

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Fairy Falls Day Use Area

June 25, 2024

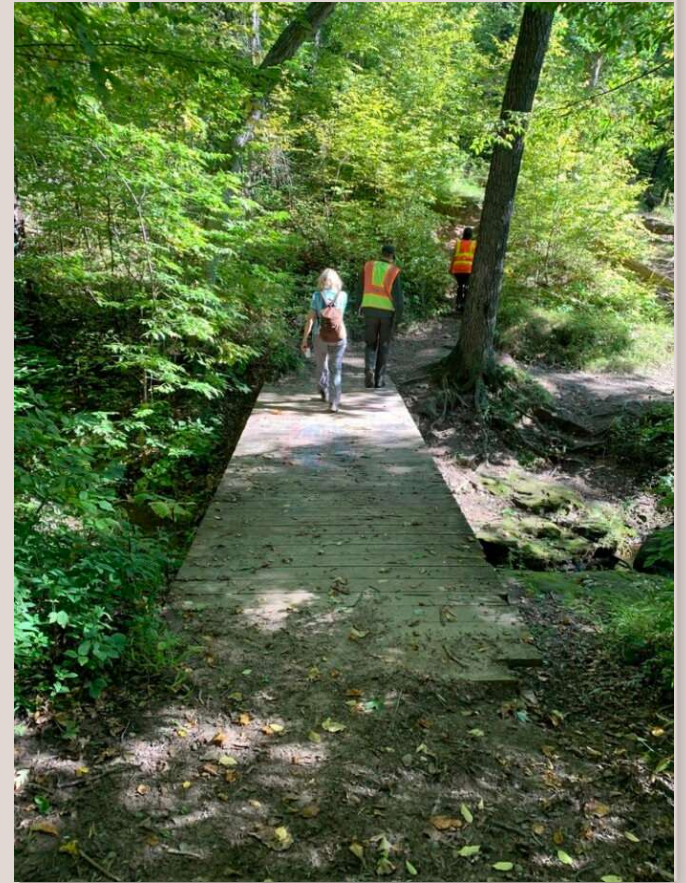
Open House: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Presentation: 6:30 pm



Meeting Objectives

- Status of Fairy Falls Day Use Area
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Overview of Public Engagement
- Previous Planning
- Proposed Alternative
- Next Steps
- Public Comment Open



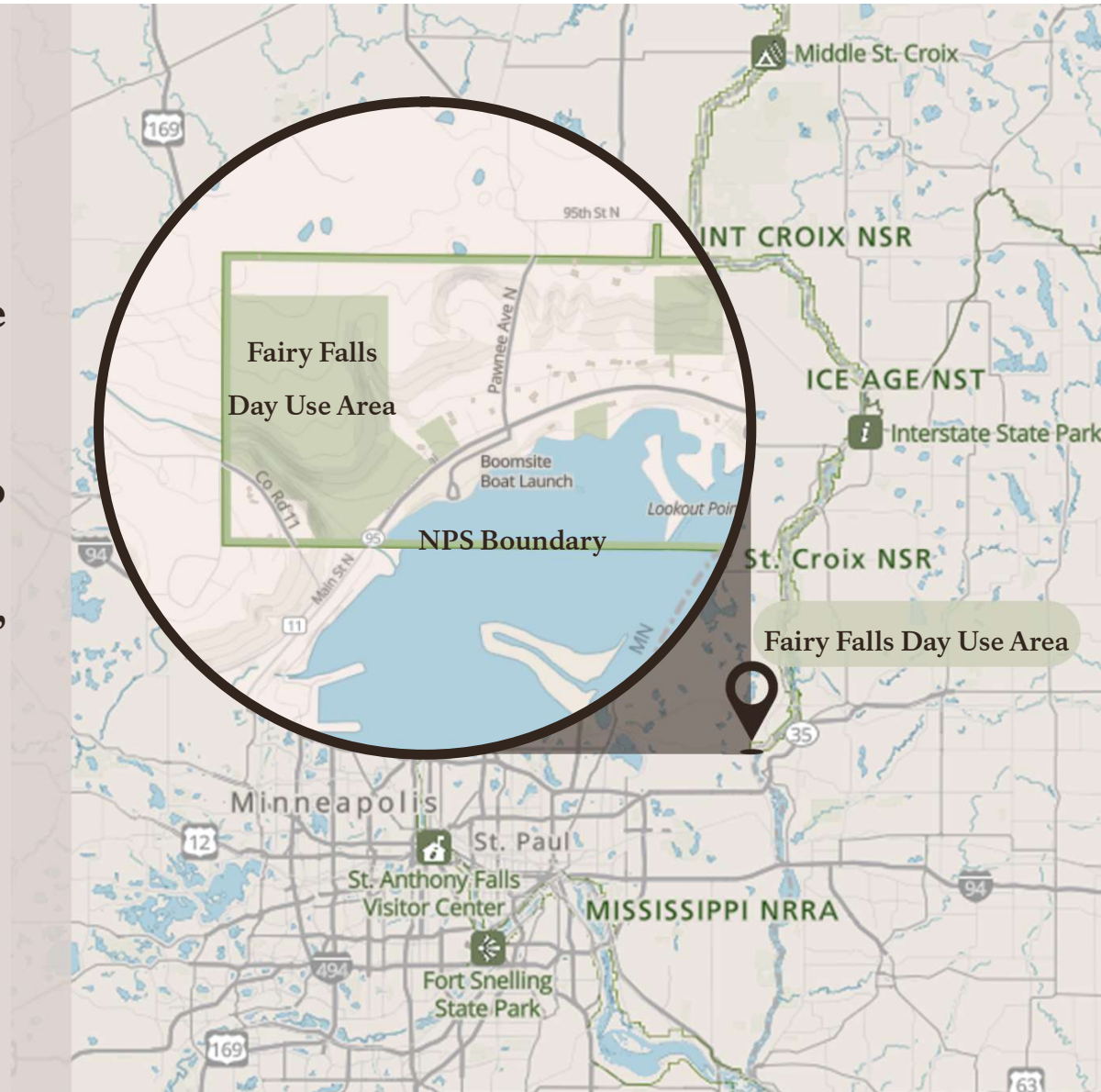


The Riverway

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway preserves, protects, and enhances the values of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers and their immediate environment for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

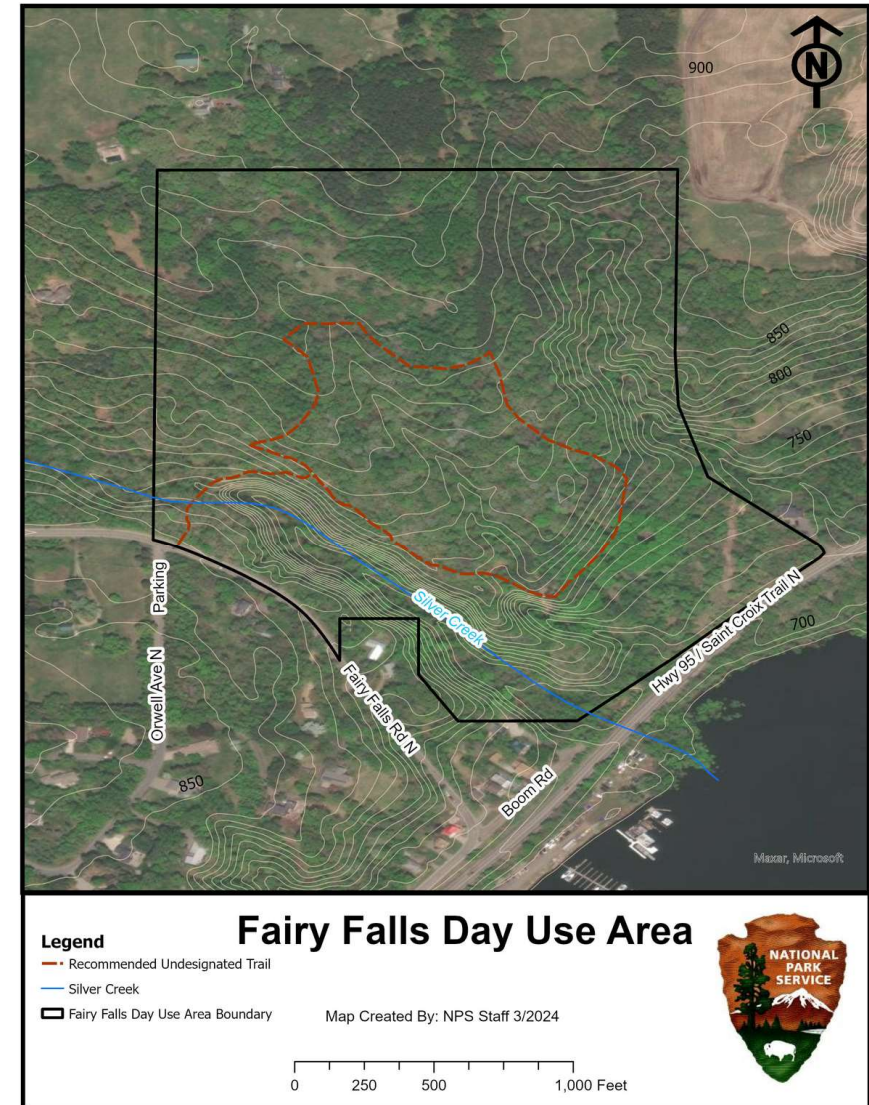
Vision for Fairy Falls

“Fairy Falls Day Use area is open to the public. The site retains its natural character and cultural resources while providing visitors with opportunities to safely view the waterfall. The NPS focuses on managing natural resources, sharing connections to the history of the site, and providing safe access for visitors.”



Challenges and Opportunities

- Identifying safe access and designated parking
- Improving or rerouting trails
- Enhancing visitor experience
- Protection of natural resources



Consultation and Coordination Summary

Received over

40

public comments

NPS held over

9

public engagement
and stakeholder
meetings

Engagement with

1

Federal
Agency

3

State
Agencies

5

Local
Agencies

19

Tribal
Partners



Access &
Trespassing



Natural Resource
Management



Interpretation &
Education



Facilities &
Amenities



Visitor Safety



Preserving
Rustic Feel

How We Got Here

- Public planning process began in 2021
- NPS worked with relevant stakeholders and considered public input to develop alternative site options to consider
 - Option A: Current management or “no-action”
 - Option B
 - Option C
- NPS brought these options to the public in 2023 for consideration.



Previous Options Considered

Option B



- Visitor use focused on waterfall.
- Seek permanent parking solution.
- Primary visitor activities:
 - Visiting waterfall
 - Photography
 - Short hikes

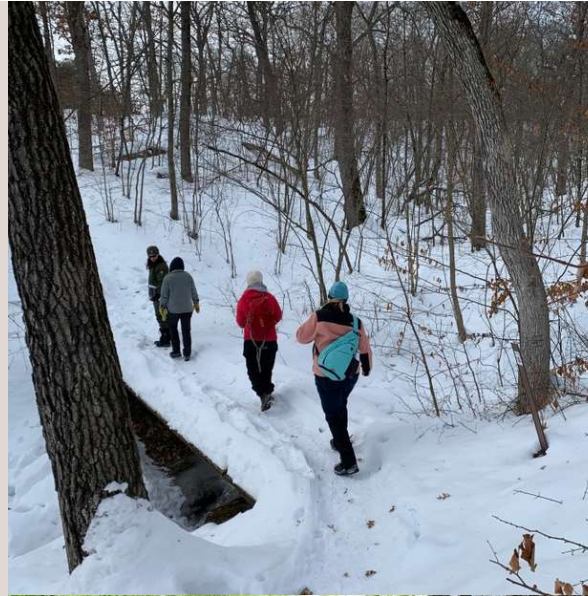
Option C



- Visitor use dispersed site wide.
- Seek permanent parking solution.
- Primary visitor activities:
 - Visiting waterfall
 - Longer hikes

Planning for the Future

Through internal discussion, and public and partner input, Riverway staff have developed a draft site plan that provides a range of visitor opportunities while protecting natural and cultural resources.



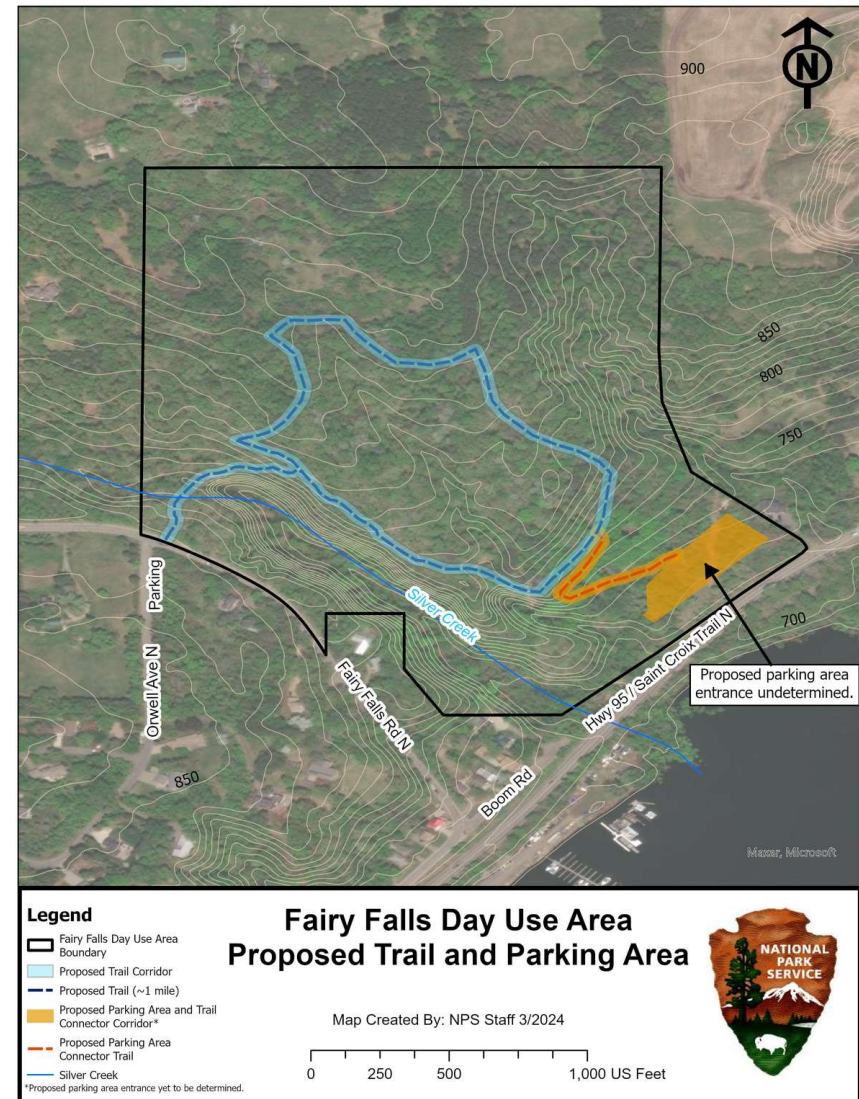
No Action Alternative

- No new trails or facilities
- Visitors would continue to access the area under existing conditions.
- Occasional management actions would occur to mitigate erosion, address safety concerns, and remove hazard trees.
- Continued law enforcement patrol
- Parking would continue to be managed through partnerships
- Maintain current rules and regulations



Proposed Alternative

- Establish a designated trail
- Enhance visitor safety
- Provide opportunities for visitors with a range of skill levels and abilities
- Protect natural and cultural resources
- Consider parking alternatives



Common to All - Management Activities

- Maintain a rustic and natural feel in the Day Use Area.
- Continue **partnerships** with local communities and neighbors to provide parking and safe access.
- Allow for **daytime use** only, from sunrise to sunset.
- Prohibit overnight use, camping, and fires.
- Provide improved maps and signs including safety and orientation information.
- 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 accordance with state and federal laws.
- Continue to allow dogs, if they are on a leash no longer than six feet in length.

Next Steps - Ongoing Planning and Compliance Process

Public Input

Review Public Comment

Finalize Alternative

Ongoing Tribal Partner Consultation

Ongoing FWS Consultation

Decision Documentation

Seeking Opportunities for Funding and Partnerships



We Want to Hear from You!

- Comment period open June 17 through July 16, 2024
- How to share:
- <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/fairyfalls>
- In writing to:

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Attn: Allissa Reynolds/Fairy Falls

401 N. Hamilton Street

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

Fairy Falls Day Use Area Site Planning Process

[Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway » Fairy Falls Day Use Area Site Planning Process » Document List](#)

The National Park Service is exploring opportunities for improving safety, protecting the natural environment, and enhancing visitor experiences at the Fairy Falls Day Use Area, located near Stillwater, Minnesota.

The Fairy Falls Day Use Area is a 54-acre natural area located in Stillwater Township. 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.



How To Comment Online

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/fairyfalls>

**National Park Service**(PEPC) Planning, Environment & Public Comment

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PROJECT LINKS

- [Project Home](#)
- [Meeting Notices](#)
- [Document List](#)
- [Open For Comment \(1\)](#)

A comment period for this project closes **Jul 16, 2024: 21 Days, 10 Hours, 30 Min.**

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Thank you!

Contact Information:

Any project updates throughout the process can be found at the "Planning for Fairy Falls" link at <http://www.nps.gov/sacn> or by calling the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Headquarters at 715-483-2274.

