



General

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

Last Update

11 Jul 2022 06:13:26

Park or Trail Name

Hubbard County Deep Lake Park

District

2

Location Description

The Deep Lake Park property is located approximately 17 miles north of downtown Park Rapids on County Road 4. County Road 4 marks the west boundary of the park property that encompasses Deep Lake and a smaller unnamed lake directly to the north. Access to the property is from a gravel driveway that extends from County Road 4.

Park/Trail Address

32546 County Road 4

City

Park Rapids

Park/Trail State

Minnesota

Zip

56470

Latitude

47.136249

Longitude

-94.983679

Map of Park/Trail

Description: Park context and location map

[park_context_map_685192.pdf](#)

Facility Website

http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/public_works/parks_recreation/index.php

Organization

Hubbard County

Lead Contact Person

Mark Lohmeier

Title

Hubbard County Land Commissioner

Mailing Address

101 Crocus Hill Street

City

Park Rapids

State

Minnesota

Zip

56470

Phone

218-732-4270

Joint Applicants**Joint Applicant #1**

Hubbard County

Joint Applicant #2**Joint Applicant #3****Joint Applicant #4****Other project supporters**

Trust for Public Land, Park Rapids Downtown Business Association, and the Heartland Lakes Development Commission. Letters of support are included in the attachments.

Email

mark.lohmeier@co.hubbard.mn.us

Upload Resolution

[Hubbard County Resolution 011821005 18a7ca_ff8526.pdf](#)

Description

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

Regional Significance Statement

Hubbard County Deep Lake Park will offer a variety of activities that highlight the sites natural features. Summer hiking trails and winter ski/snowshoe trails will surround Deep Lake, where non-motorized water activities including canoeing/kayaking and fishing will be available. Camping opportunities will include remote sites, a tent and car campground, camper cabins, and RV camping. A network of mountain bike trails is planned as are trail connections to the nearby North Country Trail and Heartland State Trail.

Classification

Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

Nestled in the north woods of central Hubbard County, the Deep Lake property has a unique history of public recreation that included a ski area and an outdoor theater. The 353-acre property has steep slopes on both the east and west side of the lake that were the reason behind the Val Chatel Ski Area that opened in the 1950s. The steep, wooded slopes and the undeveloped shoreline of Deep Lake provided a scenic backdrop for the Viking outdoor theater in the late 1980s. The high-quality natural resources include a second, smaller lake that is undeveloped, several wetlands and tamarack bogs, mixed conifer and evergreen forests and developed access and utilities from County Road 4 on the west side of the property. The Deep Lake property is the ideal landscape for year-round non-motorized outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation. The plan for Hubbard County Deep Lake Park includes a variety of activities that highlight the sites natural features. Hiking trails in the summer and cross-county ski and snowshoe trails in the winter will circumnavigate the shores of Deep Lake, providing beautiful views of a classic Northwoods lake. There will be remote campsites with hike-to access around the lake, a developed campground with a modern bathhouse for tent and car camping, camper cabins with views of Deep Lake, and an RV campground that will provide ATV access to adjacent, off-site motorized trails. Deep Lake offers opportunities for non-motorized watersports, and the park will include a launch for canoeing and kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, and fishing. A network of single-track mountain bike trails will provide exciting new opportunities for park users and will also provide off-season trails for fat tire bike enthusiasts. Connections to

the North Country Trail, located one mile north, will allow through-hikers to use the park for overnight camping, and a paved trail connection from the park entrance is planned to link Hubbard County Deep Lake Park with the Heartland State Trail, located two miles to the west.

The creation of a master plan for Deep Lake Park will provide Hubbard County with the direction needed for establishing the next chapter of exciting outdoor recreation on a beautiful, wooded property that has much to offer in future recreation opportunities.

The Trust for Public facilitated the purchase of the 273-acre main parcel and the 80-acre parcel on the north, using private funds. The Trust for Public Land then donated the property to Hubbard County in March 2022 to be used as Deep Lake Park.

Total Acreage or Mileage

353

Acquisition and Development Status

New Park or Trail (no land acquired or developed)

Deep Lake Park will be a new park facility for Hubbard County. The land is entirely owned by Hubbard County.

100%

Development status

No development

Facility Listing

This section provides an overview of existing and proposed site facilities and general site characteristics .

Existing Facilities

- Hiking Trails (natural)

Proposed Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins

Other camping-related facilities

A limited number of hike-to camp sites are proposed surrounding Deep Lake.

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Swimming
- Canoeing Facilities
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Restrooms/sanitation building

-
- Roads and Parking Areas

Existing Facilities Other Information

The site contains old buildings that are dilapidated and in most cases, beyond repair. The site is not open to the public at this time.

General Site Characteristics

The site currently has several old structures left over from ski area and theater operations. The structures include a large chalet building, a guest lodge, theater changing room building, maintenance building, outdoor amphitheater and the building that housed operations, sound, and light equipment. In addition to the buildings, there are unimproved access roads on the property, including the main access drive from County Road 4 that extends into the center of the property to the site with the chalet building. A second drive extends up toward the theater complex. There is an abandoned railroad corridor that extends north/south along the east central part of the property. This corridor is overgrown but may provide a good location for a future hiking trail and possible connection to the North Country Trail. New facilities are proposed for the park, and where possible, the County intends to re-purpose existing structures. However, several existing structures are within modern county setback zones and others are too degraded to be refurbished so the county is working on demolishing these structures to make the property safe for public use.

The Hubbard County Deep Lake Property has several definitive landscape characteristics that give the site a unique sense of place. The site access road heads east from County Road 4 and, shortly after, descends diagonally down a steep ridgeline that creates a natural buffer and adds to the feeling that one is entering a protected landscape. That ridgeline extends north/south along the entire west edge of the park property. The east side of the property has a similar north/south ridgeline that creates a dramatic forested backdrop for visitors as they enter the central part of the site. The presence of these steep ridgelines indicates that the area may be an area of geological significance, which can be investigated further during the master planning process. A key focal point of the property is Deep Lake and the smaller lake that sits just to its north. Both lakes are undeveloped, and it is common to see bald eagles, kingfisher and other waterfowl soaring above the water or perched on one of the several large white pine trees that dot the landscape. There are several wetlands within the future park boundary. The National Wetland Inventory classifies the wetlands on the site as Saturated Emergent Wetlands, Shallow Marshes, Deep Marshes, Shrub Wetlands, and Bogs. The bog landscapes include stands of native tamarack trees that provide stunning fall color. The wooded portions of the property contain a mix of second-generation hardwood and conifer trees. Open glades on the north side of Deep Lake were cut for ski runs and are slowly revegetating, naturally. The site has an existing loop trail that extends around Deep Lake and connects to the parking area adjacent to the old chalet and the old theater site. This trail will provide a starting point for developing the parks trail network and access to hike-to campsites.

Site characteristics upload

Description: National Wetlands Inventory Map
[National Wetlands Inventory Map_aa4e42.pdf](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Image of lake frontage
[TPL_deep_lake_1_aerial_view_of_lake_frontage_6c0d6d.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View of Deep Lake looking south
[TPL_deep_lake_2_aerial_view_of_Deep_Lake_looking_south_c0f688.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Aerial view of forest cover east side of Deep Lake
[TPL_deep_lake_5_aerial_view_of_forest_cover_east_of_Deep_Lake_79f838.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Aerial view of forest cover west side of Deep Lake

[TPL_deep_lake_6_aerial_view_of_forest_west_of_Deep_Lake_54f799.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Map of setbacks around lakes on property

[Setbacks_Map_c7825a.pdf](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Steep Slopes Map

[Steep_Slopes_Map_c3c374.pdf](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Ground view of lake frontage

[TPL_deep_lake_7_ground_view_of_lake_frontage_44c5bc.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Mature pines on the site

[TPL_deep_lake_8_mature_pines_east_of_Deep_Lake_9130cb.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View of frontage of unnamed north lake

[TPL_deep_lake_9_frontage_on_unnamed_north_lake_5532c3.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View of mixed forest cover

[TPL_deep_lake_10_mixed_forest_cover_in_northwest_portion_of_property_aa2184.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Potentially re-usable structure

[IMG_5120_potentially_reusable_structure_ad6a2d.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View looking north

[IMG_5121_Deep_Lake_looking_north_a2c565.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View looking east

[IMG_5124_Deep_Lake_looking_east_ab14c4.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View looking east

[IMG_5126_Deep_Lake_looking_east2_0981b5.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View looking east

[IMG_5130_Deep_Lake_looking_east3_6fc084.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: View looking southeast

[IMG_5131_Deep_Lake_looking_southeast_f74aa2.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Old amphitheater onsite

[IMG_5134_old_amphitheater_onsite_4ace94.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Old amphitheater onsite

[IMG_5136_old_amphitheater_onsite2_5bf50f.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Tamarack bog onsite

[IMG_5141_view_toward_tamarack_bog_ac2a3b.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Main parking area

[IMG_5145_main_parking_lot2_21bbea.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Land Cover Map

[Land_Cover_Map_d2e1b9.pdf](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description: Site Synthesis Map

[Site_Synthesis_Map_f661ba.pdf](#)

Master Plan

Master Plan Status:

No Master Plan is Available

Additional Supportive Information:

Hubbard County intends to undergo the master plan process once the designation status is complete and confirmed. Preliminary analysis of the park area was prepared for County use and for the designation application. The following graphics are included to provide context and background information for park development. Included are the following: Existing Site Features Map; Setbacks on Deep Lake Park property; Land Cover Map; NWI Wetlands Inventory Map; Slopes Map; and Developable Slopes Map.

Additional Supportive Documents:

Existing site features

[2_Existing_site_features-Deep_Lake_Park_Preliminary_Analysis-220620_bfce48.pdf](#)

Setbacks from Deep Lake

[3_Setbacks-Deep_Lake_Park_Preliminary_Analysis-220620_0989d5.pdf](#)

Land Cover

[4_Land_Cover- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620_a5427a.pdf](#)

NWI Wetlands

[5_NWI_wetlands- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620_affc5d.pdf](#)

Slopes on the site

[6_Slopes- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620_9b9bcd.pdf](#)

Developable slopes on the site

[7_Developable_slopes- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620_7138ad.pdf](#)

Classification Details

Natural Resource Based Regional Park Classification.

Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape

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

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Site Characteristics Upload	National Wetlands Inventory Map	National_Wetlands_Inventory_Map_aa4e42.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Image of lake frontage	TPL_deep_lake_1_aerial_view_of_lake_frontage_6c0d6d.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	View of Deep Lake looking south	TPL_deep_lake_2_aerial_view_of_Deep_Lake_looking_south_c0f688.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Aerial view of forest cover east side of Deep Lake	TPL_deep_lake_5_aerial_view_of_forest_cover_east_of_Deep_Lake_79f838.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Aerial view of forest cover west	TPL_deep_lake_6_aerial_view_of

	side of Deep Lake	_forest west of Deep Lake 54f799.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Map of setbacks around lakes on property	Setbacks Map c7825a.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Steep Slopes Map	Steep Slopes Map c3c374.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Ground view of lake frontage	TPL deep lake 7 ground view of lake frontage 44c5bc.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Mature pines on the site	TPL deep lake 8 mature pines east of Deep Lake 9130cb.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	View of frontage of unnamed north lake	TPL deep lake 9 frontage on unnamed north lake 5532c3.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	View of mixed forest cover	TPL deep lake 10 mixed forest cover in northwest portion of property aa2184.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Potentially re-usable structure	IMG 5120 potentially reusable structure ad6a2d.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	View looking north	IMG 5121 Deep Lake looking north a2c565.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	View looking east	IMG 5124 Deep Lake looking east ab14c4.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	View looking east	IMG 5126 Deep Lake looking east2 0981b5.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	View looking east	IMG 5130 Deep Lake looking east3 6fc084.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	View looking southeast	IMG 5131 Deep Lake looking southeast f74aa2.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	Old amphitheater onsite	IMG 5134 old amphitheater onsite 4ace94.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	Old amphitheater onsite	IMG 5136 old amphitheater onsite2 5bf50f.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	Tamarack bog onsite	IMG 5141 view toward tamarack bog ac2a3b.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload	Main parking area	IMG 5145 main parking lot2 21bbea.JPG
Additional Information Upload	Existing site features	2 Existing site features-Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620 bfce48.pdf
Additional Information Upload	Setbacks from Deep Lake	3 Setbacks- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620 0989d5.pdf
Additional Information Upload	Land Cover	4 Land Cover- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620 a5427a.pdf

Additional Information Upload	NWI Wetlands	5_NWI_wetlands- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620_affc5d.pdf
Additional Information Upload	Slopes on the site	6_Slopes- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620_9b9bcd.pdf
Additional Information Upload	Developable slopes on the site	7_Developable slopes- Deep Lake Park Preliminary Analysis-220620_7138ad.pdf
Classification Criteria1 Upload	Preliminary preferred concept	1_Deep Lake Park Preferred Concept-220623_b7692a.pdf
Classification Criteria1 Upload	Park Use Zones	10_Park Use Zones_459e1b.pdf
Classification Criteria2 Upload	Image of existing entrance road	IMG_5116_entrance_road_7e25f2.JPG
Classification Criteria2 Upload	Panoramic view looking north	IMG_5122_Deep_Lake_looking_north_panoramic_a1246c.JPG
Classification Criteria2 Upload	Aerial view of frontage along Deep Lake	TPL_deep_lake_4_aerial_view_of_frontage_along_Deep_Lake_d4f563.jpg
Classification Criteria2 Upload	Biodiversity map	9_TPL_Val_Chatel_Map - Zoomed In - Biodiversity_808991.pdf
Additional Attachment		HLDC letter of support_94ec20.pdf
Additional Attachment		PRDBA letter of support_e58460.pdf
Classification Criteria3 Upload	Site Location and Context Map	County Context Map_7ab0ab.pdf
Classification Criteria4 Upload	Campground Occupancy Rate Table and Recreation Facility within 30-Mile Radius Table	30-Mile Radius Recreation Facilities and Campground Occupancy Tables_bd1466.pdf
Park Trail Map	Park context and location map	park_context_map_685192.pdf
Site Map Upload	Map of Existing Site Features	Existing Site Features Map_5de3e6.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Land Cover Map	Land Cover Map_d2e1b9.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload	Site Synthesis Map	Site Synthesis Map_f661ba.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	30-Mile Context Map	30_mile_context_d2eaea.pdf
Gis Shape File	Park Boundary with Aerial. GIS files available upon request (upload doesn't accept .shp files)	Park_Boundary_08198a.pdf
Regional Map Uploads	County Context Map	County Context Map_ca9146.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Itasca State Park Pop-up Meeting	IMG_6652_3fd86a.JPG
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Booth at the Hubbard County Fair	County_Far_Booth_8a1a16.jpg

Public Involvement Summ Upload	2nd Street Stage Event Pop-up In Park Rapids	6_8a226e.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Master Plan Preferred Concept Map	14935_Deep_Lake_Park_Preferred_Concept-221017_f28270.pdf
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload	Park Boundary Map. All property within the boundary is owned by Hubbard County	Park_Boundary_f6ff6f.pdf
Development Feature Upload		entrance_lr_db8d9e.jpg
Development Feature Upload		IMG_4157_lr_fd5c7c.jpg
Development Feature Upload		IMG_4155_lr_d8e9ef.jpg
Development Feature Upload		mtb_trails_lr_64776a.jpg
Development Feature Upload		accessible_canoe_boat_launch_lr_a98e1e.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Paw_Paw_Picnic_Shelter_c31270.jpg
Development Feature Upload		carting-our-stuff-out_9285ed.jpg
Development Feature Upload		car_camping_lr_b700d8.jpg
Development Feature Upload		RV_site_lr_81092c.jpg
Development Feature Upload		cabins_lr_58992e.jpg
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Phase 1 Cost Estimate	Deep_Lake_Park_Estimate_1_16_85ff.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Phase 2 Cost Estimate	Deep_Lake_Park_Estimate_2_52_a3ec.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Phase 3 Cost Estimate	Deep_Lake_Park_Estimate_3_4c_355f.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Phase 4 Cost Estimate	Deep_Lake_Park_Estimate_4_cd_d8c3.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Phase 5 Cost Estimate	Deep_Lake_Park_Estimate_5_etc_195.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Summary of Total Estimated Construction Costs	Deep_Lake_Park_Estimate_of_Total_Construction_Cost_64f0e7.pdf
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	Deep Lake Park Phasing Plan	Phasing_plan_59c00f.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	Land Cover Map	Land_Cover_Map_452890.pdf
Maintenance Operations Budget Upload	Anticipated Revenue and Expenses Table	Deep_Lake_Park_revenue_expenses_table_617a70.pdf