

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
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DATE: May 24, 2007

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst--Parks (651-602-1360)

SUBJECT: Scheduling off-site MPOSC meetings/tours for summer 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission has held offsite business meetings in the summer months. This allowed the commission to also tour regional park sites and facilities financed with regional park capital improvement grants and to discuss policy issues. This memorandum lists what has been done the past several years and proposes a schedule and location of off-site meetings/tours for 2007.

2003

- February. Camp Sacajawea, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County. Retreat to discuss criteria for evaluating proposed additions to regional park system.
- December. Tour of Doyle-Kennefick farm as part of proposed Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, Scott County

2004

- May. Tour with Metropolitan Council members of Lake Elmo Park Reserve (Washington County), Harriet Island Regional Park, Sam Morgan Regional Trail, and Como Conservatory/Zoo Special Recreation Feature (St. Paul).
- June. Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park interpretive center, Anoka County. Offsite meeting location and tour of the dam operated by Three Rivers Park District and the recently completed performance center/large group picnic shelter operated by Anoka County.
- August. Nature center at Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park, Ramsey County. Offsite meeting location and tour.

2005

- January. Richardson Nature Center—Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District. Offsite meeting and tour of Wallo parcel (outparcel proposed for inclusion in the Bloomington managed portion of the park reserve)
- June and August. Lebanon Hills Regional Park Visitor Center—Dakota County. Two offsite meetings (June and August). Toured inholding parcels in Lebanon Hills Park, plus master plan reviews of Miesville Ravine Park Reserve and Lake Byllesby Regional Park including examples of inholdings in those parks as examples of rural park acquisition.

- July. Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board office. Tour of inholding parcels in the Above the Falls Regional Park as a representation of land to be acquired for a regional park in an urban setting.

2006

- August 1. Bunker Hills Regional Park campground visitor center—Anoka County. Plus tour of Bunker Hills Regional Park and grand opening of large group picnic area.
- August 15. Lake Waconia Regional Park—Carver County. Met at Lakeside Ballroom, an inholding parcel of the park and toured other portions of the park.
- Sept. 11. Spring Lake Regional Park—Scott County. Met at Lakefront Park, City of Prior Lake and then toured Spring Lake Regional Park as part of master plan review of that park.

Recommendations for 2007

Based on past activities, the Commission may wish to consider the following proposals:

1. Offsite meeting and tour of Phalen and Keller Regional Parks, City of St. Paul and Ramsey County. A significant amount of capital improvements have occurred at these parks that were funded with previous regional park capital improvement grants. Rehabilitation of picnic areas currently underway at Keller Park. Date proposed for this meeting/tour is August 7 (regular meeting day). A meeting room at the Phalen Golf course clubhouse has been reserved for that date.
2. Offsite meeting and tour at Elm Creek Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District. A significant amount of capital improvements have occurred at the park that were funded with previous regional park capital improvement grants, plus a wide range of recreation activities are offered here. Specific meeting location to be determined. Date proposed for this meeting/tour is either September 4 (regular meeting day, which is the day after Labor Day, or September 11--which is the second Tuesday in September).
3. Offsite tour of Big Marine Park Reserve, Washington County. The County is constructing the park's first phase of development this year, which includes a boat launch, picnic area and play structure, swimming beach, park office and associated roads and park lots. In October 2006, the Metropolitan Council approved reimbursement consideration of up to \$3 million in future regional park CIPs for this project. Date proposed for this tour is September 18 (special meeting).