

HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM

Tatanka Oyate Makoce – “Land of the Buffalo People”

Regional Park Master Plan OPEN HOUSE

Rescheduled to February 6, 2019

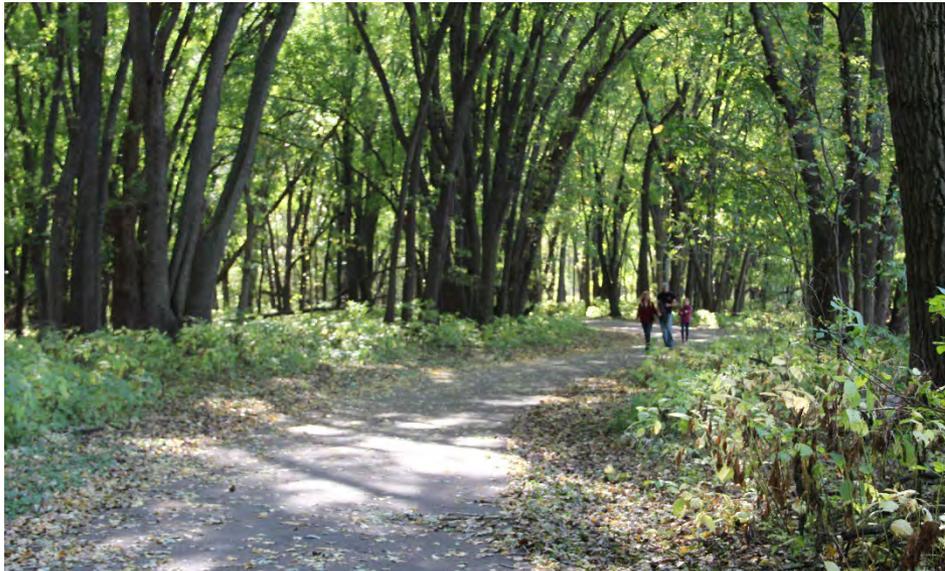
**St. Paul Parks & Recreation,
Design & Construction Division**

*Yahipi Kin Waste
It's good you are here*

Agenda

- **Welcome & Acknowledgements**
- **Project review**
 - Meeting 1 & 2 Review
 - Community Engagement Overview
 - Updated Map
 - Priorities
- **Next steps**
- **Questions?**

Don't forget to vote on a construction project and fill out a comment card!



PROJECT TEAM

City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Staff

Design & Construction (Landscape Architects):

Anne Gardner
Liz Hixson
Ellen Stewart

National Park Service:

Holly Larson, RTCA
Barett Steenrod, RTCA

Natural Resources:

Adam Robbins
Maggie Barnick
Emily Dunlap

Operations:

Karin Misiewicz
Joe Buzicky
Tom Hagel

Great River Greening:

Todd Rexine

Project Summary

Purpose of the Plan

- ensure that Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm park is meeting the local and regional needs
- adoption of the master plan with the Metropolitan Council
- provides a framework for future improvements and funding requests
- sustain public use and enjoyment of the park

Guiding Principles

Respect the sacredness of his region. Acknowledge and celebrate the indigenous history of this location on the Mississippi River near the site of the Bdote (confluence) the birth of the Dakota nation

Preserve and sustain the ecological functions of these parks by managing and enhancing the critical habitat area

Upgrade park facilities for public use (bathrooms, signage, trails, lighting), improve safety features, and add new recreational opportunities to encourage healthy active lifestyle for all ages in balance with the “natural” character of the park.

Recommend and enhance pedestrian and multi-modal connections to draw regional and local users to the park space

Support partnerships with organizations who assist in bringing new user groups to the park and river and assist in building the ecological resilience of park adapting to a changing climate



Community Advisory Committee- THANK YOU!

- Shawn Sheely- Trails Advocate
- Emily Jarrett Hughes - Nibi Water Walks
- Ed Heibel- Resident and NPS volunteer
- Whitney Clark - Friends of The Mississippi River
- Sandra MacGuire – hiking walking
- Barb Lehn – lives on the river – resident
- Edric Lysne- Ice Climber and outdoor recreation enthusiast
- Thabiso Rowan - Disability Hub MN
- Shirley Erstad- Friends of Ramsey County Parks and Trails
- Kristine Gill –Highland District Council
- Mike Lindsay- Highland District Council Board Vice President
- Jeff Burton – resident, lives close to the park
- Emily Northey - Fort Road Federation
- Becky Rice – Highland resident
- Devin Olson - Minneapolis resident, Mountain bike rider
- Paige DeWees – resident, lives above Crosby Farm Park
- Tyler Teggatz – Highland District Council
- Steve Pope - neighbor, frequent parks visitor and hiker
- Joe Landsberger – resident & historian
- Adam Brunner – resident and avid fishermen
- JP Lindrud - Watergate Marina, Allied Management Co
- Hank Carlson, YMCA
- Gary Bruggeman, resident
- Becky Amidon, resident
- Renee Champion, Sleepy Hollow Montessori



Meeting #1 Review – October 16, 2018

- Introduction of the Master plan and project process
- Review of previous planning efforts – Great River Passage
- Regional park user groups and regional data (382,600 visitors per year)
- Discussion of the Big Idea:

Enhance access and safety to and through the urban floodplain “wilderness” while respecting the cultural heritage and natural resources of this place

- Priorities identified in the meeting:
 - improve signage and safety
 - keep the sense of wild, nature preserve
 - improve trails end to end
 - upgrade facilities for ADA access
 - habitat restoration/preserve natural areas
 - signs to signify cultural heritage
offer more programs (add winter)
 - support River (Environmental) Learning Center
 - resilience of nature to floods
 - maintain quiet spaces
 - larger / better pavilion for groups
 - potable/drinking water fountain

For meeting presentations and notes, visit the project website:
<https://www.stpaul.gov/hidden-falls-crosby-farm-master>

Meeting #2 Review- November 27, 2018

- Summary of Survey Results
- Summary of Natural Resources Inventory by Natural Resources Staff
- Review of Project priorities lists developed from Great River Passage and revised by focus group discussions
- Small group discussion on priorities (reflected in current Priorities Boards 1 & 2)
- Big Idea revised to a Vision Statement:
 - *“At the place where the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers join together, Hidden Falls/Crosby Farm Regional Park brings people and nature together. The master plan honors the cultural significance of this area to the Dakota people, increases access to the parks in a way that strengthens wellness of people, plants, animals, and water and will maintain this place of healing and restoration for people and ecology, including those of the City of Saint Paul and the broader Metropolitan region.”*

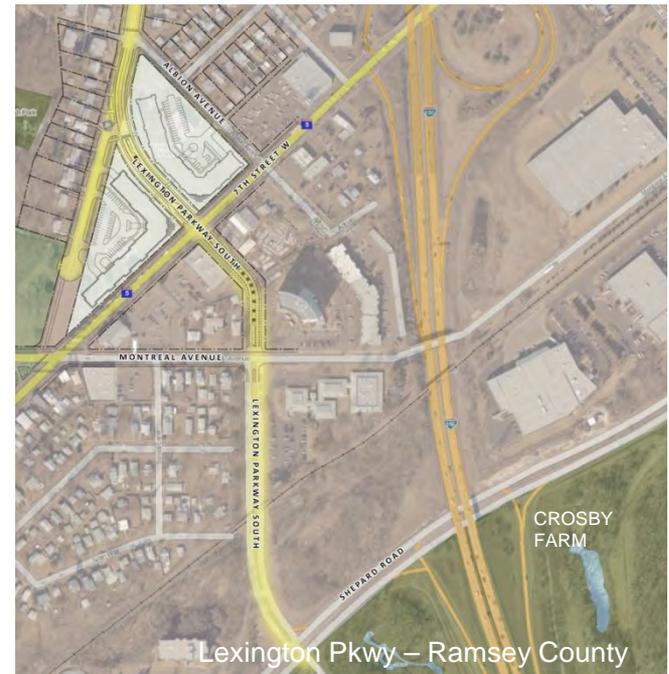
Community Engagement Overview

- Online survey - 940 responders
- National Public Lands Day Pop-up Meeting 133 responders, 200 popsicles
- 6 community meetings and parks ambassador gatherings attended
- 4 focus groups (water, trails, gov. / non-profit, camps)
- 4 internal city meetings (rec centers, operations & maintenance, and Great River Passage division)
- Participation in water ceremonies with Nibi Walk and discussion
- WCCO and Fraser School Pulling Together event brings thousands of people to Hidden Falls
- This process is building on the momentum of Great River Passage, which was in 2012 and had 28 public meetings and 5 focus groups
- The City's Great River Passage Initiative continues to hold events and advocate for projects identified in the plan



Related Projects

- Ford Redevelopment
 - <https://www.ryancompanies.com/news/ryan-presents-vision-development-ford-site>
 - <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/planning/ford-site-21st-century-community>
- River Learning Center
 - <https://greatriverpassage.org/projects/environmental-learning-center/>
- Lexington Parkway Realignment
 - <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transit/future-road-construction-projects/lexington-parkway-west-7th-street-reconfiguration>
- Pedestrian Plan
 - <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation/walking-saint-paul>
- Tribal Engagement and Cultural Resources Strategy at Indian Mounds Regional Park
 - <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/design-construction/current-projects/indian-mounds-regional-park>



Natural Resources Inventory

INVENTORY, MAPPING, AND MAINTENANCE:

- Identify and protect habitat for rare and endangered species
- Importance of the Mississippi Flyway to bird species
- Address stormwater, bluff erosion, and flooding concerns – and recognize the dynamic floodplain and river bluff ecology
- Strategies for maintenance – address invasive species, shelterwood planting, cottonwood regeneration, targeting Emerald Ash Borer
- Volunteer coordination – 248 people volunteered in both parks in 2018 (as recorded by St. Paul Parks & Recreation Natural Resources)



Great River Greening, 2018

Habitat Ranking

- B: Good- Areas of native plant communities with moderate disturbance but nearly intact species diversity
- C: Fair- Areas of native plant communities with high past disturbance or invasion of exotic species
- D: Poor- Not an example of a native plant community or dominated by exotic/invasive species
- Not ranked: Due to a lack of recent data
- NA: Due to sparse vegetation

St. Paul Natural Resources, 2019

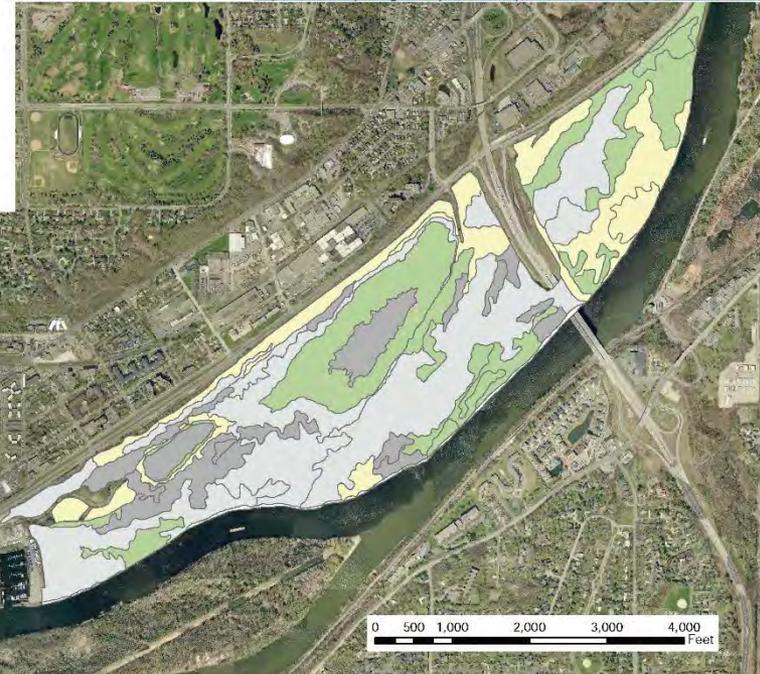
This is a composite of two maps produced for the master plan. At left is a map created by Great River Greening that assess the habitat quality at Hidden Falls. We stitched in a map at right created by St. Paul Natural Resources showing the same data for Crosby Farm.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Saint Paul's Environmental Services Unit protects, enhances, and provides access to the City's natural areas. Services include the monitoring and research of natural resources in parks, the restoration and management of vital and unique ecosystems, and the provisions

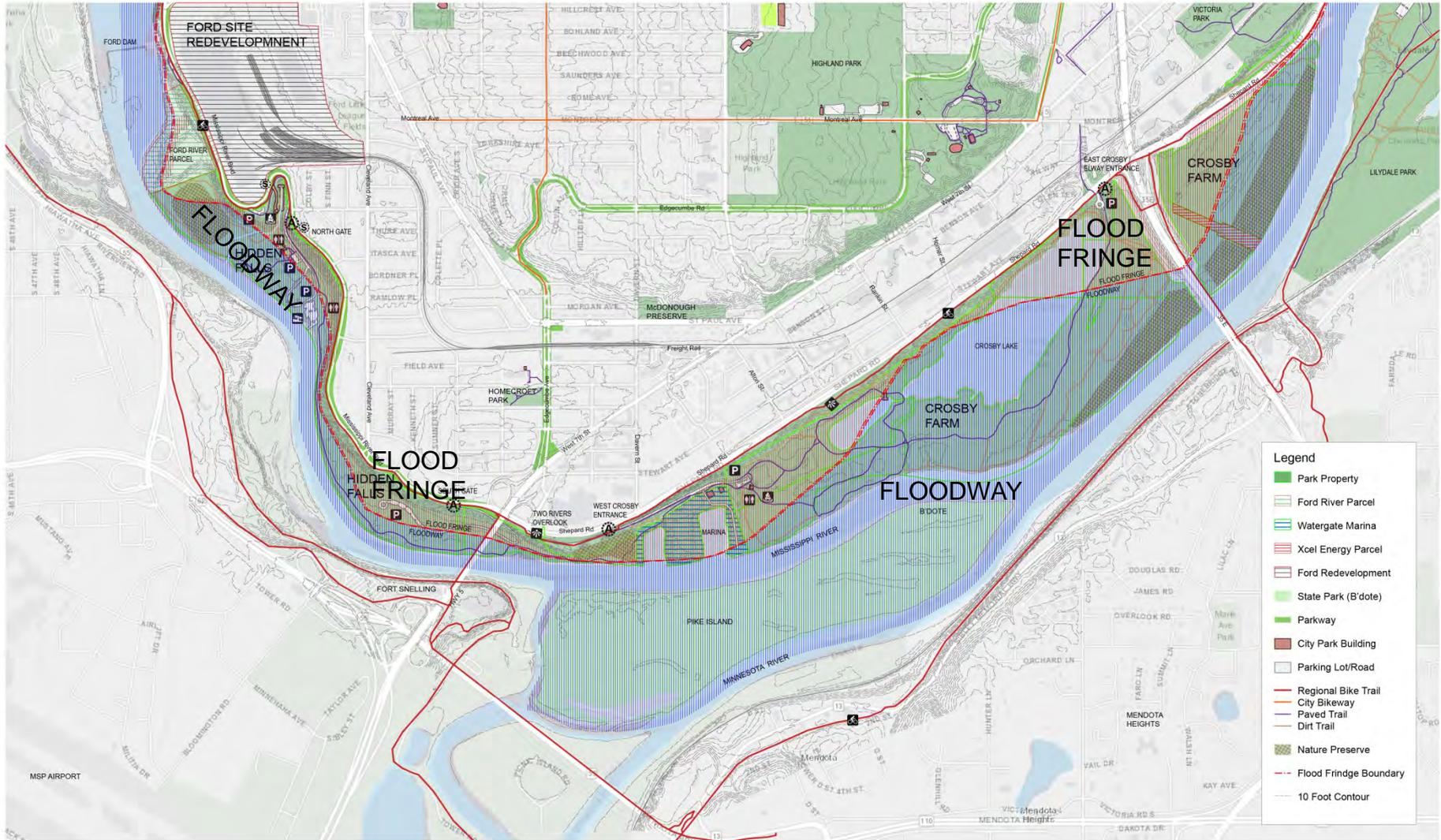
of interpretation and education. The Unit also works with citizens, nonprofits, and governmental agencies to coordinate efforts that enhance the natural environment of Saint Paul.

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/natural-resources>

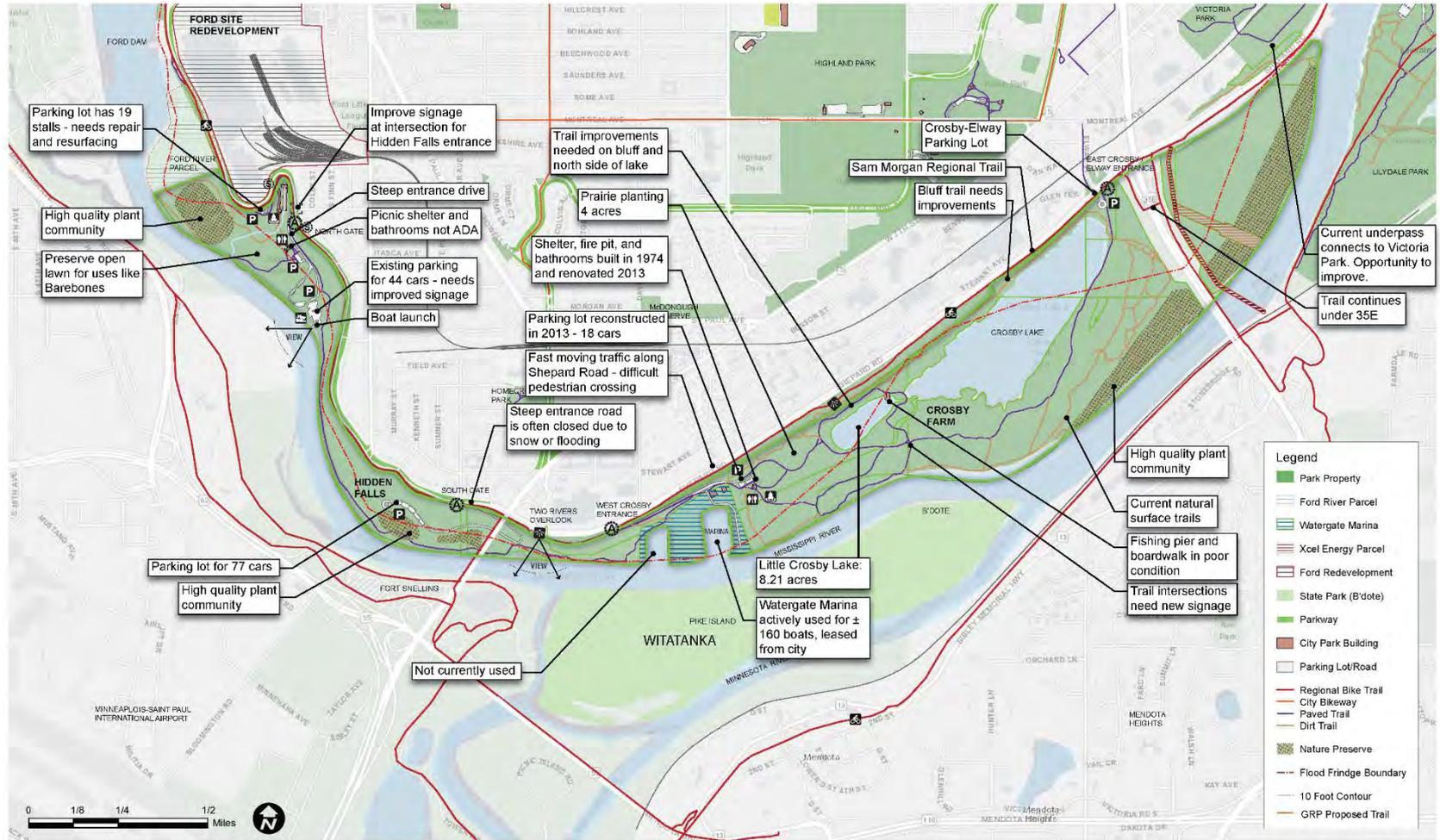


- Endangered species (Threatened: Paddlefish, Mucket, and Purple Wartyback)
- Importance of the Mississippi Flyway to bird species
- Stormwater, bluff erosion, and flooding concerns – the dynamic floodplain and river bluff ecology
- Strategies for maintenance – shelterwood planting, cottonwood regeneration, targeting Emerald Ash Borer
- 248 people volunteered in both parks in 2018 (recorded by St. Paul Parks & Recreation Natural Resources)

Updated Map – Existing Conditions

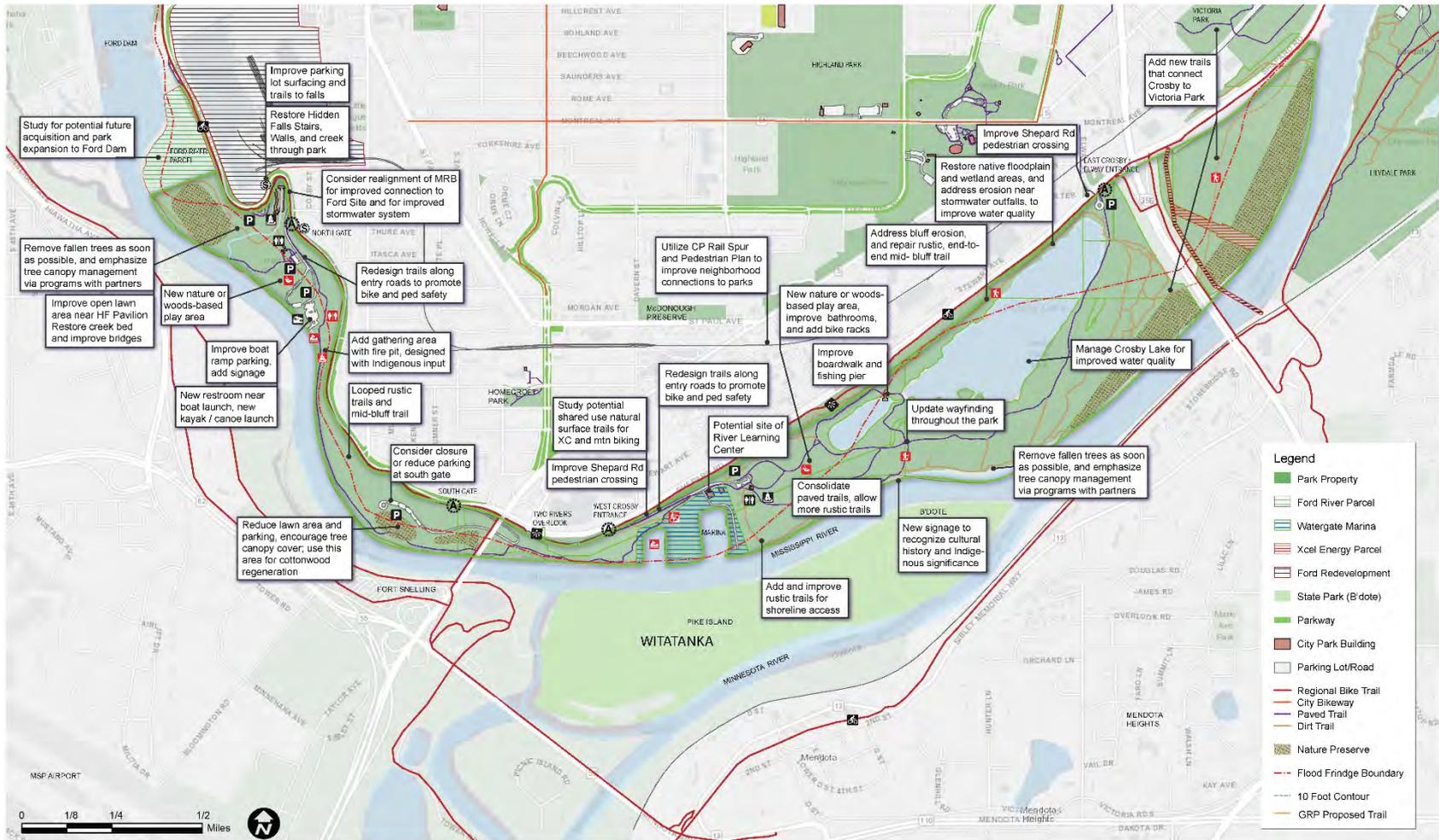


Updated Map – Existing Conditions



EXISTING CONDITIONS / ANALYSIS

Updated Map – Recommendations



PROPOSED CONDITIONS / FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Priorities

Priority Key

High - near term, very important

Med-High - within 5 years (+/-), significant

Medium - within 10 years (+/-), desired but not top

Low-Med - within 10 to 15 years (+/-), preferred

Low - must be sequenced with other improvements

Management		HF = Hidden Falls, CF = Crosby Farm
Priority	Proposed Priorities	
High	Increase budget for invasive species management and coordination. [both]	
High	Continue to program cultural events such as "Barebones Halloween Puppet Show." [both] I	
High	Address the off-leash dog problem by signs and education. [both]	
Med-High	Add more bluff-top land to the park, from Ford Site by curve at Mississippi River Blvd. [HF]	
Med-High	Install video surveillance to reduce theft from parked vehicles and increase safety. [both]	
Med-High	Continue exploring development of a River Learning Center at Watergate location, with partners including the National Park Service, Indigenous communities, and nearby neighborhoods. [CF]	
Med-High	Acquire adjacent riverfront land and inholdings as they become available. [both]	
Med	Add programming on paddling and water safety. [both] A N	
Med	Additional surveillance via police and parks security patrol [both] F	
Low-Med	Improve transit access by working with adjacent neighborhoods and Metro Transit. [both]	

Construction: Roads and Trails

HF = Hidden Falls, CF = Crosby Farm

Priority	Proposed Priorities
High	Add looped rustic nature trails, including the mid-bluff trail, that provide a varied experience and connect to create 5 mile loops. [both] O
High	Add rustic trails with access to shoreline (shorter/spur trails). [both] B
High	Assess the trail network, improve accessibility throughout, and provide clear access and signage to trail heads. [both]
High	Add new park trails from Watergate to Lower Crosby Farm (east side), connect to new parking areas and to Victoria Park. [CF]
High	Improve and extend park trails at Hidden Falls, improve trail from pavilion to falls area. [HF]
High	Redesign bike and pedestrian trails along entry roads. [both]
High	Improve Shepard Rd. crossings. [CF]
High	Improve all pedestrian access points, giving consideration to neighborhood access, and connections from Victoria Park and redeveloped Ford Site / WPA era (Works Progress Administration) staircase
Medium	Improve safety and sight lines at Mississippi River Boulevard entrances. [both]
Medium	Improve boardwalk and fishing pier. [CF]
Low	Improve parking areas at Hidden Falls (especially near pavilion, which is not emergency vehicle accessible). [HF]
Low	Reduce pavement, by removing some of the looped roadway at Hidden Falls at both entrances. [HF]

Construction: Recreation Improvements/Use Areas

HF = Hidden Falls, CF = Crosby Farm

Priority	Proposed Priorities
High	Add gathering area with fire pit designed to accommodate and recognize Native American heritage and culture. [HF] (Similar to Pilot Knob)
High	Develop linear mountain bike trails using International Mountain Bicycling Association best practices. [both] M
Med-High	Add Cross Country (XC) skiing trails to accommodate classic style skiing (use grooming equipment from park system or partner). [both] If feasible, design to be multi-use natural surface trails. O
Med-High	Improve boat ramp and trailer parking. Separate casual shoreline users and cars without trailers from boat ramp area. [HF]
Med-High	Improve meadow near Hidden Falls Pavilion to allow passive recreation and picnic areas for large and small group events. [HF]
Med	Construct a new nature-based or woody play area (non-traditional). [HF] H
Med	Add (2) canoe/kayak landing areas (separate from boat ramp, at Hidden Falls South Gate and Crosby). [both] * Could be combined when River Learning Center is built J
Low-Med	Develop rustic group tent camping area for permitted events, with a potable water source. [CF] * Only feasible when River Learning Center is built
Not ranked	Study feasibility of allowing and improving access for ice climbing

Construction: Landscape Improvements

HF = Hidden Falls, CF = Crosby Farm

Priority	Proposed Priorities
High	Reduce lawn area, encourage development of a continuous tree canopy, and remove some parking along road at Hidden Falls South Entry. Use this as an area for Cottonwood regeneration. [HF]
Med-high	Remove fallen trees from trails as soon as possible, and emphasize tree canopy management via programs with partners. [both] O
Med-high	Address bluff erosion at bluff top, following Natural Resources Inventory guidelines (stable materials for trails that will diffuse water flow, resist compaction and disintegration, and redirect water away from trails). Re-vegetate slopes where feasible. [both]
Med	Restore native floodplain and wetland areas, and address erosion near stormwater outfalls, to improve water quality. [both] O
Med	Selectively manage understory of invasive vegetation species in passive activity areas. [both]
Low	Restore Hidden Falls Creek to incorporate water quality treatment and habitat enhancement. Plan for this restoration to be timed with Ford Redevelopment. [HF]

Construction: Structures and Related Improvements

HF = Hidden Falls, CF = Crosby Farm

Priority	Proposed Priorities
High	Add interpretive signage for boat safety, natural history, and cultural history of Native American presence. [both] K
High	Improve signage at boat ramp parking lot, provide directions to nearby launches, designate area for boat trailer parking only. [HF]
High	Implement signage and wayfinding systems in Crosby Farm and Hidden Falls (develop short walking tour with clear and easy to follow signs). [both]
High	Add signage/kiosks to mark entry point to parks (West Crosby Entrance, and along Mississippi River Blvd., Hidden Falls North and South Entrances). [both]
Medium	Improve Hidden Falls pavilion and make restrooms accessible. [HF]
Low-Med	Construct two small boat storage areas at Hidden Falls Park. [HF]
Low	Build a weather shelter for summer groups. [HF] * Could be eliminated from priorities if River Learning Center built
Low	Year-round, minimal maintenance bathroom (composting if floodplain rules allow). [both]

Activity: vote on a construction project

The City of Saint Paul has requested \$500,000 for “Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Master Plan Implementation” from Parks and Legacy funds (\$100,000 in 2019 and \$400,000 in 2020)

What should the City do with the first \$500,000?

- Add cultural signage and develop wayfinding signage plan
- Trail system: improve rustic trails at bluff and shoreline
- Trail system: redesign bike and pedestrian connections at entry roads
- Add gathering space for indigenous culture events and recognition
- Reduce lawn area and redesign parking area at Hidden Falls north lot

Wrap Up / Next Steps

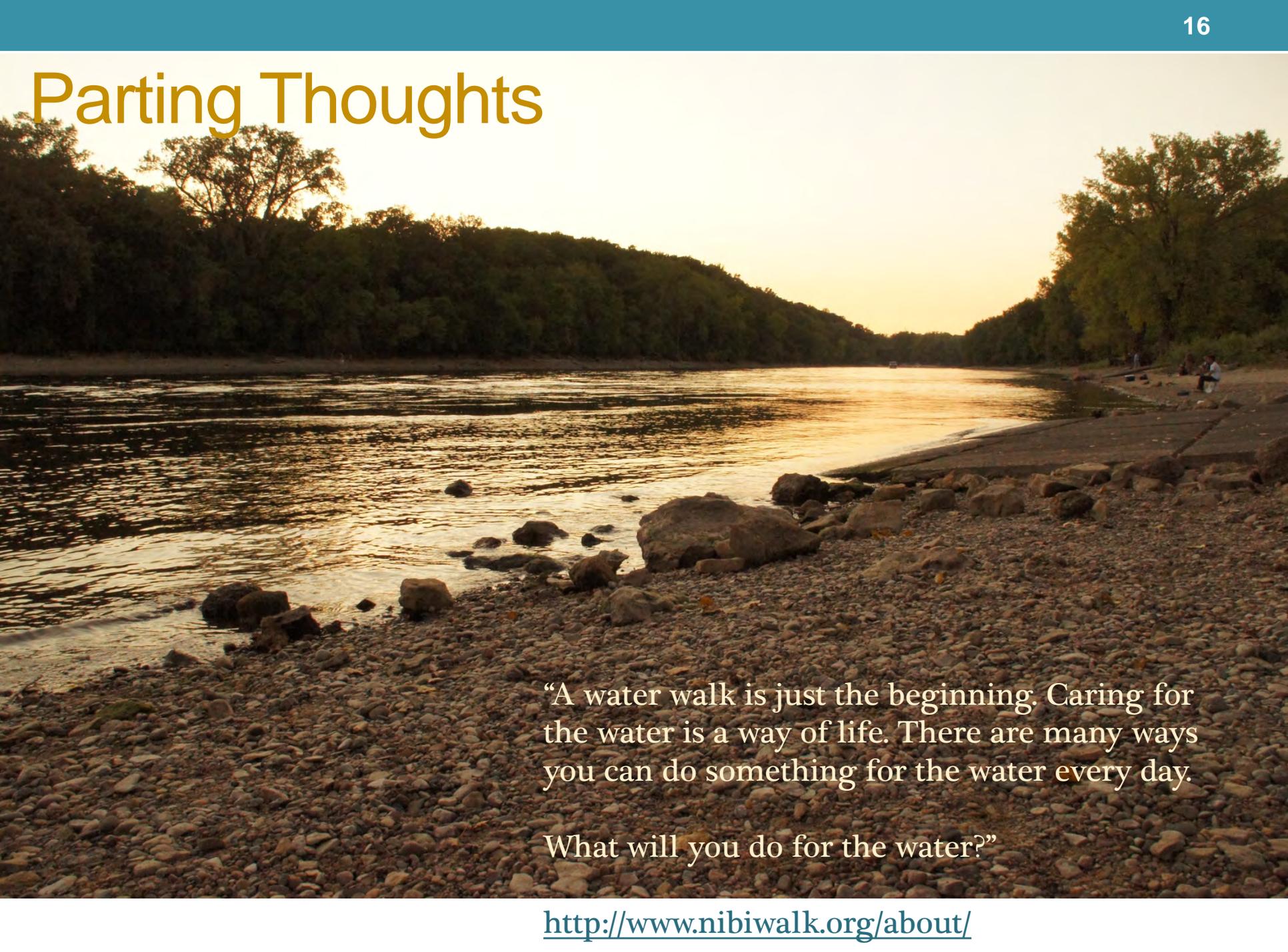
- Open House January 2019 to review the draft report
- Plans Available February 7 online
- Draft report available Feb 23 - March 22 for public comment
- Submit report to Parks Commission in early March
- Submit report to City Council in mid-March
- Submit report to Metro Council in early April 2019
- Complete report approved June 2019

Please discuss this project with your representative groups and email us with responses or comments

THANK YOU!

- For up to date information, visit the project website:
<https://www.stpaul.gov/hidden-falls-crosby-farm-master>

Parting Thoughts



“A water walk is just the beginning. Caring for the water is a way of life. There are many ways you can do something for the water every day.

What will you do for the water?”

<http://www.nibiwalk.org/about/>