

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Designation Application

General Section

Designation Application #: 15-009D Date Submitted: 06/29/2015

Park or Trail Name: Lyon County Twin Lakes Park

District #: 5 Map Coordinates (Latitude and Longitude): Latitude: 44.2136 Longitude: -96.0511

Location Description:

Twin Lakes Park is located at 1097 County Road 51, Ruthton, MN 56170, in Shelburne Township. It is in the extreme southwestern corner of Lyon County, and roughly 20 miles from Lyon County Garvin Park.

Lead Applicant Organization: Lyon County

Lead Contact First Name: Brooke Last Name: Wyffels

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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

Regional Significance Statement:

Classification: Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Total proposed acreage:

Overview/Description of Park or Trail:

In 1895 Twin Lakes Park was the site of School District 57, which later closed in 1947. In the 1950's Twin Lakes drew families from a 50-mile radius to enjoy the swimming beach on West Twin Lake and fishing on both West and East Twin Lake. At that time there was no park, though there was a building for changing on West Twin. In 2007 Lyon County Board of Commissioners purchased 27.5 acres of land

between East and West Twin Lakes for the purpose of developing a park. Twin Lakes Park is located between two lakes, East Twin and West Twin in the extreme southwest part of Lyon County, Minnesota. Both lakes draw people from the neighboring counties of Lincoln, Pipestone, and Murray, as both lakes are considered to have good fishing and unique to southwest Minnesota. East Twin Lake has a maximum depth of 22 feet; which is considered deep for Southwest Minnesota. Other lakes in the area average 10-12 feet deep. West Twin Lake is about 11 deep, however, West Twin has exceptional water clarity- between 9 and 10 feet, making this lake extremely unique for this area. Because of the exceptional water clarity of West Twin lake, (rare for southwest Minnesota) aquatic plant diversity is large a survey conducted by Southwest Minnesota State University in 2010 found 12 different aquatic plants, the average in Southwest Minnesota is 3. Therefore, Lyon County has eliminated the use of motorized boat use on West Twin Lake in order to minimize negative impacts to the water quality. Because of these unique qualities, these lakes draw people from over a 50-mile radius for natural resource based recreation potential; including swimming, fishing, boating, and canoeing. With the DNR boat landing that was constructed in 2010 on East Twin Lake, the number of people visiting Twin Lakes has increased tremendously. Twin Lakes Park consists of 67.5 acres, 27.5 of which are developed as regional campground area. It includes a 20'X20' ADA compliant restroom/shower facility and a 30'X40' shelter. There are 15 total available campsites with electric; 1 pull through site and 1 ADA compliant campsite. Twin Lakes Park provides the county residents with regionally significant open space and recreation opportunities within a convenient driving distance. The area surrounding the park is predominantly agricultural land. Twin Lakes Park is located approximately twenty two miles southwest of Marshall, Minnesota which serves as the county seat of Lyon County and has an approximate population of 13,483 people. It will also provide service the local residents of Ruthton, Balaton and Russell.

What is the Acquisition and Development Status?

New Park or Trail (no land acquired or developed)

Existing Park or Trail

Land Acquisition

Status: north half developed, south half only land aquired

Percentage of Land Acquired: 100

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
Electric campsites, Picknicking and picnic shelters, Swimming, Lake Access for power boats, Canoeing Facilities, Restrooms/sanitation building, Roads and Parking Areas	Tent only sites, Walking Trails (paved), Fishing Piers, Play Areas, with an outdoor theme

Master Plan Status Section

Master Plan Status: Existing Master Plan is Available (but needs to be updated to meet strategic plan)

Describe Other Supportive Information:
Existing Master Plan is Available but needs to be updated.

Classification Details Section

Classification: Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Criteria #1 Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience: Twin Lakes Park will provide users: swimmers, fisherman, boaters, campers and other outdoor enthusiasts with a high quality recreational experience unique to this area of the state. This park has a rich history with historical landmarks, and offers a wide array of amenities. Fishing opportunities are extremely different between the East and West Twin Lake providing an exclusive fishing experience on both lakes, while allowing fisherman to remain in the same area. This park provides a high-quality experience by offering an array of services and amenities. The newly constructed boat ramp on West Twin Lake, shower and restroom building, and handicap accessible campsite meet the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines encouraging use by people with all abilities. In the future a swimming beach that is clean, well kept, family-friendly, and accessible to people of all abilities will be developed, providing another exciting experience. Twin Lakes Park is unique in the fact that there are no aquatic invasive species present unlike many other lakes in Minnesota. Lyon County has created a monitoring and management plan to preserve intact natural communities in the lakes to insure that they do not become infested with AIS. Twin Lakes Park is one of few parks in this part of the state that has access to motorized and non-motorized lakes that offer these types of recreational experiences.

Criteria #2 Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape: Twin Lakes Park is nestled between two very unique lakes in this region of the state, that appear to not be hydrologically connected according to Southwest Minnesota State Universities study, commissioned by Lyon County. East Twin Lake has a maximum depth of 22 feet, which is considered deep for Southwest Minnesota. West Twin has exceptional water clarity between 9 and 10 feet. According to study conducted by the Environmental Science Program at Southwest Minnesota State University, there is a significant difference between the composition and structure of the woodland communities along the shores of each lake, making each lake unique. East Twin Lake is managed for walleye primarily, while smallmouth

bass, bluegill, and yellow perch are managed secondarily. In an effort to provide a unique fishery in southwest Minnesota, smallmouth bass fingerlings were introduced in 2002. A survey was conducted in 2005 and found fourteen different types of vegetation. The unique terrain and climate in southwest Minnesota makes it home to some of the most successful birding sites in the state.

Criteria #3 Well-located and Connected to Serve Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination: Twin Lakes Park is located in the southwest corner of Lyon County, with close proximity to Murray, Pipestone and Lincoln Counties. Lyon County is close to both the South Dakota and Iowa border drawing tourists from both those states as well. Twin Lakes Park is easily accessed by State Highway 23 from Camden State Park (18 miles), and accessed by Hwy 14 from Lyon County Garvin Park (20 miles) and Brookings, SD (47 miles). This park is well-located to connect and serve a large geographic region. Visitors travel to this part of the southwest Minnesota to enjoy the rural character of the landscape and to utilize our lakes, rivers, and outdoor recreational areas. This newly constructed campground will provide a much enhanced service to campers from within and outside the region. Twin Lakes Park is located 20 miles from Marshall; a regional center in southwest Minnesota, and the county seat of Lyon County with a population of 13,680. Marshall is currently constructing a new Amateur Sports Complex that is expected to draw in tourists and recreational enthusiasts throughout the region. There are various nationally registered historic places listed in close proximity to Twin Lakes Park including; Camden State Park, William F. Gieske House, Masonic Temple Delta Lodge No. 119, Kiel and Morgan Hotel/Lyon County Courthouse and Bridge No. 5151--Minnesota Highway 19 over the Redwood River.

Criteria #4 Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region: Swimming, fishing, boating, canoeing, and picnicking are currently the most popular recreational offerings at Twin lakes Park. The combination of camping and fishing at two popular lakes provides a unique recreational experience. Dedicating West Twin to a non-motorized lake, limits fishing pressure to allow for better management and provides "day-trip" canoeing without the hassle of competing with motor boats. There are only two lakes in Lyon County that provide for this type of experience. The ordinance placed on West Twin Lake will provide users with a safe and high quality recreational experience away from motorized boats. Twin Lakes Park provides the public with natural resource based recreational opportunities such as; water-based activities including; swimming, fishing and boating. Twin Lakes Park provides users with the opportunity to experience a natural setting where wildlife, historical sites, prairies landscapes and two majestic lakes are part of the overall experience. Twin Lakes Park is a destination park that will be desirable to users from the southwest Minnesota region.

Attachment List Section (only lists up to 10 documents)

Type	Description
Location Map	Location map added from general tab
Other	Ordinance
Resolution	

Master Plan	Master plan added from master plan tab
Master Plan	Master plan added from master plan tab
Master Plan	Master plan added from master plan tab
Resolution	
Resolution	
Resolution	
criteria_1_photos	Lake