



Fairy Falls Day Use Area Site Planning Update

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is exploring opportunities for improving safety, protecting the natural environment, and enhancing visitor experiences at Fairy Falls Day Use Area, located near Stillwater, Minnesota.

Fairy Falls Day Use Area is a 54-acre natural area that has been managed by the National Park Service since 1980. Deep ravines and steep bluffs surround Silver Creek as it passes through a marsh on its way to the St. Croix River. The area has a long history of human use, and its ecological diversity provides habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Fairy Falls Day Use Area was closed to the public from summer 2020 to winter 2022 due to lack of safe visitor access and deteriorating social trails along steep slopes.

Starting in fall 2021, Riverway staff invited public comments to gather input and ideas for the future of Fairy Falls Day Use Area. Riverway staff also met with local and regional partners for their input during the summer of 2022. Based on public and partner input, Riverway staff have developed two draft site options, Options B and C that provide a range of visitor opportunities while protecting natural and cultural resources at the day use area. Later in the environmental review process, one or both options will be compared against an option of continuation of current management. The NPS is required to consider the current management or “no-action”, but the current management is not the preference of the National Park Service.

NPS Management Activities that Would Occur Under Either Site Option:

- Maintain a rustic and natural feel in the Day Use Area
- Continue partnerships with local communities and neighbors to provide parking and safe access
- Seek a permanent parking solution
- Allow use in Fairy Falls Day Use Area for daytime use only, from sunrise to sunset
- Prohibit overnight use, camping, and fires
- Provide improved maps and signs including safety and orientation information
- Provide opportunities for visitors with a range of skill levels and abilities
- Protect natural and cultural resources, such as invasive plant species management
- Continue engagement with Tribal partners
- Carry out occasional management or closures due to unsafe conditions or highly eroded trails
- Continue law enforcement patrols and maintenance activities to support a safe, clean day use area
- Allow deer archery hunting in Fairy Falls Day Use Area in accordance with state and federal laws

What are the Next Steps for Fairy Falls Day Use Area Site Planning?

- Review, analyze, and summarize public feedback on the two draft site options
- Continue conversations with Tribal partners, agency partners, and local communities
- Undertake compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable regulations
- Continue to provide regular updates and opportunities for public input



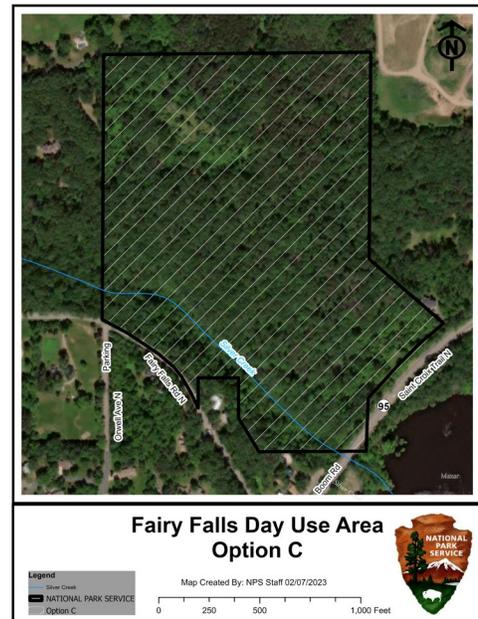
Site Option B

- Visitor use would be focused on the waterfall, but access would be allowed across the site
- Interpretive signage and educational focus on waterfall
- Continue to work with partners to provide parking and safe access
- Seek a permanent parking solution
- Primary visitor activities: visiting waterfall, photography, short hikes
- Visitors would have more encounters with other visitors near the waterfall



Site Option C

- Visitor use would take place at the waterfall and be dispersed site-wide with a natural-surface loop trail
- Interpretive signage and educational materials dispersed across site
- Continue to work with partners to provide parking and safe access
- Seek a permanent parking solution
- Primary visitor activities: visiting waterfall, longer walking loop
- Visitors may encounter others near the waterfall and also along loop trail system



Your input is very important to us! Please provide comments.

We invite you to review these two draft site options and provide feedback to help us further refine future management of Fairy Falls Day Use Area. For additional information and to provide feedback, please visit our planning website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/fairyfalls> or via our primary website at <http://www.nps.gov/sacn>.

The preferred method for receiving public comments is through our planning website. You may also submit written comments to Lisa Yager at St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Fairy Falls Day Use Area Site Planning, 401 N. Hamilton Street, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024.

Please submit comments by March 29, 2023.