

**VADNAIS - SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK
MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT
EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AFFECTED BY HIGH WATER**

JANUARY 15, 2021





VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK
MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

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HIGH WATER

DRAFT

Prepared by:

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department

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PREFACE

This master plan amendment is intended to provide a plan for the Snail and Grass Lakes section of the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park to replace existing park infrastructure including, but not limited to trails, picnic facilities, and parking facilities that have been affected by flood waters. This amendment will be made to the 1992 Snail Lake Regional Park master plan. The plan does not include the Vadnais and Sucker Lakes section of the regional park. The Grass-Snail Lake section is not located within the Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area (MRCCA) boundary area and is not regulated under the MRCCA policy standards and criteria.

The outcome of the planning effort will be resilient infrastructure to future high water affecting the park from multiple water bodies and groundwater. In addition, the plan reflects other agency's regional public infrastructure improvements which also plan for resiliency. This plan is the result of working in cooperation with the public through community engagement, City of Shoreview, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, and Ramsey County Public Works.

Ramsey County is requesting a master plan amendment to the 1992 Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan to address flooded park infrastructure and public safety improvements to the Vadnais - Snail Lakes Regional Park Regional Park – Snail Lake section consisting of:

- Snail Lake & Grass Lake Area park infrastructure resiliency to high waters
- Natural Resource Restoration activities and projects

Supporting recommendations and resolutions have been obtained from the City of Shoreview and Ramsey County. Below is a brief summary of master plan content.

BACKGROUND:

Vadnais - Snail Lake Regional Park. Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park consists of 1,695.5 acres including the 444-acre Grass Lake Section owned by Ramsey County, and the 1,252-acre Vadnais Lake and Sucker Lake segments owned by the Saint Paul Water Utility.

The Snail Lake /Grass Lake segments of the regional park, have had rising surface and groundwaters affecting the region over the past decade. Developed neighborhoods of habitable structures, park infrastructure, and regional transportation infrastructure have become adversely affected from the result of the high water. Reliance on the natural basins and wetland complexes for flood water storage in the overall watershed have become paramount to prevent further negative impacts to the regional transportation system, residential neighborhoods, and business districts. Much of the available storage for excess water is located within the park land that is encompassed by the regional park system.

The cause of high water has been influenced by a multitude of factors, including increased annual precipitation, past development in areas of low elevation, higher regional groundwater, segmenting of natural historic surface water course, and elimination of natural water storage basins.

PLANNING EFFORT AND AGENCY PARTNERING:

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department has been working with other agencies since 2016 to help address flooding in the short term and to help develop options for long term solutions, including: Ramsey County Public Works, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, the city of Shoreview, the city of Vadnais Heights, city of Little Canada, and the Department of Natural Resources. This ongoing agency coordination and partnership has been necessary to understand impacts beyond the regional park boundaries and the necessity of managing regional surface and ground water.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Primary public engagement for the master plan amendment was completed throughout 2020 through public meetings and an on-line discussion and feedback. Prior to that, public engagement was indirect and was collected at all levels of local government agency meetings where the public was allowed to speak, and through correspondence with concerned residents over flood waters.

The level of engagement used as defined by the International Association for Public Participation's Public Participation

Spectrum was “involve” for development of the master plan amendment.

EQUITY ANALYSIS:

Public engagement for the master plan amendment was intended to reach as wide of an audience as possible and focused on gathering information from residents who live near the regional park. Physical barriers such as freeways, water bodies, railway corridors helped define physical mailed notices. The county used on-line resources such as the public library system, social media, agency partners and website to reach a larger regional audience. An equity analysis was conducted to provide approximate areas where the county could engage with park users that may live in areas of concentrated poverty, people of all ages, and people with diverse background or ethnicity.

The level of engagement as defined by the International Association for Public Participation Spectrum was “involve” for development of the focused master plan amendment.

ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION AND THEMES:

Due to the very focused nature of the this master plan, and the fact that the park was at the center of a multiple year flooding event that extended well beyond the park boundaries, people were generally already engaged or curious as to what was happening to address the situation. In person public meetings were extremely well attended. Pop-up meetings were very effective at allowing interaction with many different aged residents from kids to older adults, families, and individuals. Online engagement comments generally were provided by residents living closer to the park facilities. All the comments can be broken down into the following themes:

Infrastructure (Trails, Underpasses)

Many people did not express strong opinions on how to replace the flooded infrastructure. Participants were satisfied a plan was being developed to look at ways to reopen portions of the trail system that have been closed due to high water. Participants expressed that the plan should look at alternatives to flooded trail tunnel/underpasses. Comments also focused on the desire to try to replace trails where they are existing today, include trail loops, and more access points.

High Water (Pumping, adjacent property impacts)

Much of the park has wetlands or lakes that serve a larger area of the community to stormwater. The basins generally are landlocked with no natural outlets. This key science had to first presented to the public so they could understand the complex issues affecting the park land. Some comments requested the plan look at the possibility of pumping water from water bodies affected from the high water rather than replace flooded trails with boardwalks or other means.

Amenities (Beach, Shelter, Launch)

This area mainly deals with the picnic area of the Snail Lake Regional Park. Comments here were less numerous than ones regarding the trail system. The largest issue was dealing with noise and how it maybe adversely affecting the surrounding neighbors. Replacement of the flooded shelter needed to address this key issue. Prolonged high water had caused the beach to close and make the boat launch harder to use.

Natural Resources

High water has caused numerous trees to die throughout the park system. Concern for wetlands and how long term high water affects them as also mentioned in the comments.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

This master plan amendment is intended to address the flooded infrastructure and natural resources in the Snail Lake and Grass Lake section of the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park. Making up what is essentially the west half of the regional park, the Snail and Grass Lakes portion is broken down in the 1992 master plan into three segments: The Snail Lake picnic area segment, the corridor segment (Wetland A Area), and the Grass Lake segment. The following summarizes the proposed changes to the park infrastructure to make it resilient to future high water.

- Snail Lake Picnic Area Segment
 - Relocate the flooded small picnic shelter closer to the beach at a higher elevation and redesign the lower park parking lot for better circulation and improved stormwater infrastructure, and synergy with the swimming beach



- Relocate the flooded volley ball court to a location near the proposed location of the small shelter
 - Include additional amenities including but not limited to: picnic tables, benches, other court style activities such as bocce ball, tujlub, takraw etc. if space will allow for it
 - Look for ways to improve the boat launch under extreme high water and lower events
- Corridor Segment
 - Re-establish trails that flooded along the east side utilizing a boardwalk system where existing paved trails are no longer feasible
 - Create bypass trails with at-grade crossings to mitigate flooded trail underpasses in times of high water
 - Improve connections to adjacent neighborhoods
 - Keep existing natural surface trails natural
 - Minimize impacts to the floodplain and wetlands
 - Grass Lake Segment
 - Create a future trail loop around Grass Lake consisting of boardwalk, paved trails, and natural surface trails
 - Coordinate trunk sewer line relocation and associated trail changes with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
 - Make improvements to trail elevations where new or proposed high water outflows occur to reduce flooding and ensure usability

RESILIENCY TO FUTURE HIGH WATER

The need to improve park infrastructure to meet changing climatic conditions became clear while conducting the planning process for this master plan amendment. Over the passage of time, water levels can and have varied greatly across the region. There have been times of drought causing extremely low water levels, and long periods of excessive precipitation that have caused extended flooding. Each condition brings its own unique challenges to overcome when implementing recreational park amenities. All of the improvements discussed in the master plan amendment, have attempted to take into account the extremes that long term climatic shifts and weather patterns have on the natural and built environment.

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CHAPTER I

PLANNING FRAMEWORK



PLANNING FRAMEWORK

REGIONAL PARK OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Vadnais - Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan is to guide the development, preservation, management, and improvement of Vadnais - Snail Lake Regional Park. Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park consists of 1,695.5 acres including the 444-acre Grass Lake Section owned by Ramsey County, and the 1,252-acre Vadnais Lake and Sucker Lake segments owned by the Saint Paul Water Utility.

This master plan amends and updates the 1992 Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan, along with the amendment made in 1996 which added the Vadnais and Sucker Lakes area to the regional park. The 2020 Vadnais - Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Update is written to fulfill the requirements of the Metropolitan Council for regional park master plans as outlined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. This amendment focuses on park infrastructure and resources affected by high water throughout the Snail and Grass Lakes section of the regional park water bodies and wetlands only, and does not address other elements of the regional park infrastructure or programming. See Figure 1 for Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park location relative to other parks in the Ramsey County parks system.

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Regional parks and trails are developed in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to preserve green space for wildlife habitat and provide a wide range of natural resource related recreational opportunities. Established in 1974, the Regional Parks and Open Space System is managed by the Metropolitan Council in partnership with cities, counties, and special park districts. While the operation of the system is the responsibility of cities, counties, and special park districts, the Metropolitan Council supports it with planning, funding, and advocacy. Each implementing agency, such as Ramsey County, is responsible for the development of a master plan for its regional park, regional trail, and open space components. In 2018 the metropolitan regional park and trail system includes 56 regional parks and park reserves totaling more than 54,000 acres, nearly 400 miles of interconnected trails, and 8 special recreation features.

Under state law, the Met Council prepares a long-range plan for the Twin Cities region every 10 years. Thrive MSP 2040 sets the policy foundations for systems and policy plans developed. Thrive MSP 2040 is the vision created for the Minnesota seven county area around Minneapolis - St. Paul region for the next 30 years. It reflects concerns and aspirations, anticipates future needs in the region, and addresses metropolitan council's responsibility to future generations. Thrive's regional vision includes five desired outcomes: stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability. While each outcome is described below, it is important to note that the five outcomes reinforce and support one another to produce greater benefits than any single outcome alone. The outcomes provide policy direction for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship advances the Council's longstanding mission of orderly and economical development by responsibly managing the region's natural and financial resources, and main strategic investments in our region's future. Stewardship means:

- Responsibly managing our region's finite resources, including natural resources – such as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, high quality natural habitats, and agricultural soils, financial resources, and our existing investments in infrastructure
- Pivoting from expanding to maintaining our region's wastewater and highway infrastructure
- Leveraging transit investments with high expectations of land use

PROSPERITY

Prosperity is fostered by investments in infrastructure and amenities that make our region competitive in attracting and retaining successful businesses, a talented workforce, and strong economic opportunities. Regional economic competitiveness results from our strategic, long-term public and private decisions that build on and grow our region's economic strengths relative to other regions. Advancing prosperity includes:



Figure 1 - Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park in relation to the Ramsey County Parks System and other parklands



- Fostering conditions for shared economic vitality by balancing major investments across the region
- Protecting natural resources that are the foundation of prosperity
- Planning for and investing in infrastructure, amenities, and quality of life needed for economic competitiveness
- Encouraging redevelopment and infill development

EQUITY

Equity means connecting all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change. For our region to reach its full economic potential, all our residents must be able to access opportunity. Our region is stronger when all people live in communities that provide opportunities for success, prosperity, and quality of life. Promoting equity includes:

- Using the Council's influence and investments to build a more equitable region
- Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability
- Investing in a mix of housing affordability along the region's transit corridors
- Engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision-making

LIVABILITY

Livability focuses on the quality of our residents' lives and experiences in the region, and how places and infrastructure create and enhance the quality of life that makes our region a great place to live. With abundant and beautiful open space, an active arts community, a range of housing options, and a reasonable cost of living, the Twin Cities region is widely recognized for its high quality of life. Enhancing livability means:

- Increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation through regional parks and trails
- Providing transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means
- Supporting bicycle facilities to promote bicycling for transportation, recreation, and healthy lifestyles
- Aligning resources to support transit-oriented development and walkable places
- Promoting healthy communities and active living through land use, planning, and investments

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability means protecting our regional vitality for generations to come by preserving our capacity to maintain and support our region's well-being and productivity over the long term. The region's investments in prosperity, equity, and livability will fall short over the long term if the region exhausts its resources without investing in the future. Planning for sustainability means:

- Promoting the wise use of water through expanding water conservation and reuse, increasing groundwater recharge, and optimizing surface water and groundwater use
- Providing leadership, information, and technical assistance to support local governments' consideration of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience
- Operating the region's wastewater treatment and transit systems sustainably
- Additionally, Thrive identifies the principles of integration, collaboration, and accountability to carry out the Council's work. These three principles reflect the Council's efforts to integrate policy areas, support local governments and regional partners, and promote and implement the Thrive regional vision.

INTEGRATION

Integration is the intentional combining of related activities to achieve more effective results and leveraging multiple policy tools to address complex regional challenges and opportunities. The Thrive outcomes described above are lofty ideals that cut across the Council's functions and responsibilities. Pursuing them demands that the Council use its full range of authorities and activities in more coordinated ways. Achieving integration involves moving beyond organizational silos and coordinating effectively with partners and stakeholders across and throughout the region.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration recognizes that shared efforts advance our region most effectively toward shared outcomes. Addressing the region's issues requires collaboration because no single entity has the capacity or authority to do the work alone. For the Council, acting collaboratively means being open to shared strategies, supportive partnerships, and reciprocal relationships. It also represents convening the region's best thinkers, experts, and stakeholders to address complex regional issues beyond the capacity or authority of any single jurisdiction or institution. Additionally, it involves providing technical assistance and enhanced information to support local planning and decision-making.

ACCOUNTABILITY

For the Council, accountability includes a commitment to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our policies and practices toward achieving shared outcomes and a willingness to adjust course to improve performance. Acting accountably means: a) adopting a data-driven approach to measure progress, b) creating and learning from Thrive indicators, c) providing clear, easily accessible information, and d) fulfilling the Council's mission.

Thrive articulates a long-range vision for the region. The vision aims to foster and contribute to the five desired outcomes through the use of the three principles described above. While the focus in Thrive is on the overarching vision for the region, Thrive provides direction for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Thrive specifies that the Council will collaborate with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, regional park implementing agencies, and state partners to:

- Expand the Regional Parks System to conserve, maintain, and connect natural resources identified as being of high quality or having regional importance, as identified in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Provide a comprehensive regional park and trail system that preserves high-quality natural resources, increases climate resiliency, fosters healthy outcomes, connects communities, and enhances quality of life in the region
- Promote expanded multimodal access to regional parks, regional trails, and the transit network, where appropriate
- Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability
- The Snail Lake Master Plan Update supports the desired outcomes, principles, and additional directives for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan by:
 - Maintaining a unique ecosystem in an urban area, working to preserve native habitats and protecting water resources through sustainable development and low impact recreational activity.
 - Preserves high-quality natural resources within the regional park helping to increase climate resiliency, foster healthy outcomes, connect communities, and enhancing the quality of life in the region
 - Providing a vital link in the regional trail system connecting the Vadnais - Snail Lake Regional Park to the Hwy 96 Regional Trail, city of Shoreview Trail system, and beyond. This provides both transportation choices and recreational opportunity

The master plan will work towards an equitable outcome by increasing awareness, addressing safety, enhancing capacity of gathering spaces, increasing and diversifying programming, providing more events at the regional trail, and creating a welcome environment.

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Ramsey County is the most densely populated county in the State of Minnesota and the parks and open spaces held by Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department represent the largest undeveloped land area in the county at nearly 8,000 acres. Within the system there are six regional parks, six regional trails, nine county parks, nine protected open spaces, five golf courses and numerous recreation facilities. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department works in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council, the National Park Service, Saint Paul Regional Water Services, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), its municipalities, and other government units to advance park, recreation, and leisure opportunities for all Ramsey County residents.

The vision of Ramsey County is “A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive,” and the mission within the county is “A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life.” The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department follows this mission by preserving, developing, maintaining, and managing a system of parks, open space, trail corridors, and special use areas as well as providing year round recreational programs, services, and facilities which are responsive to changing needs, compatible with the resource base, and most effectively provided at the county level.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department supports the county vision and mission through:

Trail Services: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department coordinates the establishment of a Ramsey County trail network plan that connects significant natural and cultural features and implement those segments of county or regional significance that are located on Ramsey County park and open space land.

Open Space Preservation: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department acquires, protects, and manages unique, fragile, and aesthetically attractive natural resources that contribute positively to the urban landscape, and perform critical natural functions.

Natural Interpretation: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department promotes positive environmental values through an increased awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of natural resources and natural processes.

Outdoor Recreation Programming: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department sponsors or co-sponsors recreation programs that encourage development of resource oriented outdoor recreation skills and promote wellness. Special events are also organized that introduce people to recreation opportunities available within the system.

Special Recreation Services: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department provides areas, facilities, and programs of significance county-wide to meet specialized indoor and outdoor recreation needs of Ramsey County residents.

Park Services: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department provides diverse and accessible areas and facilities primarily for self-directed Ramsey County oriented outdoor recreation and that complements

Equitable Use: Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is working to strengthen equitable use of regional parks and trails, county parks, open spaces, along with other recreation facilities across all ages, races, ethnicities, incomes, national origins, and abilities.

21ST CENTURY PARKS INITIATIVE

In 2019, Ramsey County began the developemnt of a vision to redefine parks and recreation for the communities of Ramsey County for the 21st century. In advancing a 21st century parks & recreation system the county will:

- Take a residents first approach
- Engage in authentic and constructive community dialogue with underrepresented communities
- Be nimble and responsive
- Advance racial and health equity



- Ensure excellence in all that we provide

Advance Racial and Health Equity

- Partnering with organizations to better serve diverse residents.
- Offer facilitated programs to connect people to parks and recreation.
- Connect people to current facilities and be open to new opportunities.
- Build community through meaningful experiences.

Take a Residents First Approach

- Facilities will be energy efficient
- Accessible to all ages and abilities
- Reflective of the community's desires

Engage in Dialogue with

- Underrepresented communities
- Authentic and constructive community dialogue

Be Nimble and Responsive

- Flexibility of use
- Equitable use
- Social inclusion
- Multi-generational use

Implementing the 21st Century Vision

- Realign Ramsey County golf course portfolio
- Implement robust community engagement to evaluate the parks system and facilities
- Advance Ramsey County's Vision, Mission, Goals, and Strategic Priorities
- Continue implementation in the next budget cycle

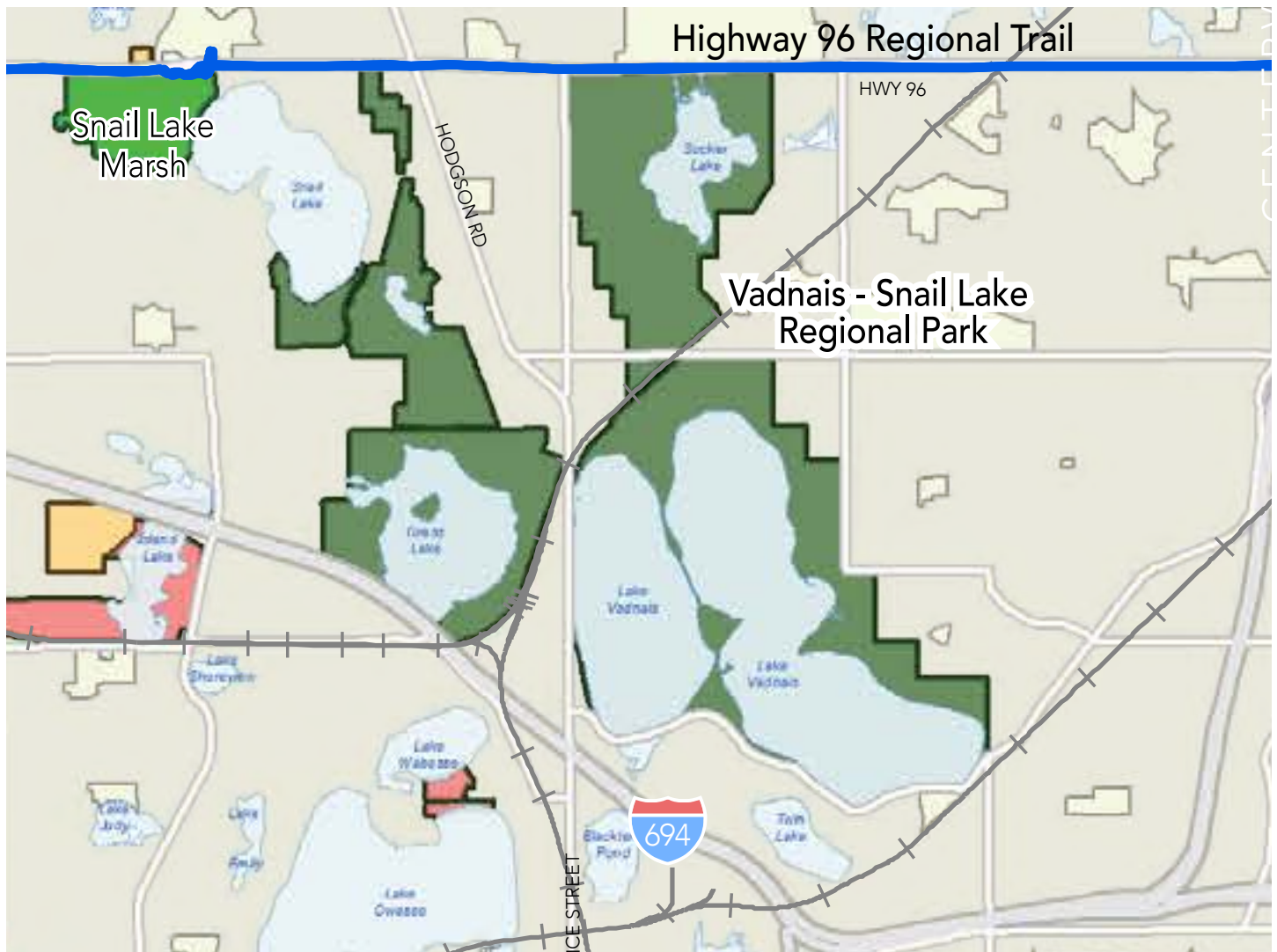


Figure 2 - Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Area Context

VADNAIS SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK CONTEXT PARK HISTORY

The purpose of the Vadnais - Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan is to guide the development, preservation, management, and improvement of the Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park which consists of 1,695.5 acres, consisting of two sections: the 444-acre Snail Lake /Grass Lake segments owned by Ramsey County, and the 1,252-acre Vadnais Lake and Sucker Lake segments owned by the Saint Paul Water Utility.

First developed in 1992, the Snail Lake Regional Park master plan excluded the eastern half of the park that consists of the Vadnais and Sucker Lakes areas. In 1996, a master plan was developed exclusively for the Vadnais Lake and Sucker Lake segments owned by Saint Paul Regional Water Services due to the need to develop an approved joint powers agreement between Ramsey County and Saint Paul Regional Water Services. In 1996, the master plan for the Vadnais Lake and Sucker Lake segments was approved as the "Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Amendment" by the Metropolitan Council. The approval of this master plan amendment encompassed all of the segments, which combined are now called Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park. See Figure 2 - Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park area context map.

RECENT WATER LEVELS HISTORY

The Snail Lake /Grass Lake segments, have had rising surface and groundwaters affecting the region over the past decade. Developed neighborhoods of habitable structures and regional transportation infrastructure have become adversely

affected from the result of the high water. Reliance on the natural basins and wetland complexes for flood water storage in the overall watershed have become paramount to prevent further negative impacts to the regional transportation system, residential neighborhoods, and business districts. Much of the available storage for excess water is located within the park land that is encompassed by the regional park system.

The cause of high water has been influenced by a multitude of factors, including increased annual precipitation, past development in areas of low elevation, higher regional groundwater, segmenting of natural historic surface water course, and elimination of natural water storage basins.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department has been working with other agencies to help address flooding in the short term and to help develop options for long term solutions, including: Ramsey County Public Works, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, the city of Shoreview, the city of Vadnais Heights, city of Little Canada, and the Department of Natural Resources. This ongoing agency coordination and partnership has been necessary to understand impacts beyond the regional park boundaries and the necessity of managing regional surface and ground water.

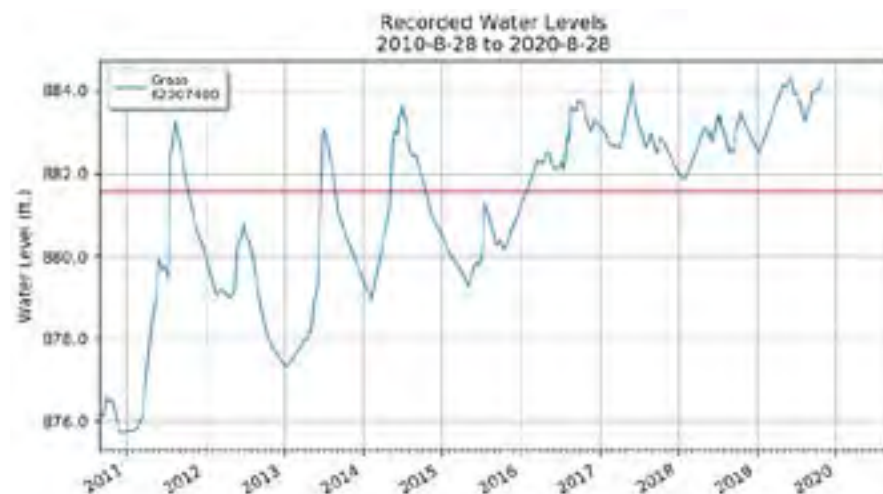


Grassie Road flooded trail pedestrian tunnel at Grass Lake - view looking North.

CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMARY/HIGHWATER IN THE PARK

The state of Minnesota and Ramsey County have experienced abnormally high precipitation over the past decade, causing high water in lakes, wetlands and rivers. Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park and the surrounding area has also been experiencing high surface and ground water causing flooding as a result of above average precipitation occurring in consecutive years from 2013 - 2019. This area is located within the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD), while West Vadnais Lake is part of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO). The Shoreview area surrounding the park has seen the wettest 5-year period on record, which dates back to 1891. The average annual precipitation, typically 30", has been exceeding 36" per year with one year exceeding 46" of annual precipitation.

The Grass Lake area basin encompasses the lowest portion of Shoreview and has become landlocked due to urbanization over time that includes construction of railroads, roadways and housing. Increased impervious surfaces throughout the



Record water levels chart provided by Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District

area have raised the volume of stormwater that is collected in the water bodies. The regional park incorporates the lowest portions of the basin made of up wetlands and ponding areas that are needed to allow water to collect to prevent habitable structures from flooding throughout the entire watershed. The area was able to manage its watershed until recent years due to increased precipitation. Restrictions downstream, due to other flood-prone areas throughout the watershed, limit how fast water can exit the Snail/Grass Lakes basin.

Snail Lake is not connected by surface flow

to the Grass Lake basin, but may be connected by ground water. Snail Lake has a small watershed draining to it and the lake has no natural remaining surface outlet. Generally, Snail Lake relies on infiltration or evaporation to maintain surface water elevations. Historical elevations of Snail and Grass Lakes indicate a trend and correlation of higher precipitation in consecutive years. This has resulted in higher groundwater, more surface runoff and little infiltration creating lake level elevation increase. (Please refer to Appendix for more information on high water, work completed, and solutions.)

IMPACTS TO PARK FACILITIES

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department has managed impacts to the trails, beach and boat launch within the regional park. Department staff has been working with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to make changes to drainage patterns which further protect homes from flooding. In addition, the department has been working with the City of Shoreview to place temporary pumps and equipment in the park to keep roads from flooding.

Utilizing information and analysis collected over the past several years, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department has been able to address the flooded beach and picnic areas at Snail Lake. Due to repeated requests from the public, the public beach was modified during the winter of 2019 - 2020 to accommodate the new high water levels. The beach was open for the summer 2020 season.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department worked with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to combine a trail and flood diversion berm at Grass Lake, along with other drainage optimization measures south of Snail Lake. This master plan update for the flood impacted areas of the park includes these modifications and includes realignment of the trail system to provide resiliency to future flooding while maintaining the usability of the trail system. Refer to the development section of this plan for more detailed infrastructure changes.



New Grass Lake overflow est. 2018 by Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District.

BOUNDARIES AND ACQUISITION COSTS

Currently, there are no properties available for acquisition and inclusion into the regional park system in the area around Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park. Acquisition details can be found in the "Acquisition Details" chapter of the 1992 master plan and 1996 master plan amendment.

FUTURE BOUNDARY AND EASEMENT ADJUSTMENTS

- The Sioux Line Railroad right of way - This property is proposed to be included in future park acquisition if and when it would become available. Property currently is used as an active railway corridor, located along the east side of the Grass Lake segment of the regional park. There is no timetable or cost analysis for this potential future acquisition. It is also unknown if this corridor would serve regional park expansion or a larger regional trail corridor.
- Fox UTV Holdings Inc & Delaware Corporation communications tower - located adjacent to the west of the Grass Lake segment of the regional park, this property comprises 57 acres. The property has been used as the site for a major communications tower for the region since the 1960s. The property prior to the use for communications, was farmland. Much of the existing natural resources are remnant farm areas and old fields. The development footprint of the existing infrastructure is small relative to the size of the property, however much of the property is protected by the FCC regulations and winter ice debris from guy wires and the tower presents a danger to public use. Please see Figure 3 for the location map showing these described potential future acquisition subject properties.

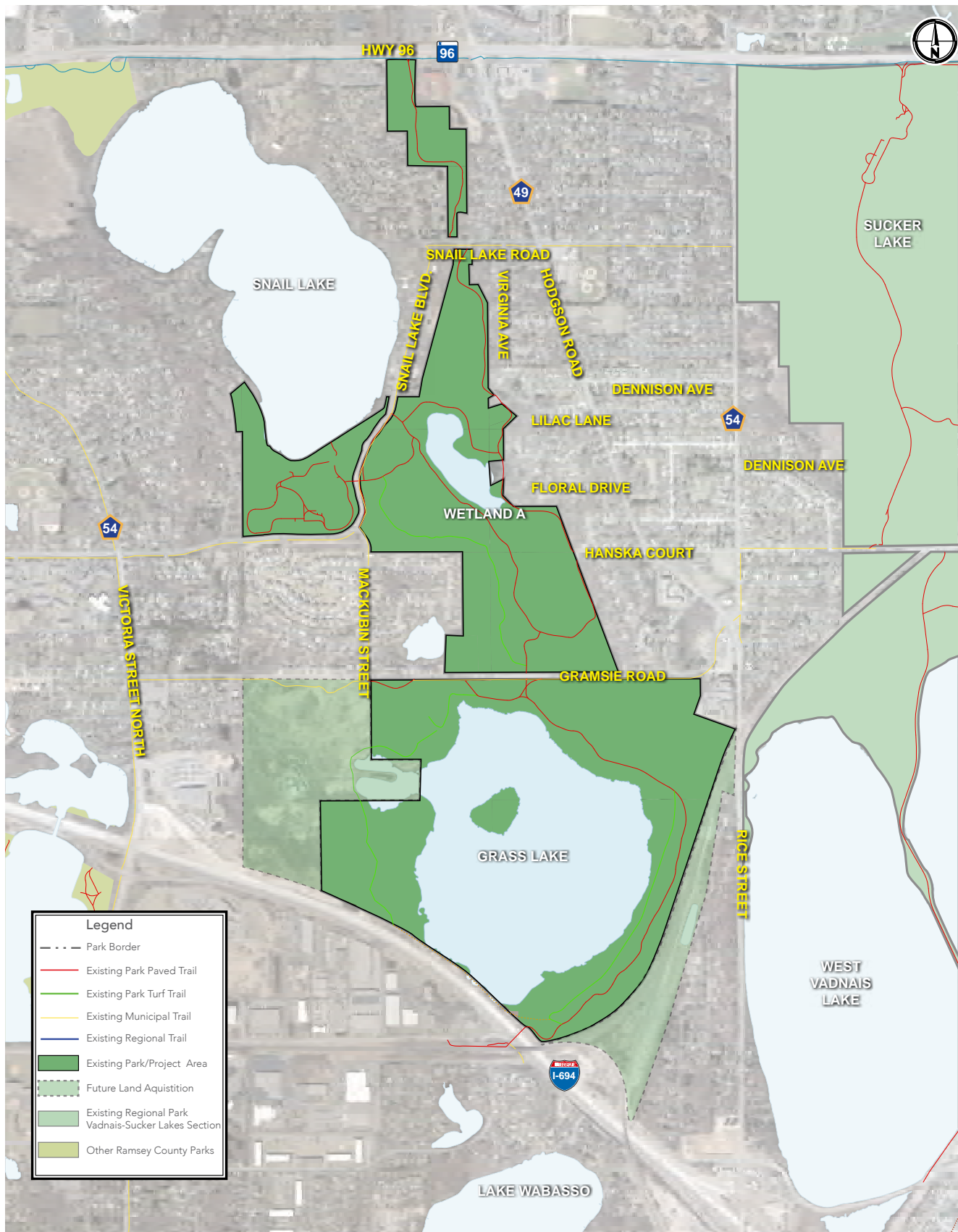


Figure 3 - Master plan amendment boundaries diagram: showing areas by ownership and management and future acquisitions (public/private owned inholdings)

DEMAND FORECAST

The recreational demand to be met for the park infrastructure as identified by the Metropolitan Council and the regional park implementing agency is listed in the original 1992 master plan and 1996 master plan amendment. Refer to those documents for details.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The following represents new public services that have been created in the regional park. Refer to the 1992 master plan for the list of public services originally documented.

SNAIL LAKE – LAKE LEVEL MONITORING 2020

Snail Lake surface water elevation is monitored by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. In the past, a staff gauge was placed in the lake with surveying equipment each year. This gauge would then be read by a staff person in the field. With the onset of record high water, the need to have real time data has become extremely important. The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District requested an agreement to place a digital lake level monitoring station in the park near the lake outlet at the Snail Lake boat launch. The equipment was installed in the spring of 2020 under an agreement between Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REGIONAL SANITARY SEWER INTERCEPTOR - LINE RELOCATION AT GRASS LAKE - 2021

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services has planned to relocate the regional sanitary sewer interceptor and permanent easement for the infrastructure in the Grass Lake segment of the regional park. Refer to the Grass Lake segment development section for a detailed description.

CITY OF SHOREVIEW PARCELS ON THE EAST SIDE OF CORRIDOR SEGMENT FOR SANITARY ACCESS.

Trails constructed by the county along the east side of the corridor segment and the wetland are located on city owned property parcels. These parcels exist as part of the platted residential development to facilitate the connection of the local sanitary sewer system to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services owned regional interceptor line which is located within the park. An easement and maintenance agreement between Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department and the City of Shoreview will need to be developed for these segments of trails and any future planned improvements.

CORRIDOR SEGMENT PIEZOMETERS - 2017

Groundwater monitoring wells have been installed in the corridor segment (Wetland A area of the park) by Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. These piezometers measure and monitor groundwater in the area. Groundwater and surface water both influence water levels in the park. An agreement for the ground water monitoring wells has been established between Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department and Ramsey-Washington metro Watershed District.

GRAMSIE ROAD STORMWATER, SUZANNE POND PUMP STATION AND GRAMSIE ROAD STORMWATER REDIRECTION – 2020

The City of Shoreview owns and operates the Suzanne Pond lift station just to the southwest of the corridor segment. There is an easement for an access road between Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department and the city. The lift station provides a vital function to keep water from rising in the Crestview addition neighborhood and impacting habitable structures. The lift station requires rebuilding to deal with the amount of water required to be pumped. The water is pumped to the south under Gramsie Road through the park to Grass Lake. As part of the improvements, the pipe to Grass lake requires reconstruction. In addition, high water collected by the Gramsie Road storm sewer system collects in a pond south of Gramsie Road that, during low water, gravity flows to Grass Lake. During high-water events, Grass Lake backs up the pipe and floods the road. To prevent this, the City of Shoreview is redirecting Gramsie Road



stormwater to the north and east through a new pipe, where it can collect in what is termed, the northwest Gramsie Road Pond. From there, high water will flow to the west to Suzanne Pond and then be pumped to Grass Lake. The final part of the project will involve raising a portion of Gramsie road to an elevation of 886.0 feet and installing an at-grade trail crossing which will reconnect trails from the Corridor Segment back to the Grass Lake trail system.

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CHAPTER II

NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING





NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING

The natural resources within the Snail/Grass Lakes section of the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park will be restored and managed according to the goals stated in the natural resources section of the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department 2018 system plan. Restoration and maintenance of natural areas will be a priority throughout the park to carry out the mission of providing adequate sustainable habitat to support populations of native wildlife species.

OVERALL PARK GOALS

- Protect high-quality environmental sensitive areas
- Restore degraded natural resources
- Maintain critical natural processes
- Incorporate natural resource management into park maintenance
- Increase environmental education, awareness and appreciation of natural resources
- Promote a positive environmental ethic
- Manage for healthy wildlife populations
- Incorporate long term maintenance plans for restored habitat
- Secure funding for ongoing maintenance
- Information below includes natural resource inventory and management and social aspects

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

HISTORIC LAND COVER

The native vegetation (vegetation of Minnesota at the time of the public land survey: 1847 -1907) within the area consisted of Big Woods - Hardwoods (oak, maple, basswood, hickory). Also, within the vicinity of the area were portions mapped as Lakes (open water), as well as Wet Prairie and Oak Openings and Barrens. Pre-settlement vegetative cover in the area was derived from Francis J. Marschner's map of the original vegetation of the State of Minnesota. This information was spatially compiled by Francis J. Marschner in 1930 through the interpretation of original vegetation notes collected by land surveyors during the general land officer survey of Minnesota which was conducted between 1847 and 1907. This data were then digitized by the Minnesota DNR for use in a GIS.

AERIAL PHOTO REVIEW

Reviewing aerial photos from 1945 to present shows that most of the parkland and immediate surrounding upland areas that were of flat terrain were farmed, namely around the Gramsie road area. Over the years these areas transitioned to residential neighborhoods. Rolling hill upland areas to steep to farm areas, consisted of open canopy oak woodlands with herbaceous understory which succeeded into closed canopy systems of oak and mixed woodlands that exist today. The signature of the wetlands throughout the park have changed very little through the past 75 years.

ECOLOGICAL CLASSES

This park segment is located in the Eastern Broadleaf Forest (EBF) Province portion of Minnesota. In Minnesota, the Eastern Broadleaf Province covers nearly 12 million acres (4.9 million hectares) of the central and southeastern parts of the state and serves as a transition between semi-arid portions of the state that were historically prairie and semi-humid mixed conifer-deciduous forests to the northeast. The western boundary of the province in Minnesota is sharply defined along much of its length as an abrupt transition from forest and woodland to open grassland. The northeastern boundary is more diffuse, with a gradual transition between eastern deciduous forests and the mixed conifer-hardwood forests of northern Minnesota. The park segment is located in the Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal Section (MIM). The Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal Section is a long band of deciduous forest, woodland, and prairie that stretches nearly 350 miles (560km) from Polk County in northwestern Minnesota to the Iowa border. Within the Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal Section, there are multiple ecological subsections, this park is uniquely



positioned so that it straddles the mapped boundary between two ecological subsections. The eastern half of the park is located in the Anoka Sand Plain ecological subsection, with the western half located in the St. Paul - Baldwin Plains ecological subsection.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LAND COVER

Current vegetation within the corridor consists of the following land cover types: shrub swamp, converted native prairie, mixed woods, wetland, old field, cultivated conifers, active use areas and open water consisting of grass and snail lake, open water wetlands and storm water ponds. These land cover classes were created for the park wide system plan so that restoration management practices and costs could be projected across the park system with greater ease. These land cover types were delineated in 2018 and used the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System, 2010 national wetland inventory and historic county aerial photography to determine the park classification type. A future vegetation land cover layer was also created to highlight any major planned land cover conversions. See figure 4 and figure 5 for the current and future land cover maps.

RECOGNIZED AND PROTECTED PLANT COMMUNITIES AND AREAS

The wetland and oak woodlands in the corridor section of the park and all of the Grass Lake section is classified by the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department as an Environmental Natural Area. These Environmental Natural Areas have been identified in Regional Parks having significant natural resources. Environmental Natural Areas (ENA) are defined within Regional Parks as having significant, sensitive, and unique natural resources to Ramsey County that warrant extended preservation. The habitat and vegetation within these areas is managed to support and enhance these natural communities. These areas are designated for increased habitat protection, ecological restoration, passive recreation and environmental education. Any development expansion within these areas is limited to trails only, with nature interpretation facilities allowed within the planned development areas of Tamarack Nature Center only. Public access to these areas is restricted to designated trails and the use of these areas is limited to passive forms of recreation such as hiking, skiing and nature viewing. Bicycles and off-road cycling is allowed only on designated trails. Dogs and off-trail activities are not allowed. Grass lake and the oak woodlands in the central section are recognized by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as sites of biodiverse significance. In addition, Grass Lake is listed under the Minnesota DNR native plant communities database list as MRn83 - Northern Mixed Cattail Marsh and WFn64b - Black Ash - Yellow

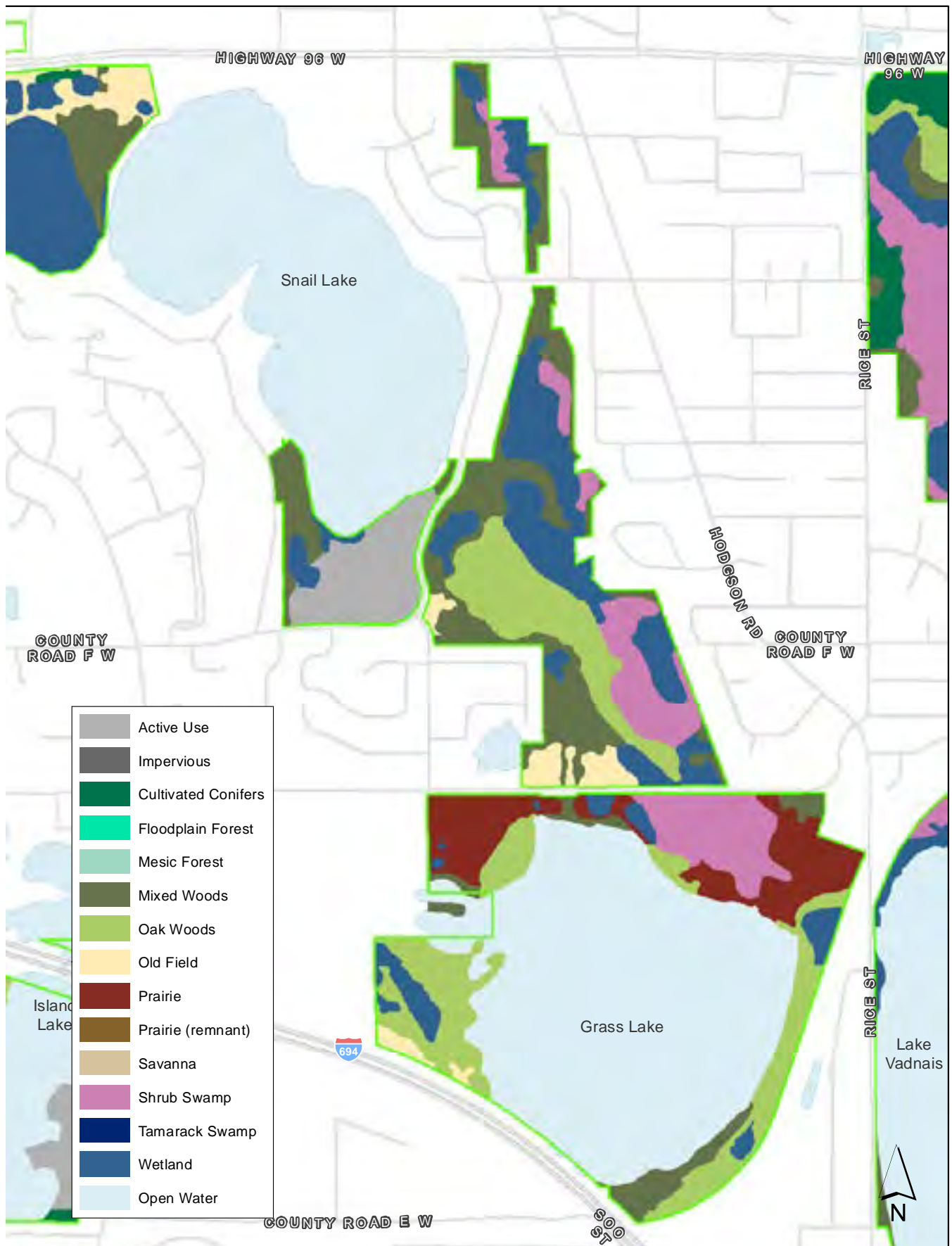


Figure 4 - Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park - Existing land Cover Map

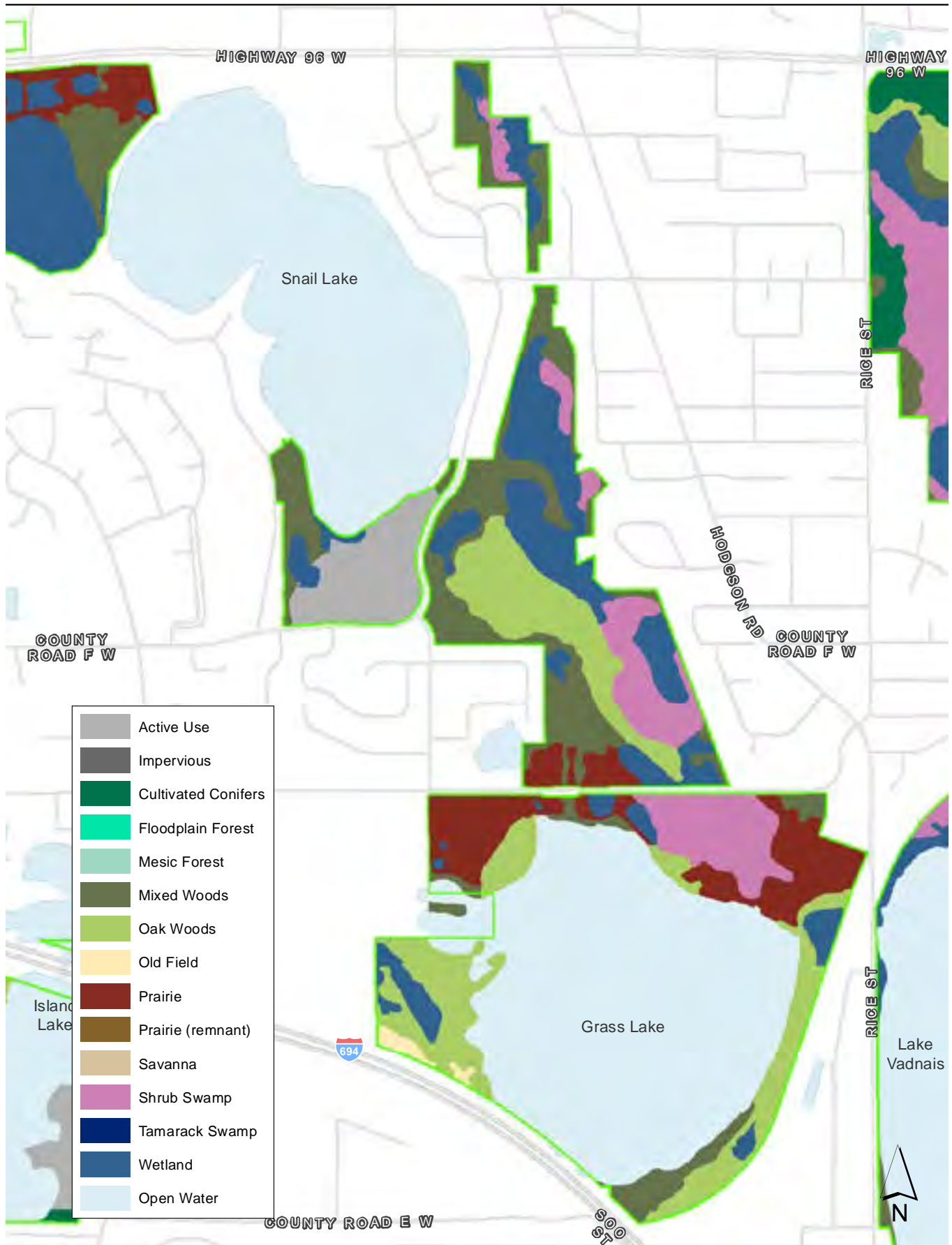


Figure 5 - Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park - Proposed Natural Resources Land Cover Map

Birch - Red Maple - Alder Swamp (Eastcentral), which warrants extra preservation.

RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

DETERMINING RESTORATION COSTS AND OBJECTIVES

The estimated cost for restoration of current and future land cover conversion, restoration and maintenance for the Snail/Grass lake section of the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park is derived from the 2018 parks system plan. Land cover conversion and habitat restoration will be completed as funding is secured with importance given to priority habitat connected to larger tracts. Most habitat restoration or land cover conversion is a long process and will take years for the initial restoration project to be completed. Maintenance of restored areas will be ongoing and at a minimum of every three years for most items (for example, prescribed burns of prairies or foliar spray of re-sprouting buckthorn seedlings). Maintenance will also be variable depending on funding.

Land cover and habitat table attributes include the following:

- Acres – the number of acres of current and future land cover
- Current Land Cover – the land cover type that currently exists within the park
- Proposed Land Cover – the land cover type that is proposed for conversion or restoration
- Restoration Activity – the type of restoration proposed for any given land cover. Most of the restoration activities proposed are standard practices that will be implemented, however, other practices will be considered as new or innovative restoration practices arise.
- Activity Cost – the total cost of each restoration activity for the specified land cover conversion or habitat restoration. This cost may deviate pending on known factors that may increase or decrease cost, such as topography. A list of restoration activity costs per acre is listed below.
- Priority – a number given to help prioritize the management and restoration for specified habitat, given the habitat features described below:
 1. Important native habitat, highly connected to other habitats, large size, contains species of conservation need.
 2. Has some connections to other habitats, medium to large in size, contains species of conservation need, may include native habitats.
 3. Adjacent to other habitats, medium to small in size, if restored would be used by species of conservation need, and may contain remnants of native habitat.
 4. Highly degraded habitat, isolated, small size, no species of conservation need
 - Maintenance – typical maintenance required following the initial habitat restoration. Projected to be completed ever three years.
 - Maintenance Cost (every 3 years) - total maintenance cost. Projected to be spent every three years.

The projected costs shown were derived from years of contractor costs per acre for work tasks listed and have proven to be quite accurate when contracting for current restoration projects. Once an area within a park is identified for restoration or conversion it can be further defined using the Minnesota DNR native plant community classification. Once the native plant community is defined the associated plant community fact sheet can be used to determine the vegetation structure and composition that should exist on site. One of the major objectives is to restore and maintain a defined area to the native vegetation specifications listed within the plant community fact sheet.

RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING

All initial restoration projects listed are primarily funded by the Minnesota DNR Conservation Partners Legacy program which is provided by through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendments Outdoor Heritage Funds. Additional funding is provided by Ramsey County, the City of Shoreview and the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

Ongoing maintenance funds will include state and county funding and will be defined within proposed three year maintenance plans that will be drafted following the completion of current and future restoration projects.

PAST RESTORATION

Past restoration projects within the corridor include the conversion of old fields, north of Grass Lake, to 30 acres of prairie, around 2010. These are currently being managed as mesic prairies consisting of predominantly big blue stem with a good healthy mix of many forbs, including wild bergamont, and round headed bush clover. This site is currently being managed by prescribed burns every 3 -5 years and having crews remove encroaching woody vegetation as needed. Other past projects included an oak woodland restoration project on the east side of Grass Lake. This project removed invasive shrubs, mainly buckthorn, and established native understory, including regenerating oak trees, and native shrubs, forbs and grasses throughout the oak woodlands. This section of woods is currently being managed using prescribed burns and foliar spot spraying of reemerging buckthorn. Ongoing maintenance of established prairie areas include spot spraying, cutting back woody invasives and prescribed burns every 3 to 5 years or as needed. Ongoing maintenance of woodlands will include foliar spraying of invasive vegetation, prescribed burns as needed, native herbaceous seed establishment, and oak regeneration plantings.

CURRENT RESTORATION

Current restoration projects include an oak woodland and wetland buffer restoration project and shoreline revegetation and stabilization project. The Ramsey County Parks & recreation department is partnering with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District in both of these restoration efforts. The oak woodland and buffer project include all of the parkland north of Gramsie road, south of Snail Lake road and east of Snail lake boulevard, totaling 65 plus acres. The focus of this work includes restoring the oak woodlands, adjacent mesic woods, wetland buffer and conversion of 2.6 acres of old field to native prairie. In addition to the aspen and mixed woodlands surrounding these land cover types. The shoreline project is a native shoreline planting between the beach and boat launch in an effort to revegetate and stabilize this shoreline, which historically consisted of sparse vegetation and erosion issues. A three-year maintenance plan will be drafted in the winter of 2020-2021 which will outline the ongoing costs and objectives to maintain the lands following the initial restoration.

FUTURE RESTORATION

Future restoration and ongoing maintenance include an oak woodland restoration project west of Grass Lake which will begin later in 2020 and will include the removal of invasive species, mainly buckhorn through 22 acres of oak woodlands. What remains to be restored, after the completion of restorations listed, is small areas of mixed woods and unused turf and fields and natural areas within the active use area. These areas will be assessed, and plans will be made to determine the need and cost effectiveness of habitat restoration. An example of this would be to assess the unused turf and brome fields within the active use area for conversion to native prairie or oak woodlands.

INVASIVE PLANTS & ANIMALS

Invasive vegetation has become widespread throughout the park and include common and glossy buckthorn throughout, and garlic mustard in select areas. Siberian elm and black locust are prominent along parkland edges and are spreading into woodland areas and encroaching into prairies. Invasives in and around surface waters include reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, invasive cattail. Some common invasive animal species that impact the native resources within the corridor include the house sparrow, invasive earthworms, and common carp which is prevalent in Grass Lake.

Efforts to control established species and eradicate emerging species will be ongoing. Surveying the corridor annually will be completed to locate emerging invasive species and monitor established species following restoration projects, so that treatment options can be made. Treatment options will depend on the density and range of the vegetation and can include hand pulling, foliar spraying, prescribed burns and reestablishment of native vegetation to out compete invasives. Emerging invasive vegetation will continue to be monitored and uploaded into the national database which is the Great Lakes Early Detection Network or Midwest Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMaps Midwest).

Invasive animals within the corridor can cause negative effects on native wildlife and vegetation. Invasive animals will be monitored and efforts to control and/or eradicate invasive animals within the corridor will be examined and will



Figure 6 - Area hydrology and wetland resources map.

depend heavily on species density and funding.

WILDLIFE

The park hosts a variety of wildlife. The park has a variety of nesting songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. Larger mammals include white-tailed deer, coyotes, red fox and raccoons. There are species that have been documented by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Inventory that are protected, species of greatest conservation need, or species of special concern. These species include the Blanding's turtle, red shouldered hawk and pugnose shiner and least darter found in Snail lake.

Wildlife management within the corridor includes deer management, bird monitoring and providing nesting structures. Deer populations in the area are surveyed annually to determine the need and location for special archery hunts within the corridor. A special archery deer hunt, under the provisions of the annual Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan and in partnership with the city of Shoreview is an option for management. The deer population in this segment of the park has been below the threshold since 2014 and therefore has not required any management.

WATER RESOURCES

Surface water features in the park include, Snail lake, of which the park has around 2300 feet of mostly natural shoreline, Grass Lake, and the Wetland A complex, with some smaller isolated wetlands throughout the park. The surface waters within and abutting park land are the focus of which recreation and habitat revolves around, as Grass Lake and wetlands make up more than 60% of the land cover within the park's jurisdictional boundaries. See figure 6 for area hydrology map.

Snail and Grass Lake are part of the public waters inventory and are regulated by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and Army Corps of Engineers. The wetlands throughout the park are regulated by the federal and state wetland conservation act which is overseen by state and local government agencies. The surface and groundwater monitoring and regulatory authority within the corridor is completed by local, state, and federal agencies, primarily the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, of which this park segment lies entirely within. The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department must consult with the watershed district if projects arise that may have an impact on wetlands, groundwater or have an increase in stormwater volume to contributing surface waters within the park. The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District houses water quality data for Snail lake, which is not impaired for nutrients and overall is a lake of good quality with numerous game fish and minnow species.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department objective is to protect and preserve all surface waters and wetlands within this segment and park system throughout and to keep and improve natural buffers, especially adjacent to existing developed areas. Surface water and wetland protection and preservation is a priority within the park and all local, state and federal wetland protection and regulations will be followed. When development within the park is proposed the steps will include avoiding impacts first; second, minimize impacts; and, finally, mitigate impacts when no other options are available. Areas located within the park where there is surface / ground water interaction should be recognized when planning any future development within the park. Surface water best management practices will be considered in the planning of any future development within the park to meet regulatory agencies requirements and beyond.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

According to the atlas, the surficial sediments of Ramsey County can be completely attributed to the advance, wastage, and stagnation of two large scale glacial ice lobes; the Superior lobe and the Grantsburg sublobe of the Des Moines lobe, as well as the meltwater issuing from these ice lobes.

The surficial geology within this park area is mapped as areas of Organic sediment (oh) and Till (tg). Areas of Organic sediment area associated with the Holocene and include peat, shallow lakes, and marshes. Areas of Till contain deposits associated with the Superior lobe. The texture is commonly sandy loam, in some places, clay loam to silty clay. In the north section of the park is sandy lake sediment derived from the Grantsburg lobe.

RAMSEY COUNTY SOIL SURVEY

According to the Ramsey County Soil Survey, a variety of upland and wetland soil types have been mapped within the

park boundary. Soils located within wetland portions of the site are lacustrine soils and are comprised of hydric soils including Kratka fine sandy loam, Seelyeville muck soils, Cathro muck soils, Markey muck soils, depressional Isanti loamy fine sand, and poorly drained Bluffton loam. A small area was also mapped as Udifluvents. Upland, non-hydric soils contained within the park include Braham loamy fine sand, Zimmerman loamy fine sands, Demontreville loamy fine sands, Santiago silt loams, Soderville loamy fine sand, Crystal Lake silt loams, Kingsley sandy loams, Lino Variant loamy fine sands, and areas mapped as urban-land soils. Each soil series is generally described below.

Bluffton soils consist of very poorly drained, slowly permeable soils that form in loamy glacial till. These soils are in drainageways and the slope is usually less than 2%.

Braham series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in a sandy glacial outwash or eolian mantle and underlying calcareous, loamy till. These soils are on moraines. They have rapid permeability in the upper mantle and moderate to moderately slow permeability in the underlying till. Slopes range from 6 to 30%.

Cathro soils are very poorly drained soils often in small depressions on till plains and the outer fringes of outer bogs. These soils formed in moderately deep decomposed organic materials over loamy materials. Permeability varies from moderately slow to moderately rapid in the organic layers and from moderately slow to moderate in the underlying mineral materials. Slope is usually less than 2%. Cathro soils are usually adjacent to the Rifle and Seelyeville soils, as is the cast within the Project boundary.

Crystal Lake soils consist of moderately well drained, moderately permeable soils on glacial lake plains. Crystal Lake soils formed in 20 to 40 inches of silty, lacustrine sediments. Slopes are usually 1 to 3%.

Demontreville soils consist of well drained soils on capped ground moraine. These soils formed in moderately thick sandy mantle of lacustrine material and the underlying loamy glacial till. They have rapid permeability in the upper sandy mantle and moderately slow permeability in the underlying glacial till. Slope is typically 1 to 25%.

Isanti soils consist of very poorly drained, rapidly permeable soils on outwash plains. They formed in sandy outwash. Slopes ranges are typically 0 to 2%.

Kingsley soils consist of well drained, moderately slowly permeable soils on end moraines. They formed in glacial till. Slope ranges are typically 2 to 30%.

Kratka soils have moderately rapid or rapid permeability in the upper part and moderately rapid to moderately slow permeability in the lower part. Slopes range from 0 to 2%.

Lino Variant soils consist of moderately well drained, rapidly permeable soils on outwash plains and lake plains. They formed in fine sandy outwash material. Slope ranges from 2 to 6%.

Markey soils consist of very poor drained, moderately rapidly permeable soils. The soils formed in 15 to 50 inches of organic material over sandy materials. They are in bogs and other depressional areas on outwash plains, lake plains and moraines.

Santiago soils consist of well drained, moderately slowly permeable soils on loess mantled glacial uplands. These soils formed in 15 to 30 inches of loess and the underlying loamy glacial till. Slope ranges are typically 2 to 15%.

Seelyeville soils consist of very poorly drained, moderately rapidly permeable soils in depressions on outwash plains, in valley trains, and on glacial moraines. Seelyeville soils formed in highly decomposed organic materials. Seelyeville soils typically have organic soil materials extending to a depth of more than 51 inches.

Soderville series consists of very deep, moderately well drained soils formed in sandy eolian or glacial outwash on outwash plains. Permeability is rapid in upper part and moderately rapid in the lower part. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent.

Udifluvents are somewhat poorly drained soils occurring within nearly level to gently sloping landscape positions on shorelines along lakes, rivers, and sloughs. Individual areas are often 20 to 80 feet wide, frequently are elongated in shape, and range from 5 to 40 acres in size.

Zimmerman soils consist of excessively drained, rapidly permeable soils on outwash plains. They formed in deeply leached fine sandy material. Slopes typically range from 0 to 25%.

SOCIAL ASPECT



People are part of nature. The decisions and actions of humans have been a major force shaping the natural resources and processes of the park for a long time. Humans and their values must be an important factor in shaping park management. Recreation is an important goal of park management. Natural resources management needs to consider providing for appropriate active and passive recreation opportunities in the park. Ecosystem-based management suggests that people are part of the community, and that maintaining a healthy ecosystem is the best way to meet human needs as well as those of other organisms in the community for the long-term. Managing on an ecosystem basis integrates scientific knowledge and human values toward a general goal of protecting the health of the ecosystem for the long term. The need to serve a large urban population bring conflicts between maintaining the quality of natural resources and desires for recreational opportunities. Some species and communities are altered or eliminated by a high degree of human contact, trampling, or other activity. Activities also cause soil erosion and spread exotic species. Some conflicts concerning management of park areas adjacent to private homes, include intrusion of neighbor's yards into park land, neighbors' objections to relaxed mowing regimes in the park, and dumping of trash and yard waste, onto parkland. These conflicts suggest that neighbors may have limited knowledge, interest or ownership of park lands. Some neighbors have volunteered in the park, but further promotion of volunteer and environmental education and outreach needs to happen in order to connect park neighbors and the general public closer to the natural parkland. An education, outreach and encroachment prevention plan should be considered for the park so that impacts, objectives and tasks can be identified for a long-term goal of increased social improvement and interaction.

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CHAPTER III

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION & MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION & MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

PARK SYSTEM PLAN

Prior to this master planning process, previous public engagement during the preparation of the 2018 Parks & Recreation department system plan included opportunities for residents, community organizations, local partners, and park staff to participate in the planning process. The Parks & Recreation department recognized a need to engage the community in reviewing current recreation trends, park use, and available recreation amenities through various methods to solicit input.

Comprehensive Needs Analysis

A comprehensive needs analysis was completed to emphasize community priorities and support a needs-based allocation of funding for parks and recreation services. The anticipated outcomes for this analysis included:

- Documenting existing park and recreation facilities, how they are used, who uses them and where improvements can be made
- Helping county officials, park staff and residents determine what steps to take to ensure all communities in Ramsey County have adequate access to our parks and open spaces
- Determining the size, location and number of future parks in Ramsey County
- System Plan Public Engagement Methods

The System Plan community engagement process was conducted using two methods:

- Electronic Online Survey
- Pop-Up Table Meetings

Electronic media such as social media, website, and email blasts were used to inform residents of upcoming engagement opportunities.

Online Survey

The online survey was launched in July 2017 and remained active until February 2, 2018. Almost 1,000 responses were received.

Public Engagement Meetings

A series of nine informal or “pop-up” table meetings were conducted at various libraries, community centers, and ice arenas located across the county.

Public Engagement Results

The following themes emerged from an analysis of the input received through the community engagement process:

1. Gaps
 - Trail connections
 - Add facilities with food/concessions
 - Add facilities with recreation rentals such as watercraft and bikes
 - Extended park hours
2. Parks & Trails
 - More mountain bike and cross-country ski trails
 - Develop a new nature center
 - Trail development for better connections to parks and communities

- Add or improve recreation amenities (playgrounds, nature playground)
- Add rental facilities

3. Programming

- More programming throughout system
- Nature programming
- Recreation programming

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR VADNAIS - SNAIL LAKE REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

Agency Involvement and Coordination

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department staff had been in discussions surrounding the high waters in the park area since 2016 and had worked with staff from the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, City of Shoreview, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to help address flooding concerns affecting areas both in and beyond the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park boundaries. Partnerships formed prior to the master planning process allowed for a much more collaborative process to help address comments and ideas received from the public. Detailed studies and engineering work completed by these other agencies was used to address the public feedback, concept ideas, and develop realistic changes to existing and proposed infrastructure to ensure it was feasible, resilient and realistic to construct. This was then applied to the concepts and final master plan development.

Listing of agency meetings and committees:

Numerous staff level meetings were held, and included the following agencies: the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, City of Shoreview staff, Ramsey County staff from Public Works department and Parks & Recreation department

Additional master plan amendment meetings:

- Snail Lake Improvement District – March 3, 2020
- City of Shoreview Bikeways and Trails Committee, May 7, July 2, 2020
- Ramsey County Parks – Parks Commission February 12
- City of Shoreview City Council workshop June 15, 2020
- City of Shoreview Parks and Recreation Commission July 23, 2020
- City of Shoreview City Council Meeting for Supporting Resolution November 16, 2020
- Ramsey County Parks – Parks Commission January 13, 2021
- Ramsey County Board Resolution February 9, 2021

Public engagement and participation:

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation organized a series of public engagement meetings and online feedback opportunities to gather feedback on the proposed master plan for the Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Amendment. To reach the widest possible audience, various forms of communication were used to alert the public to these events.

- Approximately 7,000 mailings were sent out to residents in the immediate area surrounding the regional park.
- Twitter, Facebook and other social media was used to announce meetings and online engagement opportunities
- Ramsey County Communications reached out to individual County Commissioners so that they had the opportunity to attend and let their constituents know of the events
- Ramsey County Communications alerted targeted engagement partners, this list may be found in the

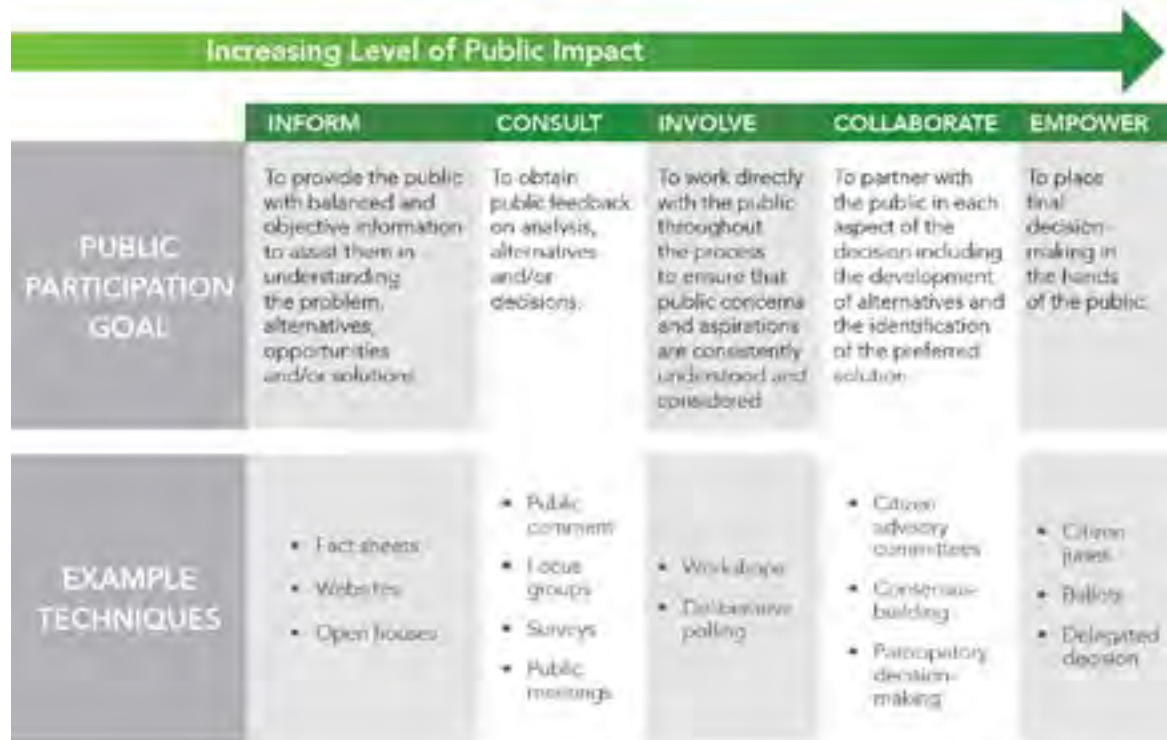
appendix

- Ramsey County Communications alerted public partners including municipalities, to the public engagement events for their input and support

Ramsey County parks staff attended several meetings hosted by other agencies where the discussion around high water took center stage. Members of the public were allowed to speak and voice their concerns. Many of the comments from these meetings focused on the flooded trails in the regional park. In addition, due to high water persisting since 2016, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department also fielded a number of calls and emails from the public inquiring about the future of the affected trails prior to the formal process beginning.

Staff utilized visual framework from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) to determine the level of engagement that is appropriate for this master plan process. The category of “Involve” was selected as a correct engagement level to inform this planning process.

The engagement process used for this master plan amendment included identifying potential stakeholders, agency



Credit: IAP2

partners and resources. In addition, staff assessed demographic information, housing types, and user groups in the communities surrounding the regional park. (Refer to Appendix A for detailed equity analysis information)

Public Engagement Meeting #1 – Listening to the public

The first public engagement meeting for the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park master plan amendment was held on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at the Ramsey County Public Library in the City of Shoreview. This first meeting was held to introduce the project to interested stakeholders and community members. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department staff gave a brief presentation to explain the purpose, process and history of the project as well as walk the public through project goals for the master plan update. Following the presentation, staff had the public list all of there concerns and comments on maps and post it notes for any park areas that had been affected by high water. Staff also answered questions the public had. A means for the public to comment online was also presented.

Public Engagement Meeting #2 – Creating concepts from comments

The second public engagement meeting was held for the project at the Shoreview Community Center on February 19th, 2020. The comments and ideas from the first public meeting were synthesized into three different concepts and presented to the public for discussion and comments. The meeting entailed a formal presentation of the project and concepts followed by questions and answers and a comment session. The public worked with staff to record their

comments on large format maps, as well as leave written comments on note cards.

Pop Up Meeting No.1

Ramsey County staff set up the concept plans on large format boards at the Ramsey County Shoreview Public Library for three hours, Noon to 3PM on February 26th, 2020, to talk to the public as they walked by.

Pop Up Meeting No.2

Ramsey County staff set up the concept plans on large format boards at the City of Shoreview Community Center for three hours, 3-6PM on February 26th, 2020, to talk to the public as they walked by.

Pop Up Meeting No.3

Ramsey County staff set up the concept plans on large format boards at the City of Shoreview Community Center for two hours, 5-7PM on February 26th, 2020, to talk to the public as they walked by.

Preliminary concepts were presented to the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission for review.

Public Engagement Meeting #3 – Preferred Concept Draft Presentation

Originally scheduled for March 19th, this public meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All project materials were re-organized online for further community engagement throughout the remainder of the project.

Online comments to the preferred concepts were received March 20th until July 15, 2020, and revisions were made to shape the final preferred concepts. Following the online input, the preferred concepts were presented at the city of Shoreview Bikeways and Trails committee, City of Shoreview Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Shoreview city council for final supporting resolution.

30-Day public review period for draft master plan report

A final 30-day public review of the draft master plan update report was held from December 2020 to January 2021. (Comments received can be found in Appendix B).

The final draft master plan was presented the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission January 2021.

LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS OF PROJECT SUPPORT

The following include the letter of support from the Ramsey County parks and Recreation Commission, Resolution from the City of Shoreview City Council, and the Resolution from the Ramsey County Board.

place holder for County board resolution

DRAFT

January 14, 2021

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Ramsey County Board Office
15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Letter of Support for Grass-Snail Lake Master Plan Amendment

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to share the Park & Recreation Commission's support for the Grass-Snail Lake Master Plan Amendment. The commission believes this master plan amendment will act as a long-term guiding document for implementing critical park and recreation elements that provide tremendous benefit to the regional park and trail system as well as for the residents of Ramsey County.

Sincerely,

Leah Shepard,
Park and Recreation Commission Chair

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA
HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota was duly called and held at the Shoreview City Hall in said City at 7:00 PM.

The following members were present: Martin, Denkinger, Johnson, Quigley, Springhorn

And the following members were absent: None

Member Springhorn introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-91

WHEREAS, Ramsey County completed a Master Plan for the Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has submitted the Plan to the City of Shoreview, including advisory groups for review; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 master plan incorporates short and long-term site and infrastructure improvements, recreation improvements, and additional recreational opportunities throughout the Park and addresses the flooding that has occurred in the park area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreview Bike and Trails Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, Snail Lake Improvement District and staff have reviewed the plan and support the Master Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota supports the Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan.

The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Denkinger and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: All Present

And the following voted against the same: None

Adopted this 16th day of November, 2020


Sandy Martin, Mayor
Shoreview City Council

ATTEST:


Terry Schwerm, City Manager

CHAPTER IV

DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONCEPT



DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONCEPT

OVERVIEW

Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park provides important recreation amenities and areas of high-quality natural resources in the form of restored prairies, floodplain forests, restored mesic and oak woods, as well as the ongoing management of its water resources. Changes to the climate have caused the need to reassess how and where recreation amenities are placed in the park and how the topography of the park serves as an important component to the overall management of the regional watershed.

The park is connected by trails to the existing regional and local trail network. The proposed in park trail realignments and additions will reconnect existing flooded trails to the overall off-street trail systems throughout the city including:

- Highway 96 Regional Trail
- Local City of Shoreview Trail System
- Planned Future Troutbrook Regional Trail

The master plan process includes the three distinct areas of the park separated by local streets and identified in the 1992 master plan as Snail Lake Park (Picnic Area), the corridor area (surrounding Wetland A) and the Grass Lake Area. Each of these areas has existing park infrastructure and natural resources that have been affected by high water. See figure 7.

SNAIL LAKE PICNIC AREA SEGMENT

The infrastructure affected by high water from Snail Lake consists of the small shelter, sand volleyball court next to the small shelter, the swimming beach, the boat launch, and the trail pedestrian tunnel under Snail Lake Boulevard. All of these amenities have been flooded with water for multiple years. See figure 8.

Small Shelter and Sand Volleyball Court

To achieve resiliency to continued and future higher lake elevations, the small shelter and sand volleyball located near the southern shore of the lake will need to be moved to a higher elevation above the Snail Lake overflow elevation. The plan proposes the redevelopment of the lower public parking lot that serves the beach and small shelter currently. This parking lot will be reconfigured with a smaller more efficient footprint. Currently the parking lot has 97 stalls. Plan improvements include increased parking, one-way circulation, updated stormwater treatment, lighting and ADA improvements. The smaller impervious footprint will reduce stormwater runoff and allow space for the relocation of the small shelter and open space for sand volleyball or other amenity that is complementary to picnic and beach facilities. Possible

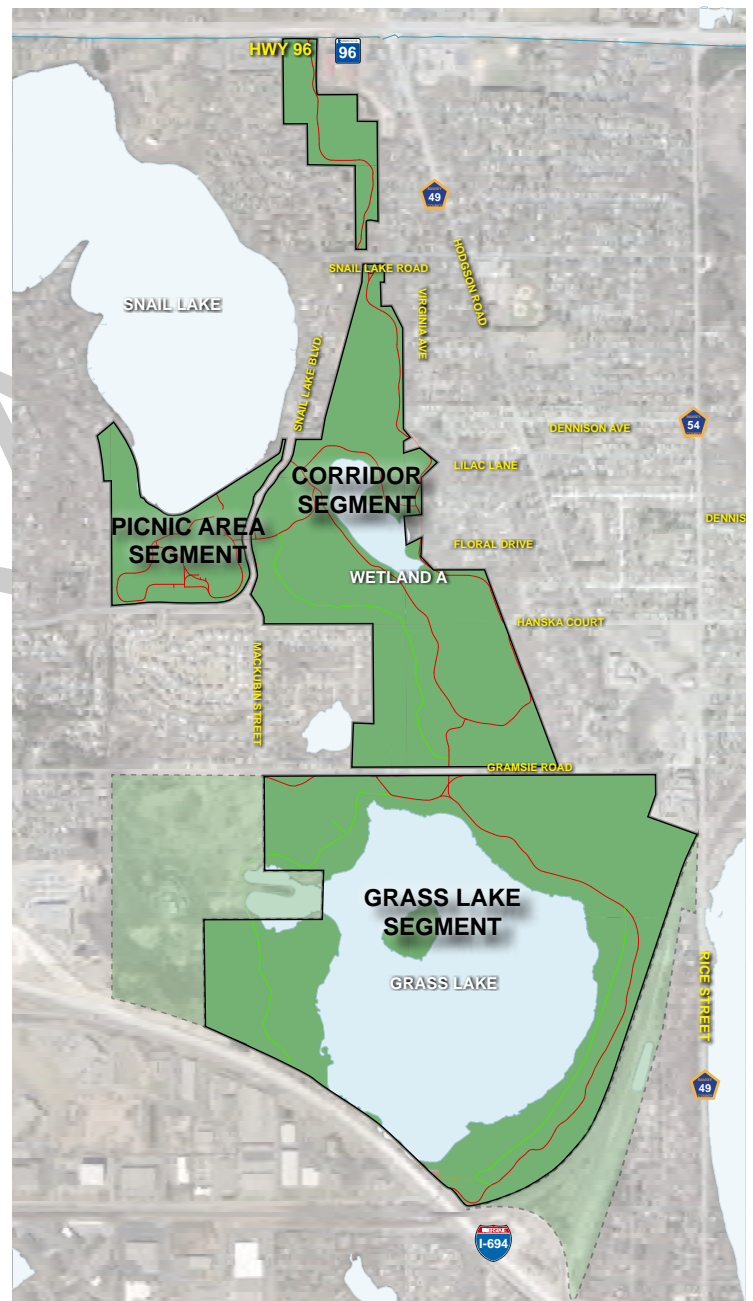


Figure 7 - Master plan amendment park areas (Snail Lake Picnic Area Segment, Corridor Segment, Grass Lake Segment)



Figure 8 - Snail Lake Picnic Area Segment Preferred Plan

amenities could include takraw, lawn bowling, open level turf, or open individual picnic tables. The existing in-park trails leading to the beach will require some adjustments to complete the pedestrian circulation to the various amenities included with the parking lot redevelopment. The small shelter will retain a similar 50-person capacity with tables, serving area, grills, water, and electrical service. Restrooms available at the nearby beach building will serve both picnicking and swimming.



Flooded picnic shelter at Snail Lake

One issue identified through the public engagement with nearby residential areas was noise created by existing picnic pavilion and shelter at the Snail Lake park picnic area. Residents to the west of Snail Lake were concerned that relocating the small shelter to the west side of the park would have a negative impact on them and their property values due to amplified sound associated with groups using the park facilities. To address this concern, the location selected for the relocation of the flooded small picnic shelter is more central to this park segment, near the beach. In addition, Ramsey County Parks ordinances are being reviewed for possible amendments to address sound and noise across all of the park system.

Snail Lake Swimming Beach

The public swimming beach has been affected by high water since 2014. The beach can be and has been affected by low water as well in the past. When water gets too low in the lake, the beach

has to be closed due to a deep drop off around the edge of the lake basin. Under normal water levels, the drop off is beyond the swim area designated for the beach. In 1993, a lake augmentation system was constructed to supplement water levels in the lake. This augmentation system allows for a known low water elevation of 882.4 feet. The high-water outlet pipe, which is located between the east end of the beach and just west of the boat launch, allows water to overflow to the south under Snail Lake Boulevard to the corridor segment of the regional park. The area for this water to collect is very limited. The overflow from this sub-basin used to flow south toward the Crestview Addition neighborhood. The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District changed the overflow direction in 2018 to flow to the west and into the Wetland A basin where there is more capacity for flood water. This new elevation of 888.34 feet was used to determine where to establish the new top of swim beach elevation. The beach improvements were completed during the winter and spring seasons of 2020. Improvements include turning the previous turf area above the beach into sand, removal of muck, installation of a sand blanket in the water, ADA access, and installation of a concrete ribbon curb delineating the top of the beach, creating a maintainable edge between sand and turf. Additional future improvements include relocating flooded picnic tables to flood resilient elevations, shower tower relocation, and ADA improvements to the beach building. Improvements to the parking lot serving the beach are described under the small shelter section above.



Snail Lake Beach 2009



Snail Lake Beach 2017

Snail Lake Boat launch

Fluctuation of the lake levels is a challenge for most boat launch operations. The Snail lake boat launch water elevations can fluctuate 6 feet from elevation of 882.4 (at which point the augmentation system is used) to elevation 886.5 (the outflow pipe elevation) or 888.34 the emergency overland overflow elevation. The record fluctuation is nearly 10 feet dating back to 1924. Future modifications and improvements to the boat launch will need to address this potential fluctuation with the ramp design. Occasional dredging to create a channel for watercraft access maybe required. In addition, the existing floating courtesy boarding dock will need improved accessibility from shore. A ramping system that can be added to or reduce the length is a possible solution.

Snail Lake Boulevard Trail Tunnel

The tunnel underpass that allows for grade separated trail crossing under Snail Lake Boulevard connecting the Snail Lake picnic area section with the corridor section of the park has been flooded due to the overflow water from Snail Lake discharging. The plan concept has a proposed new trail segment which will act as a tunnel bypass and connect to the cross walk at the intersection of Snail Lake Boulevard and Mackubin Street.

Signage



Snail Lake Boat Launch

Wayfinding signage will be updated through the park to reflect the changes to development as it is implemented.

CORRIDOR SEGMENT (WETLAND A AREA) OVERVIEW

The corridor segment of Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park is composed of paved trails surrounding the southern half of the corridor. The trails encircle the wetland complex, (called Wetland A by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District). In addition, trails run north to the Highway 96 Regional Trail and south under Gramsie Road connecting to the Grass Lake segment of the regional park. This north-south connection of in-park trails provides a critical link for bicycle commuting and recreation. The Snail Lake Picnic Area segment connects on the west side via a tunnel under Snail Lake Boulevard and to city trails along Snail Lake Boulevard. The trails affected by flooding lay mainly along the east side of the wetland complex, and on the south end where high water flowing north during large flooding events over topped the trail for extended periods. In addition, the trail connecting to the tunnel under Gramsie road has been consistently flooded for years.



Flooding in this segment is due to multiple factors. Historically, this area has always had a wetland with varying water elevations. The timeframe in which the trails were constructed represented one of the driest multiple-year periods for this region. The basin itself is the lowest elevation in the City of Shoreview. The basin is affected by groundwater, stormwater from residential development and streets, and high water flowing north from Grass Lake. Predevelopment it is likely a wetland connected directly with Grass Lake, but has been separated first by agricultural practices and now modern residential development.

The topography along with many other factors need to be considered when making design decisions about relocating the trail system. The following list includes public comments, operational needs, and

regulatory compliance that has been considered in the development of the proposed planned trails:

Future flood resiliency

To keep trails from future flooding, the elevation of 886.0 feet needs to be maintained in the Corridor (Wetland A) and Grass Lake Basin segments.

Floodplain fill

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District will consider fill below elevation 886.0 feet as floodplain fill and will require compensatory storage at the same elevation elsewhere in the Grass Lake basin.

Wetland Impacts

Most of the existing trail system follows the edge of existing wetlands. Raising existing trails will cause wetland impacts. High water can wreak havoc on trails bases causing failure. Repair of trails can be an issue in low lying areas.

Stormwater Impacts

Impervious surfaces for trail systems, both existing and proposed, will need to meet regulations for volume and water quality standards as determined by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

Maintenance

Pavement or boardwalk surfaces, vegetation, tree removal, snow removal, ski trail grooming, and equipment size, are just a few of the maintenance issues that have been addressed in the planning process.

User Safety

Trail conditions created by surfacing (i.e. paved vs natural) in the case of a boardwalk the plank materials, horizontal and vertical curves, trail width, slopes, and structure approach (for boardwalks and bridges) all need to be considered for relocating trails or creating new ones.

ADA Compliance

As required by Federal, State, and local statutes.

Trail Connectivity, Trail loop creation

This is a main goal and design practice to provide connectivity to neighborhoods, other trail systems, and regional transportation networks. For the in-park trail system, recreating trail loops for flooded areas or continuing the effort to complete new ones was a large part of the feedback received during public engagement.

Length of Trail

Existing trail lengths, loops lengths are discussed and used for comparison when new trails and loops are proposed to ensure consistency, practicality, and accessibility of the trail system.

Visual impacts of Structures

Consideration is given to how boardwalk structures or shelters may be viewed by park users from other locations within the park. Because the Ramsey County park system is an urban park system surrounded by residential property, adjacent land uses need to be considered when proposing new locations for infrastructure.

Key Elevations

Key elevations need to be considered to ensure resilient infrastructure will not flood and are able to be permitted.

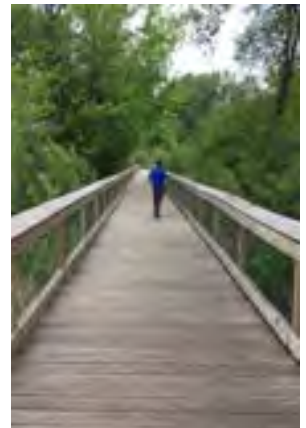
- Snail Lake Basin Overflow to Grass Lake = 888.3 feet
- Snail Lake Outflow to Corridor Segment = 885.4 feet
- Grass Lake Basin Flood Elevation = 886.0 feet
- Grass Lake Overflow = 884.1 feet

Bituminous Trails versus Natural Surface Trails

Construction equipment access, erosion potential, adjacent slope, and accessibility, all need to be considered when determining the appropriate trail surface within the park.

Boardwalks - fixed foundation versus floating

Boardwalks are typically used in wetland or lake settings where regular paved trails cannot be utilized. Fixed foundation boardwalks are set at a defined elevation and supported either by drilled pile foundations or on a pan type surface foundation. The foundation type is determined by soils and water conditions. Typically, fixed boardwalks work best in wetland areas or shallow lakes. Floating boardwalks can appear identical to fixed boardwalks but are supported only on sealed floats. They work well in open water and lake environments but are limited if the water levels vary too much due to the ramp connections that are required at each end. Boardwalks may have metal or wood frames, as well as metal, wood, plastic, or concrete plank material. Both systems can have railings, fishing nodes or seating areas incorporated into them.



PUMPING - WHY NOT SIMPLY PUMP THE WATER OUT OF WETLAND A?

During the public engagement process, several people asked why not pump water out of the corridor segment back to the pre-flood levels rather than construct boardwalks. Staff worked with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and City of Shoreview to understand the implications of pumping water in the basin.

The following information has been provided by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to answer this question.

Groundwater levels are currently very high in the area, and in fact, around the region. We anticipate that drawing Wetland A down effectively by pumping could be difficult as groundwater could seep into Wetland A as quickly as it is pumped. The groundwater level measured at a piezometer, placed to measure groundwater levels adjacent to Wetland A, as of June 2020 was at 879.4 feet. The surface water of Wetland A on the same day was measured at 880.2 feet. This is an elevation difference of only 0.8 feet between the groundwater and surface water, meaning that the water you are seeing on some flooded trails is coming from groundwater.

Another issue is where to pump water from Wetland A. In June 2020, Grass Lake's water surface elevation was 883.4 feet. When Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District pumped Wetland A in 2017, pumping was only allowed until Grass Lake reached an elevation of 883.5 feet in order to preserve some flood storage during storm events. If the county were to pursue pumping of Wetland A, an upper limit would need to be set at Grass Lake at which to stop pumping

from Wetland A unless flooding of the park land north of Gramsie Road would be deemed acceptable (above 884.1 feet, Grass Lake overflows to the park land north of Gramsie Road).

In summary, pumping water would not be a quick fix for future trail flooding after large rain events due to highwater impacts downstream to flood-prone habitable structures, public roads, and other parkland. A boardwalk system would provide a flood resilient alternative solution that is less complex and more sustainable.

EAST SIDE OF THE CORRIDOR (WETLAND A) – STUDY OF SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THE FLOODED TRAILS

Temporary Boardwalk

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department staff looked at possible short-term solutions for the flooded sections of the Wetland A trail system. The sustained flooded area is approximately 1,200 feet long with water elevations that fluctuate multiple feet.

Staff considered alternatives such as trail raising and temporary boardwalks as alternatives for the short term. The only option that will meet permitting and floodplain requirements, codes and Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines (other than a fixed boardwalk) is a floating boardwalk. However, a floating boardwalk presents issues with ramping on either end when water elevations move up and down. When lower or no water conditions are present, the floating boardwalk may need to rest on an elevated foundation to prevent wetland vegetation impacts and keep the boardwalk stable which increases its cost substantially.

The cost of a floating boardwalk is also found to be equal to that of a fixed boardwalk which could be the permanent solution. Due to these findings, the county will not recommend a temporary solution. Instead, the plan includes a fixed boardwalk system that could be installed in phases. This allows for a flexible solution to seek multiple funding sources over multiple years and funding cycles.

Easement on private property

During the fall of 2018, there was discussion about the possibility of acquiring an easement from one of the private properties where the public had made an unauthorized path to get around some of the high water on the east side of Wetland A. See figure 9. The county, working with the city, had a topographic and boundary survey completed to determine elevations and property boundaries along the east side of Wetland A. Since then, the water has risen even higher and that path grew across four properties. In addition, the private property to the north is very low and has wetlands on it which does not allow for a paved trail to cross. This wetland makes purchasing easements across the other properties useless since it would have to dead-end at the wetland. In addition, the elevation the trail would need to be at on these properties to be resilient to future high water would have a negative impact for these properties as the trail would be a significant distance onto their property. With limited funds, no guarantee of succeeding with easements agreements, and with unknown future water elevations, the decision was made to propose boardwalks that we know can be made to be resilient to future high water. The boardwalk system proposed would not have wetland impacts, nor floodplain impacts, and could be completed in phases to create smaller, less costly projects, which fit better into park

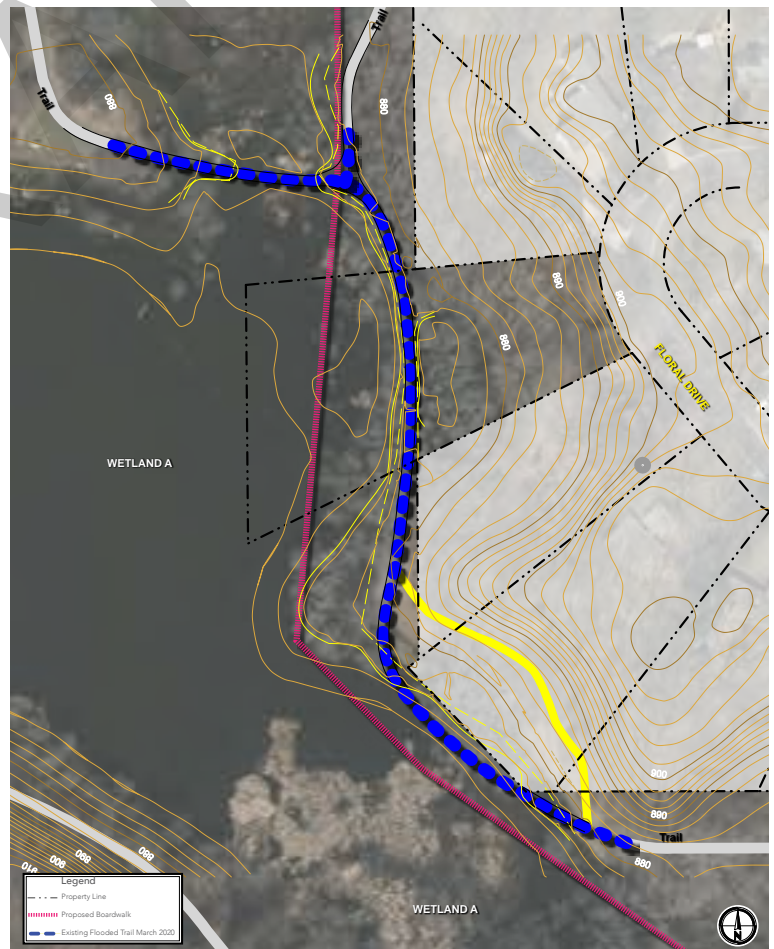


Figure 9 - Corridor Segment - Wetland A east side flooded trails plan

infrastructure funding.

CORRIDOR (WETLAND A) TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed plan utilizes the existing paved trails and combines a fixed boardwalk running north and south along the east side of the corridor and two boardwalk segments that cross the wetland east and west. See figure 10. This layout creates a trail loop approximately 1.33 miles in length, with 3,330 feet consisting of boardwalk and the remaining of existing bituminous trails. Access to the boardwalk will occur at three main locations: Dennison Ave, Floral Drive, and Hanksa Court. While each of these locations has at least an existing natural surface trail connection, with Hanksa Court having the only existing paved trail connection to the in-park trails. The proposed formal trail connections at Floral Drive and Dennison Ave will be made on parcels of city property that serve sanitary sewer connections to the Metropolitan Council trunk sewer line running in the regional park under the existing paved trail.

The proposed location of the north-south running boardwalk will reconnect the trail system where it has been consistently flooded. The existing 10-foot wide trail is located in what now is a wetland, except for the trail itself. It is bound by large trees with little or no shoulder. This is not an optimal location to install a new boardwalk system due to the proximity of the trees and the likelihood that the existing trail pavement will have to remain in place because it is under water and muck. A new alignment to the west through the wetland is proposed where the trees can be avoided and deteriorated pavement doesn't interfere with boardwalk foundations. Existing trail pavement that is deteriorated due to inundation and that will be bypassed by a future boardwalk, will be removed and reestablished at wetland. Proposed boardwalk will need to be implemented in multiple phases. Phases of boardwalk extents in each phase will be determined by high water extents and climate cycles at the time of each project. This will allow for more flexible implementation to meet trail failures and available funding.

The existing inundated paved trail that historically connects the east trails to the west trails in the middle of the Wetland A complex (near Floral Drive), will require approximately 500 feet of boardwalk to reestablish the connection at the flood resilient elevation. A new east-west connection is also proposed at Hanksa court for a flood resilient loop in the event other existing paved trails become inundated in the future.

All proposed boardwalks will be 10 feet wide and require guardrails on both sides.

Existing paved trails that fall below the 886.0 elevation but have not flooded will remain and be maintained as paved when conditions allow. These trails will be considered no net fill conditions by Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District regulations and will not be allowed to be raised without compensatory floodplain storage or wetland mitigation. Trails along the west side of the corridor and those running north to the Highway 96 Regional Trail are typically above the elevations that have flood potential. They will remain in the same alignment as part of this master plan amendment. See implementation section for boardwalk priority areas.

Natural Surface Trails

Several natural surface trail sections exist west of the wetlands on the ridges of the corridor segment. Historically, these have been part of the cross-country ski trail system and used by the public in the non-winter months as part of the trail system. These trails will remain in their current alignment and maintained as natural surface trails as requested by the public.

Flooded Pedestrian Tunnel Bypass Trails

There are three existing tunnels that connect the corridor segment to the rest of the Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park segments. A tunnel is located on the west side of the corridor segment under Snail Lake Boulevard, on the north side of the Corridor (Wetland A) under Snail Lake Road, and one on the south end under Gramsie Road. The tunnel to the west that connects the corridor segment to the Snail Lake Picnic Area is flooded as a result of overflow waters from Snail Lake collecting on the south and east side of Snail Lake Boulevard. The plan illustrates a new at grade connection via a new trail section through the ridge portion of the park to the controlled intersection of Snail Lake Boulevard and McKubin Street. The existing tunnel will remain and be utilized when waters recede in the area.

No changes are proposed for the tunnel under Snail Lake Road as there are no flooding issues.

The Gramsie Road tunnel originally constructed by the City of Shoreview in the early 1990s has been inundated with groundwater and surface water from Grass Lake. The City owns and operates the existing tunnel underpass. The tunnel has been modified with stop logs for flood management by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and will



Figure 10 - Corridor Segment Preferred Plan

need to be utilized for flood management in the future. To address the flooded tunnel, a new tunnel bypass is proposed to reconnect the Corridor Segment to the Grass Lake Segment utilizing an at grade mid-block crosswalk west of the where the existing tunnel is located. This mid-block crossing has excellent sightlines and low non-peak average daily traffic. The City of Shoreview is leading the engineering design for this trail bypass and it will be completed in the fall of 2020. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation, with the approval of the Metropolitan Council has allowed this trail bypass to be constructed within the regional park since it has been part of the public engagement process for the larger master plan update. Once complete, Ramsey County will take over the operation and future maintenance of the trail. The existing tunnel will remain and be utilized when waters recede in the area.

Corridor (Wetland A) Segment Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Regional Sewer Interceptor Coordination

The existing Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Department owns and operates the regional sanitary sewer interceptor line that runs through the entirety of Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park from Interstate 694 to Highway 96. In many areas, the paved trail system is located in close proximity to the main sewer alignment and manholes. This is advantageous for maintenance access to the sewer line structures which have routine inspection and maintenance requirements. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation staff has been working with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to consider shared recreational facilities that can be used both as trails and for maintenance equipment access to the trunk sewer line structures. For the Corridor (Wetland A) segment, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services is working on future improvements to the infrastructure. The proposed boardwalk improvements would need to be modified to accommodate the weight and width of Metropolitan Council Environmental Services maintenance equipment if needed.

CORRIDOR SEGMENT - EXISTING VS PROPOSED TRAILS SUMMARY

Natural Surface trails

- Existing natural surface trails = 2,765 LF
- Proposed additional natural surface trails = 0 LF
- Total = 2,765 LF

Paved Trails

- Existing paved trails = 11,870 LF
- Proposed additional paved trails = 2359 LF
- Total = 9,511 LF (some flooded paved trails will be replaced with boardwalk)

Boardwalk

- Existing boardwalk trails = 0 LF
- Proposed boardwalk trails = 3575 LF
- Total = 3575 LF

Signage

All signage including wayfinding signage will be updated throughout the park to reflect the changes to development and the county ordinances as projects are implemented.

GRASS LAKE SEGMENT

The Grass Lake segment is bordered on the north by Gramsie Road, the Canadian Pacific (Soo) Railroad and Rice Street on the east, and Interstate 694 to the south. This segment has trail connects to the local municipal trails via a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 694. Additionally, the city operates an east west trail along the Gramsie Road corridor that connects to the Grass Lake trail system. The tunnel underpass under Gramsie Road has been flooded for several years. The property bordering the west side of the park is operated with a large regional communications tower present. The guy wires for the tower extends to the edge of Grass Lake.

In 2018, the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District worked with Ramsey County Parks & Recreation staff to raise a section of existing trail near Gramsie Road as part of a flood water prevention project. Berms were constructed and the trail located on top of the berm, with a turf ski trail bench graded to the side. In addition, a section of trail was lowered to elevation 884.0 approximately one quarter mile to the southeast to allow for a more desirable southeast Grass Lake overflow area.

Grass Lake Segment Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Regional Sewer Interceptor Coordination

The existing Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Department owns and operates the regional sanitary sewer interceptor line that runs through the entirety of Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional park from Interstate-694 to Highway 96. In many areas, the paved trail system is located in close proximity to the main sewer alignment and manholes. This is advantageous for maintenance access to the sewer line structures which have routine inspection and maintenance requirements. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department staff has been working with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to consider shared recreational facilities that can be used both as trails and for maintenance equipment access to the trunk sewer line structures. The sewer easement runs from Interstate-694 to Gramsie Road on the east side of the park turning north through an existing prairie area. Because many of the existing manholes and pipe alignment area located in what is now Grass Lake, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services has decided to relocate the pipe and structures through the park. The proposed alignment will shift the pipe to the east into existing oak woodlands for the southern half of the easement. The pipe will be shifted to higher elevation through the open prairie south of Gramsie Road. Metropolitan Council Environmental Services is also proposing to move the pipe and

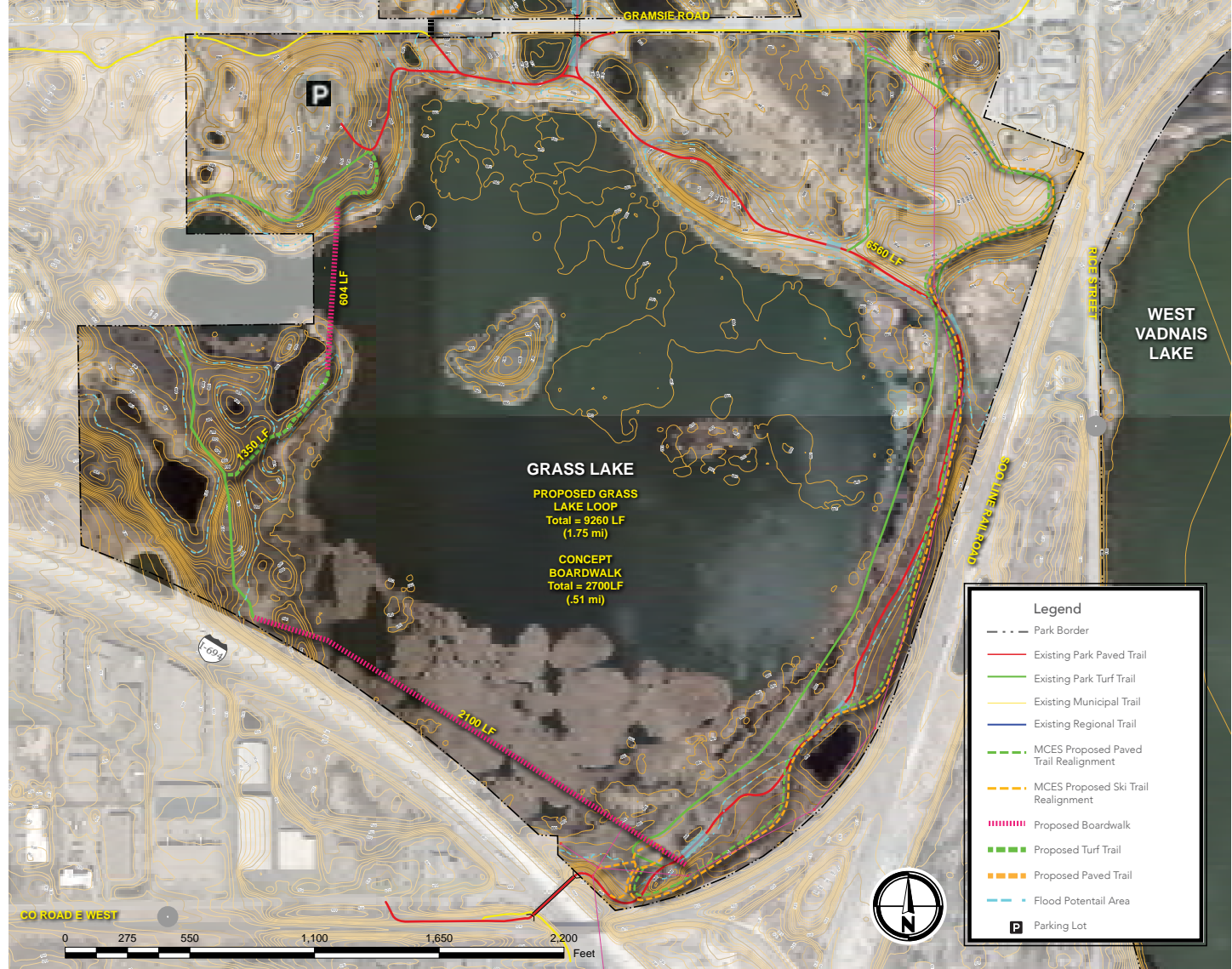


Figure 11 - Grass Lake Segment Preferred Plan

southern half of the existing trail alignment in the park to an elevation that is at or above 886 feet. Due to the impact from the reconstruction of the pipe, significant woodland restoration will be required. Restoration of the natural resources as a result of this project implementation is detailed in the natural resource section of this master plan amendment. Refer to the natural resource section of this master plan amendment for specific restoration planning. In addition, area cleared for the pipe will be used for a new 12 -foot wide paved trail to handle recreation and maintenance equipment. A 10-foot wide turf ski trail will parallel the new trail alignment. A new segment of paved trail will be located on an existing natural surface trail that will add additional connections to the city trail network and create a one-mile loop utilizing the city and in park trail systems. See figure 11.

Grass Lake Trail Loop

In addition to the existing paved trail improvements on the east and north side of the lake, the planning process gained feedback on the creation of a future Grass Lake trail loop that would encircle the entire lake utilizing paved trails, natural surface trails, and boardwalks. The Proposed loop requires 2,100 feet of boardwalk to connect the east and west trails along the southern park boundary, paralleling Interstate-694. Natural surface trails will be utilized on the west side of the lake. Paved trails are not achievable due to limited equipment access. An additional 600 feet of boardwalk is required to connect the west natural surface trail to the existing trails along the north side of the lake. Trail connections over land are not possible due to the communications tower and guy wire locations. The lake loop when complete, will be 1.75 miles in length.

GRASS LAKE SEGMENT - EXISTING VS PROPOSED TRAILS SUMMARY

Natural Surface trails

- Existing natural surface trails = 2629 LF
- Proposed additional natural surface trails = 1600 LF
- Total = 4229 LF

Paved Trails

- Existing paved trails = 6873 LF
- Proposed additional paved trails = 1932 LF
- Total = 8805 LF

Boardwalk

- Existing boardwalk trails = 0 LF
- Proposed boardwalk trails = 2700 LF
- Total = 2700 LF

Ski Trail (also used as natural surface trails in off season)

- Existing ski trails = 9151 LF
- Proposed additional ski trails = 0 LF
- Total = 9151 LF

Signage

Wayfinding signage will be updated throughout the park to reflect the changes to development as it is implemented.

Access to Potable Water

Currently, access to potable drinking water exists only at the Snail Lake Park (picnic area) segment. No other segments have accommodations for a water main, or plans to install one.

CONFLICTS

MCES trail relocation process and resolution for oakwood land mitigation

In 2021, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) will begin the process for the relocation of the regional sanitary sewer line through the Grass lake segment of the regional park. This project will seek to adjust the alignment of

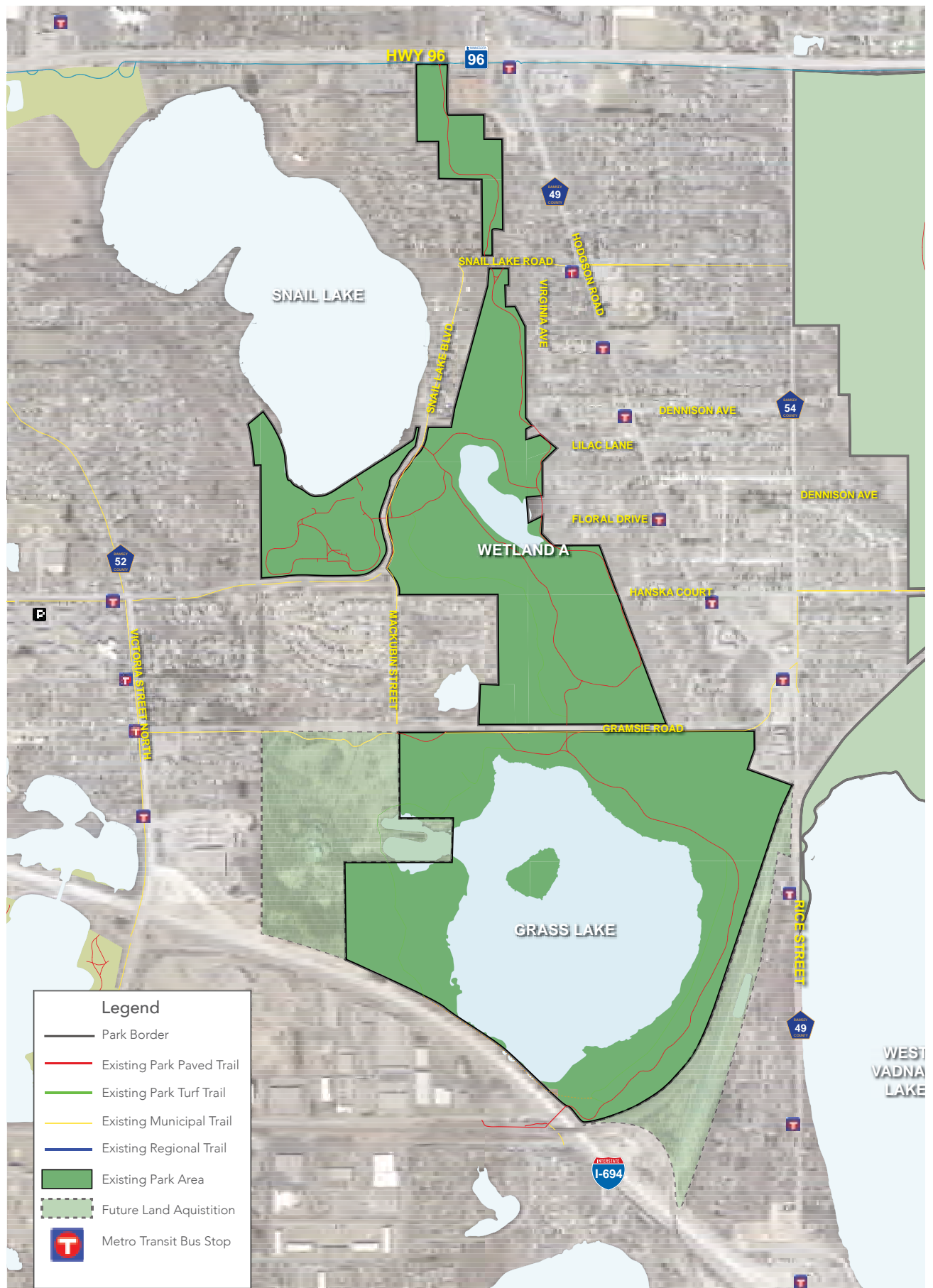


Figure 12 - Available Metro Transit Stops and off street trail access to regional park

the sanitary sewer line to an elevation that is not prone to high water. As part of the project, the existing paved trail will be reconstructed as well as a turf trail that also serves as a ski trail. The preliminary alignment of the new trail and sewer will cause the disturbance and required removal of many existing oak trees and associated woodlands east of Grass Lake. The county will work with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to replace and restore the oak woodlands within the park Grass Lake Segment.

At grade crossings bypass existing grade separated tunnels

Several comments received as part of the community engagement question the safety of at grade crossings proposed to allow users to continue to use the trail system in times of high water that may inundate the existing trail underpasses. Working with the City who owns and operates the streets where the proposed crossings are located, it was determined that the proposed crossings met the criteria to deem them safe for trail crossings. The Gramsie road crossing has excellent sight lines and the assigned speed is compatible with at grade crossings that are not at a controlled intersection. The Crossing proposed for Snail Lake Blvd. will be located at an existing controlled intersection with a crosswalk.

ACCESSIBILITY:

Ramsey County Parks uses the United States Access Board guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas as a minimum standard of accessibility on all new or substantially altered capital projects within the regional parks system. In addition, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation utilizes an Americans with Disabilities Act transition plan that identifies deficiencies in older park infrastructure that require updates. As projects are designed, items from the transition plan are included with the capital projects.

IMPLEMENTATION

PHASING AND PRIORITIES

The phasing and prioritization of the improvements proposed within this master plan amendment, focus first on the existing infrastructure that requires replacement due to the flooding. Based on community feedback, the trail system will be given the highest priority, followed by the picnic shelter relocation, and finally improvements to the park that do not currently exist.

Implementation cost (segment; item; cost; priority – short term 2-5 years, mid term 5-10 years, long term 10 years plus)

Snail Lake Park Segment (Picnic Area)

- Short Term
 - Beach Redevelopment (complete 2020) \$250,000
- Mid Term
 - Small Shelter and lower parking lot redevelopment - \$1,250,000
 - Boat launch improvements - \$200,000
 - Playground Replacement – \$600,000

Corridor Segment (Wetland A Area; see figure 13)

- Short Term
 - Gramsie Road at grade crossing/tunnel bypass 1500 LF – To be built by City of Shoreview
 - 1200 LF boardwalk in area of primary flooding and east west peninsula connection; – \$1,800,000
- Mid Term
 - Dennison Connection approx. 600 LF, Floral Drive Connection
- Long Term
 - 700 LF South east-west connecting boardwalk



Figure 13 - Corridor Segment boardwalk implementation priority plan



- Snail Lake Blvd Tunnel bypass trail = 1200 LF

Grass Lake Segment

- Short Term
 - Grass Lake Overflow trail grade separation
 - Metropolitan Council Sewer Line Realignment
- Long Term
 - Grass Lake Trail loop boardwalk project; west side trail improvements

STEWARDSHIP PLAN:

The stewardship plan does not change with this master plan amendment. The park stewardship plan can be found in the 1992 Snail Lake Master Plan under the operations section.

OPERATIONS:

The park operations plan does not change with this master plan amendment. The park operations plan can be found in the 1992 Snail Lake Master Plan under the operations section.

PUBLIC AWARENESS:

Plans for making the public aware of services available when the regional park is open, including how to access the park by transit. An updated transit route and stops map has been updated from the original 1992 master plan. See figure 12.

The regional park is readily accessible to mass transit access via Metropolitan Council transit bus services that serve the City of Shoreview and surrounding area. Bus transit stops are located on major transportation corridors including Rice Street at Gramsie Road, Hodgson Road at multiple intersections, Victoria at Gramsie Road, Lexington Ave at County Road F, and Highway 96 at the Community Center/Library Complex. These bus routes are identified as all day local route 62 and rushhour route 262. Most of the stops along Hodgson Road is, or is planned to be, connected to the park by off street trail. Most of these trails are owned and operated by the city of Shoreview. where there is no off street, trail, typically the stops are at low volume residential streets.

APPENDIX A

EQUITY ANALYSIS

DRAFT

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

The equity analysis is an examination of the public engagement process and outcomes for stakeholders by race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, age, and other pertinent characteristics.

1. PROJECT DATA:

a. Scope: What are the boundaries and demographics of the public engagement area? Please consider neighborhoods adjacent to the park or trail, travel sheds, and agency/regional boundaries.

The boundaries selected for physical mailings were defined by where high-density housing was located, and by major transportation corridors that define cities and neighborhoods that allow more residents to utilize the park. Because of the suburban nature of the cities surrounding this area, defined neighborhoods or neighborhood organizations found in other larger urban cities do not exist. The community engagement then focused on where places in the community would allow the process to reach the largest cross section of the community.

b. Context: What is known about future stakeholders, underserved populations, and how the region's history created present-day inequitable outcomes?

Relative to the rest of Ramsey County, the area that Snail Lake Regional Park occupies is less dense, single family homes, with more affluent residents comparatively. Minorities and specifically people of color make up smaller percentage of the overall population than in other cities within Ramsey County (15% of color, 1.8% African American). Most development of the neighborhoods around the park facilities were developed in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s with very little higher density housing where lower income residents maybe found. Generally, the population is older, caucasian and own their own home.

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION:

a. Participants: Which stakeholders discussed in 1b contributed to the planning effort? The following list is illustrative of stakeholders to consider including youth, Black, indigenous, and people of color communities, people with disabilities, low-income populations, populations age 60 and over, and neighborhood/regional groups that participated as planning staff, community advisory committee members, outreach liaisons, and the general public.

There was no process or forms utilized to ask stakeholder and participants to identify themselves by race, age, income or other information. Some commenters chose to provide their information, but were not required or requested to. The process tried to reach all portions of the community and including meeting and providing information at places where a large cross section of the population would most likely be able to participate. Observations by staff performing the different engagements report a wide variety of ages participating.

b. Engagement: What engagement, outreach, and communication was conducted for stakeholders described in 2a? Please identify the level of public impact on the International Association for Public Participation's Public Participation Spectrum and requisite engagement strategies for each stakeholder group. Please consider culturally competent and community representative staffing, training, locations, times, public awareness, and input approaches.

The level of engagement as defined by International Association for Public Participation's Public Participation Spectrum was to "Involve". This allowed for participant comments to be made during the listening input portion as well as through the generation of concepts, to influence the development plan. Engagement and outreach for the project consisted on physical mailings of project public meeting notifications, formal in person public meetings, pop-up meetings at public spaces in the community, Facebook notices, Facebook event, Twitter notices, website updates, newsletters, e-blasts, and county calendar item shared with City of Shoreview communications dept. and county library system.

c. Public Participation: What did you learn from the engagement conducted in 2b? Please summarize the advice you heard into themes and identify the contributing stakeholder.

Due to the very focused nature of the this master plan, and the fact that the park was at the center of a multiple year flooding event that extended well beyond the park boundaries, people were generally already engaged or curious as to what was happening to address the situation. In person public meetings were extremely well attended. Pop-up meetings were very effective at allowing interaction with many different aged residents from kids to older adults, families, and individuals. Online engagement comments generally were provided by residents living closer to the park

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

facilities. All the comments can be broken down into the following themes:

Infrastructure (Trails, Underpasses)

Many people didn't express strong opinions on how to replace the flooded infrastructure. Participants were satisfied a plan was being developed to look at ways to reopen portions of the trail system that have been closed due to high water. Participants expressed that the plan should look at alternatives to flooded trail tunnel/underpasses. Comments also focused on the desire to try to replace trails where they are existing today, include trail loops, and more access points.

High Water (Pumping, adjacent property impacts)

Much of the park has wetlands or lakes that serve a larger area of the community to stormwater. The basins generally are landlocked with no natural outlets. This key science had to first presented to the public so they could understand the complex issues affecting the park land. Some comments requested the plan look at the possibility of pumping water from water bodies affected from the high water rather than replace flooded trails with boardwalks or other means.

Amenities (Beach, Shelter, Launch)

This area mainly deals with the picnic area of the Snail Lake Regional Park. Comments here were less numerous than ones regarding the trail system. The largest issue was dealing with noise and how it maybe adversely affecting the surrounding neighbors. Replacement of the flooded shelter needed to address this key issue. Prolonged high water had caused the beach to close and make the boat launch harder to use.

Natural Resources

Highwater has caused numerous trees to die throughout the park system. Concern for wetlands and how long term high water affects them as also mentioned in the comments.

3. EVALUATION SUMMARY:

a. Transparency: How did the public participation from 2c impact the decisions and policies made? Please consider input that advances, supports, coincides, and diverges from the master plan.

The public participation reinforced the desire and need the public has for amenities and trails in the sections of park that flooded. Many people expressed their reason for living in the area was to utilize the park amenities. People desired looped trails, which influenced how and where proposed boardwalks and trails would go. The comments also help prioritize which flood impacted amenities should be first to be replaced or redeveloped.

b. Accountability: How will the planning effort create better outcomes? Please consider outcomes related to regional and local access, quality of experience, facility rules/policy, and reporting back about 3a to stakeholders discussed in 2a.

Through the planning effort we learned, local agencies like Cities, County, and Watershed district, as well as regional agencies such as Metropolitan Council and DNR need be aware of the public concerns and be able to be more nimble to react to these climate influenced issues such as flooding. This process helped establish and solidify relationships between agencies, trust, and understanding to be able to make timely decisions. Government process, while well intentioned, can be cumbersome and time consuming affecting the ability to react quickly. It was discovered that local access to the trail system could be improved and sound from activities within the park can affect neighbors negatively. The consideration of these things when replacing flood affected infrastructure will improve park user experiences as well as the overall neighborhoods that surround the Regional Park.

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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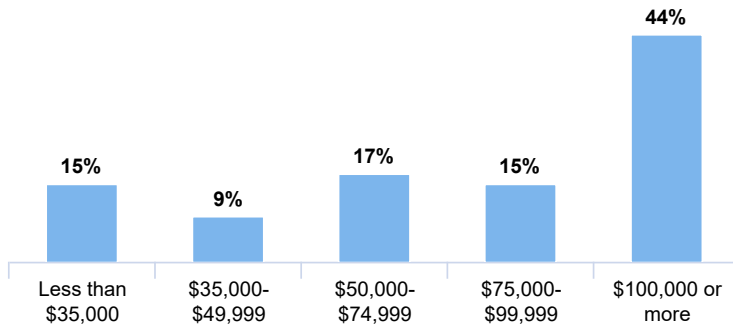
Shoreview - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Minnesota Compass - mncompass.org

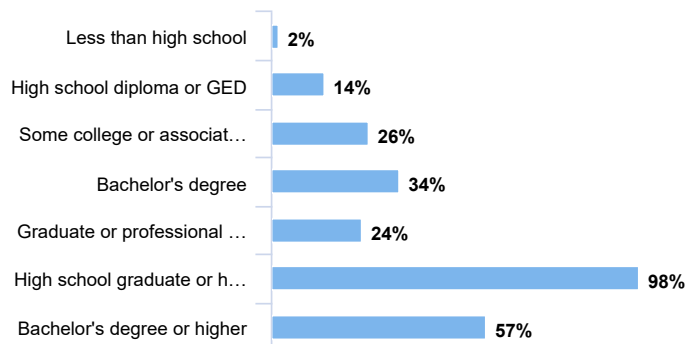
CITY OF SHOREVIEW

At-a-glance facts about residents, households, and workforce. Data are largely derived from the U.S. Census Bureau. When a data point is missing or considered unreliable, it will not display or be labeled suppressed. [See information about geographic profile sources.](#)

Households by income (2018 dollars)



Educational attainment among adults 25 and older, 2014-2018

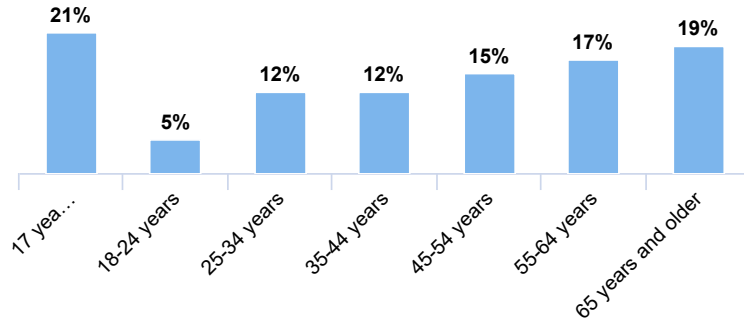


APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

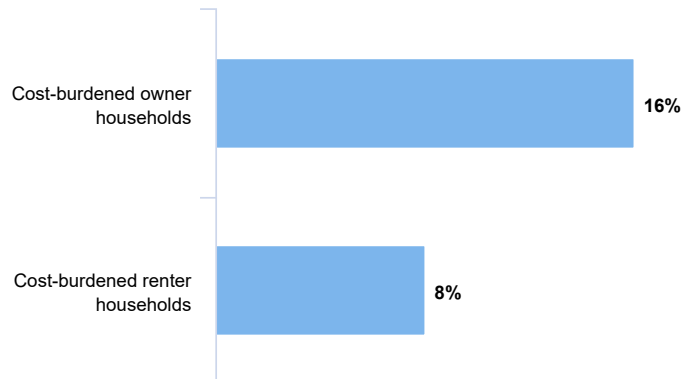
6/17/2020

Shoreview - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Population by age group



Cost-burdened households by type, 2014-2018



Demographics

Shoreview

Total population (2014-2018)

Total population	26,627	100.0%
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Gender and age (2014-2018)

Male	12,633	47.4%
Female	13,994	52.6%
Under 5 years	1,581	5.9%
5-9 years	1,368	5.1%

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Shoreview - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

10-14 years	1,566	5.9%
15-17 years	1,129	4.2%
18-24 years	1,405	5.3%
25-34 years	3,076	11.6%
35-44 years	3,158	11.9%
45-54 years	3,978	14.9%
55-64 years	4,394	16.5%
65-74 years	3,038	11.4%
75-84 years	1,501	5.6%
85 years and older	433	1.6%

Race and ethnicity (2014-2018)

White	22,634	85.0%
Of Color	3,993	15.0%
Black or African American	487	1.8%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	34	0.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2,632	9.9%
Other	134	0.5%
Two or more races	674	2.5%
Hispanic or Latino	866	3.3%

Foreign-born (2014-2018)

Foreign-born residents	2,891	10.9%
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Language spoken (2014-2018)

Population (5 years and older)	25,046	100.0%
English only	21,640	86.4%
Language other than English	3,406	13.6%
Speaks English less than "very well"	757	3.0%

Disability (2014-2018)

Total population for whom disability status is determined	26,622	100.0%
Population with a disability	3,120	11.7%

Residence one year ago (2014-2018)

Population (1 year and over in US)	26,347	100.0%
Same residence	23,435	88.9%
Different residence in the U.S.	2,650	10.1%
Different residence outside the U.S.	262	1.0%



Shoreview

Household income (2018 dollars) (2014-2018)

www.mncompass.org/profiles/city/shoreview

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APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Shoreview - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Total households	11,170	100.0%
Less than \$35,000	1,689	15.1%
\$35,000-\$49,999	1,036	9.3%
\$50,000-\$74,999	1,898	17.0%
\$75,000-\$99,999	1,674	15.0%
\$100,000 or more	4,873	43.6%
Median household income (2018 dollars)	\$ 87,920	100.0%

Poverty (2014-2018)

All people for whom poverty status is determined	26,606	100.0%
With income below poverty	1,062	4.0%
With income 100-149 of poverty	1,063	4.0%
With income 150-199 of poverty	1,169	4.4%
With income 200 of poverty or higher	23,312	87.6%
17 years and younger (percent of people under age 18)	1,225	4.6%
18-24 (percent of people age 18-24)	2,634	9.9%
25-34 (percent of people age 25-34)	1,021	3.8%
35-44 (percent of people age 35-44)	438	1.6%
45-54 (percent of people age 45-54)	1,117	4.2%
55-64 (percent of people age 55-64)	920	3.5%
18-64 (percent of people 18-64)	1,044	3.9%
65 years and older (percent of people age 65+)	936	3.5%



Health

Shoreview

Health coverage (2014-2018)

Total population age 65 and under for whom health insurance coverage status is determined	26,622	100.0%
Population 65 and under without health insurance coverage	567	2.1%



Housing

Shoreview

Total housing units (2014-2018)

Total housing units	11,493	100.0%
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Owned and Rental Housing (2014-2018)

Vacant housing units (seasonal units included)	323	2.8%
Occupied housing units	11,170	97.2%
Average household size	2.0	
Owner-occupied	9,192	80.0%
Average household size	2.0	
Renter-occupied	1,978	17.2%
Average household size	2.0	

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

6/17/2020

Shoreview - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Year built (2014-2018)

2000 or later	1,140	9.9%
1970-1999	7,774	67.6%
1940-1969	2,228	19.4%
1939 or earlier	351	3.1%

Households (2014-2018)

Total households	11,170	100.0%
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Households by type (2014-2018)

Family households	7,412	66.4%
With children under 18 years	3,114	27.9%
Married-couple family households	6,208	55.6%
With children under 18 years	2,423	21.7%
Single-person family households	1,204	10.8%
With children under 18 years	691	6.2%
Nonfamily households	3,758	33.6%
Householder living alone	3,269	29.3%
65 years and over	1,623	14.5%
Households with one or more children under 18 years	3,125	28.0%
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	3,551	31.8%

Year householder moved into unit (2014-2018)

Moved in 2010 or later	3,886	34.8%
Moved in 2000-2009	2,881	25.8%
Moved in 1990-1999	2,156	19.3%
Moved in 1989 or earlier	2,247	20.1%

Cost-burdened households (2014-2018)

All households for which cost burden is calculated	11,053	100.0%
Cost-burdened households	2,619	23.7%
Owner households for which cost burden is calculated	9,168	100.0%
Cost-burdened owner households	1,713	18.7%
Renter households for which cost burden is calculated	1,885	100.0%
Cost-burdened renter households	906	48.1%

Rent paid (2014-2018)

Households paying rent	1,885
Median rent paid (2018 dollars)	\$ 1,228



Transportation

Shoreview

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Shoreview - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Vehicles per household (2014-2018)

No vehicles	522	4.7%
1 vehicle available	3,562	31.9%
2 vehicles available	5,220	46.7%
3 or more vehicles available	1,866	16.7%

Transportation to work (2014-2018)

Workers (16 years and older)	14,230	100.0%
Car, truck, or van (including passengers)	12,752	89.6%
Public transportation	248	1.7%
Walked, biked, worked at home, or other	1,230	8.6%

Travel time to work (2014-2018)

Total workers age 16+ (not home based)	13,325	100.0%
Less than 10 minutes	866	6.5%
10-19 minutes	3,799	28.5%
20-29 minutes	3,759	28.2%
30 minutes or longer	4,901	36.8%



Workforce

Shoreview

Educational attainment (2014-2018)

Population (25 years and older)	19,578	100.0%
Less than high school	406	2.1%
High school diploma or GED	2,797	14.3%
Some college or associate's degree	5,177	26.4%
Bachelors Degree	6,552	33.5%
Graduate or professional Degree	4,646	23.7%
High school graduate or higher	19,172	97.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	11,198	57.2%

Working Adults (2014-2018)

Total civilian non-institutionalized population, age 18-64	16,010	100.0%
working age adults who are employed	13,361	83.5%
Civilian labor force	13,817	100.0%
Unemployed	456	3.3%

Total employed workers (LEHD) (2017)

Total employed workers	18,299	100.0%
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Worker age (2017)

Age 29 or younger	3,881	21.2%
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APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Shoreview - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Age 30 to 54	9,290	50.8%
Age 55 or older	5,128	28.0%
Workers by earnings (2017)		
\$15,000 per year or less	3,813	20.8%
\$15,001 to \$39,999 per year	4,121	22.5%
\$40,000 or more per year	10,365	56.6%
Workers by industry of employment (2017)		
Accommodation and food services	1,198	6.5%
Administration & support, waste management, and remediation	<i>suppressed</i>	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	979	5.4%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	320	1.7%
Construction	598	3.3%
Educational services	2,154	11.8%
Finance and insurance	1,043	5.7%
Health care and social assistance	2,737	15.0%
Information	434	2.4%
Management of companies and enterprises	899	4.9%
Manufacturing	1,907	10.4%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	<i>suppressed</i>	
Other services (excluding public administration)	584	3.2%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	1,441	7.9%
Public administration	845	4.6%
Real estate and rental and leasing	267	1.5%
Retail trade	1,483	8.1%
Transportation and warehousing	466	2.5%
Utilities	52	0.3%
Wholesale trade	862	4.7%
Workers by race (2017)		
White alone	15,370	84.0%
Black or African American alone	867	4.7%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	69	0.4%
Asian alone	1,668	9.1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone	15	0.1%
Two or more race groups	310	1.7%
Workers by educational attainment (2017)		
Less than high school	1,060	5.8%
High school or equivalent, no college	3,270	17.9%
Some college or associate degree	4,598	25.1%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	5,490	30.0%

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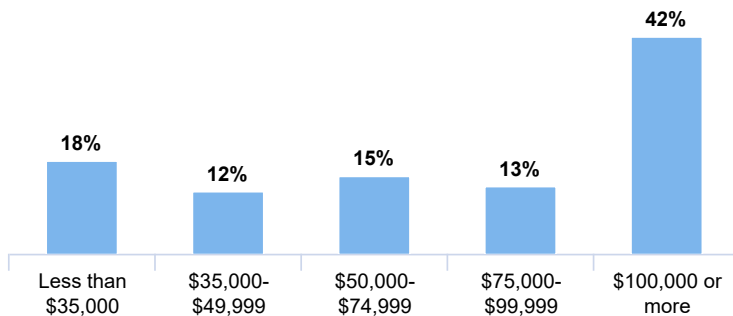
Vadnais Heights - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Minnesota Compass - mncompass.org

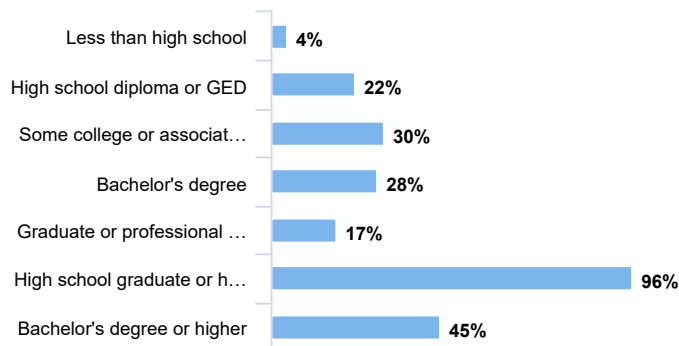
CITY OF VADNAIS HEIGHTS

At-a-glance facts about residents, households, and workforce. Data are largely derived from the U.S. Census Bureau. When a data point is missing or considered unreliable, it will not display or be labeled suppressed. [See information about geographic profile sources.](#)

Households by income (2018 dollars)



Educational attainment among adults 25 and older, 2014-2018

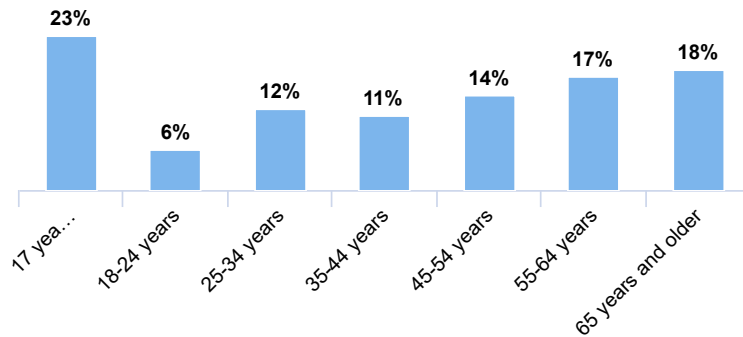


APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

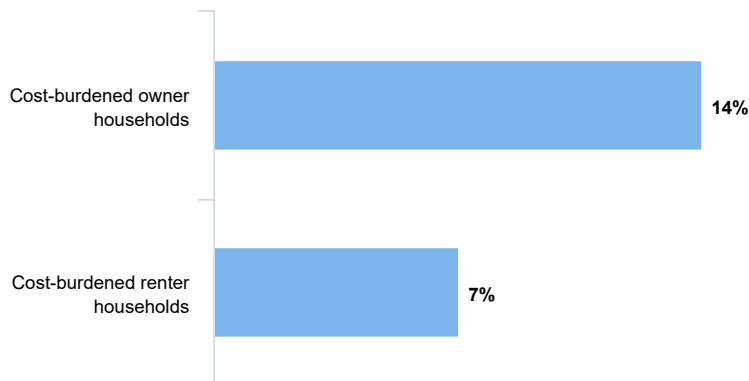
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Vadnais Heights - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Population by age group



Cost-burdened households by type, 2014-2018



Demographics

Vadnais Heights

Total population (2014-2018)

Total population	13,376	100.0%
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Gender and age (2014-2018)

Male	6,286	47.0%
Female	7,090	53.0%
Under 5 years	1,053	7.9%
5-9 years	942	7.0%

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Vadnais Heights - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

10-14 years	710	5.3%
15-17 years	336	2.5%
18-24 years	758	5.7%
25-34 years	1,610	12.0%
35-44 years	1,440	10.8%
45-54 years	1,887	14.1%
55-64 years	2,245	16.8%
65-74 years	1,448	10.8%
75-84 years	690	5.2%
85 years and older	257	1.9%

Race and ethnicity (2014-2018)

White	11,194	83.7%
Of Color	2,182	16.3%
Black or African American	600	4.5%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	<i>suppressed</i>	
Asian or Pacific Islander	950	7.1%
Other	116	0.9%
Two or more races	516	3.9%
Hispanic or Latino	421	3.1%

Foreign-born (2014-2018)

Foreign-born residents	1,062	7.9%
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Language spoken (2014-2018)

Population (5 years and older)	12,323	100.0%
English only	11,120	90.2%
Language other than English	1,203	9.8%
Speaks English less than "very well"	355	2.9%

Disability (2014-2018)

Total population for whom disability status is determined	13,367	100.0%
Population with a disability	1,568	11.7%

Residence one year ago (2014-2018)

Population (1 year and over in US)	13,280	100.0%
Same residence	12,067	90.9%
Different residence in the U.S.	1,194	9.0%
Different residence outside the U.S.	19	0.1%


Economy

Vadnais Heights

Household income (2018 dollars) (2014-2018)

www.mncompass.org/profiles/city/vadnais-heights

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APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Vadnais Heights - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Total households	5,382	100.0%
Less than \$35,000	963	17.9%
\$35,000-\$49,999	635	11.8%
\$50,000-\$74,999	828	15.4%
\$75,000-\$99,999	678	12.6%
\$100,000 or more	2,278	42.3%
Median household income (2018 dollars)	\$ 87,808	100.0%

Poverty (2014-2018)

All people for whom poverty status is determined	13,367	100.0%
With income below poverty	827	6.2%
With income 100-149 of poverty	506	3.8%
With income 150-199 of poverty	405	3.0%
With income 200 of poverty or higher	11,629	87.0%
17 years and younger (percent of people under age 18)	1,327	9.9%
18-24 (percent of people age 18-24)	935	7.0%
25-34 (percent of people age 25-34)	764	5.7%
35-44 (percent of people age 35-44)	752	5.6%
45-54 (percent of people age 45-54)	305	2.3%
55-64 (percent of people age 55-64)	750	5.6%
18-64 (percent of people 18-64)	665	5.0%
65 years and older (percent of people age 65+)	728	5.4%



Health

Vadnais Heights

Health coverage (2014-2018)

Total population age 65 and under for whom health insurance coverage status is determined	13,367	100.0%
Population 65 and under without health insurance coverage	321	2.4%



Housing

Vadnais Heights

Total housing units (2014-2018)

Total housing units	5,668	100.0%
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Owned and Rental Housing (2014-2018)

Vacant housing units (seasonal units included)	286	5.0%
Occupied housing units	5,382	95.0%
Average household size	2.0	
Owner-occupied	4,433	78.2%
Average household size	2.0	
Renter-occupied	949	16.7%
Average household size	2.0	

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Vadnais Heights - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Year built (2014-2018)

2000 or later	542	9.6%
1970-1999	4,080	72.0%
1940-1969	928	16.4%
1939 or earlier	118	2.1%

Households (2014-2018)

Total households	5,382	100.0%
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Households by type (2014-2018)

Family households	3,729	69.3%
With children under 18 years	1,675	31.1%
Married-couple family households	3,131	58.2%
With children under 18 years	1,256	23.3%
Single-person family households	598	11.1%
With children under 18 years	419	7.8%
Nonfamily households	1,653	30.7%
Householder living alone	1,373	25.5%
65 years and over	628	11.7%
Households with one or more children under 18 years	1,675	31.1%
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	1,722	32.0%

Year householder moved into unit (2014-2018)

Moved in 2010 or later	1,792	33.3%
Moved in 2000-2009	1,298	24.1%
Moved in 1990-1999	1,271	23.6%
Moved in 1989 or earlier	1,021	19.0%

Cost-burdened households (2014-2018)

All households for which cost burden is calculated	5,331	100.0%
Cost-burdened households	1,118	21.0%
Owner households for which cost burden is calculated	4,417	100.0%
Cost-burdened owner households	730	16.5%
Renter households for which cost burden is calculated	914	100.0%
Cost-burdened renter households	388	42.5%

Rent paid (2014-2018)

Households paying rent	914
Median rent paid (2018 dollars)	\$ 1,000



Transportation

Vadnais Heights

APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

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Vadnais Heights - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Vehicles per household (2014-2018)

No vehicles	78	1.4%
1 vehicle available	1,689	31.4%
2 vehicles available	2,591	48.1%
3 or more vehicles available	1,024	19.0%

Transportation to work (2014-2018)

Workers (16 years and older)	6,889	100.0%
Car, truck, or van (including passengers)	6,436	93.4%
Public transportation	127	1.8%
Walked, biked, worked at home, or other	326	4.7%

Travel time to work (2014-2018)

Total workers age 16+ (not home based)	6,630	100.0%
Less than 10 minutes	469	7.1%
10-19 minutes	1,749	26.4%
20-29 minutes	2,042	30.8%
30 minutes or longer	2,370	35.7%



Workforce

Vadnais Heights

Educational attainment (2014-2018)

Population (25 years and older)	9,577	100.0%
Less than high school	341	3.6%
High school diploma or GED	2,108	22.0%
Some college or associate's degree	2,844	29.7%
Bachelors Degree	2,629	27.5%
Graduate or professional Degree	1,655	17.3%
High school graduate or higher	9,236	96.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	4,284	44.7%

Working Adults (2014-2018)

Total civilian non-institutionalized population, age 18-64	7,939	100.0%
working age adults who are employed	6,617	83.3%
Civilian labor force	6,729	100.0%
Unemployed	112	1.7%

Total employed workers (LEHD) (2017)

Total employed workers	11,481	100.0%
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Worker age (2017)

Age 29 or younger	2,598	22.6%
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APPENDIX A: EQUITY ANALYSIS

6/17/2020

Vadnais Heights - Geographic Profiles - Minnesota Compass

Age 30 to 54	5,723	49.8%
Age 55 or older	3,160	27.5%
Workers by earnings (2017)		
\$15,000 per year or less	2,503	21.8%
\$15,001 to \$39,999 per year	2,959	25.8%
\$40,000 or more per year	6,019	52.4%
Workers by industry of employment (2017)		
Accommodation and food services	875	7.6%
Administration & support, waste management, and remediation	<i>suppressed</i>	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	598	5.2%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	212	1.8%
Construction	482	4.2%
Educational services	1,156	10.1%
Finance and insurance	649	5.7%
Health care and social assistance	1,773	15.4%
Information	214	1.9%
Management of companies and enterprises	492	4.3%
Manufacturing	1,180	10.3%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	<i>suppressed</i>	
Other services (excluding public administration)	400	3.5%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	730	6.4%
Public administration	543	4.7%
Real estate and rental and leasing	174	1.5%
Retail trade	1,099	9.6%
Transportation and warehousing	304	2.6%
Utilities	40	0.3%
Wholesale trade	537	4.7%
Workers by race (2017)		
White alone	9,784	85.2%
Black or African American alone	579	5.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	50	0.4%
Asian alone	873	7.6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone	16	0.1%
Two or more race groups	179	1.6%
Workers by educational attainment (2017)		
Less than high school	631	5.5%
High school or equivalent, no college	2,118	18.4%
Some college or associate degree	2,945	25.7%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	3,189	27.8%

APPENDIX B

PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

COMMENTS PUBLIC MEETING NO.1 - 1/23/2020

Comments cards Box

- Thank you! Please consider adding mtn bike trails to this regional park
- Really need to raise. Yes to boardwalks. Don't see an easy way.
- The area stretching south from Snail lake to 694 is an undeveloped treasure. For those who don't want to hike the paved trails, we have lots of options to hike numerous trails through the wood west of Grass Lake and west of the unnamed lake between Snail and Grass. Please Keep this relatively undeveloped space undeveloped. – Mike Prouty
- I am partial to a loop trail. I would like to keep the trees. I do not support changing it to a prairie/wild flowers. The trees reduce road noise from 694, Hodgson. Shade. The neighborhood to the east has oak wilt and is losing trees to disease. It seems senseless to intentionally cut down the trees in the park. Thank you. – Barb Westgard 3990 Virginia. Also – the pumping and cost of the interim pumping concerns me.
- Removal of cattails on both sides of beach are floating cattail islands
- Realign or place floating board walks over flooded trail sections in Wetland A area.
- Remove the cattails both side of beach
- Remove cattails along south east side of park. Clean out the holding pond that should have been done according to the original snail lake regional park master plan
- Fix Gramsie road – it floods. Restore tunnel on Gramsie road. There is no access to the trails from my house. Gramsie road rarely flooded before it was fixed about 5 years ago. Highway 694 affected the water flow and has not been fixed. Snail lake beach has been closed for 2 years.
- I would like to have a trail system similar to what now exists. I like something where I can go on a riding loop or loops from my house. I was happy to not see any new buildings or parking being added. Keep it as natural as possible, although, I like the paved trails.
- Love! The Snail Lake trail system as is when its not flooded. My house backs up against Grass Lake park and I walk them 3-4 times a week when temps above 50 degrees. Would love a floating boardwalk where areas are flooded so you can still cross those areas where it is underwater and choose the loop and distance you'd like to walk. Trails are perfect except underwater area. Also happy to see beach being redeveloped. I like to swim there occasionally and play hookey from work there when having lunch.
- The park is priceless. I've spent hours and hours hiking and skiing in it over the many years I've lived here but much less these last 3 years because of the flooding. I'm glad your working on a plan. Good luck.
- Is Gramsie road flooding part of the planning? Is the tunnel under Gramsie and its flooding being addressed? A circular trail through wetland a would be preferred.

Grass Lake Section

- Would like loop trail around lake with floating boardwalk multiuse for walking and biking. One second that.
- Signs indicating if canoe and kayak are allowed. One second that.
- Keep tunnel for safe crossing. One second that.
- Safe crossing (at Gramsie). Yes, badly needed over old tunnel
- Several comments for more trails in the tower property to the west.
- One suggestion of a dog park
- Keep the west trail un-paved.
- (4 notes) indicating a boardwalk is desired to complete a looped trail system around Grass lake.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

- Access to West Vadnais Lake across railroad and Rice Street (several comments for)
- Provide a path to Victoria along I-694
- Appreciate accessibility for people w/varying physical needs (gait impairment, wheelchair users, strollers) as a general approach
- I like the proposed changes to the paved trail
- Floating walk around Grass lake
- Boardwalk trail lake loop
- Keep turf trail and low affected area (on the east side)
- Trail connection Snail to Grass to Sucker lake
- Access to Sucker Lk park from Rice? Possibly a boardwalk or trail so folks don't walk have down Rice?
- Trail Connection to Vadnais
- Very important repair needed where trail washed out with exposed rocks
- Raise turf trails (north prairie area) water spills over and circles around back toward Gramsie.
- Allow natural areas for Heron/waterfowl habitat
- Boardwalk along northside of Gramise

Snail Lake Section

- Nature play area
- Pavilion sound issues
- Consider kids crossing road
- Make boat launch usable up to 888
- Resurface in park trail by shelter
- Fix the beach
- So many groups are using amplification in the large shelter. The noise is too loud for the neighborhood. Can the speakers be pointed East in to the woods? How do you monitor how loud the amplification is? Can you limit the hours a group can use amplification? 9am-10pm is too long a time especially if it is Saturday and Sunday. Would it help to limit the size of the groups? Thank you for your consideration this has really become an issue particularly the last few years. Can the neighborhood have access to a phone number we can call when the noise is too loud.
- Current parking lot and pavilion are nice!
- Add sand to the beach
- I would love a walking path all around Snail Lake
- Boardwalk when wet can be slippery
- No pavilion (in the West picnic area)
- Boardwalk/bog walk appreciated in any areas to allow fluctuations with water levels
- Cleanout holding pond
- Holding pond must be dredged and cleaned out
- Clean dead dying trees along property line
- Add crosswalk at picnic pavilion lot entrance

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

- State of the art fun playground for all ages including small zip line
- And a nature playground somewhere in the park. Two likes for this
- Safe access across snail lake blvd if tunnel closed or not usable
- Dredge the boat launch to be able to launch a boat without backing entire vehicle into the water – need more slope
- Add shade trees or umbrella structures for beach

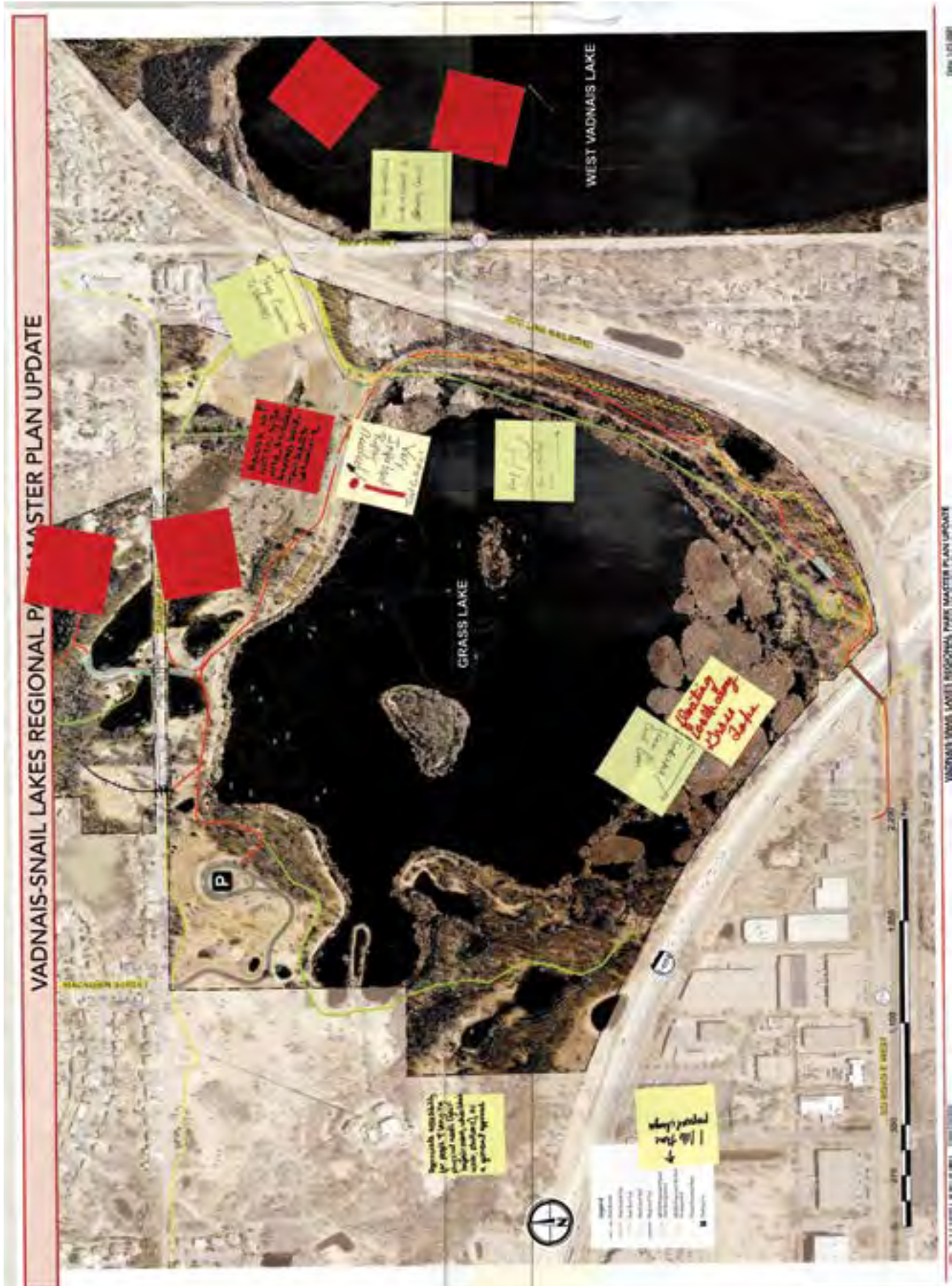
Wetland A Section

- Restore the tunnel on Gramsie Rd
- Future mountain bike trail development
- Turf trail would be great rather than one rough trail it is now
- Reconnect to grass lake trail too
- Restore the loops. Offer new trails for biking through the woods. Reconnect to Grass lake
- Definitely interested in loop trail system
- A boardwalk would be great on the east side of the wetlands over the currently flooded trail
- Elevate the trail so we have the loop again
- Restore the trail loop. It is important to local residents who want to walk in the park instead of just walking through the park.
- Some concern for road crossing on Snail Lake Blvd to beach. Young adults/tweens that don't drive yet need safe crossing to get to beach.
- Campaign to educate folks to walk between groomed ski tracks or to one side....
- Some kind of access from Snail Lake Rd or Dennison so people East of Wetland A have access to Trails/ loops
- Take out the dead trees in the wetland
- Multiple, clear, strongly worded signs about dogs plus maybe a dog park west of Grass Lake.
- Maintain tunnel for safe road crossing. One second note.
- Or make a bridge instead of a tunnel? Kids/families need a safe way to cross.
- Keep the loop the way around. Two second notes.
- Glad you are looking for solutions for and flooding issues. Would like to see mountain bike trails proposed there are no mt bike trails within 20 mins drive of Shoreview.
- Keep turf trail unpaved
- Don't develop turf trail area'
- Add more benches
- Boardwalk or raise the grades of flooded trails
- Floating walkways
- Boardwalk over flooded trails. The loop is very important.
- Boardwalk (here) for shorter loop
- Remove asphalt trail – replace with boardwalk trails.
- Invasive cattails? Remove buckthorn from wetland area.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

- No boardwalk. Yes to trails. Boardwalk is difficult to bike on. It gets very slick in moist weather. There are other materials boardwalks can be constructed from.
- Trees. Please keep the trees. Many trees in the surrounding neighborhood have oak wilt and are....
- Bridge or overpass at Gramsie Rd.
- We like having some unpaved trails
- Keep loops for sure
- Love Snail. Love trails when open. Keep open!
- Elevate the submerged trail
- Bikeable loop in wetland A (not including sidewalk on Snail lake Blvd)
- Use looped trail wetland A
- Floating boardwalk
- Boardwalks need to be wide enough for biking
- Keep the ability to ski between the lake and the ski trails
- Keep the loops: - for bikes walkers; for cross country; elevate if need; safe street crossing; Speed limit?
- Floating walkway
- Keep same amount of trail miles
- Boardwalks need to be wide enough for bikes and pedestrians
- Love xc ski trails
- Turtle tunnels like North Oaks? (snail lake blvd)
- Figure out new crossing snail lake blvd from wetland A to Snail
- Pedestrian crossing on Gramsie Rd.
- Very careful crosswalk needs: lights, need wide crosswalk, signs
- Erosion control with new trails!
- Possible Mountain bike single track trail
- Xc skiing option on the trail please
- Turtle tunnels across snail lake blvd
- Fix the tunnel or do something else to complete the crossing (Gramsie Rd)
- Add boardwalk or raise trail for access – I prefer asphalt trails
- Benches
- There need to be a way to get from west side of "A" to paved trail north to 96
- We use wetland A trail a lot and would like a loop trail around area w/boardwalks or elevated trail if necessary. Ditto. Yes to loops
- Loop trail that a stroller can pass.
- I represent many friends and families who would like a loop.
- Consider dredging wetland A areas to store more water, and wetland on west side of Snail. Implement aggressive rain garden program in Shoreview neighborhoods to reduce storm sewer runoff in to system.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS



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APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

PUBLIC MEETING NO.2 COMMENTS - FEBRUARY 19, 2020

Wetland A Concepts

Concept A

- Too expensive to do a mile boardwalk
- We really like the Wetland A trail loop
- At grade crossing at Gramsie road would need to be well marked/safe
- Would a signal help like the one on Victoria street @Central Park?
- This whole length is unnecessary. Boardwalk the lowest areas and maintain the paved trail
- If all options involve new boardwalks it makes sense to do significant boardwalks in option A
- Increase cross country ski trails
- Yes to trail segment alternative to Snail Blvd tunnel.
- Pick up dog poo
- Dennison street homeowner has privacy concerns
- ???U of M cover it up see about project here (Grass lake overflow to Wetland A Area)????
- Create a temporary fix

Concept B

- Like the loop near Snail lake blvd created with the additional trail segment alternative
- Can trails be plowed in the winter?
- Maintain the trail all along the east side
- Short boardwalks for quicker fix would be good.
- Like this short loop.
- Yes, to the boardwalk connection at Dennison or put in old original location
- Remove dangerous dead trees

Concept C

- Maintain pavement where natural surface conversion is shown
- Like additional access at Dennison street
- Only boardwalk lowest areas
- Purchase higher ground via easements
- Don't add connection across wetland A at Hanska Court
- Like the at grade crossing segment as an alternative to the Gramsie rd tunnel
- Maintain crossing over or under Snail lake Blvd
- Like the alternative trail segment as an alternative to snail blvd tunnel
- Yes cross to peninsula with boardwalk

Snail Lake Picnic Area

- Plow trails by the beach
- Provide shoreline access for boats at Snail lake

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

- Natural surface trail north of park floods
- I like the picnic facility for option A. could we put out a porta potty for spring summer, fall season or is these too much vandalism? I like to parking and view of the lake
- Don't really want any picnicking surrounded by parking like option B.
- Busy every summer weekend – parking lot full – 2nd pavilion up here not a great option like option B
- Update the playground
- Add crosswalks and crossings along Snail Lake Blvd
- Put pavilion up on pilons
- Option B too close not discrete
- I like the idea of having the pavilion on the lower portion of the park near the lake and the boat launch
- Sand bag existing shelter to create a wall
- Plow the trail loop
- Option A – likes the picnic tables
- Not enough bathrooms w/option A if new and main pavilion are both being used at the same time
- Option A is the best solution to parking and picnic use
- Bathrooms are needed for option A
- What about shelter in small open area with o nth tree grove?
- Exiting picnic tables near option A are never used much
- Option A plus a volleyball court
- Option A views not really of the lake
- Stop the floating island (grass0 from floating east or over to the beach area. If this doesn't happen, the beach area will continue to get full or aggressive. "I have heard that other communities have put rods into the grass areas to keep them in place. Is this feasible?
- Glad to hear the beach is being work on!
- I attended the February Snail Lake Master Plan meeting. At that time I suggested that the proposal to move the small flooded lakeside shelter to a spot near the pavilion would be appropriate, rather than the spot to the west of the upper parking lot. I have since changed my mind and think that the current unused 'Dead Zone' picnic area west of the upper parking lot would be better if it is modified with plantings and perhaps a volleyball or croquet or ? court to accompany the shelter. My original proposal is too close to the pavilion and the noises coming from the shelter &pavilion would be distraction to both.

Grass Lake Area

- Plant lots of trees along I-694
- Would people use a path 30' from 694?
- Why not right next to 694?
- Wont be used. Too close to hwy; see maple grove!
- East side is a critical commuter route
- Nice idea! Create a loop around the lake. But seems expensive
- Critical repair needed at washout (Grass lake new overflow)
- Yes to reestablish route at Gramsie Rd tunnel

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

- With the future trail on the east side already changing, it may make sense for the loop around the lake to be 100% paved boardwalk.
- (boardwalk along 694 low priority – too noisy)
- yes, like the boardwalks to complete the loop around the lake
- Add benches back along trail
- Super important trail corridor (on the east side)
- I do like the ideas of a circle-like loop, and keep the trees.

General Comments

- Different format-more open talk time for participants.
- I do wish it would be possible to do a temporary or permanent boardwalk over the currently flooded areas. I have a sense that this could be a long-term solution.
- I'm concerned the Concept A Boardwalk will be difficult to maintain.
- We need paved loops, so we can bike around.
- Look for short term solutions to flooded trails in the wetland A area
- Where are the sightings of crane (during the summer) or nesting eagles? Please don't disturb those areas too much or keep trails further away. Loop around them? Work around them.

POP-UP PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS - FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Location: Shoreview Public Library 12-2:30 PM, Shoreview Community Center 3-5:15 PM

Summary

- Pop meetings were setup in visible hallway spaces with the Wetland A concept boards and Grass lake concept board.
- Estimate 30-40 people engaged in discussion about the project and concepts shown.

Wetland A Concepts Comments

Concept A

- Generally, people realize that this concept cost would be too high and that another alternative may make more sense from funding and timeframe of implementation.

Concept B

- People felt this concept didn't provide enough of a loop that would be flood resilient.

Concept C

- People generally felt this concept was a nice compromise to the existing trail flooding. People would prefer to keep existing paved trails paved where possible in the future rather than converting them to natural surface trails. Some comments though that the southern east wets boardwalk connection from Hanksa Court across Wetland A is not necessary.

Snail Lake Picnic Area Comments

- People were please to hear the beach reconstruction work was taking place. Several people asked if anything could be done with the boat launch.

Grass Lake Area Comments

- Most people liked the idea of a complete trail loop around Grass Lake as there are no other Lakes in the county park system with this feature.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

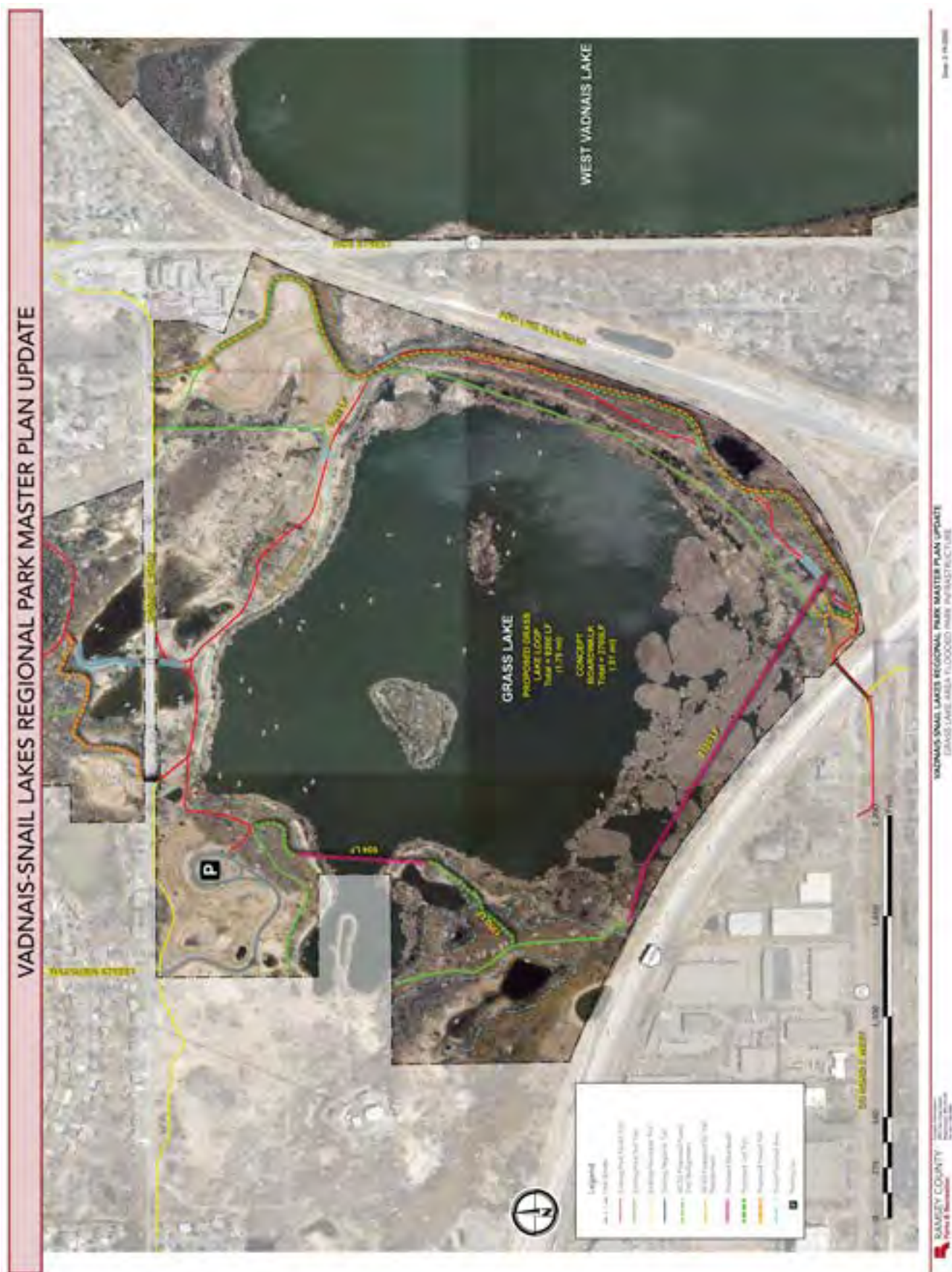
- Some people were concerned with noise from I 694. Many other people said it was not a concern since the sounds carry through the entire park already.

General Comments

- Can we add off-road cycling trails west of the wetland A area?

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan feedback
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:25:29 PM

I'm not even sure if this goes to you guys but have at it lol

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Mike Prouty <mwprout@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:21 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan feedback

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I have reviewed the "final concept document" for the Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan. I am concerned.

Where is "the plan?" I have never seen a comprehensive document that describes an overall goal of this large project as well as a detailed description of the strategies intended to achieve these goals. The 1-page "final concept" document sent to me is wholly inadequate.

I am also concerned that there is no mention of the number of trees that are going to be cut to make way for the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services trunk sewer line and maintenance access. Based on tags and marking, the woods to the east of Grass Lake, between the railroad and the lake, appear likely to be ravaged. Was there no opportunity for public input on the location of the sewer line? Were there no alternatives to cutting, or least to minimize the loss of these trees (as well as bisecting a prairie on the northeast side of the lake? How does the Regional Park Master Plan deal with this? Again, where is "The Regional Park Master Plan"??

Mike Prouty
3314 Churchill Street
Shoreview

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback Park on South End of Snail Lake
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:57:43 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Kendal Loewen <kendal_loewen@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:55 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Feedback Park on South End of Snail Lake

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The proposal to build a shelter and volleyball court on the west side of the park is not a good idea for several reasons:

1. The park used to be a park with lots of grass and trees. Over the years, many shelters and parking lots have been built. The west side of the park is one of the few areas in the park that is currently lightly developed. I enjoy walking through the trails and the relative quiet of this section of the park. Pretty much the rest of the park at the south end of Snail Lake is parking lots, building structures, lots of people and blaring music. I understand that the park is a resource for all people in Ramsey County but it should include some quiet and less developed areas.
2. The county is not being a good neighbor. I live on the far end of Reiland Lane and I still sometimes hear the park. If you do keep developing, what about placing the extra shelter and volleyball court on the east side of the park? There would be parking and a restroom available. The development would not be in people's back yard. There is already a huge noise problem from music systems and parties. The current proposal is just making an existing problem worse.
3. I think that before the park is more developed, the county should try to do something about the water levels. Even though there has been a lot of rain, there are all sorts of new flows into the lake and no outflows. This is not the way the watershed worked in the past. With development and a few mistakes in drain placement, we have lost our yards and some homeowners have flooded. Why does it make any sense to build new structures that add to the drainage problem when the lake is under such stress?

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

I am very disappointed in the planning for the park and the lake. Thank you for your consideration.

Kendal Loewen
4376 Reiland Lane

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Snail lake covered shelter relocation
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:36:41 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Gallop <jim@gallop.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:31 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Michael Weber <mweber3252@gmail.com>; Kathy Weber <kdeaconweber@hotmail.com>; Anne Weber <anneweber723@gmail.com>; Eric Weber <ejwebl@gmail.com>; Jean Wocken <jmwocken@comcast.net>; Curt Routhé <curtrouthé@comcast.net>; Louise Routhé <lrouthe@msn.com>; Richard Krogh <rckrogh@comcast.net>
Subject: Snail lake covered shelter relocation

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

The proposed new site would be directly behind our home on Reiland Lane. We have been dealing with excessive noise from the current snail lake pavilion area and have found it to be a nuisance that we have had to tolerate. The residents of Reiland Lane are strongly opposed to this proposal. Why spend the tax dollars to remedy a situation that ultimately will need to be dealt with? Flooding is a problem that has a solution. Ultimately Ramsey county will have to deal with the flooding, as it has caused much damage and will cause considerable more damage moving forward. The fact that the submerged trees near the landing will need to be taken down because of public safety concerns is a fact. What if; one of the damaged trees were to fall on someone during a wind storm, or just the mere fact that the base of the tree had been undermined and it falls on the road during traffic.

Why not fix the flooding situation as opposed to spending more money avoiding it?

IT WOULD MAKE MUCH MORE SENSE (if this is the only solution) TO MOVE THE COVERED SHELTER CLOSER TO THE PAVILION SO PARKING AND BATHROOM RESOURCES COULD BE UTILIZED MORE EFFECTIVELY. We already have people from the park urinating in our back yards. The lakeshore residents are loosing land to the high water, some much worse than others, but it has been influential in creating a health concern with the backed up swamp waters around the lake. PLEASE CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN TO AN ALREADY CROWDED PARK. Grass Lake area would make much more sense. Has there been any investigation into the cost efficiencies to lowering the lake level? There is an existing pipe and pump house set up to pump water from Vadnais into Snail Lake, could that be utilized to reverse the situation? The proposed site is an area where people can play together with their kids and pets and be away from the congested areas of the park. Thank you for your attention to this concern, Jim and Maureen Gallop

PS, under the current circumstances with the Coronavirus, why move forward on this project without knowing where this is going?

The information contained in this message is intended only for the use of the addressee and may be attorney privileged and/or confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any unauthorized dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete this message. Thank

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

you.

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:27:03 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Izabella <ilisto@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:02 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Master Plan

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

I am writing to express concern about the proposed move of the Snail Lake shelter to the upper picnic area. There is already a large shelter a bit east of there. When events are held there we hear the music booming for hours. We live a bit down Reiland Lane, across the street, but the amplified noise is still too loud for us to open windows or be outside. The proposal to move the flooded shelter to the picnic area, proposal A, would make a bad situation much worse. Proposal A would put that shelter right in the backyards of many Reiland Lane homes. Please look at the map and note the many homes on Reiland Lane and Evergreen Valley which would be so very close to the proposed shelter. Proposal B appears to be a better option. It is closer to the lake, closer to bathrooms, and further from resident homes. It is also at a lower elevation, and the sound may not project as loudly. Thank you for considering the concerns of residents who live so close to Snail Lake Regional Park.

Izabella Listopad
4151 Reiland Lane
Shoreview MN 55126

Sent from Xfinity Connect Application

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:44:00 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Jon Ochs <jon.ochs@anawim-ventures.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:41 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Hello,
Thank you for the information on the Snail Lake plan –

Regarding the flooded volleyball court moving – Option B is much preferred to the neighborhood of Reiland Lane!

It is very noisy with sound systems and people hanging out until 10pm already – and with this plan it would move it even closer to the residential houses.
That just doesn't make sense.

Please move it to the middle of the park like Option B! It only makes sense.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jon Ochs
Reiland Lane Resident

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail lakes regional park master plan feedback
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 10:01:16 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Michael Weber <mweber3252@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:51 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail lakes regional park master plan feedback

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Thank you for providing us a chance to give feedback to the master plan. I was hoping to meet with some of you at the March 19 meeting which was canceled. However, I was surprised that some decisions have already been made, such as selecting Option A as the preferred relocation of the flooded picnic shelter. This option is definitely not preferred by myself and nor any of my neighbors, on both sides of Reiland lane. My reasons are detailed below.

I favor plan B for the small shelter due to significant issues with the Plan A location. The plan A location is near the west end of the park, which is about the only "open area" left to the park since the restructuring about 25 years ago. People walk their dogs on the trail and play with them on the grass there and this is a good kite flying area for children as it is relatively flat. People use the picnic tables and sunbathe there in the summer. It is generally a quiet area.

The noise level from the park to our neighborhood always goes up significantly when people use the large picnic shelter and even sometimes with the small shelter, in spite of the distances, the noise regulations, and our complaints to officials. Even though our house is about 850 feet from the large shelter, with a heavily wooded hill in between us, we can still hear the amplified speaker system from there loud and clear throughout our neighborhood and even inside our houses with the windows closed on many weekends of the summer. The plan A small shelter would be half the distance to our house than from the location of the current small shelter and almost three times closer than the large shelter. As a professional physicist, I know that the sound level will increase quadratically as the distance

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

decreases, i.e. four times louder at half the distance; nine times louder at one third the distance. I consider the noise level to be a significant problem because it has never been solved in the last 20 or so years of the present park configuration. **The only solution to meeting the noise regulations would be to ban amplified sound systems.**

Before restrooms were added to the park, I would sometimes witness guys using the wooded areas bordering our property for a pee break. This will occur again on the west end if a shelter is added where people would be drinking refreshments and no restrooms were near. I'm thinking of the woods between the Reiland lane houses and the park.

Regarding parking for the small shelter, the south/west parking lot is typically full on weekends when the large shelter is rented. Additionally, the north/east parking lot is much closer to the plan B location than it is to the current small shelter location. Thus I see little parking advantage for plan A as compared to plan B.

As far as a view of the lake from the proposed plan A option, the lake is viewable in the distance for plan A only in the winter. However the lake would be totally hidden by trees in the summer for the plan A location, but portions of the retaining pond may be visible in the summer.

Please take this feedback seriously before a final decision is made for the small shelter. In particular, please consider the fact that the noise level from the amplified sound systems used at the large pavilion are typically several times higher than the decibel levels that are currently specified for use there. Noise levels of electronically amplified sound systems from the location in Option A will be much higher than that in our neighborhood because it is only one-third the distance to us compared to the large Pavilion.

Thank You

Mike Weber @4136 Reiland Lane



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:24:06 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Kathy Deacon-Weber <kdeaconweber@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:12 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Fw: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Dear Ramsey County Park Planners,

Thank you for your work to create updates to the Ramsey County Parks with the challenges of flooding water levels. I attended the January 23 Community Meeting and was anticipating giving more feedback at the scheduled March 19 meeting that was cancelled.

We appreciate that you are coming up with alternative trail systems. We have missed access to the looped trails in Wetland A and B and look forward to getting the trail systems upgraded.

Unfortunately the Shelter A and B and additional volleyball court were not part of the discussion at the January 23 meeting. I am writing to address these options.

I hope you are still considering both options, since the March meeting was cancelled, that would have offered public feedback. If we need another shelter in the park, please consider Shelter Option B as it is located near the lake, beach, nearby restrooms and has its own parking lot. It would be easy access and provide shelter to a favorite area that is used by many park visitors. Shelter Option B is not in the backyard of neighborhood homes, and would keep the park activity and noise near the beach, where it already exists and is expected.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Shelter option A moves more park activity to the neighborhoods that share the park boundary. The surrounding neighbors already have a noise problem with the use of the existing large Pavilion in this part of the park. To add another shelter in this area would add to the existing problem. In recent years, more and more large groups have rented the Pavilion using sound systems that flood our backyards, and worse, the inside of our homes with noise that we cannot escape from. Have you ever parked next to a car with a large booming base sound that you can hear in your car? It's not uncommon to have that sound inside our homes when most groups have loud speakers at their activities. The fact that sound systems are available from 9 am - 10 pm gives some of us, who neighbor the park, little reprieve from the noise, especially on weekends. This is a need that needs to be addressed again at some point. It is much easier to listen to something for a few hours than a few days at a time. In addition, the request that speakers cannot be heard 50 feet from the Pavilion is neither honored nor enforced. When the large Pavilion is booked the nearby parking lot is often already filled up, so parking could be difficult with an additional Shelter. You mention that a lake view is a plus for Option A and I would like to point out that, except in the winter, it actually only provides a view to a decaying, overflowing retaining pond that was installed in the park as the neighborhood grew.

I am also curious to know the demand for the use of volleyball courts? There is already a volleyball court near the large Pavilion. People who use the volleyball courts often bring their music with them. Is there such a high demand for volleyball that the park needs two courts? The open grassy area this additional volleyball court would take up is often used by small groups to play games like hackysack or frisbee with friends, fly a kite, catch some sun and read a book, etc. The trail in this area is heavily used year round, especially by neighborhood dog walkers.

Out of consideration for the neighboring houses to the park, and the way the South Western part of the park is already used, I strongly urge you to consider Shelter Option B and not duplicate a volleyball court that already exists in the park.

Could there be more options for a Small Picnic Shelter and additional volleyball court? Have you considered the area overlooking Grass Lake that already has a parking lot? That would spread out the activity and accompanying noise throughout the neighborhoods instead of concentrating it in one area. Alternatively, I personally would prefer a small shelter covering the picnic tables near the existing playground. This would give us a place to get the children out of the sun for a snack. If we move to the large Pavilion they often cry thinking we are leaving the playground. It would also be nearby the existing volleyball courts if the large Pavilion is in use.

Those of us who live in the neighborhoods next to the park have tried to be good neighbors and respectfully use the facilities and lake. We highly value the parks, and hope that as you

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

make plans for future park usage you will continue to consider the impact of your decisions on our quality of life also. I am grateful you have asked for our input and hope you will consider it as you move forward.

I would also appreciate scheduling another public forum after the Covid-19 virus concern has passed so we could continue dialogue about concerns and needs of the park. It would be nice to hear about these decisions from your point of view too. Please let me know if you have received this e-mail.

Thank you.

Kathy Deacon-Weber

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Park shelter option B
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:42:31 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Chris Owen <chrissalon35@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:38 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Park shelter option B

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Hello,

My husband and I live @ 4293 Reiland Lane in Shoreview across the street from Snail Lake. We have enjoyed Snail Lake Park for many years now.

I've looked over the plans and feel that Option B would be a better choice for the park.

Thank you for your time.

Chris Owen

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback on Snail Lake Project
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:42:40 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Roger <rcraigfox@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 12:41 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Feedback on Snail Lake Project

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am Roger Fox from 4244 Reiland Lane on the southwest side of the Lake. My neighbors farther south have done an excellent job of explaining the problems closer to the park. Since I am farther north I can't comment on them. Except the dock. You state that it will stay as is and will be considered for an upgrade sometime in the future. When is that? Myself and other pontoon boat owners on the lake have difficulty getting our boats in and out of the water and I suppose other boaters have problems too. In my case each spring I have to borrow a lower trailer from a neighbor, take my boat over to Island Lake, launch it, then retrieve it with another vehicle and the lower trailer. Then we take it back to Snail and launch it there with the lower trailer after which I store my trailer until Fall when we do the same thing in reverse. Lowering the lake would help.

Thank You,

Roger Fox

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Plan
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:13:31 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: joann pastorius <joann.pastorius@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:11 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Plan

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Dear Ramsey County Planning officials:

I reviewed the plans and had a suggestion about where the shelter should be placed in the Snail Lake Picnic area. I believe the Option B should be stronger considered as the placement of the shelter. I am a Shoreview resident who frequently uses the trails near this park area. I think they should consider newer/updated playground equipment as well. Have you ever visited a Hennepin park recreation area that has wonderful play equipment?

Benefits: Option B versus Option A

1. Closer to the beach area. The people near the beach need a shelter to protect themselves from the excessive sun rays. The shelter would help get that protection.
2. Closer to the beach launch: Area that people could use for their guests as they launch their boats.
3. Closer to walking and bike trails.
4. Closer to the playground for young people to play on the equipment.
5. The noise will not effect neighbors in this location.
6. The privacy will not be effected by neighbors in this location.

Thank you,

John and Joann Pastorius
4277. Weston Way
Shoreview, MN. 55126

Sent from my iPad

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake/Grass Lake Project Gramsie Rd Tunnel
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:26:38 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Jay <martin.jay@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:16 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake/Grass Lake Project Gramsie Rd Tunnel

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Hi,
I'm Jay Martin a local resident and trail user ever since I moved to Shoreview in the early 80's. I have been an avid trail user over the last 10 plus years. During this time I've watch the Gramsie Rd tunnel flood and dry up many times over the years. These last few years with it being under water and the many attempts we have made to fix problems have been very frustrating to me. I understand we have had some very wet times frames that no matter what we did it would be under water.

Is there anyone in the parks and rec department or an engineer that would be willing to talk to me over the phone to possibly explain the process that would have us abandon the tunnel?

I thank everyone for their time and efforts they have put in to once again make this one of the top parks in the NE metro area.

Thanks again,
Jay Martin
651-470-1456

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: Resident Comment: FW: New Shelter for Snail Lake Park
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:25:27 AM

An another one~

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Tanya Lampland <tlampland@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:06 AM

To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>

Subject: New Shelter for Snail Lake Park

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Hi there! As a resident of Shoreview on Reiland Lane I would like to express my request to move the shelter to option B near the tunnel that goes under Snail Lake Road. The shelter would have easy access to the beach, nearby bathrooms and it's own parking lot. When people visit Snail Lake they will be near the area of the park where a lot of activity is anticipated - the lake and walking trails.

Thank you for your consideration. Thanks! -Tanya

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:26:58 AM

Please let me know if you are going to contact her as she requests or did you want me to respond via email?

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-363-3784 | Fax: 651-748-2508
<http://www.ramseycounty.us/>

-----Original Message-----

From: CommunicationsHelpDesk@co.ramsey.mn.us <CommunicationsHelpDesk@co.ramsey.mn.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 6:30 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 - 18:30 Submitted by user: Anonymous Submitted values are:

Name: Anne Weber
Email: anneweber723@gmail.com
Phone number : 6513080841

Would you like someone to contact you? Yes Your comments or questions: I would like to discuss the proposed placement of a shelter in Snail Lake Regional Park. There are many neighbors who are not in support of the placement in the final proposal, and have begun circulating a petition. Please contact me as soon as possible to discuss this topic.

Thank you.

Department / Division Node ID: 1681
Contact email: parks@co.ramsey.mn.us

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback on Snail Lake park volleyball court
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:11:13 AM

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-363-3784 | Fax: 651-748-2508
www.ramseycounty.us

From: Joe Jeddeloh (jjeddeloh) <jjeddeloh@micron.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:55 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Feedback on Snail Lake park volleyball court

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Hello,

Thank you for the continued improvement of our parks. I prefer option B for the proposed volleyball court at Snail Lake park. It provides additional distance from the neighbors bordering the park.

Best regards,
Joe Jeddeloh
4302 Reiland Lane
Shoreview

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais Snail Lake Shelter Relocation
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:11:29 AM

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-363-3784 | Fax: 651-748-2508
www.ramseycounty.us

From: Mary Donlin <mdonlin@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:55 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais Snail Lake Shelter Relocation

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Ramsey County Parks Department

For Feedback on the relocation of the Shelter at Snail Lake we would like to recommend that Ramsey County utilize Option B. It makes much more sense to have it in that location with Parking, Restrooms and Shelter all together. It is especially ideal for meeting the Handicap Criteria from an ease of accessibility standpoint which we know has been one of Ramsey County's Strategic Goals for all of their park development plans. Very easily accessible for the Handicap Community.

Thanks for allowing us to contribute feedback to the County.

Sincerely,

Mary Donlin
Curt Routhe
4333 Reiland Lane

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on Vadnais-Snail Lakes Master Plan
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:14:59 AM

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-363-3784 | Fax: 651-748-2508
www.ramseycounty.us

From: jack.kochie@gmail.com <jack.kochie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:07 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Comment on Vadnais-Snail Lakes Master Plan

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Please do not move the shelter closer to our neighborhood. Option B is better because it reduces noise and provides better access to the parks amenities (beach, rest rooms, boat launch and parking). It also provides easier access to the trails on the east side of Snail Lake Bl.

Currently parking can be a problem when large groups use the pavilion. Adding a shelter near the pavilion lot adds to the problem. Moving the shelter to option B spreads the parking over all the lots in the park.

Moving the shelter to option A also encourages use of the foot trails on the west side of the lake. Those trails end in Reiland Lane, a cul-de-sac. Although that is a public street, it is winding and heavily traveled. It may become a safety hazard with extra foot traffic. Moving the shelter closer to the park's main trails would encourage their use.

Jack Kochie
4268 Reiland Ln
651-283-5707
Jack.kochie@gmail.com

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Master Plan Feedback
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:22:52 AM

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-363-3784 | Fax: 651-748-2508
<http://www.ramseycounty.us/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Taro Ito <kaijohnito@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:14 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Master Plan Feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

My name is Taro Ito and I live on 4330 Lake Point Court with my wife and 15 year old son. The purpose of my email is to provide feed back on the Snail Lake Master Plan, specifically, your recommendation for selecting Option A as the preferred choice.

For background, I have been involved in municipality development for over 30 years. I am currently the President/CEO for Running Aces Casino Hotel and Racetrack. We have recently completed and opened a 116 room boutique hotel on our property. Prior to taking over Running Aces, in was V.P. of Development for Hollywood Park, located in Los Angeles. During this period, I was responsible for 6 municipal elections for approval of a variety of development projects. In addition, we created the gaming company Pinnacle Entertainment which is current valued at over a billion dollars.

My reason for providing this information is only to make you aware that I am familiar with the issues that face you as a State Department and understand the desire to execute your responsibilities based on all regulatory obligations. I am also aware that absent any legal restrictions or regularity requirements you have the authority to make decisions which you feel are in the best interest of all concerned parties. It would appear in this specific issue that is the case as there are two available Options A or B.

Strictly based on my review of the provide plans, Option B represents the superior option, by far.

1. It eliminates the real concerns of the homes located within yards of Option A.
2. Minimizes the noise disruption to these and other homes along Reiland Lane.
(As a note, I live approximately 1/2 mile from the park and we can hear the music and crowds coming from the park all summer.)
3. Option B is located steps from the rest room facilities.
4. Option B is located in an area further away from homes.
5. I believe Option B is located in a swell or lower elevation than the street level mitigating some of the noise waves.
6. Option B is located closure to the large Pavilion where the majority of these gatherings congregate.
7. Option A represents a greater safety hazard as I can foresee volley balls being hit or kicked out on to Snail Lake.
8. Option A would certain cause more people to congregate in this area including small children much closure to

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

heavy traffic.

Merely based on these 8 issues, it would seem obvious that all parties concerned are better served by selecting Option B. The residents of Reiland land who pay a significantly higher property tax for the privilege to live and maintain this valuable city asset and the public who are entitled to utilize this State resource.

I would appreciate your consideration in this issue and hope that you will keep an open mind. Unfortunately, my experience has been some what jaded regarding entities such as yours and “feedback” requests. I am hopeful that you will be different and seriously weight the feedback you receive and not relegate this to “window dressing”.

Sincerely,
Taro Ito

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Master Plan Feed Back
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:16:57 PM

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-363-3784 | Fax: 651-748-2508
www.ramseycounty.us

From: Taro Ito <kaijohnito@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:23 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>; Taro Ito <kaijohnito@gmail.com>
Subject: Snail Lake Master Plan Feed Back

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

My name is Taro Ito and I live on 4330 Lake Point Court with my wife and 15 year old son. The purpose of my email is to provide feed back on the Snail Lake Master Plan, specifically, your recommendation for selecting Option A as the preferred choice.

For background, I have been involved in municipality development for over 30 years. I am currently the President/CEO for Running Aces Casino Hotel and Racetrack. We have recently completed and opened a 116 room boutique hotel on our property. Prior to taking over Running Aces, in was V.P. of Development for Hollywood Park, located in Los Angeles. During this period, I was responsible for 6 municipal elections for approval of a variety of development projects. In addition, we created the gaming company Pinnacle Entertainment which is current valued at over a billion dollars.

My reason for providing this information is only to make you aware that I am familiar with the issues that face you as a State Department and understand the desire to execute your responsibilities based on all regulatory obligations. I am also aware that absent any legal restrictions or regularity requirements you have the authority to make decisions which you feel are in the best interest of all concerned parties. It would appear in this specific issue that is the case as there are two available Options A or B.

Strictly based on my review of the provide plans, Option B represents the superior option, by far.

1. It eliminates the real concerns of the homes located within yards of Option A.
2. Minimizes the noise disruption to these and other homes along Reiland Lane.
(As a note, I live approximately 1/2 mile from the park and we can hear the music and crowds coming from the park all summer.)
3. Option B is located steps from the rest room facilities.
4. Option B is located in an area further away from homes.
5. I believe Option B is located in a swell or lower elevation than the street level mitigating some of the noise waves.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

6. Option B is located closure to the large Pavilion where the majority of these gatherings congregate.
7. Option A represents a greater safety hazard as I can foresee volley balls being hit or kicked out on to Snail Lake.
8. Option A would certain cause more people to congregate in this area including small children much closure to heavy traffic.

Merely based on these 8 issues, it would seem obvious that all parties concerned are better served by selecting Option B. The residents of Reiland land who pay a significantly higher property tax for the privilege to live and maintain this valuable city asset and the public who are entitled to utilize this State resource.

I would appreciate your consideration in this issue and hope that you will keep an open mind. Unfortunately, my experience has been some what jaded regarding entities such as yours and "feedback" requests. I am hopeful that you will be different and seriously weight the feedback you receive and not relegate this to "window dressing".

Sincerely,
Taro Ito

DRAFT



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:17:26 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: rkt <rktpoidog@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:23 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

hello,
as a resident of the Snail Lake community i vote for the proposed plan B and not the preferred plan A for the Snail Lake concept. option B provides closer access to the trails across Snail Lake blvd and would provide a better view of the lake. concept A is closer to private homes on Reiland Lane, which would impact their lives negatively with noise and possible vagrants.
respectfully,
rkt

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Park Shelter
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 11:29:39 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: KEVIN HOFFMAN <kevinghoffmann@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 8:43 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Park Shelter

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Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

4/17/2020

Vadnais-Snail Lake Park Master Plan Community Feedback

Concerning the Snail Lake Park Master Plan. There is discussion about finding a place to move the flooded shelter in Snail Lake. My vote is that we don't need it at all, so there is no need to move it.

Kevin Hoffmann

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Pavilion - Option B is better
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:06:21 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Greg and Julia <dambeg@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2020 11:16 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Pavilion - Option B is better

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Hi,

Option B is better than Option A for the following reasons.

B is closer to the lake and bathrooms.

B has much better parking options.

If there is an event at the large pavilion there will not be enough parking for both shelters.

Option A is too close to the residents close to the park.

Thanks,

Julia Perpich and Greg Damberg

4332 Reiland Lane

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail lake park small shelter relocation
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:56:21 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Craig Gelderman <craiggelderman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 7:30 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail lake park small shelter relocation

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

After hearing from neighbors about their concerns over noise from the existing park shelters, I'm wondering why Option A is preferred by the park board when it is almost in the adjacent neighbors' back yards. Wouldn't Option B make more sense? If you were to select Option B, it would leave the Option A area more secluded for picnickers who desired more isolation.

Sent from my iPhone

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Park
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 8:58:51 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Arta Cheney <artachokes@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 12:51 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Park

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To whom it may concern

I believe option B for the new picnic shelter that replaces the flooded is a better choice. It will not be as noisy for the neighbors that back up to the park and it will be closer to restrooms and the beach.

Best,
Arta Cheney

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais Snail Lake Park community feedback
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 9:29:29 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Kraupa, Greg <Greg.Kraupa@eyecarecenters.net>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 7:50 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: greg.kraupa@comcast.net
Subject: Vadnais Snail Lake Park community feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

We are quite excited about the plans to improve the trail system and connect the looped trails by adding board walks where the water levels have risen.

However, we and are concerned about a proposed picnic shelter that was added to the improvement plan in the February meeting. The planners have proposed Option A where they would replace the flooded picnic shelter and volleyball near it's current location.

We would prefer Option B. This would be to move the Shelter near the tunnel that goes under Snail Lake Road. The shelter would have easy access to the beach, nearby bathrooms and its own parking lot.

Thank you for your consideration

Greg Kraupa & Annette Potter
4280 Reiland Ln
Shoreview

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais Snail Lake Proposal
Date: Monday, April 20, 2020 3:20:19 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: L B <ldbbdpc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 2:32 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais Snail Lake Proposal

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Greetings,

After seeing the proposed information on the wetland A project I would like to share my sentiments:

I do not believe anyone has ever voiced a concern about the esthetics of an elevated boardwalk to the residents who would be in closest proximity to what would be an incredibly visible eyesore. The unobtrusive bituminous pathway that exists on the southern end is certainly ok, but elevating and putting up guard rails would destroy the line of site for these homeowners.

Further, the only flooding that ever has occurred is the very south end where the water pools from the pond adjoining Grams road.

In the interest of funding, it is rather pointless of having an elevated boardwalk from the Hanska Court entrance to the south. If mitigating the water problem is the Goal of the park, may I suggest that monies are spent to do just that, mitigate water issues. Perhaps a trench from the furthest pond of the two ponds on the east side of the paved tunnel trail under Gramsie would be better spent money.

It's ok if there is water on the trail at times, It's Nature!

The other eyesore is the boardwalk traversing the entire wetland A from East to West from Hanska Court. Why? It completely alters the environment and will allow for garbage to be deposited in the middle of the wetland. I am not saying that garbage will be illegally dumped, but rather kids will leave behind their snack wrappers and bottles - like those lining Virginia and Demar already. Nor will dog walkers deposit their dogs business into the waters below purposefully, but the bags that seemingly slip away in the wind will never be recovered.

If the intent of the restoration was for water mitigation, please put the monies forth to controlling the water. If it is for pork belly spending please use the monies for another parkland area.

Friends of the natural course of evolution.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake regional park
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:24:27 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Jean Wocken <jmwocken@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:12 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake regional park

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Dear Planning Commission,

I recently looked at the plan for the Snail Lake Regional Park and have a few concerns. While I appreciate all the work involved in planning a park I hope you will also take the concerns of the neighbors into consideration. In looking at the plan, I am concerned the option A shelter is too close to the neighborhood side of the park, too far from the restrooms, and would add additional noise issues to the neighborhood when we already are exposed to the large shelter noise.

The large shelter programs remove the quiet suburban neighborhood feel we had come to enjoy and now it appears you are contemplating an additional shelter even closer to the homes which will lead to additional noise pollution. I hope you are still considering other options for this shelter position. If we need another shelter in the park, please consider Shelter Option B as it is located closer to the lake, beach, and restrooms as well as a parking lot. Shelter Option B is also not in the backyard of neighborhood homes, and would keep the park activity and noise near the beach, where it already exists.

Thank you for helping to keep Snail Lake park a wonderful neighborhood area and an asset to Shoreview and Ramsey County.
Sincerely,

Jean Wocken

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake master plan
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:24:37 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Eric Weber <ejweb1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 3:04 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake master plan

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

I am writing to address the Snail Lake Regional Park master plan proposal. Thank you for giving people the opportunity to weigh in with their experiences with the park. I am fortunate enough to live close enough to Snail Lake Regional Park that my family is able to use the trails and parkland multiple times a week throughout the year. I am excited to see the addition of trails to the system and the efforts to circumvent the flooded trails.

The one area of concern I have is with the shelter being proposed in option A. The following is a list of these concerns:

Is there even a need for a shelter and volleyball court when the grassy area and picnic tables offer more variety of space to be used? In the Ramsey County 2018 System Plan, page 28 includes the focus on redevelopment where the plan states the focus should be on not simply replacing structures because they previously existed; the plans should be based on the needs of the community participants. As many residents see the use of the park, urgent attention is needed on the trails, which you are addressing, and the playground is also in dire need of attention. The playground structure is outdated and has not been updated to keep up with other area park systems, such as the Three River Parks District. It was disappointing to see the plan focus on putting a shelter and volleyball court, right next to a shelter and volleyball court. This seems to be in direct conflict with your system plan & disappointing to the families who would benefit from additional or renovated playground equipment.

In addition, Page 199 of the Ramsey County System Plan calls for an increase in the

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

fishing opportunities on Snail Lake. It calls for a fishing pier or secondary fishing location. This would be an excellent example of the more varied types of recreational pursuits to be made available for people that a second shelter and second volleyball court could not provide. If there is such a need for more volleyball courts, there is more than enough land next to the playground and court already there. It is difficult to understand the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation system plan when the preferred option being proposed seems to be directly contradicting the intentions of the park system to provide and nurture the varied forms of recreation available to us in Minnesota.

If a shelter is needed, option "B" would provide a shelter closer to the lake and beach access and would help the park be a better neighbor to the neighborhoods of Snail Lake Landing, Evergreen Valley, Evans Court, and Reiland Lane. Currently, these neighborhoods deal with excessive noise almost every weekend the shelter is in use. The noise can be heard around the lake and often inside homes a ¼ mile or more away from the shelter. In addition, option B shelter would be closer to the lower parking lot and offer more suitable access to the beach for those with disabilities and handicaps as well.

Respectfully,
Eric & Anne Weber
4110 Reiland

DK

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais snail lake project
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:04:17 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Jodi Hultgren <jodi_hultgren@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:32 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais snail lake project

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I don't see it specifically identified as moving the sewer line to the east side of Grass Lake. I've heard that is the plan. If so, what is the timing of that? How many trees are you going to be removing? You have removed do many in the area in your pursuit of restoring prairie. I think if you asked the residents, they aren't interested in prairie. They'd rather have nice trails through the trees. I grew up on the prairie. Nobody wants to take a walk through the prairie!!

And, any chance the old sewer pipe can be used to move water to the other side of 694 where it can flow to the river? I'm pretty sure the project doesn't cross the freeway but a girl can dream. I think there has to be a way to replace drainage under 694.

Jodi

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Park Plan
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:47:42 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Carol Gariano <carolanngariano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:42 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; smartin@shoreviewmn.gov
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Park Plan

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Dear Park Planners,

I write to you with feedback on the Vandals-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan. I've lived in Ramsey County most of my life. I am familiar with the park. I live nearby and regularly walk, swim, sled, and go boating in Snail Lake Park. I've also reserved space at the shelter for large group gatherings. I want you to choose Option B as the preferred location for the new shelter and volleyball courts.

Option B has better access to the hiking trails, the swimming beach, the sledding hill, the boat launch and to the playground than Option A does. A shelter near the tunnel would support full use of these, the Park's best recreational features. I understand the new shelter will not have restrooms. The beach house restrooms would be easily accessible to the Option B site and not to Option A.

Additionally, there are advantages to keeping the Option A area as Open Space. Open Space keeps the park available for imaginative, creative activities in our beautiful lakeside woodland! Open space is needed to fly a kite, pitch a football, roll in the grass and many other playful, big space activities. Open Space also protects areas where wildlife nest and thrive. Keeping the Option A area as Open Space offers park guests opportunities to interact with the turtles, the egrets, the deer and many other types wildlife who live there. Guests can enjoy the natural features as well as the recreational with Option B.

Please choose Option B. When the shelters are spread across the park, people have to haul picnic supplies and equipment across the park which is not only a hassle but will litter and further degrade the park land and Snail Lake. Clustering the shelters takes advantage of the park's recreational and natural features while protecting our land and water.



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

I urge you to choose Option B. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Carol Gariano
4370 Reiland Lane, Shoreview

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Park Plan
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:47:42 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Carol Gariano <carolanngariano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:42 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; smartin@shoreviewmn.gov
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Park Plan

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Dear Park Planners,

I write to you with feedback on the Vandals-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan. I've lived in Ramsey County most of my life. I am familiar with the park. I live nearby and regularly walk, swim, sled, and go boating in Snail Lake Park. I've also reserved space at the shelter for large group gatherings. I want you to choose Option B as the preferred location for the new shelter and volleyball courts.

Option B has better access to the hiking trails, the swimming beach, the sledding hill, the boat launch and to the playground than Option A does. A shelter near the tunnel would support full use of these, the Park's best recreational features. I understand the new shelter will not have restrooms. The beach house restrooms would be easily accessible to the Option B site and not to Option A.

Additionally, there are advantages to keeping the Option A area as Open Space. Open Space keeps the park available for imaginative, creative activities in our beautiful lakeside woodland! Open space is needed to fly a kite, pitch a football, roll in the grass and many other playful, big space activities. Open Space also protects areas where wildlife nest and thrive. Keeping the Option A area as Open Space offers park guests opportunities to interact with the turtles, the egrets, the deer and many other types wildlife who live there. Guests can enjoy the natural features as well as the recreational with Option B.

Please choose Option B. When the shelters are spread across the park, people have to haul picnic supplies and equipment across the park which is not only a hassle but will litter and further degrade the park land and Snail Lake. Clustering the shelters takes advantage of the park's recreational and natural features while protecting our land and water.



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

I urge you to choose Option B. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Carol Gariano
4370 Reiland Lane, Shoreview

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Shelter option A not good
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:17:13 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Rick Heppner <rickh63@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:15 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Shelter option A not good

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Dear Ramsey County Parks and Rec.

Our family has lived near Snail Lake Park for over 50 years, and really enjoy all the work you have done to all the parks. it's alot of work and continually changes.

Briefly, please don't relocate the shelter so close to our homes. The noise in the summer from the main shelter and sound systems reverberates through out house. How this is allowed to continue when it is clearly in violation of sound levels i don't know.

The current shelter is only under a few inches of water. Why don't you remove the picnic tables, put a boardwalk style floor to raise it above the water and put the tables back in place. Its a great location, and will now be even closer to the new beach.

Then you for all your work,
The Heppner family
4140 Reiland Lane

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:06:30 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Heathers Yahoo <hlwalch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:19 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Fwd: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Dear park planners,

I like what you are proposing for the trails but I am concerned with the plan for the second shelter and volleyball court. Building a structure under option A is not ideal for my neighbors who live on Reiland Lane. Noise in their homes is already an issue with the large pavilion. Adding a second pavilion is only going to make more noise. Realize many of us moved onto Reiland Lane because it is a quiet street. Plus, parking will be limited for group rentals when the large pavilion is also in use. That lot fills up frequently.

Option B seems like a more logical choice. It has its own parking, easy access to the beach and restrooms, and is away from the backyards of longtime residents. I would think this location would get rented more as well. With such limited space now by the beach for beach goers, this becomes prime real estate for small to medium sized groups to rent. Proximity to the beach was the big draw for the location of the existing shelter.

I strongly recommend option B - it will get rented more than option A and you will have happier neighbors to the park. No one wants more noise in their backyards.

Please reconsider your plan.
Heather Walch
Shoreview resident
4368 Reiland Lane

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>

Date: April 13, 2020 at 3:28:19 PM CDT

Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback

Reply-To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>

Thank you for your past participation in the [Vadnais-Snail Lake master plan](#) community engagement process.

The community meeting scheduled for March 19 was canceled to align with guidelines from the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) and Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health regarding [coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Despite the cancellation, we want to assure you that this project is still moving forward. Because your feedback as a community member is important to us, we invite you to review the final concept online in lieu of the public meeting. Feedback can be submitted to Ramsey County Parks & Recreation by email.

[View the final concept and provide feedback.](#)

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed shelter at Snail Lake Park
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:06:20 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Ann <agallowaye@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:26 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Proposed shelter at Snail Lake Park

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Dear Ramsey County Park Planners,

I am writing concerning Snail Lake Regional Park and in particular, a Snail Lake park proposed shelter. I am grateful for your efforts to restore the beach and park facilities which have been lost from extremely high water levels. People from around the metro area use the park and it is a joy to see families and work groups gather and enjoying the space.

My husband and I live on Reiland Lane adjacent to the park. We are not on the lake side and our property does not border the park; our house is midway down Reiland Lane. Despite this, particularly on summer weekends, we hear large groups with their big speakers from our yard. We request that you **DO NOT SITE** a new shelter close to houses on the lane as it would bring more noise into the area. A shelter site closer to the trail tunnel area of the park would provide convenient access to parking, the new beach area, as well as the restroom / changing facilities. It would centralize the activity and noise away from adjacent homes



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

and it would make it easier for parents to supervise their children at the beach play area.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to gather feedback from the neighborhood. We appreciate your efforts. If you have any questions or need clarification, please call me on my cell, 651-387-9418. Take care and be safe.

Sincerely,

Ann Galloway-Egge and
Trygve Egge
4207 Reiland Lane
Shoreview, Mn 55126

Ann Galloway-Egge, 651-387-9418 cell
Pronouns: she/her/hers/herself

Sent from my iPad

DRY

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:31:55 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Carol Stadler <carol.stadler@incircuits.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:30 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my feedback on the plan. My input is regarding the placement of the new shelter and volleyball court and the Wetland A trail systems.

- Option A for the shelter is too close to the private property. The sound from the shelters carry loudly across the lake, having a new shelter directly in one's back yard would be quite deafening. This could potentially lower their property values due to close quarters and the sound pollution.
 - Consider moving the shelter to the location in the yellow circle in the attached screen shot as this location has a nice large area next to the parking lot, direct view of the lake and close to the bathroom facilities and is not next to private properties.
 - Keep the volleyball court at site B which allows players to use it at the same time as the shelter reservation and allows players to use it even when the shelter is reserved, consistent with the previous shelter, now under water.
- Please Please consider delaying the addition of a shelter and a volleyball pit (may not open this season due to Covid19) such that the funds can be used to complete the walking paths which are used year round by the public and would be so beneficial in this time of social distancing which is likely to continue for quite some time. Per the note in the proposed plan.
 - The cost of the floating boardwalk is also found to be equal to that of a fixed boardwalk which could be the permanent solution. In light of these findings, the county will not pursue funding to complete a temporary solution. Instead, the preferred alternative shown above could be installed in phases. This allows for a flexible solution to seek multiple funding

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

sources over several years.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Please reply to let me know that you have received and reviewed my input. If you have any questions, just ask.

Regards

Carol Stadler

4284 Reiland Lane

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Picnic Shelter - Option B
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:52:56 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Mark M. Nelson <mark.murray.nelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:43 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Picnic Shelter - Option B

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Greetings!

We're 25+ year residents of this area, living on Reiland Lane. We walk and use Snail Lake Park on an almost daily basis. After reviewing the plans for replacing the flooded small picnic shelter, we would recommend Option B for the placement of this structure. It's proximity to the lake, swim area, bathrooms and a parking area separate from the large shelter make this a much better spot than Option A in our opinion.

Here are our concerns about Option A:

- It places the shelter in what is now a very nice low-key picnic area that can be used for folks wanting a quieter time at the park. It potentially ruins this area for low-key family events. (The other picnic table area in the lower parking area is less desirable for quiet picnics.)
- It places the shelter nearer to the Reiland Lane homes along the park, which could impact those neighbors with added noise and commotion when in use.
- It is also some distance away from the nearest bathroom facility, which could be problematic for folks with mobility issues.
- It would share parking with the large picnic shelter. For many events at the large shelter, the upper parking lot gets filled up, causing a considerable hike for folks from the lower parking lot. Users of flooded shelter would typically park in the lower level.
- Unlike the flooded shelter, it would have little view of the lake and poor access to the lake front and beach.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Thank you for letting us provide our feedback. We are pleased and excited about all the trail work being done to deal with the historic high water levels. Keep up the good work!

Mark M. Nelson and Laura D. Heaslip
4310 Reiland Lane
(651) 338-2885

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback on Vadnais-Snail Lake Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:03:29 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Beth Jackson <bethjackson0722@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 11:34 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Feedback on Vadnais-Snail Lake Master Plan

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Hello -

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Vadnais-Snail Lake Master Plan. I attended several of the earlier meetings held about the plan, and am disappointed that there will not be another opportunity for community members to give feedback in person before the plan is finalized. I understand why a meeting like that can't be held in the near-term, but am concerned about finalizing the plan without robust community input. As I'm sure you're aware, there are some controversial elements of the plan which deserve further examination. If the County proceeds without adequate public input, I think it could feel (to many of us) that the County did an end run around the community.

That being said, I would like to provide you with my specific feedback:

1) I am in support of the trail-related proposals, both for the Wetland A area and Grass Lake. I agree that the solution proposed is the best of the alternatives available. I also like the statement about installing the preferred alternatives in phases. (This is something I specifically brought up at one of the community meetings.) It makes sense to adopt a flexible solution and to seek multiple funding sources over several years. I believe that improving the trails is far-and-away the most important perceived benefit to the community. I base that statement on what I heard at the plan meetings, what I have heard from friends & neighbors in the community, and what I have anecdotally heard about feedback received by the mayor of Shoreview.

2) I am not in support of the recommendation made for the Snail Lake picnic area. Option A would

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

have a serious negative impact to neighbors who border the park to the west and south (Reiland Lane, Snail Lake Landing, Evergreen Place). Amplified sound from the existing pavilion goes on all day during most summer weekends, and neighbors hear it inside their homes. There are rules about noise and sound amplification in the Shoreview Environmental Standards, which are quoted below. But those rules are not enforced. Adding another shelter (and volleyball court) which is even closer to homes in the area will degrade the situation further.

From Section 209 of the Shoreview Municipal Code: Environmental standards

Prohibited Noise. No person shall make or cause to be made any distinctly and loudly audible noise that unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace, safety or welfare of any person or precludes his/her enjoyment of property or affects his/her property's value.

Sound Amplification Devices. No person shall use or operate or permit the use or operation of any radio receiving set, musical instrument, phonograph, paging system, machine or other device for the production or reproduction of sound in a distinctly and loudly audible manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of any person nearby. Operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine or other device between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to be plainly audible at the property line of the structure or building in which it is located, in the hallway or apartment adjacent, or at a distance of 50 feet if the source is located outside a structure or building shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

In addition, I wonder whether any research has been done on potential impact to available parking in the area. My observation is that when the existing pavilion is utilized for large events, the parking lot is usually full. What will happen when additional parking demand is placed on the lot?

If nothing else, I think you owe it to the neighbors who are close to the proposed shelter in 'Option A' to specifically follow up with them. I believe that would include Reiland Lane, Snail Lake Landing and Evergreen Place. Asking for feedback via e-mail is not sufficient, because it is easy for people to miss an e-mail communication. I think the least these community members deserve is a letter, or something which has a higher likelihood of being read.

Thank you for requesting my feedback. I would appreciate it if someone could respond to this message so that I know it was read.

Beth Jackson

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Goodnature, Mike](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake park flooding mitigation
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:27:44 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Dave Engh <drengh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:42 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake park flooding mitigation


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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

1. First preference would be to lower the water level of the pond that flooded 3 years ago, (wetland A) and create a levee along the south side where Grass Lake flooded into it originally.
2. If the water level in wetland A is to remain, wooden raised trails would be the next preference.
3. I don't see a connection to Floral Drive via the lot owned by the city. If that connection is not maintained everyone will probably access through our yard (298 Floral), not a preferred solution.

Sincerely,

David Engh 298 Floral Dr

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: johngariano@gmail.com
Cc: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: nicole.frethem@ramseycounty.us, smartin@shoreviewmn.gov
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:09:08 AM

Hello John,
Thank you for your input! I will forward your feedback to the planning team to be documented and tallied.
In regards to Bobby T Park, I would encourage you to reach out to the City of Shoreview as they manage the Park and pickleball courts.

Thank you again and Stay Well~
Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: John Gariano <johngariano@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:00 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: nicole.frethem@ramseycounty.us, smartin@shoreviewmn.gov

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Park Planners,

Below is a letter my wife, Carol Gariano, wrote in support of Plan B. I am in total agreement with the letter and have just a few comments. First, do you really need to spend the money? Always a tough question, and I am sure you have given it appropriate thought. Secondly, if you have the money, I would like to see more pickleball courts at Bobby T park.

I write to you with feedback on the Vandals-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan. I've lived in Ramsey County most of my life. I am familiar with the park. I live nearby and regularly walk, swim, sled, and go boating in Snail Lake Park. I've also reserved space at the shelter for large group gatherings. I want you to choose Option B as the preferred location for the new shelter and volleyball courts.

Option B has better access to the hiking trails, the swimming beach, the sledding hill, the boat launch and to the playground than Option A does. A shelter near the tunnel would support full use of these, the Park's best recreational features. I understand the new shelter will not have restrooms. The beach house restrooms would be easily accessible to the Option B site and not to Option A.

Additionally, there are advantages to keeping the Option A area as Open Space. Open



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Space keeps the park available for imaginative, creative activities in our beautiful lakeside woodland! Open space is needed to fly a kite, pitch a football, roll in the grass and many other playful, big space activities. Open Space also protects areas where wildlife nest and thrive. Keeping the Option A area as Open Space offers park guests opportunities to interact with the turtles, the egrets, the deer and many other types wildlife who live there. Guests can enjoy the natural features as well as the recreational with Option B.

Please choose Option B. When the shelters are spread across the park, people have to haul picnic supplies and equipment across the park which is not only a hassle but will litter and further degrade the park land and Snail Lake. Clustering the shelters takes advantage of the park's recreational and natural features while protecting our land and water.

I urge you to choose Option B. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your reply.

John Gariano
4370 Reiland Lane

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Goodnature, Mike](#)
Subject: FW: Please reconsider the position of your new shelter and volleyball court
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:41:56 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Jenny Ochs <jenny@empowerarc.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 1:53 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Please reconsider the position of your new shelter and volleyball court

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Dear Ramsey County Park Planners,

Thank you for your work to create updates to the Ramsey County Parks with the challenges of flooding water levels

We appreciate that you are coming up with alternative trail systems. We have missed access to the looped trails in Wetland A and B and look forward to getting the trail systems upgraded.

We are not happy to hear though of your plans for a new shelter in Option A location.

I hope you are still considering both options A and B , since the March meeting was cancelled. If we need another shelter in the park, please consider Shelter Option B as it is located near the lake, beach, nearby restrooms and has it's own parking lot. It would be easy access and provide shelter to a favorite area that is used by many park visitors. Shelter Option B is not in the backyard of neighborhood homes, and would keep the park activity and noise near the beach, where it already exists and is expected.

Shelter option A moves more park activity to the neighborhoods that share the park boundary. The surrounding neighbors already have a noise problem with the use of the

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

existing large Pavilion in this part of the park. To add another shelter in this area would add to the this problem. In recent years, more and more large groups have rented the Pavilion using sound systems that flood our backyards, we can even hear the music inside our homes as we are putting our children to bed at night. In addition, the requirement that speakers cannot be heard 50 feet from the Pavilion is neither honored nor enforced. When the large Pavilion is booked the nearby parking lot is often already filled up, so parking could be difficult with an additional Shelter as proposed in Option A.

Also, the grassy area this additional volleyball court would take up is often used by small groups to play games with friends, fly a kite, catch some sun and read a book, etc. The trail in this area is heavily used year round, especially by neighborhood dog walkers.

Out of consideration for the neighboring houses to the park, and the way the South Western part of the park is already used, I strongly urge you to consider Shelter Option B and not duplicate a volleyball court that already exists in the park.

Other Options: Could there be more options for a Small Picnic Shelter and additional volleyball court? Have you considered the area overlooking Grass Lake that already has a parking lot? That would spread out the activity and accompanying noise throughout the neighborhoods instead of concentrating it in one area. Alternatively, I personally would prefer a small shelter covering the picnic tables near the existing playground. This would give us a place to get the children out of the sun for a snack.

Those of us who live in the neighborhoods next to the park have tried to be good neighbors and respectfully use the facilities and lake. We highly value the parks, and hope that as you make plans for future park usage you will continue to consider the impact of your decisions on our quality of life also. I am grateful you have asked for our input and hope you will consider it as you move forward.

Thank you.

Jenny Ochs,
Resident on Reiland Ln.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback on trail changes in Snail Lake Park
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:12:06 AM

Came into Parks Junk? Were going to have to watch out!

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-266-0302 | Fax: 651-748-2508
<http://www.ramseycounty.us/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Copley <brucecop44@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:08 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Bonnie Haugen <Bhaugen21@gmail.com>; Dan Kaiser <danjkaiser@msn.com>; Andrea Carley <a.carley@icloud.com>; Greg Windsperger <greg.windsperger@federalfoam.com>; Dan Wackman <wackm001@umn.edu>; Andrea Zelensky <andreacz@yahoo.com>; Patsy <ralphsipple@comcast.net>; Mary Windsperger <1301wind@comcast.net>; Dianne Ward <ward.mulholland@gmail.com>; Nikki Bentley <nhertel20@gmail.com>; J Borgos <jbalive@comcast.net>; Chris Lund <clund128@gmail.com>; T Sabby <tmsabby@msn.com>; L Borgos <lminn47@comcast.net>; Chris Kammerer <cakammerer@yahoo.com>; Dan Galvin <dan@dangalvinhomes.com>; Roxanne Theilacker <roxannetheilacker@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Tom Kysilko <tomkysilko@outlook.com>; Tom Hardel <tom.hardel@aol.com>; Barb Englin <blenglin@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Dave Kangas <dakangas@gmail.com>; Cindy LaBerge <cindyjlaborge@gmail.com>; David Engh <drengh@gmail.com>; Tony Gutzwiller <tgtutz@q.com>; James Mulholland <james.mulholland@ieee.org>; Cindy Haak <cindymhaak@hotmail.com>; Kathy Trovecke <ktrovecke@msn.com>; Larry Gerger <larryg147@icloud.com>; Jan Hardel <janohardel@aol.com>; Steven La Berge <steven.laborge@gmail.com>; Sharon Werner <swerner22@msn.com>; Angela Basara <aeb25@centurylink.net>; Larry Swope <lgswope@msn.com>; Dick Dragovich <rsdrag@comcast.net>; Al Dubiak <asdubiak@comcast.net>; Sheila and Ken Otto <zfamilyo@msn.com>; Tom Suter <trsuter@aol.com>; Micheal Marko <mmarko@usfamily.net>; Matt Anthony <manthony@gmail.com>; Larrie and Lou Ann Reese <larloureese@gmail.com>; Julie Schachtele <aschach9@hotmail.com>; John Roberts <jcrinminn@gmail.com>; Julia Doroff <julia.hughes.a@gmail.com>; Renee Roy <renjroy@comcast.net>; Mark Mulcahy <mkmulcahy75@gmail.com>; Joe Kammerer <joe.kammerer@yahoo.com>; Matt Gray <matt@gray.mn>; Angela & Song <lang0652@hotmail.com>; Keith & Laverne O'Brien <obrienklm@comcast.net>; Virginia Henrikson <vhenrikson@comcast.net>; Jennifer Wellner <jennifer@wi-attorneys.com>; Kathy Wackman <Kathywack@msn.com>; Charlie Jirasek <charlie.jirasek@gmail.com>; Gary Larson <rogalarson@gmail.com>; Don Yeager <dyaeger0859@comcast.net>; Jack Christopherson <christophersonjack@yahoo.com>; Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Sandy Martin <sandymartin444@gmail.com>; sdenking@shoreviewmn.gov; ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov; Terry Quigley <tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov>; Cory Springhorn <cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov>; Jamie Becker-Finn <rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn>
Subject: Feedback on trail changes in Snail Lake Park

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This note is in response to your request for specific feedback on the Snail Lake master plan (https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/parks-planning-projects/vadnais-snail-lakes-regional-park-master-plan-community-feedback?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) that was to be presented at the

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

cancelled March 19 public meeting. I believe there are some specific changes many would like to see in the plan and some detail about planned changes in the water handling that may not have been considered.

As a 40 year resident of Crestview Addition (about 1 block south of Snail Lake Park) I have had the pleasure of daily walks throughout Snail Lake Park. This area has been my sanctuary, as it is for many others, since well before the trail system was developed throughout the park. I have watched with great concern as water levels rose over the past 5 or 6 years and can assure you that this is not a normal condition for the area.

The high water level is forcing the parks and rec. department to consider closing trails, closing tunnels and installing boardwalks. The loss of 2 pedestrian tunnels has negative impact on traffic flow and pedestrian safety. I do not support long sections of boardwalk over paved trail. As an avid bicyclist, experience has shown that these become coated with organic growth that is very slippery and treacherous to bike on when wet. The proposed boardwalk also limits at least one access point to the park which is now part of the overall trail/transportation system.

I would like to propose that you consider an alternative way forward that addresses the basic problem limiting your design options in the master plan.

Many in our neighborhood have become actively involved with the Ramsey Washington Metro Water District (RWMWD), the county and the City of Shoreview to identify root causes of this problem and push for solutions. We all agree that the high rainfall level over the past 6 years has significantly contributed to the flooding of the park, but water management for the area north of I694 has been a major contributor to park flooding. I can send you a presentation and discuss with you should you like more detail on this topic, but the following points are more specific to the Snail Lake park.

There are 2 tunnels (one under Gramsie Road and one under Snail Lake Blvd) providing safe crossing and efficient traffic flow when not flooded. The City of Shoreview is upgrading a pump system in Suzanne Pond this summer which will affect one of these tunnels. The upgrade includes a drain from the pond (known as North Gramsie Pond) that is just northwest of the Gramsie Road tunnel.

Diagrams of the new system were presented to the Shoreview City Council during the approval process this month. It is important to note that the drain pipe starts at about the 875 ft contour in North Gramsie pond. This is at least 1 foot below the lowest point in the tunnel. If this works as planned and the invert of the drain pipe is placed at this level, then the tunnel should remain dry, thus avoiding the need for an at grade crossing on Gramsie Road. Mark Maloney, the Shoreview Public Works Director could provide more specifics for you.

Most of your plan is predicated on an assumption that Snail Lake and Wetland A will remain quite high for the coming years. A bit of historical background may be relevant here.

Wetland A became completely flooded a few years ago when Grass Lake overflowed its north bank, flowed across Gramsie Road and into Wetland A. This happened twice in the recent past. The overflow was possible because county use of the berm (for a ski trail) on the north bank of Grass Lake had compressed and eroded the berm to a level below the design height.

In addition to this, an unapproved culvert was install in the path along the north berm of Grass Lake that allow water to flood out of Grass Lake throughout the year and into Wetland A. This continued to add water north of Gramsie Road year round. The culvert was installed by the county, probably in the early 2000's before persistent high water levels in Grass Lake existed.

The berm has since been repaired, the berm height altered and the unapproved culvert removed. The key point here is that through some unfortunate actions by the county, very large amounts of water have exited Grass Lake and entered Wetland A.

This is important for 2 reasons. First, the normal ability of Wetland A to drain and evaporate from the more normal spring highs (which only floods a very small section of trail in the spring) has been compromised. Second, there is good evidence to suggest the Wetland A is a significant outlet of water that drains out of Snail Lake. The very high water level in Snail that is flooding the tunnel, beach and trails is most likely highly impacted by the excessive water levels in Wetland A. Jumping to the conclusion, removing water from Wetland A back to Grass Lake could very

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

well solve many of the problems that plague the trails, beach and tunnel in Snail Lake and Wetland A.

I would like to suggest that the county invest in some longterm pumping of Wetland A back into Grass Lake. The RWMWD did this for about a week several summers ago as part of a hydrologic study. The goal was not to empty Wetland A, but only to cause a rapid short-term drop in the Wetland A water levels to see how this affected groundwater levels as measured by the surrounding piezometers. It was set up as an experiment not a solution.

A more reasonable approach would be continuous moderate level pumping over a long period to bring water levels in both Wetland A and Snail Lake back to norms where both can behave as in the past. This should allow the county parks and rec. to avoid things like boardwalks, closed trail segments and new street crossings as proposed in your master plan.

Should you discuss with the RWMWD, I would caution you that unless you talk to the whole board of managers you will get only one side to issue. There is no one at the water district who can say definitively that pumping of Wetland A will give the desired result or will not give the desired result. The board is split on this issue and those on the board who know the most about this area support pumping. The administrator at RWMWD has opposed pumping.

In balance, the pumping has the potential to solve a lot of problems for the residents of Snail Lake, residents who use the park and the county park and rec. department. The investment in pumping may also be more cost effective than other work arounds proposed in the master plan.

I have copied quite a few people on this feedback as many in our neighborhood have been actively involved and organized to gain resolution to the high water levels and loss of park and rec. resources surrounding our neighborhood. There are a lot of stakeholders for this plan. I encourage everyone on the cc list to add their comments, pro or con, to this important issue.

I will gladly discuss with you in more detail if that would help. Thanks for all of your efforts to improve and maintain the county parks.

Sincerely,

Bruce Copley

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Park Plan
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:13:59 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Tammy Nara <tammy.nara@moundsvIEWSschools.org>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:12 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Park Plan

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Hello!
You probably hear lots from people who have problems with the plan.
Here is a response to put in the other column.
Looks good to me!

Tammy Nara
Shoreview resident

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: feedback on Wetland A & Grass Lake
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:03:00 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Barbara Westgard <bawestgard@att.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 2:00 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: feedback on Wetland A & Grass Lake

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Thank you for the email and for asking for input. This is tricky – with the flooding and funding and environmental and emotional considerations.

My feedback:

Grass Lake

While I think I would use the circle route, I think adding a boardwalk on the south side is disruptive to nature and unnecessary.

Wetland A

I do look forward to using the trails and gaining safe access (via the trails) to the retail on Highway 96. I think the boardwalk looks like overkill. At one of the meetings, it was mentioned that due to some environmental restrictions, the trail cannot be raised in the flooded areas – yet a boardwalk can be built. I do like the layout of the proposed trail.

I do prefer the discarded option of only adjusting the areas currently flooded – but I need to move past that.

Any chance we can save the trees, rather than cutting them down to build the boardwalk, restore the prairie and convert to wildflowers. The trees and shade coverage are dearly missed.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Both Grass Lake and Wetland A

I am concerned about the maintenance of a boardwalk.

I am concerned about bike/pedestrian yielding on the boardwalk – no place to jump out of the way.

I do like the re-alignment of the crossing at Gramsie.

Barbara Westgard

DRAFT



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Shelter adjustment for Snail Land and Wetland A input
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:02:22 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: L B <ldbdbpc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:01 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Shelter adjustment for Snail Land and Wetland A input

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Hi,

looking at the map of Wetland A, is there any way to attach a walkway to the Boardwalk from the existing bituminous pathway at the point where people are crossing Private land? That part of the trail would be nice to have open for continuation North to How 96.

With regard to the Snail lake shelter. Am I reading the map properly? You want to put the shelter in the parking lot? I'm sorry but I would never use it. I do not think anyone would want to have a picnic in the parking lot. Without going back to a redesign, my input would be to have the shelter in the open areas on the hillside on the East.

Thank you for taking my input.

Very nice of you to be doing the hard work that you have.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Thanks
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:02:28 AM

Angela Marlette | Administrative Assistant
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-266-0302 | Fax: 651-748-2508
www.ramseycounty.us

From: Ann Galloway-Egge <agallowaye@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:44 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Thanks

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Thanks for providing the revised plan to the snail Lake Park area.
I am grateful to hear that a new shelter will be closer to the existing beach and parking area.
Thanks for all you are doing to improve this trail system which is a wonderful feature of this area.
ASG

Ann Galloway-Egge
651-387-9418 cell
Pronouns: she/her/hers/herself
Sent from my iPhone

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:10:45 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Jennifer Olson <jennifer.olson.1971@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:10 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan

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Hello-

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preferred concept for the trails at Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park. I have a question about the legend in the Wetland A preferred concept map. There is a dashed red line for the trail along the east side of Wetland A. This is not the proposed boardwalk pink trail but the red dashed line. What does the red dashed line trail along the east side of Wetland A represent?

Thank you,
Jennifer Olson

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:34:42 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: CommunicationsHelpDesk@co.ramsey.mn.us <CommunicationsHelpDesk@co.ramsey.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:33 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - 12:32 Submitted by user: Anonymous Submitted values are:

Name: JoAnn R Pastorius
Email: Joann.Pastorius@gmail.com
Phone number : 6512474940

Would you like someone to contact you? No Your comments or questions: Thank you for changing the Snail Lake regional Park plan due to the neighbors input. I believe your new concept plan for the structure being placed near the water front is terrific and hopefully will be well used. I think it would also be nice to have a fishing pier on the lake as well as yesterday I witnessed people trying to fish from the shoreline.

Department / Division Node ID: 1681

Contact email: parks@co.ramsey.mn.us

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:48:08 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Kathy Deacon-Weber <kdeaconweber@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:38 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Community Feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Dear Ramsey County Park Planners,

Thank you very much for listening to the neighborhood concerns regarding the location for a proposed shelter and volleyball court in Snail Lake Park. The newest proposed location of the shelter by the beach seems a prime location for the new shelter and placing the entrance to the parking lot further east allows visitors to access the lake and trails without crossing the park entry road. Please consider the size of a new shelter that would also allow you to keep a few stand alone picnic tables in the beach area. My family regularly used the individual picnic tables in the flooded area at the beach, and they were often in use by many other small groups too. I hope you will consider replacing the children's water play equipment at the beach that was lost to the flood, rather than adding an additional volleyball court to the park. I think one volleyball court is sufficient. There are lots of families with children who use the beach and park facilities and the water play area was a popular feature.

Hopefully you have heard the neighborhood concerns about noise from the large Pavilion. If one looks at the rental calendar for this upcoming summer, the Pavilion is heavily booked for all Saturdays but one and most Fridays and Sundays, and a few week nights. If you review your Rules and Park Policies there is no mention of a noise ordinance at all. I know somewhere, there is a paragraph that mentions sound should not be heard from 50 feet away, but it is buried some place, that I found once, and cannot find again. I hope you will consider giving

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

more detailed guidance to Pavilion renters than this vague suggestion when groups use sound equipment, perhaps indicating an appropriate sound setting on the equipment to be followed, locating the speakers away from the direction of surrounding neighborhoods, and a plan to enforce the ordinance. Limiting the hours for use of sound equipment to a few hours would be helpful too.

Most neighborhood residents actively use the park, and really miss the looped trail systems. There is a lot of excitement about the new proposed trail upgrades, and we hope you will prioritize updating the trails as you allocate funds for park projects.

I am grateful you asked for community input and listened our concerns. The high water level has been challenging for all of us who live in this area. We appreciate the time and attention you have given to plans for the county park lands.

Kathy Deacon-Weber



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Wetland A feedback
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:01:52 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Jean Jirasek <chjnir@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 2:57 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: McCabe, Mark <Mark.McCabe@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>; Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; smartin@shoreviewmn.gov; sdenkinger@shoreviewmn.gov; ejohnson@shoreview.gov; tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov; cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov; rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn
Subject: Wetland A feedback

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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I am so very dissatisfied with the possibility of no access to the trails from Floral Drive - our property values are going to be affected. I'm sure this dissatisfaction is true of most residents of Floral Drive who use the trail system. We have given permission to some neighbors to use our property as access to the trails because we know how much they enjoy them. We **didn't** have to do this. But we feel it's the right thing to do because no one seems to be able to solve this water problem. The trail access from Floral Drive has been there for many years, and is truly enjoyed, and expected, by many neighbors.

My husband's parents built our house here in the early 50's, so he knows that this water problem has never been a problem before. He has lived here for close to 70 years. Never, until the past few years, has the water level been as high as it is now in the Grass Lake Area. Something needs to be done about the water level. That is how this problem can be solved without wasting the tax dollars that have already been spent.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Closing the tunnels under the road at two points is just crazy. It will be very dangerous to persons who will need to cross busy streets. Just plain crazy!

And the idea of a noisy boardwalk behind our house is **not a good one**. Our peace and quiet will be GONE. It would drive me crazy! I truly think I would have to move if this happens, because I love the peace and quiet so very much.

Please don't adopt this plan! Get the Grass Lake water out and restore the wetland. Help the numerous homeowners whose property is now flooded, or has been flooded in the past. Keep the trail system like it was in the past. And do it quickly, so we can once again enjoy the beautiful trail system we have come to love so much.

Sincerely,

Jean Jirasek
328 Floral Drive
Shoreview, MN 55126



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail Lake Master Plan final concept
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:14:22 AM

From: Michael Weber <mweber3252@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 9:02 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail Lake Master Plan final concept

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. **Use caution** when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

Dear parks staff members

Thank you for sending out the revised plan concept for feedback. I just want to say that I think the new proposal to the small snail lake shelter re-location is an awesome idea. Right next to the lake, near to the beach parking lot and change rooms - it's a great idea. I also agree with the long term plan for more permanent trail improvements. Even though it costs more, I am willing to wait several years for the funding to get it right.

Great work.

Thanks

Mike Weber

p.s. I guess we'll still have to work on finding solutions for noise abatement at the large pavilion.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:20:47 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: CommunicationsHelpDesk@co.ramsey.mn.us <CommunicationsHelpDesk@co.ramsey.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 5:54 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Friday, May 1, 2020 - 17:53 Submitted by user: Anonymous Submitted values are:

Name: Thomas Hardel
Email: tom.hardel@aol.com
Phone number : 6514866344

Would you like someone to contact you? No Your comments or questions: Snail Lake project. Moving parking lot at the beach. Kids on bikes, etc., coming down the hill heading north on the trail, are going to be going right into the path of cars coming into the parking lot.
Department / Division Node ID: 1681
Contact email: parks@co.ramsey.mn.us

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback on Vadnais-Snail Lake Plan
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:21:05 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Mar Woodi <marwoodi22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 7:02 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Feedback on Vadnais-Snail Lake Plan

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Please keep or add to the unpaved trails along with keeping the dead and fallen timbers and scruff.
The wildlife that I have seen in that environment is excellent.

I am new to the area, and am very impressed with your parks. Thank you, Mary O. Woodward

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Snail lake suggestions
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:21:41 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Paulzarembo <paulzarembo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 12:09 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Snail lake suggestions

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Making some official designated mountain bike trails would be nice, there aren't many in the northeast section of the twin cities. The ramsey open space by NW side of Bald Eagle Lake would be another area where mtn bike trails could be made.

Thanks,
Paul

Sent from my iPhone

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais/Snail Lake Water mitigation feedback
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:21:50 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Margl <lizmargl@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2020 10:41 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais/Snail Lake Water mitigation feedback

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I think a boardwalk for wetland A would be the best option instead of trying to keep up the pavement. I am looking forward to being able to use the east side of the park again during the rest of the year and not just when frozen over. :)

Liz Margl
Ramsey County resident

Sent from my iPhone

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vad-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan
Date: Monday, May 4, 2020 8:23:37 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathy Spitzmueller <kathy.j.spitzmueller@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 3, 2020 7:25 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vad-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan

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I don't like the notion of a board walk. They look nice and new for a while but over time they bend, and lean, and warp in ways that keep maintenance an ongoing expense. Is there a way to mitigate the water fluctuations with a drainage system? I don't know where the water could be drained too, but, has this possibility been thoroughly explored? Thank you.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Community Feedback
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 3:11:51 PM

From: Dianne Ward <ward.mulholland@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 3:02 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Community Feedback

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I am a longtime Ramsey County resident and user of the parks. Over the years I have used the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park (VSLRP) a lot, for walking, biking, skiing, and commuting to work. After I became disabled I especially enjoyed being able to safely enjoy nature, biking and walking on the trails, instead of in the street. I moved to my current Shoreview home specifically for direct VSLRP trail access.

I am very disappointed in the Master Park Plan presented for feedback. The plan's starting point is it's current flooded state. That is wrong; the starting points should be what it used to be like and what potential it has now. Instead of addressing the effects of the water retention that has caused all the problems, address the cause. Make it a priority to move retained water out of the park.

The plan does not reflect the past volume and kind of park use or plan for what is needed in the future. The park is always busy year-round with people of all ages walking, biking, running, skiing, and pushing strollers. Before Grass Lake flooded it, the Wetland A area of the park was also a major corridor for foot and bike travel between Gramsie Road and Highway 96 (avoiding dangerous Highway 49). Kids commuted to school and adults to work. Residents traveled to shops at Highways 96 and 49.

The park was the only place where disabled people could easily get out in the woods, even in wheelchairs. Multiple access points were convenient. It was accessible and easily traversed using any assistive device. It is very difficult to safely walk with a cane or walking sticks on a boardwalk. It is difficult to maneuver in a wheel chair or walker on ground up asphalt. The asphalt trails are currently ten feet wide, with a mown area on each side, which allows for distance passing. This makes it much easier for people with mobility disabilities to keep their balance, or maneuver with a wheel chair or wide tricycle, such as I have. Removing access points, building boardwalks and not maintaining asphalt trails, all part of your plan, will effectively remove park access to those with disabilities.

This is a particularly bad time to consider a plan that so limits effective use of the trails. Use of parks up has gone up 100% during the "stay at home" order; for a whole host of reasons heavy use is likely to continue. The plan, which reduces access points to the trails and funnels

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

people onto board walks, will not only cram people together more, diminishing their safety and enjoyment, it will not allow for social distancing during the times it is needed most.

The benches on Wetland A's east and south sides, and the "cross-over trail" offer a place to rest for those with limited abilities, or who want to just enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Please add benches on the west side and also in the Grass Lake area.

The people using the trail on the east side of Wetland A cross over three private properties in their efforts to avoid the flooded trail areas. The plan needs to insure the trail itself is not routed over private property.

The plan should address what to do about the large dead and dying trees, which were killed by the Grass Lake water which flooded Wetland A. They have caused damage to private property, as has the floodwater. I am concerned about injuries from falling trees and the continued high water. Many trees have fallen already and more are on the verge of falling. The high water is also a concern. Last week a group of six children were playing in the two feet of water on the trail near Floral Drive. They could not see the trail edge and if they had not been warned they would have gone off the edge into the "lake."

The flooding should have been prevented. It was a result of poor water management during a time of documented climate change (predictable increase in precipitation). It should have been addressed sooner. The flood damage to private and public properties has been very costly, not only in terms of dollars spent but also in damage to the environment. For example, before it became a lake, and stopped managing the local runoff as a wetland, Wetland A was teaming with the sights and sounds of a wide variety of flora and fauna. The floodwater killed 70-100 year old trees and all the other vegetation in the basin. All the pollinators and other invertebrates, amphibians, birds, and mammals were killed when the water came pouring in, or were driven away. Now it is a silent tree graveyard. This wetland has the preferred habitat for threatened Blanding turtles and other at risk species. The plan should include restoring the entire important habitat in the VSLRP all the way from 694 to Snail Lake.

Please amend your plan to get rid of the retained Grass Lake flood waters; keep it accessible for the disabled; add, not reduce, access points; keep or add only asphalt trails; plan for the high volume of use; add benches; solve the trespass issue; take down the trees that might hurt someone or something; and, restore it to a natural state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dianne Ward

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Community Feedback on V-SLRP Master Plan
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2020 3:38:59 PM
Attachments: [RC Park Plan FINAL.docx](#)

From: James M Mulholland <james.mulholland@ieee.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 3:29 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Community Feedback on V-SLRP Master Plan

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Attached are my comments on the V-SLRP Master Plan.

James Mulholland
James.Mulholland@IEEE.org
651.592.4652

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [Larry Swope](#)
To: [McCabe, Mark](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Cc: [Nicole Frethem](#); [Jamie Becker-Finn](#); [Sandy Martin](#); cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov; sdenking@shoreviewmn.gov; ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov; tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov
Subject: Comments on the Master Plan for Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020 11:27:15 AM

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. **Use caution** when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

As 20 year residents of Shoreview living on Floral Drive, we would like the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department to reconsider their proposed plan for dealing with the flood conditions in the Snail Lake-Grass Lake-Wetland A area, with the objective of providing a more cost effective, timely and environmentally responsible solution to the situation.

Boardwalks: The current proposal is unacceptable because the primary “solution” to the loss of trail access due to high water is to use boardwalks. This is not an effective solution for the following reasons:

- Boardwalks present a potential danger for the current uses of the trail system due to their surface characteristics, especially in wet conditions, and their width. Current uses include biking, skateboarding, jogger strollers, rollerblading and dog walking. Even walkers and runners would be affected by the close proximity to these users. Cross country skiing would be problematic in the winter.
- Boardwalks would change the “natural” characteristics of the area, which is valued for its “wild nature in a city” environment.
- Boardwalks are expensive to install and maintain
- Installation of the proposed boardwalks will have a long lead time
- Boardwalks can be noisy, which will be amplified in the echo chamber valley of Wetland A
- The current plan also does not include access from the city lot from Floral Drive, which is the reason most people purchased their properties there. This access point is/was used by residents of other areas and visiting families of the current residents.

Tunnels: The proposed use of at grade crossings due to water in the tunnels under Gramsie and Snail Lake Boulevard creates a danger for users of the parks who will have to cross busy streets to get from one area to another.

- Children on bikes
- Parents with Strollers
- Disabled people
- Groups of social runners and walkers (these will be back)
- Cross Country Skiers
- Elderly people

This represents an unacceptable risk which replaces previously safe conditions that made this park complex unique.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Trail Conditions: The proposal to replace part of the trail system with unpaved pathways if the asphalt needs maintenance is contrary to the reason that the area was paved in the first place: To provide a safe environment for a wide variety of users, including the disabled, strollers, wheel chairs, children and families on bikes and rollerblade users. This would be a step backwards. It would also render the use of the trails problematic under rainy conditions.

Nature of the area: As mentioned, the areas around Wetland A and Grass Lake are valued for their natural environmental characteristics which are akin to being in a deep woods setting. The current plan would significantly change this feeling. Already, the area on the west side of Wetland A has been marred by leaving felled trees in the water so it looks like a failed logging camp. This should also be remedied as part of the park preservation activities.

Alternatives: A more effective plan, which has not been discussed with the public because of the perceived risk of uncertainty of outcome, is to pump out Wetland A to restore it to its unflooded condition which existed prior to inundation with water from Grass Lake in 2014.

Unlike the previous attempt to pump the area in 2017 using high volume pumping, a more applicable strategy would be to install temporary lower volume pumps, like those used to lower the level of Twin Lake, and pumping the water back into Grass Lake over a longer period of time. This would allow the trails to reappear at the 873 elevation level and eventually reset the area to its pre-2014 historical summer level of 870. The RWMWD has indicated that if Ramsey County takes the lead, they will advise and assist with the project. This would result in restoration of access to the trails and restoration of the area in a 2-4 month period. Consideration should also be made for either installing a permanent pump or having a temporary pumping plan in place to restore the area if a significant flood event again causes water to enter this area from Grass Lake or Snail Lake. This would avoid an emergency condition becoming a permanent problem.

Why this would work: The presence of excess water in Wetland A started in 2014 when Grass Lake overflowed due to prior system flow engineering which did not anticipate current changed climate and inflow conditions. This infrastructure was not able to handle the current rain events water volumes. After additional flooding of Wetland A from Grass Lake occurred in 2016, the RWMWD made, and are making, several improvements in the flow paths from Grass Lake to West Vadnais Lake and down the Phalen chain to the Mississippi. These changes have improved the situation and other possible future changes will further reduce the potential for significant flooding, although it may not be completely eliminated in all conditions.

However, since Wetland A is a landlocked perched body of water (Grass Lake is perched too) it cannot readily recover from the flooding that came from Grass Lake. Additionally, the soil surrounding Wetland A has absorbed so much water from the flood waters over the past 5 years that the ground water in the area has destabilized and supersaturated the surrounding soils and thus is no longer an effective mechanism to reduce the water level. The loss of the central and surrounding vegetation, due to the excess water drowning them, exacerbates difficulty this area has in recovering.

The short term, high volume pumping of the area by the RWMWD in 2017 was not an appropriate test since it did not last long enough to reset the surrounding ground water and was followed by significant intense rainfall immediately after cessation. A better approach, which we are suggesting, is to pump the water out of Wetland A over a 2-4 month period so the area ground water could equilibrate as it devolves from the surrounding area. The return of this water to Grass Lake should not cause any downstream issues since it will be relatively low volume compared to the volume of the lakes from Grass Lake down to Phalen. Since the water in Wetland A has had significant contribution from Grass Lake, it should also not represent an environmental risk.

There are many benefits to implementing this approach:

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

- The flooded trails would reappear in a 1-2 month period, so people, who are already using them by sloshing through the foot deep water, would have their safety improved and access would be restored for the hundreds of residents who used to traverse the trails every week. Some triage maintenance by County crews could be done in certain small sections after the debris was cleared from the trails
- As Wetland A is restored the tunnels could be emptied resulting in safer access for park users. The surrounding basins would also be emptied as the ground water recedes.
- The trails could then be rebuilt at a fraction of the cost and in a much faster time frame than the proposed boardwalks. They would not have to be raised.
- The natural beauty of the area would be restored, especially as the surrounding area is being replanted with natural foliage. The dead trees, drowned by the high water, could be removed for safety and new trees planted.
- The central area of Wetland A would have its vegetation restored (the seeds are still there) and would again support a wide variety of wildlife, including amphibians and birds. Insects, such as bees and butterflies, would again have a large area in which to thrive. There would still be an open water area available for water fowl and amphibian species to use. The restored plants and trees would again help maintain the water levels as they did before they were killed in the Grass Lake overflow floods of 2014, 2016 and recently.
- Theories about the interconnections of the water bodies in the area could be validated or disproved as the area is methodically reset. This includes the effect Wetland A has on Snail Lake, the Crestview addition and the basins surrounding Grass Lake and Gramsie Road, as well as whether the ground water is driving the surface water or the other way around. So far these issues have been the subject of some disagreeing opinions since actual data is often not available or conclusive.

The measured removal of the water from the area in Wetland A over a 2-4 month period would have numerous benefits and should be tried so the area can be restored for residents' use as quickly and effectively as possible and to determine if alternate expensive expenditures really are needed.

We urge Ramsey County Parks and Recreation to reconsider the proposed plan and to try a more innovative solution to resolve the loss of this important community asset to the citizens of the area.

Thank you for your consideration of these observations and proposals.

Tammy and Larry Swope

314 Floral Drive West

Shoreview, MN 55126

(H) 651-490-1232

(M) 651-261-1064

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Parks Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:24:30 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Jane Hogan <jane.hogan1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:40 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Parks Master Plan

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Hello - I am a longtime northern Ramsey County resident. I used the Snail Lake-Gramsie trails for years for biking and running. The persistent high water in this area began at the same time as major reconstruction on 694. Is there an explanation for the high water tied to the reconstruction? It seems as though some drainage flow was changed. Wouldn't it be better to correct this rather than reconstruct the trails? Gramsie Road is fairly busy - I don't like the idea of replacing the tunnel with an at-grade crossing.

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Re Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 8:55:36 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: RENEE ROY <renjroy@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 4:46 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Bonnie Haugen <Bhaugen21@gmail.com>; Dan Kaiser <danjkaiser@msn.com>; Andrea Carley <a.carley@icloud.com>; Greg Windsperger <greg.windsperger@federalfoam.com>; Dan Wackman <wackm001@umn.edu>; Andrea Zelensky <andreacz@yahoo.com>; Patsy <ralphsipple@comcast.net>; Mary Windsperger <1301wind@comcast.net>; Dianne Ward <ward.mulholland@gmail.com>; Nikki Bentley <nhertel20@gmail.com>; J Borgos <jbalive@comcast.net>; Chris Lund <clund128@gmail.com>; T Sabby <tmsabby@msn.com>; L Borgos <lbinmn47@comcast.net>; Chris Kammerer <cakammerer@yahoo.com>; Dan Galvin <dan@dangalvinhomes.com>; Roxanne Theilacker <roxannetheilacker@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Tom Kysilko <tomkysilko@outlook.com>; Tom Hardel <tom.hardel@aol.com>; Barb Englin <blenglin@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Dave Kangas <dakangas@gmail.com>; Cindy LaBerge <cindyjlaberge@gmail.com>; David Engh <drengh@gmail.com>; Tony Gutzwiller <tgutz@q.com>; James Mulholland <james.mulholland@ieee.org>; Cindy Haak <cindymhaak@hotmail.com>; Kathy Trovecke <ktrovecke@msn.com>; Larry Gerger <larryg147@icloud.com>; Jan Hardel <janohardel@aol.com>; Steven La Berge <steven.laberge@gmail.com>; Sharon Werner <swerner22@msn.com>; Angela Basara <aeb25@centurylink.net>; Larry Swope <lgswope@msn.com>; Dick Dragovich <rsdrag@comcast.net>; Al Dubiak <asdubiak@comcast.net>; Sheila and Ken Otto <zfamlyo@msn.com>; Tom Suter <trsuter@aol.com>; Micheal Marko <mmarko@usfamily.net>; Matt Anthony <manthony@gmail.com>; Larrie and Lou Ann Reese <larloureese@gmail.com>; Julie Schachtele <aschach9@hotmail.com>; John Roberts <jcrinminn@gmail.com>; Julia Doroff <julia.hughes.a@gmail.com>; Renee Roy <renjroy@comcast.net>; Mark Mulcahy <mkmulcahy75@gmail.com>; Joe Kammerer <joe.kammerer@yahoo.com>; Matt Gray <matt@gray.mn>; Song <lang0652@hotmail.com>; Brien <brienklm@comcast.net>; Virginia Henrikson <vhenrikson@comcast.net>; Jennifer Wellner <jennifer@wi-attorneys.com>; Kathy Wackman <Kathywack@msn.com>; Charlie Jirasek <charlie.jirasek@gmail.com>; Gary Larson <rogalarson@gmail.com>; Don Yeager <dyaeger0859@comcast.net>; Jack Christopherson <christophersonjack@yahoo.com>; Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Sandy Martin <sandymartin444@gmail.com>; sdenking@shoreviewmn.gov; ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov; Terry Quigley <tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov>; Cory Springhorn <cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov>; Jamie Becker-

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Finn <rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn>

Subject: Re Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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I have been a resident of Shoreview since 1981, living between Grass Lake and Snail Lake.

I have reviewed your plans for the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan. Although the plan does address some of the access issues around Wetland A I feel a much better approach would be to first attempt to restore the Wetland A to original condition through low rate, long term pumping. The water that entered Wetland A was largely from the overflow of Grass Lake because of misplaced culverts (that dumped water north), degraded berms (that resulted in overflow at lower lake levels), and inappropriate sized culverts (on the preferred water pathway going east to W Vadnais then south). These problems have all been resolved and the Master Plan would be significantly different and more suitable if pumping were completed before doing anything else in the area. Hopefully someone in your planning group is well acquainted with all the work done on Grass Lake drainage. If not, a review of the water district board minutes from late 2017 to present is recommended.

The first year we saw significant flooding, Grass Lake overflowed in 2014 and dumped considerable water north through a "rogue" culvert (that no government entity seemed to know existed) and the pedestrian underpass. (see photos)

The lake receded in 2015.

In 2016, the flooding recurred with a vengeance starting in August. (again, see photos) The culvert ran at full tilt for 8 months from late July 2017 to March 2018! Through these two years of flooding, neither Shoreview, Ramsey County, nor the water district appeared to take an interest in the fact that we were losing the use of the park, let alone that homes were being threatened. Many of the residents had identified the "rogue" culvert was set well below the peak level of the grass lake berms and was dumping water to the north. Essentially we were dumping Grass Lake north into an area with no outlet.

Once water is dumped to the north of Gramsie, it is LANDLOCKED, with no exit. It does not flow back into Grass Lake at low water levels. We estimate in the 8 month from late July to mid-March (when the culvert was blocked due to our lobbying), an estimated 21 MILLION Cubic Feet of water was dumped north. The entire time, there was very little pressure for the water to move east and south along the normal route. This estimate does not take into account water that moved north in 2014.

Many residents in this area have lived here 30+ years. We have been well educated on the efforts regarding Grass Lake drainage and have brought forward our

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

knowledge, and recommended and promoted many of the solutions that have been implemented. We believe almost to a person that the events from 2014 to 2017 had a major impact on the ground water and surface water in our immediate area. Now that the drainage system for Grass Lake has been improved, we believe it is imperative to try pumping out of Wetland A to Grass Lake as a first effort to remedy the recovery of paths before other monies are spent to divert around the raised water levels and then consider what other improvements need to be made. We believe this is the best and most cost-effective long-term approach.

Renee Roy
Crestview Addition, Shoreview

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback for current plans for Vandais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan.
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 9:27:38 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Gregory Windsperger <gregory.windsperger@olympian.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 2:01 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Feedback for current plans for Vandais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan.

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system.
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Attention: Ramsey County Parks

I recently reviewed your plans for the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan. Even though the plan does address some of the access issues around Wetland A, I feel it is imperative and a better approach to first attempt to restore Wetland A to it's original condition. This can be accomplished through low rate, long term pumping. The water that entered Wetland A was largely from the overflow of Grass Lake because of degraded berms, inappropriate sized culverts, and misplaced culverts. These problems have all been resolved and the Master Plan would be significantly different and more suitable if pumping were completed before doing anything else in the area.

Please look closely at this option first before the other action items you refer to in the Master Plan.

Thank you for your attention to my message, and note, that many of us living in this "area of flooding danger" feel. Please consider our plea.

Kind Regards,
Greg Windsperger
(612) 867-8082

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 9:27:55 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Cindy La Berge <cindyjlaborge@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 9:13 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Feedback

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I have reviewed your plans for the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan. Although the plan does address some of the access issues around Wetland A I feel a much better approach would be to first attempt to restore the Wetland A to original condition through low rate, long term pumping. The water that entered Wetland A was largely from the overflow of Grass Lake because of degraded berms, inappropriate sized culverts, and misplaced culverts. These problems have all been resolved and the Master Plan would be significantly different and more suitable if pumping were completed before doing anything else in the area.
Cindy LaBerge

Sent from my iPhone

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Feedback on Vandais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 10:12:25 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Greg Windsperger <Greg.Windsperger@federalfoam.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 8:58 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: 'smartin@shoreview.gov' <smartin@shoreview.gov>; Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; 'Jamie Becker-Finn' <rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn>; 'Cory Springhorn' <cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov>; 'Emy Johnson' <ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov>; 'Terry Quigley' <tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov>; 'Sue Denkinger' <sdenkinger@shoreviewmn.gov>
Subject: Feedback on Vandais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan

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Attention Ramsey County parks:

I have reviewed your plans for the **Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan**. Although the plan does address some of the access issues around Wetland A I feel a much better approach would be to first attempt to restore the Wetland A to original condition through low rate, long term pumping. The water that entered Wetland A was largely from the overflow of Grass Lake because of degraded berms, inappropriate sized culverts, and misplaced culverts. These problems have all been resolved and the Master Plan would be significantly different and more suitable if pumping were completed before doing anything else in the area.

Personally, the water levels in my backyard have risen significantly and are only about 12 feet from my back walkout at 455 Suzanne Avenue in Shoreview. If something is not done quickly, our house will be sitting in water. Please start pumping Wetland A and restore it to its original condition.

Thank you for considering and please contact me at any time.

Greg Windsperger
(612) 867-8082

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Wetland A plan
Date: Monday, May 18, 2020 3:06:13 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Julia Hughes <julia.hughes.a@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 3:00 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Wetland A plan

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Hello,

I have reviewed your proposed plan for the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park and want to ask you to please, reconsider your plan to first attempt pumping the area.

Many of the issues that caused the flooding have been resolved and our household strongly believes restoring Wetland A to its original condition through pumping would be best.

This is not my first plea, nor is it my neighbors' first time speaking up. We've asked repeatedly for pumping to be the first option because we strongly feel this would be the best option for the long run and for our community.

Thank you,
Julia Doroff

Sent from my iPhone

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Wetland A
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:54:54 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: T SABBY <tmsabby@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:16 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Wetland A

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Hello,

As residents of Shoreview one of the things we enjoy the most is the use of the extensive and beautiful trail system the city/county has created. The loss of the swimming beach at Snail Lake Park, and a fair amount of the trail system, has been a significant downgrade for those of us who use these assets. Fortunately, our community has some diligent and dedicated leaders who have spent extensive time working with all the government agencies whose purview are the areas previously mentioned, and they continue to monitor the progress in correcting the flooding problems. We appreciate all the time and effort everyone has put into this effort and would like to see the progress continue!!

With that being said, we have reviewed the steps in the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan. Although the plan does address some of the access issues around Wetland A (which borders our neighborhood) we feel a much better approach would be to attempt to restore Wetland A to its original state through low rate, long term pumping. The water that entered Wetland A was due largely from previous years overflow of Grass Lake because of degraded berms, inappropriate sized culverts, and misplaced culverts. These problems have now all been resolved. Thank you for that!! However, we feel the next step in the Master Plan should be to pump out Wetland A and restore it to its original condition before anything else is done in the area.



APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Again, thank you for everything done so far. There is hope that soon everything can return to normal.

Troy\Tracey Sabby
445 Suzanne Ave, Shoreview

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 8:08:07 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Kammerer <cakammerer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:17 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Sandy Martin <smartin@shoreviewmn.gov>; Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Jamie Becker-Finn <rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn>; cspringhom@shoreviewmn.gov; ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov; tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov; sdenking@shoreviewmn.gov
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan

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I am a resident in the Crestview addition of Shoreview that used to use the trails in the flooded area the master plan is addressing. I am against the building of boardwalks to address the issue of trail access. They are costly, unsightly, high maintenance and organic material collects on them making them slippery. I would rather there be no access than boardwalks.

I think the money for boardwalks could be better spent to mitigate the water problem in the Wetland A area.

Please look at ways you can assist the county, city, water district and DNR to make this happen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris and Joe Kammerer
Shoreview residents

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Re Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:24:08 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation

2015 Van Dyke St.

Maplewood, MN 55109

651-748-2500

Parks@ramseycounty.us

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Midwest Kitchen Services <ZfamilyO@msn.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 11:17 AM

To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>; RENEE ROY <renjroy@comcast.net>

Cc: Bonnie Haugen <Bhaugen21@gmail.com>; Dan Kaiser <danjkaiser@msn.com>; Andrea Carley <a.carley@icloud.com>; Greg Windsperger <greg.windsperger@federalfoam.com>; Dan Wackman <wackm001@umn.edu>; Andrea Zelensky <andreacz@yahoo.com>; Patsy <ralphsipple@comcast.net>; Mary Windsperger <1301wind@comcast.net>; Dianne Ward <ward.mulholland@gmail.com>; Nikki Bentley <nhertel20@gmail.com>; J Borgos <jbalive@comcast.net>; Chris Lund <clund128@gmail.com>; T Sabby <tmsabby@msn.com>; L Borgos <lbinmn47@comcast.net>; Chris Kammerer <cakammerer@yahoo.com>; Dan Galvin <dan@dangalvinhomes.com>; Roxanne Theilacker <roxannetheilacker@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Tom Kysilko <tomkysilko@outlook.com>; Tom Hardel <tom.hardel@aol.com>; Barb Englin <blenglin@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Dave Kangas <dakangas@gmail.com>; Cindy LaBerge <cindyjlaborge@gmail.com>; David Engh <drengh@gmail.com>; Tony Gutzwiller <tgutz@q.com>; James Mulholland <james.mulholland@ieee.org>; Cindy Haak <cindymhaak@hotmail.com>; Kathy Trovecke <ktrovecke@msn.com>; Larry Gerger <larryg147@icloud.com>; Jan Hardel <janohardel@aol.com>; Steven La Berge <steven.laborge@gmail.com>; Sharon Werner <swerner22@msn.com>; Angela Basara <aeb25@centurylink.net>; Larry Swope <lgswope@msn.com>; Dick Dragovich <rsdrag@comcast.net>; Al Dubiak <asdubiak@comcast.net>; Tom Suter <trsuter@aol.com>; Micheal Marko <mmarko@usfamily.net>; Matt Anthony <manthony@gmail.com>; Larrie and Lou Ann Reese <larloureese@gmail.com>; Julie Schachtele <aschach9@hotmail.com>; John Roberts <jcrinminn@gmail.com>; Julia Doroff <julia.hughes.a@gmail.com>; Mark Mulcahy <mkmulcahy75@gmail.com>; Joe Kammerer <joe.kammerer@yahoo.com>; Matt Gray <matt@gray.mn>; Song <lang0652@hotmail.com>; Brien <obrienlm@comcast.net>; Virginia Henrikson <vhenrikson@comcast.net>; Jennifer Wellner <jennifer@wi-attorneys.com>; Kathy Wackman <Kathywack@msn.com>; Charlie Jirasek <charlie.jirasek@gmail.com>; Gary Larson <rogalarson@gmail.com>; Don Yeager <dyaeger0859@comcast.net>; Jack Christopherson <christophersonjack@yahoo.com>; Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Sandy Martin <sandymartin444@gmail.com>; sdenking@shoreviewmn.gov; ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov; Terry Quigley <tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov>; Cory Springhorn <cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov>; Jamie Becker-Finn <rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn>; Lance Hill <lancehill@comcast.net>

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Subject: Re: Re Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan

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We agree with all Renee has stated below and feel that the water issues should be resolved before this flooding becomes a "new normal". The trails are a very important part of our community and should be restored but the root of the problem needs to be addressed. The park system and elected officials can help by working with the RWMWD to get a permanent solution. Please help us restore Shoreview to what it was before this flooding of parks, trails, homes and yards.

*Sheila and Ken Otto
Crestview Addition*

From: RENEE ROY <renjroy@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2020 4:46 PM
To: parks@ramseycounty.us <parks@ramseycounty.us>
Cc: Bonnie Haugen <Bhaugen21@gmail.com>; Dan Kaiser <danjkaiser@msn.com>; Andrea Carley <a.carley@icloud.com>; Greg Windsperger <greg.windsperger@federalfoam.com>; Dan Wackman <wackm001@umn.edu>; Andrea Zelensky <andreacz@yahoo.com>; Patsy <ralphsipple@comcast.net>; Mary Windsperger <1301wind@comcast.net>; Dianne Ward <ward.mulholland@gmail.com>; Nikki Bentley <nhertel20@gmail.com>; J Borgos <jbalive@comcast.net>; Chris Lund <clund128@gmail.com>; T Sabby <tmsabby@msn.com>; L Borgos <lbininn47@comcast.net>; Chris Kammerer <cakammerer@yahoo.com>; Dan Galvin <dan@dangalvinhomes.com>; Roxanne Theilacker <roxannetheilacker@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Tom Kysilko <tomkysilko@outlook.com>; Tom Hardel <tom.hardel@aol.com>; Barb Englin <blenglin@hotmail.com>; Shirley and Dave Kangas <dakangas@gmail.com>; Cindy LaBerge <cindyjlaberge@gmail.com>; David Engh <drengh@gmail.com>; Tony Gutzwiller <tgutz@q.com>; James Mulholland <james.mulholland@ieee.org>; Cindy Haak <cindymhaak@hotmail.com>; Kathy Trovecke <ktrovecke@msn.com>; Larry Gerger <larryg147@icloud.com>; Jan Hardel <janohardel@aol.com>; Steven La Berge <steven.laberge@gmail.com>; Sharon Werner <swerner22@msn.com>; Angela Basara <aeb25@centurylink.net>; Larry Swope <lgswope@msn.com>; Dick Dragovich <rsdrag@comcast.net>; Al Dubiak <asdubiak@comcast.net>; Sheila and Ken Otto <zfamilyo@msn.com>; Tom Suter <trsuter@aol.com>; Micheal Marko <mmarko@usfamily.net>; Matt Anthony <manthony@gmail.com>; Larrie and Lou Ann Reese <larloureese@gmail.com>; Julie Schachtele <aschach9@hotmail.com>; John Roberts <jcrinminn@gmail.com>; Julia Doroff <julia.hughes.a@gmail.com>; Renee Roy

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

<renjroy@comcast.net>; Mark Mulcahy <mkmulcahy75@gmail.com>; Joe Kammerer <joe.kammerer@yahoo.com>; Matt Gray <matt@gray.mn>; Song <lang0652@hotmail.com>; Brien <obrienklm@comcast.net>; Virginia Henrikson <yhenrikson@comcast.net>; Jennifer Wellner <jennifer@wi-attorneys.com>; Kathy Wackman <Kathywack@msn.com>; Charlie Jirasek <charlie.jirasek@gmail.com>; Gary Larson <rogalarson@gmail.com>; Don Yeager <dyaeger0859@comcast.net>; Jack Christopherson <christophersonjack@yahoo.com>; Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Sandy Martin <sandymartin444@gmail.com>; sdenking@shoreviewmn.gov <sdenking@shoreviewmn.gov>; ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov <ejohnson@shoreviewmn.gov>; Terry Quigley <tquigley@shoreviewmn.gov>; Cory Springhorn <cspringhorn@shoreviewmn.gov>; Jamie Becker-Finn <rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn>

Subject: Re Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan

I have been a resident of Shoreview since 1981, living between Grass Lake and Snail Lake.

I have reviewed your plans for the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan. Although the plan does address some of the access issues around Wetland A I feel a much better approach would be to first attempt to restore the Wetland A to original condition through low rate, long term pumping. The water that entered Wetland A was largely from the overflow of Grass Lake because of misplaced culverts (that dumped water north), degraded berms (that resulted in overflow at lower lake levels), and inappropriate sized culverts (on the preferred water pathway going east to W Vadnais then south). These problems have all been resolved and the Master Plan would be significantly different and more suitable if pumping were completed before doing anything else in the area. Hopefully someone in your planning group is well acquainted with all the work done on Grass Lake drainage. If not, a review of the water district board minutes from late 2017 to present is recommended.

The first year we saw significant flooding, Grass Lake overflowed in 2014 and dumped considerable water north through a "rogue" culvert (that no government entity seemed to know existed) and the pedestrian underpass. (see photos)

The lake receded in 2015.

In 2016, the flooding recurred with a vengeance starting in August. (again, see photos) The culvert ran at full tilt for 8 months from late July 2017 to March 2018! Through these two years of flooding, neither Shoreview, Ramsey County, nor the water district appeared to take an interest in the fact that we were losing the use of the park, let alone that homes were being threatened. Many of the residents had identified the "rogue" culvert was set well below the peak level of the grass lake berms and was dumping water to the north. Essentially we were dumping Grass Lake north into an area with no outlet.

Once water is dumped to the north of Gramsie, it is LANDLOCKED, with no exit. It does not flow back into Grass Lake at low water levels. We estimate in the 8 month from late July to mid-March (when the culvert was blocked due to our lobbying), an estimated 21 MILLION Cubic Feet of water was dumped north. The entire time, there

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

was very little pressure for the water to move east and south along the normal route. This estimate does not take into account water that moved north in 2014.

Many residents in this area have lived here 30+ years. We have been well educated on the efforts regarding Grass Lake drainage and have brought forward our knowledge, and recommended and promoted many of the solutions that have been implemented. We believe almost to a person that the events from 2014 to 2017 had a major impact on the ground water and surface water in our immediate area. Now that the drainage system for Grass Lake has been improved, we believe it is imperative to try pumping out of Wetland A to Grass Lake as a first effort to remedy the recovery of paths before other monies are spent to divert around the raised water levels and then consider what other improvements need to be made. We believe this is the best and most cost-effective long-term approach.

Renee Roy
Crestview Addition, Shoreview

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Lake Plans
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:16:38 AM

From: Phil Aune <philaune@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 8:30 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Plans

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. **Use caution** when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

I am a frequent walker on all area trails. Daily walks take me from my home in Shoreview sometimes west to Arden Hills, but more often east or south to Vadnais or Grass Lake. I am averaging about 6-8 miles a day through all seasons, so the plans for future trail improvements is important to me. I was just re-reviewing the final Vadnais-Snail Lake plans for the first time in a couple months. Overall, I like what I see, but had one question concerning Wetland A plans. Has the City or County tried purchasing the small strip of land adjacent to the flooded area? I'm curious why this one property owner insists on hanging on to land that cannot have any real value? And if purchase is prohibitive, isn't there an eminent domain case here, where the City or County can just attach it. Now, if the planners think the plan is better, forgoing that strip of land and building the boardwalk out farther in the water, I'll retract my question. But seriously, what does this property owner gain by being difficult. We could name the boardwalk in their honor or something.

Otherwise, nice work. And I'm really looking forward to seeing the Grass Lake plans come to fruition. I love exploring some of the primitive trails back by I-694, so can't wait to see some of the proposed access become reality. Oh, and when does it look like any of this will start? Is it being impacted financially by Covid-19?

Sincerely,

Phil Aune
510 Harbor Court
651-247-2217

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC MEETINGS & COMMENTS

Comments to Vadnais Snail Lakes Regional Park Plan

I am a 43 year resident of Ramsey County, residing 38 of those years in Shoreview. I have used all Ramsey County parks for running, walking, biking, skiing, kayaking, and swimming. I made the most use of Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park (VSLRP) for skiing and biking. Before we retired both my wife and I used VSLRP trails to commute to work in St. Paul and Roseville. In 2015 I moved from Northern Shoreview to property adjoining Wetland A, specifically for trail access. I am proud of our parks and care deeply about them. I worked on the Como Park Master Plan as part of the Planning Committee and was an active member of the Shoreview Bikeways and Trails Committee for 8 years.

I oppose the bulk of this VSLRP Master Plan (Plan). It is short sighted and ill informed, missing the mark on nearly all points. You've earned a poor grade for regional park stewardship.

Your stated **goal** is to "determine where to replace impacted trails and facilities so they are resilient to future flooding." Your goals should be to mitigate the Grass Lake flooding, a man-made disaster; and, to make a resilient park plan for all three areas of the park that takes into account its public benefit, environmental protection, and cost. Such a park plan should:

1. Draw down Grass Lake water out of Wetland A
2. Restore all park areas to a natural state, and
3. Simply repair existing trails and for any new trails no boardwalks!

The Park proposal is blind to prior natural conditions. To plan for the future you have to understand how the three areas of the VSLRP got to where they are today.

Grass Lake is not a lake, but is described as a 16-acre wetland, actually a scrub swamp. However, it appears to have more than ten times that area in surface water alone. The normal water level of Grass Lake is 878.9 and the high water level is 882.4. The current level has just recently dropped below 884. Geologically it is a perched basin. It has a very low infiltration rate, meaning its water must flow off; its water does not readily exchange with ground water.

Previously Grass Lake received water from less than 1,400 acres. It now receives water from nearly 6,000 acres of connected drainage areas. For example, inflows from Lake Wabasso can be up to 19 cfs and .8 cfs daily from Suzanne Pond. Grass Lake flows into West Lake Vadnais, which has a limited outlet. The outlet, installed in 2006, is restricted to 4cfs. This outlet, along with poorly maintained drainage channels, caused years of unrecognized water retention in the Grass Lake and West Lake Vadnais catchments. West Vadnais Lake had an average depth of seven feet, now it is nine feet. This area is nearly the highest elevation in the County. Being so high, it should drain better, rather than drowning on a hilltop.

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Early in the 2000's the Parks resurfaced trails on the north side of Grass Lake and added a culvert near the tunnel. The purpose was likely to drain street runoff away from Gramsie Road south to Grass Lake. Unfortunately the culvert was set at an elevation 4-5 inches below the established Grass Lake true outlet leading to West Lake Vadnais. Until it was removed in late 2018, this culvert spewed water to the north, which slowly but surely saturated the area adjacent to Gramsie Road, in particular the area around the pedestrian tunnel. In fact, in some years the water only exited Grass Lake through this errant culvert. It remained until the last phase of the higher containment berm construction in late 2018. The Grass Lake outlet, the drainage channels, and the culverts were also altered to increase outflow in late 2018.

Grass Lake overtopped its north banks and flowed across Gramsie Road to Wetland A in 2014 and 2016. Grass Lake was already over historically high levels, with inadequate drainage, when major rainfall events struck. Each successive flood drained more slowly due to prolonged saturation.

The RWMWD is lowering the West Lake Vadnais outlet, which will then lower Grass Lake and create combined capacity for future storm events. Any lowering of West Lake Vadnais will protect Rice Street from flooding. Additional lowering by pumping would go far to offset future rain event threats. Do what we can when we can.

Wetland A (W-A) is a 5.3-acre wetland classified as a "scrub swamp" (6-18 inches of standing water). It collects water from direct runoff from its own 236-acre catchment, Snail Lake seepage springs, and street runoff.

The surface water elevation should be 870 as evidenced by established vegetation, topographical maps, trail culvert invert at 871, trail elevations, calculated water surface, and Ramsey County aerial imagery. A storm surge would raise the water to 872. Geologically it is a perched basin. It has a very low infiltration rate. It has no surficial outlet. It loses water by evaporation, transpiration, and slight seepage flow to the south towards Gramsie Road. This wetland worked fine for decades.

This unique basin was lined with large mature trees, characteristic of a rare urban oak savannah. W-A is rimmed by a perimeter trail system installed by Shoreview, to be maintained by Ramsey County. Many people in the region have enjoyed the trail system.

When Grass Lake overflowed north, falling into W-A, ten feet of water became trapped. The surface water is in excess of 50 acres and has exceeded 881 elevation. Since then, the trapped water caused the basin perimeter to become saturated and crowned to even higher elevations. The soil is sand deposits from an ancient riverbed, not having been saturated for perhaps several hundreds of years. The ten feet of unnatural water caused major issues (sink holes, undulating trails, loss of trail access, dead end trails, loss of habitat, drowned vegetation, and toppling trees).

To my knowledge, derived from interaction with Ramsey County Park staff, no request has been made to dewater the floodwaters from Wetland A. A low, slow drawdown

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could be done easily with trash pumps, at rather low cost. This regional park deserves better!

Snail Lake is a lake, with park property and public access on its southern shore. Historically its ordinary high water was 883.7. Snail Lake is not a perched basin. It has no surficial outlet. But, it readily seeps, losing water to ground infiltration at a rather fixed rate, so much so that since the early 20th century it has required augmentation more than 70% of the time.

W-A is the “downstream” subsurface outlet via seepage springs for Snail Lake. Trapped W-A water from the Grass Lake floods produces hydrostatic pressure on the seepage springs from Snail Lake causing Snail Lake to retain excess water. Consequently, Snail Lake has not dropped below its normal high water level and has been increasing at an alarming rate annually since 2014. The excess water trapped in Snail Lake caused major issues (threatening to flood the Crestview neighborhood; loss of picnic areas, swimming beach, water play ground and trees; limited use of boat launch; and major shoreline impacts on private property). Snail Lake also flowed to its overflow basin across Snail Lake Boulevard and flooded the pedestrian tunnel.

The **PARK PLAN** should draw down W-A, to the old seasonal water surface elevation of 870-872. Simply drain off the floodwater that came from Grass Lake. Over time it should stabilize at its original scrub swamp levels. When the floodwaters are drained W-A will return to its role of accepting seepage from Snail Lake. The park plan should restore the Grass and W-A park areas to a natural state when the areas reset and can function as wetlands again. The park plan should simply repair existing trails using asphalt, not boardwalks, for any additions.

After being saturated for so long, W-A trails will settle and then work can commence. No major trail alignments should be needed. Use existing trails as the base layer and level and top-dress them. Top-dressing trail surfaces for warped areas is not filling wetland. Ramsey County has sought input before on where to use pervious asphalt. Why not use it for new trails and repairs?

The Park’s boardwalk plan is a poor choice for a variety of reasons. Less than 600 feet of trail have been submerged, and that is at extreme levels. But the Plan is for thousands of feet of boardwalks! Boardwalks are expensive to build, difficult to maintain, unsightly, and noisy for humans and wildlife. The park plan presentation to the last Snail Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting used Keller boardwalks as an example. The Keller boardwalks are dangerous, slippery when wet, ugly, and don’t allow for the volume of traffic. They experience material failures; warping, loose connections; uneven surfaces; and, the width is inadequate for bi-directional traffic flow. Pinch points and access ramps require close contact to other users. The Plan’s proposed boardwalks would need to be built over the existing vulnerable sewer line. Anchoring an elevated walkway over it would be a challenging undertaking. The Plan also includes adding a boardwalk short cut bridging over the wetland under the power lines. It is unnecessary. By the way, this is a historically dry section of the basin.

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Plan for maintenance. Poor maintenance has caused much of the trail deterioration. There are several culverts under the trail that have become clogged. Thus, water was trapped and saturated the trail base rather than draining to the lower wetland basin. Be mindful of drainage patterns, not just flood issues and have trail shoulders drain, rather than trap moisture.

Check the contour maps and restore the trail at the-south end to the level of the 884 contour. It was obviously compromised when the trail base was leveled prior to paving in the late 1990's, subtle, but key to how the floodwaters arrived.

The Plan should retain existing access points. They are all are heavily used, spread out traffic, and encourage the same levels of high use as before the flooding. The Plan's added trail access at Dennison, through the city out-lot, would open up access to the neighborhood and is very reasonable.

The Plan's Gramsie surface crossing is problematic for traffic volume and not needed because the tunnel is the safest option and won't have water in it when Grass Lake recedes and unnatural saturation subsides.

When Snail Lake recedes so will the overflow pond and the tunnel access to the trail system will be usable again. A small berm should be formed to protect the tunnel from future overflow conditions. The pond could then fluctuate 2-3 feet without flooding the tunnel.

My suggestions meet the important goals of providing a public benefit, environmental protection, and reasonable cost. The public would benefit by having flexible options to enjoy this unique regional parkland. The environment would benefit by restoring the functional wetland and wildlife habitat. Ramsey County taxpayers would benefit by much lower initial and ongoing expenses, and a shorter implementation timeline.

If you have any questions, I can provide details, documentation, or data source locations for all the facts I cited.

James Mulholland

P.S. Like many other residents in the area the deterioration of this park has greatly affected us. We can't access trails. There is floodwater in our yard, which caused portions of it and a flagstone walkway to sink and a retaining wall to crack. Fencing has been damaged from sinking and falling trees. High crowning is threatening our home's foundation. Our property is less enjoyable with the loss of towering trees, pollinators and wildlife. Our property value has dropped due to all of these issues. And now, on top of that, the County is proposing adding an elevated rickety wooden thoroughfare past our property, with no near access to the monstrosity!

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WELLNER & ISAACSON, PLLP

Glen Oaks Center
28 South Pine Drive
Circleville, MN 55214
Telephone: (763) 794-0200
Facsimile: (763) 794-0757
Website: www.wi-attorneys.com

Attorneys at Law
Jennifer R. Wellner
Attorney at Law jwellner@wi-attorneys.com

Jo Lynn Isaacson
Attorney at Law jisaacson@wi-attorneys.com

Legal Staff
Jennifer D. Garner
Legal Assistant jgarner@wi-attorneys.com

April 23, 2020

Mr. Mark McCabe
Director
Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109

Re: Wetland A and Trail System

Dear Mr. McCabe:

There was supposed to be a meeting on March 19, 2020, to address the issues of the flooding of Wetland A and the improvements and remedial measures to be taken to address the loss of the trails and habitat that have resulted from such flooding. Due to COVID-19 and the resulting shelter-in-place order from Governor Walz, that meeting did not take place. Now, as I understand it, citizens have been invited to comment on plans for addressing the flooding and the trail system. Unfortunately I expect that many people, including myself, have not been informed as to what those plans might be. However, I have heard from neighbors that the plans do not include restoring the trail system to include trail access off of Floral Drive which is where I reside. I object to any plan that fails to provide such access and restoration of the trail on the east side of Wetland A. I also object to any plan which eliminates the tunnels which now exist and which allow persons to traverse the trails without crossing Gramsie Road and Snail Lake Boulevard.

My parents purchased what is now my home located at 290 Floral Drive West in Shoreview, in 1966. I lived there while I attended high school and college and visited often through the years as I attended law school at the University of Minnesota, and continuing until my parents both passed away in 2000. Following the death of my parents, I purchased the house from the estate and I spent a considerable amount of money remodeling that house to add a second floor and other space. That, of course, resulted in my paying real estate taxes at a significantly higher amount. It is likely that I would not have purchased the house from my brother and sister and made that significant investment in that property had I known that I would in the future be deprived of the ready access to the trail system at the bottom of Floral Drive, the use of the trail

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Re. Wetland A Flooding
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on the east side of Wetland A and its connection to the rest of the trails including the crossing that leads over to Snail Lake.

From 1966 until about three years ago, there was never any issue with flooding of the trail and the loss of the use of the trail on the east side of Wetland A. In 1966, when I was in high school, prior to there being any trail system established, I regularly used the same trail access at the bottom of Floral Drive to enter the open space. I could walk from that access across the open space to Snail Lake without having any issue with water hampering that hike. In the spring, the ground was spongy over a small portion of the area on the east side of the wetland leading up to what is now a more raised area in the middle of the north end of the wetland where a bench has been situated. Beginning about three years ago, gradually the water began to rise and eventually flooded the path so that you could not walk the trail through the center area of the open space. A sign was placed on the path to tell us what was obvious, that is that the path was flooded. Then gradually the sign itself was submerged. The water has continued to rise and now there is no way to access the trail system from Floral Drive and we have Mistake Lake.

It is not just the residents of Floral Drive who have suffered from the loss of the access and the trails on the east side of Wetland A. Prior to the flooding, over many years, I observed that people come from the direction of Hodgson Road and walk down Floral Drive to access the trail system. Some people come with their children, some pushing baby strollers, others riding bicycles. Some are wearing swimsuits and carrying towels and obviously plan to access the trails and make their way to Snail Lake and its beach (although that beach has also been a casualty on occasion of the problem with flooding). I assume that now those individuals have to walk further along Hodgson Road with its traffic dangers to reach another point of access. Recently I have observed people walking heading north on the trail on the east side of Wetland A only to see them coming back along the trail, retracing their steps because the flooded trail is not passable to the rest of the trail system.

I have been told that the flooding of Wetland A is due to Grass Lake overflowing and crossing into the wetland. I have attended meetings of the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and to a meeting at Shoreview City Hall. I neither saw nor heard anything at those meetings which indicated to me that any public official took very seriously the loss of the trail for me or my neighbors. At least two of my neighbors on Floral Drive are losing part of their lots adjoining the wetland due to the flooding. I have talked to many of my neighbors who feel a real and deep personal sense of loss due to the flooding and the consequent loss of the use of the trail system. It seems as if we pay taxes and are expected to just accept this loss as if it is nothing of consequence to the powers that be. I have heard excuses from various individuals that somehow this is a natural occurrence and that we should accept that "Mother Nature" has caused this.

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Re: Wetland A Flooding
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flooding. I do not accept that and I believe that there have been very detailed submissions by my neighbors and others citizens in Shoreview who have shown that this is not natural flooding but rather the result of the lack of remedial action taken by government. The fact that there are trees that are probably 100 years old that have been killed off by the flooding is evidence that this is not the way this is the natural state of this area.

We, as citizens and taxpayers, should not have to engage the services of any environmental professionals to explore methods and options to fix this issue. Our public servants and employees should be addressing this for us. I am looking for a response to this letter that is something positive so far as restoration of the trail system including the ability to access it from Floral Drive. I do not want the value of my house to depreciate due to the loss of an amenity that should not be taken from me or my neighbors or the rest of the residents of Ramsey County.

I have always felt that Minnesota is a state that values the environment and providing recreational opportunities for its citizens and I continue to believe that is the case. We have a great park system in Ramsey County, the Twin Cities and throughout the State of Minnesota. I feel particularly fortunate to live in Shoreview which has such great access to the parks such as the Vadnais-Sucker Regional Park. I hope that the tradition of valuing this aspect of our terrific quality of life here in Minnesota continues.

Sincerely,


Jennifer R. Weliner

JW/rmr

cc: Tina Carstens, Administrator,
Ramsey-Washington County Metro Watershed District
Nicole Joy Frethem, Ramsey County Commissioner
The Honorable Sandy Martin, Shoreview Mayor

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STEVEN P. CHRISTENSEN, LLC
ATTORNEY AT LAW

April 19, 2020

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Mpls/wood, MN 55109

RE: Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Concept

To Whom It May Concern:

I live at 4265 Reiland Lane, Shoreview, MN 55126.

This letter is in response to recent planning for the park -- specifically regarding moving the currently flooded small pavilion in Snail Lake Regional Park to either of two locations, "A" or "B" as stated in the Master Plan Concept that was recently circulated.

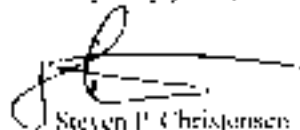
I do frequently experience loud noise (music and spoken voice via loudspeaker) in the summertime emanating from the large pavilion located at the top of the hill. This noise is a nuisance that does interrupt my quiet enjoyment of my property.

Therefore I favor moving the small pavilion to location "B". This will have the effect of locating the pavilion the furthest from my house, thereby reducing the noise from the park pavilion to my property.

I am in accord with what I understand are my neighbors concerns regarding these improvements as I understand they have expressed to you.

I thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



Steven P. Christensen

SPC

Cc: Kathy Dutton-Weber

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [Larry Swope](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Cc: [Frethem, Nicole J](#); [Sandy Martin](#); [Jamie Becker-Finn](#); [Bruce Copley](#); [Dianne Ward](#); [Larrie and Lou Ann Reese](#); [Shirley Kangas](#); [Nikki Hertel](#); [Jennifer Wellner](#)
Subject: Comments on the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Revised Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 1:46:12 PM

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use caution when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Revised Master Plan has incorporated many improvements. However, there remain several fundamental issues that need to be addressed before the plan is finalized and presented for funding and implementation. Chief among these are:

Area Ambiance: The area residents and park users have expressed a desire to have the area trails restored close to their pre-2014 condition, not just have a continuous loop system at any cost. The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation approach for trails in Wetland A have always incorporated extensive use of boardwalk systems. This strategy will fundamentally and unnecessarily alter the “wild” natural urban environment experience park users have come to value. Intrusive man-made structures not only spoil the attractiveness and the ambiance in the area but can impact the movement of wildlife in ways the current trails do not. Ramsey County Parks and Recreation should be conservators of this area, not just users.

Noise: The current trails are now mostly open (more later) and there is a constant stream of joggers, walkers, skiers, snowshoers and bicyclists using them. In warmer times baby strollers and skaters were also seen on the trails. All of this activity is essentially silent due to the trails themselves, but if one visits the area it is notable that human generated noise (yelling, talking, playing music) is amplified due to the echo chamber bowl configuration of the area. The noise from the boards would be amplified if extensive boardwalks were installed and this would spoil the ambiance of the experience of being in a wild setting in an urban area.

Flooding: It is anticipated that with the improvements in the Grass Lake area by the RWMWD, especially in the berm and the flow path to West Vadnais Lake, that the potential for flooding from this source would be considerably reduced or eliminated most of the time. That being the case, the modeling which was done to look at a worst-case scenario resulted in flooding to an elevation of 886 feet. This should have a considerably lower probability of occurring than before the improvements were implemented. It is much more likely that Wetland A will continue to recede as long as rainfall is normal or lower than normal as it has been this year. The level of Snail Lake should also be better controlled than in the past. This means that the strategy of raising and rerouting short sections of the current trails is an effective solution for this area would avoid the expense and desecration of installing extensive boardwalks and keep the area in a more natural condition. This year, for example, the majority of the trails have been available for use since mid-year. Even if some flooding occurred, it would be temporary and as long as it receded in a

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reasonable period of time, that should be acceptable to park users, especially if expensive intrusive boardwalks can be avoided. The report references the worst-case water elevation level of 886 feet and if the strategy is to avoid any disruption of passage, the boardwalks would be about ten feet above the current water level and trail system. If they are installed below that elevation, that would indicate official acceptance of temporary flooding and this would also be the case with moderately raised trails.

Professional Assistance: Barr Engineering in a May 2018 report to the RWMWD Board of Managers indicated:

Recommendation: Assist Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in choosing an alternative path alignment through the north and east sides of Wetland A that elevates the pathway to approximately elevation 876 (final elevation to be confirmed after the county conducts a soil and vegetation survey to better define the future alignment).

Permits: Although the master plan indicates that permits cannot be obtained for raising the trails, we are not aware of any application to the RWMWD for a permit. Some possibilities for obtaining permits that should be pursued are:

- Using soil from the flood plain area to raise the trails which would result in no net loss of capacity.
- Requesting a variance from the RWMWD if engineering evaluation indicated that the additional fill would not negatively impact structures or infrastructure (in other words, no additional flooding would occur due to the increased fill). The RWMWD has issued variances in the past for this type of situation and a variance was recently approved for the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Pig's Eye Lake island creation permit.
- Any potential impacts to the wetland could be compensated by creation of new foliage areas, like is currently being in the restoration project. Given the state of parts of this area, it is more likely the changes would be an improvement.

Easements: The report discussed getting easements from three current landowners and indicated this could be expensive and difficult. As one of landowners, we would accede to an easement at no charge if extensive boardwalks could be avoided. We have checked with the other two landowners and they feel the same way, so the only expense would be surveying and drawing up the legal documents. This was communicated to Ramsey County Parks and Recreation over a year ago.

Trail Condition: The trails at various times (before the improvements in Grass Lake were completed) have been under water and when they reappeared, they were in serviceable condition. The main damage was from muskrat tunneling as a product of the high water. It would not be difficult to repair or raise them so the character of this valuable urban treasure could be maintained.

Park Condition: No matter what solution is implemented for this area, the dumping of trees and debris which have been cut down because they died

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in the high water should be cleaned up. Every trail user that encountered the desecration of the area stopped, stared in disbelief and threw up their hands in futile protest. This is definitely not preservation of the environment.

Conclusion: There are many observations and suggestions for restoring the trail area around Wetland A that would avoid the expensive intrusion of extensive boardwalks into a natural urban woodland environment. Any continuance of this process must include a serious development of a truly alternate solution to the use of boardwalks.

We would be happy to participate in that process.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Tammy and Larry Swope
Floral Drive West
Shoreview, Minnesota

(H) 651-490-1232

(M) 651-261-1064

DK

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [richard.werner](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: Comments regarding
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:41:18 PM

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Dear Brett Blumer,

My wife and I have lived at 4036 Mackubin St for over 39 years and have enjoyed walking on the various paths/trails in the areas being discussed around Grasslake and Wetland A. We've attended two public meetings about future development in this area. We recently received an e-mail from Bruce Copley requesting comments to either him or "send them directly to Ramsey County Parks and Recreation brett.blumer@co.ramsey.mn.us and copy Nicole Frethemyou". It was a lot to evaluate and we are past Mr. Copley's deadline of 1/6/21 and yours, per his e-mail, is 1/7/21. Much of what we have an interest in has been brought up before, but we thought we should express our concerns.

We are not in favor of spending tax payer's money for a boardwalk; it's costly and probably high maintenance and in the future, money for proper maintenance will probably be hard to find. When that happens, the boardwalk might become a lawsuit waiting to happen.

When my wife and I walk on the current trails now, when we come to water on the trail; we turn around and head back. Not sure why others can't do the same.

For those who have to have a loop, just do the 520 LF boardwalk shown on the plan connecting near Dennison and wait, like Noah, for the water to recede. People could loop north of that boardwalk and use paths running beside Snail Lake Rd and Snail Lake Blvd to complete a loop.

Not having loop trails in some areas will probably mean less traffic which for some areas may provide a sanctuary for wildlife that depart from areas with more people traffic. Going back about 39 years, we've always wondered at the lack of wildlife tracks in the snow and bird sounds near 694. We wondered if it could be due to the traffic and noise from 694.

I would think that a boardwalk around Grass Lake near 694 would be a high noise area and not why people come to a park.

A week or so ago, my wife and I walked through the tunnel under Gramsie Rd because the water has receded.

We believe because of what we see and heard at the public meetings that high water has been a problem, but it is possible that when the area watershed groups get the excess water routed to the Mississippi River, that much of our continued high water will be resolved with maybe some short-term pumping. Have some areas been draining their excess runoff to our watershed or building where they shouldn't have? Perhaps those practices should be mitigated so we don't have the expense of boardwalks.

Pumping might be a solution to a short-term problem if our period of above average precipitation returns to normal which should return Wetland A to where it was before this 10 year or so period of above average precipitation. It does not have to be a "quick fix" for periods when we get water above some of the trail, just wait for the pumps to help return the level to uncover the trails; people can walk or bike in other areas when portions of the trail are underwater.



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Respectfully,
Richard & Sharon Werner

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [Bruce Copley](#)
To: [PR Parks](#); [Blumer, Brett](#)
Cc: [Frethem, Nicole J](#); [Sandy Martin](#); [Jamie Becker-Finn](#); [J Borgos](#); [Al Dubiak](#); [David Engh](#); [Shirley and Dave Kangas](#); [Micheal Marko](#)
Subject: Draft Plan Vadnais-Snail Lakes Region Park Master Plan
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:09:36 PM

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I have read the draft of the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan and would like to express some concerns that we (see cc: list) have regarding some of the proposed changes to the paths. Of greatest concern to me and others is the heavy use of boardwalks to span the flooded trail sections along the east side of Wetland A. You are proposing no less than 3330 feet (0.63 mile) of boardwalk to resolve a the seasonal flooding of about 700 feet of trail.

Short boardwalk sections may be required, but the installation 0.63 mile of high maintenance and expensive boardwalk seems excessive. I travel many similar trails throughout Ramsey and adjacent counties and have found that some section boardwalks are very slippery to bike on in summer months, frequently become frost covered and dangerous to traverse in the spring and fall mornings, become mold and moss covered in shady regions and have a less than ideal surface for snow compaction in the winter. They quickly fall into disrepair over a period of 10 years or less requiring regular maintenance to keep the surface in good repair. I also know that boardwalks are noisy when used by bicycles and may be very disruptive to the neighboring property owners.

I realize that short sections may be the best solution to address flooded parts of the trail, but minimizing the use of boardwalks in this plan would make good fiscal and practical sense.

Additionally, the RWMWD has made improvements downstream of Wetland A which should reduce the severity and frequency of seasonal flooding. The water district is also studying larger, more significant changes south of Grass Lake which would further reduce flooding this area. The proposed long sections of boardwalk may be unnecessary if the downstream improvements work as designed.

Please rethink this part of draft plan before finalizing it. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Copley
450 Suzanne Ave.
Shoreview

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [Annalee Strandskov](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Cc: [Frethem, Nicole J](#)
Subject: Feedback on Vadnais-Snail Lake trails around Wetland A
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 12:10:27 PM

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I'm writing to give you input on the park master plan. I'm a Ramsey County resident and have heard from several friends and neighbors who live in the area. We are opposed to the plan for the following reasons:

The plan calls for a "one size fits all" solution to past flooding, i.e. adding lengthy boardwalks that are not necessary. It proposes boardwalks across areas of the wetland where there are no trails now. The plan contains a number of inaccurate statements, both about the history and conditions of the area. The unnatural flooding that occurred is unlikely to happen again. It alleges the trails can't be repaired, which isn't true. Solutions haven't been explored on options to repair or raise trails, and it might take a different solution for different areas. The plan also states that they can't get an easement across neighbors' private property, to make the trail higher, but that is not true. There are dangers posed by boardwalks and the Park Board has a poor record of boardwalk maintenance. They need to be free of moss, mildew and ice. The length of the boardwalks is unnecessarily long and wastes too much taxpayer money.

Please reconsider the plan. Thank you.

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From: [Adams, Rob](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Lencowski, Kristopher](#)
Subject: FW: Boardwalks? VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:13:58 AM

See below. If you needed a little more direction on Vadnais wetland A.

Rob Adams | Parks Maintenance and Operations Supervisor
Ramsey County
Parks and Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St
Maplewood MN, 55109
651 363 3761 | cell 612 202 4640
rob.adams@co.ramsey.mn.us

From: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Adams, Rob <rob.adams@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: FW: Boardwalks? VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Linda Borgos <lbminn47@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 9:08 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Boardwalks? VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK

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My concerns about the proposed boardwalks would be two.

1. Safety of walking on surface, whether wet or snowy
2. Accessibility of approaching and exiting the boardwalks on a bicycle.

But please make our parks and trail systems available again for the neighborhood. We have been without our trail loop for too long.



APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

Regards,
Linda Borgos
425 Dudley Ave

DRAFT

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on the Snail lake trail system
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:14:40 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: Dave Engh <drengh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:12 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Comment on the Snail lake trail system

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I would suggest not replacing the existing trail on the east side of wetland A with raised wood trail except for where the trail has flooded. Figure 10 shows much of the existing trail that has not flooded would be replaced. I feel this is unnecessary and would make access impossible for lots bordering on the existing trail such as mine. The wood structures would not be useful for cross country skiing, which I enjoy.

Thank you,
David Engh
298 Floral Dr W
Shoreview MN 55126

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais/Snail Master Plan Amendment--comment
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 12:45:16 PM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

-----Original Message-----

From: Sonya Steven <sonya21@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 12:43 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: nicole.fretham@co.ramsey.mn.us; rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn
Subject: Vadnais/Snail Master Plan Amendment--comment

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As a recently-returned to Ramsey County resident, I have particularly enjoyed various county trails and parks. I was interested to see the proposed Vadnais/Snail master plan amendment, but disheartened to see its reliance on extensive boardwalks to span the flooded trail sections along the east side of Wetland A. While short boardwalk sections may be required, the installation 0.63 mile of high maintenance and expensive boardwalk seems excessive, and I urge reconsideration of that part of the plan. In addition to the cost of construction and upkeep, boardwalks can very slippery to bike on in summer months when mold and moss develop and have a less than ideal surface for snow compaction in the winter. I believe that minimizing the use of boardwalks in this plan would make good fiscal and practical sense.

Sonya Steven
2265 Luther Place #116
St Paul, MN 55108

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: Fw: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan public feedback
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 9:28:38 AM

From: fhorvath@gmail.com <fhorvath@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 9:52 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan public feedback

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Hello

Thank you for preparing this report. I think it provides a solid, well-rounded, and scientifically adequate explanation of the needs, reality, and limitations put on the park.

My value-added comments center mostly around Grass Lake:

Consider funding incentives for homeowners to increase or improve stormwater permeation on their property, as a mitigation against rising water levels.

Install permeable pavers for whenever possible for trails and parking lots to mitigate against rising water levels.

Add wildlife viewing platforms and vantages over the lake and wetland areas, to allow users to view wildlife in a low-impact manner.

Add more park benches at sites with good sight lines.

Install signage indicating restrooms and trash receptacles; distance and direction.

Add trash receptacles at more park trailheads, for instance Soo Line road to the 694 overpass.

Install permanent boardwalks around Grass Lake that will last so that our kids can use them when they grow up too. And so we don't have to pay for new ones sooner than necessary.

Thank you for reading

Frank Horvath
Shoreview, MN

--

This is my email. There are many like it, but this one is mine.

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: Fw: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Trail Master Plan
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:50:46 AM

From: Larrie Reese <larloureese@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:12 AM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Larry and Tammy Swope <lgswope@msn.com>; Bruce Copley <brucecop@comcast.net>
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lakes Trail Master Plan

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As homeowners on the Snail Lake Regional Trail we are firmly opposed to the extensive boardwalk plans for our trail except for trail sections that are necessary for crossing permanent standing water. The trail passes by our property at 306 Floral Drive W, Shoreview 55126. We are willing to donate a portion of our property to avoid constructing a boardwalk over the low lying Portion of the existing (flooded) trail there. For the safety of recreational bikers, skiers and hikers using our trail, PLEASE do not install costly, high maintenance boardwalks!
Larrie and Lou Ann Reese, 306 Floral Drive W., Shoreview, MN 55126 (ph: 6751-484-0878
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [PR Parks](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#)
Subject: FW: Vadnais-Snail Master Plan Amendment
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8:09:41 AM

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
2015 Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-748-2500
Parks@ramseycounty.us
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

From: John Borgos <jbalive@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 11:11 PM
To: PR Parks <Parks@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>
Cc: Frethem, Nicole J <Nicole.Frethem@co.ramsey.mn.us>; smartin@shoreviewmn.gov; 'Bruce Copley' <brucecop44@gmail.com>; rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn; ward.mulholland@gmail.com
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Master Plan Amendment

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The Master Plan Amendment seems to have a flawed and expensive solution to the flooding of the trail system around Wetland A. The proposed plan with the long boardwalks would convert an outdoor place into a theme park atmosphere, more like an outdoor zoo than a place that feels like a natural environment. I do not believe that local taxpayers would approve of such a large expenditure for a bridge over a mile long, which offers a tour of the area but not really a walk in the woods.

As for the Grass Lake loop, again the two boardwalks over water do not make any parkland area more accessible. The area on the west of Grass Lake is already accessible via natural turf trails, and some widening of those trails would be more economical and in keeping with undeveloped outdoor space.

In my view the proposed boardwalks will wreck the park more than the rising water has done, and I urge the Parks & Rec Dept to reduce the use of boardwalks to a minimum and keep the Wetland A and Grass Lake areas as truly outdoor parks. Thank you.

John Borgos
425 Dudley Avenue
Shoreview, MN 55126
Tel (651) 483-4805 Mobile (651) 470-9144
Email: jbalive@comcast.net

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

Feedback on the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Vadnais- Snail Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and for the positive changes you made to the Vadnais-Snail Lake Master Plan. However, the plans for the wetland areas of the park are terribly flawed. There are better ways to further the overall park goals you have outlined on page 17. All options need to be fully explored and then weighed against these goals, selecting the option that best meets them. Adding boardwalk structures over existing trails should be the last option considered, and only if nothing else is possible. No new trail segments should be built either.

The Plan does not support the desired outcomes, principles and additional directives for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan as it would harm a unique ecosystem and its native habitats; and, is not the best solution to increase climate resiliency.

A reminder of your responsibility is found on page 19. This park area requires the highest level of care:

The wetland and oak woodlands in the corridor section of the park and all of the Grass Lake section is classified...as an Environmental Natural Area... defined within Regional Parks as having significant, sensitive, and unique natural resources to Ramsey County that warrant extended preservation. ...These areas are designated for increased habitat protection, ecological restoration, passive recreation and environmental education.

The “one size fits all” Plan appears to be based on incorrect facts and assumptions and to have skipped over a thorough evaluation of all options. The addition of extensive boardwalks over existing trails and adding boardwalks to new areas is an overkill response to past unnatural flooding and would both harm the environment further and detract from the enjoyment of park users.

Background:

Planning for future flooding must consider the history and character of the area, not just observations of the past few years, as well as changes already occurring and expected, and the drainage improvements. In order to determine how best to manage the area in the future it is vital to understand the multiple factors that caused the flooding, as well as steps taken to prevent future flooding,

Not all natural basins are a suitable place for floodwater storage, as some, like Wetland A have no outlet. Also, note that the RWMWD has already implemented, made plans for, or is studying removing restrictions downstream to create capacity for more water to flow through the district without flooding. It would help the park planning process to pay more than “lip service” to these improvements; they should factor into the planning process.

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

The flooding was not just a result of above normal precipitation, and it has not been going on for “the past decade.” The Grass Lake drainage flow path was not maintained nor was a plan created to respond to predicted increased precipitation. Also, the Parks compromised the perimeter of Grass Lake, causing a low spot in the berm and adding a culvert. As a result of these conditions, and the above normal precipitation, Grass Lake overflowed north across Gramsie Road. This flooding, which occurred in 2014 and 2016, ultimately added 10 feet of water to Wetland A, expanded the size of surface water in the Grass Lake area, and filled nearby ponds and low points. Prior to 2014 the trails did not flood. It was trapped Grass Lake water that was the significant contributor to the high water problems, not just precipitation.

The entire Grass Lake area basin is not landlocked as the Plan states. Grass Lake has an outlet to West Lake Vadnais. Some of the drainage in the area occurs below the surface. The flow directions on the maps appear correct. Wetland A doesn’t have an outlet but it will continue to lower slowly as Grass Lake, Snail Lake and the surrounding ground water lowers. After the Grass Lake floodwaters inundated the area, experts predicted that the water in the wetlands would eventually recede and it would gradually restore itself to a functioning wetland again. We are already seeing evidence of this process. This should be accounted for in the Plan.

Repairs to Grass Lake’s drainage flow path were done in late 2018. West Lake Vadnais also had drainage problems that caused it to hold back Grass Lake drainage. Drainage improvements to West Vadnais were not completed until 2020. Even in the very short time since the improvements, not only has Grass Lake gone down substantially but the nearby ponds and Wetland A have gone down too. Wetland A’s normal elevation was 870-872. Grass Lake floodwaters raised it to 881. The current elevation of Wetland A is 877.1, down four feet from its high point. Since the wetland basin is bowl shaped, this means that it has already lost at least half of the Grass Lake floodwaters in the very short period of time since the drainage improvements.

The Plan rejected pumping Grass Lake water out of Wetland A in order to speed up the restoration, based on groundwater and downstream factors. Grass Lake floodwaters largely contributed to the ground water in the area, as evidenced by the simultaneous intrusion of groundwater into a home in the Crestview area, as well as multiple other examples. There is not enough information available to fully understand the relationship of the surface water to the local ground water in this area. Removing the Grass Lake water could help the area reset to its normal wetland function quicker and is actually less complex and more sustainable than adding boardwalks. Also, given how much Grass Lake is has gone down, the amount of water that would be pumped from Wetland A would have little effect and would not risk flooding down stream. It is too bad this option was not fully explored earlier before so much damage was been done. At least the predicted slow recovery is happening.

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

The planning process should first clarify what water elevation in the wetland areas it is planning for, e.g. the old elevation? Something higher due to increased rainfall? Or, the 100-year storm while nearby water bodies are already at flood stage? Then, based on that, evaluate all trail elevation options. And, once the optimal trail elevation is decided, then evaluate all the options for establishing the trail at that elevation.

Boardwalks are not needed and will harm the environment:

It does not appear that the park planning process followed the necessary steps in seeking a solution to flooded trails. "When development within the park is proposed the steps will include avoiding impacts first; second, minimize impacts; and, finally, mitigate impacts when no other options are available." p.25 People have voiced objections to boardwalks at every step of the process because of the major impact adding boardwalks would have to the environment and to park users enjoyment being so close to nature. These concerns have not been adequately addressed.

The Plan states that several sections of the trail system are closed due to flooding. This is untrue; only two short sections of the trail in Wetland A are under water.

- One section is the "crossover" trail, the trail segment connecting the East and West sides of Wetland A perimeter trail loop. This section is low because the area around the culvert underneath it sank. This small section could be repaired by returning it to its original elevation. Even if options to repair it are not possible, and you must use a boardwalk to raise it, it would be shorter. Instead of the 500-foot length in the Plan, only 144 feet is needed.
- There is a section of trail in the Southeast area that Ramsey County Parks cleared and wood chipped by trespassing on three (not four) property owners' private property. 188 feet of trail there is under water. This small section could be repaired by returning it to its original elevation. Another alternative is obtaining an easement from the property owners. The Plan's comments about limited funds for easements and no guarantee of success are totally disingenuous! Ramsey County Parks has never talked with the property owners and had even been previously informed that the owners were willing to donate an easement.

The Plan should not state unequivocally that adding fill to return sections of trail below elevation 886.0 feet, and which are under water, to their earlier elevation would require compensatory storage, as you have not explored all options. It might be possible to return fill to its original location, thereby not triggering a requirement for compensatory storage. Or, it might be possible to obtain a variance. Neither is it true that repairing, or raising existing trail to their original elevation will negatively affect the wetland. The trails are already there!

The wetlands have been severely damaged by the unnatural intrusion of Grass Lake water and allowing it to remain for years. Raising the trails would be better for the

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

environment and the enjoyment of park users than building a massive structure through it.

The rest of the trails, including the tunnels under Gramsie Road and Snail Lake Boulevard are dry and have been for months. The high water and other factors, e.g. muskrat dens, have damaged portions of the trail but they are still intact, usable, and, in fact, used heavily. The existing bituminous trails can be repaired. That would keep the natural ambiance of the area, impact the environment less, and cost much less than installing boardwalks.

The elevation of the proposed boardwalks is not clear. This factor is critical to evaluating the plan. One interpretation is that they would be installed at an elevation of 886 feet. "To keep trails from future flooding, the elevation of 886.0 feet needs to be maintained in the Corridor(Wetland A) and Grass Lake Basin segments."

An 886 elevation is 12-16 feet above the "normal" past elevation of Wetland A and 13 feet above the current trail in the lowest proposed boardwalk location. A report provided to the RWMWD Board of Managers December 5, 2018 stated:

If Grass Lake and West Vadnais Lake were at an elevation of 884 at the start of a 100-year, 96-hour event, the peak elevation of the Grass Lake/wetland A area would be approximately 885.5. (Again, this is only if Grass Lake and West Vadnais Lake started at the Grass Lake overflow elevation of 884.0.)

So, is the proposed permanent boardwalk structure at 886 elevation based on the extremely unlikely possibility Grass Lake will be already above flood stage when a 100 year, 96-hour precipitation event occurs, and, that it would remain that way? Frankly, if water ever got close to that point, inundated trails would be the least of the problems. Rice Street and some residential areas between Gramsie Rd. and Highway 96 would be under water.

If boardwalks are installed at an elevation of 886.0 the boardwalks are going to look like monorails! And, they would be unsafe. Since it is unlikely or rare that the water will ever be much over existing trails, people will want to be able to walk under the boardwalks. Will you build them such that that is possible or just have these high structures, that are more bridges than trails, mar the beauty of the park? Have you considered the ramping that would be required if, for example, the boardwalks are 12 feet above the connecting trail in some areas? To accommodate wheel chairs the ramps would have to be 144 feet long!

The Parks may be considering the alternative to raise the trails to an elevation of 876, understanding that in extremely rare situations they could be underwater for a short period of time. Barr Engineering recommended raising the trails to 876 in a presentation to the Ramsey Washington Metro Board of Managers May 2, 2018.

Recommendation: Assist Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in choosing an alternative path alignment through the north and east sides of Wetland A that elevates the pathway to approximately elevation 876 (final elevation to

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

be confirmed after the county conducts a soil and vegetation survey to better define).

Preferably this could be done without the use of boardwalks, but if they were necessary they would be much shorter than what is illustrated in the Plan.

The location of the north-south trail system boardwalk is much, much longer than any area supposedly consistently flooded. It is longer than the trails flooded when water was at its highest elevation. Also, a factor in the location of the new boardwalk trail was the large trees. Now that dozens of those trees have been removed, does that change the planned location?

The Plan also adds new trails, in the form of boardwalks in Wetland A, across virgin wetland. They are not necessary, will harm the environment, and will detract from the natural state of the area that people so enjoy. The wetland already has a sufficient trail system that includes loops. There is nothing presented in the Plan that justifies the additional trail segments.

There were many citizen comments about problems with boardwalks being slippery for bicyclists and pedestrians. They require regular maintenance that Ramsey County Parks, based on observations in other parks and the expected fiscal challenges, is unlikely to keep on top of.

Allowing the Grass Lake floodwaters to remain so long caused extensive damage to the wetland areas of the park. Hundreds of old growth trees died, as well as plants. All kinds of animal, reptiles, and invertebrates, including some rare or endangered, were killed or left the area. The RWMWD and Ramsey County Parks are partway through a restoration effort around Wetland A. While it is not a "restoration" in the sense of restoring it to the way it was before, the restoration efforts have already had stunning results, e.g. bringing back pollinators, introducing native plants that will help the area function as a wetland again, removing invasive species, and educating park users. Park users hope the restorations and maintenance will continue even beyond the time of the grant, as has been done in other Ramsey County parks.

All of my Wetland A comments also apply to the Grass Lake area. Park users enjoy the trails there year round too. As in the Wetland A area, just use boardwalks if no other options are possible, probably just the section parallel to 694. Keep in mind that Grass Lake is also going down, now that the water that was built up for so long has somewhere to go. The Grass Lake area is a wetland. It is best to restore it to its natural state, using or repairing bituminous trails where possible.

Additional notes:

- The Social Aspect section of the Plan would be enhanced if it could include educational campaigns for park neighbors encouraging removal of invasive plant species and for park users identifying the invasive species and the native plants and their benefits.

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

- Next time the Parks want to do a pop-up survey on park use, conduct it the park.
- If the Parks won't go back to the drawing board and give the planning process the through evaluation it needs in order to protect the environment and to enhance park users experience, do it to save the majority of the \$2.4 million cost to the taxpayers of the current Plan. This money could be better spent on continuing the restoration efforts in this and other parks, making more connections between natural resources, and expanding access for the disabled.

Conclusion

The Plan does not support Ramsey County's vision and mission, as it has not demonstrated that it will best "protect unique, fragile and aesthetically attractive natural resources promote environmental values." Reconsider and

- **Use science to determine what, if any, change is needed to the elevation of the trail sections in the Wetland A and Grass Lake areas**
- **Carefully evaluate all options with the goal of using the one least harmful to the environment for each trail section. Repair the trails, and avoid the use of boardwalks as much as possible**
- **Keep the existing trail locations in Wetland A, do not add additional ones**
- **Resolve the County's trespass issue**
- **Continue the "restoration"**

Thank you for your consideration.

Dianne A. Ward

P.S. The large signs posted by Ramsey County Parks indicating that the Wetland A trail is closed, and that going further will be trespassing, are not in proper locations even if they were needed, which they aren't. They confuse park users. The north one is nowhere near the sections of the trail under water. The south one is closer to a section of flooded trail, but is ironic that it was installed there since it was Ramsey County Parks that bulldozed a wide trail there shortly after adding the sign, trespassing over three private properties. Both signs should be removed.

APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [Jean Jirasek](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Frethem, Nicole J](#); smartin@shoreviewmn.gov; rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Trails around Wetland A
Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 7:16:13 PM

External message alert: This message originated from outside the Ramsey County email system. Use **caution** when clicking hyperlinks, downloading pictures or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a resident of Ramsey County, I have previously and am continuing, to express my dissatisfaction with the present plan which incorporates an extensive and expensive system of boardwalks in the area around the east side of Wetland A. This is a giant waste of our taxpayer dollars, to say nothing of the expense of maintaining such a system. I also think it would be noisy and slippery. Please minimize the use of boardwalks, and repair as much of the trails as possible in an effort to REDUCE boardwalks, as it would make good fiscal and practical sense.

Sincerely,

Jean Jirasek
328 Floral Drive W
Shoreview, MN 55126



APPENDIX B: 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

From: [Charlie Jirasek](#)
To: [Blumer, Brett](#); [Frethem, Nicole J](#); smartin@shoreviewmn.gov; rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn
Subject: Vadnais-Snail Lake Trails around Wetland A
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 8:19:50 AM

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I have lived on the east side of Wetland A all of my life. I strongly disapprove of the present plan to build boardwalks on the trail system. I feel it would be a total waste of taxpayer money. I don't see the need for this as the water problem has not existed until the past few years. Money would be better spent improving the trail system. The boardwalks being proposed would be difficult and expensive to maintain properly.

Charles Jirasek
328 Floral Drive West
Shoreview, MN 55126



APPENDIX C

FLOODING SUMMARY HANDOUT

DRAFT

APPENDIX C: FLOODING SUMMARY HANDOUT



VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK

HIGH WATER: BACKGROUND & SUMMARY OF FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The state of Minnesota and Ramsey County have experienced abnormally high precipitation over the past decade, causing high water in lakes, wetlands and rivers. This document is a summary of impacts and responses to high water in the Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park and affected water bodies.

BACKGROUND

Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park has been experiencing high surface and ground water causing flooding as a result of above average precipitation occurring in consecutive years from 2013 - 2019. This area is located within the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD), while West Vadnais Lake is part of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO).

The Grass Lake area encompasses the lowest portion of Shoreview and has become landlocked due to urbanization over time that includes construction of railroads, roadways and housing. Increased impervious surfaces throughout the area have raised the volume of stormwater that is collected in the water bodies. The area was able to manage its watershed until recent years due to increased precipitation. Restrictions downstream, due to other flood-prone areas throughout the watershed, limit how fast water can exit the Snail/Grass Lakes basin.



Location and flow of water around, through and out of the Grass Lake basin.

IMPACTED LAKES & WETLANDS

- Grass Lake
- Snail Lake
- West Vadnais Lake
- Wetland A

PARTNER AGENCIES

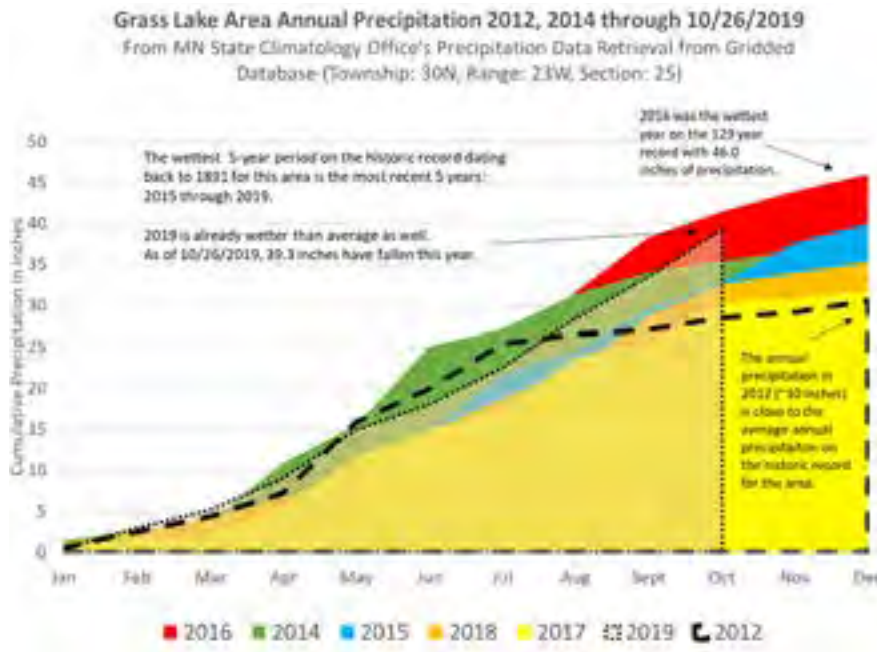


FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ramseycounty.us/VadnaisSnailProject

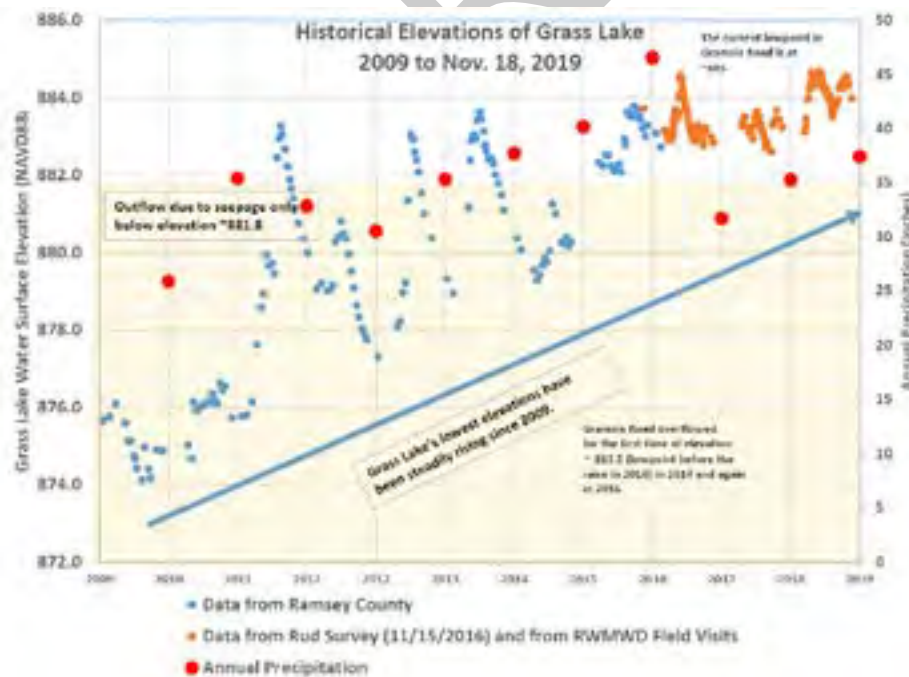
CONTACT:
parks@ramseycounty.us
651-748-2500

APPENDIX C: FLOODING SUMMARY HANDOUT

VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK



Shoreview has seen the wettest 5-year period on record, which dates back to 1891. The average annual precipitation, typically 30", has been exceeding 36" per year with one year exceeding 46" of annual precipitation.



Historical elevations of Snail and Grass Lakes indicate a trend and correlation of higher precipitation in consecutive years. This has resulted in higher groundwater, more surface runoff and little infiltration creating lake level elevation increase.

APPENDIX C: FLOODING SUMMARY HANDOUT

VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK

HISTORY OF WORK

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation, the city of Shoreview and RWMWD have been working collaboratively to assess, analyze and develop working solutions to manage high water for affected properties and infrastructure in the area. The following is a summary of events and actions taken:

- 2013** ● Grass Lake Water Management Organization is dissolved. RWMWD annexes the Snail/Grass Lake watershed area into its jurisdiction.
- 2014** ● Heavy rain events cause public infrastructure to flood, including Gramsie Road and Snail Lake public beach.
- 2016** ● Record precipitation floods Gramsie Road, Wetland A, landscaping of properties along Snail Lake. Homeowners around Suzanne Pond in the Crestview Addition neighborhood have groundwater issues.
- 2017** ● At the request of the city and county, public infrastructure elevation data is collected and analyzed by RWMWD; RWMWD completes systems efficiency maintenance projects across the sub-watershed to improve water flow through West Vadnais Lake. Groundwater conditions are studied around Wetland A, including a short pumping study. Grass Lake optimization study is launched. Gramsie Road is raised by the city to protect it from high water impacts from adjacent water bodies.
- 2018** ● RWMWD begins work to adjust Grass Lake influence to the north and east that affects Gramsie Road, Wetland A and West Vadnais Lake. Many meetings involving multiple agencies and residents review considerations for large scale sub-watershed drainage relief strategies.
- 2019** ● With all other feasibility studies complete, RWMWD focuses on the lowering of the 15" outlet structure below I-694; Snail/Grass Lakes emergency response work continues. Beltline resiliency study begins looking at district-wide changes to the conveyance of flood waters to relieve flooding to homes. Record precipitation throughout 2019 make it one of the wettest years on record. County makes improvements to raise Rice Street.



STUDIES & TECHNICAL MEMORANDA

Studies are available by request from the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

- 2014 Watershed updates models to include Atlas 14 precipitation.
- 2016 Snail/Grass area limited groundwater study.
- 2016/2017 Snail/Grass Lakes optimization study.
- 2017/2019 Surveying of pipes, overflows and critical elevations in influence areas.
- 2018 Water quality and geotechnical investigation of West/East Vadnais lakes.
- 2019 West Vadnais Lake outlet lowering environmental assessment worksheet.
- 2019 Beltline resiliency study.

APPENDIX C: FLOODING SUMMARY HANDOUT

VADNAIS-SNAIL LAKES REGIONAL PARK

A SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

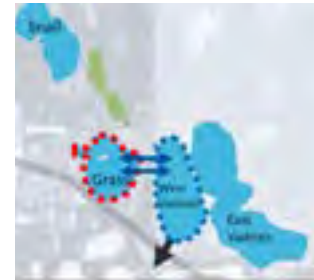
What option(s) will best manage lake levels?



Data collection and modeling of past, existing and future climate conditions yielded information used to develop possible solutions to relieve the Grass Lake basin from high water. Six options have been explored by the RWMWD and considered by their board. Priority has been given to Option 1. Option 2 cannot proceed unless Option 1 is in place and regional levels are lower, at which time further discussions regarding implementation will take place.

OPTIONS SUMMARY

1 of 6	2 of 6	3 of 6	4 of 6	5 of 6	6 of 6
Lower West Vadnais	Pipe Snail and Lower West Vadnais	Pump Snail	Lower East Vadnais	Lower East Vadnais & Lower West Vadnais	Pump West Vadnais
\$40,000	\$620,000	\$2,500,000+	?	?	\$2,500,000+
Ramsey Co. Parks	Ramsey Co. Parks	Ramsey Co. Parks	Ramsey Co. Parks	Ramsey Co. Parks	Ramsey Co. Parks
VLAWMO	VLAWMO	VLAWMO	VLAWMO	VLAWMO	VLAWMO
MNDNR	MNDNR	MNDNR	MNDNR	MNDNR	MNDNR
SPRWS		SPRWS	SPRWS	SPRWS	SPRWS
	SPRWS	SPRWS	SPRWS	SPRWS	SPRWS



OPTION 1



OPTION 2



OPTION 3



OPTION 4



OPTIONS 5 & 6

APPENDIX C: FLOODING SUMMARY HANDOUT

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IMPACTS TO RAMSEY COUNTY PARK

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation has managed impacts to the trails, beach and boat launch within the regional park. Department staff has been working with the RWMWD to make changes to drainage patterns which further protect homes from flooding. In addition, the department worked with the city of Shoreview to place pumps and equipment in the park to keep roads from flooding.

Utilizing information and analysis collected over the past several years, Parks & Recreation is able to begin addressing the flooded beach and picnic areas at Snail Lake. The public beach will be redeveloped during the winter of 2019 - 2020 to accommodate the new high water levels.

Parks & Recreation worked with RWMWD to combine a trail and flood diversion berm at Grass Lake, along with other drainage optimization measures south of Snail Lake. A master plan update for the flood impacted areas of the park will begin in early 2020. This plan will seek to realign a trail system that will provide resiliency to future flooding while maintaining the usability of the trail system.



▲ Current trail and park areas impacted due to flooding.

CONCLUSIONS

RWMWD staff has met with staff from the city of Shoreview, Ramsey County Public Works, Parks & Recreation and other agencies on multiple occasions. The discussions have resulted in the following proposed conclusions about all aspects of the proposed Emergency Response Plan work in the Grass and Snail Lakes areas:

- Countywide surface and groundwater is high.
- Phosphorus concentration of West Vadnais Lake is too high to allow for excess water to be utilized by Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) for drinking water.
- Lowering the West Vadnais outlet structure is currently the most feasible scenario to gain flood storage in the sub-watershed.
- Agency partnerships have successfully protected homes from impacts of high surface water conditions.
- Projects have been completed on Ramsey County Parks & Recreation property to help direct flood waters away from homes in low lying areas without increasing the rate of water going downstream to at-risk flood-prone areas (e.g. berm, stop logs, etc.).

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SUMMARY OF KEY FACTS

- ✓ Area lakes' outlets and natural drainage patterns have been disrupted by urbanization over the last 100 years.
- ✓ Precipitation has increased over multiple years resulting in record high water levels in area lakes and wetlands.
- ✓ Low lying areas, lakes and wetlands are landlocked with limited availability for relief from high water.
- ✓ The number one priority of protecting habitable structures from flooding has been achieved.

NEXT STEPS

- Ramsey County Parks & Recreation will be redeveloping the Snail Lake beach area to open in 2020.
- The city of Shoreview will be completing a project in 2020 to increase pumping capacity and add a backup generator to the Suzanne Pond lift station, install infrastructure to connect the NW Gramsie Pond to the lift station, and complete Gramsie Road improvements to address flooding issues.
- In 2020, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation will complete a master plan update for the park trails that have been affected by high waters and develop a reconstruction strategy that will provide more resilience to high water in the future.
- RWMWD and partners will continue to gather data, implement projects and evaluate options to address high water in this and other flood-prone areas of the watershed district.



APPENDIX C: FLOODING SUMMARY HANDOUT

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