



General

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

Last Update

17 Apr 2017 07:27:16

Park or Trail Name

Memorial Park

District

3

Location Description

*Memorial Park is located on the southern edge of Granite Falls, Minnesota in Yellow Medicine County. See the location map as well as a park site map in the attachments.

Park/Trail Address

City

Park/Trail State

Zip

Latitude

44.79974337

Longitude

-95.54217339

Map of Park/Trail

Facility Website

Organization

Granite Falls

Lead Contact Person

Bill Lavin

Title

Mailing Address

641 Prentice Street

City

Granite Falls

State

Minnesota

Zip

56241

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Joint Applicants**Joint Applicant #1****Joint Applicant #2****Joint Applicant #3****Joint Applicant #4****Other project supporters**

Description

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

Regional Significance Statement

Classification

Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

Memorial Park is located on the southern edge of Granite Falls adjacent to the Minnesota River. The area of the park covers 141 acres, which are all owned and maintained by the City. The park offers access to the Minnesota River for fishing, canoeing or kayaking, swimming and other natural resource based recreation. In addition, it contains many other unique natural features, such as a pond and granite outcroppings which are unique to this area of Minnesota.

Park amenities include 22 camping sites for tent and RV camping with water, electricity and a sanitary dump station, hiking trails, playground equipment, a boat launch, several picnic shelters, restroom facilities with showers and several WPA buildings that are in need of repair. The architecture of the main shelter and some of the buildings on the site have historical significance and help tell the story of the park, the City and the area.

In addition, the Yellow Medicine County Museum is located adjacent to the Memorial Park and both facilities draw visitors from the region and beyond. From Memorial Park, visitors can view the falls in the Minnesota River. The park is connected to the downtown area of Granite Falls by trails and pathways and is a short walk to the historic Roebling Suspension pedestrian bridge (which is currently being rehabilitated) that connects the west side of the City in Yellow Medicine County to the east side of the City in Chippewa County??Granite Falls is the only municipality along the Minnesota River that sits on both sides of the river.

The City of Granite Falls has recently contracted with the Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission to develop a Master Plan for Memorial Park and that process is currently underway. At this time, the City has submitted an application to the DNR??s Outdoor Recreation Grant Program for approximately \$300,000 in repairs and improvements to the campground sites and picnic shelters as well as the construction of a new restroom facility. More projects will be identified as the community goes through the Master Plan process for the park. Right now, the City is looking for regional park designation.

Total Acreage or Mileage

Acquisition and Development Status

Development status

Facility Listing

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 campsites
- Electric campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)
- Lake Access for power boats
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

Proposed Facilities

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

- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Biking Trails (paved)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Lake Access for power boats
- Fishing Piers
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

Existing Facilities Other Information

1937 Picnic Shelter

Proposed Facilities Other Information

Invasive species removal

General Site Characteristics

Master Plan

Additional Supportive Information:

Classification Details

Natural Resource Based Regional Park Classification.

Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Memorial Park offers many nature-based outdoor

recreation activities??that is the main purpose for the park. It is a much larger park (141 acres) than an average city park intended for only city residents. It offers opportunities for camping (both tent and RV), canoeing and kayaking, fishing (from shore or in a boat), bird watching, walking/running/bicycling on paved trails, nature hiking, and picnicking.

The park offers many facilities to support the wide variety of natural resource-based outdoor recreational activities such as multiple picnic shelters, water and electric at the campsites, restroom facilities with showers, a boat launch, playground equipment, a natural outdoor amphitheater, and many paved and unpaved trails. Some of these facilities are in need of upgrades and the City and community have recently decided to focus their attention to improving the facilities and recreational opportunities in Memorial Park so they can attract new visitors from a wider area and get more visitors to become repeat users of the park. They see Memorial Park as a huge tourism and economic development asset to the Granite Falls community and other nearby communities.

Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape

The signature feature of Memorial Park is the Minnesota River, with multiple secondary features such as the granite outcroppings, rare plant and animal species, a pond and hiking trails. This section of the Minnesota River flows through granite outcrops, which are some of the oldest rocks discovered in North America, dating back more than three billion years. The Minnesota River in this area is a haven for bird life, especially bald eagles. Several species of waterfowl and wetland birds use the river for corridor nesting, breeding and resting during migration. This section of the river also supports a large diverse fish population, which attracts anglers from around the state and other states throughout the U.S.

The landscape of the park and its natural amenities are the main attraction to the park. Visitors come to Memorial Park to take in nature and the outdoors??to fish, bird watch, hike, camp, and enjoy the unique geological features of the granite outcroppings.

Memorial Park offers protection for the rock outcrops with a host of lichen species and many species of habitat-specific vascular plants and wildlife, while also allowing the public access to these beautiful natural features and natural environment. The protection of the natural environment this park offers is extremely important, as many other areas along the Minnesota River with similar natural resources are not protected

and are used for granite mining, housing and other development. There are two Minnesota Scientific Natural Areas (SNA) nearby that offer protection to this sensitive and rare habitat; however, those SNAs are generally not available for the public and are not available for outdoor recreation activities. Therefore, both the access for the public to such rare and unique natural habitat and the protection of that habitat from mining and development make Memorial Park an important public amenity.

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

Granite Falls is located equally between Marshall and Willmar, the two largest regional centers in southwest Minnesota. Granite Falls is the County seat of Yellow Medicine County and a smaller regional hub which is close to other smaller regional hubs, such as Montevideo. Granite Falls and Memorial Park are also along the planned Minnesota River Trail system that connects many communities along the entire length of the Minnesota River. Once more portions of the Minnesota River Trail are built, Memorial Park will serve as an important resting place for future trail users, whether they stop for a few hours or are on a longer bike tour and stay overnight. Memorial Park is currently connected to the local community by trails and walking paths. Memorial Park is also located on the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway.

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

There are not many parks of Memorial Park's caliber that provide access to the Minnesota River in this region. In Region 6W, Ortonville is the only other municipality that has parks that offer access to the Minnesota River. There are three city parks in Ortonville: Riverside, Lakeside and Peninsula Parks that have access to the Minnesota River which in Ortonville, takes the form of Big Stone Lake. While Memorial Park is used by residents of Granite Falls, it draws visitors from a larger area because of the unique outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities discussed in the sections above and due to its options of overnight camping. Memorial Park is a destination in and of itself and there are no other municipal parks in the region that offer the amenities and access to the Minnesota River like Memorial Park.

Additionally, as mentioned under criteria #2, the natural habitat that supports unique and rare geological features as well as plants and wildlife in this portion of the Minnesota River Valley is often susceptible to mining or other development. There are

two nearby SNAs that offer protection of this habitat; however, they do not offer the public access to enjoy these unique natural features, wildlife and plants. Memorial Park helps preserve this natural landscape, while being one of the few protected areas that the public can also enjoy and use for outdoor recreation.

The Upper Sioux Agency State Park is located a few miles downstream from Memorial Park and offers access to the Minnesota River and camping opportunities. However, entry to that park is not free for users like it is at Memorial Park and it is possible that visitors of one park may also visit the other if they are touring the area on a trip.

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Resolution	Granite Falls Resolution	1437772711090-GF Resolution of Support.pdf
Letters Of Support	Yellow Medicine East Community Education	1437772777916-LS Community Ed.pdf
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls Chamber	1437772800173-LS GF Chamber.pdf
Letters Of Support	Mary Gillespie	1437772839511-LS - M. Gillespie.docx
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls EDA	1437772853144-LS GF EDA.docx
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls Historical Society	1437772870334-LS GF Historical Society.docx
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization	1437772889770-LS GFRR.docx
Letters Of Support	Helen Stukel	1437772905850-LS H. Stukel.docx
Letters Of Support	Mn DNR	1437772924503-LS MnDNR.pdf
Letters Of Support	MN Naturalist	1437772999439-LS Naturalist.docx
Location Map	Site map (updated maps are located in the Master Plan)	1437773076072-Recreational Site Plan.pdf
Other	Original Full Application 2014	1438004943051-Memorial Park Full App.pdf
Master Plan	Granite Falls Master Plan	1438014394120-Memorial Park Master Plan.pdf
Resolution	Granite Falls Resolution	1437772711090-GF Resolution of Support.pdf

Letters Of Support	Yellow Medicine East Community Education	1437772777916-LS Community Ed.pdf
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls Chamber	1437772800173-LS GF Chamber.pdf
Letters Of Support	Mary Gillespie	1437772839511-LS - M. Gillespie.docx
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls EDA	1437772853144-LS GF EDA.docx
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls Historical Society	1437772870334-LS GF Historical Society.docx
Letters Of Support	Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization	1437772889770-LS GFRR.docx
Letters Of Support	Helen Stukel	1437772905850-LS H. Stukel.docx
Letters Of Support	Mn DNR	1437772924503-LS MnDNR.pdf
Letters Of Support	MN Naturalist	1437772999439-LS Naturalist.docx
Location Map	Site map (updated maps are located in the Master Plan)	1437773076072-Recreational Site Plan.pdf
Other	Original Full Application 2014	1438004943051-Memorial Park Full App.pdf
Master Plan	Granite Falls Master Plan	1438014394120-Memorial Park Master Plan.pdf
Location Map	Location map added from general tab	1444671943123-Memorial Park Location Map.pdf
Regional Demographic Photos	Granite Falls Demographic information	1468589933142-GraniteFalls Demographics.pdf
Economic Development Photos	Visitor Demographics from the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan 2014	1472226816181-MN Valley Interpretive Plan - Visitor demographics.pdf
Feature Uploader 217	GFMP Existing Landcover 2016	1472489643664-Granite Falls Existing Land Cover 2016-08-16.pdf
Feature Uploader 217	Preliminary Management Areas	1472489891870-G F Preliminary Management Areas 2016-08-16.pdf
Feature Uploader 217	GFMP Conservation Zones	1472489934803-Granite Falls Conservation Zones 2016-08-16.pdf
Feature Uploader 217	GFMP Proposed Land Cover	1472490178238-Granite Falls Proposed Land Cover 2016-08-16.pdf

Feature Uploader 217	GFMP Opinions of Probable Cost	1472491843429-Opinions of Probable Cost Word Table 8-12-2016.docx
Feature Uploader 324	GFMP Bird List	1472492560924-Bird List 08-16-2016.pdf
Feature Uploader 217	GRMP Observed Plant Species	1472492786577-GFMP FLora by community 8-15-16.pdf
Feature Uploader 246	GFMP Native Plant Enhancement Plantings	1472494998607-Enhancement Plantings for GFMP 8-29-16.pdf
Criteria 2 Photos	Ecological Restoration and Regionally Significant Park Strategies	1472497202524-Ecological Planning and Restoration in a Park of Regional Significance for portal uplo
Acquisition Plan Overview Uploads	GFMP Ecological Landscape and Buffers	1472499086305-Granite Falls Ecological Landscape Map 2016-08-16.pdf
Mo Plan Description Photos	Budget 2011 - 2019	1472501939770-Memorial Park Budget - 2011 - 2019.pdf
Regional Map	Regional Map of Memorial Park	1472591379397-Memorial Park 20 Mile Radius Regional View With Granite Falls Marker.pdf
Acquisition Plan Overview Uploads	Reference Map- Tax Id Parcels	1472665659931-Surrounding Areas Tax ID Parcel.pdf
Ad Cost Projections Photos	Cost Estimates by Site	1472683989058-Memorial Park Implementation Plan 08.31.16 by site.pdf
Ad Cost Projections Photos	Cost Estimate by Priority	1472684065428-Memorial Park Implementation Plan 08.31.16 by priority.pdf
Ad Cost Projections Photos	Estimated Acquisition Costs	1472684090703-Acquisition Cost Estimates 08.31.2016.pdf
Regional Map	Context Map	1472684590504-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park DF 083016 4 Context Map.pdf
Site Characteristic Images	Existing Conditions Photos	1472684917702-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park DF 083016 6 Existing Conditions.pdf
Site Characteristic Images	Site Analysis of Existing Conditions	1472685401310-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park DF 083016 5 Site Analysis.pdf
Development Plan Overview Uploads	Memorial Park Master Plan	1472685721240-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial

		Park_DF_083016_20_Master Plan.pdf
Development Plan Overview Uploads	Memorial Park Concept Zones	1472685751747-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_21_Concept Zones.pdf
Feature Uploader 217	Ecological Landscape & Native Plant Communities	1472687061512-GF Ecological L & NP Communities 2016-08-16.pdf
Feature Uploader 259	Entrance Enlargement- Main Shelter Area	1472687186483-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_22_Entrance Enlargement.pdf
Feature Uploader 306	Camping Areas Enlargement	1472687248717-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_23_Cabin.Memorial.Rv Sites Enl
Feature Uploader 306	RV Camper Site Dimensions	1472687275189-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_24_RV Dimension Diagram.pdf
Feature Uploader 309	Camping Areas Enlargement	1472687308063-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_23_Cabin.Memorial.Rv Sites Enl
Feature Uploader 327	Circulation Diagram	1472687385883-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_29_Circulation Diagram.pdf
Feature Uploader 327	Existing vs Proposed Trails	1472687408299-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_30_Existing.Proposed Trails.pd
Feature Uploader 328	Parking Diagram	1472687442337-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_31_Parking.pdf
Feature Uploader 338	Signage and Wayfinding	1472687471993-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_32_Wayfinding.pdf
Development Plan Overview Uploads	Master Plan Document_All Development Features	1472688232593-Preferred Concept Granite Falls Memorial Park_DF_083016_All Development Features.pdf
Ecological Land Resources Photos	Granite Falls Memorial Park Natural Resources Plan	1472689193469-Granite Falls NRMP_08.31.16.pdf

Site Map Uploads 2

Existing Park Images

[1472833164191-11x17 site photos.pdf](#)

Site Map Uploads 2

Existing Land Cover

[1472833257046-Final Presentation_071316_reduced size3 Page_18.jpg](#)