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TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess Greenwood, Public Works Director

RE: 13 Aug 26 County Board Meeting – **CONSENT AGENDA**
Parks ADA Transition Plan

Date: 21 Jul 26

Summary

It is requested that the County Board approve the attached Goodhue County Parks Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan.

Background

To remain eligible for Minnesota DNR grant funding, all local parks are required to have all amenities (within reason) compliant with the Federal and State ADA requirements for recreational facilities; or to have a plan implemented that outlines compliance needs, known as an ADA Transition Plan.

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission (GMRPTC) has been providing many educational opportunities for enhancing accessibility and inclusivity in outdoor recreation. We anticipate that similar GMRPTC grant requirements will be evolving over the next few years. An ADA Transition Plan is required for the GMRPTC accessibility and inclusivity grant that we will be applying for to help fund Byllesby Park playground replacement.

Stonebrooke Engineering has created a draft ADA Transition Plan specifically for Goodhue County Parks, that can be incorporated into the existing Public Works ADA Transition Plan that was approved on 03 Nov 2020. The Plan outlines a strategy for implementing ADA requirements at Goodhue County's park facilities, and addresses modifications that are necessary to provide equal access to individuals with disabilities. This planning process begins with an evaluation of current ADA features at the County's park facilities such as trails, structures, parking, and equipment. If there are any required ADA features within an area of the park that the County is improving through a current or future project, these ADA features will be analyzed and brought up to current guidelines within that project.

Alternatives

- Revise the Plan prior to adoption.
- Approve the Plan as presented.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of staff that the County Board approve the attached Parks ADA Transition Plan.

"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"



**Goodhue
County**
MINNESOTA

Parks ADA Transition Plan



Goodhue County ADA Transition Plan at a Glance

Parks Evaluated

- Byllesby Park
- Lake Byllesby Western Boat Launch
- Cascade Canoe and Kayak Launch
- Nielsen Memorial Park Preserve

How Improvements Will Be Made

- Routine Maintenance
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Facility Redevelopment
- Grant-Funded Improvements

Priority Categories

- High Priority
- Medium Priority
- Long-Term

Primary Goal

Provide accessible recreation opportunities throughout the County park system.

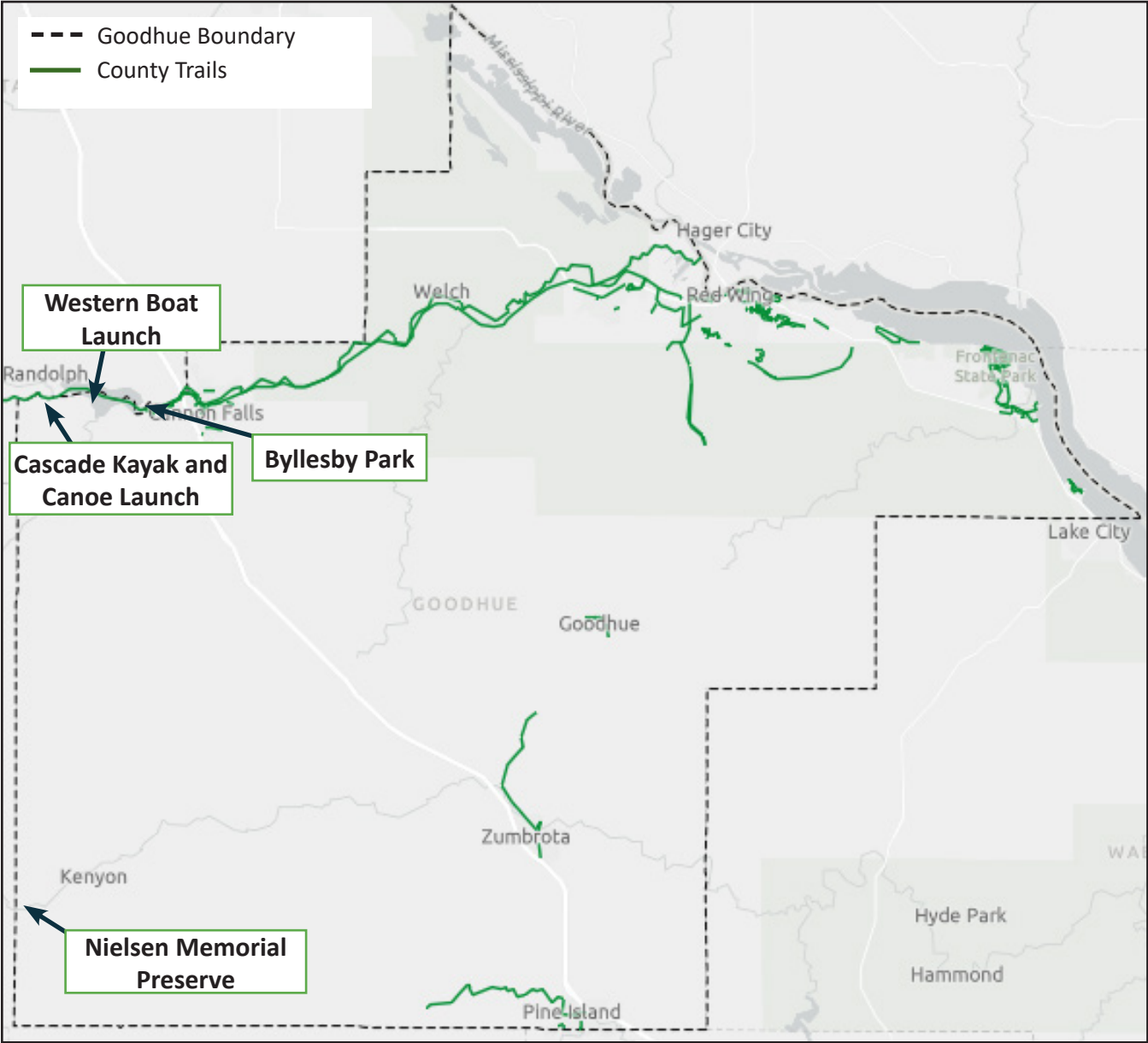


Figure 1 Goodhue County Parks

Introduction

Purpose of the Plan

Goodhue County is committed to providing parks, recreation facilities, and outdoor experiences that are accessible and welcoming to all residents and visitors. Accessibility is an important component of providing equitable public services and ensuring all users can participate in recreational opportunities throughout the County.

The purpose of this ADA Transition Plan is to:

- Evaluate existing accessibility conditions within County parks and recreation facilities.
- Identify physical barriers that may limit access to programs, services, and amenities.
- Establish priorities for future accessibility improvements.
- Provide a framework for incorporating accessibility into maintenance and capital improvement projects.
- Document the County's ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

The County recognizes that accessibility improvements are an ongoing effort rather than a one-time project. As facilities are upgraded, reconstructed, or expanded, accessibility will continue to be incorporated into planning, design, construction, and maintenance activities.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed into law in 1990, prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and requires public entities to provide equal access to programs, services, and activities.

Title II of the ADA applies to state and local governments and requires public entities to evaluate facilities, identify barriers to accessibility, and develop transition plans where accessibility improvements are needed.

For parks and recreation facilities, accessibility extends beyond buildings and includes parking areas, trails, playgrounds, beaches, fishing facilities, picnic areas, outdoor recreation features, and other public amenities.

This plan has been prepared to support Goodhue County's continued compliance with federal and state accessibility requirements while improving recreational opportunities for all users.



Figure 2 Fishing Pier at Byllesby Park

Our ADA Planning Process



Facility Evaluation Methodology

The ADA Transition Plan was developed through a system-wide evaluation of County park and recreation facilities.

Each park was assessed using current ADA accessibility requirements, Minnesota Accessibility Code standards, and applicable accessibility guidance for outdoor recreation facilities.

Evaluations included review of:

- Parking facilities
- Accessible routes
- Picnic areas and shelters
- Restroom facilities
- Playgrounds
- Beaches
- Fishing facilities
- Boat launches
- Recreational amenities
- Other public-use facilities

Field assessments included site observations, measurements, photographs, and documentation of existing conditions. Accessibility barriers were identified and recommendations were developed to improve access while considering operational constraints, environmental conditions, and long-term maintenance needs.

The resulting evaluations establish a baseline inventory that can be used to guide future planning and investment decisions.

Accessibility Goals

Goodhue County seeks to:



Goal 1: Improve Access to Core Recreation Opportunities

Provide accessible access to major park destinations including parking areas, trails, shelters, playgrounds, fishing facilities, beaches, and restrooms.



Goal 2: Incorporate Accessibility into Capital Projects

Address accessibility deficiencies whenever facilities are reconstructed, expanded, or substantially renovated.



Goal 3: Improve System-wide Accessibility

Expand the number and geographic distribution of accessible recreational opportunities throughout the County park system.



Goal 4: Maintain Accessible Facilities

Ensure accessible features remain usable through regular inspection, maintenance, and replacement.



Goal 5: Support Inclusive Recreation

Continue improving opportunities for residents and visitors of all abilities to enjoy County parks and facilities.



Figure 3 Main Parking Lot at Byllesby Park

Accessibility Improvement Prioritization

Because accessibility improvements vary significantly in cost and complexity, Goodhue County will prioritize improvements based on the following criteria.

High Priority

Projects that:

- Address safety concerns
- Provide access to primary park functions
- Improve access to restrooms
- Improve access from parking areas
- Serve large numbers of visitors
- Address significant accessibility barriers

Examples include:

- Accessible parking improvements
- Accessible restroom modifications
- Accessible routes to major amenities
- Fishing pier improvements

Medium Priority

Projects that:

- Improve access to secondary amenities
- Enhance user experience
- Address moderate accessibility barriers

Examples include:

- Additional accessible seating
- Recreational amenity upgrades
- Supplemental accessible routes
- Wayfinding improvements

Low Priority

Projects that:

- Improve convenience or user comfort
- Are best addressed during future redevelopment
- Have limited impact on overall accessibility

Examples include:

- Additional signage
- Minor site furnishings
- Future amenity enhancements

Implementation Strategy

Annual Review

The County should periodically review and update this plan to:

- Document completed improvements
- Update facility conditions
- Reevaluate priorities
- Add newly developed facilities
- Incorporate public feedback

Capital Improvement Program Integration

Accessibility improvements should be considered during all major park improvement projects.

Whenever practical, identified accessibility barriers should be corrected as part of planned reconstruction, renovation, or redevelopment efforts.

Maintenance-Based Improvements

Many accessibility improvements can be completed through routine maintenance activities, including:

- Parking lot restriping
- Sign replacement
- Surface repairs
- Accessible picnic table installation
- Playground surfacing maintenance
- Portable toilet replacement
- Minor route improvements

System-wide Accessibility Summary

Facility	High Priority Improvements	Medium Priority Improvements	Long-Term Improvements
Byllesby Park	-Parking access aisles -Accessible portable toilet -Fishing pier edge protection	-Paved beach access (temporary) -Accessible picnic seating -Playground Improvements -Paved route to soccer rebound	-Major beach access reconstruction
Lake Byllesby Boat Launch	-Accessible parking Stall -Accessible portable toilet	-Accessible picnic area and route	-Major access improvements to picnic area (switchback route)
Cascade Canoe and Kayak Launch	-Accessible parking stall -Accessible portable toilet	-Route stabilization and railings	-Future launch area improvements
Nielsen Memorial Park Preserve	-None currently identified	-None currently identified	-Accessibility incorporated with future development

Funding Sources

Potential funding sources include:

- County Capital Improvement Program
- Annual park maintenance budgets
- State grant programs
- Federal accessibility funding opportunities
- Outdoor recreation grants
- Special appropriations and partnerships

Public Participation

Goodhue County encourages residents and park users to provide feedback regarding accessibility needs and barriers encountered within County facilities.

Public input will be considered during future updates to this plan and when establishing priorities for accessibility improvements.



Figure 4 Access Route at the Byllesby Beach



BYLLESBY PARK

Goodhue County ADA Parks Evaluation



5001 MN 19
Cannon Falls, MN 55099



Amenities:

- Parking Lot
- Boat Parking Lot
- Picnic Shelters
- Bathrooms
- Portable Toilet
- Playground
- Soccer Rebound
- Fishing Pier
- Boat Slips
- Beach
- Walking Trails
- Changing Areas
- Food Service Areas
- Drinking Fountain

PARKING

Main Parking Lot

There are designated accessible parking stalls near the main entrance to the pavilions/playground. Overflow parking is available near the accessible stalls. The overflow lot does not have designated stalls. There are currently 86 marked parking stalls and four designated accessible stalls. However, the stalls are in a row without an access aisle for all stalls.

Boat Launch Parking Lot

There is one designated accessible stall, however, there is no sign since the stall is a pull-through stall. There is no access aisle.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Restripe the middle stall to be an aisle section for an 8-foot access aisle. The stall with the black car in the image below can also be an access aisle with a new accessible stall to the left. See **MN Accessibility Codes 502.2 and 502.4** for requirements. Ensure that the access aisle has a “No Parking” sign centered at the head
- Restripe the boat launch pull-through stall to include an 8-foot-wide access aisle in accordance with **MN Accessibility Code Sections 502.2 and 502.4**
- Provide a permanently mounted accessible parking sign located at the head of the stall, placed in the adjacent grass area and centered on the access aisle to clearly identify the stall
- Install a “No Parking” sign centered at the head of the access aisle per **MN Accessibility Codes 502.2 and 502.4**
- Ensure signage is mounted 60–66 inches to the bottom of sign and remains visible beyond parked vehicles



Figure 5 Main Parking Lot at Byllesby Park

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Walkways

The route to the bridge gets up to 5.4 percent slope with a 3 percent cross slope. The route to the beach is not paved, but in the flattest area, the slope is 11 percent.

Picnic Areas

The Pine Grove Shelter has no accessible seating. The Beach Shelter, Byllesby Dam Shelter, and Richard Samuelson Pavilion all have ample accessible seating.



Figure 6 Access Route to Soccer Rebound Area

Soccer Rebound

The route to the soccer rebound area is not paved. The weather at the time of evaluation was dry, but grassy access routes can become muddy and slippery in adverse weather.

Beach

The route to the beach is unpaved and steep. The sand rinse station is compliant.

Changing Areas

The benches in the restrooms are 16 inches deep and 16 inches from the floor. Space heaters prevent a comfortable side approach to the bench. Diaper pails are placed in the way of a side approach.

Food Service Areas

There are food serving areas at both halves of the Richard Samuelson Pavilion. Both are at a compliant height.

Drinking Fountain

There is a drinking fountain at the pavilion. It does stick out more than four inches but it is not considered to be within the pedestrian walkway.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Provide a railing at steep portions of the trail near the dam. Railings should be compliant with **MN Accessibility Code 405.8**
- Provide a stable, firm, and slip-resistant route to the soccer rebound area and beach. **MN Accessibility Code 302**
- Add picnic tables to Pine Grove that are ADA-compliant. **ADA 4.32.2**
- Replace the benches in the restrooms with compliant benches. **MN Accessibility Code 903**

TOILET ROOM

Pavilion Bathrooms P1 and P2

There are two restrooms available at the pavilion. Restroom P1 has the flush on the closed side of the toilet.

Portable Toilets

There is a non-accessible portable toilet near the boat launch area.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Swap the non-accessible portable toilet with an accessible portable toilet.
- Replace the toilet in P1 with one that has a flush on the open side of the toilet. **ADA 604.6**

FISHING PIER

Main Pier

The fishing pier is generally compliant; however, it lacks edge protection to prevent wheelchair wheels from rolling off the pier surface.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Add a two-inch barrier to the edge to prevent wheelchair wheels from slipping off. You could also move the railing (or extend the decking) so that it is twelve inches beyond the railing. **ADA 1105.3.1 or 1105.3.2**



Figure 7 Toilet Room at the Pavilion



Figure 8 Fishing Pier at Mound Creek



Figure 9 Playground at Byllesby

PLAYGROUND

Main Playground

There is one playground at Byllesby. The entrance has a two-inch gap to get into the play area. There are fifteen elevated play components and four ground-level play components. Five are needed. There is an appropriate number of ground-level play component types. The ground surface is Engineered Wood Fiber.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Add more ground play elements so that there are five play elements on the ground. **ADA 1108.3.2.1.2**
- Although Engineered Wood Fiber is an accessible play surface, it does require the most maintenance as the wood shifts when used. Ensure this playground is inspected regularly, raked, and tamped down to meet accessible requirements. See **ADA 401** for accessible route requirements, including cross slope, running slope, and walking surfaces



LAKE BYLLESBY WESTERN BOAT LAUNCH

*Goodhue County
ADA Parks Evaluation*



29733 23rd Ave Way
Cannon Falls, MN 55099



Amenities:

- Parking Lot
- Picnic Area
- Portable Toilet
- Boat Launch

PARKING

Main Parking Lot

There is a gravel parking lot adjacent to the boat launch. Vehicles pull their boat trailers through. There is no designated parking.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Stripe an accessible parking stall. The ground does not have to be paved, but must be slip-resistant. See **MN Accessibility Codes 502.2 and 502.4** for requirements. Ensure that the access aisle has a “No Parking” sign at the head



Figure 10 Main Parking Lot at the Western Boat Launch

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Walkways

The route to the picnic table is not paved. The slope is 11 percent.

Picnic Areas

There is a picnic table at the top of a steep hill. The seating area next to the picnic table is paved; however, the table is not accessible.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Pave the route to the picnic table. Create a switchback route with a maximum running slope of 8 percent. Provide a railing in areas steeper than five percent. **MN Accessibility Code 405.8**
- Swap the picnic table for an accessible picnic table. **ADA 4.32.2**



Figure 11 Picnic Table at Western Boat Launch

RESTROOM

Portable Toilets

There is a non-accessible portable toilet.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Swap the non-accessible portable toilet with an accessible portable toilet



CASCADE CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH

Goodhue County ADA Parks Evaluation



30060 4th Ave Way
Randolph, MN 55065



Amenities:

- Parking Lot
- Portable Toilet
- Trail to Launch and Landing Sites

PARKING

Main Parking Lot

There is a gravel parking lot adjacent to the launch that has a turnaround loop. There are designated parking stalls adjacent to the launch.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Stripe an accessible parking stall. The ground does not have to be paved, but must be slip-resistant. See **MN Accessibility Codes 502.2 and 502.4** for requirements. Ensure that the access aisle has a “No Parking” sign at the head



Figure 12 Main Parking Lot at the launch site.

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Walkways

The route to the launch site is not paved. The routes to the launch and landing areas are steep.



Figure 13 Route to launch area

Accessibility Recommendations

- Ensure routes remain clear of roots, erosion, and other trip hazards. Provide a railing in areas steeper than five percent. **ADA 403.3**

RESTROOM

Portable Toilets

There is a non-accessible portable toilet.

Accessibility Recommendations

- Swap the non-accessible portable toilet with an accessible portable toilet



NIELSEN MEMORIAL PARK PRESERVE

*Goodhue County
ADA Parks Evaluation*



229 Monkey Valley
Kenyon, MN 55946



Amenities:

- Undeveloped Park Preserve

PARKING

No developed parking facilities were observed at the time of evaluation.

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Main Preserve

The site is currently undeveloped and does not contain public amenities, buildings, recreational facilities, or designated pedestrian routes requiring accessibility improvements at this time.

Accessibility Recommendations

- As future improvements are planned and constructed, incorporate accessibility requirements into project design to ensure equitable access for all users.
- Provide accessible parking, pedestrian routes, site amenities, and recreational facilities consistent with applicable federal and state accessibility standards when development occurs.
- Evaluate accessibility requirements during the planning and design phase of future projects to reduce the need for costly retrofits.

OVERALL FINDINGS

Nielsen Memorial Park Reserve is currently an undeveloped park property with no public amenities requiring accessibility upgrades. No barriers requiring corrective action were identified during this evaluation. Future development should be planned and designed in accordance with applicable accessibility requirements.