

Dayton Water Trail Feasibility Study

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction



1.1 PLAN PURPOSE

The Dayton Water Trails Plan (DWTP) is a collaborative effort led by the City of Dayton to plan a recreational corridor and destination park that will connect the City of Dayton with the Crow River and, Mississippi River Regional Trail.

The intent of the plan is to develop recommendations for conservation initiatives, water access improvements, and wayfinding and programming improvements to enhance recreational use throughout the community. This plan outlines a framework for establishing City connections to the regional water trail and is organized around key activities in developing successful trails, access point, funding, governance, land protection, operations and maintenance

The purpose of the plan is to establish a vision for a water trails corridor incorporating future land use, economic development, recreation, and tourism.

The vision proposes more than just a trail system- it suggests an open space corridor that performs multiple functions and community benefits in water quality, habitat, recreation, connection, and transportation.

This plan will provide recommendations for the following:

- » Goals and objectives for the corridor
- » Conceptual planning for recreation improvements
- » Possible land acquisition
- » Site and access improvements
- » Signage and wayfinding enhancements
- » Capital improvements on proposed development
- » Operational considerations
- » Public policy actions and investments

VISION

Conserve and protect our valuable land and water resources, position the city to capture economic development opportunities from nature-based recreational tourism, and promote partnerships with neighboring communities and other agencies to realize the full potential of a regional water trail network.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

The DWTP planning process began in November 2021 including;

Inventory & Analysis in which the consultant team gathered and reviewed existing information regarding the study area

- » **Site Visits** and river kayaking tours to evaluate existing conditions
- » **Assessment** of existing features
- » **Issues & Opportunities** analysis
- » **Public Involvement** & Stakeholder Needs Assessment

Critical steps of the planning effort involved evaluating stakeholder needs and creating opportunities for them to provide input on environmental, recreational, educational, and other desired improvements.

A Steering Committee was formed to guide development of the DWTP. Members included one or more representatives from the following organizations:

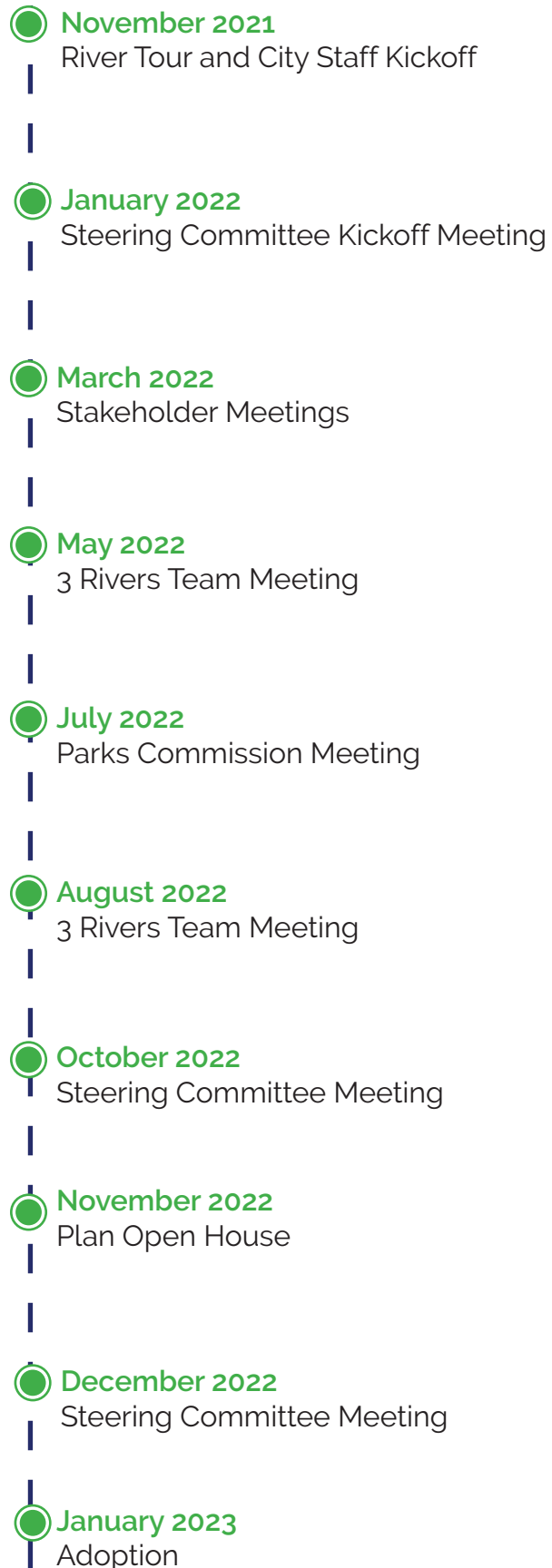
- » City of Dayton Public Works
- » City of Dayton City Council
- » Parks & Recreation Committee
- » Friends of the Mississippi River
- » Three Rivers Parks District
- » Landowner who may provide water access on private land

Phase 1 (this plan) was created to identify goals and objectives for the corridor, develop a conceptual plan and implementation plan, and identify funding opportunities. Future phases will involve the funding, development, construction, and operations of recommendations from this plan.

The plan was completed in January of 2023.

Next steps include applying for grant funding; building partnerships for future planning, development, and operations/maintenance; and beginning to implement recommended projects from this plan. Local partnerships will help to coordinate activities, goals, and funding; allowing growth and improvements in the corridor to occur. Each partner bringing their own strengths, expertise, experiences and tools to create a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

PROJECT MILESTONES



CHAPTER 2

About the Corridor



2.1 LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

Local

The City of Dayton, Minnesota is located in northern Hennepin County and eastern Wright County, within the boundaries of the Minneapolis–St. Paul metropolitan area. It is bordered to the north by Ramsey, to the west by Otsego and Rogers, to the south by Maple Grove, and to the east by Champlin and Anoka. Its north and west boundaries are determined by the confluence of the Mississippi River and Crow River in the City’s northwestern corner. Dayton’s rivers and lakes are the basis for much of the City’s local identity, enhancing its natural character and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Dayton itself is a transitional community, with an urbanizing downtown located near the confluence of the Crow and

Mississippi Rivers giving way to more rural character.

A sizable portion of southeast Dayton is home to Elm Creek Park, which is owned and managed by the Three Rivers Parks District.

The city is a bedroom community, with few retail establishments centered in Raintree Plaza. The local economy is mostly comprised of service businesses. It is designated by the Metropolitan Council as an Emerging Suburban Edge Community.

Regional

Dayton is located northeast of Minneapolis off Interstate 94, which provides easy access to its recreational amenities to non-residents.

The Twin Cities metropolitan area has

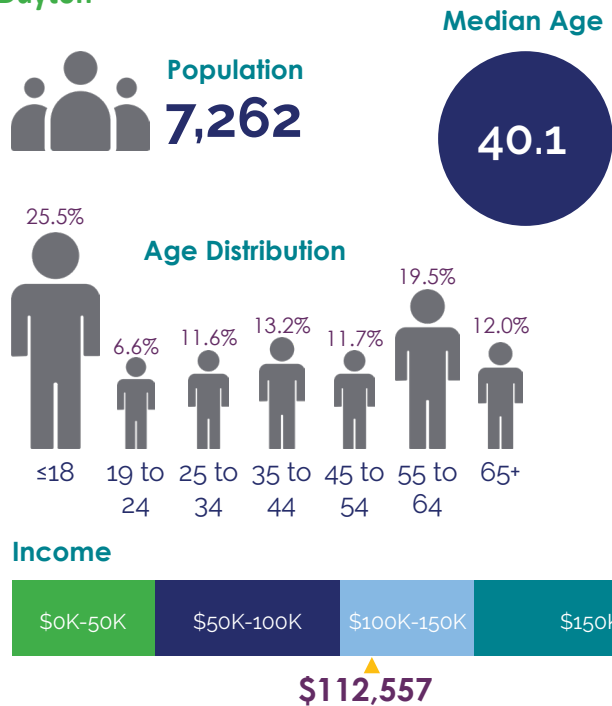
many qualities that encourage and support continual growth including its multi-modal transportation network, diversified economy, dynamic downtowns and suburbs, and ample recreational opportunities.

The Three Rivers Park District serves the suburban areas of the greater Minneapolis-Saint Paul Metropolitan Area. These include suburbs in Hennepin, Carver, Scott, and Ramsey Counties.

The District is named for the three main river watersheds in the region: the Mississippi, Minnesota, and Crow.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS

Dayton



2040 Population Estimates Provided by the Metropolitan Council

DAYTON

10,400

(+44.2%)

HENNEPIN COUNTY

1,541,985

(+16.9%)

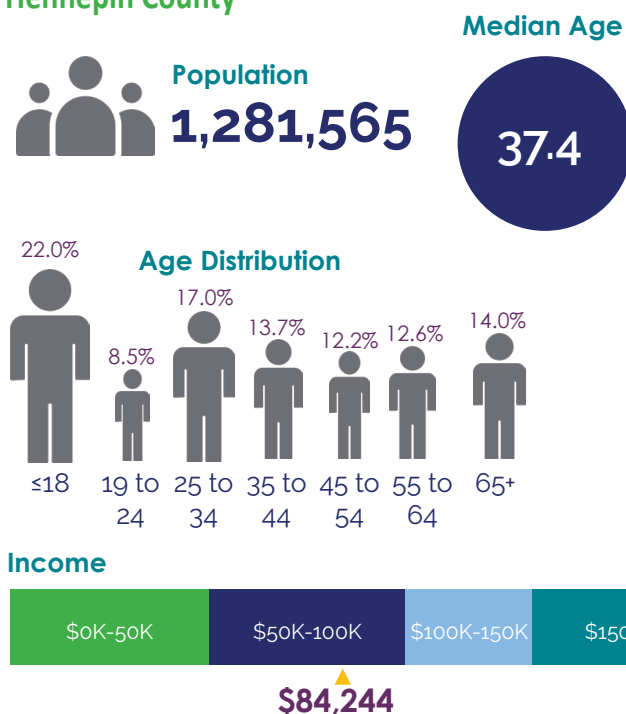
TWIN CITIES METRO

3,653,000

(+15.5%)

**Source: Metropolitan Council 2022 Forecasts and Minnesota State Demographic Center*

Hennepin County



Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Hennepin County is located in east-central Minnesota and is the state's most populous county with a population of 1,281,565 (2020 Census). It contains one of the two cities that make up the Twin Cities, Minneapolis. According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, the County's population is projected to grow by 16.9% by the year 2040, to a population of 1,541,985. Much of this population is expected to spread out to suburbs and smaller towns throughout Hennepin County, including Dayton and neighboring communities.

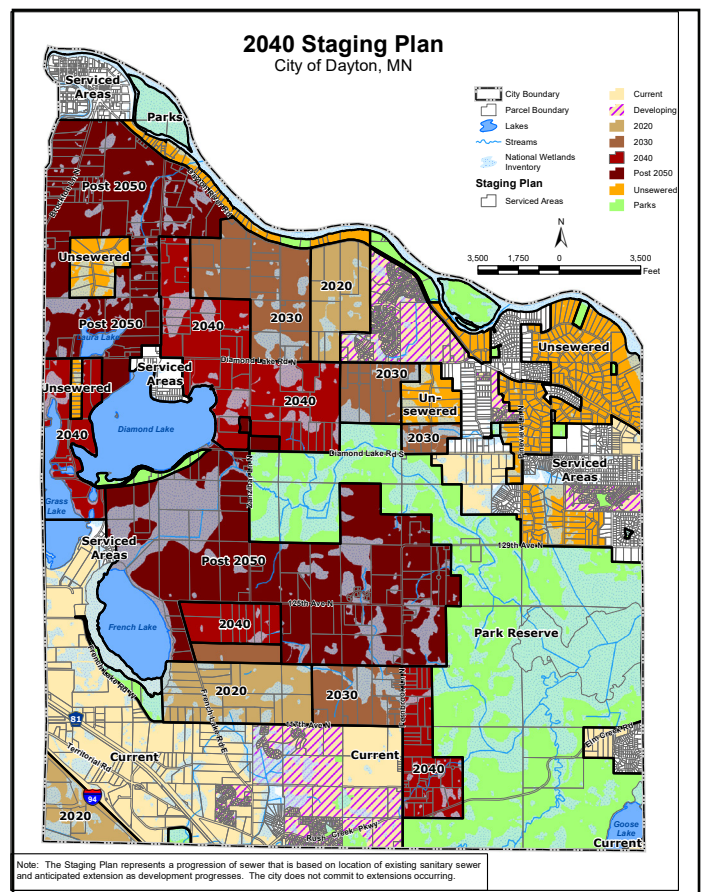
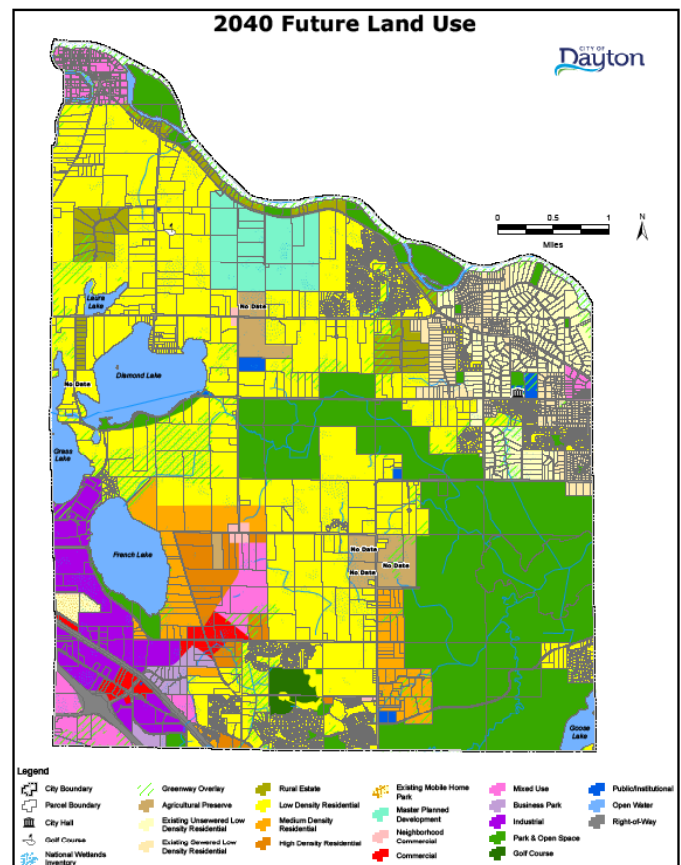
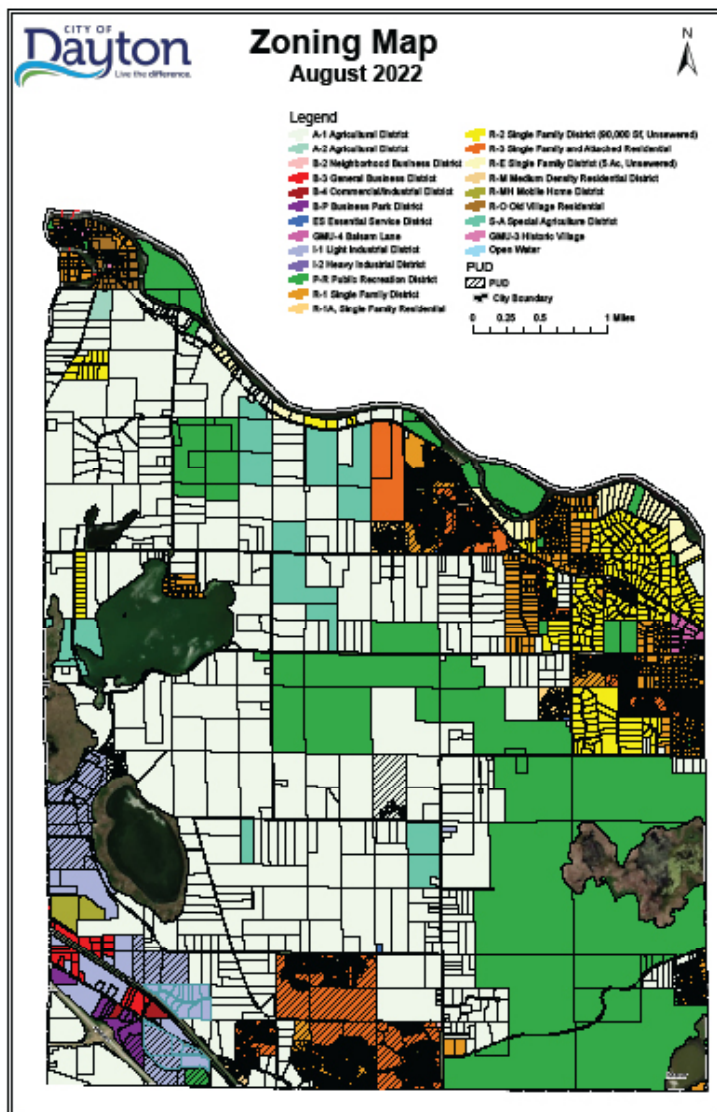
**Source: 2020 U.S. Census, 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates*

2.3 LAND USE

The City of Dayton Future Land Use map shows primarily residential and downtown mixed use uses along the Crow River, and downtown mixed use, park and open space, and low-density residential uses along the Mississippi River.

The parks and open space use along the Mississippi River is flood-prone and located within delineated wetlands within the National Wetland Inventory.

Current plans prioritize single-family residential use along most of the water trail, on lands currently zoned A-1. New development that includes recreation and tourism-oriented businesses along the river would require selective planning and zoning adjustments to enable those uses.



CHAPTER 3

Inventory & Analysis



3.1 NATURAL RESOURCES

Rivers

Dayton is bordered on the west by the Crow River, and on the north by the Mississippi River.

The confluence of the Crow and Mississippi Rivers is located at the northwest corner of Dayton directly off the old village downtown.

The Mississippi River is the second-longest river in North America, running from Lake Itasca in north-central Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. Within Minnesota, the river runs through 21 counties and multiple major cities, including St. Cloud, Minneapolis, and St. Paul.

The Crow River is a 25-mile-long tributary of the Mississippi River, flowing southeast from Lake Koronis until it enters the Mississippi in Dayton. Its course is used to define the boundary between Wright and Hennepin Counties.

Watersheds and Tributaries

Dayton sits on four subwatersheds:

- » Mississippi River
- » Crow River
- » Elm Creek
- » Diamond Creek

Dayton is part of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission. Dayton lands drain to the Mississippi River directly or via local tributaries, including the Crow River, Diamond Creek, Rush Creek and Elm Creek.



Lakes

The four largest lakes in Dayton are Diamond Lake, French Lake, Hayden Lake, and Lake Laura.

- » Diamond Lake is a 406-acre recreational lake entirely within the city, with approximately 4.5 miles of shoreline. It has a public boat landing on its southeast shore.
- » French Lake is a small lake adjacent to Brockton Ln N and is accessible from W and E French Lake Rd. There is a hunting boat launch on the eastern edge.
- » Hayden Lake is located within Elm Creek Park Reserve, a 4,900 acre natural area that spans Dayton, Maple Grove, and Champlin. It is surrounded by a wetland.
- » Lake Laura is located across N Diamond Lake Rd from Diamond Lake. It is primarily surrounded by private residential property.

3.2 INFRASTRUCTURE

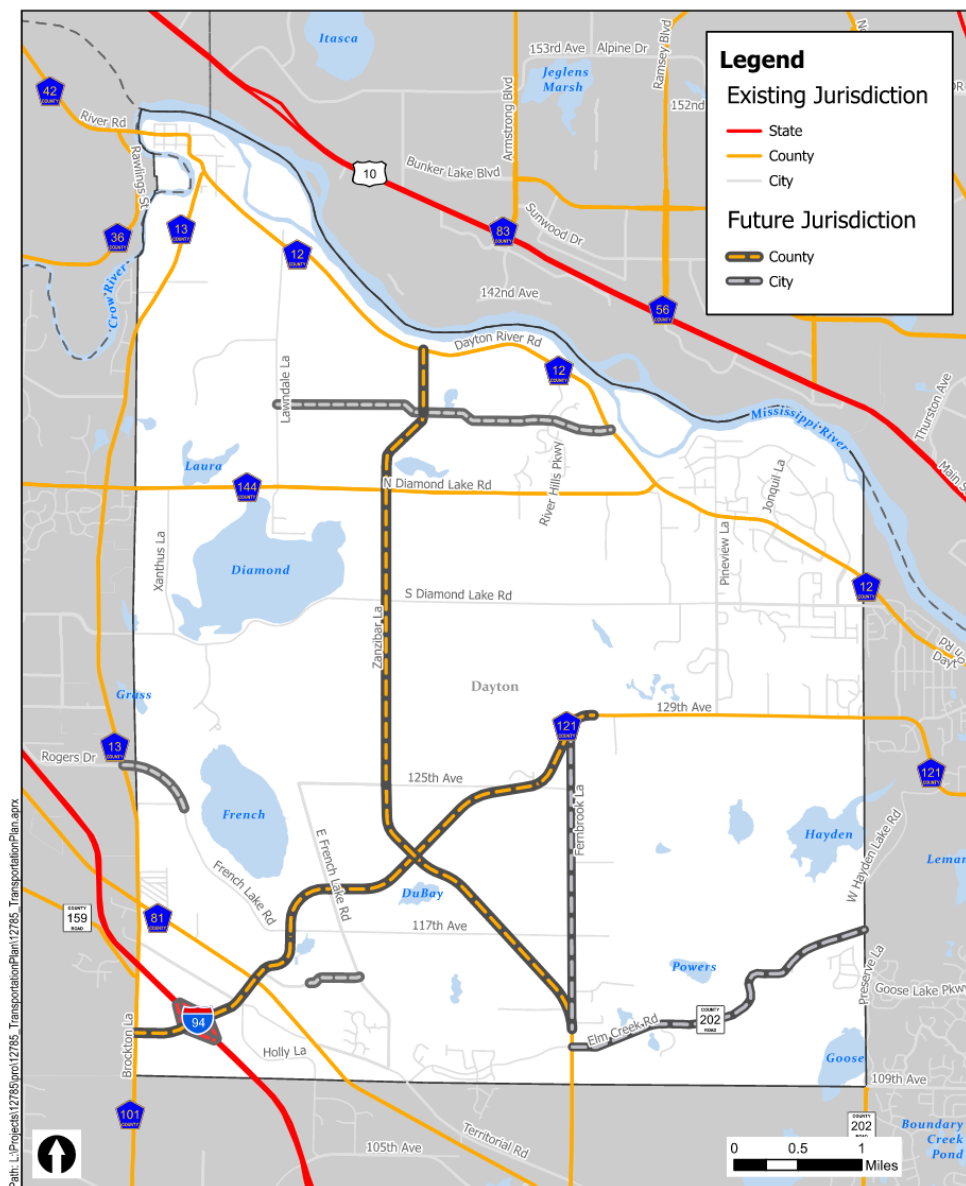
Roads and Highways

The on-road transportation infrastructure within the city of Dayton is a weakness that should be addressed when building out the Water Trail Plan.

County Highway 13 provides some access to the east side of the Crow River, and County Highway 12 (Dayton River Road) generally follows the Mississippi River. This is helpful in that county highways are often designed to handle higher traffic volumes than local roads; however, the county roads are 2-lane roads with few intersections. As such, there are few traffic calming measures that would encourage residents and visitors to slow down and visit local businesses.

Interstate 94 runs across a small portion of southwest Dayton. The highway is the primary way to travel between Minneapolis and Dayton. To reach downtown Dayton, one must exit the interstate and take County Highway 13.

Having so few local roads near the water trail could create an environment that is less hospitable to the development of small businesses that cater to water and land recreation participants. It also appears to limit access points to French Lake.



Future Jurisdiction System
Dayton Transportation Plan Update
City of Dayton

Figure 1B

Water Access

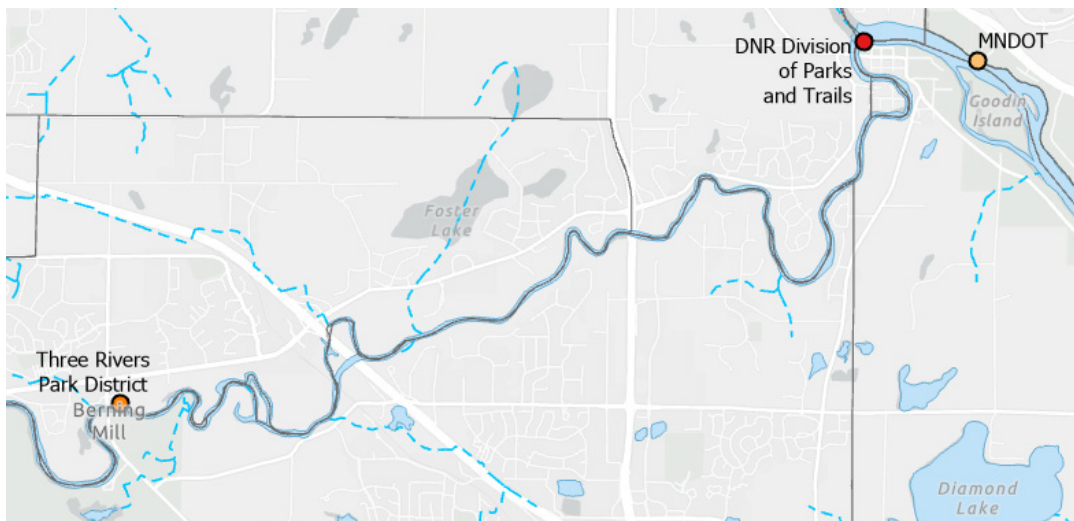
The map on the opposite page illustrates the boat launches within or near Dayton. Dayton currently has no water access points for launching or pulling out small, non-motorized craft on either river. There is a Department of Natural Resources motorized vehicle launch at the confluence of the Crow and Mississippi River in the northwest corner of the City. The closest carry-in access on the Crow River is located in the Crow-Hassen Park Reserve, run by Three Rivers Park District in Rogers. That access point is a 10-mile paddle to the Crow/Mississippi Confluence DNR motorized boat launch.

Mississippi River

There are three boat launches on the Mississippi River within or near Dayton's boundary. The Department of Natural Resources operates a motorized vehicle launch at the confluence of the Crow and Mississippi River in Dayton's northwest corner, this is the only Mississippi River access within the City limits of Dayton. Across the Mississippi River in Ramsey, there are two boat launches: one operated by Minnesota Department of Transportation just north of Goodin Island and one operated by Anoka County northwest of Foster Island. However, there are no non-motorized boat launches on the Dayton side of the Mississippi River.

Crow River

There are no boat launches on the Crow River within Dayton's boundary. The closest carry-in access on this river is located in the Crow-Hassen Park Reserve in Rogers, run by Three Rivers Park District (as shown in the map below). That access point is a 10 mile paddle to the Crow/Mississippi Confluence DNR motorized boat launch in Dayton.

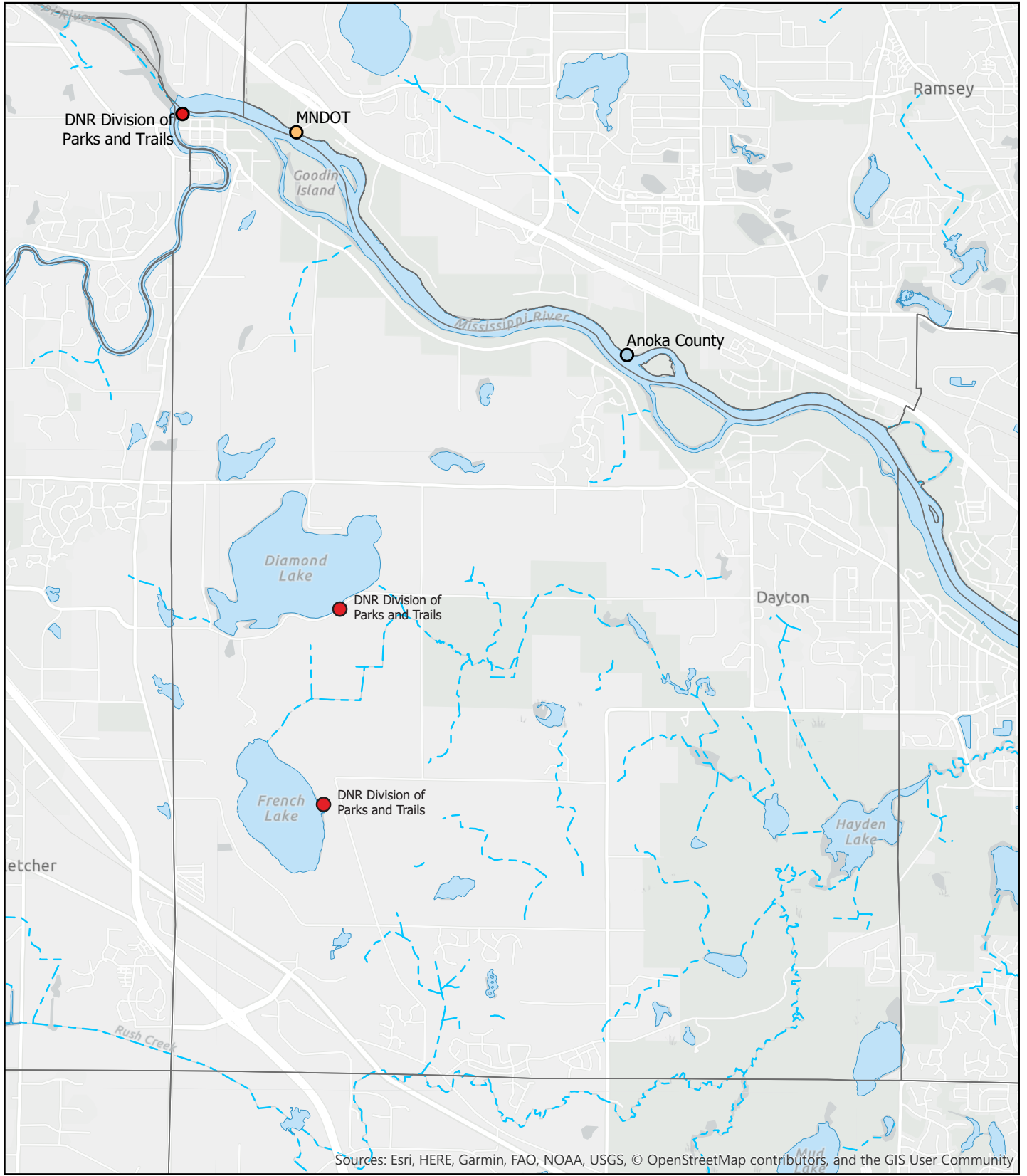


Diamond Lake

Diamond Lake has one boat launch that is operated by the DNR Division of Parks and Trails; it is located in the lake's southeastern corner. It was recently updated summer of 2022. This update expanded the parking at the launch site. This provides potential opportunity for paddlers though this is not a designated carry in access. The Diamond Lake regional trail expansion is planned to go along this launch.

French Lake

French Lake, located directly south of Diamond Lake, has a DNR Division of Parks and Trails-operated boat launch on its eastern edge. The boat launch is only open during hunting season and is not in great condition. Water quality is also an issue in French Lake.



3.3 RECREATION

Local Parks

- » Central Park & Brianna Scurry Park
- » Cloquet Overlook Park
- » Diamond Lakes Diamonds Park
- » Donahue Dells Park
- » Elsie Stephens Park
- » Goodin Park
- » Hayden Hills Park
- » Leathers Park
- » McNeil Park
- » Old Orchards Park
- » Riversbend Park
- » River Hills Park
- » Sue McClean Park
- » Sundance Woods Park
- » Wildwood Springs Park

Regional Parks

Elm Creek Park Reserve

Elm Creek Park Reserve is a 4,900-acre park located in southeast Dayton, as well as extending into Champlin and Maple Grove. The park is owned and operated by the Three Rivers Park District. It has picnic grounds, a creative play area, swimming pond, winter sports area, and an extensive shared-use trail system that provides views of the park's lakes, wetlands, and Elm and Rush Creeks. The park is also home to the Eastman Nature Center with indoor and outdoor facilities for education and passive recreation.

Mississippi River National River and Recreation Area

The section of the river bordering Dayton is part of a 72-mile stretch of the river protected and managed by the National Park Service.

The river segment bordering Dayton is also protected by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an Outstanding Resource Value Water.

Three Rivers Park District

The mission of the Three Rivers Park District is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. It serves millions of visitors annually across its 27,000 acres of parks and trails. For each site, the TRPD requires that a maximum of 20% of a park reserve be developed for active use, and at least 80% must be conserved and/or restored and maintained in a natural state.

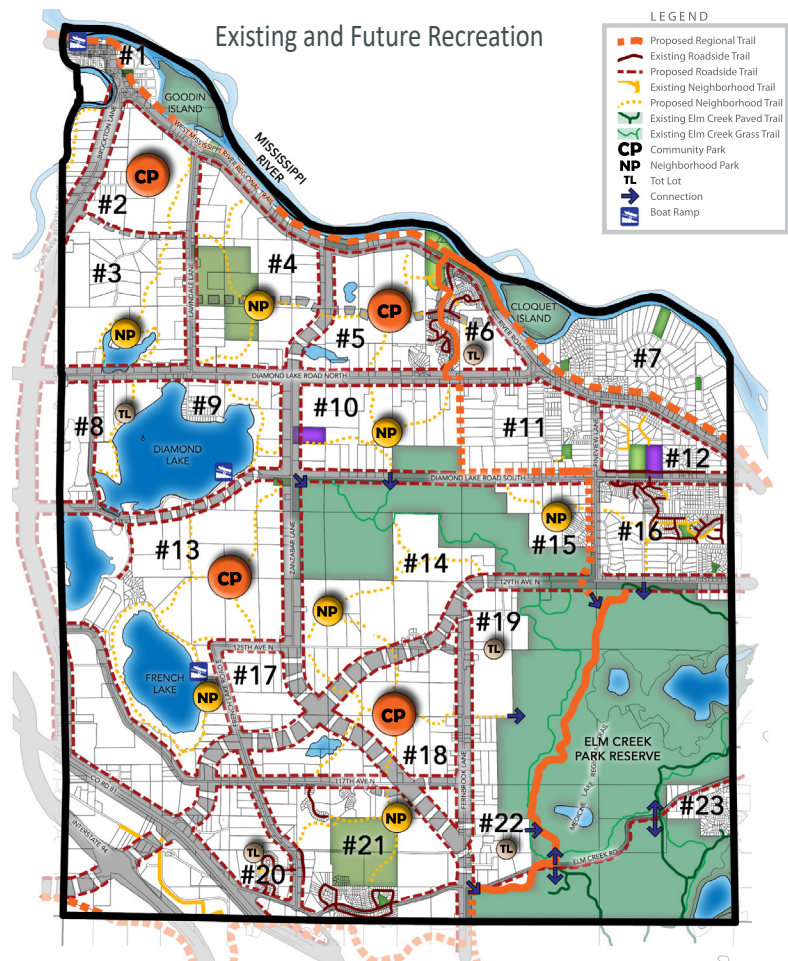
Trails

Dayton has several existing trails within the City which have been developed through recent residential developments. The City has approximately 18 miles of existing trails within City limits including trail networks throughout Elm Creek Park Reserve. There are four regional trail expansions planned in Dayton, The West Mississippi River Regional Trail, Crow River Regional Trail, Medicine Lake Regional Trail, and Diamond Lake Regional Trail. These planned regional trail connections

create immense opportunity for the City to capitalize on a peddle/paddle looping system of day long recreation trips. The City has a trail plan in its 2020 Comprehensive Plan. The map shows a regional trail along River Road with a connection to Elm Creek Park, as well as "roadside trails" that would presumably be separated sidepath trails. The Comprehensive Plan specifies that even though roadside trails are shown on both sides of the designated roads, it is possible that only one side will be built out in the future.

This trail plan is an aggressive but appropriate strategy for a community looking to capitalize on local outdoor recreation enthusiasm and recreation tourism. Wayfinding signage will be an important component.

The City will need to balance recreation infrastructure projects in the CIP to ensure that projects are built in a fiscally responsible manner and prioritize land and water connections to key destinations.



CHAPTER 4

Needs Assessment

4.1 EXISTING PLANS SUMMARY

Dayton, like many Metropolitan Council member cities, has many up-to-date plans to help guide development and decision-making.

Selections from each plan relevant to the feasibility of a water trail are summarized below.

2040 Comprehensive Plan

Chapter 3: Natural Resources

Goal 1: Preserve natural areas for multiple uses including wildlife habitat, lake and wetland restoration, fishing, parks, and other recreational uses.

Goal 2: Maintain Dayton as a “dark-sky” community (public and private property), minimizing unnecessary outdoor lighting through educational efforts and effective exterior lighting ordinances.

Goal 3: Conserve rural vistas, viewsheds, open spaces, wetlands and other environmental features, and reduce the impacts of future growth and development activities.

» *Policy 1:* Preserve, as undeveloped

open space the following environmental sensitive areas to the extent consistent with the reasonable utilization of land and in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

» *Policy 2:* Encourage development to be designed so as to preserve and be compatible with the important natural features of the site and minimize or avoid impact to high quality resources.

Goal 4: Continue to conserve greenways that link unique or ecologically significant natural areas.

» *Policy 1:* Review and amend our greenway corridor plan and subdivision ordinance to ensure that the ordinances purposefully protect resources that are otherwise unprotected from federal or state rules.

» *Policy 2:* Continue to follow the Greenway Corridor Plan that identifies key links and establish greenways that residents can utilize and enjoy as property is developed.

Goal 5: Utilize waterfront areas to make the best use of the land with the least impact to the natural state of the lakeshore, river, and stream banks, and critical areas to keep the land beautiful and natural for generations to come.

» *Policy 1:* Acquire any available lands (if financially practical) in the Mississippi River corridor or near lakes for preservation. Investigate the availability of grant funds to help with acquisition.

Chapter 7 Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Goal 1: Prioritize and budget the development of new parks serving growing areas and redevelopment of existing facilities to meet a variety of recreational demands.

» The implementation of a kayak rental facility

» Seek grant opportunities for park and trail development

2019-2020 Dayton City Council Strategic Plan

The City Council and Department Heads set a strategic plan in 2019. Two of the five strategic initiatives incorporate the river and this water trail planning process.

1. Maintain and Grow a Robust Park & Trail System
2. Enhance Our Connections to the Natural Environment

Figure 1.2. SWOT Analysis

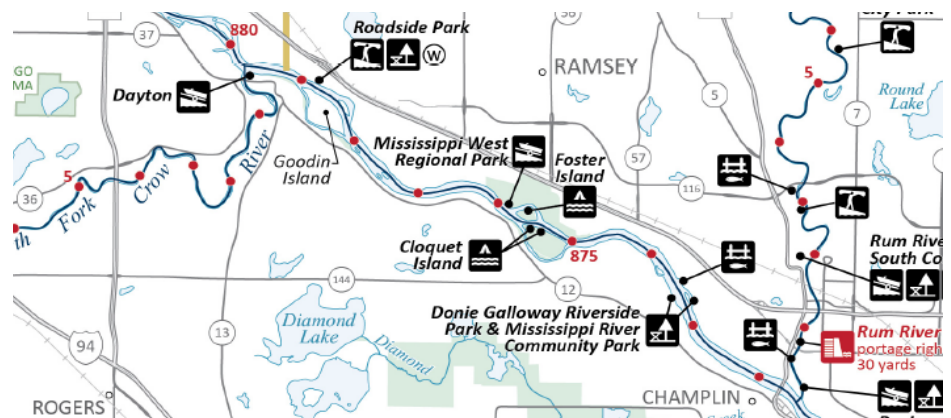
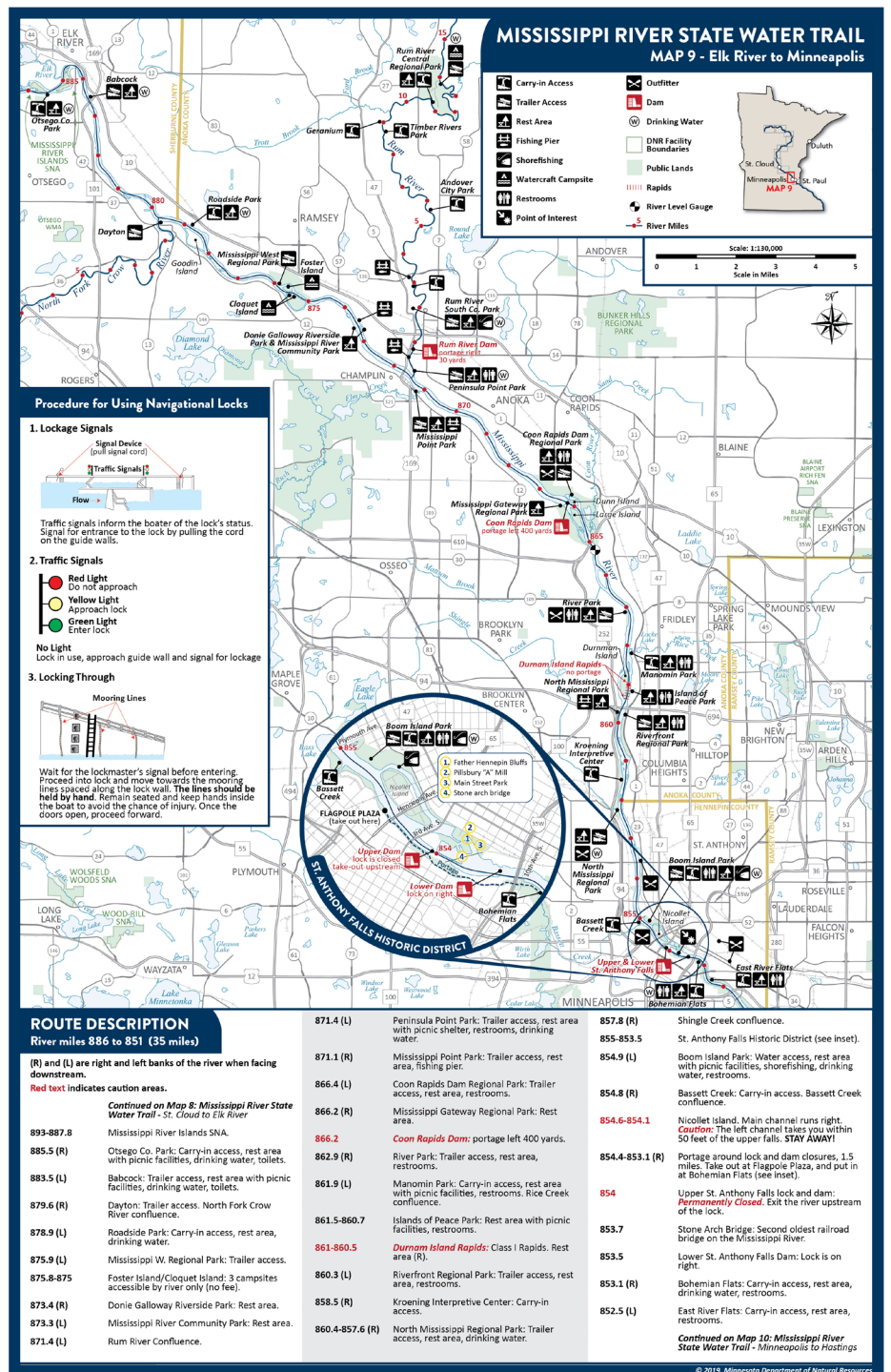
Strengths	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mississippi River and Crow River Elm Creek Park Reserve Natural amenities Mixture of high and low-density housing Friendly community/neighborhood feel Development Potential Proximity to Twin Cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor Planning Financial strain of high tax assessments Clear cutting land Opposition to change Staffing needs to maintain services Lack of connection Development/Community Character lack of balance
Weaknesses	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal infrastructure in place Lack of city services Cost of infrastructure to residents and businesses Lack of connectivity to parks Concern about police and fire Minimal commercial and professional services/employment High cost of housing High tax burden on residential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branding identity Expanding access to the river and giving people a reason to go and enjoy them Underdeveloped, open land area that is still convenient to the Metro. Outdoor recreational opportunities Dayton Pkwy Interchange, and open land near it Open space

Minnesota DNR Mississippi State Trail Plan

This section of the trail is part of the Segment 9 section of the Minnesota portion of the National Mississippi River Trail. Segment 9 runs from Elk River to the Twin Cities Metro. The DNR describes it as follows:

- » This stretch begins with rolling farmland that transitions to buildings and bridges as you near downtown Minneapolis. Many of the city's buildings are set high on bluffs with a natural strip of land along the river. Long ago, a series of seas helped form layers of limestone, sandstone and shale that the river flows through today. See these layers in the gorge from St. Anthony Falls to Fort Snelling. Hazards include snags, sweeps, boulders, small rapids and dams. Know which side to portage or lock through. Stay close to shore as you prepare to get out or enter a lock. Do not cross the river directly above dams. Watch for two locks at St. Anthony Falls and one at the Ford Dam above Fort Snelling. The current in this segment can be deceptively swift. Use caution when approaching shore. Motorboats and barges create large wakes that can swamp unsuspecting paddlers. The river is silty and, in places, contaminated. The water is undrinkable unless treated. Eating fish caught in this area of the river is not advised. Check with the Minnesota Department of Health Advisory for current recommendations.

While the riverbed and water are managed by the Minnesota DNR and it is part of a designated water trail, it is minimally designed and built-out. A key to creating a successful water trail is for local and regional organizations to work closely with the DNR to coordinate management and development of the water resources, access points, and land-based infrastructure.

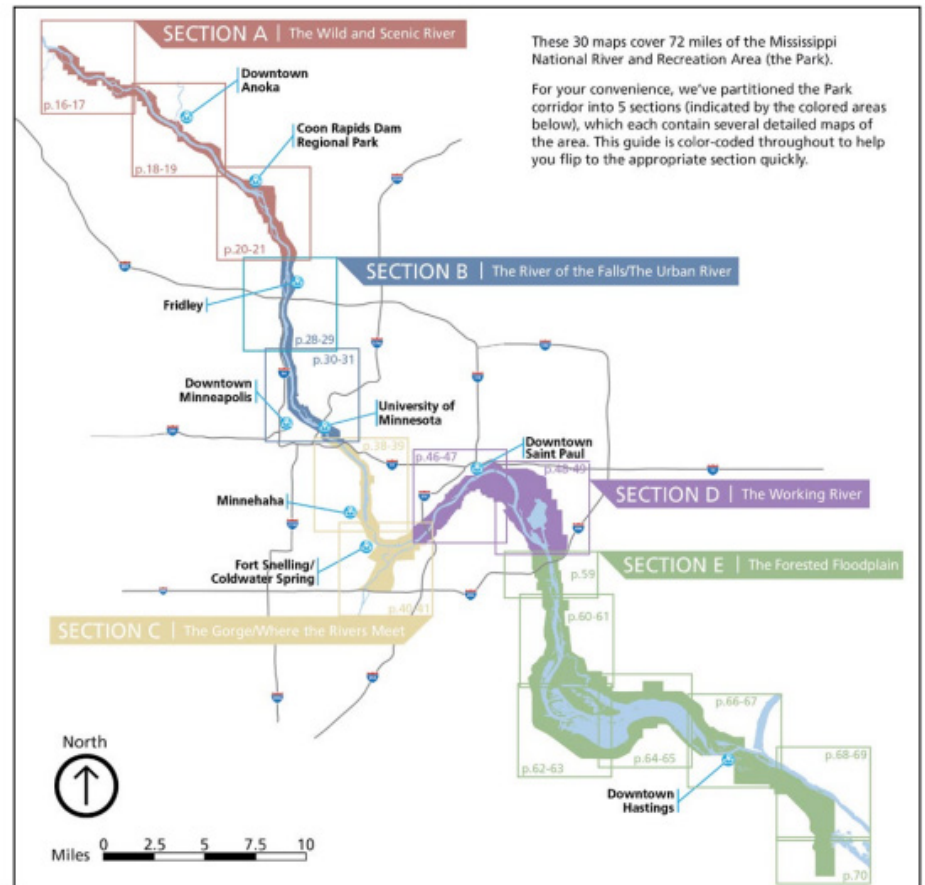


Mississippi National River and Recreation Water Trail Plan - National Parks Service

The U.S. Department of Interior established the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NRRRA) National Water Trail (NWT) in 2012 as the nation's second national water trail to encourage stewardship for, and recreational access to the 72-mile stretch of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities' metro area. The stretch starts at Dayton/Ramsey and goes all the way to Hastings and Prescott Wisconsin.

This plan classifies the stretch along Dayton as Wild and Scenic River. This stretch includes access in the cities of Dayton, Ramsey, Anoka, Champlin, Coon Rapids, Brooklyn Park, and Fridley.

The NPS is currently integrating the water trail into the park's alternative transportation and regional transportation systems to further increase park visitation and exploration without increasing congestion or surface parking. The goal is for visitors to be less reliant on cars and more able to seamlessly travel along the river by bike, canoe, or transit. These initiatives appear to align with those of the Dayton City Council in the strategic planning process.



NRRRA National River and Recreation Area River Sections



4.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder Focus Groups

In March and April 2022, the project team met with focus groups to discuss opportunities and concerns regarding Dayton's waterways. These focus groups gathered stakeholders with particular knowledge and/or interest in a water trail, including the Three Rivers Park District, City of Dayton staff and City Council, Dayton Economic Development Authority, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Friends of the Mississippi River and National Park Service.

Through these discussions, the project team gained a better understanding of the natural characteristics of Dayton's water bodies, as well as best practices for developing water trails based on regional precedents. Many group members identified the Mississippi River as a dynamic, fast-moving river that calms down around Dayton; the Crow River was described as a slow, shallow river that has not received much local traffic. The focus groups also called attention to the invasive weed issues at Diamond Lake and French Lake, which have previously been used for non-motorized boating and fishing. Based on this feedback, the project team narrowed down their focus for proposed access and connectivity to the rivers rather than the lakes. The locations along the Crow and Mississippi Rivers, including Elsie Stephens Park, and Goodin Park.

Project Website

In addition to the focus group interviews, the community engagement process also included a project website that presented water trail information, a project timeline, and why Dayton would benefit from this project. The website also included an annotated site observation map that recorded notable features, possible access points, and existing recreational amenities along Dayton's waterways.

Public Information Meeting

MSA facilitated a public information meeting to review existing resources and initial findings and discuss the proposed concepts for water access. Participants were asked to share their thoughts,

concerns, ideas, the current state of the waterways, strengths and weaknesses and a vision for the future.

Several prompt questions were asked to get the community thinking about what they envision for Dayton's waterways. When asked what one word they would use to describe the Dayton water trail today, the attendees' overwhelming response was optimistic for improving water access for residents and providing recreational tourism opportunities to the metro area.

When attendees were asked what the biggest strength of Dayton's waterways is, top responses included economic opportunity for tourism, eco-tourism and variety of recreational opportunities. When attendees were asked what the biggest weakness of Dayton's waterways is, top responses included water quality, connections to other natural resources, lack of a paddle sports store, depth: shallow, lack of accessible businesses and put in and take out points.

-When asked to provide ideas unrelated to a specific topic resident responses fell under four different categories: Marketing, Local Businesses, Accessibility, and Maintenance. The most popular responses under this category included signage, planned events, tourism-related businesses, and businesses a person can paddle up to. Additional responses included bank erosion, increasing parking availability, ADA accessibility, bike rental, etc.

4.3 SWOT ANALYSIS

Based on the inventory and analysis of Dayton's waterways and recreational amenities (Chapter 3), existing plans and stakeholder input, the following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats have been identified. This SWOT analysis was used to generate goals and recommendations in the next chapter.

STRENGTHS

Natural Resources and Recreational Opportunities

- » Free-flowing rivers with limited hazards provides increased opportunities for recreation on the rivers (e.g. kayaking, canoing, fishing).
- » Three Rivers Park District trails

planning connects people to the Mississippi River and offers opportunities for walking, biking and enjoyment of nature.

- » Public access allows residents and visitors to recreate on and near the Mississippi River.
- » Transect of both Rivers allows users to have a variety of experiences (Rivers run through developed areas and very rural areas).
- » Existing City park amenities along Mississippi River make it a desirable place to visit.
- » Paddling opportunities for all skill levels along the Rivers offer something for everyone.

WEAKNESSES

Recreational Limitations

- » Only launch within city limits is for motorized vehicles.
- » There are no public restrooms along the river corridor
- » Fluctuation in water level particularly in the spring
- » No access to the Crow River in Dayton City Limits

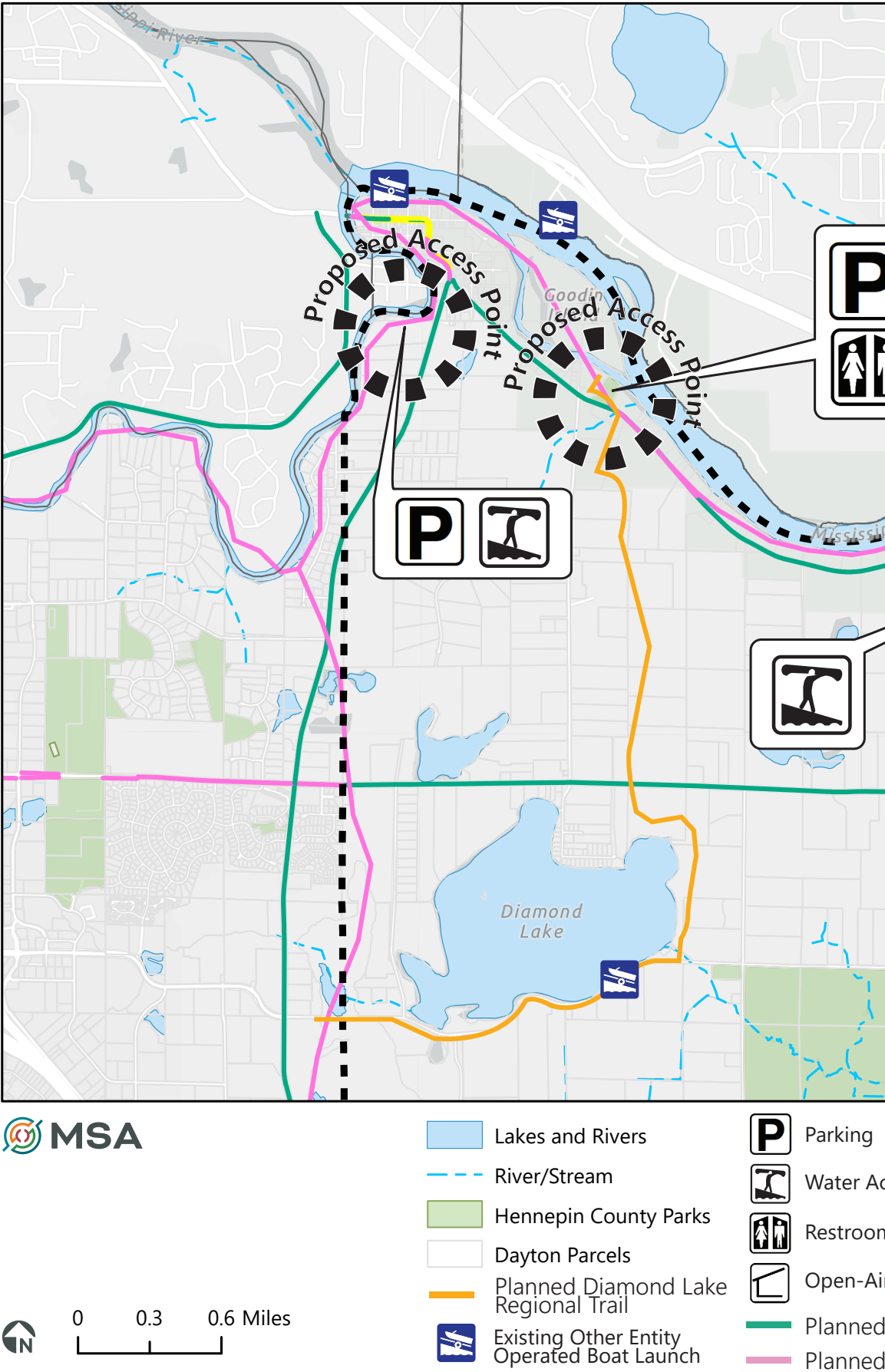
OPPORTUNITIES

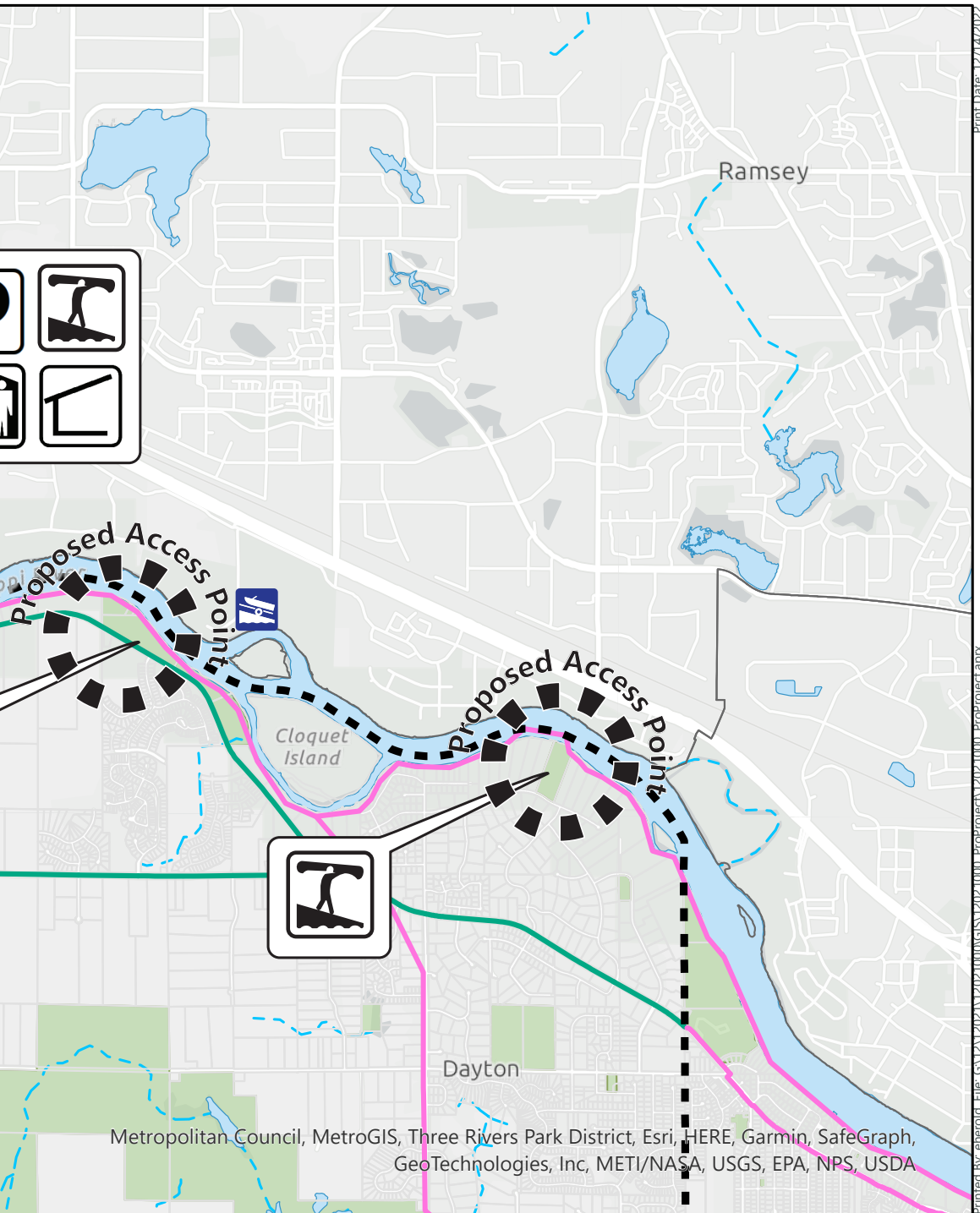
- » Three Rivers Park District trails planning connects people to the Crow and Mississippi River and offers opportunities for walking, biking and enjoyment of nature.
- » Partnership with National Parks Service.
- » Partnership with other communities and entities
- » New canoe/kayak launch along Crow River
- » New canoe/kayak launch along Mississippi River
- » There is no existing partnership between cities that are along the Mississippi and Crow Rivers for river recreation collaboration
- » Tourism could bring additional spending into the communities.

THREATS

- » User conflicts on the Rivers can be potentially dangerous and should be minimized.

4.4 PROPOSED ACCESS POINTS





Access (Carry In)

ns

r Shelter

On Street Trails

Off Street Trails

Inventory and Analysis Map

Water Trail Feasibility Study

City of Dayton
Hennepin County, MN

CHAPTER 5

Recommendations



5.1 GOALS

- 1** Make Dayton an attractive, accessible, and safe destination and increase its use by residents and visitors for water- and land-based recreation.
- 2** Improve the water quality of the rivers and lakes in Dayton.
- 3** Build and maintain partnerships to develop, implement, and champion improvements.
- 4** Increase tourism and economic development through recreational opportunities.

5.2 OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1

Make Dayton an attractive, accessible, and safe destination for use by residents and visitors for water- and land-based recreation.

- » Improve access for anglers, paddlers, tubers, birders, and families by developing ADA accessible water access points.
- » Create a system of accessible water access points to the parks and trails system throughout Dayton, and to the Mississippi River Regional Corridor.
- » Utilize local subdivision ordinances to require trail and/or sidewalks and connectivity to the citywide bicycle, pedestrian, and paddling system.
- » Create, adopt, and enforce planning and design guidelines for corridor improvements in conjunction with the Mississippi River Trail and other partners.

- » Work with Three Rivers Parks District to connect the water trail to existing land trails to provide multi-modal access to, from, and within the corridor.
- » Add amenities to the existing motorized boat launch at the Crow and Mississippi confluence launch including restroom facilities and paddler launch
- » Create new paddler launches that are easy to use, provide additional parking options, and are ADA compliant.
- » Ensure that each access point is equipped with adequate parking and staging areas.
- » Encourage Hennepin County to apply for the County Boat and Water Safety Grant through MNDNR and hold a river safety event in Dayton.

Goal 2

Improve the water quality of the rivers and lakes in Dayton.

- » Promote river cleanup activities and events that capture and foster volunteerism.

- » Utilize existing community-wide events and incorporate water quality and cleanup efforts in the festivities.
- » Provide and maintain adequate trash and recycling receptacles at water access points and throughout the park system.
- » Coordinate with the Minnesota DNR on water quality monitoring and shoreline improvements.
- » Promote sustainable landscaping practices on public and private land to increase infiltration and decrease runoff.

Goal 3

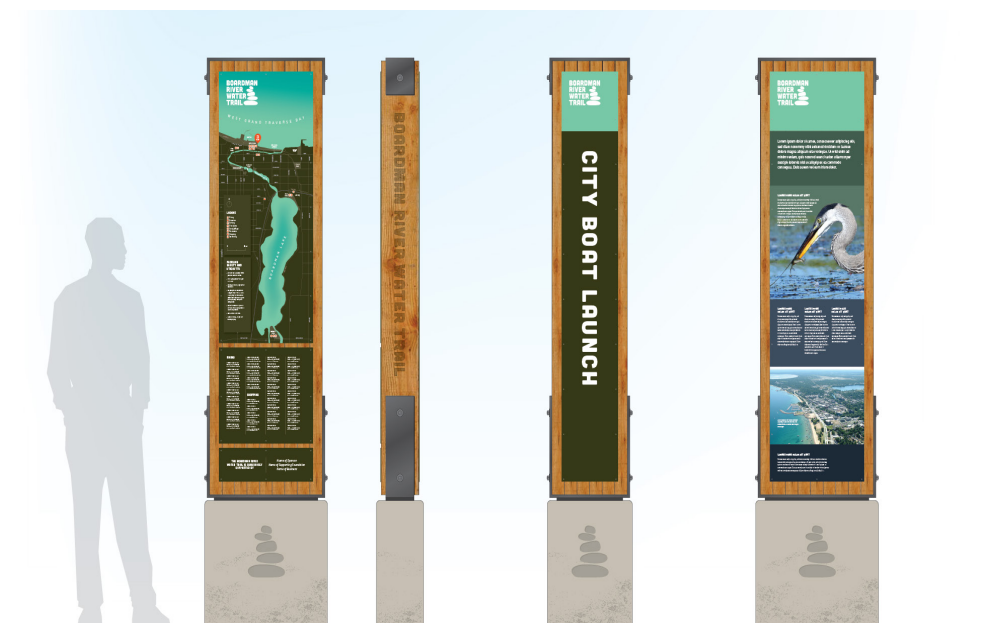
Build and maintain partnerships to develop, implement, and champion improvements.

- » Build a River Partnership and/or Water Resources Partnership that includes all regional stakeholders.
- » Engage local, county, and state law enforcement to identify protocol on public safety within the corridor.
- » Investigate opportunities for educational and exploratory programming to develop curriculum that focuses on the ecological diversity of the area, and the potential to create outdoor classrooms and monitoring stations.
- » Work with business owners and develop public-private partnerships to provide a variety of support facilities and amenities such as livery and rental services.
- » Reserve one or multiple seats on local boards and commissions for partner organization representatives.
- » Continue to actively participate in regional planning and operations efforts, such as the Three Rivers Park District.
- » Work with Mississippi Park Connection, and the National Parks Service to extend the Paddle Share program to start in Dayton when river access is established.
- » Organize river cleanup days with surrounding communities and entities
- » Work with private property owners along the Crow River to acquire land for recreation access to the Crow.

Goal 4

Increase tourism and economic development through recreational opportunities.

- » Design future land use patterns with consideration for tourism-based commercial opportunities near land- and water-based recreational opportunities previously identified.
 - ◇ Elsie Stephens Park
 - ◇ Crow/Mississippi Confluence DNR Launch
 - ◇ Goodin Park
- » Engage in branding, collateral, public relations, business development, and outreach.
 - ◇ Create a brand strategy and communication system coordinated with the Mississippi River Trail (NPS) and other partners.
 - ◇ Develop promotional materials (e.g. logo/mark, slogan, imagery, etc. to be used by the City of Dayton and other partners)
 - ◇ Develop a design standards package and plans for identification, wayfinding, mapping, and educational signage incorporating the DNR's design standards and collaborating with the National Parks Service.
- » Install a unified, branded comprehensive wayfinding system throughout the parks and water trails system.
- » Incorporate the usage of a water trail app or specific webpage with river access locations, trip planner, real time water levels, safety information etc.
- » Incorporate any new river access and amenities into the National Parks Service River Trip Planner web app.
- » Engage with local businesses to develop paddle-up restaurants and/or concession services along the water trail.
- » Work with tourism agencies such as Explore Minnesota to advertise new attractions as they are developed
- » Create a Paddle Share program like that of the National Park Services that is run by the City and provides access starting on the Crow River and ending at a Mississippi River access point.



Example Signage

RURAL & SUBURBAN RECREATION TOURISM

A shining example of rural recreation-based economic development in the Midwest is along a shared-use trail that connects the urban Des Moines Metro area with rural Iowa.



The High Trestle Trail is a 25+ mile rail-trail that has become a nationally known tourism destination due to its distinctive bridge. It is part of the Central Iowa Trails system.

Local small businesses that cater to trail users have popped up in urban and rural areas, including breweries, restaurants, hospitality, and equipment rental services.



New and existing local businesses embraced trail users, and have championed additional connections to the trail to guide visitors throughout the rural community.

5.3 OVERALL IMPLEMENTATION

Public Policy Improvements

To ensure that improvements and policies are made which continue to advance the Dayton Water Trail and build upon the Plan, it is recommended that a River Partnership be created to include all municipalities adjacent to the River. Once the partnership has been established, the general goals contained within this section (5.3) should be delegated to specific entities to carry-out. A coordinator should also be designated so there is one person ensuring the project stays on track and continues moving forward.

Dayton Water Trail

- » Adopt and maintain the Dayton Water Trail Plan, and review, amend and update as projects get implemented.
- » Review existing codes and processes, modify these documents to align with the goals, objectives and strategies.

Additional Studies

- » Amend Chapter 7 Parks Recreation and Open Space of the Comprehensive Plan to incorporate goals and objectives for water trail access and use.
- » Include proposed concepts for water access and locations in Chapter 7 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- » Create a recreational master plan that includes all City amenities, Three Rivers Park District and proposed trail, park, and water trail projects and improvements.
- » Complete a more detailed analysis of cultural/ historical resources for storytelling and education opportunities within the river corridors with partners.
- » Inventory associated parking needs when developing launch sites.

General Funding

- » Investigate funding opportunities for planning, design and construction of future improvements.
- » Establish corporate and individual donation program.
- » Incorporate water trail and access point projects into the annual Capital Improvement Project Plan that aligns with partners and all sources of revenue.
- » Identify local businesses for support, sponsorship and volunteer efforts

Best Management Practices

- » Implement additional stormwater management techniques to improve non-point runoff.
- » Work with property owners to increase native vegetation along the River to improve water quality and decrease erosion.
- » Use best management practices to filter stormwater before it reaches the River.

INSPIRATION



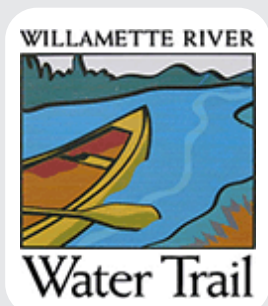
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<https://www.tnriverline.org/>



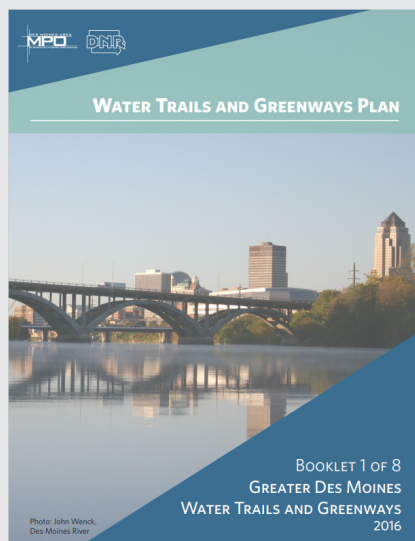
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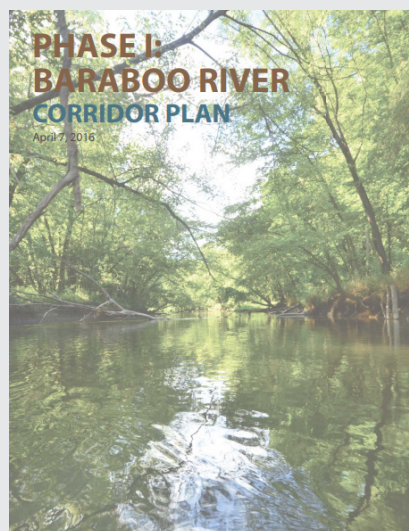
<https://willamettewatertrail.org/>



<https://mississippiriverwatertrail.org/about/>



<https://dmampo.org/water-trails/>



<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/cpz/baraboo-river-corridor-plan>



<https://rockrivertrail.com/water-trail/>

PROJECT AWARE

Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition) is Iowa's largest river cleanup event.



It is an annual volunteer-led event that educates participants while promoting improved water quality and ecological health in Iowa's navigable waterways.



Since 2003, Project AWARE has:

- Activated more than **5,900 volunteers** from across the US
- Cleaned up nearly **1,400 river miles**
- Removed nearly **1 million pounds of trash** (77% of which has been recycled)
- Inspired and/or advised **50 additional cleanup events**

<https://www.iowaprojectaware.org/who-we-are/>

5.4 FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

Maintenance and operational expenses of Dayton's Parks and Open Space system is generally funded through property taxes and user fees. As the park systems within Dayton grow, the need to increase funding to meet the basic maintenance and operational costs also grows. Often there are insufficient funds to undertake major capital improvement projects. There are a wide variety of potential funding sources to assist with up-front capital costs, including acquisition of land and the development of new recreational facilities.

GRANT PROGRAMS

An important source of funding is grant programs offered by state and federal agencies. Table 5.1 provides a summary of common state and federal park and recreation grant programs. The table is not an exhaustive list of grant programs, rather those that are typically used by municipalities. Other grant programs may exist and information regarding funding details shown in Table 5.1 should be verified with grant providers prior to seeking grant funding.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING & VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Community groups and civic organizations are sometimes willing to organize fundraising efforts to assist with these costs, and they may also be able to marshal volunteer labor to assist with small development projects such as trail creation or playground installations. Local business and corporate support should also be sought. Both non-profit and for-profit organizations can be rewarded for their support with acknowledgment on a plaque or sign at the site.

501(c)3 FOUNDATION

The City can set up an endowment fund as an additional means of providing continual financial support for park acquisition and development. An endowment fund works like a permanent savings account. The amount individuals give, which is the principal, is never spent. Only the interest income is spent, thereby providing a continual source of monies. A park endowment fund can provide a means for residents to either bequeath money or provide ongoing donations to the City's park system, with the certainty that the money donated will only be used for the advancement of recreation in the community. Gifts to an endowment fund are typically tax deductible under federal and state law.

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Club Fostered Stewardship Grant American Canoe Association/L.L. Bean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improving access for local paddlers •Establishing water trails •Monitoring water quality •Removing environmentally-sensitive woody debris •Restoring and improving riparian buffer •Environmental education and outreach programs 	March Annually	\$100-\$1,000	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Eligible organizations include canoe clubs and conservation organizations. •Applications that outline how funding will be acknowledged (i.e., press releases; websites and social media sites; newsletters; using the ACA/ L.L. Bean logo on advertisements, signage, printed materials, etc.) have an increased chance of being funded. •Website: http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=LLBean_CFS_Grant
Five Star Restoration Grants National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ecological improvements including: wetland, riparian, forest and coastal habitat restoration •Wildlife conservation •Enhancing community tree canopy •Water quality monitoring and storm water management •Targeted community outreach, education and stewardship 	Annually in February	•\$20,000 to \$50,000 (average \$30,000)	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Geographic focus depends on funding available from the funding partners. •Website: http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/2016RFP.aspx
Tourism Marketing Grant Minnesota Department of Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provides in-state or out-of-state targeted general consumer marketing, tactics and services 	Annually December		1:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reimburses Minnesota non-profit organizations for qualified advertising costs to make a promotion or event come to fruition. •Must utilize explore Minnesota Tag and logo in promotional materials.

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Public Water Access Sites - Partnership Funding MNDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Acquisition, development and/ or improvement of public carry-in and trailer boat access sites including parking lots, docks, launching ramps and state water trail campsites, rest areas and portages. 	On-going	\$100-\$1,000	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This partnership program provides financial and technical assistance for eligible public water access and state water trail projects. •Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/water_rec.html
Outdoor Recreation Grant Program MNDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Outdoor Recreation Grant Program provides matching grants to local units of government for up to 50% of the cost of acquisition, development and/ or redevelopment of local parks and recreation areas. •Boat and Canoe Launch • Regional Parks are not eligible 	Annually in March	•50% of total project costs maximum of \$350,000	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A majority of the review and selection process will focus on guidelines outlined in the 2020-2024 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. •https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/outdoor_rec.html
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program National Parks Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supports locally-led outdoor recreation projects across. NPS-RTCA assists communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities 	Annually December	Cover up to 100,000 of the cost	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •For connection to the National Water Trail.

Funding Program & Agency	Eligible Activities	Application Deadline	Grant Award Limit	Local Match Required	Additional Comments
Local Trails Connections Program MNDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Eligible projects include acquisition and development of trail facilities. Projects must result in a trail linkage that is immediately available for use by the general public. 	Annually March	\$5,000-\$250,000	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Grants are reimbursement based up to 75 percent of the total eligible project costs •Priority for trail project funding will be given to projects that provide significant connectivity. Considerations also include trail length, expected amount and type of use, and quality and attractiveness of natural and cultural resources.
Natural and Scenic Areas Grant MNDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To protect and enhance natural and scenic areas •Strategic land acquisition for the natural protection of land and resources 	Annually in March	50% of total project costs maximum of \$500,000	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A majority of the review and selection process will focus on guidelines outlined in the 2020-2024 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. •https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/land/natural-scenic-app-cycle.html
Federal Recreation Trail Program MNDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •non-motorized trail project, maintenance of existing trails, development of recreational trail linkages, educational programs relating to use of trails 	Annually February 2022	\$2,500 to \$150,000	25% cash match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Projects that involve urban youth corps workers such as Conservation Corps will be given special consideration

Appendix A

Concepts and Cost Estimates

Appendix B

Base Map Book