

Meeting Date: 08/15/24      Business Item: CURRENT BUSINESS

Item Number: **5E**

Division: Superintendent's Office

Originating Source: Boe Carlson, Superintendent

Agenda Item: Cleary Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan

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Superintendent's Recommendation:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CLEARY LAKE REGIONAL PARK LONG RANGE PLAN AND AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO:

1. RELEASE THE DRAFT LONG RANGE PLAN FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT; AND
  2. SOLICIT LONG-RANGE PLAN APPROVAL FROM THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL.
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Prepared By: Alyssa Olson, Parks and Trails Planner

Background:

Cleary Lake Regional Park is the most visited regional park in Scott County and is a valued asset in the community. To ensure the park and its offerings remain relevant to future generations and the broader changing community, and compliant with the Metropolitan Council's long-range plan and funding requirements, staff commenced a long range planning process in 2020.

The intent of the Cleary Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan is to provide an update to the vision of the park for the next 20 years. The previous long range plan was completed in 1998 and many of the proposed improvements have been implemented since that time. The park will remain an active, amenity rich place for people to gather, recreate and enjoy access to nature in a suburban regional park setting.

Three Rivers Park District and Scott County will continue to operate the park in partnership to continue to leverage the benefits of two organizations providing their expertise and knowledge to best provide for the growing populations of Scott County and surrounding areas. Direction from both boards, the Scott County Comprehensive Plan, Three Rivers Park District System Plan, and extensive community involvement helped shape the vision for the park. The Scott County/Three Rivers Policy Committee which consists of the chair and vice-chair of each board met in May and consensus at that meeting was to move forward and publish the plan for public comment.

Community Engagement Process

The community engagement process was designed with input from Three Rivers staff and aimed to facilitate diverse opportunities for community feedback. When planning feedback opportunities, staff not only focused on capturing various perspectives about Cleary Lake Regional Park, but also encouraged dialogue and comments on challenges facing communities in and around Scott County relating to parks and open space use. Though engagement coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, staff worked to create both virtual and in-person feedback opportunities consistent with health and safety guidelines at the time. Public engagement efforts were developed with intentional inclusion of traditionally underserved populations and stakeholders. This included engagement focused on communities of different race, ethnicity,

national origin, income, ability, age, and other pertinent characteristics.

#### Plan Highlights

Cleary Lake Regional Park's development concept is the culmination of over a year of community engagement, feedback from leadership, and analysis by Scott County and Three Rivers staff. The plan reflects the community's priorities as well as addresses the limitations of the park to sustain the growth that is anticipated in the region. Highlights of the plan include increased trail capacity, expanded day use facilities, improved infrastructure to help with program delivery, and improved and expanded camping facilities. The plan also calls for continuing natural resource management and investment at its current level.

#### 30 Day Comment Period

Upon Board approval, the draft long range plan (Attached: Draft Cleary Lake Regional Park Long Range Plan) will be available for review and comment for 30 days starting the week of August 19, 2024, and accessible to the public on the Park District website, at the Administrative Center, at Cleary Lake Regional Park Visitor Center, and at the Prior Lake and Savage Libraries.

Following the review period, and assuming no significant changes, the plan will be forwarded to the Metropolitan Council for approval. Upon approval, the final plan will be forwarded to Three Rivers Board of Commissioners for their final review and approval.

#### Relationship to the System Plan:

The Request for Action supports the following goal(s) of the System Plan:

Goal 1: You Belong Here

Goal 2: Parks Matter

Goal 3: Lead by Example

#### Attachments:

[Cleary Long Range Plan Draft and Appendix.pdf](#)