




**2050 Vision
Parks, Greenways, and Natural
Systems**

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1

Overview 

1. Project Purpose and Process
2. 2050 Vision Framework
3. Public Review Process
4. Public Review Comments and Plan Changes
5. Questions and Discussion
6. Planning Commission Action

2

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Purpose and Process

- Update 2030 Vision
- Update Goals and Strategies to guide parks department work over the next 25 years

Process

Spring – Fall 2024: *Research, Community Engagement*

Fall 2024-Winter 2025: *Vision Framework and Develop Draft Plan*

Spring 2025: *Public Review Draft Plan, Community Engagement*

Spring - Summer 2025: *Final Plan and Approvals*

3

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Vision Framework

The Vision Framework: Supports the **organizational mission** by expressing a **vision** for the future, formulating the **goals and strategies** to achieve it, and articulating the **core values** by which the mission will be conducted.

4

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Core Values

In alignment with Dakota County’s core values of Integrity, People, Service, and Innovation this plan’s core values are:

- To **Connect** people to each other and the natural world, fostering a sense of belonging for all.
- To **Protect & Improve**... natural spaces, ensuring a resilient and healthy environment for future generations.
- To **Inspire**... wellbeing, wonder, adventure, and learning through engaging and inclusive outdoor
- To **Nurture**... and heal the vital relationship between people and nature.
- To **Celebrate**... our vibrant and richly diverse communities.

5

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Goals

<p>Goal A Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.</p> <p>Goal B Cultivate belonging by engaging and serving the community, with an emphasis on those who are under-represented in the outdoors.</p> <p>Goal C Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.</p> <p>Goal D Create dynamic spaces with unique and memorable experiences.</p> <p>Goal E Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.</p>	<p>Goal F Offer opportunities to improve physical, mental, and spiritual health.</p> <p>Goal G Strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities for the protection of lands and traditions.</p> <p>Goal H Locate new park units close to people or to protect natural areas and recreational assets.</p> <p>Goal I Lead and support on ecological stewardship and climate resilience.</p> <p>Goal J Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.</p>	<p>Goal K Elevate cultural richness through arts, historic preservation, interpretation, and, storytelling within the park system.</p> <p>Goal L Seek and sustain values-based and mission-driven partnerships.</p> <p>Goal M Care for the system through sustainable and innovative funding.</p> <p>Goal N Invest in a thriving parks workforce that represents the communities served.</p> <p>Goal O Support local and sustainable economic development.</p>
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GOALS

6

Public Review Process



April 22-May 20

- Community Open House
- On-line review and questionnaire
- Pop-up events
- Stakeholder Meetings and Advisory Committee Meetings

Over 400 people were reached at in-person events and 66 on-line survey responses were submitted.

7

Public Review



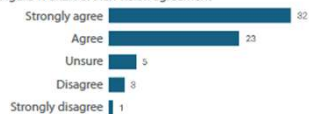
Key Themes

- Be good stewards of the land
- Keep parks natural
- Focus on amenities
- Build for all ages
- Expand and maintain trails
- Take care of what we have

86% of online survey respondents strongly agree or agree with the plan vision.

"Do you feel that this vision and the supporting values will serve to improve the quality of life in Dakota County?" 64 respondents via the online survey

Figure 1: Chart of Plan Vision agreement



8

Public Review



Five highest priority goals:

1. Protect, improve, and manage the natural resources of Dakota County.
2. Nurture the reciprocal relationship between people and nature.
3. Expand environmental stewardship through outdoor programs, learning, and volunteerism.
4. Locate new park units close to people and additionally, to protect natural areas and recreational assets.
5. Provide safe and positive core services, amenities, and experiences.

9

Plan Changes



- Accessibility section and strategies updated
- Greenway maps updated to maintain consistency with Metropolitan Council Parks Policy Plan
- Clarification of some strategies
- Staff identified updates, corrections, and omissions
- Numerous community suggestions will be considered as tactics in the operational plan updates

10

Questions and Discussion 




Next Steps

- **Final Edit**
- **July 22** - PDC considers recommendation to County Board for adoption
- **July 29** – Anticipated adoption
- **Fall/Winter 2025** – Operational plans

Thank you!

11

Requested Action 

Recommendation to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole to adopt the 2050 Vision Plan for Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems.

12