

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Designation Application

General Section

Designation Application #: 15-002D Date Submitted: 06/09/2015

Park or Trail Name: Lake Brophy Park

District #: 3 Map Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude): Latitude: 45.9119 Longitude: -95.4440

Location Description:

Lake Brophy Park is located 2.5 miles west of Alexandria. It is bordered on the East by a chain of lakes zoned environmental. Lake Union touches the park and is connected to Stoney and Taylor lakes through navigable streams. To the South of the park is Lake Brophy. Lake Brophy is also connected to the aforementioned chain of lakes through a short stream that underpasses the Central Lakes State Trail which runs through the south side of the park.

Lead Applicant Organization: Douglas County

Lead Contact First Name: Brad Last Name: Bonk

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Joint Applicant #1 Organization:

Joint Applicant #2 Organization:

Joint Applicant #3 Organization:

Joint Applicant #4 Organization:

Describe other project supporters:

Description Section

Classification: Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Total proposed acreage:

Overview/Description of Park or Trail:

Lake Brophy Park is located 4 miles west of Alexandria. The park is unique in that it is accessible for residents and visitors of Alexandria through the Central Lakes State Trail (bicycle in summer and snowmobile in winter) as well as through water ways linking Lake Brophy to the Alexandria chain of lakes. The park is distinctive to the area in that 100 feet of topographical relief occurs from the tops of

the hills to the lake bed. This creates areas for hiking, walking, biking, overlooks, star watching, sledding, snowmobiling, cross country skiing ect. The 140 acres would also allow for prairie restoration and woodland restoration along the lakes. This would create opportunities for wildlife viewing and nature based education. The park provides visitors with over 9,000 feet of public lake shore access. Currently in the Alexandria chain of lakes about 1,000 feet of lake shore are free to the public to use as swimming beaches. This water access will allow the park to provide Kayak, Canoe, Stand Up Paddle Board., Paddle boat, fishing as well as many other water based recreational opportunities. The park will be able to allow guests to access the water through swimming beaches fishing piers, and bridges over the stream connecting the lakes. Because of its convenient West Central Minnesota location, clear lakes, natural environment, and vibrant business climate, the Alexandria area is a regional center in the truest sense of the term - with economic strengths including healthcare, manufacturing, professional services, education, retail, and tourism. Alexandria and Douglas County are among the fastest growing non-metropolitan communities in Minnesota with an exceptionally well-trained/educated workforce.

What is the Acquisition and Development Status?

- New Park or Trail (no land acquired or developed)
- Existing Park or Trail
 - Land Acquisition
 - Status:
 - Percentage of Land Acquired:
 - Development Status
 - No Development
 - Some Development, but more Proposed
 - New Facilities Proposed
 - Existing Facilities to be Upgraded
 - Fully Development

Facility Listing Section

Classification: Natural Resource Based Regional Park	
Existing Facility List	Proposed Facility List
	Camping-cross-section of camper types, Tent only sites, Overnight camping for bicycle users of the Central Lakes State Trail., Picknicking and picnic shelters, Walking Trails (paved), Hiking Trails (natural), Biking trails (paved), Mountain Biking Trails (natural), Cross-country Skiing Trails, Swimming, Lake Access for power

	boats, Canoeing Facilities, Fishing Piers, Visitor Center, Nature Center/Interpretation Trails, Play Areas, with an outdoor theme, Outdoor Amphitheater, Archery/Shooting ranges, Restrooms/sanitation building, Roads and Parking Areas, Scenic overlooks, Trail head for grant in aid snowmobile trail, Disc Golf, Play ground, and Space for emerging recreation opportunities.
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Master Plan Status Section

Master Plan Status: No Master Plan is Available

Describe Other Supportive Information:

WSB and Associates is under contract and currently working on a master plan for the site to be completed in October of 2015.

Classification Details Section

Classification: Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Criteria #1 Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience: Lake Brophy park covers an 140 acres with the most prominent topographical change in the Alexandria Chain of Lakes. From the tops of the hills you can see most of the chain of lakes along with the entire town of Alexandria. The valleys created by this relief allows for sledding, seclusion, mountain biking, hiking, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. Included in the 9000 ft of lake shore is 4500 on Lake Brophy which is a general development deep water lake that is an excellent fishery. The other 4500 ft is on North Union Lake. a natural environment lake that has undeveloped shore line, as well as excellent fishing and water recreation potential. The multi disciplined firm hired by Douglas County to complete the master plan will help ensure that high quality state of the art facilities are built in this park.

Criteria #2 Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape: The hills located inside the park have the highest elevation within 15 miles of Alexandria. Pressure to develop properties like this for residential use are extreme. The Archaeological survey completed during the acquisition phase identified the possible presence of intact cultural deposits from the late woodland habitation. The site has potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This property increase the public lake shore ownership by a factor of 10 in this region.

Criteria #3 Well-located and Connected to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination: The growing population of Douglas County and Alexandria, a well known tourist destination, ensures that park users will come to West Central Minnesota from many locales . Since this park is located within 3 miles of Alexandria and bisected by the Central Lakes State Trail, connecting St. Cloud via the Lake

Wobegon Regional Trail, bicycle tourists will find a destination park to stage their outings from. There are two commercially operated RV parks within one mile of the property. Lake Brophy is connected via navigable waterways to the entire Alexandria Chain of Lakes and the Long Prairie State Water Trail. The 400 mile D.A.T.A. snow mobile trail will have a trail head located on the property.

Criteria #4 Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region: This will be the only trail side camping provided on the Central Lakes State Trail. It's also the only designated Mountain biking facility within 50 miles of Alexandria. Because of the lack of public lake shore in the region this park will provide many quality shore fishing, and water recreation opportunities for visitors and residents within minutes of downtown Alexandria. The proximity to this tourist destination will make this a likely spot for large family and company outings. The development will be planned to enhance these uses.

Attachment List Section (only lists up to 10 documents)

Type	Description
Location Map	Location map added from general tab
Location Map	Location map added from general tab
Other	Archaeological Phase 1
Other	DNR Lake Survey Lake Brophy
Other	DNR Lake Survey North Union Lake
Resolution	Resolution
Master Plan	Lake Brophy Master Plan Report
Master Plan	Lake Brophy Master Plan Map
Location Map	Location map added from general tab
Location Map	Location map added from general tab