

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

MERIT WORKSHOP

JEFFERSON CO PORP UPDATE



AGENDA

- 1 Introductions
- 2 What & Why of MERIT
- 3 Progress & Goals
- 4 Partnership Possibilities
- 5 Visioning & Action Plan
- 6 Future Opportunities



Consultant Facilitation Team



Andy Meessmann

Landscape Architect

*Project Co-Manager &
Implementation*



Heidi Putnam

Environmental Planner

Project Manager & Engagement

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Jack Davis

Landscape Designer

Graphics Guru

If the County PORP update process succeeds beyond expectations, what headline would you want to see in the news five years from now?



Friends of
Rose Lake

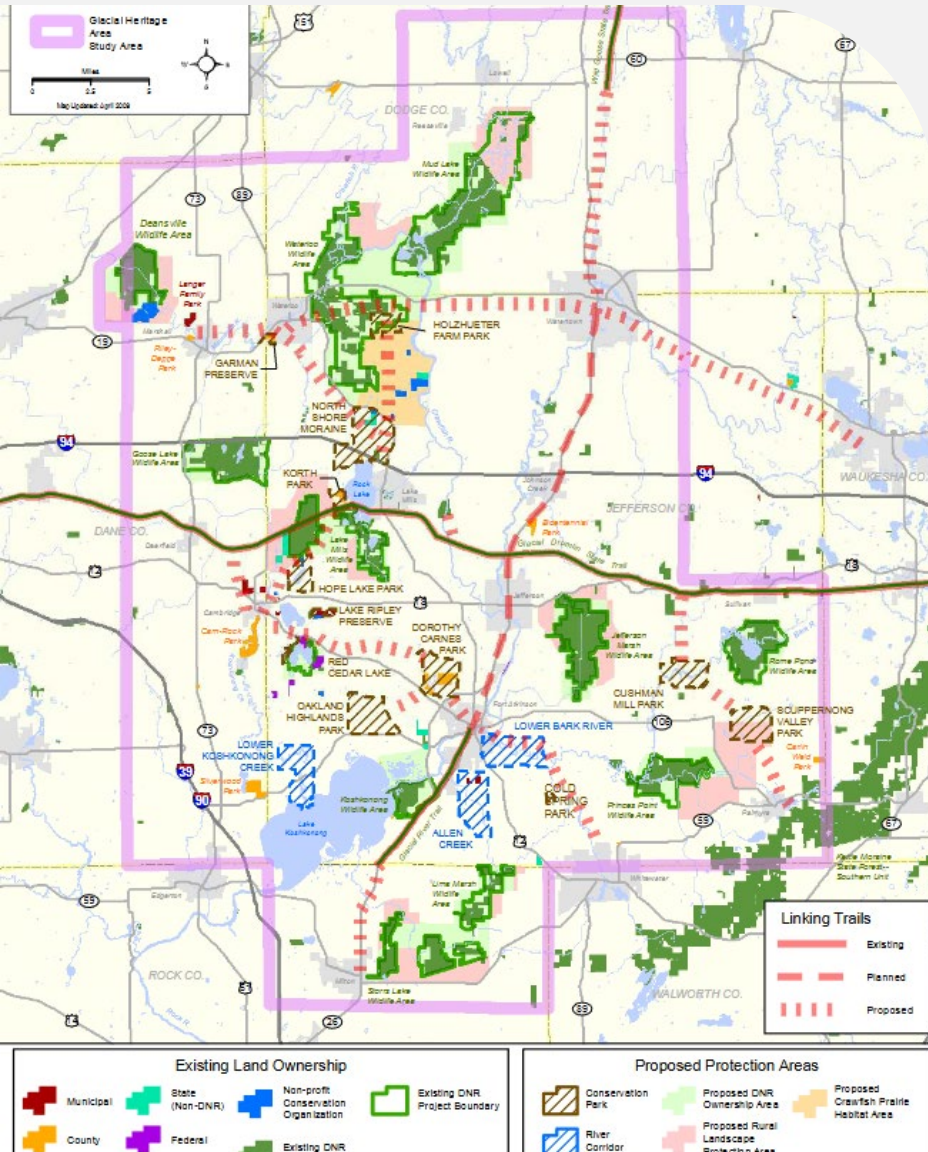
Friends of
Korth Park

Representatives of user groups and
other entities



MERIT

Municipal and Environmental/Recreation Initiative Team



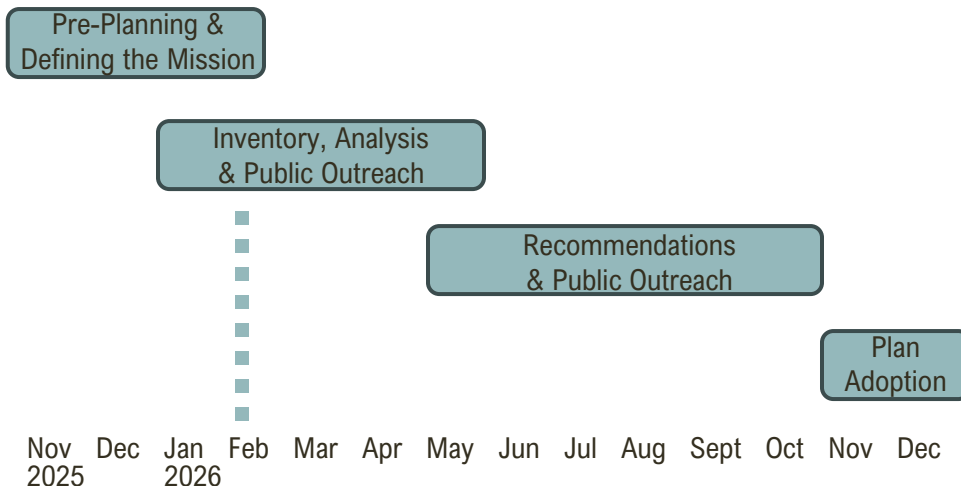
- **Glacial Heritage Area Background**
- **Foundation for MERIT**
- **What is MERIT designed to do?**
- **What is its role within the PORP planning process & beyond?**

PART OF COUNTY PORP

County Park & Outdoor Recreation Plan

Why is a PORP important?

- Maintain grant eligibility (WI DNR 5yr cycles)
- Plan guides decision-making for improvements, acquisition, programming, etc.
- CIP requests
- Check-in on what has changed since the last plan
- **Identify efficiencies and partnerships to improve resources (this is where you come in!)**



What is a PORP?

A comprehensive guide detailing strategies for developing and maintaining parks, recreation facilities, and outdoor public spaces.

What is in a PORP?

- Introduction & Existing Conditions
- Existing facilities inventory
- Public participation
- Goals & Objectives
- Park & Open Space Standards & Needs Assessment
- Recommendations
- Implementation Action Plan

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

How can the County PORP help us reach our county-wide park & recreation ecosystem goals?

PROGRESS & GOALS

A snapshot of current projects, future projects and needs, shared assets, and system gaps to guide Countywide parks and recreation planning.

PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITIES

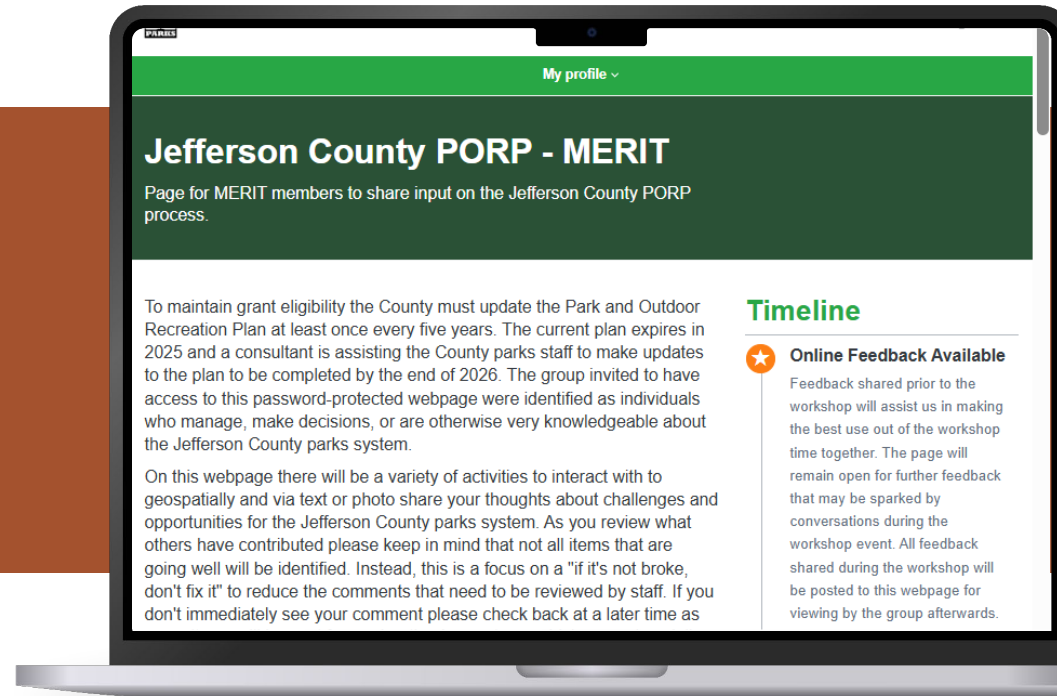
A discussion on strengthening collaboration by learning from past partnerships, addressing challenges, and identifying new opportunities.

VISIONING & ACTION PLAN

A collective look at what success should be in the next five years, the resources and support needed, and the key steps to take in the next six months.

EXISTING INPUT

Quick Review



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JEFFERSON-COUNTY-PORP-MERIT



PROGRESS & GOALS

What are we working on and where do we want to go?

20 Minutes

Idea Stations – 15 minutes
(individual rotation at own pace)

Facilitator Share Out – 5 minutes

Guiding Questions

- What strengths, challenges, and opportunities do we have as a wider parks and recreation planning ecosystem for the County?
- What can my organization offer as an asset to share with other entities?
- What projects are you working on or want to in the future?
- Are there any key acquisitions to connect things?
- Any deficiencies that could be addressed to making something a great recreational asset?
- Municipalities – What does your 5 & 10yr development outlook look like? What kind of connectivity do we need to prepare for that?

PARTNERSHIP POSSIBILITIES

How can we increase efficiencies?

20 Minutes

Individual Generation - 5 minutes

3 Small Group Sorting – 10 minutes

- Identify themes

Big Group Prioritization – 7 minutes

Facilitator Share Out – 3 minutes

Guiding Questions

- What partnerships have worked well in the past?
- What challenges have you experienced in the past trying to work in partnerships?
- What future partnerships could help achieve wider park and recreation goals in the County?

10-MINUTE BREAK

VISIONING & ACTION PLAN

Where do we go from here?

30 Minutes

3 small groups - 3 minutes per station

- Facilitators move around, participants sit with pizza

Facilitator Share Out – 3 minutes

Big group discussion – 15 minutes

Prioritized dot voting on next steps ~ 5 minutes

Guiding Questions

Small Group

- Based on our partnership brainstorming, what would success look like in 5 years?
- What shared resources are needed to get there?
- What training is needed to get there?

Big Group

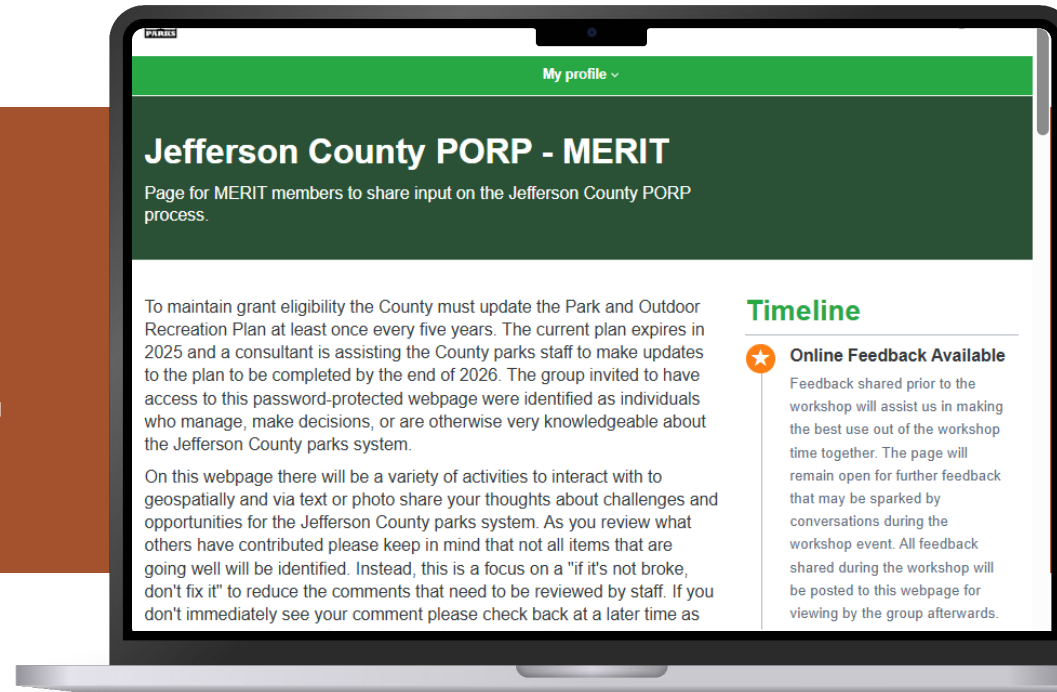
- What first steps could we take in the next 6 months? (Matrix Chart)
- How can the County PORP help reach those goals?

***THIS WEBPAGE IS JUST FOR THIS MERIT TEAM GROUP. PLEASE ONLY SHARE INTERNALLY WITH YOUR OTHER ORGANIZATION DECISION-MAKERS.**

SHARE YOUR IDEAS ONLINE

Social Pinpoint How-To

Password:
MERIT4Parks



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***THIS WEBPAGE MAY BE SHARED FAR AND WIDE**

ASK OTHERS TO SHARE TOO

General Public



**No Password
Needed**



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[JEFFERSON-COUNTY-PORP](#)



SHARE YOUR IDEAS IN PERSON

Public Open House

March 18

5-7 PM

UW-Extension Office

*864 Collins Rd, Jefferson
Meeting Rooms 8 & 9*



THANK YOU



LAND DEVELOPMENT



MUNICIPAL



PUBLIC SPACES



STRUCTURAL



TRANSPORTATION



WATER



SNYDER
& ASSOCIATES