



## Designation Administrative Review

**Park/Trail Name**

Jay C. Hormel Nature Center

**Park/Trail ID:**

18-009D

**District**

6

**Classification**

Natural Resource Based Regional Park

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**Location Description**

The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, established in 1971, is the gem of the city of Austin's park system. Located in the NE corner of town, the 518-acres of prairie, forest, and wetlands offer visitors opportunities to explore over 11 miles of trails and discover numerous species of plants and animals, many of which are now rare in the area. In 2017, a nearly 15,000 square foot Interpretive Center was opened to expand environmental education opportunities including programming and interactive exhibits. Annually, education programming reaches over 13,000 participants of which 4,000 are local students. We estimate over 50,000 visitors enjoy the center and trails each year.

**Regional Significance Statement**

The Jay C. Hormel Nature Center (HNC) is comprised of more than 500 acres and is among the largest and most important blocks of contiguous habitat in the surrounding area. Educational programming at the HNC reaches more than 13,000 participants annually. With restored tallgrass prairie, wetland, savanna, and high quality forest, the HNC provides a beautiful setting for birding, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing, nature observation, photography and art, and much more.

Description: Rack brochure with trail map.

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/18-009D/Trail Map\\_901674.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/18-009D/Trail Map_901674.pdf)

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**Facility Website**

<http://www.hormelnaturecenter.org>

**Organization**

City of Austin

**Lead Contact Person****Title**

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# Evaluation

## Application Status (\*approval for eteam evaluation):

Review Complete

ID	Ranking Comments	Rank
145	-high quality facility -large park area -for this area of state: high quality natural resources -fills a gap in region for several outdoor activities -high level of regional support	High
313	-I'm not familiar with this area but sounds like this park serves a regional clientele -lots of variety in recreation and natural resources -I like the improvements they are considering -I like the nature play pocket concept -great pictures to show their park and programs	High
334		High
144	Clearly meets the criteria for the proposed classification and designation. Has recieved regional park grant under the previous DNR regional park grant program. The education programs help address the "Connect People to the Outdoors" strategic direction in the Legacy Plan.	High
142		

## Consensus Ranking Comments:

Clearly meets the criteria for size and regional draw; large park, lots of amenities. All of the education programs will help fulfil the Connecting People to the Outdoors criteria. Expansion plans will help protect the property.

## Final Ranking:

High