

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
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DATE: April 23, 2008
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 2008

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 2008.

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.

2007

- Sept. 11. Elm Creek Park Reserve--Three Rivers Park District. Met at visitor center and toured this new building and adjacent winter recreation area and swimming beach rehabilitation.
- Oct. 2. Big Marine Park Reserve—Washington County. Met at North Service Center in Forest Lake and toured the park reserve, which at the time was under phase 1 construction.

Recommendations for 2008

The following meeting dates and locations are recommended that were made in consultation with the affected park agencies:

1. June 3: 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 is currently underway at Keller Park. A meeting room at the Phalen Golf Course clubhouse or Keller Golf Course clubhouse will be reserved.
2. July 1 or July 8: Offsite meeting and tour of Minnehaha Regional Park, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. A significant amount of capital improvements have occurred at this park that was funded with previous regional park capital improvement grants. Rehabilitation of the Wabun picnic area is currently underway. A meeting room at the Longfellow House will be reserved.
3. August 5: Offsite meeting and tour of Tony Schmidt Regional Park, Ramsey County. This former Ramsey County Park was designated a regional park as part of the adopted *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. A meeting room at the Ramsey County Public Works Department at Hamline Avenue and Hwy. 96 will be reserved since the park has no indoor meeting space.