

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
**Mears Park Centre, 230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1634**  
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**DATE:** March 26, 2012

**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 2011

**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 2012.

**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.

## 2010

- June 8: Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park—St. Paul. Met at the Clarence Wigington pavilion for a business meeting, and then toured the park.
- July 6: Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park—Scott County. Met at Scott County Government Center for a business meeting, and then toured the park.
- August 9: Theodore Wirth Regional Park—Mpls. Park & Rec. Board. Met at the Wirth Chalet for a business meeting, and then toured the park focusing on the Wirth Beach area.

## 2011

- June 7: Spring Lake Park Reserve (PR)—Dakota County. MPOSC business meeting at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center. Toured picnic area and visitor center.
- July 19: Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature (SRF)--Three Rivers Park District and Dakota Rail Regional Trail (RT)--portion in Three Rivers Park District and portion in Carver County. MPOSC business meeting at the Gale Woods Farm SRF. Toured the farm and the Dakota Rail RT from Gale Woods westward into Carver County.
- Sept. 13: Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park—Ramsey County. MPOSC business meeting at nature center. Toured Nature Play Area and 1 acre Children's Garden which were recently financed from a Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grant.

## Recommendations for 2012

The following locations for meetings and tours are recommended based on touring agencies the MPOSC has not seen in the past two years and specific parks or trails that the MPOSC has not seen in the past three years: Proposals are based on input from the host park agencies.

**July 10 or August 14: Anoka County--** Business meeting at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park. Then on the way back, drive to the parks along the Mississippi River heading south (Manomin - new Rice Creek West Regional Trailhead and Riverfront Regional Park). Based on dates of other meetings/tours this could be scheduled for July 10 or August 14.

**June 5: City of Bloomington/Three Rivers Park District for Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve--** Business meeting at Hyland Lake Visitor Center. Then tour the following:

1. Hyland play area expansion financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grant
2. The reconstructed trails at West Bush Lake Park as well as the parking lots which are proposed for reconstruction in the near future.
3. The trails under reconstruction at Normandale Lake Park (assuming we receive favorable bids on March 29).
4. If time allows, we could also tour Bush Lake Beach and the Normandale Lake Bandshell.

**July 10 or September 11: Washington County**--Two options are proposed for the MPOSC to consider:

Option 1: Business meeting at the new winter recreation area trailhead building (Nordic Center) at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Then tour the building and adjacent new lighted ski trails. All of this was financed with Parks and Trails Fund Legacy Grants and 2010 State bond and Metro Council bond grants.

Option 2: Business meeting at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Conference Cottage. Then tour new campground improvements (shower building, campsite electric, etc.) funded with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grants and 2010 State bond and Metro Council bond grants.

**Dates and times recommended for the meetings and tours are:**

Tuesday June 5, 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday July 10, 3 to 6 p.m. (Special Meeting to avoid July 4<sup>th</sup>)

Tuesday August 14, 3 to 6 p.m. (Special Meeting to avoid National Night Out)

**Or** Tuesday, September 11, 3 to 6 p.m. (Special Meeting to avoid Labor Day)