



Designation Administrative Review

Park/Trail Name

Big Elk Lake Park

Park/Trail ID:

20-014D

District

4

Classification

Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Location Description

The property is in western Sherburne County, east of St. Cloud and north of Becker.

Property ID Numbers:40-033-1100, 40-033-1400, 40-034-2300, 40-034-2400

View at <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>

Legal Property Description:Sections 33 and 34, T35N, R29W Palmer Township

Regional Significance Statement

Significant in size, with access to Big Elk Lake's undeveloped shoreline, the Elk River and Lily Creek the property is a high priority for protection to create quality opportunities for nature based outdoor recreation on a diverse landscape. Potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for cultural resources elevates it even further. Sherburne County has yet to invest in regional parks and would like to ensure this land is preserved for that purpose.

Description: Map of potential park property

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/20-014D/PropertyMap_c6ed64.jpg

Facility Website

n/a

Organization

Sherburne County Parks & Recreation Department

Lead Contact Person**Title**

Gina Hugo

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Evaluation

Application Status (*approval for eteam evaluation):

Review Complete

ID	Ranking Comments	Rank
145	-This is what the Legacy Amendment is all about. This proposed natural regional park highly meets all four of the standards for regional park and trail land. -The proposed park inclusive attributes are excellent -Very good outline of proposed master plan -Excellent area for public health activities	High
334	. Protecting the land from urban development is the most important part of this early park concept plan. The Native American history (burial grounds) of the area is an important reason for preservation. . At this point in planning, it is too early for me to visualize a large county park on this property. A lot of work needs to be completed for the long term plan to achieve regional status.	Medium
144	The large size, amount of lakeshore, connection to the Elk River and proximity to St Cloud and other nearby cities, as well as significant archeological and historic aspects of the site, make this an excellent prospect for a new regional park. The early involvement of native American organizations is very positive.	High
142	The pictures of the land and potential for this property are excellent. Acquiring the land seems like a reasonable thing to do assuming the county and not the trust own the land. But if the application w/o the pictures were the only guide to ranking this property were available then there is much to be desired in the application.	Medium
313		

Consensus Ranking Comments:

Preservation of the property is the key to this application and is the basis for this facility's high ranking and subsequent eligibility for designation. The plan for developing this property is still young and needs a lot of work in the Master Plan development phase before full designation can be granted. Proving that ownership is achievable will also be a key consideration. Historical features are a major driver of this natural resource-based facility. Native American as well as white settler artifacts co-exist and showcase the historic use of the property. Completing the archeological work and assessing development constraints is needed to fully understand what is possible on this site. The location of this park is near, and similarly situated to, other regional facilities that are seeing nearly overwhelming use by regional and metro residents. Accommodating that level of use while protecting the historic as well as natural features is critical and will not be easy to accomplish. The Master Plan must be thorough and professionally developed in its consideration of these issues and opportunities.

Final Ranking:
High