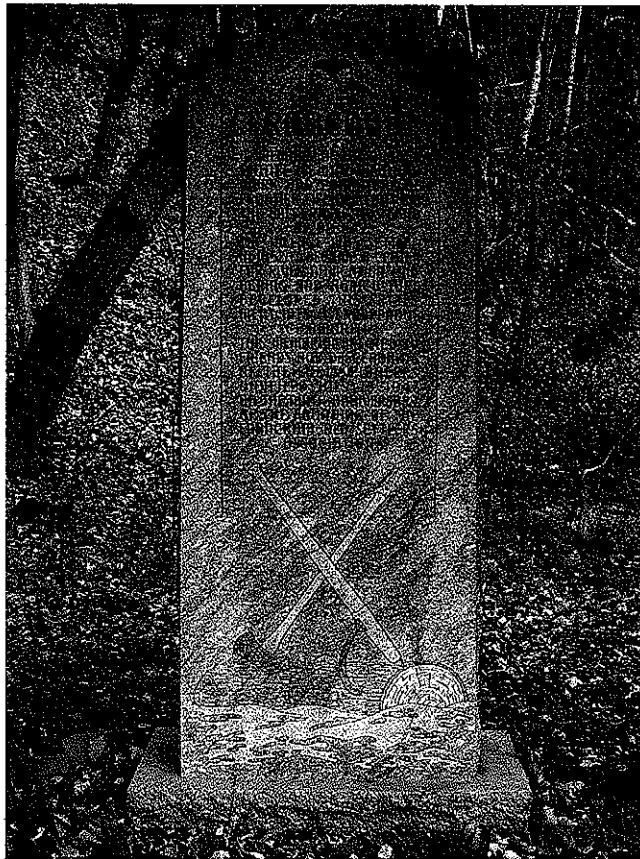


**Franconia Township**  
(Chisago County, Minnesota)

**Comprehensive Park Plan**



(Franconia "Old Settlers" Memorial)

**August 2012**

Franconia Township Board of Supervisors

Verner Greene, Jr  
Jim Birkholz  
Sue Thompson

Franconia Township Clerk

Melissa Glenna

Franconia Township Treasurer

Barb Kienberger

**Mission**

To provide parks and natural areas that meet lifestyle choices for the residents of Franconia Township.

**Vision**

Franconia Township will be proactive in identifying and developing appropriate parks and natural areas to provide township residents with the best possible quality-of-life experiences within our community.

**Park Governance**

The Franconia Township Park Advisory Committee advises the Township Board relating to park matters. The Park Advisory Committee and the Township Board work collaboratively with the Chisago County Parks Department, township residents, and other state and federal agencies that provide legal direction or are potential funding sources for park related issues.

Once approved by the Township Board, this plan will be reviewed at least annually by the Franconia Township Park Advisory Committee and if modified, presented to the Township Board for re-approval. It is anticipated that the plan will be updated annually to reflect current initiatives and directions. The original Park Plan was approved January 2008.

**Franconia Township**

- Is located in the extreme southeast corner of Chisago County, in east-central Minnesota
- Is a mostly rural township
- Is trending towards a more urban landscape due to development
- 2010 census data:
  - Population: 1805
  - Housing Units: 568
  - Land Area: 30.54 Square Miles
  - Water Area: 1.42 Square Miles
- Has a rich and extensive history dating to the early formation of the state of Minnesota
- Has a growing population due to the relatively close proximity to the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area and the recognized high quality of life opportunities in the township

**Definition of Park**

For purposes of this plan, the term “park” is defined to mean any facility set-aside to provide township residents and visitors an opportunity to experience outdoor activities. The term “park” may be used to describe a picnic area, a recreation area, an athletic area,

a natural area, a hiking area, trail, an educational area, or an open space. A park may be large or small in size and serve a limited or broad clientele.

**Assumption Regarding this Park Plan**

It is generally agreed that parks (using the broad definition of parks in this plan) are a critical component of strong and healthy communities. Parks provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to relax and recreate in a safe and pleasant environment. Parks are considered to be important factors in the perceived quality-of-life of communities.

It is generally agreed that housing demands and agricultural uses will continue to reduce the amount of park-like open spaces available for park development. The opportunity to develop high-quality parks within Franconia Township is still very real but will decrease in the future.

It is generally agreed that the population of Franconia Township and the density of housing will continue to increase. This increase calls for vision to build a future where open and park-like spaces still exist to serve the needs of the township residents and visitors.

It is generally agreed that the township residents and the township Board support reasonable and timely efforts to plan for and develop appropriate parks within Franconia Township.

**Intent of this Park Plan**

It is the intent of this park plan to establish the framework whereby the development of parks will take place within Franconia Township. This plan is a necessary component to secure funding for park land acquisition and development. This plan is the primary vehicle to communicate park planning goals and activities to the Township Board and township citizens.

Through this planning initiative, it is the intent:

- to identify potential park lands
- to secure approval to acquire, design, and develop those areas
- to research, identify and secure funding to support park initiatives
- to communicate and consult with all stakeholders regarding the needs and wishes with respect to parks within Franconia Township.

**Park Funding**

Park planning and development requires a balance between perceived needs, current opportunities, and available resources. Strong planning and citizen participation will be required to secure park funding given the limited resource of funds and competing uses for the funds. As such, a broad spectrum of funding sources will be targeted.

Funds contributed as a required fee for land development within the township are currently collected and available from the County. Release of these funds, to the township, are contingent upon an approved township park plan on file with the County.

State and federal grants will be accessed as potential sources of funds for supporting the initiatives that come out of this park plan.

Private entities will be approached regarding donating land or selling land at attractive pricing to support the development of parks.

The Town Board and the citizens of the township will be asked to support funding for parks.

Other funding sources and funding partnerships will be considered as they are identified, examples include but not limited to land and nature conservancy organizations.

#### **Existing Park Related Facilities in Franconia Township**

- **St. Croix National Scenic Riverway**
  - The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is a mix of public and private land along the St. Croix River, generally restricted with respect to development to protect the scenic qualities of the riverway and effectively forms the eastern boundary of Franconia Township.
  - Controlling entity: National Park Service
- **Osceola Landing**
  - A boat landing, parking facility, and picnic area along the St. Croix River.
  - Controlling entity: National Park Service
- **Franconia Landing**
  - A St. Croix River access point with limited parking space at the end of a township road (Summer Street).
  - Controlling entity: Franconia Township
- **Franconia Old Settlers Memorial**
  - A very small tract of land in the old village of Franconia with a memorial to the early settlers of the area.
  - Controlling entity: Franconia Township
- **Franconia Sculpture Park**
  - An outdoor park containing large-scale artistic elements.
  - Controlling entity: A not-for-profit organization

There are currently no formal state, county, or township parks within Franconia Township which would accommodate more than a gathering of a few townspeople.

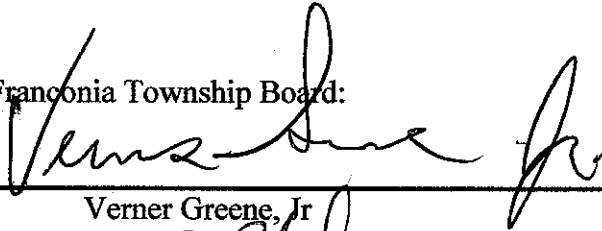
Franconia Township Comprehensive Park Plan

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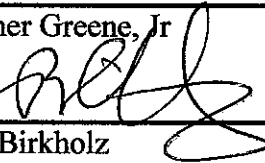
**Park Plan Approval**

After review, this Franconia Township Park Plan has been approved this 21st day of August, 2012.

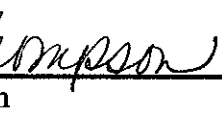
Franconia Township Board:

  
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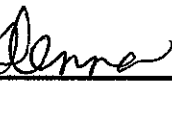
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