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# LAKE ELMO PARK RESERVE MASTER PLAN



Washington  
 County

MAY 2006

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### Chapter 1: Introduction

#### Overview of Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Lake Elmo Park Reserve is a natural resource-based park reserve that is 2165 acres in size and is located in central Washington County. The park is entirely within the City of Lake Elmo and is less than 2 miles from the east boundary of the City of Oakdale and the north boundary of Woodbury. As a “Reserve” the focus of the park is to provide the public with nature-oriented, recreation opportunities such as viewing and studying wildlife and wildlife habitat, learning about conservation, swimming, fishing, picnicking, hiking, orienteering, boating, camping and trail uses. The park was officially opened for public use and enjoyment in 1986. The original Master Plan for the park (completed in 1978, See Figure 1.2) directed development of a variety of facilities that have provided high quality recreation opportunities for residents of Washington County and the region. The table in Figure 1.1 identifies park facilities that were recommended in the 1978 plan, current park facilities, and facilities proposed in the new master plan. Please refer to Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of this document for more detailed descriptions of current recommendations related to park development.

In addition to the development of recreation facilities at Lake Elmo Park Reserve since adoption of the 1978 Master Plan, the Parks Division has directed several projects focused on restoration and preservation of the park’s natural resources. The work included successful prairie restoration projects, tree planting and construction of storm water management systems that helped to prevent erosion and improve water quality in lakes and wetlands. Other projects that were completed for enrichment of wildlife habitat include such efforts as the installation of duck nesting platforms, bluebird houses and osprey nesting poles.

**Figure 1.1 Comparative Analysis - Master Plan Development Summary**

(Existing Park Facilities and Proposed Park Facilities)

Complete descriptions of proposed development can be found in chapters 4, 5, and 6 of this document

Park Reserve Facilities (Existing and Proposed)	In 1978 Plan	Existing Facility	In 2006 Plan	Development Comments
Contact Station	2	1	1	No change to existing facility
Family (spur style) Campsites	170	100	120	Add 20 sites and improve 20 sites
Hike-in Campsites	0	5	7	Add 2 sites
Group Campsites	3	3	3	Move barn to site / add restrooms
Equestrian Camping	yes	yes	yes	Move - develop as 'group' site
Equestrian Trailhead	yes	yes	yes	Move - improve trailhead
Reservation Picnic Areas	3	2	2	No change to existing facility
General Picnic Areas	yes	yes	yes	Add small shelters
Large Play Area	0	1	1	No change to existing facility
Boat Launch - # of boats	45	20	20	No change except to reconfigure
Handicapped Fishing Pier	1	1	2	Add 1 fishing pier
Canoe Launch	1	1	1	No change to existing facility
Archery Range (Target)	0	1	1	Move to a different location
Archery Range (Field)	0	0	1	Add new facility
Orienteering Course	0	1	1	No change to existing facility

**Figure 1.1 Comparative Analysis - Master Plan Development Summary (continued)**

(Existing Park Facilities and Proposed Park Facilities)

Complete descriptions of proposed development can be found in chapters 4, 5, and 6 of this document

Park Reserve Facilities (Existing and Proposed)	In 1978 Plan	Existing Facility	In 2006 Plan	Development Comments
Nature Center	1	0	1	Keep in master plan
Amphitheater	0	1	2	Add amphitheater at nature center
Equestrian Trails	yes	yes	yes	Modify location of trails
Turf Hiking Trails	yes	yes	yes	No change to existing trails
Mountain Bike Trails	yes	yes	yes	Modify - make more sustainable
Cross-Country Ski Trails	yes	yes	yes	Make available at night - with lights
Snowshoe Trails	yes	yes	yes	Allow on proposed mt. bike trails
Paved / Handicap Trails	yes	yes	yes	Add paved trails near Eagle Pt. Lake
Paved Trail to Community	2	1	4	Add community access points
Trail Tunnel under Hwy. 5	0	0	1	Add community access point
Vehicle Entrance	2	1	1	No change to existing entrances
Swimming Beach	1	1	1	No change to existing facility
Children's Farm	1	0	0	Take out of master plan
Ice Skating	0	0	1	Add facility at Brown's Pond
Sliding Hill	0	0	1	Add facility near Brown's Pond

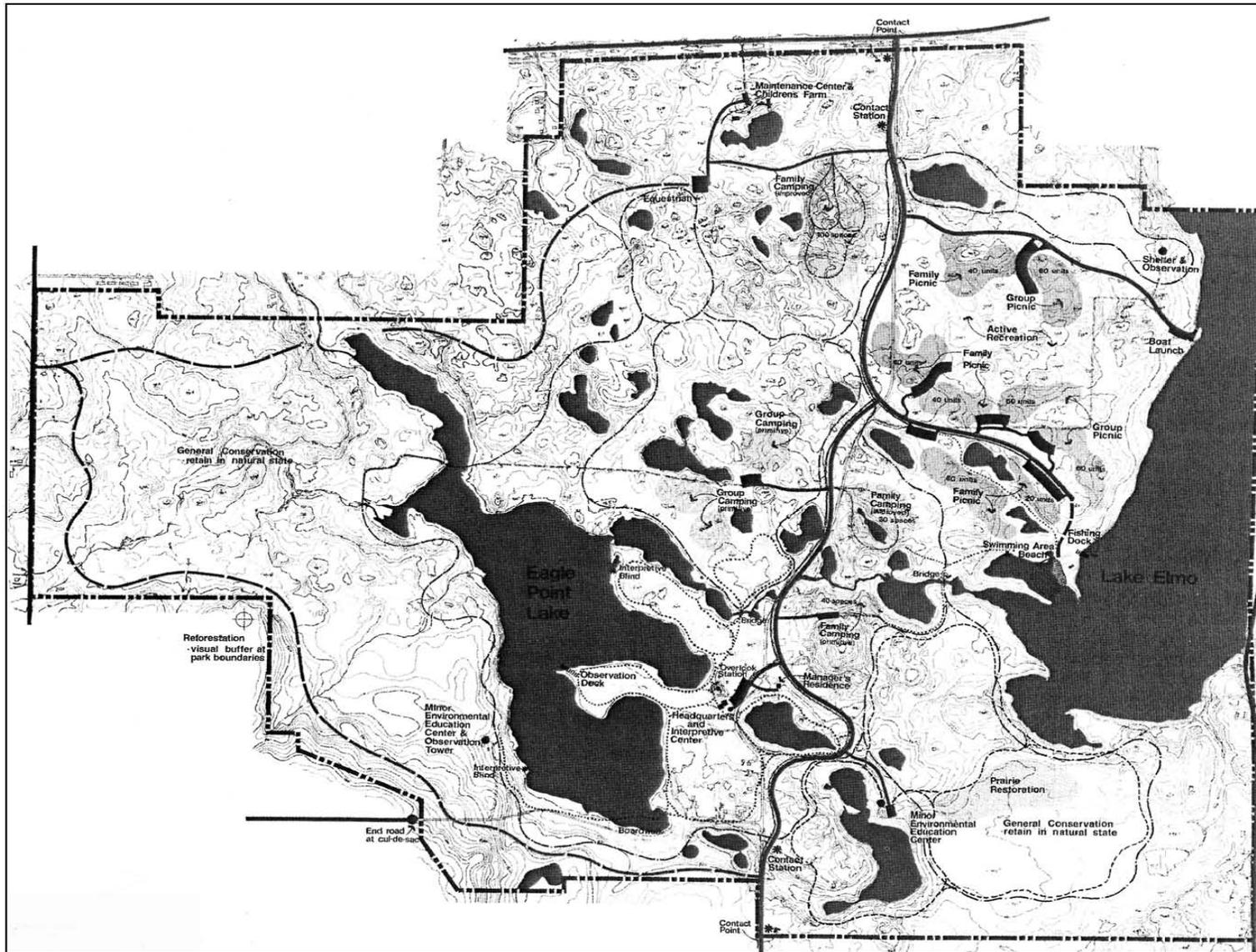
The park is an oasis of expansive green open space in the midst of urban development. Diverse habitats include a deep water lake, a variety of wetlands, prairie, remnants of oak savanna and woodlands. The park also contains farm land still under cultivation and other fields where farming has been discontinued for various lengths of time.

The County determined that the 1978 Master Plan has served its purpose and that it is time to prepare an amendment to the plan. The amendment will address the effects of population growth, new trends in recreational needs and the protection and restoration of natural resources. The plan also considers preservation and interpretation of cultural resources such as Native American archeological features and the more recent European farmsteads.

Consulting firm Sanders Wacker Bergly, Inc. (SWB), in association with Savanna Designs and ALO Environmental Associates, was commissioned by the Parks Division of the Washington County Department of Transportation & Physical Development in April 2005 to assist in the preparation of an amendment to the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Master Plan. The content of the amendment is consistent with the guidelines established by the Metropolitan Council in its Regional Recreation Open Space and Policy Plan. The Master Plan will be used to guide development, stewardship and management of the park for the next 10 to 15 years.

### **Planning Process**

The planning process began with an inventory and analysis of existing site conditions including built facilities, vegetation, soils, topography, drainage, vehicular and pedestrian circulation, etc. The information was assembled on plans and drawings for presentation at meetings with stakeholders and for inclusion in the master plan report. It is critical to understand existing site conditions, opportunities and constraints and apply this information to the preparation of plans for development, operations and management in the park. It is also important to review the data with interested stakeholders so everyone that contributes to the planning process forms their opinions and recommendations from a common information base.



# 1978 MASTER PLAN

Figure 1.2

The program for park development evolved as a result of input received from county staff, other agencies and the public at large. Public meetings included large and small group discussions and attendees were encouraged to fill out comment cards to document their recommendations. The cards also gave those that are reluctant to speak in group settings an opportunity to provide input. Public participation efforts included meetings, work sessions and other communication with the following stakeholder groups:

- Meetings with Parks Division Staff to gather background information on Lake Elmo Park Reserve and the county park system and to gain input on county goals and objectives and subsequent design concepts.
- Five meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee to receive input on site analysis information, goals and objectives and design concepts. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Cities of Lake Elmo, Oakdale and Woodbury, the Washington Conservation District and the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission.
- Three public open houses were held early in the process to receive input from area residents on goals and objectives and design concepts. One meeting was held in Lake Elmo, one in Oakdale and one in Woodbury.
- Copies of the preliminary Master Plan draft report were distributed to Lake Elmo City Council members and to Woodbury and Oakdale staff for review.
- Presentations of the draft report were made at open meetings of the Councils in each City to gain additional input.
- Five meetings with the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission to review progress of the plan preparation and to receive input on the plan.
- Public input was received from visitors to the Parks Division booth at the County Fair through discussion and comment cards.
- Information about the planning effort was posted on the county Web site and comments were received via email.

### Public Participation

The public participation process was instrumental in shaping key recommendations included in the Master Plan as described in the following paragraphs:

- The input received from area residents supported continuation of the park’s ‘reserve’ status which, according to Metropolitan Council policy, limits development to 20% of the total area within the property boundaries. The County Parks Division discussed the possibility of recommending to the Metro Council that the designation be changed to ‘regional park’ status because the Council places higher priority on appropriating funds for recreational development to regional parks than to park reserves. As a result, ‘regional park’ status would probably allow the county to implement development proposed in the Master Plan at a faster pace. Residents, however, were concerned that, although development proposed in the current plan plus current developed areas total just 9.1% of the park area, future park administrators may pursue more expansive development goals if the status of the park is changed. In response to input received from area residents, the plan recommends that Lake Elmo Park Reserve remain a ‘Reserve’.
- The 1978 Master Plan recommended development of a beach on the shore of Lake Elmo. The current planning process further explored the beach concept and considered other lake related concepts including winter vehicle access and installation of a second fishing pier on the lakeshore.

Resident input described a history of heavy participation in boating and other water-based activities on the lake’s limited acreage and discouraged development of facilities that would greatly expand recreational use of the lake. Concern was also expressed about the difficulty of monitoring and controlling winter activities on the lake. As a result of comments and discussions, the plan does not propose lakeshore beach development or winter access. The plan does recommend expanding family fishing opportunities by proposing the addition of a second fishing pier.

- Trail development received considerable public support. Concepts including trail connections to surrounding communities, improved separation between conflicting trail uses, improved mountain bike trails, improved cross-country ski facilities, expanded winter hiking and expanded paved trails were voiced frequently during the process. Chapter 5 of the plan includes recommendations for numerous trail improvements that respond to user objectives.

- Discussions frequently addressed nature-related activities such as photography, birding, nature appreciation, education, hiking in high quality habitat areas, orienteering, etc. The County Parks Division shares in the interest of providing recreation opportunities in a natural resource-based setting. The plan recommends a focus on natural resource protection and restoration (Chapter 4), development of facilities such as a nature/interpretive center, nature trails, wildlife blinds in addition to addressing needs for other compatible recreation facilities (Chapter 5) and continued implementation of sustainable operations and management practices (Chapter 7).
- Input from stakeholders supported controlled expansion of existing park facilities that have proven to be popular with visitors and are compatible with a natural resource-based park development program including the family campground, walk-in campsites, picnic areas and archery range.
- Input from stakeholders supported development of the Red Barn/Brown's Pond area into a multi-use activity center to serve as a trail head for skiing, hiking and snowshoeing, provide warming space for skating and sledding and provide space for meeting and organized events.

The comments received during the planning process (refer to Appendix 'E') supported a development program for the park that is best described by a goal statement prepared in consort with the Technical Advisory Committee which reads:

*Maintain and restore natural resources, contribute to the environmental and individual health and well-being of the region, showcase the county's heritage and provide a place for recreators and students to find quiet places, green space, native habitats, clean water and high quality features and programs to serve their interests.*

The goal statement was inspired by discussion that occurred at committee and public meetings and is based on the vision statement prepared for the county park system and adopted by the County Board of Commissioners in 2001 which reads:

*The Washington County Park and Open Space System adds value to all peoples' lives and contributes to the well being of local and regional communities by providing public enjoyment and education; and maintaining and restoring high quality natural areas. By virtue of its large size, high quality facilities and dispersed locations, the County parks and Open Space system preserves and*

*showcases the County's heritage and provides a place for users to find quietude, green space, clean water and a place to recreate.*

### **Purpose/Outcome**

The primary purpose of the Master Plan is to provide guidance and information on development, maintenance and operation of Lake Elmo Park Reserve to the Washington County Parks Division, County Park and Open Space Commission, County Board of Commissioners, Metropolitan Council and other stakeholders. The content is based on the eleven requirements for master plan content listed in the Metropolitan Council's Regional Recreation Open Space Policy Plan as follows:

- Boundaries and Acquisition
- Stewardship Plan
- Demand Forecast
- Development Concept
- Conflicts
- Public Services
- Operations
- Citizen Participation
- Public Awareness
- Special Needs
- Natural Resources

In addition, the planning process played the important role of bringing together county residents, staff and officials, agencies and other stakeholders to assess the park's current condition and to plan its future in an open format that encouraged public participation.

### **Approval**

The Lake Elmo Park Reserve Master Plan was recommended for approval by the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission on April 11, 2006. A public hearing was held on May 9, 2006, where the master plan was approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. The master plan was forwarded to the Metropolitan Council for review and was approved on August 23, 2006. The Council action included the following:

1. Approved the Lake Elmo Park Reserve master plan update (Referral No. 19770-1).

2. “Encourage Washington County to utilize bio-infiltration techniques or rainwater garden areas to accommodate run-off from the proposed parking areas, where local soils allow. Information on these and other ‘low impact development’ run-off reduction methods can be found in the council’s Urban Small Sites Best Management Practices Manual at the following address on the website: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/watershed/BMPmanual.htm>.”

## Chapter 2: Recreation Demand Forecast

### Introduction

Lake Elmo Park Reserve provides a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities that are popular with residents of Washington County and the region. The demand for specific facilities and programs is determined chiefly by trends in recreation interests and demographics. Participation in traditional activities such as hiking, swimming and nature observation continues to grow and the number of participants in newer activities such as mountain biking and orienteering is also expanding. Population growth and the fact that people are devoting more time to leisure activities create a growing need and greater demand for the type of facilities that may be offered by the county at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The planning process considered the following information sources to aid in identifying trends affecting user patterns and recreation needs relating to the park:

- Input received from residents, county staff, county officials and other stakeholders
- Washington County 2004 Visitor Study
- Washington County Parks Division 2004 Annual Report
- MNDNR 2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation survey of Minnesotans
- Annual Use Estimate of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System for 2004
- U.S. Census Data

### Demographics

The population in Washington County and the seven county Metropolitan Area has grown steadily since 1990 with the county’s growth rate being three times that of the overall state. The U.S. Census Bureau projects continued growth in the county and Metro Area through 2030. Figure 2.1 shows growth statistics for this period.

Figure 2.1

Metropolitan Council Household Forecasts for Washington County:

<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2120</u>	<u>2030</u>
49,246	71,462	93,949	116,834	138,117

## Chapter Two – Recreation Demand Forecast

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### Metropolitan Council Population Forecasts for Washington County:

<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2120</u>	<u>2030</u>
145,880	201,130	244,732	296,693	342,620

### Metropolitan Council Household Forecasts for the Metropolitan Area:

<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2120</u>	<u>2030</u>
875,504	1,021,256	1,202,539	1,369,984	1,496,607

### Metropolitan Council Population Forecasts for the Metropolitan Area:

<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2120</u>	<u>2030</u>
2,288,729	2,642,062	3,028,102	3,376,723	3,639,750

The age profile of Washington County residents (see Figure 2.2) is similar to the state averages for those under 5 and under 18, however, only 7.6% of county residents are over 65 compared to 12.1% of state residents. The male to female ratio is the same as the state average.

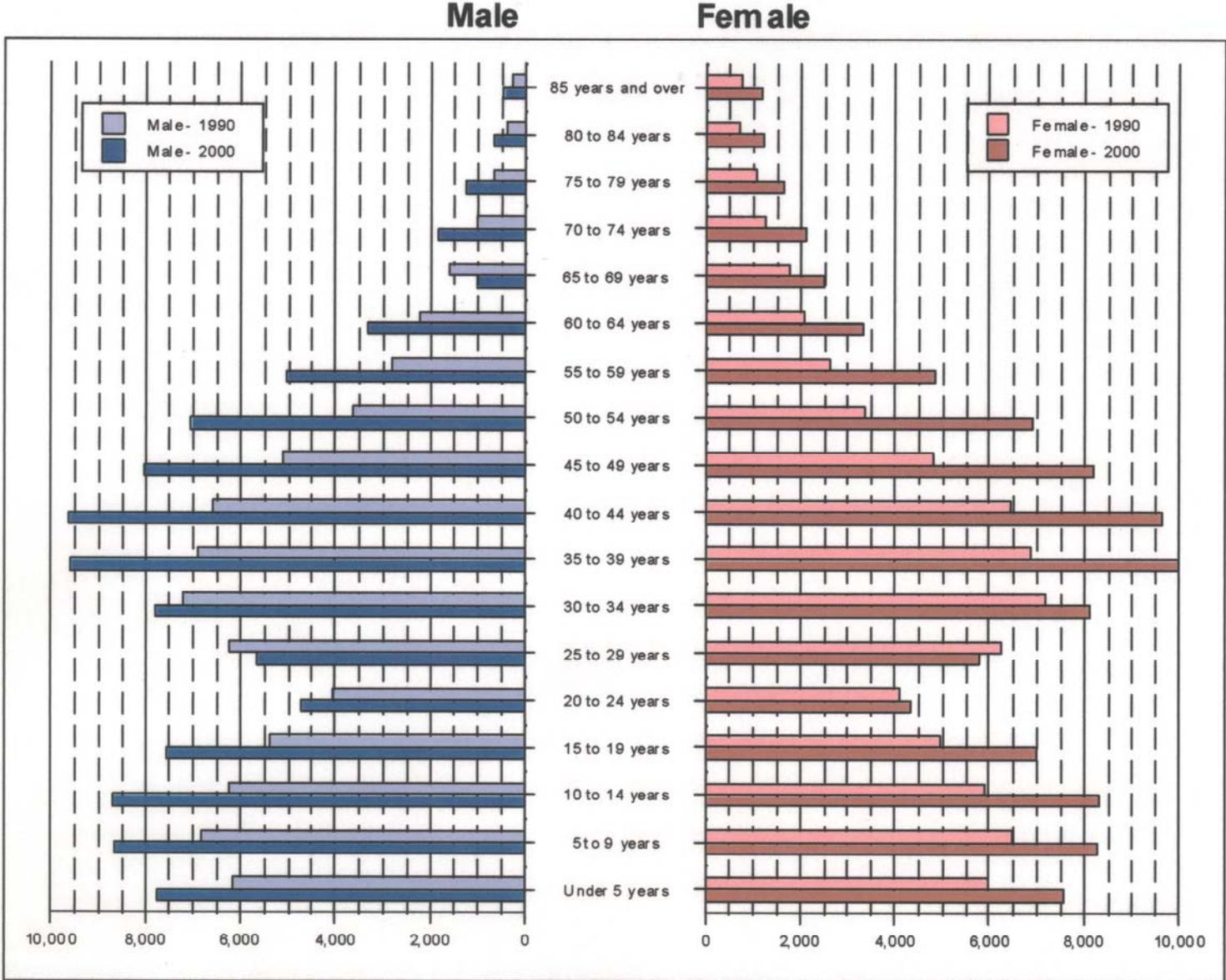
Washington County residents are somewhat more affluent than the average Minnesotan which is evidenced by a higher median household income (\$66,305.00 vs. \$47,111.00), fewer individuals with incomes below the poverty level (2.9% vs. 7.9%) and fewer multi-unit housing structures (12.5% vs. 22.3%). Income affects the ability of people to pay for equipment and fees required to participate in leisure activities and to pay transportation expenses required to gain access to the activities.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resource’s (MNDNR) ‘2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey of Minnesotans’ (ORPSM) states: “Most of Minnesotan’s outdoor recreation occurs near home and within the state. Just under 70 percent (67%) of all recreation use (hours) is within a half-hour drive of home, and nearly 90 percent (89%) occurs in Minnesota.”

LEPR is a 15 minute drive from the heart of St. Paul and approximately 30 minutes from Minneapolis. Development is spreading rapidly from the Metro core in all directions to Anoka, Carver, Scott, Dakota and Washington Counties. As development expands into rural areas, urbanites must travel farther to experience fewer havens of green open space.

Many people have an inherent need to escape, occasionally, from city environs to a rural or “natural setting”. LEPR joins Afton and William O’Brien State Parks, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park and the St. Croix Valley as major, regional, recreation open space destination in Washington County. LEPR is the nearest of these facilities as recreators travel east from the Twin Cities area into the county. The park’s

Figure 2.2  
 U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary of Tape File 1 (100% Data) Matrices P1, P5, P11, P12.  
 U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Census 2000 Summary File (SF 1) 100 – Percent Data, P12. SEX BY AGE [49] – Universe: Total population



proximity to I-94, I-694 and Hwy. 36 provides clear, convenient access. The 2004 Washington County Visitor Study indicates that, during the years 2001 - 2004, 40% of the park visitors were out-of-county residents.

The number of visitors to LEPR in 2004 was 476,859. In view of the fact that statistics indicate a growth trend in leisure time among the general populace, it would be reasonable to expect that the number of visitors will increase at a rate greater than population growth. If, at some future time, the number of visitors exceeds the carrying capacity of the park and its facilities, Washington County may elect to impose limitations on park access.

It is expected that the useful life of the Master Plan will be at least 15 years. Projections based on population growth statistics shown on Figure 2.1, suggest that the number of visitors to LEPR will increase by approximately 158,725 or 30% during that period. Some of the existing park facilities such as the modern campground, picnic shelters and archery range are currently operating at full capacity during heavy use periods. The projected visitor increase highlights the need to revisit the Master Plan and prepare recommendations that will provide guidance to the county for effectively managing future development and maintenance of the park.

### **Recreation Demand**

Outdoor recreation is an important part of most people's lives. The MNDNR '2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey of Minnesotans' (ORPSM) reports that 57% of Minnesotans indicate that outdoor recreation is 'very important' to their life, while another 25 percent indicate it is 'moderately important'. The remainder - comprising one in five Minnesota adults (18%) - believe outdoor recreation is of little importance. The survey also mentions that outdoor recreators have the following reasons for going outdoors (listed in order of survey rank):

1. Enjoy nature
2. Exercising and feeling healthier
3. Build bonds with family and friends
4. Escape pressures of modern life
5. Experience peace and quiet
6. Learning and Exploring

The ORPSM further indicates that the following activities are popular among Minnesota adults (listed in order of survey rank based on numbers that participate):

1. Walking/hiking outdoors for exercise or pleasure
2. Boating of all types
3. Swimming
4. Driving for pleasure
5. Picnicking
6. Fishing of all types
7. Biking
8. Visiting outdoor zoos
9. Camping of all types
10. Visiting nature centers
11. Nature observation of all types

The 'Washington County Visitor Study - A Summary of Results Among All Respondents from 2001 - 2004' indicates that responses recorded during four years of surveying park visitors resulted in the following ranking of recreational activities (based on activities in which respondents participated):

1. Biking on pavement
2. Camping
3. Walking
4. Swimming
5. Fishing
6. Boating
7. Play areas
8. Gardening
9. Nature walks/trails
10. Running

The findings of the MNDNR and Washington County surveys are generally consistent with recreation trends that have been apparent in the use of facilities at Lake Elmo Park Reserve and with input received from stakeholders during the planning process. The facilities that are existing or considered for future development in the Master Plan include the following:

- Trails including hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding
- Family, group, primitive and equestrian camping sites
- Picnic facilities/shelters and amenities
- Fishing pier
- Boat landing improvements (no expansion)
- Nature center/interpretive center
- Natural and cultural resource protection, restoration and interpretation
- Outdoor program area
- Field and traditional archery ranges

The recreation opportunities provided by these facilities are a close match to the list of the most popular activities cited in leisure and recreation studies and voiced by area recreators during the planning process. The ‘Development Plan’ in Chapter 5 of the Master Plan contains detailed information about the addition and expansion of facilities at LEPR.

### Chapter 3: Cultural Resources Stewardship

#### Legal & Regulatory Framework

The county will need to consider the legal and regulatory framework within which any future development is proposed at the park reserve. A proposed development or redevelopment project involving federal funds or permits will require compliance with various federal laws and regulations. Laws such as the "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969" (PL 91-190) and the "National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended" (PL 89-665) provide protection for the nation's cultural resources. The NEPA requires that archaeological and other historic resources be considered during the environmental assessment process and in environmental impact studies. The NHPA established a national historic preservation policy; created the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the cabinet-level Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP); and established the Section 106 process, which requires consideration of cultural resources for undertakings that are federally funded, licensed, or permitted. It is not uncommon for park & recreation projects to involve impacts to wetlands thereby necessitating a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A USACE permit, in turn, will federalize the entire proposed project so that compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA will also become necessary.

Since the park reserve is owned & operated by Washington County, a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, state statutes also apply to lands within the park reserve. For instance, the "Minnesota Historic Sites Act" (MS 138.51), the "Field Archaeology Act of 1963" (MS 138.31-.42), the "Private Cemeteries Act" (MS 307.08), the "Outdoor Recreation Act of 1975" (MS 86A), and the "Minnesota Environmental Rights Act" (MS 116B) all apply to lands within the park reserve.

The Minnesota Historic Sites Act recognizes that "it is in the public interest to provide for the preservation of historic sites, buildings, structures, and antiquities of state and national significance for the inspiration, use, and benefit of the people of the state." This law directs state agencies and departments to cooperate with each other and the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) in protecting properties listed in the NRHP or State Register of Historic Places and that may be affected by state or local undertakings.

The Field Archaeology Act ensures that "the State of Minnesota reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege of field archaeology on state sites, in order to protect and preserve archaeological and scientific information, matter, and objects." This law established the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), and

## Chapter Three – Cultural Resources Stewardship



"The Park" as seen from Lake Elmo



Horse Drawn Carriage and Riders at Lake Elmo



Swimming and Boating at Lake Elmo

directs state agencies to cooperate with the OSA and the MHS in protecting known or suspected archaeological sites on non-federal, publicly owned or leased land or waters, or on land or waters affected by publicly funded (state and local) projects.

The Private Cemeteries Act states that "... all human burials and human skeletal remains shall be accorded equal treatment and respect for human dignity ... the state archaeologist shall authenticate all burial sites for purposes of this section ..."

The Outdoor Recreation Act covers the "... the unique natural, cultural and historical resources of Minnesota that provide abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation and education..." The act encourages these resources to "...be made available to all the citizens of Minnesota now and in the future."

The Minnesota Environmental Rights Act asserts that "... each person is entitled by right to the protection of air, water, land and other natural resources within the state..." The state's definition of natural resources in this context includes historical resources.

This legal & regulatory framework means that the county should be prepared at a minimum to coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or the OSA for plans involving new construction and reconstruction within the park reserve's exterior boundaries. In many cases, the county also should be prepared to conduct archaeological & historical investigations prior to many future projects. The biggest functional difference between federal- & state-level compliance is that federal compliance requires consideration of adverse impacts that would result from proposed development within the viewshed of NRHP-eligible or listed cultural resources.

### Cultural and Natural History

Washington County was established on October 27, 1849. Its namesake is George Washington, the first President of the United States. Comprising 423 square miles and including part of the scenic St. Croix River Valley, Washington County was one of the nine original counties created in the Territory of Minnesota.<sup>1</sup> Since its establishment, the county has played a diverse role in the region, serving the Twin Cities metropolitan area with its commercial, industrial, natural, and agricultural resources.

Washington County experienced modest population growth in the early part of the 20th century. In 1900, the county's population was reported at 27,808 and increased only slightly to 34,544 in 1950. However,

<sup>1</sup> Minnesota became a state on May 11, 1858.

Washington county experienced dramatic and rapid population growth during the last half of the 20th century. In 1990, the population had skyrocketed to 145,896 and continued increasing throughout the 1990s at a rate of nearly 38%. The 2002 population estimate for Washington County was 210,724, ranking the county as fifth in population out of the 87 Minnesota counties. While much of Washington County has retained its rural atmosphere, today it is considered a “suburban” county.

One early settler near Lake Elmo Park Reserve was Bernard B. "Bun" Cyphers, a Virginian who arrived in the area in 1848. He & his wife, Maria, built a hotel, tavern, and stage stop, known as the "Lake House," near Sunfish Lake. Earlier travelers had reached St. Paul from the St. Croix River Valley via a road from Afton and later by one from Stillwater that first crossed Little Canada. The Cyphers moved away, and John Morgan became the first permanent settler near the park reserve when, in 1849, he purchased a farm on Stillwater Road, west of Lake Elmo. By 1850 a new road, suitable for stagecoaches – had been constructed from St. Paul to Stillwater.<sup>2</sup> Morgan built a spacious hotel known as the "Halfway House," where stagecoaches enroute from St. Paul to Stillwater changed horses and ate meals.

The two-mile-long water body now known as Lake Elmo<sup>3</sup> has played an important part in the development of the Town of Lake Elmo and Washington County. Since the late-1800s, visitors have been drawn to the lake for recreation, relaxation and scenery.

Developers for the St. Paul, Stillwater & Taylors Falls Railroad first recognized the recreational potential of Lake Elmo in the early 1870s. By 1880, the railroad company had built a small resort community along the lake's north end, and steamships provided access to distant shores. Large upscale cottages, a hotel, bathhouses, and sailboats attracted wealthy cosmopolitans to Lake Elmo's summer beauty and supply of fish. The most ambitious was the Elmo Residence Park, intended as a year-round community, which was platted in 1884 around the eastern side of the lake by a group of St. Paul businessmen (Goodman 2004). The development was publicized as "a beautiful park & lakeside home suburb near St. Paul".

A community named, "Lake Elmo Village," sprang up around the resort and railroad station. A "Doctor Stevens" established a practice in the village, and years later he founded a private hospital in the village. In 1889, a power house was erected, giving Lake Elmo the first electric lights west of Chicago. By the early 1890s, streetcars were well established and streetcar companies were extending their lines to lakes



Passengers on the Steamship, Henry W. Longfellow, probably at Lake Elmo

<sup>2</sup> This road corresponds roughly to modern Highway 5 & Stillwater Road.

<sup>3</sup> Early settlers first called it "Bass Lake;" it was renamed in honor of a novel entitled, "Lake Elmo," in 1879 by railroad promoter, Alpheus B. Stickney.



Park Structure with Lake Elmo in Background, ca. 1888

close to the Twin Cities. During this time, the village included a store, saloon, grain-house,<sup>4</sup> blacksmith, and wagon repair shop. By 1900, a cooperative creamery and grain elevator had been added to the village. In 1911 a bank was established, and a consolidated school was built there by 1914. By the 1920s, Stillwater Road had been paved, and the village incorporated in 1925 as a substantial shipping point and dairy center.

In subsequent decades, the area retained a bucolic, old-fashioned appeal that drew lake visitors through the 1950s. As residential growth and suburban development proceeded eastward from St. Paul, however, Lake Elmo lost its prominence as an agricultural center.

Americans became more reliant on automobile transportation nationwide in the years after World War II, and passenger rail service to Lake Elmo ended in 1963. An ambitious development project of the 1960s known as, "Cimarron," was a planned community of manufactured homes next to a golf course in Lake Elmo. The village was converted to a city in 1969, but Lake Elmo has retained some of its peaceful, small town character. Today, Lake Elmo's farmland continues to yield to residential & other developments in all directions.

Refer to Appendix A for more detailed information about cultural and natural history relating to Minnesota, Washington County and Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

### **Known & Potential Cultural Resources**

#### American Indian

Only two archaeological sites have been recorded within the park reserve's boundaries. Site 21WA0057 was discovered in 1989 during a Phase I archaeological survey for a proposed landfill site on the shores of Eagle Point Lake (Stanley & Hoppin 1989). This small lithic scatter is situated on a landform that archaeologists interpreted as a large dune. The site is only shallowly buried by the dune (i.e., cultural materials in the top 30 cm below the ground surface). Site 21WA0057 yielded a triangular Hixton silicified sandstone projectile point, a jasper flake tool, and cracked rock fragments, and the site's function was identified as a campsite. At the time the investigators completed an official state site form, the site's eligibility for the NRHP had not yet been formally determined, although the archaeologists recommended 21WA0057 as ineligible for the NRHP.

<sup>4</sup> Apparently this was an early type of grain elevator at which farmers unloaded their wagons directly onto the trains.

Site 21WA0058 also was discovered in 1989 during the same Phase I archaeological survey at Eagle Point Lake (Stanley & Hoppin 1989). This is an even smaller lithic scatter than 21WA0057. According to the archaeologists, 21WA0058 is located on an interfluvium that was carved into a glacial outwash plain. The depth of cultural materials was not recorded on the site form, but note was made that the cracked rock fragments came from only two of the 15 excavated shovel tests. At the time the investigators completed an official state site form, the site's eligibility for the NRHP had not yet been formally determined, although the archaeologists recommended 21WA0058 as ineligible for the NRHP.

It appears that no systematic, professional archaeological surveys have been conducted for the management of Lake Elmo Park Reserve. There is high archaeological potential for American Indian archaeological sites throughout the park reserve. Particularly the shorelines of Lake Elmo and Eagle Point Lake should be considered high priorities for archaeological surveys. There also is high archaeological potential for American Indian sites around the shores of ponds, present and former, as well as the waterways connecting bodies of surface water. The shorelines of surface water bodies may lack stratigraphic integrity, particularly around Lake Elmo and Eagle Point Lake, because of Euro-American development subsequent to any past American Indian land uses.

### Euro-American

Several historic standing structures (HSS) or HSS complexes are known, but uninventoried, within the park reserve. Additionally, there is high archaeological potential for Euro-American archaeological sites within the park's boundaries.

Refer to Appendix B for detailed information on the history of ownership, structures and infrastructure related to Euro-American settlement of the park.

### **Archaeological Sensitivity Models**

Some of the earliest professional efforts at recording archaeological sites in Minnesota were undertaken by Jacob V. Brower, Alfred J. Hill, and Theodore H. Lewis in the late 1800s and by Newton H. Winchell in the early 1900s. Their reports provide the earliest records of American Indian mound sites prior to extensive disturbance by Euro-American settlers, farmers, and industrialists. Although much of their work entailed exhaustive field verification of sites, a great deal of data was derived from informant interviews rather than actual field surveys.

In subsequent years, only two archaeological sites have been recorded from within the park reserve. No

systematic, professional surveys have been conducted. This lack of information underscores the importance of predictive modeling with respect to locations of low sensitivity (lowest likelihood), medium sensitivity (more likely), and high sensitivity (highest likelihood) for archaeological resources. Sensitivity models, in short, are used as aid in the planning process for new development or redevelopment on a particular land parcel. Yet it is important to keep in mind that the dependability of a predictive model for a particular location can only be evaluated through comparison to archaeological field results there (ground-truthing).

Mn/Model is a suite of GIS-based statistical models that map the potential for pre-1837 surface archaeological sites in Minnesota. The first phases of Mn/Model development occurred over a number of years.<sup>5</sup> The following information is quoted directly from Mn/DOT's website:

Mn/Model development began in 1995. The goal of the project was to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and statistical analysis to produce archaeological predictive models that could be replicated by anyone using the same data and following the same procedures. The aim was that these models be accurate enough to predict 85% of known archaeological sites without designating more than 33% of the state's area as high and medium site probability. The Phase 2 models, completed in 1997, achieved this goal. The Phase 3 models exceeded it.<sup>6</sup>

Information about Mn/Model's phased development is paraphrased here from Mn/DOT's website. *Phase 1* was defined as "Basic Data Accumulation and Prototype Model Development." The data were collected through a combination of background research, archaeological field work, geomorphological methods, and archaeological database development. Digitized archaeological site information was used for the database development. The end-products of this phase of the project were prototype GIS models for five archaeological resource regions (i.e., environmental regions based on the State's surface hydrology).

*Phase 2* involved "Formal Model Development." Goals of this phase were to add additional archaeological and environmental data to the GIS database, to refine modeling techniques, to extend modeling to the entire state, and to develop information on major river valley sediments and the

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<sup>5</sup> The Mn/Model process and the resulting data models are copyrighted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). This state agency received significant funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the Mn/Model process.

<sup>6</sup> Information available at <http://www.mnmodel.dot.state.mn.us/index.html>.

paleoclimate of Minnesota. Introducing the fourth dimension (time) into the model also was attempted through radiocarbon dating of samples.

The final phase of development was "Model Refinement and Implementation" (*Phase 3*). Major tasks for this phase were the development of a model of suitable pre-Woodland habitats for predicting locations of very old or buried sites, testing the geomorphic models with archaeological data, and enhancing the statewide predictive model with additional data and refinements. At this stage, the preliminary Phase 2 models also were applied to specific archaeological projects to begin planning for the implementation of Mn/Model.

As described in a previous section of this report, nine archaeological regions have been proposed for the State of Minnesota (Anfinson 1990). In this classification system, the park reserve lies within the "Region 4: Central Deciduous Lakes Region." Region 4 has more documented burial mounds than any of the other eight regions (Anfinson 1990). Furthermore, Anfinson (1990:156) predicts that

most base camps should be on major lakes, especially where stream inlets or outlets foster seasonal increased fish populations or wild rice beds. Temporary camps should be near any surface water source. Subsistence resource procurement sites can also be anywhere depending on the resource sought. Mound sites should be near base camps on elevated terraces or hills.

Mn/Model information was not considered during the creation of the following sensitivity models for the park reserve, but Washington County might consider requesting Mn/Model output for the park reserve. However, sensitivity models should be treated as dynamic tools. That is, as more is learned by engineers and planners about the subsurface in the park reserve, then the models should be updated accordingly. For instance, observational data collected prior to and during construction of new park features should be scrutinized for information that could be useful for updating the models for the park reserve.

### Pre-Contact & Contact Period Archaeological Sensitivity Models for the Park Reserve

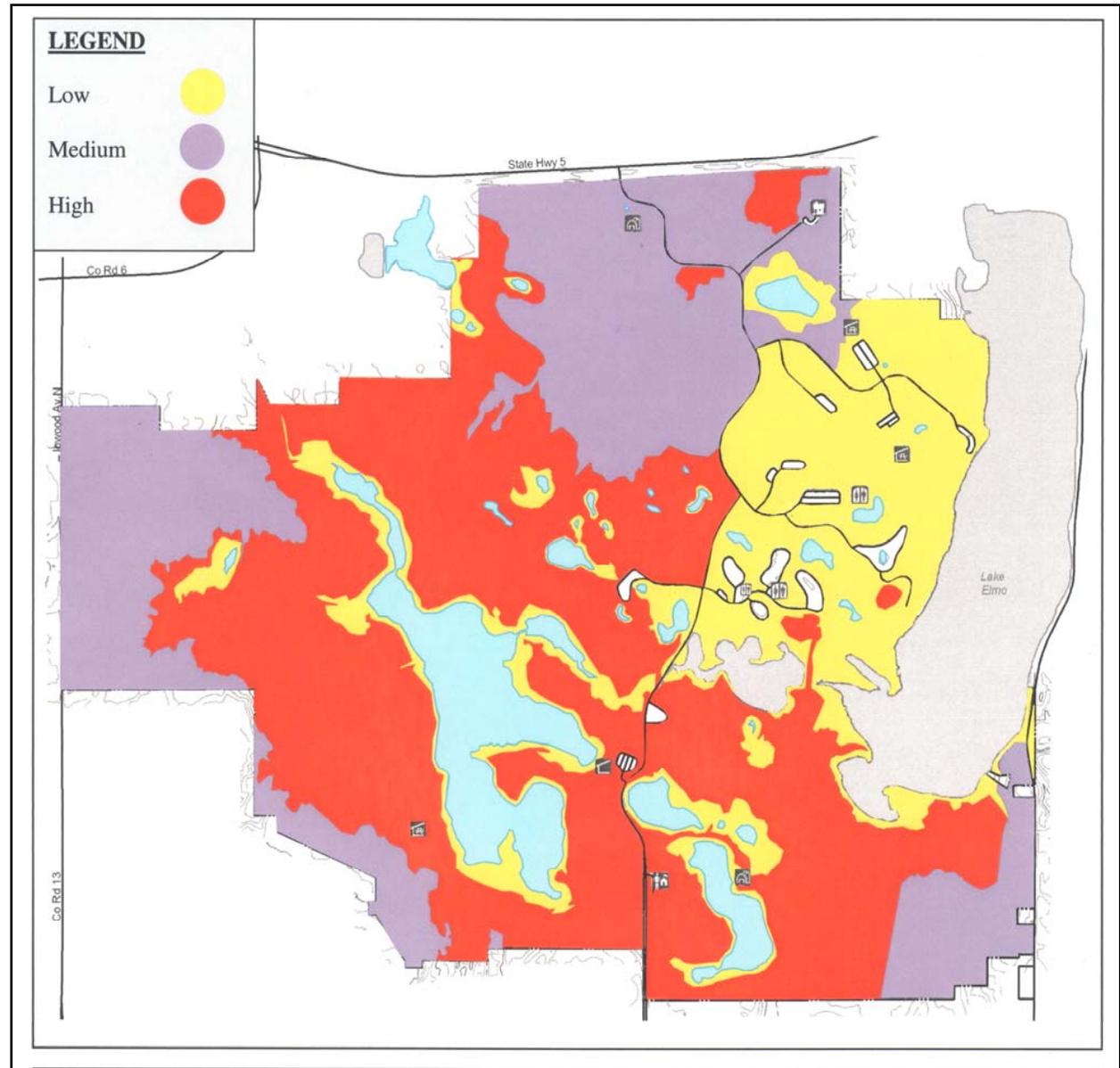
Archaeological research and cultural resources management studies in the general region have resulted in the identification of archaeological sites affiliated with the pre-contact and contact periods. Sites already recorded in Washington County include habitation and mound/mortuary sites, lithic and artifact scatters, lithic and artifact findspots, trading post(s), mill(s), and ghost towns. These inventories are updated frequently as new sites are discovered and previously recorded sites are revisited. Figure 3.0 summarizes the archaeological sensitivity for pre-contact and contact period sites in the park reserve.

Figure 3.1 - Archaeological Sensitivity Model:  
Pre-Contact and Contact Period Sites.

**Low sensitivity** = previously disturbed areas or margins around water bodies that would have had fluctuating water levels through time.

**Medium sensitivity** = not low, not high.

**High sensitivity** = high ground, particularly overlooking surface water.



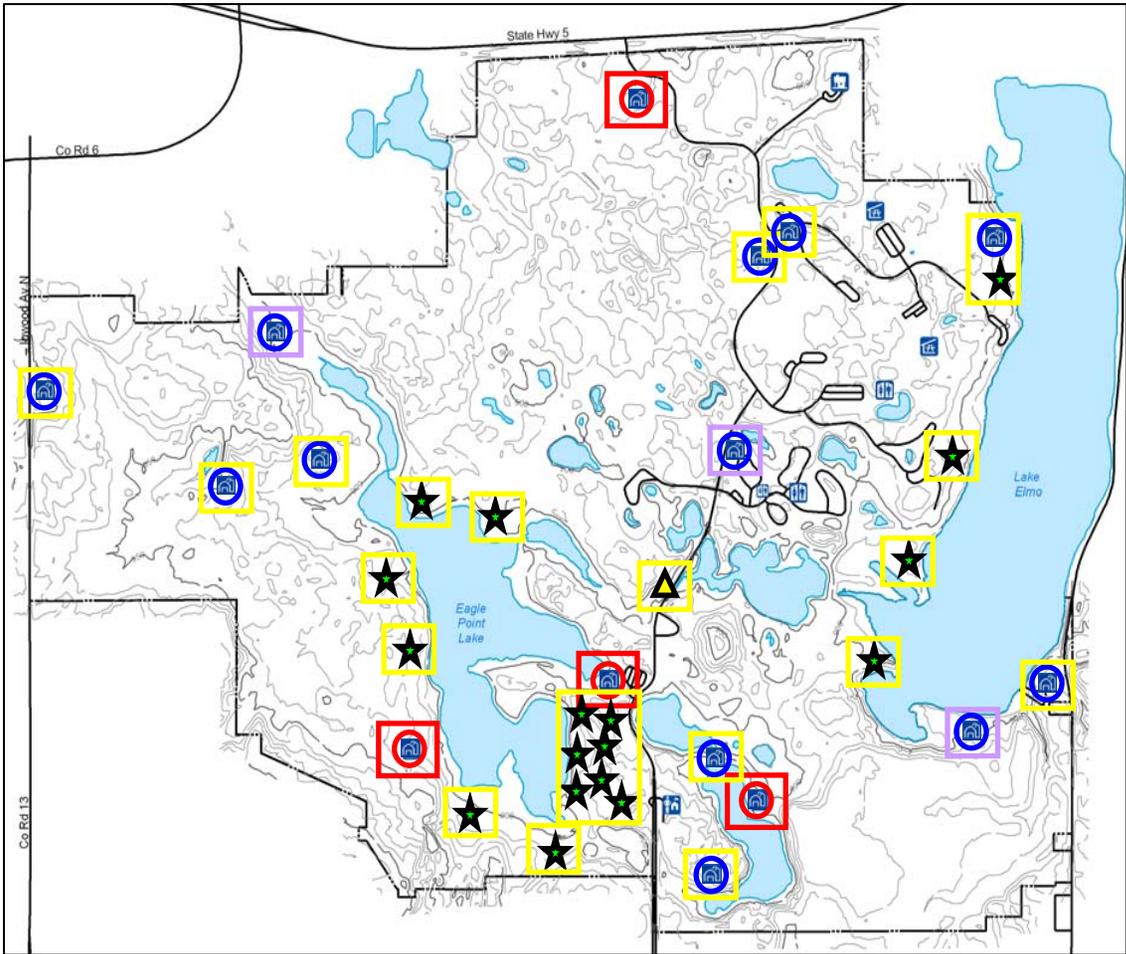


Figure 3.1 - Archaeological Sensitivity Model: Post-Contact Period Sites

**Blue circles** = past HSS or complex.

**Red circles** = extant HSS or complex.

**Low sensitivity** = razed HSS or complex.

**Medium sensitivity** = not low, not high.

**High sensitivity** = extant HSS or complex.

**LEGEND**

Low	
Medium	
High	
School	
Lake Cottage	
Farmstead ...	

### Post-Contact Archaeological Sensitivity Models for the Park Reserve

Archaeological research and cultural resources management studies in the general region have resulted in the identification of archaeological sites affiliated with the post-contact period. These sites include cemetery/mortuary sites, artifact scatters and findspots, trading post(s), mill(s), and ghost towns. Like the inventories for the pre-contact and contact period sites, the inventory for post-contact archaeological sites is updated frequently as new sites are discovered and previously recorded sites are revisited. Figure 3.1 summarizes the archaeological sensitivity for post-contact period sites in the park reserve.

### **Recommendations**

It should be emphasized that Lake Elmo Park Reserve possesses numerous areas with medium to high potential for American Indian and Euro-American archaeological sites and structural remnants. In addition, several HSS and complexes remain within the park reserve's boundaries. For these reasons, the following management recommendations can be made:

- (1) Complete archaeological surveys in association with proposed development projects or complete a comprehensive survey(s) throughout the park reserve. Such surveys will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in compliance with the Minnesota Historic Sites Act. Surveys for American Indian and Euro-American sites and structural remnants should be completed by qualified archaeologists who have obtained a license from the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA).
- (2) Document newly identified archaeological sites & keep updating archaeological site forms. Each newly identified archaeological site will be documented on an official Minnesota Archaeological Site Form and submitted to the OSA. If additional information is received or if additional work is completed at 21WA0057 & 21WA0058, their archaeological site forms be updated (see #3 below). Under the Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act, the park reserve will inform the OSA, if human burials are identified during the archaeological survey(s) or inadvertently encountered during future construction projects.
- (3) Complete formal evaluation of archaeological sites that are potentially eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Any newly identified archaeological resources should be subjected to formal evaluation for their eligibility for nomination to the NRHP. Following this same rationale, the county should make a formal request to the SHPO in regard to the eligibility determination for sites 21WA0057 & 21WA0058.

- (4) Revise & update the park reserve’s archaeological sensitivity models. As more is learned about the park reserve’s archaeological resources, the archaeological sensitivity models submitted with this updated Master Plan shall be revised periodically by a qualified archaeologist.
- (5) Complete a comprehensive survey of historic standing structures (HSS) throughout the park reserve. Survey should be completed by qualified architectural historians. Inventory forms should be submitted to the SHPO for entry into the State’s HSS database.
- (6) Evaluate any HSS that are potentially eligible for the NRHP. Any HSS potentially eligible for the NRHP should be subjected to formal evaluation for their eligibility for nomination to the NRHP.
- (7) Future developments within the park reserve should be coordinated through the SHPO in compliance with the Minnesota Historic Sites Act. If Federal funding is obtained for any future developments (e.g., ISTEPA from the U.S. Department of Transportation) or if the park reserve receives any Federal permits (e.g., 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), then the park reserve will coordinate with the appropriate federal agency in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- (8) Mitigate adverse effects to historic properties within Lake Elmo Park Reserve. If any historic properties are identified within the park reserve (i.e., archaeological sites or HSS that are determined to be eligible for the NRHP), then appropriate mitigative measures will be coordinated with the SHPO prior to any adverse impacts that would result from future development.

Refer to Appendix C for a list of references cited in Chapter 3.



### Chapter 4: Natural Resources Stewardship

#### Introduction

The gently rolling topography and diverse ecology of Lake Elmo Park Reserve provide a tremendous opportunity for establishment of a truly natural recreational and educational amenity for Metropolitan area residents. In addition to the many water features on the site, there are significant native woodland and savanna remnants, and several large, old fields have been restored to prairie during the past few years. It was stated in the original park master plan that the goal for the park’s landscape is to restore it to “pre-settlement conditions”. It is appropriate to also consider people’s preferences for habitat and esthetics, such as forest versus prairie (both of which are native to the park) as we prepare a plan for management of the park’s landscape. In addition to the typical ecological information (soils, topography, hydrology, etc.), this plan will incorporate user preferences for landscape type and management/maintenance parameters so as to develop a restorative landscape plan that is practical, sustainable and valued by its users.

#### Vegetative Cover

The existing vegetation of Lake Elmo Park Reserve is categorized as five significant types, as shown on Fig. 4.1, including old field, cropland, prairie restoration, significant oak forest and mesic forest or woodland. The woodland areas cover portions of the inner area of the park and appropriately buffer the two main lakes (Lake Elmo and Eagle Point Lake) as well as the multiple smaller water bodies and wetlands. The Mesic forest includes indicator species such as red oak, white oak, aspen, birch, and ironwood.

Agricultural vegetation is also prominent in the park reserve. Areas to the northwest and southeast are currently used for crops, predominantly corn and soybeans. The “old field” areas have generally been seeded with a non-native pasture mix and are managed primarily by mowing, however, prairie restoration projects are also underway and have converted some of the farm fields into native, tall-grass prairie. Herbaceous prairie plants that have been re-introduced include grass species such as big bluestem, Indian grass, Canada wild rye, switch grass and cord grass as well as prairie forbs including asters, indigo, wild bergamot, black-eyed susan, and goldenrod. The native prairie plants stabilize the soil, are adapted to the local climate and their seeds provide an abundant source of food for insects, birds, and other wildlife throughout the year.



Undulating oak savanna landscape



Existing "Old Field" at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve



Oak savanna around the edges of a kettle pond



Old Field and Corn



Tallgrass prairie and oak forest



Mesic Forest

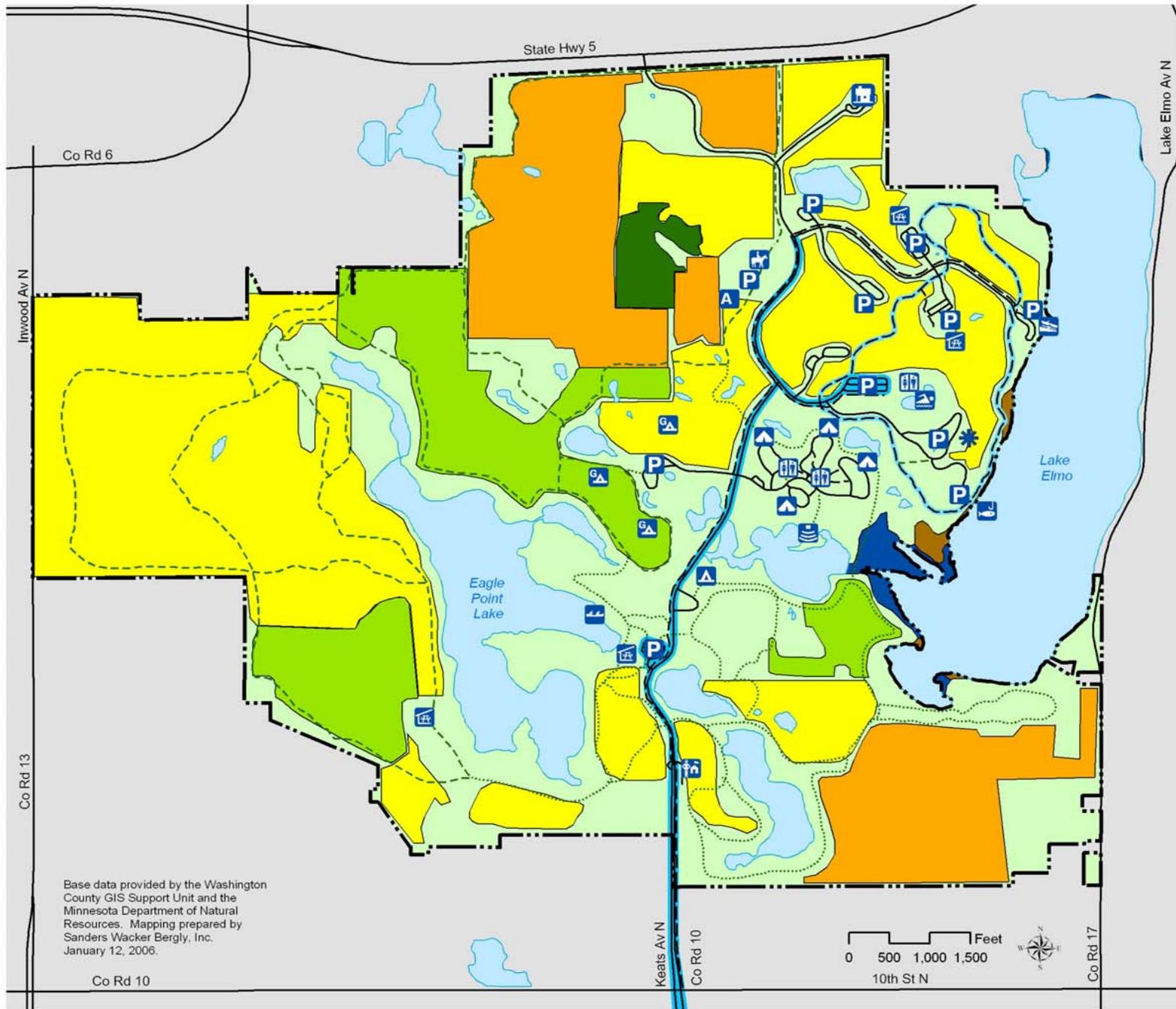
The “significant oak forest” is a remnant of an oak forest in the northern part of the park. The forest topography consists of rolling hills with scattered low areas including two kettle ponds. This remnant of majestic oak trees is also infested with the invasive buckthorn species which inhibits growth of native, understory plants and shades the ground so thoroughly that the forest is unable to regenerate itself.

The existing vegetative cover in the park is predominantly old field grassland. The woodlands are disconnected, which means there is a lack of forested corridors and edges to accommodate wildlife movement throughout the park. Forest corridors of native shade trees and shrubs are important as food for wildlife and provide cover for protection and movement throughout the site. Increasing the number of shade trees and restoring the landscape to oak savanna, where conditions are suitable on the site, are measures that would improve wildlife habitat and create an attractive, natural environment for park visitors.

### **Management and Control of Invasive Plant Species**

Controlling invasive plants is one of the major challenges in restoring habitat areas. The most prominent and aggressive exotic plants are buckthorn and reed canary grass but other species such as mulberry, honeysuckle, amur maple, spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife and Canada thistle are also of concern. A proliferation of exotic plants prevents regeneration of native species and consequently degrades or eliminates habitat for many insect, animal and bird species. It is important, from an educational perspective, that park visitors have the opportunity to experience native plant communities. Parks that are infested with exotic plants confuse people as to what really constitutes a natural landscape. It is often assumed that if a plant is green and in a park, it must be natural and good. Greater public awareness of what constitutes a healthy, native landscape will aid in the control of problem plants throughout our landscapes.

The plan recommends that the park be cleared of exotic plants. Eliminating invasive plants and on-going maintenance of the desired ecosystems in the park will require significant, long term management, manpower and funding. Because of the heavy infestations on the site, it is more important to address the removal and perpetual management of exotic invasives than to plant new trees and shrubs. Removing the exotics will allow sunlight to reach the soil where a bank of native seeds is already in place; the seeds will sprout and indigenous plants will have an opportunity to regenerate themselves.



## VEGETATIVE COVER

### Legend

- Significant Oak Forest
- Prairie Restoration
- Cropland
- Old Fields
- Significant Lake Beach
- Significant Lake Bed
- Other Vegetation (Primarily mesic forest, wet meadow, and landscaped lawn.)
- Hiking Only Trails
- Multi Use Trails
- Paved Trails
- Snow Packed Trail
- Roads
- Plowed Roads
- P Parking
- M Main Office
- MF Maintenance Facility
- R Restroom
- A Amphitheater
- MC Modern Camping
- GC Group Camping
- PC Primitive Camping
- PS Picnic Shelter
- SP Swimming Pond
- C Children's Play Area
- BR Boat Ramp
- CL Canoe Launch
- EC Equestrian Center
- A Archery

Figure 4.1



Tallgrass prairie in the winter sunlight



Restored wetland



Prairie

### Soils and Topography

The upland surface soils in Lake Elmo Park Reserve are primarily sandy loam, a moderate to well-drained soil which provides a good growing medium for crops and pasture and is considered to be suitable for woodland and prairie. The sandy loam has a moderate, natural fertility and medium to low organic matter content. The upland subsoils generally have a high content of gravelly sand which results in moderate to rapid permeability.

Soils identified as silt loam are present in numerous low areas scattered throughout much of the park as indicated on Fig 4.2. They are poorly drained soils and have a high water table. These soils tend to be collection points for surface water, as either drainage ways or depressions, and support wetland and wet meadow plant communities. Refer to Appendix D for a complete list of specific soil types and related characteristics.

The topography (see Fig. 4.3) of the park consists primarily of a gently undulating landscape with lower elevations frequent in the south-central area of the site and in conjunction with the two large lakes and multiple water bodies. There are relatively few steep slopes over 18% and the highest points occur in the western extremities of the park. The gently undulating landscape, with moderate to well-drained soils, is conducive to an oak savanna restoration.

### Landscape Ecology and Sustainability

It is desirable to have a landscape that is sustainable with a high level of ecological quality and integrity. In the most simple of terms, landscape ecology represents the relationships between people, ecosystems, species, energy, pollutants, disturbance, conservation and other influences on the landscape. Landscapes are in a state of constant change caused by the actions of all living organisms as well as natural forces such as weather, fire, water. Landscape ecology is the dynamic relationship between all of these aspects.

Sustainability is a term that represents a practice and/or design that limits or moderates the input of energy and chemicals into the landscape in order to promote long-term plant health, water quality, wildlife habitat, and human health. Sustainability and landscape ecology promote a balance of human and natural forces. Though they are ideological terms, they represent key values related to promoting long-term health of the environment, humans, plants, and wildlife.

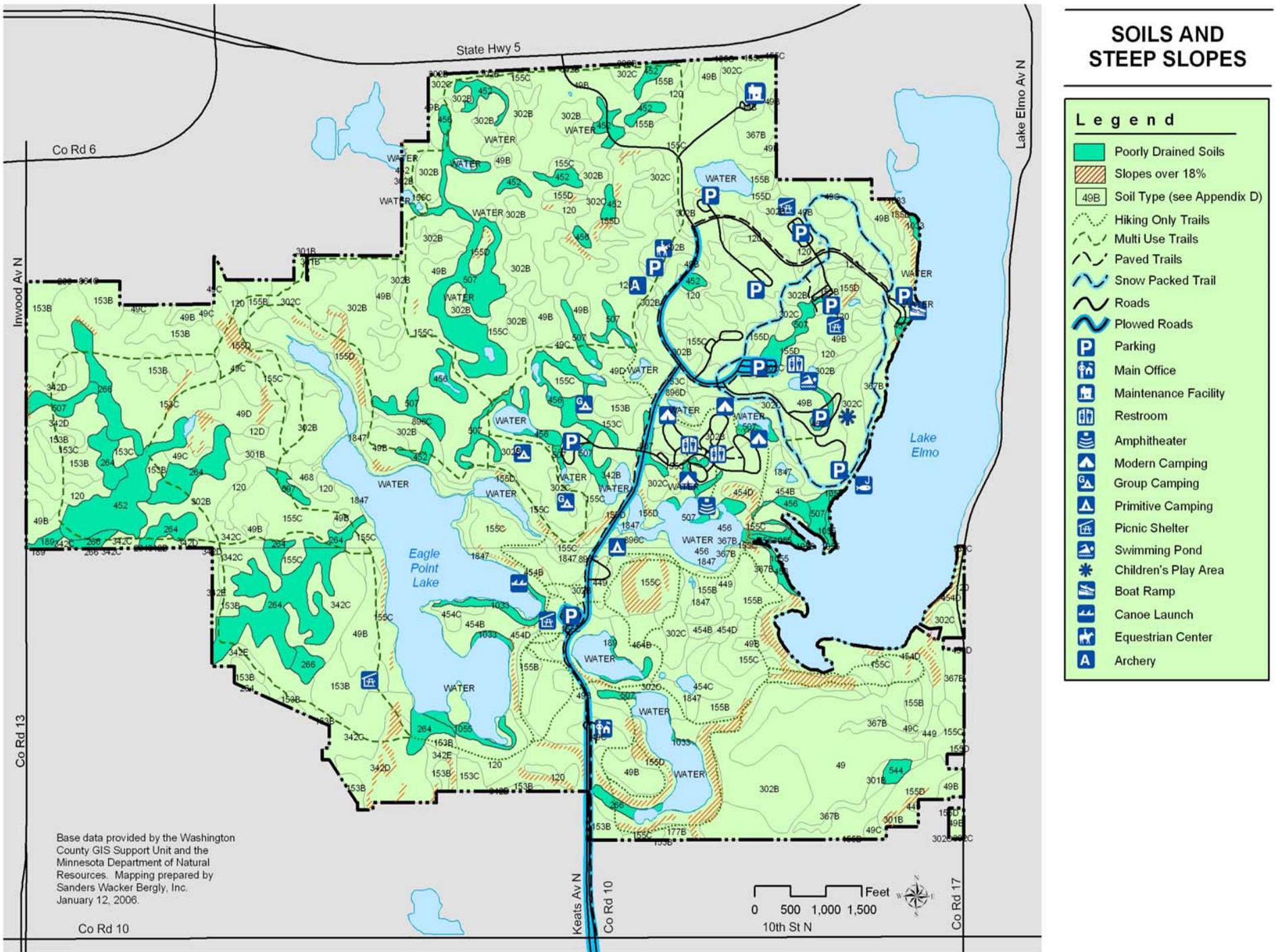


Figure 4.2

Lake Elmo Park Reserve is an example of a landscape which has both human factors and natural factors influencing its ecology and sustainability. The plan recommends pursuit of the following goals to attain a more sustainable landscape:



Late summer prairie flowers and grasses

- Minimize lawn area to reduce mowing and the use of fertilizer.
- Minimize the use of herbicides and fertilizers to reduce the amount of nutrients and chemicals that will eventually reach water bodies as runoff.
- Minimize the use of gasoline powered engines to protect air quality.
- Analyze existing soils, topography and other site characteristics to aid in nurturing appropriate native plant communities.
- Propagate diverse native plant communities using species that are suitable for specific site conditions.

Properly managed plant communities will be regenerative, plant diversity will increase, wildlife populations will be sustained and the park ecosystems will enrich educational and recreational experiences of park visitors.

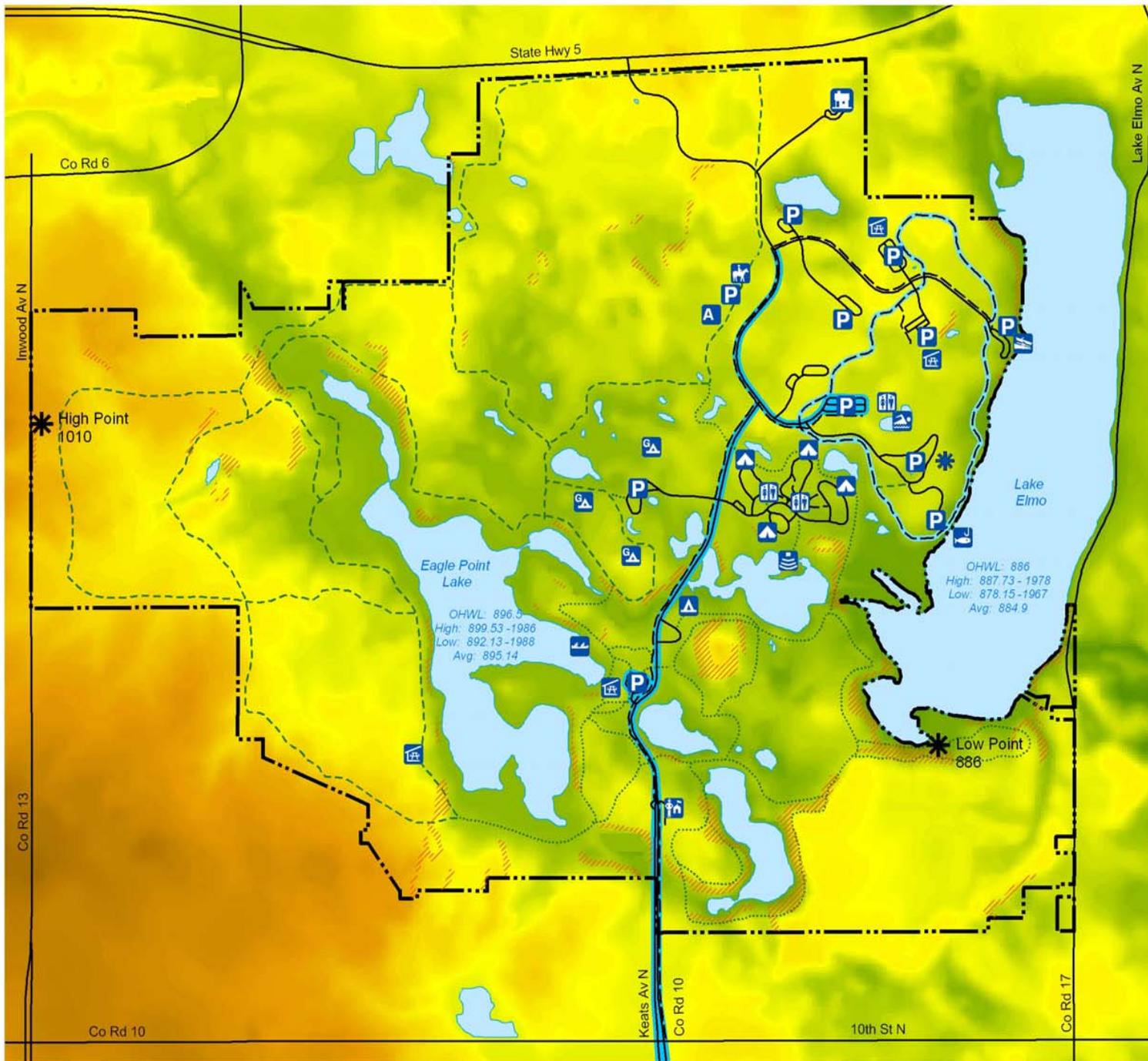
### **Natural Resource Education and Interpretation**

Currently, there are several areas of the park that have high levels of ecological integrity and beauty. Most of these are located in the east and south-central areas of the park, where not surprisingly, most of the parks use and development has taken place. The plan recommends locating interpretive signs and information on the ecology of the park along the existing paths and near picnic shelters, play structures and other high use areas to help visitors better understand the park's natural features.



Wetland

The plan further recommends that Eagle Point Lake be made more accessible by adding carefully planned nature trails and bird and wetland observation facilities. The plan also recommends construction of a nature/interpretive center building to be located on the knoll at the eastern shore of Eagle Point Lake. The facility will open up vistas to the lake and provide indoor space for displays and education. Refer to Chapter 5 for more information on the proposed nature center.



## TOPOGRAPHIC RELIEF

### Legend

- Lower Elevations  
Low Point = 886
- Intermediate Elevations
- Higher Elevations  
High Point = 1010
- Slopes over 18%
- Hiking Only Trails
- Multi Use Trails
- Paved Trails
- Snow Packed Trail
- Roads
- Plowed Roads
- P Parking
- MO Main Office
- MF Maintenance Facility
- R Restroom
- A Amphitheater
- MC Modern Camping
- GC Group Camping
- PC Primitive Camping
- PS Picnic Shelter
- SP Swimming Pond
- C Children's Play Area
- BR Boat Ramp
- CL Canoe Launch
- EC Equestrian Center
- A Archery

Base data provided by the Washington County GIS Support Unit and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Mapping prepared by Sanders Wacker Bergly, Inc. January 12, 2006.

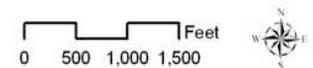


Figure 4.3

### Restorative Landscape Plan

The landscape management plan described in the 1978 Master Plan suggests development of plant communities to “resemble a mosaic that mimics the vegetative cover that was present prior to the arrival of European settlers in the Mid-1800’s”. The concept in the current Restorative Landscape Plan, shown in Fig. 4.4, supports that premise and recommends protection and restoration of oak savanna, prairie, forests, and wetlands in areas where soils and aspect are appropriate for each respective ecosystem.

During the planning process, stakeholders expressed a preference for a variety of ecosystems that were once native to the park. The Restorative Landscape Plan recommends re-establishment and/or expansion of five major plant communities or ecosystem types as follows:

- *Upland Forest* - dominated by red, bur and white oaks with some native maple, ash and elm.
- *Oak Savanna* - consists of a maximum 30% canopy cover by bur oak trees; short prairie grasses such as little bluestem and prairie dropseed and prairie forbs would dominate the ground layer. This community is most often found in areas having gentle topography and dry, sandy soils.
- *Prairie* - tall grasses mixed with prairie forbs.
- *Aspen Glade* - found primarily in the low-lying areas of Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The plant community consists of thick clones of Aspens with other species tolerant of semi-wet conditions.
- *Wetland* - grasses, sedges, forbs and emergent plants are present in fluctuating water levels and provide significant habitat for water fowl.



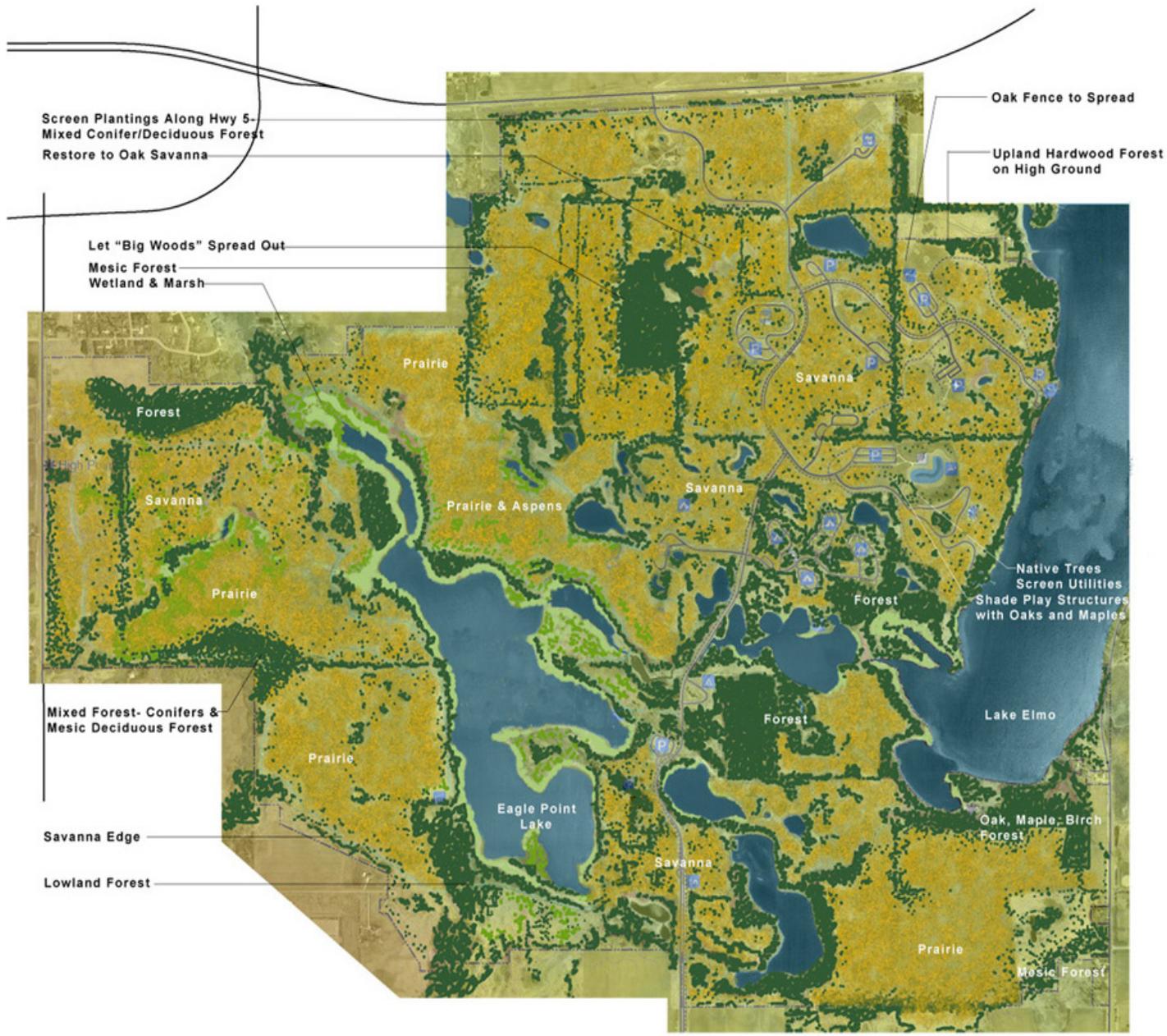
Oak savannah



Prairie grasses in an oak clearing

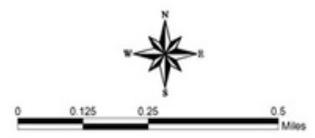
Ecological succession is a natural process where plant species replace each other over time. Each stage of plant succession first gains a foothold, thrives, then declines and gradually gives way to the next dominant plant community. Temporary, successional plant communities (like an aspen glade for example) are replaced by more stable plant communities (like maple/basswood forest) until a sort of equilibrium in the landscape is reached. Succession is also influenced by disturbance, such as a windstorm, disease, or fire and can be accelerated and directed by proper management.

A range of factors was considered in the process of determining where each ecotype is most suitable. Factors such as slopes, soils, previous conditions, wetland buffers and low lying areas were studied in order to develop the restorative landscape plan. Oak savanna is the predominant landscape type in the ecological history of Washington County. In addition, from an aesthetic standpoint, this landscape type is also appropriate due to the open quality which allows for long-distance views and provides habitat for



# RESTORATIVE LANDSCAPE PLAN

- Upland Forest
- Oak Savanna
- Prairie
- Aspen Glade
- Wetlands



Aerial photograph and parcel data provided by Washington County GIS Support Unit in May of 2005. This data is intended for general planning purposes only.

Washington County Parks  
with  
Sanders Wacker Bergly, Inc.  
Savanna Designs  
Amy Ollendorf

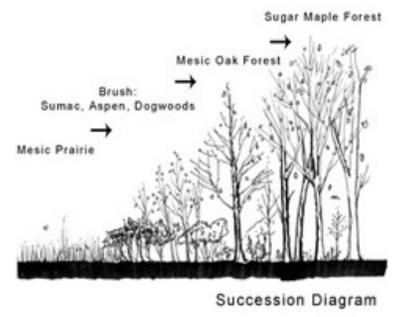


Figure 4.4

many species of birds and wildlife. The trees in the savanna landscape provide shade and create variety and interest in the appearance and character of the site. They are also desirable in settings for park activities such as picnicking, playing and camping.

Management techniques should be designed to maintain the vitality of desirable plant communities. For example, if a prairie plant community, dominated by grasses and forbs (prairie flowers) is left alone, more aggressive shrub species will move in and, over time, shade out the prairie plants. Eventually, sapling trees will appear and out-compete most of the shrub species; giving way to a mature shade tree plant community. If the goal for an area is to preserve a prairie plant community, it can be maintained with management techniques of fire and mowing. While prairie, savanna, forests and wetlands are native to this area, disturbance regimes, such as fire, are important to maintain them and regenerate the plant life cycles.

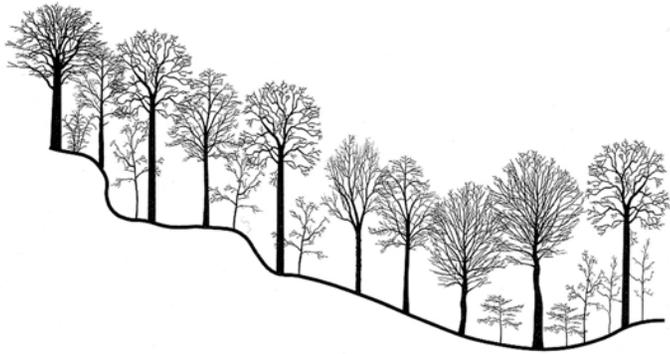
Where the goal is to expand existing or develop additional woodlands, the installation of native woodland plantings, time and ecological succession will allow the forest ecosystem to expand in the park. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, control of invasive plant species is essential to provide opportunities for natural succession to play its role in the perpetuation of desirable landscapes.

The locations of wetland plant communities are determined by conditions of elevation, soil and hydrology. Aquatic and emergent plants flourish in locations where prairie and woodland plants are unable to survive. Wetland habitats can be improved by managing water levels, stabilizing erodible soils and seeding or planting native species. For additional information on wetland management and habitat improvement refer to the publication titled “Lake Elmo Park Reserve Wetland and Habitat Management Project” by Barr Engineering Company.

The five native ecosystem types proposed in the Restorative Landscape Plan provide for a high level of habitat diversity, which will attract and provide a home for an array of animals, birds, and butterflies as well as provide an interesting and inviting landscape for park visitors. The following pages contain lists of plant species proposed for use in the establishment of the recommended ecotypes.

Landscape Types and Plant lists

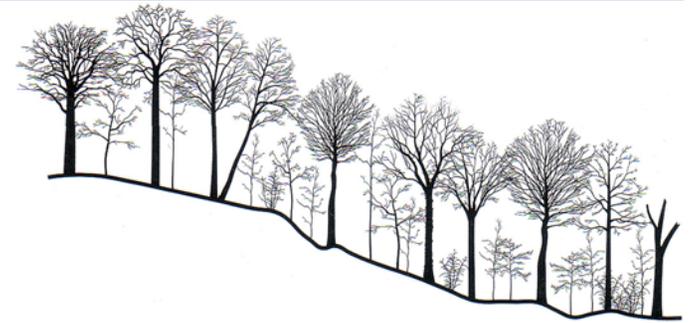
<b>Oak Savanna</b>	
	<b>Botanical Names</b>
<b><u>Shade Trees</u></b>	
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Northern Pin Oak	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
<b><u>Shrubs</u></b>	
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Juneberries, Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
<b><u>Groundcover</u></b>	
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>
Hairy grama	<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>
Porcupine grass	<i>Stipa spartea</i>
Gray goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>
Purple prairie clover	<i>Petalostemon purpureum</i>
Rough blazingstar	<i>Liatris aspera</i>
Rigid sunflower	<i>Helianthus rigidus</i>
Tall cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla arguta</i>
Sky-blue aster	<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i>
Silky aster	<i>Aster sericeus</i>
Dotted blazingstar	<i>Liatris punctat</i>
Wild lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>



Upland Forest: Mesic Forest

<b>Upland Forest- Mesic</b>	
	<b>Botanical Names</b>
<b>Mesic Oak Forest</b>	
<b><u>Shade &amp; Evergreen Trees</u></b>	
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
Northern Pin Oak	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>
<b><u>Shrubs</u></b>	
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Prickly ash	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>
Red-berried elder	<i>Sambucus pubens</i>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
Red Raspberry	<i>Rubus strigosus</i>
Juneberries	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i>
Pagoda dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
<b><u>Groundcover</u></b>	
Wild Geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i>
Lopseed	<i>Phyrma leptostachya</i>
Hog-peanut	<i>Amphicarpa bracteata</i>
Canada mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>
Lady Fern	<i>Athyrum angustum</i>
Wild Sarsparilla	<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i>

False Solomon's seal	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>
Wild grape	<i>Vitus riparia</i>
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus inserta</i>
<b>Maple Basswood Forest</b>	
	<b>Botanical Names</b>
<b><u>Shade &amp; Evergreen Trees</u></b>	
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Canada Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Ironwood, Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubrum</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Northern Pin Oak	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>
Balsam Fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
<b><u>Shrubs</u></b>	
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Juneberries, Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
<b><u>Groundcover</u></b>	
Baneberry	<i>Actaea alba</i>
Anemone	<i>Anemone quinquefolia</i>
Wild Sarsparilla	<i>Aralia nudicalus</i>
Big-leaved aster	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i>
Bluebead Lily	<i>Clintonia borealis</i>



Upland Forest: Maple Basswood Forest

## Chapter Four – Natural Resources Stewardship

Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris austriaca</i>
Northern Bedstraw (scented)	<i>Galium triflorum</i>
False Lily of the Valley	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>
Northern Bishops Cap	<i>Mitella nuda</i>
Hairy Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>
Large flowered Trillium	<i>Trilium graniflour</i>
Smooth Violet	<i>Viola pubescens</i>
<b>Aspen Glade</b>	
	<b>Botanical Names</b>
<b><u>Trees</u></b>	
Aspen	<i>Populous tremuloides</i>
Black Alder	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>
<b><u>Shrubs</u></b>	
American Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Sumac	<i>Rhus typhinia</i>
Juneberries, Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>
Diervilla lonicera	<i>Bush Honeysuckle</i>
<b><u>Grasses</u></b>	
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
Canada blue-joint grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
Sedge	<i>Carex</i>

<b>Prairie:</b>	
	<b>Botanical Names</b>
<b><u>Groundcover</u></b>	
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>
Hairy grama	<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>
Porcupine grass	<i>Stipa spartea</i>
Gray goldenrod	<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>
Purple prairie clover	<i>Petalostemon purpureum</i>
Rough blazingstar	<i>Liatris aspera</i>
Rigid sunflower	<i>Helianthus rigidus</i>
Tall cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla arguta</i>
Sky-blue aster	<i>Aster oolentangiensis</i>
Silky aster	<i>Aster sericeus</i>
Dotted blazingstar	<i>Liatris punctat</i>
Wild lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Redtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Juneberries, Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
Winterberry	<i>Illex verticillata</i>
<b>Wetland/Pond Plants</b>	
	<b>Botanical Names</b>
<b><u>Trees</u></b>	
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
<b><u>Shrubs</u></b>	
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Redtwig Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>

## Chapter Four – Natural Resources Stewardship

<b>Grasses, Sedges, Forbs and Emergent plants)</b>	
	<b>Botanical Names</b>
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>
Broadleaved arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>
Bluejoint grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>
Softstem bullrush	<i>Scirpus validus</i>
Sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>
Fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>
Cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
Bulb-bearing water-hemlock	<i>Cicuta bulbifera</i>
Northern marsh fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Marsh bellflower	<i>Campanula aparinoides</i>
Marsh cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>
Joe Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>
Sweetflag	<i>Acorus calamus</i>
Water Plantain	<i>Alisma trivale</i>
Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
Pickerelweed	<i>Pontedira cordata</i>

### Chapter 5: Development Plan

#### Introduction

The discussions with stakeholder groups included review of the expansion or addition of park facilities and activities that relate to the following categories:

- Natural and cultural resource protection and restoration
- Natural and cultural resource interpretation
- Camping
- Picnicking
- Water-based facilities
- Trails
- Miscellaneous facilities

The input received during the process has helped to shape planning and design concepts that relate to each of the categories. In addition to stakeholder input, an understanding of current recreation demands and area demographics, as discussed in Chapter 2, is critical in verifying the appropriateness of planning and design concepts. Finally, an assessment of existing park conditions including built facilities, topography, soils, drainage and vegetation is important in identifying the problems and opportunities posed by the site. Refer to the section in this chapter titled Inventory and Analysis of Existing Site Conditions and to Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Stewardship for review of current park features and characteristics.

Recommendations for park improvements are included in the Development Concepts Section of this chapter and on the Development Plan found on Figure 5.2. Refer also to Chapter 3 - Cultural Resource Stewardship and Chapter 4 - Natural Resource Stewardship for information and recommendations related to park development.

#### Inventory and Analysis of Existing Site Conditions

Paragraphs included in this section provide an overview of existing facilities and conditions in Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Photographs on pages 5.1 through 5.8 depict key features in the park.



North Picnic Shelter



Modern Campground



Group Campground



North Farmstead Barns



Farmstead Ruin near Eagle Point Lake



Red Barn at Brown's Pond



Brown's Pond



Earthen Dam



Drainage Pond at Earthen Dam



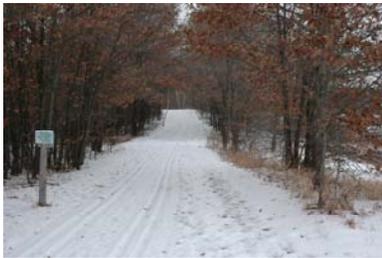
Fallow Field near North Farmstead



Woodland Edge



Corn Field



Oak Woods

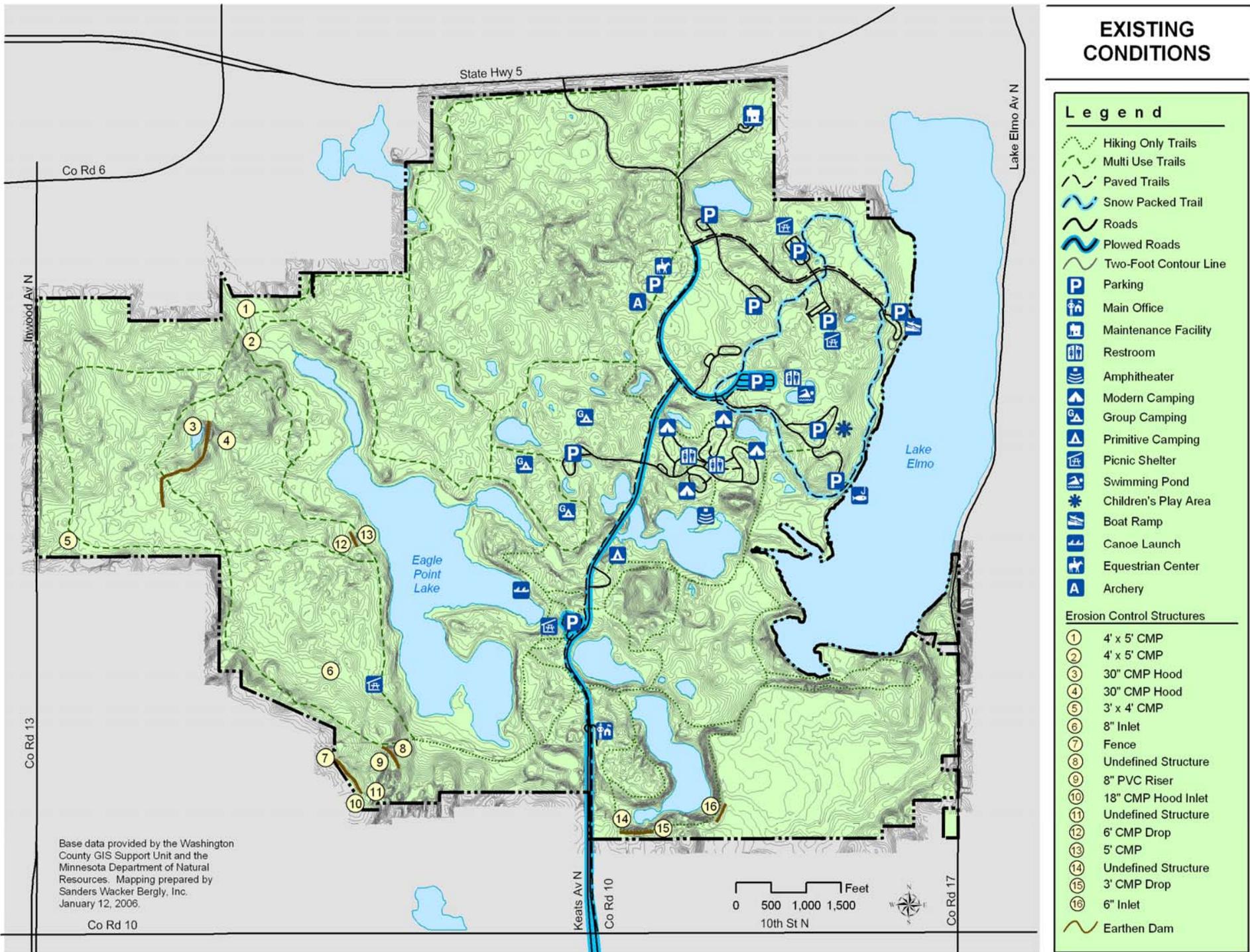


Figure 5.1



Amphitheater at Modern Campground



Oak Savanna



Cross Country Ski Trail

### Park Location and Access

Lake Elmo Park Reserve is bounded on the north by State Hwy. 5, on the west by Inwood Ave. (County Road 13), on the south by 10<sup>th</sup> Street N. (County Rd. 10) and on the east by Lake Elmo Ave. (County Rd. 17). General vehicle access to the park is limited to Keats Ave. N. at 10<sup>th</sup> Street N. as shown on Fig. 5.1 and additional access for park maintenance vehicles is provided on Hwy. 5. Existing trail access is limited to Keats Ave. N. at 10<sup>th</sup> Street N.

### Roads

Roads are limited to a primary visitor access road that enters the park on Keats Ave. N., as shown on Figure 5.1, and extends on a northerly route into the park. The road provides visitor access to park facilities and continues, as a service road only, to Hwy. 5. The primary access road is bituminous; it was resurfaced in 2005 and is generally in good condition.

### Trails

Existing trail alignments are shown on Fig 5.1 and include the following:

- Multi-use, grass-surfaced trails are used primarily for cross country skiing, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Horseback riding and mountain biking are permitted only on trails located on the west side of the primary access road. The trails are maintained by mowing and are generally in good condition. Some wear spots are evident in low spots and on slopes particularly where horseback riding and mountain biking use is frequent. One area of concern is the east side of Eagle Point Lake where soft soils are present in several locations.
- Paved trails are used primarily for biking, in-line skating and hiking. In winter, snow is packed on a small trail loop to accommodate winter hiking. The extent of the paved trail system includes a trail that parallels the primary access drive, loops around picnic areas, swimming pond and play area in the northeast area of the park and passes near the west shore of Lake Elmo. The trails are generally in good condition.

### Buildings

Park building locations are shown on Fig. 5.1 and include the following:

- A contact station is located near the park’s visitor entry. The structure is wood frame and includes a public service counter and offices for the Parks Manager and support staff.
- A barn is located near Brown’s Pond on a site to the east and across the pond from the contact station. The structure is a good example of early century barn architecture and is in good condition. It is currently unused.
- A ski shelter is located on the east side of Eagle Point Lake. The masonry structure has no amenities and is in marginal condition.
- Two restroom buildings serve the Modern Campground. The masonry structures are equipped with running water and electricity and are in good condition.
- A metal-clad pole building is located at the equestrian campground. The structure is in good condition and is used for storage of maintenance equipment.
- A restroom building with small, attached picnic shelter is planned for construction in 2006 at the large play area. The masonry building will be equipped with running water and electricity.
- A beach building serving the swimming pond is in good condition and includes rest rooms, changing rooms and food stand. The masonry building is equipped with electricity and running water.
- A maintenance building is located in the northeast corner of the park and is the main operations base for parks located in the northern half of Washington County. The pre-cast concrete panel building is in good condition and includes storage areas, maintenance shop space and offices.
- A house and three barns are located at the north end of the park near the Hwy. 5 service entrance to the park. Two of the barns are good examples of early century barn architecture. The buildings are generally in good condition. One barn is currently used for storage by Sentence to Service crews. The other barns are used on a limited basis for storage of park maintenance equipment. The house is currently unused.

### Other Recreation Facilities

The existing recreation facilities are located where shown on Fig. 5.1 and are described as follows:

- Modern campground: Eighty camping spurs with support facilities including a dump station, two restroom buildings, picnic tables, fire pits, electrical hook-ups, guest parking, play area and small amphitheater. The campground is a popular, high quality recreation facility
- Group campground: Three group campsites with support facilities including parking lot, one picnic shelter, fire pits, picnic tables and a small amphitheater. The campground is in need of amenities to better serve the camping needs of group campers.



Fishing Pier



Boat Landing



Lake Elmo Shoreline north of Fishing Pier



Swimming Pond



Lake Elmo Shoreline south of Fishing Pier



Eagle Point Lake

- Equestrian campground: Twenty camping spurs with support facilities including guest parking, hand water pump, fire pits and picnic tables. The spur layout does not serve the needs of the large truck/trailer rigs that are typical to this type of facility.
- Primitive campground: Five remote tent campsites with support facilities including fire pits, picnic tables and a parking lot. The campsites provide a pleasant walk-in camping experience.
- Swimming pond: Man-made pond with filtered/chlorinated water and 1/5<sup>th</sup> mile of sandy beach. Support facilities include restrooms, changing rooms, food stand, parking lot and nearby picnic area with tables and grills. The pond is a popular, high quality, family swimming facility.
- Large picnic shelters: Two large, 4,000 sq. ft. shelters. Support facilities include hot plates, grills, electrical outlets, serving counters, running water, sinks, picnic tables, restrooms (separate building) and parking lots. The shelters are popular, high quality, large group picnic facilities.
- Fishing pier: Pier on Lake Elmo typical of the type installed by the DNR to provide shore fishing opportunities. The pier is a popular facility for family fishing.
- Canoe launch: Launch on Eagle Point Lake with support facilities including a courtesy dock.
- Boat launch: Boat ramp on Lake Elmo. Support facilities include a car/trailer parking lot with capacity for 20 vehicles. The layout of the access drive to the ramp and parking lot do not function efficiently.
- Archery range: The range includes 8 shooting stations with target bales set-up in an open field at various shooting distances. Support facilities include an elevated shooting platform at one station and a parking lot. The range is a popular but basic facility.
- Orienteering courses: Three separate courses are designed for different skill levels. Support facilities include permanent markers at control points and a parking lot.

### Topography

The landform in Lake Elmo Park Reserve is characterized by gently rolling topography, as shown on Fig. 4.3, with the highest point in the park at 1022' above sea level and the lowest at 882'. Slopes are typically gentle with the steepest gradients generally occurring at the edge of or near lakes and wetlands. Slopes exceeding 18% are identified on Fig. 4.2 which helps to suggest that these locations are not suitable for construction of structures, trails or other facilities. Refer to Chapter 4 for more discussion about topography.

### Soils

Soils in the park vary considerably with poorly drained, silty materials typically found at low elevations near lake and wetland edges and well-drained, granular materials generally found at higher elevations as

shown on Fig. 4.2. The poorly drained soils are usually not suitable for construction of structures, trails and other facilities. There are significant park areas that, due to conditions of soil and topography, are of questionable suitability for development, however, the vast majority of the areas that have been cultivated have good soil structure and desirable characteristics for supporting built facilities. Refer to Chapter 4 for more discussion about soils.

### Vegetation

Refer to Chapter 4-Natural Resource Stewardship for information on existing vegetation.

### **Development Concepts**

Refer to the Development Plan on Figure 5.2 for the locations of facilities proposed in this section.

### Natural and Cultural Resource Protection and Restoration

The majority of the land in Lake Elmo Park Reserve has been disturbed by farming or other activity as indicated on Figure 4.1. Approximately 279 acres are currently under cultivation, however, all tilled fields are expected to become fallow during the next 10 years. The design concept for the field acreages includes methodical restoration of woodland, prairie and wetland plant communities. The planting and landscape management practices, discussed in Chapter 4 – Natural Resources Stewardship, will essentially speed-up the process of natural succession. The efforts will help to expand woodlands, create rich plant diversity at woodland edges, encourage oak savanna, native prairie, and wetland vegetation to thrive and provide improved habitat for birds, mammals and other wildlife.

Many areas of the park where vegetation has been allowed to progress without active management have been invaded by non-native plants such as buckthorn, knapweed, purple loosestrife and reed canary grass. Landscape management practices have included control of invasive species and will continue to focus on removal of the nuisance plants and replacement using native plant varieties. Refer to Chapter 4 for additional information about invasive plant control.

Cultural resources in the park include farmsteads with buildings and remnants of buildings remaining. There are four existing barns in the park that have been maintained by the Parks Division. The barns are in good condition and three of the structures are excellent examples of Midwest barn architecture from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two of the barns are currently used for storage and two are empty. The structures will remain and are identified for specific uses as described in other paragraphs in this chapter. Refer to



Archery Range



Ski Shelter



Large Play Area



North Farmstead House



Bituminous Trail



Multi-Use Trail

Chapter 3 - Cultural Resources Stewardship for additional information about European settlement in the area and suggestions for management of related cultural resources.

Evidence of Native American activity was found in two locations in the park by an archeological survey completed in the 1980's. Because of the numerous water bodies and historically diverse wildlife habitat, there is a high probability that additional American Indian archaeological sites are present. The shores of Lake Elmo and Eagle Point Lake should be considered high priority for additional archeological surveys. Information generated by survey work would be used to prepare interpretive displays describing the pre-settlement history of Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Survey data would also be considered in the preparation of designs for new park facilities. Refer to Chapter 3 - Cultural Resources Stewardship for additional information about Native American activity in the area and suggestions for management of related cultural resources.

### Natural and Cultural Resource Interpretation

There is growing public interest in learning about nature and cultural history. There are several nature/interpretive centers in the regional park system that include educational displays and programs relating to wildlife, plant communities, ecology and archeological discovery.

A nature/interpretive center for study and instruction about Lake Elmo Park Reserve's natural and cultural resources is planned for construction on the east shore of Eagle Point Lake as shown on Figure 5.2. In addition to its interpretive function, the structure will serve as a trailhead and as an information center describing park programs and facilities. The facility will function well as a major focal point in the park with appeal to a broad spectrum of visitors. The total floor area is expected to be 5,000 to 7,000 sq. ft. and interior spaces will be designed to include uses indicated on the diagram shown in Figure 5.3. The building site is significantly higher in elevation than Eagle Pt. Lake and provides an opportunity for the building design to provide visitors with a commanding view of the lake and its environs. The design should also include a deck or outdoor gathering space that offers views to the lake.

A small amphitheater with a seating capacity of 200 to 250 is planned in proximity to the interpretive center. The facility will serve as an outdoor venue for educational programs related to nature study and cultural history. It will be easy to access for all park visitors and will provide somewhat more seating capacity than the existing program areas located at the modern and group campgrounds in the park.



Interpretive signs and displays will be placed at selected locations in the park to describe natural and cultural features. The intent of the displays will be to assist visitors in understanding the ecology, geology and cultural history of the park site. Refer to Chapters 3 and 4 for additional information related to interpretive displays.

Wildlife blinds and nature trails will be constructed to provide access to high quality habitat areas in the park. The facilities will supplement similar existing facilities in providing opportunities for nature-oriented activities such as birding, photography, orienteering and nature study. Care will be taken to minimize adverse impact on the habitat areas.

Camping

**Family camping:** The existing modern campground is extremely popular and is consistently filled on weekends during the fair-weather camping season. The equestrian campground is frequently used as an overflow facility to help meet the demand for family camping opportunities and is little used for equestrian camping. The plan proposes converting the equestrian campground into a modern campground; adding approximately 40 additional family camping spurs in that general location. The new camping loops would be located closer to the edge of the woods west of the existing campground to create a more appealing setting for campers. The spurs will be equipped with water hook-ups and electrical service designed to accommodate the high amperage required to effectively serve large trailers and motor homes.

**Equestrian camping:** The ‘camping spur’ design of the existing equestrian campground does not function well for the truck and trailer rigs used by equestrians. Riders have also expressed a concern about the safety of sharing a campground and trailhead with other campers. The plan proposes to redesign the equestrian campground and trailhead and move the facilities to a different location. The proposed location is the north farmstead area, which offers a barn that could be used as part of this development. The layout of the campground will be similar to a traditional group campground design that provides more flexibility for general circulation and use of the facility.

**Group camping:** The existing group campground is popular and improvements are proposed for the facilities. Campsite #1 will be relocated to improve the setting and parking will be placed near the site to provide for groups requiring more convenient access to their campsite (existing parking is remote from the sites). One of the barns will be moved from the north farmstead to the group campground to provide space for restrooms and gatherings. Trees and canopies will be added throughout the camping areas as required to offer shade in the relatively open setting of the campground.

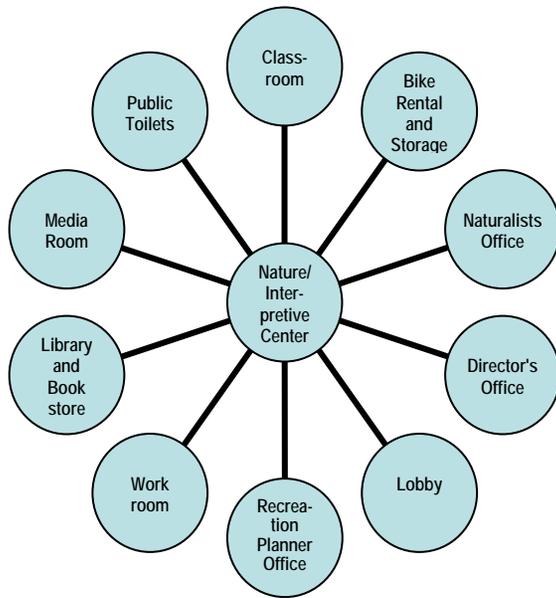


Figure 5.3 – Nature/Interpretive Center Facilities

Primitive camping: Walk-in campsites will be added to the existing, high quality primitive campground. The plan proposes improvements to the parking area and installation of potable water service for campers.

### Picnicking

The large, existing picnic shelters are extremely popular and are consistently rented on weekends during the picnicking season. Large groups are served well in the park, but additional facilities for smaller groups are proposed. Small shelters with a capacity of 4 to 10 tables will be placed in locations that will work well in serving visitors that are using other facilities in the park. One or two shelters are planned near the destination playground and existing fishing pier where existing parking lots will serve the parking need. One or two shelters are also planned near the existing boat launch and proposed fishing pier where a small parking lot will be provided to serve the new picnic area. Some tables will be placed in the open park areas near the new shelters to provide additional picnicking opportunities.

There are existing, small picnic areas in the park that are located in settings that have few mature trees and consist of open tables with no shelters. The areas are underutilized and would be more appealing if shelters were added to provide shade and strengthen the sense of place at these locations. The plan recommends adding small shelters (first come first serve) with a capacity of 4 to 10 tables to enhance the picnic areas and provide more choices for park visitors seeking a pleasant gathering place.

### Water-based Facilities

The existing fishing pier on Lake Elmo is used heavily by families and other park visitors. A second pier is planned for a location north of the existing boat launch. The lake bottom drops-off fairly quickly at this location and fish habitat is deemed to be good. Support facilities will include a small parking lot.

Circulation patterns at the existing boat ramp, access drive and parking are not efficient. The layout of the facilities will be modified to shorten the time it takes to launch boats and park vehicles and to help avoid conflicts between boating visitors. The capacity of the parking lot will remain the same.

### Trails

Lighted ski trails: The existing cross country ski trails in the park are high quality and varied in the challenges that they offer. Lighted ski trails have proven to be popular in Three River's Park District, Ramsey County and Stearns County. Some of the trails are lit with light poles that are 15' to 20' high and others are lit with low level lights approximately 3' to 4' high. The low level lights are proposed for use

in Lake Elmo Park Reserve to minimize glare and visibility of the lights from other locations in the park and from the surrounding area. The lighted trails offer extended use for skiers that are working during most of the winter daylight hours and for ski teams that spend a great deal of time practicing their sport. A lighted trail is proposed for existing trail loop C at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The use of snow-making machines is proposed to compensate for reduced snowfall; an apparent trend for Minnesota winters.

**Snowshoeing and winter hiking:** Additional snowshoeing and winter hiking trails will be provided in response to a high demand for outdoor winter exercise opportunities. More trails designated for these activities will help to reduce conflicts between skiers and walkers.

**Mountain biking:** Mountain biking is currently allowed on multi-use trails in the park. The contemporary designs for mountain bike trails, constructed recently in several Metro Area parks, are highly technical and offer challenges that have proven to be extremely popular with bikers. Trails should be constructed in conformance with design standards established by the International Mountain Bicycling Association to avoid problems with soil erosion and to minimize impacts on vegetation and other natural resources. A trail designed specifically for mountain biking (it would also accommodate snowshoeing in the winter) and a trailhead parking lot are proposed in the vicinity of the south end of Eagle Point Lake. The trail length will be 3 to 5 miles.

**Equestrian trails:** Equestrian trails will be modified by eliminating equestrian use of the trail segments on the south and southwest sides of Eagle Point Lake. The change is made to protect soft erodible soils existing in this area of the park. In addition, a trail segment, similar in length to the segment to be deleted, will be added at the north end of the park to provide connections between the trail system and the proposed location for the new equestrian campground and trailhead.

**Paved trails:** Bituminous-surfaced trails provide barrier free access to users of all ages and all levels of physical ability. They provide a safe and comfortable walking surface in most weather conditions and have proven to attract more trail users (hikers, bikers, in-line skaters) than ‘soft’ trail surfaces in all types of park settings. Bituminous surfacing is proposed for park trails connecting to access points serving the Cities of Lake Elmo, Oakdale and Woodbury. A paved trail is also proposed to encircle Eagle Point Lake; joining the existing multi-use trail and providing all trail users the opportunity to experience the lake environs. Finally, bituminous trail connections will be added between park facilities as required. For example, improved connections are needed between the swimming pond and nearby camping, picnic and play areas.

Park access: Trails providing access into the park will be paved and designed to provide convenient connections to the cities of Lake Elmo, Oakdale and Woodbury. A number of alternative park entrance locations were considered and the following were chosen as preferred options:

- Connections convenient to Oakdale will likely occur at the location of the existing snowmobile trail on Inwood Ave. and at North 15<sup>th</sup> Street.
- A connection to Downtown Lake Elmo will likely occur near Klondike Street (the exact location will be coordinated with the City).
- The existing trail access on Keats Ave. is convenient to Woodbury.

Where new trails are proposed for connection to city-owned trail segments, the construction will occur after the city segments are complete. This will help to ensure that placement of the park trails is consistent with city trail design objectives.

Hwy. 5 underpasses: Construction of underpasses beneath Hwy. 5 and the railroad tracks on the north side of the park is proposed to provide access to the City of Lake Elmo trail system and the Gateway Trail. The precise locations for the underpasses have not yet been determined.

Snowmobiling: The Washington County Star Trail Association is permitted to maintain snowmobile trails that pass within the park along the southwest and northwest boundaries. Trail access points are located on Inwood Ave. and on Highway 5. The trail use will be allowed to continue in the park as long as adjacent communities permit such use and there is no conflict with park operations or negative impact on wildlife.

### Miscellaneous Facilities/Activities

The existing traditional archery target range is heavily used. The range will be relocated to a site south of the north farmstead and the number of targets will be increased. A field archery range will be constructed near the same location. The field range will include targets and shooting stations designed to simulate hunting conditions. The archery ranges will be designed in conformance with standards established by the National Archery Association and the National Field Archery Association.

The Brown's Pond area will be developed to include winter skating, sledding facilities and cross-country skiing and snow shoeing trails. Summer use of the area will include hiking and nature appreciation. The existing barn at the site will serve as a trail head and multi-use activity center with spaces provided to accommodate activities shown on the diagram in Figure 5.4. A deck will be constructed on the west side

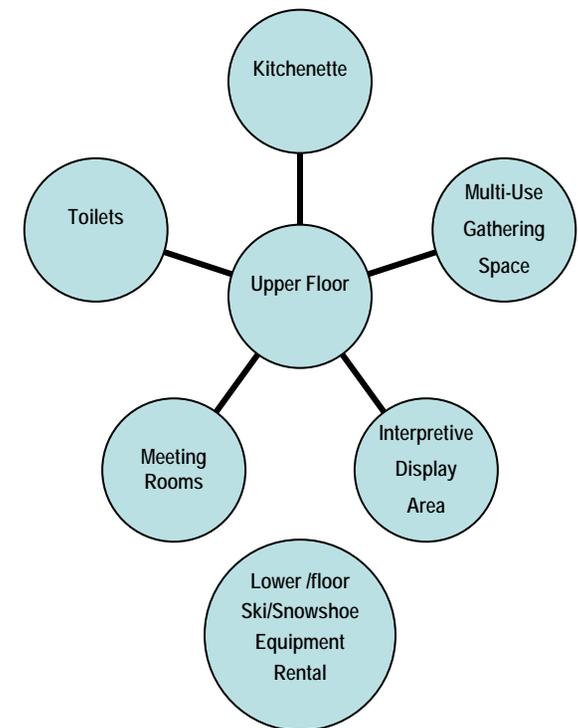


Figure 5.4 – Brown's Pond Multi-Use Activity Center

of the barn to provide an outdoor activity space with views to Brown’s Pond. Windows will be installed in the west barn wall to allow viewing of the pond from interior spaces. A parking lot will be constructed to serve the facilities in the area.

Dog field-trial events are currently conducted twice per year in open, short-grass, field areas of the park. The events may continue until native plant communities have been restored in the park to the extent that suitable space for the trials is no longer available.

Acquisition of inholdings and other property is being considered on the southeast shore of Lake Elmo, at the southeast corner of the park and along Keats Avenue at the main entrance to the park. Refer to Chapter 6-Park Boundaries and Acquisition for additional information related to the properties.

### **Facilities and Considerations Discussed & Omitted**

#### ‘Reserve’ Status of Lake Elmo Park Reserve

The park’s ‘reserve’ status, according to Metropolitan Council policy, limits development to 20% of the total area within the property boundaries. The County Parks Division discussed the possibility of recommending to the Metro Council that the designation be changed to ‘regional park’ status because the Council has traditionally placed higher priority on appropriating funds for recreational development to regional parks than to regional park reserves. As a result, ‘regional park’ status would probably allow the county to implement development proposed in the Master Plan at a faster pace.

The developed area of the park is measured, in accordance with Metro Council standards, by calculating the area covered by all built facilities including buildings, parking lots, roads, trails, etc. and all areas that are maintained as lawn by frequent mowing. Using this methodology, the current developed area of Lake Elmo Park Reserve is approximately 149 acres or 6.9% of the 2,165 park acres and the proposed development would cover approximately 49 acres or 2.3% of the total acreage (includes upland area and the areas of all water bodies surrounded completely by park land). If all proposed facilities are developed as planned and if all existing facilities unaffected by the plan continue to be maintained as they are, the total developed area will be approximately 198 acres or 9.1% of the total park area.

The input received from the public supports continuation of the park’s ‘reserve’ status. Residents stated frequently during the planning process that high priority is placed on controlling the level of development to help maximize the quality of natural areas. They are concerned that, although new development in the current plan will increase the developed area to only 9.1% of the park site, changing the park’s status would pose no development limitations for future administrators/stakeholders who may pursue more

expansive development goals. In response to input received from area residents, the plan recommends that Lake Elmo Park Reserve remain a ‘reserve’.

### Off-leash Dog Area

It was determined that an off-leash dog area is not consistent with the county’s mission in providing recreation opportunities for park visitors. The off-leash activity is known to have adverse impacts on natural features and wildlife habitat and is considered to be a better fit within a local park setting that supports intense recreational activities such as a ‘community park’ or ‘community playfield’ as classified in the Metropolitan Council’s Regional Open Space Policy Plan. In addition, it was observed that the needs of off-leash dog area users are best served by facilities provided in parks that are sited in several locations throughout a city. This provides convenient access for frequent users. Off-leash areas are not recommended for development in Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

### Winter Vehicle Access to Lake Elmo

It was determined that vehicle travel on Lake Elmo during winter months does not relate to other facilities or programs existing or planned for Lake Elmo Park Reserve, and winter activities on the Lake are beyond the ability of the Parks Division to monitor or control. An access drive onto Lake Elmo is not recommended for development in the park.

### Disc Golf

It was determined that disc golf is not consistent with the county’s mission in providing recreation opportunities for park visitors. The activity is known to have adverse impacts on natural features and is a better fit within a local park setting that supports intense recreational activities such as a ‘community park’ or ‘community playfield’ as classified in the Metropolitan Council’s Regional Open Space Policy Plan. A disc golf course is not recommended for development in Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

### **Undeveloped Facilities Included in the 1978 Master Plan**

The original Master Plan for Lake Elmo Park Reserve includes recommendations for two major facilities that have not been implemented to date. The first is a children’s farm planned for development at the north farmstead and the second is a swimming beach planned for the southwest shore of Lake Elmo.

Recommendations from the current planning process include the omission of the children’s farm concept. It was observed that the high cost of implementing and maintaining a children’s farm at Lake Elmo Park Reserve may diminish the development and maintenance of other important facilities in the park. Additionally, there are similar facilities operating in the Metro Area that offer high quality educational experiences related to the “small farm” lifestyle once common in this region. Finally, the concept ranked extremely low in a recent county-wide recreation survey. Interpretation of farm structures, artifacts and general settlement history of the park land is proposed in lieu of development of a working farm.

It is recommended that the swimming beach proposed on Lake Elmo be omitted from the park improvement program. The existing swimming pond is heavily used and provides high quality swim facilities for park visitors. At the time that the existing pond was planned, it was determined that the lake bottom and shoreline conditions within the park were not suitable for beach development. The current planning process supports that finding.

### **Serving Special Needs**

#### Accessibility

Washington County is committed to designing, managing and maintaining park facilities for universal accessibility. All existing and proposed built facilities intended for public use are or will be designed to conform to Federal and State ADA Guidelines. Existing paved trails provide access to many key natural areas in the park. The master plan amendment recommends three additional paved trail connections to serve surrounding communities and recommends construction of a paved trail around Eagle Pt. Lake to make the park environs accessible there.

#### Serving Diverse Ethnic Groups

The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area has absorbed the immigration of many different ethnic groups. Some cultural, recreational and traditional practices require minor adjustments in management and maintenance services to effectively accommodate the diverse needs of the various groups. Washington County is committed to serving user needs that are consistent with the codes and ordinances that apply to normal operations and services in the park system.

### **Use and Development Conflicts**

The gun club in operation south of the park generates a great deal of gunfire noise that can be heard throughout LEPR. The sound is loud enough in most park areas so it is a noticeable irritant but not a

significant conflict. The conflict is significant, however, with camping use which is evidenced by a history of complaints from campers. It is understandable that long term exposure to the noise experienced by campers becomes less tolerable than the relatively brief exposure by visitors enjoying shorter stays in the park.

The gun club has been a long standing land use in the area and is a valued member of the City of Lake Elmo community. Historically, the Parks Division has described the gun club facility and use to park visitors to make them aware of the club. The plan recommends that the county continue the practice and that the noise be considered when final designs are prepared for future facilities.

Residents in neighborhoods surrounding the park have created random trail access points around the park perimeter and the Parks Division policy has been to restrict access to designated trails. The plan recommends construction of additional accesses, as described earlier in this chapter, to correspond with Lake Elmo, Oakdale and Woodbury trail system plans. Providing more designated accesses will help to mitigate the tendency for residents to create their own.

### **Public Services**

Public services and infrastructure needed to serve LEPR and its visitors are largely established, effective and complete. One exception, is trail access to the park which the plan proposes to augment as described in the paragraph above and earlier in this chapter.



## Chapter 6: Park Boundaries and Acquisition

### Introduction

The Metropolitan Council’s Regional Recreation Open Space Policy Plan indicates that the agency’s two priorities for acquiring park and park reserve lands include:

- Lands essential to protect the natural resources that define a park or park reserve and make it usable to the public as planned.
- Lands that are essential for the park or park reserve to reach its full regional natural resource based outdoor recreation service potential as defined in the Council’s regional park system plan and the park unit’s master plan.

The current acreage of Lake Elmo Park Reserve does a good job of protecting the park’s natural resources and allows management of ecological systems as required to upgrade the quality of those resources. Lands immediately adjacent to the park are largely developed or scheduled for development with the exception of several parcels located along 10<sup>th</sup> Street North and along Lake Elmo Avenue North. This chapter includes recommendations for acquiring some of the undeveloped parcels.

### Site Context and Adjacent Land Uses

Lake Elmo Park Reserve is located entirely within the City of Lake Elmo and is surrounded, primarily, by residential properties, most of which have been developed or are in the process of being developed. There are significant frontages along Inwood Ave. on the west side of the park, along a railroad corridor paralleling Hwy. 5 on the north and along County Rd. 17 on the east side of the park.

### Potential Land Acquisition

The Park Reserve’s 2165 acres is contiguous with the exception of a few relatively small inholdings located at the southeast corner of the park. The plan recommends that the county acquire the inholdings to complete the park acreage and prevent any possibility of future conflicts between park users and private property owners. The inholding parcels are shown on Figure 6.1 and are described as follows:

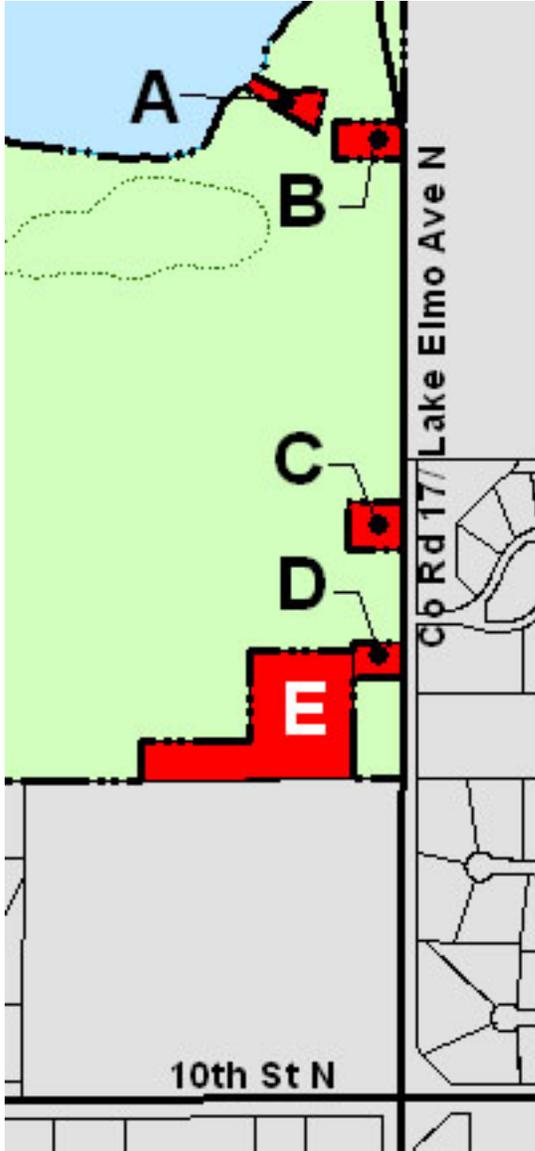
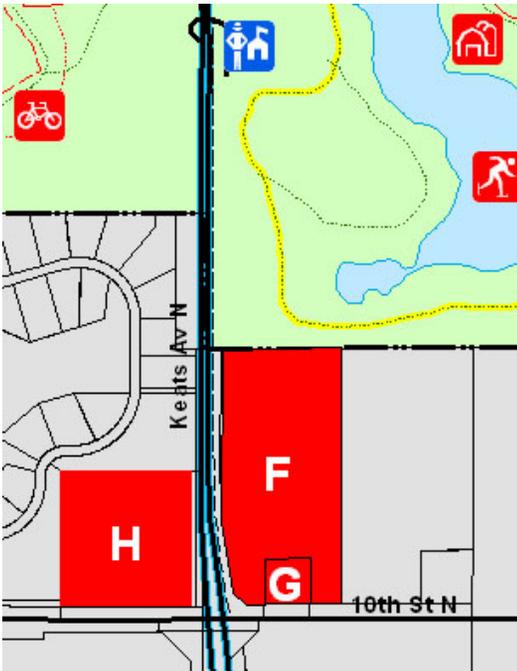


Figure 6.1 - Potential Land Acquisition at Southeast Corner of the Park

## Chapter Six – Park Boundaries and Acquisition



- Parcel A (0.75 acres): The property is an inholding with 65 feet of lakeshore frontage on Lake Elmo. The east boundary is within 55 feet of the west boundary of parcel B. The site contains a residence and related improvements. The residence should be removed and the shoreland and upland areas of the property should be restored to blend with aquatic and woodland vegetation on surrounding park property.
- Parcel B (1.0 acres): The property is an inholding with 140 feet of frontage on County Rd. 17. The south boundary is within 1,460 feet of parcel C. The site contains a residence and related improvements. The residence should be removed and vegetation restored to blend with the woodland on adjacent park property.
- Parcel C (1.0 acres): The property is an inholding with 200 feet of frontage on County Rd. 17. The south boundary is 400 feet from the north boundary of parcel D. The site contains a residence and related improvements. The residence should be removed and the vegetation restored to be consistent with the Restorative Landscape Plan included in the master plan amendment.
- Parcel D (0.75 acres): The property is an inholding with 140 feet of frontage on County Rd. 17. The site contains a residence and related improvements. The property separates a 2 ½ acre parcel of park land, also having frontage on County Rd. 17, from the main body of the park. The residence should be removed and the vegetation restored to be consistent with the Restorative Landscape Plan included in the master plan amendment.
- Parcel E (6.8 acres): The property is an inholding with 1500 feet of frontage on 10<sup>th</sup> Street North. The site contains a residence and related improvements. The property adjoins parcel C and separates the 2 ½ acre parcel of park land from the main body of the park. The vegetation should be restored to be consistent with the Restorative Landscape Plan included in the master plan amendment.

The plan further recommends that the county acquire three parcels, E, F and G, flanking the east and west sides of Keats Ave. N. Ownership of the parcels would allow the Parks Division to manage the lands in a manner consistent with the park reserve and bring an expression of the park character and image to the main entrance at the intersection of Keats Ave. and 10<sup>th</sup> Street N. If native vegetation is established on the sites, motorists approaching on 10<sup>th</sup> Street or on Keats Ave. will view a sample of the park environs as opposed to the residential developments to the east and west on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The native landscape would

also be consistent with prairie plantings maintained by the Parks Division in the Keats Ave. median south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The properties are shown on Figure 6.2 and are described as follows:

- Parcel F (15.3 acres): The site is largely disturbed with no significant natural resources. It has 318 feet of frontage on 10<sup>th</sup> Street North and 1,340 feet on Keats Avenue North and abuts parcel G on three sides. The vegetation should be restored to be consistent with the Restorative Landscape Plan.
- Parcel G (1.2 acres): The site contains a residence and is largely disturbed with no significant natural resources. It has 232 feet of frontage on 10<sup>th</sup> Street North and 660 feet on Keats Avenue North. The residence should be removed and the vegetation restored to be consistent with the Restorative Landscape Plan.
- Parcel H (10 acres): The site is largely disturbed with no significant natural resources. It has 660 feet of frontage on 10<sup>th</sup> Street North and 660 feet on Keats Avenue North. The residence should be removed and the vegetation restored to be consistent with the Restorative Landscape Plan.

There are several methods for land conveyance to county ownership. The following might be considered for acquisition of the identified properties:

- Fee simple: The outright purchase of full title and all rights by the county from the land owner. The transaction is generally handled with a negotiated purchase agreement that is based on an appraisal of the full market value of the land.
- First right of refusal: A contract between a landowner and the county which provides that, if the landowner chooses to sell, it must offer the land first to the county.
- Life estate: The land may be sold to the county and the owner may continue to occupy the residence and all or a portion of the property for the duration of the owner's lifetime.
- Donation: A private land owner may convey all or a portion of a property at no cost to the county and the owner can take advantage of tax benefits associated with the donation.
- Eminent domain: This, generally least desirable method of land acquisition, allows the county to purchase, at fair market value, the property of an unwilling seller.

## Chapter Six – Park Boundaries and Acquisition

The rapid escalation of land prices and development pressures in the area suggest that the county should proceed as quickly as funding will allow to act on the purchase of properties identified for acquisition.

In addition to the land acquisition described above, easements or use agreements will be required to construct the trail underpasses proposed beneath the railroad tracks and highway on the north side of the park. The State of Minnesota may require the county to secure an easement to construct a trail and underpass beneath Highway 5 and the Union Pacific Railroad will require the county to execute an agreement, in some form, to construct a trail and underpass beneath its tracks.

### Property Values

The following table includes the appraised values (for tax purposes) of land and improvements on properties identified for possible acquisition in the master plan amendment. The values are used for tax purposes and are intended only as a cost reference. If plans for acquisition proceed, budgeting for purchase will be based on research of the market values for the properties.

	<b>Acquisition</b>	<b>Appraised Value</b>
a.	Parcel A	\$321,100.00
b.	Parcel B	\$238,900.00
c.	Parcel C	\$251,900.00
d.	Parcel D	\$232,700.00
e.	Parcel E	\$124,000.00
f.	Parcel F	\$279,500.00
g.	Parcel G	\$233,500.00
h.	Parcel H	\$446,900.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,128,500.00</b>

### Chapter 7: Park Operations and Management

#### Introduction

The master plan amendment describes development and management activities for Lake Elmo Park Reserve that provides the Parks Division with a template for providing area residents with high quality recreation opportunities in the park for the next 15 to 20 years. County finances, staffing and equipment resources devoted to parks are divided between eight sites within the county park system including Big Marine Park Reserve, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Grey Cloud Island Regional Park, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Pine Point Regional Park, Point Douglas Park, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park and Square Lake Park. A burgeoning population creates a growing demand for recreation facilities along with numerous other public services offered by the county. In addition to a thoughtful plan for park development, it is imperative that the Parks Division follow a strategic plan for implementing improvements and managing and maintaining park lands and facilities. The purpose of this chapter is to:

- Review county ordinances that apply to park management
- Identify costs associated with proposed park improvements and with operating and maintaining the park
- Identify potential funding sources for park development and maintenance
- Provide an overview of manpower sources for park management and maintenance
- Provide an overview of sustainable management practices
- Define measures to be taken to make the public aware of recreation services available in the park

#### Ordinances

Washington County has adopted Ordinance No. 93, in its regulations, to govern parks that are under its jurisdiction. The stated purpose of the ordinance is as follows: “The Washington County Board of Commissioners deems it reasonable, necessary and desirable to provide an ordinance specifying rules and regulations in order to provide for the safe and peaceful use of Parklands; for the education and recreation of the public; for the protection and preservation of the property, facilities, and natural resources; and for the safety and general welfare of the public.”

The ordinance has functioned as an effective tool for establishing and enforcing rules and regulations for park use and management. The plan does not recommend any changes or modifications to the ordinance.

### Energy Conservation

The cost of maintaining high quality park habitats and facilities can be minimized by using sustainable design concepts and management practices. The following is a list of recommendations that will assist in achieving energy conservation goals:

- Engage the use of the LEED Program and principles in the design of building and site facilities such as the proposed nature center, red barn activity center and restroom facilities.
- Select plant materials for park enhancement and habitat improvements that require low maintenance and are functional in their applications such as protecting erodible soils and slopes, providing shade for activity areas, resisting damage or degradation from user impacts, resisting invasive plant infestation, etc.
- Design trail alignments and details to be compatible with soil conditions, topography and drainage patterns. Select trail surfaces that are durable for the type and level of use that is anticipated.
- Utilize products for maintenance and services that are bio-degradable, non-toxic and are able to be recycled.
- Administer an efficient and effective program for recycling waste materials.

The Parks Division's 2005 Park Maintenance Manual contains a detailed park maintenance program that relates to the level of use and development throughout the park system. Use levels are defined as Class 'A', 'B' or 'C' with Class 'A' facilities and park areas having the highest level of development and Class 'C' areas having little development and the least use. This methodical approach helps to achieve timely and energy efficient management of manpower, equipment and other resources. An intricately detailed list of tasks further assists in accomplishing energy conservation objectives. The plan recommends continued use of this type of management approach.

### Marketing

Marketing is a term that is commonly used for describing promotion of private businesses and is not often applied to public services, however, a successful marketing plan for both public and private entities must include public relations, pricing, advertising, and sales promotion. It is a process that disseminates information designed to make potential customers aware of the availability of a product or service and to describe benefits to the customers. Effective marketing is an important component of the service that park administrators provide to prospective users.

The marketing program for Lake Elmo Park Reserve should clearly identify the products and services that are being provided and the recreation programs and activities that are available. Prospective visitors should be informed about structured programs, such as the ‘Family Festival and ‘Campfire Programs’, unstructured activities, such as fishing and hiking, and educational opportunities. Park users frequently focus only on activities in which they typically participate. They can benefit from promotion of other activities by enjoying new experiences and the park system can benefit from a general increase in public support and increased revenues.

Successful promotion of services and products relies on frequent and effective communication with the consumer. It is important to disseminate information and to do it in a way that is appealing. Potential users must know about the product or service, but just as importantly, they must be interested enough to devote valuable money and/or time necessary to participate. Tools and strategies that should be used to market the recreation opportunities at LEPR vary widely in their make-up and include the following:

- Flyers produced to describe an event or activity such as the Family Festival and Campfire Programs at LEPR.
- Site maps with descriptions of available facilities.
- Web site text and graphics that are updated on a consistent schedule to provide users with information about facilities and events.
- Identification and traffic signs located within the park to identify facilities and provide clear direction on road and trail routes.
- Identification and traffic signs outside the park that identify the park and provide clear direction for appropriate routes to the park from roads and trails in the surrounding area.
- Frequent publishing of information about park activities and events in publications such as newspapers, newsletters and magazines.
- Public participation processes for planning and design of park improvements and for preparing long range strategic implementation and master plans.
- Cooperative efforts to promote recreation with other public agencies such as the cities of Lake Elmo, Woodbury, Oakdale, major urban centers such as St. Paul and Minneapolis, Washington Conservation District, Ramsey/Washington Watershed District, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, etc.
- Cooperative efforts with the Metropolitan Council on activities like its region-wide awareness program.
- Educational and interpretive programs focusing on topics such natural history, cultural history, ecology and astronomy.

## Chapter Seven – Park Operations and Management

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- Lessons and instruction for recreation activities such as swimming, archery, cross country skiing, horseback riding, fishing, etc.
- Cooperative efforts with groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, equestrian clubs, archery clubs, orienteering clubs, etc. to organize activities and promote use of the park facilities.
- Maintain the park and facilities to be esthetically pleasing and functional. Appearance of a facility often relates to whether it is clean and neat, but appearance also includes mood and ambience. The process or procedures by which one is informed and instructed also have an impact of the user's experience. Rental and reservation procedures should be geared toward providing accurate information about a facility or service. A lack of information, dissemination of misinformation or improper procedures can all influence the quality of the user experience. Public image has significant impact on the success of a park's service to its visitors.
- Project a positive image through the actions, attire and attitude of the park staff. Actions relate to promotional activities and include preparation of high quality maps, brochures, information pieces and news articles. Attire relates to physical appearance of park staff including uniforms and personal grooming. Attitude refers to the courtesy, helpfulness, and sincerity of park staff when they come into contact with park users. Visitor impressions are greatly influenced by their response to contact with those responsible for managing and operating park facilities, activities and programs.

Private businesses and public facilities become successful as a result of effective marketing which includes providing high quality products and services and then assertive promotion of the offerings. The Washington County Parks Division, historically, has done a good job at marketing Lake Elmo Park Reserve and will continue to employ the necessary tools and strategies to promote the park as its services and facilities expand to meet the growing demand for recreation opportunities.

**Cost Estimates**

Cost Estimate for Development

The following table includes estimated costs for construction of improvements proposed in the master plan amendment. The estimates are based on 2006 prices and should be adjusted annually for normal inflation.

<b>ITEM</b>		<b>EST. COST</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Nature/Interpretive Center</b>	
a.	Site Preparation	\$8,000.00
b.	Grading	\$10,000.00
c.	Parking Lot Improvements	\$20,000.00
d.	Building - 7000 square feet	\$1,295,000.00
e.	Indoor and Outdoor Interpretive Displays	\$50,000.00
f.	Amphitheater - 200 to 250 seats	\$50,000.00
g.	Trail Connections	\$5,000.00
h.	Site Lighting	\$16,000.00
i.	Water Service	\$10,000.00
j.	Electrical Service	\$10,000.00
k.	Turf Establishment	\$9,000.00
l.	Landscaping	\$15,000.00
	<b>Total for Nature/Interpretive Center:</b>	<b>\$1,498,000.00</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Items</b>	
a.	Interpretive Signs for all Park Facilities & Trails	\$15,000.00
b.	Wildlife Blinds	\$6,000.00
c.	Bituminous Road to Equestrian Campground and Archery Range	\$140,000.00
	<b>Total for Miscellaneous Items:</b>	<b>\$161,000.00</b>

## Chapter Seven – Park Operations and Management

<b>3. Equestrian Campground and Trailhead</b>		
a.	Site Preparation	\$6,000.00
b.	Grading	\$4,000.00
c.	Guest Parking	\$6,000.00
d.	Electrical Service	\$10,000.00
e.	Water Service	\$10,000.00
f.	Picnic Tables	\$12,000.00
g.	Fire Rings	\$6,000.00
h.	Signs	\$2,000.00
i.	Open Camping Area (utilities & surfaces)	\$10,000.00
j.	Rider Staging Area	\$2,000.00
k.	Horse Tie-up Areas	\$8,000.00
l.	Lighting	\$5,000.00
m.	Barn Improvements	
i.	General Repair	\$40,000.00
ii.	Interior Refinishing	\$65,000.00
iii.	Toilets	\$64,000.00
iv.	Water Service	\$4,000.00
v.	Electrical Service	\$4,000.00
p.	Equestrian Trail	\$15,000.00
q.	Turf Establishment	\$3,000.00
r.	Landscaping	\$15,000.00
s.	Stormwater management	\$10,000.00
	<b>Total for Equestrian Campground and Trailhead:</b>	<b>\$301,000.00</b>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Family Campground</b>	
a.	Site Preparation	\$6,000.00
b.	Grading	\$20,000.00
c.	Bituminous Roads	\$46,000.00
d.	Guest Parking Areas	\$6,000.00
e.	40 Camping Spurs (surfacing)	\$16,000.00
f.	Electrical and Water Hook-ups (all spurs)	\$80,000.00
g.	Fire Rings	\$12,000.00
h.	Picnic Tables	\$24,000.00
i.	Signs	\$3,100.00
j.	Toilet Building	\$90,000.00
k.	Play Area	\$60,000.00
l.	Water Service	\$10,000.00
m.	Electrical Service	\$10,000.00
n.	Turf Establishment	\$12,000.00
o.	Landscaping	\$25,000.00
p.	Stormwater management	\$10,000.00
	<b>Total for Family Campground:</b>	<b>\$430,100.00</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Group Campground</b>	
a.	Site Preparation	\$4,000.00
b.	Bituminous Parking	\$6,000.00
c.	Move Barn from North Farmstead	\$35,000.00
d.	Repair Current Barn Site	\$8,000.00
e.	Barn Improvements	
i.	Foundation	\$28,000.00
ii.	General Repair	\$40,000.00
iii.	Interior Refinishing	\$45,000.00

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iv.	Floor	\$15,000.00
v.	Toilets	\$64,000.00
vi.	Water Service	\$10,000.00
vii.	Electrical Service	\$10,000.00
f.	Two (2) Shelters	\$40,000.00
g.	Turf Establishment	\$2,000.00
h.	Landscaping	\$15,000.00
i.	Stormwater management	\$10,000.00
	<b>Total for Group Campground:</b>	<b>\$332,000.00</b>
<b>6. Primitive Campground</b>		
a.	Site Preparation	\$2,500.00
b.	Grading	\$2,000.00
d.	Bituminous Drive and Park Lot	\$8,000.00
e.	Picnic Tables	\$3,000.00
f.	Fire Rings	\$1,500.00
g.	Water Service at Parking Lot	\$10,000.00
h.	Turf Establishment	\$2,000.00
i.	Landscaping	\$3,000.00
	<b>Total for Primitive Campground:</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>
<b>7. Picnic Area Near New Fishing Pier</b>		
a.	Site Preparation	\$2,000.00
b.	Grading	\$2,000.00
c.	Two (2) Picnic Shelters	\$50,000.00
d.	Picnic Tables	\$12,000.00
e.	Bituminous Road and Parking Lot	\$8,500.00
f.	Bituminous Path	\$3,000.00
g.	Water Service	\$10,000.00

h.	Turf Establishment	\$800.00
i.	Landscaping	\$4,000.00
j.	Stormwater management	\$8,000.00
	<b>Total for Picnic Area Near New Fishing Pier:</b>	<b>\$100,300.00</b>
<b>8. Picnic Area Near Existing Large Play Area</b>		
a.	Site Preparation	\$2,000.00
b.	Grading	\$2,000.00
c.	Two (2) Picnic Shelters	\$50,000.00
d.	Picnic Tables	\$12,000.00
e.	Bituminous Path	\$3,000.00
f.	Water Service	\$10,000.00
g.	Turf Establishment	\$800.00
h.	Landscaping	\$4,000.00
	<b>Total for Picnic Area Near Existing Large Play Area:</b>	<b>\$83,800.00</b>
<b>9. Picnic Shelters at Existing Sites</b>		
a.	Site Preparation	\$800.00
b.	Grading	\$1,000.00
c.	Two (2) Picnic Shelters	\$50,000.00
d.	Picnic Tables	\$6,000.00
e.	Bituminous Path	\$2,000.00
f.	Water Service	\$10,000.00
g.	Turf Establishment	\$800.00
h.	Landscaping	\$4,000.00
	<b>Total for Picnic Shelters at Existing Sites:</b>	<b>\$74,600.00</b>

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<b>10.</b>	<b>Fishing Pier</b>	
a.	Site Preparation	\$800.00
b.	Grading	\$800.00
c.	Pier	\$25,000.00
d.	Bituminous Path	\$1,500.00
	<b>Total for Fishing Pier:</b>	<b>\$28,100.00</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Existing Boat Landing Improvements</b>	
a.	Site Preparation including Demolition	\$8,000.00
b.	Grading	\$4,000.00
c.	Bituminous Surfacing	\$24,000.00
d.	Turf Establishment	\$1,200.00
e.	Landscaping	\$4,000.00
f.	Stormwater management	\$8,000.00
	<b>Total for Boat Landing Improvements:</b>	<b>\$49,200.00</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Trail Work</b>	
a.	Ski Trail Lighting	\$82,000.00
b.	Snow Making Equipment	\$75,000.00
c.	Mountain Bike Trails	\$65,000.00
d.	Bituminous Trails (5.6 miles)	\$523,353.00
e.	Highway 5 and Railroad Underpasses	\$120,000.00
f.	Nature Trails	\$8,000.00
	<b>Total for Trail Work:</b>	<b>\$631,600.00</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Field Archery Range</b>	
a.	Site Preparation	\$5,000.00
b.	Grading	\$6,000.00

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c.	Fourteen Shooting Stations (paths, markers, bales, etc.)	\$28,000.00
d.	Three Elevated Shooting Platforms	\$15,000.00
e.	Signs	\$3,000.00
f.	Bituminous Parking Lot	\$17,000.00
g.	Turf Establishment	\$4,000.00
h.	Landscaping	\$8,000.00
i.	Stormwater management	\$10,000.00
	<b>Total for Field Archery Range:</b>	<b>\$96,000.00</b>
<b>14. Target Archery Range</b>		
a.	Site Preparation	\$3,000.00
b.	Grading	\$2,000.00
c.	Ten (10) Shooting Stations	\$15,000.00
d.	Two (2) Elevated Shooting Platforms	\$10,000.00
e.	Signs	\$2,600.00
f.	Turf Establishment	\$1,500.00
g.	Landscaping	\$6,000.00
	<b>Total for Target Archery Range:</b>	<b>\$40,100.00</b>
<b>15. Red Barn Activity Center</b>		
a.	Site Preparation	\$10,000.00
b.	Grading	\$8,000.00
c.	Barn Improvements	
i.	General Repair	\$125,000.00
ii.	Interior Refinishing	\$125,000.00
iii.	Window/Façade Improvements	\$50,000.00
iv.	Kitchenette	\$50,000.00
v.	Toilets	\$64,000.00
vi.	Deck	\$20,000.00

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vii.	Interpretive Displays	\$10,000.00
d.	Bituminous Access Road	\$50,000.00
e.	Access Road Bridge	\$40,000.00
f.	Bituminous Parking Lot	\$60,000.00
g.	Site Lighting	\$16,000.00
h.	Bituminous Path	\$2,400.00
i.	Trail Connections	\$1,500.00
j.	Water Service	\$10,000.00
k.	Electrical Service	\$10,000.00
l.	Turf Establishment	\$3,500.00
m.	Landscaping	\$15,000.00
n.	Stormwater management	\$12,000.00
	<b>Total for Red Barn Activity Center:</b>	<b>\$682,400.00</b>
	<b>Total for All Proposed Improvements:</b>	<b>\$4,540,200.00</b>

### Cost Estimate for Maintenance and Operations

The following table includes estimated maintenance and operations costs related to new facilities proposed in the Master Plan and existing facilities that are proposed to be retained. The estimates are based on 2004 and 2005 expenses related to existing facilities. The table further includes unit estimates for maintenance of park landscapes. The values should be adjusted annually for normal inflation.

ITEM		EST. COST
<b>1</b>	<b>New Facilities</b>	
a.	Nature/Interpretive Center	\$75,000.00
c.	Equestrian Campground and Trailhead	\$7,000.00
d.	Family Campground	\$14,000.00
e.	Group Campground	\$200.00
f.	Primitive Campground	\$100.00
g.	Picnic Area Near New Fishing Pier	\$2,000.00
h.	Picnic Area Near Existing Large Play Area	\$2,000.00
I.	Picnic Shelters at Existing Sites	\$2,000.00
j	Fishing Pier	\$500.00
k	Existing Boat Landing Improvements	\$1,600.00
m.	Field Archery Range	\$1,000.00
n.	Target Archery Range	\$500.00
o.	Red Barn Activity Center	\$20,000.00
	<b>Total O &amp; M Costs for New Facilities:</b>	<b>\$125,900.00</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Existing Facilities</b>	
a.	Contact station	\$40,000.00
b.	Ski Shelter	\$425.00
c.	Swimming pond and building	\$11,563.00
d.	Existing Modern Campground	\$26,300.00
e.	Existing group campground	\$300.00
f.	Existing primitive campground	\$100.00
g.	Equestrian campground building	\$200.00
h.	Maintenance shop	\$36,304.00
I.	Play areas	\$2,200.00
j	Picnic shelters	\$12,500.00

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k.	Beach	\$44,000.00
l.	Boat launch	\$1,600.00
m.	Fishing pier	\$500.00
n.	Entrance gate	\$450.00
o.	Mechanical equipment maintenance	\$34,500.00
p.	Pasture and cropland	\$55.00
	<b>Total O &amp; M Costs for Existing Facilities</b>	<b>\$299,626.00</b>
<b>3. Invasive Plant Control</b>		
a.	Removal of buckthorn in forests	\$3,000/Ac
b.	Removal of herbaceous exotics (garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, etc.) from forests	\$900/Ac
c.	Removal of herbaceous exotics (garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, etc.) from grassland	\$550/Ac
d.	Removal of herbaceous exotics (reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, barn grass, etc.) from wetlands	\$600/Ac
<b>4. Landscape Restoration</b>		
a.	Restore prairie on old field areas and current cropland	\$3,500/Ac
b.	Restore savanna using small trees and acorns	\$6,000/Ac
c.	Restore savanna using 2" balled and burlapped trees	\$12,000/Ac
d.	Restore forest using small trees and acorns	\$7,000/Ac
e.	Restore forest using 2" balled and burlapped trees	\$12,000/Ac
f.	Restore wetlands	\$3,500/Ac
<b>5. Long Term Landscape Management and Invasive Plant Control</b>		
a.	Prairie	\$550/Ac
b.	Savanna	\$750/Ac
c.	Forests	\$1,200/Ac

d.	Wetlands	\$600/Ac
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### Maintenance and Operations Expenses

The 2004 Washington County Parks Division Annual Report indicates that the total expenditures throughout the park system, for operations and maintenance in 2004, was \$1,884,848. Funds to cover operations and maintenance expenses originated from the following sources. The dollar amounts do not apply directly to Lake Elmo Park Reserve but relate to the county park system as a whole.

- |   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| • | County tax levy                              | \$735,677 |
| • | Metropolitan Council Grants                  | \$243,365 |
| • | Minnesota DNR Grants                         | \$102,000 |
| • | Washington Conservation District Grant       | \$8,457   |
| • | Natural Resource Conservation Service Grants | \$1,796   |
| • | Cash donations from private sources          | \$1,100   |
| • | Revenues from user fees and charges          | \$731,087 |

The Parks Division also worked cooperatively during 2004 with several organized groups and individuals in maintaining the parks and providing service to park users as indicated on the following list. The services and worker-hours indicated do not apply directly to Lake Elmo Park Reserve but relate to the county park system as a whole.

- Sentence to Service - Provided 12,831 worker-hours performing tasks such as cleaning buildings, buckthorn removal, splitting wood, painting, general maintenance assistance and recycling.
- Youth Service Bureau - Provided 100 worker-hours performing general maintenance tasks for park buildings and grounds.
- Washington County Sheriff's Reserves and Mounted Patrol - Spent 1,606 worker-hours on the patrol in the parks.
- Tree Trust Projects - Provided 2,559 worker-hours performing minor construction and clean-up tasks.
- Adult, youth and scout volunteers - Provided 1,917 worker-hours hosting park programs, performing clean-up tasks and minor construction projects and conducting surveys.
- Campground hosts - Provided 163 service in providing park security, camper assistance and building and grounds maintenance in exchange for free camping.

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The work performed by organized groups and individuals, in consort with full-time county staff, is extremely beneficial in performing specific, short-term projects. It is generally most efficient to assign routine maintenance tasks, with some exceptions, to full or part-time staff. The accomplishments of volunteers and outside organizations allow the Parks Division to focus more of its time on day to day tasks with fewer interruptions from the need to perform special projects. The Washington County Parks Division “2005 Park Maintenance Manual” lists the following assignments for routine maintenance at Lake Elmo Park Reserve:

- Mow and brush trails
- Inspect trail signs
- Mulch and water trees
- Wrap and trim trees
- Trim shrubs
- Inspect erosion control dams
- Maintain prairies
- Spray herbicides for noxious and broadleaf weed control
- Fertilize trails
- Locate tables and litter receptacles
- Install and remove snow fences
- Paint and repair buildings as needed
- Remove hazard trees
- Inspect boundary and interior fences
- Inspect rental property for painting and repairs
- Sweep parking lots and bike trails
- Clean buildings
- Fill pool
- Maintain landscape irrigation system
- Shutdown and start water systems
- Install swim facility P.A. system
- Install concession equipment
- Start refuse service as needed

### Revenue Sources

The cost information included in this chapter will be used by the Parks Division to prepare budgets as required to accomplish construction of park improvements and implementation of routine maintenance and special tasks such as invasive plant control and revegetation of the park.

Potential funding sources for capital improvements, acquisition and on-going special projects such as invasive plant control and landscape restoration are as follows:

- County tax levy
- Metropolitan Council Grants
- Minnesota DNR Grants
- Washington Conservation District Grant
- Natural Resource Conservation Service Grants
- Cash donations from private sources
- Minnesota DOT
- Cities
- Foundations
- Corporations

Potential funding sources for expenses related to maintenance and operations are as follows:

- County tax levy
- Metropolitan Council Grants
- Minnesota DNR Grants
- Washington Conservation District Grant
- Natural Resource Conservation Service Grants
- Cash donations from private sources
- Revenues from user fees and charges
- Cities (assistance from cities such as Lake Elmo, Oakdale and Woodbury could be in the form of financial contributions and/or shared manpower and equipment)
- Foundations
- Corporations



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## Appendix "A" - Cultural and Natural History

### Statewide Contexts

According to the most recent *Preservation Plan*,<sup>1</sup> approximately 50,000 historic structures and 15,000 archaeological sites have been identified in Minnesota. Only 6,500 of these individual properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), although they are distributed among all of the State's counties.

To evaluate the significance of the historic resources across the State, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) created a three-tiered framework of historic contexts. These contexts are defined by time period, theme, and geographical area:

- Broad statewide patterns encompassing three periods: Pre-Contact (9500 B.C. - A.D. 1650), Contact (A.D. 1650 - 1837) and Post-Contact (A.D. 1837 - 1945).
- Specific themes, identified as needed, to evaluate properties best understood in a framework smaller than statewide patterns.
- Contexts developed by a particular city or other local area for use in local planning.

Within the *Pre-Contact Period* (9,500 B.C. - A.D. 1650) archaeologists recognize specific historic contexts (e.g., Paleoindian Tradition, Archaic Tradition, Woodland Tradition, Late Prehistoric Period, Mississippian Tradition, and Oneota Tradition). The *Contact Period* (A.D. 1650 - 1837) is associated with various American Indian contexts (e.g., Eastern Dakota and Ojibwe) and Euro-American contexts (e.g., French, British, and Initial United States Presence) since this is the timeframe in which first Europeans then later Euro-Americans interacted with local American Indians. Examples of *Post-Contact Period* contexts that are relevant to the MWW campuses: (1) Reservations & the Indian Community (1830s-1930s), (2) St. Croix Triangle Lumbering (1830s-1900s), (3) Early Agriculture & River Settlement (1840-1870), (4) Railroads & Agricultural Development (1870-1940), and (5) Urban Centers (1870-1940).

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<sup>1</sup> *Working Together: A Preservation Plan for Minnesota's Historic Properties, 2000-2005*. Accessed online at <http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/shpo/MSPpv1.pdf>

Statewide historic contexts have been further subdivided into a variety of *thematic contexts*. For example, some thematic contexts that may be relevant to the MWW campuses include (1) lithic scatters, (2) earthworks, (3) Red River trails (1835-1871), (4) military roads (1850-1875), (5) quarries and mines, and (6) geographic features of cultural significance. The following section examines detailed information about the development of the natural and cultural landscapes through the Contact Period. Expected archaeological site types are also mentioned in this discussion.

### American Indian Cultural & Natural History

The cultural sequence in Minnesota begins with the *Paleoindian* and *Early Archaic* periods (ca. 10,000 – 3,000 B.C.). As glaciers receded from the Upper Midwest, migratory groups of people settled throughout the areas of open woodlands and succeeding grasslands, hunting native herding animals, such as bison and mastodon, and likely exploiting available small game, fish and plant resources as well (Shane 1989). Throughout much of this early timeframe, the climate was becoming successively warmer and drier than during the glacial period. In addition to distinctive projectile points, the tool kits included large, bifacially flaked knives, simple choppers, and large scrapers (Harrison *et al.* 1995; Florin 1996; Higginbottom 1996). The settlement pattern is poorly understood for these groups of people, but it is largely accepted that they followed a mobile nomadic lifestyle. Expected site types include isolated and communal animal kill sites, short-term habitations, base camps, burials, quarries, lithic workshops, rockshelters, petroglyph (rock art) sites, and specialized processing sites (Clouse 1985). No Paleoindian or Early Archaic sites are known in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Characteristic of the *Middle-Late Archaic* periods (ca. 3,000 - 800 B.C.) was a continued reliance on large game (i.e., bison to the west, and deer, elk, and moose to the east) and increasingly diversified technologies associated with hunting, trapping, fishing, foraging, woodworking, and plant processing. This diversification reflects more highly regionalized adaptations to local environmental conditions as climatic trends shifted to cooler and wetter conditions, a pattern that continues today. Chipped-stone tools, such as stemmed and notched projectile points, dominated the tool kits, but the use of pecked- and ground-stone tools also became widespread. The use of copper implements is apparent late in this span of time (Bleed 1969; Gibbon 1998). Evidence for the exploitation of diverse floral and faunal resources suggests a seasonal round type of subsistence-settlement system, with habitation areas often located along the margins of lakes and major rivers. Expected site types are lithic workshops, quarries, plant-gathering sites, fishing sites, petroglyphs, specialized processing sites, permanent villages, hunting campsites, rockshelters, communal hunting sites, and burials (Clouse 1985). No Middle-Late Archaic sites have been recorded in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

The *Woodland Period* (ca. 800 B.C. - A.D. 1630) in the region may have been associated with incipient plant domestication, but hunting with intensive wild rice gathering provided for the bulk of subsistence

needs. Settlement patterns resembled those appearing previously, with particularly intense occupation of stream and lake junctions late in the period. The production of ceramic items is an especially significant technological innovation of the Woodland Period. Ceramic types commonly found in the region include Malmo, Howard Lake, Brainerd, St. Croix, Onamia, Black Duck, Clam River, and Sandy Lake (Anfinson 1979). Mound construction associated with mortuary activity also developed during this period, and this region possesses the highest concentration of mound sites in the State (Winchell 1911; Wilford *et al.* 1969). Expected site types include quarries, lithic workshops, clay-extraction sites, ceramic manufacturing sites, hunting camps, permanent villages, specialized processing sites, plant-gathering sites, fishing sites, rockshelters, petroglyph sites, burials, and possibly even horticultural fields (Clouse 1985). No Woodland sites have been recorded at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve, although sites 21WA0057 & 21WA0058 at Eagle Point Lake are thought to be late prehistoric or early protohistoric in age (see descriptions below).

Evidence of what Clouse (1985) calls "Southern Minnesota Upper Mississippian (Oneota)" and what Dobbs & Anfinson (1989) simply refer to as *Oneota* (ca. A.D. 1000-1300) has been reported for the region, with the largest reported sites along the margins of major river valleys or other water bodies (Gibbon 1973, 1982). In this region these cultures appear to have been characterized by a blended subsistence strategy based on simple agriculture, gathering, and bison hunting. Possible site types include semi-permanent villages, permanent and possibly fortified villages and outlying farmsteads, horticultural fields, quarries, lithic workshops, clay-extraction sites, ceramic manufacturing sites, hunting camps, specialized processing sites, plant-gathering sites, fishing sites, rockshelters, petroglyph sites, and burials (Clouse 1985; Dobbs & Anfinson 1989). No Oneota sites are known in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Early in the Historic Period (ca. A.D. 1630) the western portions of this region were occupied by Yankton Dakota, while Eastern Dakota occupied the east (Wedel 1974). One Eastern Dakota property type for the Contact Period is the large, semi-permanent village (Dobbs 1989). Additional property types for the Eastern Dakota in the Contact Period may be recognized through extrapolation backward in time from those recorded in the mid-1800s (*Post-Contact Period*, see below). They include summer residential and logistical base camps, winter camps, wild ricing camps, maple sugaring camps, muskrat procurement sites, cranberry camps, deer-hunting base camps, deer cache sites and deer kill sites, and scaffold burial sites (Dobbs 1989). No Contact Period Dakota sites have been recorded in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve, although sites 21WA0057 & 21WA0058 at Eagle Point Lake are thought to be late prehistoric or early protohistoric in age (see descriptions below).

Written descriptions of the Ojibwe as Upper Great Lakes inhabitants date as far back as A.D. 1640. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a major geographical expansion of Ojibwe populations, possibly as a

result of sociopolitical pressures exerted on them by the westward expansion of Europeans from the East Coast. Anfinson (2003:57) says "the impact of French trade on intertribal relations and tribal migrations exceeded the French presence and would increase the Dakota's use of the MNRRRA corridor." Wars between the Ojibwe and Dakota lasted from the 1730s until 1854, and Ojibwe peoples finally displaced the Dakota southward and westward by the early 1900s. Based on ethnohistoric records several property types have been suggested: seasonal villages, small wintering camps, maple sugaring camps, wild ricing camps, fishing stations, cemeteries and other religious and sacred places, and battle sites (Dobbs 1989). No Ojibwe sites of the Contact Period have been recorded in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve, although sites 21WA0057 & 21WA0058 at Eagle Point Lake are thought to be late prehistoric or early protohistoric in age (see descriptions below).

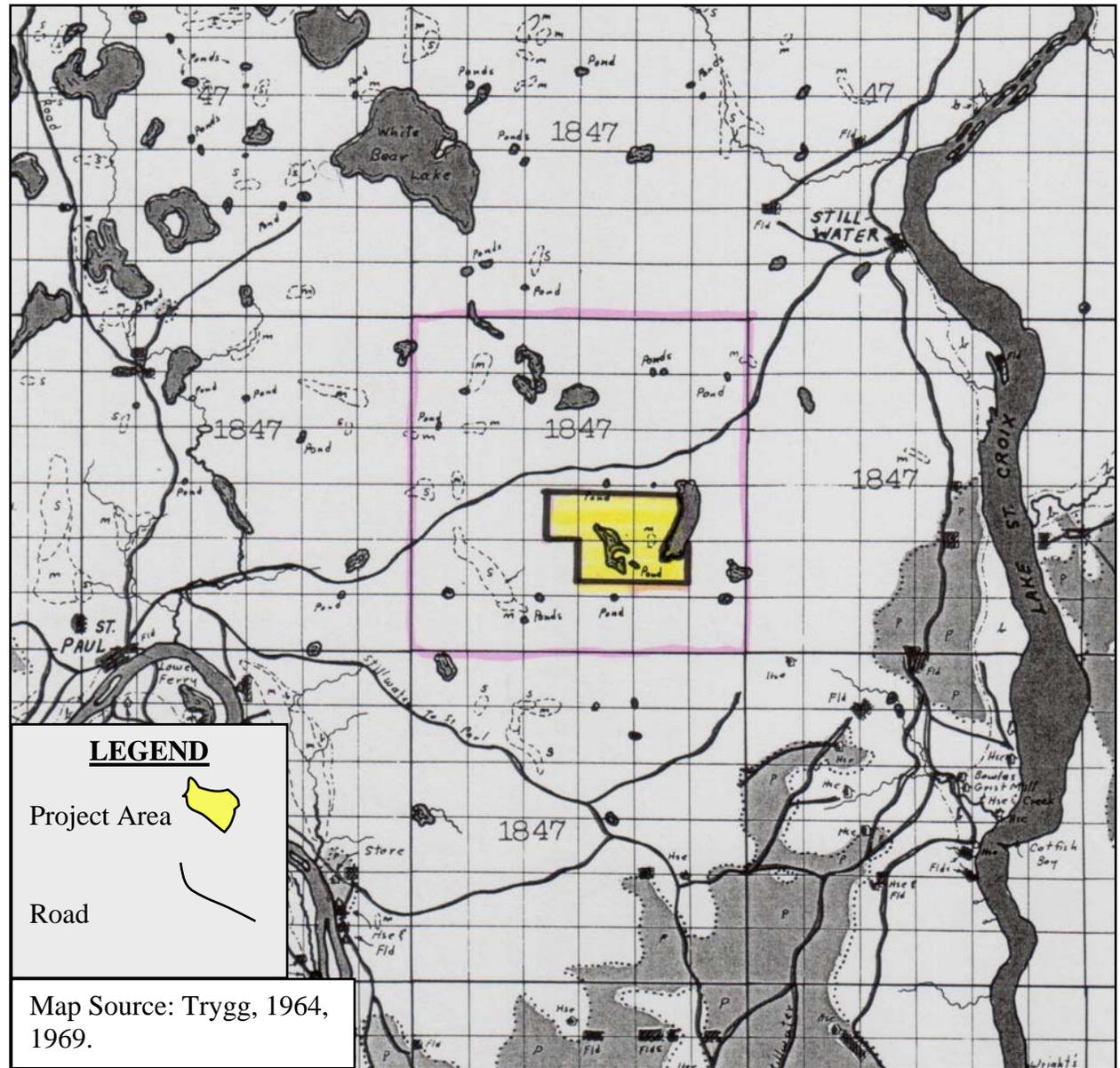
### Natural History

The Lake Elmo Park Reserve falls within the archaeological zone that Anfinson (1990) calls "Region 4: Central Deciduous Lakes" on the basis of its topography and primary natural vegetation. The topography of this region is a patchwork of glacial deposits - moraines, till plains, and outwash plains. Numerous lakes, some over 100 feet deep, are located in Region 4.

These lakes are remnants of melted ice blocks left behind as the Laurentide icesheet and its associated lobes and sublobes retreated northward at the end of the last Ice Age (Wisconsinan). The larger precursors of today's lakes are called "glacial lakes" (e.g., Glacial Lake Agassiz and Glacial Lake Duluth). Likewise the broader precursors of today's rivers are called "glacial rivers" (e.g., Glacial River Warren). The Mississippi River now flows through the eastern and central parts Anfinson's Region 4; the St. Croix River is the region's eastern boundary. In early historic times, the vegetation in the southern and western parts of Region 4 was dominated by Big Woods with numerous, large patches of prairie and oak woodlands.

The U.S. General Land Office (GLO) first surveyed Oakdale Township in 1847. At this time the only cultural resource depicted on Trygg's (1969) map in the St. Paul-to-Stillwater Road, which is just north of the northernmost Park Reserve boundary (Figure A.1). Vegetation encountered by the GLO surveyors was classified by Marschner (1930) as "Oak Openings & Barrens," "Prairie," and "Wet Prairies, Marshes & Sloughs."

Figure A.1 – 1847 GLO Survey Map of Project Area



### Euro-American History

According to Dobbs (1989:62), the first century of European presence in Minnesota is often referred to as the "French Regime." The French presence began in the early 1600s with explorers, clergymen, and fur traders (Birk 1991); the "regime" ended in 1763 when the British took control of Canada. Property types associated with the French include permanent fortifications, temporary yet fortified outposts, accommodations for Frenchmen in Indian villages, special activity areas (e.g., transient encampments, seasonal fishing or hunting camps, kill sites, portages, battlegrounds, mines, burials, etc.), and canoe accident sites or other places where lost or discarded items might have been deposited. The French explorer LeSeuer was in the general area in 1695 but civilian settlement was sparse until the 1840s. No French sites of the Contact Period have been recorded in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

From 1762 until the Louisiana Purchase by the United States in 1803, the Mississippi River was the focal point of territorial flip-flops among France, Spain, and Britain. This time period not only marked shifting and often violent relationships among American Indian groups (see Dakota and Ojibwe, above) but it also involved shifting allegiances between American Indian groups and the various European nations staking claims throughout North America. Dobbs (1989) suggests that wintering posts and small posts are likely property types to have been inhabited by British traders. No British sites of the Contact Period have been recorded in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Shortly after the Louisiana Purchase the Initial United States Presence began in Minnesota with Zebulon Pike's visit to Minnesota (1804-05). Major Stephen Long first arrived in 1817; Camp Coldwater was founded in 1819 near the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers and construction of Fort Snelling began in the early 1820s. A variety of property types related to domestic, military, economic (trading), agricultural, and religious functions - is possible for this historic context. However, no Initial U.S. sites have been recorded in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Euro-American settlement in the region began with the establishment of Ft. Snelling at the confluence of the Minnesota River and Mississippi River. Commercial centers formed first around the water-powered mills of St. Anthony Falls and the northernmost navigable reaches of the Mississippi River (Anfinson 1989). The region saw the development of agricultural communities in the west and lumbering centers in the east during the mid- to late-1800s. Steamboat traffic grew quickly after 1823 (Anfinson 2003).

In 1825 a treaty was signed at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Among other things, this treaty effectively separated Minnesota's two major American Indian groups into Ojibwe territory in the north and Dakota territory in the south. Through a subsequent series of treaties between 1837 and 1889, American Indians ceded most of their lands to the U.S. Government. These actions led to the period of *Reservations and the Indian Community (1830s-1930s)*. Ojibwe reservations in Minnesota include Fond du Lac, Grand

Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Nett Lake (Bois Forte), Red Lake, and White Earth. Following the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, the Dakota were driven from Minnesota. However, many Dakota returned to Minnesota in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, settling in the communities of Lower Sioux, Upper Sioux, Prairie Island, and Shakopee Mdewakanton. Examples of property types associated with this historic context are ceremonial and religious sites, reservations, U.S.-Dakota battle sites, missions, churches, missionary residences, mission schools, Government schools, Indian community centers (particularly in urban areas), representative housing types, commercial establishments, sites associated with Federal Indian policy, sites associated with continued traditional land uses (State Historic Preservation Office 1985). None of these property types have been recorded previously for in Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Concurrent with the move to reservations and associated battles and other activities, the new American settlers of the region began to significantly alter the natural landscape to support a variety of growing socioeconomic demands. The white pine forests, many on lands ceded by the Dakota and Ojibwe in 1837, were key to the development of the region (State Historic Preservation Office 1985). Entrepreneurs from New England who had already over-forested that region developed a lumbering economy based on cutting wood in the winter and transporting the timber logs down the St. Croix, Rum, and Mississippi rivers in the spring to boom sites (State Historic Preservation Office 1985). The logs were milled at sawmills along the rivers – several of these sites served as the centers of townsite development (e.g., Stillwater and Anoka). Milled lumber was shipped down the Mississippi River to Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and other destinations. These activities are subsumed within the historic context entitled, *St. Croix Triangle Lumbering (1830s-1900s)*. Some primary property types associated with this historic context include lumber mill sites, housing for loggers, logging dam sites, boom sites, farm camps, townsites and associated structures (e.g., residences, commercial buildings, churches, public buildings). None of these property types have been recorded in Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

The opening of Minnesota lands by the Federal and Territorial governments created additional opportunities for immigrants. Settlement initially occurred largely along waterways, including the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The earliest settlements began in Washington County in the 1840s and then "spread, fan-like, westward" (State Historic Preservation Office 1985). Lake Elmo and other towns like it were established during this period of *Early Agriculture and River Settlement (1840s-1870s)*. Many of the towns became centers for processing crops, such as flour and sorghum mills and breweries. These were typically small operations that catered to a local market. Examples of property types associated with this historic context include farmstead structures (residences and outbuildings), non-farmstead rural structures (churches), river townsite structures (residences, churches, commercial buildings, public buildings, industrial buildings), agricultural processing and storage facilities (mills, breweries, warehouses), and structures associated with river transport.

It is logical, therefore, that the next statewide historic context that applies to the development within the present boundaries of Lake Elmo Park Reserve is *Agricultural Development and Railroad Construction (1870s-1920s)*. Minnesota's first train traveled from St. Paul to St. Anthony in June 1862, and the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad reached Fridley in December 1863. "Railroads quickly undermined the [Mississippi] river's importance for transportation..." (Anfinson 2003:157). In less than a decade, railroad construction criss-crossed the State in earnest.

According to the State Historic Preservation Office (1985), primary features were the network of railroads and the large-scale production, first of wheat and later of a variety of farm products from diversified farming operations. The typical production unit began as the family farm, developed both by European immigrants and American-born settlers.

Towns were platted by railroad companies or individual entrepreneurs (or a combination) along rail lines to serve as shipping points for agricultural products and as supply-and-service centers. Industries related to the processing of agricultural products developed regionally. Two of the State's most important industrial centers were the flour milling district at St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis (just downstream from the Fridley Campus) and the meat-packing operations in South St. Paul (State Historic Preservation Office 1985). First railroads, then later trucks, connected local markets with grain elevators and exchanges, processing facilities and warehouses, etc. in the Twin Cities and other large regional centers. Examples of property types associated with this historic context include farmsteads (subsistence level, diversified family farm, and bonanza), non-farmstead rural structures (churches, schools, town halls, etc.), railroad structures (freight and passenger depots, shops and section houses), townsite buildings (residences, commercial buildings, churches, schools, other public buildings), and agricultural facilities for processing, supply, and storage (creameries, breweries, warehouses, grain elevators, terminal elevators, packing and canning facilities, linseed oil and cheese factories, implement and supply dealers and factories, grain exchanges, flour mills). The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway is depicted on a plat map from Andreas (1874) along the north boundary of Lake Elmo Park Reserve (Figure A.2).

The period defined by the statewide historic context of *Urban Centers (1870-1940)* saw a mixed pattern of residential development away from the downtown centers of St. Paul and Minneapolis (Nunnally in Anfinson 2003:173). As urbanization expanded throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, freight railways were dedicated to moving products great distances while streetcars moved people throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Finally, automobiles increasingly defined the urban and suburban landscape after World War II (Nunnally in Anfinson 2003). Expected property types for this historic context include resources related to domestic, commercial, industrial, religious, education, government, and transportation functions (e.g., houses, apartment buildings, shops, processing and manufacturing sites, churches,

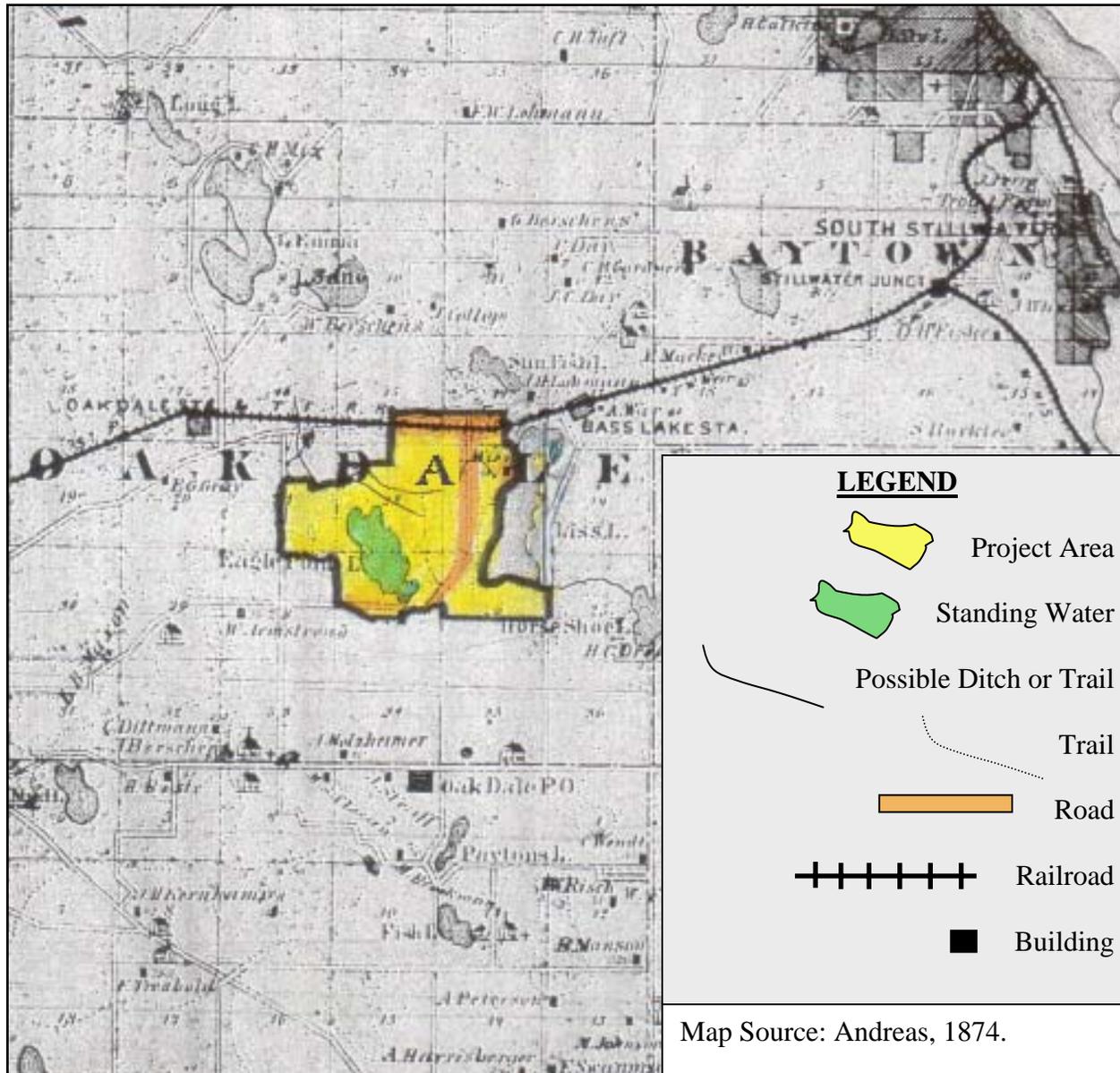


Figure A.2 – Andreas (1874) Map of Project Area

schools, libraries, city and town halls, other public buildings, freight and passenger depots, shops and section houses, gasoline stations, airports, and other infrastructure). Many of these property types are evident as standing structures in Lake Elmo today, although archaeological features related to former structures are also possible in the Park Reserve.

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## Appendix "B" – Summary of Euro-American Land Ownership & Use

Figures B.1-B.6 are plat maps from the 1901, 1916, 1926, 1938, ca. 1948, and ca. 1954, respectively, with the park boundaries superimposed.

For 1901, buildings or farmsteads are depicted on lands belonging to H. Hueffmeyer in the center of Section 21; Malting Company in the northwest quarter of Section 22, Frank Morris in the southwest quarter of Section 22; Leonard Labisch and Michael Malone in the northwest quarter of Section 23, and Luther Wier in the northeast quarter of Section 23; School Number 2 and The Iowa Land Company in the southwest quarter of Section 23; C. Malone in the northeast quarter of Section 26; William Frederich in the northeast quarter of Section 27, Robert Shea in the northwest quarter of Section 27, M.P. & D.W. Gray in the southwest quarter of Section 27, and J.Kannar in the southeast quarter of Section 27 (Figure B.1). Additionally, a road and the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway passed through Sections 14 & 15, now the north boundary of Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

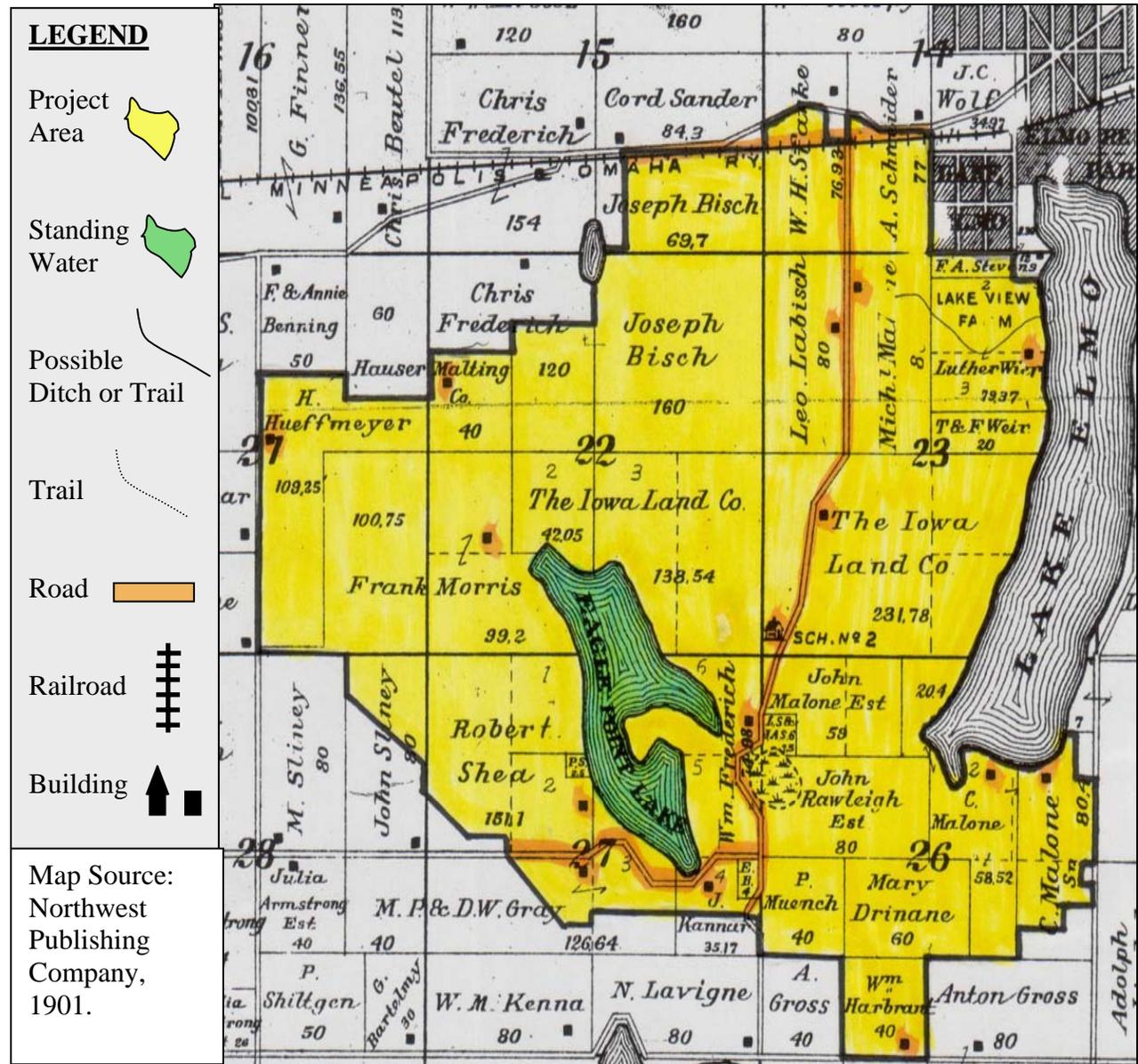
Other roads passed roughly north-south, some around the perimeter of what is now the Park Reserve, in several sections:

- A road through the center of Section 21.
- Another road through the center of the southwest quarter of Section 14, center of the northwest quarter of Section 23, west half of the southwest quarter of Section 23, northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 26, east half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, and northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 27. School No. 2 was located along this road in the southwest quarter of Section 23.
- A road between sections 25 & 26.

Other roads passed roughly east-west in several sections, including around the perimeter of the Park Reserve:

- A road through the center of Section 27, including along the south tip of Eagle Point Lake.
- A road through the southwest quarter of Section 14.
- A road in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 14.
- A road between sections 26 & 35.

Figure B.1 - 1901 Plat Map of Project Area



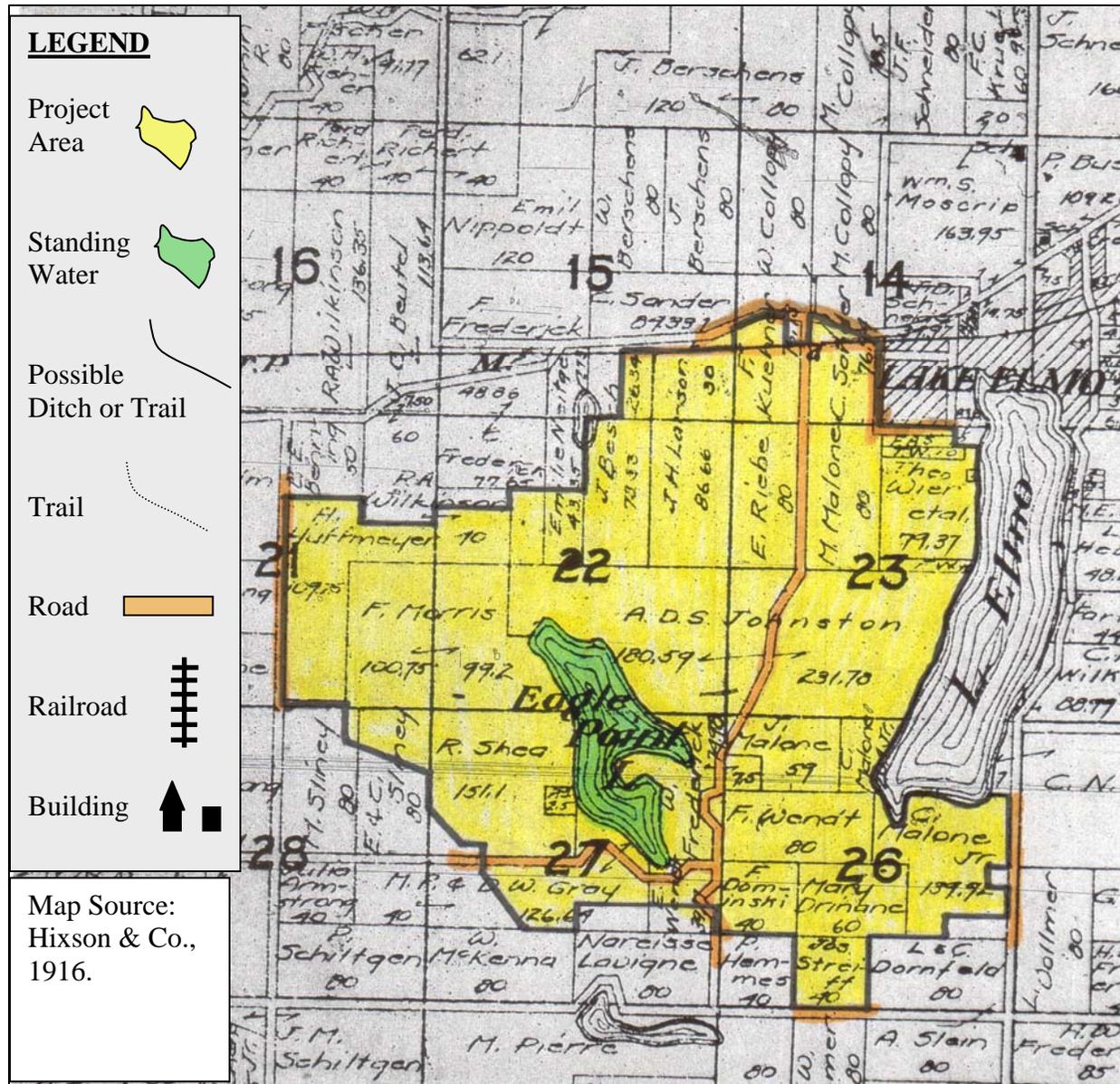


Figure B.2 - 1916 Plat Map of Project Area



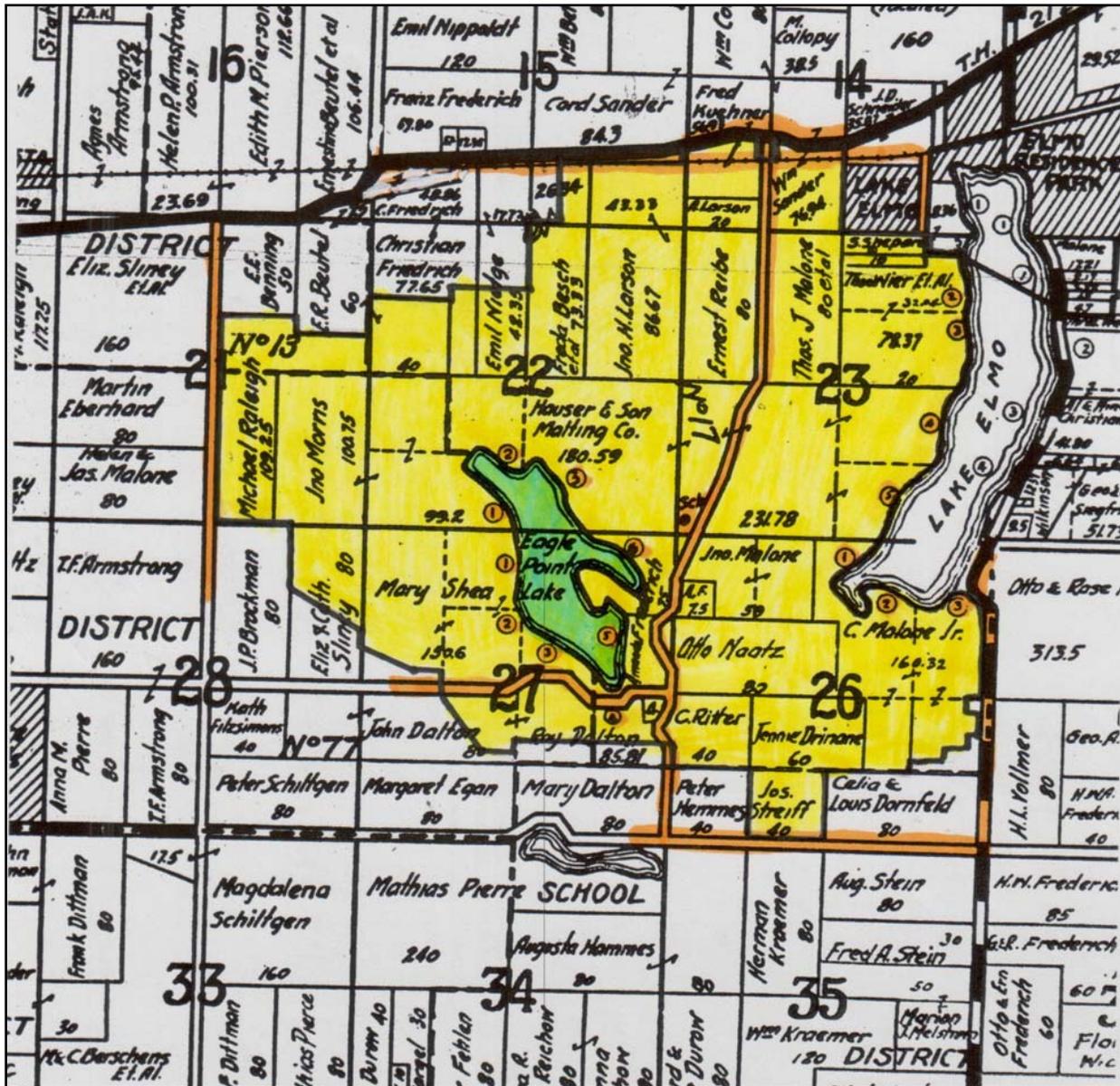


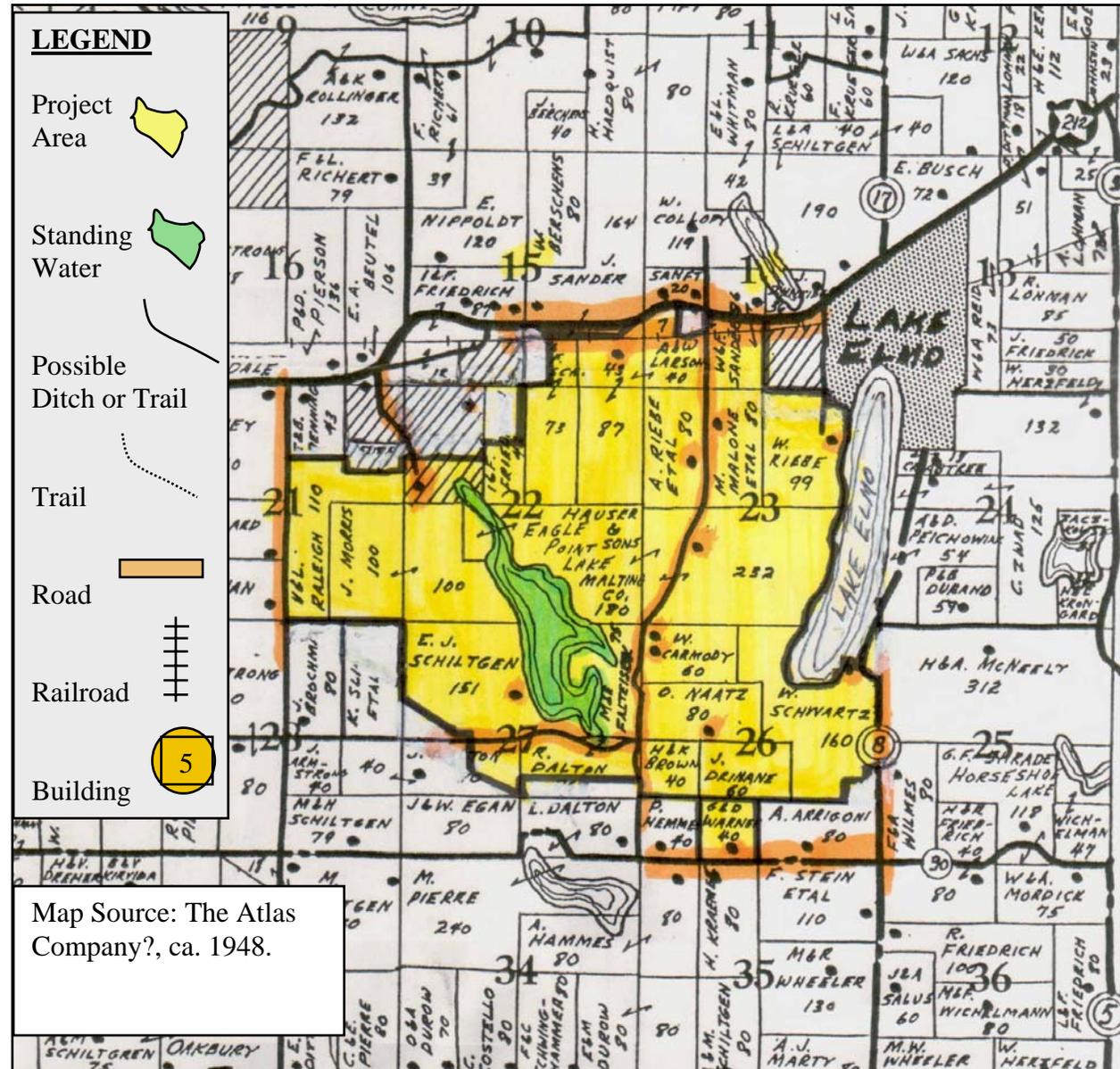
Figure B.4 - 1938 Plat Map of Project Area

**LEGEND**

- Project Area 
- Standing Water 
- Possible Ditch or Trail 
- Trail 
- Road 
- Railroad 
- Building 

Map Source: Hudson Map Company, 1938.

Figure B.5 – Ca. 1948 Plat Map of Project Area





Land ownership changed through the intervening decades, but the layout of roads, as described above, remained in place until the Park Reserve was established. Plat maps after 1901 show new structures/complexes in some places, whereas some of the older structures/complexes are not illustrated on others. Descriptions are summarized section-by-section in Tables 1-6 and in the following paragraphs.

Section 14

If the railroad easement in Section 14 is on Park Reserve property, then the rails and associated structures (e.g., overpass) should be formally evaluated by a federally qualified architectural historian for their eligibility for nomination to the NRHP. If the railroad easement is not the County’s responsibility, then no further investigations here would be necessary.

Except for the north-south and east-west roads in the southwest quarter of Section 14 (Figures A.2-B.6), no other structures/complexes are shown here on any of the maps (Figures B.1-B.6). Therefore, there is a low probability of historic archaeological deposits.

**Table 1. Summary of Landowners with Buildings &/or Farmsteads from 1901 Plat Map.**

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southwest ¼ Section 14	1
W.H. Starke	west ½ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
A. Schneider	east ½ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southeast ¼ Section 15	1
Joseph Bisch	southeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15 and east ½ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0 0
H. Hueffmeyer	south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 21 and	1
Frank Morris	west ½ of southeast ¼ Section 21	0
	east ½ of southeast quarter Section 21	0
Malting Company	southwest ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22	1
Chris Frederich	southeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22 and	0
	south ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
Joseph Bisch	northeast ¼ Section 22	0
Frank Morris	northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22	1
The Iowa Land Company	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22	0
The Iowa Land Company	southeast ¼ Section 22	0

Table 1. continued

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
Leonard Labisch	west ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	1
Michael Malone	east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	1
F.A. Stevens	north 12 acres in northeast ¼ Section 23	0
Lakeview Farm	20 acres? in north ½ of northeast ¼ Section 23	0.5
Luther Wier	north ½ of south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 23	0.5
T. & F. Weir	south ½ of south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 23	0
The Iowa Land Company	southeast ¼ Section 23 and	0
	southwest ¼ Section 23, except for	1
School No. 2	southwest corner of southwest ¼ Section 23	1
	belonging to school district	
C. Malone	northeast ¼ Section 26	2
John Malone Est.	58 acres in north ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26,	0
	except 7.5 acres in southwest ¼ of north ½ of	0
John Rawleigh Est.	northwest ¼ Section 26	0
P. Muench	south ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	0
Mary Drinane	northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	0
	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26 and	0
C. Malone	west ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	0
	east ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26 and	0
William Harbrant	northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	1
	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	
William Frederich	northeast ¼ Section 27	1
Robert Shea	northwest ¼ Section 27, except	1
P.S.	2.5 acres in northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ of northwest	0
M.P. & D.W. Gray	¼ Section 25	1
	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 27 and	
J.Kannar	northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 27	1
E.B.	northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 27, except	0
	4 acres in northeast ¼ of northeast ¼ of southeast ¼	
	Section 27	
John Sliney	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 28	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES DEPICTED ON 1901 PLAT MAP		17

**Table 2. Summary of Landowners with Buildings &/or Farmsteads from 1916 Plat Map.**

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southwest ¼ Section 14	1
F. Kuehner	west ½ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
C. Sonder	east ½ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southeast ¼ Section 15	1
J.H. Larson	southeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
J. Bosch	east ½ of southwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
C. Sonder	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
H. Hueffmeyer	south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 21 and	0
Frank Morris	west ½ of southeast ¼ Section 21	0
	east ½ of southeast quarter Section 21	0
R.A. Wilkinson	southwest ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
C. Frederick	west ½ of southeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
Emilie Neitge(?)	east ½ of southeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
Joseph Bosch	west ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22	0
J.H. Larson	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22	0
A.D.S. Johnston	southeast ¼ Section 22 and	0
	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22	0
E. Riebe	west ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	0
M. Malone	east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	0
Theo. Wier et al.	north ½ of northeast ¼ Section 23, except	0
F.A.S. [F.A. Stevens?]	north 10 acres in northwest ¼ of northeast ¼ Section	0
T.W. [Theo. Wier?]	23 and	0
	10 acres in northwest ¼ of northeast ¼ Section 23	
Theo. Wier et al.	south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 23, except	0
F.W.?	10 acres? in south ½ of south ½ of northeast ¼	0
A.D.S. Johnston	Section 23	0
	south ½ Section 23	

Table 2. continued

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
C. Malone, Jr.	northeast ¼ Section 26 and northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	0
J. Malone	and east ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26	0
W. Frederick	59 acres in north ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26, except	0
F. Wendt	for	0
F. Dominski	7.5 acres in southwest ¼ of north ½ of northwest ¼	0
Mary Drinane	Section 26	0
	south ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	0
Jos. Streiff	northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	0
	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26 and	
	west ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	
	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	
W. Frederick	northeast ¼ Section 27	0
Robert Shea	northwest ¼ Section 27, except	0
P.S.?	2.5 acres in northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ of northwest	
M.P. & D.W. Gray	¼ Section 25	0
	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 27 and northwest	
E. Wendt	¼ of southeast ¼ Section 27	0
	northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 27	
E. & C. Sliney	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 28	0
M. Sliney	west ½ of northeast ¼ Section 28	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES DEPICTED ON 1916 PLAT MAP		2

**Table 3. Summary of Landowners with Buildings &/or Farmsteads from 1926 Plat Map.**

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southwest ¼ Section 14	1
F. Kuehner	west ½ of southwest ¼ Section 14, except for 20 acres in south ½ of southwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
A. Larson		0
Cord Sander	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southeast ¼ Section 15	1
Jno. H. Larson	southeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
Frank Bosch, Jr.	east ½ of southwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
Cord Sander	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
Michael Raleigh	south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 21 and west ½ of southeast ¼ Section 21	0
Jno. Morris	east ½ of southeast quarter Section 21	0
R.A. Wilkinson	southwest ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
Emil Nialge	east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
Frank Bosch, Jr.	west ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22	0
Jno.H. Larson	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22	0
Hauser & Son Malting Co.	southeast ¼ Section 22	3
Jno. Morris	south ½ of southwest ¼ Section 22 and northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22	1
?Jno. Morris?	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22	0
Ernest Reibe	west ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	2
Michael Malone	east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	0
D.T. Wier et al.	northeast ¼ Section 23, except for north 22? acres in northwest ¼ of northeast ¼ Section 23	5
S. Shepard		0
Hauser & Son Malting Co.		9
School	south ½ Section 23, except for southwest corner of Section 23	1

Table 3. continued

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
C. Malone, Jr.	northeast ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26 and northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	6
Jno. Malone		0
W. Frederick	59 acres in north ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26, except for	0
F. Wendt	east ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26 (C. Malone, Jr.) and 7.5 acres in southwest ¼ of north ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	0
R.S. Brickley		0
Mary Drinane	south ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	0
Jos. Streiff	northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26 northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26 and west ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26 southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	0
Wm. Frederich	northeast ¼ Section 27	11
Mary Shea	northwest ¼ Section 27	5
W.L. & Roy Dalton	north ½ of southwest ¼ Section 27 and north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 27	0 4
Eliz. & Cath. Sliney	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 28	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES DEPICTED ON 1926 PLAT MAP</b>		<b>49</b>

Table 4. Summary of Landowners with Buildings &amp;/or Farmsteads from 1938 Plat Map.

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southwest ¼ Section 14	1
Fred Kuehner	west ½ of southwest ¼ Section 14, except for 20 acres in south ½ of southwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
A. Larson		0
Wm. Sander	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southeast ¼ Section 15	1
Jno. H. Larson	southeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
Frank Bosch, Jr.	southwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
Cord Sander	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
Michael Raleigh	south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 21 and west ½ of southeast ¼ Section 21	0
Jno. Morris	east ½ of southeast quarter Section 21	0
E.R. Beutel	southwest ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
Emil Nialge	east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 22	0
Freda Bosch et al.	west ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22	0
Jno.H. Larson	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22	0
Hauser & Son Malting Co.	southeast ¼ Section 22	3
Jno. Morris	south ½ of southwest ¼ Section 22 and northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22	1
?Hauser & Son Malting Co.?	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22	0
Ernest Reibe	west ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	2
Thos. J. Malone et al.	east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	0
Theo. Wier et al.	northeast ¼ Section 23, except for	5
S. Shepard	north 22? acres in northwest ¼ of northeast ¼ Section 23	0
Hauser & Son Malting Co.		9
School	south ½ Section 23, except for southwest corner of Section 23	1

Table 4. continued

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
C. Malone, Jr.	northeast ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26 and northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	6
Jno. Malone	59 acres in north ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26, except for	0
?A.F.?	east ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26 (C. Malone, Jr.) and 7.5 acres in southwest ¼ of north ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	0
Otto Naatz	south ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	0
C. Ritter	northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	0
Jennie Drinane	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26 and west ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	0
Jos. Streiff	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	0
Amanda Frederich	northeast ¼ Section 27	14
Mary Shea	northwest ¼ Section 27	3
Roy Dalton	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 27, except for northeast corner of northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 27	4
John Dalton	north ½ of southwest ¼ Section 27	0
Eliz. & Cath. Sliney	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 28	0
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES DEPICTED ON 1938 PLAT MAP</b>		<b>50</b>

Table 5. Summary of Landowners with Buildings &amp;/or Farmsteads from ca. 1948 Plat Map.

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway W. & F. Sanders A. & W. Larson	center of southwest ¼ Section 14 east ½ of southwest ¼ Section 14 southwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 14	1 0 0
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway A. & W. Larson ?F. Sch. J. Sander	center of southeast ¼ Section 15 southeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15 southwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 15 north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 15	1 1 0 0
V. & L. Raleigh J. Morris	south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 21 and west ½ of southeast ¼ Section 21 east ½ of southeast quarter Section 21	0 0 0
?City of Oakdale? I. & F. Friedrich ?F. Sch. A. & W. Larson Hauser & Sons Eagle Point Lake Malting Co. J. Morris	northwest ¼ Section 22, except for 40 acres in east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 22 west ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22 east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 22 southeast ¼ Section 22 and northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22  southwest ¼ Section 22, except for northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 22 (Hauser & Sons)	1 0 0 0 0  0
A. Riebe et al. M. Malone et al. W. Riebe Hauser & Sons Eagle Point Lake Malting Co.	west ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23 east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23 northeast ¼ Section 23 south ½ Section 23	1 1 1 1

Table 5. continued

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
W. Schwartz	northeast ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26 and northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	0
W. Carmody	60 acres in north ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	2
Otto Naatz	south ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	1
H. & K. Brown	northwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	0
J. Drinane	northeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26 and west ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	0
G. & D. Warner	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	1
E.J. Schiltgen	north ½ Section 27, except for	1
?M. & E. Falteisek?	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 27	0
Roy Dalton	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 27	0
J. Dalton	north ½ of southwest ¼ Section 27	0
K. Sliney et al.	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 28	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES DEPICTED ON ca. 1948 PLAT MAP		13

Table 6. Summary of Landowners with Buildings &amp;/or Farmsteads from ca. 1954 Plat Map.

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southwest ¼ Section 14	1
W.J. Sander	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
Arthur C. & Walter A. Larson	southwest ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 14	0
St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway	center of southeast ¼ Section 15	1
Arthur C. & Walter A. Larson	almost entire south ½ of southeast ¼ Section 15	2
John H. Sanders	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 15	0
Leo & Veronica A. Raleigh	south ½ of northeast ¼ Section 21 and west ½ of southeast ¼ Section 21	2
Wm. F. Poppengberger	east ½ of southeast quarter Section 21	0
City of Oakdale and others	northwest ¼ Section 22, except for 42 acres in east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 22	several
Friedrich		0
Arthur C. & Walter A. Larson	northeast ¼ Section 22	0
Wm. F. Poppengberger	South ½ Section 22	1
William Riebe et al.	west ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	3
Mary R. Malone et al.	east ½ of northwest ¼ Section 23	4
William H. Riebe	northeast ¼ Section 23	1+?
Wm. F. Poppengberger	South ½ Section 23	0
W. Schwartz	northeast ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northeast ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26 and east ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26 and northeast ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	0
Wm. F. Carmody		10
Harold & Frances Toensing and others	most of northwest ¼ of northwest ¼ Section 26, except for small tracts with various owners	8
Keyran O'Brien	south ½ of northwest ¼ Section 26	7
H.J. & K.P. Brown	north ½ of southwest ¼ Section 26 and west ½ of northwest ¼ of southeast ¼ Section 26	10
G.A. & D.M. Warner	southeast ¼ of southwest ¼ Section 26	0
William H. Schwartz	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 26	4

Table 6. continued

Landowner Name	Location	# of Structures Shown
E.J. Schiltgen	northwest ¼ Section 27	6
various owners	northeast ¼ Section 27	12+?
Roy Dalton	north ½ of southeast ¼ Section 27	0
James Dalton	north ½ of southwest ¼ Section 27	0
Catherine A. Sliney et al.	east ½ of northeast ¼ Section 28	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF STRUCTURES DEPICTED ON ca. 1954 PLAT MAP		72+

Section 15

If the railroad easement in Sections 15 is on Park Reserve property, then the rails and associated structures (e.g., overpass) should be formally evaluated by a federally qualified architectural historian for their eligibility for nomination to the NRHP. If the railroad easement is not the County’s responsibility, then no further investigations here would be necessary.

No other structures/complexes are shown the maps in the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 15 until ca. 1948 when a structure/complex is indicated on land owned by A. & W. Larson (Figures B.1-B.5). Two structures are indicated in this same location on the 1954 plat map when the land was owned by John H. Sanders (Figure B.6). This is the location of the "North Farmstead." There is a high probability of historic archaeological deposits here, but stratigraphic integrity may have been compromised by agricultural activities. Therefore, any historic archaeological site(s) here may be ineligible for nomination to the NRHP.

Section 21

The structure/complex in the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of Section 21 is first shown on the 1901 plat map (Figure B.1), but it was not depicted on other plat maps until two structures are indicated on the ca. 1954 plat map (Figure B.6). This complex has been razed and no structural remnants were readily apparent during the Master Plan team’s site visit in May 2005. According to Lake Elmo Park Reserve staff, a well associated with one of the former structures, presumably a farmhouse, was removed in 2004. Some archaeological potential still remains at this location, although stratigraphic integrity has likely been compromised to such degree that any historic archaeological site in this location would likely be ineligible for nomination to the NRHP.



North Farmstead from a Distance



North Farm Buildings and Silo



North Farmhouse and Outbuilding



Lilac Bushes in Location of Razed Triplex Dwelling

Section 22

The structure/complex illustrated on the 1901 plat map (Figure B.1) in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 22 is also shown in that location on the ca. 1948 and ca. 1954 maps (Figures B.5 & B.6). This location may correspond to the approximate location of the razed triplex dwelling north of Eagle Point Lake. Some potential may exist here for historic archaeological materials.

Lake Elmo Park Reserve staff did not describe any former structures/complex on the parcel in the southwest quarter of Section 22, close to the north tip of Eagle Point Lake (Figure B.1). It should be noted that a structure/complex is depicted on the ca. 1948 and ca. 1954 plat maps (Figures B.5 & B.6), but no other historic maps. According to the ca. 1948 map, a road or long driveway may have provided access to this structure/complex (Figure B.5). However, the structure/complex apparently has been razed and no structural remnants were readily apparent during the Master Plan team's site visit in May 2005. However, this location may have the potential to yield significant historic archaeological materials, and any future archaeological survey in the Park Reserve should address this possibility by attempting to find structural remnants and subsurface artifacts in the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 22.

Section 23

In addition to the early road through the west half of this section (Figure A.2), structures/complexes in the northwest quarter of Section 23 are shown on the 1901 plat map (Figure B.1) as well as the ca. 1948 and ca. 1954 maps (Figures B.5 & B.6). These structures or farm complexes would have been in the vicinity of what is now "Family Picnic" on the Park Reserve's base map. Despite the fact that the structures appear to have been razed after ca. 1954, future archaeological surveys in the Park Reserve should address the possibility of structural remnants and historic archaeological deposits in this part of Section 23.



Bridge/Lake Elmo Overflow Structure

In 1901 Luther Wier may have owned the structure/complex called "Lake View Farm" in the northeast quarter of Section 23 (Figure B.1). This structure/complex may already have been quite old by 1901 since a structure/complex is shown in approximately the same location on the 1874 map (Figure A.2). By 1926 the land had been transferred to D.T. Wier et al. with an additional complex also standing nearby (Figure B.3). According to Lake Elmo Park Reserve staff, a barn from the northeast quarter of this section was moved from this vicinity to the "North Farmstead," (see Section 15 discussion above). Therefore, any future archaeological survey in the Park Reserve should address the possibility of historic archaeological deposits left behind in the northeast quarter of Section 23.

Another structure/complex is depicted on property owned by The Iowa Land Company in 1901 in the southwest quarter of Section 23 (Figure B.1). It appears to have remained in that location through ca. 1948 and ca. 1954 (Figures B.5 & B.6). This structure or complex is located in the near vicinity of

"Modern Camping (30 spaces)" as depicted on the Park Reserve's base map. A modern bridge/overflow structure is present near the former location of the structure/complex in the southwest quarter of Section 23.

School No. 2 is shown in the far southwest corner of Section 23 in the 1901 (Figure B.1). It also is depicted on the 1926 and 1938 plat maps (Figures B.3 & B.4). However, this structure is not identified on subsequent plat maps. This former school may have been located immediately south of the present-day "Group Camping" sites. It is not known whether the school was demolished on-site or moved to another location. Any future archaeological survey in the Park Reserve should address the possibility of structural remnants & historic archaeological deposits left in these portions of the southwest quarter of Section 23. It should be noted, however, that the integrity of any archaeological deposits here, if present, may have been sacrificed during subsequent development here. For instance, another modern bridge is present near the former location of the school.

Structures/complexes were first illustrated in the southeast quarter of section 23 on the 1926 plat map (Figure B.3). These structures/complexes apparently remained in this quarter-section through at least 1938 (Figure B.4), but no structures/complexes are depicted in those locations on subsequent maps (Figures B.5 & B.6). Any future archaeological survey in the Park Reserve should address the possibility of structural remnants & historic archaeological deposits left in these portions of the southeast quarter of Section 23.

Section 26

The northeast quarter of Section 26 once included at least two structures or complexes when the property was owned by C. Malone in 1901 (Figure B.1). These structures/complexes remained here at least through 1938 (Figures B.3 & B.4), and at least the easternmost structure/complex may have survived through ca. 1954 (Figure B.6), if not longer. According to Park Reserve staff, at least one of these structures/complexes, if not both, was razed sometime in the past. The Sanders Wacker Bergly team was not able to visit the northeast quarter of Section 26 during the site visit with Park Reserve staff in May 2005. However, some potential may exist here for structural remnants & historic archaeological materials.

Three structures/complexes are illustrated on the ca. 1948 map for the northwest quarter of Section 26 (Figure B.5), and may be shown on the ca. 1954 plat map (Figure B.6). These structures/complexes were distributed throughout the area labeled "Prairie Restoration" between the south tip of Lake Elmo and Brown's Pond. One of the sites includes the "Red Barn." Today one barn & silo are still extant - other structures were razed, but a wellhead was seen during the Sanders Wacker Bergly team visit with Park



Barn and Silo



Capped Wellhead



Site of Former Milk Barn & Residence

Reserve staff in May. There is high potential here for structural remnants & historic archaeological materials.

One structure/complex is shown on the 1901 plat map in the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 26 (Figure B.1). A complex of standing structures is shown in this location on the ca. 1948 and ca. 1954 maps (Figures B.5 & B.6). The Sanders Wacker Bergly team did not visit this location in May 2005 nor did Park Reserve staff provide any details about the land-use history here. Some potential may exist here for structural remnants & historic archaeological materials, so any future archaeological survey should address this possibility.



Former Homesite Location

Section 27

One structure/complex is illustrated on the 1901 map on the west side of an early road on the section line between sections 26 & 27 (Figure B.1). This road was in place at least as early as 1874 (Figure A.2). By 1926, many additional structures had been added at this location and throughout the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 27 (Figures B.3, B.4 & B.6). This likely is where former lake-cottage complexes stood overlooking the south half of Eagle Point Lake. Only a former garage from one of them is still standing (on the east shore). The photo on the left side of this page shows the adaptive reuse of this garage – the Park Reserve now uses it as Ski Shelter #1. Some potential may exist at the site of this former lake-cottage complex, as well as at other locations in the northeast quarter of Section 27. Historic archaeological materials may be present, although the likelihood of stratigraphic integrity is slim, and the age of the archaeological materials, if present, may be historically insignificant (i.e., less than 50 years old).



Former Garage (Ski Shelter #1)

The south tip of Eagle Point Lake is also the location of at least one former structure/complex. A structure/complex is shown on the 1901, 1926, and 1938 plat maps in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 27 (Figures B.1, B.3 & B.4). However, by the time R. Dalton took possession of the land by ca. 1948, that structure/complex appears to have been removed (Figure B.5). Park Reserve staff did acknowledge this as the site of "former houses," but no structural remnants were evident during the team's site visit in May 2005. Some potential also may exist here for historic archaeological materials, although the likelihood of stratigraphic integrity is slim.

In 1901 M.P. & D.W. Gray owned a structure/complex on land in the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of Section 27 (Figure B.1). However, no structures/complexes are shown at this location on subsequent plat maps (Figures B.2-B.6). Some potential also may exist here for historic archaeological materials, although the likelihood of stratigraphic integrity is very slim.

In addition to the structures/complexes described above, an east-west road is shown through the center of Section 27 as early as 1874 (Figure A.2). It should be noted that any Park Reserve roads that now overlie this early road, as well as the north-south road through sections 14, 23 & 26 (Figure B.1), may cap and thus preserve remnants of these historic roads. Park Reserve staff should be cautious in these areas if future regrading of subsurfaces is planned for roads in any of these locations. Coordination with the SHPO may be warranted in advance of such earth-moving activities.

A structure/complex is illustrated when Robert Shea owned land in 1901 in the northwest quarter of Section 27 on the west side of Eagle Point Lake (Figure B.1). By 1926 the land had been transferred to Mary Shea with two structures listed on the plat map (Figure B.3). It appears this complex was transferred to E.J. Schiltgen by 1948 (Figure B.5), and by ca. 1954 six structures are shown at this location on the map (Figure B.6). Park Reserve staff presently refer to this location as the "Schiltgen Farm." However, all that remains at this location today is a silo and pole barn. A ski shelter built on-site is Ski Shelter #2 for the purposes of this report. Possible cellar depressions and soil berms were observed during the Sanders Wacker Bergly team's visit in May 2005. Therefore, some potential may exist here for historic archaeological materials. Like the other former cultural resources in Section 27, there is a slim likelihood that historic archaeological deposits, if present here, retain any stratigraphic integrity.

Section 28

No structures/complexes are illustrated in the project area portion of the northeast quarter of Section 28 on any of the historic maps examined for this project. Consequently, this part of the project area is recommended as having low potential for significant historic archaeological materials.

Infrastructure Throughout the Park Reserve

In addition to landscape modifications caused by Euro-American settlement & farming in what is now Lake Elmo Park Reserve, it should be noted that construction of infrastructure by the County may have inadvertently damaged Pre-Contact archaeological deposits, Contact Period and Post-Contact archaeological sites, including archaeological deposits associated with HSS. For instance, the bridge/overflow on the east side of Eagle Point Lake (photo on page B.20) is situated in a location that is highly sensitive for American Indian cultural materials. However, construction of the bridge/overflow may have disturbed archaeological deposits, if present.

Figure B.7 shows the locations of HSS at the time of the Master Plan for the Park Reserve (Brauer & Associates 1978). Many of the HSS standing in 1978 are also visible on the 1947 aerial photograph available for the area within the Park Reserve's exterior boundaries. Most of the HSS were razed long ago, although there is still some archaeological potential in many of the locations (see section-by-section



Former Schiltgen Farmstead Silo Remnant in Woods



Pole Barn (Ski Shelter #2) in Background



Earthen Erosion Control Structure  
on West Side of Park Reserve

discussions above). Figure B.8 is an overlay of the HSS information (from the 1947 aerial photo and the 1978 map) on the development plan.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the previous and extant HSS and roads, there are numerous earthen erosion-control structures throughout the Park Reserve. According to Park Reserve staff, earthen structures impound water from the City of Oakdale then release it into Eagle Point Lake. Park Reserve staff estimated this structure is approximately 20 years old, and they told the Sanders Wacker Bergly team there are approximately seven such structures throughout the Park Reserve. No construction dates were readily available, but these structures may date to the late 1970s. Because of their assumed young age, the erosion-control structures are likely ineligible for nomination to the NRHP as historically significant. It should be noted, however, that construction of these monumental features may have disturbed archaeological deposits, if present.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the 1938 plat map (**Figure B.4**) shows many more structures/complexes around Eagle Point Lake and Lake Elmo than are depicted on **Figures B.7 & B.8**. The County and Park Reserve staff may also want to consider the locations of previous lake cottages/complexes when planning future development and possible impacts to archaeological resources.

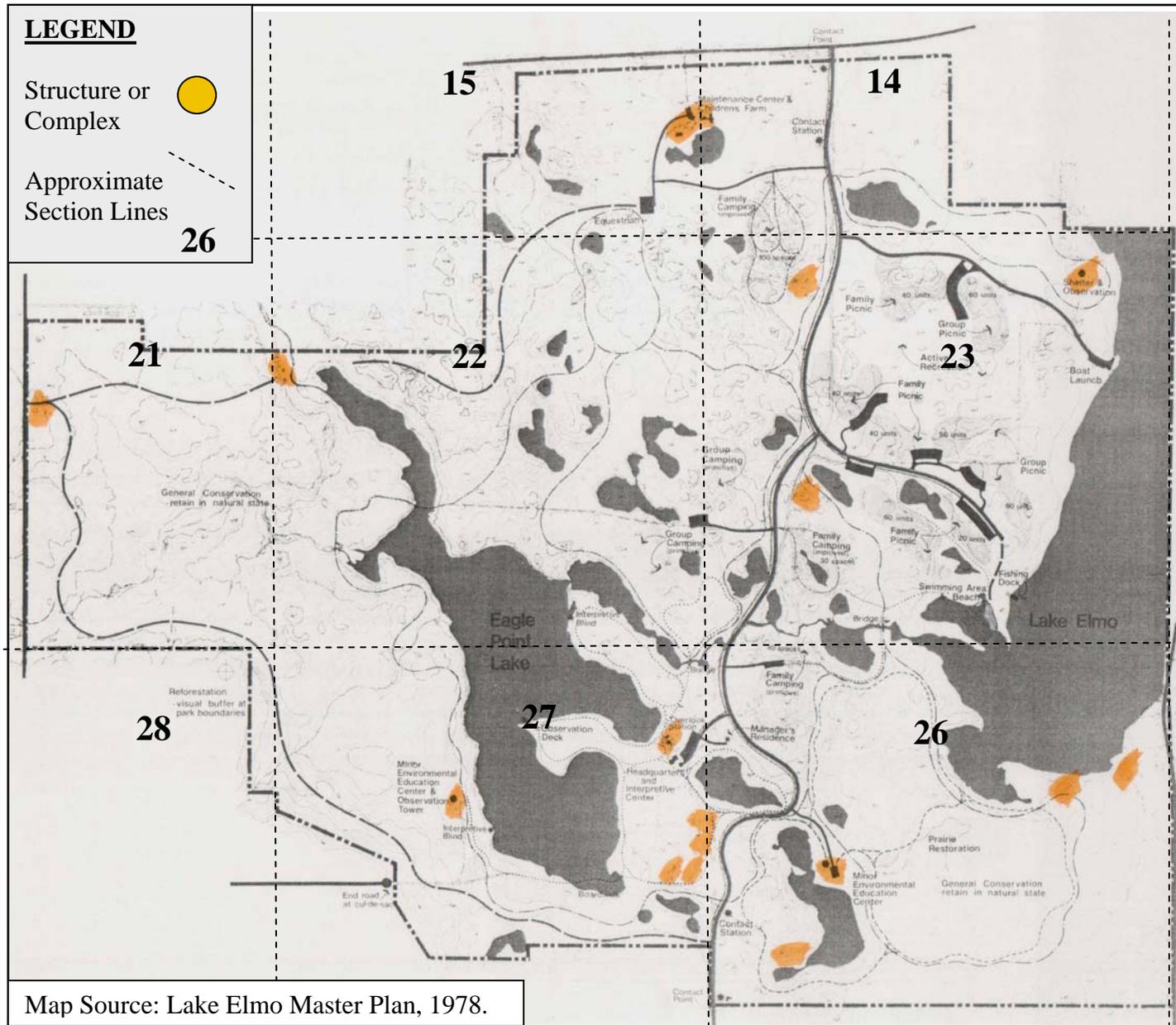
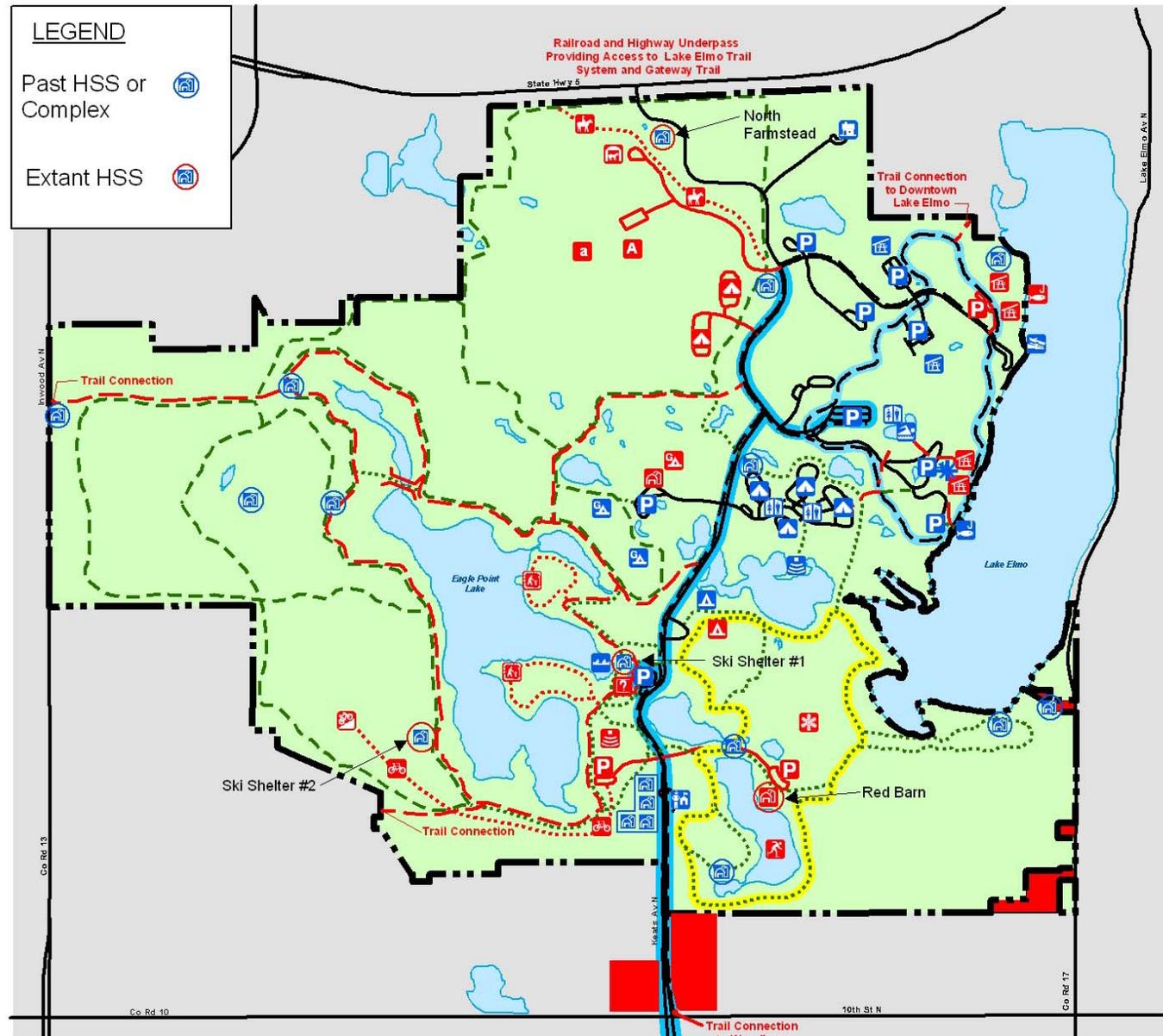


Figure B.7 - 1978 Master Plan Map of Project Area

Figure B.8 - Present and Past HSS and Development Plan



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Scenic St. Croix Valley (Lake Elmo)

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Appendix "D" – Soils Matrix

SOIL TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS										
SOIL #	SLOPE	DRAINAGE	GEOLOGY	PROFILE	PERMEABILITY	WATER CAPACITY	TREES	BUILDING	SANITARY	NOTE
ANTIGO SILT LOAM 49	0-2%	WELL DRAINED	GLACIAL OUTWASH	13" SILT LOAM, SUBSOIL 25" SILT LOAM/LOAM, UNDERLYING COARSE SAND AND GRAVEL	UPPER-MODERATE LOWER- VERY RAPID	MODERATE	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	GOOD SOURCE SAND AND GRAVEL FOR CONSTRUCTION
49B	2-6%	"	"	11" SILT LOAM, SUBSOIL 22" SILT LOAM/LOAM, UNDERLYING GRAVELLY SAND & GRAVELLY COARSE SAND	"	"	"	"	"	"
49C	6-12%	"	"	13" SILT LOAM, SUBSOIL 25" SILT LOAM/LOAMY SAND, UNDERLYING GRAVELLY SAND	"	"	"	"	"	"
49D	12-18%	"	"	24" SILT LOAM, UNDERLYING COARSE SAND & GRAVEL	"	"	"	"	"	EROSION CONTROL DURING CONTRUC.
BRILL SILT LOAM 120	GENTLY SLOPING	MODERATELY WELL DRAINED	DRAINAGEWAYS/ DEPRESSIONS	35" SILT LOAM, UNDERLYING GRAVELLY COARSE SAND, LOAMY FINE SAND, FINE SAND	UPPER-MODERATE LOWER- VERY RAPID	MODERATE	GOOD	FAIR DRAINTILE	POOR	"
SANTIAGO SILT LOAM 153B	2-6%	WELL DRAINED	TILL PLAINS, PLANE TO SLIGHTLY CONVEX	10" SILT LOAM, 35" SILT LOAM TO SANDY LOAM, UNDERLYING SANDY LOAM	MODERATELY SLOW	HIGH	GOOD	GOOD	FAIR	"
CHETEK SANDY LOAM 155C	6-12%	EXCESSIVELY DRAINED	OUTWASH PLAIN	18" SANDY LOAM, UNDERLYING GRAVELLY SAND AT TIMES <15% COARSE FRAGMENTS	MODERATELY RAPID, RAPID BELOW	LOW	FAIR	GOOD	POOR	SOURCE OF SAND FOR CONSTR.
155D	12-25%	"	"	14" SANDY LOAM UNDERLYING SAND AND GRAVEL	"	"	"	FAIR	POOR	"
GOTHAM LOAMY SAND 177B	1-6%	WELL DRAINED	PITTED OUTWASH PLAINS, AREAS OF COLLAPSED ALLUVIUM	20" LOAMY SAND 13" LOAMY SAND +3% MORE CLAY, AND UNDERLYING LOAMY SAND	RAPID	LOW	FAIR TO POOR	GOOD	POOR	"
AUBURDALE SILT LOAM 189	LEVEL/ DEPRESSIONAL	POOR	LOESS OVER GLACIAL TILL , ON PLAINS OR MORAINES	12" SILT LOAM, 33" SILT LOAM, UNDERLYING SANDY LOAM	MODERATE TO MODERATELY SLOW (PONDS)	HIGH	POOR	POOR	POOR	GOOD WILDLIFE HABITAT
FREEON SILT LOAM 264	1-4%	MODERATELY WELL DRAINED	LOESS OVER GLACIAL TILL , ON PLAINS OR MORAINES	12" SILT LOAM, 42" SILT LOAM TO SANDY LOAM	MODERATE TO MODERATELY SLOW	HIGH	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	WATER TABLE, 3-5'
FREER SILT LOAM 266	LEVEL	POOR	TILL PLAINS, MORAINES	12" SILT LOAM 25" SILT LOAM UNDERLYING SANDY LOAM	MODERATE TO MODERATELY SLOW	HIGH	FAIR	FAIR	POOR	WATER TABLE, 1-3'
LINDSTROM SILT LOAM 301B	2-4%	WELL DRAINED	BOTTOM OF STEEP HILLS	37" SILT LOAM 21" SILT LOAM UNDERLYING SILT LOAM	MODERATE	VERY HIGH	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD	"
ROSHOLT SANDY LOAM 302B	1-6%	WELL DRAINED	OUTWASH PLAIN	31" SANDY LOAM UNDERLYING GRAVELLY SAND	MODERATELY RAPID , VERY RAPID UNDERLYING	LOW	FAIR	GOOD	POOR	SOURCE OF SAND/ GRAVEL
302C	6-15%	"	"	34" SANDY LOAM TO LOAMY SAND UNDERLYING GRAVELLY SAND	"	"	"	"	"	"
KINGSLEY SANDY LOAM 342C	6-12%	WELL DRAINED	MORAINES	32" SANDY LOAM UNDERLYING SANDY LOAM	MODERATELY SLOW	MODERATE	GOOD	GOOD	FAIR TO GOOD	"
342D	12-18%	"	STEEP SIDE SLOPES, MORAINES	25" SANDY LOAM UNDERLYING SANDY LOAM	"	"	"	FAIR	POOR	"
342E	18-30%	"	VERY STEEP, MORAINES	20" SANDY LOAM UNDERLYING SANDY LOAM	"	"	POOR	POOR	POOR	"

SOIL TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS (CONTD.)										
SOIL #	SLOPE	DRAINAGE	GEOLOGY	PROFILE	PERMEABILITY	WATER CAPACITY	TREES	BUILDING	SANITARY	NOTE
CAMPPIA SILT LOAMS 367B	0-8%	WELL DRAINED	GLACIAL LAKE PLAIN	15" SILT LOAM 25" SILT LOAM UNDERLYING SILT LOAM	MODERATELY	HIGH	GOOD	GOOD DRAINTILE	FAIR	
CRYSTAL LAKE SILT LOAM 449	1-3%	MOD. WELL DRAINED	GLACIAL LAKE PLAIN/ TERRACE	38" SILT LOAM UNDERLYING SILT LOAM	MODERATE	HIGH	GOOD	FAIR (WET)	POOR	
COMSTOCK SILT LOAM 452	LEVEL	POORLY DRAINED	GLACIAL LAKE PLAIN/ TERRACE (PONDS)	52" SILT LOAM UNDERLYING SILT LOAM	MODERATE	HIGH	FAIR	POOR	POOR	WATER TABLE 1-3' WET SEASONS
MAHTOMEDI LOAMY SAND 454B	0-6%	EXCESSIVELY	MORAINES/ OUTWASH PLAIN (CRESTS)	8" LOAMY SAND 19" GRAVELLY SAND TO MEDIUM SAND UNDERLYING GRAVELLY AND MEDIUM SAND	RAPID	VERY LOW	FAIR	GOOD	POOR	
454D	12-25%	"	"	8" LOAMY SAND 22" GRAVELLY COARSE SAND TO GRAVELLY SAND UNDERLYING GRAVELLY SAND	"	"	"	FAIR	"	
BARONNETT SILT LOAM 456	LEVEL	POORLY DRAINED	GLACIAL LAKE PLAIN/ TERRACE	12" SILT LOAM 27" FRIABLE SILTY CLAY LOAM TO FRIABLE SILT LOAM UNDERLYING SILT LOAM	MODERATELY SLOW	VERY HIGH	POOR	POOR	POOR	
POSKIN SILT LOAM 507	GENTLE SLOPE	POORLY DRAINED	DRAINAGEWAYS/ DEPRESSIONS OUTWASH PLAIN	33" SILT LOAM UNDERLYING, MEDIUM AND COARSE SAND	MODERATE ABOVE, RAPID IN UNDERLYING MATERIAL	MODERATE	FAIR	POOR	POOR	
CATHRO MUCK 544	LEVEL	VERY POORLY DRAINED	BOG FRINGE GLACIAL TILL, LAKE PLAINS	32" MUCK 6" MUCKY PEAT UNDERLYING LOAM, SILT LOAM AND SANDY LOAM	VARIES FROM MODERATELY SLOW TO MODERATELY RAPID IN ORGANIC LAYERS	HIGH	POOR	POOR	POOR	WETLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT
MAHTOMEDI-KINGSGLEY COMPLEX 896C	3-12%	EXCESSIVELY & WELL DRAINED	RIDGETOPS & SIDESLOPES, TERMINAL MORAINES	8" LOAMY SAND 30" COARSE SAND TO GRAVELLY COARSE SAND UNDERLYING SAND	RAPID TO MODERATELY SLOW	LOW	FAIR	GOOD	FAIR TO POOR	MODERATE EROSION POTENTIAL
896D	12-25%	"	"	8" LOAMY SAND 22" COARSE SAND TO GRAVELLY COARSE SAND UNDERLYING GRAVELLY SAND	"	"	"	FAIR	POOR	
PITS, GRAVEL 1029	EXCAVATIONS, STOCKPILES	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
UDIFLUENTS 1033	LEVEL	POORLY DRAINED	SHORELINES	VARIABLE	VARIABLE	LOW	POOR	POOR	POOR	PROTECT VEG, WATER TABLE WITHIN 4' MOSTLY BEACHES
AQUOLIS & HISTOSOLS, PONDED 1055	LEVEL	POORLY DRAINED	ORGANIC SOILS AROUND LAKES OR RIVERS	AQUOLIS & HISTOSOLS,	VERY SLOW	VERY HIGH	POOR	POOR	POOR	WATERFOWL HABITAT, AND OTHERS
BARRONNETT SILT LOAM SANDY SUBSTRATUM 1847	LEVEL	POORLY DRAINED	OUTWASH PLAIN DRAINAGEWAYS/ DEPRESSIONS	42" SILT LOAM UNDERLYING LOAMY SAND TO SAND AND GRAVEL	MODERATELY SLOW TO VERY RAPID BELOW	VERY HIGH	FAIR	POOR	POOR	WATER TABLE <1'

## Appendix "E" – Public Comments as of May 8, 2006

Name / Address	Date	Comments
Adkins, Carter & Tracy 814 Lake Elmo Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/14/05	We feel expanding the park amenities would not meet the needs of the area for several reasons - There is not enough infrastructure to support the added traffic. Also, Lake Elmo will be adding 10's of thousands more to the area within the next 15 years - Wildlife, there is not enough open space to support the wildlife in the area. - The current park offers something for everyone no need to expand.
Adkins, Marian 2227 Lake Elmo Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/15/05	I prefer the park to stay as a "reserve". There are few parks left in mostly natural habitat. I think we owe it to future generations to provide them with a park such as it is presently. I am concerned about present growing numbers of vehicles using Hwy 5, Lake Elmo Ave and Co. Rd 10 and few changes to park will add much more traffic.
Allen, Kathryn E-mail	8/23/05	When I lived in the area and boarded my horses closer to the park I did ride my horses at this facility occasionally. My greatest concern, at the time, was over the policy that both horses and mountain biking shared the same trails; often with disastrous results. A silent bike that suddenly appears in front of a horse can cause the animal to spook and even if that doesn't result in an injury to the animal, rider or biker, it made for an unpleasant riding situation. Although the park had a 'rule' that the bikers were to yield to the horseback riders, I rarely experienced any cooperation or sensitivity from the bikers towards the horseback riders and endured verbal insults from the bikers on several occasions. In my opinion, bike riding and horseback riding don't mix. I now take my horses to a state park where horse trails are used by the horse back riders and hikers on foot. No vehicles of any kind are allowed; not even horse carts. It may be that the lack of voice from equestrians is because they too had the same experiences that I did and have also decided to take their horses elsewhere.
Belz, Lori 2232 Novak Ave Stillwater, MN 55082	9/27/05	With future development & demographic changes coming, need is lighted cross country ski trails and with snow making to accommodate people after school and work to come to the park & ski – as the west side's Elm Creek. Also for the demographic change ahead is single track mountain biking trails – partner with MORC they are experienced & very willing to assist (Wirth Park, Lebanon Park). Also hiking & dog area to keep them off the cross country ski trails.
Belz, Lori Same as above	9/27/05	- Vegetation management / planning for the park should focus on maintaining the present prairie and increase Savannah & Old Growth forest areas, Bur Oak. - Use vegetation to "block out" bordering roads & development. - Use vegetation to protect winter trails to capture snow on to the trails & protect it from the winds.

<p>Blackford, Judith 9765 45<sup>th</sup> Street North Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p>	<p>12/09/05</p>	<p>An e-mail was received, the length of which was edited for this table.</p> <p>Several items bother me and I have a few questions: As a parks commissioner, I recognize that you have two responsibilities which sometimes pull in opposing directions: to be a good steward of this wild place which means keeping the beauty and quiet intact and making it a haven for people and creatures, and also to allow recreational activities that will enhance the opportunity to allow people to exercise and enjoy various activities while they enjoy the natural beauties of this last remaining open and wild place. Your job as a steward entrusted with this responsibility is one which demands thoughtful time, study, input, but in the final analysis you must still advocate for the continuing enjoyment of the resources this park brings currently to the people you are hired to represent. My worry is that by focusing on some percentage that needs to remain open to call this a Park Reserve, you will lose the reality and intent of a Park Reserve. In observing the many trails that are proposed to cross and traverse this park, which is largely open space and not wooded, there will be a real dilution of the peace and wild aspect of the park, the reason people come here to enjoy recreation. You even speak of potentially adding additional activities in future years.</p> <p>As I am a City representative, you are a County representative acting as a steward for County citizens, not the greater metropolis of the Twin Cities. We are not required to create a wild theme park here for what may be the overpopulation of the cities. Please don't look at revenues and deep pockets of the surrounding communities as a communication telling you we want a theme park. We live here because we like nature, and don't want to live in the urban areas. Those who understand the enjoyment of nature, seek it for its beauty, and understand that when you have a large tract of land that just because it is public does not mean that every activity needs to be crammed in it, even if the people demand it. Sometimes the people need to be saved from themselves. You have the responsibility as the County steward, so that they can understand, yes, I can give you all of these things, but this is how this will impact your experience of this wild place. You need to speak about both sides to your citizens.</p> <p>Sometimes I think individuals ask for things out of a lack of experience with reality. Take for example lighted ski trails. I am not strictly against what you are proposing since I think the lights are designed to have a low to none impact on wildlife and surrounding countryside, however, I have taken part in the night-time skiing offered at various times by the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The long trails we skied were largely in the open, and were always well lit by natural light. Winter snow is very reflective, and even with a quarter moon there is more than enough light to make skiing excellent. You can almost read your watch with that much light. (I walked out last night with a quarter moon and observed this.) I have skied Sunfish Park, which is a wooded park, at night and the trails are wide and there is no need for lights. I wonder if the people proposing this have actually skied this course at night, or are they thinking it's dark, therefore, we need lights. Is this being done for liability purposes?</p>
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Blackwood, Tony E-mail	6/07/05	I've heard that Washington County is considering an off leash play area for dogs within the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Is this a possibility or just a rumor? We have a small breed dog and would love to have a place to bring him where he can run free.
Bourdaghs, John 2855 Lake Elmo Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/15/05	You must be very careful about enlarging the Park and ruining a beautiful lake. The land owners are entitled to a Lake that is not over used.
Bourdaghs, Colleen Same as above	8/15/05	Please do not change the name from "Park Reserve". Please do not enlarge the area where boats come in as there are plenty of speed boats now on weekends.
Bouthilet, Terry 10891 32 <sup>nd</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	I am in favor of maintaining the Park Reserve status in Lake Elmo and not developing the park beyond 20%. I feel strongly the Lake (Lake Elmo) cannot handle any increased usage. I am not in favor of adding a public beach or winter access to the lake. I am in favor of more trails.
Bucheck, Ann 2301 Legion Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	I do not feel lighted ski trails would be beneficial as it would be detrimental to the wildlife. This park needs to protect the wildlife and if you add amenities and other activities you will loose the reason for the park. We also do not need a children's farm, dog run if it is not fenced or large mountain biking trail. There needs to be a balance between the open space and development and I fear that balance is being tipped too far toward development. Darkness and open space are true resources and we need to protect them. This area is not Minneapolis or St Paul and lets not develop it into that kind of area. The vegetation should be prairie, savannah and forest. We do not want any connection between Sunfish Park and the regional park – no tunnels, no connection.
Bucheck, Ann Same as above	9/27/05	Do not connect the reserve and Sunfish Park!!! Do not trade any land between the reserve and the city of Lake Elmo. Do not need another swimming beach. If you have a winter access on the south end it will create a parking problem the land drops of the roadway. No lighted trails in the winter – save our natural resource, darkness! Yes I am a stockholder.
Carlson, Keith E-mail	8/11/05	I would like to see you add more ski skate trails. Along existing classic trail alignments would be fine if nothing else. A larger loop to north, east and south of existing ski skate loop would also be an alternative. (I do not know if terrain would facilitate this.) I would suggest better signage at trail start from trailhead. I always get confused distinguishing between Loop A, B and C where trails parallel each other there. Thanks for considering my comments.
Carlson, Gary 8735 27 <sup>th</sup> St Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Please preserve the "Park Reserve" status and continue to develop the Natural features of the park. Consider a landscape arboretum. Approach similar to the U of M Landscape arboretum at Chanhassen.
Carlson, Margaret Same as above	8/13/05	Good comments from citizens – retaining reserve status is important. Low impact development should not include lighted ski trails. Woodbury is a major source of light pollution. Ski trails that were lighted would only contribute to the pollution. Moonlight ski events (without lights) would be more

Conlin, Rita 8560 Ironwood Trl N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Expanded & increased park development = more people and more traffic. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street: what is the parks responsibility & plans to address local impact? As a recharge (water) area there should be no impact from development, i.e. parking lots, bldgs, trails. Lakes water resources, no impact should be a goal. 300-500 outdoor seating capacity is excessive and expensive. Sound systems etc. would lose ambiance of natural setting. Increased development = increased need for fire and rescue support. How will county/region compensate local government that supplies it? Must keep reserve status. Do not trust Met Council! I support the multi ecological vegetation proposal.
Dahlke, Jay E-mail	1/10/06	While I haven't used the park yet, I was looking forward to using the mountain biking trails this coming summer (2006). In the November Master Plan Map, it shows the mountain biking and snow shoe trail as a very short trail, some of it a 2-way trail with a small loop at the end. I believe a longer loop (6 to 8 miles?) that is entirely one direction might be more desirable. Many riders are looking to complete 20 or more miles and making more laps just gets boring. Keeping the horse and bike trails separate is a good idea. You may want to work with the MORC (Minnesota Off Road Cyclists) group. They have done many trail projects in the Twin Cities area. <a href="http://www.morcmtb.org/">http://www.morcmtb.org/</a>
Denoma, Linda & Michael 3065 Klondike Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/27/05	While I am not a X-Country skier, the proposed lighted ski trail would be a worth while addition. I am opposed to developing a beach at the south end of Lake Elmo. The beach is already over crowded on week-end and afternoons. A roadway and parking lot would "damage" a beautiful landscape. I favor picnic development nearer Eagle Point Lake rather than Lake Elmo. There is already significant concentration of shelters and picnic areas in the N.E. quadrant. We would also be in favor of a "Dog Park" area where dogs could run unleashed although still under supervision and control of the owner.
Dunn, Susan P.O. Box 153 Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	NO LIGHTED TRAILS! EXPENSE!!!
Dunn, Susan	8/13/05	No connection or bike trail to Sunfish Lake Parkl. Go up Co. 17 across 36 to Gateway Trail.
Dunn, Susan same as above	8/13/05	Keep Regional Park Reserve status 80/20 max. No trail/ tunnel to city park of Sunfish Lake Park preserve area for natural low impact area use. Let the moon light trails at night.
Durand, Shirley 2901 Lake Elmo Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	DO NOT CHANGE STATUS FROM PARK RESERVE (FOR MANY REASONS). No increased activity on or around the lake extremely busy and dangerous on weekends all summer. Patrol the boat launch on weekends.
Durand, Donald same as above	8/13/05	Would like better Lake control of boats and water use on Lake Elmo (speed + direction). Do not change Park status. No swimming beach on the south end. No winter access to Lake South end. OK through park launch area.

Dwight, Tom 1200 Hallam Avenue N. Mahtomedi, MN 55115	9/29/05	We are pleased you are reviewing this Park plan. We see no problems with some of the changes mentioned in the Sept. 24 article so long as the fantastic natural resources are retained. We hike, bird, bike, ski, swim, kayak and recently enjoyed the music festival there. We plan on camping next summer with grandchildren. Since we do much of this around the country and to some extent the world, we feel this is an outstanding gem rarely rivaled anywhere and we hope changes will be well thought out preserving its natural state. We hope some activities found in typical city parks can be avoided! Please let us know if we can be helpful!
Eichenberger, Pam 9070 10 <sup>th</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/27/05	Please develop an off leash dog exercise area. Please don't decrease equestrian trails. Walk thru gate at 15 <sup>th</sup> St N for horses, bikes & walkers. Like to see ski on a lighted ski trails.
Endries, Dan Email	9/27/05	There is enough light pollution in this area already and much more to come with the new Target and all the development slated for this area. Does the park need to be a contributor to it? The moon does all you need.
Engen, Jerry 2232 Novak Ave N West Lakeland, MN 55082	9/28/05	I'm interested in more mountain bike trails. MORC would be glad to help design new trails. As far as lighted ski trails, excellent idea a win win for you and all people who work 8-5 and have daylight hours to ski.
Etter, Cindy 4442 Lily Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/15/05	No development in or around lake. The Lake is much too small to warrant a "public beach". The increased traffic that it would create would not be good for the lake front residents as the road doesn't go completely around. There is already an issue of speeding right now. I think it would be smarter to develop more of the Park Reserve.
Gray, Leigh 231 N Everett St Stillwater, MN 55082	8/6/05	My family loves cross country skiing in the park. Please keep the cross country skiing part of any future plan.
Griffin, Wendy 2835 Lake Elmo Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Please keep an add development use off of Lake Elmo Lake – what type of P.A. system will be use?
Harding, Ian 24 Bertha Ct. Mahtomedi, MN 55115	9/22/05	Good natural resource plan – oak savannah vegetation is very good. You need to spend the time and money to get rid of buckthorn or else you'll lose the whole park eventually to buckthorn. Need clean up of junk behind wire fences from old farmsteads.
Iverson, Richard 2150 Ross Ave St Paul, MN 55119	9/28/05	Duplicate Elm Creek Park Reserve, they already have had a trail center & trail system. They added snow-making equipment – 2.5 K cross country ski and small snow tubing. It's an excellent, well groomed trail. They attract a ton of people and it's very profitable. The high school's could ski there.

Iverson, Richard Same as above	9/28/05	Put a speed bump or other barrier at northern service road where it connects to paved park road. Currently rocks get knocked onto bike trail. Expand paved bike trail away from road. Sweep paved trail more frequently – especially in spring and fall.
Jader, Gary E-mail	12/17/05	I have used Lake Elmo Park Reserve heavily in every season over the past 10 years. I just want to pass along my kudos to the commissioners for their wonderful work. The Park is a treasure in our community and we are blessed having it and equally blessed for your stewardship. I am VERY excited about your proposed plans for lit ski trails, snow making equipment, and a skating rink. For those of us that work days, it will mean we can use the park even more frequently and having a skating rink nearby will be wonderful for the families in our community. As a former Parks Commissioner for the city of Lake Elmo, I know the hours and commitment it takes, and again I want to say "Thank You" for all that you do.
Johnson, Liz Lake Elmo	9/26/05	I am a citizen of Lake Elmo and also a City Council member for the City of Lake Elmo. I do not support development to the level in which the park will no longer be a reserve park. I want to make sure that the vast majority of the park is kept undeveloped and in it's natural state. I do not support a public beach on Lake Elmo itself. This lake, due to its size (width and length) is already over crowded and very often dangerous to whom ever is using the lake for pleasure. I do not have any concerns regarding the addition of a fishing pier, expanding walking / running / biking paths or horse trails as long as the "reserve" status stays in place. I do not have any concerns regarding the expansion of the children's play areas or outdoor education opportunities to make it more family orientated, as long as the "reserve" status stays in place. If there is going to be any lighting to paths, etc., I want to make sure that it is not intrusive and not detected in anyway outside of the park proper. The most important item to me is to keep the park a "reserve". If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.
Johnson, Lowell 4574 Lilac Lane N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/22/05	Keep development below the 20% max! Leave wooded trail at South end of Long Lake as it is – no beach. Build nature center in the central developed area. Keep at least the restrooms open daily, all year long. Keep a fall time naturalist at the nature center.
Johnson, Chris 2269 Lake Elmo Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Strongly opposed to changing the status of LE Park Reserve to regional park or park. Concerns include increased traffic on Lake Elmo Rd as well as the Lake & increased noise crossing Lake. Lighting on trails.
Knoblauch, Gloria 9181 31 <sup>st</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	No date	Do not build up more than 20% of the 2100 acre park. A new equestrian center should be built. Build more family campsites. Lighting of cross country ski trails would be desirable.
Knoblach, Gloria Same as above	8/11/05	I favor a trail system in Lake Elmo and in regional park that ultimately ends at the Gateway Trail.

<p>Kreimer, Tom 772 Jewel Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p>	<p>9/22/05</p>	<p>More bike access points. More paved bike trails to see rest of park on bike. Connect bike trail to large play structure currently you have to use road to get there. Connect trail from Whistling Valley to park access trail. It can cross the street. Add more trees. No need for interpretive center. Keep as Park Reserve – DO NOT fully develop park.</p>
<p>Kruse, Brad 14152 53rd St. N. Oak Park Hts, MN 55082</p>	<p>12/06/05</p>	<p>I am writing as a Washington County resident to support the inclusion of lighted Cross Country Ski trails in Lake Elmo Park. I am an occasional user of the ski trails and having lights available for early evening skiing would enable me to use the trails more frequently. I am more than willing to pay increased property taxes and other taxes for this added amenity. Thank you very much.</p>
<p>LaBelle, Gary City of Grant</p>	<p>9/22/05</p>	<p>We rode out there about a month ago and it was good. Most trails are horses and hikers only in State Parks but bikes and horses are almost always a disaster when they meet on the trail. We do not run into any bikers on that Sunday night in Lake Elmo.</p>
<p>Larson, Rolf 11720 Little Bluestem Court Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p>		<p>To get right to the point, there are several comments I would like to make.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I think that the city in which a park area resides should be treated with a bit more respect than this process has demonstrated. Lake Elmo prides itself in its rural roots and the rural character of its development plans (a planning concept it has fought hard to preserve!). Changing the character of the park when it was not a part of the review process is at the very least in bad taste and a most in violation of the review process. This PRESERVE has a large acreage but lacks adequate access for a heavily used park.</li> <li>2. The roads through Lake Elmo are being overwhelmed at the present time. With Old Village plans to slow down Highway 5 through the middle of the city, people will be forced to find alternate routes for commuting (at the very least). With the dramatic increase of traffic coming from the dramatic development that will be occurring around County 10 across the lower portion of the City, creating traffic to a more developed park destination will only increase a situation that is already well on its way to demonstrating unreasonable stress. Add to this the fact that there is no direct access to the Park from even the closest freeway (94). People approaching the park via Freeways 94/494/694 will need to drive to the middle of Lake Elmo on the already stressed road system. I do not see this addressed in this park plan.</li> <li>3. The percentage used to determine the amount of space already developed in the park are very likely a fabrication. I remember a comment during a public meeting that used space was considered to be "MOWED" space. Any other PRESERVE plan would have used a definition that is related to a "right-of way" (perhaps 50-100 feet) on either side of the trail. It would be interesting to look back at the definitions used for the previous Lake Elmo Park Plan. In other words, the plan developers have used a change in how space is defined to limit the percentage of used space so that they can justify a level of development that was not intended by the people who created the park, or the rules that govern the regulation of that park. Looking at it this way, it is easy to see how 17% used space in</li> </ol>

		<p>the previous planning effort suddenly became 6%. The definitions must follow precedent or law, not the whim of a few overly ambitious people!</p> <p>Lake Elmo Regional Park is a Park Preserve. For the sake of all of us and our descendents, it is our responsibility to protect and PRESERVE those features that brought the park into existence, along with prudent, well planned and legal development of the resource. This plan should be a renewal, not a redefinition of this wonderful park.of this wonderful park.</p>
<p>LeMire, Keith 2657 Stagecoach Tr Afton, MN 55001</p>	8/5/05	<p>Is there access for ice fishing onto Lake Elmo from the park or could there ever be?</p>
<p>Liepa, Mara Email</p>	8/24/05	<p>I am against a "riding stable" at LE. Although I think that more stables open to the public are needed, I don't think LE is the spot. Such stables should be in a more regulated environment, where the trails are controlled (e.g., a large private farm). Truthfully, the riders on group trail rides through stables are inexperienced or not-very experienced riders. They are those that ride maybe once a year or so, on their vacations or with a girl scout troop. The stable herd is stable and fixed – the horses know each other and have established their herd dominance. We all know horses do have a mind of their own and can be unpredictable. What will be the outcome when a group of stable riders encounters other riders on the trail? Although we all believe our own beloved mounts are angels, I'm the first to admit that they are not. Lunging, kicking, biting at unfamiliar horses is not uncommon. Will the rider know how to react when two groups of private riders meet on the trail – generally, horse owners know better how their own horse acts and know how to handle their horse upon reaction. It may be more feasible if you keep the riding stable trails separate from the public trails, or, mark which trails are open to the stable groups and which are not, and same for private riders. Also, what will be the impact of increased hoof traffic on the trails? Can the erosion be managed? Lake Elmo is a beautiful spot for trail riding – I wish I had more time to get out there. The trailer parking location is excellent, and the trails are well maintained. The variety in the trail loops, including the different terrain, is nice.</p>
<p>Mair, Jamie 9656 Hillingdon Rd. Woodbury, MN 55125</p>	8/7/05	<p>Love this park! Any chance for more biking trails?</p>
<p>McGurran, Miriam 8995 Thomas Dr. Woodbury, MN 55125</p>	No date	<p>No to connection between Lake Elmo and Sunfish. No to paved paths around Eagle Point. No to mountain bike trails. If horse stable come in will it be private or public and who will be liable? Save the beauty and rustic nature. Other parks like Afton can be used for extra features.</p>
<p>Metzger, Anja and Greg E-mail</p>	02/05/06	<p>My family frequently visits Lake Elmo Park and treasures the trails for hiking, horseback riding, and skiing. It certainly is a great place for the two-legged ones. However, most families, including ours, consider our four-legged members part of the family as well. Recently, our family has discovered the thrill of skijouring (cross-country skiing while being led by a harnessed dog) and were frankly</p>

		astounded that there are no official parks or areas where skijouring is allowed in the East Metro. The West Metro has several trails open for skijouring; however, since we live in Lake Elmo, we spend two hours traveling to and from the West Metro parks in order to skijour. Wouldn't it be great if Lake Elmo had a dedicated trail for skijouring? This sport is only gaining in popularity and it would be a shame not to include plans for a skijouring trail at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.
Miller, Melissa 11055 32 <sup>nd</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/27/05	There should be no increased use of Lake Elmo or increase traffic (pedestrian or otherwise) around Lake Elmo. The lake is relatively small and not suited for all of the activities (swimming, picnicking etc) suggested to go on or around it. The safety of all should be of utmost importance. The lake is residential, except for the Park and increased use on and around it would encroach on property owners rights. The addition of facilities not adjacent to Lake Elmo (equestrian area, camping, ice skating, interpretive center, etc). Would allow people increased use of the park without infringing on property owners around the Reserve.
Miller, Melissa Same as above	8/13/05	Do not change the "Park Reserve" status to "Park". There should be NO increased use on Lake Elmo or around Lake Elmo. Currently there is little if any monitoring of activity through the park on Lake Elmo. There should be someone monitoring the boat launch.
Miller, Tony Same as above	No date	Keep park as a reserve. Maintain current park rules (Lake is NOT monitored). Expansion should be west not east. Minimize expansion cost. No more Lake access – unsafe.
Neuenfeldt, Ellen 2846 Lisbon Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/22/05	Please continue to offer trails for horseback riding. Many of my friends and my husband love these trails. They are the best in the Metro area by far. As a suggestion moving the equestrian center to the northern area of the park would be great. Current center is getting busy with campers, kids, archery which is a safety concern when animals are in the picture.
Neuenfeldt, Ellen Same as above		Thank you so much for sending me the info regarding the LE Park Reserve... I greatly appreciate it and will make certain my "horsey" friends are informed. I would also like to attend at least one, if not both, of the meetings so that the equestrian concerns are voiced. As I mentioned in my email, there are many people that I know, including my husband and myself, who absolutely love the equestrian trails at Lake Elmo. We sincerely treasure them, and with so much development occurring in the TC area, horse accessible trails are becoming fewer and fewer. The trails used for horses are also for hikers/biker/walker which is wonderful...the trails should be multi-use for optimization.
Nielsen, Ed 9498 Stillwater Blvd N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	I appreciate the input provided today was good. I oppose a tunnel (north) IF is close to the Sunfish Lake Park entrance. I oppose a joint regional / Sunfish Lake Park. Both Sunfish & LE Park reserve are great individual parks.

Novak, Bob 2925 Klondike Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Weed control is important (Buckthorn, etc). No change in Park Reserve to Park. Does the cost to install lighted ski trails justify the cost? Klondike Ave is very dangerous so not connect City trails and park trails on Klondike. Park does not enforce number of watercraft. (original plan 18 or 19 watercraft).
Novak, Jeanne Same as above	8/13/05	Please do not remove Reserve from Park designation. Please do not expand use of Lake Elmo. Please do not expand family camping, it is used all summer fall for "living" area now. Please encourage funding for environmental & natural resources.
Prew, Thomas Email	8/31/05	I would like to see the addition of lighted cross-country ski trails. This would allow many people to be able to use the park after work. Weekends are very busy on the cross country trails. Other regional parks in the west metro have them. We should too.
Rademacher, Dean 7812 29 <sup>th</sup> St N Oakdale, MN 55128	9/22/05	Please include a disc golf course possible combined with a winter activity such as snow tubing. Disc Golf in spring, summer, fall and snow tubing in winter. Also combine with Buckthorn removal.
Rademacher, Dean Same as above	8/13/05	Would prefer 6/8 ecosystems no 1 kind. Please consider a disc golf natural course. Can use land in current condition with relatively low up front cost and very low maintenance cost.
Raleigh, Dan 2737 Lake Elmo Ave. Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/19/05	Use the park wisely, so that the natural beauty is not ruined. i.e. success = campground hidden from lake, roads, developments (residential) and very nice. Failure = large playground system, bright colors, high on hill visible from Lake and Lake Elmo Ave (especially in low lent time of year) – Poor placement. Improve land, if necessary in areas not being utilized. Avoid Lake development such as beach, campsites visible, more fishing piers.
Raleigh, Debbie Same as above	8/18/05	I liked the idea of a skating pond & sledding, more bike trails & even the nature center (horseback riding, etc.) but I really would NOT like to see any development on or near the lake. A beach would not be a good idea, thus the reason a beach was created in the park. The lake is to narrow and in recent years become very busy with boats, water skiers, and jetskis. I feel it would be dangerous.
Rooney, Jody 12548 Keller Avenue N. Hugo, MN 55038	12/12/05	I have a number of concerns about the proposed changes to the trail system as a part of the proposed masterplan. 1. The plan eliminates the multi use - horse trails to the east of the largest lake and adds interpretive trails. It would seem that ample room exists on the east side of road for an expansion of the interpretive area in an area that is currently under used. Why put something in an area where it would create a conflict? This is a relatively poor site for an interpretive center from a environmental diversity stand point also. If you must have it on that side of the road I would recommend having it come from the existing horse camp and going to the South West about 1/4 mile to the wetland and wooded lake area where the prairie and wetland habitats meet and on to the lake from that location. The addition of paved trails adjacent to a horse trail is an unfortunate necessity on the Gateway it is neither desirable nor aesthetically pleasing in a natural park.

		<p>2. The elimination of that trail reduces the natural values of the horse trail by confining it to primarily open area and one or two habitats. It also reduces the utility of the park by reducing the loops that can be ridden already a problem for parents with children who want a short ride.</p> <p>3. While I applaud the addition of bike trails in more of the park I would recommend that they be of a different surface. Not only is a paved surface completely incompatible with the mission of the park to remain somewhat undeveloped they are an aesthetic eyesore on the land scape. Bituminous surfaces are also costly to construct and maintain, the route you have selected will have some significant engineering challenges for both slope stability and drainage. If you must put these monstrosities in the park please put them where other users can not see them.</p> <p>4. The movement of the horse camp ground to the northern edge of the facilities is acceptable except for the changes in riding distances and the closing of the loop that circles the lake.</p> <p>5. I assume that the design will include suitable fencing so that horses can not escape on to Highway 5.</p> <p>6. There is at least one bridge and a tunnel under Highway 5 to connect to Sunfish Park that appear to have been discussed at the open houses. As we discovered during the Gateway Highway 96 bridge fiasco, consideration needs to be given to designing for the user that requires the most space for a safe design not the majority of users. There is a draft version of the new Federal Highway trail design guidelines that has been circulated for comment. These guidelines include more well thought out standards for safety on multiuse trails and different standards for horse trails than contained in previous guidance. I would recommend that these standards be followed. In their absence I would recommend the Equestrian Facilities Standards by Ann O'Dell on the American Trails website.</p> <p>7. Before investing in more park infrastructure it would seem that it would be good to take a look at facilities already located within the county operated by both the county and others. Governments tend to get myopic as to their geography and ignore the facilities provided by other provider and duplicate facilities creating more infrastructure that has to be maintained. For example in Pine Point Park there are 4 trails that run parallel to each other within the space of 200 feet for a distance of probably 240 yards. This seems excessive. We all know that the political realities are that it is more popular to fund development than maintenance and we have several state parks with facilities badly in need of repair, and or closure.</p> <p>8. From a horseback riding perspective a connection to Sunfish Park would be desirable. If that is accomplished then it would only seem fair that the County provide winterized toilets and a water source as well as a better designed parking lot. Sunfish would only be used in the before the first bug hatch and after the first frost by horse people because of significant insect issues.</p>
Schneider, Cindy Email	9/26/05	<p>Greetings – my family lives in Oakdale, and we have used &amp; enjoyed Lake Elmo Park Reserve for the eight + years we have lived here. I would love to see an off-leash dog park built at Lake Elmo! Please count my vote for this amenity as you go about making your changes to the Park's master plan.</p>

Schumacher, Bob	9/22/05	Thanks for having this open house in Oakdale and taking comments from Equestrian & Orienteering folks and other comments. Good job!
Schumacher, Bob Same as above	9/27/05	No connection from LEPR and Sunfish City Park. Save open space. Plant variety of successions for school groups. NO SOUTH BEACH!
Schumacher, Bob Same as above	8/13/05	Winter sliding area? 80% native (or restored to native like Savannah). Limit 20% developed area (maximum) absolute! Keep "reserve" status of park / improvements on east side only of park. Have a volunteer pool on line with park needs / local talent like DNR. Let Jim Hagstrom plan mixed ecosystems (5 or 6 different) over next decade. Encourage wildlife (like your bird houses / platforms). Have interpretive center + volunteers.
Schumacher, Bob Same as above	8/13/05	No south shore beach. Address dogs out of the park into neighborhoods. We do not need 500 SEAT ARENA! We do not need too many signs! Not winter access for cars on Lake Elmo through park! Establish north and south trail on west of Lake Elmo for Lake Elmo residents. Forget tunnel idea and lighted ski trails. Encourage enforcement update & increase.
Sedro, Kathy 8916 35 <sup>th</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	No Date	Keep the reserve status. The way the park development is measured appears to be inaccurate. I base this on the statement that the park is currently only measured as 6% developed. The areas that have trails see considerable traffic / impact even though the trails are narrow and are measured as minimal area. Count a larger buffer when measuring trail area.
Skarvan, Steve E-mail	8/11/05	<p>I understand that the Lake Elmo Master Plan is in the process of being updated for future development considerations. I would like to comment on the winter development possibilities. As a X-C skier on the East side of the Metro area, I would like to see the Winter trail use be expanded. I skied there several times last year, once as a coach for the Ride and Glide ski open house for Washington Parks and enjoyed the trails very much. However, there are several items that I would like to see considered in the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand the winter facilities to include bathrooms in a skier friendly comfortable building.</li> <li>- Expand the trail grooming to include both classic and skate techniques on more of the trails.</li> <li>- Consider lighting some of the trails for extended use.</li> <li>- Consider snowmaking to extend the (what's become) a somewhat short metro area ski season.</li> </ul> <p>All of these items would help the casual as well as the seasoned skier, High School and families enjoy the Park more often. The "Eastside" skiers would appreciate another potentially excellent venue to ski! Thank you for your consideration.</p>

<p>Snell, Jan E-mail</p>	<p>6/11/05</p>	<p>I am a resident of Oakdale and an advocate of off-leash parks for dogs. I believe that creating an off-leash area at Lake Elmo Park Reserve would be a great benefit to the community.</p> <p>Off-leash dog parks help to make dogs better citizens; a happy, tired dog is quieter and less likely to become a nuisance. Off-leash dog parks help to create a sense of community and help to build a positive identity for a community. People who frequent off-leash areas often have set times and days that they go to the off-leash area. Friendships with dogs and humans are created- even though we might not know all the people's names, we sure know all the "doggy friends" names! And from that, the people connect also.</p> <p>In my experience the majority of off-leash park users are responsible and take great care to manage litter, are reliable "poop scoopers" and will make the extra effort to help other users be responsible as well.</p> <p>As you are most likely already aware, there is an organization called R.O.M.P (Responsible Owners of Mannerly Pets) that stands ready to work with communities to create off-leash areas. They have the know-how, expertise, and also credibility to help make off-leash areas successful and also good neighbors. (<a href="http://www.dogromp.org">www.dogromp.org</a>&lt;<a href="http://www.dogromp.org/">http://www.dogromp.org/</a>&gt;)</p> <p>I am a R.O.M.P supporter, and user of the off-leash parks with my two small dogs. I now have to travel to St. Paul or White Bear Township to go to the off-leash areas, and it would be wonderful to have something closer to my home in Oakdale.</p> <p>I hope that the Washington County Park Board will support the creation of an off-leash area at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Please feel free to contact me with questions.</p>
<p>Stein, Ted 2566 Helena Avenue North Oakdale, MN 55128</p>	<p>3/14/06</p>	<p>I have heard that there are plans to change or re-locate the archery range at the park. Whatever you do I hope you will always have some kind of archery range there. The existing range is easily the best public facility in the eastern Twin Cities.</p> <p>If you ARE going to make changes to the range, perhaps you will consider these suggestions from a traditional archer who has been shooting for more than 10 years . . .</p> <p>Try to include more shooting lines of 10, 20 and 30 yards. These are frequently all in use and more would let more shooters practice. If the total number of shooting lines is limited, this archer would say that there is little need for archery ranges shooting more than 40 yards (50 yards and more really is a "Hail Mary" shot even with modern equipment).</p> <p>Please consider that most shooters use the lines after work, in the early evening, so us right-handed shooters have the sun in our eyes while using the existing range. Try to keep this in mind when you orient a new range.</p> <p>The arrow stops in the existing range are quite nice and work well. The elevated shooting stand is very popular with hunters; please try to keep it in some form. A nearby outhouse (potty) would be a great convenience. Also a covered shelter and nearby picnic area for non-shooting family members. Please let me know if I or any archers I know can be any help designing or even constructing a new range. Thanks for listening!</p>

Turnquist, Keith 2525 Valley View Ave. Maplewood, MN 55119	No date	Thanks for providing a great facility for public use. We hike, bike, ski, swim and fish. The Park needs more swimming capacity and another fishing pier. Lighted trails would be great but we need snow! One entrance has been important to the Park's character and usage. Keep up the good work!
Tremel, Barbara 2715 Lake Elmo Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/16/05	No new beach access on Lake Elmo and NO status change from "Park Reserve". Do not support more access points to Lake Elmo the Lake is not monitored now, we cannot have increased activity. Move some activity proposed to Eagle Point.
Treml, Dennis Same as above	8/16/05	No status change from "Park Reserve". No new beach on Lake Elmo. No new fishing piers on Lake Elmo. No winter access road onto Lake Elmo. No new picnic facilities on Lake Elmo.
Troupe, Doug E-mail	2/06/06	Please do not think of doing this!!!!!!! I live next to the park and it would be very sad to see this happen to such a nice peaceful lake. Please say "NO" for "tar the path around the lake". Please leave this pathway alone.
Trumper, Mark	8/4/05	I would like to see a man-made snow cross country ski trail similar to Elm Creek Park and Wirth Park.
VanMeerten, Sue Email	8/24/05	Several years ago (1989?) it was suggested that some of the trails in Pine Point Park be paved to accommodate street/racing bicycles. I did some research and found out at that time, there were 196 miles of designated on and off-road bicycle trails in Washington County. This compared to 13 miles of designated horse trails. At that time, it was suggested the bicycle-riding population far outnumbered the horse population. After more research, it was determined that there were 150,000 + horses in northern Washington County!! Sounds like they are trying to change how Lake Elmo is run. I personally do not want it to be a "park" vs. reserve. I also am not too crazy about the mountain bike trails and really don't want a "horse stable" using the trails all the time. Although it is good to have the horses use it I kinda like not having them overused by "guided trail rides" from a horse stable.
Wadd, Wallace 2530 Queensport Road Woodbury, MN 55125	9/24/05	I would like to comment on the proposed master plan. I have been a Woodbury resident for more than 20 years. I purchase a annual Washington County Parks permit and use Lake Elmo Reserve frequently for cross country skiing in the winter and biking spring through fall. I enjoy the ski trails in the winter, especially loop A for skate skiing. I am frequently disappointed however due to the lack of grooming on the trails. Additional grooming would keep the trails in better condition getting more use out of the trails. I understand lights may be installed. I am definitely in favor of that as it would allow the trails to be used during the evening. I also strongly suggest you consider the addition of snow making equipment. The lack of natural snow over the last few years has limited the use of the Lake Elmo trails. Facilities that have started making snow, such as Elm Creek Park Reserve in Hennepin County and Trollhaugen Ski area in WI, have been used extensively by skiers. Hennepin County's experience with Elm Creek would be a good model to help you evaluate this possibility. Every time I have gone to Elm

		Creek in the evening, it has been busy with recreational skiers, ski groups, high school teams and events. I understand snow making equipment would be an added expense but I believe it would be justified with additional use and fees. Because there are no facilities that make snow in the east metro area, I'm sure the park would become a destination for skiers in the area and generate enough revenue to justify the added expense.
Wyland, John 427 Wildwood Ave Birchwood, MN 55110	9/27/05	Most interested in the addition of lights on ski trail. Also really like the idea of developing "winter" hiking trails to keep the hikers off the groomed ski trails. Also in favor of single track mountain bike trail development.
Yates, Ric 8470 Deer Pond Trail Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/25/05	I ride my mountain bike on your trails maybe 2-4 times per week. It is a wonderful and beautiful place to get away from my everyday stressful life and get a great workout. It is very quiet and peaceful. I think the park would attract more mountain bikers if there were some new trails. The only complaint I have is continually having to dodge all the horse poop, but it usually is possible to do.
Young, Dale 2846 Lisbon Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/22/05	We are very lucky to live to have such a great park! Our use is horse and hiking. We are concerned about the safety issue of having regular camping at the equestrian center and would like to see it separate. The passage to Sunfish Park would be greatly appreciated. I like the idea of a sledding & skating area. Thanks for your efforts they are greatly appreciated.

## Appendix "E" – Public Comments as of May 8, 2006

Name / Address	Date	Comments
Adkins, Carter & Tracy 814 Lake Elmo Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/14/05	We feel expanding the park amenities would not meet the needs of the area for several reasons - There is not enough infrastructure to support the added traffic. Also, Lake Elmo will be adding 10's of thousands more to the area within the next 15 years - Wildlife, there is not enough open space to support the wildlife in the area. - The current park offers something for everyone no need to expand.
Adkins, Marian 2227 Lake Elmo Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/15/05	I prefer the park to stay as a "reserve". There are few parks left in mostly natural habitat. I think we owe it to future generations to provide them with a park such as it is presently. I am concerned about present growing numbers of vehicles using Hwy 5, Lake Elmo Ave and Co. Rd 10 and few changes to park will add much more traffic.
Allen, Kathryn E-mail	8/23/05	When I lived in the area and boarded my horses closer to the park I did ride my horses at this facility occasionally. My greatest concern, at the time, was over the policy that both horses and mountain biking shared the same trails; often with disastrous results. A silent bike that suddenly appears in front of a horse can cause the animal to spook and even if that doesn't result in an injury to the animal, rider or biker, it made for an unpleasant riding situation. Although the park had a 'rule' that the bikers were to yield to the horseback riders, I rarely experienced any cooperation or sensitivity from the bikers towards the horseback riders and endured verbal insults from the bikers on several occasions. In my opinion, bike riding and horseback riding don't mix. I now take my horses to a state park where horse trails are used by the horse back riders and hikers on foot. No vehicles of any kind are allowed; not even horse carts. It may be that the lack of voice from equestrians is because they too had the same experiences that I did and have also decided to take their horses elsewhere.
Belz, Lori 2232 Novak Ave Stillwater, MN 55082	9/27/05	With future development & demographic changes coming, need is lighted cross country ski trails and with snow making to accommodate people after school and work to come to the park & ski – as the west side's Elm Creek. Also for the demographic change ahead is single track mountain biking trails – partner with MORC they are experienced & very willing to assist (Wirth Park, Lebanon Park). Also hiking & dog area to keep them off the cross country ski trails.
Belz, Lori Same as above	9/27/05	- Vegetation management / planning for the park should focus on maintaining the present prairie and increase Savannah & Old Growth forest areas, Bur Oak. - Use vegetation to "block out" bordering roads & development. - Use vegetation to protect winter trails to capture snow on to the trails & protect it from the winds.

<p>Blackford, Judith 9765 45<sup>th</sup> Street North Lake Elmo, MN 55042</p>	<p>12/09/05</p>	<p>An e-mail was received, the length of which was edited for this table.</p> <p>Several items bother me and I have a few questions: As a parks commissioner, I recognize that you have two responsibilities which sometimes pull in opposing directions: to be a good steward of this wild place which means keeping the beauty and quiet intact and making it a haven for people and creatures, and also to allow recreational activities that will enhance the opportunity to allow people to exercise and enjoy various activities while they enjoy the natural beauties of this last remaining open and wild place. Your job as a steward entrusted with this responsibility is one which demands thoughtful time, study, input, but in the final analysis you must still advocate for the continuing enjoyment of the resources this park brings currently to the people you are hired to represent. My worry is that by focusing on some percentage that needs to remain open to call this a Park Reserve, you will lose the reality and intent of a Park Reserve. In observing the many trails that are proposed to cross and traverse this park, which is largely open space and not wooded, there will be a real dilution of the peace and wild aspect of the park, the reason people come here to enjoy recreation. You even speak of potentially adding additional activities in future years.</p> <p>As I am a City representative, you are a County representative acting as a steward for County citizens, not the greater metropolis of the Twin Cities. We are not required to create a wild theme park here for what may be the overpopulation of the cities. Please don't look at revenues and deep pockets of the surrounding communities as a communication telling you we want a theme park. We live here because we like nature, and don't want to live in the urban areas. Those who understand the enjoyment of nature, seek it for its beauty, and understand that when you have a large tract of land that just because it is public does not mean that every activity needs to be crammed in it, even if the people demand it. Sometimes the people need to be saved from themselves. You have the responsibility as the County steward, so that they can understand, yes, I can give you all of these things, but this is how this will impact your experience of this wild place. You need to speak about both sides to your citizens.</p> <p>Sometimes I think individuals ask for things out of a lack of experience with reality. Take for example lighted ski trails. I am not strictly against what you are proposing since I think the lights are designed to have a low to none impact on wildlife and surrounding countryside, however, I have taken part in the night-time skiing offered at various times by the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. The long trails we skied were largely in the open, and were always well lit by natural light. Winter snow is very reflective, and even with a quarter moon there is more than enough light to make skiing excellent. You can almost read your watch with that much light. (I walked out last night with a quarter moon and observed this.) I have skied Sunfish Park, which is a wooded park, at night and the trails are wide and there is no need for lights. I wonder if the people proposing this have actually skied this course at night, or are they thinking it's dark, therefore, we need lights. Is this being done for liability purposes?</p>
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Blackwood, Tony E-mail	6/07/05	I've heard that Washington County is considering an off leash play area for dogs within the Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Is this a possibility or just a rumor? We have a small breed dog and would love to have a place to bring him where he can run free.
Bourdaghs, John 2855 Lake Elmo Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/15/05	You must be very careful about enlarging the Park and ruining a beautiful lake. The land owners are entitled to a Lake that is not over used.
Bourdaghs, Colleen Same as above	8/15/05	Please do not change the name from "Park Reserve". Please do not enlarge the area where boats come in as there are plenty of speed boats now on weekends.
Bouthilet, Terry 10891 32 <sup>nd</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	I am in favor of maintaining the Park Reserve status in Lake Elmo and not developing the park beyond 20%. I feel strongly the Lake (Lake Elmo) cannot handle any increased usage. I am not in favor of adding a public beach or winter access to the lake. I am in favor of more trails.
Bucheck, Ann 2301 Legion Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	I do not feel lighted ski trails would be beneficial as it would be detrimental to the wildlife. This park needs to protect the wildlife and if you add amenities and other activities you will loose the reason for the park. We also do not need a children's farm, dog run if it is not fenced or large mountain biking trail. There needs to be a balance between the open space and development and I fear that balance is being tipped too far toward development. Darkness and open space are true resources and we need to protect them. This area is not Minneapolis or St Paul and lets not develop it into that kind of area. The vegetation should be prairie, savannah and forest. We do not want any connection between Sunfish Park and the regional park – no tunnels, no connection.
Bucheck, Ann Same as above	9/27/05	Do not connect the reserve and Sunfish Park!!! Do not trade any land between the reserve and the city of Lake Elmo. Do not need another swimming beach. If you have a winter access on the south end it will create a parking problem the land drops of the roadway. No lighted trails in the winter – save our natural resource, darkness! Yes I am a stockholder.
Carlson, Keith E-mail	8/11/05	I would like to see you add more ski skate trails. Along existing classic trail alignments would be fine if nothing else. A larger loop to north, east and south of existing ski skate loop would also be an alternative. (I do not know if terrain would facilitate this.) I would suggest better signage at trail start from trailhead. I always get confused distinguishing between Loop A, B and C where trails parallel each other there. Thanks for considering my comments.
Carlson, Gary 8735 27 <sup>th</sup> St Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Please preserve the "Park Reserve" status and continue to develop the Natural features of the park. Consider a landscape arboretum. Approach similar to the U of M Landscape arboretum at Chanhassen.
Carlson, Margaret Same as above	8/13/05	Good comments from citizens – retaining reserve status is important. Low impact development should not include lighted ski trails. Woodbury is a major source of light pollution. Ski trails that were lighted would only contribute to the pollution. Moonlight ski events (without lights) would be more

Conlin, Rita 8560 Ironwood Trl N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Expanded & increased park development = more people and more traffic. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street: what is the parks responsibility & plans to address local impact? As a recharge (water) area there should be no impact from development, i.e. parking lots, bldgs, trails. Lakes water resources, no impact should be a goal. 300-500 outdoor seating capacity is excessive and expensive. Sound systems etc. would lose ambiance of natural setting. Increased development = increased need for fire and rescue support. How will county/region compensate local government that supplies it? Must keep reserve status. Do not trust Met Council! I support the multi ecological vegetation proposal.
Dahlke, Jay E-mail	1/10/06	While I haven't used the park yet, I was looking forward to using the mountain biking trails this coming summer (2006). In the November Master Plan Map, it shows the mountain biking and snow shoe trail as a very short trail, some of it a 2-way trail with a small loop at the end. I believe a longer loop (6 to 8 miles?) that is entirely one direction might be more desirable. Many riders are looking to complete 20 or more miles and making more laps just gets boring. Keeping the horse and bike trails separate is a good idea. You may want to work with the MORC (Minnesota Off Road Cyclists) group. They have done many trail projects in the Twin Cities area. <a href="http://www.morcmtb.org/">http://www.morcmtb.org/</a>
Denoma, Linda & Michael 3065 Klondike Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/27/05	While I am not a X-Country skier, the proposed lighted ski trail would be a worth while addition. I am opposed to developing a beach at the south end of Lake Elmo. The beach is already over crowded on week-end and afternoons. A roadway and parking lot would "damage" a beautiful landscape. I favor picnic development nearer Eagle Point Lake rather than Lake Elmo. There is already significant concentration of shelters and picnic areas in the N.E. quadrant. We would also be in favor of a "Dog Park" area where dogs could run unleashed although still under supervision and control of the owner.
Dunn, Susan P.O. Box 153 Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	NO LIGHTED TRAILS! EXPENSE!!!
Dunn, Susan	8/13/05	No connection or bike trail to Sunfish Lake Parkl. Go up Co. 17 across 36 to Gateway Trail.
Dunn, Susan same as above	8/13/05	Keep Regional Park Reserve status 80/20 max. No trail/ tunnel to city park of Sunfish Lake Park preserve area for natural low impact area use. Let the moon light trails at night.
Durand, Shirley 2901 Lake Elmo Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	DO NOT CHANGE STATUS FROM PARK RESERVE (FOR MANY REASONS). No increased activity on or around the lake extremely busy and dangerous on weekends all summer. Patrol the boat launch on weekends.
Durand, Donald same as above	8/13/05	Would like better Lake control of boats and water use on Lake Elmo (speed + direction). Do not change Park status. No swimming beach on the south end. No winter access to Lake South end. OK through park launch area.

Dwight, Tom 1200 Hallam Avenue N. Mahtomedi, MN 55115	9/29/05	We are pleased you are reviewing this Park plan. We see no problems with some of the changes mentioned in the Sept. 24 article so long as the fantastic natural resources are retained. We hike, bird, bike, ski, swim, kayak and recently enjoyed the music festival there. We plan on camping next summer with grandchildren. Since we do much of this around the country and to some extent the world, we feel this is an outstanding gem rarely rivaled anywhere and we hope changes will be well thought out preserving its natural state. We hope some activities found in typical city parks can be avoided! Please let us know if we can be helpful!
Eichenberger, Pam 9070 10 <sup>th</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/27/05	Please develop an off leash dog exercise area. Please don't decrease equestrian trails. Walk thru gate at 15 <sup>th</sup> St N for horses, bikes & walkers. Like to see ski on a lighted ski trails.
Endries, Dan Email	9/27/05	There is enough light pollution in this area already and much more to come with the new Target and all the development slated for this area. Does the park need to be a contributor to it? The moon does all you need.
Engen, Jerry 2232 Novak Ave N West Lakeland, MN 55082	9/28/05	I'm interested in more mountain bike trails. MORC would be glad to help design new trails. As far as lighted ski trails, excellent idea a win win for you and all people who work 8-5 and have daylight hours to ski.
Etter, Cindy 4442 Lily Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/15/05	No development in or around lake. The Lake is much too small to warrant a "public beach". The increased traffic that it would create would not be good for the lake front residents as the road doesn't go completely around. There is already an issue of speeding right now. I think it would be smarter to develop more of the Park Reserve.
Gray, Leigh 231 N Everett St Stillwater, MN 55082	8/6/05	My family loves cross country skiing in the park. Please keep the cross country skiing part of any future plan.
Griffin, Wendy 2835 Lake Elmo Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Please keep an add development use off of Lake Elmo Lake – what type of P.A. system will be use?
Harding, Ian 24 Bertha Ct. Mahtomedi, MN 55115	9/22/05	Good natural resource plan – oak savannah vegetation is very good. You need to spend the time and money to get rid of buckthorn or else you'll lose the whole park eventually to buckthorn. Need clean up of junk behind wire fences from old farmsteads.
Iverson, Richard 2150 Ross Ave St Paul, MN 55119	9/28/05	Duplicate Elm Creek Park Reserve, they already have had a trail center & trail system. They added snow-making equipment – 2.5 K cross country ski and small snow tubing. It's an excellent, well groomed trail. They attract a ton of people and it's very profitable. The high school's could ski there.

Iverson, Richard Same as above	9/28/05	Put a speed bump or other barrier at northern service road where it connects to paved park road. Currently rocks get knocked onto bike trail. Expand paved bike trail away from road. Sweep paved trail more frequently – especially in spring and fall.
Jader, Gary E-mail	12/17/05	I have used Lake Elmo Park Reserve heavily in every season over the past 10 years. I just want to pass along my kudos to the commissioners for their wonderful work. The Park is a treasure in our community and we are blessed having it and equally blessed for your stewardship. I am VERY excited about your proposed plans for lit ski trails, snow making equipment, and a skating rink. For those of us that work days, it will mean we can use the park even more frequently and having a skating rink nearby will be wonderful for the families in our community. As a former Parks Commissioner for the city of Lake Elmo, I know the hours and commitment it takes, and again I want to say "Thank You" for all that you do.
Johnson, Liz Lake Elmo	9/26/05	I am a citizen of Lake Elmo and also a City Council member for the City of Lake Elmo. I do not support development to the level in which the park will no longer be a reserve park. I want to make sure that the vast majority of the park is kept undeveloped and in it's natural state. I do not support a public beach on Lake Elmo itself. This lake, due to its size (width and length) is already over crowded and very often dangerous to whom ever is using the lake for pleasure. I do not have any concerns regarding the addition of a fishing pier, expanding walking / running / biking paths or horse trails as long as the "reserve" status stays in place. I do not have any concerns regarding the expansion of the children's play areas or outdoor education opportunities to make it more family orientated, as long as the "reserve" status stays in place. If there is going to be any lighting to paths, etc., I want to make sure that it is not intrusive and not detected in anyway outside of the park proper. The most important item to me is to keep the park a "reserve". If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.
Johnson, Lowell 4574 Lilac Lane N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/22/05	Keep development below the 20% max! Leave wooded trail at South end of Long Lake as it is – no beach. Build nature center in the central developed area. Keep at least the restrooms open daily, all year long. Keep a fall time naturalist at the nature center.
Johnson, Chris 2269 Lake Elmo Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Strongly opposed to changing the status of LE Park Reserve to regional park or park. Concerns include increased traffic on Lake Elmo Rd as well as the Lake & increased noise crossing Lake. Lighting on trails.
Knoblauch, Gloria 9181 31 <sup>st</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	No date	Do not build up more than 20% of the 2100 acre park. A new equestrian center should be built. Build more family campsites. Lighting of cross country ski trails would be desirable.
Knoblach, Gloria Same as above	8/11/05	I favor a trail system in Lake Elmo and in regional park that ultimately ends at the Gateway Trail.

Kreimer, Tom 772 Jewel Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/22/05	More bike access points. More paved bike trails to see rest of park on bike. Connect bike trail to large play structure currently you have to use road to get there. Connect trail from Whistling Valley to park access trail. It can cross the street. Add more trees. No need for interpretive center. Keep as Park Reserve – DO NOT fully develop park.
Kruse, Brad 14152 53rd St. N. Oak Park Hts, MN 55082	12/06/05	I am writing as a Washington County resident to support the inclusion of lighted Cross Country Ski trails in Lake Elmo Park. I am an occasional user of the ski trails and having lights available for early evening skiing would enable me to use the trails more frequently. I am more than willing to pay increased property taxes and other taxes for this added amenity. Thank you very much.
LaBelle, Gary City of Grant	9/22/05	We rode out there about a month ago and it was good. Most trails are horses and hikers only in State Parks but bikes and horses are almost always a disaster when they meet on the trail. We do not run into any bikers on that Sunday night in Lake Elmo.
Larson, Rolf 11720 Little Bluestem Court Lake Elmo, MN 55042		<p>To get right to the point, there are several comments I would like to make.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I think that the city in which a park area resides should be treated with a bit more respect than this process has demonstrated. Lake Elmo prides itself in its rural roots and the rural character of its development plans (a planning concept it has fought hard to preserve!). Changing the character of the park when it was not a part of the review process is at the very least in bad taste and a most in violation of the review process. This PRESERVE has a large acreage but lacks adequate access for a heavily used park.</li> <li>2. The roads through Lake Elmo are being overwhelmed at the present time. With Old Village plans to slow down Highway 5 through the middle of the city, people will be forced to find alternate routes for commuting (at the very least). With the dramatic increase of traffic coming from the dramatic development that will be occurring around County 10 across the lower portion of the City, creating traffic to a more developed park destination will only increase a situation that is already well on its way to demonstrating unreasonable stress. Add to this the fact that there is no direct access to the Park from even the closest freeway (94). People approaching the park via Freeways 94/494/694 will need to drive to the middle of Lake Elmo on the already stressed road system. I do not see this addressed in this park plan.</li> <li>3. The percentage used to determine the amount of space already developed in the park are very likely a fabrication. I remember a comment during a public meeting that used space was considered to be "MOWED" space. Any other PRESERVE plan would have used a definition that is related to a "right-of way" (perhaps 50-100 feet) on either side of the trail. It would be interesting to look back at the definitions used for the previous Lake Elmo Park Plan. In other words, the plan developers have used a change in how space is defined to limit the percentage of used space so that they can justify a level of development that was not intended by the people who created the park, or the rules that govern the regulation of that park. Looking at it this way, it is easy to see how 17% used space in</li> </ol>

		<p>the previous planning effort suddenly became 6%. The definitions must follow precedent or law, not the whim of a few overly ambitious people!</p> <p>Lake Elmo Regional Park is a Park Preserve. For the sake of all of us and our descendents, it is our responsibility to protect and PRESERVE those features that brought the park into existence, along with prudent, well planned and legal development of the resource. This plan should be a renewal, not a redefinition of this wonderful park.of this wonderful park.</p>
LeMire, Keith 2657 Stagecoach Tr Afton, MN 55001	8/5/05	Is there access for ice fishing onto Lake Elmo from the park or could there ever be?
Liepa, Mara Email	8/24/05	<p>I am against a "riding stable" at LE. Although I think that more stables open to the public are needed, I don't think LE is the spot. Such stables should be in a more regulated environment, where the trails are controlled (e.g., a large private farm). Truthfully, the riders on group trail rides through stables are inexperienced or not-very experienced riders. They are those that ride maybe once a year or so, on their vacations or with a girl scout troop. The stable herd is stable and fixed – the horses know each other and have established their herd dominance. We all know horses do have a mind of their own and can be unpredictable. What will be the outcome when a group of stable riders encounters other riders on the trail? Although we all believe our own beloved mounts are angels, I'm the first to admit that they are not. Lunging, kicking, biting at unfamiliar horses is not uncommon. Will the rider know how to react when two groups of private riders meet on the trail – generally, horse owners know better how their own horse acts and know how to handle their horse upon reaction. It may be more feasible if you keep the riding stable trails separate from the public trails, or, mark which trails are open to the stable groups and which are not, and same for private riders. Also, what will be the impact of increased hoof traffic on the trails? Can the erosion be managed? Lake Elmo is a beautiful spot for trail riding – I wish I had more time to get out there. The trailer parking location is excellent, and the trails are well maintained. The variety in the trail loops, including the different terrain, is nice.</p>
Mair, Jamie 9656 Hillingdon Rd. Woodbury, MN 55125	8/7/05	Love this park! Any chance for more biking trails?
McGurran, Miriam 8995 Thomas Dr. Woodbury, MN 55125	No date	No to connection between Lake Elmo and Sunfish. No to paved paths around Eagle Point. No to mountain bike trails. If horse stable come in will it be private or public and who will be liable? Save the beauty and rustic nature. Other parks like Afton can be used for extra features.
Metzger, Anja and Greg E-mail	02/05/06	My family frequently visits Lake Elmo Park and treasures the trails for hiking, horseback riding, and skiing. It certainly is a great place for the two-legged ones. However, most families, including ours, consider our four-legged members part of the family as well. Recently, our family has discovered the thrill of skijouring (cross-country skiing while being led by a harnessed dog) and were frankly

		astounded that there are no official parks or areas where skijouring is allowed in the East Metro. The West Metro has several trails open for skijouring; however, since we live in Lake Elmo, we spend two hours traveling to and from the West Metro parks in order to skijour. Wouldn't it be great if Lake Elmo had a dedicated trail for skijouring? This sport is only gaining in popularity and it would be a shame not to include plans for a skijouring trail at Lake Elmo Park Reserve.
Miller, Melissa 11055 32 <sup>nd</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/27/05	There should be no increased use of Lake Elmo or increase traffic (pedestrian or otherwise) around Lake Elmo. The lake is relatively small and not suited for all of the activities (swimming, picnicking etc) suggested to go on or around it. The safety of all should be of utmost importance. The lake is residential, except for the Park and increased use on and around it would encroach on property owners rights. The addition of facilities not adjacent to Lake Elmo (equestrian area, camping, ice skating, interpretive center, etc). Would allow people increased use of the park without infringing on property owners around the Reserve.
Miller, Melissa Same as above	8/13/05	Do not change the "Park Reserve" status to "Park". There should be NO increased use on Lake Elmo or around Lake Elmo. Currently there is little if any monitoring of activity through the park on Lake Elmo. There should be someone monitoring the boat launch.
Miller, Tony Same as above	No date	Keep park as a reserve. Maintain current park rules (Lake is NOT monitored). Expansion should be west not east. Minimize expansion cost. No more Lake access – unsafe.
Neuenfeldt, Ellen 2846 Lisbon Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/22/05	Please continue to offer trails for horseback riding. Many of my friends and my husband love these trails. They are the best in the Metro area by far. As a suggestion moving the equestrian center to the northern area of the park would be great. Current center is getting busy with campers, kids, archery which is a safety concern when animals are in the picture.
Neuenfeldt, Ellen Same as above		Thank you so much for sending me the info regarding the LE Park Reserve... I greatly appreciate it and will make certain my "horsey" friends are informed. I would also like to attend at least one, if not both, of the meetings so that the equestrian concerns are voiced. As I mentioned in my email, there are many people that I know, including my husband and myself, who absolutely love the equestrian trails at Lake Elmo. We sincerely treasure them, and with so much development occurring in the TC area, horse accessible trails are becoming fewer and fewer. The trails used for horses are also for hikers/biker/walker which is wonderful...the trails should be multi-use for optimization.
Nielsen, Ed 9498 Stillwater Blvd N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	I appreciate the input provided today was good. I oppose a tunnel (north) IF is close to the Sunfish Lake Park entrance. I oppose a joint regional / Sunfish Lake Park. Both Sunfish & LE Park reserve are great individual parks.

Novak, Bob 2925 Klondike Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/13/05	Weed control is important (Buckthorn, etc). No change in Park Reserve to Park. Does the cost to install lighted ski trails justify the cost? Klondike Ave is very dangerous so not connect City trails and park trails on Klondike. Park does not enforce number of watercraft. (original plan 18 or 19 watercraft).
Novak, Jeanne Same as above	8/13/05	Please do not remove Reserve from Park designation. Please do not expand use of Lake Elmo. Please do not expand family camping, it is used all summer fall for "living" area now. Please encourage funding for environmental & natural resources.
Prew, Thomas Email	8/31/05	I would like to see the addition of lighted cross-country ski trails. This would allow many people to be able to use the park after work. Weekends are very busy on the cross country trails. Other regional parks in the west metro have them. We should too.
Rademacher, Dean 7812 29 <sup>th</sup> St N Oakdale, MN 55128	9/22/05	Please include a disc golf course possible combined with a winter activity such as snow tubing. Disc Golf in spring, summer, fall and snow tubing in winter. Also combine with Buckthorn removal.
Rademacher, Dean Same as above	8/13/05	Would prefer 6/8 ecosystems no 1 kind. Please consider a disc golf natural course. Can use land in current condition with relatively low up front cost and very low maintenance cost.
Raleigh, Dan 2737 Lake Elmo Ave. Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/19/05	Use the park wisely, so that the natural beauty is not ruined. i.e. success = campground hidden from lake, roads, developments (residential) and very nice. Failure = large playground system, bright colors, high on hill visible from Lake and Lake Elmo Ave (especially in low lent time of year) – Poor placement. Improve land, if necessary in areas not being utilized. Avoid Lake development such as beach, campsites visible, more fishing piers.
Raleigh, Debbie Same as above	8/18/05	I liked the idea of a skating pond & sledding, more bike trails & even the nature center (horseback riding, etc.) but I really would NOT like to see any development on or near the lake. A beach would not be a good idea, thus the reason a beach was created in the park. The lake is to narrow and in recent years become very busy with boats, water skiers, and jetskis. I feel it would be dangerous.
Rooney, Jody 12548 Keller Avenue N. Hugo, MN 55038	12/12/05	I have a number of concerns about the proposed changes to the trail system as a part of the proposed masterplan. 1. The plan eliminates the multi use - horse trails to the east of the largest lake and adds interpretive trails. It would seem that ample room exists on the east side of road for an expansion of the interpretive area in an area that is currently under used. Why put something in an area where it would create a conflict? This is a relatively poor site for an interpretive center from a environmental diversity stand point also. If you must have it on that side of the road I would recommend having it come from the existing horse camp and going to the South West about 1/4 mile to the wetland and wooded lake area where the prairie and wetland habitats meet and on to the lake from that location. The addition of paved trails adjacent to a horse trail is an unfortunate necessity on the Gateway it is neither desirable nor aesthetically pleasing in a natural park.

		<p>2. The elimination of that trail reduces the natural values of the horse trail by confining it to primarily open area and one or two habitats. It also reduces the utility of the park by reducing the loops that can be ridden already a problem for parents with children who want a short ride.</p> <p>3. While I applaud the addition of bike trails in more of the park I would recommend that they be of a different surface. Not only is a paved surface completely incompatible with the mission of the park to remain somewhat undeveloped they are an aesthetic eyesore on the land scape. Bituminous surfaces are also costly to construct and maintain, the route you have selected will have some significant engineering challenges for both slope stability and drainage. If you must put these monstrosities in the park please put them where other users can not see them.</p> <p>4. The movement of the horse camp ground to the northern edge of the facilities is acceptable except for the changes in riding distances and the closing of the loop that circles the lake.</p> <p>5. I assume that the design will include suitable fencing so that horses can not escape on to Highway 5.</p> <p>6. There is at least one bridge and a tunnel under Highway 5 to connect to Sunfish Park that appear to have been discussed at the open houses. As we discovered during the Gateway Highway 96 bridge fiasco, consideration needs to be given to designing for the user that requires the most space for a safe design not the majority of users. There is a draft version of the new Federal Highway trail design guidelines that has been circulated for comment. These guidelines include more well thought out standards for safety on multiuse trails and different standards for horse trails than contained in previous guidance. I would recommend that these standards be followed. In their absence I would recommend the Equestrian Facilities Standards by Ann O'Dell on the American Trails website.</p> <p>7. Before investing in more park infrastructure it would seem that it would be good to take a look at facilities already located within the county operated by both the county and others. Governments tend to get myopic as to their geography and ignore the facilities provided by other provider and duplicate facilities creating more infrastructure that has to be maintained. For example in Pine Point Park there are 4 trails that run parallel to each other within the space of 200 feet for a distance of probably 240 yards. This seems excessive. We all know that the political realities are that it is more popular to fund development than maintenance and we have several state parks with facilities badly in need of repair, and or closure.</p> <p>8. From a horseback riding perspective a connection to Sunfish Park would be desirable. If that is accomplished then it would only seem fair that the County provide winterized toilets and a water source as well as a better designed parking lot. Sunfish would only be used in the before the first bug hatch and after the first frost by horse people because of significant insect issues.</p>
Schneider, Cindy Email	9/26/05	Greetings – my family lives in Oakdale, and we have used & enjoyed Lake Elmo Park Reserve for the eight + years we have lived here. I would love to see an off-leash dog park built at Lake Elmo! Please count my vote for this amenity as you go about making your changes to the Park's master plan.

Schumacher, Bob	9/22/05	Thanks for having this open house in Oakdale and taking comments from Equestrian & Orienteering folks and other comments. Good job!
Schumacher, Bob Same as above	9/27/05	No connection from LEPR and Sunfish City Park. Save open space. Plant variety of successions for school groups. NO SOUTH BEACH!
Schumacher, Bob Same as above	8/13/05	Winter sliding area? 80% native (or restored to native like Savannah). Limit 20% developed area (maximum) absolute! Keep "reserve" status of park / improvements on east side only of park. Have a volunteer pool on line with park needs / local talent like DNR. Let Jim Hagstrom plan mixed ecosystems (5 or 6 different) over next decade. Encourage wildlife (like your bird houses / platforms). Have interpretive center + volunteers.
Schumacher, Bob Same as above	8/13/05	No south shore beach. Address dogs out of the park into neighborhoods. We do not need 500 SEAT ARENA! We do not need too many signs! Not winter access for cars on Lake Elmo through park! Establish north and south trail on west of Lake Elmo for Lake Elmo residents. Forget tunnel idea and lighted ski trails. Encourage enforcement update & increase.
Sedro, Kathy 8916 35 <sup>th</sup> St N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	No Date	Keep the reserve status. The way the park development is measured appears to be inaccurate. I base this on the statement that the park is currently only measured as 6% developed. The areas that have trails see considerable traffic / impact even though the trails are narrow and are measured as minimal area. Count a larger buffer when measuring trail area.
Skarvan, Steve E-mail	8/11/05	<p>I understand that the Lake Elmo Master Plan is in the process of being updated for future development considerations. I would like to comment on the winter development possibilities. As a X-C skier on the East side of the Metro area, I would like to see the Winter trail use be expanded. I skied there several times last year, once as a coach for the Ride and Glide ski open house for Washington Parks and enjoyed the trails very much. However, there are several items that I would like to see considered in the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expand the winter facilities to include bathrooms in a skier friendly comfortable building.</li> <li>- Expand the trail grooming to include both classic and skate techniques on more of the trails.</li> <li>- Consider lighting some of the trails for extended use.</li> <li>- Consider snowmaking to extend the (what's become) a somewhat short metro area ski season.</li> </ul> <p>All of these items would help the casual as well as the seasoned skier, High School and families enjoy the Park more often. The "Eastside" skiers would appreciate another potentially excellent venue to ski! Thank you for your consideration.</p>

<p>Snell, Jan E-mail</p>	<p>6/11/05</p>	<p>I am a resident of Oakdale and an advocate of off-leash parks for dogs. I believe that creating an off-leash area at Lake Elmo Park Reserve would be a great benefit to the community.</p> <p>Off-leash dog parks help to make dogs better citizens; a happy, tired dog is quieter and less likely to become a nuisance. Off-leash dog parks help to create a sense of community and help to build a positive identity for a community. People who frequent off-leash areas often have set times and days that they go to the off-leash area. Friendships with dogs and humans are created- even though we might not know all the people's names, we sure know all the "doggy friends" names! And from that, the people connect also.</p> <p>In my experience the majority of off-leash park users are responsible and take great care to manage litter, are reliable "poop scoopers" and will make the extra effort to help other users be responsible as well.</p> <p>As you are most likely already aware, there is an organization called R.O.M.P (Responsible Owners of Mannerly Pets) that stands ready to work with communities to create off-leash areas. They have the know-how, expertise, and also credibility to help make off-leash areas successful and also good neighbors. (<a href="http://www.dogromp.org">www.dogromp.org</a>&lt;<a href="http://www.dogromp.org/">http://www.dogromp.org/</a>&gt;)</p> <p>I am a R.O.M.P supporter, and user of the off-leash parks with my two small dogs. I now have to travel to St. Paul or White Bear Township to go to the off-leash areas, and it would be wonderful to have something closer to my home in Oakdale.</p> <p>I hope that the Washington County Park Board will support the creation of an off-leash area at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Please feel free to contact me with questions.</p>
<p>Stein, Ted 2566 Helena Avenue North Oakdale, MN 55128</p>	<p>3/14/06</p>	<p>I have heard that there are plans to change or re-locate the archery range at the park. Whatever you do I hope you will always have some kind of archery range there. The existing range is easily the best public facility in the eastern Twin Cities.</p> <p>If you ARE going to make changes to the range, perhaps you will consider these suggestions from a traditional archer who has been shooting for more than 10 years . . .</p> <p>Try to include more shooting lines of 10, 20 and 30 yards. These are frequently all in use and more would let more shooters practice. If the total number of shooting lines is limited, this archer would say that there is little need for archery ranges shooting more than 40 yards (50 yards and more really is a "Hail Mary" shot even with modern equipment).</p> <p>Please consider that most shooters use the lines after work, in the early evening, so us right-handed shooters have the sun in our eyes while using the existing range. Try to keep this in mind when you orient a new range.</p> <p>The arrow stops in the existing range are quite nice and work well. The elevated shooting stand is very popular with hunters; please try to keep it in some form. A nearby outhouse (potty) would be a great convenience. Also a covered shelter and nearby picnic area for non-shooting family members. Please let me know if I or any archers I know can be any help designing or even constructing a new range. Thanks for listening!</p>

Turnquist, Keith 2525 Valley View Ave. Maplewood, MN 55119	No date	Thanks for providing a great facility for public use. We hike, bike, ski, swim and fish. The Park needs more swimming capacity and another fishing pier. Lighted trails would be great but we need snow! One entrance has been important to the Park's character and usage. Keep up the good work!
Tremel, Barbara 2715 Lake Elmo Ave Lake Elmo, MN 55042	8/16/05	No new beach access on Lake Elmo and NO status change from "Park Reserve". Do not support more access points to Lake Elmo the Lake is not monitored now, we cannot have increased activity. Move some activity proposed to Eagle Point.
Treml, Dennis Same as above	8/16/05	No status change from "Park Reserve". No new beach on Lake Elmo. No new fishing piers on Lake Elmo. No winter access road onto Lake Elmo. No new picnic facilities on Lake Elmo.
Troupe, Doug E-mail	2/06/06	Please do not think of doing this!!!!!!! I live next to the park and it would be very sad to see this happen to such a nice peaceful lake. Please say "NO" for "tar the path around the lake". Please leave this pathway alone.
Trumper, Mark	8/4/05	I would like to see a man-made snow cross country ski trail similar to Elm Creek Park and Wirth Park.
VanMeerten, Sue Email	8/24/05	Several years ago (1989?) it was suggested that some of the trails in Pine Point Park be paved to accommodate street/racing bicycles. I did some research and found out at that time, there were 196 miles of designated on and off-road bicycle trails in Washington County. This compared to 13 miles of designated horse trails. At that time, it was suggested the bicycle-riding population far outnumbered the horse population. After more research, it was determined that there were 150,000 + horses in northern Washington County!! Sounds like they are trying to change how Lake Elmo is run. I personally do not want it to be a "park" vs. reserve. I also am not too crazy about the mountain bike trails and really don't want a "horse stable" using the trails all the time. Although it is good to have the horses use it I kinda like not having them overused by "guided trail rides" from a horse stable.
Wadd, Wallace 2530 Queensport Road Woodbury, MN 55125	9/24/05	I would like to comment on the proposed master plan. I have been a Woodbury resident for more than 20 years. I purchase a annual Washington County Parks permit and use Lake Elmo Reserve frequently for cross country skiing in the winter and biking spring through fall. I enjoy the ski trails in the winter, especially loop A for skate skiing. I am frequently disappointed however due to the lack of grooming on the trails. Additional grooming would keep the trails in better condition getting more use out of the trails. I understand lights may be installed. I am definitely in favor of that as it would allow the trails to be used during the evening. I also strongly suggest you consider the addition of snow making equipment. The lack of natural snow over the last few years has limited the use of the Lake Elmo trails. Facilities that have started making snow, such as Elm Creek Park Reserve in Hennepin County and Trollhaugen Ski area in WI, have been used extensively by skiers. Hennepin County's experience with Elm Creek would be a good model to help you evaluate this possibility. Every time I have gone to Elm

		Creek in the evening, it has been busy with recreational skiers, ski groups, high school teams and events. I understand snow making equipment would be an added expense but I believe it would be justified with additional use and fees. Because there are no facilities that make snow in the east metro area, I'm sure the park would become a destination for skiers in the area and generate enough revenue to justify the added expense.
Wyland, John 427 Wildwood Ave Birchwood, MN 55110	9/27/05	Most interested in the addition of lights on ski trail. Also really like the idea of developing "winter" hiking trails to keep the hikers off the groomed ski trails. Also in favor of single track mountain bike trail development.
Yates, Ric 8470 Deer Pond Trail Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/25/05	I ride my mountain bike on your trails maybe 2-4 times per week. It is a wonderful and beautiful place to get away from my everyday stressful life and get a great workout. It is very quiet and peaceful. I think the park would attract more mountain bikers if there were some new trails. The only complaint I have is continually having to dodge all the horse poop, but it usually is possible to do.
Young, Dale 2846 Lisbon Ave N Lake Elmo, MN 55042	9/22/05	We are very lucky to live to have such a great park! Our use is horse and hiking. We are concerned about the safety issue of having regular camping at the equestrian center and would like to see it separate. The passage to Sunfish Park would be greatly appreciated. I like the idea of a sledding & skating area. Thanks for your efforts they are greatly appreciated.