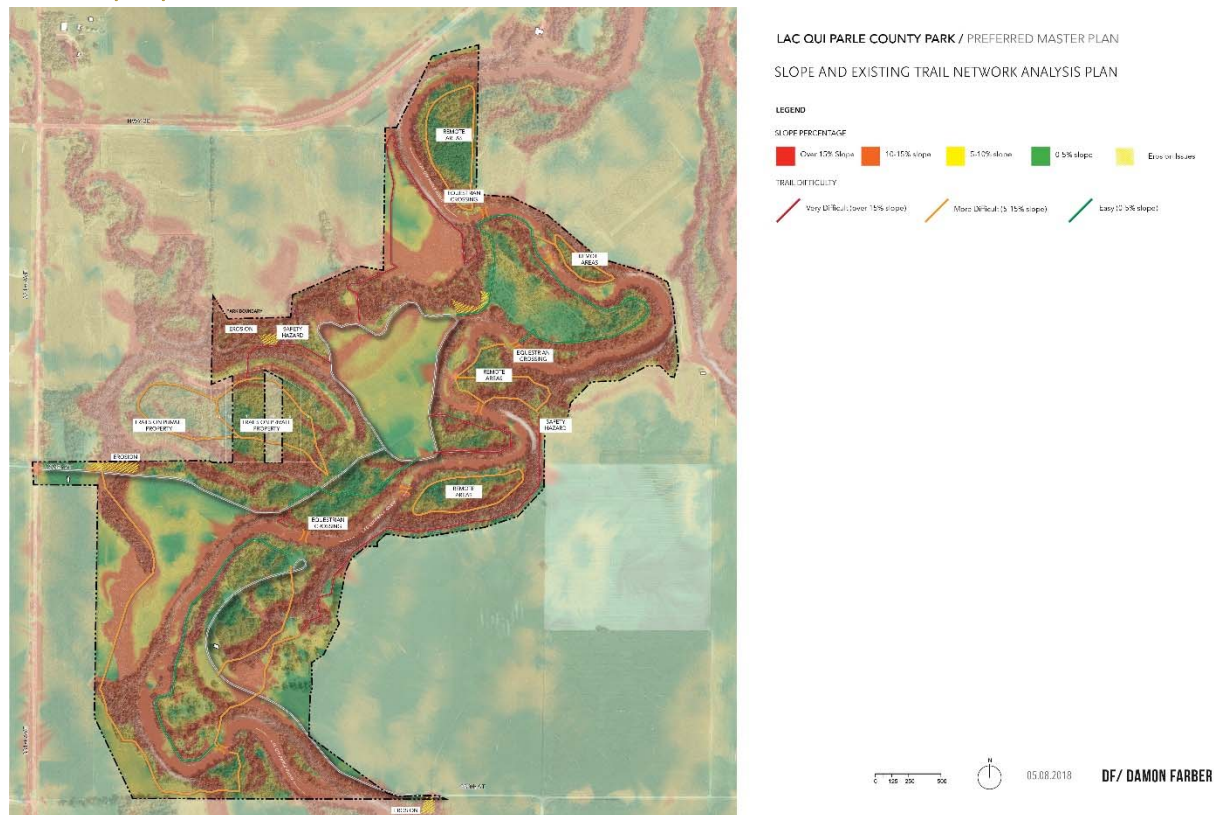
Lac qui Parle County Auditor- Treasurer

Lac qui Parle County, 600 6th Street, Madison, MN 56256

320.598.7444

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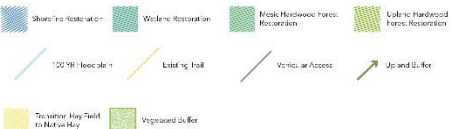
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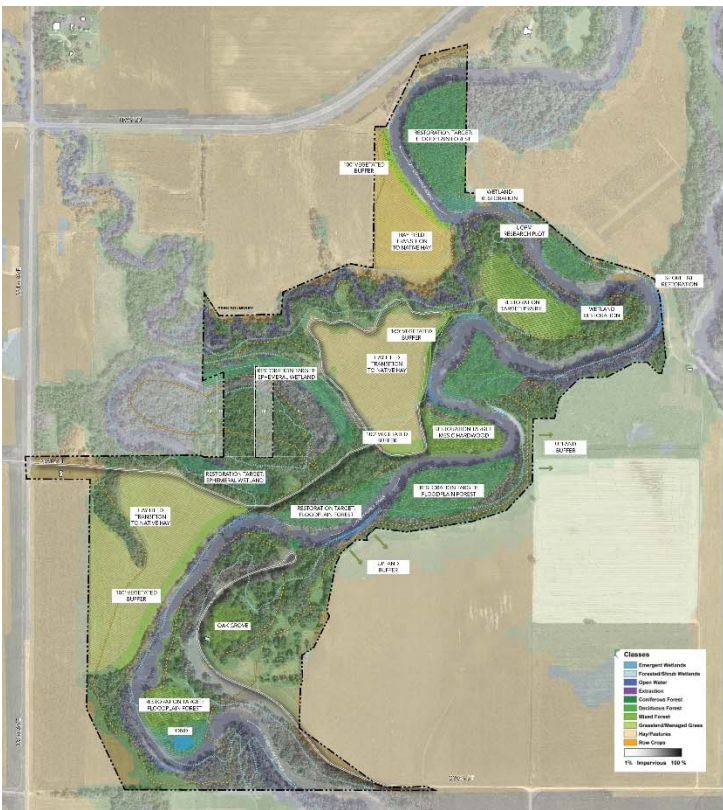
LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS PLAN

LEGEND



05.08.2018 DF/ DAMON FARBER



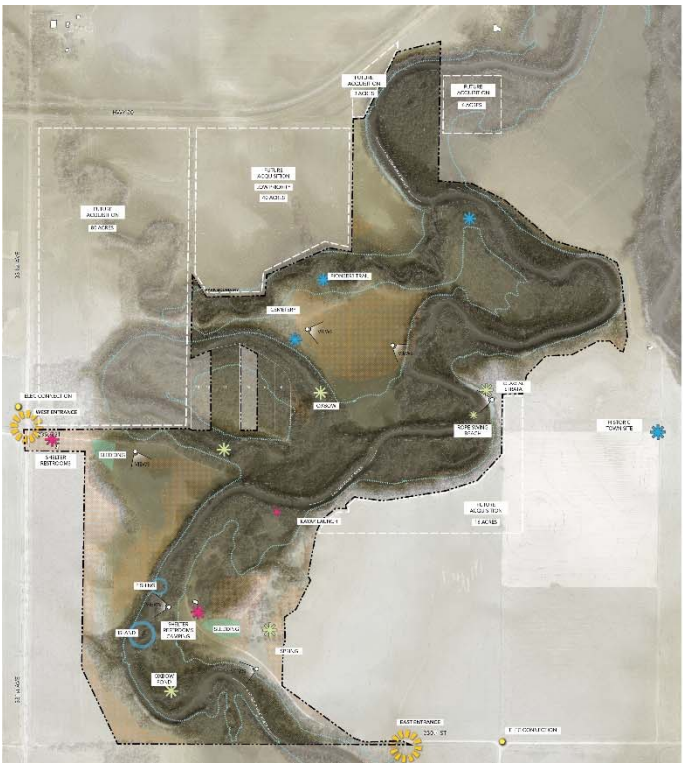
LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

CULTURAL/AMENITIES ANALYSIS PLAN

LEGEND



05.08.2018 DF/ DAMON FARBER



allowed in the park. Winter use includes snowmobile, cross country skiing and sledding. The park does not currently have electricity.

The west side has a primitive shelter, an outhouse, minimum maintenance roads that lead to some trails, a rope swing and the old cemetery that dates to the origins of the park in the late 1800s.

The east side of the park has a picnic shelter with a cement pad, two pit toilets, a solar powered well, old playground equipment, an area for primitive group camping with fire rings, a sledding hill and access to the river for canoeing and kayaking.

There are multiple new facilities proposed in the master plan including a trail head, restrooms, a bridge that crosses the river (pedestrian), and a warming hut.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS TO BE OFFERED]

The park currently hosts a number of events. An annual three-day equestrian ride through the park is a fundraising event for St. Jude's. The park hosts an annual haunted hayride that serves as a fundraiser for the park. In the spring, the boy scouts use the park for a spring camping experience.

Total Acreage or Mileage

Lac qui Parle County Park currently covers 226 acres. The total existing trails is about 6.6 miles. The master plan includes trail improvements that will give the park a total of close to 9 miles of trails.

Acquisition and Development Status

Many acquisition areas identified in the master plan will improve access in the park, and provide buffers important for protecting sensitive areas. Conversations are being had with neighboring landowners. The park hopes to acquire more land as opportunities present themselves

Regional Context

Lac qui Parle County Park is a county park. It is currently managed and maintained by the Lac qui Parle County Park board and sustained by the members of the local saddle club, local volunteers and Lac qui Parle County.

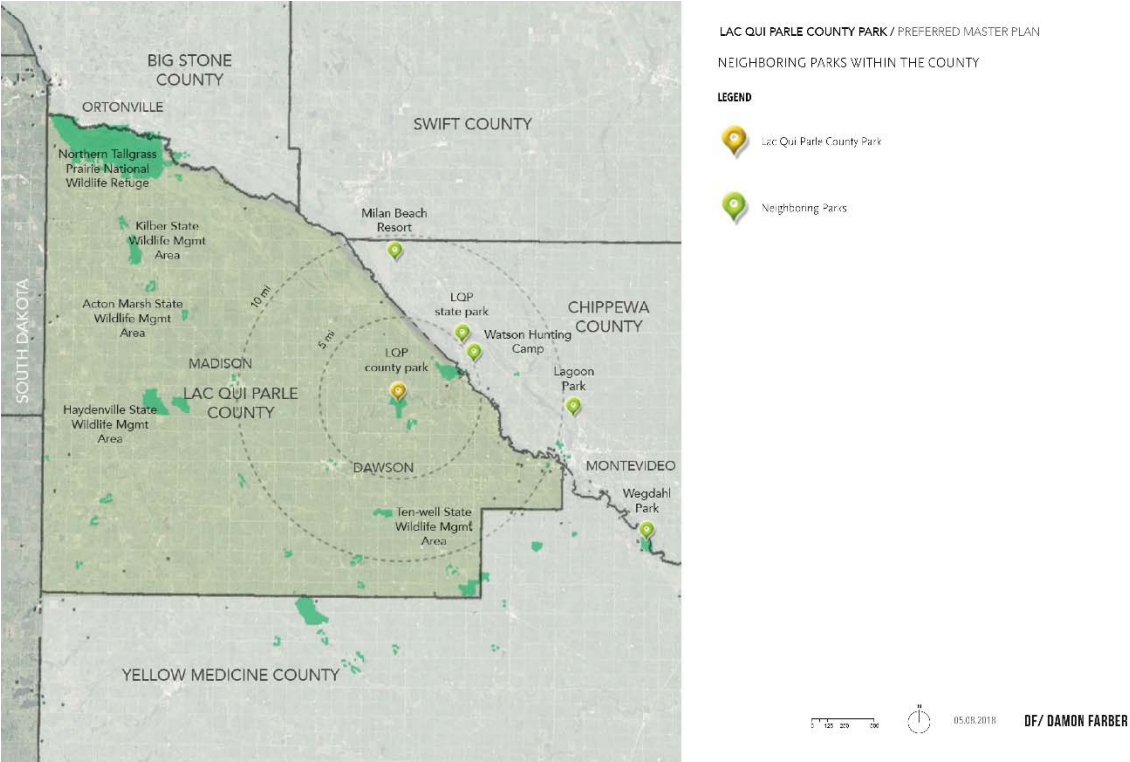
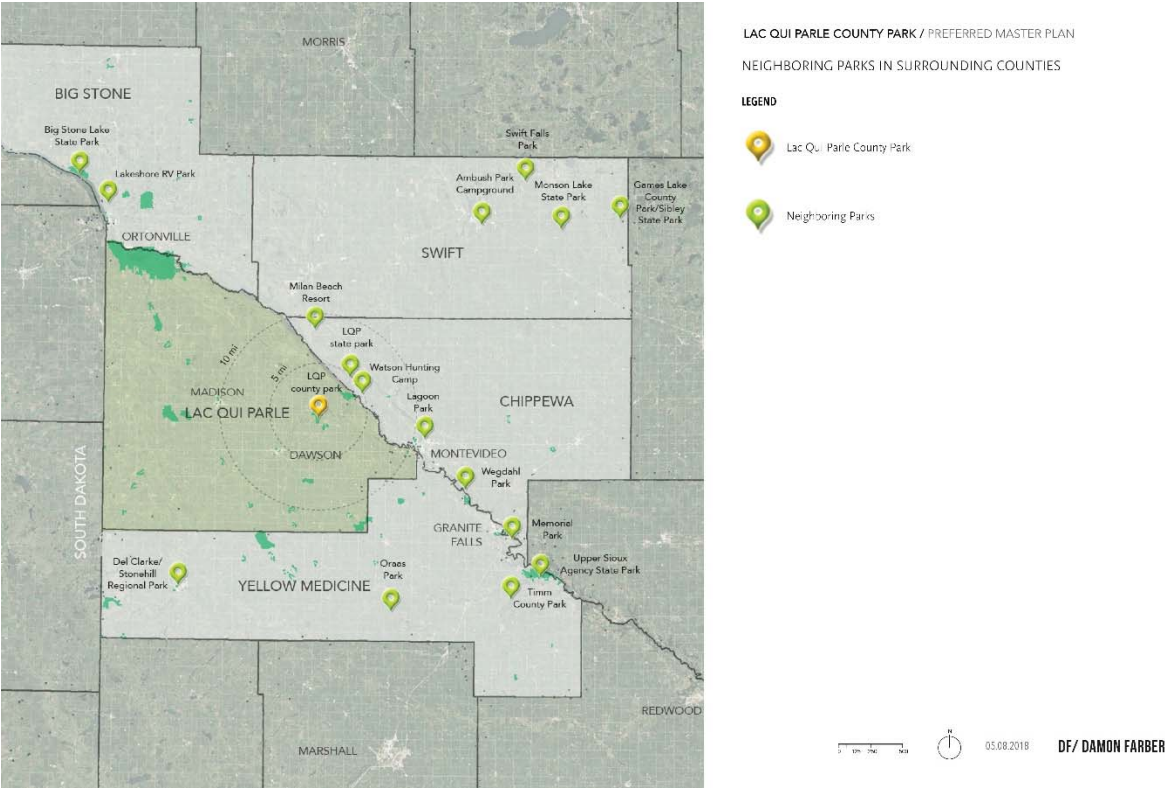
Lac qui Parle County Park is located 5.5 miles south of Lac qui Parle State Park. Lac qui Parle State Park is managed by the Department of Natural Resources as part of their state park system. Lac qui Parle State Park features trails accessible by foot, historic Fort Renville and Lac qui Parle mission sites and a 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. Lac qui Parle State Park is also accessible from the County Park by river - a great way to connect the two parks is that one can put in a kayak or canoe and use the Lac qui Parle River to paddle to the Lac qui Parle State Park.

Lac qui Parle County Park is located 31.4 miles northwest of Upper Sioux Agency State Park. Upper Sioux Agency State Park contains the site of the Upper Sioux or Yellow Medicine Agency. The park was established in 1963 to preserve and interpret the remains of the old Agency site. The park covers 1,280 acres and offers diversity: open prairie knolls, bluffs, and cool, wooded slopes. From vistas, visitors enjoy the trails which are ideal for horseback riding, hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling. The park also offers a huge sliding hill for winter fun. Popular activities in Lac qui Parle State Park are camping (including tipi sites), historic sites, horse trails/camp, varied landscape/hiking trails and birdwatching.

Farming is a large part of the economy in West Central Minnesota and Lac qui Parle County is no exception. As a result, much of the land in Lac qui Parle County (and West Central Minnesota) is used for agriculture and local concerns can make it difficult to remove any land from farming for more park space. There are relatively few preserved natural areas in West Central Minnesota that can boast the both the quality and size of outdoor experience that Lac qui Parle County Park offers to West Central Minnesota.

Lac qui Parle County Park may have an opportunity to complement and connect to Lac qui Parle State Park. The County Park offers different recreational experiences such as horseback riding and kayaking experiences that are not available at the state park. The county park also offers a more rustic, river experience that appeal to a different group of users. The Lac qui Parle River connects the two parks.

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

Special equestrian events are held near the shelter area allowing room for horse pens, horse trailers and self contained recreational vehicles

- ☒ 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

ATV allowed on certain trails with strict rules (speed limit and only certain classifications allowed)

Historic cemetery

Sledding Hill

Rope Swing

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

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- ☐ Zip Lines
- ☒ Restrooms/sanitation building
- ☒ Roads and Parking Areas

OTHER

ADA trails with crushed granite
Kayak Launch
Warming house
Electricity
Water on west side of the park
Holding tank for sewer
Restroom with showers
Bridge that crosses the river.

General Site Characteristics

Lac qui Parle County Park's Regional Setting – *Adapted from the attached document by David Craigmile.*

The landscape of the park was created by the glaciation that ended some 13,000 years ago with the melting ice waters initiating major portions of local waterways, rivers and streams to include the Lac qui Parle River which flows through the Park on into the namesake Lake and Glacial River Warren Minnesota River & Valley. Thus, the landscape with its till, soil, morphology, water, flora, fauna and climate came first with humans choosing to move into the area to take advantage of these abundant natural resources.

There is local evidence of native people being in the area for at least 9,000 years. The Park was claimed by a number of entities before it became part of the United State. The first claim on Park lands by non-aboriginals was by France in 1682, then by Spain in 1763, back to France in 1800, then by the United States in 1803 after the Louisiana Purchase, although the Dakota people still lived on these lands. In 1851, a treaty negotiated that the land be part of the Dakota reservation, but it wasn't until 1859 until the park area became official Dakota Reservation lands. On February 16, 1863, because of the US – Dakota War of 1862, the U.S. Senate abrogated all treaties with the Dakota people. Once again, the Park lands changed ownership and again became lands of the State of Minnesota which would become available for general settlement.

French traders gave the river which runs through the Park the name Beaver Creek for its abundance of beaver. The Dakota people's name for the river was Watapan Intapa meaning "river at the head". The French later misinterpreted the Dakota name and came up with the French word, Lac qui Parle, which means "lake that talks" assigning both the river and lake that the rivers delta created in the underfit Minnesota River Valley the same name.

The first settler land claims in the Park list the lands as Sioux Indian, the county as McPhail and the township as Cerro Gordo. It was not until March 6, 1871 that Lac qui Parle County was officially named as such and set-off from Redwood County. And it was not until December 27, 1872 that Lac qui Parle Township was created by splitting off the east half of Cerro Gordo township. The Park lands finally had official residence in the official township of Lac qui Parle within the official County of Lac qui Parle through which flowed the Lac qui Parle River on into Lac qui Parle Lake.

The first settlers to secure U.S. Government land patents in section 30, T118-N R42W of Park lands were Rosetta H Mills (1871), Edwin Nash (1872), Amund Olson (1872) and John Nash (1873); directly adjacent in the W 1/4 of Section 29 was Peter F Jacobson and Hans Hansen (1871) while another Nash, Thomas M (1873) claimed land adjacent in section 31. With all the Nash ownership and with the river lands being quite heavily forested, the Park area quickly became known as Nash's Grove. Numerous 2 - 4 acre parcels of these valuable river bottom lands timber were surveyed and sold off to individuals, some of whose families still hold those lands today as deer hunting parcels. Original surveys as early as 1872 have been found and are of high quality such that the official stone and tree monuments noted may be located. These surveys could be used and set-up in an activity version of today's popular geo-caching.

The early settlers of the Park area decided they would wish to establish a church and city; however, there was quite a discussion as to whether the church (especially) and city should be north or south of the Lac qui Parle River.

The first church was organized June 1, 1870 and recognized as the first Lutheran Church in the County as well as Upper Minnesota Valley. Church services were held in local homes or outdoors in timber on the south side of the river. And in April of 1871 the congregation expressed interest in a potential church & cemetery site near the center of section 30, north of the river on land owned by Amund Olson. Land owners William Mills (father of Rosetta H who married Charles Nash), Peter Jacobson and Edwin Nash south of the river talked of donating land and platted out parcels of their lands for the city, church and cemetery. The town was to be called Bison City or Williamsburg which

would hopefully become the new county seat boom town; thus, a store was quickly opened in 1870 by a Mr. Donaldson. However, there was competition from another faction of settlers some three miles to the east for another town site to be called Lac qui Parle Village. This competition for a prospective county seat town site would be settled by the first elected County Commissioners; thus, a spirited political campaign ensued to elect the appropriate three persons as originating County Commissioners. The newly elected commissioners first met January 11, 1872 and they voted unanimously to select Lac qui Parle Village as the county seat. That was the death knell for Bison City and the Donaldson store packed up and quickly moved to Lac qui Parle Village.

The new church site selection was not quite yet decided as the congregation did not wish to have their church at Lac qui Parle Village, but did prefer it to be centrally located in the vicinity of section 30. Amund & Gorgina Olson Vold owning a one acre parcel of land north of the river in the NW 1/4 of section 30 officially sold it to the Lac qui Parle Branch of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for \$1.00 with a deed dated April 16, 1875. The congregation had tentatively chosen the site earlier and started a cemetery there but then decided the location was unsuitable for the church structure as there were problems with accessibility.

The church was eventually constructed one mile due west of the described cemetery on donated acreage and is still active on the same site today which is north of the Lac qui Parle River and easily accessible. The original cemetery site is presently within Park boundaries and is very solemn and picturesque.

As time marched on into the 20th Century, Park area lands changed ownership; however, people continued to enjoy visiting, hunting, fishing and recreating in the Park area as well as paying respects at the original cemetery. The Minnesota Army National Guard found the Park accommodating, for in the 50's - 70's the local National Guard units practiced maneuvers and honed their marksmanship skills in the Park during weekend drills. The former horse, ox and cart trails once again felt the pounding of hoofs as area and distant saddle clubs found the Park very enticing. The area Boy & Girls Scouts often camped at the Park with the Boy Scouts engineering a bridge across the river. And area 4H Club projects helped tidy up the cemetery and other areas. Class reunions also became common at the Park. In 1968, a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources allowed Lac qui Parle County to acquire 207.65 acres to create a public park.

Moving into the 21st Century, area schools began using the Park as an outdoor natural and earth science classroom. A particular feature of the Park is the unique riverine fluvial geomorphic landscape with sheer 60 foot cut-banks and associated features. This unique combination of landscapes also provides habitat for a diverse variety of flora and fauna. The Park also began to host a very popular Halloween Haunted Hay Ride. The Park is truly four-season, for winter months entice people that enjoy skiing, snowshoeing and sledding. No firearms are allowed in the Park; archery hunting is allowed. There are 226 acres in the Park today and a hoped-for expansion of some 65 acres is in the planning stages. The Park is open to the public year around, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. No other park in the County or surrounding area offers such a rich natural resource experience. The Park is preserving a rich heritage while educating today's generation and conserving substantial pristine resources for the future generations.

Site Characteristics Images Upload

Attachment: Regional setting by Dave Craigmile



Photo by Lund Photography





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 solid 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

Lac qui Parle County Park should be ecologically resilient, accessible to all abilities, and engaging to a wide range of users. Its natural and cultural history should be preserved and highlighted to educate visitors. The park should retain a rustic quality while increasing programming, amenities, and usage.

GOALS FOR THE PARK

ECOLOGY: Protect and reduce impacts to existing ecological assets while improving degraded habitat.

ACCESS: Make the park more accessible to visitors by strengthening the connections between the west and east side of the park, designating trail use, and implementing way finding.

AMENITIES: Improve park facilities to expand uses in the park, promote year around use, and attract visitors that won't abuse it.

OBJECTIVES

ACCESS:

1. Develop trails in areas already influenced by human activity.
2. Connect west and east side of park.
3. Ensure that trails remain sustainable.
4. Create a looped trail network with varied difficulties.
5. Separate trail uses where user conflicts could occur.
6. Create ADA accessible loops.
7. Develop clear wayfinding on site.
8. Provide access to remote areas of the park.

ECOLOGY:

1. Remove and restore undesirable trail locations to their appropriate biotic communities.
2. Route trails to bisect ecotones to limit disturbance, avoid erosive ridge-top locations, and provide low-impact stream crossings that supports in-stream habitat.
3. Utilize boardwalks, raised trails, and other topologies that respond to sensitive vegetation and reduce erosion.
4. Stabilize stream bank erosion by restoring shoreline plant communities and using bio-engineering interventions on severe cutbanks.
5. Provide and restore 100' buffers along riparian zones to reduce overland flows and provide upstream stormwater catchment in an effort to reduce nutrient flow, sedimentation, and promote infiltration.

6. Remove invasive species and enhance existing native communities to support wildlife habitat and functioning plant communities shoreline, woodland, and upland zones
7. Restore prairie habitat in open fields to support soil health & reduce overland flow, support grassland birds and pollinator habitat, and support native haying activities
8. Limit development activities in floodplains, sensitive ecological areas, and provide instream-interventions that support in-stream habitat
9. Introduce management regimes to regularly monitor and manage invasive species, and support long-term native plant establishment

AMENITIES:

1. Promote year-round use by providing facilities that can be heated in the winter.
2. Provide facilities that do not require staffing.
3. Consider the maintenance of proposed improvements and sustainable funding.
4. Park amenities should highlight cultural and environmental resources while providing an opportunity for education/interpretation.
5. Developed areas should avoid flood prone and ecologically sensitive areas.
6. Consider visitor safety when locating amenities and trail alignments.

COMMON THEMES, TRENDS AND VALUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Park is rustic and peaceful, and should be kept that way.
2. Make the park more accessible, enhance what is there, and add amenities sparingly.

DEMAND

Users are currently all ages. They hike, horseback ride, run, canoe and use ATVs. They want a bridge, electricity, bathrooms and better trails. Hiking and the Haunted Hayride were the highest use in the park.

PRIORITIES AND KEY OUTCOMES FOR THE PARK

1. Keep people safe
2. Enhance visitor experience
3. Make the park accessible to the public
4. Signage
5. Trail improvements, esp for runners
6. Clarify usage
7. Reduce invasive species
8. Keep the park attractive to those who will take good care of it.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INPUT

Current key message: "The Lac qui Parle County Park: preserving a rich heritage while educating today's generation and conserving substantial pristine natural resources for future generations."

"Preserving the value of the County park by respecting it as a natural resource and its native history."

"Most importantly is that the county park is a public place to be enjoyed and respected by everyone. In a sense it's a memorial to be preserved for its natural history as well as the history of the people that came before us. It was meant to be a public space. That means nobody owns it and no single group has the right to control or dominate its use. It's a public place."

CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

(1) Mixed uses of the park – ATV, horses, humans.

It was decided to continue the mixed use of many of the trails, but to have “share the trail” signage, and to have strict rules for ATV use (speeds under 7 MPH, only certain types allow).

(2) Maintenance of proposed improvements and sustainable funding.

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

(3) 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, county sheriff alerted to the rules and will 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.

(4) Safety hazards and bank stabilization.

Trails will be designed with bank stabilization in mind. Uses for the trail will also consider ecological impact and erosion, as well as safety.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Lac qui Parle County 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 fall of 2017.

We receive 255 online and paper surveys through the following outreach methods:

- * Facebook page
- * Lac qui Parle County Fair booth
- * Haunted Hayride October 25, 2017– 843 participants and 144 paper surveys
- * Distribution by steering committee members
- * Local school cross country practice, and emails sent to cross country parents
- * Newspaper ad and radio ad
- * St. Jude Equestrian Ride

Out of the 255 surveys, 55 people use the park less than once per year.

The following information is taken from the 200 responses who answered they used the park daily, weekly or at least once per year.

The following are the top responses (number of responses):

Who uses the park?

Highest age group was 36-55 (74) but all age groups were well represented.

What do you do?

Top votes were: Haunted Hayride (103), Hiking (97), Sledding (68), Camping (55), Horseback riding (54).

Next: ATV, Fishing, Other, Swim, Birding, Archery/bow hunt. Top write-in was trail running (9).

What would you like to see added?

Bridge (126), Electricity (86), Ski Trails (44), Hunting (27), write-in: playground equip and warming house

What would you like to see improved?

Bathrooms (93), Trails (77), Shelter (51), write-in: electricity, lights, showers

(2) PUBLIC DRAFT OF THE PLAN available online on the umvrdc.org website and on the LQP County Park facebook page. Outreach was done with:

- * Facebook
- * Emails collected from the survey were sent notification of the draft plan and public meeting notice.
- * Advertisements - radio

(3) PUBLIC MEETING – *Add information after meeting*

(4) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Steering committee #1 held August 24, 2017, Lac qui Parle County Park

Introduction, timeline, case studies, public engagement strategy and challenges and opportunities.

Attendance:

Park board: 11

Staff: 2

Steering committee #2 held December 14, 2017, Riverside Town Hall, Dawson

Survey results, identify common themes, demand, trends and values, full analysis and inventory of the park, possible amenities, potential funding models.

Attendance:

Park board: 8

Staff: 3

Steering committee #3 held March 8, 2018, Riverside Town Hall, Dawson

Survey summary, draft vision, goals, objectives, draft concepts.

Attendance:

Park board: 9

Staff: 4

Steering committee #4 held March 22, 2018, Riverside Town Hall, Dawson

Single concept, maintenance, ATV usage, priorities and phases

Attendance:

Park board: 12

Staff: 3

Lac qui Parle County Board presentation April 3, 2018, Madison, MN

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

Park board: 4

Staff: 1

An article from this meeting was published in both the Madison and Dawson papers

Steering committee #5 held April 10, 2018

Review concept drawing, ATV, programming, outreach, marketing and usage, supporters, immediate projects

Park board: 8

Staff: 1

Public meeting **held May 8, 2018**

Dawson: 5:00 – 6:00

Madison: 6:30 – 7:30

The plan was available electronically for those unable to attend the public meeting

The Master Plan was presented to public for input and suggestions

Lac qui Parle County Board adoption date:

Public Involvement Support Material Upload

Attachment: SURVEY PDF

Regional Demographic Information

Lac qui Parle County 2010 Population: 7,259; 2010 Households: 3,155. Lac qui Parle County Park is the county's only park, and the only park in the region that offers many of the experiences that Lac qui Parle County Park offers. The park is regional because of the following - This unique park already draws visitors from a larger area because of the unique natural and recreation opportunities such as horseback riding, rustic trails, and river recreation; – the topography of the park is unique and offers plant life and wildlife that needs to be preserved; - it offers a regional park in an area where there are few public spaces for people to enjoy camping, hiking, and trails.

The population in Lac qui Parle County (and most other rural counties in the United States) have experienced population decline over the past 50 years. The population decline in Lac qui Parle County (again, along with most rural US counties) has slowed, but Lac qui Parle is projected to see more decline over the coming years than its neighboring counties.

However, Lac qui Parle Lake is a tourist destination for the region (and the state) due to the high quality of hunting and fishing opportunities. Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area is popularly considered the premier goose hunting grounds in the State of Minnesota, which is also largely considered the premier goose hunting state in the US. The region also features a DNR Wildlife Management Area staff. While the population of Lac qui Parle County may be slowly declining, the county still serves as a regional destination for Minnesotans interested in hunting and fishing.

Lac qui Parle County Park is currently a regional destination for more than 35 cities in three states, including Bismarck, ND which is over 350 miles from the park. Lac qui Parle County Park also serves as a regional equestrian destination. Riders come from as far as the neighboring states to participate in the event. Park user surveys included responses from 31 Minnesota cities, including: Aitkin, Albert Lea, Appleton, Arco, Bellingham, Benson, Boyd, Canby, Cyrus, Danvers, Dawson, Faribault, Graceville, Grove City, Hancock, Hanley Falls, Hutchinson, Lake Benton, Landfall Village, Madison, Marietta, Marshall, Milan, Minneapolis, Montevideo, Ortonville, Porter, Roseville, Taunton, Watson and Wood Lake.

The park user surveys also included responses from the South Dakota cities of Corona and Milbank and the North Dakota cities of Bismarck and Fargo.

Public Health Values

(Check all that apply) Promotes Physical Activity

- *Promotes Healthy Lifestyle*
- *Connects People to the Outdoors*
- *Enhances Mental Health*
- *Encourages Social Interaction*

Public Health Values Additional Information

Lac qui Parle County Park can improve public health in several ways including:

PROMOTES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

There are currently 6.6 miles of trails. With the improvements, there will be 8.8 miles of trails. The trails in Lac qui Parle County Park make walking and running enjoyable and accessible. The local cross country running teams use the park to train. The equestrian groups use the park for riding horses. There are many people that use the park for walks and getting outside. The park also offers wonderful kayaking, and in the winter, sledding and snowshoeing are available in the park. Proposed projects will promote and enhance these activities, and add cross country skiing, and additional trails.

CONNECTS PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS:

The diverse trail systems wind through woodlands, bedrock prairie, and 60 foot cliffs creating a variation of natural features for users to explore. Park programming attracts overnight campers and day visitors alike. Proposed interpretive signage can help visitors relate and understand the park both culturally and naturally and establish a relationship with the landscape.

IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH:

Numerous sources translate the benefits of nature on mental health. According to ASLA.org, "even short periods of time in nature can reduce symptoms of depression. Dutch researchers, who published their findings in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health found that living close to parks, or at least near lots of trees, can have far reaching mental health benefits for people. In turn, living in places without parks or trees, especially if you are young or poor, can have major negative impacts." (<https://www.asla.org/ContentDetail.aspx?id=39551>). Located centrally in an area with sparse large parks, Lac qui Parle County Park offers a reprieve from daily life and serves as regional destination for campers and outdoor enthusiasts.

PROMOTES HEALTH LIFESTYLE

Passive and active recreation programming proposed for Lac qui Parle County Park encourages residents and visitors to get outside and engage in physical and mentally beneficial activities. Programming in the park supports social interactions (event spaces and pavilion), educational opportunities (signage), active recreation (trails and sports), and moments for reflection (memorials and vistas).

ENCOURAGES SOCIAL INTERACTION:

Programming (Haunted Hayride) and the park shelters offer space for both public and private events. Rentable spaces could host events such as painting in the park, town meetings, weddings, and more. Trail systems support group hikes and rides. Camping spaces, fire pits, and outdoor classroom space supports gathering and conversation both formally and informally.

Public Health Values Support Material Upload

The LQP County Park gets a mention in this article!



Cross Country: Young, wild and Freetly

MADISONKeiser Freetly is a butterfly. Not literally, of course. Butterflies don't sport Nikes, run like the wind and talk about wanting to win a state title. But as the late-August shines down on western Minnesota during the first week of the high school...

WCTRIB.COM

Lac qui Parle County Park and Serena Borstad Brown



Comment

Share

Message



Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities

Lac qui Parle Lake and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a tourist destination for the region (and the state) due to the high quality of hunting and fishing opportunities. Lac qui Parle WMA is popularly considered the premier goose hunting grounds in the State of Minnesota, which is also largely considered the premier goose hunting state in the US. Migrant geese begin arriving in mid-October and the numbers in Lac qui Parle State Park will peak out between 125,000 and 150,000 birds. The region also features a DNR Wildlife Management Area staff. A Wildlife Area Supervisor along with two full-time staff and five part-time seasonal staff oversee the WMA work area totaling 33,000 acres. This acreage includes a state game refuge, a wildlife sanctuary, a waterfowl feeding and resting area, a duck sanctuary and a controlled hunting zone.

Lac qui Parle County Park is currently a regional destination for more than 35 cities in three states, including Bismarck, ND which is over 350 miles from the park. Lac qui Parle County Park also serves as a regional equestrian destination. The park hosts a very popular equestrian event to raise money for the St. Jude's Foundation. Riders come from as far as the neighboring states to participate in the event. Park user surveys included responses from 31 Minnesota cities, including: Aitkin, Albert Lea, Appleton, Arco, Bellingham, Benson, Boyd, Canby, Cyrus, Danvers, Dawson, Faribault, Graceville, Grove City, Hancock, Hanley Falls, Hutchinson, Lake Benton, Landfall Village, Madison, Marietta, Marshall, Milan, Minneapolis, Montevideo, Ortonville, Porter, Roseville, Taunton, Watson and Wood Lake.

The park user surveys also included responses from the South Dakota cities of Corona and Milbank and the North Dakota cities of Bismarck and Fargo.

Lac qui Parle County Park serves economic development and tourism in Lac qui Parle County by providing a campground, shelter and recreational trails. This attracts out-of-town guest to the area. Once the park is enhanced to provide travelers a better experience with the natural wonders of the park, this tourism will undoubtedly increase. The economic development and tourism in the region created by the park will increase by providing a high quality outdoor recreation area (camping (both tent and RV), canoeing and kayaking, fishing, bird watching, walking/running/bicycling on trails, nature hiking, and picnicking), access to the Lac qui Parle River, access to 60 ft bluffs and rare plant and animal species, and is well connected in the region by the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway.

The park is in the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway (MRVNSB) corridor (10 miles on both sides of the Minnesota River). Attached is a section from the MRVNSB Interpretive Plan that talks about Visitor Demographics, Preferences and Behaviors. In a study done by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center, 6% of southern travelers stay in an RV at a campground and 3% stay at a tent in a campground. Nearly half of visitors are from Minnesota. Lac qui Parle State Park, just ten miles away, gets 96,000 annually.

Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities Support Material Upload



60-ft bluffs in the park

Excerpt from the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan 2015

Visitor Demographics, Preferences, and Behaviors

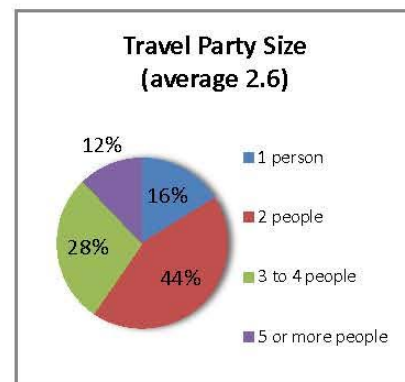
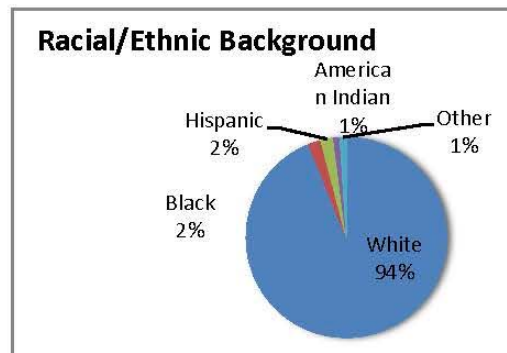
Though no specific study on visitors to the Minnesota River Scenic Byway has been conducted, there are a variety of related studies and data that help suggest likely general trends. Ideally, a study would identify exactly who is coming, where they are coming from, why they are coming, when they are coming, how long they'll stay, and what they like to do.

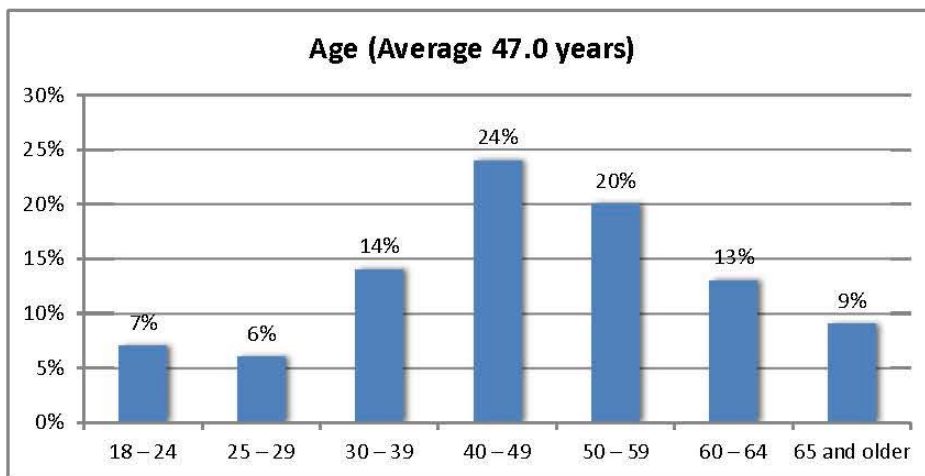
The material in this section is extracted from "Top Minnesota Attractions by Tourism Region, 2010," University of Minnesota Tourism Center, and "The Economic Impact of Expenditures by Travelers on Minnesota's Southern Region and the Profile of Travelers June 2007 – May 2008" by Davidson-Peterson Associates.

Visitor Age, Wealth, Race and Groupings

Studies show that most travellers to similar sites in Minnesota travel in groups of two or more, and are generally older, wealthy, and white. Seventy-three percent of groups do not have children in their party. Visitors are nearly equally male and female.

Proportionately, more whites and fewer blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians are represented when compared to the trends at a state level. These patterns may reflect the availability of leisure time and disposable income that develops later in life, and the demographic trends of that older population.





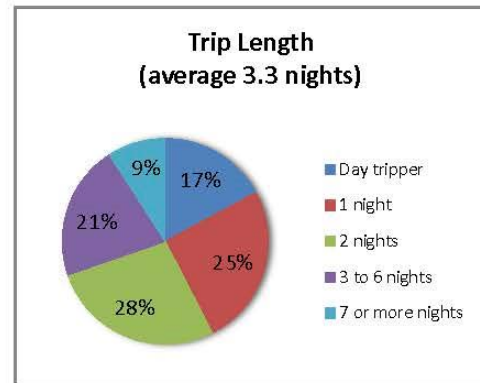
Visitor Reasons for Travel

Almost half (45%) of the visitors to Southern Minnesota are travelling for vacation or pleasure. A third are travelling for personal reasons, to visit friends or family. The remaining visitors are coming for business/work (15%) or convention/conference purposes (10%). Within the Byway, this data would likely shift more towards vacation and personal, as the venues for conventions or conferences are limited.

Visitor Trip Length and Lodging

Most visitors to Southern Minnesota stay in the area over night. Just 17 percent are day-trippers. Of those that stay overnight:

- 59% stay at a hotel, motel or historic inn
- 12% stay at the home of family or friends
- 6% stay in an RV at a campground
- 3% stay in a tent at a campground
- 1% stay at a Bed & Breakfast
- 1% stay at a resort



Visitor Frequency

Over 80 percent of visitors to Southern Minnesota are repeat visitors, with approximately half having made more than five visits within the last five years. This is likely because 47 percent of visitors are from Minnesota. The # of MN Trips visitors made in Last 5 Years:

- 27% More than 10
- 21% 5 to 10
- 23% 2 to 4
- 9% 1 only
- 17% None

Visitor Travel Planning Sources

Most visitors use the Internet to plan their visits to Southern Minnesota. With the rise of mobile tech devices, it is likely that visitors will increasingly conduct trip research and planning while en route. This data emphasizes the importance of effective Internet marketing.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Internet | 40% |
| Friends/relatives/co-workers | 45 |
| Brochure/travel guide | 8 |
| Newspaper/magazine | 7 |
| Local tourism bureau | 3 |
| TV/radio | 2 |
| Airline/travel agency | 2 |
| Visitor/welcome center | 1 |
| State Travel Office | * |
| Other | 21 |

Visitor Residence

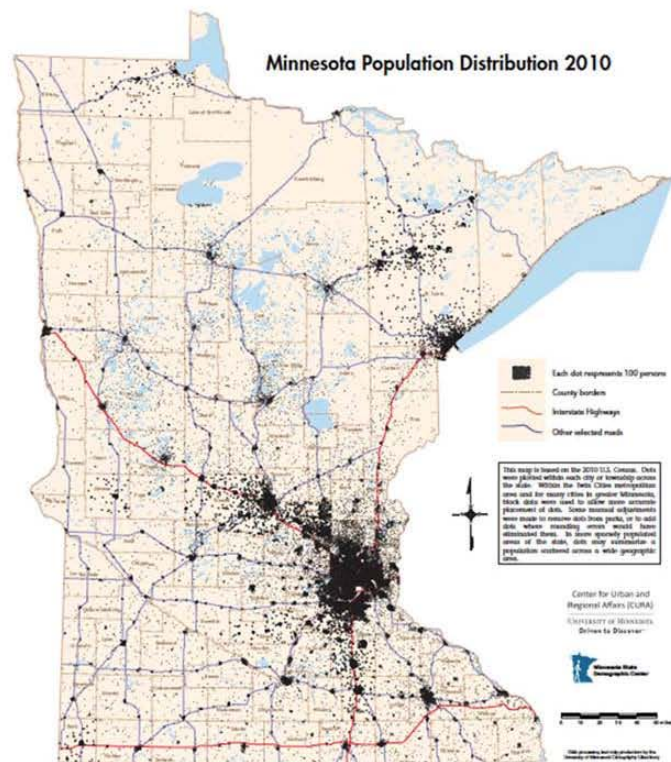
Nearly half (47%) of the visitors to sites in all of Southern Minnesota are from Minnesota, with 10 percent from Iowa, 8 percent from Wisconsin, 3 percent from South Dakota, 3 percent from Illinois, and 12 percent from other states. Within the Minnesota River Scenic Byway, visitors are even more likely to be from Minnesota and the Dakotas, and less likely to be from Iowa and Wisconsin.

Historic, geographic, and cultural patterns are significant factors for tourism in the Minnesota River Scenic Byway. A series of maps show some of the ways in which the Byway is uniquely situated.

Approximately 60 percent of Minnesota's population lives in the Twin Cities. Outside of the metro, settlements along major trade routes (originally rivers, then railroads, then highways) have grown, while those not along the routes have shrunk. With the development of the Interstate Highway System, this pattern has intensified. The Minnesota River and its Scenic Byway is unfortunately caught between the two major east-west interstate freeways, I-90 and I-94. The 2010 Population Map shows the resulting pattern between transportation paths and population, and the sparse population along the Minnesota River.

At the eastern edge of the Minnesota River Scenic Byway, population along highway 169 is denser, and this hypotenuse line from the Twin Cities towards the southwest corner of the state may be a likely corridor for growth in population or transit over the next decade.

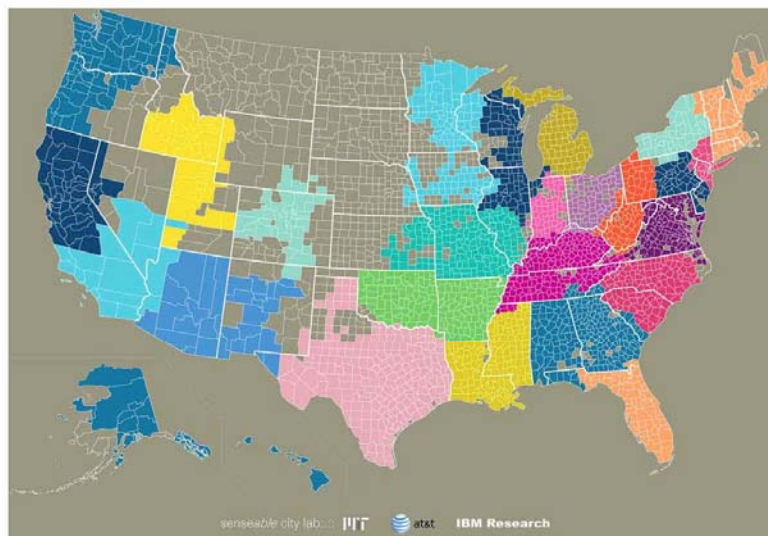
Beyond Minnesota, visitors are likely to come from South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, and western Wisconsin. Recently, broader travel and economic patterns have been studied by Dirk Brockmann, who used data about the movement of actual dollar bills



to create the following map. This map shows that the Twin Cities is the center of a broader economic region that includes North and South Dakota, western Wisconsin, and pieces of northern Iowa.



The map below helps show a cultural pattern that is interesting to compare to the economic one. IBM and MIT studied the likelihood that someone would call another person within an area, or outside of that area. This map suggests that Minnesotans, people in western Wisconsin and most of Iowa share information quite easily, and that word-of-mouth marketing to the audiences may spill easily to the other.



Where Visitors Go in Southern Minnesota

Southern Minnesota and the Minnesota River Valley have many popular tourist attractions.

| Popular Sites and Annual Attendance | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Prairie's Edge Casino | 600,000 – 720,000 |
| 2 | Whitewater State Park | 256,218 |
| 3 | Flandrau State Park** | 234,047 |
| 4 | Jackpot Junction Hotel | 150,000 |
| 5 | Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area** | 145,332 |
| 6 | Minneopa State Park** | 141,221 |
| 7 | Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park | 117,276 |
| 8 | Myre-Big Island State Park | 113,105 |
| 9 | Lake Shetek State Park | 112,715 |
| 10 | Frontenac State Park | 110,463 |
| 11 | LARK Toys and Carousel | 100,000 |
| 12 | Lac Qui Parle State Park** | 96,873 |
| 13 | Blue Mounds State Park | 87,812 |
| 14 | Sakatah Lake State Park | 86,762 |
| 15 | Pipestone National Monument | 72,421 |
| 16 | Fort Ridgley State Park** | 65,424 |
| 17 | Upper Sioux Agency State Park** | 45,406 |
| 18 | Big Stone Lake State Park** | 37,358 |
| 19 | Schell's Brewery** | 35,000 |
| 20 | Morgan Creek Vineyards | 19,800 |
| 21 | Brown County Museum | 10,890 |
| 22 | Harkin Store | 10,000 |
| 23 | Jeffers Petroglyphs | 5,778 |

Locations marked in **Blue** are within the Upper Minnesota River Scenic Byway. Data marked with ** was for 2012, supplied by the DNR via email in 2013. Pipestone data for 2007, pulled from their Long-Range Interpretive Plan, 2008. Jeffers for 2011-2012, provided by Sunnie Hergin of MHS via phone, July 9, 13. Morgan Creek Vineyards, and Brown County Museum for 2012, provided by Terry Sveine, New Ulm Chamber, via email, July 12, 2013. Schell's Brewers provided by Terry Sveine via email, November 5, 2013. Prairie's Edge Casino from conversation with Prairie's Edge Event Manager, October 24, 2013. Harkin Store data provided by Ben Leonard of MHS, March 11, 2014. The data for Jackpot Junction Hotel was provided by a Hotel Reservation operator in a call on November 6, 2014, and refers just to hotel stays. She estimated many more visitors to the casino side. All other data from "Top Minnesota Attractions by Tourism Region, 2010," University of Minnesota Tourism Center.

What Visitors Like to Do

| | |
|---|------------|
| <u>General (checked one or more below)</u> | <u>81%</u> |
| Dining out | 69 |
| Sightseeing or driving for pleasure | 22 |
| Taking in city sites | 14 |
| Driving on designated scenic byways | 12 |
| Nightlife or evening entertainment | 11 |
| Casino gaming | 8 |
| Viewing fall colors | 6 |
| <u>Shopping (checked one or more below)</u> | <u>46%</u> |
| General or mall shopping | 23 |
| For gifts or souvenirs | 22 |
| Arts, crafts, or antiques | 14 |
| Outlet shopping | 11 |
| At the Mall of America | 7 |
| <u>Participating In (checked one or more below)</u> | <u>37%</u> |
| Pool swimming | 11 |
| Hiking | 8 |
| Biking | 6 |
| Fishing | 6 |
| Wildlife viewing or bird watching | 5 |
| Lake/river swimming | 3 |
| Golfing | 3 |
| Motor boating/water skiing | 2 |
| Canoeing | 2 |
| Downhill skiing or snowboarding | 1 |
| Hunting | 1 |
| Ice fishing | 1 |
| Off-road ATV driving | 1 |
| Jet skiing | * |
| Cross-country skiing | * |
| Snowmobiling | * |
| Other activity | 10 |
| <u>Visiting (checked one or more below)</u> | <u>49%</u> |
| Friends or relatives | 27 |
| Historic sites | 13 |
| State or national parks | 10 |
| Other museums | 9 |
| Art museums | 7 |
| Amusement parks or carnivals | 5 |
| Indian areas | 5 |
| Outdoor water parks | 5 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Indoor water parks | 4 |
| Other attraction | 9 |
| <u>Attending (checked one or more below)</u> | <u>35%</u> |
| Fairs or festivals | 9 |
| Amateur sporting events | 8 |
| Popular music concerts or shows | 4 |
| Theater performances | 4 |
| Professional sporting events | 2 |
| Classical music concerts | 1 |
| Other events | 13 |

Likely Visitor Seasonal Patterns

Though formal data has not been collected on this topic, anecdotal evidence suggests general patterns of seasonal travel for the broader state and the Minnesota River Scenic Byway.

Winter: Minnesotans travel to winter-activity destinations, such as ski resorts, ice-fishing lakes, and snowmobile trails.

Spring: Minnesotans travel to locations associated with spring events, such as bird watching and the fishing opener. Spring Breaks for students over March and April increase overall visitation. Many seasonal sites open around Memorial Day.

Summer: This is the heaviest tourist season for the state, as families are most available for travel. Locations associated with outdoor summer activities such as camping, boating, swimming, biking, climbing, and hiking are popular. Cultural events such as music, theater and dance performances increase. Local, county and state fairs occur.

Fall: Families often travel for MEA/Education Minnesota weekend in October. Hunting season draws people for the duck, pheasant and deer opener. Leaf peeping is popular along routes with good topography and good color. Many seasonal sites close soon after Labor Day.

Recreational Trends Information

The Lac qui Parle County Park currently offers the simplest amenities, and takes some work and luck to be able to visit and enjoy what it has to offer. There are few signs, and unless you know the park, you would not know where to go to enjoy the trails and views. The roads and trails are not accessible in times of bad weather, and only certain vehicles can access the minimum maintenance roads.

Our user survey showed the following:

Of the 255 people surveyed, 19% use the park less than 1 x per year. Around half of the surveyed people use the park at least 1 x per year.

People in the 36-55 age group are the highest user of the park.

67% would like to see a bridge over the river

48% would like to see electricity added to the park.

61% would like to see bathrooms improved

41% would like to see trails improved.

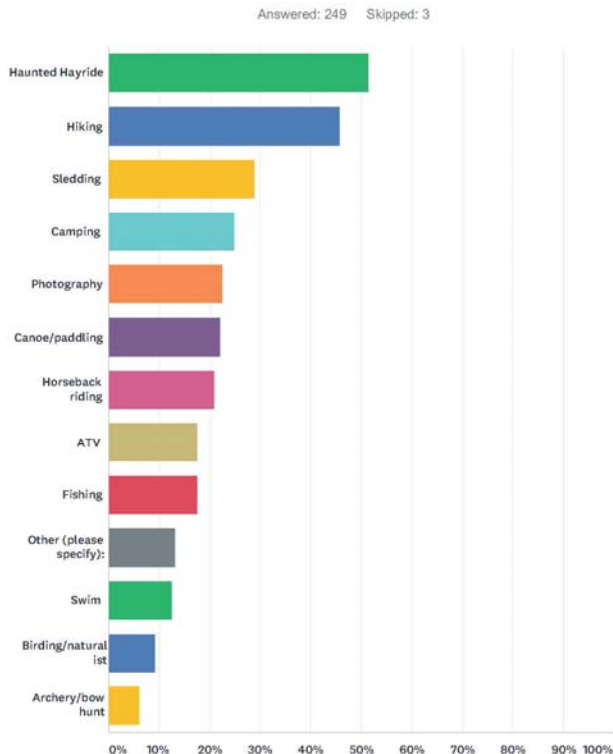
Expanded programming and accessibility in Lac qui Parle County Park will not only attract increased local usership but will also support the site as a regional recreation destination. There is great opportunity and demand for facilities and amenities to be offered in this park which will increase usage. Facilities and amenities such as an outdoor classroom, good trails and roads, a spot for buses to get in and turn around, bathroom facilities in areas around the park, interpretive panels, ecological restoration, and signage would address the demand to use the park and enable accessibility. Improved park facilities will support wedding events, community gatherings, and other private event rentals while the enhanced ecological character of the site and engaging interpretive elements draw hikers, bikers, families, and other outdoor users to the site.

Recreational Trends Support Material Upload

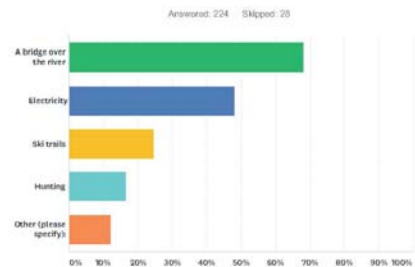
Attachment: Survey results

SURVEY RESPONSES

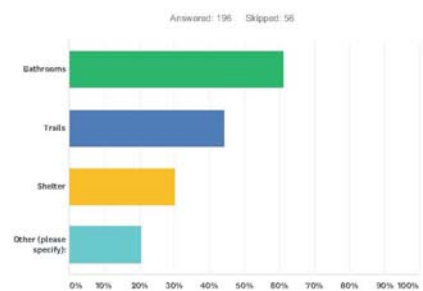
What do you do at the park?



What additional amenities would you like to see at the park?



What should be improved at the park?



COMMON THEMES, TRENDS, AND VALUES OF THE PUBLIC

Comments were that the park is rustic and peaceful. Feedback was to make the park more accessible, enhance what is there, and to add amenities sparingly.

IDENTIFY THE DEMAND

Users are currently all ages. They hike, horseback ride, run, canoe and use ATVs. They want a bridge, electricity, bathrooms and better trails. Hiking and the Haunted Hayride were the highest use in the park.

PRIORITIES

- Keep people safe
- Enhance visitor experience
- Make the park accessible to the public
- Signage
- Trail improvements, especially for runners.
- Clarify usage of the mixed uses of the park – ATV, horses, humans.
- Reduce invasive species.
- The park should be attractive to those who will take good care of it.

Survey responses 12-14-17

| City | State | # of responses | Miles from Park |
|---------------|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| Aitkin | MN | 1 | |
| Appleton | MN | 10 | |
| Bellingham | MN | 5 | |
| Benson | MN | 8 | |
| Bismark | ND | 1 | 352 |
| Boyd | MN | 10 | |
| Canby | MN | 6 | |
| Corona | SD | 1 | 63 |
| Cyrus | MN | 1 | |
| Danvers | MN | 1 | |
| Dawson | MN | 97 | |
| Fargo | ND | 1 | 161 |
| Graceville | MN | 1 | |
| Granite Falls | MN | 1 | |
| Grove City | MN | 1 | |
| Hanley Falls | MN | 1 | |
| Hutchinson | MN | 1 | |
| Kerkhoven | MN | 1 | |
| Lake Benton | MN | 1 | |
| Madison | MN | 43 | |
| Marietta | MN | 3 | |
| Marshall | MN | 4 | |
| Milan | MN | 2 | |
| Milbank | SD | 2 | 49 |
| Minneapolis | MN | 4 | |
| Minneota | MN | 1 | |
| Montevideo | MN | 19 | |
| Moorhead | MN | 1 | |
| Morris | MN | 1 | |
| Ogilvie | MN | 1 | |
| Ortonville | MN | 2 | |
| Porter | MN | 1 | |
| Raymond | MN | 1 | |
| Saint Paul | MN | 3 | |
| Silver Lake | MN | 1 | |
| Spicer | MN | 1 | |
| Taunton | MN | 1 | |
| Watson | MN | 3 | |
| Welcome | MN | 1 | |
| Willmar | MN | 1 | |
| Wood Lake | MN | 1 | |

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Dawson | 97 |
| Madison | 43 |
| Montevideo | 19 |
| Appleton | 10 |
| Boyd | 10 |
| Benson | 8 |
| Canby | 6 |
| Bellingham | 5 |
| Marshall | 4 |
| Minneapolis | 4 |
| Marietta | 3 |
| Saint Paul | 3 |
| Watson | 3 |
| Milan | 2 |
| Milbank | 2 |
| Ortonville | 2 |

5. Classification Details Tab

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

Lac qui Parle County Park is a great location to get outside and enjoy natural resource-based outdoor recreational activities. The Lac qui Parle River flows through the park allowing opportunities for recreation such as fishing, canoeing, kayaking and swimming. The park is home to many miles of trails for walking, hiking, bicycling or horseback riding. The park is also home to many wildlife species and unique plant species. The park features several outlooks from the top of river bluffs and landings below them, so of which are 60-ft tall. Several of the landings offer viewing of the expansive outcropping that flanks the Lac qui Parle River.

If you are looking for a place to unwind and reconnect with nature, Lac qui Parle County Park is the place for you. There is a shelter with picnic tables, there are fire rings, primitive bathrooms soon to be improved and new hydrants for drinking water.

Proposed facility and amenities will make this park more accessible to the public and provide a high-quality experience in a park that is a hidden gem. Many of the current facilities such as the playground equipment and shelter need upgrades, and the county has recently decided to focus their attention to improving the facilities and recreational opportunities so they can attract new visitors from a wider area and get more visitors to become repeat users of the park. They see Lac qui Parle County Park as a tourism and economic development asset to the county and the region.

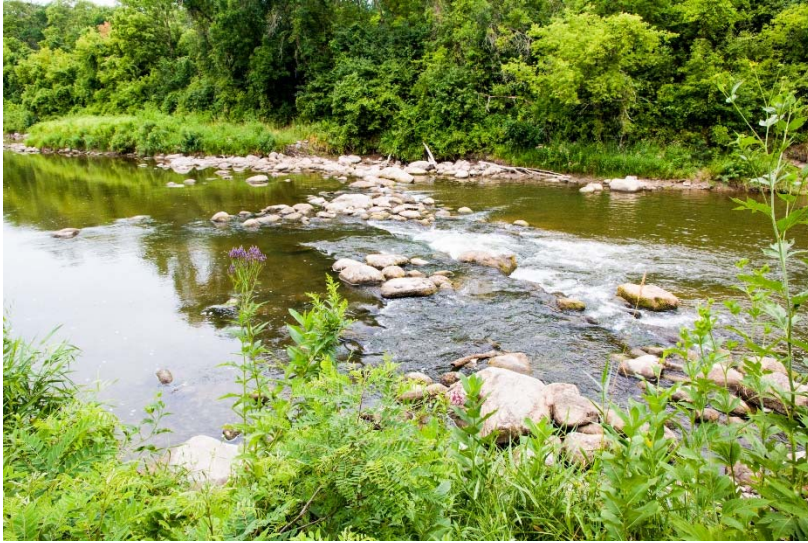




Criteria 2: Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape

The Lac qui Parle County Park is a natural and primitive park. The landscape transitions from wooded river bottom to natural grass prairie meadows. There is no other place like Lac qui Parle County Park in western Minnesota. The landscape along the river varies widely. When visiting the park you will find areas that flow gently from a hill top down to the river. In other areas you will find a steep clay cliff dropping some 60 feet to the river channel. The park is a great place for watching birds and other animals including but not limited to whitetail deer, beaver, wild turkeys and squirrels.

The park is truly an important home for rare plant communities such as jack in the pulpit, and offers the high-quality habitat needed for the spiny softshell turtles who thrive in the park.



Lac qui Parle River and Rapids



Cemetery





60-ft bluffs

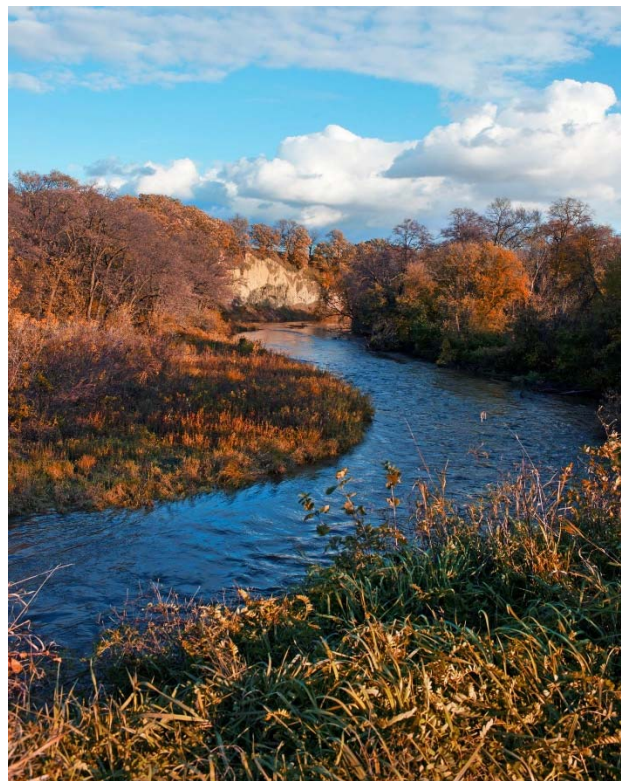


Photo by Lund Photography



Jack in the Pulpit



Spiny softshell turtle location

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

The park is located near US Highways 212, 59 and 75. If you are traveling through the area, it is likely you will be on one of these highways. Lac qui Parle Lake and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a tourist destination for the region (and the state) due to the high quality of hunting and fishing opportunities.

There are also many tourists in the area for the Meander Art Crawl, a fall weekend where local artists open up their studio and shops to visitors and share their talents. Throughout the spring and summer avid bird watchers frequent the area. The annual Audubon Society Salt Lake bird count find the county park to be one of their destinations. In the spring and fall local high school cross country and track teams will use the terrain in the park to train.

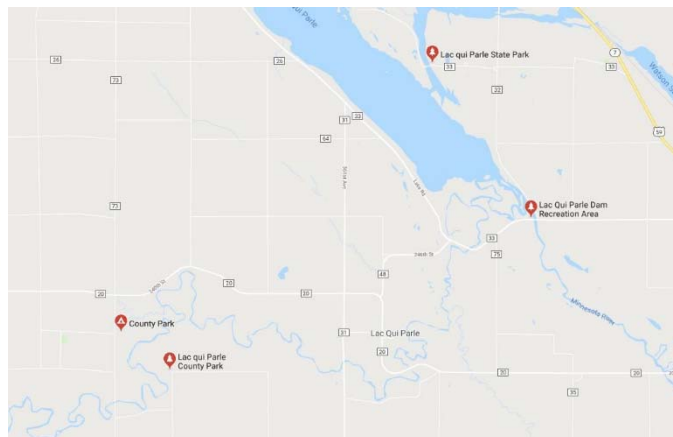
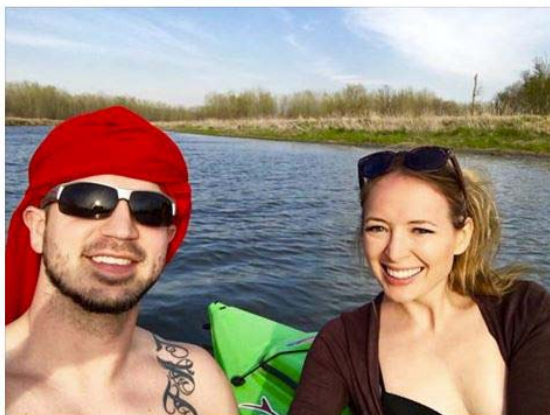
Lac qui Parle County Park is currently a regional destination for more than 35 cities in three states, including Bismarck, ND which is over 350 miles from the park. Lac qui Parle County Park also serves as a regional equestrian destination. The park hosts a very popular equestrian event to raise money for the St. Jude's Foundation. Riders come from as far as the neighboring states to participate in the event.

The population in this region is much less dense than many other areas in the state, but quiet roads make accessing this park very easy and quick for people that are even 20 - 40 miles away. It is approximately 10 miles from Madison, Dawson and the Lac qui Parle State Park, making it serve a regional need for a large area. It is easily accessible from Marshall, Watertown, SD, Alexandria and Willmar, all large regional centers in western Minnesota.



Dana Conroy is with Adam Conroy.
April 24, 2016 · Lac Qui Parle · 📍

We kayaked from Lac qui Parle County Park to Lac qui Parle State Park.
Really beautiful trip.



Criteria 4: Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region (300 word limit)

There are not many parks in this region that offer the high quality natural experience that the Lac qui Parle County Park offers. This park has more acreage than neighboring parks, and the topography is more dynamic than any park in the region, including the Lac qui Parle State Park. The closest county parks are located in Yellow Medicine County or Chippewa County, and they do not offer the same natural experience. The trails in the park are exceptional for hiking, running and mountain biking. The area in the park known as Nash's Grove has been a sledding destination for many generations. The park is used by local cross-country teams to train, as it has hills and trails not found for miles around.

One gap that is filled is horseback riding. The saddle clubs and individuals have been riding the trails for over 60 years. Each year the trails need to be groomed and kept up for the riding season. There are riders that come from all over Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa. There are scheduled rides, sponsored by the saddle clubs and one large ride for St. Jude Children's Hospital. There are groups of two to ten that come to ride on their own on weekends and there is a 4-H group that has more than 20 riders at a time. The St. Jude Children's hospital Labor Day Ride has over 100 riders.

A recent visitor from Milbank, SD stated "I love the county park! I go there every year for the Labor Day St. Jude fundraiser ride and any chance I get. When people ask where I ride, I tell them that you need to go to the Lac qui Parle County Park!"



6. Development/Acquisition Plan Tab

Development Plan Overview

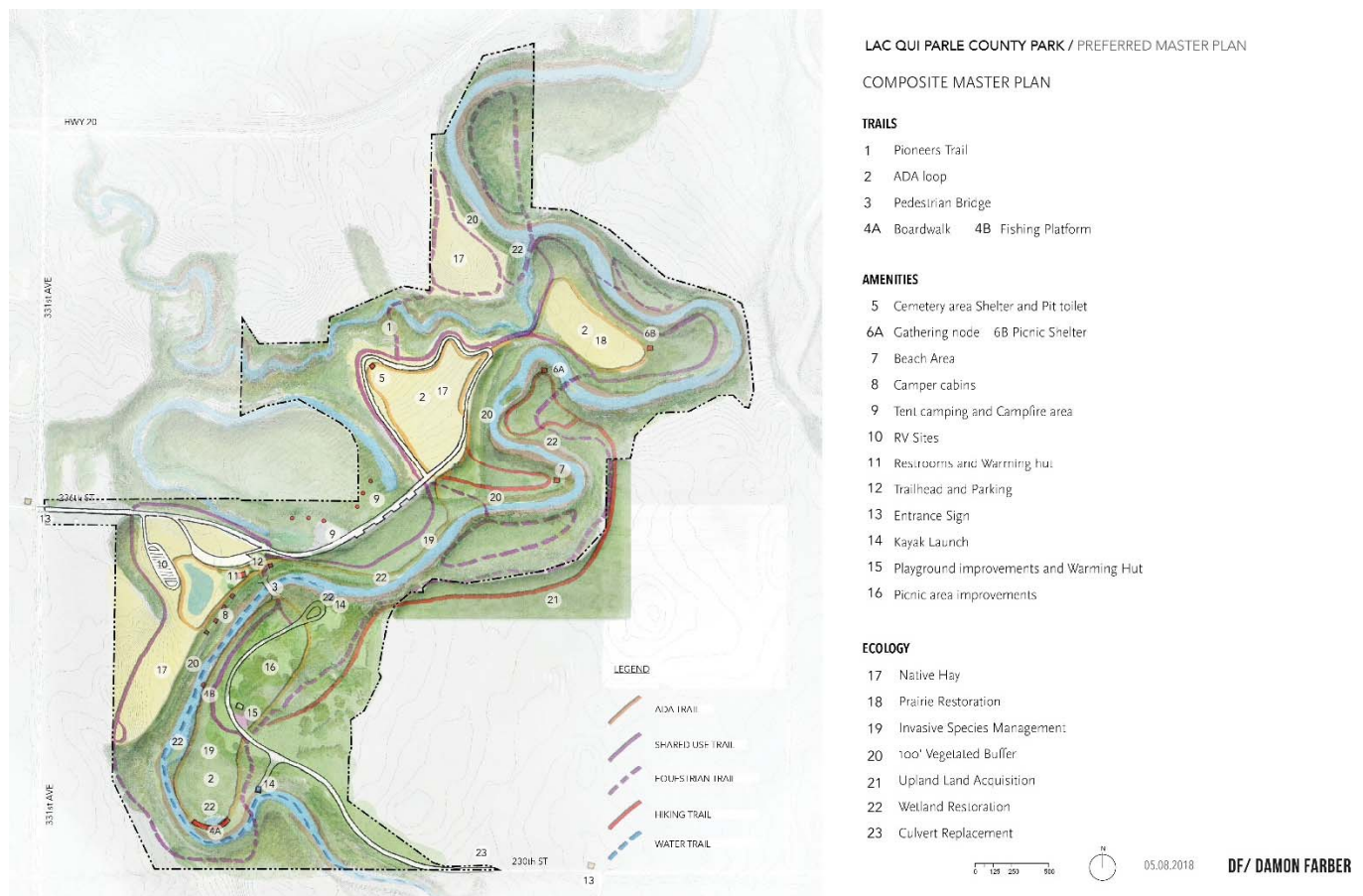
The re-envisioned Lac qui Parle County Park transforms the currently underutilized public amenity into a regional destination for outdoor recreation and environmental exploration. The proposed master plan divides the park into multiple zones to offer visitors a diversity of camping opportunities, trail experiences and day-trip amenities while enhancing the ecological character of the park that highlights and preserves its rich cultural, ecological, and geologic history (see attached Concept Plan Zones map).

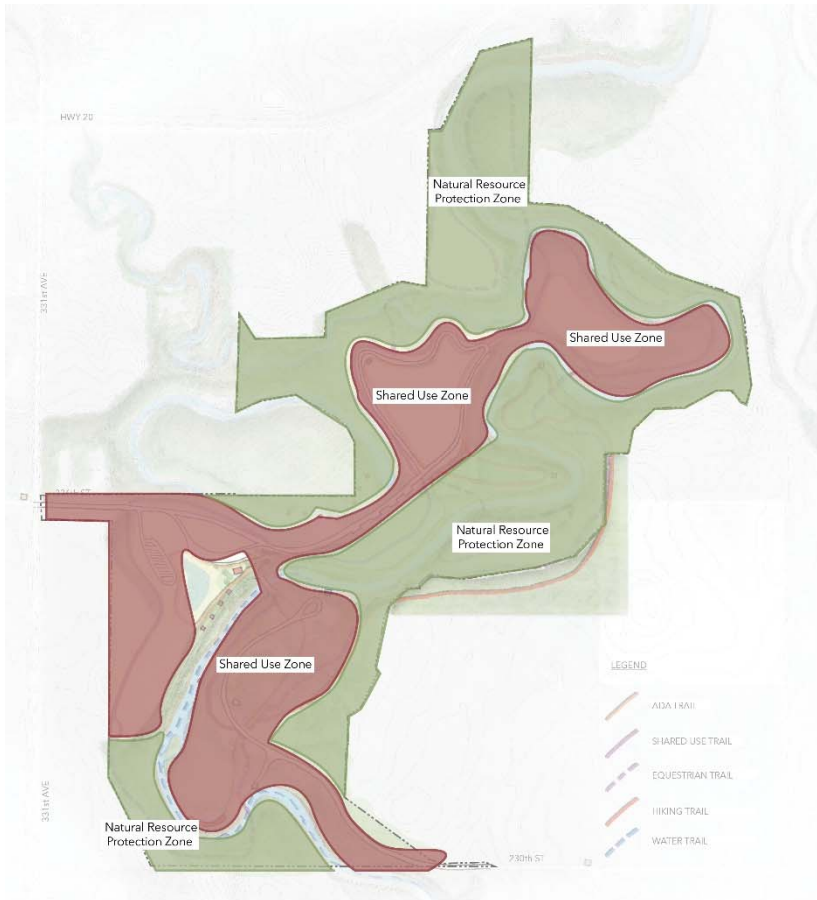
All proposed features will meet regional design and applicable accessibility standards.

The re-envisioned Lac qui Parle County Park looks and feels like the same rustic, peaceful park but with some subtle yet important improvements that transforms the currently underutilized public amenity into a regional destination for outdoor recreation and environmental exploration. These changes will allow the user to enter the park and feel they are walking back in time, and have ample opportunity for safe, outdoor experiences.

The proposed master plan divides the park into multiple zones to give a structure in the park improvements and to help with phasing the work.

Development Plan Items/Images Upload



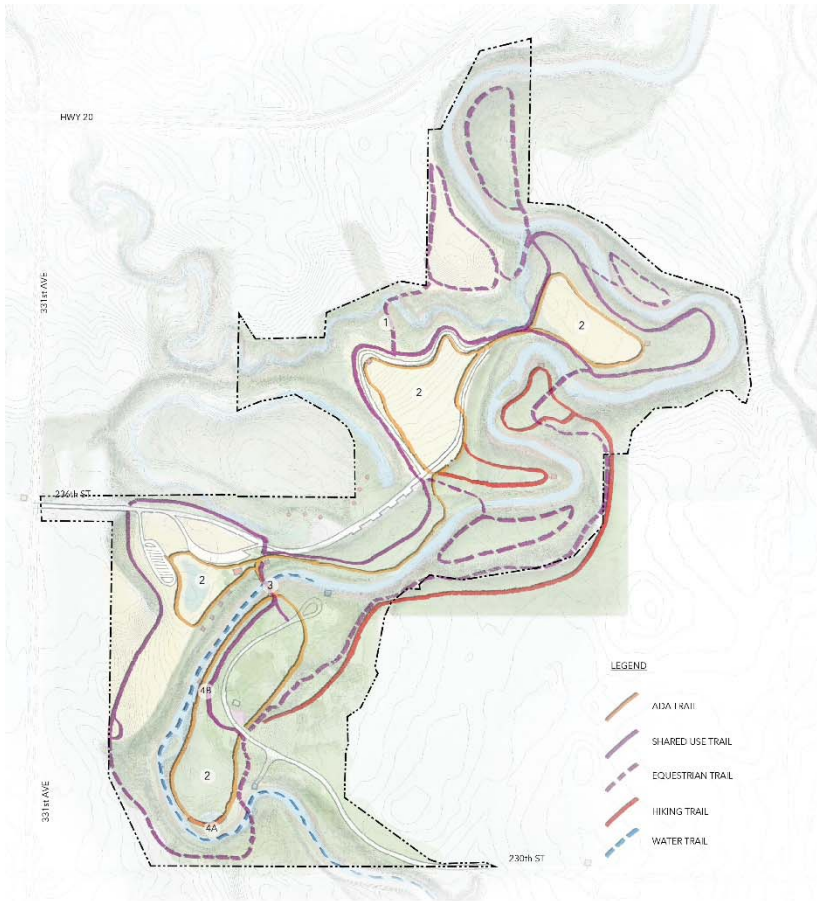


LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

SHARED USE AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION ZONES

- Shared Use Zone. ATVs allowed on designated trails at 10 mph limit, must yield to other trail users, not allowed on ADA trails.
- Natural Resource Protection Zone, non motorized vehicle use only.

0 125 250 500
05.08.2018 DF/ DAMON FARBER



LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

LAYERED MASTER PLAN

TRAILS

- 1 Pioneers Trail
- 2 ADA loop
- 3 Pedestrian Bridge
- 4A Boardwalk 4B Fishing Platform

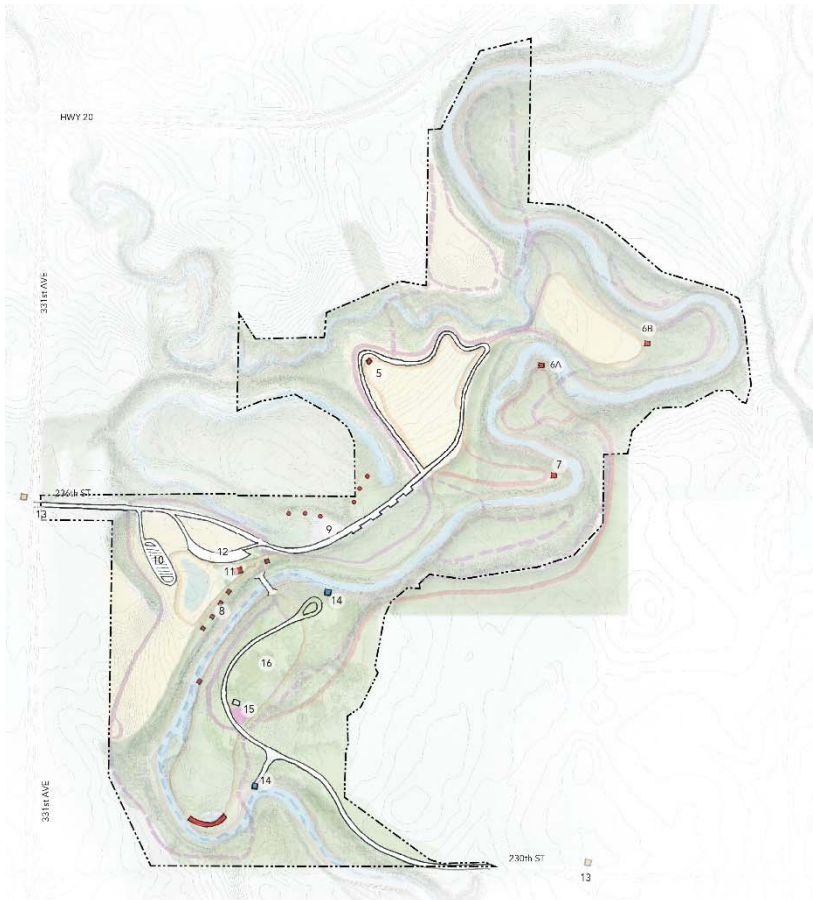
TRAIL LENGTH BY CATEGORY

EXISTING TRAILS ON SITE **6.6 mi**

PROPOSED TRAILS **8.8 mi**

| | |
|------------|--------|
| ADA Trail | 2 mi |
| Equestrian | 2.7 mi |
| Shared | 2.8 mi |
| Hiking | 1.3 mi |

0 125 250 500
05.08.2018 DF/ DAMON FARBER



LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

LAYERED MASTER PLAN

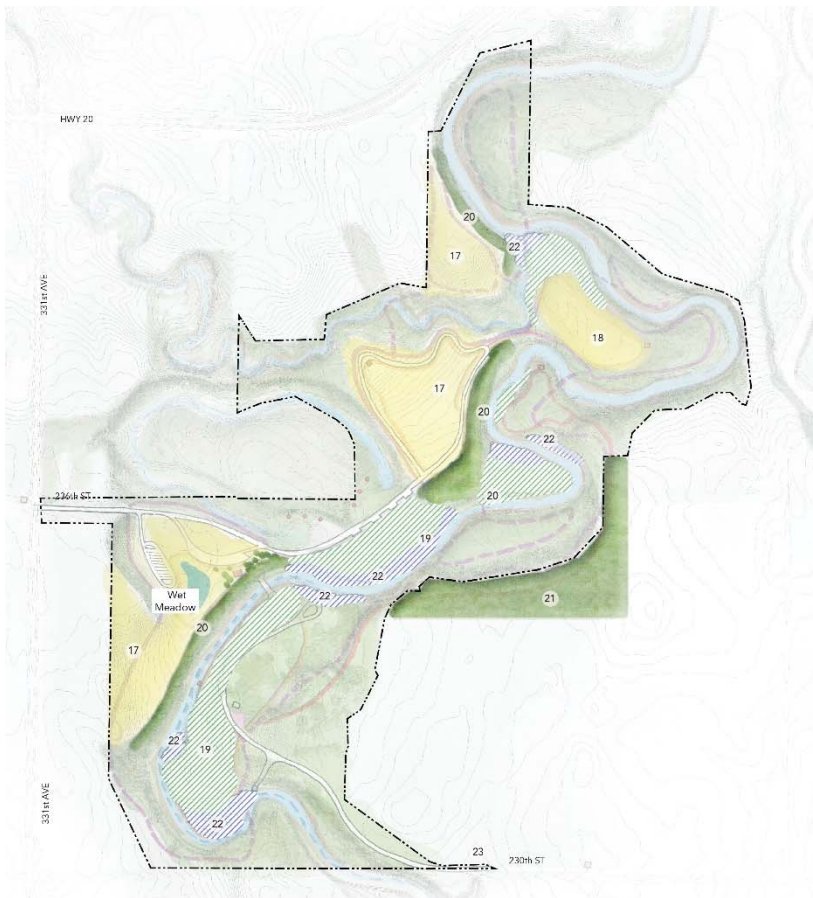
AMENITIES

- 5 Cemetery area Shelter and Pit toilet
- 6A Gathering node 6B Picnic Shelter
- 7 Beach Area
- 8 Camper cabins
- 9 Tent camping and Campfire area
- 10 RV Sites
- 11 Restrooms and Warming hut
- 12 Trailhead and Parking
- 13 Entrance Sign
- 14 Kayak Launch
- 15 Playground improvements and Warming Hut
- 16 Picnic area improvements



05.08.2018

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LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

LAYERED MASTER PLAN

ECOLOGY

- 17 Native Hay
- 18 Prairie Restoration
- 19 Invasive Species Management
- 20 100' Vegetated Buffer
- 21 Upland Land Acquisition
- 22 Wetland Restoration
- 23 Culvert Replacement



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LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

PROJECT ZONES PLAN

| | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1 | North and South Field Conversion to Hay Fields | \$195,000 |
| 2 | North Loop ADA Trail, Restoration, and Shelter | \$175,000 |
| 3 | Camper Cabins and New Playground | \$552,000 |
| 4 | Cemetery Improvements, Picnic Shelter, and Pit Toilet | \$174,000 |
| 5 | Park Vehicular and ADA Loop | \$273,000 |
| 6 | Park Entrance Drive | \$116,000 |
| 7 | RV Sites | \$188,400 |
| 8 | Trailhead Parking, Restroom Building, Warming Hut | \$591,000 |
| 9 | Beach Area Restoration and Trails | \$85,200 |
| 10 | Tent Camping and Group campfire area | \$62,000 |
| 11 | Bridge and Kayak Improvements | \$442,680 |
| 12 | South Side ADA Trail, Picnic/Warming Hut, and Play Area | \$387,000 |
| 13 | Boardwalk and New Kayak Launch | \$121,800 |
| 14 | Shoreline Improvements | \$541,200 |
| 15 | Acquisition and Trail Restoration West | \$258,000 |

TOTAL

\$4,165,000



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Acquisition Plan Overview

There is no additional land acquisition currently underway, however, in the future, the City does have interest in acquiring adjacent properties. The 80-acre parcel to the north of the west entrance would prove additional acres for trails.

The 16 acres to the east would provide an important buffer for the park and its trails.

Acquisition to the north of the park (3 acres, 6 acres) offer new access point to the park. Finally, there is a 40 acre parcel that is a low priority, however the east side of that parcel may be useful for access to the park. It is included as a potential acquisition in the future.

There are also two parcels within the current park boundaries that are privately owned. If these parcels were to be acquired, it would allow the park to give public access to another section of the park.

Currently, there are no ongoing discussions with the landowners, although they have been approached and are aware of interest from the Lac qui Parle County Park. Acquisition is likely to occur as a later phase to the redevelopment of Lac qui Parle County Park.

Acquisition Plan Items/Images Upload



Signage (New)

Signage is a large need in the park. Both entrances need signage. Signage is needed at the park boundaries. Because the park is not staffed, park rules will be posted on signage at the entrances and in multiple areas. Trails will also need to be signed to show the usage allowed, and to explain how they can “share the trail” with multiple uses (all yield to horses, etc). There will also be a main kiosk at the trailhead as a point to get all park information and to learn about the history of the park. Finally, there will need to be wayfinding and interpretative signage throughout the park – it is identified at the North Loop, Park Loop, and Wetland /Kayak loop

Summary:

- Monument signs at both entrances
- Park boundary signage
- Park rules signage at both entrances and in multiple areas
 - o Trails usage, “share the trail” signage
- Main kiosk at trailhead
- Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage – North loop, park loop, Wetland /kayak loop

Trails (New and Existing – to be improved)

All the trails need to be designed and developed in the park. There are 6.6 miles of existing trails. When all the proposed trails are completed, there will be close to nine miles of trails in the park. The main loops will have ADA trails with crushed aggregate and sections of boardwalk. Equestrian trails will be both single track and double track. The park will allow ATVs on the trails in most areas, but will have strict speed limits, and will also limit the types of ATVs allowed in the park. There will be some trails where ATVs are not allowed except for maintenance of the trails because of the sensitive ecological impacts.

Summary:

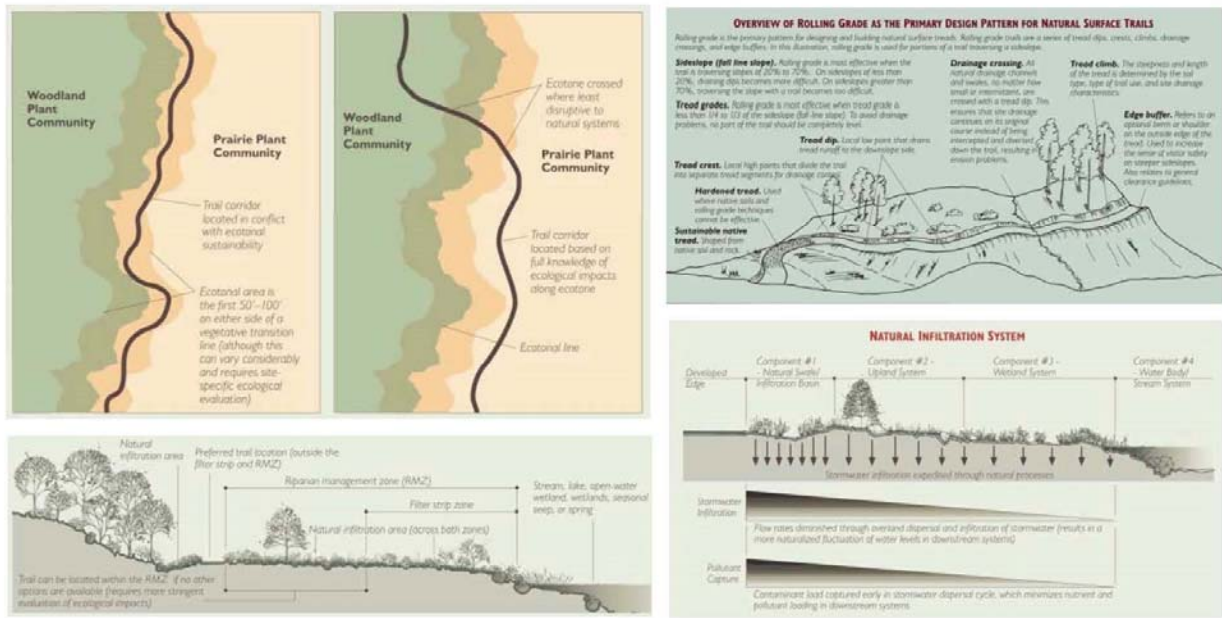
ADA trails – North Loop, Park Trail Loop and Wetland/Kayak Loop with Boardwalk

Equestrian Trail – single track and double track

Hiking trails – Beach Area and Acquisition and trail restoration west



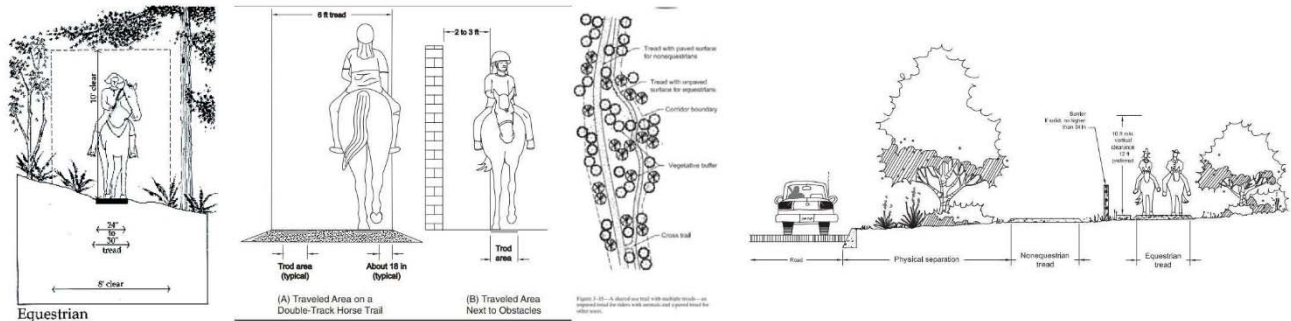
SUSTAINABLE TRAIL DESIGN



| TECHNICAL PROVISION FOR ACCESS ROUTES, OUTDOOR ACCESS ROUTES AND ACCESSIBLE TRAILS | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | Access Route (ADAAG) | Outdoor Access Route | Accessible Trail |
| Surface | stable, firm, and slip resistant | firm and stable | firm and stable (exception:*) |
| Maximum Running Slope | 1:12 [8.33%] | 1: 20 [5%] (for any distance) 1: 12 [8.33%] (for max. 50 ft) 1:10 [10%] (for max. 30 ft) | 1: 20 [5%] (for any distance) 1: 12 [8.33] (for max. 50 ft) 1:10 [10%] (for max. 30 ft) 1: 8 [12.5%] (for max. 10 ft) (Exception: 1: 7 [14.3%] for 5 ft maximum for open drainage structures or when * applies) |
| Maximum Cross Slope | 1:50 [2%] | 1: 33 [3.03%] (Exception: 1: 20 [5%] for drainage purposes) | 1: 20 [5%] (Exception: 1: 10 [10%] at the bottom of an open drain where clear tread width is a minimum of 42 inches) |
| Minimum Clear Tread Width | 36 inches 32 inches for no more than 24 inches | 36 inches (Exception: 32 inches when * applies) | 36 inches (Exception: 32 inches when * applies) |
| Tread Obstacles | Changes in level: 1/4 inch with no beveled edge, 1/4 - 1/2 inch must have a beveled edge with a max slope of 1: 2 [50%] (over 1/2 inch = ramp) | 1 inch high maximum Exception: 2 inches high maximum where beveled with a slope no greater than 1: 2 [50%] and where * applies. | 2 inches high maximum. Exception: 3 inches maximum where running and cross slopes are 1: 20 [5%] or less. (Exception: *) |



ADA TRAIL STANDARDS (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Trail Planning and Development Guidelines)



EQUESTRIAN TRAIL STANDARDS (Forest Service Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds)

Kayak Launch (New)

A new Kayak launch will be built in addition to the existing launch to create a blue trail within the park. The water trail between the two kayak launches has rapids, making it one of the more desirable stretches for kayakers along this stretch of river.

– Wetland and kayak loop, Bridge area

Fishing Pad (NEW)

A fishing pad would go west of the existing shelter and just below the rapids. This area was identified as a deep channel that is good for fishing.

Snow hill Improvements (Existing – to be improved)

The snow hill has erosion issues and needs some restoration to stabilize the slope.



Beach Rehabilitation (Existing – to be improved)

The beach area was defined as an ecologically significant area and has been over impacted by human use, such as camping. Proposed improvements include restoration and picnic tables that define human use areas.

Land Acquisition (New)

There are multiple areas around the park identified for acquisition. The areas to the east will allow for a buffer to reduce overland erosional forces and to allow for a new trail to connect currently inaccessible remote areas of the park. Areas on the west side of the park will allow the trails to expand and add another section of beautiful area of the park. Areas on the north side of the park will allow another access point into the park and allow for a larger blue trail network to be created. Prime farmland is not a priority for the acquisition for the park.

Pioneer Cemetery Improvements (New and Existing – to be improved)

There is an abandoned cemetery located on site that has headstones dating back to the 1880's. The cemetery is neglected and is in needs of a new fence, signage, and some headstone/monument repair to prevent further deterioration. This area is also a landscape anchor and provides sweeping views of site, amenities such as seating, a small picnic shelter and pit toilet were identified for this area.

Summary:

Fence, signage, seating, picnic shelter, pit toilet, rehab monuments



Playground (New - replace)

New playground equipment is needed in two areas. One is at the new trailhead area. The second would be to replace existing playground equipment in picnic/play area on the east side of the park.

– Trailhead area (new), Picnic/Play area



Pit toilets (New, Existing)

– Cemetery, North loop

Pit toilets should be placed strategically around the park to allow for better access and amenities. Some areas identified are the cemetery, and beach area. There are currently three toilets in the park – one outhouse, one new vault toilet by the shelter, and one primitive pit toilet in the current camping area.



Camping (New AND EXISTING – TO BE IMPROVED)

The current camping areas in the park are very primitive. Camping will be developed in the park to accommodate RV sites with water and electricity, tent camping, group camping and camper cabins. This will be phased.

RV Sites – these sites will be back in and pull through. The first phase may plant trees and create the campground areas, awhile water and electricity could be added in a later phase. A pay box will also need to be added.

Tent campsites – these have been identified in an area where there are nice trees for camping under. Invasive species will need to be removed, and tent pads, fire rings and a picnic table added to the site.

Group camping – There is currently a group camp on the east side of the park with two pit toilets, primitive fire rings, and access to the main shelter. We recommend that this area continues to be used for informal group camping with some improvements to provide designated parking areas, new fire rings, and tent pads.

Camper cabins – there is a space identified in the plan for camper cabins, which can be a good revenue source for the park.

Summary

- RV sites with water and electricity
- Tent Campsites
- Group Camp
- Camper Cabins



Main Shelter (Existing – to be improved)

- picnic/play area

The main shelter needs repairs to the floor.



Warming House on east side (New)

- Play/park area, need electricity

A true warming house is needed near the sledding hill which is near the Main Shelter on the east side of the park. Electricity will be needed for this building.

Gathering Nodes (New)

– North Loop, Acquisition and Trail Restoration

Gathering nodes have been identified for two areas of the park. This includes a picnic table, bench and gravel pad. A small shelter may be useful on the north loop area.

Primitive Shelter and Outhouse (existing)

The shelter at the west entrance was built by the built by the equestrian club and is useful for the saddle clubs. There is an existing outhouse in this area. Other than some landscaping and signage, no improvements are planned for this site.



Trailhead Building (New)

The trailhead building on the west side of the will provide visitors with running water, bathrooms, showers, interpretation, an inside gathering place, and a seasonal warming hut. There will be parking available so buses can easily turn drop off students. This area will need utilities – electrical and water. Sewer holding tanks will be pumped. Site lighting will be added to this area.

Summary:

Restrooms, Showers, Warming Hut , Kiosk, Parking

Utilities- Run electrical, Water and Site lighting

Utilities (NEW, EXISTING)

Currently, there are no utilities in the park except for a solar well installed in 2015 which allows for running water on the east side of the park. The master plan recommends electricity and water to be added to the west side of the park, with the option to run electricity to the east side for a warming house. A full sewer system is not planned; rather a holding tank that will be pumped.



Solar well

Restoration (New)

Ecological restoration is needed throughout the park.

During the master plan process we conducted a cursory analysis of the ecological quality on site and made high level recommendations based on site observations and collective map data that included slope analysis, soils and plant communities, and trail systems. We identified areas that were impacted by human activities such as atv use, horseback riding, camping, hiking, and haying practices. We also identified areas of erosion, unbuffered stream banks, and the presence of invasive species including buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Seasonality limited our ability to assess herbaceous and shrub layer native vegetation. As funding becomes available, a thorough assessment of vegetation and habitat quality should be performed by an ecologist as to better determine detailed restoration approaches.

Our initial findings indicate that the following areas should be considered for ecological improvements to mitigate impacts of human activity and support water quality improvements along the Lac Qui Parle River:

SHORELINE RESTORATION

Description: Shorelines showed significant areas of cutbank erosion due to fluctuating river levels. Overland flow from adjacent farm fields, lack of buffers, and channeling of water through steep trail areas are also significant contributors to shoreline erosion. Improvement recommendations include the establishment of native buffers, modifying trail systems, and bioengineering strategies to stabilize shorelines, remove invasive species, and establish stands of native vegetation.

Areas: Shoreline improvement area, north loop, beach area, tent camping, bridge and kayak

PRAIRIE/ GRASSLAND RESTORATION

Description: No stands of native prairie vegetation was observed on site. Potential upland buffers adjacent to the river and existing non-native hay fields present the largest opportunity for native grassland restoration.

Transitioning the non-native hay fields to native prairie vegetation has the opportunity to support native haying activities, native seed harvest once established. Additionally, these areas can be phased to become a resource for

future restoration activities on site. Until restoration activities are feasible, the annual hay fields should be kept in haying activities to prevent invasion by perennial and woody species.

Areas: Annual Hayfields North Field Area, South Field Area, Park Loop

WETLAND RESTORATION:

Description: Restoration of wetland areas will include transitioning from invaded wetland to native vegetation. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and cattail (*typha* spp.) management is the primary invasive vegetation present. Native species such as dogwood (*Cornus* spp.) and willow (*salix* spp.) were observed on site. A management through chemical and mechanical removal should be evaluated in future assessments. Trail improvements in these areas should minimize ground contact through the use of boardwalks to prevent increased erosion and protect areas of desirable vegetation.

Areas: Beach area, Wetland/kayak loop

WOODLAND RESTORATION- OAK SAVANNA:

Description: Buckthorn and honeysuckle removal is the primary restoration activity recommended. Significant cover of desirable canopy species were observed and included large bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) among other species. Further evaluation of the herbaceous vegetation is necessary. Removal strategies include opportunity for hand removal, cutting, and forestry moving. Management of invasive woody vegetation is essential to limiting spread and should be a priority management effort.

Areas: South field, North Loop, Park Loop, Tent Camping, Picnic/Play, Acquisition and trail restoration West

WOODLAND RESTORATION- FLOODPLAIN FOREST & MESIC HARDWOOD FOREST:

Description: Lowland forests exhibit canopies of desirable tree species with a shrub layer invaded by buckthorn and honeysuckle, as well as an herbaceous layer of reed canary grass in spots. Management of invasive these species should follow strategies described in oak savanna and wetland restoration targets. Further assessment of herbaceous vegetation is necessary to prescribe enhancement recommendations.

Areas: Loop, Beach Area, Wetland/Kayak Loop



Hayfield



Aspen grove

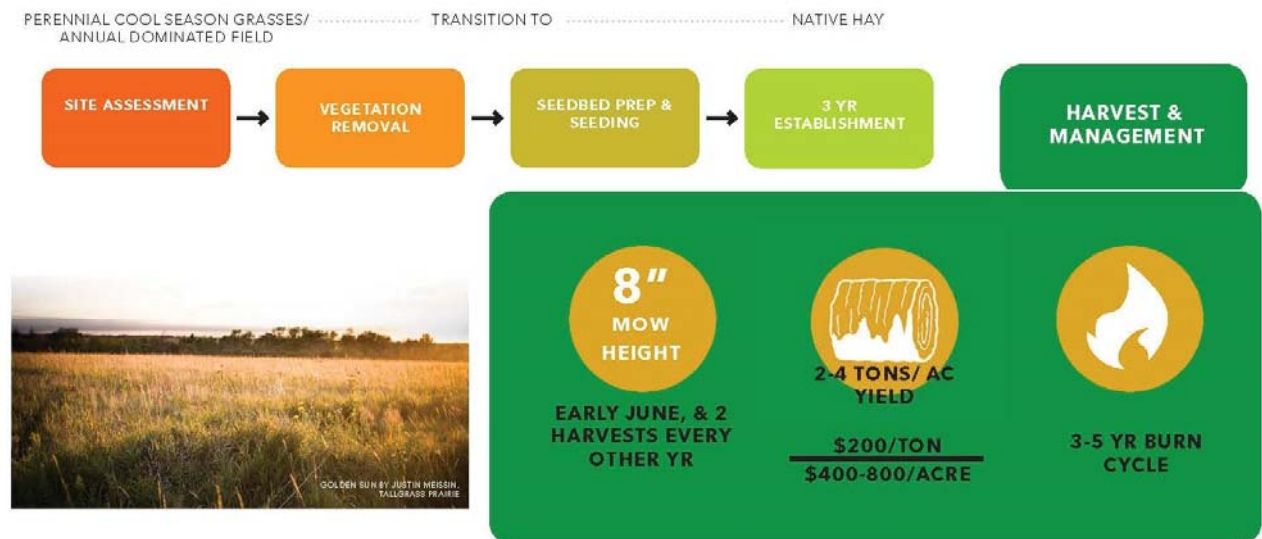


Invasive nettle



Young oak

NATIVE HAYING



PROS

- 11-12% Crude protein as Forage
- Retail market for native mulch in restoration
- Retail & self-supplying native seed source (for future restoration in park and around region)
- grassland bird habitat
- Stormwater management & infiltration erosion reduction
- Supports soil regeneration
- pollinator & insect habitat
- Potential to reintroduce grazers
- Program potential for Birders, Citizen scientists, Trails, Seed collection
- EST. 6 YR Payback/acre (assumes \$600/ac, \$3000 INSTALL, DNI mGMT)

CONS

- Up-front restoration cost (\$3000/ac)
- 3 yrs of establishment before harvest
- Weed control in early establishment
- Burn management (every 3-5yrs)
- Skilled management

Outreach, safety and user tracking

Communication is identified as a need. The website will be improved to offer more information to users. There will be an online guest book created. A surveillance camera could be utilized both for safety and for tracking users. A counter cable could also track the number of cars the park sees.

Summary:

- Website improvements
- Online guest book
- Counter cable
- Surveillance camera

7. Implementation Plan Tab

Implementation Plan

Development of Lac qui Parle County Park's features have been divided across five priorities to enable phasing of reconstruction efforts in accordance with the objectives of the park. The goal with the top priorities is to have a high impact on the user's ability and desire to make use of the park, and for them to want to come back.

Highest priorities focus on improving core access and safety of the park. The initial phase focuses on the roads and trails on the west side of the park and connecting the two sides of the park with a pedestrian bridge. Signage, including entrance monument signage, is also included in this phase.

The second phase enhances the visitors experience by adding park features to the west side of the park. Basic amenities are added such as the trailhead, restroom, south (east) loop trails, existing picnic and play area improvements, east side trails and signage. These things will make the park more attractive to the user while remaining rustic. It will also add ADA accessible features to the park.

The third phase improves unique features the park encouraging the user to explore further. The cemetery, beach area and shelters/toilets all need improvements and better accessibility. It also prioritizes some important land acquisitions for the park to offer safety, ecological buffers and better access to the park.

Restoration will be done in each phase, but the fourth phase focuses more on the north field restoration, completing the RV park, adding the kayak launch and boardwalks.

The fifth phase includes camper cabins, a new playground and shoreline improvements.

In the longer-term priorities, efforts focus primarily on diversifying user experiences with the addition of expanded trail networks through varying ecological conditions, cabin camping, and continued ecological restoration and enhancements. These later features go beyond the current park programming to attract visitors over multiple seasons and stay lengths to transform Lac qui Parle County Park into an ecologically and recreationally vibrant regional destination.

Summarize Acquisition and Development Costs To-Date

A 1968 grant paid for 207.65 acres, which put the park into the ownership of Lac qui Parle County. The total grant was \$13,348 with \$3,352 as state funds and \$9,996 as federal funds. Very limited developments have occurred since. In 2015, a solar well was installed for \$20,000. In 2016, a vault toilet was install for \$25,000. Other improvements have been procured by donated equipment.

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

1968 - \$13,348 DNR local grant (\$3,353 state, \$9,996 federal)

2015 - \$20,000 – solar well – donations

2016 - \$25,000 – vault toilet

\$58,348 - total

Acquisition and Development Cost Projections

Cost projects for the Lac qui Parle County 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

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

PROJECT ZONES COSTS

| Item | PHASE | PROGRAM ZONE | Quantity | Units | Unit Price | Total Costs* |
|--|-------|----------------------------------|----------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Annual Hay Field to Native Hay + 3 yr Mgmt | IV | North Field Area | 10.0 | AC | \$ 4,631.00 | \$ 55,395.18 |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Annual Hay Field to Native Hay + 3 yr Mgmt | II | South Field Area | 23.1 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 128,380.46 |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | II | South Field Area | 19.2 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 11,972.78 |
| | | | | | | \$ 195,748.42 |
| ADA North Loop | III | North Loop | 2,500.0 | LF | \$ 15.00 | \$ 45,000.00 |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Woody Invaded Field to Prairie/ Savanna + 3yr Mgmt | III | North Loop | 6.0 | AC | \$ 5,930.00 | \$ 42,520.22 |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | III | North Loop | 0.7 | AC | \$ 11,842.00 | \$ 9,429.56 |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | III | North Loop | 4.1 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 2,584.27 |
| Woodland Restoration: Invaded woodland to Floodplain forest/ Mesic Hardwood (Buckthorn, RCG Removal) | III | North Loop | 10.4 | AC | \$ 780.00 | \$ 9,734.49 |
| Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage | III | North Loop | 2.0 | EA | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 4,800.00 |
| Gathering Nodes (picnic table, bench, gravel pad, shelter) | III | North Loop | 1.0 | EA | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 60,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 174,068.54 |
| Camper Cabins (Fire Pit, Picnic Table) | V | Camper Cabins and New Playground | 4.0 | EA | \$ 85,000.00 | \$ 408,000.00 |
| Clearing, Grading, Landscaping | V | Camper Cabins and New Playground | 1.0 | LS | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 24,000.00 |
| New Play Area | V | Camper Cabins and New Playground | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 552,000.00 |
| Pioneer Cemetery Improvements (New fence, signage, seating element) | III | Cemetery | 1.0 | LS | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 24,000.00 |
| Pit Toilet | III | Cemetery | 1.0 | LS | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| Picnic Shelter | III | Cemetery | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 174,000.00 |
| Park Loop Road Realignment | I | Park Loop | 2,700.0 | LF | \$ 10.00 | \$ 32,400.00 |
| ADA Park Trail Loop | I | Park Loop | 3,900.0 | LF | \$ 15.00 | \$ 70,200.00 |
| Equestrian Trail - Double Track | I | Park Loop | 5,800.0 | LF | \$ 12.00 | \$ 83,520.00 |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Annual Hay Field to Native Hay + 3 yr Mgmt | I | Park Loop | 12.5 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 69,423.21 |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | I | Park Loop | 21.3 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 13,265.97 |
| Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage | I | Park Loop | 2.0 | EA | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 4,800.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 273,609.19 |
| Vehicular Park Entrance Road Improvements | I | Park Entrance Drive | 72,000.0 | SF | \$ 1.00 | \$ 86,400.00 |
| Monument Sign- Main Entrance | I | Park Entrance Drive | 1.0 | EA | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 116,400.00 |
| RV Camping Ring Road | IV | RV Sites | 17,000.0 | SF | \$ 1.00 | \$ 20,400.00 |
| RV Campsites (Conc Pad, fire ring, picnic table, Electrical hook ups) | IV | RV Sites | 10.0 | EA | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 144,000.00 |
| Clearing, Grading, Landscaping | IV | RV Sites | 1.0 | LS | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 24,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 188,400.00 |

* Includes design fees and contingencies.



05.08.2018

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PROJECT ZONES COSTS

| Item | PHASE | PROGRAM ZONE | Quantity | Units | Unit Price | Total Costs* |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| Trailhead parking | II | Trailhead | 19,000.0 | SF | \$ 2.00 | \$ 45,800.00 |
| Trailhead Kiosk | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Trailhead Building: Restrooms, Showers, Warming Hut | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | LS | \$ 350,000.00 | \$ 420,000.00 |
| Site Lighting | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000.00 |
| Utilities- Run electrical, Water | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | LS | | |
| | | | | | | \$ 591,800.00 |
| Hiking Trail | III | Beach Area | 1,400.0 | LF | \$ 10.00 | \$ 16,800.00 |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | III | Beach Area | 1.7 | AC | \$ 11,841.00 | \$ 24,072.13 |
| Wetland Restoration: Invaded wetland to native wetland vegetation + 3yr Mgmt | III | Beach Area | 0.7 | AC | \$ 4,400.00 | \$ 3,640.24 |
| Woodland Restoration: Invaded woodland to Floodplain forest/ Mesic Hardwood (Buckthorn, RCG Removal) | III | Beach Area | 7.1 | AC | \$ 780.00 | \$ 6,643.11 |
| Beach Rehabilitation (Bench & Picnic Table) | III | Beach Area | 1.0 | LS | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | III | Beach Area | 1.8 | AC | \$ 11,839.00 | \$ 25,983.18 |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | III | Beach Area | 4.3 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 2,710.12 |
| | | | | | | \$ 85,848.78 |
| Tent Campsites (gravel pad, fire ring, picnic table) | III | Tent Camping and Group Campfire | 6.0 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 36,000.00 |
| Clearing, Grading, Landscaping | III | Tent Camping and Group Campfire | 1.0 | LS | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 14,400.00 |
| Fire Campfire Group Gathering Area | III | Tent Camping and Group Campfire | 1.0 | LS | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 62,400.00 |
| Two Lane Vehicular Bridge | I | Wings & Arroyo | - | LS | \$ 512,834.00 | \$ - |
| 12' Pedestrian/ Multi-use Bridge (20,000lb weight limit) | I | Wings & Arroyo | 1.0 | LS | \$ 330,000.00 | \$ 396,000.00 |
| 6' Pedestrian Bridge | I | Wings & Arroyo | - | LS | \$ 238,000.00 | \$ - |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | I | Wings & Arroyo | 2.7 | AC | \$ 11,840.00 | \$ 38,280.06 |
| Kayak Launch- Refurbish Existing (stepper stones, access path) | I | Wings & Arroyo | 1.0 | LS | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 8,400.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 442,680.06 |
| ADA Trail | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 4,000.0 | LF | \$ 15.00 | \$ 72,000.00 |
| Wetland Restoration: Invaded wetland to native wetland vegetation + 3yr Mgmt | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 2.3 | AC | \$ 4,400.00 | \$ 12,277.21 |
| Woodland Restoration: Invaded woodland to Floodplain forest/ Mesic Hardwood (Buckthorn, RCG Removal) | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 11.8 | AC | \$ 780.00 | \$ 11,000.04 |
| Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 3.0 | EA | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 7,200.00 |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Invaded grassland to Prairie (buffers) + 3yr Mgmt | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 0.5 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 2,778.00 |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 17.7 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 11,028.37 |
| Warming hut/Picnic Shelter | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000.00 |
| Rehab Existing Play Area | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000.00 |
| Fishing Platform | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | EA | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| Monument Sign- Secondary Entrance | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | EA | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 387,058.62 |

* Includes design fees and contingencies.



05.08.2018

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PROJECT ZONES COSTS

| Item | PHASE | PROGRAM ZONE | Quantity | Units | Unit Price | Total Costs* |
|--|-------|--|----------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| Boardwalk | IV | Boardwalk and New Kayak Launch | 305.0 | LF | \$ 300.00 | \$ 109,800.00 |
| Kayak Launch- New (Stepper stones, access path) | IV | Boardwalk and New Kayak Launch | 1.0 | LS | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 121,800.00 |
| Shoreline Restoration: Bioengineered riverbank stabilization (Cribbing, VRSS Lifts, Planted Rock Walls, Tree revegetments) | V | Shoreline Improvements | 1.0 | LS | \$ 400,000.00 | \$ 480,000.00 |
| Shoreline Restoration: In-stream revegetments- Root wads (anchored) | V | Shoreline Improvements | 12.0 | EA | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 43,200.00 |
| Shoreline Restoration: In-stream revegetments- Rock revegetments | V | Shoreline Improvements | 3.0 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 541,200.00 |
| Hiking Trail | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration: East | 5,400.0 | LF | \$ 10.00 | \$ 64,800.00 |
| Land Acquisition North | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration: North | 2.0 | AC | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Land Acquisition East | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration: East | 15.9 | AC | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 79,500.00 |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Invaded grassland to Prairie (buffers) + 3yr Mgmt- NORTH FIELD | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration: East | 15.9 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 88,394.35 |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration: East | 15.3 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 9,536.43 |
| Gathering Nodes (picnic table, bench, gravel pad) | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration: East | 1.0 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 258,230.78 |
| Equestrian Trail - Single Track | | Long Term Management Costs | 24,000.0 | LF | \$ - | \$ - |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Long Term Management | | Long Term Management Costs | 67.0 | AC/YR | \$ 350.00 | \$ 28,140.00 |
| Shoreline Restoration: Long-Term Management | | Long Term Management Costs | 11.0 | AC/YR | \$ 250.00 | \$ 3,300.00 |
| Woodland Restoration: Long Term Management | | Long Term Management Costs | 53.0 | AC/YR | \$ 350.00 | \$ 22,260.00 |
| | | | | | | \$ 53,700.00 |

Total: \$ 4,165,044.39

Phase 1 \$ 832,689.25
Phase 2 \$ 1,119,011.86
Phase 3 \$ 754,548.10
Phase 4 \$ 365,595.18
Phase 5 \$ 1,093,200.00

* Includes design fees and contingencies.



05.08.2018

DF/ DAMON FARBER

Acquisition and Development Phasing Plan

Development of Lac qui Parle County Park's features have been divided into five phases to allow the park to develop the priorities first. Both a bridge and better restrooms were a high priority according to the survey. Trails and improved roads were also a high priority.

The phasing also allows the county to take on the development in smaller chunks, making it possible to fund and giving the time for the projects to be accomplished. The phasing works on the core functions of the park first and then expands out to enhance the rest of the park.

In the longer-term priorities, efforts focus primarily on diversifying user experiences with the addition of expanded trail networks through varying ecological conditions, cabin camping, and continued ecological restoration and enhancements. These later features go beyond the current park programming to attract visitors over multiple seasons and stay lengths to transform Lac qui Parle County Park into an ecologically and recreationally vibrant regional destination.

Phasing Plan Support Information Upload



| C | D | E | H | I | J | M | Z |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Item | PHASE | PROGRAM ZONE | Quantity | Units | Unit Price | Total Costs | |
| Vehicular Park Entrance Road Improvements | I | Park Entrance Drive | 72,000.0 | SF | \$ 1.00 | \$ 86,400 | |
| Monument Sign- Main Entrance | I | Park Entrance Drive | 1.0 | EA | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 30,000 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 116,400 | |
| Two Lane Vehicular Bridge | I | Bridge & Kayak | - | LS | \$ 512,834.00 | \$ - | |
| 12' Pedestrian/ Multi-use Bridge | I | Bridge & Kayak | 1.0 | LS | \$ 330,000.00 | \$ 396,000 | |
| 6' Pedestrian Bridge | I | Bridge & Kayak | - | LS | \$ 238,000.00 | \$ - | |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | I | Bridge & Kayak | 2.7 | AC | \$ 11,840.00 | \$ 38,280 | |
| Kayak Launch- Refurbish Existings (stepper stones, access path) | I | Bridge & Kayak | 1.0 | LS | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 8,400 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 442,680 | |
| Park Loop Road Realignment | I | Park Loop | 2,700.0 | LF | \$ 10.00 | \$ 32,400 | |
| ADA Park Trail Loop | I | Park Loop | 3,900.0 | LF | \$ 15.00 | \$ 70,200 | |
| Equestrian Trail - Double Track | I | Park Loop | 5,800.0 | LF | \$ 12.00 | \$ 83,520 | |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Annual Hay Field to Native Hay + 3 yr Mgmt | I | Park Loop | 12.5 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 69,423 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | I | Park Loop | 21.3 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 13,266 | |
| Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage | I | Park Loop | 2.0 | EA | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 4,800 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 273,609 | Phase 1 |
| | | | | | | | \$ 832,689 |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Annual Hay Field to Native Hay + 3 yr Mgmt | II | South Field Area | 23.1 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 128,380 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | II | South Field Area | 19.2 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 11,973 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 140,353 | |
| Trailhead parking | II | Trailhead | 19,000.0 | SF | \$ 2.00 | \$ 45,600 | |
| Trailhead Kiosk | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,000 | |
| Trailhead Building: Restrooms, Showers, Warming Hut | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | LS | \$ 350,000.00 | \$ 420,000 | |
| Site Lighting | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000 | |
| Utilities- Run electrical, Water | II | Trailhead | 1.0 | LS | | | |
| | | | | | | \$ 591,600 | |
| ADA Trail | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 4,000.0 | LF | \$ 15.00 | \$ 72,000 | |
| Wetland Restoration: Invaded wetland to native wetland vegetation + 3yr Mgmt | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 2.3 | AC | \$ 4,400.00 | \$ 12,277 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Invaded woodland to Floodplain forest/ Mesic Hardwood (Buckthorn, RCG Removal) | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 11.8 | AC | \$ 780.00 | \$ 11,000 | |
| Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 3.0 | EA | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 7,200 | |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Invaded grassland to Prairie (buffers) + 3yr Mgmt | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 0.5 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 2,778 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 17.7 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 11,028 | |
| Warming hut/Picnic Shelter | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000 | |
| Rehab Existing Play Area | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000 | |
| Fishing Platform | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | EA | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 18,000 | |
| Monument Sign- Secondary Entrance | II | South side ADA Loop, Picnic, and Play | 1.0 | EA | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 12,000 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 387,059 | Phase 2 |
| | | | | | | | \$ 1,119,012 |
| Hiking Trail | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration East | 5,400.0 | LF | \$ 10.00 | \$ 64,800 | |
| Land Acquisition North | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration North | 2.0 | AC | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 10,000 | |
| Land Acquisition East | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration East | 15.9 | AC | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 79,500 | |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Invaded grassland to Prairie (buffers) + 3yr Mgmt- NORTH FIELD | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration East | 15.9 | AC | \$ 4,630.00 | \$ 88,394 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration East | 15.3 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 9,536 | |
| Gathering Nodes (picnic table, bench, gravel pad) | III | Acquisition & Trail Restoration East | 1.0 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,000 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 258,231 | |
| Hiking Trail | III | Beach Area | 1,400.0 | LF | \$ 10.00 | \$ 16,800 | |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | III | Beach Area | 1.7 | AC | \$ 11,841.00 | \$ 24,072 | |
| Wetland Restoration: Invaded wetland to native wetland vegetation + 3yr Mgmt | III | Beach Area | 0.7 | AC | \$ 4,400.00 | \$ 3,640 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Invaded woodland to Floodplain forest/ Mesic Hardwood (Buckthorn, RCG Removal) | III | Beach Area | 7.1 | AC | \$ 780.00 | \$ 6,643 | |
| Beach Rehabilitation (Bench & Picnic Table) | III | Beach Area | 1.0 | LS | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 6,000 | |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | III | Beach Area | 1.8 | AC | \$ 11,839.00 | \$ 25,983 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | III | Beach Area | 4.3 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 2,710 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 85,849 | |
| Tent Campsites (gravel pad, fire ring, picnic table) | III | Tent Camping and Group Campfire | 6.0 | EA | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 36,000 | |
| Clearing, Grading, Landscaping | III | Tent Camping and Group Campfire | 1.0 | LS | \$ 12,000.00 | \$ 14,400 | |
| Fire Campfire Group Gathering Area | III | Tent Camping and Group Campfire | 1.0 | LS | \$ 10,000.00 | \$ 12,000 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 62,400 | |
| Pioneer Cemetery Improvements (New fence, signage, seating element) | III | Cemetery | 1.0 | LS | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ 24,000 | |
| Pit Toilet | III | Cemetery | 1.0 | LS | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ 30,000 | |
| Picnic Shelter | III | Cemetery | 1.0 | LS | \$ 100,000.00 | \$ 120,000 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 174,000 | |
| ADA North Loop | III | North Loop | 2,500.0 | LF | \$ 15.00 | \$ 45,000 | |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Woody Invaded Field to Prairie/ Savanna + 3yr Mgmt | III | North Loop | 6.0 | AC | \$ 5,930.00 | \$ 42,520 | |
| Shoreline Restoration: Invaded herbaceous shoreline to native herbaceous vegetation (Live stakes, plantings) + 3 yr Mgmt | III | North Loop | 0.7 | AC | \$ 11,842.00 | \$ 9,430 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Buckthorn removal (viewshed clearing) | III | North Loop | 4.1 | AC | \$ 520.00 | \$ 2,584 | |
| Woodland Restoration: Invaded woodland to Floodplain forest/ Mesic Hardwood (Buckthorn, RCG Removal) | III | North Loop | 10.4 | AC | \$ 780.00 | \$ 9,734 | |
| Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage | III | North Loop | 2.0 | EA | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 4,800 | |
| Gathering Nodes (picnic table, bench, gravel pad, shelter) | III | North Loop | 1.0 | EA | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 60,000 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 174,069 | Phase 3 |
| | | | | | | | \$ 754,548 |
| Prairie/ Grassland Restoration: Annual Hay Field to Native Hay + 3 yr Mgmt | IV | North Field Area | 10.0 | AC | \$ 4,631.00 | \$ 55,395 | |
| | | | | | | \$ 55,395 | |

| | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| \$300.00 | Property Taxes |
| \$400.00 | Hayride Fundraising Expenses |
| \$5,000 | Mowing and grading |
| | |
| \$8,975 | Total maintenance per year |

Long term management costs of the equestrian trail will need to be figured. It is estimated that annual management of the prairie, shoreline and woodland is approximated at \$53,000/year.

The Lac qui Parle County commissioners are committed to maintain Lac qui Parle County Park for its visitors. As facilities are added to Lac qui Parle County Park, the Lac qui Parle County commissioners will budget for ongoing maintenance.

M/O Support Material Upload

Attachment: Budget Spreadsheet

Ecological/Land Resources Plan

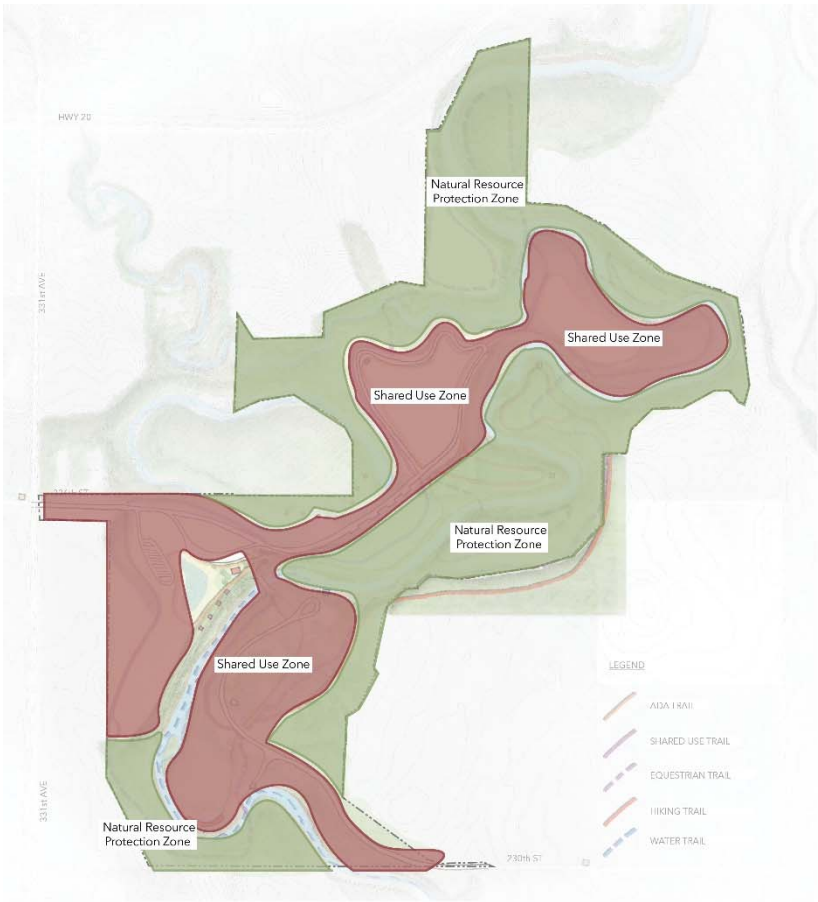
The Lac qui Parle County Park is working towards a plan to better manage their ecological and land resources. They currently hay parts of the park for both the income, but it also manages weed trees that try to grow in those areas. Other maintenance efforts include spraying of weeds and invasive species.

During the master plan process we conducted a cursory analysis of the ecological quality on site and made high level recommendations based on site observations and collective map data that included slope analysis, soils and plant communities, and trail systems. We identified areas that were impacted by human activities such as atv use, horseback riding, camping, hiking, and haying practices. We also identified areas of erosion, unbuffered stream banks, and the presence of invasive species including buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Seasonality limited our ability to assess herbaceous and shrub layer native vegetation. According to regular park users there are roughly 75 oak trees that need to be preserved. As funding becomes available, a thorough assessment of vegetation and habitat quality should be performed by an ecologist as to better determine detailed restoration approaches.

Initial findings indicate that the following areas should be considered for ecological improvements to mitigate impacts of human activity and support water quality improvements along the Lac qui Parle River:



- Shoreline Restoration
 - Description: Shorelines showed significant areas of cutbank erosion due to fluctuating river levels. Overland flow from adjacent farm fields, lack of buffers, and channeling of water through steep trail areas are also significant contributors to shoreline erosion. Improvement recommendations include the establishment of native buffers, modifying trail systems, and bioengineering strategies to stabilize shorelines, remove invasive species, and establish stands of native vegetation.
 - Areas: Shoreline improvement area, north loop, beach area, tent camping, bridge and kayak
- Prairie/ Grassland Restoration

- Description: No stands of native prairie vegetation was observed on site. Potential upland buffers adjacent to the river and existing non-native hay fields present the largest opportunity for native grassland restoration. Transitioning the non-native hay fields to native prairie vegetation has the opportunity to support native haying activities, native seed harvest once established. Additionally, these areas can be phased to become a resource for future restoration activities on site. Until restoration activities are feasible, the annual hay fields should be kept in haying activities to prevent invasion by perennial and woody species.
- Areas: Annual Hayfields North Field Area, South Field Area, Park Loop
- Wetland Restoration:
 - Description: Restoration of wetland areas will include transitioning from invaded wetland to native vegetation. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and cattail (*typha* spp.) management is the primary invasive vegetation present. Native species such as dogwood (*Cornus* spp.) and willow (*salix* spp.) were observed on site. A management through chemical and mechanical removal should be evaluated in future assessments. Trail improvements in these areas should minimize ground contact through the use of boardwalks to prevent increased erosion and protect areas of desirable vegetation.
 - Areas: Beach area, Wetland/kayak loop
- Woodland Restoration- Oak Savanna:
 - Description: Buckthorn and honeysuckle removal is the primary restoration activity recommended. Significant cover of desirable canopy species were observed and included large bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) among other species. Further evaluation of the herbaceous vegetation is necessary. Removal strategies include opportunity for hand removal, cutting, and forestry moving. Management of invasive woody vegetation is essential to limiting spread and should be a priority management effort.
 - Areas: South field, North Loop, Park Loop, Tent Camping, Picnic/Play, Acquisition and trail restoration West
- Woodland Restoration- Floodplain forest & Mesic Hardwood Forest:
 - Description: Lowland forests exhibit canopies of desirable tree species with a shrub layer invaded by buckthorn and honeysuckle, as well as an herbaceous layer of reed canary grass in spots. Management of invasive these species should follow strategies described in oak savanna and wetland restoration targets. Further assessment of herbaceous vegetation is necessary to prescribe enhancement recommendations.
 - Areas: Loop, Beach Area, Wetland/Kayak Loop
 - Ecological/Land Resources Support Material



LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK / PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

SHARED USE AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION ZONES

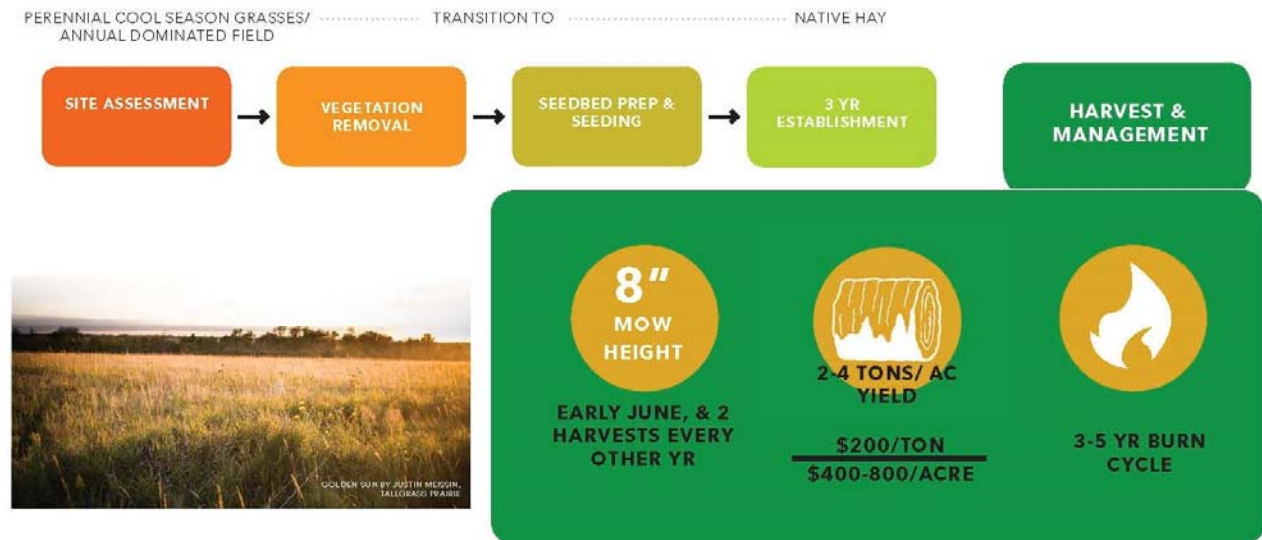
-  Shared Use Zone. ATVs allowed on designated trails at 10 mph limit, must yield to other trail users, not allowed on ADA trails.
-  Natural Resource Protection Zone, non motorized vehicle use only.



05.08.2018

DF/ DAMON FARBER

NATIVE HAYING



PROS

- 11-12% Crude protein as Forage
- Retail market for native mulch in restoration
- Retail & self-supplying native seed source (for future restoration in park and around region)
- grassland bird habitat
- Stormwater management & infiltration erosion reduction
- Supports soil regeneration
- pollinator & insect habitat
- Potential to reintroduce grazers
- Program potential for Birders, Citizen scientists, Trails, Seed collection
- EST. 6 YR Payback/acre (assumes \$600/ac, \$3000 INSTALL, DNI mGMT)

CONS

- Up-front restoration cost (\$3000/ac)
- 3 yrs of establishment before harvest
- Weed control in early establishment
- Burn management (every 3-5yrs)
- Skilled management

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY PARK

02.22.2018 DF/ DAMON FARBER

Annual Routine Maintenance and Operations Cost Total
\$62,675 per year

9. Programming Plan Tab

Currently, programming in the park is implemented by the Lac qui Parle County Park Board. The main programming is the fall Haunted Hayride which serves as a fundraiser and increases awareness of the park. This event has grown every year, and this past year they had a record number of 843 participants. The weather has an impact on this event. There is a \$5 fee to go on the ride.

There are many groups that also work with the Lac qui Parle County Park Board to utilize the Park.

The equestrian group hosts the St. Jude Ride every year over Labor Day weekend, bringing more than 100 riders to the park.

The Boy Scouts program utilizes the park for camping experiences where they will have 25 campers in the park at one time.

The Lac qui Parle Valley and Dawson Boyd School districts utilize the park for the Cross Country running program.

It is hoped that as the amenities grow in the park that programming could be increased, especially with youth and church 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





Insert programming spreadsheet

Annual Programming Cost

\$400/year

Annual Revenues from Programming and Fees/Charges Total

\$2000 - \$3,000/year

Outreach and Marketing Plan

The Lac qui Parle County Park informs the public through their 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. Create interpretive panels in the park to tell the history.
4. Guide users to preserve and take care of the park.
5. Provide better amenities so users can more easily utilize the park as an outdoor classroom, etc.

Currently the park utilizes the following for outreach and marketing:

1. Events – events such as the haunted hayride 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 – under construction as the County updates their website.
4. Brochure – a small brochure created by the volunteers of the park
5. Specific event advertising in newspaper and radio – Haunted Hayride and St. Jude Ride.
6. Google My Business page - was created to increase online presence of park

7. Lac qui Parle County Fair booth - provided qualitative information about the park and public interest
8. Regional tourism – Lac qui Parle 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:

9. Interpretation and wayfinding – panels, kiosk and signage
10. Website – add information to the current website (park features, amenities, rates, and support downloadable maps)
11. Online guestbook
12. GMRPTC website
13. Geocaching programming
14. Snowmobile trail mapping
15. Additional events such as a 5K run
16. Better signage with rules, boundaries and wayfinding information

A priority is signage and interpretation. According to the US Forest Service, "Interpretation is a communication process designed to reveal the meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage to the public, through first-hand involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, and sites. Interpretation tells a story and brings meaning and interest to a subject for the enjoyment of the visitor. It does not just provide facts." The US Forest Service also notes that interpretive signs are beneficial in that they: - Increase visitor enjoyment through the appreciation and understanding of features, concepts, themes, and stories of the natural, cultural, created, managed, and historic environments. - Guide or modify visitor behavior to reduce visitor impacts to resources or facilities. - Produce more visitor contacts than all other IS contacts combined. - Convey a consistent message to many people at one time and can be viewed at a visitor's convenience. - Are in place at all times and available to visitors 24 hours each day.

At Lac qui Parle County Park, there is proposed signage at both entrances with a main kiosk at the trailhead site that will greet and orient visitors to the park. Use of technologies could be used to support a digital display to convey up-to-date electronic information such as self-guided tours, calendar of events, and seasonal usage information. Wayfinding elements will support trail users as they navigate the newly expanded trail system, and interpretive signage and public art can engage users across the diversity of site features. Whether encouraging park patrons to identify birds or plant species, to reflect upon the cultural and natural history of the site, or to simply explore a new outdoor activity, users can learn from the signage and apply or process this information as they explore the site.

Outreach and Marketing Support Upload



Park is located from:
 Dawson - 4 miles E, 4 N on #27
 Madison - 10 miles E, 2 S on #27
 Appleton - 14 miles S, 4 W, 2 S on #27
 Neenah - 12 miles W, 4 N on #27

Use East entrance - follow balloons

Sponsored by: Lac Qui Parle Park Board
 ? 507-829-0676 or 320-894-2906

Cost: \$5.00 per person

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HAYRIDE

Saturday, October 20th
 7:00 - 10:30 p.m.

Daylight Ride - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Hayride will be held at the
 Lac qui Parle "COUNTY" Park



Lac qui Parle County Park - Pristine and Historically Significant

The early pioneer families were attracted to section 30 of Lac qui Parle township by its rich diversity of soil, water, timber and wildlife resources along with its inherent scenic beauty of setting along the Lac qui Parle River. These early families consisted of the Amund Olson in the NW 1/4, William Mills in the NE 1/4, John Nash in the SW 1/4 and Edwin Nash in the SE 1/4. The early pioneers also initiated a city, church and cemetery in section 30 with only traces of the cemetery existing yet today. Adjacent on the north in section 19, a future Minnesota governor was born and raised. Theodore Christenson, the 21st governor of Minnesota, later built a summer home that still stands today on a scenic overlook of the Lac qui Parle River and County Park lands. The Park seasonally displays a real-time virtual classroom for the study of the Earth & water sciences along with the associated rich flora & fauna. Enjoy, learn & respect!



We have been making improvements to the LqP County Park

With funds from the Minnesota Trail Riders Association and the LqP County Commissioners a solar powered deep well and two hydrants were installed in 2015.

Thanks to donations by Jon Willand, the Minnesota Trail Riders Association and the Lac qui Parle County Commissioners a Huffcutt bathroom was installed in Jun of 2016.



The park board is actively engaged in removal of underbrush and unwanted trees to preserve many beautiful Oak trees that are the trademark of the park.

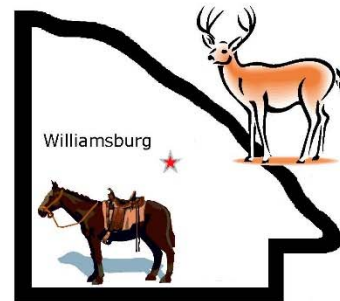
The park hosts MTRA state trial rides as well as the long standing St Jude Ride over Labor Day which raises funds for St Jude Hospital. The local trail riders spend substantial hours maintaining some 4 or more miles of trail in the park.

The park board with help from the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission is applying for Regional Park Status with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission.



The Lac qui Parle County Park

Where the county began!



Preserving a rich heritage while educating today's generation and conserving substantial pristine resources for the future generations. dac

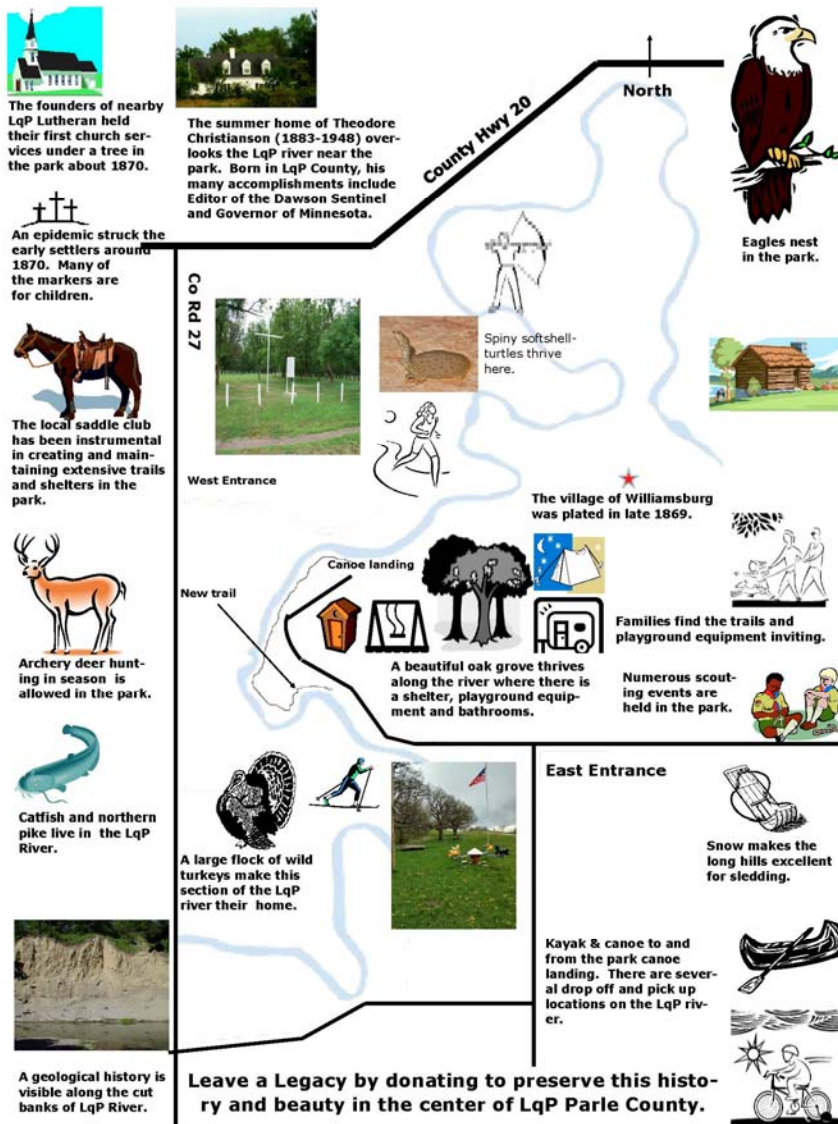


Web Site

<http://lqpc.com/index.php/park>

Email Address

countypark@lqpc.com



User Metrics and Research Plan

The Lac qui Parle County Park Board is interested in continuing to survey and track users to gauge what is needed in the park. Some ideas include: campground/RV fees, a counter cable for vehicles, a surveillance camera with a motion detector, online surveys, online guest book and paper guest book in the trailhead area.

USER METRICS AND RESEARCH

Campground/RV fees

Once the park offers water and electricity, there will be a fee for camping with a pay box.

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.

A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA WITH A MOTION DETECTOR

This is one way to both monitor usage, and to add a “staffing presence” in a park that is remote.

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 GUEST BOOK

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

PAPER GUEST BOOK IN THE TRAILHEAD AREA

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

The Lac qui Parle County Park Board is and Lac qui Parle 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