

# Draft Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment: Release for Public Comment

August 13, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission





# Today

- Recommend release of draft plan for public comment
- Provide overview of proposed plan modifications
- Discuss next steps





# Timeline for Plan Amendment

## Propose action to release Policy Plan amendment for public comment, open public comment period

### August

- August 3 – CDC **info** item
  - Draft recommendation
- ★ August 13 - MPOSC **business** item
  - Propose action to release Policy Plan amend. for public cmnt on Aug. 26
- August 17 - CDC **business** item
  - Propose action to release Policy Plan amend. for public cmnt on Aug. 26
- August 26 - MC **business** item
  - Release Policy Plan amendment for **public comment** through Oct. 30 and set public hearing date for Oct. 19
- August 27 - I.A. partner meeting

## Update on comments, open public hearing - Close public comment period and public hearing

### October and November

- October 1 - MPOSC **info** item
  - Update on comments rec'd to-date
- October 19 - CDC **info** item
  - **Open public hearing**
- October 29 - I.A. partner meeting
- October 30 - **Public comment** period and **public hearing** close
- November 5 - MPOSC **info** item
  - Update on comments rec'd and themes
- November 16 - CDC **info** item
  - Update on comments rec'd and themes

## Summarize public comments, propose Policy Plan amendment adoption

### December

- December 3 - I.A. partner meeting
- December 3 - MPOSC **business** item
  - Summary of public comment, how it has impacted staff recommendation; propose Policy Plan amendment adoption
- December 7 - CDC **business** item
  - Summary of public comment, how it has impacted staff recommendation; propose Policy Plan amendment adoption
- December 9 - MC **business** item
  - Summary of public comment, how it has impacted staff recommendation, Policy Plan amendment adoption

# Participation: Who helped inform the amendment

- Implementing Agency Partners
- Metropolitan Council Committees
  - Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
  - Community Development Committee
  - Land Use Advisory Committee
- Community Development Division staff
  - Regional Parks and Natural Resources
  - Research
  - Local Planning Assistance



**What's New?**

**Draft Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment**





# Six Most Significant Things about the Amendment

1. Regional Designations (ch. 3)
2. Boundary Adjustments  
Policy Clarification (ch. 4,5 )
3. Bridging Facilities (ch. 4)
4. Equity Analysis Requirement  
for master planning (ch. 5)
5. Estimated Costs to  
Complete the System (ch. 8)
6. Workplan for the Regional  
Parks Policy Plan (ch. 9)





# Chapters 1 and 2: Introduction and Overview

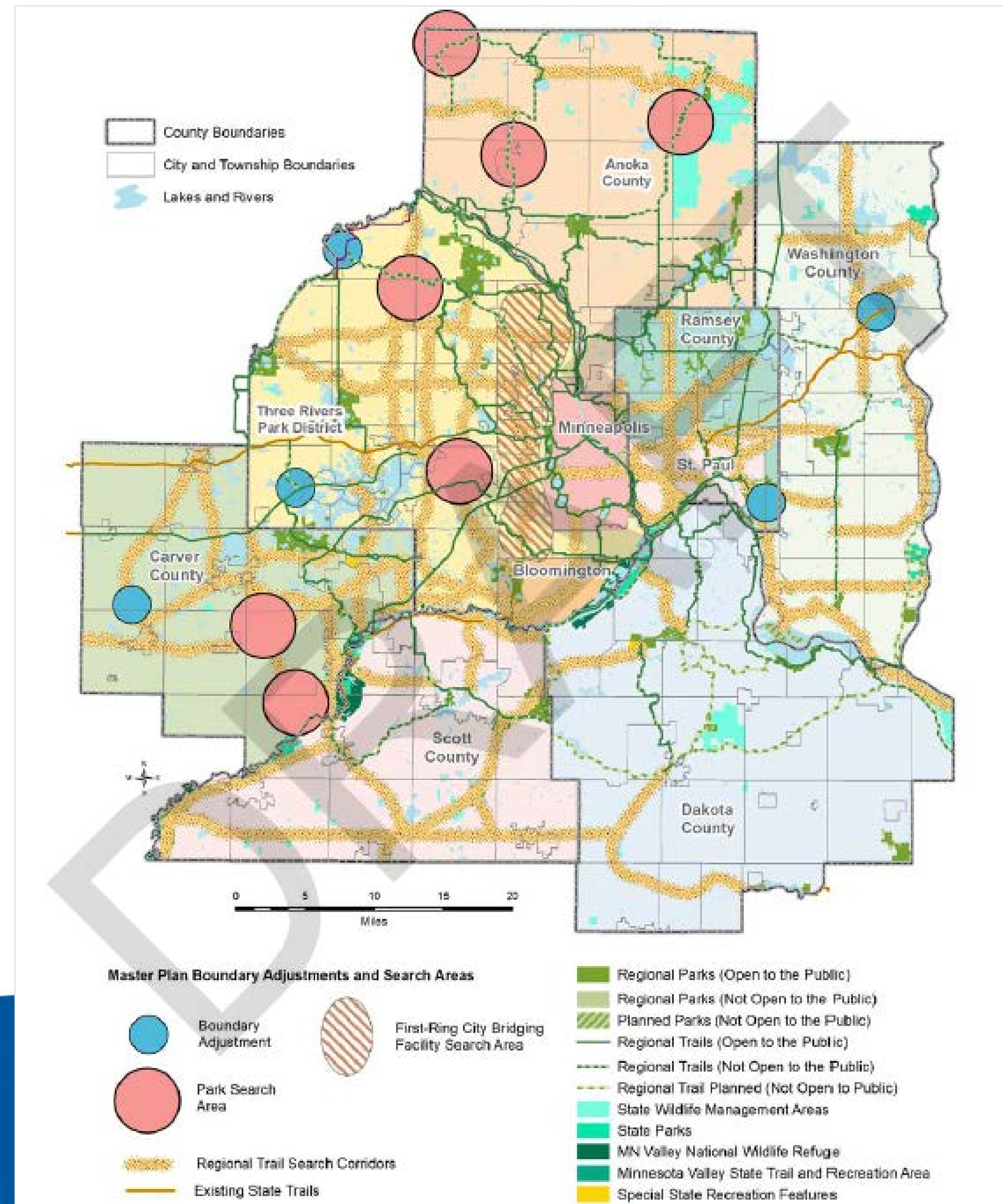
- No significant changes to Chapter 1
- Updated Regional Parks System facts, figures, and maps
- In Chapter 2, update language on Regional Parks System Fund Distribution Plan and Boundary Adjustments
  - Regional Parks System Sub-Recipient Administrative Guide





# Chapter 3: System Plan

- Regional Designations
  - 26 recommended system additions
- Regional Parks System map changes
  - 55 Regional Trails (increase of 6)
  - 8 Planned Regional Trails (decrease of 2)
  - 5 Boundary Adjustments (increase of 4)
  - 7 Regional Park Search Areas (increase of 4)
  - 1 Special Recreation Feature Search Area (increase of 1)
  - 53 Regional Trail Search Corridors (increase of 8)





# Chapter 4: Siting and Acquisition Policy

- Boundary Adjustments
  - Major boundary adjustments require a Policy Plan amendment, while minor boundary adjustments can be accomplished through a master plan amendment.
- Bridging Facilities
  - Bridging facilities are designed to prototype new ideas that advance equitable usage, focusing on underserved groups in the Regional Parks System.
  - Update provides greater definition to the concept.





# Chapter 5: Planning Policy

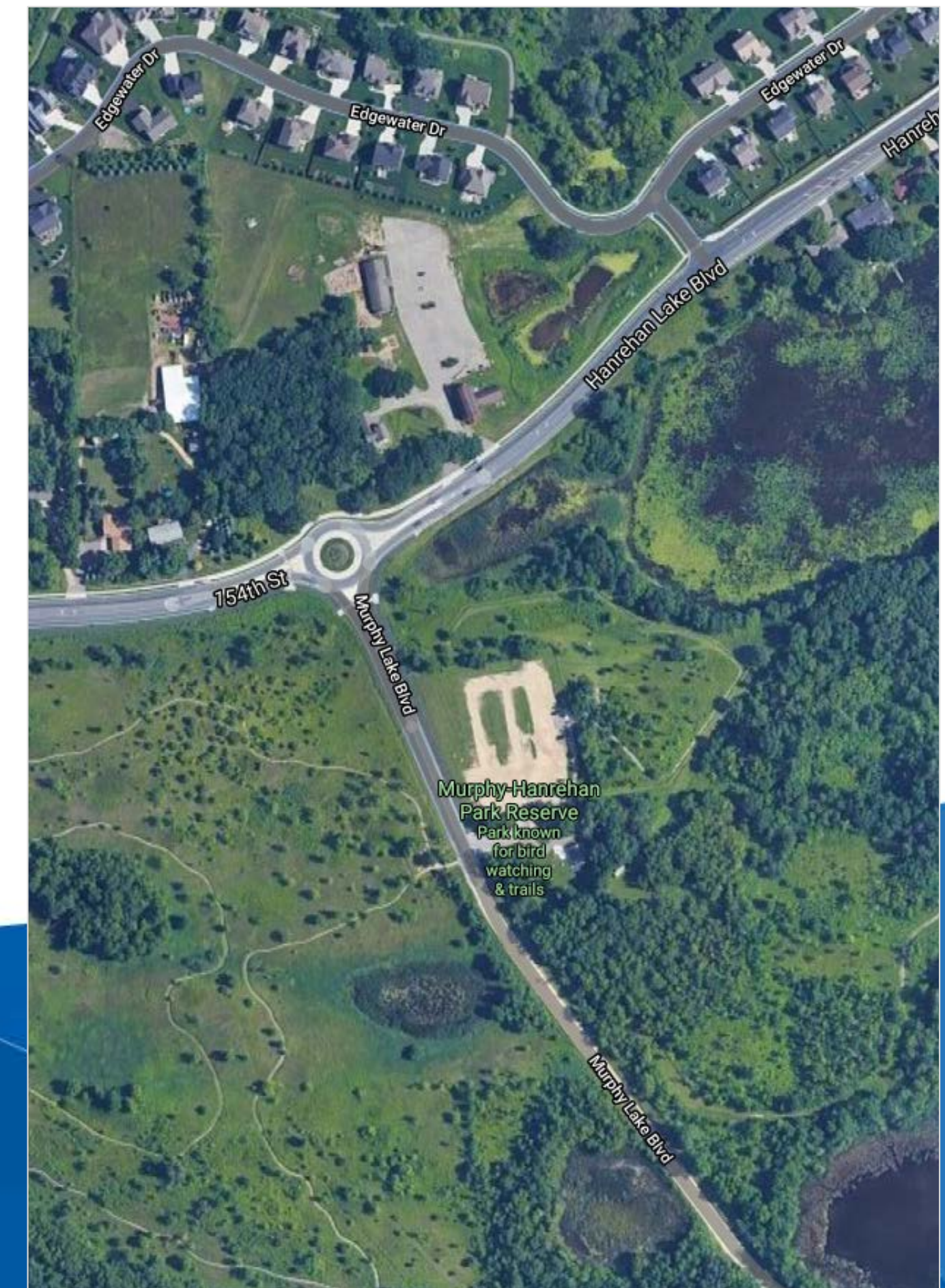
- Master Plan Requirements
  - Further defines an administrative and management boundary
- Equity Analysis Requirement
  - Approved by Council in February 2020
- Acquisition Master Plans
  - Clarified purpose and requirements of an acquisition master plan
- Boundary Adjustments Policy Clarification
  - Clarifies threshold for major and minor boundary adjustments





# Chapter 6: System Protection Policy and Chapter 7: Rec. Activities and Facilities Policy

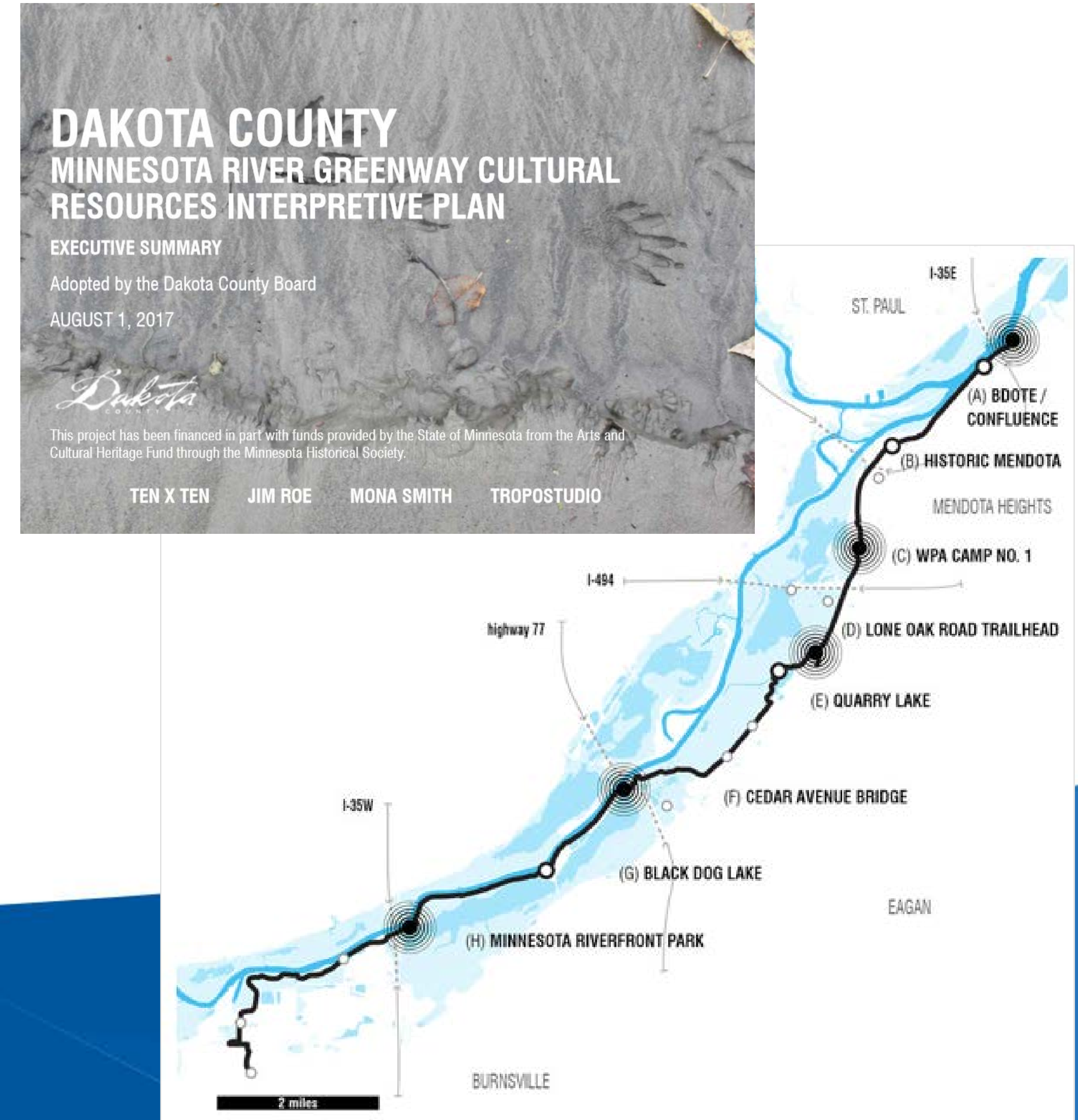
- Chapter 6
  - Land Conversions
    - Further defined the criteria
  - Equally Valuable Exchanges
    - Enhanced description of the process for determining an equally valuable exchange
- Chapter 7
  - Regional Designations
    - No substantial changes
    - Text updates processes initiated in 2019





# Chapter 8: Finance Policy

- 2019 Competitive Equity Grant Program
  - Updated current policy plan language to clarify the program was established and implemented in 2019.
- Estimated Costs to Complete the System
  - State law requires that the Policy Plan estimated the cost of the recommended acquisitions and development of the park system (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147, subd. 1).
  - The estimated build-out of the entire system is roughly \$2.3 billion, an increase of \$200 million from 2018.





# Chapter 9: 2020-2021 Workplan

- Workplan for the Regional Parks Policy Plan
  - Updated to reflect new topics, including new studies, which will be informed by the Council’s work to prepare the 2050 Metropolitan Development Guide.
  - This workplan will continue to evolve over the next four years. Some highlights:
    - Explore development of a land acknowledgement that recognizes and respects Indigenous residents and the histories of the land where our regional parks and trails are located.
    - Conduct a cultural-historical study that describes and documents the impacts inequitable policies have had on the development of the Regional Parks System.
    - Develop a long-term vision for regional trails that explores geographic balance, spacing, equity, character, and natural resource values.



# Parks Policy Plan: Next Steps

- Community Development committee: August 17, 2020
- Metropolitan Council: August 26, 2020
  - Draft Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment will be available on the Council's Parks Policy Plan webpage (<https://metro council.org/Parks/Planning/Parks-Policy-Plan.aspx>): August 26, 2020
- Public Hearing at Community Development Committee: October 19, 2020
- Public Comment Period Closes: October 30, 2020
- Present Parks Policy Plan for approval: December 2020



# Public Comment Invitation

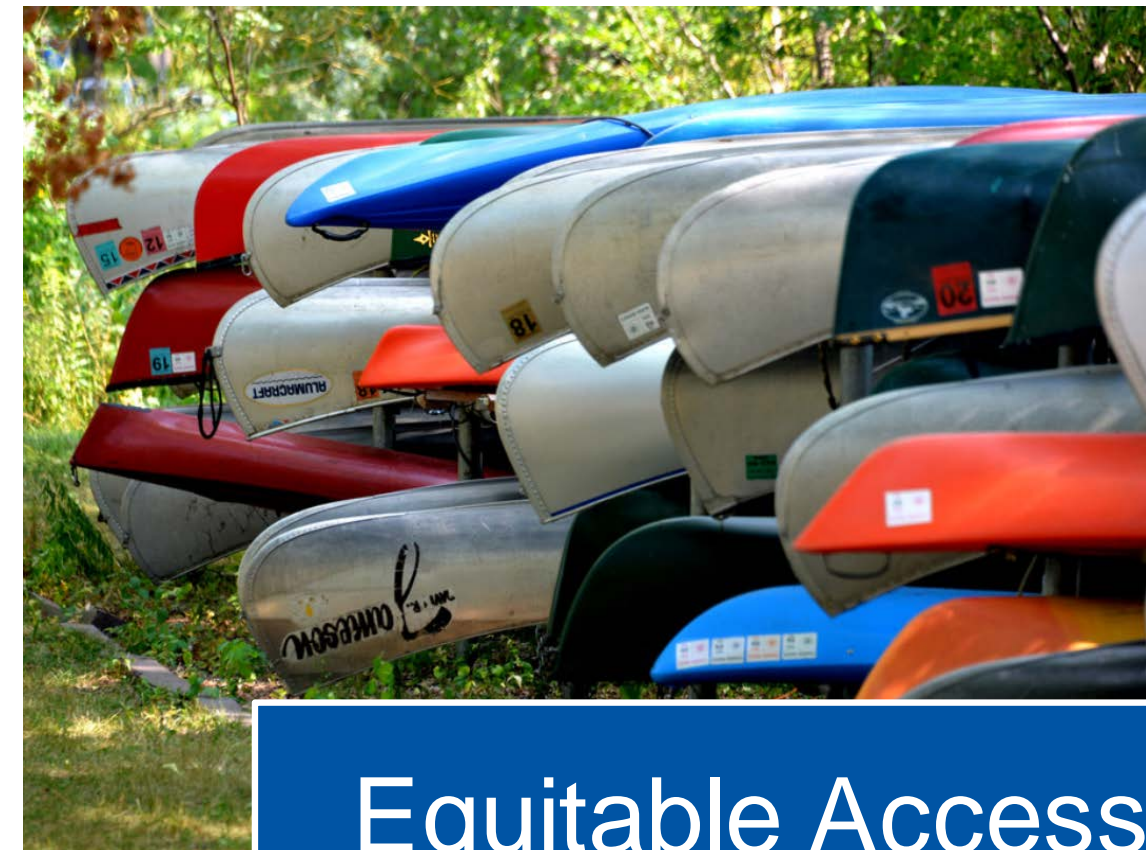
- Public Comment Period
  - August 26<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>
- Targeted approach consulting:
  - Youth serving and parks organizations, and the broader public
- All engagement approaches are valuable
  - Sharing information, attending meetings, interactive exchanges



Growing the System



History



Equitable Access



Climate Resilience



# Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Release the 2020 draft amendment to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* for public comment.
2. Authorize a public comment period from August 26, 2020, to October 30, 2020, including a public hearing to be conducted at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020, at the regularly scheduled Community Development Committee meeting.



# Thank You

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