



CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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Park Commission Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2016

6:30pm

**Regular Meeting Agenda
Meeting Room 2
11360 Hwy 212
Cologne, MN 55322**

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Approval of the August 10, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:32 p.m.)
- 3) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:33 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of Agenda (6:34 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:35 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (6:36 p.m.)
- 7) Old Business (6:37 p.m.)
 - a. Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update
- 8) Discussion (7:10 p.m.)
 - a. 2040 Comprehensive Plan Parks, Trails & Open Space
- 9) Staff Reports (7:45 p.m.)
 - a. Events and Recreation Programs
 - b. MN River Bluffs Regional Trail
 - c. Planning work for the Dakota Rail Regional Trail
 - d. Lake Waconia Regional Park, Power Line Relocation
 - e. Lake Minnewashta Zebra Mussel Treatment
 - f. Parks and Trails Fund Application Update
 - g. TH 5 Master Plan
 - h. Baylor Park Deck Area
 - i. ParkSide Church Request for Utility Easement
 - j. Veteran's Memorial Update
 - k. Maintenance Projects Update
- 10) Commission Member Reports (8:15p.m.)
- 11) Set Next Tour/Meeting Date (8:20p.m.) – Proposed Date October 12, 2016
- 12) Adjourn Meeting (8:25 p.m.)

Please note if a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please call the Park Office at 466 – 5250.

Draft Meeting Minutes August 10, 2016

Members Present: Carroll Aasen, Jim Boettcher, Jim Manders, Gerald Bruner, Curt Kobilarcsik, Commissioner Tim Lynch

Staff Present: Marty Walsh, Connie Keller, Sam Pertz

Tour of County Trail Areas: (6:05 p.m.)

Staff and Park Commission members boarded van and toured:

- County Rd 10 Trail Connection and future trail head
- Northshore Road and the Dakota Rail Regional Trail
- County Road 92 at Island View Golf Course
- Planned Trail Projects along TH 5
- The 2017 MN River Bluffs RT project
- Lake Bavaria Boat Access
- Southwest Regional Trail in Victoria

Call to Order: Manders, called the meeting to order at **(8:25p.m.)**

Approval of Minutes: (8:25p.m.)

Aasen motioned to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2016 regular meeting minutes Boettcher seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 to 0

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: (8:26p.m.)

None

Approval of Agenda: (8:26.m.)

Bruner motioned to approve meeting agenda
Aasen seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5 to 0.

Commissioner Liaison Report: (7:00p.m.)

Commented on tour – that staff did a great job presenting the Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan to board, stated that Metropolitan Council liked the plan and are receptive of the easement with church, but has to go through the process.

Open to the Public: (8:27 p.m.)

None Present

New Business (8:28.m.)

A. 2017 Budget Narratives

i. Budget Highlights

Staff shared with Park Commission a draft narrative of the budget which summarizes the department's request for net levy adjustments, which includes increased park patrol and services and also proved service to Coney Island. Staff shared some of the capital improvement items, pavement management, trails fund, equipment replacement

and a water craft for getting to island, site improvements, one time request for software upgrades for reservations system, trail head project on Cty Rd 10 which could be removed, utilities at Lake Waconia Park, conference or training for staff, TH 5 Regional Trail Master plan, increased FTEs for more recreation services or gate staff and additional maintenance hours for Coney Island.

Staff also highlighted planned activities in the coming years in 2016 consist of Coney Island Master Plan, SW Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, Coney Island Archaeology Study, Comprehensive Plan, TH 5 Regional Park Master Plan; 2017 consist of Lake Waconia site grading and utility plan, Waconia Event center building analysis, Coney Island Development Plans. Construction and repair activities for 2016 consist of MN River Bluffs RT Chaska to Carver Segment, Stewardship projects, 2017 project consist of MN River Bluffs RT- Co. Rd 61 to Bluff Creek Drive Segment, DRT Cty Rd 10 Trailhead, Coney Island Cleanup & Phase I Construction, and Stewardship Projects

ii. CIP

Staff stated that the CIP summary includes some of the same items on the overall budget list.

Staff stated that they will be sitting down with two of the commissioners and going over these budget items and requests.

Questions or Comments:

Manders asked about the unexpected funds and was wondering if these have been included in the numbers; Staff stated that they had.

Bruner was wondering with all the housing construction going up in the county does that effect what the parks receives. Staff stated that the county goal is to hold taxes flat, the increase in revenue goes for sheriff services, road services.

Manders asked about the CIP number difference in 2015 then 2016; staff stated it could incorporate a few things, with dollars received from land acquisitions.

No other questions or comments

Discussion (8:40p.m.)

A. Parks and Trails Funding

i. Planned Projects

Staff stated to Park Commission that one of the funding sources is known as the parks and trails fund also known as the Legacy Fund. Staff stated that they started receiving funds about 6 years ago parks is getting approximately \$195,000. Projections for 2019 are about \$379,000. Staff shared where these funds are allocated, some of these funds go to the Recreational and Volunteer specialist position and we have also used those dollars on capital improvement projects like the MN River Bluffs Regional Trail Project in 2016. 2017 funds will be used for the Recreational and Volunteer Specialist, next phase of the MN River Bluffs trail, pavement management at Lake Minnewashta. Staff stated that for the 2018 and 2019 funds they need to submit by September 19th for our request on how we plan to utilize the funds, staff shared what those plans would be.

Staff shared that the costs of projects are usually higher than anticipated, so that could affect the way we spend funds. Staff also stated that when Metropolitan council allocates funds they hold a 5% reserve and that could go to a 10% reserve.

ii. Percentage Allocation to Connecting people to the outdoors

Staff stated that with unused funds that they have been talking about scholarship programs for people that need assistance to participate in programs. Staff stated also doing an outreach program with a traveling trail to do popup park services.

Metropolitan Council has been meeting with agencies about connecting people to outdoors and this does not fall under the capital improvements and more under recreational services and visitor experience.

Manders asked if this ties in to the 2040 plan; Staff stated yes this does, it likely will give us a certain percentage of these fund should be allocated to this program.

Discussion was had on best methods on offer these programs and how to use the funds. Discussion was also had on allocation of funds over the next few years and how we are required to have measurables for funds.

Staff asked the park commission if adding the outreach programs, offering scholarship programs and additional staff for programs does that seem something that they are support of.

Kobilarcsik stated that he supports the outreach programs and additional staffing to promote these programs.

Staff feels that they feel that they will meet the requirements due to what they are doing now.

iii. Equity Tool Kit

Staff shared that Metropolitan Council through its equity program will have a competitive grant program for capital investment which are geared towards the disadvantage population. This grant program is just rolling out and staff feels a lot of these grants will fall to intercity, but we will apply once we understand more about the grants.

No other questions or comments

Staff Reports: (9:02 p.m.)

A. Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Planning Work

Staff made presentation to the County board on the Master planning work for Lake Waconia Regional Park; administration want staff to slow down so the board had a chance weigh in on the plan. Board has some reservations of overnight activities on the island, concerned about policing and emergency services. Staff stated that we had representatives from the sheriff's department and risk management present at the meeting. No objecting to the activities but realize that it will mean more work. We should have final draft back soon and will come back to Park Commission for recommendation.

No other questions of comments

B. Events and Recreation Programs

Staff shared the beach closure at Lake Minnewashta and the testing and results, stated that the rain has brought it down but not under the threshold. One of the causes could be the large goose population, but not sure what the cause.

Had a large turnout for the Camping with the Stars weekend at Baylor Park between 150 – 200 people for total weekend event.

Shared that the meteor shower happing on Thursday evening could be a big event if not a rain out.

Ryder Cup – have some rec services planned for kids that week.

Log Rolling at the County Fair this year.

Operations are winding down for the fall.

Question or Comments:

Bruner asked about the beach closer and if caused by old Lake Minnewashta owner's septic systems – lengthy discussion was had on this theory.

No other questions or comments

C. MN River Bluffs Regional Trail

No Report given

D. Southwest Regional trail Connection Master Plan Amendment

Master amendment is going through the review and approval process by Metropolitan Council.

Commission Member Reports: (9:14 p.m.)

Bruner stated that he gave the talking points to Mr. Jensen and he stated that he appreciated it.

Boettcher stated that he will be gone for the September and October Park Commission meetings. Also stated that he participated in the National Night out and rode with Sheriff to these events and was very enjoyable.

Next Meeting Date: (9:16 p.m.)

Next meeting will be on September 14, 2016 at 6:30p.m. Meeting will be held at the Public works building in Cologne.

Adjourn Meeting: (9:17 p.m.)

Boettcher motioned to adjourn the meeting

Aasen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5 to 0.



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MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission

FROM: Marty Walsh, Parks Director

SUBJECT: Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update

DATE: September 16, 2016

After nearly a year long process of public engagement, the incorporation of Coney Island of the West into the boundary of Lake Waconia Regional Park, park and island concept development planning, the Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update is ready for the Commission's final review and recommendation.

A summary of the document is attached pages 1.1 to 1.14 along with preliminary utility plans that are discussed below. The full document can be review on our website at:

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/public-works/parks-recreation/general-parks-information/parks-trails-planning-documents>

This memorandum will touch on minor changes to the plan, elements that warrant further comment, or have not been highlighted in previous discussion with the Park Commission and County Board. These elements include minor adjustments to the design layouts, Event Center (ballroom), and preliminary utility layouts. Additional, although the plan does not expand the park boundary, opportunities for acquisition are mentioned under an appropriate circumstance.

Minor Changes

Minor graphic changes were incorporated into the plan after the Public Open House Meeting on March 9, 2016, consultant review and subsequent park commissioner and staff comments.

An additional trail segment paralleling the access road for the boat access was added for traffic flow efficiency versus directing users to the beach. The new segment allows users to bypass the active use area of the park and provides a more direct route to County Road 92. Trails that are in or cross the MN DNR property will need to be authorized and coordinated with them. A trail segment was also added which would parallel and bypass the Lake Front Walk (L). This allows separation of bike and pedestrian uses, removes cut through traffic, and maintains the intended environment for causal observation and seating along the lakeshore.

Other changes include: the beach area on the master plan was increased in size to accommodate future use. A small structure such as a gazebo has been added to the scenic overlook on top of the hill west of the beach area. Parking lot (G) has a bit more of a curvilinear shape to it, extending between the Base Camp (S) and the location of a possible future Event Building (R).

The Central Plaza area (H) is a bit more condensed with a series of buildings providing restrooms/changing area, concessions/ rentals, and event room/picnic pavilion.

Concerning Coney Island, two additions were made to the plan. First, a dock was added to the historical main entrance on to the island located in the center of the southern shore of the island (F). The grade at this location is conducive for accessing the trail system and future observation tower. Second, to facilitate maintenance and other operations, a watercraft access/Barge Access Dock (K) is now included at Ziglin's Point. The access will facilitate construction, loading and unloading of equipment, delivery of supplies and removal of trash.

Event Center (Ballroom)

Added to the master plan, as compared to the 2001 Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan, is the Event Center (ballroom). It is an element strongly supported by the community for events. The master plan discusses making modifications to the building to improve the usage by the public.

The Event Center (Ballroom) provides a number of challenges. The building is an aged structure and outdated interior décor and mechanical systems. The building is large and not well positioned on the site and not constructed to take advantage of views to the Lake. The capacity for seating up to 1000 people and the interior space is attractive for events. However, in 2015, 35 events were recorded at the building. The largest event on record for that year is 400 and 19 events were for groups of less than 300.

The current building lease/rental operation with a tenant can continue. However, under this limited public access model, the building is not eligible to receive regional funding provided by the state and Metropolitan Council. In order for the County to be eligible to receive regional funding for the building, operations would need to change to provide greater public access and use of the building. A more detailed analysis of the building, its current operation, future operations and desired building improvements should be conducted to determine how the building should function into the future.

Preliminary Utility Plans

Proposed preliminary utility plans have been provided to show how the park could be served by municipal and other utility services. Utility Plan Alternate 1 shows how the park would be connected to planned city sewer and water as development is planned to expand south and east of the park. This approach relies on future development to create the infrastructure, particularly sanitary sewer, before park buildings would be serviced.

Utility Plan Alternate 2 shows how city utilities can be extended from existing services to the west in the Legacy Village Development.

Both plans require a sanitary sewer lift station to be positioned in the park to dispose of waste water. Due to the low elevation of the park property, it does not appear to be feasible to construct a gravity system connection to city services. A water main would be constructed through the active use area of the park to service future buildings and extend from the western to the eastern limits of the park to allow for connection to future development.

Common in both plans are the other services of electric and gas which parallel the water service in the center of the park. Electrical distribution lines currently located in the Old TH 5 right-of-way would be relocated to Hwy 5 and County Road 32. Also, it is desired to transition the Metropolitan Council sanitary sewer force mains out to the edge of the park along TH 5 to avoid disruption to the park as capacity needs require replacement of existing sanitary force mains over time.

Acquisitions

At this time, no additional property acquisitions are anticipated. The existing park area will function well as planned. The plan does mention that should future land acquisition opportunities arise that these opportunities be considered. Specifically, should ParkSide Church outgrow its space, it may be desirable to consider purchasing the site to expand the park and reduce conflict with a shared access road. Second, if planned residential property to the north of the park does not develop timely and the property owner is a willing seller, the County may choose to look at this option to see how it would benefit the public. Third, Carver County owns land south of TH 5 outside of the park boundary and there is a large wetland complex adjacent. As development occurs, potential exists to add a trail connection to county property, wetland complex, provide environmental education and wildlife observation opportunities.

The Final Draft of the Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update will be presented.

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission recommend approval to the County Board the Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update with any noted corrections.

CHAPTER 1 - MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

A. Introduction

In July of 2015, Carver County retained the WSB design team, which included Schoenbauer Consulting and Miller Dunwiddie Architecture team members, to undertake a master plan update for the 132.66 acre Lake Waconia Regional Park, including the acquisition of the 33.77 acre Coney Island of the West into the regional park boundary. The planning and design process included two primary objectives;

- Acquisition Amendment Plan: Prepare an acquisition amendment plan to incorporate the Coney Island of the West into the Lake Waconia Regional Park boundary. This was completed and adopted by the Metropolitan Council on December 9, 2015.
- Master Plan Update: Prepare an update to the original 2001 Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan to meet the changing recreational needs of the region and to include the planning and design of Coney Island as part of the Lake Waconia Regional Park. The master plan meets the stated goals and requirements of the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Parks Policy Plan. This master plan report represents the results of the update to the 2001 Lake Waconia Regional Park and was completed in 2016.

B. Park Vision Statement

With the inclusion of Coney Island into the park boundary, the original park vision statement was modified to represent the updated vision for the future of Lake Waconia Regional Park.

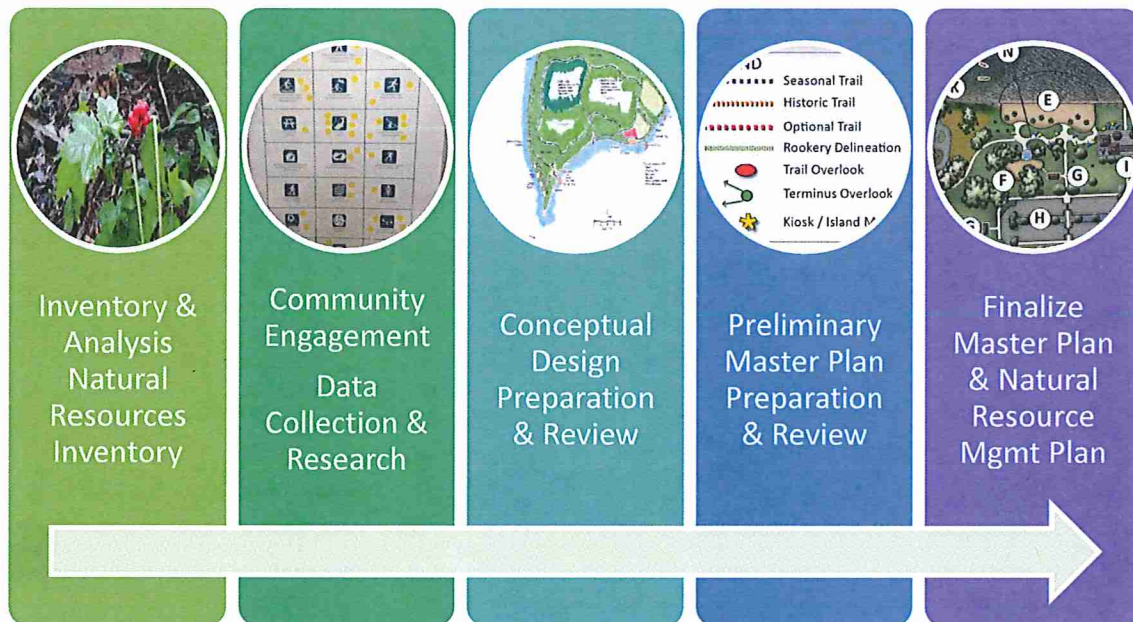
"The vision for Lake Waconia Regional Park, including the historic Coney Island of the West, is to provide the region-wide population a unique park experience focused on the shores of Lake Waconia. An accessible and inclusive balance of active, passive and culturally significant recreational opportunities will be realized within the overall context of a natural park setting, in an economically sustainable manner."

C. Project Overview and Process

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update project focused on the development of an updated master plan that incorporated Coney Island into the park and met the updated recreational needs of the regional community. The planning process took a comprehensive approach that evaluated the previous master plan, existing site settings, existing recreational uses, new recreational trends and demands, historical and educational opportunities, and its overall context within the County. The master plan update was meant to accomplish the following goals:

- Evaluate park improvements made since the 2001 Master Plan
- Evaluate and retain items from the 2001 Master Plan that are still relevant
- Remove outdated and undesirable items from the 2001 Master Plan
- Update and amend the plan to account for the inclusion of Coney Island
- Update and amend the plan to account for new recreational demands, including an updated natural resource management plan and phasing and implementation
- Ensure the master plan update addresses the Met Council’s 2040 Parks Policy Plan goals for the Thrive Outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability

The following graphic illustrates the step-by-step planning process that was undertaken.



D. Community Engagement Plan

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan update included a rich and effective public engagement strategy to inform, consult, collaborate and partner with the community and stakeholders throughout the visioning and design process that included an effort to try and target under-represented populations within Carver County. Over 500 people were directly involved in the community engagement process, along with additional public input gathered through online and social media forums.

Community Engagement Methods

The community engagement used in the process included the following:

- Print: This included three separate press releases to thirteen various local and metro-wide newspapers, along with meeting flyers to announce upcoming meetings.
- Electronic Communications / Social Media: This included the use of online and social media tools throughout the project and included MySidewalk online tool, Carver County web page, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Public Open House Meetings: Three separate open house public meetings were held to gather project information and brainstorming ideas, as well as to present design options and planning outcomes for review and feedback.
- Pop-Up Meetings: Three separate pop-up meetings were conducted at select locations throughout Carver County to gather input from people. This included one visit at the Lake Waconia Regional Park beach, Chaska Farmer's Market and the Waconia Food Shelf and Library.
- Community Events: Attendance at three different community events held at various locations throughout Carver County were held in order to gather information. This included Carver Steamboat Days, Nickle Dickle Days in Waconia and Angelfest sponsored by the Chaska Guardian Angels Catholic Church.
- Stakeholder Interviews: Specific interviews and discussions were held with select project stakeholders to gather more in-depth project information, ideas and concerns.
- Technical Advisory Committee: The use of an 18 person committee provided technical information and review throughout the project based on their specific area of knowledge and promoted the project through outreach through their organizations and contacts.
- Research: Previous studies and reports were researched and reviewed in order to identify trends and demands that related to this project. These included recreational trends, previous master plan studies and engagement results, Metropolitan Council documents (ie: Regional Parks Policy Plan, Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color), Carver County documents (ie: Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, Lake Waconia and Wells Colonial Waterbird Surveys, etc.).

Community Engagement Results

The community engagement process was highly valued by the community, as well as the design team. Almost everyone who was contacted throughout the project was thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the future planning of Lake Waconia Regional Park. The results included common themes, big ideas and also common barriers or areas of concern.

The most common themes for desirable park features included the following:

- Improve and expand upon the swimming and beach area
- Make a better and bigger children's playground
- Provide non-motorized water recreation / rentals
- Include more multi-purpose trails and regional trail connections to the main park
- Clean up Coney Island and keep camping opportunities on the island
- Provide a connection to the history (island and regional)
- Preserve the natural environment
- Provide options for fishing
- Keep a high capacity park venue and event space
- Provide "flexible" parks spaces to accommodate varying activities and events

The "big ideas" that surfaced included the following:

- Make the park a winter or year-round destination
- Provide a ferry service to and from the island
- Incorporate an observation tower on the island

The most common barriers to park use or areas of concern included the following:

- Park fees (entrance fees and shelter reservations)
- Park access (to the main park as well as the island for those who don't own a boat)
- Life style which pertained to those who don't use parks due to other means of recreation (examples include having a cabin)

The results gathered during the community engagement process allowed Carver County and the design team to incorporate the community input into the final plan in numerous ways. The master plan was ultimately shaped by the grand visions for the main park, as well as the island, and addressed public concerns in order to create a better park experience. The community engagement results will also continue to affect how the park programs and operations will develop or change as park development continues.

E. Development Master Plan

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update provides a cross-section of features and amenities that will make it a unique destination park within the Carver County Parks System.

The development master plan highlights creating year-round adventure based recreation in a natural resource based park setting shaped by the historical context as its primary theme and appeal with a focus on Lake Waconia with the island offering an opportunity for a distinctive recreational experience. The theme will be the guiding factor used to tie the main park and island pieces together through the characteristics and materials used in the development.

Lake Waconia Regional Park – Main Parcel

The development master plan for the main park parcel focuses on use flexibility and accessibility to accommodate a wide range of user groups with varying recreational interests, while highlighting year-round adventure based recreation.

Of the 132.66 acres in the main park parcel, approximately 106 acres is preserved as natural open space, with 26 acres developed for recreational uses. This allows the park to provide an appropriate balance of both natural and developed spaces for an appropriate regional park setting, while still meeting the recreational needs of the users.

Key development areas and features for the main park parcel include:

- Lakefront Development Area & Central Plaza
- Base Camp Adventure Area, Adventure Trail & Sledding Hill
- Event Center and Multi-Purpose Lawn

Lake Waconia Regional Park – Coney Island of the West

The development master plan for the island focuses on provide year-round adventure based recreation that is kept in balance with the natural setting and highlighting its historical past. Much of the developed spaces are confined to the two ends of the island with the majority of the central piece of the island limited to trail development and an observation tower.

Key development areas and features for the island include:

- Amblard's Point Day Use Area
- Zeglin's Point Day Use Area and Flexible Use Area
- The Historic Interpretive Trail and Naegele's Tower
- The Adventure Nature Trail

The following are the final master plans for the Lake Waconia Regional Park, including the main parcel and the island.

Lake Waconia Regional Park

Historic Interpretation

- Focus on historic interpretation will be selective and based around an exploratory theme to discover the hidden history.
- Interpretive signage will be used in select areas to display or tell the story of the island history and existing remains.
- Lot identification may be used along the trails. This may include a stone engraved with a lot number related to an overall lot map identifying lot owners and numbers.
- Decks/boardwalks may cross some existing building foundations with use of interpretive signage.
- Use of names of specific individuals or families that relate to the history of Coney Island, Waconia, and the local history to label use areas of the island may be used in naming of island areas and overlooks. The actual names would be determined in conjunction with County officials and local historians. For the purposes of the Master Plan, temporary names have been used and are shown in *italics*.

A) Historic Interpretive Trail

- 6'-8" Wide Granite or Aggregate Trail
- Pedestrian Use Only with Self-Guided Tour
- Walking/Hiking/Snow Shoe/Cross-Country Ski
- Historic Lot Identification
- Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
- Overlooks with Historical Reference (e.g. Hirschfield Overlook)

B) Rookery Trail

- Part of Historic Interpretive Trail
- Gated Off During Nesting Season

C) Nature Trail

- 4'-5" Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
- Boardwalks as Necessary
- Decks Across Foundations
- Overlooks
- Built Into Slopes as Necessary
- Optional Routes (depending on constructability)

D) Amblard's Point Day Use Area

- Stabilize/Restore Walls
- Day Use Docks
- Island Kiosk / Map
- Restroom
- Picnic Space
- Fishing Piers
- Trail Access

E) Boat Beaching Area

F) Dock Access

G) Naegele's Tower

- Accessible Lower Deck with Ramp Access
- Upper Observation Deck
- Rookery Blinds & Educational Signs
- Interpretive Historical Displays

H) Zeglins Point Flexible Use Area

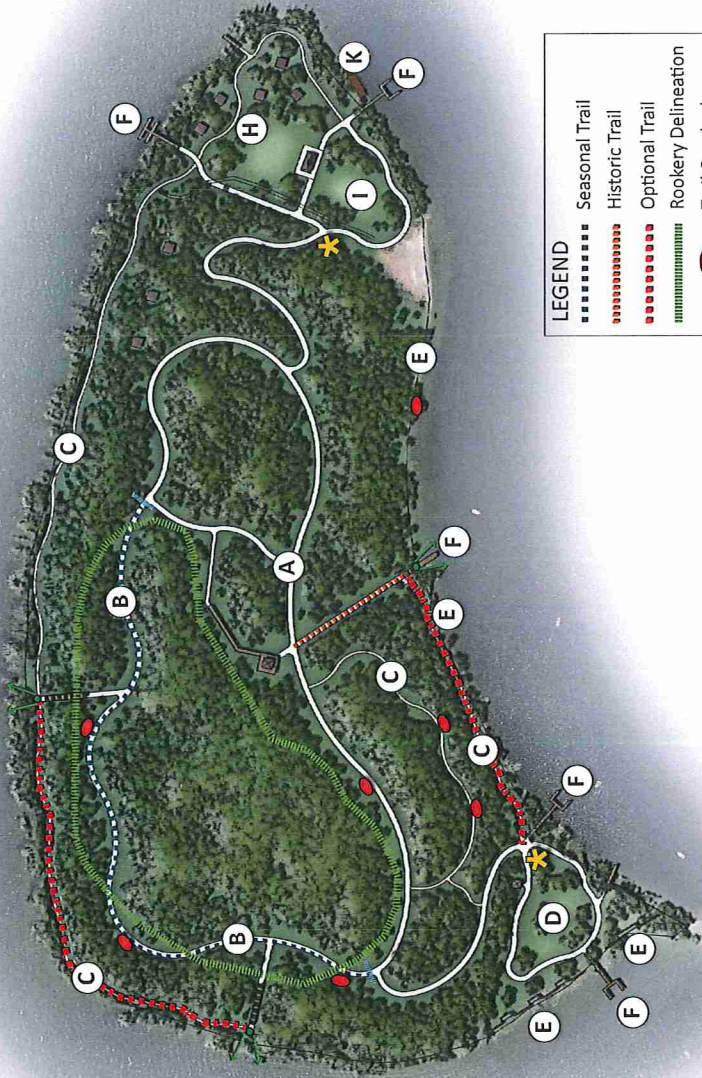
- Day Use & Campsite Docks / Fishing Piers
- Campsites (accommodates individual or group use; tent sites to portable camper cabins; summer & winter camping; reservable; lakeside and wooded sites)
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access
- Snowmobile Access for Winter Gatherings & Use
- Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, Fireplace and/or Fire Pit

I) Zeglins Point Day Use Area

- Day Use Docks / Fishing Pier
- Entrance Island Kiosk / Map
- Shared Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter
- Small Existing Informal Beach
- Adventure / Nature Play Experience
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access (accessible route to tower)

K) Barge Access Dock

- ### Landscape & Natural Resources
- Highlight Historic Plant Communities (from native to introduced plants brought from original landowners)
 - Invasive Species Control Plan
 - Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
 - Protect Lake Edge
 - Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas



LEGEND

- Seasonal Trail (dashed line)
- Historic Trail (dotted line)
- Optional Trail (dashed line with dots)
- Rookery Delineation (green wavy line)
- Trail Overlook (red circle with green arrow)
- Terminus Overlook (green circle with red arrow)
- Kiosk / Island Map (yellow star)



Coney Island of the West Preferred Master Plan



Lake Waconia Regional Park

- A Multi-Purpose Trail**
 - Range from 10'-12' Wide Asphalt Trail (pedestrians, bikes)
 - Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
 - Overlooks with Historical Reference

- B Church Property**
 - Potential Realigned Entrance Road (depending on wetland impacts & mitigation)
 - Potential Future Acquisition (may be used for maintenance building location)

- C Entrance & Contact Station**

- D Swimming Beach**

- E Play Experience**
 - Fun & Challenging Play Experience
 - Separated Age Appropriate Play
 - Sensory Elements
 - Highly Inclusive / Accessible
 - Creative Water and Sand Play Area

- F Picnic Shelter**

- G Phased Parking**
 - Main Parking Lot: 260 to 330 Stalls
 - Turnaround Lot: 20 to 25 Stalls
 - Pollinator / Rain Gardens
 - Adjacent Infiltration Basins

- H Central Plaza**
 - Entrance Kiosk / Park & Trail Map
 - Bike Racks
 - Plaza / Cafe Style Seating
 - Outdoor Gas Fire Pit
 - Shade Structures
 - Relates to Beach, Lawn & Picnic Spaces
 - Restroom, Changing & Concessions Bldg
 - Park Program / Event Room Bldg with Open Air Picnic Shelter Area
 - Rental Equipment & Lifeguard Station Bldg

- I Central Pier**
 - Pedestrian Pier (no fishing)
 - Island Ferry Transfer Location
 - Potential Special Event Pier (ie: triathlon/ swim events)

- J Lakefront Walk**
 - Curvilinear / Flowing Walk Design
 - Multiple Seating / Picnic-Spaces
 - Shade Structures
 - Views of Lake

- V Interim Event Center Plan**
 - Deck Facing Lawn / Lake
 - Parking Lot Phased
 - Relates to Lawn / Event Space
 - Minor Bldg Improvements

- Landscape & Natural Resources**
 - Highlight Plant Communities (native woods, wetlands and prairie)
 - Invasive Species Control Plan
 - Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
 - Protect Lake Edge
 - Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas

- K Boat Beaching Area**

- L Waterfront Service Area**
 - Non-Motorized Watercraft Dock & Beach
 - County Boat Slips (ie: patrol boats)
 - Rental Storage Area (ie: canoe racks)

- M Fishing Pier**

- N DNR Boat Launch**

- O Lakeside Arbor**
 - Formal Lakeside Venue (ie: weddings)
 - Photography
 - Lakeside Observation / Solitude

- P Small Lawn Game Area**
 - Lawn Bowling
 - Volleyball

- Q Large Multi-Purpose Lawn**
 - Informal Sport Space
 - Event Space (ie: weddings, music events, triathlons, overflow parking)

- R Park Event Building**
 - Upper Level Deck Overlooking Lake
 - Lower Patio Facing Lake, Lawn & Arbor
 - Event Rooms (park programs, venue space)
 - Restrooms

- S Base Camp Area**
 - 4-Season Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, and Fireplace (winter warming house)
 - Patio with Gas Fire Pit
 - Rental Service for Sledding Hill
 - Lawn Event Space (ie: challenge course, ice skating)

- T Sledding Hill**
 - Small Children's Hill
 - Tow Rope
 - Summer Use (ie: challenge uphill course, biking, summer sledding)

- U Adventure Trail**
 - 4-.5' Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
 - Challenge Areas (ropes course, tree walk, etc.)
 - Upper Overlook



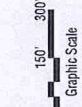
LEGEND

- Trail Overlook
- Kiosk / Trailhead Map

- Informal & Specialty Trails** (not shown)
 - Snow Shoe, Single Track Mountain Bike, Cross-Country Ski, etc.
 - Integrated into Natural Areas at County's Discretion
 - Non-Paved



Main Lake Waconia Regional Park Preferred Master Plan



Professional Services
 Date: August 15, 2018

F. Natural Resource Management Plan & Stewardship

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides a broad spectrum of natural resources and ecological zones to integrate into the overall park experience, from scenic settings to educational opportunities.

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides opportunities for both highlighting and enhancing existing natural features, as well as restoring altered or non-native areas. Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) mapping was performed on both Coney Island and the main park area including site reviews and wetland delineations.

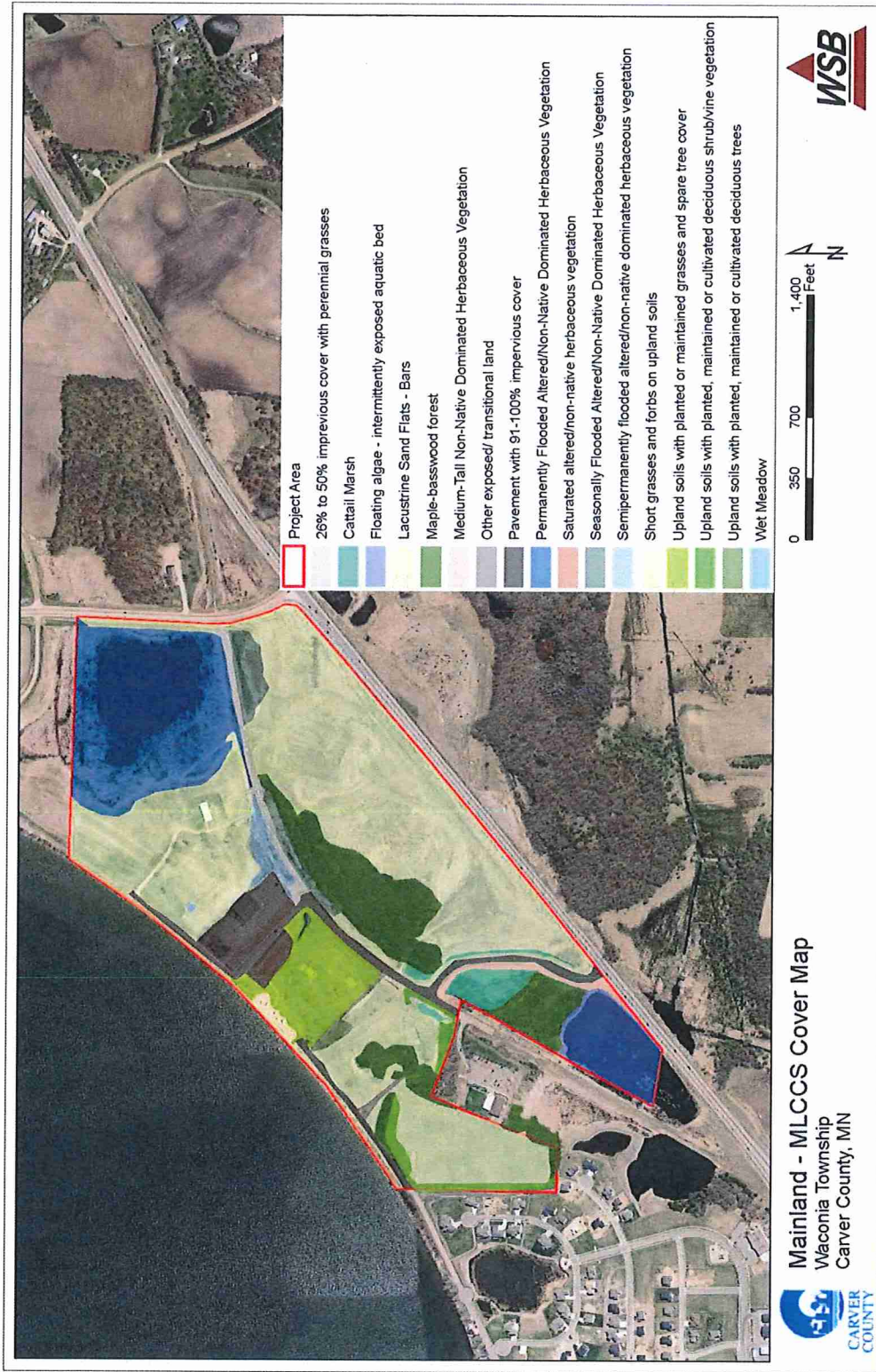
Findings

Much of the main park parcel along the lake is maintained as turf, consistent with prior land uses. A hillside with a north facing slope contains a wooded area consisting of a mature maple-basswood forest with some green ash along one end that remain from prior agricultural wind rows, and some scattered oaks along the western edge of the forested area. There are invasive species present, including smooth sumac and buckthorn, due to lack of management. The upper hill of the main park parcel has been left to return to prairie and mainly consists of non-native species with the sledding hill maintained as turf. The east and west ends of the main park parcel contain large wetlands with portions of the interior of the park containing smaller fragments of wetlands, shown in the delineation graphic below. Most of the interior wetlands have been formed more recently due to the removal of old Highway 5. Reed canary grass is the primary concern for the wetlands.

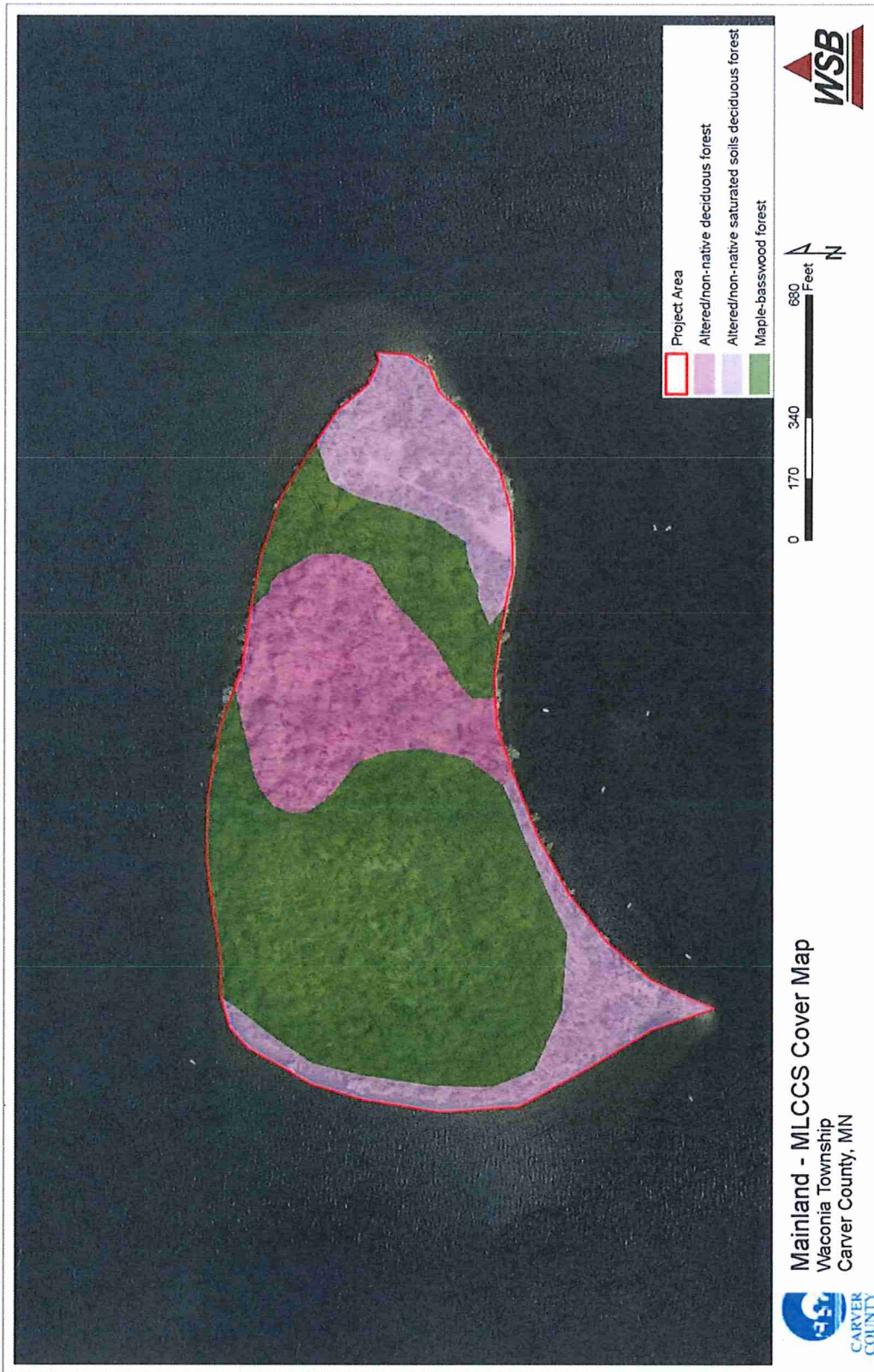
The island is heavily covered with mature deciduous trees and contains a couple of areas of a native maple-basswood forest along with some altered non-native deciduous forest. Invasive species can be found throughout the island due to lack of management for numerous years. There are also pockets of ornamental and non-native plants that were part of previous gardens associated with the cabin and resort owners.

Though some previous mapping indicated there may be various wetlands present on the island, many of these no longer exist due to many land modifications that were made over time by the island's residents. The following is the MLCCS map for the island.

The following figures include the MLCCS cover map and wetland delineation for the main park parcel and the MLCCS cover map for the island.







Natural Resource Goals and Recommendations

The natural resource goals include undertaking natural resource management efforts to improve upon and enhance the ecological character of the main park and island with a healthy and diverse ecological system and using these efforts as part of an educational program within the park areas.

Restoration efforts would focus on the following:

- Maintain lawn spaces where appropriate using eco-friendly maintenance methods
- Manage, restore and expand upon the Maple-Basswood Forest system for the main park as well as the island
- Restore non-native prairie to native prairie focused on pollinator species that would support bee habitat within the park, as well as educational programs
- Manage and restore wetlands to control invasive species
- Stabilize steep slopes and embankments to control erosion
- Naturalize portions of the lake shore edge to improve water quality and control erosion

G. Implementation, Operations & Maintenance

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides a broad range of active, passive and natural spaces that when ultimately built, will take a considerable amount of fiscal commitment to implement the ultimate vision created for the park.

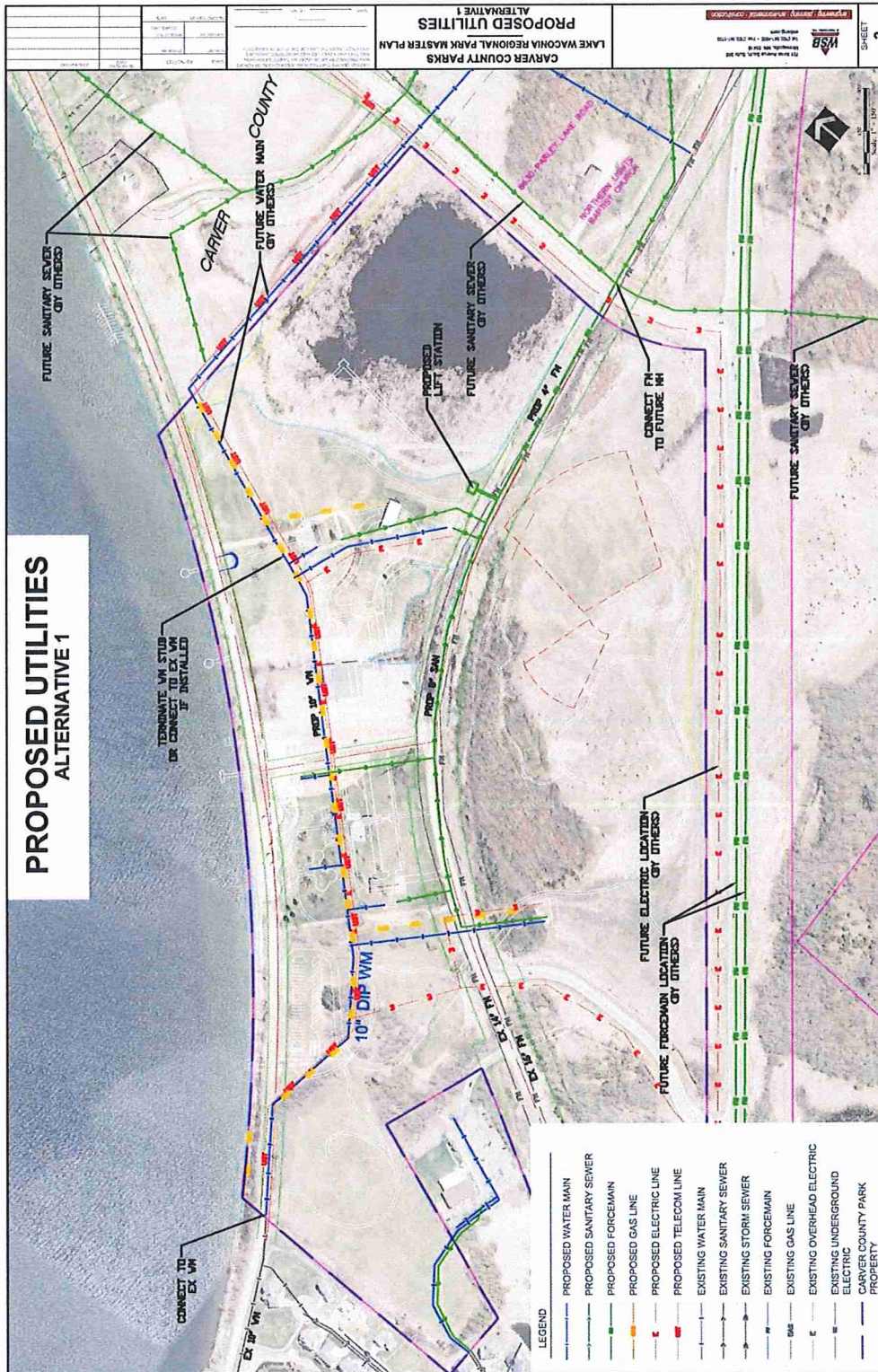
A preliminary development phasing and implementation strategy was developed that focuses on the following goals:

- **Island Phase One:** Focus on cleaning up the island and making it safe for public use while developing the two ends of the island for day picnic use, provide boat access, restroom facilities, and trails. The costs related to the phase one development are mainly in line with the funds available and dedicated to improved island use.
- **Main Park:** Focus on bringing up the level of development to a standard suitable of a regional park setting with the lake front as the prime focus. Development would include connection to public utility services, expanding the beach area, creating the central plaza with related park buildings, development of a lakefront walk, fishing piers, the main pedestrian pier offering access to the island, trails, parking lot with an improved access drive and initial natural resource investments. The phase one development plan is fairly significant and will occur over time as financial resources are available.

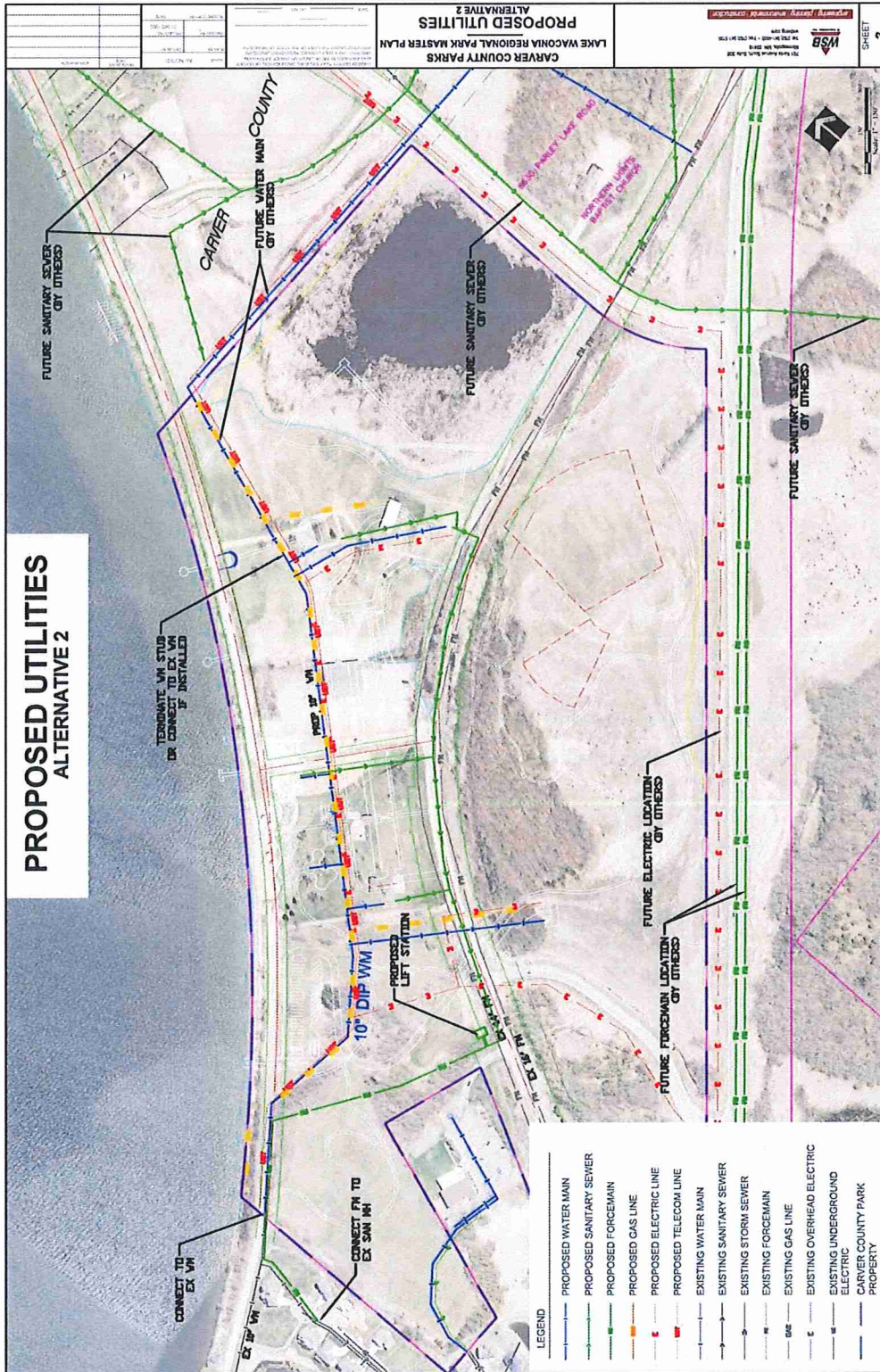
Future phased development is likely to occur as additional funds are available and in line with actual community demand. The intent of the future development phases are to provide a more robust and unique park experience focusing on adventure based year round recreation around a historical theme. The future phases will be more conducive to a broader range of park users and will provide a higher level of recreation available for the regional community.

While implementation of the island and main park will ultimately increase the costs related to operations and maintenance, there is also opportunity for additional revenue sources through the implementation of park programs, rentals and concessions.

Proposed Utilities – Alternative 1



Proposed Utilities – Alternative 2





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MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission

FROM: Marty Walsh, Parks Director

SUBJECT: 2040 Comprehensive Plan Parks, Trails, and Opens Space

DATE: September 16, 2016

Carver County is preparing to update its Comprehensive Plan consistent with Metropolitan Council policy. The last time the County updated its master plan was during 2009-2010. Plan elements include land use, transportation, water resources, parks & trails, housing, resilience, economic competitiveness and implementation.

Staff will review with the Commission the current Parks Trails and Open Space Chapter of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, additionally minimum requirements to update the chapter will be provided along with current inconsistencies with the plan that have arisen since the 2030. The Park Commission will assist in developing project scope for services which may go beyond the minimum requirements of the comprehensive plan to better provide direction to the County Board for the Department.