



## General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

**Last Update:** October 04, 2017 09:02:57

**GMRPTC Park/Trail ID#:** 15-039D

**Park or Trail Name:** Collinwood Park and Campground

**Park or Trail Type:** County Park

**District:** 4

**Regional Designation Status :** Undesignated

**Evaluation Score :**

**Park/Trail Address:** 17251 70th Street SW

**City:** Cokato

**Zip:** 55321

**Latitude:** 45.049901

**Longitude:** -94.244108

**Location Description:** This 308 acre park is situated on the Western boarder of Wright County south of State Highway 12 near Cokato, MN. The address to the park is 17251 70th Street Southwest, Cokato, MN 55321.

### Maps of Park/Trail:

Description:

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/collinwood\\_trailhead\\_Map\\_9\\_2015\\_50e4d4.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/collinwood_trailhead_Map_9_2015_50e4d4.pdf)

**Facility Website:** <http://www.co.wright.mn.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/Collinwood-Regional-Park-Campground-5>

**Lead Applicant Organization :** Wright County Parks and Recreation

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**Lead Contact Person:** Brad Harrington

**Lead Contact Title:** Parks and Recreation Operations Manager

**Mailing Address:** 3500 Braddock Avenue NE

**City:** Buffalo

**Zip:** 55313

**Phone:** 763-682-7894

**Email:** bradley.harrington@co.wright.mn.us

**Joint Applicant #1:** Wright County

**Upload Resolution:** [http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/collinwood\\_resolution\\_97f017.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/collinwood_resolution_97f017.pdf)

**Joint Applicant #2:** N/A

**Joint Applicant #3:** N/A

**Joint Applicant #4:** N/A

**Other project supporters :** N/A

## Description

**Regional Significance Statement:** Collinwood Park and Campground has supported recreating Minnesotans for more than 30 years. With a host of outdoor recreational opportunities, Collinwood garners attention from not only citizens of Wright County and Greater Minnesota, but also from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Collinwood Park offers a wide range of facilities and diverse habitat which allow visitors to experience the outdoors in a natural setting.

**Classification:** Natural Resource Based Regional Park

**Overview/Description of Park or Trail:** Collinwood Park and Campground has supported recreating Minnesotans for more than 30 years. With a wide range of recreational opportunities, Collinwood garners attention from not only citizens of Wright County and Greater Minnesota, but also from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

This 308-acre park is situated on the Western border of Wright County, south of State Highway 12 near Cokato, MN. With an annual visitation between Memorial Day and Labor Day Weekend of over 38,000 people to the park and a 76% weekend occupancy rate at the campgrounds during the camping season (late April-September), Collinwood Regional Park is a significant place, not only for Wright County but also for the State of Minnesota.

Each year, Collinwood Park hosts numerous events that bring in thousands of visitors. In the past, some of these events have included the Dassel/Cokato Cross Country Invite, the Howard Lake, Waverly, Winsted (HLWW) Cross Country Invite, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Environmental Field Day with the Dassel/Cokato School District. Each year, Collinwood has become more of an asset to Wright County and the surrounding areas and will continue to partner with schools and other organizations to bring people out to the park.

Collinwood Park offers a wide range of facilities and diverse habitat which allow visitors to

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experience the outdoors in a natural setting. The eight restored wetlands, 50 plus acres of forested area, 80 acres of grass lands, and the balance of mixed vegetation provides exceptional opportunities to view a variety of wildlife species within the park. Opportunities for a variety of camping styles, trail uses, and water recreation including fishing, swimming, and boating exist at Collinwood Park.

**Total Acreage or Mileage :** 308

**Acquisition and Development Status:** Existing Park of Trail

**Describe land acquisition status:** We always review potential land adjacent to the park for proper fit within the system.

**Percentage of land acquired:** 98

**Development status:** Some development, but more proposed

- New facilities proposed
- Existing facilities to be upgraded

**Regional Context :** This 308-acre park is situated on the Western border of Wright County, south of State Highway 12 near Cokato, MN. With an annual visitation between Memorial Day and Labor Day Weekend of over 38,000 people to the park and a 76% weekend occupancy rate at the campgrounds during the camping season (first of May- early October), Collinwood Regional Park is a significant place, not only for Wright County but also for the State of Minnesota.

Each year, Collinwood Park hosts numerous events that bring in thousands of visitors. In the past, some of these events have included the Dassel/Cokato Cross Country Invite, the Howard Lake, Waverly, Winsted (HLWW) Cross Country Invite, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Environmental Field Day with the Dassel/Cokato School District. Each year, Collinwood has become more of an asset to Wright County and the surrounding areas and will continue to partner with schools and other organizations to bring people out to the park.

**Regional Map uploads:**

Description:

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood\\_Park\\_Campground\\_Regional\\_Context\\_Map\\_c67f3f.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood_Park_Campground_Regional_Context_Map_c67f3f.jpg)

## Site Information

This section provides an overview of existing and proposed site facilities and general site characteristics

### Existing Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water campsites
- Electric campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
  
- Picnicking and picnic shelters
- Hiking Trails (natural)

### Proposed Facilities

- Camping-cross-section of camper types
- Electric/water/sewer RV sites
- Electric/water campsites
- Electric campsites
- Non-electric campsites
- Group campsites
- Tent only sites
  
- Hiking Trails (natural)

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- Cross-country Skiing Trails
  - Swimming
  - Lake Access for power boats
  - Fishing Piers
  - Visitor Center
  - Play areas, with an outdoor theme
  - Restrooms/sanitation building
  - Roads and Parking Areas
  - Mountain Biking Trails (natural)
  - Cross-country Skiing Trails
  - Canoeing Facilities
  - Fishing Piers
  - Nature Center/Interpretation Trails
  - Play areas, with an outdoor theme
  - Restrooms/sanitation building
  - Roads and Parking Areas

### **Existing Facilities Other Information**

sledding hill, outdoor basketball court, fish cleaning house, sand volleyball court

### **General Site Characteristics**

Collinwood Park and Campground features four different ecotypes; forest, lake, wetlands, and grasslands. Eight restored wetlands, 50 plus acres of forested area, 80 acres of grasslands, and the balance of mixed vegetation provides exceptional opportunities to view a variety of wildlife species within the park.

Collinwood contains 49 campground sites (40 with electric hook ups) as well as multiple group camping and tent camping areas for those that want a more primitive camping experience. The park has a modern restroom facility with showers. With a lake habitat containing a healthy amount of walleye and northern pike, the lake itself has proven to be a fishing destination. The recently improved day-use area includes a swimming beach, picnic area, shelter, and play features that have created a more desirable day-use destination. Collinwood is one of the only parks in the region that offers a variety of winter recreation and over 3.5 miles of groomed cross country ski trails. The nearest groomed ski trail is located in McLeod County, which is nearly a 19-mile drive and contains just 1.8 miles of groomed trail. Also within Collinwood Park is a groomed sledding hill that accommodates visitors enjoying the winter landscape.

### **Site characteristics uploads:**

Description: entry sign

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_1360\\_bfccd1.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_1360_bfccd1.JPG)

Description: park road

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_1407\\_d18e16.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_1407_d18e16.JPG)

Description: shelter

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_1416\\_61707a.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_1416_61707a.JPG)

Description: playground

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_0676\\_e57b8c.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_0676_e57b8c.JPG)

Description: campers

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_0683\\_fd8b5e.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_0683_fd8b5e.JPG)

## **Trends/Public Values**

**Public Involvement Summary :** Beginning in 2004, through the development of the original master plan for Collinwood Park and Campground in 2006, the Wright County Parks Department gathered input from various sources to form the plan. The public participated in surveys and Parks Department employees routinely weighed in on issues, opportunities, and assets within the park. Through this process, priorities and needs were identified for inclusion in the 2006 Master Plan.

An update to this plan was undertaken in 2017, and additional public input was sought using a multi-

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faceted approach that included an online survey and an event on a weekend date that provided quality feedback.

#### PARK EVENT

To get input from park users, an event was held at Collinwood Park and Campground on Saturday June 17, 2017, from 1pm to 4pm. Visitors were given an overview of the planning process and encouraged to provide responses to the online survey, either by completing a provided paper copy, or visiting the web at their convenience. Participants were also able to view and provide feedback on exhibits, including an existing conditions diagram, a draft master plan concept for the entire park, and a draft development plan for proposed improvements to the core area of the park. (See Public Involvement Support Materials included in the Appendix).

Responses to the draft plan and concepts were positive. Overall, people felt that the addition of another RV camp loop was a good idea, and they were supportive of more organization to the existing parking areas. Multiple people expressed a desire to drive golf-cart type vehicles within the park, but understood the current prohibition against them as park staff had observed undesirable use of these types of vehicles in the past. People reported that they liked the campground for its size and quietness, its water access and hiking trails.

#### ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

A 12-question survey was promoted and made available on the Wright County website, the Wright County Parks Department Facebook page, and the Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch Blog. The survey was available from June 16, 2017 to August 1, 2017.

Overall, the survey revealed that access to the lake (including fishing, boat access, and the swimming beach) is the biggest draw for visitors, followed by the playground, hiking and walking, and RV camping. Bathroom improvements/expansions were most desired by survey takers, followed by dock/pier improvements, walkway/trail improvements, and RV camping improvements. Full hookups for RV campsites was mentioned specifically by several respondents.

When asked to choose their top three priorities for park improvements, survey takers cited improved bathroom facilities, RV camping, and dock/pier improvements. Respondents also showed an interest in equipment rental (boat rental especially) and outdoor recreation programming, such as cross-country skiing or kayaking.

Most of the respondents (88%) visit the park more than once a year, and most of them (65%) live within 20 miles of the park. Respondents also tended to come from households with individuals in the 35-54 years of age and children ages 10 and younger. 96% of respondents visit the park in the summer, and only 16% visit the park in the winter.

Survey results, in their entirety, are included in the Appendix.

#### **Public Involvement Support Material Uploads:**

Description: Concept Presented at Park Event

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood\\_Development\\_Plan\\_Concept\\_Draft\\_7d6778.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood_Development_Plan_Concept_Draft_7d6778.pdf)

Description: Concept Presented at Park Event

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood\\_Master\\_Plan\\_Concept\\_Draft\\_b7226f.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood_Master_Plan_Concept_Draft_b7226f.pdf)

Description: Existing Conditions Diagram Presented at Park Event

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood\\_Master\\_Plan\\_Existing\\_Conditions\\_e78fad.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood_Master_Plan_Existing_Conditions_e78fad.pdf)

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Description: Welcome Board Presented at Public Event

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Welcome Board\\_7054e2.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Welcome Board_7054e2.pdf)

Description: Online Survey Results

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood Park + Campground Questionnaire Results\\_080217\\_1c5da3.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood Park + Campground Questionnaire Results_080217_1c5da3.pdf)

**Regional Demographic Information :** As of the 2010 Census, Wright County was the second fastest growing county in Minnesota, with a 38.6% increase in population over 10 (2000 to 2010) years. This is due in part to the growth along Interstate 94 around Monticello and Otsego, as well as to development in the Southeastern region around Delano. According to data from the 2010 Census Bureau, Wright County had a much younger population than the state of Minnesota as a whole. Thirty percent of the population was under 18 years of age, as compared to 24.2% in the state. Without a postsecondary institution, however, Wright County had a smaller percentage of 15to 24yearolds (11.3%) than the state (13.6%). With a median age of 34.6 years in 2010, Wright County had a much higher percentage of people in the 25to 34yearold (14.0%), 35to 44yearold (15.4%) and 45to 54yearold (14.8%) age groups than the state (13.5%, 12.8%, and 15.2%, respectively). Less than onefifth (19.2%) of the population was 55 years and over, including just 9.6% of people who were 65 years and over, as compared to 12.9% statewide.

#### **Public Health Values:**

- Promotes physical activity
- Promotes healthy lifestyle
- Connects people to the outdoors
- Enhances mental health
- Encourages social interaction

**Public Health Values Additional Information :** Collinwood Park and Campground provides a needed place for people to connect not only with one another but with nature. Research has shown that time spent outdoors will improve ones health both mentally and physically. Exposure to Nature has been linked to a greater ability to cope with life stressors, improved work productivity, reduced job related frustration, increased self esteem and greater life satisfaction as well. Parks such as Collinwood promote collective efficacy by providing a place for residents and neighbors to gather and build trust and social cohesion.

Each year, Collinwood Park hosts numerous events that bring in thousands of visitors. In the past, some of these events have included the Dassel/Cokato Cross Country Invite, the Howard Lake, Waverly, Winsted (HLWW) Cross Country Invite, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Environmental Field Day with the Dassel/Cokato School District. Each year, Collinwood has become more of an asset to Wright County and the surrounding areas and will continue to partner with schools and other organizations to bring people out to the park.

Collinwood Park offers a wide range of facilities and diverse habitat which allow visitors to experience the outdoors in a natural setting. Opportunities for a variety of camping styles, trail uses, and water recreation including fishing, swimming, and boating exist at Collinwood Park. The eight restored wetlands, 50 plus acres of forested area, 80 acres of grass lands, and the balance of mixed vegetation provides exceptional opportunities to view a variety of wildlife species within the park.

#### **Public Health Values Support Material Uploads:**

Description: NRPA Public Health Study

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/park-programming-better-health\\_73b9b8.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/park-programming-better-health_73b9b8.pdf)

Description: NRPA Mental Health Study

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[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/parks-improved-mental-health-quality-life\\_1a3273.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/parks-improved-mental-health-quality-life_1a3273.pdf)

Description: NRPA Parks and Healthy Kids

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/parks-healthy-kids\\_50a3ea.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/parks-healthy-kids_50a3ea.pdf)

**Economic Development/Tourism Opportunities :** Collinwood Park and Campground is situated along the shores of Collinwood Lake (627 acres) in the southwestern portion of Wright County, just south of Cokato. Its central location attracts visitors from as far east as Washington County, and the park has shown to draw visitors from within a 70-mile radius, which encompasses the Metro area. The park has an annual visitation of over 38,000 people and over 3,500 camping occasions (one camping visit per night) during the camping season (late April-September). Collinwood Park continues to grow in usage.

Wright County is involved in the Regional Active Transportation Plan Advisory Group that is looking into the possibilities of connecting the important destinations within four counties (Wright, Sherburne, Benton, Stearns) with a continuous trail system. This will be done through varying types of trails to include right-of-ways, paved trails, and unpaved trails throughout the four county region. Collinwood Park is listed as one of these places of connection.

**Recreational Trends Information :** There is no other state or regional park within 90 miles of Collinwood Park that provides as many camping opportunities. It is unique in that it can accommodate RV campsites with electric hook ups, tent camping, and group camping, all within the same unit. Although Schroeder Park is only 18 miles away, it does not provide an opportunity for group camping; nor does it have trails for visitors to use. The closest state forest with campgrounds is Ann Lake, which does not accommodate modern RV campsites. With its unique blend of camping, miles of trails, a prominent fishing lake, and proximity to one of the fastest growing areas in the state of Minnesota, Collinwood Park is a prime destination for those that wish to experience the outdoors. In 2016 the Outdoor Foundation published study showing the popular trends in outdoor recreation. Some form of camping was consistently listed in the top five. The other activities that ranked in the top five are running/jogging/trail running, birding, wildlife viewing, swimming, canoeing/kayaking, and hiking. All of these activities can be found at Collinwood Park and Campground.

## Classification Details

### Natural Resource Based Regional Park Classification.

#### Criteria 1: Provides a High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experience:

With recent improvements to the day use area facilities, including improvements to the swimming beach, picnic area, shelter, and play area, all create a more desirable day-use destination. In addition to recent improvements, the master plan also recognizes other areas of improvements that will also increase the outdoor experience. Collinwood is one of the only parks in the region that offers a variety of winter recreation and over 3.5 miles of groomed cross country ski trail. The next nearest groomed ski trail is located in McLeod County, which is nearly a 19-mile drive and contains just 1.8 miles of groomed trail. Also within Collinwood Park is a groomed sledding hill that accommodates visitors enjoying the winter landscapes. .

#### Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_0682\\_b3e5b3.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_0682_b3e5b3.JPG)

#### Criteria #1 Images

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/grooming \(2\) 1\\_11\\_17\\_a21fdb.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/grooming (2) 1_11_17_a21fdb.jpg)

#### Criteria 2: Preserves a Regionally-Significant and Diverse Natural or Historic Landscape

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Collinwood Lake is surrounded primarily by agricultural land. With over 6,300 feet of lakeshore, Collinwood Park helps protect the lake in regard to eutrophication. Due to the agricultural lands and irrigation trends in farmlands, the water clarity in Collinwood Lake has declined. The Parks Department will continue to partner with the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on best practices at Collinwood Park and Campground to help minimize any additional impact to the park. To assist with this process, we have eight restored wetlands within the park that help in filtering agricultural runoff as well as a recently improved stormwater catch basin that filters runoff from the parking area and roadway prior to entering the lake. This helps control pollution that runs into the lake, which in turn will lead to helping the entire watershed. These control measures along the inlet to Collinwood Lake, along with efforts from the SWCD, will help sustain and maintain a healthier habitat for the vegetation and aquatic life within Collinwood Lake; which will in turn allow the park to maintain its significant role as a recreational destination for thousands of people.

The upland area of the park consists of 50 plus acres of forested land, 80 acres of grasslands, and a balanced mix of plant communities providing users with the experience of how the Big Woods Ecosystem began blending in to the Prairie Grassland Ecosystem.

Collinwood Park also protects over 4,400 feet of the 6,000 feet of shoreland and provides public access to 58-acre Chelgren Lake. This lake is an important feature as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources uses Chelgren Lake as a walleye rearing pond that in turn assists in providing quality fisheries throughout the region.

#### **Criteria #2 Images**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/bench\\_at\\_collinwood\\_297480.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/bench_at_collinwood_297480.jpg)

#### **Criteria #2 Images**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/sunset\\_boat\\_f87817.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/sunset_boat_f87817.jpg)

#### **Criteria 3: Well-located and Connected to Serve a Regional Population and/or Tourist Destination**

This 308-acre park is situated on the western border of Wright County two miles south of US Highway 12 in Cokato, MN. As of the 2010 Census, Wright County was the second fastest growing county in Minnesota with a 38.6% increase in population. This is due in part to the growth along Interstate 94 around Monticello and Otsego, as well as to development in the Delano area. Collinwood Park is less than 60 miles from downtown Minneapolis, 40 miles from St. Cloud, and 20 miles from Hutchinson, all shorter than a one-hour drive to the campgrounds and lake at Collinwood. Currently, Wright County is involved in the Regional Active Transportation Plan Advisory Group that is looking into the possibilities of connecting the important destinations within four counties (Wright, Sherburne, Benton, Stearns) with a continuous trail system. This will be done through varying types of trails to include right-of-ways, paved trails, and unpaved trails throughout the four county region. Collinwood Park is listed as one of these places of connection, and could potentially bring thousands of additional visitors to the area each year.

#### **Criteria #3 Images**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/DC\\_Wrestling\\_Team\\_Community\\_Service\\_at\\_Collinwood\\_11\\_8\\_14\\_5ab12b.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/DC_Wrestling_Team_Community_Service_at_Collinwood_11_8_14_5ab12b.jpg)

#### **Criteria #3 Images**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/XCC\\_Meet\\_Collinwood\\_2014\\_a3a577.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/XCC_Meet_Collinwood_2014_a3a577.JPG)

#### **Criteria 4: Fills a Gap in Recreational Opportunity within the Region**

There is no other state or regional park within 50 miles of Collinwood Park that provides as many camping opportunities. It is unique in that it can accommodate RV campsites with electric hook ups, tent camping, and group camping, all within the same unit. Although Schroeder Park is only 18 miles away, it does not provide an opportunity for group camping; nor does it have trails for visitors



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to use. The closest state forest with campgrounds is Ann Lake, which does not accommodate modern RV campsites. With its unique blend of camping, miles of trails, a prominent fishing lake, and proximity to one of the fastest growing areas in the state of Minnesota, Collinwood Park is a prime destination for those that wish to experience the outdoors.

**Criteria #4 Images**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/camping\\_2\\_026882.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/camping_2_026882.jpg)

**Criteria #4 Images**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/winter\\_ice\\_skating\\_644676.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/winter_ice_skating_644676.jpg)

**Criteria #4 Images**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_0667\\_c8e5c9.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_0667_c8e5c9.JPG)

## Development/Acquisition

### Development Plan Overview : NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Based on input from the public, the Wright County Commissioners, Wright County Parks & Recreation staff, and expertise from consulting landscape architects, Collinwood Park & Campground has the following needs:

Expanded RV camping opportunities with fully modernized facilities, including electric, water, and sewer hook-ups and a fully accessible site meeting ADA standards

Improved/Expanded restroom facilities, including a new accessible comfort station with modern restrooms and showers to serve additional RV sites.

Restoration of existing woodlands and grasslands.

Expanded support of winter recreation opportunities, such as ski or snow-shoe rentals, and an expanded winter trailhead with warming house.

Stormwater management within the park to reduce erosion and protect water quality.

Expanded group camping opportunities.

Improved access to Chelgren Lake.

Improved entry experience near the park office/check-in area.

Visual screening of service areas.

Exploration of equipment rental, including boats, kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, and cross-country skis.

### DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

The development plan for Collinwood Park and Campground includes an Overall Park Master Plan and a more detailed Core Area Development Plan. The Core Area Development Plan address more immediate needs in and around the day-use area, and includes development features to be implemented in the near term. These needs include the organization and improvement of parking and circulation, and the expansion of RV camping facilities to meet local and regional demand. The Master Plan encompasses the entire park and will generally be implemented on a longer timeframe, addressing everything from group camping areas to vegetation management.

### Development Features

Improve the boat launch parking area by creating and defining boat trailer and truck/trailer parking stalls, creating one-way traffic flow, adding green space to reduce erosion and take up grade change, adding an ADA boat trailer parking spot, and adding bioretention/stormwater filtration areas, and reducing oversized gravel parking surface.

Realign the main drive south of the boat launch parking area to accommodate the addition of a day-use parking area for access to the existing beach, playground, and picnic shelter.

Improve the existing parking area near the tent camping area by reshaping and defining parking spots and adding a planting island to reduce the gravel surface area.

Add trailhead amenities including kiosk and seating.

Create new RV camp loop featuring 15 full service sites with sewer, water, and electrical hook ups.

Include one ADA site.

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Build new comfort station/warming house near new RV camp loop and trailhead. Include showers, modern toilets, and a multi-purpose room that can function as a warming house in winter and rental space during summer.

Improve existing entry experience by remodeling existing signs to match the current park design standards, relocate or screen the dumpster, screen the service garage, and create short-term RV parking for check-in.

Add an additional fishing pier just north of the existing boat launch.

Create a walkable connection over the existing swale to connect the basketball court/volleyball court to the main picnic and day-use parking area.

Create connections by extending the existing grasslands trail south along the new RV loop to the new comfort station, and by adding spur trails to the proposed group camping sites.

Improve the existing tent camping area by defining a main pedestrian circulation route among the sites and creating definition/buffers between the sites.

Restore the existing forest by implementing forest management best practices.

Improve water access to Chelgren Lake with the addition of a new dock and non-motorized boat launch.

Expand the existing group camping area at Chelgren Lake to accommodate larger groups.

Add two new group camping sites on the eastern side of the park, planting trees to define sites and provide buffers.

Screen the existing north group camp from the road using trees and shrubs.

Improve the existing service area by screening it on all sides, connecting it to the existing trail system, and providing interpretive information about the nutrient cycle, composting, and park maintenance practices.

Realign the group camping road to meet the main park road at a perpendicular angle, thus making it feel more integrated with the main park and improving the turning radius.

Restore existing grasslands by replacing exotic, spreading grasses with native prairie plants and implementing the necessary maintenance practices to sustain a prairie

### **Development Plan Upload**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood\\_Development\\_Plan\\_58442d.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood_Development_Plan_58442d.pdf)

### **Development Plan Upload**

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood\\_Master\\_Plan\\_Concept\\_eca71b.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood_Master_Plan_Concept_eca71b.pdf)

**Acquisition Plan Overview :** At this time 98% of the property acquisition at Collinwood Park is complete. In the future we will consider the acquisition of a few high-quality parcels that will enhance the park for users by providing access to Chelgren Lake and buffering the park boundary.

The following item provides details about one particular item or feature listed under the "Development Plan Overview"

### **Development Feature 1**

Improve the boat launch parking area by creating and defining boat trailer and truck/trailer parking stalls, creating one-way traffic flow, adding green space to reduce erosion and take up grade change, adding an ADA boat trailer parking spot, and adding bioretention/stormwater filtration areas, and reducing oversized gravel parking surface.

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_1410\\_04bec9.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_1410_04bec9.JPG)

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### **Development Feature 2**

Realign the main drive south of the boat launch parking area to accommodate the addition of a day-use parking area for access to the existing beach, playground, and picnic shelter.

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_1421\\_6b984b.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_1421_6b984b.JPG)

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**Development Feature 3**

Expand the existing group camping area at Chelgren Lake to accommodate larger groups.

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**Development Feature 4**

Add two new group camping sites on the eastern side of the park, planting trees to define sites and provide buffers.

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**Development Feature 5**

Improve the existing parking area near the tent camping area by reshaping and defining parking spots and adding a planting island to reduce the gravel surface area.

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG\\_1394\\_999cfd.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/IMG_1394_999cfd.JPG)

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**Development Feature 6**

Add trailhead amenities to the existing trail entry point, including informational kiosk, wayfinding, and seating options.

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/grooming\\_\(3\)\\_1\\_11\\_17\\_03c0c8.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/grooming_(3)_1_11_17_03c0c8.jpg)

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**Development Feature 7**

Create new RV camp loop featuring 15 full service sites with sewer, water, and electrical hook ups. Include one ADA site.

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood Master Plan Concept\(1\)\\_f4a5a0.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood Master Plan Concept(1)_f4a5a0.pdf)

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**Development Feature 8**

Restore the existing forest by implementing forest management best practices.

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**Development Feature 9**

Build new comfort station/warming house near new RV camp loop and trailhead. Include showers, modern toilets, and a multi-purpose room that can function as a warming house in winter and rental space during summer.

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**Development Feature 10**

Improve existing entry experience by remodeling existing signs to match the current park design standards, relocate or screen the dumpster, screen the service garage, and create short-term RV parking for check-in.

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**Development Feature 11**

Add an additional fishing pier just north of the existing boat launch.

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**Development Feature 12**

Improve the existing tent camping area by defining a main pedestrian circulation route among the sites and creating definition/buffers between the sites.

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**Development Feature 13**

Create a walkable connection over the existing swale to connect the basketball court/volleyball court to the main picnic and day-use parking area.

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**Development Feature 14**

Improve water access to Chelgren Lake with the addition of a new dock and non-motorized boat launch.

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/DSC\\_1377\\_927780.JPG](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/DSC_1377_927780.JPG)

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**Development Feature 15**

Create connections by extending the existing grasslands trail south along the new RV loop to the new comfort station, and by adding spur trails to the proposed group camping sites.

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**Development Feature 16**

Screen the existing north group camp from the road using trees and shrubs.

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**Development Feature 17**

Improve the existing service area by screening it on all sides, connecting it to the existing trail system, and providing interpretive information about the nutrient cycle, composting, and park maintenance practices.

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**Development Feature 18**

Realign the group camping road to meet the main park road at a perpendicular angle, thus making it feel more integrated with the main park and improving the turning radius.

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**Development Feature 19**

Restore existing grasslands by replacing exotic, spreading grasses with native prairie plants and implementing the necessary maintenance practices to sustain a prairie.

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**Implementation**

**Implementation Plan :** The master plan allows for the improvements to be done in phases as priorities dictate and funding allows. While the priorities and sequence of improvements may vary slightly from these recommendations, the grouping of improvements into phases is based on need, facility location, logical project sequence, and anticipated budgets/funding. Higher priority projects include those that meet identified public demand (the addition of fully modernized RV camping sites), address water quality concerns (erosion from the current boat launch parking area and reduction in impervious gravel surface areas), and improve visitor safety (parking and pedestrian and vehicular circulation improvements).

**Summarize Acquisition and Development Costs To-Date :** Wright County Parks has invested nearly \$1 million, including the initial development of Collinwood Park and Campground. These funds have primarily been provided through the general levy of Wright County. The Parks and Recreation Department has developed a campground improvement fund that is funded through reservations of the campgrounds to help with updates and improvements within the campground.

**Parks and Trails Legacy Funding**

Acquisition	Development	Total
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**Non-Parks and Trails Legacy Funding****Arts & Cultural Heritage Legacy**

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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**Clean Water Legacy Funding**

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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### Outdoor Heritage Legacy Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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### Local and Other Funding Sources

#### Local Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
\$35,800	\$815,000	\$850,800

#### Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
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#### Other Funding

Acquisition	Development	Subtotal
\$96,750		\$96,750

**Total:** \$947,550

**Grand Total Investments to Date - All Sources Listed :** 947550.00

**Acquisition and Development Cost Projections :** Cost projections for improvements to Collinwood Park and Campground are broken into two groups; Core Area Development Plan and Overall Park Master Plan. Most of the improvements from the Core Area Development Plan will occur in the near-term phase, and cost estimates were developed using actual construction costs from projects in and around the Twin Cities metropolitan area in 2016. Other improvements, including those from the Overall Park Master Plan will occur in the mid to long-term phases.

#### Cost Estimate Support Information Uploads

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Cost Estimate\\_Collinwood Park + Campground Development Plan\\_cfbf71.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Cost Estimate_Collinwood Park + Campground Development Plan_cfbf71.pdf)

**Acquisition and Development Phasing Plan :** The exact schedule of phasing is to be determined, but three phases of near, mid, and long are used to establish a general timeframe for improvements. Near-term improvements will happen within 1 to 2 years, while mid-term phase improvements will occur within 2-5 years, and the long-term phase is from 5 to 8 years. The following table outlines the phasing for proposed features.

#### Phasing Plan Support Information Uploads

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood Master Plan Implementation Table\\_b37d3c.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Collinwood Master Plan Implementation Table_b37d3c.pdf)

### Cost Projections for Implementation Plan

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**Acquisition:** 0.00

**Development:** 1916000.00

**Projected Total:** 1916000.00

## Operational

**Joint Organizations Responsibilities :** Wright County Parks operates under the auspice of Wright County.

**Maintenance/Operations Plan :** Wright County Parks operates and maintains the park on a year round basis. Funding for projects, operations and maintenance come from the County General Levy and Capital Improvement Funds. Estimated operations and maintenance costs average nearly \$100,000 per year, including labor, repairs and maintenance, general site improvements and operating supplies.

**Ecological/Land Resources Plan :** Wright County Parks currently uses various methods including, but not limited to, chemical treatment of any invasive species that show up in the park on an annual basis and is included in our maintenance and operations plan.

**Annual Routine Maintenance and Operations Cost Total :** 100000

## Programming

**Programming Plan :** In the past few years the Wright County Parks and Recreation Department has expanded its programming at Collinwood Park and Campground. In addition to the events listed previously (Dassel/Cokato Cross Country meet, groomed winter trails for cross country skiing) the Department offered a Full Moon Canoe on Collinwood Lake during the camping season as part of a grant through the Legacy funds. This event was instructed by Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. Looking to the future we hope to expand from Full Moon Canoe and potentially offer rentals of canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards through a partnership with a local business.

### Programming Support Material Uploads

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Summer Program Brochure 2017 Web\\_a4a0b5.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Summer Program Brochure 2017 Web_a4a0b5.pdf)

**Annual Programming Cost :** 500

**Annual Revenues from Programming and Fees/Charges Total :** 0

**Outreach and Marketing Plan :** The Department currently uses and will continue to use the County Website, social media (Facebook, Twitter), and publications such as the Wright County Journal Press and Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch as the primary source of outreach and marketing to the public.

### Outreach and Marketing Support Uploads

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Campground Reservations Open\\_b2f5e5.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/applications/15-039D/Campground Reservations Open_b2f5e5.jpg)

**User Metrics and Research Plan :** Currently MaxGalaxy reservation system is utilized to track our camping occasions and shelter reservations at Collinwood Park and Campground.

## Attachments

Document	Description	Filename
Resolution	Resolution of Support for Regional Designation of Collinwood Park from the Wright County Board of Commissioners.	<a href="#">1435330456608-collinwood resolution.pdf</a>
Master Plan	Master plan added from master plan tab	<a href="#">1435331850621-Final Collinwood Park Master Plan.pdf</a>
Location Map	Location map added from general tab	<a href="#">1435332627039-Collinwood_LocationMap.pdf</a>
Site Map Uploads 2	Trail Map	<a href="#">1463666641636-collinwood park map.pdf</a>
Site Map Uploads 2	Campground Imagery Map	<a href="#">1463666663931-CollinwoodRVImagery.pdf</a>
Regional Map	Location Map	<a href="#">1463667209827-Collinwood_LocationMap.pdf</a>
Site Characteristic Images	Deer in Meadow	<a href="#">1463667615314-Deer in Meadow.jpg</a>
Site Characteristic Images	Trails in Fall	<a href="#">1463667639557-DSC_0096.JPG</a>
Site Characteristic Images	Collinwood Beach	<a href="#">1463667676052-Collinwood Beach.jpg</a>
Development Plan Overview Uploads	Final Concept Plan	<a href="#">1464891565466-Final Concept Plan.jpg</a>
Ad Cost Projections Photos	Phasing and Implementation Plan	<a href="#">1467130002978-Phasing_Implementation.pdf</a>
Ad Phasing Plan Photos	Phasing and Implementation Plan	<a href="#">1467130017721-Phasing_Implementation.pdf</a>
AcqDev Cost Projections Upload		<a href="#">Cost Estimate_Collinwood Park + Campground Development Plan_cfbf71.pdf</a>
Park Trail Map		<a href="#">collinwood_trailhead Map 9_2015_50e4d4.pdf</a>
Regional Map Uploads		<a href="#">Collinwood Park +Campground_Regional Context Map_c67f3f.jpg</a>
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Concept Presented at Park Event	<a href="#">Collinwood Development Plan Concept Draft_7d6778.pdf</a>
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Concept Presented at Park Event	<a href="#">Collinwood Master Plan Concept Draft_b7226f.pdf</a>
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Existing Conditions Diagram Presented at Park Event	<a href="#">Collinwood Master Plan Existing Conditions_e78fad.pdf</a>
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Welcome Board Presented at Public Event	<a href="#">Welcome Board_7054e2.pdf</a>
Public Involvement Summ Upload	Online Survey Results	<a href="#">Collinwood Park + Campground Questionnaire Results_080217_1c5da3.pdf</a>
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Core Area Development Plan	<a href="#">Collinwood Development Plan_58442d.pdf</a>
Development Acquisition Plan Upload	Master Plan Concept	<a href="#">Collinwood Master Plan Concept_eca71b.pdf</a>
Ad Phasing Plan Upload	Implementation Table with Phasing and Cost Estimate	<a href="#">Collinwood Master Plan Implementation Table_b37d3c.pdf</a>
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Campgrounds	<a href="#">IMG_0682_b3e5b3.JPG</a>
Natural Resource Based1 Upload	Trail head Winter	<a href="#">grooming (2) 1_11_17_a21fdb.jpg</a>

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Natural Resource Based2 Upload	scenic overlook	<a href="#">bench at collinwood_297480.jpg</a>
Natural Resource Based2 Upload	Sunset on Lake Collinwood	<a href="#">sunset boat_f87817.jpg</a>
Natural Resource Based4 Upload	Tent Camping	<a href="#">camping_2_026882.jpg</a>
Natural Resource Based4 Upload	Ice Skater	<a href="#">winter ice skating_644676.jpg</a>
Natural Resource Based4 Upload	Beach and Playground	<a href="#">IMG_0667_c8e5c9.JPG</a>
Site Characteristics Upload	entry sign	<a href="#">IMG_1360_bfccd1.JPG</a>
Site Characteristics Upload	park road	<a href="#">IMG_1407_d18e16.JPG</a>
Site Characteristics Upload	shelter	<a href="#">IMG_1416_61707a.JPG</a>
Site Characteristics Upload	playground	<a href="#">IMG_0676_e57b8c.JPG</a>
Site Characteristics Upload	campers	<a href="#">IMG_0683_fd8b5e.JPG</a>
Public Health Values Upload	NRPA Public Health Study	<a href="#">park-programming-better-health_73b9b8.pdf</a>
Public Health Values Upload	NRPA Mental Health Study	<a href="#">parks-improved-mental-health-quality-life_1a3273.pdf</a>
Public Health Values Upload	NRPA Parks and Healthy Kids	<a href="#">parks-healthy-kids_50a3ea.pdf</a>
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Group Picture	<a href="#">DC_Wrestling Team Community Service at Collinwood 11_8_14_5ab12b.jpg</a>
Natural Resource Based3 Upload	Cross Country Meet	<a href="#">XCC Meet Collinwood 2014_a3a577.JPG</a>
Development Feature Upload		<a href="#">IMG_1410_04bec9.JPG</a>
Development Feature Upload		<a href="#">IMG_1421_6b984b.JPG</a>
Development Feature Upload		<a href="#">IMG_1394_999cfd.JPG</a>
Development Feature Upload		<a href="#">grooming (3) 1_11_17_03c0c8.jpg</a>
Development Feature Upload		<a href="#">Collinwood Master Plan Concept(1)_f4a5a0.pdf</a>
Development Feature Upload		<a href="#">DSC_1377_927780.JPG</a>
Programming Plan Upload	Wright County Parks Brochure	<a href="#">Summer Program Brochure 2017 Web_a4a0b5.pdf</a>
Outreach Marketing Plan Upload	Campground Reservations Open Facebook Image	<a href="#">Campground Reservations Open_b2f5e5.jpg</a>