

Anoka County – Bunker Hills Activity Center

Future Reimbursement Consideration Request

March 20, 2017

Community Development Committee



Current situation

- Projects are *usually* appropriated funding through legislative action
 - Capital Improvement Program (CIP; even years) or
 - Parks & Trails Legacy (odd years)
- No bonding bill was enacted in 2016 to fund the regional parks CIP
 - Two bonding bills currently under consideration at the Legislature
 - Governor's bill: \$10M
 - Alternative bill: \$5M
 - Fate of the bonding bills may not be known until late May

Current situation

- Some projects arise off-cycle and need special consideration
 - Opportunities for cost savings or economies of scale
 - Land acquisition opportunities that may be lost
 - Emergencies
- These exigencies are addressed through a mechanism known as *future reimbursement consideration*

Future reimbursement consideration

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan requirements:

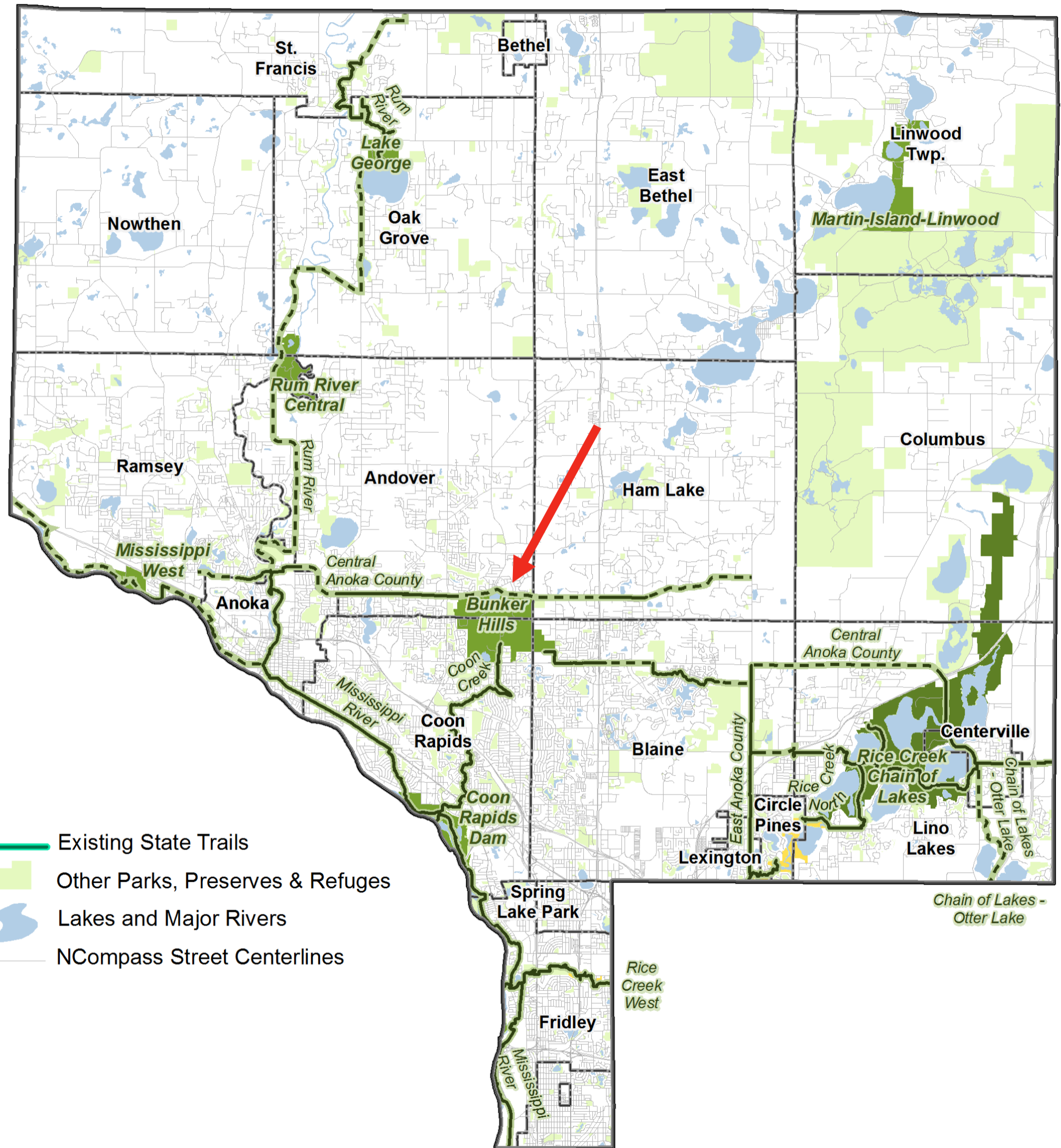
- To be eligible for future reimbursement consideration, the agency must obtain formal Met Council approval prior to beginning work on the project
- The Agency undertakes the project at its own risk and pays for it from its own funds
- The Agency may be reimbursed from Council bonds through the Agency's share of a future Capital Improvement Program
- This instance further complicated due to uncertainty of bonding bill status

Future reimbursement consideration

This instance:

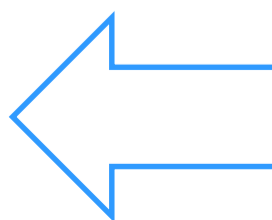
- **Safety:** Mitigate a public health emergency by connecting to City of Andover water because of a contaminated well that supplies the Visitor Center at Bunker Hills Regional Park
- **Economy:** Connect to city sewer at the same time
- **Timing:** Site well water is non-potable

Regional Park System Anoka County



- Regional Parks**
- Regional Parks
 - Park Reserves
 - Special Recreation Features
 - Planned Units
 - Regional Trail Corridor Land
- Regional Trails**
- Existing
 - Planned

- Existing State Trails
- Other Parks, Preserves & Refuges
- Lakes and Major Rivers
- NCompass Street Centerlines



Two funding scenarios

- If a bonding bill **is** enacted in 2017 and **if** Anoka County's share is sufficient to cover the project
 - Anoka County will fund the project through the normal bonding process and will not be eligible for future reimbursement consideration;
 - Anoka County will cover all costs incurred prior to the state bonding eligibility date
- If a bonding bill **is not** enacted in 2017 and **if** the Council approves this request
 - Anoka County will complete the project using its own funds
 - Anoka County may request up to \$250,000 in reimbursement through a future CIP, **but**
 - The Council does not guarantee reimbursement

Rationale

- MN Stats §473.315 authorizes the Council to award grants for metropolitan regional parks
- The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan authorizes the Council to reimburse Agencies for the costs of development projects undertaken before they can be financed through the CIP
- The recommended action aligns with Thrive MSP2040
 - Supports the *Stewardship* outcome by protecting the public health & providing safe drinking water
 - Supports the *Collaboration* principle by working with Anoka County outside the typical funding cycle

Recommendation

- Consider reimbursing Anoka County up to \$250,000 from its share of a future CIP for costs incurred to connect the Bunker Hills Regional Park Visitor Center to city water and sewer, UNLESS a state bond appropriation is enacted during the 2017 legislative session and Anoka County's share is sufficient to cover the cost of the project
- Inform Anoka County that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.