



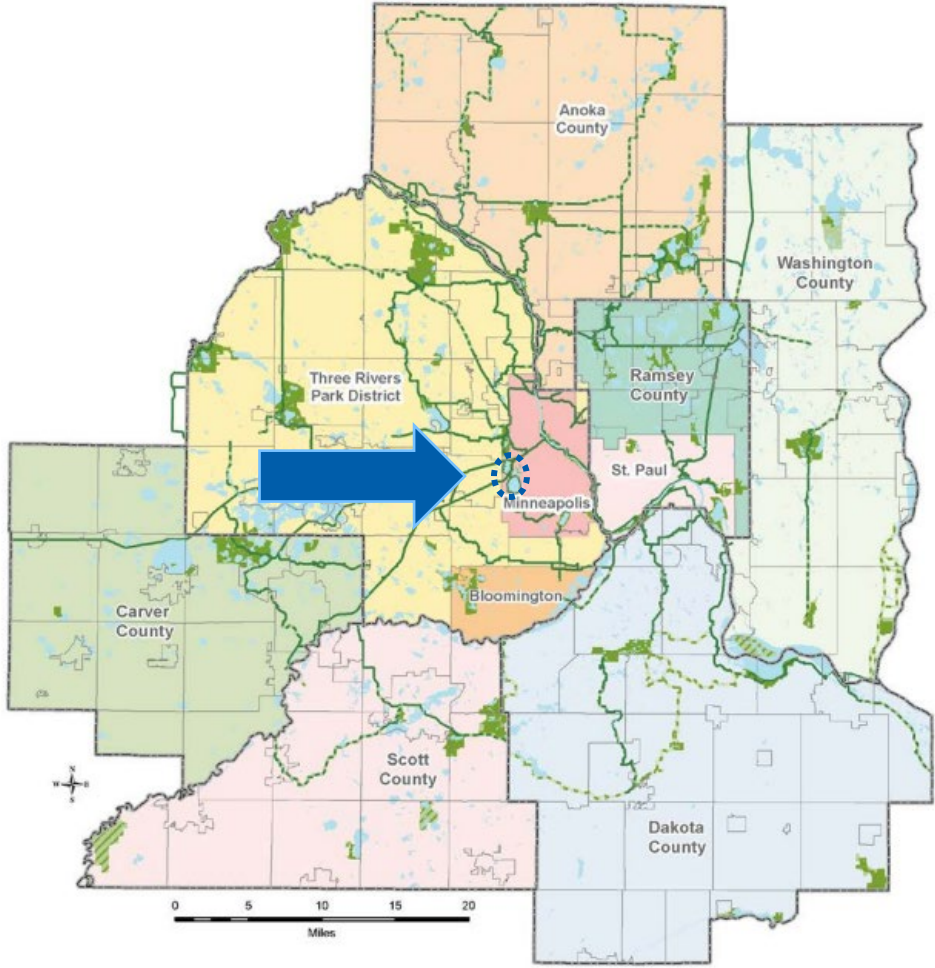
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park and Cedar Lake Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendments, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Business Item 2024-8

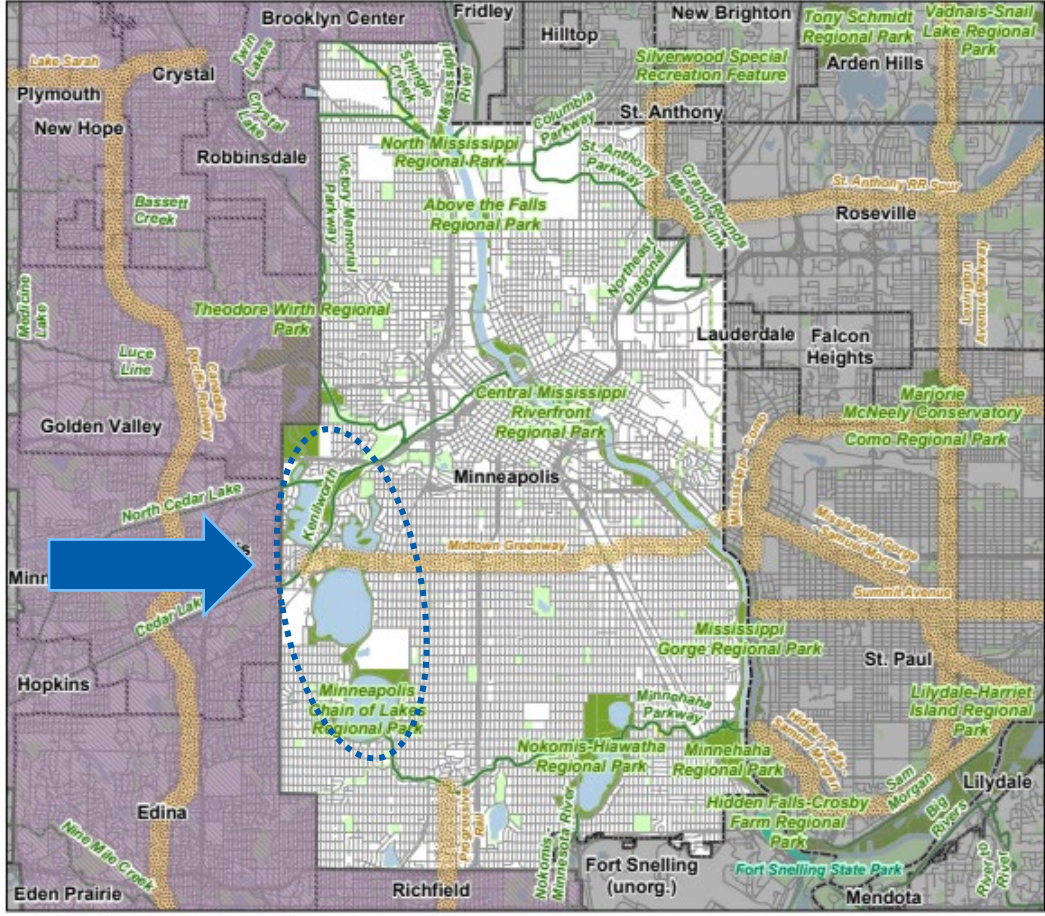
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



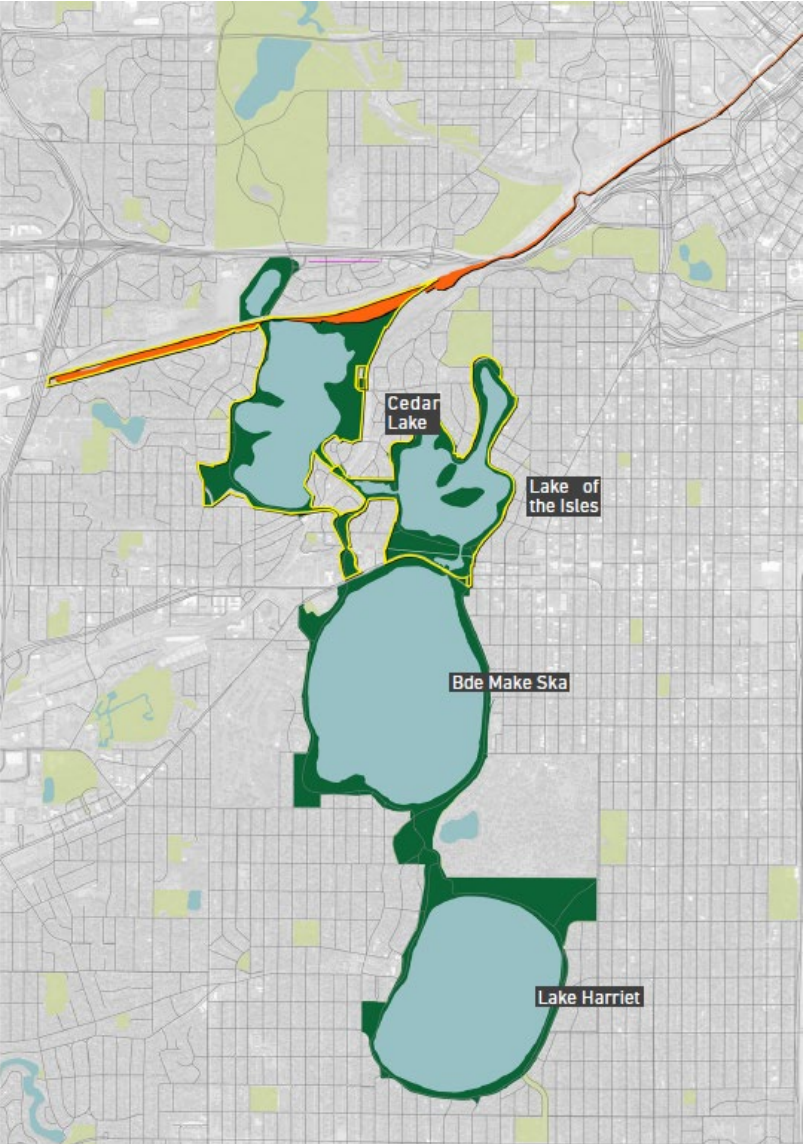
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park and Cedar Lake Regional Trail



- Regional Trails (Open to the Public)
- Regional Trails (Not Open to the Public)
- Planned Regional Trails (Not Open to the Public)
- Regional Parks (Open to the Public)
- Regional Parks (Not Open to the Public)
- Planned Parks (Not Open to the Public)
- County Boundaries
- City and Township Boundaries
- Lakes and Rivers



- Regional Parks**
 - Existing (Open to Public)
 - In Master Plan (Not Open to Public)
 - Planned Parks and Reserves
- Regional Trails**
 - Existing (Open to Public)
 - Existing (Not Open to Public)
 - Planned
 - Regional Trail Corridor Land
- Regional Park Search Areas and Regional Trail Search Corridors**
 - Boundary Adjustments
 - Search Areas
 - Regional Trail Search Corridors
 - First-Ring City Bridging Facility Search Area
- State Parks**
 - State Wildlife Management Areas (Publicly Accessible)
 - Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA)
 - Special State Recreation Features
 - Other Parks, Preserves, Refuges and Natural Areas
 - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
 - MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge
 - Minnesota Valley State Trail and Recreation Area
- Road Centerlines



Equity Analysis

Project Data

- Several target audiences:
 - Cultural communities
 - Seniors/elders
 - People with disabilities
 - Renters
 - Youth
 - People who do not currently visit the Cedar-Isles area
- Indigenous community members face barriers to access
- Legacy of redlining and racial covenants have shaped access

Public Engagement

- Community Collaborator themes:
 - Desire for greater accessibility
 - Acknowledgement of lack of diversity in the area
 - Interest in elevating Indigenous legacy
 - Concerns about safety
 - Support for additional art and culture

Evaluation Summary

- Difficult to adequately incorporate and support ideas from underrepresented voices



Public and Partner Engagement



Public Engagement Themes

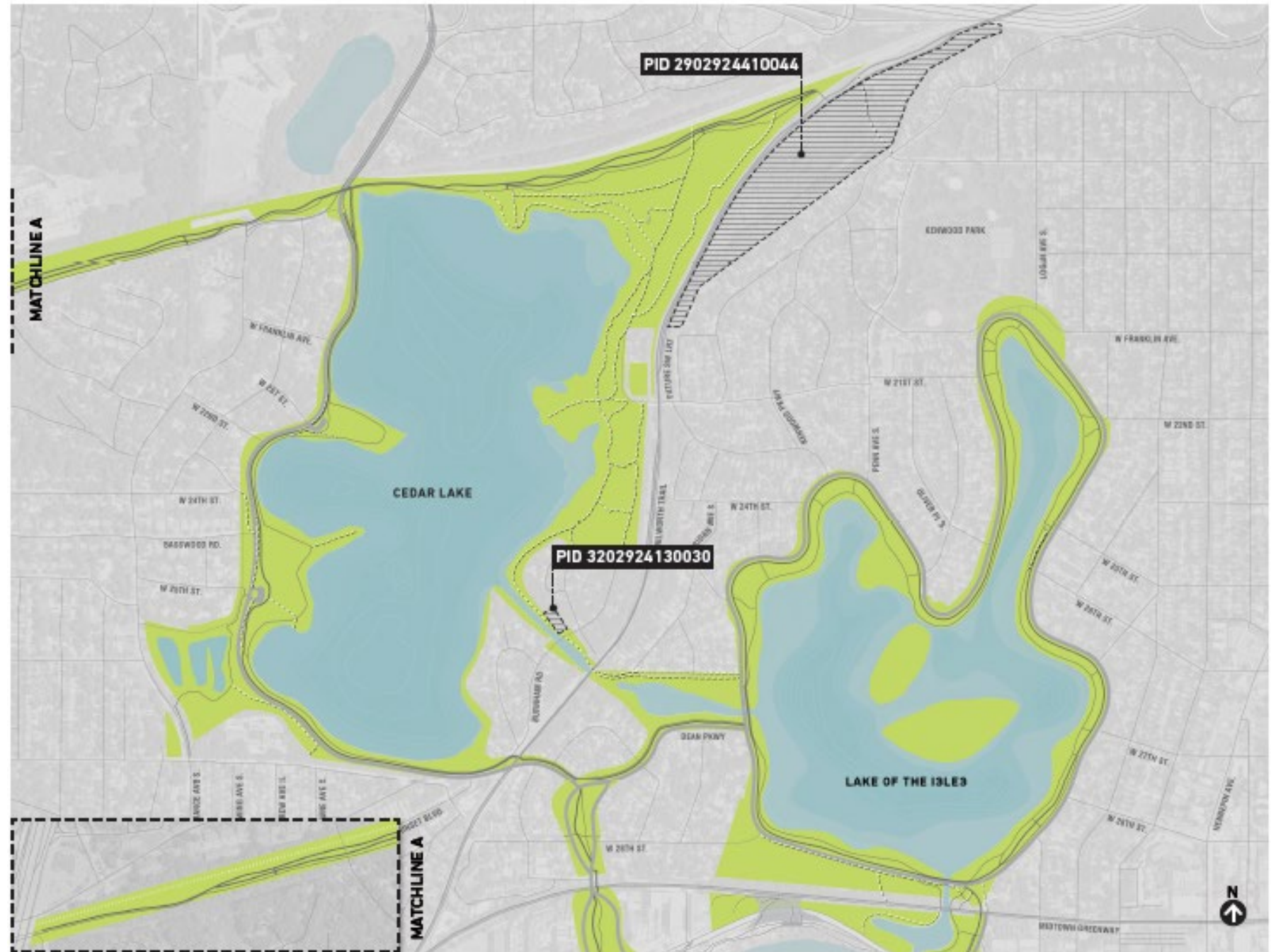
- Support for elevating water quality within the plan
- Appreciation for the existing walking and biking network
- Appreciation for existing programming and amenities
- Interest in improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists
- Support for and opposition to formalization of ad hoc forest trails near Cedar Lake
- Suggestion for a permanent restroom
- Support for preferred park concept

Partner Engagement

- Technical Advisory Committee
- Project Advisory Committee
- Plan approved by Board on July 5, 2023

Boundaries and Acquisitions

- Two parcels of land were identified as future acquisition sites:
 - 0.27-acre lot adjacent to the Kenilworth Channel
 - 33.85-acre property; “remnant lands”
- Formal assessments have not been completed and there is currently no timeline for acquisition of either parcel.



Development Concept

Access and Circulation

- Formalize ad hoc soft surface walking paths through the forest on the north, northeast, and east side of Cedar Lake.
- New pedestrian trail proposed along Kenilworth Channel.
- Widen walking and biking trails adjacent to Cedar Lake Parkway.
- Widen trails along Dean Parkway to improve safety where possible.
- All proposed trails will be designed at an elevation above seasonal flood levels.

Amenities and Programming

- New amenities for Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles include docks, formalized water access points, viewing spots, picnic areas, and enhanced signage.
- A change from portable to a permanent restroom is proposed at Cedar Lake East Beach.
- Plan proposes to expand the number of restrooms near existing and proposed amenities at Lake of the Isles.
- Plan adds a few enhanced welcome entry points for Cedar Lake Regional Trail and Dean Parkway.

Natural Resources



- The plan proposes enhancing natural areas and improving the tree canopy in large swaths of existing forested areas.
- The plan identifies areas where the existing prairie could be enhanced along South Upton Avenue and a large swath of the Cedar Lake Regional Trail.
- Several lawn areas shift to other uses, including rain gardens and prairie/pollinator plantings to address water quality, flooding, and pollinator connectivity. (Lake of the Isles).
- Park Plan-level goals for water quality include:
 1. Address stormwater runoff from all hard surfaces.
 2. Reduce chloride, trash, sediment, and other pollutants from entering the lakes.
 3. Maintain and stabilize shoreline with native vegetation in all areas except for formal access points and identified view sheds.

Rationale for Proposed Action

The regional park and trail long-range plan amendments are consistent with the requirements of the:

- *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Chapter 5, Strategy 1
- Other Council policies



Estimated Costs

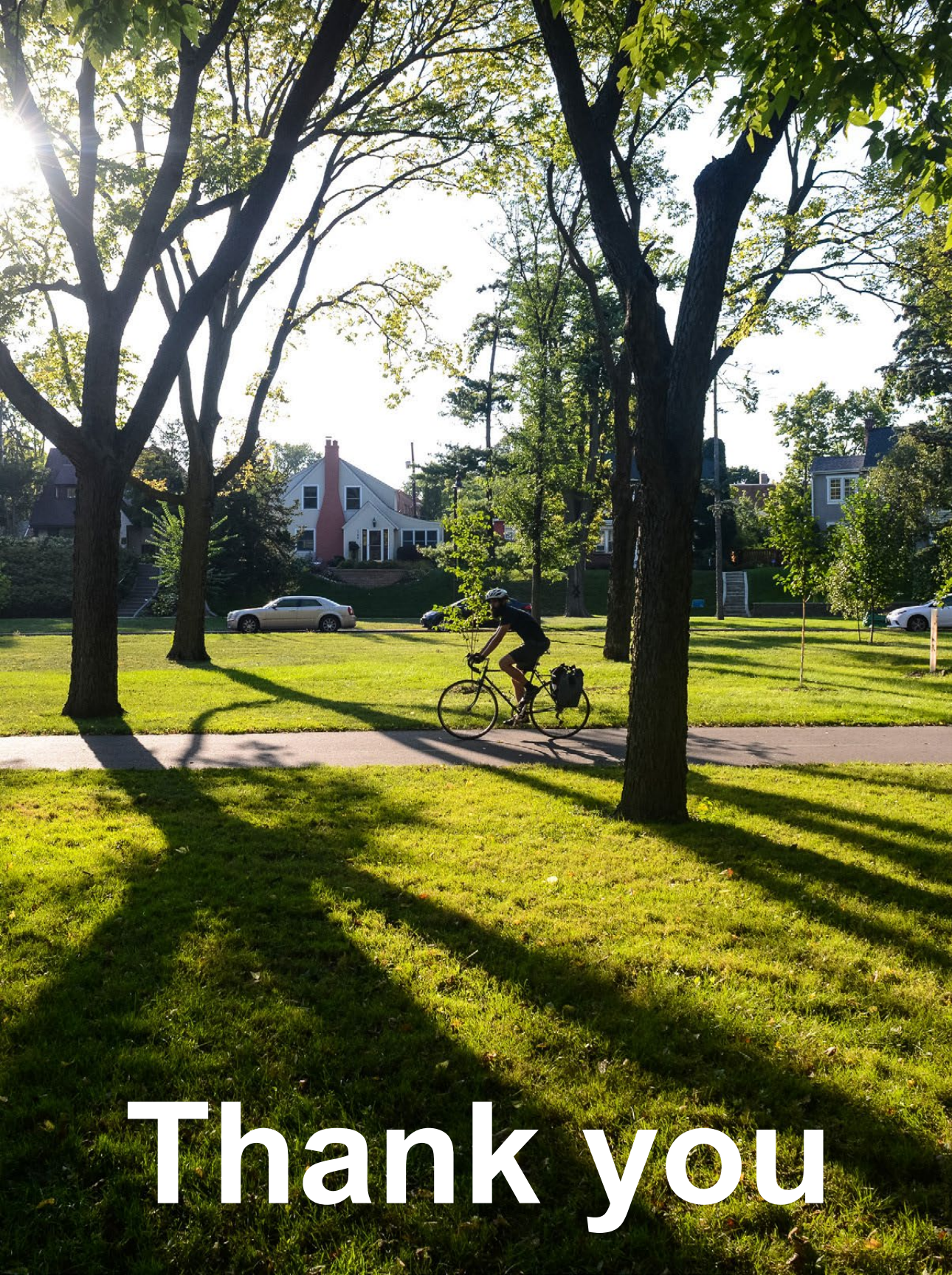


- Total estimated cost to implement the long-range plan amendments is approximately \$39,955,348 to \$58,381,708.
 - The majority of the estimated costs is for water quality and natural resource improvements.
- Of this total estimated cost, an estimated \$2,317,860-\$2,587,860 is specific to the Cedar Lake Regional Trail corridor.
- The estimated acquisition cost (\$625,000) is the estimated market value for one of two proposed acquisitions, the 0.27-acre parcel of vacant residential land.

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment.
2. Approve the Cedar Lake Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment.
3. Require Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager prior to initiating any construction.
4. Advise Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to consider implementing the recommendations for solar resources and transportation in the Advisory Comments section of the business item.



Thank you

Colin Kelly, AICP
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Community Development

