



# Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan

Scott County Parks and Trails



*The mission for Scott County parks and trails is to enhance the health and spirit of our residents and guests by creating a sustainable system that connects people to the natural world.*



Scott County is a regional park implementing agency of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Funding for Scott County's regional parks and trails master planning has been provided through a grant received under the Minnesota Clean Water, Land, & Legacy Amendment, in which 14.25% of the funds generated from the 3/8% increase in the state sales tax will provide funding for regional and state parks and trails.

**Scott County Board Approved - December 13, 2011**

Minor Edits in Progress

# Acknowledgements

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This master plan was completed as part of a comprehensive effort to prepare five master plans (three parks and two trails) within a thoughtful and broad analysis of system-wide recreational needs. Special thanks to the Citizen Design Team members for guiding the development of this master plan to meet the needs of current and future Scott County residents.

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# Introduction

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is located in south central Scott County on the shores of Cedar Lake. The park is planned to be a 254 acre park. It is a Scott County facility and is a part of the Metropolitan Regional Park System that covers the seven counties of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. The park became a component of the Metropolitan Regional System in 2005 when as part of the Metropolitan Council’s update to the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan the park was recognized as ‘One of the Last Best Places’ to preserve for future generations.

This document is a development master plan for the regional park. It was prepared as a part of a year-long master planning process and builds on and replaces the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park *Acquisition Master Plan* approved in 2007.

This Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan serves as the guide for acquisition,

development and management activities for the park and is intended to satisfy the master planning requirements established by the Metropolitan Council’s Regional Recreation and Open Space Commission. It presents a vision of the park, a development plan for park amenities and support infrastructure and a natural resources stewardship plan; it details the planning process through which the development concept was created, and summarizes operations and management policies and practices and estimated costs of implementation.

The vision for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, established from the year-long master planning process, builds on the site’s successful history as a large group picnic and event venue (privately owned and operated as a day resort from 1967 to 2005), its picturesque lakeside setting with farm structures, and an undeveloped, mature stand of Maple-Basswood forest. The vision also reflects the area’s history as a farming community which continues to have strong ties to food production, an interest in locally and sustainably grown food, and in community building through the enjoyment of good food.

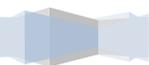
## *Vision – Cedar Lake Farm Park is a regional destination where:*

- *Families and groups picnic and play and gather as a community in a picturesque lakeside setting.*



**Figure 1: Cedar Lake Farm Location**

- *People are reconnected with food, from the soil to the table, in a setting that celebrates the site's history as a community gathering locale and farmstead. It's a place to uncover your gardening and cooking skills and to build your capacity to choose, grow and prepare healthy and sustainable food.*
- *Conservation practices have improved wildlife habitat and biological diversity and contributed to improved water quality.*



# Park Description and Background

## Landscape Setting

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is located three miles northwest of the city of New Prague on the south shore of Cedar Lake. The 254-acre park contains 4,300 feet of shoreland on Cedar Lake, a patch of native Maple-Basswood forest, wetlands, and an expansive open lawn area with mature open grown shade trees including open-grown oaks. While the park lies in an area zoned Rural Residential Reserve District with densities mostly at one unit per ten acres, much of the land immediately adjacent to the park was developed in the 1960s and is at urban densities. The surrounding landscape primarily consists of agricultural lands with significant farm operations still taking place, but the single family residential immediately surrounding the park lends it a suburban feel.

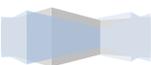
## Scenes of the landscape at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park



## Recreational Use and Acquisition History

The first land acquisitions for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park were completed in 2004 and 2005, totaled 173 acres, and were provided at no cost to the County through a park dedication agreement related to a residential plat. As these acquisitions were made, the park was planned to be preserved in a 'stewardship' state as a future regional park to meet the regional recreation demands of 2030. (Parks or park lands in a 'stewardship' state typically are farmed or managed as passive natural area with limited or no recreational amenities.) Then, in 2006, the County made a 61-acre purchase which included 25-acres that had since the 1960's been privately owned and operated as the Cedar Lake Farm and Day Resort, offering large corporate picnics, weddings and events, but not open to the general public. The former day resort property included a picnic pavilion, a 1913 barn, homestead and outbuildings. In 2008, after these structures began deteriorating as a result of going un-used, the County pursued creative options to open the site to the public through the use of volunteer site caretakers and a public-private catering agreement. In 2009 the former day resort site opened for annual, seasonal public use. Since that time, this lakeside area of the park has offered public recreation including a swimming beach, shore fishing, community events, event rentals, passive picnicking, horse-shoe courts and group camping. In 2009 an 8-acre parcel was purchased for park land. Three parcels totaling 22.49 acres remain to be acquired for the park.

## Recreational amenities at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park today



## Current Operational Status

Outside of the former day resort site, all parkland at Cedar Lake Farm is in a stewardship phase. These stewardship lands include croplands farmed under rental agreements and natural lands that managed for invasive and noxious weeds.



**Figure 2: Park Boundary, Acquisition and Operational Status**

# Planning Framework

*The mission for Scott County parks and trails is to enhance the health and spirit of our residents and guests by creating a sustainable system that connects people to the natural world.*

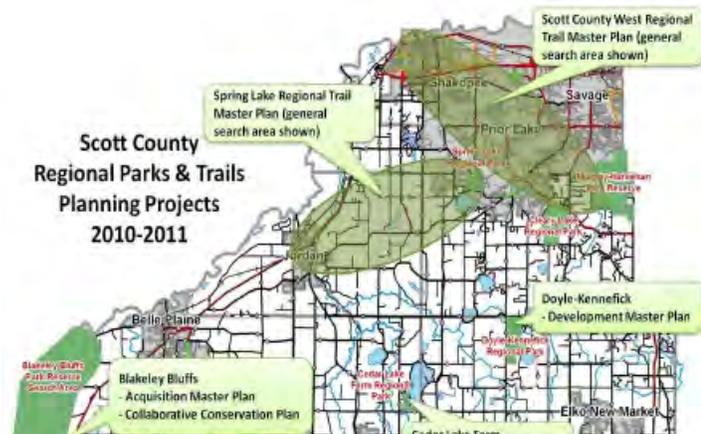
## Planning Process

The Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan was completed as a part of a system-wide integrated planning effort that included the preparation of five master plans (development master plans for Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick Regional Parks, and the Scott West and Spring Lake Regional Trails, and the Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition Master Plan) and a public policy discussion. Planning considerations were guided by an all-citizen, volunteer planning team, the Citizen Design Team (CDT), consisting of 40 Scott County residents who engaged at every stage of the process. The system-wide planning approach was chosen to provide a broader understanding of the overall needs of the system in what is operationally a young park and trail system. Strong citizen-based leadership was designed into the process to bring the voice of citizens to the forefront.

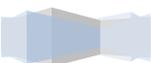
The goal for the planning process was to implement a creative, open and welcoming public process that incorporated county and regional considerations along with site specific opportunities and limitations and local needs and flavor. The overall approach stressed the following:

Use of practical, creative, and responsive public input techniques that fully engage stakeholders and allow County officials and consultants to openly hear and respond to feedback; and a fully welcoming process that respects and utilizes recent in-depth public input through the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Identification of park boundaries and lands to provide resource conservation, natural resource based recreation opportunities for the next 100 years, buffering of natural and cultural resources and a plan that encourages the County as a good neighbor.



**Figure 3: Master Planning Sites**



## Planning Inputs

Inputs that informed the preparation of the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan and the final concept included:

- Cultural resources research and assessment
- Natural resources inventory and assessment
- Park facility and amenity inventory
- Demographics
- Recreation trends
- Public health trends
- Regional and local plans and policies
- Public feedback
- Technical meetings with staff (Scott County, City, Township, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife, Scott County Historical Society)

## Public Process Components

Paramount to the planning process was an intense public involvement strategy that included several components listed below. A full account of the public process and findings is provided in the 'Citizen Participation Findings' section.

- Citizen Design Team (CDT) – (Seven team meetings)
- Park and trail site planning workshops – (Four total; one for Cedar Lake Farm)
- Field trips (7 total; two for Cedar Lake Farm)
- Public policy initiative workshops – (Four total; one for Cedar Lake Farm)
- Open houses for preferred master plan concepts – (Four total; one for Cedar Lake Farm)
- Outreach – press releases, master planning website, resident mailings, etc
- Parks Advisory Commission (Three workshops; three meetings)
- Scott County Board of Commissioners (Two workshops; three meetings)
- Local government review (15 total; two with focus on Cedar Lake Farm)

## Local Government Review and Input

Feedback was sought directly from each municipality at least once during the initial concept stage through presentations to their councils, boards and/or parks commissions, with staff making more than 15 such visits. Each municipality was invited to participate in the field trips, workshops and open houses. The bulk of local government input was received during November 2010 through early February 2011, when the preferred park and trail concepts were shared with local parks commissions and township boards. Input was given based on consistency with local plans, current and projected needs, and coordination with other projects. Overall, the input received at these meetings was consistent with comments heard through other parts of the process.

List of affected municipalities – areas specific to Cedar Lake Farm in bold

- Blakeley Township (Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition Master Plan)
- **Cedar Lake Township**
- **Helena Township**
- City of New Prague
- City of Elko New Market
- City of Prior Lake
- City of Shakopee

### **Parks Advisory Commission**

The Parks Advisory Commission played an active role throughout the planning process, participating in all public meetings and tours and assigning liaisons to the CDT. The Commission met in workshop four times to discuss and provide guidance on the process and plans. Staff made five presentations to the Parks Advisory Commission seeking input and guidance and offering an opportunity for a broader county audience to learn about and comment on the process and plans.

### **Scott County Board of Commissioners**

The County Board participated actively in the public process, providing direction on the process and plans. County Board members participated in each of the open houses and workshops, met in workshop setting twice to consider the plans and provide direction. Staff made presentations on the planning process and plans at three County Board meetings.

### **Guiding Plans and Policy**

Several plans and policy documents informed and guided the establishment of the planning approach as well as decisions made throughout the planning effort. The process and individual master plans were prepared consistent with the goals and policies of the recently adopted Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update and the 2030 Parks and Trails Plan (Chapter VII) and the policies and framework of the Metropolitan Council’s 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

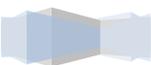
The following policy documents and previous master plans have helped shape the outcomes of this planning study:

### **Policy Documents**

- 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan (Metropolitan Council, 2005, updated in 2010)
- Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update – Chapter VII, 2030 Parks and Trails Plan (2009)
- Scott County Rural Residential Detailed Area Plan (DAP) – Rural Trail Analysis (2009)
- Scott County Rural Regional Trail Development & Design Guidelines (2009)

### **Previous Master Plans**

- Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District Master Plan for a System of Parks – Scott County West Regional Trail & Cleary Lake Regional Park (Three Rivers Park District, 1998)
- Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park Acquisition Master Plan (2003)
- Spring Lake Regional Park Development Master Plan (2006)



- Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Acquisition Master Plan (2007)
- Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve Development Master Plan (Three Rivers Park District, 2007)

## Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

The Cedar Lake Farm Master Plan is consistent with the strategic directions identified in the recently adopted statewide *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan (Figure 4)*. The Minnesota State Legislature mandated that the Department of Natural Resources develop the 25-year, long-range plan to help guide how the Legacy Funds, as well as other traditional sources of funding, should be spent for parks and trails of state and regional significance. The plan will also serve as a valuable reference during site design and construction processes and development of specific programming and marketing projects.

**Figure 4:**

***Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Plan – Four Strategic Directions:***

- **Connect People and the Outdoors:** better develop Minnesota’s stewards of tomorrow through efforts to increase life-long participation in parks and trails.
- **Acquire Land, Create Opportunities:** create new and expanded park and trail opportunities to satisfy current customers as well as to reach out to new ones.
- **Take Care of What We Have:** provide safe, high-quality park and trail experiences by regular re-investment in park and trail infrastructure, and natural resource management.
- **Coordinate Among Partners:** enhance coordination across the large and complex network of public, private, and non-profit partners that support Minnesota’s parks and trails to ensure seamless, enjoyable park and trail experiences for Minnesotans.



Source: Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2011.

# Setting and Role

## Metropolitan Regional Park System

Scott County’s Parks and Trails system is part of the Regional Recreation Open Space System. This system (now commonly referred to as the Metropolitan Regional Park System or simply the Regional Park System) was created by the State Legislature in 1975 by State Statute 473.147. This statute identifies Metropolitan Council’s role in establishing and updating a policy plan for a metropolitan park system, and working in partnership with the local city and county jurisdictions (the “implementing agencies”) that own and operate the system. As one of the ten implementing agencies Scott County is eligible for funding and assistance through the Metropolitan Council for projects that are a part of an approved master plan.

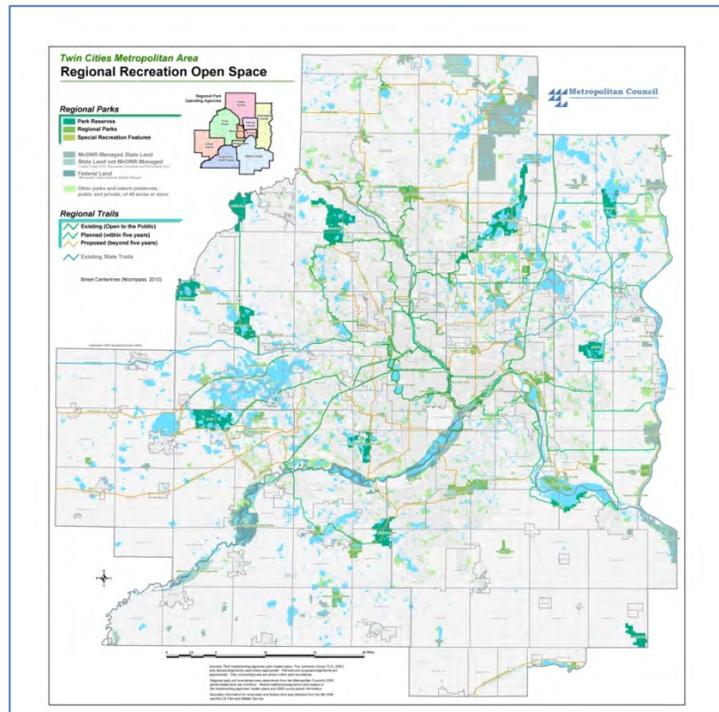


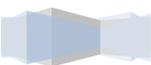
Figure 5: Metropolitan Regional Park System

## Regional Status for Cedar Lake Farm

Cedar Lake Farm Park became a component of the Metropolitan Regional System in 2005 when as part of the Metropolitan Council’s update to the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan the park was recognized as ‘One of the Last Best Places’ to preserve for future generations. Considerations that were significant in determining its regional status were its location, with significant lake frontage, on the major recreation and sport-fishing lake in southern Scott County, its ability to provide recreation services to border counties, and the potential for the County to acquire significant acreage for the park as a part of a cluster development.

## Regional Parks and Park Reserves

The Metropolitan Regional Parks System focuses primarily on facilitating the provision of recreational facilities that require substantial areas of land and/or water and on the protection of high-quality natural resources for public benefit and leisure. This is distinct from the standard role of city and county parks, which tends to focus on the provision of active recreation in smaller spaces. There are four main types of regional facilities including *regional parks*, *park reserves*, *regional trails* and *special recreation features*. *Cedar Lake Farm is designated as a regional park*. Both regional parks and park reserves are expected to provide a



diversity of nature-based outdoor recreational activities and to prioritize conservation of unique natural features. Park reserves focus on the conservation of vast acreages of historic landscapes, native plant communities and other unique natural features, with sites typically over 1,000 acres and commonly over 2,000 acres. Park reserve also only allow up to a 20 percent development footprint. Regional parks are expected to provide such experiences on a smaller scale, with preservation of significant resources a fundamental goal, but with a larger recreation foot print and focus on activities.

## Scott County as a Regional Park Provider

Scott County's Parks and Trails system is a burgeoning part of the Metropolitan Regional Park System and one still in the very early stages of operation and development, a factor that shaped the approach to the master planning process. The County has owned the undeveloped 300-acre Spring Lake Regional Park, located in Prior Lake, since it purchased the site in the 1960's. In 2004 the County began taking a more active role as a regional park implementing agency as rapid population growth in the previous two decades had increased demand for park and trail amenities. Since taking a more active park and trails role, the County has identified three additional regional park and park reserve sites, acquired 760 acres of park land and in 2009 began limited park operations at a Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park. Offering formal public use and park amenities at Cedar Lake Farm marked the first time in the County's history that it was directly providing a park operation. In 2011, Scott County established a new partnership agreement, the "Partnership", with Three Rivers Park District to gain efficiencies in the operation and maintenance of all regional park and trail facilities in the county, including Cleary Lake and Murphy-Hanrehan which are owned by Three Rivers Park District. Efficiencies gained are expected to result in further ramping up of new services and enhancements to existing park services, in all of the regional facilities within Scott County.

## Regional Facilities within Scott County

Cedar Lake Farm interrelates with a number of other regional facilities in Scott County (Figure 6).

### Parks

**Cleary Lake Regional Park** is a 1,045 acre park owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District, offering a visitors center/clubhouse with concessions, room rentals and recreation equipment. A 9-hole golf course and driving range hosts extensive youth-centered golf programming. Additional amenities include beach swimming, boating, fishing, picnic shelters, group campsites, paved bike/hike trail, turf hiking trails, a 30-acre dog off-leash area, and creative play area. Winter activities include extensive cross-country skiing on groomed trails.

**Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park** was master planned along with Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve and Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park. The concept for this park includes programming based on the scenic and ecologically significant natural landscapes of the site and a link to the past via an 1860's farmstead site. Amenities called for in the plan include a nature center/outdoors

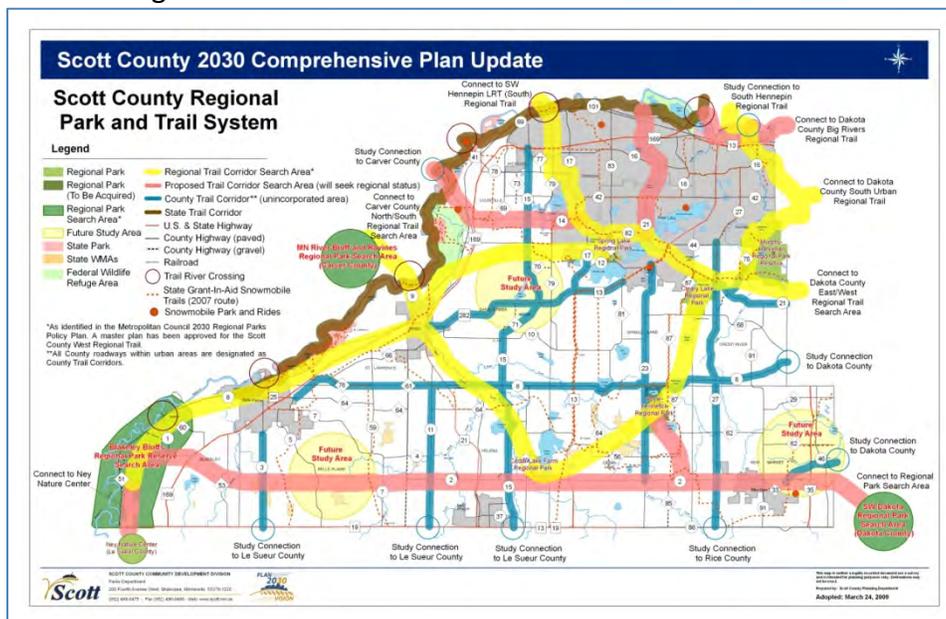
discovery center, 13 miles of hiking and nature trails, 8 miles of bike trails, a picnic shelter, trail head and room rental, and renovation and re-use of farmstead structures.

**Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve** is a 2,482 acre park (planned to be 2,614) owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District. The master plan was recently updated in June, 2008, and calls for the development of backpacking and canoe campsites, improving fishing opportunities, and trailhead improvements. The plan also calls for ecological enhancements to woodland and prairie/wetland areas, low quality forests, reforestation of old field and regeneration of existing high-quality Oak forests.

**Spring Lake Regional Park** is a 372-acre park, planned to be 392 acres and to contain a mix of general and specialized recreation opportunities. Development amenities planned include a four-season lakeside pavilion with complimentary lakeshore related amenities; 3.5 mile paved trail loop; 3 miles of nature trails; group camp; adventure rope course; archery practice area, and an outdoor classroom/performance area. A large patch of high quality maple-basswood forest, wetlands and proximity of Spring and Prior Lakes, define the park's sense of place.

### Trails

Scott County has one partially developed regional trail that will ultimately connect Cleary Lake Regional Park with Prior Lake, Shakopee, and the Minnesota River. Roughly 130 miles of regional trail corridors have been proposed in the County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan traversing through both urban and rural settings. A regional trail search corridor along County Road 2 has been identified to connect to Cedar Lake Farm Park with Blakeley Bluffs Regional Park Reserve and communities in southern Scott County. A future extension of the Spring Lake Regional Trail is envisioned to connect Cedar Lake Farm Park to Doyle-Kennefick and Cleary Lake Regional Parks and to the City of Jordan, where several regional trails segments are envisioned to come together.



**Figure 6: Scott County Park and Trail System Map**

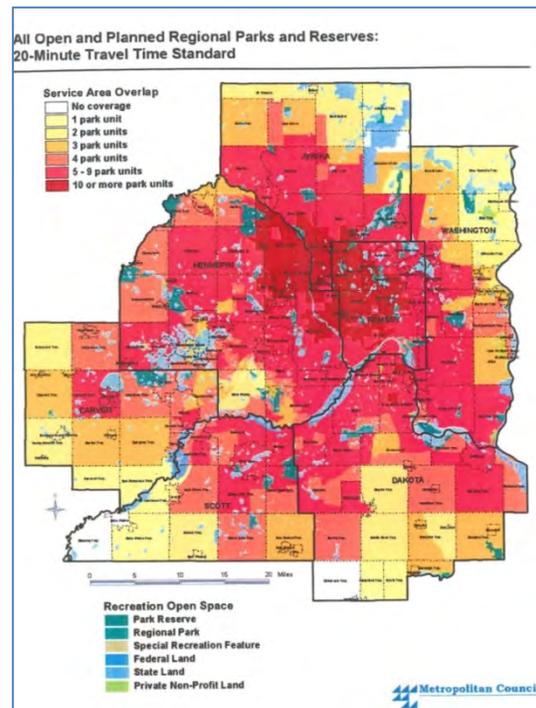
# Demand Forecast and Trends

As of 2010, Scott County’s population is roughly 130,000 residents. This is a 45 percent increase in population since 2000. Population forecasts produced by the Metropolitan Council anticipate nearly 100,000 more individuals by 2030. While these forecasts were developed before the recent economic recession occurred, the overall trend of population expansion is expected to continue in Scott County over several decades. Cedar Lake Farm became a component of the Metropolitan Regional System in 2005 when as part of the Metropolitan Council’s update to the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan the park was recognized as ‘One of the Last Best Places’ to preserve for future generations. Its designation was based on its location in an area of the metropolitan region found to be underserved by regional parks and park reserves and the opportunity for a regional park on a major recreation lake.

To better understand recreation needs and barriers to outdoor recreation participation and to gain insights into the role of Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park in meeting these needs and overcoming barriers, a review of recent demographics, resident and outdoor participant surveys, a park facility inventory and gap analysis and trends was done and a summary is provided below.

## Demographics

Demographic information is an important consideration in the planning of regional park and trail facilities to guide both decisions for today and the future. In 2010, Scott County’s population approached 130,000 residents. This is an increase of about 40,000 residents (45 percent) since 2000. The growth in Scott County resulted from the completion of the Bloomington Ferry Bridge in the late 1990s, providing an efficient transportation connection south of the Minnesota River to the rest of the metropolitan area. The latest population forecasts produced by the Metropolitan Council anticipate 220,000 residents in Scott County by 2030, an increase of nearly 90,000 more individuals over the next twenty years. Most of the growth is expected in the urbanizing areas, with a projected 85 percent of the population residing in the cities and 15 percent in the townships. While these forecasts were developed before the recent economic recession occurred, the overall trend of population expansion is expected to continue in Scott County over several decades.



**Figure 7: Open and Planned Regional Parks within 20-minute Travel Time Standard. Source: 2005 Regional Park System Policy Plan, Metropolitan Council**

Scott County's 65 and older population is forecasted to grow from six percent to fourteen percent by 2030. This age group increase follows statewide trends. According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the state will have 1.5 million baby boomers over the age of 65 by the year 2030, meaning one out of four Minnesotans will be over the age of 65. While the percentage of 65 and older residents will continue to increase, Scott County still has a relatively young population. In 2008, Scott County's median age of 32.7 years was the youngest of all metropolitan counties and well below the state median (37.1). Scott County also has the highest average household size (2.86) in the metro due to a number of young families moving to the county because of affordable housing choices and quality school districts. The anticipated population growth will also result in an increase in the toddler (0-4), school-age children (5-19), and adult (20-64) age groups, albeit at a slower pace than the 65 and older age group.

While diversity percentages in Scott County are lower than the rest of the metropolitan area, the county is expected to encounter many changes to its non-white population based on the Minnesota State Demographic Center forecast from 2000 to 2030. The non-white population is expected to increase 243.5 percent between 2000 and 2030. The county began experiencing significant increases in Asian, Eastern European and Hispanic populations over the past decade.

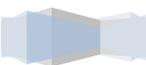
According to 2007-2009 American Community Survey data, of the county's population age 25 and older, 94 percent attained a high school level education. Approximately 35 percent of this same age group had attained a college level education (bachelor's degree or higher). The number of college level graduates is slightly below the metropolitan area's average, but the percentage within Scott County has grown significantly since the US Census 2000 estimate of 23.1 percent.

As a whole, the high education rates reflect higher income levels. According to the 2006-2008 American Communities Survey, the county's median household income was \$81,393 in 2008. For comparison, the median household income was \$71,920 for the Twin Cities metropolitan area and \$57,795 for the state. Scott County residents maintained the highest median income of all the metropolitan counties over the past decade. However, the county's median household income is unevenly distributed with the eastern communities generally having households with higher incomes than those in the western part of the county.

## **Recreation and Open Space Survey Findings**

### **Scott County Resident Findings**

Past Scott County resident surveys have included questions related to parks, trails and recreation. The findings show residents value parks and trails for recreational opportunities, but they also recognize the value parks and trails provides for open space preservation and environmental, wildlife and habitat protection. Residents have also been generally satisfied



with existing recreational services the County provides, however residents are mixed on how to pay for additional services as the system expands.

### Metro Area Survey Findings

The Metropolitan Council coordinates annual surveys and user counts at all regional facilities. The following are the primary activities that attract users to the regional system. Similar to state statistics, the primary uses are trails activities (hiking/biking), water uses, and picnicking. Their popularity is also related to their availability, as these are generally the most common activities provided at regional and state parks.

Table 1: Top Activities in the Regional Park System, 2010			
Activity	Percent of Park Activity Occasion	Percent of Trail Activity Occasion	Percent of Total Visits
Walking/hiking	21%	30%	23%
Biking	10%	45%	18%
Swimming	16%	2%	13%
Picnicking	10%	0%	8%
Relaxing	9%	2%	7%
Jogging/running	5%	10%	6%
Playground use	7%	1%	6%
Dog-walking	5%	7%	5%
Sunbathing	6%	1%	5%
Fishing	6%	1%	5%
Boating	4%	0%	3%
Zoo visits (Como)	4%	0%	3%
In-line skating	2%	4%	2%
Camping	2%	0%	2%

Source: Annual Use Estimate of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for 2010, Metropolitan Council

### State Survey Findings

At the state level, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) continues to survey state park users to understand current and future needs. The top ten recreational activities for Minnesota adults are listed in the following table. According to the 2008-2012 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), “a majority of residents—57 percent—believe outdoor recreation is a ‘very important’ part of their life and another 25 percent believe it is ‘moderately important.’ Outdoor recreation is at least

moderately important to the vast majority of Minnesotans, but they often don't feel they have enough time to participate as often as they'd like. Expense, effort, outdoor pests and lack of companions all keep people from taking part in outdoor activities." The planned regional system may help address this concern of limited time availability for Scott County residents. Providing recreational opportunities close to home will increase the availability of outdoor recreation and reduce the amount of travel time required to access these facilities.

### **Trends in Outdoor Recreation and Community Health**

A number of recent studies have shown a decline in nature-based recreation at the state and national level. In Minnesota, declines have been recorded in fishing, hunting, state park visitation, and state bicycle trail use. The 2007 Minnesota State Parks Research Summary Report found participation declines are most prevalent in age groups 45 and younger. The trend in declining outdoor recreation use can have lasting impacts, as this study found the strongest association with adult park use is the direct experience with parks as a child. Thus, the decline in childhood visitation today may lead to reduced adult visitation decades later.

Studies at the national level stress this same concern for declining use in outdoor recreation. The 2009 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report (Outdoor Foundation) found declines in youth participants, women aged 21-25 (who prefer to recreate indoors), and minority groups. Increased technology, less free time, costs, and accessibility were cited as factors for non-participation.. However, the survey also found more Americans participating in outdoor activities in 2008, likely due to the changing economy where many people are choosing to take shorter vacations closer to home and a return to a simpler lifestyle. Activities like camping, hiking and mountain-biking saw increases in participation by youth. The study found gateway activities such as fishing, bicycling, running/jogging, camping, and hiking tend to lead to participation in other outdoor activities.

Improving the health of community residents is a major concern as obesity rates and health care costs related to preventable diseases continue to climb. Sixty-five percent of Minnesota adults do not perform the recommended amount of physical activity (30 minutes/day). A more sedentary lifestyle can be attributed to a variety of factors, including people driving more and walking less, work habits and activities limiting the need for physical activity, and a change in designing communities around the automobile. Research shows a connection between the built environment and health conditions associated with physical activity, such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. The addition of a more connected trail system and parks designed for accessibility will help provide safer access for residents to improve their health.

People with access to walking or jogging trails are 55% more likely to be physically active.  
Source: Brownson, Ross et al., Environmental Determinants of Physical Activity in the United



Other non-recreational trends may also impact the regional park and trail system. Nationwide, concerns for climate change, energy independence, active living, and sustainability have led many to explore ways of driving less and incorporating healthy activities into their daily lives. The aging society is also having a significant impact on changing needs for recreation. The Baby Boomer generation is currently using the regional park system at rates that are higher than their actual proportion of the metropolitan area population; visitation by people over the age of 60 is expected to increase as this generation ages. Facilities will need to be kept up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and more opportunities for low-impact and educational learning opportunities will need to be provided to meet the needs of this growing user base.

### Facility Inventory and Gap Analysis

An inventory of existing and planned park facilities was done to identify possible local and regional recreation gaps, and the potential role of Scott County's regional parks in addressing those gaps. Where gaps were found to exist, the planning process evaluated whether Cedar Lake Farm may offer an opportunity to fill that gap. The extent of the inventory was Scott County and its adjacent counties (Dakota, Rice, Le Sueur, Sibley, Carver, and southern Hennepin County). This also represents a generalized service area for park facilities within a 20-30 minute travel time from Scott County's boundary. The inventory included facilities commonly found in regional, state, or natural-resourced based parks (i.e. hiking and biking trails, camping, picnic shelters, nature centers) and those that are less common (i.e. disc golf, pavilions, swimming features). A broader inventory of all metro regional parks was conducted for specific facilities and amenities as they were being explored in the preliminary concept development stages.

### Findings Summary

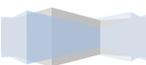
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park may have a role in filling the following identified gaps: mixed-use/paved trail loops, community gathering space, canoe and kayak access, and outdoor recreation, environmental, and sustainable living programs and education.

Trends and findings that will continue to be monitored and considered in making programming and operational decisions follow.

- As a whole, in the coming decades Scott County park users are going to be older and ethnically and racially more diverse. There is an opportunity to explore partnerships with schools, faith organizations, and community groups to enhance the County's capacity to deliver quality recreation opportunities for baby-boomers and the 65 and older age group, diverse populations and youth.
- The most common forms of recreation in the Regional Park System continue to be centered on trails (biking, walking, hiking), water (swimming, boating, fishing) and picnicking. These are also among the most common recreation pursuits statewide, along

with pleasure driving, camping and visiting nature centers and outdoor zoos. A strategy of focusing on removing barriers to these most common activities and/or ensuring barriers are not unintentionally introduced could have the widest benefit.

- Minnesota has seen a significant decline in outdoor recreation participation by people under the age of 45 years. Nationally, declines have been most prominent in youth, women aged 21-25 and minority groups. Barriers to participation commonly cited include less free time, costs, accessibility (state-wide surveys) and increased technology, costs and accessibility (national surveys). In national surveys, diverse youth participants cite school work as the top reason they don't get out more often – a barrier they cite more prominently than Caucasian youth. A creative mix of programming may help to remove barriers. For instance, offering outdoor recreation opportunities integrated with homework time may help remove the lack of time barrier for youth. To address cost barriers, common methods include using sliding scale fees based on income, scholarships, and partnerships with community groups and schools, all of which will be explored by Scott County.
- From a Scott County system and nearby county scale, the facility inventory indicates very few planned or existing paved bike trails. Given the high bike trail usage reported in metro and state surveys, this appears to be a large gap that both Cedar Lake Farm and Doyle-Kennefick Regional Parks can help fill. There also are very few mountain biking facilities existing or planned in the study area. While mountain biking is more of a niche recreation with usage numbers far lower than the most common regional park and state park recreation pursuits, outdoor use surveys indicate an increased participation in mountain biking by youth, an age group showing overall decline in outdoor recreation participation. More accessible mountain biking opportunities could attract members of this group and provide a “gateway” experience for them to other outdoor recreation activities. Mountain biking opportunities should be considered in the Scott County system where the landscape will support that type of use.
- Hiking is among the top recreational pursuits both in the Regional Park System and statewide and appears to be an activity increasing nationally in youth (ages 6-17). While the inventory indicated a number of hiking opportunities in the study area, there are fewer in the central and southern area of the study area. Given the popularity of hiking in general and particularly the increase in hiking participation by youth, this may be a recreation area gap to fill in the study area to meet the County's goals for increased youth participation.



# Citizen Participation

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The master planning process for Cedar Lake Farm Park and the other four park and trail sites was designed to facilitate extensive opportunity for substantive public dialog and citizen feedback. To achieve this several types of input sessions were held and consistent outreach was done throughout the process. While individual input sessions and meetings typically focused on one of the five facilities being planned (Blakeley Bluffs, Cedar Lake Farm, and Doyle-Kennefick parks, and the Scott West and Spring Lake trails) each covered an overview of the other sites, presenting an opportunity for further input. A summary of the citizen participation components and findings are below.

## Citizen Participation Components

### Citizen Design Team (CDT)

This 40-member, volunteer, citizen planning team was formed expressly for the master planning effort. The CDT participated actively in all aspects of the planning process. Their role was to:

- Enhance the project's ability to hear citizen input and bring feedback into the planning process.
- Think creatively about current and future recreational needs.
- Give thoughtful consideration to financial implications of the master plans.
- Remember the long-view and future generations, beyond today and current users.
- Identify collaboration and leveraging opportunities as well as redundancies.
- Consider providing natural resource based recreation for the next 100 years.
- Facilitate conservation of important natural and cultural resources for the next 100 years.
- Challenge the County to create a park and trail system that is a good neighbor.

The CDT was divided into two groups, one focused on the park master plans (Blakeley Bluffs, Cedar Lake Farm, and Doyle-Kennefick) and the other focused on the trail master plans (Spring Lake and Scott West). The groups met for monthly work sessions from July 2010 to March 2011, to evaluate park and trail system needs, identify unique features of each site, and refine the design concepts. In addition to the seven CDT work sessions the members participated in eight public open houses and workshops (two specific to Cedar Lake Farm), four team and public field trips (one specific to Cedar Lake Farm), and many members made independent field trips. Several members attended Parks Advisory Commission, County Board and Township Board meetings where the Cedar Lake Farm plan was discussed and considered.

The CDT members helped to facilitate small group discussion at the workshops and focused on listening and having dialog with participants. In addition to collecting feedback at the formal planning sessions, members assisted in outreach efforts by informing neighbors and community members about the sessions and made themselves available to listen and provide information on the plans.



organized for the purpose of providing solutions to public policy questions and improving citizen participation in public policy - to design and implement an outreach process focused on these higher level considerations. Four public workshops were held at which the Citizens League facilitated a conversation with residents utilizing interactive response devices to collect data from residents, but more importantly, serve as a starting point for a more robust conversation about their values and priorities. Questions and conversation sought to engage participants at a high level about their parks and trails system as a whole. What level of quality did they want? How quickly should work be completed? What should the priorities be? How should funding gaps be addressed? This workshop style was more like a focus group, with the heart of the learning coming from the discussion and conversation. Approximately 150 residents participated in the four workshops.

### **Open Houses for Preferred Master Plan Concepts**

The final resident input process came through a series of four open houses in February 2011 at which the preferred park and trail site concepts were presented, with the Cedar Lake Farm Park open house on February 17, 2011. A total of approximately 186 residents attended the four open houses with 58 attending the session on Cedar Lake Farm Park.

### **Outreach**

Each open house, workshop and site tour was announced through a press release, the Scott County SCENE, County website, and direct mailings to landowners within the general vicinity of the proposed park boundaries. Additional outreach was done via the county's email list serve and posting of fliers at key community gathering location.

## **Summary of Findings**

### ***Initial community feedback***

The input received as a part of the workshop, field trip and other outreach mechanisms is summarized below:

#### ***Programming Ideas:***

- *Trails (running, cross-country ski, biking, nature walking, mountain biking)*
- *Fishing pier and improved shore fishing*
- *Canoeing and kayaking access and rentals*
- *Camping – group, camper cabins, hike-in, RV*
- *Picnicking – passive and rentals*
- *Beach expansion*
- *Public docks and boat slips*
- *Preserve agricultural theme and support farm heritage –hay rides, use of barn*
- *Working farm – food production, sustainable land use, permaculture, livestock and crop techniques*
- *Reuse of barn for weddings and events*
- *Outdoor weddings*

- *Environmental education*
- *Winter uses and winter sports*
- *Sustainability –opportunity to demonstrate and support*
- *Harvesting and gardening education*
- *Family oriented community events, i.e. “movies in the park”*
- *Dual programming between parks and schools*

*Concerns or Challenges:*

- Funding
- Adjacent residents and developed areas – noise for residents, buffering park activities
- Roadways, access and circulation
- Water quality
- Safety of water access
- Access to park from lake
- Parking
- Camping
- Maintaining buildings
- No public boat landing (not interested in offering)
- Tying north and south sections of park together
- County road 2 entrance
- Use of agricultural rentals too long
- Not enough natural prairie

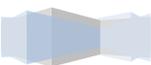
This direct resident feedback was considered by the CDT, Parks Advisory Commission and County Board and along with the other planning inputs and was re-visited at different points along the planning process to help prepare a preliminary park development concept and implementation plan. The preliminary park development concept was presented at an open house on February 17, 2011, in the Scott County newspaper the SCENE, and on-line at the Scott County website.

## **Community Feedback on Preliminary Development Concept**

The preliminary development concept was presented at an open house and through other outreach methods. Immediate feedback at the open house, received through group dialog indicated much support for the overall concept and specific elements of the plan. Written feedback reflected the sentiments shared verbally at the open house. A summary of this feedback follows:

*Positive Feedback On Master Plan Concept*

- Good mix of activities
- Camper cabins/group camp
- Walking paths, trails, accessibility to neighborhoods



- Barn restoration and reuse
- Community gardening, sustainable foods and agriculture learning concept
- Renovated beach area
- Canoe and kayak rental and access
- Use of existing features
- Off leash dog area
- Playground

*Concerns about Master Plan Concept:*

- Overnight camping and potential for vandalism or safety issues for neighbors as a result of the camping.
- Investing taxpayer dollars into renovation and reuse of the house. It was suggested that private donations would be an acceptable source of funds for the house.
- Location of trails in relation to residential property (too close). Concern that residents be engaged in future when the trail is built.
- Location of the splash pad, canoe/kayak access and dog park.
- Should be a stronger focus on programming and activities related to gardening, local and sustainable food production, and agriculture.
- Noise issues as result of events and music.
- Dog parks not a need and not a place to invest taxpayer dollars.
- Implementation of the trails and the food/garden concept should be sooner.
- More extensive prairie and wetlands restoration needed.
- Attractiveness of the site for weddings and camping with its location adjacent to County Road 2 and with future power line expansion.
- Cost of renovating barn.

# Cultural Resources

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## Introduction

Preservation of unique historical and archaeological features within the Scott County Parks System is a goal identified in the County’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan. As a part of the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park master planning process a firm specializing in cultural resources, the 106 Group, was hired to conduct a cultural resources assessment to ensure that park development does not adversely impact cultural resources and to inform future preservation and interpretation efforts at the park. This section summarizes the report findings which will serve as a cultural resources guide related to land acquisitions, development and operations.

The purpose of the cultural resources assessment was to:

- Identify known archaeological sites and historic structures within the park;
- Identify legislative requirements for cultural resources preservation and/or treatment;
- Suggest cultural resources management and planning recommendations related to future stages of park development;
- Suggest an interpretive message to guide the development of interpretive elements at the park.

Two important terms used in this section are “pre-contact archaeological remnants” and “historic archaeological remnants”. Pre-contact refers to the time before European settlement. Historic refers to the time since European settlement.

## Background Research

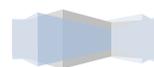
The 106 Group conducted background research at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify known archaeological sites and previously inventoried architectural history properties within the park. Previous cultural resources surveys were also reviewed to determine what sections of the park have been previously documented as well as what portions have not been previously surveyed but may require survey in the future. No previous cultural resources surveys have been conducted within the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park. Research was also conducted at the Scott County Historical Society to aid in the development of a brief history of the park and the farmstead that is located within the park.

## Cultural Resources Assessment Results

There are no previously identified archaeology sites or previously inventoried architectural history properties located within the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park.

## History of the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Area

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is located in Helena Township, southern Scott County. In 1854, the first European settler, William Nachbar, settled in Helena Township in section 5. Nachbar,



and many of the other early settlers, was from the Rhine province of Germany. Helena Township was named by John C. Smith, who settled in section 11 in March of 1855. In 1856, Smith laid out town lots southeast of Pleasant Lake and founded the Village of Helena (Shakopee Argus Tribune 1927).

The Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is located in portions of section 24 of Helena Township. The 1880 land atlas of Scott County notates James Novotney, John O'Brien, Stephen Barnett, and Thomas Prchal as landholders in section 24 (Scott County Historical Society 1880). By 1898, the Novotney and Prchal land remained in those families, John O'Brien had sold his land to the Novotney's, and Stephen Barnett had sold his land to Frank Pomije (Finnell and McAuliffe 1991).

The only landownership changes between 1898 and 1913 in section 24 were on the 40-acre parcel of land on the southwest shore of Cedar Lake. The Prchal's sold this land to Edward E. Novak (The Farmer: A Journal of Agriculture 1913). By 1944, this 40-acre parcel was owned by M.F. Rybak and Peter Rech. The other parcels of land in section 24 remained under the ownership of the Novotney and Pomije families through the 1960s (Dahlgren 1944; Dahlgren 1958; Title Atlas Company 1963).

By 1958, the 40-acre parcel on the southwest shore of Cedar Lake was owned by Ray T. Rybak and Charles J. Simon (Dahlgren 1958). This parcel remained in their ownership through the 1960s (Title Atlas Company 1963). In the late twentieth century, portions of the Novotny and Pomije families land located along County Highway 89 and the west shore of Cedar Lake was subdivided into cul-de-sac developments.

### **History of the Cedar Lake Farm Farmstead**

The parcels of land between the southwest shore of Cedar Lake and County Road 2 that were known as the Cedar Lake Farm Day Resort in the late twentieth century historically consisted of two parcels (Scott County Parks and Trails 2008). The western parcel, where the farmstead is located, historically consisted of approximately 40 acres and the eastern parcel historically consisted of approximately 8 acres.

According to an 1880 plat map, the first known owner of the 40-acre parcel was Thomas Prchal (Scott County Historical Society 1880). According to the 1880 U.S. Census, Prchal resided in Helena Township with his wife and adult son, Frank. Thomas and Frank Prchal were both farmers (U.S. Federal Census 1880). According to the Minnesota State Census the Prchal's resided in Helena Township through at least 1905 (Minnesota State Census 1905).

By 1913, the Prchal family had sold this parcel to Edward E. Novak (The Farmer: A Journal of Agriculture 1913). According to the 1910 U.S. Census, Novak resided in Helena Township, Scott County (U.S. Federal Census 1910). Based on the form and materials of the house, gambrel roof barn, silo, two chicken coops, corn crib, garage, and fieldstone bar-b-que, these structures were likely constructed on the property during the early twentieth century, most likely during Novak's ownership of the property.

By 1944, this 40-acre parcel was owned by M.F. Rybak and Peter Rech (Dahlgren 1944). The storage animal barn, small animal house, and windmill on the property were likely constructed during Rybak and Rech's ownership of the property. By 1958, the 40-acre parcel on the southwest shore of Cedar Lake was owned by Ray T. Rybak and Charles J. Simon (Dahlgren 1958). This parcel remained in their ownership through the 1960s (Title Atlas Company 1963).

The first known owner of the 8 acre parcel was T. Prchal (Finnell and McAuliffe 1991). By 1913, this parcel was owned by Wencel Novotney, who owned the property through the 1940s (The Farmer: A Journal of Agriculture 1913; Dahlgren 1944). In the 1950s and 1960s, the property remained in the Novotney family; by 1958 John A. Novotney owned the 8 acre parcel of land and by 1963 George R. Novotney owned the land (Dahlgren 1958; Title Atlas Company 1963). Historically, this small parcel of land appears to have been used for agricultural purposes.

By 1967, the Cedar Lake Farm Day Resort was established upon these two parcels of land (Scott County Parks and Trails 2008). Although anecdotally, prior to the 1960s, the farmstead was open to the public as a community picnic ground. It was during this time that the 1942 fieldstone bar-b-que World War II memorial was constructed on the property. In the late twentieth century, the Cedar Lake Farm Day Resort was improved with an office pavilion, gate house, pop shed, storage garage, beer cooler shed, and two shelters. The property was operated as a private day resort through 1996 (Scott County Parks and Trails 2008).

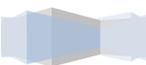
## Summary of Legislative Requirements

There are many federal laws that govern the treatment of historic, archaeological and cultural resources. However, the most relevant and meaningful for the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, if federal funds or permits are involved in park development, is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In addition, there are three state laws that may pertain to the park.

### National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. The SHPO acts on behalf of the Advisory Council in each state. The Section 106 process seeks to accommodate historic preservation concerns with the needs of Federal undertakings through consultation among the agency officials and other parties with an interest in the effects of the undertaking on historic properties, commencing at the early stages of project planning. The goal of consultation is to identify historic properties potentially affected by the undertaking, assess its effects and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties. A Federal undertaking includes such activities as transfer of funds, issuing of permits, and providing loans etc.

For further information see <http://www.achp.gov/regs.html>



### **Minnesota Historic Sites Act (M.S. 138.661 – 138.6691), 1965**

This Act created a state register of properties “possessing historical, architectural, archaeological, and aesthetic values” and outlines a consultation process for projects that will affect historic sites.

Important points:

- Historic sites are defined as properties named in the Act or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).
- Similar to federal regulations, any undertaking receiving funding or licensing by any political subdivision is covered by the Act.
- If the undertaking affects historic sites, the agency must consult with the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) to avoid or mitigate adverse effects.
- If the parties agree in writing to an appropriate course of action, the undertaking may proceed.

If the parties cannot reach agreement, any of the parties may request that the governor appoint a mediation task force.

### **Minnesota Field Archaeology Act (M.S. 138.31 – 138.42), 1963**

- A “state archaeological site” is defined as any publicly owned or leased land or water area that contains material of archaeological interest.
- Only licensed archaeologists may undertake field archaeology on a state site.
- The Act created the Office of State Archaeologist (OSA), which, along with the MHS, oversees compliance with the Act.
- When a state archaeological site is known or suspected to exist, the controlling agency must submit development plans to MHS and OSA for review.
- The controlling agency, in consultation with MHS and OSA, is directed to preserve such sites (which may include data recovery) and is authorized to use its funds for such activities.
- If a site is related to American Indian history or religion, OSA must coordinate with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) for review and comment.

### **Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act, 1975**

This act provides protection for marked and unmarked human burials and remains. Highlights include:

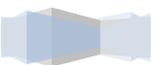
- It is a crime to intentionally destroy or remove human skeletal remains or burials.
- The Act directs the state archaeologist to authenticate all burial sites. In particular it directs the state to retain the services of a professional archaeologist to authenticate burials on public lands or waters when requested by a scientific or Indian group.
- Only burials older than 50 years are covered by this Act.
- When human remains or burials are Indian, the State Archaeologist and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) must attempt to identify their tribal identity.

- No authenticated Indian burial may be relocated without approval of the MIAC.
- When Indian burials are known or suspected to exist on public lands, the political subdivision controlling the land must submit development plans to the state archaeologist and the MIAC for review prior to advertising bids.

### Suggested Interpretive Themes

Interpretive elements within a park add interest and enhance the visitor’s experience. The development of interpretation should be organized around one central message, or theme. Subthemes can be developed to support the central theme and provide a logical organization for interpretation. Based on the general history of the search area the following interpretive theme could be integrated into programming of the park:

*A Farm Sustained Community: Cedar Lake Farm has long been a place for the community. Even before the days of community-sustained agriculture, farms were a community place. The food that was grown sustained the farmers’ families and the local community; people knew where their food came from and the farmer that grew it. At Cedar Lake Farm, people also came to enjoy the setting and it became a community place long before it opened as a day resort. When it opened as a day resort in the 1960s, the farm remained; the barn became an overflow picnic space, the home the resorts offices, and the outbuildings were opportunities for interpretation. Today, as a regional park, Cedar Lake Farm still is a place for agriculture and community. The fallow fields were reclaimed for organic farming and the park is open for picnicking and special occasions.*



# Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment

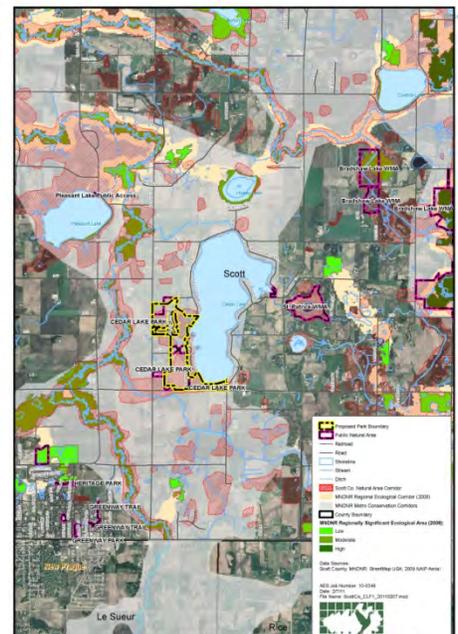
## Introduction

This section presents findings from a natural resources inventory and assessment of the park. These findings informed the development program and design concept for the park and an ecological stewardship vision and plan for the site. (Full page map images of the figures appearing in this section can be found in the Maps section.)

## Regional Context

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is located in Helena Township, Scott County, Minnesota. The park is located in an area of rural and low-density residential development. The City of New Prague lies approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the park. Other public natural areas in the vicinity include the Cedar Lake public access (on the east shore of the lake) and St. Patrick WMA (located just east of the lake).

Within the 7-county metropolitan area, the MNDNR has conducted assessments of regionally significant ecological areas and related conservation corridors. These inventories and assessments indicate that the park is within a regional conservation corridor, but the park does not contain any regionally significant ecological areas. Conservation planning conducted by Scott County in 2007 identified the majority of the park to be within their Natural Area Corridors. Figure 10 illustrates the park's regional ecological context with regard to mapped conservation areas.

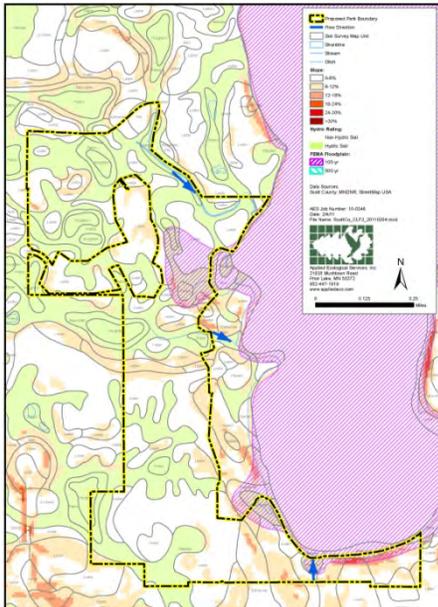


**Figure 10: Regional Ecological Context**

## Past and Current Ecological Conditions

### Glacial History, Landforms and Soils

The Wisconsin Glaciation (which ended here about 10,000 years ago) created the landforms visible at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park. The park is characterized by gently rolling topography with several depressional wetlands. Subtle to moderate slopes exist throughout the mostly flat park, with the steepest slopes along the southern shore of Cedar Lake. These steeper areas may present limitations to park development, and trails through these areas will require environmentally sensitive design.



**Figure 11: Slope, Soils and Hydrology**

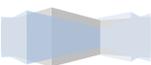
According to the Scott County Soil Survey, the park’s uplands are dominated by Lester and Webster soils (fine-loamy). The southeastern portion of the park is mapped as containing Estherville (sandy) soils. The park’s lowland soils are generally mapped as Houghton (muck) and Palms (loamy) in wetland basins and along swales (Figure 11). The park’s upland soils developed under primarily wooded conditions, but can support a variety of plant communities, including grasslands, shrublands, crops, etc. These soils would not be expected to present any significant constraints on park development. However, the sandy Estherville soils (with their higher infiltration rate) should be considered with regard to stormwater infiltration as well as contaminant transport to groundwater.

## Hydrology

The park is located in the Sand Creek watershed, which discharges into the Minnesota River. Most of the park’s surface water flows generally east, with some first passing through the park’s wetlands and drainageways before entering Cedar Lake.

Cedar Lake is approximately 779 acres in size and quite shallow (maximum depth 13 feet). Cedar Lake is reported to have been a large wetland in the early 1900’s; a road even traversed the northeast portion of the current lake. Severe drought in the 1920’s and 1930’s caused much of the wetland to dry out, prompting the exploration of alternative sources of water. During the 1930s, a diversion project was constructed south of the Lake that intercepted surface flow from a tributary of Sand Creek into the south end of Cedar Lake. This ditch/pipe intercepts runoff from 7,169 acres discharging high flows to Cedar Lake. The discharge point for the diversion can be seen on park property. Without the diversion, the drainage to the lake is 2,472 acres. A fixed outlet concrete weir outlet was constructed at the north end of the lake in the 1950s. The combination of the diversion and the raised outlet converted the once wetland into Cedar Lake. Water that discharges through the outlet at the north end of the Lake flows west along a stream that discharges into Sand Creek.

Cedar Lake has long been recognized as having poor water quality, and it is listed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an impaired water list due to high levels of nutrients (hypereutrophic) and the lake’s concentration of mercury (a toxin). A preliminary draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study has been completed to diagnose the factors contributing to the impaired condition (Barr Engineering, 2010). This study identified phosphorus as the primary nutrient of concern. A draft TMDL Implementation Plan has also been completed to



address phosphorus loads (Scott WMO, 2010). In 2010, a feasibility study was conducted to assess treatment options for the incoming surface water from the diversion that discharged to Cedar Lake (AES, 2010). Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping identifies the 100-year floodplain associated with Cedar Lake encroaching on both the northern and southern portions of the park (Figure 11).

In general, Scott County has abundant and high quality groundwater resources. No wellhead protection areas exist in the park area, and based on a three-tiered classification system (Low, Moderate, and High), the park area’s susceptibility to groundwater contamination is rated as “Low” (Scott County Environmental Mapper). This suggests that standard groundwater protection practices (e.g., sealing of unused wells) should suffice in the park area.

### Historical Vegetation

The MNDNR’s Ecological Classification System identifies the park within the Big Woods Subsection of the Minnesota & NE Iowa Morainal Section of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province. MNDNR data and previous research by F.J. Marschner (1974) indicate that the majority of the park is located in an area that, prior to European settlement, was dominated by “Aspen-Oak Land,” and the park’s northern- and eastern-most portions were formerly dominated by “Big Woods hardwood forest (oak, maple, basswood, and hickory).” The Aspen-Oak Land was a fire-influenced ecosystem, with fires recurring every several years. Plant species requiring moderate to full sunlight inhabited this type of ecosystem, whereas in the Big Woods forest, plant species tolerant of full to partial shade were present.

### Existing Land Cover

The Park contains a variety of land cover types, including a variety of forests, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, agricultural lands, and rural development. The MNDNR County Biological Survey (1998) did not identify any sites of biological significance nor native plant communities within the park. Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) mapping was completed for the park in 2001-2003 and updated by in 2005-2006 and 2009 (Figure 12). Table 2 summarizes acreage and relative cover of different major land cover types within the park.

Table 2. Major Land Cover Types within Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park

Land Cover Type	Acres	Percent of Park
Developed Areas (impervious surfaces, lawn, etc.)	18.89	8%
Planted Vegetation (e.g., crops, hayfield, pasture)	120.09	48%
Forests (closed canopy)	67.98	27%
Woodlands (moderate canopy)	0.36	0%
Shrublands (including shrub swamps)	0.00	0%
Herbaceous (upland grasslands and non-forested wetlands)	42.27	17%
Open Water	1.25	0%
Total		100

During MLCCS mapping, natural communities were assigned a quality rank, ranging from A (high quality) to D (poor quality). Figure 12 shows quality ranks for mapped native plant communities.

## Land Cover Descriptions

A brief description of the park's land cover types follows.

### Forests, Woodlands & Savannas

MLCCS mapping identified the majority of the park's forested uplands as Maple-Basswood Forest (quality ranks B/C to C/D). Several small patches of Oak Woodland Brushland (quality ranks C and D) occur in the southern half of the park. Poorer quality native forests and woodlands received their rank due to a combination of historical logging (resulting in the absence or scarcity of keystone species), historical grazing (resulting in a depauperate ground layer and abundance of armed and other grazing-resistant vegetation), low native species, low structural diversity, low recruitment of keystone vegetation (e.g., oaks), and presence of invasive species. Invasive vegetation includes common buckthorn, Tartarian honeysuckle, and burdock. In addition, indications of earthworms (e.g., holes and castings) were observed in some of the park's forests. Earthworms (which are not native to Minnesota) reduce forest duff, increase erosion, and change soil structure in a way that is detrimental to many native herbaceous plants.

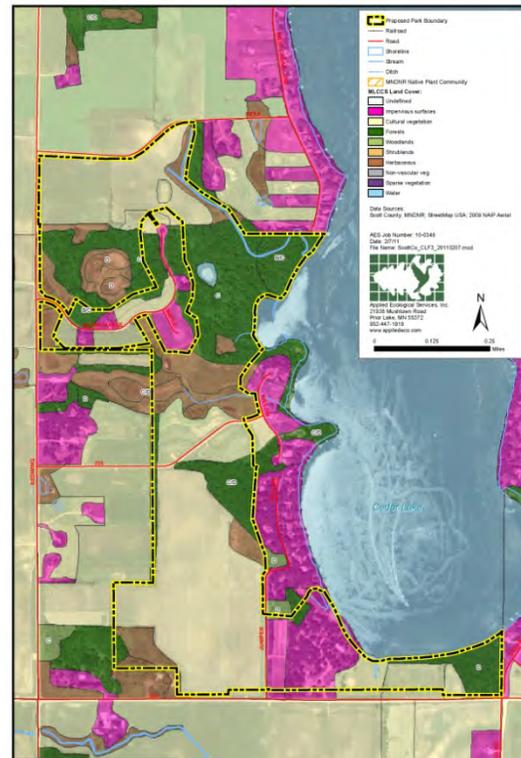


Figure 12: Existing Land Cover

Shade suppression is occurring in some of the park's forests. Dense growth of aggressive woody plants (including both native and non-native species) can shade and suppress ground layer vegetation and result in the loss of ground cover and native plant diversity. The loss of soil-stabilizing plants often leads to erosion, which can lead to loss of topsoil, loss of native seed and propagules, and sedimentation and nutrient enrichment of downstream aquatic resources.

Cedar Lake Farm's main parkland area (a day-use facility located between a grass parking lot and Cedar Lake) is not considered a natural community due to the cultural ground layer vegetation (mowed turf); however, this area represents an historical oak savanna and contains many mature oaks and other trees.

## Lakes and Wetlands

As discussed above, Cedar Lake is impaired due to high nutrient loading and toxins. In addition to this poor water quality, aquatic plant surveys of the Lake were conducted in early summer and late summer of 2007. These surveys indicate that the lake is heavily infested with invasive curlyleaf pondweed, with early summer coverage estimated at 98% of the lake surface (Blue Water Science, 2008).

The park's native wetlands, including Cattail Marsh – Seasonally Flooded, are generally degraded (quality ranks C/D and D). Poorer quality native wetlands received their rank due to a combination of low native species diversity and the presence of invasive vegetation (primarily reed canary grass and hybrid cattail). Invasive plants present in the park's wetlands (often along the edges) include hybrid cattail, reed canary grass, Canada thistle, common buckthorn, and glossy buckthorn. The remaining park wetlands are dominated by altered/non-native vegetation.

## Prairie & Grasslands

Several small prairie restorations were observed in and around the park, primarily around stormwater ponds associated with residential development. Most of these had an abundance of non-native plants, including smooth brome grass, Kentucky bluegrass, timothy, alfalfa, burdock, sweet clovers, reed canary grass, Canada thistle, giant ragweed, and ground clovers.

## Other Cover Types

The park's remaining non-native and cultural vegetation includes grassland with sparse deciduous trees, short grasses, cultivated herbaceous vegetation, and low percentages of impervious surfaces (e. g., main parkland area and grass/gravel parking lot).

## Wildlife

The following wildlife, or indications of these species, were observed in the park: American Goldfinch, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Wood Peewee, Gray Catbird, a wetland wren, and many frogs.

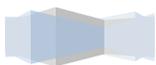
## Rare Plants & Animals

Endangered, threatened, and special concern plant and animal species and animal congregations (e.g., heron rookeries) are recorded and tracked in the MNDNR's Natural Heritage Database. As of March 2010, no records of rare plants or animals were documented within 1 mile of the park's proposed boundary.

## Conservation Priorities, Issues and Opportunities

### Core Habitats and Connectivity

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park contains several moderate-sized and moderate-quality native forests, and the developed portion of the park represents an historical savanna in an area which historically was fire-influenced. The park's major natural resource issue is habitat fragmentation and deterioration in habitat quality. Restoring native ecosystems, enhancing



degraded habitats, addressing invasive species infestations, providing ecological connections, and protecting and buffering core habitats are critical to maximize the conservation benefits of the park.

Due to residential developments within the park area, the homes and roads bisect the park, particularly in the northern portion. This creates a significant challenge in protecting and buffering natural features and maximizing the conservation benefits of the park. Restoring large blocks of high quality native plant communities can only be accomplished in the park itself, but it will provide habitat mosaics for a diversity of wildlife species. Wildlife that have large territories, require special habitat requirements, or are easily disturbed by people will probably not use the park. On the other hand, many species that will use the park are uncommon in the region. These habitat mosaics should be centered on the park's highest quality natural areas and expand outward. Based on the park's existing upland land cover, a theme of forest/woodland/savanna restoration and enhancement would be appropriate for the northern portion of the park, and a greater emphasis on savanna and wetland restoration in the southern portion of the park.

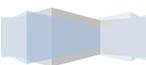
While important conservation steps can be taken inside the park, additional buffer areas should be established around the park with conservation easements and other mechanisms. These buffers will provide additional natural resource protection and conservation value to the park and region by reducing biological edge effects, dumping and uncontrolled trespass to the core natural areas in the park. Adjacent homeowners can be provided with technical assistance and cost-sharing for native landscaping and screening on their residential properties. Educational programs for all nearby residents could inform them of the park's conservation goals and what they can do to assist (construct rain gardens upstream of the park, install native landscaping for ecological buffering, restrict pet cats to indoors, etc.).

### **Forests & Woodlands**

Maple-Basswood Forests are located in the northern and central portions of the park. While some of these native forests are relatively intact (quality rank B/C), they all exhibit signs of disturbance and degradation: past logging, grazing, and/or invasive species. Forest habitats can be severely compromised by both internal (e.g., logging) and external (e.g., adjacent development) disturbances. Ecological enhancement would be appropriate in all park forests and woodlands, but priority should be given to first protecting and enhancing the park's highest quality forests. Therefore, conservation of native forests and woodlands should entail protection, restoration/enhancement, expansion, connection with other natural areas, and ecological buffering.

### **Wetlands & Lakes**

Most of the park's wetlands are moderately to significantly degraded as a result of hydrologic alteration and invasive plants. However, opportunities to enhance existing wetlands and restore/create new wetlands exist within the park. Drained wetlands, such as the depression



basin in the southwest portion of the park, can often be restored easily by removing drainage infrastructure (e.g., tiles). Enhancement of existing wetlands would primarily entail management of invasive plants and seeding/planting appropriate native species. The large agricultural field in the south-central portion of the park contains a drained wetland. Restoration of this wetland would provide an interpretive opportunity for the park, improved water quality, and a diverse native habitat that is uncommon in the southern portion of the park.

Cedar Lake is one of the largest lakes in Scott County. Its proximity to Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park makes it a focal point with tremendous potential as a park amenity. However, as validated by the draft TMDL, the lake's recreational and aesthetic value is compromised due to poor water quality. Fish consumption advisories reflect the concentration of mercury in the lake's fish. Significant shoreline erosion exists along the edge of Cedar Lake, especially in the northern portion of the park.

Due to its importance to the park and its already-impaired state, future park development and management needs to be very sensitive to effective stormwater management. Opportunities exist within the park for water quality improvement, some of which have been identified in the draft Implementation Plan for Cedar Lake. The Scott WMO and Cedar Lake Improvement District are potential partners in such projects.

### **Prairie & Grasslands**

The park's existing prairie patches are generally small, poor quality, and disconnected. Although unlikely to attract grassland birds that are in decline regionally, these areas provide additional habitat diversity in the park for wildlife and also for nature education and observation. They would benefit greatly from expansion through additional prairie plantings, as well as aggressive management and connection to other native habitats. Over the long term, however, these prairies may best serve to expand the size of savanna in the park through plantings of oaks and native shrubs.

### **Invasive Species**

Invasive vegetation exists in all but the highest quality native plant communities within the park. These species thrive in disturbed habitats and often dominate and outcompete native plants, resulting in poor habitat diversity and a lower resilience in the face of disturbances and environmental change. Therefore, the control of invasive plants is an important restoration and management issue. Invasive animals, especially non-native earthworms, also cause ecological harm to soils, groundcover, and tree regeneration. Unfortunately, there is no cost-effective way to remove invasive earthworms from forests, but being aware of their presence, not facilitating their spread, and promoting groundcover vegetation that is less palatable to worms can slow infestations.

### **Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

Establishing Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park as a refuge for certain Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) would be appropriate. Given the park's lakeshore, forest, and

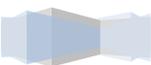
wetland habitats, as well as the potential for additional restored native ecosystems, SGCN species appropriate for the park would include: Wood Thrush, Henslow's Sparrow, Trumpeter Swan, and Blanding's Turtle.

### **Park Development and Surface Water and Groundwater Protection**

Due to Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park's natural resources and its proximity to Cedar Lake, special care should be given to park development. The development and use of the park should capitalize on opportunities to improve the integrity of its natural resources. As discussed above, protection of water resources is one of the most important tasks to ensure healthy ecosystems, especially wetlands and lakes. Techniques that should be employed to protect the integrity of the park during development, and protect surface and groundwater resources, include:

- Conservation Planning and Design. Follow principles of protecting natural areas and minimizing adverse impacts.
- Ecological Buffers. Promote native perennial plantings, especially along watercourses and shorelines.
- Low-Impact Development (LID). Use these techniques for sustainable stormwater management (e.g., infiltration) in developments. The Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO) is a likely partner for LID demonstration sites.
- Ecological Stormwater Treatment Trains. Manage stormwater using a series of natural elements (e.g., swales, prairies, wetlands, ponds).
- Erosion Control. Use appropriate techniques to address erosion from steeper slopes and along trails and roads.
- Diversion Channel. The feasibility study associated with the diversion channel indicated that, while treatment wetlands could be constructed at the south end of Cedar Lake, a potentially better alternative (for lake water quality) may be to simply block the pipe, eliminating this input of water (and associated nutrients).
- Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park will have a role in the initiative to control curlyleaf pondweed, which currently infests the Lake. Currently, the Scott WMO treats (with Park Department permission) approximately 2 acres of curlyleaf pondweed adjacent to the park; however, larger treatments will be necessary if curlyleaf pondweed is ultimately to be controlled to acceptable levels.
- Sealing of Unused Wells. Abandon unused wells per Minnesota Department of Health standards.
- Proper Material Storage and Handling. Store, handle, and dispose of hazardous and recyclable materials using County waste management procedures.
- Other Best Management Practices. Use best practices in areas where they are available and appropriate.

### **Ecological Stewardship Vision**



Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park contains existing park amenities, native habitats, and abuts Cedar Lake, one of the County's largest water bodies. Past and existing land uses, habitat fragmentation, and invasive species have compromised these natural features and limited their conservation value. Restoring native ecosystems, enhancing degraded habitats, addressing invasive species infestations, providing ecological connections and protecting core habitats will be critical to maximize the conservation benefits of the park. Activities that will bring the most conservation value to the park and surrounding area are those that directly contribute to Cedar Lake water quality improvements or that provide education and demonstration for private land contributions to improved water quality; those that enhance the park's Maple-basswood forest, the sites only core habitat area; and those that create habitat connectivity.

The park provides unique opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Given its history, location, and existing natural resources, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park provides opportunities for programmed/active recreation as well as more passive, natural-resource based recreation. The southern half of the park is more developed and lends itself to more active uses (e.g., swimming, picnics) and a restoration program focused on savanna and prairie, while the northern half contains the largest blocks of forest and wetland, more appropriate for passive uses (e.g., hiking, birding, camping).

# Development Plan

## Overview

The development plan for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park reflects findings from public feedback and local leadership, natural resources inventory, cultural resources assessment, technical reviews, and consensus reached between the public, Citizen Design Team, Parks Advisory Commission and the County Board regarding how the park should be developed to meet regional needs.

While the plan will serve as the guide for developing the park over the next 10 to 15 years (the common life of a master plan document) it should be recognized that it is dynamic and will evolve over time as implementation steps are made, as trends and recreation needs change, and as operational experiences all help further inform the needs and capacity of the site.

## Development Plan Overview

The development plan provides features and amenities to meet current and anticipated recreational and educational demands. The mix of amenities offers opportunity for short visits, day-long outings as well as overnight stays. The planned amenities provide for winter and summer use, with the flexibility to modify the extent of each through programming.

## Development Areas

The park consists of three development areas:

- North Woods
- Market Learning Center
- Lakeside Recreation Area



**Figure 13: Major Development Areas of Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park**

## North Woods

This area of the park focuses on preserving the site's high quality natural amenities and offering facilities for recreation and education that fit sustainably into and compliment these natural features.

*Two Wildlife Viewing/Lake Overlook* points located on the shore offer bird watching, shore fishing and scenic viewing of the lake. These amenities can support a variety of nature education and outdoor recreation programs as well as passive use. One and a half miles of paved trail offer enjoyment of the Maple-basswood forest and wetlands providing birding and wildflower observation opportunities. The trail connects to adjacent neighborhoods, to the south end of the park, and to the recreation facilities planned for this area of the park. Design of the trail focuses on access and enjoyment of these features while limiting the development footprint and minimizing loss of habitat value.



**Figure 14: North Woods Development Area Close Up**

A seven to ten acre *off-leash dog area* is planned for the northwest corner of this area. Restoration of tilled land to Maple-basswood forest will enhance the habitat value of the existing forest. The restored forest areas will also provide screening and buffering of County Road 89 and Pexa Drive and the off-leash dog area. A 30-40 car parking lot will serve the off-leash dog area use, trail and other passive use, and programs based out of this area of the park.



## Market Learning Center Area

This area of the park centers around the theme 'Food, From the Soil to the Table' and focuses on features and amenities to support hands-on food growing and food making experiences; food source and production education and awareness; and local and sustainable options for food growing. Features include agricultural demonstration fields, gardens, restored prairie and wetlands and a paved trail loop.



**Figure 15: Market Learning Center Development Area Close Up**

The center of the Market Learning Center activity area will consist of demonstration and community gardens, orchards and edible landscaping elements, outdoor classrooms, picnic space and 4-season classroom and operations building, and will be surrounded by demonstration agricultural lands. The classroom and operations building will compliment the outdoor activities, offering year-round programming as well as food preparation and cooking instruction facilities. Open space is designed around the gardens and building for farmers markets, fairs and festivals.



Support facilities for the Market Learning Center area include agricultural support buildings, a 50-car parking lot, and paved trail loop. Additional parking is located in the Main Parking area (200-vehicles) and natural surface overflow parking lot designed to accommodate approximately 500 vehicles.

## Lakeside Recreation Area

### Development Plan Overview

Sweeping views of Cedar Lake and an expanse of open space with majestic shade trees within a nostalgic backdrop of farm buildings have attracted families and groups to visit and hold their special gatherings at the site for decades; as a part of the Cedar Lake Farm and Day Resort since the late 1960's and as Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Since 2009. The development plan for the lakeside recreation area recognizes the popularity and success of the site's existing features and builds on the concept of the site as an active gathering place for families, small groups and large community events. Development focuses primarily on enhancing and expanding existing features to meet expectations of today's users, to improve functioning and to meet code requirements. Enhancements identified will fully maximize the potential of this unique and popular lakeside recreation site.



Figure 16: Lakeside Recreation Development Area Close Up

### ***Beach, Playground and Picnicking Area***

For play and picnicking activities, the development plan makes enhancements to existing features, adds new amenities, and adjusts the location of features to provide multiple complimentary activities in proximity.



The beach area will be expanded in size and upgrades will be made to the patio on the nearby picnic pavilion which provides restrooms and changing space. This building will continue to provide reservation picnicking and prep kitchen space for group rentals and will continue to have the potential to offer concessions and equipment rental. A splash pad is called for in the plan as an alternative to swimming that can be implemented if water quality continues to limit use of the beach over the coming years. A splash pad would offer a water-play feature during times of poor water quality at the swimming beach.

To compliment beach swimming activities, the volley courts will be upgraded and new horse shoe courts are planned between the playground and picnic pavilion replacing the existing horse shoe courts located along the existing parking lot.

A playground is planned west of the picnic pavilion and is envisioned as having a farm and food theme with a natural playground design that incorporates natural play elements. Natural playground spaces tend to be custom design solutions that emphasize raw materials of wood, stone, sand and shaped earth forms.

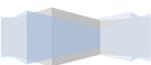


Several informal picnicking sites will be located near the beach and playground area, with the potential of utilizing two existing shelters.



### ***Fishing and Boating***

Fishing and boating opportunities are improved with this development plan. Two fishing piers are planned— one located in the active use area and one associated with the group camp site on the east end of the park – and shore fishing will be provided as a part of shoreland restoration projects. A canoe and kayak launch is planned with a boat house that can serve either as rental space for canoe and kayaks that are privately owned, or as the storage space for canoes and kayaks rented on-site. Visits to the park from the lake are supported by the addition of a boat dock with day-use slips.



### *Group Camping*

A group camp is planned for the eastern edge of the park within a Maple-basswood forest. This area offers a lakeside gathering space with a fishing pier or dock. Restroom facilities associated with the Large Group Picnic Shelter (described below) will also serve the group camp.



Construction of the group camp within a Maple-Basswood forest offers challenges and opportunities. To preserve this native plant community as much as possible and the habitat it provides will require careful design and management of the site. Its location will provide an opportunity for groups to learn about a native forest community and its ecological value. Preserving it will ensure the possibility that campers will see native wildlife such as woodpeckers and cavity nesting ducks, along with their fishing experience and water activities in this lakeside setting. Opportunities to tie the use of the site to educational programming will be used and on-site learning will be incorporated into the design. For example the entrance trail will include tree and plant identification markers and interesting natural history and edible plant facts. Such programming will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the habitat and will build awareness about native plants and their ecological interest and value.

### *Community and Family Gatherings and Events*

The development plan builds on the popularity of the site for community and family gatherings and events, making improvements to maximize the use of the space and existing farm structures that visually define the park and its history of use.

#### *Lakeside Gathering Area*

The area known as the 'Fest Tent Area' (because of the use of a 100' x 30' yellow and white striped 'fest tent' for decades) will continue as the focal outdoor large-group lakeside gathering space in the park. Through landscaping, natural design elements and minor hardscaping the space will be enhanced and defined as a separate space, yet flow with the rest of the site. This area is intended to provide space for outdoor receptions, family reunions, company picnics and community events. An area of the shore designed with framed views will offer a wedding ceremony space as well as informal viewing.



**Wedding at Cedar Lake Farm**

## Large Group Picnic Shelter

A large group picnic shelter is planned on the south end of the lake. This location will offer framed views of Cedar Lake from the highest point in the park. A 30-car parking lot will serve the picnic shelter and group camp site and a restroom facility will also be shared.

## Renovated 1913 Dairy Barn

The barn at Cedar Lake Farm has capacity to help fully maximize the parks role as a major picnic and event site. The barn overlooks much of the lakeside recreation site and has sweeping views of Cedar Lake. Its size can accommodate large groups and its construction as a bank barn where both the upper and lower levels are directly accessible from the exterior offers advantages related to use, access and renovation phasing. Visible from County Road 2 the structure has become a popular landmark and is recognized in the community as a symbol of the site's history as a gather place and the area's agricultural heritage. Its integration into the development plan

provides functional value for recreational use as well. It

also lends a sense of place to the site and makes a tie to the sites history, both recognized as having value to the local community.

The barn will serve three primary functions; as an indoor large-group reservation event site, programming space, and as a warming facility to support year-round activities. The structure is in generally good condition, and the plan calls for general restoration and repairs

related to reinforcement of the upper level structure, siding, windows, and the foundation.

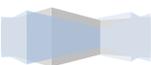
It's important to note that the architectural designs presented are intended to be flexible, to allow for modifications based on new information and in response to development projects that may be implemented according to a different phasing than was anticipated, and in response to operational experiences that may suggest improvements to the specific features and flow of the structure.



**Barn at Cedar Lake Farm**



**Barn with Architect Rendering**



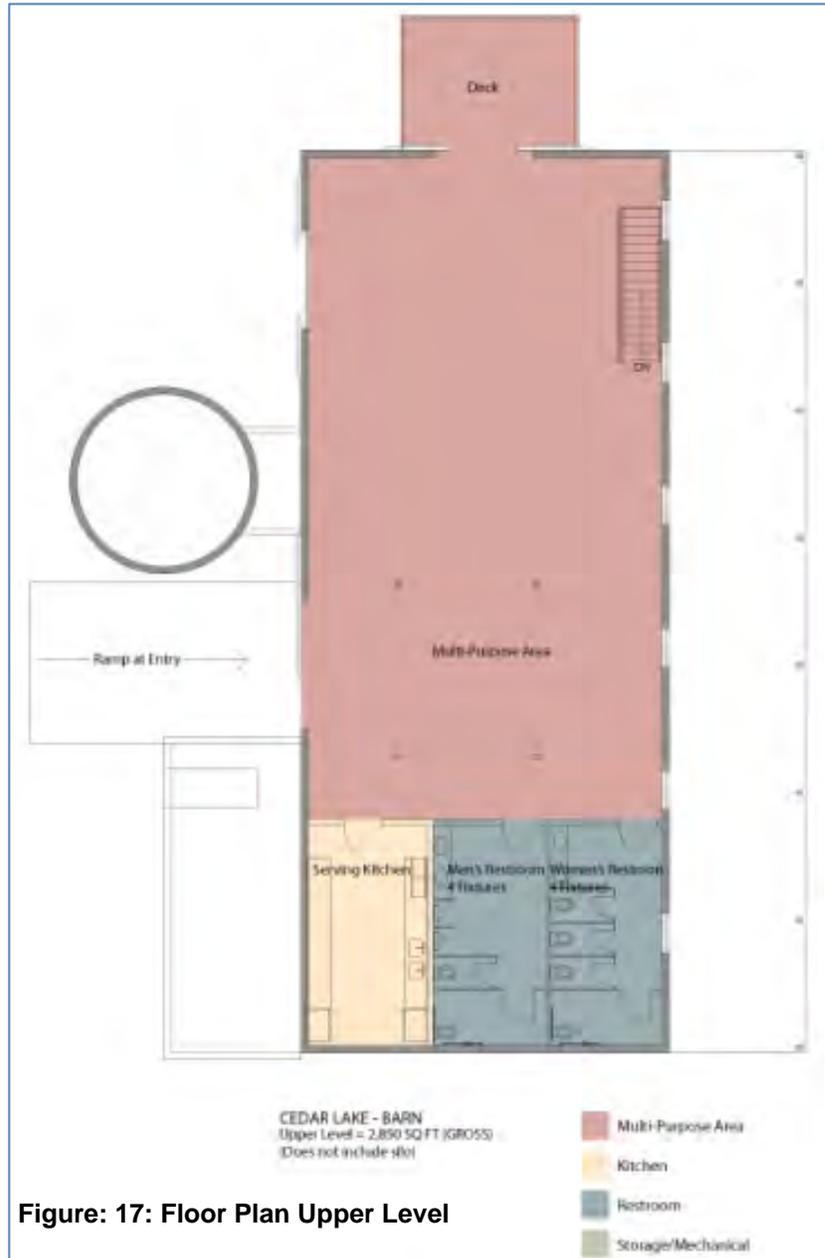
## Barn Upper Level

The upper level of the barn will be used as a multi-purpose space for events and as a picnic shelter. It is a 2,850 square foot open area with capacity for up to 150 people (seated at tables) and 460 people (standing) and is suitable to many types of gatherings including banquets, dances, reunions, presentations, musical performances, exhibits and weddings. It will remain a 3-season facility and its distinct barn character will be retained. It is a two+ story rectangular space framed with heavy timber and is open and airy with very few columns. The floor is wood plank, and the walls and ceilings are wood framing covered in wood siding or sheathing.



**Barn at Cedar Lake Farm**

Enhancements to the upper level will focus on improvements to lighting, accessibility, views, and support features. Windows will be added to the east wall and a deck to the north wall. Men's and women's restrooms and a serving kitchen will be added to support this area as an event, gathering and meeting space.



**Figure: 17: Floor Plan Upper Level**

### Barn Lower Level

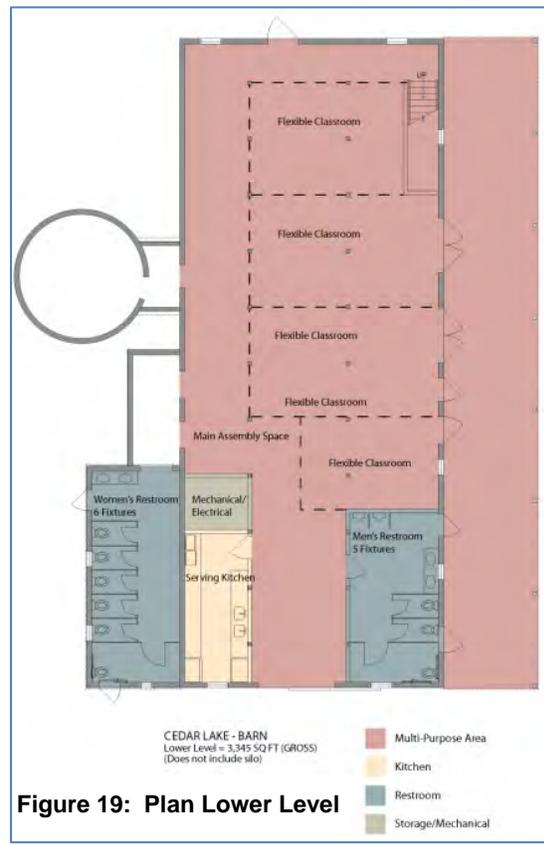
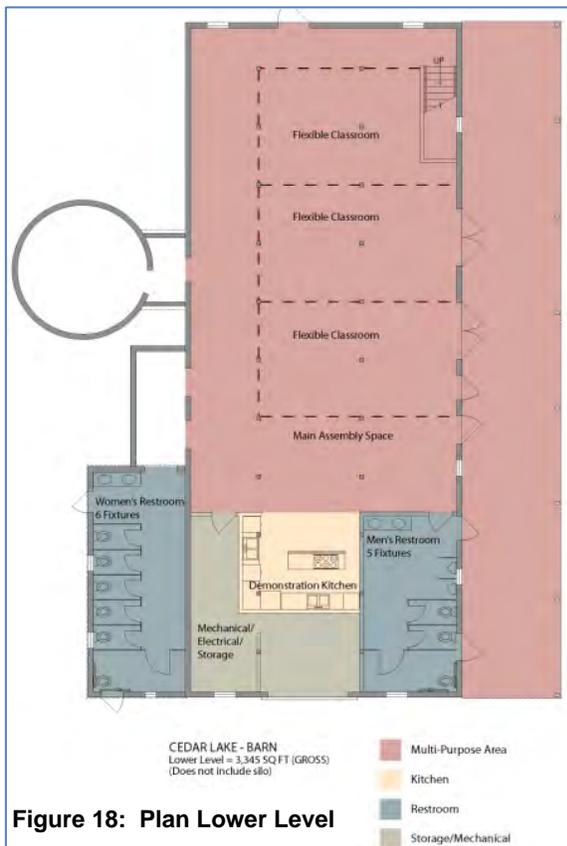
The lower level of the barn is a one-story rectangular space framed with heavy timber, a gravel floor, and concrete block or cast walls. The ceiling height is relatively low and does not lend itself to larger gatherings. However, seating at tables, events with display tables and circulation aisles, and educational uses are well suited to this space. The plan calls for restoration of the lower level to serve as a 4-season multi-purpose space for events, small gatherings, and for youth and adult education classes.



**Barn at Cedar Lake Farm**

A connection and transition to the exterior is provided through the covered outdoor area along the east wall. Enhancements will create this area into a patio to support integration of indoor and outdoor activities. The patio faces a large open space, the 'Multi-Purpose Winter Recreation Area' (described further below). Restrooms in the lower level of the barn will support these activities, and in the winter and will serve as a warming house.

Two floor plans offer options for the lower level layout. Both identify flexible classroom and assembly space, and one includes a demonstration kitchen for cooking and food related classes. The Market Learning Center is envisioned to provide a demonstration kitchen in the long term. Use of the barn for this in the short term (next ten years) may be warranted depending on demand for this type of programming and the timing of the barn's renovation and the updated



anticipated development of the Market Learning Center. All of these factors will be considered as phasing of the barn renovation is implemented.

### *Silo and Accessory Buildings*

The silo, located on the west side of the barn, can be converted to an elevator if accessibility between the upper and lower level of the barns is desired in the future. Conversion of the silo to a climbing wall is an alternative use that adds a recreational option for youth and young adults.



Several farmstead accessory buildings remain on site – a grain storage building, chicken coop, machine storage shed and windmill, in fair to good condition and a corn crib in very good condition. The windmill pump house was restored in 2011 by an Eagle Scout and will remain in its current location. The other structures can support a mix of support functions such as picnic shelters, outdoor classroom space, trash enclosures and can be considered for reuse at the group camp as a camper cabin.

### *WWII Memorial*

Visibility of this 1942 fieldstone bar-be-que and World War II memorial will be improved with landscaping. The memorial will receive minor repair and a new dedication added to replace the original. This structure could be disassembled and moved if more detailed site planning indicates an improved location.

### *Farm House*

The farm house was built circa 1900 and is a two story stick-framed structure with a gable roof. It has a four season porch, summer kitchen, dining room, living room, bathroom, sitting room and two bedrooms and is in fair to good condition. Proposed uses include meeting space and overnight lodging. The house could compliment weddings at Cedar Lake Farm serving as a Bride’s Cottage and as support space for wedding parties. This function would also include an attractive site for small outdoor weddings and receptions.



**House at Cedar Lake Farm**

While the house was found to have a complimentary value to park activities the concept for renovating it is based on securing non-county funds and resources. The Spring Lake Area Alternative Learning Center and the Scott Historical Society and other organizations are potential partners. This concept includes a five



**House with Architect Rendering**

year timeline for progress to begin, and call for demolition of the house if no progress is made by the end of the five year period.

### ***Multi-Purpose Winter Recreation Area***

East of the barn, flowing out from the lower level patio is a large open space envisioned to support winter recreation. Just a few of the programming and activities that will be further explored include sledding, snow or ice sculpture activities, ice skating, and trial winter camping. The barn patio and indoor warming areas will serve as support for winter recreation in this area.

### ***Disc Golf***

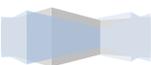
An 18-hole disc golf course provides an alternate day-use activity and compliments the group camp and large-group picnic shelter features. It will be located in the open space area between the day-use boat dock and County Road 2 and areas following the trail towards the large-group picnic shelter and the barn. The conversion of the landscape here over time to oak savanna and woodland will provide buffering, visual interest and course challenges.



## **Trails**

A 4-mile paved trail system is planned for the park. The trail network flows into adjacent neighborhoods providing easy resident access, connects all areas of the park, and offers loops through different landscapes and use areas providing a diversity of experience. The concept trail alignment was drawn based on topography, buffering needs (of residential property and park uses), park amenities and environmental sensitivity. Expansion of forest areas and new landscaping will be used to buffer areas where the trail alignment is in proximity to residents and higher use areas of the park, to limit sight and sound disruption for both the park user and adjacent residents.

At the time of construction, trail alignment will be refined based on field assessment that will consider buffering for adjacent residents. Other park uses, such as the agricultural field demonstration area that is encircled by a trail loop will also influence trail alignment. Adjacent residents and the public will be notified when construction planning begins and asked for input as plans are developed.



## Roads and Parking

### Roads

The main park entrance road will be located at the intersection of County Road 2 and Juniper Avenue, with Juniper Avenue re-aligned 800 feet to the west. The new intersection location will offer improved site lines for improved safety, improved parking and circulation and will allow the lakeside landscape to be fully maximized with amenities. Landscaping will be included with construction for sight and noise buffering of nearby residential property. From the new intersection alignment at County Road 2 Juniper Avenue will make a gentle arc towards Willow Lane. The point at which the roadway will transition from a park entrance to a primarily residential road serving residents on Juniper Avenue and Willow Lane is of interest to residents who are concerned about increased traffic in the neighborhood as a result of park visitors continuing on the roadway onto Willow Lane. This plan recognizes that signage and landscaping improvements should be used to minimize park traffic from continuing into the neighborhood. As plans for development of the road are prepared, the public and adjacent residents will be notified and asked for feedback on the plans.

Other roadways adjacent to Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park include County Road 89, 255<sup>th</sup> Street and Pexa Avenue. The park is bisected mid-way by 255<sup>th</sup> which runs east-west. Connection from the park to 255<sup>th</sup> will consist of an at-grade trail crossing. Pexa Avenue runs along the north boundary of the park. A 30-40 car parking lot facility is planned off of Pexa Avenue. No park access or parking facilities are planned along County Road 89.

### Parking

#### Lakeside Recreation Area

The main parking lot serving the lakeside recreation area has capacity for 200 cars. An additional 80-car parking lot with drop-off capacity is located in proximity of the barn. An overflow parking area with capacity for 500 cars will support large community event parking needs. A 30-car parking lot/drop off site will support the group picnic shelter and group camp.

#### Market Learning Center

A 50-car parking lot will support the Market Learning Center and will serve as a trail head.

#### North Woods

A 30-40 car parking lot will serve the off-leash dog area

# Natural Resources Management Plan

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## Overview

This section of the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan presents a plan for the park's ecological assets and is designed specifically to guide restoration, enhancement, and management of the park's natural areas and to inform the design and placement of development amenities in the park. This Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) is based on the following natural resource goals for the park:

1. Restore the diversity, beauty, and ecological integrity of native terrestrial and aquatic plant communities;
2. Improve habitat for desirable wildlife;
3. Improve the ecological functioning of the park and mitigate impacts of park development on natural systems by integrating ecological restoration with development; and
4. Develop an ecological stewardship program for restoration and perpetual management of the park's natural areas.
5. Complement efforts to restore Cedar Lake (which is considered impaired due to excessive nutrients and mercury).

This section provides a discussion of the benefits of ecological restoration, our restoration and management philosophy, the vision for target native plant communities throughout the park, the stages of restoration and management, management units, implementation tasks, and schedules. An overview of existing conditions is presented in the Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment chapter.

## Benefits of Ecological Restoration

Scott County has a long history and strong dedication to the conservation and enjoyment of its natural resources. The County recognizes the critical role that natural resources play in healthy and sustainable communities, and the importance of ecological restoration and perpetual stewardship. Restoration of native plant communities improves the health of ecosystems, including wildlife habitat and ecological functions. The restoration of native plant species in the park's forests, woodlands, wetlands, and prairies will provide opportunities for populations of breeding birds, invertebrates, mammals, and other wildlife, as well as opportunities for enjoyment by park users. Ecological restoration and management also helps to ensure the provision of numerous other "ecosystem services," such as air and water purification, runoff management, groundwater recharge, erosion control, and aesthetic landscapes.

## Restoration and Management Philosophy

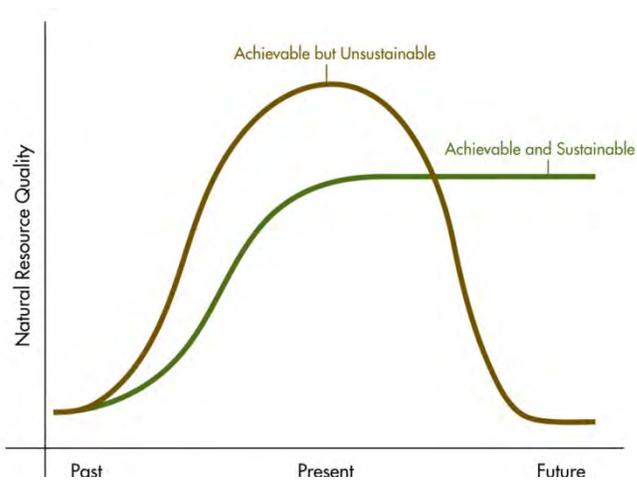
The philosophy of ecological restoration focuses on creating healthy and sustainable ecosystems, often within the context of a developed or disturbed landscape. This natural resource management plan was informed by the park's regional context, position in the watershed, pre-European settlement vegetation, and current conditions. Through this NRMP, it



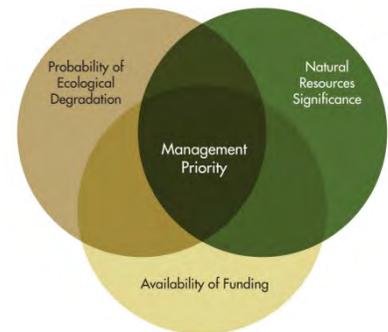
is our intent to restore plant communities that are native to the area, and where possible, native to the site. However, changes in the landscape and existing conditions often preclude the possibility of re-creating the original landscapes present 150 years ago, and the goals for a given restoration area will dictate the level of effort expended. Therefore, not all natural areas will be restored to exceptional quality native plant communities, but all will be restored and/or managed to meet park goals. There are also active park use areas that will be retained as or converted to primarily a turf and shade tree landscape. As healthy and sustainable ecosystems are established in the park, wildlife populations, ecological functioning, and human enjoyment will be enhanced.

### A Sustainable Strategy

Ecological restoration is a complex science and art that is influenced by site factors (soil, size, existing vegetation) surrounding land use, and is almost always done within a context of limited funding. Failed restorations are costly upfront and can drain resources into the future. In the process of targeting areas of land for restoration and subsequent management of those areas, adherence to three management strategies will help ensure that conservation goals are met and that restoration projects fit sustainably within the County’s budgetary framework and resource availability. The first strategy is to develop site goals that are based on a prioritization process that considers natural resources significance, availability of funding and other resources, and the probability of ecological degradation. Secondly, the target quality of the plant community or habitat has to be sustainable and its end point well-articulated and measurable.



**Figure 20: Relationship of Resource Quality Target, Achievability and Sustainability**



**Figure 21: Prioritization Strategy for Natural Resource Management**

Finally, restoration and management plans need to be seen as flexible because of the variability in timing of funding, restoration activities, response of a site to interventions, the changing management needs of plantings, and changing financial circumstances. Programs need at times to be changed in response to new scientific data and new insights after restoration has been initiated. For these reasons, this NRMP should be viewed as being neither conclusive nor

absolute. This plan is a starting point in an ongoing process of restoring the park’s biodiversity and natural processes. It is intended to guide major restoration and management efforts and projects. It is expected that restoration and management activities will be refined and modified as more detailed inventory and assessment is done and as a part of project design at the time of implementation. Regular monitoring and reporting during the restoration process will provide feedback on the program’s effectiveness and generate information to evaluate and justify proposed changes to the restoration and management program. This practice of “adaptive management” sets in motion a cycle of evaluation, adjustment and refinement. It is important that adaptive management begins when restoration and enhancement begin, and that it continues in perpetuity as part of park stewardship.

### **Ecological Stewardship Vision**

Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park contains existing park amenities, native habitats, and abuts Cedar Lake, one of the County’s largest water bodies. Past and existing land uses, habitat fragmentation, and invasive species have compromised these natural features and limited their conservation value. Restoring native ecosystems, enhancing degraded habitats, addressing invasive species infestations, providing ecological connections and protecting core habitats will be critical to maximize the conservation benefits of the park. Activities that will bring the most conservation value to the park and surrounding area are those that directly contribute to Cedar Lake water quality improvements or that provide education and demonstration for private land contributions to improved water quality, and those that enhance core habitats and habitat connectivity.

The park provides unique opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Given its history, location, and existing natural resources, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park provides opportunities for programmed/active recreation as well as more passive, natural-resource based recreation. The southern half of the park is more developed and lends itself to more active uses (e.g., swimming, picnics) and a restoration program focused on savanna and prairie, while the northern half contains the largest blocks of forest and wetland, more appropriate for passive uses (e.g., hiking, birding, camping).

### **Target Native Plant Communities**

Based on Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park’s natural history, specific environmental conditions, and its proposed uses, this NRMP provides guidance to restore and/or manage the following native plant communities:

- Maple-Basswood Forest
- Mesic Savanna/Woodland
- Mesic Prairie
- Wet Meadow
- Cattail Marsh
- Mixed Emergent Marsh
- Aquatic Bed Wetland
- Open Water Wetland



Figure 21 illustrates the target native plant communities for the park. In some instances, restoration of these native plant communities will entail enhancement of an existing plant community (e.g., converting an altered/non-native forest into a Mesic Forest), while other areas will be restored from a completely different land cover type (e.g., converting an old field into a Mesic Prairie). While Wet Prairie is not explicitly listed above as a target native plant community nor illustrated in Figure 21, narrow strips of this plant community would be appropriate at the transition between Mesic Prairie and wetlands or open water.

Plant species lists for restoration of native plant communities are provided in Appendix B. Native plant materials should have a source-origin within 200 miles of the park whenever possible, and only native, wild-type (non-cultivar) species should be used. Substitutions for specified seed and plant materials may be necessary due to the rapidly changing availability and pricing of native plant materials. Every effort should be made to match the ecological purpose of species that are unavailable in the selection of replacement species.

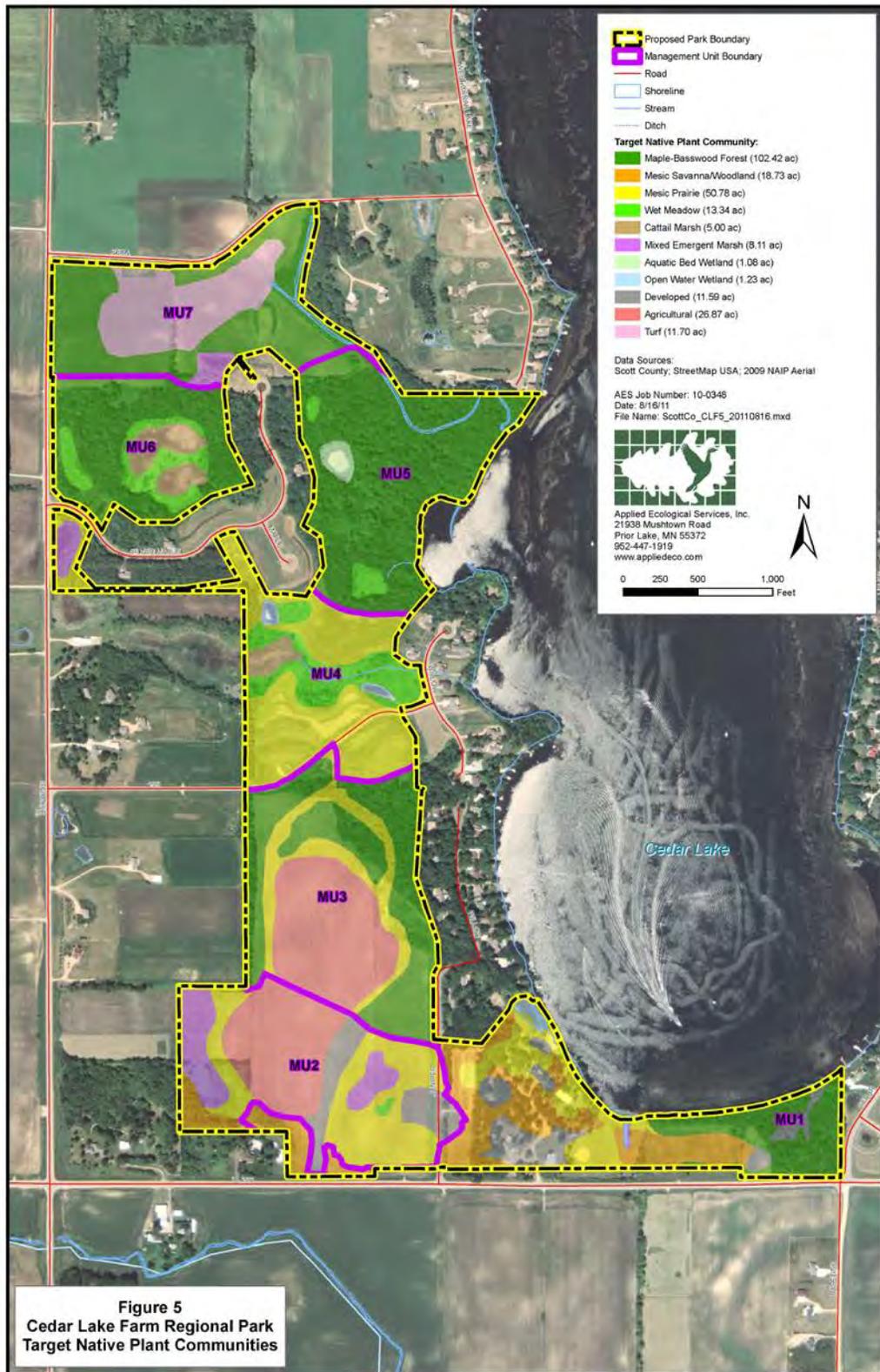


Figure 32: Target Native Plant Communities – Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park

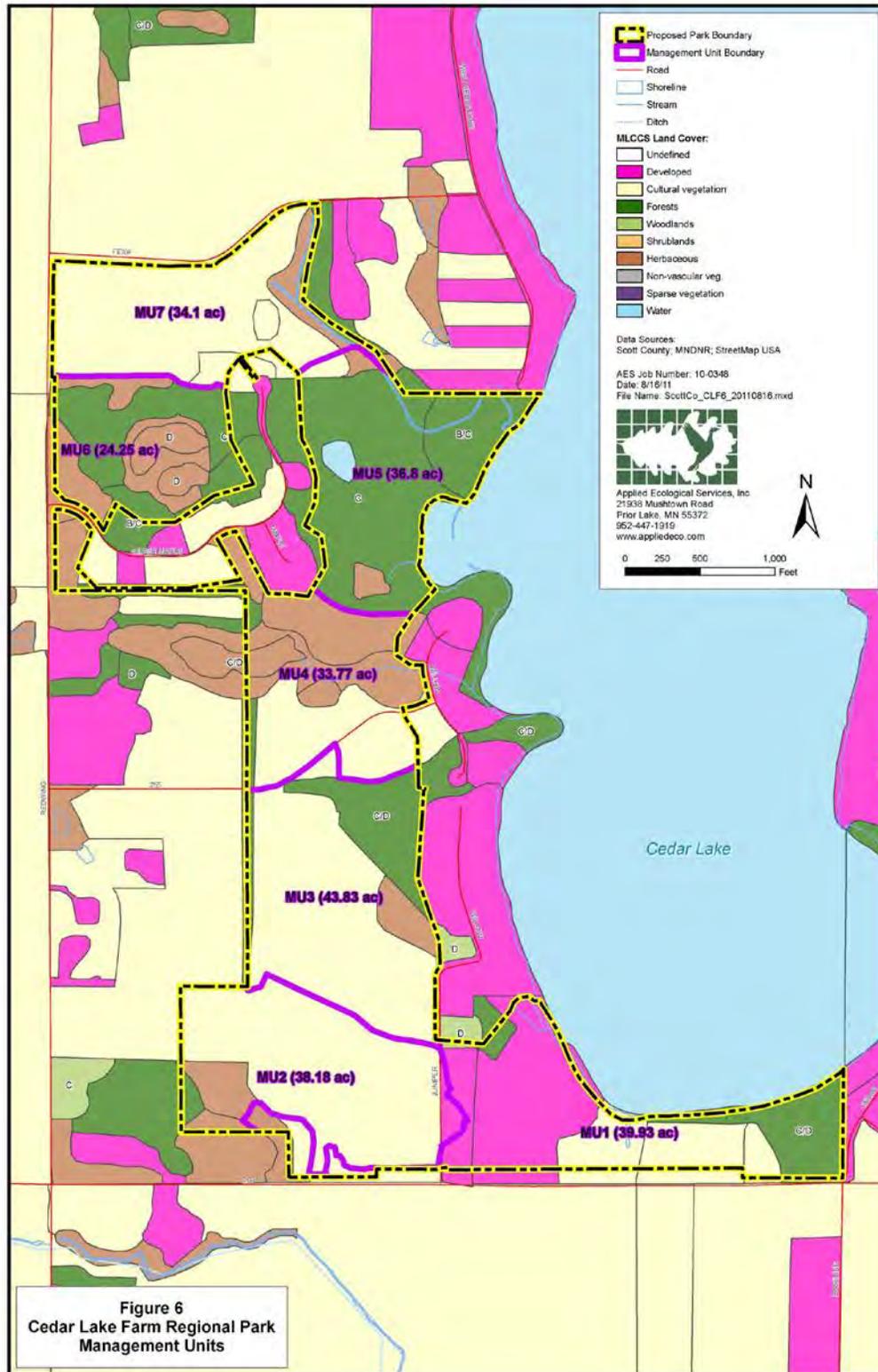


Figure 6  
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park  
Management Units

Figure 23: Management Units – Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park

## Restoration and Management Approach

### Restoration and Management Stages and Implementation Phasing

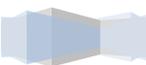
Ecological restoration and management is comprised of two stages:

1. *Restoration and Short-Term Management*: This initial stage is the most intensive and costly. Significant effort is often necessary to reestablish native vegetation and plant community structure. Actions include tasks such as selective woody brush removal, spraying invasive species with herbicide, native seeding and planting, and using bio-control techniques when available. After invasive plants are removed and native seed and plants are installed, short-term management is critical. The period of time required to complete this restoration and short-term management stage varies depending on the condition of the ecological system, its response to restoration efforts, as well as the size of the site and intensity and scope of the of the restoration work. Typically this initial stage requires about three years for a given management unit, after which the perpetual management stage begins.
2. *Perpetual Management*: After achieving initial restoration goals within a management unit, the restoration process shifts to a reduced-intervention, lower-cost perpetual management stage. The perpetual management stage is critical for maintaining the value of the investment, perpetuating healthy plant communities, and maximizing the ecological and aesthetic benefits of the native plant communities. This perpetual management provides long-term control of invasive species, remedial seeding/planting as necessary, and maintains necessary disturbance patterns (e.g., fire) within the management units.

To carry out these two stages at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, work tasks are listed and scheduled over a multi-year period for each of the park's management units. Restoration and management at the park are scheduled to occur in phases. Once work begins in a management unit, it is important that all tasks be completed in sequence, or the restoration targets for that unit may not be achieved.

At Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, restoration and management will likely begin in the southern portion of the park, where the earliest park development and improvements are proposed. Subsequent restoration and management activities will occur elsewhere in the park, depending on park development schedules, ecological priorities, and restoration and management opportunities.

It is important that the restoration and management program and schedule be flexible. Flexibility is necessary because some tasks require suitable weather conditions or are dependent on the completion of preceding tasks. Flexibility is also necessary because feedback from the monitoring program may result in changes of strategy, techniques, and timing in order to meet restoration goals.



## Ecological Monitoring & Reporting

Throughout both stages of ecological restoration and management, ecological monitoring provides important data about the effectiveness of the program. Initial baseline monitoring provides important information against which future monitoring data can be compared. Monitoring assesses the response of native plant communities by measuring ecological indicators of plant community recovery. Effectiveness is judged against the objectives of the project design (i.e., performance standards), and goals can be modified over time as a result of this feedback. Fixed photo-reference points should be established in the park for repeat photography of representative plant communities. Photo documentation throughout the entire restoration and management process (including baseline photographs, taken prior to initial restoration tasks) will provide a valuable record of restoration progress. The results of annual monitoring are used to direct the restoration and management activities for the upcoming year.

Annual ecological monitoring reports, usually completed at the end of a year, provide the locations and dates of all restoration and management efforts undertaken, site photographs, and future work that needs to be completed to address restoration goals. Monitoring reports are useful for documenting progress, assessing the need for modifications to the restoration and management program (i.e., adaptive management), informing County staff and park users of the status of the program, and informing municipalities and regulatory agencies about progress towards achieving conservation goals. Within a given management unit, detailed ecological monitoring and reporting should be done annually for at least the first three years following initial restoration activities. This level of effort is warranted during initial restoration work and the critical establishment period of native plantings. Quantitative or semi-quantitative monitoring and reporting is useful for guiding adaptive management and is necessary to evaluate achievement of performance standards. Less intensive monitoring and reporting should then continue in perpetuity, but frequency and level of effort should be based on site conditions, recent restoration and management activities, pressure by invasive species, etc.

## Specialized Training

Specialized training (often involving licensing or certification), oversight, and guidance are required of personnel before implementation of this NRMP. Personnel and volunteers involved in prescribed burning, brush control, monitoring, seed collection, etc. should receive training commensurate with the activity in which they would be involved. Training is especially important for those activities that may have risk and safety implications, such as prescribed burning and herbicide application.

## Management Units and Task Schedules

Figures 21 and 22 illustrate ecological management units for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park. Each management unit contains a variety of land cover types and requires a variety of restoration and management tasks. Management units were delineated considering property

boundaries, anticipated phasing of park development, existing roads, proposed trails, reasonable-sized areas to manage, management needs (e.g., use of prescribed fire), the need for wildlife refugia (e.g., nearby alternate habitat for prairie invertebrates and other wildlife during and after prescribed fires), and proposed uses as presented in the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Master Plan.

Additional native plantings (e.g., entry plantings and building foundation plantings) will be completed as part of a separate landscape plan for the park and are not included in this NRMP. Invasive landscaping plants that should not be used in the park are listed in Appendix C, and recommended native woody plants for native landscaping and ecological buffering are provided in Appendix D.

The following sections outline restoration and management tasks to be performed throughout the park as well as within each individual management unit. Implementation of this NRMP should proceed sequentially, beginning with tasks conducted throughout the entire park, then proceeding to individual management units. Based on the anticipated phasing of park development, management units have been prioritized as indicated by their identification code (MU1, MU2, etc.). While management units can be combined, split, and implemented in a sequence different than suggested by their identification code, the issues listed above (property boundaries, management needs, etc.) should be considered when refining the implementation schedule.

## Restoration and Management Tasks for the Entire Park

Restoration and management tasks that will be carried out park-wide at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park include:

### 1. *Biological Inventory*

- As soon as scheduling allows, conduct a thorough plant inventory to inform future restoration planning and identify any rare plants that may be present on site.
- As soon as scheduling allows, conduct a wildlife inventory to better understand the desirable and undesirable wildlife using the park. This will help inform habitat management strategies to favor rare or uncommon species in or near the park.
- A “bioblitz” is a cost-effective way to leverage regional technical expertise and involve County residents and park users to inventory a Park’s biological resources.

### 2. *Hydrologic Assessment* - These hydrologic assessment activities are important for informing restoration and management of streams, lakes, and wetlands and for maximizing restoration success of these lowland and aquatic ecosystems.

- Conduct an assessment of subwatershed areas within and outside of the park and draining to park water features. The assessment should illustrate delineated subwatershed boundaries and hydrology information that will inform management of water features. Note that the Cedar Lake watershed has been delineated as part of the lake’s TMDL study.



- Walk all surface waters (streams, lakeshores, wetland edges) within the park, document indications of altered hydrology and erosion, and identify hydrologic restoration needs and opportunities.
- Conduct an inventory of the park's drain tile and other drainage infrastructure using available recorded data, aerial photographs, and field reconnaissance.

### 3. *Deer Herd Management*

- Ongoing deer herd management may be necessary to prevent over-browsing of the herbaceous and shrub layers at the park. Without herd management, the herbaceous ground layer may become depauperate, and planted or desirable volunteer tree seedlings may not germinate or survive. A deer control program may be considered for Cedar Lake Farm if over-browsing and other deer-related conflicts warrant a control.

### 4. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*

- Each year, walk the park's natural areas and document response to native seeding/planting, survivorship, invasive species presence, problems with vegetative cover, and observations of herbivory, erosion, or illicit activities within the park.
- Establish fixed photo-reference points and take photos annually. Prepare annual ecological monitoring report that summarizes findings and provides recommendations for future management.

## Restoration and Short-Term Management - Management Unit 1

### General Description

Management Unit 1 (MU1) is summarized in Table 1a below by presenting existing land cover types, associated acreages, and target native plant communities with associated acreages.

**Table 3. MU1 Restoration Summary**

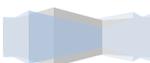
Existing Land Cover Type	Existing Acres	Resulting Native Plant Community Acres
Developed park areas (parking area, buildings, drives, shade trees with turf beneath, etc.)	17.77	NA (Developed: 4.13) Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 8.32 Mesic Prairie: 4.79 Open Water Wetland: 0.53
Turf (open areas)	3.80	NA (Developed: 0.20) Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 1.28 Mesic Prairie: 2.32
Cultivated cropland	3.66	NA (Developed: 0.46) Maple-Basswood Forest: 0.88 Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 2.32
Old field	4.71	Maple-Basswood Forest: 1.41 Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 3.22 Mesic Prairie: 0.08
Maple-Basswood Forest (C/D quality)	7.79	NA (Developed: 0.88) Maple-Basswood Forest: 6.91
Oak Woodland-Brushland (D quality)	0.25	Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 0.25
Degraded forest	0.74	Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 0.55 Mesic Prairie: 0.19
Degraded wetland	1.21	Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 1.00 Mixed Emergent Marsh: 0.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.93</b>	

Note: Acreages estimated, based on MLCCS mapping and Master Plan.

MU1 will be the most developed management unit within the park. Restoration of MU1 will result in a complex mosaic of forest, woodlands, savanna, and prairie, designed to provide a variety of attractive native plant communities appropriate for the more intensive use of this area. The Maple-Basswood Forest in the eastern portion of MU1 contains a somewhat intact native groundlayer; therefore, final planning and park development of this area should be done with sensitivity to this native plant community. Screening and buffering of County Road 2 will also be provided by savanna/woodland plantings. The existing surface water inlet at the south end of Cedar Lake may be redesigned to provide a more natural wetland complex with higher quality habitats for native plants and wildlife, including birds, amphibians, reptiles, and desirable insects. Boardwalks and interpretive signage may also be installed in this enhanced wetland area. Native restoration and stabilization should be conducted along eroding sections of the Cedar Lake shoreline.

### Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Uplands (Maple-Basswood Forest, Mesic Savanna/Woodland & Mesic Prairie)

#### 1. Site Preparation



- Remove structures, impervious surfaces, landscaping, etc. from restoration areas.
  - While it is actively growing, treat turf grass and all other non-native herbaceous groundcover with herbicide (at least twice). Desirable trees, shrubs, and patches of native vegetation shall be maintained and protected.
  - Cropland and old field may be put into Roundup-ready soybean production to prepare these areas for restoration. Soybeans can be harvested in the fall, prior to seeding with natives.
  - Where fuel is sufficient, burn existing vegetation to prepare the site for planting.
  - Any undesirable vegetation that germinates shall again be treated with herbicide (when seedlings are approximately 6" tall).
2. *Establish Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
    - Once weed control is established, seed and/or plant using appropriate local ecotype species. Where possible, seed should be installed with a no-till drill; other areas may use broadcast seeding. Live plants may be used to accent areas of high visibility and to restore appropriate structure and composition to native plant communities.
  3. *Removal of Woody Species: Brushing & Thinning*
    - Cut and stump treat all invasive non-native woody vegetation, including but not limited to: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles.
    - In Maple-Basswood Forest, Mesic Savanna/Woodland, and old field areas, remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody species such as boxelder, hackberry, green ash, American elm, and prickly ash in order to achieve target canopy cover goals (10-60% canopy cover for Mesic Savanna/Woodland) and/or to encourage growth of shade-intolerant keystone species (e.g., oak).
    - Woody clearing should be done only when the ground is frozen, and cut material can be sold for biomass-to-energy or firewood, if feasible. Handling or transport of cut wood should follow all state and federal recommendations to minimize the potential transfer of pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, etc.
  4. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
    - Control weedy species by mowing newly planted areas to 6" height twice the first season of growth, and once the second season.
    - Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application and/or mowing. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: Canada thistle, bull thistle, leafy spurge, sweet clover, ground clover, crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, spotted knapweed, and reed canary grass.
    - Treat invasive non-native woody vegetation seedlings and re-sprouts with foliar herbicide for up to 5 seasons.
    - In Mesic Savanna/Woodland and Mesic Prairie, conduct prescribed burn at the end of the third growing season to reduce litter load, stress non-native plants, and prevent encroachment by undesirable woody species.
  5. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
    - Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.

- Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Wetlands (Mixed Emergent Marsh, perimeter of Open Water Wetland & Cedar Lake Shoreline)

1. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*

- Control invasive non-native vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, and hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails.
- Allow adjacent prescribed burns to continue into wetlands.

2. *Assess & Stabilize Eroding Shorelines*

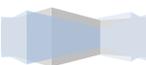
- Assess shoreline for areas of active erosion and identify where stabilization is warranted.
- Wherever feasible, use bioengineering techniques to stabilize eroding sections of shoreline. Harder solutions (e.g., gabion rolls) in conjunction with bioengineering techniques may be warranted along severely eroded sections or areas with significant wave action.

3. *Enhance Native Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*

- Once weed control is established, augment existing native vegetation with appropriate local ecotype native seed and/or plants. Seed should be broadcast onto wet to moist soil (not over open water), and live plants should be used in standing water (i.e., emergent wetland zones). Live planting into MNDNR Public Waters will require a MNDNR Aquatic Transplant Permit.

4. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*

- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
- Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.



**Table 4. MU1 Restoration and Short-Term Management Schedule**

Task	Description/Subtask	Year 1				Year 2			Year 3				
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Site Preparation</b> (all zones except degraded wetland )	Remove anthropogenic structures and landscaping	█											
	Install Roundup-ready soybeans (cropland and old field)	█											
	Treat non-native vegetation with herbicide; at least twice (except soybean areas)	█	█										
	Harvest soybeans			█									
	Prescribed burn (except soybean areas)			█									
	Final prep herbicide (except soybean areas)			█									
<b>Site Preparation</b> (degraded wetland)	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide			█									
	Prescribed burn			█									
	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide				█								
<b>Assess &amp; Stabilize Eroding Shorelines</b>	Assess and implement shoreline stabilization where warranted			█									
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (upland zones where weed control adequate)	Install native seed				█								
	Install live herbaceous plants				█								
	Install live woody plants when dormant							█	█				
<b>Brushing &amp; Thinning</b> (all zones)	Cut & stump treat invasive woody plants				█								
	Remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody plants (Maple-Basswood Forest and Mesic Savanna/Woodland)				█								
<b>Weed Control</b> (all zones)	Mow seeded areas (where warranted and feasible)					█	█			█	█		
	Spot herbicide and/or spot mowing					█	█			█	█		
	Foliar herbicide non-native woody re-growth						█				█		
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (wetland zones, assuming weed control adequate)	Install native seed							█					
	Install live plants								█				
<b>Ecological Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b> (all zones)	Assess/document site, and prepare summary report	█	█	█		█	█		█	█	█		

## Restoration and Short-Term Management - Management Unit 2

### General Description

Management Unit 2 (MU2) is summarized in Table 2a below by presenting existing land cover types, associated acreages, and target native plant communities with associated acreages.

**Table 5. MU2 Restoration Summary**

Existing Land Cover Type	Existing Acres	Resulting Native Plant Community Acres
Grass/gravel parking area	1.16	NA (Developed: 0.90) Mesic Prairie: 0.26
Cultivated cropland	32.06	NA (Developed: 4.45) NA (Agricultural: 11.63) Mesic Prairie: 11.65 Wet Meadow: 0.20 Mixed Emergent Marsh: 4.13
Degraded wetland	3.02	NA (Agricultural: 0.20) Mesic Prairie: 1.35 Mixed Emergent Marsh: 1.47
Old field with trees	1.07	Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 1.07
Degraded forest	0.87	Mesic Savanna/Woodland: 0.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.18</b>	

Note: Acreages estimated, based on MLCCS mapping and Master Plan.

MU2 includes a continuation of park development (including parking lots, a market learning center, and agricultural fields) as well as restoration of a prairie/wetland complexes and savanna/woodland. In order to allow grassland nesting birds to successfully fledge their young, prescribed burning of the prairie will be conducted before mid-April or after August 1, and any prairie haying will be conducted after August 1. In order to provide refugia for wildlife, MU2 and MU4 (containing the park’s largest tracts of prairie) will be burned on rotation, such that only one of these units will be burned in a given year. The wetland restorations proposed for MU2 will consist of restoring the hydrology (through disabling tiles and excavation if necessary) and establishing native plant communities. Restoration of these wetlands will result in high quality habitats for native plants and wildlife, including wetland birds, amphibians, reptiles, and desirable insects. Wetlands should be burned while burning the adjacent prairie. Restoring Mesic Savanna/Woodland in the southwest corner of the management unit will provide screening and buffering of adjacent residential properties. Desirable tree species that naturally regenerate in Mesic Savanna/Woodland areas will be protected from fire and allowed to grow.

### Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Uplands (Mesic Savanna/Woodland & Mesic Prairie)

#### 1. Site Preparation

- Remove grass/gravel parking surface.
- Cultivated cropland and open areas of old field may be put into Roundup-ready soybean production to prepare these areas for restoration. Soybeans can be harvested in the fall, prior to seeding with natives.



- While it is actively growing, treat all non-native herbaceous groundcover with herbicide (at least twice). Desirable trees, shrubs, and patches of native vegetation shall be maintained.
  - Where fuel is sufficient, burn existing vegetation to prepare the site for planting.
  - Any undesirable vegetation that germinates shall again be treated with herbicide (when seedlings are approximately 6" tall).
2. *Establish Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
    - Once weed control is established, seed and/or plant using appropriate local ecotype species. Where possible, seed should be installed with a no-till drill; other areas may use broadcast seeding. Live plants may be used to accent areas of high visibility and to restore appropriate structure and composition to native plant communities.
  3. *Removal of Woody Species: Brushing & Thinning*
    - Cut and stump treat all invasive non-native woody vegetation, including but not limited to: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles.
    - In Mesic Savanna/Woodland, remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody species such as boxelder, hackberry, green ash, American elm, and prickly ash in order to achieve target canopy cover goals (10-60% canopy cover for Mesic Savanna/Woodlands).
    - Woody clearing should be done only when the ground is frozen, and cut material can be sold for biomass-to-energy or firewood, if feasible. Handling or transport of cut wood should follow all state and federal recommendations to minimize the potential transfer of pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, etc.
  4. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
    - Control weedy species by mowing newly planted areas to 6" height twice the first season of growth, and once the second season when vegetation reaches 30 inches or before undesirable species produce seed.
    - Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application and/or mowing. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: Canada thistle, bull thistle, leafy spurge, sweet clover, ground clover, crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, spotted knapweed, and reed canary grass.
    - Treat invasive non-native woody vegetation seedlings and re-sprouts with foliar herbicide for up to 5 seasons.
    - Conduct prescribed burn at the end of the third growing season to reduce litter load, stress non-native plants, and prevent encroachment by undesirable woody species.
  5. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
    - Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
    - Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

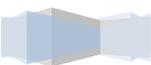
## Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Wetlands (Wet Meadow & Mixed Emergent Marsh)

### 1. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*

- Control invasive non-native vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, and hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails.
  - Allow adjacent prescribed burns to continue into wetlands. Exercise extreme caution regarding fire’s ability to travel through wetlands (i.e., ensure adequate fire breaks).
2. *Enhance Native Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
- Once weed control is established, augment existing native vegetation with appropriate local ecotype native seed and/or plants. Seed should be broadcast onto wet to moist soil (not over open water), and live plants should be used in standing water (i.e., emergent wetland zones).
3. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
  - Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

**Table 6. MU2 Restoration and Short-Term Management Schedule**

Task	Description/Subtask	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Site Preparation</b> (all zones)	Remove grass/gravel parking area	■											
	Install Roundup-ready soybeans (cropland and accessible portions of old field)	■											
	Treat non-native vegetation with herbicide; at least twice (except soybean areas)	■	■										
	Harvest soybeans			■									
	Prescribed burn (except soybean areas)			■									
	Final prep herbicide (except soybean areas)			■									
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (upland zones where weed control adequate)	Install native seed				■								
	Install live herbaceous plants					■							
	Install live woody plants when dormant							■	■				
<b>Brushing &amp; Thinning</b> (all zones)	Cut & stump treat invasive woody plants				■								
	Remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody plants (Mesic Savanna/Woodland)				■								
<b>Weed Control</b> (all zones)	Mow seeded areas (where warranted and feasible)					■	■			■	■		
	Spot herbicide and/or spot mowing					■	■			■	■		
	Foliar herbicide non-native woody re-growth							■			■		
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (wetland zones, assuming weed control adequate)	Install native seed							■					
	Install live plants								■				
<b>Ecological Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b> (all zones)	Assess/document site, and prepare summary report	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■



## Restoration and Short-Term Management - Management Unit 3

### General Description

Management Unit 3 (MU3) is summarized in Table 3a below by presenting existing land cover types, associated acreages, and target native plant communities with associated acreages.

**Table 7. MU3 Restoration Summary**

Existing Land Cover Type	Existing Acres	Resulting Native Plant Community Acres
Cultivated cropland	31.31	NA (Agricultural: 14.93) Maple-Basswood Forest: 11.70 Mesic Prairie: 4.68
Maple-Basswood Forest (C/D quality)	8.80	Maple-Basswood Forest: 7.21 Mesic Prairie: 1.59
Oak Woodland-Brushland (D quality)	0.11	Maple-Basswood Forest: 0.11
Degraded forest	1.06	Maple-Basswood Forest: 1.06
Old field with trees	2.55	NA (Agricultural: 0.15) Maple-Basswood Forest: 1.56 Mesic Prairie: 0.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.83</b>	

Note: Acreages estimated, based on MLCCS mapping and Master Plan.

MU3 includes a continuation of park development (including additional agricultural fields) as well as restoration of a forest/prairie mosaic. Forest restoration will expand the existing Maple-Basswood Forest and provide screening and buffering of adjacent properties. The linear prairie restorations will provide an attractive edge to park trails as well as habitat for native wildlife (e.g., birds and butterflies).

### Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Uplands (Maple-Basswood Forest & Mesic Prairie)

#### 1. *Site Preparation*

- Cultivated cropland and open areas of old field may be put into Roundup-ready soybean production to prepare these areas for restoration. Soybeans can be harvested in the fall, prior to seeding with natives.
- While it is actively growing, treat all non-native herbaceous groundcover with herbicide (at least twice). Desirable trees, shrubs, and patches of native vegetation shall be maintained.
- Where fuel is sufficient, burn existing vegetation to prepare the site for planting.
- Any undesirable vegetation that germinates shall again be treated with herbicide (when seedlings are approximately 6" tall) when vegetation reaches 30 inches or before undesirable species produce seed.

#### 2. *Establish Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*

- Once weed control is established, seed and/or plant using appropriate local ecotype species. Where possible, seed should be installed with a no-till drill; other areas may

use broadcast seeding. Live plants may be used to accent areas of high visibility and to restore appropriate structure and composition to native plant communities.

3. *Removal of Woody Species: Brushing & Thinning*

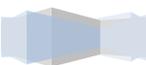
- Cut and stump treat all invasive non-native woody vegetation, including but not limited to: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles.
- In Maple-Basswood Forest, remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody species such as boxelder, hackberry, green ash, American elm, and prickly ash in order to encourage growth of shade-intolerant keystone species (e.g., oak).
- Woody clearing should be done only when the ground is frozen, and cut material can be sold for biomass-to-energy or firewood, if feasible. Handling or transport of cut wood should follow all state and federal recommendations to minimize the potential transfer of pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, etc.

4. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*

- Control weedy species by mowing newly planted areas to 6" height twice the first season of growth, and once the second season when vegetation reaches 30 inches or before undesirable species produce seed.
- Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application and/or mowing. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: Canada thistle, bull thistle, leafy spurge, sweet clover, ground clover, crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, spotted knapweed, and reed canary grass.
- Treat invasive non-native woody vegetation seedlings and re-sprouts with foliar herbicide for up to 5 seasons.
- In Mesic Prairie, conduct prescribed burn at the end of the third growing season to reduce litter load, stress non-native plants, and prevent encroachment by undesirable woody species.

5. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*

- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
- Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.



**Table 8. MU3 Restoration and Short-Term Management Schedule**

Task	Description/Subtask	Year 1				Year 2			Year 3				
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Site Preparation</b> (all zones)	Install Roundup-ready soybeans (cropland and old field)	█											
	Treat non-native vegetation with herbicide; at least twice (except soybean areas)	█	█										
	Harvest soybeans			█									
	Prescribed burn (except soybean areas)			█									
	Final prep herbicide (except soybean areas)			█									
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (upland zones where weed control adequate)	Install native seed				█								
	Install live herbaceous plants				█								
	Install live woody plants when dormant							█	█				
<b>Brushing &amp; Thinning</b> (all zones)	Cut & stump treat invasive woody plants				█								
	Remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody plants (Maple-Basswood Forest)				█								
<b>Weed Control</b> (all zones)	Mow seeded areas (where warranted and feasible)					█	█			█			
	Spot herbicide and/or spot mowing					█	█			█	█		
	Foliar herbicide non-native woody re-growth						█				█		
<b>Ecological Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b> (all zones)	Assess/document site, and prepare summary report	█	█	█		█	█			█	█	█	

## Restoration and Short-Term Management - Management Unit 4

### General Description

Management Unit 4 (MU4) is summarized in Table 4a below by presenting existing land cover types, associated acreages, and target native plant communities with associated acreages.

**Table 9. MU4 Restoration Summary**

Existing Land Cover Type	Existing Acres	Resulting Native Plant Community Acres
Pine plantation	0.33	Mesic Prairie: 0.33
Cultivated cropland	12.73	Mesic Prairie: 12.73
Degraded forest	2.00	Mesic Prairie: 2.00
Old field	6.62	Mesic Prairie: 5.54 Wet Meadow: 0.68 Open Water Wetland: 0.40
Degraded wetland, some with trees	10.59	Mesic Prairie: 2.42 Wet Meadow: 6.79 Mixed Emergent Marsh: 1.07 Open Water Wetland: 0.31
Cattail Marsh (C/D quality)	1.50	Cattail Marsh: 1.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.77</b>	

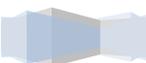
Note: Acreages estimated, based on MLCCS mapping and Master Plan.

Restoration of MU4 will establish patches of upland prairie bisected by a drainageway and associated wetland mosaic. This management unit also includes a narrow strip of prairie extending to the west, terminating around a marsh. In order to allow grassland nesting birds to successfully fledge their young, prescribed burning of the prairie will be conducted before mid-April or after August 1, and any prairie haying will be conducted after August 1. In order to provide refugia for wildlife, MU4 and MU2 (containing the park’s largest tracts of prairie) will be burned on rotation, such that only one of these units will be burned in a given year. The wetland restorations proposed for MU4 will consist primarily of enhancing existing wetland plant communities. Restoration of these wetlands will result in high quality habitats for native plants and wildlife, including wetland birds, amphibians, reptiles, and desirable insects. Wetlands should be burned while burning the adjacent prairie.

### Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Uplands (Mesic Prairie)

#### 1. Site Preparation

- Remove planted pine trees.
- Cultivated cropland and open areas of old field may be put into Roundup-ready soybean production to prepare these areas for restoration. Soybeans can be harvested in the fall, prior to seeding with natives.
- While it is actively growing, treat all non-native herbaceous groundcover with herbicide (at least twice). Desirable trees, shrubs, and patches of native vegetation shall be maintained.



- Where fuel is sufficient, burn existing vegetation to prepare the site for planting, protecting desirable trees and shrubs.
  - Any undesirable vegetation that germinates shall again be treated with herbicide (when seedlings are approximately 6" tall).
2. *Establish Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
    - Once weed control is established, seed and/or plant using appropriate local ecotype species. Where possible, seed should be installed with a no-till drill; other areas may use broadcast seeding. Live plants may be used to accent areas of high visibility and to restore appropriate structure and composition to native plant communities.
  3. *Removal of Woody Species: Brushing & Thinning*
    - Cut and stump treat all invasive non-native woody vegetation, including but not limited to: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles.
    - In degraded forest, remove woody plants in order to restore prairie. An alternative treatment would include leaving some/all native woody plants to provide visual screening on the west side of MU4.
    - Woody clearing should be done only when the ground is frozen, and cut material can be sold for biomass-to-energy or firewood, if feasible. Handling or transport of cut wood should follow all state and federal recommendations to minimize the potential transfer of pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, etc.
  4. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
    - Control weedy species by mowing newly planted areas to 6" height twice the first season of growth, and once the second season when vegetation reaches 30 inches or before undesirable species produce seed.
    - Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application and/or mowing. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: Canada thistle, bull thistle, leafy spurge, sweet clover, ground clover, crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, spotted knapweed, and reed canary grass.
    - Treat invasive non-native woody vegetation seedlings and re-sprouts with foliar herbicide for up to 5 seasons.
    - In Mesic Prairie, conduct prescribed burn at the end of the third growing season to reduce litter load, stress non-native plants, and prevent encroachment by undesirable woody species.
  5. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
    - Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
    - Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Wetlands (Wet Meadow, Mixed Emergent Marsh & perimeter of Open Water Wetland)

1. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
  - Control invasive non-native vegetation with appropriate spot and/or broadcast herbicide application. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to:

glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, and hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails.

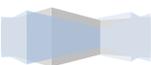
- Burn wetlands to remove thatch, stress reed canary grass, and encourage seed germination. Exercise extreme caution regarding fire's ability to travel through wetlands (i.e., ensure adequate fire breaks).
- Spot and/or broadcast herbicide degraded wetland areas.

2. *Enhance Native Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*

- Once weed control established, augment existing native vegetation with appropriate local ecotype native seed and/or plants. Seed should be broadcast onto wet to moist soil (not over open water), and live plants should be used in standing water (i.e., emergent wetland zones).

3. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*

- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
- Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.



**Table 10. MU4 Restoration and Short-Term Management Schedule**

Task	Description/Subtask	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Site Preparation</b> (all zones except degraded wetland)	Remove planted pines	■											
	Install Roundup-ready soybeans (cropland and old field)	■											
	Treat non-native vegetation with herbicide; at least twice (except soybean areas)	■	■										
	Harvest soybeans			■									
	Prescribed burn (except soybean areas)			■									
	Final prep herbicide (except soybean areas)			■									
<b>Site Preparation</b> (degraded wetland)	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide			■									
	Prescribed burn			■									
	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide				■								
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (upland zones where weed control adequate)	Install native seed				■								
	Install live herbaceous plants				■								
	Install live woody plants when dormant							■	■				
<b>Brushing &amp; Thinning</b> (all zones)	Cut and remove all woody plants; stump treat all species that have potential to re-sprout				■								
<b>Weed Control</b> (all zones)	Mow seeded areas (where warranted and feasible)					■	■			■	■		
	Spot herbicide and/or spot mowing					■	■			■	■		
	Foliar herbicide woody re-growth						■				■		
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (wetland zones, assuming weed control adequate)	Install native seed							■					
	Install live plants								■				
<b>Ecological Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b> (all zones)	Assess/document site, and prepare summary report	■	■	■		■	■	■		■	■	■	

## Restoration and Short-Term Management - Management Unit 5

### General Description

Management Unit 5 (MU5) is summarized in Table 5a below by presenting existing land cover types, associated acreages, and target native plant communities with associated acreages.

**Table 11. MU5 Restoration Summary**

Existing Land Cover Type	Existing Acres	Resulting Native Plant Community Acres
Cultivated cropland	0.90	Maple-Basswood Forest: 0.90
Maple-Basswood Forest (C and B/C quality)	33.21	Maple-Basswood Forest: 32.92 Wet Meadow: 0.29
Degraded wetland	1.61	Maple-Basswood Forest: 0.64 Wet Meadow: 0.97
Aquatic Bed Wetland	1.08	Aquatic Bed Wetland: 1.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.80</b>	

Note: Acreages estimated, based on MLCCS mapping and Master Plan.

MU5 contains the park’s largest and highest quality forest. Restoration of this Maple-Basswood Forest will provide valuable forest habitat, suitable for some forest interior species (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker). Woody enhancement plantings should be installed where this management unit abuts residential development. The depressional wetlands within the forest will provide protected aquatic habitats for native wildlife, including wetland amphibians and reptiles. The park’s northern stream/ditch flows the northeast portion of MU5. Native restoration and stabilization should be conducted along eroding sections of the Cedar Lake shoreline.

### Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – (Maple-Basswood Forest)

#### 1. Site Preparation

- While it is actively growing, treat all non-native herbaceous groundcover with herbicide (at least twice). Desirable trees, shrubs, and patches of native vegetation shall be maintained.
- Where fuel is sufficient, burn existing vegetation to prepare the site for planting, protecting desirable trees and shrubs.
- Any undesirable vegetation that germinates shall again be treated with herbicide (when seedlings are approximately 6” tall).

#### 2. Establish Vegetation: Seeding & Planting

- Once weed control is established, seed and/or plant using appropriate local ecotype species. Seed may be installed by broadcasting. Live plants may be used to accent areas of high visibility and to restore appropriate structure and composition to native plant communities.

#### 3. Removal of Woody Species: Brushing & Thinning

- Cut and stump treat all invasive non-native woody vegetation, including but not limited to: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles.

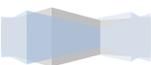


- In Maple-Basswood Forest, remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody species such as boxelder, hackberry, green ash, American elm, and prickly ash in order to encourage growth of shade-intolerant keystone species (e.g., oak).
  - Woody clearing should be done only when the ground is frozen, and cut material can be sold for biomass-to-energy or firewood, if feasible. Handling or transport of cut wood should follow all state and federal recommendations to minimize the potential transfer of pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, etc.
4. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
- Control weedy species by mowing newly planted areas to 6" height twice the first season of growth, and once the second season when vegetation reaches 30 inches or before undesirable species produce seed.
  - Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application and/or mowing. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: Canada thistle, bull thistle, leafy spurge, sweet clover, ground clover, crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, spotted knapweed, and reed canary grass.
  - Treat invasive non-native woody vegetation seedlings and re-sprouts with foliar herbicide for up to 5 seasons.
5. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
  - Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Wetlands (Wet Meadow, perimeter of Aquatic Bed Wetland & Cedar Lake Shoreline)

1. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
- Control invasive non-native vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, and hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails.
  - Conduct prescribed burns where feasible.
2. *Assess & Stabilize Eroding Shorelines*
- Assess shoreline for areas of active erosion and identify where stabilization is warranted.
  - Wherever feasible, use bioengineering techniques to stabilize eroding sections of shoreline. Harder solutions (e.g., gabion rolls) in conjunction with bioengineering techniques may be warranted along severely eroded sections or areas with significant wave action.
3. *Enhance Native Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
- Once weed control established, augment existing native vegetation with appropriate local ecotype native seed and/or plants. Seed should be broadcast onto wet to moist soil (not over open water), and live plants should be used in standing water (i.e., emergent wetland zones).
4. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*

- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
- Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.



**Table 12. MU5 Restoration and Short-Term Management Schedule**

Task	Description/Subtask	Year 1				Year 2			Year 3				
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Site Preparation</b> (all zones except degraded wetland)	Install Roundup-ready soybeans (cropland)	█											
	Treat non-native vegetation with herbicide; at least twice (except soybean areas)	█	█										
	Harvest soybeans			█									
	Prescribed burn (if/where feasible, except soybean areas)			█									
	Final prep herbicide (except soybean areas)			█									
<b>Site Preparation</b> (degraded wetland)	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide			█									
	Prescribed burn			█									
	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide				█								
<b>Assess &amp; Stabilize Eroding Shorelines</b>	Assess and implement shoreline stabilization where warranted			█									
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (upland zones where weed control adequate )	Install native seed			█									
	Install live herbaceous plants				█								
	Install live woody plants when dormant						█	█					
<b>Brushing &amp; Thinning</b>	Cut & stump treat invasive woody plants			█									
	Remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody plants (Maple-Basswood Forest)			█									
<b>Weed Control</b> (all zones)	Mow seeded areas (where warranted and feasible)				█	█			█	█			
	Spot herbicide and/or spot mowing				█	█			█	█			
	Foliar herbicide non-native woody re-growth					█				█			
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (wetland zones, assuming weed control adequate)	Install native seed						█						
	Install live plants							█					
<b>Ecological Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b> (all zones)	Assess/document site, and prepare summary report	█	█	█		█	█		█	█	█		

## Restoration and Short-Term Management - Management Unit 6

### General Description

Management Unit 6 (MU6) is summarized in Table 6a below by presenting existing land cover types, associated acreages, and target native plant communities with associated acreages.

**Table 13. MU6 Restoration Summary**

Existing Land Cover Type	Existing Acres	Resulting Native Plant Community Acres
Maple-Basswood Forest (B/C and C quality)	11.20	Maple-Basswood Forest: 11.06 Wet Meadow: 0.14
Degraded forest	1.58	Maple-Basswood Forest: 1.58
Old field	1.88	Maple-Basswood Forest: 1.88
Degraded wetland, some with trees	6.09	Maple-Basswood Forest: 1.84 Wet Meadow: 4.25
Cattail Marsh (D quality)	3.50	Cattail Marsh: 3.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.25</b>	

Note: Acreages estimated, based on MLCCS mapping and Master Plan.

Restoration of MU6 will entail enhancement of Maple-Basswood Forest around Wet Meadows and Cattail Marshes, which also warrant enhancement. In conjunction with the restoration of MU5 and MU7, the northern portion of the park will contain a significant tract of Maple-Basswood Forest, suitable for a variety of interior forest species (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker). Enhancement of existing wetlands within the management unit will result in high quality habitat for native plants and wildlife, including wetland amphibians and reptiles.

### Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Uplands (Maple-Basswood Forest)

#### 1. *Site Preparation*

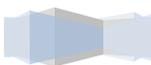
- While it is actively growing, treat all non-native herbaceous groundcover with herbicide (at least twice). Desirable trees, shrubs, and patches of native vegetation shall be maintained.
- Where fuel is sufficient, burn existing vegetation to prepare the site for planting, protecting desirable trees and shrubs.
- Any undesirable vegetation that germinates shall again be treated with herbicide (when seedlings are approximately 6" tall).

#### 2. *Establish Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*

- Once weed control is established, seed and/or plant using appropriate local ecotype species. Seed may be installed by broadcasting. Live plants may be used to accent areas of high visibility and to restore appropriate structure and composition to native plant communities.

#### 3. *Removal of Woody Species: Brushing & Thinning*

- Cut and stump treat all invasive non-native woody vegetation, including but not limited to: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles.



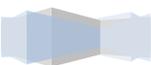
- In Maple-Basswood Forest, remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody species such as boxelder, hackberry, green ash, American elm, and prickly ash in order to encourage growth of shade-intolerant keystone species (e.g., oak).
  - Woody clearing should be done only when the ground is frozen, and cut material can be sold for biomass-to-energy or firewood if feasible. Handling or transport of cut wood should follow all state and federal recommendations to minimize the potential transfer of pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Gypsy Moth, etc.
4. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
- Where accessible, control weedy species by mowing newly planted areas to 6" height twice the first season of growth, and once the second season when vegetation reaches 30 inches or before undesirable species produce seed.
  - Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application and/or mowing. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: Canada thistle, bull thistle, leafy spurge, sweet clover, ground clover, crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, spotted knapweed, and reed canary grass.
  - Treat invasive non-native woody vegetation seedlings and re-sprouts with foliar herbicide for up to 5 seasons.
5. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
  - Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Wetlands (Wet Meadow and Cattail Marsh)

1. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
- Control invasive non-native vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, and hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails.
  - Conduct prescribed burns in wetlands.
2. *Enhance Native Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
- Once weed control established, augment existing native vegetation with appropriate local ecotype native seed and/or plants. Seed should be broadcast onto wet to moist soil (not over open water), and live plants should be used in standing water (i.e., emergent wetland zones).
3. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
  - Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

**Table 14. MU6 Restoration and Short-Term Management Schedule**

Task	Description/Subtask	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Site Preparation</b> (all zones except degraded wetland)	Install Roundup-ready soybeans (old field)	█											
	Treat non-native vegetation with herbicide; at least twice (except soybean areas)	█	█										
	Harvest soybeans			█									
	Prescribed burn (if/where feasible, except soybean areas)			█									
	Final prep herbicide (except soybean areas)			█									
<b>Site Preparation</b> (degraded wetland)	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide			█									
	Prescribed burn			█									
	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide				█								
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (upland zones where weed control adequate )	Install native seed				█								
	Install live herbaceous plants				█								
	Install live woody plants when dormant							█	█				
<b>Brushing &amp; Thinning</b>	Cut & stump treat invasive woody plants				█								
	Remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody plants (Maple-Basswood Forest)				█								
<b>Weed Control</b> (all zones)	Mow seeded areas (where warranted and feasible)					█	█			█	█		
	Spot herbicide and/or spot mowing					█	█			█	█		
	Foliar herbicide non-native woody re-growth						█				█		
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (wetland zones, assuming weed control adequate)	Install native seed							█					
	Install live plants								█				
<b>Ecological Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b> (all zones)	Assess/document site, and prepare summary report	█	█	█		█	█			█	█	█	



## Restoration and Short-Term Management - Management Unit 7

### General Description

Management Unit 7 (MU7) is summarized in Table 7a below by presenting existing land cover types, associated acreages, and target native plant communities with associated acreages.

**Table 15. MU7 Restoration Summary**

Existing Land Cover Type	Existing Acres	Resulting Native Plant Community Acres
Cultivated cropland	28.17	NA (Developed: 0.42) NA (Turf: 11.53) Maple-Basswood Forest: 16.22
Old field, some with excavated wetlands	2.24	NA (Turf: 0.06) Maple-Basswood Forest: 0.95 Mixed Emergent Marsh: 1.23
Degraded forest	0.85	Maple-Basswood Forest: 0.85
Degraded wetland, some with trees	2.83	NA (Turf: 0.11) Maple-Basswood Forest: 2.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.09</b>	

Note: Acreages estimated, based on MLCCS mapping and Master Plan.

Restoration of MU7 will consist primarily of restoring Maple-Basswood Forest around the management unit’s perimeter, leaving the center open for a turf, off-leash dog park. In conjunction with the restoration of MU5 and MU6, the northern portion of the park will contain a significant tract of Maple-Basswood Forest, suitable for a variety of interior forest species (e.g., Pileated Woodpecker). This forest restoration will also provide screening and buffering of County Road 89 (to the west) and Pexa Drive (to the north). Existing excavated wetlands in the south-central portion of the management unit will be enhanced as Mixed Emergent Marsh. A parking lot is proposed within MU7, off of Pexa Drive. The park’s northern stream/ditch flows along the forested east edge of MU7. A large spoil pile (reportedly originating from the residential development to the south) exists within MU7; this artificial landform should either be removed or incorporated into park development. A narrow parcel of land provides access to MU7 from the Silver Maple Drive cul-de-sac, located just south of the management unit. The southeast corner of the management unit may be considered for locating a water quality practice along the stream/ditch. The Scott Watershed Management Organization and parks department are examining potential projects. Any future project will be incorporated into the overall park master plan vision and natural resource goals.

### Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Uplands (Maple-Basswood Forest)

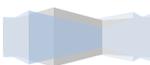
#### 1. Site Preparation

- While it is actively growing, treat turf grass and all other non-native herbaceous groundcover with herbicide (at least twice). Desirable trees, shrubs, and patches of native vegetation shall be maintained and protected.
- Where fuel is sufficient, burn existing vegetation to prepare the site for planting.

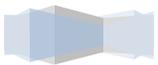
- Any undesirable vegetation that germinates shall again be treated with herbicide (when seedlings are approximately 6" tall).
2. *Establish Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
    - Once weed control is established, seed and/or plant using appropriate local ecotype species. Where possible, seed should be installed with a no-till drill; other areas may use broadcast seeding. Live plants may be used to accent areas of high visibility and to restore appropriate structure and composition to native plant communities.
  3. *Removal of Woody Species: Brushing & Thinning*
    - Cut and stump treat all invasive non-native woody vegetation, including but not limited to: common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles.
    - In Maple-Basswood Forest, remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody species such as boxelder, hackberry, green ash, American elm, and prickly ash in order to encourage growth of shade-intolerant keystone species (e.g., oak).
    - Woody clearing should be done only when the ground is frozen, and cut material can be sold for biomass-to-energy or firewood if feasible.
  4. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
    - Where accessible, control weedy species by mowing newly planted areas to 6" height twice the first season of growth, and once the second season when vegetation reaches 30 inches or before undesirable species produce seed.
    - Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation with appropriate spot herbicide application and/or mowing. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: Canada thistle, bull thistle, leafy spurge, sweet clover, ground clover, crown vetch, bird's foot trefoil, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, spotted knapweed, and reed canary grass.
    - Treat invasive non-native woody vegetation seedlings and re-sprouts with foliar herbicide for up to 5 seasons.
  5. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*
    - Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
    - Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.

Restoration & Short-Term Management Tasks – Wetlands (Mixed Emergent Marsh)

1. *Manage Undesirable Species: Weed Control*
  - Control invasive non-native vegetation with appropriate spot and/or broadcast herbicide application. Potential species of concern include, but are not limited to: glossy buckthorn, reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, and hybrid and narrow-leaved cattails.
2. *Enhance Native Vegetation: Seeding & Planting*
  - Once weed control established, augment existing native vegetation with appropriate local ecotype native seed and/or plants. Seed should be broadcast onto wet to moist soil (not over open water), and live plants should be used in standing water (i.e., emergent wetland zones).
3. *Annual Ecological Monitoring & Reporting*

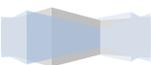


- Each year, walk, assess, document and photo document park conditions.
- Prepare an annual report summarizing observations and providing specific recommendations for subsequent intervention and management.



**Table 16. MU7 Restoration and Short-Term Management Schedule**

Task	Description/Subtask	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
<b>Site Preparation</b> (all zones except degraded wetland)	Install Roundup-ready soybeans (cropland and old field)	█											
	Treat non-native vegetation with herbicide; at least twice (except soybean areas)	█	█										
	Harvest soybeans			█									
	Prescribed burn (if/where feasible, except soybean areas)			█									
	Final prep herbicide (except soybean areas)												
<b>Site Preparation</b> (degraded wetland)	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide			█									
	Prescribed burn			█									
	Spot and/or broadcast herbicide				█								
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (upland zones where weed control adequate)	Install native seed				█								
	Install live herbaceous plants				█								
	Install live woody plants when dormant							█	█				
<b>Brushing &amp; Thinning</b> (all zones)	Cut & stump treat invasive woody plants				█								
	Remove or selectively thin aggressive native woody plants (Maple-Basswood Forest)				█								
<b>Weed Control</b> (all zones)	Mow seeded areas (where warranted and feasible)					█	█			█	█		
	Spot herbicide and/or spot mowing					█	█			█	█		
	Foliar herbicide non-native woody re-growth						█				█		
<b>Seeding &amp; Planting</b> (wetland zones, assuming weed control adequate)	Install native seed							█					
	Install live plants								█				
<b>Ecological Monitoring &amp; Reporting</b> (all zones)	Assess/document site, and prepare summary report	█	█	█		█	█	█		█	█	█	



## Perpetual Management Tasks – All Restoration Zones

Perpetual management is essential to restoring and maintaining the composition, structure, and function of healthy native ecosystems. The two primary perpetual management tasks are:

### 1. Weed Control

- Control invasive non-native herbaceous vegetation, primarily with appropriate spot herbicide application. Haying or mowing may also be employed, and cutting of invasive woody vegetation may also be necessary in areas. Mowing is less effective than haying (or burning) because it does not remove plant material; over time the accumulated organic matter results in nutrient enrichment, which often favors invasive plants.

### 2. Prescribed Burning

- Generally burns are conducted on a three year rotation, beginning with the fall or spring following the third full year of growth after seeding. In order to mimic natural fire regimes, burns should extend across habitat gradients (e.g., Mesic Savanna/Woodland – Mesic Prairie – Wet Prairie – Wet Meadow - Marsh) when possible.

Perpetual management tasks (Table 9) are repeated at different intervals for different plant communities to ensure that healthy restored plant communities are maintained over the long term.

**Table 17. Perpetual Management Schedule**

Plant Community	Task Frequency (once every X years)			
	Prescribed Burning	Weed Control (Spot Herbicide)	Remedial Seeding/Planting	Detailed Monitoring & Reporting
Maple-Basswood Forest	NA	3-4	3	1
Mesic Savanna/Woodland	2-3	2-3	2-3	1
Mesic Prairie	3-4	1-2	3-5	1
Wet Meadow, Cattail Marsh & Mixed Emergent Marsh	3-4	1-2	3-5	1
Aquatic Bed Wetland, Open Water Wetland and Lake	NA	as needed	NA	1

Notes: NA = not applicable

Schedule assumes that prescribed burning will be employed as a restoration and management technique. If prescribed burning is not employed, haying should be used in prairie areas to remove accumulating plant material.

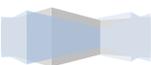
## Other Restoration and Management Considerations

Land development at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park will include construction of buildings, trails, roads, and public facilities next to restoration areas. Construction activities will encroach on and disturb the restored trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and native grasses and sedges in restoration areas unless they are protected.

Protection includes:



- Installing silt fences around all construction areas where grading occurs.
- Installing reusable construction fencing around native plant communities.
- Installing reusable construction fencing around the drip line of trees and shrubs that will be retained.
- Preventing soil compaction due to equipment.
- Preventing smothering of woody vegetation due to soil stockpiling in the rooting zone.
- Initial and remedial information sessions with all contractors working on the site.
- Identification of a lead contact to deal with continued problems of damage to restoration areas.



# Boundary and Acquisition Plan

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## Introduction

This section describes modifications to the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park boundary identified in the master planning process and presents an acquisition strategy. As a part of the master planning process, the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park boundary was reassessed and as a result, the boundary has changed and the overall acreage of the park reduced from 297 acres to 254 acres. Within the new planned park boundary of 254.253.61 acres, a total of 22.4923.89 acres remain to be acquired and 229.72 acres are acquired. The 2011 tax-assessed combined property value of the property to be acquired is \$209,901.

Boundary changes were a result of analyzing the existing boundary in relation to the vision for the park, achievability of acquisition, and functional purpose. Land within the park boundary including inholdings and county-owned parkland as well as land outside of and adjacent to the park boundary were reviewed. In evaluating functional value, considerations included natural resources, development amenities, passive and active recreation, vehicle and pedestrian circulation, buffering (noise and sound), cultural resources and view sheds. Other factors considered were operations and enforcement of the boundary and lands. A detail of the boundary changes and the parcels affected is illustrated in Figure 23 Table 18 below. A summary of the considerations for each of the changes is provided below.

## Boundary Modifications

### Park Land Additions

On the northwest corner of the park 13.84 acres of land previously not included in the park boundary were added, making them future parkland acquisitions or ‘inholdings’. Benefits of adding these lands include buffering of County Road 89, improved usability of the northern most park area for amenities, and opportunities for woodland restoration. An off leash-dog area and woodland restoration is planned in this area. These lands also are bounded by road on the north and east, providing park boundaries that are easily identified and managed.

### Park Land Removals

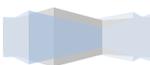
A total of 57.49 acres previously included within the park boundary were removed as a result of the boundary assessment. These lands were found overall to offer low functional value to the success of the park and to present boundary management challenges. Additionally, nine of the eleven parcels being removed had been identified for *partial* acquisition. Challenges related to subdivision of these parcels and the presence of utilities on some of the parcels were important factors in their identification for removal. In the southwest corner of the park about 1.4 acres of one of the parcels targeted for removal from the park remains in the park boundary. This area falls within a drained wetland that the County and a land owner to the north are interested in restoring. Because the existing property owner is not interested in participating in the restoration or having the wetland, purchasing the 1.4 acres from the land owner would provide the opportunity to complete the planned wetland.

It was determined a 4.43 acre parcel on the north end of the park offered limited functional value given its small size and location across the street from the rest of the park and would present boundary enforcement and land management challenges. In the center of the park, an existing wetland is located partially on lands in the park and partially on lands being removed from the boundary. The natural resource value of this area was a consideration in realigning the park boundary. It was determined that existing wetland regulations would sufficiently protect this resource and public-private partnership enhancements could be pursued with the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District and other local, state and federal grant programs to achieve natural resource stewardship goals.

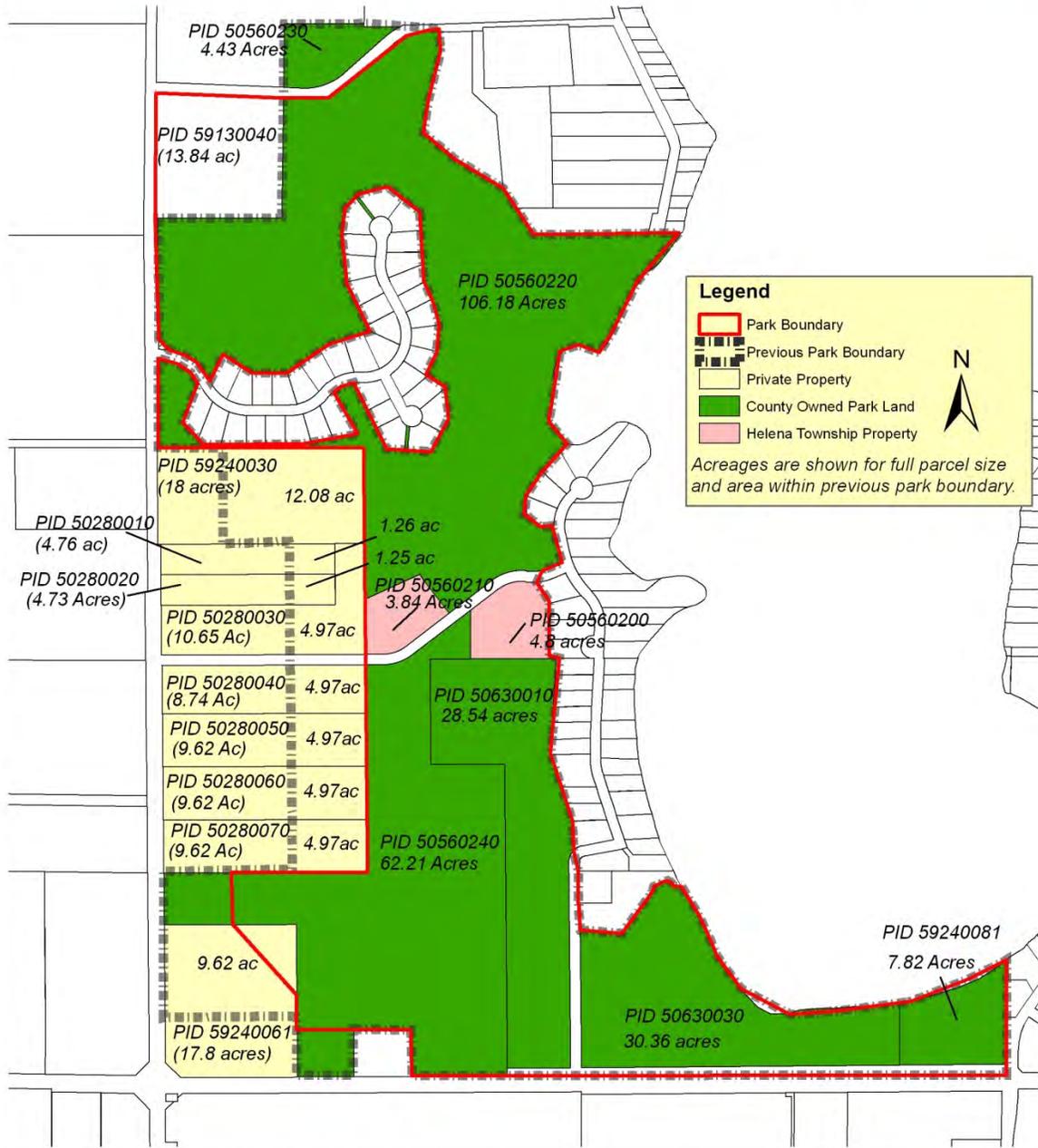
Of the 57.49 acres removed from the park boundary, 9.83 acres are currently owned by Scott County for park land, having been acquired through a 2004 and 2005 park dedication agreement related to a residential plat. Based on conversations with adjacent private property owners, there is an opportunity to sell the property or make a land exchange with the adjacent land owners. The County will work with the Metropolitan Council and former property owner to meet all legal requirements for conveying the property to a third party.

Table 18. Parkland Acreage and Acquisition Changes by Parcel

PID	Previous Park Acreage By Parcel	Acreage Removed	Acreage Added	New Park Acreage By Parcel
<b>County-owned Park Property</b>				
50560220	106.18			106.18
50630010	28.54			28.54
50630030	30.36			30.36
59240081	7.82			7.82
50560230	4.43	-4.43		0
50560240	62.22	-5.4		56.82
<b>Private Lands (Inholdings)</b>				
50280010	1.26	-1.26		0
50280020	1.25	-1.25		0
50280030	4.97	-4.97		0
50280040	4.97	-4.97		0
50280050	4.97	-4.97		0
50280060	4.97	-4.97		0
50280070	4.97	-4.97		0
59240061	9.62	-8.22		1.4
59240030	12.08	-12.08		0
59130040	0		13.84	13.84
<b>Helena Township Property</b>				
50560200	4.81			4.81
50560210	3.84			3.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>297.26</b>	<b>57.49</b>	<b>13.84</b>	<b>253.611</b>



# CEDAR LAKE FARM REGIONAL PARK Boundary and Parcel Acquisition Changes



SCOTT COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION  
 Parks and Trails Department  
 200 Fourth Avenue West, Shakopee, Minnesota 55379-1220  
 (952) 496-8475 - Fax (952) 496-8496 - Web: [www.scott.mn.us](http://www.scott.mn.us)

*This map is neither a legally recorded document nor a survey and is intended for planning purposes only. Date Sept. 18, 2011.*

**Figure 24: Boundary and Acquisition Modifications Map**

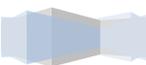
## Acquisition Plan

It is the County's practice to acquire lands for park purposes from willing sellers and only as funding permits. While the County has legal authority to utilize eminent domain and has chosen to use it related to road projects, it has been the County's practice to purchase parkland only from willing sellers and this practice is expected to continue.

The acquisition approach for the remaining inholding's at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park will be based on a set of Siting and Acquisition guidelines identified in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan and listed below. All potential acquisitions will be evaluated using the Park Land Functional Analysis System identified in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Together these will help ensure success in meeting the long-term acquisition goals and purpose of the Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park.

### Siting and Acquisition Guidelines

1. *Land Use Changes and Parcel Availability Status* – Staying apprised of potential land use changes and land sales is an important element of a successful acquisition program. Primary means of doing so include; having consistent communication and dialog and building relationships with landowners and residents of the area and with Township officials; tracking development applications and building permits through the County's Planning and Zoning process and; and monitoring real-estate listings.
2. *Resident and Landowner Involvement* – Involvement of residents and landowners brings valuable insights to planning, acquisitions and operations. It adds creativity and a ground-level level awareness to these processes and decisions. Periodic up-date mailings, public meetings, updates to Township officials and informal discussions are all activities that will be used to maintain open dialog with the community and individual residents.
3. *Parcel Prioritization* – An evaluation system has been established to prioritize parcels for potential park purposes. As acquisition opportunities arise this system will be used to help determine the County's response.
4. *Level of Threat* -Assessing the level of threat is an important part of prioritizing acquisitions and allocation of financial resources. If a parcel that has been identified for the park reserve is in imminent threat of having its land use changed to be incompatible with future park needs (e.g. from agricultural to residential), the parcel may need to be moved up in the acquisition priority list. Areas that have been identified for future park lands but have a low level of threat, due to remoteness from development pressures or a landowner who is simply not willing to sell, can be placed further down the priority list.
5. *Maximize Opportunities of County's Land Use Growth Plan* With a well-planned and targeted growth plan landowners can be approached early on by the County and be made aware of the future opportunity to sell (or donate) their land for park purposes.



Landowners should view being located in a future park or corridor as a potential asset since there is one more potential buyer (the County) when they are ready to sell.

6. *Leveraging* - There are multiple ways in which the County can leverage resources. Acquisitions grants, cost share programs, donations and multiple partners should be explored.
7. *Partnerships* – Options to work with other agencies on acquisitions will be regularly explored.
8. *Donations* – Donations of property and financial donations can be an effective element of a park land acquisition program.

# Conflicts and Mitigation

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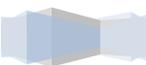
## Trails

The trail system planned for the park was found to be universally popular and seen as a local need and great amenity for adjacent homeowners as well as in the general citizenry. While supportive of the trails, a number of residents living along Willow Lane expressed concern that the trail as shown in concept on the master plan is too close to their properties. Their concern is that they do not want to see and/or hear people recreating on the trail. The concept alignment for this segment and the trail system for the park as a whole were drawn with buffering in mind, to limit sight and sound disruption for both the park user and adjacent residents. The concept alignment was based on topography and the plan calls for additional landscaping as a means for buffering. When the trail is constructed, the alignment will be refined based on field assessment that will consider buffering for adjacent residents. Other park uses, such as the agricultural field demonstration area that is encircled by a trail loop will also influence trail alignment. As the trail is developed, the public and adjacent residents will be notified of trail plans and asked for feedback on the plans.

## Park Entrance Road

Moving a portion of Juniper Avenue westward by approximately 800 feet benefits the park and adjacent neighborhood that receives access via Juniper Avenue. The new location offers improved site lines offering improved safety, improved parking and circulation and allows the lakeside landscape to be fully maximized with amenities. It also moves a roadway and major park entrance closer to one residential property. This potentially could be a concern for this particular property, and as construction plans are prepared public and resident input will be sought. The new road location meets all transportation spacing guidelines and landscaping will be included with construction for sight and noise buffering.

The point at which the roadway will transition from a park entrance to a primarily residential road is of interest to residents on Juniper and Willow Lanes. These residents are concerned about increased traffic in the neighborhood as a result of park visitors continuing on the roadway onto Willow Lane. This plan recognizes that signage and landscaping improvements could be used to minimize park traffic from continuing into the neighborhood. As plans for development of the road are prepared, the public and adjacent residents will be notified and asked for feedback on the plans.



# Operations and Maintenance

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## Overview

Implementation will require significant initial and long-term capital investments for physical development, operations, and maintenance. Implementation is expected to occur over a number of years as funding and other resources become available and plans become refined and ready for implementation. This section provides an overview of the County’s governance, and operational framework within which this plan will be implemented and identifies the operational and maintenance capacity, practices and approach for successfully operating the park.

## Governance and Operational Framework

The Scott County Board of Commissioners is the governing and policy board with jurisdictional and operational authority for Scott County regional parks and trail facilities. The Scott County Parks Advisory Commission, appointed by the Board, serves as ambassadors for the citizens of the county and to inform and make recommendations to the Board on policy, planning, operational and financial matters related to the Scott County regional parks and trails facilities and system.

In December 2010, the Scott County Board and Three Rivers Park District Board entered into a unique operating partnership, the “Partnership”, to collaboratively operate the regional facilities within Scott County – both those under Scott County ownership and those under Three Rivers Park District ownership. Under the Partnership, Three Rivers will assist in the operation and maintenance of the park and trail units owned by Scott County and will continue to operate the Three Rivers Facilities within Scott County. The intent of the Partnership is to bring efficiencies to the provision of parks and trails to the citizens of Scott County.

Ultimate policy and management direction for Scott County facilities will continue to be set by the Scott County Board, with guidance from the Scott County Parks Advisory Commission. However, under the new Partnership, it will be done in consideration of the collaborative implementation effort of the two agencies and within a governance structure that includes a Partnership policy-making board made up of the chair and vice chair from the Scott County Board of Commissioners and the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners. Additionally, under the Partnership, a Three Rivers Board Member will serve on the Commission.

## Ordinances

Scott County has adopted Park Ordinance, Number 29 to provide for the safe and peaceful use of the parks, trails, and corresponding facilities. Scott County’s Park Ordinance, Number 29 is enforced for all users and activities within the Scott County-owned facilities of the park and trail system, including Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park and the Three Rivers Park District Ordinance is enforced at Three Rivers facilities. The two ordinances are very similar and the organizations

are committed to work through differences that arise. Enforcement and communication of the ordinance to park users will continue to be monitored and the two organizations will work proactively and cooperatively to remedy confusion or potential conflicts that could arise from having two separate sets of rules and regulations.

## Public Services

### Safety and Emergency Services

The Scott County Sheriff's office is responsible for patrolling County parks and trail facilities. A Sheriff's Deputy or a Community Service Officer will respond to calls for service needs at the park reserve. Community Service Officers are uniformed, non-sworn officers. In addition to responding to calls for service, the 911 First Responder systems will answer any emergency call made from the park reserve. Scott County participates in a statewide mutual aid program that facilitates the sharing of public safety resources in times of emergency or other unusual conditions. This program serves to facilitate the assistance received from surrounding police agencies, including New Prague Police, New Prague Fire Department, New Prague Ambulance and Three Rivers Park District Police.

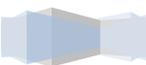
As part of the new Partnership agreement, Scott County and Three Rivers Park District are evaluating long-term public safety operations to determine the best approach to providing a safe, consistent, efficient, and cost-effective service to the public. Considerations include ways to enhance communication and collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and Three Rivers Park District Police. Some examples include: utilizing the Scott County 911 system for Three Rivers officers in Scott County, opening Scott County Sheriff training to Three Rivers officers, and increased resource sharing.

### Sanitary Sewer

Cedar Lake Farm is outside the current Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA). Public sanitary sewer service is available for a portion of the property through the Cedar Lake Water and Sanitary Sewer District which services up to 325 homes around Cedar Lake and is connected to the City of New Prague Municipal System. The park owns 4 sanitary sewer connections to provide capacity for all of the planned facilities, with the exception of the Market Learning Center, which is outside the district boundary. During future site planning the County will consult with the Cedar Lake Water and Sanitary Sewer District on their interest in the District servicing the Market Learning Center through the existing 4 sewer connections.

### Transportation

There is no public transportation service available at this time.



## Maintenance

### Grounds and Facilities Maintenance

Grounds and facilities maintenance of Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is overseen by the Scott County Parks and Trails Department and carried out by several Scott County departments including Parks and Trails, Public Works, and Facilities. Starting in 2011, under the Partnership, maintenance is also now carried out by Three Rivers Park District. Moving into the future, Three Rivers Park District will have an expanded role in carrying out maintenance at the park.

### Natural Resources Stewardship

The Scott County Parks and Trails department oversees natural resources management for the park. Natural resource management priorities and projects were identified during the master planning process and are summarized in the natural resources management section of this document and will guide future natural resource management work in the park.

Stewardship activities are completed through the use of county staff, contractors, volunteers, and the County's Sentence-to-Serve program. The County's parks and trails department, natural resources department and Scott Watershed Management Organization participate in collaborative planning and the development of joint projects and initiatives to leverage additional resources, compliment areas of expertise, and to meet the County's natural resource goals and site needs. Through the Partnership with Three Rivers Park District there is further potential for expanding capacity through collaboration.

### Property Stewardship

At the time of acquisition lands are evaluated for health, safety and welfare concerns and current infrastructure systems such as water systems, sewer systems, electrical, and building conditions analyzed. Property stewardship activities begin immediately upon acquisition and include, but are not limited to general cleanup of the site, location and identification of property lines and property corners, grounds maintenance, noxious weed control, building maintenance, invasive species control and cultivation of lands currently being farmed. The Natural Resources Management Plan will guide the land stewardship activities on newly acquired properties. Depending on site condition, target land cover, and the development timeline and amenities planned for the property it remain in its current cover, or the process of restoring or converting to its targeted land cover or plant community may begin immediately. In some cases lands being used for farming may continue to be cropped through a rental agreement for a number of years. Overall, the site will be secured and appropriate measures taken to protect it until park development operations occur.

## Sustainability

Scott County strives to incorporate sustainable practices into its daily operations and resource management, and planning, design, and construction project. The county will consider implementation of green technology such as pervious pavement, rain gardens, geothermal heating, green roofs, recycled products, and other innovative techniques into future infrastructure enhancements. In implementation of the Cedar Lake Farm development concept the County will utilize guidelines such as the Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines (B3

Project) and the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The County will pursue implementation of sustainable principles that encourage conservation of natural resources, energy conservation, waste reduction, maintenance of healthy systems, and achievement of lowest life-cycle cost.

## Partnerships and Volunteers

In addition to the partnership with Three Rivers Park District, Scott County promotes pursuing and working through partnerships whenever possible. It is the County’s practice to proactively and cooperatively work with the local, state and federal park providers in Scott County and the region sharing information and resources and identifying and entering into cooperative agreements where it can create efficiencies, improved service or enhance the management of important resources. An emphasis is also placed on creating opportunities for partnerships with the private sector.

Similarly, Scott County is committed to working with volunteers as a means to support the community and to achieve more service with fewer resources. Volunteering provides youth with job experience, offers purposeful work to retired-age residents, and provides the opportunity for individuals and groups looking to give back to their community. The County will continue to work through existing partnerships and volunteer arrangements and will look for new prospects to carry out work at Cedar Lake Farm through these approaches.

## Public Awareness

Promotion of Scott County’s park and trail system and outreach to the public on planning and development issues are primary interests of the Scott County Board of Commissioners and the Parks Advisory Commission. Scott County is committed to providing up-to-date useful information to citizens and park users and to working with residents and other agencies on the long-term implementation of the Blakeley Bluffs Acquisition Master Plan.

Scott County uses a variety of resources to promote its regional park and trail system.

Available resources include:

- Scott County SCENE
- Press releases to local media outlets
- Brochures, newsletters, and direct mailings
- On-line presence (website, e-mail lists, maps)
- City/township park & recreation websites
- Regional park & trail maps (Met Council, Cyclopath.org)
- Advertisements in recreation and tourism publications



## GoScottGo.org

New technologies and improved access to public databases have greatly enhanced the ability to share accurate park and trail information with residents. Scott County recently partnered with Carver County to develop GoScottGo.org, which includes a clearinghouse of recreational activities, programs, and facilities in Scott County. This website and the underlying initiative is based upon a national “active living” effort, which has found that the overall health of a community is impacted by its built environment and residents’ safe access to recreational opportunities.



GoScottGo.org will be a key component for promoting the Scott County regional park and trail system. The website includes an interactive park and trail mapping application that assists users in charting out their walking, biking, and running routes, as well as find parks and trails close to their home. As park development is completed, the interactive map will be updated to provide the latest data available.

In addition to the above resources, other new opportunities for promotion may arise as part of Scott County’s new partnership agreement with Three Rivers Park District. Three Rivers could provide an increased role in marketing all regional park and trail facilities in Scott County. Scott County will continue to explore additional promotional opportunities (and efficiencies gained) with Three Rivers and other park/trail partner agencies.

## Park Planning Construction Projects

As additional park planning projects arise (e.g. development master plan) and construction plans are proposed, public information meetings will be held as a means to inform the public, collect input and have dialogue on ideas and potential conflicts. Scott County is committed to working with residents and other agencies once the design process commences for park construction projects.

## Accessibility

Scott County is committed to providing activities, access and resources for all park visitors, including persons with disabilities and members of special population groups and will do so throughout planning, development, and operation and maintenance activities of the regional trail system. Scott County supports equal access for all users to its park and trail facilities. Park facilities will be designed to meet or exceed guidelines established by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Future park facilities will be aligned to accommodate a wide-range of user groups with varying abilities and offers access to many populations.

Scott County’s current policies strive to keep public park, trail, and open space facilities affordable for all residents.

# Estimated Costs and Funding

## Site Development Estimated Costs and Phasing

The estimates below provide an overview of potential costs for each program area of the park and associated amenities. The cost figures are based on a master plan level evaluation, intended to inform general budgeting purposes and project phasing. Cost numbers are based on 2011 bidding data. For planning purposes these number should be increased by 10% every year to account for inflation. As funding is identified for specific program areas cost projections will be further refined based on site-specific information and current material and labors costs.

Costs are presented according to a preliminary phasing plan that is based on a number of considerations. Those include current infrastructure of the park- including the need for structure preservation- existing site use, budget constraints, awareness of anticipated near vs. long-term recreational demand, and phasing of amenities to capture construction cost-savings. It is important to note that the phasing plan is intended to be flexible and to be used as a guide.

### *Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Phasing and Cost Estimate – Site Improvements*

Phase 1 Site Improvement	Cost
Construct playground area and surrounding informal picnic areas	\$300,000
Relocate picnic shelters near lakefront picnic area	\$15,000
Construct canoe/kayak launch	\$25,000
Create patio area on east side of existing pavilion building	\$20,000
Construct fishing pier and boat dock slips	\$90,000
Develop Lakeside gathering 'Fest Tent Area'	\$20,000
Implement multi-use paved trail circulation (south of 255th Street)	\$292,000
Construct disc golf course elements along southern trail	\$10,000
Construct volleyball and horseshoe courts	\$40,000
Expand beach area	\$10,000
Construct boat house/equipment rental building near canoe/kayak launch	\$100,000
Make barn weather-tight and secure	\$52,000.00
Make homestead weather-tight and secure	\$78,000.00
<b>Phase 1 Total</b>	<b>\$1,052,000</b>



Table 20. Phase 2 Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Cost Estimates – Site Improvements

Phase 2 Site Improvements	Cost
Complete demolition and realignment of Juniper Avenue	\$260,000
Establish entrance road and parking lot on east side of Juniper Avenue	\$710,000
Establish parking lot on the west side of Juniper Avenue to serve as interim trailhead location until Market Learning Center is developed	\$125,000
Implement multi-use paved trail circulation (north of 255th Street)	\$220,000
Relocate out buildings to accommodate parking lot on west side of barn	\$20,000
Establish parking lot on west side of barn	\$240,000
Construct maintenance facility	\$650,000
Renovate Barn- main level and upper floor, including addition of exterior doors, decking and mechanicals	\$628,000
<b>Phase 2 Total</b>	<b>\$2,853,000</b>

Table 21. Phase 3 Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park and Cost Estimates – Site Improvements

Phase 3 Site Improvements	Cost
Construct large group picnic area and pavilion on south side of Cedar Lake	\$250,000
Construct restroom facility to serve picnic camper cabin area	\$200,000
Construct road access and parking lot to serve large group picnic area	\$125,000
Establish off leash dog area and parking on north side of park	\$75,000
Develop group camp, associated lakeside gathering area and fishing pier	\$60,000
Renovate homestead main level and upper floor, including mechanicals	\$125,000
Renovate outbuildings	\$175,000
<b>Phase 3 Total</b>	<b>\$1,010,000</b>

Table 22. Phase 4 Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Cost Estimates – Site Improvements

Phase 4 Site Improvements	Cost
Add splash pad water play feature adjacent to beach area	\$80,000
Develop Market Learning Center facility	\$1,250,000
<b>Phase 4 Total</b>	<b>\$1,330,000</b>

Table 23. Cost Estimates All Phases



Subtotal	\$6,245,000
20%Contingency	\$1,249,000
<b>Preliminary Cost Estimate Total</b>	<b>\$7,494,000</b>

### Natural Resources Estimated Costs

Cost estimates on restoration and on-going management are presented below for each of the seven natural resource management units for planning and budgeting purposes. Many variables will influence actual cost, including the targeted level of restoration, actual scheduling of activities, and whether activities will be conducted by staff, volunteers and/or contractors. The costs presented are based primarily on the use of contractors to carry out activities. Scott County’s management approach utilizes volunteers and Sentence to Serve crews which can substantially reduce costs.

*Table 24. Opinion of Probable Cost*

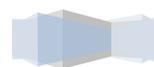
Management Unit	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Annual Avg. Perpetual Cost
MU1 (39.93 ac)	\$44,775	\$88,238	\$86,413	\$550/ac
MU2 (38.18 ac)	\$25,650	\$25,200	\$21,750	\$500/ac
MU3 (43.83 ac)	\$32,850	\$62,550	\$59,900	\$550/ac
MU4 (33.77 ac)	\$29,275	\$30,578	\$21,133	\$400/ac
MU5 (36.80 ac)	\$85,025	\$29,475	\$23,525	\$400/ac
MU6 (24.25 ac)	\$37,000	\$33,350	\$21,750	\$400/ac
MU7 (34.10 ac)	\$23,213	\$79,913	\$79,088	\$500/ac

Cost assumptions: Live trees planted in Maple-Basswood Forest and Mesic Savanna/Woodland only.  
 Live shrubs planted in Mesic Savanna/Woodland only.  
 Live herbaceous plugs planted in Maple-Basswood Forest and edges of Cattail Marsh and Mixed Emergent Marsh.

Cost notes: Live woody plantings amount to over 50% of Year 1-3 total cost for MU1 and MU3, and these plantings amount to 70% of MU7 costs. Yearly totals are not provided because it is likely that restoration and management activities will be initiated at only one or few management units within a given year, and scheduling is yet to be determined.

### Land Acquisition Estimated Costs

In total, 254 acres fall within the planned park boundary. Three inholdings totaling 22.49 acres remain to be acquired. Together, these parcels have an estimated combined 2011 tax-assessed property value of \$209,901. Additional acquisition costs will include legal fees, appraisal costs, environmental site assessments, and survey costs, and these will need to be included in a final acquisition cost figure at the time of purchase. Property stewardship is often needed at the time of land acquisition and includes activities such as general demolition, well abandonment, septic tank removal, and other miscellaneous activities. These activities vary substantially from site to site depending on the current use and immediate planned use of the property after acquisition (i.e. for public recreational, cropland, or residential rental use) and their costs will



be determined at the time of acquisition. The direct costs of acquisition could be offset with the conveyance or sale of parklands identified in this plan for removal from the park.

## Operations Estimated Costs

Beginning in 2011, Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park has been operated under the Scott County and Three Rivers Park District Partnership, or the Partnership. From 2009 through 2010 the park was open for seasonal public use and staffed by two volunteer caretakers. Starting in 2011 a part-time seasonal Three Rivers Park District maintenance position was added to the operation. Three Rivers Park District's role in directing and carrying out maintenance activities will be expanded in 2012 and future years. In 2012 two additional volunteer caretakers will also assist in staffing the site.

As the development and natural resource plan are implemented, additional resources and capacity will be required to operate and maintain the park. Anticipated operational resource needs, costs and a strategy for meeting those needs will be determined as specific development projects are planned. The integration of Three Rivers Park District and further use of volunteers are anticipated to result in an increase in the operational capacity for the park. While operational funding will be necessary in the future as large portions of the development plan are implemented, near term improvements are expected to be operated within the existing budget and the efficiencies gained through the Partnership.

## Funding Sources

A number of potential funding sources are available for regional park development, land acquisition and natural resources restoration including local, Metropolitan Council, state and federal sources. Traditionally, operations and maintenance costs are funded by the local implementing agencies, in this case Scott County, with some contributions from the Metropolitan Council. For Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, and other Scott County facilities, the annual operating costs are funded through the Partnership budget. The primary source of those funds is through Scott County property taxes. Additional revenue is received from the State of Minnesota as part of the Operations and Maintenance Fund allocations from the Council.

The Council and State of Minnesota provide funding for acquisition and development through the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Development at Cedar Lake Farm may be funded through the Regional Parks CIP, Scott County Capital Investment Program, donations or other funding sources that may be available at the time of development.

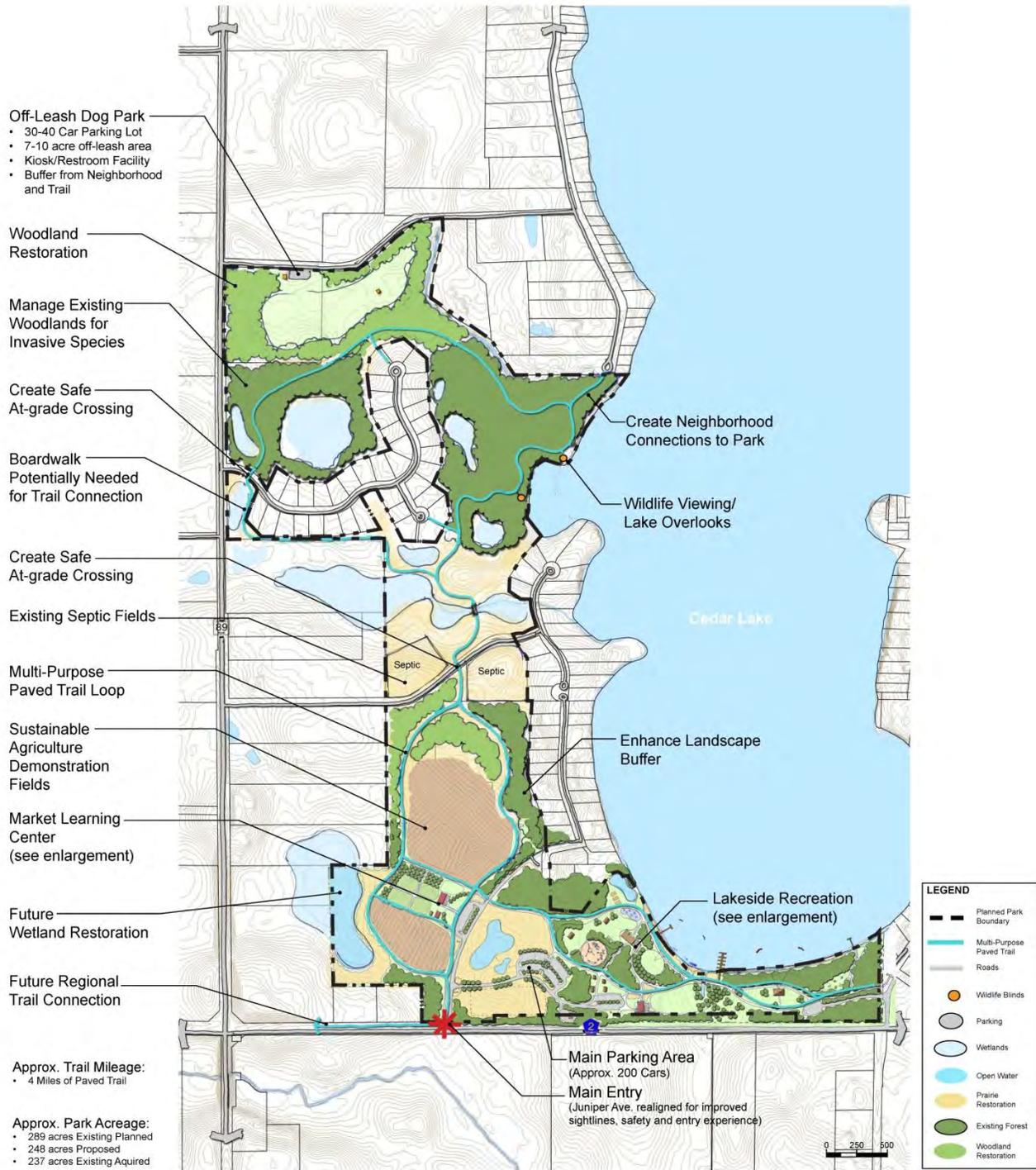
## Other Revenue

Additional revenue for this park will come through reservation picnic rentals, special events, camping fees, rental fees and programming fees. Revenue projections will be made as facilities are identified for development.

# MAPS

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# MAP 1: Master Plan for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park D



## Master Plan

### Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park



# MAP 2: Master Plan Enlargement Area for Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park

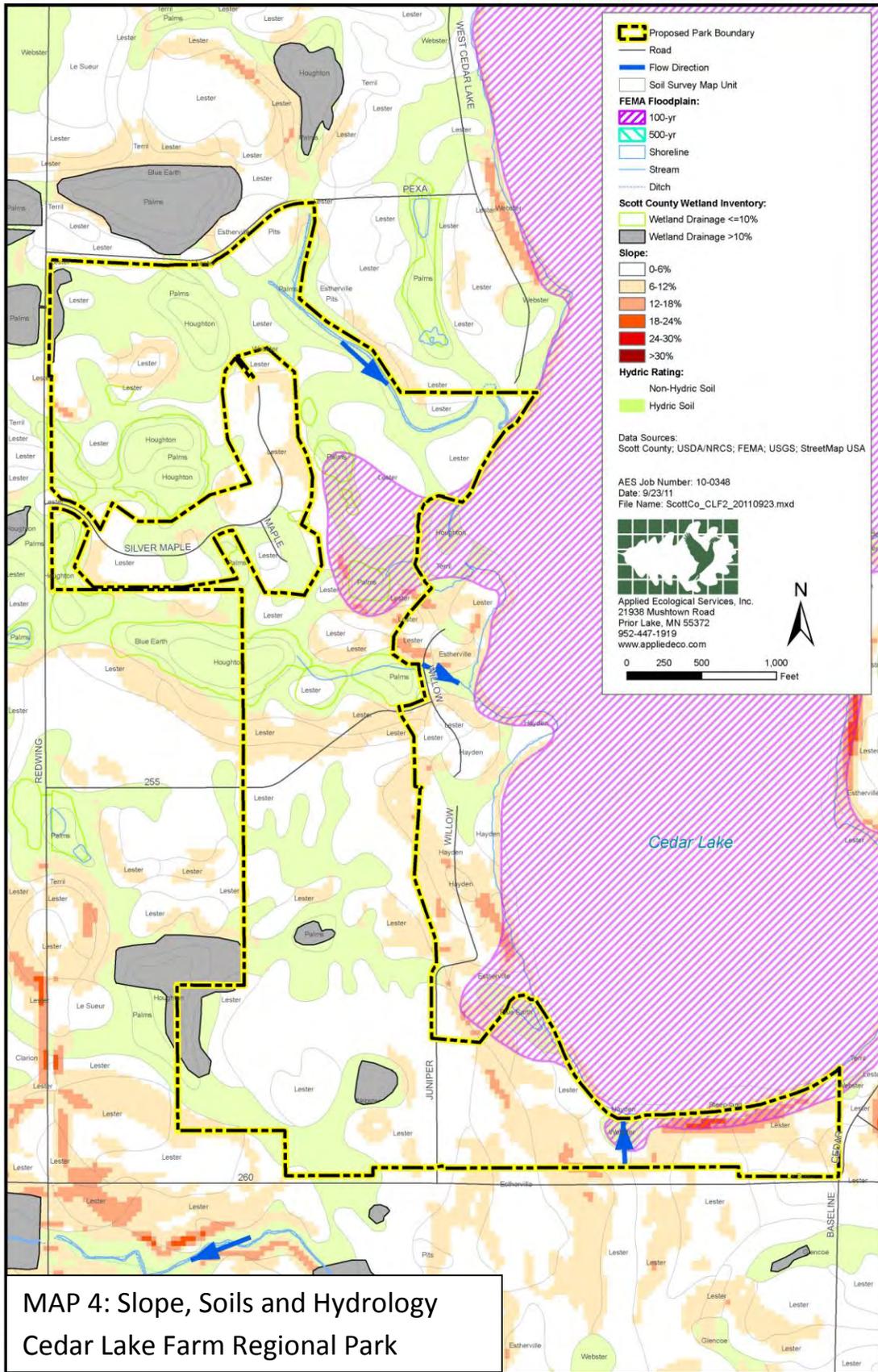


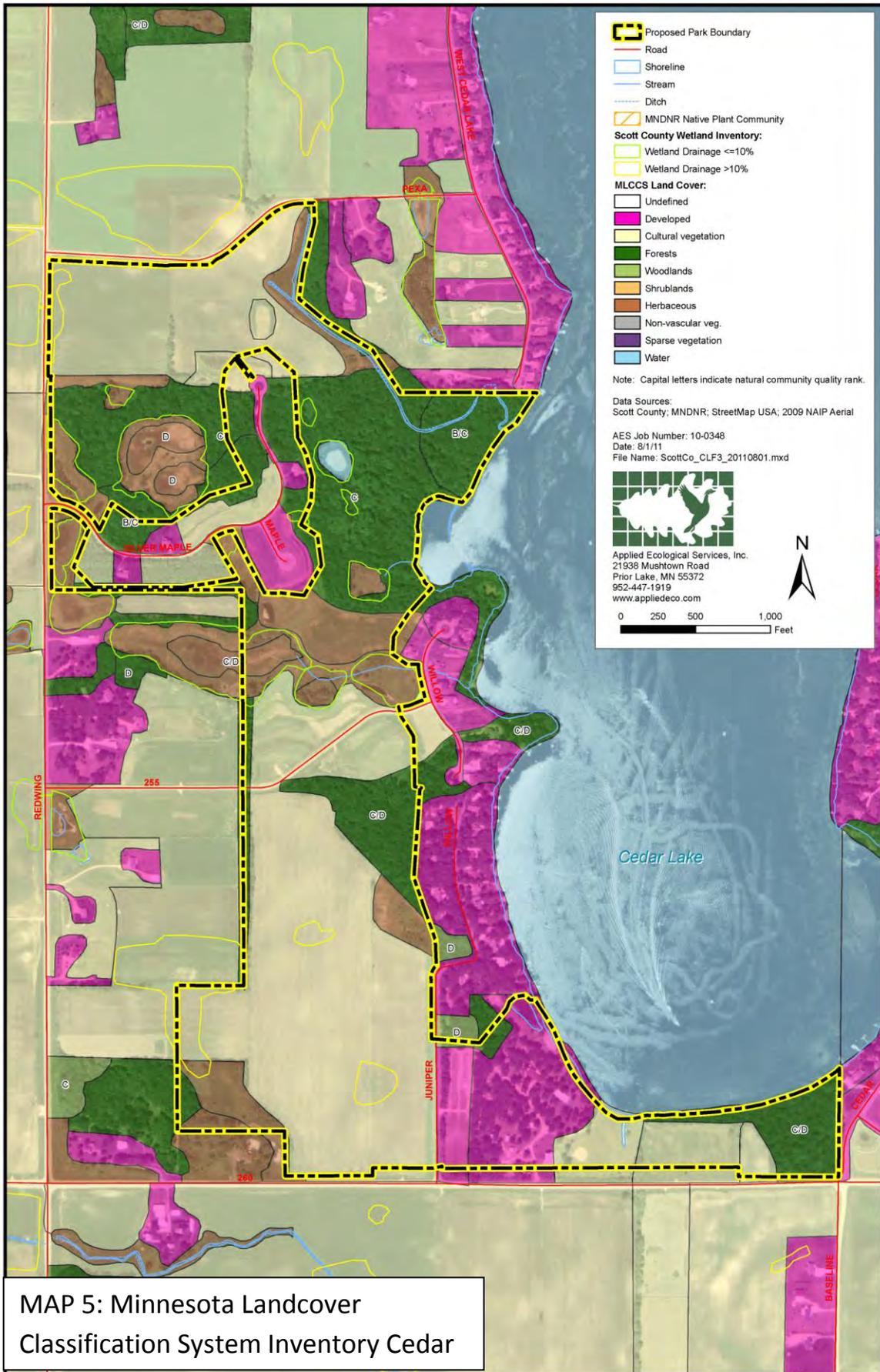
## Master Plan: Lakeside Recreation and Market Learning Center

*Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park*

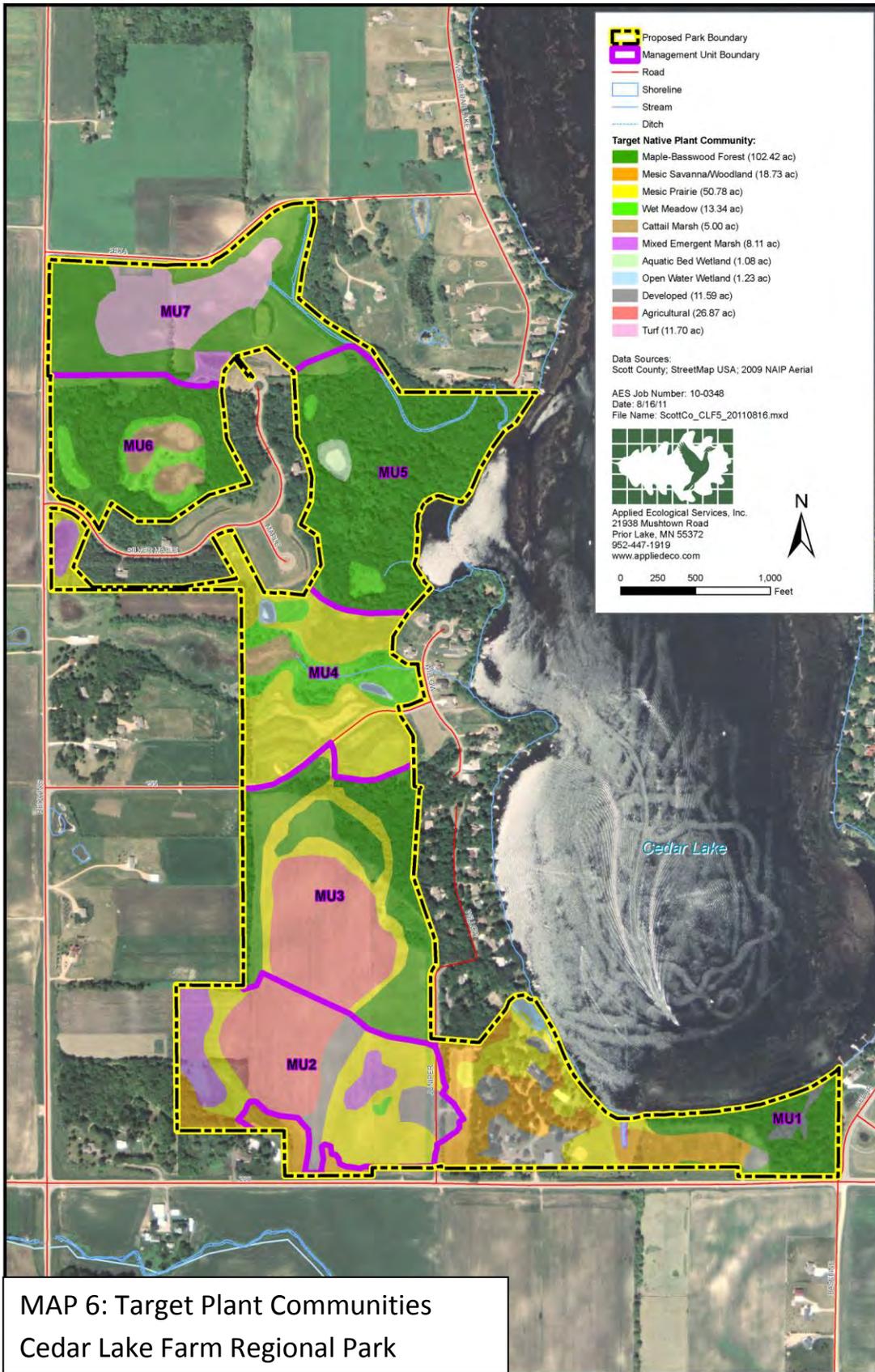








MAP 5: Minnesota Landcover Classification System Inventory Cedar





# Appendix A

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**1 - List of Public Meetings and Events**

**2- Summary of Public Comments for Cedar Lake Farm Site Planning Workshop – Summary of Discussion and Written Comments**

**3 - Master Plan Concept Open House – Written Comments**



**Scott County Park and Trail Master Planning Process**  
**List of Public Events and Meetings**

***FIELD TRIP EVENTS – On-Site Field Trips with Citizen Design Team and Public***

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOUR LOCATION/FOCUS</b>
<b>Saturday, September 11, 2010</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:30am to noon – CDT only</li> <li>• Noon to 2:00pm – Public</li> </ul>	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park
<b>Saturday, September 18, 2010</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:30am to noon – CDT only</li> <li>• Noon to 2:00pm – Public</li> </ul>	Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
<b>Saturday, September 25, 2010</b> 9am to Noon – CDT only	Trails Field Trip
<b>Saturday, October 2, 2010</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am to Noon – CDT Only</li> <li>• Noon to 2:00pm – Public</li> </ul>	Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve Area

***CITIZEN DESIGN TEAM MONTHLY MEETINGS***

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
#1	Thursday, July 22, 2010	Scott County Law Enforcement Center
#2	Thursday, August 12, 2010	Scott County Regional Training Facility
#3	Thurs, September 16, 2010	PARKS CDT - Ney Nature Center TRAILS CDT - Scott County Government Center
#4	Thursday, October 21, 2010	Cleary Lake Regional Park
#5	Thursday, November 18, 2010	PARKS CDT - State Bank of New Prague TRAILS CDT - Scott County Government Center
#6	Thurs, January 20, 2011	PARKS CDT - Scott County Law Enforcement
#6	Thursday, January 27, 2011	TRAILS CDT - Scott County Conference Center
#7	Thursday, March 10, 2011	Scott County Regional Training Facility
#8	Thursday, September 28, 2011	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park

## **PUBLIC WORKSHOPS**

### **First Set of Workshops: Public Policy Discussion and Collection of Park/Trail Ideas**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS</b>
Wednesday, August 18, 2010	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park
Thursday, August 19, 2010	Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
Wednesday, August 25, 2010	Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve Search Area
Thursday, August 26, 2010	Scott West and Spring Lake Regional Trail Search Areas

### **Second Set of Workshops: Presentation of Master Plan Concepts and Input/Feedback**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>WORKSHOP FOCUS</b>
Wednesday, February 16, 2011	Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
Thursday, February 17, 2011	Cedar Lake Regional Park
Wednesday, February 23, 2011	Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve Search Area
Thursday, February 24, 2011	Scott West and Spring Lake Regional Trail Search Areas

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) MEETINGS – DISCUSSIONS AND INPUT**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GOVERNMENTAL BODY</b>	<b>MEETING FOCUS</b>
November 4, 2010	Sand Creek Township Board	Spring Lake Trail search area
November 22, 2010	Shakopee Park and Rec Board	Scott West Trail search area
November 22, 2010	Jordan Parks Commission	Spring Lake Trail search area
December 6, 2010	Credit River Township Board	Scott West Trail search area
December 7, 2010	Blakeley Township Board	Blakeley Bluffs search area
January 4, 2011	Cedar Lake Township Board	Doyle-Kennefick concepts
January 4, 2011	Helena Township Board	Cedar Lake Farm concepts
January 20, 2011	Prior Lake Parks Commission	Scott West and Spring Lake Trails
February 1, 2011	Downtown Shakopee Partnership (business group)	Scott West Trail/Downtown route
February 1, 2011	Blakeley Township Board	Blakeley Bluffs concepts
February 1, 2011	Helena Township Board	Cedar Lake Farm concepts
February 8, 2011	Shakopee City Council - Workshop	Scott West Trail/Downtown route
February 8, 2011	New Prague Parks Commission	Cedar Lake Farm concepts
February 10, 2011	Elko New Market Parks Commission/New Market Township Joint Meeting	Doyle-Kennefick concepts
May 3, 2011	Shakopee City Council	Scott West Trail/Downtown route – Selection of preferred alignment

**SCOTT COUNTY MEETINGS – INPUT AND AUTHORIZATION**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GOVERNMENTAL BODY</b>	<b>MEETING FOCUS</b>
October 6, 2010	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission	Shared findings from 1 <sup>st</sup> round of public workshops
October 12, 2010	Scott County Board of Commissioners - Workshop	Shared findings from 1 <sup>st</sup> round of public workshops
November 3, 2010	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission - Workshop	Presented preliminary concepts
December 1, 2010	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission - Workshop	Presented early preliminary concepts
February 2, 2011	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission	Presented preferred concepts from CDT
February 8, 2011	Scott County Board of Commissioners - Workshop	Presented preferred concepts from CDT
May 4, 2011	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission	Presented refined preferred concepts
July 6, 2011	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission	Recommend Approval of Trail Master Plans
September 13, 2011	Scott County Board of Commissioners	Approved Trail Master Plans and Submittal to Metropolitan Council
November 2, 2011	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission	Recommend Approval of Cedar Lake Farm Master Plan
December 7, 2011	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission	Recommend Approval of Doyle-Kennefick and Blakeley Bluffs Master Plans
December 13, 2011 (tentative)	Scott County Board of Commissioners	Approval of Parks Master Plans and Submittal to Metropolitan Council

# Cedar Lake Farm Public Workshop Comments:

August 18, 2010



## Group Discussion:

### Issues and Challenges:

- Fudnign
- Roadways
- Adjacent noise to residents
- Safety with water
- Water quality

### Programming Ideas:

- Running, Cross-country skiers
- Accommodate different trail user groups
- Dual programming between parks and schools
- Volunteers, "Adopt-a-park"
- Sustainability – electric car parking
- Canoeing
- Public Docks/Public Water access
- Campground – could be revenue resource
- Winter use
- Fishing pier – better access to water
- Preserve agricultural theme – events – tractor show
- Harvesting /Garden/Education
- Family –oriented – example "Movie in the Park"

## Individual Forms (32 Forms turned in – 21 answered following questions)

1. What issues or challenges do you see for developing the park facility?
  - a. Funding (8)
  - b. Roadways, Access, Circulation as barriers (4)
  - c. Adjacent resident/Working with developed areas (10)
  - d. Noise of Uses/noise echoing across lake (4)
  - e. Safety of Water access and uses (3)
  - f. Water Quality (9) – clean up the lake for swimming
  - g. Access to the Park by the lake
  - h. 255<sup>th</sup> Street W. is an issue – more land around the road
  - i. Stop any existing erosion (2)
  - j. Buffer park from neighbors (5)
  - k. Future Sub-divisions (2)
  - l. Day-Use only – no overnights – concern for residents (3)
  - m. Wetland issues – how to cross? (2)
  - n. No large unbroken parcels or land

- o. Saving the fish
  - p. Parking
  - q. Camping
  - r. Maintaining the buildings
  - s. No public boat landing (2)
  - t. Barn
  - u. Bring North and South ends together
  - v. County Rd. 2 entrance
2. What types of programming or activities should be accommodated at the park?
- a. Camping (could be revenue source (4)
  - b. RV camping – take advantage of RV demand as revenue
  - c. Winter Uses/Winter Sports
  - d. Fishing Pier/Fishing (7)
  - e. Farming/Antique Tractors/Agriculture Theme – preserve heritage (3)
  - f. Family Activities – Movies in the Park (2)
  - g. Cross Country Running and Skiing – School Groups (4)
  - h. Boating / Kayaking / Canoeing / Rentals (4)
  - i. Boating with Slip fees
  - j. Playground
  - k. Fire pit
  - l. Open Concession Stand
  - m. Bocce ball courts
  - n. Croup Camping/Camper Cabins/Hike-in Camping (3)
  - o. Walking trail through Maple/Basswood Forest
  - p. Beach expansion/Swimming (4)
  - q. Public Dock/Boardwalk (3)
  - r. Paved Trails/Biking Trails/Circular Trail (6)
  - s. Possible Mountain Biking options
  - t. Environmental Education/Workign Farm (5) – Food production, sustainable land use, permaculture design and training, livestock and crop techniques
  - u. Natural Resource Educaiton (2) – Fishing Camp, Boating training, Maple Syrup Collection, animals in the barn for kids
  - v. Wedding Receptions
  - w. Rent out house overnights
  - x. Renovate Barn for Wedding Receptions/Event Site (3)
  - y. Active Recreation (2)
  - z. General Picnic (2)
  - aa. Reservation Picnic areas (2)
  - bb. Year Round Use
  - cc. Day Use Only
  - dd. Generate Revenue – great place for events (4)
  - ee. Dog Park – off leash pet area (3)
  - ff. Hay Wagon Rides – hay ride trail (2)
  - gg. Learning Facility

- hh. Disc Golfing
  - ii. Trail to New Prague
  - jj. Prairie Restoration
3. What should be the priority for the development of park amenities and programming?
- a. To use what is here to the max. Add in promo for outdoor weddings – chapel.
  - b. Adopt a park program
  - c. Water Quality Education – restoring shore land in developed areas
  - d. Develop basic soft surface trail system – pave it later
  - e. Improve beach/Swimming (3)
  - f. Primitive camping (2)
  - g. Events (2)
  - h. Family Fun/Kids Programs (3)
  - i. Demonstration of landscape use for energy and resource conservation
  - j. Trails – interior and connecting to Regional System (2)
  - k. Keeping it Natural
  - l. Historic Farm with Animals
  - m. Hay Rides
  - n. Fishing Pier/Fishing (5)
  - o. Canoe/Kayak rentals/Boating (2)
  - p. To work with Tractor Club to build building to accommodate museum of antique farming equipment
  - q. Renovate barn for Rental
  - r. Start the revenue stream (2)
  - s. Staff available. Day programs for kids
  - t. Barn open to public
  - u. Activities to the front – natural resources to the back
  - v. Open Concessions (2)
  - w. Electric Car Hook-up

#### Additional Comments/Questions

- How and who can we partner with to increase funds/efforts?
- Possible opportunities of volunteerism, but what is really possible in the end?
- Talk is good but would need the follow through
- Concerns about who is restricted by costs if usage/entrance fees are implemented



**Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park  
Master Plan Concept Open House (2/17/11)  
Evaluation Form – Responses in Red**



*58 Participants Signed In*

**1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the proposed park boundary? (please circle)**

<b>Poor</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<b>Excellent</b>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

*6, 6, 9, 10, 6, 9, 9, 9, 7, 5, 7, 6, NA, NA, 4, NA, 3, 2, 3, 10, 9*

**Please describe what you like and/or dislike about the master plan.**

- *Seems like it won't be accessible enough*
- *I dislike the idea of camping and weddings, etc.. on Cedar Farms, right next to Hwy 2 when a huge power line will be coming right by. How safe will this be for people using the park?*
- *How will the public access on the lake handle the extra boat traffic congestion?*
- *I like the mix and all that has been outlined.*
- *Like barn restoration and re-use plan. Group camp? With out other camping bin in location/size it should be ok.*
- *Use of existing features and improvements. Paved trails and off leash dog park.*
- *The trails and usage of the park is really nice. They have incorporated many uses and have thought ahead. The paved trail. The renovated beach area, kayak and canoe rental. Love the dog park.*
- *I like the barn idea. Not the house, it's not worth it.*
- *I think you need to look at Gale Woods Park and their emphasis on Food Production. Your concept of putting that idea off for 20 years might be too late. Overall whole park looks ok.*
- *Like: Playground, barn resto (cost may be prohibitive), wetland restoration, beach enhancement. Dislike: Location of the dog park (leave natural area natural), lack of native prairie and restoration, too much trail loop in north, length of time ag land will be leased, boardwalk through wetland. Don't see much value in house resto.*
- *I believe the park should reflect more agriculture – gardens, growing vegetables, using some of Scott Countyies master gardeners. This was an agricultural county in the 1960's there were more than 600 farms, and this place was a farm. Let's reflect our history.*
- *No overnight camping. Have main entrance come from Cedar Lane instead of Juniper.*
- *No overnight public camping. (Small controlled groups – ok, i.e. boy scouts.*
- *Have main entrance off Cedar Lake, not Willow. Culdesac already in place for car turn around, turn lanes in place, before the hill and not homes affected.*
- *No large events and event center in the residential area of Juniper and Willow Lane.*

- Dog park is ridiculous. No need for 14 acres for dogs to run and X\*&% and taxpayers paying for it. Leave it as natural areas as was discussed at the beginning of the park. Tear barn and house down. To much money to restore. Again using taxpayers dollars.
- Splash pad and location of kayak and canoe launch: natural flow and winds push non-motorized boats along the northwest shore into resident's dockage and traffic. Best location for kayak/canoe launch is in open area next to inflow stream and place bouy along south end to direct traffic.
- More wild life area and nature trails.
- Didn't answer the questions. Bulldoze it all down or burn it down.
- Spending a lot of money to remodel the barn. Is the county now going to compete with private business for weddings, etc.? Remodeling of the house for that kind of money is a waste of taxpayer money if you get private money for the house that would be okay with me.
- Very impressive! The whole plan looks great!
- I really like this plan. The size, amenities, activities, and layout look great! I am personally most excited about the walking path.

2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the effectiveness of the proposed park boundary to preserve the area's unique character (natural, historical, cultural, etc.)? (please circle)

Poor	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

NA, NA, 7, 10, 6, 9, 10, 9, 5, 5, 7, 8, NA, NA, 3, NA, 3, 1, 5, 10, 9

Please describe other facilities or programming activities you would like at the park that are not shown in the master plan.

- NA
- NA
- I would like to see the trails also used for x-country trails in the winter.
- Like it all. Would like to see the camper cabins in sooner as they probably would receive good use.
- Wonder about starting garden if need/demand now. Interested in programing that may be offered here.
- Will there be concession sales as a part of the programming with Three Rivers? I think this would be a nice addition; if priced appropriately. I like the community garden concept.
- NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA
- Volleyball courts
- I would like some electric sites, I have a pop up camper but no tent.

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate Phase 1 (i.e. first 10 years of development of the master plan.)? (please circle)

Poor	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

NA,NA, 8, 9, 9, 9, 6, 8, 5, NA, NA, 6, NA, NA, 4, NA, 4, 1, NA,9, 9

**Please describe if there are improvements in later phases that you would prefer be moved to Phase 1.**

- NA, NA
- Move splash pad earlier due to potential water quality issues
- Like to see cabins moved up
- Roadway re-alignment; would it be better soon?
- NA
- Prefer to see paved trail extended further north and implement off leash dog park sooner.
- I would prefer to have the trails going up into the norther paert of the park. Tehre would not be any access to this area without the trail going through. It would be a waste to not get to use if for another 8-10 years.
- More trails less of buildings (house)
- Yes, move the farmers market/food growing activities into the 1<sup>st</sup> phase
- NA
- Put in more agriculture related activities
- NA
- NA
- Buying property needed for the park as discussed earlier.
- NA, NA
- Too much money
- NA
- I would love to see the walking paths be some of the first developed parts – residents as well as visitors would use this immediately, making the park more desirable. I do think the residents that live so closely would feel this as a perk to them as well! Sooner the better.
- My only comment is how quickly can we complete the walking paths?

**4. What issues are you concerned with related to the long-term implementation of this park?**

- There could be community gardens since this is an important value now – not in 30 years.
- NA
- Funding, timing, operations
- NA
- Traffic flow and innovative ideas for programming
- I would welcome staff to visit my home and walk the area behind our homes to see an appropriate setback for the proposed trail. I know this is a concern for a number of the neighbors along Willow Lane.
- The development will take too long
- The camping area raises some concern w/ major power lines coming through would there still be attraction to this area with the lines there?
- Don't compete with local business - that's not your job!

- NA
- *Want to see natural area remain natural, leave as a sanctuary.. Convert useless ag land to native in Phase One.*
- NA
- *No overnight camping.*
- *Potential bandshell and noise to local neighborhood from barn parties. No public overnight rental of house! No splash/water park and related neighborhood noise.*
- *Do not like boardwalk on the wetland*
- NA
- *Buffering neighboring property, camping, camp fires, increased traffic noise*
- *Why did Hendricks sell?*
- *Noise, some people have said it gets loud at night. Not a good situation with families. Foul language, lots of drinking.*
- *I really appreciate your willingness to get feedback from the residents surrounding this area. Thanks for listening! We are so glad that Willow Lane and Willow Court will NOT be connected!*
- *I am most impressed with the neighborhood forums that are used to collect input. I am REALLY happy that Willow Lane and Willow Court will REMAIN DIS-connected*
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# Appendix B

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## **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Identification and Description of Practices that will Avoid the Introduction or Movement of Invasive Species**

It is the DNR's policy to limit the introduction of invasive species onto DNR managed lands and waters, limit their rate of geographical spread, and reduce their impact on high value resources.

The movement of equipment, organisms, and organic and inorganic material are potential pathways for the introduction or spread of invasive species. Each of these pathways should be considered and addressed to reduce risk associated with invasive species movement.

### **General Procedures for Intentional Movement of Equipment**

1. Before arriving at a work site, inspect for and remove all visible plants, seeds, mud, soil, and animals from equipment.
2. Before leaving a work site, inspect for and remove all visible plants, seeds, mud, soil and animals from equipment.
3. After working on infested waters or waters known to harbor pathogens of concern, clean and dry equipment prior to using in locations not known to be infested with species or pathogens present at the last location visited.

### **Specific Procedures: Vehicles and Heavy Equipment**

1. When possible maintain separate equipment to use on uninfested sites.
2. If working on multiple sites, work in uninfested sites before infested sites and clean equipment after use.
3. When working within a site with invasive species work in uninfested areas before infested areas and clean equipment after use.
4. Avoid entering site under wet conditions to minimize rutting and other soil disturbances.
5. Minimize area of soil disturbance with equipment.
6. Minimize number of access points to site.
7. When creating roads and trails minimize area of vegetation and soil disturbance.
8. Survey site before management treatment and treat or avoid moving equipment through existing patches of invasive species.
9. Conduct post management treatment monitoring and treat any responding invasive species.
10. Inspect all gear and remove vegetation, soil, and organisms prior to arriving and leaving site.
11. On sites that are known to be infested with species such as garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, etc (species with small seed that can collect on cloth material) wash clothing after work is complete.
12. Carry boot brush in or on all vehicles and clean boots and clothing (in a controlled area) when leaving any site.
13. Use brush to clean gear and equipment such as chainsaws to remove loose soil and plant materials.
14. Avoid parking in patches of invasive species. When unavoidable, clean vehicle of all visible evidence of soil and vegetation when leaving site.
15. Brush off (hand remove) plants, seeds, mud, soil and animals from vehicles, including wheel wells, tracks, humps, blades, grills, etc.
16. Power spray equipment after hand removal if necessary to remove aquatic plant remnants (particularly curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, flowering rush, and purple loosestrife) and earthworms.

### **General Procedures for Intentional Movement of Organisms, Organic and Inorganic Material (including water, fish, plants, mulch, soil, gravel, rock)**

1. Do not plant or introduce prohibited or regulated invasive species or other listed invasive species.
2. Do not transport water from infested waters, except by permit. When you must use water from an infested waters, do not drain this water or water that has come in contact with organisms from the infested waters, where it can run into another basin, river, or drain system that does not go to a treatment facility.
3. Use only mulch, soil, gravel, etc. that is invasive species-free or has a very low likelihood of having invasive species.
4. Do not transplant organisms or plant material from any waters with known populations of invasive aquatic invertebrates
5. Do not move soil, dredge material, or raw wood projects that may harbor invasive species from infested sites.

### **Specific Procedures: Re-vegetation (Aquatic and Terrestrial Plants)**

1. Do not plant or introduce prohibited or regulated invasive species or other listed invasive species.
2. Inspect transplanted vegetation for signs of invasive species that may be attached to the vegetation and remove (i.e., other plant material and animals, etc.)
3. Re-vegetate with native species.
4. Preserve existing native vegetation. Peel topsoil that contains natives away from the work zone, stockpile and then replace it at the end of construction. This can help re-establish native species quickly.
5. If stockpiled invasive free topsoil isn't adequate for post-construction landscaping, and black dirt, sand or gravel must be purchased, purchase invasive species (i.e., worm) free material.
6. Purchase certified weed-free mulch.
7. Inspect outside of storage containers and materials for visible presence of invasive species.
8. If possible use seeding material, plants, fill, straw, gravel, and mulch that is certified as uninfested.
9. Monitor areas where materials are added for evidence of invasive species germination.
10. When possible minimize the use of outside materials.

### **Procedures to Minimize the Risk of Increasing the Dominance of Invasive Species on Site**

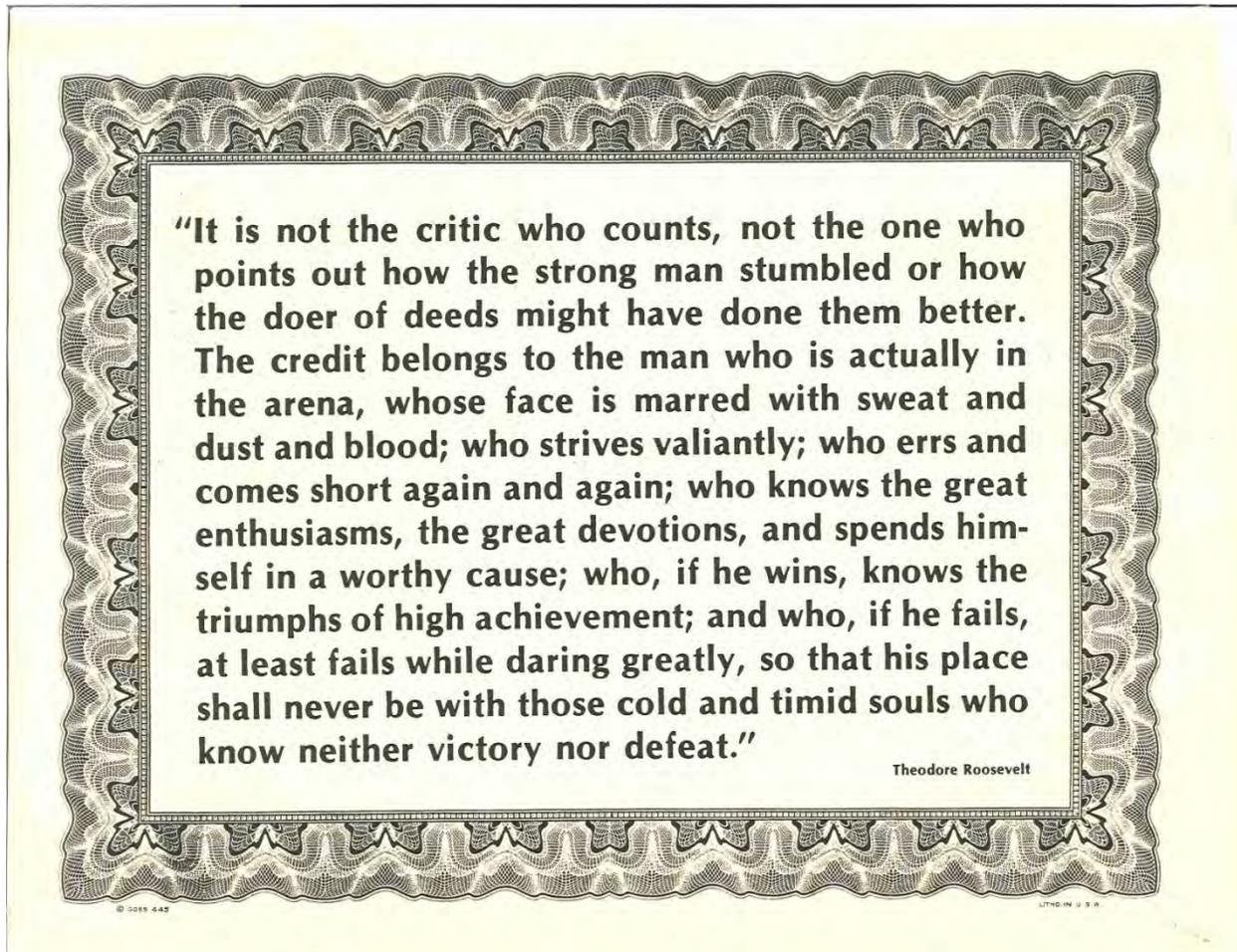
1. Survey site before burning and treat or avoid moving through patches of invasive species before burn is conducted.
2. Avoid entering site under wet conditions to minimize rutting and other soil disturbances.
3. Conduct post-treatment monitoring and treat any invasive species (such as resprouts and germination).

### **Site Planning and Management**

Construction activities that disturb the soil surface can expose dormant invasive species seed banks and create a growth medium that favors invasive plants. Landscaping can also introduce invasive plant species, as can maintenance activities such as mowing, grading, and stormwater pond maintenance.

Exercise site-level management to minimize the introduction, spread, and impact of invasive species. Site-level management shall include planning, implementation and evaluation procedures that reduce the risk of introduction, spread, and impact of invasive species. Procedures include identification of invasive species, monitoring for invasive species, developing strategies and actions to minimize spread and impact, implementing management actions, and evaluating success.

# Man in the Arena



Theodore Roosevelt

**"Citizenship in a Republic,"**  
**Speech at the Sorbonne, Paris, April 23, 1911**

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The above was often quoted by Ralph Hendricks, who in the 1960's began Cedar Lake Farm, a private corporate event and family picnic site where Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park is now located. According to his son Jon Hendricks, Ralph was a classic, never-say-die entrepreneur. He was always exploring and testing new business ideas. Ralph was quite fond of this quote as it expressed his own sentiments so well. It hung in his office and inside the main pavilion. He gifted each of his five sons with an identical plaque and encouraged them to memorize it. The Citizen Planning Team wished to include it in the master plan in memory of Ralph and as an acknowledgement to the CDT's work 'in the arena' to develop the master plan for the park."