



Clifton E. French Regional Park Master Plan

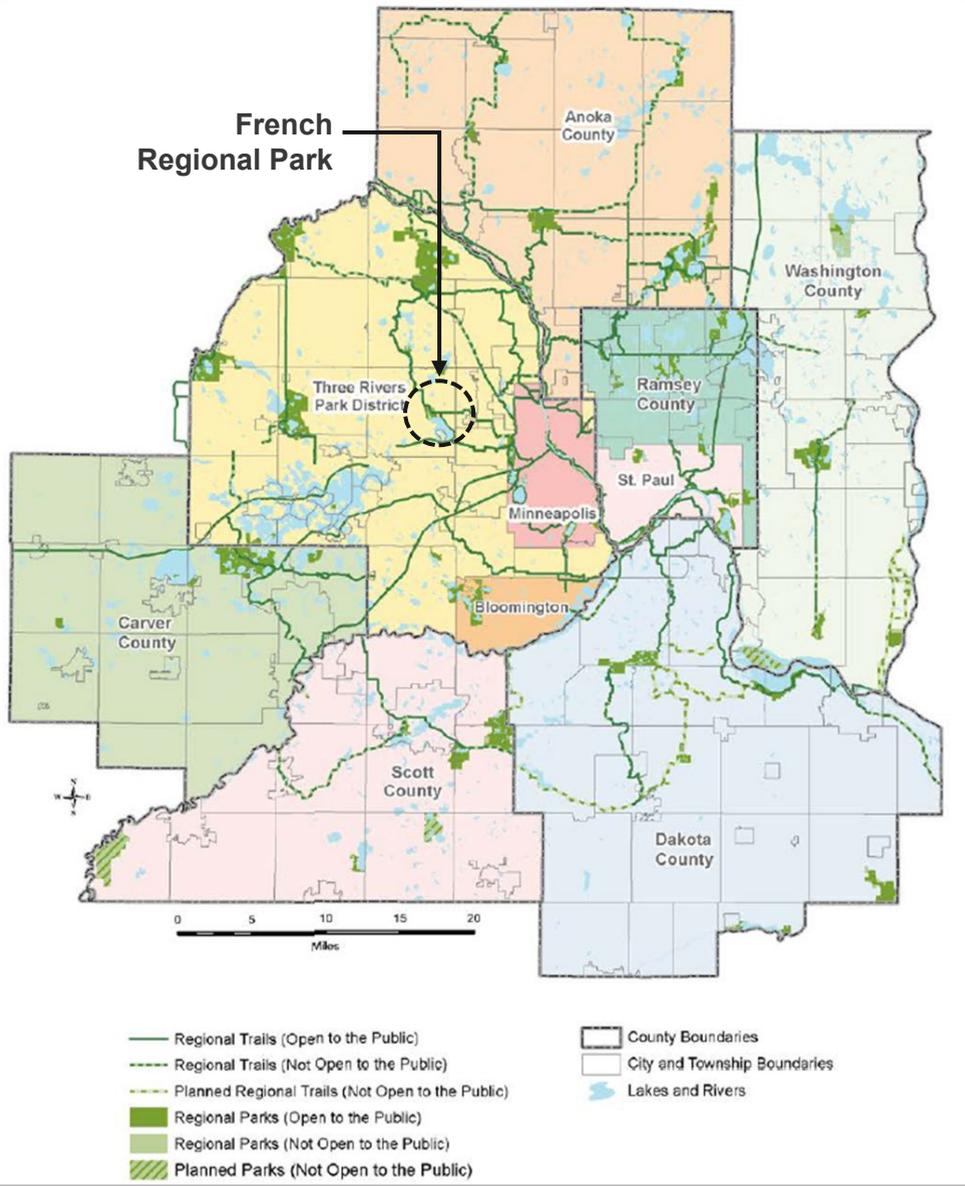
Business Item 2022-284

Chee Yang

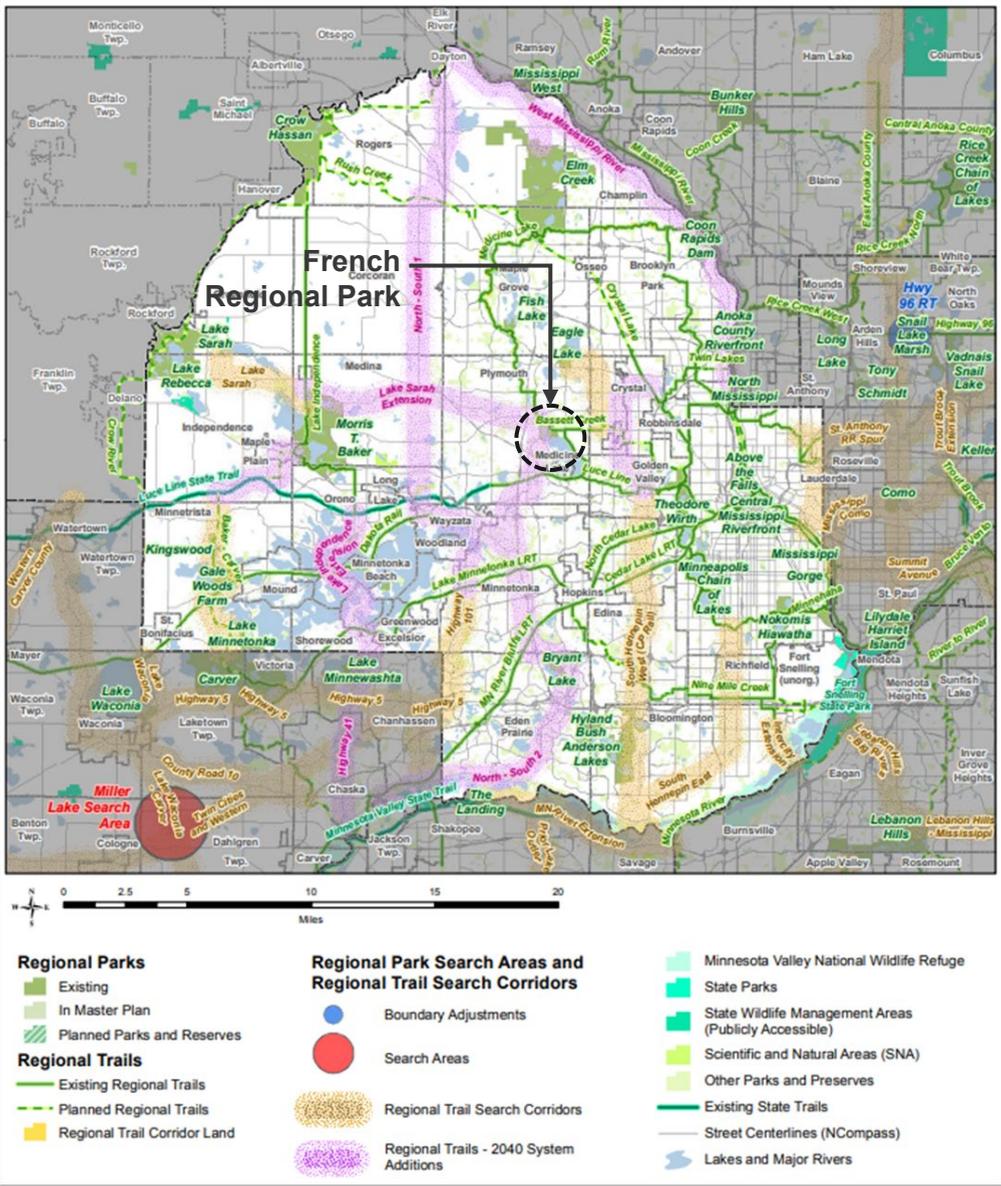
November 3, 2022



French Regional Park



French Regional Park within the Regional Parks System



French Regional Park within Hennepin County



French Regional Park

Partner Engagement



Engagement

- The engagement plan followed a 4-phase process to intentionally connect with the general public, park users, underrepresented community members, and cities and organizations.
- The Park District engaged the cities of Plymouth, New Hope, Crystal, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley, St. Louis Park, and Minnetonka.
- Engaged organizations include the Plymouth Historical Society and the Association of Medicine Lake Area Citizens.
- General themes includes:
 - Improving Medicine Lake water quality and water access
 - Promoting regional park awareness
 - Improving signage and wayfinding
 - Improving trail surfacing
 - Providing manufactured snow
 - Incorporating a variety of outdoor experiences

Public Engagement

Engagement Focus

- Gather information on introductory programs from the public, how they are provided, and how they're envisioned and supported in French Regional Park
- Increase awareness
- Understand barriers
- Obtain more broad, general feedback on preferences, and recommendations.

General Themes

- Interest and desire to participate in existing park programs
- Build awareness for programming and recreational activities
- New & relevant programming
- Provide water recreation
- Provide program information
- Opportunities to enjoy nature and the outdoors
- Promote age- and culturally-appropriate park programs
- Minor update and improvements to regional park facilities
- Familiarity and appreciation of French Regional Park



Equity Analysis



Analysis

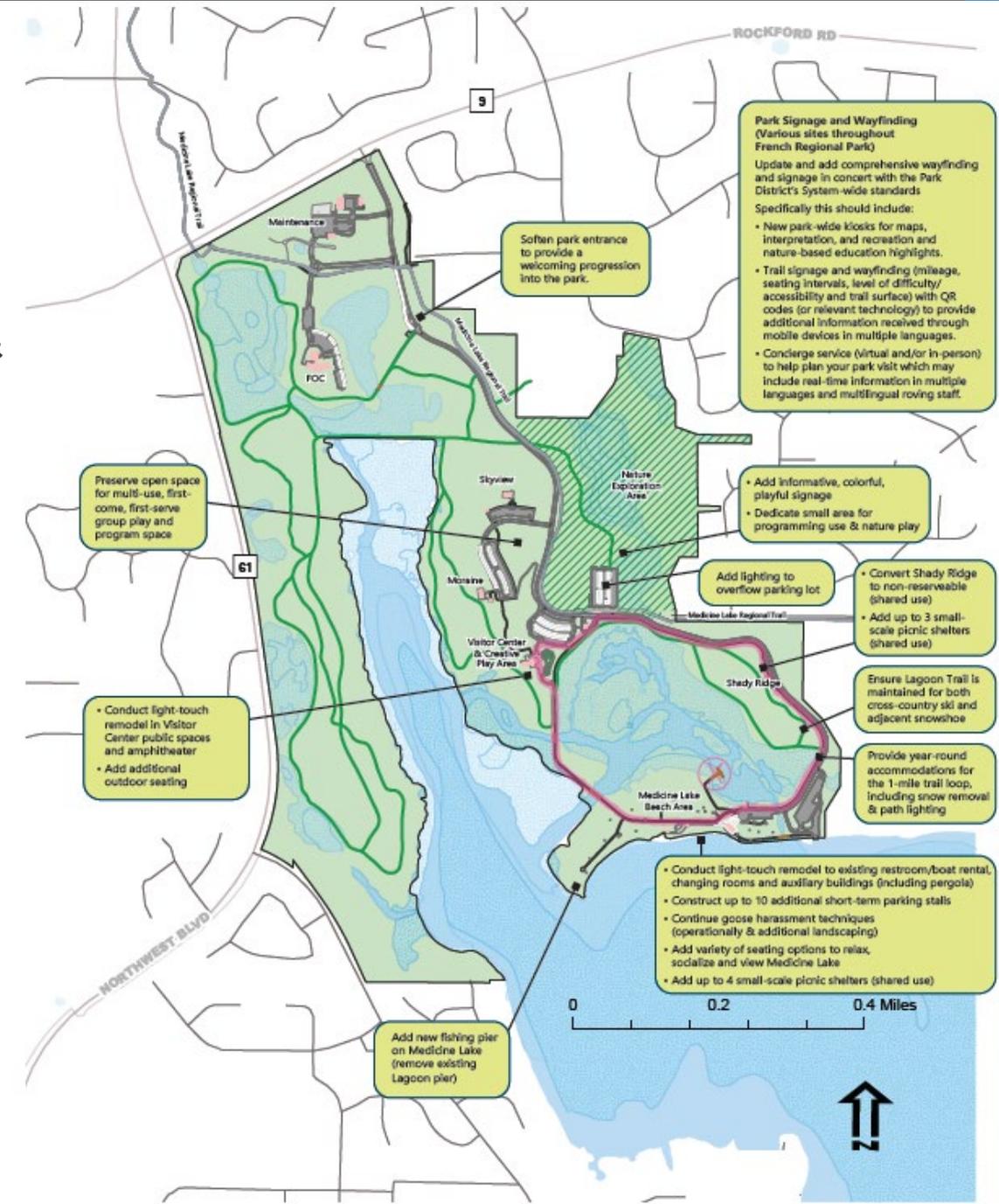
- The Park District identified the following groups as underrepresented:
 - People 75 years or older
 - White and Non-Hispanic Adults
 - Households with an annual income of \$50,000 or less
- French Regional Park focuses on the new “try-it, learn-it” visitor experience model which does not appear to serve or draw from these targeted community groups
- The engagement efforts for the underrepresented groups focused primarily on building awareness, understanding barriers, and identifying programs that would encourage exploration of the park.
- General themes include:
 - Open and natural spaces & opportunities to view nature
 - An escape from the city
 - Outdoor and water-based recreation
 - Nature-based education and activities
 - Provide ADA & smooth trail surfacing
 - User-friendly signage and wayfinding
 - Shorter walking loops
 - Winter trail maintenance

Development Concept

French Regional Park – 310-acre

- The guiding principle for the park's development is to preserve treasured areas such as the creative play area, beach, and trail network while expanding opportunities for visitors to try new activities.
- Three Overarching Goals:
 - Goal 1 – Better serve people in the park's service area
 - Goal 2 – French Regional Park matters
 - Goal 3 – French Regional Park leads by example

- Park Improvements:
 - Signage and wayfinding & soften park entrance
 - Maintain paved and unpaved trail network
 - Picnic areas
 - Rejuvenate the Medicine Lake beach area
 - Remodel and modify the Visitor Center
 - Increase awareness & nature exploration
 - Winter recreation enhancements



Overall Estimated Cost



Estimated Cost

- The total estimated improvement cost associated with the French Regional Park Plan is \$2,834,000.
- Once all proposed improvements are completed, the total estimated annual operations and maintenance costs for French Regional Park is \$2,038,000.
- Taken together, the total estimated cost associated with the French Regional Park Plan is \$4,872,000.

Rationale for Proposed Actions

The French Regional Park Master Plan is consistent with the requirements of the:

- *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
- Other Council policies

Proposed Action

- Approve Three Rivers Park District's French Regional Park Master Plan.



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Gracias

Thank you

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