



# Metropolitan Regional Park System

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Equity Advisory Committee

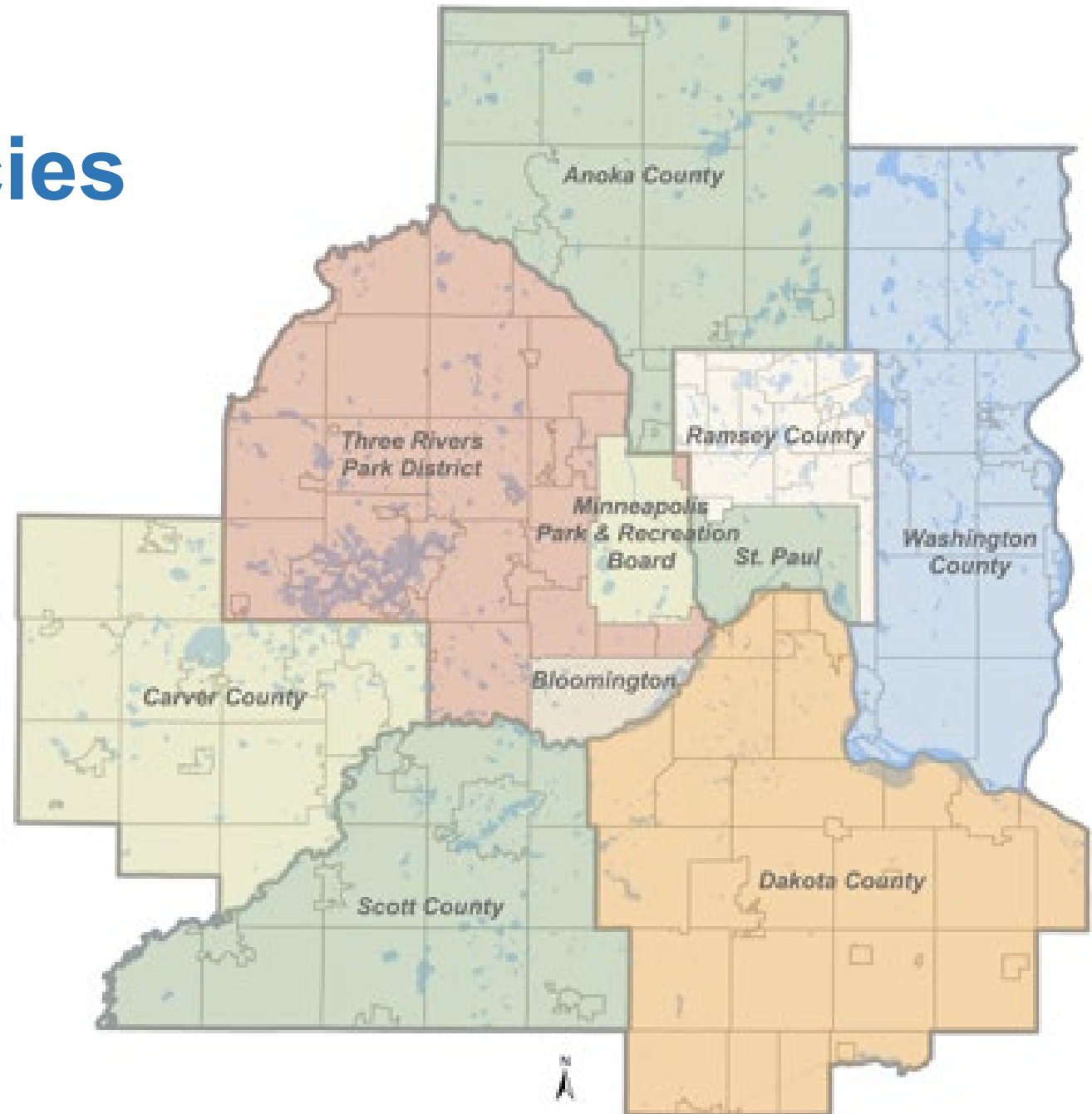
Wednesday, March 16, 2022





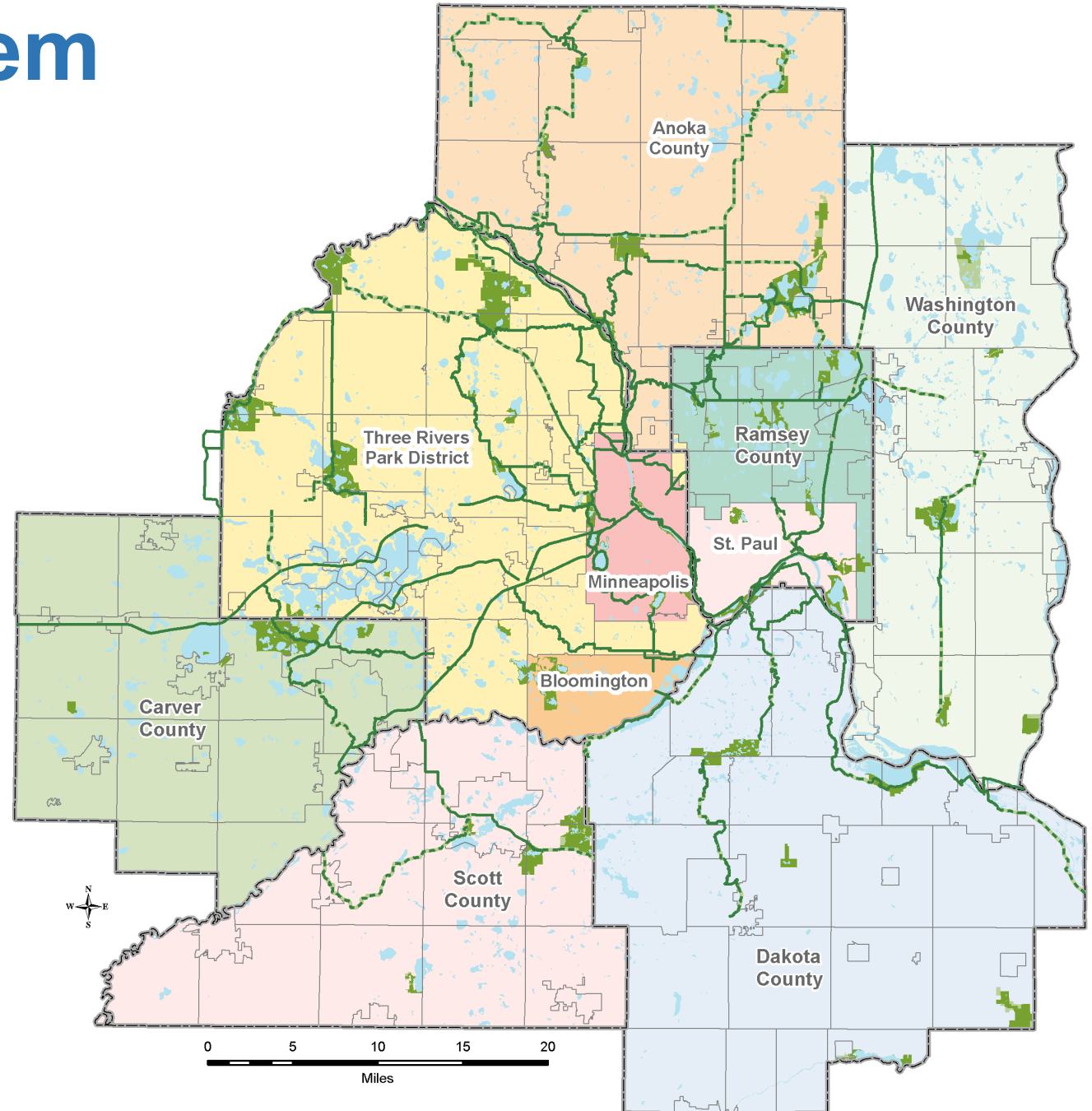
# 10 Regional Parks Implementing Agencies

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Washington County
  
- Bloomington
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- St. Paul
- Three Rivers Park District



# Regional Park System

- **44** Regional Parks
- **12** Park Reserves
- **8** Special Recreation Features
- **55** Regional Trails with **415** miles of currently open to the public
- Almost **55,000 acres** of parkland



# Connecting People and the Outdoors



Try It Ice Fishing, Fish Lake Regional Park  
Three Rivers Park District

*Focusing on  
Introductory  
Experiences*



Fish Lake Regional Park



Nordic Opener, Elm Creek Park Reserve  
Three Rivers Park District



# Connecting People and the Outdoors



Archery in the Parks, Dakota County

## *Building New Outdoor Skills*



Canoeing, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota Co.



Learn to Ski with Outdoor Latino, Dakota County



# Regional Parks Research

## PARK USE AMONG COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

- 2014 research to determine why people of color do not visit the regional parks proportionate to their numbers in the population.
- The three most common barriers identified: lack of awareness, lack of time, and safety concerns.

## YOUTH & PARKS: GETTING OUTDOORS CLOSE TO HOME

- Learning how youth think about and enjoy nature in regional parks



# Park and Trail Planning

## Equity Analysis Requirement

- As part of our Parks and Trails engagement and outreach efforts, examine who likely benefits and who is affected by the development proposed in regional park or trail master plans considering race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, age, and other pertinent characteristics.



# Outreach and Funding

## Ambassador Program

- Our regional parks ambassador program is designed to help raise awareness of the regional parks and trails. Our goal is to ensure that all residents know about and feel welcome and comfortable using our world-class parks and trails system.



## Competitive Equity Grant Program

- Program provides funding to regional park agencies for capital and noncapital projects that will strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents, across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability.



# Regional Parks Historical-Cultural Study

- **Goal Statement:** Develop a baseline history of the Regional Parks System and develop tools to bring it alive with park agencies, telling a broader history of our system
- **Purpose:** To understand the region's history as it relates to how we arrived at today, and daylight our Regional Parks System's past and present inequitable use



# Discussion

- What is your connection to the Outdoors?
- Why do you think equity matters with Regional Parks?
- What are your questions about the Regional Parks System and our work together?



Youth engagement in Dakota County Parks