



General

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

Last Update: August 29, 2017 21:14:05

GMRPTC Park/Trail ID#: 16-021D

Park or Trail Name: Hole In The Mountain

Park or Trail Type: County Park

District: 5

Regional Designation Status : Regionally Designated

Evaluation Score :

Park/Trail Address: P.O. Box 369

City: Lake Benton

Zip: 56149

Latitude: 44.26450236

Longitude: -96.30456448

Location Description: North side of the City of Lake Benton, located within Lincoln County in Minnesota

Facility Website: <http://www.lincolncounty-mn.us/Departments/Parks.htm>

Lead Applicant Organization : Lincoln County

Lead Contact Person: Teresa Schreurs

Lead Contact Title: Director of Community Development

Mailing Address: 402 N. Harold St.

City: Ivanhoe

Zip: 56142

Phone: (507) 694-1552

Email: teresa@dsi-services.com

Joint Applicant #1: N/A

Joint Applicant #2: N/A

Joint Applicant #3: N/A

Joint Applicant #4: N/A

Other project supporters : N/A

Description

Regional Significance Statement: Located on Buffalo Ridge, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, with 1,000 acres of woodland and prairie, is a regional treasure due to its topography, scenic landscapes, campgrounds, and trails. With its steep hills and rolling terrain, the park provides seven miles of challenging and scenic natural trails. Whether its horseback riding, biking, hiking, fishing, or snowmobiling, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is in use spring, summer, fall, and winter truly, a Four Season Funland.

Site Map uploads:

Description: Aerial Overview

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/OverviewAerial1_5915f6.png

Description:

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/Hole in the Mountain Map 1_610089.png

Description:

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/Hole in the Mountain Map Satelite_702242.png

Description:

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/Hole in the Mountain Site_1fc913.png

Classification: Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail: Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie is part of a 4,300 acre prairie area that begins at the south end of the City of Lake Benton along U.S. Highway 75, and runs south toward Altona State Wildlife Management Area. This Prairie is a 1,157-acre prairie and oak savanna wildlife preserve. This preserve, situated on a steep valley, is part of a larger glacial escarpment that runs from southwest Minnesota through northeast South Dakota. Locally, this region with its undulating terrain, is known as Buffalo Ridge. Native Americans called the half-mile-wide prairie valley "Mountain Pass" or "Hole-in-the-Mountain".

Buffalo Ridge, dividing the Mississippi and Missouri River basins, is a large expanse of rolling hills. It's peak, reaching 1,995 feet above sea level, includes some of the highest land in Minnesota - right here at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.

Located on Buffalo Ridge, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is comprised of approximately 1,000 acres of woodland and prairie land. Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, with its steep hills and rolling terrain, provide seven miles of challenging and scenic natural trails. Whether its horseback riding, biking, hiking, or snowmobiling, the park trails are in use spring, summer, winter and fall.

Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park offers three campground areas. Situated atop the highest hill in Hole-in-the-Mountain Park, Horse Hill campground is a regional treasure for equestrian enthusiasts. Horse Hill campground offers 30 campsites with water and electric service. Hitching posts and fenced-in areas are adjacent to campsites to accommodate horses. Numerous non-electric campsites are also available throughout the Horse Hill campground. Visitors from across the region enjoy not only the seven miles of natural trails throughout Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, but many more acres of off-trail riding, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other outdoor opportunities to experience beautiful, unique views of undulating woodland and prairie landscapes.

Two additional campground areas can be found in Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park: the West Campground, providing 20 campsites with water and electric service, and the East Campground with an additional 12 campsites with water and electric service.

Throughout Hole-in-the-Mountain Park there are many more rustic (non-water/electric) tent sites.

Located one-half mile from the park, Lake Benton Lake offers ample outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, ice-fishing, swimming beaches, boating, water-skiing, tubing and more. At approximately 7-miles-long, Lake Benton is one of the largest lakes in southwest Minnesota and ranked among the 10 best walleye lakes in Minnesota drawing tourists from not only the local region but other states such as Nebraska, Iowa, and nearby South Dakota.

The City of Lake Benton has a 1.2 mile trail within the city limits that is connected to Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. Additionally, the Lincoln County Trails Task Force, has designed a plan to construct a Lincoln County Trails System. It is a 10-year multi-phase plan to build trails that would not only connect major points within Lincoln County, but would not only connect Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to neighboring trails and amenities, but would also connect multiple communities, regions and potentially states.

Total Acreage or Mileage : 1000

Acquisition and Development Status: Existing Park of Trail

Describe land acquisition status:

Percentage of land acquired:

Development status: Some development, but more proposed

Regional Context : Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is one of three county parks owned and operated by Lincoln County, Minnesota, under the direction of the Lincoln County, Minnesota Board of Commissioners. The Lincoln County Parks Department, an agency under the direction of the Lincoln County, Minnesota Board of Commissioners, has been designated to supervise the operation, maintenance, and development of the parks and recreation centers within Lincoln County.

The Lincoln County, Minnesota Board of Commissioners is comprised of five commissioners, with the County Seat being located in Ivanhoe, Minnesota. As of the 2010 census, the population of Lincoln County was 5,896.

Lincoln County, Minnesota, with a total area of 548 square miles, is home to five cities (Arco, Hendricks, Ivanhoe, Lake Benton, and Tyler), 15 lakes, and 15 townships.

In addition to Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, Lincoln County, Minnesota Parks Department supervises the operation and development of Norwegian Creek County Park and Picnic Point County Park.

Norwegian Creek County Park (Lincoln County Minnesota Parks) is located one mile north and one mile east of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. Located along the shores of Lake Benton lake, with 128 acres, Norwegian Creek has 92 campsites with electricity and water service. Facilities include two picnic shelters, a bathhouse with showers, a fish-cleaning shed, an RV dump station, a swimming beach, and two boat launches.

Picnic Point County Park (Lincoln County Minnesota Parks) is 9 miles north and 3 miles west of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. Located on the southern side of beautiful Lake Shaokatan, adjacent to Suhr State Wildlife Management Area, this park is 43 acres, with 30 campsites offering water and electric service. Picnic Point also offers numerous camping sites without electricity. The park offers a picnic shelter, a swimming beach, a floating T-dock, two boat launches, a fish-cleaning shed, and an RV dump station.

Other local parks include Stoney Point Campground and Lakeside Park.

* Stoney Point Campground and Recreational Center is located 7.5 miles east of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. The Stoney Point Campground is located on the western side of Lake Benton lake and offers over 100 campsites with water, sewer, and electric service, and a public access/boat landing. Visitors to Stoney Point Campground also enjoy the amenities offered at Hole-in-the-Mountain Park.

* Lakeside Park (owned by the City of Lake Benton) is located just east of Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, on the shore of Lake Benton lake. This park has a picnic shelter, public restrooms, public access/boat landing, a fishing pier, and a unique shoreline with an access road used by many for some of the best shore fishing in the region. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has allocated funding to upgrade the public boat access at Lakeside Park to a Class A boat landing, complete with paved parking and a boat wash station.

In relation to State Parks, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is located:

- * 72 miles southwest of Alexander Ramsey State Park
- * 47 miles northeast of Lake Shetek State Park
- * 40 miles north of Blue Mounds State Park
- * And 24 miles southwest of Camden State Park

Located only 14 miles apart, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, with its unique topography, woods, trails, and scenic hills, is an attractive destination for visitors of the Casey Jones State Trail.

The City of Lake Benton has a one-mile trail within the city limits that connects to Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. The Lincoln County Trails Task Force has designed a plan to construct a Lincoln County Trails System. The Trails Task Force has a 10-year multi-phase plan to build trails that would not only connect major points within Lincoln County, but would also connect Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to neighboring trails and amenities, as well as multiple communities, regions, and potentially, states.

The first phase of the proposed Lincoln County trail system will be a scenic by-way around beautiful Lake Benton lake. This phase also includes a plan to connect Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park to Norwegian Creek County Park, then connecting to Stoney Point Campground and Recreational Park.

The proposed trail will encompass some of the states more picturesque sites and destinations. Sites will include multiple accesses to a recently designated water trail on Lake Benton lake, historical

marker and plaque at the former City of Marshfield Township (the first organized community and county seat for Lincoln County), Fox Slough (a well known recreational area for hunting, water fowl and wildlife viewing), and Snyder Log Cabin (a historic 1850 era settler cabin) at its original location at Hole-in-the-Mountain Park.

Between the one-mile hard-surface trail and the seven miles of natural trails throughout a rolling terrain, visitors to Hole-in-the-Mountain Park will enjoy their favorite outdoor recreational activities amid unique views of undulating hills, woodlands, and prairie. Whether its horseback riding, biking, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, running, or just relaxing next to a fire at their campsite, Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offers something for everyone - winter, spring, summer or fall.

Lake Benton lake, at approximately seven-miles long, with more than 18 miles of shoreline, is located within one half mile of Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. Lake Benton lake is the sixth largest lakes in southern Minnesota and has been known to be ranked among the 10 best walleye lakes in Minnesota. The lake draws tourists from not only the local region but also from other regions throughout the Midwest, such as Nebraska, Iowa, and nearby South Dakota.

Lake Benton lake offers ample outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, ice-fishing, swimming beaches, boating, water-skiing, tubing, canoeing, and more.

Regional Map uploads:

Description: Location of Hole-in-the-Mnt Park

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/01.LincolnCountyParks1_d9dbe2.png

Description: Overview of Hole-in-the-Mtn Park

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/02.HITMCountyParkOverview_7f650e.png

Description: Lincoln County Parks

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/03.ImplemAgency.Photo1_64bebf.png

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
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites
- Electric/water campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)

Proposed Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)

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- Visitor Center
 - Restrooms/sanitation building
 - Roads and Parking Areas

Proposed Facilities Other Information

Snow Tubing Hill
Event Center/Wedding Venue
Rustic Cabins
Museum

General Site Characteristics

Hole-in-the-Mountain Park is located on the Bemis Moraine, more commonly referred to as the Buffalo Ridge. The ridge is a moraine, which is a pile of sediment (silt, sand, gravel, and boulders), that were left at the edge of a glacier. There is a 1.6 kilometer-wide break in the moraine in Lake Benton. Buffalo Ridge, dividing the great watersheds of America - the Missouri and Mississippi, provides opportunities for overlooks and interpretation. The Buffalo Ridge landscape is unique and unexpected among the flat prairies of southwest Minnesota. Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is a gem in the region for its undulating topography, woods, and scenic views.

Buffalo Ridge is a large expanse of rolling hills in the southeastern part of the larger Coteau des Prairies, which is part of the inner coteau and is the highest point of the Coteau des Prairies in Minnesota. With a peak of 1,994 feet above sea level, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is among the highest points of Buffalo Ridge which, at its peak, reaches 1,995 feet above sea level.

Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is home to the second highest elevation region in all of Minnesota. Its peak exceeds any elevation within a 100-mile radius in southeastern South Dakota and reaches more than 200 feet above the highest point in Iowa.

Buffalo Ridge is 60 miles long and approximately 10 miles wide. The ridge begins in northwestern Iowa and stretches 60 miles through Minnesota and into South Dakota, specifically through Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Nobles, and Rock Counties in the southwestern corner of Minnesota.

Horse Hill Campground is home to a glacier pond (kettle hole). A kettle hole is a shallow, sediment-filled body of water formed by receding glaciers. The kettles are formed as a result of blocks of ice calving from glaciers and becoming submerged in the sediment on the outwash plain. When the block melts, the hole it leaves behind is a kettle.

Within a few minutes just south of Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, visitors can find Hole in the Mountain Prairie, a tall grass prairie conservancy created, owned, and protected by the Nature Conservancy. It is located on the outer edge of Buffalo Ridge and is the headwaters of Flandreau Creek. It was created to preserve the diminishing tallgrass prairie and the insects and animals native to tallgrass prairies.

Hole in the Mountain Prairie, a 1,157-acre prairie and oak savanna wildlife preserve, is a remnant of what used to be a 4,300-acre prairie landscape. Hole in the Mountain Prairie, spanning a valley of about a half-mile in width, begins at the south end of the City of Lake Benton, along U.S. Highway 75, and runs south toward the Altona State Wildlife Management Area.

Hole in the Mountain Prairie is part of a larger glacial escarpment that runs from southwest Minnesota through northeast South Dakota. Locally, this region with its undulating terrain, is known as Buffalo Ridge. Native Americans called the half-mile wide prairie valley Mountain Pass or Hole-in-the-Mountain.

Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie represents in full beauty what the southern end of the larger 2.4 million-acre Prairie Coteau region might have looked like prior to European settlement. Today, roughly one million acres of the Coteau remains untilled and is primarily utilized as pasture and

hayland for livestock. This site allows the Conservancy to showcase alternative prairie management programs.

Native plants within Hole in the Mountain Prairie include six of special concern: prairie moonwort, small-leaved pussytoes, small white ladys slipper, red threeawn, soft goldenrod, and slender milk-vetch.

Hole in the Mountain Prairie Preserve harbors more than 60 species of grasses, sedges, and rushes, 10 species of trees and shrubs and 200 species of wildflowers. The preserve provides excellent habitat for rare prairie-dependent insects, including 25 species of butterflies, and nesting waterfowl, passerines and other grassland birds.

Most unique to Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie are its butterflies, thriving on the native grasses and forbs protected here: the Dakota skipper and Ottoe skipper, both threatened species, and the Uncas skipper, an endangered species. The Dakota skipper butterfly was first discovered near Volga, SD (approx. 35 miles from Hole-in-the-Mountain) and survives on only a few scattered virgin prairie habitats in the Dakotas, Iowa, and Minnesota. Visitors may also catch glimpses of a suite of prairie birds, mammals, and other insects including a bald eagle, badger, coyote, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, red-tailed hawk, meadowlark, and bobolink.

Lake Benton, nestled in the valley of the Buffalo Ridge, is known as the Original Windpower Capital of the Midwest. More than 600 wind turbines decorate the skyline along the Buffalo Ridge in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

A 1990 study of Minnesota's wind energy potential by the Department of Public Service found that the area around Lake Benton the Buffalo Ridge has enough wind to produce electricity well in excess of a full years net electrical consumption in Minnesota. Buffalo Ridge provides the most constant wind speed, averaging 15-18 mph. Because of its high altitude and high average wind speed, Buffalo Ridge has been transformed into a place for creating alternative energy. Buffalo Ridge provides more high-grade wind resources than the entire state of California.

Heritage and Windpower Learning Center of Southwest Minnesota is located in Lake Benton. The primary focus of the Windpower Learning Center is to educate visitors on the numerous benefits that windpower has to offer. Visitors can see the wind turbine model and several interactive computers that provide detailed information on wind energy.

Lake Benton lake is located within one half mile of Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. Approximately seven miles long and with more than 18 miles of shoreline, Lake Benton lake is 2,875 acres in area and is the sixth largest lake in southern Minnesota.

Site characteristics uploads:

Description: Buffalo Ridge

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/01.BuffaloRidge1_f7eb90.png

Description: Buffalo Ridge

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/02.Criteria2_BuffaloRidge_179f01.png

Description: Glacier Pond

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/03.Criteria2_GlacierPond_b81c2d.png

Description: Hole in the Mtn Prairie

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/04.HITM_Prairie1_2ee105.png

Description: Hole in the Mtn Prairie

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/05.HITM_Prairie2_0034b4.png

Description: Regionally Significant Plants

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/06.Criteria2_RegionSignifPlants_6bc0f7.png

Description: Wind Capital of the Midwest

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/07.Criteria2_WindCapital_73f382.png

Description: Lake Benton Lake

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/08.Criteria2_LakeBentonLake_306a81.png

Trends/Public Values

Public Involvement Summary : Since 2011, multiple canvassing efforts have been made in Lincoln County with the intention to garner the public's input related to park and trail amenities within Lincoln County. Among these efforts include:

- 1) Public meeting (plus survey) in 2011
- 2) Public meeting (plus survey) in 2014
- 3) Public survey in January-March 2017
- 4) Public meeting (plus survey) in 2017

1) Public Meeting (2011)

The public meeting and survey, hosted in 2011, was intended to gather community input related to the Lincoln County Trail Commissions 2011 Legacy Grant application. The findings from this meeting and subsequent survey were used to reflect the needs, concerns, and interests from guests and visitors of Lincoln County's parks and trails.

The key findings from the 120 participants include:

* The primary activities of the participants include: walking, hiking, walking pets, biking (road, mountain and recreational), and jogging/running.

* Activities that residents would like to be able to do on a trail in Lincoln County include: walking, hiking, jogging, biking (road, mountain, recreational), and walking pets.

* Residents are interested in using a trail for recreation, health and exercise, and spending time with friends and family.

* Trail activities that most people would be interested in include: walking, hiking, walking pet, jogging, running, horseback riding/equestrian.

2) Public Meeting (2014)

Likewise, the public meeting and survey, hosted in 2014, was intended to gather community input related to the Lincoln County Trail Commissions 2014 Legacy Grant application. The findings from this meeting and survey were used to reflect continued needs, concerns, and interests from guests and visitors of Lincoln County's parks and trails.

According to surveys taken from Lincoln County individuals and groups, the highest trail activity

participation included walking, biking, and jogging or running. These were also the trail related activities that survey respondents participated in the most often. Hunting and fishing were next in popularity. People in Lincoln County also expressed their interest in utilizing park facilities that include snowmobiling, paddle sports, riding horses, riding golf carts or wheelchairs, and cross country skiing/snowshoeing.

All of these types of trail users, with varied means of locomotion, use trails differently and have distinctive needs and desires for space, surface, trail length and configuration, and other elements. When planning and especially designing trails the needs of the intended trail users must be considered.

The key takeaways from the survey include:

- * Walkers want: firm and stable surface, operating space clear of hazards.
- * Joggers/Runners want: surface clear of hazards, firm and stable surfaces some prefer unpaved.
- * Bicyclists want: smooth, hard surfaces clear of obstructions, avoid sharp turns, clear sight lines, prefer flat or rolling terrain without steep hills, safe road crossings.
- * Equestrians want: adequate sight distances, passing/pull off spaces, hazard-free surfaces, structures, adequate for point loads of 800-1400 lb/horse, horizontal clearance on bridges and boardwalks, hitching posts, trailer parking.
- * Mountain Bikers want: groomed trails designed for speed, access to rest stops and local services.
- * Cross-Country Skiers want: groomed trails, flat or rolling hills, avoiding sharp turns, clearance for poles, shelter/warming house, clear mapping/sign system.
- * Snowshoers want: unplowed, ungroomed surfaces are acceptable.
- * Hunters/Fishers want: short access trails to hunting and fishing locations to avoid carrying gear/catch long distances.
- * People with wheelchairs/Scooters want: low-grade hills (5%), firm and stable surface, very few surface obstructions, no large surface gaps, railings or wheel stops, and plenty of turning space.
- * All trails users want: Convenient access from home or work, adequate parking, trailheads/rest areas with restrooms and water fountains, clear mapping and signage.

As an additional consideration during this survey, it was understood that among bicyclists there are child or family bicyclists, recreational, fitness and transportation bicyclists. There are skill levels ranging from children to adult racers. There are also a wide variety of bicycle styles: mountain, hybrid, road, tandem, side-by-side tandem, bicycles with attached trailers or child carriers, and even a 4-person surrey. Each of these trail-user types have different preferences, and each of these bicycle types have different space requirements and work best under different conditions.

3) Public Survey (Jan-March 2017)

In order to collect further information from park patrons (existing and prospective), a new survey was launched in January, 2017. This survey was sent to various patron groups (campers, city mayors, city and county clerks, city chambers for boy and girl scout groups, 4-H, and other youth and church groups) located within 80 miles of Lake Benton, as well as Sioux Falls, Brookings, Del Rapids, and Brandon (South Dakota).

The goal of this survey was to help identify the recreational and educational, needs and interests, in our region. The survey, including an informational brochure, was submitted to user groups through various marketing efforts, including: direct mail, email, SoGo Online Survey, Survey Monkey, and as a handout to existing camper clientele.

While the response from this survey was lower than anticipated, the responses were consistent with previous surveys and discussions. Among the highest interest from participants indicated that walking, hiking, camping, snowmobiling, sledding, tubing, and water sports are among the primary activities that guests and visitors are looking for in our region.

4) Community Meeting (April 2017)

A community meeting was held April 6, 2017 in the City of Lake Benton. This meeting generated valuable and viable ideas for future goals and strategies both for Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park and Lake Benton, as a whole.

A group discussion was held and ideas were brainstormed regarding the assets and future development within Lake Benton, including the development and ideas for Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.

Overall, a few common themes became evident:

- * There was a strong desire expressed to incorporate more youth and teenager activities at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.
- * Expand the trail system, within Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park and potentially extend the trail to Norwegian Creek County Park (and the lake).
- * Develop employment opportunities for teens and young adults at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.

Public Involvement Support Material Uploads:

Description: 2011 Public Survey

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/2011_Survey_3bdc5c.png

Regional Demographic Information : Local and regional demographics (Lincoln County with its four (4) adjacent counties - Lyon, Yellow Medicine, Pipestone, Murray) reflect an overall decrease in total population since 1980, from a total population of 70,264 in 1980, decreasing by 8,270 people (approx. 11.8%) by the year 2000. However, from 2000 to 2010 saw only a decrease in population of 1,482 (approx. 2.4%). Current population trends reflect a similar, minimal, 2% reduction in population.

Demographic trends, as it relates to the broader region (these same 5 counties, together with further outlying, yet adjacent to these counties; Lac qui Parle, Rock, Nobles, Redwood, Cottonwood, and Jackson) reflect similar trends. The total population of these 11 counties, in 1980, was 161,284. By 2000, the population had decreased by 12.7%. Between 2000 and 2010, the population decreased by only 2.8%.

Not only does Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offer some of the most diverse recreational amenities, breathtaking views and unique topography that Mother Nature has to offer, but it also provides a rich learning environment for educational opportunities and training programs.

With its diverse natural environment and challenging terrain, Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offers a unique experience for students and trainees of all ages and from all walks of life.

South Dakota State University (SDSU), located in Brookings, SD, is only 28 miles west of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park:

* Students enrolled in SDSUs Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science Department are among Hole-in-the-Mountain County Parks annual visitors. Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is a regional treasure for students to explore and research the parks diverse and robust horticulture.

* Every year, students enrolled in SDSUs Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program also take advantage of the unique training opportunities offered by Hole-in-the-Mountain Parks woods, trails, challenging terrain, and arduous topography. They particularly like to use the dense forest and steep terrain for night vision training.

* Throughout the year, members of SDSUs Bicycle Club are also among the visitors of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. The club makes the trip to Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to not only take advantage of its challenging trails, but for the breathtaking views of the scenic landscape as well.

Likewise, students from Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU), located in Marshall, MN and only 34 miles northeast of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park, also travel the short distance to experience the amenities and educational opportunities offered at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.

Sioux Falls, SD, home to numerous colleges, universities, technical institutes, and other training programs, is located only 67 miles southwest of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park continues to be a growing favorite destination for families, students, campers, and outdoor enthusiasts from the Sioux Falls area who among the hundreds of visitors who travel each year to Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to experience the parks unique natural amenities.

Regional Demographic Uploads:

Description: Demographics Image 1

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/Pop_Demographics_Immediate_Region1_f399f7.png

Description: Demographics Image 2

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/Pop_Demographics_Immediate_Region2_a08c1b.png

Description: Demographics Image 3

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/Pop_Demographics_Immediate_Region3_dc2db6.png

Description: Demographics Image 4

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/Population_Demographic_Broad_Region_2e65ce.png

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 : The goal of the Lincoln County, Minnesota Park

System is to improve the quality of life for people of all ages and increase tourism in southwestern Minnesota by providing a regional park system offering year-round activities. Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park offers a unique landscape for recreation, exercise, and family time while showcasing the regions beautiful scenic views and its natural beauty.

Trail Heads:

According to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park contains trailheads of state and regional trail corridors. Lincoln County, Minnesota, offers 9 trailheads of Regional and/or Subregional Trail Corridors:

Lincoln County Trailheads:

- * Hole-in-the-Mountain Park at Lake Benton
- * Lake Hendricks at Hendricks
- * Norwegian Creek Park at Lake Benton
- * Midwest Center for Wind Energy
- * Picnic Point County Park at Lake Shaokatan
- * Anderson Park on Lake Stay lake in Arco
- * Stoney Point Park at the east end of Lake Benton lake
- * Gilson Field Campground at north end of Ivanhoe
- * Lake Shaokatan County Park

Hole-in-the-Mountain Natural Trails:

In addition to the seven miles of natural trails winding throughout the park, Lake Benton/Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park has been designated as trail head for a number of public trails:

- * Lake Benton is designated as a trail head for Public Hiking Trails (map of trail heads provided on DNR websites)
- * Lake Benton is designated as a trail head for Public Horse Trails (map of trail heads provided on DNR websites)
- * Lake Benton is designated as a trail head for Public Cross County Ski Trails (map of trail head provided on DNR website)

Hole-in-the-Mountain Hard-Surface Trails:

Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park also offers a nearly 1.2 mile hard-surfaced non-motorized loop trail, allowing runners, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages to enjoy the picturesque landscapes.

Snowmobile Trails:

The Lincoln County Drift Clippers, Lincoln Countys own snowmobile club, maintain over 80 miles of groomed trails within Lincoln County, including Hole-in-the-Mountains natural trails. The trail connects to the South Dakota trail system west of Hendricks, MN and to the Lyon County system near Florence, MN.

Lake Benton City Trail System and Lincoln County Trail System:

The City of Lake Benton has a 1.2 mile trail within the city limits that is connected to Hole-in-the-

Mountain Park. Additionally, the Lincoln County Trails Task Force, has designed a plan to construct a Lincoln County Trails System. It is a 10-year multi-phase plan to build trails that would not only connect major points within Lincoln County, but would also connect Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park to neighboring trails and amenities, as well as multiple communities, regions and potentially states.

Not only does Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offer some of the most diverse recreational amenities, breathtaking views and unique topography that Mother Nature has to offer, but it also provides a rich learning environment for educational opportunities and training programs.

With its diverse natural environment and challenging terrain, Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offers a unique experience for students and trainees of all ages and from all walks of life.

South Dakota State University (SDSU), located in Brookings, SD, is only 28 miles west of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park:

* Students enrolled in SDSUs Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science Department are among Hole-in-the-Mountain County Parks annual visitors. Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is a regional treasure for students to explore and research the parks diverse and robust horticulture.

* Every year, students enrolled in SDSUs Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program also take advantage of the unique training opportunities offered by Hole-in-the-Mountain Parks woods, trails, challenging terrain, and arduous topography. They particularly like to use the dense forest and steep terrain for night vision training.

* Throughout the year, members of SDSUs Bicycle Club are also among the visitors of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. The club makes the trip to Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to not only take advantage of its challenging trails, but for the breathtaking views of the scenic landscape as well.

Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities : In addition to the economic and tourism opportunities that are brought to the region by the Hole-in-the-Mountain campers, Lake Benton, and the surrounding communities benefit through the local amenities (e.g. restaurants, grocery and hardware stores, specialty shops, and other shopping opportunities) as well as through regional events (e.g. Te Tonka Ha Rendezvous, Saddle Horse Holiday, and performances put on by Lake Benton Opera House).

If Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is able to achieve designation as a Regionally Significant Natural Park, tourism and economic development, in general throughout the region, will see significant improvement.

In addition to the above, upon Hole-in-the-Mountain County Parks development of the proposed Tubing Hill, employment and further economic development opportunities will also become available.

Recreational Trends Information : According to a 2016 University of Minnesota study related to outdoor recreation trends, the national outdoor recreation trends reflect 48% of Americans participate in outdoor recreation. Among 6-24 year olds; 70% are White/Non-Hispanic. (As of the 2010 census, there were 6,429 people residing in Lincoln County. with a racial makeup of 98.82% White).

The report also revealed:

* Trends in active recreation include: paddle sports, snow sports, trail running and adventure racing,

* Trends in passive and appreciative recreation include: viewing and photographing nature and attending wildlife festivals being on the rise, and

* Projected areas of growth: skiing, challenge activities, equestrian activities, motorized water activities, and viewing and photographing nature.

The 2016 Minnesota Department of Natural Resource study related to outdoor recreation trends for park planning described the State and Regional outdoor recreation trends indicated that visitor respondents valued:

* High service items like park programs that cater to children, and

* Opportunities to rent equipment, attend special events, and attend programs to develop outdoor skills.

The 2016 study further found that introducing children (ages 5-18) to the outdoors is critical to active adult participation in multiple outdoor activities. Gateway activities include: Running, jogging, trail running, bicycling, and camping are most popular youth (ages 6-24) activities (Outdoor Foundation 2015).

Keeping seniors (ages 65+) active is also important. The 2016 study indicates that the most popular activities among this age group include:

* Passive and appreciative activities such as: visiting recreation and historic sites, viewing and photographic nature,

* Wildlife festivals are becoming increasingly popular.

In a 2007 Minnesota State Parks Research Report detailed the findings of three research efforts:

* Focus Group Study

* Minnesota State Park Visitor Survey

* Household survey of Minnesota Nature-based and State Park Recreation

Focus Group Study:

The DNR identified three target markets to be included in the focus group study. These target markets formed the basis for five groups that were analyzed for their interests in the outdoors. Each group focused on the next generation of park visitors who live in the Twin Cities metro area. The groups provided consumer insights that inform the DNR of the reasons why and how Minnesota residents use or do not use nature-based parks. (Executive Summary 2007 Minnesota State Parks Research Report)

Minnesota State Park Visitor Survey:

The goal of the visitor survey was to gain a current understanding of the characteristics of state park visitors in particular, what this group desires within state parks, and how well they believe Minnesota State Parks are meeting their needs. (Executive Summary 2007 Minnesota State Parks Research Report)

Household Survey of Minnesota Nature-based and State Park Recreation:

The household study was conducted to gain a better understanding of the recreational preferences of the Minnesota population, including those who are visitors and non-visitors of state parks. (Executive Summary 2007 Minnesota State Parks Research Report)

Among the key findings of the three research efforts in 2007 are:

- * Young adults and families with children have become a smaller portion of park visitation, while people from older generations have become a larger portion.
- * High service items like park programs that cater to children, and the opportunity to rent equipment and attend special events are the items of greatest interest to respondents of the Household Survey. The opportunity to take virtual tours of the park and attend programs to develop outdoor skills are also of great interest.
- * Childhood nature-based activities are strongly associated with nature-based activities as an adult.

These key findings are consistent with the 2016 study (Outdoor Recreation Trends for Park Planning, MN DNR 2007 MN State Parks Research Report).

In a 2007 Minnesota State Park research report indicated the following trip characteristics:

- * Approximately 78% of campers traveled more than 50 miles to a park,
- * Approximately 55% traveled more than 100 miles,
- * The greatest proportion of day users come from 25 miles or less from the park; the same is true for all visitors.

The same 2007 State Park visitor survey reported the top five activities for ALL Visitors are:

- 1) Hiking/walking (69.%)
- 2) Observing/photographing nature (36.4%)
- 3) Sightseeing (35.4%)
- 4) Picnicking (28.4%)
- 5) Shopping in the parks nature store (25%)

The top five activities for the Next Generation are:

- 1) Hiking/walking (69.9%)
- 2) Observing/photographing nature (37%)
- 3) Sightseeing (32.5%)
- 4) Picnicking (32%)
- 5) Taking a self-guided nature walk (26.8%)

In a 2015 report conducted by Lauren Hoffman, Director of Marketing and Communications for NRPA summarized five trends that will impact the future of parks and recreation:

- 1) Programs are key to great park attendance
- 2) The perceived value of distributed services results in agency functions assigned to various departments
- 3) Agencies are pioneering new funding methods
- 4) Infrastructure deficit means you'll have to fight harder for public dollars
- 5) Walkable cities draw Millennials, fueling a suburban exodus.

Classification Details

Natural Resource Based Regional Park Classification.

Criteria 1: Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience:

Whether young or old, visitors enjoy an ample variety of nature's magnificent recreational opportunities offered in and around Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.

With 1,000 acres of woodland and prairie, Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offers three campground areas with unique natural amenities.

Horse Hill campground, situated at the highest point in Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, is a regional treasure for equestrian enthusiasts. Horse Hill campground offers 30 campsites with water and electric service. Hitching posts and fenced-in areas are adjacent to campsites to accommodate horses. Visitors from across the region enjoy not only the seven miles of natural trails throughout the park, but many more acres of off-trail riding, hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other outdoor opportunities to experience beautiful, unique views of undulating woodland and prairie landscapes.

Likewise, the West Campground provides 20 campsites with water and electric service, and the East Campground provides an additional 12 campsites with water and electric service.

Hole-in-the-Mountain also offers more than one mile of hard-surfaced non-motorized loop trail, allowing joggers, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages the opportunity to experience Hole-in-the-Mountain's picturesque landscapes.

Each year Hole-in-the-Mountain Park is the main stage for regionally unique celebrations including Saddle Horse Holiday and Te Tonka Ha celebrations.

Saddle Horse Holiday draws hundreds of visitors to the park each year. With its outdoor equine arena, Horse Hill is the perfect venue for the annual two-ring horse show as well as other equestrian events throughout the year.

Benton-Fremont Days/Te Tonka Ha, also held at Hole-in-the-Mountain Park, is an annual celebration that includes a weekend of entertaining pioneer reenactments.

Located within a short walking distance from the park, Lake Benton lake offers ample outdoor recreational activities such as: fishing, ice-fishing, swimming beaches, boating, water-skiing, and more.

Hole-in-the-Mountain Park also contains a 1,200-foot hill, a favorite wintertime destination for tubing and sledding.

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 #1 Images

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Criteria #1 Images

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Criteria #1 Images

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Criteria 2: Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape

Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is located on the Bemis Moraine, more commonly referred to as the Buffalo Ridge. The ridge is a moraine, which is a pile of sediment (silt, sand, gravel, and boulders), left at the edge of a glacier.

Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is home to the second highest elevation region in all of Minnesota. Its peak of 1,994 feet above sea level is higher than any elevation within a 100-mile radius in southeastern South Dakota and is more than 200 feet higher than the highest point in Iowa.

Within one mile, just south of the park, Hole in the Mountain Prairie, a 1,157-acre prairie and oak savanna wildlife preserve, is a tall grass prairie conservancy created, owned, and protected by the Nature Conservancy. This preserve, is part of a larger glacial escarpment that runs from southwest Minnesota through northeast South Dakota. Native Americans called the half-mile-wide prairie valley "Mountain Pass" or "Hole-in-the-Mountain."

The preserve is an excellent habitat for rare prairie-dependent insects including 25 species of butterflies thriving on the native grasses and forbs protected here (Dakota skipper and Ottoo skipper, both threatened species), and the Uncas skipper, an endangered species.

Lake Benton is nestled in the valley of the Buffalo Ridge and is known as the Original Windpower Capital of the Midwest. More than 600 wind turbines decorate the skyline along the Buffalo Ridge in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Horse Hill Campground is home to a glacier pond (kettle hole). A kettle hole is a shallow, sediment-filled body of water formed by receding glaciers. The kettles are formed as a result of blocks of ice calving from glaciers and becoming submerged in the sediment on the outwash plain. When the block melts, the hole it leaves behind is a kettle.

Criteria #2 Images

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Criteria #2 Images

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Criteria #2 Images

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Criteria #2 Images

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

Due to its location along the Buffalo Ridge, Hole-in-the-Mountain Park is unique and a treasured destination as evidenced by the 5,000-7,000 people who annually visit Hole-in-the-Mountain Park.

Hole-in-the-Mountain Park is conveniently located along U.S. Highway 14, and U.S. Highway 75. It is 32 miles Southwest of Marshall, MN (pop.13,480), 28 miles East of Brookings, SD (pop. 22,900), 66 miles Northeast of Sioux Falls, SD (pop. 164,670), and 77 miles Northwest of Worthington, MN, (pop. 12,940).

Hole-in-the-Mountain Park is located at the crossroads of U.S. Highway 75 (International Highway King of Trails) and U.S. Highway 14 (Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway) in southwestern Minnesota.

With 62 water and electric hookup campsites throughout Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, including each site in Horse Hill being equipped with hitching posts, Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park offers equestrian campers even more unique opportunities.

Located on the north side of Lake Benton lake, Norwegian Creek County Park (Lincoln County, Minnesota Parks) is located two miles northeast of Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. offering 92 campsites with electricity and water service.

Located on Lake Shaokatan, Picnic Point County Park (Lincoln County, Minnesota Parks) is nine miles north of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park, equipped with 30 water/electric campsites.

The City of Lake Benton has a 1.2-mile trail within the city limits that is connected to the park. The Lincoln County Trails Task Force, has designed a plan to construct a Lincoln County Trails System. The Trails Task Force has a 10-year multi-phase plan to build trails that would not only connect major points within Lincoln County, but would not only connect Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to neighboring trails and amenities, but would also connect multiple communities, regions and potentially states.

Criteria #3 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/16-021D/01.Criteria3_Conveniently Located_6dded1.png

Criteria #3 Images

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Criteria #3 Images

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Criteria #3 Images

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Criteria #3 Images

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Criteria #3 Images

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

Not only does Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offer some of the most diverse recreational amenities, breathtaking views and unique topography that Mother Nature has to offer, but it also provides a rich learning environment for educational opportunities and training programs.

With its diverse natural environment and challenging terrain, Hole-in-the-Mountain Park offers a unique experience for students and trainees of all ages and from all walks of life.

South Dakota State University (SDSU), located in Brookings, SD, is only 28 miles west of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park.

* Students enrolled in SDSUs Agronomy, Horticulture, and Plant Science Department are among Hole-in-the-Mountain County Parks annual visitors. Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is a regional treasure for students to explore and research the parks diverse and robust horticulture.

* Every year, students enrolled in SDSUs Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program also take advantage of the unique training opportunities offered by Hole-in-the-Mountain Parks woods, trails, challenging terrain, and arduous topography. They particularly like to use the dense forest and steep terrain for night vision training.

* Throughout the year, members of SDSUs Bicycle Club are also among the visitors of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. The club makes the trip to Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to not only take advantage of its challenging trails, but for the breathtaking views of the scenic landscape as well.

Sioux Falls, SD, home to numerous colleges, universities, technical institutes, and other training programs, is located only 67 miles southwest of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. Families, students, campers, and outdoor enthusiasts from the Sioux Falls area are also among the hundreds of visitors who travel each year to Hole-in-the-Mountain Park to experience the parks unique natural amenities.

Criteria #4 Images

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Development/Acquisition

Development Plan Overview : Overview

The development of the master plan reflects how Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park has researched and is prepared to meet both the local and regional recreational interests and needs.

The public process played an instrumental role in determining, and defining, regional interests and needs and determining the direction of the master plan. Having considered the public input and the Lincoln County Parks Department Supervisor the Lincoln County Commissioners have approved the development master plan as defined in this section.

Summary

The master plan provides related recreational activities consistent with the vision statement as previously defined. Key elements of the plan include:

- * Three (3) main phases to trail improvements and development cleanup of existing trail plus new trail development
- * Two (2) main phases to campground development creating approximately 50 additional sites with electrical and water service, plus sewer service to existing sites
- * Development of Tubing Hill with ski-lift and chalet improvements
- * Development of future park property and trails

Acquisition Plan Overview : Sorensen Farm Development:

Owner and lifelong resident of the farm site nestled adjacent to Horse Hill, James Sorensen has established a trust account naming Lincoln County Parks System as the sole beneficiary of his 160-acre property. It is provided in Mr. Sorensens will that upon his passing, his property (land and buildings) be entrusted to, and become a part of, the Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park system.

The Sorensen Farm property includes a farm site that lies adjacent to the east end of Horse Hill and just across U.S. Highway 14, north of Hole-in-the-Mountain East Campground. The farm site includes a turn-of-the-century farmhouse, barn, and a few out-buildings.

Phase 1 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the rehab and reconstruction of the barn. The barn will be remodeled into a state-of-the art lodge for use as wedding/reunion venues as well as a kitchen/lodging rental for visiting hunters/fishers.

Phase 2 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the construction of rustic cabins to be used as rental for visiting hunters/fishers.

Phase 3 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the transition of the turn-of-the-century farm home into a museum. It is Mr. Sorensens adamant request that the house be left as-is, but be made available to the public as a museum.

These phases are anticipated to be completed within 15 years of the Master Plan approval. Since the property is not yet owned by the Lincoln County Parks System, the condition of the buildings cannot be determined, therefore the exact details and costs of redevelopment are unknown at this time.

Acquisition Plan Upload

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Acquisition Plan Upload

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

Development Feature 1

Natural Hiking Trail Improvements: * Phase 1 of the natural hiking trail improvement project includes the cleanup of brush and washouts of the existing 7-mile natural trail. The cleanup will include clearing trees from the road/trail, spraying buckthorn brush overgrowth, and adding adequate roads where needed. Floods have cause damage to bottom-outs and 150-year-old trees are easily toppled with wind. Lincoln County Parks Department will need to hire cleanup crews with the proper equipment to accomplish the clean up. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 1-2 years of the Master Plan approval, with a cost of approximately \$75,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete. * Phase 2 will include the development of Horse Hill Trail Loop. The goal of Horse Hill Trail Loop will be to link the trails on Horse Hill to the natural trail system within the park which are located south of Highway 14 (near the East and West Campground areas), thereby allowing trail riders to safely cross Highway 14 (via an existing underpass/culvert beneath Highway 14). The underpass/culvert is already in place but a groomed trail will need to be developed on both sides of Highway 14, leading to the underpass, in order to make it a safe passage for trail users. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 2-3 years of the Master Plan approval, with a cost of approximately \$100,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete.

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Development Feature 2

Campgrounds Development: * Phase 1 of the campground development project includes the installation of sewer service to all 20 campsites in the West Campground that already have water and electric service. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 1-5 years of the Master Plan approval, with a cost of approximately \$44,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete. * Phase 2 of the campground development project includes the installation of sewer service to the existing 12 campsites in the East Campground that already have water and electric service. In addition to the sewer service, this phase will include the development of approximately 50 additional full-service campsites in the East Campground. The development would include the pad, water, electric, and sewer service hookups, fire pit and picnic table for the 50 new sites. This phase will also include completing the sewer system by tying in the campground sewer system into the city sewer system. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 1-5 years of the Master Plan approval, with a cost of approximately \$156,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete.

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Development Feature 3

New Trail Development: * Phase 1 of the proposed trails will include the development of East Campground Trail. The goal of this trail will be to link Hole-in-the-Mountain's hard-surface trail to a city sidewalk, thereby allowing trail users to safely access Lake Benton's downtown and other local amenities. This phase includes upgrading the current trail, as well as the new trail linking to the sidewalk, to a bituminous (or concrete, if feasible) surface, which would provide a more stable and easily accessible trail for wheelchair and/or scooter users. The East Campground Trail would link the 1.2 mile hard-surface trail to downtown Lake Benton via a trail that would be installed along, and east, of Lake Benton's football field, atop a natural knoll. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 5-7 years of the Master Plan approval, with a cost of approximately \$200,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete. * Phase 2 of the proposed trails will include the development of Sorensen Trail. The goal of this trail will be to develop a new trail north and east of Horse Hill trails within the Sorensen Farm property and link that trail to the existing trails within Horse Hill. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 10-15 years of the Master Plan approval, with a cost of approximately \$250,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete. * Phase 3 of the proposed trails will include the development of Lakeshore Property Trail. The goal of this trail will be to develop a new trail that would connect Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park with Norwegian Creek County Park, thereby creating a safe trail system for all Lincoln County Park visitors to travel between the two county parks. At the time of this Master Plan submittal, Lincoln County Parks Department and Lincoln County Board of Commissioners are interested in exploring opportunities to purchase and develop lakeshore property for future development of a new trail system connecting Sorensen Trail/Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park to Norwegian Creek County Park. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 20-25 years of the Master Plan approval. Cost projection is unknown at this time as purchase and development costs will vary depending on land value at time of purchase.

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Development Feature 4

tubing Hill Development: * Phase 1 of the development of the new Tubing Hill will include the purchase and installation of a tubing/ski lift, and the purchase of approximately 100 tubes, a trailer or fence for tube storage, and a snow groomer. The goal of the Tubing Hill is to rectify the unmet winter recreational needs for youth, teens, and families in the region by providing a tubing hill at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. This amenity will not only deliver recreational amenities during the long Minnesota winter months, but will also provide employment opportunities for teens and young adults in the region, as well as increasing tourism. During this phase Lincoln County Parks Department will: * Purchase and install a ski lift (\$150,000 (electric and cement foundation is still intact and on site), * Purchase a snow groomer (\$50,000), * Purchase 100 tubes (\$200/tube = 20,000), * Purchase and install a trailer (or fence) for secure tube storage (\$10,000) Lincoln County Parks Department estimates 5-10 jobs will be created for proper tubing hill operation. No additional insurance would be required as Lincoln County's existing insurance (MCIT) coverage would be sufficient. Net income from tubing operation is estimated at \$50,000/year. Costs of concessions, employment, equipment maintenance, water/sewer in chalet, upkeep of chalet will all be nominal and paid through the revenue earned from the tubing hill. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 5 years of the Master Plan approval. * Phase 2 of the development of a new Tubing Hill operation includes the remodel of the chalet building by with a 30' x 40' addition, with kitchen, to be used for additional viewing, visiting, eating, restrooms, and as a warming house. This phase is anticipated to be completed within 5 years of the Master Plan approval, with a cost of approximately \$230,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete.

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Implementation

Implementation Plan : Priority 1: Natural Hiking Trail Improvements

Phase 1 of the natural hiking trail improvement project includes the cleanup of brush and washouts of the existing 7-mile natural trail. The cleanup will include clearing trees from the road/trail, spraying buckthorn brush overgrowth, and adding adequate roads where needed. Lincoln County Parks Department will need to hire cleanup crews with the proper equipment to accomplish the clean up.

Phase 2 will include the development of Horse Hill Trail Loop. The goal of Horse Hill Trail Loop will be to link the trails on Horse Hill to the natural trail system within the park which are located south of Highway 14 (near the East and West Campground areas), thereby allowing trail riders to safely cross Highway 14 (via an existing underpass/culvert beneath Highway 14). The underpass/culvert is already in place but a groomed trail will need to be developed on both sides of Highway 14, leading to the underpass, in order to make it a safe passage for trail users.

Upon completion of the two (2) phases of the natural hiking trail improvements, campers and other visitors will be able to safely and easily connect to Hole-in-the-Mountain Parks natural trails, located on both sides of U.S. Highway 14.

Priority 2: Campgrounds Development

Phase 1 of the campground development project includes the installation of sewer service to all 20 campsites in the West Campground that already have water and electric service.

Phase 2 of the campground development project includes the installation of sewer service to the

existing 12 campsites in the East Campground that already have water and electric service.

In addition to the sewer service, this phase will include the development of approximately 50 additional full-service campsites in the East Campground. The development would include the pad, water, electric, and sewer service hookups, fire pit and picnic table for the 50 new sites.

This phase will also include completing the sewer system by tying in the campground sewer system into the city sewer system.

As with water and electrical, sewer system development and installation will meet all Department of Health regulations, including any and all environmental reviews required.

Priority 3: New Trail Development

Phase 1 of the proposed trails will include the development of East Campground Trail. The goal of this trail will be to link Hole-in-the-Mountains hard-surface trail to a city sidewalk, thereby allowing trail users to safely access Lake Bentons downtown and other local amenities. This phase includes upgrading the current trail, as well as the new trail linking to the sidewalk, to a bituminous (or concrete, if feasible) surface, which would provide a more stable and easily accessible trail for wheelchair and/or scooter users.

The East Campground Trail would link the 1.2 mile hard-surface trail to downtown Lake Benton via a trail that would be installed along, and east, of Lake Bentons football field, atop a natural knoll.

Phase 2 of the proposed trails will include the development of Sorensen Trail. The goal of this trail will be to develop a new trail north and east of Horse Hill trails within the Sorensen Farm property and link that trail to the existing trails within Horse Hill.

Phase 3 of the proposed trails will include the development of Lakeshore Property Trail. The goal of this trail will be to develop a new trail that would connect Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park with Norwegian Creek County Park, thereby creating a safe trail system for all Lincoln County Park visitors to travel between the two county parks.

At the time of this Master Plan submittal, Lincoln County Parks Department and Lincoln County Board of Commissioners are interested in exploring opportunities to purchase and develop lakeshore property for future development of a new trail system connecting Sorensen Trail/Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park to Norwegian Creek County Park.

Priority 4: Tubing Hill Development

Phase 1 of the development of the new Tubing Hill will include the purchase and installation of a tubing/ski lift, and the purchase of approximately 100 tubes, a trailer or fence for tube storage, and a snow groomer. The goal of the Tubing Hill is to rectify the unmet winter recreational needs for youth, teens, and families in the region by providing a tubing hill at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. This amenity will not only deliver recreational amenities during the long Minnesota winter months, but will also provide employment opportunities for teens and young adults in the region, as well as increasing tourism.

During this phase Lincoln County Parks Department will:

- * Purchase and install a ski lift (\$150,000 (electric and cement foundation is still intact and on site)
- * Purchase a snow groomer (\$50,000)
- * Purchase 100 tubes (\$200/tube = 20,000)
- * Purchase and install a trailer (or fence) for secure tube storage (\$10,000)

Lincoln County Parks Department estimates 5-10 jobs will be created for proper tubing hill operation. No additional insurance would be required as Lincoln Countys existing insurance (MCIT) coverage would be sufficient. Net income from tubing operation is estimated at \$50,000/year. Costs

of concessions, employment, equipment maintenance, water/sewer in chalet, upkeep of chalet will all be nominal and paid through the revenue earned from the tubing hill.

Phase 2 of the development of a new Tubing Hill operation includes the remodel of the chalet building by with a 30 x 40 addition, with kitchen, to be used for additional viewing, visiting, eating, restrooms, and as a warming house.

Priority 5: Sorensen Farm Development

Owner and lifelong resident of the farm site nestled adjacent to Horse Hill, James Sorensen has established a trust account naming Lincoln County Parks System as the sole beneficiary of his 160-acre property. It is provided in Mr. Sorensens will that upon his passing, his property (land and buildings) be entrusted to, and become a part of, the Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park system.

The Sorensen Farm property includes a farm site that lies adjacent to the east end of Horse Hill and just across U.S. Highway 14, north of Hole-in-the-Mountain East Campground. The farm site includes a turn-of-the-century farmhouse, barn, and a few out-buildings.

Phase 1 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the rehab and reconstruction of the barn. The barn will be remodeled into a state-of-the art lodge for use as wedding/reunion venues as well as a kitchen/lodging rental for visiting hunters/fishers.

Phase 2 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the construction of rustic cabins to be used as rental for visiting hunters/fishers.

Phase 3 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the transition of the turn-of-the-century farm home into a museum. It is Mr. Sorensens adamant request that the house be left as-is, but be made available to the public as a museum.

These phases are anticipated to be completed within 15 years of the Master Plan approval. Since the property is not yet owned by the Lincoln County Parks System, the condition of the buildings cannot be determined, therefore the exact details and costs of redevelopment are unknown at this time.

Summarize Acquisition and Development Costs To-Date : In 1968 Lincoln County, Minnesota purchased a parcel of land (in what is now considered the area surrounding West and East Campgrounds) including the chalet in the amount of \$20,000.

Four (4) years later, in 1972, Lincoln County purchased the parcel of land that is now known as Horse Hill for \$11,000.

Using local/county funds together with funds from National Park Service, the State of Minnesota, and LAWCON (Land and Water Conservation), initial campground development of 9 electric (only) campsites are estimated to have cost approximately \$10,000, in 1969/1970. Initial trail development costs are estimated to have been an additional \$10,000.

Around the year 2000, the original 9 campsites were removed in order to update/upgrade camping sites. From 2000 2014, at a cost of approximately \$60,000, the current 62 campsites at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park were installed.

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Total
	\$77,000	\$77,000

Non-Parks and Trails Legacy Funding**Arts & Cultural Heritage Legacy**

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Clean Water Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Outdoor Heritage Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Local and Other Funding Sources**Local Funding**

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
\$31,000	\$80,000	\$111,000

Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Other Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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Total: \$111,000

Grand Total Investments to Date - All Sources Listed : 188000.00

Acquisition and Development Cost Projections : The cost projections enclosed in this master plan define the anticipated costs associated with the development of Hole-in-the-Mountain campground and trails. Costs are based on a combination of site-specific development requirements and projects of similar size and complexity. The cost figures are based on a master plan level. The cost figures indicated in this plan are intended to be used as general project budgeting.

Actual costs are expected to vary depending upon the year that the projects are implemented and the economic conditions affecting the final project costs.

Development Cost Estimate Summary:

The following summarizes the estimated costs associated with each phase/project. The cost estimates include a 10% contingency due to unknowns and inflationary factors.

Natural Trail (cleanup)	\$ 82,500
Horse Hill Trail Loop (development)	\$ 110,000
East Campground Trail (development)	\$ 220,000
West Campground (addition of Sanitary Sewer Service).....	\$ 48,400
East Campground (expand campsites x 50 w/ water, electric, sewer)	\$ 171,600
Tubing Hill (development)	\$ 253,000
Chalet Addition (development)	\$ 330,000
Sorensen Trail (development)	\$ 275,000
** Sorensen Farm Buildings (development of new park property)	
** Lakeshore Property Trail (development)	

Total.....\$1,490,500

** Costs associated with the development of the Sorensen Farm buildings and trails on potential lake shore property are unable to be determined at this time as it is unknown as to when these lands will become the property of Lincoln County.

Lincoln County is prepared to financially maintain Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, however, the timelines and/or costs of the larger development projects listed above will be dependent upon whether Lincoln County Hole-in-the-Mountain Park will be able to receive funding from additional leverage resources (e.g. LCCMRs Legacy funds, DNRs Outdoor Recreation Grants, among other funding resources) to maximize Lincoln County's financial commitments to these projects.

Acquisition and Development Phasing Plan : Sorensen Farm Development:

Owner and lifelong resident of the farm site nestled adjacent to Horse Hill, James Sorensen has established a trust account naming Lincoln County Parks System as the sole beneficiary of his 160-acre property. It is provided in Mr. Sorensen's will that upon his passing, his property (land and buildings) be entrusted to, and become a part of, the Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park system.

The Sorensen Farm property includes a farm site that lies adjacent to the east end of Horse Hill and just across U.S. Highway 14, north of Hole-in-the-Mountain East Campground. The farm site includes a turn-of-the-century farmhouse, barn, and a few out-buildings.

Phase 1 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the rehab and reconstruction of the barn. The barn will be remodeled into a state-of-the-art lodge for use as wedding/reunion venues as well as a kitchen/lodging rental for visiting hunters/fishers.

Phase 2 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the construction of rustic cabins to be used as rental for visiting hunters/fishers.

Phase 3 of the Sorensen Farm development includes the transition of the turn-of-the-century farm home into a museum. It is Mr. Sorensen's adamant request that the house be left as-is, but be made available to the public as a museum.

These phases are anticipated to be completed within 15 years of the Master Plan approval. Since the property is not yet owned by the Lincoln County Parks System, the condition of the buildings cannot be determined, therefore the exact details and costs of redevelopment are unknown at this time.

Cost Projections for Implementation Plan

Acquisition: 0

Development: 1490500

Projected Total: 1490500.00

Operational

Joint Organizations Responsibilities : No joint responsibilities.

Maintenance/Operations Plan : Lincoln County is committed to the long-term sustainability of the campground and trails in terms of operations and management. Lincoln County Parks Department will be the responsible entity for any, and all, development of the site.

Lincoln County has established policies for the park and trail systems. Through their annual budgeting process the county provides operating funds for the parks operation, maintenance, and development. Lincoln County Park Departments Park Supervisor, appointed by the Lincoln County Commissioners, serves to oversee the campground and its trails.

Maintenance:

Providing campers with a clean, safe, and enjoyable recreational experience is a paramount goal of Lincoln County Parks Department. Maintenance of the campground facilities is essential in attaining that goal. General maintenance includes mowing lawns, cleaning the chalet and other facilities, trash pickup, maintenance of water and electrical services, and cleanup of campsites as needed.

Ordinances:

Public use and enjoyment of public parks is controlled by local ordinance. A copy of the ordinance will be available through the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners.

General Operations and Budget:

Lincoln County Commissioners have an annual operations and maintenance budget for its parks and trails. Revenue generated from the campground is, and will continue to be, used to cover the costs of operations, maintenance, and development of the campgrounds and trails.

Historically, Lincoln County Parks department does not have a budget nor conduct marketing other than an informational website.

Lincoln County Parks department does not carry an individual contract for law enforcement.

Natural Hiking Trail Improvements:

Phase 1 of the natural hiking trail improvement project includes the cleanup of brush and washouts of the existing 7-mile natural trail. The cleanup will include clearing trees from the road/trail, spraying buckthorn brush overgrowth, and adding adequate roads where needed.

This phase is anticipated to cost approximately \$75,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete, with continued maintenance of the restored trail estimated to cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per year (not including labor).

Phase 2 will include the development of Horse Hill Trail Loop. The goal of Horse Hill Trail Loop will be to link the trails on Horse Hill to the natural trail system within the park which are located south of Highway 14 (near the East and West Campground areas), thereby allowing trail riders to safely cross Highway 14 (via an existing underpass/culvert beneath Highway 14).

This phase is anticipated to cost approximately \$100,000 (plus 10% contingency) to complete, with continued maintenance of the restored trail is estimated to cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per year. These cost projections do not reflect a concrete finish.

Campgrounds Development:

Phase 1 of the campground development project includes the installation of sewer service to all 20 campsites in the West Campground that already have water and electric service. Continued maintenance will be minimal.

Phase 2 of the campground development project includes the installation of sewer service to the existing 12 campsites in the East Campground that already have water and electric service.

In addition to the sewer service, this phase will include the development of approximately 50 additional full-service campsites in the East Campground. The development would include the pad, water, electric, and sewer service hookups, fire pit and picnic table for the 50 new sites.

This phase will also include completing the sewer system by tying in the campground sewer system into the city sewer system.

Costs associated with continued maintenance will be minimal.

New Trail Development:

Phase 1 of the proposed trails will include the development of East Campground Trail. The goal of this trail will be to link Hole-in-the-Mountains hard-surface trail to a city sidewalk, thereby allowing trail users to safely access Lake Bentons downtown and other local amenities. This phase includes upgrading the current trail, as well as the new trail linking to the sidewalk, to a bituminous (or concrete, if feasible) surface, which would provide a more stable and easily accessible trail for wheelchair and/or scooter users.

The East Campground Trail would link the 1.2 mile hard-surface trail to downtown Lake Benton via a trail that would be installed along, and east, of Lake Bentons football field, atop a natural knoll.

Costs associated with continued maintenance will be minimal.

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Phase 1 of the campground development project includes the installation of sewer service to all 20 campsites in the West Campground that already have water and electric service.

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New Trail Development:

Phase 1 of the proposed trails will include the development of East Campground Trail. The goal of this trail will be to link Hole-in-the-Mountains hard-surface trail to a city sidewalk, thereby allowing trail users to safely access Lake Bentons downtown and other local amenities. This phase includes upgrading the current trail, as well as the new trail linking to the sidewalk, to a bituminous (or concrete, if feasible) surface, which would provide a more stable and easily accessible trail for wheelchair and/or scooter users.

The East Campground Trail would link the 1.2 mile hard-surface trail to downtown Lake Benton via a trail that would be installed along, and east, of Lake Bentons football field, atop a natural knoll.

Costs associated with continued maintenance are anticipated to be minimal.

Phase 2 of the proposed trails will include the development of Sorensen Trail. The goal of this trail will be to develop a new trail north and east of Horse Hill trails within the Sorensen Farm property and link that trail to the existing trails within Horse Hill.

Costs associated with continued maintenance are anticipated to be minimal.

Sorensen Farm Development:

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These phases are anticipated to be completed within 15 years of the Master Plan approval. Since the property is not yet owned by the Lincoln County Parks System, the condition of the buildings cannot be determined, therefore the exact details and costs of redevelopment and/or continued maintenance are unknown at this time.

New Trail Development:

Phase 3 of the proposed trails will include the development of Lakeshore Property Trail. The goal of this trail will be to develop a new trail that would connect Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park with Norwegian Creek County Park, thereby creating a safe trail system for all Lincoln County Park

visitors to travel between the two county parks.

At the time of this Master Plan submittal, Lincoln County Parks Department and Lincoln County Board of Commissioners are interested in exploring opportunities to purchase and develop lakeshore property for future development of a new trail system connecting Sorensen Trail/Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park to Norwegian Creek County Park.

Costs associated with continued maintenance are anticipated to be minimal.

Tubing Hill Development:

Phase 1 of the development of the new Tubing Hill will include the purchase and installation of a tubing/ski lift, and the purchase of approximately 100 tubes, a trailer or fence for tube storage, and a snow groomer. The goal of the Tubing Hill is to rectify the unmet winter recreational needs for youth, teens, and families in the region by providing a tubing hill at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. This amenity will not only deliver recreational amenities during the long Minnesota winter months, but will also provide employment opportunities for teens and young adults in the region, as well as increasing tourism.

During this phase Lincoln County Parks Department will:

- * Purchase and install a ski lift (\$150,000 (electric and cement foundation is still intact and on site)
- * Purchase a snow groomer (\$50,000)
- * Purchase 100 tubes (\$200/tube = 20,000)
- * Purchase and install a trailer (or fence) for secure tube storage (\$10,000)

Lincoln County Parks Department estimates 5-10 jobs will be created for proper tubing hill operation. No additional insurance would be required as Lincoln Countys existing insurance (MCIT) coverage would be sufficient. Net income from tubing operation is estimated at \$50,000/year. Costs of concessions, employment, equipment maintenance, water/sewer in chalet, upkeep of chalet will all be nominal and paid through the revenue earned from the tubing hill.

Phase 2 of the development of a new Tubing Hill operation includes the remodel of the chalet building by with a 30 x 40 addition, with kitchen, to be used for additional viewing, visiting, eating, restrooms, and as a warming house.

Costs associated with continued maintenance are anticipated to be minimal and will be paid through the revenue earned from the tubing hill.

Current:

Annual Maintenance.....\$14,000
Annual Utilities.....\$45,000

Total Current Annual Operations/Maintenance...\$59,000

Projected: (following completion of all projected park projects)

Annual Maintenance.....\$20,000
Annual Utilities.....\$55,000

Total Projected Annual Operations/Maintenance. \$75,000

Ecological/Land Resources Plan : Environmental Stewardship:

The long-term environmental stewardship of Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park is primarily dependent on the commitment of the Lincoln County Parks Department and the park visitors.

Lincoln County Parks Maintenance Supervisor works closely with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Lincoln County Environmental Office to ensure environmental practices and requirements are observed at all times.

Lincoln County recognizes that Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, with its native plants, animals, and unique Buffalo Ridge land forms and undulating terrain create a rich ecological biodiversity within the park. Lincoln County Parks Department recognizes continuing its natural resource management, through active conservation measures and keen stewardship, are necessary in maintaining the protection of these unique natural resources.

Annual Routine Maintenance and Operations Cost Total : 59000

Programming

Programming Plan : Whether young or old, visitors are able to enjoy an ample variety of nature's magnificent recreational opportunities and amenities offered in and around Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park. Each year, more than 5,000 people visit the park.

Among the natural amenities offered at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park, appealing to outdoor recreational interest groups include:

Campgrounds:

Hole-in-the-Mountain Park West Campground
Hole-in-the-Mountain Park East Campground
Hole-in-the-Mountain Park Horse Hill

Natural Trails:

Hiking
Mountain Biking
Horseback Riding
Geocaching
Bird Watching
Snowmobiling
Cross-Country Skiing
Sledding
Snowshoeing

Hard-Surface Trails:

Walking/Running
Bicycling

Historic/Cultural Outdoor Amenities:

Saddle Horse Holiday
Te Tonka Ha Rendezvous Celebration/Activities
Hole-in-the-Mountain Prairie Preserve
Local Places of Outdoor Historic/Cultural Education
Lake Benton Opera House

Lake Benton Lake:

Fishing
Boating
Ice Fishing
Water Skiing
Water Tubing
Water Sports

Swimming
Paddle-boarding
Kayaking
Canoeing

Annual Programming Cost : 0

Annual Revenues from Programming and Fees/Charges Total : 160000

Outreach and Marketing Plan : Historically, Lincoln County Parks Department has not conducted specific mass outreach other than providing an active website.

User Metrics and Research Plan : Lincoln County, Minnesota Parks Department employs a full-time Park Director who, with 38 years of experience as Lincoln County's Park Director, is familiar with the parks directive, operations, and history, and has built valuable relationships with park guests and visitors.

Since the Lincoln County Parks Department does not have any on-site registration/check-in buildings at any of the Lincoln County campground locations there has not been an opportunity to conduct check-in or officially count every guest/visitor of the parks. No metrics, other than camping registrations, are typically recorded.

Attachments

Document	Description	Filename
Resolution	Lincoln County Resolution	1461881967381-GMRPTC Resolution.pdf
Photo	Photos/Views of Hole-In-The-Mountain Park	1461885282782-HITM Photos for GMRPTC.pptx
Other	Benton Detailed Information on Park and City Events	1461885409839-HITM Regional Destination Info 1.pdf
Other	Lake Benton and Hole-in-the-Mountain 2016 Calendar of Events	1461885454856-HITM Regional Designation Calendar.pdf
Location Map	Location Map and Views of Buffalo Ridge	1461886644550-HITM Location Map.pptx
Site Map Upload	Aerial Overview	OverviewAerial1_5915f6.png
Regional Map Uploads	Location of Hole-in-the-Mnt Park	01.LincolnCountyParks1_d9dbe2.png
Regional Map Uploads	Overview of Hole-in-the-Mtn Park	02.HITMCountyParkOverview_7f650e.png
Regional Map Uploads	Lincoln County Parks	03.ImplemAgency.Photo1_64bebf.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Buffalo Ridge	01.BuffaloRidge1_f7eb90.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Buffalo Ridge	02.Criteria2_BuffaloRidge_179f01.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Glacier Pond	03.Criteria2_GlacierPond_b81c2d.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Hole in the Mtn Prairie	04.HITM_Prairie1_2ee105.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Hole in the Mtn Prairie	05.HITM_Prairie2_0034b4.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Regionally Significant Plants	06.Criteria2_RegionSignifPlants_6bc0f7.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Windo Capital of the Midwest	07.Criteria2_WindCapital_73f382.png
Site Characteristics Upload	Lake Benton Lake	08.Criteria2_LakeBentonLake_30

Public Involvement Summ Upload	2011 Public Survey	6a81.png
Regional Demographic Upload	Demographics Image 1	2011_Survey_3bdc5c.png
Regional Demographic Upload	Demographics Image 2	Pop_Demographics_Immediate_Region1_f399f7.png
Regional Demographic Upload	Demographics Image 3	Pop_Demographics_Immediate_Region2_a08c1b.png
Regional Demographic Upload	Demographics Image 4	Pop_Demographics_Immediate_Region3_dc2db6.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Horse Hill Campground	Population_Demographic_Broad_Region_2e65ce.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	West_East Campgrounds	01.Criteria1_HorseHill1_6b57a3.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Trails_Natural	02.Criteria1_E.W.Campgrounds1_a47c1f.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Saddle Horse Holiday - Image 1	03.Criteria1_Trails_Natural.Hard_Surface_e1a569.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Saddle Horse Holiday - Image 2	04.Criteria1_SaddleHorse2_7c95bd.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Saddle Horse Holiday - Image 3	05.Criteria1_SaddleHorse1_175ba4.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Te Tonka Ha - Image 1	06.Criteria1_SaddleHorse3_ebed8b.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Te Tonka Ha - Image 2	07.Criteria1_TeTonkaHa1_22acb2.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Lake Benton Lake - Image 1	08.Criteria1_TeTonkaHa2_107461.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Lake Benton Lake - Image 2	09.Criteria1_LakeBentonlakeMap_2_d1af7f.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Ski - Tubing Hill - Image 1	10.Criteria1_LakeBentonlakeMap_2b781b.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Ski - Tubing Hill - Image 2	11.Criteria1_SkiSledHill2_836e09.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Natural Amenities	12.Criteria1_SkiSledHill1_ea2105.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Trails - Outdoor Opportunities	13.Criteria1_Natural_Amenities_608349.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Southwest MN Trails	14.Criteria1_OutdoorOpportunity_Trails_d23089.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	GeoCaching - Image 1	15.Criteria1_SWMNTrails_f1d94a.png
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	GeoCaching - Image 2	16.Criteria1_GeoCaching1_4f1ca6.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Buffalo Ridge	17.Criteria1_GeoCaching2_50cca3.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	HITM Prairie	01.Criteria2_BuffaloRidge_faa898.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Regionally Significant Plants	02.Criteria2_HITMPrairie1_d6e6c0.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Biodiversity	03.Criteria2_RegionSignifPlants_71c728.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Wind Capital of Midwest	04.Criteria2_Biodiversity_8308d2.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Lake Benton Lake	05.Criteria2_WindCapital_ef0b7c.png
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Glacier Pond	06.Criteria2_LakeBentonLake_48f177.png
		07.Criteria2_GlacierPond_158934

Natural Resource Based2 Upload Snyder LogCabin	.png 08.Criteria1_SnyderLogCabin_08da81.png
Natural Resource Based3 Upload Conveniently Located	01.Criteria3_Conveniently Located_6dded1.png
Natural Resource Based3 Upload Historic Highways	02.Criteria3_HistoricHighways_387039.png
Natural Resource Based3 Upload Horse Hill	03.Criteria3_Horse Hill_dac673.png
Natural Resource Based3 Upload Norwegian Creek	04.Criteria3_NorwegianCreek_443c85.png
Natural Resource Based3 Upload Picnic Point	05.Criteria3_PicnicPoint_ec1b78.png
Natural Resource Based3 Upload Other Area Amenities	06.Criteria3_Other Area Amenities_7c9681.png
Natural Resource Based4 Upload Recreational Opportunity	01.Criteria4_Recreational Opportunity_c541ad.png
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload Sorensen Farm_Project Development	01.ProjectDevelop_SorensenFarm_cfb92.png
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload Park Boundaries_Project Development	02.ProjectDevelop_ParkBoundaries_6fa321.png
Development Feature Upload	01.ProjectDevelop_NaturalTrailsPhase1_695fbf.png
Development Feature Upload	02.ProjectDevelop_NaturalTrailsPhase2_58c577.png
Development Feature Upload	03.ProjectDevelop_NaturalTrailsComplete_dd53c5.png
Development Feature Upload	04.ProjectDevelop_CampgroundPhase1_2_39b50b.png
Development Feature Upload	05.ProjectDevelop_NewTrailDevelopment_1_a2eccb.png
Development Feature Upload	07.ProjectDevelop_NewTrailDevelopment2_1df32a.png
Development Feature Upload	08.ProjectDevelop_TubingHill1_089da4.png
Development Feature Upload	09.ProjectDevelop_TubingHill2_e50ae7.png
Development Feature Upload	07.ProjectDevelop_NewTrailDevelopment3_63e221.png
Site Map Upload	Hole in the Mountain Map 1_610089.png
Site Map Upload	Hole in the Mountain Map Satellite_702242.png
Site Map Upload	Hole in the Mountain Site_1fc913.png