



ECKERT BLUFFLANDS PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT OPEN HOUSE – DECEMBER 17, 2024, 4:00-6:00 PM

OBJECTIVES OF PLAN AMENDMENT:

1. Emphasize nature based outdoor recreational activities (hiking, bicycling, playground, pavilion/picnic areas, nature viewing) and a revised park entrance configuration
2. An amended plan with lower development costs will align with a more modest development strategy for the property
3. Continued involvement and communication with Town and State officials

REMOVE FROM CURRENT ADOPTED PLAN:

- Camper Cabins and Yurts and associated roads/trails/parking areas accessing these facilities
- Sledding Hill
- Bike Training Course
- Entrance Station
- “Ropes” play area
- New Entrance onto State Highway #35
- Hike-in camp sites and picnic shelter in northern 1/3 of the park
- Maintenance building relocated to SE corner of park off River Heights Trail (approximate 40’ x 60’ building and will include some staff office space)

TO BE INCLUDED ON AMENDED MASTER PLAN MAP:

- Reconfigured Hwy 35/Old Hwy 35 intersection with bituminous upgrade to Old Hwy 35/River Heights Trail intersection
- River Heights Trail will not be realigned
- Vacate portion of old Hwy #35 north of River Heights Trail and establish Private Driveway easement to northernmost home on Old Highway 35
- Parking Lot and access to parking lot off River Heights Trail (bituminous). Approx area of 130’ x 230’, accommodating 80-100 parking stalls. Access to inholdings will remain the same
- Stormwater ponds along park access road and parking area
- Includes gated access and turn-around area to reverse direction when park is closed
- Signage clearly delineating separate park access and access for residences
- Playground, Picnic Shelter, Cooking/Grills, Picnic Tables near east side of parking lot
- Flush bathroom facilities on north side parking area
- East Trail and West Trail (including the two swing bridges). Trails to be gravel and crusher fines with possibility of upgrading to bituminous in the future. Include sitting benches
- Overlook to River (NW of parking area) with potential for stairs to river shoreline and picnic shelter
- Active Area for Pickleball, Horseshoes, etc. on north side of park
- Bicycle and pedestrian trail on northern 1/3 of property
- Stairs to shoreline near Eckert Cabin and a secondary foot path trail
- Private property signs by beach area for in-holding parcels
- Eckert Cabin potentially used as information center

PROGRAMMING PLAN AND PARK USAGE – will be addressed in Chapter 30 (Parks) of the St. Croix County Ordinance

FUTURE DATES:

- Open House with abutting property owners (within 300’ of the park) set for Tuesday, December 17, 2024, from 4-6 PM
- Tentative - Update and General discussion of plan amendment with Community Development Committee (CDC) – January 16, 2025
- Larger public open house sometime in February/March 2025
- Public Hearing/Adoption of Amended Master Plan March/April 2025

ST. CROIX COUNTY CONTACTS:

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Proposed Eckert Blufflands Amended Plan

Phase 2
Bike Trail
Project
2026

Advanced
Hiking &
Mountain
Biking Trail
Concept TBD

Xcel
Energy
Transmission
line

Park Boundary

Potential
Stairs to
Shoreline

West Trail

Sports
Area

Pickle Ball Court,
Horseshoe Pit,
Half court
Basketball Hoop?

Road to be
Vacated

Old Hwy 35

Bathroom

Parking
Lot
(P)

(P)
Expansion

Pavilion

Storm
Water
Retention
Areas

Gated
Park
Entrance

Private
Driveway
Easement

Park Access Trail

Pine Trees
Planted
2024

Existing River Heights Trail

Bike Lane

Park Maintenance/ Office

West Trail

Eckert Cabin/
Information Center

Potential
Stairs to
Shoreline

Swing
bridges

Park Boundary

Reconfigured
Intersection

Xcel Energy
Transmission line

Existing Hwy 35 Bike Trail

