

Parks Land Use Actions
Staff Report
Adoption of the Hidden Falls – Crosby Farm Regional Park Master Plan

Project Basics	
Project Name <i>Owner(s)</i> <i>Address</i> <i>Contact Information</i>	Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Master Plan City of Saint Paul- Department of Parks and Recreation 1313 Hidden Falls Drive, or 2595 Crosby Farm Road, St Paul, MN 55116 Anne Gardner – 651-266-6421 or Anne.Gardner@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Action being requested <i>purchase, donation, encroachment, parkland dedication, diversion, swap, master plan or design approval, other</i>	Approval of the Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Master Plan and recommendation to City Council
Why is the action being requested?	The Metropolitan Council requires master plans for Regional Parks every 10-20 years. Hidden Falls - Crosby Farm Regional Park has a plan from the early 70s, before this was a requirement of the council. An updated plan is required for continued financial support by the Met Council.
Is the action proposed permanent or temporary?	Permanent
Property type <i>neighborhood park, regional park, downtown park, plaza, trail, recreation center, private ownership/public usage, passive open space, bluff preservation</i>	Regional Park
Land area <i>square feet & acres</i>	Hidden Falls Park – 131.36 acres Crosby Farm Park – 480.96 acres Total: 612.32 acres
Land value & basis <i>assessed value, appraisals, comps</i>	N/A

<p>Land characteristics/special features <i>proximity to significant natural feature, trail connections, water resources, natural areas, buildings, fields, play equipment, courts, other significant uses on/near property</i></p>	<p>Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm Regional Park are located along the southwestern edge of Saint Paul along the shores of the Mississippi River. It sits at the location of the Bdote, significant land for Dakota at the 'joining of the waters' where the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers and Minnehaha Creek meet. The park lies within the floodway and includes the natural bluffs reminiscent of the geologic history of the region. The park is bordered by Shepard Road and the Mississippi River Boulevard adjacent to residential neighborhoods of St Paul. Hidden Falls – Crosby Farm Regional Park is a popular destination for users seeking solace and peace in a natural setting or walking, hiking, running, or biking through the park. Hidden Falls Park includes a 'water fall' and streambed and stonework from the WPA era. Crosby Farm Park includes two lakes (Crosby and Little Crosby Lake) as well as board walks, trails, and shelter space.</p>
<p>Adjacent land uses <i>commercial, industrial, residential, etc.</i></p>	<p>Primarily residential and some mixed use</p>
<p>Applicable laws, codes, policies, guidelines <i>City, state, county, watershed districts, etc.</i></p>	<p>City of St Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations MRCCA FEMA- Floodway/floodplain</p>
<p>Other department, agency involvement</p>	<p>National Park Service (Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance program) City of Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development and Department of Safety Inspections</p>
<p>Processes <i>parkland dedication, parkland diversion, community engagement</i></p>	<p><i>Community Engagement</i> <i>Master Plan Approval</i></p>
<p>Legal issues (if any) <i>judgments, liens, deed restrictions, grant agreements</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>

Public Purpose	
<p>How does the proposed action impact the affected park property and Saint Paul's park system?</p>	<p>The 2019 Hidden Falls Crosby Farm Regional Park Master Plan will serve as a guide for park development for the next 10-20 years. Projects included in the master plan are eligible for State funding to complete the vision of the master plan. Projects are intended to enhance the park for visitors and expand the user group to be equitable and accessible to City and Regional park users.</p>

<p>How does the proposed action fit with adopted plans/policies? <i>Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Recreation System Plan, Regional Parks Policy and System Plan, SCORP, Legacy Plan, Legislative committee policies, watershed districts</i></p>	<p>The master plan follows the Metropolitan Council plan requirements and meets the THRIVE MSP 2040 plan. The master plan is a continuation of the Great River Passage Master Plan adopted by the City of Saint Paul in 2013.</p>
<p>Does the proposed action impact any other City initiatives/actions? <i>redevelopment, plan implementation</i></p>	<p>The Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Master Plan is complementary to other city initiatives including the Ford Site redevelopment project, the Great River Passage initiative, and Walking Saint Paul, the Saint Paul Pedestrian Plan.</p>
<p>How has the community been engaged? <i>communications, public notices, meetings, District Councils, special interest groups, elected and appointed officials, web posting, outstanding issues, support</i></p>	<p>Yes. See list below of community engagement opportunities specific to this project: A. Online survey with 940 responders B. National Public Lands Day Pop-up Meeting 133 responders, 200 popsicles C. Six community meetings and parks ambassador gatherings attended D. Four focus groups (water, trails, gov. / non-profit, camps) E. Four internal city meetings (rec centers, operations & maintenance, and Great River Passage division) F. Participation in water ceremonies with NibiWalk and discussion G. WCCO and Fraser School Pulling Together event brings thousands of people to Hidden Falls H. This process is building on the momentum of Great River Passage, which was in 2012 and had 28 public meetings and 5 focus groups</p>
<p>Are there any precedents for the proposed action, and does the proposed action set any precedents for future decisions?</p>	<p>The most recent master plan is Robert Piram Regional Trail (2016). Prior to that is the Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan (2011).</p>
<p>What are the budgetary impacts of the proposed action?</p>	<p>Approval of the master plan will allow us to move ahead to implement one of the identified priority projects with funding available for the park beginning in June of 2019.</p>
<p>Are there any other issues or concerns?</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>STAFF RECOMMENDATION <i>Include key points of recommendations</i></p>	<p>The master plan will serve as a guide for future development and projects with some flexibility to adapt and shift implementation timeline according to other development influence. Priority improvement projects include the following: - Invasive species management - Cultural events - Trail improvements - Wayfinding and signage - Improved entrance and access points to the park - Improvements to the existing boat ramp for separated uses - Park security</p>

Attachments	- Indigenous signage and gathering area
<i>timeline, plans, designs, correspondence, purchase agreements, maps, appraisals, sketches, photos, codes, laws, policies</i>	Hidden Falls Crosby Farm Regional Park Master Plan – DRAFT

Checklist for all land-use decisions

- ✓ The land-use decision is consistent with the Parks and Recreation System Plan, Comprehensive Plan, and other relevant planning documents
- ✓ The land-use decision would have a neutral or positive impact on meeting existing/future demand for parkland.
- ✓ If the land-use decision has a budgetary impact, funding is available to cover the cost of the action and any ongoing maintenance needs
- ✓ The action would enhance the parks and recreation system
- ✓ There is community and/or institutional support for the decision
- ✓ There is a clear understanding of how the decision impacts the future of the parks and recreation system
- ✓ The action is consistent with the applicable decision principles outlined in the Parks and Recreation Vision Plan:
 - Furthering Parks’ role as the champion of health and wellness
 - Is a catalyst for private-sector investment
 - Exemplifying environmental leadership
 - Addressing lifecycle and operational costs
 - Helping connect people, parks, trails, and open spaces
 - Supporting a City-wide system of parks and recreational facilities