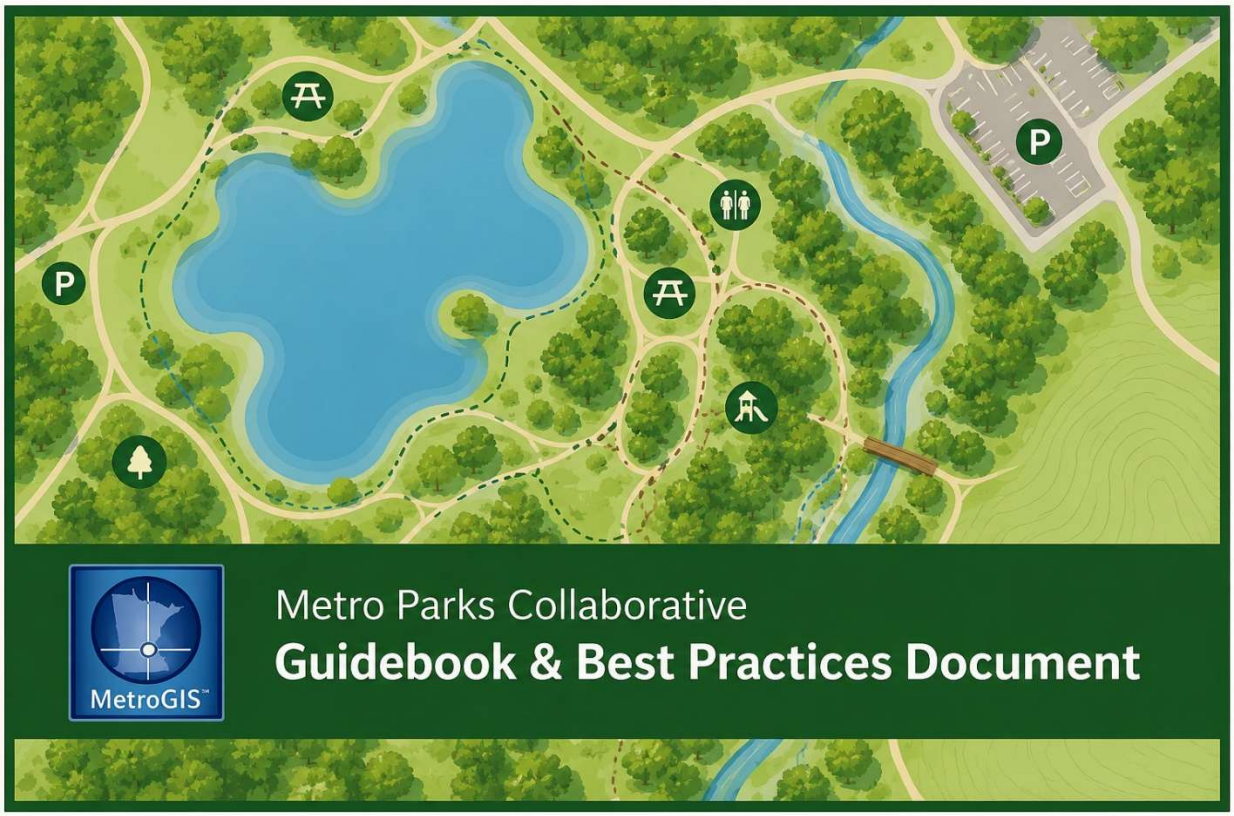


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Project Overview and Summary

The following individuals have contributed their time, skill, expertise, and comments to the development, refinement, and success of the Park collaborative effort.

Matt Harding, City of Minnetonka

Beth Koch, Dakota County

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John Slusarczyk, Anoka County

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"Living Document Status" This document is intended to provide a clear and concise overview of the Metro Parks Collaborative Data Standard, including the methods, standards, and best practices used to develop and maintain the dataset. This document is a 'living document' and is subject to revision as neededby the Park Collaborative project partners. If you would like to suggest comments or revisions, please contact the MetroGIS Coordinator via email at metrogis-contacts@metc.state.mn.us.

What is the Metro Parks Collaborative?

The Metro Parks Collaborative is a joint collaborative effort involving technical and managerial GIS staff from the seven metropolitan counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington), the Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, and regional and local park agencies. Working together, these partners have developed a standardized parks data model and dataset designed to meet the core business needs of local governments, park agencies, regional organizations, and other stakeholders.

The Metro Parks Collaborative provides a framework for participating organizations to collaboratively define, maintain, and share parks data using a common set of standards, definitions, and best practices. Through this collaboration, park data can be aggregated and utilized at a regional scale while continuing to be maintained by the agencies most familiar with and responsible for the parks they manage.

The resulting dataset provides a consistent, authoritative, and publicly accessible source of park information that can be used to support planning, analysis, public-facing applications, data sharing initiatives, and other business needs throughout the metropolitan region.

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Purpose of the Metro Parks Collaborative

Prior to the Metro Parks Collaborative effort, park data were developed and maintained independently by individual agencies throughout the metropolitan region. While these datasets served the operational needs of their respective organizations, differences in data structure, terminology, attribute definitions, and levels of detail created challenges for organizations seeking to aggregate, analyze, share, and display park information across jurisdictional boundaries.

The purpose of the Metro Parks Collaborative is to facilitate the creation, maintenance, and availability of a standardized and publicly accessible parks dataset that meets the core business needs of local, regional, and statewide partners. Through the development of a common data standard, participating agencies can provide park information in a consistent format that supports regional mapping applications, planning initiatives, data sharing efforts, public information tools, and other business needs.

By working collaboratively, participating agencies can reduce duplicative effort, improve data quality, increase interoperability among systems, and provide residents, visitors, and decision-makers with more reliable and consistent information about parks throughout the metropolitan region.

Goal of the Metro Parks Collaborative Effort

The goal of the Metro Parks Collaborative is to establish a single, authoritative regional parks dataset that is consistently maintained by participating agencies and broadly available for planning, analysis, data sharing, and public use.

Foundational Principles Guiding the Metro Parks Collaborative Effort

The Metro Parks Collaboration is guided by the following foundational principles:

- Local park agencies and jurisdictions maintain the most current, accurate, and authoritative information about the parks they own, manage, and operate.
- Developing and maintaining a standardized parks dataset across multiple organizations improves data consistency, reduces duplication of effort, and increases the value of the data for both producers and consumers.
- A common data standard enables park information to be aggregated, analyzed, and displayed seamlessly across jurisdictional boundaries while preserving local ownership and stewardship of the data.
- Publicly accessible and authoritative parks data supports a wide range of planning, operational, recreational, and public information needs at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

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- Consistent park data improves the effectiveness of regional mapping applications, data sharing initiatives, decision-making processes, and public-facing information resources.
- Collaboration among local governments, park agencies, counties, regional organizations, and other stakeholders produces a more comprehensive and sustainable parks dataset than any single organization could develop and maintain independently.
- The parks dataset should be maintained as a living resource that evolves over time to address emerging business needs, technological advancements, and changes in park facilities, amenities, and operations.

Purpose of this Document

This Guidebook and Best Practices Document is intended to provide data producers and data consumers with a comprehensive understanding of the Metro Parks Collaborative Data Standard, including its contents, terminology, recommended maintenance practices, and the methods used to create and maintain the dataset. This document serves as a more detailed reference than the dataset metadata alone.

Overview of Data Elements

This document contains the details of Version 1.4 of the Metro Parks Collaborative data standard. Developed through collaboration among the seven metropolitan counties, park agencies, Metropolitan Council, and MetroGIS, the standard establishes a common framework for the collection, maintenance, and sharing of park data throughout the metropolitan region.

The MPC Parks Data Standard is intended to support a wide variety of business needs, including regional planning, park management, public information and mapping applications, data sharing initiatives, and reporting requirements. By establishing common definitions and attribute standards, participating agencies can maintain authoritative local data while contributing to a consistent regional dataset.

The data standard consists of five (5) element groups. Each group contains attributes that support a specific aspect of the parks dataset. Some attributes are designated as required and must be populated for all park features. Other attributes are optional and may be populated at the discretion of the data provider. Detailed descriptions of each attribute, including field definitions, field specifications, data types, domains, and examples, are provided in the sections that follow. The Metro Parks Collaborative Data Standard is intentionally designed to include only the minimum set of attributes necessary to support regional data aggregation. Additional information regarding this design philosophy is provided in the following section.

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Minimal Data Standard Philosophy

One of the guiding principles of the Metro Parks Collaborative was to develop a data standard that is intentionally minimalistic. Previous collaborative efforts attempted to accommodate the unique business needs of every participating organization by incorporating numerous agency-specific attributes into a common schema. While well intentioned, these expanded schemas became increasingly complex and burdensome to maintain, ultimately creating a barrier to participation and long-term sustainability.

The current Metro Parks Collaborative Data Standard represents the minimum set of attributes necessary to aggregate data from multiple organizations into a consistent regional dataset. Each attribute included in the standard was selected because it supports a core regional business need or is essential to the management and maintenance of the collaborative dataset.

Participating organizations are encouraged to maintain additional attributes, related tables, and business-specific information within their own enterprise GIS environments as needed to support local operations and workflows. The Metro Parks Collaborative Data Standard does not restrict or replace local data models; rather, it provides a common set of required attributes that enable data from many organizations to be integrated into a single regional dataset.

This approach minimizes the maintenance burden placed on participating agencies while allowing each organization to continue meeting its own operational and business requirements.

Definitions and Terminology

The following are definitions to key terminology contained in this document and found in the metadata related to the Metro Parks dataset.

Agency Manager Type: A standardized two-digit classification identifying the type of organization responsible for managing a park, such as a county, municipality, state agency, or park district.

Authoritative Data Source: The organization responsible for creating, maintaining, and updating information for a given park feature. For the Metro Parks Collaborative dataset, park agencies, local governments, counties, and other organizations with ownership or management responsibility for a park are considered authoritative data sources.

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Authoritative Maintenance: The practice of maintaining park information at the local level by the organization most familiar with and responsible for the park while contributing to a shared regional dataset.

Blank Value: Indicates that a valid value may exist for an attribute, but the value is currently unknown or has not yet been entered. A blank value is not the same as a null value.

Data Steward: The individual or organization responsible for maintaining the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of information contained within the dataset.

Domain: A defined list of acceptable values for a particular attribute.

Joint Management: An arrangement in which multiple organizations share responsibility for operating, maintaining, funding, or administering a park.

Last Edit Date: The date on which information associated with a park feature was most recently updated.

Managing Agency: The organization responsible for the day-to-day operation, maintenance, programming, or administration of a park.

Mandatory Element: An attribute that must be populated for all park features. Null values are not permitted.

Metropolitan Area: For the Parks Collaboration, the following seven (7) counties are considered the metropolitan area:

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Washington County

Null Value: Indicates that no valid value exists for the attribute.

Optional Element: An attribute that may be populated at the discretion of the data provider. The presence of the attribute is not required but may add value and functionality to the dataset.

Ownership: The legal entity holding title to the property on which a park is located.

Park: A publicly accessible area designated for recreation, conservation, open space preservation, cultural resources, environmental protection, or other public benefit purposes and

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managed by a governmental agency, park district, nonprofit organization, or other authorized entity.

Park Agency: An organization responsible for the ownership, operation, management, maintenance, or administration of one or more parks.

Park Classification: A categorization used to describe the primary function, service area, or operational role of a park.

Park Feature: A single park represented as an individual polygon within the Metro Parks Collaborative dataset.

Public Access: The extent to which the general public is permitted to access and use a park.

Regional Dataset: A dataset compiled from multiple authoritative sources and standardized for use across organizational and jurisdictional boundaries.

Standardized Dataset: A dataset in which all participating organizations utilize a common set of definitions, attribute structures, and data requirements.

Metro Parks Collaborative Data Accuracy Statement

Park features contained within the Metro Parks Collaborative dataset are intended to represent the geographic extent and associated attributes of parks as maintained by the authoritative data source agency. The spatial and attribute accuracy of each park feature reflects the quality and currency of the information provided by the agency responsible for its maintenance.

Park boundaries and associated attributes represented in the Metro Parks Collaborative dataset are intended to support mapping, analysis, planning, data sharing, and public information applications. While park boundaries are derived from authoritative local and regional sources, they may not represent legally surveyed property boundaries, ownership parcels, easements, or other legal land descriptions. Users requiring legally authoritative property information should consult the appropriate land records maintained by the responsible jurisdiction.

The Metro Parks Collaborative dataset is compiled from multiple participating organizations using a common data standard. While every effort is made to ensure consistency and accuracy, variations may exist in the methods used by individual agencies to define park boundaries, classify park features, and maintain park-related attributes. The accuracy and completeness of individual attributes are dependent upon the maintenance practices of the authoritative data provider.

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The Metro Parks Collaborative dataset is intended to serve as a regional inventory of park resources and should be considered the best available representation of park information at the time of publication. As park facilities, boundaries, ownership, management responsibilities, and operational characteristics change over time, participating agencies are responsible for updating their data to ensure the continued accuracy and usefulness of the regional dataset.

Metro Parks Collaborative Category Elements

The Metro Parks Collaborative Standard is comprised of five (5) categories, called elements. Each represents a subset of the data standard and contains the attributes necessary to support a specific set of business requirements.

Element 1: Identification Elements

These attributes provide unique identifiers for each park feature and support long-term record management and data integration.

Element 2: Primary Feature Elements

These attributes define the primary identity of the park, including its official name and any alternate or commonly used names.

Element 3: Access and Descriptive Elements

These attributes describe the park's physical characteristics, public accessibility, classification, status, and other descriptive information useful for analysis and public-facing applications.

Element 4: Ownership and Administration Elements

These attributes document ownership, management responsibilities, agency classifications, operational partnerships, site control, funding responsibilities, and other administrative information associated with the park.

Element 5: Data Maintenance Elements

These attributes support data stewardship and quality assurance by documenting data sources, editing organizations, edit dates, and other maintenance-related information.

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Element 1
Identification

Element 1.1: GUID

Field Name	GUID		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Required
Width	36	Domain	NA
Examples	99380443-A9DB-4959-8DD6-081C343345A0		
Description	Globally unique alpha-numeric code		

Attribute is populated by default.

Element 1.2: Park ID

Field Name	Park_ID		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Required
Width	20	Domain	NA
Examples	0030617-03-007-00001		
Description	FIPS county code+FIPS city code+Agency Manager Type code+agency park identifier+unique polygon ID		

Null and blank values are **not permitted** for Element 1.2.

Park ID Structure and Assignment

The Park ID is a standardized identifier used to uniquely identify individual park polygons within the Metro Parks Collaborative dataset. The identifier consists of five components, separated by hyphens:

County FIPS Code – City FIPS Code – Agency Manager Type Code – Agency Park Identifier – Unique Polygon Identifier

For example: 0030617-03-007-00001

- County FIPS Code: A three-digit code identifying the county associated with the park.
- City FIPS Code: A four-digit code identifying the city or municipality associated with the park.
- Agency Manager Type Code: A two-digit code identifying the type of agency responsible for managing the park, consistent with the Agency Manager Type domain.
- Agency Park Identifier: A code identifying the individual park within the managing agency's park inventory.
- Unique Polygon Identifier: A code distinguishing an individual polygon from other polygons associated with the same park.

Parks Represented by Multiple Polygons

A single park may consist of multiple geographically separate polygons. In these situations, the polygons should share the same county, agency manager type, and agency park identifier components, while each polygon receives a distinct unique polygon identifier.

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This approach allows individual polygons to be uniquely identified while preserving their association with the same park. It also supports regional data aggregation, feature-level maintenance, and the identification of parks represented by multiple geographic features.

Element 2
Primary Feature

Element 2.1: Park Name

Field Name	Park_Name		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Optional
Width	255	**Domain**	NA
Examples	Rice Creek Chain of Lakes		
Description	Primary park name		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 2.1.

Element 2.2: Alternate Name

Field Name	Alt_Name		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Optional
Width	100	**Domain**	NA
Examples	RCCOL		
Description	Park abbreviation or nickname		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 2.2.

Element 3
Access and Descriptive

Element 3.1: Address

Field Name	Address		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Optional
Width	100	**Domain**	NA
Examples	7373 Main St, Lino Lakes, MN 55308		
Description	Primary address of the park		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 3.1.

Element 3.2: Park Type

Field Name	Park_Type		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Optional
Width	30	**Domain**	Park Type
Examples	Park Reserve		
Description	Park classification or category		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 3.2.

Element 3.3: Park Status

Field Name	Park_Status		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	30	Domain	Park Status
Examples	Existing		
Description	The development status of the park		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 3.3.

Element 3.4: Open to Public

Field Name	Open_Public		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	50	Domain	Open to Public
Examples	Open to Public		
Description	Open or closed status of the park		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 3.4.

Element 3.5: Acreage

Field Name	Acreage		
Data Type	Double	Inclusion	Optional
Width		Domain	NA
Examples	1838.4		
Description	Park polygon acreage		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 3.5.
This is a required field for Metropolitan Council submittals.

Element 4
Ownership and Administration

Element 4.1: Metropolitan Council Park Classification

Field Name	MC_Classification		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	50	Domain	Met Council Class
Examples	Management Boundary		
Description	Met Council park classification		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.1.

Element 4.2: Agency Manager

Field Name	Agency_Manager		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	50	Domain	Agency
Examples	Anoka County		
Description	Agency responsible for managing the park		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.2.
This is a required field for Metropolitan Council submittals.

Element 4.3: Agency Manager Type

Field Name	Agency_Manager_Type		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	2	Domain	Agency Type
Examples	03-Managed by a county government or agency		
Description	Two digit code representing the type of agency that manages the park		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.3.
This is a required field for Metropolitan Council submittals.

Element 4.4: O&M Funding Agency

Field Name	OM_Funding_Agency		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	50	Domain	Agency
Examples	Anoka County		
Description	Agency responsible for operations and maintenance of the park		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.4.
This is a required field for Metropolitan Council submittals.

Element 4.5: Partner Agency

Field Name	Partner_Agency		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	50	Domain	Agency
Examples	City of Lino Lakes		
Description	Agency that owns/manages or is contracted to conduct O&M		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.5.
This is a required field for Metropolitan Council submittals.

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Element 4.6: Site Control

Field Name	Site_Control		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	30	Domain	Site Control
Examples	Owned		
Description	Agency property right for the park		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.6.
This is a required field for Metropolitan Council submittals.

Element 4.7: Public Water

Field Name	Public_Water		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	3	Domain	Yes_No
Examples	Yes		
Description	Indicates whether there is public water present		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.7.
This is a required field for Metropolitan Council submittals.

Element 4.8: Website URL

Field Name	URL		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Optional
Width	250	Domain	NA
Examples	https://www.anokacountyparks.com/parks/rice-creek-chain-of-lakes		
Description	Link to the park website		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 4.8.

Element 5
Data Maintenance

Element 5.1: Data Source

Field Name	Data_Source		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Required
Width	50	Domain	NA
Examples	Google Maps, local imagery, site visit		
Description	The source of the data, as input by the Editing Organization		

Null and blank values are **not permitted** for Element 5.1.

Element 5.2: Editing Organization

Field Name	Edit_Org		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Required
Width	50	**Domain**	NA
Examples	Anoka County GIS		
Description	The organization that made the last substantial change to the data record, including geospatial edits.		

Null and blank values are **not permitted** for Element 5.2.

Element 5.3: Edit Date

Field Name	Edit_Date		
Data Type	Date	**Inclusion**	Required
Width	NA	**Domain**	NA
Examples	02/27/2026 5:47:25 PM		
Description	The date of the last substantial change to the data record, including geospatial edits.		

Null and blank values are **not permitted** for Element 5.3.

Element 5.4: Comments

Field Name	Comments		
Data Type	Text	**Inclusion**	Optional
Width	255	**Domain**	NA
Examples	Confirm park boundary with city		
Description	A general comments field for additional notes		

Null and blank values **are permitted** for Element 5.4.

Domains

Many of the attributes included in the Metro Parks and Trails Collaborative Data Standard utilize coded value domains to promote consistency, improve data quality, and simplify the aggregation of data from multiple participating organizations. Domains define the acceptable values that may be assigned to an attribute and help ensure that data submitted by participating agencies conforms to the regional standard.

The domains contained within this document represent the standardized values adopted by the Metro Parks and Trails Collaborative for use within the regional dataset. When an attribute is associated with a domain, participating organizations should populate the field using one of the approved values listed for that domain.

Participating organizations may maintain additional local domain values or internal classifications within their own enterprise GIS environments to support agency-specific business needs. However, any data submitted to the Metro Parks and Trails Collaborative should utilize the standardized domain values documented herein to ensure compatibility with the regional dataset.

The following sections document each domain used by the Metro Parks and Trails Collaborative Data Standard, including the allowable values and their corresponding definitions.

Domain 1: Agency

Values
Afton
Andover
Anoka
Anoka County
Apple Valley
Arden Hills
Bayport
Baytown Twp.
Belle Plaine
Belle Plaine Twp.
Benton Twp.
Bethel
Birchwood Village
Blaine
Blakeley Twp.
Bloomington
Brooklyn Center
Brooklyn Park
Burnsville
Camden Twp.
Cannon Falls
Carver
Carver County
Castle Rock Twp.
Cedar Lake Twp.
Centerville
Champlin
Chanhassen
Chaska
Circle Pines
Coates

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Cologne
Columbia Heights
Columbus
Coon Rapids
Corcoran
Cottage Grove
Credit River
Crystal
Dahlgren Twp.
Dakota County
Dayton
Deephaven
Dellwood
Denmark Twp.
Douglas Twp.
Eagan
East Bethel
Eden Prairie
Edina
Elko New Market
Empire
Eureka Twp.
Excelsior
Falcon Heights
Farmington
Forest Lake
Fort Snelling (unorg.)
Fridley
Gem Lake
Golden Valley
Grant
Greenfield
Greenvale Twp.
Greenwood
Grey Cloud Island Twp.
Ham Lake
Hamburg
Hampton
Hampton Twp.
Hancock Twp.
Hanover
Hastings
Helena Twp.

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Hennepin County
Hilltop
Hollywood Twp.
Hopkins
Hugo
Independence
Inver Grove Heights
Jackson Twp.
Jordan
Lake Elmo
Lake St. Croix Beach
Lakeland
Lakeland Shores
Laketown Twp.
Lakeville
Landfall
Lauderdale
Lexington
Lilydale
Lino Lakes
Linwood Twp.
Little Canada
Long Lake
Loretto
Louisville Twp.
Mahtomedi
Maple Grove
Maple Plain
Maplewood
Marine on St. Croix
Marshan Twp.
May Twp.
Mayer
Medicine Lake
Medina
Mendota
Mendota Heights
Miesville
Minneapolis
Minneapolis Parks and Rec Board
Minnesota DNR
Minnesota DOT

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Minnetonka
Minnetonka Beach
Minnetrista
Mound
Mounds View
New Brighton
New Germany
New Hope
New Market Twp.
New Prague
New Trier
Newport
Nininger Twp.
North Oaks
North St. Paul
Northfield
Norwood Young America
Nowthen
Oak Grove
Oak Park Heights
Oakdale
Orono
Osseo
Pine Springs
Plymouth
Prior Lake
Ramsey
Ramsey County
Randolph
Randolph Twp.
Ravenna Twp.
Richfield
Robbinsdale
Rockford
Rogers
Rosemount
Roseville
San Francisco Twp.
Sand Creek Twp.
Savage
Scandia
Sciota Twp.
Scott County

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Shakopee
Shoreview
Shorewood
South St. Paul
Spring Lake Park
Spring Lake Twp.
Spring Park
St. Anthony
St. Bonifacius
St. Francis
St. Lawrence Twp.
St. Louis Park
St. Marys Point
St. Paul
St. Paul Park
Stillwater
Stillwater Twp.
Sunfish Lake
Three Rivers Park District
Tonka Bay
Vadnais Heights
Vermillion
Vermillion Twp.
Victoria
Waconia
Waconia Twp.
Washington County
Waterford Twp.
Watertown
Watertown Twp.
Wayzata
West Lakeland Twp.
West St. Paul
White Bear Lake
White Bear Twp.
Willernie
Woodbury
Woodland
Young America Twp.

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Domain 2: Agency Type

Values
01 – Managed by federal government or agency
02 -Managed by state government or agency
03 – Managed by county government or agency
04 – Managed by special district government or agency
05 – Managed by municipal government or agency
06 – Managed by tribal government or agency
07 – Managed by regional government or agency
08 – Managed by a port authority
09 – Managed by a joint government or agency
10 – Managed by a school district
97 – Unknown
98 – No Value
99 – Managed by a private individual or business

Domain 3: Metropolitan Council Classification

Values
Administrative Boundary
Inholding
Management Boundary
Search Area
Unknown

Domain 4: Open to Public

Values
Open to Public
Closed to Public
Open Seasonal, Closed in Winter
Open Seasonal, Closed in Summer
Unknown

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Domain 5: Park Status

Values
Existing
Proposed
Under Construction
Search Area

Domain 6: Park Type

Values
Bridging Facility
City Park
Community Park
Conservation Area
County Park
Cultural Landscape
Golf Course/Multi-Use
National Park
Natural Area
Neighborhood Park
Open Space
Park Reserve
Regional Park
Regional Trail Land
School Park
Special Feature
Sports Complex
State Park
Tot Lot
Unknown

Domain 7: Site Control

Values
Agreement
Conveyances
None
Owned
Unknown

Domain 8: Yes No

Values

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Yes
No
Unknown

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