

Business Item 2020-186

Crow-Hassan Park Reserve Master Plan

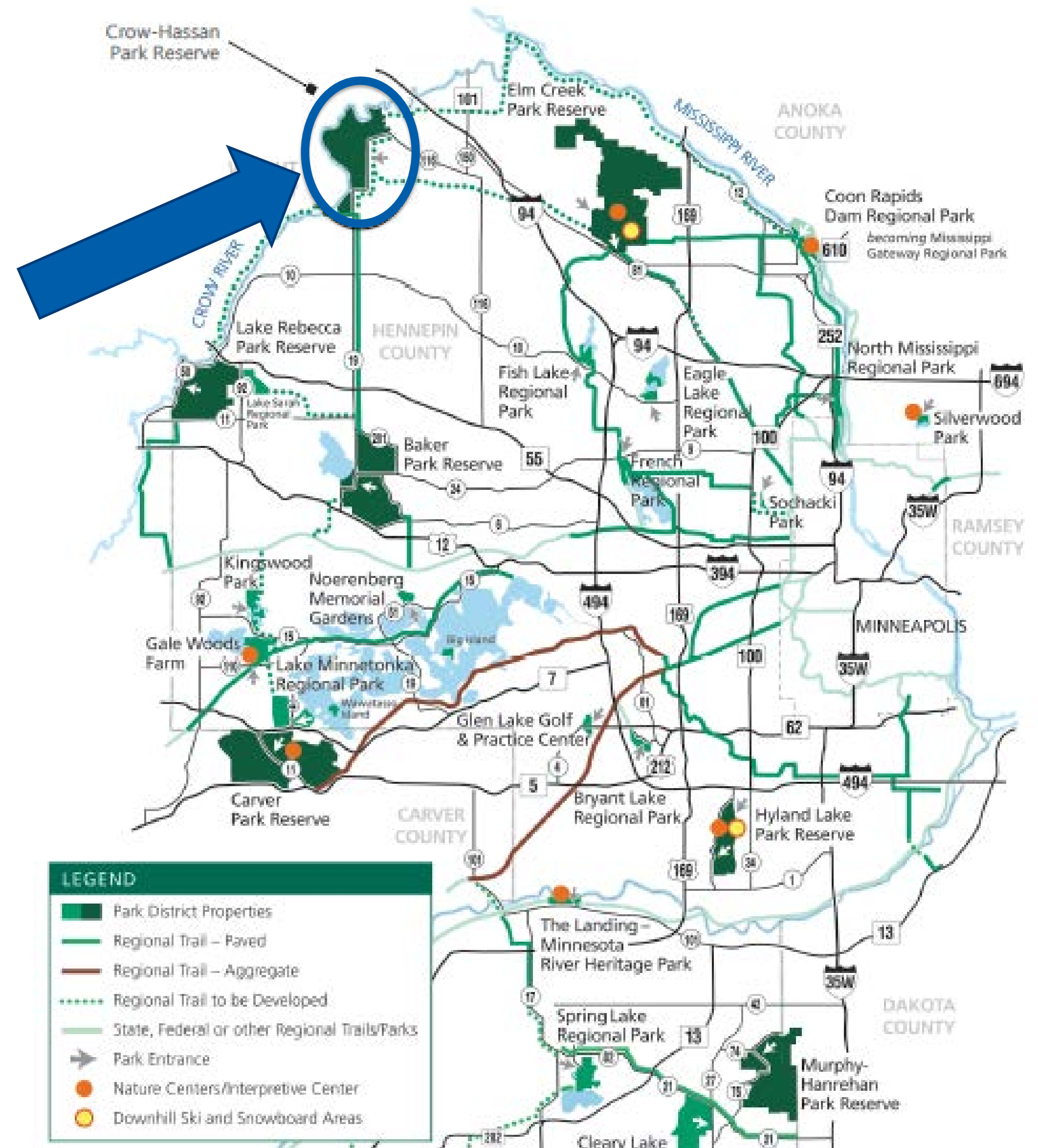
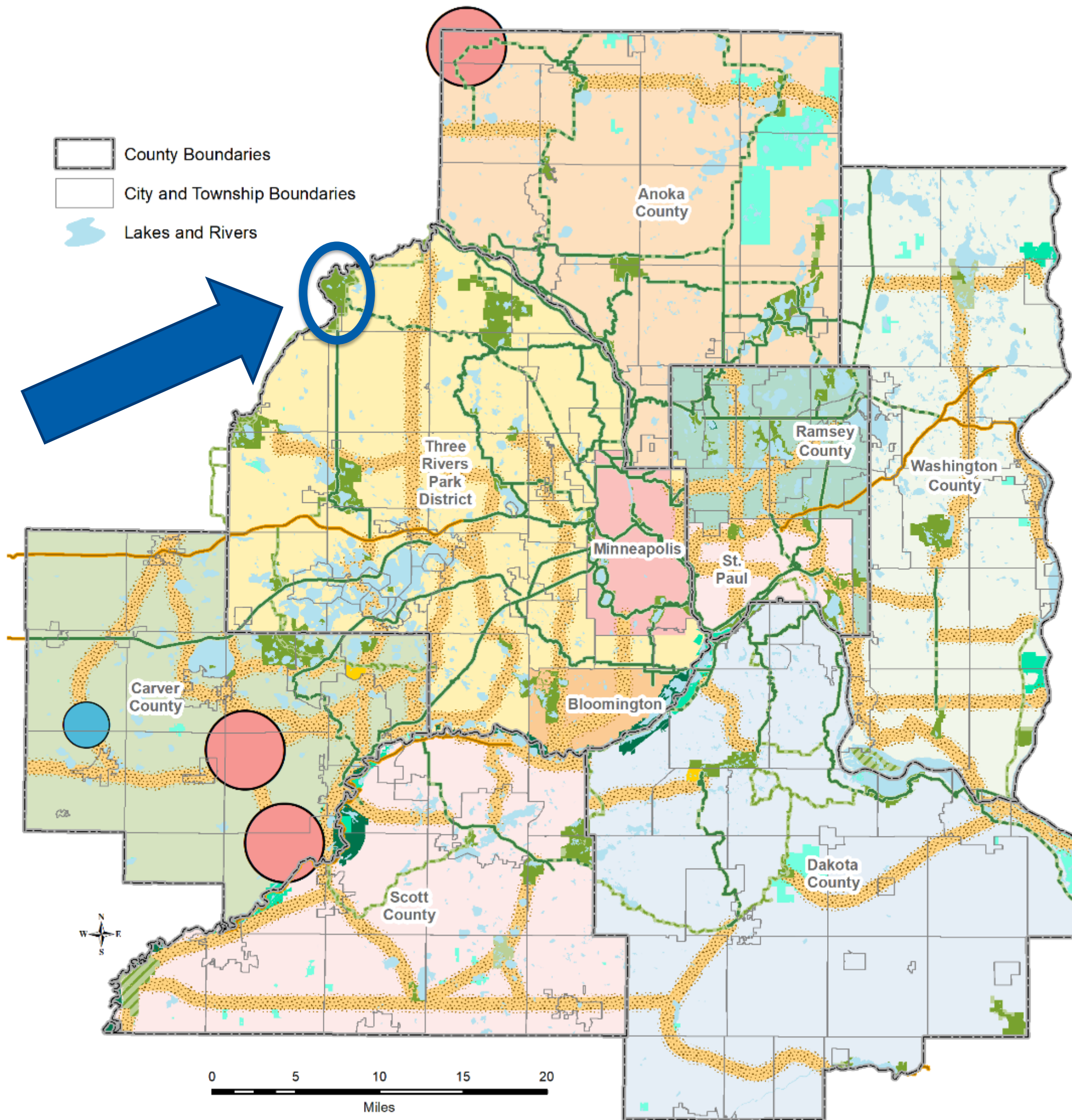
Three Rivers Park District

July 9, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Crow-Hassan Park Reserve



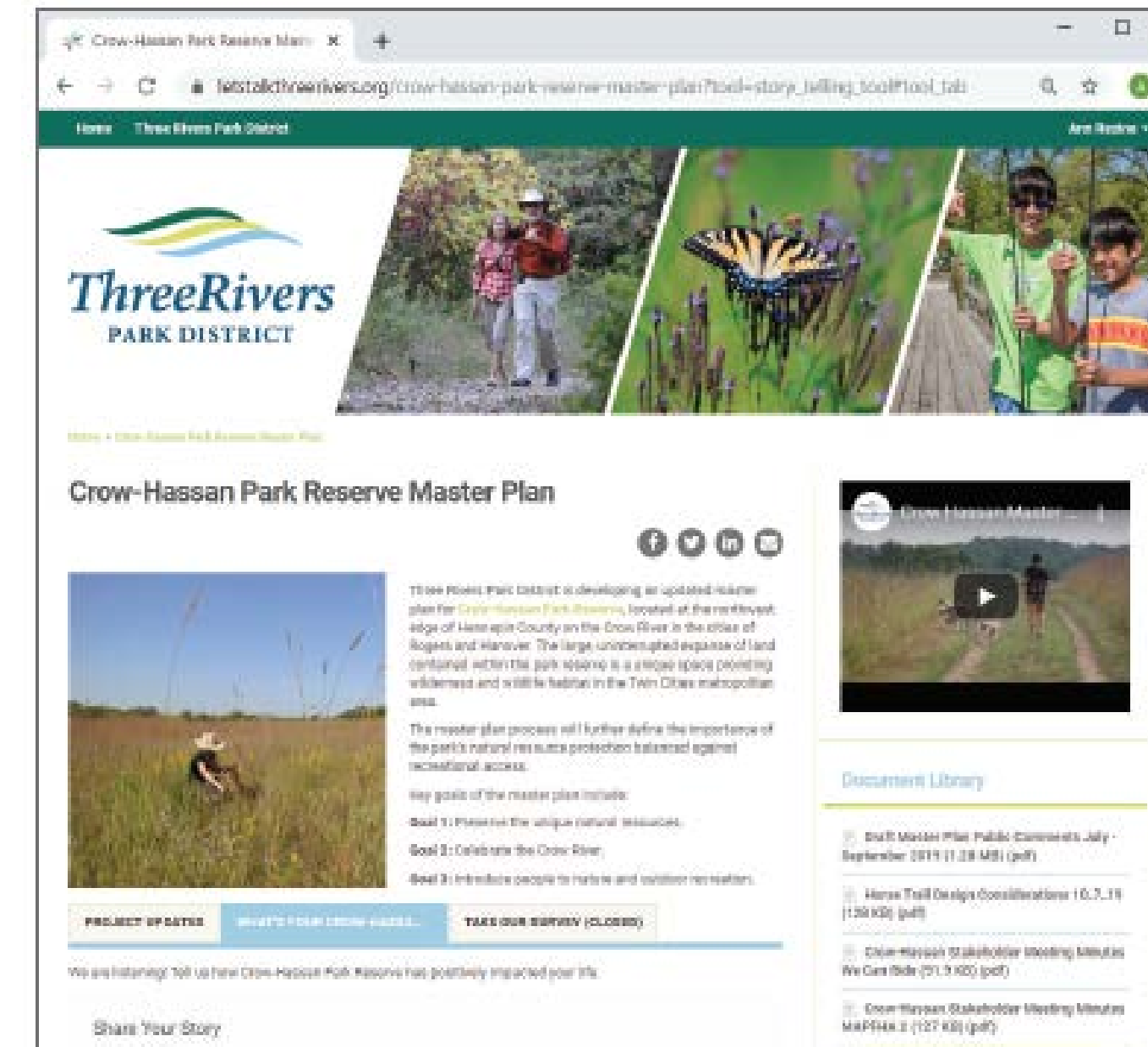
Community Engagement

Many groups and individuals engaged

- Current park users
- Underrepresented populations
- Local communities, clubs and advocacy groups
- Park District volunteers

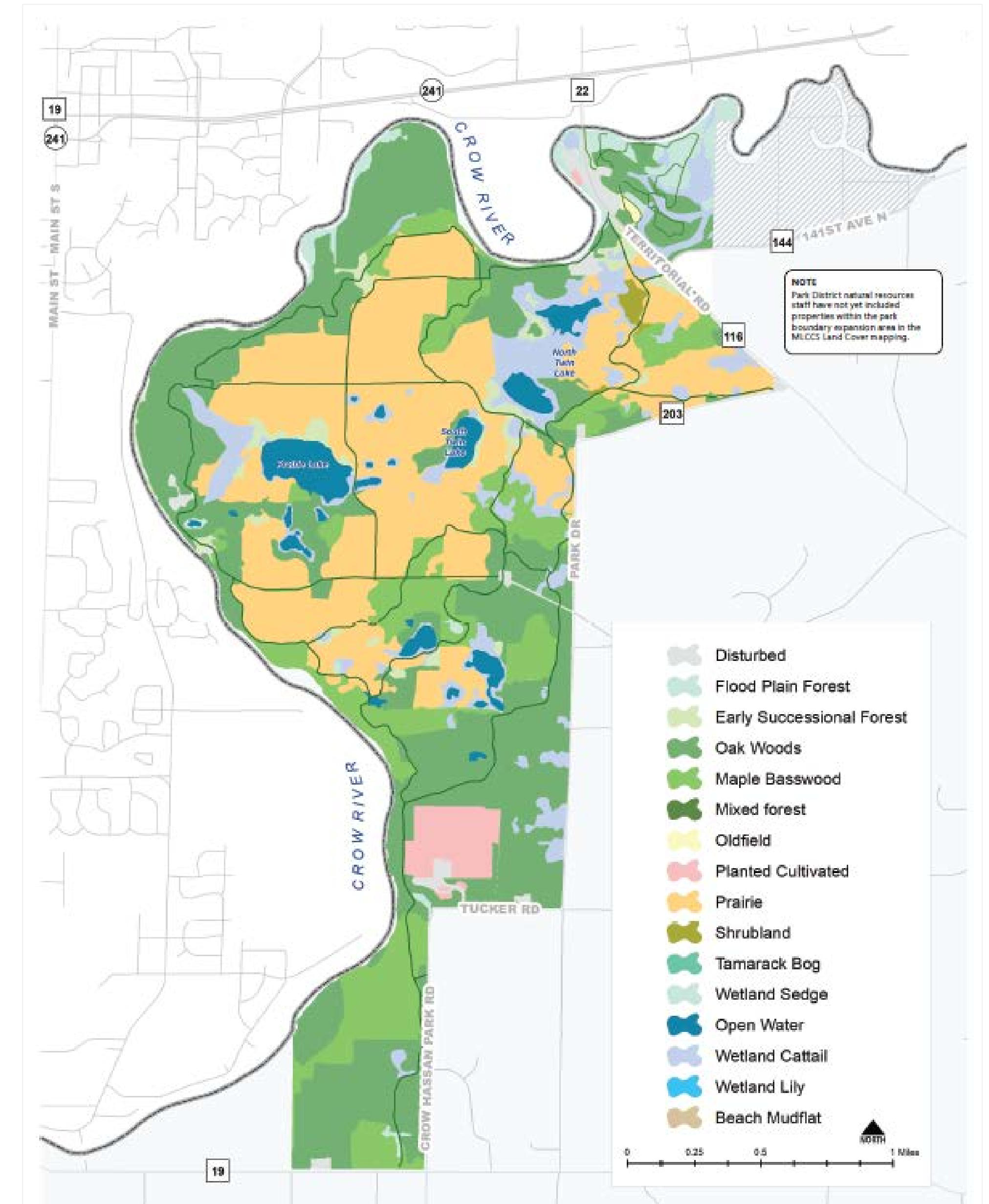
Engagement themes became the primary design recommendations

- Protect unique natural resources
- Maintain the rustic quality
- Reduce user conflicts
- Improve accessibility
- Improve signage and wayfinding
- Increase natural resource-based programming, education and experiential opportunities
- Diversify camping options



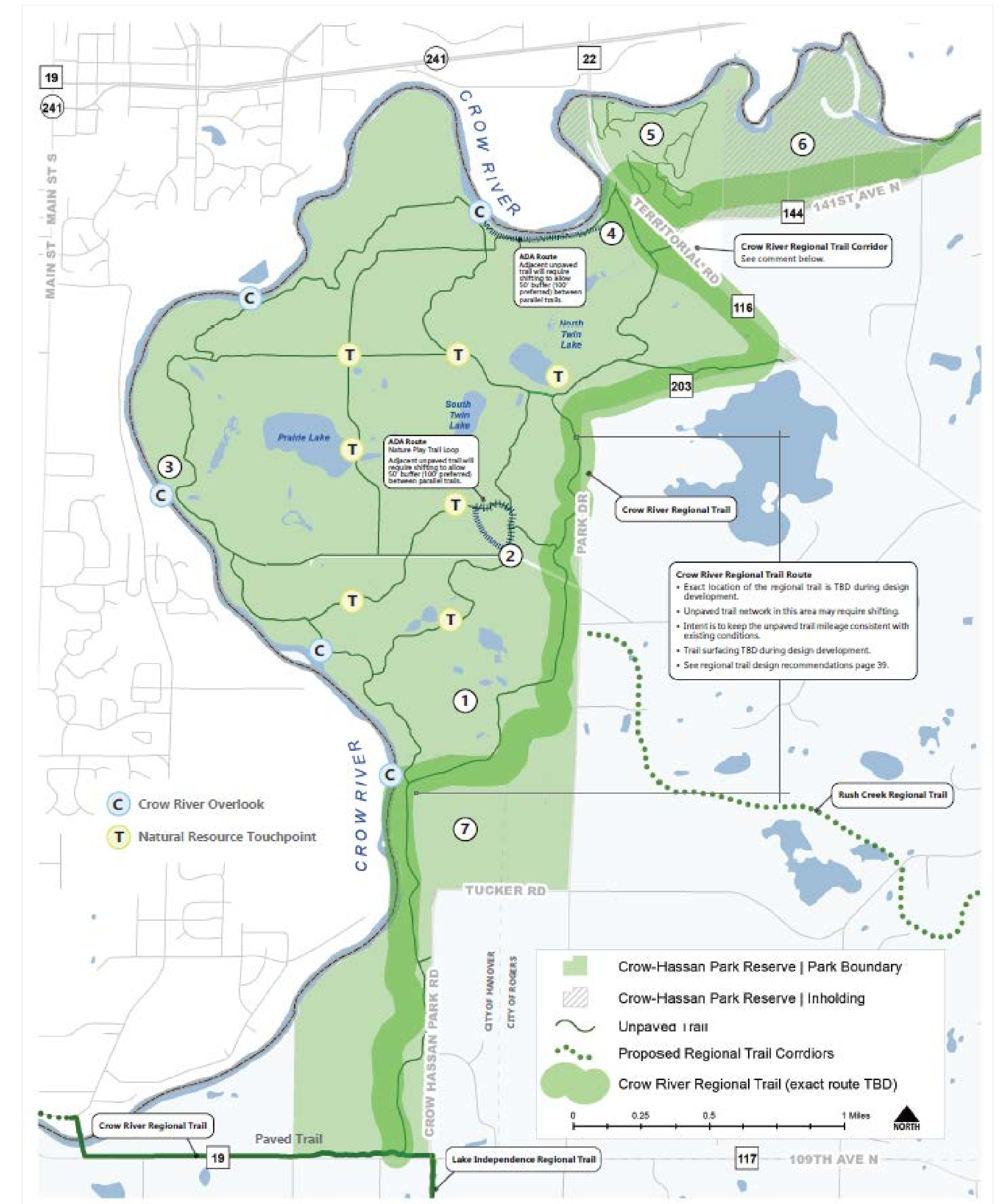
Natural Resources

- Crow-Hassan's design and development have supported the reintroduction and resurgence of regionally significant plant, animal, and insect species.
- Prairie communities are a primary focus at the park reserve. Within the last ten years, over 280 acres of prairie have been re-created.
- The Crow River is a regional recreation destination for river paddlers and forms a wildlife corridor for waterfowl and wildlife.
- A Natural Resources Operations Plan identifies specific goals for park reserves throughout the Park District.



Development Concept

- 80 / 20 development ratio
- Master Plan identifies ways to improve park user supports that highlight unique park features, minimize park development
- Continued ecological focus while integrating light-touch educational opportunities, expanded accessibility and improved wayfinding.
- Proposed features have been centralized around the existing development areas.



Development Concept *continued*

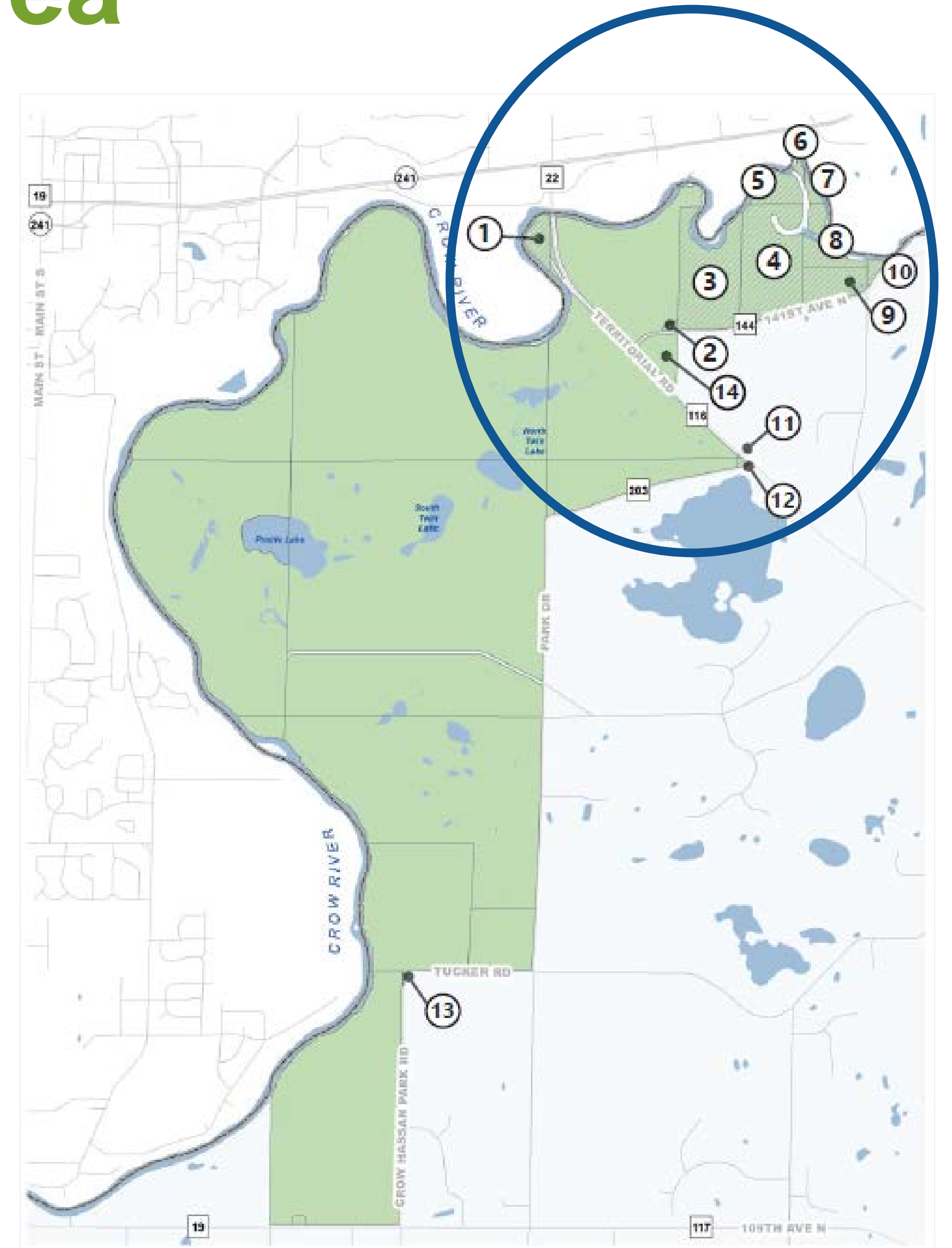
Recreation Development Plan

1. Further Refined Crow River Regional Trail
2. Further Refined Trailhead Area
 - Including improved parking lots, a new picnic shelter, and an ADA nature play trail and
3. Enhanced Bluestem Unit
4. Enhanced Riverbend Unit
 - Including new individual, reservable campsites, new ADA non-motorized boat launch, new ADA Northern River Trail segment
5. Enhanced Dog Off-Leash Area
6. New Park Boundary Expansion Area
7. Enhanced District Nursery



Park Boundary Expansion Area

- A response to adjacent planned suburban expansion and increased regional recreational demand.
- Within the expansion area is property owned by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services. A future Crow River wastewater treatment plant is anticipated by 2030.
 - A land exchange between MCES and the Park District may be required as part of the wastewater treatment project.
 - To date, the Park District and the City of Rogers are supportive of a land exchange which results in additional parkland for Crow-Hassan.



Estimated Project Costs

- Inholdings are considered for acquisition on a willing seller basis.
- Significant development components include ADA Northern River Trail segment (Riverbend); improved parking lots, picnic shelter, and ADA Nature Play Trail loop (Trailhead); solar roof installation (District Nursery)
- Maintenance costs based on full implementation of plan would add \$160,000, to a total of \$520,000
- Approval of master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time.

Implementation Components	Estimated Costs
Acquisition	\$2,750,000
Development	\$2,570,000
Total	\$5,320,000



METROPOLITAN
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Rationale for Proposed Action

- The Crow-Hassan Park Reserve Master Plan is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, including Planning Policy Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Crow-Hassan Park Reserve Master Plan without the proposed boundary adjustment.
2. Advise Three Rivers Park District that the proposed boundary adjustment of 179.85 acres is contingent on its inclusion in the 2020 Policy Plan Amendment and will be reviewed and considered through the System Additions process.
3. Require that the Agency update the Master Plan to remove the characterization of the parcel north of 141st Avenue North as “surplus.”
4. Require Three Rivers Park District, prior to initiating any new development of the park reserve or the Crow River Regional Trail adjacent to or in the vicinity of the park reserve, to send preliminary plans to the Engineering Services Assistance Manager at the Metropolitan Council’s Environmental Services Division for review in order to assess the potential impacts to the existing and planned regional interceptor system and other critical wastewater infrastructure.