

Business Item 2021-264

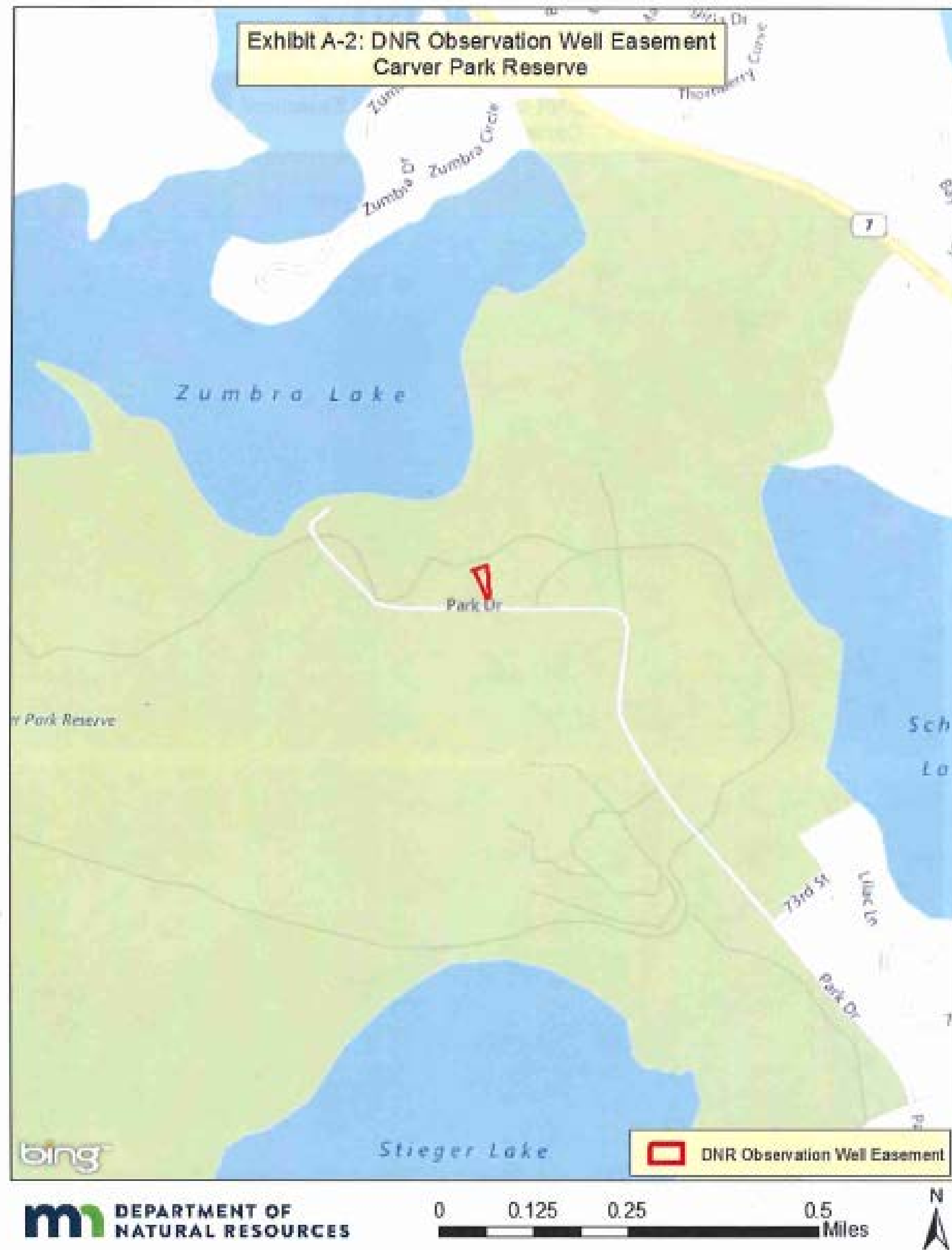
Request for Consent to Easement, Carver Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District

October 7, 2021

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



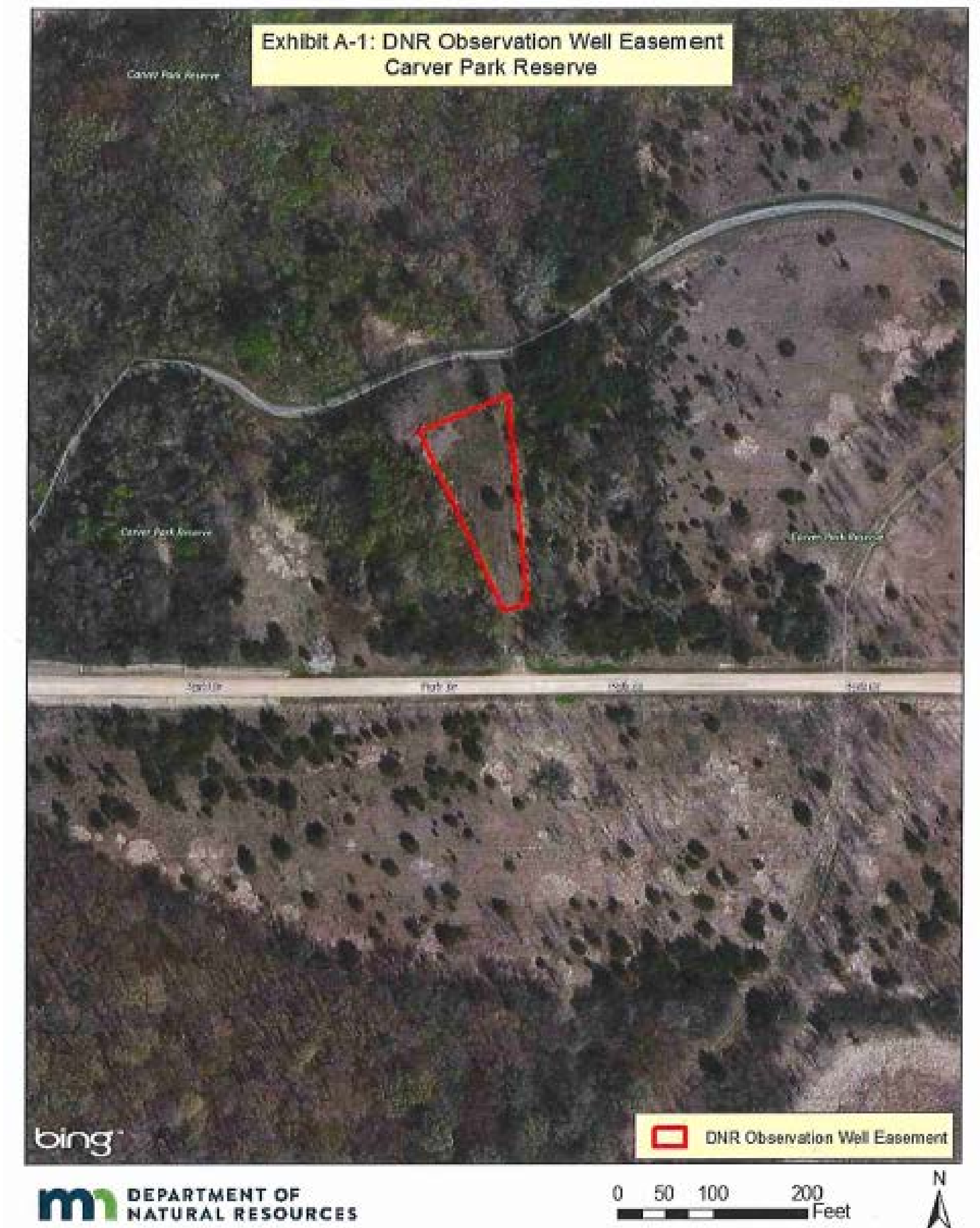
TRPD Request for Consent to Easement



- Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) has an established partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for groundwater monitoring
- Groundwater monitoring wells are already located at Elm Creek, Crow-Hassan, and Hyland Park Reserves
- The DNR wishes to add a groundwater monitoring well at Carver Park Reserve to enhance the monitoring network

Groundwater Monitoring Easement Agreement

- The DNR and TRPD have an easement agreement for a “nest” of up to 7 wells to be located at Carver Park Reserve for a term of 20 years, with a possible extension of 10 years
- The 0.3-acre location was chosen for easy access and minimal natural resources disturbances
- The acquisition of Carver Park Reserve was partially funded with Council bonds, so there is an ARC (Agreement and Restrictive Covenant) on the parcel that protects the land from any change of use without Council consent
- A consent to easement is required from the Council for the DNR and TRPD to enter into a groundwater monitoring easement agreement



DNR Groundwater Monitoring

- The DNR has developed a groundwater strategic plan with several goals:
 - Improve information about groundwater resources
 - Reinforce partnerships to provide better support for sustainable groundwater use
 - Improve compliance with existing groundwater regulations
 - Assure that permits for large water appropriations provide a sustainable source of groundwater for future generations
 - Concentrate action in areas of high use and/or limited supply
- The DNR's groundwater monitoring program consists of regular aquifer checks through a system of groundwater monitoring wells and data collected through reports from permit holders
- Council consent to easement would allow TRPD and the DNR to meet their groundwater monitoring strategic goals as well as monitor water quantity and quality for the region

Rationale

- The proposed consent to easement is consistent with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Chapter 6, System Protection Strategy 6, Utilities*
- Strategy 6 states that it may be necessary to grant easements on parkland to distribute utilities and services such as drinking water
- The wells are supportive of the use of groundwater for the betterment of the Regional Park System
- TRPD and Council staff concur that the location of the wells will not adversely affect or impact park user's recreational activities or negatively impact the surrounding natural resources

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council

1. Consent to Three Rivers Park District granting an easement, as described in the Attachment, to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for groundwater monitoring at Carver Park Reserve.
2. Require Three Rivers Park District to record a Consent to Easement document executed by the Metropolitan Council's Regional Administrator.

