

Business Item 2021-342

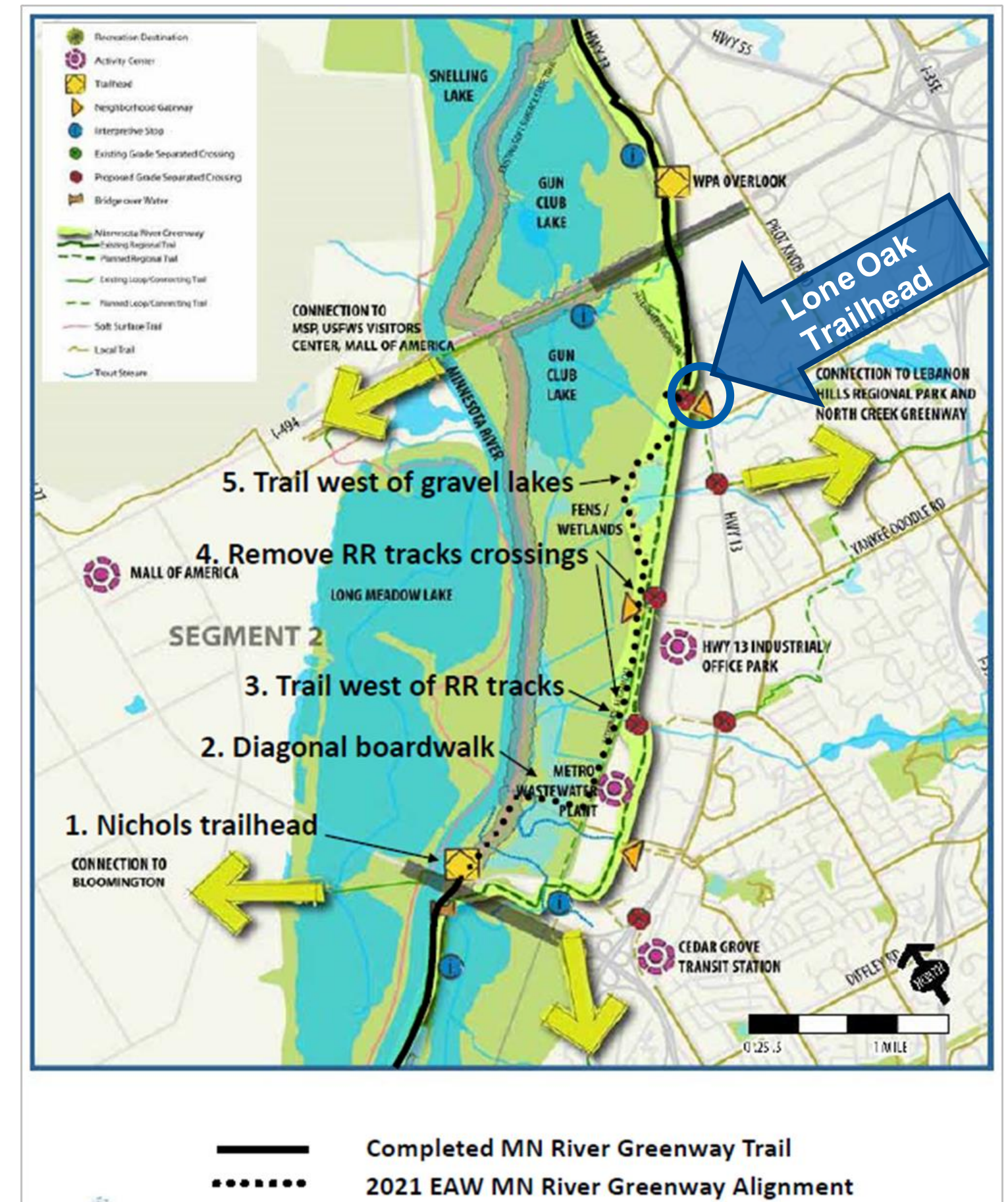
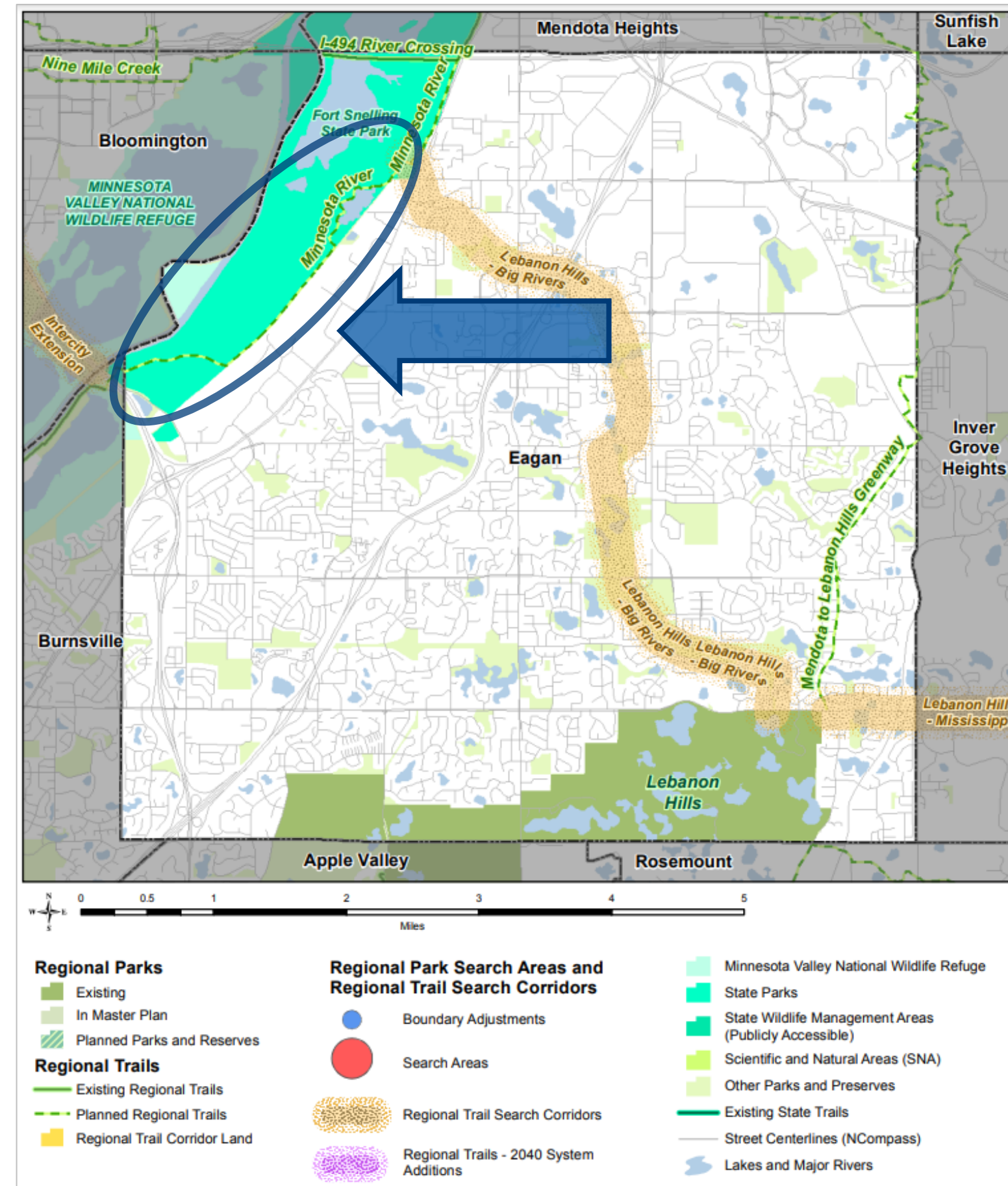
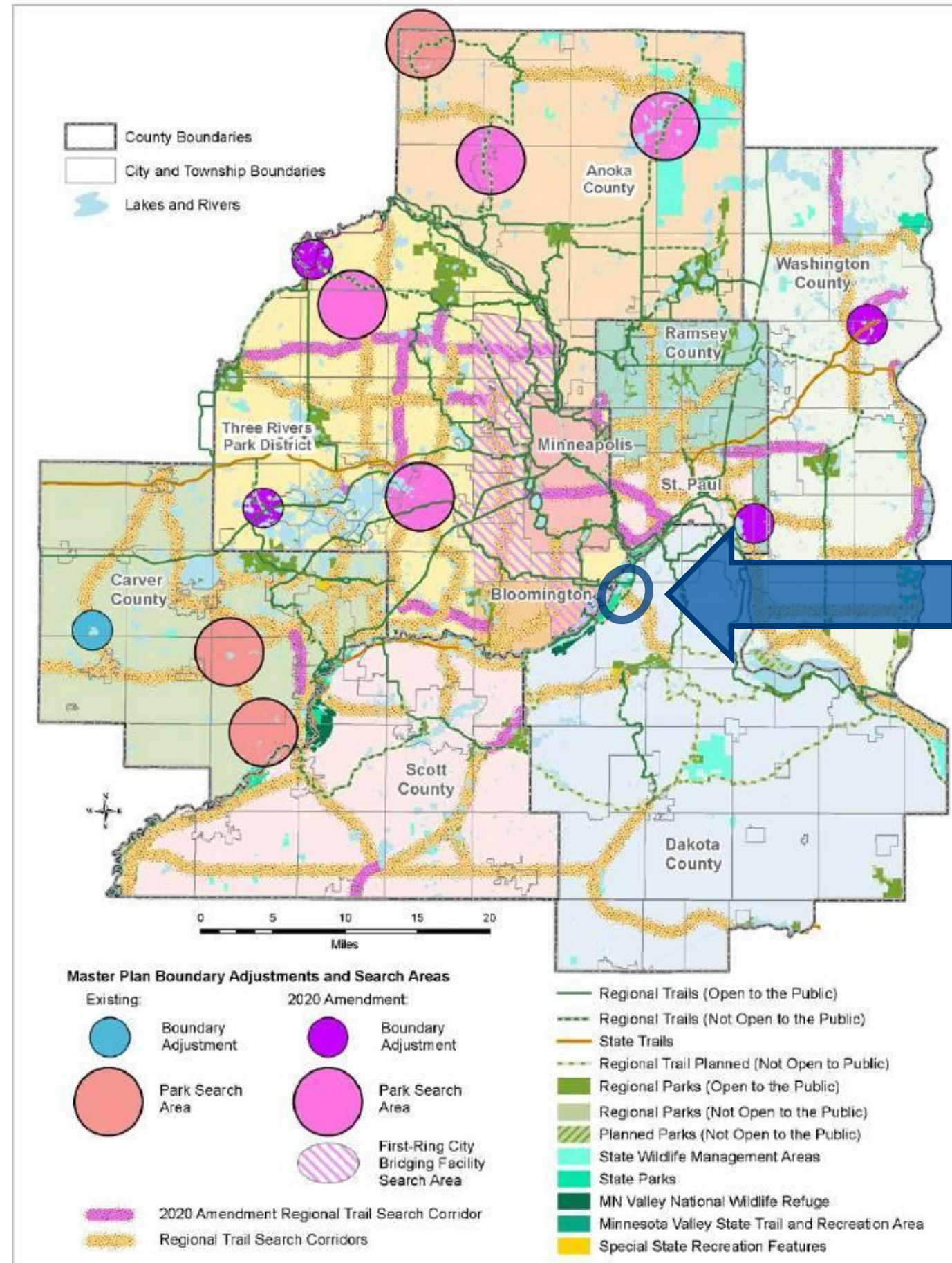
Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Plan Amendment Dakota County

December 6, 2021

Community Development Committee



Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail, Fort Snelling State Park Segment (Dakota County)



Partner & Public Engagement

Partners

- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Gun Club Watershed Management Organization (WMO)
- Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
- Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District (WCD)
- City of Eagan

Project Approach

- 2012 Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan
- 2014 Minnesota River Greenway Eagan Feasibility Study
- 2017 Minnesota River Greenway Cultural Resources Interpretive Plan
- 2021 Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)

Public Outreach

- Common Themes:
 - Support for a trailhead connection at Lone Oak Road
 - Enhancing safety crossings and access points
 - Providing pedestrian and bike access between Cedar Avenue (Nichols Trailhead) to Lone Oak Road
 - Connections to surrounding destinations such as the Minnesota River Valley and Fort Snelling State Park
 - Providing opportunities for wildlife observation and enjoyment
 - Minimizing environmental impacts

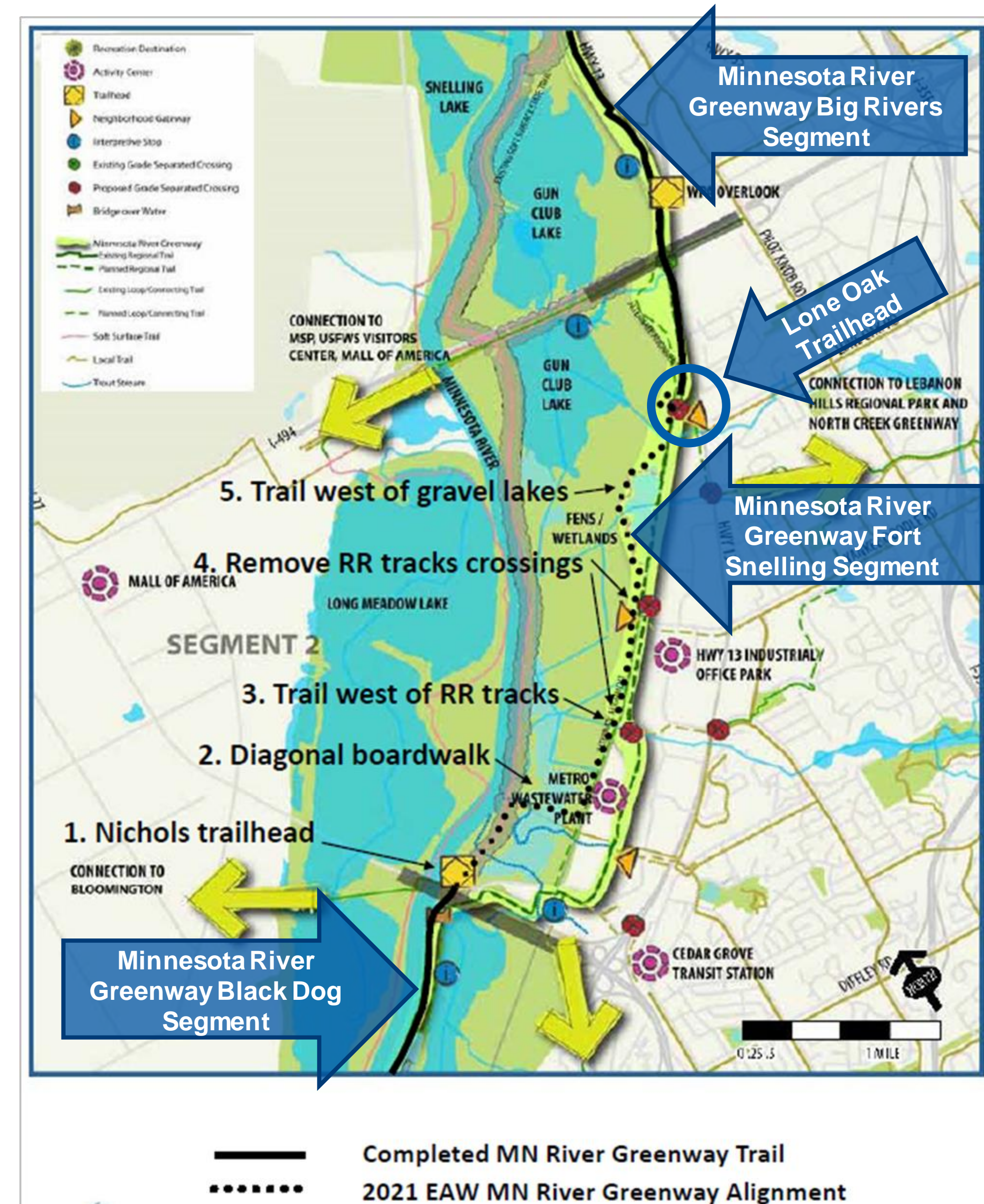
Development Concept & Operations

Development Concept

- Cedar Avenue, Nichols Trailhead
 - Completed improvements in 2019 and 2020
 - Connects to the Black Dog Segment, South
- Lone Oak Rd
 - Trailhead completed in 2021
 - Connects to Big Rivers Segment, North
- Trail alignment improvements
 - Boardwalk
 - Trail on west side of railroad tracks
 - Reduced railroad crossings from three to one
 - Trail on the west side of the gravel lakes

Operations

- Cooperative Agreement with MN DNR for 3.2 miles of trail and natural resources restoration within Ft. Snelling State Park.
- Easement with the Council for 476 linear feet of trail on their property.
- Encroachment Agreement with the Council for three trail crossings of sewer pipeline easement within Ft. Snelling State Park.
- Construction and Maintenance Agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad for trail pedestrian bridge overpass (in process).



Estimated Project Costs

- The total estimated acquisition and development cost for the regional trail is \$6,000,000.
- The total annual operating and maintenance budget is \$4,030/mile.
- Annual cost for fog sealing is \$5,280
 - Year 7 & 14
- Approval of master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time.



Rationale for Proposed Action

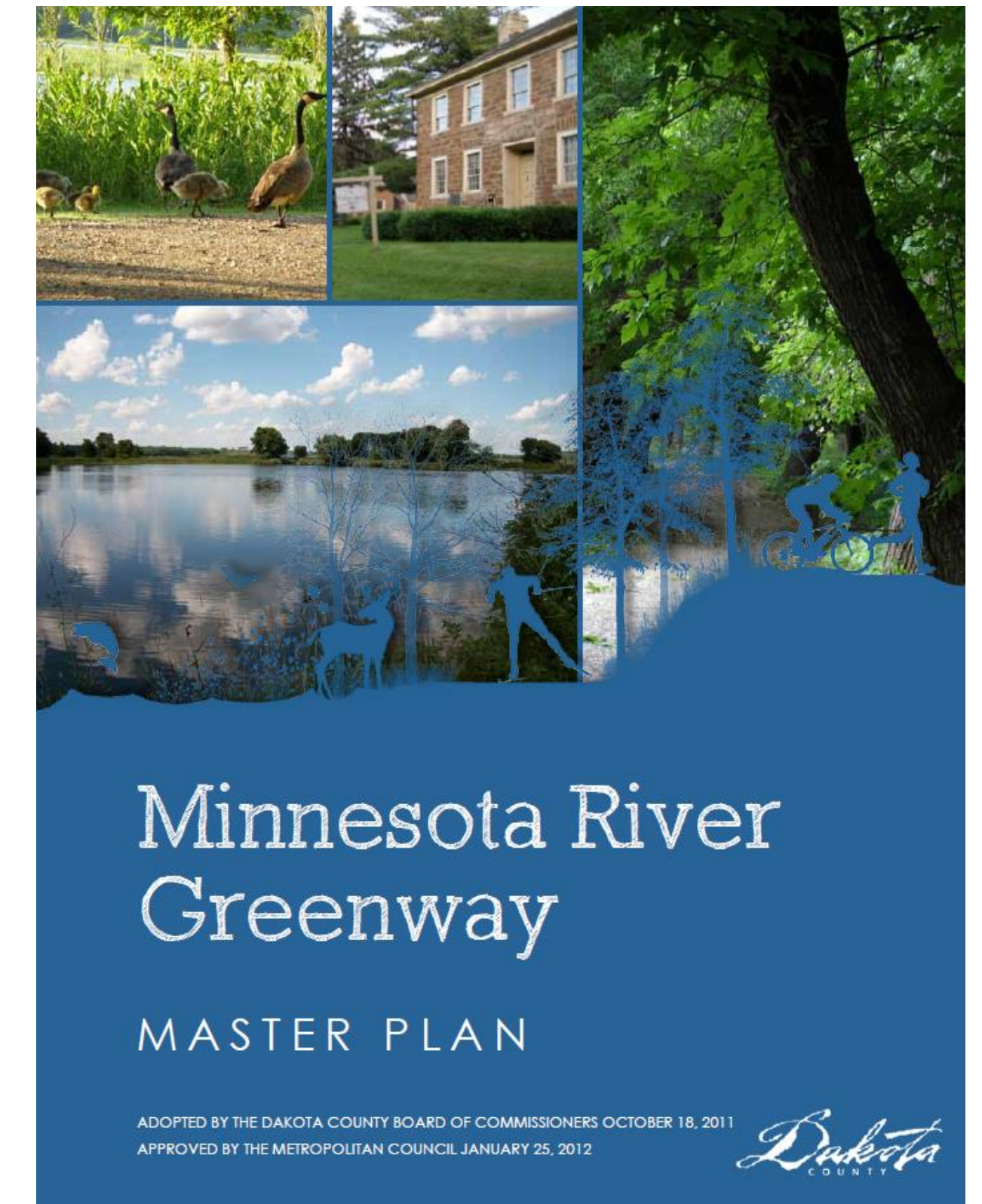
- The Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Dakota County's Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment for the Fort Snelling State Park segment.
2. Require Dakota County to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager prior to initiating any new development of the regional trail corridor.



Thank you

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