



# Baker Park Reserve Long-Range Plan, Three Rivers Park District

Business Item 2025-87

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

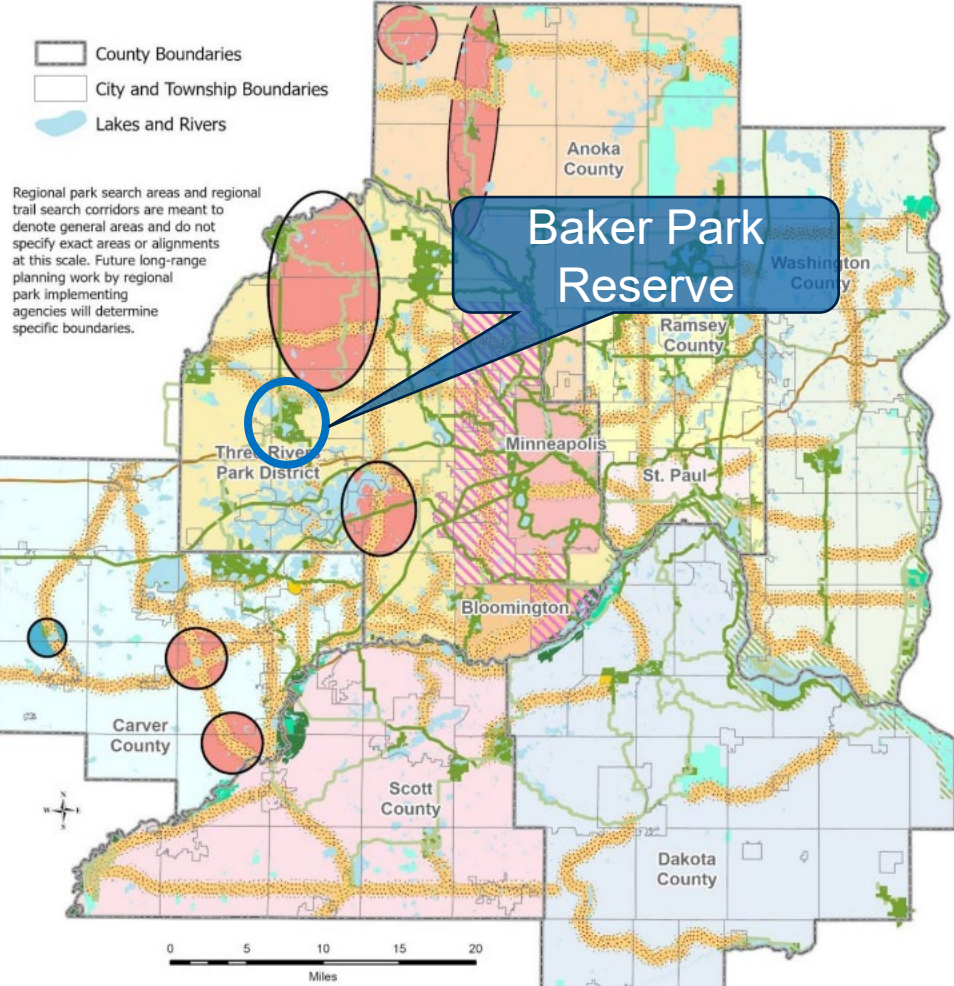


April 3, 2025

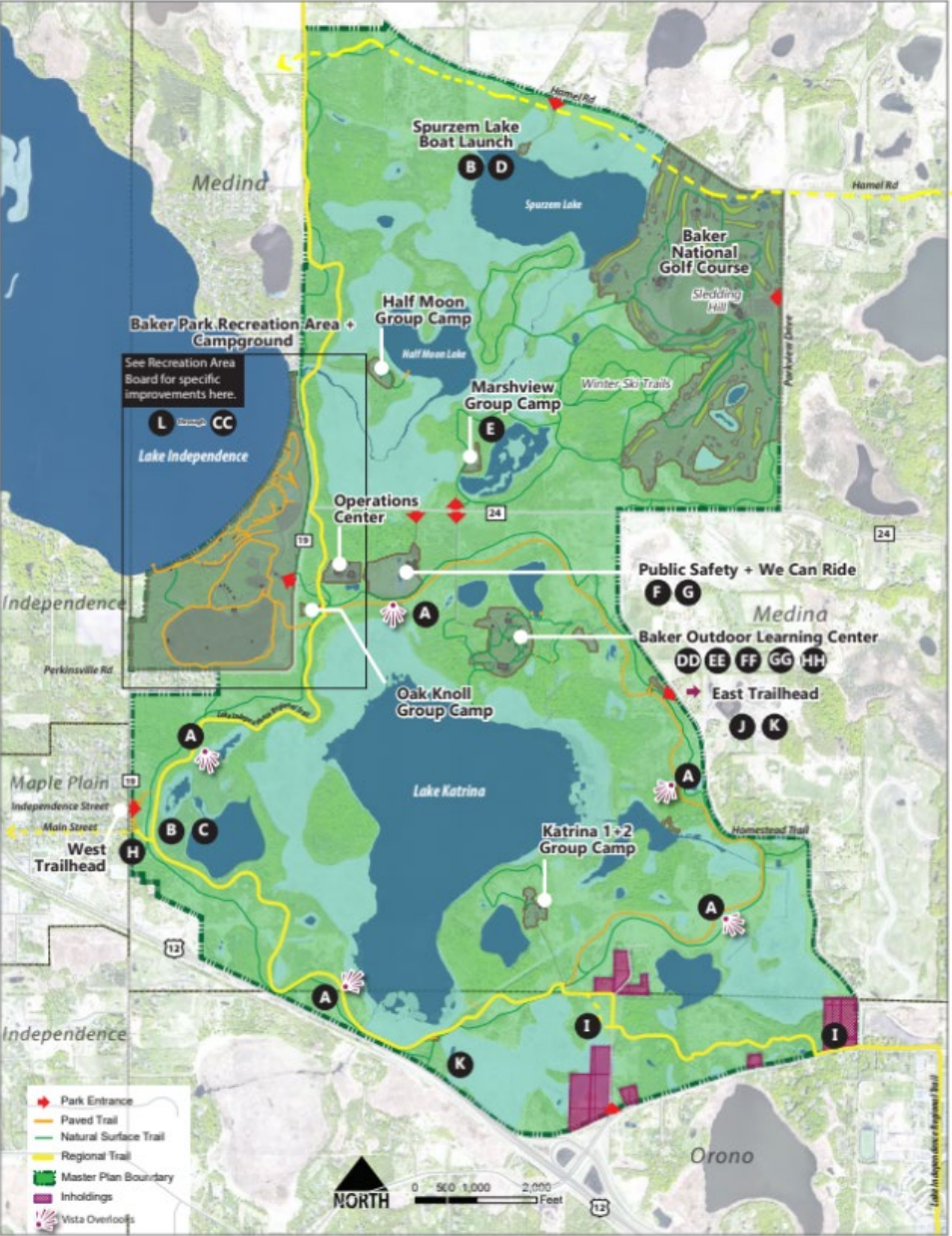
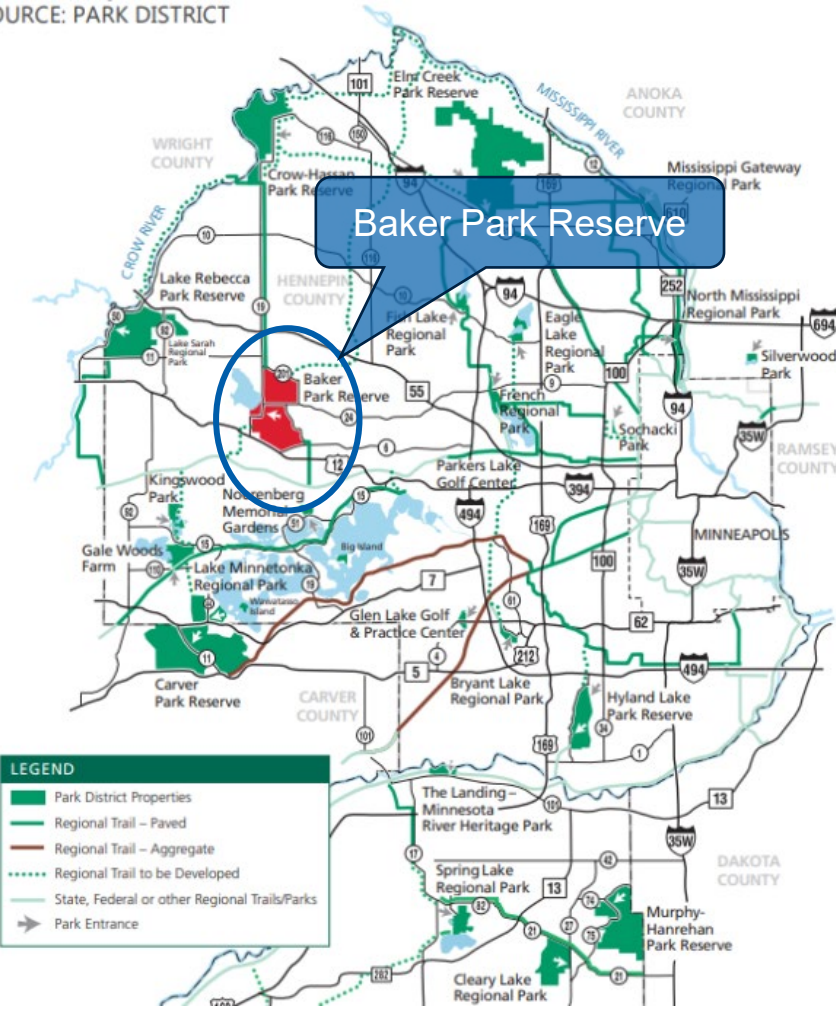
Colin Kelly and Kevin Phan



# Baker Park Reserve Long-Range Plan



SOURCE: PARK DISTRICT





# Equity Analysis

## Focused Engagements:

- Residents within the Primary Service Area
- First tier community members
- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- New immigrants and refugees
- Households with annual income less than \$50,000
- People 75 years of age and older
- People with a range of abilities

## Advice Shaped the Plan:

- Providing convenient high-quality and safe recreation opportunities (Older individuals, Disabled community)
- Improving accessibility, including benches, visual aids, restrooms, and all terrain wheelchairs (Disabled community, Older individuals, and Families)



*Engagement at Baker Park Reserve*

# Public and Partner Engagement

## Public Engagement Themes

- Improving Lake Independence water quality
- Adding accessible recreational opportunities
- Desire for more amenities
- Enhancing and improving campsite offerings
- Adding camper cabins
- Enhancing nature-based programming
- Improving accessibility on trails
- Improving the archery range

## Partner Engagement

**Agencies Engaged:** City of Medina, Orono, Independence, and Maple Plain; Hennepin County, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management.

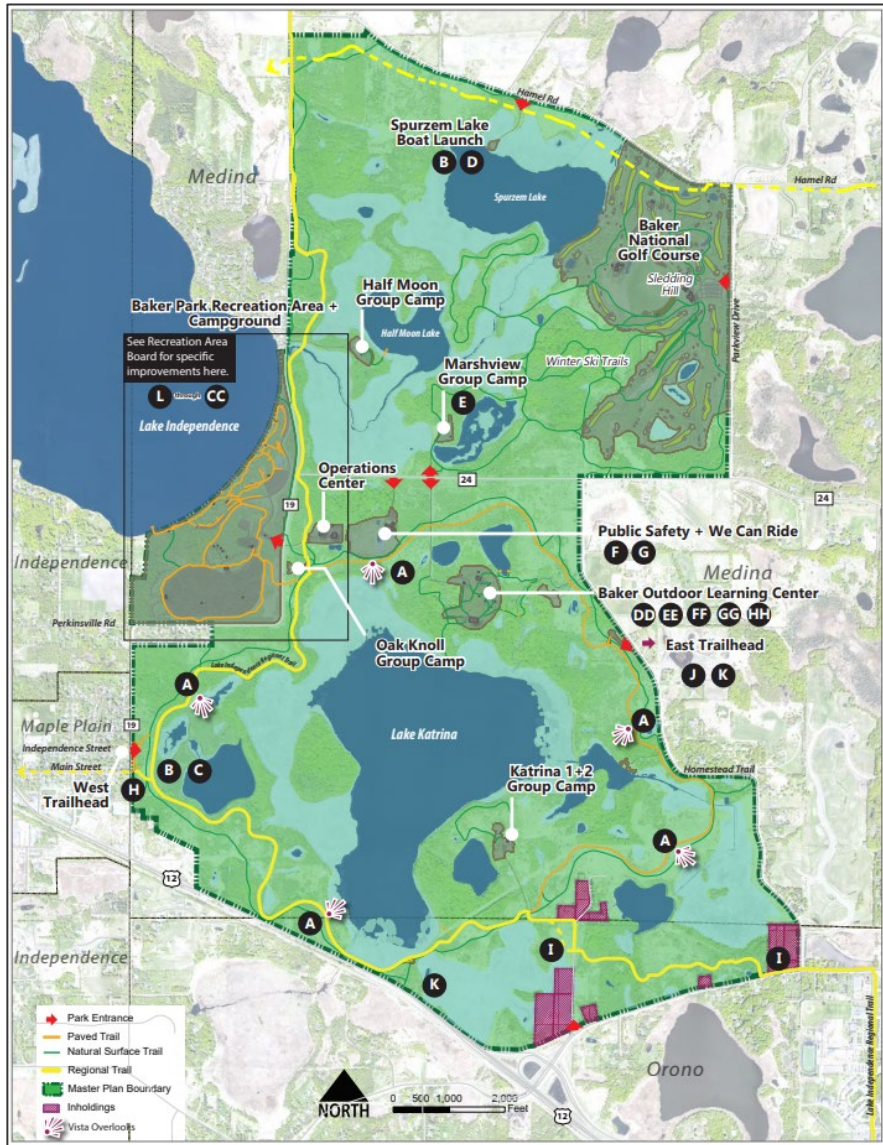


*Engagement at Baker Park Reserve*



# Development Concept

## Park-wide Development Concept



## Baker Recreation Area



## Park-wide Improvements

- Improvements intended to enhance and continue providing existing recreational opportunities
- Improved wayfinding and signage
- Improve and enhance recreational amenities
- Trail enhancements and increased trailhead capacity
- Enhanced administration and maintenance facilities at Outdoor Learning Center

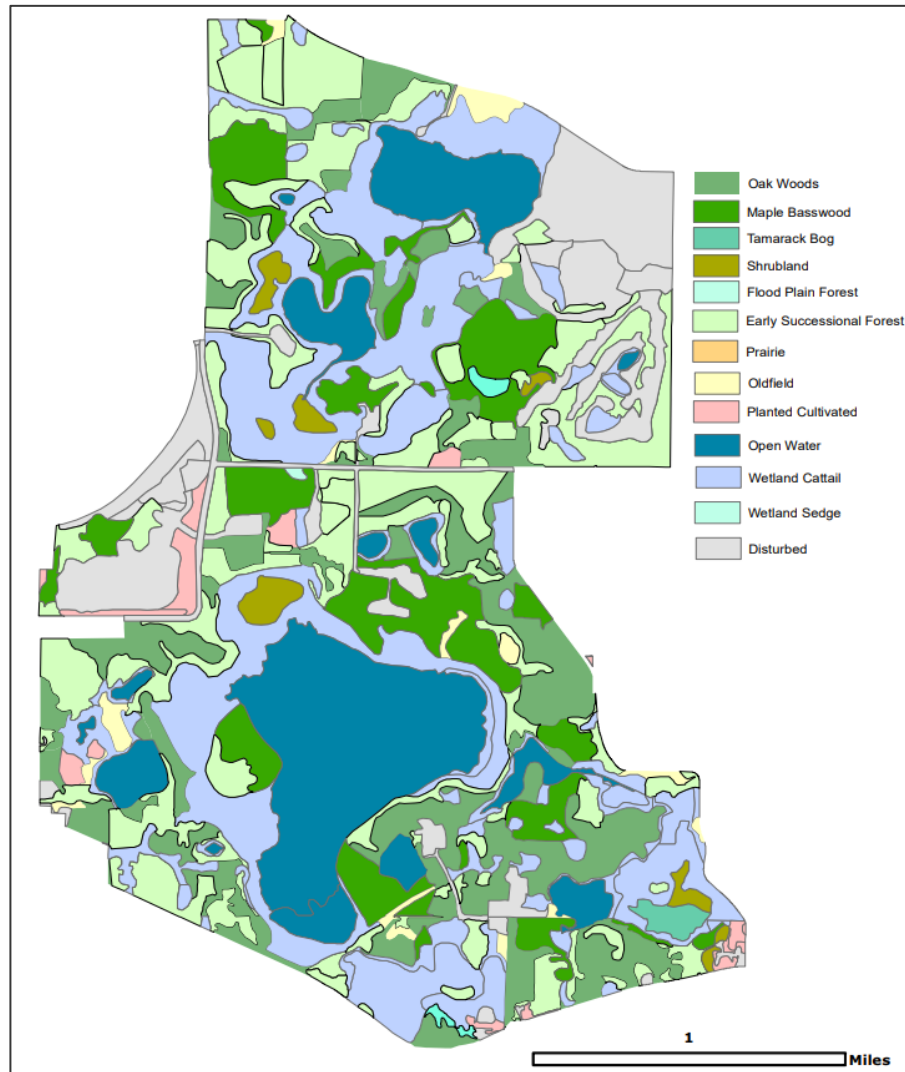
## Park Recreation Area

- Nature-based programming expansion/enhancements
- Campground improvements and enhancements
- Water quality improvements on Lake Independence
- Explore winter recreation and camping opportunities

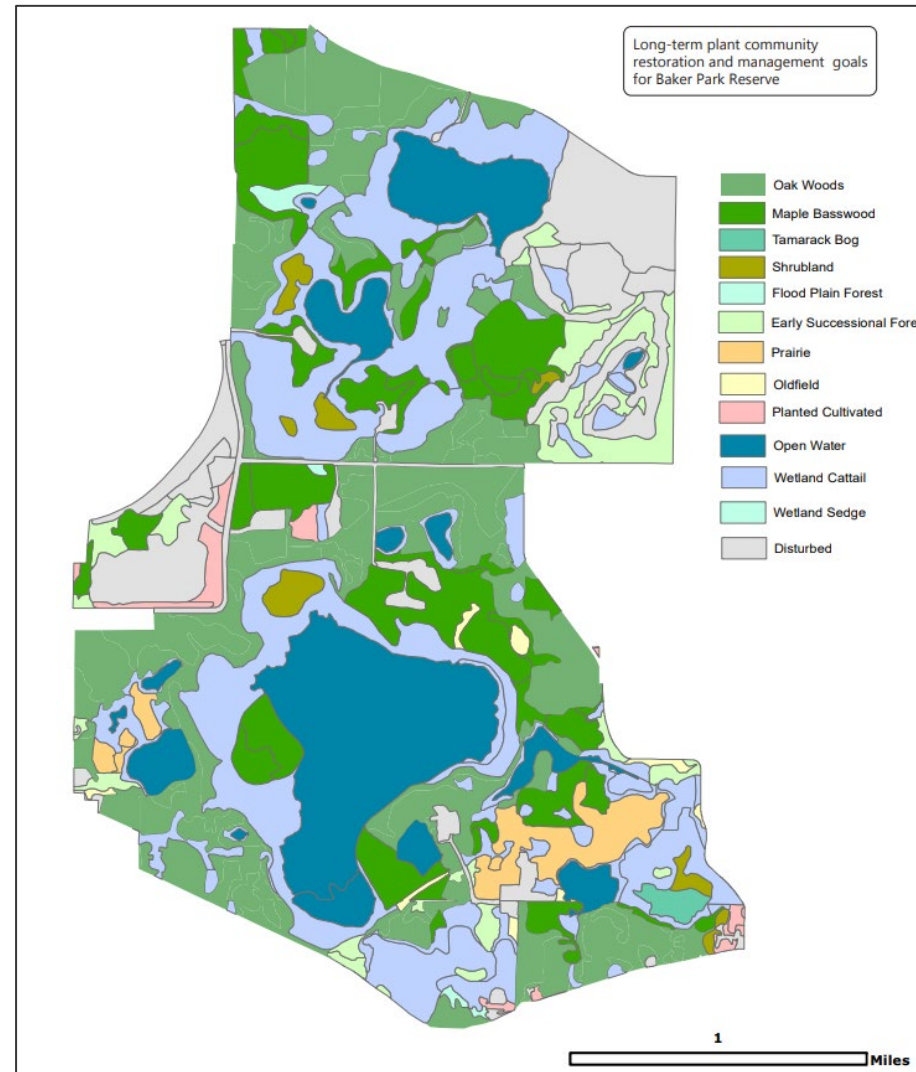


# Natural Resources

## Existing Land Cover



## Plant Communities Concept Plan



## Natural Resources and Stewardship

- Planned improvements intend to enhance high-quality natural areas through protecting biodiversity, reducing invasive species, and mitigating development impacts
- Natural Areas and Plant Communities plan includes reforestation and managing prairie communities
- Stormwater management best practices
- Monitoring water quality and vegetation in surface waters

# Costs



## Total Costs

**Development and improvements: \$8,425,000**

**Acquisitions: \$7,801,200**

**Operations & maintenance: \$2,579,730 annually**

*People and dogs walking around Baker Park Reserve.*



# Rationale for Proposed Action

The Baker Park Reserve Long Range Plan is consistent with the requirements of the:

- 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
  - Chapter 5, Planning, Strategy 1
  - Other Council policies



*Canoeing at Baker Park Reserve*



# Proposed Action



That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Baker Park Reserve Long-Range Plan.
2. Advise Three Rivers Park District to consider implementing the recommendations for solar resources and population forecasts in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.
3. Require the Park District, prior to any new development of the park reserve, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.

*Swans at Baker Park Reserve.*





Thank you

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*Horse chewing on straw at Baker Park Reserve*