



CARVER  
COUNTY  
PARKS



# Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Amendment

September 2016



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Carver County would like to acknowledge and commend all who participated in the planning and design process for the Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Amendment, including the acquisition of the historic Coney Island of the West into the park boundary, by attending numerous meetings, providing ongoing input and technical expertise, and being strong advocates for the Carver County Parks system. This document represents the results of the public involved process completed in 2016.

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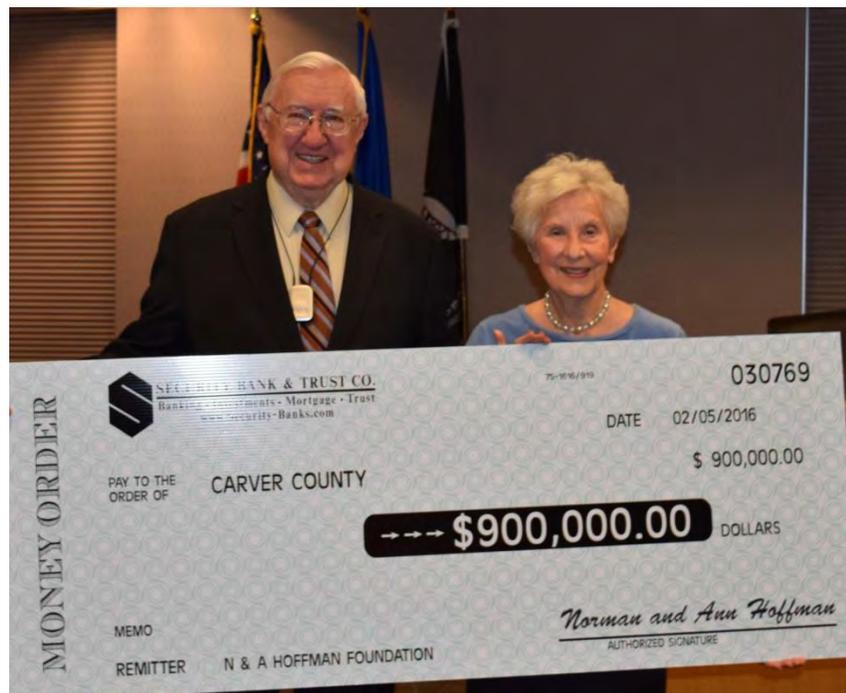
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Robert Kim, Chaska Human Rights Commission  
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### Special Acknowledgements

Carver County and numerous residents would also like to send a very special thank you to Norm and Ann Hoffman for not only realizing the historical and cultural importance of Coney Island of the West, but for also going to great lengths to ensure it would remain open for the public to enjoy.

**Thanks Norm and Ann!**



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## CHAPTER 1 - MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

### A. Introduction

In July of 2015, Carver County retained the WSB design team, which included Schoenbauer Consulting and Miller Dunwiddie Architecture team members, to undertake a master plan update for the 132.66 acre Lake Waconia Regional Park, including the acquisition of the 33.77 acre Coney Island of the West into the regional park boundary. The planning and design process included two primary objectives;

- Acquisition Amendment Plan: Prepare an acquisition amendment plan to incorporate the Coney Island of the West into the Lake Waconia Regional Park boundary. This was completed and adopted by the Metropolitan Council on December 9, 2015.
- Master Plan Update: Prepare an update to the original 2001 Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan to meet the changing recreational needs of the region and to include the planning and design of Coney Island as part of the Lake Waconia Regional Park. The master plan meets the stated goals and requirements of the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Parks Policy Plan. This master plan report represents the results of the update to the 2001 Lake Waconia Regional Park and was completed in 2016.

### B. Park Vision Statement

With the inclusion of Coney Island into the park boundary, the original park vision statement was modified to represent the updated vision for the future of Lake Waconia Regional Park.

*“The vision for Lake Waconia Regional Park, including the historic Coney Island of the West, is to provide the region-wide population a unique park experience focused on the shores of Lake Waconia. An accessible and inclusive balance of active, passive and culturally significant recreational opportunities will be realized within the overall context of a natural park setting, in an economically sustainable manner.”*

### C. Project Overview and Process

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update project focused on the development of an updated master plan that incorporated Coney Island into the park and met the updated recreational needs of the regional community. The planning process took a comprehensive approach that evaluated the previous master plan, existing site settings, existing recreational uses, new recreational trends and demands, historical and educational opportunities, and its overall context within the County. The master plan update was meant to accomplish the following goals:

- Evaluate park improvements made since the 2001 Master Plan
- Evaluate and retain items from the 2001 Master Plan that are still relevant
- Remove outdated and undesirable items from the 2001 Master Plan
- Update and amend the plan to account for the inclusion of Coney Island
- Update and amend the plan to account for new recreational demands, including an updated natural resource management plan and phasing and implementation
- Ensure the master plan update addresses the Met Council’s 2040 Parks Policy Plan goals for the Thrive Outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability

The following graphic illustrates the step-by-step planning process that was undertaken.



## D. Community Engagement Plan

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan update included a rich and effective public engagement strategy to inform, consult, collaborate and partner with the community and stakeholders throughout the visioning and design process that included an effort to try and target under-represented populations within Carver County. Over 500 people were directly involved in the community engagement process, along with additional public input gathered through online and social media forums.

### Community Engagement Methods

The community engagement used in the process included the following:

- Print: This included three separate press releases to thirteen various local and metro-wide newspapers, along with meeting flyers to announce upcoming meetings.
- Electronic Communications / Social Media: This included the use of online and social media tools throughout the project and included MySidewalk online tool, Carver County web page, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Public Open House Meetings: Three separate open house public meetings were held to gather project information and brainstorming ideas, as well as to present design options and planning outcomes for review and feedback.
- Pop-Up Meetings: Three separate pop-up meetings were conducted at select locations throughout Carver County to gather input from people. This included one visit at the Lake Waconia Regional Park beach, Chaska Farmer's Market and the Waconia Food Shelf and Library.
- Community Events: Attendance at three different community events held at various locations throughout Carver County were held in order to gather information. This included Carver Steamboat Days, Nickle Dickle Days in Waconia and Angelfest sponsored by the Chaska Guardian Angels Catholic Church.
- Stakeholder Interviews: Specific interviews and discussions were held with select project stakeholders to gather more in-depth project information, ideas and concerns.
- Technical Advisory Committee: The use of an 18 person committee provided technical information and review throughout the project based on their specific area of knowledge and promoted the project through outreach through their organizations and contacts.
- Research: Previous studies and reports were researched and reviewed in order to identify trends and demands that related to this project. These included recreational trends, previous master plan studies and engagement results, Metropolitan Council documents (ie: Regional Parks Policy Plan, Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color), Carver County documents (ie: Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, Lake Waconia and Wells Colonial Waterbird Surveys, etc.).

## Community Engagement Results

The community engagement process was highly valued by the community, as well as the design team. Almost everyone who was contacted throughout the project was thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the future planning of Lake Waconia Regional Park. The results included common themes, big ideas and also common barriers or areas of concern.

The most common themes for desirable park features included the following:

- Improve and expand upon the swimming and beach area
- Make a better and bigger children's playground
- Provide non-motorized water recreation / rentals
- Include more multi-purpose trails and regional trail connections to the main park
- Clean up Coney Island and keep camping opportunities on the island
- Provide a connection to the history (island and regional)
- Preserve the natural environment
- Provide options for fishing
- Keep a high capacity park venue and event space
- Provide "flexible" parks spaces to accommodate varying activities and events

The "big ideas" that surfaced included the following:

- Make the park a winter or year-round destination
- Provide a ferry service to and from the island
- Incorporate an observation tower on the island

The most common barriers to park use or areas of concern included the following:

- Park fees (entrance fees and shelter reservations)
- Park access (to the main park as well as the island for those who don't own a boat)
- Life style which pertained to those who don't use parks due to other means of recreation (examples include having a cabin)

The results gathered during the community engagement process allowed Carver County and the design team to incorporate the community input into the final plan in numerous ways. The master plan was ultimately shaped by the grand visions for the main park, as well as the island, and addressed public concerns in order to create a better park experience. The community engagement results will also continue to affect how the park programs and operations will develop or change as park development continues.

## E. Development Master Plan

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update provides a cross-section of features and amenities that will make it a unique destination park within the Carver County Parks System.

The development master plan highlights creating year-round adventure based recreation in a natural resource based park setting shaped by the historical context as its primary theme and appeal with a focus on Lake Waconia with the island offering an opportunity for a distinctive recreational experience. The theme will be the guiding factor used to tie the main park and island pieces together through the characteristics and materials used in the development.

### Lake Waconia Regional Park – Main Parcel

The development master plan for the main park parcel focuses on use flexibility and accessibility to accommodate a wide range of user groups with varying recreational interests, while highlighting year-round adventure based recreation.

Of the 132.66 acres in the main park parcel, approximately 106 acres is preserved as natural open space, with 26 acres developed for recreational uses. This allows the park to provide an appropriate balance of both natural and developed spaces for an appropriate regional park setting, while still meeting the recreational needs of the users.

Key development areas and features for the main park parcel include:

- Lakefront Development Area & Central Plaza
- Base Camp Adventure Area, Adventure Trail & Sledding Hill
- Event Center and Multi-Purpose Lawn

### Lake Waconia Regional Park – Coney Island of the West

The development master plan for the island focuses on provide year-round adventure based recreation that is kept in balance with the natural setting and highlighting its historical past. Much of the developed spaces are confined to the two ends of the island with the majority of the central piece of the island limited to trail development and an observation tower.

Key development areas and features for the island include:

- Amblard's Point Day Use Area
- Zeglin's Point Day Use Area and Flexible Use Area
- The Historic Interpretive Trail and Naegele's Tower
- The Adventure Nature Trail

The following are the final master plans for the Lake Waconia Regional Park, including the main parcel and the island.

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# Lake Waconia Regional Park

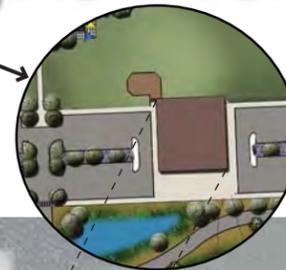
- A Multi-Purpose Trail**
  - Range from 10'-12' Wide Asphalt Trail (pedestrians, bikes)
  - Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
  - Overlooks with Historical Reference
- B Church Property**
  - Potential Realigned Entrance Road (depending on wetland impacts & mitigation)
  - Potential Future Acquisition (may be used for maintenance building location)
- C Entrance & Contact Station**
- D Swimming Beach**
- E Play Experience**
  - Fun & Challenging Play Experience
  - Separated Age Appropriate Play
  - Sensory Elements
  - Highly Inclusive / Accessible
  - Creative Water and Sand Play Area
- F Picnic Shelter**
- G Phased Parking**
  - Main Parking Lot: 260 to 300 Stalls
  - "h" "k" "8"
  - " " @ " "
- H Central Plaza**
  - Entrance Kiosk / Park & Trail Map
  - Bike Racks
  - Plaza / Cafe Style Seating
  - Outdoor Gas Fire Pit
  - Shade Structures
  - Relates to Beach, Lawn & Picnic Spaces
  - Restroom, Changing & Concessions Bldg
  - Park Program / Event Room Bldg with Open Air Picnic Shelter Area
  - Rental Equipment & Lifeguard Station Bldg
- I Central Pier**
  - Pedestrian Pier (no fishing)
  - Island Ferry Transfer Location
  - Potential Special Event Pier (ie: triathlon/swim events)
- J Lakefront Walk**
  - Curvilinear / Flowing Walk Design
  - Multiple Seating / Picnic Spaces
  - Shade Structures
  - Views of Lake

## Landscape & Natural Resources

- Highlight Plant Communities (native woods, wetlands and prairie)
- Invasive Species Control Plan
- Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
- Protect Lake Edge
- Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas

## Interim Event Center Plan

- Deck Facing Lawn / Lake
- Parking Lot Phased
- Relates to Lawn / Event Space
- Minor Bldg Improvements



- K Boat Beaching Area**
- L Waterfront Service Area**
  - Non-Motorized Watercraft Dock & Beach
  - County Boat Slips (ie: patrol boats)
  - Rental Storage Area (ie: canoe racks)
- M Fishing Pier**
- N DNR Boat Launch**
- O Lakeside Arbor**
  - Formal Lakeside Venue (ie: weddings)
  - Photography
  - Lakeside Observation / Solitude
- P Small Lawn Game Area**
  - Lawn Bowling
  - Volleyball
- Q Large Multi-Purpose Lawn**
  - Informal Sport Space
  - Event Space (ie: weddings, music events, triathlons, overflow parking)
- R Park Event Building**
  - Upper Level Deck Overlooking Lake
  - Lower Patio Facing Lake, Lawn & Arbor
  - Event Rooms (park programs, venue space)
  - Restrooms
- S Base Camp Area**
  - 4-Season Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, and Fireplace (winter warming house)
  - Patio with Gas Fire Pit
  - Rental Service for Sledding Hill
  - Lawn Event Space (ie: challenge course, ice skating)
- T Sledding Hill**
  - Small Children's Hill
  - Tow Rope
  - Summer Use (ie: challenge uphill course, biking, summer sledding)
- U Adventure Trail**
  - 4'-5' Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
  - Challenge Areas (ropes course, tree walk, etc.)
  - Upper Overlook

## Informal & Specialty Trails (not shown)

- Snow Shoe, Single Track Mountain Bike, Cross-Country Ski, etc.
- Integrated Into Natural Areas at County's Discretion
- Non-Paved

## LEGEND

- Trail Overlook
- Kiosk / Trailhead Map



## Main Lake Waconia Regional Park Preferred Master Plan



Project: 01945-060  
Date: August 15, 2016

# Lake Waconia Regional Park

## Historic Interpretation

- Focus on historic interpretation will be selective and based around an exploratory theme to discover the hidden history.
- Interpretive signage will be used in select areas to display or tell the story of the island history and existing remains.
- Lot identification may be used along the trails. This may include a stone engraved with a lot number related to an overall lot map identifying lot owners and numbers.
- Decks/boardwalks may cross some existing building foundations with use of interpretive signage.
- Use of names of specific individuals or families that relate to the history of Coney Island, Waconia, and the local history to label use areas of the island may be used in naming of island areas and overlooks. The actual names would be determined in conjunction with County officials and local historians. For the purposes of the Master Plan, temporary names have been used and are shown in italics.

### A Historic Interpretive Trail

- 6'-8' Wide Granite or Aggregate Trail
- Pedestrian Use Only with Self-Guided Tour
- Walking/Hiking/Snow Shoe/Cross-Country Ski
- Historic Lot Identification
- Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
- Overlooks with Historical Reference (ie:Hirschfield Overlook)

### B Rookery Trail

- Part of Historic Interpretive Trail
- Gated Off During Nesting Season

### C Nature Trail

- 4'-5' Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
- Boardwalks as Necessary
- Decks Across Foundations
- Overlooks
- Built Into Slopes as Necessary
- Optional Routes (depending on constructability)

### D Amblard's Point Day Use Area

- Stabilize/Restore Walls
- Day Use Docks
- Island Kiosk / Map
- Restroom
- Picnic Space
- Fishing Piers
- Trail Access

### E Boat Beaching Area

### F Dock Access

### G Naegele's Tower

- Accessible Lower Deck with Ramp Access
- Upper Observation Deck
- Rookery Blinds & Educational Signs
- Interpretive Historical Displays

### H Zeglin's Point Flexible Use Area

- Day Use & Campsite Docks / Fishing Piers
- Campsites (accommodates individual or group use; tent sites to portable camper cabins; summer & winter camping; reservable; lakeside and wooded sites)
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access
- Snowmobile Access for Winter Gatherings & Use
- Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, Fireplace and/or Fire Pit

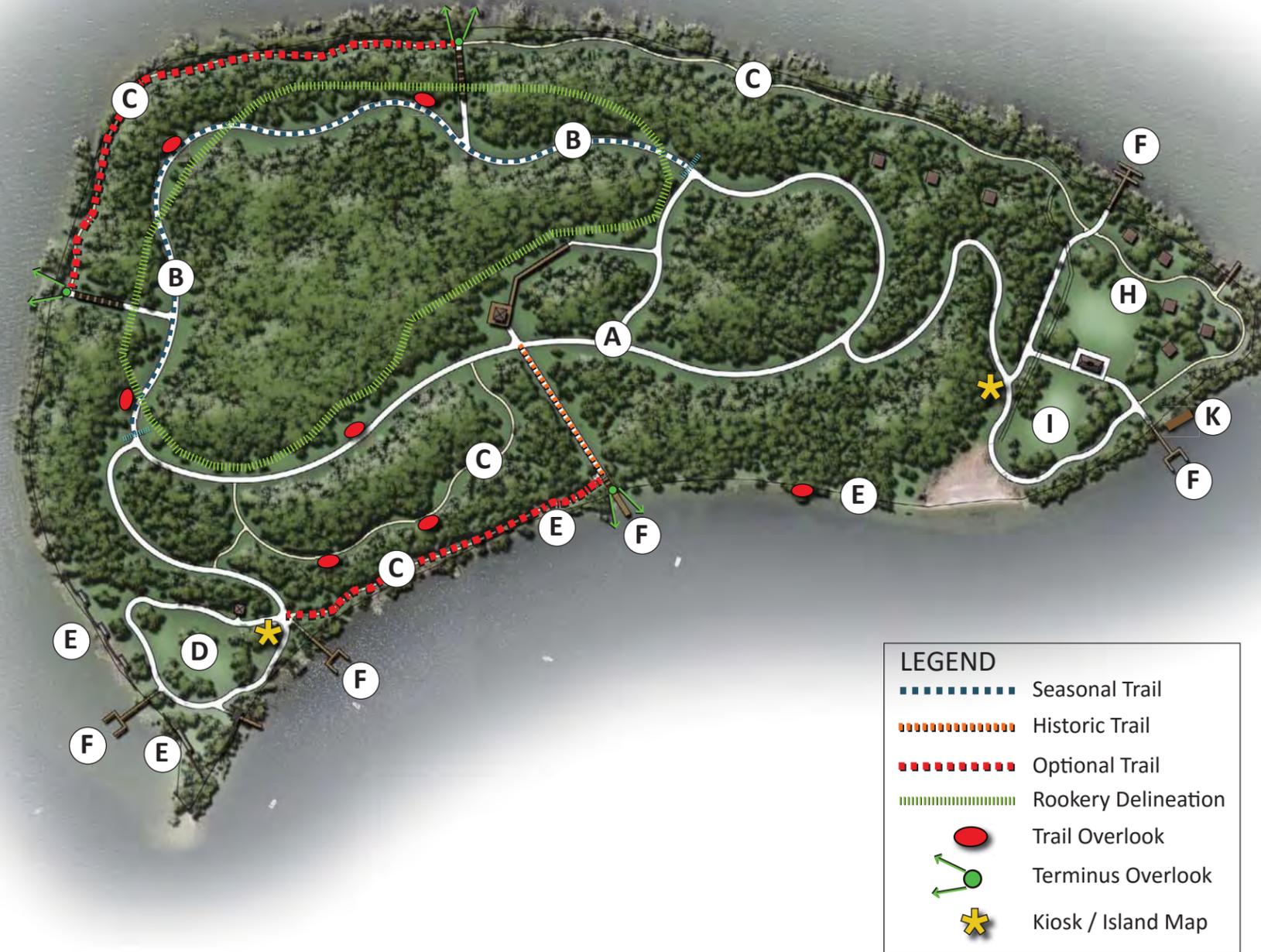
### I Zeglin's Point Day Use Area

- Day Use Docks / Fishing Pier
- Entrance Island Kiosk / Map
- Shared Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter
- Small Existing Informal Beach
- Adventure / Nature Play Experience
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access (accessible route to tower)

### K Barge Access Dock

#### Landscape & Natural Resources

- Highlight Historic Plant Communities (from native to introduced plants brought from original landowners)
- Invasive Species Control Plan
- Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
- Protect Lake Edge
- Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas



## Coney Island of the West Preferred Master Plan



Project: 01945-060  
Date: August 15, 2016

## F. Natural Resource Management Plan & Stewardship

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides a broad spectrum of natural resources and ecological zones to integrate into the overall park experience, from scenic settings to educational opportunities.

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides opportunities for both highlighting and enhancing existing natural features, as well as restoring altered or non-native areas. Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) mapping was performed on both Coney Island and the main park area including site reviews and wetland delineations.

### Findings

Much of the main park parcel along the lake is maintained as turf, consistent with prior land uses. A hillside with a north facing slope contains a wooded area consisting of a mature maple-basswood forest with some green ash along one end that remain from prior agricultural wind rows, and some scattered oaks along the western edge of the forested area. There are invasive species present, including smooth sumac and buckthorn, due to lack of management. The upper hill of the main park parcel has been left to return to prairie and mainly consists of non-native species with the sledding hill maintained as turf. The east and west ends of the main park parcel contain large wetlands with portions of the interior of the park containing smaller fragments of wetlands, shown in the delineation graphic below. Most of the interior wetlands have been formed more recently due to the removal of old Highway 5. Reed canary grass is the primary concern for the wetlands.

The island is heavily covered with mature deciduous trees and contains a couple of areas of a native maple-basswood forest along with some altered non-native deciduous forest. Invasive species can be found throughout the island due to lack of management for numerous years. There are also pockets of ornamental and non-native plants that were part of previous gardens associated with the cabin and resort owners.

Though some previous mapping indicated there may be various wetlands present on the island, many of these no longer exist due to many land modifications that were made over time by the island's residents. The following is the MLCCS map for the island.

The following figures include the MLCCS cover map and wetland delineation for the main park parcel and the MLCCS cover map for the island.







## Natural Resource Goals and Recommendations

The natural resource goals include undertaking natural resource management efforts to improve upon and enhance the ecological character of the main park and island with a healthy and diverse ecological system and using these efforts as part of an educational program within the park areas.

Restoration efforts would focus on the following:

- Maintain lawn spaces where appropriate using eco-friendly maintenance methods
- Manage, restore and expand upon the Maple-Basswood Forest system for the main park as well as the island
- Restore non-native prairie to native prairie focused on pollinator species that would support bee habitat within the park, as well as educational programs
- Manage and restore wetlands to control invasive species
- Stabilize steep slopes and embankments to control erosion
- Naturalize portions of the lake shore edge to improve water quality and control erosion

## G. Implementation, Operations & Maintenance

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides a broad range of active, passive and natural spaces that when ultimately built, will take a considerable amount of fiscal commitment to implement the ultimate vision created for the park.

A preliminary development phasing and implementation strategy was developed that focuses on the following goals:

- Island Phase One: Focus on cleaning up the island and making it safe for public use while developing the two ends of the island for day picnic use, provide boat access, restroom facilities, and trails. The costs related to the phase one development are mainly in line with the funds available and dedicated to improved island use.
- Main Park: Focus on bringing up the level of development to a standard suitable of a regional park setting with the lake front as the prime focus. Development would include connection to public utility services, expanding the beach area, creating the central plaza with related park buildings, development of a lakefront walk, fishing piers, the main pedestrian pier offering access to the island, trails, parking lot with an improved access drive and initial natural resource investments. The phase one development plan is fairly significant and will occur over time as financial resources are available.

Future phased development is likely to occur as additional funds are available and in line with actual community demand. The intent of the future development phases are to provide a more robust and unique park experience focusing on adventure based year round recreation around a historical theme. The future phases will be more conducive to a broader range of park users and will provide a higher level of recreation available for the regional community.

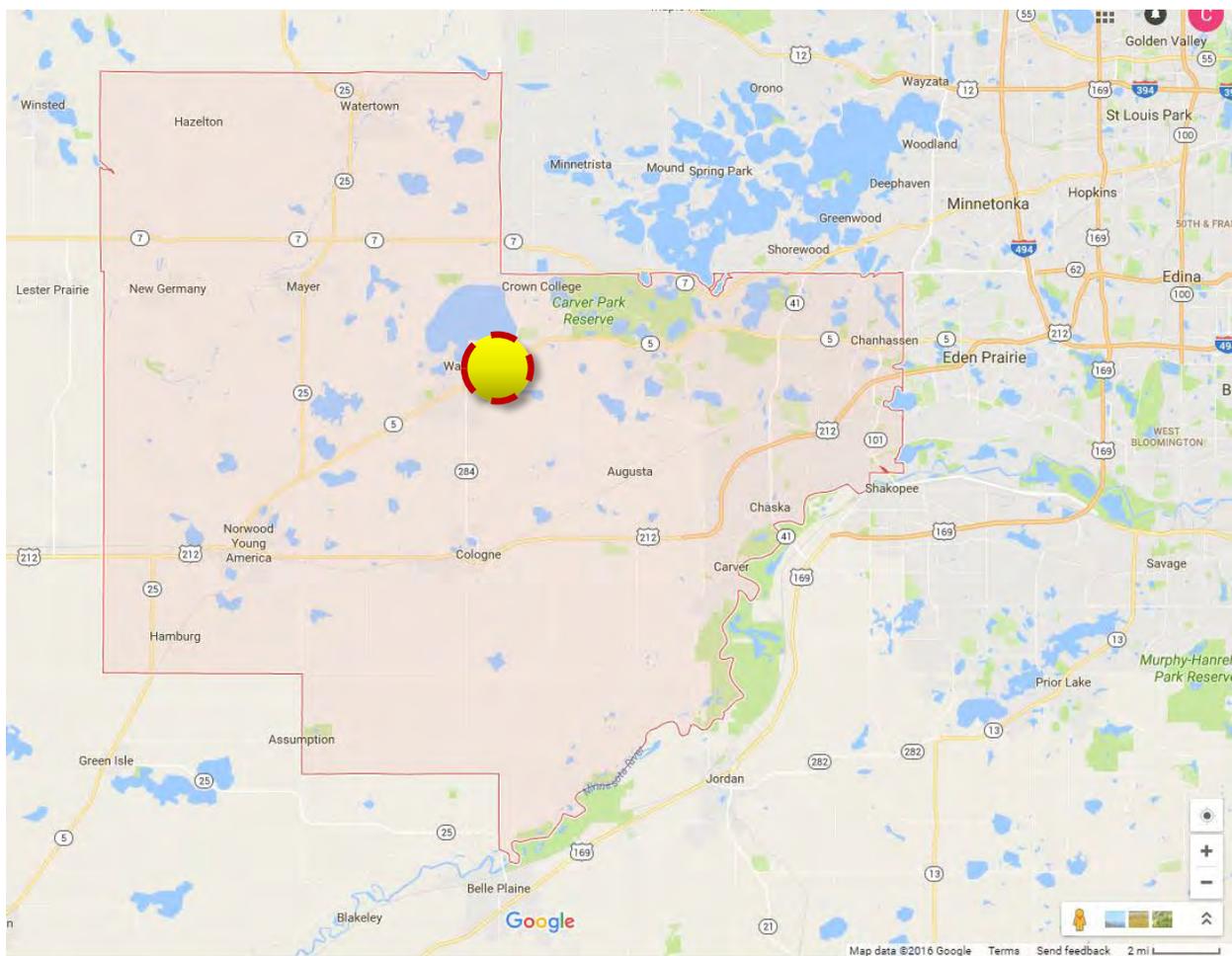
While implementation of the island and main park will ultimately increase the costs related to operations and maintenance, there is also opportunity for additional revenue sources through the implementation of park programs, rentals and concessions.

## CHAPTER 2 - PLANNING PROCESS

### A. Purpose of the Master Plan Update

Lake Waconia Regional Park is one of three regional parks within the Carver County Park System. It is centrally located within Carver County and adjacent to the City of Waconia. Located on the shores of Lake Waconia, the second largest lake in the Twin Cities area, the park is a high value public amenity for Waconia and surrounding communities. Once fully developed, the park will be well positioned to meet the regional recreational needs of Carver County. The following yellow circle illustrates the location of Lake Waconia Regional Park within Carver County.

*Image Copyright Google Maps 2016*



A master plan was created for Lake Waconia Regional Park in 2001 that allowed for a park experience focused on Lake Waconia as its prime feature. Expansion of the park to include Coney Island of the West into the park boundary while accommodating evolving recreational needs and opportunities over the past 15 years, were the impetuses behind the master plan update.

The master plan update process was meant to:

- Evaluate and account for park improvements made since the 2001 Master Plan
- Evaluate and retain items from the 2001 Master Plan that are still relevant
- Remove obsolete or undesirable items from the 2001 Master Plan
- Update and amend the plan to account for the inclusion of Coney Island of the West
- Update and amend the plan to account for new recreational demands, including an updated natural resource management plan
- Develop an updated strategic phasing and implementation plan
- Ensure the master plan update addresses the Met Council's 2040 Parks Policy Plan goals for the Thrive Outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan update, including Coney Island, is intended to replace the 2001 plan with updated goals and overall park vision.

Lake Waconia Regional Park is intended to provide year-round adventure based recreation in a natural resource based park setting shaped by the historical context as its primary theme and appeal with a focus on Lake Waconia as its prime attribute.

### Lake Waconia Regional Park Vision Statement

A new vision statement for Lake Waconia Regional Park was established to account for changes in goals and the project dynamics to the following:

*"The vision for Lake Waconia Regional Park, including the historic Coney Island of the West, is to provide the region-wide population a unique park experience focused on the shores of Lake Waconia. An accessible and inclusive balance of active, passive and culturally significant recreational opportunities will be realized within the overall context of a natural park setting, in an economically sustainable manner."*

The vision statement is in line with the following goals that were established during the planning and design process:

- Offer unique recreational opportunities not found in other Carver County parks in order to provide a complementary mix of amenities.
- Highlight the historical and cultural context of Coney Island and the local region into the design to allow the park to have a specific character that will tie the separated land uses together and offer educational opportunities.

- Ensure the park is accessible and inclusive by designing to accommodate varying user needs and allowing everyone the same recreational opportunities. This includes taking into account park and island access and not prohibiting use based on mobility, disability, age, income, gender, religion, race or ethnicity, just to name a few.
- Provide a balance of active and passive spaces to offer varying park experiences from the more quiet and reflective natural spaces to the more active recreational spaces.
- Provide regional connections in order to increase multi-modal access to the park from other areas within the service area.
- Improve and highlight the natural resources of the park spaces for increased park aesthetics and educational opportunities, as well as pollinator habitats.
- Ensure the design can actually be built and maintained adequately without significantly increasing ongoing operations and maintenance costs to the Carver County Park system by looking at more sustainable and best management practices.

## B. Background and Setting

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides a unique park opportunity within the overall Carver County park system. It includes the main park parcel of 132.66 acres and the island parcel of 33.77 acres with an overall combined total of approximately 8,500 lineal feet of shoreline along Lake Waconia.

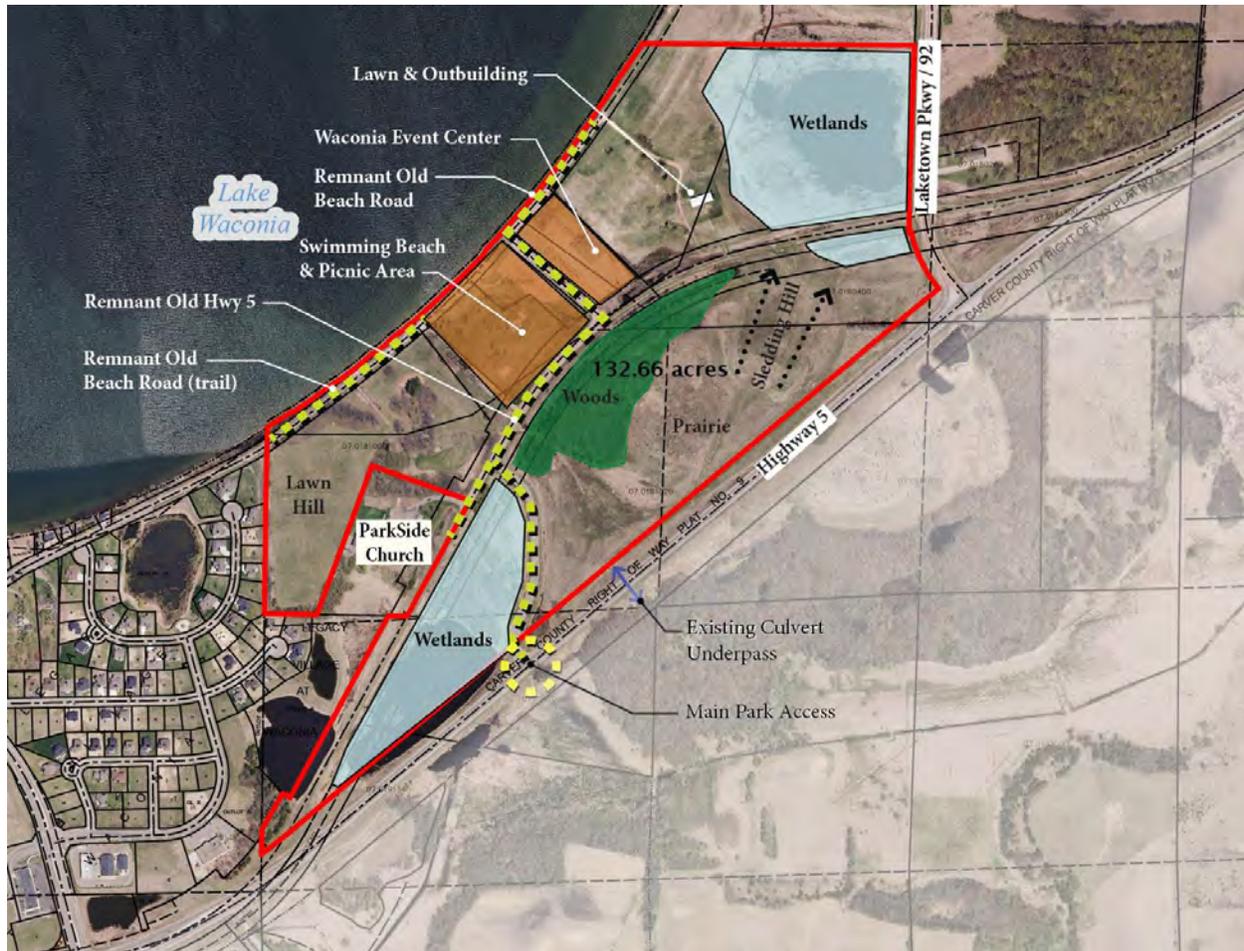
### Lake Waconia Regional Park – Main Parcel

The main Lake Waconia Regional Park parcel is located directly adjacent to the City of Waconia and was started when the Industries of Waconia (1965) and City of Waconia gave a combined total of 7 acres to Carver County in 1987. Additional land for the parks was acquired in 1987 before the park achieved regional status. After the Acquisition Master Plan was approved in 1995, the park was further expanded and land was also acquired for the new alignment of Trunk Highway 5 in 1999.

Existing amenities within the park include:

- Swimming Beach with Gravel Parking
- Playground Equipment
- Picnic Areas with Volleyball Court & Grills
- Sledding Hill
- Waconia Event Center (ballroom) & Parking
- Trail Access

The following graphic illustrates the existing conditions within the main park parcel.



**Park Access:** The main park vehicular access is located directly off of Highway 5 which also provides access to ParkSide Church. The entrance drive meets the old Highway 5 roadbed at an intersection meant to separate church and park users. At this intersection portions of the previous Highway 5 roadway remain in place for park and church access with dead ends on either side where the road becomes a dirt pedestrian trail. There is pedestrian access to the park from the City of Waconia along a 12' wide bituminous trail leading from a city cul-de-sac to the park property line. This trail was just recently redeveloped along the old alignment of the previous Old Beach Lane and is in very good shape up until the point where it meets the park property. Within the park, the Old Beach Lane road surface still exists and is used as a trail until it also dead ends at the swimming beach location. The number of dead ends, remnant road pieces and use of traffic signage barriers in the park are not conducive to a park setting and the overall desired outcome. Transit access to the main parcel is currently not planned as the City of Waconia is outside of the transit service area.

*Park Characteristics:* As you enter the park, the large wetland on the west of the drive, the prairie and wooded remnants on the east of the drive provide a pleasing park appeal. As the drive enters the main park, the majority of the park along the lake contains an open and maintained turf landscape, much of which remains from prior developed land uses and is now used for picnic and lawn space along the swimming beach. There is a temporary contact station building that is set up along the entrance drive where it meets the parking lots to take daily admissions and provide information. The current configuration of the parking lots around the Event Center (ballroom) and contact station are somewhat confusing as there are segments of old bituminous roads and parking lots that meet up to gravel areas, lacking clear delineation of spaces and travel routes.



The beach, picnic areas, and gravel parking lot are highly used and well maintained and the colorful umbrellas enhance the park and beach setting both from within the park as well as from the lake. Though the picnic shelter and restroom building are adequate, they are reaching the end of their useful life cycle the playground is in need of full removal and replacement.



The Waconia Event Center (ballroom) is still in place and is operated as a ballroom facility venue directly adjacent to the swimming beach. The ballroom and related parking areas currently do not blend well with the developed swimming beach and picnic areas, either in character or park uses, and the buildings orientation away from the lake further separates it from other park uses. The building had a long and successful history in the community and its capacity to seat 1,000 draws in large events. The overall design of the building is characteristic of the era from which it was built, both internally as well as externally. The interior is mainly closed off with limited outside views but is very spacious internally with a vaulted wood framed ceiling. Below are photos of the exterior and interior of the Event Center building.



A large hill separates and buffers the majority of the main park from Highway 5 and contains some remnant mature woodlands on the north facing slope, offering a scenic forested backdrop to the park on one side and panoramic lake views on the other. The top portion of the hill directly adjacent to the highway is currently left as a prairie setting until it meets up to the top of the sledding hill on the eastern edge of the park. The sledding hill itself has a considerable grade difference and offers dramatic views. It is currently maintained and mowed during the summer.



There are some more substantial sized wetlands located along the east and west ends of the park, with some smaller internal wetlands that have developed more recently through park modifications and improvements as water flow patterns were altered.

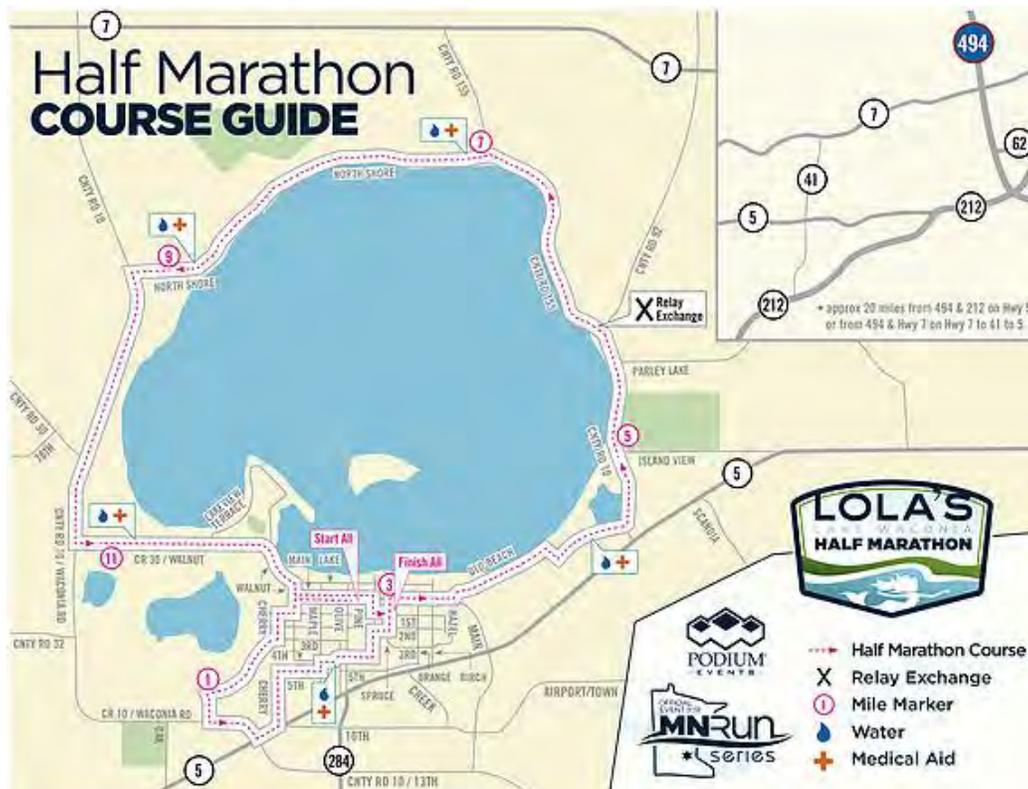


*Park Uses:* Lake Waconia Regional Park is currently a mecca for numerous large community events that utilize the expansive park space. Some events also make use of the Waconia Event Center (ballroom) building, which has a capacity to seat up to 1,000. The following are just a few of the events that take place annually at the park.

- **MWVSS Waconia Vintage Snowmobile Show** (source:www.mwvss.com)



- **Lola's Lake Waconia Half Marathon** (source: www.lakewaconiahalfmarathon.com)



- **Lake Waconia Triathlon** (source: [www.finalstretch.com/lakewaconiatriathlon](http://www.finalstretch.com/lakewaconiatriathlon))



- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks**



These are just a few of the numerous events that take place at Lake Waconia Regional Park, as there are others who utilize the park on a much more routine basis. This includes those attending weddings and other events at the Waconia Event Center (ballroom) building, groups who swim from the park to the island and back again, athletes training in the park and using the sledding hill for a challenge course, people strolling through the park with kids and/or dogs, nature enthusiasts, and beach goers. The activities that currently take place here ultimately set the stage for the decision to improve the park to accommodate the existing uses and events while developing more year-round activities to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

### Coney Island of the West

The historic Coney Island of the West is situated along the southern end of Lake Waconia directly to the north of the City of Waconia and has long been a local treasure for the community. The inclusion of Coney Island into the Lake Waconia Regional Park has ultimately changed the dynamics of the overall importance of the park within the regional park system. The inclusion of Coney Island offers a truly unique recreational opportunity to the community not offered anywhere else in the Carver County Park system and makes it a very desirable amenity.



The island was once home to a resort community that contained hotels, pavilions and cabins and it was even the location for some practices by the U of M Gophers football team. Though the island's structures have since been deteriorated or vandalized to a point of damage beyond repair, its overall historical context and nostalgic value to the local community led to it being added to the National Historic Registry in 1976 and makes it well positioned for incorporating an interpretive component into the master plan.

*Island Access:* The island can be accessed by watercraft during the summer and by numerous other means during the winter. There are currently people who access the island in the winter by snowmobile, vehicles, ATV's, skis, and even walking. Access to the island was a concern that was continually raised throughout the design process.

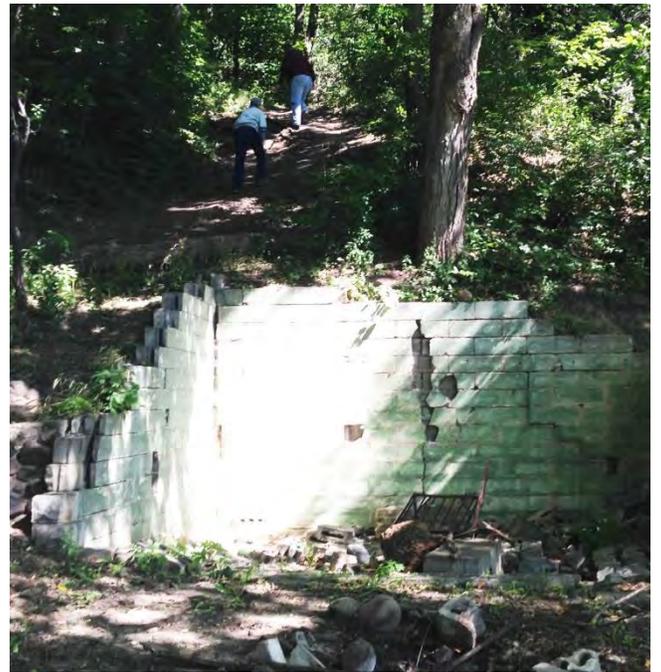


*Island Characteristics:* The island is covered with mature wooded vegetation and offers scenic views of the surrounding area. The northwest corner of the island was previously identified as a rookery for great blue herons, egrets, and cormorants and there is some minimal damage to some of the mature vegetation from the nesting activities still evident. The USFWS authorized controlled removal of the cormorants with 2011 being the most recent removal event with firearms. Though nests were identified early in 2015, they were later abandoned for unknown reasons. The USFWS still considers the rookery active and recommends ongoing monitoring of the area, though the rookery area is not a protected area unless there are active nests in place. Once a rookery has been abandoned for over 5 years it is unlikely, though not impossible, that the birds would return. Should the birds return, there is potential to include rookery observation as a viable natural island feature if it keeps disturbance to the rookery area minimal during nesting times according to proper practices and regulations.

The island still contains many remnants of previous building foundations, some buildings that have collapsed, obvious signs of vandalism, various debris piles, remnant paths, lighting, and even one old car. All are in a state of ruin which has greatly contributed to numerous comments by the public regarding the island characteristics as being spooky or mysterious.



There are various dirt trails throughout the island and the ones that extend up steep embankments are causing significant erosion issues. Existing island uses for picnicking and camping are evident with many fire pit areas and tent pads located on the southwestern tip of the island built out of concrete block from old building foundations. There are also some more interesting remnants of old walls built by original land owners along the lake edge that have partially survived over the years.



The local historical context along with the islands mysterious and natural characteristics are highly desirable by the community to retain in future improvements. Many want to see the island cleaned up in order to highlight its historical importance, improve safety, restore the natural communities, and provide appropriate recreational amenities, such as hiking, exploration, picnicking, and camping.

*Island Uses:* In recent years there were few allowed uses on the island during the time that it was privately owned. Still, there were those who used the island for exploring, summer day uses and camping, which mainly occurs on the southwestern tip of the island.

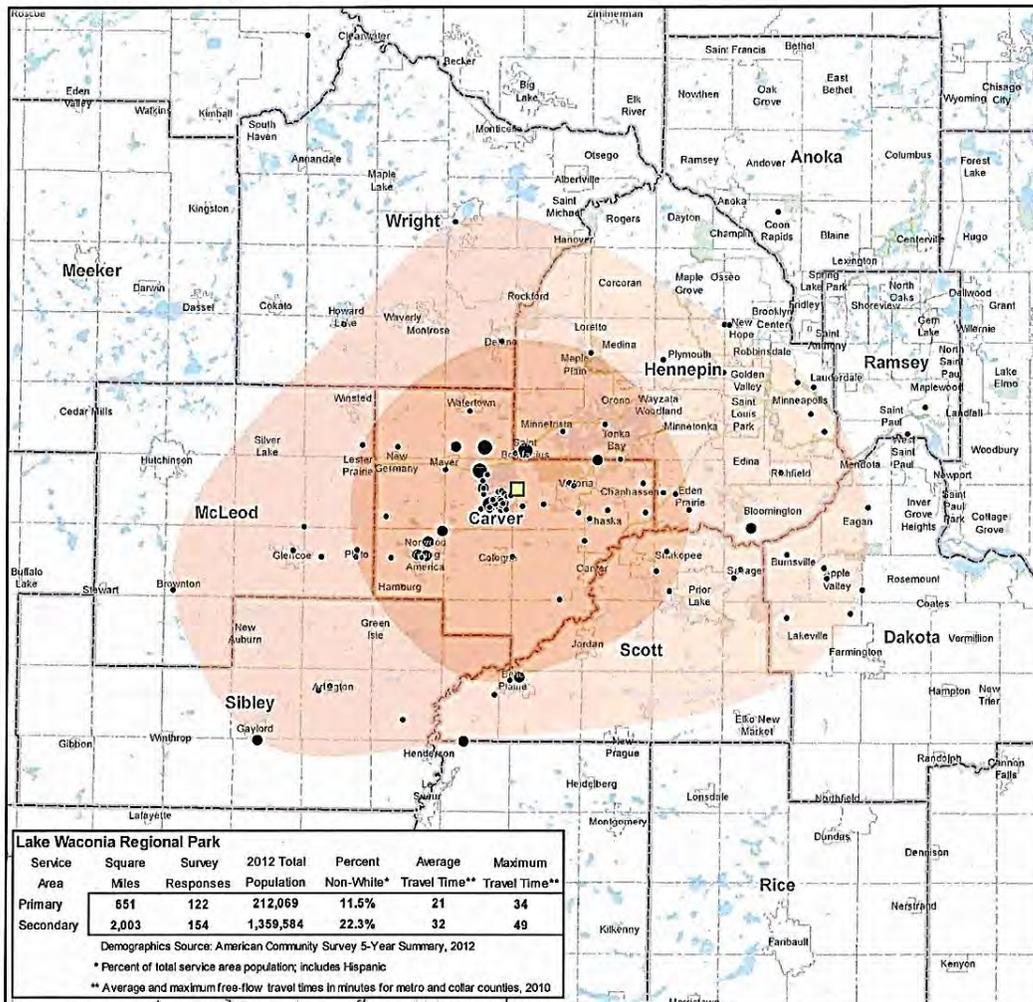
A local resident, Norm Hoffman, understood the importance of the island to the community and purchased the island from the remaining land owners. He then went through an extensive process to ensure the island would become a part of the Lake Waconia Regional Park in order for it to be accessible by the public with the intent to focus on maintaining the historical and cultural appeal of the island while allowing for more passive recreational opportunities.



### C. Regional Context

Lake Waconia Regional Park is meant to serve the regional population for Carver County as the primary service area with secondary service areas extending into Hennepin, Wright, McLeod, Sibley, Scott and even Dakota County, as shown in the following image, though the majority of the current users come from the more local populations surrounding the park.

Primary and Secondary Regional Park Service Areas  
**Lake Waconia Regional Park**



Park service areas based on 2008 user survey points of origin. Primary service areas encompass the closest 75% of respondents' points of origin and secondary service areas encompass 95% of respondents' points of origin to the selected parks, subject to modification based on natural breaks in the distribution.

**Responses per Location**

- 1
- 2 - 4
- 5 - 9
- 10 or more
- Primary Service Area
- Secondary Service Area
- Selected Park
- Existing Regional Parks
- Existing Regional Trails
- Lakes and Major Rivers
- - - City and Township Boundaries
- County Boundaries

The eastern edge of Carver County and the bordering areas of Hennepin County are currently quite rich with regional park spaces. Lake Waconia Regional Park is more centrally located within Carver County and provides easy access for the residents in the more rural and western portions of Carver County. It is meant to provide complementary recreational amenities and facilities from the other regional parks in order to make it more unique.

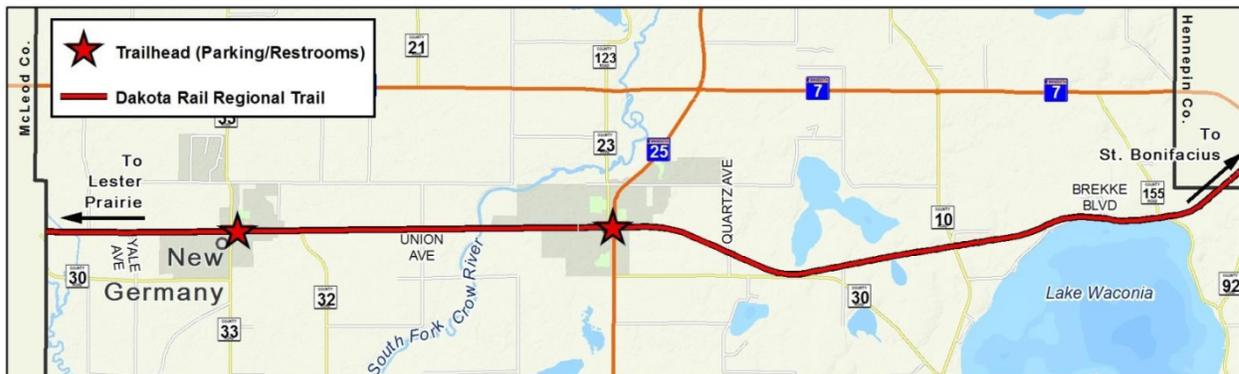
### Regional Parks & Trails

Carver County Parks operates and maintains three major park units:

- **Baylor Regional Park:** 201 acre park on Eagle Lake offering 50 camping sites, picnic areas, showers, swimming beach, ballfield, tennis courts, sand volleyball, horseshoe pits, and disc golf. Baylor also features the Eagle Lake Observatory owned and operated by the Minnesota Astronomical Society.
- **Lake Minnewashta Regional Park:** 340 acre park along Lake Minnewashta offering a swimming beach, off-leash dog area, picnic areas, playground, boat access, and trails.
- **Lake Waconia Regional Park:** 164 acre park along Lake Waconia currently offering a swimming beach, picnic areas, and playground.

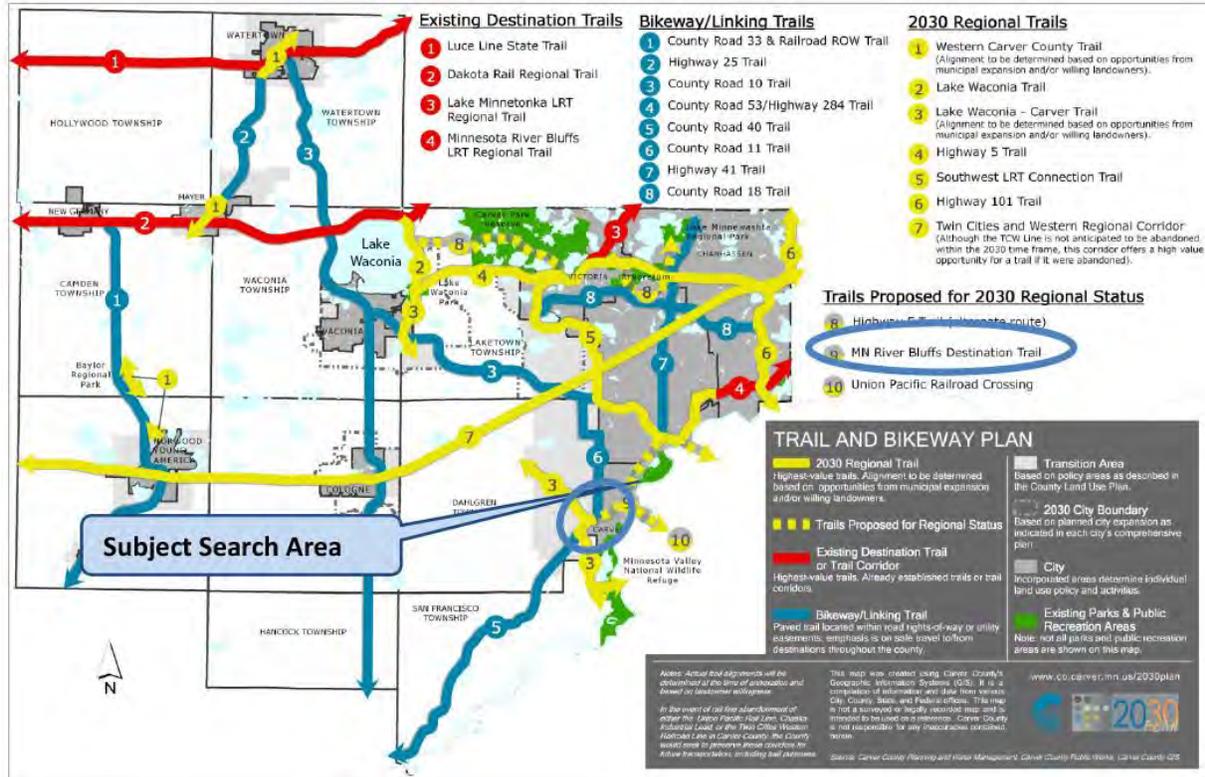
Regional trails within Carver County include:

- **Dakota Rail Regional Trail:** Currently contains 44 miles of trails along the previous rail corridor located on the north side of Lake Waconia. The future intent is to make a trail connection from Lake Waconia Regional Park to the Dakota Rail Trail.



- **Southwest Regional Trail:** Currently partially in place with approximately 13 miles planned and seven miles developed. This trail is meant to connect the existing Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail to the Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail (Southwest Light Rail Transit Corridor) in Carver.

The following Carver County 2030 Trail and Bikeway Plan illustrates existing and proposed trail systems in Carver County which indicate routes all the way around Lake Waconia to connect Lake Waconia Regional Park into numerous other trail systems and communities.



The planned future County Road 10 Regional Trail alignment starts in Chaska and continues west to Watertown. The intent is to link the communities located along County Road 10 to Lake Waconia Regional Park.

### Regional Demographics

According to the United States Census Bureau for Carver County, the demographics for the Carver County areas indicate that Carver County showed significant growth from 1990 to 2000 and is continuing to grow at a high rate. Between 2014 and 2015 the Carver County population grew by 1.4% which was third highest for the entire state of Minnesota following Clay and Scott Counties. The eventual forecast for Carver County is that it will experience the highest population and household growth rate in the Metro Region into 2040.

While the prevalent race remains Caucasian, the demographics show that diversity of the County is continuing to increase. In 2010 Caucasians accounted for 93.7% of the population and in 2014 accounted for 89.6%. Providing affordable access to natural resources and recreational amenities is an important consideration in improving the health and livability of

the region in an equitable fashion, which will be important as the region continues to evolve in terms of population and diversity.

There is also a national trend showing birth rates declining and an overall aging population. These results indicate that we will have to place a greater emphasis on meeting the needs of an aging population as they will have a substantial increase in the next 20 years. In order to meet the existing and future needs of an aging population, recreational facilities will need to be accessible and should meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Facilities will need to be kept up to accessibility standards and more opportunities for low impact and educational opportunities should be provided to meet the needs of this growing user base.

### **Demand Forecast**

While the overall outdoor recreation participation trends provided by the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources suggest some overall outdoor recreational use is declining, it also shows that actual park visits are increasing with an increase in population. Lake Waconia Regional Park continues to show an increase in park use, which is likely due to its easily accessible location within walking distance of the City of Waconia and vehicular access off of Highway 5.

Lake Waconia Regional Park is primarily used for its beach and swimming activities, as well as the special events held at the Waconia Event Center (ballroom). It has also become a popular location to hold many community events which have had both positive and negative impacts on the park. The events at the park have increased public awareness of the park, improved the livability of the community and continually bring the community together. The downside is that the demand for the park has increased fairly significantly since the 2001 plan was completed and the existing level of development at the park site is not able to adequately handle all of the demands sufficiently.

The Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan states that the population of Carver County is expected to add an additional 50,000 households by 2030 and that the changing demographics of Carver County should be reflected with a well-balanced and flexible park system that can respond to the evolving, broad-based needs.

The 2030 demand forecast mixed with the existing popularity of the park site underscores the importance of developing Lake Waconia Regional Park to an adequate, yet not over-developed level, to meet the demands in a sustainable manner. The master plan site improvements will increase the ability of the park to handle most of the demands, but there may also need to be regulations put in place to limit potential conflicts and over-use of the park. It was made clear by some of the public that it can be tiring to have roads and park use areas closed off when

large events are held too close together and that the park should provide a place for relaxation while allowing the day user to have a place to recreate.

### Public Awareness

Through the community engagement process it was found that a high amount of the stakeholders were very familiar with Lake Waconia Regional Park and Coney Island. Many of these stakeholders had been in Carver County for many years. With the expected increase in development and future household populations in Carver County, there will be an increase in the amount of people who are coming from outside of the County, and therefore, will not be familiar with the region and will be looking for quick and easy access to information on the park and trail system.

The Carver County web page currently provides up-to-date information on all of their park and trail systems, from park program opportunities, to park and trail locations, reservation policies, recreational amenities available, and ways to get involved. Carver County Parks may also look into methods to reach out to populations that do not have easy access to the internet, such as some of the senior populations that are not as familiar with internet options, and populations that may not use English as their primary language. The park will provide another opportunity to provide public awareness through information on the park amenities and activities to encourage users to return. Park signage would again be encouraged to use more universal symbols and alternate languages to provide clear information, as the following illustrates.

<http://languagelog.idc.upenn.edu/nll/?cat=259>

<http://northstateparent.com/2015/07/national-parks-american-treasures/>



## D. Planning Process

Given the notable interest in the inclusion of Coney Island into the park, the 2015-2016 master plan update process took a much more publicly involved process than the original master plan by integrating a variety of community engagement tools in order to truly identify and address the community needs, concerns and desires as highlighted in Chapter 3.

The following graphic illustrates the step-by-step planning process that was undertaken for the master plan update.



The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update project focused on the development of an updated master plan that incorporated Coney Island into the park and would meet the updated recreational needs of the regional community. The planning process took a comprehensive approach that evaluated the previous master plan, the existing site settings, existing recreational uses, new recreational trends and demands, historical and educational opportunities, and its overall context within the County. The master plan update was meant to accomplish the following goals:

- Evaluate park improvements made since the 2001 Master Plan
- Evaluate and retain items from the 2001 Master Plan that are still relevant
- Remove outdated and undesirable items from the 2001 Master Plan
- Update and amend the plan to account for the inclusion of Coney Island
- Update and amend the plan to account for new recreational demands, including an updated natural resource management plan and phasing and implementation plan

- Ensure the master plan update addresses the Met Council’s 2040 Parks Policy Plan goals for the Thrive Outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability

Due to the strong community sentiment towards the historical aspect of Coney Island, as well as the desire to reach a larger and more diverse audience, a strong community engagement plan was developed to gather as much pertinent input as possible from residents, special interest groups and diverse populations. It also allowed many innovative ideas to surface. The local residents and park users provided invaluable information related to how the existing park spaces were being used, how existing conditions and factors affected how the park spaces were being used, from the direction of prevailing wind to park access, and what improvements would make them want to continually visit the park spaces. This process was a great tool to ensure the goals and demands of the community were being properly addressed in the plan.

The following provides greater detail into the step-by-step planning process.

### **Step 1: Inventory and Analysis & Natural Resources Inventory**

This first step of the planning process included undertaking site inventory and analysis and a Natural Resource Inventory for both the main park parcel as well as Coney Island. Much of the previous information for the main park parcel from the original 2001 master plan process was reviewed and updated to account for changes in the park that have been made in the past 15 years and a new inventory and analysis was conducted for Coney Island. The overall site inventory and analysis process included:

- Site review of existing conditions
- Review of site soil conditions mapping
- Review of National Wetland Inventory Maps
- New Natural Resource Inventory & MLCCS Maps
- New Wetland Delineations

The information gathered provided guidance during the planning process to ensure that development occurred in the most suitable locations, it identified sensitive environments or conditions to protect, and it also identified opportunities for either additional natural resources or developed spaces. More in-depth information regarding the natural resources can be found in the Natural Resource and Management Plan chapter of this report.

## Step 2: Community Engagement Plan, Data Collection & Research

This step worked simultaneously with the first step of the process and included extensive methods to gather information related to the park sites. The following outlines the methods and data collected and reviewed during the planning process.

- Historical Research on Coney Island, Yellowstone Trail and Lake Waconia Region
- Bird Survey's for Island Rookery
- Data Collection (demographics, trail systems, land uses, Met Council documents, Carver County documents, recreational trends research, etc.)
- Press Releases
- Community Engagement Events
- Pop-Up Meetings
- Open House Meetings
- Surveys
- Online / Social Media Plan
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Boards and Commissions Meetings
- Recreational Trends Research

## Step 3: Conceptual Design Preparation & Review

Using the findings and information gathered during the first two steps of the design process, two conceptual approaches for development for Lake Waconia Regional Park were prepared in order to illustrate varying levels of development. The plans were presented to the public at a public open house meeting in order to gather opinions on the conceptual plans, the level of development that was appropriate and desired, and the design approach to carry into the next step, the preliminary master plan and included interactive methods to gather input.

The concept plans can be found in the Appendix section of the report.

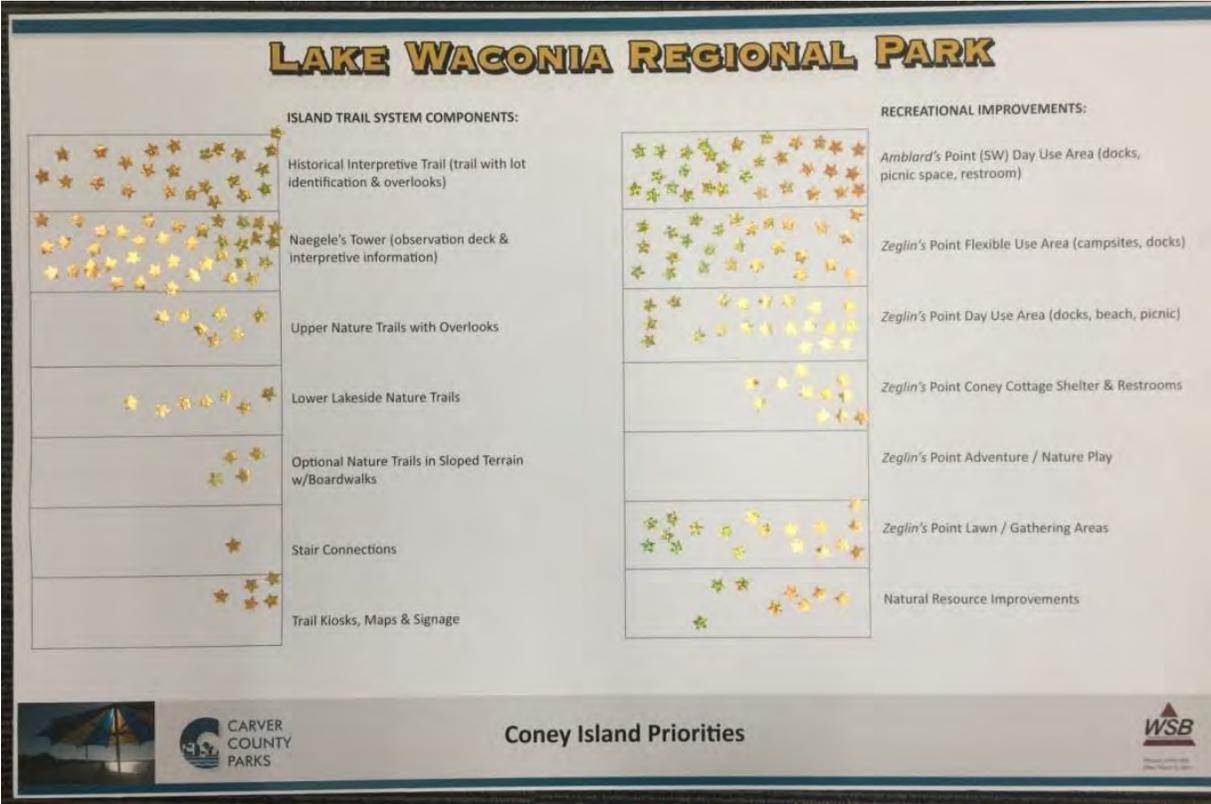
## Step 4: Preliminary Master Plan Preparation & Review

The preparation of the Preliminary Master plan included taking the comments and input from the conceptual plan review stage and combining the preferred conceptual plan elements down into one preferred approach for development that was in line with public sentiment. The preliminary master plans were a blended approach of various conceptual elements to incorporate a level of development that was felt to be appropriate.

The Preliminary Master Plans can be found in the Appendix section of the report.

The consultant presented the preliminary master plans to the public and was available for follow-up questions and comments. The public was then asked to rank their three highest priority items for the island and the three highest priority items for the main park parcel in order to determine the most desirable features of each. The plans and related survey questions were also posted on the Carver County webpage for several weeks following the public meeting in order to obtain additional input, as well as input from the TAC and County.

The following is an example of one of the ranking boards.



| ISLAND TRAIL SYSTEM COMPONENTS:   | RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS:  |
|---|---|
| Historical Interpretive Trail (trail with lot identification & overlooks) | Amblard's Point (SW) Day Use Area (docks, picnic space, restroom) |
| Naegele's Tower (observation deck & interpretive information)             | Zeglin's Point Flexible Use Area (campsites, docks)               |
| Upper Nature Trails with Overlooks  | Zeglin's Point Day Use Area (docks, beach, picnic)                |
| Lower Lakeside Nature Trails  | Zeglin's Point Coney Cottage Shelter & Restrooms                  |
| Optional Nature Trails in Sloped Terrain w/Boardwalks                     | Zeglin's Point Adventure / Nature Play                            |
| Stair Connections   | Zeglin's Point Lawn / Gathering Areas                             |
| Trail Kiosks, Maps & Signage  | Natural Resource Improvements                                     |

**Coney Island Priorities**

Logos for Carver County Parks and WSB are visible at the bottom of the board.

### Step 5: Finalize Master Plan & Natural Resource Management Plan

This step includes finalizing the master plan for approval and adoption, to include the natural resource management plan. Very few modifications were needed to the preliminary master plans in order to create the final master plan. The final master plans can be found in the Master Development Plan chapter where they are described in greater detail.

As part of the final master plan process, a phase one development feasibility strategy was prepared for both the island and the main parcel in order to determine costs and a phasing approach to development. This feasibility study includes potential programming options and schematic architectural design related to the park buildings.

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## CHAPTER 3 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

### A. Overview

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update process included a rich and effective public engagement strategy in order to inform, consult, collaborate and partner with the community and stakeholders throughout the visioning and design process that included an effort to try and target under-represented populations within Carver County. The engagement plan was also used to meet the goals of the Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan and the Metropolitan Council 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

In total, it is estimated that over 500 people were directly contacted throughout the various community engagement activities and the public open house meetings, with additional contact made through online and social media forums. The groups and individuals engaged represented a wide range of age, ethnicity and geographic location within the southwest metropolitan area.

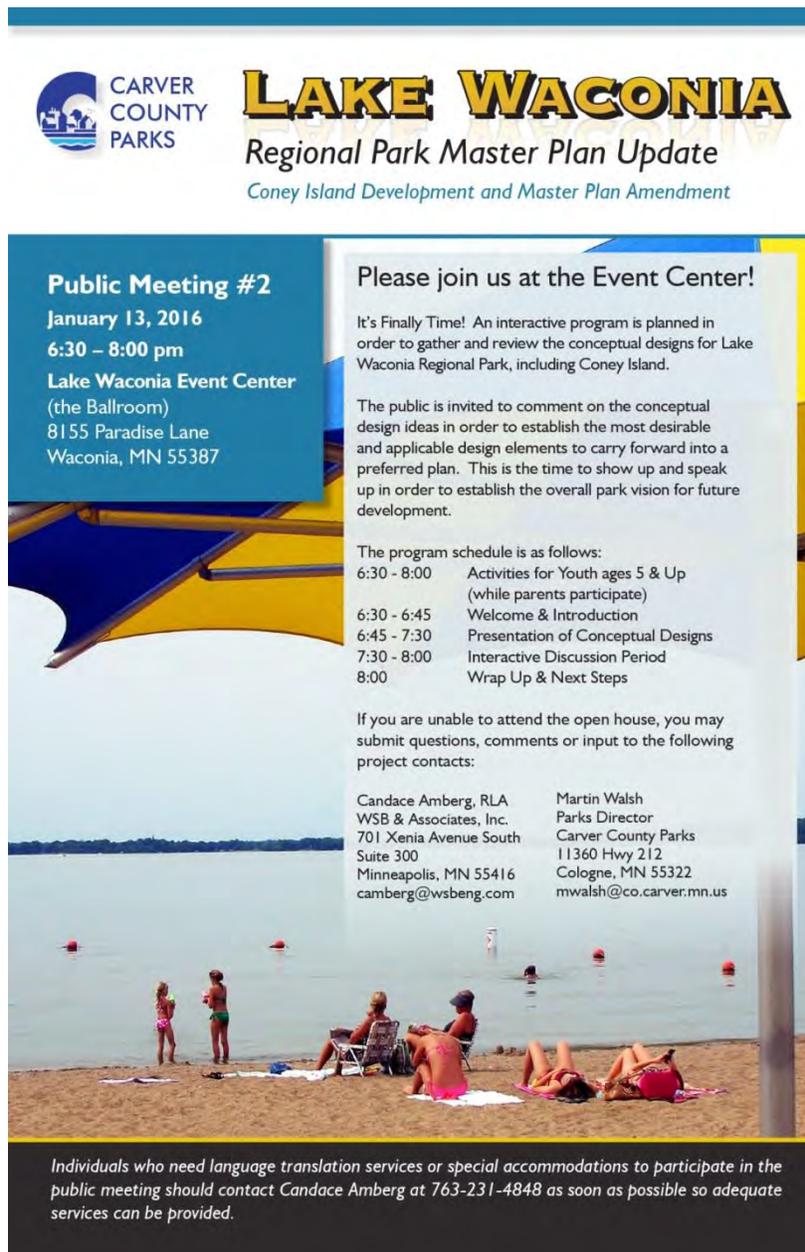
The findings collected from this step were crucial in determining the public's opinion of how the park and island would work together even though they are physically separated, what the recreational needs of the community were, the issues affecting park use, and unique ideas related to the future development of Lake Waconia Regional Park. It was clearly established during the public process by the County and project stakeholders that the master plan should accommodate a balanced development approach. The historical attributes of Lake Waconia Regional Park, and Coney Island in particular, were of utmost importance to the community and finding an appropriate balance between human use of the park, historical interpretation and preservation, and ecological protection was an important and consistent concern from almost all park users and local residents.

### B. Community Engagement Methods

The following community engagement methods were used to gather input, ideas and interests from a broad cross section of groups and individuals, and to establish project stakeholders. An effort was made to engage with those who were regular park users, as well as those who rarely or never visited the park. The community engagement strategy employed a variety of techniques to achieve this broad cross section of input by going out to find those groups and individuals rather than wait for them to come to us. The following are the methods used during the community engagement process.

## Print

*Method:* Carver County sent out three separate official press releases throughout the project to thirteen metro-wide and local newspapers. The press releases were printed prior to each public open house meeting with information on the date and time of each meeting. There were also additional articles in newspapers and on television stations regarding the master plan project. Included in some of the press releases, and also distributed by some of the stakeholder's, were flyers used to advertise upcoming meetings. The flyers and all print methods for plans and graphics used a consistent theme in order for materials to quickly and easily be identified. The following is an example of a meeting flyer for a public meeting.



**CARVER COUNTY PARKS**

# LAKE WACONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

*Coney Island Development and Master Plan Amendment*

**Public Meeting #2**  
**January 13, 2016**  
**6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**Lake Waconia Event Center**  
 (the Ballroom)  
 8155 Paradise Lane  
 Waconia, MN 55387

**Please join us at the Event Center!**

It's Finally Time! An interactive program is planned in order to gather and review the conceptual designs for Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island.

The public is invited to comment on the conceptual design ideas in order to establish the most desirable and applicable design elements to carry forward into a preferred plan. This is the time to show up and speak up in order to establish the overall park vision for future development.

The program schedule is as follows:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 6:30 - 8:00 | Activities for Youth ages 5 & Up (while parents participate) |
| 6:30 - 6:45 | Welcome & Introduction                                       |
| 6:45 - 7:30 | Presentation of Conceptual Designs                           |
| 7:30 - 8:00 | Interactive Discussion Period                                |
| 8:00        | Wrap Up & Next Steps   |

If you are unable to attend the open house, you may submit questions, comments or input to the following project contacts:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Candace Amberg, RLA<br>WSB & Associates, Inc.<br>701 Xenia Avenue South<br>Suite 300<br>Minneapolis, MN 55416<br>camberg@wsbeng.com | Martin Walsh<br>Parks Director<br>Carver County Parks<br>11360 Hwy 212<br>Cologne, MN 55322<br>mw Walsh@co.carver.mn.us |
|---|---|

*Individuals who need language translation services or special accommodations to participate in the public meeting should contact Candace Amberg at 763-231-4848 as soon as possible so adequate services can be provided.*

*Findings/Effectiveness:* During the various community engagement activities and public meetings there were numerous comments from people who had seen or read about the Lake Waconia Regional Park master plan project and the acquisition of Coney Island due to the use of press and other print materials.

### Electronic Communications/ Social Media

*Method:* The use of online and social media tools were used throughout the project that included:

- MySidewalk
- The Carver County Parks web page
- Twitter
- Facebook

These online tools were used to advertise upcoming meetings, share news articles, gather feedback through the use of surveys and questionnaires, and illustrate project graphics. Below is an example of findings from an online survey through MySidewalk.



*Findings/Effectiveness:* It was found that there were many “shares” of news articles and online information regarding the park planning project through the use of Facebook amongst local residents. The Carver County web page also received a fair amount of visits and comments. The use of MySidewalk had some visits and feedback, though not as much as the other social media methods. The feedback through social media proved to be mostly positive with many excited about the project and some who had concerns about overall project costs.

### Public Open House Meetings

*Method:* Three separate public open house meetings were held at the Waconia Event Center in Lake Waconia Regional Park. Meeting information and flyers were distributed prior to each meeting in order to advertise the meeting. They included a general agenda and listed information on children's activities in order to encourage families to attend and included interactive methods to engage the audience and gather feedback during each meeting. The meeting information was also distributed to various stakeholders in order to get the information out to a greater audience and under-represented populations. The plans and survey questions were also posted on the Carver County webpage for several weeks following the public meetings in order to obtain additional input, as well as input from the Technical Advisory Committee and County. The open house meetings included the following:

1. Open House Meeting #1: Project Introduction & Brainstorming

This meeting was held to provide an overview of the project process, schedule and methods to be used during the course of the project; inform the public of the acquisition of Coney Island to be integrated into Lake Waconia Regional Park; and gather project visioning ideas and concerns regarding the planning and design of Lake Waconia Regional park, including Coney Island. The meeting included a presentation by the County and design consultant followed by a variety of fast paced brainstorming activities in order to make the information gathering process fun and inclusive. Approximately 60-80 people attended this meeting.



## 2. Open House Meeting #2: Conceptual Design Review

The second open house meeting was held to present conceptual design options for the island and the main park with interactive methods used to gather feedback and comments from the public to determine which elements to carry forward into the final design. Attendees were provided plans, notes and markers in order to discuss, review and summarize their comments for each of the concept plans.

Approximately 120 people attended this meeting.



## 3. Open House Meeting #3: Preliminary Master Plan Design Review

The third public meeting was held to present the preliminary master plan to the public and to gather review and feedback. Upon completion of the plan presentation and review, the attendees were given three stars to place on the three highest items of priority for the island and then three stars to place on the three highest items of priority for the main park parcel in order to determine the items of highest importance.

Approximately 80 people attended this meeting.

*Findings/Effectiveness:* The public open house meetings were highly popular for specific demographics, generally between 40 to 70 years of age, and were mainly attended by the local community residents of Waconia. There were some younger families also present and the group became more diverse at the second and third meeting, which was likely due to the

ongoing press related to the project, provision of child care, as well as personal contact by the County and design consultant as part of other community engagement techniques. Many of those who attended the meetings had very positive feedback on the approach to the meetings stating that the presentations and engagement activities were fun and that comments made by the public were accounted for in the plans.

Much of the input gathered during the open house meetings provided very specific information regarding the history of the area, as well as intimate knowledge of site conditions for the island, the lake and the main park parcel. Review and comments were generally centered around highlighting the history of the island and region, concerns with safety and access to and from the island, including a large venue facility in the park, and ensuring the park and island is balanced and not over-developed.

### Pop-Up Meetings

*Method:* Three separate pop-up meetings were held at select locations throughout Carver County in order to go out and gather input from various demographics in different settings and locations. The pop-meetings included the following:

1. Pop-Up Meeting #1: Lake Waconia Regional Park Beach

The first pop-up meeting was held at the Lake Waconia Regional Park beach on August 30th during a peak usage use time with many demographics present. The park attendees were very diverse in ethnicity but most were families with children or grandchildren present. Some specific groups engaged included members from a large Latino family who were there for a family reunion/gathering, an Asian and African-American couple enjoying the day with their grandchildren, a young Columbian couple with no kids, members of a group who were attending baptisms in the lake, and families of varying types and sizes. The activities that were taking place at the park indicate the uses are broader than just swimming activities at the beach, as was the case with the baptism, walking, biking, and geocaching that were also taking place on that day. Approximately 100 people provided input.

2. Pop-Up Meeting #2: Chaska Farmer's Market

The second pop-up meeting was held at the Chaska Farmer's Market. This group included mostly Carver County employees and residents who had walked over to the event. Most people had indicated they had not been to Lake Waconia Regional Park before. Again, there was a broad spectrum of age ranges and ethnicities, including a Syrian gentleman and two Hmong farmer's market vendors who contributed. Approximately 25 people provided input.

### 3. Pop-Up Meeting #3: Waconia Food Shelf & Library

The final pop-up event was held in Waconia at the food shelf and the library in an effort to engage with lower income individuals at local spots. While it was a quiet day at both venues, the team was able to find some individuals to provide input.

Approximately 15 people provided input.

*Findings/Effectiveness:* The most successful pop-up meeting was the one held at the park with actual park users. The input gathered during this visit provided a broad spectrum of viewpoints from diverse populations and allowed the design team to see how the park was being used. While the other two meetings had fewer people providing input, the type of input was still relevant to the planning outcomes and provided varying perspectives.

Most of the comments were gathered during the park site visit and were generally centered around needed improvements or additional recreational amenities and services, such as playground, restrooms, a desire for concessions, and their like for the beach area.

## Community Events

*Method:* Attendance at three community events throughout the region were held in order to gather input using a simple dot activity board and quick questions regarding the park, its uses and potential programming and development. The community events included the following:

### 1. Community Event #1: Carver Steamboat Days

The first event included setting up a small station alongside various street vendors during the Carver Steamboat Days on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The demographics consisted of many working class families with kids who lived right in Carver, some who had grown up in the region, and there was also a fair amount of people who were from Waconia and very familiar with the park and island. There were additional responses from those who lived in Chaska, St. Peter and Lonsdale. The demographics of the responders consisted highly of Caucasian families with kids ranging from toddlers through teens, but there were also a fair number of couples in the range of 65+ years of age who were long-time residents of the region and were very familiar with the park and knew the history well. Though there were also people from outside of Carver County, those demographics tended to decline providing input when asked. Approximately 130-150 people provided input.

2. Community Event #2: Nickle Dickle Days in Waconia

The second event was held at a booth set up the Nickle Dickle Days in Waconia. The vast majority of the responders were from Waconia, had been to the park and were very familiar with the island and its history. Over half were children, with approximately a quarter being parents, and the remaining quarter seniors. Approximately 50 people provided input.

3. Community Event #3: AngelFest

This event was located in Chaska and sponsored by the Guardian Angels Catholic Church. It was a smaller event and the majority of the responders were specifically associated with the church. Most were in the range of 40-70 years of age with some groups of kids also providing input. More in-depth information was provided by several people associated with the church and AngelFest event who spoke on behalf of their friends, neighbors and church members, most of which were from the Latino community. They were able to identify specific needs and requests for recreational amenities requested by the Latino community. Approximately 25 people provided input.

*Findings/Effectiveness:* Attendance at local events throughout the community was useful and very specific to the project. The local community had great input in terms of how the park is used and could be used, as well as local knowledge of site conditions and other factors that affected design. Being able to attend events in varying locations also identify where the primary park users are coming from and what the barriers to park use were.

Many comments were centered around the popularity of fishing and swimming. Some general comments provided from the activities and events included issues with the entrance fee to the park, the desire to be able to show up at the park and use a shelter building without a reservation, the need for large open areas for games/sports (non-programmed), and improved amenities. There were numerous comments about improvements that were needed to the playground, restroom and picnic areas, the need for a large venue, and the desire for rentals and concessions, including a ferry to the island. Observation towers and zip lines were also mentioned.

## Stakeholder Interviews

*Method:* Interviews with select project groups and individuals were undertaken as part of the design process to be able to talk directly with various project stakeholders who could offer more specific input related to the project. Some stakeholders contacted included:

- City of Waconia Chamber of Commerce Members
- Carver County Historical Society, including Wendy Peterson-Biorn, Paul Melchert, Norm Hoffman and Josephine Mihelich.
- Lancer Hospitality
- Waconia School District, including their Conservation Group, and Intercultural Service Committee with ISD 112 (representatives of many groups, including Asian, Somali, Eastern European, & Latino, to name a few)
- MORC (Minnesota Off Road Cyclists)
- ParkSide Church
- Adjacent Landowners
- Crown College
- Audubon Society
- SPOKES (Bicycle, Paddle and Ice Cream Shop)
- MWVSS (Midwest Waconia Vintage Snowmobile Show / The Waconia Ride-In)
- Special Park Events: Swimmers, triathlon, kids events, 4<sup>th</sup> of July

Approximately 20 people were included in the interview sessions.

*Findings/Effectiveness:* The individual stakeholder interviews provided the design team with much more detailed information regarding the park and its uses, as well as the events that take place at the park, in order to plan for them accordingly. They also highlighted areas of concern and potential opportunities for collaboration as the park develops. Contact with stakeholders also promoted the project and allowed for more diverse groups to attend the public open house meetings.

The groups representing the larger park events had concerns about future improvements that would prohibit their current use of the park and wanted to be sure there were flexible spaces and adequate parking to continue their use within the park. The adjacent land owners had very specific concerns with the park uses and access issues that impact them directly, with many park goers currently trespassing on their property.

There were specific cultural groups that identified their concerns related to their cultural or religious beliefs. It was noted by one group that Muslims pray five times per day, and this is usually easily accommodated along trails as shown in the master plan. There was also mention of the concerns that Muslim women have as it relates to swimming restrictions and privacy

needs for changing rooms. Many realize that a separated swimming beach is usually not easily accommodated or enforced. There are currently other options becoming more readily available for some groups, such as burkini's, which is an Islamic type of swimwear. Universal symbols or alternative languages on signs for park rules, reservations, trash disposal, and other park information was a strong desire, as was having multi-lingual staff. Other specific recreational desires included large picnic shelters for groups, options for shelters that don't require a reservation, fishing piers, sand volleyball, open play field, and water play apparatus.

### **Technical Advisory Committee**

*Method:* The use of a Technical Advisory Committee was used as part of the design process. Their role was to provide technical input based on their specific area of knowledge, provide ongoing communication to their respective agency/committee that they represent, and promote the project by providing outreach to the community through their contacts. There were approximately 18 members with a broad range of backgrounds included on the TAC and a total of six TAC meetings were held throughout the design process. The members included the following:

- Candace Amberg, WSB & Associates, Inc.
- Breanne Rothstein, WSB & Associates, Inc.
- Jeff Schoenbauer, Schoenbauer Consulting, LLC.
- Martin Walsh, Carver County Parks
- Sam Pertz, Carver County Parks
- Nate Kabat, Carver County
- Jim Olson, Carver County Sheriff's Office
- Tim Lynch, Carver County Board Commissioner
- Wendy Peterson Biorn, Carver County Historical Society
- Jerry Bruner, Carver County Park Commission
- Kristen Larson, Carver County Planning & Water Management
- Tom Notch, Waconia Township
- Ken Essig, Laketown Township
- Mike Malling, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Rachel Hintzman, Department of Natural Resources
- Bob McGillivray, Trust for Public Land
- Robert Kim, Chaska Human Rights Commission
- Lane Braaten, City of Waconia Planner

*Findings/Effectiveness:* The use of a TAC in the design process was very valuable in broadening the outreach through various organizations and identifying specific issues to the park development. The TAC members provided a range of ideas and issues to consider during

design and were able to discuss information more thoroughly in order to make design decisions in each step of the process. Many of the members would distribute and discuss the planning process and findings with their represented group and then provide follow-up responses and ideas back to the design team. Their input helped the plan develop to a more detailed level in terms of accessibility, safety, appropriate levels of development, enhancement of natural resources, and considerations for the rookery.

### Research

*Method:* Previous studies and reports were researched and reviewed in order to identify trends and demands that related to this project. These included recreational trends, previous master plan studies and engagement results, Metropolitan Council documents (ie: Regional Parks Policy Plan, Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color), Carver County documents (ie: Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, Lake Waconia and Wells Colonial Waterbird Surveys, etc.). The goal was to introduce a range of ideas and concepts to inform the planning process and help shape the outcomes in conjunction with the input directly received during the community engagement activities.

*Findings/Effectiveness:* In addition to the community engagement findings, there were numerous research findings and recreational trends in outdoor recreation worthy of consideration. At the development level, key trends and findings from various secondary research shows an overall trend of declining use of parks.

Through the various research, review of recreational trends and reviewing research by the Metropolitan Council, specifically directed at communities of color, barriers to participation often cited, include the following;

- Technological Recreation taking over larger percentages of youth and adult free time, diminishing the perceived time available to get outdoors.
- Lack of time
- Lack of desire
- Lack of adult desire to participate and lack of parents influencing children to recreate outdoors
- Desire for comforts and conveniences
- Lack of transportation options
- Entrance fees and other costs (specialized activity equipment, rentals)
- Safety concerns (personal sense of security, worries of injury)
- Lack of awareness (unaware of the park and amenities provided)
- Language barriers
- Weather
- Map challenges and orientation (both in finding the park, as well as finding their way within the park)

- No companions
- Cultural or religious insensitivity/discrimination

Ideas for getting more people outdoors include:

- Higher quality facilities/amenities
- Lowering or eliminating entrance fees for parks and activities
- Expanding programming opportunities for broader range of users
- Providing multi-modal access to the park
- Park staff to aid visitors within the park
- Universal symbols in park signs/wayfinding
- Alternate language options
- Community outreach to provide information on park and amenities
- Providing reliable access to wifi, etc.
- Reinforcing the value of the outdoors to adults/parents
- Integrating the outdoors into school curriculum and park programs
- Integrating technology into the park experience and/or programs (ie: QR Codes, Pokemon Go)

### C. Community Engagement Results

In consideration of all of the various community engagement activities that were conducted, the following community engagement results are the most common ideas, goals, themes and thoughts regarding the Lake Waconia Regional Park and the master plan amendment. The findings of the community engagement process brought to light a variety of activity and use themes that are highly valued by those who participated in the process. Some broader take-aways included:

- Traditional uses and expectations for a regional park (trails, playground, swimming beach, camping, etc.) remain viable.
- Year-round park use is important.
- Recognition that the park, and island in particular, offers a unique opportunity with high potential to create a destination that draws visitors from within and outside the region.
- Opportunity to create some public-private partnerships to service visitor activities and provide a broader user experience.

### Development Themes

The community engagement process, coupled with broader recreational trends and research, provide important insights and a sound basis for developing design themes for the park. The following outlines a number of general design themes for the park, along with design program elements for the main parcel and island areas of the park that evolved.

### *Big Design Themes:*

- **Create a vibrant local and regional “destination” park** – the setting and characteristics of the park offer unique recreational opportunities; design quality and attention to detail is vital in taking full advantage of the opportunity (not just another park with the usual set of amenities). The park is currently well positioned to promote year-round activities and recreational experiences through the park programs, the recreational amenities provided and the community events that take place year round.
- **Quality of experience** – novelty of the user experience will initially entice people to visit the park but the quality of the user experience through insightful design will get them to return time and again. The goal is to create memorable experiences and each aspect of the plan needs to be evaluated through this spectrum. Part of the unique experience is being able to get from the main park parcel to the island.
- **Cornerstone park** – the park is well positioned to be a cornerstone park in the community. Interconnection with the larger local and regional trail network is vital; the park could be a terminus point for local residents and those using the regional trails.

### *Main Park Program Elements:*

- **Swimming and beach area:** Most people expressed that swimming was the highlight of what people think of/do when they visit the park. The beach area remains vital to the community and may warrant expansion.
- **Fishing:** Fishing was an important activity to keep and enhance in the park, including consideration of fishing piers, improved boat access and parking. Some wanted better boat access to the lake, and places to dock in order to visit the park while others wanted to discourage boat activity in the lake for fear of causing too much boat traffic.
- **Better, bigger playground:** Expanding the playground area considerably with a distinct and novel design theme appropriate for a regional park setting was a common goal.
- **Public waterfront space:** Incorporating rental opportunities for non-motorized watercraft, a ferry service to and from the island, day use motorized boat docking, and general public waterfront space was a common desire. While many had issues with paying an entrance fee into the park, they felt a rental fee for equipment was more appropriate and something they would be willing to pay for.
- **Trails:** Maintaining and enhancing hiking, biking and walking trails was a common theme. Some mentioned better connections to regional trail systems to provide access to and from the park.
- **Sense of entrance:** A sense of entrance remains important, especially clarifying and directing traffic to the church property access, DNR boat launch access, and park amenities.
- **Park venue:** Keeping some type of large capacity venue space for the park that is in line with community demands while providing day-to-day regional park use was important.

### *Island Program Elements*

- **Island destination:** The island is an enticing destination. The design quality of the amenities being offered will be essential to entice return visits over time. The island shall encourage exploration while not over-developing it. Year round access to the island and safety while on the island are important factors for consideration in the design. Access to the island can also be used as an opportunity for a unique experience, such as winter skiing, summer paddle boarding or even a “voyageur” boat trip.
- **Connection to history and nature:** Many people expressed the desire to preserve the history on the Island through historical interpretation that can also be extended to include broader history of the region and the natural environment.
- **Trails:** Well-designed trails that take full advantage of view and provide a sense of place with ample places to sit, observe, contemplate, and connect to nature while not being intrusive were a high priority. As part of the trail system, an observation tower on the island was suggested to provide panoramic views of the lake and even the rookery area.
- **Camping:** Camping is seen as one of the most enticing and unique opportunities to incorporate on the island. It is an activity that is currently taking place and providing well-located and well-designed areas for an overnight island experience is warranted once safety and programming is established.
- **Day use:** Day use areas for picnicking and exploration are to be simple yet flexible to accommodate various groups and activities for year-round use. Incorporating entrance kiosks, boat docks, fishing piers, tables, fire pits, restroom provisions, shelter from the weather, and historical interpretation will provide a variety of day uses.

Overall, the community engagement process gathered many differing viewpoints, concerns and ideas, as well as valuable insights on the park and island. The information gathered from the community provided a great wealth of information that helped to shape the master plan and they were very grateful for the opportunity to be involved in the design process and will likely be ongoing stewards for the park and island as development takes place.

If designed to the highest level, as described in the Development Master Plan chapter, Lake Waconia Regional Park offers the prospect of being able to compete for people’s recreational time and leave them with rewarding, unique and life-enriching experiences that will draw them back time and again.

## CHAPTER 4 - DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

### A. Overview

The Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update provides a cross-section of features and amenities that will make it a unique destination park within the Carver County parks system. The park focuses on year-round adventure based activities to promote it as a winter destination, as well as summer, with the island offering an opportunity for a distinctive recreational experience. The plan strives to create a balance of active and passive recreational areas based on the most suitable areas for development in order to preserve and enhance the natural resources of the sites and allow for better sustainability of the aesthetic natural settings with a primary focus on Lake Waconia.

The development master plan highlights creating year-round adventure based recreation in a natural resource based park setting shaped by the historical context as its primary theme and appeal with a focus on Lake Waconia. The theme will be the guiding factor used to tie the main park and island pieces together through the characteristics and materials used in the development.

### Development Master Plan

As noted previously, the master plan design process took a step-by-step approach. The process began with establishing the needs and desires of the community, determining the site's opportunities and constraints, identifying the natural resource areas for protection and/or improvement, evaluating the previous plan elements, determining new recreational trends, and establishing a set of goals within an updated vision statement. Preliminary conceptual designs were created based on the collection of data which were presented to the public for feedback. From there, a preliminary master plan was created based on the information received from the public for the design approach that was most suitable and applicable, which was further refined into the final master plan.

Though the master planning process was built on a series of steps to be sure the plan fit with the current needs of the community, is not intended to be a final product. A master plan can take many years to implement and as the community continues to evolve, the plan should be reconfirmed periodically and the plan adjusted based on the ever changing needs of the community.

The following provides more in-depth descriptions of the development master plan for Lake Waconia Regional Park.

## B. Lake Waconia Regional Park – Main Parcel

### Overview

The main parcel of Lake Waconia Regional Park remains fairly consistent with the original 2001 master plan intent. The master plan update allows the park space to become more flexible and accessible in order to accommodate a wider range of existing and potential future recreational needs with a focus on providing year-round adventure based recreation.

Of the 132.66 acres in the main park parcel, approximately 106 acres remain dedicated to natural resource based open space, leaving 26 acres dedicated to the more active developed recreational spaces. This allows the park to provide an appropriate balance of natural and developed spaces for a regional park while still meeting the needs of the users.

Key development areas and features for the main park parcel include:

- Lakefront Development Area & Central Plaza
- Base Camp Adventure Area, Adventure Trail & Sledding Hill
- Event Center and Multi-Purpose Lawn

Each of these development areas were shaped based on input gathered during the community engagement process, along with various forms of data collection and research, and will provide varying recreational experiences that allow for a broad spectrum of users to enjoy the park space. The flexibility in the park space will allow for existing and potential future park events to continue occurring at the park site and allow for a central community gathering spot.

Trails to and within the park are extensive and show potential future regional connections which was a strong demand from the community. A total of approximately 3.5 miles of multipurpose trails are shown within the main park space with additional areas identified on the plan for less developed trails that could include single track mountain bike trails, cross-country ski trails, and nature trails. The trails provide easy access either to specific use areas within the park or to simply travel through the park and on to another destination.

With Lake Waconia being the main focus of the overall park design, a strong emphasis was placed on providing pedestrian access to the lakeshore with long term goals to connect the park to various communities through the use of the regional and local trail systems as identified in the Planning Process chapter. The following is the final master plan for the main park parcel.

# Lake Waconia Regional Park

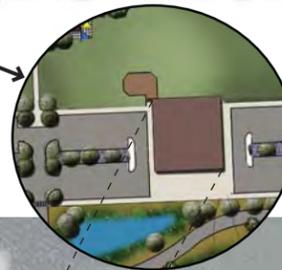
- A Multi-Purpose Trail**
  - Range from 10'-12' Wide Asphalt Trail (pedestrians, bikes)
  - Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
  - Overlooks with Historical Reference
- B Church Property**
  - Potential Realigned Entrance Road (depending on wetland impacts & mitigation)
  - Potential Future Acquisition (may be used for maintenance building location)
- C Entrance & Contact Station**
- D Swimming Beach**
- E Play Experience**
  - Fun & Challenging Play Experience
  - Separated Age Appropriate Play
  - Sensory Elements
  - Highly Inclusive / Accessible
  - Creative Water and Sand Play Area
- F Picnic Shelter**
- G Phased Parking**
  - Main Parking Lot: 260 to 415 Stalls
  - Pollinator / Rain Gardens
  - Adjacent Infiltration Basins
- H Central Plaza**
  - Entrance Kiosk / Park & Trail Map
  - Bike Racks
  - Plaza / Cafe Style Seating
  - Outdoor Gas Fire Pit
  - Shade Structures
  - Relates to Beach, Lawn & Picnic Spaces
  - Restroom, Changing & Concessions Bldg
  - Park Program / Event Room Bldg with Open Air Picnic Shelter Area
  - Rental Equipment & Lifeguard Station Bldg
- I Central Pier**
  - Pedestrian Pier (no fishing)
  - Island Ferry Transfer Location
  - Potential Special Event Pier (ie: triathlon/swim events)
- J Lakefront Walk**
  - Curvilinear / Flowing Walk Design
  - Multiple Seating / Picnic Spaces
  - Shade Structures
  - Views of Lake

## Landscape & Natural Resources

- Highlight Plant Communities (native woods, wetlands and prairie)
- Invasive Species Control Plan
- Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
- Protect Lake Edge
- Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas

## Interim Event Center Plan

- Deck Facing Lawn / Lake
- Parking Lot Phased
- Relates to Lawn / Event Space
- Minor Bldg Improvements



- K Boat Beaching Area**
- L Waterfront Service Area**
  - Non-Motorized Watercraft Dock & Beach
  - County Boat Slips (ie: patrol boats)
  - Rental Storage Area (ie: canoe racks)
- M Fishing Pier**
- N DNR Boat Launch**
- O Lakeside Arbor**
  - Formal Lakeside Venue (ie: weddings)
  - Photography
  - Lakeside Observation / Solitude
- P Small Lawn Game Area**
  - Lawn Bowling
  - Volleyball
- Q Large Multi-Purpose Lawn**
  - Informal Sport Space
  - Event Space (ie: weddings, music events, triathlons, overflow parking)
- R Park Event Building**
  - Upper Level Deck Overlooking Lake
  - Lower Patio Facing Lake, Lawn & Arbor
  - Event Rooms (park programs, venue space)
  - Restrooms
- S Base Camp Area**
  - 4-Season Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, and Fireplace (winter warming house)
  - Patio with Gas Fire Pit
  - Rental Service for Sledding Hill
  - Lawn Event Space (ie: challenge course, ice skating)
- T Sledding Hill**
  - Small Children's Hill
  - Tow Rope
  - Summer Use (ie: challenge uphill course, biking, summer sledding)
- U Adventure Trail**
  - 4'-5' Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
  - Challenge Areas (ropes course, tree walk, etc.)
  - Upper Overlook

## Informal & Specialty Trails (not shown)

- Snow Shoe, Single Track Mountain Bike, Cross-Country Ski, etc.
- Integrated Into Natural Areas at County's Discretion
- Non-Paved

## LEGEND

- Trail Overlook
- Kiosk / Trailhead Map



## Main Lake Waconia Regional Park Preferred Master Plan



Project: 01945-060  
Date: August 15, 2016

## Wayfinding & Park Signage

Primary access to the main parcel of Lake Waconia Regional Park is currently located off of Highway 5. ParkSide Church, which is not located within the park boundaries, utilizes the same access drive off of Hwy 5. This may cause confusion and potential for future conflict as the park continues to develop and park uses increase. The main park parcel also adjoins various residential areas and there is currently a strong need to better delineate the park boundaries in order to avoid confusion of park property from private property.

Design features, such as fencing in concert with park signage, would be used along the perimeter of the park or at specific locations to offer guidance to the location of the main entrance drive. This is meant to deter traffic from entering private driveways and also to promote the parks existence, since one of the biggest obstacles to park use is lack of knowledge of the park. This is important since the developed interior of the main park parcel is fairly hidden from the adjacent roadways.

A wayfinding signage program containing a hierarchy of signs should be implemented to provide park information to the users. The signs should be designed within a specific theme or design characteristic, both in the main park parcel as well as the island, in order to provide a strong park characteristic to tie the spaces together and enhance the park experience.

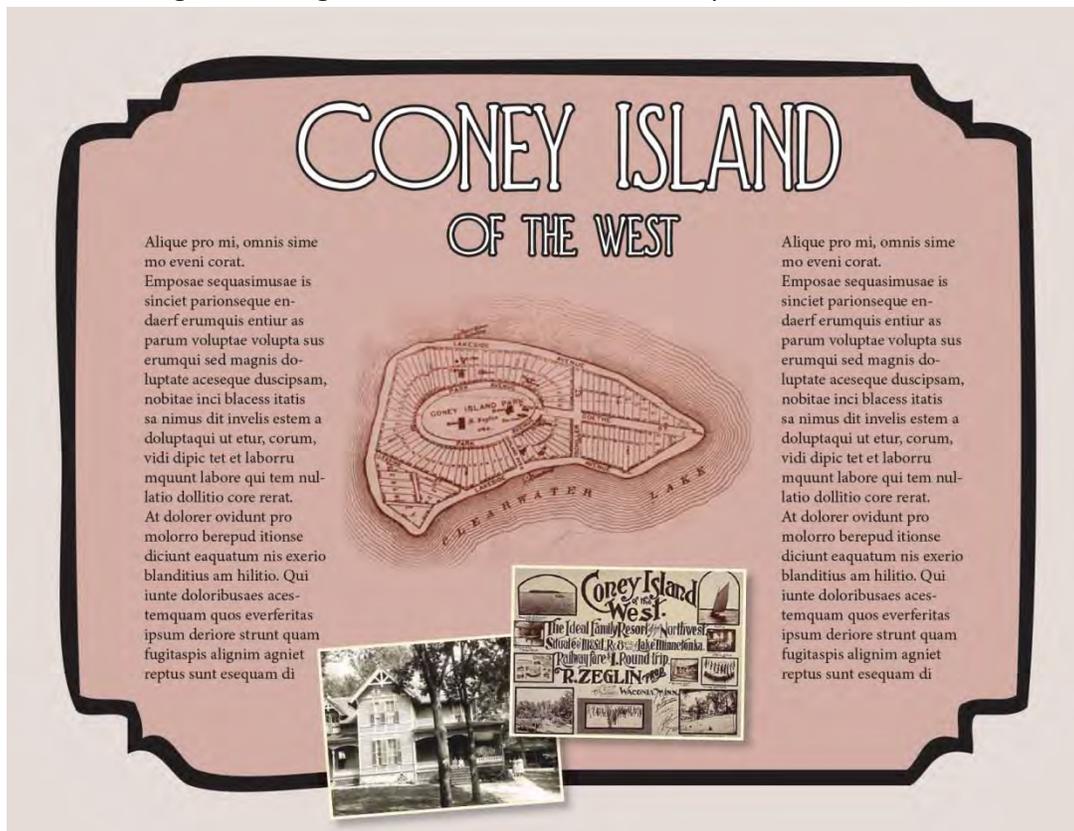
It would be the intent of the park signage program to rely more heavily on graphical information or universal icons rather than text, or a combination of both, in order to provide the information that can be understood by diverse groups, ethnicities and educational levels.

The key components of the wayfinding and park signage program would include the following:

- Exterior Directional Sign: located at key areas along vehicular routes to provide directional guidance to the main park entrance location.
- Main Park Monument Sign: located at the main point of vehicular entry along Highway 5 and at the corner of Laketown Parkway and Highway 5 where the pedestrian trail enters the park. These should be the largest of the signs to identify the park.
- Small Park Monument Sign: located at the control station location to provide a sense of entry and provide guidance to the location of park use areas and the DNR boat launch.
- Interior Directional Sign: located at key areas to provide directions to various use areas of the park, such as the entrance to the church, the DNR boat launch, Event Center, base camp area, beach, parking, etc.

- **Park Informational Signs:** located at key areas of the park to provide information to the park users with items such as park rules and safety information.
- **Park Kiosk:** located at key areas of pedestrian travel to provide maps, park information and park events.
- **Educational / Interpretive Signs:** located at select areas along trails, overlooks and display areas to illustrate points of interest and provide educational and historical information. These can be done in concert with local groups and the school district in order for the signs to adequately supplement the educational programs provided at the school. Specific groups such as the Conservation Club, Historical Society, Audubon Society, and Department of Natural Resources could help supply the information to be displayed on some of the signs. This can include everything historical references of the island and the Yellowstone Trail route, to the animals, plants and ecological systems that can be found in the park.

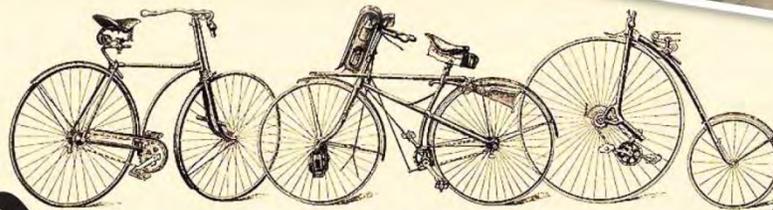
The following illustrates preliminary design intent and not actual text of how a consistent characteristic can be used throughout all areas of the park and island, though the final design of the signs would be done at a future point.





# YELLOWSTONE TRAIL

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# ROOKERY



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*Character:* The entrance drive currently has wetlands located along one side of the drive and the hillside on the opposite side is meant to be revegetated with woodland vegetation that would screen the possible location of the maintenance facility and provide a natural park entrance characteristic upon entering the park space.

The contact station building characteristics and building materials would be consistent with the remaining park building structures to provide a uniform characteristic throughout the park.

*Design Standards:* The main park entrance drive is designed to remain consistent with the existing rural design of a bituminous roadway with no curb and gutter with a minimum 30-foot-wide roadway. As the entrance drive enters the contact station, an additional pull-off contact lane and parking for two to three vehicles would also be provided. All internal main drives shall remain at a 30-foot-width and shall transition to a 24-foot-width with curb and gutter within the parking areas.

The contact station is meant to be a permanent structure with a window for the attendant, a small room for visitors to enter and find park information, a small room for the attendant and minor storage and capable of having a small fridge.

*Development Qualifiers:* The relocation of the existing church entrance drive would be based on coordination with the church and associated costs. Improvements and modifications to Paradise Lane with an entrance contact station would be based upon best circulation methods and control for Carver County, the DNR and church while minimizing impacts to the existing site.

### **Main Multi-Purpose Park Trail**

*Uses:* Non-motorized uses, including hiking, biking, cross country skiing, walking, and jogging.

*General Description:* A highly desired park amenity, the multi-purpose trails provide access to the park from Waconia and eventually other regional locations. The trail traverses through the park, creating numerous loops within the park, and offers access to the various park use areas. As the main multi-purpose trail enters the lakefront and beach zone, it will be separated from the “walking only” lakefront walk in order to avoid conflict between walkers and bikers. Crosswalks and markings will be provided at locations where the trail crosses vehicular routes.

*Character:* The multi-purpose trails will mainly have a curvilinear alignment that responds to topography, making connections to a variety of natural and historic features, but are also intended to be designed according to trail design standards for safety. There are certain sections of the trail that are meant to be aligned on the old Highway 5 roadbed, as there are

references to the historic Yellowstone Trail route that will contribute to these sections and they already are well situated between wetland areas.

*Design Standards:* The main multipurpose trail will be a 12 foot wide bituminous trail meeting trail design requirements, as appropriate. A select trail loop should be constructed with cross-country skiing in mind which may parallel a multipurpose trail at 15'-20' wide.

*Trailside Features:* Educational and interpretive signage will be provided along the trails at select stopping points and seating overlooks to enhance the user experience and to provide an educational tool for park and school programs. For example, the portions of the trail that are on the old alignment of the historic Yellowstone Trail route will have specific interpretive signage containing information and historic photos. A small structure will be at the top of the hillside overlook that is on the west portion of the park to provide expansive views over Lake Waconia

*Development Qualifiers:* The master plan indicates the general intent and connections for the main multipurpose trails but the actual routes will be developed in more detail during final design to ensure safety design standards and existing conditions are taken into consideration for the final alignments.

### **Lakefront Walk**

*Uses:* Non-motorized pedestrian uses such as walking, sitting, picnicking, observation, and access to the waterfront with fishing and pedestrian piers.

*General Description:* With Lake Waconia as the primary focus of the park, the curvilinear lakefront walk meant to mimic the flowing patterns created by waves will provide pedestrian access to the shores of the lake. Many comments made in the community engagement stated they like to just go to the park to view the lake and the lakefront walk promotes this activity.

The lakefront walk is intended to have numerous nodes for seating and observation in both the active areas along the swimming beach, as well the quieter and secluded spaces along the open lawn. Seating nodes would contain benches and tables beneath an umbrella or shade sail that would be consistent with the colorful umbrella's that exist on the beach in order to provide a distinguishable park characteristic, even from the lake. Some of the seating and observation nodes would include educational and interpretive signage provided at select stopping points to enhance the user experience. The walkway also provides access to numerous piers and docks in order to meet the desire to get out on the water for viewing or fishing.

*Photo example of lakefront seating areas*



*Character:* The lakefront walk is intended to have a vibrant and colorful overhead character through the use of the umbrellas or shade sails that would blend with the existing color scheme in the beach area. The seating nodes provide varying degrees of pedestrian spaces that can change frequently depending on the activities in the park. The seating nodes offer a shady place to have a picnic with several friends or family members, to quieter, secluded locations to picnic or relax and read a book on your own, or simply a place to rest and view the lake.

With Lake Waconia as the main focus, the inclusion of several fishing and pedestrian piers are shown along the lakefront walk to accommodate the strong need for park users to gain access to the water.

*Design Standards:* The lakefront walk would be constructed of concrete, possibly colored and textured, in order to be more durable and fit with the central plaza design. The benches and tables should be of a similar design to ensure all amenities are consistent throughout the park. The umbrella's or shade sails would be made of a durable material suitable for a public park setting and the color scheme shall remain consistent with the existing blue and gold that exists at the beach.

*Development Qualifiers:* The master plan indicates the general intent and location for the lakefront walk, though the final design and location would be predicated on the ability to properly access the fishing and pedestrian piers while providing a natural transitional space from the lakefront walk down to the lake edge to protect the shoreline and guide pedestrian traffic.

### **Lakefront Development Area and Central Plaza**

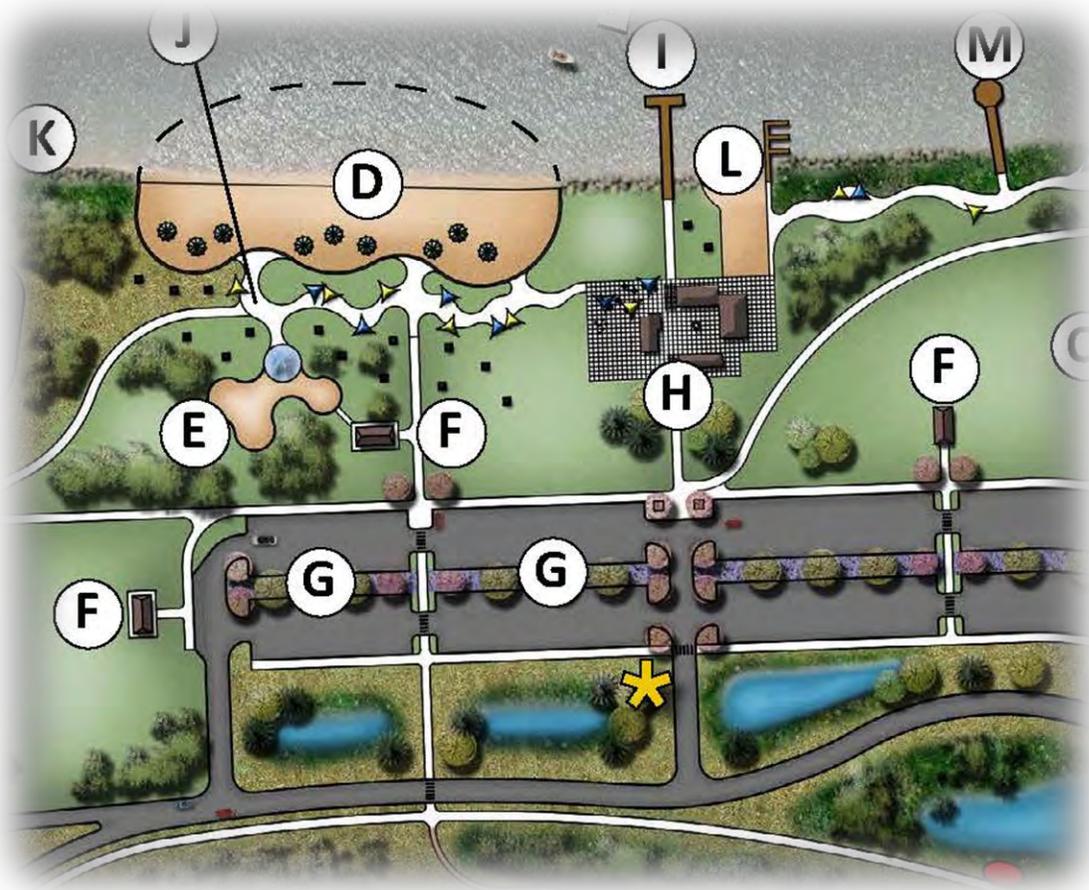
*Uses:* Active recreational space dedicated to the swimming beach, playground, picnic spaces, a central seating plaza with a permanent pedestrian pier and park building structures, rentals, lakefront walk, and the main parking lots.

*General Description:* The main beach development and central plaza area focuses on creating a developed and highly improved park and beach experience. This is the most desirable feature of the existing park and many comments from the community engagement included requests to improve this space, especially as the park uses increase. The lakefront development area is meant to accommodate greater use and be more flexible to account for varying demographics and populations. This is the main active use area of the park during the summer and includes the following amenities:

- Central plaza buildings (restrooms/changing rooms, classroom & program event space, entry kiosk, rentals, concessions, storage).
- Outdoor seating/plaza spaces overlooking the lake.
- Outdoor gas fire pit.
- Program/meeting room space.
- Rentals /lifeguard station.
- Permanent pedestrian pier with island ferry service.
- Small boat dock for park staff and sheriff patrol.
- Expanded swimming beach.
- Separated beaching area for non-motorized watercraft.
- Lakefront walk with benches and picnic tables beneath shade structures.
- Separated bike path from the lakefront walk to reduce conflicts.
- New playground that would include separated equipment for preschool and elementary ages and a dedicated space for sand and water play events. The playground would be highly inclusive and of a regional park quality with a focus on adventure or lake themed equipment to blend with the beach characteristics.
- Playground shelters that can accommodate large groups and may include a small plaza with grills. The intent of the plan is to have a mix of both shelters that can and cannot be reserved.
- Open picnic space with tables and grills fixed on concrete pads scattered around the swimming beach and playground area.
- Open lawn space surrounding the central plaza for flexible space, lawn games and events.

- Main parking lot that can be phased in over time according to actual park needs. Full build-out of the parking lot could contain anywhere from 260 to 415 parking stalls.

*Plan enlargement of lakefront development area and central plaza space*



*Character:* The main beach and central plaza space are meant to be the primary focus of the summer activity area for the park. The buildings located on the central plaza would work together to enhance the plaza and café style setting with scattered seating areas overlooking the lake. There could potentially be an overhead arbor between the buildings located on either side of the main entrance walkway that would create a gateway to the plaza space and frame the views of the lake as you enter the plaza. This would also be aligned with the permanent pedestrian pier with an island ferry service. The central plaza is positioned to be central to both the swimming beach on one side and the non-motorized watercraft beaching area with adjacent open lawn space and Waconia Event Center (ballroom) on the opposite side.

The ferry service to the island would be programmed to either be managed by the County or it could be a partnership with the service provided by a local business. It would ultimately be the intent to have watercraft that would mimic the style of boats originally used for accessing the island.

The following images illustrate preliminary characteristics of the central plaza space within the lakefront development area.





*Design Standards:* The central plaza would be constructed of concrete in order to be more durable and to enhance the café style ambience with planters separating some of the seating areas. The benches and tables should be of a similar design to ensure all amenities are consistent throughout the park. The umbrellas or shade sails would be made of a durable material suitable for a public park setting and the color scheme shall remain consistent with the existing blue and gold that exists at the beach.

The primary pedestrian pier extending from the central plaza would be a permanent structure and would be wide enough to accommodate pedestrian traffic and wheelchairs in both directions.

Select buildings would have full utility services, including connections to city electrical, sanitary and water services in appropriate locations. All the buildings would have a consistent design characteristic. Picnic shelters could be prefabricated structures with enhancements and details that would tie them to the larger park buildings through use of color and materials.

The main parking lots would be constructed of asphalt with curb and gutter. The drive lanes would be 24-feet-wide and parking stalls would be a minimum 9-feet-wide and 20-feet-long. The interior islands of the parking lot are meant to become a method for water quality improvement and could be depressed rain gardens that would enhance the natural characteristics of the beach area while providing summer color interest and pollinator plant species. The larger spaces between the parking lots and main access drive are also meant to provide water quality improvement areas, as well as wetland mitigation areas.

*Development Qualifiers:* The central plaza space and support building structures can be phased in over time as development progresses. It would be the intent to initially focus on constructing the buildings for the restrooms, changing rooms, lifeguard station, and concessions. As the park programming continues to evolve and the County determines potential partnerships, then the structures for expanded meeting and program space rooms, as well as potential rentals could occur.

The parking shown outside of the main beach development area shows a total of 250 to 350 parking stalls which are intended to be phased in according to actual need. While the public process indicated that parking needs were very strong, it is not the intent of the park to be able to accommodate all of the parking needs for the special events that take place in the park. In this case, the special events should account for opportunities for temporary overflow parking on green spaces or allow the users to be shuttled in from other sites.

### **Multi-Purpose Lawn & Lakeside Arbor**

*Uses:* Lawn games, group activities and event space.

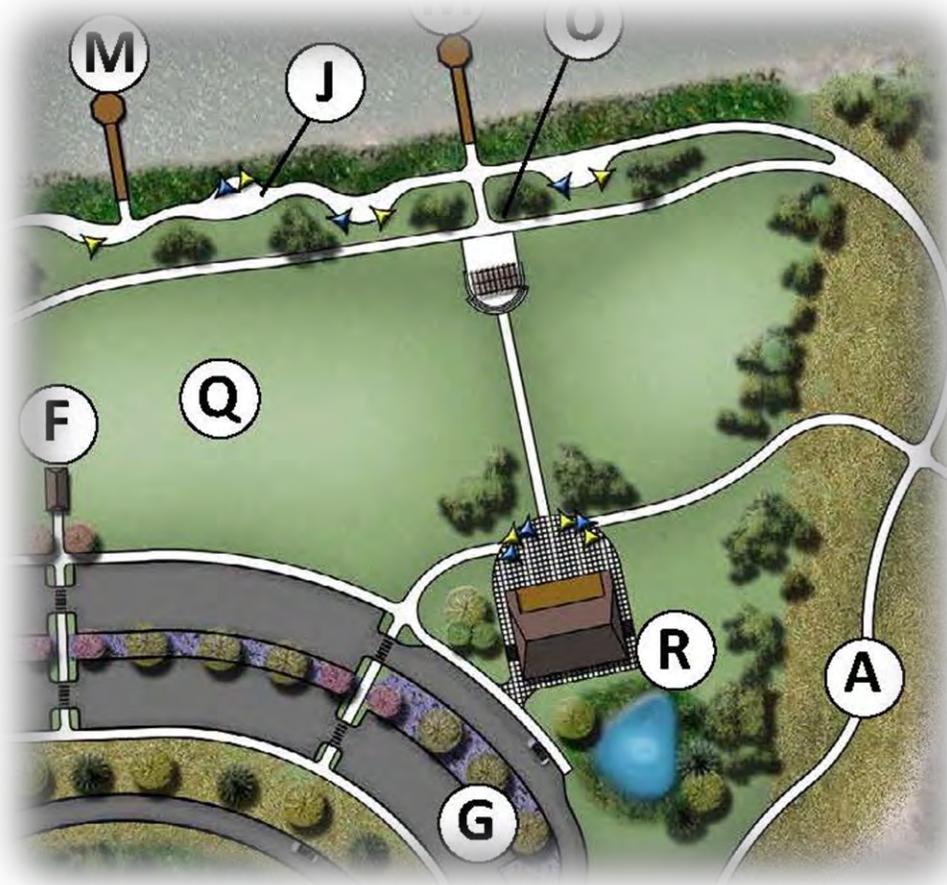
*General Description:* To meet the demands and requests for more flexible park spaces, the multipurpose lawn provides a large open green space to accommodate not only the existing park events, but also expands upon the possibilities by including a lakeside arbor that can be used for a performance area, weddings and photo opportunities. The adjacent open lawn supports the seating that would be associated with any park events, as well as the day to day field and lawn games and even winter overflow parking for the larger park events. Additional picnic shelters would be included around the multi-purpose lawn.

Adjacent to the larger open lawn is a smaller section of lawn closer to the picnic shelter that can include space for lawn games such as bocce ball, horseshoes or even grass volleyball.

*Character:* The open lawn and lakeside arbor would be an extension of the central plaza and would transition from a highly active beach space to the more passive area of the park with the occasional special events. Lake Waconia remains the prime main focus so keeping strategic pockets of vegetation between the lawn and lake would be recommended in order to avoid having the view blocked off entirely.

*Design Standards:* The arbor would be consistent with the arbor and design characteristics of the central plaza buildings. It would be built up from the lawn in order to allow for better viewing of events that may take place here with the lake as its backdrop.

*Development Qualifiers:* The open lawn would be the highest priority to get implemented with the arbor area phased in as the event space is better determined.



### Base Camp Area, Adventure Trail & Sledding Hill

*Uses:* Four season park event space and adventure based recreational amenities.

*General Description:* The base camp area of the park is focused on providing more adventurous type of recreational amenities with a focus on all seasons of the year and is the prime access point for the adventure trail and sledding hill. It contains the following amenities:

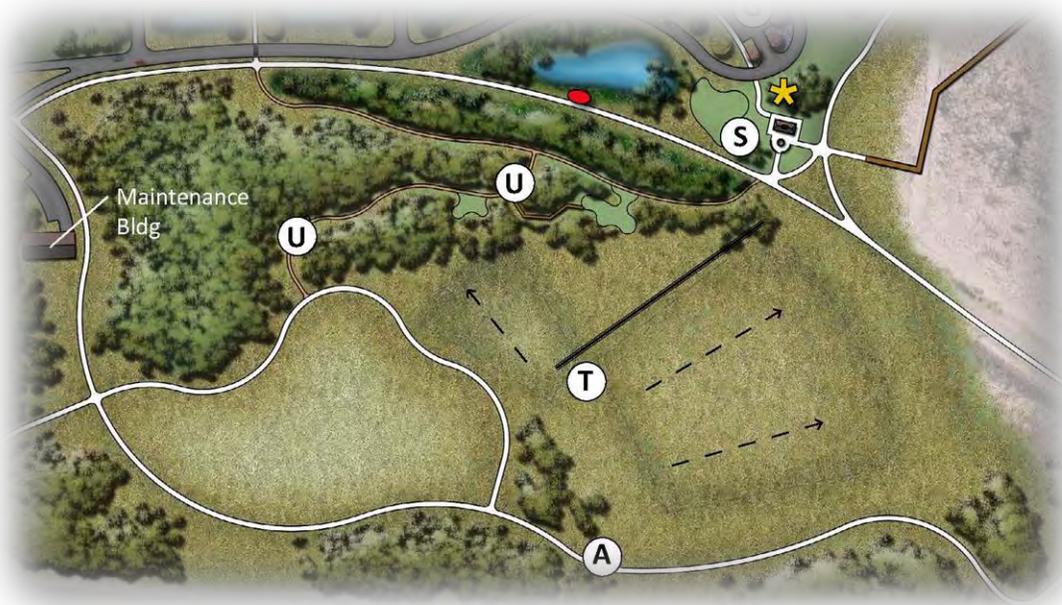
- Four season park building with restrooms, indoor fireplace, warming house/park program room.
- Outdoor plaza with gas fire pit.
- Rentals.
- Summer event space/winter skating area.
- Adventure Trail.
- Sledding hill improvements.

The primary building located in the base camp area is meant to support year-round activities. It would contain restrooms and could also contain an indoor fireplace to enhance the ambiance of the indoor room space that would be used for potential rentals and park programs, as well as the winter warming room. The building room could potentially be built with garage style doors that would allow for them to be open for picnic space that extends onto the plaza or closed for a protected interior space. The exterior plaza would be large enough for small gatherings and would contain a gas fire pit. The building may also contain an area for rentals and storage.

Adjacent to the building is a small lawn area that can be used for summer event space or temporary challenge courses and then flooded for winter skating to promote its winter use.

The sledding hill would be improved to include a tow rope for better access to the top of the hill and a less steep area down the side of the hill for smaller users. The hill can be also be improved or modified to allow for summer uses ranging from summer challenge courses up or alongside the hill, to summer sledding on special courses.

The base camp area is the prime access to the wetland boardwalk and the adventure trail which is a natural trail through the wooded hillside that could include various adventure and challenge areas. As the trail nears the top of the hill, there would be a deck that would be strategically located on the hillside to get a grand view of the remainder of the park and Lake Waconia from above.



*Character:* The characteristics of the primary building would remain consistent with the remainder of the park but the support amenities would transition from a highly colorful scheme to a more natural one in order to blend with the surrounding natural environments of prairie, wetlands and woods.

*Design Standards:* The four season building would be consistent with the remainder of the park buildings and would contain restrooms connected to the sanitary system. The indoor fireplace and outdoor pit would have a gas service connection.

The adventure trail would be a four to five-foot-wide earthen, wood chip, or decomposed granite trail to blend with the natural surroundings. The trail would be routed in the field to best fit with the surroundings and reduce the amount of vegetation removals during implementation. The adventure amenities would be designed to blend with the wooded surroundings using natural materials and colors.

*Development Qualifiers:* The inclusion of a mechanical lift tow rope to the top of the sledding hill and summer sledding hill us also brings with it additional costs related to insurance and park staffing for rentals and monitoring. The County would have to determine the overall operation and maintenance costs and insurance costs before committing to these improvements. Since the primary building is related to the improvements of the sledding hill and the inclusion of the adventure trail, it would be recommended that these improvements be built together.

### **Event Center**

*Uses:* Event and venue space, program rooms, nature and/or educational center, and restrooms that would support the park and building uses.

*General Description:* The master plan illustrates two scenarios for the Event Center to be included in the overall park plan.

1. Make improvements to the existing Waconia Event Center (ballroom) to include an outdoor deck, indoor programming events, and improved restrooms with connections to city utilities.
2. A future Event Center building relocated in the park on a hilly area that is more consistent with the regional park uses and character and would relate directly to the multi-purpose lawn space with dramatic views of Lake Waconia.

The existing Event Center building has a capacity of seating 1,000. Most events that take place here do not need this capacity and use the extra space for dance floor, exhibit space, and displays though there are occasions that utilize the full capacity. Modifications to the existing

building would be tailored to allow it to service the daily park users, as well as the events and venues. This could include improvement to the interior décor, restroom expansion, providing interior building program space, and an exterior deck.

The inclusion of a new Event Center building would be consistent in character to the new buildings and would make use of the views of Lake Waconia. It is shown to be located on a hill with an upper and lower level, including deck and plaza space, overlooking the lake and large open lawn space, aligned to the lakeside arbor. The adjacent multi-purpose lawn space would support the activities and events that take place in the new Event Center building with a main walkway connecting the Event Center across the lawn to the lakeside arbor.

*Character:* The character of the existing Event Center is iconic for the local community and the timeframe when it was highly used as a ballroom. It is unlikely that the character of this building would change. Improvements to the building should blend or enhance the existing character and help transition the building to the improved park surroundings so it does not feel out of place from the remainder of the park.

The character of a new Event Center would be consistent with the new park buildings and would provide a more open and expansive view of Lake Waconia and the park. The overall design would provide a setting that is highly desirable for events.

*Design Standards:* If a new Event Center were built, it would be designed with full utilities. The building would be designed to be flexible so the interior spaces could be combined to accommodate larger events, or separated for multiple smaller events to take place at the same time. Restrooms would be adequate for larger groups and space dedicated to storage and maintenance would be included.

*Development Qualifiers:* Should the County decide to proceed with making modifications to the existing Event Center building, the extent of the modifications could dictate the need to bring the building up to existing building codes. This would ultimately affect the overall cost implications to take into consideration before making a large investment into a structure that is nearing the end of its lifecycle. Potential minor improvements could increase its usability in the near term until a new Event Center is determined to be appropriate. A new Event Center should undertake a feasibility study prior to implementation to determine actual seating needs due to the fact that building design standards change once a capacity of 300 is reached, such as the inclusion of an interior sprinkler system.

## Summary

Overall, the Master Plan for the main park parcel accommodates existing uses as well as future recreational demands and focuses on providing year-round adventure-based recreation in a natural setting.

## C. Lake Waconia Regional Park - Coney Island of the West

### Overview

Coney Island brings a truly unique park opportunity to the overall function of Lake Waconia Regional Park, and the Master Plan elements as proposed take full advantage of island's natural setting and interesting historic context. At 33 acres, the limited size of the island requires balancing access for outdoor recreation with preserving the natural setting and sense of place that is greatly appreciated by the public. The proposed development plan achieves this by placing much of the development in two core use areas on the two end points of the island, and then limiting development along the majority of the shoreline and the interior of the island to well-designed trails, an observation tower, trailside amenities, and an interpretive signage program.

In keeping with the natural setting and use of the island, the County intends to use a “pack-in, pack-out” operating procedure until such time that more enforcement and maintenance may be needed. In the future, trash and recycling bins will be placed at the key access locations. Island visitors coming from the main park location will have access to drinking water at the main park location to bring with them unless a well on the island becomes a viable option. At this time, electrical service is not an immediate priority, but the County may look into electrical options if future demands dictate. This could include solar, battery, gas, or even a new electrical service line, as was the case historically.

Key development areas and features for the island include:

- Amblard's Point Day Use Area
- Zeglin's Point Day Use Area and Flexible Use Area
- The Historic Interpretive Trail and Naegele's Tower
- The Adventure Nature Trail

Based on public input, each of these development elements will have broad appeal and foster a cross-section of outdoor enthusiasts to frequently use the island. The development associated with Amblard's Point and Zeglin's Point provides a variety of day use activities, along with some unique overnight camping opportunities that will appeal to families and groups seeking a bit of adventure without traveling far.

At approximately two miles, the trail system on the island is fairly extensive given the island's limited size. The trails offer a diversity of outdoor experiences, ranging from an easy "walk in the woods" to a more adventurous nature trail trek along the shoreline. While trail opportunities are extensive, excessive development was avoided to preserve the outdoor values and sense of place that one comes to the island to enjoy.

With all of the trails, the design intent is to respond to, rather than extensively alter, the natural contours and features of the land. Trail locations focus on enhancing the user's experience through sequential and varied settings, ranging from intimate lakeside trails to open views across the lake from elevated locations.

The following is the final master plan for the island, and considers these features in greater detail.

# Lake Waconia Regional Park

## Historic Interpretation

- Focus on historic interpretation will be selective and based around an exploratory theme to discover the hidden history.
- Interpretive signage will be used in select areas to display or tell the story of the island history and existing remains.
- Lot identification may be used along the trails. This may include a stone engraved with a lot number related to an overall lot map identifying lot owners and numbers.
- Decks/boardwalks may cross some existing building foundations with use of interpretive signage.
- Use of names of specific individuals or families that relate to the history of Coney Island, Waconia, and the local history to label use areas of the island may be used in naming of island areas and overlooks. The actual names would be determined in conjunction with County officials and local historians. For the purposes of the Master Plan, temporary names have been used and are shown in italics.

### A Historic Interpretive Trail

- 6'-8' Wide Granite or Aggregate Trail
- Pedestrian Use Only with Self-Guided Tour
- Walking/Hiking/Snow Shoe/Cross-Country Ski
- Historic Lot Identification
- Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
- Overlooks with Historical Reference (ie:Hirschfield Overlook)

### B Rookery Trail

- Part of Historic Interpretive Trail
- Gated Off During Nesting Season

### C Nature Trail

- 4'-5' Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
- Boardwalks as Necessary
- Decks Across Foundations
- Overlooks
- Built Into Slopes as Necessary
- Optional Routes (depending on constructability)

### D Amblard's Point Day Use Area

- Stabilize/Restore Walls
- Day Use Docks
- Island Kiosk / Map
- Restroom
- Picnic Space
- Fishing Piers
- Trail Access

### E Boat Beaching Area

### F Dock Access

### G Naegele's Tower

- Accessible Lower Deck with Ramp Access
- Upper Observation Deck
- Rookery Blinds & Educational Signs
- Interpretive Historical Displays

### H Zeglin's Point Flexible Use Area

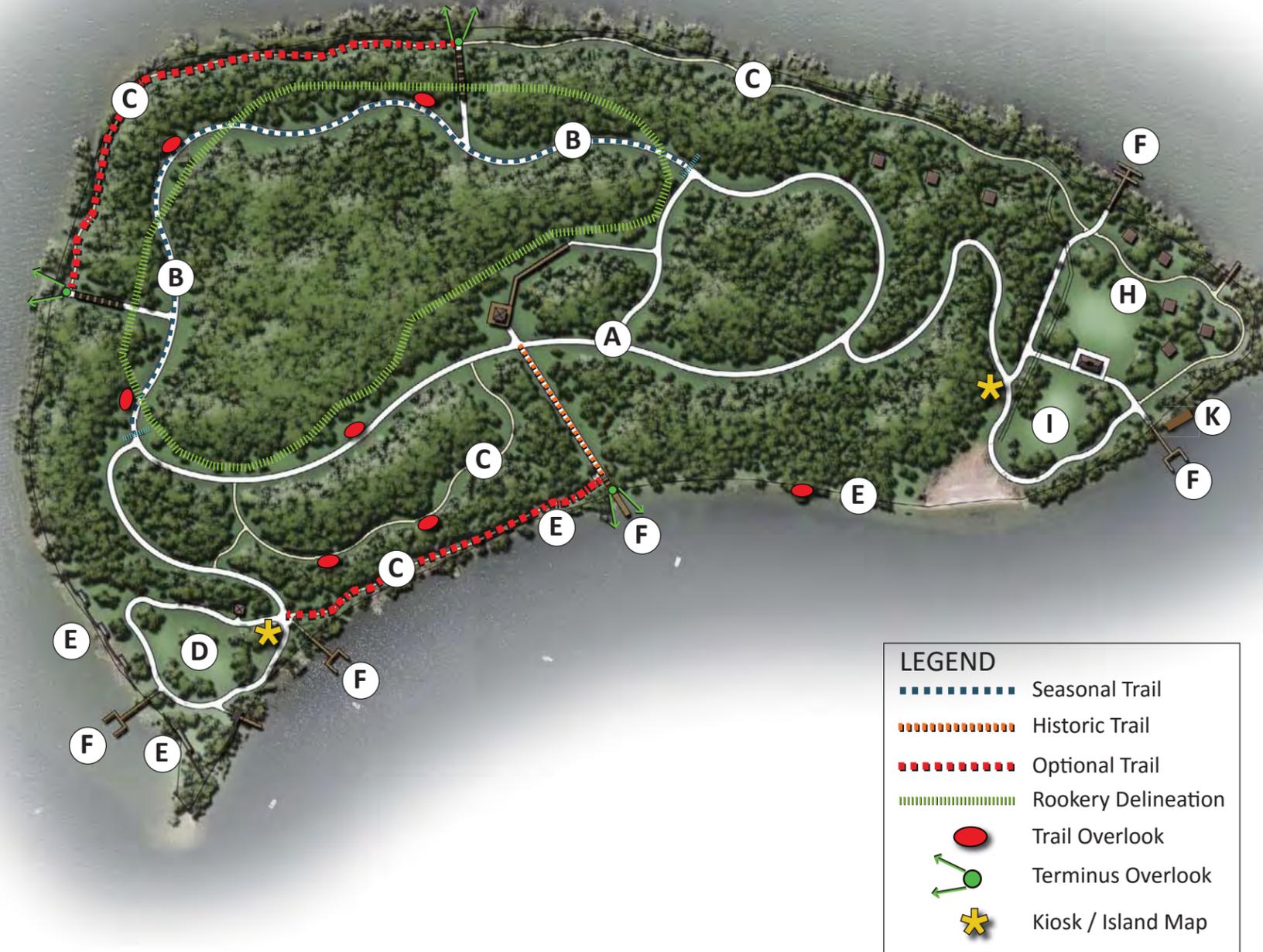
- Day Use & Campsite Docks / Fishing Piers
- Campsites (accommodates individual or group use; tent sites to portable camper cabins; summer & winter camping; reservable; lakeside and wooded sites)
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access
- Snowmobile Access for Winter Gatherings & Use
- Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, Fireplace and/or Fire Pit

### I Zeglin's Point Day Use Area

- Day Use Docks / Fishing Pier
- Entrance Island Kiosk / Map
- Shared Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter
- Small Existing Informal Beach
- Adventure / Nature Play Experience
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access (accessible route to tower)

### K Barge Access Dock

- #### Landscape & Natural Resources
- Highlight Historic Plant Communities (from native to introduced plants brought from original landowners)
  - Invasive Species Control Plan
  - Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
  - Protect Lake Edge
  - Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas



## Coney Island of the West Preferred Master Plan



Project: 01945-060  
Date: August 15, 2016

## Historical References and Interpretation

The master plan for Coney Island indicates specific names that are related to the island or other local history. For the purposes of this master plan, the names are to provide intent to highlight specific historical references and the final decision for naming items on the island would be determined by Carver County at a future point in time.

Focus on the history of the island is selective and based on an exploratory theme to find the pieces of history that are scattered about. The master plan indicates that as part of a signage program consistent with the main park parcel, a consistent theme be used to highlight the history of the island. This can include a main parcel map of the original landowners that would tie to reference markers on the site that are numbered in order to find a specific feature and the use of smaller interpretive signs at select overlooks and points of interest on the island.

### Amblard's Point Day Use Area

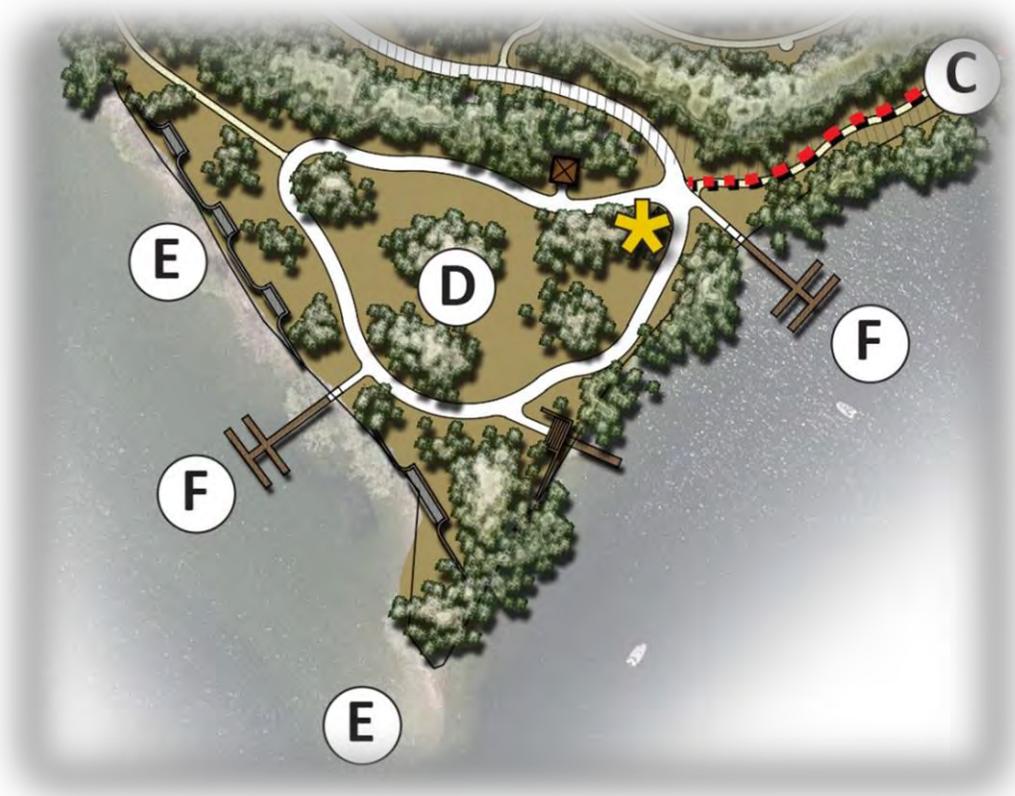
*Uses:* Pedestrian-only oriented uses.

*General Description:* The name is after an original land owner who had a cabin in this general area of the island and may be responsible for the ornamental walls that exist along the shoreline here. This day use area is located on an appealing island point and is one of two key places to access the island. Although more limited in size than Zeglin's Point, the lower area adjacent to the shoreline provides ample space for a pleasant day use area offering picnic-oriented and casual use amenities.

Key features of the day use area include:

- Day-use docks for boat mooring (initially 8 to 10 total slips, with room for expansion)
- Boat beaching off the end of the island along a sandbar
- Restroom – either stick-built or prefabricated vault
- Lawn area for casual play, hanging out, and picnicking
- Picnic area with scattered picnic tables
- Sitting areas with benches overlooking the lake
- Access trail to the upper island
- Fishing piers and lakeside sitting decks
- Information kiosk, interpretive signage and island map

As the following plan illustrates, the day use area offers a pleasant setting with canopy trees and lawn areas to complement the listed amenities. To the extent possible, the existing walls and other historic building artifacts will be integrated into the design. A looped trail provides access to all of the day use area features, as well as connection to the larger trail system on the island. A beaching area for canoes, kayaks and paddleboards is provided on the protected side of the point.



*Character:* The day use area offers a pleasant setting with canopy trees and lawn areas with the listed amenities. The existing walls and other historic building artifacts will be integrated into the design to the extent possible. The overall feel of the space is casual with simple, well-designed amenities that encourage day users to linger. The following graphic portrays the potential character of this day use area.



*Design Standards:* The trail will be 8 feet wide and surfaced with hard packed crushed granite or aggregate to ensure sustainability. As with the other trails, crushed granite is proposed due to its more natural earth-tone color, though crushed aggregate in areas under 5 percent slope would be feasible.

Docks, fishing piers and sitting decks will be made of wood or a “wood-like” product that blends in well to the natural setting while at the same time being durable and long-lasting.

A number of options are being considered for the design of the restroom. A stick-built custom building is a common option that offers unlimited design flexibility. Well-designed prefabricated options are increasingly available, appealing and cost effective alternatives to custom structures. Which of these design approaches is best suited for the island setting will be determined during the detail design stage and access to the island for installation. Evaluations at that time will include development and long-term cost differences. Designing the restroom building for use as a storm shelter will also be considered during the detail design stage.

*Development Qualifiers:* Limiting impacts to the lakeshore, stabilizing the existing wall structures for reuse as part of the new design, and protecting natural and historic features are all important considerations in the design of this use area. Access to the island for large items, such as prefabricated buildings and cranes used for their installation, will also determine the overall costs and ultimate decision made as to which method to proceed with.

### Zeglin's Point Day Use Area

*Uses:* Generally, pedestrian-only oriented uses. Camping and group use of the flexible use area will be by permit. Motorized uses, such as snowmobiles, will be allowed on a permitted basis for events or group gatherings.

*General Description:* Zeglin's Point two use areas complement Amblard's Point Day Use Area, with more focus on children's activities and permitted group uses, events and camping. An important aspect of the design for Zeglin's Point is that the day use area and the flexible use area can function independently or jointly depending on the circumstances and user demand. On a day-to-day basis, and when not otherwise scheduled, each of the use areas will be open to the general public.



On a permitted basis, the flexible use area will be routinely used for family and group camping, along with other types of permitted group uses and activities. On a case-by-case basis, the entire Zeglin's Point area will be available for special events or larger group activities, such as winter snowmobile gatherings or summer corporate and large family events.

Key features of the *day use area* include:

- Day-use docks for boat mooring (initially 6 to 10 total slips, with room for expansion)
- County barge access / drop-off area
- Small sand beach
- Adventure play area featuring custom built nature-based play features that encourage imaginative outdoor play and blend with the natural surroundings
- Open lawn for casual play, group gatherings, and general picnicking
- Picnic area with scattered picnic tables
- Sitting areas with benches overlooking the lake
- Accessible trail
- Fishing piers and lakeside sitting decks
- Information kiosk, signage and island map
- Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter with restrooms and maintenance storage

The day use area offers the same pleasant setting as Amblard's Point Day Use Area, albeit with a wider range of amenities and activities. A looped trail provides access to all of the day use area features, as well as connection to the larger trail system on the island. The trails also link the day use area directly to Zeglin's Point Flexible Use Area.

The Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter is centrally located to serve both use areas. Along with landscape features, its location helps create an informal demarcation between the two use areas, which is important when the flexible use area is reserved for camping or being used for other permitted uses. The shelter is envisioned as a three-season building with closable walls (i.e., "garage" doors) that allows for a wider range of programmed and informal uses in varying weather conditions. The shelter will be available day-to-day on a first-come basis, or could be reserved through a permitting process.

Restrooms will be included in picnic shelter structure along with room for the island maintenance and storage needs by the County, easily accessed by the barge dock. The building will be designed so that the restrooms will be open to the general public even when the shelter is reserved.

Key features of the *flexible use area* include:

- Day-use docks for boat mooring (initially 6 to 8 total slips, with room for expansion)
- Flexible use family and group camping area for tents, including picnic tables, fire rings, power pedestals and water spigots placed to serve the campsite area
- Open lawn for casual play and group gatherings
- Sitting areas with benches overlooking the lake
- Accessible trail

- Fishing piers, simple docks and lakeside sitting decks
- Information kiosk, signage and island map
- Starting with rustic tent camping pads and progressing to primitive camper cabins (prefabricated) or three-season tent cabins (initially three, with space up to eight); located to take advantage of lake views
- Vault toilet to serve the camp area (in close proximity to the camper cabins and tents)

*Character:* The day use and flexible use areas offer pleasant settings with canopy trees and lawn areas with the listed amenities. The overall feel of the day use area is casual – with simple, well-designed amenities that encourage day users to linger. The overall feel of the flexible use area will also be casual, albeit with more emphasis on using trees and vegetation to separate use areas for privacy and aesthetics.

*Design Standards:* As a custom building serving a unique purpose, the Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter will likely be built on-site, though some prefabricated structure options may be explored. Using the restroom building as a storm shelter will also be considered during the detail design stage.

The use of prefabricated camper cabins or three-season tent cabins is proposed and offers several advantages over onsite built structures given the island setting. First, the high quality of design and function of today’s prefabricated cabins and tent cabins often equals or even exceeds on-site built structures. Second, the per-unit cost for construction and placement of a prefabricated cabin or tent cabin is often considerably less than onsite cabin construction, especially given the island location. The accompanying photos illustrate several options for prefabricated camper cabins and tent cabins. The design approach best suited for this island setting will be determined during the detail design phase. Evaluations at that time will include design character, development costs, and ongoing operations and maintenance costs.



Another important advantage of prefabricated cabins or tent cabins is portability and the flexibility to adjust to site conditions and demand over time. If, for example, demand is very high, new units can be added with relative ease at predictable costs. Conversely, if use levels do not meet expectations – or if maintenance, operations or security issues arise – the cabins or tents can be readily removed or relocated to another area of the island (or mainland).

The access trails in and around Zeglin’s Point will vary from 4 to 8 feet wide and would be surfaced with hard packed crushed granite or aggregate to ensure sustainability. The wider width will be used for the main access corridors, and connections to the upper trail on the island. Narrower trails may be used in and around the camping areas and providing access to cabin sites.

As with the other trails, crushed granite is proposed due to its more natural earth-tone color. Docks, fishing piers and sitting decks will be made of wood or a “wood-like” product that blends in well to the natural setting while at the same time being durable and long-lasting.

*Development Qualifiers:* Limiting impacts to the lakeshore and protecting natural and historic features are all important considerations in the design of these use areas. The exact extent to which camper cabins or tent cabins will be provided will be determined at the point of implementation, when demand can be better determined. The County may start with tent pads and then progress to portable cabins or “yurts” to explore the demand for camping structures and evaluate vandalism concerns before building a more permanent structure.

### **The Historic Interpretive Trail and Naegele’s Tower**

*Uses:* Non-motorized uses, including hiking, jogging, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing with an observation deck providing views of the island, rookery, Lake Waconia and the surrounding region.

*General Description:* The interpretive trail traverses the upper and central part of the island, creating a couple of loops linking together a variety of natural and historic features unique to the island – ranging from old building sites to the rookery area.

Naegele’s Tower is the most prominent feature along this trail, which is complemented by numerous sitting areas that take advantage of views across the lake or relate to interesting historic and natural features. Extensive interpretive signage will be provided to enhance visitors’ appreciation for the natural and man-made history of the site with reference markers with the original features identified along the trails that will correspond to an overall park map in a central location.

The main upper loop trail, along with the connecting trail to Zeglin's Point, will be fully accessible to accommodate users of varying abilities. Note also that a couple of gates will be provided to close off the rookery section of this trail when the rookery is active. Access to some of the upper trails and the observation tower will be maintained when the rookery is active.

The trail that leads to Naegele's Tower will be fully accessible and will start on a high point to allow a boardwalk ramp system to extend from the trail high point up to the tower in order to provide access to an observation deck.

The tower itself is located in alignment with the existing main walkway/road that goes up the central portion of the island and offers dramatic views of the island, rookery, lake and surrounding region on two levels. This existing walk will be improved with methods used to stabilize the slopes on either side of it to control erosion. The existing remnant lantern posts will remain in their existing state as a recall to the previous built environment. A pedestrian access dock will be built at the end of this main walkway.

A trail connection from Amblard's Point will provide access to the upper trail for visitors using the day use area. Note that due to grades, this trail will be at a 10 percent maximum grade and will not be considered an accessible route, but will meet the requirements for nature trails.

*Character:* The majority of the trails will have an easy-flowing curvilinear alignment that responds to topography and making connections to a variety of natural and historic features. The alignment of the connecting trail to Zeglin's Point will be designed to maintain accessibility as it works its way up a slope. Overall, this trail will have a "walk in the park" character that encourages strolling and casually enjoying the island.

*Design Standards:* The trail will be 8 feet wide and surfaced with hard packed crushed granite or aggregate to ensure accessibility. Crushed granite is proposed due to its more natural earth-tone color (versus crushed limestone aggregate) and binders can be mixed in to provide a more sustainable surface in steeper sections.

*Trailside Features:* As noted, the tower is the most prominent feature along this trail. As the character sketch highlights, design elements include an upper observation deck, viewing blinds for observing the rookery, educational signage and interpretive displays. The lower deck of the tower will be fully accessible using ramps.



Sitting areas along the trail will be simply designed, with the focus being on positioning it for optimal viewing. Setting the bench off of the trail a few feet creates a sense of separation from others using the trail while maintaining ease of access.

*Development Qualifiers:* Given the sensitivity of the rookery, the alignment of the trail, placement of the tower, and location of trail closure gates will require careful consideration, with input from the wildlife specialists.

### **The Adventure Nature Trail**

*Uses:* Non-motorized uses, including hiking, jogging, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing.

*General Description:* The adventure nature trail traverses the lower part of the island near the shore of the lake. Optimally, a trail will loop the entire island, assuming that technical trail building challenges along some difficult sections, especially on the northwest side of the island, can be addressed. In contrast to the upper trail, this trail will be narrower and have a more adventurous character.

Key features of the lower trail include numerous lakeside overlooks and sitting areas to provide opportunities for relaxing, contemplation, shore fishing and observation. As with the upper trail, interpretive signage will enhance visitors' appreciation for the natural and man-made history of the site. In select locations, boardwalks will be used to traverse steeper side slopes, bridge eroded shoreline areas or even cross a remaining building foundation. These will also add variety to the trail experience and provide additional opportunities for observation platforms and sitting areas overlooking the lake.

The lower trail will include direct connections to Amblard's Point and Zeglin's Point, which are the main points of access to the island. As shown on the plan, a walkway and a couple of steps are provided to make direct connections between the upper and lower trails at select locations.

As the plan illustrates, a few short nature trail segment off of the upper main loop provides alternate trail option for trail users. As with the main loop, this segment will exhibit a variety of historic and natural features.

*Character:* To create a more adventurous feel, the lower trail will be narrower, have more "rolling" grade changes and be benched into steeper side slopes than the upper interpretive trail. As with the upper trail, the nature trails follow a flowing, curvilinear alignment that responds to topography and making connections to a variety of natural and historic features. Overall, the nature trails will have a more intimate "in the woods" character that is more of a hiking orientation than the strolling orientation of the upper trail. The following illustrates the overall feel and design for these trails.



*Design Standards:* The trail will be 4 to 5 feet wide and surfaced with hard packed crushed granite or aggregate to ensure sustainability. As with the upper trail, crushed granite is proposed due to its more natural earth-tone color. Boardwalks will be 5 feet wide and made of wood or a “wood-like” product that blends in well to the natural setting while at the same time being durable and long-lasting.

Importantly, development of the nature trail along the shoreline requires strict adherence to professional trail building standards and design techniques to create a trail that is both appealing and sustainable. Although the master plan illustrates alignments thought to respond to the landscape, greater scrutiny of trail alignments will be required at the point of implementation to ensure that alignments chosen are the most compelling and sustainable.

*Trailside Features:* The lakeside overlooks and sitting areas will be “nestled” into the site at optimal locations for viewing and access to the shore. These could also take on various design forms, including wood decks overlooking the lake to flat-rock surfaced pads with simple and comfortable chairs and some adjacent stepping stones for fishing platforms. Where feasible, sitting areas will set off from the trail to create an intimate setting and personal space. Interpretive signage will also be provided, consistent with the design for the upper trail signage program.

*Development Qualifiers:* The site characteristics that make the lower trail adventurous also pose the most challenges to developing a sustainable trail. Limiting impacts to the lakeshore, sustainably traversing steeper slopes, and protecting natural and historic features are all important considerations in the design of this trail. Involvement of professional natural-surface trail builders, landscape architects, environmental specialists, and engineers will be necessary to design a sustainable trail that will have enduring value to users. Creating trails that loop and provide the most scenic views along the lake are highly desirable, however, the trail sections that would be more difficult to implement and would include boardwalks would be a lower priority for implementation if costs, maintenance and disturbance to the site were deemed to be too high.

## Summary

Overall, the master plan for Coney Island encompasses meeting the recreational needs of the region while providing a unique opportunity within the park system that highlights its historical past. Programming can enhance this island experience which could include voyageur canoe and camping trips out to the island, introduction to snowmobiling or skiing, and mystery tours, just to name a few. The island’s history and ambience are truly a treasure for the community that should be retained for future generations.

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## CHAPTER 5 - NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### A. Overview

Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides a broad spectrum of natural resources and ecological zones to integrate into the overall park experience, from scenic settings to educational opportunities.

The Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, provides opportunities for both highlighting and enhancing existing natural features, as well as restoring altered or non-native areas. Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) mapping was performed on both Coney Island and the main park area including site reviews and wetland delineations. This chapter discusses the site conditions observed, MLCCS classifications and rankings designated for the sites, habitat and ecological enhancement goals, and management opportunities to ensure a healthy and species rich ecological systems.

### B. Existing Conditions

As part of the site inventory and analysis stage of the planning process, the existing conditions for the main park parcel and island were reviewed and documented. This included the built environment, ecological systems present, conditions found, and areas of concern.

#### Main Lake Waconia Regional Park

The main Lake Waconia Regional Park parcel contains some remnant characteristics by volunteer plants from previous land uses that took place, such as the businesses along the lakefront, leaving behind turf lawn spaces that are still currently being maintained as lawn. The previous agricultural fields on top of the hill adjacent to the new Highway 5 alignment have since transitioned to non-native prairie plantings. A large hillside separates the upper prairie and the lower lakeside portion of the park and contains a mature Maple-Basswood forest with buckthorn present in the sub-canopy.

Though portions of the old Highway 5 alignment are still in place, the removal of other sections of the highway, along with some other site modifications, have created additional wetland areas in the park. There are larger wetlands located on the east and west ends of the park with some smaller internal wetlands that have emerged along old ditch routes and low areas where the water flow has been altered. Reed canary grass was found in and along the wetlands. More in-depth information on the wetlands can be found in the wetland delineation report located in the Appendix section.

The following is the MLCCS mapping and wetland delineation for the main park parcel.



Document Path: K:\01945-060\GIS\Maps\Wetland Boundary 2.mxd



Project Area  
 Wetland Boundary



Wetland Delineation  
 Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan  
 Carver County



### Coney Island of the West

Coney Island is heavily covered with mature deciduous trees and much of the island has an understory containing invasive and undesirable species, such as buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), with poison ivy also found.

A large area of native Maple-Basswood forest is located on the western side of the island and a smaller area located in the east-central portion of the island, with oaks also present.

Altered/non-native deciduous forest areas are located through the center of the island as well as on the two lower points of the island, labeled as Amblard's Point and Zeglin's Point on the master plan. The vegetation in these two areas generally consists of green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) with a dense understory of buckthorn and smooth sumac.



There are also random pockets of ornamental and non-native planting scattered around the island that were planted by previous cabin and resort land owners. They have since been abandoned and some are continuing to survive on their own. Some older vegetation in poor or dead condition and trees damaged by rookery activity may be removed if in close proximity to trails or other use areas.

The following is the MLCCS mapping for Coney Island.



## C. Natural Resource Management Plan

### Main Lake Waconia Regional Park

The main Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan remains consistent with the original goals of undertaking natural resource management efforts to improve upon and enhance the ecological character of the main park and island with a healthy and diverse ecological system. The improvements to the natural resource systems not only create an aesthetic setting for the park spaces, but they also provide prime educational opportunities that can be woven into the park programs offered at the site as well as for the Waconia Elementary School and Conservation Club that would utilize the park for their educational programs and projects. The Master Plan and County goals would be to improve the natural resources and focus on creating prime habitat and food sources for pollinators. They County may even pursue beekeeping operations within the park as an educational program and revenue source.

Enhancement of natural features should involve restoration efforts to focus on the following:

- Maintain lawn spaces where appropriate using eco-friendly maintenance methods
- Manage, restore, and expand upon the Maple-Basswood Forest system
- Restore non-native prairie to native prairie focused on pollinator species that would support bee habitat, as well as educational programs
- Manage and restore wetlands to control invasive species
- Naturalize portions of the lake shore edge to improve water quality and control erosion

*Lawn:* Many areas within the main park are currently maintained as lawn and ongoing management of these areas is expected to remain the same where the master plan has identified lawn.



The lawn spaces are adjacent to the more active recreational use areas of the park such as the swimming beach and children's playground for lawn seating and picnic space, and for the proposed multi-use lawn space on the eastern section of the park. Due to proximity of the lawn spaces to adjacent wetlands and the lake, it is recommended that the County undertake natural management efforts to reduce chemical applications for maintaining the turf and controlling weeds. As a park with pollinator plant species, the use of chemicals containing neonicotinoids should be limited within natural setting areas. The Master Plan also identifies some buffer and transition areas where native plantings would be placed between the lawn and water bodies or between the trails and the water bodies in order to protect the water quality of the wetlands and the lake.

The following provides some general options for maintenance of turf and ornamental plantings:

- **Spot Weed Control:** Best practice methods of selective removal or treatment of undesirable species (thistle, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, dandelion, etc.).
- **Turf Aeration:** Annual or bi-annual aeration operations to aerate compacted soil should be used to encourage root growth and to reduce thatch at recommended intervals.
- **Fertilizing:** Use of compost or fertilizers at recommended rates and intervals will encourage aeration of the soil, improve the C/N ratio of the soil and fertilize the lawn grasses. Use of commercial fertilizer with no phosphorus in areas of high traffic may be needed to sustain and promote turf grass and help prevent erosion.
- **Seeding:** Select slit seeding or even broadcast methods can be done at recommended rates to encourage growth of turf grasses.
- **Chemicals:** The use of chemicals for weed and pest control should be minimized through best management practices by the department; however, existing conditions of large stands of invasive or weed species may dictate the need for chemical applications in order to get them to a point where they can be managed more effectively.

*Maple-Basswood Forest:* Management efforts should be made to protect the remaining remnants of the native Maple-Basswood communities and remove the invasive species that have started to take over the understory in these areas, such as buckthorn. The Master Plan identifies additional land area in the main park parcel to be devoted to an expanded forest system. Transitioning some of the upper prairie and the lower green ash stands to a Maple-Basswood forest system, as well to enhance the park setting and screen the park areas is desired. There are some existing oaks along one section of the hill that should remain. Species not indicative of a Maple-Basswood forest or oak savanna system would be recommended for removal as they continue to age and die out. This includes green ash, cottonwood, Siberian elm, and boxelder.

The following provides some general guidelines for Maple-Basswood Forest management and restoration:

- Invasive Species Control: Removal of non-native and invasive species in the forest areas should start with a large initial removal operation followed by yearly efforts to control new growth of the invasive species. The initial removal of species that have berries should be done in a manner to avoid leaving the berries behind on the ground that will cause new plants to start growing. The removal of the buckthorn will allow more filtered light to reach the understory areas of the forest and encourage growth of native plants.
- Removal of Undesirable Species: Removal of undesirable species not indicative of the plant community desired for the park shall include preparing a removals plan that will be done in a manner that won't drastically alter the appearance of the forest system as it continues to be transitioned over. The removal of any ash species shall take care to ensure the wood is disposed of properly within the County to avoid the spread of the ash borer. The emerald ash borer is currently not known to be within Carver County, but it can show up anywhere through the spread of firewood so proper disposal will be key.
- Tree Implementation Program: Though removal of undesirable and invasive species will help get existing smaller sapling trees established, there will also need to be an implementation program in place to install smaller plant materials to help take over a very mature canopy and to extend the limits of the forest as indicated on the master plan.

Recommended species for planting include:

- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
- Red Oak (*Quercus rubrum*)
- Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Gooseberry (*Ribes cynosbati*)

*Native Prairie & Rain Gardens:* Native prairies and rain gardens can be highlighted by providing trail access through the prairies and incorporating interpretive signage that describes the restoration and storm water management efforts.

Enhancement of the prairie should involve restoration efforts to restore the grasslands with native grasses for a tallgrass prairie or savanna. Some suitable plants could include big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and various wildflowers that would attract pollinators such as blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), and purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*).

The raingardens would contain a combination of plants suitable for a mesic prairie to wetland plants depending on the design of the raingarden and the infiltration of existing soils. It is the intent of the raingardens to provide more of a garden appearance with mass plantings of various plants and color combinations for seasonal interest that would attract pollinator species. Some suitable plants could include milkweed (*Asclepias species*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*), Joe Pye-Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), and sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*).

The following provides some general guidelines for native prairie management and restoration along with management of rain gardens:

- **Prescribed Burning:** Prescribed burning is highly recommended in the initial establishment of raingardens and prairie areas, including restoring the existing non-native prairie to a native prairie. It is recommended that yearly burns occur for the first five years which can then be reduced down to once every two to three years, depending on the health of the natural system.
- **Mowing:** If prescribed burning is too difficult to implement into the program, then mowing would be the next best option. Mowing should occur approximately three to five times per year for the first five years, and then can be reduced down to one to two times per year for the next five years with the mowing taking place prior to the formation of annual seed heads. Mowing shall include a flail-type mower that mows high with only the top two-thirds of the plants removed during the mowing operations.
- **Spot Weed Control:** Best practice methods of selective removal or treatment of undesirable species. If areas are too large for this method to be used, then the use of chemicals for spot treatments may be necessary.
- **Seeding and Plantings:** Installing small herbaceous plugs of native plant materials would be highly recommended for the raingarden areas for a more immediate cover and aesthetic effect. Herbaceous plugs can also be used in conjunction with native seed for the prairie areas, though this can be costly. Existing turf areas will likely need to be

completely removed prior to seeding and planting of native species, though if there are native plant species currently present in the areas to be converted to prairie, then over-seeding /select no-till drill seeding into those areas would be the best method in order to reduce the disturbed areas to promote the native species.

- Chemicals: The use of chemicals for weed and pest control should be minimized, especially those containing glyphosate. However, existing conditions that may include large stands of invasive, weed or turf species may dictate the need for chemical applications in order to get them removed. If the use of chemicals is necessary, then a product that is glyphosate-free would be recommended.

*Wetland*: Restoration and management non-native vegetation in the wetland areas is difficult, but if these efforts are pursued, they should focus primarily on removal and control of non-native vegetation, such as the reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). The native and restored areas can be highlighted by providing educational and interpretive information along the trails and boardwalks that extend into the wetlands in order to describe the restoration efforts that occurred and the importance of wetlands for wildlife, improved water quality and aquifer recharge.

Though the park wetlands are in need of proper management for a healthier system, the removal of some of the previous agricultural practices that directly affected the wetlands was a key step in the right direction. It is likely that there are still some watershed areas and runoff through ditches and storm water systems that are still contributing polluted materials, chemicals and nutrients to wetlands, as well as seeds of undesirable species. There is one wetland area in particular that has been completely overtaken with an invasive grass species. Unfortunately, many people have the ability to buy plants that they think are ornamental when in fact they are non-native species that end up invading and taking over natural systems, which shows that education will be a key effort in the management of the ecological systems.



The following provides some general guidelines for wetland management and restoration:

- **Prescribed Burning:** Prescribed burning can be used as part of the restoration and management efforts to encourage native vegetation and control non-natives. It is recommended that burns take place very early in the spring prior to any nesting activity, or later in the fall. Wetlands provide animal habitat, cover, and food so protection of animal species and food sources will come into play for timing of burns.
- **Spot Weed Control:** Best practice methods of selective removal or treatment of undesirable species, though this is sometimes a large task within a wetland. If areas are too large for this method to be used, then the use of chemicals for spot treatments may be necessary. Use of chemicals should be done by a professional certified in application to ensure the water and hydrology is not negatively impacted by the application process.
- **Plantings:** Enhancing plantings with small herbaceous plugs of native plant materials can help establish and enhance wetland species in a more immediate manner, allowing for a stronger native presence.
- **Chemicals:** The use of chemicals for weed and pest control should be minimized, especially those containing glyphosate; however, existing conditions that may include large stands of invasive, weed, or turf species may dictate the need for chemical applications in order to get them removed. If the use of chemicals is necessary, then a product that is glyphosate-free would be recommended.

*Shoreline:* With Lake Waconia as the main focus of the park, the shoreline will be a prime feature that will receive a high amount of visibility. The existing shoreline of the main park area is a short distance from the previous Old Beach Lane which sits approximately seven feet higher than the water level at the previous road grade. The shoreline has some woody vegetation with areas that have had rock installed to control the erosion along the old road bed, as it receives a lot of abuse from ice flows in the spring.

The previous Old Beach Lane was set much higher than the lake elevation so there is a short distance with a lot of grade difference between the old road bed and the lake that will need some alteration for a more sustainable lake edge to sustain steep slopes. Currently the shoreline of the main park area has scattered areas of non-native turf species, woody vegetation, gravel, and rock. While incorporating more native species and woody species for a natural shoreline, there will need to be consideration of areas to keep more open for viewing the lake from the park.



The following provides some general guidelines for shoreline management and restoration:

- **Prescribed Burning:** Prescribed burning can be used as part of the restoration and management efforts to encourage native vegetation and control non-natives. It is recommended that burns take place very early in the spring prior to any nesting activity, or later in the fall. Wetlands provide animal habitat, cover, and food so protection of animal species and food sources will come into play for timing of burns. It is recommended that yearly burns occur for the first five years which can then be reduced down to once every two to three years, depending on the health of the ecological system.
- **Mowing:** If prescribed burning is too difficult to implement into the program, then mowing would be the next best option. Mowing should occur approximately three to five times per year for the first five years, and then can be reduced down to one to two times per year for the next five years with the mowing taking place prior to the formation of annual seed heads. Mowing shall include a flail-type mower that mows high with only the top two-thirds of the plants removed during the mowing operations. From that point, it will be up to the County to determine the health of the system to determine how often mowing should be done.

- **Spot Weed Control:** Best practice methods of selective removal or treatment of undesirable species. If areas are too large for this method to be used, then the use of chemicals for spot treatments may be necessary.
- **Seeding and Plantings:** Installing small herbaceous plugs of native plant materials in conjunction with native seed will help establish and enhance the shoreline areas in a more immediate manner and will withstand the wave action better. Existing turf areas will likely need to be completely removed prior to seeding of native species, though if there are native plant species currently present, then overseeding into those areas with some herbaceous plugs would be the best method in order to reduce the disturbed areas that would be prone to erosion.
- **Chemicals:** The use of chemicals for weed and pest control should be minimized, especially those containing glyphosate; however, existing conditions that may include large stands of invasive, weed, or turf species may dictate the need for chemical applications in order to get them removed. If the use of chemicals is necessary, then a product that is glyphosate-free would be recommended.
- **Live Stakes & Biorolls:** The implementation of planted biorolls or live stakes and cuttings may be appropriate in areas of the shoreline for better stabilization and erosion control due to ongoing wave action.

### Coney Island of the West

Coney Island management efforts would be focused on managing and enhancing the Maple-Basswood forests, controlling erosion on steep slopes, especially considering the effect of eroded soils entering the lake, and undertaking natural resource management efforts to improve upon and enhance the ecological character of the island. Consistent with the main park parcel, the natural resources on the island would provide prime educational opportunities.

Enhancement of natural features should involve restoration efforts to focus on the following:

- Maintain lawn spaces where appropriate on the two ends of the island to be utilized for day use recreational and picnic areas and lawn space using short growing grasses for less maintenance
- Manage, restore, and expand upon the Maple-Basswood Forest system
- Manage the non-native deciduous forest to be converted over to a native Maple-Basswood system
- Stabilize steep slopes and embankments to control erosion
- Naturalize portions of the lake shore edge to improve water quality and control erosion

*Lawn:* The two end points of the island identified for lawn should consist of shorter growing grasses, such as fescues, to minimize maintenance. It is not the intent of these areas to have prime Kentucky bluegrass turf, but just simple turf that can withstand minimal maintenance.

The following provides some general guidelines for lawn maintenance:

- Spot Weed Control: Best practice methods of selective removal or treatment of undesirable species. If areas are too large for this method to be used, then the use of chemicals for spot treatments may be necessary.
- Seeding: Broadcast methods can be done to encourage growth of turf grasses.
- Other: Additional methods such as aeration, fertilization, and chemical use would be very minimal and at the County's discretion based upon the needs of the lawn spaces, which will likely be determined by the amount of use these areas receive.

*Maple-Basswood Forest:* Management efforts should be made to protect the remaining remnants of the native Maple-Basswood communities and remove the invasive species that have started to take over the understory in these areas, such as buckthorn. Management efforts should also focus on transitioning the existing non-native deciduous forest areas to be consistent with the Maple-Basswood forest.

Note that restoration efforts in and along the edge of the rookery area should follow best management practices. If nesting is reestablished, any management in this area should take place outside of the nesting season in order to reduce further impacts to these areas that can scare off the birds. Existing dead or dying trees may be removed and replaced with new vegetation, as appropriate. Care within this area should be taken to avoid inhaling dust particles from bird droppings. Soil tests in this area should be done prior to new plantings to determine if soil amendments are needed.

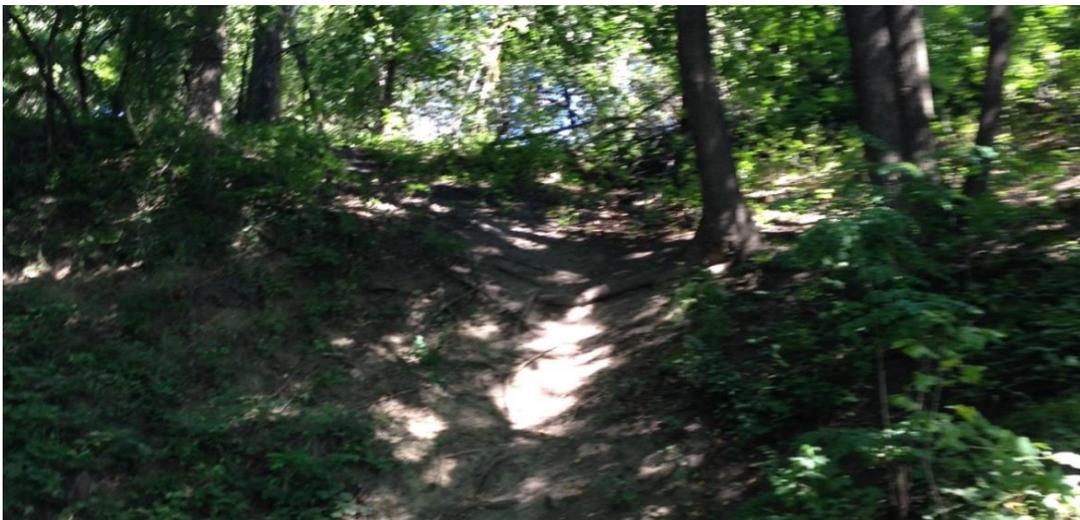
Recommended species for planting include:

- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
- Red Oak (*Quercus rubrum*)
- Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Gooseberry (*Ribes cynosbati*)

*Shoreline & Eroded Slopes:* As with the main park parcel with Lake Waconia as the main focus of the park, the shoreline of the island will be a prime feature that will receive a high amount of visibility. The existing shoreline contains a mixture of conditions with some areas showing an adequate cover of groundcover vegetation and woody vegetation providing erosion control, a natural gravel beach area and other areas that are in need of stabilization and improvements in order to control erosion.



Some of the erosion on the island is due to very steep slopes and even sheer cliff situations, where soil is continually eroding down the slopes and into the lake water. Other areas are eroded from a combination of human use of the island and shaded areas from overstory tree cover, causing the understory and groundcover vegetation to be low or non-existent. There are numerous human paths on the island up steep slopes that are now void of vegetation.



Restoration efforts related to the shoreline and steep eroded slopes will likely need to take a bio-engineered approach on some of the situations. These efforts should be phased in with more concentration initially placed on key areas or situations where development will be occurring to tie the restoration and erosion control with site work for cost savings. Other important areas are the severely eroded slopes and bluffs that are contributing to poor water quality and will eventually cut banks further into the main island areas.

The following provides some general guidelines and approaches for erosion control and stabilization for steep slopes:

- Live Stakes, Cuttings & Brush Layering: This approach utilizes live woody plant materials to be used as stakes or even incorporated into fill in layers in order to strengthen the fill, while the plant actually roots into the soil and continues to grow to control erosion. This would only be applicable in certain situations and some of the approaches, such as brush layering, can involve extensive earthwork and site disruption.
- Turf Reinforcement Mats: Permanent mats provide immediate slope protection and erosion control and can be filled with compost, soils, and seed to start initial growth of herbaceous vegetation in order to control erosion.
- Native Vegetation: Some slopes and eroded areas are still within reason to work on re-establishment with native plant materials. With the new development that will help to guide and control where people walk on the island, there will be greater opportunity to correct areas by implanting native plants.

Overall, the natural resource management efforts on the island will greatly contribute to the user's experience and will also provide educational information in order to allow users to become stewards for the ongoing improvements and restoration efforts for a healthy, diverse and aesthetic park setting.

## CHAPTER 6 – IMPLEMENTATION, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

### A. Overview

The implementation plan for Lake Waconia Regional Park will require significant initial and long term capital investments for the actual development, infrastructure, management, operations, and maintenance. As is the case with the majority of master plans, it will likely take many years for the ultimate vision to be implemented into the park areas depending on when funding and potential opportunities become available.

The following provides information on a phasing strategy for implementation with associated probable costs and related factors. Information on Carver County's existing and potential operations and maintenance are also provided as it pertains to Lake Waconia Regional Park.

### B. Development Implementation and Phasing

#### Acquisitions

An acquisition amendment plan was developed at the start of the project for the inclusion of Coney Island into the Lake Waconia Regional Park boundaries that was adopted by the Metropolitan Council in December of 2015. This can be found in the Appendix.

At the time of this amendment, no additional property acquisitions were anticipated. Potential future land areas that may become available for purchase that would directly increase Lake Waconia Regional Park and should be taken into consideration may include:

- **ParkSide Church:** At the time of the project process, ParkSide Church was determining their future growth needs and had proceeded with taking steps toward expansion, including looking at connecting to City services for sanitary and water needs. The County should establish a first right of refusal agreement with the church in the event that at some point in the future they may outgrow their site and deem it necessary to relocate. This property would be a natural inclusion of park space given the shared access road and may be an ideal location for park operations or future amenities.
- **Residential Property:** At the time of the project process, the residential property that adjoins the park to the northeast indicated they may be amicable to selling their property to the County in the future if they do not find a developer willing to purchase it. The County may choose to look at this option if it becomes available to determine if it would directly benefit the park, though the master plan as shown works independently from this property and acquisition of this property is not planned.

- Land South of TH 5: The County owned land south of Highway 5 contains a wetland complex with adjacent upland that is suitable for a trail as development occurs would add a large environmental feature and provide for additional educational and wildlife recreational opportunities.

### Conflicts and Mitigation

*Adjacent Land Uses:* ParkSide Church owns property adjacent to the park on the western edge and shares the same access road. Improvements to the park will continue to provide access to ParkSide Church, though the alignment may shift from its current location.

The northeastern point of the park is adjoined to a large parcel of privately held residential property. Currently there are some conflicts with park users utilizing their private drive and lake property to access the park in order to avoid paying the entrance fee into the park. Park improvements are meant to provide a buffer to the private property and clearly delineate the park entrance location. The landowners are anticipating selling their property in the future to other developers which may change the land use and/or density of this property.

*Roadways:* Lake Waconia Regional Park is mainly bordered by Highway 5 on the south side adjacent to the upper portion of the park that is identified mainly for open space and natural resource improvements. Noise from the highway is apparent along portions of the upper park and especially at the top of the sledding hill adjacent to the road. The lower portions of the park are buffered well from the noise and sight of the road. The master plan proposes increasing the wooded areas and buffer space along Hwy 5 to reduce noise and the sight of the roadway from the upper portions of the park.

Main access into the park is located off of Hwy 5 along Paradise Lane. There is an existing turn lane for the entrance road and there is park signage placed along Hwy 5. Additional monument signage is proposed at this location for a more significant entrance feature to the park. A box culvert currently exists beneath Hwy 5 to provide pedestrian access to the park from future developments and a potential connection to the new Elementary School.

*Park Development & Natural Resources:* The majority of the proposed park improvements illustrated on the master plans are expansions of areas that are already utilized for recreation, or were previously developed. This allows for very minimal negative impacts to the natural resources. With respect to natural resources and development, a balanced approach should be taken to ensure that both cultural and ecological values are realized as implementation occurs. Some natural resources that will be affected or improved upon with development will include:

- **Wetlands:** The large wetlands on the eastern and western ends of the main park will remain protected. There are some smaller wetlands created more recently within the main park when water flow patterns were altered, such as in previous ditches. Portions of the park drive and some of the new parking areas will affect some of the smaller wetlands. The master plan indicates areas for mitigation of wetlands on site, as well as areas for storm water treatment for new impervious surfaces.
- **Forests:** There are areas that will be impacted with the inclusion of new trails through the forested areas, both on the main park parcel as well as the island. The alignment of these trails will be field verified at the time of construction to make the least amount of impacts from earthwork operations to reduce removal of existing vegetation. In both cases, there are numerous trees that are at the end of their life cycle and in need of replacement. A dense understory will benefit from a natural resource management plan to remove invasive species. The wooded/forest area within the main park parcel is shown being expanded upon greatly to be more substantial for an improved park appearance as well as a natural buffer. There are some steep eroded slopes on the island in need of revegetation and slope stabilization. Some of the trail alignments and grading activities will allow for more gradual and improved slopes.
- **Lakeshore:** For both the main park parcel and the island, the lake shore edge contains a mixture of steep and eroded banks, vegetated banks, and rocky/gravelly shoreline with more gradual slopes. The intent is to try to correct some of the eroded bank areas and allow for natural vegetation along the majority of the shoreline to protect the water quality. There are areas on both the main park and island that are intended to allow human use up to the water's edge, such as the beach and swimming areas and access to fishing piers and docks. Most of these areas are already more open and are used for picnicking, camping and swimming. The remainder of the shoreline areas would be improved upon and transitioned to a natural edge.

### Lake Waconia Regional Park Development Costs and Phasing

Carver County undertook a preliminary feasibility study to determine potential costs for phasing development improvements for the island and the main park. The estimates are based on having the work completed by others and do not take into account potential grants or work that could be done in conjunction with volunteer groups or by staff. The costs are used for budgeting purposes and are done at a master plan level, not final design, so actual construction costs will vary based on actual site conditions, design development considerations, construction methods, materials, and timing of implementation. The costs shown are in 2016 dollars and actual costs will vary depending on the economy when development occurs.

*Island Phase One Development:* The phase one development plan for the island was developed based on actual funds available and dedicated to improving the island for public use. The prime focus of the phase one implementation was to remove the debris and other hazards

to allow for safe public use of the island. Improvements will focus on two island access points with day use areas (Amblard’s Point and Zeglin’s Point), boat docks, a kiosk with island information, picnic space, restroom facilities, and trails. The proposed trails would initially be an earthen trail or woodchips used from vegetation removed during the process of clearing trail corridors on the island.

The Costs for the construction on the island took into account a 40% related to mobilization and construction access considerations, 20% related to potential permits and construction contingency, and another 20% for design and engineering fees. The overall phase one costs for the island are shown to be approximately \$1,123,650. The costs will continue to be refined during final design to allow for more accurate estimates.

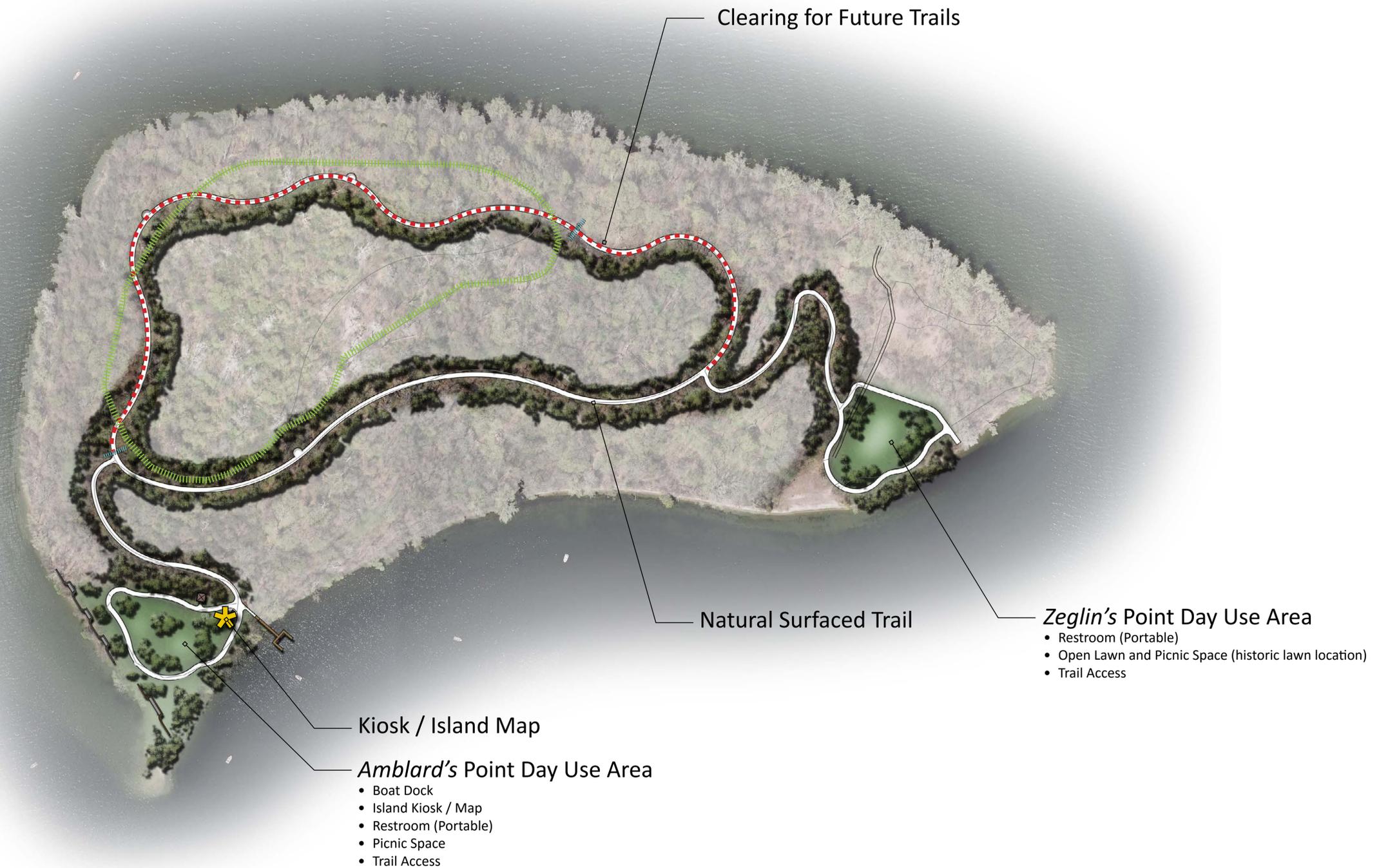
| ESTIMATED QUANTITIES - CONEY ISLAND PHASE 1                 |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
|---|--|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BASE BID  |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| Item No.  | Description                                  | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 1 - Removals, Earthwork, and Erosion Control</b> |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 1   | CLEARING & GRUBBING                          | ACRE     | 3                  |                   | \$5,000.00           | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 2   | EARTHWORK                                    | ACRE     | 2                  |                   | \$15,000.00          | \$30,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 3   | REMOVING PAVEMENT, DEBRIS, FOUNDATIONS, ETC. | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$250,000.00         | \$250,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 4   | EROSION CONTROL SILT FENCE                   | LIN FT   | 3,000              |                   | \$3.00               | \$9,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 5   | FLOTATION SILT CURTAIN                       | LIN FT   | 1,500              |                   | \$15.00              | \$22,500.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 6   | BIOROLL                                      | LIN FT   | 1,500              |                   | \$5.00               | \$7,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>  |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$334,000.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>Section 2 - Trails</b>                                   |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 7   | 5' WIDE NATURAL SOIL/WOODCHIP TRAIL          | LIN FT   | 3,000              |                   | \$5.00               | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 8   | RETAINING WALL (FACE FOOT)                   | SQ FT    | 3,000              |                   | \$50.00              | \$150,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>  |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$165,000.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>Section 3 - Miscellaneous Site Amenities</b>             |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 9   | BOAT DOCK                                    | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 10  | KIOSK  | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$20,000.00          | \$20,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 11  | PICNIC TABLES                                | EACH     | 6                  |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 12  | GRILLS/FIRE RINGS                            | EACH     | 6                  |                   | \$500.00             | \$3,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>  |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$88,000.00</b>        | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>Section 4 - Landscaping &amp; Restoration</b>            |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 13  | TURF SEED                                    | ACRE     | 1.00               |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$2,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 14  | NATIVE SEED                                  | ACRE     | 0.50               |                   | \$3,500.00           | \$1,750.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 15  | ALL NATURAL NETTING EROSION CONTROL BLANKET  | SQ YD    | 4,000              |                   | \$2.00               | \$8,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 16  | NAT. RESOURCE MGMT PLAN (BUDGET)             | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$25,000.00          | \$25,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>  |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$37,250.00</b>        | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>PROJECT SUBTOTAL</b>                                     |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$624,250.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>40% MOBILIZATION</b>                                     |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$249,700.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>20% CONTINGENCY/PERMITS</b>                              |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$124,850.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>20% DESIGN/ENG. FEES</b>                                 |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$124,850.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>  |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$1,123,650.00</b>     | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |

The following graphic illustrates the phase one implementation plan for the island.

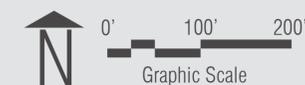
# Lake Waconia Regional Park

## Landscape & Natural Resources

- Invasive Species Control Plan
- Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes



## Coney Island of the West Phase 1



*Island Future Development:* The future improvement for the island will be done as funds become available and according to actual recreational demands and site conditions. The following estimate shows all remaining improvements for development of the island. It is recommended to go through a review process to ensure future development is in line with actual community sentiment due to the costs of some of the amenities. For instance, while some of the natural trails would provide better connections and loops, some of the construction costs and difficulty of construction may not justify the costs, and while the observation tower ranked very high from the public as an amenity, the costs may rank it lower as a priority for development. For this reason, some of the improvements are shown in the alternate column and should be reviewed to determine the extent of development that would be appropriate.

The overall future development costs for the island are shown to range from \$2.5 million to \$3.2 million. The costs will continue to be refined during final design to allow for more accurate estimates.

| ESTIMATED QUANTITIES - CONEY ISLAND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PHASES |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
|---|---|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BASE BID  |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| Item No.  | Description                                     | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 1 - Removals, Earthwork, and Erosion Control</b>   |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 1   | CLEARING & GRUBBING                             | ACRE     | 1                  | 1                 | \$5,000.00           | \$5,000.00                | \$5,000.00                     |
| 2   | EARTHWORK                                       | ACRE     | 1                  | 1                 | \$15,000.00          | \$15,000.00               | \$15,000.00                    |
| 3   | EROSION CONTROL SILT FENCE                      | LIN FT   | 10,000             | 8,000             | \$3.00               | \$30,000.00               | \$24,000.00                    |
| 4   | FLOTATION SILT CURTAIN                          | LIN FT   | 1,500              | 4,000             | \$15.00              | \$22,500.00               | \$60,000.00                    |
| 5   | BIOROLL   | LIN FT   | 1,500              |                   | \$5.00               | \$7,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$80,000.00</b>        | <b>\$104,000.00</b>            |
| <b>Section 2 - Trails</b>                                     |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 6   | 8' WIDE AGGREGATE TRAIL                         | LIN FT   | 7,000              |                   | \$20.00              | \$140,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 7   | 5' WIDE NATURAL SOIL/WOODCHIP TRAIL             | LIN FT   | 2,000              | 3,500             | \$5.00               | \$10,000.00               | \$17,500.00                    |
| 8   | CONCRETE CENTRAL PATH (NEW SECTIONS & REPAIRED) | SQ FT    |                    | 2,000             | \$10.00              | \$0.00                    | \$20,000.00                    |
| 9   | TRAIL GATES                                     | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$2,000.00           | \$4,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 10  | RETAINING WALL (FACE FOOT)                      | SQ FT    |                    | 2,000             | \$50.00              | \$0.00                    | \$100,000.00                   |
| 11  | STAIRCASE                                       | EACH     |                    | 2                 | \$50,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$100,000.00                   |
| 12  | CANTILEVERED 5' WIDE BOARDWALK SECTION          | LIN FT   |                    | 250               | \$600.00             | \$0.00                    | \$150,000.00                   |
| 13  | 5' WIDE DECK/BOARDWALK SECTION                  | LIN FT   |                    | 500               | \$300.00             | \$0.00                    | \$150,000.00                   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$154,000.00</b>       | <b>\$537,500.00</b>            |
| <b>Section 3 - Buildings</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 14  | VAULT RESTROOM                                  | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$150,000.00         | \$300,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 15  | EASTERN PICNIC SHELTER / MAINTENANCE BLDG       | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$300,000.00         | \$300,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 16  | PICNIC TABLES FOR SHELTER                       | EACH     | 12                 |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$30,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 17  | CUSTOM GRILL AREA                               | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$50,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$50,000.00                    |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$630,000.00</b>       | <b>\$50,000.00</b>             |

| Item No.   | Description                                 | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
|--|---|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Section 4 - Miscellaneous Site Amenities</b>  |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 18   | BOAT DOCK                                   | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$100,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 19   | FISHING PIER                                | EACH     | 3                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$150,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 20   | ISLAND ACCESS BARGE PLATFORM                | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 21   | BEACH AREA IMPROVEMENTS                     | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$5,000.00           | \$5,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 22   | ADVENTURE PLAY AREA                         | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 23   | WALL RESTORATION (BUDGET)                   | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$75,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$75,000.00                    |
| 24   | TENT PADS                                   | EACH     | 6                  | 3                 | \$1,000.00           | \$6,000.00                | \$3,000.00                     |
| 25   | CAMPER CABINS/YURTS (BUDGET)                | EACH     |                    | 6                 | \$50,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$300,000.00                   |
| 26   | KIOSK                                       | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$20,000.00          | \$40,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 27   | INTERPRETIVE SIGNS                          | EACH     | 10                 |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 28   | PICNIC TABLES                               | EACH     | 12                 |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$30,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 29   | BENCHES                                     | EACH     | 6                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$9,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 30   | GRILLS/FIRE RINGS                           | EACH     | 12                 |                   | \$500.00             | \$6,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 31   | OBSERVATION TOWER (BUDGET)                  | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$500,000.00         | \$0.00                    | \$500,000.00                   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>                                 |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$461,000.00</b>       | <b>\$878,000.00</b>            |
| Item No.   | Description                                 | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 5 - Landscaping &amp; Restoration</b> |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 32   | TURF SEED                                   | ACRE     | 3                  |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$7,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 33   | NATIVE SEED                                 | ACRE     | 4                  |                   | \$3,500.00           | \$14,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 34   | ALL NATURAL NETTING EROSION CONTROL BLANKET | SQ YD    | 5,000              |                   | \$2.00               | \$10,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 35   | ENGINEERED SLOPE STABILIZATION              | SQ YD    |                    | 3,000             | \$50.00              | \$0.00                    | \$150,000.00                   |
| 36   | LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS (BUDGET)                | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$25,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$25,000.00                    |
| 37   | NAT. RESOURCE MGMT PLAN (BUDGET)            | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$35,000.00          | \$35,000.00               | \$35,000.00                    |
| <b>SUBTOTAL:</b>                                 |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$66,500.00</b>        | <b>\$210,000.00</b>            |
| <b>PROJECT SUBTOTAL</b>                          |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$1,391,500.00</b>     | <b>\$1,779,500.00</b>          |
| <b>40% MOBILIZATION</b>                          |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$556,600.00</b>       | <b>\$711,800.00</b>            |
| <b>20% CONTINGENCY/PERMITS</b>                   |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$278,300.00</b>       | <b>\$355,900.00</b>            |
| <b>20% DESIGN/ENG. FEES</b>                      |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$278,300.00</b>       | <b>\$355,900.00</b>            |
| <b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>                             |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$2,504,700.00</b>     | <b>\$3,203,100.00</b>          |

**Main Park Phase One Development:** The phase one development plan for the main park was based on getting the park up to an appropriate level of recreational development and characteristics in line with a regional park setting.

The prime focus of the phase one implementation includes bringing public water and utility services in to the park and creating an appropriate regional park setting. Other work includes improved access for vehicles and pedestrians, starting a natural resource management plan that would include plantings for a more diverse and healthy ecological system, and development focusing on the waterfront, as this is the primary draw and ranked highest for recreational demand.

The waterfront development includes expansion of the beach, the lakefront walk, fishing piers, and all of the proposed park buildings in the central plaza area. Consideration for phasing in these buildings may be warranted based on user demand and park programming needs. The proposed buildings are outlined in the development plan chapter.

The following is the proposed phase one construction costs for the main park parcel which took into account a 5% increase related to mobilization, 20% related to potential permits and construction contingency, plus another 20% for design and engineering fees. The overall phase one costs for the main park are shown to be approximately \$10.75 million with another \$1.47 million in alternates and a potential cost share for utilities of \$153,000. The costs will continue to be refined during final design to allow for more accurate estimates.

| ESTIMATED QUANTITIES -MAIN PARK PHASE 1                     |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
|---|---|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BASE BID  |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| Item No.  | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 1 - Removals, Earthwork, and Erosion Control</b> |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 1   | CLEARING & GRUBBING                                     | ACRE     | 1                  |                   | \$5,000.00           | \$5,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 2   | EARTHWORK   | ACRE     | 20                 |                   | \$10,000.00          | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 3   | REMOVALS  | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$100,000.00         | \$100,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 4   | EROSION CONTROL SILT FENCE                              | LIN FT   | 12,000             |                   | \$3.00               | \$36,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 5   | FLOTATION SILT CURTAIN                                  | LIN FT   | 1,000              |                   | \$15.00              | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 6   | ROCK CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE                              | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$1,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 7   | BIOROLL   | LIN FT   | 3,000              |                   | \$5.00               | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 1 SUBTOTAL:</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$372,500.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| Item No.  | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Cost Share     |
| <b>Section 2 - Utilities</b>                                |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 8   | ELECTRICAL SERVICE                                      | LUMP SUM |                    |                   |                      | \$150,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 9   | WATER SERVICE   | LUMP SUM |                    |                   |                      | \$501,000.00              | \$153,000.00                   |
| 10  | SANITARY SERVICE  | LUMP SUM |                    |                   |                      | \$387,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 11  | LIFT STATION  | LUMP SUM |                    |                   |                      | \$270,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 12  | CATCH BASINS / OUTLET STRUCTURES                        | EACH     | 10                 |                   | \$3,500.00           | \$35,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 13  | 15" RCP STORMWATER                                      | LIN FT   | 450                |                   | \$50.00              | \$22,500.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 14  | FES WITH RIP RAP BASIN                                  | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$3,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 2 SUBTOTAL:</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$1,368,500.00</b>     | <b>\$153,000.00</b>            |
| Item No.  | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 3 - Parking Lots &amp; Trails</b>                |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 15  | 12' WIDE ASPHALT TRAIL - MAIN                           | LIN FT   | 10,000             |                   | \$34.00              | \$340,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 16  | 12' WIDE ASPHALT TRAIL - ALT. TRAIL "C"                 | LIN FT   |                    | 2,000             | \$34.00              | \$0.00                    | \$68,000.00                    |
| 17  | 10' WIDE ASPHALT TRAIL                                  | LIN FT   | 1,200              |                   | \$27.00              | \$32,400.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 18  | ASPHALT ENTRANCE DRIVE                                  | SQ YD    | 5,000              |                   | \$28.00              | \$140,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 19  | ASPHALT PARKING LOT                                     | SQ YD    | 7,000              |                   | \$28.00              | \$196,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 20  | PARKING LOT CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER                      | LIN FT   | 5,000              |                   | \$18.00              | \$90,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 21  | PARKING LOT CONCRETE FLAT CURB GUTTER (BY RAIN GARDENS) | LIN FT   | 1,000              |                   | \$25.00              | \$25,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 22  | PARKING LOT STRIPING                                    | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$3,000.00           | \$3,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 23  | TRAFFIC SIGNS   | EACH     | 10                 |                   | \$350.00             | \$3,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 24  | INFILTRATION BASIN WITH PLANTINGS                       | SQ FT    | 35,000             |                   | \$10.00              | \$350,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 3 SUBTOTAL:</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$1,179,900.00</b>     | <b>\$68,000.00</b>             |
| Item No.  | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 4 - Central Plaza</b>                            |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 25  | 1 - EVENT ROOM / ENCLOSED GATHERING BLDG                | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$400,000.00         | \$400,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 26  | 2 - CLASSROOMS/RENTALS & STORAGE BLDG                   | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$740,000.00         | \$740,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 27  | 3 - RESTROOMS BLDG & OUTDOOR SHOWERS                    | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$470,000.00         | \$470,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 28  | 4 - ENTRY KIOSK & RENTALS BLDG                          | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$200,000.00         | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 29  | 5 - CONCESSION STAND BLDG                               | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$200,000.00         | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 30  | 8 - SHADED/SCREENED OUTDOOR SEATING AREA                | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$90,000.00          | \$90,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 31  | CONCRETE CENTRAL PLAZA PAVEMENT / FIRE PIT              | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$110,000.00         | \$110,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 32  | SHADE STRUCTURES (CENTRAL PLAZA)                        | EACH     | 5                  |                   | \$15,000.00          | \$75,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 33  | PLAZA TABLES & CHAIRS                                   | EACH     | 16                 |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$40,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 4 SUBTOTAL:</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$2,325,000.00</b>     | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |

| Item No.   | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
|--|---|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Section 5 - Misc. Buildings</b>               |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 34   | ENTRANCE CONTACT STATION                                | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$200,000.00         | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 35   | EVENT CENTER DECK & IMPROVEMENTS                        | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$550,000.00         | \$0.00                    | \$550,000.00                   |
| 36   | PLAYGROUND PICNIC SHELTER & PLAZA                       | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$150,000.00         | \$150,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 37   | WESTERN PICNIC SHELTER & PLAZA (W/RESTROOMS)            | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$200,000.00         | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 38   | PICNIC TABLES   | EACH     | 16                 |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$40,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 39   | CUSTOM GRILL AREA                                       | EACH     | 1                  | 1                 | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$50,000.00                    |
| <b>SECTION 5 SUBTOTAL:</b>                       |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$640,000.00</b>       | <b>\$600,000.00</b>            |
| <b>Section 6 - Site Amenities</b>                |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 42   | CONCRETE PAVEMENT FOR LAKEFRONT WALK - BEACH            | SQ FT    | 10,000             |                   | \$8.00               | \$80,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 43   | SHADE STRUCTURES (ALONG BEACH)                          | EACH     | 8                  |                   | \$15,000.00          | \$120,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 44   | BENCHES/TABLES (ALONG BEACH)                            | EACH     | 8                  |                   | \$2,000.00           | \$16,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 45   | CONCRETE PAVEMENT FOR LAKEFRONT WALK - ALT. SEGMENT "A" | SQ FT    |                    | 8,000             | \$8.00               | \$0.00                    | \$64,000.00                    |
| 46   | SHADE STRUCTURES ("A")                                  | EACH     |                    | 3                 | \$15,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$45,000.00                    |
| 47   | BENCHES/TABLES ("A")                                    | EACH     |                    | 3                 | \$2,000.00           | \$0.00                    | \$6,000.00                     |
| 48   | CONCRETE PAVEMENT FOR LAKEFRONT WALK - ALT. SEGMENT "B" | SQ FT    |                    | 8,000             | \$8.00               | \$0.00                    | \$64,000.00                    |
| 49   | SHADE STRUCTURES ("B")                                  | EACH     |                    | 4                 | \$15,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$60,000.00                    |
| 50   | BENCHES/TABLES ("B")                                    | EACH     |                    | 4                 | \$2,000.00           | \$0.00                    | \$8,000.00                     |
| 51   | MAIN DOCK/PERMANENT PEDESTRIAN PIER                     | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$200,000.00         | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 52   | STAFF/SECURITY PIER                                     | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 53   | SECONDARY FISHING PIER/DOCK                             | EACH     | 1                  | 1                 | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$50,000.00                    |
| 54   | STAND-ALONE PICNIC TABLES                               | EACH     | 16                 |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$40,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 55   | STAND-ALONE GRILLS                                      | EACH     | 10                 |                   | \$1,000.00           | \$10,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 56   | BIKE RACK   | EACH     | 4                  |                   | \$2,000.00           | \$8,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 57   | BEACH EXPANSION   | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 58   | CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT & CONTAINER             | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$300,000.00         | \$300,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 59   | PLAYGROUND RUBBER RESILIENT SURFACING                   | SQ FT    | 4,000              |                   | \$25.00              | \$100,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 60   | SAND & WATER PLAY EQUIPMENT AREA & WATER HOOKUP         | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 61   | KIOSK   | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$20,000.00          | \$40,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 62   | INTERPRETIVE SIGNS                                      | EACH     | 6                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$9,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 63   | WAYFINDING SIGNS  | EACH     | 3                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$4,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 64   | PARK MONUMENT SIGNS                                     | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$30,000.00          | \$60,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 6 SUBTOTAL:</b>                       |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$1,187,500.00</b>     | <b>\$297,000.00</b>            |
| <b>Section 7 - Landscaping &amp; Restoration</b> |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 65   | TURF SEED   | ACRE     | 5                  |                   | \$2,000.00           | \$10,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 66   | NATIVE SEED   | ACRE     | 3                  |                   | \$3,000.00           | \$9,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 67   | HYDROMULCH  | ACRE     | 8                  |                   | \$4,000.00           | \$32,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 68   | RAPID STABILIZATION                                     | SQ YD    | 20,000             |                   | \$2.00               | \$40,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 69   | LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS (BUDGET)                            | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$200,000.00         | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 70   | NAT. RESOURCE MGMT (BUDGET)                             | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 7 SUBTOTAL:</b>                       |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$341,000.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| <b>PROJECT SUBTOTAL</b>                          |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$7,414,400.00</b>     | <b>\$1,118,000.00</b>          |
| <b>5% MOBILIZATION</b>                           |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$370,720.00</b>       | <b>\$55,900.00</b>             |
| <b>20% CONTINGENCY/PERMITS</b>                   |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$1,482,880.00</b>     | <b>\$223,600.00</b>            |
| <b>20% DESIGN/ENG. FEES</b>                      |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$1,482,880.00</b>     | <b>\$223,600.00</b>            |
| <b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>                             |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$10,750,880.00</b>    | <b>\$1,621,100.00</b>          |

The following graphic illustrates the phase one implementation plan for the main park.

# Lake Waconia Regional Park

- A Multi-Purpose Trail**
- Range from 10'-12' Wide Asphalt Trail (pedestrians, bikes)
  - Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
  - Overlooks with Historical Reference

- B Church Property**
- Potential Realigned Entrance Road (depending on wetland impacts & mitigation)
  - Potential Future Acquisition (may be used for maintenance building location)

- C Entrance & Contact Station**

- D Swimming Beach**

- E Play Experience**
- Fun & Challenging Play Experience
  - Separated Age Appropriate Play
  - Sensory Elements
  - Highly Inclusive / Accessible
  - Creative Water and Sand Play Area

- F Picnic Shelter**

- G Phased Parking**
- Main Parking Lot: 260 to 330 Stalls
  - Turnaround Lot: 20 to 25 Stalls
  - Pollinator / Rain Gardens
  - Adjacent Infiltration Basins



- H Central Plaza**
- Entrance Kiosk / Park & Trail Map
  - Bike Racks
  - Plaza / Cafe Style Seating
  - Outdoor Gas Fire Pit
  - Shade Structures
  - Relates to Beach, Lawn & Picnic Spaces
  - Restroom, Changing & Concessions Bldg
  - Park Program / Event Room Bldg with Open Air Picnic Shelter Area
  - Rental Equipment & Lifeguard Station Bldg

- I Central Pier**
- Pedestrian Pier (no fishing)
  - Island Ferry Transfer Location
  - Potential Special Event Pier (ie: triathlon/swim events)

- J Lakefront Walk**
- Curvilinear / Flowing Walk Design
  - Multiple Seating / Picnic Spaces
  - Shade Structures
  - Views of Lake

- K Boat Beaching Area**

- Landscape & Natural Resources**
- Highlight Plant Communities (native woods, wetlands and prairie)
  - Invasive Species Control Plan
  - Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
  - Protect Lake Edge
  - Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas

- Informal & Specialty Trails (not shown)**
- Snow Shoe, Single Track Mountain Bike, Cross-Country Ski, etc.
  - Integrated Into Natural Areas at County's Discretion
  - Non-Paved

**LEGEND**

- Trail Overlook
- 10' Trail
- Kiosk / Trailhead Map
- 12' Trail



## Main Lake Waconia Regional Park Phase 1



Project: 01945-060  
Date: August 15, 2016

*Main Park Future Development:* The future improvement for the main park will be done as funds become available and according to actual recreational demands. The following estimate shows all remaining improvements for development of the main park. It is recommended to go through a review process to ensure future development is in line with actual community sentiment.

The future improvements will create a more balanced park with many types of year-round and adventure based recreational amenities available by focusing on improvements to the sledding hill for multiple uses, developing the base camp area of the park, expanding the trail system, offering flexible use space, and potentially replacing the existing Event Center with a new public venue of a higher quality that is more in line with regional demands and the park setting.

The overall future development costs for the main park are shown to range from approximately \$3.3 million to \$4.6 million. The costs will continue to be refined during final design to allow for more accurate estimates.

| ESTIMATED QUANTITIES -MAIN PARK FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PHASES   |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
|---|---|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BASE BID  |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| Item No.  | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 1 - Removals, Earthwork, and Erosion Control</b> |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 1   | CLEARING & GRUBBING                                     | ACRE     | 1                  |                   | \$5,000.00           | \$5,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 2   | EARTHWORK   | ACRE     | 20                 |                   | \$10,000.00          | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 3   | REMOVALS  | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$30,000.00          | \$30,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 4   | EROSION CONTROL SILT FENCE                              | LIN FT   | 12,000             |                   | \$3.00               | \$36,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 5   | FLOTATION SILT CURTAIN                                  | LIN FT   | 1,000              |                   | \$15.00              | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 6   | ROCK CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE                              | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$1,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 7   | BIOROLL   | LIN FT   | 3,000              |                   | \$5.00               | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 1 SUBTOTAL:</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$302,500.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| Item No.  | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Cost Share     |
| <b>Section 2 - Utilities</b>                                |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 8   | ELECTRICAL SERVICE                                      | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 9   | CATCH BASINS / OUTLET STRUCTURES                        | EACH     | 10                 |                   | \$3,500.00           | \$35,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 10  | 15" RCP STORMWATER                                      | LIN FT   | 2,000              |                   | \$50.00              | \$100,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 11  | FES WITH RIP RAP BASIN                                  | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$3,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 2 SUBTOTAL:</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$188,000.00</b>       | <b>\$0.00</b>                  |
| Item No.  | Description   | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
| <b>Section 3 - Parking Lots &amp; Trails</b>                |   |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 12  | 12' WIDE ASPHALT TRAIL - MAIN                           | LIN FT   | 5,000              |                   | \$34.00              | \$170,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 13  | 10' WIDE ASPHALT TRAIL                                  | LIN FT   | 2,500              |                   | \$27.00              | \$67,500.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 14  | 5' WIDE AGGREGATE ADVENTURE TRAIL                       | LIN FT   | 2,000              |                   | \$15.00              | \$30,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 15  | BOARDWALK   | LIN FT   |                    | 1,000             | \$250.00             | \$0.00                    | \$250,000.00                   |
| 16  | ASPHALT ENTRANCE DRIVE CONTINUATION                     | SQ YD    | 2,000              |                   | \$28.00              | \$56,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 17  | ASPHALT MAINTENANCE ENTRANCE DRIVE                      | SQ YD    | 1,000              |                   | \$28.00              | \$28,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 18  | ASPHALT PARKING LOT                                     | SQ YD    | 6,000              |                   | \$28.00              | \$168,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 19  | PARKING LOT CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER                      | LIN FT   | 2,500              |                   | \$18.00              | \$45,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 20  | PARKING LOT CONCRETE FLAT CURB GUTTER (BY RAIN GARDENS) | LIN FT   | 1,000              |                   | \$25.00              | \$25,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 21  | PARKING LOT STRIPING                                    | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$3,000.00           | \$3,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 22  | TRAFFIC SIGNS   | EACH     | 5                  |                   | \$350.00             | \$1,750.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 23  | INFILTRATION BASIN WITH PLANTINGS                       | SQ FT    | 15,000             |                   | \$10.00              | \$150,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 3 SUBTOTAL:</b>                                  |   |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$744,250.00</b>       | <b>\$250,000.00</b>            |

| Item No.   | Description  | Unit     | Est. Base Quantity | Est. Add Quantity | Estimated Unit Price | Estimated Total Base Cost | Estimated Total Alternate Cost |
|--|--|----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Section 4 - Misc. Buildings</b>               |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 24   | MAINTENANCE BUILDING BUDGET                        | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$200,000.00         | \$200,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 25   | NEW EVENT CENTER BUILDING & PATIO / FIREPLACE AREA | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$2,550,000.00       | \$0.00                    | \$2,550,000.00                 |
| 26   | BASE CAMP SHELTER (4-SEASON WITH RESTROOMS)        | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$500,000.00         | \$500,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 27   | CENTRAL PICNIC SHELTER                             | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$150,000.00         | \$150,000.00              | \$0.00                         |
| 28   | PICNIC TABLES                                      | EACH     | 16                 |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$40,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 4 SUBTOTAL:</b>                       |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$890,000.00</b>       | <b>\$2,550,000.00</b>          |
| <b>Section 5 - Site Amenities</b>                |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 29   | LAKESIDE ARBOR                                     | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 30   | SHADE STRUCTURES (EVENT CENTER PATIO)              | EACH     |                    | 10                | \$15,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$150,000.00                   |
| 31   | BENCHES/TABLES (EVENT CENTER PATIO)                | EACH     |                    | 10                | \$2,000.00           | \$0.00                    | \$20,000.00                    |
| 32   | STAND-ALONE PICNIC TABLES                          | EACH     | 10                 |                   | \$2,500.00           | \$25,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 33   | STAND-ALONE GRILLS                                 | EACH     | 5                  |                   | \$1,000.00           | \$5,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 34   | BIKE RACK  | EACH     | 2                  |                   | \$2,000.00           | \$4,000.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 35   | BASE CAMP EVENT SPACE                              | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$25,000.00          | \$25,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 36   | BASE CAMP ADVENTURE PLAY                           | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$150,000.00         | \$0.00                    | \$150,000.00                   |
| 37   | ADVENTURE TRAIL CHALLENGE AREAS                    | LUMP SUM |                    | 1                 | \$50,000.00          | \$0.00                    | \$50,000.00                    |
| 38   | KIOSK  | EACH     | 1                  |                   | \$20,000.00          | \$20,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 39   | INTERPRETIVE SIGNS                                 | EACH     | 10                 |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$15,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 40   | WAYFINDING SIGNS                                   | EACH     | 3                  |                   | \$1,500.00           | \$4,500.00                | \$0.00                         |
| 41   | SLEDDING HILL IMPROVEMENTS (BUDGET)                | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$30,000.00          | \$30,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 5 SUBTOTAL:</b>                       |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$128,500.00</b>       | <b>\$370,000.00</b>            |
| <b>Section 6 - Landscaping &amp; Restoration</b> |  |          |                    |                   |                      |                           |                                |
| 42   | TURF SEED  | ACRE     | 10                 |                   | \$2,000.00           | \$20,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 43   | NATIVE SEED & ENHANCEMENTS                         | ACRE     | 3                  | 7                 | \$3,000.00           | \$9,000.00                | \$21.00                        |
| 44   | HYDROMULCH   | ACRE     | 13                 | 7                 | \$4,000.00           | \$52,000.00               | \$91.00                        |
| 45   | RAPID STABILIZATION                                | SQ YD    | 10,000             |                   | \$2.00               | \$20,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 46   | LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS (BUDGET)                       | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| 47   | NAT. RESOURCE MGMT (BUDGET)                        | LUMP SUM | 1                  |                   | \$50,000.00          | \$50,000.00               | \$0.00                         |
| <b>SECTION 6 SUBTOTAL:</b>                       |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$201,000.00</b>       | <b>\$112.00</b>                |
| <b>PROJECT SUBTOTAL</b>                          |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$2,266,250.00</b>     | <b>\$3,170,112.00</b>          |
| <b>5% MOBILIZATION</b>                           |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$113,312.50</b>       | <b>\$158,505.60</b>            |
| <b>20% CONTINGENCY/PERMITS</b>                   |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$453,250.00</b>       | <b>\$634,022.40</b>            |
| <b>20% DESIGN/ENG. FEES</b>                      |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$453,250.00</b>       | <b>\$634,022.40</b>            |
| <b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>                             |  |          |                    |                   |                      | <b>\$3,286,062.50</b>     | <b>\$4,596,662.40</b>          |

## Public Services

Historically there were electrical lines running from the City of Waconia out to the island, but this option was not considered during the master plan process. It was determined that the island is a secluded and adventurous piece of the park and the development should be consistent with an undiscovered environment. If there are some minor electrical needs, there is potential to look into other options, such as wind or solar energy, as well as generator or battery operated amenities as long as it does not detract from the remote island characteristics. If it is determined that electrical lines are needed through future planning to provide service, this cost will be incorporated at that time.

There is a strong demand for restroom facilities on the island in order to serve the day-to-day functions and to protect the island environment. The restrooms are shown to be on the two ends of the island where people will access the island and will likely start with portable facilities or vault latrines. Carver County currently contracts out for service and waste removal for portable restroom facilities and vault latrines, as well as solid waste removal and recycling services, by state licensed waste contractors which would continue to include Coney Island. There is also potential to construct wells and septic fields on site, which will need to be explored further for feasibility and related costs if these are to be considered.

As part of the preliminary engineering and feasibility study for Lake Waconia Regional Park phasing, options for connecting the main park parcel into the City services were explored. At the time of the master plan, ParkSide Church was also exploring options for connection into public services, which provided alternative connections for the park services.

Currently there are public services located either within the park or in close proximity to the western edge of the main Lake Waconia Regional Park parcel, including Metropolitan Council sanitary lines running along the previous alignment of Highway 5.

As part of the feasibility study, there were alternatives provided for bringing in public services to the main park parcel and modifications of the existing services within the park that included:

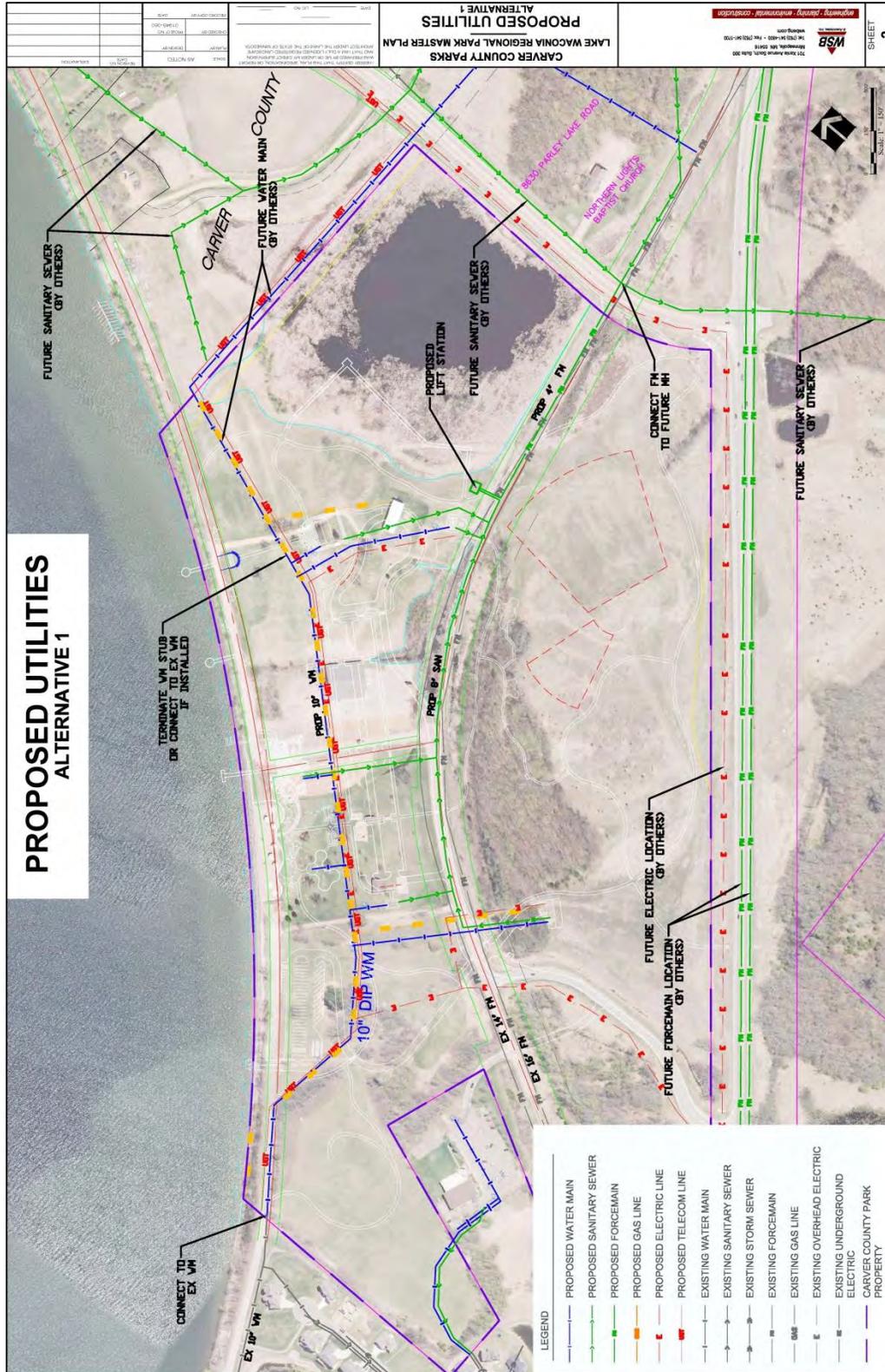
- Electric and gas lines are rerouted further away from the main beach development area
- Water service would be brought in to the park either off of Old Beach Road or potentially Yellowstone Trail in conjunction with the services for ParkSide Church.
- Sanitary services would require a lift station within the park due to the elevation of the park in relation to the developed areas and existing services. Two alternatives were provided for sanitary service:
  - Alternative 1 routes the sanitary sewer to the east to connect to a future system with the development to the northeast. This option includes a new lift station and connection at Laketown Parkway.
  - Alternative 2 routes the sanitary sewer to the west to connect to the existing sanitary sewer at the Beach Road cul-de-sac. This option includes a lift station near ParkSide church and allows for a potential sanitary service to the church.

The following are the related graphics for the main park utility services and alternate considerations.

Existing Utilities



Proposed Utilities – Alternative 1





## C. Carver County Operations & Maintenance Plan

### Carver County Operations and Capital Improvement Budget

The Carver County Parks Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Carver County Board of Commissioners. The Parks Commission serves as an advisory committee advocate for the park and trail system in Carver County, including, but not limited to, recommend park land acquisitions and methods of financing and maintenance; preparation and review of master plans; review and recommend annual park budgets and capital improvement programs; review and make recommendations on general park operating policies; and initiate park policy recommendations.

The Carver County Parks Department is charged with the operation of the County’s park system, including Lake Waconia Regional Park. The Carver County Board of Commissioners establishes policies and goals for the park system and, through an annual budgeting process, provides capital and operating funds for the department.

The Parks Department total 2016 Operations Budget totals \$1,379,530. In comparison, (the year of the previous 2000 master plan) the Operations Budget was \$552,000. The Parks Operations Budget funds Administration, Maintenance, Recreation and Volunteer Programing, Visitor Services, and Natural Resource Management.

The Parks Capital Improvement Budget for 2016 totals providing for Trail Construction and repurposing of caretaker houses at \$149,904. Additionally, Carver County provided \$1,005,202 to fund the acquisition of Coney Island. The Metropolitan Council has authorized reimbursement of the funds beginning July 2016.

The following are recent revenue sources and amounts that contributed to the annual operations and maintenance fund.

#### Carver County Revenues:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| \$894,000          | General Fund                                  |
| \$111,000          | Metropolitan Council O & M Grant              |
| \$32,000           | Parks and Trails Fund                         |
| \$250,334          | Permits (Vehicle Entrance, Camping, Shelters) |
| \$16,500           | Recreation Program Fees                       |
| \$ 4,000           | Special Events                                |
| \$ 9,500           | Commodity and Property Sales                  |
| \$ 15,000          | Carver County Regional Railroad Authority     |
| <b>\$1,332,334</b> | <b>Total</b>                                  |

Current Operations and Maintenance expenses related to Lake Waconia Regional Park are estimated at \$130,000 yearly.

As additional improvements to Lake Waconia Regional Park are implemented, the costs related to revenue, operations and maintenance will need to be fully considered prior to the implementation to ensure what is built can be maintained and operated properly and within park budgets. At this time, it is unclear the extent that the increased operations and maintenance costs would be until final programming for Lake Waconia Regional Park has been fully established. For master plan purposes, it is estimated that the potential estimated yearly Operations and Maintenance expenses for the park, including Coney Island, could be \$300,000.

### **Lake Waconia Regional Park Programs and Services**

The general regulations for the Carver County Park Ordinance related to use and enjoyment of the County Park system can be found in Chapter 91. Parks and Recreation Ordinance #72-2011.

Lake Waconia Regional Park currently runs programs out of the main park parcel, which is intended to expand as the park continues to develop. The community engagement process indicated there are increased demands for additional park programs and services at Lake Waconia Regional Park such as rentals, concessions, better restroom facilities, music in the park, and park programs for a wider range of users, just to name a few. The County will continue to evaluate additional programs and services for implementation to follow in line with park development and the related operations and maintenance associated with them.

While some of the improvements and park services will generate increased revenue, these are generally not enough to sustain ongoing staffing and maintenance costs. Carver County is currently in direct competition with several Three Rivers Regional Parks within the same service area, including Lake Minnetonka RP, Gale Woods Farm and Carver Park Reserve, which do not charge entrance fees. Carver County will need to continue to evaluate the standard practice of charging park entrance fees to determine if there are alternative revenue sources that could replace the entrance fee, such as rentals and concessions, and if the elimination of the park entrance fee would have a direct impact on increased park use and potentially increased revenue from other means.

Other services provided to Lake Waconia Regional Park include emergency services. While the main park parcel is easy to gain access to for emergency services, access to the island was a primary concern throughout the design process. This included fires, medical emergencies and even shelter from storms. Carver County and the City of Waconia are providing emergency services currently. Improvements related to access and equipment will allow these services to

be more readily available. Some potential items noted in the master plan and brought up for possible future implementation included:

- The master plan identifies a dock in the main park for location of a Sheriff's watercraft boat to access the island, as well as a County Parks boat.
- The island will have a barge access location large enough to dock an emergency boat and allow transfer of individuals from the island to the boat.
- The island shelter building will contain storage for Carver County that could contain emergency equipment and an all-terrain vehicle for maintenance and emergency needs in order to access almost all areas of the island.
- The island shelter building can be constructed to act as an emergency weather shelter.
- The emergency watercraft may need to be upgraded in the future to adequately board a person on a stretcher.

### Partnerships

During the course of the master planning process, there were numerous comments and suggestions related to potential partnerships that would benefit the park, as well as numerous local businesses and organizations. These partnerships will need to be explored to ensure a mutual benefit with an agreement in place as to split of responsibilities, maintenance, operations and revenue.

Some potential partnerships that were brought up include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Local businesses that can provide the boat ferry/shuttle to and from the island
- Local businesses that could run rentals or park educational and recreational programs (ie: paddleboarding, kayaking, snow shoeing, mountain biking, nature observation, historical exploration, camping, etc.)
- School conservation groups and programs that would utilize the natural resources and educational benefits and also provide labor for construction of nature trails, educational signs, etc.
- Groups and associations that utilize the park for their programs and events (Vintage Snowmobiles, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, triathlons, marathons, etc.)

## Outreach and Marketing

Carver County Parks currently uses their web site as the main location to find information on park amenities, programs, reservations, and special events. This has been a useful tool and is very easy to navigate, though the County may look into expanding the information to provide for multiple languages and to be ADA accessible. Park information will continue to be provided at the main park site at the park kiosks, entrance contact station and through park staff.

Additional outreach methods will include the partnerships with the local school district, local businesses, ECHO, and Carver County Health and Human Services.



### Carver County Parks & Trails

- B • Baylor Regional Park:** 10775 County Rd. 33, Norwood Young America, MN 55397  
Located on County Road 33, 2 and 1/2 miles north of Hwys 5 and 212, near Norwood Young America
- M • Lake Minnetonka Regional Park:** 6900 Hazelton Blvd., Chanhassen, MN 55331  
Located along Hwy 41, between Hwys 5 and 7, west of Chanhassen
- W • Lake Waconia Regional Park:** 8170 Paradise Lane, Waconia, MN 55387  
Located just east of Waconia on Paradise Lane, next to the Lakeside Ballroom
- D • Dakota Rail Regional Trail:** New Germany to the Hennepin County line. Trailhead located in Mayer at Highway 25 & County Rd. 30 and New Germany at County Rd. 30 and County Rd. 33 (East side). Also at St. Bonifacius at Kennedy Memorial Dr. and Bell St. (Hennepin Cty).

#### Please Note:

- Dogs must be leashed and are not permitted at the beach or picnic area.
- Park in designated areas only.
- Annual/daily permits are required for all vehicles.
- Observe signage.

Carver County Parks Office  
11360 Highway 212, Suite # 2  
Cologne, MN 55322  
Phone: (952) 466-5250  
Fax: (952) 466-5223

<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

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# Lake Waconia Regional Park



Upcoming Events  
and Programming

## APPENDIX

### Community Engagement Information

- A. Waconia Chamber of Commerce Questionnaire
- B. Project Stakeholder Interview Comments/Notes
- C. Technical Advisory Committee Issues & Opportunities Chart
- D. Community Engagement Results

### Conceptual Plans

- A. Coney Island Concept 1
- B. Coney Island Concept 2
- C. Main Park Concept 1A
- D. Main Park Concept 1B
- E. Main Park Concept 2A
- F. Main Park Concepts 2B
- G. Concept Meeting Project Information and Visual Example Boards
- H. Concept Plan Feedback Summary

### Preliminary Master Plans

- A. Coney Island Preliminary Master Plan
- B. Coney Island Preliminary Master Plan Images
- C. Main Park Preliminary Master Plan
- D. Main Park Preliminary Master Plan Images
- E. Preliminary Master Plan Priorities (3)
- F. Lake Waconia Regional Park – Regional Context Board
- G. Community Feedback on Master Plan Priorities (3)
- H. Community Feedback Summary and Notes

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# LAKE WACONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park? *Yes*

If yes, why and how often?

*Weekly in the summer for the beach*

If no, why not?

*X*

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important? *Yes*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

*Meeting facilities outdoors are always a great alternative*

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*Bike rentals*

*Paddle boat rental*

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                             | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails | <input type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs            |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                            | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails             | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking                    | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                          |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating                    | <input type="radio"/> Archery                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                         | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                            | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground              | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area                 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Swimming                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities            | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____       |  |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Walter Kuchemborg Gohle*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*12345 Main Street*

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

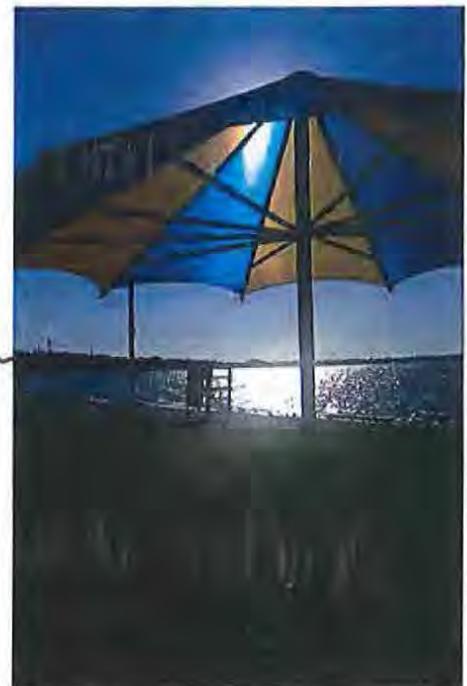
*wkuchemb@carvercountyparks.com*

If you prefer not to provide your contact information, we will have updated project information, including future meeting dates, available on the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

**Project Contacts are:**

Candace Amberg, RLA  
 WSB & Associates, Inc.  
 701 Xenia Avenue South  
 Suite 300  
 Minneapolis, MN 55416  
 camberg@wsbeng.com

Martin Walsh  
 Parks Director  
 Carver County Parks  
 11360 Hwy 212  
 Cologne, MN 55322  
 mw Walsh@co.carver.mn.us





# LAKE WACONIA

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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

If yes, why and how often? *meetings & events AT EVENT CENTER : 2-4x/yr*

If no, why not?

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important? *YES*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)  
*Provides needed services & local employment w/o increasing TAX PAYER costs & scope of govt.*

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*All of the Above!*  
*Yes - All of the Above!*  
*'Rat Rod' drag races on ice in the winter in conjunction with Antique Snowmobile Annual event*

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) DANCE HALL w/ wooden floor for RENT

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails      | <input type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                      | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails       | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking              | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                                     |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating              | <input type="radio"/> Archery   |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                   | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                                       |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Fishing           | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground        | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area           | <input type="radio"/> Swimming  |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities      | <input type="radio"/> Camping   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____ |   |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

CAMPING ON ISLAND + MAIN PARK

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: Myron Laaki

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer not to provide your contact information, we will have updated project information, including future meeting dates, available on the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

**Project Contacts are:**

Candace Amberg, RLA  
 WSB & Associates, Inc.  
 701 Xenia Avenue South  
 Suite 300  
 Minneapolis, MN 55416  
 camberg@wsbeng.com

Martin Walsh  
 Parks Director  
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 11360 Hwy 212  
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 mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us





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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?  
*occasionally - for the beach & sledding hill*

If yes, why and how often?  
*1-2 times per season*

If no, why not?  
*We would use the beach more, but we live on Lake Burandt. Would use sled hill more & longer if there was a mechanical tow rope, & tube rental.*

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?  
*Yes.*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)  
*Some amenities costs can be subsidized by direct users rather than increasing park pass costs.*

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*Wedding <sup>party</sup> venues would be good, but don't necessarily have to be completely enclosed - just covered to shelter from rain, at least at first - to see how much they would be utilized.*

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.) — *snowshoes, fishing gear.*
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                        | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
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| <input type="radio"/> Running                       | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                       |
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| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                       | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground         | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Swimming                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities       | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____  |  |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community? *Add a mechanical tow rope to the sledding hill. Add more covered picnic areas. Make sure there is a fishing pier somewhere on Coney Island*

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit? *If you do a dog area, partner w/ local vets & boarders for obedience training, donation of doggie septic & compostable "doodie bags." Partner w/ Spokes for provision & maintenance of water equipmt, & Mases or cabin*

**Stay Involved!!**  
Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: Cathy Thom

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer not to provide your contact information, we will have updated project information, including future meeting dates, available on the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

Project Contacts are:

Candace Amberg, RLA  
WSB & Associates, Inc.  
701 Xenia Avenue South  
Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
camberg@wsbeng.com

Martin Walsh  
Parks Director  
Carver County Parks  
11360 Hwy 212  
Cologne, MN 55322  
mw Walsh@co.carver.mn.us



*Fever for fishing gear. Could partner with Community Ed & fitness companies & Safari Island to offer classes, etc., on Coney Island.*



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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

If yes, why and how often?

If no, why not? *Isn't Not a water person -*

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?

*Yes a concession Bldg -*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*There used to be a ice house to store ice - Could that be re made for the Concession Bldg? People love Nostalgic. This could be where the Country Store was or make a Building and Call it the Country Store -*

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) Compens only on Island

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                  | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails | <input type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs            |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Nature Viewing            |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails  | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking         | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                          |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating         | <input type="radio"/> Archery                              |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Picnicking   | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                 | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground   | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area      | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                             |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)  |  |

*Deer no*

*People who come with dog don't shop.*

*You name all of Carver County to make a Day Park.*

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

*Maybe music concerts -  
Keep things up scale -*

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

*No*

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: DONNA FRANTZ

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

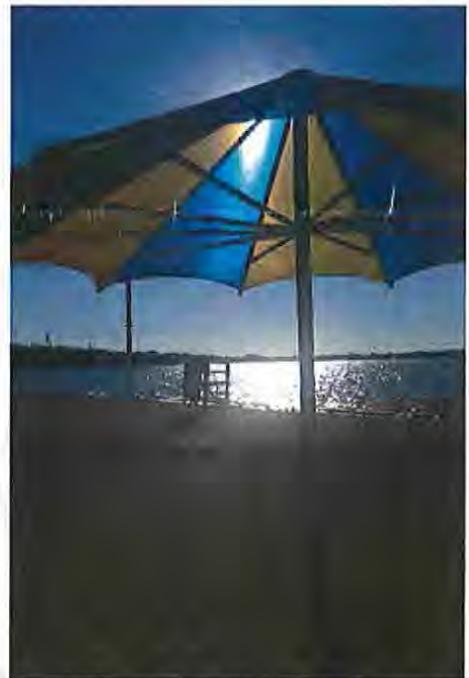
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer not to provide your contact information, we will have updated project information, including future meeting dates, available on the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

**Project Contacts are:**

Candace Amberg, RLA  
WSB & Associates, Inc.  
701 Xenia Avenue South  
Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
camberg@wsbeng.com

Martin Walsh  
Parks Director  
Carver County Parks  
11360 Hwy 212  
Cologne, MN 55322  
mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us



Hello-

This letter is for #6 - There is not enough room for my Great Brain Storm for The Regourse Park.

I would replace The Old Lake Side with a State of the Art Restaurant.

I would contact Steven Schussler who did the Rain Forest Cafe at the Mall of America - Many TX Restaurants Green Acres Event Center in Eden Prairie are has new one in Orlando Fla with Antigue Boat Cruises on the Ocean. One of the Boats came from a man by Winston -

This is Prestine Property and you need to Sell the Dizzle.

You could have a real gem if Steve would help you make it work -

I work hard at being a Visionary and I would love to help you with your Project.

Thank You  
Donna



# Regional Park Master Plan Update

## We need your input!

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Check the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks> routinely for updated information and a link to the project website.

**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park? *yes*

If yes, why and how often? *2-4x a summer*

If no, why not?

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important? *yes*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

*To ensure the park is well kept. It would be nice if food trucks would come in during the summer too.*

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*I would like to see a retreat hotel/bed + breakfast that would include a mini bar & volleyball court. A place for boaters to come off the lake for a bite to eat.*

4 From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting, rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5 From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                             | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails            | <input type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs            |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                            | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails             | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking                    | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                          |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating                    | <input type="radio"/> Archery                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                         | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                            | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground              | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area                 | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                             |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____       |  |

Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer not to provide your contact information, we will have updated project information, including future meeting dates, available on the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

**Project Contacts are:**

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Martin Walsh  
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[mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us](mailto:mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us)





CARVER  
COUNTY  
PARKS

# LAKE WAGONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

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1 Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park? *yes*

If yes, why and how often? *- once a year vintage snowmobile show*

If no, why not?

*—*

2 Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

3 What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*Snowmobiling / little camp  
fires  
hot dog roast*

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top two services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top two facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking  | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails                               | <input type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs            |
| <input type="radio"/> Running   | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails                                | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking                                       | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                          |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating                                       | <input type="radio"/> Archery                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking  | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing   | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground                                 | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area                                    | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                             |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities                               | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other (please specify) <u>SNOWMOBILING</u> |  |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

Support snowmobiling

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: LARRY Goede

Address: 1210 14th St  
Waconia, MN 55389

Email: lgoede@carvercounty.com

If you prefer not to provide your contact information, we will have updated project information, including future meeting dates, available on the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

**Project Contacts are:**

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WSB & Associates, Inc.  
701 Xenia Avenue South  
Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
camberg@wsbeng.com

Martin Walsh  
Parks Director  
Carver County Parks  
11360 Hwy 212  
Cologne, MN 55322  
mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us



## Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan SURVEY Response

To: Candace Amber RLA WSB &  
Associates

11/30/2015

2015 November Waconia Chamber of Commerce Member Local Business Owner Response:

1. Yes we do visit the park – usually for community events, & beach for grand kids
2. Revenue-producing opportunities/services such as classes, programs offered; facility rental and event reservations should have reasonable fees collected to offset park costs to offer, staff & maintain them.
3. Business Opportunities: A rentable Band Shell & or outdoor stage with PA/media system option could be incorporated for outdoor use/rental for music & educational events & for biking; running; & tournament venues. The park borders the City of Waconia, & has several surrounding local businesses that provide restaurant; carry-out, food delivery; catering; groceries; bait; bike, boat & motor, pontoon, paddle board & cruise rentals. The county could provide visitors with links to these businesses for their convenient use & to encourage trade in area tax-paying businesses. The county then avoids added expense to develop, house, stock & staff products & services competing with those readily available at businesses in close proximity to the park.
4. Two most important park uses : Facilities & Events [for adults & children]
5. Two important facility priorities: 1. - Trails linked to existing trails into the park; onto the island for boaters & into the City of Waconia. 2.-Venue Rental Facilities [& dedicated staff to plan with, man or facilitate renters].
6. Tourism would be enhanced by providing an interactive “talking volumes”- I-phone system explaining local Historic use of the park/island property. Visitors could tune in on their “smart phones” for a verbal “virtual historic tour” while walking/biking/boating into the park & to the island & throughout the city & surrounding area. Descriptives of Native plants, trees & shorelines could also be included. Weatherproof markers & pictorials placed near notable historic structures & event sites in the park & on the island.
7. Partnership: Our business refers large groups [over 30] seeking outdoor or lakeshore use to the existing park for reunions; corporate gatherings; non-profit fundraisers; tournaments; educational &/or private functions. We see the park and its’ users as our mutual guests. The Park hosts many important events like the Snowmobile show sponsored by, & also enhancing local businesses. We hope the design includes more venues & opportunity for visitors to learn our past & present value & quality of life here. A good park complements existing businesses who support the park by sponsoring venues & encouraging visitor use. Working together, as we did for the Governors Opener, shows Carver County, its’ businesses & Waconia at their best!

Thank You!

Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

If yes, why and how often? 1-3 times per year, once to attend church picnic/baptisms in lake, other times we dock our boat on the beach and let kids play.

If no, why not?

Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible) No, feel a park should be free outdoor enjoyment for families/individuals

What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions. Outdoor equipment rentals – paddleboards, cross country skiing equipment; Park facility rentals

From a business / employer perspective, what top two services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)

Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)

Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)

Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)

Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)

Other (please specify)

From a business / employer perspective, mark the top two facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

Hiking

Walking on Paved Trails

Running

Biking on Paved Trails

Mountain Biking

In-line Skating

Picnicking

Fishing

Children's Playground

Off-Leash Dog Area

Venue Rental Facilities

Other (please specify) Children's Splashpad

Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding

Nature Centers / Programs

Nature Viewing

Cross-Country Skiing  
Snowshoeing  
Archery  
Disc Golf  
Geocaching  
Volleyball  
Swimming  
Camping

Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community? **Don't know**

Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit? **Businesses sponsor kids activities/events at the park**



CARVER  
COUNTY  
PARKS

# LAKE WAGONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

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Check the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks> routinely for updated information and a link to the project website.

Disclaimer: Information gathered through this survey will be used to develop the Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update. Chapter 13, which pertains to advisory committees, does not apply to this project. This document is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for review, copying, retransmission, or other use or disclosure of the information it contains.

1 Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park? *yes*

If yes, why and how often? *5-6 times per summer to take the kids swimming.*

If no, why not?

2 Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important? *yes*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

*It promotes use of the park, use of the lake and draws visitors to local businesses.*

3 What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*Equipment Rental (Kayaks, Paddle boards) (Non-motorized).  
Fishing.*

4 From a business / employer perspective, what top two services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
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- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5 From a business / employer perspective, mark the top two facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                       | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs            |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                      | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails       | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking              | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                                     |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating              | <input type="radio"/> Archery   |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                   | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                      | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground        | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area           | <input type="radio"/> Swimming  |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities      | <input type="radio"/> Camping   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____ |   |

6 Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

*Great location for launching fireworks on the Fourth of July.*

7 Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

*Design suggestions: As avid users of the lake, the prevailing winds in the summer are from the South - Southwest. Therefore we highly recommend that if the island has a landing dock, that it be along the North side of the island.*

Stay Involved!! Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: Steve & Amy Battis

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer not to provide your contact information, we will have updated project information, including future meeting dates, available on the Carver County Parks website at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks>

Project Contacts are:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Candace Amberg, RLA<br>WSB & Associates, Inc.<br>701 Xenia Avenue South<br>Suite 300<br>Minneapolis, MN 55416<br>camberg@wsbeng.com | Martin Walsh<br>Parks Director<br>Carver County Parks<br>11360 Hwy 212<br>Cologne, MN 55322<br>mwash@co.carver.mn.us |
|---|--|





# LAKE WACONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

Yes

If yes, why and how often?

Twice a month in summer months

If no, why not?

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?

Yes

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

Generating revenue from other means than entrance passes would ensure that equipment is properly maintained and additional staff maybe possible. It would also help in upkeep to ensure safety of visitors and staff.

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

I think a concession stand and equipment rentals are a necessity for the park. The event center is on the lake but doesn't provide a lake view from inside the facility. I think that is a missed opportunity. For weddings especially, landscaping is needed. Landscaping around the event center is also a project that could be completed by volunteers or youth programs. I think more events would be booked there if there was landscaping for photos and windows on the lake side. An amphitheater on the island or on the beach. Music at the beach or music on the island.

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                           | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails          | <input type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                          | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails           | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking                  | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                                     |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating                  | <input type="radio"/> Archery   |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                       | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                          | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                                      |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Children's Playground | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area               | <input type="radio"/> Swimming  |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities          | <input type="radio"/> Camping   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____     |   |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

Involvement with local chamber events.

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

Music at the beach with concessions offered by a local caterer or food truck. (Mack Shack, etc). Discounts to local businesses with a purchase of a park pass. Offer Lake Waconia Park logo wear that is made by and sold at local businesses. Hosting the local farmers marking.

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: Lacey Shaw

Address:

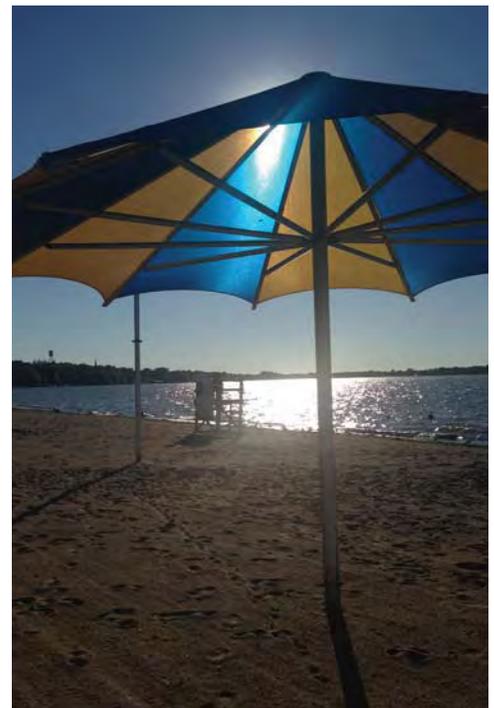
Email:

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Martin Walsh  
Parks Director  
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mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us





# LAKE WACONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

Yes

If yes, why and how often?

Summer, 4th of July, beach visits. ~12 times/summer

If no, why not?

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?

Yes

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

It would be a way to draw more visitors and generate revenue for park projects - Sea Salt at Minnehaha Falls is a terrific example of public/private partnering.

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

You pretty much hit them all there.

An actual facility, walking paths, etc on Coney Island might be expensive but seems like it could be a big draw.

Perhaps partner with Boy Scouts of America to set up a campground (and ensure regular usage/visits, to prevent troublemakers/vandalism)? Let me know if you want the BSA connection, both my sons are Eagles and we're relatively still connected with Scouting, or at least with people who are.

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                             | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs |
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| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails             | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                 |
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| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating                    | <input type="radio"/> Archery                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                         | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                            | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground              | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area                 | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                             |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____       |  |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

*Get the light rail to come back out to Waconia like it did historically.*

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

*Steve Lieb*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

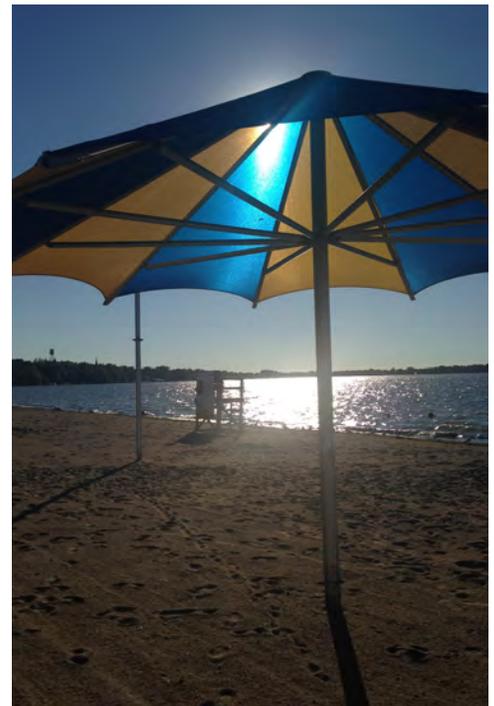
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Project Contacts are:**

Candace Amberg, RLA  
WSB & Associates, Inc.  
701 Xenia Avenue South  
Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
camberg@wsbeng.com

Martin Walsh  
Parks Director  
Carver County Parks  
11360 Hwy 212  
Cologne, MN 55322  
mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us





CARVER  
COUNTY  
PARKS

# LAKE WACONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

yes

If yes, why and how often?

Vintage snowmobile show

If no, why not?

Weekend ends of Jan.

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

Would be great to see an area where snowmobiles + families could go visit the Island

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top two services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top two facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                                   | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Walking on Paved Trails                  | <input type="radio"/> Nature Centers / Programs            |
| <input type="radio"/> Running                                  | <input type="radio"/> Nature Viewing                       |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking on Paved Trails                   | <input type="radio"/> Cross-Country Skiing                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking                          | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                          |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating                          | <input type="radio"/> Archery                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                               | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                                  | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground                    | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area                       | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                             |
| <input type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities                  | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) <u>Snowmobile</u> |  |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

Support -

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: Lee Goede

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Minneapolis, MN 55416  
 camberg@wsbeng.com

Martin Walsh  
 Parks Director  
 Carver County Parks  
 11360 Hwy 212  
 Cologne, MN 55322  
 mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us





CARVER  
COUNTY  
PARKS

# LAKE WACONIA

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1 Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

If yes, why and how often?

3 days / yr.

Waconia Ride-In  
Snowmobile Show

If no, why not?

Today it is just a beach. I live on a lake - have a private beach.

2 Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important? yes.

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

non-profit organizations benefit. Such as Lion's club, local snowmobile clubs.

3 What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

4 From a business / employer perspective, what top two services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
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- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5 From a business / employer perspective, mark the top two facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Hiking                             | <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddleboarding |
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| <input type="radio"/> Mountain Biking                    | <input type="radio"/> Snowshoeing                          |
| <input type="radio"/> In-line Skating                    | <input type="radio"/> Archery                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnicking                         | <input type="radio"/> Disc Golf                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing                            | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Children's Playground              | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball                           |
| <input type="radio"/> Off-Leash Dog Area                 | <input type="radio"/> Swimming                             |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Camping                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)             |  |

*note: none of the other activities listed above will drive business revenue.*

6 Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

*Allow snowmobiles + trailers to use the parking lot during the winter when it is otherwise not used. They*

7 Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

*park for the day, ride the area trails, buy gas, eat at restaurants, stay at hotels.*

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: Bruce Butler

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Martin Walsh  
Parks Director  
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Cologne, MN 55322  
mwash@co.carver.mn.us





# LAKE WAGONIA

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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park? *NO*

If yes, why and how often?

If no, why not? *WE LIVE ON THE LAKE*

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important? *YES*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

*THE EVENT CENTER COULD PRODUCE REVENUE IF IT WAS USED OFTEN INSTEAD OF ONLY OCCASIONALLY.*

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*THE ISLAND WILL BE A DESTINATION AND A BOAT TAXI SERVICE COULD TRANSPORT PEOPLE TO AND FROM. A FOOD TRUCK COULD BE OPERATIONAL ~~OR~~ AT THE PARK.*

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top two services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top two facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only two answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
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| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Camping                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____       |  |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

*Fishing Contests  
Boat Shows*      *Facilities for RV's to park  
Need Showers + bathroom at the park.*

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

*Spokes would be a natural to partner for paddle board use, etc.*

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name: DARREL & JOAN SUDHEIMER

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Martin Walsh  
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mwash@co.carver.mn.us





# LAKE WACONIA

## Regional Park Master Plan Update

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**1** Do you currently visit Lake Waconia Regional Park?

If yes, why and how often? *Not too often. Lake viewing and occasionally waterfowling watching. Antique snowmobile snow. Banquets at the ballroom.*

If no, why not?

**2** Do you feel revenue-producing opportunities and/or services within the park are important?

*Not sure of the question but I am in favor of something other than tax dollars to pay for our parks.*

Why or why not? (please give examples or specifics if possible)

**3** What business opportunities could come from further or enhanced development of Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? (e.g.: food service, equipment rentals, wedding & event venues, boat charters or rentals, park facility or event sponsorship, other?) Please provide your suggestions.

*Anything to enhance use of the park should possibly benefit area business'.*

**4** From a business / employer perspective, what top **two** services would attract regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- Rental Equipment (boats, sledding tubes, paddleboards, ski's, etc.)
- Adult Recreation Programs (fitness classes, Nordic Walking, archery, bird watching, etc.)
- Youth Recreation Programs (day camps, survival skills, paddle activities, swimming, etc.)
- Events (walk-a-thons, 4th of July events, snowmobiling, kite surfing, etc.)
- Facilities (meeting rental rooms, banquet facilities, etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**5** From a business / employer perspective, mark the top **two** facility priorities for attracting regional visitors as well as local residents to Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island? Provide only **two** answers.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
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| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Venue Rental Facilities | <input type="radio"/> Camping                              |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) _____       |  |

**6** Are there other ways Lake Waconia Regional Park, including Coney Island, can promote tourism or enhance the local business community?

*Just make the parks enjoyable to visit. I don't need or expect a park to offer everything to everyone. I think as a park as a beach, picnic area, casual relaxing area. I don't think I need a park for more bike trails. We already have those. Nature viewing is fine if the area can offer it.*

**7** Do you have suggestions for how businesses and the park system could develop partnerships which would be of mutual benefit?

*Just make the park friendly to the business world. This survey is a good attempt. Regarding the island - preserve what HISTORY can be with it. The history is significant !!*

**Stay Involved!!**

Your input is highly valuable, so please join us throughout the design process to provide information and feedback on the park design. If you want to be contacted directly about community meeting dates, please provide your contact information below and we will add you to our list.

Name:     John Zeglin    

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

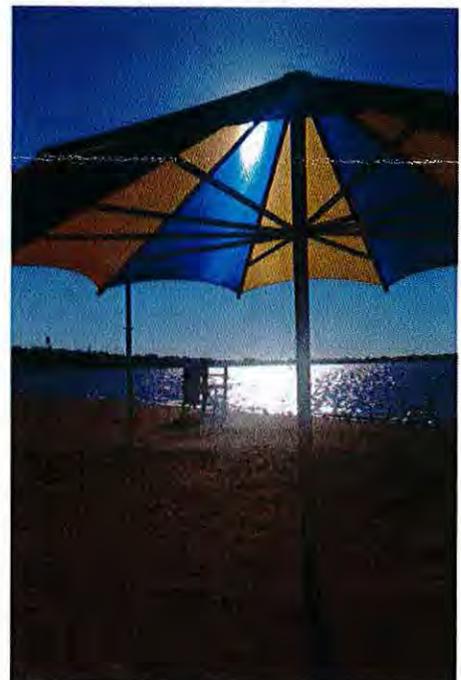
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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mwalsh@co.carver.mn.us



## *Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Update*

**Re:** *Project Stakeholder Interviews*  
*WSB Project No. 1945-06*

---

### *Items for Discussion:*

Project Stakeholders: Identify for one-on-one interviews or email/phone.

1. City of Waconia Chamber of Commerce: survey sent out, meeting Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 to gather information
  - Kelley Sites
  
2. Carver County Historical Society: Meeting Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in Boardroom
  - Wendy Peterson Biorn:
  - Paul Melchert:
  - Norm Hoffman:
  - Joe (author):
  - Joe Info: on Bicentennial Community Committee, worked on getting Coney Island and the Waconia City Hall on the National historic register. Mentioned the names Donna Rock, Therese Miller also on the committee. Named Dr. Leighton Larson, Paul Waldron. Paul had survey papers for the register and his house is the only one left. Historical society has the original hotel guest register book. Hirschfield had a house and named it “Garten-laube” which means “lovely garden” in German. Had an outdoor BBQ of brick with historic wood under the shell which can still be found there (check on this). Had stable and ballfield on the island. Trains came out on the weekend (three rr stations). Streets were named after various German poets and authors. Marty has a copy of an old island blueprint. Original one was done in 1887. 48 total buildings on the island. 2 hotel buildings and one had a pavilion and dance hall in it.
  - Lots of pictures and postcards of the island and buildings. Marty has copy. East coast company did the prints of these postcard photos. There are 20 which may be in public domain now. W.J. Scharmer had the originals. Amblard’s Clubhouse and park on some which may have been the lower western tip of island. French wine chateau? Learn about how farm families brought milk out to island. There may be extensive dump areas.
  - Joe authored books on Andrew Peterson Farm and settlement of Scandia. Mentioned they have been working a long time on getting historic items in Waconia and the island preserved so the materials are correct and not replaced with cheap materials used now. Need to preserve the heritage and building

materials in keeping with what was built originally. Want to keep primitive camping on the island and especially camping and a Northwoods or Boundary Waters type of experience for youth. The island has a story to tell and this should be integrated into the site so people can learn from it. Vandalism took its toll on the hotel that was on the island, snowmobilers would go out and take pieces of it, like door knobs and such. There is another building remaining, maybe it can be salvaged or rebuilt.

- Goal of bicentennial committee was to have primitive campsites and allow youth groups out there.
- No burial mounds out there – two archaeologists did study and found nothing.
- Miller-Dunwiddie did study in 1986 of island. Marty has copy.
- Norm wants no commercial development of the island, just wants simple camping and kiosk or signs where old property owners and buildings are. Group has a bad feeling toward snowmobilers and don't want any motorized uses on the island.

### 3. Island View Golf Club – sent email & voicemails

- Phone interview with president to discuss venue facilities Brad Solheim  
Matt Birlew is the Vice president and likely president next year.

### 4. Lancer Hospitality

- Phone interview with Glen on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss venue facilities  
Manager Jeff Dahl who may have information on groups who rent facility)
- Sharon Rubenstein who handles rentals –
- Capacity of 1,000 so this is a huge space that can accommodate very large groups.
- Facility rents out almost every weekend for weddings. Used to be a square dancing group that rented the first year of operation by Lancer on Sundays but no longer is a demand. The facility will rent during the week, but they receive very little requests during this time.
- Hold approximately 4 to 5 other events during the year, such as the vintage snowmobile club.
- The building is older and is recessed. Would love to have a view of the lake – pick up and move by the lake, lift it up and rotate it.
- Just has a prep space, not a kitchen, so all food must be prepared off-site. It would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to upgrade it to meet code.
- Phone interview with Sharon on 11/17/15:
- People love the venue and keep coming back time and again. Popular space for weddings which are typically booked from June – sept on Saturdays. Love the high beam wood ceilings and open floor and capacity.
- 4-day snowmobile event in January, another event in February and some holiday parties.
- Food service is gaining good reputation.
- Desired improvements would be updated restrooms, new carpeting, and a deck/outdoor space. There is an emergency entrance by the game room (not the western entrance doors) that could lead to a deck for outdoor space or smoking space.

5. Legacy Village HOA – adjacent.

6. School District

- INTERVIEW on 11-19-15
- Superintendent Pat(rick) Devine
- Richard Scott also provided information (may be on board of directors at the historical society).
- Large conservation club with 2 advisors through the school that are always looking for projects. 300+ in club. Like green initiatives, building and maintaining nature trails, nature viewing areas, camping, cleaning up, ice fishing, and winter camping/survival.
- About 25% of school comes from St. Boni/Minnetrissa area. Still growing and may be looking to expand even further. May look to a Minnetrista location.
- New Laketown Elementary has ExploreScape with 4 biomes including standing and running water (available on school property), natural prairie, woodland/forest. Trail expansion to connect to County Land and beneath 5 via culvert.
- Edible classroom garden, promote the outdoors.
- Could see tie to the park for educational purposes as well as recreational purposes with field trips out to island. Environmental Science class with hands-on learning on both island and main park. Social studies and history (US/Dakota War and uprising – in Peterson journal that they went to island to escape), Geography, orienteering and geocaching, lots of topography on both island and main park to work with.
- Been approached by mountain biking for trails on school property.
- No ski clubs yet.

7. MORC (Minnesota Off Road Cyclists)

- Phone interview on 11-23-15 with Tim
- Tim Vossberg
- Trying to establish off road trails, currently in Chaska
- Look at participation numbers (actual) and program events
- Tim indicated they typically look for sites that would allow for 10-12 miles of trail length. Small sites have 3-4 miles. The LWRP is too small for their use. He mentioned Justin at Spokes is trying to start up a youth mountain biking team through the Waconia school district.

8. Go Carver Go

- Underutilized. Currently funded by BC/BS and may withdraw

9. DNR

- Phone on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm
- Rachel Hintzman
- Existing boat launch has about 40 trailer stalls. It has a double ramp which is ideal for a boat launch and has 5'x12' concrete slabs at the launch. No complaints on water depth or roughness that she knows of. Mostly the County does the inspections at the boat launches for aquatic invasive species.

- Proposed would probably be the 5'x12' or 6'x15' concrete slabs as well, though the larger ones are more difficult to work with if they shift. Unsure of timing for installation but feels this site is a higher priority.
- Concerns would be how to sign parking area so that it's not used as a trailhead or for park access without limiting vehicles that don't have a trailer (canoes and kayaks).
- Thoughts on park improvements: fishing piers are popular and low maintenance, can float them out in the winter. The DNR doesn't administer boat slips, this is done by cities or counties.

10. Notes from Carver County staff:

- roundabout or turn-around contact at entrance contact station. Possibly automated gates?
- Sheriff boat in park
- Playground off to side
- Coffee-shop character feeling / European outdoor café space.
- Watercraft options
- Wooden arbors or vibrant sun shades? More contemporary.
- Water play
- Yoga platforms / meditation
- Like zip line or climbing wall
- Possibly items like "egret-cam" for nature viewing
- Glamping, tent activities. See Canoe Bay Cabins in Wisconsin

11. Parkside Church

- Phone interview: Pastor Randy Burg
- Other contact is Doug Parkinson who also works at Crown College.
- Talked with Randy and Doug on 11-23-15 through phone interview.
- The church is on the verge of deciding to make significant investments for expansion or discuss buyout with the county. They have been to various meetings and wondered why the county hasn't previously discussed the buyout. They would like to explore the option but a decision would need to be made very shortly in order for them to decide to expand or not.
- Completed annexation, the expansion would add 10,000 – 20,000 sf to existing 18,000 sf building for classrooms and gym and would connect to city utilities. Need to redo parking lot and look at options for water treatment. Could trade some of their existing wetland to County in return for some of the old hwy ROW to expand parking lot and account for water treatment.
- Good neighbor. Let the continuing education program run the triathlon event in their parking lot, park users will park in their lot to avoid paying fee and leave trash and such there. They have been allowed use of the hill for viewing and conducting baptisms at beach.
- Worried about access to the church property and what takes place in the entrance drive, as well as any shared costs to the improvement of the entrance drive. They don't want people, especially boat trailer parking, to occur in the entrance drive making access to their property difficult and they want to be sure their patrons don't have to go through a payment gate to get to the church. Also worried about a bottleneck during the weekend when people are trying to access the church at the same time as the boat launch.

- Need a better entrance sign and would help pay for a monument sign to direct people to correct location – can be confusing now. Also like some type of perimeter fencing like Minnewashta has to delineate park from private property.
- Worried that all the focus is on the island and that no investments will occur within the main park area.

12. Crown College: Isere Johnson or Lonnie or Pastor Burg

- Pastor Burg indicated that not many students use the beach much due to the fact when school starts and ends it's not the correct season and they aren't around in the summer. Also too busy. The college has their own frontage along Lake Parley they plan to eventually make improvements to.

13. Audubon Society: sent email out

- Kristin Hall

14. Vintage Snowmobiles (came in for interview in January)

- Jim Struble:
- Thursday through Sunday event with displays, events, banquet, swap meet, Sunday show and judging, and awards ceremony. About 28 BIF's brought in.
- Noted that they are very concerned with the future improvements at Lake Waconia Regional Park due to their spatial needs for the snowmobile show. Currently the show uses the majority of the park space for parking. In good winters parking can occur on ice, but in poor ice they have to park on land. Approx. 500 vehicles. Need overflow and off-site parking and will shuttle people in.
- Events such as races are held on ice. 400' x 150' show space outside.
- Show is widely known and is like the Sturgis for vintage snowmobiles. Was featured in the Wall Street Journal. 20 years at this park and now in 26<sup>th</sup> year.
- Utilize the Event Center and like the room that is available. Typically have about 300 for Saturday banquet from 6:00 – 10:00. Sunday awards is standing room only with about 800 people in attendance.
- Use the large space and dance floor for displays. People coming and going all the time.
- Maximize parking for park. Would like flexible space that can be used for overflow parking.
- Snowmobile routes along edge of park to access the lake and island. Would like to have amenities on the island for winter use (shelter/shanty, fire pit, etc.). Noted that SW Trails does grooming in Carver County.

15. Snow Runners: [part of group interview from Vintage Snowmobiles above](#)

16. SPOKES

- Christian Gilbert with SPOKES – phone interview on 11-23-15
- Justin Ratzlaff is main owner – came in for interview at end of January. Waconia Hero Coalition gave award to him. Justin noted areas on elementary school site that may incorporate single track mountain bike trails and sent information on potential routes through Lake Waconia Park that could stem from elementary school site and not interfere with other park activities and use areas or would be compatible. Noted that usually single track routes are compatible with winter snowshoeing, as these users will tamp down snow for the bikes. He also works with paddleboard rentals and swimmers and people will use the sledding hill in summer for training.
- Paddle Waconia – paddle school. He and his family have been long time Waconia residents and he knows the lake and park well. Last year was the pilot program for the youth paddle class and they had 300 participants. Have had 2 years of rentals out of the city park on the lake. Have 3 storage racks at the park. Indicated the County possibly has a rack there as well. Like this location, it's close to the island and usually fairly calm. They rest on the western section of the island.

- Would like multi-use trails in the park for pedestrians and bikes. Use the beach a lot. The beach is too far from the island to have safe travel by paddleboard and there may be a conflict when the DNR boat launch goes in. The water is more often than not very rough at the beach since it's affected by all but southerly wind directions. If they had a rental place here it would likely be shut down at least half the time.
- Personally likes to do river paddleboarding. Inflatable boards on Colorado River (Steamboat Springs operation), the Rio Grande and Root River

17. Bruce and Wendy Anderson – adjacent property owners on NE side: talked on 12-07-15

- Bruce and Wendy Anderson.
- Have renters who stay on their property
- CONSTANT issue with people driving on their property including in their driveway up to the house and even using their own private dock. Bikes enter through their property and cut across their lawn. They will even find large family groups (noted to be Hispanic) having gatherings and picnics on their property, using their beach area, grilling, and even having bonfires on their property. Lots of trash, diapers, etc. left behind.
- Worried about liability issues of people on their property and dock and renters have security concerns.
- Snowmobilers are the only users that are respectful and stay on their trail route.
- Put signs up but they are ignored or taken down.
- Some people still drive along the lake where the road used to be even though the road is gone.
- Are trying to sell their property to developers but need city water and sanitary. May also be interested in selling out to County (CA Note: what about golf course?). The hill would be good campground and lake access is far enough from proposed boat launch.
- Park needs better restrooms with changing rooms and shower.
- Event Center should be on city sanitary since there are failures during large events. Event Center should offer more day-to-day use.
- Waconia needs some type of venue center – the Event Center is the only one besides the golf course which only holds about 120 max.
- Would love summer events, maybe once per month, like music or entertainment in the park and have food and beverage vendors come in.

18. Kids Groups & Park Activities

- Waconia Community Ed – Kids Tri-Group:
- Waconia Kids Company
- Waconia Triathlon – Final Stretch
- Hits Endurance Triathlon

Lola's Half Marathon

- Annual Walk-a-thon Event – St. Joseph’s Catholic Church ( Strong trails advocate.

- **Swimming**

Dear Mr. Walsh,

I was unable to attend this summer's community forum(s) regarding the development plans underway for the Lake Waconia island. I have since 2008 organized open water training swims on Lake Waconia for triathletes and endurance lake swimmers. The email list I maintain numbers well over 100 area athletes, and participation in our spring shoreline swims and summer roundtrip island swims on Lake Waconia consistently numbers a dozen-plus, with participants changing weekly, depending on their race schedules, etc.

Every Thursday from mid-June and into September we gather, accompanied by four to six kayak escorts and a pontoon or motorboat, to swim the 1.8 miles from the beach to the island and back. On behalf of this established group, I hope you and your committee will consider designating a boat-free landing spot for us on the east side of the island. My fellow athlete Jill Sinclair voiced the desire for such at your summer forum that took place at the ballroom.

For background on our group, please see the below article I wrote for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' magazine, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*. The non-race photos were shot during one of our Waconia island swims.

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2015/jul-aug/open-water-swimming.html>

Please let me know how I can/should further advance this idea. Meeting attendance? Email input from involved Carver County residents/athletes? A petition with signatures?

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in as well as for your efforts.



**Facilities**



**Issues / Concerns/Threats**

- More umbrellas & other simple leisure items
- Ballroom
- Beach
- Sledding Hill
- Trails
- Playground
- Size- automation- unique –minimal- not connected – outdated
- EMS Police response to Island
- Weather warnings evacuation
- What about winter?
- SHPO Concerns
- On the Island
- Parking
- Transportation
- Costs, maintenance
- Dock issues
- Facilities site longer term
- Utilities- general
- Vandalism
- Human waste removal
- Lake water quality
- Noise
- Swim
- Trail use- hiking
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Boating
- Proximity to swim area
- Limited trails-under utilized
- Non-motorized use
- Access to island
- Parking- infrastructure
- Enforcement on lake
- Sewer & water
- Littering
- Over-crowding, mooring
- Alcohol
- Multi-use
- Illegal bike trails



**Strengths/Opportunities**

- Ballroom- park promotes the ballroom
- Size
- Sledding
- Space to develop
- Ballroom- professionally managed
- Brings tourism- how to control?
- Education inside and outside
- Uniqueness
- Possible historic values- interpretation
- Island- in general

**Recreational**

- Coney Island possible development
- Water quality
- Proximity to water
- Use of sledding hill
- More rec opportunities
- Yellowstone Trail
- Unique day-use experience (island)
- “Splash, eye-catching feature”
-

## Environmental

- Lake water quality
- Wildlife
- Fish habitat
- Plant communities
- Water quality treatment areas- setback
- Waterfowl
- Storm water runoff
- Garbage- trash in lake & on island – how much is too much?
- Pollution (light)
- Impacts to other wildlife
- Human waste, garbage
- 

- Youth education
- Island- undeveloped
- Waterfowl
- Potential for improvements of current facilities
- Clean-up of regional resource
- Green-composter toilets
- Education
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Education- can it improve water quality?
- Pollution gardens
- Improve wetland habitat?
- Unique nature experience & environment for populations (birds, animals etc.)

## Other

- Security
- Liability
- Damage to historical property/artifacts
- Open foundation
- SHPO
- Hours of operation
- Capacity to maintain park
- Transportation

- Increase business depending on lake
- Increase revenue through island development & ballroom use
- SHPO Kiosks
- Educational history markers
- Section 106
- Uniqueness?
- Draw attention
- Excitement and desire to travel to Waconia area

## Community Visioning Meeting

The first public open house meeting was held on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Waconia Event Center, located within Lake Waconia Regional Park. The meeting was attended by approximately 60-80 people, many of whom were from Waconia with most attendees falling in the age range of 40-70+, though there were a few younger families present as well. Many attendees provided comments after the meeting expressing their elation with the acquisition of Coney Island into the regional park. There were also many comments regarding the satisfaction of being involved in the design process and allowing their comments to be heard, with many enjoying the engagement activities.

The team undertook a few engagement techniques with the public that drew out the most important issues related to the park and Coney Island. The following are the results, grouped by topic.

### **What do you want to see changed/added to the Lake Waconia Regional Park?**

- Bike racks
- Concessions
- Coney Island building needs to be cleaned up/removed/restored
- Dedicated restroom, shower facility
- Dog park
- Grills
- Handicap accessible areas
- Improve shelters to justify rental cost
- More amenities
- More picnic tables, grills, fire pits
- Rental opportunities
- Updated facilities/equipment
- Upgrade shelters
- Wedding venue/outdoor ceremony area
- Bandshell
- Outdoor theatre area
- Entertainment
- Movie night
- Frisbee golf
- Continue to grow programming offerings
- Need to cater to group activities/events
- Food trucks

- History markers on island
- Wi-Fi
- Archaeological study of island
- Better visibility on county website
- Butterflies (milkweed)
- Environmental service maint.
- Lake Rebecca & Elm Creek Parks
- Limit usage
- Look at shoreland impact for City of Waconia
- Preserve natural state of island
- Prioritized above before island
- Priority for county residents
- Recreational friendly
- SUP Rentals (equipment)
- Weed maintenance
- Clearly marked
- Hard surface bike trails
- Marked trails on the island
- More trails
- Paved trails
- Single-track trails (MTB, snowshoe, trails running)
- Snowmobile trails
- Trail connection from IVGC to beach & to town
- Trails around the entire lake
- Yellowstone trail needs to be marked
- Trail connections

**What do you like about Lake Waconia Regional Parks and regional parks in general?**

- Camp sites
- Archery ranges
- Catering facilities
- Clean restrooms
- Bathrooms/shower stalls
- Cleanliness
- Community gathering space  
(shelters)
- Concessions
- Dog park
- Drinking fountains
- Events center

---

First aid area  
Food  
Gated entrance- security  
Gathering pavilion  
Benches  
BBQ Grills  
Sporting events  
Camping  
Grills/cooking areas  
Hockey pond  
Lighting  
Maintenance  
No sports fields  
Non-mobile restrooms  
Observatory  
Picnic area  
Picnic Areas/Shelters  
Recreation courts  
Recreational fields  
Recycle/trash bins  
Restroom/shower facilities  
Shelters  
Skating rink  
  
Fireworks shot off at island  
Green space  
Historical info  
Kids Playground  
Lifeguards  
Nature  
Habitat  
History  
Keep up great work with  
Facebook  
Landscape  
Quiet  
Sculptures/artwork  
Shade  
Splash pads  
Plants/gardens  
Rentals  
Security

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Trails  
Biking Trails  
X-country ski  
Snowshoe  
Hiking trails  
Biking  
Cross country skiing  
Bird observation  
Education  
Entertainment  
Fireworks  
Geocaching  
Hiking  
Organized  
activities/families/kids  
Parties  
Picnics  
Programming/events  
Snowshoeing  
Special events  
Trees  
Wide open space  
Zip Line  
Tours/History  
Bird houses  
Community  
Curfews  
Family oriented  
Flowers  
Interloop within  
system  
Location  
Nature based  
No alcohol  
Open spaces  
People  
Un-structured  
Wildlife  
Public Owned

---

### What do you dislike?

Bathrooms  
Campsites too close  
Cleanliness  
Dirty restrooms  
Don't tear down ballroom  
Fences  
Gates  
Lack of emergency shelters  
Lack of maintenance  
Not handicap accessible  
Poor maintenance  
Portapotties  
Loud noise/partying  
Overnight camping on island  
Not enough green space  
No concessions  
Animal droppings  
Boring  
Commercialization  
Congestion  
Cost conscious for county taxation  
Disorganization  
Fire concern  
Geese  
High use fees  
Lack of lighting  
Lack of security  
Limited hours of operation  
Litter/trash not maintained  
Loitering in afternoons  
Maintenance  
Maintenance budget shortfalls  
No guns allowed  
Noise  
Noise ordinance  
Non family oriented atmosphere  
Not enough history/knowledge  
Not enough shade/umbrellas  
Not feeling safe because of others'

behavior  
Over-crowded  
Overuse  
Pollution  
Poor pet owners  
Safety  
Selective uses  
Smoking  
Trash/litter  
Vandalism  
Gravel trails  
Lacking trail connections  
Snowmobiles on trails  
No stop signs for bikers  
Distance/travel time  
Entrances/exits need to be well  
designated  
Gravel parking lot  
Lack of directional signage  
Lack of transportation  
Not enough parking  
Parking pass  
Snowmobiles

## Verbal Survey Results

In addition to asking people to complete a dot exercise giving them options for what they wanted to see in the park, we completed approximately 200 verbal surveys at Steamboat Days, Nickel Dickel Days, the Chaska Farmer's Market, and Angelfest 2015 in Chaska. Below is a listing of the verbal responses we received from people.

### **What do you think makes these parks special? Why do you visit the park?**

- walking
- We love it! I picnic there, bring my lunch in the winter
- Used to when the kids were small- to the beach. Went snowmobiling.
- boating
- beach, mountain biking- more!
- the beach
- Swimming, picnic, shade
- boating
- love the beach
- read by the water
- Walking, drive & sit
- walking & geocaching

### **What activities or features do you like at those parks?**

- Camping at state parks
- Walking, nature, flowers
- Great playground would be nice- the kids get us out
- We love camping all over Minnesota
- Playgrounds for grandkids
- Playground for kids, fishing pier, better boat launch
- Archery! Only at Canek now
- Camping
- Camping
- Picnics/family reunion
- Swinging, climbing

**How do you think we could make the park better?**

- Winter activities: snowshoeing, snowmobiling
- Fire pit/camping
- Off-leash dog park
- Better playground for grandkids
- Don't change anything
- Snowmobile/ice skating/warming house
- Preserve the history! Replica of buildings or preserve buildings. Zeigland's used to own it.
- Ice fishing destination
- Historical marker at Coney Island from foundations
- Camping! On the island
- Camping on the island
- A dock for tying up temporarily
- Restrooms (no porta potties!), skateboarding
- Trampoline, a walking trail up to the sledding hill
- Diving, a playground
- Dog park, archery, swimming (cabin fever), picnicking, no docks
- Teeter totter, needs more shade- more trees
- A dock in the island, a zipline, splash pad x2, better playground, picnics & hiking and outlook on the island, some cool crazy playground like chutes and ladders
- Camping, exploring the island (hiking), historical markers
- Fishing/canoeing
- Picnic shelter, better bathrooms, food trucks/concessions x2, snowmobile to island
- Ice skating trails
- Dakota Rail connection to the park, restrooms!
- Horse trails, camping
- Pick up trash (beer cans) on the island, fishing

**Is there anything that prevents you from using the parks more?**

- Too hard to get to

- Make it more of a destination
- Not enough parking for boating
- More horse trails

**Why have you not been to the park?**

- Don't visit a lot of parks, other than for camping
- Too busy
- Too hard to get to right now
- We have a cabin and are not around on the weekends
- We go to Lake Ann because there are lifeguards
- Too busy. Retired now- we will!
- We have a big yard
- New to the area
- No
- Have to pay?
- Is there good parking?
- Never been there
- Don't go to any parks unless there is a car show

**Do you visit other Carver County or regional parks?**

- No
- No. Who goes on vacation?
- No, just local parks and Arboretum
- No
- School park

## Carver Steamboat Days

Held Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Approximately 130-150 total people engaged with the County and consultant during this event. Some noted the locations of where they lived which was noted as the following:

- Waconia
- Carver
- Chaska
- St. Peter
- Lonsdale

Below are specific comments taken from questions and general discussion which are listed below the corresponding categories. Refer also to the dot board and the scanned copies of the comment sheets.

\* = number of comments

### Island

- Want camping \*\*\*\*\*
- Trails \*\*\*\*\*
- Reduce pollution / garbage – clean it up with management \*\*\*\*\*
- Concessions and/or food on island \*\*\*\*\*
- BBQ / picnic spaces \*\*\*
- Pavilion or place for weddings/reservation style (island and/or main park) \*\*\*
- Dog friendly \*\*
- Swimming beach \*\*
- Historical preservation / rebuild some areas
- Boat or fishing dock \*\*
- Rope swing \*\*
- Serve alcohol on island
- Keep natural/passive \*\*
- Wildlife observation
- Mountain bike trail
- Scenic stops/overlooks
- Access to island
- No hotels or that type of lodging

- Retreat area (building)/island getaway
- Need restrooms \*\*
- Trash and recycling containers
- Get rid of invasives, like poison ivy
- Put small resort cabins on island/overnight lodging \*\*
- No big party place
- Some type of playground on island
- Ferry to and from island – wheelchair and stroller accessible \*\*
- Accommodate diverse range of age groups
- Morel mushrooms on island
- Safety
- Shade

#### **Water Activities / Beach**

- Have rental place for canoes, kayaks and paddleboards \*\*\*\*\*
- Splash pad \*\*\*\*\*
- Need bigger beach area and more umbrellas \*\*\*\*
- Like/use the beach \*\*\*
- Concessions by beach \*\*\*
- Changing rooms/beach house \*\*
- Remove floaty restrictions at beach or have special area
- Swimming dock
- Shade

#### **Fishing & Boating**

- Want boat access with lights
- Want boat launch \*\*\*\*
- Boat docks at beach so can bring boat up to the park
- Beaching boats by the park beach
- Like fishing / add fishing pier \*\*\*\*\*
- Like boating / skiing

#### **Playground**

- Like playgrounds/need a better playground \*\*\*\*\*
- Toddler activities separate from bigger kids \*\*\*\*
- Clean playground fill – like rubber or woodchips, not rocks \*\*
- Swinging \*\*\*

- Climbing
- Like the “little town” type of playground designs
- Bridges
- Climbing activities
- Monkey bars
- Spider web climbers & nets
- Like carousels
- Big poles to slide down
- Like to jump off things/high places
- Swing on ropes
- Mention of Tremendous Park (?) with castles
- Spinning
- Sand and water tables
- More creative play experience

#### Picnic & Shelters

- More areas for picnics \*\*
- Allow for birthday parties at park
- Need more tables/picnic spaces

#### Trails

- Walking / hiking trails \*\*\*\*\*
- Biking trails \*\*\*\*\*
- Cross country skiing \*\*\*
- Connect to regional trail system – put along major routes \*\*
- Want paved walking and biking trails \*
- Connect Carver to Waconia with trails
- Mixture of paved and natural trails
- Mountain bike single track trail

#### Other Comments & Suggestions

- Don't like fee / keep fee down (some enter park at different areas or use spots alongside the park to avoid paying fee) \*\*\*\*\*
- Dogs allowed/dog park area \*\*\*\*\*
- Frisbee/disc golf \*\*\*
- Geocaching \*\*\*
- Snowmobile (use or show) \*\*

- Need clear park identification and wayfinding signage \*\*
- Use it like an animal sanctuary / wildlife observation
- Waterpark with slides
- Zipline
- Skate park
- Want paved parking lot in park
- Archery
- Bandstand/bandshell in park
- Curling center
- Ballroom not desired by young couples for weddings, need better place
- Hold ice fishing events in winter (could tie to winter resort on island)
- Basketball court
- Open space
- Volleyball
- Like quiet areas along the lake
- Exercise stations
- Park is too far away to use, not convenient
- Remote controlled airplanes/helicopters
- Rope to get up sledding hill
- More special events or kids activities in park / educational
- Safety/security
- Amenities/drinking fountain

#### **Parks Used/Liked**

- Minnetonka Regional Park
- Carver Park Reserve
- Lions Park
- Frequently use Lake Waconia RP – have season pass
- Go to North Shore to hike
- Lake Ann
- Pequot Park
- Minnehaha
- Like ballroom
- Minnewashta Regional Park (dog park)
- Staring Lake (Frisbee golf)
- Carver Lions Park

- Carver skate park
- Carver County Swimming Hole that is chlorinated (not Minnetonka Regional Park)
- Round Lake playground and splash pad in Eden Prairie
- 3 Rivers Parks
- Hyland Park
- Miller Park in Eden Prairie
- French Park
- Baker Park (group camping – like dedicated showers and restrooms)
- Excelsior Park (live close to it)
- Lowry Nature Center
- Grimm Farm
- Eden Prairie Outdoor Center Eco-palooza

## Waconia Food Shelf and Library

The team went to Waconia on October 15<sup>th</sup> to collect information from visitors at the Waconia Food Shelf and the Carver County Library. The team spoke to 15 people and collected the following information:

### What do you think makes the park special? Why do you visit the park?

- New to the area. Looking at views, lakes
- Beach
- Swimming! And just sitting eating lunch
- Beach
- Yes, just to sit and enjoy the views and have lunch
- Yes, beach is great
- Work out with trainer

### How do you think we could make the parks better?

- Passive, workout equipment
- Passive recreational opportunities
- Historical interpretation
- Access, I'm disabled
- Snowshoeing, hiking
- Coney Island: anything that wouldn't be damaged. Vandalism would be a problem. Need to be aware that not everyone can get out to the island. Not everyone has a boat.
- Paddle boarding, canoeing, rental opportunities

### Is there anything that prevents you from using the parks more?

- No grandkids
- Not so visible anymore with road re-alignment
- Disabled, but love that park! Gets a discount at the park
- There needs to be a way to get out to the island. Wintertime activity is a good thing.
- Don't have young children
- Bike connections! To Waconia

## Angel Fest 2015

On August 26, 2015 the team attended AngelFest 2015, a festival in Chaska sponsored by the Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Chaska. The purpose was to engage with members of the parish, which included a large Latino population. While it was not as busy as other events, the following information was collected at Angel Fest.

| What are your favorite nature-based activities? |      |
|---|------|
| Activity  | Dots |
| Fishing   | 6    |
| Walking on paved trails                         | 3    |
| Off leash dog area                              | 2    |
| Biking on paved trails                          | 3    |
| Children's play                                 | 4    |
| Archery   | 2    |
| Canoeing/Kayaking                               | 6    |
| Picnicking                                      | 1    |
| Hiking  | 4    |
| Nature viewing                                  | 2    |
| Running   | 0    |
| Disc golf                                       | 1    |
| Volleyball                                      | 0    |
| Snowshoeing                                     | 0    |
| Mountain biking                                 | 1    |
| In-line skating                                 | 3    |
| Geocaching                                      | 2    |
| Paddle boarding                                 |      |
| Nature centers/programs                         | 0    |
| Cross country skiing                            | 1    |
| Other (including zipline)                       | 5    |

## Park Visit – August 30, 2015

The team went to Waconia Regional Park and set up a booth to garner input from people who visit the park. It was a beautiful day, and there was a variety of activity at the park. This included people swimming, picnicking, playing on the playground, having a family reunion, having a baptism, geocaching, and walking and biking through the park. In total, the team spoke with approximately 100 people about the plan amendment, asking people what they wanted to see “here”. Below is a listing of the answers:

### What do you want to see here?

- Swimming/beach x2
- Snorkeling
- Boat charters to the island
- Ice fishing destination on the island
- Love the umbrellas at the beach x2
- Love the beach x2
- Beach love!
- Swimming
- Tourist attraction on island
- Fishing
  - Bigger playground
  - Better playground
  - Shower
  - Drinking fountain
  - Cabanas
  - Canoe renta
  - Monkey bars
  - Playground could be better
  - Swings
  - Water park
  - Zip line
  - Better swings
  - Slide into the water
  - Swings!
  - Closer bathrooms
  - A store to buy water/ice

cream

- Bigger playground
- TVs in the pavillion
- Better playground
- Splash pad
- Bigger playground
  - Frisbee golf
  - Geocaching
  - Archery
  - Better sand in the volleyball court
  - Geocaching
  - Soccer
  - Basketball court
  - More trees
  - Quieter than Minnetonka
    - The label
    - The "lago"

## Nickel Dickel Days

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the team attended Nickel Dickel Days, which is a community wide event that draws people from the western suburbs, especially from areas near Waconia. In total, the team spoke with approximately 50 people. The top activities that people wanted to see in the park were a better playground, walking/hiking opportunities, and disc golf. Below is a summary of the preferred activities:

| What are your favorite nature-based activities? |      |
|---|------|
| Activity  | Dots |
| Fishing   | 6    |
| Walking on paved trails                         | 10   |
| Off leash dog area                              | 15   |
| Biking on paved trails                          | 4    |
| Children's play                                 | 17   |
| Archery   | 7    |
| Canoeing/Kayaking                               | 5    |
| Picnicking                                      | 2    |
| Hiking  | 7    |
| Nature viewing                                  | 3    |
| Camping   |      |
| Running   | 4    |
| Disc golf                                       | 8    |
| Volleyball                                      | 6    |
| Snowshoeing                                     | 4    |
| Mountain biking                                 | 2    |
| In-line skating                                 | 3    |
| Geocaching                                      | 2    |
| Swimming  | 11   |
| Paddle boarding                                 | 5    |
| Nature centers/programs                         | 2    |
| Cross country skiing                            | 1    |
| Skateboarding                                   | 1    |

# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK

## 1 Lower Lakeshore Trail

- Interpretive/Adventure Trail
- Sustainable Design
- Multiple Seating & Observation Areas
- Views of Lake & Waconia

## 2 Upper Trail

- Interpretive/Adventure Trail
- Sustainable Design
- Multiple Seating Areas
- Blinds/Observation Stations
- Views of Lake & Waconia

## 3 Rookery Area

- Observation & Photo Blinds
- Interpretive/Educational Signage
- May Require Seasonal Trail Closure

## 4 Lower West Camp Area

- Camper Tents (Portable) or Cabins
- Docks

## 5 Island Access Point

- Day Use Docks
- Day Use Picnic Facilities
- Island Trailhead
- Vault or Compost Restroom

## 6 Flexible Day Use Recreation Area

- Docks/Fishing
- Group Camping
- Group Day Use Space
- Winter Gathering/Event Space
- 3-Season Shelter

## 7 Woodland Tent Camp Area

- Individual & Group Tent Camping
- Winter & Survival Camping

## 8 Picnic Areas

- Day Use Picnic Tables

## 9 Island Access Point & Day Use Recreation Area

- Day Use Docks/Fishing
- Island Trailhead
- Adventure/Natural Play
- Beach
- Several Small Picnic Shelters
- Day Use Picnic Facilities
- Vault or Compost Restroom
- Winter Gathering / Event Space



### LEGEND



1 *Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs*

## Coney Island Concept 1: Historical Voyageur



# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK

## 1 Lower Lakeshore Trail

- Interpretive/Educational Trail
- Sustainable Design
- Multiple Seating & Observation Areas
- Views of Lake & Waconia

## 2 Upper Trail

- Interpretive/Educational Trail
- Sustainable Design
- Multiple Seating Areas
- Blinds/Observation Stations
- Views of Lake & Waconia

## 3 Upper Camping Area

- Group & Individual Tent Camp Sites

## 4 Poets Garden

- Interpretive/Educational Information
- Gazebo
- German Poets Cottage Style Garden

## 5 Historic Central Courtyard

- Interpretive/Educational Trail
- Main Island Visitors Building (restrooms, concessions, deck seating/viewing, historical photos and information, lookout tower)
- Open Lawn on Eastern Side (events, weddings, lawn bowling, etc.)
- Identify Historic Hotel Foundations
- Open Lawn/Small Event Space
- Keep Natural in Rookery Space

## 6 Lower Camping Area

- Day Use Docks & Fishing Piers
- Tent Camp Sites & Fire Rings
- Vault or Compost Restroom
- Picnic Shelter
- Scattered Picnic Facilities
- Winter Snowmobile Stop
- Cabins

## 7 Day Use Area

- Beach
- Picnic Shelter
- Pier

## 8 Picnic Areas

- Day Use Picnic Tables

## 9 Lower Day Use Area

- Interpretive/Educational Information
- Restore/Preserve Building & Wall Remnants
- Multiple Picnic Areas
- Gazebo Overlooking Lake
- Views of Lake & Waconia
- Day Use Docks

## 10 Main Island Access Point

- Day Use Docks & Fishing Piers
- Entrance Shelter Reflecting Historic Boathouse Towers
- Historic Walk Up to Central Courtyard
- Island Maps/Trailhead
- Historic Boat Ramp



### LEGEND



2 Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

Coney Island Concept 2: History Re-Imagined



# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

## 1 DNR Boat Launch

- Approx. 24-36 Trailer Stalls
- Approx. 8-10 Vehicle Stalls
- Double Boat Launch
- Washdown / Inspection Area
- Fishing Piers

## 2 Watercraft Area

- Potential Watercraft Rentals
- Storage Space
- Day Use Docks
- Island Transfer Location

## 3 Beach Improvements

- Expand Beach & Umbrella's
- New Adjacent Playground & Splash Pad
- Main Park Building (restrooms, changing rooms, trailhead, concessions, picnic space)
- Informal Lawn/Picnic Space
- Multiple Picnic Shelters
- Cafe / Plaza Space

## 4 Lakeshore Walk

- Interpretive/Educational Trail
- Boardwalk Character
- Multiple Seating/Observation Areas
- Fishing Piers

## 5 Park Trails

- Paved Trails 10'-12' Wide
- Boardwalk in Wet Locations
- Connects to Waconia
- Connects to Elementary School
- Future Regional Trail Connection
- Numerous Overlooks/Observation Areas

## 6 Event Center

- Interim Use
- Deck Area Focused on Lake
- Improved Restrooms

## 7 Parking

- Approx. 160 - 180 Stalls
- Pulled Away from Lake

## 8 Park Identification

- Delineate Edges of Park
- Wayfinding Signs at Key Locations
- Monument Signs at Entrance Location

## 9 Sledding Hill

- Modified Length Runs

## • Natural Resources

- Management Plan to Control Invasive Species
- Promote Native Habitats
- Vegetative Buffers

## • Educational Opportunities

- Viewing Binoculars to Island
- Historical Interpretive Signage Along Trails
- Yellowstone Trail Signs
- Flora and Fauna Signs
- Ecological Signs
- Potential Technological Enhancements in Signs (QR Codes & School Resources)



### LEGEND



3

Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

## Main Park Concept 1A: Waterfront Terrace



# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

## 11 Parking

- Approx. 160 - 180 Stalls by Lawn
- Approx. 20 - 25 Stalls by Sledding Hill

## 12 Large Lawn Space

- Informal Open Lawn Area
- Large Group 3-Season Shelters & Event Space
- Views of Lake
- Picnic Space

## Property Modifications

- Future opportunities may arise to expand / modify property boundaries



### LEGEND

|        |            |           |           |                 |
|--------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
|        |            |           |           |                 |
| Trails | Boardwalks | Park I.D. | Overlooks | Contact Station |



# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

## 1 DNR Boat Launch

- Approx. 24-36 Trailer Stalls
- Approx. 8-10 Vehicle Stalls
- Double Boat Launch
- Washdown / Inspection Area
- Fishing Piers

## 2 Watercraft Area

- Day Use Docks
- Island Transfer Location

## 3 Beach Improvements

- Expand Beach & Umbrella's
- New Adjacent Sand & Water Play Area
- Informal Lawn/Picnic Space
- Multiple Picnic Shelters

## 4 Event Center

- Interim Use
- Deck Area Focused on Lake
- Improved Restrooms

## 5 Park Trails

- Paved Trails 10'-12' Wide
- Boardwalk in Wet Locations
- Connects to Waconia
- Connects to Elementary School
- Future Regional Trail Connection
- Numerous Overlooks/Observation Areas

## 6 Park Identification

- Delineate Edges of Park
- Wayfinding Signs at Key Locations
- Monument Signs at Entrance Location
- Separate Church Access Road

## 7 Parking

- Approx. 160 - 180 Stalls
- Pulled Away from Lake

## 8 Lakeshore Walk

- Interpretive/Educational Trail
- Multiple Seating/Observation Areas

## 9 Upper Park Development

- Parking for 20 - 25 Stalls
- Disc Golf in Prairie & Woods

## 10 Sledding Hill

- Modified Length Runs

## • Educational Opportunities

- Viewing Binoculars to Island
- Historical Interpretive Signage Along Trails
- Yellowstone Trail Signs
- Flora and Fauna Signs
- Ecological Signs
- Potential Technological Enhancements in Signs (QR Codes & School Resources)

## • Natural Resources

- Management Plan to Control Invasive Species
- Promote Native Habitats
- Vegetative Buffers



### LEGEND



5 Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

## Main Park Concept 2A: Adventure Abounds



# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK

## 12 Parking Expansion

- Approx. 65 - 70 Stalls
- Pulled Away from Lake

## 13 Park Building Venue

- Meeting Rooms/Event Space with Deck Overlooking the Lake
- Day-to-Day Uses (restrooms, changing rooms, concessions, rentals, programs, etc.)
- Lakeside Plaza/Deck
- Pedestrian Pier/Relocated Transfer Location
- Small Beach Expansion & Bonfire Location

## 14 Open Lawn

- Open Lawn & Event Space (games, activities, music in park, view fireworks, winter snowmobile stop, etc.)
- Lakeside Picnic Shelters

## 15 Sledding Hill Enhancement

- Chalet
- Tow Rope
- Potential Summer Sledding (reshape hill)

## 16 Base Camp Adventure Area

- Parking for Approx. 75 - 80 Stalls
- Adventure Style Playground
- Tree Walk / Challenge Events
- Climbing Activities
- 4-Season Heated Shelter with Restrooms
- Adjacent Plaza and Bonfire Ring
- Winter Skating / Summer Challenge Course Area

## Property Modifications

- Future opportunities may arise to expand / modify property boundaries



### LEGEND



# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK



## Main Park Building (basic):

- Seasonal (no heat)
- Restrooms/Changing Rooms
- Deck/Patio Overlooking Lake
- Park Information/Photos

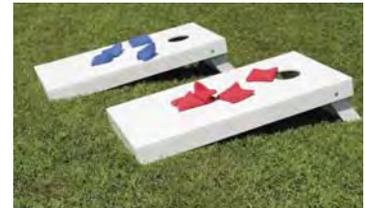
## Park Shelter Buildings

- Accommodate a Variety of Group Sizes
- Various Locations/Settings
- Consistent Character/Materials
- Make Use of Views & Surroundings
- Fire Pits, Lawn Space, Picnic Amenities, etc.



## Main Park Building (enhanced):

- Year-Round Building
- Visitors Center
- Potential Meeting Rooms/Event Space
- Concessions / Cafe
- Outdoor Seating
- Rentals
- Picnic Space



Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

Visual Examples

# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

## Technical Advisory Group:

Group members provide technical expertise and provide ongoing communication to their agency/group & provide outreach

- City of Waconia
- Lake Town Township
- Waconia Township
- Carver County Parks Commission
- Carver County Board
- Carver County Land & Water Service
- Department of Natural Resources
- US Fish & Wildlife
- Carver County Sheriff's Department
- Carver County Historical Society
- Cultural Resources

## Special Interest Groups & Project Stakeholders:

- Waconia Chamber of Commerce
- Lancer Hospitality (Event Center)
- Audubon Society
- Snow Runners
- SPOKES
- Waconia School District
- Minnesota Off Road Cyclists (MORC)
- Parkside Church
- Crown College
- Adjacent Neighbors to Main Park
- Special Events & Groups (Community Ed, Waconia Triathlon, Lola's Half Marathon, St. Joseph's Walk-A-Thon, etc.)



## Community Engagement Events & Methods:

Held to gather information from local residents from a variety of methods

- Open House Meeting #1
- Pop-up Meeting at Lake Waconia Regional Park
- Pop-up Meeting at Chaska Farmer's Market
- Pop-up Meeting at Waconia Food Shelf & Library
- Attendance at Carver Steamboat Days
- Attendance at Nickel Dickel Days in Waconia
- Attendance at Guardian Angels AngelFest 2015
- MySidewalk Online Tool
- Official Press Releases

## Main Themes, Ideas & Issues:

The following are the most popular themes and ideas we heard:

- Beach, Swimming & Lake Main Visitation Reason
- Need Better Playground
- Would Like Rentals (kayak, bikes, paddleboards)
- More Park Trails & Regional Trail Connections
- Fishing Piers & Boat Access
- Camping Opportunities
- Reflect the History / Educational Opportunities
- Changing Rooms / Restrooms
- Concessions and Event / Venue Space Popular
- Challenge Activities and Zip Line
- Make a 4-Season Destination / Winter Themes
- Ferry Service Between Main Park & Island
- Need to Delineate Park Boundary



Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

Community Engagement



# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK

## Camping:

- Tent Pads (basic)
- Camper Cabins (portable to enhanced)
- Fire Rings
- Picnic Space



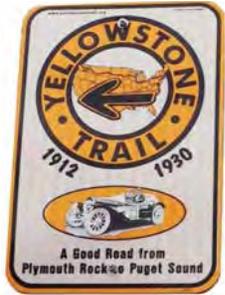
## Overlooks

- Small/Intimate to Group Sizes
- Natural to More Developed Areas
- Variety of Locations
- Make Use of Views & Surroundings
- Integrate with Educational/Interpretive Signs



## Park Signage

- Monument Entrance Signage
- Wayfinding & Maps
- Park Rules and Information
- Interpretive (history, plants, animals, ecological zones, etc.)
- Technology Applications





### Minnesota

"The players in this drama of frustration and indignity are not commas or semicolons in a legislative thesis; they are people, human beings, citizens of the United States of America."  
— Roy Wilkins (www.ohio.org)

Minnesotans played important roles in Civil Rights history, including Curtis Cullen, Harry Davis, Richard Hall, Richard Green, Willie Stone Johnson, John Frederick Thomas, Samuel Richardson, Sharon Sayles Littleton, Mary Merrill Anderson, and many others.  
A few are highlighted below. Can you name more?

**Roy Wilkins**  
Roy Wilkins, who spent his formative years in St. Paul, Minnesota and graduated from the University of Minnesota, led the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1955 to 1967. During those years he became one of history's most articulate and impassioned advocates for achieving equal rights and supported the NAACP to be the nation's most significant civil rights organization (www.ohio.org/naacp/roy-wilkins).

**Colonel William S. King**  
He was drafted in the England Agricultural, worked for William S. King, a prominent U.S. Representative and legislator. He was an outspoken abolitionist and used his energy to help integrate the state after its admission for freedom against slavery, fire and other efforts. He was the first African American to be elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives (www.ohio.org/naacp/roy-wilkins).

**Hubert H. Humphrey**  
Hubert H. Humphrey, Minnesota's 30th Governor (1949 to 1958), led the way for desegregation against Illinois, Kentucky, Texas, and North Carolina from 1947 to 1958, and then took to fight nationally. In 1957, he was the lead author of the Civil Rights Act of 1957 and worked tirelessly to end the country's history of all-Whites only law.

**First Minnesota Infantry Regiment**  
In April 1861, when President Lincoln called for 75,000 men to support the Union in the Civil War, 1,000 Minnesotans organized as the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment to become the first unit to arrive for service in the war. Many were farmers who left their families and fields. The men, from A. Wright, to just to have cleaned pastures to order to be the very first to sign for service in the volunteer army. The first Minnesota regimental staff at the Battle of Gettysburg were there. One half of the unit was killed or wounded (www.ohio.org/naacp/roy-wilkins).

**Matthew Little**  
After Matthew Little was denied a job as a Minnesota legislator in the 1940s despite his qualifications, he organized the NAACP chapter in Lake City. An advocate of the Minnesota chapter of the NAACP, he supported a state action lawsuit filed by the NAACP against the University of Minnesota to challenge its segregationist policies. Little also helped the NAACP in the Minnesota chapter to file a lawsuit to challenge segregation in the 1950s high school in Minneapolis, D.C. Little and other staff.

Minnesota presents at the March on Washington, D.C.






### Nature Trail Policies

Park Hours 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Motorized Vehicles are Not Allowed  
Dog Must be Leashed and Picked Up After  
All Laws and Ordinances are Strictly Enforced

Enjoy the Trail!

### Cultural Overlook

Overlook at the edge of the lake, this overlook provides a view of the lake and the surrounding forest. The overlook is a great place to sit and enjoy the view of the lake and the surrounding forest. The overlook is a great place to sit and enjoy the view of the lake and the surrounding forest.





Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

Visual Examples



# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK

## Play & Adventure Experience

- Sand and Water Play by Beach
- Colorful Lakeside Play Experience
- Natural Elements in Natural Areas
- Multiple Ages & Abilities
- Challenge Play Areas
- Summer Tubing



Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

Visual Examples

# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK

## Non-Motorized & Lake Related Experiences

- Beach
- Stand Up Paddle Boards
- Canoe / Kayak
- Voyageur Experience
- Water Bikes
- Kite Sailing (summer & winter)
- Ice Fishing
- Snowshoe
- Skating



Master Plan Update  
Conceptual Designs

Visual Examples



## *Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Amendment*

**Date:** *February 2, 2016*

**Time:** *6:30 pm*

**Location:** *Carver County Public Works Headquarters*

*11360 Hwy 212 West*

*Cologne, MN 55322*

**Re:** *TAC Meeting #5 – Concept Feedback Summary*

*WSB Project No. 1945-06*

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### ***Concept Plan Feedback Summary:***

#### **Coney Island:**

Overall, there were fewer preferences for Concept 1 – Historical Voyageur and more preferences for Concept 2 – History Re-Imagined, though the specific elements of the concepts are summarized in more detail below:

#### Island Trails and Overlooks

- Both concepts ranked high with the trails & overlooks.
- Would like more multi-use trails with the seasonal trails around the rookery to become cross-country ski trails in the winter (3).
- Don't allow motorized vehicles on island trails.
- Some disliked the stairs, others liked them and wanted additional stair connections – in particular next to the old boathouse location on north side of island.
- Don't make the trails too close together.
- Don't overbuild the trails if it costs too much to implement & maintain.
- Lookout tower was a popular item.
- Many requests for being able to walk dogs on trails and on island.

#### Island Access & Accessibility

- Keep in mind accessibility for seniors or those with disabilities (watch steep slopes and minimize stairs).
- Many likes for the eastern island access location.
- Many likes for the main central island access location with historic tower.
- There were concerns with having one main access point for boats – it may get too congested if all in one location and would prefer not having too many boats in the southern bay area.
- Provide separate docks for non-motorized boats.

- The southern piece of the island and along the SW tip along a sandbar is where many people currently beach their boats for island access.
- Numerous comments for providing a water shuttle service to and from the main park.
- Many comments about making sure there are strategic locations for boat access and various docks so that they can be used according to changes in prevailing wind direction.
- A comment about too many docks and access points if there needs to be an emergency evacuation.
- Concern about cabins along the water as this may prevent day users being able to use the shoreline spaces.

### Camping

- Many dots/comments to keep camping out of the west end of the island. Comments that this may be too noisy and too close to residential areas along Waconia lakeshore (WSB: they may not know this already takes place). Also comments that this is highly used for day use by boaters since there are many areas to picnic, it has the rope swing, and the non-motorized watercraft rentals will stop at this point before going back to the city park.
- Many likes for having camping on the eastern side of the island.
- Comments to allow more tent camping along the trail system.
- Pack it in pack it out camping policy.
- Questions about reservation policies and safety measures.
- Like cabins or yurts on island.
- Questions about having carts to haul camping gear around.

### Day Use Areas & Amenities

- Many “likes” for day use recreation areas on both concepts, there were comments to keep them on either ends of the island for easy patrolling/viewing and making use of locations people already use.
- Need more open spaces for users, clean up vegetation without removing quality material in order to keep wooded appearance but create an open field space on eastern end where Gophers practiced by proposed beach area.
- Would like rentals for day use areas such as canoes/kayaks and winter snowshoe or cross country skiing.
- Like informal beach area.

### Built Features & Amenities

- More votes for a concessions area on the island than against.
- Many comments on providing restrooms and power in specific locations of island.
- Notes to have visitors center feature and restrooms in better relationship with access locations and day use recreation areas.
- Lots of likes for the observation tower.
- Comments that the visitor’s center would be great opportunity for historical displays.
- Comment to create more of a pavilion at the dock entrance with maps, island information, restrooms, etc.
- Many like small pavilion/gazebo area and/or poet’s garden, but differing views on locations with some worries about vandalism.

### Historical Interpretation

- Many like the historical interpretation depicted in Concept 2 with many comments (11) on using the historical elements to create the destination feel.
- Provide plot ownership information.
- Provide interpretive signs and/or kiosks along trails.
- A few comments to keep the old car on the island.
- Provide information of original roads/walks and significance (such as deliveries to island).

### Natural Resources & Development Level

- Comments that Concept 1 was too minimal and more for the “die-hard” users but thought a few more items from Concept 2 added to it would improve it.
- Many comments to start simple.
- Many commented that the level of development on Concept 2 was appropriate though some thought it was over-developed.
- Comments to avoid over-developing and losing the natural and remote feel to the island – don’t create too many open spaces.
- Both comments had likes on providing rookery observation areas and seasonal trails to protect the area during nesting.

### **Main Park:**

Overall, there were fewer preferences for Concept 1 – Lakefront Terrace and more preferences for Concept 2 – Adventure Abounds, though the specific elements of the concepts are summarized in more detail below:

### Trails & Overlook Areas

- Both concepts ranked high with the trails & overlooks.
- Many liked the boardwalk feel along the lakeshore described in Concept 1.
- Would like more multi-use trails (biking, walking, skiing).
- Requests for single track trails that can work with snow shoe trails.
- Like connection to elementary school.
- Provide a regional connection to Victoria and stop at Swedish Institute (?).
- Many comments regarding the importance of providing regional connections to greater trail systems and communities that would connect to the park (Dakota Rail) and north side of lake.
- Highlight the historical Yellowstone Trail route.

### Park Access, Accessibility & Wayfinding

- Delineate park edge.
- Wayfinding trail maps needed.

#### Boat Launch & Watercraft Accommodations

- Many disliked boat launch or prefer it on the eastern side of the beach (NOTE: this has already been approved as is and will be developed by DNR) while there were also comments that the boat launch was too small.
- Many like beaching their boats by the beach area currently and some commented that it would be beneficial to have a dock or place for boats to access the park/beach from the lake.
- Keep ability to beach boats by park.
- Comments to make sure there are enough docks (more needed) or fishing piers along lake for park users.

#### Beach Area, Playground & Splash Pad Development

- Many like improvements/expansion of beach area, but don't expand it closer to boat launch – go to the east.
- Don't have splash pad and playground too close to beach (kids taking off to lake) or through traffic areas.

#### Parking

- Make sure that HC parking isn't too far away.
- Provide adequate parking for park events (Vintage Snowmobile Club noted).

#### Park Building(s) / Event Center

- Comments both for keeping the Event Center and making some improvements to it and comments for creating a new event center – but either way, it was very important to have a large venue available.
- Use park building for concessions, rentals and restrooms/changing room.
- Use park building for historical displays.

#### Informal & Natural Areas:

- Lawn spaces were very favorable. Great for many types of activities (music in park, tent set up, weddings, food trucks, etc.)
- Keep lawn related to Event Center/Venue.
- Like natural resources – improve.
- Focus on wetland protection and nesting habitat for waterfowl.
- Put observation blinds by wetland.
- Add environmental / educational information by upper parking lot by sledding hill.

#### Recreational Amenities

- Like basecamp area on Concept 2.
- Like challenge events.
- Maybe a band stage can be added by lawn area.
- Provide lawn amenities (bocce ball, horseshoes).
- Add volleyball.
- Couple of comments to have camping available in main park.
- Like how amenities are spread throughout the park in Concept 2.
- Numerous comments for having an area for dogs.
- Comment that Crown College has a disc golf course that is barely used.

### Sledding Hill

- Many likes and comments for incorporating summer use on hill.
- Comments for having the tow rope and chalet.
- Expand snow hill down prairie side for different experience or age level.
- Provide better access to hill.
- Comment to expand hill to be like Elm Creek.

### Development Level

- Comments that Concept 1 needs more activities, such as disc golf or challenge areas from Concept 2 that can be phased in.
- Comments that Concept 2 development is favorable, but comments that this should be phased in.

# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

## Historic Interpretation

- Focus on historic interpretation will be selective and based around an exploratory theme to discover the hidden history.
- Interpretive signage will be used in select areas to display or tell the story of the island history and existing remains.
- Lot identification may be used along the trails. This may include a stone engraved with a lot number related to an overall lot map identifying lot owners and numbers.
- Decks/boardwalks may cross some existing building foundations with use of interpretive signage.
- Use of names of specific individuals or families that relate to the history of Coney Island, Waconia, and the local history to label use areas of the island may be used in naming of island areas and overlooks. The actual names would be determined in conjunction with County officials and local historians. For the purposes of the Master Plan, temporary names have been used and are shown in italics.

### A Historic Interpretive Trail

- 6'-8' Wide Granite or Aggregate Trail
- Pedestrian Use Only with Self-Guided Tour
- Walking/Hiking/Snow Shoe/Cross-Country Ski
- Historic Lot Identification
- Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
- Overlooks with Historical Reference (ie:Hirschfield Overlook)

### B Rookery Trail

- Part of Historic Interpretive Trail
- Gated Off During Nesting Season

### C Nature Trail

- 4'-5' Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
- Boardwalks as Necessary
- Decks Across Foundations
- Overlooks
- Built Into Slopes as Necessary
- Optional Routes (depending on constructability)

### D *Amblard's Point* Day Use Area

- Stabilize/Restore Walls
- Day Use Docks
- Island Kiosk / Map
- Restroom
- Picnic Space
- Fishing Piers
- Trail Access

### E Boat Beaching Area

### F Dock Access

### G *Naegele's Tower*

- Accessible Lower Deck with Ramp Access
- Upper Observation Deck
- Rookery Blinds & Educational Signs
- Interpretive Historical Displays

### H *Zeglin's Point* Flexible Use Area

- Day Use & Campsite Docks / Fishing Piers
- Campsites (accommodates individual or group use; tent sites to portable camper cabins; summer & winter camping; reservable; lakeside and wooded sites)
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access
- Snowmobile Access for Winter Gatherings & Use
- Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, Fireplace and/or Fire Pit

### I *Zeglin's Point* Day Use Area

- Day Use Docks / Fishing Pier
- Entrance Island Kiosk / Map
- Shared Coney Cottage Picnic Shelter
- Small Informal Beach
- Adventure / Nature Play Experience
- Open Lawn and Picnic Space (historic lawn location)
- Trail Access (accessible route to tower)

## Landscape & Natural Resources

- Highlight Historic Plant Communities (from native to introduced plants brought from original landowners)
- Invasive Species Control Plan
- Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
- Protect Lake Edge
- Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas



## Coney Island of the West Preliminary Master Plan



Project: 01945-060  
Date: March 9, 2016

# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK



Amblard's Point Imagery



Observation Tower with Rookery Blinds

## Visual Example Images



Lakeside Seating (Island & Main Park)



Observation Area (Island & Main Park)



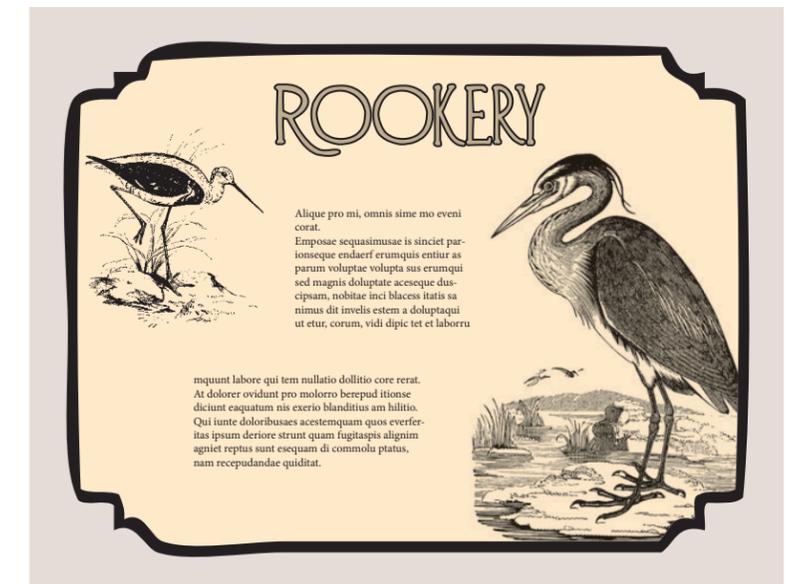
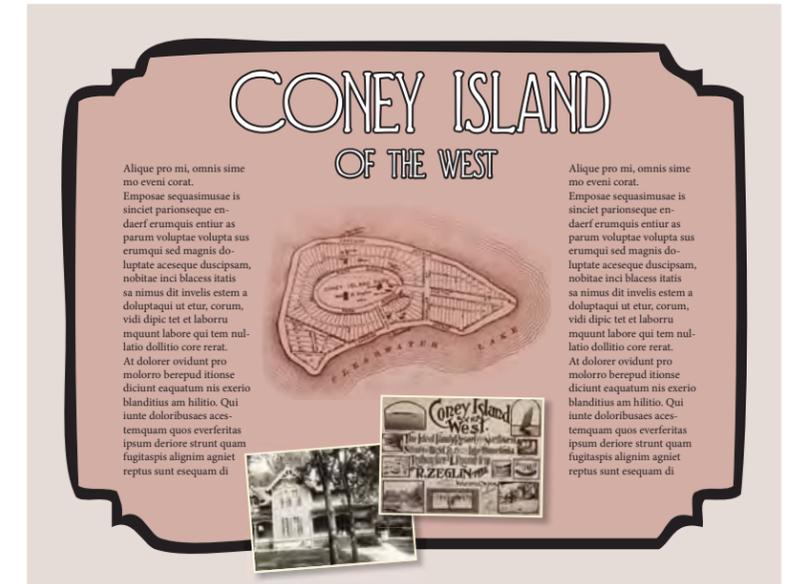
Picnic Shelter with Closeable Doors



Hillside Nature Trail

## Interpretive Sign Examples

Use of interpretive signs to be used at kiosks, trail signs and special display areas to exhibit historical, wildlife & natural resource information. Examples shown below.



## Coney Island of the West Preliminary Master Plan Images



Project: 01945-060  
Date: March 9, 2016

# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

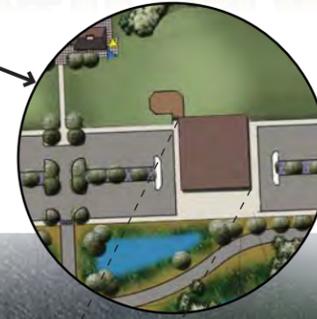
- A Multi-Purpose Trail**
  - Range from 10'-12' Wide Asphalt Trail (pedestrians, bikes)
  - Interpretive Signage in Select Areas
  - Overlooks with Historical Reference
- B Church Property**
  - Potential Realigned Entrance Road (depending on wetland impacts & mitigation)
  - Potential Future Acquisition (may be used for maintenance building location)
- C Entrance & Contact Station**
- D DNR Boat Launch**
- E Swimming Beach**
- F Play Experience**
  - Fun & Challenging Play Experience
  - Separated Age Appropriate Play
  - Sensory Elements
  - Highly Inclusive / Accessible
  - Potential Splash Pad Area
- G Picnic Shelter**
- H Phased Parking**
  - Main Parking Lot: 260 to 330 Stalls
  - Turnaround Lot: 20 to 25 Stalls
  - Pollinator / Rain Gardens
  - Adjacent Infiltration Basins
- I Central Plaza**
  - Entrance Kiosk / Park & Trail Map
  - Bike Racks
  - Plaza / Cafe Style Seating
  - Outdoor Gas Fire Pit
  - Shade Structures
  - Relates to Beach, Lawn & Picnic Spaces
  - Restroom, Changing & Concessions Bldg
  - Park Program / Event Room Bldg with Open Air Picnic Shelter Area
  - Rental Equipment & Lifeguard Station Bldg
- J Central Pier**
  - Pedestrian Pier (no fishing)
  - Island Ferry Transfer Location
  - Potential Special Event Pier (ie: triathlon/swim events)
- K Boat Beaching Area**

## Landscape & Natural Resources

- Highlight Plant Communities (native woods, wetlands and prairie)
- Invasive Species Control Plan
- Stabilize Steep / Eroded Slopes
- Protect Lake Edge
- Naturalize Lake Edge in Undeveloped Areas

## Interim Event Center Plan

- Deck Facing Lawn / Lake
- Parking Lot Phased
- Relates to Lawn / Event Space
- Minor Bldg Improvements



- L Waterfront Service Area**
  - Non-Motorized Watercraft Dock & Beach
  - County Boat Slips (ie: patrol boats)
  - Rental Storage Area (ie: canoe racks)
- M Fishing Pier**
- N Lakefront Walk**
  - Curvilinear / Flowing Walk Design
  - Multiple Seating / Picnic Spaces
  - Shade Structures
  - Views of Lake
- O Lakeside Arbor**
  - Formal Lakeside Venue (ie: weddings)
  - Photography
  - Lakeside Observation / Solitude
- P Small Lawn Game Area**
  - Lawn Bowling
  - Volleyball
- Q Large Multi-Purpose Lawn**
  - Informal Sport Space
  - Event Space (ie: weddings, music events, triathlons, overflow parking)
- R Park Event Building**
  - Upper Level Deck Overlooking Lake
  - Lower Patio Facing Lake, Lawn & Arbor
  - Event Rooms (park programs, venue space)
  - Restrooms
- S Base Camp Area**
  - 4-Season Picnic Shelter with Restrooms, "Garage" Style Doors, and Fireplace (winter warming house)
  - Patio with Gas Fire Pit
  - Rental Service for Sledding Hill
  - Lawn Event Space (ie: challenge course, ice skating)
- T Sledding Hill**
  - Small Children's Hill
  - Tow Rope
  - Summer Use (ie: challenge uphill course, biking, summer sledding)
- U Adventure Trail**
  - 4'-5' Wide Earthen or Aggregate Trail
  - Challenge Areas (ropes course, tree walk, etc.)
  - Upper Overlook

## Informal & Specialty Trails (not shown)

- Snow Shoe, Single Track Mountain Bike, Cross-Country Ski, etc.
- Integrated Into Natural Areas at County's Discretion
- Non-Paved

## LEGEND

- Trail Overlook
- Kiosk / Trailhead Map



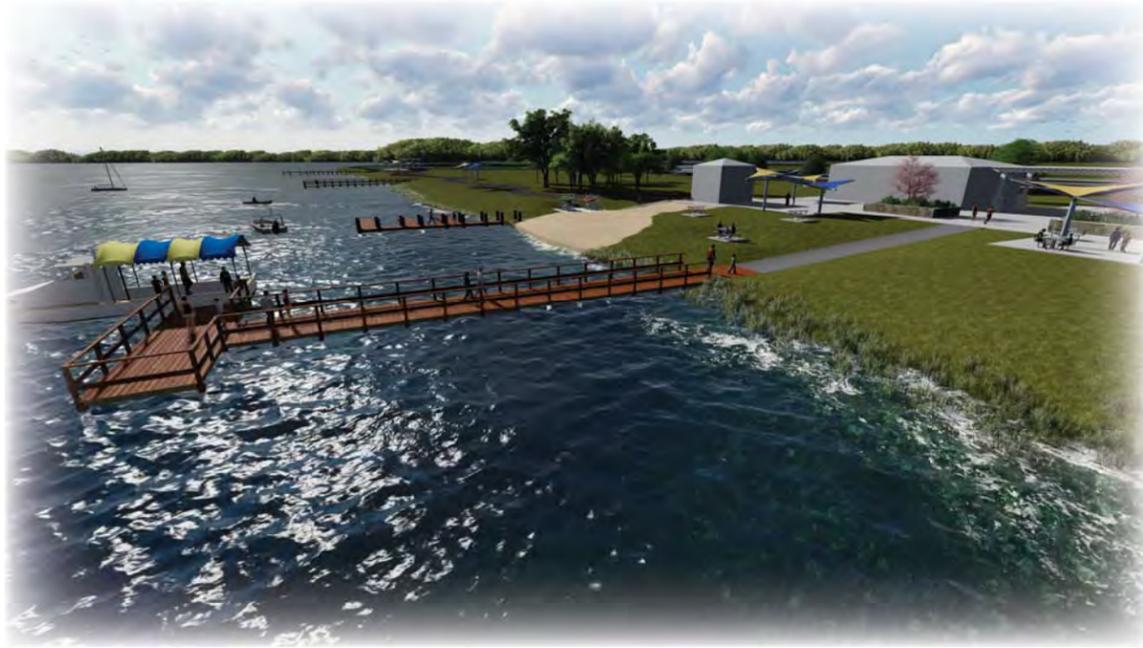
## Main Lake Waconia Reg. Park Preliminary Master Plan



Project: 01945-060  
Date: March 9, 2016

# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

Visual Example Images



Central Pedestrian Pier with Ferry



Themed Playground



Adventure / Challenge Areas



Central Plaza Seating Area



Summer Sledding



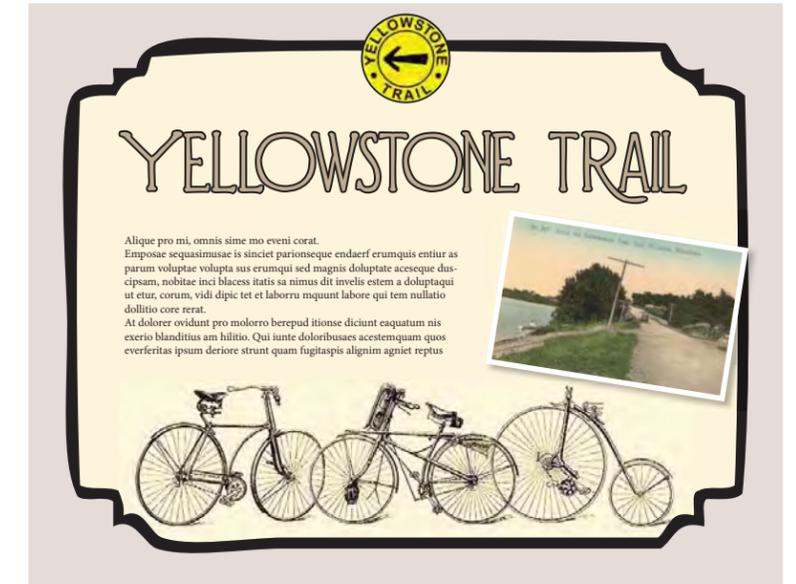
Cafe Seating



Fishing

## Interpretive Sign Example

Use of interpretive signs to be used at kiosks, trail signs and special display areas to exhibit historical, wildlife & natural resource information. Example shown below is a potential sign to be located along the trail that was once part of the Yellowstone Trail



# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

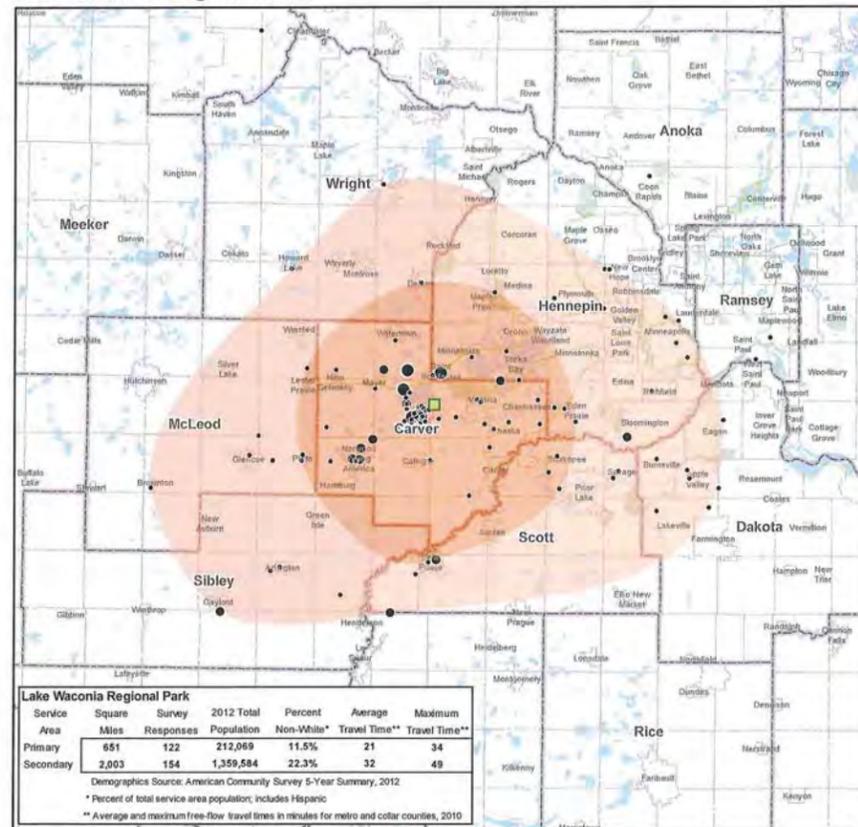
## Lake Waconia Regional Park Service Area

- Lake Waconia Regional Park services the broader regional community. It can be compared to a State Park in that it provides recreational amenities that service a large regional population and is a more natural resource focused park. The map below indicates the Lake Waconia Regional Park service area.

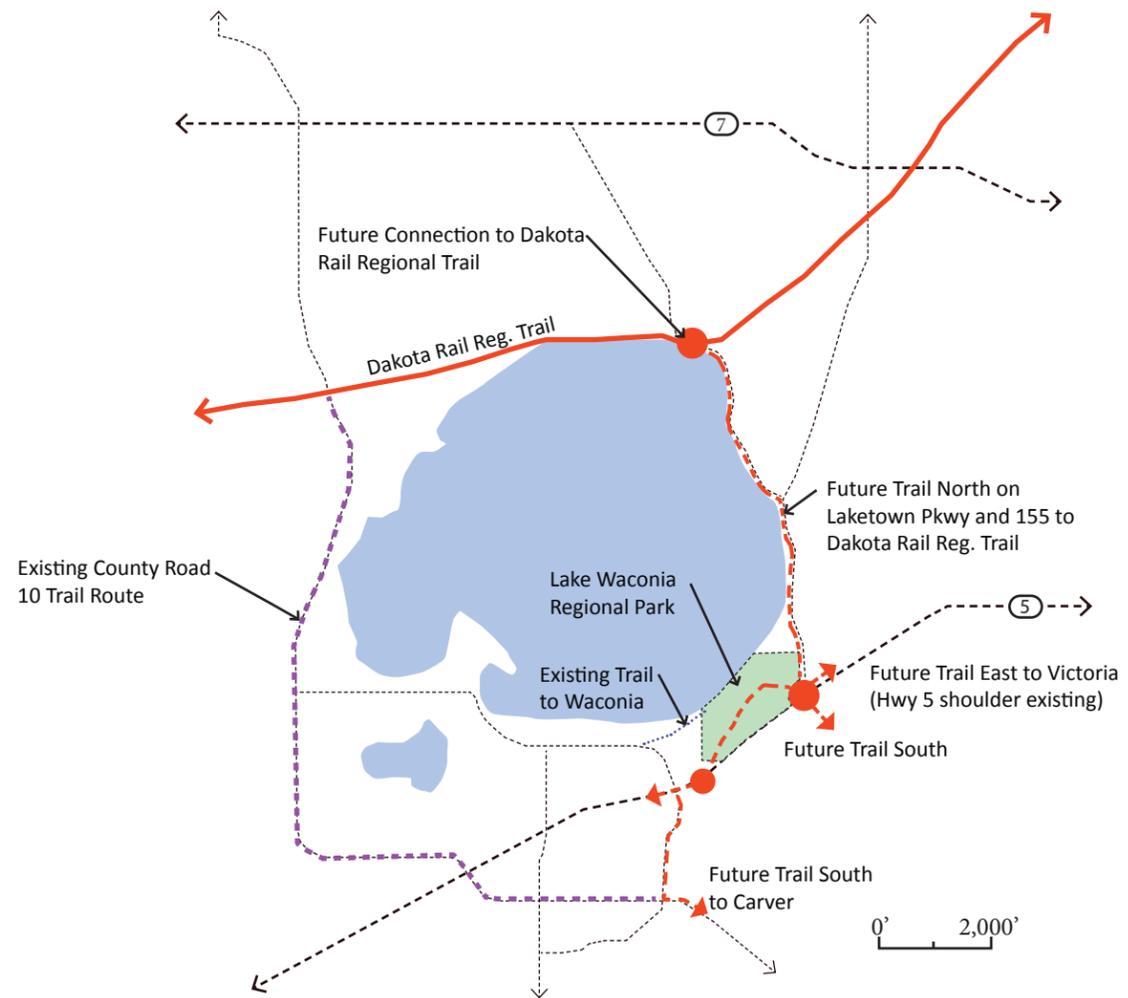
## Metropolitan Council Goals

- Conserve, maintain and connect regional and high quality natural resources.
- Promote multimodal access to regional parks and regional trails.
- Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents (across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability).

Primary and Secondary Regional Park Service Areas  
Lake Waconia Regional Park



Park service areas based on 2008 user survey points of origin. Primary service areas encompass the closest 75% of respondents' points of origin and secondary service areas encompass 95% of respondents' points of origin to the selected parks, subject to modification based on natural breaks in the distribution.



Regional Trail Connection Goal Map



## Lake Waconia Regional Park- Regional Context



# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

## RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS:



Amblard's Point (SW) Day Use Area (docks, picnic space, restroom)

Zeglin's Point Flexible Use Area (campsites, docks)

Zeglin's Point Day Use Area (docks, beach, picnic)

Zeglin's Point Coney Cottage Shelter & Restrooms

Zeglin's Point Adventure / Nature Play

Zeglin's Point Lawn / Gathering Areas

Natural Resource Improvements

## ISLAND TRAIL SYSTEM COMPONENTS:



Historical Interpretive Trail (trail with lot identification & overlooks)

Naegle's Tower (observation deck & interpretive information)

Upper Nature Trails with Overlooks

Lower Lakeside Nature Trails

Optional Nature Trails in Sloped Terrain w/Boardwalks

Stair Connections

Trail Kiosks, Maps & Signage



## Coney Island Priorities



# LAKE WAGONIA REGIONAL PARK

## PARK BUILDINGS & AMENITIES:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

Central Plaza Restrooms, Changing & Concessions Bldg

Central Plaza Park Event Room & Open Air Shelter Building

Central Plaza Equipment Rentals & Lifeguard Building

Base Camp 4-Season Building / Shelter with Fire Pit

New Event Center with Plaza Space

Interim Event Center Improvements (deck, minor bldg work)

Picnic Shelters

Lakeside Arbor

# LAKE WACONIA REGIONAL PARK

## ACCESS & TRAIL SYSTEM COMPONENTS:

|   |   |   |   |   |  |   |                              |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |                              |
| Parking & Contact Station   | Ferry Service to Island   | Multipurpose Bituminous Trails  | Nature & Speciality Trails (cross-country, single track bike, snow shoe, etc.)      | Wetland Boardwalk   | Lakefront Walk & Seating Areas   | Adventure Trail / Base Camp Challenge Area  | Trail Kiosks, Maps & Signage |

## RECREATIONAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS:

|   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New Playground  | Splash Pad  | Improved Sledding Hill / Summer Use   | Docks / Piers   | Central Plaza Seating Area (by beach)   | Lawn / Multi-Purpose Space   | Natural Resource Improvements   |



# Lake Waconia Regional Park Master Plan Amendment

Concept Review Summary Notes - 3/9/16 @ 6:30 PM

## Main Park Priorities

| ACCESS & TRAIL SYSTEM COMPONENTS:   | #  |
|---|----|
| Parking and Contact Station   | 3  |
| Ferry Service to Island   | 19 |
| Multipurpose Bituminous Trails  | 15 |
| Nature and Specialty Trails (cross-country, single track bike, snow shoe, etc.) | 23 |
| Wetland Boardwalk   | 5  |
| Lakefront Walk and Seating Areas  | 10 |
| Adventure Trail / Base Camp Challenge Area                                      | 8  |
| Trail Kiosks, Maps and Signage  | 0  |

| RECREATIONAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS:       | #  |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| New Playground                        | 27 |
| Splash Pad                            | 4  |
| Improved Sledding Hill / Summer Use   | 5  |
| Docks / Piers                         | 8  |
| Central Plaza Seating Area (by beach) | 3  |
| Lawn / Multi-Purpose Space            | 3  |
| Natural Resource Improvements         | 1  |

| PARK BULDINGS & AMENITIES:                                    | #  |
|---|----|
| Central Plaza Restrooms, changing and concessions building    | 17 |
| Central Plaza Park Event Room and Open Air Shelter Building   | 0  |
| Central Plaza Equipment Rentals and Lifeguard Building        | 1  |
| Base Camp 4-Season Building / Shelter with Fire Pit           | 9  |
| New Event Center with Plaza Space                             | 5  |
| Interim Event Center Improvements (deck, minor building work) | 45 |
| Picnic Shelters   | 3  |
| Lakeside Arbor  | 0  |

## Coney Island Priorities

| ISLAND TRAIL SYSTEM COMPONENTS:   | #  |
|---|----|
| Historical Interpretive Trail (trail with lot identification and overlooks) | 24 |
| Naegele's Tower (observation deck and interpretive information)             | 40 |
| Upper Nature Trails with Overlooks  | 7  |
| Lower Lakeside Nature Trails  | 7  |
| Optional Nature Trails in Sloped Terrain with Boardwalks                    | 4  |
| Stair Connections   | 1  |
| Trail Kiosks, Maps and Signage  | 5  |

| RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS:  | #  |
|---|----|
| Amblard's Point (SW) Day Use Area (docks, picnic space, restroom) | 31 |
| Zeglin's Point Flexible Use Area (Campsites, docks)               | 26 |
| Zeglin's Point Day Use Area (docks, beach, picnic)                | 21 |
| Zeglin's Point Coney Cottage Shelter and Restrooms                | 11 |
| Zeglin's Point Adventure / Nature Play                            | 0  |
| Zeglin's Point Lawn . Gather Areas                                | 18 |
| Natural Resource Improvements                                     | 8  |

## Comment Cards

### MAIN PARK

As a board member of the Legacy Village Neighborhood (directly to the west of the main park) we are excited about the improvement and opportunities on both the main park and island. A park of this size offering so many unique experiences has the potential to draw a large amount of visitors. We do have a couple of concerns which may impact our neighborhood. 1- Parking on Beach Road and Old Beach Lane. Currently visitors are parking on these locations (to avoid the park fee?). Old Beach Lane is a no parking zone and Beach Road is a residential area which gets tight with additional cars parked here. The additional cars parked here also poses a safety concern. 2- We would also like to maintain our neighborhood's shared lakefront area. The city of Waconia has expectations of us to maintain this lake shore area and its vegetation. How could we help prevent wayward traffic on foot, bikes, etc. from damaging this area? Thank you for hosting this public meeting. The amount of research and planning you have done is impressive. -Nick Briden

As a resident and Homeowner's Association Board member of neighboring Legacy Village, I am pleased with the work done on the plan as well as the gathering of public input. The park expansion and improvements will be a huge asset to the community. I do have 2 areas of concern; 1- Parking. Currently, users of the park who don't want to pay to park their cars park their cars along Beach Road, which isn't designed for significant vehicle parking, which causes safety issues for children in our neighborhood. Likewise, parking on Old Beach Lane occurs where there are No Parking signs which causes safety issues for the approximately 100 families with kids walking to our developments' waterfront property. We'd really like to see park users to park in the park. 2- Our development's 900ft of lakefront abuts the park's west property line. We recently remediated all 900 ft. to keep it in it's natural vegetative state. To maintain the vegetative state, we need to keep foot traffic to a minimum, so we are concerned with a significant increase in traffic along our waterfront property. -Tom Barrett

People are parking at church to avoid the park entry fee.

Would like to see camping area in the Regional Park. "Rustic" tent pad, basic water, bathrooms (no running water).

Would like to see a dog park in Waconia.

Is there room for an archery range in the future as part of this design?

Looks as if too much is being crammed into such a small space. (2)

The windy road to the boat landing will not work.

Please keep the ballroom.

Relocate the one fishing pier that is directly north of the lakeside arbor so that the fishing pier is not in the background of the photo area.

Dislike how close the ferry service is to the beach area labelled 'J'.

The DNR boat landing is too close to the beach. Maybe the 'Central Pier' can be placed between the two areas to keep them separate.

The trails labeled 'A' near the event center need to be paved.

Is it possible to include a pool in the plan?

Keep the event center.

There is a concern with the increased traffic along Old Beach Road and with the private land/lake shore owned by Legacy Village. What partnership will there be with the city (LV, HOA), community and park to maintain a balance? -Michelle Bachmann 952.361.3033

Eliminate or move DNR boat launch.

Move the DNR boat launch to the northern most area in the park or make non- motorized. If it is possible, place a dock between launch and beach to prevent boats from the swimming area.

## CONEY ISLAND

I like Naegele's tower but restrooms, historical kiosks and small concession stand need to be added.

One of the docks should be moved to the base of the historical trail to create a grand entrance. This area should include dioramas, small concession stand and modern restrooms. (3)

How will the island be monitored? - to keep it 'family friendly'

Keep the island as natural and simple as possible.

Not in favor of camping overnight on the island

We have a concern that the boat access will not be used enough to justify the cost of the build.

The planned trails for the island are favorable.

Add at least one more kiosk/island map to the side of Coney Island.

Great consolidated plan for the island!

As part of the Thursday evening swim group to the island, we are concerned about increased boat traffic and being able to cross the lake safely.

2588 — Coney Island Boat Landing, Waconia, Minn.

Pub. for W. J. Scharrer

