

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
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**DATE:** March 24, 2009

**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 2009

**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 2009.

**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.

## **2008**

- June 3. Phalen and Keller Regional Parks--City of St. Paul and Ramsey County. Met at Phalen Golf Course Clubhouse and toured both parks after meeting.
- July 8. Toured Minnehaha Regional Park--Mpls. Park Board. Met at recently rehabilitated Wabun Picnic Area then held a business meeting at Hiawatha Recreation Center and returned to Minnehaha Park after the meeting to complete the tour of that park.
- August 5. Toured Tony Schmidt Regional--Ramsey County. Met at the park and toured it, and then held a business meeting at Ramsey County Public Works office.

## **Recommendations for 2009**

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

1. June 2: Offsite meeting at Bunker Hills Regional Park campground visitor center, Anoka County. Then tour of Bunker Beach in the park and Rum River Central Regional Park. A significant amount of capital improvements have occurred at these parks that were funded with previous regional park capital improvement grants. The MPOSC has not toured Rum River Central Regional Park.
2. July 7: Offsite meeting and tour of Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District. We will meet at the Weinkaupf house, an acquisition that was financed with a Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant in 2007. Other parcels (Baudin and Westerlund) were acquired with grants authorized in 2008. We will tour other parcels yet to be acquired in the park and see the rehabilitation of paved parking lots, trails and park roads that were funded with a 2008-09 CIP grant.
3. August 4: Offsite meeting and tour of Silverwood Special Recreation Feature, Three Rivers Park District. This new special recreation feature was acquired in 2001 from the Salvation Army. The first phase of developing the park began in 2008 and should be completed by this time. We will conduct a business meeting in the new visitor center.