

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
Mears Park Centre, 230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1634
Phone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904

DATE: March 29, 2010
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 2010

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 2010.

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.

2009

- June 2: Bunker Hills Regional Park and Rum River Central Regional Park—Anoka County. Met at Bunker Hills Regional Park campground visitor center. Then toured Bunker Beach in the park and Rum River Central Regional Park.
- July 7: Lake Rebecca Park Reserve—Three Rivers Park District. Met at picnic shelter and then toured park after the business meeting. Tour included review of rehabilitated paved parking lots, trails, park roads and play area funded with a 2008-09 CIP grant. Also saw the Weinkaupf, Baudin and Westerlund parcels that were acquired with Park Acquisition Opportunity Grants
- August 4: Silverwood Special Recreation Feature—Three Rivers Park District. Met at the visitor center and then toured the park after a business meeting.

Recommendations for 2010

The following locations for meetings and tours are recommended.

1. Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park—St. Paul. The MPOSC could meet at the Clarence Wigington pavilion for a business meeting, and then tour the park. Significant improvements to the park have been made with CIP grants and line-item appropriations. Plus the MPOSC could see the Lilydale portion of the park in context of the development master plan amendment the Commission considered earlier this year.
2. Theodore Wirth Regional Park—Mpls. Park & Rec. Board. The MPOSC could meet at the Wirth Chalet for a business meeting, and then tour the park focusing on the Wirth Beach area which is undergoing improvements from past and current grants funded through the Regional Parks CIP and Parks and Trails Fund appropriations.
3. Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park—Scott County. The MPOSC could meet at the picnic area, and then tour the park. This new park, which opened in June 2009, includes land that was acquired with a Park Acquisition Opportunity Grant, donation to the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities and land acquired from a residential developer as part of the County's approval of clustered residential development adjacent to the park.

Dates and times recommended for the meetings and tours are:

June 1, 4 to 6 p.m.

July 6, 4 to 6 p.m.

August 3, 4 to 6 p.m.

Confirmation on dates and locations will be made after consulting with the hosting regional park agencies.