



## Goal 3: Lead by example.

We are intentional and innovative in meeting the needs of today while anticipating and protecting the needs of tomorrow.

We are caretaker to some of the region's most precious natural resources and beloved parks, trails and nature-based offerings. We are responsible for the stewardship of these resources to meet the needs of today, as well as future generations. By setting clear priorities, investing in our resources and sharing our knowledge with others, we will fulfill our stewardship responsibilities and leave a legacy for others to follow.

### We will:

- Take care of our resources and stay true to our mission.
- Embrace new ideas, think big, take risks and learn from our mistakes.
- Consider tomorrow when making decisions about today.

### We will accomplish this by:

- Prioritizing long-range planning and funding to maintain what we have and prepare for new opportunities.
- Incorporating the Visitor Experience Model (pages 10 & 11), and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (pages 20 & 21) to meet current and projected community needs.
- Telling our story and sharing the impact of our work.
- Convening and leading our natural resources partners, including government agencies, public organizations, private entities and others, to identify and protect a system of natural resources to buffer and connect our parks (page 15).
- Convening and leading our regional trail partners, including Hennepin County and other regional agencies, to manage, build and maintain the 2040 Regional Trail System (page 17) throughout Hennepin County.
- Recruiting and retaining industry experts, investing in training and professional networking, and purposefully sharing our knowledge with others.

### Key Performance Indicators:

Acres protected, partnership collaborations, visitor satisfaction ratings and acknowledgment by peers and the public.





## Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

**The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a classification tool to ensure a diversity of experiences are present throughout our system. The ROS recognizes that people are as diverse as the resources we are trying to protect. Each person is looking for a unique experience – some crave complete nature immersion, and some thrive in highly social settings. By planning a system composed of a wide range of offerings and settings, we are better positioned to serve all people.**

The ROS model is built on the understanding that not every park or trail will serve all people, but that all people will be served somewhere within our system. It helps protect our most cherished natural resources from over development, creating places for nature immersion while also allowing other areas to be developed for heavy recreational use.

The ROS model classifies each park and trail based on how developed or natural it is envisioned to be and whether interaction with others or nature should be more prevalent. It recognizes that the planning and operation for one unit, like Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, will prioritize natural resources protection and have limited staff presence. While another unit, like Mississippi Gateway Regional Park, will prioritize recreation and programming and have a consistent staff presence.

A core purpose of the ROS classifications is to guide decision making and investments at each park and trail, helping us resist the one-size-fits-all approach. By not replicating the same activities, facilities and programs across every park in our system, we have preserved and restored the natural resources we are entrusted to protect for the enjoyment and appreciation of people today and in the future.

Based on feedback from our engagement efforts, we have developed and introduced a new park classification that will allow us to better serve all communities. The new category, Bridging and Partnership Parks, focuses on introducing people to nature in ways that are convenient, comfortable and often-times closer to home. Moving forward, these parks will allow us to enhance communities and introduce new users to the greater regional park and trail system — making regional parks and trails more accessible for all to enjoy.

# Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

## PARKS

Provide a variety of outdoor recreation facilities and activities  
 Ample natural areas to ensure quality outdoor recreation experiences  
 Regional Park Size: 100+ acres  
 Bridging and Partnership Park size: varies

Protect and manage resilient natural habitats  
 Foster appreciation for and enjoyment of natural resources  
 Park Reserve Size: 1,000+ acres

PURPOSE  
DEVELOPMENT  
THREE RIVERS PARKS

Urban	Bridging and Partnership	Suburban	Semi-Developed	Natural
<b>Regional Park</b>	<b>Local Feature</b>	<b>Regional Park</b>	<b>Park Reserve</b>	<b>Park Reserve</b>
<b>Service Area Travel Time: 10 min. drive</b>	<b>Service Area Travel Time: 10 min. walk/bike</b>	<b>Service Area Travel Time: 10 min. drive</b>	<b>Service Area Travel Time: 20 min. drive</b>	<b>Service Area Travel Time: 30 min. drive</b>
Getting people outdoors and recreating	Attracting and introducing new users to nature  Increasing convenience for community groups with limited connection to nature	Connecting people to nature comfortably and conveniently through nature-based recreation offerings	Protecting natural resources while supporting nature-based recreation and education offerings	Protecting and restoring large areas of significant and unique natural resources
Pockets of natural areas may improve the user experience but are not necessary to support the recreation offerings	Typically dependent on partnerships with municipalities or other agencies due to location, available land and shared goals	Allows visitors to transition into nature as their comfort level increases  The entire park may be developed, provided that a natural setting remains	A few concentrated areas of development surrounded by large, intact natural areas  At least 80% remaining natural	Minimal areas of development allowing for immersive nature experience  Goal of maintaining 90%+ as natural
<b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>Centennial Park</b> <b>Hopkins Depot</b> <b>MAC Nature Area</b> <b>Schaper Park</b> <b>Sochacki Park</b> <b>Taft Park</b>	<b>Bryant Lake</b> <b>Cleary Lake</b> <b>Eagle Lake</b> <b>Fish Lake</b> <b>French</b> <b>Lake Minnetonka</b> <b>Lake Sarah</b> <b>Mississippi Gateway</b> <b>North Mississippi</b>	<b>Baker</b> <b>Carver</b> <b>Elm Creek</b> <b>Hyland, Bush and Anderson Lakes</b> <b>Lake Rebecca</b>	<b>Crow-Hassan</b> <b>Murphy-Hanrehan</b>



### Urban to Natural

Completely developed; no large natural areas	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	Mostly undeveloped; large, resilient natural areas
Continuous visitor interaction; with opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation	<b>SOCIAL</b>	Infrequent visitor interaction; with opportunities to immerse in nature
Supports heavy visitation and a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities	<b>MANAGERIAL</b>	Supports limited visitation and the protection and restoration of natural resources
Significant opportunities for instructor-led recreation, education and special events	<b>PROGRAMMING</b>	Self-guided, natural resources-based experiences with some instructor-led offerings

# TRAILS

Unique regional offerings  
Size: varies

Linear pathways for recreation and transportation  
Located along natural or built features  
Link to Three Rivers parks whenever possible

## Specialized Recreation Features

Service Area Travel Time:  
45 min. drive

Providing unique, specific, regional recreation, education or natural resources offerings

Setting, size, location and level of development dependent on the purpose of the feature

Gale Woods Farm  
Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center  
Kingswood Park  
Noerenberg Gardens  
Silverwood Park  
The Landing



## Destination Trail

Service Area Distance:  
1.5 mile walk/bike

Providing a regional recreation facility along a greenway or linear park  
Trail acts as a destination

Independent, wide corridor with opportunities to improve and protect natural and cultural resources and provide recreation amenities

Baker-Carver  
Cedar Lake LRT  
Crow River  
Dakota Rail LRT  
Lake Minnetonka LRT  
Luce Line  
Medicine Lake  
Minnesota River Bluffs LRT  
Nine Mile Creek  
North Cedar Lake  
Rush Creek  
West Mississippi River

## Linking Trail

Service Area Distance:  
1.5 mile walk/bike

Providing access to regional parks and to the greater regional trail network

Multi-use corridor routed to connect people, destinations and the greater transportation system

Bassett Creek  
Crystal Lake  
Lake Independence  
Nokomis-Minnesota River  
Northeast Diagonal  
Shingle Creek  
Twin Lakes



