



General

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

Last Update: May 16, 2018 14:07:14

GMRPTC Park/Trail ID#: 15-006D

Park or Trail Name: Lac qui Parle County Park

Park or Trail Type: County Park

District: 3

Regional Designation Status : Undesignated

Evaluation Score :

Park/Trail Address: 2299 337th Avenue

City: Dawson

Zip: 56232

Latitude: 44.99718453

Longitude: -95.97501326

Location Description: The park is located in Section 31, Lac qui Parle township, Lac qui Parle County, MN
GPS location at the shelter is 44.996873, -95.975187.

Maps of Park/Trail:

Description: Analysis Plan

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_Composite_Analaysis_Plan_-_current_park_bc2ce1.jpg

Facility Website: lqpc.com

Lead Applicant Organization : Lac qui Parle County

Lead Contact Person: Jake Sieg

Lead Contact Title: Auditor-Treasurer-Coordinator

Mailing Address: 2970 210th Street

City: Dawson

Zip: 56232

Phone: 507 829 0908

Email: jake.sieg@lqpc.com

Joint Applicant #1: n/a

Joint Applicant #2: n/a

Joint Applicant #3: n/a

Joint Applicant #4: n/a

Other project supporters : Lac qui Parle County Park Board, Lac qui Parle Equestrian Group, Boy Scout Troop 322, Lac qui Parle State Park, Lac qui Parle Historical Society, Western MN Prairie Waters, Chambers in Dawson and Madison, MN Trail Riders Association, Snowmobile Club, Regional ATV Club

Description

Regional Significance Statement: Lac qui Parle County Park is a 226-acre naturally beautiful landscape that straddles the Lac qui Parle River with dynamic topography and rich history. The park offers the region a rustic, peaceful natural setting for the public to enjoy nature-based outdoor recreation and preserves an important natural resource for future generations.

Site Map uploads:

Description: Slope and Existing Trail Network Analysis Plan

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/07_slope_and_existing_trail_network_7ccc2f.jpg

Description: Ecological Analysis Plan

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/08_Ecological_analysis_plan_e49c95.jpg

Description: Cultural/Amenities Analysis Plan

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09_Cultural_-_amenities_analysis_plan_with_aquisition_0b32ed.jpg

Description: Composit Analysis Plan - Current Park

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_Composite_Analaysis_Plan_-_current_park_dc6e61.jpg

Classification: Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Lac qui Parle County Park is a 226-acre naturally beautiful landscape that straddles the Lac qui

Parle River, a winding river whose origin reaches west to the Buffalo Ridge of eastern South Dakota. Native Americans likely used this protected place as a safe haven from the prairie winds in their seasonal migration between the Dakota prairie to the Minnesota River Valley. The Nash family became some of the first settlers to secure U.S. Government land patents in the late 1800s. The Nash ownership and with the river lands being quite heavily forested, the Park area quickly became known as Nash's Grove and remains today as a winter sliding destination. Atop a hill on the north side of the park lies the remains of a cemetery whose common stones tell a story of children dying of disease. The local saddle club has spent some 25 years clearing and maintaining trails that are used year-round by hundreds of people for riding and hiking.

The park features several outlooks from the top of river bluffs and landings below them. Several of the landings offer views of the expansive outcropping that flanks the Lac qui Parle River.

USER GROUPS

The county park is used by several groups such as the boy scouts, girl scouts, school cross country, school scientific studies classes, saddle clubs, 4 H clubs, snowmobile club, history groups as well as campers and nature enthusiasts. With the project improvements, we expect the trail to draw even more groups to the park. There are no fees attached to this park. Elderly, low-income, minorities and persons with physical disabilities can enjoy this park and will have more opportunities after the project improvements.

FACILITIES

The park currently has two sides of the park, separated by the Lac qui Parle River. There are currently 6.6 miles of trails available for horseback riding, biking, hiking and strict ATV use (speed limits and specific classifications only). Archery is allowed in the park. Winter use includes snowmobile, cross-country skiing, and sledding. The park does not currently have electricity.

The west side has a primitive shelter, an outhouse, minimum maintenance roads that lead to some trails, a rope swing and the old cemetery that dates to the origins of the park in the late 1800s.

The east side of the park has a picnic shelter with a cement pad, two pit toilets, a solar powered well, old playground equipment, an area for primitive group camping with fire rings, a sledding hill and access to the river for canoeing and kayaking.

There are multiple new facilities proposed in the master plan including a trailhead, restrooms, a bridge that crosses the river (pedestrian), and a warming hut.

PROGRAMS

The park currently hosts several events; an annual three-day equestrian ride through the park is a fundraising event for St. Junes. The park hosts an annual haunted hayride that serves as a fundraiser for the park. In the spring, the boy scouts use the park for a spring camping experience.

Total Acreage or Mileage : 226

Acquisition and Development Status: Existing Park of Trail

Describe land acquisition status: Many acquisition areas identified in the master plan will improve access in the park, and provide buffers essential for protecting sensitive areas. Conversations are being had with neighboring landowners. The park hopes to acquire more land as opportunities present themselves.

Percentage of land acquired: 0%

Development status: Some development, but more proposed

- New facilities proposed
- Existing facilities to be upgraded

Regional Context : Lac qui Parle County Park is a county park. It is currently managed and maintained by the Lac qui Parle County Park board and sustained by the members of the local saddle club, local volunteers, and Lac qui Parle County.

Lac qui Parle County Park is located 5.5 miles south of Lac qui Parle State Park. The Department of Natural Resources manages Lac qui Parle State Park as part of their state park system. Lac qui Parle State Park features trails accessible by foot, historic Fort Renville and Lac qui Parle mission sites and a 33,000-acre Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area. Popular activities in Lac qui Parle State Park are camping, fishing, bird watching/winter eagle sightings, hunting, canoeing and cross-country Skiing. Lac qui Parle State Park is also accessible from the County Park via the river - a great way to connect the two parks is that one can put in a kayak or canoe and use the Lac qui Parle River to paddle to the Lac qui Parle State Park.

Lac qui Parle County Park is located 31.4 miles northwest of Upper Sioux Agency State Park. Upper Sioux Agency State Park contains the site of the Upper Sioux or Yellow Medicine Agency. The park was established in 1963 to preserve and interpret the remains of the old Agency site. The park covers 1,280 acres and offers diversity: open prairie knolls, bluffs, and cool, wooded slopes. From vistas, visitors enjoy the trails which are ideal for horseback riding, hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling. The park also offers a huge sliding hill for winter fun. Popular activities in Lac qui Parle State Park are camping (including tipi sites), historic sites, horse trails/camp, varied landscape/hiking trails and birdwatching.

Farming is a large part of the economy in West Central Minnesota, and Lac qui Parle County is no exception. As a result, much of the land in Lac qui Parle County (and West Central Minnesota) is used for agriculture, and local concerns can make it difficult to remove any land from farming for more park space. There are relatively few preserved natural areas in West Central Minnesota that can boast the both the quality and size of outdoor experience that Lac qui Parle County Park offers to West Central Minnesota.

Lac qui Parle County Park may have an opportunity to complement and connect to Lac qui Parle State Park. The County Park offers different recreational experiences such as horseback riding and kayaking experiences that are not available at the state park. The county park also offers a more rustic, river experience that appeals to a different group of users. The Lac qui Parle River connects the two parks.

Regional Map uploads:

Description: Neighboring parks within the county

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_Design_Concepts_PREFERRED_digital_final_update72_428259.jpg

Description: Neighboring Parks in Surrounding Counties

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_Regional_look_c0ad87.jpg

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
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites

Proposed Facilities

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

Other camping-related facilities

Special equestrian events are held near the shelter area allowing room for horse pens, horse trailers, and self-contained recreational vehicles

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)
- Canoeing Facilities
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme
- Archery/Shooting ranges
- Roads and Parking Areas

- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
- Camper Cabins

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Walking Trails (paved)
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)
- Swimming
- Canoeing Facilities
- Fishing Piers
- Visitor Center
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Play areas, with an outdoor theme
- Archery/Shooting ranges
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

Existing Facilities Other Information

ATV allowed on certain trails with strict rules (speed limit and only certain classifications allowed)

Historic cemetery

Sledding Hill

Rope Swing

Proposed Facilities Other Information

ADA trails with crushed granite

Kayak Launch

Warming house

Electricity

Water on the west side of the park

Holding tank for sewer

Restroom with showers

Bridge that crosses the river.

General Site Characteristics

Lac qui Parle County Parks Regional Setting Adapted from the attached document by David Craigmile.

The landscape of the park was created by the glaciation that ended some 13,000 years ago with the melting ice waters initiating significant portions of local waterways, rivers, and streams to include the Lac qui Parle River which flows through the Park on into the namesake Lake and Glacial River Warren Minnesota River & Valley. Thus, the landscape, with its till, soil, morphology, water, flora, fauna, and climate came first with humans choosing to move into the area to take advantage of these abundant natural resources.

There is historical evidence of native people being in the area for at least 9,000 years. The Park was claimed by numerous entities before it became part of the United States. The first claim on Park lands by non-aboriginals was by France in 1682, then by Spain in 1763, back to France in 1800, then by the United States in 1803 after the Louisiana Purchase, although the Dakota people still lived on these lands. In 1851, a treaty negotiated that the land be part of the Dakota reservation, but it was not until 1859 until the park area became official Dakota Reservation lands. On February 16, 1863, because of the US Dakota War of 1862, the U.S. Senate abrogated all treaties with the Dakota people. Once again, the Park lands changed ownership and again

became lands of the State of Minnesota which would become available for general settlement.

French traders gave the river which runs through the Park the name Beaver Creek for its abundance of beaver. The Dakota people's name for the river was Watapan Intapa meaning "river at the head." The French later misinterpreted the Dakota name and came up with the French word, Lac qui Parle, which means "lake that talks" assigning both the river and lake that the rivers delta created in the underfit Minnesota River Valley the same name.

The first settler land claims in the Park list the lands as Sioux Indian, the county as McPhail and the township as Cerro Gordo. It was not until March 6, 1871, that Lac qui Parle County was officially named as such and set-off from Redwood County. Moreover, it was not until December 27, 1872, that Lac qui Parle Township was created by splitting off the east half of Cerro Gordo Township. The Park lands finally had official residence in the official township of Lac qui Parle within the official County of Lac qui Parle through which flowed the Lac qui Parle River on into Lac qui Parle Lake.

The first settlers to secure U.S. Government land patents in section 30, T118-N R42W of Park lands were Rosetta H Mills (1871), Edwin Nash (1872), Amund Olson (1872) and John Nash (1873); directly adjacent in the W 1/4 of Section 29 was Peter F Jacobson and Hans Hansen (1871) while another Nash, Thomas M (1873) claimed land adjacent in section 31. With all the Nash ownership and with the river lands being quite heavily forested, the Park area quickly became known as Nash's Grove. Numerous 2 - 4-acre parcels of these valuable river-bottom lands timber were surveyed and sold off to individuals, some of whose families still hold those lands today as deer hunting parcels. Original surveys as early as 1872 have been found and are of high quality such that the official stone and tree monuments noted may be located. These surveys could be used and set-up in an activity version of today's popular geo-caching.

The early settlers of the Park area decided they would wish to establish a church and city; however, there was quite a discussion as to whether the church (especially) and city should be north or south of the Lac qui Parle River.

The first church was organized June 1, 1870, and recognized as the first Lutheran Church in the County as well as Upper Minnesota Valley. Church services were held in local homes or outdoors in timber on the south side of the river. Moreover, in April 1871, the congregation expressed interest in a potential church & cemetery site near the center of section 30, north of the river on land owned by Amund Olson. Landowners William Mills (father of Rosetta H who married Charles Nash), Peter Jacobson and Edwin Nash south of the river talked of donating land and platted out parcels of their lands for the city, church, and cemetery. The town was to be called Bison City or Williamsburg which would hopefully become the new county seat boom town; thus, a store was quickly opened in 1870 by a Mr. Donaldson. However, there was competition from another faction of settlers some three miles to the east for another townsite to be called Lac qui Parle Village. The first elected County Commissioners would settle this competition for a prospective county seat townsite; thus, a spirited political campaign ensued to elect the appropriate three persons as originating County Commissioners. The newly elected commissioners first met January 11, 1872, and they voted unanimously to select Lac qui Parle Village as the county seat. That was the death knell for Bison City and the Donaldson store packed up and quickly moved to Lac qui Parle Village.

The new church site selection was not quite yet decided as the congregation did not wish to have their church at Lac qui Parle Village, but did prefer it to be centrally located in the vicinity of section 30. Amund & Gorgina Olson Vold owned a one-acre parcel of land north of the river in the NW 1/4 of section 30 officially sold it to the Lac qui Parle Branch of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for \$1.00 with a deed dated April 16, 1875. The congregation had tentatively chosen the site earlier and started a cemetery there but then decided the location was unsuitable for the church structure as there were problems with accessibility.

The church was eventually constructed one mile due west of the described cemetery on donated acreage and is still active on the same site today which is north of the Lac qui Parle River and

easily accessible. The original cemetery site is presently within Park boundaries and is very solemn and picturesque.

As time marched on into the 20th Century, Park area lands changed ownership; however, people continued to enjoy visiting, hunting, fishing and recreating in the Park area as well as paying respects at the original cemetery. The Minnesota Army National Guard found the Park accommodating, for in the 50's - 70's the local National Guard units practiced maneuvers and honed their marksmanship skills in the Park during weekend drills. The former horse, ox, and cart trails once again felt the pounding of hoofs as local, and distant saddle clubs found the Park very enticing. The area Boy & Girls Scouts often camped at the Park with the Boy Scouts engineering a bridge across the river. Also, area 4H Club projects helped tidy up the cemetery and other areas. Class reunions also became common at the Park. In 1968, a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources allowed Lac qui Parle County to acquire 207.65 acres to create a public park.

Moving into the 21st Century, area schools began using the Park as an outdoor natural and earth science classroom. A particular feature of the Park is the unique riverine fluvial geomorphic landscape with sheer 60-foot cut-banks and associated features. This unique combination of landscapes also provides habitat for a diverse variety of flora and fauna. The Park also began to host a very popular Halloween Haunted Hay Ride. The Park is genuinely four-season, for winter months entice people that enjoy skiing, snowshoeing and sledding. No firearms are allowed in the Park; archery hunting is allowed. There are 226 acres in the Park today, and a hoped-for expansion of some 65 acres is in the planning stages. The Park is open to the public year-round, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No other park in the County or surrounding area offers such an abundant natural resource experience. The Park is preserving a rich heritage while educating today's generation and conserving substantial pristine resources for the future generations.

Site characteristics uploads:

Description: Composite Analysis Plan - Current Park

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 Composite Analaysis Plan - current park_d286ff.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06%20Composite%20Analaysis%20Plan%20-%20current%20park_d286ff.jpg)

Description: Lac qui Parle County Park's Regional Setting - Davide Craigmile

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/03 Lac qui Parle County Park Regional Setting and History by David Craigmile_5c4b98.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/03%20Lac%20qui%20Parle%20County%20Park%20Regional%20Setting%20and%20History%20by%20David%20Craigmile_5c4b98.pdf)

Description: Cliff

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 cliff klf photo_a1db48.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02%20cliff%20klf%20photo_a1db48.jpg)

Description: Danger-Cliff

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 danger - trail_909b26.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02%20danger%20-%20trail_909b26.jpg)

Description: Horses - Rutted Road

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 horses - rutted road_471e16.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02%20horses%20-%20rutted%20road_471e16.jpg)

Description: Horses in Park

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 horses in park_02_3f9636.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02%20horses%20in%20park_02_3f9636.jpg)

Description: Photo by Lund Photography

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 Lund photo - fall_3f0afd.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02%20Lund%20photo%20-%20fall_3f0afd.jpg)

Description: Main Shelter

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 main shelter - 02_2b9f91.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02%20main%20shelter%20-%2002_2b9f91.jpg)

Description: River/Rocks Beach Area

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 river - rocks and beach](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02%20river%20-%20rocks%20and%20beach)

[area_ef07ce.jpg](#)

Description: Oellien Memorial Ride

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_Oellien Memorial Ride_b4e36b.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_Oellien_Memorial_Ride_b4e36b.jpg)

Description: Playground - Swingset Area

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_playground - swingset area 02_2d06c6.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_playground_-_swingset_area_02_2d06c6.jpg)

Description: Rope Swing

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_rope swing - jason_d7746c.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_rope_swing_-_jason_d7746c.jpg)

Description: Sledding Hill - Winter

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_sledding hill in winter_d039bc.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_sledding_hill_in_winter_d039bc.jpg)

Description: Sledding Hill - Summer

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_sledding hill_8ef3c9.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_sledding_hill_8ef3c9.jpg)

Trends/Public Values

Public Involvement Summary : VISION STATEMENT

Lac qui Parle County Park should be ecologically resilient, accessible to all abilities, and engaging to a wide range of users. Its natural and cultural history should be preserved and highlighted to educate visitors. The park should retain a rustic quality while increasing programming, amenities, and usage.

GOALS FOR THE PARK

ECOLOGY: Protect and reduce impacts to existing ecological assets while improving degraded habitat.

ACCESS: Make the park more accessible to visitors by strengthening the connections between the west and east side of the park, designating trail use, and implementing wayfinding.

AMENITIES: Improve park facilities to expand uses in the park, promote year around use, and attract visitors that wont abuse it.

OBJECTIVES

ACCESS:

- 1.Develop trails in areas already influenced by human activity.
- 2.Connect west and east side of the park.
- 3.Ensure that trails remain sustainable.
- 4.Create a looped trail network with varied difficulties.
- 5.Separate trail uses where user conflicts could occur.
- 6.Create ADA accessible loops.
- 7.Develop clear wayfinding on site.
- 8.Provide access to remote areas of the park.

ECOLOGY:

- 1.Remove and restore undesirable trail locations to their appropriate biotic communities.
- 2.Route trails to bisect ecotones to limit disturbance, avoid erosive ridge-top locations, and provide low-impact stream crossings that support in-stream habitat.
- 3.Utilize boardwalks, raised trails, and other topologies that respond to sensitive vegetation and reduce erosion.
- 4.Stabilize stream bank erosion by restoring shoreline plant communities and using bio-engineering interventions on severe cut banks.
- 5.Provide and restore 100 buffers along riparian zones to reduce overland flows and provide upstream stormwater catchment to reduce nutrient flow, sedimentation, and promote infiltration.

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6. Remove invasive species and enhance existing native communities to support wildlife habitat and functioning plant communities shoreline, woodland, and upland zones
 7. Restore prairie habitat in open fields to support soil health & reduce overland flow, support grassland birds and pollinator habitat, and support native haying activities
 8. Limit development activities in floodplains, sensitive ecological areas, and provide instream-interventions that support in-stream habitat
 9. Introduce management regimes to regularly monitor and manage invasive species, and support long-term native plant establishment

AMENITIES:

1. Promote year-round use by providing facilities that can be heated in the winter.
2. Provide facilities that do not require staffing.
3. Consider the maintenance of proposed improvements and sustainable funding.
4. Park amenities should highlight cultural and environmental resources while providing an opportunity for education/interpretation.
5. Developed areas should avoid flood-prone and ecologically sensitive areas.
6. Consider visitor safety when locating amenities and trail alignments.

COMMON THEMES, TRENDS AND VALUES OF THE PUBLIC

1. Park is rustic and peaceful and should be kept that way.
2. Make the park more accessible, enhance what is there, and add amenities sparingly.

DEMAND

Users are currently all ages. They hike, horseback ride, run, canoe and use ATVs. They want a bridge, electricity, bathrooms and better trails. Hiking and the Haunted Hayride were the highest use in the park.

PRIORITIES AND KEY OUTCOMES FOR THE PARK

1. Keep people safe
2. Enhance visitor experience
3. Make the park accessible to the public
4. Signage
5. Trail improvements, esp for runners
6. Clarify usage
7. Reduce invasive species
8. Keep the park attractive to those who will take good care of it.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS INPUT

Current key message: The Lac qui Parle County Park: preserving a rich heritage while educating today's generation and conserving substantial pristine natural resources for future generations.

Preserving the value of the County park by respecting it as a natural resource and its native history.

Most importantly is that the county park is a public place to be enjoyed and respected by everyone. In a sense, its a memorial to be preserved for its natural history as well as the history of the people that came before us. It was meant to be a public space. That means nobody owns it and no single group has the right to control or dominate its use. Its a public place.

CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

(1) Mixed uses of the park ATV, horses, humans.

It was decided to continue the mixed use of many of the trails, but to have share the trail signage, and to have strict rules for ATV use (speeds under 7 MPH, only certain types allow).

(2) Maintenance of proposed improvements and sustainable funding.

The county board will be approving the improvements with the idea of maintenance costs.

(3) Overnight camping and increased usage for a park that is not staffed.

Some of the ways to address this will be: clear rules on signage, county sheriff alerted to the rules

and will monitor the park, surveillance cameras to be used and to have the park appeal to those who will take care of it. It is also recognized that the park staffing etc. may need some changes if/when usage increases.

(4) Safety hazards and bank stabilization.

Trails will be designed with bank stabilization in mind. Uses for the trail will also consider ecological impact and erosion, as well as safety.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Lac qui Parle County Park Master Planning process involved a very robust public engagement effort. The following activities helped get the public's input for the park:

(1) A PUBLIC SURVEY in the fall of 2017.

We receive 255 online and paper surveys through the following outreach methods:

- * Facebook page
- * Lac qui Parle County Fair booth
- * Haunted Hayride October 25, 2017 843 participants and 144 paper surveys
- * Distribution by steering committee members
- * Local school cross country practice, and emails sent to cross country parents
- * Newspaper ad and radio ad
- * St. Jude Equestrian Ride

Out of the 255 surveys, 55 people use the park less than once per year.

The following information is taken from the 200 responses who answered they used the park daily, weekly or at least once per year.

The following are the top responses (number of responses):

Who uses the park?

Highest age group was 36-55 (74), but all age groups were well represented.

What do you do?

Top votes were: Haunted Hayride (103), Hiking (97), Sledding (68), Camping (55), Horseback riding (54).

Next: ATV, Fishing, Other, Swim, Birding, Archery/bow hunt. Top write-in was trail running (9).

What would you like to see added?

Bridge (126), Electricity (86), Ski Trails (44), Hunting (27), write-in: playground equip and warming house

What would you like to see improved?

Bathrooms (93), Trails (77), Shelter (51), write-in: electricity, lights, showers

(2) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Steering committee #1 held August 24, 2017, Lac qui Parle County Park

Introduction, timeline, case studies, public engagement strategy and challenges, and opportunities.

Attendance:

Park board: 11

Staff: 2

Steering committee #2 held December 14, 2017, Riverside Town Hall, Dawson

Survey results, identify common themes, demand, trends and values, full analysis and inventory of the park, possible amenities, potential funding models.

Attendance:

Park board: 8

Staff: 3

Steering committee #3 held March 8, 2018, Riverside Town Hall, Dawson
Survey summary, draft vision, goals, objectives, draft concepts.

Attendance:
Park board: 9
Staff: 4

Steering committee #4 held March 22, 2018, Riverside Town Hall, Dawson
Single concept, maintenance, ATV usage, priorities, and phases

Attendance:
Park board: 12
Staff: 3

Lac qui Parle County Board presentation April 3, 2018, Madison, MN

Update to the county commissioners of the plan with cost estimates and design features.

Park board: 4
Staff: 1

An article from this meeting was published in both the Madison and Dawson papers

Steering committee #5 held April 10, 2018

Review concept drawing, ATV, programming, outreach, marketing and usage, supporters,
immediate projects

Park board: 8
Staff: 1

(3) PUBLIC DRAFT OF THE PLAN available online on the umvrdc.org website and on the LQP County
Park facebook page. Outreach was done with:

- * Facebook
- * Emails collected from the survey were sent notification of the draft plan and public meeting notice.
- * Advertisements radio
- * Press release ran two weeks, the second week on the front page of the Madison paper.

(4) PUBLIC MEETING

Public meeting held May 8, 2018, Riverside Town Hall, Dawson 5-6

At least 20 people attended.

Public meeting held May 8, 2018, Madison City Hall, Madison 6:30 7:30

At least 13 people attended.

The plan was available electronically for those unable to attend the public meeting

The Master Plan was presented to the public for input and suggestions

Lac qui Parle County Board adoption date: May 15, 2018

Public Involvement Support Material Uploads:

Description: Age

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04_Survey_results_54560b.pdf

Description: Visitor Origination

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04_Survey_results_-_where_people_were_from_a9731d.pdf

Description: Survey Example

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 - Survey example_2755e6.pdf

Regional Demographic Information : Lac qui Parle County 2010 Population: 7,259; 2010 Households: 3,155. Lac qui Parle County Park is the countys only park and the only park in the region that offers many of the experiences that Lac qui Parle County Park offers. The park is regional because of the following - This unique park already draws visitors from a larger area because of the unique natural and recreation opportunities such as horseback riding, rustic trails, and river recreation; the topography of the park is unique and offers plant life and wildlife that needs to be preserved; - it offers a regional park in an area where there are few public spaces for people to enjoy camping, hiking, and trails.

The population in Lac qui Parle County (and most other rural counties in the United States) have experienced population decline over the past 50 years. The population decline in Lac qui Parle County (again, along with most rural US counties) has slowed, but Lac qui Parle is projected to see more decline over the coming years than its neighboring counties.

However, Lac qui Parle Lake is a tourist destination for the region (and the state) due to the high quality of hunting and fishing opportunities. Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area is popularly considered the premier goose hunting grounds in the State of Minnesota, which is also widely considered the premier goose hunting state in the US. The region also features a DNR Wildlife Management Area staff. While the population of Lac qui Parle County may be slowly declining, the county still serves as a regional destination for Minnesotans interested in hunting and fishing.

Lac qui Parle County Park is currently a regional destination for more than 35 cities in three states, including Bismarck, ND which is over 350 miles from the park. Lac qui Parle County Park also serves as a regional equestrian destination. Riders come from as far as the neighboring states to participate in the event. Park user surveys included responses from 31 Minnesota cities, including: Aitkin, Albert Lea, Appleton, Arco, Bellingham, Benson, Boyd, Canby, Cyrus, Danvers, Dawson, Faribault, Graceville, Grove City, Hancock, Hanley Falls, Hutchinson, Lake Benton, Landfall Village, Madison, Marietta, Marshall, Milan, Minneapolis, Montevideo, Ortonville, Porter, Roseville, Taunton, Watson and Wood Lake.

The park user surveys also included responses from the South Dakota cities of Corona and Milbank and the North Dakota cities of Bismarck and Fargo.

Regional Demographic Uploads:

Description: 2010 Census Data

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04 LacquiParle Final_4ffeb9.pdf

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 : Lac qui Parle County Park can improve public health in several ways including:

PROMOTES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

There are currently 6.6 miles of trails. With the improvements, there will be 8.8 miles of trails. The trails in Lac qui Parle County Park make walking and running enjoyable and accessible. The local cross country running teams use the park to train. The equestrian groups use the park for riding horses. Many people use the park for walks and getting outside. The park also offers wonderful

kayaking, and in the winter, sledding and snowshoeing are available in the park. Proposed projects will promote and enhance these activities, and add cross-country skiing, and additional trails.

CONNECTS PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS:

The diverse trail systems wind through woodlands, bedrock prairie, and 60-foot cliffs creating a variety of natural features for users to explore. Park programming attracts overnight campers and day visitors alike. Proposed interpretive signage can help visitors relate and understand the park both culturally and naturally and establish a relationship with the landscape.

IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH:

Numerous sources translate the benefits of nature on mental health. According to ASLA.org, "even short periods of time in nature can reduce symptoms of depression. Dutch researchers, who published their findings in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health found that living close to parks, or at least near lots of trees, can have far-reaching mental health benefits for people. In turn, living in places without parks or trees, especially if you are young or poor, can have major negative impacts." (<https://www.asla.org/ContentDetail.aspx?id=39551>). Located centrally in an area with sparse large parks, Lac qui Parle County Park offers a reprieve from daily life and serves as a regional destination for campers and outdoor enthusiasts.

PROMOTES HEALTH LIFESTYLE

Passive and active recreation programming proposed for Lac qui Parle County Park encourages residents and visitors to get outside and engage in physical and mentally beneficial activities. Programming in the park supports social interactions (event spaces and pavilion), educational opportunities (signage), active recreation (trails and sports), and moments for reflection (memorials and vistas).

ENCOURAGES SOCIAL INTERACTION:

Programming (Haunted Hayride) and the park shelters offer space for both public and private events. Rentable spaces could host events such as painting in the park, town meetings, weddings, and more. Trail systems support group hikes and rides. Camping spaces, fire pits, and outdoor classroom space supports gathering and conversation both formally and informally.

Public Health Values Support Material Uploads:

Description: West Central Tribune Article

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04 - running in the park_fa7f65.JPG

Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities : Lac qui Parle Lake and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a tourist destination for the region (and the state) due to the high quality of hunting and fishing opportunities. Lac qui Parle WMA is popularly considered the premier goose hunting grounds in the State of Minnesota, which is also widely considered the premier goose hunting state in the US. Migrant geese begin arriving in mid-October, and the numbers in Lac qui Parle State Park will peak out between 125,000 and 150,000 birds. The region also features a DNR Wildlife Management Area staff. A Wildlife Area Supervisor along with two full-time staff and five part-time seasonal staff oversee the WMA work area totaling 33,000 acres. This acreage includes a state game refuge, a wildlife sanctuary, a waterfowl feeding and resting area, a duck sanctuary and a controlled hunting zone.

Lac qui Parle County Park is currently a regional destination for more than 35 cities in three states, including Bismarck, ND which is over 350 miles from the park. Lac qui Parle County Park also serves as a regional equestrian destination. The park hosts a very popular equestrian event to raise money for the St. Jude's Foundation. Riders come from as far as the neighboring states to participate in the event. Park user surveys included responses from 31 Minnesota cities, including: Aitkin, Albert Lea, Appleton, Arco, Bellingham, Benson, Boyd, Canby, Cyrus, Danvers, Dawson, Faribault, Graceville, Grove City, Hancock, Hanley Falls, Hutchinson, Lake Benton, Landfall Village, Madison, Marietta, Marshall, Milan, Minneapolis, Montevideo, Ortonville, Porter, Roseville, Taunton, Watson and Wood Lake. The park user surveys also included responses from the South Dakota cities of Corona and

Milbank and the North Dakota cities of Bismarck and Fargo.

Lac qui Parle County Park serves economic development and tourism in Lac qui Parle County by providing a campground, shelter and recreational trails. This attracts out-of-town guest to the area. Once the park is enhanced to provide travelers a better experience with the natural wonders of the park, this tourism will undoubtedly increase. The economic development and tourism in the region created by the park will increase by providing a high-quality outdoor recreation area (camping, both tent, and RV), canoeing and kayaking, fishing, bird watching, walking/running/bicycling on trails, nature hiking, and picnicking), access to the Lac qui Parle River, access to 60 ft bluffs and rare plant and animal species, and is well connected in the region by the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway.

The park is in the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway (MRVNSB) corridor (10 miles on both sides of the Minnesota River). Attached is a section of the MRVNSB Interpretive Plan that talks about Visitor Demographics, Preferences and Behaviors. In a study done by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center, 6% of southern travelers stay in an RV at a campground and 3% stay at a tent in a campground. Nearly half of visitors are from Minnesota. Lac qui Parle State Park, just ten miles away, gets 96,000 annually.

Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities Support Material Uploads:

Description: Cliffs Photo

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04_cliffs_ba15a5.jpg

Description: MN River Valley National Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan 2015

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04_MN_Valley_Interpretive_Plan_Excerpt_-_Visitor_demographics_f6220e.pdf

Recreational Trends Information : The Lac qui Parle County Park currently offers the simplest amenities and takes some work and luck to be able to visit and enjoy what it has to offer. There are few signs, and unless you know the park, you would not know where to go to enjoy the trails and views. Rain and snow can make many of the roads and trails susceptible to damage.

Our user survey showed the following:

Of the 255 people surveyed, 19% use the park less than 1 x per year. Around half of the surveyed people use the park at least 1 x per year.

People in the 36-55 age group are the highest user of the park.

67% would like to see a bridge over the river

48% would like to see electricity added to the park.

61% would like to see bathrooms improved

41% would like to see trails improved.

Expanded programming and accessibility in Lac qui Parle County Park will not only attract increased local users but will also support the site as a regional recreation destination. There is a great opportunity and demand for facilities and amenities to be offered in this park which will increase usage. Facilities and amenities such as an outdoor classroom, good trails and roads, a spot for buses to get in and turn around, bathroom facilities in areas around the park, interpretive panels, ecological restoration, and signage would address the demand to use the park and enable accessibility. Improved park facilities will support wedding events, community gatherings, and other private event rentals while the enhanced ecological character of the site and engaging interpretive elements draw hikers, bikers, families, and other outdoor users to the site.

Recreational Trends Support Material Uploads:

Description: Survey results

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04_Survey_results_8f3821.pdf

Description: Survey results

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04 Survey results - where people were from_787ca1.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04_Survey_results_-_where_people_were_from_787ca1.pdf)

Classification Details

Natural Resource Based Regional Park Classification.

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

Lac qui Parle County Park is a great location to get outside and enjoy natural resource-based outdoor recreational activities. The Lac qui Parle River flows through the park allowing opportunities for recreation such as fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming. The park is home to many miles of trails for walking, hiking, bicycling or horseback riding. The park is also home to many wildlife species and unique plant species. The park features several outlooks from the top of river bluffs and landings below them, so of which are 60-ft tall. Several of the landings offer views of the expansive outcropping that flanks the Lac qui Parle River.

If you are looking for a place to unwind and reconnect with nature, Lac qui Parle County Park is the place for you. There is a shelter with picnic tables, fire rings, primitive bathrooms soon to be improved and new hydrants for drinking water.

Proposed facility and amenities will make this park more accessible to the public and provide a high-quality experience in a park that is a hidden gem. Many of the current facilities such as the playground equipment and shelter need upgrades, and the county has recently decided to focus their attention to improving the facilities and recreational opportunities so they can attract new visitors from a wider area and get more visitors to become repeat users of the park. They see Lac qui Parle County Park as a tourism and economic development asset to the county and the region.

Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 04 Kayaking the lac qu iParle river_dc73c0.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_-_04_Kayaking_the_lac_qu_iParle_river_dc73c0.jpg)

Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 01 rope swing - loren_df4c78.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_-_01_rope_swing_-_loren_df4c78.jpg)

Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 01 Oellien Memorial Ride 2012 - camey_oellien_c478f7.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_-_01_Oellien_Memorial_Ride_2012_-_camey_oellien_c478f7.jpg)

Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 01 shelter and playground_1976ea.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_-_01_shelter_and_playground_1976ea.jpg)

Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 01 south entrance_f14782.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_-_01_south_entrance_f14782.jpg)

Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 01river - rapids_962642.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_-_01river_-_rapids_962642.jpg)

Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 01 winter sledding 02 tracy dove_9df0db.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_-_01_winter_sledding_02_tracy_dove_9df0db.jpg)

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

The Lac qui Parle County Park is a natural and primitive park. The landscape transitions from a

wooded river bottom to natural grass prairie meadows. There is no other place like Lac qui Parle County Park in western Minnesota. The landscape along the river varies widely. When visiting the park, you will find areas that flow gently from a hilltop down to the river. In other areas, you will find a steep clay cliff dropping some 60 feet to the river channel. The park is an excellent place for watching birds and other animals including but not limited to whitetail deer, beaver, wild turkeys, and squirrels.

The park is an essential home for rare plant communities such as jack in the pulpit and offers the high-quality habitat needed for the spiny softshell turtles who thrive in the park.

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 01river - rapids_1d2135.jpg

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 02 cemetery 01_aa11df.jpg

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 02 cemetery 02_f6117b.jpg

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 02 cliff_0670f5.jpg

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 02 lund photo - fall 02_9004e3.jpg

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 02 jack in the pulpit_6b6cc3.jpg

Criteria #2 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 02 river view - turtles_da32c2.jpg

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

The park is located near US Highways 212, 59 and 75. If you are traveling through the area, it is likely you will be on one of these highways. Lac qui Parle Lake and Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a tourist destination for the region (and the state) due to the high quality of hunting and fishing opportunities.

There are also many tourists in the area for the Meander Art Crawl, a fall weekend where local artists open up their studio and shops to visitors and share their talents. Throughout the spring and summer, avid bird watchers frequent the area. The annual Audubon Society Salt Lake bird count find the county park to be one of their destinations. In the spring and fall, local high school cross country and track teams will use the terrain in the park to train.

Lac qui Parle County Park is currently a regional destination for more than 35 cities in three states, including Bismarck, ND which is over 350 miles from the park. Lac qui Parle County Park also serves as a regional equestrian destination. The park hosts a very popular equestrian event to raise money for the St. Judes Foundation. Riders come from as far as the neighboring states to participate in the event.

The population in this region is much less dense than many other areas in the state, but quiet roads make accessing this park very easy and quick for people that are even 20 - 40 miles away. It is approximately 10 miles from Madison, Dawson and the Lac qui Parle State Park, making it serve a regional need for a large area. It is easily accessible from Marshall, Watertown, SD, Alexandria and Willmar, all large regional centers in western Minnesota.

Criteria #3 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 03 Kayak from LqP county park to Lqp state park_78dd89.jpg

Criteria #3 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 03 county park to state park_348ddd.jpg

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

There are not many parks in this region that offer the high-quality natural experience that the Lac qui Parle County Park offers. This park has more acreage than neighboring parks, and the topography is more dynamic than any park in the region, including the Lac qui Parle State Park. The closest county parks are located in Yellow Medicine County or Chippewa County, and they do not offer the same natural experience. The trails in the park are exceptional for hiking, running and mountain biking. The area in the park known as Nash's Grove has been a sledding destination for many generations. The park is used by local cross-country teams to train, as it has hills and trails not found for miles around.

One gap that is filled is horseback riding. The saddle clubs and individuals have been riding the trails for over 60 years. Each year the trails need to be groomed and kept up for the riding season. Riders come from all over Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. There are scheduled rides, sponsored by the saddle clubs and one large ride for St. Jude Children's Hospital. There are groups of two to ten that come to ride on their own on weekends, and there is a 4-H group that has more than 20 riders at a time. The St. Jude Children's hospital Labor Day Ride has over 100 riders.

A recent visitor from Milbank, SD stated I love the county park! I go there every year for the Labor Day St. Jude fundraiser ride and any chance I get. When people ask where I ride, I tell them that you need to go to the Lac qui Parle County Park!

Criteria #4 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 04 horses_1a4280.jpg

Criteria #4 Images

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 - 04 Kayaking the lac qui Parle river_99ef10.jpg

Development/Acquisition

Development Plan Overview : The re-envisioned Lac qui Parle County Park transforms the currently underutilized public amenity into a regional destination for outdoor recreation and environmental exploration. The proposed master plan divides the park into multiple zones to offer visitors a diversity of camping opportunities, trail experiences and day-trip amenities while enhancing the ecological character of the park that highlights and preserves its rich cultural, ecological, and geologic history (see attached Concept Plan Zones map).

All proposed features will meet regional design and applicable accessibility standards.

The re-envisioned Lac qui Parle County Park looks and feels like the same rustic, peaceful park but with some subtle yet important improvements that transform the currently underutilized public amenity into a regional destination for outdoor recreation and environmental exploration. These changes will allow the user to enter the park and feel they are walking back in time, and have ample opportunity for safe, outdoor experiences.

The proposed master plan divides the park into multiple zones to give a structure in the park improvements and to help with phasing the work.

Development Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/01 Composite Master Plan_52f8c9.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/01_Composite_Master_Plan_52f8c9.jpg)

Development Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/03 Shared Use and Natural Resource Protection_871d04.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/03_Shared_Use_and_Natural_Resource_Protection_871d04.jpg)

Development Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02 Layered Master Plan_c1fbe8.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/02_Layered_Master_Plan_c1fbe8.jpg)

Development Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04 Layered Master Plan - Amentities_676dc9.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/04_Layered_Master_Plan_-_Amentities_676dc9.jpg)

Development Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05 Layered Master Plan - Ecology_73c891.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/05_Layered_Master_Plan_-_Ecology_73c891.jpg)

Development Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/11 project zones_99b18f.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/11_project_zones_99b18f.jpg)

Acquisition Plan Overview : There is no additional land acquisition currently underway, however, in the future, the City does have interest in acquiring adjacent properties. The 80-acre parcel to the north of the west entrance would prove additional acres for trails.

The 16 acres to the east would provide an important buffer for the park and its trails. Acquisitions to the north of the park (3 acres, 6 acres) offers a new access point to the park. Finally, there is a 40-acre parcel that is a low priority; however, the east side of that parcel may be useful for access to the park. It is included as a potential acquisition in the future.

There are also two parcels within the current park boundaries that are privately owned. If these parcels were to be acquired, it would allow the park to provide public access to another section of the park.

Currently, there are no ongoing discussions with the landowners, although they have been approached and are aware of interest from the Lac qui Parle County Park. The acquisition is likely to occur as a later phase to the redevelopment of Lac qui Parle County Park.

Acquisition Plan Upload

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 Cultural - amentities analysis plan with aquisition_96ff3f.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09_Cultural_-_amentities_analysis_plan_with_aquisition_96ff3f.jpg)

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

Development Feature 1

West Entrance Road Improvements (Existing - to be improved) Currently, the west entrance road easily fills with snow and has large ruts. The road needs improvements such as raising the road and paving to mitigate against becoming snow filled and damaged.

Development Feature 2

East Park Entrance Road improvements (Existing - to be improved) Currently, the east entrance culvert is undersized and needs replacing to prevent further erosion.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/East_entrance_2e8622.jpg

Development Feature 3

Bridge (New) Public demand was high for a bridge that connects the two sides of the park. The plan is to have a 12-foot bridge that is equipped for vehicles to cross for limited/emergency use but is primarily used for pedestrian and multiple uses such as fishing, biking, walking, and snowmobiles. This bridge should have an area for fishing and accommodate multiple uses and modes of transportation (biking, walking, etc.).

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_pedestrian_bridge_clear_span_d9dd8b.jpg

Development Feature 4

Signage (New) Signage is a significant need in the park. Both entrances need signage. Signage is needed at the park boundaries. Because the park is not staffed, park rules will be posted on signage at the entrances and in multiple areas. Trails will also need to be signed to show the usage allowed, and to explain how they can “share the trail” with multiple uses (all yield to horses, etc). There will also be a main kiosk at the trailhead as a point to get all park information and to learn about the history of the park. Finally, there will need to be wayfinding and interpretative signage throughout the park – it is identified at the North Loop, Park Loop, and Wetland /Kayak loop
Summary: - Monument signs at both entrances - Park boundary signage - Park rules signage at both entrances and in multiple areas o Trails usage, “share the trail” signage - Main kiosk at the trailhead - Wayfinding & Interpretive Signage – North loop, park loop, Wetland /kayak loop

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - siganage_665ae7.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - kiosk_402716.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - kiosk 02_fb40a6.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - boardwalk_b30f97.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - water boadwalk_fbe8d7.jpg

Development Feature 5

Trails (New and Existing – to be improved) All the trails need to be designed and developed in the park. There are 6.6 miles of existing trails. When all the proposed trails are completed, there will be close to nine miles of trails in the park. The main loops will have ADA trails with crushed aggregate and sections of boardwalk. Equestrian trails will be both single track and double track. The park will allow ATVs on the trails in most areas, but will have strict speed limits, and will also limit the types of ATVs allowed in the park. There will be some trails where ATVs are not allowed except for maintenance of the trails because of the sensitive ecological impacts. Summary: ADA trails – North Loop, Park Trail Loop and Wetland/Kayak Loop with Boardwalk Equestrian Trail – single track and double track Hiking trails – Beach Area and Acquisition and trail restoration west

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_horses - sign and on trail_8a5ff6.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 trail - Copy_efa495.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 Sustainable Trail design_ed24f9.pdf

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 trail access ada and equestrian standards_87a74f.pdf

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future_concept_boardwalk_and_shelter_1cd7ed.jpg

Development Feature 6

Kayak Launch (New) A new Kayak launch will be built in addition to the existing launch to create a blue trail within the park. The water trail between the two kayak launches has rapids, making it one of the more desirable stretches for kayakers along this stretch of river. – Wetland and kayak loop, Bridge area

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future_concept_kayak_launch_a95602.jpg

Development Feature 7

Fishing Pad (NEW) A fishing pad would go west of the existing shelter and just below the rapids. This area was identified as a deep channel that is good for fishing.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future_concept_fishing_pad_ae3691.jpg

Development Feature 8

Snow hill Improvements (Existing – to be improved) The snow hill has erosion issues and needs some restoration to stabilize the slope.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_winter_sledding_hill_with_fire_pit_64f973.jpg

Development Feature 9

Beach Rehabilitation (Existing – to be improved) The beach area was defined as an ecologically significant area and has been over impacted by human use, such as camping. Proposed improvements include restoration and picnic tables that define human use areas.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future_concept_fishing_pad_687dc6.jpg

Development Feature 10

Land Acquisition (New) There are multiple areas around the park identified for acquisition. The areas to the east will allow for a buffer to reduce overland erosional forces and to allow for a new trail to connect currently inaccessible remote areas of the park. Areas on the west side of the park will allow the trails to expand and add another section of beautiful area to the park. Areas on the north side of the park will allow another access point into the park and allow for a larger blue trail network to be created. Prime farmland is not a priority for the acquisition for the park.

Development Feature 11

Pioneer Cemetery Improvements (New and Existing – to be improved) There is an abandoned cemetery located on site that has headstones dating back to the 1880's. The cemetery is neglected and is in needs of a new fence, signage, and some headstone/monument repair to prevent further deterioration. This area is also a landscape anchor and provides sweeping views of the site, amenities such as seating, a small picnic shelter, and pit toilet were identified for this area. Summary: Fence, signage, seating, picnic shelter, pit toilet, rehab monuments

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_cemetery_with_commissioners_5b73a9.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_cemetery_f6964f.jpg

Development Feature 12

Playground (New - replace) New playground equipment is needed in two areas. One is at the new trailhead area. The second would be to replace existing playground equipment in picnic/play area on the east side of the park. - Trailhead area (new), Picnic/Play area

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_playground_-_swing_abf478.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_playground_8f0f98.jpg

Development Feature 13

Pit toilets (New, Existing) - Cemetery, North loop Pit toilets should be placed strategically around the park to allow for better access and amenities. Some areas identified are the cemetery and beach area. There are currently three toilets in the park - one outhouse, one new vault toilet by the shelter, and one primitive pit toilet in the current camping area.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_toilet_-_primitive_pit_in_campground_area_0fdd95.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_outhouse_west_side_fbaf6f.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_pit_toilet_-_new_899a65.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future_concept_-_porta_potty_with_screen_02_5aaec6.jpg

Development Feature 14

Camping (New AND EXISTING - TO BE IMPROVED) The current camping areas in the park are very primitive. Camping will be developed in the park to accommodate RV sites with water and electricity, tent camping, group camping and camper cabins. This will be phased. RV Sites - these sites will be back in and pull through. The first phase may plant trees and create the campground areas, while water and electricity could be added in a later phase. A pay box will also need to be added. Tent campsites - these have been identified in an area where there are beautiful trees for camping under. Invasive species will need to be removed, and tent pads, fire rings, and a picnic table added to the site. Group camping - There is currently a group camp on the east side of the park with two pit toilets, primitive fire rings, and access to the main shelter. We recommend that this area continue to be used for informal group camping with some improvements to provide designated parking areas, new fire rings, and tent pads. Camper cabins - there is a space identified in the plan for camper cabins, which can be a good revenue source for the park. Summary - RV sites with water and electricity - Tent Campsites - Group Camp - Camper Cabins

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_camping_area_51d7d7.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_camping_area_02_42dfe8.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future_concept_-_tent_camping_6c1afe.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future_Concept_-_tent_campsite_7d9a5b.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future_concept_rv_park_02_0829f2.JPG

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future_concept_-_rv_park_f96068.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future_concept_-_tent_and_car_camping_dd0331.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - camper cabin_d9b76f.jpg

Development Feature 15

Main Shelter (Existing - to be improved) - picnic/play area The main shelter needs repairs to the floor.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 main shelter_cbea10.jpg

Development Feature 16

Warming House on east side (New) - Play/park area, need electricity A true warming house is needed near the sledding hill which is near the Main Shelter on the east side of the park. Electricity will be needed for this building.

Development Feature 17

Gathering Nodes (New) - North Loop, Acquisition and Trail Restoration Gathering nodes have been identified for two areas of the park. This includes a picnic table, bench and gravel pad. A small shelter may be useful on the north loop area.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - gathering place_b927a5.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - gathering area_8b40c4.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - outdoor classroom_b8ace2.jpeg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - shelter_6d10e7.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - fire pit gathering area_3be839.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - fire pit_a7300b.jpg

Development Feature 18

Primitive Shelter and Outhouse (existing) The shelter at the west entrance was built by the built by the equestrian club and is useful for the saddle clubs. There is an existing outhouse in this area. Other than some landscaping and signage, no improvements are planned for this site.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 shelter west side_de0f9a.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 outhouse west side_7e74f9.jpg

Development Feature 19

Trailhead Building (New) The trailhead building on the west side of the will provide visitors with running water, bathrooms, showers, interpretation, an inside gathering place, and a seasonal warming hut. There will be parking available so buses can easily turn drop off students. This area will need utilities - electrical and water. Sewer holding tanks will be pumped. Site lighting will be added to this area. Summary: Restrooms, Showers, Warming Hut, Kiosk, Parking Utilities- Run electrical, Water and Site lighting

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - trailhead restroom_663072.png

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - trailhead restroom 02_e79551.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - shelter_fc9cb3.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept - shelter 02_54b646.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Future concept - picnic ara_5ae702.JPG

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/future concept shelter 03_639301.JPG

Development Feature 20

Utilities (NEW, EXISTING) Currently, there are no utilities in the park except for a solar well installed in 2015 which allows for running water on the east side of the park. The master plan recommends electricity and water to be added to the west side of the park, with the option to run electricity to the east side for a warming house. A full sewer system is not planned; rather a holding tank that will be pumped.

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06 solar well_770f9e.jpg

Development Feature 21

Restoration (New) Ecological restoration is needed throughout the park. During the master plan process, we conducted a cursory analysis of the ecological quality on site and made high-level recommendations based on site observations and collective map data that included slope analysis, soils and plant communities, and trail systems. We identified areas that were impacted by human activities such as ATV use, horseback riding, camping, hiking, and haying practices. We also identified areas of erosion, unbuffered stream banks, and the presence of invasive species including buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Seasonality limited our ability to assess herbaceous and shrub layer native vegetation. As funding becomes available, a thorough assessment of vegetation and habitat quality should be performed by an ecologist as to better determine detailed restoration approaches. Our initial findings indicate that the following areas should be considered for ecological improvements to mitigate impacts of human activity and support water quality improvements along the Lac Qui Parle River: **SHORELINE RESTORATION** Description: Shorelines showed significant areas of cutbank erosion due to fluctuating river levels. Overland flow from adjacent farm fields, lack of buffers, and channeling of water through steep trail areas are also significant contributors to shoreline erosion. Improvement recommendations include the establishment of native buffers, modifying trail systems, and bioengineering strategies to stabilize shorelines, remove invasive species, and establish stands of native vegetation. Areas: Shoreline improvement area, north loop, beach area, tent camping, bridge and kayak **PRAIRIE/ GRASSLAND RESTORATION** Description: No stands of native prairie vegetation was observed on site. Potential upland buffers adjacent to the river and existing non-native hay fields present the most significant opportunity for native grassland restoration. Transitioning the non-native hay fields to native prairie vegetation has the opportunity to support native haying activities, native seed harvest once established. Additionally, these areas can be phased to become a resource for future restoration activities on site. Until restoration activities are feasible, the annual hay fields should be kept in haying activities to prevent invasion by perennial and woody species. Areas: Annual Hayfields North Field Area, South Field Area, Park Loop **WETLAND RESTORATION**: Description: Restoration of wetland areas will include transitioning from invaded wetland to native vegetation. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and cattail (*Typha* spp.) management is the primary invasive vegetation present. Native species such as dogwood (*Cornus* spp.) and willow (*Salix* spp.) were observed on site. Management through chemical and mechanical removal should be evaluated in future assessments. Trail improvements in these areas should minimize ground contact through the use of boardwalks to prevent increased erosion and protect areas of desirable vegetation. Areas: Beach area, Wetland/kayak loop **WOODLAND RESTORATION- OAK SAVANNA**: Description: Buckthorn and honeysuckle removal is the primary restoration activity recommended. Significant cover of desirable canopy species was observed and included large bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) among

other species. Further evaluation of the herbaceous vegetation is necessary. Removal strategies include an opportunity for hand removal, cutting, and forestry moving. Management of invasive woody vegetation is essential to limiting the spread and should be a priority management effort. Areas: South field, North Loop, Park Loop, Tent Camping, Picnic/Play, Acquisition and trail restoration West WOODLAND RESTORATION- FLOODPLAIN FOREST & MESIC HARDWOOD FOREST: Description: Lowland forests exhibit canopies of desirable tree species with a shrub layer invaded by buckthorn and honeysuckle, as well as an herbaceous layer of reed canary grass in spots. Management of invasive these species should follow strategies described in oak savanna and wetland restoration targets. Further assessment of herbaceous vegetation is necessary to prescribe enhancement recommendations. Areas: Loop, Beach Area, Wetland/Kayak Loop

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_hayfield_57f3f1.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06- aspen grove - Copy_fb3f05.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_invasive_species_2a7b96.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_young_oak_43c793.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_Native_Haying_fb44b1.jpg

Development Feature 22

Outreach, safety and user tracking Communication is identified as a need. The website will be improved to offer more information to users. There will be an online guest book created. A surveillance camera could be utilized both for safety and for tracking users. A counter cable could also track the number of cars the park sees. Summary: - Website improvements - Online guestbook - Counter cable - Surveillance camera

Implementation

Implementation Plan : Development of Lac qui Parle County Parks features has been divided across five priorities to enable phasing of reconstruction efforts in accordance with the objectives of the park. The goal with the top priorities is to have a high impact on the users ability and desire to make use of the park, and for them to want to come back.

Highest priorities focus on improving core access and safety of the park. The initial phase focuses on the roads and trails on the west side of the park and connecting the two sides of the park with a pedestrian bridge. Signage, including entrance monument signage, is also included in this phase.

The second phase enhances the visitor's experience by adding park features to the west side of the park. Basic amenities are added such as the trailhead, restroom, south (east) loop trails, existing picnic and play area improvements, east side trails and signage. These things will make the park more attractive to the user while remaining rustic. It will also add ADA accessible features to the park.

The third phase improves unique features the park encouraging the user to explore further. The cemetery, beach area and shelters/toilets all need improvements and better accessibility. It also prioritizes some essential land acquisitions for the park to offer safety, ecological buffers and better access to the park.

Restoration will be done in each phase, but the fourth phase focuses more on the north field restoration, completing the RV park, adding the kayak launch and boardwalks.

The fifth phase includes camper cabins, a new playground and shoreline improvements.

In the longer-term priorities, efforts focus primarily on diversifying user experiences with the

addition of expanded trail networks through varying ecological conditions, cabin camping, and continued ecological restoration and enhancements. These later features go beyond the current park programming to attract visitors over multiple seasons and stay lengths to transform Lac qui Parle County Park into an ecologically and recreationally vibrant regional destination.

Summarize Acquisition and Development Costs To-Date : A 1968 grant paid for 207.65 acres, which put the park into the ownership of Lac qui Parle County. The total grant was \$13,348 with \$3,352 as state funds and \$9,996 as federal funds. Very limited developments have occurred since. In 2015, a solar well was installed for \$20,000. In 2016, a vault toilet was installed for \$25,000. Other improvements have been procured by donated equipment.

Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Total
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Non-Parks and Trails Legacy Funding

Arts & Cultural Heritage Legacy

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
-------------	-------------	----------

Clean Water Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
-------------	-------------	----------

Outdoor Heritage Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
-------------	-------------	----------

Local and Other Funding Sources

Local Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
\$13,348		\$13,348

Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
-------------	-------------	----------

Other Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
-------------	-------------	----------

\$45,000

\$45,000

Total: \$58,348

Grand Total Investments to Date - All Sources Listed : 58348.00

Acquisition and Development Cost Projections : Cost projects for the Lac qui Parle County Park Master Plan have been detailed both by priorities as well as by site or program area. Cost estimates for the acquisition have been developed using previous tax records and estimated county land values.

Cost Estimate Support Information Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/13_project_zone_costs_179a7c.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/14_project_zone_costs_b4b43b.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/15_project_zone_costs_bd38e9.jpg

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Lac qui Parle County Cost Estimates_2139fd.xls](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/Lac%20qui%20Parle%20County%20Cost%20Estimates_2139fd.xls)

Acquisition and Development Phasing Plan : Development of Lac qui Parle County Parks features has been divided into five phases to allow the park to develop the priorities first. Both a bridge and better restrooms were a high priority according to the survey. Trails and improved roads were also a high priority.

The phasing also allows the county to take on the development in smaller chunks, making it possible to fund and giving the time for the projects to be accomplished. The phasing works on the core functions of the park first and then expands out to enhance the rest of the park.

In the longer-term priorities, efforts focus primarily on diversifying user experiences with the addition of expanded trail networks through varying ecological conditions, cabin camping, and continued ecological restoration and enhancements. These later features go beyond the current park programming to attract visitors over multiple seasons and stay lengths to transform Lac qui Parle County Park into an ecologically and recreationally vibrant regional destination.

Phasing Plan Support Information Uploads

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/12 Project Phasing_1137be.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/12_Project_Phasing_1137be.jpg)

Cost Projections for Implementation Plan

Acquisition: 89500

Development: 4075544

Projected Total: 4165044.00

Operational

Joint Organizations Responsibilities : N/A

Maintenance/Operations Plan : The Lac qui Parle County Park is maintained and managed by the Lac qui Parle County Park Board. Maintenance costs are paid from the county budget and

fundraising efforts. Currently, trail maintenance and managing the park entrances are done by the park board. Mowing, grading, and barricading the park entrances are done by the county highway department and county sheriff. Annual expenses to maintain the park are currently

\$500.00 Spraying and chemical
\$250.00 Dumpster
\$200.00 Garbage pickup
\$300.00 Septic pumping
\$500.00 Advertising and promotion
\$500.00 County park map and brochure
\$1,000.00 Brush clearing
\$25.00 Insurance
\$300.00 Property Taxes
\$400.00 Hayride Fundraising Expenses
\$5,000 Mowing and grading

\$8,975 Total maintenance per year

Long-term management costs of the equestrian trail will need to be figured. It is estimated that annual management of the prairie, shoreline, and woodland is approximated at \$53,000/year.

The Lac qui Parle County commissioners are committed to maintaining Lac qui Parle County Park for its visitors. As facilities are added to Lac qui Parle County Park, the Lac qui Parle County commissioners will budget for ongoing maintenance.

M/O Support Material Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/County_Park_Budget_2010_-_2017_30da27.xlsx

Ecological/Land Resources Plan : The Lac qui Parle County Park is working towards a plan to manage their ecological and land resources better. They currently hay parts of the park for both the income, but it also manages weed trees that try to grow in those areas. Other maintenance efforts include spraying of weeds and invasive species.

During the master plan process, we conducted a cursory analysis of the ecological quality on site and made high-level recommendations based on site observations and collective map data that included slope analysis, soils and plant communities, and trail systems. We identified areas that were impacted by human activities such as ATV use, horseback riding, camping, hiking, and haying practices. We also identified areas of erosion, unbuffered stream banks, and the presence of invasive species including buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Seasonality limited our ability to assess herbaceous and shrub layer native vegetation. According to regular park users, there are roughly 75 oak trees that need to be preserved. As funding becomes available, a thorough assessment of vegetation and habitat quality should be performed by an ecologist as to better determine detailed restoration approaches.

Initial findings indicate that the following areas should be considered for ecological improvements to mitigate impacts of human activity and support water quality improvements along the Lac qui Parle River:

Shoreline Restoration

oDescription: Shorelines showed significant areas of cutbank erosion due to fluctuating river levels. Overland flow from adjacent farm fields, lack of buffers, and channeling of water through steep trail areas are also significant contributors to shoreline erosion. Improvement recommendations include the establishment of native buffers, modifying trail systems, and bioengineering strategies to stabilize shorelines, remove invasive species, and establish stands of native vegetation.

oAreas: Shoreline improvement area, north loop, beach area, tent camping, bridge and kayak

Prairie/ Grassland Restoration

oDescription: No stands of native prairie vegetation was observed on site. Potential upland buffers adjacent to the river and existing non-native hay fields present the most significant opportunity for native grassland restoration. Transitioning the non-native hay fields to native prairie vegetation has the opportunity to support native haying activities, native seed harvest once established.

Additionally, these areas can be phased to become a resource for future restoration activities on site. Until restoration activities are feasible, the annual hay fields should be kept in haying activities to prevent invasion by perennial and woody species.

oAreas: Annual Hayfields North Field Area, South Field Area, Park Loop

Wetland Restoration:

oDescription: Restoration of wetland areas will include transitioning from invaded wetland to native vegetation. Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and cattail (*Typha* spp.) management is the primary invasive vegetation present. Native species such as dogwood (*Cornus* spp.) and willow (*Salix* spp.) were observed on site. Management through chemical and mechanical removal should be evaluated in future assessments. Trail improvements in these areas should minimize ground contact through the use of boardwalks to prevent increased erosion and protect areas of desirable vegetation.

oAreas: Beach area, Wetland/kayak loop

Woodland Restoration- Oak Savanna:

oDescription: Buckthorn and honeysuckle removal is the primary restoration activity recommended. Significant cover of desirable canopy species was observed and included large bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) among other species. Further evaluation of the herbaceous vegetation is necessary. Removal strategies include hand removal, cutting, and forestry moving. Management of invasive woody vegetation is essential to limiting the spread and should be a priority management effort.

oAreas: South field, North Loop, Park Loop, Tent Camping, Picnic/Play, Acquisition and trail restoration West

Woodland Restoration- Floodplain forest & Mesic Hardwood Forest:

oDescription: Lowland forests exhibit canopies of desirable tree species with a shrub layer invaded by buckthorn and honeysuckle, as well as an herbaceous layer of reed canary grass in spots. Management of invasive these species should follow strategies described in oak savanna and wetland restoration targets. Further assessment of herbaceous vegetation is necessary to prescribe enhancement recommendations.

oAreas: Loop, Beach Area, Wetland/Kayak Loop

Ecological/Land Resources Support Material

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/03_Shared_Use_and_Natural_Resource_Protection_d061fd.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/06_Native_Haying_d7acbe.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/07_slope_and_exisiting_trail_network_20afcc.jpg

Annual Routine Maintenance and Operations Cost Total : 62675

Programming

Programming Plan : Currently, programming in the park is implemented by the Lac qui Parle County Park Board. The main programming is the fall Haunted Hayride which serves as a fundraiser and increases awareness of the park. This event has grown every year, and this past year they had a record number of 843 participants. The weather has an impact on this event. There is a \$5 fee to

go on the ride.

Many groups also work with the Lac qui Parle County Park Board to utilize the Park.

The equestrian group hosts the St. Jude Ride every year over Labor Day weekend, bringing more than 100 riders to the park.

The Boy Scouts program utilizes the park for camping experiences where they will have 25 campers in the park at one time.

The Lac qui Parle Valley and Dawson Boyd School districts utilize the park for the Cross Country running program.

It is hoped that as the amenities grow in the park that programming could be increased, especially with youth and church groups, and in collaboration with MNDNR.

Currently, the cost to provide these programs is the maintenance to get the park ready. There are no fees associated with the programming. Some are fundraisers that provide funds for projects in the park.

Programming Support Material Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 - haunted hayride booth_3ef014.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 Haunted hayride_051695.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 St. Judes event_9d6288.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 St. Judes Ride 02-2_b8caed.jpg

Annual Programming Cost : \$400

Annual Revenues from Programming and Fees/Charges Total : 2000

Outreach and Marketing Plan : The Lac qui Parle County Park informs the public through their website, Facebook page and word of mouth. There are few signs in the park to help guide the user. The Park Board has many goals to better inform the public about the parks offerings, rules, and history.

The current marketing and outreach goals are:

1. Clarify the rules of the park and make available on signage, websites, and brochures.
2. Create signage for better wayfinding to and throughout the park.
3. Create interpretive panels in the park to tell the history.
4. Guide users to preserve and take care of the park.
5. Provide better amenities so users can more easily utilize the park as an outdoor classroom, etc.

Currently, the park utilizes the following for outreach and marketing:

1. Events events such as the haunted hayride provide a way for the general public to learn about the park.
2. Facebook page volunteers are available to answer questions that people post.
3. Website under construction as the County updates their website.
4. Brochure a small brochure created by the volunteers of the park
5. Specific event advertising in newspaper and radio Haunted Hayride and St. Jude Ride.
6. Google My Business page - was created to increase the online presence of park
7. Lac qui Parle County Fair booth - provided qualitative information about the park and public interest

8.Regional tourism Lac qui Parle County is a part of Western Minnesota Prairie Waters, a regional tourism entity promoting the park through a website, visitors guide, Facebook page and advertising.

The park intends to continue all the above tasks. Additional future outreach and marketing ideas are:

- 9.Interpretation and wayfinding panels, kiosk, and signage
- 10.Website add information to the current website (park features, amenities, rates, and support downloadable maps)
- 11.Online guestbook
- 12.GMRPTC website
- 13.Geocaching programming
- 14.Snowmobile trail mapping
- 15.Additional events such as a 5K run
- 16.Better signage with rules, boundaries and wayfinding information

A priority is signage and interpretation. According to the US Forest Service, "Interpretation is a communication process designed to reveal the meanings and relationships of our cultural and natural heritage to the public, through first-hand involvement with objects, artifacts, landscapes, and sites. Interpretation tells a story and brings meaning and interest to a subject for the enjoyment of the visitor. It does not just provide facts." The US Forest Service also notes that interpretive signs are beneficial in that they: - Increase visitor enjoyment through the appreciation and understanding of features, concepts, themes, and stories of the natural, cultural, created, managed, and historic environments. - Guide or modify visitor behavior to reduce visitor impacts to resources or facilities. - Produce more visitor contacts than all other IS contacts combined. - Convey a consistent message to many people at one time and can be viewed at a visitor's convenience. - Are in place at all times and available to visitors 24 hours each day.

At Lac qui Parle County Park, there is proposed signage at both entrances with a main kiosk at the trailhead site that will greet and orient visitors to the park. Use of technologies could be used to support a digital display to convey up-to-date electronic information such as self-guided tours, calendar of events, and seasonal usage information. Wayfinding elements will support trail users as they navigate the newly expanded trail system, and interpretive signage and public art can engage users across the diversity of site features. Whether encouraging park patrons to identify birds or plant species, to reflect upon the cultural and natural history of the site, or to simply explore a new outdoor activity, users can learn from the signage and apply or process this information as they explore the site.

Outreach and Marketing Support Uploads

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 - haunted hayride poster_13656f.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 - haunted hayride booth_e44f7c.jpg

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-006D/09 - Brochure_a0b926.pdf

User Metrics and Research Plan : The Lac qui Parle County Park Board is interested in continuing to survey and track users to gauge what is needed in the park. Some ideas include campground/RV fees, a counter cable for vehicles, a surveillance camera with a motion detector, online surveys, online guest book and paper guest book in the trailhead area.

USER METRICS AND RESEARCH

Campground/RV fees

Once the park offers water and electricity, there will be a fee for camping with a pay box.

COUNTER CABLE FOR VEHICLES

Working with the transportation department, the county could put a counter cable to count the number of vehicles entering and leaving the park.

A SURVEILLANCE CAMERA WITH A MOTION DETECTOR

This is one way to both monitor usage, and to add a staffing presence in a park that is remote.

ONLINE SURVEYS

The survey done as part of this plan could be done again to follow up and find out how many people are using the park

ONLINE GUESTBOOK

There could be an online guestbook where people could sign in and offer comments.

PAPER GUESTBOOK IN THE TRAILHEAD AREA

There could be an old-fashioned guestbook in the trailhead area that could be used as a way to tell each other what they found in the park that day.

The Lac qui Parle County Park Board and Lac qui Parle County will participate in Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) research initiatives as programs are developed and implemented over time.

Attachments

Document	Description	Filename
Location Map	Location map added from general tab	1435013613136-Park overview map.pdf
Other	2015 budget	1435082646105-County park 2015 budget.xlsx
Other	2013 budget	1435082764579-County park 2013 budget.xlsx
Other	2014 budget	1435082809588-County park 2014 budget.xlsx
Other	Well spread sheet	1435082920531-Well spread sheet 2015.pdf
Other	Thein Well bid	1435082977587-Thein Well bid 2015.pdf
Other	Double bathroom quote	1435083589897-Boom Clovermist double bathroom quote.xlsx
Resolution	County Commissioners resolution of support	1435085265811-County Park Reg Park Resolution (signed).pdf
Master Plan	Resubmitted Master Plan	1441070885513-Lac qui Parle County Park Master Plan II Aug 2015.docx
Park Trail Map	Analysis Plan	06 Composite Analysis Plan - current park_bc2ce1.jpg
Site Map Upload	Slope and Existing Trail Network Analysis Plan	07 slope and existing trail network_7ccc2f.jpg
Regional Map Uploads	Neighboring parks within the county	02 Design Concepts Preferred digital_final_update72_428259.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Composite Analysis Plan - Current Park	06 Composite Analysis Plan - current park_d286ff.jpg
Regional Map Uploads	Neighboring Parks in Surrounding Counties	06 Regional look_c0ad87.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Lac qui Parle County Park's	03 Lac qui Parle County Park

Site Map Upload	Regional Setting - Davide Craigmile Ecological Analysis Plan	Regional Setting and History by David Craigmile_5c4b98.pdf 08 Ecological analysis plan_e49c95.jpg
Site Map Upload	Cultural/Amenities Analysis Plan	09 Cultural - amenities analysis plan with aquisition_0b32ed.jpg
Site Map Upload	Composit Analysis Plan - Current Park	06 Composite Analaysis Plan - current park_dc6e61.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Cliff	02 cliff klf photo_a1db48.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Danger-Cliff	02 danger - trail_909b26.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Horses - Rutted Road	02 horses - rutted road_471e16.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Horses in Park	02 horses in park 02_3f9636.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Photo by Lund Photography	02 Lund photo - fall_3f0afd.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Main Shelter	02 main shelter - 02_2b9f91.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	River/Rocks Beach Area	02 river - rocks and beach area_ef07ce.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Oellien Memorial Ride	02 Oellien Memorial Ride_b4e36b.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Playground - Swingset Area	02 playground - swingset area 02_2d06c6.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Rope Swing	02 rope swing - jason_d7746c.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Sledding Hill - Winter	02 sledding hill in winter_d039bc.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload	Sledding Hill - Summer	02 sledding hill_8ef3c9.jpg
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Age	04 Survey results_54560b.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Visitor Origination	04 Survey results - where people were from_a9731d.pdf
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Survey Example	09 - Survey example_2755e6.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	West Central Tribune Article	04 - running in the park_fa7f65.JPG
Economic Development Tourism Upload	Cliffs Photo	04 cliffs_ba15a5.jpg
Regional Demographic Upload	2010 Census Data	04 LacquiParle Final_4ffeb9.pdf
Economic Development Tourism Upload	MN River Valley National Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan 2015	04 MN_Valley_Interpretive_Plan_Excerpt - Visitor demographics_f6220e.pdf East entrance_2e8622.jpg
Development Feature Upload		
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Kayaking	05 - 04 Kayaking the lac qu iParle river_dc73c0.jpg
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Rope Swing	05 - 01 rope swing - loren_df4c78.jpg
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Memorial Ride	05 - 01 Oellien Memorial Ride 2012 - camey oellien_c478f7.jpg
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Shelter and Playground	05 - 01 shelter and playground_1976ea.jpg
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	South Entrance	05 - 01 south entrance_f14782.jpg
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	River Rapids	05 - 01river - rapids_962642.jpg
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Sledding Hill - Winter	05 - 01 winter sledding 02 tracy dove_9df0db.jpg
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	River Rapids	05 - 01river - rapids_1d2135.jpg
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Cemetery	05 - 02 cemetery 01_aa11df.jpg
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Gravestone	05 - 02 cemetery 02_f6117b.jpg
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	60-ft Bluffs	05 - 02 cliff_0670f5.jpg
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Photo by Lund Photography	05 - 02 lund photo - fall 02_9004e3.jpg

Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Jack in the Pulpit	05 - 02 jack in the pulpit_6b6cc3.jpg
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Spiny Softshell Turtle Location	05 - 02 river view - turtles_da32c2.jpg
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Kayakers traverse LqP River from LqP County Park to LqP State Park	05 - 03 Kayak from LqP county park to Lqp state park_78dd89.jpg
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Google Map - County Park to State Park	05 - 03 county park to state park_348ddd.jpg
Natural Resource Based4 Upload	Horses	05 - 04 horses_1a4280.jpg
Natural Resource Based4 Upload	Kayaking	05 - 04 Kayaking the lac qu iParle river_99ef10.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Composite Master Plan	01 Composite Master Plan_52f8c9.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Shared Use and Natural Resource Protection Zones	03 Shared Use and Natural Resource Protection_871d04.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Layered Master Plan - Trails	02 Layered Master Plan_c1f8e8.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Layered Master Plan - Amenities	04 Layered Master Plan - Amenities_676dc9.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Layered Master Plan - Ecology	05 Layered Master Plan - Ecology_73c891.jpg
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Project Zones	11 project zones_99b18f.jpg
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload	Cultural/Amenities Analysis Plan	09 Cultural - amenities analysis plan with aquisition_96ff3f.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 pedestrian bridge clear span_d9dd8b.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 horses - sign and on trail_8a5ff6.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 trail - Copy_efa495.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 Sustainable Trail design_ed24f9.pdf
Development Feature Upload		06 trail access ada and equestrian standards_87a74f.pdf
Development Feature Upload		06 - cemetery with commissioners_5b73a9.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 cemetery_f6964f.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 playground - swing_abf478.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 playground_8f0f98.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 toilet - primitive pit in campground area_0fdd95.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 outhouse west side_fbaf6f.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 pit toilet - new_899a65.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 camping area_51d7d7.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 camping area 02_42dfe8.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 main shelter_cbea10.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 shelter west side_de0f9a.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 outhouse west side_7e74f9.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 solar well_770f9e.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 hayfield_57f3f1.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06- aspen grove - Copy_fb3f05.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 invasive species_2a7b96.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 young oak_43c793.jpg

Development Feature Upload		06 Native Haying_fb44b1.jpg
Development Feature Upload		06 winter sledding hill with fire pit_64f973.jpg
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Projects Zones Costs 1	13 project zone costs_179a7c.jpg
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Project Zones Cost 2	14 project zone costs_b4b43b.jpg
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload	Project Zones Cost 3	15 project zone costs_bd38e9.jpg
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	Project Phasing Plan	12 Project Phasing_1137be.jpg
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	Shared Use and Natural Resource Protection Plan	03 Shared Use and Natural Resource Protection_d061fd.jpg
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	Native Haying	06 Native Haying_d7acbe.jpg
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload	Slope and Existing Trail Network	07 slope and existing trail network_20afcc.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	Haunted Hayride Booth	09 - haunted hayride booth_3ef014.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	Haunted Hayride	09 Haunted hayride_051695.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	St. Judes Ride	09 St. Judes event_9d6288.jpg
Programming Plan Upload	St. Judes Ride 2	09 St. Judes Ride 02-2_b8caed.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Haunted Hayride Poster	09 - haunted hayride poster_13656f.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Haunted Hayride Booth	09 - haunted hayride booth_e44f7c.jpg
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Brochure	09 - Brochure_a0b926.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload	Survey results	04 Survey results_8f3821.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload	Survey results	04 Survey results - where people were from_787ca1.pdf
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - signage_665ae7.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - kiosk_402716.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - kiosk 02_fb40a6.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - kayak launch_a95602.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - fishing pad_ae3691.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - fishing pad_687dc6.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - porta potty with screen 02_5aaec6.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - tent camping_6c1afe.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future Concept - tent campsite_7d9a5b.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept rv park 02_0829f2.JPG
Development Feature Upload		future concept - rv park_f96068.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - tent and car camping_dd0331.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - camper cabin_d9b76f.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - gathering place_b927a5.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - gathering area_8b40c4.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - outdoor

Development Feature Upload		classroom_b8ace2.jpeg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - shelter_6d10e7.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - trailhead restroom_663072.png
Development Feature Upload		future concept - trailhead restroom 02_e79551.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - shelter_fc9cb3.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept - shelter 02_54b646.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - picnic ara_5ae702.JPG
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - fire pit gathering area_3be839.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - fire pit_a7300b.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - boardwalk and shelter_1cd7ed.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - boardwalk_b30f97.jpg
Development Feature Upload		Future concept - water boadwalk_fbe8d7.jpg
Development Feature Upload		future concept shelter 03_639301.JPG
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload		Lac qui Parle County Cost Estimates_2139fd.xls
Maintenance Operations Plan Upload		County Park Budget 2010 - 2017_30da27.xlsx
Additional Attachment	County Commissioners resolution to adopt the master plan	Resolution - LQP County Board Adopt Master Plan_9e2807.pdf