



General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Last Update: May 22, 2018 16:58:47

GMRPTC Park/Trail ID#: 14-002D

Park or Trail Name: Robinson Park

Park or Trail Type: City Park

District: 1

Regional Designation Status : Regionally Designated

Evaluation Score :

Park/Trail Address: Old Wagon Road

City: Sandstone

Zip: 55072

Latitude: 46.1305556

Longitude: -92.8583333

Location Description: Robinson Park is a city owned, but regionally designated park site containing 65 acres of land located along the Wild and Scenic Kettle River in the City of Sandstone, Minnesota and is bordered on three sides by Banning State Park. Sandstone is located in Pine County, directly off of Interstate 35, approximately 65 miles south of Duluth and 75 miles north of the Minneapolis metro area.

Maps of Park/Trail:

Description: Robinson Park Context Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/03006-000_Robinson_Final_MP_Context_cff6f1.jpg

Description: Park Map Google Enlargement

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Google_Park_Map_4b0612.jpg

Facility Website: http://sandstone.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_LOC&SEC=%7BEAAE6132-1B65-4E89-8E04-AA3859708563%7D&D

Lead Applicant Organization : Sandstone

Lead Contact Person: Kathy George

Lead Contact Title: City Administrator

Mailing Address: PO Box 641, 119 Fourth Street

City: Sandstone

Zip: 55072

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Email: administrator@sandstonemn.com

Joint Applicant #1: N/A

Joint Applicant #2: N/A

Joint Applicant #3: N/A

Joint Applicant #4: N/A

Other project supporters : Supporters of the project include many of the residents of Sandstone, Vertical Endeavors Guided Adventures, Minnesota Climbers Association, Banning State Park, various universities and colleges, scouting troops, Rapid Riders Group, the Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone Chamber of Commerce, and others.,

Description

Regional Significance Statement: Robinson Park is a regionally significant park due to the diverse and unique recreational amenities and experiences that are provided in a historic and highly scenic setting located along the Wild and Scenic Kettle River. The park is bordered on three sides by Banning State Park and located directly adjacent to the City of Sandstone in an easily accessible location that continually draws in local, regional and even international users.

Site Map uploads:

Description: Google Park Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Google Park Map_3b79f0.jpg

Classification: Special Recreational Feature Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail: Robinson Park is located adjacent to Banning State Park but provides supplementary recreational amenities in a different style and setting to include proposed individual and group tent camp sites and the potential inclusion of camper cabins in upper Robinson that will overlook the scenic Kettle River. The Kettle River Trail proposed in Robinson Park will provide a regional connection to Banning State Park on the north and south sides of Robinson Park for a continuous recreational experience with the ultimate goal of a trail connection to St. Croix State Park. Robinson Park is also directly adjacent to the City of Sandstone and improvements will improve pedestrian access to Robinson Park for the city residents, along with much needed recreational amenities.

Robinson Park is the location of a previous quarry which created the cliff wall used for climbing and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 due to the numerous historical quarry remnants that still exist on the site. The quarry remnants in the park create a rustic and historic park setting that is very appealing and also creates an opportunity to emphasize the historical elements as part of the park experience. Existing and new park programs and events can showcase the historical aspects of the park while protecting the historical pieces in the process. The Audubon Center of the North Woods is also located in Sandstone and associated programs can be implemented in the park that make use of the natural and highly aesthetic setting of the park, which is also known to be along a bird migratory flyway.

Climbing in Robinson Park is unique in that it offers varying types of climbing including traditional, sport, bouldering, ice, and mixed climbing, with varying skill levels all located within a historic setting. While climbing in Robinson Park offers a variety of routes and levels suitable from the beginner to the more experienced, it is most highly acclaimed for its ice climbing. Ice climbing in general is rare to find anywhere in the United States and Robinson Park is a prized winter attraction from people all over the United States and even abroad.

Robinson Park provides non-motorized boat access to the Kettle River above and below the dam location. This provides an access location for users who want to access the waterfalls and Robinson Ice Cave while avoiding the rapids. The Kettle River continually attracts kayakers and canoeists to Robinson Park which is currently promoted and utilized by some groups and outfitters for commercial purposes, such as one outfitting company based in St. Paul that offers guided rafting and kayaking tours and instruction.

The combination of the various active and passive recreational amenities located within a highly scenic park filled with intriguing historical features make Robinson Park truly unique in the region and fills a gap for both local as well as regional populations.

Total Acreage or Mileage : 65

Acquisition and Development Status: Existing Park of Trail

Describe land acquisition status: city owned

Percentage of land acquired: 100%

Development status: Some development, but more proposed

- New facilities proposed
- Existing facilities to be upgraded

Regional Context : Robinson Park is a city owned park that provides many unique recreational and historical features combined into one unique park setting that continually draws in local, regional and even international users. Robinson Park is directly adjacent to the city of Sandstone, which is located halfway between the cities of Duluth and the Minneapolis Metro area directly off of Interstate 35, as well as portions of the St. Croix Scenic Byway route along Hwy 23, offering quick and easy access. It is currently known to be a meeting point for many regional park users due to its prime location. The existing Sandstone Junction Trail along Hwy 23 provides a local connection to the Willard Munger State Trail, and Hwy 23 has large paved shoulders that extends north to Jay Cooke State Park, the Magney-Snively Natural Area, and Spirit Mountain, just to name a few, providing many regional connections. It is the hope that eventually Robinson Park would be part of a larger trail network along the Kettle River that would ultimately tie into St. Croix State Park. Robinson Park is located directly adjacent to Banning State Park on both the north and south sides of the park, and also on the opposite side of the Kettle River, making Robinson Park a regional connection between the Banning State Park parcels. The Wild and Scenic Kettle River that runs along the length of Robinson Park has long been a draw for many kayakers and canoeists and is a state designated water trail. Robinson Park provides water access both to the north and south sides of the dam remnants that still remain in the river, allowing access up and down the river with a portage past the dam. Robinson Park attracts ongoing use by many kayakers, canoeists and

outfitting companies due to this park feature. The rock cliff walls provide year round climbing opportunities including rock climbing, bouldering and farmed ice climbing with opportunities for varying skill levels. The ice climbing is a unique feature for Robinson Park, as this is rare to find, and Robinson is known internationally for its winter climbing operations. The park has been featured in numerous publications and news articles nationally and internationally for its climbing activities. Robinson Park is the location of a previous quarry and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 due to the numerous historical quarry remnants that still exist on the site. The previous quarry operations that existed in Robinson Park create a very distinct park setting. The artifacts that are scattered everywhere provide a rustic, historic feel and blend the past uses with the present.

Regional Map uploads:

Description: Regional context map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/03006-000_Robinson_Final_MP_Context_3671c9.jpg

Site Information

This section provides an overview of existing and proposed site facilities and general site characteristics

Existing Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Tent only sites
- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Lake Access for power boats
- Canoeing Facilities
- Climbing (natural/man-made)
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

Proposed Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins
- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Canoeing Facilities
- Fishing Piers
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme
- Climbing (natural/man-made)
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

General Site Characteristics

Robinson Park is located directly adjacent to Banning State Park on three sides and was once the location of a sandstone quarry that was in operation until the late 1930's. The quarry site included a dam in the Kettle River, various railroad lines, roads, buildings, and other support facilities located throughout. When the quarry operations closed it left in its place an approximate 100 foot high rock cliff wall that separates the park into an upper and lower area that has attracted climbers to the park for many years. The rock wall displays numerous drill markings from the quarry operations and climbers can also view historic "signatures" left in the face of the wall in some locations from previous quarry workers. There are scattered remnants of the previous

quarry operations and equipment still located throughout the site, some that enhance the historic park appeal and others that remain mainly hidden from view due to dense vegetative growth. A guy derrick still stands tall along the rock wall and there are large stone building foundations in the park as well as the Old Wagon Bridge foundations which are still located in and along the river, hinting at the historic elements that once stood here.

The upper portion of Robinson consists of approximately one third of the park property and is located directly adjacent to the city of Sandstone. This parcel of land is mainly undeveloped except for the city of Sandstone water tower and a shed that a climbing group has set up and maintained to provide water service to irrigate the cliff walls for farmed winter ice. There are a couple of wetland areas in upper Robinson and most of the site contains dense, mature deciduous vegetation mixed with some evergreens, with the exception of a cleared utility corridor that extends down into lower Robinson. Foot trails are scattered throughout upper Robinson and direct access from upper to lower Robinson does not exist, other than through some of the foot paths that lead down steep and rocky hillside terrain. There are some locations along the cliff wall edge with dramatic views into lower Robinson and of the Kettle River.

Lower Robinson consists of the remaining two-thirds of the park property and is accessed off of Hwy 123 along Old Wagon Road, which was once the road that connected to the old Wagon Bridge that crossed the Kettle River. Lower Robinson is where much of the existing site activity takes place and contains some developed park amenities, including a paved parking area, a water treatment facility, several primitive tent sites along an old railroad bed, a boat launch, picnic shelters, restroom building (no water or sanitary), natural trails, boat portages, and a historical quarry display area. The Kettle River runs the entire length of the park creating a very scenic park setting that attracts many park users. The old dam remnants in the river create a water hazard but the sound and sight of the river running across this location continually draws in visitors with its scenic setting and soothing sound.

The south end of Lower Robinson contains a heavily vegetated wetland surrounded by numerous rock rubble piles left from the previous quarry operations that attract users of varying ages to climb across. The landscape transitions to a more open setting in the central portion where the majority of the developed amenities are built. This is where the water treatment buildings, parking lot, boat launch and picnic buildings are located. To the north the vegetation becomes denser and there are areas of exposed bedrock with rare water ripple patterns and sensitive lichen growing on them for those that are adventurous enough to find them. The cliff wall wraps around the majority of lower Robinson on the western and northern edge of the park, creating a very distinct park setting with a dramatic backdrop of chiseled rock. Lower Robinson feels very remote and natural, offering solitude from development. On the northern edge of the park is the railroad bridge that stretches high above the Kettle River, creating an amazing photo opportunity.

The dense vegetation in the park is in need of management and much of the upper and lower park areas have invasive and undesirable species that are in need of control. Proper management will create a safer and more inviting park while ensuring protection of sensitive and endangered species and an improved feel of security for park users while still maintaining the natural appeal.

Site characteristics uploads:

Description: View of Kettle River and remaining bridge foundations taken from park

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/IMG_1623-small_910d8b.jpg

Description: View of remaining quarry derrick

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/IMG_1630-small_23d1f7.jpg

Description: View of dam remains and railroad bridge

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/20150802_161552_ba158d.jpg

Description: Photo of quarry operations (drill bit)

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/drill_ed00ef.jpg

Description: Photo of stone crusher foundation next to informal road, also used as a trail

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/20150802_155455_aa0cca.jpg

Description: Photo of ice cliffs for winter climbing

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/ice2_7d24a9.JPG

Description: Photo of stone with natural markings

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/May_2015_192_83701a.jpg

Trends/Public Values

Public Involvement Summary : The City of Sandstone staff and Parks Commission members provided oversight of the planning process at critical points. Being familiar with the park, local community perspectives, and recreational demands for various types of facilities, city staff and Parks Commission members inherently played an instrumental role in the master planning process. Under the planning framework, there were three meetings held with the City of Sandstone staff and the Parks Commission members, who focused on the following key roles:

Community outreach & promote project process

Provide background and site specific information

Review and comment on all planning and design outcomes

Consensus and approval of the final master plan

Two public open house meetings were held in the City of Sandstone in order to gather input from the public, as well as to provide them the opportunity to review and comment on the development plans. The public meeting notices were distributed throughout the community and publicized in the Pine County Courier paper with additional write-ups in the paper following some of the meetings. Attendance at each open house meeting was greater than 25 per meeting. Those in attendance included residents of Sandstone along with some special interest groups and even a few who grew up in the region and came back to Sandstone specifically for the open house meeting in order to provide their input. The project stakeholders, from local residents to special interest groups, contributed a wide range of perspectives, which proved to be crucial to finding a balanced approach to the future of Robinson Park.

Several informal meetings with specific stakeholder groups were also held due to the fact they were located outside of the Sandstone region, along with phone or email conversations with others.

Some select groups and individuals who provided input and who are considered project stakeholders included the following:

City of Sandstone staff

Sandstone Parks Commission

Minnesota Climbers Association

Vertical Endeavors Guided Adventures (VEGA)

Kayakers / Canoeists

Local Residents

Current and previous park users

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Banning State Park

State Historic Preservation Office

Community Service Groups

Quality of Life Committee

Sandstone Chamber of Commerce

Children, Youth and Future Work Force Committee

Rapid Riders Group

Audubon Center of the North Woods

Photographers

Educational Institutions

The following summarizes the formal meetings for input and review during the design process.

April 15, 2015 Parks Commission - Project Kick-off

June 25, 2015 Public Open House #1 - Programming

August 11, 2015 Parks Commission - Concept Review

September 10, 2015 Public Open House #2 - Preliminary Master Plan Review

October 1, 2015 Parks Commission - Master Plan Review & Approval

December 2, 2015 City Council - Review and Adoption

It was clearly established during the public process by the city staff and project stakeholders that the master plan should accommodate a balanced development approach as a high priority for ongoing sustainability and increased safety for park users. The historical components and natural character are what give Robinson Park its unique appeal. The active recreational amenities offered in Robinson Park continually draw users to the region and, in turn, has increased the safety within the park. Finding the appropriate balance between human use of the park, historical interpretation and preservation, and ecological protection was an important and consistent concern from almost all park users and local residents. The master plan reflects this by clearly defining the active and passive spaces within the park setting.

The following is a list of high priority goals that were of importance to local and regional park users based on the community input received during the design process.

Accommodate a variety of recreational activities for both local as well as regional park users

Provide recreational amenities during all seasons of the year

Improve the overall park experience and safety of the park

Provide a balance between preserving and enhancing the natural resources and scenic qualities while accommodating active recreational park development

Provide a better connection between the local community and the park

Portray the historical significance of the site that is currently being missed and protect artifacts

Encourage ongoing stewards - start with the youth to get them more involved

Provide proper accessibility to the park and recreational amenities

Delineate vehicular vs. pedestrian routes through the park

Promote future business opportunities in Sandstone by highlighting the parks' significance

In consideration of the findings of the public process, it is clear that Robinson Park is an essential component of the city of Sandstone, as well as Pine County. The Master Plan illustrates the ultimate design that was specifically based upon the input gathered during the public engagement process, from the broad recreational use areas down to the finer details provided by various stakeholders in regards to special requirements and spatial concerns.

Public Involvement Support Material Uploads:

Description: Public Process

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/4_Section_2_Planning_Process_ef16df.pdf

Regional Demographic Information : Robinson Park is a 65 acre site located along the Wild and Scenic Kettle River between Banning State Park parcels, in the City of Sandstone, in Pine County, Minnesota which is located directly off of Interstate 35. It is located about 65 miles south of Duluth and about 75 miles north of the edge of the Minneapolis metro area, setting it approximately halfway between two major cities. Robinson Park not only serves the adjacent City of Sandstone directly, but also the greater regional population due to its unique recreational amenities and its easily accessible location. It is known to be a meeting point for user groups coming from the large cities of Duluth and Minneapolis and also many regional educational institutions who utilize the park. The regional populations that come to Robinson Park are in search of high quality recreational experiences and sometimes include larger groups that are traveling with additional gear for water or rock climbing activities, requiring special recreational spatial needs. Sandstone is also the location of a low security federal correctional institution that not only provides local jobs, but also brings in outside visitors that are at times in search of peaceful and pleasant spaces while visiting.

Due to its direct location to the City of Sandstone, the park also has to provide recreational amenities that are appropriate for the local, as well as the regional community. According to the 2000 United States Census Bureau, Sandstone had a population of 1,549. The median income for a household in the city was \$40,265 and the median income for a family was \$43,684 with approximately 16.7% of the population falling below the poverty line. The median age for

Sandstone is 38 years of age. It is important to note that a quarter of the community falls in the 65 and older category, as this is the group most likely to seek out park and recreational areas for leisure, as well as for increased health opportunities, such as walking. According to the Pine County census data from 2013, approximately 15% of the total population in Pine County had a disability which is broken down further to show that approximately 41% of the population aged 65 and older had a disability. Aging of the population along with competition for recreational time is changing the demand for, and type of recreation desired by, the public. Facilities will need to be kept up to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and more opportunities for low impact and educational opportunities should be provided to meet the needs of this growing user base. In close proximity to the upper portion of Robinson Park is a senior housing facility and some residents currently use the informal walking paths in upper Robinson to get exercise. Providing access to natural resources and recreational amenities without added costs is an important consideration in improving the health and livability of the community in an equitable fashion, which will be important as the region continues to evolve in terms of population and diversity. Pedestrian access to Robinson Park from the City of Sandstone is a very important consideration as this is currently lacking. The City of Sandstone has indicated they are currently in need of park spaces that provide playground and picnic areas and creating these amenities and a pedestrian link between Sandstone and Robinson Park is a high priority goal.

Regional Demographic Uploads:

Description: demographics

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/demographics_page_8094a4.jpg

Public Health Values:

- Promotes physical activity
- Promotes healthy lifestyle
- Connects people to the outdoors
- Enhances mental health
- Encourages social interaction

Public Health Values Additional Information : Promotes Physical Activity and a healthy lifestyle:

Robinson Park has a variety of recreational amenities that promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. This park is especially important for the adjoining Sandstone residents, as the master plan for this park greatly improves access to active and passive recreational opportunities within a natural and historic setting. Trails in a natural setting also offer improved air quality over walks along roadways. The proposed trails in Robinson Park create a variety of loops, provide access to the various recreational amenities and provide local and regional connections to the park, which are currently lacking. This includes regional connections to Banning State Park at two locations by trail and one proposed connection to Banning State Park by a pedestrian bridge. A staircase connects upper and lower Robinson together along with improved bike access to the park to greatly improve the ability to access and recreate in Robinson Park, with eventual regional connections to Banning and beyond. In upper Robinson there are exercise stations proposed along some of the trails to create a circuit for exercise, as requested by the local residents who continually seek out pleasant trails for walking but desire more physical activity. Trails in both upper and lower Robinson also include historical interpretation to provide a cultural and educational tool that encourages use through programs and events, as well as informal use. The Kettle River is a continual draw for water related recreation, such as fishing, kayaking, rafting and canoeing. Portages are provided above and below the dam with group use areas for storage and gatherings related to the water recreational activities. Rock climbing and bouldering activities are located throughout the park along the walls with improvements made for access, education, group use, and related services. There are flexible open green spaces that can be used for anything from overflow parking to event space during the special programs and events that are held yearly at the park. The park programs will also use these spaces to promote outdoor recreation by showcasing specific events, providing

educational tools, and promoting new recreational enthusiasts, including youth and those who are currently unfamiliar with certain sports. The special interest groups, outfitters and educational institutions who utilize the park will continually create new outdoor enthusiasts in the process. Connects people to outdoors:

Robinson Park is a very scenic park that allows for continued interest and repeat visitors specifically due to the scenic value it offers. The proposed vehicular and pedestrian access to and within the park connects people to a variety of outdoor environments while improving safety and preservation of existing historical items. Upper Robinson provides the day-to-day park amenities and trails that are easily accessible by the local community. The trails meander through mature vegetation and create stopping and viewing areas with scenic vistas of lower Robinson and the Kettle River with connections proposed to Banning State Park to extend the limits of an outdoor experience in varying settings. A staircase connects upper and lower Robinson together for improved connectivity. There are also a variety of camping areas in upper Robinson including single tent, group camping and even the potential for camper cabins along the cliff wall to promote camping activities for extended outdoor experiences. Lower Robinson provides connection to the more passive areas on the north and south ends of the park and the more active recreational spaces in the central portion. The Kettle River and rock walls attract many sport enthusiasts, as well as those who come to just watch the activities take place. The master plan accommodates and allows for promotion of these uses to encourage ongoing stewards. Trails and boardwalks throughout the park allow the users to experience the different natural environments, from wetlands, woodlands, and even the more rare water ripple bedrock pieces, with many opportunities to view wildlife and the numerous historical pieces of the site. The proposed Old Wagon Bridge for pedestrians would further enhance the connection to the outdoors by providing a prime viewing opportunity and connection to the natural areas on the east side of the river.

Enhances mental health:

The variety of outdoor spaces shown in the Robinson Park master plan allow for a variety of spaces that can enhance mental health and well being. From exercise to fresh air or the peaceful sounds of the river rushing by, there are many opportunities throughout the park. The scenic values including the sound of the rushing water provide their own form of relaxation and can reduce stress and improve overall mental well being. The sounds of birds also contribute to this sensory experience. Those who want more solitude can find more remote and quiet reflective spaces, while those looking for more social interaction will have the opportunity to engage with other park users in the more active portions of the park, especially during special park events. The scenic setting, the sounds of the river flowing by, and the remote and historic feel of the park all provide some type of healing opportunity. Outdoor recreation and exercise also improve mental health and Robinson Park has many opportunities for exercise.

Encourages social interaction:

The City of Sandstone and various stakeholder groups currently promote the park and the recreational activities through numerous park programs such as the Kettle River Paddle Fest, the Ice Festival and Quarry Days. These park programs encourage social interaction, as do the various sports that take place at the park. Group camp sites, large gathering spaces, picnic shelters, and the flexible park spaces also encourage a variety of social opportunities. The park also provides a place to meet and explore with others, from parents with kids to friends and neighbors, encouraging social interaction for all ages and demographics.

Public Health Values Support Material Uploads:

Description: Article on the benefits of trails with public health

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/trails-library-public-health-overview_eb3ab0.pdf

Description: Example of potential fitness station to be located along the upper Robinson trail for improved physical activity

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/fitness_example_cfd0dc.jpg

Description: Article on the Health Benefits of Parks by the Trust for Public Land

Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities : Robinson Park is located in an easily accessible location in Sandstone, right off of Interstate 35, halfway between Duluth and the Minneapolis metro area. This is a primary route for many tourists and those on their weekend getaways, as well as various groups from the larger towns who use Sandstone as the half-way meeting place, and is also along the St. Croix Scenic Byway. Robinson Park has unique recreational amenities with the rock and ice climbing and the river activities that continually attract regional and even international visitors. Robinson Park has been the focus of many articles, blogs, magazines, and television news stories throughout the country and even Canada. Improved facilities at the park will improve the overall experience and encourage responsible use, resulting in better tourism opportunities that may likely continue to improve the park through stewardship.

Annual festivals and events currently promote the park and its recreational activities and include Quarry Days, the Sandstone Ice Festival, and the Kettle River Paddle Festival. The festivals promote ongoing tourists as well as stewards since the groups have worked with the community to continually improve Robinson Park through volunteering and fund-raising. Educational institutions and private guiding services have also conducted classes at Robinson Park, including Minneapolis, Duluth and even River Falls, Wisconsin. Since the completion of the master plan, additional interest in the park has expanded to scouting groups. The Boy Scouts of America has added an ice-climbing day trip to Robinson Park as part of their winter camping program.

Further promotion of Robinson Park could be enhanced with signage located along Interstate 35 in both directions to identify the exit that leads to the city of Sandstone and Robinson. This could range from a billboard sign to a larger display exhibiting quarry cliffs or some of the natural resources and recreational amenities available at Robinson Park. From here, additional wayfinding signs throughout Robinson would guide visitors to the locations of park entrances in upper and lower Robinson through the use of sandstone materials to create a sense of place within the community reflective of the historic quarry operations. Since the completion of the master plan, the City of Sandstone has begun implementation of sign design standards and wayfinding measures. The City is currently working on a new kiosk in Train Park, located in the heart of the downtown area with a map of Robinson Park, and also includes information in the Hinckley Visitors Guide. The Audubon Center of the North Woods is located out of Sandstone and could hold their own educational programs in the park related to the natural environments and the bird migratory fly zone for viewing wildlife.

The improvements in Robinson Park will enhance the recreational activities taking place and there is already interest from some of the outfitting companies to open more local businesses for easy access to the park with equipment. The improvements in Robinson will likely allow for demand for more local business opportunities, spurring redevelopment in the downtown area of Sandstone. Since the completion of the Robinson Park master plan that described the potential positive impacts on the business community, including placemaking / wayfinding signage, the city has seen improvements from business owners regarding their own establishments, there has also been interest in new businesses and the city has started implementing design standards for signage that promotes a specific characteristic reflective of the sandstone.

Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities Support Material Uploads:

Description: Photo of ice climbing that attracts tourism - improved facilities will improve park use with a higher value

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/ice_park_ce8699.JPG

Description: Flier of Quarry Days activities that annually attracts tourists - improved park can better improve this experience

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/quarry_days_559a6a.jpg

Description: Sandstone Wayfinding Signage Document

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/03006-010_Wayfinding_Plan

Description: Paddlefest information that improves tourism

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/paddlefest_images_30d9b2.jpg

Recreational Trends Information : The Robinson Park master plan illustrates a blend of active and passive recreational spaces. The plan also works to create more ideal spaces for the existing recreational activities taking place, such as improved access and river portages, gathering areas, equipment space, and drop-off spaces for larger vehicles with equipment trailers. Improvements for recreational access to the rock walls and water will reduce current conflicts and allow for better preservation of the historical and natural features of the park. The master plan also expands upon the camping activities provided. The current primitive tent camping sites are located in lower Robinson along an old railroad bed with scenic river views, but this is a noisy location directly adjacent to the road and the site limits the ability to bring in water, sanitary or electrical services. New camping opportunities are shown in upper Robinson, more centrally located for a peaceful setting tucked among the trees. There are individual tent sites and group tent sites to accommodate a variety of user groups, including families, boy/girl scout groups and even climbers who desire to camp on site. The plan also illustrates a potential area to include some camper cabins that would be located along the rock wall with dramatic views of lower Robinson and the Kettle River for a new type of camping experience. While the camper cabins would not have water or sanitary services, a restroom and shower facility can be built in close proximity to the camper cabins and tent camping areas to provide adequate services. Recent trends regarding camper cabins have been successful when placed in optimal locations.

While the plan improves upon the conditions and experiences related to the climbing and water related activities, it also has some open spaces for flexible uses that can be used for additional picnic space, overflow parking and special event space. New types of recreation are continuing to arise and the more flexible a space is, the better it will handle changes in recreation. The focus of Robinson Park is related to the historical features, the climbing activities and the water related activities. While people will find new ways to use these amenities, such as watching movies on the rock walls and the potential for white water paddle boarding and more recently, surfing, the spaces and gathering areas on the master plan are meant to handle the existing uses with enough flexible use spaces to adapt to any future changes.

Recreational Trends Support Material Uploads:

Description: article describing upcoming trend of whitewater paddling

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Whitewater SUP_ The Newest Paddling Trend - Appalachian Mountain Club_258f5b.pdf

Description: article on paddleboard fitness trend

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Paddlesports Are the Next Big Fitness Trend_Odd913.pdf

Description: article describing increases in millennial interest in camping and outdoor activities

<http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Camping is Up in the U.S.. Trend Expected to Continue as Millennials Seek the Positive Health Impact>

Classification Details

Special Recreational Feature Park Classification

Criteria 1: Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Robinson Park contains a vast amount of high quality recreational experiences unique to the region. The Wild and Scenic Kettle River is one of the best white water rivers in the region with a range of Class I to Class IV rapids depending on water levels. The Kettle River continually attracts kayakers

and canoeists to Robinson Park and the master plan allows for better recreational use and access to the water for non-motorized watercraft for individuals, as well as outfitting and educational groups. There is an annual Kettle River Paddle Fest held at the park focusing on the water related activities. Climbing in Robinson Park is unique in that it offers varying types of climbing including traditional, sport, bouldering, ice, and mixed climbing, with varying skill levels all located within a historic setting. Across the Kettle River is an area that has recently become part of Banning Park and is highly rated for its bouldering activities. A new pedestrian bridge is shown in the master plan connecting Robinson Park to the eastern side of the Kettle River to increase access and recreational opportunities. Robinson Park offers a variety of routes and levels suitable from the beginner to the more experienced, and it is most highly acclaimed for its ice climbing, which is highly praised. There is an annual Sandstone Ice Festival held in the winter that highlights the ice climbing activities. The historic quarry remnants provide a unique and historic character to the park and there is an annual Quarry Days festival that focuses on the historic quarry operations that once took place in the park with tours and numerous community activities. The master plan enhances the recreational uses, separates pedestrian and vehicular traffic, protects and restores the quarry elements, and focuses on the scenic settings.

Criteria #1 Images

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Criteria #1 Images

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Criteria #1 Images

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Criteria #1 Images

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Criteria #1 Images

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Criteria 2: Provides a Natural and Scenic Setting Offering a Compelling Sense of Place

Robinson Park contains a variety of natural spaces with wetlands, waterfalls, forested areas, the Wild and Scenic Kettle River, and dramatic 100 foot high cliff walls containing drill markings, all of which contribute to a highly natural and unique setting. The rock wall separates Robinson Park into an upper and lower portion, each offering distinct and differing views. The vehicular traffic is separated from the pedestrian traffic and numerous trails provide a variety of routes with differing

experiences for visitors and access to the various recreational amenities, the rock walls and the river. Upper Robinson trails meander through forested areas and open up to scenic vistas of lower Robinson and the Kettle River. Lower Robinson has numerous trails to access the various recreational and natural spaces with many opportunities to stop and view the scenic setting, the rare bedrock with the water ripple patterns on them, the birds and other wildlife that may be encountered, and viewing opportunities of the recreational events taking place in the park. The Kettle River Trail runs parallel to the river with many viewing areas, including an overlook at the previous dam location and a reconstructed pedestrian bridge crossing the Kettle River. The park has an appropriate blend of active and passive spaces with flexible spaces mixed in, all encompassed by a historic character. The numerous historic remnants of the previous quarry operations range from very small to massive and create compelling areas of interest within the park once you discover them. The historic remnants are to be highlighted and protected with the development and an overall park character that draws upon the quarry operations to create a sense of place within the community. This is further enhanced by carrying the quarry rock into community wayfinding signage designs.

Criteria #2 Images

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Criteria #2 Images

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Criteria 3: Well-located to Serve a Regional Need and/or Tourist Destination

Robinson Park provides many unique recreational and historical features that continually draws in local, regional and even international users. Based on previous park date statistics collected, it is estimated that Robinson Park has an annual visitation of 47,500.

Robinson Park is located directly adjacent to the city of Sandstone, which is located halfway between the cities of Duluth and the Minneapolis Metro area directly off of Interstate 35. Interstate 35 northbound out of the Twin Cities is one of the most traveled tourist corridors in the state of Minnesota. The park is also located along a portion of the St. Croix Scenic Byway route along Hwy 23, offering quick and easy access. Robinson Park is located within 6 miles of the Audubon Center of the North Woods, 13 miles of Grand Casino Hinckley, containing one of the best RV parks in Minnesota, and is within a 30 minute drive of St. Croix State Park. The Sandstone Junction Trail connects Banning State Park and the City of Sandstone to the Willard Munger Trail.

Robinson Park is located directly adjacent to Banning State Park on both the north and south sides of the park, making Robinson Park an important regional link between the Banning State Park

parcels with the opportunity for future regional connections. The Wild and Scenic Kettle River that runs along the length of Robinson Park has long been a draw for many kayakers and canoeists and is a state designated water trail. The rock cliff walls provide year round climbing opportunities including rock climbing, bouldering and farmed ice climbing with opportunities for varying skill levels, which is rare to find. Robinson Park is the location of a previous quarry and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Criteria #3 Images

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Criteria #3 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Google_Park_Map_dde549.jpg

Criteria 4: Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

Robinson Park fills a recreational gap for the local and regional population. The park will provide much needed recreational amenities to the local residents of Sandstone on a daily basis that will be centered on the historical quarry characteristics, allowing that character to extend into their community to enhance the sense of place. It will also continue to provide unique recreational experiences in a highly scenic setting that continually draws in local, regional and international visitors to the park.

The Wild and Scenic Kettle River provides opportunities for white water rafting, canoeing, kayaking, and is only 1 of 4 white water resources in Minnesota. The river experience draws in many recreational enthusiasts and outfitting companies who currently partner with the City of Sandstone to highlight its importance, raise awareness of the related water sports, and create future enthusiasts through programs and the annual Kettle River Paddle Fest event.

The multitude of climbing activities in an easily accessible location and scenic setting are difficult to find, and even more so for farmed winter ice climbing, which is rare to find in the entire United States. This is a highlight of Robinson Park and climbing groups currently partner with the City of Sandstone to protect this important resource, encourage future climbers, invite the local community to participate and learn about the sport, and hold an annual Sandstone Ice Festival. The recreational amenities and seasonal festivals draw in many tourists, as well as various educational institutions who utilize the park as part of their recreational curriculum. City of Sandstone also holds an annual Quarry Days festival that focuses on the historical significance of the quarry operations within the park. The park improvements will significantly increase the historical value of the park and improve accessibility to, and within, the park with improved recreational amenities.

Criteria #4 Images

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Criteria #4 Images

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Criteria #4 Images

Development/Acquisition

Development Plan Overview : The development master plan provides a cross-section of features and amenities to meet current and anticipated recreational demands for the local, as well as regional, populations. Proposed features and improvements to existing facilities will meet regional design and applicable accessibility standards to the best ability, with the knowledge that this is a natural and historic site with some constraints that will need to be considered through design. The mix of facilities included in the master plan is in response to the updated program for development with a focus on preserving and enhancing the historical and natural resources of the site and improving the recreational experience for a multitude of park users. The plan strives to create a balanced approach to further development of the park that will improve the quality and experience for recreation in the park and allow for better sustainability of the site as park uses continue to increase.

The development plan provides a platform for the park visitor's recreation and education within a natural and historic setting by highlighting features that are currently hidden and educating the users in order to protect the prominent site features. New development and improvements to existing amenities promotes activities during all seasons for youth, adults, seniors, individuals, and groups for short, day-long, or overnight visits. Improved access and improved or new recreational amenities will accommodate varying users, ages and abilities.

The development master plan illustrates recreational amenities and improvements for the upper and lower sections of Robinson Park in order to connect the two levels of park together and provide improved access to the park from the City of Sandstone as well as regionally.

Upper Robinson is currently undeveloped and all improvements shown are proposed. The intent of upper Robinson is to provide more day-to-day recreational amenities for the local community that were highly desired, with additional improvements meeting regional needs including a pedestrian connection between upper and lower Robinson. Upper Robinson proposed development includes paved and natural trails throughout with an exercise circuit along some of the trails and a stair connection between upper and lower Robinson for improved connectivity. There are a few locations where the trails lead to scenic overlooks of Lower Robinson, as well as a connection to the upper cliffs where climbing activities take place. A parking lot is located at the entrance and near the existing water tower is a proposed childrens playground with adjacent open air picnic shelter. Camping opportunities are proposed in Upper Robinson to include single and group tent areas, as well as the potential for some camper cabins along the cliffs overlooking lower Robinson. Due to improved access to utilities in Upper Robinson, a proposed restroom and shower building is included, as well as improved water service to the edge of the cliff for creating farmed ice on the cliffs for winter climbing.

The entrance drive into lower Robinson is existing and at the point it meets the lower portion of the park, the developed areas shown are mainly proposed or improved amenities with a focus on highlighting and protecting the historical components of the park. The park master plan indicates clear delineation and separation of pedestrian circulation routes from vehicular traffic and allows the more active areas of the park to remain in the center where most of the activities currently take place by moving the parking areas further away from the river. This will significantly increase the safety of park users, as well as protect the historical park features. A prime feature of Robinson Park is a proposed Kettle River Trail that runs the entire length of the park and connects to Banning State Park on the north and south ends allowing for regional connections. The intent is for this trail to be paved with eventual connection to Banning State Park on both ends. This trail would include simple seating areas to more significant overlooks along the Kettle River to enjoy the scenery and interact with interpretive information, such as the dam overlook. A potential pedestrian bridge is proposed that crosses over the Kettle River along the previous Old Wagon Bridge location to tie into the opposite side of the Kettle River into Banning State Park, utilizing the existing foundation piers from the original bridge that still stand. The steps that traverse down the hill in the utility clearing would connect to lower Robinson at the location of the existing bridge abutment and then continue into lower Robinson in close relation to the camp sites. This more developed and active recreational

area of the park has many improved facilities to include a new group picnic shelter building moved more centrally to the recreational areas of the park which relates to the existing historical display and main quarry location with views of the derrick. Two smaller shelters are also proposed to be strategically located based on use areas of the park. A new restroom building is proposed and may be able to be winterized for year-round use, greatly improving conditions for year-round users. New portages with improved access to the river are located on the north and south sides of the dam location with room near them for groups to gather. There are also drop-off locations from the access drive and parking areas for larger groups to be dropped off with their gear to access both portages, as well as the large group picnic shelter. Flexible spaces along the access drive are incorporated to normally be green spaces but can also be used for overflow parking during larger park events. A variety of trails meander throughout the central park into the northern section of the park for improved access to the cliff walls to observe or partake in climbing activities or to observe various remnants of the quarry operations with educational and interpretive information placed in key locations. The use of boardwalks can be used in areas with rough terrain as well as locations where sensitive plants, historical artifacts and geologic formations are to be preserved. As the trails extend north, the uses become more passive with opportunities to view the scenic landscape and wildlife.

The south end of lower Robinson remains more passive in nature and has improved amenities at the existing primitive camp sites, an open air picnic shelter for camping users, and natural surfaced trails that cross through the varied terrain and landscape. Some of the trails would necessitate boardwalks across rough terrain.

Additional improvements include fishing opportunities along the edge of the river and some bank stabilization in areas that are currently eroding, as well as ongoing natural resource management of the park to control invasive species.

Development Plan Upload

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Development Plan Upload

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Development Plan Upload

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Development Plan Upload

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Development Plan Upload

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Development Plan Upload

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Development Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Historical Signs_af6f31.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Historical_Signs_af6f31.jpg)

Acquisition Plan Overview : No additional land acquisitions apply to Robinson Park at this time.

The following item provides details about one particular item or feature listed under the "Development Plan Overview"

Development Feature 1

Improved restrooms in lower Robinson were high on the priority list of many park users. The proposed location of the new main restroom facility is shown between the large shelter and plaza space and the smaller shelter along the parking area so it can be easily accessed by many park users, including river recreationalists, offering them a place to change clothing. This also places it in an area of high visibility for security reasons and would be more easily accessed for maintenance purposes. An optional secondary location for a small restroom or a portable system is shown by the smaller southern parking lot to service the camp sites. The restrooms should have an accessible route from the parking area and facilities for separated genders should be included. The geology of lower Robinson directly located on bedrock, and the 90 to 100 foot vertical difference from upper Robinson where utilities are located, make water and sanitary services unlikely or very costly. A proposed sanitary system would not only require drilling through bedrock for long distances, but would also likely require a grinder pump and lift station. In the near term, a vault or vault evaporator style restroom facility would be the most reasonable approach to consider. There may be considerations for a vault style restroom facility that can be winterized to allow for year-round use so that winter park users would be accommodated. Compost systems may also be considered though they have a tendency to be higher maintenance. There are a variety of prefabricated vault restroom buildings available that can be customized to match a specific architectural style to fit within the character of the park. Upper Robinson would have better feasibility to construct a fully serviced restroom and potential shower facility to service the upper camp sites and park area, as shown on the master plan, to be within the correct distance from the camping facilities. Upper Robinson has better access to city utilities for connections to the proposed restroom and shower building.

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http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Green Flush_007d3c.jpg

Development Feature 2

Camping opportunities currently exist in lower Robinson and keeping camping activities in Robinson Park was a high priority. The existing camp site locations in lower Robinson receive a lot of traffic noise from Hwy 123 and remain as primitive sites due to the difficulty and expense of bringing in utilities to this location. These camp sites will remain and will have minor upgraded improvements. Upper Robinson, on the other hand, provides a perfect opportunity to provide a broader range of camping opportunities in a more peaceful setting with scenic views. It also allows utilities to be brought in for shower and restroom facilities. The shower and restroom facilities should be located to be within 400 feet of all camp site locations in upper Robinson. The master plan indicates a range of camp settings that include single to group tent camp areas. As with all master plan elements, the actual locations would be field verified for the most appropriate locations that have the best views and are still far enough from adjacent residential areas to reduce any potential conflicts. Single tent sites should have enough room in between and make use of existing vegetation to ensure each site has its privacy. The group camp site would be suitable for scout troops, families, or small groups and could include 4-5 tent pads constructed of compacted aggregate surfacing. The tent pads would surround a central area containing a pad for a 'mess' tent, a camp fire ring and picnic tables. Access to the tent camp sites would be by trail from the parking lot and turn-around loop in the developed area of upper Robinson and parking would not be provided or allowed within the actual camp site location. New to the park would be the possibility of introducing camper cabins along a cliff side location that has stunning views towards the Kettle River in lower Robinson. They can range from a very simple design with no utilities, to a more 4-seasonal approach that would have electrical lighting and heat. It would be the intent that each cabin would not have restrooms or running water and would have a maximum 6-person capacity with a limited footprint. For comparison, the camper cabins at Whitetail Woods in Dakota County have a 6-person capacity and contain less than 230 square feet of living space. The intention of the camper cabins is to phase them in after the initial camping areas have been in place. One cabin may be installed first to see how they are received and to potentially raise funds for including additional camper cabins if they prove to be successful. Attached is a sketch of the proposed camper cabin on the cliff overlooking lower Robinson Park and a general photo of a tent camp site.

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http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/tent_camp_site_043dc7.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/whitetail_woods_cabin_ba821a.jpg

Development Feature 3

The proposed park shelters and site amenities are to be intertwined with the historical pieces of the site, spread out to allow users a variety of experiences, and made to accommodate different sized groups. The proposed park shelters and site amenities are to have a common character to tie them together and enhance the sense of place within the park. The following are design considerations to increase the safety and use of the proposed shelters in a site with year-round use: Provide proper handicap accessible routes to the shelters from the parking areas; Consider large, airy spaces to allow natural light in; Utilize materials that will blend with the site; Consider outdoor fireplace or fire pit in select locations; Consider closeable "garage" style doors for inclement weather in select locations; Thin dense vegetation adjacent to the shelters; Provide electrical service in select locations, such as the large group shelter. There is one small shelter in upper Robinson located by the playground and in lower Robinson there are two small shelters proposed that will each accommodate approximately 16 to 20 people, and one larger group shelter that could be sized to accommodate up to 60-80 people with additional room available on the connected plaza. One of the smaller shelters is proposed next to the base camp of the wall currently used by climbers, though the size of this shelter may be increased due to the amount of use this space receives. This is an existing gathering area for numerous park events during all seasons of the year from park festivals to movies in the park and is the main viewing location for the winter ice climbing activities. This location may be an appropriate location to introduce an outdoor fire pit, as this activity already occurs here, and potentially design the shelter to have closeable doors for extra protection during winter. A new stage along the cliff wall is shown to replace the existing one that is deteriorated, making sure the location is far enough from the wall to account for falling ice in order to prevent ongoing damage. The larger group shelter and plaza space is proposed to be located in the more historical and active recreational use areas of the park site with the existing park historical display and river on one side, and the existing quarry guy derrick and cliff walls on the other side for optimal views in all directions. To the north of the group shelter is a large open space that will serve as a multi-functional gathering and park use space and also provide space for overflow parking during special events in the park. The shelters would provide for the day-to-day use of the park with reservations likely needed for larger and special use events. Associated amenities would include trash and recycling receptacles, tables, and potentially grills by the large shelter. Attached are examples of improved shelters, a photo of the existing historical display, and a photo of the top of the existing derrick.

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http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Picnic_27d370.jpg

Development Feature 4

The abutment location along Old Wagon Road has an existing level area that can be enhanced to develop a handicap parking stall in order to provide proper access to this historic piece of the site. This is also the recommended location of the pedestrian crossing between the upper and lower Robinson by the staircases once the road and abutment have been modified for increased safety. The proposed pedestrian crossing should have signage and other site improvements to call attention to the pedestrian crossing and use in this area. To recall part of the original history, the master plan illustrates the potential construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Kettle River

along the previous Old Wagon Bridge alignment using the remaining abutment and foundations. The pedestrian bridge would provide a connection from Robinson Park to Banning State Park across the river and access to the bouldering activities that occur on that parcel. One challenge will be the feasibility and construction costs related to the implementation of a pedestrian bridge across the Kettle River. Actual costs will be relatively unknown until a thorough structural analysis can be undertaken on the existing foundations and abutment. The structural review will determine if the foundations can support a pedestrian bridge and will also determine the extent of work that will be involved in stabilizing the existing abutment. Due to the difference in height of the abutment landing from the existing foundations, the pedestrian bridge would need to include a series of ramps to make up some of the grade difference. Even if the existing foundations are structurally sound, the costs for a pedestrian bridge may prove to be too prohibitive in the near term, and this item will likely become a lower priority for implementation. The costs related to the stabilization of the existing abutment may also be fairly extensive, but this item is a higher priority in order to increase the safety of Old Wagon Road, the main park entrance road, and to allow for a safe pedestrian crossing from upper into lower Robinson. Attached image starting with DOC042215 is a historic photo of the original Old Wagon Bridge. Also attached are photos of the remaining pier foundations left from the Old Wagon Bridge, along with the remains of the western side abutment (Images 1243, 1246 and 1247).

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http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/IMG_1243_95f7f2.JPG

Development Feature 5

There are numerous opportunities along the park trails to stop and enjoy the view with various overlooks that range in design. Some may be simple stopping points to enjoy a scenic view, others may include interpretive signage displaying photographs, historical information and ecological information. The recreational, historical and ecological components of the park provide an opportune tool to be used with the park interpretive signage along trails and overlooks and even tied into park programs and historical site tours. The signs can display information on native plant species, pollinator plants, and even invasive plant species, to birds and mammals that can be found during certain seasons, and of course the historical quarry elements. The trails and interpretation signs can be utilized by many programs by the local Audubon Society, educational institutions, and local tours. Some overlooks are simple in design and contain simple bench or boulders for seating, while others are larger and more significant. Examples of the more significant overlooks include one or two areas along the Kettle River Trail with scenic views and great photo opportunities, the dam overlook which would be much more historically significant, and the upper cantilevered deck that views the wall and into lower Robinson. The more extensive overlooks would include specialty designs and for some, permits and structural reviews. The extent of work and permitting involved will determine the feasibility of implementing the more significant overlooks, such as the dam overlook. Attached is a sketch of the proposed dam overlook and examples of historical or interpretive signage, along with some existing views of the river and site features.

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Development Feature 6

Upper Robinson illustrates a proposed playground that is themed around rocks and climbing. The playground is adjacent to a residential area that have indicated a current lack of play facilities for youth and would fill a need for the community. An open air picnic shelter is proposed next to the playground and tucked to the edge of the site with the existing mature vegetation bordering it. The playground equipment would be themed to fit with the natural character of the site and can contain items related to rocks, trees, and climbing as part of some more traditional elements. The equipment should allow for pieces that fit both pre-school as well as elementary aged use to accommodate a wider range of users and age-appropriate play. The playground should ensure paths / trails are constructed within ADA guidelines for access to the playground equipment. This location for a playground provides an amenity to the local community that is greatly needed and easily accessible. Lower Robinson uses existing rubble piles to create a play feature of stone and ropes consistent with the characteristics of the cliff walls behind it, acting as a backdrop. There is an existing stacked rubble rock pile on one side that currently attracts youth as a fun play piece to climb on. Playing off this feature, the master plan shows incorporating more play elements tied into the rubble piles with a rocks and ropes type of play experience by the shelter. The lawn on the opposite side of the shelter could also be used as a location for setting up a temporary display and instructional area to promote and encourage outdoor recreational enthusiasts. Attached are examples of playground features that blend with the natural characteristics and a photo of one rubble climbing pile.

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http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/IMG_1124_08d230.JPG

Development Feature 7

The trail system in Robinson Park is meant to provide access to the various recreational elements, allow for exploration, provide opportunities for scenic views, highlight a historical element, and provide a pedestrian connection to Robinson Park, as well as to connect upper and lower Robinson together. The trails on the master plan graphic indicate the overall intent of the trail system but the actual location of the trail routes will need to be field verified for optimal location based on actual site conditions. A high priority goal is the development of a multi-purpose Kettle River Trail that will run from the north to the south end of the park along the Kettle River and connect into Banning State Park at both ends. The eventual continuation of this trail system will provide regional access on a pedestrian level to other park and natural areas along the Kettle River. The Kettle River trail would be 10'-12' in width meant to accommodate walkers, as well as bicyclists, and is recommended to be constructed with decomposed granite or paved with bituminous material to allow for a suitable regional trail surface meeting accessibility standards and able to withstand occasional flooding. Standard trails shall be a minimum of 5' in width and 8' width preferred. Trails and access routes to shelters and playgrounds are recommended to be constructed with bituminous or concrete paving to meet accessibility requirements. Natural surfaced trails can be constructed with decomposed granite, a more expensive but more accessible option, or crushed aggregate. Natural surfaced trails can also be used for winter uses such as winter hiking or snow

shoeing. In certain loops and locations, exercise equipment shall be located along the upper Robinson trail to create a circuit training route, which was desired by the community and would increase the health and livability of the community. Certain areas of the site would incorporate the use of boardwalk in such instances as crossing rough terrain, wet areas of the site, or sensitive areas in need of protection. In order to connect upper and lower Robinson together, the trails would transition to stairs in specific areas with a pedestrian crossing point along the entrance drive. The trails are also meant to be interpretive with the use of signs, overlooks and various points of interest. Attached are examples of trails, boardwalks and overlooks.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Aggregate_trail_6b3d50.JPG

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Paved_Trail_bb5cb4.JPG

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Simple_Boardwalk_7889b6.JPG

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Boardwalk_f807a0.JPG

Development Feature 8

There are numerous quarry related items throughout the site of varying size and quality. Many, if not all, are currently at a high risk for deterioration, ongoing vandalism and accidental destruction. Measures must be undertaken to be able to preserve the artifacts before they reach a point where preservation and enhancement will be too costly or unfeasible. The residents of Sandstone take great pride in the previous quarry operations. In order to save the historical elements, they need to be more prominent in the site with their importance highlighted. A historical context map was created as part of the master plan process to help start the process for a historical program for the park. The graphic indicates general items and locations, but the actual locations will need to be verified with a full park investigation being conducted with local historians. There are numerous small items on the site currently hidden that should be identified, uncovered and made note of. A few items noted on the plan

include: Tunnel experiment drill markings in the rock
Various cutting holes, bolts in concrete, and sandstone shelf with water ripple patterns
Stone crusher building walls
Blacksmith forges
Previous roads and access routes
Dam location and accessory buildings (compressor wall, turbine, stone mill, etc.)
Rock wall "graffiti"
Guy derrick
Hootchy Kootchy
Old saw mill
Well control building and sandstone block ring
Reservoir, pumping station and well house
Powder storage buildings
Elevated railroad line
Old wagon bridge
The historical components will include a varying level of interpretation. Some items may be uncovered and listed with a simple sign, while others may have a more elaborate historical interpretation sign with accompanying photos and text. Other items, such as the powder storage buildings, may become an interactive display. A few items will be highlighted for their significance on the site. The guy derrick for one would be stabilized with improvements made to highlight

Development Feature 9

The existing Old Wagon Road offers a fairly scenic entrance into lower Robinson and is mainly aligned with the previous location of the road that led to the Old Wagon Bridge that crossed the Kettle River. The intent is to leave this entrance road mainly as is, with improvements made either

to the existing abutment that extends into the roadway or implement temporary measures for safely passing the abutment. Once the entrance road enters into lower Robinson, the alignment will be altered to try and minimize the steep entrance grade into the park. The parking lot has been realigned and pulled further away from the river with the larger parking areas to the north and a smaller parking lot to the south, and the existing motorized boat launch has been removed. The parking lot realignment and removal of the boat launch allows the ability to capture some of the water runoff that is currently flowing down Old Wagon Road and directly into the river through the boat launch. This also allows more buffer space along the river for vegetative cover and the Kettle River Trail. A park monument sign will be implemented both at the park entrance along Hwy 123 as well as at the location where the entrance drive enters into lower Robinson, This will be a larger and more significant monument sign to be the main focal point upon entering lower Robinson. The parking lots will be paved with curb and gutter to capture runoff and use of some type of filtration method will need to be used since infiltration will not be possible. Lower Robinson parking lots will accommodate approximately 35 parking stalls (there are currently 20 stalls existing in lower Robinson) with 5 to 6 stalls that can accommodate vehicles with trailers. There are also several drop-off locations created along the parking drive in strategic locations. One drop-off along the parking drive is located next to the main picnic pavilion building and plaza area. This will allow for temporary parking to drop off people and supplies, as well for park maintenance purposes. There are two drop-off locations along the river to provide space for visitors or outfitters to be able to park temporarily while dropping off groups and their equipment, one by the south portage, and one closer to the north portage in the turnaround portion of the drive, which will also be utilized by climbers. The equipment drop-off areas have ample space for equipment storage and allow room for the users to gather together as a group before and after activities. Equipment racks can also be incorporated into these spaces as needs dictate. There is also flexible open space for overflow parking for special events shown on the plan. Upper Robinson will also have a paved parking lot with a total of up to 20 stalls shown.

Development Feature 10

The goal of current climbing groups is to keep working with the City of Sandstone to encourage ongoing proper use and care of the climbing opportunities available at Robinson Park. Through the cooperation between the city and user groups, there have been many improvements made to the park over the past decade which has allowed a renewed sense of pride in the park and better climbing experiences. The climbing groups would like to continue to be an integral part of any ongoing park development and decision making and would like to keep introducing youth and non-climbers to the sport through educational programs and demonstrations at the park in order to create ongoing future stewards. As part of the park educational program through historical and interpretive signs, the climbing groups would like to have some park educational signs specific to climbing. The signs can contain some overall maps for the climbing walls located in Robinson with related photos and information explaining the Robinson cliffs and routes. The signage can also be expanded to display park rules, such as "NO DRYTOOLING" and instructions to be sure that climbers don't use crampons on items subject to damage, such as boardwalks and certain trails. To enhance the sport of climbing, the signage could also contain links that would allow the visitor to scan a code with a smart device and link to a website that would provide supplemental educational information or the opportunity to check an upcoming event calendar or even join a climbing group or program. The following is an image of an example of this application. Bringing in better infrastructure for the irrigation of the walls for farmed winter climbing was another goal. Currently there are above ground lines that are at risk for damage by human use of the park. The intent of the future plans is to work with the climbing groups to bring water service further into upper Robinson to get them as close to the wall as possible and out of the way of pedestrian trails and use areas. The climbers will continue to work with the city on their goals for the climbing walls and any modifications or climbing related improvements. The trails, drop-off areas, group gathering areas, and miscellaneous improvements also improve the overall experience for the climbers.

Development Feature 11

Natural resource management in Robinson Park has been more extensive in recent years due to volunteer labor and grants for helping to control invasive species. Robinson Park contains many ecological communities, including hardwood forests, floodplain community and wetlands, to name a

few, and rare plant species can even be found. The goal of the master plan is to educate users to the various communities present in the park, enhance the natural communities, help control spread of invasive species, and ensure the scenic setting is around for future generations. Some select removals or thinning of the existing plants may be necessary to implement the master plan elements, create open sightlines where needed for park safety, highlight a historic element, and to offer more open views of lower Robinson and the Kettle River. These would be reasonably limited as there are many pedestrian foot paths that could be followed for trail implementation and it is expected this would not affect the overall character of Robinson Park.

Development Feature 12

The portages north and south of the dam are both improved features. The north portage has been relocated to a more accessible location in close relation to the parking lot drop-off that has adjacent open space for small group gatherings and equipment storage. The south portage remains in the same existing location but proposed to be completely rebuilt. They shall both have adequate space for easily accessing the water with small non-motorized boats and equipment. Use of double sided stairs with a rail or sluice in the center may be a beneficial design feature to make this more user friendly, along with equipment storage space. The existing motorized boat launch was removed from the site. During the design process, public comment suggested that the existing boat launch was not used highly due to the steep incline into the water at that point and that Robinson should focus on more non-motorized boaters. The DNR voiced their approval as long as the park keeps access to the river for the non-motorized boats and a fishing pier may also replace the boat launch. There is an existing motorized boat launch in Banning State Park.

Development Feature 13

Upper Robinson provides the optimal opportunity to connect more intimately to the local community and increase local use of the park. The downside is that the entrance is not located along a major vehicular route; so therefore, a wayfinding signage program should be implemented in order to direct users to the two distinct entrance locations of Robinson Park. The wayfinding program would be integral to the park signage program and contain a hierarchy of signs that would provide information in an unobtrusive manner. From a design standpoint, a strong overall theme to reflect the characteristics of the community and Robinson Park would be highlighted in the design to carry a strong branding style throughout the community. The signs would consist of a similar style, character, materials, logo, etc. to enhance the sense of place within Sandstone and highlight the historic quarry. The key components of the wayfinding

Implementation

Implementation Plan : The goal of the plan is to initially focus on the main infrastructure improvements to lower Robinson that would set the stage for the remaining improvements to be phased in as funding becomes available. This would include making the necessary vehicular separation from pedestrian circulation for a safer park experience. The entrance drive would have some temporary improvements to make the tight corner around the abutment safer and would then pull the parking lot away from the edge of the river and create a new parking lot that would provide better access to the main active areas of the park and identify the boundaries of vehicles. This also allows opportunity to alter the existing runoff that is currently directed into the Kettle River, to improve the overall quality of the water entering the river. The use of an improved park entrance monument sign and park wayfinding signs will guide visitors, provide rules and enhance the entrance into the park.

A phase one goal would also include the start of the trail improvements by developing the Kettle River Trail that extends from the north end of the park to the south end along the river, allowing space for an improved river edge and some stabilization in erosion prone areas. This will allow accessible pedestrian travel along the scenic Kettle River and will provide pedestrian access to both boat portages, the existing camping locations on the south end of the park, fishing opportunities, seating overlooks along the river, the climbing wall in select areas, and trail connections to the other portions of the park, improving overall access to recreation. The trail may start out as aggregate or may be paved. It would be the intention to also include the start of internal aggregate

or natural surfaced trails that will connect up to the main Kettle River Trail in specific locations to provide access to the parks recreational items and amenities, such as the picnic shelter, restrooms, and rock walls and will allow for an internal park trail loop experience. Other phase one goals will include a new picnic shelter and restroom building in new locations, creating two improved non-motorized boat portages both north and south of the dam location with appropriate gathering and storage space adjacent to both, and incorporating interpretive and educational elements. Additional site work will include continued work on natural resource management to control invasive species with select clearing for safety and future improvements.

Phase two goals include improvements to upper Robinson to develop a parking lot, children's playground themed around rocks and climbing, and a small picnic shelter. It would also include the development of new upper tent camp sites with a building for restroom and water facilities to support the camping activities. The trail system in upper Robinson would be started to include access to the new amenities, create an internal loop and would also connect to a series of steps that would lead down into lower Robinson to create an important pedestrian connection between the upper and lower park areas. Phase two would also include adding on to the lower Robinson improvements by implementing the boardwalks to tie into the trail system and making improvements to the guy derrick for a historical display. Natural resource management would continue.

Future phases would continue to supplement the upper and lower park areas by finishing all trail loops and connections, adding picnic shelters, a new wall stage, a climbing play feature in lower Robinson, and a focus on developing interpretive overlooks and historical displays throughout the site. Depending on the success of the tent camp site, the inclusion of camper cabins may also be included, to be phased in if they prove successful. Additional improvements would include fishing platforms, improved lower camp sites, and ongoing natural resource management.

Long term or unknown elements for development that would involve extensive design, permitting and structural review include the potential pedestrian Old Wagon Bridge across the Kettle River and the Dam Overlook while also looking into the feasibility of bringing in full sanitary, electrical and water service needs to lower Robinson.

Summarize Acquisition and Development Costs To-Date : Many of the existing amenities, such as the boat launch, picnic shelter, entrance sign and some other amenities, were originally installed with grants provided by the DNR. The dates of implementation for some of those buildings and amenities is listed as 1975. The original costs are unknown.

Current Development Investments to Date:
\$0.00

The City received a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for natural resource management in Robinson Park to aid in the eradication of invasive species. This was a cost-share grant of \$43,500 but was put towards vegetation management, and not actual park development, but is still placed in the development column identified below.

Funding under Clean Water was by the Pine County SWCD for park signs to educate the public on invasive species and shoe cleaners. Local funds are the matches to grants.

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Total
	\$43,500	\$43,500

Non-Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

Arts & Cultural Heritage Legacy

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Clean Water Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
	\$19,041	\$19,041

Outdoor Heritage Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Total: \$19,041

Local and Other Funding Sources

Local Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
	\$12,419	\$12,419

Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Other Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
-------------	-------------	----------

Total: \$12,419

Grand Total Investments to Date - All Sources Listed : 74960.36

Acquisition and Development Cost Projections : The attached cost projections were from the original master plan estimates and have been adjusted based on phasing approach and additional costs related to potential funding requirements. They are preliminary and are at a master plan level so there will be ongoing adjustments as plans are finalized based on actual site conditions and agency involvement. Total estimates for both upper and lower Robinson, including community wayfinding signage, were estimated to range between \$7.4 and \$10.5 million, including design, engineering, and contingency fees.

Cost Estimate Support Information Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/3006-000 Master Plan Estimate REV_03-2016-2_32026f.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/3006-000 Master Plan Estimate REV_03-2016-1_ab500a.jpg

Acquisition and Development Phasing Plan : The underlying strategy for implementation is to undertake initiatives that best respond to the priorities of the community and park users, as well as the City of Sandstone. By making strategic investments in the park, the improved park development will continue to improve the park users experience, improve the quality of life for the community, and in turn, improve the overall park perception. The following cost projections have been updated from the original master plan estimates based on adjustments to phasing approach and additional costs related to potential funding requirements. They are preliminary and are at a master plan level so there will be ongoing adjustments as plans are finalized based on actual site conditions and agency involvement.

Phase one would include obtaining the necessary site information needed for final design and implementing the main park infrastructure and site improvements in lower Robinson to greatly enhance the recreational experience as well as to set the stage for future improvements to be phased in.

Phase one goals include conducting site studies, structural reviews, preparing a site topographical plan and starting implementation of critical site improvements in lower Robinson. Lower Robinson improvements include the new relocated parking area pulled away from the river to provide a clear separation of vehicles and pedestrians. The main Kettle River Trail would be implemented along with some key internal park connector trails to provide access to the river, the shelter and restroom buildings, portions of the rock climbing wall, the tent camp sites, portages, and viewing areas. Additional improvements include park signs, two improved river portages, a new large picnic shelter, a new restroom facility, and related removals, earthwork and restoration efforts. Phase one construction is estimated at approximately \$1,080,000 with an additional \$107,800 in design and engineering fees for a total of approximately \$1,185,800.

Phase two would focus on development of upper Robinson and providing a pedestrian connection between upper and lower Robinson for a full park experience and connection to the city of Sandstone while also enhancing the amenities for the overall park. Development of upper Robinson would include a parking area, children's playground and an open air picnic shelter. Trails would be developed with a mixture of some paved for access to the buildings and playground with the remaining to be aggregate trails with some exercise stations placed along the trail loop. A set of stairs connecting upper and lower Robinson together for improved access would be a prime goal. Phase two would also include the development of camping in upper Robinson with tent camp sites and a restroom building to service the camping activities, along with the daily park users. Phase two goals are shown to be \$1.38 million with design and engineering included.

Future phases would be implemented as funding allows and as needs dictate while staying within the city's ability to properly operate and maintain the park to a high standard. It is the hope that with ongoing improvements, the special interest groups and stakeholders will continue to help fund the improvements that are most desired and that would continue to improve the park experience. The City will also look into various grant funds that may be applicable or other labor and donation sources. There are some very appealing elements that many would love to see installed but actual construction feasibility and funding of these will dictate whether or not they are actually constructed. These include the pedestrian bridge, the dam overlook, powder house building display and other historical elements that need structural repair in order to become a display, as well as full utility services in lower Robinson. The camper cabins were also highly desirable but implementation of those will likely be phased in as the city is able to provide adequate operation and maintenance of these and to test the actual implementation. They may include one camper cabin to being with and if it proves highly attractive and receives ongoing reservations for use, continue adding in additional cabins, using the reservation revenue to help offset some of the O&M costs for their upkeep. Overall master plan estimates for all phases are roughly estimated to be around \$10.5 million. Actual construction costs will continue to be refined through final design based upon the final designs and materials of the elements.

Phasing Plan Support Information Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/3006-020_Phasing_Option_3_2018-0509_0916df.pdf

Cost Projections for Implementation Plan

Acquisition: 0

Development: 10500000

Projected Total: 10500000.00

Operational

Joint Organizations Responsibilities : No official joint agreement is in place. The climbing group has a set of guidelines they follow and they work as an advisory group with the Parks and Recreation Commission. The City may enter into formal agreements in the future with the climbing groups, outfitting companies and other groups/educational institutions who utilize the park for their programming, as needs dictate. In 2015, an ordinance was passed that sets a permit and fee structure for groups using Robinson Park for programming operations.

Maintenance/Operations Plan : All costs are paid for by the City General Fund. Costs specific to Robinson have not been broken out / determined by the City on a yearly basis but some costs based on previous year totals include:

Approximately \$500-\$600 per year for trash disposal

Approximately \$4,400 per year for servicing restroom facilities

Approximately \$300 for portable restrooms for special events

Approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year for invasive species management

Some larger investments related to erosion control included a \$14,800 investment and then \$650 for cleanup following flooding.

Law enforcement routinely goes through Robinson Park. The City will continue to utilize their park general funds for ongoing park maintenance. Routine O&M items include; mowing, trash removal, general site cleanup, checking camp sites, vegetation management. There are special interest groups who currently provide donated labor at select times and events for these services to supplement the city's O&M.

Ecological/Land Resources Plan : Ongoing management of the natural resources will continue. The City has received some grants/funds for invasive species control and will likely continue to look for additional funding sources to supplement these costs. Initial costs for natural resource management efforts are proposed as part of the master plan implementation and phasing. There are groups who provide labor for management and vegetation removal to aid the city.

Ecological/Land Resources Support Material

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Appendix A_RobinsonPark_EcologicalStewardshipPlan_2015_78fa32.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Appendix_A_RobinsonPark_EcologicalStewardshipPlan_2015_78fa32.pdf)

Annual Routine Maintenance and Operations Cost Total : 7300

Programming

Programming Plan : The master plan accounts for more of a self-guided program as part of the interpretation program for historical and natural resource site components. Currently there are annual celebrations that include park educational tours and programs. This includes Quarry Days, Kettle River Paddle Fest, and the Sandstone Ice Festival in which the City includes portable restrooms. The celebrations are provided by sponsors who also provide labor following the event for

park clean-up. Other potential partners for park programs may include the educational institutions and the local Audubon Center of the North Woods and more recently, scouting groups that are now integrating the parks features into their programs.

The City of Sandstone currently charges \$10/night for the lower Robinson primitive camp sites and can generate approximately \$900/year. Further expansion of the camping activities would result in more revenue. If camper cabins are implemented, the revenue for these would be greater as the need for ongoing O&M would also increase for full time staff. Additional revenue sources could also include fees for shelter reservations. In 2015, the City of Sandstone passed an ordinance regulating commercial use of Robinson Park that includes a yearly permit for park events. The fee structure is \$50/year if less than 3 events are held and \$100/year if 3 or more events are held. This has resulted in approximately \$400 in yearly revenue since incorporated.

Annual Programming Cost : 0

Annual Revenues from Programming and Fees/Charges Total : 1300

Outreach and Marketing Plan : Current marketing and outreach includes the numerous annual celebrations, word of mouth, advertising in the Hinckley Visitors Guide and through Explore Minnesota tourism, promotion through outfitting companies, and now a pedestrian kiosk that is being added at Train Park in downtown Sandstone containing six panels, one of which is dedicated entirely to Robinson Park.

The programs that are run by specific groups and organizations have large followings through various outlets, including magazines, websites, online forums and social media. Robinson Park has been highlighted in numerous magazines, articles and news stories. As the park continues to be improved, the recreational experience will be improved and will likely continue to be noted in articles and news. Sandstone also has a printed brochure of Robinson Park that highlights the locations of various historical elements in the park. It is the intent of Sandstone to continue to provide ongoing marketing and outreach to also include implementing a wayfinding signage program, which has more recently begun.

Robinson Park is already well known by the local community and special user groups, but in order to expand the public awareness to differing audience and user groups, the outreach and marketing effort to improve public awareness of the park and trail facilities, programs, and services should be enhanced even further to reach the regional population. This outreach effort has various components, including the following:

Electronic Communication: The City of Sandstone should continue to display information on their city web page links to inform citizens about Robinson Park and the city's functions and services (e.g., Park Commission meetings, park maps, trails, facilities, and programs). Distribution of information on special park events, programs or links can also be sent out electronically through Twitter, Facebook and other online social media to reach a greater audience.

Park Programming: Special events and park programs should be in line with the needs of the community. Ideally, park programs and events would be unique from other park sites to encourage use. Information on park programs and special events should be distributed through local and regional newsletters, programming periodicals, and even through groups or associations, such as the local Audubon Center of the North Woods or special interest groups. It is encouraged to think of innovative ways to change the park programming and events to encourage repeat park use without a repeat park experience.

Printed Materials & Marketing: The City of Sandstone currently utilizes the Hinckley Visitors Guide and Explore Minnesota to promote the park and should continue to develop and distribute park brochures and maps related to Robinson Park from the historical quarry artifacts to the natural resources and recreational amenities, and consider alternate languages. These should be graphic intensive and eye-catching. They should be distributed at a region-wide level to include placement at senior housing, the federal correctional institute, through newsletters, home associations, apartment complexes, grocery stores, churches, etc.

Continued use of the marketing for the annual celebrations has worked well to highlight the park and this is expected to continue. The main goal of many of the groups involved in the annual celebrations is to highlight specific outdoor activities to encourage new users and broader knowledge of the sport.

Outreach and Marketing Support Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Ice Fest Page_426d52.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/MN conservation cover_88f4d8.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/quarry days_45e239.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/paddlefest images_0ad6f3.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Sandstone Tourism_10e8b7.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/brochure2_6a2cc4.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/Explore MN_f80554.jpg

User Metrics and Research Plan : Currently only a one-time park survey was conducted. Any further methods have not been determined yet. The City may choose to implement better tracking methods for daily park use. The City has recently implemented a permit system for the tent camp sites which will provide names and addresses for those who obtain a permit. The City would be interested in looking at methods to improve research for the park site.

User Metrics and Research Support Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/14-002D/park visitor survey_3f3378.pdf

Attachments

Document	Description	Filename
Site Characteristic Images	View of rock cliff wall with drill marks	1465143863789-20150802_155836.jpg
Site Characteristic Images	View of old dam and looking north at the railroad bridge	1465144003929-20150802_161552.jpg
Site Characteristic Images	Sandstone with lichen	1465144097666-May 2015192.jpg
Site Characteristic Images	Photo of park users walking along path and old building remnants along each side of the path	1465144269042-20150802_155455.jpg
Site Characteristic Images	photo of guy derrick from quarry operations	1465144324742-IMG_1630-small.jpg
Site Characteristic Images	View along Kettle River looking south at old bridge foundation	1465144379006-IMG_1623-small.jpg
Site Characteristic Images	Photo of farmed ice cliffs	1465144445955-ice2.JPG
Site Characteristic Images	Photo of ice cliffs lit at night	1465144464308-ice3.JPG
Public Involvement Photos	Example of flyer distributed in papers and online	1465144850293-We need your input flier.jpg
Economic Development Photos	wayfinding map	1465146683048-03006-000_Robinson wayfinding.jpg
Regional Demographic Photos	demographics chart	1465146729203-demographics page.jpg
Public Health Photos	Photo of scenic setting that calms	1465146847518-IMG_1624.JPG
Recreational Trends Photos	Example of white water paddle	1465147702928-whiteater

Recreational Trends Photos	boarding Photo of movies on cliff wall	riverboard.jpg 1465147719913-FB_IMG_1442966602096.jpg
Criteria 1 Photos	sketch of potential dam overlook	1465150779095-damoverlook.jpg
Criteria 1 Photos	photo of ice cliff walls	1465150859157-ice2.JPG
Criteria 1 Photos	Views of river from dam overlook	1465150911142-IMG_1623-small.jpg
Criteria 2 Photos	scenic river setting	1465150928980-IMG_1624.JPG
Criteria 2 Photos	Sketch of camper cabins at cliff edge	1465151021146-campercabins.jpg
Criteria 3 Photos	regional context map	1465151156885-03006-000_Robinson Final MP Context.jpg
Development Plan Overview Uploads	Final Master Plan	1465152328079-03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1.jpg
Development Plan Overview Uploads	Final Master Plan Descriptions / Key	1465152359516-03006-000_Robinson Final MP-2.jpg
Development Plan Overview Uploads	Final Master Plan - Historical / Interpretive Plan	1465152387896-03006-000_Robinson Final MP Historical.jpg
Feature Uploader 110	Upper Robinson proposed improvements and access	1465152981524-upper robinson page.jpg
Feature Uploader 111	Upper Robinson proposed improvements	1465153066527-upper robinson page.jpg
Feature Uploader 88	Proposed wayfinding signage plan	1465153403475-03006-000_Robinson wayfinding.jpg
Feature Uploader 88	Sketch of proposed directional wayfinding sign	1465153438026-Wayfinding Directional.jpg
Feature Uploader 88	Sketch of proposed historical or interpretive park sign	1465153462449-Historical Signs.jpg
Feature Uploader 88	Sketch of proposed monument park sign	1465153484543-monument sign.jpg
Feature Uploader 112	Proposed upper Robinson plan	1465153617066-upper robinson page.jpg
Feature Uploader 113	Proposed upper Robinson plan	1465153861006-upper robinson page.jpg
Feature Uploader 113	Sketch of proposed camper cabin along cliff	1465153883136-campercabins.jpg
Feature Uploader 114	Proposed upper Robinson plan	1465154046671-upper robinson page.jpg
Feature Uploader 114	Sketch of proposed character of historical signs	1465154066644-Historical Signs.jpg
Feature Uploader 114	Example of historic photo to be used on proposed signs.	1465154100198-photo.jpg
Feature Uploader 115	Proposed lower Robinson - South end map	1465154250550-Lower Robinson South.jpg
Feature Uploader 115	Photo of existing abutment in entrance road	1465154349484-20150802_162212.jpg
Feature Uploader 116	Photo of the old wagon bridge	1465154450790-old wagon bridge.jpg
Feature Uploader 116	Proposed lower Robinson - South	1465154480714-Lower Robinson South.jpg
Feature Uploader 117	Overall Robinson Park proposed master plan	1465154609391-03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1.jpg
Feature Uploader 118	Overall Robinson Park proposed master plan	1465154708246-03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1.jpg
Feature Uploader 118	Example of boardwalk as part of trail system	1465154742074-IMG_0460.JPG

Feature Uploader 119	Overall Robinson Park proposed master plan	1465154913760-03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1.jpg
Feature Uploader 119	Sketch of proposed dam overlook	1465155021724-dam overlook.jpg
Feature Uploader 119	Sketch of proposed signs at overlooks	1465155038512-Historical Signs.jpg
Feature Uploader 119	Photo of scenic view at overlooks	1465155067550-IMG_1624.JPG
Feature Uploader 120	Proposed south Lower Robinson plan	1465155123382-Lower Robinson South.jpg
Feature Uploader 121	Overall proposed Robinson Park master plan	1465155391338-03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1.jpg
Feature Uploader 121	Proposed lower Robinson Park master plan - central area enlargement	1465155419258-Lower Robinson Central.jpg
Feature Uploader 122	Proposed central lower Robinson master plan	1465155610911-Lower Robinson Central.jpg
Feature Uploader 122	Example of canoe launch	1465155658938-Canoe Launch-2.jpg
Feature Uploader 119	Photo of the dam remains in the Kettle River	1465155807879-20150802_161552.jpg
Feature Uploader 123	Photo of riverbank	1465155899707-IMG_1625.JPG
Feature Uploader 122	Photo of existing north portage on steep and difficult embankment	1465155973912-IMG_1183.JPG
Feature Uploader 124	Overall Robinson Park proposed master plan	1465156274769-03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1.jpg
Feature Uploader 124	Central Lower Robinson proposed enlargement plan	1465156298909-Lower Robinson Central.jpg
Feature Uploader 124	South lower Robinson proposed enlargement plan	1465156507056-Lower Robinson South.jpg
Feature Uploader 124	Photo example of a shelter with a fire pit	1465156532790-shelter 3.jpg
Feature Uploader 125	Photo example of modular vault restroom	1465156715694-restroom.jpg
Feature Uploader 125	Central Lower Robinson proposed enlargement plan	1465156739459-Lower Robinson Central.jpg
Feature Uploader 125	South Lower Robinson proposed enlargement plan	1465156759244-Lower Robinson South.jpg
Feature Uploader 122	North Lower Robinson proposed master plan enlargement	1465156854910-Lower Robinson North.jpg
Feature Uploader 127	North Lower Robinson proposed master plan enlargement	1465157119298-Lower Robinson North.jpg
Feature Uploader 127	Photo example of boardwalk in sensitive environment	1465157152136-IMG_0460.JPG
Feature Uploader 126	Robinson Park Historical Context Plan	1465157208777-03006-000_Robinson Final MP Historical.jpg
Feature Uploader 126	Photo of drill piece left on site	1465157487075-drill.jpg
Feature Uploader 126	Photo of previous well house	1465157531464-IMG_1116.JPG
Feature Uploader 126	Photo of existing powder house building remains	1465157551672-IMG_1084.JPG
Feature Uploader 126	Photo of previous stone crusher building walls	1465157588129-IMG_1147.JPG
Feature Uploader 126	Photo of sandstone with water ripple pattern	1465157616305-IMG_1164.JPG
Feature Uploader 126	Photo of ruins along old dam location	1465157658755-20150802_161433-small.jpg
Feature Uploader 126	Photo of dam remains in the	1465157674473-20150802_1615

Feature Uploader 126	Kettle River Photo of guy derrick remains	52.jpg 1465157691858-IMG_1630-small.jpg
Feature Uploader 126	Historic photo of hootchy kootchy	1465157747883-hootchy kootchy.jpg
Feature Uploader 126	Historic photo of Old Wagon Bridge	1465157763168-old wagon bridge.jpg
Feature Uploader 126	Historic quarry photo	1465157822856-quarry 2.jpg
Ecological Land Resources Photos	Ecological Stewardship Plan for Robinson Park	1465157977559-Appendix A RobinsonPark_EcologicalStewardship Plan_2015.pdf
Location Map	Location map added from general tab	1466177974607-1. Updated Location Map.jpg
Location Map	Location map added from general tab	1466180798029-1. Updated Location Map.jpg
Public Health Photos	Quarry Days Info	1470426658033-quarry days.jpg
Public Health Photos	Photo of Ice Climbing	1470426700692-ice3.JPG
Economic Development Photos	Promoting Ice Climbing	1470426736914-ice park.JPG
Economic Development Photos	Promotion of Quarry Days	1470426753241-quarry days.jpg
Economic Development Photos	Image of Paddle Festival Promotion	1470428223096-paddlefest images.jpg
Economic Development Photos	Directional Wayfinding Sign	1470428255271-Wayfinding Directional.jpg
Recreational Trends Photos	Camper Cabin illustration	1470429380813-camper cabins.jpg
Criteria 2 Photos	View of RR bridge from river	1470431790591-20150802_1615 52.jpg
Criteria 2 Photos	View of rock wall	1470431845515-May 2015 206.jpg
Criteria 2 Photos	Bedrock with Ripple pattern	1470431885925-IMG_1168.JPG
Criteria 4 Photos	quarry days flyer	1470767368398-quarry days.jpg
Criteria 4 Photos	Paddle Fest information on web site	1470767453009-paddlefest images.jpg
Criteria 4 Photos	Photo of winter ice climbing in the park	1470767483893-ice3.JPG
Criteria 4 Photos	Sandstone Ice Festival web page	1470767707606-Ice Fest Page.jpg
Feature Uploader 80	Schematic image of proposed monument signage for Robinson Park	1470768820660-monument sign.jpg
Feature Uploader 80	Schematic image of proposed directional wayfinding signage	1470768848266-Wayfinding Directional.jpg
Feature Uploader 80	Schematic image of proposed historical park sign character	1470768869425-Historical Signs.jpg
Feature Uploader 80	Photo of previous quarry and angular equipment	1470768952128-photo.jpg
Feature Uploader 80	Photo of existing derrick on the site	1470768985359-20150802_1609 28.jpg
Feature Uploader 292	Schematic of proposed dam overlook with small pedestrian bridge crossing the ruins	1472672255049-dam overlook.jpg
Feature Uploader 291	Example of proposed boardwalk type to fit over sensitive areas and rough terrain	1472672383790-IMG_0460.JPG
Feature Uploader 291	Photo example of proposed crushed granite/aggregate trail	1472672705967-IMG_0708-small .jpg
Feature Uploader 291	Photo example of outdoor fitness	1472672910973-fitness

	equipment that could be included along the trail in upper Robinson	example.jpg
Feature Uploader 347	Image of proposed camper cabin located along the rock walls of upper Robinson, overlooking into lower Robinson	1472677979368-camper cabins.jpg
Feature Uploader 349	Historic photo of the original Old Wagon Bridge	1472679163280-old wagon bridge.jpg
Feature Uploader 349	Photo of an existing Old Wagon Bridge foundation	1472679197490-IMG_1884.JPG
Feature Uploader 350	Photo of existing portage to river	1472679502927-IMG_1626.JPG
Feature Uploader 350	Photo of existing motorized boat launch into river	1472679524489-IMG_1622.JPG
Feature Uploader 350	Photo of existing north portage by river up steep embankment	1472679570795-IMG_1183.JPG
Feature Uploader 350	Photo example of improved canoe launch	1472679643162-Canoe Launch-2.jpg
Feature Uploader 351	Photo example of vault restroom	1472679957876-restroom.jpg
Feature Uploader 292	Photo of the existing remnants of the dam	1472680443404-20150802_161543.jpg
Feature Uploader 292	Photo of existing dam remnants	1472680469421-20150802_161552.jpg
Feature Uploader 352	Photo of existing wall stage in need of replacement	1472680584734-20150802_160946.jpg
Feature Uploader 352	Existing shelter in need of replacement/improvements	1472680686892-IMG_1123.JPG
Feature Uploader 349	Photo of existing abutment remains	1472680799173-20150802_162237.jpg
Feature Uploader 354	Photo of existing guy derrick	1472681715806-IMG_1630-small.jpg
Feature Uploader 354	Photo of existing drill left in rock	1472681760514-drill.jpg
Feature Uploader 354	Photo of existing wall with drill marks	1472681788381-20150802_155836.jpg
Feature Uploader 354	Photo of existing powder storage buildings	1472681859962-May 2015098.jpg
Feature Uploader 354	Photo of sandstone with ripple patterns	1472681900698-May 2015192.jpg
Feature Uploader 355	Photo of ice wall in winter	1472682223614-ice2.JPG
Feature Uploader 355	Photo of ice wall lit at night	1472682236068-ice3.JPG
Feature Uploader 356	Photo of site plants	1472682708098-IMG_1629.JPG
Feature Uploader 356	Photo of existing plants	1472682781664-May 2015104.jpg
Feature Uploader 356	Photo of wooded area	1472682818274-May 2015214.jpg
Ad Cost Projections Photos	original master plan estimate	1472690215637-3006-000 Master Plan Estimate REV_03-2016-1.jpg
Ad Cost Projections Photos	original master plan estimate continuation	1472690267546-3006-000 Master Plan Estimate REV_03-2016-2.jpg
Park Trail Map	Robinson Park Context Map	03006-000_Robinson Final MP Context_cff6f1.jpg
Park Trail Map	Park Map Google Enlargement	Google Park Map_4b0612.jpg
Site Map Upload	Google Park Map	Google Park Map_3b79f0.jpg
Regional Map Uploads	Regional context map	03006-000_Robinson Final MP Context_3671c9.jpg

Site Characteristics Upload	View of Kettle River and remaining bridge foundations taken from park	IMG_1623-small_910d8b.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	View of remaining quarry derrick	IMG_1630-small_23d1f7.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	View of dam remains and railroad bridge	20150802_161552_ba158d.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Photo of quarry operations (drill bit)	drill_ed00ef.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Photo of stone crusher foundation next to informal road, also used as a trail	20150802_155455_aa0cca.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Photo of ice cliffs for winter climbing	ice2_7d24a9.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	Photo of stone with natural markings	May 2015 192_83701a.jpg
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Public Process	4. Section 2 Planning Process_ef16df.pdf
Regional Demographic Upload	demographics	demographics page_8094a4.jpg
Economic Development Tourism Upload	Photo of ice climbing that attracts tourism - improved facilities will improve park use with a higher value	ice park_ce8699.JPG
Economic Development Tourism Upload	Flier of Quarry Days activities that annually attracts tourists - improved park can better improve this experience	quarry days_559a6a.jpg
Public Health Values Upload	Article on the benefits of trails with public health	trails-library-public-health-overview_eb3ab0.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	Example of potential fitness station to be located along the upper Robinson trail for improved physical activity	fitness example_cfd0dc.jpg
Public Health Values Upload	Article on the Health Benefits of Parks by the Trust for Public Land	benefits_HealthBenefitsReport_0d97e3.pdf
Economic Development Tourism Upload	Sandstone Wayfinding Signage Document	03006-010 Wayfinding Plan DRAFT_0f4637.pdf
Economic Development Tourism Upload	Paddlefest information that improves tourism	paddlefest images_30d9b2.jpg
Recreational Trends Upload	article describing upcoming trend of whitewater paddling	Whitewater SUP_ The Newest Paddling Trend - Appalachian Mountain Club_258f5b.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload	article on paddleboard fitness trend	Paddlesports Are the Next Big Fitness Trend_0dd913.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload	article describing increases in millennial interest in camping and outdoor activities	Camping is Up in the U.S., Trend Expected to Continue as Millennials Seek the Positive Health Impact
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	photo of ice climbing area at night	ice3_ca865b.JPG
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	image of ice climbing activities, which are rare to find	ice park_6bb3b9.JPG
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Image taken from MN conservation article highlighting bouldering activities present along Robinson Park	MN conservation photo_5b4919.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Paddlefest image portraying water related recreation along	paddlefest images_9d5afb.jpg

Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Robinson Park Old image of the original Old Wagon Bridge that could become a pedestrian bridge over the river	old wagon bridge_18d010.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Image of historic quarry derrick that still stands on site	IMG_1630-small_70c27a.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Scenic view of river and historic piers from bridge	IMG_1623-small_d86b5f.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Paddlefest raft rodeo image	Paddlefest image Raft Rodeo_4dea6e.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	rock cliffs in Robinson Park with drilling marks	20150802_155821_0ede0b.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	Robinson Park ferns	May 2015 114_22b2fd.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	view of Kettle River and railroad bridge	May 2015 183_965898.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	Sandstone with water ripple markings	May 2015 192_0d1f73.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	Park flowers	May 2015 179_f11390.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	rushing water of the Kettle River	May 2015 181_55f7b2.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	Park rock cliffs and water	May 2015 202_caea98.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	Dense park vegetation	May 2015 219_22c5e2.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr2 Upload	view of dam	20150802_161552_657bfb.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr3 Upload	Park location in regional context	03006-000_Robinson Final MP Context_c57428.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr3 Upload	Park location map	Google Park Map_dde549.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr4 Upload	photo of movies in the park	FB_IMG_1442966602096_30644d.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr4 Upload	Image of Ice Fest activities	Ice Fest Page_47de45.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr4 Upload	MCA image of rock activities	mca photo 1_850489.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr4 Upload	Quarry Days, preserving the history	quarry days_c04ff0.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr4 Upload	Master Plan Image 1	03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1_02a578.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr4 Upload	Master Plan Image 2	03006-000_Robinson Final MP-2_5f2807.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Example of improved water and portage areas	Canoe Launch-2_b7c63e.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Example of improved amenities for recreation	launch and rack_c87066.jpg
Spcl Recreational Ftr1 Upload	Image of proposed camper cabin	camper cabins_86e043.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Park map of existing conditions and uses	03006-000_Robinson Park_Inventory_e2eb4f.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Proposed master plan 1	03006-000_Robinson Final MP-1_423aef.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Proposed master plan 2	03006-000_Robinson Final MP-2_3aed2f.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Park Historical Context with proposed master plan	03006-000_Robinson Final MP Historical_b87f1c.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Image of proposed camper cabin	camper cabins_98e871.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Image of proposed dam overlook	dam overlook_723ee6.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Image of proposed interpretive/historical park signs	Historical Signs_af6f31.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Green Flush_007d3c.jpg
Development Feature Upload		camper cabins_8951cd.jpg

Development Feature Upload		restroom_cd6b2e.jpg
Development Feature Upload		shelter_2_eab98b.jpg
Development Feature Upload		shelter_79253d.jpg
Development Feature Upload		DOC042215-04222015140757_9bed25.pdf
Development Feature Upload		IMG_1247_5199f6.JPG
Development Feature Upload		IMG_1246_f690c9.JPG
Development Feature Upload		IMG_1243_95f7f2.JPG
Development Feature Upload		IMG_1222_291c8d.JPG
Development Feature Upload		IMG_1630-small_94aa52.jpg
Development Feature Upload		tent camp site_043dc7.jpg
Development Feature Upload		dam overlook_548665.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Historical Signs_82249e.jpg
Development Feature Upload		interpretive sign example_0bd194.jpg
Development Feature Upload		whitetail woods cabin_ba821a.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Picnic_27d370.jpg
Development Feature Upload		May 2015 183_d791b1.jpg
Development Feature Upload		May 2015 179_1de14f.jpg
Development Feature Upload		May 2015 192_3bb274.jpg
Development Feature Upload		May 2015 098_51490b.jpg
Development Feature Upload		May 2015 207_ca481c.jpg
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Development Feature Upload		IMAG0126_f83ca6.jpg
Development Feature Upload		DSC_0236_1ea886.jpg
Development Feature Upload		rock play_e21f11.jpg
Development Feature Upload		IMG_1124_08d230.JPG
Development Feature Upload		Boardwalk_f807a0.JPG
Development Feature Upload		Aggregate trail_6b3d50.JPG
Development Feature Upload		Paved Trail_bb5cb4.JPG
Development Feature Upload		Simple Boardwalk_7889b6.JPG
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	master plan estimate page 2	3006-000 Master Plan Estimate REV_03-2016-2_32026f.jpg
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	master plan estimate page 1	3006-000 Master Plan Estimate REV_03-2016-1_ab500a.jpg
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	Phase 1 estimate	3006-020 Phasing Option 3_2018-0509_0916df.pdf
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	Phase 2 estimate	3006-020 Future Phasing Option 2_2018-0509_e608b3.pdf
User Metrics Research Plan Upload	Park visitor survey	park visitor survey_3f3378.pdf
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Image of Ice Fest Celebration on Social Media	Ice Fest Page_426d52.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Document published by the DNR Minnesota Conservation highlighting climbing along Robinson Park	MN conservation cover_88f4d8.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Quarry Days marketing	quarry days_45e239.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Image of Paddle Fest Celebration through the group website	paddfest images_0ad6f3.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Sandstone Tourism Council	Sandstone Tourism_10e8b7.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Example of brochure style that could be used for park nature viewing	brochure2_6a2cc4.jpg
Additional Attachment	Robinson Park Master Plan	03006-000 Robinson

Ecological Land ResPlan Upload Ecological Stewardship Plan

[Report_March 2016_9f89a9.pdf](#)
[Appendix A RobinsonPark_EcologicalStewardshipPlan_2015_78fa32.pdf](#)
[Explore MN_f80554.jpg](#)

Outreach Marketing Plan Upload Explore Minnesota