

Business Item 2021-1

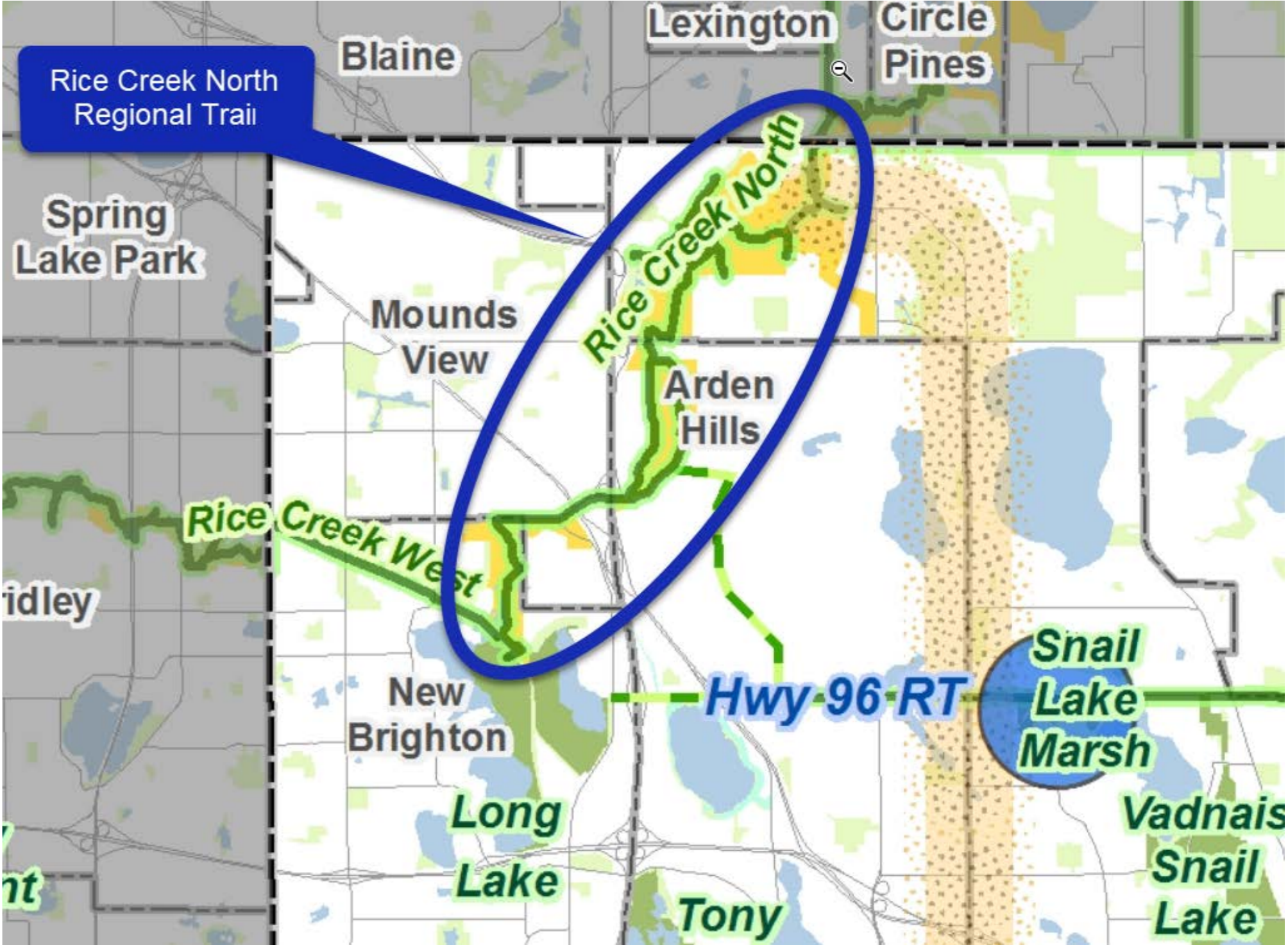
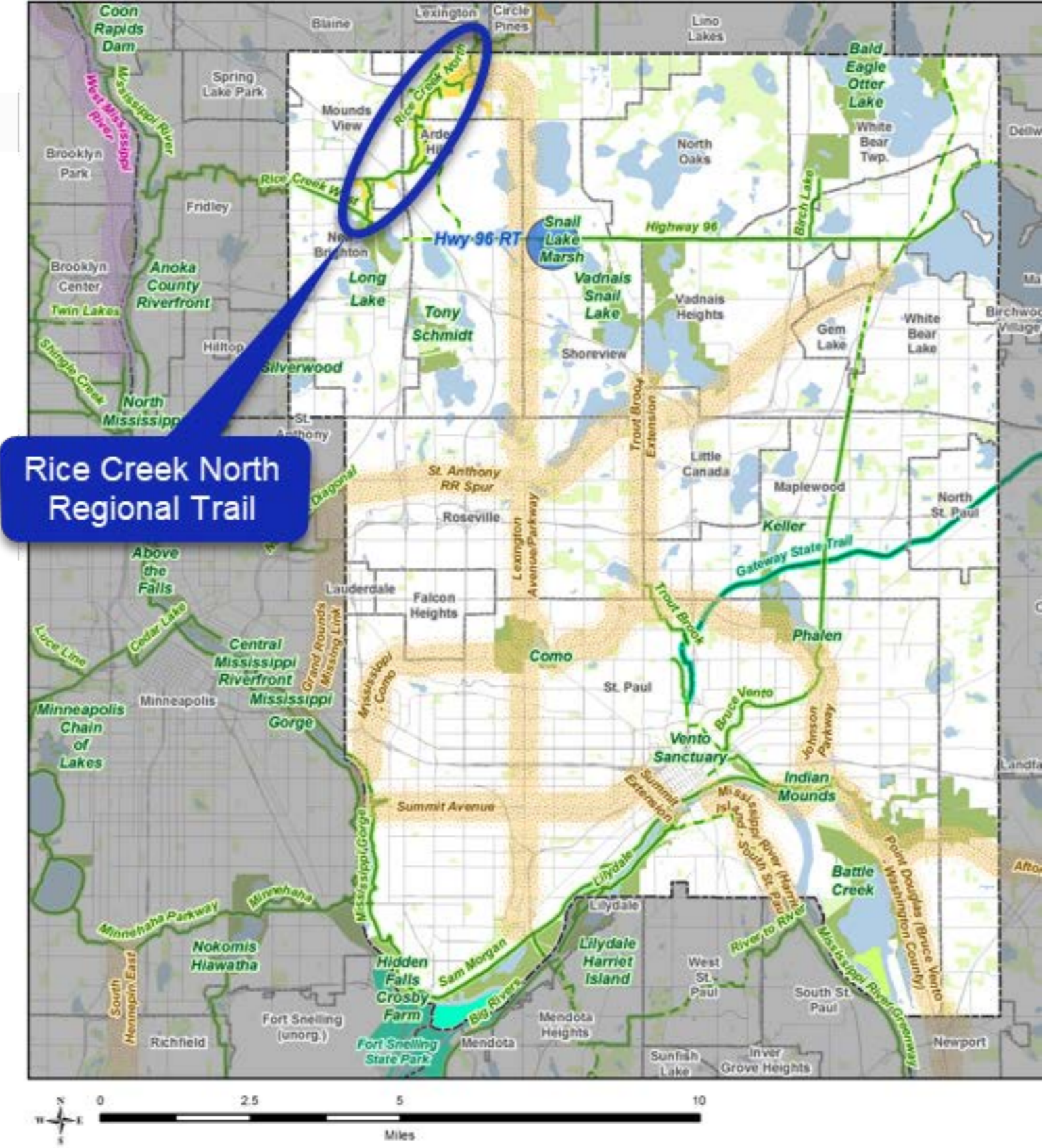
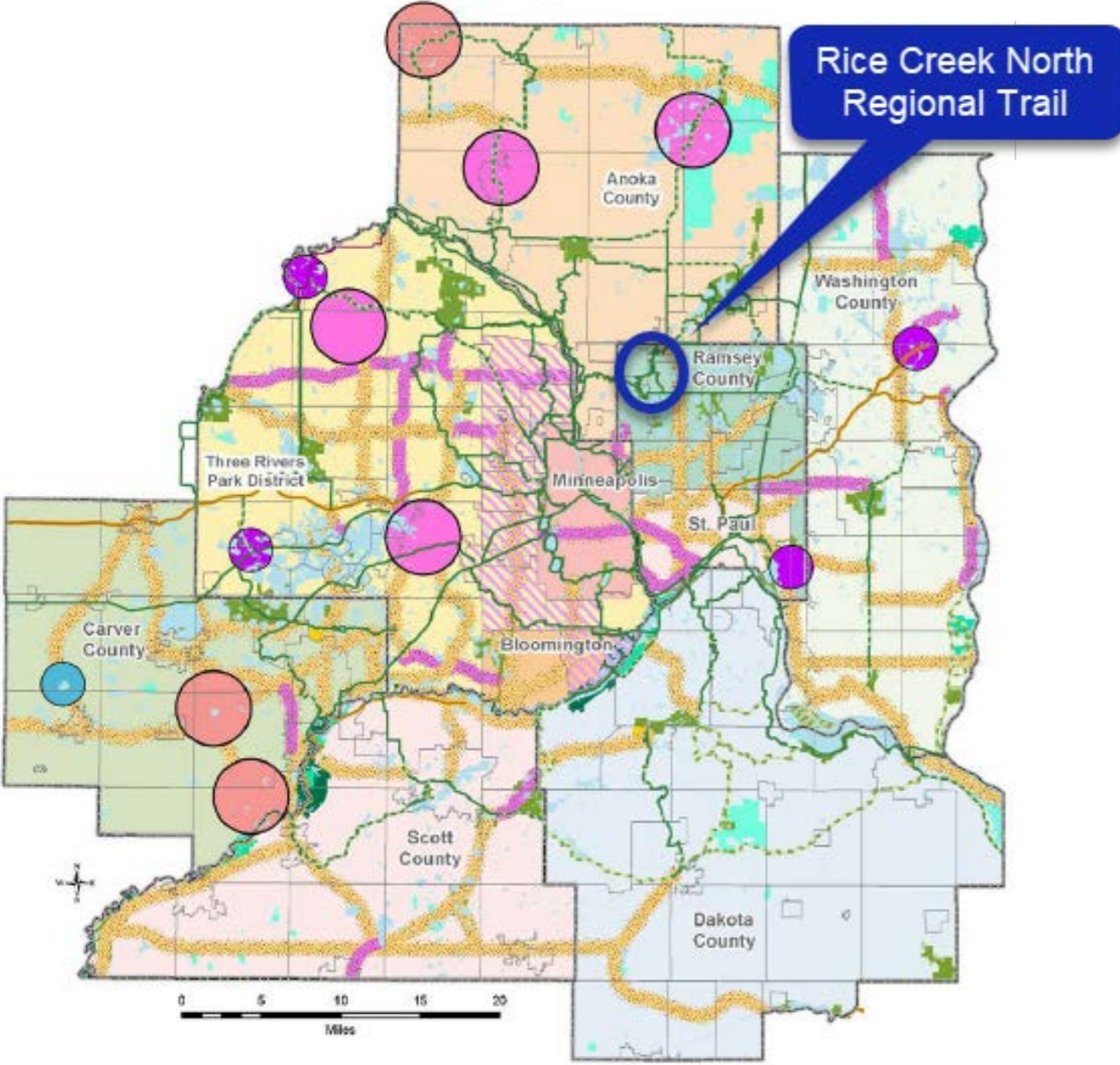
Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Ramsey County

January 7, 2021

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Rice Creek North Regional Trail



Boundaries and Acquisitions

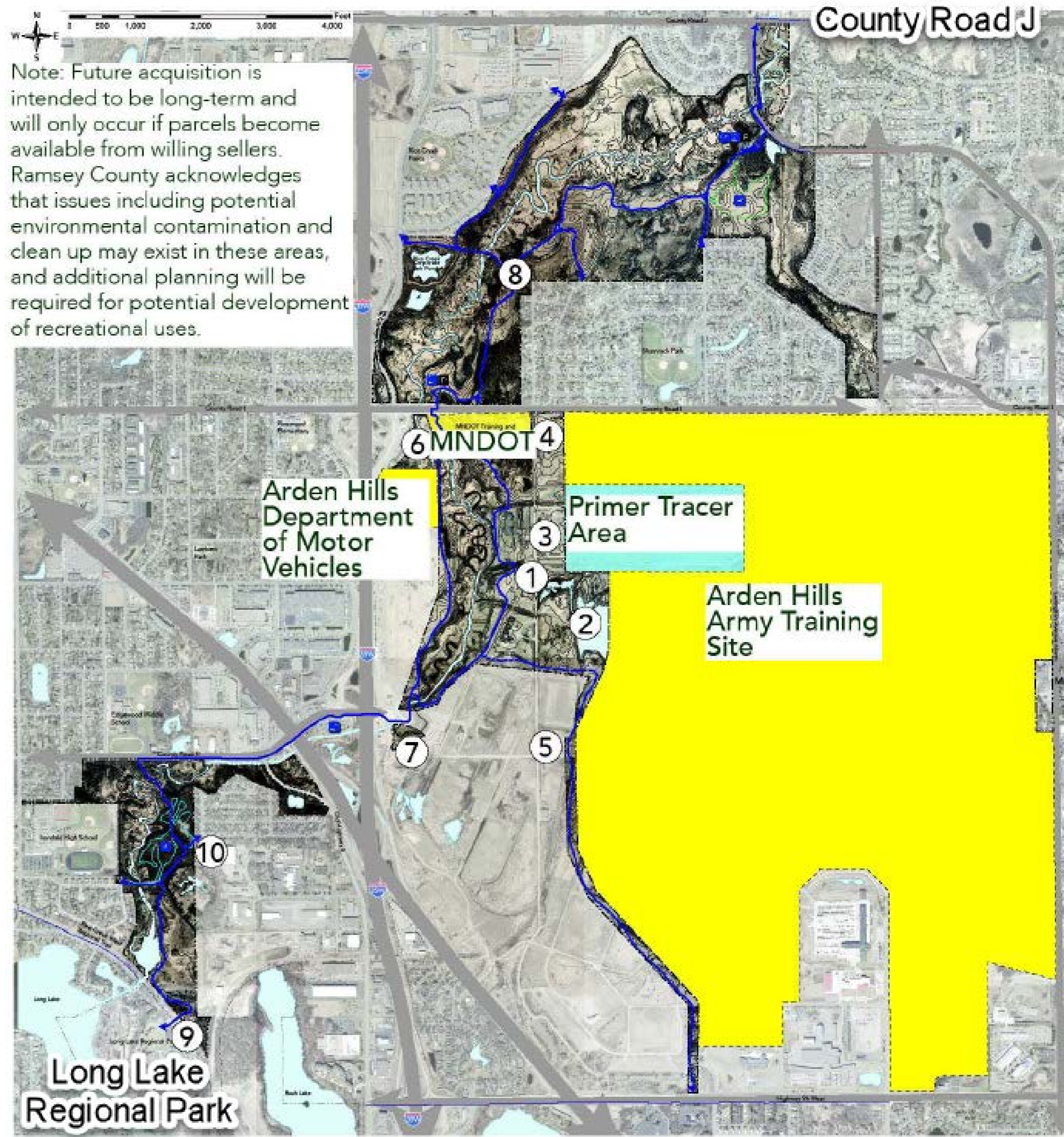
Boundaries

- 791.88 acres (existing)
- 4.75 miles (existing) of a 14-mile regional trail corridor

Proposed acquisitions for next system additions process (not this request)

2,407.24 acres of publicly owned properties

- Minnesota Department of Transportation Arden Hills Training Center and Truck Station
- Arden Hills Department of Motor Vehicles
- Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS)
- Arden Hills Primer Tracer Site



Development Concept

Proposed and Improved Trailheads: Building 189 multi-season trailhead

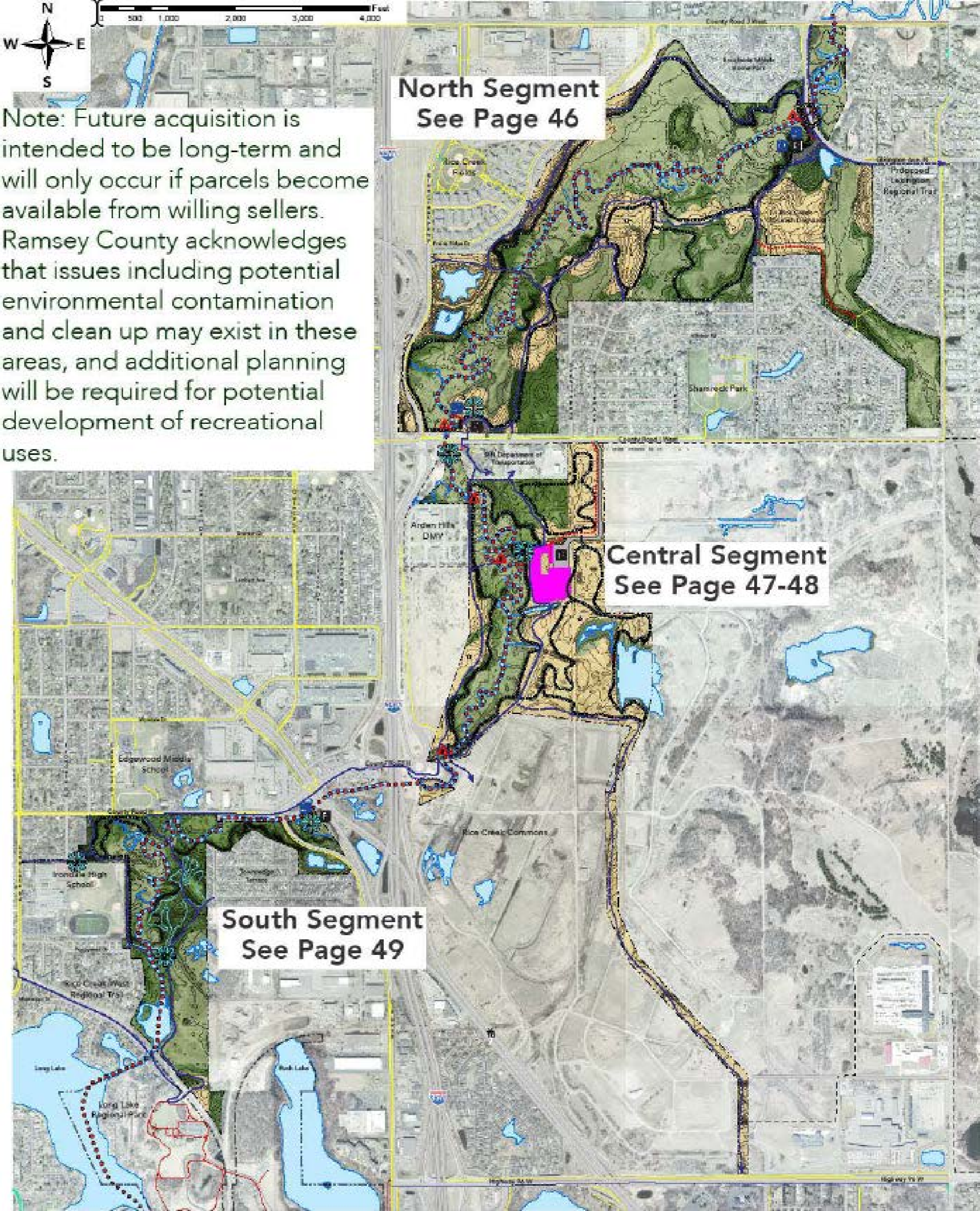
Proposed Trails

- 4.47 miles of bituminous trails
- 12.75 miles of off-road cycling/hiking trails
- 10.66 miles of cross-country ski trails

Water Trail: Improved canoeing and kayaking

Other Improvements: Interpretation, programming, restoration, Off-leash dog area

Unifying Features: Lighting, wayfinding, and trail amenities



North Segment

In-Corridor Trail Loop

- 1.3 miles of bituminous multi-use trails
- 5.5 miles of off-road cycling
- 5 miles of cross-country ski

Safe Road Crossings

- Two bridge structures
- Enhanced crossings



Central Segment

Multi-Season Trailhead

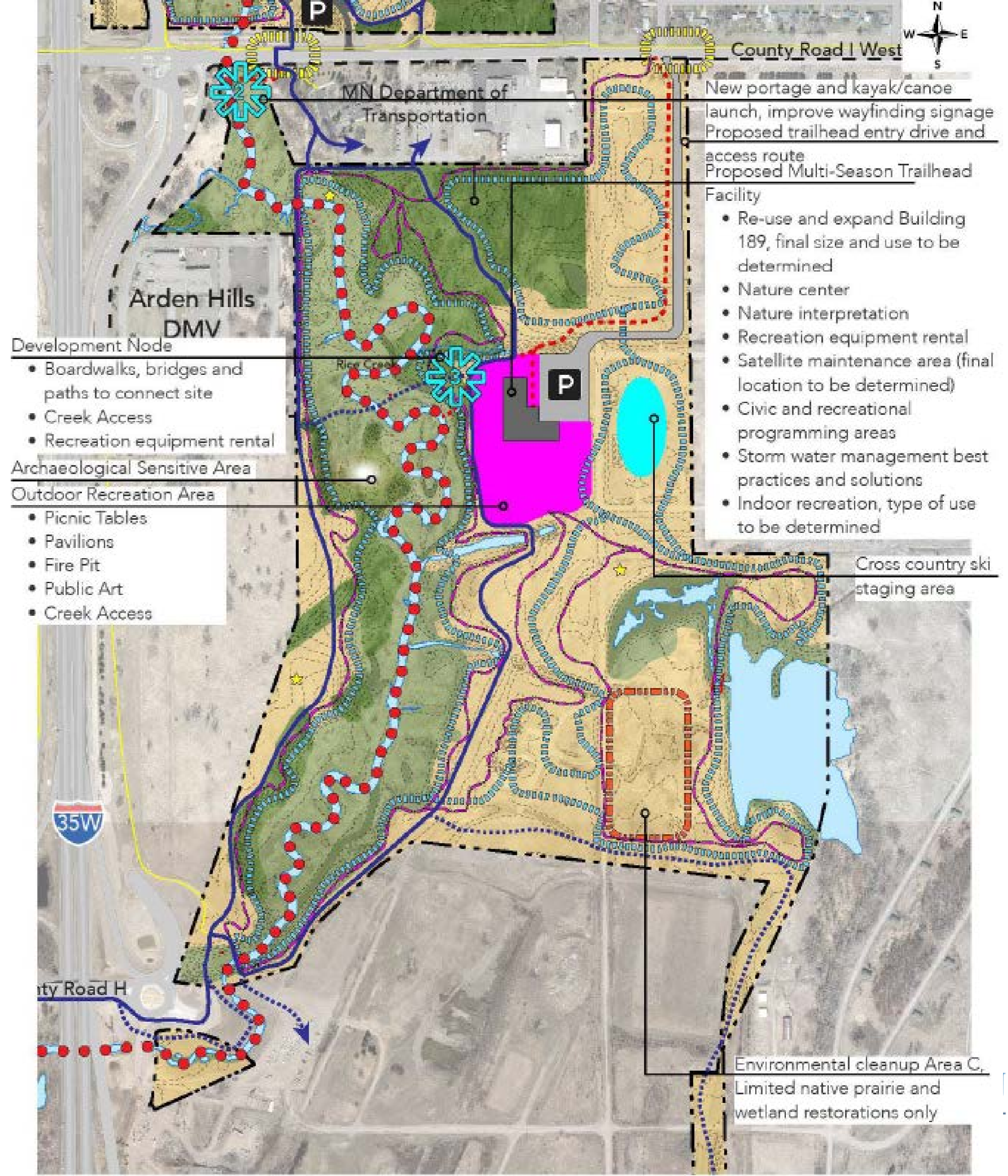
- Reuse of Building 189
- Outdoor recreation area

In-Corridor Trail Loops

- 2.55 miles of bituminous trails
- 4.3 miles of off-road cycling
- 5-miles of cross-country ski
- 4 bridges
- Enhanced road crossings

Water Trail Access

- Portage and kayak/canoe launch site south of County Road I



South Segment

Trailhead: New trailhead near the Poppyseed Drive entrance

Trails

- 0.65 miles of bituminous trails
- 2.9 miles of off-road cycling trails
- 0.82 miles of cross-country ski
- Access point at Irondale High School



Public Participation Activities



Engagement Activities:

- Five public engagement meetings
- One online survey
- 3,740 mailings
- Social media
- 30-day public comment period

Advice themes:

- Safety – Lighting and safe crossings
- Development – Building 189 multi-season trail head, additional in-corridor trails, and improved trailheads
- Programming – Programming in and around Building 189

Equity Analysis

Project Data: 74,252 Residents live within 1-mile of the trail:

- Median income of \$81,094
- Poverty rate of 7.1%
- 18.61% residents other than white
- More residents ages 45 and up

Public Participation: The public was involved to influence the master plan.

- Advice related to adding skiing and off-road cycling trails, the historical significance of Building 189, safety and programming

Transparency Public advice resulted in:

- More ski and off-road cycling trails
- Reuse of the Building 189
- Safe crossings and trail loops
- New future programming concepts

Accountability: Actions include future awareness building considerations including translation



Estimated Project Costs

Implementation Components (not including the expansion)	Estimated Costs
Development	\$38,300,000
Annual Maintenance	\$466,500
Natural Resource Management (3-years)	\$232,300

Rationale for Proposed Action

- The proposed boundary adjustment will be not be considered as part of this request since it exceeds the minor boundary adjustment criteria in Chapter 5, Strategy 1 of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
- Otherwise, the Rice Creek North Regional Park Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, including Planning Policy Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the Ramsey County Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan without the proposed boundary adjustment and proposed acquisitions.
- Advise Ramsey County that the proposed boundary adjustment and associated 2,407.24-acre acquisition should be submitted to the Metropolitan Council as a system additions request in the next Regional Parks Policy Plan update, currently estimated for 2024.
- Require that Ramsey County, prior to initiating any new development of the regional trail corridor, send preliminary plans to the Environmental Services Assistant Manager at the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Division.
- Advise the County to implement the advisory comments regarding Transportation as described in this report.

Thank you

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