

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: June 11, 2020

Subject: Regional Parks System Additions: Implementing Agency Proposals (Part 1 of 2)

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Chapter 3: System Plan, Chapter 4: Siting and Acquisition Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks Unit Manager (651-602-1360); Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

Minnesota Statutes 473.147, subd. 1 directs the Metropolitan Council (Council) to plan for the Regional Parks System. The updated *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* (RPPP) commits the Council to convene a region-wide discussion about system additions in 2019, which began in October last year. Council staff is in the process of engaging Regional Park Implementing Agencies, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) and the Community Development Committee (CDC) in this effort.

Council staff provided an update on the system additions project to MPOSC at its meetings in December 2019, March, April and May 2020. In late May, after a four-week system addition application period, 28 regional park system addition proposals were received from eight Regional Park Implementing Agencies.

In June, over the course of two meetings, MPOSC will consider Implementing Agency proposals to add regional recreational resources to the Regional Parks System based on criteria set forth in Chapter 4 of the RPPP. CDC and Land Use Advisory Committee members were informed of this opportunity to learn more about proposed regional park system additions in May.

At the June 11 MPOSC meeting, five implementing agencies will summarize 12 system addition proposals for discussion by the Commission. These implementing agencies include Washington County (five proposals), Anoka county (two proposals), the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (one proposal), Ramsey County (one proposal), and Carver County (three proposals). These proposals are included in this information item as Attachments 1 through 5 and include five regional trail search corridors, four boundary adjustments, and three propose recognition of regional status. MPOSC Commissioners, as well as other interested participants, are asked to review these proposals and watch a short video produced by each proposing agency prior to the June 11 MPOSC meeting. These videos will be available through a link in the posted MPOSC agenda.

At the June 18 MPOSC meeting, three implementing agencies will summarize 16 system addition proposals for discussion by the Commission. These implementing agencies include Scott County (two proposals), Three Rivers Park District (11 proposals), and the City of Saint Paul (three proposals). These proposals will be included in the June 18 information item and will include eleven regional trail search corridors, two regional park search areas, two boundary adjustments, and one

special recreation feature search area. Again, MPOSC Commissioners and other interested participants are asked to review these proposals and watch the video prior to the June 18 meeting.

Two implementing agencies did not propose any regional park system additions at this time. These implementing agencies include the City of Bloomington and Dakota County.

Council staff are requesting the Commission provide feedback on the proposals to help guide staff review and evaluation of the proposals. In July, following a systematic review of each system addition proposal using MPOSC input and the RPPP as guides, Council staff will share a draft recommendation on system additions with MPOSC and CDC.

The results of the system additions process, including the proposed language additions discussed in March, April, and May 2020, will be added to the RPPP during the amendment that is scheduled for the second half of 2020. A public comment period is proposed to begin in late August and conclude in late October.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The System Additions project will advance Stewardship, Equity, and Livability. Stewardship advances the Council's mission of orderly and economical development by responsibly managing the region's natural and financial resources, and making strategic investments in our region's future. Additions to the Regional Park System that protect natural resources, adapt to changing conditions, and serve future residents advance this outcome.

Equity connects all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change. System additions that consider the context of geography and demographics have the potential to positively impact a variety of underrepresented groups. Bridging facilities are an area of particular interest in advancing the Equity outcome.

Livability focuses on quality of life and experiences in our region, and how places and infrastructure create and enhance the quality of life that makes the Twin Cities metro area a great place to live. System additions that create more opportunities for residents to recreate in the regional park system also improve the quality of life for the region's residents.

Attachment 1a

Washington County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

**Pine Point Regional Park -
Boundary Adjustment**

Regional Parks System Additions Application

DATE: May 20, 2020
TO: Metropolitan Council Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources
FROM: Washington County
SUBJECT: 2019 - 2020 Systems Additions – *Pine Point Regional Park - Boundary Adjustment*

1. System Addition Proposal:

Please describe the proposal, its location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement. Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction. If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).

Washington County is proposing a boundary adjustment for Pine Point Regional Park to accommodate seven parcels identified in the recently adopted master plan. The proposed boundary adjustment will increase the existing park's acreage from 287 to 457 acres.

Located in Stillwater Township, Pine Point Regional Park is a trailhead for the Gateway State Trail and a local destination for skiing, hiking, biking, and equestrian riding. Mature pine forests, wetlands, and prairie offer visitors a range of ecological systems to experience in one park visit and are an important resource to the region's ecology.

A detailed map is attached, showing the park's location, existing boundary, and proposed boundary.

2. General Criteria:

Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Pine Point Regional Park exists today as part of the regional system and is designated as a regional park. The existing park with the proposed boundary adjustment meet the qualifications to be a regional park as provided in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

The proposed boundary adjustment will build upon the park's regional significance. It will add 170 acres to the existing park, bringing the total acreage of a fully developed Pine Point Regional Park to 457 acres, within the 200-500 acre guidance in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. This will help the park continue to draw visitors from across the state, by providing additional recreational opportunities, including camping, lake access, and additional trails.

Additional acreage will also protect and enhance important natural resources found in the park. For example, the proposed boundary adjustment will add three parcels with 2,500 feet of shoreline and 34 acres of bodies of water. The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan expresses the importance of acquiring water frontage. Furthermore, three parcels totaling 95 acres will allow for restoration of agricultural land into oak savannah prairie and the protection of an existing remnant oak forest. Finally, a 25 acre parcel with a historic poor farm/nursing home structure will provide an opportunity for the county to add to the park's interpretive historical and cultural opportunities.

¹ 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Updated November 2018



3. **Agency and Other Support:**

Please provide your agency's board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to submit Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals to the Metropolitan Council. See attachment.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to submit the Pine Point Regional Park master plan to the Metropolitan Council. See attachment.

The Stillwater Township Board of Supervisors approved a resolution supporting the Pine Point Regional Park master plan. This plan includes an acquisition plan and the proposed boundary adjustment. See attachment.

The Washington Conservation District and the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) submitted administrative letters supporting the Pine Point Regional Park master plan. See attachment.

4. **Public Participation:**

Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.

Washington County conducted a master plan for Pine Point Regional Park in 2019. The plan was unanimously approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Metropolitan Council in 2020. As demonstrated in the approval process, the master plan process met all the public participation requirements stated in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Washington County led a robust public engagement process for master planning efforts. To reach a diverse cross-section of the community, Washington County engaged the public in multiple ways with an emphasis on trying to make it easy and accessible for all interested citizens to participate in the planning process. Engagement strategies included:

- Community Advisory Committee: Committee of local residents and representatives from nearby businesses and non-profit organizations.
- Technical Advisory Committee: Committee of public agencies and other regulatory agency representatives
- Pop-up Events
- Public Open Houses
- One-on-one listening sessions
- Youth engagement event
- Online survey (630 responses)
- Online interactive mapping

Input gathered from this public engagement influenced the proposed acquisitions identified in the master plan. For example, the public supported adding lake access and separating equestrian and bike turf trail users. Additional acreage was needed in order to provide these opportunities. The public also supported protection and enhancement of natural resources within and around the park. With this direction, the county strategically identified specific parcels that will make the most impact to the ecological health of the park.

5. **Regional Context:**

Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including:

planning for future population growth,
expanding natural resource management,
increasing climate resilience,
balancing conservation with recreation,
promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and
strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).

Washington County believes the proposed boundary adjustment to Pine Point Regional Park advances all listed outcomes. For the sake of brevity, we will highlight several of them:

Increasing climate resilience:

Climate change is impacting Pine Point Regional Park and will increasingly impact the region in the coming years. In Minnesota, climate change is manifesting with warmer winters (especially increasing night-time lows), increasing precipitation and storm intensity (more heavy rains and fewer slow soaking events), and greater snow events. According to DNR State Climatologist, increased summer day-time temperatures and increased occurrence of drought has not yet been experienced in Minnesota. These changes are, however, predicted to increase after this wet hydrologic cycle and could occur within the next 10 - 20 years. Park users and managers can expect more heat and drought in the near future.

The parcels identified as part of the boundary adjustment will expand Washington County's ability to better manage the changes the park will experience with climate change. As the park experiences greater swings in temperature and precipitation, insects, birds, trees, wildflowers, and soil microorganisms are forced to tolerate conditions beyond those through which they have evolved. Diseases more readily occur in stressed plants and animals, and species might disappear, while new plants move in. This is also relevant to the park's pine plantations, where stressors such as overcrowding and drought can leave them more susceptible to disease.

Washington County is prepared to manage the natural resources within the proposed master plan boundary. By increasing the footprint of this park, we will be able to manage these resources and adapt to the changing climate in a more holistic way.

Balancing conservation with recreation:

A major theme that surfaced as part of the Pine Point Regional Park master plan stakeholder engagement was: balance ecological needs and recreational use. These themes informed key master plan acquisition and concept design recommendations.

As part of the master plan's acquisition analysis, the county used a variety of metrics to assess parcels to consider adding into the future park boundary. This included data on plant communities, land cover, current and guided land use, soil characteristics, and slope variation. This data helped address key factors:

- Potential or existing ecological value of significance
- Opportunity to improve access to the park or natural resources
- Opportunity to improve or expand recreational use of the park

Washington County felt that additional recreational opportunities were needed at this park, as existing uses were limited to multi-use trails. The county also identified fragile high-quality vegetation within and

adjacent to the park. By acquiring additional acreage, the master plan proposes a concept that will protect high quality natural resource areas by locating (or relocating) recreational use to strategic parts of the park to minimize ecological impact. By doing this, we will effectively balance both conservation and recreational objectives. Without the proposed boundary adjustment, this will not be possible.

Promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands:

Pine Point Regional Park is a main trailhead and terminus for the Gateway State Trail. Based on the master plan survey, accessing the state trail is the most frequented park activity. One of the key goals that was established to guide the master plan was to: Connect Gateway State Trail users with the greater park.

The DNR is actively engaged in efforts to extend the Gateway State Trail beyond Pine Point Regional Park north to William O'Brien State Park. This master plan incorporates the potential alignments for the Gateway State Trail's future expansion, as well as strategies for accommodating an increased number of park visitors that will access the park from expanding the Gateway State Trail. Additional acreage will be needed to accommodate this and continue to provide high quality public access to Gateway State Trail users.

6. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years).

For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

Washington County's current practice for park land acquisition is on a "willing-seller" basis. The projected timing and sequencing of acquiring the proposed property adjacent to the park will ultimately be determined by funding and the timing of parcel availability.

Washington County is aware of one parcel within the proposed boundary that is a current willing-seller. The county is eager to pursue acquisition on this key piece, due to the potential of losing it to a private party developer.

Potential Acquisitions

<i>Parcel ID</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>2019 Tax Assessed Value</i>
05.030.20.11.0002	48.52	\$737,900.00
06.030.20.12.0001	29.95	\$839,600.00
06.030.20.12.0002	0.52	\$248,400.00
06.030.20.13.0003	24.54	\$1,381,000.00
06.030.20.41.0001	44.03	\$504,600.00
05.030.20.32.0008	2.18	\$27,500.00
05.030.20.31.0006	20.08	\$0 (County-owned)
		\$3,739,000.00

Pine Point Regional Park - Boundary Adjustments



MAY TOWNSHIP

COUNTY 55 ROAD

120TH ST N

Pine Point Regional Park

Pine Point Regional Park Master Plan Boundary

Pine Point Regional Park Master Plan Boundary

116TH ST N

Pine Point Regional Park Master Plan Boundary

Pine Point Regional Park Master Plan Boundary

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP

Gateway State Trail

MYERON RD N

NEAL AVE N

112TH ST N

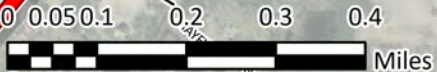
COUNTY 61 ROAD

NORELL AVE N

119TH ST N

Legend

- Existing Park Boundary - 287 Acres
- Proposed Master Plan Boundary - 457 Acres



DATE May 12, 2020
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Karwoski

DEPARTMENT Public Works
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Kriesel

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADDITION AND
ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council released an application process to evaluate regional park implementation agency proposed additions and adjustment to the Regional Park System, in accordance to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, a regional park implementation agency, may propose changes to the Regional Park System through the Metropolitan Council’s application process; and

WHEREAS, Washington County staff recommend proposing the following additions and adjustments to the Regional Parks System:

- Pine Point Regional Park – Boundary Adjustment
- Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Central Greenway Regional Trail – North Segment – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Regional Trail Search Corridors Additions (2)

WHEREAS, Washington County staff believe the proposed additions and adjustments satisfy criteria stated in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners support the recommended Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Regional Park System additions and adjustments be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.

ATTEST:


 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

 COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	___
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	___
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	___
JOHNSON	<u>X</u>	___
WEIK	<u>X</u>	___

DATE February 25, 2020
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Kriesel

DEPARTMENT Public Works
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Karwoski

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF PINE POINT REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, a regional park master plan is required to address the criteria set forth in the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Regional Park Policy Plan to become eligible for Metropolitan Council regional park system designation and funding; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Pine Point Regional Park master plan provides short- and long-term planning and implementation guidance for the park capital improvements, acquisitions, natural resource management, and overall development to create a regional park that meets the needs of Washington County park users; and

WHEREAS, the master planning process for the Pine Point Regional Park master plan included public engagement events and meetings that provided the opportunity for input from partner agencies and public stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the draft Pine Point Regional Park master plan was reviewed supported by the Washington County Park and Open Space Commission (POSC) on January 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners heard a staff presentation on the Pine Point Regional park master plan on February 11, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners supports the proposed Pine Point Regional Park master plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pine Point Regional Park master plan be submitted to the Metropolitan Council for review and approval without further action by the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

ATTEST: 

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	___
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	___
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	___
JOHNSON	<u>X</u>	___
WEIK	<u>X</u>	___

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02-01

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PINE POINT REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the proposed Pine Point Regional Park master plan provides short and long term planning and implementation for the park capital improvements, acquisitions, natural resource management, and several development to create a regional park that meets the needs of Washington County park users; and

WHEREAS, the master planning process for the Pine Point Regional Park master plan included public engagement events and meetings that provided the opportunity for input from partner agencies and public stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Stillwater Township representatives participated in the Pine Point Regional Park master plan Technical Advisory Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stillwater Township Board of Supervisors supports the proposed Pine Point Park master plan.



Sheila-Marie Untiedt, Chair
Stillwater Town Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Kathy Schmoeckel, Town Clerk

Parks and Trails Division
1200 Warner Rd
St. Paul, MN 55106

February 24th, 2020

Connor Schaefer
Planner
Washington County Public Works
11660 Myeron Road North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Mr. Schaefer,

Thank you for providing Minnesota Department of Natural Resource Parks and Trails Division (MNDNR PAT) the opportunity to participate in the Master Planning Process for Pine Point Regional Park. Your emphasis on interagency coordination is particularly important, and appreciated, since the Gateway State Trail-operated and maintained by MN DNR-runs through the park facility.

MNDNR PAT supports the vision presented by the Master Plan document. We look forward to continued coordination with Washington County as the plan is implemented and more detailed proposals related to natural resource management, proposed signage on state property, intersections between the Gateway and the Pine Point Park trail system, and other park features are developed.

Sincerely,



Brandon Helm
Acquisition and Development Specialist

CC:

Rachel Henzen, Area Supervisor

Equal Opportunity Employer



January 27, 2020

Metropolitan Council Chair and Parks and Open Space Commission
390 North Robert Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Chair and Commission Members,

I am writing to offer my support for the Pine Point Regional Park master plan. The mission of the Washington Conservation District is to enhance, protect and preserve the natural resources of Washington County through conservation projects, technical guidance, and educational services. The pine forests, wetlands, and oak savanna at Pine Point Park in Washington County offer a range of ecological systems to experience and are important to the region's ecology. Lake Louise in the northwest corner of the park has been identified as a priority lake in the One Watershed, One Plan for the Lower St. Croix River.

Washington Conservation District supports the improvements proposed in the Pine Point Regional Park master plan. This plan provide a strategy for the restoration and conservation of the natural resources to promote biodiversity without sacrificing recreational opportunities. WCD was especially impressed with the professionalism in the planning process and the thoughtful incorporation of feedback.

Thank you for the opportunity to send our support. We look forward to working with all agency partners on the implementation of the Pine Point Regional Park master plan.

Regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Riggs', is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Jay Riggs
District Manager
Washington Conservation District

Attachment 1b

Washington County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

**Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail Search Corridor -
Boundary Adjustment**

Regional Parks System Additions Application

DATE: May 20, 2020

TO: Metropolitan Council Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

FROM: Washington County

SUBJECT: 2019 - 2020 Systems Additions – *Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail Search Corridor - Boundary Adjustment*

1. System Addition Proposal:

Please describe the proposal, it's location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement.

Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction.

If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).

Washington County is proposing a regional trail search corridor adjustment for Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail. Currently the corridor boundaries are County Road 23 to Interstate 94, generally following State Highway 95. The proposal will expand the existing search corridor north to the St Croix Boom Site, and south to County Road 18 in downtown Afton, extending the search corridor from 7.2 miles to 14 miles.

The Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail will be a north-south multiuse trail that will run through eastern Washington County. Once fully developed, it will connect trail users to regional destinations, including the St Croix Boom Site, St. Croix Crossing Loop Trail, and the Brown's Creek State and downtown Afton.

A detailed map is attached, showing the search corridor location and proposed adjusted boundary.

2. General Criteria:

Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

The Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail search corridor exists today as part of the regional system and is designated as a search corridor. The existing corridor with the proposed boundary adjustment meets the qualifications to be a regional trail as defined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Note that Washington County will use a future master planning process to determine a recommended alignment and if this trail will be a destination or linking regional trail.

The proposed search corridor adjustment will build upon the trail's regional significance. It will continue to attract trail users from across the region, many of whom are already visiting the popular recreational destinations within the corridor; for example, the Brown's Creek State Trail, St Croix Boom Site, and St Croix Crossing Loop Trail. The future trail will also connect to unique commercial districts in the historic main streets of St Croix Valley rivertowns: Stillwater, Bayport, and Afton. In these cities and the other smaller communities along the corridor, this regional trail will act as the backbone to the local trail network.

The proposed search corridor adjustment will also fill a gap in the regional trail network, without duplicating an existing trail, as it is the only north-south regional

¹ *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Updated November 2018



trail corridor in the central-eastern part of Washington County. Extending the search corridor will provide access to more people in this part of the county, therefore improving the system's geographic balance.

Additionally, this trail will connect regional park and trail units. The proposed extension will link into the planned St Croix Valley Regional Trail, a trail that connects St Croix Bluffs Regional Park and Afton State Park as it heads south to Point Douglas Regional Trail.

3. Agency and Other Support:

Please provide your agency's board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to submit Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals to the Metropolitan Council. See attachment.

The proposed regional trail search corridor adjustment for Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail was also identified in Washington County's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. This document was adopted by the Washington County Board of Commissioners and Metropolitan Council. See attachment.

4. Public Participation:

Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.

Washington County conducted extensive public engagement for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The purpose for engaging the public in comprehensive planning is to understand what the community values today and how they will like to see the county and the services the county provides evolve in the future. The input directly influenced the plan's goals, policies and strategies described within the plan.

One of the most common pieces of feedback gathered was the support for expanding the trail network. For example, phase one of public engagement included staffing a total of nine "pop-up events", engaging over 250 residents. Feedback from these events demonstrated the importance of planning and building a trail network within the county that provide access to our parks and open spaces. For example, in a survey used to gather input on the plan, trails were ranked as the second most valuable service provided by Washington County.

It is for these reasons the following policy was adopted in the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Chapter of our comprehensive plan: "Plan and build the trail system to link our regional parks and connect communities to local and regional amenities."

Furthermore, Washington County conducted a county-wide residential survey in 2019. This report also demonstrated the support for a growing trails network. For example, the "off-road trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations" was the second most important park activity.

1. Regional Context:

Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including: planning for future population growth, expanding natural resource management, increasing climate resilience, balancing conservation with recreation, promoting access via trails and

transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).

Washington County believes the proposed search corridor adjustment to Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail advances all of listed outcomes. For the sake of brevity, we will highlight several of them.

Planning for future population growth:

As the 7-County regional population looks to welcome an additional 700,000 people, Washington County looks forward to welcoming 80,000 new residents. The county must continue to be strategic in how the regional park system grows.

For example, Washington County's 65+ residents represent 15% of the county's population and are one of the region's fastest growing age-groups. Regional trails provide an accessible and high amenity active transportation and recreation option for this population. Access to trails is shown to improve key physical and mental health outcomes (www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/parks). This was supported further by the findings from our 2019 residential survey. County residents ranked "parks and recreational facilities" as the top county service they will likely use as they grow older than age 65.

As our county and regional populations age, we must plan safe and accessible trails that link different communities and destinations. With the proposed search corridor adjustment, the Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail will providing this.

Promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands:

The proposed search corridor adjustment will provide direct access to many state recreational and ecological destinations. This includes the Brown's Creek State Trail, St Croix Crossing Loop Trails, St Croix Boom Site, St Croix Savannah Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), and Bayport Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The trail will also provide access and scenic views to St Croix River, a federally designated National Wild and Scenic Riverway, as there are several public and private accesses within the proposed corridor boundaries.

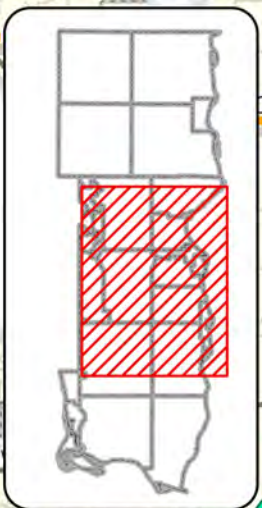
2. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years). For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

The Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail alignment will be determined through a future master planning process. This master plan is expected to be conducted within the next 5 years.

A master plan will also guide future acquisition and trail development. The projected timing and sequencing of acquiring right-of-way will likely be determined by funding and coordination with future transportation projects. Based on the existing conditions of the corridor and standard calculations provided by the Metropolitan Council, we calculated an acquisition estimate of \$2,614,182 for the proposed extension only, and \$9,149,636 for the entire Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail search corridor.

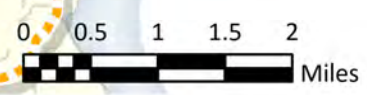
Middle St Croix Valley Search Corridor Adjustment



- Legend**
- Existing Regional Trail
 - Existing State Trail
 - Planned Regional Trail Alignment
 - Regional Trail Search Corridor
 - Proposed Regional Trail Search Corridor



Middle St Croix Valley



DATE May 12, 2020
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Karwoski

DEPARTMENT Public Works
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Kriesel

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADDITION AND
ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council released an application process to evaluate regional park implementation agency proposed additions and adjustment to the Regional Park System, in accordance to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, a regional park implementation agency, may propose changes to the Regional Park System through the Metropolitan Council’s application process; and

WHEREAS, Washington County staff recommend proposing the following additions and adjustments to the Regional Parks System:

- Pine Point Regional Park – Boundary Adjustment
- Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Central Greenway Regional Trail – North Segment – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Regional Trail Search Corridors Additions (2)

WHEREAS, Washington County staff believe the proposed additions and adjustments satisfy criteria stated in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners support the recommended Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Regional Park System additions and adjustments be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.

ATTEST: 

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	___
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	___
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	___
JOHNSON	<u>X</u>	___
WEIK	<u>X</u>	___

DATE January 7, 2020
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Weik

DEPARTMENT Administration
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Karwoski

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 473.864 requires each local governmental unit to review and, if necessary, amend its entire comprehensive plan and its fiscal devices and official controls at least once every ten years to ensure its comprehensive plan conforms to metropolitan system plans and ensure its fiscal devices and official controls do not conflict with the comprehensive plan or permit activities that conflict with metropolitan system plans; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 473.858 and 473.864 require local governmental units to complete their “decennial” reviews by December 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Washington County 2040 Comprehensive Plan (Plan) is a planning tool intended to guide the future growth and development of the Washington County in a manner that conforms with metropolitan system plans and complies with the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and other applicable planning statutes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Plan reflects a community planning process conducted between the years 2016 through 2018 involving elected officials, appointed officials, county staff, local communities, community organizations, the public at large, other regional, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. 473.858, the proposed Plan was submitted to adjacent government units and affected special districts and school districts for review and comment on March 26, 2018, and the statutory six-month review and comment period has elapsed; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2018 the Washington County Planning Advisory Commission considered the proposed Plan and all public comments, and thereafter submitted its recommendations to the Washington County Board of Commissioners to adopt by ordinance and submit the Plan to the Metropolitan Council for review; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on December 4, 2018 and adopted a resolution to submit the proposed Plan to the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat section 473.858 the proposed Plan was submitted to the Metropolitan Council and received approval on February 27, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the proposed Plan and those recommendations, public comments, and comments from adjacent jurisdictions and affected districts; and

WHEREAS, based on its review of the proposed Plan and Planning Advisory Commission and staff recommendations, the Washington County Board of Commissioners is ready to adopt the proposed Plan pursuant to Minn.Stat. section 473.864.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby adopt the proposed Washington County 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

ATTEST: 

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	___
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	___
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	___
JOHNSON	<u>X</u>	___
WEIK	<u>X</u>	___

Attachment 1c

Washington County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

**Central Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor -
Boundary Adjustment**

Regional Parks System Additions Application

DATE: May 20, 2020

TO: Metropolitan Council Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

FROM: Washington County

SUBJECT: 2019 - 2020 Systems Additions – *Central Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor – Boundary Adjustment*

1. System Addition Proposal:

Please describe the proposal, it's location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement. Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction. If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).

Washington County is proposing a regional trail search corridor adjustment for the Central Greenway Regional Trail – north segment. Currently the corridor boundaries are State Highway 36 to Big Marine Park Reserve, generally following County Road 15. The proposal will expand the existing search corridor north to the Washington-Chisago County line, extending the search corridor from 11.7 miles to 18.5 miles.

The Central Greenway Regional Trail – north segment will be a north-south multiuse trail that will run through northern Washington County. The north segment will tie into the Central Greenway Regional Trail's other two planned trail segments, the Lake Elmo segment and the south segment, to provide one continuous north-south trail. Once fully developed, the entire corridor will connect trail users to regional destinations such as Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Big Marine Park Reserve, future Washington County regional trails, and the Gateway and Brown's Creek State Trails. This will also provide a potential future connection with the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail (Chisago County west-east trail connection).

A detailed map is attached, showing the search corridor location and proposed adjusted boundary.

2. General Criteria:

Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

The Central Greenway Regional Trail – north segment search corridor exists today as part of the regional system and is designated as a search corridor. The existing corridor with the proposed boundary adjustment meets the qualifications to be a regional trail as defined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Note that Washington County will use a future master planning process to determine a recommended alignment and if this trail will be a destination or linking regional trail.

The proposed search corridor adjustment will build upon the trail's regional significance. Providing a link between Washington County's primary arterial trail (Central Greenway Regional Trail corridor) and a neighboring county (Chisago) will draw more users to experience the regional trail system.

¹ *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Updated November 2018



The proposed search corridor adjustment will also fill a gap in the regional trail network, without duplicating an existing trail. The Central Greenway is one of only two north-south regional trails in the entire north half of Washington County. This is a missed opportunity because biking is very popular in this part of the county, due to the rolling topography and undeveloped scenery. Extending the search corridor will provide access to more people in this part of the county, therefore improving the system's geographic balance.

Additionally, this future trail will connect regional park and trail units. The proposed extension will link into the planned Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail within Chisago County, an west-east trail that will connect to other popular recreational destinations (i.e. Ojiketa Regional Park, Interstate State Park, Franconia Sculpture Park), utilizing an abandoned railway corridor that parallels Highway 8. We have heard from trail users this connection is in high demand for those looking for an all-day/weekend adventure.

Finally, the proposed search corridor adjustment will traverse some of the most scenic areas of the metropolitan area. The north-central part of Washington County is generally undeveloped and ecologically exceptional. The rolling topography offers views of a wetland and woodland mosaic. Providing the opportunity for this unique trail experience is important because the Central Greenway Regional Trail corridor intersects with two state trails and five regional trails as it continues south. Once fully developed, this trail experience will be easily accessible from many different communities across the region

3. Agency and Other Support:

Please provide your agency's board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to submit Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals to the Metropolitan Council. See attachment.

4. Public Participation:

Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.

Washington County conducted a master plan for Big Marine Park Reserve in 2010. This plan identified a paved multiuse trail running along the western boundary of the park, extending north - see attachment. The master plan was unanimously approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Metropolitan Council. As demonstrated in the approval process, the master plan process met all the public participation requirements stated in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Furthermore, Washington County is currently drafting a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Although the plan is still being developed, initial recommendations include a trail along the proposed search corridor adjustment. This process has included robust public engagement. Engagement strategies included:

- Technical Advisory Committee: Committee of cities/townships and other agency representatives
- Online interactive mapping (673 comments)
- Online survey (281 responses)

- Pop-up Events
- Public Open Houses
- One-on-one listening sessions

Input gathered from this public engagement influenced Washington County’s decision to submit this regional trail search corridor adjustment proposal. Several comments supported extending the Central Greenway Regional Trail north into Chisago County.

Furthermore, Washington County conducted a county-wide residential survey in 2019. This report also demonstrated support for a growing trails network:

Furthermore, Washington County conducted a county-wide residential survey in 2019. This report also demonstrated the support for a growing trails network. For example, the “off-road trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations” was the second most important park activity.

5. Regional Context:

Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including: planning for future population growth, expanding natural resource management, increasing climate resilience, balancing conservation with recreation, promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).

Washington County believes the proposed search corridor adjustment to Central Greenway Regional Trail - north segment advances all of listed outcomes. For the sake of brevity, we will highlight a couple of them.

Planning for future population growth:

As the 7-County regional population looks to welcome an additional 700,000 people, Washington County, and the region, must continue to be strategic in how the regional park system grows. In the coming years, northern Washington County and Chisago County will continue to develop and grow. By 2040, the development of this area may mirror that of some of the suburban and rural parts of the 7-County metropolitan area today. Therefore, it would be prudent of the regional park system to be forward thinking when it comes to the system’s long term future. It is important to be planning for this development now, so that we may be able to take advantages of trail implementation opportunities as they arise in the future.

Expanding natural resource management:

As part of the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program, the county conducted an analysis that identified the county’s highest priority land protection areas. The proposed Central Greenway Regional Trail – north segment search corridor adjustment resides in two top conservation priority areas: German Lake and Big Marine Lake North. These conservation areas were identified because the upland and wetland resources in this area will ensure clean recharge into the aquifers.

A regional trail corridor offers an opportunity to conserve, enhance, and restore the land within these sensitive, high-quality natural resource areas. This search corridor adjustment will help protect these natural areas and create a unique experience for trail users.

6. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years).

For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

The Central Greenway Regional Trail – north segment alignment will be determined through a future master planning process. This master plan is expected to be conducted within the next 10 years.

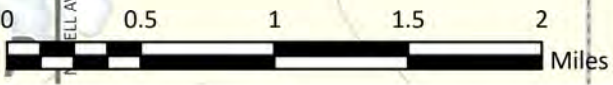
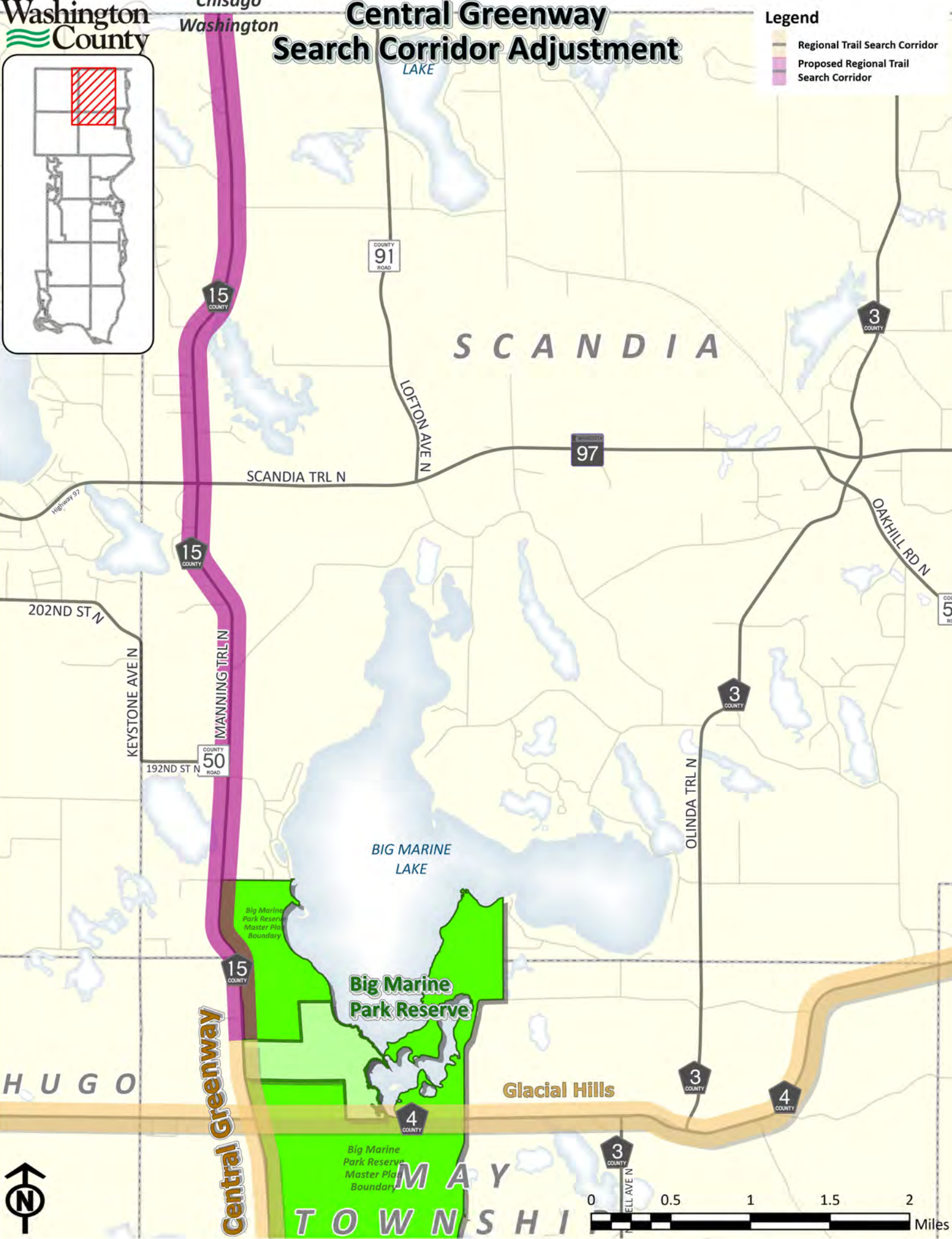
A master plan will also guide future acquisition and trail development. The projected timing and sequencing of acquiring right-of-way will likely be determined by funding and coordination with future transportation projects. Based on the existing conditions of the corridor and standard calculations provided by the Metropolitan Council, we calculated an acquisition estimate of \$886,800 for the proposed extension only, and \$2,614,182 for the entire Central Greenway Regional Trail – north segment search corridor.



Central Greenway Search Corridor Adjustment

Legend

- Regional Trail Search Corridor
- Proposed Regional Trail Search Corridor



DATE May 12, 2020
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Karwoski

DEPARTMENT Public Works
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Kriesel

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADDITION AND
ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council released an application process to evaluate regional park implementation agency proposed additions and adjustment to the Regional Park System, in accordance to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, a regional park implementation agency, may propose changes to the Regional Park System through the Metropolitan Council’s application process; and

WHEREAS, Washington County staff recommend proposing the following additions and adjustments to the Regional Parks System:

- Pine Point Regional Park – Boundary Adjustment
- Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Central Greenway Regional Trail – North Segment – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Regional Trail Search Corridors Additions (2)

WHEREAS, Washington County staff believe the proposed additions and adjustments satisfy criteria stated in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners support the recommended Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Regional Park System additions and adjustments be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.

ATTEST: 

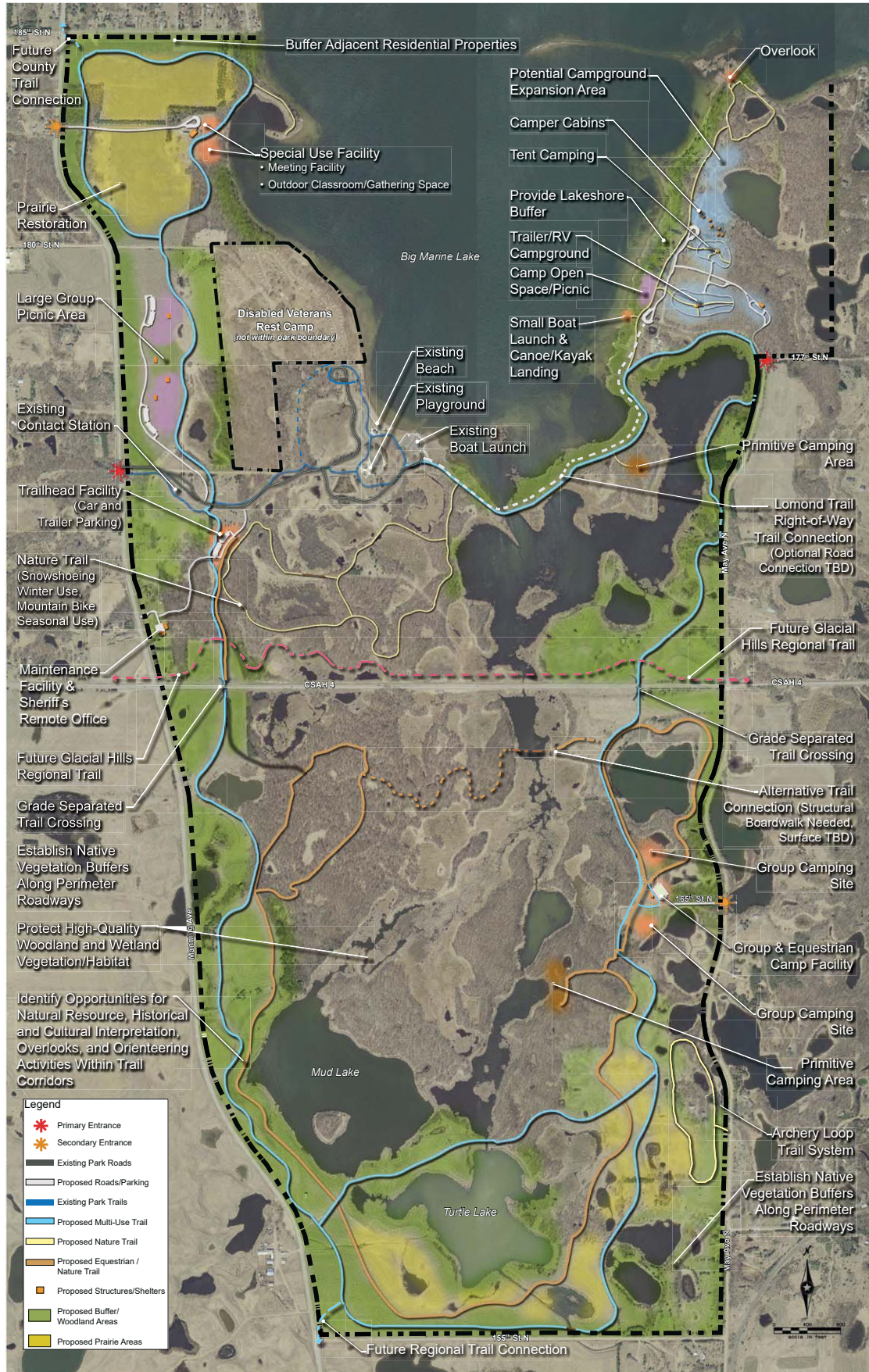
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	___
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	___
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	___
JOHNSON	<u>X</u>	___
WEIK	<u>X</u>	___

FIGURE 6-2: PREFERRED CONCEPT



Attachment 1d

Washington County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

Lake Elmo Park Reserve to Phalen-Keller Regional Park - Regional Trail Search Corridor

Regional Parks System Additions Application

DATE: May 20, 2020

TO: Metropolitan Council Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

FROM: Washington County

SUBJECT: 2019 - 2020 Systems Additions – *Lake Elmo Park Reserve to Phalen-Keller Regional Park - Regional Trail Search Corridor*

1. System Addition Proposal:

Please describe the proposal, its location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement. Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction. If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).

Washington County is proposing a new regional trail search corridor connecting Lake Elmo Park Reserve with Phalen-Keller Regional Park. The proposed search corridor will be 7.6 miles.

Lake Elmo Park Reserve to Phalen-Keller Regional Park regional trail search corridor will be an east-west multiuse trail that will run through central Washington County and northeastern Saint Paul. Once fully developed, it will connect trail users to regional destinations such as downtown Lake Elmo, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Central Greenway Regional Trail, Bruce Vento Regional Trail, Keller Regional Park, and Phalen Regional Park.

Washington County has received support from Ramsey County staff and Saint Paul staff to submit this proposal. Washington County is also aware of and supports Saint Paul's proposal requesting the same future regional trail connection along a different alignment. At this time, Washington County is not advocating for a specific alignment, as those decisions are typically made during the master planning process. The primary intention of this proposal is to establish a regional trail search corridor to connect the regional parks.

A detailed map is attached, showing the proposed search corridor location.

2. General Criteria:

Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

The proposed Lake Elmo Park Reserve to Phalen-Keller Regional Park search corridor satisfies the framework and criteria described in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. Note that Washington County will use a future master planning process to determine a recommended alignment and if this trail will be a destination or linking regional trail.

The proposed search corridor will be regionally significant. People will be drawn to an east-west link that connects to some of the most popular recreational destinations in the east metro. The trail will effectively connect several regional park units; Lake Elmo Park Reserve and Central Greenway Regional Trail in Washington County, and Bruce Vento Regional Trail, and Phalen-Keller Regional Park in Saint Paul/Ramsey County.

¹ *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Updated November 2018



The proposed search corridor will also fill a gap in the regional trail network, without duplicating an existing trail. There is no existing east-west regional trail or search corridor that connects to Lake Elmo Park Reserve. There are also few trails that connect eastern Ramsey County with western Washington County, especially with barriers such as Interstate 694 and 494.

Furthermore, the proposed corridor will connect into the city of Oakdale, one of the most diverse and populous cities in Washington County. Oakdale does not have a regional park or regional trail (existing or planned) within the city borders. As the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan states: “Some metropolitan area’s inner-ring suburbs are not close to regional parks and do not have large tracts of land that will be available for future development of parks for the regional system. Regional trail development should be pursued in these suburbs when a need has been identified, to help achieve geographic balance of Regional Parks System facilities”. Geographic balance is also a goal of Washington County and one of the motivations for this search corridor proposal.

3. Agency and Other Support:

Please provide your agency’s board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to submit Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals to the Metropolitan Council. See attachment.

Washington County has received support from Ramsey County staff and Saint Paul staff to submit this proposal. Washington County is also aware of and supports Saint Paul’s proposal requesting the same future regional trail connection along a different alignment.

4. Public Participation:

Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.

Washington County is currently drafting a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Although the plan is still being developed, initial recommendations include a trail along the proposed search corridor. This process has included robust public engagement. Engagement strategies included:

- Technical Advisory Committee: Committee of cities/townships and other agency representatives
- Online interactive mapping (673 comments)
- Online survey (281 responses)
- Pop-up Events
- Public Open Houses
- One-on-one listening sessions

Input gathered from this public engagement influenced Washington County’s decision to submit a regional trail search corridor proposal. Several comments supported increased trail connections to Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

Furthermore, Washington County conducted a county-wide residential survey in 2019. This report also demonstrated the support for a growing trails network. For example, the “off-road trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations” was the second most important park activity.

5. Regional Context:

Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including: planning for future population growth, expanding natural resource management, increasing climate resilience, balancing conservation with recreation, promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).

Washington County believes the proposed Lake Elmo Park Reserve to Phalen-Keller Regional Park search corridor advances all of listed outcomes. For the sake of brevity, we will highlight several of them.

Strengthening equitable usage:

The proposed search corridor will provide regional trail access to the City of Oakdale. Oakdale is one of the most diverse and populous cities in Washington County, but it does not have a regional park or regional trail within the city borders. As an inner ring suburb, this community is underserved by our existing regional park and trail system. To help improve this, the proposed search corridor will provide a safe and accessible way to get to and from Lake Elmo Park Reserve and Phalen Keller-Regional Park.

With this future regional trail, Lake Elmo Park Reserve will be an easily accessible recreational option for communities in Saint Paul and Ramsey County. Because it is a 2,000 acre park reserve and 80% undeveloped, it provides a different park experience than some of the regional parks in the more developed parts of the metropolitan area. It also provides camping and a swim pond, for those looking to for different recreational experiences. Once fully developed, the county foresees new creative and collaborative programming opportunities for the trail. This, along with other recent investments in Lake Elmo Park Reserve, will help reduce barriers for underserved populations and strengthen equitable usage.

Promoting access via trails and transit:

The Metropolitan Council and Washington County support improving transit options for those looking to visit a regional park in Washington County. With limited existing transit service, regional trail connections to Lake Elmo Park Reserve will help improve this access. For example, Phalen Regional Park is served by bus routes 54, 61, and 64, which provide transit to and from much of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. With the regional trail connecting Phalen-Keller Regional Park to Lake Elmo Park Reserve, this creates a multimodal option for people who want to take the bus to Phalen Regional Park and then bike to Lake Elmo Park Reserve. This option is especially important because households in Minneapolis and Saint Paul are less likely to own a personal vehicle.

Furthermore, depending on the master plan alignment, this future regional trail could connect with the future Gold Line bus rapid transit project, a planned 10-mile transit line that will connect Saint Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Woodbury generally along Interstate 94. A parallel trail is planned along the transit corridor, as part of this project. Once fully developed, this will be another transit and trails connection to Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

6. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years).

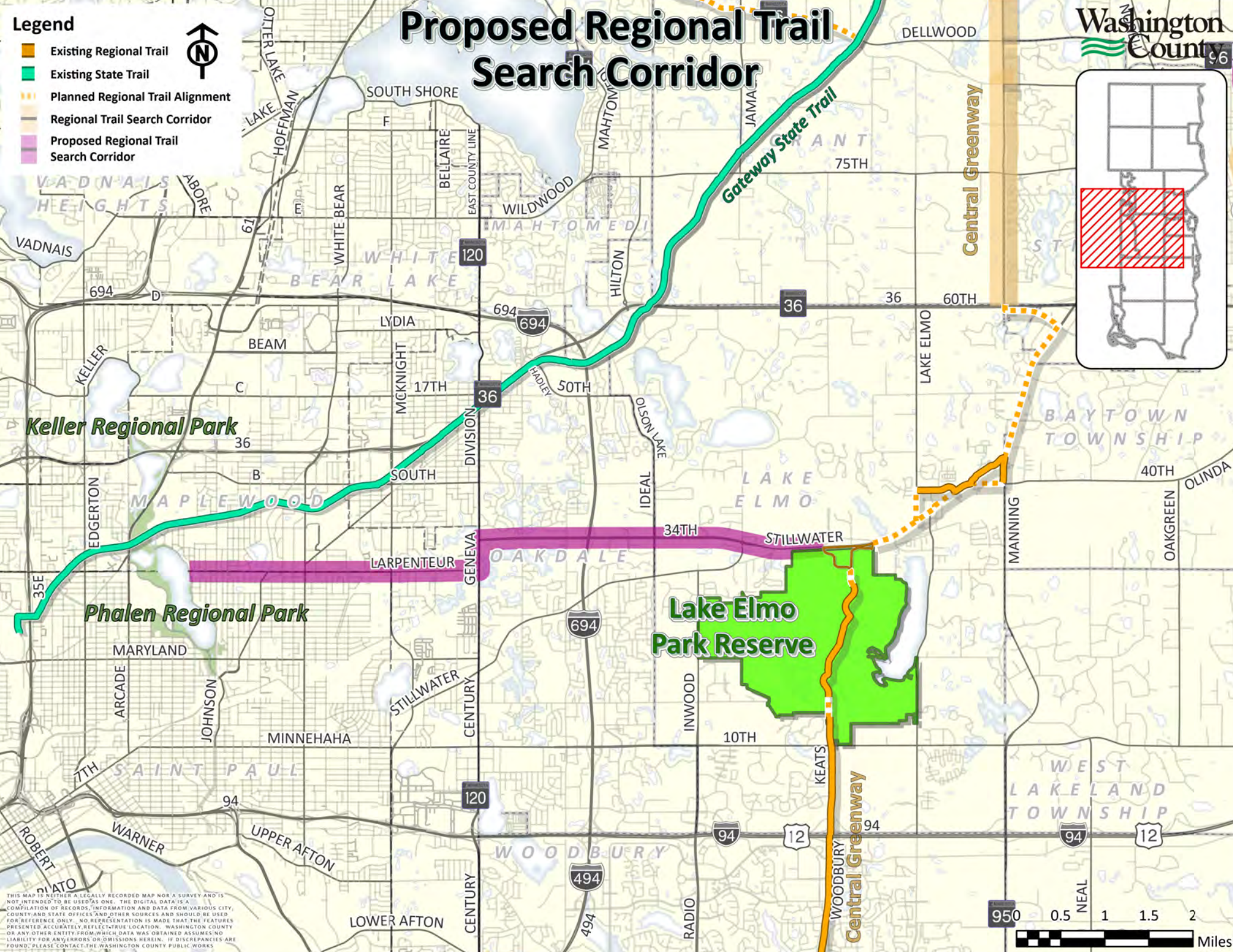
For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

The alignment for a new regional trail search corridor connecting Lake Elmo Park Reserve and Phalen-Keller Regional Park will be determined through a future master planning process. This master plan is expected to be conducted within the next 10 years, and will be done in collaboration with Saint Paul and Ramsey County.

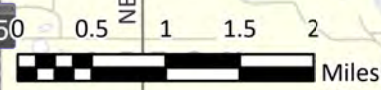
A master plan will also guide future acquisition and trail development. The projected timing and sequencing of acquiring right-of-way will likely be determined by funding and coordination with future transportation projects. Based on the existing conditions of the corridor and standard calculations provided by the Metropolitan Council, we calculated an acquisition estimate of \$7,095,636 for the proposed regional trail search corridor connecting Lake Elmo Park Reserve and Phalen-Keller Regional Park.

Proposed Regional Trail Search Corridor

- Legend**
- Existing Regional Trail
 - Existing State Trail
 - Planned Regional Trail Alignment
 - Regional Trail Search Corridor
 - Proposed Regional Trail Search Corridor



THIS MAP IS NEITHER A LEGALLY RECORDED MAP NOR A SURVEY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED AS ONE. THE DIGITAL DATA IS A COMPILATION OF RECORDS, INFORMATION AND DATA FROM VARIOUS CITY, COUNTY AND STATE OFFICES AND OTHER SOURCES AND SHOULD BE USED FOR REFERENCE ONLY. NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT THE FEATURES PRESENTED ACCURATELY REFLECT TRUE LOCATION. WASHINGTON COUNTY OR ANY OTHER ENTITY FROM WHICH DATA WAS OBTAINED ASSUMES NO LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. IF DISCREPANCIES ARE FOUND, PLEASE CONTACT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS



DATE May 12, 2020
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Karwoski

DEPARTMENT Public Works
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Kriesel

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADDITION AND
ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council released an application process to evaluate regional park implementation agency proposed additions and adjustment to the Regional Park System, in accordance to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, a regional park implementation agency, may propose changes to the Regional Park System through the Metropolitan Council’s application process; and

WHEREAS, Washington County staff recommend proposing the following additions and adjustments to the Regional Parks System:

- Pine Point Regional Park – Boundary Adjustment
- Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Central Greenway Regional Trail – North Segment – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Regional Trail Search Corridors Additions (2)

WHEREAS, Washington County staff believe the proposed additions and adjustments satisfy criteria stated in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners support the recommended Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Regional Park System additions and adjustments be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.

ATTEST:


 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

 COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	___
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	___
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	___
JOHNSON	<u>X</u>	___
WEIK	<u>X</u>	___

Attachment 1e

Washington County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

**Pine Point Regional Park to Square Lake Special Recreation Feature -
Regional Trail Search Corridor**

Regional Parks System Additions Application

DATE: May 20, 2020

TO: Metropolitan Council Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

FROM: Washington County

SUBJECT: 2019 - 2020 Systems Additions – *Pine Point Regional Park to Square Lake Special Recreation Feature – Regional Trail Search Corridor*

1. System Addition Proposal:

Please describe the proposal, its location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement. Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction. If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).

Washington County is proposing a new regional trail search corridor connecting Pine Point Regional Park with Square Lake Park (designated by the regional system as a Special Recreation Feature). The proposed search corridor will be 4.3 miles.

The Pine Point Regional Park to Square Lake Park regional trail search corridor will be an east-west multiuse trail that will run through northern Washington County, in May Township and Stillwater Township. As it currently stands in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, neither of these regional destinations will have regional trail access. The proposed new regional trail search corridor will resolve this omission by providing this important connection for those who want to access these parks without a vehicle. Once fully developed, the future regional trail will also provide a connection to the Gateway State Trail and other recreational destinations.

A detailed map is attached, the proposed search corridor location.

2. General Criteria:

Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

The proposed Pine Point Regional Park to Square Lake Park search corridor satisfies the framework and criteria described in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Note that Washington County will use a future master planning process to determine a recommended alignment and if this trail will be a destination or linking regional trail.

The proposed search corridor will be regionally significant. People will be drawn to an east-west link that connects to popular recreational destinations in the east metro: Pine Point Regional Park, Square Lake Park, and Gateway State Trail. For example, a young couple hops on the Gateway State Trail from Saint Paul and rides out to a bike-in campsite at Pine Point Regional Park (planned improvement identified in master plan). From there, the couple spends the weekend riding to Square Lake for days at the beach, hiking the many trails in Pine Point Regional Park, and even riding into downtown Stillwater (via the Brown's Creek State Trail) for a dinner and to visit a local brewery. In this example, the couple would always be able to ride on a road-separated trail, never having to worry about competing with vehicle traffic.

¹ *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Updated November 2018

People from all over the country visit the North Shore for an experience like this, and we could have it right here in the metro area!

The proposed search corridor will also fill a gap in the regional trail network, without duplicating an existing trail. There is no existing regional trail or search corridor that connects Pine Point Regional Park or Square Lake to the larger regional trail network. These two parks are some of the very few regional park units in the 7-county metropolitan area that do not have an existing or planned access to a regional trail. This is a missed opportunity because biking is very popular in this part of the county, due to the natural setting and countryside trail experience. The implementation of a road-separated regional trail will make this type of experience more accessible for trail users with various levels of comfortability and ability.

3. Agency and Other Support:

Please provide your agency's board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to submit Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals to the Metropolitan Council. See attachment.

4. Public Participation:

Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.

Washington County is currently drafting a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Although the plan is still being developed, initial recommendations include a trail along the proposed search corridor. This process has included robust public engagement. Engagement strategies included:

- Technical Advisory Committee: Committee of cities/townships and other agency representatives
- Online interactive mapping (673 comments)
- Online survey (281 responses)
- Pop-up Events
- Public Open Houses
- One-on-one listening sessions

Input gathered from this public engagement influenced Washington County's decision to submit a regional trail search corridor proposal. Several comments supported increased trail connections to both Pine Point Regional Trail and Square Lake Park.

Furthermore, Washington County conducted a county-wide residential survey in 2019. This report also demonstrated the support for a growing trails network. For example, the "off-road trail system that connects communities, county park system, and other destinations" was the second most important park activity.

5. Regional Context:

Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including: planning for future population growth, expanding natural resource management, increasing climate resilience, balancing conservation with recreation, promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).

Washington County believes the proposed search corridor adjustment to Central Greenway Regional Trail - north segment advances all of listed outcomes. For the sake of brevity, we will highlight a couple of them:

Expanding natural resource management:

As part of the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program, the county conducted an analysis that identified the county's highest priority land protection areas. The proposed search corridor resides in one of the top conservation priority areas: Carnelian Creek Corridor. This conservation area was identified because of the habitat and aquifer recharge potential of the areas lakes and wetlands. One of the reasons this is important is that Square Lake is designated in the regional park system as a special recreation feature because of its remarkable water quality. Natural resource management is needed to protect this defining trait of Square Lake Park.

A regional trail corridor offers an opportunity to conserve, enhance, and restore the land within these sensitive, high-quality natural resource areas. This search corridor will help protect these natural areas and create a unique experience for trail users.

Promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands:

The proposed search corridor will provide direct access to the Gateway State Trail. By linking with the Gateway State Trail, this future regional trail will tie well into the larger trail network, providing access to the Central Greenway Regional Trail, Brown's Creek State Trail, and the St Croix Crossing Loop Trail, and, when trail is extended, William O'Brien State Park. The proposed search corridor will be the key link to accessing all these destinations.

6. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years).

For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

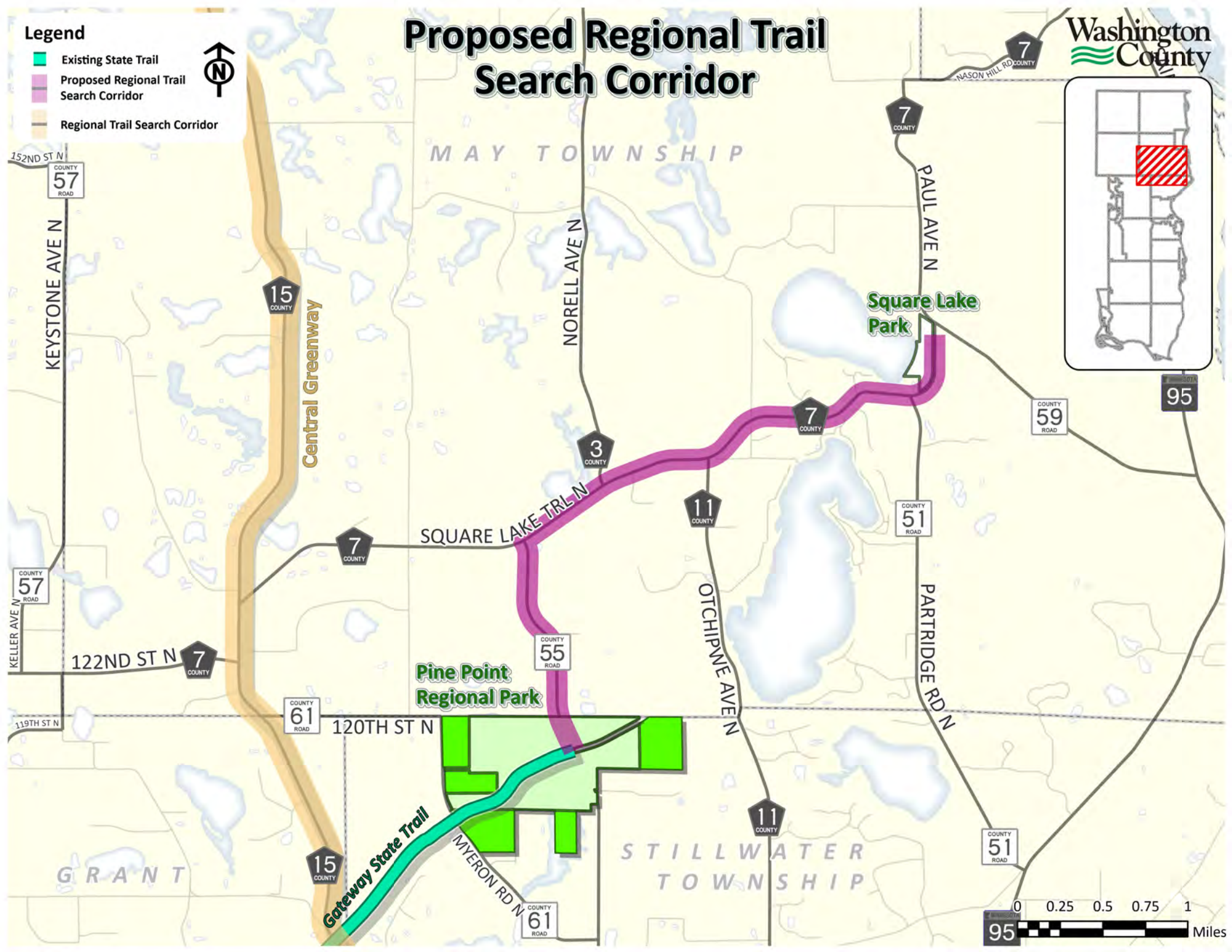
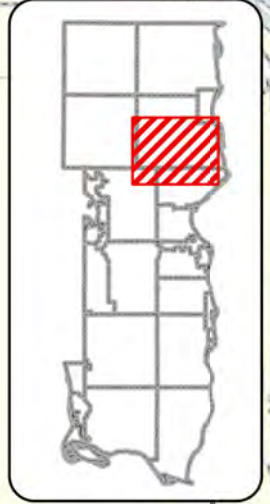
The alignment for a new regional trail search corridor connecting Pine Point Regional Park with Square Lake Park will be determined through a future master planning process. This master plan is expected to be conducted within the next 10 years.

A master plan will also guide future acquisition and trail development. The projected timing and sequencing of acquiring right-of-way will likely be determined by funding and coordination with future transportation projects. Based on the existing conditions of the corridor and standard calculations provided by the Metropolitan Council, we calculated an acquisition estimate of \$403,091 for the proposed regional trail search corridor connecting Pine Point Regional Park and Square Lake Park.

Proposed Regional Trail Search Corridor

Legend

- Existing State Trail
- Proposed Regional Trail Search Corridor
- Regional Trail Search Corridor



MAY TOWNSHIP

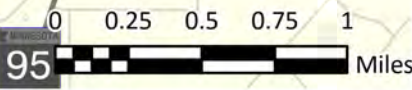
SQUARE LAKE TRIL N

Pine Point Regional Park

Square Lake Park

STILLWATER TOWNSHIP

GRANT



DATE May 12, 2020
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER Karwoski

DEPARTMENT Public Works
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER Kriesel

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADDITION AND
ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council released an application process to evaluate regional park implementation agency proposed additions and adjustment to the Regional Park System, in accordance to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, a regional park implementation agency, may propose changes to the Regional Park System through the Metropolitan Council’s application process; and

WHEREAS, Washington County staff recommend proposing the following additions and adjustments to the Regional Parks System:

- Pine Point Regional Park – Boundary Adjustment
- Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Central Greenway Regional Trail – North Segment – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Regional Trail Search Corridors Additions (2)

WHEREAS, Washington County staff believe the proposed additions and adjustments satisfy criteria stated in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners support the recommended Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Regional Park System additions and adjustments be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.

ATTEST: 

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

	YES	NO
MIRON	<u>X</u>	___
KARWOSKI	<u>X</u>	___
KRIESEL	<u>X</u>	___
JOHNSON	<u>X</u>	___
WEIK	<u>X</u>	___

Attachment 2a

Anoka County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

**Coon Lake County Park -
Propose Recognition of Regional Status**



Anoka County

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Parks and
Recreation Office
763-324-3300

Park
Maintenance
763-324-3326

Park Services
763-324-3360

Natural Resources
763-324-3413

Bunker Beach
Water Park
763-324-3310

Chomonix
Golf Course
763-324-3434

Wargo
Nature Center
763-324-3350

May 20, 2020

Emmett Mullin
Regional Parks System Manager
Metropolitan Council
390 N Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Coon Lake County Park System Addition Application

Dear Emmett:

This letter serves as Anoka County's application for Coon Lake County Park to be added to the Regional Parks System. Per Minnesota State Statute 473.147, subd. 1, which states that the Metropolitan Council (Council) shall plan for the Regional Parks System. The updated *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* committed the Council to convene a region-wide discussion about system additions in 2019/20. To inform the discussion, the Met Council has asked the implementing agencies to provide a response for each system addition proposal that addresses the following topics:

1. System Addition Proposal:

Anoka County is proposing that Coon Lake County Park (Park), which is owned and operated by Anoka County, be reclassified for inclusion into the Regional Parks System. The Park has been identified as a special planning issue since 1998 and formally identified as a potential system addition in the County's 2006 Comprehensive Parks System Plan.

The Park is 110 acres and located in the City of Columbus, as shown in Exhibit A and B. The park meets the requirements for a regional park and should be reclassified as such because it draws visitors from across the region to enjoy its naturally occurring nature-based resources, including, Anoka County's largest lake, Coon Lake (a 1500-acre recreation and fishing lake), wetlands and woodlands. The park includes an extensive tallgrass prairie restoration area, picnicking facilities, a boat launch, beach, restroom building, playground, natural surface trails, and a beautiful Veteran's Memorial. The lake is accessible for boating, fishing, swimming and other water related activities. The beach and picnicking facilities provide a regional draw to the area as they are the only significant facilities in the northeast quadrant of the county. It can also serve as a trailhead for the East Anoka County Regional Trail, which will traverse the park once it's constructed. The existing park is over 110 acres, which currently meets the minimum, but there is the potential to expand the park boundary up to 150 acres. The park and its facilities provide a regional draw for the northeast section of Anoka County, as well as nearby Washington, Chisago and Isanti counties.

2. **General Criteria:**

This proposal meets requirements for Siting and Acquisition Strategy 1: Priorities and Strategy 2: Geographic Balance. Strategy 1: Priorities, calls for securing lands with existing natural resource features, providing access to water and/or has the potential for restoration and Strategy 2: Geographic Balance, calls for geographic balance or proportionate distribution tied to population distribution patterns.

The park is regionally significant due to its land cover and location adjacent to Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Boot Lake Scientific Natural Area (SNA). These two areas provide more than 24,000 acres of protected wetland and upland habitat which provides habitat for protected and endangered species and helps to protect water quality. A portion of the Park is part of that overall wetland complex and feeds and filters water into the County's largest lake, Coon Lake, which is a 1500-acre recreation and fishing lake. Other natural resources within the park include forests/woodlands and three acres of restored tallgrass prairie. The park is roughly 110 acres with the existing park amenities situated on about 12 acres, leaving the remaining acreage for natural resource protection, conservation and habitat, which clearly meets the requirements for securing land with existing natural resource features and lands for potential restoration. Refer to Exhibit C for map showing aerial of park and its natural resources.

The public boat access on the 1500-acre lake, provides fishing and boating access to Coon Lake and the large size of the lake draws people from all over, making it one of the busiest lakes in the County. Since the County does not conduct visitor counts at this location currently, the County used information gleaned from the State funded Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program, which conducts inspections of watercrafts at launches to educate and enforce AIS prevention. While this only covers the boat launch, the information gathered supports the regional significance of the lake. Based on the number of inspections performed over the last two years, the boat launch within the Park has been the busiest launch in the county and in tracking information about boaters previous launch location, it shows use from outside of the State as well as visitors from 42 of the 87 counties in MN. This demonstrates the regional significance of the park and the lake, meeting the Siting and Acquisition Strategy 1: Priorities by providing direct access to water and water recreation.

What is missing from the regional system in the northeast quadrant of the county are picnicking facilities and formal beach with restroom/changing facilities. If the park is included within the regional system that gap in regional service coverage would be filled. The park has two picnic pavilions, a formal beach and a new restroom/changing facility that was completed in 2017. Without those facilities within the park, the nearest large group picnicking facilities and formal beaches are located miles away in different quadrants of the County at either Lake George Regional Park or Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve. The park and facilities provide a regional draw in the northeast quadrant of the county as well as surrounding counties because of the unique natural area, the existing developed public boat access, beach, picnicking facilities, restroom, playground, Veteran's Memorial and natural surface walking trails throughout the park, which provide numerous outdoor recreation opportunities. Inclusion of the park within the regional system will provide a geographic balance of regional facilities and amenities. Refer to Exhibit D for a park map.

By including Coon Lake County Park within the regional system, the County can ensure conservation of diverse habitat, such as woodlands, bogs, wetlands and a restored prairie habitat, as well as provide an abundance of outdoor and water recreation opportunities that are otherwise absent from the regional system in this area.

3. Agency and Other Support:

The County has passed a Resolution of Support for the application proposal and has received letters of support from the Cities of East Bethel and Linwood Township. Refer to Exhibit E for this information.

4. Public Participation:

Previous public participation occurred during the development of the County's 2006 Comprehensive System Plan, where the proposed system addition was vetted and supported by a stakeholder group of approximately 25 county residents. Recent public engagement regarding the proposal has been conducted through social media and advertising informing the public about the proposal.

The County advertised a photo contest to create excitement about the proposal by asking the public to respond with their favorite photo taken within the park. The advertisement was posted to various social media platforms and reached more than 4,000 people. Photos were submitted from people living in and outside the county, as well as outside of the state. From the engagement, the County learned that people love the park, have created fond memories at the park, and that they are willing to travel near and far to access the lake. Several people were concerned that their property taxes would increase because of the change and while the designation change from County Park to Regional Park would not increase their taxes, their property values could go up because of it.

5. Regional Context:

Inclusion of Coon Lake County Park into the Regional Parks System will advance the *Thrive MSP 2040* and the Regional Parks System outcomes.

Inclusion of the park will help to expand the Regional System that strives to conserve, maintain and connect natural resources of high quality or is of regional importance. The park and lake are part of a larger wetland complex that is regionally significant. Known as the Carlos Avery WMA, it covers 24,000 acres from the southern end of the City of Columbus, north into Linwood Township and west into Chisago County and the Cities of Wyoming and Stacy. The more than 24,000 acres not only provide habitat for many protected and endangered species, the entire wetland complex helps climate resiliency by filtering and protecting water quality, providing valuable flood storage in the ever-expanding development pressures in the metro area and enhancing the lives of the region's residents.

Inclusion of the park into the regional system will also help to balance conservation and restoration of natural resources with recreation opportunities. With future growth in the metro area anticipated to exceed 3.6 million people by 2040, securing regional facilities now only makes sense. Since Coon Lake County Park is the only park in the area with a swimming beach, larger picnic facilities, playground, restroom/changing building and existing parking lots, it makes sense to incorporate the park into the regional system as

a way to fill a service gap while balancing recreation opportunities with the natural resources in the area. If included in the regional system, the park has the capacity to grow with the area and become a water recreation destination.

The Park will help to expand access to regional parks and will connect to Lake George Regional Park, Martin Island Linwood Regional Park and Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve via local and regional trails when completed.

The park will also help strengthen equitable usage by providing developed regional facilities in areas where underserved populations may not feel secure in using, i.e. Martin Island Linwood Lakes Regional Park is very rustic in nature and may not appeal to some population groups that prefer a more developed park with more people moving about. Coon Lake also offers a beautiful handicapped accessible Veteran's Memorial for disabled veterans and their families to enjoy.

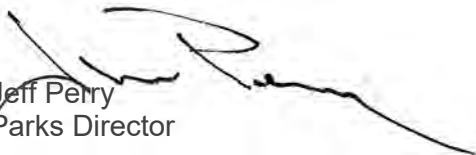
Overall, inclusion of the park in the regional system allows the County to responsibly conserve and manage the park's natural and recreation resources in a balanced manner, while creating additional access to natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities and a better quality of life.

6. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

If approved, this proposal could be implemented immediately. Since the County currently owns and operated the park, no funding would be required to implement the addition. In 5-10 years, the County does anticipate the need to redevelop the roads, parking lots and boat launch. In 10-20 years, there is a potential to acquire additional land to increase the acreage of the park by approximately 40 acres. The estimate for that acquisition is approximately \$1,478,000¹.

Anoka County looks forward to working with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Met Council to approve the inclusion of Coon Lake County Park within the Regional Parks System.

Sincerely,


Jeff Perry
Parks Director

¹ \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA



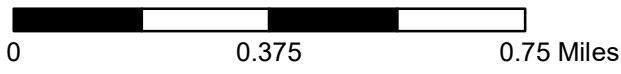
Coon Lake County Park
 System Addition Application
 Context Map
EXHIBIT A





Coon Lake County Park
System Addition Application
City Context Map

EXHIBIT B





Boot Lake SNA

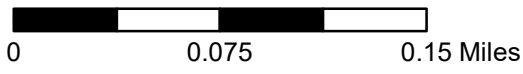
East Anoka County
Regional Trail

COON LAKE
COUNTY
PARK

Carlos Avery
WMA

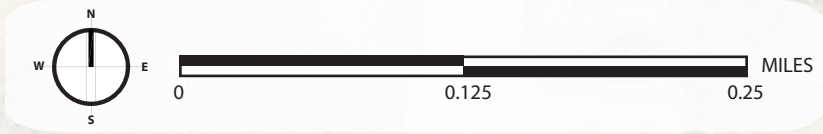
COON LAKE

Coon Lake County Park
System Addition Application
Natural Resources
EXHIBIT C



Date: 05/16/2020

COON LAKE REGIONAL PARK



- | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| ----- | PARK BOUNDARY | | PICNIC PAVILION | | PLAYGROUND |
| ———— | PAVED ROADS | | PICNIC AREA | | BOAT LAUNCH |
| ———— | PAVED TRAILS | | RESTROOMS | | SAND VOLLEYBALL COURT |
| | UN-PAVED TRAILS | | PORTABLE TOILET | | VETERANS MEMORIAL |

EXHIBIT D

*NOTE: TRAIL DISTANCES ARE SHOWN FOR SEGMENTS WITHIN THE PARK AND BETWEEN TRAIL INTERSECTIONS OF THE SAME TRAIL SURFACE TYPE.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anoka County, Minnesota

DATE: May 12, 2020

RESOLUTION #2020-58

OFFERED BY COMMISSIONER: Braastad

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM ADDITIONS

WHEREAS, Anoka County (the "County") through its Parks Department, provides for the maintenance and development of open space recreational facilities and trails within the county parks system, which includes partnership with the Metropolitan Council ("Met Council") in its planning for the Regional Parks System; and,

WHEREAS, the Met Council's updated 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (the "Plan") committed the Met Council to convene a region-wide discussion about system additions; and,

WHEREAS, an opportunity exists for the County to request two additions to the Plan: (1) to allow Coon Lake County Park be classified as a Regional Park within the system, and (2) to combine three existing parks: Rum River North, Central, and South, into a Regional Park (RP) within the Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the first request for Coon Lake County Park to be classified as a Regional Park is supported by the regional draw of Coon Lake, its beach, boat launch, and picnic areas, which attract visitors within the northwest section of Anoka, Washington, Chisago and Isanti Counties. Coon Lake offers a diversity of nature-based resources, including, Coon Lake (a 1500-acre recreation and fishing lake), wetlands, prairie, and woodlands. The existing park is over 110 acres, which meets criteria for a Regional Park, and has potential expansion for up to 150 acres; and,

WHEREAS, the second request to create Rum River Regional Park, would combine Rum River North and Rum River South with Rum River Central to create Rum River Regional Park linked via the Rum River water trail. The Rum River is a regional draw for the County and by creating a RP, it would allow the County to increase access to the river, its resources, and recreational opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the County supports the Parks Department's application to Met Council, and the requested additions to the Plan:

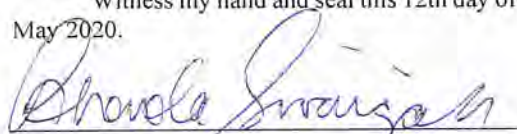
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Parks Department to submit an application to the Metropolitan Council for the above-described additions to its Regional Parks System Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Metropolitan Council and to Anoka County Parks.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ANOKA) ss

I, Rhonda Sivarajah, County Administrator, Anoka County, Minnesota, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution of the county board of said county with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office, Anoka County, Minnesota, as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board at a meeting duly held on May 12, 2020, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness my hand and seal this 12th day of May 2020.



RHONDA SIVARAJAH
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

	YES	NO
DISTRICT #1 – LOOK	X	_____
DISTRICT #2 – BRAASTAD	X	_____
DISTRICT #3 – WEST	X	_____
DISTRICT #4 – MEISNER	X	_____
DISTRICT #5 – GAMACHE	X	_____
DISTRICT #6 – REINERT	X	_____
DISTRICT #7 – SCHULTE	X	_____



LINWOOD TOWNSHIP

ANOKA COUNTY

22817 Typo Creek Drive N.E.

Stacy, Minnesota 55079

(651) 462-2812 • Fax (651) 462-0500

E-Mail: pam.olson@linwoodtownship.org

Website: <http://linwoodtownship.org>

May 12, 2020

Mr. Jeff Perry
Parks Director
Anoka County Parks
550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

Subject: Anoka County's Regional Park system addition application for Coon Lake County Park

Dear Mr. Perry:

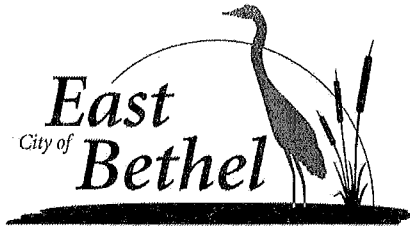
The Linwood Town Board of Supervisors is writing in support of the County's Regional Park System Addition Application for Coon Lake County Park. Coon Lake County Park provides access to valuable natural and recreational resources in the area that draws visitors region-wide.

As you know, the park provides a diversity of naturally occurring nature-based resources, including, Coon Lake, which is a 1500-acre recreation and fishing lake, wetlands, prairie and woodlands. The lake is very popular regional-wide for boating, fishing, swimming and other water related activities and the beach is the only public beach in the northeast quadrant of the county and draws visitors from the surrounding counties. As Linwood Township grows, a regional facility in the area would be quite beneficial to the quality of life for our residents.

We at the Township welcome this proposal and support the County in their efforts to add Coon Lake County Park to the Regional Parks System.

Sincerely,

Michael Halliday
Linwood Town Board Chair



May 11, 2020

Mr. Jeff Perry
Parks Director
Anoka County Parks
550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

Subject: Anoka County's Regional Park System Addition Application for Coon Lake County Park

Dear Mr. Perry:

I am writing in support of the County's Regional Park System Addition Application for Coon Lake County Park. Coon Lake County Park provides access to valuable natural and recreational resources in the area that draws visitors region-wide.

The park provides a diversity of naturally occurring environmental-based resources, including, Coon Lake, which is a 1500-acre recreation and fishing lake, wetlands, prairie and woodlands. The lake is very popular regional attraction for boating, fishing, swimming and other water related activities. The beach is the only public beach in the northeast portion of the county and draws visitors from the surrounding areas. As East Bethel continues to grow, a regional facility in the area would enhance the quality of life for our residents.

The City of East Bethel endorses and welcomes this proposal and supports the County in their efforts to add Coon Lake County Park to the Regional Parks System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven R. Voss", written over a horizontal line.

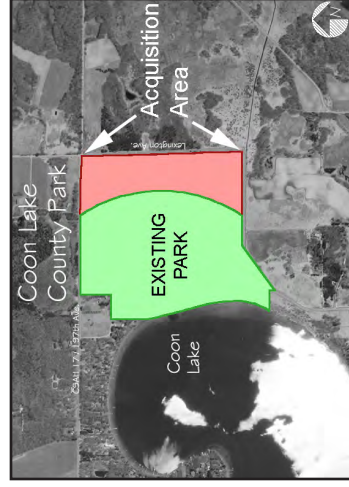
Steven R. Voss
Mayor, City of East Bethel

special planning issues

Other designated county parks have seen an increase in use from a broad geographic or multi-jurisdictional region. This is due in part from the increased development and population expansion in nearby communities. The county parks most affected by this growth are Coon Lake County Park, Rum River North County Park and Rum River South County Park. Recent improvements to these parks have allowed for increased use from residents and have placed increased burdens on their infrastructure and facilities.



Coon Lake County Park in particular, presents an opportunity for review of its classification. The park is approximately 125 acres in size, and by size alone, it would qualify for 'regional' park status. There is also an opportunity to acquire additional property to the east, providing for contiguous public ownership adjacent to the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. Both the classification and boundary expansion should be reviewed with the Metropolitan Council and other agencies to determine a best solution.



Rum River North and Rum River South county parks also offer a unique opportunity for reclassification. Since the county owns in addition, a regional park - Rum River Central, along the Rum River, the possibility of combining these three separate

parks into one 'regional' park unit would provide additional sources of funds for operations and maintenance from the State. The three, North, Central and South would be seen as one park unit, with the Rum River as the connecting resource. The reclassification should be reviewed with the Metropolitan Council and other agencies.

Recommendations

The county needs to review its park classification system as some of the county parks have a regional significance in use and demand. This will ensure that proper funding and maintenance programs are provided. To this end, the county should implement:

- Transfer of the Bass Lake site to Burns Township (if they are interested) or sale of the site on the open market (pending a review of clear title and no covenants).
- Transfer of the Goose Lake site to the City of East Bethel.
- Combining the Rum River North and Rum River South Parks with Rum River Central Regional Park to form one Rum River Regional Park with a north, central, and south unit.
- Designation of Coon Lake County Park as a regional park with the possibility of adding a 30-40 acre parcel directly to the east.
- Transferring Kordiak County Park to the City of Columbia Heights.

Park Master Plan Boundary Amendments

Planning for future park master plan boundary amendments is a critically important issue to address over the next 5 to 10 years. Some of the key boundary amendment opportunities include: conversion and sale of selected parcels at Bunker Hills Regional Park with the intent to replace those parcels with higher quality land within the regional system; expansion of boundaries at Rum River Central Regional Park and at the Rice Creek Headwaters Area; adding parcels to Coon Lake County Park and Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park; and acquiring residential in-holdings at Rum River Central Regional Park. One of the most recent models of a successful park master plan amendment was the boundary expansion and acquisition of 700 acres in the Rice Creek Headwaters Area to preserve high-quality natural areas and to protect water quality in the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes.

Attachment 2b

Anoka County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

Rum River Regional Park - Propose Recognition of Regional Status



Anoka County
PARKS DEPARTMENT

Parks and
Recreation Office
763-324-3300

Park
Maintenance
763-324-3326

Park Services
763-324-3360

Natural Resources
763-324-3413

Bunker Beach
Water Park
763-324-3310

Chomonix
Golf Course
763-324-3434

Wargo
Nature Center
763-324-3350

May 20, 2020

Emmett Mullin
Regional Parks System Manager
Metropolitan Council
390 N Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Rum River Parks System Addition Application

Dear Emmett:

This letter serves as Anoka County's application for Rum River North and Rum River South County Parks, along with Rum River Central Regional Park to become a Regional Park and be included within the Regional Parks System. Per Minnesota State Statute 473.147, subd. 1, which states that the Metropolitan Council (Council) shall plan for the Regional Parks System. The updated *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* committed the Council to convene a region-wide discussion about system additions in 2019/20. To inform the discussion, the Met Council has asked the implementing agencies to provide a response for each system addition proposal that addresses the following topics:

1. System Addition Proposal:

Anoka County is proposing that Rum River North and Rum River South County Parks, which are owned and operated by Anoka County, along with Rum River Central Regional Park become one regional park for inclusion into the Regional Parks System.

The three parks are connected by the Wild and Scenic Rum River, which spans the County from the City of St. Francis in the north to the City of Anoka in the south. Rum River North is 73 acres and located in the City of St. Francis; Rum River South is 13 acres and located in the City of Anoka; and Rum River Central, an existing regional park is 343 acres and located in the Cities of Ramsey and Oak Grove. Combined, the regional park would be more than 425 acres along the Rum River, as shown in Exhibits A and B. This is well over the 100-acre minimum. This proposal also provides an opportunity to create a water recreation destination that offers geographically distributed access to the river, a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation, maintenance and restoration of the surrounding natural resources.

2. **General Criteria:**

This proposal meets requirements for Siting and Acquisition Strategy 1: Priorities and Strategy 2: Geographic Balance. Strategy 1: Priorities, calls for securing lands with existing natural resource features, providing access to water and/or has the potential for restoration and Strategy 2: Geographic Balance, calls for geographic balance or proportionate distribution tied to population distribution patterns.

The Rum River itself is a regional draw and an incredible natural resource which makes parks along the river priorities for securing as regional system access points on the river. The state designated wild and scenic recreation river offers recreation opportunities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing and canoe camping. The Rum River is well known for its world class smallmouth bass, walleye, and northern fishing opportunities. The river can be accessed at all three parks, although there is only one access point in the regional system at Rum River Central. Inclusion of Rum River North and Rum River South into the regional system will increase access to the river. In addition, there are multiple fishing decks in the parks for access to the river. The proposal to combine the three parks into one regional park meets the requirements for drawing visitors from across the region and access to water.

Inclusion of the parks into the regional system helps provide regional access geographically along the river as Rum River South is the southernmost public launch above the Rum River Dam in the City of Anoka. Then next closest public launch is 10 miles upstream at Rum River Central. Inclusion also helps strengthen equitable access. Rum River South is located close to underserved populations, thereby, strengthening equitable use opportunities and program offerings. In addition, Rum River South is within a half mile via sidewalk and trail to a youth homeless shelter that will provide opportunities for homeless youth to use the park facilities and programs along the Rum River. All park units along the Rum River offer ADA compliant fishing piers to connect people with disabilities to the Rum River for angling and wildlife viewing opportunities.

In addition, combining the parks into one unit will allow the county to invest in and expand water related facilities and amenities to create a water recreation destination in the north metro area. In addition to water recreation, the parks support many other outdoor recreation opportunities, such as biking, walking/hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, horse-back riding and cross-country skiing. There are also play structures, observation decks/areas, restroom facilities and drinking fountains.

This proposal will also help conserve high quality natural resources along the river as well. An additional mile and a half of riverbank habitat will be protected an additional 86 acres of naturally occurring and restored natural resources will be protected and conserved, increasing the total acreage of the park to 425 acres.

As the information above illustrates, this proposal meets the requirements of drawing visitors from across the region, it provides geographic balance, will conserve high quality natural resources, will have 425 acres and accommodates multiple outdoor recreation activities. It supports Siting and Acquisition Strategy 1 of Priorities by securing lands with natural resource features, the Rum River, and increasing access to the river. It also meets the requirements of Siting and Acquisition Strategy 2 of balance through

geographic distribution along the river and also by providing regional systems in more heavily populated areas where needs are greater (Rum River South).

3. Agency and Other Support:

The County has passed a Resolution of Support for the application proposal and has received letters of support from a few of the local cities. Communication with some local cities was difficult due to the current crisis, so the County was not able to get letters of support from all the potentially affected cities. Refer to Exhibit X for resolution and letters.

4. Public Participation:

Previous public participation occurred during the development of the County's 2006 Comprehensive System Plan, where the proposed system addition was vetted and supported by a stakeholder group of approximately 25 county residents. Recent public engagement regarding the proposal has been conducted through social media and advertising informing the public about the proposal.

To gain feedback on what people want in a regional park and create some fun interactive engagement, the County created a "Build Your Dream Park" campaign that went out on the various social media platforms and was also picked up by a social media influencer, Girl of 10,000 Lakes, an outdoor enthusiast, who shared it with her followers. The campaign was able to reach more than 5,000 people. Overwhelmingly, lakes/streams were at the top of the list, mentioned twice as often as restrooms, drinking fountains and picnic tables. Disc golf was a strong second, followed by restrooms, paved trails, camping and modern playgrounds. About half the submissions came from residents outside the metro area and one from Illinois. From the responses, the County learned how important of a priority water resources are to memorable parks experiences.

5. Regional Context:

Inclusion of Rum River Parks into the Regional System will help advance the *Thrive MSP 2040* and the Regional Parks System outcomes. These outcomes are advanced by the inclusion of the parks into the regional system, which allows the regional system to provide direct access to the high-quality natural resource of the Rum River as well as the abundant natural resources already existing in the parks. Approval of the proposal will allow the County to responsibly conserve and manage the park's 425 acres of natural and recreation resources and allow the County an opportunity to conduct additional restoration work with the parks. The river also serves as migratory route, while regional parks along the river can provide rest and refuge for birds on their migratory journeys. The proposal will also protect an additional 1.5 miles of riverbank, securing and protecting important aquatic and terrestrial habitat, which will benefit water quality and reduce sediment loading helping with overall climate resiliency.

Inclusion of the park in the regional system will allow additional opportunities for access to other regional destinations, besides the Rum River. Rum River South is located adjacent to the County Fairgrounds which sees over 42,000 visitors in the 10-day run of the County Fair and sees additional visitors from other events on the fairgrounds. These destinations are linked by multi-modal transportation methods and the river could serve

not only as a recreation route, but also a transportation route to the City of Anoka. Downtown Anoka is about a 1-mile walk from the park. This can help ensure the region is attractive and can offer a better quality of life through access to other regional destinations.

With the anticipated population of 3.6 million by 2040, inclusion of the park into the regional system will enhance livability in the area through increased access to nature and outdoor recreation in the regional system, particularly in the Anoka area where underserved populations are more prevalent and where the nearest regional park is Mississippi West Regional Park, located in Ramsey, or Bunker Hills Regional Park, in Andover, both of which are about 5 miles away via trail. In addition, Rum River South is within a half mile via sidewalk and trail to a youth homeless shelter that will provide opportunities for homeless youth to use the park facilities and programs along the Rum River and all three parks offer ADA compliant fishing piers to connect people with disabilities to the Rum River for angling and wildlife viewing opportunities.

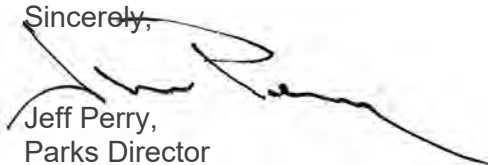
As the above information shows, this proposal will allow the regional system to conserve, maintain and connect parks along the river which will provide access to a high-quality natural resource that is regionally important. The proposal easily balances conservation and restoration with nature-based recreation within its 425 acres. The parks are accessible via local and regional transportation networks, with the river having the potential to become part of a water transportation network. Lastly, the proposal will help strengthen equitable usage of the regional system.

6. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

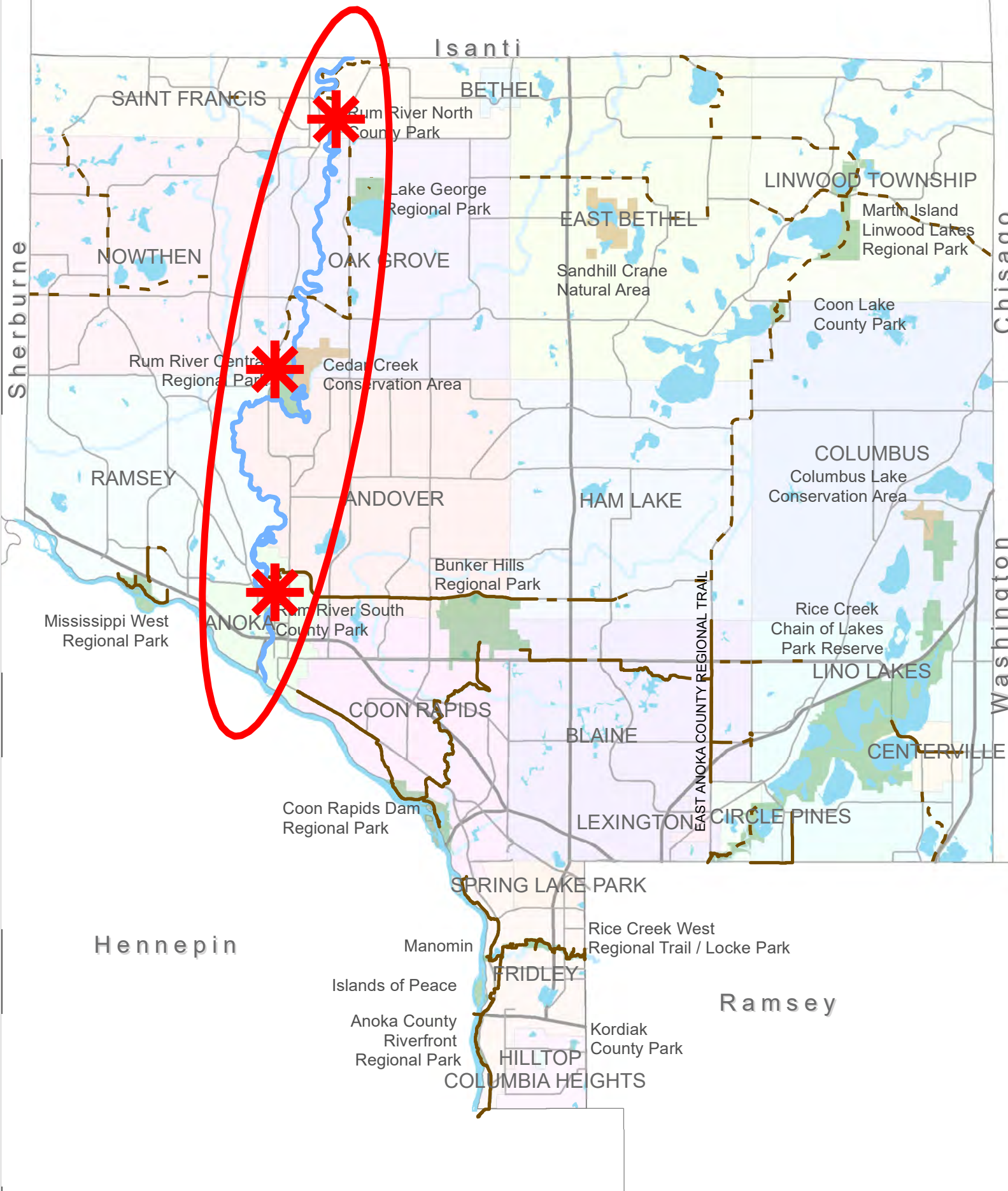
If approved, this proposal could be implemented immediately. Since the County currently owns and operates the parks, no funding would be required to implement the addition. In 5-10 years, the County does anticipate the need for some redevelopment in the parks.

Anoka County hopes the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Met Council will approve this proposal for inclusion within the Regional Parks System.

Sincerely,

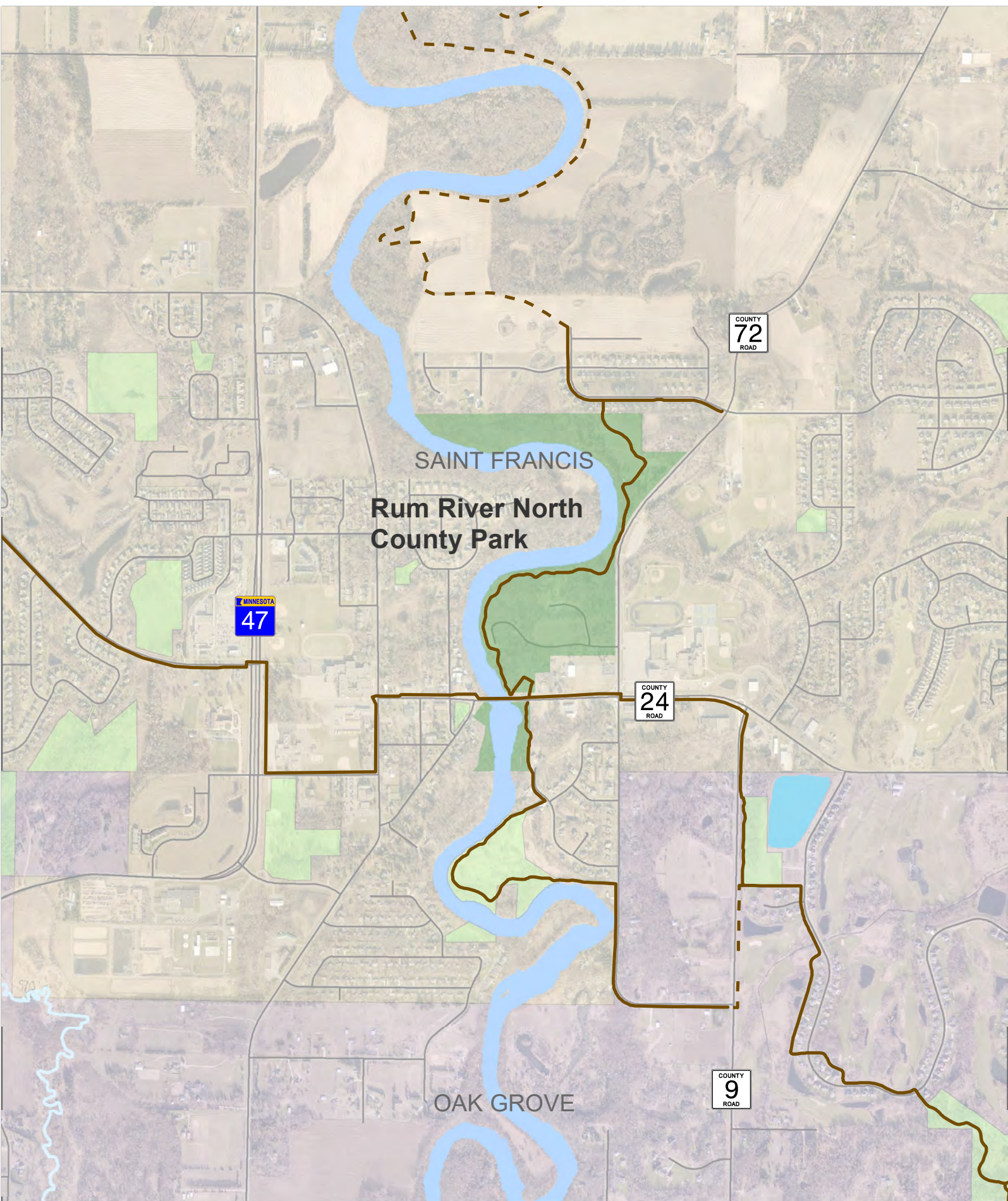
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Perry', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeff Perry,
Parks Director

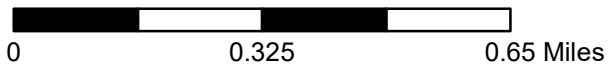


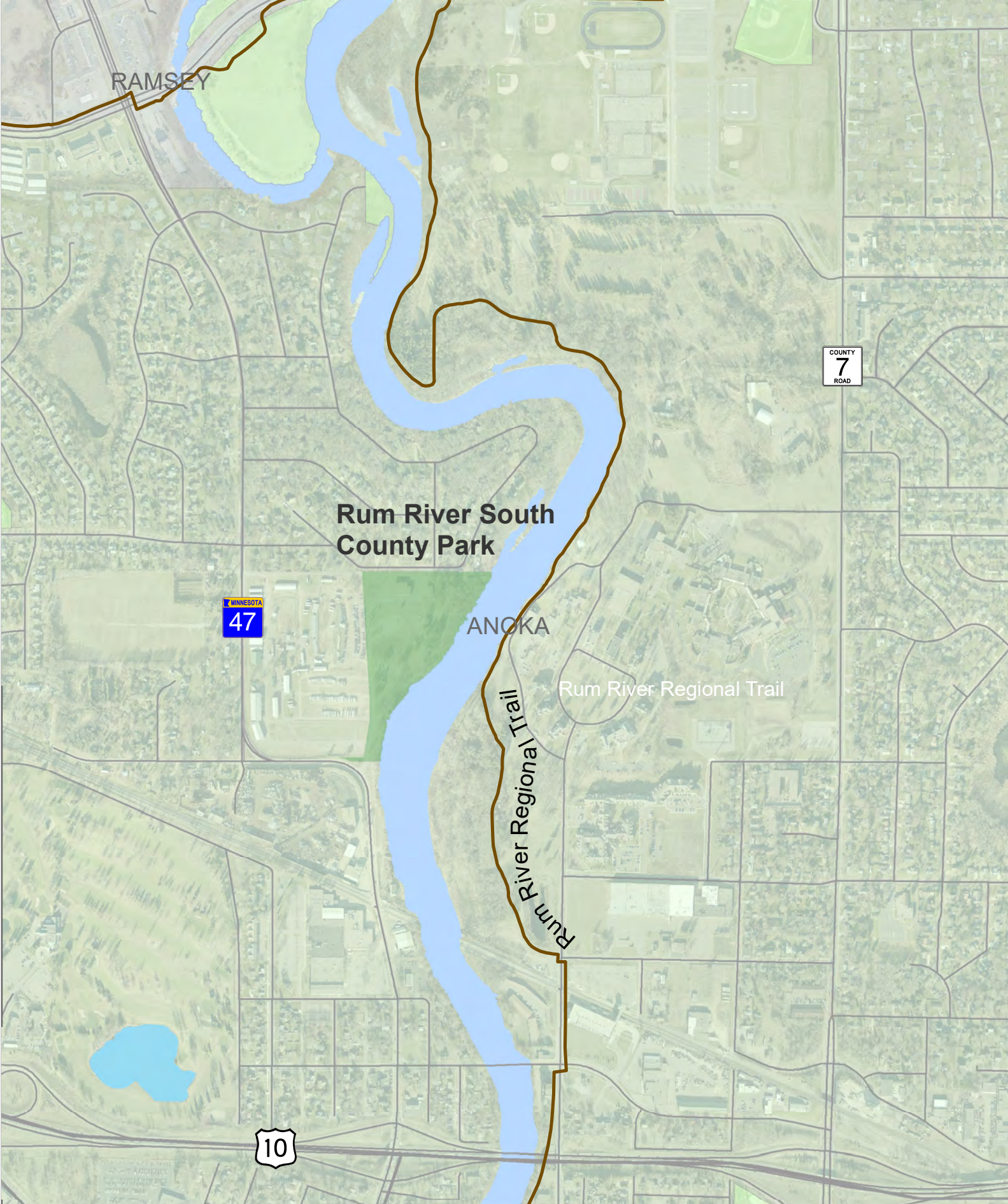
Rum River Regional Park
System Addition Application
Context Map
Exhibit A





Rum River Parks
System Addition Application
City Context Map
Exhibit B-1





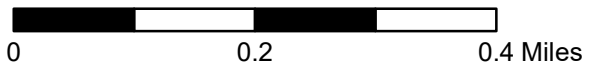
**Rum River South
County Park**

ANOKA

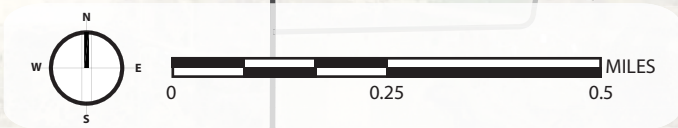
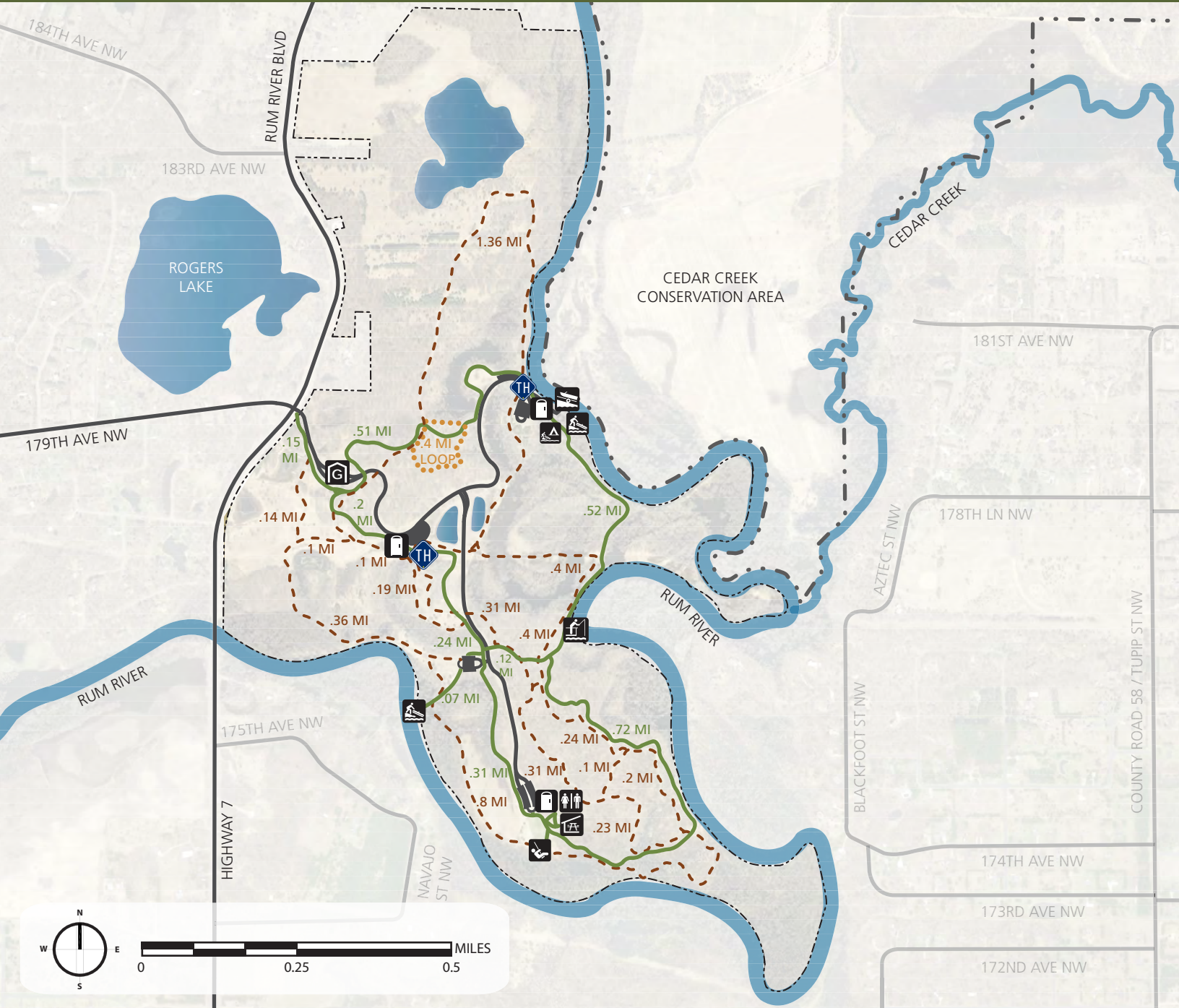
Rum River Regional Trail

Rum River Regional Trail

Rum River Parks
System Addition Application
City Context Map
Exhibit B-2



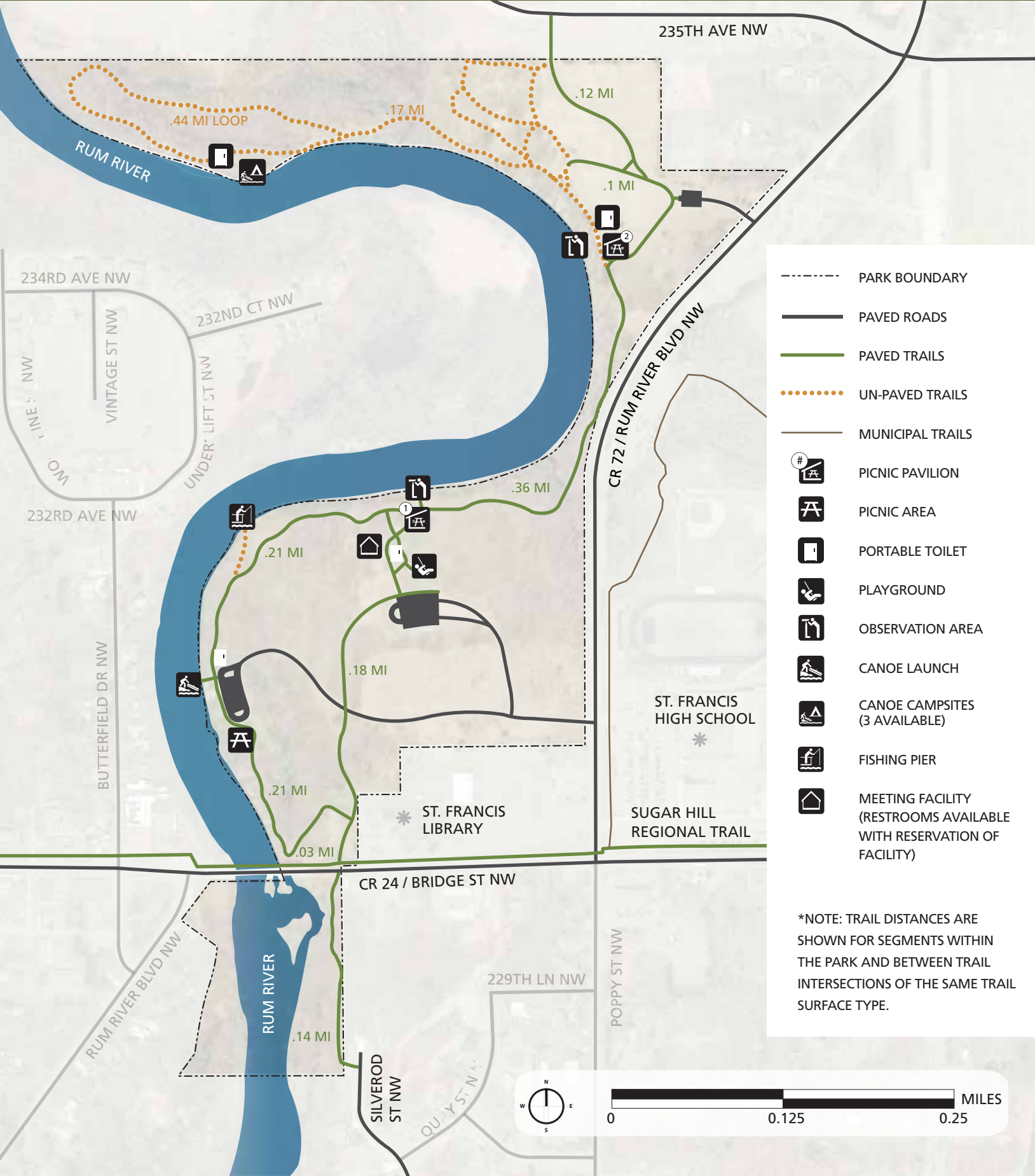
RUM RIVER CENTRAL REGIONAL PARK



- PARK BOUNDARY
- . - . - CEDAR CREEK CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY
- PAVED ROADS
- PAVED TRAILS
- UN-PAVED TRAILS
- . - . - HORSE TRAILS
- TH TRAILHEAD
- PICNIC PAVILION
- RESTROOMS
- PORTABLE TOILETS
- GATE HOUSE / INFORMATION
- PLAYGROUND
- BOAT LAUNCH
- CANOE LAUNCH
- CANOE CAMPING
- FISHING PIER

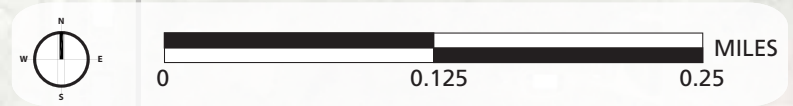
*NOTE: TRAIL DISTANCES ARE SHOWN FOR SEGMENTS WITHIN THE PARK AND BETWEEN TRAIL INTERSECTIONS OF THE SAME TRAIL SURFACE TYPE.

RUM RIVER NORTH COUNTY PARK

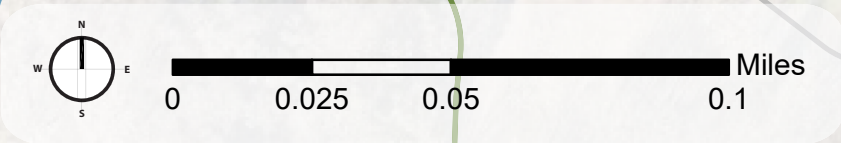
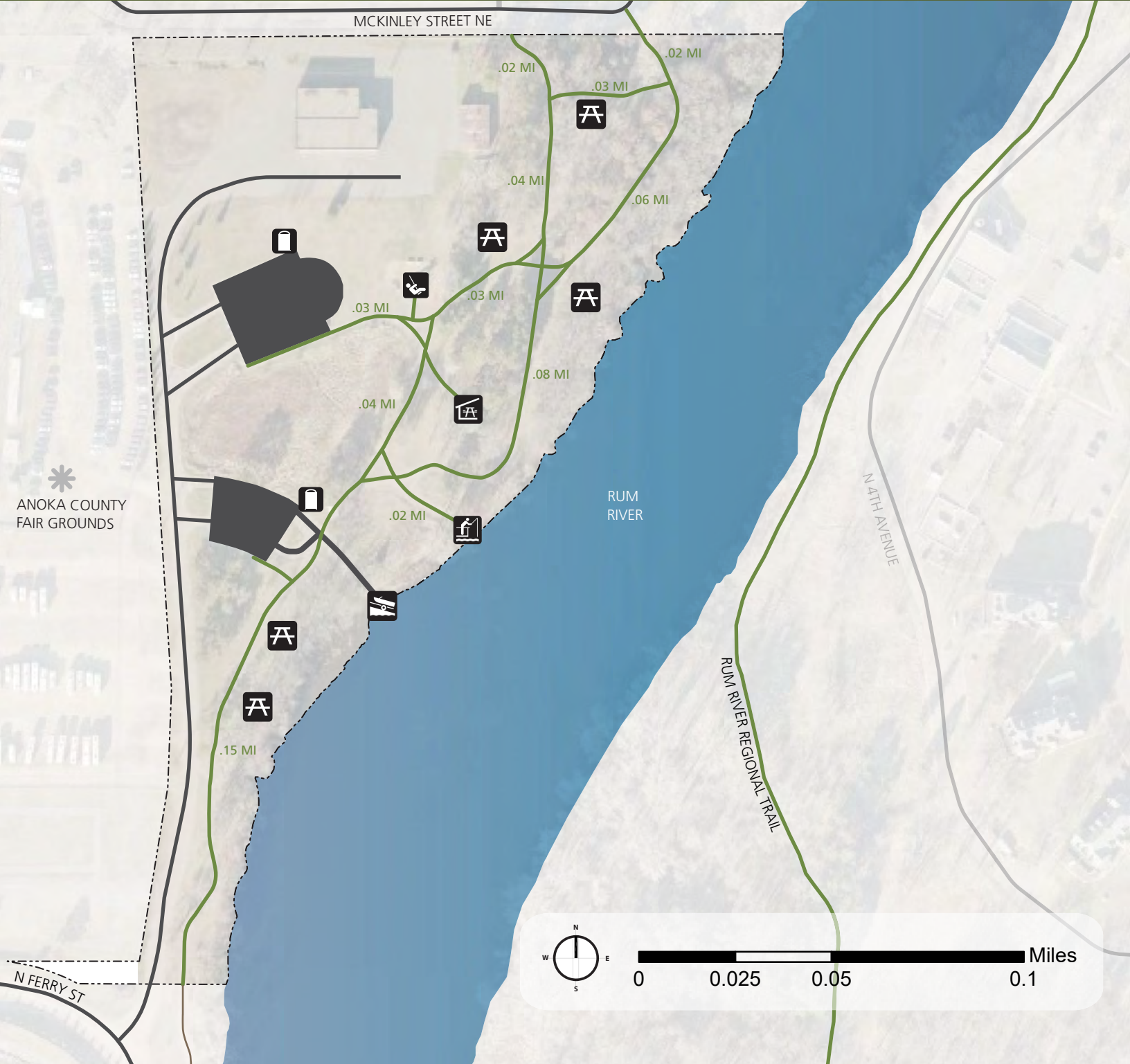


- PARK BOUNDARY
- PAVED ROADS
- PAVED TRAILS
- UN-PAVED TRAILS
- MUNICIPAL TRAILS
- PICNIC PAVILION
- PICNIC AREA
- PORTABLE TOILET
- PLAYGROUND
- OBSERVATION AREA
- CANOE LAUNCH
- CANOE CAMPSITES (3 AVAILABLE)
- FISHING PIER
- MEETING FACILITY (RESTROOMS AVAILABLE WITH RESERVATION OF FACILITY)

*NOTE: TRAIL DISTANCES ARE SHOWN FOR SEGMENTS WITHIN THE PARK AND BETWEEN TRAIL INTERSECTIONS OF THE SAME TRAIL SURFACE TYPE.



RUM RIVER SOUTH COUNTY PARK



- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| PARK BOUNDARY | BOAT LAUNCH | PICNIC TABLE |
| PAVED ROADS | FISHING PIER | PLAYGROUND |
| PAVED TRAILS | PICNIC PAVILION | PORTABLE TOILET |
| MUNICIPAL TRAILS | | |

*NOTE: TRAIL DISTANCES ARE SHOWN FOR SEGMENTS WITHIN THE PARK AND BETWEEN TRAIL INTERSECTIONS OF THE SAME TRAIL SURFACE TYPE.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Anoka County, Minnesota

DATE: May 12, 2020

RESOLUTION #2020-58

OFFERED BY COMMISSIONER: Braastad

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
APPLICATION FOR REGIONAL PARKS SYSTEM ADDITIONS**

WHEREAS, Anoka County (the "County") through its Parks Department, provides for the maintenance and development of open space recreational facilities and trails within the county parks system, which includes partnership with the Metropolitan Council ("Met Council") in its planning for the Regional Parks System; and,

WHEREAS, the Met Council's updated 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (the "Plan") committed the Met Council to convene a region-wide discussion about system additions; and,

WHEREAS, an opportunity exists for the County to request two additions to the Plan: (1) to allow Coon Lake County Park be classified as a Regional Park within the system, and (2) to combine three existing parks: Rum River North, Central, and South, into a Regional Park (RP) within the Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the first request for Coon Lake County Park to be classified as a Regional Park is supported by the regional draw of Coon Lake, its beach, boat launch, and picnic areas, which attract visitors within the northwest section of Anoka, Washington, Chisago and Isanti Counties. Coon Lake offers a diversity of nature-based resources, including, Coon Lake (a 1500-acre recreation and fishing lake), wetlands, prairie, and woodlands. The existing park is over 110 acres, which meets criteria for a Regional Park, and has potential expansion for up to 150 acres; and,

WHEREAS, the second request to create Rum River Regional Park, would combine Rum River North and Rum River South with Rum River Central to create Rum River Regional Park linked via the Rum River water trail. The Rum River is a regional draw for the County and by creating a RP, it would allow the County to increase access to the river, its resources, and recreational opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the County supports the Parks Department's application to Met Council, and the requested additions to the Plan:

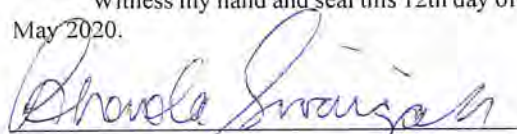
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Parks Department to submit an application to the Metropolitan Council for the above-described additions to its Regional Parks System Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the Metropolitan Council and to Anoka County Parks.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF ANOKA) ss

I, Rhonda Sivarajah, County Administrator, Anoka County, Minnesota, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution of the county board of said county with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office, Anoka County, Minnesota, as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board at a meeting duly held on May 12, 2020, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness my hand and seal this 12th day of May 2020.



RHONDA SIVARAJAH
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
DISTRICT #1 – LOOK	X	_____
DISTRICT #2 – BRAASTAD	X	_____
DISTRICT #3 – WEST	X	_____
DISTRICT #4 – MEISNER	X	_____
DISTRICT #5 – GAMACHE	X	_____
DISTRICT #6 – REINERT	X	_____
DISTRICT #7 – SCHULTE	X	_____

Councilmember Musgrove introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #20-097

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ANOKA COUNTY'S PROPOSAL TO
CONSOLIDATE RUM RIVER NORTH AND SOUTH COUNTY PARKS,
WITH RUM RIVER CENTRAL REGIONAL PARK AS ONE REGIONAL PARK**

WHEREAS, the Pandemic of 2020 has demonstrated that safe and improved accessibility to parks, trails, and recreation areas, are evermore essential to the quality of life, health and welfare of the City of Ramsey and the regions's residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ramsey and County of Anoka continue to work closely to develop recreational opportunities and conserve open space and natural resources along the Wild and Scenic Rum River; and

WHEREAS, these cooperative efforts are advanced by combining Anoka County's 73 acre Rum River North, and 13 acre Rum River South with the 343 acre Rum River Central Regional Park to wholly become a 425 acre park within the Regional Park System; and

WHEREAS, the Rum River Central Regional Park, is already a cherished park space, and adding to its geographic span and scope will further its long-term value in terms of natural resource *and* cultural history conservation and;

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the larger Rum River Regional Park into the Regional Parks System will advance the following Thrive MSP 2040 Outcomes; allowing the county to responsibly conserve and manage the park's natural and recreation resources in a balanced manner, allowing for the protection of an additional 1.5 miles of riparian habitat (*Stewardship*). Inclusion of the park in the regional system will also advance the *Prosperity* Outcome by allowing investment into the park, ensuring the region is attractive to businesses, and its workforce by promoting an improved quality of life. Adding the larger park to the system will also enhance *Livability* Outcomes through increased access to nature and outdoor recreation in communities from St. Francis to Anoka, the region, and in particular Ramsey.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:

- 1) That, the City of Ramsey hereby offers support to Anoka County's application for Rum River North and Rum River South County Parks, along with Rum River Central Regional Park to wholly become a Regional Park within the Metropolitan Council Regional Parks System.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember Kuzma, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Mayor LeTourneau
Councilmember Musgrove
Councilmember Kuzma
Councilmember Heinrich
Councilmember Menth
Councilmember Riley
Councilmember Specht

and the following voted against the same:

None

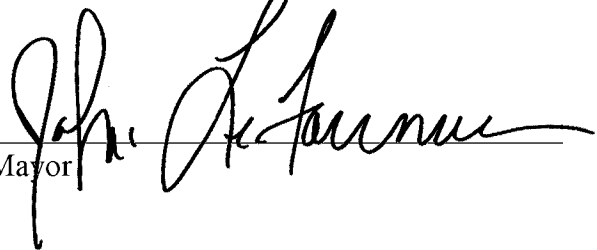
and the following abstained:

None

and the following were absent:

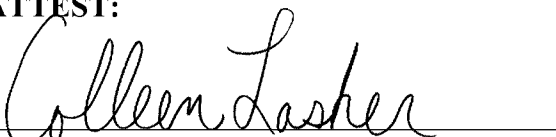
None

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 12th day of May 2020.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk



CITY HALL
19900 Nightingale Street NW
Oak Grove, Minnesota 55011
763.404.7000
admin@ci.oak-grove.mn.us
www.ci.oak-grove.mn.us

May 18, 2020

Mr. Jeff Perry
Parks Director
Anoka County Parks
550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

Subject: Anoka County's Regional Park system addition application for Rum River Regional Park

Dear Mr. Perry:

I am writing in support of the County's Regional Park System Addition Application for Rum River Regional Park. The Rum River and Rum River Parks provide access to valuable natural and recreational resources in the area that draws visitors region-wide.

As you know, the parks provide a diversity of naturally occurring nature-based resources, including the Rum River, which is a state designated Scenic and Wild river, wetlands, prairie and forest and woodlands. The river is very popular for its fishing and water recreation opportunities and additional regional facilities in the area will benefit Oak Grove as the community continues to grow and offer a better quality of life for the residents and the region.

The Oak Grove City Council welcomes this proposal and supports the County in their efforts to add Rum River Regional Park to the Regional Parks System if it doesn't cost the City any local or matching funds.

Sincerely,

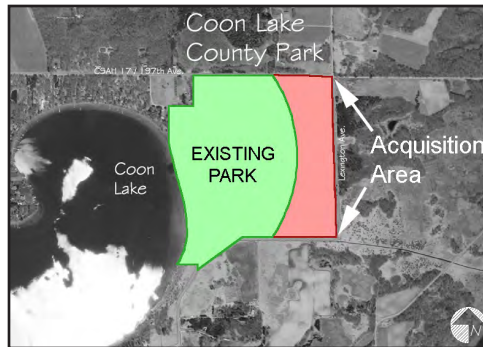
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loren Wickham".

Loren Wickham
City Administrator

Other designated county parks have seen an increase in use from a broad geographic or multi-jurisdictional region. This is due in part from the increased development and population expansion in nearby communities. The county parks most affected by this growth are Coon Lake County Park, Rum River North County Park and Rum River South County Park. Recent improvements to these parks have allowed for increased use from residents and have placed increased burdens on their infrastructure and facilities.

Coon Lake County Park in particular, presents an opportunity for review of its classification. The park is approximately 125 acres in size, and by size alone, it would qualify for 'regional' park status. There is also an opportunity to acquire additional property to the east, providing for contiguous public ownership adjacent to the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. Both the classification and boundary expansion should be reviewed with the Metropolitan Council and other agencies to determine a best solution.

Rum River North and Rum River South county parks also offer a unique opportunity for reclassification. Since the county owns in addition, a regional park - Rum River Central, along the Rum River, the possibility of combining these three separate



parks into one 'regional' park unit would provide additional sources of funds for operations and maintenance from the State. The three, North, Central and South would be seen as one park unit, with the Rum River as the connecting resource. The reclassification should be reviewed with the Metropolitan Council and other agencies.

Recommendations

The county needs to review its park classification system as some of the county parks have a regional significance in use and demand. This will ensure that proper funding and maintenance programs are provided. To this end, the county should implement:

- Transfer of the Bass Lake site to Burns Township (if they are interested) or sale of the site on the open market (pending a review of clear title and no covenants).
- Transfer of the Goose Lake site to the City of East Bethel.
- Combining the Rum River North and Rum River South Parks with Rum River Central Regional Park to form one Rum River Regional Park with a north, central, and south unit.
- Designation of Coon Lake County Park as a regional park with the possibility of adding a 30-40 acre parcel directly to the east.
- Transferring Kordiak County Park to the City of Columbia Heights.

Park Master Plan Boundry Amendments

Planning for future park master plan boundary amendments is a critically important issue to address over the next 5 to 10 years. Some of the key boundary amendment opportunities include: conversion and sale of selected parcels at Bunker Hills Regional Park with the intent to replace those parcels with higher quality land within the regional system; expansion of boundaries at Rum River Central Regional Park and at the Rice Creek Headwaters Area; adding parcels to Coon Lake County Park and Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park; and acquiring residential in-holdings at Rum River Central Regional Park. One of the most recent models of a successful park master plan amendment was the boundary expansion and acquisition of 700 acres in the Rice Creek Headwaters Area to preserve high-quality natural areas and to protect water quality in the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes.

Attachment 3

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Regional Parks System Addition Proposal

Midtown Greenway - Propose Recognition of Regional Status

Regional Parks System Additions Application

DATE: May 20, 2020

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
c/o Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst, Metropolitan Council

FROM: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Adam Arvidson, Director of Strategic Planning

SUBJECT: 2019 - 2020 Systems Additions – *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Amendment Process
Midtown Greenway

1. **System Addition Proposal:** Please describe the proposal, its location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement. Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction. If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).

The Midtown Greenway Trail is likely the most heavily used trail segment in the state that is not currently part of the Regional Park and Trail System. Estimated annual visits exceed 1 million. Furthermore, because of the Greenway's route stretching across south Minneapolis, it touches a wide diversity of neighborhoods. From the retail, employment, and housing hubs of Uptown and Hiawatha/Lake to the vibrant, ethnically diverse, lower wealth neighborhoods of Phillips, the Greenway has the potential to connect a broad cross-section of regional residents to recreation and work.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and its partners, the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, propose including the existing 5.7 miles of the Midtown Greenway in the regional system as a Linking Regional Trail. This trail segment begins at the western edge of Minneapolis at West Lake Street and travels east-west across south Minneapolis, terminating at West River Parkway. Currently, the Greenway is owned by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and managed jointly by that agency and the City of Minneapolis. Those two parties and MPRB are at work on an agreement which would be finalized if this system addition is successful. In broad terms, MPRB would take on some portion of the management of the corridor but the land would remain in the ownership of the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

2. **General Criteria:** Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Draws visitors from across the region: The Midtown Greenway Trail is, in effect, already functioning like a regional trail. With its mix of recreation and commuting use, this segment draws visitors from across the region. Whether they use the Midtown Greenway Trail to extend bike rides from Three Rivers trails to the west or to experience shorter loops while exploring the Grand Rounds, the Greenway is well connected to areas beyond Minneapolis. More detailed visitor surveys would undoubtedly show significant regional use.

Links two or more units: On its western end, the Midtown Greenway Trail connects to the Kenilworth Regional Trail and the South Cedar Lake Regional Trail (operated by Three Rivers). The Greenway segment intersects the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park. Its eastern terminus is Mississippi Gorge Regional Park.

Links to/complements other trails: In addition to the regional connectivity listed above, the Midtown Greenway Trail touches the Hiawatha Light Rail Trail, which provides a direct link to downtown Minneapolis and Minnehaha Park.

Links to/complements parks, recreation facilities, and natural resource areas: Mississippi Gorge is part of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a National Park unit. It also touches multiple local parks and recreation areas as it travels across town, including MPRB's Cepro Site, Soo Line Gardens, The Mall Park, Market Square Park (in development), and Brackett Park.

Distance from other trails: The nearest parallel regional trail in the vicinity would be Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail, which runs 2.25 miles to the south.

Trail type: The Midtown Greenway Trail is a separate bicycle/pedestrian for its entire length.

Links to transit: Though not a specific requirement for Linking Trails, the Midtown Greenway Trail has the added benefit of transit interconnections. It travels within a block of and with direct trail connection to the Lake Street Blue Line station. It will pass in very close proximity to the West Lake Street Green Line Station. The trail will also be just a block away from the new Orange Line Station at Lake Street and 35W. Multiple bus routes, including Arterial Bus Rapid Transit routes, intersect the trail along the north-south streets of Minneapolis, including Hennepin, Lyndale, Chicago, Bloomington, and Cedar.

3. **Agency and Other Support:** Please provide your agency's board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.

Attached to this proposal are letters of support from the following partner groups: Midtown Greenway Coalition, Lake Street Council, Midtown Community Works Partnership, and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

4. **Public Participation:** Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.

MPRB participates in the Midtown Community Works Partnership, also comprised of Hennepin County Commissioners Greene and Conley, City of Minneapolis representatives including Council Member Alondra Cano, the Metropolitan Council, Allina Hospitals and Clinics, Wells Fargo, the Midtown Greenway Coalition, and the Lake Street Council, engaged in more than two years of discussions and planning around seeking regional trail designation for the Midtown Greenway. In 2019, partner Hennepin County worked with consultant Damon Farber to assess community safety for environmental design elements for the Midtown Greenway. The project team engaged more than 28 times with stakeholders, including community groups, social service agencies, other local government agencies, and local businesses to understand the issues and approaches to developing solutions for the corridor. The primary recommendations that emerged from this collaborative study include: wayfinding, clear and centralized management, hours of operation and security presence, and dedicated funding resources. These recommendations would be supported by designation of the Midtown Greenway Trail as a regional trail.

5. **Regional Context:** Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including: planning for future population growth, expanding natural resource management, increasing climate resilience, balancing conservation with recreation, promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).

The primary outcomes advanced by including the Midtown Greenway Trail in the regional system are the promotion of access and usage by all our region's residents, planning for population growth, and contributing to climate resilience.

Access and use: The Midtown Greenway Trail is already experiencing diverse use, including variety in ability, income, national origin, and race/ethnicity. This is in part due to its location in the city. It passes through census districts with a far higher population of non-white residents and lower income levels than the metro area as a whole. The communities adjacent to the Greenway are rich in social and economic diversity. For example, in the neighborhoods adjacent to the span of the Greenway stretching between 18th and Bloomington Avenues, 35% of residents are Hispanic, 28% African American, 15% White, 11% Asian, 9% American Indian, and 2% two or more races. Nearly 50% speak a language other than English at home (MN Compass, 2011-2015). The area is one of the poorest in Minneapolis, and residents are in the bottom bracket of life expectancies—between 70 and 75 years of age (BCBS and Wilder Foundation, 2010). Placing an (already constructed) regional trail amidst these regional residents and communicating regional connectivity through consistent messaging, signage, and branding will increase access to the regional trail system as a whole and provide significant health and wellness benefits.

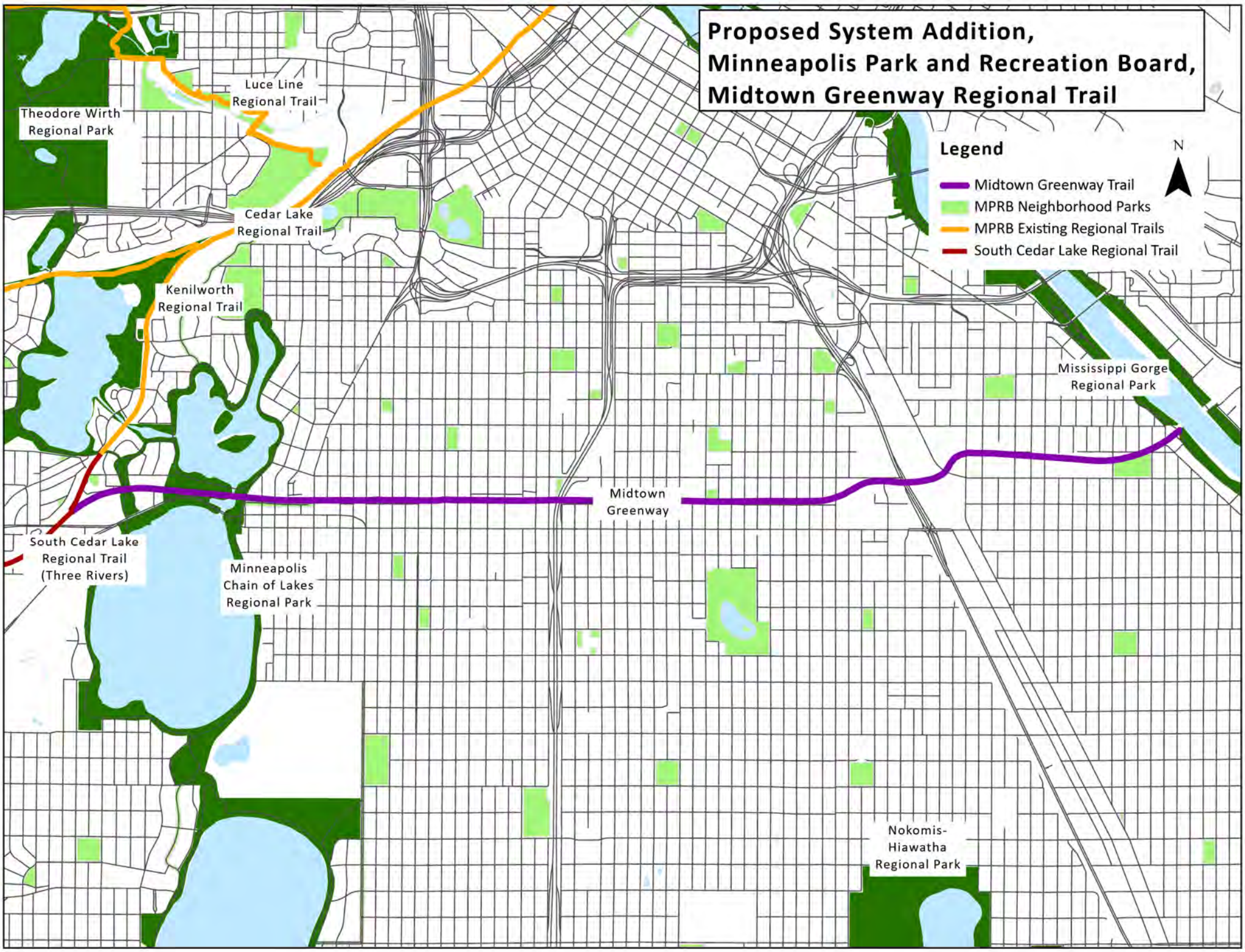
Planning for growth: The Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan envisions higher density across the city, and population forecasts suggest Minneapolis's population will continue to increase through 2040. This change is already taking place on the ground. The Lake Street corridor, parallel to which the greenway runs, includes some of the densest housing, commercial, and job-generating areas of Minneapolis outside of downtown. Wells Fargo, Allina, and other area hospitals together employ more than 15,000 people. The Uptown, Lyn/Lake, and Hiawatha/Lake areas are booming with new housing. These would be exactly the kinds of high-density population centers the region would hope to serve with trails and parks, and the Midtown Greenway Trail touches each one of them.

Climate resilience: Successfully mitigating climate change will require significant reductions in vehicle miles traveled. The Midtown Greenway Trail is a ready-made link between homes, jobs, parks, transit, public services, and shopping. Many already use it for non-motorized recreational access and transportation needs.

6. **Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:** Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years). For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

The Midtown Greenway Trail is already constructed. There is room for capital improvements around signs and wayfinding, access points, and visitor services, but the land is in public hands and the trail is built. Therefore, this system addition requires no acquisition costs nor significant implementation costs. It is possible that MPRB will dedicate a portion of its O&M funding to the Midtown Greenway Trail, and may also request capital grants for targeted projects. If this were to be the case, it would begin immediately upon incorporation of the trail into the regional system.

Proposed System Addition, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Midtown Greenway Regional Trail



Legend

- Midtown Greenway Trail
- MPRB Neighborhood Parks
- MPRB Existing Regional Trails
- South Cedar Lake Regional Trail

Theodore Wirth
Regional Park

Luce Line
Regional Trail

Cedar Lake
Regional Trail

Kenilworth
Regional Trail

South Cedar Lake
Regional Trail
(Three Rivers)

Minneapolis
Chain of Lakes
Regional Park

Midtown
Greenway

Mississippi Gorge
Regional Park

Nokomis-
Hiawatha
Regional Park



HENNEPIN COUNTY

REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

May 19, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Metropolitan Council

390 Robert Street N

St Paul, MN 55101

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission,

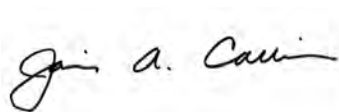
The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) strongly supports the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's application for inclusion of the Midtown Greenway Trail in the Regional Trail System.

HCRRA acquired the Midtown freight rail corridor with the goal of preserving the corridor for future transit investment and since has worked with partners to operate it as the Midtown Greenway Trail. It is now a flagship trail in the widely celebrated regional network of bikeways and walking paths that keeps our communities atop national rankings for livability and bike-friendliness. It is a key connector to transit and other trails within our region's multimodal transportation system, and it is used by thousands of people daily for both transportation and recreation, making it one of the most active corridors in our region.

The Midtown Greenway Trail also has been vital in sparking millions of dollars of new investment. Its green spaces and public infrastructure have helped to build long-term value along the corridor, from new commercial space and multifamily housing, to increased property values.

Further integrating the Midtown Greenway Trail with the Regional Trail System is a next natural step in the evolution and revitalization of this corridor through partnership for the public good.

Sincerely,



Jan Callison, Chair

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority





Business Leadership Public Commitment Citizen Involvement

May 13, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St N
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission,

The Midtown Community Works Partnership is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's submission of the Midtown Greenway for Regional Parks and Trails System designation.

The Midtown Community Works Partnership is a public private partnership formed to guide the redevelopment of the Midtown Greenway-Lake Street corridor in south Minneapolis. Our partners are Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Council, Allina Hospitals and Clinics, Wells Fargo, Midtown Greenway Coalition, and the Lake Street Council. Throughout its work, the Midtown Community Works Partnership has supported, and continues to support, a vision of the Midtown Greenway as a multiple use corridor that includes bicyclists, pedestrians, and future streetcar or rail transit use to connect the Southwest LRT and Hiawatha LRT lines.

The Midtown Community Works Partnership recognizes that, in conjunction with an operating agreement with the City of Minneapolis, the Midtown Greenway has become a flagship trail in a regional network of bikeways and walking paths, serving as a key connector between the Mississippi River Gorge Regional Park and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes, as well as to many regional parks and trails assets operated by a variety of jurisdictions. These other parks and trails include the Southwest LRT Trail, Kenilworth and Cedar Lake Trail, West River Parkway, Grand Rounds Scenic Byway, Brackett Park, the Mall Park, Soo Line Gardens, and Minnehaha Parkway, among others. The Midtown Greenway's location carries the potential to connect neighborhood residents with the region's greatest diversity in terms of race, national origin, and income/wealth, serving the goal of strengthening equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability. The Midtown Greenway-Lake Street Corridor is also home to a vibrant commercial and cultural corridor of established and emerging small businesses created by generations of immigrants and people of color. The corridor boasts a revitalized employer center of over 15,000 jobs at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Allina Health, and Children's Minnesota.

The Midtown Greenway strongly aligns with the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan criteria for inclusion of regional linking trails, including drawing visitors from across

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
May 13, 2020

the region, benefitting the regional trail system, connecting two or more units of the regional parks system, and connecting to multiple public interest destinations such as schools, job centers, cultural sites, and commercial districts.

The Midtown Community Works Partnership initially voted to support the exploration of regional trail designation for the Midtown Greenway on June 28, 2019, and then voted to express support for the designation on March 12, 2020. We support adding the Midtown Greenway to the Regional Parks and Trails System, under management of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, with the understanding that such a designation would continue to include the vision of future rail transit use in the corridor, and that agreements among our local governments will need to address further details.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Alondra Cano
Minneapolis City Council Member
Midtown Community Works Partnership Chair



Marion Greene
Hennepin County Commissioner
Midtown Community Works
Partnership Vice Chair

2834 10th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407
Phone: 612-879-0105
www.midtowngreenway.org



May 11, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St N
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission,

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's submission of the Midtown Greenway for Regional Parks and Trails System designation.

Our founders had the idea for the Midtown Greenway and worked with our public and private partners in the Midtown Community Works Partnership to get it built.

We are the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is the "friends" group for the Midtown Greenway. Our programs help keep the Greenway safe, clean, green, and full of public art. We also regularly work with our Midtown Community Works partners on ideas and recommendations for trail improvements.

We believe a major improvement for the Midtown Greenway would be for it to become part of the Regional Parks and Trails System, bringing the corridor under a unified operating structure with expertise in park and trail management.

The Midtown Greenway serves as a connector to many other regional parks and trails, connecting residents and visitors to the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes, the Mississippi River Gorge, and beyond. We estimate that more than 5,000 people use the Greenway every day during warmer months, and over 1 million bike trips are taken on it each year.

We hope the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's submission to have the Midtown Greenway added to the Regional Parks and Trails System is successful, and we appreciate your consideration of their request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Soren R. Jensen".

Soren R. Jensen
Executive Director

MIDTOWNGREENWAY.ORG

LOVE OUR PATHWAYS



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Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St N
Saint Paul, MN 55101

May 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission,

Please accept this letter in enthusiastic support from the Lake Street Council for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's submission of the Midtown Greenway for consideration for Regional Parks and Trails System designation.

The Lake Street Council serves, supports, and advocates for businesses in the Lake Street commercial corridor, which runs parallel to the Midtown Greenway. Over the past two years, we have partnered with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, and the Midtown Greenway Coalition to improve the connections between the Midtown Greenway trail and the businesses on Lake Street.

The Midtown Greenway carries over 3,000 bicyclists every day. Many of these users start or end their trips on or near Lake Street's major institutions and small businesses, and they rely on the Greenway to provide a safe and enjoyable route for reaching their destination. Many others experience the Greenway as a critical connector between major regional destinations, including the Mississippi River Gorge and the Chain of Lakes. These users, and the businesses they frequent, would benefit from the additional expertise and coordination that would result from the Midtown Greenway operating as a regional trail.

We strongly support the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's submission and hope that you will strongly consider designating the Midtown Greenway to the Regional Parks and Trail System.

Thank you,

Allison Sharkey

Allison Sharkey
Executive Director

Attachment 4

Ramsey County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

Battle Creek Regional Park - Boundary Adjustment

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

DATE: April 22, 2020
TO: Regional Parks System Implementing Agencies
FROM: Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources
SUBJECT: 2019 - 2020 Systems Additions – *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Amendment Process

Minnesota State Statute 473.147, subd. 1 states that the Metropolitan Council (Council) shall plan for the Regional Parks System. The updated *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* commits the Council to convene a region-wide discussion about system additions in 2019. To inform the discussion, please provide a separate response for each system addition proposal that addresses following topics:

- 1. System Addition Proposal:** Please describe the proposal, it's location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement. Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction. If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).
- 2. General Criteria:** Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.
- 3. Agency and Other Support:** Please provide your agency's board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.
- 4. Public Participation:** Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.
- 5. Regional Context:** Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including: planning for future population growth, expanding natural resource management, increasing climate resilience, balancing conservation with recreation, promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).
- 6. Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:** Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years). For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

¹ *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Updated November 2018

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

Battle Creek Regional Park System Addition Responses:

1. System Addition Proposal:

Response:

Ramsey County is proposing regional park boundary expansion to Battle Creek Regional Park to include Suburban Pond, Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space, Ramsey County Fish Creek Open Space, and the City of Maplewood Fish Creek Open Space. The Battle Creek Regional Park boundary expansion application advances all four of the Thrive MSP 2040 Regional parks System outcomes, is consistent and will strengthen all criteria components for Regional Parks and will provide critical long-term benefits for Battle Creek Regional Park.

- Sensitive natural resource protection and addresses climate resilience through development.
- Provide increased connections for surrounding communities and underrepresented areas.
- Set the stage for future regional connections
- Integration of regional park amenities into surrounding communities creating a localized geographic balance of regional park within the southeast corner of Ramsey County.
- Provide an opportunity to expand outdoor recreational opportunities and will be critical for providing increasing nature-based programming/educational opportunities to Battle Creek.

Battle Creek Regional Park -

Battle Creek Regional Park is in the southeast corner of Ramsey County in the cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood. The park is comprised of four segments: Indian Mounds (97 acres); Fish Hatchery (105 acres); Pigs Eye (610 acres); and Battle Creek (846 acres). In accordance with the 1981 joint master plan, the city of Saint Paul owns and operates the Indian Mounds and Fish Hatchery segments of the park. Ramsey County owns and operates the Battle Creek and Pigs Eye segments, consisting of 1,456 acres. *(For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Battle Creek Regional Park section)*

Suburban Pond -

Suburban Avenue Pond Protection Open Space is in southeast Ramsey County in the city of Saint Paul on the north side of Battle Creek Regional Park. The 32-acre site is bounded by Woodcrest Avenue on the south, Hazel Street on the east, Suburban Avenue on the north, White Bear Avenue on the west. Suburban Pond connects into the central piece of Battle Creek corridor between McKnight Road North and Upper Afton Road between two residential communities on the north side of North Park Drive.

The site includes the 20-acre pond and wetland complex, as well as a 50 to 300-foot strip of upland around the entire pond. The surrounding development consists of commercial, multi-family, and single family residential real estate. The pond consists of approximately 50% open water and 50% wetland vegetation and is a significant storm water pond for Battle Creek, located ¼ mile to the south. *(For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Suburban Pond section)*

Fish Creek Open Space (Ramsey County section) - Fish Creek Open Space is in the southeast corner of Ramsey County neighboring the cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood south of Battle

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

Creek Regional park. The 145.32-acre site is bounded by the Ramsey County line on the south and east, Carver Avenue on the north, and Highway 61 on the west. The defining characteristic of Fish Creek Open Space is Fish Creek, flowing for 1-1/2 miles from Carver Lake on the east side of I-494 to Pigs Eye Lake on the west side of Highway 61. Fish Creek is split up into an east and west section bisected by I-494. The east section from Carver Lake to I-494, the creek has a flat gradient and passes through wetlands, wooded slopes, and grasslands. The west section, from I-494 to Highway 61 the creek undergoes a large elevation drop and passes through a deep wooded valley with steep slopes. A wooded bluff runs parallel to the creek as it descends the Mississippi River valley.

In 2016, Ramsey County prepared a development plan for future recreation and programming opportunities. Due to the sensitivity of the site, proposed recreational and programming opportunities will mainly focus on natural resource-based programming and interpretive learning. Recreation amenities will remain passive. (For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Fish Creek section).

Fish Creek Open Space (City of Maplewood section) -

The City of Maplewood Fish Creek Protection Open Space is in the southeast corner of Ramsey County neighboring the cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood south of Battle Creek Regional park. The 68.23-acre site is bounded by the western portion of the Ramsey County Fish Creek Open Space area. The city of Maplewood owns this section of land abutting fish creek open space that contains a short-paved trail network sitting on a flatter area above the bluffs and creek valley. This section of upland has a diverse range of natural resources and land habitats but is mostly mixed woods and prairie.

Mississippi River Bluffs Protection Open Space -

The Mississippi River Bluffs Protection Open Space is in the southeast part of Ramsey County in the city of Saint Paul and consists of 19 separate parcels totaling 19.55 acres, located along steep bluff terrain on the east side of US Highway 61 and south of Lower Afton Road. This open space is a 2-mile long narrow strip of steep sloped bluff line that constitutes about 25% of the total bluff with wooded slopes in excess of 30 percent. The majority of the properties within the open space are scattered throughout without much continuity of owned space.

This open space is all located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) which shares its boundary with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The open space is subject to MRCCA regulations (state statute under Minnesota Rule 6106) which is in place to protect the unique natural and cultural resources and values within this corridor. The habitat within all parcels consists of mixed woods, dominated by oak trees.

Acquisition is proposed for adjacent properties for inclusion into Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space as they become available. (For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Mississippi River Bluffs Protection Open Space section).

2. **General Criteria:**

Response:

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

The Battle Creek Regional Park boundary expansion application to include Suburban Pond, Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space, Ramsey County Fish Creek Open Space, and the City of Maplewood Fish Creek Open Space is consistent with components identified in Table 4-1 for Regional Parks and meets Siting and Acquisition Strategy 1 and 2 as defined in the Regional Park Policy Plan; and is regionally significant due to size and location for each boundary expansion component.

Regional Park Criteria:

The Battle Creek Regional Park boundary expansion areas are consistent with all components identified in Table 4-1 for Regional Parks. Since Battle Creek Regional Park already is consistent with these criteria, the additional boundary expansion areas will strengthen all criteria areas.

- Regional Visitation - By providing a more diverse range of recreational and programming uses to Battle Creek Regional Park, increased visitation from across the region is anticipated.
- Geographic Balance – The proposed boundary expansion areas for Battle Creek Regional Park will not only provide more geographic balance to the regional park system in Ramsey County, but it will also provide a more localized geographic balance to surrounding communities within the southeast corner of Ramsey County. The boundary expansion areas will integrate into the surrounding communities providing a more balanced approach for parkland and increases community access especially surrounding under-represented communities.
- Natural Resources - The proposed boundary expansion areas for Battle Creek Regional Park will provide a more diverse range and protection of natural resources. These natural resources are critical for the next generation of parkland for heat island reduction and reduction in flooding by increased stormwater management for surrounding communities.
 - *Suburban Pond* - includes the 20-acre pond and wetland complex and acts as a regional stormwater facility. The pond consists of approximately 50% open water and 50% wetland vegetation and is a significant storm water pond for Battle Creek, located ¼ mile to the south. The natural upland area surrounding the pond provides critical vegetation buffers and offers a place for habitat in a highly urbanized area.
 - *Mississippi River Bluff Protection and Open Space Area* - is located along steep bluff terrain on the east side of US Highway 61 and south of Lower Afton Road, and is located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). The critical natural resource for this open space is the protection of the bluff which has unique natural and cultural resources and values within this corridor. The habitat has mixed woods, dominated by oak trees.
 - *Fish Creek (Ramsey County)* – has a diverse range of natural resources and land habitats dependent on the location. The defining component is Fish Creek which flows from Carver Lake to Pigs Eye Lake. The east section from Carver Lake to I-494, has a diverse range of wetlands, wooded slopes, and grasslands. The west section, from I-494 to Highway 61 the creek undergoes a large elevation drop and passes through a deep wooded valley with steep slopes. A

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

wooded bluff runs parallel to the creek as it descends the Mississippi River valley.

- *Fish Creek (Maplewood)* – This section is perched on a flatter area above the bluffs and creek valley and has a diverse range of natural resources and land habitats but is mostly mixed woods and prairie.
- Land Size - Battle Creek and Pigs Eye segments consists of 1,456 acres. The addition of the boundary expansion areas will add approximately 265.1 acres to Battle Creek Regional Park. Additional long-term acquisition/transfer has not been added into the land size acreage since many acquisition pieces is undetermined.
 - Suburban Pond – 32 acres
 - Fish Creek (Ramsey County) – 145.32 acres
 - Fish Creek (Maplewood) – 68.23 acres
 - Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space – 19.55 acres
 - Long-term acquisition/transfer
 - Battle Creek Regional Park (527 Battle Creek Road)- (4.14 acres)
 - Maplewood Land (north side of Carver Road) – (26.78 acres)
 - Mississippi River Bluff – (Approximately 224 acres is anticipated for full acquisition but is dependent on availability of properties along the bluff line)
 - Fish Creek Open Space – (acreage is undetermined currently, dependent on availability of properties surrounding Fish Creek)
- Recreation Amenities – Battle Creek Regional Park has a diverse range of recreational amenities but is lacking natural resource based educational/programming opportunities and access points to surrounding neighborhoods. The boundary expansion areas will provide an opportunity to expand outdoor recreational opportunities and will be critical for providing increasing nature-based programming/educational opportunities to Battle Creek.
 - Suburban Pond and Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space – These areas will provide critical access connections to Battle Creek.
 - Fish Creek (Ramsey County and Maplewood sections) – This boundary expansion area is critical for expanding nature-based programming/ educational opportunities to Battle Creek. This will also provide an opportunity to expand passive recreational opportunities as well.

Siting and Acquisition Strategies:

Strategy 1 – Priorities

- Lands with natural qualities most desirable for outdoor recreation activities
- Provides improved protection of a diverse range of natural resources
- Regionally significant due to size and location for each boundary expansion area
- Provide balance to the southeast corner of Ramsey County within highly urbanized and under-represented areas

Strategy 2 – Geographic Balance

- Provides greater geographic balance and will drastically improve connections to the regional park system for communities within the south east corner of Ramsey County

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

- Integrate natural resource and outdoor recreational amenities into the surrounding communities which provides a more balanced approach for parkland and increases community access especially surrounding under-represented communities.

3. Agency and Other Support:

Response:

Ramsey County supports the proposed boundary expansion additions to Battle Creek Regional Park to include Suburban Pond, Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space, Ramsey County Fish Creek Open Space, and the City of Maplewood Fish Creek Open Space. Ramsey County has attached a department letter of support for the proposed boundary expansion. A County Board resolution is attached for agency support as well. Since the proposed boundary expansion areas were identified in the 2018 Park and Recreation System Plan, agency support was identified with the approval of the Ramsey County Comprehensive Plan in 2018.

A support letter from the City of Maplewood is attached indicating general support for including the City portion of Fish Creek Open Space within the Battle Creek Regional Park boundary expansion area.

4. Public Participation:

Response:

Ramsey County is currently in the process of amending-updating the overall Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan and is proposing to incorporate regional park boundary expansion for Suburban Pond, Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space, Ramsey County Fish Creek Open Space, and the City of Maplewood Fish Creek Open Space as part of this master plan process. Public participation has been completed on two different levels for potential regional park boundary expansions for Battle Creek Regional Park and was included in the development of the 2018 Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan, and current public participation for the overall Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan Amendment/Update process.

2018 Park and Recreation System Plan: Significant public participation was completed to gauge additional amenity improvements in addition to future planning considerations. In preparing this System Plan update, Parks & Recreation recognized a need to engage the community. The System Plan community engagement process was conducted using two methods:

- Electronic Online Survey
- Pop-Up Table Meetings

Electronic media such as social media, website, and email blasts were used to inform residents of upcoming engagement opportunities. An online was launched in July 2017 and remained active until February 2, 2018. Almost 1,000 responses were received. In addition, a series of nine informal or “pop-up” table meetings were conducted at various libraries, community centers, and ice arenas located across the county.

Overall Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan Amendment/Update: A robust two-phase public participation process was launched to include Pop-up workshops, community meetings and collaborative design sessions to gather community feedback on what is and is not currently

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

working. Phase 1 public engagement started spring 2019 which included an online survey, several pop-up events with the public, multiple stakeholder discussions, (3) community forums, and (1) design work shops. Phase 2 public engagement is planned to be completed in 2020 to gather additional feedback for proposed master plan amendment changes. A similar process for phase 2 engagement will be utilized during phase 1 engagement activities. Long-term development improvements for Fish Creek, Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space, and Suburban Pond will included in the overall Battle Creek Regional Park master plan amendment/update in Spring 2021.

Additional Engagement: Ramsey County has been actively working with the City of Maplewood for proposed regional park boundary expansion in the City owned portions of Fish Creek Open Space. Ramsey County collaborated with the City of Maplewood for the development of the Fish Creek Open Space development plan for both the Ramsey County and City portions in 2016. The City of Maplewood launched an overall engagement process in 2016 for proposed recreational amenities included within the overall development plan. As part of this process, the city has continuously expressed interest for including the City owned Fish Creek Open Space into the regional system due to the location, context, and connection with the Ramsey County Fish Creek Open Space.

5. Regional Context:

Response:

The Battle Creek Regional Park boundary expansion application advances all four of the Thrive MSP 2040 Regional parks System outcomes.

- Expand the Regional Parks System (*to conserve, maintain, and connect natural resources identified as being of high quality or having regional importance, thereby improving climate resilience and enhancing the quality of life for the region's residents*):

A critical component for including these four boundary expansion areas is for natural resource protection and restoration opportunities. Each boundary expansion area has unique qualities and provide long-term natural resource benefits.

- Suburban Pond –Pond/wetland complex that provides regional stormwater management and is a critical stormwater component for Battle Creek. The upland area and pond/wetland complex within Suburban Pond also are key for reducing heat coverage to surrounding highly urbanized commercial/residential areas.
- Fish Creek (Ramsey County and Maplewood sections) – Both areas have a diverse range of natural resource land components that need to be protected and have unlimited restoration opportunities. The diverse range of land habitat components make this area unique and is the bases for why this area should be included within the regional park system. The key feature is Fish Creek and associated bluff/ravine areas, which is located on the Ramsey County section but, this area provides key components for addressing natural resource protection. The Maplewood section has critical upland mixed woodland and prairie areas that are key buffers to Fish Creek and surrounding bluff/ravine areas. These unique land features advance the priority for establishing

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

measures for improving climate resilience and stormwater management to surrounding areas.

- Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space – They key component to this area is the protection of the bluff.
- Provide a comprehensive regional park and trail system that balances the conservation and restoration of natural resources (*with the provision of nature-based recreational opportunities*):

Battle Creek Regional Park has a diverse range of outdoor recreational amenities but is lacking natural based educational/programming opportunities and access points to surrounding neighborhoods. The boundary expansion areas will provide an opportunity to expand outdoor nature based recreational opportunities and will be critical for providing increasing nature-based programming/educational opportunities to Battle Creek. Each of the boundary expansion areas has unique natural resources and will become an asset to providing a balance between protection of natural resources and providing outdoor nature-based recreational opportunities.

- Fish Creek (Ramsey County and Maplewood sections) – This boundary expansion area is critical for expanding nature-based programming/ educational opportunities to Battle Creek. This will also provide an opportunity to expand passive recreational opportunities as well.
- Expand access to regional parks and trails (*by connecting them with local, state, and federal parks, trails, other lands, and transportation networks, including transit, bicycle, and pedestrian systems*):

The boundary expansion areas will provide an opportunity to expand outdoor recreational opportunities and will be critical for improved community access especially surrounding under-represented communities.

- Suburban Pond and Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space – These areas will provide critical access connections from surrounding residential neighborhoods to Battle Creek Regional Park.
- Fish Creek Open Space (Ramsey and Maplewood sections) – These two areas will greatly enhance access to parkland for nature-based programming and education opportunities. Fish Creek is anticipated to be connected through long-term trail connections through the Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space Area. Additional long-term trail connections to Fish Creek could provide access to the Point Douglas Regional Trail and Mississippi River Trail along Point Douglas.
- Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region’s residents across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability, inspiring a legacy of stewardship that also strengthens friendships, families, health, and spirit

The proposed boundary expansion areas for Battle Creek Regional Park will not only provide more geographic balance to the regional park system in Ramsey County but will

Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

provide a localized geographic balance to surrounding communities. These areas will enable Battle Creek Regional Park to integrate into the surrounding communities provide a balanced approach for parkland and increases community access especially surrounding under-represented communities.

6. **Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:** *Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years). For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.¹ (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)*

Response:

Anticipated funding requests are dependent on each proposed boundary expansion area and timelines will vary dependent on available funding.

Battle Creek Regional Park -

Ramsey County is currently in the process of amending-updating the overall Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan. Long-term development improvements will be addressed in the overall Battle Creek Regional Park master plan amendment/update in Spring 2021. (For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Battle Creek Regional Park section)

- Development Improvements – Dependent on overall long-term development improvements, it is anticipated the timeline for implementation will vary between 0-20 years.
- Acquisition – 527 Battle Creek Road timeline is anticipated within 0-10 years. Acquisition cost for this property including stewardship costs is approximately \$1,062,945

Suburban Pond -

Long-term development improvements will be addressed in the overall Battle Creek Regional Park master plan amendment/update in Spring 2021. (For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Suburban Pond section)

- Development Improvements – Dependent on overall long-term development improvements, it is anticipated the timeline for implementation will vary between 0-20 years.
- Acquisition – No acquisition is required since it is owned by Ramsey County.

Fish Creek Open Space (Ramsey County and Maplewood sections) –

Long-term development improvements will be addressed in the overall Battle Creek Regional Park master plan amendment/update in Spring 2021. (For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Fish Creek section)

- Development Improvements – Dependent on overall long-term development improvements, it is anticipated the timeline for implementation will vary between 0-20 years.
- Acquisition –

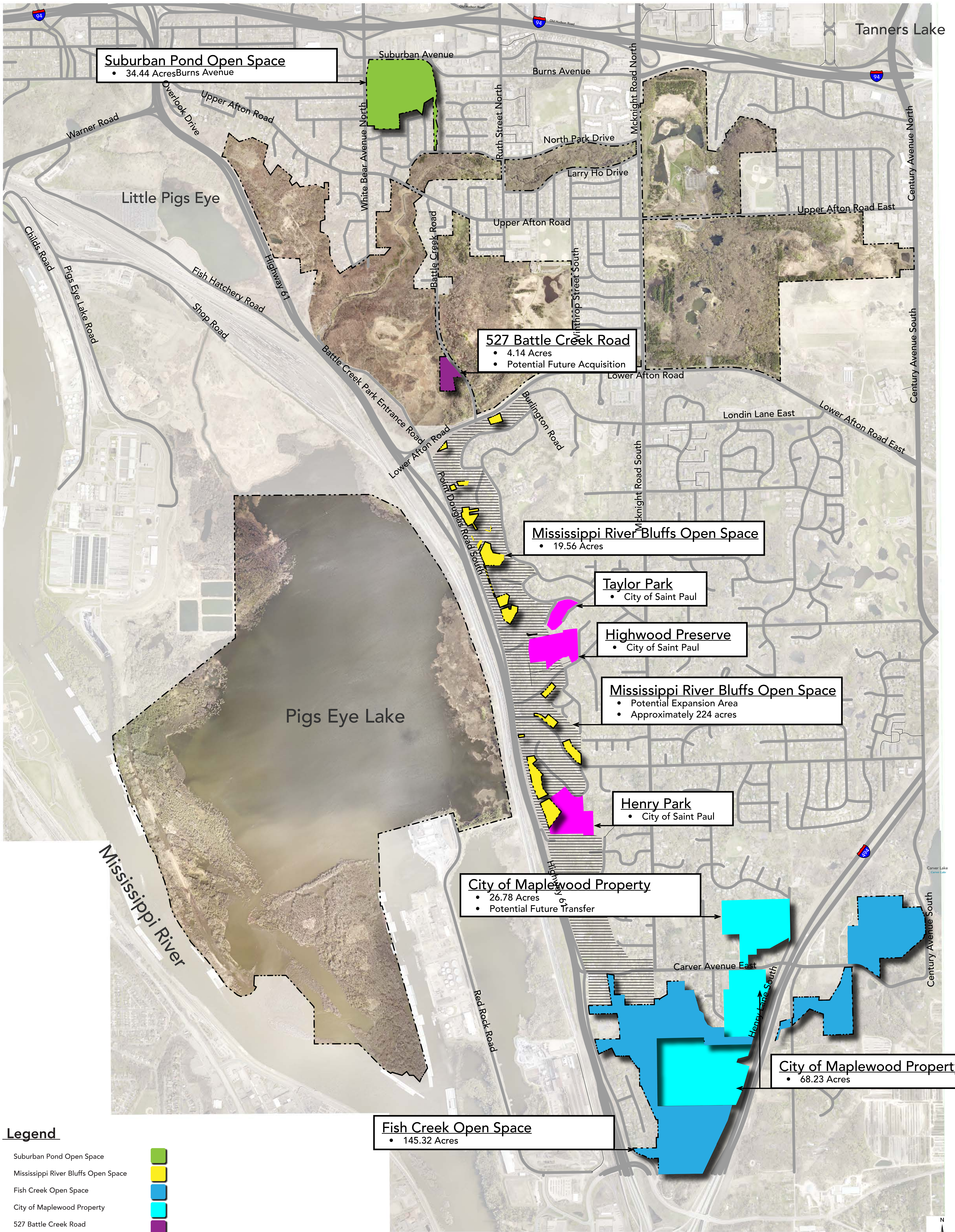
Regional Parks System Additions Application – Ramsey County Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion

- No acquisition is required for the Fish Creek Ramsey County section since it is owned by Ramsey County.
- No acquisition is required for the Fish Creek Maplewood section or the adjacent City owned parcel on the north side of Carver Road. It is anticipated these two properties would be completed as a land transfer.
- Future park acquisition is proposed for adjacent residential properties and long-term expansion for Fish Creek Open Space when properties become available. At this time the acreage and acquisition cost are undetermined and is dependent on availability of properties surrounding Fish Creek.

Mississippi River Bluffs Protection Open Space -

Long-term development improvements will be addressed in the overall Battle Creek Regional Park master plan amendment/update in Spring 2021. (For more detailed information, refer to the attached Ramsey County Park and Recreation System Plan – Mississippi River Bluffs Protection Open Space section).

- Development Improvements – Dependent on overall long-term development improvements, it is anticipated the timeline for implementation will vary between 0-20 years.
- Acquisition –
 - No acquisition is required for current parcels.
 - Approximately 224 acres is anticipated for full acquisition but is dependent on availability of properties along the bluff line with an anticipated timeline of 20+ years. Anticipated cost for full long-term acquisition is approximately \$57,512,000.



Suburban Pond Open Space
 • 34.44 Acres
 Burns Avenue

527 Battle Creek Road
 • 4.14 Acres
 • Potential Future Acquisition

Mississippi River Bluffs Open Space
 • 19.56 Acres

Taylor Park
 • City of Saint Paul

Highwood Preserve
 • City of Saint Paul

Mississippi River Bluffs Open Space
 • Potential Expansion Area
 • Approximately 224 acres

Henry Park
 • City of Saint Paul

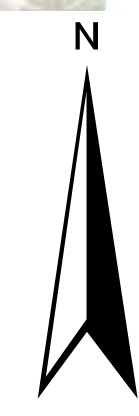
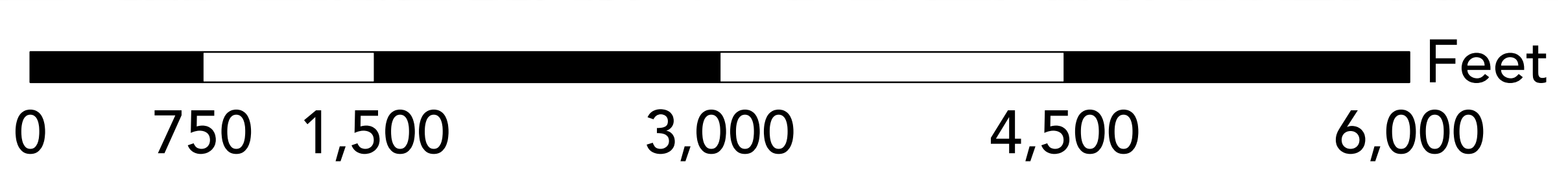
City of Maplewood Property
 • 26.78 Acres
 • Potential Future Transfer

City of Maplewood Property
 • 68.23 Acres

Fish Creek Open Space
 • 145.32 Acres

Legend

- Suburban Pond Open Space
- Mississippi River Bluffs Open Space
- Fish Creek Open Space
- City of Maplewood Property
- 527 Battle Creek Road
- City of Saint Paul Property
- Area of Potential Future Acquisition





BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

Presented by: Commissioner MatasCastillo Date: January 15, 2019 No. B2019-018
Attention: County Manager

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update (Plan) describes the County's unique role in regional planning and its alignment with the Metropolitan Council's goals of prosperity, equity, livability, stewardship, and sustainability over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Prepared in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 473.851 through 9 473.871 under the Metropolitan Land Planning Act, this Plan establishes the county's role in regional planning; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 473.858, the proposed Plan was submitted to adjacent governmental units and affected special districts and school districts for review and comment on May 29, 2018, and the statutory six-month review and comment period has ended; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on December 18th, 2018 to solicit comments on the proposed Plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes section 473.864 requires that the County Board authorizes submittal of the Plan to the Metropolitan Council; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes County staff to submit the proposed Ramsey County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update to the Metropolitan Council for review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 473.864.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Table with 3 columns: YEA, NAY, OTHER. Rows list commissioners: Toni Carter, Blake Huffman, Trista MatasCastillo, Mary Jo McGuire, Rafael Ortega, Victoria Reinhardt, Jim McDonough.

Jim McDonough, Chair

Signature of Janet M. Guthrie
By: Janet M. Guthrie
Chief Clerk - County Board



May 20, 2020

Metropolitan Council
Attn: Emmett Mullin
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Regional Parks System Additions - Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Expansion Application

Dear Mr. Mullin:

Ramsey County is excited about the opportunity to submit an application for the Regional Parks System Addition. Ramsey County is proposing regional park boundary expansion to Battle Creek Regional Park to include Suburban Pond, Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space, Ramsey County Fish Creek Open Space, and the City of Maplewood Fish Creek Open Space.

The Battle Creek Regional Park boundary expansion application advances all four of the Thrive MSP 2040 Regional parks System outcomes, consistent with Siting and Acquisition Strategy 1 and 2 for Regional Parks criteria and will provide critical long-term benefits for Battle Creek Regional Park.

Long-term benefits:

- Sensitive natural resource protection and addresses climate resilience through development.
- Provide increased connections for surrounding communities and underrepresented areas.
- Set the stage for future regional connections
- Integration of regional park amenities into surrounding communities creating a localized geographic balance of regional park within the southeast corner of Ramsey County.
- Provide an opportunity to expand outdoor recreational opportunities and will be critical for providing increasing nature-based programming/educational opportunities to Battle Creek.

In addition, Ramsey County is currently in the process of amending-updating the overall Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan and is proposing to incorporate regional park boundary expansion as part of this master plan process. Long-term development improvements will be addressed in the overall Battle Creek Regional Park master plan amendment/update in Spring 2021.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 651-266-0303 or email to mark.mccabe@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Mark McCabe | Director of Parks & Recreation
2015 North Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109-3796
651-266-0303 | Cell 651-307-1389
www.ramseycounty.us/parks



05/20/2020

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department
Attn: Scott Yonke
2015 Van Dyke Street
Maplewood, MN 55109

Dear Mr. Yonke,

Ramsey County is preparing an application for regional park boundary expansion to the Battle Creek Regional Park. City of Maplewood staff and Ramsey County staff have had discussions about the inclusion of the City of Maplewood's Fish Creek Open Space as a potential part of the Battle Creek Regional Park.

The City of Maplewood is supportive of Ramsey County's park boundary expansion application and to the continued discussions on the possible inclusion of the Fish Creek Open Space as part of the expanded Battle Creek Regional Park system.

Sincerely,

Steven Love

Steven Love, P.E., P.L.S.
City Of Maplewood
Public Works Director/City Engineer
651-249-2404
steve.love@maplewoodmn.gov

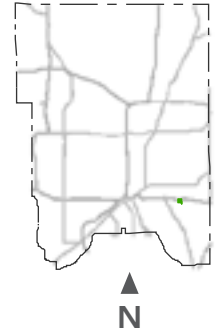
SUBURBAN POND OPEN SPACE

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS



LOCATION AND SIZE

Suburban Avenue Pond Protection Open Space is located in southeast Ramsey County in the city of Saint Paul. The 32-acre site is bounded by Woodcrest Avenue on the south, Hazel Street on the east, Suburban Avenue on the north, and White Bear Avenue on the west.



SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site includes the 20-acre pond and wetland complex, as well as a 50 to 300-foot strip of upland around the entire pond. The surrounding development consists of commercial, multi-family, and single family residential real estate. The pond consists of approximately 50% open water and 50% wetland vegetation and is a significant storm water pond for Battle Creek, located ¼ mile to the south.



RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

A ½-mile wood chip trail circles the pond. An outlet structure controls the pond elevation.

EXISTING CONDITIONS



0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

Legend

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Park Border | | Park Paved Trail | | Municipal Ped/Bike Facility | |
| Park Entrance | | Park Turf Trail | | Regional Trail | |
| Metro Transit Stop | | Municipal Trail | | | |

EXISTING LAND COVER



Existing Land Cover

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Remnant Prairie |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

SUBURBAN POND OPEN SPACE

LAND COVER AND HABITAT

Suburban Avenue Pond Open Space consists mainly of a wetland complex surrounded by an old field on the south and degraded mixed woods on the east side. The wetland has open water surrounded by a heavy infestation of purple loosestrife and cattails.

WILDLIFE

The park hosts a variety of common wildlife including nesting songbirds and waterfowl.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

There is no wildlife management within this open space

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

Suburban Avenue Pond receives storm water runoff from the neighboring watershed.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

Legend

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Park Border | — · — · — | Park Paved Trail | — (red) | Regional Trail | — (blue) |
| Proposed Development | 3 (in yellow grid) | Park Turf Trail | — (green) | Proposed Regional Trail | — (dashed blue) |
| Proposed Development Node | 1 (in blue dashed circle) | Municipal Trail | — (yellow) | Proposed Paved Park Trail | — (dashed red) |
| Metro Tranist Stop | T (in red square) | Municipal Ped/Bike Facility | — (cyan) | Trail | |

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation will work with local Saint Paul Community Council (District 1) on maintenance and minor site improvement projects guided by neighborhood and public engagement.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1. Master Planning

Future recreation development improvements to Suburban Pond Open Space will require a master planning process to address proposed park and recreational opportunities. Recreational development opportunities would include passive recreation for paved and natural surface trails, interpretive/education programming, observation/viewing areas, and potential parking.

- Develop partnerships with the city of Saint Paul, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), other local agencies, and private parties for increased recreational opportunities, storm water management best practices and funding strategies for proposed improvements.

2. Regional Park and Trail

Investigate opportunities for inclusion into the regional park and trail system as part of Battle Creek Regional Park. Future planning activities will require a comprehensive study with the Metropolitan Council and city of Saint Paul for viability as a Regional Park component.

3. Trail Development

Suburban Pond Open Space is accessed from adjacent residential neighborhoods. There has been a demand to redevelop the existing natural surface trail loop and access points into the open space for improved trail connectivity.

Redevelop existing natural surface trails throughout the open space for improved use and access. Possible improvements may include re-alignment of natural surface trail sections for improved connections and the reduction of sharp corners and steep slopes adjacent to trail sections. If the need arises additional access points and trail development may be proposed and will be addressed in future master planning activities. Paved trail sections as well as observation areas with interpretive and educational programming are possibilities.

4. Vehicular Access

There are no developed vehicular access points or parking lots. Vehicular access points or parking lots will be addressed in future master planning activities and may consist of parking areas located adjacent to roadways.

5. Wayfinding

- **Pedestrian:** Interpretive signage in natural areas for increased wayfinding to nature education opportunities.
- **Pedestrian:** Vehicular entrance signs at access points.
- All signage should conform to the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Wayfinding Master Plan.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

6. Recreation Opportunities

- **Observation Areas:** Develop observation areas along future trail systems or access points for interpretive education of natural areas and wildlife. If federally or state listed protected plants or animals are discovered statutes and guidelines will be followed.
- **Public Art:** Provide the opportunity and appropriate infrastructure to accommodate public art to improve community connections.
- **Culturally Significant Areas:** Provide connections and interpretive education for culturally significant areas within Suburban Pond Open Space. Proposed improvements would consist of observation areas, interpretive educational signage, and pedestrian connections.
- **Wildlife Areas:** Provide visual and interpretive educational signage, and pedestrian connections. If federally or state listed protected plants or animals are discovered, statutes and guidelines will be followed.

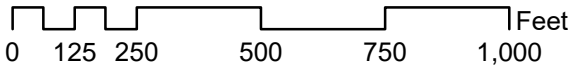
7. Habitat Restoration & Management

- Currently there is no active management within this open space.
- Future restoration may include conversion of the old field to native prairie.

8. Acquisitions

Acquisition is proposed for adjacent properties for inclusion into Suburban Pond Open Space when properties become available. Further master planning activities would be required to determine potential uses for acquired property.

PROPOSED LAND COVER



Proposed Land Cover

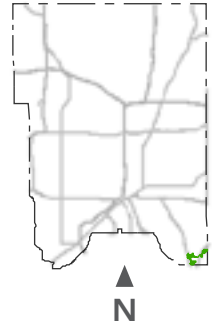
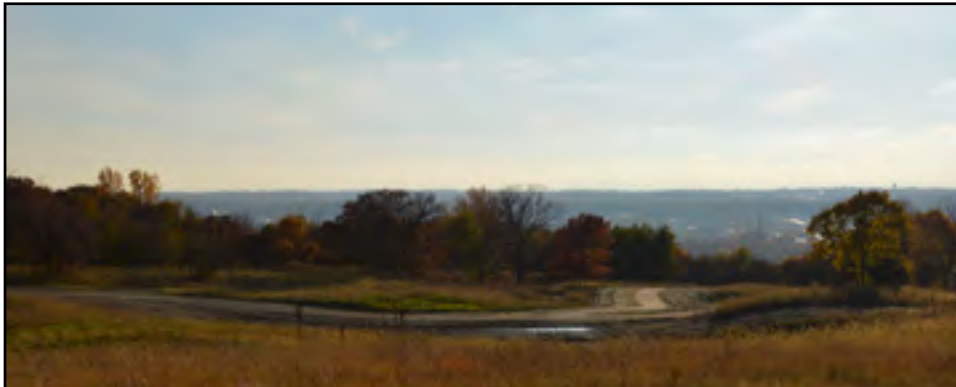
- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Prairie (remnant) |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

SUBURBAN POND OPEN SPACE

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT TABLE

SUBURBAN POND OPEN SPACE							
ACRES	CURRENT LAND COVER	PRO-POSED LAND COVER	RESTORATION ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY COST	PRIOR-ITY	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE COST/ 3 YEARS
4.88	MIXED WOODS	MIXED WOODS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5.12	OLD FIELD	PRAIRIE	MOW, HERBICIDE, RX BURN, DRILL SEED	\$10,240.00	4	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF HERBACEOUS	\$3,840.00
24.44	WETLAND	WETLAND	MONITOR	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PARK TOTAL							
34.44				\$10,240.00			\$3,840.00

FISH CREEK OPEN SPACE



EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

MASTER PLAN DATE: 2016



LOCATION AND SIZE

Fish Creek Protection Open Space is located in the southeast corner of Ramsey County neighboring the cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood. The 130-acre site is bounded by the Ramsey County line on the south and east, Carver Avenue on the north, and Highway 61 on the west.



SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The defining characteristic of Fish Creek Open Space is Fish Creek, flowing for 1-1/2 miles from Carver Lake on the east side of I-494 to Pigs Eye Lake on the west side of Highway 61. From Carver Lake to I-494 the creek has a flat gradient and passes through wetlands, wooded slopes, and grasslands. From I-494 to Highway 61 the creek undergoes a large elevation drop and passes through a deep wooded valley with steep slopes. A wooded bluff runs parallel to the creek as it descends the Mississippi River valley.

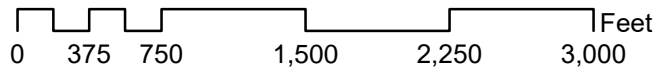
The city of Maplewood owns land abutting fish creek open space that contains a short paved trail network sitting on a flatter area above the bluffs and creek valley. The city made improvements consisting of the paved trail and parking lot development utilizing both city and county owned property in 2016. The city also completed improvements to the existing access road off of Carver Avenue entering Fish Creek Open Space.



RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

Fish Creek Open Space has a limited number of unpaved trails. The city of Maplewood has developed a paved trail system on its property adjacent to county property.

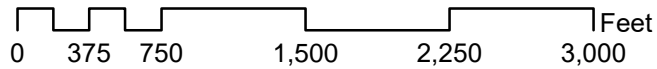
EXISTING CONDITIONS



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------------|--|
| Park Border | | Park Paved Trail | | Parking Lot | |
| Park Entrance | | Park Turf Trail | | Scenic Viewpoint | |
| Metro Tranist Stop | | Municipal Trail | | Hiking | |
| Regional Trail | | Municipal Ped/Bike Facility | | Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area | |

EXISTING LAND COVER



Existing Land Cover

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Remnant Prairie |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

LAND COVER AND HABITAT

The native vegetation of Fish Creek Open Space was predominantly oak woods on steep slopes with scattered oak savannas. Current habitat includes small sections of savanna, mature oak woods, mixed woods, some smaller old fields, and a wetland complex in the eastern section of the open space. Several areas of old fields are found on the east end of the property. Common invasive species within the park include buckthorn, garlic mustard, and Japanese hedge parsley, which was found aggressively spreading since 2011. There are high quality habitats that exist in the park that are unique to the region and warrant preservation over future development. These include north facing slopes of mesic woods along the creek that house high quality herbaceous plants including ferns, bloodroot, ginger, columbine and other shade loving plants, small sections of savanna, and larger tracts of mature oak woods, including the oak woods along the bluff in the western portion of the park, which is located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). This section of park is subject to MRCCA regulations (State statute under Minnesota Rule 6106) which is in place to protect the unique natural and cultural resources and values within this corridor. The MRCCA, which shares its boundary with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, includes most of the western section of park, including prairie land restored by the city of Maplewood. The city of Maplewood owns a 46 acre and 22-acre parcel of land abutting the western portion of Fish Creek Open Space. Around 33 acres of the 46-acre parcel was converted to prairie in 2016 and is surrounded by management unit (MU) 1 of Fish Creek Open Space. The other 22-acre parcel is currently an open old field, west of Interstate 494. At the south end of this parcel, adjacent to the creek, archaeological artifacts have been found on both city and abutting county property.

WILDLIFE

The open space hosts diverse wildlife including a variety of nesting songbirds. Larger mammals include white-tailed deer, coyotes, red fox, and raccoons.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

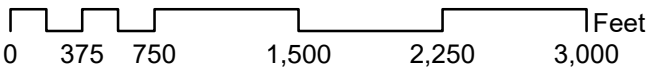
Fish Creek Open Space has been the location for several special archery deer hunts since 2000 and a location for baiting when sharpshooting removal practices are required, under the provisions of the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan in partnership with the cities of Maplewood and Saint Paul.

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

The majority of Fish Creek, which flows east to west from Carver Lake to the Mississippi River, is surrounded by Ramsey County Parks & Recreation open space. Historically, Fish Creek experienced significant streambed erosion caused by increased stormwater flows. In the late 1980s, the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) undertook a significant restoration project that included installation of several flood control structures in the steeper sections of the creek. RWMWD maintains an access area through the park to conduct maintenance on the creek and a flood control system in this area. RWMWD also completes water quality monitoring of Fish Creek.



PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Legend

Park Border		Park Paved Trail		Regional Trail	
Proposed Development		Park Turf Trail		Proposed Regional Trail	
Proposed Development Node		Municipal Trail		Proposed Paved Park Trail	
Metro Tranist Stop		Municipal Ped/Bike Facility			

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation should continue to coordinate improvements to Fish Creek Open Space with the city of Maplewood and the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District. The access road from Carver Avenue may be required in the future for additional parking and recreational opportunities.

A subdivision borders Fish Creek Open Space on three sides, maintenance service and trail access should be provided through this subdivision.

Management of the steep slopes and storm water are also critical to maintaining the integrity of the site.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Master Planning** - A concept master plan for Fish Creek Open Space was developed in coordination with the city of Maplewood in 2016 and was approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. This master plan addressed improvements to a portion of Fish Creek owned by the city of Maplewood and sections owned by Ramsey County on the west side of Interstate 494. Further master planning of Fish Creek will be required for specific development and portions located east of Interstate 494 due to changing trends, demographics, and improved recreational amenities. Coordination with multiple local and state agencies will be required for long-term master planning of improvements throughout Fish Creek.
 - Develop partnerships with the city of Maplewood, city of Woodbury, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) for funding strategies, increased recreational opportunities, and proposed improvements.
 - **Fish Creek Open Space (West Section):** A concept master plan was prepared in 2016 in coordination with the city of Maplewood for vehicular access, trails, access to Fish Creek, and programming activities through both the city of Maplewood and Ramsey County properties. The city of Maplewood property currently has a conservation easement which limits the amount of building development per funding requirements used to acquire the property. Improvements to the west section of Fish Creek are proposed to be passive recreation consisting of paved and natural surface trail, observation areas, interpretive and education programming areas, a shared parking lot, access to Fish Creek, recreation programming areas for day camp opportunities, and a future interpretive and education facility. Additional master planning will be required for recreation.
 - **Fish Creek Open Space (East Section):** A concept master plan for this section has not been prepared. Improvements to the east section of Fish Creek are proposed to be passive recreation consisting of paved and natural surface trails, observation areas, interpretive and education areas, trailhead parking, access to Fish Creek, and programming areas for day camp opportunities. Future connections are proposed to Carver Lake Park for additional recreation opportunities. Additional land acquisition on the east side of I-494 would allow for recreational development.
 - **Regional Park Opportunities:** Due to its size and proximity to Battle Creek, a long-term plan is proposed to include Fish Creek Open Space in the regional park system. Additional planning activities are scheduled with the city of Maplewood for possible regional park expansion of Fish Creek Open Space to include land owned by the city of Maplewood. Another long term plan is to include Carver Lake Park into the regional park system as well. Future planning activities required also include a comprehensive study with the Metropolitan Council, city of Maplewood, and city of Woodbury to assess the viability of the open space as a regional park component.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2. Site Access

- **Additional Access Points:** Additional access points are proposed from adjacent neighborhoods on the east and west sections of Fish Creek and along Carver Road for access into Fish Creek Open Space. These access points would be constructed with future trail connections into Fish Creek Open Space.
- **Point Douglass Road:** An access point is proposed on the north side of Oakwood Church. There is a possibility for a shared parking facility with Oakwood Church in this location. Another proposed trailhead location is a planned land purchase from MNDOT on the southwest corner of Fish Creek. This would allow for trailhead parking and trail access into Fish Creek Open Space.

3. Trail Development

- Additional development of paved and natural surface trails is proposed for areas throughout the Fish Creek Open Space.

4. City of Maplewood Trailhead

- The city of Maplewood recently completed development of a parking lot facility in Fish Creek Open Space in 2016 at the end of the entrance road adjacent to I-494.
- Redevelopment of the parking lot may be required if development occurs in this area for a proposed interpretive and educational facility.
- During any parking lot redevelopment additional parking should be considered along with improved pedestrian connections, signage, storm water management best practices, and site amenities.

5. Point Douglass Road Trailhead

- A trailhead parking facility is proposed on the north side of Oakwood Church. There is a possibility for a shared parking facility with Oakwood Church in this location. Another proposed trailhead location is a planned a land purchase from MNDOT on the southwest corner of Fish Creek. This would allow for potential trailhead parking and trail access into Fish Creek Open Space.

6. Wayfinding

- **Pedestrian:** Improve pedestrian signage for enhanced wayfinding to trail accesses and other amenities. Provide interpretive signage in natural areas to increase nature education opportunities.
- **Vehicular:** Improve vehicular entrance signage for better wayfinding to the park access. Ramsey County proposes appropriate signage according to the Wayfinding Master plan new access points and parking lots.

7. Recreation Opportunities

- **Interpretive/Education Facility:** Development of an interpretive and educational facility is proposed on the property owned by the city of Maplewood. It anticipated this facility provide recreation programming for Fish Creek Open Space and possibly consist of education and recreation programming, an open lobby area with interpretive education, restrooms, and necessary site improvement. Any building development would comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Universal Design standards.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- **Playground:** Development of playground facilities is proposed for Fish Creek Open Space. Opportunities may include playground equipment or nature play components dependent public engagement.
- **Public Art:** Provide the opportunity and appropriate infrastructure to accommodate public art for improved community connections.
- **Culturally Significant Areas:** Provide connections and interpretive education for culturally significant areas within Fish Creek Open Space. Proposed improvements would consist of observation areas, interpretive and educational signage, and pedestrian connections.
- **Wildlife Areas:** Provide visual and interpretive educational signage and pedestrian connections to wildlife areas. If federally or state listed protected plants or animals are discovered, statutes and guidelines will be followed.
- **Programming:** Increase recreation and nature programming activities for additional recreation opportunities.
- **Fish Creek Access:** Provide access to fish creek from paved or natural surface trails. Interpretive/education areas are proposed for additional programming opportunities.

8. Habitat Restoration & Management

- Current restored and maintained habitat includes the oak woods in management unit (MU) 1 and mesic woods in MU 2. This restoration work started in 2015 and has included removal of invasive woody species, primarily buckthorn, a prescribed burn, and casting of native woodland seed across most of MU1.
- Ongoing vegetation management activities include buckthorn removal, foliar spraying and prescribed burns of these restored areas.
- The oak woods are also being managed to contain and control oak wilt, especially in the south section of MU1
- Future priority restoration will include the conversion of mixed woods in MU 2, MU 3, MU 4 to oak woods and the potential for old field to oak woods conversion in all management units.
- The city of Maplewood will continue to maintain the 33-acre prairie site owned by the city.

9. Acquisitions

Future park acquisition is proposed for adjacent residential properties and long-term expansion for inclusion into Fish Creek Open Space when properties become available. Further master planning activities would be required and be part of regional park planning activities to determine potential recreation uses for expansion areas.

- Fish Creek Property owned by city of Maplewood for future park acquisition
- Fish Creek Property owned by the city of Maplewood located on the north side of Carver Road for future park acquisition.
- Several residential properties adjacent to Fish Creek Open Space may be of interest when properties become available.

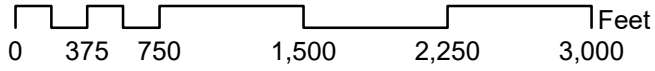
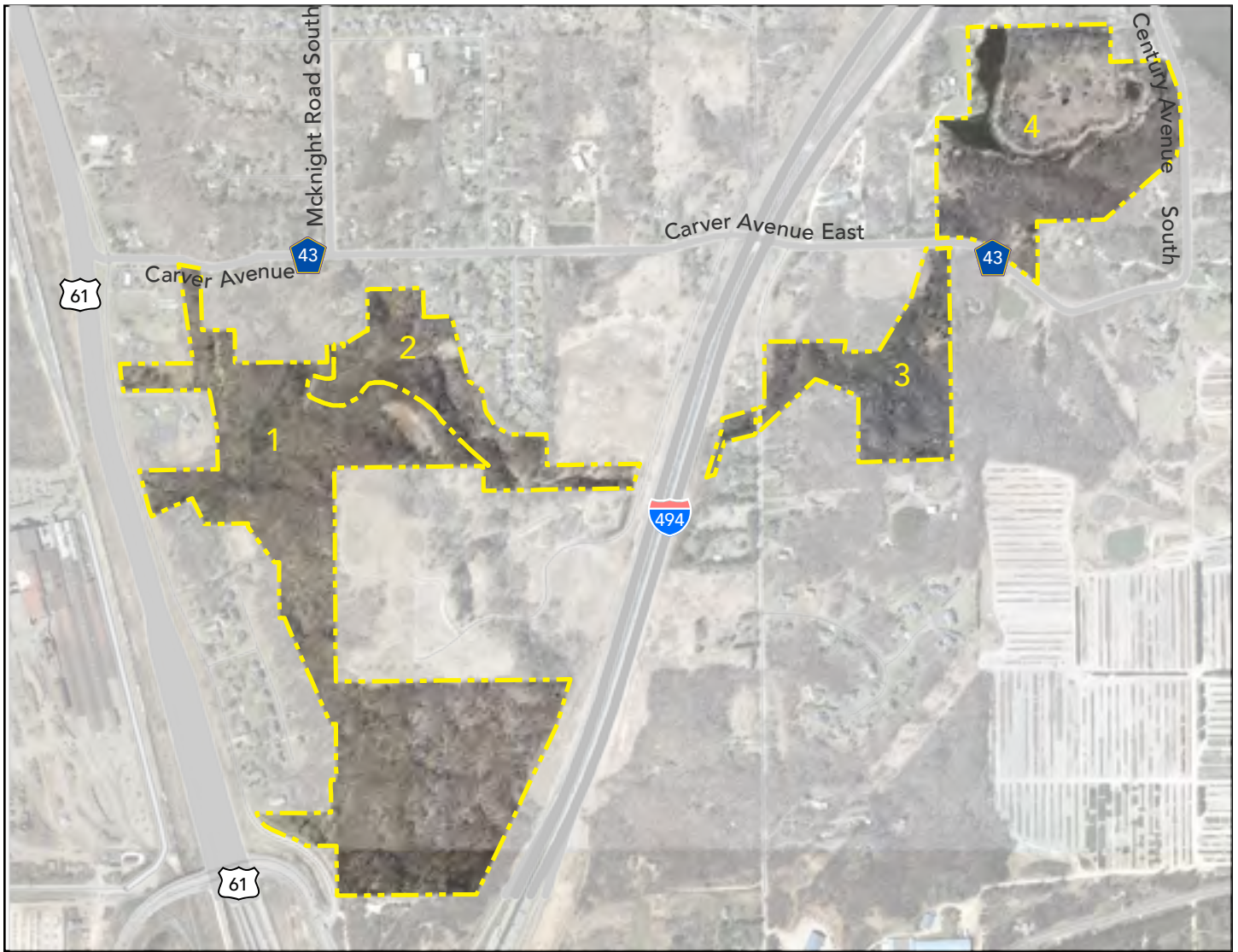
PROPOSED LAND COVER



Proposed Land Cover

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Prairie (remnant) |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS



Legend

Management Unit #

Management Unit Border

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT TABLE

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 - FISH CREEK OPEN SPACE							
ACRES	CURRENT LAND COVER	PRO-POSED LAND COVER	RESTORATION ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY COST	PRIOR-ITY	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE COST/ 3 YEARS
1.54	OLD FIELD	OAK WOODS	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF HERBACEOUS, PLANT OAKS	\$1,617.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$1,463.00
73.09	OAK WOODS	SAVANNA 27.50 ACRES	INVASIVE WOODY REMOVAL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN, RX BURN, NATIVE SEED	\$96,250.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$26,125.00
		OAK WOODS 45.59 ACRES	INVASIVE WOODY REMOVAL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN, RX BURN, NATIVE SEED	\$159,565.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$43,310.50
MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 TOTAL							
74.63				\$257,432.00			\$70,898.50

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT TABLE

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 - FISH CREEK OPEN SPACE							
ACRES	CURRENT LAND COVER	PRO-POSED LAND COVER	RESTORATION ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY COST	PRIOR-ITY	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE COST/ 3 YEARS
1.123	OLD FIELD	OAK WOODS	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF HERBACEOUS, PLANT OAKS	\$1,179.15	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$1,066.85
5.58	MESIC FOREST	MESIC FOR-EST	INVASIVE WOODY RE-MOVAL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN	\$5,580.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$5,301.00
10.6	MIXED WOODS	OAK WOODS	INVASIVE WOODY REMOV-AL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN, RX BURN, NATIVE SEED	\$37,100.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$10,070.00
MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 TOTAL							
17.303				\$43,859.15			\$16,437.85

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 - FISH CREEK OPEN SPACE							
ACRES	CURRENT LAND COVER	PRO-POSED LAND COVER	RESTORATION ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY COST	PRIOR-ITY	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE COST/ 3 YEARS
1.23	OLD FIELD	OAK WOODS	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF HERBACEOUS, PLANT OAKS	\$1,291.50	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$1,168.50
14.33	MIXED WOODS	OAK WOODS	INVASIVE WOODY REMOV-AL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN, RX BURN, NATIVE SEED	\$50,155.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$13,613.50
2.21	OAK WOODS	OAK WOODS	INVASIVE WOODY RE-MOVAL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN	\$4,420.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$2,099.50
MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 TOTAL							
17.77				\$55,866.50			\$16,881.50

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT TABLE

MANAGEMENT UNIT 4 - FISH CREEK OPEN SPACE							
ACRES	CURRENT LAND COVER	PRO-POSED LAND COVER	RESTORATION ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY COST	PRIOR-ITY	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE COST/ 3 YEARS
9.51	OLD FIELD	OAK WOODS	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF HERBACEOUS, PLANT OAKS	\$9,985.50	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$9,034.50
4.87	MIXED WOODS	OAK WOODS	INVASIVE WOODY REMOVAL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN, RX BURN, NATIVE SEED	\$17,045.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$4,626.50
14.21	OAK WOODS	OAK WOODS	INVASIVE WOODY REMOVAL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN	\$28,420.00	2	RX BURN, FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$13,499.50
7.67	WETLAND	WETLAND	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MANAGEMENT UNIT 4 TOTAL							
36.26				\$55,450.50			\$27,160.50
FISH CREEK OPEN SPACE TOTAL							
145.963				\$412,608.15			\$131,378.35

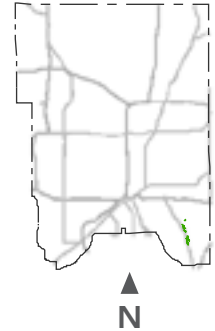
MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLUFFS OPEN SPACE

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS



LOCATION AND SIZE

The Mississippi River Bluffs Protection Open Space is located in the southeast part of Ramsey County in the city of Saint Paul. The site is a 2-mile long narrow strip of steep sloped bluff line, paralleling the east side of Highway 61 between Battle Creek Regional Park on the north and Fish Creek Protection Open Space site on the south. Ramsey County currently owns 69 platted lots totaling 12 acres in the area. These lots constitute about 25% of the total site and are scattered throughout without much continuity of owned space.



SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The site is entirely a steep, wooded slope in excess of 30 percent. The site generally lies between residential properties at the top and bottom of the bluff.



RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

There are no existing or proposed recreation improvements for the site.

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Park Border | | Park Paved Trail | | Municipal Ped/Bike Facility | |
| Park Entrance | | Park Turf Trail | | Regional Trail | |
| Metro Tranist Stop | | Municipal Trail | | | |

EXISTING LAND COVER



Existing Land Cover

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Remnant Prairie |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLUFFS OPEN SPACE

LAND COVER AND HABITAT

The Mississippi River Bluffs Open Space consists of 19 separate parcels totaling 19.55 acres, located along steep bluff terrain on the east side of US Highway 61 and south of Lower Afton Road. This open space is all located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) which shares its boundary with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The open space is subject to MRCCA regulations (state statute under Minnesota Rule 6106) which is in place to protect the unique natural and cultural resources and values within this corridor. The habitat within all parcels consists of mixed woods, dominated by oak trees.

WILDLIFE

The park hosts a variety of common wildlife, including nesting songbirds. Mammals that use the open space and surrounding area include white-tailed deer and raccoons.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Deer populations in the area are surveyed annually to determine the need and location for deer management. The parcels that make up the open space are too small for deer management through special archery hunts, however sharp shooting deer removal has occurred in surrounding county and city lands under the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan in partnership with the Cities of Saint Paul and Maplewood.

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

Some of the open space bluff lands overlook the Mississippi River.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



Legend

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Park Border | | Park Paved Trail | | Regional Trail | |
| Proposed Development | | Park Turf Trail | | Proposed Regional Trail | |
| Proposed Development Node | | Municipal Trail | | Proposed Paved Park Trail | |
| Metro Tranist Stop | | Municipal Ped/Bike Facility | | | |

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The 69 lots which make up the Mississippi River Bluffs Open Space have been acquired by Ramsey County through tax-forfeiture or donations. Ramsey County does not plan to purchase any of the remaining lots, but will continue to accept tax-forfeited or donated property.

The city of Saint Paul has secured grants to accelerate acquisition of selected lots. Ramsey County will work cooperatively with the city to manage these properties in a uniform manner.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1. Master Planning

No master plan has been prepared for this open space. Master planning activities will be addressed in the future as needs arise.

- Develop partnerships with the Cities of Saint Paul, Maplewood, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), other local agencies, and private parties for funding strategies, increased recreational opportunities, storm water management best practices, and improvements.

2. Regional Park & Trail

Investigate opportunities for inclusion into the regional park and trail system as part of Battle Creek Regional Park. Future planning activities will require a comprehensive study with the Metropolitan Council, city of Maplewood, and city of Saint Paul for viability as a Regional Park component.

3. Pedestrian Trail Connections

There are no access points or trail systems. Access points and trail development will be addressed in future master planning activities and may consist of paved trails, natural surface trails, and observation areas with interpretive and educational programming.

4. Vehicular Access

There are no vehicular access points or parking lots. Vehicular access points or parking lots will be addressed in future master planning activities and may consist of parking areas located adjacent to roadways or through partnerships with other land holders.

5. Wayfinding:

- **Pedestrian:** Interpretive signage in natural areas for increased wayfinding to nature education opportunities.
- **Vehicular:** Entrance signage at access points.
- All Wayfinding signage should conform to the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Wayfinding Master Plan.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

6. Recreation Opportunities

- **Observation Areas:** Develop observation areas along future trail systems and access points for interpretive education of natural areas and wildlife. If federally or state listed protected plants or animals are discovered, statutes and guidelines will be followed
- **Public Art:** Provide the opportunity and appropriate infrastructure to accommodate public art to improve community connections.
- **Culturally Significant Areas:** Provide connections and interpretive education for culturally significant areas within Mississippi River Bluffs Protection Open Space. Proposed improvements would consist of observation areas, interpretive educational signage, and pedestrian connections.
- **Wildlife Areas:** Provide visual and interpretive educational signage and pedestrian connections to wildlife areas. If federally or state listed protected plants or animals are discovered, statutes and guidelines will be followed.

7. Habitat Restoration & Management

- Currently there is no active management within these sections of open space.
- Future restoration may include removal of invasive wood species from the mixed woods.

8. Acquisitions

Acquisition is proposed for adjacent properties for inclusion into Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space as they become available. Further master planning activities would be required to determine potential uses for acquired properties. Ramsey County and the city of Saint Paul have been actively acquiring properties when available through tax-forfeit and or donated property.

- The city of Saint Paul has park land that is connected to the Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space that may be identified for future acquisition or partnership.
- There are several properties adjacent to Mississippi River Bluff Protection Open Space that may be identified for future acquisition. Many of these properties have portions of undeveloped land that is connected to the open space.

PROPOSED LAND COVER



Proposed Land Cover

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Prairie (remnant) |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLUFFS OPEN SPACE

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT TABLE

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLUFFS OPEN SPACE							
ACRES	CURRENT LAND COVER	PRO-POSED LAND COVER	RESTORATION ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY COST	PRIOR-ITY	MAINTENANCE	MAINTENANCE COST/ 3 YEARS
19.55	MIXED WOODS	MIXED WOODS	INVASIVE WOODY REMOVAL, CUT, STUMP TREAT, STACK & BURN	\$48,875.00	3	FOLIAR SPRAY OF BUCK-THORN	\$9,775.00
PARK TOTAL							
19.55				\$48,875.00			\$9,775.00

Attachment 5a

Carver County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

Highway 5 - Regional Trail Search Corridor

System Addition Proposal: Highway 5 Regional Trail Search Corridor

- Location: Cities of Waconia and Norwood Young America
- Trail Length: 8 miles
- Partner Arrangement: By policy within incorporated areas, 50% Carver County & 50% city, unincorporated area 100% Carver County
- Map: See Attachment

General Criteria:

- The proposed Hwy 5 Regional Trail Search Corridor does not duplicate existing planned regional trail corridors
- Connections to Regional Units:
 - TSC 4, County Road 10 Regional Trail Corridor
 - TSC 12, Western Carver County Trail
 - TSC 6, Lake Waconia
 - TSC9, Lake Waconia -Carver
 - TSC 11, Twin Cities and Western
 - Waconia Regional Park
 - Carver Park Reserve
 - Dakota Rail Regional Trail
 - Luce Line State Trail
- Interconnects with the trail system of the City of Waconia and City of Norwood Young America serving as a backbone to the trail network
- Fills a Gap:
 - Provides an important trail link between the communities of City of Norwood Young America and the City of Waconia
- Public Interest Connections:
 - Connects commercial areas of the two communities
 - Norwood Young America High School
 - Waconia High School
 - Waconia Middle School
 - Waconia Community Center

Agency and Other Support:

- Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Carver County Board Resolution #13-20, Adopting 2040 Comprehensive Plan, February 4, 2020
- Carver County Board Action June 2nd, 2020 for Regional Park and Trail System Additions
- City of Waconia 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- City of Norwood Young America Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Public Participation:

- Carver County Comprehensive Plan – Trail supported through public engagement
- City of Waconia Comprehensive Plan - Trail supported through public engagement
- City of Norwood Young America Draft Comprehensive Plan - Trail supported through public engagement

Regional Context:

- Planning for future population growth: The proposed trail corridor is in a growth area of the county
- Increasing climate resilience: The proposed trail corridor provides access between communities providing an opportunity to walk or bike instead of motorized transportation
- Access via trails to local state federal park lands: The proposed trail corridor provides connection to public schools and the recreation facilities that are provided on school district grounds and their facilities
- Strengthen equitable usage: Carver County has a high percentage of youth under age 18 at 21.2 %. The proposed trail provides access for youth to access schools, parks, community center and other trails without need for motorized transportation

Advances Thrive MSP 2040 or Regional Parks System outcomes including:

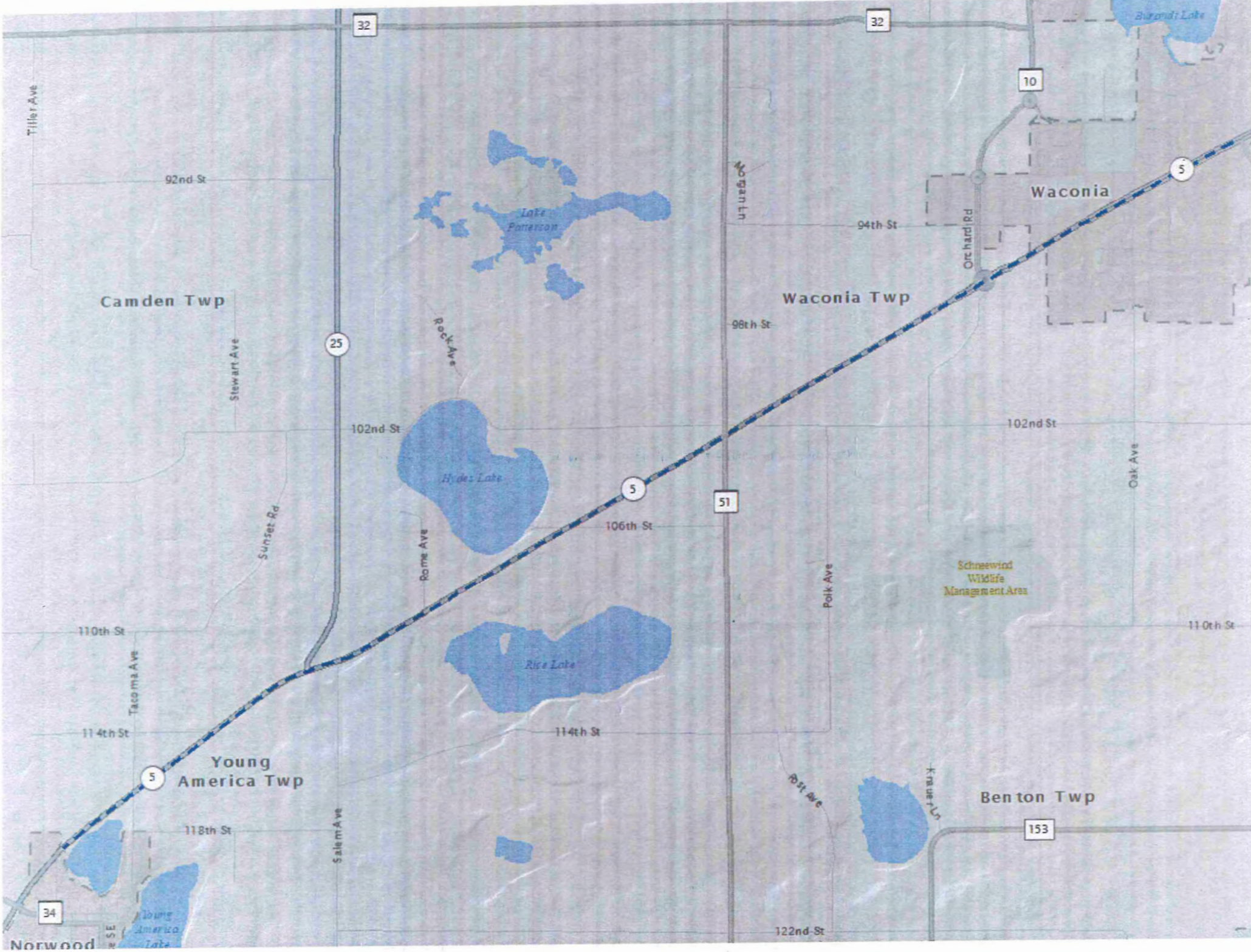
- The proposed trail expands access to the following regional system units:
 - TSC 4, County Road 10 Regional Trail Corridor
 - TSC 12, Western Carver County Trail
 - TSC 6, Lake Waconia
 - TSC9, Lake Waconia -Carver
 - TSC 11, Twin Cities and Western
 - Waconia Regional Park
 - Carver Park Reserve
 - Dakota Rail Regional Trail
 - Luce Line State Trail

- Strengthen Equitable usage of Regional Parks and trails by all our regions residents

Carver County's population is increasing in both number and diversity. The overall population has grown by nearly 30 percent since the 2000 Census. The percentage of people of color is estimated at 11.4 percent, an increase of 281 percent since 2000. County officials have observed growing regional park use by immigrant communities and people of color, who are introducing new cultural relationships to outdoor recreation and uses of public space. As a desirable and highly used amenity, the trail network is anticipated to meet the needs of current users while adapting to new modes of transportation and recreation.

Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

- Funding Estimate: \$3,060,000
- Timeline: 20+ years
- Acquisition Estimate: 29 Acres



Tiller Ave

92nd St

32

32

10

5

Waconia

Camden Twp

Stewart Ave

25

Wagon Ln

94th St

Orchard Rd

Waconia Twp

98th St

Rock Ave

102nd St

102nd St

Hyde Lake

5

51

Oak Ave

Sunset Rd

Rome Ave

106th St

Schneewind
Wildlife
Management Area

110th St

110th St

Tacoma Ave

Rice Lake

Polk Ave

114th St

114th St

Young
America Twp

5

Post Ave

Kramer Ln

Benton Twp

118th St

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Salem Ave

122nd St

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARVER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Date: February 4, 2020

Resolution #13-20

Motion by Commissioner Degler
Seconded by Commissioner Maluchnik

=====

A Resolution Adopting Ordinance 95-2020- The Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Repealing Ordinance 68-2010 – The Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and 68-2014 and 79-2015 Carver County Comprehensive Plan Amendments

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes section 473.864 requires each local governmental unit to review and, if necessary, amend its entire comprehensive plan and its fiscal devices and official controls at least once every ten years to ensure its comprehensive plan conforms to metropolitan system plans and ensure its fiscal devices and official controls do not conflict with the comprehensive plan or permit activities that conflict with metropolitan system plans; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to MN Statute Sec. 473.862, Carver County is the planning and zoning authority for all ten townships within the County; and

WHEREAS, Carver County has collaborated with the Benton, Camden, Dahlgren, Hollywood, Hancock, Laketown, San Francisco, Waconia, Watertown, and Young America Township Boards in the development of this Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, and County Staff have prepared a 2040 Comprehensive Plan, including goals and policies regarding Land Use, Transportation, Water Resources, and Parks and Open Space; and

WHEREAS, the plan was prepared with guiding input from the County Board of Commission, Planning Commission, and Parks Commission, as well as each township board, municipal representatives and citizens; and

WHEREAS, several public hearings and open houses have been held to consider the Carver County Comprehensive Plan, a 60-day adjacent community review has been held, and the Planning Commission approved this DRAFT plan on April 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council has reviewed the DRAFT Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan, found the plan to be conforming to the Metropolitan Land Planning Act requirements and recommended on January 22, 2020 that the County place the plan into effect; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Carver County Board of Commissioners hereby:

Adopts Ordinance 95-2020- The Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and repeals Ordinance 68-2010 – The Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, 68-2014 and 79-2015 Carver County Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

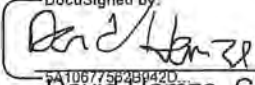
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YES	NO	ABSENT
Degler		
Ische		
Lynch		
Maluchnik		
Workman		

=====

I, David Hemze, duly appointed and qualified County Administrator of the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Carver County, Minnesota, at its session held on the 4th day of February, 2020, now on file in the Administration office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2020.

DocuSigned by:

EA1067756459420
David Hemze, County Administrator

Attachment 5b

Carver County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

County Road 11 - Regional Trail Search Corridor

System Addition Proposal: County Road 11 Regional Trail Search Corridor

- Location: Cities of Carver and Chaska
- Trail Length: 4.3 miles
- Partner Arrangement: By policy for Linking Regional Trail, 50% Carver County & 50% City of Carver and Chaska
- Map: See Attachment

General Criteria:

- The proposed County Road 11 Regional Trail Search Corridor does not duplicate existing planned regional trail corridors
- Hwy 212 is a significant barrier between the proposed trail corridor and the nearest north south regional trail corridor of TH 41 at approximately 2.5 miles away
- Connections to Regional Units:
 - TSC 10, Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail
 - Minnesota River Valley and properties of USFW & DNR
 - TSC 4, County Road 10 Regional Trail Corridor
 - TSC9, Lake Waconia-Carver
 - Waconia Regional Park
 - Dakota Rail Regional Trail
 - Luce Line State Trail
 - Hwy 5 Regional Trail
 - Southwest Regional Trail
- Interconnects with the trail system of the City of Carver and Chaska serving as a backbone to the trail network
- Fills a Gap:
 - Provides an important north south trail connection linking planned regional facilities of TSC 10 and TSC 4
- Public Interest Connections:
 - Carver Elementary School
 - SW Transit Carver Station
 - Historical City of Carver
- Use of Surface Rights-of-way:
 - Planned within the Country Road 11 road right-of-way

Agency and Other Support:

- Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Carver County Board Resolution #13-20, Adopting 2040 Comprehensive Plan, February 4, 2020
- City of Carver 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- City of Chaska 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- Carver County Board Action June 2nd, 2020 for Regional Park and Trail System Additions

Public Participation:

- Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan - Trail supported through public engagement
- City of Carver 2040 Comprehensive Plan - Trail supported through public engagement
- City of Chaska 2040 Comprehensive Plan - Trail supported through public engagement
- County Road 11 Corridor Study, April 1, 2020 remote open house YouTube video presentation and online survey

Regional Context:

- Planning for future population growth: The proposed trail corridor is in a rapid growth area
- Increasing climate resilience: The proposed trail corridor provides access to SW Transit Station providing opportunity for mass transit service reducing vehicle emissions
- Access to transit: The proposed trail corridor links to the SW Transit Station providing opportunity for mass transit service
- Access via trails to local state federal park lands: The proposed trail corridor provides connection to DNR, USFW and City of Carver parks and trails
- Strengthen equitable usage: Carver County has a high percentage of youth under age 18 at 21.2 %. The Proposed trail provides access for youth to access schools, parks and other trails without need for motorized transportation

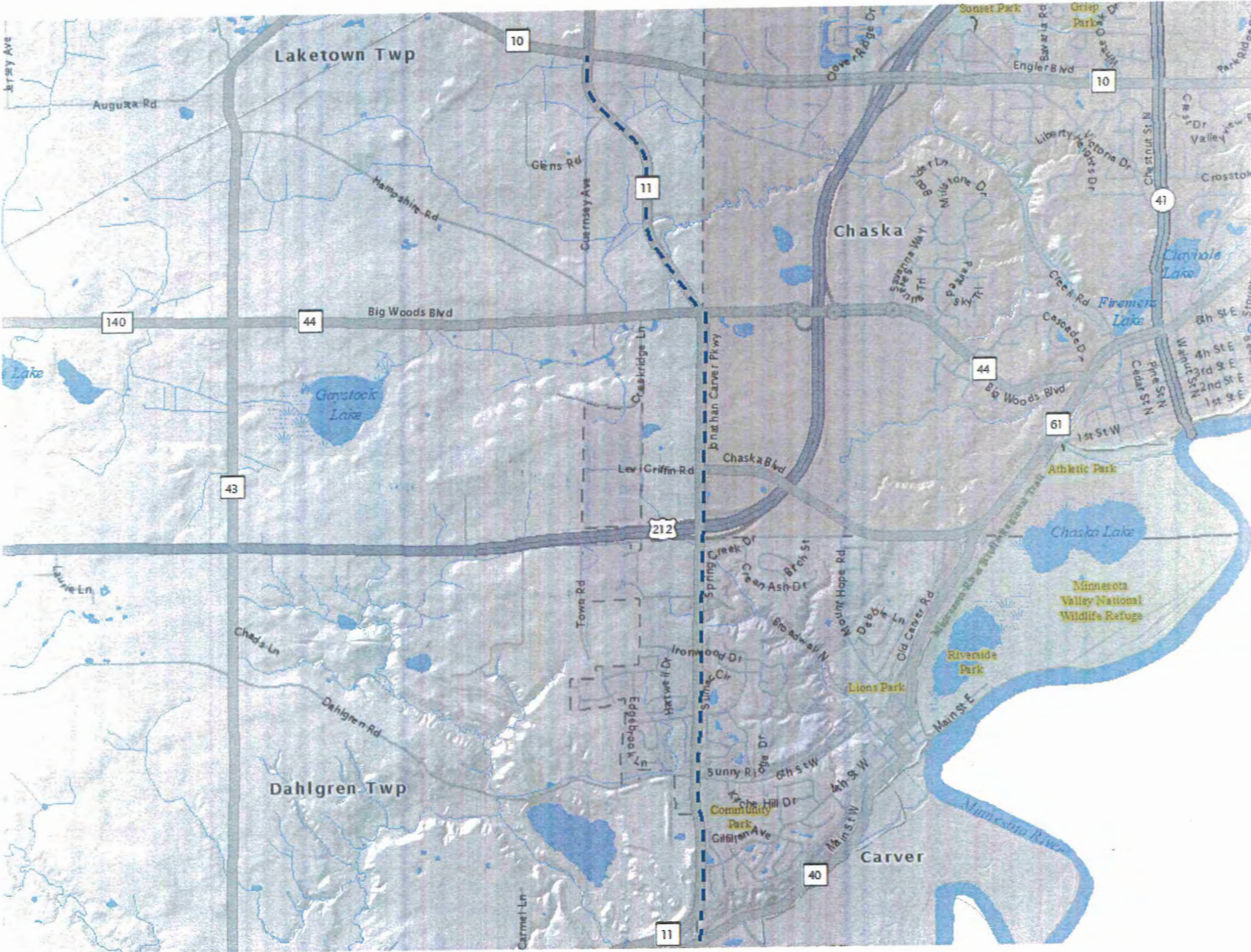
Advances Thrive MSP 2040 or Regional Parks System outcomes including:

- The proposed trail expands access to the following regional system units:
 - TSC 10, Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail
 - Minnesota River Valley and properties of USFW & DNR
 - TSC 4, County Road 10 Regional Trail Corridor
 - Waconia Regional Park
 - Dakota Rail Regional Trail
 - Luce Line State Trail
 - Hwy 5 Regional Trail
 - Southwest Regional Trail
- Strengthen Equitable usage of Regional Parks and trails by all our regions residents

Carver County's population is increasing in both number and diversity. The overall population has grown by nearly 30 percent since the 2000 Census. The percentage of people of color is estimated at 11.4 percent, an increase of 281 percent since 2000. County officials have observed growing regional park use by immigrant communities and people of color, who are introducing new cultural relationships to outdoor recreation and uses of public space. As a desirable and highly used amenity, the trail network is anticipated to meet the needs of current users while adapting to new modes of transportation and recreation.

Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

- Funding Estimate: \$1,075,000
- Timeline: 0-10 years
- Acquisition Estimate: It is proposed that the trail would be constructed in existing road right-of-way.



Laketown Twp

Chaska

Dahlgren Twp

Carver

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Athletic Park

Lions Park

Riverside Park

Community Park

Augusta Rd

Big Woods Blvd

Chaska Blvd

Chads Ln

Dahlgren Rd

Main St E

Glens Rd

Clermoy Ave

Benjamin Carver Pkwy

Levi Griffin Rd

Town Rd

Ironwood Dr

Depp Ln

Old Center Rd

Main St W

Hampshire Rd

Classridge Ln

Spring Creek Dr

Clean Ash Dr

Bron St

Wooling Hope Rd

60 Edward N

Sumner Cr

Hastwell Dr

Sunny R

6th St W

4th St W

5th St W

Carmel Ln

Giffen Ave

6th St E

5th St E

4th St E

3rd St E

2nd St E

1st St E

Went St N

Pine St N

Cedar St N

Engler Blvd

Liberty Lights Dr

Victoria Dr

Christnut St N

Cross Dr

Valley

Crosston

Cascade Dr

Firemen's Lake

8th St E

7th St E

6th St E

1st St W

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARVER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Date: February 4, 2020

Resolution #13-20

Motion by Commissioner Degler
Seconded by Commissioner Maluchnik

=====

A Resolution Adopting Ordinance 95-2020- The Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Repealing Ordinance 68-2010 – The Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and 68-2014 and 79-2015 Carver County Comprehensive Plan Amendments

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes section 473.864 requires each local governmental unit to review and, if necessary, amend its entire comprehensive plan and its fiscal devices and official controls at least once every ten years to ensure its comprehensive plan conforms to metropolitan system plans and ensure its fiscal devices and official controls do not conflict with the comprehensive plan or permit activities that conflict with metropolitan system plans; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to MN Statute Sec. 473.862, Carver County is the planning and zoning authority for all ten townships within the County; and

WHEREAS, Carver County has collaborated with the Benton, Camden, Dahlgren, Hollywood, Hancock, Laketown, San Francisco, Waconia, Watertown, and Young America Township Boards in the development of this Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, and County Staff have prepared a 2040 Comprehensive Plan, including goals and policies regarding Land Use, Transportation, Water Resources, and Parks and Open Space; and

WHEREAS, the plan was prepared with guiding input from the County Board of Commission, Planning Commission, and Parks Commission, as well as each township board, municipal representatives and citizens; and

WHEREAS, several public hearings and open houses have been held to consider the Carver County Comprehensive Plan, a 60-day adjacent community review has been held, and the Planning Commission approved this DRAFT plan on April 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council has reviewed the DRAFT Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan, found the plan to be conforming to the Metropolitan Land Planning Act requirements and recommended on January 22, 2020 that the County place the plan into effect; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Carver County Board of Commissioners hereby:

Adopts Ordinance 95-2020- The Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and repeals Ordinance 68-2010 – The Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, 68-2014 and 79-2015 Carver County Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

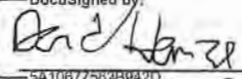
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YES	NO	ABSENT
Degler		
Ische		
Lynch		
Maluchnik		
Workman		

=====

I, David Hemze, duly appointed and qualified County Administrator of the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Carver County, Minnesota, at its session held on the 4th day of February, 2020, now on file in the Administration office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2020.

DocuSigned by:

5A106775B2B942D
David Hemze, County Administrator

Attachment 5c

Carver County Regional Parks System Addition Proposals

**County Road 40 -
Regional Trail Search Corridor**

System Addition Proposal: County Road 40 Regional Trail Search Corridor

- Location: City of Carver, San Francisco Township
- Trail Length: 9.8 miles
- Partner Arrangement: By policy within incorporated areas, 50% Carver County & 50% city, unincorporated area 100% Carver County
- Map: See Attachment

General Criteria:

- The proposed County Road 40 Regional Trail Search Corridor does not duplicate existing planned regional trail corridors
- Connections to Regional Units:
 - TSC 10, Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail
 - TSC9, Lake Waconia -Carver
 - Connect to TSC32, Southern Scott
 - Minnesota River Valley and properties of USFW & DNR
- Interconnects with the trail system of the City of Carver and Scott County
- Fills a Gap:
 - Provides an important trail corridor paralleling the scenic Minnesota River Valley. This north south trail connection links planned regional facilities of TSC 10 and TSC 32.
- Public Interest Connections:
 - Historic Downtown Carver
 - City of Belle Plain
 - DNR Recreation Lands
 - USFW Service Properties

Agency and Other Support:

- 2040 Carver County Comprehensive Plan
- Carver County Board Resolution #13-20, Adopting 2040 Comprehensive Plan, February 4, 2020
- Board Action June 2nd, 2020 for Regional Park and Trail System Additions

Public Participation:

- 2040 Carver County Comprehensive Plan - Trail supported through public engagement

Regional Context:

- Increasing climate resilience: The proposed trail corridor provides opportunity to appreciate rural countryside heightening awareness for preservation agricultural lands and natural landscapes
- Access via trails to local state federal park lands: The proposed trail corridor provides connection to DNR and USFW properties & City of Carver parks and trails
- Strengthen equitable usage: Carver County has a high percentage of youth under age 18 at 21.2%. The proposed trail provides access for youth to access to DNR, USFW properties along the MN River Valley without motorized transportation

Advances Thrive MSP 2040 or Regional Parks System outcomes including:

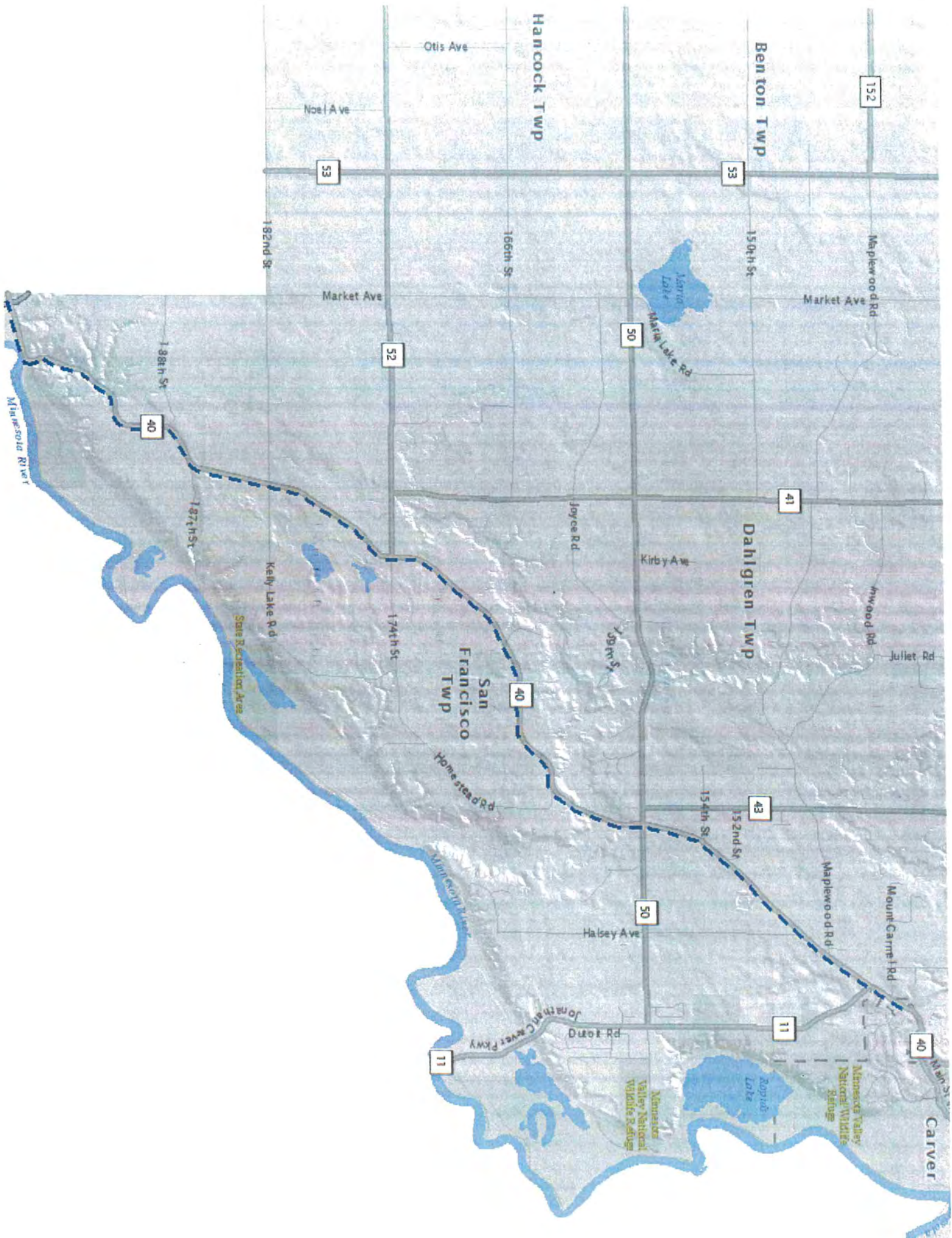
- The proposed trail expands access to the following regional system units:
 - TSC 10, Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail
 - TSC9, Lake Waconia -Carver
 - Connect to TSC32, Southern Scott
 - Minnesota River Valley and properties of USFW & DNR

- Strengthen Equitable usage of Regional Parks and trails by all our regions residents

Carver County's population is increasing in both number and diversity. The overall population has grown by nearly 30 percent since the 2000 Census. The percentage of people of color is estimated at 11.4 percent, an increase of 281 percent since 2000. County officials have observed growing regional park use by immigrant communities and people of color, who are introducing new cultural relationships to outdoor recreation and uses of public space. As a desirable and highly used amenity, the trail network is anticipated to meet the needs of current users while adapting to new modes of transportation and recreation.

Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:

- Funding Estimate: \$3,700,000
- Timeline: 20 +years
- Acquisition Estimate: 36 acres



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARVER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Date: February 4, 2020

Resolution #13-20

Motion by Commissioner Degler
Seconded by Commissioner Maluchnik

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A Resolution Adopting Ordinance 95-2020- The Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Repealing Ordinance 68-2010 – The Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and 68-2014 and 79-2015 Carver County Comprehensive Plan Amendments

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes section 473.864 requires each local governmental unit to review and, if necessary, amend its entire comprehensive plan and its fiscal devices and official controls at least once every ten years to ensure its comprehensive plan conforms to metropolitan system plans and ensure its fiscal devices and official controls do not conflict with the comprehensive plan or permit activities that conflict with metropolitan system plans; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to MN Statute Sec. 473.862, Carver County is the planning and zoning authority for all ten townships within the County; and

WHEREAS, Carver County has collaborated with the Benton, Camden, Dahlgren, Hollywood, Hancock, Laketown, San Francisco, Waconia, Watertown, and Young America Township Boards in the development of this Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners, Planning Commission, and County Staff have prepared a 2040 Comprehensive Plan, including goals and policies regarding Land Use, Transportation, Water Resources, and Parks and Open Space; and

WHEREAS, the plan was prepared with guiding input from the County Board of Commission, Planning Commission, and Parks Commission, as well as each township board, municipal representatives and citizens; and

WHEREAS, several public hearings and open houses have been held to consider the Carver County Comprehensive Plan, a 60-day adjacent community review has been held, and the Planning Commission approved this DRAFT plan on April 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council has reviewed the DRAFT Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan, found the plan to be conforming to the Metropolitan Land Planning Act requirements and recommended on January 22, 2020 that the County place the plan into effect; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Carver County Board of Commissioners hereby:

Adopts Ordinance 95-2020- The Carver County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and repeals Ordinance 68-2010 – The Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan, 68-2014 and 79-2015 Carver County Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

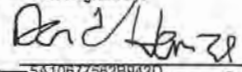
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YES	NO	ABSENT
Degler		
Ische		
Lynch		
Maluchnik		
Workman		

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I, David Hemze, duly appointed and qualified County Administrator of the County of Carver, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Carver County, Minnesota, at its session held on the 4th day of February, 2020, now on file in the Administration office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2020.

DocuSigned by:

SA106775828M420
David Hemze, County Administrator