

BERTRAM CHAIN OF LAKES REGIONAL PARK

Master Plan



Bertram Regional Park - Master Plan

Located in Monticello Township of Wright County, Minnesota. The property's legal description is Sections 9, 16 and 17 of Range 25 west Township 121.

Physical Landscape -

When considering a discussion of the Bertram Chain of Lakes property, one must first determine the geological make-up of the area. The peaceful and serene setting of the small hills and valleys surrounding the lakes creates an outstanding area for a Natural Resource-based Regional Park. The esker between Bertram Lake and Long Lake is a special highlight on the property.

The primary features of this area are the four separate lakes — Bertram, Long, Mud and First, along with an associated marsh named by early settlers as Beaver Pond. The four lakes are connected by a stream known locally as Otter Creek which flows northeast where it joins the Mississippi River. Bertram and Long Lakes were first named by early settlers as Lake Pleasant and Lake Otter, respectively.

Native History -

Human habitation of the region around Wright County begins with the Native Americans, of which little is known until the creation of the Minnesota Territory. As the United States developed, eastern Native tribes were forced westward. Those most notable were the Sioux of the Ohio Valley, the Algonquin (Chippewa) of the New York area. These tribes were primarily hunter-gathers and found food plentiful (buffalo, deer, fish, nuts, roots, wild rice, etc.) in the region. Although both were nomadic tribes, traces of their presence can be found throughout the County and on the Bertram Lakes property.

In 1862 while the United States was involved in the Civil War, the Sioux uprising created fear throughout Minnesota including the Monticello area. With many of its men away fighting in the Civil War, settlers of the area around Bertram Lakes (women, children, elderly) fled to Monticello for protection. After this incident, contact between the natives and the settlers became minimal as the Sioux and the Chippewa were placed on reservations. The Traverse, des Sioux and Mendota Treaties made with the Sioux and the Chippewa opened up land for settlement by many easterners.

European Settlement -

The first towns were settled in the 1850's along the Mississippi River, beginning with Otsego, Monticello and Clearwater. Monticello was established as a city in 1855. One of the most progressive pioneers of the area was George M. Bertram who left his family in New York and in 1852 helped establish the town of Excelsior on Lake Minnetonka. In 1860 President Buchanan land granted George Bertram 80 acres on the south ends of Lake Pleasant and Lake Otter, later named Bertram and Long Lakes. Bertram wished to establish a town called "Wright City" along the south end of the lakes but it was abandoned when the railroad was routed through Monticello instead of past Lake Pleasant (Bertram).

Subsequent land was granted by the government to individuals to establish farms around the lakes. The land changed hands many times until 1960 when the Young Men's Christian Association of the Twin Cities began purchasing the land. A total of 9 farmsteads were purchased by the YMCA to create Camp Manitou.

In the early 1950's the Lehigh Portland Cement Company purchased the strip of land between Bertram and Long Lakes and the entire eastern side of Long Lake for the purpose of extracting cement. In 1964 the company arranged to partially donate the land to the YMCA for recreational purposes, particularly a day camp for Twin City children at Camp Manitou.

Project Overview -

In 2006 the YMCA decided that such a large camp area was not necessary to offer their existing day camp program. Upon reaching that conclusion, the YMCA decided to sell off parcels to help finance other YMCA missions. It was at that time Wright County and the City of Monticello explored and later developed a partnership to acquire the property to provide a Natural Resource-based Regional Park.

The project began in the year 2008 with the first in a series of land acquisitions. Once these purchases are completed the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park will be an impressive area encompassing 1,052 acres of land, including the entire lakeshore of four completely undeveloped lakes, all located in Monticello Township, Wright County, Minnesota

A Concept Development Plan was adopted by the Bertram Chain of Lakes Advisory Council in June of 2011 and amended in November of 2012. The plan takes advantage of the opportunities this area has to offer while protecting the natural characteristics that make the park unique. The goals within the Concept Development Plan are to provide the recreating public with a host of opportunities including primitive, canoe-in, pack-in, and modern camping facilities; hiking, cross country skiing, and mountain bike trails; shore/pier fishing, swimming, and picnic facilities; and interpretive displays for environmental and cultural education.

Because of its unique attributes and proximity to the Metropolitan area, the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park is expected to draw visitors from all around the state of Minnesota as well as from neighboring states. This regional park is located in Wright County on the western edge of the City of Monticello, 25 miles east of St. Cloud and 12 miles west of Hennepin County. Interstate 94 runs within two miles of this area, making access efficient and convenient for many travelers and visitors.

The Bertram Chain of Lakes Advisory Council a 13 member citizen advisory council appointed by the Wright County Board of Commissioners and the Monticello City Council, has held a variety of public planning events and open houses between 2009 and 2013. The regional significance of this project becomes obvious when looking at the many different points of origin of those who visited this park. These public planning events and open houses have provided a frame work for development, operations and management of this regional facility.

The area has a wide variety of resources including both cultural and natural resources: forests, lakes, steams, wetlands, and also includes significant geological resources. One area considered to be a rare geological feature called an “esker tunnel”, was formed when streams of water flowed beneath glacial ice, cutting long straight courses into the drift and bedrock. As the ice thinned, the tunnels collapsed and coarse gravel was deposited in a ridge called an “esker.” Eskers are generally characterized by long straight ridges composed of gravel and sandy soil. This area supports significant plant communities such as savannas. Eskers are not protected by law, but they are considered significant features. A second significant geological feature was verified and is located near the east shore of Long Lake. This feature is known as a “kame” and was verified by members of a Minnesota Master Naturalist Class that was held throughout the Wright County Parks System. A kame is defined as an irregularly shaped hill or mound composed of sand, gravel, and till (unsettled glacial sediment) that accumulates in a depression on a retreating glacier, and is then deposited on the land surface with further melting of the glacier. Kames are often associated with kettles, and this is referred to as kame and kettle topography.

The park will also offer several opportunities that are currently *not* available nearby. These include lake surface zoning that would restrict the use of petroleum powered watercraft, primitive lakeside canoe-in camp sites, mountain bike trails, and interpretive displays. These displays would

focus on the environmental and cultural importance of an area known as Oak Savanna, which is quite different from the Big Woods that encompasses the majority of Wright County. Lastly, through a cooperative effort with the YMCA, a variety of day-camp offerings will be available for youth.

The Wright County Board of Commissioners adopted a Lake Surface Ordinance that prohibits the use of petroleum powered motors on the lake surface of Bertram, Mud, Long and Long Lakes. This will provide a unique experience not currently offered in Wright County.

In addition, the Bertram Lakes Regional Park, in cooperation with the YMCA, will offer a variety of day-camp opportunities for youth in which they can experience many outdoor adventures including, but not limited to, canoeing, nature studies, swimming, fishing, outdoor living skills, and archery. Many of these activities can help instill a love of nature in our youth and are not otherwise available within Wright County. The YMCA will be able to provide marketing to promote participation as well as develop transportation to and from the day camps from the northwestern suburbs of the Twin Cities.

As Wright County's population growth continues to grow, this property has become a key element in preparations to meet the demand for public open space and outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as a key element in efforts to preserve a relatively untouched but beautiful and natural area located right in our midst.

Governance -

"The mission of Wright County and the City of Monticello is to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain the Bertram Chain of Lakes as a regional park and recreation area which enriches the quality of life for our residents and visitors alike, and preserves a natural resource for future generations".

Advisory Council Mission

The public will be the primary driving force behind the master planning process for the Bertram Chain of Lake Regional Park. The Master Plan will be a dynamic, evolving document that will be the direct outcome of the site and resource analysis and the public participation process.



Advisory Council Master Planning Objectives

Public involvement in the process will come from a series of public meetings and the Bertram Chain of Lakes Advisory Council.

The Master Plan will consider the history of the area, setting, needs of surrounding communities and citizens, natural and cultural resources of the site, and reclamation issues.

The Master Plan will provide for outdoor recreation opportunities for the public, resource management to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the natural setting, and include restoration appropriate to the park and its environment.

To ensure consistency with County and City planning objectives, policies and implementation, the planning process will include County and City staff.

Advisory Council Guidelines

Suggestions from the public involvement process will be reviewed by the Council to determine how they meet the vision of the park and how they can be incorporated into the master plan.

The Council will communicate to the public the decisions made, the process used, financial impacts and how public input affected these decisions.

The park service area within Wright County will be used as the notification radius used to inform the public of events, meetings, proposed development, and master plan review and to invite their participation.

The Council will provide policy makers the input received from the public process, as well as trends, survey findings, financial impacts and other information in a timely manner so that they may make informed decisions.



Public Input Meetings Regarding Planning

Date	Method	Goals
October, 2007	Embrace Open Space, Public Open House and Information Event	Provide information to public, adjoining landowners, and interested parties regarding the feasibility of establishing a new regional park.
December, 2008	Public Open House	Present a project overview and public comment session related to acquisition and preliminary concepts and uses.
April, 2009	Creation of Citizen Advisory Board	Establish a citizens' advisory board, solicit public input, develop plans, and provide guidance for the project.
June, 2009	Public Open House	Provide the public with an on-site tour of the property, to present a future facility/program survey and project details, and to solicit input to define scope.
May, 2010	Public Forum	Present alternative concept plans and uses and an update on the project progress.
June 2010	Public Open House	Offer site tours, present revised concept plan, offer a question and answer session, and review progress report.
June 2011	Public Open House	Present adopted Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park Development Concept Plan, offer a question and answer session, and review progress report.
May 2013	Public Forum	Public presentation with question/answer regarding a complete cost analysis report regarding the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park. Items reviewed included partnership, project action steps, funding sources, planning history and costs associated with the acquisition, development, annual operations, and maintenance.
Annual	Public Hearings	Hold a public hearing annually, to allow for public comments, questions, and project overview.



Partnerships

Partner	Type	Role
Wright County Parks	Local Government	Funding, Planning, Maintenance, Development
Monticello City Parks	Local Government	Funding, Planning, Maintenance, Development
Friends of Bertram Lakes	Non-Profit	Advocacy, Programming, Volunteers
Crow River District Boy Scouts	Non-Profit	Volunteers, Maintenance
Broadway Cycle	Business	Maintenance of Mountain Bike Trails
YMCA – Twin Cities	Non-Profit	Day Camp Programming and Facilities
State of Minnesota	State Government	Funding/Grants
Monticello School District	School District	Planning
Monticello Township	Local Government	Planning
Cargill Kitchen Solutions	Business	Volunteers, Funding for Restoration Projects
Monticello Community Center	Local Government	Promotions and Activities
Monticello Community Development	Local Government	Planning, Funding
Wright County Planning and Zoning	Local Government	Planning
Bertram Chain of Lakes Advisory Board	Appointed Advisory Board	Planning, Policy, Guidance, Events, Volunteers, Public Input, Advocacy
Minnesota Off Road Cyclists	Non-Profit	Assist with establishment of single-track mountain bike trails, planning, maintenance, construction, volunteer recruitment and training.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1. Overview:

Implementing the master plan for the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park will require substantial initial and long-term capital investments for development, ecological stewardship, operations, and maintenance. Realistically, implementation will occur over a number of years as funding and other resources are made available. This plan focuses on establishing a framework and considers an overall strategy for implementation that takes the following factors into consideration:

- Partnership Approach
- Cost Analysis
- Project Action Steps
- Funding Sources
- Planning History

Partnership Approach to Implementation

Success in implementing the master plan will be based on the strength of the partnership which includes the following members:

- Wright County Board of Commissioners
- City of Monticello City Council
- Wright County Park Commission and Park Department Staff
- City of Monticello Park Commission and Park Department Staff
- Bertram Chain of Lakes Advisory Board
 - Athletic Fields Sub-Committee
 - Park Use Sub-Committee
 - Technical Resources Sub-Committee
- Friends of Bertram Chain of Lakes Park

It is only through this partnership that the plan will become a reality. Successful implementation will be based upon willingness by the partners to be:

- Proactive –continuing the work started as part of this planning process.
- Able to recognize and work within the available and limited resources.
- Willing to find alternative solutions (and funding avenues) for plan implementation.
- Willing to form partnerships with adjacent communities and businesses.

- Advocate for the master plan, resulting in greater awareness of the plan and increasing public support and enthusiasm.

2. Cost Analysis:

The Cost Analysis Tables below define the potential costs associated with each component of the master plan. They are based on a combination of site-specific development requirements and projects of similar characteristics. The costs are also based on having the work completed by contractors and specialists. They do not take into consideration work that will be performed by existing county staff, volunteer groups, or other means. Since the availability of detail design, technical engineering information, and related information is limited at this time, a degree of professional judgment has been used in determining potential costs.

The cost figures are intended to be used for budgeting purposes, project phasing, and comparison of the relative cost of one item to that of another. Although the intent is to be conservative, it must be recognized that actual costs will vary depending on the year in which each aspect of the master plan is implemented, the scope of each individual project, implementation parameters, economic conditions affecting bidding, and the actual site conditions found in the field during construction.

COST ANALYSIS TABLES

Table 1 - Acquisition

** All acquisition expenditures to date have been from Fund 34-150 (Capital Projects). It is anticipated that future acquisitions will be handled in the same manner. **

Phase	Parcel # /Proposed for Purchase	Parcel ID	Total Acres	Wright County Assessed Value	Fair Market Appraised Value	Purchase Price Approved/ Proposed	Grant Funding Obtained/ Proposed	Wright County Local Funding Obtained/ Proposed	City of Monticello Local Funding Obtained/ Proposed	Owner	Year of Purchase
1	5A, 6, 11	213100162400 213100164400	319	\$1,029,500	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	County & City	2008
2	5B	213100162401	40.66	\$233,000	\$1,099,000	\$1,099,256	\$549,628	\$274,814	\$274,814	County & City	2010
3	7A	213100171300	80.88	\$567,900	\$2,275,500	\$2,275,500	\$1,076,974	\$599,263	\$599,263	County & City	2011
4	9, 10, 12	213100174300 213100173101 213100172305	61.25	\$315,400	\$1,240,000	\$1,241,337	\$833,333	\$204,002	\$204,002	County & City	2013
5	8A, 1A	213100171200 (parcel split) 213100084300 (parcel split)	40.17	\$287,320	\$1,005,000	\$1,004,250	\$369,713	\$317,268	\$317,268	County & City	2013
6	7, 8, 5	213100171100 213100171200 (parcel split) 213100162100	124.13	\$871,120	\$2,808,000	\$2,807,001	\$1,862,258	\$472,372	\$472,372	County & City	2014
7	1, 2, 4A	213100084300 (parcel split) 213100084400 213100092400 (parcel split)	61.99	\$316,385	\$1,636,000	\$1,635,907	\$818,001	\$408,953	\$408,953	County & City	?
8	3, 4	213100091400 213100092400 (parcel split)	324.55	\$1,564,975	\$6,849,500	\$6,837,000	\$6,153,300	\$341,850	\$341,850	County & City	?
TOTALS			1052.63	\$5,185,600.00	\$20,513,000	\$20,500,000	\$12,863,494	\$3,818,253	\$3,818,253		

Table 2 - Development
Not including Athletic Complex - Development of Athletic Area Will Be City Responsibility and Expense

Item	Description	Estimated Expenses	Notes	Funding Sources	Responsible Party
General Site Reclamation	General site cleanup, trash, debris removal, demolition of structures, and safety issues.	Land fill fees as necessary	Existing staff time Volunteers	General Levy and Donations	Wright County and City of Monticello
Ecological Restorations	Oak Savanna restorations, invasive species removal; water quality monitoring; and pine plantation management.	\$150/ acre \$100/acre Volunteer Could be a small revenue	Have selected a 29.6 acre site Identify areas of concern Work with SWCD Work with DNR Forestry	Donations, grants, general levy Donations, grants, general levy None None	Wright County
Entrance Drive and Parking Area	This feature is located on the north end of Bertram Lake. Cost estimate includes sub-grade, asphalt surfacing, storm/rain gardens, entrance and directional signage, gates, security features.	\$130,000	In-house cost for fuel for grading, possible base work could be completed by existing staff. Engineering, design and inspections, could be completed by Wright County Highway Dept.	Grants, general levy	Wright County
Visitor/Interpretive Center	Complete improvements to existing structure, including ADA compliance, windows, siding, roof, entrance walks, landscaping, and utilities.	\$55,000	It is possible to work with a local service organization to assist with labor to reduce costs. This area could be rented for group meetings and gatherings.	Donations, grants, general levy	Wright County
Outdoor Amphitheater and Group Gathering Areas	Updates to existing amphitheater and associated site work for ADA compliance.	\$6,500	It is possible to work with a local service organization to assist with labor to reduce costs. This area could be rented for weddings or programmed for community events.	Donations, grants, general levy	Wright County
Hiking Trails (outside general interpretive areas)	Trail development, renovations, alignments, signage, and associated site work.	\$30,000	These natural surface trails, mostly labor intensive, will need materials for erosion controls, signage, grading, and seeding. Trails will be developed in segments over a period of time.	Donations, grants, general levy	Wright County
Overlooks and Observation Points	Overlook construction or improvements, access development, barriers, handrails, signage, associated site work, landscaping, and amenities.	\$26,000	First priority will be overlook renovations on Long Lake, where three areas are planned.	Donations, grants, general levy	Wright County
Mountain Bike Trails	Trail development, renovation of existing trail system, signage, and site work.	\$15,000	Partner with Minnesota Off Road Cyclists for volunteer labor, design, and implementation.	Donations	MORC and Wright County
Swimming Facilities	Beach renovation, access, safety improvements, parking, site work and amenities, and changing house/restroom construction.	\$250,000	To open the beach to the public, renovations, safety, access, parking, and amenities will be necessary costs at about \$15,000. The changing house/restroom will be the most expensive portion and may take a few years before construction. In the interim, portable toilets will be used.	Grants, donations, general levy	Wright County
Fishing Facilities/ Water Access	Access, development, piers, launch site, signage, docks, canoe/kayak storage, associated site work, and amenities.	\$135,000	Working with MN DNR on cooperative project for fishing piers and launch site. Carry-in accesses will be primitive.	DNR Fishing Pier grants, cooperative access agreement, general levy.	Wright County
Cross Country Ski Trails	Trail development and signage.	\$3,000	Some of this work is complete with hiking trail development;	Donations, grants, general levy	Wright County

			however, some additional efforts may need to be incorporated into areas.		
Lighted Cross Country Ski Trail	Develop a two-mile lighted loop	\$175,000	There is not a lighted loop in our system; if one should be developed, priority should be given to this site or Ney Park.	Grants, general levy.	Wright County
Picnicking Facilities	Shelters, independent tables, restrooms, parking, associated site work, landscaping, and utilities.	\$105,000	Shelters range from \$65,000 and up. General picnic facilities will be created first. Portable toilets will be used in the interim.	Grants, general levy, donations	Wright County
Group Camp Area	Amenities, security, grading, seeding, vault toilet, well, utilities, associated site work, and landscaping.	\$35,000	A large open area with amenities for non-profit and community groups. Fees will be charged.	General levy, grants	Wright County
Operations and Maintenance Facilities	Building and structures, outside storage yard, service road, and site work.	\$150,000	This will be necessary once campgrounds and year-round staffing occurs.	General levy	Wright County
Park Manager House and Office	Construction, utilities, outbuildings (upgrades or removal), landscaping, grading, access, parking, and driveways.	\$250,000	This will be necessary once RV camping is completed and opened.	General levy	Wright County
RV Camping Areas	Access development/trail, parking area development, restrooms and dumping station, trash receptacles, recycling centers, associated site work and amenities (roads, camping pads, electrical & sewer).	\$1,500,000	This will need to be phased in over a number of years and utilities will need to be planned to accommodate future use.	Grants, general levy	Wright County
Primitive Camping areas, Walk-in, Canoe-in Camping	Signage, site amenities, brushing, site work, and access development.	\$10,000	These can be constructed as single units. The cost indicates about 20 sites.	Grants, general levy	Wright County
Miscellaneous Site Amenities	General park signage, general site amenities, trash receptacle, recycling centers, bike racks, tables, and grills.	\$20,000	Added as necessary.	General levy	Wright County
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION		\$2,895,500			
CONTINGENCY 10 %		\$289,550			
TOTAL COST ESTIMATE WITH CONTINGENCY		\$3,185,050			
IMPLEMENTATION FEES - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, SITE SURVEYING, TESTING, Etc.		\$150,000			
GRAND TOTAL		\$3,335,050			

Table 3 - Annual Operations and Maintenance

Not including Athletic Complex - Operations and Maintenance of Athletic Area Will Be City Responsibility and Expense

Item	Description	Estimated Expenses	Notes	Funding Sources	Responsible Party
STAFFING	Upon opening the swimming beach, staffing costs will increase to a higher level of maintenance and security.	\$29,000	Establish seasonal contract with Green View In (ie: Beebe Lake). First Friday in May through last Sunday in September	General Levy	Wright County
STAFFING	Park Caretaker/Operations	\$50,000	Green View Contract Ends with this hire. Includes benefits, wages	General Levy	Wright County
SEASONAL STAFF	Three seasonal help, two summer help, one winter help.	\$24,000	Depending on development of facilities and maintenance requirements	General Levy	Wright County
Refuse Hauling and Trash Service	Contracted service weekly.	\$3,8000	Annual contract and bid	General Levy	Wright County
Utility Services	Electric, phone, data, septic service.	\$8,500	Full build out with camp ground	General Levy	Wright County
Noxious Weed Control	Cutting, spraying, removal.	\$1,500	Herbicide and applications	General Levy	Wright County
Equipment Maintenance	Parts, repairs.	\$3,500	Labor performed by Department Mechanic	General Levy	Wright County
Security	Parks Patrol.	\$2,300	Contract with Sheriff's Dept/	General Levy	Wright County
Annual Trail Maintenance and Grooming	Repairs, mowing, and ski trail grooming.	\$2,500	This will vary with precipitation and usage	General Levy	Wright County
Building and Facility Maintenance	Cleaning, supplies, and repairs.	\$4,500		General levy	Wright County
Sign and Boundary Maintenance	Signs, fences, and gates.	\$500		General levy	Wright County
Grounds, Turf and Landscape Maintenance	Plants and seeding.	\$1,500		General Levy	Wright County
Road Maintenance	Materials and grading	\$750		General Levy	Wright County
Site Amenity Repair and Replacements	Picnic tables, grills, fire rings, benches, docks, and piers.	\$1,500		General Levy	Wright County
TOTAL ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND SALARIES		\$139,050			
Camping Revenues	70 sites at 30% capacity.	(\$71,000)	There are 490 available sites per week (70X7). 30% is equal to each site being occupied for 2 nights each week.	Revenue offset operations and maintenance by being returned to the general Fund upon collection	
Pavilion, Shelter and Visitor Center Rentals		(\$8,000)			
Gate Fees	\$5.00 per day or \$10 annual	(\$67,500)	Based on Beebe Lake 13,500 per year.		
Operational gain/(loss)		\$7,450			

3. Project Action Steps:

The development of recreational facilities and the need for additional staff will be driven by the limited resources available. The scenarios provided below establish some general phasing recommendations that place emphasis on addressing immediate concerns (i.e., reclamation, restoration issues, and limited access to the property). Each phase has been developed by evaluating the interrelationship of each activity and facilities necessary in order for the public to have a favorable recreational opportunity when visiting the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park.

Actual project phasing will be a function of funding availability. If complete funding is not available to finish any particular phase, determinations will be made and priorities assigned to each item. Once funding has been secured, implementation planning can be started. The implementation phase essentially takes off where the master planning phase ends. To ensure consistency in planning and design outcomes, it is recommended that the same staff and advisory committee members work with the design team throughout the implementation process. This will create compatibility between the natural environment and recreational activities and ensure that the vision of keeping a natural theme to the park is realized.



Table 4 - Project Phasing

Not including Athletic Complex - Development, Operations and Maintenance of Athletic Area Will Be City Responsibility and Expense

Phase	Master Plan components recommended under this phase
Phase 1- Reclamation and Restoration of Natural Communities	1) Begin vegetative restoration. 2) Assess and address immediate site reclamation issues that would preclude initial development objectives. 3) Assess site hydrology and water quality issues prior to development of campgrounds and use of lakes. a 30 acre Oak Savana restoration began in 2013 Note: Many of these items will continue indefinitely into future phases.
Phase 2 – General Site Clean Up	Removal of old fence lines, foundations, trash, and other hazards. Remove hazard trees in programmed recreational use areas.
Phase 3 – Infrastructure Development (this phase will be broken down into sub-phases)	<p>Sub-Phase 1: (East side of Long Lake and Esker Area) Backpack sites and canoe camping Trails (Hiking/Biking) Parking Carry-in access to Long Lake Bridges (3) Security and signage Water access and parking to Bertram Lake STAFFING: Current Staff</p> <p>Sub-Phase 2: (North end of Bertram) Swimming beach with ADA compliance Picnic areas General access to park and parking Restrooms and changing station Trails for cross country skiing Playground Picnic shelter Establish travel routes as needed Day use amenities, tables, grills, benches, etc. Trail establishment continues as needed Trail connections to facilities Security and signage Maintenance area and storage facility Utilities as needed Purchase necessary maintenance equipment STAFFING: Establish a seasonal Green View Contract (May 1 – September 30)</p> <p>Sub-Phase 3: Fishing piers at Long Lake and Bertram Lake Interpretive trail Overlooks: along esker, north end of Long, and east side of 90th Chalet repairs and ADA (or new chalet??) Access and parking to rental chalet Utilities as needed STAFFING: Remains the same. Consideration may be given to a full time park caretaker.</p> <p>Sub-Phase 4: Primitive camping RV camping and amenities Group camp Trail head parking Additional restrooms Park office and caretaker house Expansion of maintenance area and facility Purchase additional maintenance equipment Continue with trail connections</p>

	<p>Expand trail system as designated within plan Interior roads (to areas in this phase) STAFFING: 1 Full time park caretaker 3 Seasonal park workers</p> <p>Sub-Phase 5: Amphitheater repairs and ADA Additional picnic shelters Ski trail lighting from trailhead along esker Naturalist programming STAFFING: 1 Full time park caretaker 1 Full time park maintenance staff 2 Seasonal park workers</p> <p>Continuous efforts with each phase: Establishment of interior park roads Parking Trail connections Trail expansions Security Utilities Park amenities (tables, benches, grills, fire rings, etc.) Resource management and restorations</p> <p>Note: Many of these items will continue indefinitely into future phases.</p>
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4. Funding Sources:

The availability and timing of funding for the acquisition and development of the park will have a direct impact on completing the plan. Table 5 provides a brief overview of funding sources typically available for this type of project. In most cases, each of these funds involve an application process, all funding sources are competitive and/or require political action and/or citizen approval. The Wright County Parks Department monitors new funding opportunities that may be available for this type of project.

Table 5 - Funding Sources

Funding Source	Description
State Outdoor Recreation Grants and Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources	The State of MN annually allocates funds for park acquisition and development projects, which meet recreational needs identified by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The grants are competitive and awarded by the DNR according to project merits.
Park Legacy Grant Fund	These are funds collected through the Clean Water Land and Amendment that was passed in 2008. The 3/8th% sales tax includes a statewide grant program for regional park acquisition and development. The State of Minnesota annually request RFPs for projects which meet the definition of a regional park. RFPs are reviewed and the project is selected.
Natural and Scenic Area Grant Program	This provides state grants to local units of government for up to 50% of the cost for acquisition and betterment of natural and scenic areas. The focus is on acquisition, but minimum betterment (such as interpretive, educational, boundary signing and protective fencing) also qualifies.
Conservation Partners Program	The program encourages private organizations and local governments to cost share enhancement of fish, wildlife and native plant habitats, research and survey fish and wildlife, and related educational activities.
Land and Water Conservation Fund	The Federal Government allocates monies each year from revenue obtained from off-shore oil drilling leases to each state for public acquisition and development projects. The State of Minnesota administers these grants through the Department of Natural Resources.
Trail Assistance Program	This DNR administered program allows for the use of ski pass fees, snowmobile registration fees, and gasoline tax to be used on DNR authorized projects for the construction and maintenance of trail facilities. Funds cannot be used for acquisition.
Property Tax	MN Statutes, Section 398.33, subp. 1(1988), authorizes counties to levy taxes on all taxable property in the County as needed to fund a park system.
Bonds	MN Statutes Section 398.33, subp. 6(1988), enables counties to issue bonds for park acquisition or improvements.
Fees	MN Statutes Section 398.33, subp. 2 (1988) allows counties to prescribe and provide for the collection of fees for the use of any county park or other unit of the county park system or any facilities, accommodations, or services provided for public use therein, such fees not to exceed that prescribed in state parks.
Park Dedication Fees	These are fees collected by the County for plats that are completed in the various Townships. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the funds collected from these plats must be used in the Township in which the plat was created, while the other 25% can be used county wide. Typically, the County Board uses these fees mainly for the acquisition of lands.
Donations	These can be cash donations, gifts, volunteerism, and professional services donated to the park for planning, acquisition or development purposes.

Created for:



Recreation Site Plan
Bertram
Chain of Lakes
Acquisition
Phase IX

Legend

- Amphitheater
 - Beach
 - Rental Chalet
 - Canoe Access
 - Park Road
 - Trail
 - Phase IX (50 Acres)
 - Existing or Planned (812.15 Acres)
 - Future Acquisition
 - City of Monticello
- Future Facilities**
- Boat Access
 - Camping
 - Day Use
 - Fishing Pier
 - Park Office
 - Day Camp Program Area & Facilities
 - Park Road
 - Trail

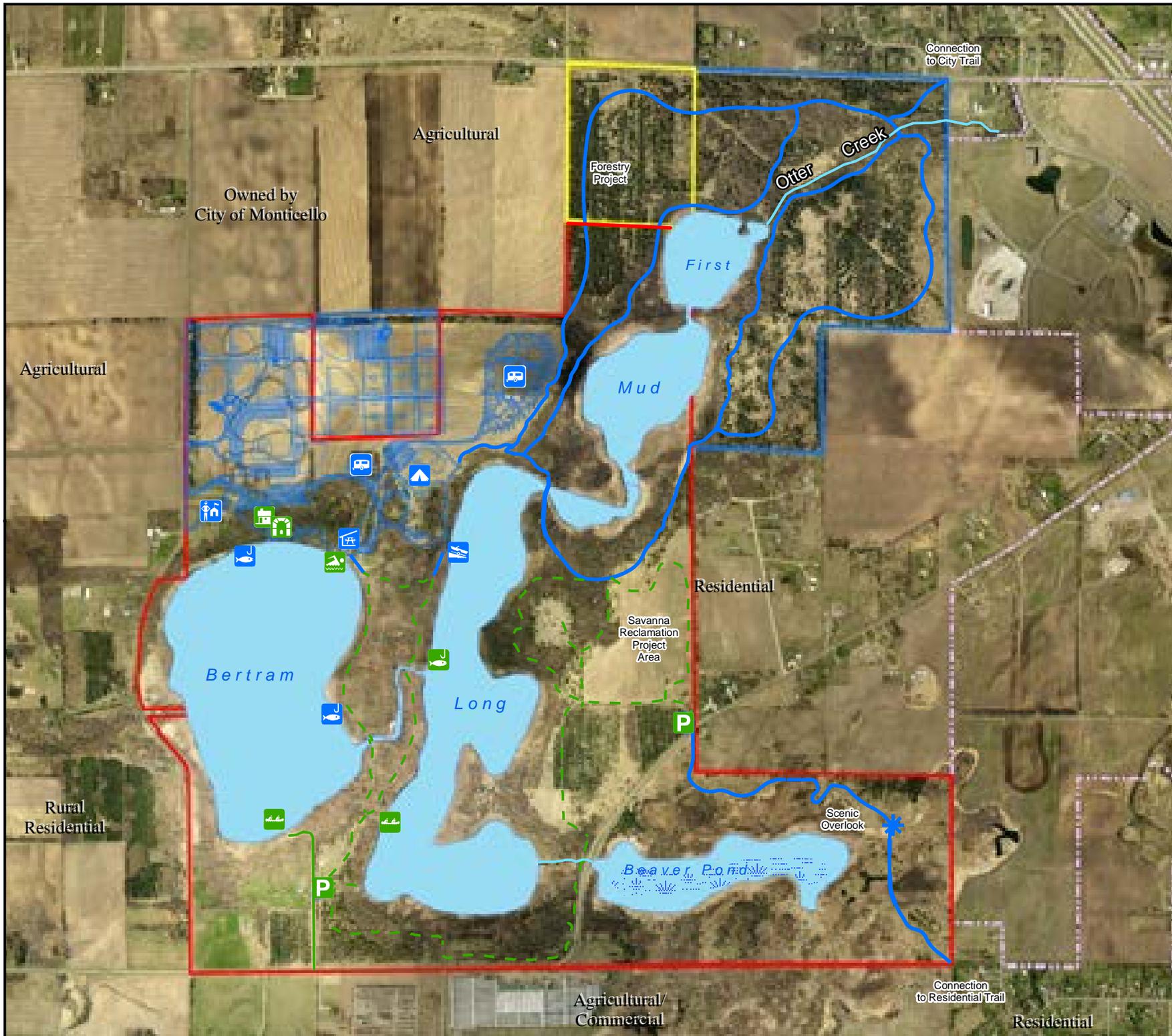


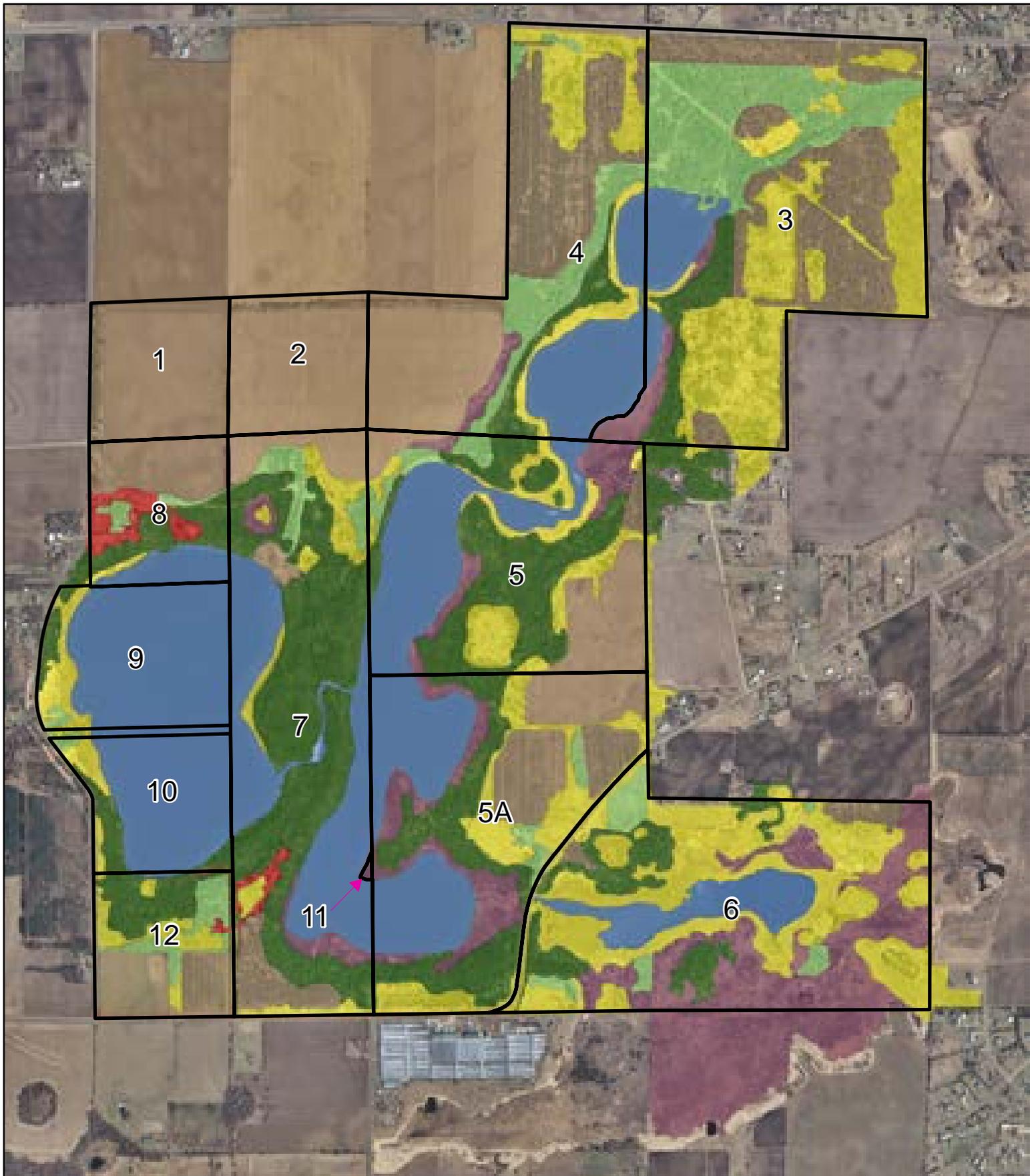
0 700 1,400
Feet



Wright County GIS
Office of the County Surveyor
September, 2014

Item #6





Bertram Chain of Lakes

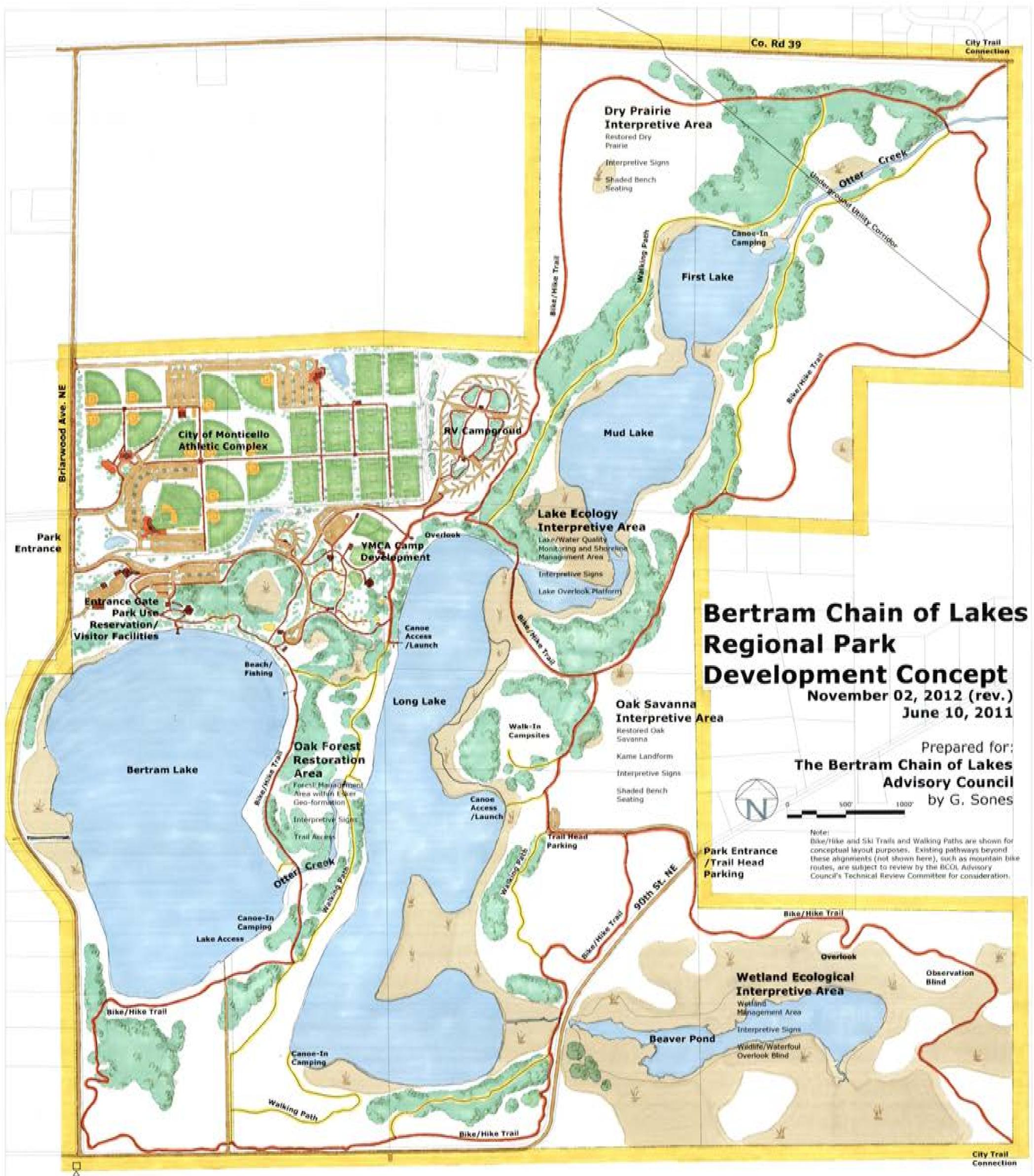
Level 1 Land Cover Classification

Developed	Forest	Herbaceous
Planted or Maintained	Woodland	Sparse Vegetation
	Shrubland	Water



January, 2009





Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park Development Concept

November 02, 2012 (rev.)
June 10, 2011

Prepared for:
The Bertram Chain of Lakes Advisory Council
by G. Sones



Note:
Bike/Hike and Ski Trails and Walking Paths are shown for conceptual layout purposes. Existing pathways beyond these alignments (not shown here), such as mountain bike routes, are subject to review by the BCOL Advisory Council's Technical Review Committee for consideration.

Dry Prairie Interpretive Area
Restored Dry Prairie

- Interpretive Signs
- Shaded Bench Seating

Bike/Hike Trail

Lake Ecology Interpretive Area
Lake/Water Quality Monitoring and Shoreline Management Area

- Interpretive Signs
- Lake Overlook Platform

Oak Savanna Interpretive Area
Restored Oak Savanna

- Kame Landform
- Interpretive Signs
- Shaded Bench Seating

Oak Forest Restoration Area
Forest Management Area within Eber Geo-formation

- Interpretive Signs
- Trail Access

Wetland Ecological Interpretive Area
Wetland Management Area

- Interpretive Signs
- Wildlife/Waterfowl Overlook Blind

Observation Blind

City Trail Connection

Park Entrance

Park Entrance / Trail Head Parking

Brianwood Ave. NE

Co. Rd 39

City Trail Connection

90th St. NE

North arrow symbol