



APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Highlights from Fall 2016 Community Engagement + Key Findings

- Dakota County
- Goodhue County

Online Questionnaire (September/October 2016)

- Summary of Input
- All Responses

Stakeholder Meeting (September 2016) Notes

- Park Neighbors
- Dakota County Township Officers
- Agency Water
- Campground Hosts
- DNR
- History and Interpretation
- Lake Byllesby Improvement Association
- Park Operations
- Park User Groups
- Regional Recreation Providers

Open House (Sept. 19, 2016) Comments

- Individual Input

Dakota County State Fair (August 2016) Input

Spring 2017 Engagement

- Online Social Pinpoint Comments
- March 2017 Open House and Stakeholder Meeting Comments
- Individual Input

Open House (October 11, 2017) Comments

- Questionnaire Input related to the October 2017 Draft Master Plan

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FALL 2016 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + KEY FINDINGS

Dakota County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Plan

Highlights from Community Engagement

- 207 people responded to the first online questionnaire
- 35 people attended the first Open House
- A booth and display boards were posted at the Dakota County Fair in August of 2016
- Promotion and outreach included: The County's website hosted a page with information about the park master plan, flyers were posted and sent out, press releases included opportunities for public engagement, and social media and email were used to alert Dakota County residents about the planning process
- 9 different groups were engaged in stakeholder meetings

Key Findings

1. The Mill Towns State Trail and Cannon Valley Trail connections are essential to making Lake Byllesby a significant destination along the regional recreation corridor in the Cannon River Valley. Wayfinding within and marketing of the park should highlight nearby attractions and distances to them, essentially expanding the park's offerings outside of the park boundary. Lake Byllesby Regional Park should partner with other attractions in the Cannon River Valley to promote regional tourism.
2. Tourists don't see borders. Programming and facilities at Lake Byllesby Regional Park should complement and not compete with those at Goodhue County's Byllesby County Park. The two parks should offer a coherent set of recreational experiences and function as a single destination in the Cannon River Valley.
3. The park's campground and lakeside environment make it a natural node/gathering hub for multi-day visitors to the Cannon Valley. Camping needs to be improved and park activities need to complement regional offerings so that visitors have recreational opportunities within the park as well as outside of it. Camping should include quality RV and tent sites along with camper cabins
 - a. RV Camping would benefit from being reconfigured with better circulation, improved amenities, and potential expansion
 - b. Tent Camping needs to be reconfigured to feel more private, and should be expanded into other areas of the park. Platforms for tent camping in west may open that area for primitive options
 - c. Camper cabins and a group campsite should be explored to expand offerings
 - d. Additional facilities that would be beneficial include storm shelter and bathrooms and showers nearer to tent camping area
 - e. The park would benefit from a group gathering area/programming space/fire pit, and relocation/updates to existing amenities like the playground
4. Summer use of the park is centered on lake recreation, but concerns about water quality and a lack of support facilities limit lake usage from reaching its full potential.
 - a. Rental facilities and storage racks for canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, paddle boards, rollerblades, and bikes are desired
 - b. A portage route around the dam needs to be defined, with water access downstream of the dam

- c. A fish cleaning table would support shore fishing
 - d. Wind and algae reduce the beach's popularity. A lagoon/splash pad could offer a popular attraction that engages visitors with water without those hindrances
 - e. The existing beach house is underutilized, especially its concessions capabilities
 - f. The quality of motorized boating use of the lake, particularly on the west, has been diminished due to siltation
 - g. Concerns exist about safety related to numbers of boaters on the lake
 - h. Desire for boat slips for day users and campers
5. Winter park use is lackluster, currently.
- a. Significant use is unlikely until an enclosed park building can be constructed and staffed year-round for restrooms, a warming house, and a rental center
 - b. Minimal investment would focus on just on skijoring/dogsledding, xc skiing, and ice fishing as weather allows with minimal investment (just porta potties and dog hitches). Cannon Valley Trail will be groomed for cross country skiing.
 - c. Despite snow being increasingly unreliable, winter fat biking has increased in popularity, and does not rely on snowy conditions the same way that cross country skiing does.
6. Investments should be made in natural resources to improve habitat and implement best management practices for water quality.
- a. Native shoreline restoration where feasible
 - b. Management of riparian woodlands, especially in the western portion of the park
 - c. Prairie/Savanna/Meadow expansion and turf replacement wherever active uses aren't present
 - d. Multiple interests have preferences for water levels in the reservoir, making its management challenging to balance. While residents and boaters would prefer higher water levels and dredging of sediments from the west delta, the mud flats are the primary reason the west side of the lake is an IBA, and drawdown of water levels aids nearby farmers in the spring by ensuring their fields remain dry.
7. Interpretation of natural, historic, and cultural resources would greatly enhance park programming.
- a. Self-guided interpretation with well-promoted walking tours/ on-demand podcast episodes could function as a sort of "choose your own adventure" way to explore the park
 - b. Improved signage with QR codes and audio stations for storytelling/sharing
 - c. Interpretation should be incorporated into park features (new play area) and featured in park programming/ special event offerings
8. Expanded programming should be focused primarily in areas of existing development (in the east side of the park), with minor infrastructure investments on the west side of the park, including natural surface and water trails, a trailhead with parking and a basic restroom facility, the potential for rustic paddle-in campsites, and low impact, digitally based programming like geo/bio caching, orienteering, birding, and self-guided interpretation. Preserving and enhancing the quality of the Important Birding Area (IBA) along the mud flats in the western portion of the park is of primary importance.

Goodhue County

Byllesby County Park Plan

Highlights from Community Engagement

1. The Mill Towns State Trail and Cannon Valley Trail connections are essential to making Lake Byllesby a significant destination along the regional recreation corridor in the Cannon River Valley. Wayfinding within the park should highlight nearby attractions and distances to them, essentially expanding the park's program offerings outside of the park boundary. Byllesby County Park should partner with other attractions in the Cannon River Valley to promote regional tourism.
2. Tourists don't see borders. Programming and facilities at Byllesby County Park should complement and not compete with those at Dakota County's Lake Byllesby Regional Park. The two parks should offer a coherent set of recreational experiences and function as a single destination in the Cannon River Valley.
3. Summer use of the park is centered around lake recreation, but concerns about water quality and a lack of support facilities limit lake usage from reaching its full potential.
 - a. Rental facilities and storage racks for canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, paddle boards, rollerblades, and bikes are desired.
 - b. Slopes along the Cannon River downstream of the dam are too steep to support water access from the Goodhue County Side
 - c. Day use tie up slips would be nice, especially since boats just pull up on shore currently
 - d. Fish cleaning station
 - e. The beach is popular (and less apt to experience wind and algae issues than Lake Byllesby Regional Park's beach) and could be improved/expanded
 - f. Parking lots fill up with boaters on weekends and parking overflows onto the grass.
 - g. Concerns exist about safety related to too many boaters on the lake
 - h. Existing pavilions highly used. Additional picnic seating areas would be beneficial.
 - i. Additional support amenities like drinking fountain, trash cans, etc. needed
 - j. Additional seating along the walking trails is desired
4. County park should focus on nature based recreation and community gathering. Athletic needs are being fulfilled by the City of Cannon Falls and additional facilities not needed as part of the regional park.
5. Night uses are not desired by adjacent property owners; however, with camping often full across the lake at Lake Byllesby Regional Park, and multi-day use of trails along the Cannon River Valley increasing, the planning process should explore camping as part of overall development concept.
6. As a nature-based recreation park, investments in natural resource restoration should be made to improve habitat and implement best management practices for water quality.
 - a. Turf replacement with native vegetation/ no-mow meadow wherever active uses aren't present
 - b. Management of the forest stand between the eastern part of the park and the cliffs
 - c. Native shoreline restoration where feasible
 - d. Multiple needs for reservoir challenging to balance – dam, fisheries, birding, fishing, boating, private property owners, etc
7. Winter park use is lackluster currently.
 - a. Cannon Valley Trail may be groomed for cross country skiing, so broader cross country skiing could be considered.
 - b. Despite snow being increasingly unreliable, winter fat biking has increased in popularity, and does not rely on snowy conditions the same way that cross country skiing does.

ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016)

Summary of Input

Dakota County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan

Online Questionnaire Summary

DRAFT 10.04.2016

An online questionnaire was open for several weeks in September and October, 2016. The questionnaire asked questions about both Dakota County and Goodhue County Byllesby parks. Questions included asking how often people visited the parks, summer and winter activities in the parks, why they liked or did not like the park, and suggestions for improvements. The following includes a summary of findings:

- 206 total responses; most between the ages of 35 and 74; 98% of respondents identified their race as white;
- When asked **how often users visit the parks**, 54% answered “once a month or less,” 21% answered “2-4 times per month,” 18% answered “not at all,” and 7% answered “two times a week or more. No one responded that they visit the parks “weekly” or “daily.” Of the 18% of people who answered that they don’t visit the park at all, 48% said it was because they were “unaware of park location and/or facilities/programming,” 41% said the parks were “too far away,” and 24% said that “park facilities/programming doesn’t interest them.” No one commented on safety or crowding issues as reasons they did not visit the parks.
- 75% of park users **accessed the parks** with a personal vehicle or camper, 13% visit by bicycle, and 6% visit on foot. Other ways to get to the park included on a charter or school bus or by boat.
- Many **summer activities** were viewed as important to include in the park, with the following activities listed “very important” by the most respondents: walking, enjoying scenic views, hiking, canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding, picnicking. Other identified important activities include: boating, playing on the playground, fishing, and swimming. Biking was an activity identified by several respondents as an important activity to have in the parks.
- When asked about **winter activities**, cross country skiing was selected as the most important activity to have in the parks. Snowshoeing, winter walking on plowed trails, ice fishing, and sledding were also selected as important activities. Close behind those activities included, indoor visitor center activities, bicycling, skating, followed by dog sledding and skijoring as less important.
- Respondents were asked **how likely they would be to use certain facilities** if they were added to the parks. The following facilities were ranked very likely to be used by the highest number of respondents: hiking to an overlook and along bluffs on the Goodhue County side of the lake, an expanded natural surface trail network, and an expanded paved trail network. Other facilities that were ranked as somewhat likely or very likely to be used by a large number of respondents included: access to the Cannon River below the dam; self-guided nature and history programs; a visitor center; small picnic shelters for 20 people; a larger swimming beach; a natural swimming pool; an improved bathhouse; an improved campground with more shade and privacy; and boat/paddle sport rentals; and a nature playground.
- When asked about **groups or organizations** that participate in activities at Lake Byllesby, the following groups were mentioned: Northfield Senior Bike Club, Lakeville Senior Bike Club, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Cannon Valley Velo Club, Faribault Flyers Bike & Ski Club, Mill Towns Trail bike group, Northfield Pedalers, HHH Ranch, Minnesota Geocaching Association, CROCT, churches, birding groups, and Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts.
- **Regional recreational activities** that most respondents selected as those in which they participate include: biking or walking the Cannon Valley Trail; biking or walking the Mill Towns State Trail; and

canoeing or kayaking the Cannon River. Other activities listed by the next most number of respondents include: scenic drives/sightseeing, a bike/paddle loop trail experience; tubing the Cannon River; and attending local festivals.

- The following **natural resource improvements** were selected by most respondents as somewhat important or very important, with Lake Byllesby water quality improvements and invasive species removal and management listed as very important by the most respondents: forest management; lake fishery management; prairie/savanna restoration; rip rap shoreline removal and shoreline restoration; stormwater management features like raingardens; buffering views of adjacent development; and enhancement of birding opportunities and bird habitat.
- When asked how they would **rate the parks' scenic quality** as part of experiencing nature, 45% of respondents selected "average quality," while 38% selected "high quality," and 11% selected "very high quality."
- When asked how they would **rate the parks' river, stream, lake, and wetland quality** as part of experiencing nature, the responses were very similar to above: 45% selected "average," 33% selected "high," 8% selected "very high," and 13% selected "low."
- The following threats to natural resource quality and experience at Lake Byllesby were identified by the most respondents as "major:" water pollution, aquatic invasive species, and herbicides/pesticides. Other threats that were identified highly as "minor" or "major" include: terrestrial invasive species, development, extreme weather events, and air pollution.

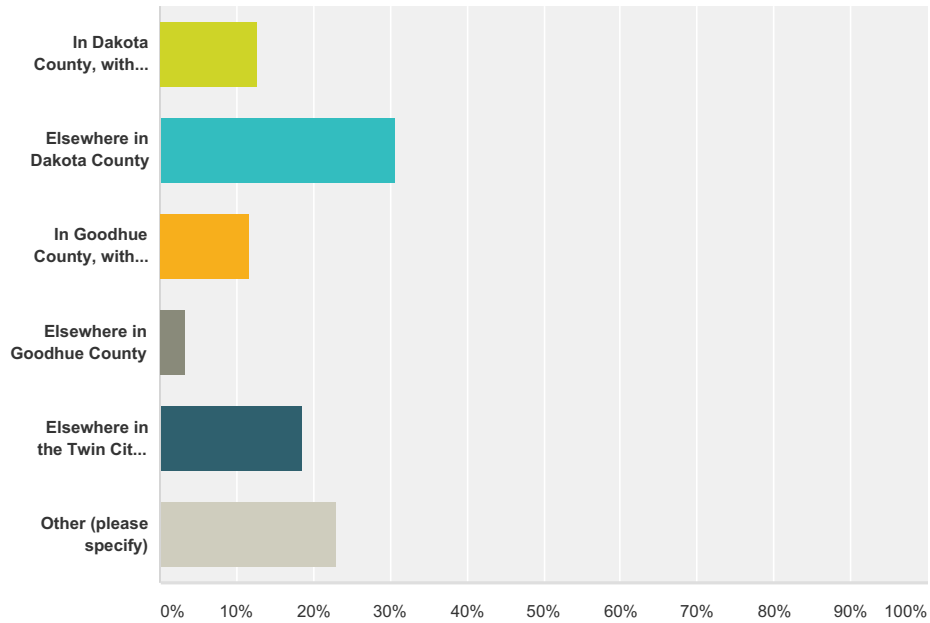
ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016)

All Responses

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 205 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
In Dakota County, within 5 miles of Lake Byllesby Regional Park	12.68% 26
Elsewhere in Dakota County	30.73% 63
In Goodhue County, within 5 miles of Byllesby County Park	11.71% 24
Elsewhere in Goodhue County	3.41% 7
Elsewhere in the Twin Cities Metro Area	18.54% 38
Other (please specify)	22.93% 47
Total	205

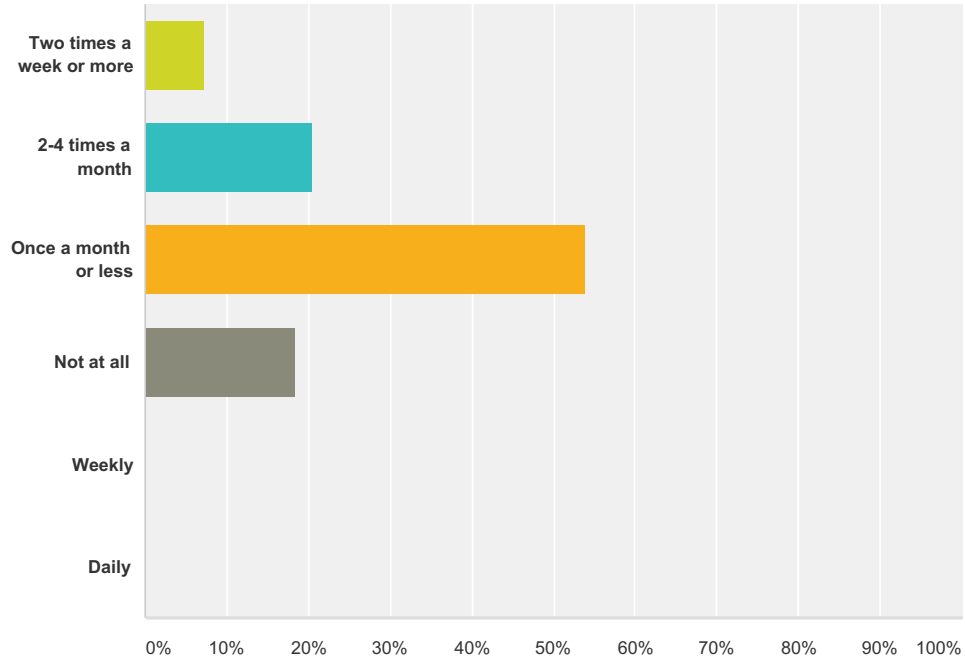
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	mazeppa	10/4/2016 1:23 PM
2	Northfield, Rice County	10/1/2016 10:34 PM
3	Webster, Mn. Rice county	9/29/2016 6:40 PM
4	Rice County	9/28/2016 7:52 PM
5	Dakota county on the lake	9/27/2016 2:11 PM
6	Northfield, Rice County, MN	9/27/2016 8:25 AM
7	Rice County	9/26/2016 2:17 PM
8	Dundas - Rice County	9/26/2016 1:10 PM
9	rice	9/26/2016 11:38 AM

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

10	Faribault	9/26/2016 8:57 AM
11	Northfield	9/25/2016 9:06 PM
12	Northfield. 55057	9/25/2016 6:02 PM
13	Rice County	9/25/2016 4:08 PM
14	rice county	9/25/2016 3:43 PM
15	In Northfield, about 7 mi. from Lake Byllesby west end.	9/25/2016 3:10 PM
16	Rice County	9/24/2016 6:03 PM
17	Rice County, Northfield	9/24/2016 3:58 PM
18	rice county	9/24/2016 2:26 PM
19	rice county	9/24/2016 1:48 PM
20	Northfield, mn	9/24/2016 11:21 AM
21	Rice County	9/24/2016 11:03 AM
22	Rice County	9/24/2016 10:16 AM
23	Rice County, Northfield	9/24/2016 8:22 AM
24	Northfield	9/24/2016 4:23 AM
25	Northfield	9/23/2016 11:18 PM
26	Northfield, Rice County	9/23/2016 8:27 PM
27	Rice county	9/23/2016 8:26 PM
28	Rice County	9/23/2016 7:37 PM
29	Rice cty	9/23/2016 7:14 PM
30	Rice County	9/23/2016 6:44 PM
31	Rice County	9/23/2016 5:26 PM
32	Northfield, MN	9/23/2016 3:57 PM
33	Northfield, Rice County	9/23/2016 3:11 PM
34	Rochester Area	9/23/2016 1:52 PM
35	Rice	9/23/2016 1:30 PM
36	Rice County	9/23/2016 1:21 PM
37	Rice County, Northfield	9/23/2016 12:42 PM
38	Rice	9/23/2016 11:15 AM
39	In Northfield (Rice County)	9/23/2016 10:53 AM
40	Northfield	9/23/2016 10:48 AM
41	Northern MN	9/23/2016 9:16 AM
42	Rice County	9/23/2016 8:11 AM
43	Wisconsin	9/23/2016 7:59 AM
44	Northfield	9/10/2016 8:50 PM
45	Wheeling township, Rice County	9/10/2016 1:06 PM
46	Waconia	9/10/2016 8:47 AM
47	Dodge County	9/9/2016 5:47 PM

Q2 How often, on average, do you visit Lake Byllesby Regional Park or Byllesby County Park?

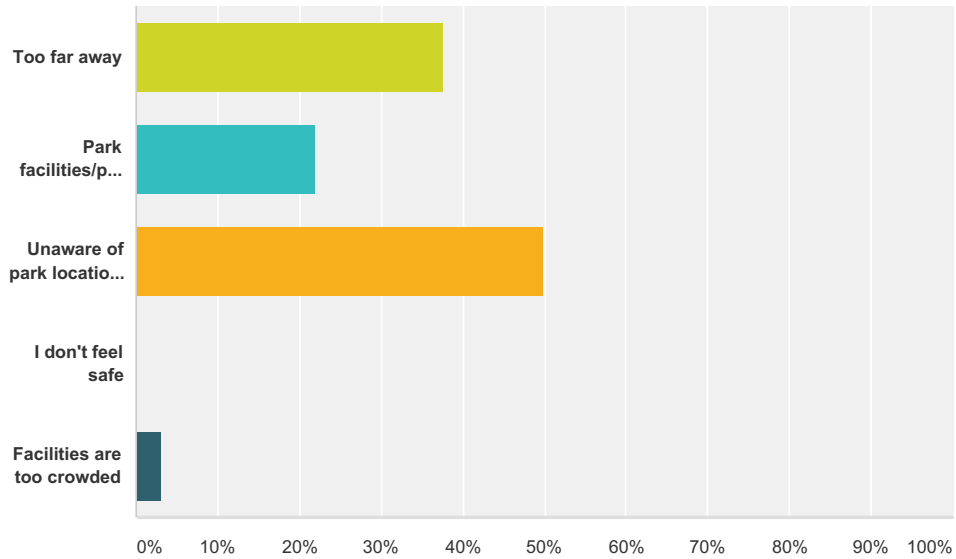
Answered: 206 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Two times a week or more	7.28%	15
2-4 times a month	20.39%	42
Once a month or less	53.88%	111
Not at all	18.45%	38
Weekly	0.00%	0
Daily	0.00%	0
Total		206

Q3 Why haven't you visited Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 175

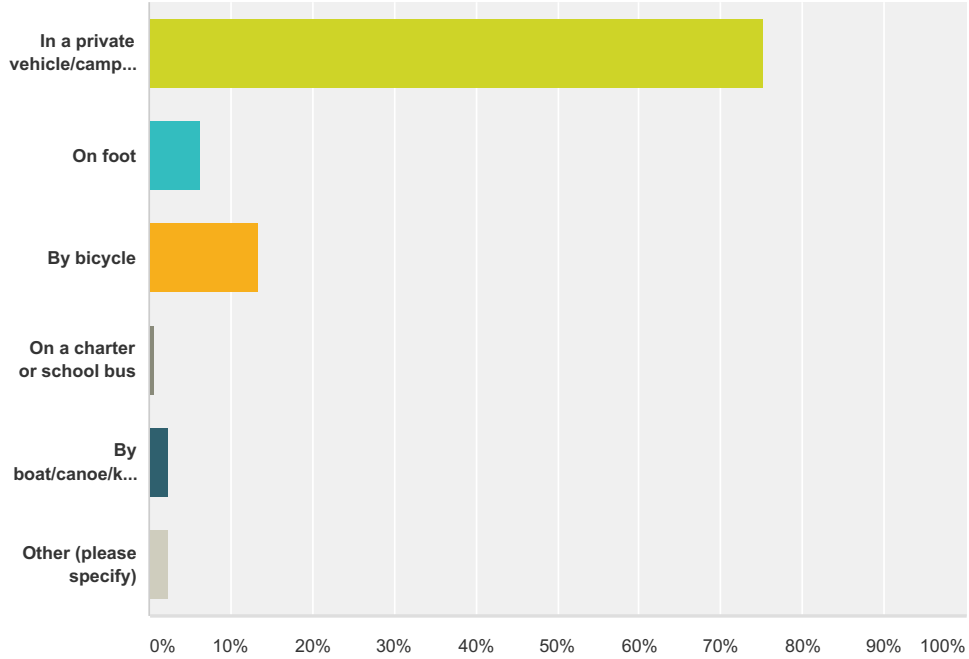


Answer Choices	Responses
Too far away	37.50% 12
Park facilities/programming doesn't interest me	21.88% 7
Unaware of park location and/or facilities/programming	50.00% 16
I don't feel safe	0.00% 0
Facilities are too crowded	3.13% 1
Total Respondents: 32	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Either too crowded or the lake is green	9/28/2016 7:53 PM
2	I bike ride on the Cannon Valley Trail I live in Northfield so would love to bike from Northfield through Byllesby Park	9/26/2016 5:14 PM
3	Waiting for the Mill Towns State Trail to be completed	9/26/2016 2:18 PM
4	Usually explore parks closer to home initially, Lebanon Hills and Whitetail Woods	9/24/2016 2:13 PM
5	Water too high this year	9/24/2016 10:16 AM
6	I bike several times a week on the cannon valley trail. It would be nice to see the other side of the river	9/24/2016 4:24 AM
7	The bike trail does not yet go all the way there	9/23/2016 8:28 PM
8	I would visit it on my bike if the Mill Town's Bike Trail went past it.	9/23/2016 10:55 AM
9	Bike access to park	9/23/2016 10:49 AM
10	Might go to Byllesby if I find out more about it. May be a good park to promote further to County residents.	9/22/2016 9:20 AM
11	I visit sometimes, like once a year or sometimes twice (for camping).	9/22/2016 9:11 AM

Q4 How do you typically travel to Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 34

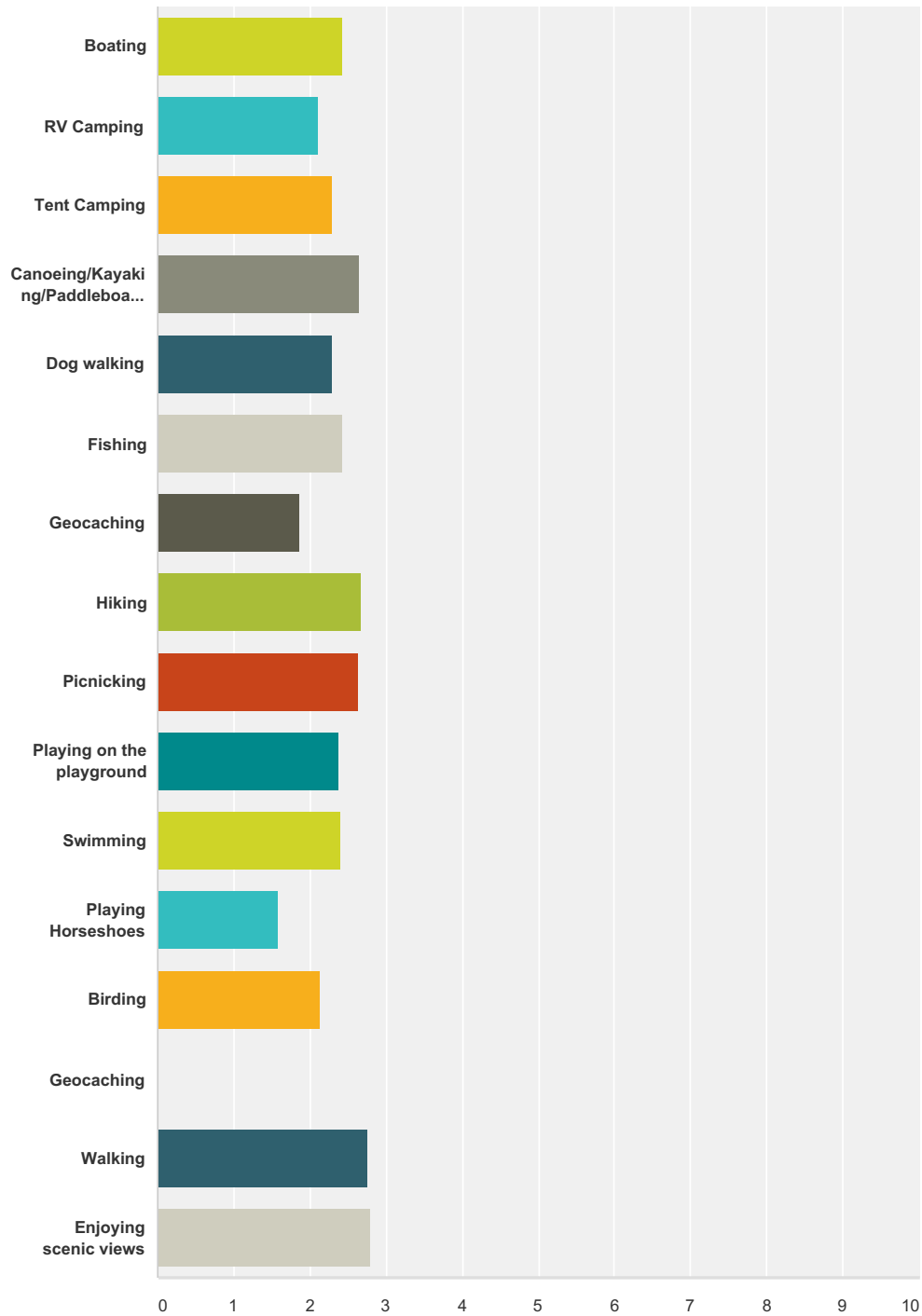


Answer Choices	Responses
In a private vehicle/camper/motorcycle	75.14% 130
On foot	6.36% 11
By bicycle	13.29% 23
On a charter or school bus	0.58% 1
By boat/canoe/kayak	2.31% 4
Other (please specify)	2.31% 4
Total	173

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	By car from Twin Cities, then bike trail	9/23/2016 1:22 PM
2	We live on Lake Byllesby.	9/17/2016 3:38 PM
3	On foot, by bicycle, and by boat/canoe/kayak	9/13/2016 8:07 PM
4	On foot, by bicycle, and by boat/canoe/kayak	9/13/2016 6:30 AM

Q5 How important is it for the parks to have the following summer activities?

Answered: 188 Skipped: 19



	VeryImportant	SomewhatImportant	NotImportant	Total	Weighted Average
--	---------------	-------------------	--------------	-------	------------------

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

Boating	56.32% 98	29.31% 51	14.37% 25	174	2.42
RV Camping	39.31% 68	31.21% 54	29.48% 51	173	2.10
Tent Camping	44.57% 78	40.57% 71	14.86% 26	175	2.30
Canoeing/Kayaking/Paddleboarding	71.51% 128	22.35% 40	6.15% 11	179	2.65
Dog walking	47.06% 80	34.71% 59	18.24% 31	170	2.29
Fishing	53.14% 93	35.43% 62	11.43% 20	175	2.42
Geocaching	23.53% 40	37.65% 64	38.82% 66	170	1.85
Hiking	72.53% 132	22.53% 41	4.95% 9	182	2.68
Picnicking	70.11% 129	23.91% 44	5.98% 11	184	2.64
Playing on the playground	53.45% 93	31.03% 54	15.52% 27	174	2.38
Swimming	51.43% 90	37.71% 66	10.86% 19	175	2.41
Playing Horseshoes	9.47% 16	40.24% 68	50.30% 85	169	1.59
Birding	35.88% 61	41.18% 70	22.94% 39	170	2.13
Geocaching	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0	0.00
Walking	80.11% 149	16.13% 30	3.76% 7	186	2.76
Enjoying scenic views	81.01% 145	17.32% 31	1.68% 3	179	2.79

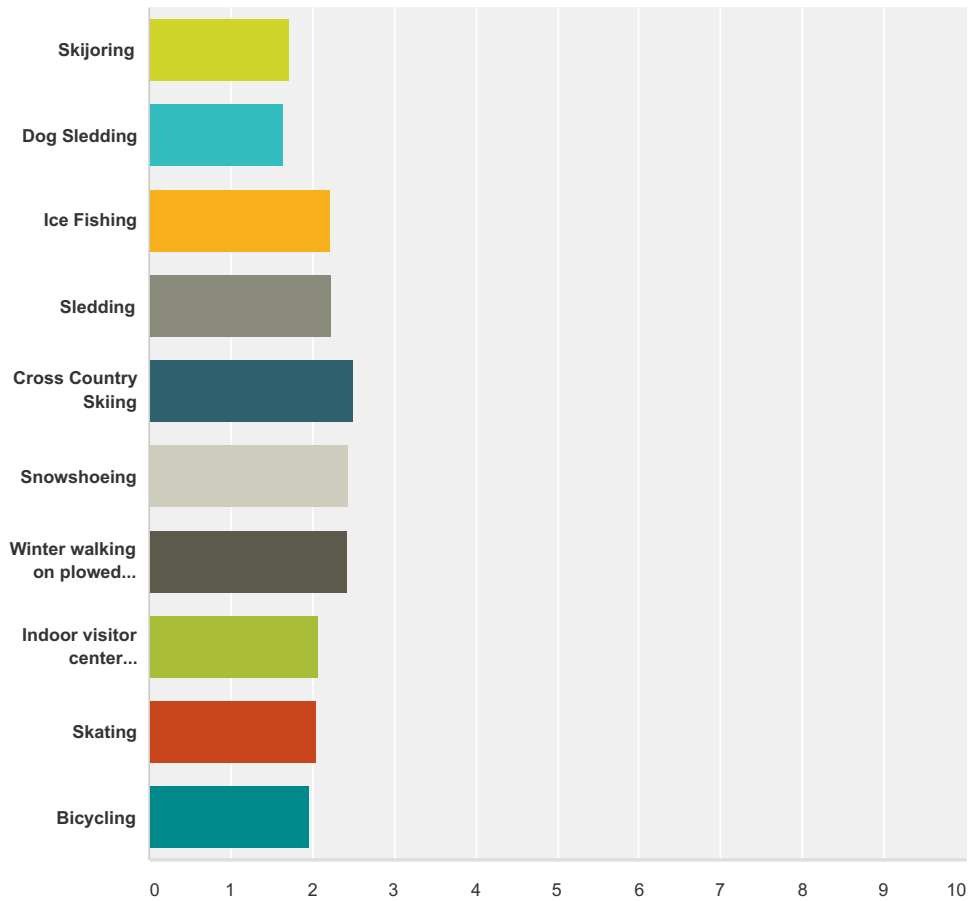
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Biking	10/1/2016 10:36 PM
2	Pickle ball	9/28/2016 7:29 PM
3	I love the walking path!!! However I do work about safety on it walking my children without my husband as it is so very secluded...	9/27/2016 9:20 PM
4	Bicycling start/stop point	9/27/2016 8:27 AM
5	biking	9/26/2016 5:15 PM
6	Biking	9/26/2016 1:13 PM
7	Bicycling	9/26/2016 8:58 AM
8	Bike trail connecting Cannon Valley Trail to Mill Town trail leading to Northfield.	9/25/2016 9:10 PM
9	Biking	9/25/2016 3:46 PM
10	Biking	9/24/2016 12:41 PM
11	Off leash dog areas with access to water	9/24/2016 12:37 PM
12	Biking	9/24/2016 4:26 AM

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

13	Biking, Very important	9/23/2016 8:29 PM
14	Biking	9/23/2016 8:22 PM
15	I am answering this for Byllesby, not for THE parks. This is a confusing ?	9/23/2016 6:31 PM
16	Biking	9/23/2016 5:28 PM
17	Biking - Very Important	9/23/2016 3:59 PM
18	Biking!	9/23/2016 2:14 PM
19	biking	9/23/2016 1:48 PM
20	Bicycling	9/23/2016 12:44 PM
21	Bike trails	9/23/2016 11:12 AM
22	Biking	9/23/2016 11:12 AM
23	Bicycling	9/23/2016 10:56 AM
24	Biking to the park	9/23/2016 10:51 AM
25	Not sure what you consider difference between walking and hiking.	9/22/2016 9:21 AM
26	Biking-very important (road and mountain)	9/22/2016 9:15 AM
27	assume you mean this park-Byllesby	9/21/2016 2:03 PM
28	Bicycling	9/17/2016 3:40 PM
29	croos country skiing, maybe biking	9/16/2016 1:12 PM
30	Dog sled, horse trails	9/10/2016 8:52 PM
31	Planning sewer and water project to serve 500 homes	9/10/2016 1:10 PM
32	Dog sledding, our family Dog sledding, our family has 3 active participants and with MN not including this feature in the state parks unlike states like Michigan, the option to have designated dog sled trails is why this park is so important, it is unihas 3 active participants and with MN not including this feature in the state parks unlike states like Michigan, the option to have designated dog sled trails is why this park is SO important, Plp drive in to use this feature. Please keep it.	9/10/2016 11:09 AM
33	Horse trails	9/10/2016 8:17 AM
34	Enjoying scenic views does that exist in a natural state -- no need for built amenities to enjoy views.	9/3/2016 9:41 AM

Q6 How important is it for the parks to have the following winter activities?

Answered: 183 Skipped: 24



	VeryImportant	SomewhatImportant	NotImportant	Total	Weighted Average
Skijoring	14.04% 24	43.86% 75	42.11% 72	171	1.72
Dog Sledding	14.12% 24	35.29% 60	50.59% 86	170	1.64
Ice Fishing	39.88% 69	41.04% 71	19.08% 33	173	2.21
Sledding	38.60% 66	45.61% 78	15.79% 27	171	2.23
Cross Country Skiing	57.87% 103	34.27% 61	7.87% 14	178	2.50
Snowshoeing	56.65% 98	31.79% 55	11.56% 20	173	2.45
Winter walking on plowed trails	56.25% 99	29.55% 52	14.20% 25	176	2.42

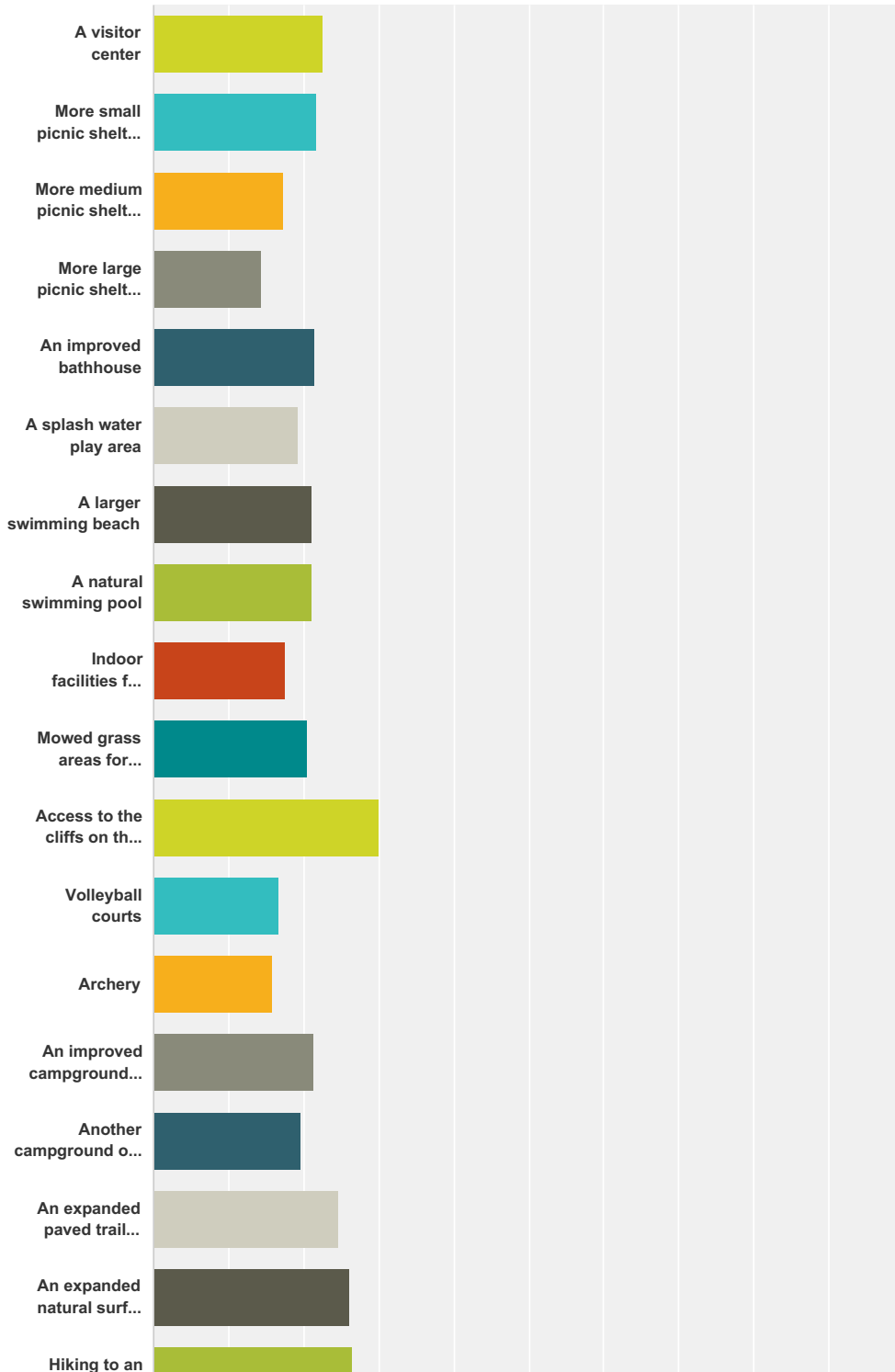
Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

Indoor visitor center activities	32.14% 54	42.26% 71	25.60% 43	168	2.07
Skating	29.24% 50	46.20% 79	24.56% 42	171	2.05
Bicycling	33.33% 58	30.46% 53	36.21% 63	174	1.97

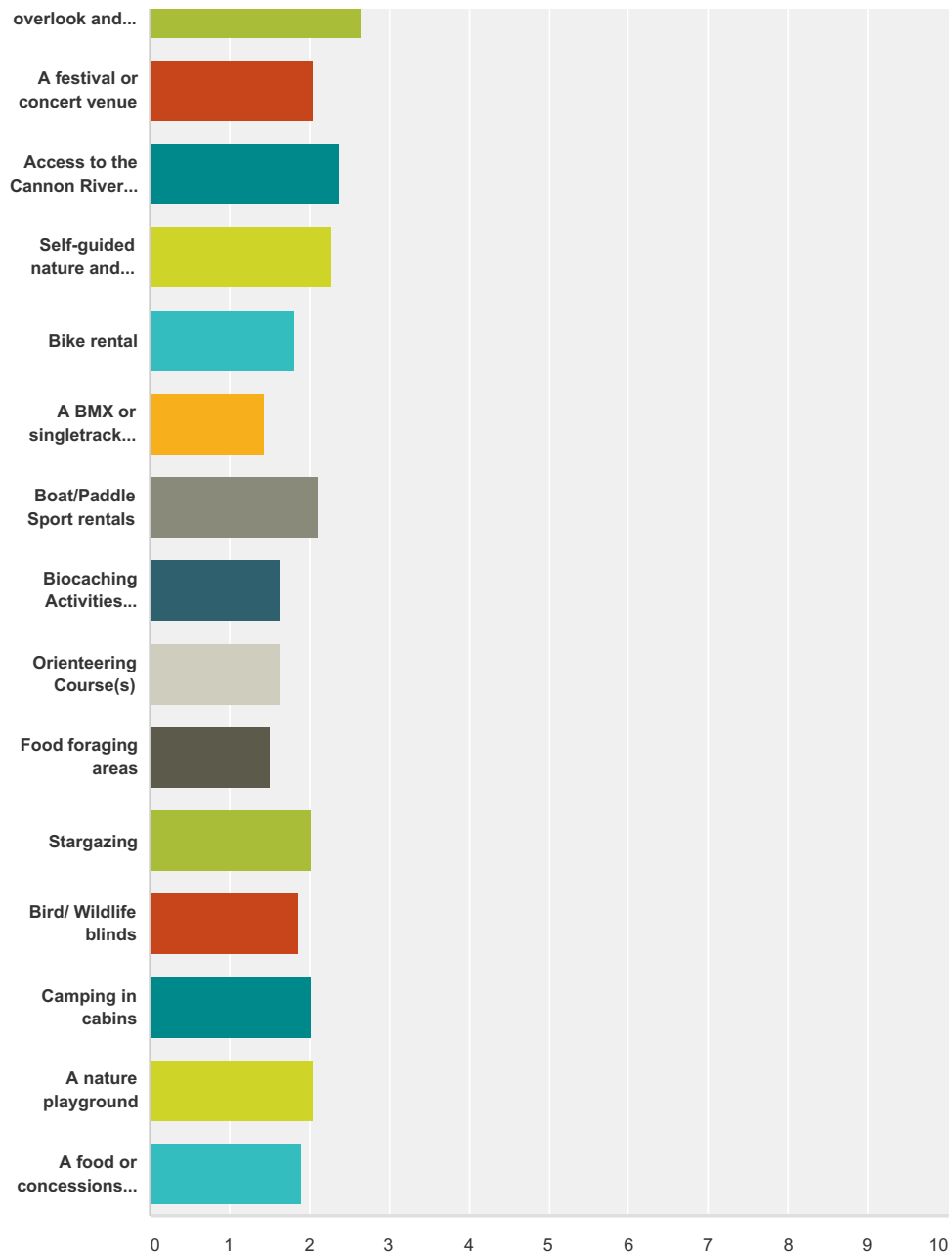
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Snowmobiling!! An access trail from Cannon Falls to the Lake!! Live a 1/4 mile from lake, folks go through my ditch, you can make a safer route for them to use!	9/26/2016 9:36 PM
2	Byllesby winter activities never promoted	9/26/2016 2:15 PM
3	Birding	9/24/2016 10:25 PM
4	Large scale use of paved trails distracts from the wilderness use of parks for hikers and birders.	9/24/2016 12:37 PM
5	Same. Answers are for Byllesby. I thought the whole point of the survey was to answer questions about Byllesby, not THE parks	9/23/2016 6:31 PM
6	Not a winter camper	9/23/2016 9:19 AM
7	Do people even dog sled anymore?	9/22/2016 6:26 PM
8	Many cleared, paved trails already available in our communities. Concerned about adding more of these to County parks. Many of our parks already have very compromised water quality. Adding ice control/i.e. Salt, will further impact. Have noticed significant use of ice for safety near VC at Lebanon. This has to be detrimental for nearby lakes, but is necessary for safety. The more paved trails that are added to parks, the more County will need to rely on chemical ice treatment for safety.	9/22/2016 9:21 AM
9	Mountain biking?	9/22/2016 9:15 AM
10	assume you mean this park-Byllesby	9/21/2016 2:03 PM
11	Given the algae and coeliform bacteria problems, I will wait until there is a sewer in Randolph City and Stanton Township before considering using the park.	9/10/2016 1:10 PM
12	Please see note above, pls keep dog sledding trails	9/10/2016 11:09 AM
13	Geocaching	9/10/2016 10:19 AM
14	Winter geocaching	9/9/2016 5:21 PM

Q7 How likely would you be to use the following facilities if they were available at Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park?

Answered: 177 Skipped: 30



Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire



	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not likely	Total	Weighted Average
A visitor center	40.94% 70	43.27% 74	15.79% 27	171	2.25
More small picnic shelters for 20 people	37.65% 64	41.76% 71	20.59% 35	170	2.17
More medium picnic shelters for 20-50 people	14.97% 25	43.71% 73	41.32% 69	167	1.74
More large picnic shelters for 100+ people	8.59% 14	27.61% 45	63.80% 104	163	1.45
An improved bathhouse	38.41% 63	39.63% 65	21.95% 36	164	2.16

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

A splash water play area	30.72% 51	30.72% 51	38.55% 64	166	1.92
A larger swimming beach	33.73% 56	43.37% 72	22.89% 38	166	2.11
A natural swimming pool	33.73% 56	43.37% 72	22.89% 38	166	2.11
Indoor facilities for family reunions or weddings	16.56% 27	42.33% 69	41.10% 67	163	1.75
Mowed grass areas for informal games	29.52% 49	46.39% 77	24.10% 40	166	2.05
Access to the cliffs on the Goodhue County side of the lake	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1	3.00
Volleyball courts	12.05% 20	41.57% 69	46.39% 77	166	1.66
Archery	12.96% 21	32.10% 52	54.94% 89	162	1.58
An improved campground (more shade, privacy, etc.)	34.55% 57	43.03% 71	22.42% 37	165	2.12
Another campground on the Goodhue County side of the lake	28.66% 47	39.63% 65	31.71% 52	164	1.97
An expanded paved trail network	63.53% 108	20.00% 34	16.47% 28	170	2.47
An expanded natural surface trail network	66.47% 111	26.95% 45	6.59% 11	167	2.60
Hiking to an overlook and along bluffs on the Goodhue County side of the lake	74.14% 129	17.82% 31	8.05% 14	174	2.66
A festival or concert venue	35.54% 59	34.34% 57	30.12% 50	166	2.05
Access to the Cannon River below the dam	49.70% 83	37.72% 63	12.57% 21	167	2.37
Self-guided nature and history programs	40.36% 67	46.99% 78	12.65% 21	166	2.28
Bike rental	24.26% 41	33.73% 57	42.01% 71	169	1.82
A BMX or singletrack course	12.88% 21	17.79% 29	69.33% 113	163	1.44
Boat/Paddle Sport rentals	33.13% 55	43.98% 73	22.89% 38	166	2.10
Biocaching Activities (Learn more about Biocaching here)	14.11% 23	34.36% 56	51.53% 84	163	1.63
Orienteering Course(s)	13.50% 22	34.97% 57	51.53% 84	163	1.62
Food foraging areas	11.18% 18	27.95% 45	60.87% 98	161	1.50
Stargazing	30.30% 50	41.21% 68	28.48% 47	165	2.02
Bird/ Wildlife blinds	19.51% 32	46.95% 77	33.54% 55	164	1.86
Camping in cabins	32.14% 54	37.50% 63	30.36% 51	168	2.02

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

A nature playground	29.70% 49	44.85% 74	25.45% 42	165	2.04
A food or concessions stand	24.24% 40	41.21% 68	34.55% 57	165	1.90

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Sand for Beach area on both sides and Sand for volleyball court	9/28/2016 7:34 PM
2	Paddle boarding or kayake rentals! Family friendly splash pad would be awesome! Walking paved paths for us stroller moms!!	9/27/2016 9:26 PM
3	restaurant on the lake and accessible by boat, biking, and car	9/27/2016 9:59 AM
4	Hiking Trails (not paved) most important being in a county that will continue developing.	9/24/2016 2:16 PM
5	Mountain bike trails a plus, as well as on-groomed ski trails for off lease dog activities in winter	9/24/2016 12:39 PM
6	paved bike trail to connect to Mill Towns Trail	9/23/2016 1:51 PM
7	The biggest reason I would go to Byllesby would be if I knew there were areas of natural restoration, native plants etc. This would improve habitat for wildlife, birds, pollinators etc. No need to build special bird blinds. I believe natural restoration of prairies, woodlands, wetlands and lakes would create much interest in Byllesby, and would improve attendance.	9/22/2016 9:37 AM
8	BMX? Really??!!! No Way!	9/22/2016 9:17 AM
9	while I am not likely to use a large picnic area, it is a big draw in other large regional parks	9/21/2016 2:05 PM
10	Skatepark	9/10/2016 7:27 PM
11	Raising wild rice next to the Boy Scout camp.	9/10/2016 1:11 PM
12	Built amenities and large picnic areas should be part of city parks, which regional parks complement by offering something different -- nature and nature-based recreation.	9/3/2016 9:45 AM

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

Q8 Do you participate in activities at Lake Byllesby with an organized group, club, or association? (i.e. bicycling, canoeing, kayakers, RV campers, skijorers...) If so, please list which group(s).

Answered: 68 Skipped: 139

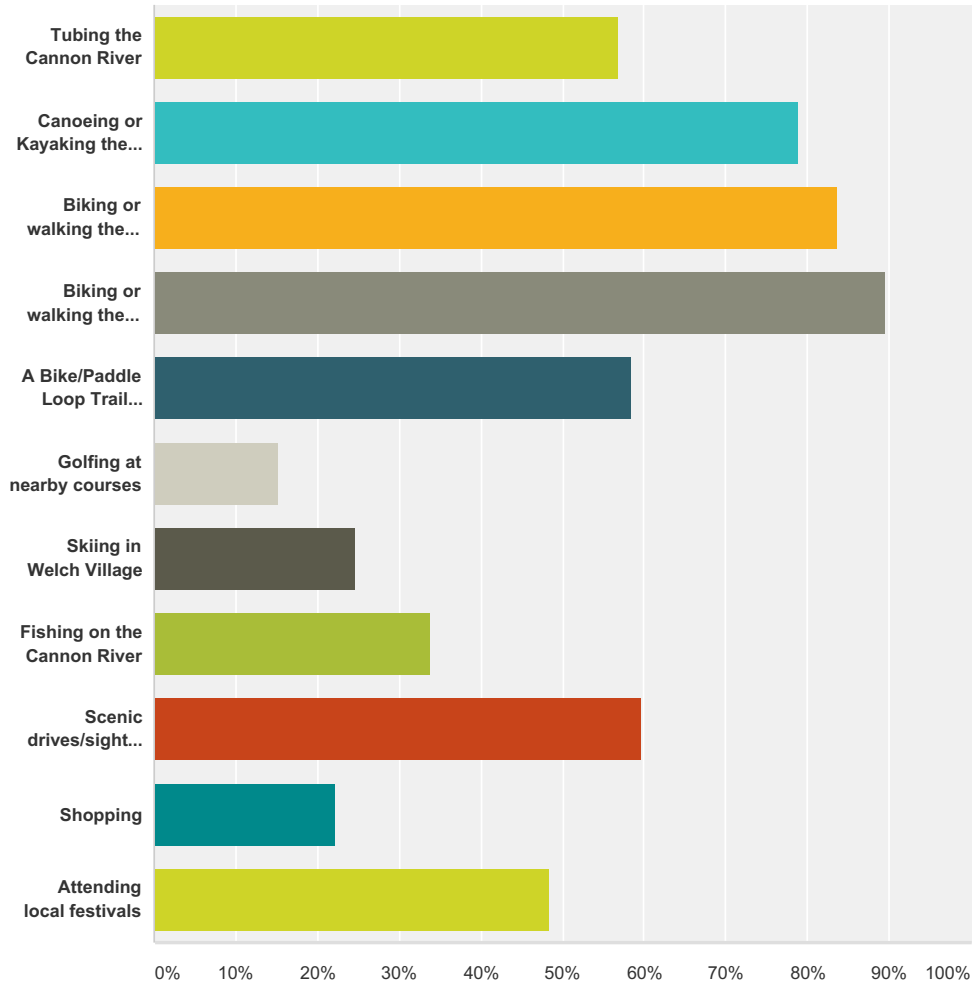
#	Responses	Date
1	Northfield senior bike club, Lakeville senior bike club.	9/29/2016 6:43 PM
2	large shelter activities. Boating	9/28/2016 8:46 PM
3	No, I have my own kayaks and sailboat. I do bike and bring my grandchildren to the play grounds.	9/28/2016 7:36 PM
4	No, but I've starting using the trail (and park) a lot since it opened!! We love it.. We just get nervous for safety the closer I get to 52, when it's just me and my two little kids. Going under 52 worries me that someone will be there and hurt someone.. Cameras or something might be nice there..	9/27/2016 9:30 PM
5	LBIA	9/27/2016 2:15 PM
6	Boating with friends	9/27/2016 10:08 AM
7	Church picnic	9/27/2016 9:17 AM
8	Cannon Valley Velo Club	9/27/2016 8:29 AM
9	lake Byllesby Improvement Assoc. Various scouting groups	9/26/2016 7:11 PM
10	no	9/26/2016 4:25 PM
11	no	9/26/2016 3:21 PM
12	no	9/26/2016 2:18 PM
13	employee picnics/gatherings	9/26/2016 2:16 PM
14	Faribault Flyers Bike & Ski Club, Cannon Valley Velo Club	9/26/2016 9:03 AM
15	Bicycling - CVVC	9/25/2016 9:17 PM
16	Mill Towns Trail bike group	9/25/2016 3:50 PM
17	None	9/25/2016 1:13 PM
18	Birding groups	9/24/2016 10:27 PM
19	Kayaking, TV camping, trail walking	9/24/2016 8:50 PM
20	Nfld peddlers	9/24/2016 2:30 PM
21	No	9/24/2016 2:17 PM
22	No	9/24/2016 12:43 PM
23	Bicycling -- Cannon Valley Velo Club	9/24/2016 12:40 PM
24	Scouts	9/24/2016 10:12 AM
25	No, bur do bicycle with two groups that use the Cannon Trail and would bike to Lake Byllesby.	9/24/2016 8:58 AM
26	bicycling, kayakers	9/24/2016 8:27 AM
27	Northfield peddlers	9/24/2016 4:28 AM
28	Cannon Valley Velo Club, CROCT	9/23/2016 11:23 PM
29	Bicycling. - seniors from Northfield	9/23/2016 8:32 PM
30	Cannon Valley Velo Club	9/23/2016 5:30 PM

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

31	biking group visits, rides	9/23/2016 3:18 PM
32	No	9/23/2016 3:14 PM
33	no	9/23/2016 1:52 PM
34	bicycling	9/23/2016 1:25 PM
35	Girl Scouts	9/23/2016 12:05 PM
36	Biking	9/23/2016 11:23 AM
37	Northfield Pedalers, a biking group	9/23/2016 11:14 AM
38	NO	9/22/2016 10:12 AM
39	Years ago chaperoned scout group at park.	9/22/2016 9:41 AM
40	no--groups of friends through (kayaking and canoeing).	9/22/2016 9:17 AM
41	no	9/21/2016 2:06 PM
42	no	9/20/2016 3:24 PM
43	Skijorers/Dogsledding	9/19/2016 12:14 PM
44	no	9/16/2016 3:06 PM
45	at this time I do not	9/16/2016 1:38 PM
46	no	9/15/2016 1:58 PM
47	bicycling	9/15/2016 8:20 AM
48	dog sledding	9/14/2016 7:23 AM
49	NO. I live on the lake.	9/12/2016 10:21 AM
50	We have done dog sledding with HHH Ranch before down there and really enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun.	9/12/2016 9:08 AM
51	No	9/12/2016 7:05 AM
52	dog sledding	9/11/2016 8:41 PM
53	Minnesota Geocaching Assoc.	9/11/2016 7:57 PM
54	Minnesota Geocaching Society - Geocaching events/gatherings	9/11/2016 7:09 PM
55	I havent as of this time. Would maybe attend geocaching events if held there in the future.	9/11/2016 8:27 AM
56	HHH Ranch	9/10/2016 7:28 PM
57	Yes	9/10/2016 6:15 PM
58	No	9/10/2016 1:13 PM
59	Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and Minnesota Geocaching Society	9/10/2016 10:23 AM
60	Dogsledding on weekends. The best.	9/10/2016 8:52 AM
61	GEOCACHING	9/10/2016 8:26 AM
62	Dog Sledding- personal hobby	9/10/2016 2:58 AM
63	Not at this time	9/10/2016 12:16 AM
64	Minnesota Geocaching Association	9/9/2016 11:05 PM
65	Geocaching	9/9/2016 6:34 PM
66	Minnesota Geocachers Association	9/9/2016 5:23 PM
67	yes-- boy scouts, girl scouts, school groups	9/9/2016 10:19 AM
68	No	9/1/2016 9:12 AM

Q9 The park is envisioned as a recreational node for the region, providing access to a variety of regional activities. Which of the following activities might you participate in during your visit to the parks?

Answered: 171 Skipped: 36



Answer Choices	Responses
Tubing the Cannon River	56.73% 97
Canoeing or Kayaking the Cannon River	78.95% 135
Biking or walking the Mill Towns State Trail	83.63% 143
Biking or walking the Cannon Valley Trail	89.47% 153
A Bike/Paddle Loop Trail Experience	58.48% 100
Golfing at nearby courses	15.20% 26

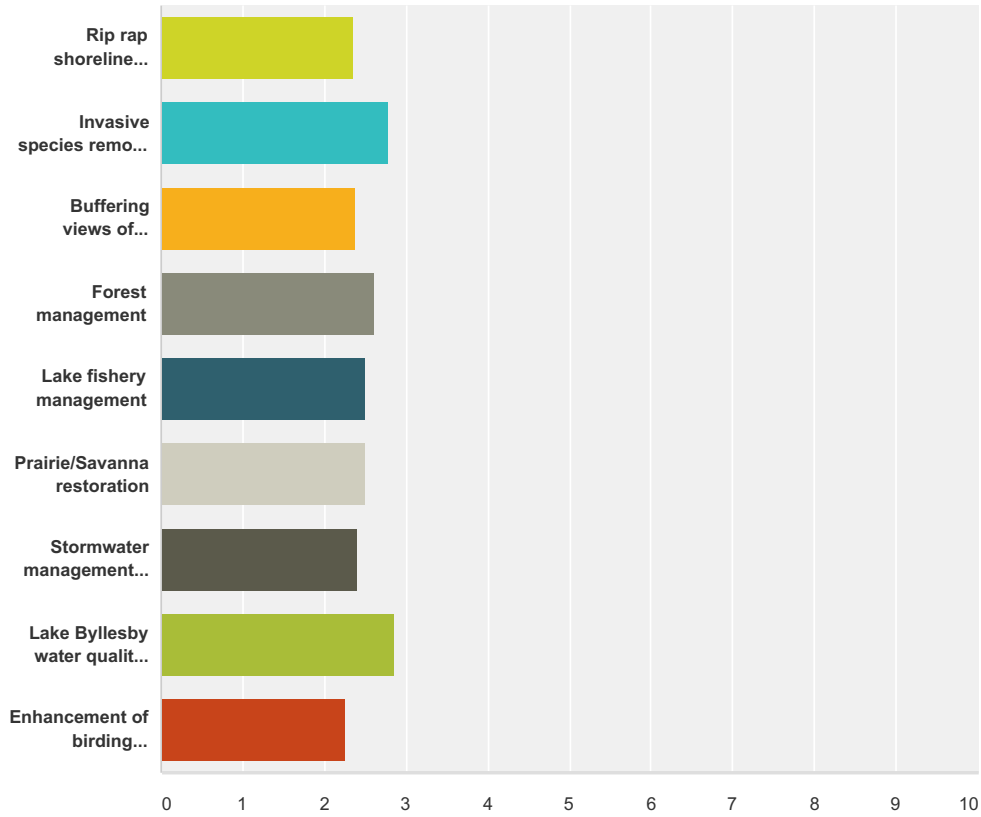
Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

Skiing in Welch Village	24.56%	42
Fishing on the Cannon River	33.92%	58
Scenic drives/sightseeing	59.65%	102
Shopping	22.22%	38
Attending local festivals	48.54%	83
Total Respondents: 171		

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	A restaurant on the lake would be ideal, and accessible by boat, car, and bikes	9/27/2016 10:00 AM
2	Birding, Lake Byllesby west end, especially during March and April.	9/25/2016 3:13 PM
3	Need more miles of off-leash dog trails	9/24/2016 12:40 PM
4	Playing with grandkids on play equipment	9/23/2016 1:25 PM
5	Hiking at Nerstrand or other natural areas in the region. May go mushroom foraging in region.	9/22/2016 9:41 AM
6	Cannon River Winery	9/22/2016 9:00 AM
7	visiting nearby vineyards and restaurants	9/21/2016 2:06 PM
8	Dogsledding	9/10/2016 7:28 PM
9	When there is a \$15 million water/sewer project completed, I will look forward to visiting friends on the lake front in Randolph Township.	9/10/2016 1:13 PM
10	Dogsledding	9/10/2016 12:16 PM
11	Dog sledding	9/10/2016 11:56 AM
12	Geocaching	9/10/2016 10:23 AM
13	dogsledding	9/9/2016 10:19 AM
14	We use the park today as a recreational spot - a place to meet friends for a picnic, take the kids to the park, go canoeing, for winter walks etc. We love and use the park today, and hope the facilities can be even better for those of us who live in the southern half of the county. The fancy stuff is fine and good, but we really would just appreciate expanded, everyday uses that are accessible without need for a lot of special equipment or planning. Playground, picnic shelters, year round grooming of trails, more walking trails, canoes/kayaks for rent - they'd be great. How about a little programming too - a kids or family activity?	9/6/2016 8:24 PM
15	walking on bike trails is not a pleasant experience -- ON YOUR LEFT is not a good nature experience.	9/3/2016 9:47 AM

Q10 How important is it to implement the following natural resource improvements at Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 37



	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Total	Weighted Average
Rip rap shoreline removal and shoreline restoration	45.78% 76	43.98% 73	10.24% 17	166	2.36
Invasive species removal and management	79.04% 132	19.16% 32	1.80% 3	167	2.77
Buffering views of adjacent development	49.70% 82	38.18% 63	12.12% 20	165	2.38
Forest management	64.63% 106	31.10% 51	4.27% 7	164	2.60
Lake fishery management	57.93% 95	34.76% 57	7.32% 12	164	2.51
Prairie/Savanna restoration	56.97% 94	36.36% 60	6.67% 11	165	2.50
Stormwater management features like raingardens	48.75% 78	43.75% 70	7.50% 12	160	2.41

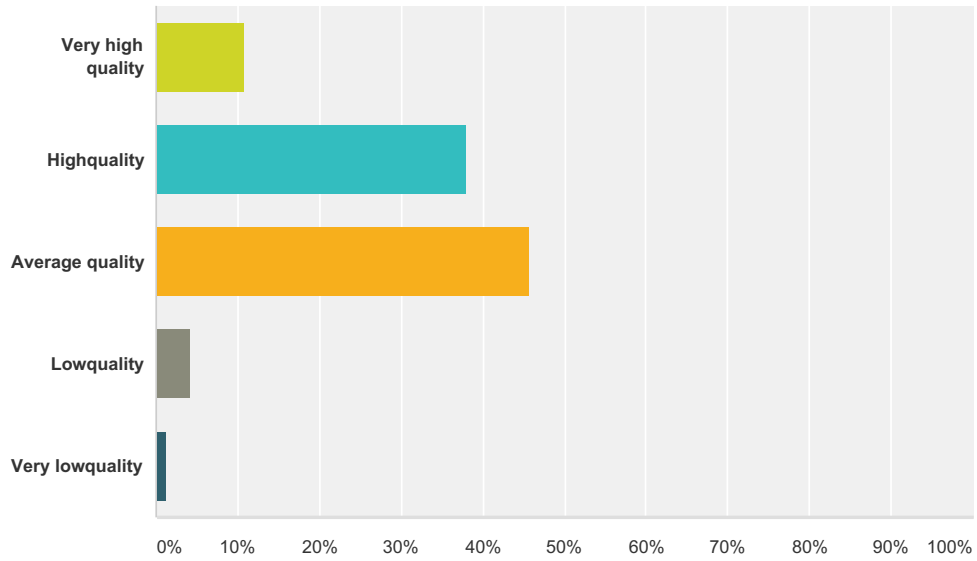
Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

Lake Byllesby water quality improvements	87.57% 148	11.83% 20	0.59% 1	169	2.87
Enhancement of birding opportunities and bird habitat	38.79% 64	48.48% 80	12.73% 21	165	2.26

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	Plant native vegetation as an alternative to expensive rip rap solutions.	9/26/2016 2:21 PM
2	Enhance & maintain Milltown Towns trail	9/26/2016 9:06 AM
3	Natural resources important to highlight with Dakota County continuing to develop. I am a young adult and in the future would want my family to visit an area where natural resource work is present.	9/24/2016 2:18 PM
4	Evasive species control (milfoil/algae) key to enhance recreational use of lake, as well as drastically improving water quality (which may require stricter upstream management of water shed to minimize pollutant and sedimentation runoff into Cannon River). Right now the water shed is very impart greatly diminishing the potential use of the Park and its surroundings.	9/24/2016 12:44 PM
5	WATER QUALITY is #1. This Lake was nice when I was a kid, now it's frighteningly electric green.	9/23/2016 6:34 PM
6	Think this is the first area that should be focused on at Lake Byllesby! The natural resources in all of our County Parks need to be addressed thoroughly, and in a sustainable way before adding new infrastructure. Feel that natural resources have been far too low a priority in Dakota County for a long, long time. Very glad to hear a natural resource management plan is being developed. The leadership in the County needs to fully commit to funding this plan in a sustainable, ongoing way. We owe it to following generations to get going on this now. We need to be good stewards and restore that which we have allowed to degrade.	9/22/2016 9:50 AM
7	Birding area should be protected.	9/22/2016 9:18 AM
8	Do something to prevent ugly algae build up!	9/14/2016 12:51 PM
9	Lake Bottom Restoration	9/13/2016 8:13 PM
10	improving water quality is VERY important to me. Also invasive species removal & management	9/12/2016 10:23 AM
11	Dredge the delta, restor proper channels for Cannon River and Chubb Creek, enhance wildlife and fisheries and canoeing in the delta and further west, just south of Randolph City and Township west of MN 56.	9/10/2016 1:15 PM

Q11 How would you rate the parks' scenic quality as part of experiencing nature?

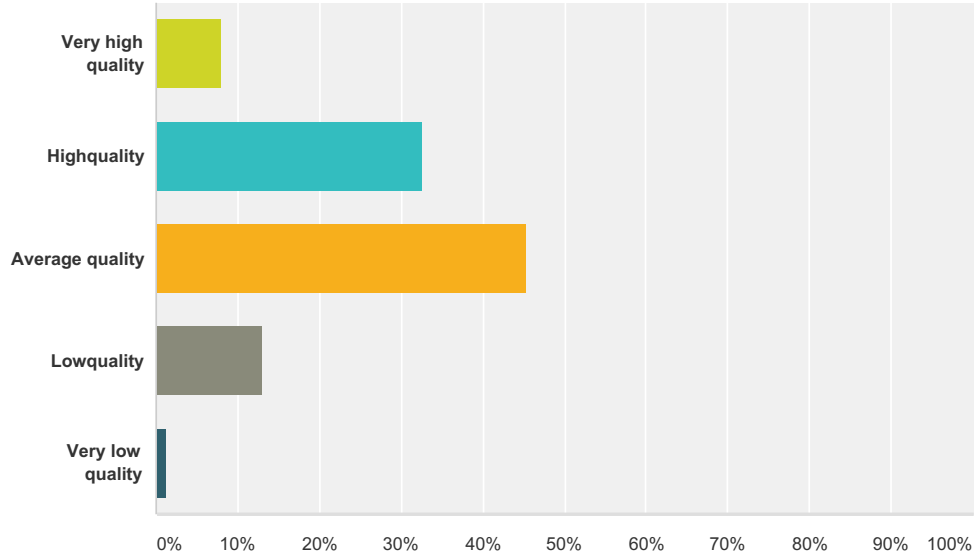
Answered: 166 Skipped: 41



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very high quality	10.84%	18
High quality	37.95%	63
Average quality	45.78%	76
Low quality	4.22%	7
Very low quality	1.20%	2
Total		166

Q12 How would you rate the parks'river, stream, lake, and wetlandquality as part of experiencing nature?

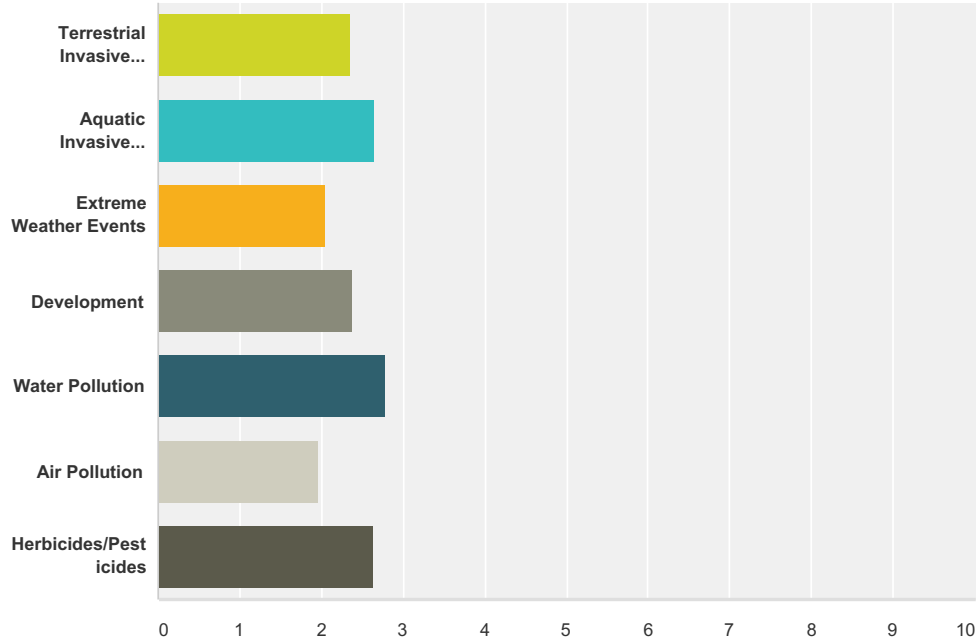
Answered: 163 Skipped: 44



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Very high quality	7.98%	13
Highquality	32.52%	53
Average quality	45.40%	74
Lowquality	12.88%	21
Very low quality	1.23%	2
Total		163

Q13 What do you see as the biggest threats to natural resource quality and experience around Lake Byllesby?

Answered: 162 Skipped: 45



	MajorThreat	Minor Threat	Not a Threat	Total	Weighted Average
Terrestrial Invasive Species	40.79% 62	53.95% 82	5.26% 8	152	2.36
Aquatic Invasive Species	66.88% 103	32.47% 50	0.65% 1	154	2.66
Extreme Weather Events	20.95% 31	63.51% 94	15.54% 23	148	2.05
Development	44.59% 70	48.41% 76	7.01% 11	157	2.38
Water Pollution	78.48% 124	19.62% 31	1.90% 3	158	2.77
Air Pollution	18.00% 27	61.33% 92	20.67% 31	150	1.97
Herbicides/Pesticides	65.41% 104	32.70% 52	1.89% 3	159	2.64

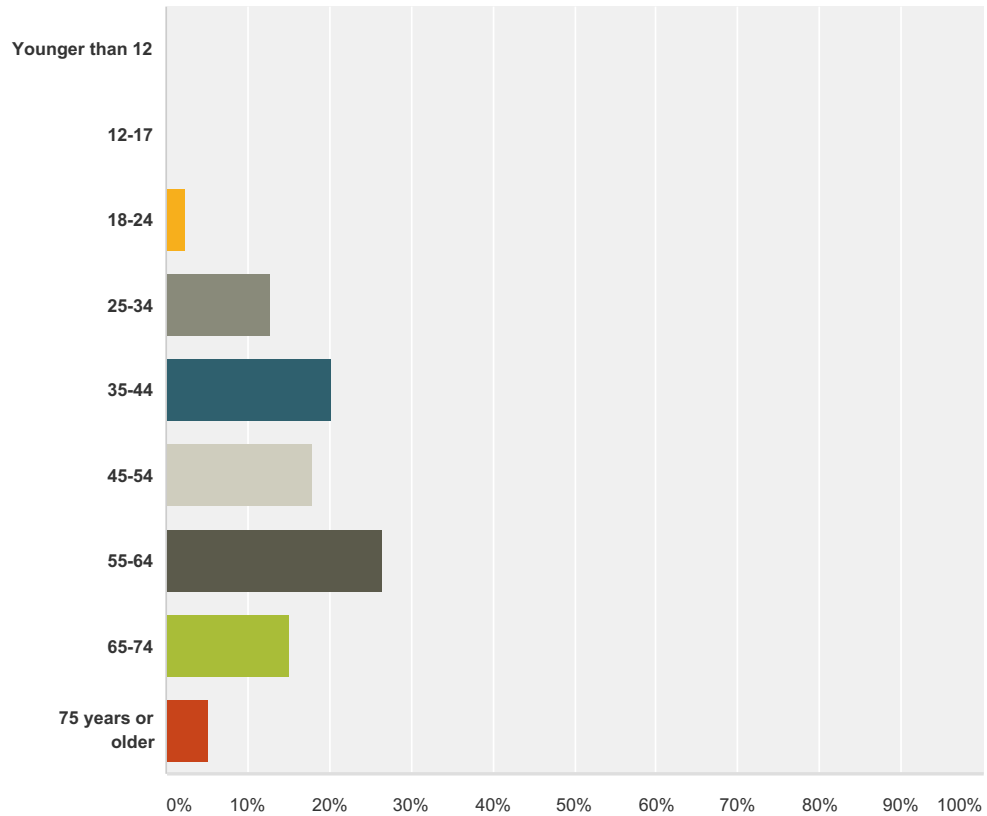
#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	siltation throughout the lake	9/26/2016 7:13 PM
2	Nothing on Farm run off and Algae?	9/26/2016 11:46 AM
3	Trash along the lake shore and in the shallows.	9/25/2016 3:15 PM
4	All major	9/24/2016 2:42 PM

Lake Byllesby Regional Park/Byllesby County Park Community Input Questionnaire

5	Dam failure and lack of adequate spill ways for fish migration.	9/24/2016 12:45 PM
6	Very concerned about degraded conditions in all of our County Parks including Lake Byllesby.	9/22/2016 9:52 AM
7	threats to pollinators	9/21/2016 2:08 PM
8	don't know	9/16/2016 3:58 PM
9	Farm land run off and silt fill in the lake bottom (Major Threat)	9/13/2016 8:15 PM
10	There are over 50 FAILED septics in Randolph City and probably 45 failed or failing septics in Stanton Township.	9/10/2016 1:17 PM
11	lack of dedicated funding to NR management is a threat to natural resource quality.	9/3/2016 9:49 AM

Q14 What is your age?

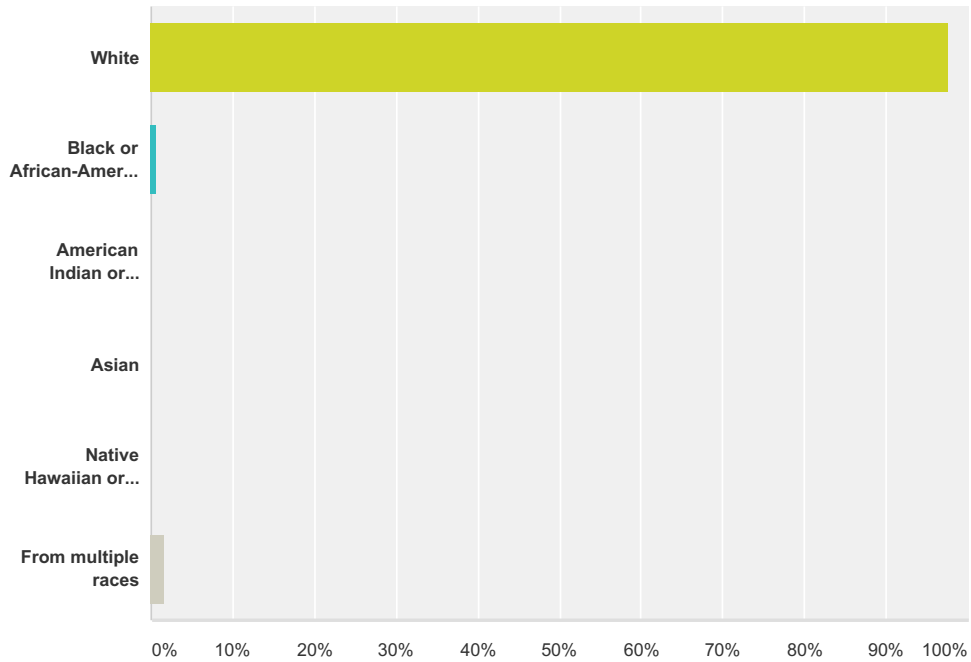
Answered: 173 Skipped: 34



Answer Choices	Responses	
Younger than 12	0.00%	0
12-17	0.00%	0
18-24	2.31%	4
25-34	12.72%	22
35-44	20.23%	35
45-54	17.92%	31
55-64	26.59%	46
65-74	15.03%	26
75 years or older	5.20%	9
Total		173

Q15 What is your race?

Answered: 170 Skipped: 37

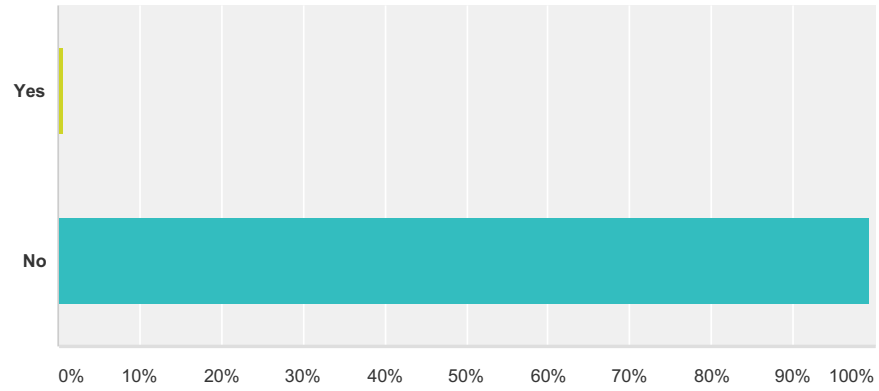


Answer Choices	Responses
White	97.65% 166
Black or African-American	0.59% 1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.00% 0
Asian	0.00% 0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00% 0
From multiple races	1.76% 3
Total	170

#	Another race (please specify)	Date
1	Absurd quest from a government agencies. Citizens and visitors should enjoy the park irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, handicaps, etc	9/10/2016 1:20 PM

Q16 Are you Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Cuban-American, or some other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino group?

Answered: 166 Skipped: 41



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	0.60% 1
No	99.40% 165
Total	166

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Park Neighbors

Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Dakota County Lake Byllesby Park Neighbors Meeting

August 30, 2016 6:00-7:00 PM

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Picnic Shelter

Summary

Residents and property owners directly adjacent to Dakota County's Lake Byllesby Regional Park were invited to information meeting regarding the master plan. Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks Director and Lil Leatham, Dakota County Planner introduced the project purpose and process. The overview was followed by informal discussion among the approximately 25 neighbors attending the meeting.

- Several expressed the desire to keep the nature based themes in the park and to not make the park too commercial.
- Several expressed that watershed level initiatives have resulted in improved water quality.
- The idea of creating a natural reef to improve water quality was suggested.
- The dam improvement project has resulted in more stable water levels, which most homeowners prefer.
- The accumulation of silt continues to be an issue and is making access to some docks on the west side of the lake difficult/impossible. This will impact boating recreation on the lake.
- There was concern from some about the number of boats on the lake at any given time and discussion about the relationship between available public parking spaces and number of boats on the lake at any given time.
- There was a lot of discussion among those living on Echo Point about the parking lot near the point recommended in the 2005 plan. Concerns focused on increased traffic on the park roads, and potential conflicts with adjacent homeowners due to the potential for increased public use of the point. Participants suggested providing for parking elsewhere in the park.
- A suggestion was made to allow for later campground check out times on Sundays.
- Programs during the week, such as naturalist programs, may draw visitors.
- Lilac landing was identified as important for winter lake access.
- Several expressed the desire for screening between recreation uses and trails and adjacent private properties.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Dakota County Township Officers

Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Dakota County Township Officers Meeting

September 29, 2016

Summary

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks Director presented an update on the Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan and received the following comments:

- Several expressed the need for additional camping at Lake Byllesby Regional Park (LBRP). The public demand for weekends and holidays exceeds available campsites. Recommendation to add camping capacity at park to increase availability and serve more residents.
- Several expressed the need to both increase and diversify camping opportunities through adding camper cabins. There is a need to include camper cabins in LBRP. There are only three camper cabins in the entire Dakota County park system and current demand requires up to a one-year wait. Beyond meeting public demand, camper cabins offer year-round use.
- Camping is an affordable recreational opportunity that accommodates most people. Provide opportunities for camping alternatives, e.g. tenting, RV, camper cabins.
- With the connection to Mill Towns State Trail, coordinate year-round recreational opportunities, e.g. cross country skiing, biking, walking
- Include cross country skiing in the park.
- Provide increased access to the lake and river, e.g. canoe portage/access, docks
- LBRP provides close to home, unique and affordable recreational opportunities. The LBRP master plan should focus on desirable recreational opportunities to cater to this regional service area population.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Agency Water

Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Agency Water Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Cannon Falls City Hall

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

11:00am-12:00pm

Attendees

Ryan Malterud, Army Corps of Engineers

Beau Kennedy, Goodhue Co Soil and Water Conservation District

Brian Watson, Dakota Co Soil and Water Conservation District

Josh Peterson, Dakota County

Lil Leatham, Dakota County

Joe Walton, Dakota County

Greg Isakson, Goodhue County

Kevin Biehn, EOR

Gabrielle Grinde, HKGi

Discussion

What land use and watershed context issues affect the park?

- The lake impacts the parks more than the parks impact the lake.
- The agricultural land use is the biggest impact on the lake- makes it hypereutrophic. The lake acts as a sediment reset system for the river downstream of the dam.
- A One Watershed One Plan is being undertaken (but has not yet started) which will address larger watershed issues in the Cannon River Watershed. The 13 local units of governments (LGUs) are statutorily responsible for local water planning within the Cannon River Watershed received the recent State grant award for developing a new watershed plan. When the project begins, the 13 LGUs will discuss a stakeholder process and a schedule to gather input as the new watershed plan develops. Stakeholders may include:
 - Other local units of government not statutorily charged with local water planning under State statute such as Dakota County (Metro County), cities and townships.
 - Non-profit organizations including Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, etc.
 - Lake associations and citizens
 - State agencies such as DNR, BWSR, MPCA, MDA, etc.
 - Federal agencies such as Corp of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.
- Lake Byllesby is a reservoir, which is different than a lake. The dam slows water and sediment is deposited in the lake. A natural lake typically has 7 acres of wetland per acre of water. There needs to be public education on the role of a reservoir and the eutrophic nature of the lake in order to set realistic expectations for sedimentation and water quality.
- Suspended solid data from MPCA provide clues as to the rate of sedimentation.
- There have been requests from LBIA to dredge the lake.

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has lake specific standards for Byllesby. Chlorophyll amounts near the east end of the lake are higher than on the west end.
- Over the past 20 years, no statistical change has been seen.
- High nutrients in the lake create big fish, including Walleye. There are carp in the lake as well.
- Army Corps approves dredging activities all the time throughout the county.
- Lake Zumbro is a place where dredging will occur. It is \$6-7million project-homeowners are getting charged about \$6,000 per property.

Improvements to the parks?

- Aquatic Invasive Species study was done last year by the DNR by Kevin Stauffer. Zebra mussels were not found. There is a state protected mussel in the lake.
- Interpretative signs/kiosks could inform the public about the role of the reservoir, where the water in the lake comes from, lake species, natural sedimentation, etc.
- The number of boat slips should be analyzed per DNR recommendations.

Rip rap as a FERC requirement? Could this be eliminated?

- Rip rap north of the beach, near the new gates is a FERC requirement and needs to stay as it serves as a dyke. Rip rap on the east side of the lake could be removed. The dam is not affected by the eastern rip rap.
- Dakota County SWCD has tried various shoreline bioengineering methods that have failed on the lake. The land is relatively flat, so there aren't steep slope issues.

Could there be a longer draw down to impact the migratory birds?

- The draw down was implemented 30 years ago by the DNR because farmers could not plant in the spring due to wet fields. The draw down has affected ground water. The lake is drawn down 3 ft in October 1 – Nov. 30. It stays drawn down until May 15. After that, what the river does upstream is directly related to the downstream flow. The goal is to keep the lake level constant. The FERC license outlines the draw down agreement. Changing this plan is problematic.
- While the lake could be drawn down longer to improve habitat quality for migratory birds, the lake homeowners have been vocal about restoring lake levels by Memorial Day.
- The reservoir is a hydroplant and the goal is for the plant to generate enough revenue to pay for dam improvements over the next 30-40 years.

What is your agency's role in regulating the Lake?

- Goodhue SWCD oversees regulatory approvals
- Dakota SWCD oversees shoreline improvements, which could be affected by safety and FERC approval

Could bridge abutments be removed along the Cannon River on the west side of Lake Byllesby Regional Park?

- Army Corps would review an application to see how the removal would affect the downstream resources.

Are dam tours a possibility?

- Yes, the idea could be explored when the current dam generator upgrade is complete – timeline is unknown. The County is pursuing State bonding to fund the project. It may be complete by 2020.

Chub Creek realignment

- MNDOT straightened Chub Creek adjacent to Hwy 56 when the highway was built.
- 10 years ago the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization conducted a feasibility study to see if Chub Creek could be realigned. That plan determined the realignment was unfeasible. Old Chub Creek pipe under Hwy 56 is still there but blocked. This could be cleaned out for water and habitat.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Campground Hosts

Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Campground Hosts Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Monday September 19, 2016, 10:30—11:30 pm

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Campground Office

Attendees

Janna Bodette, Lake Byllesby Regional Park Campground Host

Peter Bodette, Lake Byllesby Regional Park Campground Host

Los Dalaska, Lake Byllesby Regional Park Campground Host

Diane Tuttle, Lake Byllesby Regional Park Campground Host

Doug Gross, Dakota County

Lil Leatham, Dakota County

Jennifer Ziemer, Goodhue County

Rita Trapp, HKGi

Discussion

What is the most attractive feature of Lake Byllesby for campground users?

- The lake view campsites are the most popular.
- The new Mill Towns Trail is a huge asset to the campground. Biking 3 miles to Cannon Falls will be a very popular activity next year.
 - Include wayfinding/ distances to nearby attractions (3 miles to winery, etc.)

Are there campground or park facilities or services that are missing that would help make Lake Byllesby a more attractive place to camp?

Campground

- Study and address the one-way road system – it is confusing for visitors
- The dump station is a dead end which is difficult to get out of. A system where the dump station is located near the park exit and you can pull the RV through instead of backing up/turning around would be best. Many State Parks are designed this way.
 - Relocate and link to road.
 - Hook up to drain field
- Pull through campsites.
 - Can charge more for these
- Concrete parking pads.
- A youth group camping site
- A communal fire pit/ gathering space
- Tent camping should be improved. People like to drive up to their tent camping space and a little more privacy/screening. Tent camping could also be expanded, there may be more demand now that the Mill Towns trail connects to the park.
 - More lakeside campsites
 - Can you tie into existing trail system?
 - Cart-in may be okay
 - Would sacrifice direct lake view for privacy (think more like a state park)
 - Some trees have died at existing tent camp sites because people want to drive right up

- Electric at tent sites would be helpful for filling up air mattresses, etc.
- Other camping options: camper cabins, bunk house.
- Washroom and clothes lines.
- Dish washing area
- More permanent restrooms. Portable toilets are not desirable, particularly in the middle of the night.
- Full hook ups (with sewer) would be great for people who want to stay for the whole week.
- Nice shower facilities. This is particularly important if we expect people to camp and also go to events in Cannon Falls, such as the wine tasting.
 - Open shower facilities for bikers along the trail
- Handicapped accessible camping spaces.
- Charging station with outlets
 - Could this be solar?
- Wi-Fi
- Storm shelter for campers.

Park improvements that would benefit campers

- Fishing pier.
- Fish cleaning station.
- Bike racks and dog-tie up areas (especially near restrooms/info center)
- Bike rental.
- Canoe/kayak rental
 - May not be enough demand to have a manned rental, but maybe a station
- Private tubing rental vendor is allowed
- Need access to river for tubes, canoes/kayaks with a well-signed portage route
- Need canoe/kayak tie-up or storage racks for overnight campers (currently allowed at little beach)
- Basketball hoop near the playground.
- Ice cream/pop (these are now available at the campground office).
 - Concessions would definitely get more use if along bike trail
- Off-leash dog area (many people bring their dogs camping)
- Perhaps a Cannon Valley Trail pay station in the park.
 - Or as an option with campsite rental?
- Pier/docks for boats either for day use or that can be rented for the week.
- Finer sand for the beach.
- Desired arrangement with golf course to leave carts here overnight and have pick up periodically
- Mini golf would be fun
- Playground is in tent camping area- distracting. Not a good location
- Improvements to West Byllesby: access for birders, access to the cascades area.

What concerns do you have about future recreation facilities at the Lake Byllesby parks?

Lake Sedimentation

- The park is dependent on the Lake Byllesby's recreation. The park character and recreation are dependent on the lake.
- Lake Byllesby is filling in to the point where navigation is difficult.
- People are waterskiing in 24" water, which is unsafe.

Water quality

- The water quality of the lake has improved over the last 10 years.

Number of boats on the lake

- Boat trailer parking in the Goodhue County side should be better delineated and the overall number of parking spaces should be limited so that there are not too many boats on the lake. The number of boats on the lake is starting to be unsafe.

Cliffs on Goodhue County side of the lake

- The trail on the Goodhue County side of the lake provides access to the Cliffs on the Boy Scouts property. Jumping has increased and fortunately there have been no deaths.

What guidance or decisions do you hope this master planning process will accomplish to help maintain and improve the Lake Byllesby Parks as a resource to the area?

- Though sedimentation and water quality are watershed scale issues, the LBIA would like these issues addressed to the extent possible in the Master Plans.

If you use the parks today, what do you think needs to be done to improve it? If you don't use the parks, why don't you use it? What would attract you to come to the parks?

- Camping in the Dakota County Park a great asset. There was consensus that there is demand for additional camping. Some felt it would be nice to expand camping to the Goodhue County Park. Others pointed out that camping expansion in the Goodhue County park would be impacted by noise from the rumble strips on the road and would have visual impact to the nearby homes.
- The Goodhue County Park has easier highway access than the Dakota County Park. It would make a great trailhead.
- The Mill Towns Trail will attract new park users. Trailhead facilities should include parking and bike/rollerblade rentals.
- Improvements for boating could include:
 - Washout stations
 - Dock improvements
 - A small pier for residents and visitors that includes a gas station/bait shop/ice cream shop.
 - Pier with boat slips that could be rented for the season.
 - Some felt that the Goodhue County park could be the main boat access because it is easier to get to from Highway 52 than the Dakota County park. Others felt the Goodhue boat launch should be smaller and the main launch on the Dakota County Side.
- Fire-pits are really nice elements. This is nicely done in Como Park. Como Park also has a hidden dutch oven, which is a simple, fun activity.
- Concessions.
- More hiking.
- Camper cabins.

- More picnic tables.
- Suggestions for the Gaudy property included:
 - Camping
 - Sports fields
 - Prairie
 - Skiing
 - Snowshoeing
 - Archery course similar to the one in Spring Lake Park
 - Any recreational use on the Gaudy property should include screening to/from the neighbors.

What is your favorite part of Lake Byllesby and the surrounding park land?

- The west side of the lake is an Important Birding Area (IBA). It is important to preserve the marshes for the birds.
- It would be exciting for the Boy scouts to use the lake/have better lake access through the park.
- The Goodhue County picnic pavilions are used extensively.
- Bluebird watching/nesting on Echo Point.
- Lake Byllesby feels like being in Northern, MN with the cliffs and the white pines. It is a spectacular landscape. An observation deck on the cliffs would negatively impact this feel/look.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

DNR

Dakota County & Goodhue County
Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

DNR Stakeholder Meeting Summary

September 19th, 2016
Cannon Falls City Hall
2:00-3:00 pm

Attendees:

Jennie Skancke, DNR Area Hydrologist

Joel Wagar, MnDNR Parks and Trails,

Kevin Stauffer, MnDNR Fisheries

Scott Haugen, MnDNR Parks and Trails

Scott Roepke, Cannon Valley Trail

Greg Isakson, Goodhue County

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County

Lil Leatham, Dakota County

Jason Naber, EOR

Sarah Evenson, HKGi

Meeting Overview

Jason Naber reviewed the project process so far- site visits, data collection and review, and mapping.

Lil Leatham gave overview on coordinated processes between Dakota and Goodhue Counties with Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan and Byllesby Regional Park (and also Cannon Valley Trail). The goal is to unify visions and objectives for the parks and implementation and keep ecological health at the core of the projects.

Discussion

What do you think is the #1 natural resource issue facing Lake Byllesby and the Cannon River today?

- Water quality- phosphorous loading. In-basin approach will not work, this issue must be addressed throughout the watershed.
 - Most pronounced during summers with low rain.
 - Affects the recreational experience.
 - The new DNR Buffers law could positively impact water quality. Dakota County has already buffered creeks, but Goodhue may have some improvements. Straight River/Steel County systems don't have natural settling out of nutrients, so they could potentially be targeted for improvements.

- One Watershed One Plan Cannon River was selected by BWSR. 13 agencies collaborating on the watershed. Implementation Plan that tackles responsibilities and funding to achieve the watershed improvements. This is where improvements should be addressed.
- Common message across all three plans should be about the need to address impairments to the Cannon River and Lake Byllesby at the watershed level to maintain recreational value.
- The lake and river create a very altered system and the DNR is interested in maintaining quality fish habitat.
- Some areas of the Cannon River, below the dam, have experienced erosion, particularly during times of extreme flows. This is difficult for downstream fish and fish habitat, though it does keep lake levels constant. At times during the dam project construction, the flow downstream sometimes doubled in just a few hours.
- There is a dam management/operations plan that the DNR has approved.
 - There is a long history of coordination/compromise and permits balancing natural resource desires with needs of the dam, but during gate construction some of that became less balanced. Dam operations plan reflects the mutual compromises moving forward.
 - Anytime a reservoir is involved, the interests of residents around the reservoir versus downstream interests may conflict.
 - Moving forward, efforts to dial in the gates in a way that mediates the hydrograph flow should be made.
 - Bounce of river effects spawning habitat in the spring and erosion/moisture regime along banks of river.
- A lake/river issue is planning for climate change. There will be larger, more intense rain events and we should be thinking about they will impact natural resources.
- Over time, the Important Birding Area has become more of a part of the Natural Resources discussion.
- When the reservoir is high, area farmers have drainage issues (groundwater). The current practice of keeping the water level low until May is a bit out of sorts with natural processes, where spring is typically a high water period.

What are future proposed or planned natural resource and trail improvements that could impact Lake Byllesby and the surrounding park land?

- Many native mussel species found during last drawdown.
 - Takings Permit would prohibit dredging possibilities.
 - Dakota county has this survey Mike Davis is a mussel specialist. Could promote propagation of mussel habitat within Lake Byllesby and also teach people about their benefits (water clarity, etc.).
 - Major fish kills have happened in the past (1980s).
 - Usually not major stratification in LB, but in low flow years, it's possible.
 - When you release a lot of flow from the bottom and it's highly anoxic, the river below can see major effects.
 - Flush slough skates at certain cfs.

As a biotic barrier, what are your opinions on the dam?

- The dam is helpful in regard to Asian Carp. There would be major upstream impacts if the Cannon River had Asian Carp.
- Logistically, attempting fish passage would be extremely expensive.

Anything we could do in the lake to improve shore fishing?

- Always been a lot of interest in rock piles for access.
- Bunkers have not been effective for attracting fish.
- Fish Attracting Devices (FADs) can concentrate fish in an area where they are more easily caught, but it doesn't affect numbers of fish in the lake- just concentrates them, makes them more predictable. Permits required for FADs.

In what ways could the shoreline of Lake Byllesby be reshaped to provide a more natural shoreline in areas of rip rap and revetment?

- A more vegetated shoreline would help promote crappies and other clear water, vegetation preferring species- trouble establishing emergent vegetation with downriver bounce.

Is there ecological value in reconnecting Chub Creek crossing of road in western LBRP?

- Delta formation would have impacts in new areas along the shoreline if it was reconnected but there is probably a ecological benefit.

There are 4 road/rail crossings in the floodplain- create spits or peninsulas that constrain the floodplain's normal function. Should these be retained for access, or removed to see if functions better?

- Leave access near old Cascades mill (not as constraining as some of the road crossings).
- Geomorphology of river has already adapted to those structures, so leaving them in place is probably the most sensible.

What are current thoughts regarding the Mill Towns Trail alignment from the park southwest to Northfield?

- 2 miles acquired between Lake Byllesby and Cannon Falls. Complete except for last stretch into Byllesby County Park where there is some restoration work left this fall and spring (prairie).
- The DNR recent acquisition between Dundas and Faribault from the railroad.
- Connection from Northfield to Lake Byllesby will likely be one of the last segments done, but so much investment is in play on south end and will need to be completed over next 3-5 years.
- Some initial investigation into routes around Lake Byllesby- working with Steve Sullivan on potential routes through/along western side of Lake Byllesby Regional Park in Dakota County.
 - CR88 is being reconstructed and the geometry may be reconfigured, in which case acquisition may be considered, which could work with the trail.
 - Augustine property is for sale. Close to Waterford Bridge.
 - Could use trail corridor for some upland service access/ mgmt. access of lowlands on west side of Byllesby.

- DC has been buying conservation easements along river. Could encourage landowners to sign off on conservation and recreation easements moving forward to allow trail use.
 - The DNR does not eminent domain; the policy is to work with willing land owners.
- Arboretum bridge in Northfield is being looked at for a river crossing.
- Peddle-Paddle and Shared River/Trail Camping along the corridor as broader visions for recreation utilizing the existing natural resources.
 - Would love to see remote canoe only campsites in western portion of LBRP.
 - DNR cannot promote camping facilities themselves- must be left up to local units.
 - Root and Zumbro rivers have great camping sites, Cannon is lacking.
 - Would have to be “rustic campsites” based on new health rules that prohibit non-rustic camping in potential high water areas.
 - Screens with dug-containers that can be removed, cleaned, and replaced.
 - Composting toilets/ outhouses may be viable options.
- Tourism could transition from day use only of Cannon Valley Trail to overnight use with proposed connections to LBRP/BCP, Mill Towns Trail, Mississippi Bluffs Trail, multiple river-based activities, etc.
- DNR works with MnDOT cultural resources unit and Historical Society .
 - Knife river flint was found recently along corridor. Some follow up connections to be made between 106 Group and other contacts.
 - Ron Schermer with Mankato State is an archaeologist that could be a good resource for this area.
 - Mounds have been found nearby, and within the lake bed (in 1988?).
- No portage around the Lake Byllesby Dam right now and this would be nice feature for better boat access to the Cannon River.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

History and Interpretation

Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

History and Interpretation Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

4:00 pm-5:00 pm

Cannon Falls City Hall

Attendees

Dustin Heckman, Goodhue County Historical Society

Matt Carter, Dakota County Historical Society

Will Grovender, Randolph Area Historical Society

Steve Dabelow, Cannon Falls Historical Society

Nicole Staudt, Prairie Island Indian Community

Joe Walton, Dakota County

Lil Leatham, Dakota County

Jennifer Ziemer, Goodhue County

Autumn Hubble, Dakota County

Rita Trapp, HKGi

Regine Kennedy, 106 Group

Nicole Foss, 106 Group

Discussion

What are important or interesting stories that should be told to the youth/campers/seniors/general park users/etc., at Lake Byllesby?

- The 'big falls' on the Cannon River - this site was a favorite destination of early residents of Cannon Falls and also for Native Americans, for centuries. That area is now in the lake close to where the cliffs are presently located. The big falls was named for the width, not the height of the falls. A book was written about the falls Eumeemie: A Legend of Cannon Falls, by S. S. Lewis was editor of the Cannon Falls paper for many years.
 - Mural of it painted on the post office
 - In the late 1800s, Big Falls was the place to go
- Hunting and fishing in the 1930s and 1940s.
- In the 1940s and 1950s an amusement park was located in the area.
- Mr. Byllesby and the dam, and the electrification of Randolph.
- The Cascade Area.
 - Lakeside Cemetery has headstones from early settlers
- The Sanatorium, the area had a Tuberculosis sanatorium.
- Natural History.
- Railroads had a big influence in the Randolph area (can still see remnants of bridges)

- E-W 2 lines
- N-S Chicago line
 - There were hotels and restaurants there (working on a walking tour)
- President of Progressive Rail has expressed interest in doing something in the area
- Were 2 RRs to Red Wing
 - 1 on each side of the river
 - 1 went only to the Sanatorium
 - I went all the way
- 18 Cultural Sites within the Lake Byllesby area
 - None are within the park boundary (11 are in the lake bed)
 - These were recorded during the drawdown
 - There are potential for others on higher terraces (there have not been systematic surveys)
 - There are 3 bridges within the park (1 existing, 2 remnants)
 - Submerged cheese factory when the lake was built
- The dam (1910)- was important to Randolph/ Cannon Falls
 - Began rural electrification

What types of interpretation would you like to see in the park?

- Choose your own adventure type opportunities (self-guided interpretation)
 - Walking tours/ podcast episodes available on demand
- Audio/visual displays.
- QR Codes
 - Digitize stories/ Allow people to tell their own stories
- A pamphlet vending machine/ dispensary
- Incorporating interpretation into park features. For example, a children’s water play element could be designed in the shape of the lake basin and contain the historic sites that are now located underwater. The lake could be ‘filled’ by pressing a button to release water.
- Should be a balance between natural interpretation and signed interpretation
- Dakota County has a grant with 4-5 other organizations for archeological digs throughout the county
 - A way to get kids out to do digs
 - Summer field tours
- Tribal HPO is in the process of hiring
 - Could reach out to tribal members
 - Ron S. may be a good resource
- Special events

Resources

- Cannon Falls Historical Society has many photos, some from before the dam was constructed.
- As I Remember: Lakeside Reflections of Mary Gilson Ferguson Paperback, by Teri Ferguson Thompson.
- Eumeemie: A Legend of Cannon Falls, by S. S. Lewis.
- Dan Lions and Ron Sherman may be resources for Native American stories.
- Letter written by Thomas Edison from Mr. Byllesby’s funeral

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Lake Byllesby Improvement Association Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Lake Byllesby Improvement Association Board Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Thursday September 15, 2016, 7:00-8:00 pm

Cannon Falls City Hall

Attendees

Rita Trapp (HKGi), Lil Leatham (Dakota County), Greg Isakson (Goodhue County), Jennifer Ziemer (Goodhue County), Ken, Dave, Earl, Nancy, Jason, Scott, Leslie D, Julie

Discussion

What concerns do you have about future recreation facilities at the Lake Byllesby parks?

Lake Sedimentation

- The park is dependent on the Lake Byllesby's recreation. The park character and recreation are dependent on the lake.
- Lake Byllesby is filling in to the point where navigation is difficult.
- People are waterskiing in 24" water, which is unsafe.

Water quality

- The water quality of the lake has improved over the last 10 years.
- Buffer strips have helped
- Clarity has improved

Number of boats on the lake

- Boat trailer parking in the Goodhue County side should be better delineated and the overall number of parking spaces should be limited so that there are not too many boats on the lake. The number of boats on the lake is starting to be unsafe. Parking full in the spring with 30 on overflow parking area in grass.

Cliffs on Goodhue County side of the lake

- The trail on the Goodhue County side of the lake provides access to the Cliffs on the Boy Scout's property. Jumping has increased and fortunately there have been no deaths.

Park Experience

- Focus development/ new activities in already developed areas
- Try not to affect long views of cliffs/across the lake like those from Echo Point
- Screen parks/camping areas from homes and from CR 19 noise

What guidance or decisions do you hope this master planning process will accomplish to help maintain and improve the Lake Byllesby Parks as a resource to the area?

- Though sedimentation and water quality are watershed scale issues, the LBIA would like these issues addressed to the extent possible in the Master Plans.

If you use the parks today, what do you think needs to be done to improve it? If you don't use the parks, why don't you use it? What would attract you to come to the parks?

- Camping in the Dakota County Park a great asset. There was consensus that there is demand for additional camping. Some felt it would be nice to expand camping to the Goodhue County Park. Others pointed out that camping expansion in the Goodhue County park would be impacted by noise from the rumble strips on the road and would have visual impact to the nearby homes.
- Dredging could be used to create marshland elsewhere
- Don't duplicate activities/facilities between the two parks, unless that activity needs add'l capacity
- The Goodhue County Park has easier highway access from 52 than the Dakota County Park.
 - It would make a great trailhead.
 - Boat Launch on Goodhue Co side is slightly better than DC boat launch
- The Mill Towns Trail will attract new park users. Trailhead facilities should include parking and bike/rollerblade rentals.
- BMX or archery in the pit area
- Improvements for boating could include:
 - Washout stations
 - Dock improvements
 - A small pier for residents and visitors that includes a gas station/bait shop/ice cream shop.
 - Pier with boat slips that could be rented for the season.
 - Some felt that the Goodhue County park could be the main boat access because it is easier to get to from Highway 52 than the Dakota County park. Others felt the Goodhue boat launch should be smaller and the main launch on the Dakota County Side.
- Fire-pits are really nice elements. This is nicely done in Como Park. Como Park also has a hidden dutch oven, which is a simple, fun activity.
- Concessions.
- Paddle boating/ Paddle Boarding/ Kayak/ Canoe rental by west end of park (with boat access)
- More hiking.
- Camper cabins.
- More picnic tables.
- Suggestions for the Goudy property included:
 - Camping
 - Sports fields
 - Prairie
 - Skiing
 - Snowshoeing
 - Archery course similar to the one in Spring Lake Park
 - Paved walking paths with picnic areas and benches and additional pavilion
 - Any recreational use on the Goudy property should include screening to/from the neighbors.
 - Keep about "park" not RV use

What is your favorite part of Lake Byllesby and the surrounding park land?

- The west side of the lake is an Important Birding Area (IBA). It is important to preserve the marshes for the birds.
- It would be exciting for the Boy scouts to use the lake/have better lake access through the park.
- The Goodhue County picnic pavilions are used extensively.
- Bluebird watching/nesting on Echo Point.
- Lake Byllesby feels like being in Northern, MN with the cliffs and the white pines. It is a spectacular landscape. An observation deck on the cliffs would negatively impact this feel/look.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Park Operations

Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Park Operations Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016

1:00pm-2:30pm

Lake Byllesby Regional Park Maintenance Building

Attendees

Scott Powers, Goodhue County Sheriff's Office

Ryan Holmquist, Dakota County Sheriff's Office

Paul Schutz, Dakota County Parks

Richard Otterness, Dakota County Parks

Meagan Keefe, Dakota County Parks

Autumn Hubbell, Dakota County Parks

Sarah Pronschinske, Dakota County Parks

Ben Humlie, Dakota County Parks

Lil Leatham, Dakota County

Joe Walton, Dakota County

Greg Isakson, Goodhue County

Kevin Biehn, EOR

Gabrielle Grinde, HKGi

Discussion

What do you think are key issues at Lake Byllesby?

- Lake water quality is a major issue – algae situation is particularly bad in the late summer. Watershed level projects/programs are needed to preserve the recreational value of the lake.
- Parking – on weekends, the boat launch parking gets full. Parking on the Goodhue County side has been expanded to grassy areas on the weekends. The tent camping has limited parking, cars are not allowed to park on the grass.
- There is a lack of extensive hiking trails for natural resource programs.
- Basic access facilities are needed on the west end of the park. This area of the park has potential. For example, birding or interpretive walks to the cascades area.
- The campground fills up on weekends. The campground is at capacity for water and electric sites.
- Circulation - the one-way roads in the campground are challenging and need to be made more intuitive.
- Portable toilets - add more permanent restroom facilities.

- Limited activities that are attractive to regional users. The main draws at this park are the camping and the lake recreation – the motorized boat launch is a unique asset in the Dakota County Park System. At Lebanon Hills Regional Park the paddleboard rental is popular; we should consider adding this at Lake Byllesby.
- There is no place for year-round indoor gathering and programs.
- The trash area needs to be re-designed. Recycling and trash seem to be confusing to park visitors, they need to be separated from each other, need new vendors, or better layout/signage. The dumpsters are too big for people to use.
-

What guidance or decisions do you hope this master planning process will accomplish to help you in your work?

- The tent area needs reevaluation with some different camping options. Needs more screening and privacy.
- The tent camping area should be retrofitted to allow for group camping or individual use (for either campers or tents).
- There a lot of turf grass in the park. It would be improved with more natural areas and require less mowing.

Are there locations where there are safety concerns for park users and how could these be best addressed?

- Access to the cliff area on Goodhue County side is an issue that has gotten better recently. Guardrails may not be a deterrent to jumping.
- There have not been major safety concerns with boating on the lake. Occasional boat fires, a few driving complaints, there were no collisions last year. Dakota County has counterclockwise direction for boating in the lake posted at boat ramps at other lakes. In the future, if conflicts occur/boat traffic significantly increases this could be done at Lake Byllesby.
- Emergency storm shelter areas are needed.

What do you think is the most important physical improvement that could be done in the next 10 years at Lake Byllesby?

- A shelter area is needed for emergencies for campers – another bathroom building or stable/enclosed picnic shelter.
- The beach shelter has not been fully realized as a concessions location.
- Address invasive species and add prairie.
- Better restrooms – the trail connection will bring more users to the park.
- If the campground is expanded, another restroom/shower building should be added.
- Better signage, particularly for Lake Byllesby Regional Park west.

What is the typical boat usage on the lake? Are there times that there are capacity issues?

- 90% of boats are recreating, fisherman are out earlier in the day.
- Boat-launch management is needed on weekends.

What are thoughts on winter activities?

- The weather really affects winter attendance and potential for activities.
- Cross country skiing could be promoted – the Cannon Valley Classic used to be held at the park, but has not been held because of the lack of reliable snow.
- Will the paved trail and bridge be maintained/plowed in the winter?
- Potential for camper cabins along the ski trails in the northern part of the park.
- Dogsledding and skiing use the north side trails.
- Lilac Landing is used as a non-motorized boat launch and access for ice fishing.

What are other activities / visitor services that could be added to the parks?

- Bike and watercraft rentals.
- Docks where boats could be left parked in the water overnight.
- A fishing pier.
- Café/ restaurant, if there is adequate use in the park to support food service.
- Potential camper cabins along the river downstream from the dam have been discussed; restroom facilities would be needed within a certain distance.
- A gathering/community center that's open year-round, similar to Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center but less than a nature center.
- A splash pad.
- The signage, wayfinding, and habitat throughout the park, mostly on the north side, could be improved – it is not a high quality habitat today.
- Goodhue County receives many calls about renting their picnic shelters. They do not have staff to provide rentals, could there be a partnership with Dakota county staff to manage rental of the Goodhue County park shelters?
- Visitors are interested in the dam - historic interpretation signage with historic photos and current statistics about the power generation.
- Campfire program.
- Small infrastructure investments on the west side of the park would be used by birders – parking area, bird blind, overlooks, etc.
- West Side: a water access; trails at the Cascades area; basic restroom building; Hwy 56 bridge area has an unofficial fishing area today – Dakota County staff does maintain this area by picking up trash; a kayak loop through the braided marsh; duck hunting does occur on the west side of the lake.
- Cannon River non-motorized boat launch below the dam.
- Steps or a formal trail near the new bridge for people who want to get down to the river for fishing.
- Carve out 'Echo Channel' for boats.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Park User Groups

Dakota County & Goodhue County

Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Park User Groups Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Thursday September 15, 2016, 5:30-6:30pm

Cannon Falls City Hall

Attendees

Dawn Lanning, HHH Ranch

Jennifer Ziemer, Goodhue County

Lil Leatham, Dakota County

Autumn Hubble, Dakota County

Rita Trapp, HKGi

Regine Kennedy, 106 Group

Nicole Foss, 106 Group

Discussion

If you use the park today, what do you think needs to be done to improve it? If you or people you know don't use the park, why don't you use it? What would attract you or them to come to the park?

- HHH provides YMCA riding day camps, trail rides, farm day camps, and dog sledding.
- HHH runs dogsledding programs in the park. The trails on the north side of the park are used. It is a good location because there are few sharp turns, not many steep hills, low brush.
- Skiing, skijoring and dog walking are compatible uses with dogsledding. Snowmobiling is not.
- Packed snow is the best condition for dogsledding.
- Due to variable snow conditions, Byllesby is a hard place for winter events. In addition, dog sled events are better when the number of people are limited/controlled or there is a private staging area for the dogs.

What facilities or services are needed at the parks to make your activity more enjoyable and/or accessible?

- HHH Ranch utilizes the existing parking area north of 300th (space for a 16' trailer is required) and the port-a-potty. Improvements desired include:
 - Permanent restrooms
 - Hitching posts (for the dogs)
 - Need education about trail etiquette
 - People need to get out of the way for 12-dog teams
 - People walking their own dogs present a challenge
 - A retreat center similar to Lebanon Hills
 - The trails on the north side of the park have a few sharp turns that could be smoothed
 - Peg boards for kids to put belongings on?
 - Fire pit?

What are recreational opportunities that are not being realized at the lake and park?

- Kite boarding (school groups would use)
- Ice fishing
 - Would be nice to have rentable equipment/ ice houses
- Winter scavenger hunt

Desired Summer Use Facilities

- A pier for boat tie up if staying overnight and also fishing
- Sufficient boat parking
- Central fire pit
- Off-leash dog area near campground

What do you think is the most important recreational improvement that could be done in the next 10 years at Lake Byllesby?

- Indoor winter space
- Boat slips for campers who bring boats to the lake
- Interpretive signs
- Fishing pier
- Equipment rental – paddleboards, kayaks, etc.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2016) NOTES

Regional Recreation Providers

Dakota County & Goodhue County
Lake Byllesby Regional Park & Byllesby County Park Master Plans

Regional Recreation Providers Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Monday September 19th, 2016
Cannon Falls City Hall
3:30-4:30 pm

Attendees

Scott Roepke, Cannon Valley Trail
Peggy Prowe, Mill Towns Trail
Willy Lacefield, Cannon Falls Bike, Canoe & Kayak Rental
Patricia Anderson, Cannon Falls Chamber of Commerce
Gary Schmidgall
Sandy Whitworth, Summit Golf Club
Jason Jech, Red Wing Environmental Learning Center
Greg Isakson, Goodhue County
Steve Sullivan, Dakota County
Lil Leatham, Dakota County
Sarah Evenson, HKGi

Discussion

What are the key recreational assets of Lake Byllesby and the surrounding park land?

- When you look at the Dakota County and Goodhue parks total acreage, Goodhue County Byllesby Park would qualify for Greater Minnesota regional status, although the Goodhue County on its own is a little short (only 60 acres). The two counties are willing partners.
- Cannon River frontage downstream of the dam is underutilized, there is an opportunity to work with the DNR to include recreation on their river front land.
- The 26 acre Goudy property is an asset and what should be done there will be determined through the master planning process. Some possibilities are camping or a trail center
- There should be a portage trail around the dam.
- More fishing opportunities would be welcomed (provides cross-generational recreation).
 - Pier, maybe below the dam.
- Whitewater training course like in Wausau below the dam would be a major regional attraction.

Where are key connections to the park or future recreational amenities in the surrounding area that could impact Lake Byllesby?

- The master plan looks specifically within the park boundaries, but will be influenced by broader regional recreation opportunities, especially with the existing and proposed trail connections.
- Cross promotion of regional activities is needed, one idea is a recreation pass.
 - Today there is Camper Coupon book- 3,000 printed and all used.

- Sheer amount of camping throughout the week has grown and there is a need for more camping available (RV and tent)

What is the status of the Mill Towns and Cannon Valley Trails and how will it be connected to Lake Byllesby?

- Planning process for connection of the Mill Towns Trail is just starting out. So many connections to amenities.
- Cannon Valley Trail first highlighted the overall regional value of recreation in this area. How can we capitalize on that and enhance it? Economic and recreation opportunities.
- Excited about two parks and trails being planned together. “Tourists don’t see borders.”
- The more we can do cooperatively, and the better we can communicate, the more we can accomplish.
- Progressive rail/union pacific needs to be worked with for future acquisition.

Are there additional winter recreational opportunities that should be explored in the area?

- Today, winter uses are minimal with skijoring/dog sledding and some ice fishing.
- Winery, Brew Pub (to open in late November), and Cannon Valley Trail are open in the winter.
- Marketing is necessary for winter events, but success of these are weather dependent and winters are more unpredictable.
- Rentals requested for the occasional skier. More requests for skiers than snowmobiles.
- Snowmobiling is a possible winter use. Fairgrounds to 52 will have snowmobile access. Crossing at Riverwood church up to 19.
 - DNR trying to buy Dauphine property to serve snowmobiles.
 - Snowmobiling used to be big in Cannon valley, now not as popular.
- Sleep-in ice houses suggested.
 - Novelty experience.
 - Rhino’s local sporting goods store sells ice castles- may be interested .
 - Not many lakes in the area- should capitalize on that in the winter.
- Fat bikes are gaining in popularity. They don’t require snow.

What do you think is the most important recreational improvement that could be done in the next 10 years at Lake Byllesby?

- Watercraft rental adjacent to river, along with bikes, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards.
 - Could rent hourly if located adjacent to lake.
- Golf course benefits from campers wanting to golf.
- Cannon Valley Trail would appreciate more camping/ camper cabins/ yurts
 - Overnight stays will be desired.
 - Marvel Falls in Texas has proper accommodation for tourism, despite their small size (7000 people)
- Need accommodations for bikers/ paddlers to shower, clean up before heading to dinner/ heading into town after an active day.

- Having access to activities that can cater to different weather.
 - Boat rental, golfing, bikes
- Desire for more RV camping could potentially occur in the Goodhue County Park.
- With increase in bikers, potentially desire for more tent camping.
- With winter use, camper cabins would really promote use.
 - Camper cabins are also more equitable for people who don't own camping gear or RVs.
 - Offer good intro experience to camping.

***What potential future partnership opportunities are there for programming or marketing?
What type of lease agreements could work to provide equipment or services within the parks?***

- There are plenty of events that happen in the local areas that could be partnered with the park.
- As soon as visitors realize how quickly they can get to Byllesby, they are more apt to drive there.
- Having a large event can be a great introduction to a place that breaks the perceived distance barrier.
- Great meeting spot between the Metro and Rochester.
- Attraction for people from Iowa.
- The Parks need a brand. Need to be related to the larger corridor as an attraction.
 - Work through the chamber of commerce offices to unite recreational opportunities and branding across the corridor.
 - Work with the colleges.
 - Use the bridge as an icon for the region.
 - Root River communities all band together to support recreation along the corridor.

OPEN HOUSE (SEPT. 19, 2016) COMMENTS

Lake Byllesby Regional Park and Byllesby County Park Master Plans
September 19th, 2016
Cannon Falls City Hall
5:00-6:30 pm

Open House Comment Cards

1. Goodhue Neighbors:

- Don't want lights
- There is not enough patrol – should patrol parks
- There are still drug & back packers
- Put Tennis Courts or Pickleball on Goudy Property
- Plant Goudy property with prairie
- Create access at the east end for trail
- Love the trail connection to Cannon Falls
- Need trash cans and doggy waste disposal
- Promote day use only
- Want sports fields
- Want more parking
- Boat launch is a problem
- Stairway is a problem
- Fishing Dock is great
- Want day use tie up slips
- Add picnic areas
- Add a fish cleaning station
- Need drinking fountains, especially by the bike trail
- Add a washout area for boats on the lake

2. Linda Thompson (seleskyL@gmail.com) (906) 553-1383)

- Keep the sled dog trail
 - If changed, keep some crossovers
 - No 90° turns
 - Keep the outhouse
 - Add a decent size parking lot for truck and trailers
- Consider allowing multiple uses along the Cannon Valley Trail
- Add dog waste disposal stations

3. Keep birding access at Knot farm, but address the problem with birders at the cemetery

- Parks don't need to be connected by a trail- the west side impedes on family/farm properties
- Park is taking away from the rural feeling of the community
- Why should we landowners give up land when there are other parks?
- This park development is at whose expense? (the people who live in the county)

- The trail should be multi-use. Bicycle special interests are being catered to. Allow ATVs, snowmobiles, and horses.
4. Bill Callister (29324 Endress Way, Cannon Falls, (507) 271-2160)
 - What entity will financially support needed roads like Harry Ave?
 - Should motorized watercraft be prohibited on Lake Byllesby to keep additional carbon particles out of the lake?
 - Should all septic systems on homes near the lake go through water treatment?
 - Should there be more focus on controlling fertilizer application to adjacent lawns?
 5. Rosie Schluter (Cannon Falls)
 - This is a wonderful opportunity, so I appreciate your effort to create a lasting experience for people to enjoy nature and the outdoors. Keep up the good work!

Open House Boards

- Add a bike fix-it station along the Cannon Valley Trail on the Goudy Property
- Look at Clear Lake, Iowa for dredging ideas
 - Farmers could use the nutrient rich soil
 - Sand could be used for beaches
 - Implement wetland restoration along with dredging to catch future sediments/ control where they go and build habitat.
- Ideas for the Goudy Property:
 - 3-season restrooms
 - A 4-season building
 - Add parking
 - Add an event area (make sure it's shaded)
 - Add camping, but not extensive (maybe 15 RVs)
- Goodhue County's Byllesby County Park:
 - Plant the western overflow parking area as prairie and allow the master gardeners to be involved in plantings if desired
 - Area could still be mown for overflow parking if needed
 - Convert wet/underutilized areas to natural plantings
 - Increase the size of the beach and add changing rooms and showers
 - Add trail to top of cliff (could be rough/natural surface trail or a stairway)
 - Make a loop experience if possible
 - Add an overlook/stargazing platform or observatory there if possible
 - Is wilderness camping possible on cliff?
 - Could it be a stargazing campsite?
 - Eliminate trails to the cliff to prevent jumping
 - Sand bars are an issue at the beach
 - Add pickleball/tennis

- After hours users are present on the Goodhue County side
- There would be noise from the Goodhue County campground if built
- Make boat launches better by limiting parking so as not to overload the lake

- Lake Byllesby Regional Park
 - Keep the dog sledding trails
 - Make the connecting trails multi-use or add a parallel trail
 - Add tie-offs for dogsledding further from the trailhead
 - Don't duplicate features between the two parks

General Comments

- Try not to replicate services across counties
- Figure out which services each county does best, and have each one focus on those
- Consider an ice skating rink somewhere at East Byllesby in Dak Co.
- Consider installing a Visitor Service's Center on the Goodhue Co side, similar to that at Schaar's Bluff
- Underscore the connection of Dak Co side to that of Goodhue to emphasize the proximity to Cannon Falls, since that is such an interesting city/destination

INDIVIDUAL INPUT

Lake Byllesby Improvement Association (LBIA) Comments from Dr. Earl Benson received via email

2017 Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan

Planning processes, regardless of size and scope and whether they are for private or public ventures, typically include a vision statement and a list of fundamental principles from which to build the plan. These principles are used to focus the resources of the decision making body in their development and implementation of the plan.

The Lake Byllesby Improvement Association (LBIA) has had board members in attendance for each of the “public” meetings held to date regarding the “New” or “Up-dated” Dakota/Goodhue Counties Lake Byllesby Park Master Plan; and have observed that the fundamental principles, upon which the Master Plan is to be built, were not presented adequately, nor were they clearly defined preceding discussions. A vision statement should succinctly express the Master Plan’s intent while the guiding principles should help identify broad directives for development, management and implementation. The following represents a vision statement and a list of guiding principles which the Lake Byllesby Improvement Association feels should be addressed as the Master Plan moves forward:

Vision Statement

The Dakota County/ Goodhue County Regional Parks on Lake Byllesby are envisioned as regional parks focused on the resources of Lake Byllesby, the Cannon River, and the connecting bicycle and pedestrian trails. The primary focus of the recreational experience at these combined parks should be the aforementioned resources. Activities within the park should be focused on providing a safe environment for visitors and local residents as they enjoy the natural beauty of these resources and a comfortable and enjoyable variety of recreational and educational activities.

Guiding Principles

- * Focus on the preservation, enhancement, restoration (natural resource), and enjoyment of Lake Byllesby/Cannon River environment as the reason for the park.
- * Make this regional park safe and accessible for visitors and residents (i.e. trails, roadways, lake)
- * Create this park as a family/group destination with a wide variety of recreational activities and educational opportunities while at the same time recognizing that its physical location is shared by local lakeshore residents, neighboring residential single-family homes, and a Boy Scout Reservation with upwards of 28,000 visitors annually.
- * Develop a “shared Master Plan” to utilize the resources of both Goodhue and Dakota Counties to the maximum extent possible, while not minimizing the values already established and ongoing for lack of focus and commitment.

Visions for Goodhue County Park Master Plan

Boating: Provide launch facilities, parking and personnel to encourage enjoyable and safe boating on Lake Byllesby. Total boat trailer parking for all three launch sites should be consistent with DNR recommendations for high speed boat density. Signage and wash facilities should be included at boat ramps to prevent invasive species. The plan should consider a day-use docking facility just West of the boat ramps, as many boaters pull up their boats on the gravel beach/grass shoreline while using park facilities. The swimming area should be well-separated from the active launch area for safety.

Bicycle Trailhead: With the Mill Town Trail coming into the Goodhue County Park and its link to the Cannon Valley Trail and the City of Cannon Falls, facilities should be provided to encourage the use of the park as a starting and ending point. Bicycle-friendly visitor parking, trail signage, drinking water, and possibly an information kiosk and seating in the park would encourage visitors to begin and end their bicycling day in the park. For Cannon Falls residents and visitors bicycling to the park on the new connecting trail and bridge, a safe bicycle parking area (racks) should be provided at a location that encourages use of the other facilities in the park.

Recreational Opportunities: New recreational opportunities such as **day-use** ball diamonds, tennis courts, archery range, and an enhanced soccer field could make the park more of a destination for Cannon Falls residents/visitors to the park.

Swimming/Picnicking: The beach area could be enhanced significantly by making it larger (wider/longer), providing a simple change facility, ideally with showers. There is considerable public usage of the picnic shelters on weekends, and consideration should be given to adding strategically placed shaded picnic tables on concrete pads. Would an ice cream/refreshment vendor be economically viable? Perhaps a privately owned mobile vendor could be used in the short term to determine usage?

Exercise/Walking Trail: The current “in Park” walking trail experiences significant daily use at all times of the year except when there is snow on the ground. The current design of the paved path is excellent, but additional shade trees on the South and East sides would enhance the experience. This paved path could be extended into the old Goudy property if retained, perhaps around a new day-use ballpark or native prairie experience.

Stanton Township residents strongly discourage ideas for the park’s use outside the daylight hours. These folks are not in favor of overnight camping or lighted ballparks, or lighted tennis courts. Along with the LBIA, they also recommend **ABANDONING THE HILL-TOP TRAIL** as it encourages/contributes to illegal cliff-jumping on and immediately adjacent to private land (98% of trail users). The Goodhue County Sheriffs’ Department has encouraged this action as well, as it requires a constant police presence/enforcement, and presents a significant liability issue for property owners and Goodhue County.

The current Goodhue County Regional Park at Lake Byllesby is physically small. Stanton Township residents, and the LBIA, encourage that high use activities be located centrally in the park to buffer sights and sounds from nearby neighbors, and recommend further tree planting especially in the Southeast segment of the park. This would also improve the nature-like setting for visitors.

Visions for the Dakota County Park Master Plan

Dakota County should be congratulated for almost fifty years of establishing, improving, maintaining their Lake Byllesby Regional Park. They have consistently developed and acted upon meaningful Master Plans for this park in 1987 and 2005. The Lake Byllesby Improvement Association (LBIA), and its elected leadership, looks forward to participating in helping formulate the 2016-2017 Master Plan, much as it did in previous plans. Our observations for improvements for the Dakota County Lake Byllesby Regional Park include:

Boating: High speed boat density on Lake Byllesby is a major concern for residents and visitors to the lake. The 1 boat maximum per 20 acres of navigable water should be strictly enforced as Goodhue/Dakota County merge their collective Master Plans for 2016-2017, to allow for a *safe and enjoyable boating experience for everyone on the lake*. The DNR recommendation calibrates lakeshore residents as having an average of 1.5 boats per residence with 10% of these boats on the lake at any one time (20 boats). With 134 residents on Lake Byllesby (now estimated at approximately 1400 acres) this equates to 70 high speed boats on the lake at one-time. Dakota County Regional Park maintains 27 parking spaces for boat/motor vehicle. With resident boat usage at 20, and Dakota County allowing 27 parking spaces, the **Goodhue County (2 access boat ramps) must be restricted to 23 spaces total**. This would be the combined maximum number of vehicle with trailer parking spaces permitted on the Goodhue County side of the lake to comply with DNR Boating safety recommendations. It must be noted that Dakota/Goodhue County Water Patrols on Lake Byllesby have been exemplary.

Resource Preservation and Boating Navigation Safety: The increase of sediment throughout Lake Byllesby is a major concern for the LBIA. Numerous damaged props and boat hulls have been reported in the past several years as previous navigable waters are no longer safe on the reservoir. Five areas of the lake have been reported to Dakota County officials as particularly dangerous for safe boating, although several others have been reported by boaters on the reservoir. **The 2016-2017 Master Plan for the lake should include soil sampling and future reclamation effort discussions (sediment removal) if Lake Byllesby is to remain the resource which is the “crown jewel” of this current regional park system.**

The natural resource (Shoreland): According to local residents AND visitors to Lake Byllesby, the South shore is one of the visual highlights of their experience at the lake.

Basically uninhabited, the view of the South shore and particularly the cliff area and surrounding Boy Scout Reservation are viewed by many as the “highlight” of their time on the reservoir. The LBIA continues to be thankful for the “view-experience” offered for over 106 years to local residents and visitors to Lake Byllesby, and strongly supports abandoning the “hill-top trail” to the cliff area on the South shore of Lake Byllesby. Abandoning the trail not only maintains the integrity and beauty of the resource, but it helps to insure the safety of trespassers, and helps law enforcement in protecting private property. The addition of an Observation Deck/Fishing Deck on the South shore of Echo Point (Dakota County) would also be a valuable resource for viewing the cliffs/pines of Goodhue County.

Buffers for Private Landowners: The real estate development adjacent to Harry Avenue East of the Dakota County Regional Park is rapidly expanding to include several neighborhood single family dwellings. There is considerable interest in establishing a buffer to help mask the park from neighbors to the East of Harry Avenue. Reestablishing the entrance off Harry Avenue to the Dakota County Park (further to the North) would help in this regard, as would a berm on the Eastern portion of the park. Additionally, a berm just South of the residents on Echo Point would help shield private residences from activities on the South shore of Echo Point. Trying to keep parking as far East as possible from these residences is recommended as the park expands.

Swimming Activity: The water quality in Lake Byllesby continues to improve with the addition of upstream septic treatment plants, shore land buffering, rough fish eradication, and improved fertilizer application techniques. However, the addition of a fresh water swimming pool in the Dakota County Regional Park would make the swimming experience more desirable throughout the swimming season.

Additional Camping Areas: It is recommended that additional camping areas and social fire-ring experiences be constructed North of the current RV camping areas in the Dakota County Regional Park. Tent camping is currently limited and could well be expanded.

Winter Activities: Groomed cross-county skiing and snow-shoeing trails should be included in the plan. Plowing the bike trail and trail bridge should also be included to facilitate year-round use of the trail for winter biking and walking.

Educational Activities: The LBIA board recommends that the plan include educational opportunities such as a year-round nature center that could include displays and classroom experiences(i.e.naturalists, environmentalists,etc.)

The Lake Byllesby Improvement Association and their elected leadership, representing the residents on the Lake Byllesby reservoir and visitors and friends of the lake, are huge stakeholders in the planning/virtual outcome of the regional park master plan. We

appreciate the opportunity to voice our collective concerns in this process as it moves forward.

Respectfully,

Dr. Earl Benson, President and LBIA Board of Directors

cc: Mr. Brad Anderson, Goodhue County Commissioner District 2

Mr. Mike Slavik, Dakota County Commissioner, District 1

Mr. John Andrews, Boy Scouts of America CEO (Phillippo Scout Reservation)

Lake Byllesby resident Ken Burns' input received at the Open House

Lake Byllesby Park Planning Process

Input to the planning process for Goodhue County Park from Ken Burns, representing both Stanton Township and the Lake Byllesby Improvement Association. Ken is a board member and vice chair of both organizations. Full disclosure: Ken lives adjacent to County parkland along Lake Byllesby.

Vision for the Goodhue County Park

- 1) Boating: Provide launch facilities, parking and personnel to encourage enjoyable and safe boating use on Lake Byllesby. Total boat trailer parking for all three launch sites should be consistent with DNR recommendations for high speed boat density. Signage and prop wash facilities to encourage cleanup of invasive species. Consider a day-use docking facility just west of the boat ramps, as many boaters simply pull up their boats on the gravel/grass shoreline today while using park facilities.
- 2) Bicycle Trailhead: With the Mill Town Trail coming into Goodhue Park and its link to the Cannon Valley Trail and the City of Cannon Falls, facilities should be provided to encourage use both starting and ending in the Park. Bicycle friendly visitor parking, trail signage, drinking water and possibly an information kiosk and seating in the park encourage visitors to begin and end their bicycling day in the park. For Cannon Falls residents bicycling to the park on the new connecting trail, a safe bicycle parking area / racks should be provided at a location that encourages use of the other facilities in the park. New recreation opportunities such as day-use ball diamonds, tennis courts and an enhanced soccer field could make the park more of a destination for Cannon Falls recreation.
- 3) Swimming and picnicking: The beach area could be enhanced significantly by making it larger (wider and longer), using real sand (not gravel mix) and providing a simple change facility, ideally with showers. There is heavy usage of the picnic shelters on weekends. Consider adding strategically placed shaded picnic tables on concrete pads. Would an ice cream / refreshment vendor be economically viable? Perhaps a mobile vendor in the short term to determine usage?
- 4) Exercise / walking trail: This trail gets significant daily usage at all times of the year except when there is snow on the ground. The current design of the paved path is excellent, but additional shade trees on the south and east sides would enhance it greatly. This paved path could be extended into the old Gaudy property if retained, perhaps around a new day use ballpark.

Stanton Township residents strongly discourage ideas for park use outside the daylight hours. We are not in favor of overnight camping or lighted ballparks or lighted tennis courts. Along with the LBIA, we also recommend abandoning the "hilltop trail" because it has encouraged heavy use for illegal cliff-jumping on immediately adjacent private land (98% of trail users), and the sightlines from the hilltop are blocked by mature growth hardwoods and pines on the adjacent property anyway. A recommendation from the Sheriff's department is encouraged. This has been an ill-advised concept with significant liability concerns.

Goodhue County Park is physically small. We would like to encourage the highest usage activities be located centrally in the park to buffer sights and sounds from the neighbors, and recommend further tree planting especially in the southeast segment, also improving the nature-like setting for visitors.

Response to Advisory Group Meeting 1 discussion questions:

#1 issue facing Lake Byllesby Park today: Goodhue County Park is inadequately funded to make major changes and improvements.

Most Important Improvement: Our biggest asset is Lake Byllesby itself, which is threatened by regular algae blooms and by silt filling in the west end of the lake. Algae blooms are outside the scope of this group, but a strategy to dredge (or bulldoze during winter) the west end of the lake to maintain historical depths is the most important project needed to preserve the heart of our Lake Byllesby Parks over the long term. The Lake Byllesby Improvement Association has begun a series of core samplings to determine makeup of the silt fill at the west end of the lake and to understand what might be required to dispose of it. A material removal strategy that balances the wealth of birding opportunities and other marshland wildlife resources with boating and fishing depth requirements, as well as reservoir hydroelectric capacity needs, should be part of the Regional Park Master Plan.

What do you hope the Master Planning Process will accomplish: Goodhue County Park is physically small, yet its location, with easy access from the City of Cannon Falls and from State Highway 52, makes it a critical gateway for enjoyment of Lake Byllesby, the new pedestrian/bicycle bridge overlooking the Cannon River Gorge and connecting bicycle trail systems, and the amenities of the Park itself. Stanton Township residents would like to see development “right-sized” so that as many visitors as possible can enjoy these assets without overcrowding either the lake or the park, and to minimize disturbance to the park’s neighbors. To that end, Stanton Township residents would like development limited to day-use activities only, and while improving and encouraging greater use of the current paved exercise trail system, to abandon the hilltop trail to the west of the park. The Lake Byllesby Improvement Association has also lobbied for abandoning the western hilltop trail. A lengthy discussion on this topic, including reasoning, liability concerns and lack of benefit can be made available. Ultimately, if the land containing the cliffs themselves were purchased by Goodhue County to add to the park, and personnel dedicated to ensure safe enjoyment of the views (no cliff-jumping), then the desired benefit of such a trail is possible. If the cliffs remain Boy Scouts of America property, then the western 7 acres of Goodhue County Property should be sold either to the Boy Scouts or highest bidder, to eliminate ongoing and serious concerns with encouraging trespassing cliff jumpers who are by far the main users of the western trail today.

Important question to ask the general public: 1) Do you want any overnight use in Goodhue County Park?
2) Do you want the Park to pursue the western hilltop trail?

Favorite part of Lake Byllesby: The beautiful view of the cliffs from the lake all around cliff bay on Boy Scout property, and the terrific new views of the Cannon River gorge from the new pedestrian bridge. Also, the access now added between the two parks by the new pedestrian bridge is fantastic.

Resident Tim Bresnahan's input received via email

From: Tim Bresnahan <tbresnahan@midco.net>
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2016 8:23 PM
To: Leatham, Lil
Subject: Master Plan

Lil,

Thank you for all the info you had for us at the Master Plan meeting in Cannon Falls. Below are several suggestions we have.

Dredging of the west end of Lake Byllesby

NO we repeat "NO" bike trail on the north side of Lake Byllesby. A bike trail should follow Hwy 19 to Northfield on the south side of the lake.

Keep the work up on cleaning the water.

Wild plant and flower buffer areas are beautiful and would be beneficial.

Set up a way to limit the number of boats on Lake Byllesby on the busiest week ends of the summer

Tim & Sue Bresnahan

DAKOTA CO FAIR (AUGUST 2016) INPUT

Dakota County
Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan

2016 Dakota County Fair

August 8 – 14, 2016

Dakota County Fairgrounds (Farmington, Minnesota)

Input Summary

An issues and opportunities map for Lake Byllesby Regional Park was displayed in the Dakota County building at the fairgrounds in Farmington. Visitors to the building recorded suggestions on the map.

- Provide increased access to water recreation e.g. interest in splash pad and swimming infrastructure (swimming pond, beach for sand castle building, etc.) and “jumping in the water” and “rope swing.” Construction of a boat launch at Holland Lake. Introduce canoe/kayak rentals.
- Interest in bike, sled, and camping equipment rentals. Further increase in bike trail infrastructure. Desire for park to facilitate archery, golf, hunting land, and hiking.
- Desire for more police patrolling and increased lighting. Navigation concern, noting it is “hard to find,” and distinction between east and west side unclear. Desire for “trail etiquette education and signage.”
- Provide programs for orienteering and trout fishing (especially for women), and food opportunities.

Ballot Results

Dakota County voting machines were used to collect input on current park planning efforts. Note that only the responses in bold are specific to Lake Byllesby Regional Park. The rest are park system wide.

Adult ballot responses (216 participants)

- Recreation equipment wanted: canoe/kayak (45%), pontoon or motorboat (30%), and bicycle (28%). These were followed by cross-country skis, snowshoes, and archery equipment.
- Food trucks were the number one desired food service option, but almost 20% of respondents desired a combination of food trucks, café/restaurant, concession/snack bar, *and* vending machine snacks/beverages.
- Discounted park services (29%) were the best way to motivate respondents to volunteer in the parks. Swag (t-shirts and gear) (12%) and complimentary food (10%) could also be effective. 12% of respondents were not interested in volunteering.
- Strong community support for natural resource management efforts. 57% of respondents felt “restoring native plant communities in Dakota County parks” was very important. 71% of respondents felt “improving quality of lakes, streams, and wetlands in Dakota County parks” was very important. 78% of respondents felt “improving habitat size for native animal species in Dakota County Parks” was either important or very important.

- **Boating (15%), picnicking (15%), and camping (15%) were the top three reasons for visiting Lake Byllesby Regional Park. 50% of respondents had not visited the park.**
- **Interest in new water-based amenities was highest for water play (swimming pond or spray pad) (31%), canoe/kayak rental (29%), and fishing dock (26%). 31% of respondents “did not know” because they had not been to Byllesby Regional Park.**
- **Respondents would most likely attend festivals or events (concerts, canoe festival) (37%), environmental education (animal tracking, astronomy) (30%), and history themed events (29%) in Lake Byllesby Regional Park**

Kid ballot responses (85 participants)

- Respondents wanted to swim (30%) and go fishing (18%), and “look for animals” (12%) in the park. They wanted to find deer (18%), fish (12%), and rabbits (10%) in the park.
- Respondents also wanted to climb rocks (32%), make forts (20%), and wade in water (18%) in the park.

SPRING 2017 ENGAGEMENT

Online Social Pinpoint Comments - 581 visits and 297 responses (March/April 2017)

Open House & Stakeholder Meeting Comments (March 30, 2017) & Online Survey Comments

County Staff *(held March 30th, 2017 at Cannon Falls City Hall)*

Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users *(held March 30th, 2017 at Cannon Falls City Hall)*

Lake Byllesby Improvement Association *(held March 30th, 2017)*

City of Randolph *(presentation to City Council April 12th, 2017)*

Randolph Schools *(held April 13th, 2017 at Randolph Schools)*

Randolph Township *(presentation to Town Board April 18th, 2017)*

Lake Byllesby Improvement Association General Meeting *(presentation April 20th, 2017)*

Randolph High School Students *(held April 25th, 2017 at Randolph Schools)*

Individual Input

Ken Burns, representing Stanton Township and Lake Byllesby Improvement Association

Dawn Lanning

Dr. Earl Benson, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association

Dave Pederson

Scott Wheeler

Joshue Peterson

John and Mary Fischer

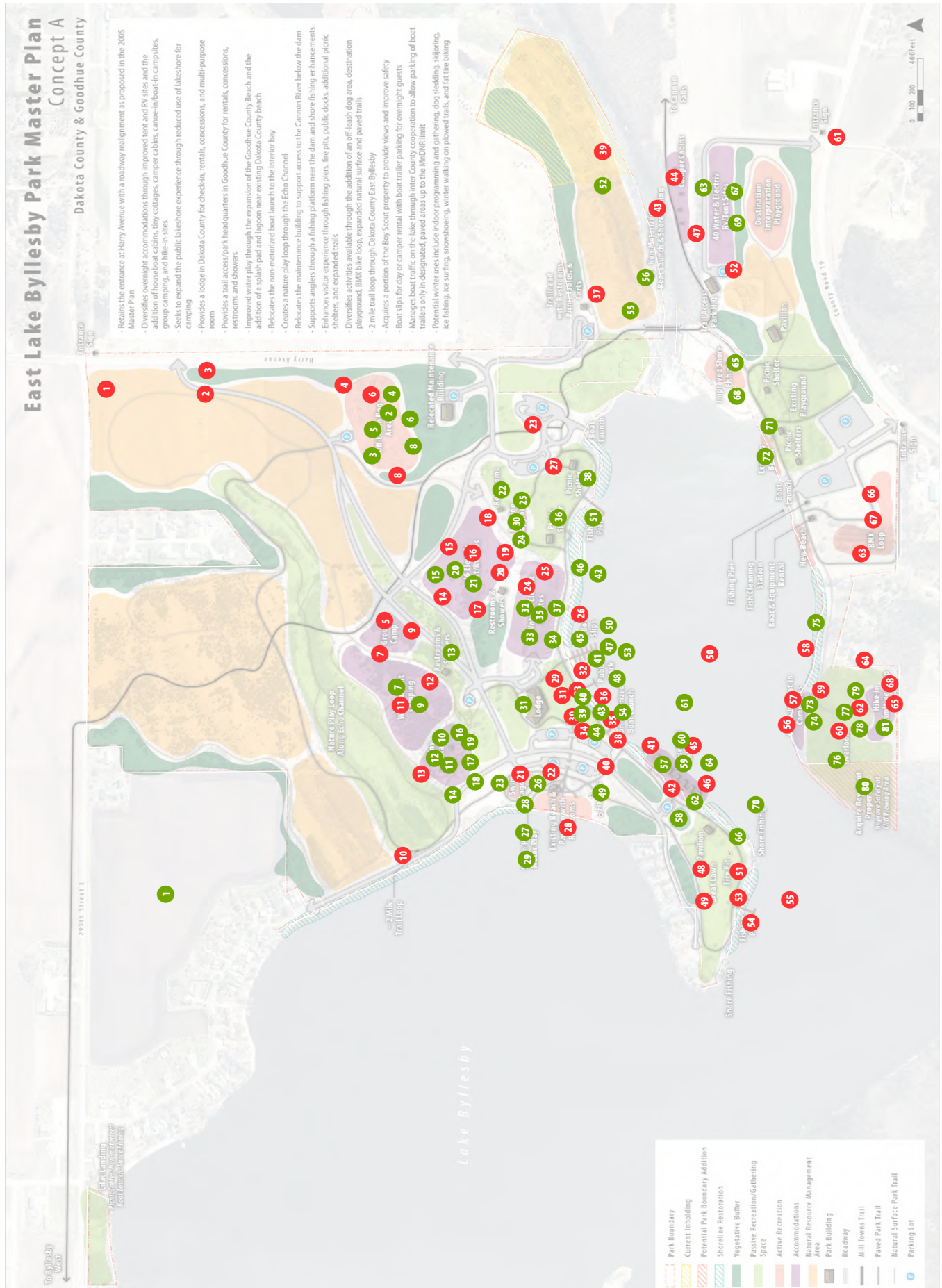
Dr. Earl Benson, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association

Jim and Mary Bassett

Isaac Ophoven-Baldwin

Ryan Renneke

Social PinPoint Comments on Concept A



Concept A Likes (number of up votes, number of down votes)

- 1 Consider this parcel for acquisition. (0, 0)
- 2 Off-leash area to be able to exercise pets is great! (0, 2)
- 3 Excellent idea (0, 2)
- 4 Love this!! (0, 2)
- 5 This is a needed amenity. Good idea. (0, 1)
- 6 Excellent idea!! (2, 2)
- 7 I always enjoy walk in tent sites. Gives those of us who don't own campers a better experience. (0, 0)
- 8 Wonderful! (3, 3)
- 9 good (0, 0)
- 10 Great idea to have little cabins. Can they be winterized for year-around use? Or perhaps ice-fishing cabins could be rented? Ice fishing and cross-country skiing trails would be a great addition. (0, 0)
- 11 Sounds like a great idea. I know the cabins at White Tail woods are very hard to get for a weekend. (0, 0)
- 12 Again, sounds like a fun addition (0, 0)
- 13 Is this in the most central, intuitive location to serve the cottages, tent camper and group campers? (0, 0)
- 14 Nice idea and I believe will be utilized much more than a houseboat. (0, 0)
- 15 Adding more sites is a great idea. These would be more appealing to us if they had water and electric. But this would be a good option for those that didn't need water. (0, 0)
- 16 Fun ideal (0, 0)
- 17 great (0, 0)
- 18 Fun idea for those who don't want to tent or rv camp.
- 19 Great option for those who want to camp but don't have their own dwelling (tent/camper) to bring to the park. Super!! (2, 1)
- 20 Waterfront (electric) campsites remain my top priority! However, adding other non-waterfront options are great too - especially for larger groups. (1, 0)
- 21 I wouldn't mind not camping on the water's edge. I stay at Byllesby because the other campers are generally very courteous, children are well-behaved, and the park keeps the grounds well-maintained. (0, 0)

- 22 I like having restrooms to better serve the playground. Running water hopefully :) (0, 0)
- 23 Love the idea to offer inland swimming experience. (0, 0)
- 24 Not opposed to adding playground area(s), but like the more central location of this one. (1, 0)
- 25 If the existing playground is to stay in it's location, it's used by general park users and campers alike--evaluate parking proximity and accessibility. (0, 0)
- 26 From a maintenance perspective, the swim lagoon is ideal, no debris from the reservoir and treatable for algae (2, 0)
- 27 Love the splash pad option for those that have little ones, or prefer not to swim in the lake. Great for cooling off pets as well. (1, 0)
- 28 Yes. (2, 0)
- 29 Great thing for young kids! (4, 1)
- 30 Keep the park the way it is (0, 0)
- 31 Will this function as a campground office? Visitor Center? What's the scope of service for this building? (0, 0)
- 32 We RV camp here because of the lake views from our site. Without sewer, no reason to come if we are stuffed back in the trees away from the lake. (0, 0)
- 33 Like RV site access to water (1, 0)
- 34 What's changed? (2, 0)
- 35 RV sites along the waterfront is extremely important! (3, 0)
- 36 Like the addition of additional picnicking. It looks like this area is all general use for picnicking, correct? (0, 0)
- 37 Maintaining (or expanding) the waterfront camp sites is top priority - it's the thing we enjoy most about camping here!! Like adding other site options too - but agree non-waterfront should cost less. (5, 0)
- 38 Will the existing shelter be replaced and updated to include restrooms or a serving kitchen? (0, 0)
- 39 Please add tent camping and open green space or, better yet, TREES. (2, 0)
- 40 Removing these would sites would vastly improve the quality of the park. With all the RVs right off the lake it looks more like a trailer or used RV sales. This space would be better for families. (0, 0)

- 41 the only good idea in this plan (0, 0)
- 42 Shoreline restoration is very badly needed all along this lake. Some spots reserved for fishing would help. (1, 0)
- 43 Right now, access to waterfront is limited to the RV campers. I like the idea of providing access to lake views to all park visitors vs. just to those in RV's. (0, 0)
- 44 Excellent! Remove all of the RV camping along the shoreline, it currently looks exactly like a used RV lot every weekend, what a crime. (1, 2)
- 45 Love slips, is 20 enough? (0, 1)
- 46 By restoration, I'm assuming that refers to replanting all the trees that were so horribly removed from the shoreline. (0, 0)
- 47 LOVE adding boat slips! We camp and boat at the park but have to pull the boat on and off the water to come in for lunch, etc. You should charge a fee to reserve/use the slips. Well worth the fee! (2, 0)
- 48 If you could fish from it, even better! (1, 0)
- 49 I like the fire pits for informal group gathering to enjoy the sun set. Consider the needs for larger group gathering area(s) e.g. for a special event, amphitheater, etc. (0, 0)
- 50 Love the idea of boat slips. Not sure about this location, but it's a great idea since there really is not a place to 'park' a boat right now. (0, 0)
- 51 Yes please! Always love more opportunities to fish. Especially with the fishing equipment loaner program at the park. (1, 0)
- 52 Nice place to have a picnic on a bike ride. (0, 0)
- 53 Boat slips are good but this style would stick out too far. Lined up bow to shore would be better. (0, 3)
- 54 Would make it way less crowded at the main boat launch. (0, 0)
- 55 Very nice to see downriver access improved. (3, 2)
- 56 This portion of the river to Cannon Falls gets minimal canoe/kayak use due to the lack of accessibility. Great concept. (3, 2)
- 57 wonderful attraction assuming the houseboats are not permanently anchored and can navigate the lake (0, 0)
- 58 I like the development of this area. (1, 0)

Concept A Likes (number of up votes, number of down votes)

- 59 Cool idea. Not sure it's possible. (2, 0)
- 60 great idea if you mean for rental. (0, 1)
- 61 Love the idea for unique house-boat camping. A trademark for the park, for sure! Iconic. (0, 1)
- 62 Unique concept for the area. I've always wanted to stay in a houseboat just for the experience (2, 1)
- 63 I use the State Park camper cabins quite frequently. I'm sure these cabins would be utilized. (6, 3)
- 64 Sounds like a fun thing to do (1, 1)
- 65 I think this would be a great spot to fish. Improved shoreline would be welcome. (4, 0)
- 66 Great view of the limestone bluffs (1, 0)
- 67 More RV sites here would be a great idea. (0, 5)
- 68 Great idea. Not everyone has a boat. (3, 1)
- 69 More sites are good. (3, 5)
- 70 Absolutely love the additional shore fishing opportunities. (1, 1)
- 71 would be nice to improve current beach (3, 0)
- 72 leave the park the way it is (6, 0)
- 73 great (0, 11)
- 74 We love the chance to do some overnight camping at the hike in campsites. Great addition to the park. The trail is a nice touch too. (5, 10)
- 75 I think shoreline restoration is important. (0, 12)
- 76 I LOVE the hiking trail to a scenic destination. It is badly needed in this park which has trails mostly in the open. (5, 12)
- 77 Trail to the overlook is a great idea. (0, 13)
- 78 Like the idea, but concerned about enforcement. (0, 7)
- 79 Spectacular views from up on top. It will be worth the effort to get to the top and look out over the water body. Thank you. (5, 13)
- 80 Highly supportive of additional acquisitions in this area of the park to protect MBS-identified native oak and white pine forest. (3, 10)
- 81 Hike in sites would be a good fit here (4, 11)

Concept A Concerns (number of up votes, number of down votes)

- 1 I think this whole plan borders on insanity. Where is "Forever Wild?" We will have to change the motto to "Forever Asphalt" or "Forever Coney Island." Where has common sense gone? (1, 0)
- 2 Everything about this plan stinks. Leave this beautiful natural park just the way it is. (2, 0)
- 3 terrible spot for the entrance (2, 0)
- 4 Please start planting a lot of trees to block the beautiful Cannon Greens neighborhood from this zoo you are creating (1, 1)
- 5 Recommend re-routing high use bike trail away from group camping (group campers want some privacy and separation from busy paved bike trail) (0, 0)
- 6 Brilliant idea to have an off leash dog park right next to a residential neighborhood on what is to become a very busy road with all the extra campsites. Did anyone think at all when designing this!! (1, 1)
- 7 repair and paint the picnic tables. (1, 0)
- 8 terrible idea ,dog park across from cannon greens housing development. We have a barking dog ordinance in Randolph Township, and it is to close to road (1, 0)
- 9 No additional campsites required at this park! (3, 0)
- 10 Now is the time to reroute the road over the old dike. Repairs on the dam now make this plug and ditch unnecessary. Hundreds of feet of new lake front area gained (0, 0)
- 11 No additional campsites required at this park! (2, 0)
- 12 Evaluate. People car-camp here and it's easiest to car-camp when you can pull your car up to your site vs. parking and hauling supplies overland. (0, 0)
- 13 No additional campsites required at this park! (1, 1)
- 14 No thanks, without water why bring an RV. Just make it tents. (0, 0)
- 15 No additional campsites required at this park! (1, 0)
- 16 These sites would need to be priced differently, or be provided better amenities since they are not on the water. It would be nice to have more sites, that's the good news. (3, 2)
- 17 Adding all the camping sites in the proposed plan will triple the amount of traffic in the park. So much for enjoying nature. Would you want triple the amount of traffic next to your house? (1, 0)
- 18 Enjoy having a breeze off the lake at the tent sites. Feel this removes us from what we like about this park and the sites may be too hot in the summer time. (2, 0)
- 19 No water hookups for these RV sites? Most parks try to add amenities rather than take away. Why not consider full hookups similar to Lebanon Hills? (0, 1)
- 20 What I like most about this campground is that all sites are on the water. This is a large amount of sites that are not on the water and I don't like that. I agree that these should cost less. (4, 0)
- 21 Instead of digging a hole in the ground, how about Dakota County holds the MPCA accountable to the clean water act and actually solves a problem, versus digging a hole in the ground. (1, 0)
- 22 "completely agree with this comment - Instead of digging a hole in the ground, how about Dakota County holds the MPCA accountable to the clean water act and actually solves a problem! (3, 0)"
- 23 Motorized boat launch is busy, often with overflow. Are we able to increase boat/trailer parking (will DNR allow?) if yes, we should expand. (0, 1)
- 24 No additional campsites required at this park! (0, 0)
- 25 Are you moving all tent sites away from the waterfront? If so, this very discriminatory. We're a tent-camping family, and love to tent camp on the shore. (2, 0)
- 26 Please move all of these sites somewhere not visible, at all. (1, 2)
- 27 Consider a restroom that serves the motorized boat launch people and the shelter people. (0, 0)
- 28 Existing beach should be re-evaluated. As-is, poor water quality and high winds blowing sand make it a poor user experience. This is the best viewshed in the park--utilize for something else. (0, 0)
- 29 The waterfront sites are what we love about this campground. (0, 0)
- 30 Taking away RV sites and adding way to many boat sites for size of lake area here. it is already very busy on weekends when most of the people would be there. (2, 0)
- 31 Would prefer to leave these as electric/water camp sites. If you only keep 34 water/electric sites, will be very hard for people to enjoy this great place. (0, 0)
- 32 please do not removed lakeside camping (1, 0)
- 33 We have serious concerns about giving up these prime RVing sites. Is it not possible to put the boat slips to the west instead? Thank you for considering our input. (0, 0)
- 34 These are our favorite sites. Eliminating waterfront sites diminishes the park for RV users. (1, 0)
- 35 Removing these RV sites would be detrimental. I would rather see more sites added to the west. (0, 1)
- 36 Leave the park the way it is and spend the \$\$ on fixing the water quality (0, 0)
- 37 The colored area is overlaid onto a portion of holes #3 and #4. How does this effect the golf club and its those holes. (1, 2)
- 38 These waterfront sites need to stay. When making reservations, sites 1 through 17 are generally the ones that go first. I agree more campsites would be nice, but not by losing waterfront ones. (2, 0)
- 39 leave our golf course alone. (3, 0)
- 40 Will this parking area eliminate the RV camping sites? These are terrific sites. (0, 4)
- 41 High waves from passing boats will make these houseboats really rock (0, 0)
- 42 Has a study been completed to determine that there is actually a market for this type of product? (2, 0)
- 43 Don't have what will be a very popular paved bike trail running past camper cabins (people renting cabins want privacy). (3, 1)
- 44 Too close to the trail for bike riders. I like the idea of camper cabins. Just further away from the actual trail (2, 0)
- 45 Houseboat Cabins = lake pollution - terrible idea (3, 0)
- 46 I did not know you were trying to make this Prior Lake, so much for nature! (2, 0)
- 47 leave this natural! (4, 2)

Concept A Concerns (number of up votes, number of down votes)

- 48** "Great Lawn": Evaluate BMP's for stormwater management and buffers. This is an impaired lake and river--we want to improve water quality and be a role model for BMP's. (0, 0)
- 49** I like the idea of open space for picnics and recreation, but agree that low-maintenance prairie would be a better fit. (3, 0)
- 50** spend the money on the water quality!!! (5, 0)
- 51** Why does this have to be a "Great Lawn," why can't it be prairie so maintenance has less to mow and the county leans more towards sustainability. (3, 0)
- 52** 40 is too many - 20 would be ok (6, 0)
- 53** Is there a reason the boat docks can't be located in this area rather than displacing the existing RV sites? (0, 1)
- 54** This is very shallow fishing. Would be better for boat up docks for shore picnics. Fishing dock moved east where channel is deeper and better fishing. (2, 0)
- 55** Very shallow, poor fishing (0, 0)
- 56** concern for shoreline and limestone damage with heavy traffic (8, 1)
- 57** There is a whole camp ground right across the lake sufficient to handle the people who want to camp. This camp site is not needed and unwanted. (5, 0)
- 58** leave shoreline restoration to residents to save on expenses, esp for an area that would rarely be used (7, 1)
- 59** View from hill is not worth the expense or risk to build out (8, 0)
- 60** This trail is a safety concern, most of the people using these trails are teenagers jumping of the cliffs (7, 0)
- 61** This is not a good entrance to the park. I have lived here 30 years(5256 hwy 19 blvd) and know how fast vehicles drive on hwy 19. I have had numerous close calls there turning into my driveway. (0, 1)
- 62** View from here is really poor relative to the Boy Scout property due to tall hardwood canopy. Wait until the Boy Scout land is acquired and then build a lookout with a really worthwhile view. (12, 0)
- 63** this is not an amusement park -- go somewhere else for that (9, 1)
- 64** Unless you put a 10 foot fence around this. I already have problems with trespassing from people going up to the cliffs. Close the trail up to the cliff area permanently. (8, 0)
- 65** This small area is way too close to the nearest residence to have primitive campsites. (12, 0)
- 66** This is a quiet lake community. Adding a BMX park would only increase traffic and noise. (1, 0)
- 67** Is there a demand for this type of use? This image is what comes to my mind when I see BMX bike loop. I don't think this type of use fits with either park. (7, 0)
- 68** These campsites look down into back yards of residential homes, which provides an unnatural view for campers and removes the privacy of the homeowners (10, 0)

Concept B Likes (number of up votes, number of down votes)

- 1 Consider acquisition of this parcel. (0, 0)
- 2 I like all the passive, quiet trails for hiking--more loops for more options. I'm sure the growing neighborhoods will enjoy the access for walking dogs, etc. (0, 0)
- 3 I really like embracing the forever wild theme and keeping the large section of trails. Property values will be just fine. (0, 0)
- 4 I like this idea of a trail side art segment that could change with different installations each year. Trail users would look forward to it, it's a destination. (0, 0)
- 5 I like the updated trail network. As-is, the trails are just so-so layout wise, this looks much more scenic and appealing. (0, 0)
- 6 Love this idea as a park feature that's unique. (0, 0)
- 7 lake side cottages are awesome!! they will be all booked up! build more.:) (4, 1)
- 8 This appears to be better suited to car camping where cars can pull up to each site, but it's hard to tell from the illustration. (0, 0)
- 9 I like this idea. The current land topography is almost perfect for this idea. (3, 1)
- 10 I like the idea of unique camping. Sod houses though? What about yurts instead? (0, 0)
- 11 Great spot for the RV camping. (1, 0)
- 12 Best idea ever, move all the RV camping away from the waters edge. (1, 2)
- 13 I think the placement of these campgrounds is better than on the waterfront. Everyone should be able to enjoy the waterfront, not just campers. Just so you know, I camp with a travel camper. (1, 0)
- 14 Love this. I can see people on a bike trip, wanting these. (0, 0)
- 15 Great concept!! Nice to have some lakeside accommodations for non- camper/tenters. (3, 0)
- 16 THERE ARE MORE CAMPING SITES, AND THAT'S THE BIGGEST REASON WE LIKE BYLLESBYE IS FOR CAMPING. IT LOOKS BIGGER TOO (4, 1)
- 17 improved playground would be great. (1, 0)
- 18 What's the scope of the lodge? Is it a new campground office? Visitor Center? I like the fire oven as a unique activity. (0, 0)
- 19 I like how all the lake front space is now open and flexible, general use space. This park could host some great community festivals and events, and having this area open would be perfect. (0, 0)
- 20 I do like this idea. However the lake is very poor water quality as others have stated. (0, 0)
- 21 The existing playground is used heavily by campers and general park users. If the traditional playground goes away, make sure this play area appeals to that audience, is accessible to kids of all ages (0, 0)
- 22 Not many people swim at the current beach. Hopefully a barrier would improve water quality. (4, 0)
- 23 I like that everyone can enjoy the lakefront, not just campers. (1, 2)
- 24 Really can't say enough about utilizing this space. It looks really odd with RVs all around the lake. They can still walk over and enjoy the view with everyone else. (0, 0)
- 25 Bad location for swimming beach. A "curtain" has been tried before and was a failure. Spend the money on cleaning up the lake, not pretending that it will be cleaner with a curtain! (0, 0)
- 26 leave the park the way it is (0, 0)
- 27 Great new design for the swimming area! (1, 2)
- 28 Love it! Finally the used RV lot is gone. The county is true embracing "Forever Wild". Best idea of the entire master plan. (1, 1)
- 29 What if there was a smaller-scale Lake Harriet Bandshell type of amenity? I would love live music and programming here! (0, 0)
- 30 I like the idea of an area that's away from the business of the park--for very quiet camping. Yurts are cool. (0, 0)
- 31 As others have stated, the RV waterfront sites are the main reason this campground is appealing. Sacrificing them for alternative development would be a mistake. (2, 0)
- 32 Very much prefer keeping these sites intact. These are very nice sites along the lake. The RV sites looking toward the water are great. (4, 0)
- 33 Yurts would be an excellent addition. Winter time ski trails off of them would be even better. (0, 0)
- 34 Yurts are super cool. These seem a long way away from "the action". (1, 0)
- 35 Great idea! Is this enough boat slips? (0, 0)
- 36 I think people who are camping would appreciate a boat slip, so they don't have to take their boats out every night. (6, 0)
- 37 would love to have a place to dock boat while camping (1, 1)
- 38 I would like to launch a canoe here, good idea! (2, 0)
- 39 whitewater launch and development of whitewater course. (2, 1)
- 40 I like the access to this part of the park! (1, 1)
- 41 I like the idea of a gathering area here. I can see people wanting to get married here or take pictures here. (0, 0)
- 42 The ferry idea is brilliant. A nice attraction. (0, 3)
- 43 Off leash dog area is necessary to give folks a designated place to run their dogs away from the pathway. (3, 0)
- 44 We would be excited to have a hike in camping area similar in nature as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Nice touch. (3, 10)
- 45 A dog park would be alright. (0, 0)
- 46 A trail to the hike in location is the best part of this entire plan. This is the most scenic location of the entire east park property. (2, 10)
- 47 I like this idea. (5, 1)
- 48 Lousy location for an observation point. Leave it natural so ALL users of the lake can view the cliffs/woods. Would not be able to view the lake without removing several beautiful trees, Bad idea! (5, 1)
- 49 With the focus on health and well being these days, trails located in scenic wooded areas are an important part of any park system. This should be completed in the first phase of the park plan. (2, 12)
- 50 Cool unique idea. I would love to canoe in to camp. (0, 10)

Concept B Concerns (number of up votes, number of down votes)

- 1** Too much....overcrowding/lack of sufficient space for all of the activities planned. (0, 0)
- 2** This plan is certain to destroy property values/the integrity of a recent housing development. Try to be a bit more considerate of your neighbors... (0, 0)
- 3** Nice three ring circus next to a housing development!!! Thank you for destroying my property value. Go buy a park somewhere else. Why wreck a beautiful park?? (1, 2)
- 4** I second this - I think this whole plan borders on insanity. Where is "Forever Wild?" We will have to change the motto to "Forever Asphalt" or "Forever Coney Island." Where has common sense gone? (1, 0)
- 5** I think this whole plan borders on insanity. Where is "Forever Wild?" We will have to change the motto to "Forever Asphalt" or "Forever Coney Island." Where has common sense gone? (4, 0)
- 6** Is this the best location for this? I like the idea, just seems like it's located off in the boonies. (0, 0)
- 7** Start planting trees now - to block out this terrible idea from the beautiful Cannon Green neighborhood (1, 2)
- 8** Terrible plan. Keep the current entrance to the park. Don't needlessly infringe on Cannon Greens housing development. They pay taxes too! (0, 1)
- 9** This is an amusement park, so much for nature. And nothing like a crowded lake! (2, 2)
- 10** Way too much for such a small area. The integrity of the park will be destroyed with the sheer numbers of activities/camp sites... (0, 0)
- 11** AGREED - This is an amusement park, so much for nature. And nothing like a crowded lake! (1, 2)
- 12** This should be located centrally. (0, 0)
- 13** disgusted! (1, 2)
- 14** just say NO! (1, 2)
- 15** If the county wants more campsites in this "limited area" why not sell real estate and charge taxes. Neighbors, who pay the taxes shouldn't have to ENTERTAIN VISITORS IN THEIR BACKYARDS... (0, 1)
- 16** NO NEW CAMPING SITES! (1, 0)
- 17** Welcome to Wisconsin Dells!!! (1, 2)
- 18** please do not take away lake side camping. During the week these are the only sites used at park (2, 0)
- 19** NO NEW CAMPING SITES! (1, 0)
- 20** No views. See other comment (1, 1)
- 21** Sod house concept...not good. cottages are much more appealing. (1, 0)
- 22** no new camp sites 34 is enough (1, 0)
- 23** Too many camp sites already. The tranquility of the lake is diminished with EACH new campsite. (0, 0)
- 24** You are moving all the RV camping away from the water. (1, 0)
- 25** These sites are no longer as appealing if not on the water the way the original design was. It would be nice to have more sites, not at the expense of putting them all off the water with no views. (1, 2)
- 26** Won't bother to come back if we aren't able to be lakeside. (0, 0)
- 27** Like the lakeside cottage idea, but just realized these are where the swim lagoon might otherwise go. I'd take the swim lagoon and keep the cottages further down instead. (2, 1)
- 28** "I second this - Dakota County do you job and hold the MPCA to the clean water act. This is the second silliest idea yet for the swim beach, the silliest being option A's hole in the ground. (1, 0)"
- 29** The playground could be back further doesn't need to be on the waterfront. you guys cannot handle the reservations as they are today, let alone all this expansion? What plans to improve that???? (1, 0)
- 30** Dakota County do you job and hold the MPCA to the clean water act. This is the second silliest idea yet for the swim beach, the silliest being option A's hole in the ground. (1, 0)
- 31** Similar to Plan A comments, request evaluation for the beach as it is. Given this is the best view in the park, with such a poor user experience, review alternative uses. (like a large gathering area) (0, 0)
- 32** love the on water rv sites (0, 0)
- 33** Please consider not taking away these lake-view RV sites. (1, 0)
- 34** Please don't get rid of the waterfront campsites - it's the best feature of this park! (5, 2)
- 35** I don't see any yay or nay comments about the "great lawn". Would that be better served as a location for picnic shelters? This spot is better left for RV sites. (0, 1)
- 36** Please reconsider and do not take away the lakeside RV sites. (2, 0)
- 37** I much prefer Concept A that keeps some of the waterfront sites. Adding the boat slips is a great addition - but would like to see both in the plan long term. (1, 0)
- 38** Leave this space for the RV sites. (0, 0)
- 39** Please don't eliminate the waterfront RV sites. It's why we come to Lake Billesby. (4, 0)
- 40** We won't return to Lake B if there are no longer any waterfront tent sites. It's unfair to take those of us who really enjoy nature and relegate tent campers to walk-in site so far from the water. Sad (2, 0)
- 41** Please allow tent camping near the lake. (3, 0)
- 42** Leave the RV sites as is. Only reason we come to the campground. (1, 0)
- 43** picnicking just is not popular---people who are not camping are at home in air conditioned comfort (1, 0)
- 44** It's a terrible solution to use all the shorefront for picnic/lawn use. That is day-use activity. Not camping activity. We would not return (we're not local) if this is the case. (3, 0)
- 45** leave our golf course alone. (2, 1)
- 46** spend the \$\$ on improving the water quality (1, 0)
- 47** Continue to work on water quality, not more activities... (0, 0)
- 48** no more campsites! (2, 2)
- 49** Add boat slips ONLY if counted in the total number of boats allowed on the lake at any one time. 63 total boats....PERIOD. (0, 0)
- 50** Don't continue to infringe on local neighbors. Keep the neighborhoods intact...Much too close to the golf course. (0, 2)

Concept B Concerns (number of up votes, number of down votes)

- 51** There is already enough boat traffic in this small space. Adding boat slips at this location will be subject to severe wave action and only clog an already unsafe boating experience for everyone. (0, 0)
- 52** no more campsites! (5, 0)
- 53** Please consider the long term residents. Dakota County continues to "hem in" local residents, for the benefit of visitors/not longtime tax payers. (0, 1)
- 54** no more campsites! (5, 0)
- 55** Similar comments to Plan A regarding BMP's for buffers and stormwater management. We want to improve lake quality and model the best possible BMP's for lakeshore. (0, 0)
- 56** time at this park. The whole this is terrible! Leave the park the way it is and spend the \$\$ on improving the water quality (1, 0)
- 57** this whole plan is really stupid but this takes the cake and seriously dangerous! it is fairly obvious the people who came up with this ridiculous plan to not live in the area and have not spent much (2, 2)
- 58** I don't think this is realistic, this can be a busy lake. (3, 0)
- 59** There is a lot of traffic through here from the launch to the lake. Ferry across that traffic seems dangerous. (6, 0)
- 60** Not a big fan of dog parks. (1, 1)
- 61** terrible idea! (1, 0)
- 62** This "ferry idea" located at the narrows in the lake will prove to be a disaster "waiting to happen": Too much boat traffic already. Forget the ferry! (3, 0)
- 63** Like the addition of the dog park, but would prefer it closer to the camping sites. (1, 1)
- 64** Money should be used on water quality rather than shoreline restoration. Leave the shoreline to the residents! (5, 1)
- 65** building out a trail here would only encourage cliff jumpers and is NOT worth the risk to our children (10, 0)
- 66** A dangerous entrance road. Too many speeders on hwy 19. My car was totalled there as I was turning into my driveway. (0, 0)
- 67** There is absolutely no need for a skating rink at the lake. It will not be used and will only cost money. (3, 0)
- 68** I don't think skating rinks are used by many. Plus, I'm not sure our climate will support an ice skating rink. (6, 2)
- 69** Unless you put a 10 foot fence around the property, I already have problems with trespassing from people going to the cliffs. Close the access to the cliff area permanently. (7, 0)
- 70** This trail is a safety concern, most of the people using these trails are teenagers jumping of the cliffs (6, 0)
- 71** This shoreline should not have ANY access. The trail contributes only more congestion on the Goodhue County side of the lake.... (4, 1)
- 72** Do not encourage the kids further to jump off the cliffs. There is already enough of that going on! (5, 0)
- 73** Here is the best possible view from the hilltop. The hardwood canopy will block any potential panoramic lake view in the summer/spring/fall without significant hardwood removal. (10, 0)
- 74** no more campsites! (12, 3)
- 75** Trying to achieve a viable lookout will only destroy the view from the lake by thousands each year. Forget the trail and the overlook! Barnes Bluff in Red Wing is/was magnificent until planners! (11, 1)
- 76** not large/remotely enough area to bring this concept to life when only a stones throw from houses (9, 0)
- 77** These campsites provide views into residential back yards. Unnatural views for campers and removing the privacy of homeowners is bad for both parties. (8, 0)
- 78** Any access to the "cliff area" should be restricted to viewing from the lake ONLY. Tranquility and the wooded area should be left in its' natural state for ALL to enjoy, INCLUDING LOCAL RESIDENTS! (12, 1)

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
A All	Concern	Just keep it the same as it is now
A All	Concern	As a birder I've enjoyed this peaceful area. Please cut down on so many changes!
A All	Concern	Winter use - not have winter trails corss plowed trails. Way to go over/under
A All	Concern	Off-leash dog area - proximity to winter skjoring/dog sledding - visitor/sound barring
A All	Concern	Would waves in bay area cause problems with houseboat cabins and boatslips
A All	Concern	Missing tent sites near lake
A All	Concern	Beach (G.C.) added is of concern with G.C. boat launch
A All	Concern	Destination playground - closer to parking
A All	Concern	Canoe campsites need to not be too close to trail
A All	Concern	Off leash dog area - between 2 housing subdivisions - noise
A All	Concern	Way too busy
A All	Concern	Lose the off leash dog area
A All	Concern	No more camping sites
A All	Concern	No RV sites adjacent to Hwy 19
A All	Concern	Hwy 19 is too busy for an entrance/exit
A All	Concern	House boats :(not good option
A All	Concern	40 RV and Tent sites trying to turn into park (traffic)
A All	Concern	Light pollution from RV site
A All	Concern	Smoke from campfires
A All	Keep	Camper cabins - like along river
A All	Keep	Keeping of some sites right along water
A All	Keep	Road separation of camp area good to break it up
A All	Keep	Like 2 mi trail loop
A All	Keep	Down from dam river uses
A All	Keep	Accommodations relatively close to bike trail
A All	Keep	Make the trail to the cliffs a priority
A All	Keep	Love having some boat slips available
A All	Keep	Non-motorized boat launch!
A All	Keep	Lodge
A All	Keep	Like the idea of tiny cottages
A All	Keep	Like the idea of the swim lagoon
A All	Map	D.C. - contact station earlier in park?
A All	Map	C.F. City - Joint pool onsite - explore opportunities
A All	Map	Afton S.P. e.g. of outdoor fireplace at back of pavilion
A All	Map	Positive of having shades, concessions, etc.
A All	Map	No wake area in main landing bay
A All	Map	Stairway on South side to get to river
A All	Map	Fishing Pier at Lilac Landing
A All	Map	Good to make [Lilac Landing] feel like a place
A All	Map	Fishing Pier on SE corner of Echo Point
A All	Map	Burr Oak Remnant to Presrve - Maybe short grass prairie [South Echo Point]
A All	Map	Emphasize signage on [Mill Town] trail - x miles to caseys, supplies, tourist destinations, etc.
A All	Map	Buffer Property [east of new CR 19 entrance road]
A All	Map	Intersection Safety (speed/trucks) [at CR 19 and new entrance road]

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
Active	A Concerns	Get ride of house boats
Active	A Concerns	The camp sites between the boy scout camp and the residential homes are not a good idea. They look into the yards of residential homes are bad for campers and residents.
Active	A Concerns	More campsites means more traffic, the area is not set up for this.
Active	A Concerns	Very concerned about the lack of lakeside RV sites, which is popular amenity with many.
Active	A Concerns	I LOVE the addition of boat slips and totally willing to give up some of the lakeside camping sites for the additional boating accommodations!!
Active	A Concerns	Do not need Cabins Boathouses Yerts, etc.
Active	A Concerns	Although I like tent sites instead of walk-in camping, don't like the location of the tent sites. One of the things we enjoy about Byllesby is being able to see the lake and getting a breeze off the lake when it is hot. I feel this puts us out of the perspective.
Active	A Concerns	Removal of existing lakeside sites is not well thought out and essentially a stupid idea. I think the houseboat cabin idea is interesting but could end up costing the tax payers too much.
Active	A Concerns	again - the traffic, the area is not set up for this
Active	A Concerns	Don't like the picnic area forces the movement of the tent campsites.
Active	A Concerns	No concerns.
Active	A Keep	Keep lakeside RV sites, tiny cottages
Active	A Keep	BMX loop
Active	A Keep	Splash Pad
Active	A Keep	Non-motorized boat launch
Active	A Keep	Want more RV electric/water sites by the lake.
Active	A Keep	I love the idea of unique accommodations like yurts or sod houses in concept B. Any thought to making sure winterized accommodations are available for promoting winter activities like ice fishing, hiking, snow shoeing or cross-country skiing?
Active	A Keep	NO MORE CAMP SITES!
Active	A Keep	I like that you kept half of the lake side camping sites. Addition of cottages is great. I do prefer the option B lake side cottages better. Houseboat cabins are a cool idea.
Active	A Keep	Like the addition of cottages, cabin houseboats, fishing piers as well as the addition of more restrooms and showers.
Active	A Keep	EXPAND camping opportunities. Just moving sites away from the water is not a solid idea.
Active	A Keep	Waterfront campsites (w/electric & firepit) are top priority for me - it's why we love to camp there!!
Active	A Keep	Not sure, we just come to relax and enjoy the view of the lake from our campsite.
Active	A Keep	Love the idea of nature play and interactive nature activities.
Active	A Keep	I hate them - the activity is the lake. If you want an amusement park go to one.
Active	A Keep	Love the addition of the swim lagoon and the off leash area. Also like that there are more paved trails for use.
Active	A Keep	Activities listed in concept A seem far more practical than concept B.
Active	A Keep	Splash pad is great for little ones and/or those that want to cool off quick w/o going in the lake. Like swim lagoon area, added fishing piers and TRAILS!! The more trails for hiking the better ðŸ˜Š
Active	A Map	Love that idea [BMX loop]
Active	A Map	Noisy, high-traffic area [houseboats]
Active	B Concern	This is a lot of tax dollars being spent - will user fees recoup any of the cost? We like the park just as it is and most campers obviously agree.
Active	B Concern	Keep the rental price down to make it more accessible to lower income families.
Active	B Concern	To many campsites - the area is not set up for this increase in traffic.
Active	B Concern	Is there actually a market for Sodd Houses in this area? Please consider not moving the existing RV sites.
Active	B Concern	The lake shore camp sites are a unique and wonderful feature to the park. Losing all the lake sites is not good. I do support the addition of boat slips and realize to add one thing you must remove something else. Just please don't take ALL the lake sites. Not thinking sod houses will be a hit. Cottages and yurts seem more appealing.

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
Active	B Concern	Do not like the movement of the campsites off the lakeshore. This is one of the best features of Byllesby.
Active	B Concern	the whole plan stinks!
Active	B Concern	Ferry across the busy path from launch to lake seems like a crash waiting to happen. Yikes!
Active	B Concern	Disappointed that some of the activities will take away lakeshore camping. That is one of the reasons we come to Byllesby frequently.
Active	B Concern	Too much.
Active	B Keep	Family bike skill area
Active	B Keep	Non-motorized boat launch
Active	B Keep	Swim beach barrier
Active	B Keep	No sod houses
Active	B Keep	Do not like the RV sites where they are in this plan.
Active	B Keep	I love the idea of unique accommodations like sod houses and yurts. Any thought to making sure winterized accommodations are available for promoting winter activities like ice fishing, hiking, snow shoeing or cross-country skiing?
Active	B Keep	Too many campsites - the area is not set up for this increase in traffic.
Active	B Keep	Love the addition of more electric sites, lakeside cottages, and yurts.
Active	B Keep	Like the addition of cottages, cabins, houseboat cabins, and more campsites.
Active	B Keep	The Goodhue side is ok. The Dakota side, and the lack of thought into moving sites from the river, just isn't a good idea.
Active	B Keep	Not interested.
Active	B Keep	Improved shore fishing and dog friendly areas.
Active	B Keep	the activity is the lake - spend the \$\$ improving the water quality instead of turning it into an amusement park
Active	B Keep	I like the changes to the swimming beach area.
Active	B Keep	Love the ideas, although not sure how much some of them will be used. Especially like the increased water activities.
Active	B Keep	I like the idea of having facilities out on the point.
Active	B Map	No Ferry
B All	Concern	Adventure Play to Interpretative Play
B All	Concern	Winter skijoring/dog sledding trail currently go to NE in prairie area - confirm
B All	Concern	Move campsites away could be barrier from drawing campers
B All	Concern	What about tent camping near H20 - just RVs?
B All	Concern	Waves impact for boat slips
B All	Concern	No camping nearby lake
B All	Concern	Skating rinks - how much use; winter extent; amt of personnel
B All	Concern	Supervision of GC campsite overnight on same side (not DC)
B All	Concern	Hike-in near residential homes - lights, noise - could it work?
B All	Concern	No new camping spots
B All	Concern	Too busy
B All	Concern	Ferry looks like a waste of money
B All	Concern	Don't like trail on 295th
B All	Concern	Trail should be for snowmobile, horses, everything, all people not just special interest group
B All	Concern	Keep it in the park not willing to connect to them
B All	Concern	Ferry is dangerous
B All	Concern	Sod houses
B All	Concern	Repurpose existing amenities where possible (lodge)
B All	Keep	Mill Town Trail - better buffer to camping area; art walk good
B All	Keep	Boat slips more protected in this concept

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
B All	Keep	Biking trail separated from campers - even along lake
B All	Keep	Like clustering of active use areas/Mill Towns Trail
B All	Keep	Downstream activities from dam
B All	Keep	Nothing - leave it as is
B All	Keep	West end should be kept quiet for bird watchers
B All	Keep	Lots of lake side cottages!
B All	Keep	Swimming beach barrier - super!
B All	Keep	Lots of electric camp sites
B All	Keep	Consider moving the splace pad away from the lake
B All	Keep	Non-motorized boat launch!
B All	Map	Winter group camp need water
B All	Map	Fish houses for rent?
B All	Map	Charles City, IA - whitewater park - could be explored below dam (Wausa, WI)
B All	Map	Cannon only has scenic and recreational - below dam to CF is scenic might be challenging
B All	Map	Northfield - did [whitewater] as part of dam removal
B All	Map	Whitewater - 1-3 waves, build, maybe slolm course?, add waves not D course of river
B All	Map	DNR - would leave to local as to whether plowed or not - Mill Town - Coordinate with C.V.T
B All	Map	Like diverse camping areas - willing to explore on state land
B All	Map	Dog sledding/skijoring keep in both - way to make unique
B All	Map	[Potential winter uses] - wind kiting as a use; events; snowmaking?
B All	Map	Winter fat tire park area? [family mtn biking]
B All	Map	Potentail paved trail [along NW side of park]
B All	Map	Stage/bandhill w/ lodge - open area at end
B All	Map	Portage from lake to river
B All	Map	Not in my front yard, why do we have to have a bike trail [along 295th street] - along RR better
B All	Map	Deep irrigation well [along N side of 295th]
B All	Map	I don't want [Mill towns trail along 295th]
B All	Map	Buffer [boy scout and surrounding prop]
B All	Map	Like overlook [boy scout]
Circulation	A Concerns	It is awkward having the boat launch and beach areas so close. They are such different activities. When you are launching a boat the people on the beach have a front row seat to your progress and there is always concern about hitting someone. Conversely, when you are on the beach and boats are coming and going it's not very relaxing. Perhaps the beach could be expanded and boat launches moved elsewhere for better separation?
Circulation	A Concerns	Too much traffic to the area - it is not set up for this increase.
Circulation	A Concerns	Keep it simple. More RV and Tent camping sites. The sites by the water are very popular. Concentrate on clean and not overly crowded.
Circulation	A Concerns	Would be nice to have more roads, parking on both sides of the walk-in tent area.
Circulation	A Keep	Looks OK.
Circulation	A Keep	Improved shore fishing, expanded beach on Goodhue County side and developing the cliff area and peninsula.
Circulation	A Keep	I hate everything about it - I moved here specifically for this park and I mean the way it is now, natural, peaceful. Not an amusement park. Leave it just the way it is!
Circulation	A Keep	Do not remove lakeside RV sites. Without the lakeside sites there is no reason to camp at Byllesby. Additional are needed but at proposed site would be a last resort choice.
Circulation	A Keep	What does "circulation" mean??
Circulation	A Keep	Seems okay, although difficult to determine until traffic levels are measured.

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
Circulation	A Keep	By far the better proposal between A and B. I love the Goodhue proposed improvements more than I do the Dakota side.
Circulation	A Map	Concept A; high traffic [on N side of bay]
Circulation	A Map	Concept A; move echo point parking lot closer to beach parking
Circulation	B Concern	The concept of the Ferry is silly and very impractical. Very high boat traffic through these narrows makes the concept dangerous.
Circulation	B Concern	Everything! More traffic, more litter, less nature. Terrible ideas.
Circulation	B Concern	The removal of all existing full service campsites from the shoreline is not very thought out. Have any park staff actually camped here? The riverside at dusk while camping is not something you can get many places in the state let alone on the outer fringe of the metro.
Circulation	B Keep	Traffic through Dakota Park is good except access to Gerlach way should somehow be limited or eliminated. Gerlach is a neighborhood street and cannot support heavy park traffic.
Circulation	B Keep	Looks OK.
Circulation	B Keep	Love the Mill Town Trail concept. Would love if Cannon Falls was the main visitor's center for that trail system.
Circulation	B Keep	HATE EVERYTHING - leave the park the way it is and spend the money on improving the water quality.
Circulation	B Keep	I'm not sure what "circulation" is referring to.
Circulation	B Keep	The addition of the ferry is a unique concept. I am wondering if it is affordable. The new park entrance is appealing.
Circulation	B Keep	There isn't much to like.
Circulation	B Map	This road [295th street] is the main "drag" between Randolph and CF - 60+MPH - Not a safe road for a bike trail. Think people!
Circulation	B Map	Concept B; Move [echo point parking lot] away from narrow point of echo pt.
General	Concern	Avoid duplication of activities between the two parks
General	Concern	Use of Gerlach Road as a park access
General	Keep	The canoe portage around the dam is needed
General	Keep	Gathering place that could be used for school groups would be desirable
General	Keep	Providing dependable water play would be an improvement
General	Keep	Like the idea of camper cabin type accommodations
General	Keep	Like the idea of the Mill Towns Trail in the park
General		Not conducive due to zebra mussels - blue green algae
General		Wirth precedent - ADA accessibility
General		Army corps: no earthen barrier, sheet piling - need precedent, sediment contain?
General		Place to do bigger events
General		More great lawns will require increased investment by D.C. in maintenance as will require increased monitoring
General		Family mtn biking - similar to BMX loop? (Cottage Grove/Eagan Existing)
General		Strike a balance between formal nature play, water loop, and not
General		Energy Theme
General		Wind power - need to be woven in
General		Make sure to have adequate support facilities for event space
General		E.g. party in the party - Richardson N.C., 3 rivers - maybe e.g. on way no great lawn in E.P.
General		Echo Point - has lots of gophers, hard to maintain lawn
General		Beach - flexible space to have "community festival area" - decreased tents, lake events (1,000), R night Thursday Music
General		Maybe design trails so could be cross country skiing if best snow in D.C.
General		Places to program: Echo point, picnic shelter, want fire pit, lodge - good to have
General		Not park for winter use - other options? Climate change?
General		Katie - if goes away okay - but one person
General		Is worth effort to have winter rec (groomed) - maybe just on N side of DC

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
General		Good to have paved bike loop in park that includes GC
General		Would be better to put buffer between private camp areas and Mill Towns Trail
General		If do winter access snow mobile trail through
General		Could do all-season camping to extend visitor use
General		Like having some type of signature accommodations
General		Large scale fire pit? Plaza for activities when not windy? Pavilion expanded?
General		Beach - should it really be in the same location. Decreased wind inland oversized for current use - but with extra folks?
General		Circulation - could we eliminate road? Could we loop to N the main road?
General		Dog off leash park Plan A
General		Mountain Biking Plan B
General		Both too close to residences on Harry Ave and Hagan Ave - noise complaints are very common to others in residential areas
General		I move to this area specifically for this park. I mean the way it is right now! I don't like any of the added "activities." The lake is the attraction. We already have issues with dogs constantly barking and do not need added noise with a dog park. I am disgusted by this plan and plan to fight it at every level.
General		Hate it all. Very commercial. Park is perfect now. Will make park and lake too busy. Cannon Greens housing development will not be happy. Buy a park somewhere else!
General		Don't need these items - keep the park more natural: Cottages, lodge, boat slips (2 or ?), Houseboat cabins, pavilion - a second one, BMX loop, Acquire boy scout property, ferry boat, biking skills course, RV dumping building, sod houses
General		Consider pontoon boat rental
General		Like the addition of fishing piers
General		Ice fishing is popular, consider an ice fishing tournament as a winter event
General		If a whitewater course is desired below the dam, the DNR would need to permit it; the Cannon River is a Wild and Scenic River; there is a management plan that guides water flow/release from the dam
General		Bicyclists may prefer camp sites that are away from drive in sites
General		Keep natural play areas natural
General		Wellspring partnership with Goodhue County Park?
General		Wind kiting could be a winter use
General		The school doesn't use the park much; a tour to make teachers aware of the resource would be a good idea
General		Would be interested in education resources and field trip opportunities. Cost has been an issue in the past with other providers such as [Maltby?]
Interpretation	A Concerns	This interactive website is great, but the green thumb stating the hike-in campsites are a good idea defaults to 'like' even when you click 'dislike' which is misleading!
Interpretation	A Concerns	Everything about this plan stinks!
Interpretation	A Concerns	Anything new is better than the nothing we have now.
Interpretation	A Keep	Gross!!!
Interpretation	A Keep	I have always considered a recreation area and not an education area, but like the opportunities of including this in the plan.
Interpretation	A Keep	No comments.
Interpretation	B Concern	Leave the park the way it is.
Interpretation	B Keep	I like nothing about this plan
Interpretation	B Keep	Intriguing. Especially the interactive water feature.
Interpretation	B Keep	no thoughts.
Interpretation	Map	Historical ice fishing contest area [by dam]
Interpretation	Map	Pioneers area [echo point]
Interpretation	Map	Big falls area [echo point]

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
Interpretation	Other	From the view of historic photo - similar to augmented reality
Interpretation	Other	Embosser - passport-style collecting stamps for prize
Interpretation	Other	Cliff area may be area where pioneer woman photo and small book
Interpretation	Other	Was popular area for hunting
Interpretation	Other	Local water and land species, plants and history. I think the local "mill towns" and their economies should also be promoted.
Interpretation	Other	What is used to be and how you destroyed it with this plan!
Interpretation	Other	History and geology of the area.
Interpretation	Other	The history of the dam and river beneath the reservoir would be fun.
Interpretation	Other	Nearby mill town history, lake species, local plants and animals.
Interpretation	Other	how you destroyed this natural park and made it into an theme park instead
Interpretation	Other	History and geology of the area are a must.
Passive	A Concerns	The Goodhue side overlook trail has a very poor view due to the hardwood canopy. I tried to attach a picture from the hilltop, but the little circle just kept going round and round for 10 minutes. If the Boy Scout property were acquired, then there would be a very worthwhile view. 90% of the foot traffic on the proposed trail will be young people going to the cliffs to jump anyway.
Passive	A Concerns	Again - leave it the way it is, you are destroying this natural park.
Passive	A Concerns	Enjoy the Lakeshore camping, and see that you are providing lakeshore experience in other areas. Feel you don't need to take this away from tent campers, but leave the experience for RV campers.
Passive	A Concerns	Add canoe and kayak rentals?
Passive	A Keep	You are taking away all the natural areas. The area is natural the way it is - leave it!
Passive	A Keep	Like the addition of resources on the Goodhue county side.
Passive	A Keep	I like the existing trails and the addition of new trails and water routes.
Passive	B Concern	Not excited about "art" walk - prefer to take in natural beauty on a walk
Passive	B Concern	The trail to the hilltop is a bad idea. The existing trail gets definitely less than 20 people a year of the intended variety (hikers and walkers) but THOUSANDS of young people to jump off the cliffs on Boy Scout property. Going to the hilltop with its terrible lookout view will not change that proportion significantly. Wait until the Boy Scout land is acquired and build a really good lookout with a fantastic view and barriers to stop cliff jumping.
Passive	B Concern	Leave the park the way it is.
Passive	B Concern	I like the existing trails. But they need to be mowed more often and should be de-ticked with insecticide.
Passive	B Keep	Love idea of yurts for all seasons, also sod houses
Passive	B Keep	Outdoor fireplace/bribe oven stove
Passive	B Keep	Like adventure playground
Passive	B Keep	Lots of people walk dogs on the paved trails on the Goodhue side. Adding an off-leash area would be very helpful and maybe keep the poop off the paved trails.
Passive	B Keep	you have destroyed all the natural resources!!
Passive	B Keep	Like the expanded use of the Goodhue county beach and the access to the Goodhue side by trail. Also like the stargazing area at the former boyscout land.
Passive	B Keep	The existing trails are wonderful and very under utilized.
Passive	Precedents	Like more of them close to camp sites [picnic shelter photo]
West	Concern	There is trash and are people camped out both east and west of Dixie Way. It would be a good idea to send patrol down there
West	Keep	Trail connection to town
West	Keep	A trail connection between Randolph and the park that would allow students to access the park without crossing Highway 56 is desired
West		Town of Cascade, road, and railroad remnants are interesting features
West All	Concern	Impact of construction/restoration on NR/birding

Comments from Open House, County Staff, Lake Byllesby Improvement Association, Randolph City Council, Randolph Schools, & Regional Recreation Providers & Park Users

Board	Question	Comment
West All	Keep	Paddle in campsites
West All	Map	Hickman property: do not include in Master Plan - Trail is very close to house
West All	Map	Concerns: Bird in the delta area - people should not interact with nesting areas
West All	Map	DNR - like to provide sites that cannot get to from shore could do that?
West All	Map	GC does own area by cascades - very minor - could add to map
West All	Map	Look at current structures [Mill towns between delta and bluff]
West All	Map	Maltby - potential collaboration for programming
West Natural	Keep	Guides or other nature expert staff at park

INDIVIDUAL INPUT

Resident Dawn Lanning's input received via email 2/6/2017

From: [Dawn Lanning](#)
To: [Leatham, Lil](#)
Cc: Jennifer.ziemer@co.goodhue.mn.us; greg.isakson@co.goodhue.mn.us; [Sullivan, Steve](#)
Subject: Lake Byllesby MP
Date: Monday, February 6, 2017 5:59:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

Hi Lil,

I was just checking in for an update on the Master Planning process for Lake Byllesby. I noticed that Goodhue County Parks Board will be meeting on Thursday evening to discuss the Master Plan and that there has already been three Advisory Group meetings to discuss two different concepts for the park. I would have liked to have been a part of that Advisory Group since I was the only person that was present for the Park Users Stakeholders meeting back in September. However, I have reviewed what has been posted thus far. While I like some of the new ideas for this park, I am very concerned that there is little consideration for winter trails or activities in the master plan. Looking at the maps for both concepts I do not see any planned changes in winter trail designations but both concepts show that much of the dogsledding trail currently used will be paved, it will cross an actual road with car traffic 2-3x (twice in concept B, three times in concept A), past an off leash dog area in one concept and a fat tire biking area in the other, all of which are not favorable for dogsledding/skijoring use and frankly not good even for cross country skiing use. Pictures of our teams running in the park are used on the county website for this park but yet there is not any dogsledding pictures included in the "precedent imagery" section and there is nothing noted for a dogsledding/skijoring trail head. These all just make me wonder what the plans are for the current users of the dogsledding and skjoring trails in this park?

I think dogsledding has a long history in this park, in fact Lake Byllesby Park is where I first learned to enjoy this winter activity while taking dogsledding classes with Pat Jones through Dakota County's programs over 20 years ago. It can be an important draw to promote this park since this is the only park available to this user group. I know I have brought many people not only from the Twin Cities metro area but from all over the country and even the world into this park in addition to media attention for the park including reporters from Northfield News, Star Tribune, WCCO and had the weather cooperated this season KARE11. I have numerous youth groups learning to enjoy winter activities in this park and even a boy scout troop visiting from the Chicago area this season that will be staying at Phillippo Scout Camp and participating in a program in the park provided the weather cooperates.

As a Goodhue County resident and a long time user and supporter of Dakota County Park trails, just wondering how to stay involved in this process so I can continue enjoying this park?

Thanks,

Dawn Lanning
Process Engineer

2017 Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan Item: Goodhue Overlook, Stargazing and/or Primitive Camp

Everyone loves a nature walk with a climb to an overlook of a spectacular vista.

Now, let us be honest about what has previously been planned and is now currently being proposed for the 7 acre Goodhue hilltop area.

The View: From Boy Scout property right on top of the cliffs, the view to the west and northwest is spectacular. The lake undulates through two bays, the closest having beautiful cliffs continuously along the shoreline ahead, the further largest bay reflects sky blue surrounded by forested shores and on the south side, gorgeous forested ridges. The height of the sandstone cliffs one is standing on, spectacular in themselves, ensures an excellent, unrestricted view.

Unfortunately, the Goodhue County owned portion of the hilltop has a very restricted view. There is a narrow unrestricted view to the NNE from the edge of a north facing bluff. Present in that view is primarily the Dakota Park campground, a portion of the east bay in front of that campground, and a fairly uninteresting, flat landscape beyond. To the west and northwest which one would like to view, there are 60 to 80 foot tall hardwoods, and further down the slope are stands of tall pines, both of which entirely block the view to the lake and surrounding hills and ridges to the west and northwest, and all of these trees stand on Boy Scout land. Unless an agreement is made with the Boy Scouts to cut down the mature hardwoods, the primary purpose of this trail and lookout is lost. Has anyone from HKGI actually gone to the 7 acre hilltop (not the Boy Scout clifftop) to assess the view from May through October when leaves are on the hardwoods? The potential benefit is minimal, and we in the LBIA strongly view that the following negatives far outweigh any benefit from the poor potential view, even with scrub trees removed.

The Trees: When looking south across the lake from just about anywhere on the north shore of Lake Byllesby, or from the lake surface by boat, one is overwhelmed by the beauty of the tree covered ridges and hills that climb upward from the shoreline and cliffs on the southern shore. Eagles and vultures soar high above the clifftop ridges. Mature hardwoods present a deep green curving hilltop canopy punctuated by tall pines closer to the shore. We in the LBIA are extremely concerned that in order to obtain any significant view from the proposed hilltop trail and lookout, not only would scrub trees need to be removed, but the 60 to 80 foot tall hardwoods to the north and west of the hilltop bluff would need either removal or significant thinning. The resulting ridgeline as viewed from the north would be scarred by a void of trees surrounding the overlook. Stand at the east end of Echo Point today and look up at the ridgeline across. Imagine where that lookout will be and picture the angles required for a view from that lookout. Now trim those beautiful hardwoods to a level that ensures that view. What remains would look nothing in comparison to the beauty of hilltop and bluff before you today. **Since preservation of natural resources is a primary guiding principle of the Master Plan, this desecration of the mature hardwoods must not occur.**

The Cliffs: The spectacular cliffs that rise above the middle bay of Lake Byllesby on private Boy Scout property have been used by local youth as a daring cliff jump into the lake for decades. The difficult geography and surrounding residents and landowners have kept thrill seeking trespassers to a minimum, and those daring enough to sneak by private lake homes and woods or climb up from boats in the 1900s had to be cautious in their jumping as well.

Today, and since 2006 when the Goodhue Park trail was cut through the woods, the number of adventurous youth trespassing on Boy Scout land to jump from the cliffs has gone up by a factor of at least 10 to 20 times. The trail cut by Goodhue County through the woods and along County owned lakeshore, terminating just short of the Boy Scout property, has strongly encouraged such an influx, with daily and weekend counts of cliff jumpers in 2012 resulting in an estimate of 3000 to 5000 youths using the cliffs for this very dangerous adventure in a single year, most from various suburbs of the Twin Cities. For those not familiar with it, there is only a narrow section of a few yards of cliff that is not potentially fatal to jump from. Jumping 10 feet further along the cliff lands a 25' to 40' jump in only inches of water. Also, jumpers who do not leap far enough are exposed to an underwater slope of the cliff that cannot be seen from above the surface. Serious injuries regularly occur. Broken backs have been documented online, and in 2015 a jumper landed on a canoe going by below, with very serious injuries resulting.

It is only a matter of time before a fatality occurs. The Boy Scouts and Goodhue County Sherriff department struggle to warn away trespassers and ensure safety. Local residents cannot inhibit trail users with obvious intent to cliff jump because the trail is public and use encouraged. Ironically, the same counts of trail users have found less than a total of 20 users of the intended variety (families and nature walkers) to be using the trail annually. The exception was in 2016 with several large groups of park, county and HKGI officials toured the trail.

Inevitably, the loved ones of a fatality or a seriously injured person will sue. Not only will the Boy Scout landowners of the cliffs be liable, but Goodhue County will also be liable if the trail was used for access. It can readily be determined that the Goodhue County Park trail encourages this unlawful use of the Boy Scout's cliffs.

Stargazing: It's already been determined that the cliffs and bluffs can be dangerous. Stargazing requires darkness. (i.e. no lighted paths or lights in the viewing area). Encouraging people to use this dangerous area at night, in the dark, is foolhardy. Secondly, encouraging use after dark is a security threat to very close homeowners. Goodhue Park is already commonly known as a place for drug deals in the parking lot after dark. Please do not encourage young people with the wrong ideas to be lurking in the woods near residences after dark. There is nothing unique that makes the hilltop better for stargazing than 90% of the rest of rural Goodhue County. The altitude has a truly insignificant benefit and the trees would block more of the sky and provide no more darkness than any rural field not immediately adjacent to a yard light.

Hike-in Primitive Campsites: Proximity to residences just 300 feet away ruins the ambiance intended by this idea. Insuring security for those nearby residences is a major concern. Stanton Township ordinances do not allow overnight camping.

Summary: The Lake Byllesby Improvement Association strongly discourages including the hilltop trail to Goodhue's 7 acre parcel in the Park's Master Plan, and further recommends vacating the existing trail. The danger and liability associated with the trail encouraging illegal cliff jumpers, as well as its potential to spoil the currently pristine view from the north, make the minimal benefit unworthy. The LBIA has long stated its position that this trail concept is ill advised and its benefit not technically demonstrated (lack of views). A moratorium should be placed on all concepts of use for the Goodhue County owned 7 acres and the trail to that location.

Respectfully,

Dr. Earl Benson, President and LBIA Board of Directors

Resident Dave Pederson's input received via email 2/9/2017

From: [Dave Pederson](#)
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:42 AM
To: [KenCrys](#) ; [John Banaszewski](#) ; [Dr. Earl Benson](#) ; [Ms. Leslie Davies](#) ; [Nancy Dungy](#) ; [Julie Maxson](#) ; [Mr. Scott Wheeler](#) ; [Jason Otto](#) ; [Mr. Joe O'Gorman](#)
Subject: Trail to Nowhere

Ken,

You can make sure this group understands that the Boy Scouts are against anything that would bring people to the cliff area, and we all know this is a public safety concern!

David Pederson
Senior Ranger, Phillippo Scout Reservation
30600 32nd Ave. Way, P.O. Box 10
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
Camp: (507)263-4324
Cell: (651)231-1185
Fax: (507)263-2850

Resident Scott Wheeler's input received via email 2/20/2017

From: [Wheeler, Scott \(DLI\)](#)
To: mike.slavik@co.dakota.mn.us; brad.anderson@co.goodhue.mn.us; [Rita Trapp](#)
Subject: Lake Byllesby Master Plan Concepts Response
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 5:17:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[2-9-17 Planning Commission Packet Highlighted.pdf](#)

Gentlemen and Lady:

I'd like to thank HK Group Inc. for their fine work in the development of the two park concepts and the combined planning boards and HK Group Inc. for their recognizing those in attendance (not on the planning board(s) and soliciting our thoughts regarding the same. I was truly impressed with the creative use(s) of the park(s) and the range of infrastructure and activities proposed. I really don't have a preference in concept. I do have a handful of concerns related to the inclusions in the proposals and have made those known in the modified version (my comments are in yellow text boxed and or clouded boxes) of the prepared materials made available for the February 09, 2017, meeting at Cannon Falls City Hall that is attached. I also provided comments related to structure and material types that were a part of the "Precedent Imagery" with and "color key" to assist in highlighting "likes" or "dislikes".

In closing, I understand that not everyone will be pleased with everything included or excluded in the final Master Plan and that many of the inclusions in the plan are most likely years in the making. That said I think it important to preserve the integrity of the lake and its surrounding landscape. The lake combined with its surrounding landscape are what keeps people coming back to the park(s). It is these same elements that are treasured by those of use that live on the lake or near the lake and use/visit the lake on a daily basis year round.

If either or you should have questions regarding my thoughts regarding the concepts, please feel free to contact me using the contact information in the title block below or on my mobile phone at 651.278.1376.

Thanks again for your work and dedication in making Dakota and Goodhue Counties and the regional park at Lake Byllesby the best place(s) to live and play. It is truly appreciated.

Respectfully,

SCOTT WHEELER | CONSTRUCTION CODE REPRESENTATIVE 2 |

Construction Codes and Licensing Division |

443 Lafayette Road N. | St. Paul, MN | 55155-4341 |

651-284-5876 (office) | scott.wheeler@state.mn.us | 651-284-5749

(fax) | DLI-CCLD <http://www.doli.state.mn.us/>

new-DLI-logo

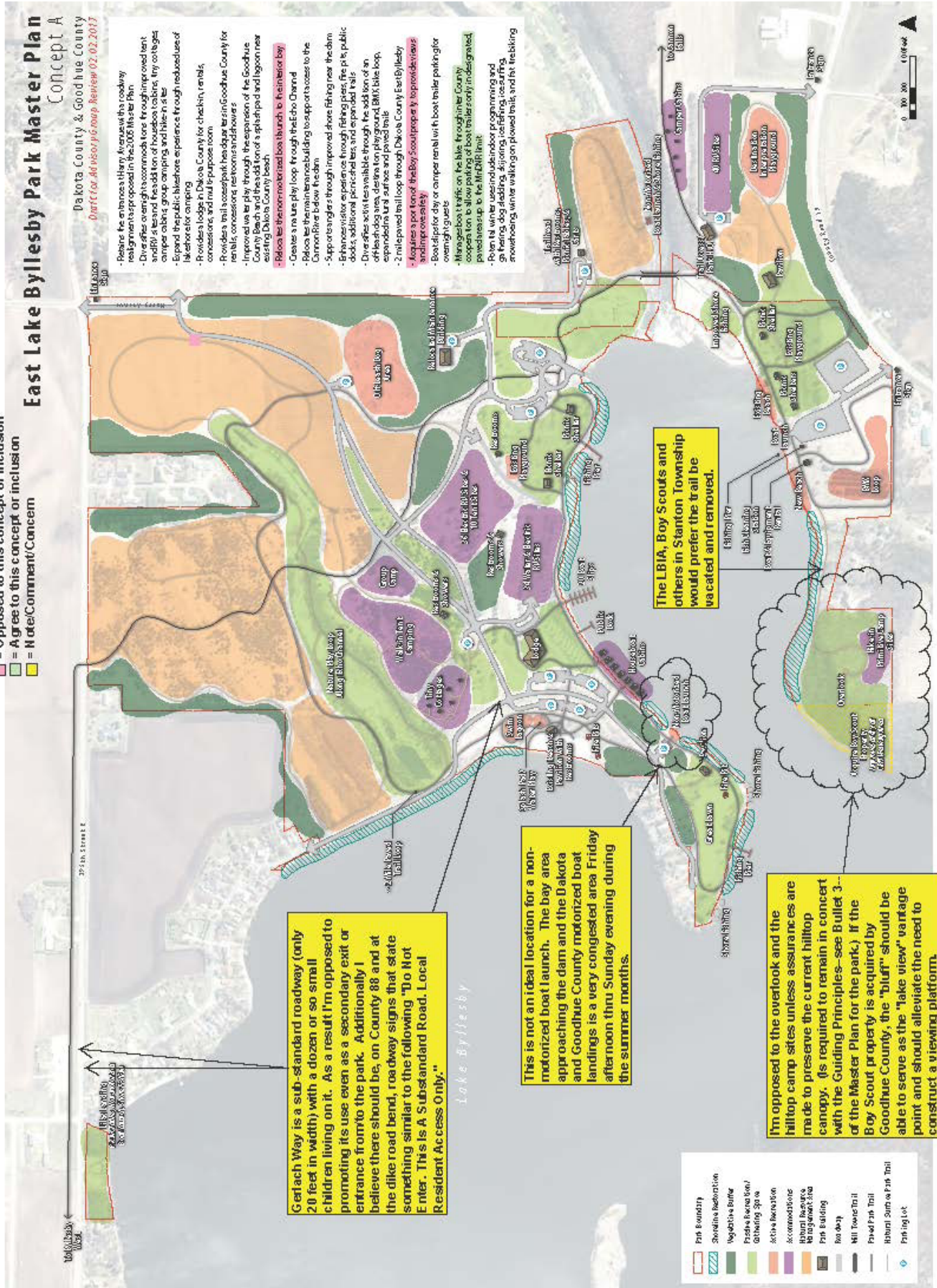


East Lake Byllesby Park Master Plan Concept A

Dakota County & Goodhue County
Director Advisory Group Review 02.02.2017

- Realign the entrance to Harry Avenue with the roadway realignment proposed in the 2006 Master Plan
- Diversify overnight accommodations through improved tent and RV sites and the addition of houseboat cabins, tiny cottages, camper cabins, group camping, and hike-in sites
- Expand the public pleasure experience through reduced use of tent sites for camping
- Provide a lodge in Dakota County for check-in, rentals, concessions, and multi-purpose room
- Provide a trail access point, headquarters in Goodhue County for rentals, concessions, restrooms and showers
- Improved water play through the expansion of the Goodhue County Beach and the addition of a splash pad and lagoon near existing Dakota County beach
- Relocate the non-motorized boat launch to the interior bay
- Create a new play loop through the Echo Channel
- Relocate the main entrance building to support access to the Cannon River below the dam
- Support anglers through improved shore fishing near the dam
- Enhance visitor experience through fishing pier, fire pit, public docks, additional picnic tables, and a paved trail
- Diversify activities available through the addition of an off-leash dog area, area for play and BMX bike loop, expanded trail surface and paved trails
- 2 mile paved trail loop through Dakota County East Byllesby
- Acquires a portion of the Boy Scout property, approximately 100 acres
- Boat launch pier or camper rental with boat trailer parking for overnight guests
- Manage boat traffic on the lake through the County
- Relocate the trail to the interior bay
- Paved trail with bicycle programming and signage, dog adding, signage, parking, ice skating, snowshoeing, winter walking on plowed trails, and fat biking

- = Opposed to this concept or inclusion
- = Agree to this concept or inclusion
- = Note/Comment/Concern



Gerlach Way is a sub-standard roadway (only 20 feet in width) with a dozen or so small children living on it. As a result I'm opposed to promoting its use even as a secondary exit or entrance from the park. Additionally I believe there should be, on County 88 and at the dike road bend, roadway signs that state something similar to the following "Do Not Enter. This is A Substandard Road. Local Resident Access Only."

This is not an ideal location for a non-motorized boat launch. The bay area approaching the dam and the Dakota and Goodhue County motorized boat landings is a very congested area Friday afternoon thru Sunday evening during the summer months.

The LBIA, Boy Scouts and others in Stanton Township would prefer the trail be vacated and removed.

I'm opposed to the overlook and the hilltop camp sites unless assurances are made to preserve the current hilltop canopy. (Is required to remain in concept with the Guiding Principles--see Bulletin 3 of the Master Plan for the park.) If the Boy Scout property is acquired by Goodhue County, the "bluff" should be able to serve as the "lake view" vantage point and should alleviate the need to construct a viewing platform.

- Pink Boundary
- Shoreline Restoration
- Negative Bay Buffer
- Passive Recreation/ Gathering Space
- Active Recreation
- Accommodations
- Current Parking Lot
- Park Building
- Roadway
- Hill Tower Trail
- Paved Park Trail
- Natural Surface Park Trail
- Parking lot



Residents John and Mary Fischer's input received via email 3/25/2017

From: John and Mary [<mailto:skeekatt@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2017 5:51 AM
To: Dakota County Parks
Subject: Re: Help Shape the future of Lake Byllesby Regional Park

We stayed last summer in a motor-home. From a park standpoint (what man has done) it is a wonderful park. However, the lake water quality was very bad and the main beach had a thick algae layer 2-3 feet up the shore all the way across. I realize it is possible that nothing can be done about this; it is a Southern MN lake/river i.e. warmer water, the river probably runs through farm country and there is probably a lot of silt/muck.

From a camping standpoint the most important things to us are the following. Of course a clean, well kept, attractive park overall is desired.

- 1.) Very clean and modern shower facilities with individual shower and dressing areas for privacy. Including handicap showers.
- 2.) Safe drinking water and 30 amp hook-ups. Must have sewer connection at site or dump station.
- 4.) Spacious, level sites with attractive surroundings. Some shade is good also.
- 5.) Store with basic needs is nice i.e. milk, bread, ice, drinks, etc.

Thank you.

Resident Ryan Renneke's input received via email 3/29/2017

From: Ryan Renneke [mailto:renn75@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Opinion

Dear Dakota County Parks,

I saw this ad in the paper but couldn't find where to input comments.

My family loves this park but we find the beach needs work. It would be great if the county bought a small tractor and beach rake and cleaned it up weekly.

Removing sticks, plant debris, large rocks, etc...

They do this at the Lake City Park and the beach is fantastic.

Thank you,

Ryan Renneke

Resident Earl Benson's input received via email 3/30/2017

To: Lake Byllesby Master Plan Committee
From: Dr. Earl Benson, President (Lake Byllesby Improvement Association)
3/30/17

In regard to the Dakota/Goodhue County Lake Byllesby Master Plan the following "**collective COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**" received to date from 1) Lakeshore Property Owners, 2) Cannon Greens Residents, 3) local non-lakeshore residents (Cannon Falls/Randolph).

Pro:

- Boat ramps (access to the lake)
- Additional Camping opportunities
- Bicycle trail extension via Byllesby Dam Bridge
- Cooperative law enforcement involving both parks
- Non-motorized watercraft access points
- Scenic views from the water preserved
- Several mentioned that the enhanced park involvement by both Goodhue and Dakota County will help preserve the natural resource and help preserve the property values for lakeshore residents over time.

Con:(no specific order)

- Indifference, yet by Goodhue County, to recognize the adversity, loss of property values, and disrespect for the lakeshore property owners on their side of Lake Byllesby by allowing the "trail" to continue to exist. The existence of this trail, over several years, has also **contributed significantly** to a major safety issue on the lake, and numerous civil trespass citations.
- Gerlach Way, as an alternate entrance/exit from the Dakota County Regional Park should be restricted to **local resident access only**. Families and small children are endangered with the existing planned access to/from the park.
- Both Master Plans (concept A & B) "overextend" the capability of the resource. The vast majority of the lakeshore property surrounding Lake Byllesby is private property, and **significant portions** of the (DNR) 1,253.94 acre lake are not navigable due to dangerous siltation or safety issues in several portions of the lake (including the central park area between Echo Point and the Byllesby Dam.
- MNDNR, so as to avoid **crowded/unsafe boating experiences**, recommends 20 acres per high speed watercraft, and allowances for 10% of resident lakeshore owner boats on the lake at any one time. Using the DNR formula, 134 lakeshore properties=13.4 boats + 29 currently at the Dakota County boat ramp. **Applying the DNR formula there should be NO MORE THAN 63 Launching spaces on Lake Byllesby. 21 boat/auto spaces for Goodhue County boat launch accesses (2)** . This number is not indicated on either plan and must be included.
- **Two boat launches and park areas directly across from each other with "limited" water acreage, dam avoidance buoys, 150 yd. boating restrictions for beach areas, planned boat docks/slips, house boat configurations, shore fishing areas, piers, with constant wave action, etc. is too crowded and will be an unpleasant boating experience for all.**

General Recommendation: Scale back activities involving boating/lake access!

Resident Kim Freymiller's input received via email 3/31/2017

From: Kim Freymiller [mailto:kim_freymiller@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 7:56 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Lake Byllesby Master Plan

After going to the community meeting last night and seeing the plan for this natural, beautiful park, I went home and cried! I moved to the Cannon Greens development specifically because I love the Lake Byllesby park, just the way it is! I am disgusted that you are trying to turn this into some kind of amusement park, it literally makes me sick! Has anyone considered the effects on the neighborhood across the street? You are planning on over tripling the amount of traffic, which is already dangerous in the summer. Does someone have to get hurt or heaven forbid be killed before someone realizes what a terrible idea this whole thing is. If you have so much money to burn, spend it on improving the water quality and saving the natural resource.

Dakota County Parks new theme - Pave paradise to put up a parking lot! Disgusting!!

Thank you for your time.

Goodhue County Staff Member Greg Isakson's input received via email 3/30/2017

From: Isakson, Greg [mailto:greg.isakson@co.goodhue.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:24 AM
To: Rita Trapp
Cc: Ziemer, Jennifer; Leatham, Lil
Subject: Public Comment on Park Master Plan

Last fall when we had the stakeholders meetings we invited Red Wing's Environmental Learning Center (ELC). They suggested the concept of using the new dam gates to control flow and use the river below the dam for a White Water Kayaking Park. I was a bit concerned that playing with the reservoir water levels would generate concerns from the LBIA.

Earlier this week I received a follow up call from a different ELC instructor. Brad has actually kayaked the stretch of the river just below the dam. He thought there was enough 'flow through' water that a White Water park could run most of the time without playing with the gates. And as I think about, we could open up the gates for a few hours a weekend without causing much of a bounce in the reservoir's water level. We also discussed access down to the water and Brad mentioned that he climbed down the south side (about where the new bridge is located) with kayaks. He suggested building a stair system down to the water and I know we have discussed this concept in the past since it is popular with the fishermen.

He said this stretch of river is similar to the Wausau Whitewater Park over in WS.. (I checked it out on U-Tub, it is fantastic, but would take quite an investment to recreate.)

A white water park at Byllesby could be a big draw of park users/campers. Besides active kayakers, a park also draws a lot of spectators (everyone loves watching a kayaker flip). We have discussed that the DNR would allow us to use their riverside property (for a park use) and building a few view points over the river to watch the kayakers would be very doable. There could be some great viewing points from up on the cliffs on the south side.

Besides a white water park, there is local interest (Mr. Lakefield) to run canoes from the park to Cannon Falls.

When we first met at the park on that beautiful June evening last summer, we stopped on the bridge and someone (Steve S.?) mentioned that this new bridge opens up a new part of the park system, the river below the dam.

As we have progressed with the planning process, we haven't given a lot of time of effort on this part of the park. I don't think we would need to make any last minute changes to the boards for the meeting tonight, but we should include a discussion in the master plan concerning the river below the dam.

Greg Isakson
Goodhue County Public Works
(651) 385-3025

Resident Isaac Ophoven-Baldwin's input received via email 4/3/2017

From: Isaac Ophoven-Baldwin [mailto:iophbaldwin@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 8:25 PM
To: Planning
Subject: Lake Byllesby Regional Park Master Plan

Dakota County Parks Planning,

I would like to voice my continuing confidence in your department. The development of Whitetail Woods was a huge win, particularly the boldly designed camper cabins. It's great to see that the department is continuing to propose innovative ideas through the Lake Byllesby master planning process.

The only thing of real concern to me is the amount of negative comments on the interactive Concepts sites from people who appear to be residents of the new subdivision on the eastern border. I would ask that the opinions of these residents be given the same weight as any other resident of Dakota County. The park was here first.

Thank you,
I.O.

Resident Jim Bassett's input received via email 4/1/2017

From: [Jim Mary Bassett](#)
To: [Leatham, Lil](#)
Subject: Parks planning meeting
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 1:01:54 PM

Lil,

Good meeting Thursday -- even though I still wonder about the loss of "Forever Wild" and the replacement, "Forever Asphalt."

Anyway, many thanks for listening to my rants and raves. I guess it will be what it will be and at my age, I won't be around to see it anyway.

I told you I would try to find out more about the platform tents/cabins they have at Camp du Nord. My oldest son, Tony, is very closely connected to du Nord, having been on the board for a number of years, and I've asked him to try to get me some information. I looked at the camp website and the pictures they have are of the old platform tents which I believe have now been replaced by kind of hard sided tents which are very nice. They also have some platform cabins which you might want to look at as you wend your way through this process.

Glad Dorry Felton Wollop came along after I did. Heck, she was steaming so much I'm sure you forgot all about me after she accosted you. Actually, we know the Felton family very well and, although we've had some issues with them (Dorry's father spent many years not talking to me because of a perceived sin I committed while on the Randolph School Board) we like them and think they are really good people, even though they go off-track sometimes -- in my opinion.

I'll let you know what I find out about the cabins.

Jim B

From: [Jim Mary Bassett](#)
To: [Leatham, Lil](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Camper cabins cost how much?!
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 9:25:56 PM

Lil,

I got a couple of responses from son Tony to my query about small "cabins" at du Nord and how they might fit into the Lake Byllesby Park (and possibly the Whitetail Park) TJN Woodworking is a guy named Tim Nelson who has done a lot of building work at Camp du Nord. Niki Geisler is the du Nord camp director. It sure looks to me like Dakota County (to which I pay taxes) could do way, way better with its money than what is proposed. Oh, \$320,000 for a restroom and some showers? Can someone actually be serious about that? It's almost beyond comprehension!!

Looking forward to seeing you and the LBIA annual meeting.

Jim B

Resident Tony Bassett's input received via email 4/3/2017

From: **Tony Bassett** <tonybassetteagan@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 3, 2017 at 8:07 AM
Subject: Re: Du Nord platform tents
To: Jim Mary Bassett <jimandmarybassett@gmail.com>

Here are some photos of du Nord's "platform cabins." Very nice permanent structures: good windows, insulated walls and ceilings, steel roofs, high-quality construction. du Nord's cost per structure in 2013 was \$13k plus some amount of volunteer labor to build. Based on press reports I have seen, it seems like an exorbitant amount of taxpayer money is being spent to build similar structures in Dakota County parks.



OPEN HOUSE: OCTOBER 2017 COMMENTS

Lake Byllesby Open House 3 Comments

Review of the Master Plan

Dakota County- Goodhue County Lake Byllesby Park Master Plan Community Open House

Wednesday, October 11th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Cannon Falls City Hall Council Chambers, 918 River Road

Comment Cards:

- Add that surrounding properties are not in favor of campground (p.19)
- It is great to see the Goudy property on Goodhue Parks east designated as PARK and camping
- I'm delighted at the inclusion of the Mill Towns State Trail through the Dakota Parks!
- Do not develop a "scenic overlook" above the cliff area in the back side of the lake – no tree removal stick to your guiding principles.
 - Preserve natural areas
 - Preserve scenic areas
- I would suggest having our Randolph Historical Society relocated along the trail.

Comments on Boards:

- Connect Randolph to the Mill Towns Trail
- Additional signage (wayfinding to the park) – (comment located on 295th street on the east of the park).
- Signage is too small – (comment located on 295th street on the west of the park).=
- Addition of an underpass to maintain the trail integrity, especially in the winter (on the park entrance road).
- Possible smoke into the neighborhood (comment located in the potential park boundary addition on Echo Point).
- Keep at a habitat area (comment located on east side of Echo Point next to fishing Pier).
- More this (Parking) over further from point (Echo Point) – (comment located at parking closest to Echo Point).
- Better site for fishing, not cabins (house boats) – (comment located at house boat dock parking on east side of Echo Point).
- Buffer/fencing to prevent access (comment located on the scenic bluffs on the south side of Byllesby Bay).

General Comments:

- Concern about subgrades at cliffs supporting structure and additional stress due to traffic.

Questionnaire Input related to the October 2017 Draft Master Plan

Comments on the Lake Byllesby Regional Park Draft Master Plan

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 7:49:33 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 7:55:31 AM
Time Spent: 00:05:57
IP Address: 207.138.218.16

Page 1: Leave Your Feedback

Q1 Please share any comments you may have on Dakota County's Lake Byllesby Regional Park Draft Master Plan.

It was be nice to have space for food truck(s) or some small food possibilities.

Q2 Please share any comments you may have on Dakota County's Lake Byllesby Regional Park Draft Natural Resources Management Plan.

Thank you for your work. I appreciate anything that will keep the water clean and allow it to become more clear and healthy.
