

ESMC Knife River Futures

Community gatherings to look at design scenarios and learn about possible funding pathways.

August 5, 2025 - Two meetings: 4:00 - 5:30pm, 6:30 - 8:00pm

ESMC Knife River Futures Working Group:

UMN Team

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Knife River Community Team

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Keri Cavitt

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Participants: Approximately 100 people total in attendance.

Residents, County officials, Community members.

Design Scenario Feedback

All postits gathered from Aug 5 meetings included, as written.

Design Scenario 1: Strengthen Knife River's Heart Maximizing existing KRRC Rec Center parcel (new building)		
What do you LIKE about this scenario?	What CONCERNS do you have about this scenario?	What QUESTIONS do you have about this scenario?
<i>A building should incorporate large and mid size meeting rooms and storage for community resources.</i>	<i>Flooding</i>	<i>Meeting room area needs to include activity area - ping pong, etc. - keeping kids in mind</i>
<i>We own the property. Monies can all be used on building and infrastructure.</i>	<i>Future flooding!!</i>	<i>What if we build the building up - so that flooding will not damage the building</i>
<i>Recreation space - wherever needs to be 4 season (pickleball, billiards, tennis, table tennis, exercise, music)</i>	<i>ensure we don't lose too much field space</i>	<i>We could [site] parking across Church St, leaving the field open for activities.</i>
<i>Off Scenic - a little more hidden, safer, not on a busy road</i>	<i>Flood plain, flood plain, flood plain</i>	<i>Would current Center be added to for larger space?</i>
<i>Beautiful site!</i>	<i>This location is great if flooding issue can be mitigated.</i>	<i>Not an option - flood plain</i>
<i>Site #1 is the best site!</i>	<i>Flooding and restrictions</i>	<i>Whatever location is decided, I like the idea of combining a youth center with a gym that the public can also use (pickleballer)</i>

<i>Leave the Rec Hall at site #1</i>	<i>Flooding!!!</i>	<i>Sustainability considerations w/ any building design to lower operating costs, geothermal, solar, well insulated, etc.</i>
<i>Leave Rec Hall where it is please!</i>	<i>In the next 100 years it might flood again.</i>	<i>cafe and traveling PT, Dr, telehealth room options</i>
	<i>Footprint of size of building</i>	
	<i>Keep this Rec Center and sports field as is</i>	

Design Scenario 2: Gateway to the North Shore & Public Ownership of the Campground Maximizing possibilities at the current campground parcel (new building)		
What do you LIKE about this scenario?	What CONCERNS do you have about this scenario?	What QUESTIONS do you have about this scenario?
<i>I feel that acquiring the campground property is critical for long term strategy of KR public space into the future.</i>	<i>Can we move swiftly enough to acquire property?</i>	<i>What does the campground's infrastructure look like?</i>
<i>Ties our non-profits together into a cohesive public space.</i>	<i>Overage of path to river. Monitoring of fires on the river. Pollution in the river - human waste and trash.</i>	<i>Like idea to acquire but not to put building on - due to setbacks and being right on Scenic. This land is important to our Central Park.</i>
<i>Purchase the property to keep it public and tie our "Central Park" together. Keep it PUBLIC.</i>	<i>How much usable space is there?</i>	<i>Need thorough testing of infrastructure.</i>
<i>Number 2 scenario is amazing - the "green space" is the perfect concept and site for our recreation building (present site is NOT an option, flood plain)</i>	<i>Can the community afford to buy it?</i>	<i>I vote NO to Campground</i>
<i>Campground best location for future rec center. On highway - big enough - accessible, parking. Protect water - not on river but near river. Not on lake, but near lake.</i>	<i>Costs and time to complete this project.</i>	<i>How do we make best use of current Rec Center site?</i>
<i>Protects this land from commercial development. Good synergy with Heritage Center.</i>	<i>No to #2 - Leave for commercial opportunity like CAFE</i>	<i>What happens to existing Community Center site?</i>

<i>Love this space - make small buildings on loop for glampground and double as Julebyen huts!</i>	<i>#2 is the WORST IDEA</i>	<i>How will ensure people do not cross the river and trespass on private land?</i>
<i>some utilities may already be there</i>	<i>Railroad and safety concerns</i>	<i>Could we carve out a commercial corner on the campground property for a restaurant / cafe?</i>
<i>protecting from big development</i>		
<i>I think securing the campground property is critical for the future of KR</i>		
<i>Now there would be more room at original site for kids soccer, basketball [?], skating, etc.</i>		
<i>Great use of this space and adjacent to KRHCC</i>		
<i>It would allow us to keep using the current building and fields</i>		
<i>Do overnight camping - not seasonal. People also camp in an area spend money in the area.</i>		
<i>Two Harbors and Silverbay own campgrounds - great way to bring money into the community</i>		

Design Scenario 3: Maximize possibilities for KRRC Beach Parcel Explore siting a new building at the current KRRC beach parking lot		
What do you LIKE about this scenario?	What CONCERNS do you have about this scenario?	What QUESTIONS do you have about this scenario?
<i>Areas for parking - large lot</i>	<i>Too close to the beach itself!</i>	<i>(none)</i>
<i>We (KRRC) owns the land</i>	<i>Parking and traffic impacts on the townhome residents.</i>	
<i>#3 choose the septic site for new building</i>	<i>Our pristine beach is our best natural asset. Don't develop.</i>	
<i>Get KR Sewer District to donate old sewer plant</i>	<i>Don't like here - beach use is priority. don't lose green space / parking.</i>	
<i>I would like more businesses in</i>	<i>Keeping the beach natural and</i>	

<i>town - coffee shop, restaurant, rentals (bike, boats, etc), etc</i>	<i>not "over building" it.</i>	
<i>This could be a nice site.</i>	<i>Too close to beach. Would take away from residents.</i>	
	<i>Too close to the Lake - beach is already getting too much use, parking etc.</i>	
	<i>Southshore little towns in Wisconsin have cafes, bike rentals, boat rentals, have a charm and identifiable destination.</i>	

Design Scenario 4: A Natural Gateway to the North Shore: Public Access for Knife River and Lake Superior Nature's Gateway and Preserving Public Access		
What do you LIKE about this scenario?	What CONCERNS do you have about this scenario?	What QUESTIONS do you have about this scenario?
<i>I like that #4 combines several elements that will enhance our community.</i>	<i>Over use of beach - parking, noise, etc. once hits Instagram popularity</i>	<i>Outdoor fields - 65 yrs x 45 yds min; Indoor multi sport gym 75x180 ft; outdoor seating with canopy; sauna; exercise equipment</i>
<i>Offers most protection for natural resources.</i>	<i>Glacier Park type overuse - # cruise ships [illegible] then people here - now bathrooms and Norwegian charm</i>	<i>Can the County deed this acreage along the river to KRRC to keep public?</i>
<i>Has the potential to be our best preservation of resources.</i>	<i>Way too theoretical - DNR isn't likely to fund another "state park" up the north shore</i>	<i>What traffic, quality of life impacts have will result for residents by building this?</i>
<i>It's worth looking into.</i>	<i>Timeline is too long... many people excited about helping may not still be here in 12 years</i>	<i>Do we REALLY want to encourage / increase the amount of visitors to Knife River?</i>
<i>LOVE concept of connected spaces and broad community-wide open/forest space</i>	<i>How much longer would this bigger project take?</i>	
<i>More land may open more options</i>	<i>Focus is more on tourism and travel than community /</i>	

	<i>residential stakeholders</i>	
<i>The concept of keeping the lower section of Knife River public.</i>	<i>Can all of this work together and how would that look? Community and DNR events</i>	
<i>Space is huge, vision is big - love the idea of partnering</i>	<i>People crossing private property to get to public beach.</i>	
<i>I like the central park concept for the long run!</i>	<i>Involves too many entities. We DON'T want to be a major tourist magnet!</i>	
	<i>People crossing the river onto private property. Controlling boats/kayaks so they don't land on private property.</i>	