



Operations & Maintenance Plan

Three Rivers Park District will operate the Baker/Carver Regional Trail using a wide variety of professional staff and in accordance with Park District policies, guidelines, and ordinances. The ordinances define the rules and regulations to provide for the safe and peaceful use of the parks and corresponding facilities; for the educational and recreational benefits and enjoyment 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 current Park District ordinances define regional trail hours as 5 AM to 10 PM.

The Park District's present policy provides for the operation and maintenance of regional trails from April 1 to November 14. As such, the Park District is not anticipating plowing or otherwise maintaining the Baker/Carver Regional Trail during the winter season. Local communities may elect to operate and maintain the regional trail segment during winter months with a winter use permit. The Park District may revise this policy at a future date and elect to operate and maintain the trail year-round.

Regional trail staffing levels fluctuate to account for seasonal use patterns, maintenance requirements, and available funding.

Public Safety

Three Rivers Park District Public Safety Department is the law enforcement agency responsible for providing a safe environment for regional trail users. Public Safety officers strive to provide an excellent experience for our visitors by protecting the facilities, trails, and natural resources of the Park District. The main goal of Public Safety is to educate park guests on the use of the parks and the Three Rivers Park District Ordinances and state statutes.

The Public Safety Department is a full-service POST-recognized law enforcement agency comprised of command staff, administrative staff, Park Police Officers, and campground and large event security.

The Public Safety Section is further supported by a volunteer Trail Patrol program and the statewide mutual aid program which facilitates the sharing of public safety resources in times of emergency or other unusual conditions. This program serves to facilitate assistance from surrounding police agencies.

Patrol Plan

Public Safety Officers and volunteers will patrol the Baker/Carver Regional Trail utilizing a variety of specialized patrol methods. Patrol frequencies will be adjusted as necessary to account for trail use, incident level, other concerns which may arise, and available funding. In addition to routine patrol, Park District Public Safety Officers may be dispatched through the Hennepin County Dispatch System to respond to incidences as they occur.

Public Safety Staffing

Due to the creative deployment of existing Park Police Officers, utilization of seasonal staff, statewide mutual aid program, and a successful Trail Patrol volunteer program, no additional full-time Public Safety positions are anticipated to serve the Baker/Carver Regional Trail. As such, no additional operational funds are needed to provide public safety services along the Regional Trail.

Natural & Cultural Resources

The Natural Resource Department is responsible for restoring and protecting natural resources such as native plant communities, wildlife diversity and water quality on Park District property. The Natural Resources Department is comprised of Forestry Management, Wildlife Management and Water Resources Management. The Cultural Resource Section is responsible for identification, evaluation, protection, restoration, and interpretation of cultural resources on Park District property.

Resource Protection Plan

Baker/Carver Regional Trail is routed in a manner to maximize the access and enjoyment of remaining natural resources corridors and areas of cultural significance through western Hennepin County. The Park District will operate and maintain the regional trail corridor to highlight and not negatively affect the adjacent natural and cultural resources.

In recognition of the natural and culturally interesting areas that the regional trail passes through or adjacent to, the Park District will utilize best management practices to minimize

any potential impacts on those resources, work with adjacent property owners on how to best protect and manage significant resources, and incorporate opportunities to enjoy and interpret the resources.

In the event the Park District acquires additional property along the regional trail which encompasses significant natural or cultural resources, the Park District will develop a stewardship plan specific to that resource and in accordance with other Park District natural and cultural resource management plans.

Potential natural or cultural resource impacts as a result of trail design and construction are addressed in Section IV, Trail Route Description and Development Concept and Section V, Design Guidance.

Resource Staffing

Approximately a third of the Baker/Carver Regional Trail is routed through existing parkland that is currently already receiving natural and cultural resource management. The width of the remaining trail corridor will vary from as little as 16 feet wide to possibly several hundred feet wide; however, it is anticipated that the majority of the trail corridor will be narrower with limited natural and cultural resources. Areas of significant width will be more of the exception than the rule and directly relate to the resource value, direct and indirect costs, recreation benefit, willingness of the property owner, and support of the local municipality. To account for minimal resource management along the trail corridor, additional seasonal or contract staffing such as Conservation Corps Minnesota is anticipated at an annual expense of \$5,000 (2014 dollars).

Maintenance

The Park District Maintenance Department is responsible to maintain parks and trails in a safe, clean, and usable manner. The Maintenance Department provides both typical, routine maintenance such as mowing, sweeping, and trash clean-up as well as specialized maintenance such as small building construction, non-paved trail repair, and grooming.

The Maintenance Department is comprised of a wide variety of highly skilled and trained maintenance professionals including carpenters, mechanics, park workers, and electricians complemented by seasonal staff.

Maintenance Plan

Maintenance operations will include seasonal condition assessments and periodic inspections, followed by necessary maintenance actions. Inspections will address possible safety issues, vandalism and non-routine maintenance concerns. The Park District will also respond to maintenance issues identified by the public on a timely basis as funding permits. Extraordinary maintenance occurs in response to storm damage, vandalism or other unplanned circumstances.

Routine maintenance is outlined below.

April and May: Sign inventory and replacement, spring cleanup, minor bridge and underpass repair, as needed.

June, July, August and September: Erosion repair, fence repair, sign and post replacement, trash pickup, bridge and boardwalk repair (as needed).

October and November: Bituminous patching and striping replacement, as needed.

Throughout the season and/or in response to storm-related damage: Mowing, periodic trail sweeping, trash pick-up, general clean-up, and similar tasks.

Maintenance of regional trail segments with limited property rights or segments that do not meet standard regional trail characteristics may require atypical maintenance.

The majority of the equipment necessary to provide routine maintenance of the Baker/Carver Regional Trail will be shared with the Baker and Carver Work Clusters. Some tools and equipment specific to this regional trail may be needed to adequately and efficiently maintain the regional trail. A onetime expense of \$100,000 (2014 dollars) is anticipated to cover the cost of additional maintenance

equipment which may include an additional vehicle, mower, trailer, electric utility cart, tool cat and implements, and miscellaneous hand and power tools.

Specialized maintenance is outlined below.

Preventative Surface Treatment: Baker/Carver Regional Trail will receive scheduled striping, seal coating and redevelopment under the Park District's pavement management program and in accordance with Park District standards and as funding permits. Pavement management is a systematic method for tracking and addressing pavement conditions at a District-wide level. The Park District will also seek opportunities to work with Hennepin County and local cities in conjunction with road projects to improve trail design and surfacing.

Trail/Bridge Inspection and Maintenance: Trails are inspected annually in the spring as part of the pre-season maintenance program and are then inspected periodically by Park District maintenance staff as part of ongoing operations. Minor trail repair is handled on a timely basis, and probable major repair needs are evaluated and recommended to Park District management for planning or engineering review. Major trail rehabilitation projects are submitted to the Park District Board of Commissioners for funding as part of the annual operating budget, preservation and rehabilitation program, or capital improvement program.

The ownership and maintenance responsibilities associated with new pedestrian bridges constructed as part of the Baker/Carver Regional Trail will be determined when the bridges move into the design development phase.

Bridges owned by MnDOT are the responsibility of MnDOT. The Park District only maintains the trail use of said bridges and underpasses. Maintenance includes sweeping, cleaning and painting as necessary.

Noxious Weed Management: The Park District mechanically or chemically removes noxious weeds within the defined trail corridor at the request of cities.

Edge/Trail Shoulder Vegetation Management: The Park District will maintain vegetative clearances so as not to negatively affect trail use on any sections where trail shoulder vegetation exists.

Regional Trail Maintenance Staffing

The Baker/Carver Regional Trail will be primarily maintained by the Baker and Carver Work Clusters which provide maintenance services to four park reserves, two regional parks (one undeveloped), three special recreation facilities (one undeveloped), three regional trails, and the Lake Minnetonka Islands. The inclusion of the regional trail will add an additional 11.35 miles (5.69 miles already existing/maintained) of regional trail maintenance responsibilities. These Work Clusters will be further impacted by the future development of Lake Sarah Regional Park and Kingswood Special Recreation Feature. In consideration of the future increased responsibilities within these Work Clusters, an additional 0.5 FTE maintenance position is needed to provide regional trail maintenance in accordance with current Park District regional trail maintenance practices and procedures.

At the time the Baker/Carver Regional Trail is complete, routine maintenance operation costs including additional staffing are estimated to increase by \$26,500/year in 2014 dollars. Additional costs for trail surface preservation and rehabilitation (trail surface repairs, striping requirements, and pavement requirements) are anticipated to increase by \$33,000/year assuming a 30-year pavement life. The combined annual maintenance operation estimated cost for both route and trail surface preventative maintenance is \$59,500/year. This equates to an estimated \$0.37/trail visit. These costs will be included in the Park District's annual Asset Management Program.

In the event, the development of rain gardens, best management practices, or other mitigation requirements require ongoing maintenance,

additional seasonal staffing may be required to complete the work. If necessary, seasonal staffing budgets will be developed and evaluated during the design development phase.

General Operation Considerations

Sustainability

The Park District's 2012 Sustainability Plan guides the Park District's efforts toward achieving established sustainability goals and targets by outlining broad strategies for organizational implementation.

The following goals provide broad guidance and intent to Park District sustainability efforts:

- Manage and operate District parklands and facilities in a manner that ensures ecologic, financial and social integrity of the park system in perpetuity.
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels to minimize green house gas (GHG) emissions and reduce public expenditures.
- Reduce the amount of waste sent to the incinerator and landfill to minimize costs and GHG emissions.
- Preserve groundwater supplies in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to ensure that current and future water needs can be met.
- Reduce Park District environmental impacts to demonstrate (or model) organizational commitment to environmental stewardship.
- Provide opportunities for public education and involvement in Park District sustainability initiatives.
- Design parks and trails that maximize the ability of the public to use non-motorized transportation.

To move towards sustainability targets for GHG emissions, waste, and groundwater consumption reduction for the years 2015, 2025, and 2050, the Park District will focus on the following areas of implementation: facility systems, vehicles/equipment and fuel use, waste management, groundwater conservation, sustainable work

practices, public education and advocacy and system planning and development.

The Park District strives to utilize appropriate sustainable best management practices and guidelines such as the Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines (B3 Project) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Development (LEED) Rating System on construction projects.

Public Awareness

The Park District's Marketing Communications Department manages a centralized marketing communications function that oversees public relations, marketing, media relations, the website, brand management, event planning and promotion. A number of effective marketing and outreach tools are used to promote the Park District, including but not limited to an annual distribution of District-wide map, the website, direct mail, press releases, centralized reservation system, feedback phone line, brochures, ads and on-site promotion.

The Park District collaborates with a wide array of community, business and government organizations to promote its facilities, programs and services, and to educate the public about its resources. The Park District also works with the Metropolitan Council Regional Parks System and the State Office of Tourism to leverage shared opportunities for creating awareness and visibility and works with the county agencies to provide information about scholarship programs available to individuals receiving economic assistance.

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