





Master Plan Vision

2.1 Master Plan Organization

Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska and Lake Harriet are places where complex human and natural systems intersect and converge. The community spent many months striving to understand these systems and developing thoughtful and informed plans and recommendations regarding their future. Chapters 3 through 9 describe a wide variety of recommendations for the park as a whole and also for certain focus areas within the park. The community engagement process that led to these recommendations is described in Chapter Ten).

Five topic areas affect both lakes and are not specific to a particular geographic location. Each of the five chapters below describes current conditions and the recommendations of the master plan:

- Natural resources
- Access and circulation
- Recreation, events, and enterprises
- Cultural and historic resources
- Equity

Several of the master plan recommendations are specific to geographic locations. Chapters 8 and 9 detail master plan recommendations with plan graphics and descriptive images for nine focus areas around the two lakes: six at Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska and three at Harriet.

Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska Focus Areas:

- Northeast Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska
- North Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska
- Northwest Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska
- Southwest Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska
- East Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska
- Southeast Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska and William Berry

Lake Harriet Focus Areas:

- Bandshell Area – Lake Harriet
- Lyndale Park – Lake Harriet
- Lower Road – Lake Harriet

Chapter 10 describes the community engagement that led to the master plan and Chapter 11 the demographics and trends shaping the future demand for facilities and services at the parks.

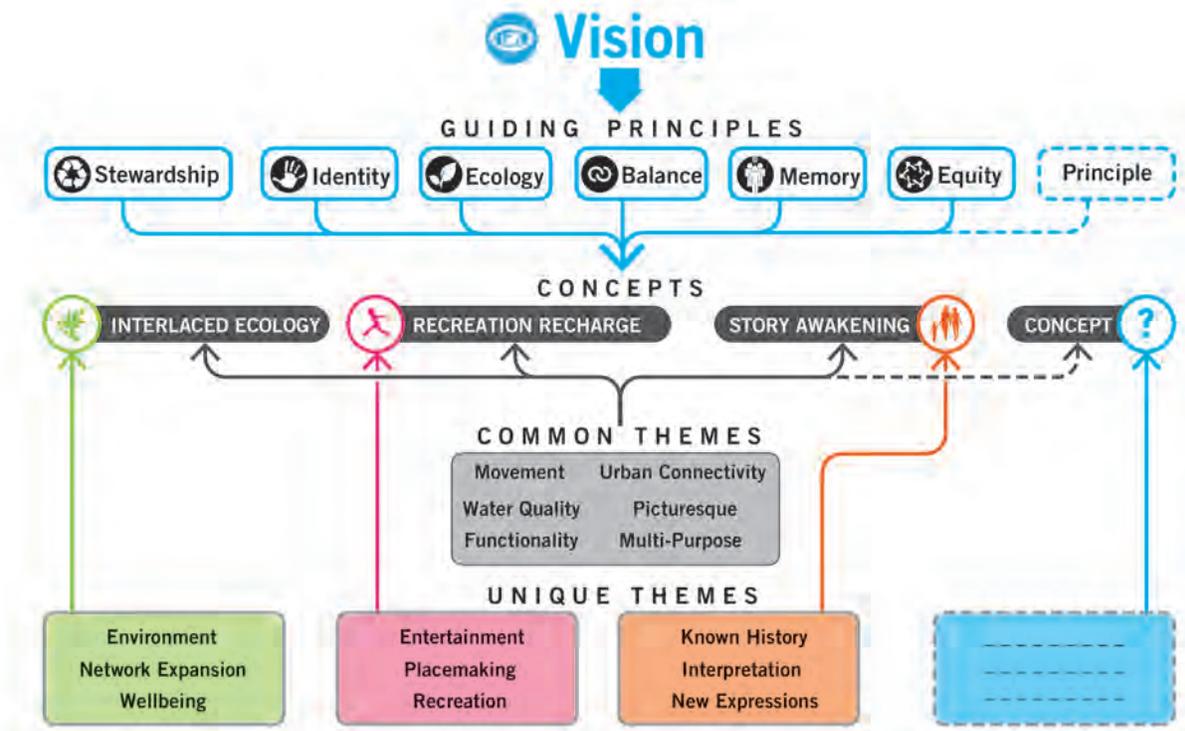
The final chapters discuss implications of the master plan. Implementation details projects and the costs to build them. Maintenance and Operations outlines the efforts and funding needed to maintain the parks.

2.2 Vision, Guiding Principles, and Themes

The community involved in the master planning process consistently sought to *balance natural resource conservation and recreational opportunities*. Overlaying this was a strong desire to reveal the natural and human history of the lakes, especially pre-European settlement, and to express the stories of more recent residents, including those from other cultures.

Vision:

“Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska and Lake Harriet, as part of the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park, are a dynamic convergence of human and natural systems where the community can connect with the outdoors and each other to enjoy nature, to recreate, and to celebrate stories, past and present”.



Guiding Principles

Early in the planning process and through a series of continuum line exercises, the community was asked its position on a number of issues facing Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska and Harriet. The core values expressed through these exercises were summarized into seven guiding principles:



Stewardship: Care for what exists before introducing new things. Use current funding to resolve existing problems, while recognizing the need to accommodate future changes.



Identity: Recognize Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska and Lake Harriet as part of a regional destination and of the urban fabric of Minneapolis. Acknowledge that each park has a unique character and energy.



Ecology: Invest in practices that improve the environmental health of the lakes and parkland.



Balance: Mitigate the long-term impact of human use on park resources and consider use impacts on park resources as new improvements are planned.



Memory: Reveal untold stories and share collective memories as a defining experience of the lakes.



Equity: Provide a comfortable experience for people with diverse abilities and needs and for all races and ethnicities.



Resiliency and Responsiveness: Build resiliency and flexibility into improvements to respond to climate change and changes in the demographics of the region. Use technological innovations to address issues and improve communication with the public.

Themes

Comments and ideas heard from many groups and individuals early in the planning process were categorized into themes which, along with the guiding principles, informed the three master plan concept alternatives.

- **Movement:** Improve multi-modal transit systems, enhance safety for all modes of movement, and provide access and connections to and within both parks.
- **Water Quality:** Preserve, protect, and improve the water quality of the lakes, which is critical to their recreational popularity. Maintain a diverse ecosystem to benefit wildlife and aquatic life.
- **Multi-purpose:** Design flexible spaces and facilities that can be used for a variety of purposes and which are accessible to all users. Park spaces and facilities should accommodate diverse users regardless of race, culture, ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.
- **Picturesque:** Maintain the unique and scenic character of each lake. Consider strategies that target aesthetics and preserve the beauty of both lakes.
- **Urban Connectivity:** Improve connections to the neighborhoods and city around the lakes. Provide amenities to link to key destinations within and outside of the parks.
- **Functionality:** Improve park facilities to provide a more pleasant and comfortable experience for visitors and park users and those commuting through the area.
- **Environment:** Invest in environmental stewardship to improve the health of the park's ecosystems. Consider the ecological impacts and sustainability of built improvements.
- **Network expansion:** Expand ecological corridors and repurpose existing areas to create and strengthen "green" connections within the parks and into the region. Consider strategies ranging from site-specific improvements to regional and broad scale policies.
- **Well-being:** Provide opportunities and facilities that allow users to experience healthier and more active lives and to find refuge in nature.
- **Entertainment:** Improve the distribution of events around both lake areas and expand the range of activities and cultural events that cater to a growing and diverse community.
- **Placemaking:** Create public spaces that are memorable and iconic and that promote people's health and well-being.
- **Recreation:** Renew facilities that support existing recreational use. Add, modify or expand facilities that respond to trends that reflect the region's changing demographics.
- **Known History:** Preserve and restore existing historic and cultural features around the lakes. Expand story-telling of pre-European settlement and of the Native American culture.
- **Interpretation:** Interpret history through a comprehensive approach that is inclusive of race, culture, and ability.
- **New Expressions:** Reexamine the past to reveal unique stories. Share and sustain collective memories. Create ceremonial areas to celebrate the area's rich history and to welcome new stories that can be incorporated over time.

Themes

Movement:

This theme focuses on investing in solutions that improve multi-modal transit systems, enhance safety for all modes of transportation, and provide connections and access to and from both lakes.

Range of Outcomes:

- Improve circulation - non-motorized and vehicles (intersections & connections)
- Provide access to users of all needs
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian access from surrounding trails and neighborhoods
- Address transportation for buses and paratransit
- Expand on-ramp vision for everyone on the path
- Increase parking
- Fill existing gaps and improve sub-par designs in the system
- Consider shuttle service and/or increased public transit directly to the lakes.
- Consider alternate North-South and East-West link modes around the lakes to encourage (and/or allow) to take (shorter routes) of the parkway adjacent to the lakes.
- Increase options for lake paths (single direction or directional, traffic, spaces, and intersections)



Themes

Water Quality:

Preserve, protect, and improve the water quality of the lakes which is critical to their recreational popularity. Maintain a diverse ecosystem to benefit wildlife and aquatic life.

Range of Outcomes:

- Overall Project Area
- Water quality improvements
- Reduce impervious areas
- Increase indigenous shoreline vegetation
- Integrate modern techniques for managing and improving water quality
- Create partnerships for high standard stormwater management practices throughout Lake George watershed area

