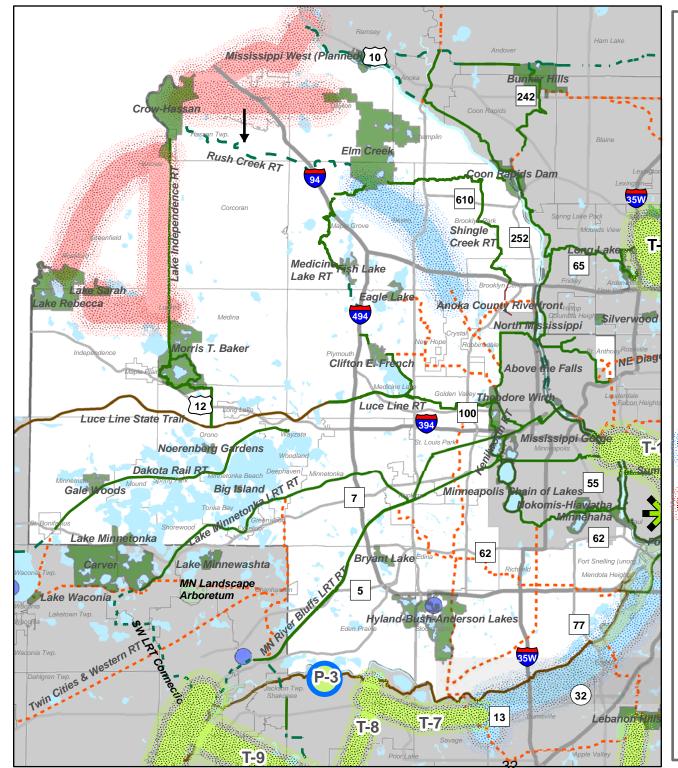
## Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Proposed System Additions May 4, 2010 MPOSC Meeting

## ATTACHMENT C

	Three Rivers Park District					
Map Designation	Site Name	Туре	Conversion Acres	Trail Length (miles)	Estimated Acquisition Costs	Notes
P-3	The Landing	Proposed Special Recreation Feature	86		\$0 Three Rivers owns The Landing	Proposed to be recognized as a Special Recreation Feature as a historic site that introduces visitors to environmental education concepts

## ATTACHMENT C





Map Designation:	P-3
Name:	The Landing
Agency:	Three Rivers Park District
Category:	Proposed Special Recreation Feature
Acres:	86
Acquisition Costs:	\$0

## 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Proposed System Changes

## <u>Request</u>

Three Rivers Park District has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council consider the inclusion of "The Landing", formerly known as Murphy's Landing, as a special recreation feature in the regional parks system.

## **Background**

The Landing is located at Highway 101 and Shenandoah Drive in Shakopee, along the Minnesota River. The Landing was established in 1969 and acquired by Three Rivers Park District in 2002. It is an 86 acre park that provides a historical perspective of life in a river town in the 1800s. The park is open for tours, educational events, group events and weddings. Approximately 40 historic buildings have been relocated to the site, which are accessible through guided tours that provide an interpretation of a variety of lifestyles, conditions and stories. Horse-drawn trolley service is also provided on a limited schedule. On weekends in December, the settlers' holiday traditions are showcased.

Previously, admission has been charged for entrance to the park. Beginning in 2010, Three Rivers Park District will modify its operations to allow free access to the park for people wanting to walk around or have a picnic. Fees will be charged for tours and events.

## **Special Recreation Features**

The 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan defines special recreation features as follows:

Area that preserves, maintains and provides specialized or single-purpose recreational activities such as golf course, nature center, marina, zoo, conservatory, arboretum, display gardens, arena, gun club, downhill ski area, and sites of historic or archeological significance.

There are currently six special recreation features in the regional parks system, including: Como Zoo, Como (Marjorie McNeely) Conservatory, Noerenberg Gardens, Gale Woods Farm, Square Lake, and Silverwood.

## Criteria

The 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan outlines the following criteria for inclusion of a proposed special recreation feature in the regional parks system. Staff analysis is italicized.

### **Strategy 1(d): Special recreation facilities (features)**

Special recreation facilities proposed for inclusion in the regional parks system must meet the following criteria for eligibility consideration:

1. Are unique and complement or enhance the services already offered by the regional system.

The Landing offers unique programming, which includes an educational component based on interpreting life in the Minnesota River Valley in the late 1800s. Several of the buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. These types of activities are not offered elsewhere in the regional parks system.

2. Are capable of functioning within the existing management structure of the regional parks system.

Three Rivers Park District is one of the ten regional park implementing agencies within the existing management structure of the regional parks system. The Landing is the only park owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District that is not within the regional parks system.

3. Do not duplicate or compete with recreation facilities adequately provided by the private sector.

The Landing is the only park facility in Minnesota designed and managed to demonstrate the experience of a Minnesota River town through history education.

4. Do not drain funds from other facilities in the system either because they have an existing or committed financial base or because a prior agreement for a public subsidy has been reached that is in the public's interest.

Three Rivers Park District has owned and operated The Landing since 2002; therefore, the park has an existing financial base and will not drain funds from other facilities in the system.

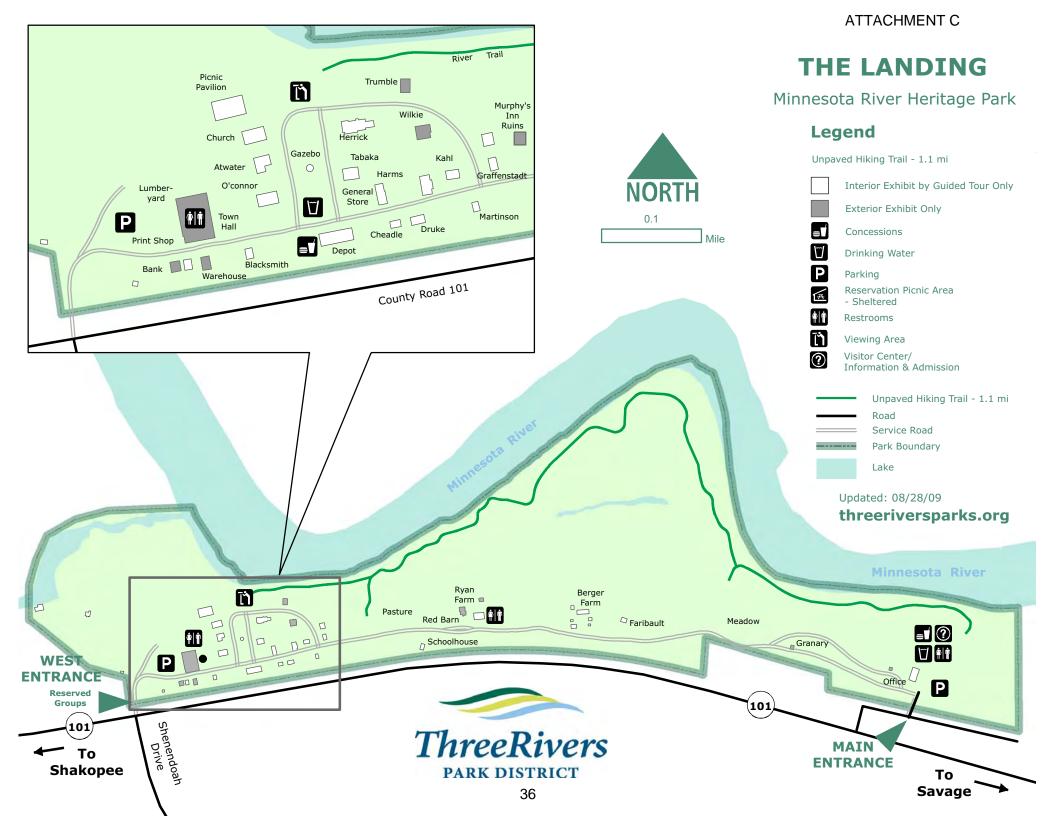
5. Demonstrate the existence or potential for drawing a sizable number of people from throughout the metropolitan area.

Three Rivers Park District estimates that there were 21,000 visits to The Landing in 2008. This is low in comparison to most parks in the regional system. However, The Landing is only open on a seasonal basis—it is open daily from March to November and on weekends in December. Even after taking its non-winter use into consideration, its visitation would be among the lowest of regional park facilities. The change in operations removing the admission fee to the park may draw more visitors, however. With the exception of Como Zoo and Conservatory, special recreation features in the regional system typically have lower visitation than other facilities; however, because of their special programming, they draw a higher percentage of regional (non-local) visits.

The Landing clearly demonstrates regional visitation patterns. Three Rivers Park District estimates that 68 percent of visitors come from outside the Park District's taxing jurisdiction. Of those, 28 percent were from outside the seven county metropolitan area.

6. Are approved through the master plan process.

Designation as a regional parks system facility would allow the park to be eligible for State funds for operations and maintenance. In order to be eligible for capital improvement funding, a master plan for the park would need to be approved by the Council.



ATTACHMENT C



Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners December 18, 2009

Metropolitan Council

certainly unique to the region.

390 N. Robert St. St. Paul, MN 55101

Jan Youngquist

Dear Jan:

Sara Wyatt District 1

Marilynn Corcoran, Vice Chair District 2

Mark Haggerty District 3

Dale Woodbeck District 4

Rosemary Franzese District 5

Larry Blackstad, Chair Appointed

> Barbara Kinsey Appointed

Cris Gears Superintendent The Landing has several unique characteristics, which contribute to its regional significance:

Three Rivers Park District would like to request that the Metropolitan Council consider inclusion of "The Landing," formerly known as Historic Murphy's Landing, as part of the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan revision process. The Park District feels the Landing fits the definition of a regional special recreation

Special Recreation Features require "a unique managing or programming effort on the part of the Regional Park Implementing Agency." The Landing offers an educational experience within natural, cultural, and historic features that are

In 2002, the Park District assumed ownership and operating responsibility for The Landing. The rationale for acquiring this facility was based upon the Park District's enabling legislation, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 398, which charges

the Park District to acquire, develop, and maintain large parks, wildlife

A significant public education program has been central to its mission of promoting environmental stewardship through outdoor education and

recreation from the Park District's inception. This public education effort is

accomplished in many ways throughout the park system. In addition to the traditional environmental education that occurs through nature centers, park visitors learn of land use and life cycles while viewing a contemporary working farm or they may gain a better understanding of the natural world while taking

an arts class at an environmental arts center. At The Landing, visitors are

introduced to environmental education concepts as they learn how humans

interacted with the Minnesota River environment though the centuries.

feature and should be recognized as a regional facility.

sanctuaries, **historical sites**, forests, and other reserves.

A regional scale- The Landing is comprised of 86 acres, which allows for some of the spatial realities of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Minnesota River town to be realized and experienced. Approximately 40 historic buildings have been re-located to the site providing a treasure trove of historic interpretation opportunities. This is the only park facility in Minnesota designed and managed specifically to provide park guests with an in-depth experience of a Minnesota River town through living history education.

Administrative Center, 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441-1299 Information 763.559.9000 • TTY 763.559.6719 • Fax 763.559.3287 • www.ThreeRiversParks.org

- A multi-faceted interpretive program The educational program is based on interpreting life in the Minnesota River Valley in the late 1800's. A program of this breadth is able to embrace many facets of life rather than being restricted to a single historic figure or structure. A diversity of lifestyles, conditions and stories are interpreted among the approximately 40 buildings found at The Landing.
- **Public access** The Landing is owned by a public agency committed by policy to public education.
- National Register of Historic Places Designation Several key buildings including the Oliver Faribault House, the Murphy's Inn Ruins, the Berger Farm Complex, the Pond Grist Mill, and Native American historic and pre-historic sites comprise the Shakopee Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Visitation** Park District staff estimates 21,000 visits to the Landing in 2008. Based on original data, 68% of those visitors were from outside the Park District's taxing jurisdiction. Of those, 28% were from outside the seven county metro area.

The Park District operates The Landing as a living history museum, which provides an environment where park visitors can interact directly with knowledgeable interpreters. Access to The Landing has occurred through scheduled groups or public programs. While program attendance has been strong, access by the general public has not been accommodated which has prevented park attendance from reaching its potential. The Park District has recently modified its operation to allow free park access to the park in 2010.

The Park District understands that inclusion in the policy plan would still require approval of a development Master Plan prior to being eligible for any future funding through the Metropolitan Council.

The Park District appreciates your consideration of this facility within the 2030 Policy Plan and would welcome the opportunity to share more information regarding The Landing with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission as they consider this issue.

Thank you nulson

Boe R. Carlson, Associate Superintendent Division of Administration

C: Cris Gears, Superintendent Tom McDowell; Associate Superintendent Recreation and Education Don DeVeau, Director of Planning and Development

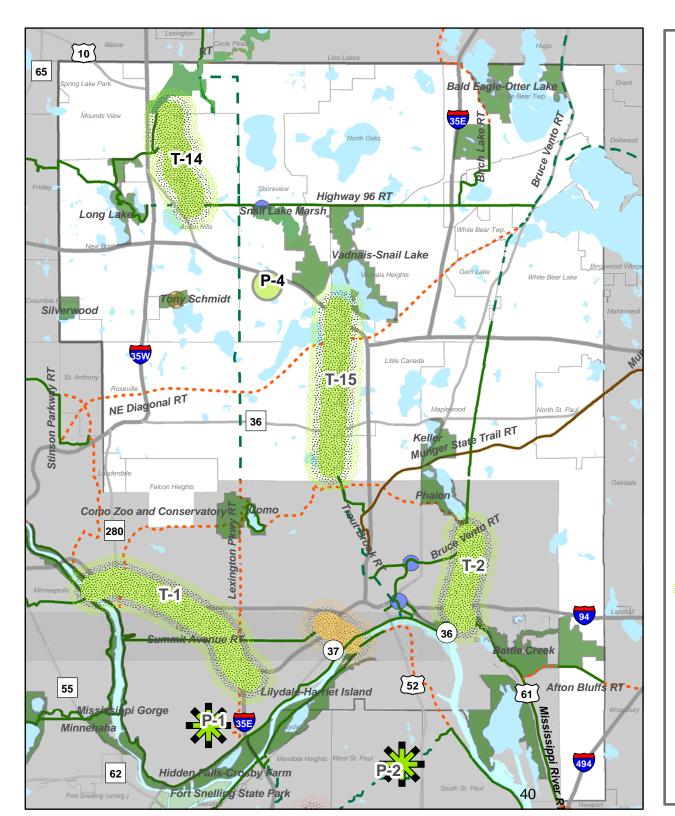
## Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Proposed System Additions May 4, 2010 MPOSC Meeting

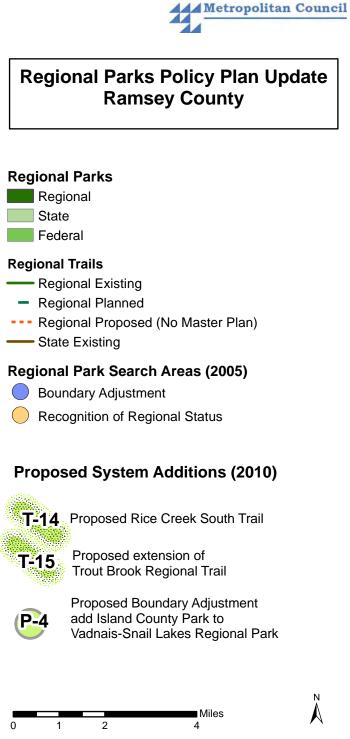
## ATTACHMENT D

Ramsey County						
Map Designation	Site Name	Туре	Conversion Acres	Trail Length (miles)	Estimated Acquisition Costs	Notes
P-4	Adjust boundary of Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park to include Island Lake County Park	Regional Park Boundary Adjustment	93		\$0 Park is already under public ownership	Island County Park is connected to Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park by existing and proposed trails. The park is accessible by Lexington Avenue RT.
T-14	Rice Creek South Trail	Trail	-	2	\$0 County is hoping to have the land transferred to them before the public auction, at no cost	This proposed trail would connect Rice Creek North RT to Highway 96 RT and provide access to the Arden Hills Army Training Site for winter cross country ski use
T-15	Trout Brook RT extension	Trail	_	3.5	\$1,600,000	This proposed extension of the Trout Brook RT would connect Lake McCarrons County Park to Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park. It would involve bridge crossings at Highway 36 and I-694. NPS is providing technical support in evaluating alignment alternatives

Estimated acquisition costs provided by Ramsey County

## ATTACHMENT D





Draft for MPOSC January 7, 2010

Map Designation:	P-4		
Name:	Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park		
Agency:	Ramsey County		
Category:	Proposed Regional Park Boundary Adjustment		
Acres:	93		
Acquisition Costs:	\$0		

## 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Proposed System Changes

## <u>Request</u>

Ramsey County has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council consider expanding the boundary of Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park to include Island Lake County Park as part of the Parks Policy Plan update.

## **Background**

Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park is located north of I-694 between I-35W and I-35E in Vadnais Heights and Shoreview. The park is comprised of five segments, including: Sucker Lake (273 acres), Vadnais Lake (303 acres), Grass Lake (271 acres), Snail Lake and Snail Lake Corridor (30 and 142 acres), for a total size of 1,019 acres. These segments of the regional park are interconnected by a network of park trails.

Island Lake County Park is located approximately one-third of a mile west of Snail and Grass Lakes and is bounded by I-694 to the north, Victoria Street to the east, the Canadian Pacific-Soo Line Railroad to the south and Lexington Avenue and private property to the west. Although it is located south of I-694, local paved trails along Victoria Street, Gramsie Road and Snail Lake Road (County Road F) provide access to Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Additionally, paved trails located on the east side of Grass Lake provide a trail bridge over I-694 to County Road E, which has paved shoulders providing a connection to Island Lake County Park. The City of Shoreview's Comprehensive Plan identifies a proposed local trail along County Road E. Sufficient right-of-way exists the entire distance between the I-694 bridge and Victoria Street to develop a separate trailway, although there are no immediate plans for development of the trail.

Island County Park consists of 93 acres surrounding the majority of Island Lake and includes three picnic shelters (two that seat 100 people each and one that seats 50 people), a large play area and two sand volleyball courts on the east side of the lake; a boat launch and fishing pier as well as a 9-hole golf course on the northwest side of the lake; and a natural area on the southwest side of the lake. The park also includes one mile of bituminous trails. For over 25 years, the park has hosted a series of regional waterski events sponsored by the Minnesota Waterski Association. Ramsey County has not conducted formal use counts or visitor origin studies; however, in 2009, 188 special use permits were issued for the park involving over 21,000 park visitors. Based on these permits, over 44 percent were non-local visits.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has planned improvements for Interstate 694 between I-35W and I-35E. According to the 2006 Environmental Assessment that was prepared, the road project will impact Island County Park, although no direct acquisition of land from the park would be necessary. An existing park road is partially located on Mn/DOT right-of-way. This road would be removed and replaced with a 12-foot wide trail. Removal of the park road will discontinue access to the public boat launch, parking lot and fishing pier located on the northwest side of the lake. To mitigate the impacts to the boat launch and parking lot, Mn/DOT will relocate these facilities to the northeast portion of the park The fishing pier will be relocated to the east side of Island Lake. The I-694 project has not been scheduled for construction yet.

## <u>Criteria</u>

The criteria for regional parks that are outlined in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan are shown below in bold text. Since Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park is already recognized as a regional park, the criteria is being applied to the proposed expansion area—Island Lake County Park. Staff analysis is italicized.

A regional park should:

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

Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park consists of 1,019 acres. The proposed boundary expansion to include the 96-acre Island Lake County Park would bring the park to 1,112 acres, which is well above the minimum acreage required for a regional park.

## • Serve a service area of 3-5 communities.

Island Lake Regional Park is located in Shoreview, with the following communities located within 1.5 mile radius: Arden Hills, Roseville, Little Canada, and Vadnais Heights. The close proximity to these communities as well as the convenient access to the park provided by I-694 and Victoria Street ensure that the park serves at least 3-5 communities. The primary service area for the existing Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park includes these communities and also stretches into North Oaks and New Brighton.

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

Island Lake County Park surrounds the majority of Island Lake; there are eight private residences with shoreline along the west side of the lake. The southwest portion of the park includes a series of wetlands and is maintained in a natural state. The existing Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park is also contiguous to several water bodies. Much of the park contains Regionally Significant Natural Resource and Ecological Areas as mapped by the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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

Activities provided at Island Lake County Park include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming and trail uses, which are consistent with typical recreation at regional parks.



## Parks and Recreation Department Gregory A. Mack, Director

2015 North Van Dyke Street Maplewood, MN 55109-3796

Tel: 651-748-2500 Fax: 651-748-2508 www.co.ramsey.mn.us



November 18, 2009

Jan Youngquist, Planner Metropolitan Council 390 North Robert Street St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

## RE: Regional Park System Plan Update

Dear Jan:

As a follow-up to our recent meeting concerning potential system plan updates, the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department requests that the Metropolitan Council consider a regional park boundary adjustment to the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park. The proposed adjustment would incorporate Island Lake County Park into the regional park boundary. The current boundary includes properties on or encompassing Vadnais Lake, Sucker Lake, Snail Lake and Grass Lake. These properties total over 1,000 acres that are interconnected by a network of interior park trails. In addition, the Highway 96 Regional Trail Corridor which runs along the northern border of these regional park properties ties the various park units together and improves access from throughout the region.

Island Lake County Park is located approximately one-third of a mile west of Snail and Grass lakes. It is directly linked to the regional park via paved bicycle/pedestrian trails located on Snail Lake Road (County Road F), Gramsie Road and Victoria Street. Controlled intersections where Snail Lake Road and Gramsie Road intersect Victoria Street accommodate safe travel between the park sites. In addition, paved trails located on the east side of Grass Lake include a trail bridge over I-694 that links to County Road E where paved shoulders provide a trail connection to the southeast corner of Island Lake County Park. Sufficient right of way exists on the south side of County Road E (adjacent to a railroad right of way, the entire distance from the I-694 trail bridge to Victoria Street) to establish a separate trailway. Attached is a map illustrating the geographic relationships between the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park and the Island Lake County Park.

Island Lake County Park is a 93-acre park with lakeshore on much of the 70-acre Island Lake. Existing and proposed trails within the park connect to the Lexington Avenue Trail which was identified in the Metropolitan Council's 2030 Regional Park Policy Plan as a regional trail. Attached is an excerpt from the 2006 Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Jan Youngquist Page Two November 18, 2009

Department's System Plan which describes and illustrates the features within Island Lake County Park. You will note that the principal activities (hiking, bicycling, boating, fishing and picnicking) are consistent with what is typically found in a regional park.

From a broader view, the inclusion of Island Lake County Park in the regional park provides exceptional opportunities for multiple paved trail loops of various lengths that connect regional park segments, regional trails, neighborhoods and a number of community assets.

Island Lake County Park is operated and maintained by the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department. Reservations for park use (special events, picnic shelter rentals, etc.) are centralized in the department. Park ordinances for management and control are applicable throughout the Ramsey County system. Policing is provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. The park maintenance crew responsible for Island Lake County Park is also responsible for the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park. For over 25 years, Island Lake has annually hosted a series of regional waterski events conducted by the Minnesota Waterski Association. The prominent location, on I-694 and Victoria Street, make it an attractive venue for special events. While the department has not conducted visitor counts or user origin surveys at this site, shelter and special use permits provide a good indication of formalized use. In 2009, 188 special use permits were issued for the park involving over 21,000 park visitors. Based on the permits, over 44% were "non-local users."

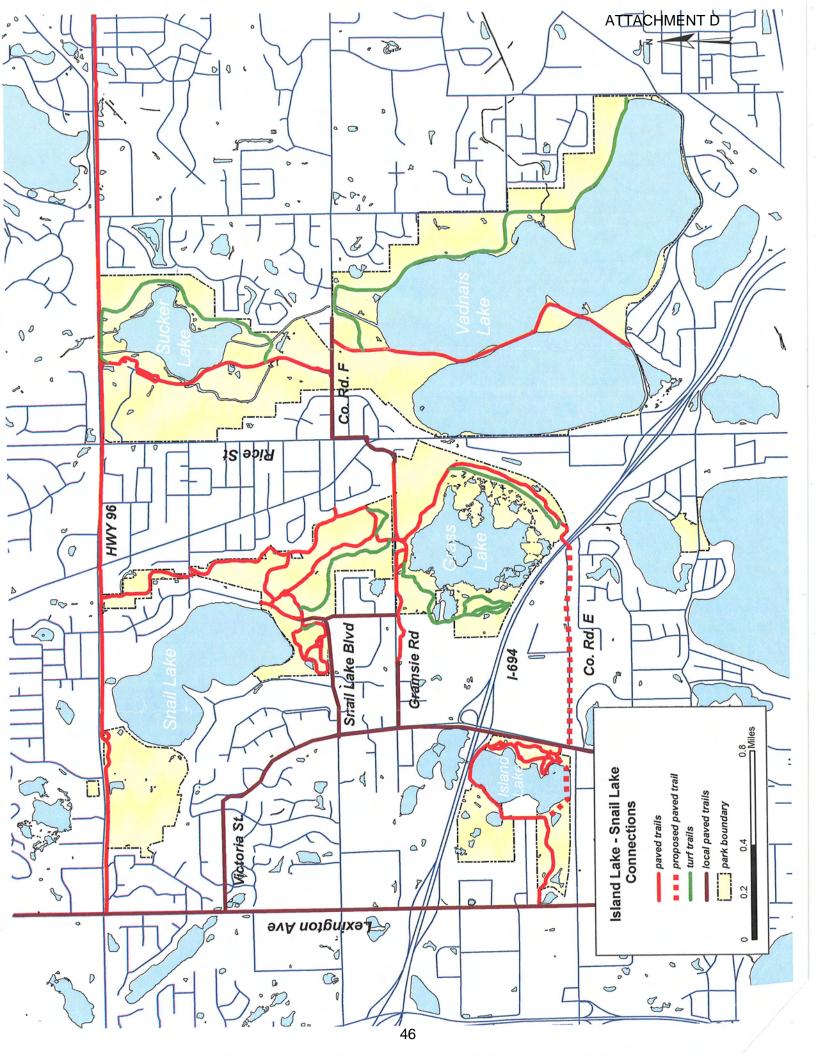
In summary, given the opportunities for trail connectivity, the complementary nature of facilities provided and the historic use, I respectfully request that the Metropolitan Council consider Island Lake County Park for inclusion in the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park complex. Please let me know if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely, Gregory A. Mag Director

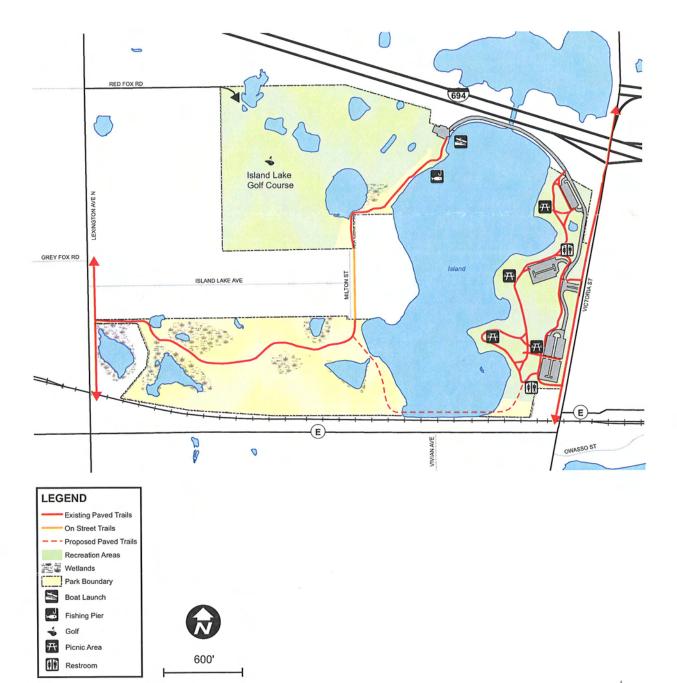
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cc: Ken Wehrle



## SYSTEM PLAN



# Island Lake County Park

Ramsey County, MN March 2006



53

## ISLAND LAKE COUNTY PARK

### LOCATION AND SIZE

Island Lake County Park is located in the north-central part of Ramsey County in the city of Shoreview. The park is comprised of three distinct segments: the 22-acre picnic area on the east side of the lake; the 41-acre golf teaching center on the northwest side of the lake; and the 30-acre natural area on the southwest side of the lake. The park is bounded by County Road E on the south, Victoria Street on the east, I-694 on the north and Lexington Avenue on the west.

## SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Island Lake is a small 70-acre shallow lake. The park consists of rolling topography with scattered trees. The park is lightly wooded and has an open feeling. The lake and park are ideally suited for water-ski events.

#### RECREATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN Existing Development

A picnic area with interior roads, parking for 270 cars, two restrooms with water and sewer, three picnic shelters (two for 100 people with electrical outlets and one for 50 people), a large play area, one mile of bituminous trails, ball field, two sand volleyball courts, picnic tables and benches is located on the east side of the lake. A boat launch and parking lot for 5 car/boat trailers and a fishing pier are located on the northwest side of the lake. An aeration system maintains the fish population. A 41-acre golf teaching facility is located on the northwest side of the lake. It includes a clubhouse, maintenance shop, putting course, driving range and a par 3, 9-hole golf course. A bituminous trail extends from the boat launch to Milton Street and west to Lexington Avenue on the southwest side of the lake. This trail provides public access into the 30-acre natural area of the park.

#### **Proposed Development**

The boat launch parking lot will be redeveloped when the Victoria/I-694 interchange is reconstructed. Several location and design alternatives will be considered. In all alternatives, a paved pedestrian/bicycle trail will be provided parallel to I-694. This trial will maintain connections between the east and west portions of the park. A boardwalk is proposed to extend the trail along the south shore of Island Lake, resulting in a loop trail around the lake.

### NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The 30-acre segment of the park on the southwest side of the lake is maintained in a natural condition. Wetlands within the golf course are maintained. The lake level fluctuates significantly from year to year. Lake elevations over 947.0 feet have historically resulted in shoreline erosion. Water surface management controls have been implemented to minimize the impact of high water levels.

### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Minnesota Department of Transportation plans to reconstruct the eastbound I-694 ramp to Victoria Street. At that time, the park road around the north end of the lake may be reconstructed. The bridge reconstruction should include a separate pedestrian/bicycle trail to maintain connections between the east and west segments of the park. Alternative locations for the boat launch, fishing pier and the impacts on other park facilities will be evaluated.

52

Map Designation:	T-14		
Name:	Rice Creek South Regional Trail		
Agency:	Ramsey County		
Category:	Regional Trail Search Corridor		
Miles:	2		
Acquisition Costs:	TBD		

## 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Proposed System Changes

### **Request**

Ramsey County has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) and the Metropolitan Council consider the designation of a regional trail search corridor through the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) site as part of the Parks Policy Plan update.

## **Background**

The former TCAAP site is located in Arden Hills and is bounded by County Road I to the north, Lexington Avenue to the east, Highway 96 to the south and Highway 10-Interstate 35W to the west. TCAAP was built in 1941 and made over 16.5 billion rounds of small arms ammunitions through World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam "conflict". It was decommissioned in the late 1970s and was declared a Superfund site in 1983.

The site consists of approximately 2,370 acres. The eastern two-thirds of the site is the home of the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS), which is under the control of the Minnesota National Guard through a long-term lease agreement with the Army. In 1994, Congressman Bruce Vento formed a committee to develop a reuse plan for the entire site. Recommended land uses include open space, preservation of natural features, transit, housing, retail and employment. The conceptual Vento Plan called for the AHATS portion of the site to become a park preserve.

In 2006, the National Park Service transferred 113 acres of land along Rice Creek in the northwest portion of the TCAAP site to Ramsey County as part of the Federal Lands to Parks Program. A key segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail was developed on this property and opened to the public in 2008. A 49-acre wildlife corridor was included in the master plan for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail, but this land is still part of the TCAAP property.

The City of Arden Hills had submitted an offer to purchase the western 585 acres of the TCAAP site (including the 49-acre wildlife corridor) from the Army in 2006 and had been working with a development partner to plan for the purchase and redevelopment of the property. In 2009, the developer withdrew from the project. The Army, through the General Services Administration, is preparing to sell through a public auction in the summer 2010.

Ramsey County is proposing the Rice Creek South Regional Trail to be located on the eastern portion of the 585 acre site, which would connect the Rice Creek North Regional Trail to the Highway 96 Regional Trail. Conceptually, the trail corridor would be approximately 150 feet wide, would be located adjacent to the wildlife area to the south, and would include approximately 30 acres. Ramsey County is also proposing a 500 foot wide strip of land that would extend south from County Road I across the AHATS and TCAAP area to the north portion of the wildlife corridor. This land would serve as a trailhead and staging area for recreational access to the AHATS area for winter recreational activities, as well as provide access to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail and the wildlife corridor.

The Arden Hills City Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting transferring land from the TCAAP property to Ramsey County for the Rice Creek South Regional Trail Corridor, the AHATS trailhead and the Vento Wildlife Corridor (Resolution No. 2009-043) on December 21, 2009.

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed Resolution 2010-036 on January 19, 2010 which:

- Approved the additions of the 30 acre trail corridor, the 49 acre wildlife corridor and the 29 acre trailhead access to the Rice Creek Regional Trail;
- Authorized staff to prepare an amendment to the Rice Creek Regional Trail Master Plan that incorporates these additional properties;
- Authorized staff to seek transfer of these properties from the GSA to Ramsey County either directly or through a Federal agency sponsor; and
- Authorized staff to seek Congressional action, if necessary, to facilitate the environmental remediation and transfer of these properties to Ramsey County for regional trail purposes.

## **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 highquality 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.

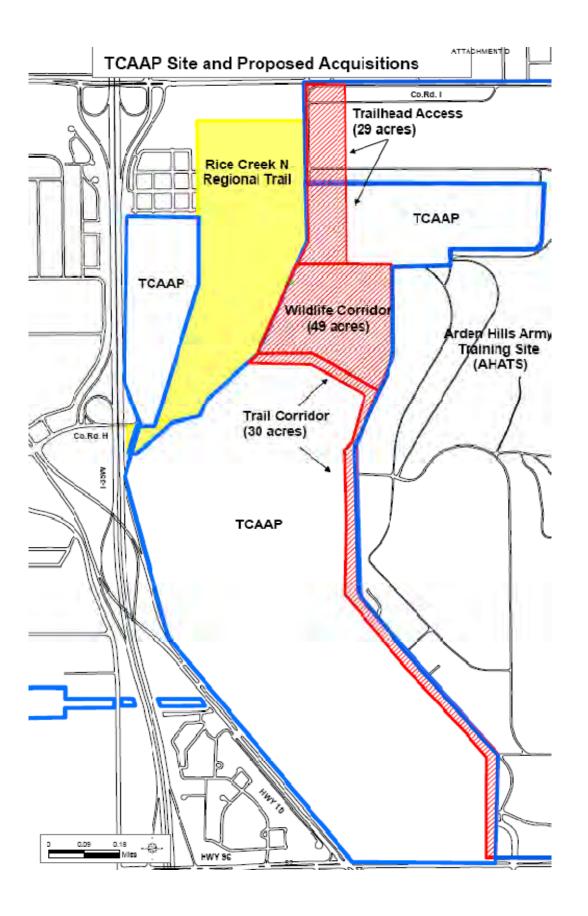
The proposed Rice Creek South Regional Trail does not duplicate an existing trail and will serve as a regional linking trail. The trail will connect the Rice Creek North Regional Trail, a destination trail, and the Highway 96 Regional Trail, a linking trail.

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

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail is jointly managed by Ramsey and Anoka Counties and will connect Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve in Lino Lakes. The Highway 96 Regional Trail is complete from Arden Hills to White Bear Lake, where it will connect to planned portions of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. The trail will also eventually connect to Long Lake Regional Park. These trail connections will ensure that the trail will serve 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 2030 Regional Development Framework classifies Arden Hills as a "developed" community, although the TCAAP property presents development opportunities. The proposed Lexington Avenue Regional Trail is a linking trail that parallels the proposed Rice Creek South Regional Trail. Although these trails will be approximately 1.25 to 1.5 miles apart, the Rice Creek South Regional Trail will provide a staging area and access to recreational opportunities at the AHATS site, which cannot be provided with the Lexington Avenue Regional Trail. The Rice Creek South Regional Trail will also provide access to natural resources along Rice Creek and the wildlife corridor, and to areas of potential development of housing, employment and retail in the remainder of the TCAAP site.



Map Designation:	T-15
Name:	Trout Brook Regional Trail
Agency:	Ramsey County
Category:	Regional Trail Extension
Miles:	3.5
Acquisition Costs:	TBD

## 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Proposed System Changes

## <u>Request</u>

Ramsey County has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) and the Metropolitan Council consider an extension of the Trout Brook Regional Trail from its terminus in Roseville to Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park in Vadnais Heights as part of the Parks Policy Plan update.

## **Background**

The 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan gave recognition of regional status to the Trout Brook Trail and authorized its extension through St. Paul. The existing portion of the trail is managed by Ramsey County and begins at Lake McCarrons County Park in Roseville and ends at the Gateway State Trail in St. Paul. St. Paul prepared a master plan amendment for the trail, which incorporates the Trillium Nature Sanctuary and extends the trail south through St. Paul to connect to the Sam Morgan Regional Trail. This segment of the trail will be managed by St. Paul. MPOSC reviewed the master plan amendment at its February 2, 2010 meeting and the Metropolitan Council approved it on February 24, 2010.

Ramsey County is proposing to extend the regional trail north from its terminus in Roseville through Little Canada to connect to Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park in Vadnais Heights. The National Park Service, through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), is partnering with the City of Little Canada to conduct a feasibility study to plan for trail alignment alternatives. The trail would require bridge crossings at Highway 36 and Interstate 694.

## <u>Criteria</u>

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 highquality 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.

The proposed extension of the Trout Brook Regional Trail does not duplicate an existing trail and will serve as a regional linking trail. The trail will connect the Sam Morgan Regional Trail, the Gateway State Trail, Lake McCarrons County Park and Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park.

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

The trail will travel through St. Paul, Roseville, Little Canada and Vadnais Heights. With a connection to the Gateway State Trail, which leads from St. Paul to Pine Point Regional Park in Washington County, this trail will serve 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 2030 Regional Development Framework classifies St. Paul, Roseville, Little Canada and Vadnais Heights as "developed" communities. There are two regional trails that parallel the proposed extension of the Trout Brook Regional Trail—the proposed Lexington Avenue Regional Trail and the Bruce Vento Regional Trail, which are more than two and three miles away, respectively. The City of Little Canada has existing and planned local trails that may provide connection opportunities to the regional trail. The City's comprehensive plan discusses the potential for townhouse or senior housing development in the north portion of the city near Lake Vadnais, in the general area of the proposed trail.