



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Wednesday, December 14th, 2022

Public Works Headquarters

11360 Highway 212

Cologne, MN 55322

6:30 pm

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of Agenda (6:31 p.m.)
- 4) Approval of the October 19th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:31 p.m.)
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:32 p.m.)
- 6) Open to the Public (6:35 p.m.)
- 7) Visitor Presentation (6:40 p.m.)
 - a. Regional Park Visitor Use, Darcie Vandegrift, Metropolitan Council
- 8) Consent Item (7:10 p.m.)
 - a. Special Use Permit – MN Special Olympics Polar Plunge
- 9) New Business (7:15 p.m.)
 - a. Coney Island Site Plan
 - b. Choosing a Name for the Waterfront Service Center
- 10) Discussion (7:40 p.m.)
 - a. Asset Management CIP Report (Materials Provided At Meeting)
- 11) Staff Reports (7:55 p.m.)
 - a. General Operations & Recreation Services
 - i. Winter Outdoor Recreation Services & Operations Plan
 - b. Maintenance and Natural Resources Operations
 - c. Administrative Update
 - i. Waterfront Service Center
- 12) Recognition of Outgoing Park Commission Members (8:10 p.m.)
- 13) Commission Member Reports (8:15 p.m.)
- 14) Next Meeting Date (8:25 p.m.)
 - a. January 11th, 2023
- 15) Adjourn (8:30p.m.)

Upcoming Events and Activities

- Winter rentals begin 1/6/23
- Candlelit Ski & Hayride Events: 1/28/23 & 2/25/23

If a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please notify the Park Office.

CARVER COUNTY



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Wednesday, October 19th, 2022

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6:30 pm

MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. G. Bruner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- 2) Roll Call
 - a. Present: Jim Boettcher, Gerry Bruner, Makiza Johnson, Scott Knight, Curt Kobilarcsik, and Mark Lagergren
 - b. Absent: Gary Van Eyll
 - c. Staff: Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Jake Sandvig, & Hope Mack
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve the agenda made by M. Johnson, Seconded S. Knight Passed 6-0
- 4) Approval of the September 14th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes by C. Kobilarcsik, Seconded J. Boettcher Passed 6-0
- 5) Commissioner Liaison Report
 - a. None
- 6) Open to the Public
 - a. None
- 7) New Business
 - a. SWRT Master Plan
 - i. Marty reviewed with the board the requirements, objectives, realignment options, and timeline of the plan. He has presented the plan to the cities of Victoria, Chaska, and Chanhassen and they have all approved it. It will next move on to the County Board and then the Met Council for their approvals.
 1. Motion to approve the plan made by M. Johnson, Seconded S. Knight Passed 6-0
- 8) Staff Reports
 - a. General Operations & Recreation Services
 - i. Sam reported that the campground season is over, the WSC groundbreaking went smoothly, about 500 people attended the Trail of Fun event, and that the interpretive planning grant for Coney Island did not get approved. He gave an update on the switching of reservation software and noted that a blackout period is planned for December.

CARVER COUNTY



METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

2021 Visitor Study: Carver County & Regional Learnings

Darcie Vandegrift, PhD, Principal Researcher

Carver County Parks & Recreation Commission

December 14, 2022



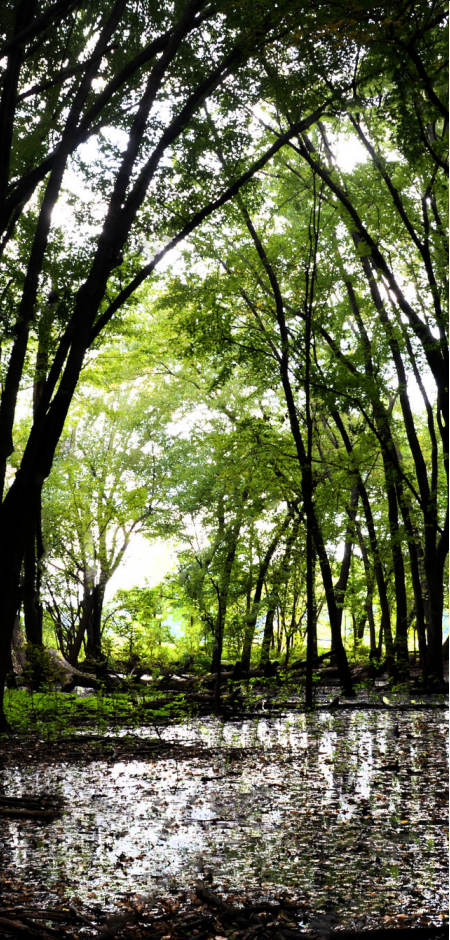
Role of the Metropolitan Council

Parks Collaboration

- Support the Regional Parks System through work with Carver County and nine additional park implementing agency partners
- Develop and implement the *Regional Parks Policy Plan*
- Protect the integrity of the Regional Parks System
 - Review Park and Trail Master Plans
 - Review Comprehensive Plans
- Provide funding for the Regional Parks System
- Provide research for funding, planning, and policy needs



Visitor Study Background



- Help inform planning, policy, and management
- Evaluate and strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails in accordance with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Update data in funding formulas to help determine where funding goes for parks and trails
- One of two ongoing research responsibilities: Other is annual use estimate
- Captures summer activities on the day of visit

2021 Visitor Survey



- Surveys administered in the field by Wilder Research
- Over 5,400 surveys, over 50% response rate. Survey quotas proportionate to visitation
- At least 393 surveys per park implementing agency. One unit in each implementing agency was “oversampled” to have data at the unit level
- Data were reviewed and analyzed by Council staff
- Report to be published by end of year

Carver County Data Overview

Weighted Sample

- 400 surveys
- 266 park surveys
- 134 trail surveys

Lake Minnewashta Regional Park

- 198 surveys, park level data

Data strengths

- Carver Co special attributes
- Popular activities
- Information seeking

Data weaknesses

- No longitudinal data (yet)
- (Consider region-wide patterns)

Visitor Satisfaction

Carver County scores high

Implementing agencies	% of visitors rating facilities 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'
Three Rivers, Dakota & Washington Counties	>95%
Anoka, Carver, Ramsey, and Scott Counties, City of Bloomington	90-95%
Minneapolis and St. Paul	80-85%

Table 1: Visitor satisfaction by park agency. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Visitor Study

Carver County Satisfaction

Visitor satisfaction across Carver County

Rating	Carver County	Carver Co parks	Carver Co trails	Lake Minnewashta Regional Park
Excellent/Very Good	91%	91%	91%	97%
Fair	6%	5%	7%	2%
Poor/Very Poor	3%	4%	2%	1%

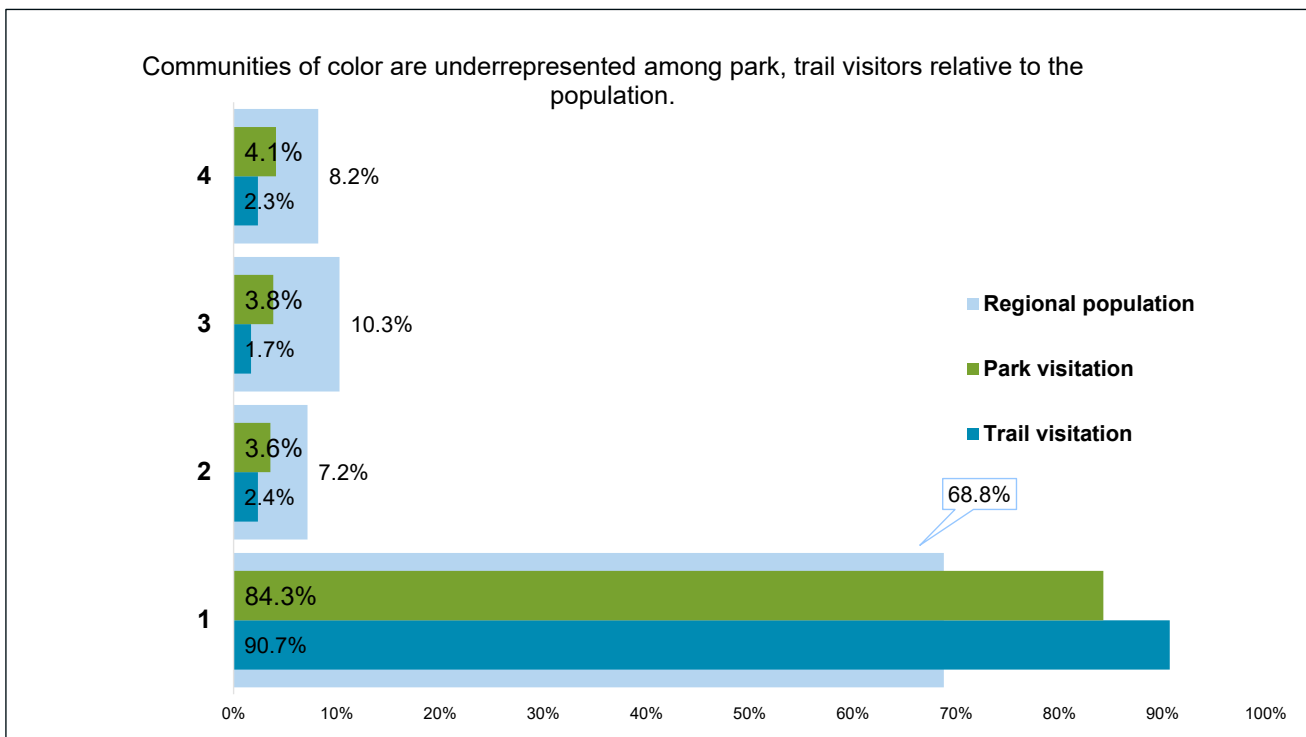
Table 2: Visitor satisfaction in Carver County. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Visitor Study

Visitors suggest trail condition improvement, basic amenities, relief from heat. Many had no suggestions.

Implementing Agency	Most mentioned	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Anoka County	Better trail maintenance	Nothing/all good	More bathroom facilities	More water/drinking fountain access	More trashcans/litter issues
Bloomington	Nothing/all good	Less garbage/litter, better trash service	Better water quality	Water/drinking fountain access	More trails; longer/extended trails
Carver County	Nothing/all good	More shade/more trees	Better trail maintenance	More trashcans	Enforce rules for pets in parks (leash, pick up)
Dakota County	Nothing/all good	More/better signage	Water/drinking fountain access	More trails; longer/extended trails	Construction
MPRB	Better trail maintenance	Bathroom access	Water/drinking fountain access	Water fountains turned off	Nothing/all good
Ramsey County	Better trail maintenance	Nothing/all good	Litter/trash/animal waste	More trails; longer/extended trails	More/better signage
Saint Paul	Nothing/all good	Better trail maintenance	Litter/trash	More shade/more trees	Bathrooms cleaner
Scott County	Nothing/all good	More trash cans	Better trail maintenance	Better water quality	Separate paths for bikes and pedestrians
TRPD	Nothing/all good	Better trail maintenance	Water/drinking fountain access	More/better signage	More shade/more trees
Washington County	Nothing/all good	More bathrooms	More/better signage	Better trail maintenance	Water/drinking fountain access

Table 3: Visitor suggestions for improvement the day of visit. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Visitor Study

Visitation less racially/ethnically diverse than population overall.



Carver County:

9% of visitors are racial/ethnic minorities (compared with 14% of county population)

Park visitors more racially/ethnically diverse than trail visitors

Carver County visitation has high racial diversity relative to county population when compared with other park agencies.

Figure 1: Comparing survey demographics with the regional population for race/ethnicity. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Parks & Trails Visitor Study.

Fewer young people visit parks compared with their proportion in population.

Young people are underrepresented among park, trail visitors. Disparities are greater on trails.

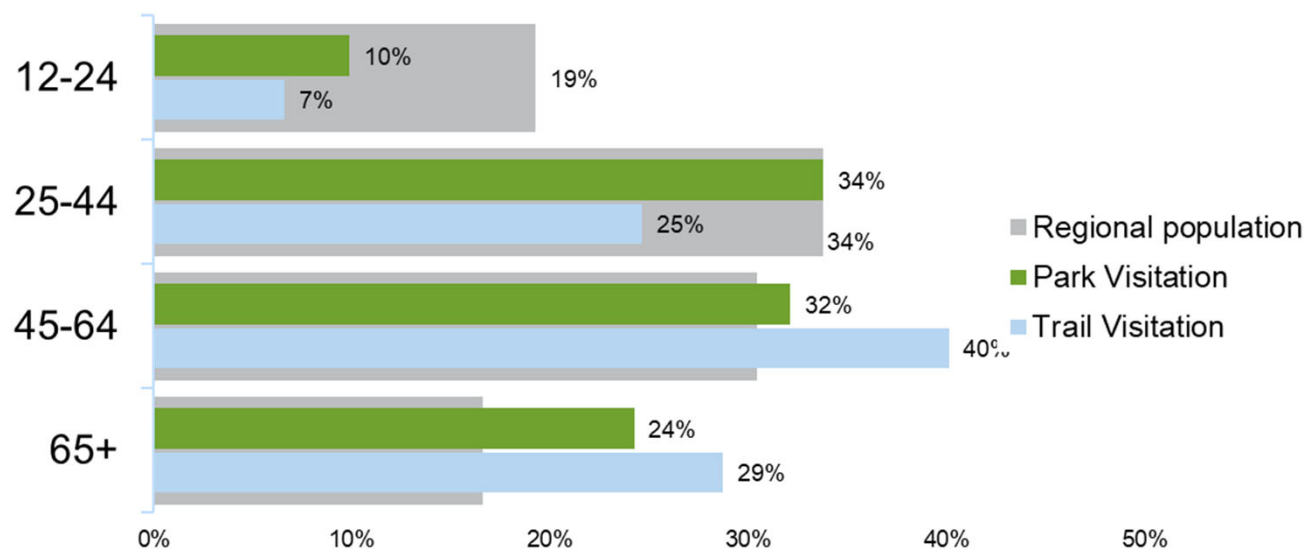


Figure 2: Comparing survey demographics with the regional population for age. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Parks & Trails Visitor Study

Carver County's "youth gap" is typical.

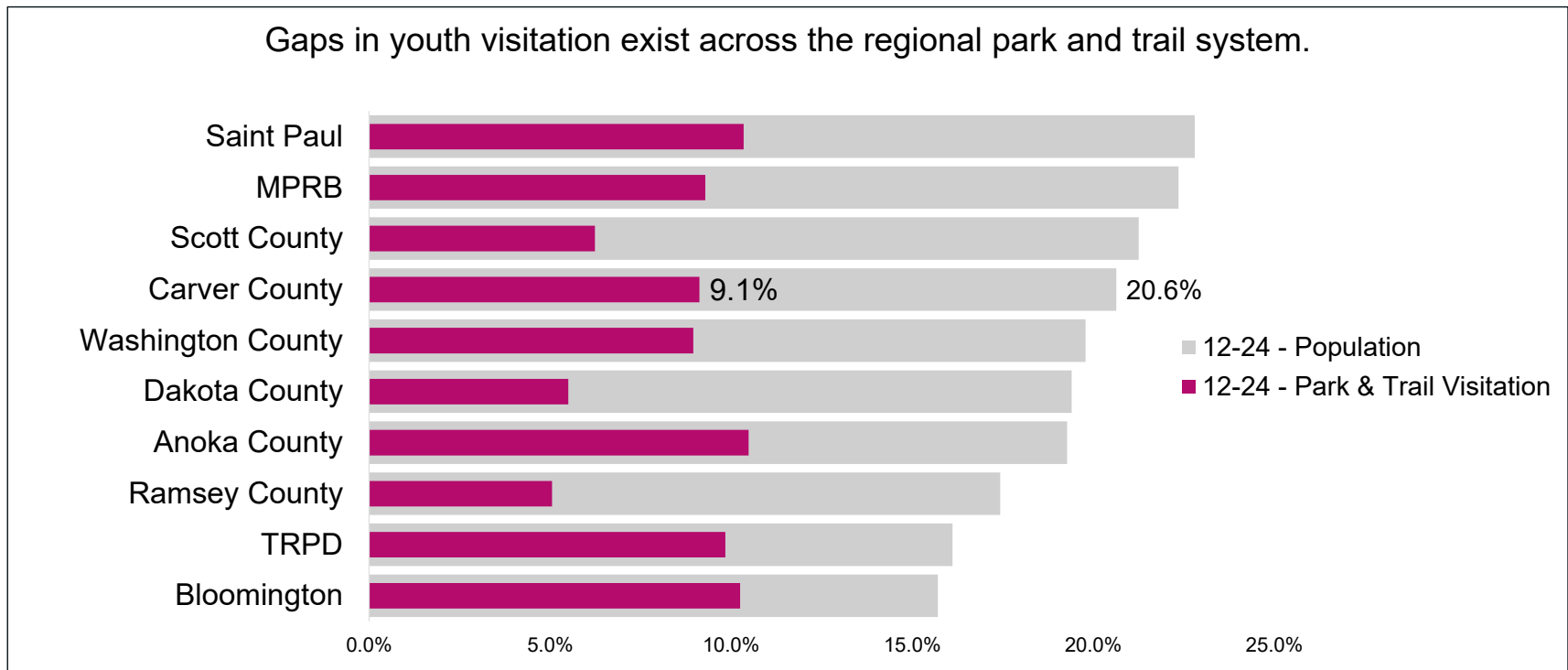


Figure 3: Percent of visitors aged 12-24 by implementing agency. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Parks & Trails Visitor Study.

More than other places, Carver County parks visitors bring kids.

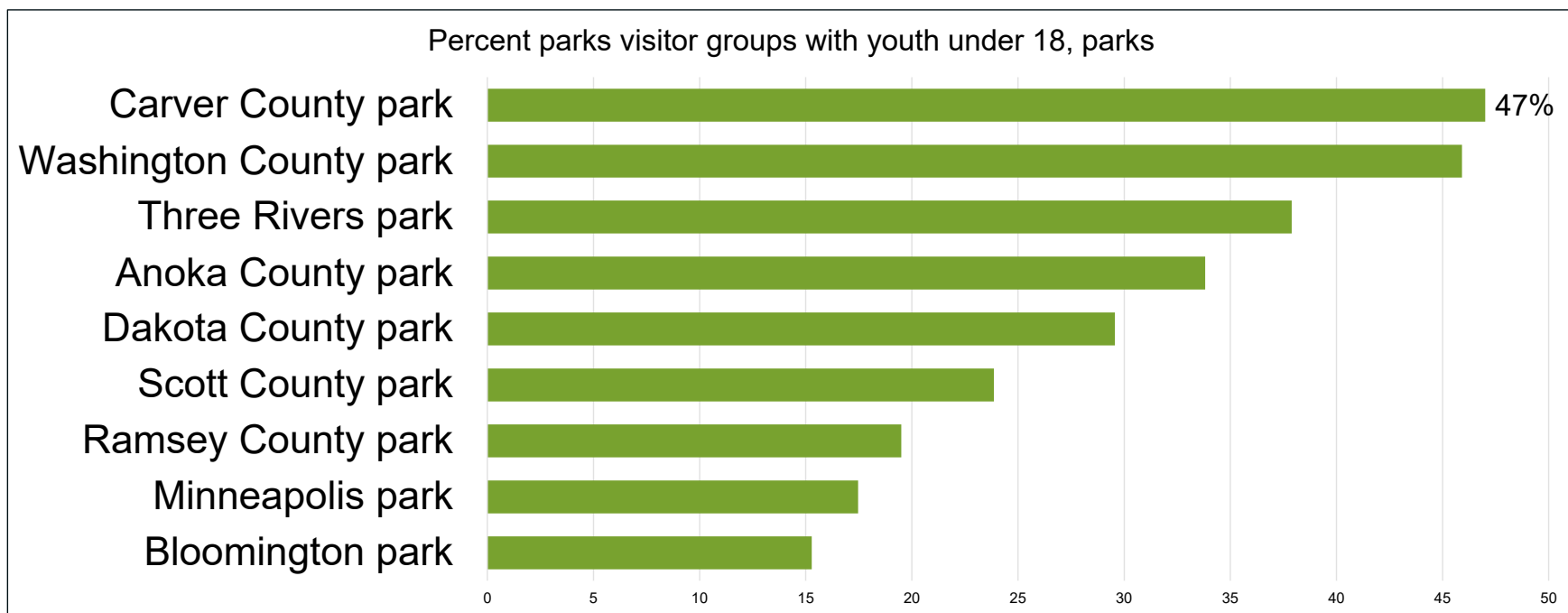


Figure 4: Groups with youth visiting implementing agency, parks. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Parks & Trails Visitor Study.

Carver County: Top Activities

Park agency	Top	2nd	3rd	4th	5 th , other answers >5%
Anoka County	Hike/walk & Biking (TIE)		Dog walk/dog park & Camping (TIE)		Running, Swim, Fishing
Bloomington	Hike/walk	Dog walk/dog park	Biking	Running	Swim
Carver County	Biking (24%)	Dog walk/dog park (19%)	Hike/walk & Swim (~10%) TIE)		Family/friend meetup (8%), Relax (6%), Camping (5%)
Dakota County	Hike/walk	Biking	Mountain biking	Dog walk/dog park	Running
Minneapolis	Hike/walk	Biking	Dog walk/dog park & Running (TIE)		Family/friend meetup, observe nature
Ramsey County	Hike/walk & Biking (TIE)		Dog walk/dog park	Playground	Running
Saint Paul	Hike/walk	Biking	Running	Dog walk/dog park	Family/friend meetup, Swim
Scott County	Hike/walk	Dog walk/dog park	Biking	Running	Paddling
Three Rivers	Hike/walk	Biking	Dog walk/dog park	Playground	Running, Family/friend meetup
Washington County	Hike/walk	Biking	Swim	Running	Camping, Playground, Family/friend meetup, Dog walk/dog park

Table 4: Top five main activities, by park agency. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Visitor Study

New visitors are more frequent in parks than in trails.

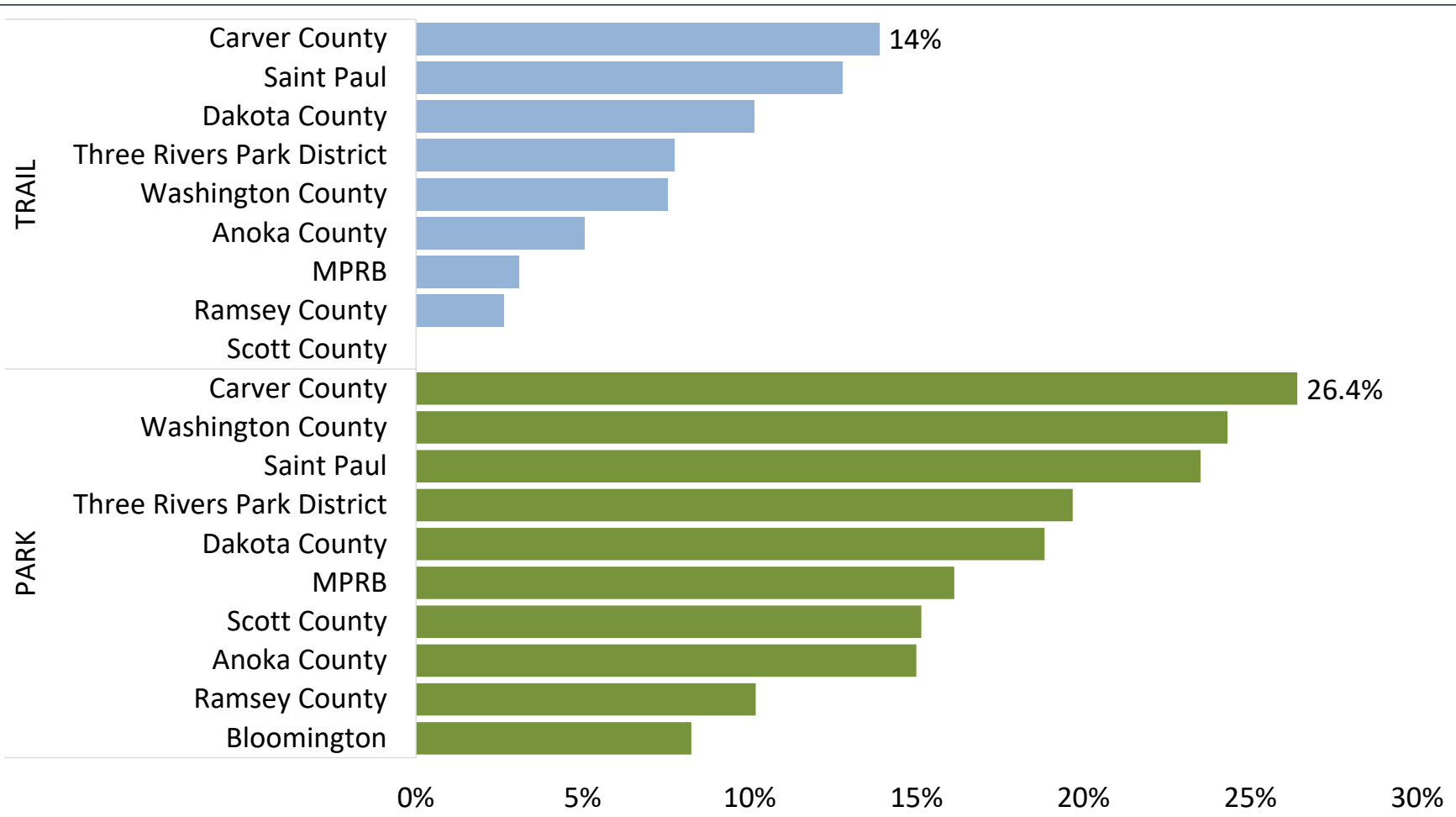


Figure 5: Comparing first time/infrequent visitors by parks vs trails. Source: Metropolitan Council 2021 Parks & Trails Visitor Study.

Visitor Study Resources



- Discussion guides, full report have much more
- Tailored presentations for your staff, other stakeholders
- Technical advising on key takeaways available
- Discussion guides available now; Report published online in late 2022



Darcie Vandegrift, PhD

Principal Researcher

Darcie.Vandegrift@metc.state.mn.us

(651) 602-1669





MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
CC: Martin Walsh, Parks & Recreation Director
FROM: Sam Pertz, Parks & Trails Supervisor
SUBJECT: Special Event Use Permit Request – Special Olympics Minnesota
DATE: December 8, 2022

This memorandum outlines the pertinent details for review and recommendation for issuance of a Special Event Use Permit to Special Olympics Minnesota. The permit allows for a community fundraiser event by ways of a polar plunge event to occur from the park property of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including lake/ice surface area.

Special Olympics Minnesota

- **Date:** Friday & Saturday February 10th & 11th, 2023 (No inclement weather day planned)
 - 10th is a site preparation day, 11th is the event.
 - On-site event staff presence will be 7am – 6pm on both dates.
- **Where:** Lake Waconia Regional Park, 8170 Paradise Ln.
- **What:** Community fundraiser, polar plunge (jumping into a hole in ice)
- **Attendance:** At least 500 participants are anticipated.
- **Impact on Park Area:** The event will mostly function on the beach and adjacent area of the lake (see site map). On the event date the available parking will be largely consumed by event participants. A hole will be cut in the lake on the 10th, utilized during the event, and post-event maintained for safety until the conditions of the open area have refrozen and restored a safe condition.
- **Required Permit Items Obtained & Reviewed:** Yes, process underway.
 - Outstanding items are the liability insurance policy covering event (renewed in January), verification of required City of Waconia and County Sheriff Office permit(s), and related items with any food service vendors hired.
- **Significant Elements/Items of Attention:** With the nature of the event, cutting a hole in the ice brings an increased level of risk. Additionally winter activities/events are subject to snow & ice impacts on roadways, walkways, parking areas, and in general park grounds. Often these conditions increase user safety concerns. Department Maintenance will, as has been the approach in past years, be responsible for snow & ice removal on walking areas/trails, parking lots, and other key areas within the event operational area.
- **Permit Fees:** Applicable fees per the 2022 County Fee Schedule special event use permit application.
- **Years with County Issued Use Permit:** This is the third year the organization has requested a SUP.
- **Staff Notes:** This event has operated with good success and in general little items of negative impact to the park grounds or County property. The close coordination for this event with the County Sheriff Office continues to be a key component to facilitating a safe event.

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission recommend to the County Board, issuance of a special event use permit to Special Olympics Minnesota for a polar plunge at Lake Waconia Regional Park on February 11th, 2023, contingent upon receipt of any necessary permits from the City of Waconia and County Sheriff Office, execution of the use permit, and payment for all issued fees.

CARVER COUNTY

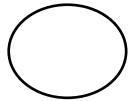
Waconia 2023
Polar Plunge
Overview



Tents



Plunge Hole



Bear

Snow Fencing



Food Truck



Tent Doors



Small Bleachers



Power



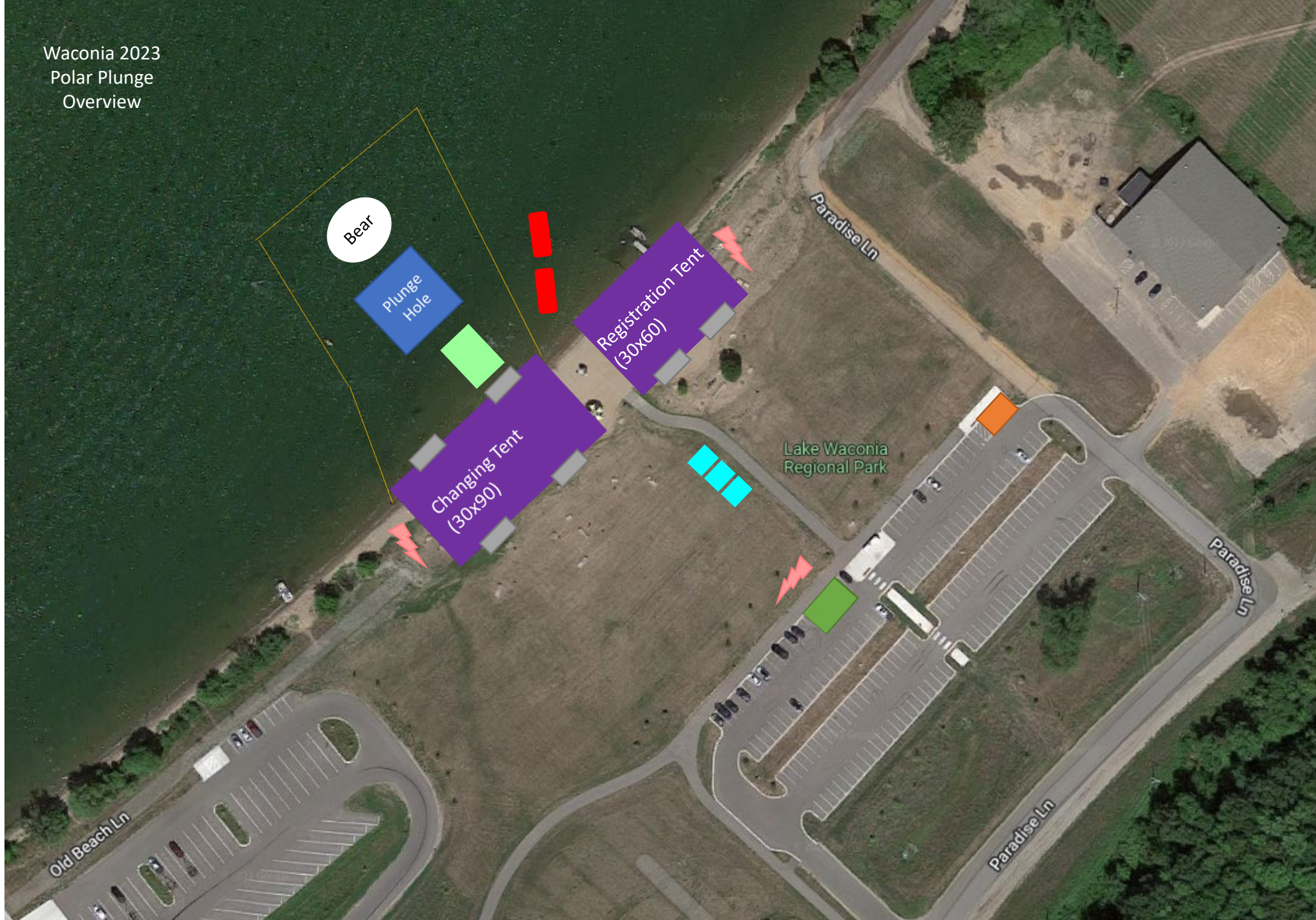
Dumpster



Restrooms



Tunnel



Changing Tent

Lake/Beach Side

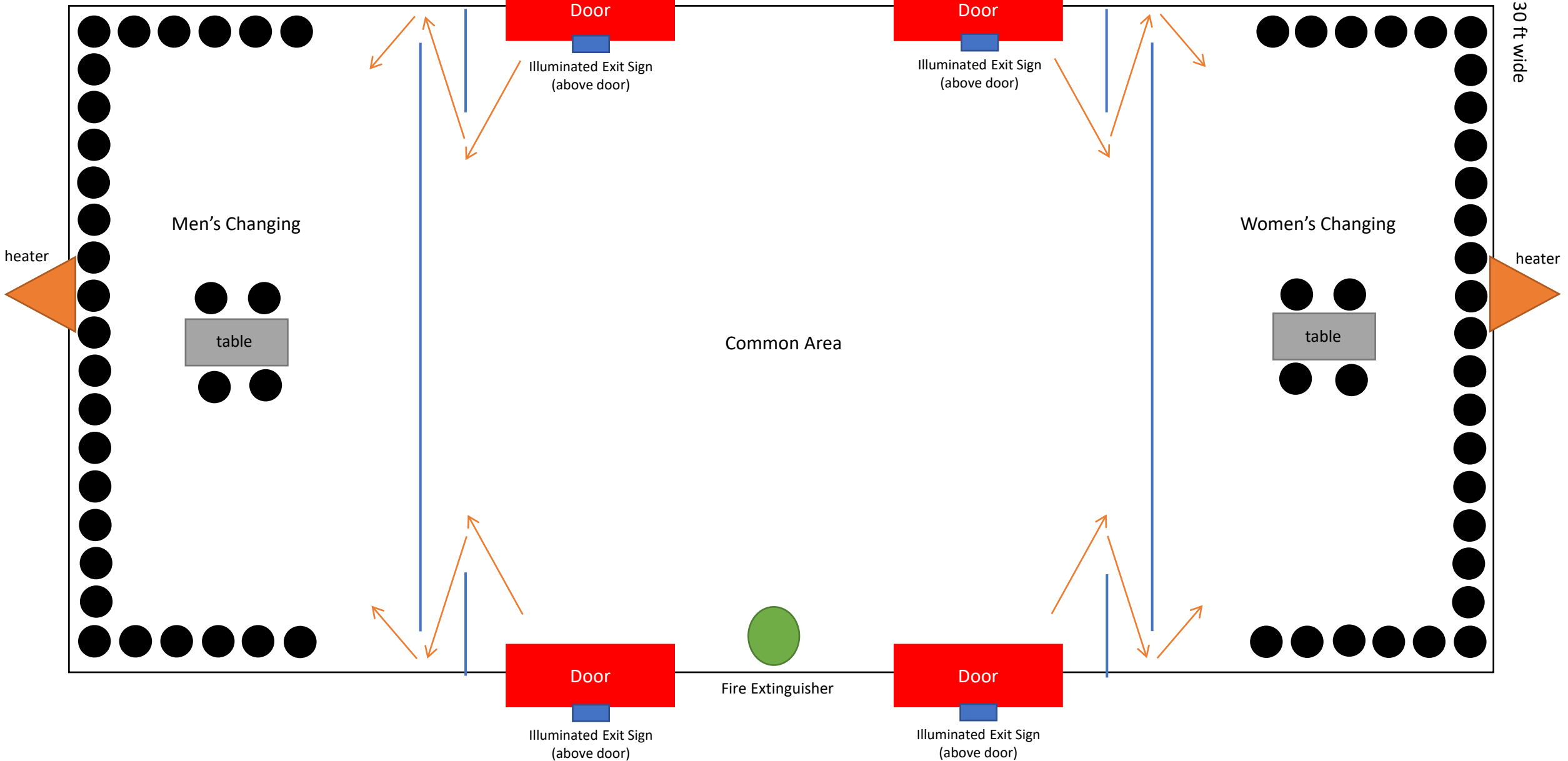
Side walls

Plunger's path
Entrance/Exit into changing areas

● chairs

90 ft long

30 ft wide



Men's Changing

Women's Changing

Common Area

table

table

Door

Door

Door

Door

Illuminated Exit Sign
(above door)

Illuminated Exit Sign
(above door)

Illuminated Exit Sign
(above door)

Illuminated Exit Sign
(above door)

Fire Extinguisher


heater

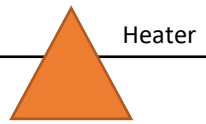
heater

Park Side

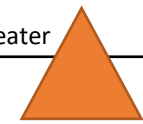
Registration Tent

Lake/Beach Side

 Volunteers



Heater



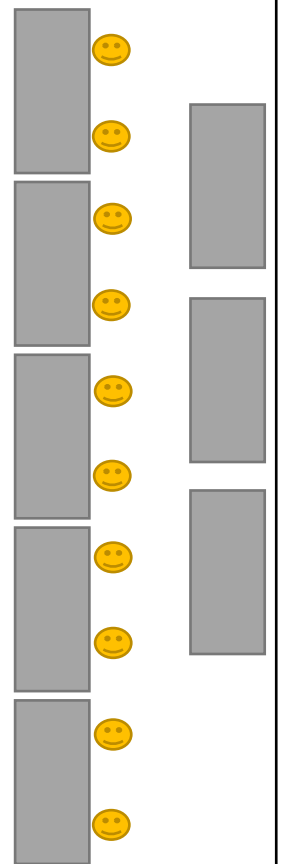
Heater

60 ft long

30 ft wide

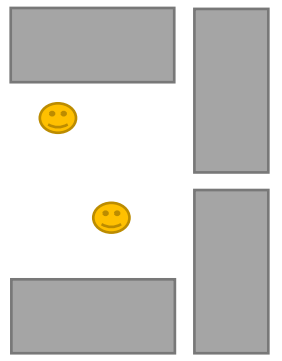


Incentive Area



Check-in Area

Merchandise Area



Door

Illuminated Exit Sign
(above door)



Fire Extinguisher



Door

Illuminated Exit Sign
(above door)

Park Side



**Carver County
Parks & Recreation**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
CC: Martin Walsh, Parks & Recreation Director
FROM: Samuel Pertz, Parks & Trails Supervisor
SUBJECT: Draft Coney Island Site Development Plan
DATE: November 3, 2022

This memo outlines the information reflected in the draft site improvement plan and preliminary cost estimate for each amenity included in the packet.

The site improvements of group camping, group fire pit area, playground, entrance/site signage, on-site storage/building, and additional watercraft docking units are consistent with the master plan.

Staff continue to be interested in ways the site can attract and retain safe and respectful use. With Phase I work establishing trails and suitable use areas, future work on the site could be considered for improvements of other recreational amenities. This plan and estimated costs related to each improvement will help inform decisions moving forward.

Considerations when developing the site plan were primarily to capitalize on existing infrastructure/investment, factor historical context (if applicable), recognize current and successful use patterns, and arrange future amenities in a way that attract increased use.

With the existing trail aligned north-south from the access point on the south shore, connections to/from are shown to the playground, tent pads, and group firepit area. The location of the playground is shown near the east edge of the green space as it preserves the view from this area back to downtown Waconia which provides a connection to past photos in history, but also is inviting for lake users that might not be aware of the opportunity.

The master plan reflects a permanent building on the east end of the site. With no funding source identified and maintenance operations relying on some equipment (UTV, mower) to be stationed on site during the summer season, staff have interest in installing a metal storage container in the interim. That location is envisioned to be where a future building could be constructed.

In reviewing the estimated cost, what is not shown in these amounts are costs related to required archeology work. While extensive archeology has been performed on this portion of the larger site, by law it is required to have archeology monitoring provided when disturbance to anything at/below grade. Additional archeology might be considered, or required, beyond monitoring and would be better understood as construction documents are prepared and a full understanding of site impacts is identified.

Further, the cost related to mobilization accounts for transportation to/from the island. With the County's ownership of a maintenance barge, this efficiency would be offered to the contractor and might reduce this cost. Regarding the playground facility, the cost of the play equipment itself is reflected at \$75,000. This is a budgetary figure, meaning the scope & design of the playground is not determined at this time. After further

planning, that amount could increase or decrease depending on the outcomes. In addition, the cost shown does not include any soft costs of planning/design/public engagement.

Lastly, the cost shown for the monument signage structure is not finalized. This improvement item is currently under full design and construction documentation planning, including more accurate cost analysis.

Recommendation: It is requested of the Park Commission recommend approval of the Coney Island of the West Site Plan to the County Board of Commissioners.



CARVER COUNTY

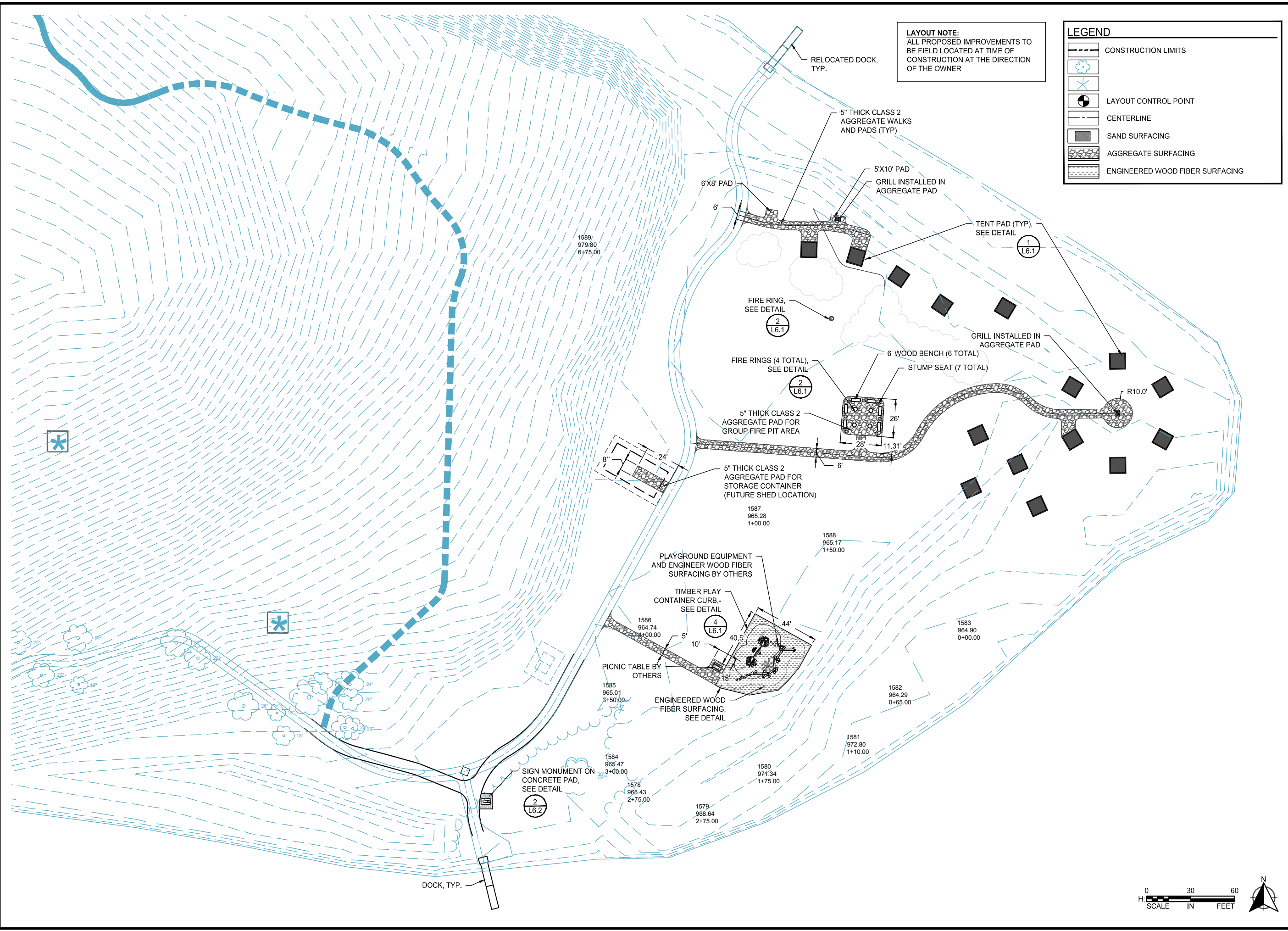
REVISIONS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, OR REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A DULY LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

CANDACE AMBERG
 DATE: 08-01-2022 LIC. NO.: XXXXX

SITE PLAN ENLARGEMENT

CONEY ISLAND SITE DEVELOPMENT
 CARVER COUNTY



ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS

No.	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
BASE BID					
1	GENERAL CONSTRUCTION				
A	MOBILIZATION	LS	1	\$36,000.00	\$36,000.00
B	SELECT CLEARING AND GRUBBING	ACRE	0.25	\$10,000.00	\$2,500.00
C	EXCAVATION - COMMON (P)	LS	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$53,500.00
2	PLAYGROUND				
A	6' WIDE AGGREGATE TRAIL	LF	90	\$30.00	\$2,700.00
B	ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER SURFACING (P)	CY	2,000	\$4.00	\$8,000.00
C	12" HIGH TIMBER BORDER	LF	185	\$50.00	\$9,250.00
D	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT (BUDGET)	LS	1	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$94,950.00
3	CAMPSITE AMENITIES				
A	10'X10' TENT PAD	EACH	15	\$2,300.00	\$34,500.00
B	6' WIDE AGGREGATE TRAIL	LF	315	\$30.00	\$9,450.00
C	AGGREGATE GROUP FIRE PAD	CY	10	\$200.00	\$2,000.00
D	BENCHES	EACH	6	\$2,000.00	\$12,000.00
E	GRILL	EACH	2	\$1,600.00	\$3,200.00
F	FIRE RING	EACH	5	\$1,200.00	\$6,000.00
G	STUMP / BOULDER SEAT	EACH	7	\$500.00	\$3,500.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$70,650.00
4	MISC. SITE AMENITIES				
A	SIGN STRUCTURE	EACH	1	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
B	AGGREGATE STORAGE CONTAINER PAD	CY	200	\$200.00	\$40,000.00
C	SUBTOTAL				\$75,000.00
5	EROSION CONTROL				
A	STABILIZED CONSTRUCTION EXIT	LS	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00

ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS

No.	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
B	SEDIMENT CONTROL WOOD FIBER LOG	LF	60	\$4.00	\$240.00
C	RAPID STABILIZATION	ACRE	0.50	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
SUBTOTAL					\$8,240.00

TOTAL BASE BID SCHEDULE \$302,340.00

CONTINGENCY (15%) \$45,351.00

PROJECT TOTAL \$347,691.00

No.	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
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ALTERNATE BID

A	15'X15' TENT PAD	EACH	15	\$3,500.00	\$52,500.00
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11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
FROM: Martin Walsh, Parks and Recreation Director
SUBJECT: Choosing a Name for the Waterfront Service Center
DATE: December 9th, 2022

County Board and Administration has asked that a name be selected for the waterfront service center building at Lake Waconia Regional Park.

Background

The title of waterfront service center was created with the application for state bond funds. It was meant to help describe that the building would be more than a picnic pavilion, offering additional services and be near the shoreline. It was not meant to be the actual name of the building.

There are several ways which the Park Commission could recommend a name or a process to name a building. Below are examples:

1. A few years back, the Park Commission created an internal criterion for naming park facilities. The criteria were used to rename our picnic shelters at Minnewashta Regional Park, going from just a number as the name i.e. #1, #2..., to selecting names for the shelters based on the nearby landscape. This internal process would be a direct recommendation from the Park Commission to the County Board. Suggested criteria included:
 - Name of private donor
 - Historical significance
 - Environmental feature
 - Applicable theme/genre
 - Cultural significance
2. Another approach would be to engage with the public about a name for the building. A process with some guidelines would be developed and names for the building publicly solicited. Park Commission and county staff could then narrow down the list of names to the top few and reengage with the public to better determine public support for optional names. The names would be evaluated by the Park Commission, and a recommendation sent to the County Board for consideration.
3. A third approach that has been suggested is to determine the marketability of selling naming rights of the building as a way of generating revenue. If the Park Commission is interested in this approach, staff would need to do further work to understand the viability and value of selling naming rights.

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission discuss the above approaches, consider other possibilities for selecting a name for the new building, provide staff with a direction on a naming process, and/or to obtain additional information.

CARVER COUNTY



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MEMO

TO: Members of the Park Commission
CC: Martin Walsh, Parks & Recreation Director
FROM: Samuel Pertz, Parks & Trails Supervisor; Jacob Sandvig, Natural Resources Supervisor
SUBJECT: Winter Outdoor Recreation Services & Maintenance Operations Plan: 2023 Season
DATE: November 1, 2023

This memo is intended to inform the Park Commission of the winter outdoor recreation services operations plan for the 2023 season.

Last winter season, continued with the recent trend of winter seasons, poor/no maintainable snow until early-mid January, marginal snow through February with a scarce month of March in terms of snow volumes that allow for quality winter recreation services.

Public outdoor recreation programs and events for the winter season of January – March are finalized. Several private bookings from non-profits, organized groups, etc. are booked and as the seasonal approaches, additional bookings are anticipated. Increased programming capacity is being felt with the part-time Recreation Program Educator position that was developed in the spring of the year. As has been the case in the summer season, when users become aware of the Departments increased capacity for winter and shoulder season programming opportunities, its anticipated that the demand will continue to build.

The below information is recommended by staff as the 2023 winter outdoor recreation services plan, with the aim to strategically offer attractive services to the public and operate efficiently with County resources.

Equipment Rental Services Overview:

(To be conducted at Baylor & Lake Minnewashta Regional Parks – as conditions & personnel allow)

- Base Service Dates:
 - Start: Saturday, January 7, 2023.
 - End: Sunday, March 5, 2023.
- Special Service Dates:
 - Martin Luther King Jr. (Monday, January 16, 2023) & Presidents Day (Monday, February 20, 2023).
 - Fridays within date range (Baylor Regional Park only).
- Service Hours: 11AM – 4PM for all service days.
- Operations Personnel: Both Outdoor Recreation Instructors & Assistant Recreation Instructors will be cross trained to work in dual capacities of general outdoor recreation programming & equipment rental services. The Department Reservation Specialist (PT) position will report to Baylor Park on Fridays as a way to extend rental opportunities to the public.

Outdoor Programming and Events Overview:

(Programs take place at the three regional park locations and City/School District locations within the County)

- Winter & Early Spring Season Dates: January 14, 2023, through April 2, 2023
- Public Program & Event Offerings:
 - (10) Learn to XC Ski Lessons
 - (6) ½ Day – Youth Camps (typically out of school days)

CARVER COUNTY

- (1) Geocaching Programs
- (3) Learn to Snowshoe Nature Hikes
- (1) Winter Recreation Sampler Event
- (5 + incoming) Private or Contracted Program Bookings
- (2) Candle Lit Ski and Hayride Event(s)
 - January 28, 2023
 - February 25, 2023
- Maple Syrup Educational Season
 - Open House Event - March 11, 2023
 - School Group Tours – uncertain currently, typical season average is 8 bookings.

*Contracted Outdoor Recreation Services are also in the planning stages with local agency partners.

- **Operations Personnel:** Outdoor Recreation Instructors will be rehired/new employees hired and trained to conduct services. Permanent staff in the Department, specifically the Recreation Program Educator will also be scheduled to deliver services.

Sledding Hill and XC Ski Trail:

Park maintenance operations are planned for responding to snow events when 2"+ snow arrives in a single occurrence, 7-days a week. Priority is given to roadways, walking surfaces and highest-use areas before ski trails would be groomed. When snowfalls of 2"+ occur, all ski trails will be assessed for grooming both for skate and traditional surfacing. Additionally, when new snow is not received, assessments will be made on Mondays and Fridays each week for how the surface conditions can potentially be improved or cleaned up from heavy weekend use. Windy conditions can often lead to follow-up maintenance operations, primarily in parking areas but at times on ski trails. While the public believes that trails can be groomed after the first couple snow events, often the best approach is to pack the snow in place (on the trail surface) to build a base that will increase quality trail conditions into the season. Typically, cross country ski trails are maintained from late December/early January through the first weekend in March.

Like the ski trails, when 2"+ of snow is received, grooming operations will be considered for the sledding hill at Lake Waconia Regional Park. This operation generally is attempting to pack the new snow on the "runs" to provide a safe condition. This facility is inspected weekly, and like most season sees intermittent closer due to unsafe conditions of ice forming on the runs. This often occurs due to the combination of the wind and sun's impact to the exposed slopes. As the construction process continues for the Waterfront Service Center, staff are preparing alternative access to/from the sledding hill for this season. Materials of signage and mapping will be developed and installed on site for proper user communication. Typically, the sledding hill is open for use the months of January and February, with days between where a closed status is implemented due to safety concerns.

Recommendation: This is an informational item; a recommendation is not requested at this time.