

Business Item 2021-163

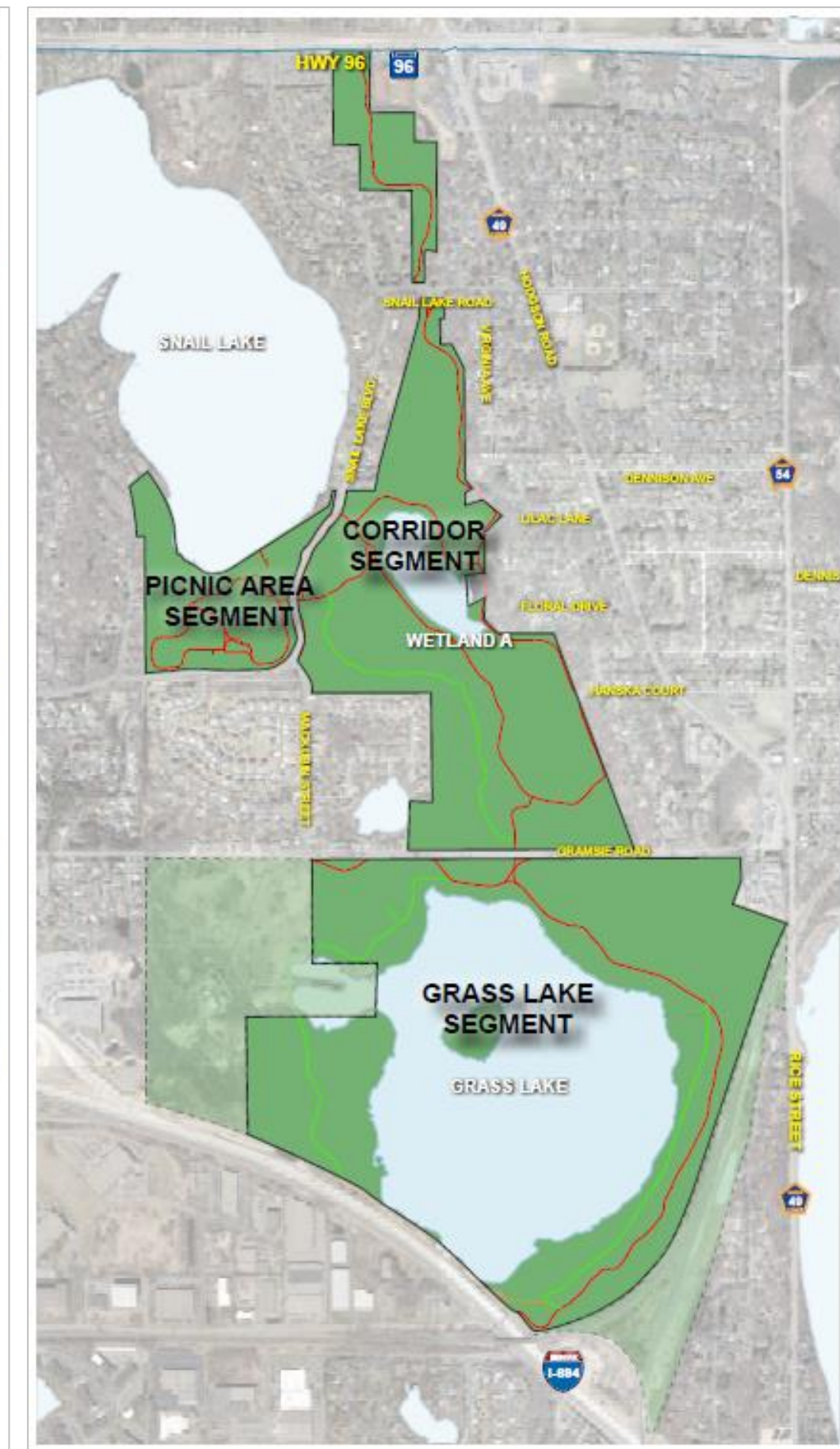
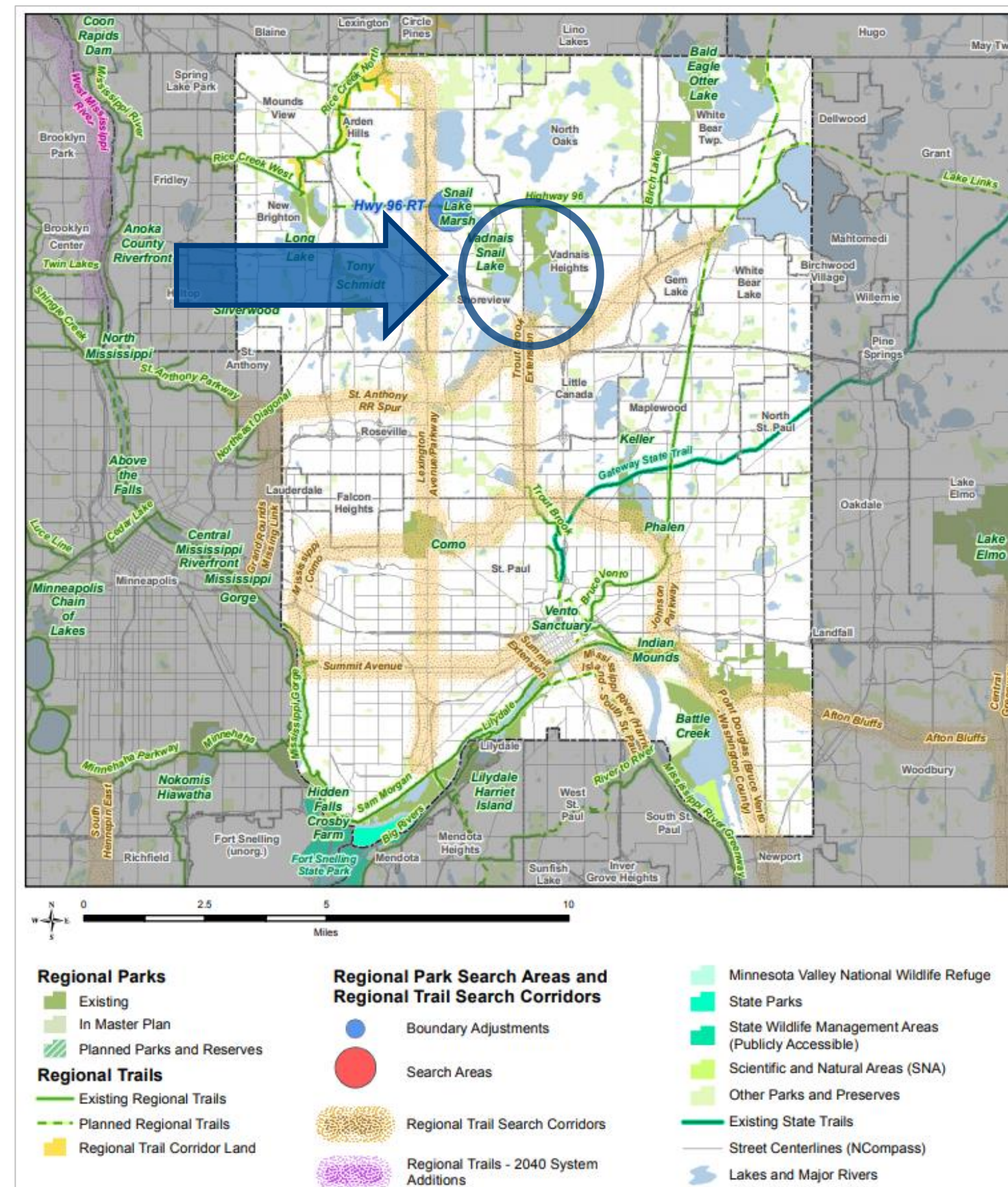
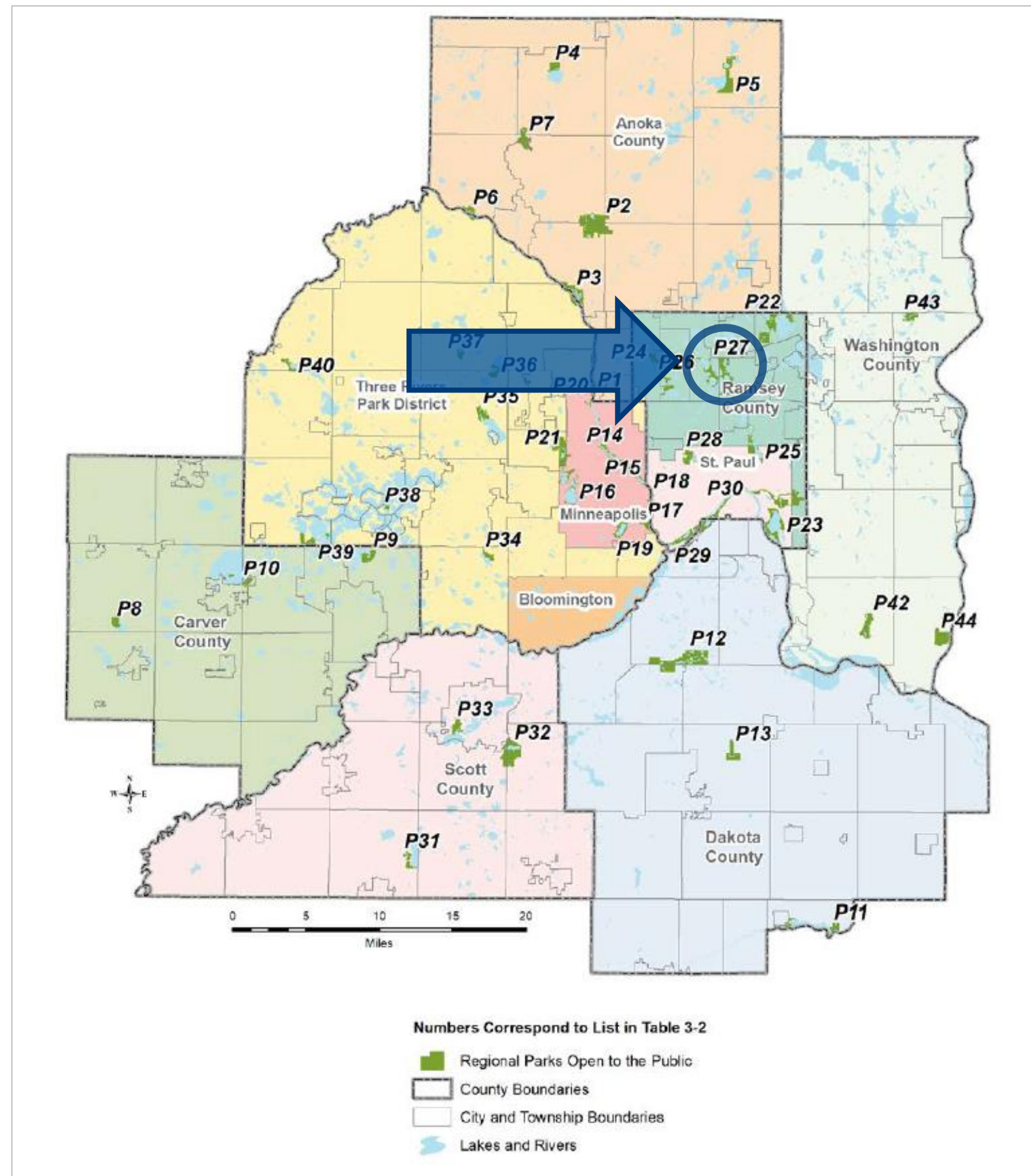
Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Amendment Ramsey County

July 19, 2021

Community Development Committee



Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park



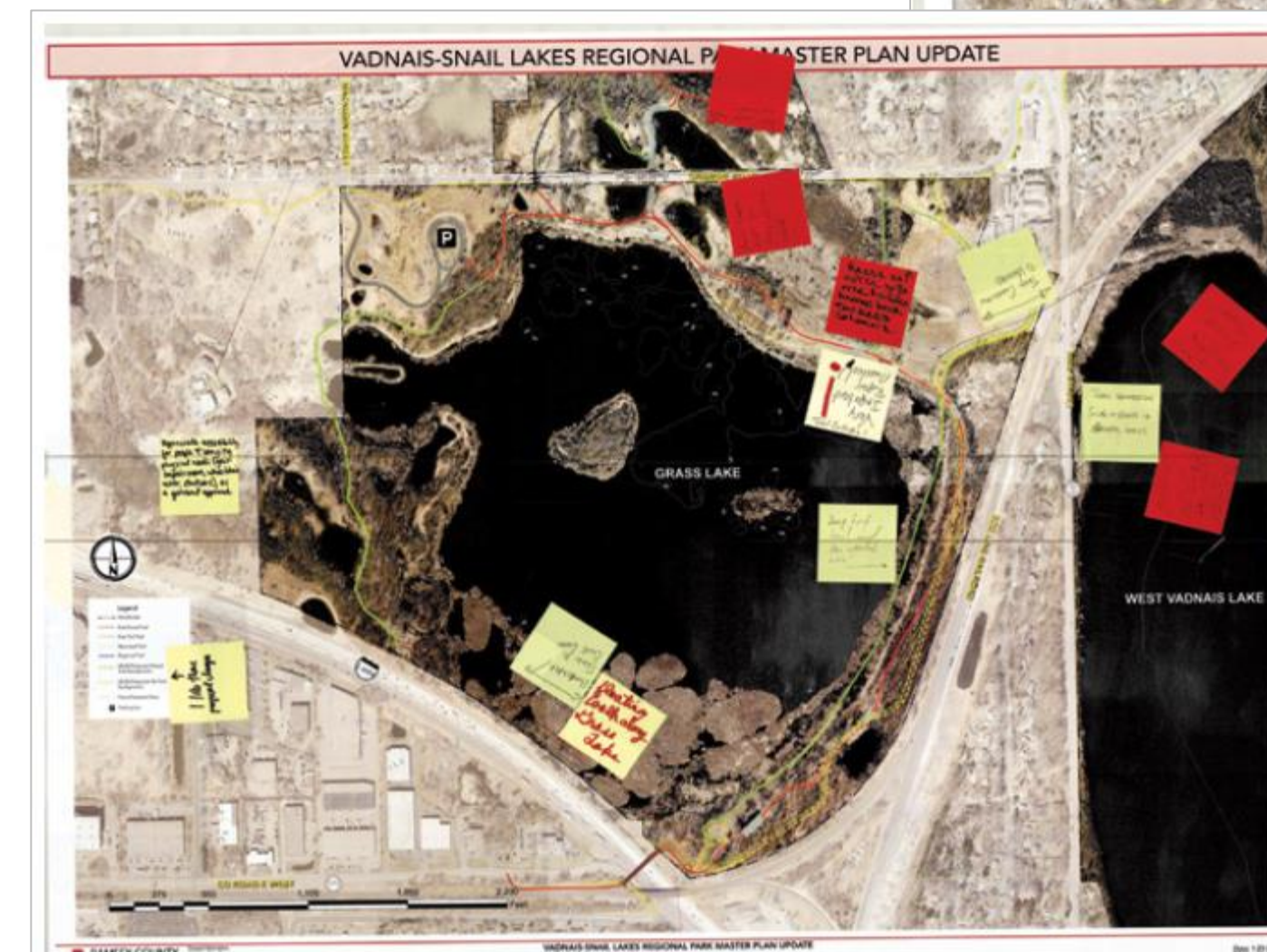
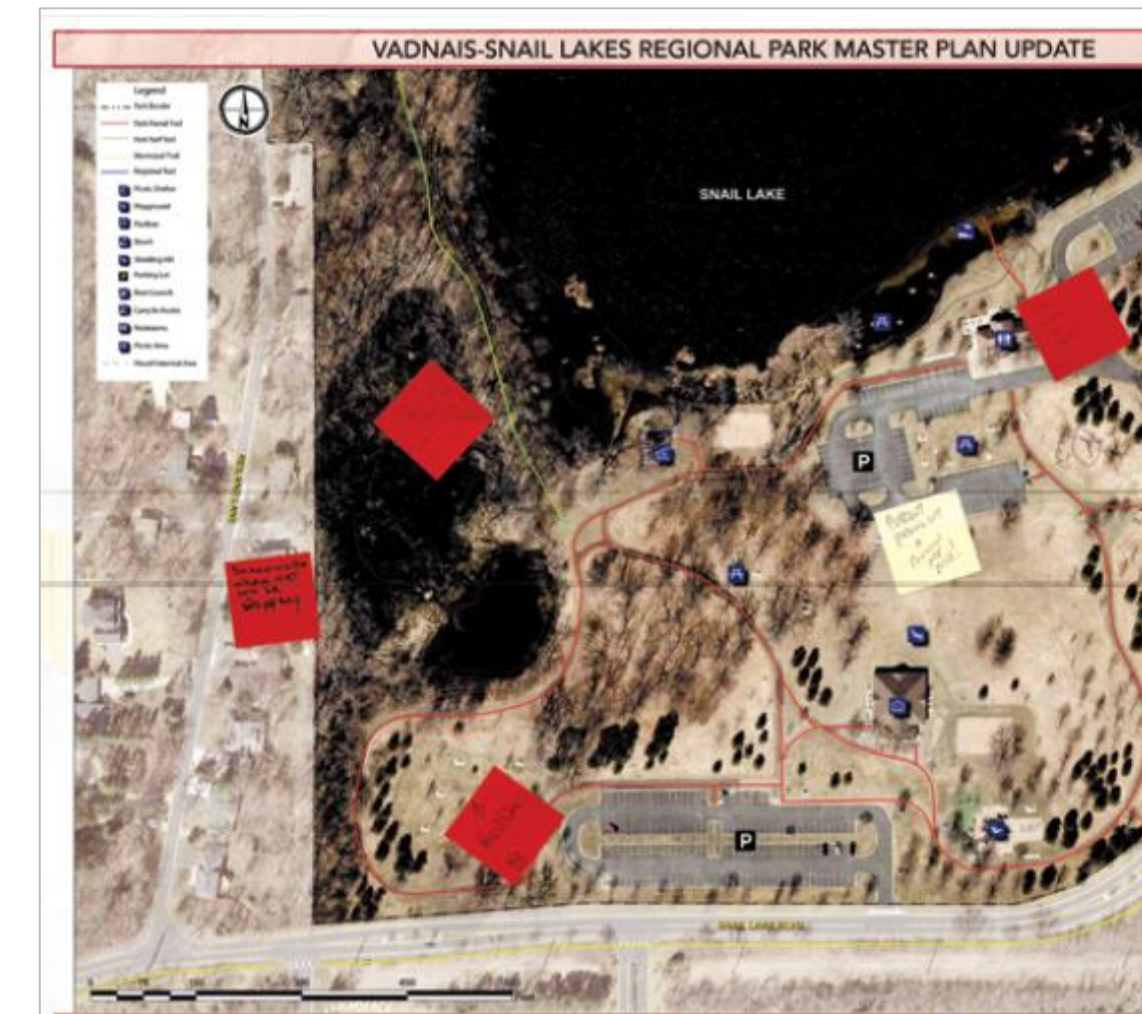
Public and Partner Engagement

Public Engagement

- Series of public engagement, pop-up meetings
- Web-based project information, online feedback opportunities
- 7,000 mailings to residents in immediate area
- Twitter, Facebook, and other social media
- 30-day public review, Dec. 2020 – Jan. 2021

Partner Engagement

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
- Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- Vadnais Lakes Water Management Organization
- Ramsey County Public Works
- Cities of Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and Little Canada



Development Concept

1. Snail Lake Picnic Area Segment
2. Corridor Segment (Wetland "A" Area)
3. Grass Lake Segment

Snail Lake Picnic Area Segment

- Relocate small shelter; redevelop lower public parking lot, including accessibility improvements, lighting, and stormwater treatments; create open space for volleyball or other amenities
- Relocate picnic tables, make accessibility improvements to the beach building
- New trail segment to bypass tunnel and connect to crosswalk at Snail Lake Boulevard and Mackubin Street



Development Concept *continued*

Corridor Segment (Wetland “A” Area)

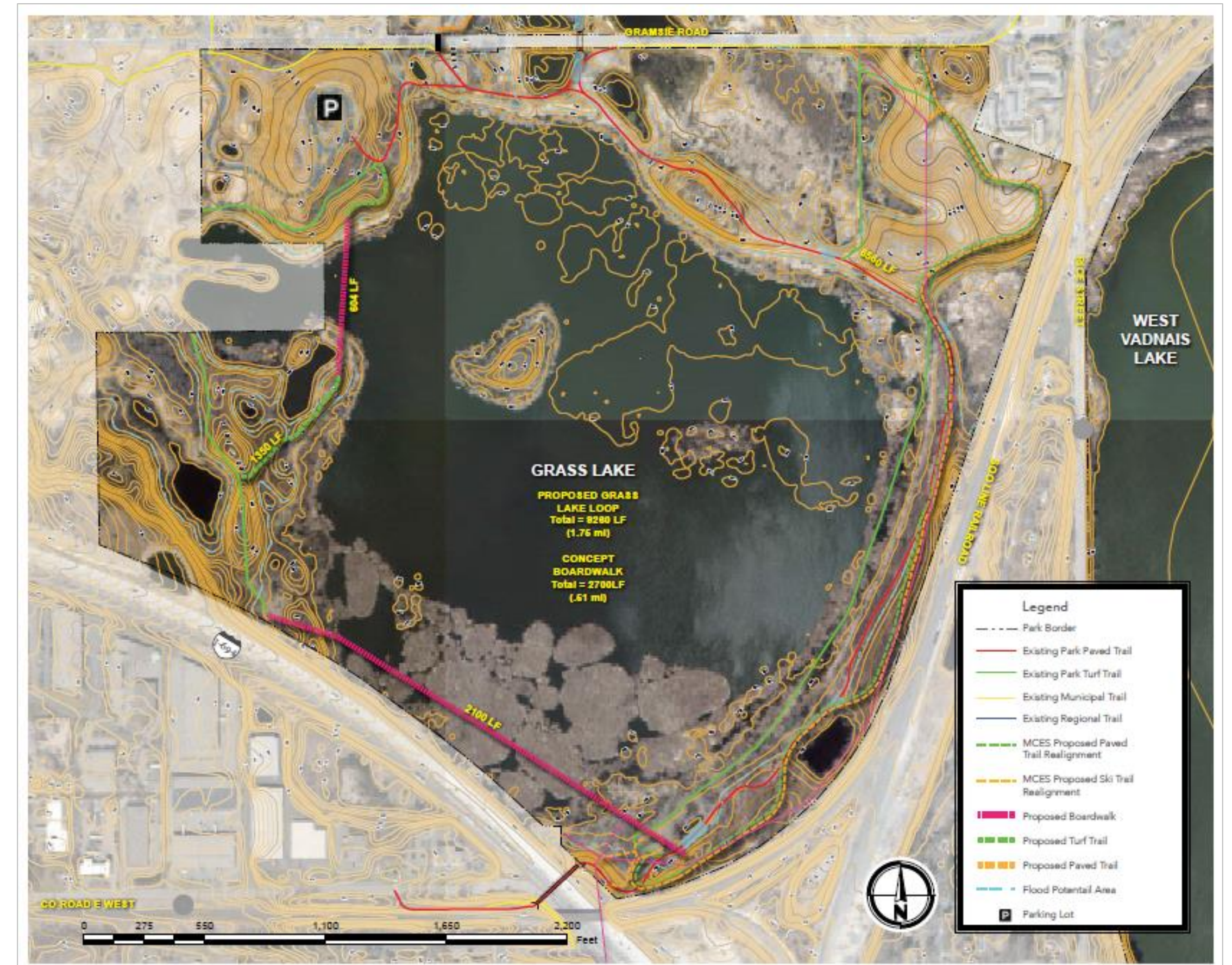
- Use existing paved trails, combine a fixed boardwalk running north-south along the east side of the corridor and two boardwalk segments that cross the wetland east-west.
- Natural trails will remain in their current alignment and unpaved state, as requested by the public
- County working with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to considered shared recreational facilities that can be used both for trails and maintenance equipment



Development Concept *continued again*

Grass Lake Segment

- Propose loop that encircles the entire lake using paved trails, natural surface trails, and boardwalks.
 - 2,100 feet of boardwalk will connect the east and west trails along southern park boundary
 - Natural surface trails will be used on west side of lake, along with an additional 600 feet of boardwalk
- Restore woodlands as a result of sanitary sewer pipe relocation
- Develop new 12-foot-wide paved trail with adjacent 10-foot-wide turf trail in area cleared for pipe



Natural Resources

- “Big Woods”
- Park straddles boundary between two ecological subsections
- Oak woodlands and wetlands of Corridor section and all of the Grass Lake section are classified Environmental Natural Areas
- Current restoration projects include an oak woodland and wetland buffer restoration project, and shoreline revegetation and stabilization project



Estimated Project Costs

- The master plan amendment estimates \$3,850,000 in development and infrastructure costs.
- Major projects include:
 - 1,200 linear feet of boardwalk in area of primary flooding and east-west peninsula connection (Corridor segment / Wetland A area) = \$1,800,000
 - Small shelter and lower parking lot redevelopment (Snail Lake Picnic Area segment) = \$1,250,000
- Approval of master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time



Rationale for Proposed Action

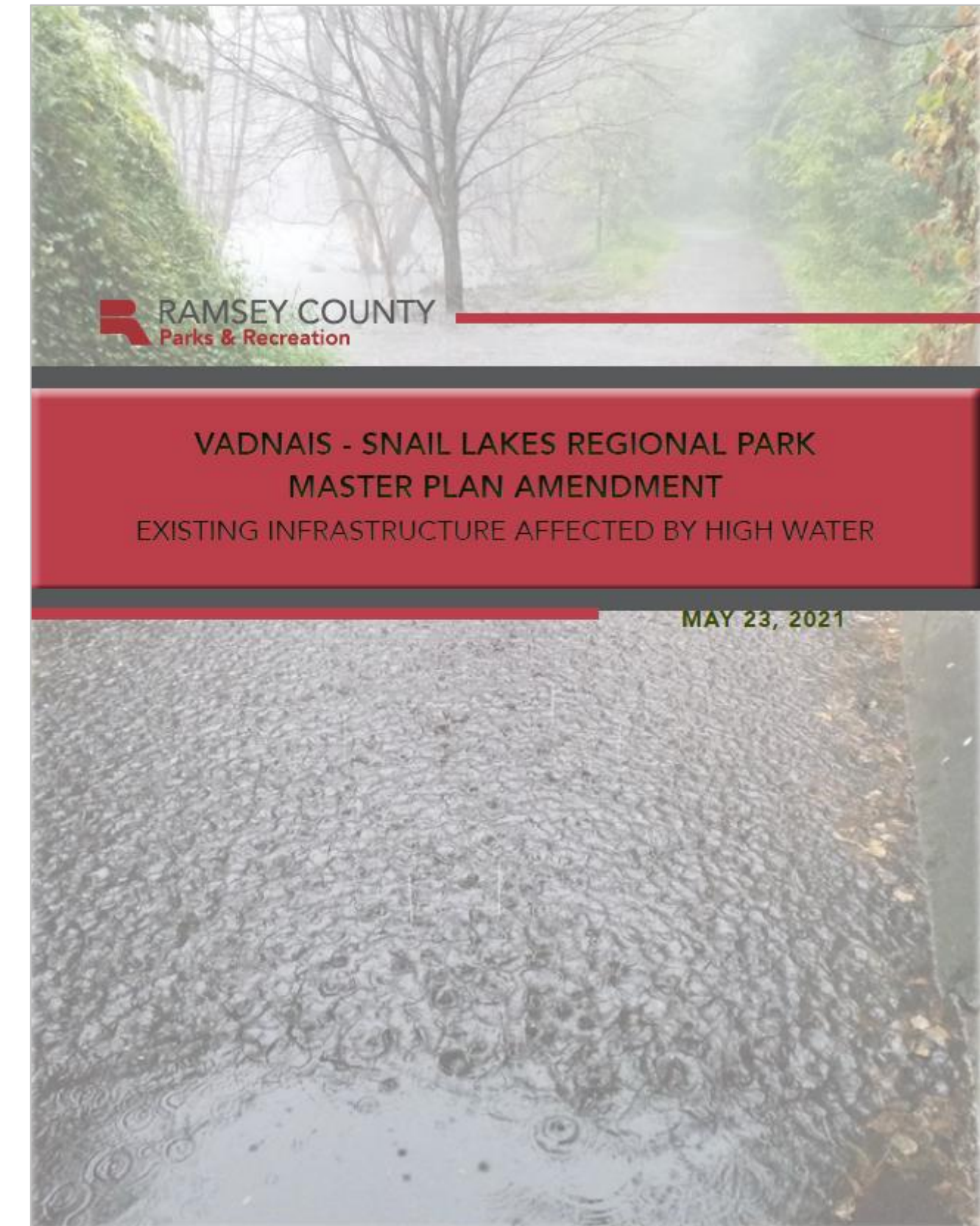
- The Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Ramsey County's Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park Master Plan Amendment.
2. Require Ramsey County, prior to initiating any development of the regional park, to send preliminary plans to the Environmental Services Assistant Manager at the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Division.



Thank you

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