

# ACTIVE LIVING



ISANTI COUNTY

## PROCESS

The project process (shown in figure D2 below) began with the creation of the Steering Committee and included three major phases: a research phase, a documentation phase and an analysis phase. The Steering Committee was comprised of community members from the Isanti County Parks and Recreation Commission, County Commissioners, Township Boards, local organizational representatives and citizens at large. Efforts were made to have a diverse Steering Committee to provide needed insight into multiple perspectives and opinions from people in the County.

The research phase included four Steering Committee meetings, inventory of the natural and rural character resources and Public Workshop 1. The Steering Committee discussed the mission of the Parks Plan, significant and potential locations for expansion, likes and dislikes of the Parks Plan, financing, interjurisdictional collaboration and much more. Natural and rural character resource maps were used for inventory and analysis in both the Steering Committee meetings and in Public Workshop 1. The Natural Areas Map shows areas within the County that have environmental integrity<sup>1</sup>. The Rural Character Map shows areas within the County that are visually pleasing. Public Workshop 1 focused on identifying broad community values on natural resources and rural character, the Park Plan's purpose,

*1. Environmental integrity reflects a state of the environment wherein air, water, and biologic systems function adequately to be self-sustaining. In this state the environment can also provide services that sustain human health and well-being (Steve Roos, Center for Rural Design, 2007).*

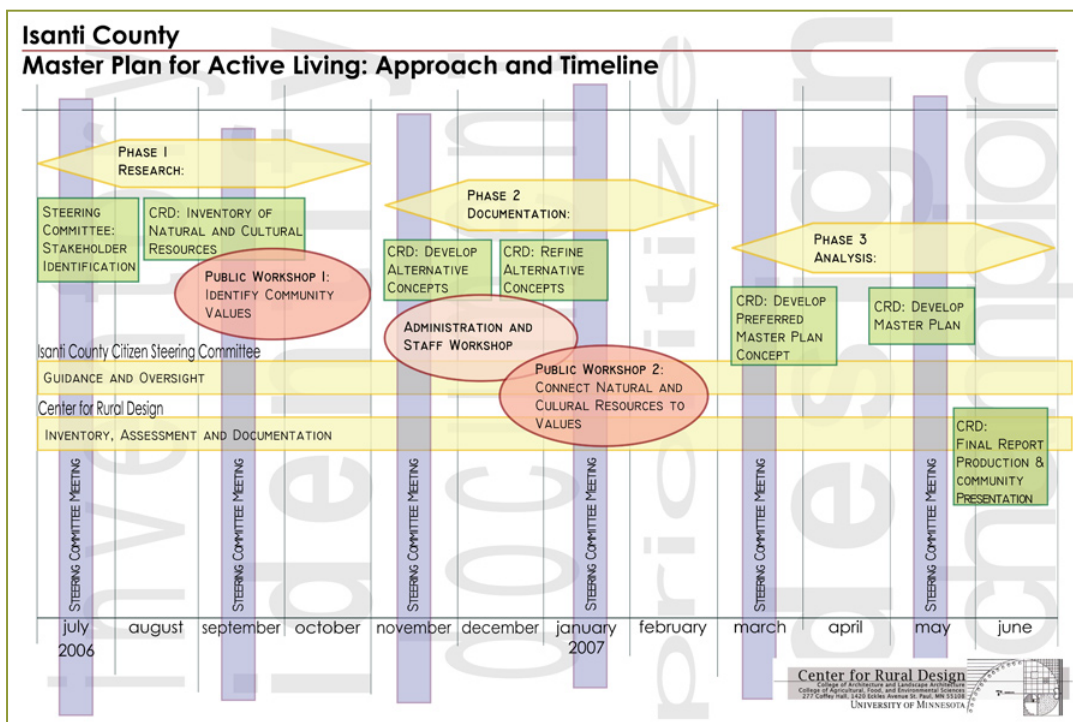


Figure D2. Master Plan Approach and Time Line, Center for Rural Design, 2006.



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within the County that are visually pleasing. Public Workshop 1 focused on identifying broad community values on natural resources and rural character, the Park Plan's purpose, services, and areas of significance.

The documentation phase included: data from Public Workshop 1 and the Comprehensive Planning process, a Steering Committee meeting, administrative questionnaires and Public Workshop 2. Public Workshop 1 and the Comprehensive Plan community input results provided insight into the importance and thrust of the Parks Plan in Isanti County. The Steering Committee Meeting reviewed the results and helped to shape the format and activities for the second Public Workshop. Public Workshop 2 used the results of the previous Workshop to provide a platform from which new questions were developed. This workshop focused on the prioritization of the community values and asked the community members to come to consensus about numerous issues. Similar to Public Workshop 1, a series of administrative questionnaires were presented to the County Commissioners, the Park Board and the Township Board. These questionnaires asked willing participants questions about the mission, jurisdictional interest and finance of the Park Plan.

The analysis phase included Public Workshop 2 documentation, two Steering Committee meetings, development of the Parks Plan and presentation of the Parks Plan to the Parks and Recreation Commissioners and the County Commissioners. The Steering Committee reviewed the results from Public Workshop 2. The Public Workshop results, administrative questionnaires and Steering Committee feedback were then combined, analyzed and interpreted in the creation of the Parks Plan. The Steering Committee worked hand in hand with the Center for Rural Design and reviewed each section of the report.