

**Regional Parks Policy Plan Update
Proposed System Additions
May 4, 2010 MPOSC Meeting**

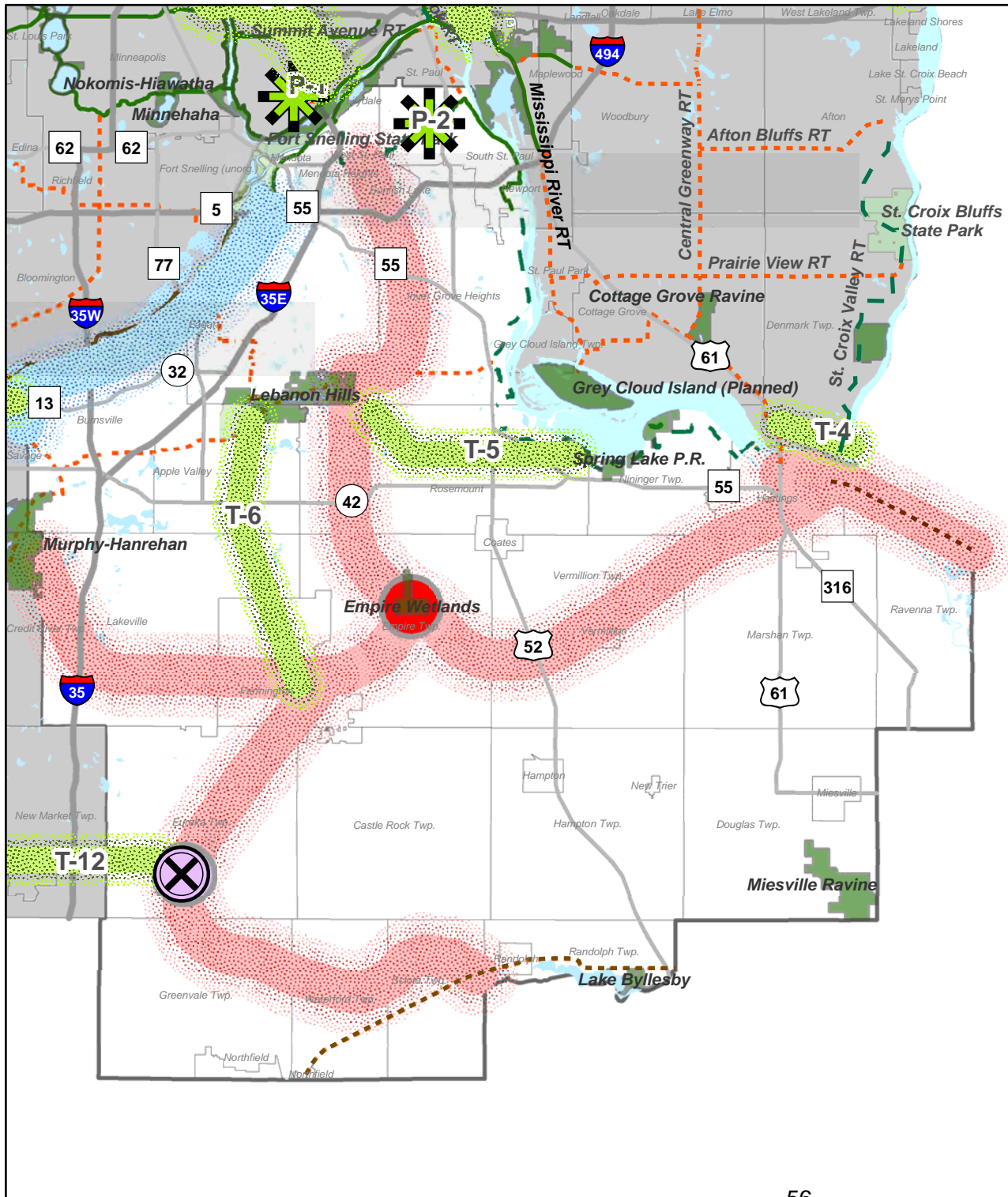
ATTACHMENT E

Dakota County						
Map Designation	Site Name	Type	Conversion Acres	Trail Length (miles)	Estimated Acquisition Costs	Notes
P-2	Thompson- Kaposia-Port Crosby (local parks)	Park Study Area	230	-	\$0	Dakota County proposes to evaluate the feasibility of combining three local parks that are connected by North Urban and Mississippi River RTs as a joint regional park unit
					Parks are already under public ownership	
T-5	Rosemount River Access Trail	Trail	-	11	\$2,500,000	Trail would connect Vermillion Highlands Greenway RT in Rosemount to the Mississippi River RT
T-6	North Creek Greenway Trail	Trail	-	14	\$2,250,000	Trail would connect the MN Zoo to the Vermillion River Greenway RT
T-12	Elko New Market-Blakeley RT Search Corridor	Trail	-	2	\$50,000	This proposed trail would connect Blakeley Bluffs RP Search Area to Cedar Lake Farm RP and the Chub Creek Greenway RT in Dakota Co. Would require short RT search area for connection in Dakota Co.
	Proposed deletion of SW Dakota County Regional Park Search Area	Park Search Area	-400	-	N/A	The Regional Parks Policy Plan (2005) indicated that this regional park search area was subject to the outcome of the County's Park System Plan. The System Plan did not include this search area.

Estimated acquisition costs provided by Dakota County



Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Dakota County



Regional Parks

- Regional
- State
- Federal

Regional Trails

- Regional Existing
- Regional Planned
- Regional Proposed (No Master Plan)
- State Existing

Regional Park Search Areas (2005)

- New Unit
- Completing the System

Regional Trail Search Corridors (2005)

- Boundary Adjustment
- New Unit

Proposed System Additions (2010)

- T-5 Rosemount River Access Trail
- T-6 North Creek Greenway Trail
- T-12 Elko New Market--Blakeley Connection
- Thompson-Kaposia-Port Crosby Study Area: evaluate feasibility of regional park
- Proposed deletion Regional Park Search Area



**2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update
Proposed System Changes**

Map Designation:	P-2
Name:	Thompson-Kaposia-Kaposia Landing
Agency:	Dakota County
Category:	Proposed Regional Park Study Area
Acres:	230
Acquisition Costs:	TBD

Request

Dakota County has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council consider the combination of Thompson County Park, Kaposia Park and Kaposia Landing to be designated as a Regional Park Study Area in the Parks Policy Plan update.

Designation as a Regional Park Study Area does not guarantee that a park will become part of the regional parks system. It acknowledges that studies would need to be conducted to determine whether the facility warrants regional status. Once these studies are complete, the information will be presented to MPOSC and the Council for evaluation.

Background

Thompson County Park is located in West St Paul and bounded by Butler Avenue and private property to the north, Highway 52 to the east, Emerson Avenue to the south and Sperl Street/Thompson Lake to the west. The park contains a picnic area and shelter, wooded trails, a playground, and Dakota Lodge, which is a sustainably designed building overlooking Thompson Lake. The lodge is used for senior activities, meetings and celebrations and seats 200 people for a meeting set-up and 160 people for dining. Future plans for the park include a new picnic shelter and picnic areas, an expanded event and social area near the lodge, a skating pond, an art walk with symbolic farm ruins, and park entrance improvements. Thompson County Park is connected to Kaposia Park by a bridge over Highway 52 as part of the North Urban Regional Trail.

Kaposia Park and Simon's Ravine are located in South St. Paul and bounded by Butler Avenue and private property to the north, Concord Avenue to the east, private property to the south and Highway 52 to the west. The park is predominantly a large forested preserve that protects steep slopes, wetlands and drainages. Simon's Ravine cuts diagonally through the park and is identified as a Regionally Significant Ecological Area by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Metropolitan Council.

Kaposia Disc Golf Course is the main feature of the park. Anecdotally, it is considered to be one of the top rated disc golf courses in the country. Other recreation features at the park include a pavilion, picnic shelter, playground, youth baseball/softball field, 2 tennis courts, a hockey rink, sand volleyball and hiking trails. Future improvements may include restoration of the historic pavilion and completion of the North Urban Regional Trail.

Kaposia Landing, formerly known as Port Crosby, is also located in South St. Paul and is bounded by the Mississippi River to the east and the Union Pacific Railroad line to the north, west and south. The property was formerly used as a construction/demolition debris landfill. The landfill was capped and converted from a landfill to be usable public recreation space. In addition, 5,000 feet of Mississippi River shoreline was stabilized and restored along the property. This work was done with grants from State bonding bills in 2004 and 2006 that were administered by the Metropolitan Council.

South St. Paul and Dakota County constructed approximately 5 miles of the Mississippi River Regional Trail, a significant portion of which is located along the west side of the Kaposia Landing property. An interior loop trail, three parking areas, and an off-leash dog park are now open at the site. The park can be accessed by a vehicular bridge at Concord Street and Bryant Avenue or by the pedestrian bridge located at the Simons Ravine trailhead.

Planned park development includes a baseball and 4 softball fields, picnic shelters, an interpretive center and viewing areas for wildlife and habitat.

Criteria

The criteria for regional parks that are outlined in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* are shown below in bold text. Staff analysis is italicized.

A regional park should:

- **Be 200-500 acres in size (with 100 acres as a minimum).**

The combination of Thompson County Park, Kaposia Park and Kaposia Landing as a regional park study area would consist of approximately 230 acres, which meets the standard for a regional park.

- **Serve a service area of 3-5 communities.**

Kaposia Park and Kaposia Landing are located in South St. Paul and Thompson County Park is located in West St. Paul. The parks are connected via the North Urban Regional Trail, which will continue through Mendota Heights and Lilydale where it will connect to the Big Rivers Regional Trail. The Mississippi River Regional Trail travels through Kaposia Landing, and will traverse Inver Grove Heights, Rosemount, Nininger Township

to Hastings. With these regional trails passing through the proposed regional park study area, it is likely that the park's service area will be at least 3 to 5 communities.

- **Be in a natural setting contiguous to water bodies or watercourses if possible.**

Thompson County Park is located on Thompson Lake, Kaposia Park contains a forested ravine including Regionally Significant Ecological Areas, and Kaposia Landing is located along the Mississippi River. Therefore, this criterion is met.

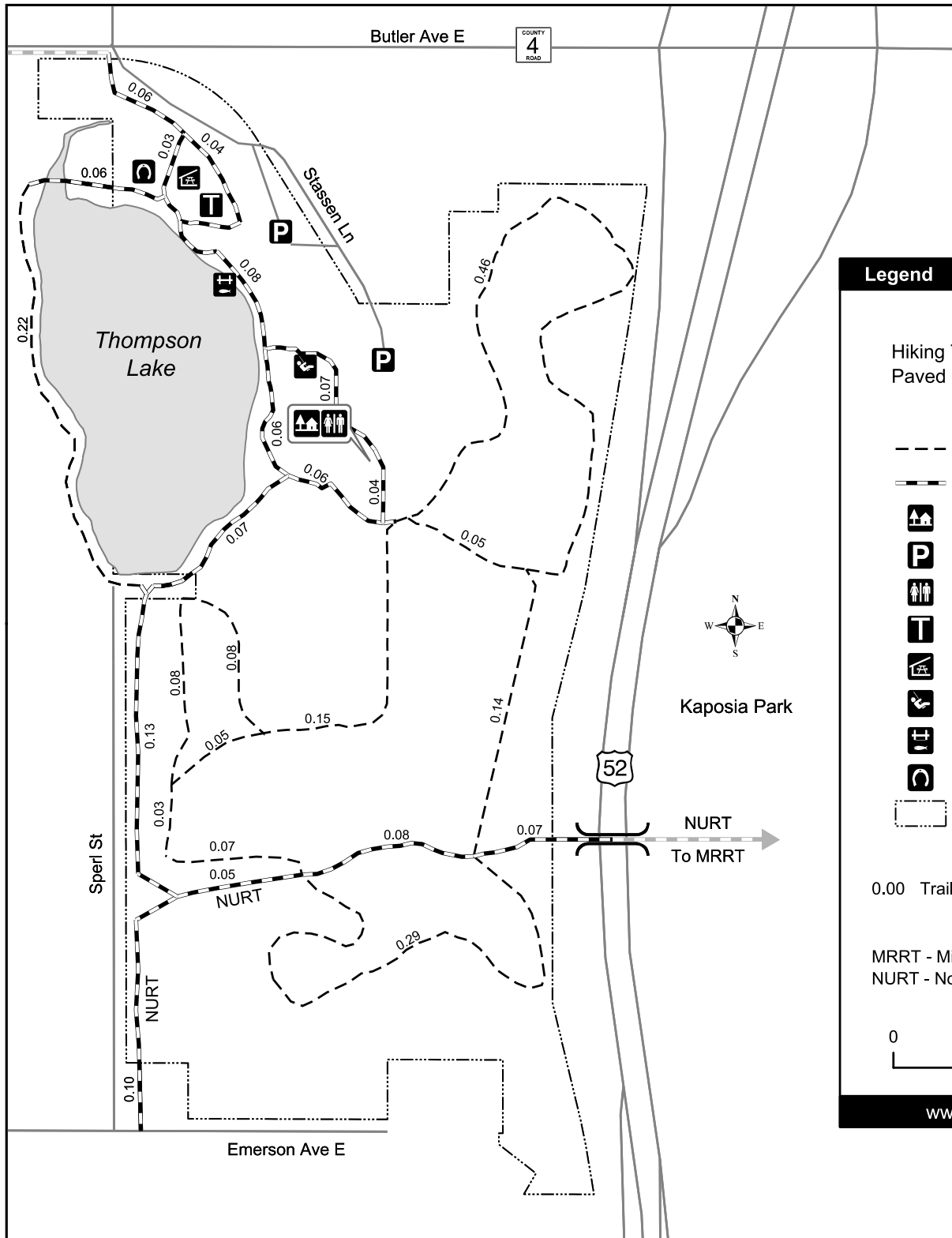
- **Provide nature oriented recreation such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail uses.**

Picnic facilities, trails, dog parks, disc golf, interpretive centers and wildlife observation areas are typical facilities provided in regional parks. Since the regional park system is a natural resources based system, the existing and proposed hockey rinks, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields are not typical regional park facilities and are considered to be better suited for local parks.

Thompson County Park

2009 Spring-Summer-Fall Trail Map

Park hours: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Legend

Hiking Trails - 1.63 miles
 Paved Trails - 1.11 miles

- Hiking
- Paved Trail
- Dakota Lodge
- Parking
- Restroom
- Portable Toilet
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Fishing Pier
- Horseshoes
- Park Boundary

0.00 Trail Segment Distance in Miles

MRRT - Mississippi River Regional Trail
 NURT - North Urban Regional Trail

0 0.05 0.1 Miles

www.dakotacounty.us

KAPOSIA PARK





not to scale

LETTER =PHOTOPOINT

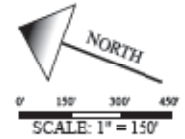
PORT CROSBY PARK



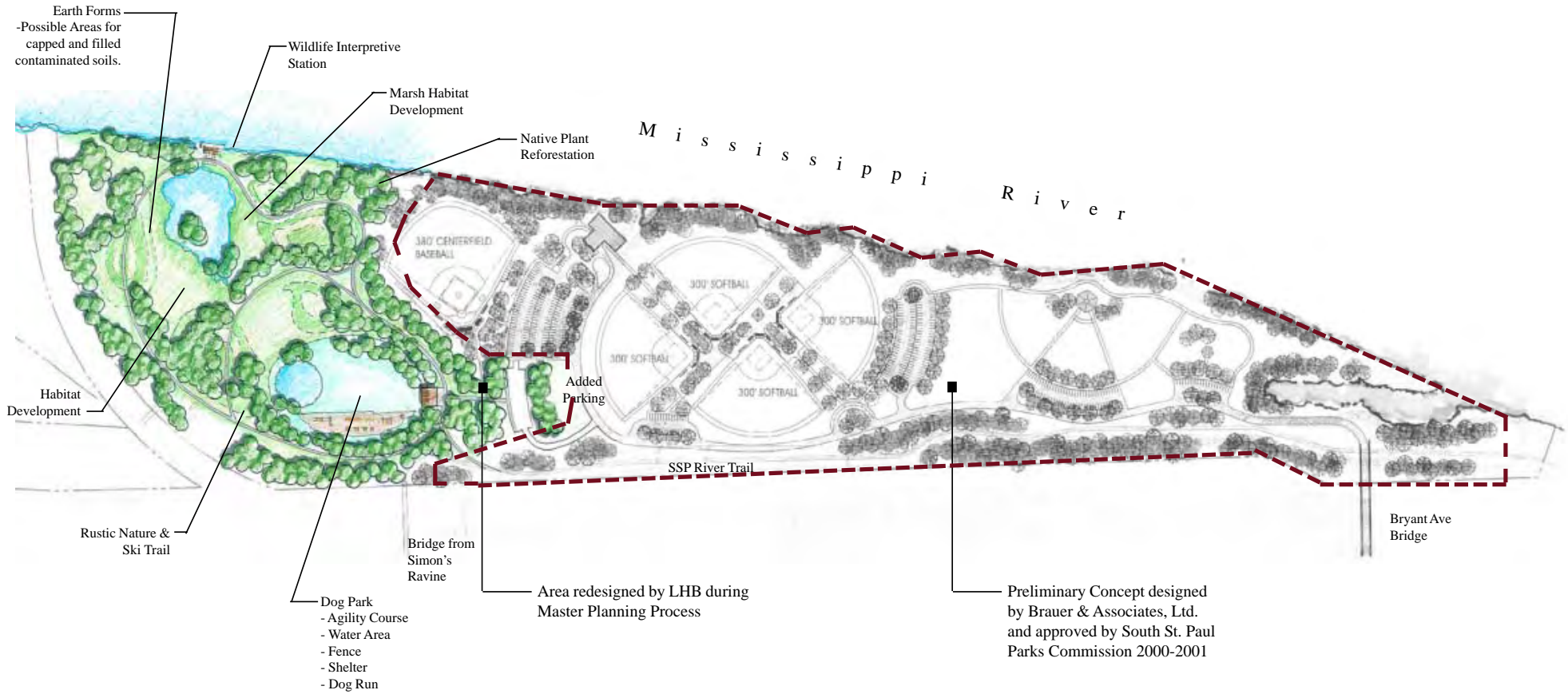
Final Master Plan

Kaposia Landing


South St. Paul, Minnesota



Prepared by
Law Offices of Bruce Brauer & Associates, Ltd.
 B&A Project #06-04
 Date: March 30, 2006



**2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update
Proposed System Changes**

Map Designation:	
Name:	Southwest Dakota County Regional Park Search Area
Agency:	Dakota County
Category:	Proposed Deletion
Acres:	400*
Acquisition Costs:	\$2,000,000*

* Estimates taken from the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*

Request

Dakota County has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council consider deleting the Southwest Dakota County Regional Park Search Area from the regional parks system as part of the Parks Policy Plan update.

Background

A regional park search area was designated in the southwest portion of Dakota County as a “Completing the System” component of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. “Completing the System” regional park search areas are anticipated to be developed post-2030, although land acquisition is encouraged as properties become available.

This search area was identified based on the presence of one of the few large lakes in southern Dakota County as well as Regionally Significant Natural Resource Areas as mapped by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* indicated that the regional park search area was subject to the outcome of the Dakota County Park System Plan, which was completed in 2008 and was incorporated into the County’s comprehensive plan.

The County completed an extensive planning process to develop the Park System Plan; a regional park in this area was not a component of the plan. The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* included a regional trail search corridor in this area. The Park System Plan expanded its trail planning to incorporate a comprehensive greenway system. Some of the objectives of the proposed greenways are to improve water quality, contribute to improved habitat and provide convenient and accessible recreational open space through linear parks. The Park System Plan identified a regional greenway corridor along the west side of Chub Lake, which is in the general “Completing the System” regional park search area. Therefore, the objectives of the park search area may be met with the development of a greenway.

**2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update
Proposed System Changes**

Map Designation:	T-5 and T-6
Name:	Rosemount River Access Greenway Regional Trail North Creek Greenway Regional Trail
Agency:	Dakota County
Category:	Proposed Regional Trail Search Corridor
Miles:	T-5: 5 miles T-6 : 9 miles
Acquisition Costs:	TBD

Request

Dakota County has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council consider the designation of two regional trail search corridors as part of the Parks Policy Plan update.

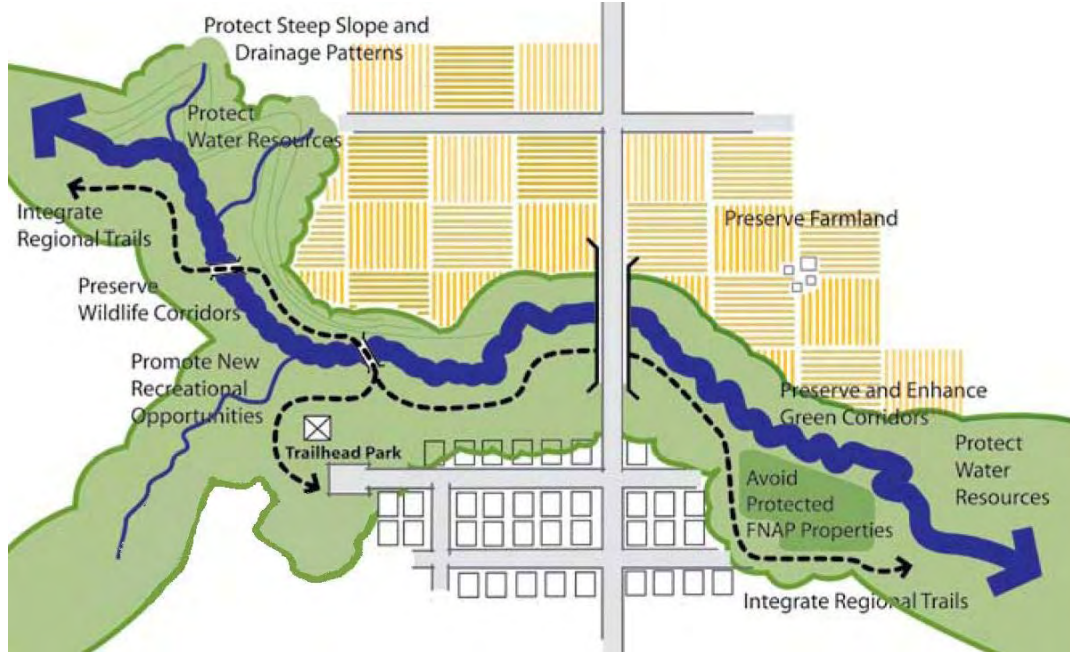
The proposed Rosemount River Access Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor travels through Rosemount to connect the proposed Vermillion Highlands Greenway Regional Trail to the planned Mississippi River Regional Trail and Spring Lake Park Reserve. (T-5)

The North Creek Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor travels through Farmington, Lakeville and Apple Valley to connect the Minnesota Zoo and the proposed Terrace Oaks Greenway Regional Trail to the proposed Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail. (T-6)

Background

Dakota County completed its Park System Plan in 2008. In addition to planning for a new regional park in the Vermillion Highlands area of Empire Township, the Park System Plan placed a large focus on developing a comprehensive greenway network throughout the County. The County’s greenway vision is to “create a seamless and interconnected greenway framework of parks, natural areas, lakes, and rivers, from which to provide convenient and high quality recreation for our citizens and protect and restore Dakota County’s natural systems.”

The network of greenways is envisioned to be developed through partnerships between the County, cities, townships, school districts, and the private sector. The greenway concept is to interconnect popular destinations such as parks, schools, open space, civic spaces, new development, and businesses with a greenway trail setting. Other objectives of the proposed greenways are to improve water quality, contribute to improved habitat and provide convenient and accessible recreational open space through linear parks, as depicted in the following graphic:



The County's Parks System Plan envisions 13 future trails, all of which are identified as regional trails in the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, with the exception of the proposed Rosemount River Access Greenway Regional Trail and North Creek Greenway Regional Trail.

Criteria

The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* outlines the following criteria for regional trails. Staff analysis is italicized.

Strategy 1(c): Siting criteria and land acquisition funding priorities for regional trails

To qualify for regional trail status, an existing or proposed trail must meet the following criteria:

1. The trail should not duplicate an existing trail. The trail may include a portion of an existing county or local trail if the trail serves one of the following functions:
 - (A) Destination Regional Trail. Be a destination itself, providing a high-quality recreation experience that traverses significant natural resource areas where the trail treadway will have no adverse impact on the natural resource base;
 - (B) Linking Regional Trail. Link two or more units of the regional recreation open space system.

Neither the proposed Rosemount River Access Greenway Regional Trail (T-5) nor the North Creek Greenway Regional Trail (T-6) duplicate an existing trail. Dakota County's greenways can serve as both destination and linking trails. Both proposed regional trail search corridors provide connections to regional parks and trails.

2. The trail must serve a regional audience based on visitor origin and service-area research on regional trails.

The proposed regional trail search corridors will traverse several communities in Dakota County and will connect to the greater County greenway/regional trail network, which provides for connections to regional trails in St. Paul, Washington County and Scott County. These trails, with their connections to other regional parks and trails, may draw a regional audience.

New **Linking Regional Trails** should be located within the developing or developed area of the region. For Linking Regional Trails, any two trails running parallel to each other and not separated by natural or human-built barriers should be at least 1.5 miles apart so as not to overlap the localized service area of those trails. Whenever possible, Linking Regional Trails should be located to reasonably maximize inclusion of high quality natural resources and connections to local trails, areas of lifecycle and affordable housing, and areas of infill and redevelopment.

The proposed Rosemount River Access Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor (T-5) will travel through Rosemount, which is designated partially as a "developing" community and partially as an "agricultural geographic planning area" in the 2030 Regional Development Framework. The proposed Highline Greenway Regional Trail and the proposed Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail parallel this proposed regional trail search corridor, but they are both located more than 2 miles away.

The proposed North Creek Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor (T-6) will travel through Farmington, Lakeville and Apple Valley. The 2030 Regional Development Framework classifies Apple Valley as a "developed" community, and Lakeville and Farmington as "developing" communities. The proposed Vermillion Highlands Greenway Regional Trail parallels this proposed regional trail search corridor, but it is located more than 2 miles away.

For **Destination Regional Trails**, there should be no spacing minimums or maximums; instead, the decision to locate the trail should be based on the availability of existing high-quality natural resources or the opportunity for natural resources restoration, enhancement and protection. Destination Regional Trails should be located to reasonably maximize the amount of high-quality natural resources within the trail corridor boundaries.

As mentioned above, some of the objectives of the proposed greenways are to improve water quality, contribute to improved habitat and provide convenient and accessible recreational open space through linear parks, which meets the criteria for a destination trail.

There are Regionally Significant Natural Resource and Ecological Areas as mapped by the Minnesota DNR and Metropolitan Council in the vicinity of the both ends of the proposed Rosemount River Access Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor. Additionally, the City of Rosemount's comprehensive plan includes a proposed Interpretive Trail Corridor, whose trail design will integrate functional use, scenic value, historical and environmental interpretation, and ecological restoration. This trail is envisioned to connect downtown Rosemount to the Mississippi River. Collaboration between the County and the City could be evaluated during the development of a master plan for the regional trail.

The proposed North Creek Greenway Regional Trail could follow its namesake, North Creek, portions of which are surrounded by Regionally Significant Natural Resource Areas of outstanding quality.

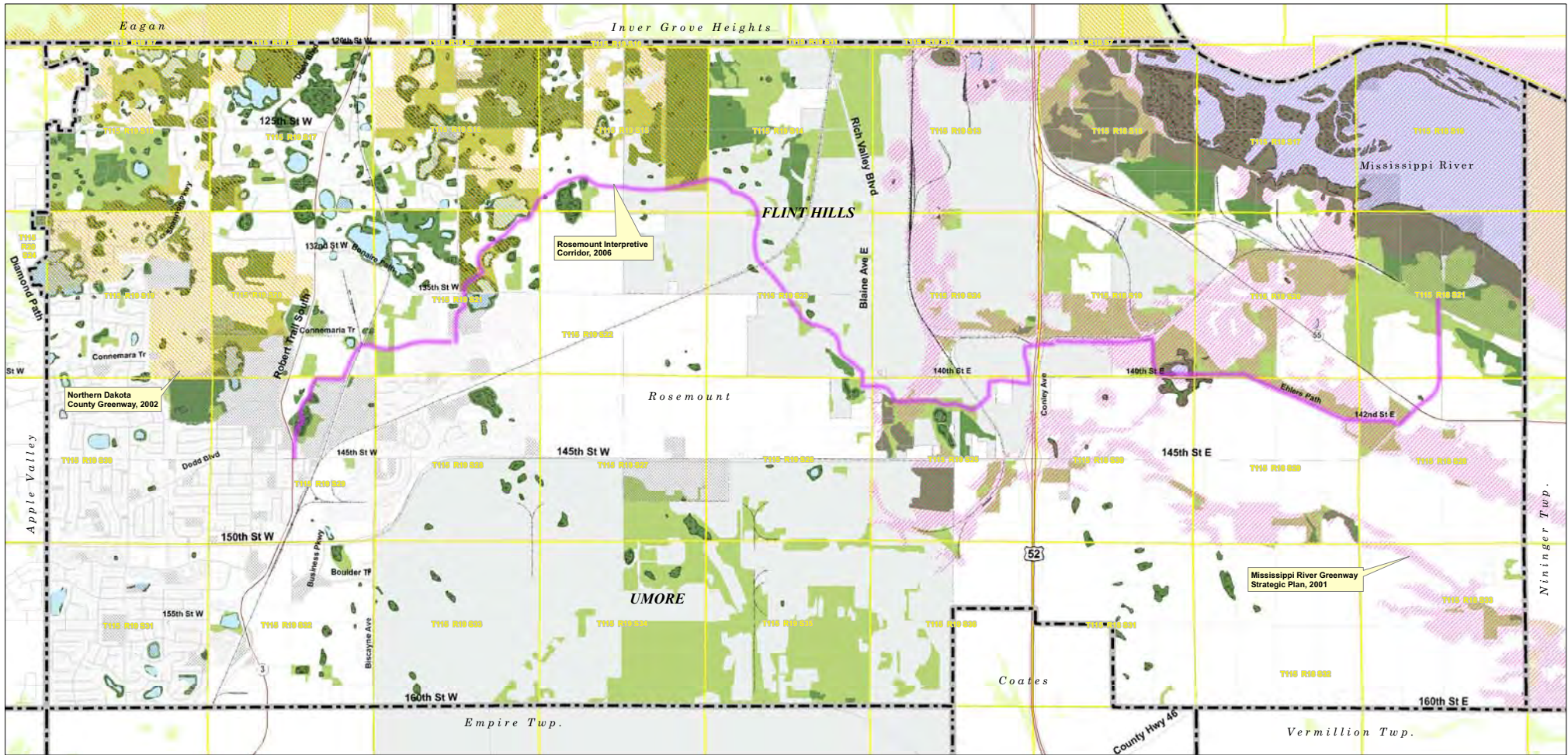
Planned and Proposed Trails:

Several trail alignments were proposed in the last Park System Plan or recommended by the Metropolitan Council. Not all routes shown on the map have been planned in detail, funded, or given an official name.



Future Trails:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cannon Valley Regional Trail Link 2. Eagan Greenway Regional Trail 3. Rosemount River Access Greenway Regional Trail * 4. Highline Greenway Regional Trail 5. Lake Marion Greenway Regional Trail 6. Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail 7. Mississippi River Regional Trail: Hastings to Red Wing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. North Creek Greenway Regional Trail * 9. Rich Valley Greenway Regional Trail 10. Terrace Oaks Greenway Regional Trail 11. Vermillion Highlands Greenway Regional Trail 12. Chub Creek Greenway Regional Trail 13. Vermillion River Greenway Regional Trail <p><i>* Regional status to be proposed or under discussion with the Metropolitan Council</i></p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



HIGHEST PRIORITY

Natural areas that are the most important water quality and habitat resources in the City

1. Open water
Data Source: City of Rosemount
2. Wetlands
Data Source: City of Rosemount
3. A buffer up to 75' around open water and wetlands
Data Source: City of Rosemount Wetland Management and Protection Requirements.
4. Land within the 100 and 500 year floodplains.
Data Source: FEMA
5. The area has been identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a Natural Community.
Data Source: Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, Dakota County Priority Natural Areas
6. Natural/semi-natural land cover* with at least one of the following characteristics:
 - a. Land with native vegetation.
 - b. Presence or habitat for a state endangered, threatened special concern plant or animal.
 - c. Land is within 300' of a lake, stream or water body.
Data Source: Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, Dakota County Priority Natural Areas

*Natural/semi-natural land cover as classified in the Minnesota Land Cover Classification for Dakota County developed by the MN DNR.

LOWER PRIORITY

Lower priority areas are natural areas that have habitat and water quality value but have experienced some disturbance or are dominated by non-native species.

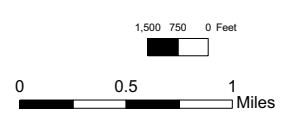
1. The land has natural/semi-natural land cover but does not meet any of the criteria outlined under Highest Priority.
Data Source: Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, Dakota County Priority Natural Areas
2. Lands identified by the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System as having the presence of man-made impervious surfaces but with those surfaces covering less than 25% of the land. The minimum size for these areas to be included is 50 acres.
Data Source: MN Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Land Cover Classification System
3. Other areas with significant tree cover.
Data Source: City of Rosemount Staff

OTHER NATURAL AREA AND GREENWAY PLANNING EFFORTS

- Mississippi River Greenway, 2001
Data Source: Hosington Koegler Group
- Northern Dakota County Greenway, 2002
Data Source: Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Rosemount Interpretive Corridor, 2006
Data Source: Hosington Koegler Group

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- City Boundary
- Publicly Held Land
- Railroad
- Major Land Holders, UMORE & Flint Hills Resources
- Natural / Seminatural Land Cover in Adjacent Communities
- Open Water
- Section Lines



Natural Areas

Rosemount Natural Area Identification

October 5, 2006

Hosington Koegler Group, inc.