



VISION:

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 St. Paul and the broader Metropolitan region.

PARK OVERVIEW: Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm Regional Park is considered one regional park despite having two names and being identified locally as two separate parks. Hidden Falls is 131.36 acres and Crosby Farm is 480.96 acres (83.63 acres are water). Users enjoy the park for quiet gatherings, hiking, running, walking, biking, bird watching, and boat access to the Mississippi River.

Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm Regional Park

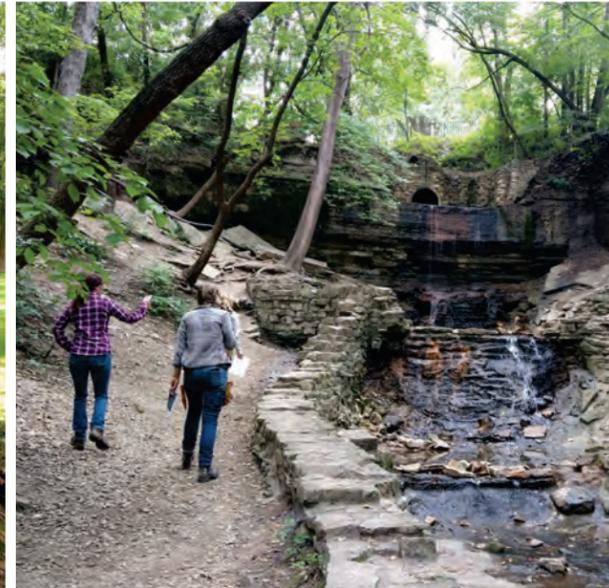
- is a part of the 17 miles of linear river shoreline planned in the Great River Passage plan (2012) and comprises 5 miles of contiguous regional park land
- sits within the Bdote, a culturally and historically significant site of the Dakota Oyate (Nation)
- is within a significant ecological area along the Mississippi River for bird migration
- provide access to a floodplain forest at the edge of the Mississippi where people can come to recreate and experience nature within the urban context.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN:

The previous Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm Park master plan was created in 1970 prior to the requirement for Metropolitan Council adoption of Regional Park master plans. The 2019 plan will officially register the master plan and ensure that Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm park is meeting the mission and vision of the current population and regional needs. The plan provides a framework for future improvements and funding requests for short term and long range projects to sustain public use and enjoyment of the park.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

- July to November 2018 - Public engagement and design advisory committee meetings
- February 2019 - Public open house
- March 2019 - Submit report and plan to St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission & City Council
- February to March 22, 2019 - Public review and comment on draft report
- March-April 2019 - Submit report and plan to the Metropolitan Council staff and committees
- June 2019 - Final master plan adopted by Metropolitan Council



GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

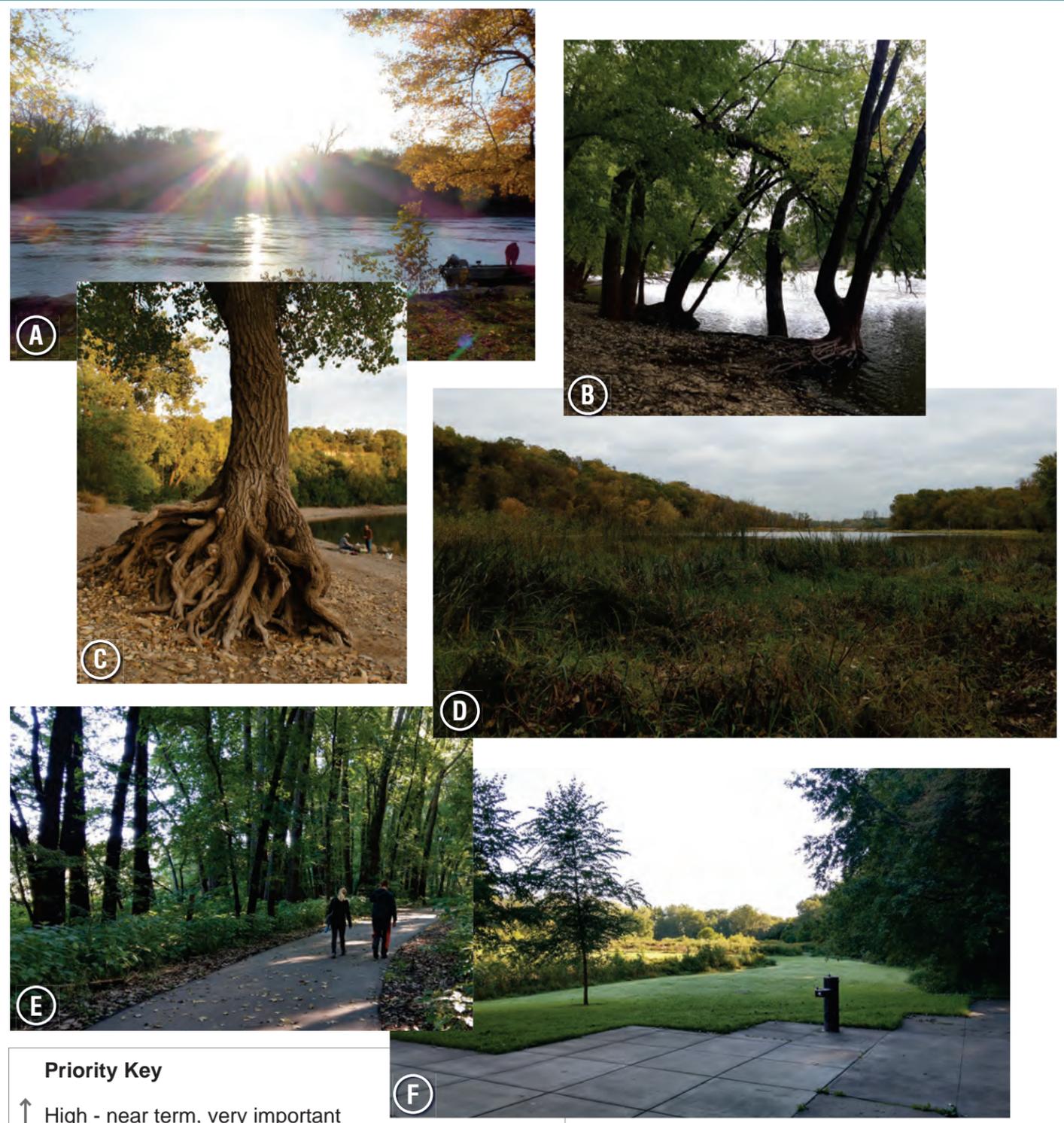
1. Respect the sacredness of this region. Acknowledge and celebrate the indigenous history of this location on the Mississippi River near the site of the Bdote (confluence) the birth of the Dakota nation
2. Preserve and sustain the ecological functions of these parks by managing and enhancing the critical habitat area
3. 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.
4. Recommend and enhance pedestrian and multi-modal connections to draw regional and local users to the park space
5. 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

Please share your feedback by email, writing a comment card, or talk to us before you leave tonight. We value your input.

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: 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] D	
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]	



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 - want accomplished but recognize funding need and/or must be sequenced with other improvements

PROJECT PRIORITIES (1 OF 2)

REVIEWED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE & FOCUS GROUPS

PROJECT PRIORITIES

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] Q
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]

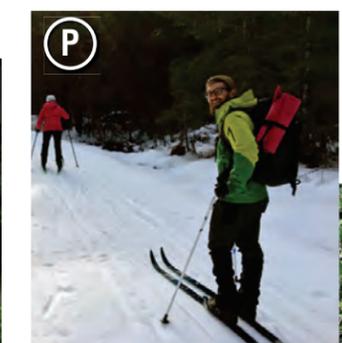
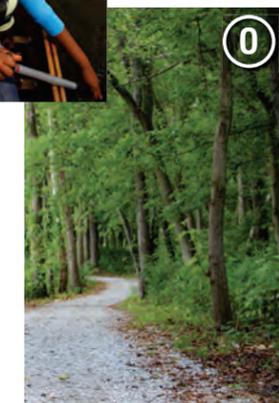
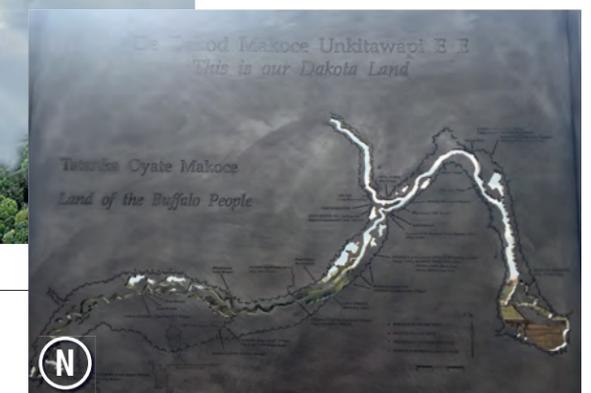
Construction: Structures and Related Improvements

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 N
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]

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PROJECT PRIORITIES (2 OF 2)

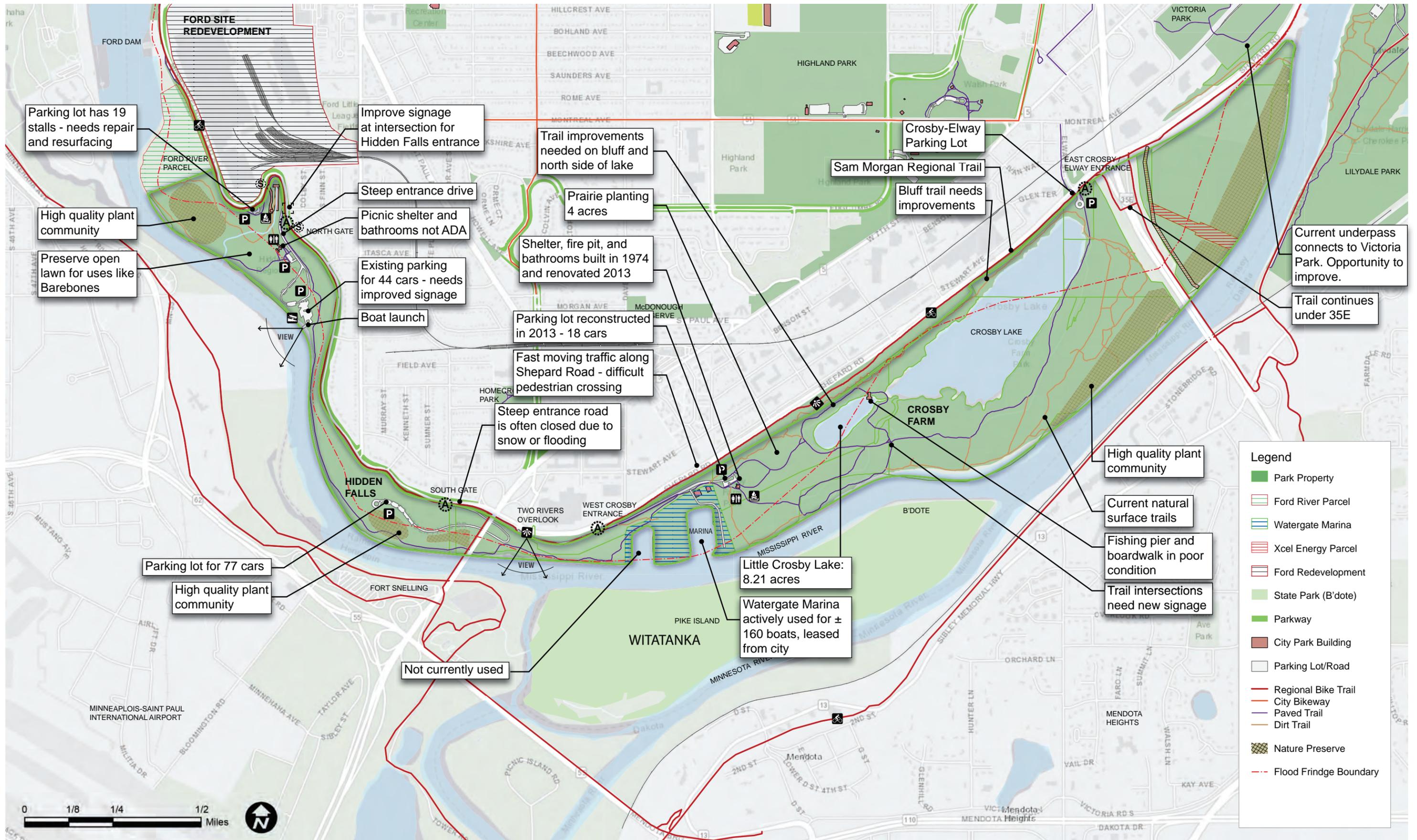
February 6, 2019 -- 3



TRAILS AND PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS

February 6, 2019 -- 4

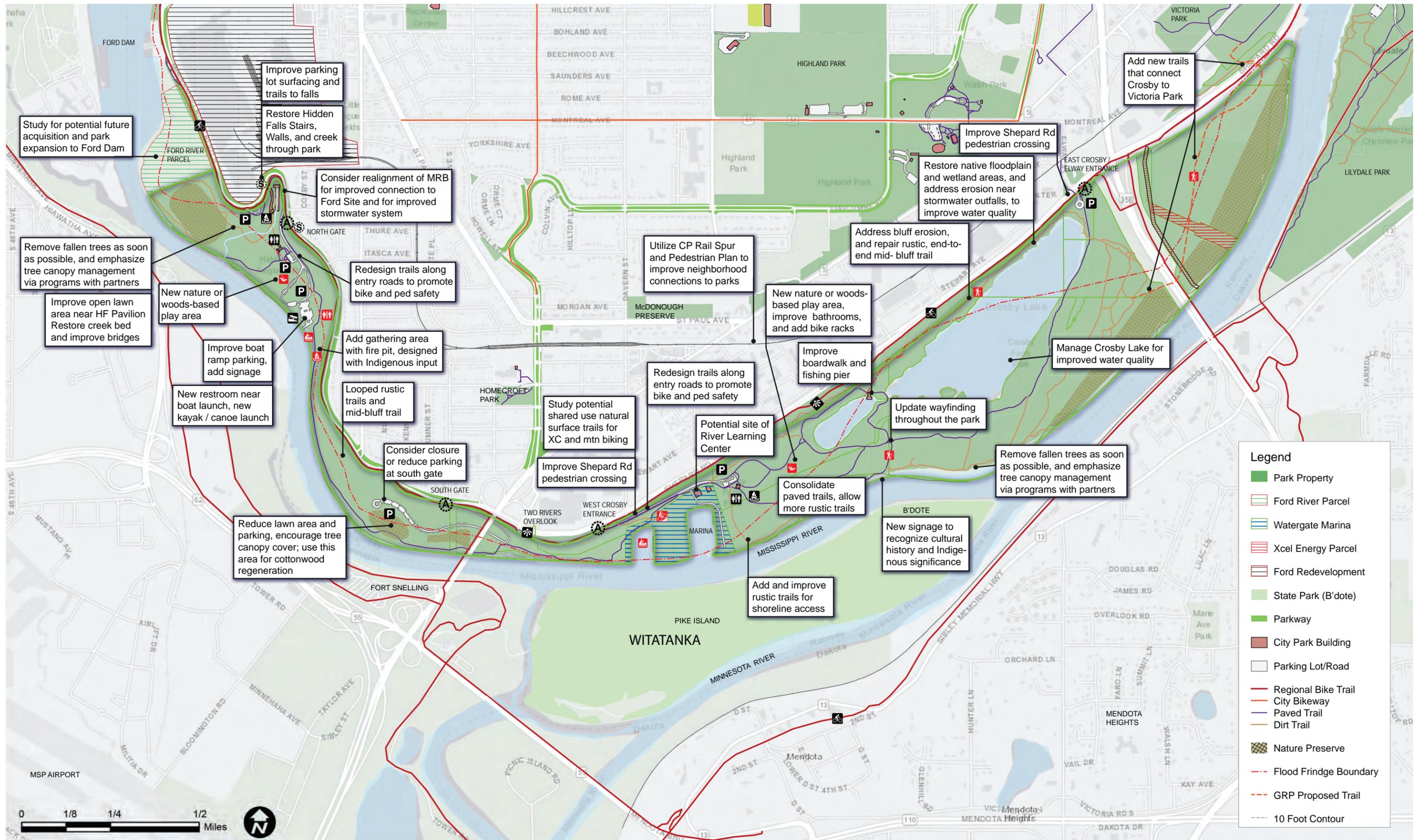
Master Plan for HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM REGIONAL PARK



EXISTING CONDITIONS / ANALYSIS

February 6, 2019 -- 5

Master Plan for HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM REGIONAL PARK



PROPOSED CONDITIONS / FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

February 6, 2019 -- 6

Master Plan for HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM REGIONAL PARK

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)



Goat grazing buckthorn



Regenerate cottonwoods



Hidden Falls Creek channel



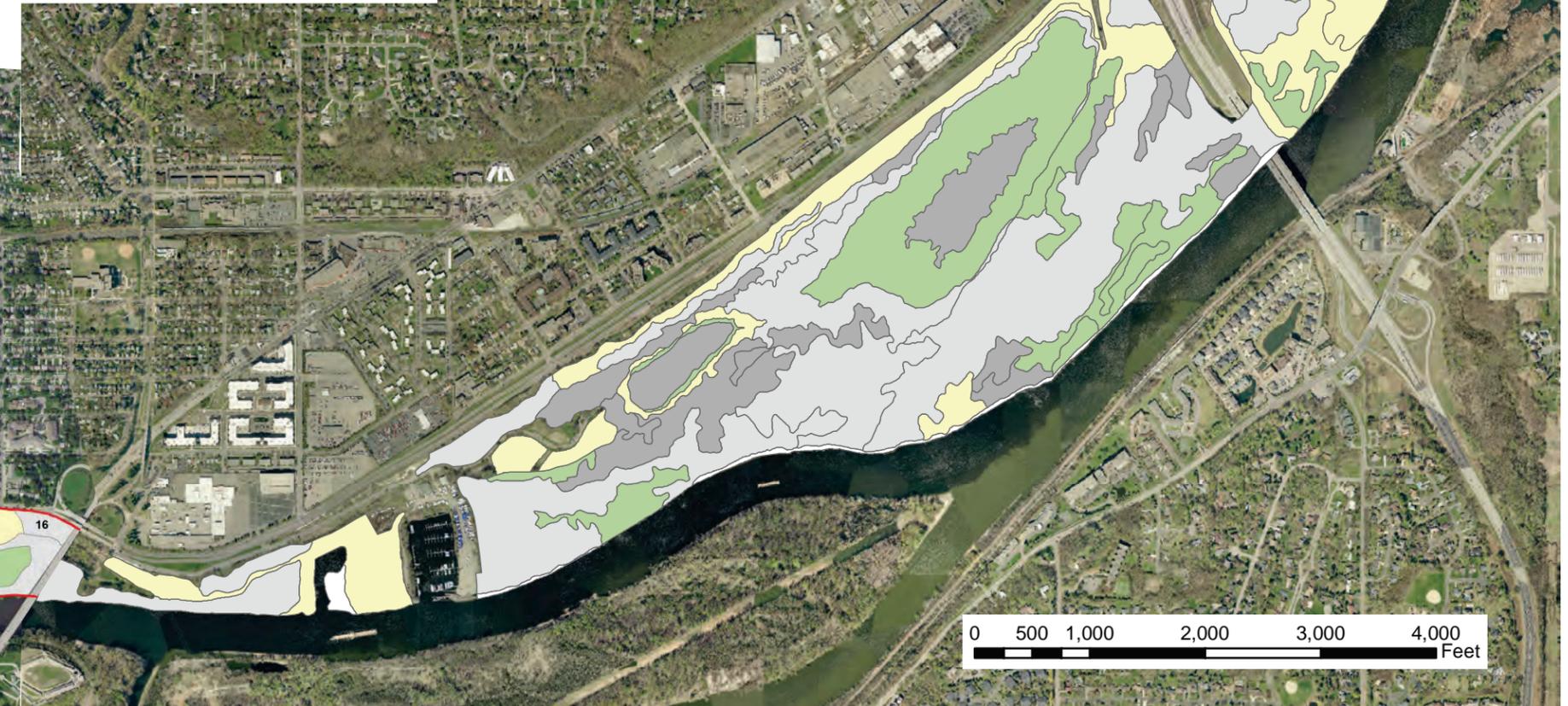
Shoreline plant establishment



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.



Shelterwood planting



Tree watering ring trial



Establishing new trees - at Hidden Falls



Establishing new trees - at Crosby



Marked Ash tree in Crosby

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>

1874 A. T. ANDREAS - MAP OF RAMSEY COUNTY

Park land not yet set aside. Land near today's Hidden Falls/Crosby Farm Regional Parks is mostly undeveloped.

http://geo.lib.umn.edu/twin_cities_maps/reference/map01428b.jpg

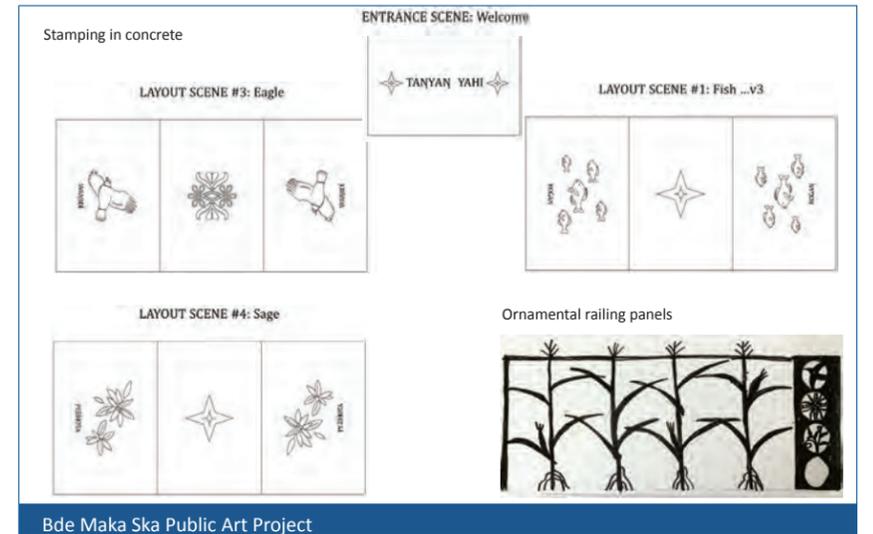
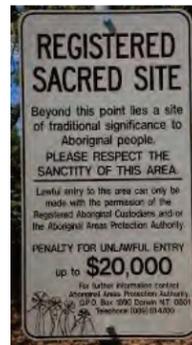


ACKNOWLEDGE THE PAST

TWO RIVERS OVERLOOK



EXAMPLES OF DESIGNATED SACRED AREA SIGNS



CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION

Master Plan for HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM REGIONAL PARK

August 2017 report for Bde Maka Ska - https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/bde_maka_skamahpiya_wicasta_public_art_site_improvements/

February 6, 2019 -- 8

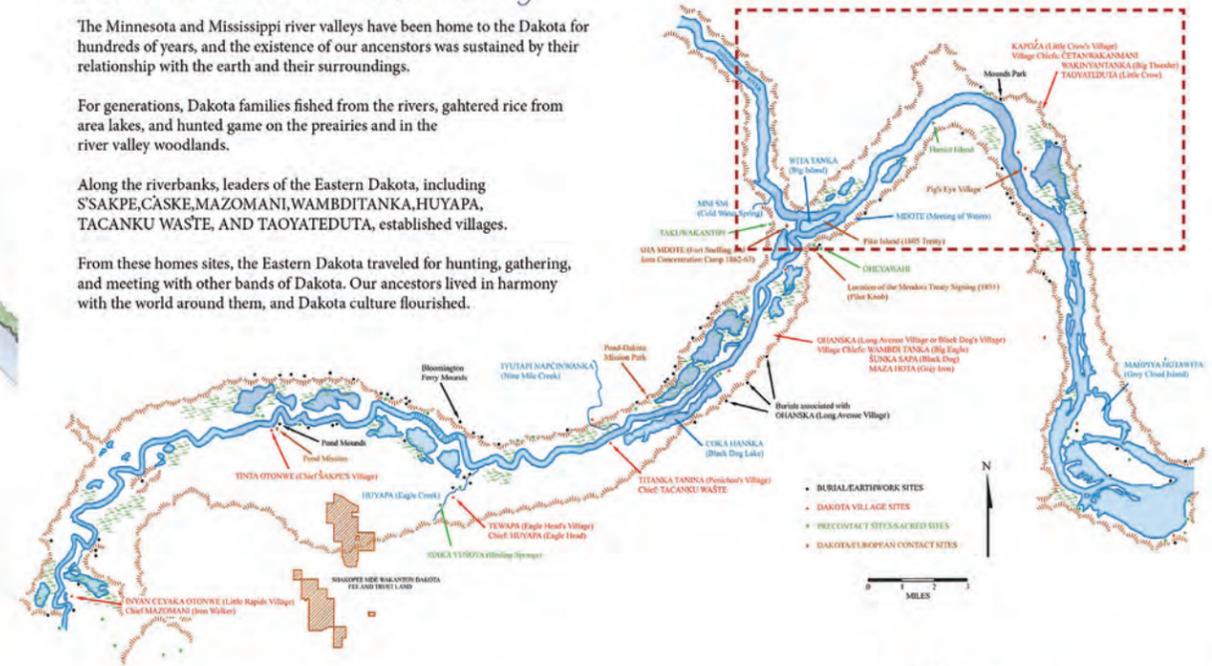
Dakota Presence in the River Valley

The Minnesota and Mississippi river valleys have been home to the Dakota for hundreds of years, and the existence of our ancestors was sustained by their relationship with the earth and their surroundings.

For generations, Dakota families fished from the rivers, gathered rice from area lakes, and hunted game on the prairies and in the river valley woodlands.

Along the riverbanks, leaders of the Eastern Dakota, including S'SAKPE, C'ASKE, MAZOMANI, WAMBIDITANKA, HUYAPA, TACANKU WAŠTE, AND TAOYATEDUTA, established villages.

From these homes sites, the Eastern Dakota traveled for hunting, gathering, and meeting with other bands of Dakota. Our ancestors lived in harmony with the world around them, and Dakota culture flourished.



For more information about the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community, please visit www.shakopeedakota.org or contact the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community, Cultural Resources Department, 2330 Sioux Trail NW, Prior Lake, MN 55372, E-mail: culturalresources@shakopeedakota.org.

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 For additional classroom resources, please visit the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community web site: www.shakopeedakota.org.

THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL ACKNOWLEDGES THIS PLACE WE CALL SAINT PAUL IS CENTRAL TO THE INDEGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND HOMELAND TO THE DAKOTA PEOPLE



GREAT RIVER PASSAGE SAINT PAUL

ONGOING AND PROPOSED PROJECTS

- 1 - Hidden Falls - Crosby Farm Regional Parks **Master Plan**
- 2 - River Learning Center **Feasibility Study**
- 3 - River Balcony **Study**
- 4 - Swede Hollow Park **Master Plan**
- 5 - Lower Landing Park **Renovation Master Plan**
- 6 - Indian Mounds Regional Park **Trail Reconstruction**
- 7 - Indian Mounds Regional Park **Cultural Landscape Study and Interpretive Plan**
- 8 - Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary **Pedestrian Bridge (Connects Bruce Vento trail to the River)**
- 9 - Wakan Tipi Interpretive Center **Study and Planning**
- 10- East Side River District Initiative

Master Plan for HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM REGIONAL PARK

Winter Recreation



Picnic Shelter



Natural Play Area



Natural Surface Trails



PRECEDENT IMAGES

Master Plan for HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM REGIONAL PARK