

Business Item 2021-229

Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan

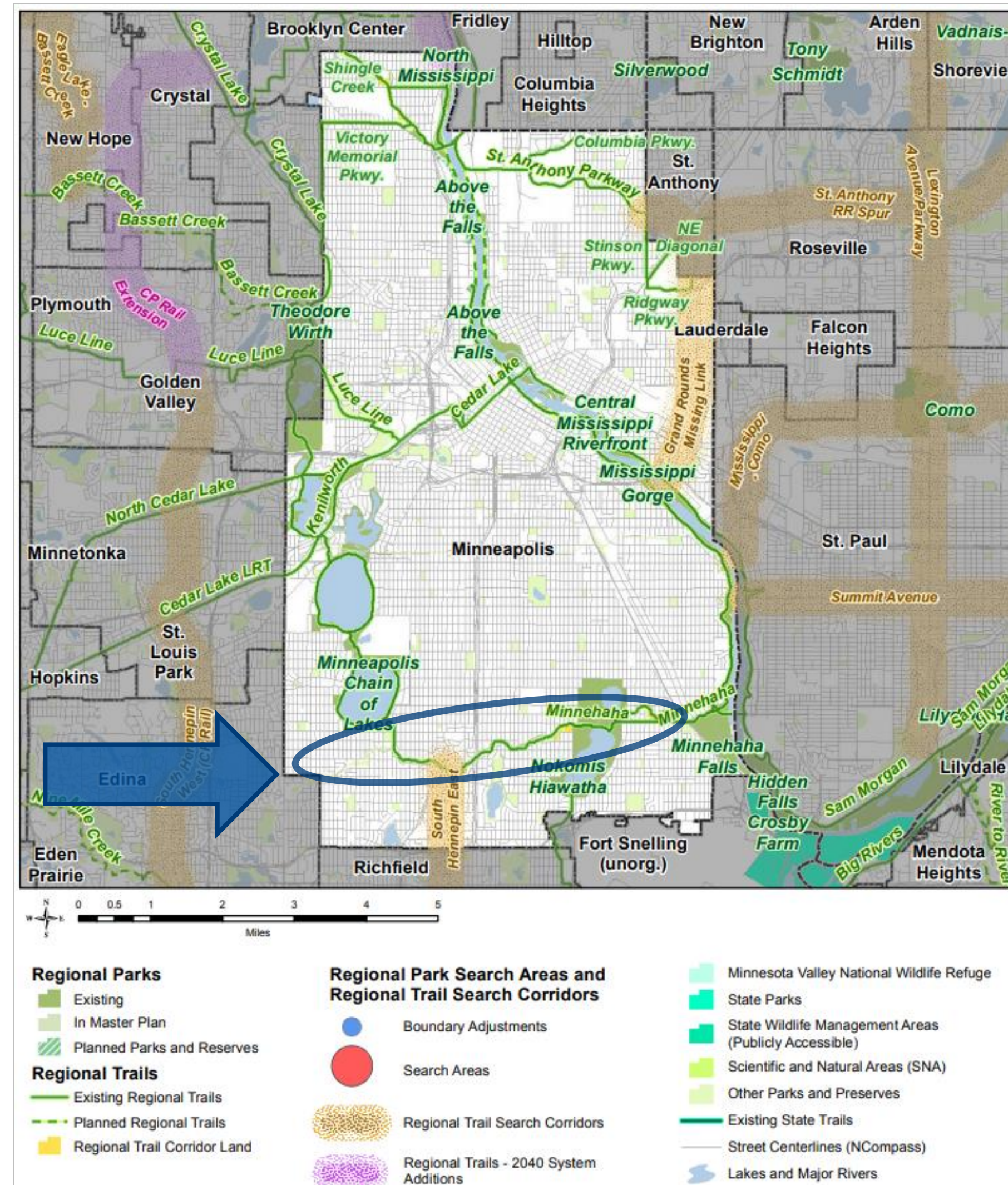
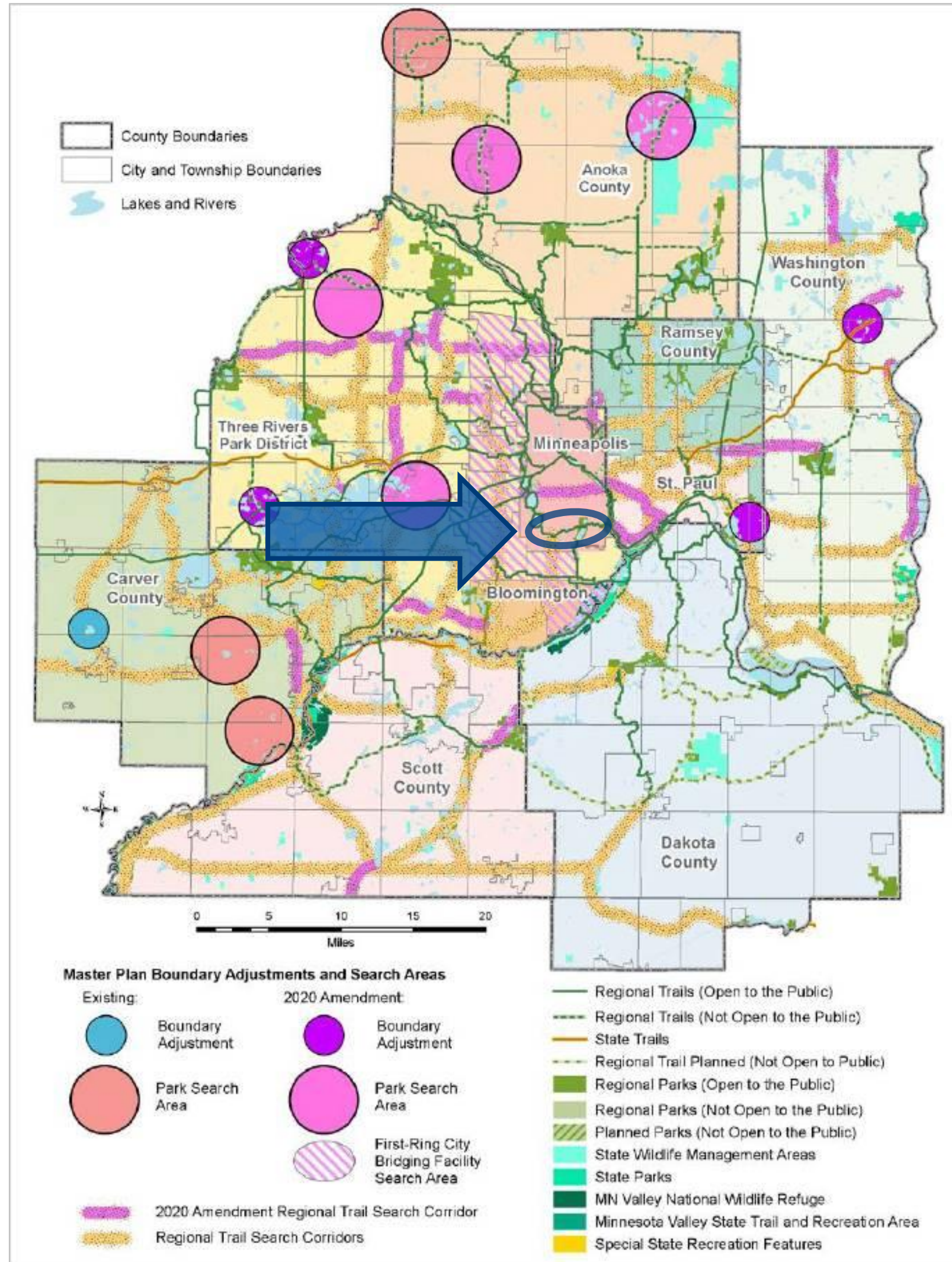
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

September 7, 2021

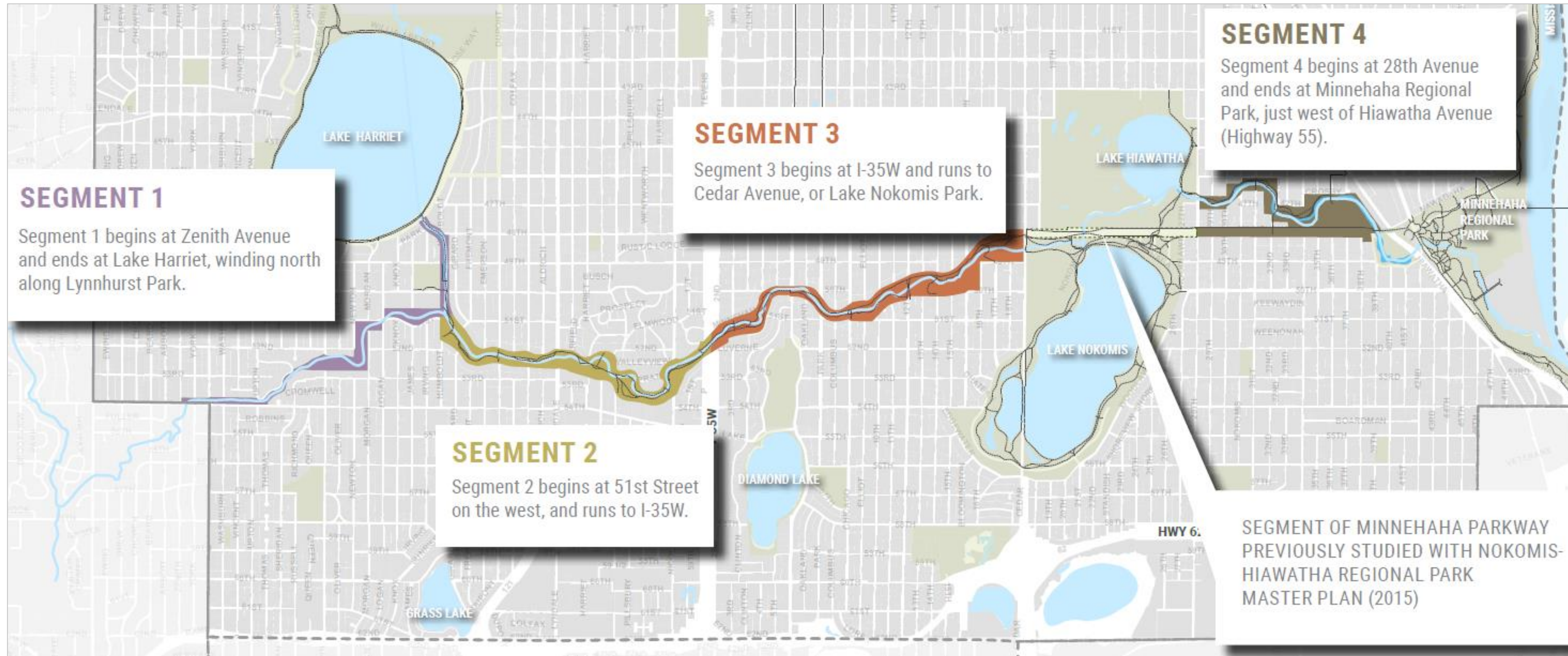
Community Development Committee



Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail



Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Segments



Public Engagement

- Overall engagement goal: Be as collaborative with as many stakeholder groups as possible
- Process involved a variety of means of gathering community input:
 - Kick-off open houses
 - Community open houses
 - Community events
 - Design charette
 - Web surveys
 - Creek tours with youth
 - Social Pinpoint
- Community Advisory Committee
- 45-day comment period
- Public hearing
- Final plan presented to Board of Commissioners on November 18, 2020



Partner Engagement

- The plan was created through a joint effort between:
 - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB),
 - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), and
 - the City of Minneapolis
- Projects involving county roadways or transit service will require coordination with Hennepin County, Metro Transit, and others.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MPRB, MCWD, and the City of Minneapolis was approved in 2017.



Equity Analysis

Project Data

- When compared to other parts of Minneapolis, areas surrounding Minnehaha Creek experienced some of the highest levels of racial covenants.
- Just outside of the 2-mile service area, there are increased numbers of residents who report disabilities.

Public Engagement and Participation

- Main method for engaging with youth who live in other parts of the city was creek tours.
- A number of high-conflict intersections were identified by the non-motorized trail user group, which influenced much of the scope of the master plan.

Evaluation Summary

- Robust public participation process that occurred at a variety of scales over the course of 2+ years.
- Most prominent results of equitable engagement focus on accessibility and race/ethnicity.
- Ongoing implementation of the plan will require continued engagement.

Development Concept

Segment 1

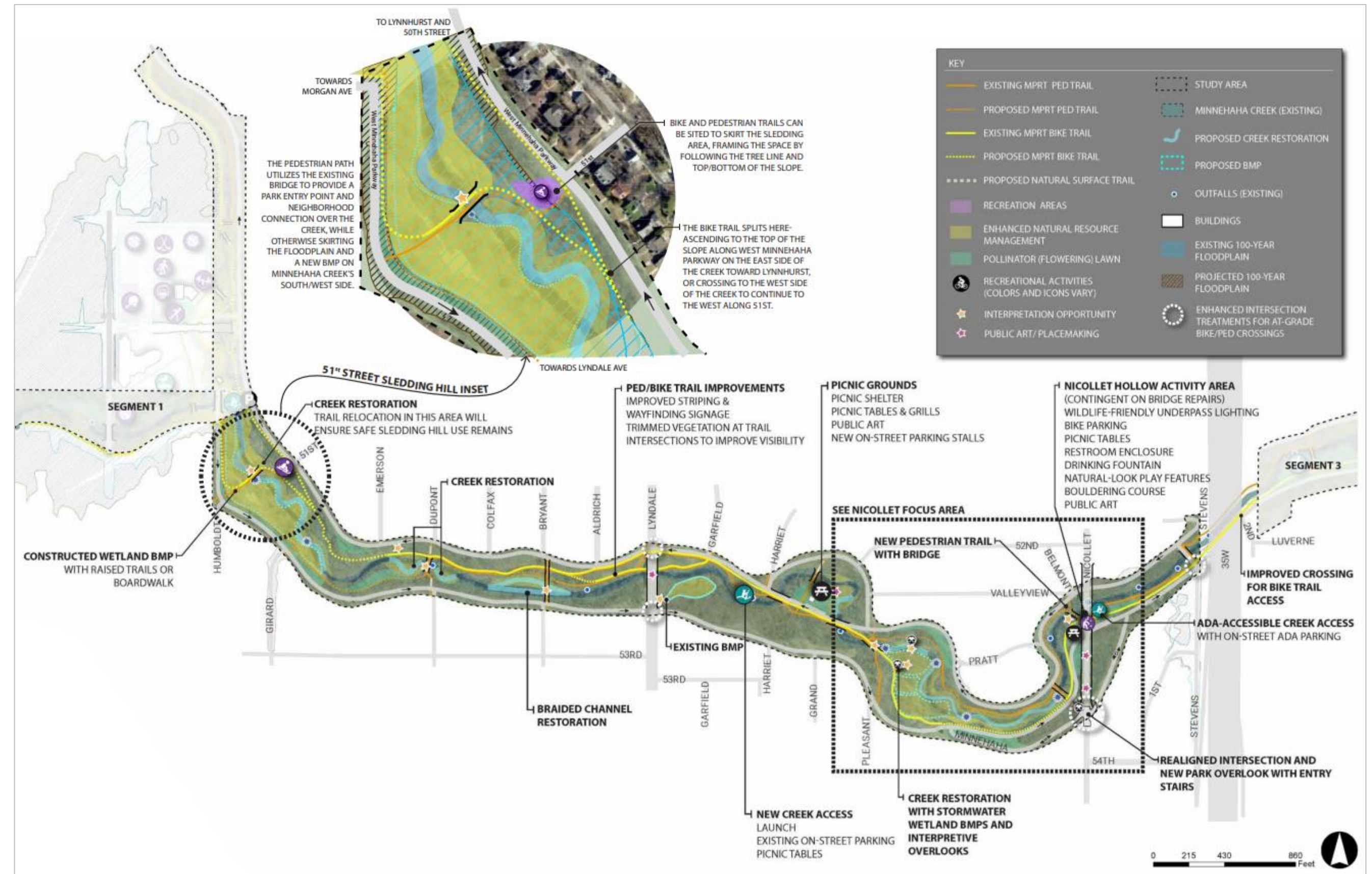
- Westernmost section, not bounded by parkway, includes two focus areas
- Improve wayfinding, promote access
- New creek access points for paddling or tubing; new waterside lounge and picnic area
- Proposed Penn Ave. Interpretive Overlooks will make visual connection to the creek for those unable to use the natural surface paths
- Plan proposes daylighting and re-meandering the tributary from Lake Harriet
- At Lynnhurst Park, a boundary change is proposed; land to be added is wholly owned by MPRB. A new environmentally focused community center is also proposed.



Development Concept *continued*

Segment 2

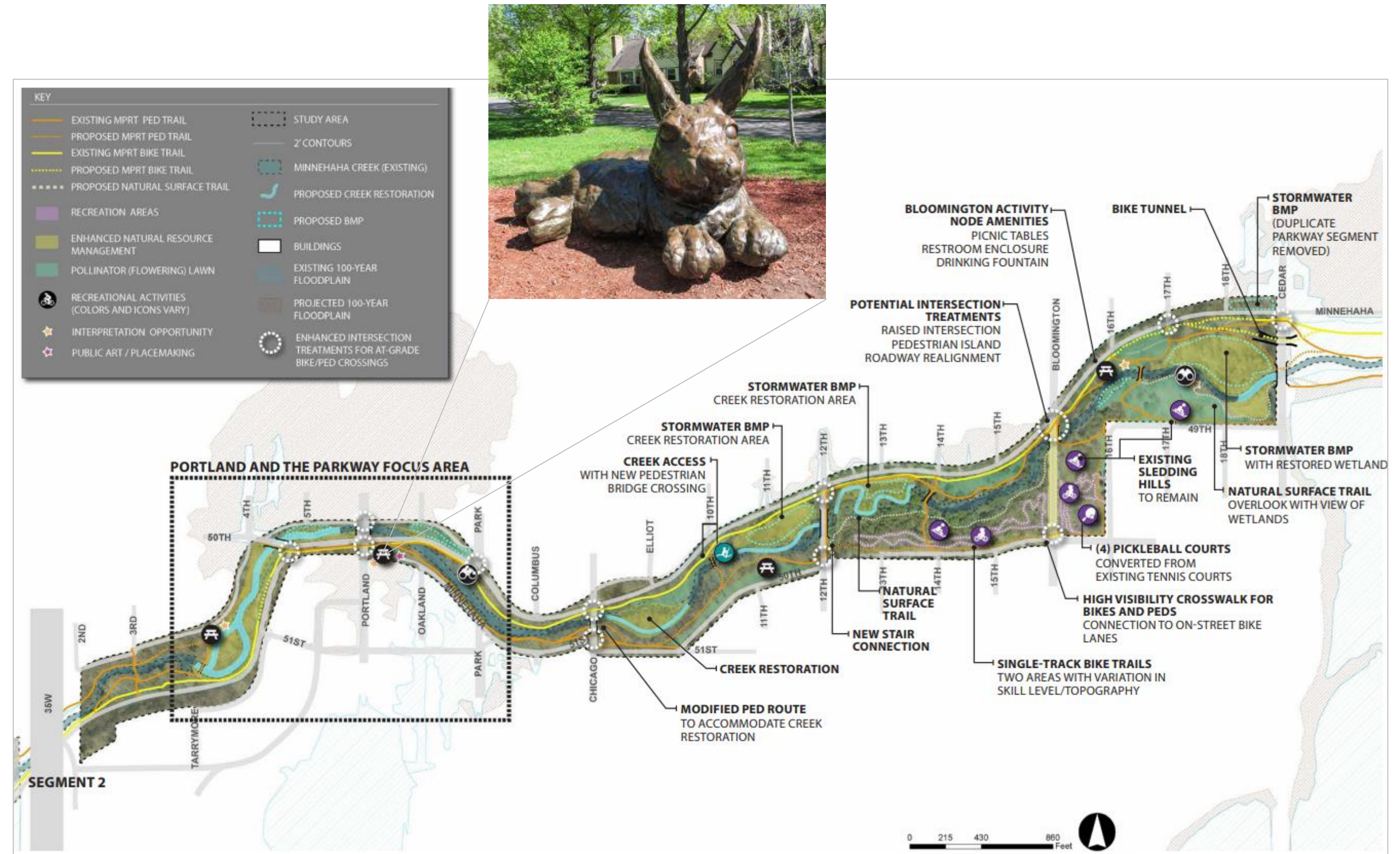
- Runs from Lynnhurst Park to I-35W, fully bounded by parkway, includes one focus area
- Segment focus: Maintain natural feel of trail network while improving access and safety
- Many trails rerouted to accommodate stormwater best management practices (BMPs), add flood storage
- Two new creek access points proposed, one which will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- ADA-accessible paved trails proposed throughout Nicollet Focus Area
- The reconstruction of the Nicollet Ave. underpass presents an opportunity to integrate play features and other amenities



Development Concept *continued again*

Segment 3

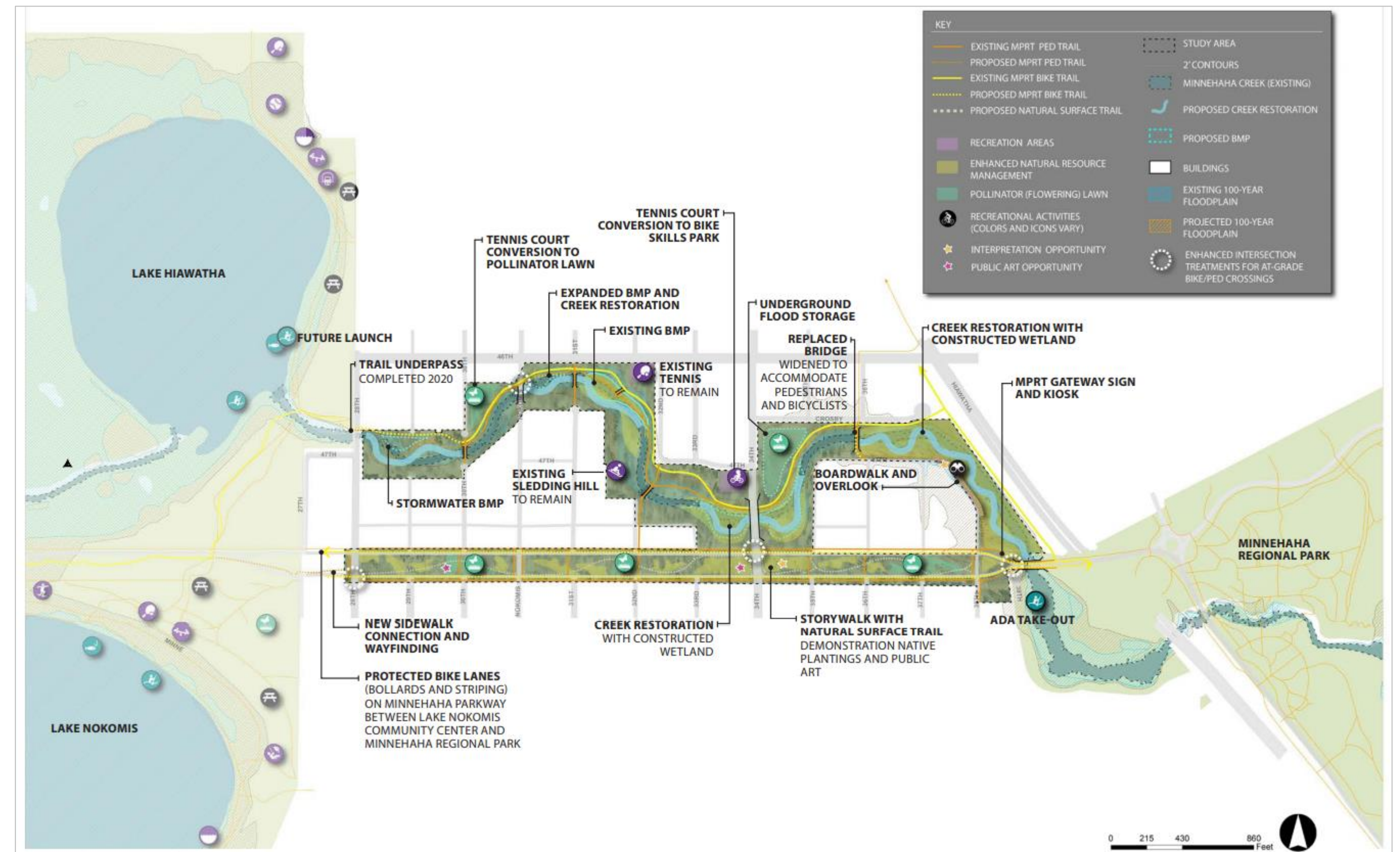
- Runs from I-35W to Cedar Ave, predominately bounded by the parkway, includes one focus area
- MPRB is recommending intersection improvements at many locations
- A one-block segment of MPRB-owned frontage road is proposed to be removed west of Cedar Ave
- Additions include a new trail bridge near 10th Ave, a bike tunnel beneath Cedar Ave, and single-track bike trails between 12th and 16th Avenues
- Four new pickleball courts will replace existing tennis courts in the Bloomington Activity Node
- ADA-accessible paved trails are proposed throughout the Portland and the Parkway Focus Area
- A revitalized area at “The Bunny” will offer drinking water, seating, and bike racks



Development Concept *continued one last time*

Segment 4

- Runs from the border of Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park at 28th Ave to 39th Ave South, trails and parkway roads largely separated
- Protected bikeways will be installed on Minnehaha Parkway to connect the two regional parks
- Water access proposed to be converted to ADA-accessible
- Several underutilized tennis courts in poor condition; one set will be repaired, the others will be converted to other uses
- Plan proposes addition of a natural surface Storywalk, connecting Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park to Longfellow Gardens



Estimated Project Costs

- The total estimated cost to implement the plan over a 30-year period is \$108,385,853.
 - The plan includes costs for a variety of elements that may be jointly implemented with partner agencies
 - For example, road modifications, creek meanders, stormwater BMPs, etc.
- Approval of the plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time.



Rationale for Proposed Action

- The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
 - Recreation Activities and Facilities strategies 1-3
 - Other Council policies
- Council staff do not recommend classifying existing tennis courts in the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail corridor as “regional.”



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan, including the addition of two parcels detailed in this report and the supplemental information provided in the submittal letter dated June 7, 2021, with the exception of classifying existing tennis courts as "regional."
2. Require Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, prior to initiating any new development of the regional trail corridor, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.



Thank you

Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst
Community Development Division
colin.kelly@metc.state.mn.us
651-602-1361

