

# Parks and Trails Legacy Fund FY2024/2025 Projects Overview and Equity Highlights

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Anoka  
County, City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County,  
Three Rivers Park District

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January 5, 2023



# Purpose of today's presentation

- Present the proposed Parks and Trails Legacy Fund projects for the FY2024/2025 biennium
- 5 agencies presented their projects at the December MPOSC meeting
- The remaining 5 agencies will present their list of projects today and highlight a project designed to advance equitable use of the Regional Parks System
  - Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
  - Anoka County
  - City of Saint Paul
  - Ramsey County
  - Three Rivers Park District



# Parks and Trails Legacy Fund



- The Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (PTLF) was created to support parks and trails of statewide or regional significance after the passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008
- The Council receives an appropriation each biennium for the Regional Parks System; these funds are allocated to the regional park implementing agencies based on a formula driven by O&M shares, population, and non-local park use
- The estimated funding for the Regional Parks System for the FY2024/2025 biennium is \$52 million
- 10% of the Council's PTLF appropriation is set aside for the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund program

# Agency Project Lists



- The agencies submit a list of potential projects in preparation for the upcoming legislative session
- These projects are subject to change due to final funding allocations and appropriation language that authorizes the agency boards to select projects
- As part of today's presentation, agencies were asked to identify which projects are designed to advance equitable use of the Regional Parks System
- Agency staff from Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Anoka County, City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and Three Rivers Park District will now present their projects



# MPRB FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects (9 projects)

Total Estimated Allocation: \$ 11,177,269	Equity Focus Area
<p><b>Grand Rounds Missing Link Acquisition and Development:</b> Acquire properties along the route of the Missing Link and develop trail segments, along with visitor comfort amenities.</p>	<p>Ability, Income</p>
<p><b>Luce Line Regional Trail Acquisition and Development:</b> Acquire CP Rail property and develop trail segments, along with visitor comfort amenities.</p>	<p>Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Ability, Income</p>
<p><b>Shingle Creek Regional Trail Master Plan Implementation:</b> Implement aspects of the adopted Shingle Creek master plan, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project.</p>	<p>Race, Ethnicity, Age, Ability, Income</p>
<p><b>Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan Implementation:</b> Implement aspects of the adopted Wirth Park master plan, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project.</p>	<p>Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Ability, Income</p>
<p><b>Victory/Wirth Memorial Parkway Regional Trail Rehabilitation and Improvements:</b> Improve and upgrade portions of trail, roadway, sidewalk, and visitor comfort amenities within the Victory and Wirth segments of the park.</p>	<p>Race, Ethnicity, Age, Ability, Income</p>
<p><b>Above the Falls Regional Park Acquisition and Development:</b> Acquire properties along Mississippi river in north and northeast Minneapolis and develop park and natural resource amenities.</p>	<p>Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Income</p>

# MPRB FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects (9 projects)

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$ 11,177,269**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Chain of Lakes Regional Park Master Plan Implementation:** Implement aspects of the adopted master plans associated with the Chain of Lakes, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project.

Age, Ability, National Origin

**Mississippi River Gorge Regional Park Master Plan Implementation:** Implement aspects of the adopted Mississippi Gorge master plan, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project.

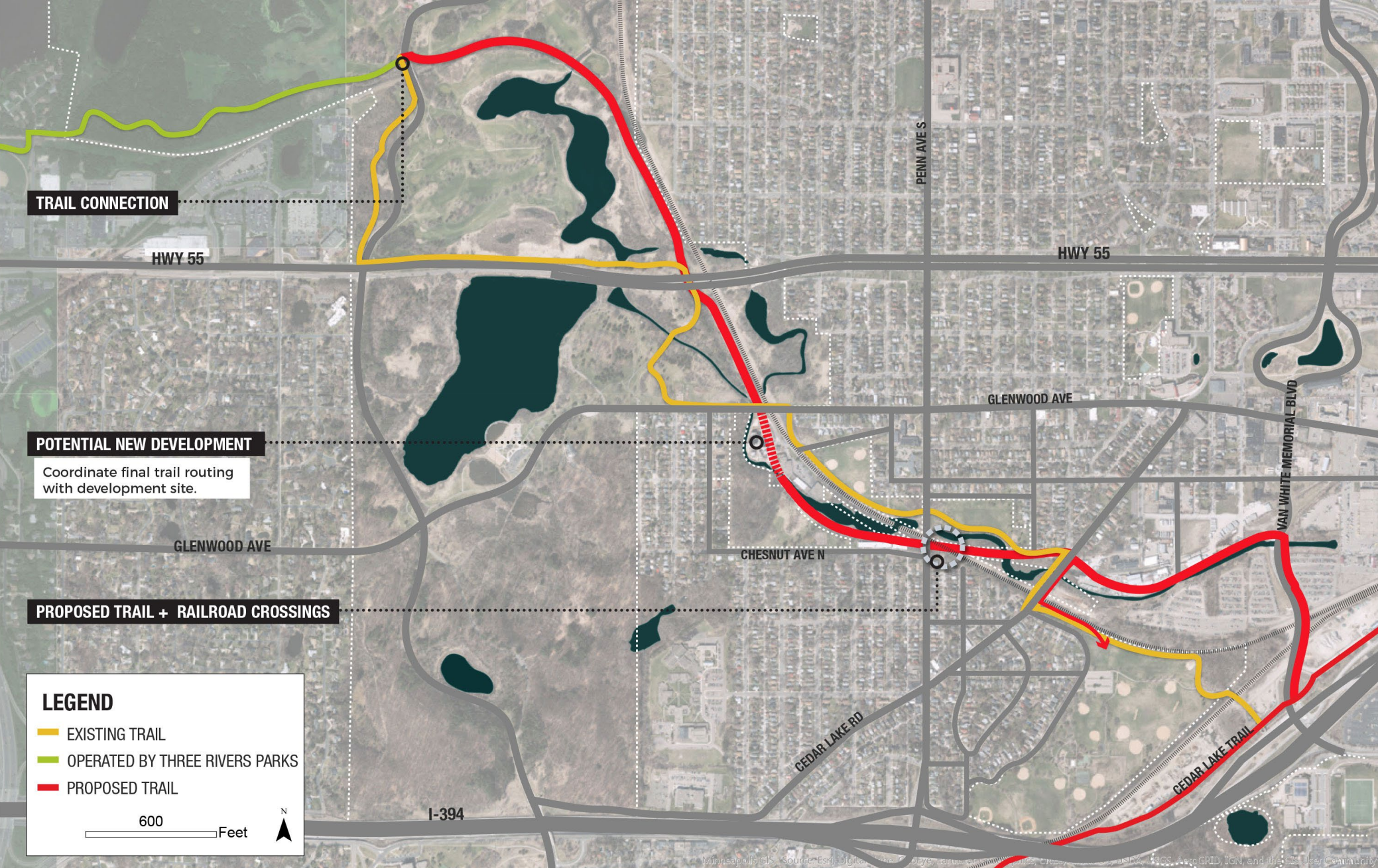
Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Ability, Income

**North Mississippi Regional Park Master Plan Implementation:** Implement aspects of the North Mississippi master plan, once adopted, based on community priorities determined through engagement at the inception of the project.

Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Ability, Income



# MPRB Legacy Project Equity Highlight: LUCE LINE



PROPOSED PLAN: LUCE LINE REGIONAL TRAIL



# MPRB Legacy Project Equity Highlight: LUCE LINE

- **This is the historic dividing line between North and South Minneapolis, between Harrison (71% BIPOC) and Bryn Mawr (11% BIPOC)**
- **Extremely convoluted trail route that discourages use (4<sup>th</sup> lowest visitation among Minneapolis Regional Parks and Trails)**
- **New route CONNECTS north and south to each other, to Wirth Park, and to the Mississippi River**
- **New route is safer, easier to navigate, and better connected to communities and other parks**
- **New route more closely follows Bassett's Creek, connecting communities to nature**
- **New route is the result of focused engagement that brought together Harrison and Bryn Mawr**
- **Project transforms an historic barrier into a community connector**



# Anoka County FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$ 4,305,589**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Bunker Hills Regional Park – Park Improvements:** Design, engineering and reconstruction of roadways, trails, boardwalk, pavilions and playground.

Age, Ability

**Mississippi West Regional Park – Rivenwick Trail Reconstruction:** Design, engineering and reconstruction of trail.

Age, Ability

**System-Wide Natural Resources Management:** Contract with organizations or hire staff to conduct natural resource management throughout the Anoka County Regional Park and Trail system.

N/A

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight

## *Bunker Hills Park Improvements – Take Care of What We Have*

Anoka County is working to better serve youth, seniors and people with disabilities.

Input has shown people want easy access to parks, inclusivity and engagement with natural world.



**Ensured access to facilities and amenities**



**Inclusive destination playground**



**Engagement while in the parks**



# Saint Paul FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$6,022,426**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Harriet Island-Lilydale RP Riverwalk Design:** Community engagement and design for replacement of degraded promenade along the Mississippi River

None

**Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm RP Master Plan Implementation Phase III:** Continued implementation of the approved master plan including accessibility improvements, trail and boardwalk construction, and lighting installation

None

**Indian Mounds RP Cultural Landscape Plan Implementation:** Update the Indian Mounds RP master plan to reflect the recommendations from the cultural landscape study

Race

**Phalen RP Activity Center Design:** Planning and design to transform Lakeside Activity Center into a destination for paddle sports

None

**Phalen RP Intersection Improvements:** Reconfigure intersections for safer entry into park in coordination with MnDOT TH 61 project

None

**Point Douglas RT Phase 1 Design:** Begin design to prepare for construction of Phase 1 of Point Douglas Regional Trail

Race, Ability

# Saint Paul FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$6,022,426**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Samuel Morgan RT Segments 1 and 4 Design and Reconstruction:** Design and reconstruction of degraded segments of Samuel Morgan Regional Trail, matching Federal funding

Race, Income

**Long-term Vegetation Maintenance:** Long-term maintenance of native vegetation established in other Legacy-funded projects

None

**Great River Passage:** Providing operating funds to lead initiatives for equitable access to regional parks along Mississippi River

Race, Income

**Volunteer & Education Coordinators:** Continued funding of coordinator positions to connect, recruit, lead, and coordinate people to regional parks

Race, Age

**Como RP Shuttle:** Shuttle service to enhance access to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

None



# Equity Highlight – Point Douglas RT Design

- **Master plan approved March 2022**
- **Successful regional solicitation application for 2026 construction - \$5.5 million**
- **Large Somali community less than 1 mile from trail – specific engagement**
- **Themes: make the trail safe, accessible, and accommodating**
- **Multi-lingual signage, trail lighting, intersection safety, amenities**

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Website -ka Mashruuca: [www.stpaul.gov/PointDouglasTrail](http://www.stpaul.gov/PointDouglasTrail)

Khariidada Khadka Tooska ah: <https://www.stpaul.gov/pointdouglasinputmap>

Sahanka onlaynka: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PtDouglasTrail>

ama ku soo gudbi sahan qoraal ah oo hoos ku qoran oo baqshad leh: Xafiiska Geeska Afrika ee Xafiiska USA

1. Qor da'daada

- Ka yar 18
- 18 ilaa 24
- 25 ilaa 34
- 35 ilaa 44
- 45 ilaa 54
- 55 ilaa 64
- 65 ilaa 74
- 75 iyo ka weyn

2. Immisa jeer ayaad u isticmaashaa waddada baaskiilka ee ku taal Point Douglas?

- Marna
- Maalin kasta
- Toddobaadle
- Bil walba
- Sanadkiiba

# Ramsey County: FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

Total Estimated Allocation: \$4,072,085	Equity Focus Area
<p><b>Volunteer Coordinator (Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park):</b> Continue to support a volunteer corps for the Tamarack Nature Center and Discovery Hallow aka (destination for discovery)</p>	<p>Age, Race, Ability, Income, Ethnicity, National Origin</p>
<p><b>Outreach Programming (System-wide):</b> Continue to support outreach and outdoor recreation-based programming for people of color and low-income users throughout the Ramsey County Regional Parks &amp; Trails system.</p>	<p>Race, Income</p>
<p><b>Conservation Corps (System-wide):</b> Continue contracts with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM) to engage youth of the community in natural resource management projects throughout Ramsey County Regional Parks &amp; Trails.</p>	<p>Age</p>
<p><b>Off-Leash Dog Area Improvements (System-wide):</b> Implement Phase 2 recommendations from the Off Leash Dog Area master plan at Battle Creek, Rice Creek and Otter Lake off leash dog areas within the regional parks system.</p>	<p>Ability</p>
<p><b>Phase 1 Bruce Vento Trail Extension (Bruce Vento Regional Trail):</b> Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative costs, and contingencies for a local match to a preliminary engineering federal earmark for the Phase 1 and 2 section of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail between Buerkle Road and County Road J.</p>	<p>Ability</p>
<p><b>Regional Park &amp; Trail Sign Implementation (System-wide):</b> Design and installation of new regional park signs.</p>	<p>Ability</p>



# Ramsey County: FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects

**Total Estimated Allocation: \$4,072,085**

**Equity Focus Area**

**Tuj Lub Court Upgrades (Keller Regional Park):** Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative cost, and contingencies for enhanced Tuj Lub court infrastructure, site and utility improvements, site amenities, stormwater management, wayfinding and restoration.

Race, Ability, Ethnicity, National Origin

**Site Infrastructure/Accessibility Upgrades (Battle Creek Regional Park):** Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative cost, and contingencies for parking lot maintenance/redevelopment, bituminous trail redevelopment, improved site accessibility and infrastructure, utilities, stormwater management, wayfinding, site amenities, and restoration.

Ability

**Regional Park Playground Redevelopment (System-wide):** Planning, design, engineering, permitting/administrative cost, and contingencies for system wide playground replacement and redevelopment including playground equipment and infrastructure, site and utility improvements, site amenities, stormwater management, wayfinding and restoration; initiate playground construction improvements.

Age, Ability

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight: Tamarack Nature Center Volunteer Coordinator

- Equity Emphasis: Any age and ability.
- Senior Volunteers (55+):
  - Assistant naturalist volunteers.
  - Connect young student visitors to programs.
    - Pond dipping and cider making.
- Youth Volunteers (14-17):
  - 30+ Youth every year.
  - Integral role in supporting summer day camp programs.
  - Youth leadership development program.
    - Junior Assistant Naturalists.
- Community Garden Programs:
  - Youth and adults with disabilities.
- Volunteers with physical or mental disabilities:
  - Animal Care - Showcases skills and growth platforms.





# Three Rivers FY2024/2025 Legacy Projects: Summary

Legacy Pillar	# of projects	FY24 Legacy Funding Amount	FY25 Legacy Funding Amount	Total Legacy funding	% of funding per category
Take Care of What We Have	11	\$2,745,000	\$2,623,915	\$5,368,915	47%
Acquire Land, Create Opportunities	2	\$1,131,916	\$404,612	\$1,536,528	14%
Connect People and the Outdoors	4	\$1,998,116	\$2,500,000	\$4,498,116	39%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$5,875,032</b>	<b>\$5,528,527</b>	<b>\$11,403,559</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Three Rivers: Taking care of what we have

Projects	Equity Focus Area
Baker PR: Campground electrical upgrades	
Baker PR: Katrina Loop Reconstruction	
Elm Creek PR: South Loop Microsurfacing	
Elm Creek PR: Replace three trail bridges	
French RP: Field Operations Center exterior rehab	
Hyland PR: Boat Ramp Access Road and ADA Improvements	ADA component
Hyland PR: Operations Center Shop Renovation	
Regional Trail Network: Rest areas, wayfinding improvements	
Luce Line RT: Boardwalk redecking	
Rush Creek RT: Microsurface entire trail	
West Mississippi River RT: Microsurface entire trail	



# Three Rivers: Acquire Land, Create Opportunities

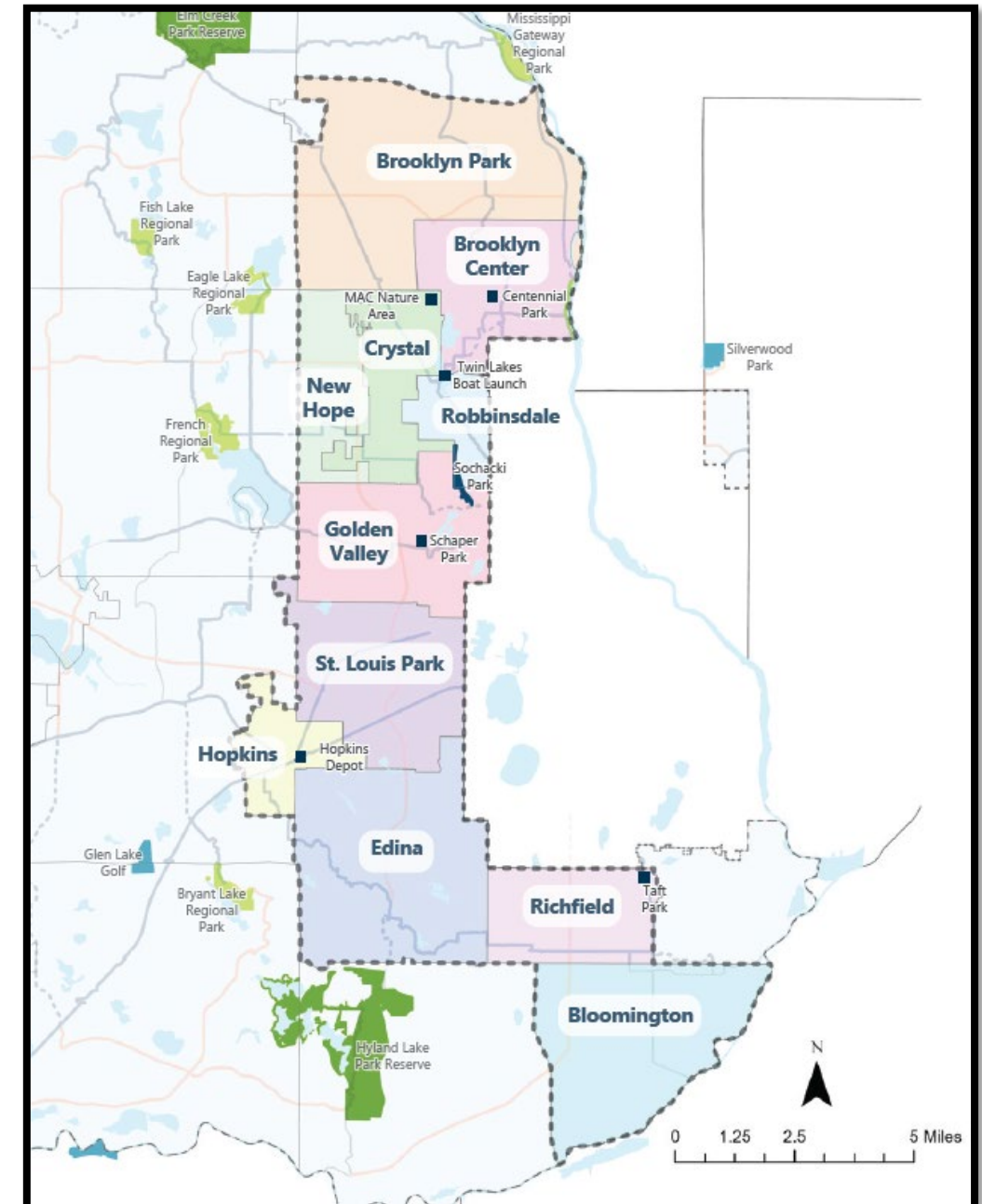
Projects	Equity Focus Area
Mississippi Gateway RP: Construction	Mississippi Gateway has been designed to welcome new visitors of all races and cultures to the regional park system.
Bassett Creek RT: Construction on Golden Valley Road	This trail connects to the Minneapolis grand rounds system and provides a safe off-road trail access to the 170 mile Three Rivers regional trail network.

# Three Rivers: Connect People and the Outdoors

Parks to People (P2P) Master Plan Projects:	Equity Focus Area
Sochacki Park Pond water docks/boardwalks/learning stations	These projects are bridging facilities/programs designed to bring new historically underserved people into the regional parks system by creating regional park system opportunities near where they live
Sochacki Park Interactive art/play installation	
Crystal MAC Nature Area: Phase III Boardwalks	
Master Plan recommended improvements and programming (TBD in 2023)	

# Legacy Project Equity Highlight: P2P Master Plan

- Our vision is to connect everyone to nature every day. One way to do this is to focus on bringing parks, trails and nature-based offerings to where people live.
- Focus on engaging BIPOC, communities, new immigrants, seniors, low-income households and individuals with a range of abilities.
- Geographic focus on 11 cities that were developed prior to the creation of Three Rivers, and which do not have regional parks.
- Currently in the discovery phase of planning:
  - Focus groups, ambassador-led meetings, community event visits, targeted specific-site visits (senior care facilities, churches, etc.)
- P2P Master Plan – draft complete in late summer 2023





# Thank you!

Questions, comments, and discussion

