

Hok Si La Park

Master Plan



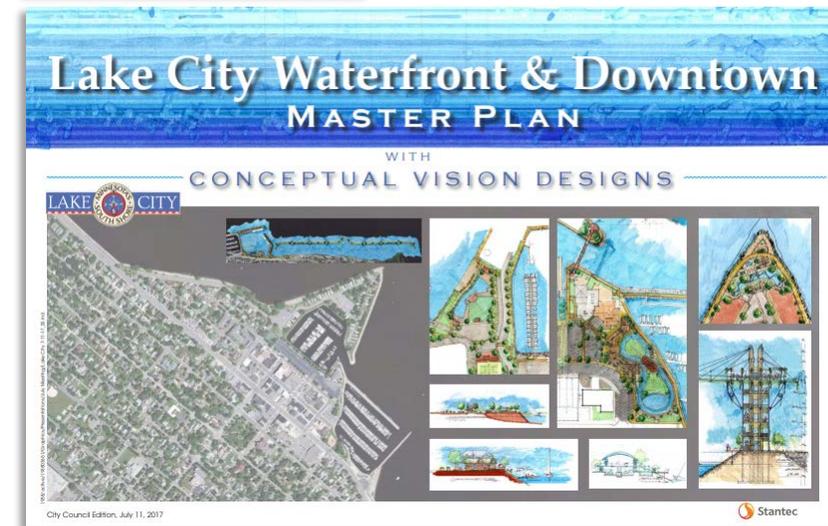
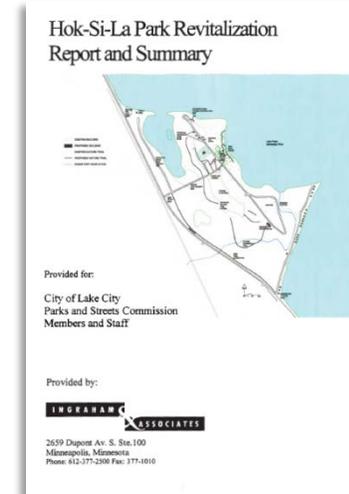
January 2019

Project Overview

- Create a vision within a strategic document.
- Review the current state of Hok Si La Park.
- Represent current community values, recreation needs, and desires.
- Address recreation, interpretation, and natural resource management in an integrated process.
- Guide future investment in the park.
- Meet Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission requirements for Regional Park Master Plans.

Background / Previous Planning

- 1999 Revitalization Report
 - Largely completed
- Included in Waterfront/Downtown Vision Plan
 - Given a high level look
 - Draw on general directions from the vision plan
 - Further explore and “ground truth” viability of some elements



The Park

- Approx. 250 acres with ~70 acres of upland
- Impressive views of Lake Pepin, bluffs, forests
- Strong ecological functioning
 - Mississippi Flyway
 - Plant communities
 - Forest, Creek, Wetlands, Beach, Lake Pepin



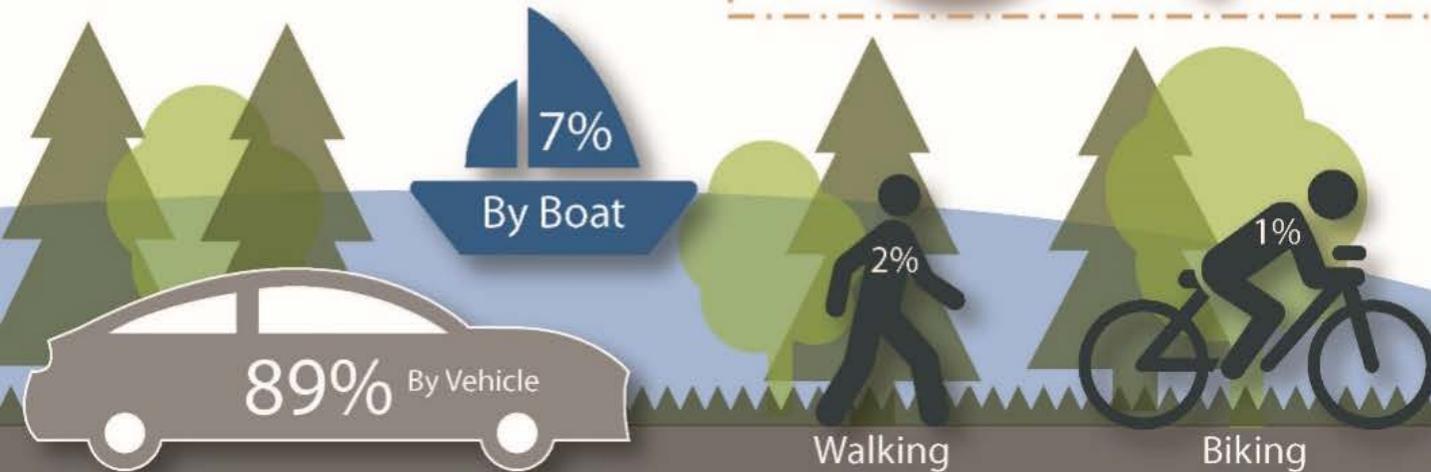
The Park

- Long History in Lake City
- Many different kinds of users
 - Local/Regional
 - Day/Stay
 - Groups/Families/Individuals
- Important Asset to Lake City:
 - Brings people and \$ into the community
 - Strong cost recovery



Travel

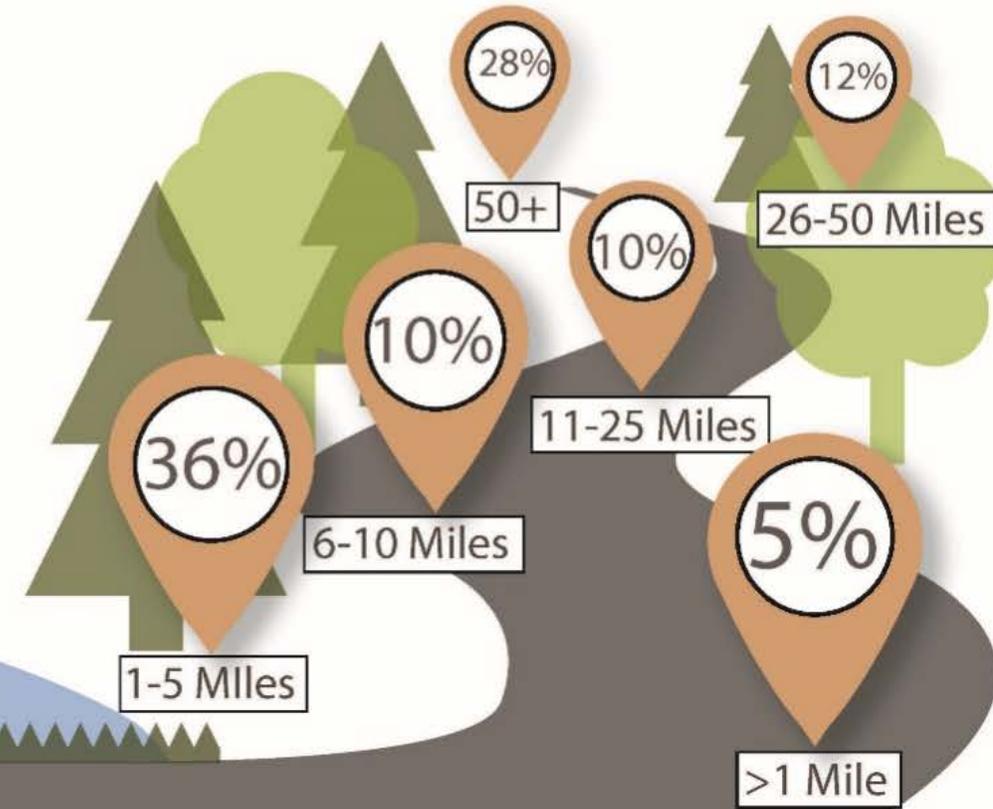
How do you usually travel to the park?



Have you ever had issues finding parking or the park entrance?



How far do you travel to get to the park?



Demographics

Do you usually visit...

5%



Alone

14%



With one other person

40%



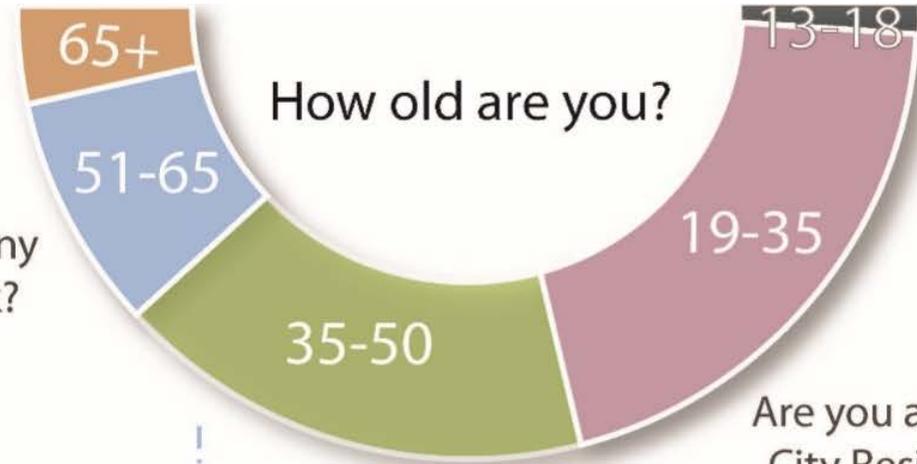
In a small group (2-4)

42%



In a larger group (4+)

Are you associated with any groups that use the Park?

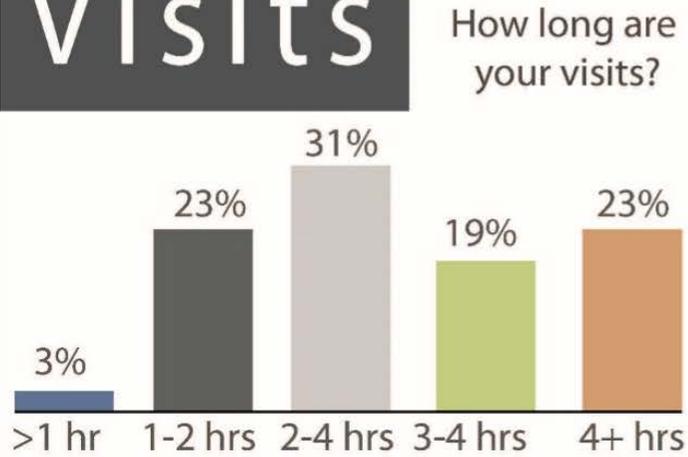


Are you a Lake City Resident?

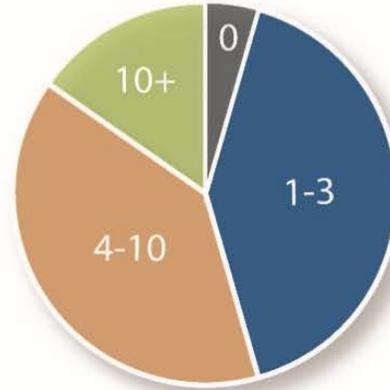


Online Survey Results | November 2018

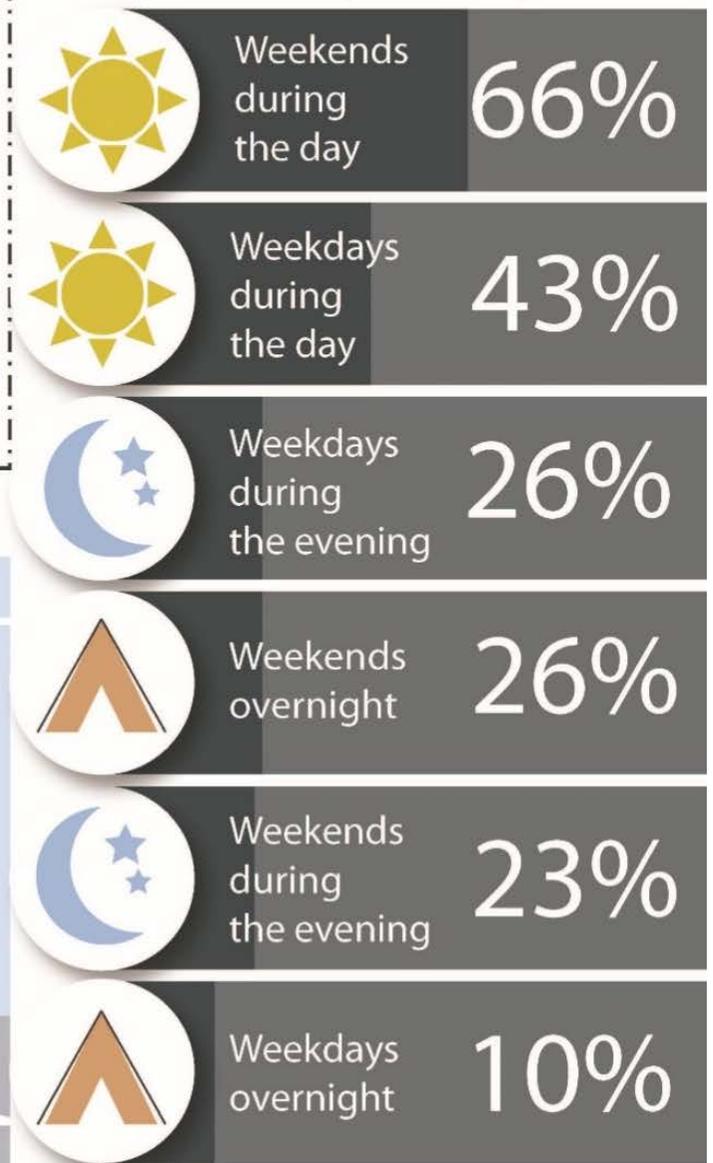
Visits



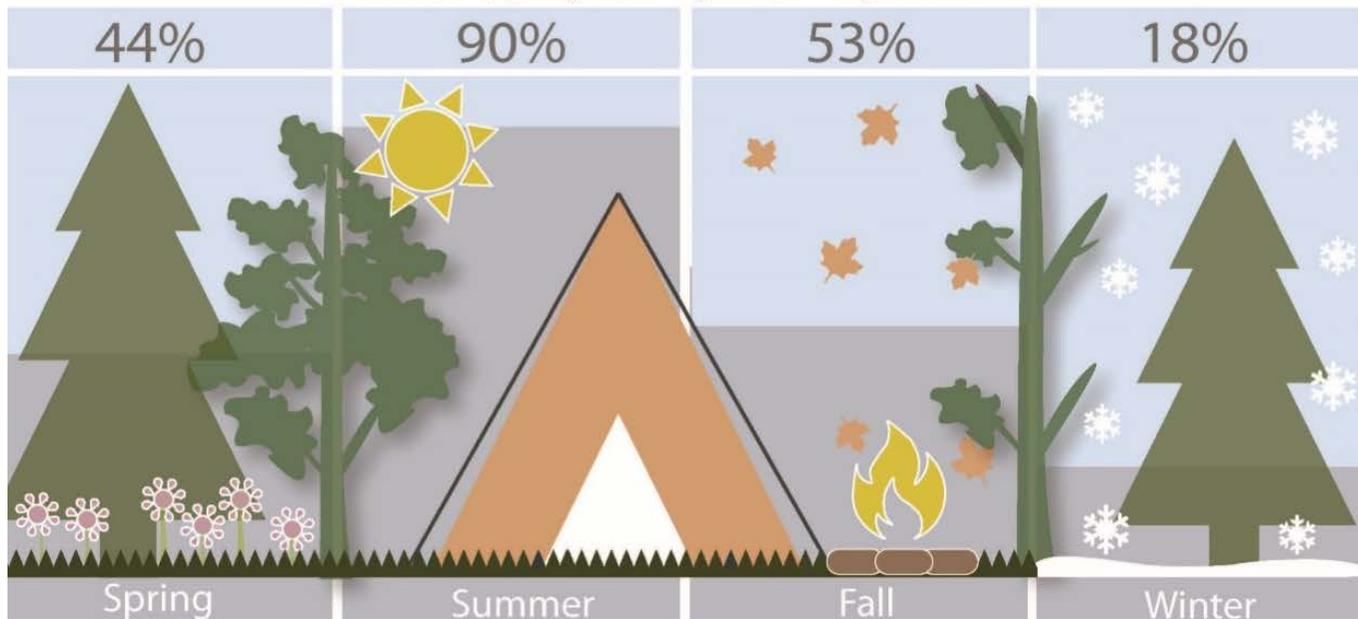
How many times have you visited Hok Si La Park in the last 12 months?



When do you usually visit?



What time(s) of year do you usually visit?

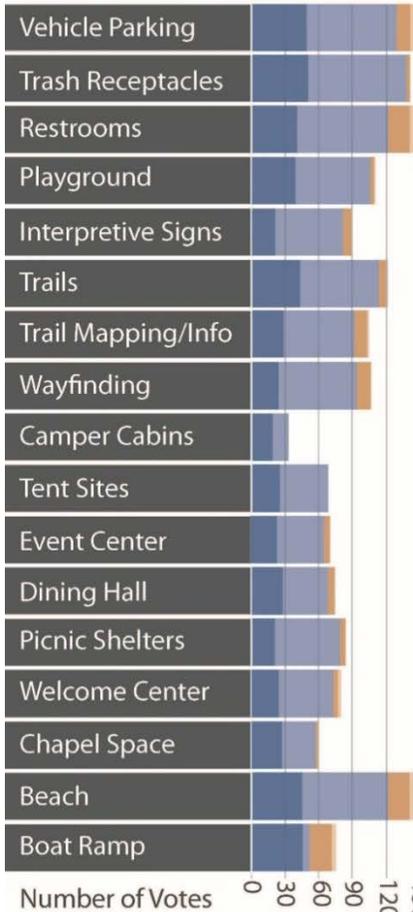


Online Survey Results | November 2018

Activities

What facilities have you used in the last 12 months? How satisfied are you with them?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied



Which activities/programs would you participate in if they became available at the park?



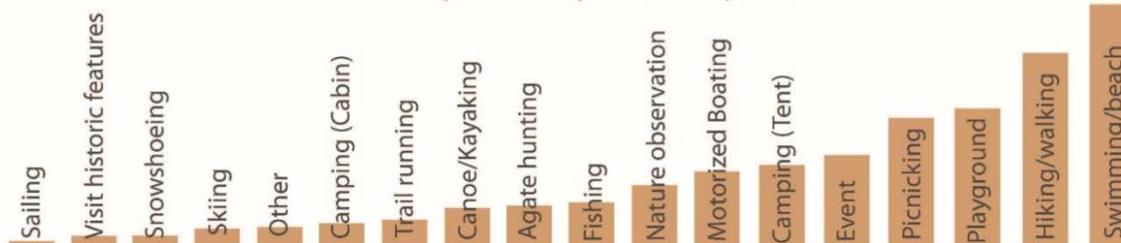
What facilities would be important to add to the park?



When you visit, what primary destinations do you go to within the park?



Which activities do you usually do at the park?



Key Takeaways

- We've got a good thing going
- Strong mix of local *and* regional users
- No RV/No Cars at Campgrounds creates unique draw
- Access to the water is key
- Don't try to be everything to everyone - Do what you do well

Challenges

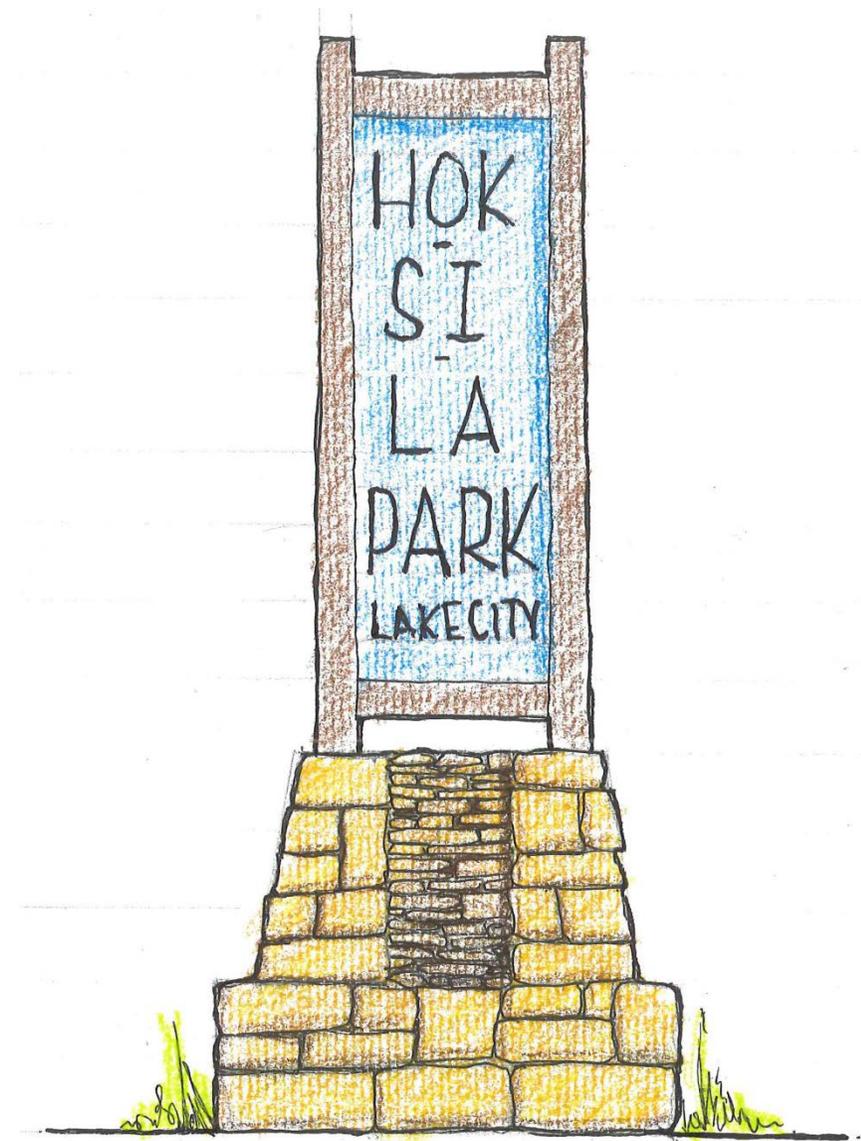
- Wet areas are often inundated & changing (& buggy)
- Up against an MPCA use cap
- Is current operations structure sustainable?
- No great bike/ped connection to town
- Parking fills up at busy times

Opportunities

- Better connect to Downtown Lake City
- Create Midweek & Shoulder Season Draws
 - Events/Meetings
 - School Coordination
 - Programming
- Enhance what we have
- Strengthen connection to the natural beauty and environmental assets of the park

All Concepts – Site Wide

- Highway 61
 - Trail Connection to Lake City
 - Signage
 - Explore options for remote parking at peak times
- Boat Launch
 - Shelter Improvements
 - Fishing Pier
 - Signage



All Concepts – Site Wide

- Environmental
 - Invasive Species Management
 - Shoreline Management
 - Forest Management
 - Stormwater BMPs
 - Understand Water/
Sewer Usage



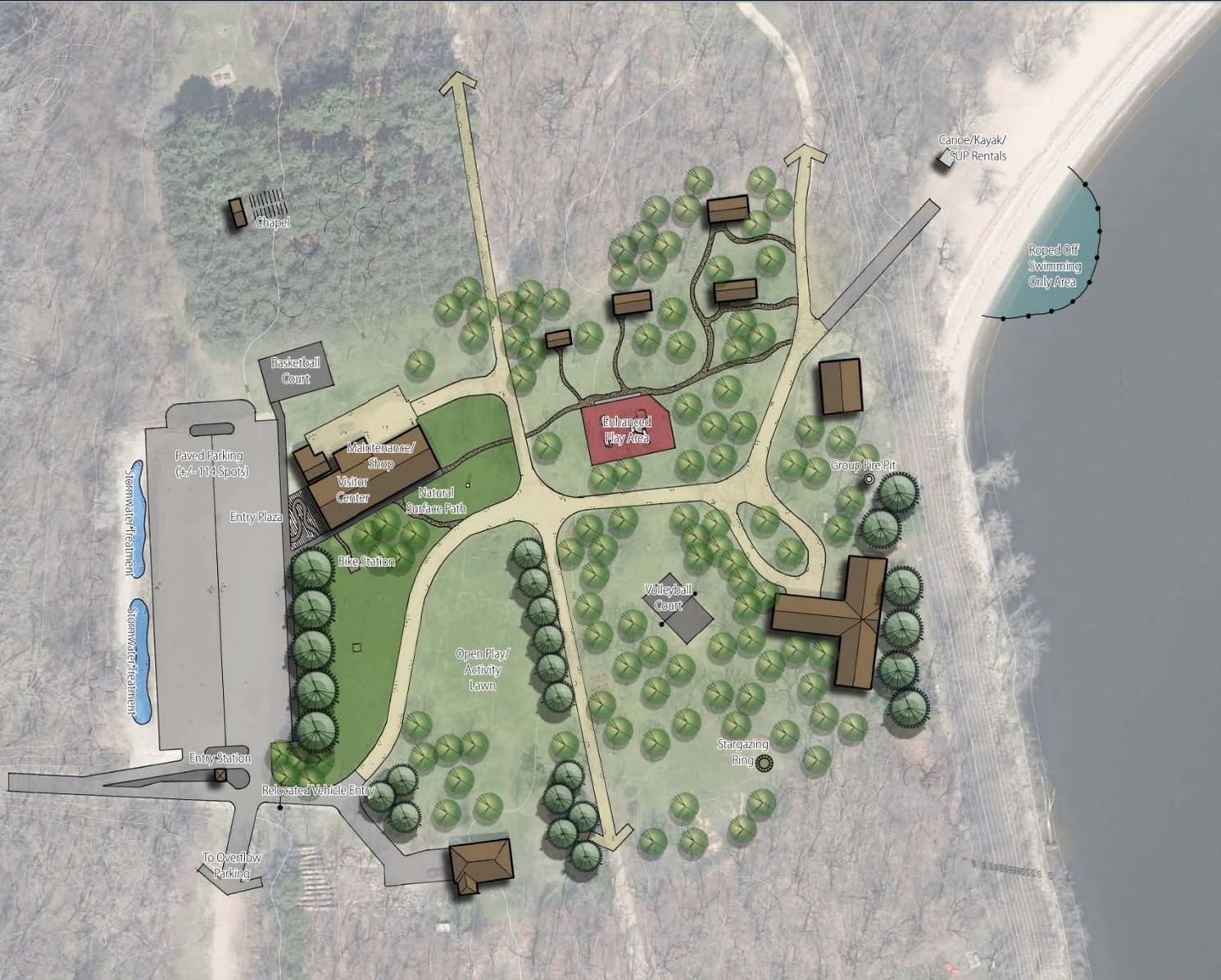
Concepts

- For the most part, individual elements in different concepts can be interchanged so you don't need to pick a "favorite" (or least favorite) concept
- Area shown is the main activity area/central campus
- Precedent photos shown are for illustrative purposes and do not mean they are the final design



Concept 1

Elements



- Greeting Station at road, before parking lot
- Enhanced Landscaping at Visitor Building
- Paved Parking (+/- 114)
- Defined trails/ Secondary Circulation
- Stargazing Ring

Concept 2

Elements



- Reconfigured Entry
- Enhanced Maintenance Area
- Paved Parking (+/- 137)
- Nature inspired play
- Additional Shelters
- More formalized internal parking
- Outdoor Classroom

Concept 3

Elements



- New or Expanded Nature Center
- Relocated Entry
- Paved Parking (+/- 157)
- Nature Play
- Additional Shelters
- Enhanced Beach Facilities
- Birdwatching Blind
- Relocated Maintenance

Meet us at the Boards

Let us know what you like and what you don't. Talk to us, write it down. We'll take that input, along with operations, environmental, and budget implications to create the master plan.

The master plan will be going through City approvals this spring.

Thanks for your time and input!