



Natural Systems Plan Update

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Physical Development Division

- NSP Status
- Stakeholder Engagement Summary
- New Implementation Content

NSP Status



- Targeted engagement
March-April 2026
- Continued plan
development
- Draft plan summer
2026

Engagement



Group	Date
Township Officers	March 14
State and Federal Agencies	March 18
Environmental Groups	March 23
County Parks Internal Groups	April 17
Implementation Partners	April 23
Water Resources Partners	April 28
City Parks Staff	April 29 and 30
Residents and Visitors	April



DNR Staff Partnership Ideas:

- Potential expansion of Natural Areas
- Native seed propagation
- Wildlife surveys and monitoring
- Restoration grants



HASTINGS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTORS

Environmental Groups:

- “Middle Organizations” to plug in volunteers
- Look to County for local initiatives
- Support for Dakota Habitat Stewards



County Park Staff Ideas:

- Managing lakes: recreation and/or ecological benefit
- School habitat areas
- Easement management
- Education areas, park “campus” areas
- Education on restoration



Implementation Partner Ideas:

- Work with large businesses and industries
- Easement owner collaborative
- Hennepin County Natural Resources Coalition
- Data tracking



Water Resources Partner Ideas:

- Complicated, multiple partners
- Skills gap in aquatic ecology
- Lake ecological health and recreation suitability
- Need greater clarity in roles
- Need for follow-up lakes study and clear metrics



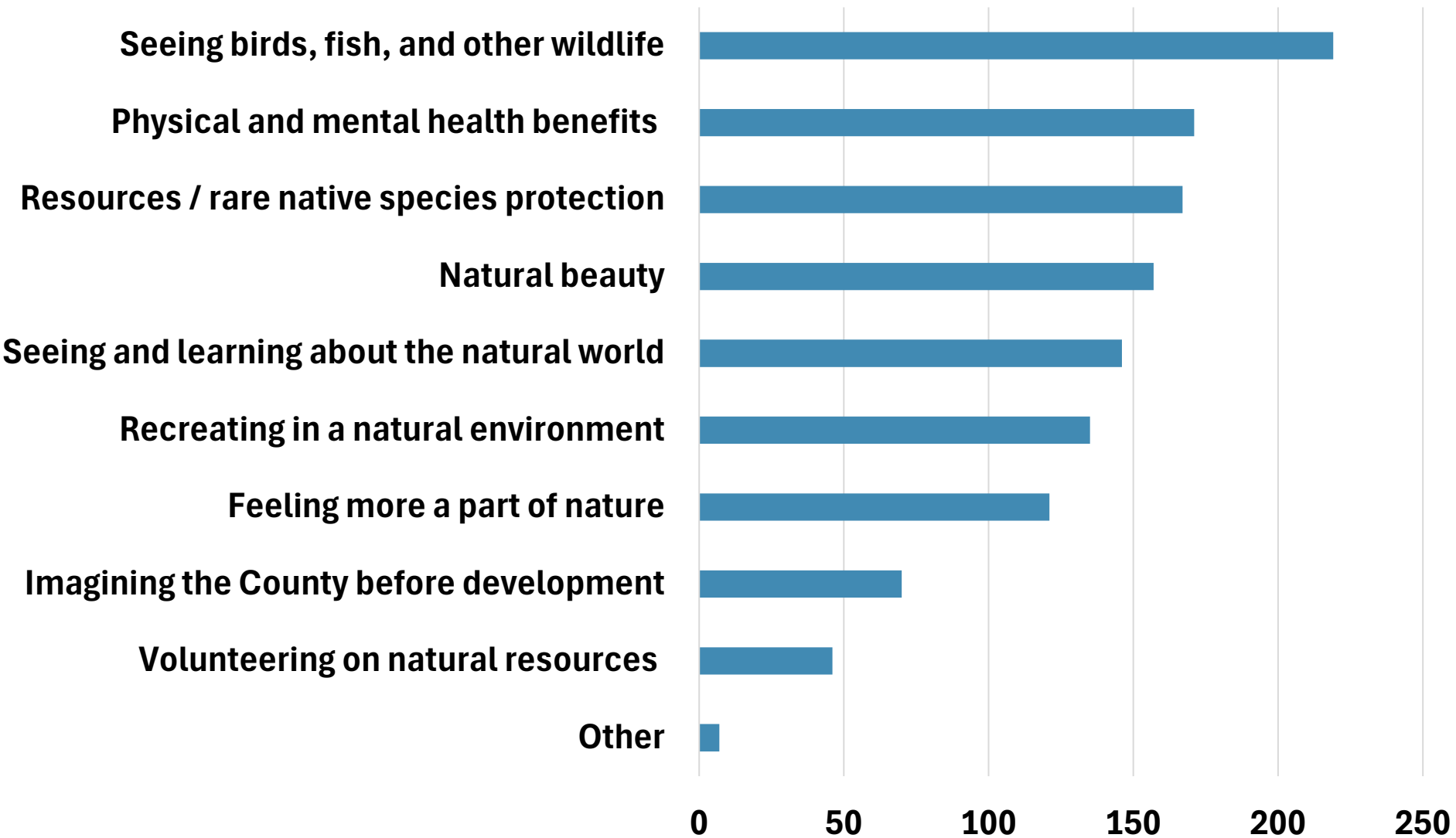
City Parks:

- Support the 4C program
- Communicating value to the public and officials
- Similar budget and staffing issues
- Wood waste concerns
- Deer management
- Interest in native seed propagation

Engagement Highlights



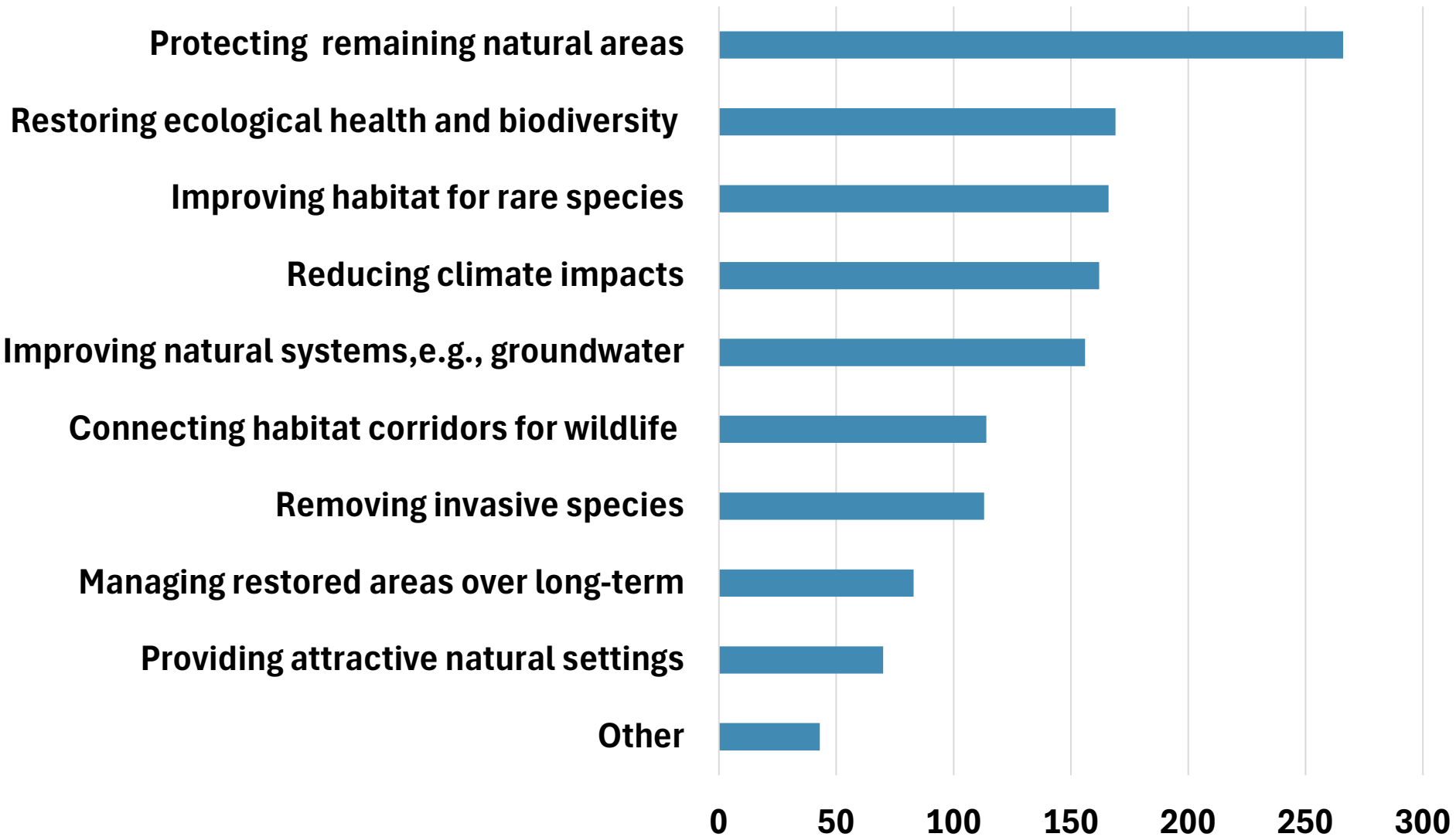
What They Value About Parks Natural Resources



Engagement Highlights



Priorities for Natural Resources Work





Additional Groups to Engage in Plan Implementation:

- Indigenous communities
- State and federal agencies
- Community partners
- Schools
- Contractors

1. Reporting to elected officials and commissions

- System status, project updates, support budget and CIP requests

2. Reporting to the public

- System status, project updates
- Generate interest, inform, encourage volunteer participation

3. Grant funders

- Project status, funding accountability

4. Feedback loop to adaptive management

- Project performance, common factors across projects

5. Operational data

- Costs, staff time required
- Program participation and efficacy
- Implementation of five-year workplan, this plan, individual NRMPs

Implementation-Service Level

CORE:

- **Land Protection:** Parks and easements, natural areas, encroachment monitoring
- **NRMP Development:** Parks, Greenways, PCAs, CCCC, Private Easements
- **NRMP Implementation:** Restoration, long-term adaptive management, continuous improvement, plant propagation
- **Wildlife:** surveys, monitoring, habitat, structures, hunt management, connecting corridors, managing reintroduced species
- **Water:** monitoring, partnering on BMPs, erosion control
- **Financial:** seeking external funds, managing contracts and budgets
- **Public Communications:** NR updates, volunteers
- **Partnerships:** build working relationships with agencies and allied groups
- **Program operations:** data management, and reporting

ADJACENT:

- **Consult:** on capital and non-park projects
- **Regional:** participate in stewardship forums
- **Communications:** events, education

TRANSFORMATIVE:

- New reintroductions
- Co-management
- TEK

Questions?