

Business Item 2021-342

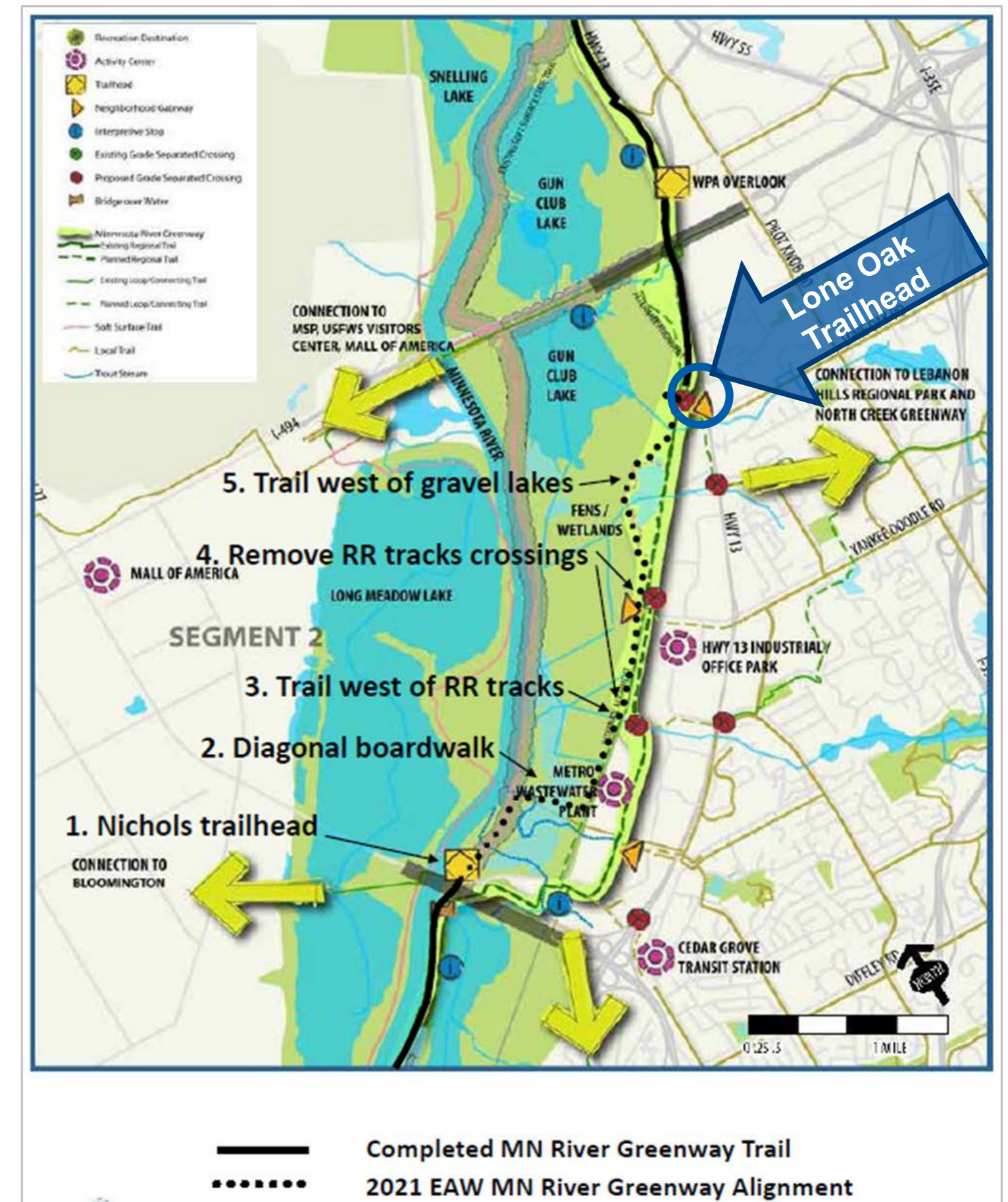
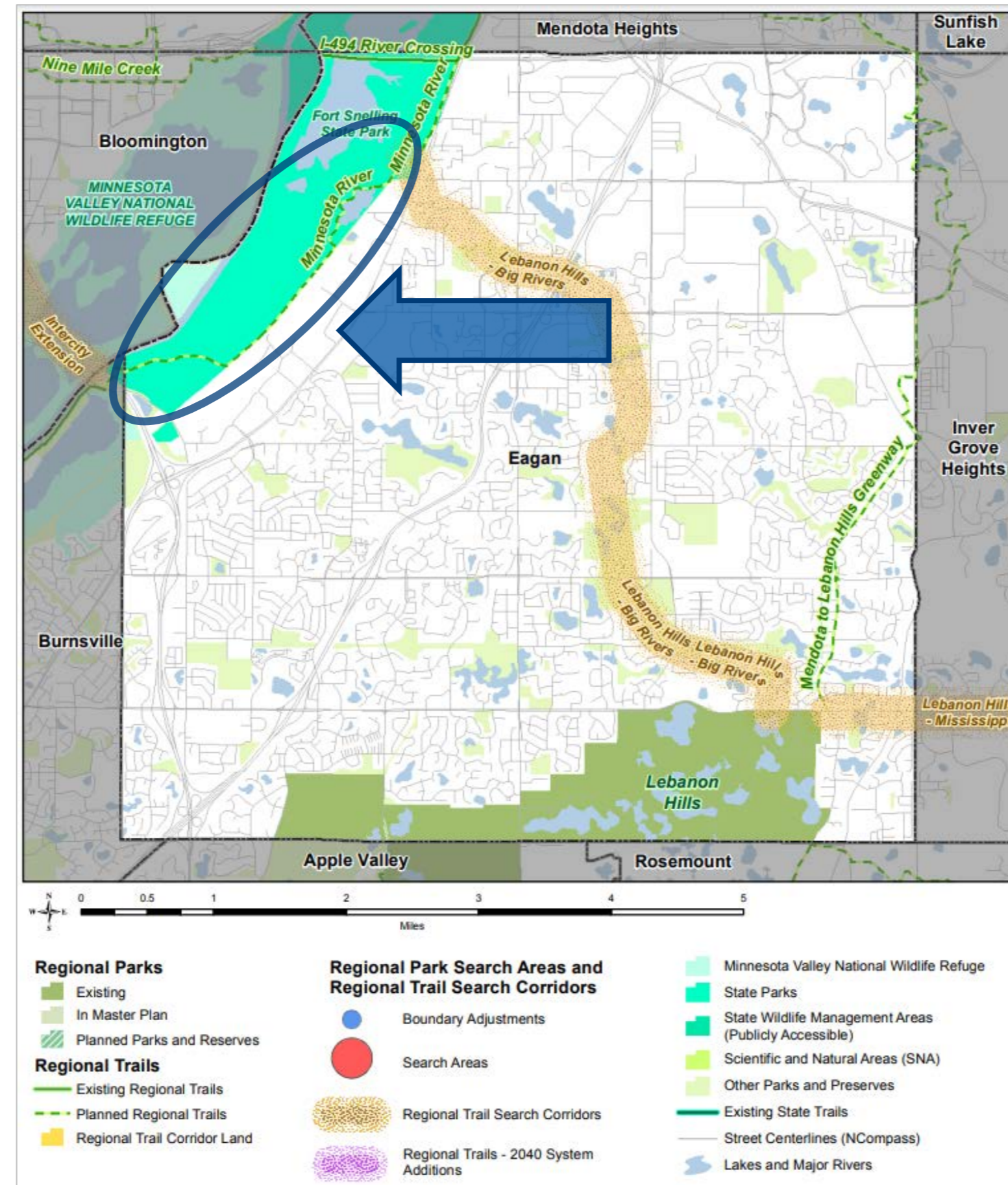
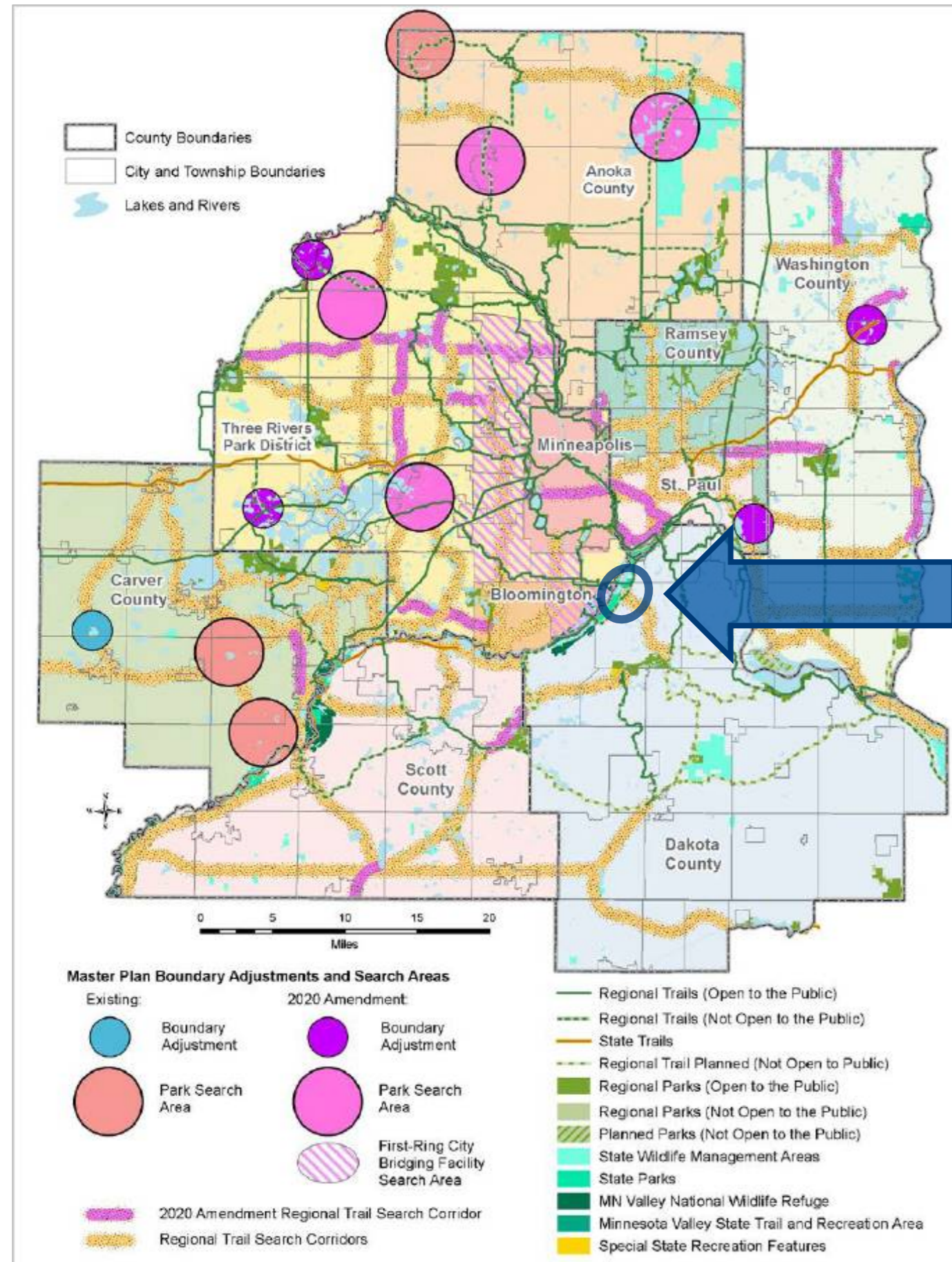
Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Plan Amendment Dakota County

December 2, 2021

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail, Fort Snelling State Park Segment (Dakota County)



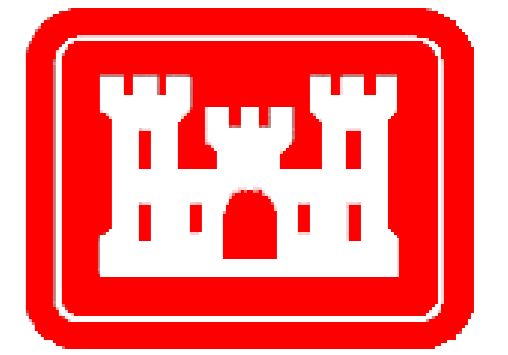
Partner Engagement

Overall

- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Gun Club Watershed Management Organization (WMO)
- Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
- Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District (WCD)
- City of Eagan

Project Approach

- 2012 Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan
- 2014 Minnesota River Greenway Eagan Feasibility Study
- 2017 Minnesota River Greenway Cultural Resources Interpretive Plan
- 2021 Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



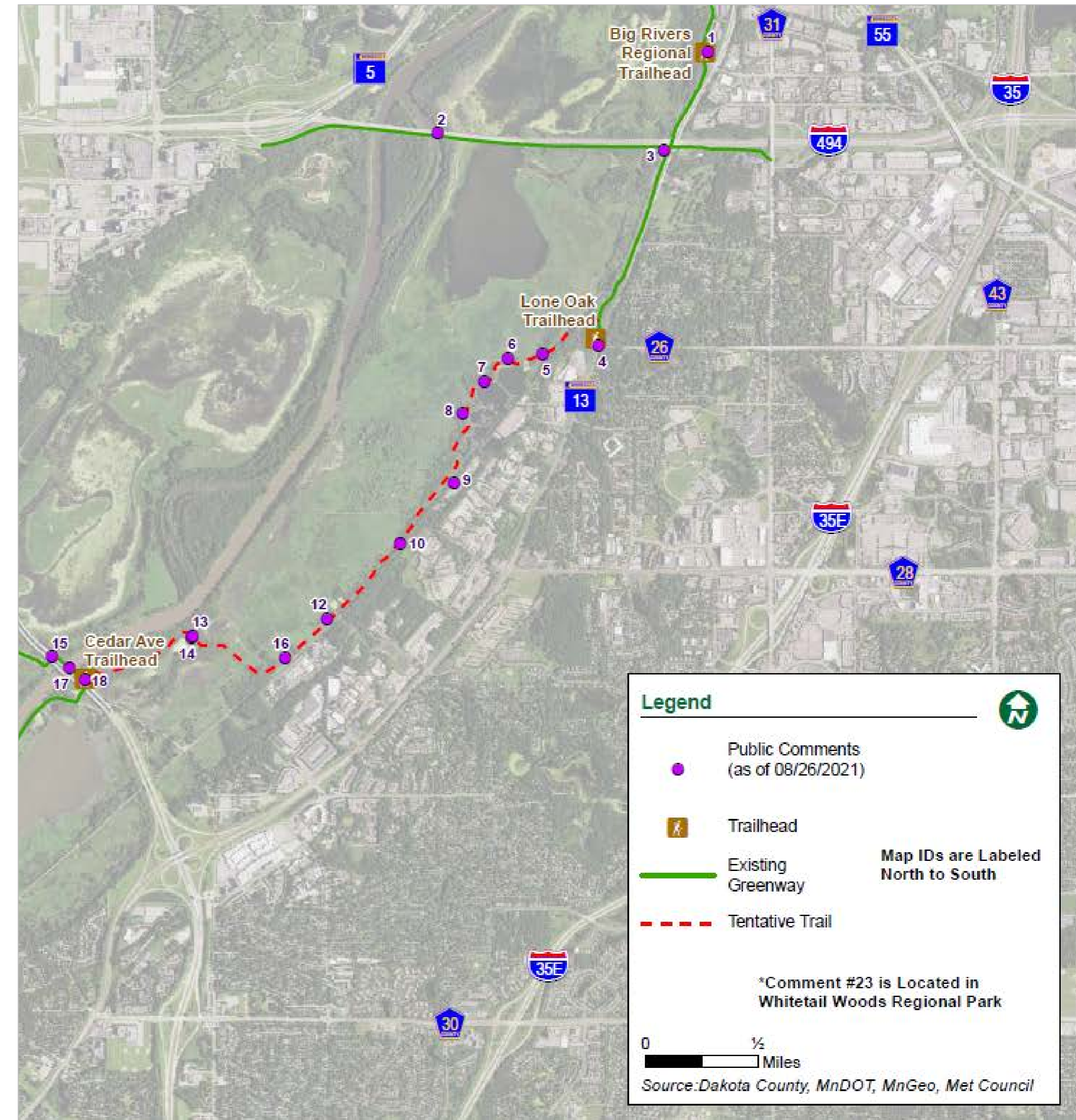
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
WATERSHED DISTRICT



Public Engagement

Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail, Fort Snelling State Park Segment

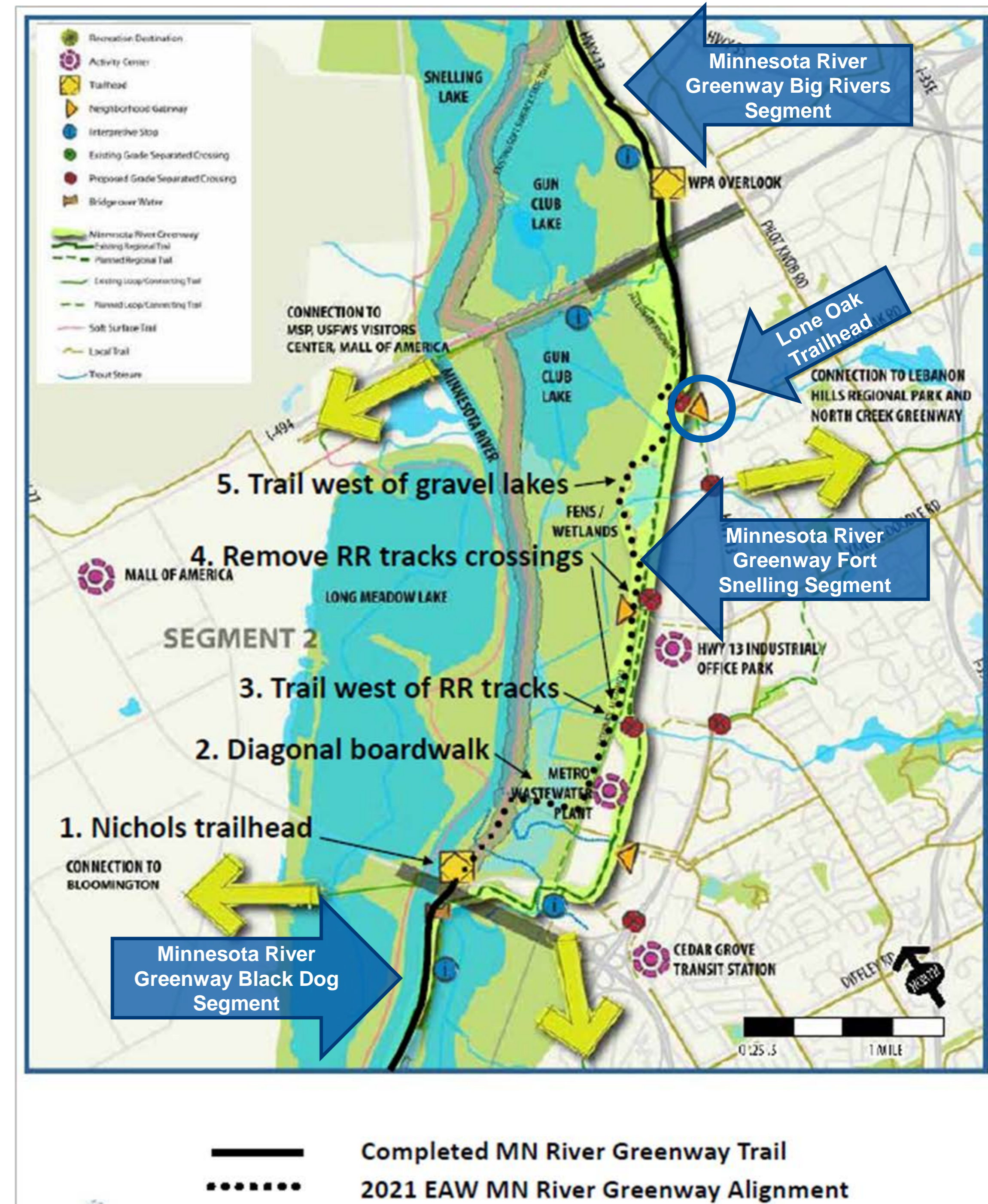
- Common Themes:
 - Support for a trailhead connection at Lone Oak Road
 - Enhancing safety crossings and access points
 - Providing pedestrian and bike access between Cedar Avenue (Nichols Trailhead) to Lone Oak Road
 - Connections to surrounding destinations such as the Minnesota River Valley and Fort Snelling State Park
 - Providing opportunities for wildlife observation and enjoyment
 - Minimizing environmental impacts



Development Concept

Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Fort Snelling State Park Trail Segment – 3.7 miles

1. Cedar Avenue, Nichols Trailhead
 - Completed improvements in 2019 and 2020
 - Connects to the Black Dog Segment, South
2. Lone Oak Rd
 - Trailhead completed in 2021
 - Connects to Big Rivers Segment, North
3. Trail alignment improvements:
 - Boardwalk
 - Trail on west side of railroad tracks, 60' at most narrow point from trail to existing track
 - Reduced railroad crossings from three to one
 - Trail on the west side of the gravel lakes



Operations

Agreements

1. Cooperative Agreement Amendment with the MN DNR for 3.2 miles of greenway trail and natural resources restoration within Fort Snelling State Park.
2. Easement with the Metropolitan Council for 476 linear feet (approximately 34,960 square feet) of greenway trail on their property.
3. Encroachment Agreement with the Metropolitan Council for three greenway trail crossings of sewer pipeline on their easement within Fort Snelling State Park.
4. Encroachment Agreement with Xcel Energy for greenway trail and river overlook features within and crossing their easement within Fort Snelling State Park (in process).
5. Encroachment Agreement with Magellan Midstream Partners for greenway trail within and crossing their pipeline easement within Fort Snelling State Park (in process).
6. Construction and Maintenance Agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad for greenway trail pedestrian bridge overpass crossing of their property near the intersection of Highway 13 and Lone Oak Road in Eagan (in process).



Estimated Project Costs

- The total estimated acquisition and development cost for the regional trail is \$6,000,000.
- The total annual operating and maintenance budget is \$4,030/mile.
- Annual cost for fog sealing is \$5,280
 - Year 7 & 14
- Approval of master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time.



Rationale for Proposed Action

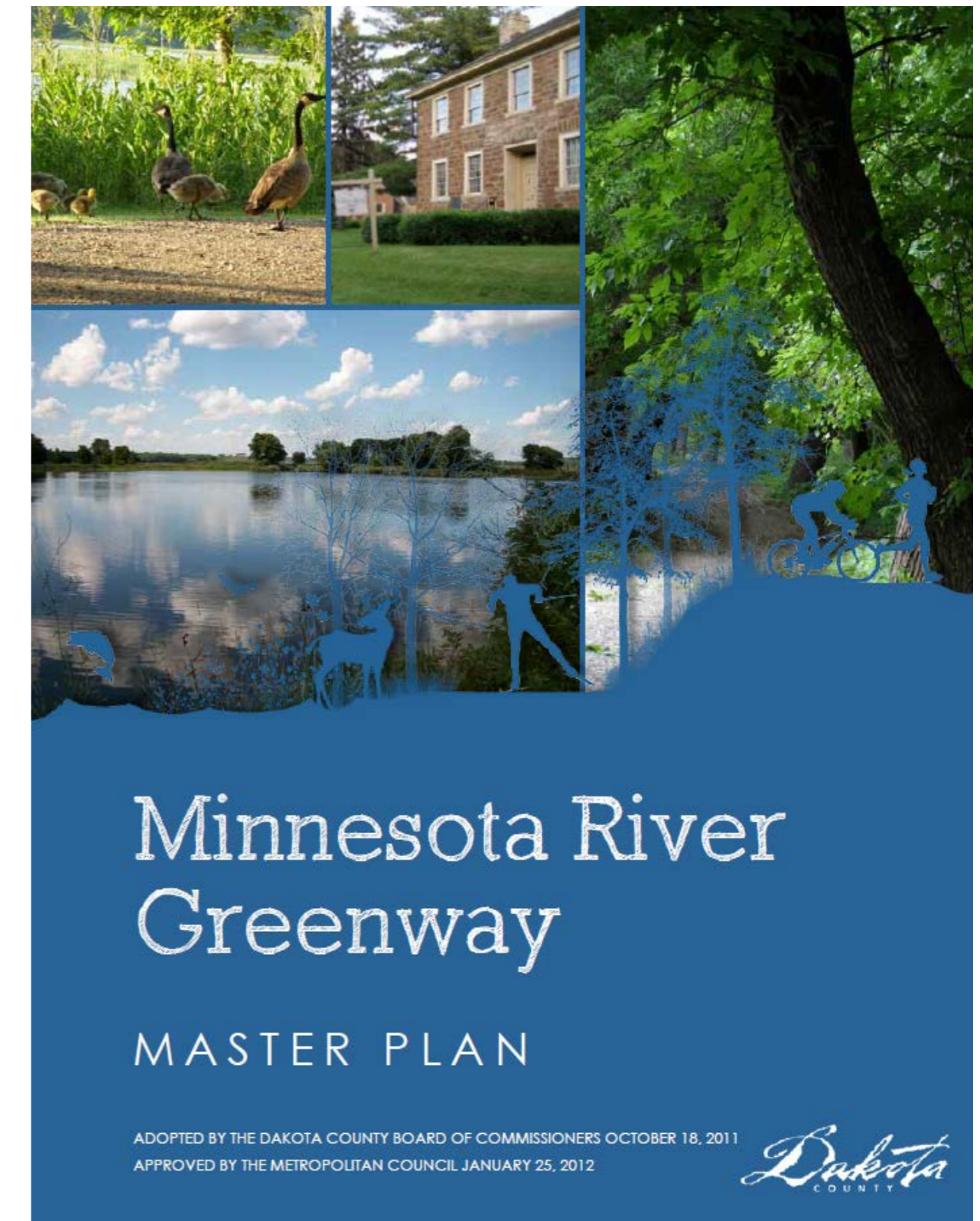
- The Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Dakota County's Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment for the Fort Snelling State Park segment.
2. Require Dakota County to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager prior to initiating any new development of the regional trail corridor.



Thank you

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