



Three Rivers

PARK DISTRICT



2040 System Plan

Adopted July 9, 2020

About Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system in suburban Hennepin County. We were founded in 1957 by the Minnesota Legislature to acquire, develop and maintain regional parks, park reserves and trails. We manage nearly 27,000 acres of parkland and over 150 miles of regional trails. Our passionate staff of more than 2,000 employees (full-time, part-time and seasonal) work together to carry out our mission.

Our mission is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system.

Our Impact

NATURAL RESOURCES

Our natural resources management program focuses on the restoration and preservation of both native wildlife and plants in order to protect valuable open spaces for future generations and to provide park and trail visitors opportunities for high-quality, nature-based experiences.



1,200 acres of restored prairie in Crow-Hassan Park Reserve.



2 million trees planted since 1978.



93 active osprey nests in 2019 as a result of the successful 1984 reintroduction.



20,000 boat inspections conducted annually to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species.

OUTDOOR RECREATION & EDUCATION

We offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and nature-based education programs. Outdoor activities available at Three Rivers include camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, biking, paddling, fishing, picnicking and more.



12.5 million annual visits.

45% are on the regional trail network.

42% occur in the summer.



4,000 summer camp participants.



7.5 km of cross-country ski trails with manufactured snow. The first park in the state with this amenity was Elm Creek Park Reserve in 2004.



645 programs offered by the Outdoor Recreation School annually, in partnership with more than 200 organizations.

ENGAGEMENT

As part of our commitment to providing inclusive and accessible nature-based opportunities, we collaborate with our partners and volunteers to develop programs and offerings that remove barriers and are welcoming to all people.



340+ youth participate in Explorer Camps offered directly in neighborhoods and communities.



1,400 participants in adapted recreation programs.



200 Parks on the Go van appearances at community events and partner programs.



2,000 individuals or groups received fee assistance making it accessible to participate in programs and activities.



43,900+ hours of service provided by volunteers each year.

A message from the Board

As a natural resources-based park system, Three Rivers is unique. We have a commitment to protecting valuable open spaces while also providing access to and opportunities for outdoor education and recreation. These commitments should and often do compete against each other, but we have found a way to make it work.

As Goodrich Lowry, the visionary behind our nature centers and environmental education, once said, *"All future generations must understand their role in stewardship and caring for the environment and the land. It is the most precious heritage we can give them."* He understood that the only way we could protect our most cherished natural resources was to connect people to them.

We have employed this wisdom for the last 60 years and intend to continue for generations to come. Access to nature and green spaces plays an important role in our individual and community health and well-being, and with this plan, we are implementing a fundamentally different way to manage the natural legacy with which we have been entrusted. Moving forward, we will offer meaningful nature-based experiences in profoundly new ways.

The development of this plan was approached with insight and ideas from community members, partners and staff. We did not embark on the process with a final product in mind, but rather let the process guide the product—in the end developing a plan that will improve nature relevancy and access today and well into the future. Collaboration was key to the creation of the plan, and partnerships will be critical to its success. We are poised to lead but recognize this is not work we can do alone.

We will customize our approach to serving our community members by meeting them where they are and connecting them to nature in a manner that is welcoming and comfortable. We will reach beyond the boundaries of our parks and trails to serve our communities and protect our resources. We will not be afraid to try new things and learn from our mistakes. We will utilize this plan as a working document and routinely update it to best reflect the lessons we learn as we move ahead.

Nature is something that all people deserve access to and is everyone's responsibility to take care of and protect. As an organization, we are fully committed to creating a community where every person can connect with nature every day.

Sincerely,

Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners



2020 Board of Commissioners: (left to right) front row: Jennifer DeJournett, John Gunyou, Marge Beard; back row: Gene Kay, John Gibbs, Daniel Freeman, Steven Antolak

About the plan

The 2040 System Plan presents our strategic priorities for the next 20 years, providing guidance for decision making, resource allocation and focus areas.

For the last 60+ years we have served our community well. Our satisfaction ratings are high, our parks and trails are well loved, and our natural resources management is a model to other agencies. But, we don't live in a static world and past performance does not predict future success. We recognize our world is changing, and we need to change with it to protect our natural resources, remain relevant and best serve all of our community members.



Our population is increasing, aging and becoming more racially and ethnically diverse.



The overall activity level, health and wellness of our community is decreasing.



Minnesota's climate is becoming warmer and wetter.



Open space is being lost and developed into homes, roads, parking lots and other commercial uses.



Technology is consuming more of our time, with less time being spent as unstructured free time.

We have a role in addressing these trends. By preserving and protecting natural resources and providing nature-based recreation and education **offerings**, we help create vibrant, healthy and livable communities and foster appreciation for the natural environment. Without strong public support, our ability to achieve our mission is greatly limited.

This plan calls for establishing a system of offerings as diverse as the natural resources it is intended to protect and the people we are responsible to serve. It also recognizes that people are at different places on their journey connecting with nature, requiring different strategies to best support them. It calls for creating a culture of inclusivity, so everyone feels invited and welcome at Three Rivers.

i What we mean when we say:

Offerings: the combination of all nature-based education programs, recreation opportunities, events and facilities provided by Three Rivers.



Engagement overview

To better understand the community's needs, we reached out to the general public, park visitors, trail users, partners, underrepresented community groups, volunteers and staff to learn how we could better help them connect to nature. Through online surveys, pop-up events and in-depth conversations, we collected thousands of ideas and insights that guided the develop of this plan. Three main themes resonated throughout the feedback we collected:

Remove Barriers. We need to listen to and work with community members and partners to identify and actively remove the factors that impede access to our parks, trails and offerings. A few identified barriers include location, rules, awareness, accessibility, gear and distance from a park or trail.

Expand Focus. To ensure we are welcoming, convenient and relevant to all, we need to broaden our perspectives, approaches and programs. We need to seek partnerships and identify opportunities to meet people where they are, including outside of our parks and beyond our traditional offerings.

Diversify. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work; we need to provide unique, targeted offerings that vary between parks. We must accept that not all offerings will serve all people, but overall, there needs to be something for everyone.

A detailed recap of our engagement efforts to develop this plan can be found in Appendix A.

A focus moving forward

Based on research findings and observations, we recognize there are some community groups that are currently underrepresented at Three Rivers. Increasing our connections to these community groups will be a core focus of our efforts, as we aim to better serve and connect everyone to nature every day. We will develop an action plan for how to better serve each of these community groups moving forward.

- **First-tier community members**
- **People of color, new immigrants and refugees**
- **Households with an average annual income of less than \$50,000**
- **People 75 years or older**

Additionally, we are committed to adapting our recreation and program offerings to accommodate the range of abilities that exists within our community members.

Our goal is for visitors, participants, staff and volunteers to reflect our community. With this goal in mind, we will broaden our approach to better serve new users while maintaining the same great experiences and opportunities that our existing visitors appreciate and expect. We are also committed to reviewing and enhancing our internal processes to ensure we are recruiting, hiring, developing and retaining a diverse team of staff and volunteers.

We will continue to track visitation and satisfaction information to ensure our facilities and offerings are relevant and welcoming to all. Additionally, we will routinely update the community groups identified as underrepresented to reflect current research findings.

i What we mean when we say:

First-tier communities: Bloomington – east of 35W, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park – south of Hwy 610, Crystal, Edina, Golden Valley, Hopkins, New Hope, Richfield, Robbinsdale and St. Louis Park.

We believe people who are connected to nature are happier, healthier and more likely to be environmental stewards. We will make nature easily accessible for all people to experience and appreciate on a regular basis. We will foster connections to nature through high-quality programs and recreation offerings. We will inspire curiosity, promote stewardship and improve the quality of life today while preserving natural areas for future generations.

Since 1957, we have remained committed to protecting, restoring and managing the natural resources within our parks. We have restored over 20,000 acres of parkland and helped reintroduce threatened species including the trumpeter swan, osprey, bull snake and regal fritillary butterfly. At the same time, we have developed nature-based education and recreation offerings to meet the region's needs. Our system includes hundreds of miles of trails, more than 40 reservable picnic areas, four nature centers, two ski hills, three campgrounds and so much more. Each year we provide over 5,000 programs, serving roughly 175,000 participants. That's over 14 programs a day!

To help us resist the temptation to over-develop our parks, we require the preservation of at least 80% of each park reserve and limit development to no more than 20%. This 80/20 policy ensures that valuable natural resources are preserved for future generations.

While our past practices have undoubtedly been successful, employing the same approach moving forward does not guarantee a successful future.

We recognize that with each generation, fewer people are connected to nature. Without the connection to and appreciation for nature, people are less likely to support and advocate for its protection. And without continued and thoughtful protection, the natural resources we have worked so hard to secure, restore and preserve over the last 60 years are as good as gone. Our future success relies on our ability to make nature relevant to all people – especially to those not currently connected to nature.

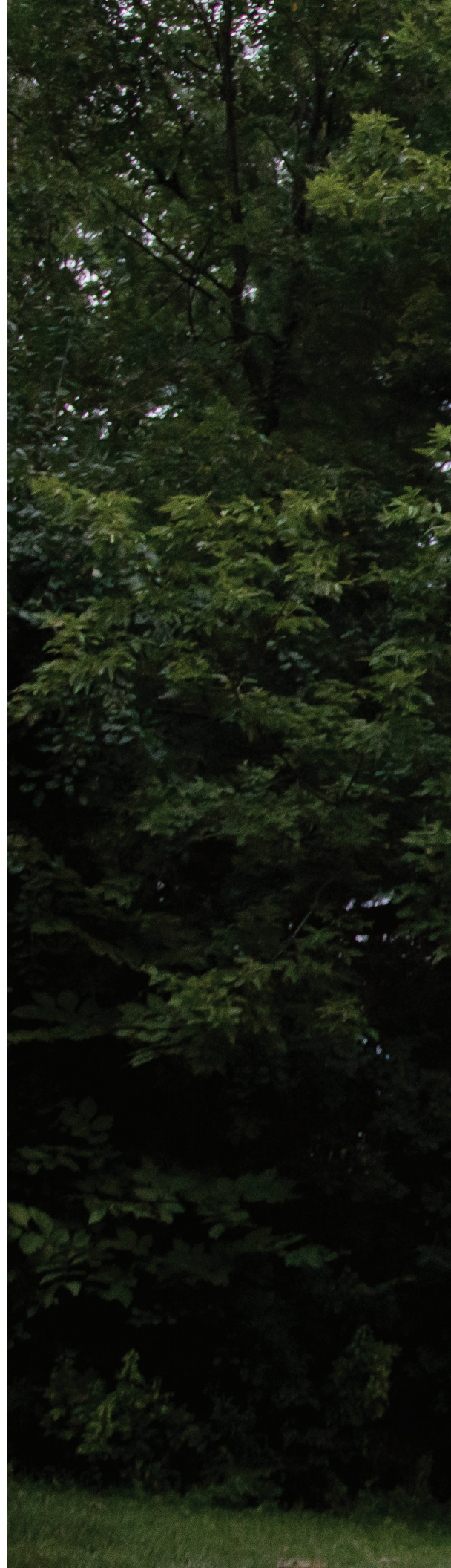
Moving forward, we will be focused on meeting people where they are geographically and in respect to their experience and comfort level in nature. We will continue to provide a wide range of park settings and recreational offerings, but with a renewed focus on introductory offerings.

We recognize that what's happening outside our parks has a direct impact on the health of our community members and of our natural resources, making collaboration and leadership key elements for successfully moving this plan forward.

i What we mean when we say:

Environmental Stewards:

people who take care of and protect our natural resources; they help create long-lasting appreciation and connections to nature for current and future generations.





Vision

Every person can connect
with nature every day.



Goal 1: You belong here.

We are welcoming and convenient to all people.

Our communities are changing, and we need to change with them. Three of the most notable changes are race, ethnicity and age. According to the Metropolitan Council's 2019 Regional Forecast, the Twin Cities region expects to see residents identifying as people of color, Hispanic or both increase from 25% in 2010 to 40% of the population by 2040. During the same timeframe, residents who are 65 years or older will double to account for roughly 20% of the region's population. By better connecting these and other growing community groups to nature, everyone will be more likely to support and value the work we do, and we will remain relevant to future generations.

We will:

- Engage and embrace all people with respect, kindness and dignity.
- Identify barriers and actively remove them.
- Encourage, listen to and support new and loyal visitors.
- Offer something for everyone.

We will accomplish this by:

- Ensuring our offerings serve people where they are geographically, as well as in respect to their experience and comfort level in nature by implementing the Visitor Experience Model (pages 10 & 11).
- Focusing efforts on attracting and retaining new [visitors](#) and participants, particularly those from underrepresented community groups.
- Providing a wide-range of nature-based settings and offerings.
- Diversifying and training our staff to better represent a more inclusive and supportive culture.

Key Performance Indicators:

Visitor composition, satisfaction ratings and visit frequency.

i What we mean when we say:

Visitors: the people who use any Three Rivers park, trail or facility or participate in any Three Rivers program or event that is on-site, or off-site, including bridging and partnership parks.





The Visitor Experience Model

The Visitor Experience Model (VEM) is a framework for understanding the program, service and facility needs of our visitors. The model functions as a spectrum and is designed to meet people where they are. It provides a structure for how we encourage and support community members in their nature-based education and outdoor recreation growth. While movement from the left side of the model (not aware/curious) to the right side (advanced/expert) is desired, it is expected that some visitors will remain where they are, and as long as their needs are met and their Three Rivers experiences are positive, this is acceptable. We want all community members to know and feel like they belong at Three Rivers.

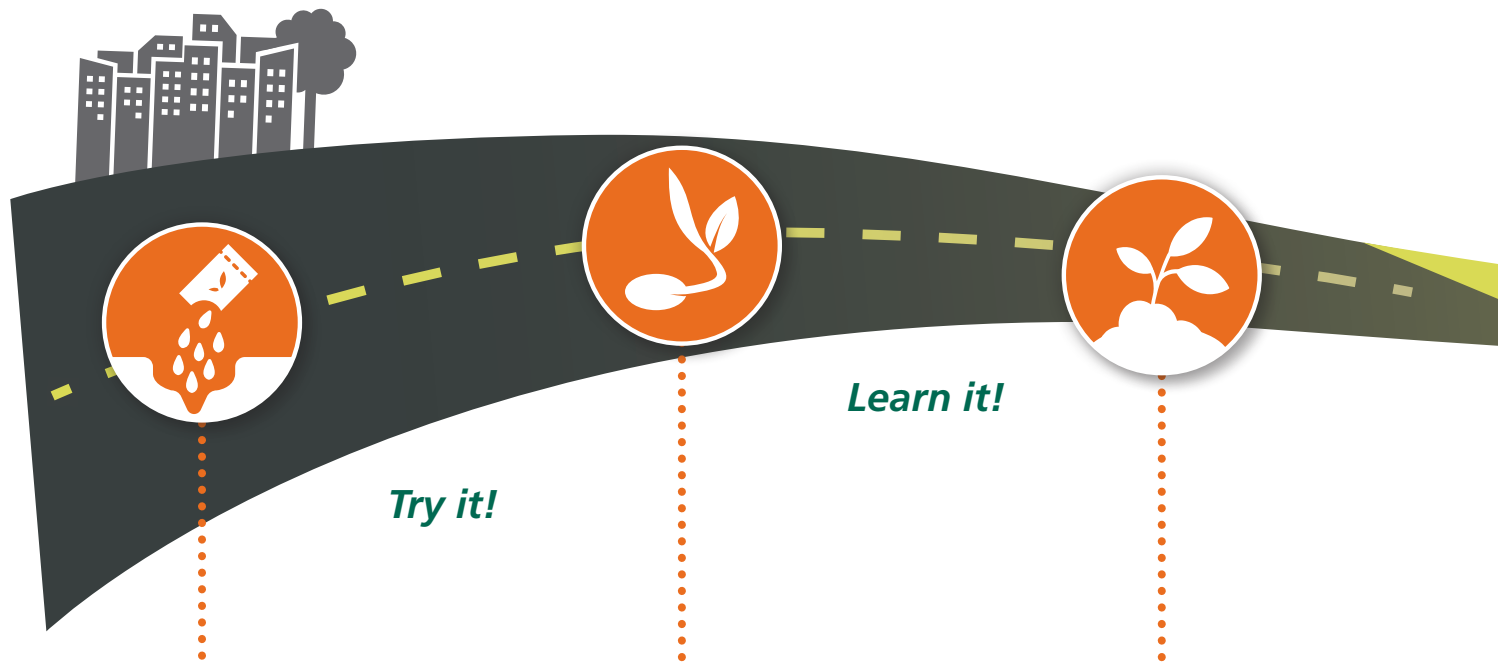
Each existing and potential visitor's connection to and comfort in nature is unique. Some may have very fond memories of camping, hiking or picnicking with their family as a young child and now continue that tradition with their own children, grandchildren and friends. Others may have never participated in outdoor recreation or don't share the same positive experiences in nature. Participating in introductory offerings such as picnicking or sledding may be adventurous for some, while others thrive in more specialized offerings like cross-country skiing or mountain biking. We also recognize that many are not yet aware of our outdoor recreation and education offerings.

The VEM is designed with this diversity in mind. It categorizes the experiences and needs of individuals into five stages: not aware, curious, beginner, advanced and expert. The model is intended to be dynamic, expecting that people will fluctuate from one stage to another as their experiences and preferences change over time. Some may fall into multiple categories all at once – for example, a person may be an expert hiker but not aware that mountain biking is an option available for them to try.

While each individual visitor within a category is unique, they typically share several similarities. These similarities may include level of awareness, skill and passion for nature. By recognizing each category as an independent and specialized group, we can customize our marketing, outreach, engagement and offerings to better serve those in each category.

The VEM creates a framework for more intentional focus on reaching and serving underrepresented community groups and new visitors within each category. While we will maintain the same level of support for specialized offerings, this plan calls for a renewed focus on introductory offerings to ensure we are making nature available and accessible to all community members in ways that are convenient and comfortable.

Visitor Experience Model



Not Aware

We welcome & invite individuals with little to no awareness of Three Rivers and our offerings. They may not yet be connected to or appreciate nature.

Success looks like:

- Increased awareness
- Brand recognition
- Sparked curiosity

Curious

We inspire individuals who are aware of Three Rivers and may have some connection to nature. They may not yet be comfortable enough to visit or participate on their own without a little extra support or guidance.

Success looks like:

- Attended a Three Rivers event or program
- Interested in exploring on their own
- Visited more than one Three Rivers park or trail

Beginner

We encourage & support individuals whose experiences with Three Rivers have been positive, and who are actively participating. Their knowledge and confidence are growing, but they may still need and appreciate guidance and having gear available.

Success looks like:

- Explored on their own
- Checked out equipment
- Made a commitment to return

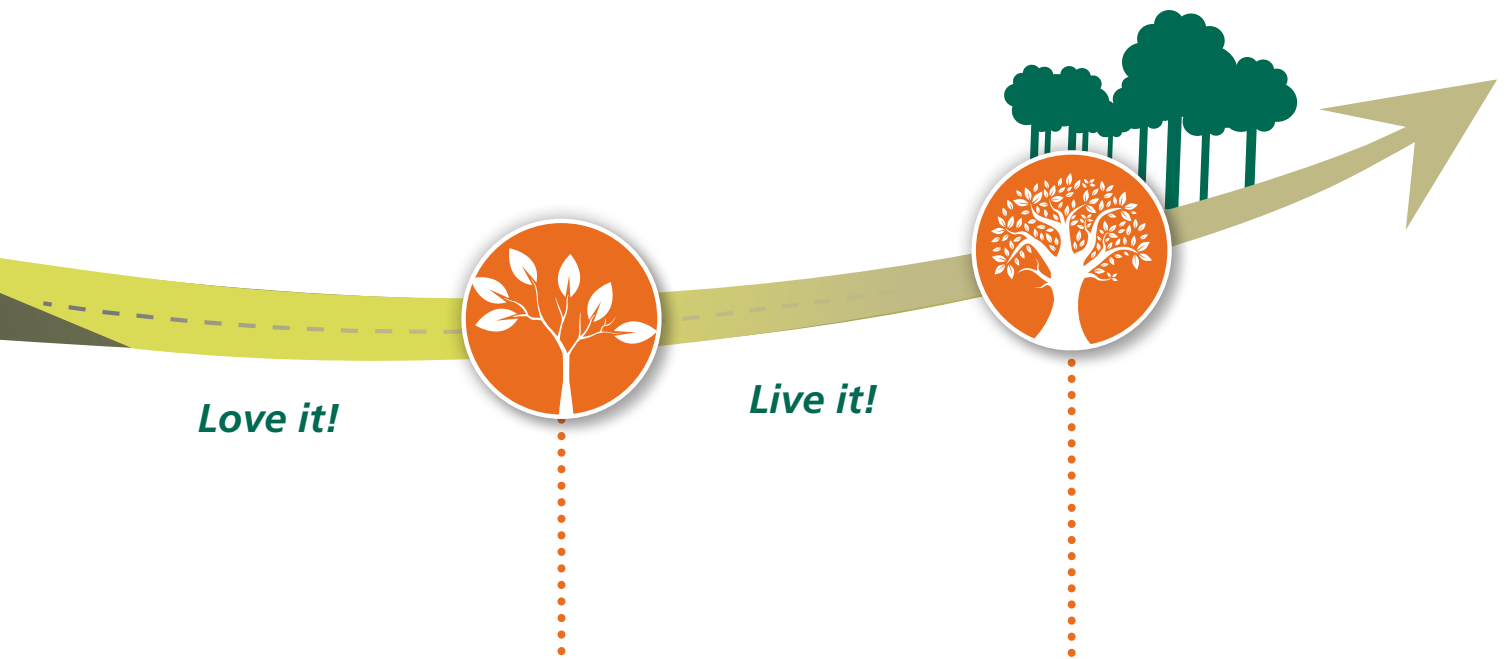
Introductory and Specialized Recreation Classifications

Recreation offerings can be classified into two categories: introductory and specialized. This helps us understand who and how we are currently serving different visitors and participants and how our focus is shifting to better serve new visitors and participants.

Introductory Offerings: Grow & Enhance



Introductory includes recreational offerings that are basic, easily accessible and serve as a gateway for new visitors. Very few barriers (skill, cost, location) should exist for people's participation and enjoyment.



Love it!

Live it!

Advanced

We challenge individuals who love Three Rivers and are avid users. They participate independently on a regular basis and are likely pursuing a specialized skill or offering.

Success looks like:

- Have their own gear
- Three Rivers recreation pass holders
- Participate regularly

Expert

We empower individuals who are passionate about and schedule their life around a specialized offering. They typically expect superior offerings and facilities that are available early morning and late evenings.

Success looks like:

- Self confidence and proficiency
- Volunteering and leading groups
- Taking their passion beyond Three Rivers

Specialized Offerings: Maintain



Specialized includes recreational offerings that may require an additional level of skill, specific equipment, participation fees and generally serve more advanced visitors.



Goal 2: Parks matter.

We are essential to vibrant, healthy and livable communities.

Our impact on the community is much greater than simply providing outdoor recreation and education. We have the potential to positively influence many trends with otherwise disheartening outcomes, including declining health and wellness, loss of habitat, degrading air and water quality and reduced interest in nature. By staying true to our mission and rethinking how, when and where we deliver services, we can become better connected to the communities we serve and grow our impact by providing the following benefits:

- **Environmental benefits:** Protecting natural habitats; improving air and water quality; managing resilient ecosystems.
- **Social benefits:** Enhancing communities; improving the health and wellness of our visitors; connecting residents to each other, nature and the greater region.
- **Economic benefits:** Increasing property values near parks, trails and open spaces; providing a nationally recognized quality of life that attracts and retains entrepreneurs, businesses and workers.

We will:

- Prioritize the protection, restoration and management of natural resources.
- Integrate Three Rivers directly into the communities we serve.
- Serve our residents in creative, mission-driven ways.

We will accomplish this by:

- Collaborating with partners to:
 - Identify, protect, restore and manage natural resources to create a connected system around our most significant natural areas (page 15).
 - Create new park and trail units where [access](#) is currently limited (pages 16 & 17).
 - Develop nature-based education programs and recreation offerings in first-tier communities.
- Employing a collaborative culture of creativity, responsiveness and flexibility.

Key Performance Indicators:

Quality of natural resources, health trends and indexes, and property values in suburban Hennepin County.

i What we mean when we say:

Access: anything that enables a person to feel welcome and participate in Three Rivers' offerings, such as location, rules, cost, accessibility, hours, equipment and awareness.





2040 System of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails

More than ever before, things happening outside our park boundaries have a greater influence on what is happening within our parks. We are at a time of great change in respect to continued suburban expansion, population growth and in the composition of our population. Each of these changes influences how we protect natural resources and best serve our community members moving forward. Because parks and trails are important to communities, one way we can address these changes is with the physical locations in which we focus our natural resources efforts and expand our parks and trails.

Over the last 60 years, we have gone through several transitions of focus, with each transition marking the end of one era and start of another. Our first focus was acquisition; followed by the development of basic recreation facilities, then environmental education; and most recently, the development of specialized recreation offerings, regional trails and piloting several bridging and partnership park models. While it may appear that our system is mature and we should be entering an era focused on taking care of our resources and facilities, there is still work to do to ensure all people have an opportunity to connect with nature.

As open space is converted to homes, businesses and roads, the threat to the natural resources we've worked so hard to protect and restore grows. Moving forward, we must recognize the importance of protecting and restoring natural resources that may be outside our parks, but are directly connected to the plant communities, waterways and wildlife inside our system.

As the population grows, we must continue to resist the pressure to overdevelop our parks and remain committed to providing a diversity of offerings and experiences. In recognition of future demand, we must grow and evolve, identifying and securing additional park and trail search areas to meet the needs of the growing population.

As our population ages and becomes more racially and ethnically diverse, we need to focus our efforts on listening to the needs of these community members and actively work to remove the long-standing barriers to outdoor recreation and access to nature. This calls for creativity in not only how but also where we provide regional, nature-based recreation and education offerings so that everyone has access to our system and feels welcome and comfortable using it.

With this in mind, we will place greater effort on developing park and trail experiences close to where people live. Bridging and partnership parks will serve as entry points into our system, especially for those not yet connected to Three Rivers.

Since this work extends our focus and system beyond what it is today, success will be founded on thoughtful coordination and partnerships with community leaders, local, regional and state agencies and non-profit organizations. This work will likely span the entire 20-year timeframe, and we will remain receptive to exploring and embracing other opportunities not yet anticipated as resources allow.

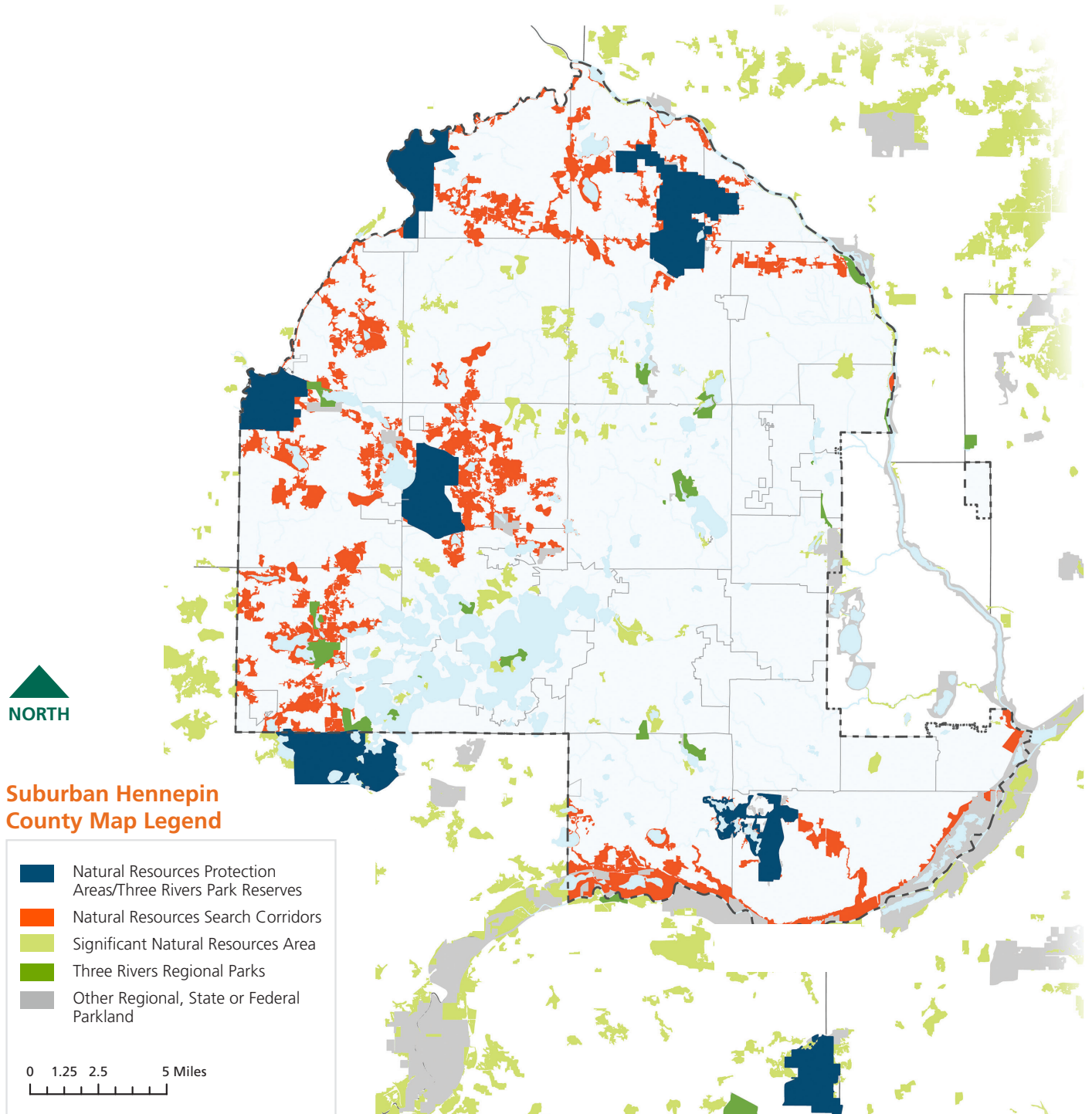


2040 Natural Resources System

Three Rivers Park District was developed as a natural resources-based system and will continue protecting our resources today and into the future. The vision of the 2040 Natural Resources System is to protect our existing high-quality natural resources and connect them to each other. This map illustrates some of the key focus areas for natural resources protection, restoration and management efforts. The identified areas in orange and light green are intended to create buffers around and connect our most significant natural areas, some of the region's last best natural resources.

In addition to what is identified on the map, our protection efforts may also include other natural resources areas that help preserve and improve water quality, combat the effects of climate change, create resilient ecosystems and connect people to nature close to where they live.

Partnerships will be key to successfully preserving these important natural resources throughout the region. We will convene and collaborate with our natural resources partners to accomplish this work (partnership details on page 18).



2040 Park System

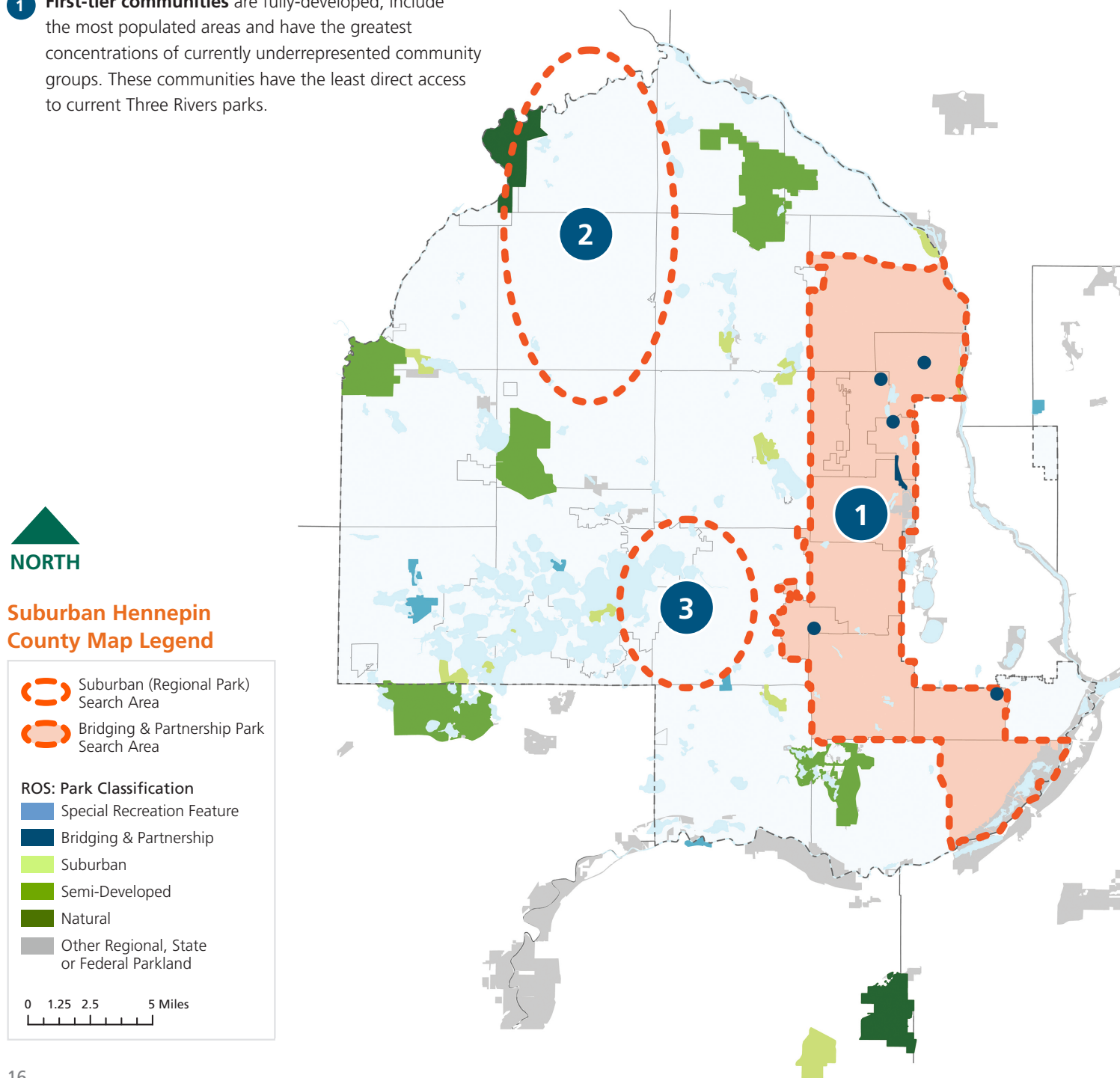
The vision of the 2040 Park System is to ensure all existing and future community members have convenient access to a diversity of offerings and natural areas. This map denotes the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (explained on pages 20 & 21) classification for each existing park unit and identifies search areas for additional regional parks and bridging and partnership parks.

Additional opportunities for both regional parks and bridging and partnership parks will be explored in partnership with local communities. The search areas of focus include:

1 First-tier communities are fully-developed, include the most populated areas and have the greatest concentrations of currently underrepresented community groups. These communities have the least direct access to current Three Rivers parks.

2 The northwest quadrant of Hennepin County is on the edge of current development and is anticipated to see some of the greatest increases in population within the county over the next 20 years.

3 The area east of Lake Minnetonka is generally developed with more challenging access to existing Three Rivers parks than other communities.



2040 Regional Trail System

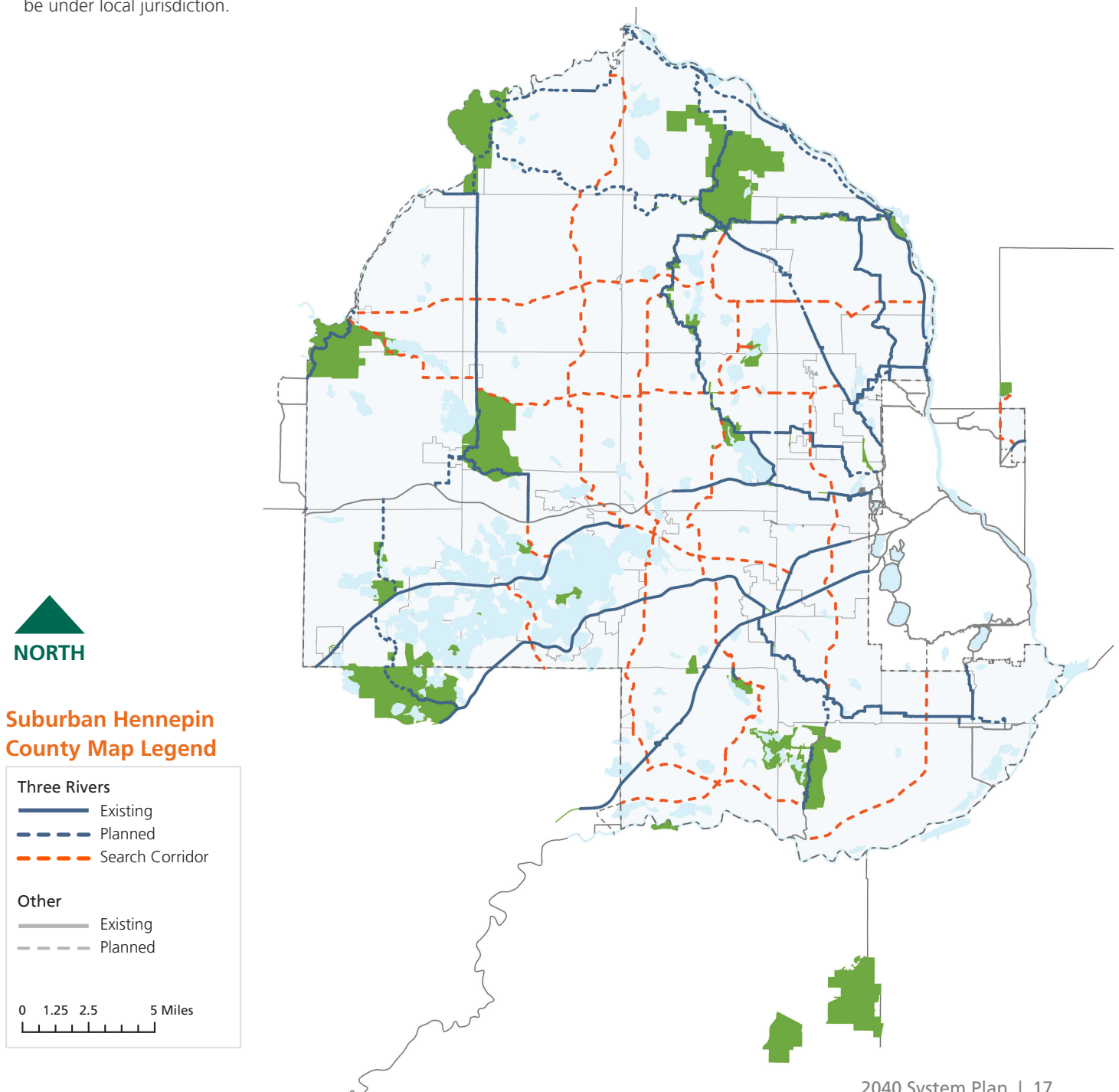
The creation of the 2040 Regional Trail System was guided by the Hennepin County 2040 Bicycle Transportation Plan and includes many existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian trails and facilities already recognized in local comprehensive plans. In addition to serving a regional recreation purpose, the regional trail system also serves as the backbone of the bicycle transportation network within Hennepin County.

This map illustrates the vision of the regional trail system, featuring 395 miles of trails and facilities.

- 165 miles of **existing regional trails** are already in place and open to the public; however, some segments may still be under local jurisdiction.

- 58 miles of **planned regional trails** have an approved route and master plan developed in partnership with the local communities.
- 172 miles of **search corridors** illustrate where future regional trails are envisioned, but the master plan is not complete and the route is not yet defined.

Implementation, long-term maintenance and funding of the 2040 Regional Trail System are envisioned to be core focus areas of a regional trail partner collaboration (described on page 18).





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
Regional Park	Local Feature	Regional Park	Park Reserve	Park Reserve
Service Area Travel Time: 10 min. drive	Service Area Travel Time: 10 min. walk/bike	Service Area Travel Time: 10 min. drive	Service Area Travel Time: 20 min. drive	Service Area Travel Time: 30 min. drive
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
Not Applicable	Centennial Park Hopkins Depot MAC Nature Area Schaper Park Sochacki Park Taft Park	Bryant Lake Cleary Lake Eagle Lake Fish Lake French Lake Minnetonka Lake Sarah Mississippi Gateway North Mississippi	Baker Carver Elm Creek Hyland, Bush and Anderson Lakes Lake Rebecca	Crow-Hassan Murphy-Hanrehan



Urban to Natural

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





Goal Metrics

In order to ensure we are making progress achieving the plan’s vision, we intend to measure our progress on an annual and five-year basis using the metrics below. These findings will be used to identify areas of success and where course correction and additional focus is needed.



Annual

	Goal 1 You belong here	Goal 2 Parks matter	Goal 3 Lead by example
Number of visitors by park, trail, program type and in total	✓	✓	✓
Acreage and quality of protected natural resources		✓	✓
Partnership investments	✓	✓	✓
Number of international, national and state awards			✓
Number of presentations at state and national conferences			✓
Media impressions and social media engagement			✓

5-year Intervals

Visitor and suburban Hennepin County resident demographics (age, gender, race, ethnicity, new immigrants, income and place of residence)	✓		
Visitor profiles (number of visitors, new or return visitors, visit frequency, length of stay and offering participation)	✓		
Visitor satisfaction (welcoming, safe, value and general satisfaction)	✓	✓	✓
Park, trail and program service area coverage (population and geography)	✓	✓	✓
Visitor and suburban Hennepin County resident awareness of offerings, participation motivations and barriers, preferences and priorities	✓		✓
Quality of life ratings of communities by various national reports		✓	
County-level statistics on health of the population by demographics and location		✓	
County-level statistics on businesses and workforce		✓	
Economic impacts of parks, trails and open space in Hennepin County		✓	
Impacts of Three Rivers parks on business creation and retention		✓	
Number of master plans updated/completed			✓
Miles of trail built/maintained and associated of funding			✓

Board of Commissioners

1 DISTRICT 1
Marge Beard, Term Expires 12/31/20
Marge.Beard@threeriversparks.org | 763.559.6758
Corcoran, Greenfield, Hanover, Independence, Long Lake, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medicine Lake, Medina, Minnetrista, Minnetonka Beach, Mound, New Hope, Orono (precincts 1, 3 & 4), Plymouth, Rockford, Rogers, Spring Park, St. Bonifacius, Wayzata

2 DISTRICT 2
Jennifer DeJournett, Term Expires 12/31/22
Jennifer.DeJournett@threeriversparks.org | 763.559.6765
Brooklyn Park (all precincts except W1-0 & W1-R), Champlin, Dayton, Maple Grove, Osseo

3 DISTRICT 3
Daniel Freeman, Term Expires 12/31/20
Daniel.Freeman@threeriversparks.org | 763.559.6776
Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park (precincts W1-0 & W1-R), Crystal, Golden Valley, Hopkins (precinct 2), Robbinsdale, St. Anthony, St. Louis Park

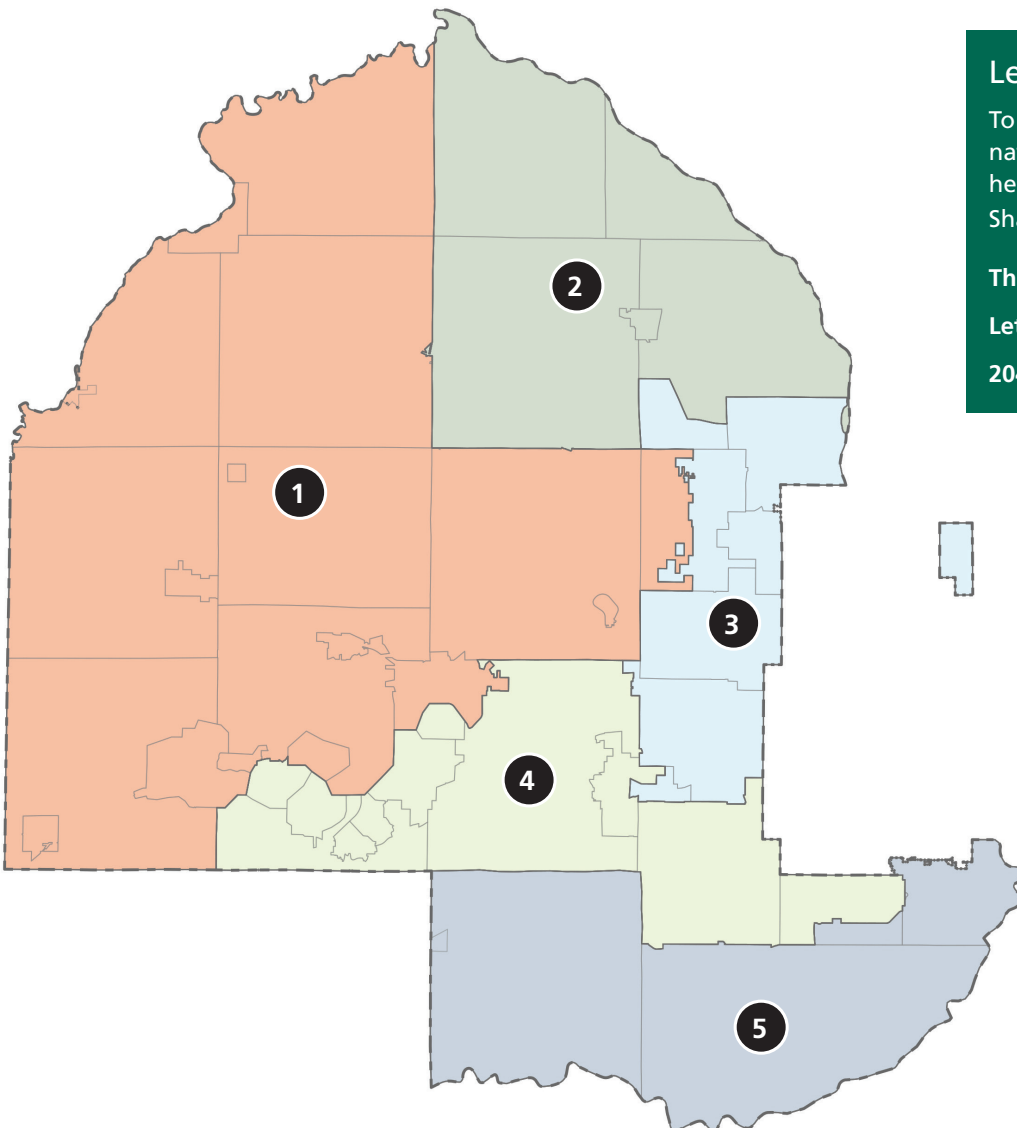
4 DISTRICT 4
John Gunyou, Term Expires 12/31/22
John.Gunyou@threeriversparks.org | 763.694.2033
Deephaven, Edina, Excelsior, Greenwood, Hopkins (all precincts except 2), Minnetonka, Orono (precinct 2), Richfield (all precincts except 6 & 9), Shorewood, Tonka Bay, Woodland

5 DISTRICT 5
John Gibbs, Term Expires 12/31/20
John.Gibbs@threeriversparks.org | 763.694.2086
Bloomington, Chanhausen, Eden Prairie, Fort Snelling, Richfield (precincts 6 & 9)

HENNEPIN COUNTY APPOINTEES

Steven Antolak, Term Expires 12/31/20
Steven.Antolak@threeriversparks.org | 763.694.7696
Serves at large

Gene Kay, Term Expires 12/31/22
Gene.Kay@threeriversparks.org | 763.559.6730
Serves at large



Let's work together.
To help us connect everyone to nature every day, we want to hear your ideas and feedback. Share your ideas at:
ThreeRiversParks.org/2040Plan
LetsTalkThreeRivers.org
2040Plan@ThreeRiversParks.org