



**METROPOLITAN**  
C O U N C I L

# **Lake Independence, Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota River Bluffs, Cedar Lake, and North Cedar Lake Regional Trail Plans**

Business Item 2022-189

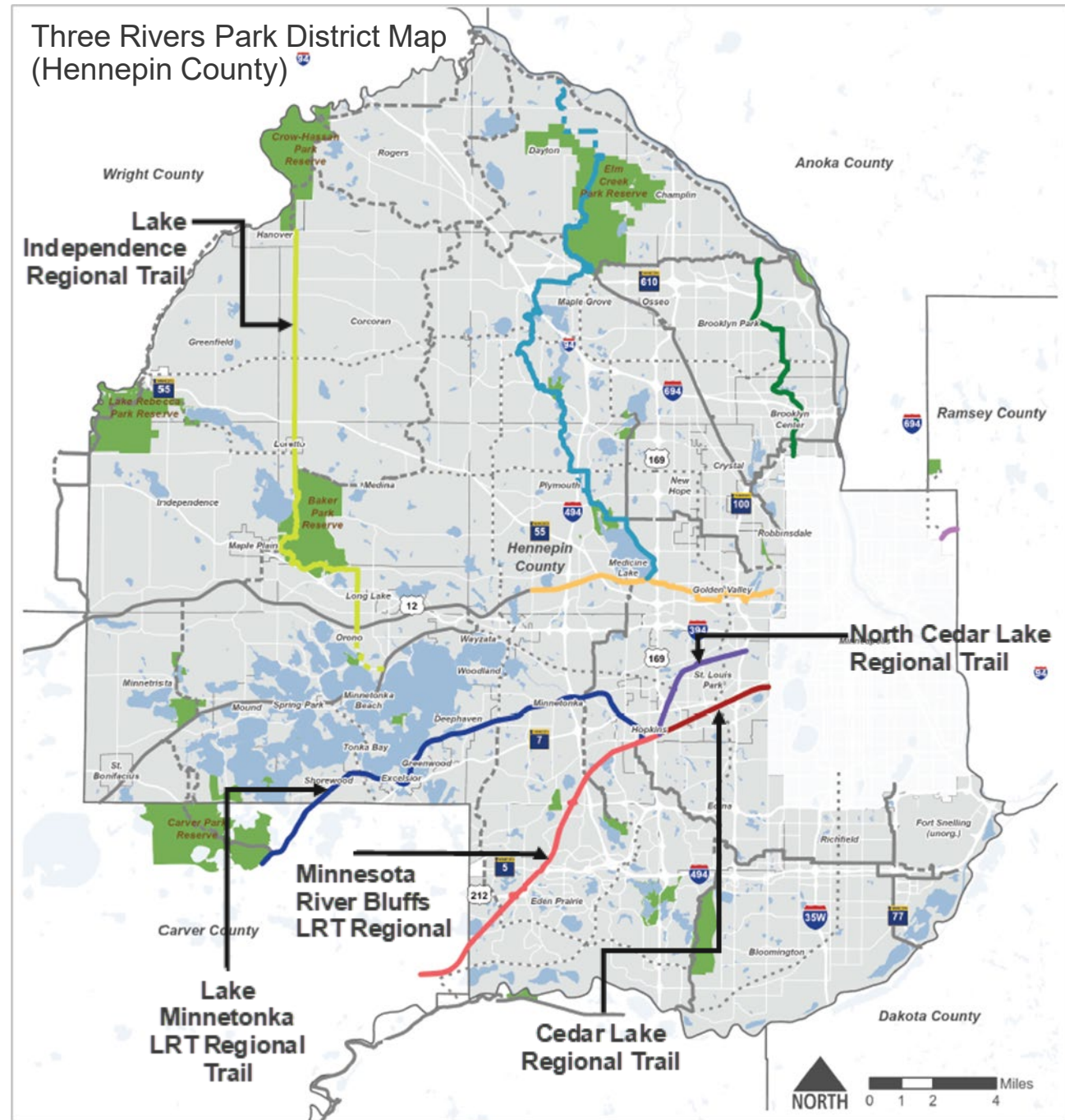
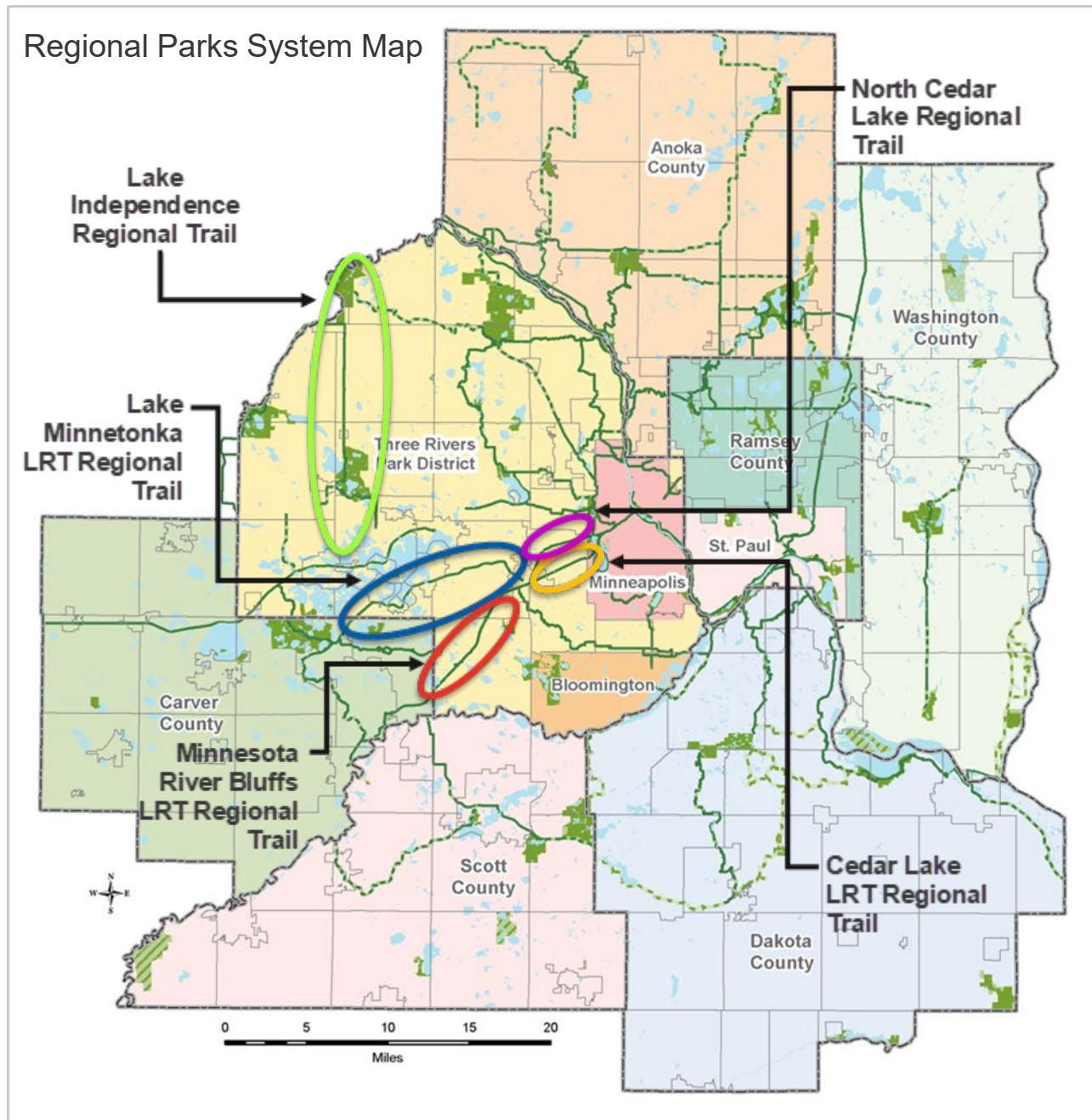
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

**Chee Yang | Kevin Phan**

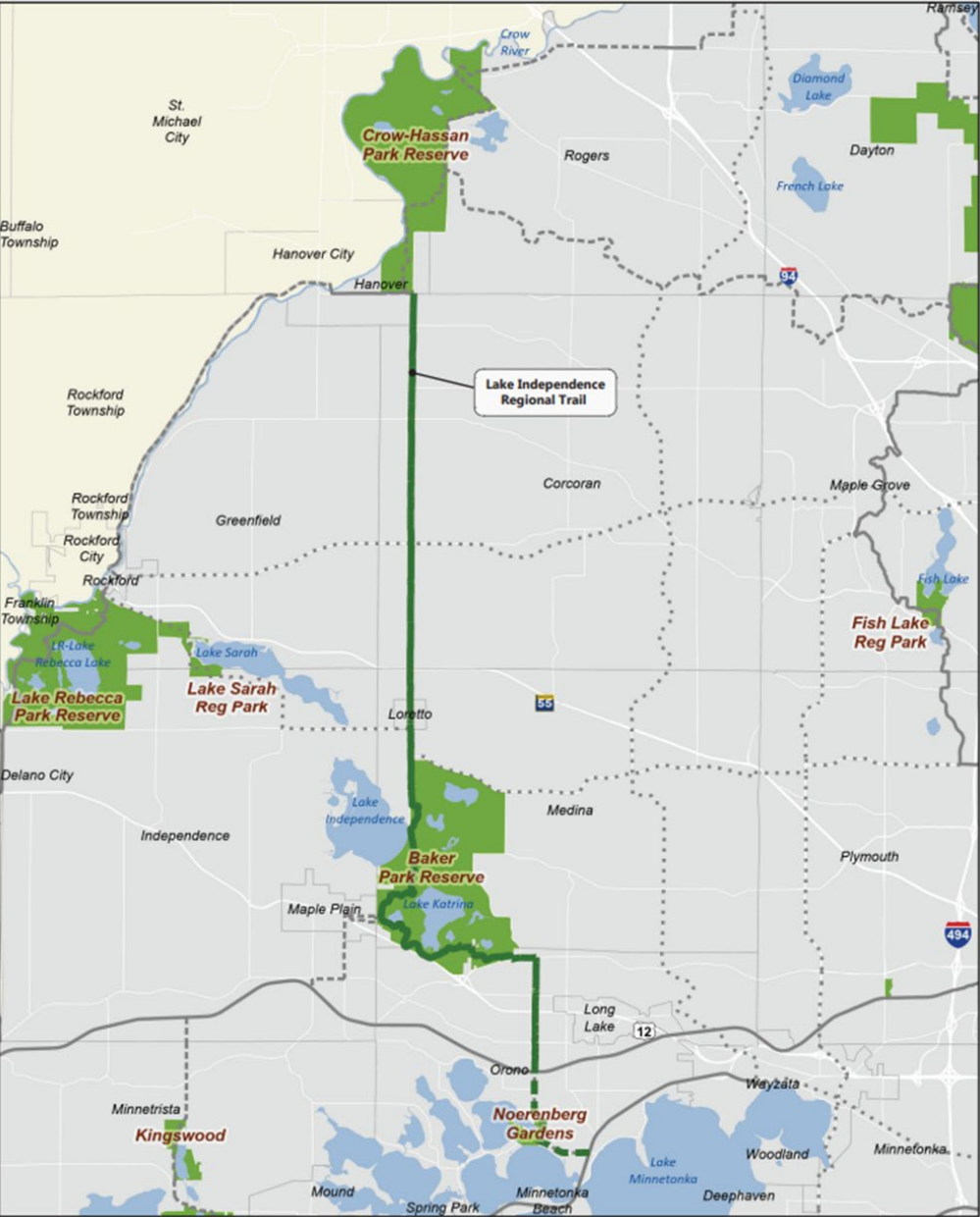
July 7, 2022



# Lake Independence, Lake Minnetonka LRT, Minnesota River Bluffs LRT, Cedar Lake LRT, and North Cedar Lake Regional Trail Plans



# Lake Independence & Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trails



Lake Independence Regional Trail



Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail

# Minnesota River Bluffs LRT & Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trails



Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail



Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail

# North Cedar Lake Regional Trail



North Cedar Lake Regional Trail

# Partner Engagement



## Engagement Efforts

Engagement phases:

- a. Phase 1 – Engage local city and agency partners
- b. Phase 2 – Engage members of the public, underrepresented community members and existing regional trail users
- c. Phase 3 – Reengaged partners
- d. Phase 4 – Obtain feedback from community members and partners
  - i. Informed of decisions
  - ii. How their feedback was considered during the process

### Cities & Agency Partners

- a. Cities of Chanhassen, Corcoran, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Excelsior, Greenwood, Hopkins, Loretto, Medina, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Orono, Saint Louis Park, Shorewood, Tonka Bay, and Victoria.
- b. Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Carver County, and Hennepin County

# Public Engagement

## Goals

- Engage all interested and affected parties.
- Make engagement easy.
- Focus engagement on improving the safety, comfort, and use of the regional trail for all users, especially new users and groups who are currently underrepresented.
- Develop/expand relationships.
- Mitigate existing racial, ethnic, cultural, or linguistic barriers and include people of diverse ages, races, ethnicities, incomes, national origins, and abilities.

## Overall Findings

- Trail realignments & local connections
- Reconstruction and paving
- Intersection improvements
- Drainage
- Sustainability
- Enhanced wayfinding & map accessibility
- Trail amenities (*benches, water fountains, etc.*)
- Winter maintenance

# Equity Analysis



## Overall Findings

Phase 2 of the engagement process focused on engaging members of the public, **underrepresented community members**, and existing regional trail users.

- Those who are not using the regional trails
- Historically left out of park and trail planning processes

Engagement efforts focused primarily on building awareness, understanding barriers, and identifying infrastructure improvements that help create a more inviting and comfortable user experience.

The Park District will remain open to additional recommendations to better integrate the regional trails directly into the communities they are intended to serve, which includes but is not limited to:

- Improving safety and providing more direct routes, where possible
- Better connections with nature, parks, and other destinations
- Developing more operational/programming solutions to increase awareness, comfort and ability, and remove barriers such as lack of equipment

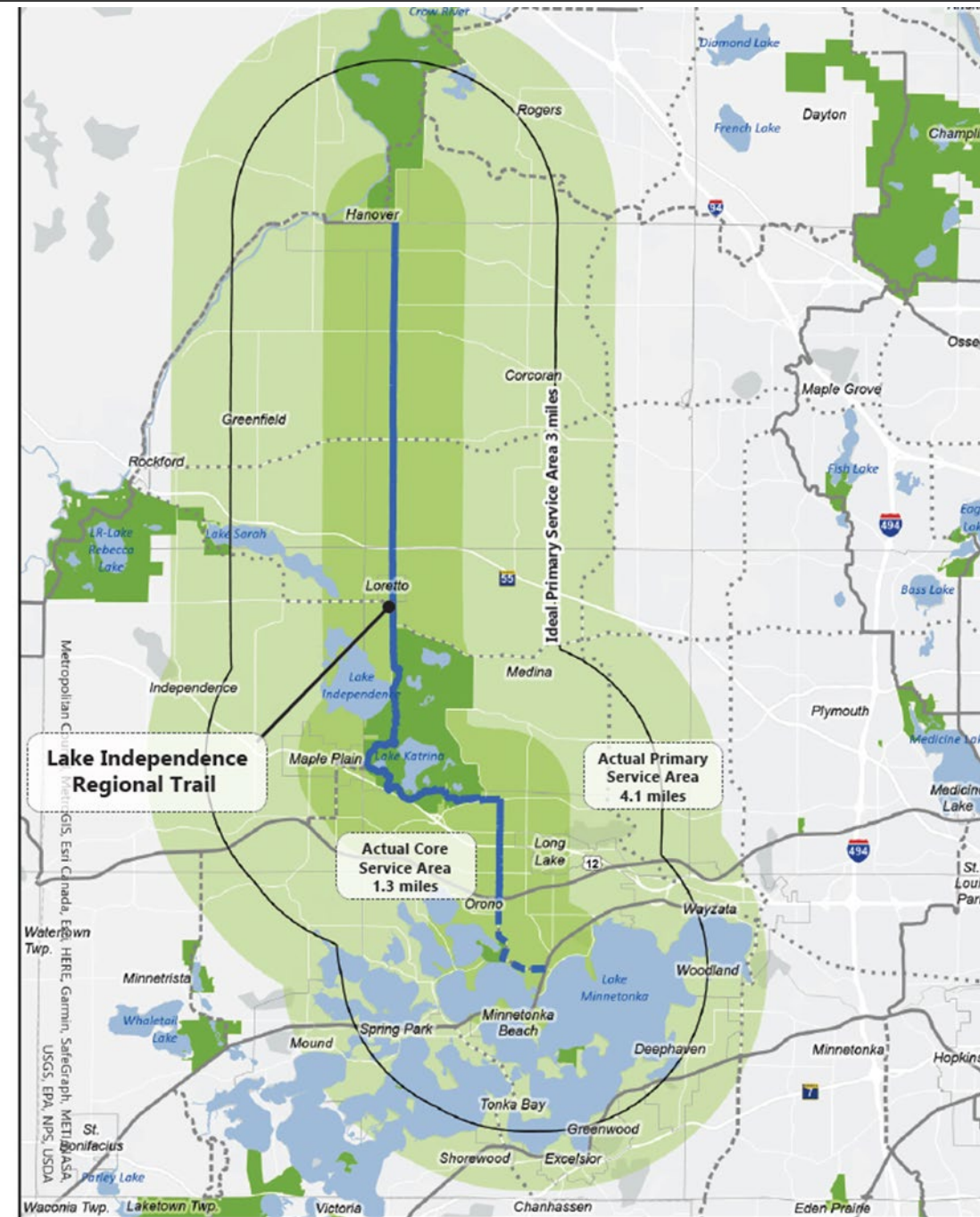
The Park District will continue to be inclusive and responsive to changing needs and priorities.



# Development Concept: Lake Independence Regional Trail

## Lake Independence Regional Trail – 17.3 miles

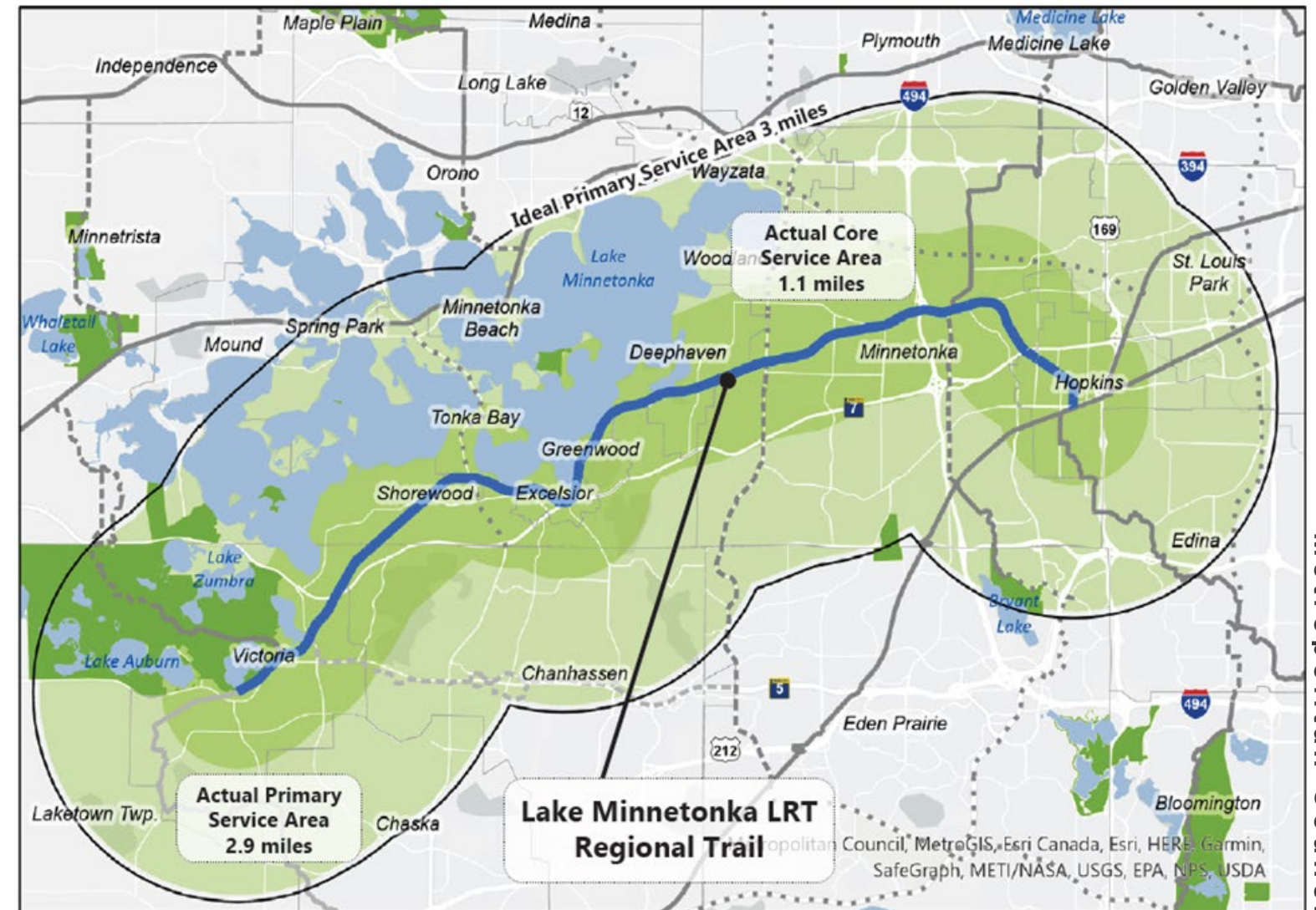
- Current estimated 95,000 annual visits
  - By 2040, an estimated 114,000 annual visits
- Underrepresented groups include:
  - People from households with annual income less than \$50,000
- Trail Improvements:
  - Widening and realignment of trail
  - Parking lot improvement
  - Reconstruction of bridge deck
  - Installation of Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB)
  - Relocation of site features (signs, retaining wall, fence)
  - Improving ADA crossings
  - Improving clear zone
  - Wayfinding and other signage
  - Construction of new trail & boardwalk



# Development Concept: Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail

## Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail – 16.1 miles

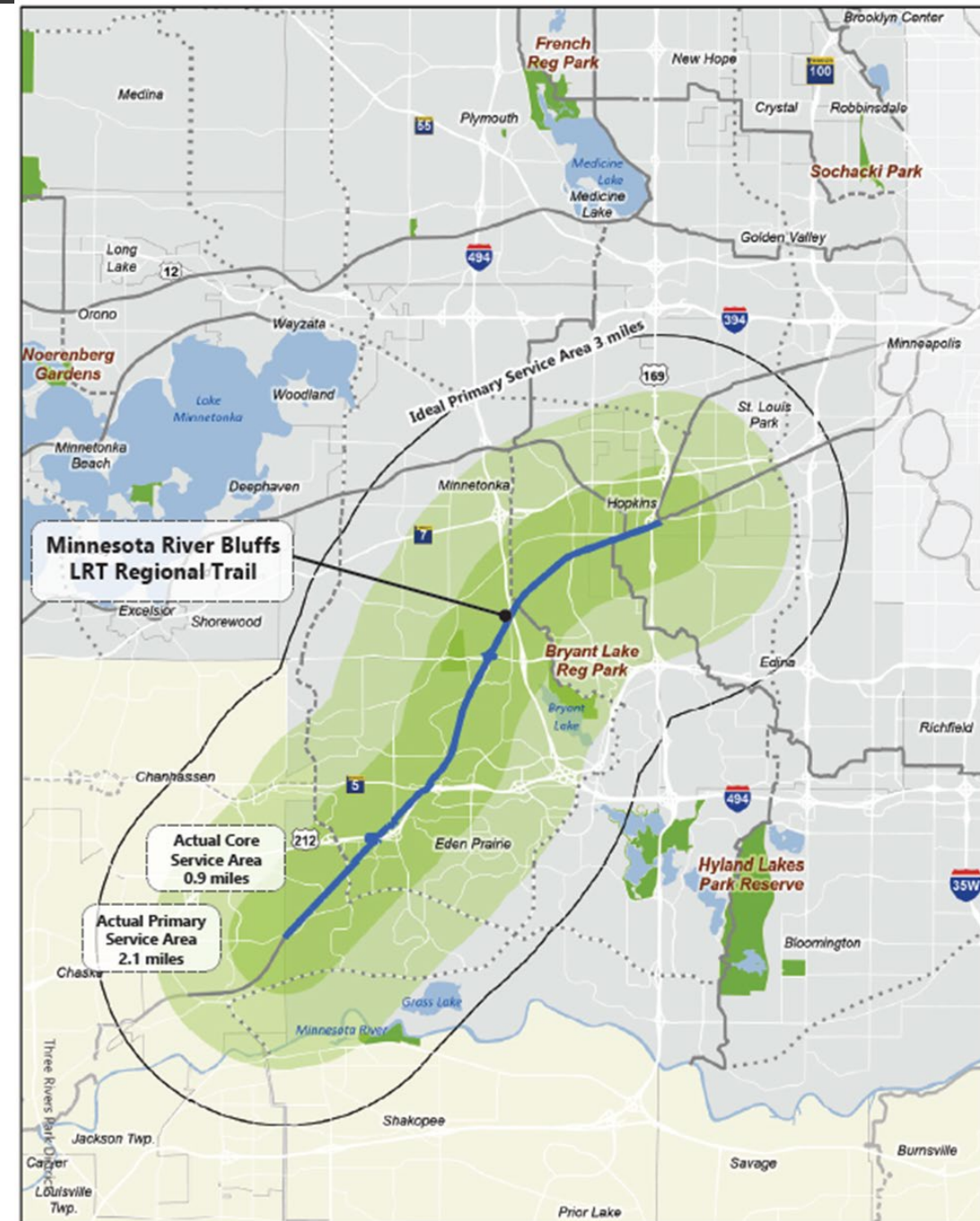
- Current estimated 640,000 annual visits
  - By 2040, an estimated 783,000 annual visits
- Underrepresented groups include:
  - People under 35 years old or over 75 years old
  - Black adults
  - People from households with an annual income of \$75,000 or less
- Trail Improvements:
  - Upgrading trails from aggregate to pavement
  - New a trailhead and small parking lot
  - Install grade-separated crossings
  - Improve trail sight lines, ADA crossings, and trail crossing realignment
  - Wayfinding and other signage
  - Erosion, drainage repair
  - Install site amenities (bike repair station, bench etc.)



# Development Concept: Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail

## Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail – 10.1 miles

- Current estimated 300,000 annual visits
  - By 2040, an estimated 374,000 annual visits
- Underrepresented groups include:
  - People under 18, between 25-34 years old, or over 75 years old
  - Black adults
  - Hispanic adults
  - People from households with an annual income of \$75,000 or less
- Trail Improvements:
  - Development of a small parking lot
  - Improve ADA crossings
  - Install site amenities (bike repair station, bench, fence)
  - Wayfinding



# Development Concept: Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail

## Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail – 3.9 miles

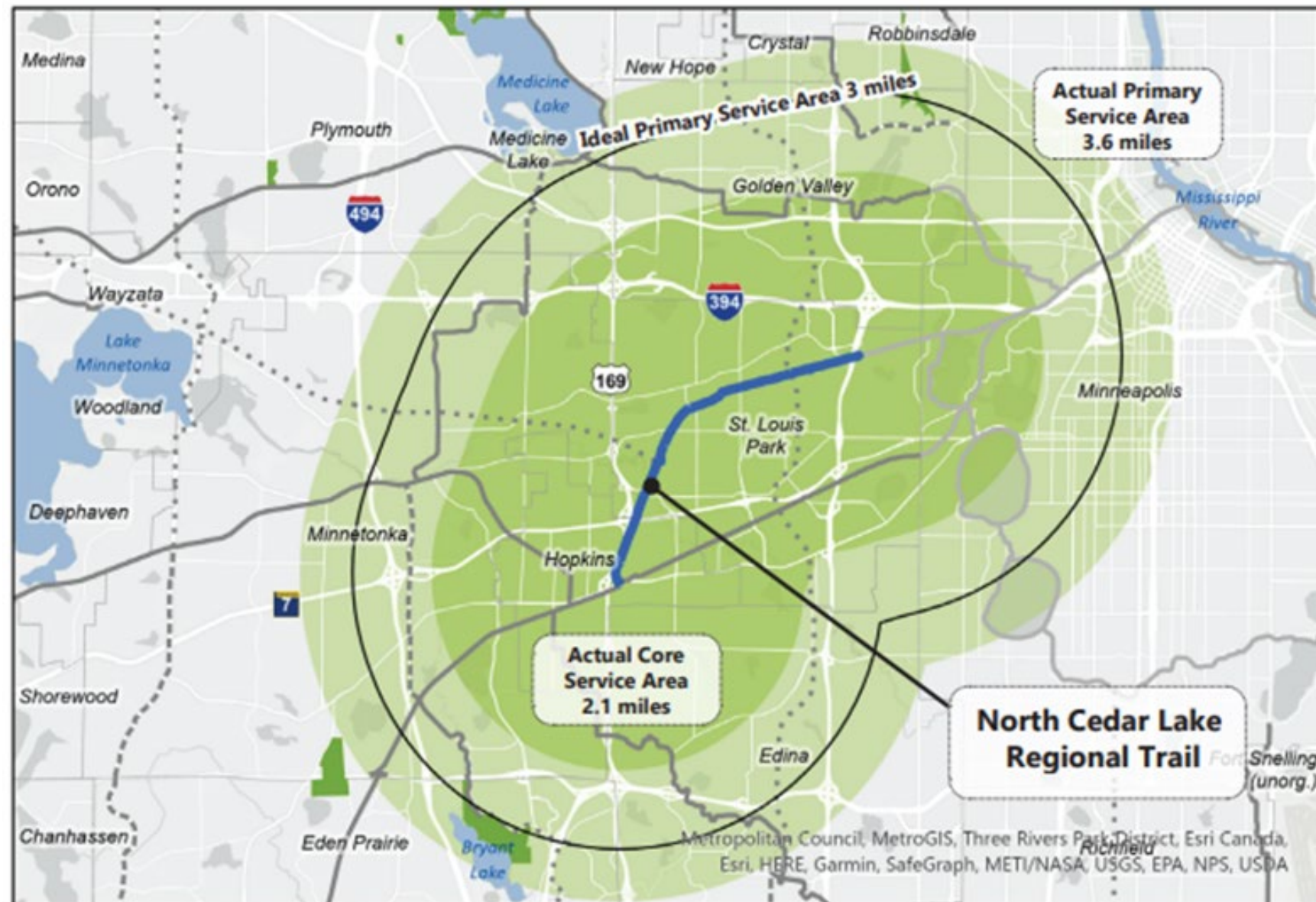
- Current estimated 584,000 annual visits
  - By 2040, an estimated 673,000 annual visits
- Underrepresented groups include:
  - People under 35 years old or over 75 years old
  - Black adults
  - Hispanic adults
  - Females
  - People from households with an annual income of \$50,000 or less
- Trail Improvements:
  - Modify bike crossings
  - Relocate a signal box
  - Install a bike repair station
  - Upgrade wayfinding



# Development Concept: North Cedar Lake Regional Trail

## North Cedar Lake Regional Trail – 4.2 miles

- Current estimated 493,000 annual visits
  - By 2040, an estimated 586,000 annual visits
- Underrepresented groups include:
  - People under 35 years old or over 75 years old
  - Females
  - Black adults
  - Hispanic adults
  - People from households with an annual income of less than \$50,000
- Trail Improvements:
  - Realignment of the trail
  - Widening trail
  - Install benches
  - Improve ADA Crossings



# Overall Estimated Cost



## Estimated Cost

- The total estimated acquisition and improvement costs for the Lake Independence, Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota River Bluffs, Cedar Lake, and North Cedar Lake Regional Trails is \$15,093,000.
- The total estimated operations and maintenance costs for the Lake Independence, Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota River Bluffs, Cedar Lake, and North Cedar Lake Regional Trails is \$275,000.
- The combined total estimated cost for the Lake Independence, Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota River Bluffs, Cedar Lake, and North Cedar Lake Regional Trails is \$15,368,000.

*Table 1: Total Estimated Cost for Lake Independence, Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota River Bluffs, Cedar Lake, and North Cedar Lake Regional Trails*

Regional Trail	Acquisition & Improvements	Operations & Maintenance
Lake Independence Regional Trail	\$7,456,000	\$106,000
Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail	\$4,746,000	\$67,000
Minnesota River Bluffs Reg. Trail	\$613,000	\$52,000
Cedar Lake Regional Trail	\$182,000	\$24,000
North Cedar Lake Regional Trail	\$2,096,000	\$26,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$15,093,000</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>

# Rationale for Proposed Actions


The Lake Independence, Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota River Bluffs, Cedar Lake, and North Cedar Lake Regional Trail Master Plans are consistent with the requirements of the:

- *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
  - Planning Strategy 1
- Other Council policies

# Proposed Actions

- Approve Three Rivers Park District's Lake Independence Regional Trail Master Plan.
- Approve Three Rivers Park District's Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail Master Plan.
- Approve Three Rivers Park District's Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail Master Plan.
- Approve Three Rivers Park District's Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail Master Plan.
- Approve Three Rivers Park District's North Cedar Lake Regional Trail Master Plan.
- Advise Three Rivers Park District to implement advisory comments for Lake Independence Regional Trail and Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail master plans.
- Require Three Rivers Park District, prior to initiating any construction of new or updating of existing paths, trails, bridges, or any other construction project, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.





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Gracias

Thank you

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