



General

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

Last Update

17 Apr 2017 07:27:16

Park or Trail Name

Stanley Eddy Park Reserve

District

4

Location Description

Located in the hills of French Lake Township in Wright County Minnesota, between the Cities of Annandale and Cokato, Minnesota

Park/Trail Address

City

Park/Trail State

Zip

Latitude

45.23150296

Longitude

-94.23986435

Map of Park/Trail

Description:

[Overall Stanley Eddy Park Reserve 8125f8.pdf](#)

Facility Website

<https://www.co.wright.mn.us/facilities/facility/details/Stanley-Eddy-Memorial-Park-Reserve-23>

Organization

Wright County Parks Department

Lead Contact Person

Marc Mattice

Title

Director of Parks and Recreation

Mailing Address

1901 Highway 25 North

City

Buffalo

State

Minnesota

Zip

55313

Phone

Email

Joint Applicants

Joint Applicant #1

Joint Applicant #2

Joint Applicant #3

Joint Applicant #4

Other project supporters

Description

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

Regional Significance Statement

Classification

Natural Resource Based Regional Park

Overview/Description of Park or Trail

Paul and Bernice Eddy established Stanley Eddy Regional Park in 1961 through an initial donation in memory of their son Stanley. Since that time, the Wright County Parks Department has acquired lands to increase the size and protect the unique biological and ecological attributes of this important park reserve. Today, Stanley Eddy Park Reserve is an impressive park which is divided into three separate units totaling 879 acres. The north (357 acres) and south (452 acres) areas of the park are highlighted on the Biological Survey that was completed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Ecological Services. The site is considered a reserve and is managed in that sense, with very limited intrusion.

Stanley Eddy Park Reserve is located in the western part of Wright County with abundant rolling terrain that is covered by red oak, sugar maple, basswood forest, and numerous wetland basins with tamarack swamp, wet meadow, poor fen, shrub swamp, and emergent vegetation. Rare plant communities include ginseng, tamarack, and orchids. Rare animals inhabiting the area that were identified through this process include Cerulean warbler and the red-shouldered hawk. This area also provides excellent habitat for other wildlife such as wild turkey, white-tailed deer, red fox, and various songbirds.

Over the past three years, Wright County has maintained records on where typical users traveled from to experience Stanley Eddy Park Reserve. Areas in Wright County that were identified include Montrose, Annandale, South Haven, Maple Lake, Howard Lake, Hanover, Delano, Monticello, Cokato, and Buffalo. People also traveled considerable distances to recreate in this maple-basswood ecosystem, and users from communities such as St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Litchfield, New Prague, Brooklyn Park, and Minneapolis have requested special-use permits for a close-to-home backpacking trip in a unique environment.

Total Acreage or Mileage

Acquisition and Development Status

Active

95

Development status

Facility Listing

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

Existing Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Tent only sites

Other camping-related facilities

Backpack Camping

- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)
- Lake Access for power boats
- Restrooms/sanitation building
- Roads and Parking Areas

Proposed Facilities

- Hiking Trails (natural)
- Cross-country Skiing Trails
- Horseback Riding Trails (natural)
- Lake Access for power boats
- Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
- Restrooms/sanitation building

General Site Characteristics

Site characteristics upload

Description:

[20151020_112501_ea856f.jpg](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description:

[DSC_0224_501891.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description:

[DSC_0186_7ad62f.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description:

[DSC_0193_117339.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description:

[DSC_0206_fead6c.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description:

[DSC_0212_869ec3.JPG](#)

Site characteristics upload

Description:

[IMAG0977_e1deff.jpg](#)

Master Plan

Additional Supportive Information:

Classification Details

Natural Resource Based Regional Park Classification.

Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience

Stanley Eddy Park Reserve offers a high-quality user experience that is rarely found in counties along the I-94 corridor. With the reserve being highlighted in the Biological Survey that was completed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Ecological Services, Stanley Eddy Park Reserve provides users with a vastly different experience than that of many other regional parks in the area. From hiking to the highest elevation in Wright County to exploring a large intact maple-basswood forest, the park reserve stands as a destination in itself.

Stanley Eddy Park Reserve offers a wide range of uses relevant to the diverse interests of the region's recreationists. Visitors have the option to hike, ski, snowshoe, or ride horse on the vast trail systems that intersect with some of the best natural resources in Wright County. Single users and groups alike enjoy the backpacking experience and solitude provided within Stanley Eddy Park Reserve, which provides designated facilities along the trail for overnight excursions and day outings.

The park reserve reaches a wide population, and every year more users request special permits to spend extra time within the natural resources of the reserve that are critical to providing an outdoor recreation setting not found in many areas. Activities offered during all seasons encourage visitors to return to experience all the park has to offer throughout the year.

Criteria #1 Images

Jogger at South Unit

[DSC_0186_987db4.JPG](#)

Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse

Criteria #2 Images

Natural or Historic Landscape

Stanley Eddy Park Reserve is nestled in the hills of French Lake Township, Wright County, Minnesota, and its user may feel like they are viewing a live scene from a Terry Redlin print. The hills, trees, lakes, and abundant wildlife in this reserve offer not only one of the most scenic places all year long, but also offer one of the most spectacular array of fall colors in central Minnesota. Users might also feel transported back in time, as the landscape has remained relatively untouched in the last 100 years.

[Native Plant Communities Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_178269.pdf](#)

Stanley Eddy Park Reserve, as stated earlier, is highlighted within the Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources Biological Survey due to its abundant rolling terrain covered by red oak, sugar maple, basswood forest and numerous wetland basins with tamarack swamp, wet meadow, poor fen, shrub swamp, and emergent vegetation. Rare plant communities include ginseng, tamarack, and orchids. Rare animals that inhabit the area that were identified through this process include Cerulean warbler, and the red shouldered hawk. Not only does the park highlight these resources, the topography is also an interesting variation from the surrounding agricultural area and includes the highest point of elevation in Wright County.

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

As of the 2010 Census, Wright County was the second fastest growing county in Minnesota, with a 38.6% increase in population, and is the 10th most populated county in the state of Minnesota.

[Permit_Chart_bac09b.pdf](#)

Not only is Stanley Eddy Park Reserve's location convenient for serving the bordering townships' population of just over 12,000 people, but according to recorded use permits, it serves users from as far as the southern Twin Cities metropolitan area to north of the St. Cloud metropolitan area.

Stanley Eddy Park is conveniently accessed via improved County State Aid Highways, and the reserve itself includes several trailheads that provide ample services, parking, and easy access.

Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region

Stanley Eddy Park Reserve is one, if not the only, true park reserve in Central Minnesota. Although various regional and local parks exist in this region, Stanley Eddy Reserve is one of a kind. It is managed strictly as a reserve with very limited intrusion, and the focal

point of the importance of its preservation is both its biological diversity and the protection of its ecosystem.

Furthermore, Stanley Eddy Park Reserve is the second largest park in Wright County, second only to Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park. Both are significant and important assets to our greater community, and each have unique qualities and varied uses. Another consideration to address is the significant growth of the I-94 corridor that is expected to occur in the near future, highlighting the importance of protecting and preserving our natural habitats and public recreation areas for use by the public today and for generations to come.

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Resolution	Wright County Board of Commissioners Resolution of Support For Designation	1461685129726-Resolution Supporting Regional Designation- Stanley Eddy.pdf
Park Trail Map		Overall Stanley Eddy Park Reserve 8125f8.pdf
Regional Map Uploads		Regional Context Map Stanley Eddy Park Reserve 0f99d3.pdf
Site Characteristics Upload		20151020_112501_ea856f.jpg
Site Characteristics Upload		DSC_0224_501891.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload		DSC_0186_7ad62f.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload		DSC_0193_117339.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload		DSC_0206_fead6c.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload		DSC_0212_869ec3.JPG
Site Characteristics Upload		IMAG0977_e1deff.jpg
Public Involvement Summ Upload		18 08-15 Survey Results 29dcba.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload		Moose Lake Unit Existing Conditions Improvemnets Stanley Eddy Park Reserve 1198aa.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload		NorthUnit Existing Conditions Improvemnets Stanley Eddy Park Reserve e10506.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload		South Unit Existing Conditions Improvements Stanley Eddy Park Reserve 7223e6.pdf
Development Acquisition Plan Upload		South Unit Alama Tract Existing Conditions Improvements Stanley

Acquisition Plan Overview Upload		y Eddy Park Reserve_bc1b28.pdf
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload		Property Acquisition By Need Stanley Eddy Reserve_137f3e.pdf
Acquisition Plan Overview Upload		Property Acquisition By Priority Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_ec366e.pdf
Development Feature Upload		Wayfinding and Signage Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_827846.pdf
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload		Stanley Eddy cost opinion_bc7aa7.pdf
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	Priority Acquisition	Property Acquisition By Priority Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_a73254.pdf
Maintenance Operations Plan Upload		Table Acquisition Development Cost_c9d9b6.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload		Native Plant Communities Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_f3994c.pdf
Site Map Upload		Overall Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_536341.pdf
Site Map Upload		NorthUnit Existing Conditions Improvemnets Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_0d2e3f.pdf
Site Map Upload		South Unit Alama Tract Existing Conditions Improvements Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_ec820a.pdf
Site Map Upload		South Unit Existing Conditions Improvements Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_33b29f.pdf
Site Map Upload		Topo Stanley Eddy North_50bfa.pdf
Site Map Upload		Topo Stanley Eddy All_6e809d.pdf
Regional Demographic Upload		Regional Context Map Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_94da78.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload		Federal Outdoor Recreation_pg3_5f6747.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload		2018 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report FINAL_pg37_3b8f1e.pdf
Recreational Trends Upload		Outdoor Recreation Outlook_pg7_224e29.pdf
Economic Development Tourism		OIA RecEcoState_MN_5202b0.p

Upload		df
Public Health Values Upload	NRPA Park Programming and Better Health	park-programming-better-health_9640fd.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	NRPA Parks and Healthy Kids	parks-healthy-kids_0749f6.pdf
Public Health Values Upload	NRPA Parks and Quality of Life	parks-improved-mental-health-quality-life_350aa7.pdf
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Winter Insert	Winter Insert_2019_a8e813.pdf
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Parks Brochure	Parks Brochure_190914.pdf
Natural Resource Based2 Upload		Native Plant Communities Stanley Eddy Park Reserve_178269.pdf
Site Map Upload		Topo Stanley Eddy South_3518aa.pdf
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Jogger at South Unit	DSC_0186_987db4.JPG
Natural Resource Based3 Upload		Permit Chart_bac09b.pdf
Ecological Land ResPlan Upload		South Unit Buckthorn Treatment_225539.pdf