

HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM

Tatanka Oyate Makoce – “Land of the Buffalo People”

Regional Park
Advisory Committee Meeting #2

November 27, 2018

St. Paul Parks & Recreation,
Design & Construction Division



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

Interpretive Panel at Two Rivers Overlook

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Presentation (40 minutes)
 - Meeting 1 Review
 - Community Engagement Overview
 - Community Survey Summary
 - Online Survey Results and Pop-Up Meeting
 - Permitting and Park Use Data
 - Natural Resources Inventory
 - Updated Map
- Help Us Prioritize (35 minutes)
- Report back (15 minutes)
- Wrap up, next steps



St. Paul Parks & Recreation Goals

Mission:

To build a city that works for all of us, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places and a vital environment.

Vision:

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will make Saint Paul a city that works for all of us by:

- Responding creatively to change.
- Innovating with every decision.
- Connecting the entire city.

“Our Promise To You”

The staff of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation promises to cheerfully and respectfully serve you. We will provide access to quality programs at clean and safe facilities with timely and effective service. We will listen to your suggestions and concerns and respond to the best of our abilities.

Meeting #1 Review

- Big Idea:
 - *Enhance access and safety to and through the urban floodplain “wilderness” while respecting the cultural heritage and natural resources of this place*
 - This comes from your input:
 - increase access and awareness while preserving the feeling of wild remote nature; resilient and dynamic floodplain and bluffs; preserve access to river; celebrate and acknowledge indigenous heritage; recognize recent history (celebrate 1930s stonework, early settlements)
- Priorities from last meeting:
 - improve trails
 - upgrade facilities for ADA access
 - habitat restoration/preserve natural areas
 - better signage including signs to signify cultural heritage
 - offer more programs (add winter)
 - support River (Environmental) Learning Center

Community Engagement Overview

- Online survey now closed, 940 responders
- National Public Lands Day Pop-up Meeting 133 responders, 200 popsicles
- 6 community meetings and parks ambassador gatherings attended
- 3 focus groups (water, trails, gov. / non-profit)
- 4 internal city meetings (rec centers, operations & maintenance, and Great River Passage division)
- Participation in water ceremony with Nibi Walk
- 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



Tribal Engagement and Recognition

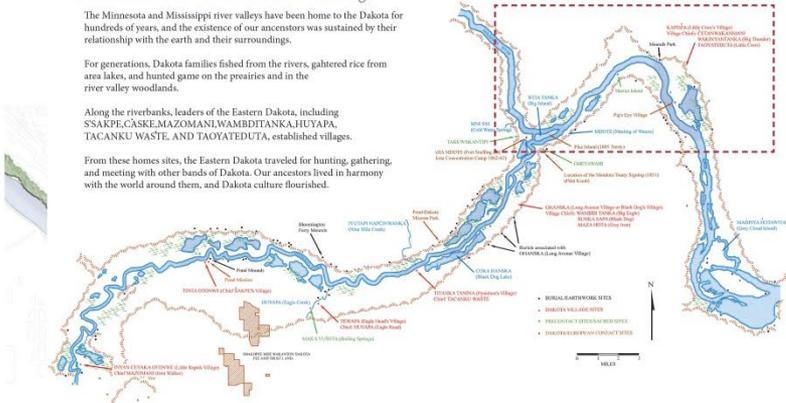
Dakota Presence in the River Valley

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 SSKAPE, CASKE, MAZOMANI, WAMBIDITANKA, HUYAPA, TACANKU WASTE, AND TAQYATEDUTA, established villages.

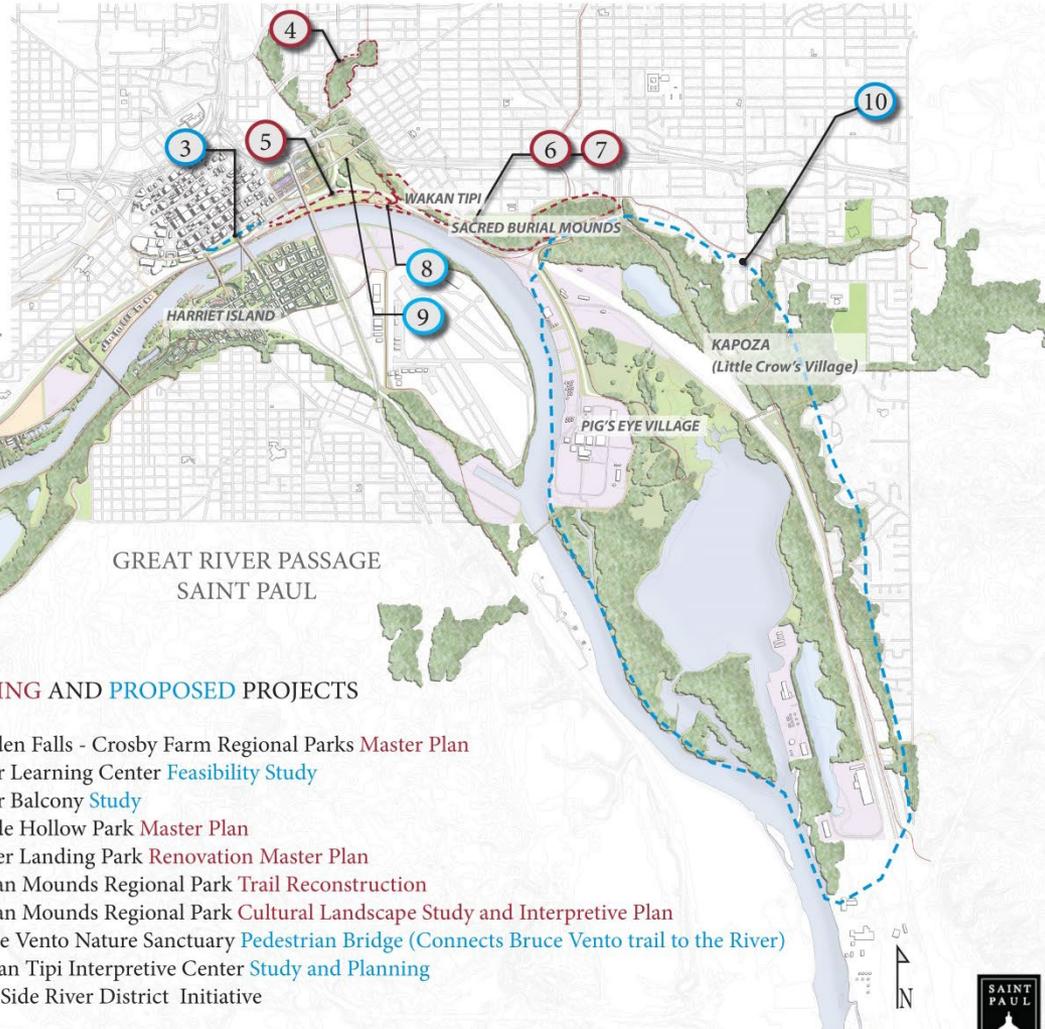
From these homesites, the Eastern Dakota traveled for hunting, gathering, and meeting with other bands of Dakota. Our ancestors lived in harmony with the world around them, and Dakota culture flourished.



For more information about the Dakota Midwestern Sites (DMS) Community project visit www.dakotamidwestern.org or contact the Dakota Midwestern Sites (DMS) Community, Cultural Resources Department, 220 West Third Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Or email info@dakotamidwestern.org



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

MNI SNI
(Cold Water Spring)

TAKUWAKAN

HABA MDOTE
(Fort Snelling and Dakota
Concentration Camp 1868-63)

WITATANKA
(Big Island)
Pike Island (1805 Treaty)

MDOTE / BDOTE
(Meeting of waters)



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>

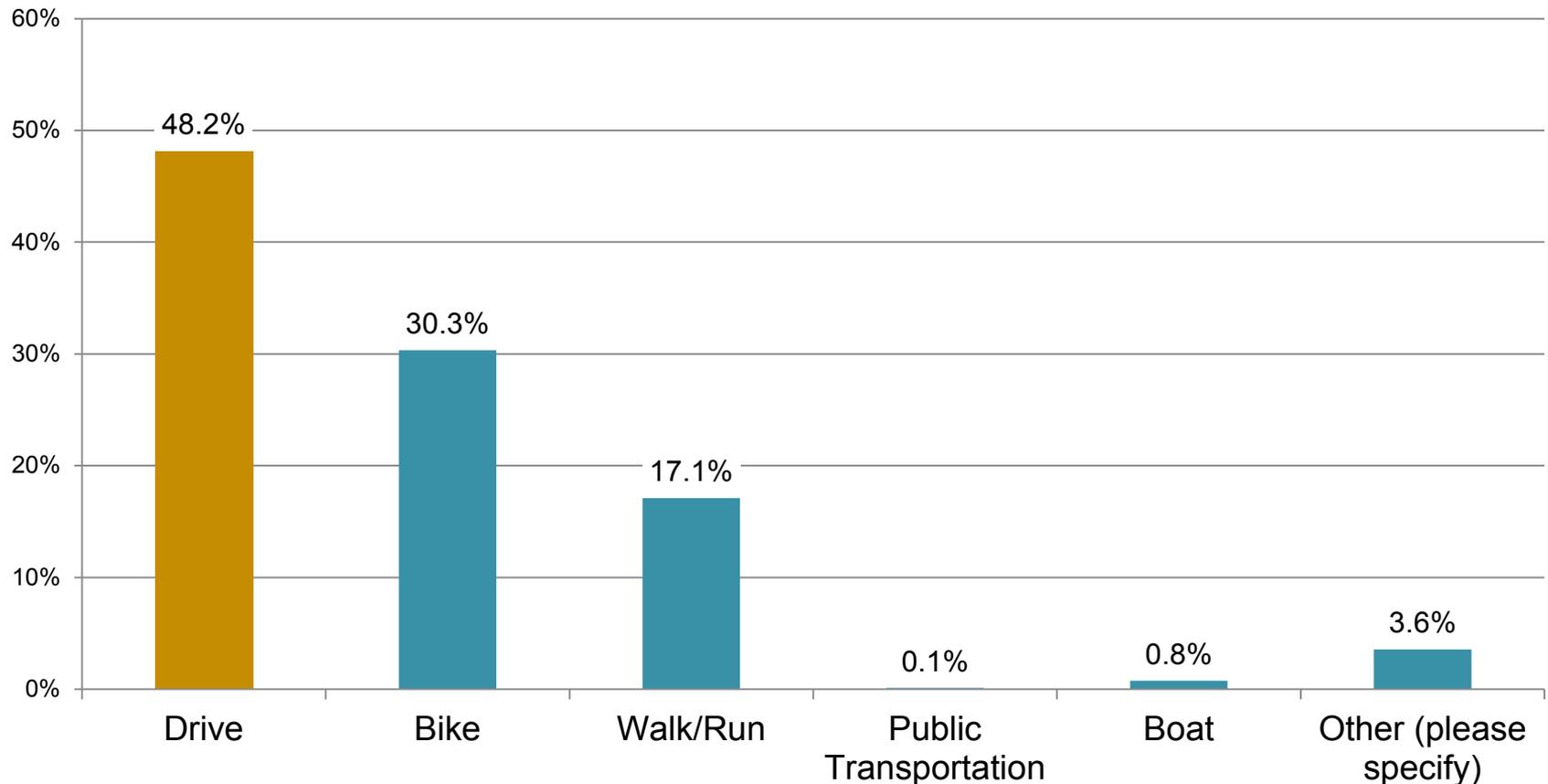


Survey Results

- 940 responses

Car dependent,
lack of transit access

Q2 How do you typically get to Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm Regional Park?



Survey Results

River, quiet, nature, trails

Q3 What do you like best about Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm Regional Park?

Place Water Access Ice Climbing Boat Launch Wildlife Big
 Space Undeveloped Paths Wilderness Quiet Lake
 Trails Close to Home River Scenery Nature
 Hiking Feels Hidden Falls Trees Fishing Location Scenic
 Proximity Peaceful

Survey Results

River, nature, trails, quiet

Q3 What do you like best about Hidden Falls / Crosby Farm Regional Park?

Proximity of the park, closeness of the park, nature in the city are dominant themes that emerge

Using a Google Text Cloud analysis, the primary emotion generated from the comments is JOY.

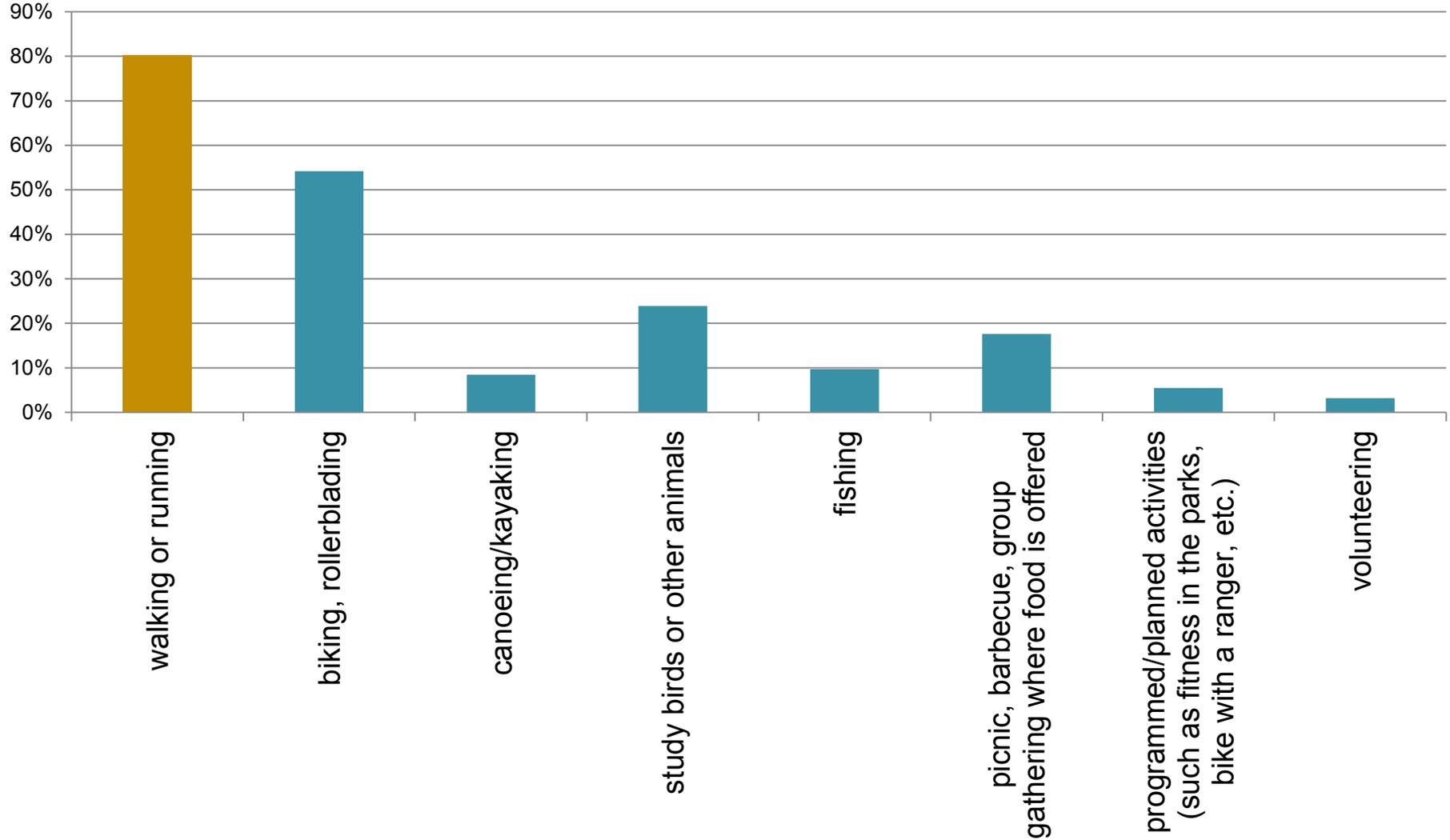
MOST POPULAR WORD	PERCENT USED
1. river	241 (3.2%)
2. Nature / natural	109 (2.7%)
3. trails	192 (2.6%)
4. city	145 (2%)
5. natural	92 (1.2%)
6. quiet	85 (1.1%)
7. like	81 (1.1%)
8. access	72 (1%)
9. close	65 (0.9%)
	* 903 total



Survey Results

Walking, running, biking –
not many fishing or boaters

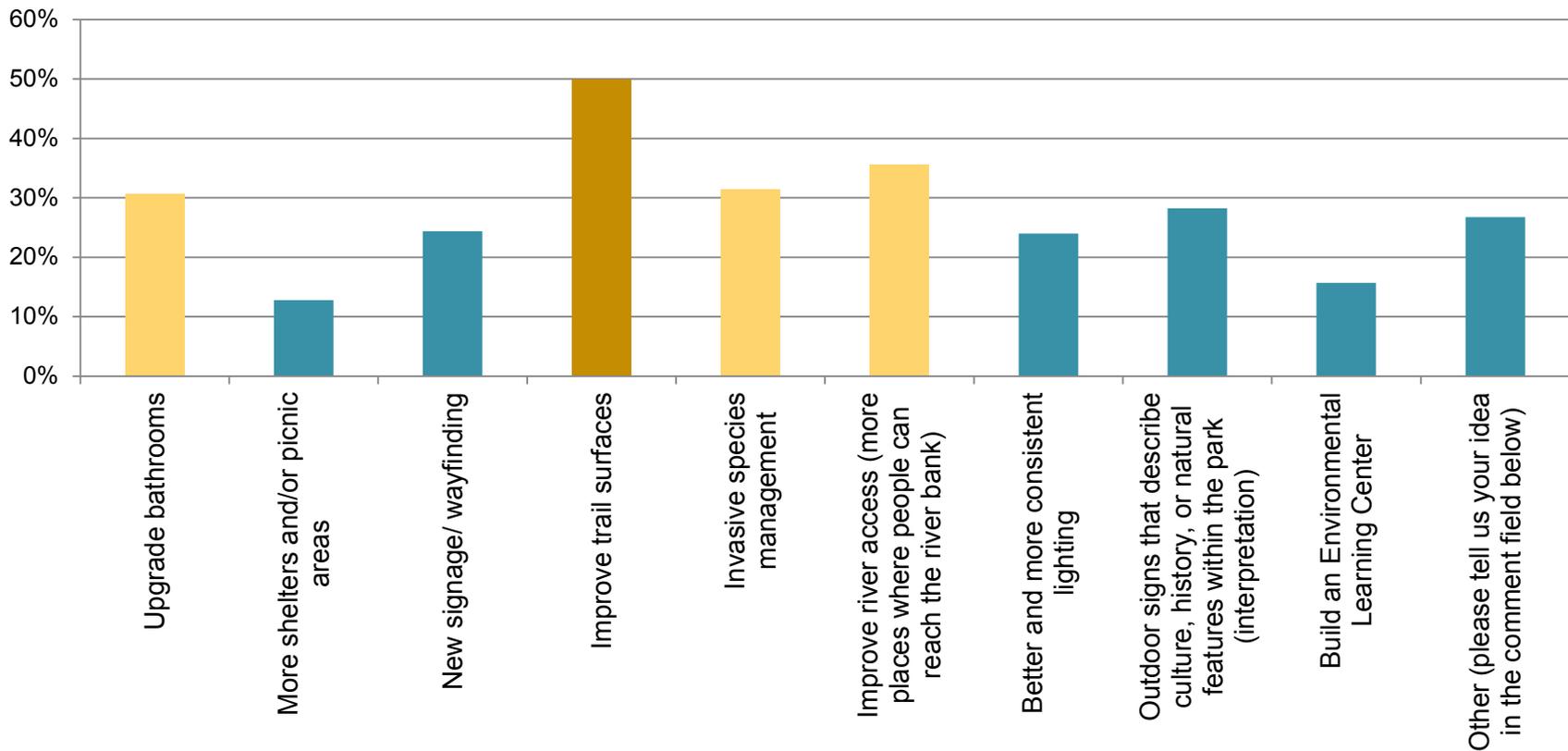
Q4 What activities do you typically do at this regional park?



Survey Results

Top 3: improve trails, improve river access, upgrade bathrooms and with invasive species management; add natural play area

Q6 Please rank these potential improvements
- ranked by percent selected in top 3



Pop-Up Meeting Results

- Asked similar questions to online survey but slightly different results (133 responses)
- More mentioned fishing and picnic as their typical activity
- Most common word is “nature” – keep it natural and undeveloped
- Signage, upkeep, and security were common themes as well
- Want more events with free activities where there’s a crowd and it feels safe; more winter programs
- Comments about National Public Lands Day, some were about the Ford Site, wanting a playground

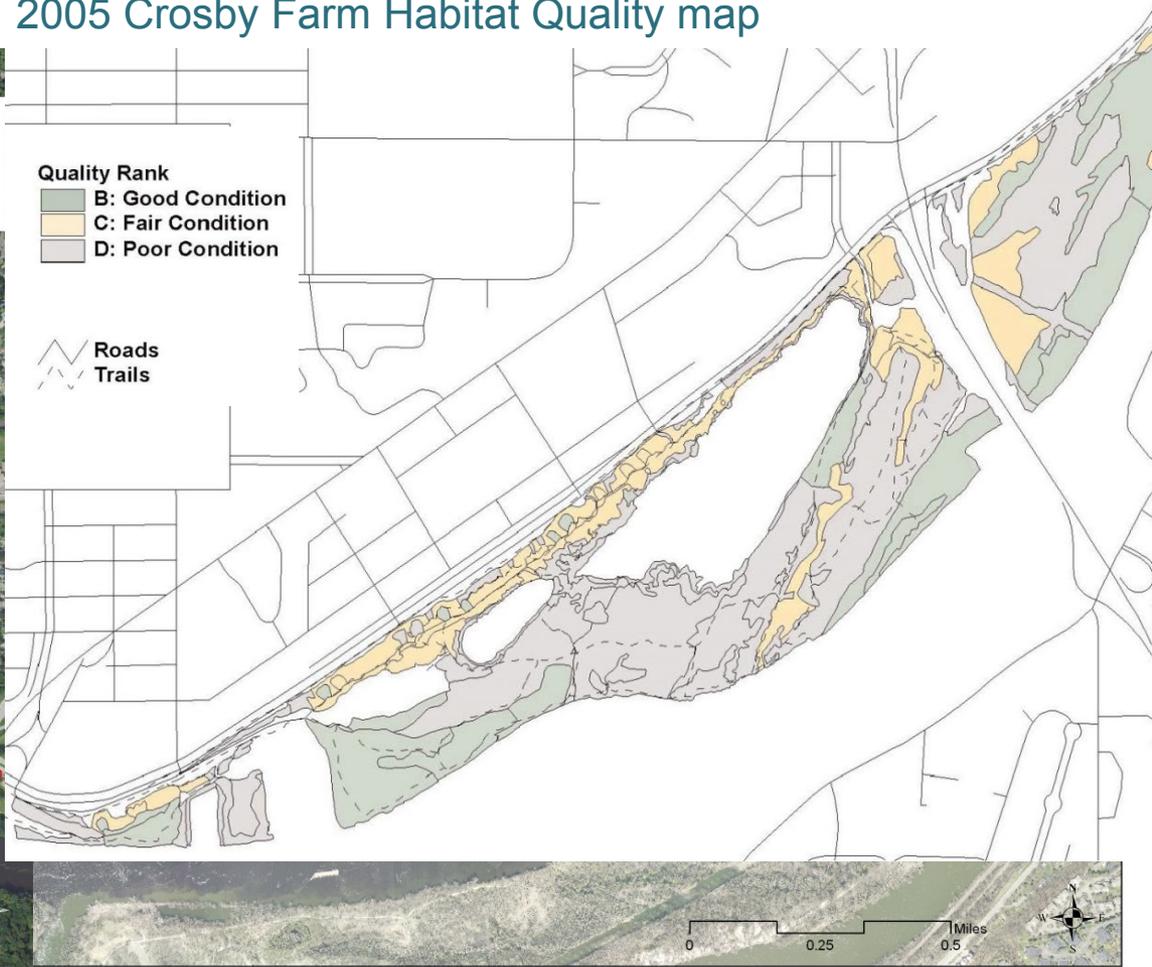


Permitting and Park Use Data

- Permitted event types:
 - Party (office or family picnic, birthday, graduation, wedding)
 - Athletic event (road race, biking)
 - Non-profit or government agency (education or camp, fitness in the parks, natural resources management, National Public Lands Day, etc.)
- Most permits are requested for larger, regular annual events
- Crosby usually has smaller gatherings (56 Crosby vs. 16 Hidden in 2018)
- Hidden Falls frequently reserved for larger gatherings
 - In 2016-2017, 69% of all permits were for Hidden Falls (344 of 500 events)
 - Excluding BareBones and Deer Hunting, in 2018, 60% permits issued to date are for Hidden Falls

Natural Resources Inventory

2005 Crosby Farm Habitat Quality map



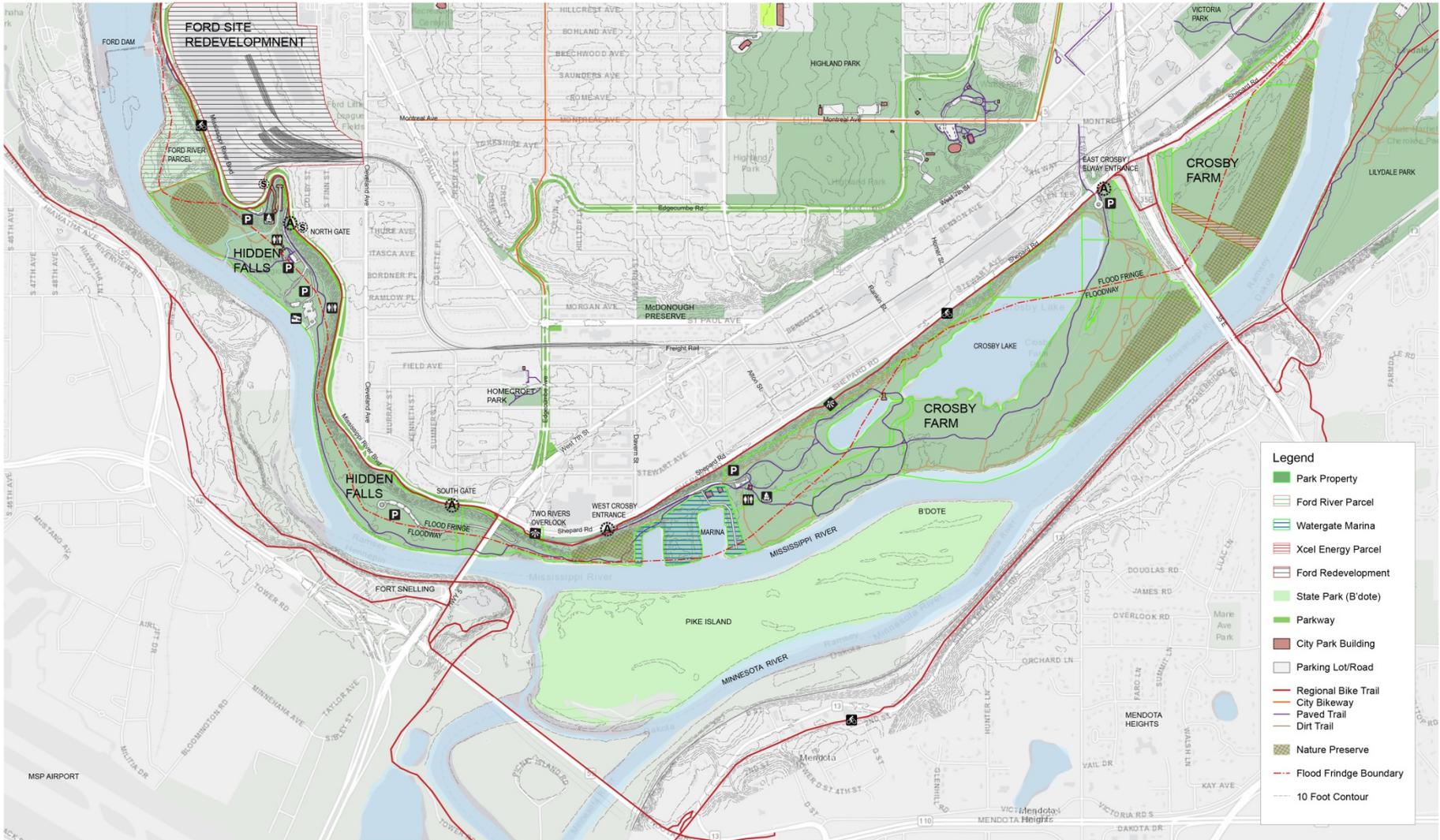
Natural Resources Inventory

- Endangered species

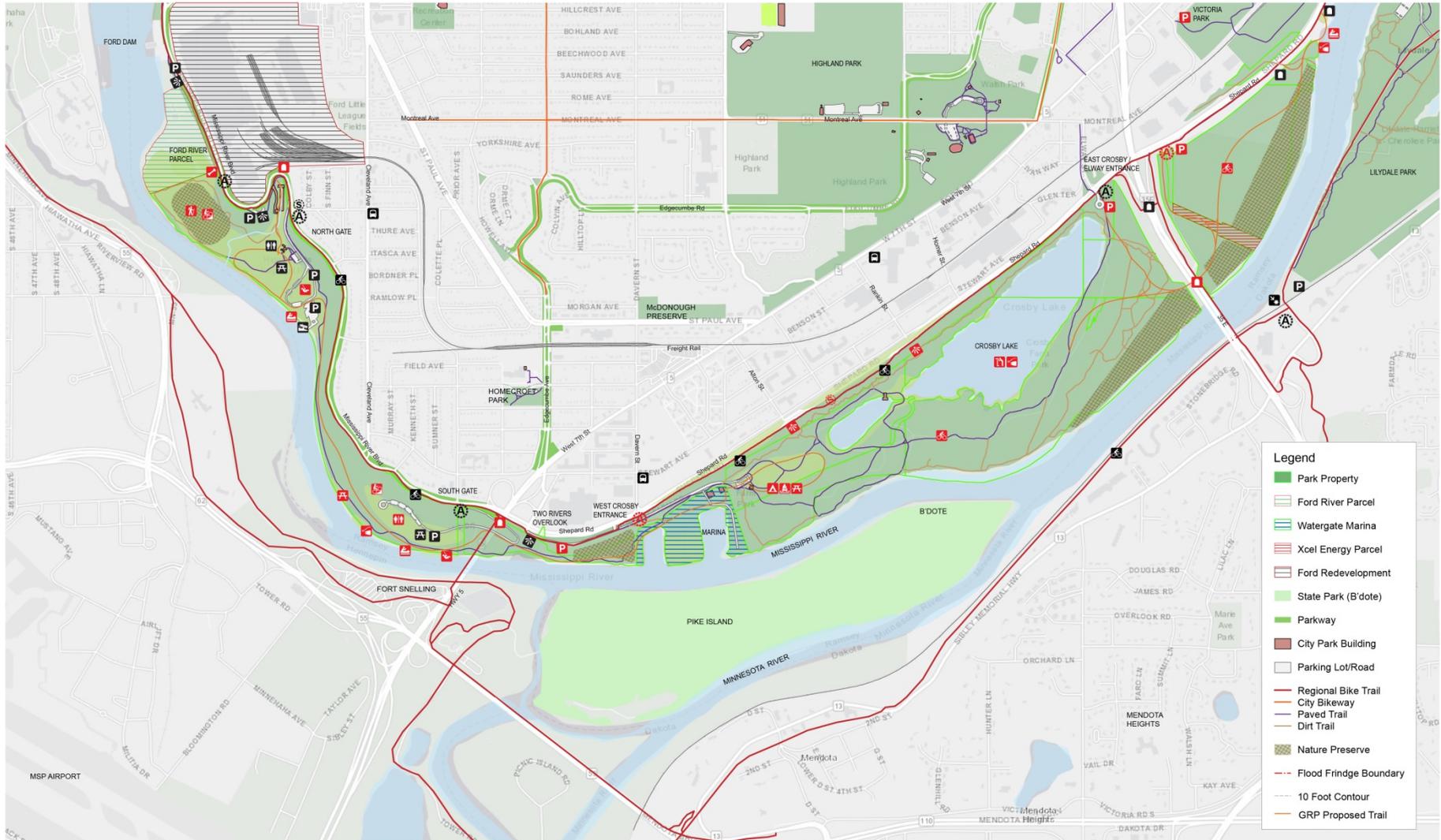
Common Name	Scientific Name	Last Observed	Status	Category
Paddlefish	<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	2004	Threatened	Vertebrate animal
Mucket	<i>Actinonaias ligamentina</i>	2008	Threatened	Invertebrate animal
Black Sandshell	<i>Ligumia recta</i>	2008	Special Concern	Invertebrate animal
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	1980	Partners in Flight Continental Watchlist	Vertebrate animal
Purple Wartyback	<i>Cyclonaias tuberculata</i>	2001	Threatened	Invertebrate animal
Spike	<i>Elliptio dilatata</i>	1988	Special Concern	Invertebrate animal

- 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
- Volunteer coordination – 248 people volunteered in both parks in 2018 (as recorded by St. Paul Parks & Recreation Natural Resources)

Updated Map – Existing Conditions



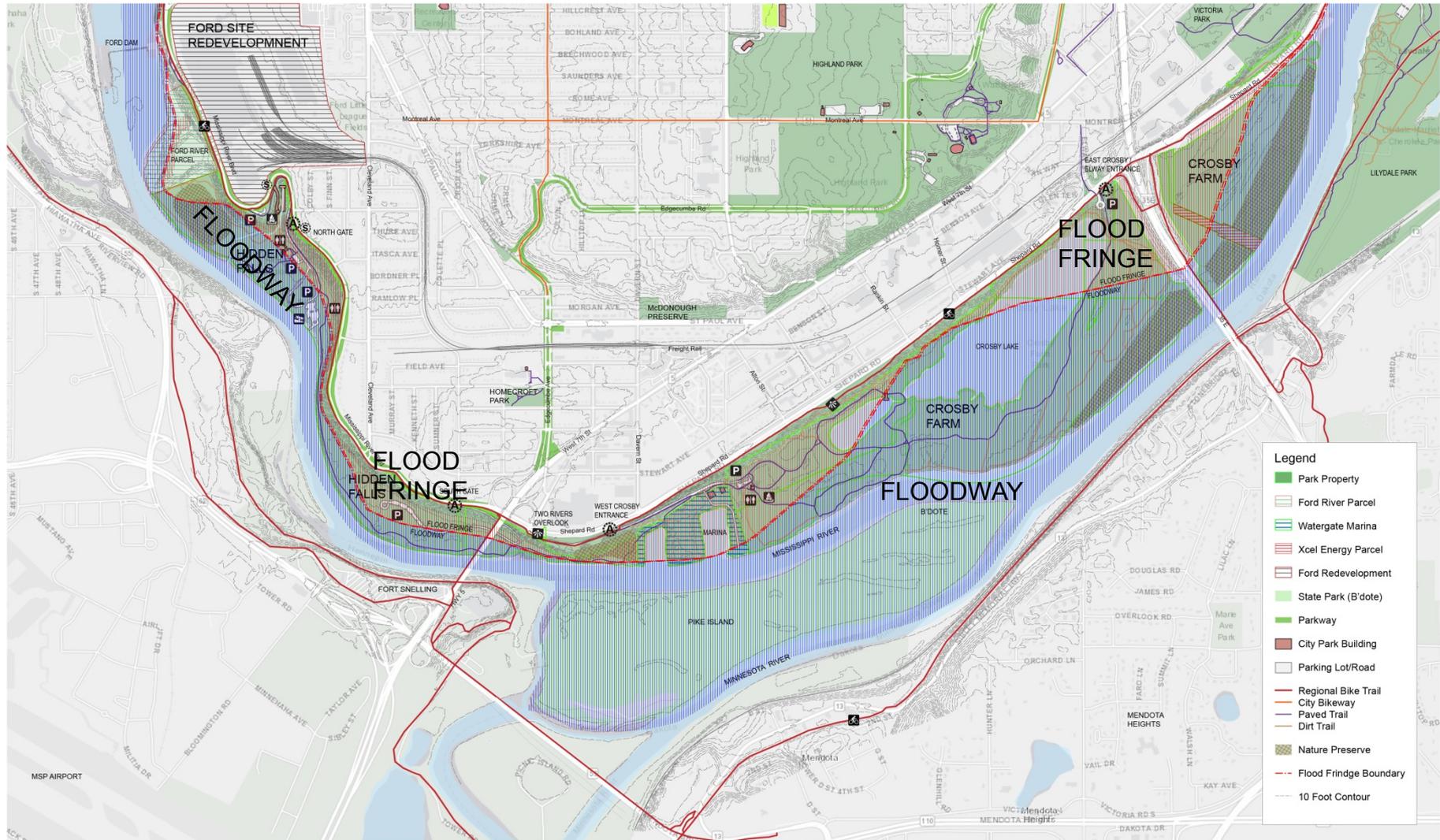
Updated Map – GRP Proposed Projects



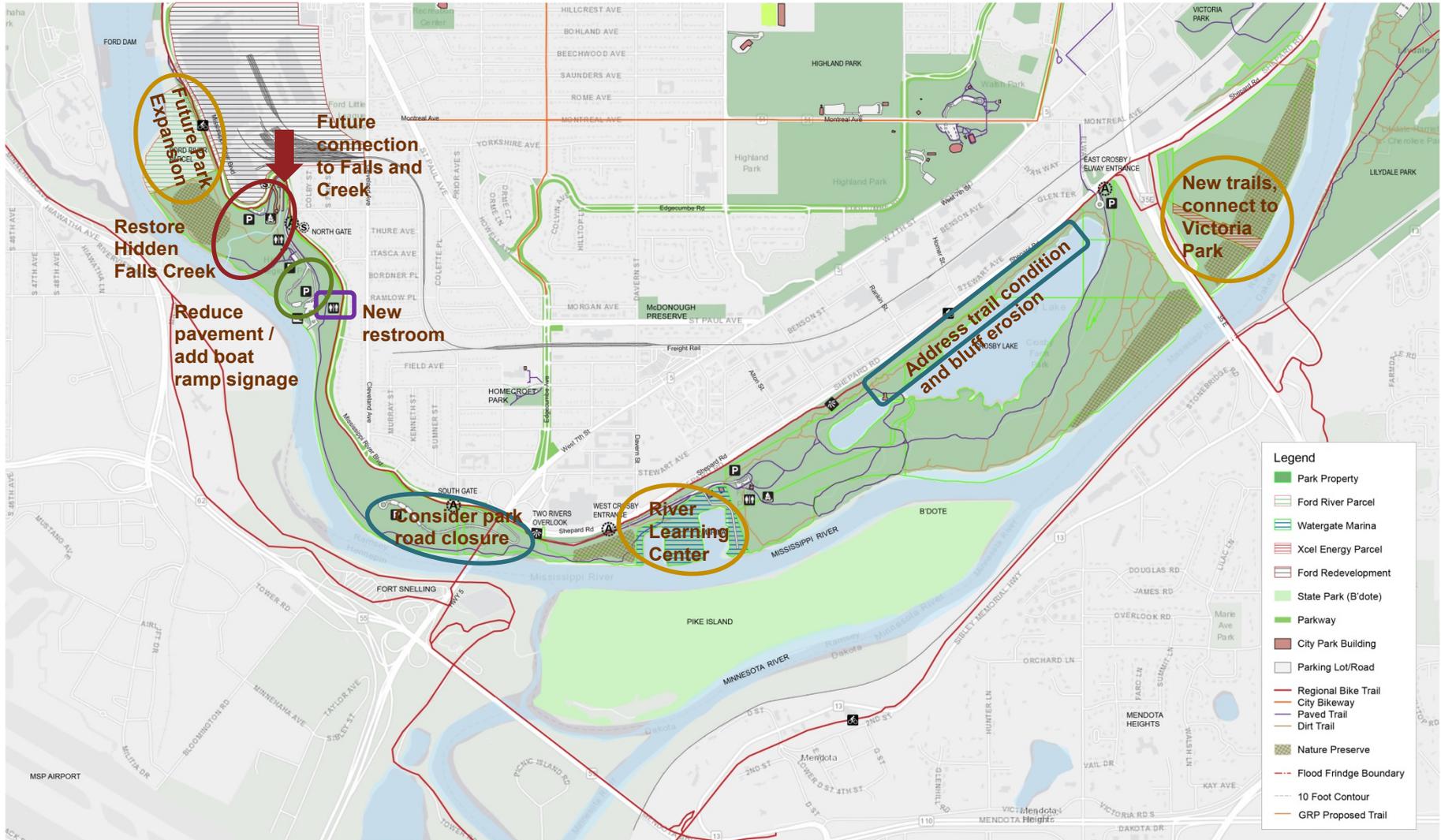
Legend

- Park Property
- Ford River Parcel
- Watergate Marina
- Xcel Energy Parcel
- Ford Redevelopment
- State Park (B'dote)
- Parkway
- City Park Building
- Parking Lot/Road
- Regional Bike Trail
- City Bikeway
- Paved Trail
- Dirt Trail
- Nature Preserve
- Flood Fringe Boundary
- 10 Foot Contour
- GRP Proposed Trail

Updated Map – Constraints



Updated Map – Initial Projects



Help us Prioritize (Activity)

- Break into small groups of 7 people maximum
- Read through the listed priorities, write any you think are missing
- At the left side of each item, help us rank priorities and investments into three categories:
 - High Priority, near term (next 3 to 5 years)
 - Medium Priority, mid-term (5 to 15 years)
 - Low priority or needing larger coordinated investment, long term (15+)
- Context for this: the City of St. Paul has requested \$500,000 for “Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Master Plan Implementation” from Parks and Trails Legacy funds. The current proposal is for \$100,000 in 2019 and \$400,000 in 2020.
- State Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) funding is also available (for future).
- Which of these items is most important to you and your group, and what should be our goal with this first \$500,000?

Master Plan – Initial Projects

Policy-level items (rules, land ownership, partnership projects)

MANAGEMENT

Add more land to the park at top of bluff from Ford Site. [HF]

Add programming on paddling and water safety. [both]

Continue to program cultural events such as “Barebones Halloween Puppet Show.” [both]

Additional surveillance to reduce theft from parked vehicles and increase safety. [both]

Control the off-leash dog problem. [both]

River Learning Center at Watergate location. [CF]

Improve transit access. [both]

Increase budget for invasive species management and coordination. [both]

Master Plan – Initial Projects

Design and construction for recreation and use areas

RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS/USE AREAS

Add gathering area with fire pit specifically designed to accommodate and recognize Native American heritage and culture. [HF]

Add canoe/kayak launch at Crosby Farm Park to set up one-way paddle from Hidden Falls. [both]

Add Cross Country (XC) skiing trails. [both]

Develop rustic group tent camping area for permitted events, with a potable water source. [CF] * Only feasible when River Learning Center is built

Improve boat ramp and trailer parking (separate casual shoreline users and cars without trailers from boat ramp area). [HF]

Restore open lawn near Hidden Falls Pavilion to improve passive recreation and picnic areas for large and small group events. [HF]

Construct a new nature-based play area (non-traditional). [HF]

Develop managed mountain bike trail loops utilizing IMBC best practices. [both]

Master Plan – Initial Projects

Design and construction for roads, trails, parking, sidewalks

ROADS AND TRAILS

Add looped rustic nature trails that provide a variety of opportunities for nature hikers including the mid-bluff trail (providing connected trails to create 5 mile loops). [both]

Add rustic trails with access to shoreline (shorter/spur trails). [both]

Add new park trails from Watergate to Lower Crosby Farm (east side), connect to new parking areas. [CF]

Improve and extend park trails at Hidden Falls, improve trail from pavilion to falls area. [HF]

Improve parking areas at Hidden Falls (especially near pavilion, which is not emergency vehicle accessible). [HF]

Improve safety and sight lines at Mississippi River Boulevard entrances. [both]

Redesign bike and pedestrian trails along entry roads. [both]

Improve boardwalk and fishing pier. [CF]

Improve Shepard Rd. crossing. [CF]

Move Hidden Falls parking lot and realign parkway to create more bluff top park space near the “ear lobe” shape in Mississippi River Boulevard. [HF]

Reduce pavement, by removing some of the looped roadway at Hidden Falls at both entrances. [HF]

Assess the trail network and provide clear access and signage to trail heads, as well as removing fallen trees from trails as soon as possible. [both]

Master Plan – Initial Projects

Design and construction for buildings, bridges, boat ramps, other structures

STRUCTURES AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

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

Add interpretive signage for boat safety, natural history, and cultural history of Native American presence. [both]

Add signage "Trailer Parking Only" to boat ramp area. [HF]

Build a weather shelter for summer groups. [HF]
* Could be eliminated from priorities if River Learning Center built

Construct two small boat storage areas at Hidden Falls Park. [HF]

Implement signage and wayfinding systems in Crosby Farm and Hidden Falls (develop short walking tour with clear and easy to follow signs). [both]

Add signage/kiosks to mark entry point to parks (West Crosby Entrance, and along MRB, Hidden Falls North and South Entrances). [both]

Year-round, minimal maintenance bathroom (composting if floodplain rules allow). [both]

Improve Hidden Falls pavilion and make restrooms accessible. [HF]

Master Plan – Initial Projects

Design and construction for park and natural areas

LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Reduce lawn area north of picnic area at Hidden Falls, while preserving open space in the area commonly used by the Barebones Puppet Show. [HF]

Reduce effects of erosion due to human foot traffic, following Natural Resources Inventory guidelines (stable materials for trails that will diffuse water flow, resist compaction and disintegration, and redirect water away from trails). [both]

Manage stormwater runoff from bluff tops and outfalls by collecting water at the bluff top, constructing conveyance systems, re-vegetating slopes where feasible. [both]

Restore Hidden Falls Creek to incorporate water quality treatment and habitat enhancement. [HF]

Restore native floodplain meadows to include water quality treatment in appropriate areas. [both]

Restore wetland areas around lake and near storm outfalls. [CF]

Selectively manage understory of invasive vegetation species in passive activity areas. [both]

Reduce lawn area, encourage development of a continuous tree canopy, and remove some parking along road at Hidden Falls South Entry. [HF]

Report Back on Priorities

- Were there any missing items?
- What category did your group have?
- Share what your group picked for high, medium, low priority

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

Wrap Up / Next Steps

- Open House January 2019 to review the draft report
- Submit report to Met Council late January
- Complete report approved June 2019
- Focus group with YMCA, St. Paul Recreation Centers, local schools, Wilderness Inquiry, Urban Boat Builders, other youth activity coordinators – in December
- Continued outreach with Indigenous community

Your Assignment

Please discuss this project with your representative groups and bring back their comments to our open house in January

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/>