

Overview of the Regional Parks System in Context of Local and State/Federal Parks

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Outdoor Recreation in the Metropolitan Area

State Parks/Federal Lands

Regional Parks

Local Parks

Private Recreation

Council purview



METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL

National Parks/Federal Lands

- National Parks conserve the **scenery** and the **natural** and **historic objects** and **wildlife** therein, and leave them **unimpaired** for the enjoyment of future generations.



Yellowstone National Park



Yosemite National Park

- 5 National Parks in Minnesota
- The National Wildlife Refuge System consists of a national **network of lands and waters** set aside to **conserve** America's **fish, wildlife, and plants.**

National Parks/Federal Lands in the Metropolitan Area

- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area



Photo: National Parks Service

- St. Croix National Scenic Riverway



Photo: National Parks Service

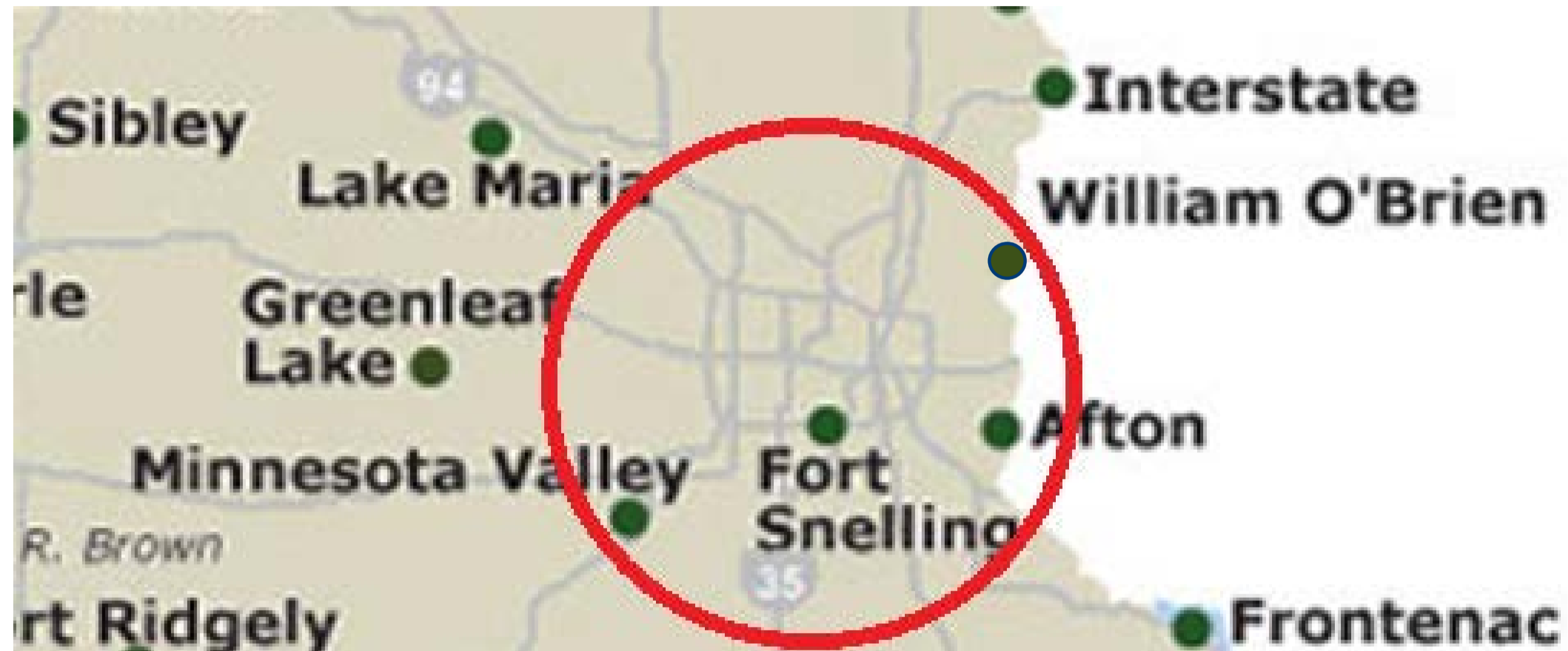
- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge



Photo: CityKnown.com

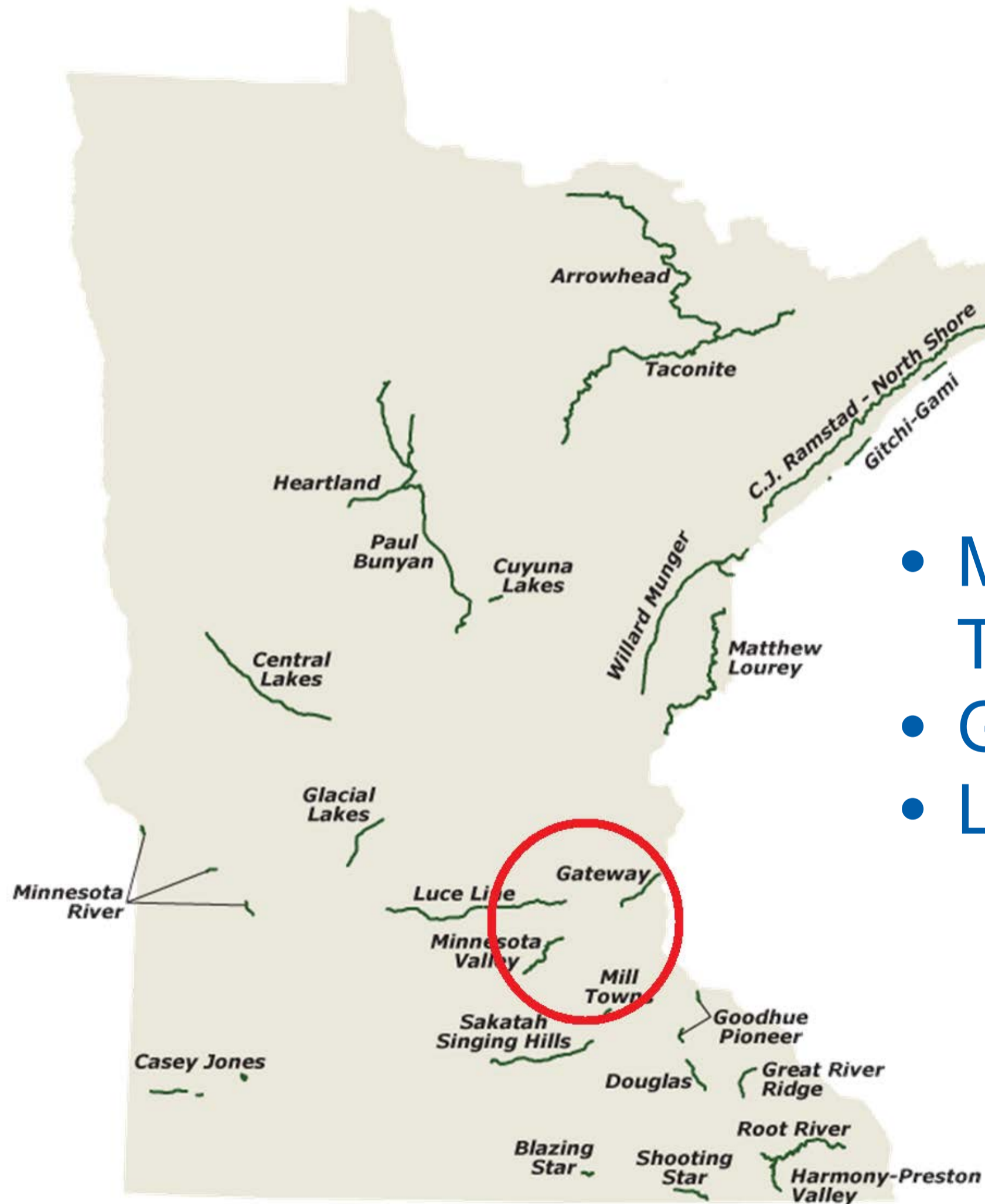


State Parks in the Metropolitan Area



- William O'Brien State Park
- Fort Snelling State Park
- Afton State Park
- Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area

State Trails in the Metropolitan Area



- Minnesota Valley State Trail
- Gateway State Trail
- Luce Line State Trail

Creation of the Regional Parks System

In 1974, State Legislature found that:

- Pressure of urbanization and development **threatens the most valuable remaining large recreational open spaces** in the metropolitan area at the same time as the need for such areas is increased



**Spring Lake Park Reserve—
Dakota County**

1974 Metropolitan Parks Act

Identify land, which together with State parks and trails, will meet the recreational needs of the people of the metropolitan area...



**Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park—
Washington County**

1974 Metropolitan Parks Act

.. and grant capital funds to regional park agencies to implement the Regional Parks Policy Plan.



Hyland Bush Anderson Lakes Park Reserve—
Bloomington & Three Rivers Park District

Regional Parks are the State Parks of the Metropolitan Area



**Minnehaha Regional Park—
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board**

Regional Parks System

- Natural resource based
- Focused on water bodies
- Passive recreation
- Provide recreation and resource restoration that local governments may not be able to do on their own



**French Regional Park—
Three Rivers Park District**

Regional Parks

- 100 to 500 acres
- 39 regional parks open to the public
- Diversity of nature-based resources
- Swimming, boating, picnicking, walking & biking on trails



**Long Lake Regional Park—
Ramsey County**

Park Reserves



- 1,000 to 5,000 acres
- 12 park reserves open to the public
- 80% natural habitat
- Environmental education, nature centers, campgrounds, walking/biking trails

**Baker Park Reserve—
Three Rivers Park District**

Regional Trails



**Mississippi River Regional Trail—
Anoka County**

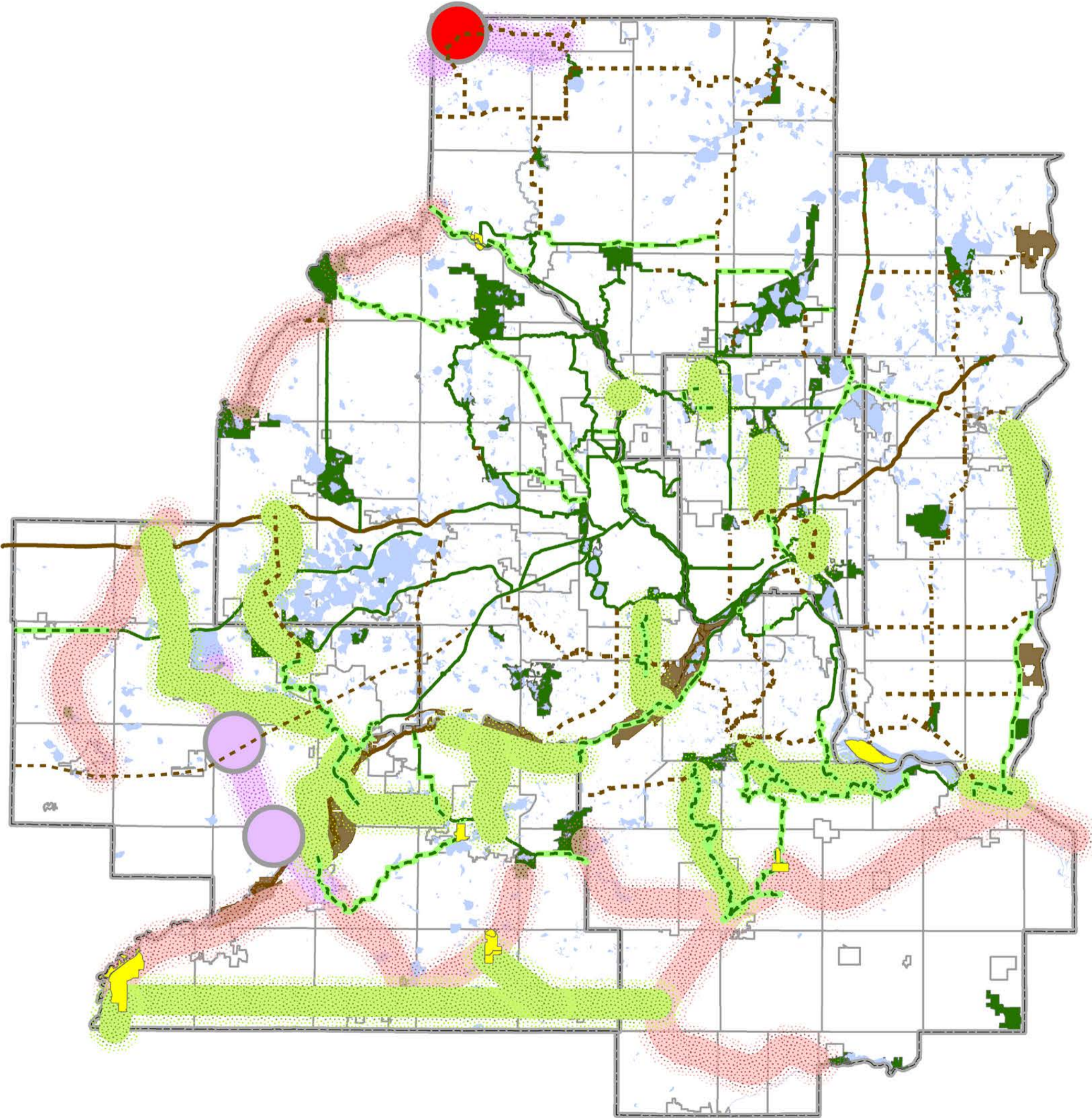
- 38 regional trails
- Link regional parks and park reserves
- 308 miles open to the public
- Walking, biking, inline skating

Special Recreation Features

- Como Zoo
- Como Conservatory
- Noerenberg Gardens
- Square Lake
- Gale Woods Farm
- Silverwood
- The Landing

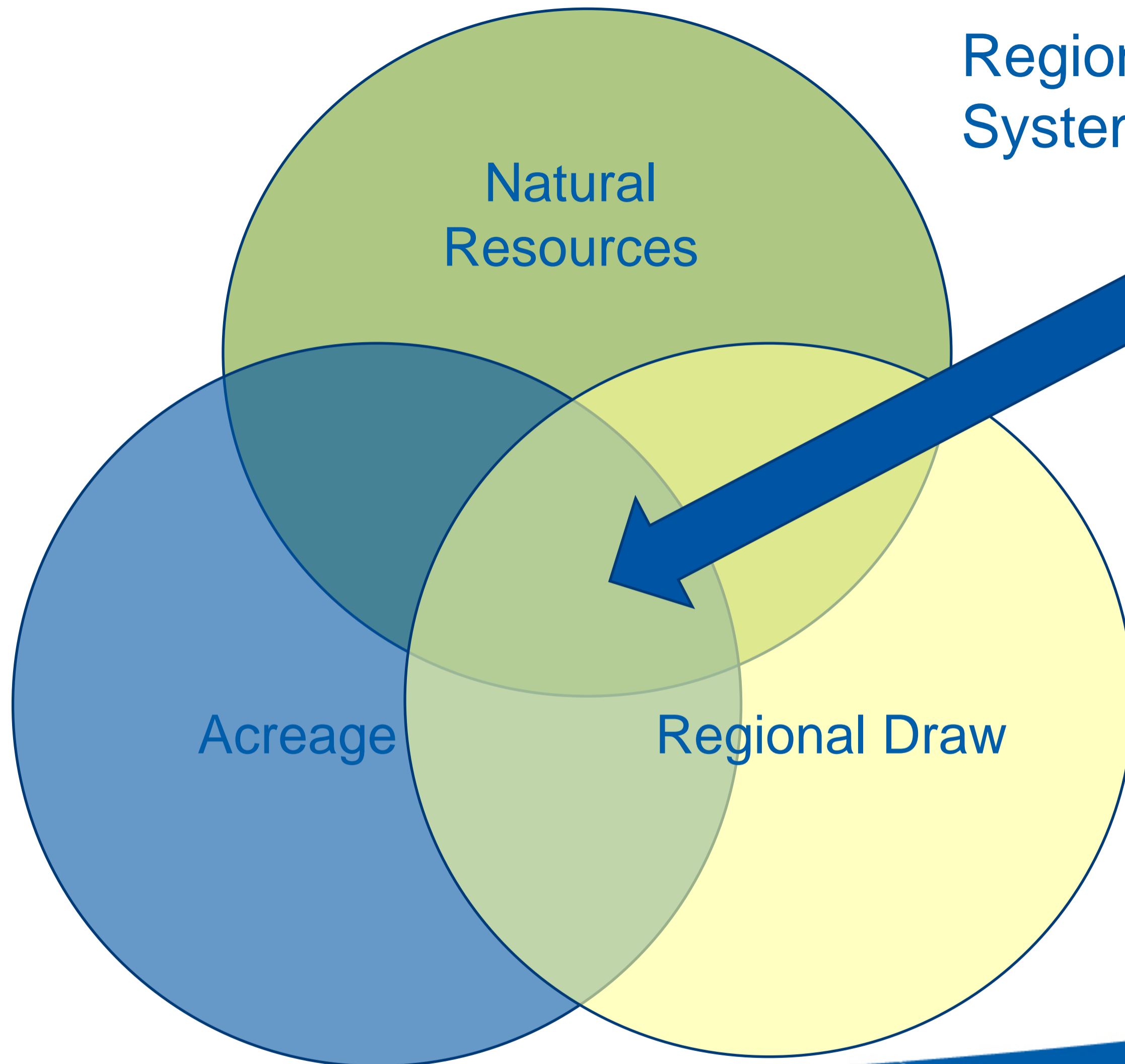


Regional Park System Planning



Legend area with seven empty rectangular boxes for text labels.

Regional Parks System



Service Area Coverage for Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park

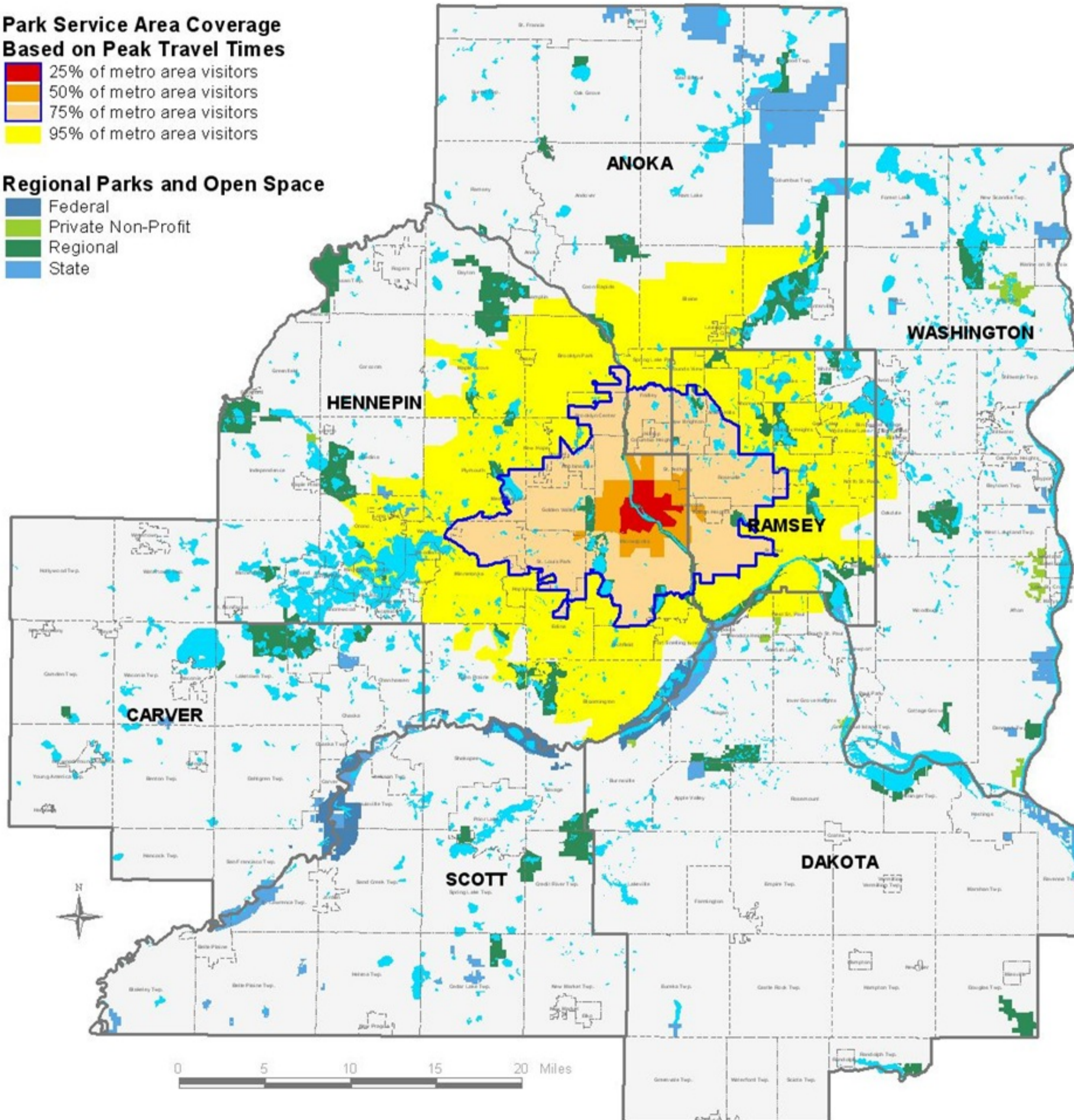
Agency: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Park Service Area Coverage Based on Peak Travel Times

- 25% of metro area visitors
- 50% of metro area visitors
- 75% of metro area visitors
- 95% of metro area visitors

Regional Parks and Open Space

- Federal
- Private Non-Profit
- Regional
- State



Service Area Coverage for Bunker Hills Regional Park

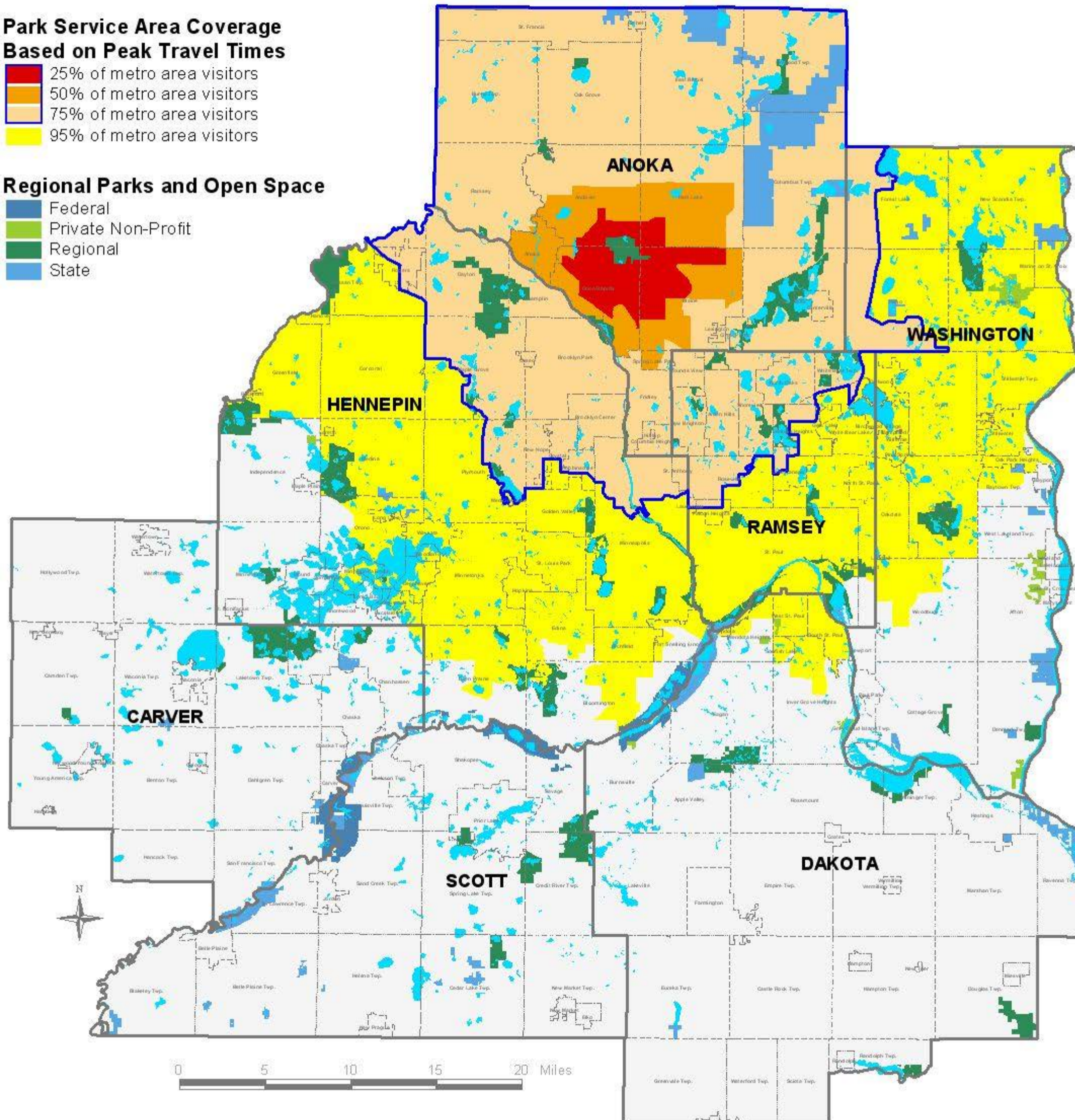
Agency: Anoka County

Park Service Area Coverage Based on Peak Travel Times

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Regional Parks and Open Space

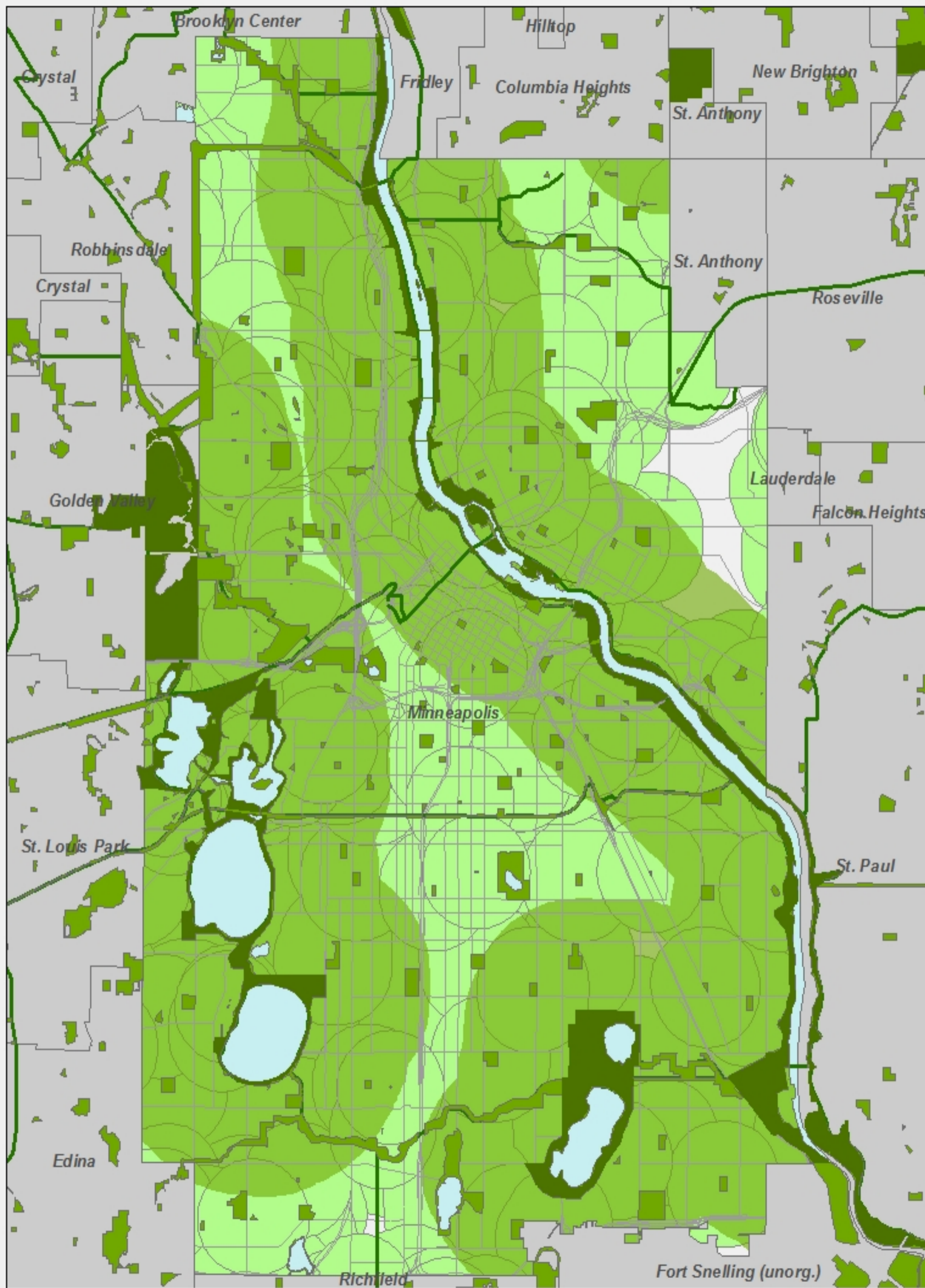
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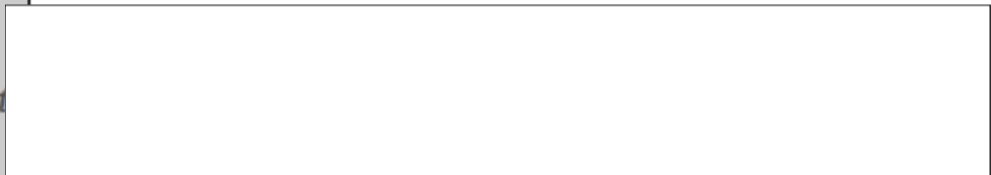
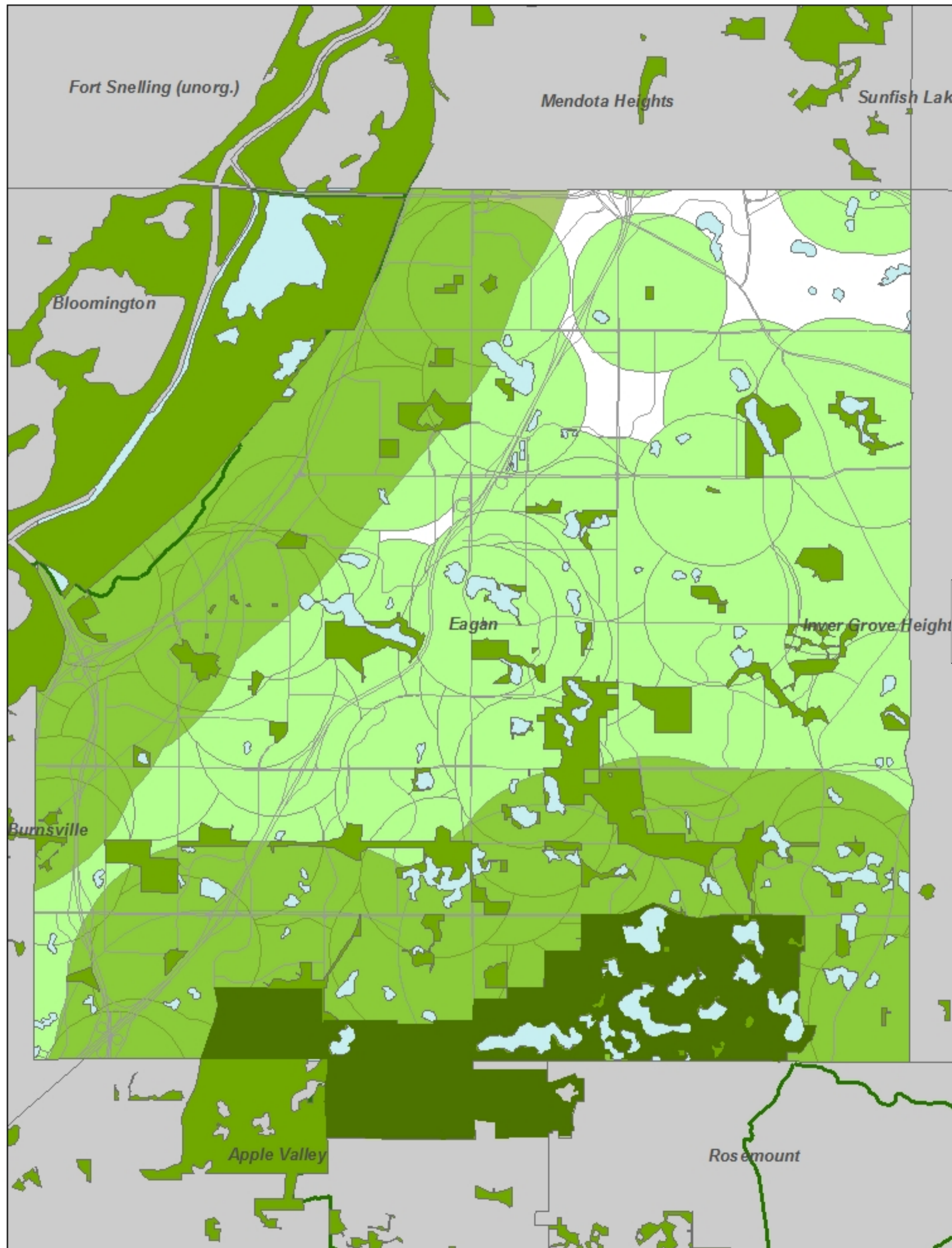


Local Parks

- Tot lots, neighborhood parks, ball fields and courts, community centers
- Serve the local community
- May offer active and passive recreation
- Parks are “brought to the people”







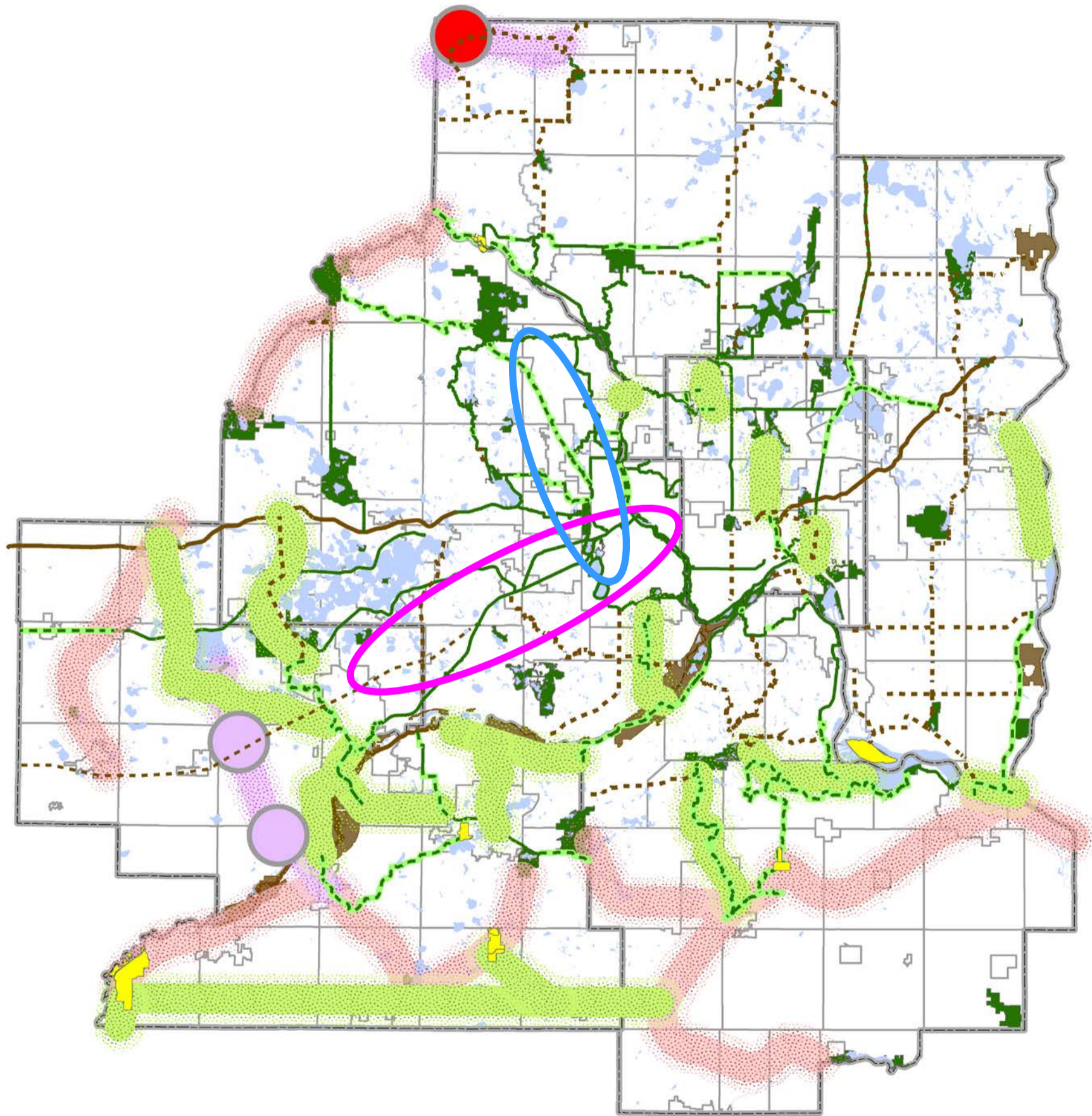
Statewide Recognition of Regional Parks System



The Parks and Trails Fund receives 14.25% of the sales tax revenue resulting from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment.

Those funds may only be spent to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

Regional Park System Planning



- Regional trails connect people to transit, community amenities and other regional parks and trails
- Southwest Transitway
- Bottineau Transitway
- Bring “people to the parks”

44 Million Visitors Can't Be Wrong



Questions?



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