



# PlanIt

Webinar Series for  
Comprehensive Plan Updates

Local Plans, the RBTN, and Regional Trails

Presented by Steve Elmer and Jan Youngquist  
October 13, 2016





# Introduction

- **Transportation Policy Plan** defines the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN)
- **Regional Parks Policy Plan** includes the region's vision for a system of Regional Trails





# Outline

- Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN)
- Regional Trails System Planning
- Comparison of RBTN and Regional Trails
- RBTN & Regional Trails in Local Comp Plans
- Other Planning Efforts & Resources





# Regional Bicycle Transportation Network Background & Characteristics



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# Regional Bicycle Planning Roles

- Develop regional policy through Transportation Policy Plan
- Coordinate with local agencies on RBTN implementation
- Identify & address opportunities and conflicts
- Ensure connectivity/continuity in bikeways crossing between jurisdictions





# Regional Bicycle System Study

## Project Advisory Committee

- Met Council/MnDOT
- Counties, cities & parks
- Bike/transit advocates
- University of Minnesota

## Community Engagement

- Suburban “Listening Sessions”
- Public workshops/open houses
- On-line route preference tool





# Regional Bicycle Corridor Guiding Principles

1. Overcome physical barriers & eliminate gaps
2. Facilitate safe and continuous trips to regional destinations
3. Function as arteries to connect regional destinations to the transit system
4. Accommodate a broad range of cyclist abilities/preferences
5. Integrate and/or supplement existing and planned infrastructure
6. Provide opportunities to increase bicycle mode share





# Regional Bicycle System Study

## Bicycle Corridor Analysis Factors:

- Existing/future population density
- Connectivity to regional destinations
- Regional & sub-regional job & activity centers
- Bicycle travel demand
- Connectivity to regional transitway stations and bus transit centers
- Regional system balance and social equity









# Purpose of the RBTN

- Establish an integrated/seamless network of on- and off-street bikeways
- Provide vision for a “backbone” arterial network for daily bicycle transportation
- Encourage cities, counties, parks agencies, and the state to plan and implement future bikeways





# Regional Bicycle Transportation Network Vision

## RBTN Alignments

-  Tier 1 Alignments
-  Tier 2 Alignments

## RBTN Corridors (Alignments Undefined)

-  Tier 1 Priority Regional Bicycle Transportation Corridor
-  Tier 2 Regional Bicycle Transportation Corridors






## Other Trail Systems

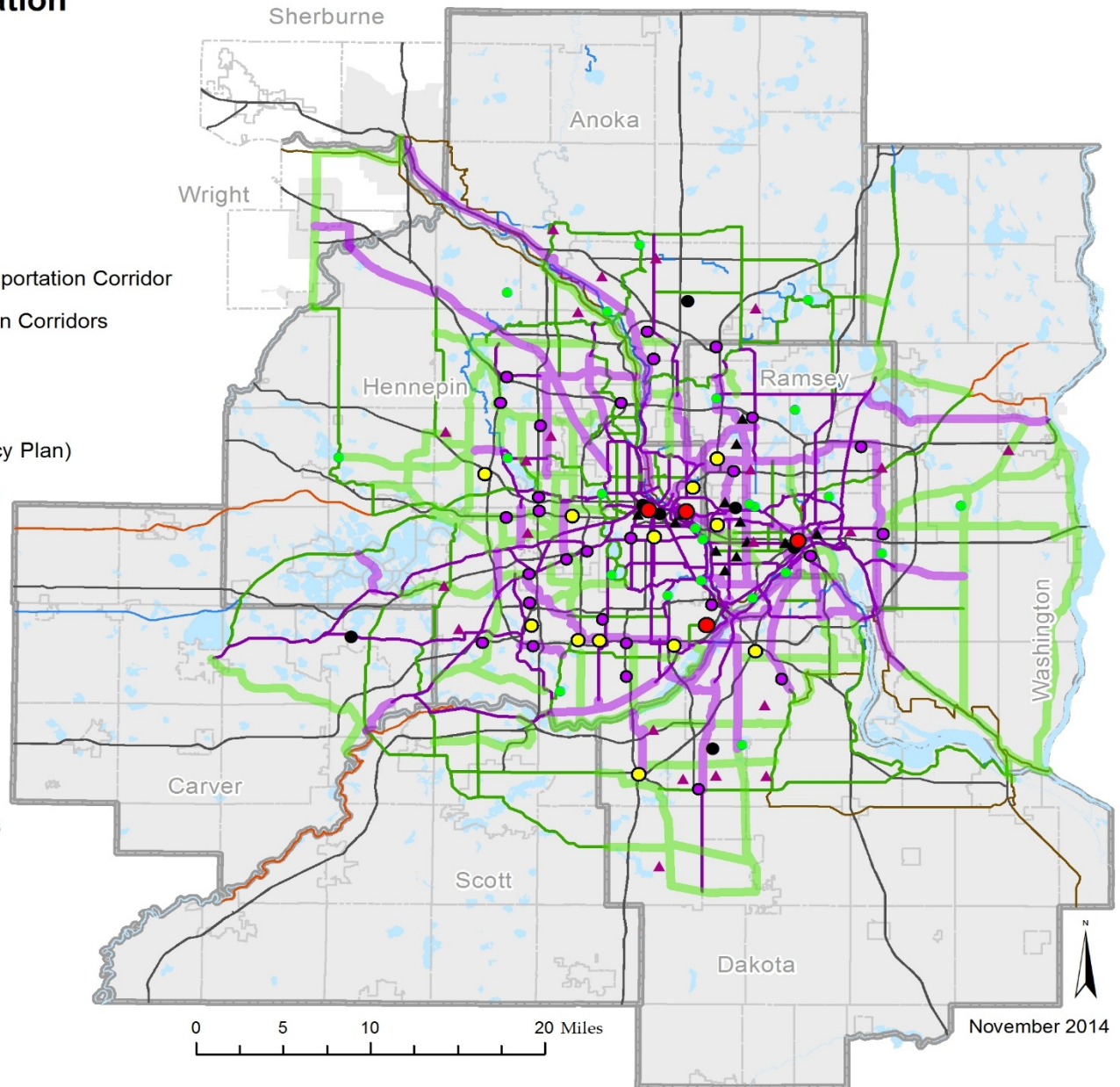
-  Regional Trails (Regional Parks Policy Plan)
-  Mississippi River Trail (US Route 45)
-  State Trails (DNR)

## Regional Destinations

-  Metropolitan Job Centers
-  Regional Job Centers
-  Subregional Job Centers
-  Large High Schools
-  Colleges & Universities
-  Major Sport & Entertainment Centers
-  Highly Visited Regional Parks

## Reference Items

-  Principal Arterial Roads
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  City Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  2040 Municipal Urban Service Area  
MPO Area



0 5 10 20 Miles

November 2014



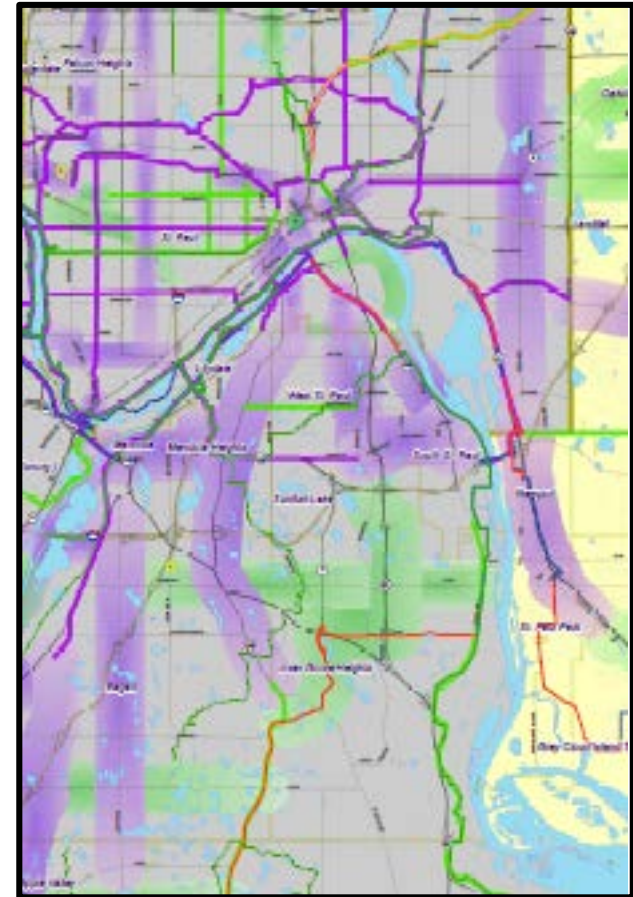
# Regional Bicycle Transportation Network

## RBTN Alignments

- Align w/existing or planned trails or on-street bikeways
- Include Tiers 1 & 2

## RBTN Corridors

- Indicate existing or potential high transportation demand
- Mid & long-range connections to & between regional destinations
- Where specific alignments have not been designated
- Include Tiers 1 & 2





# Regional Trails System Planning



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# Regional Trails System Planning

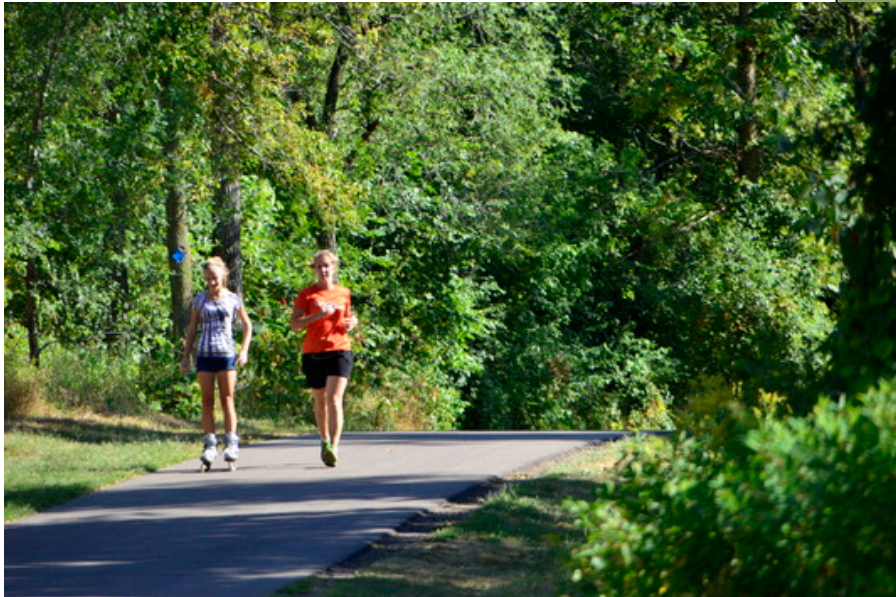
## Met Council Roles:

- Develop policy via Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Identify which trails in the metro area are designated as “regional”
- Review and approve regional trail master plans
- Provide funding assistance for acquisition and development of regional trail corridors





# Regional Trails System



Mississippi River Regional Trail—  
Anoka County

- 40 regional trails
- Link regional parks, park reserves, and trails
- 360 miles open to the public
- Multi-use: walking, biking, inline skating, commuting

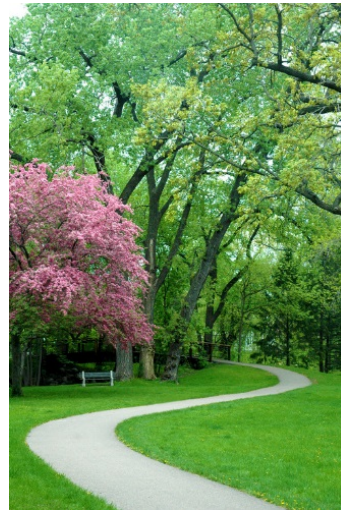




# Regional Trails

## Destination Trails

- Connect regional parks and trails
- Wide corridors located near high quality natural resources and water
- Trail itself is a destination



**Minnehaha Parkway  
Regional Trail—  
Minneapolis Park &  
Recreation Board**

## Linking Trails

- Primary intent to connect regional parks and trails
- 10 foot wide trail with 3 foot wide clear zones
- At least 1.5 mile spacing between parallel trails



**Highway 96  
Regional Trail—  
Ramsey County**



# Regional Park Implementing Agencies







# Regional Park Implementing Agency Roles

- Develop master plans for regional trails
- Acquire land, develop, and rehabilitate regional trails
- Operate and maintain the regional system
- Coordinate with local communities



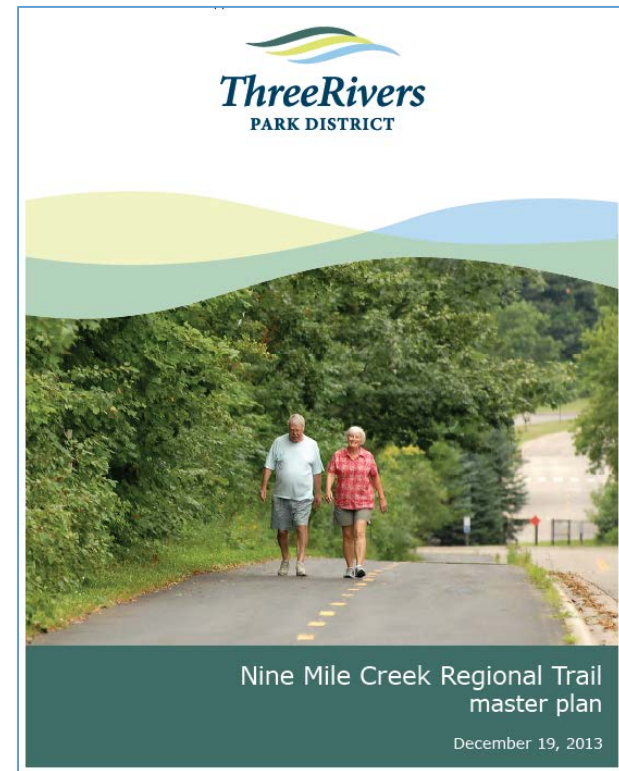
Mississippi River Regional Trail—  
Dakota County





# Regional Trail Master Plans

- Developed by regional park implementing agencies
- Master plans identify:
  - General trail alignments
  - Land acquisition needs
  - Cost estimates
- Approval by Met Council
  - Eligible for regional parks funding
  - Trail alignments acknowledged in comp plans

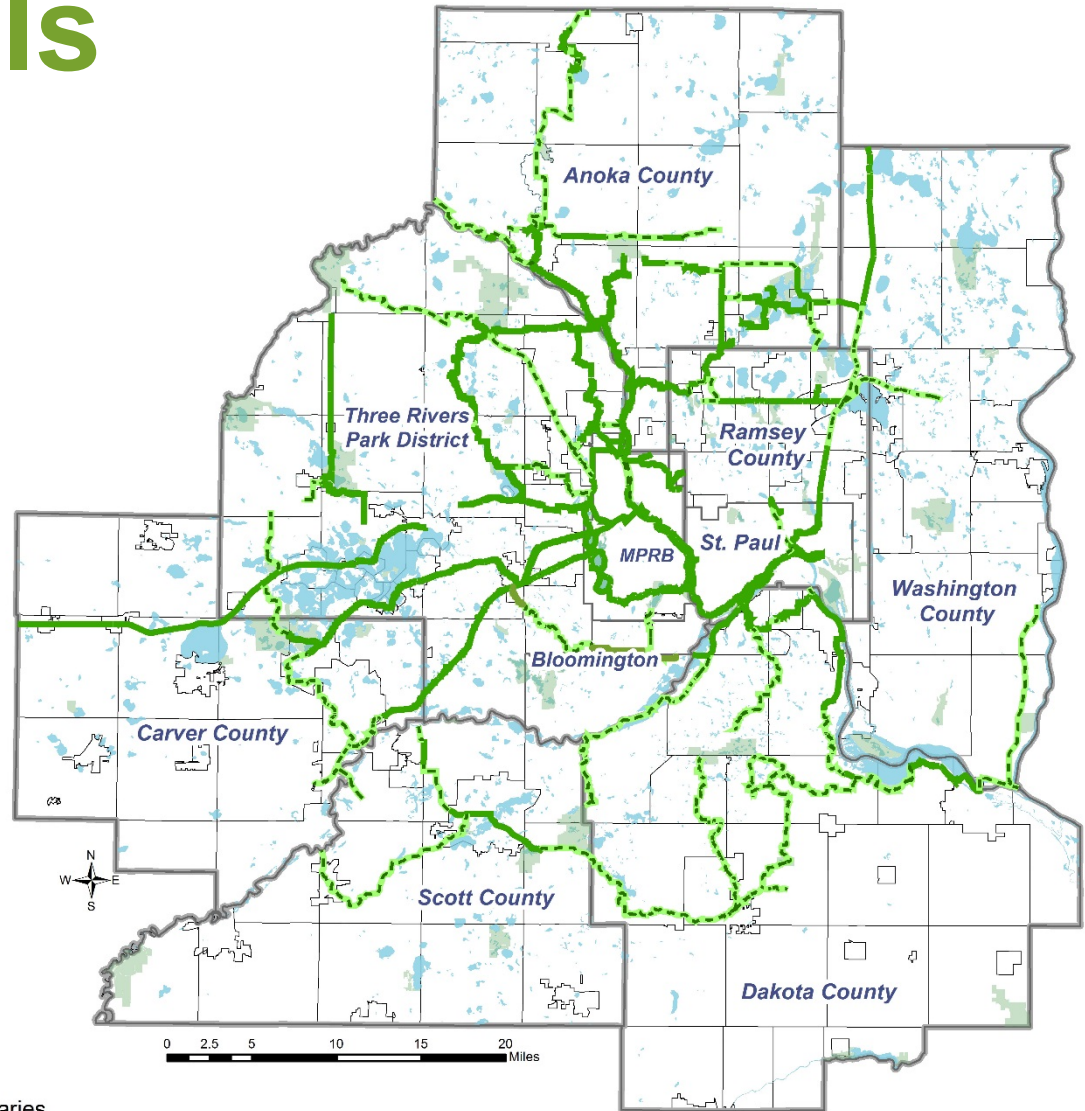


# Regional Trails

- **Existing**—360 miles
  - **Planned**—145 miles
- have Council approved master plan and in stages of acquisition and/or development

## Regional Trails

- Existing
- - - Planned
- Regional Parks
- Lakes and Rivers
- City and Township Boundaries
- County Boundaries

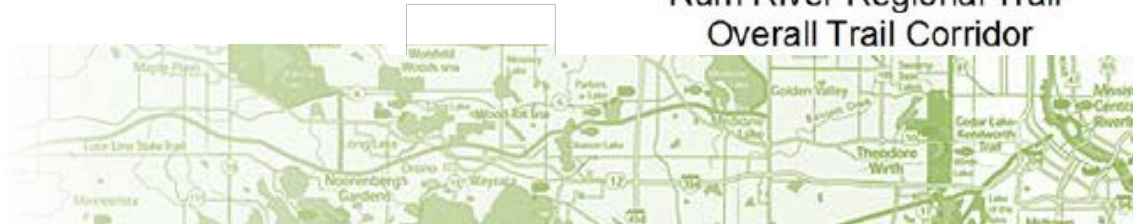




- **Rum River Regional Trail**
- City of Anoka to Isanti County
- Existing and planned segments
- Linking and destination trail



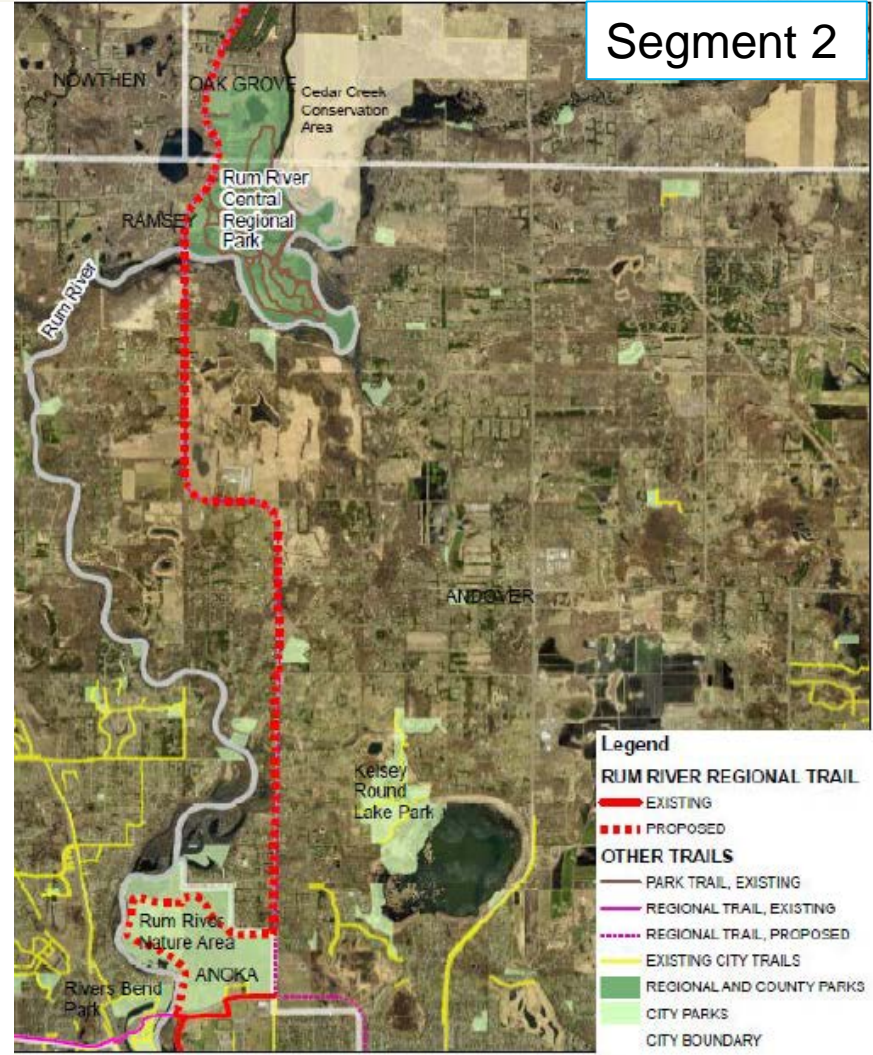
Rum River Regional Trail Overall Trail Corridor





# Anoka County PARKS & RECREATION

Open Spaces in Nearby Places



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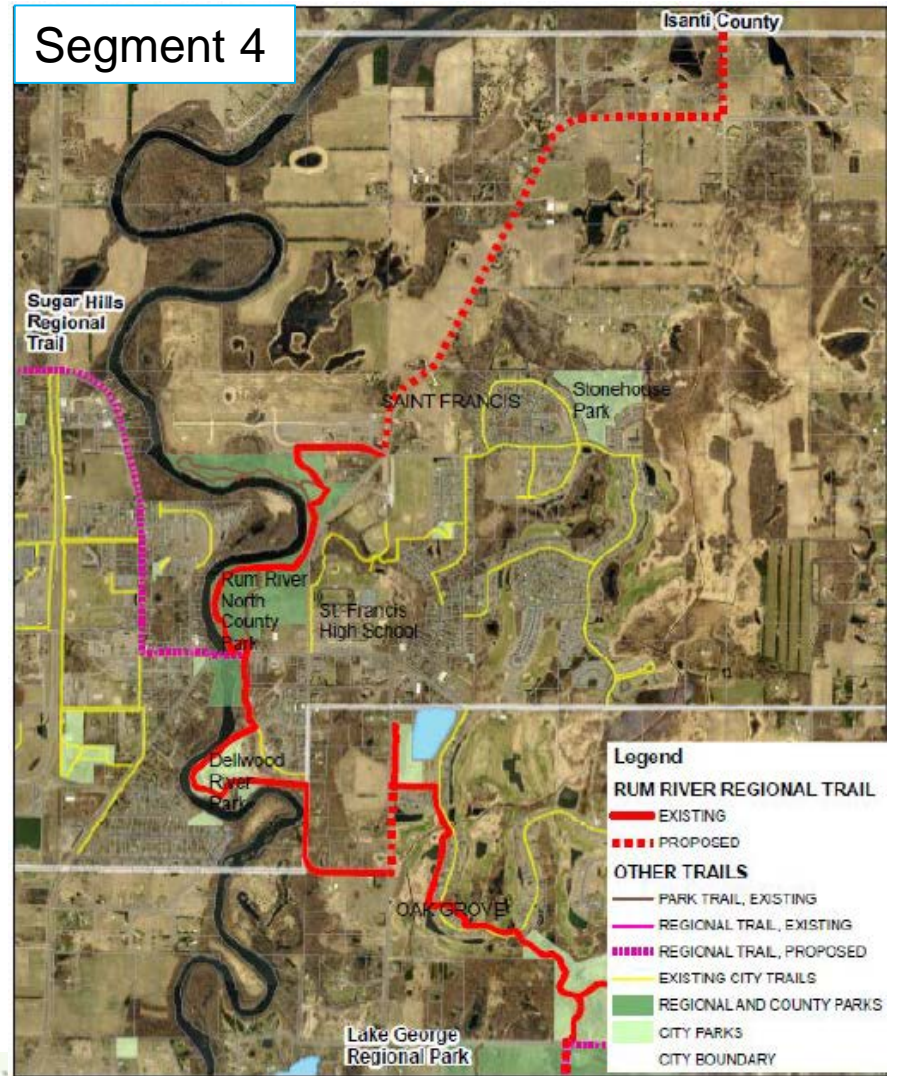




**Segment 3**

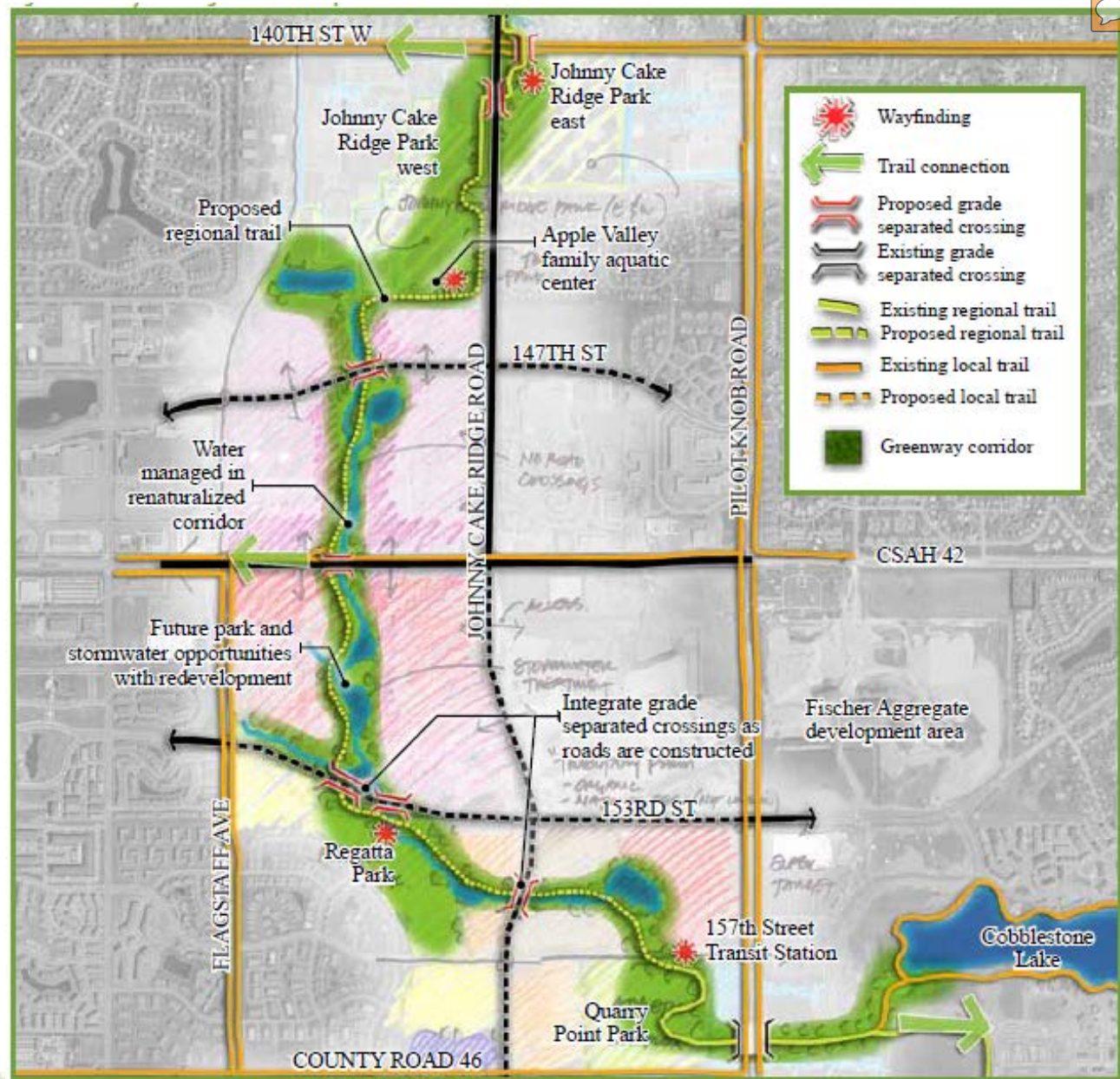


**Segment 4**



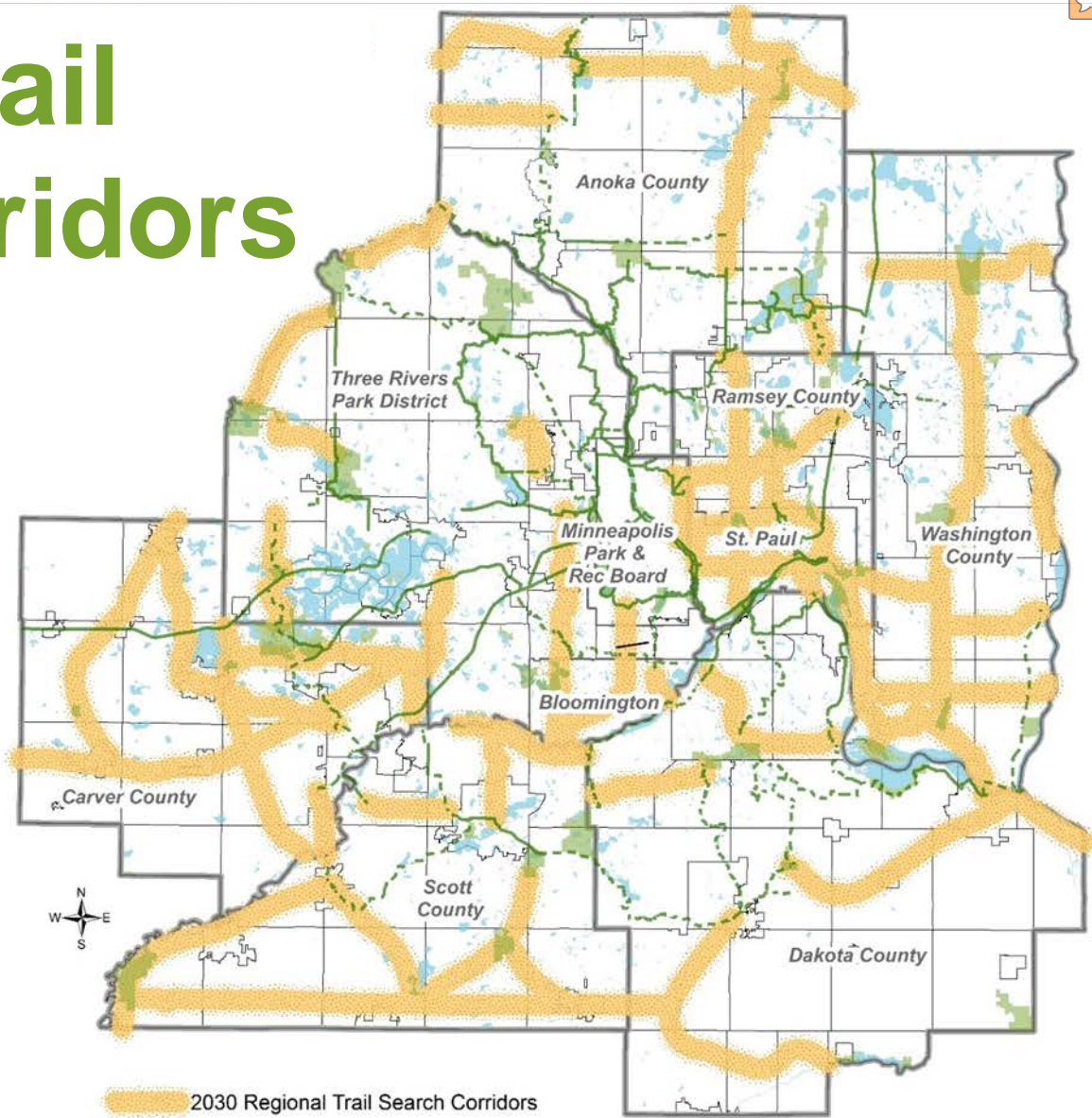
# North Creek Regional Trail— Dakota County

## North Creek Greenway MASTER PLAN



# Regional Trail Search Corridors

- 500 miles
- Connect regional parks and trails
- Alignments to be planned in future
- Include “proposed” trails from 2030 RPPP

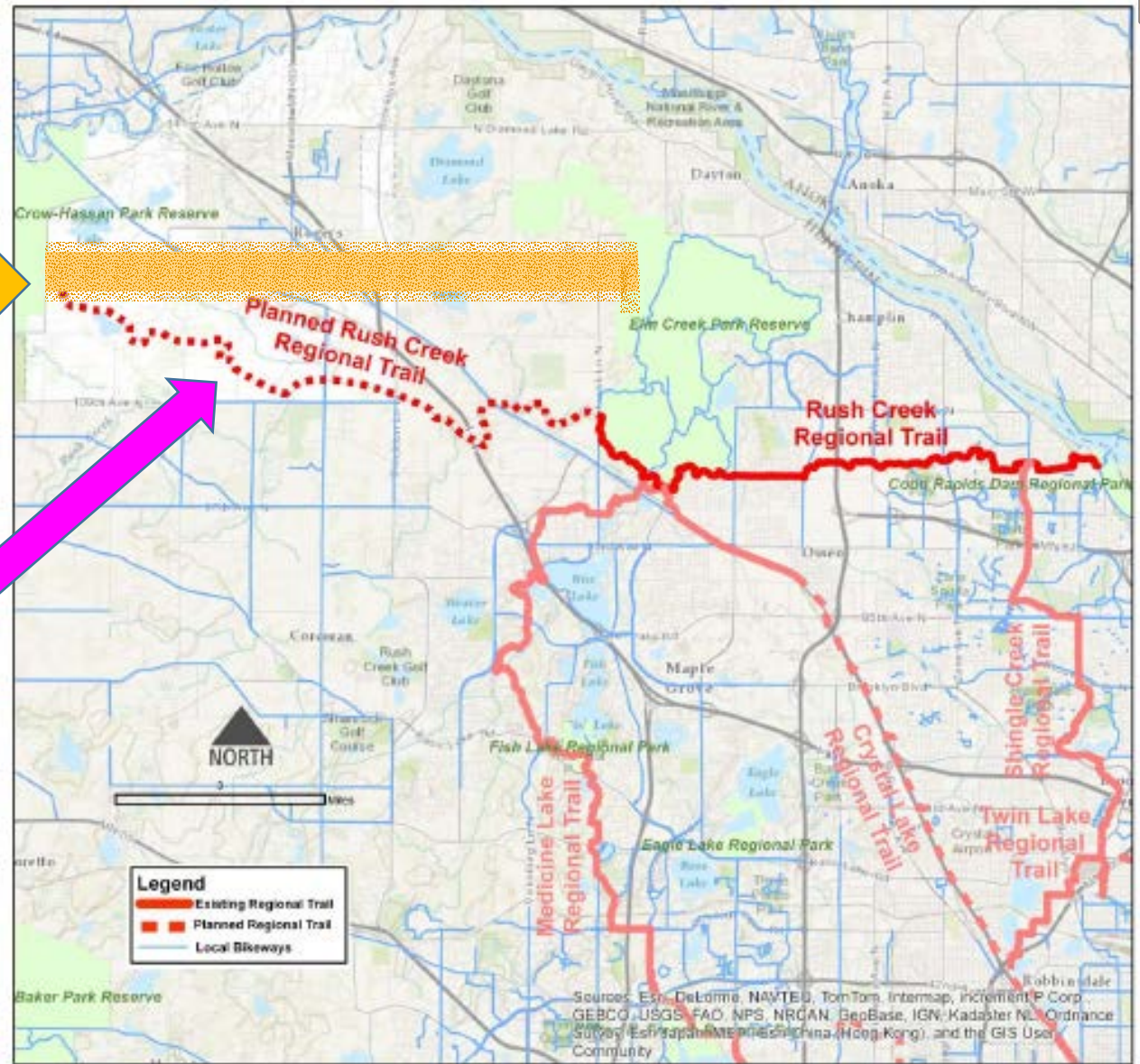
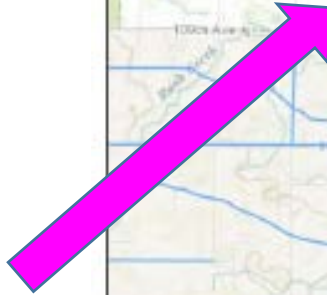




# Regional Trail Search Corridor (from 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan)

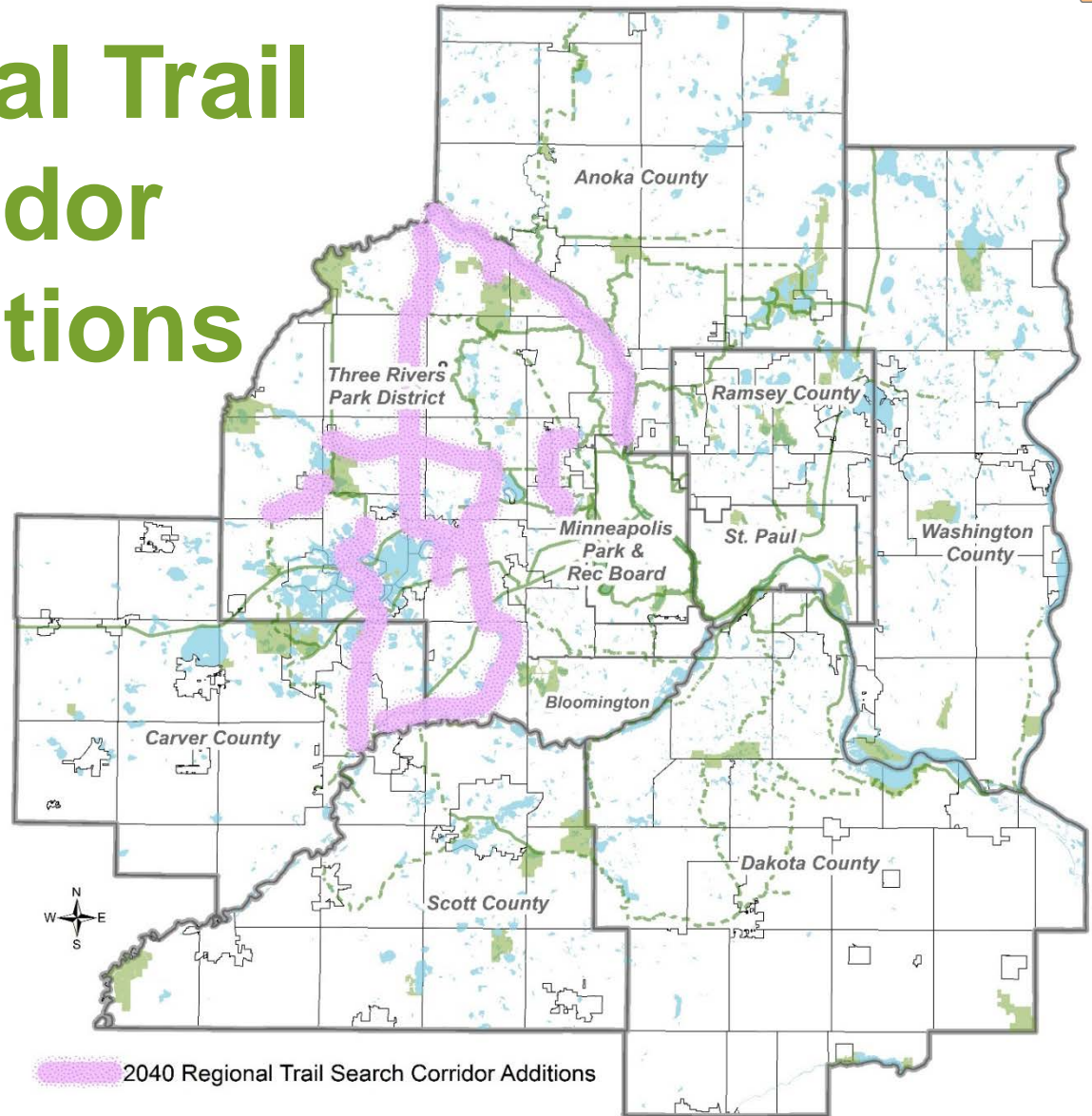


Subsequent Planned Alignment



# 2040 Regional Trail Search Corridor System Additions

- 111 miles
- Connect regional parks and trails
- Alignments to be planned in future
- Added to system with 2040 RPPP



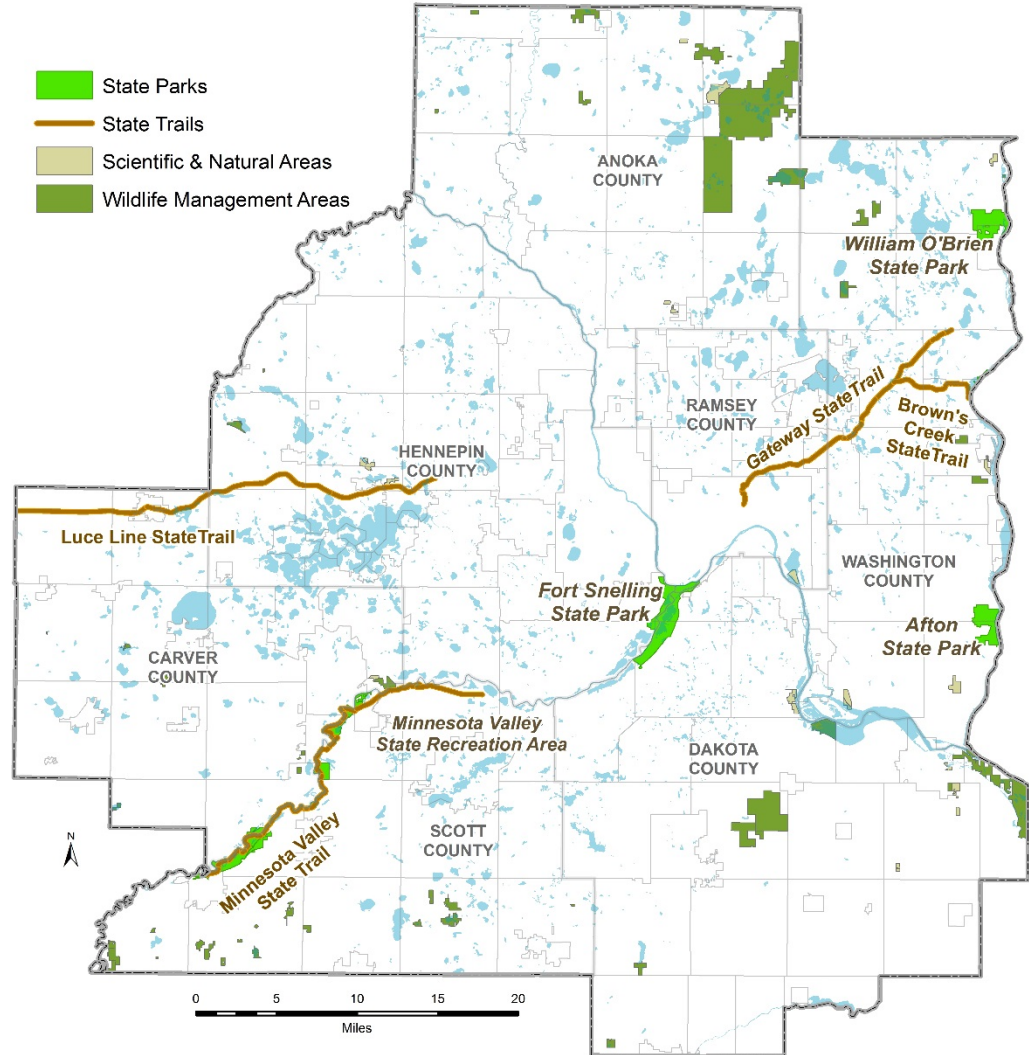
# State Trails in the Metropolitan Area



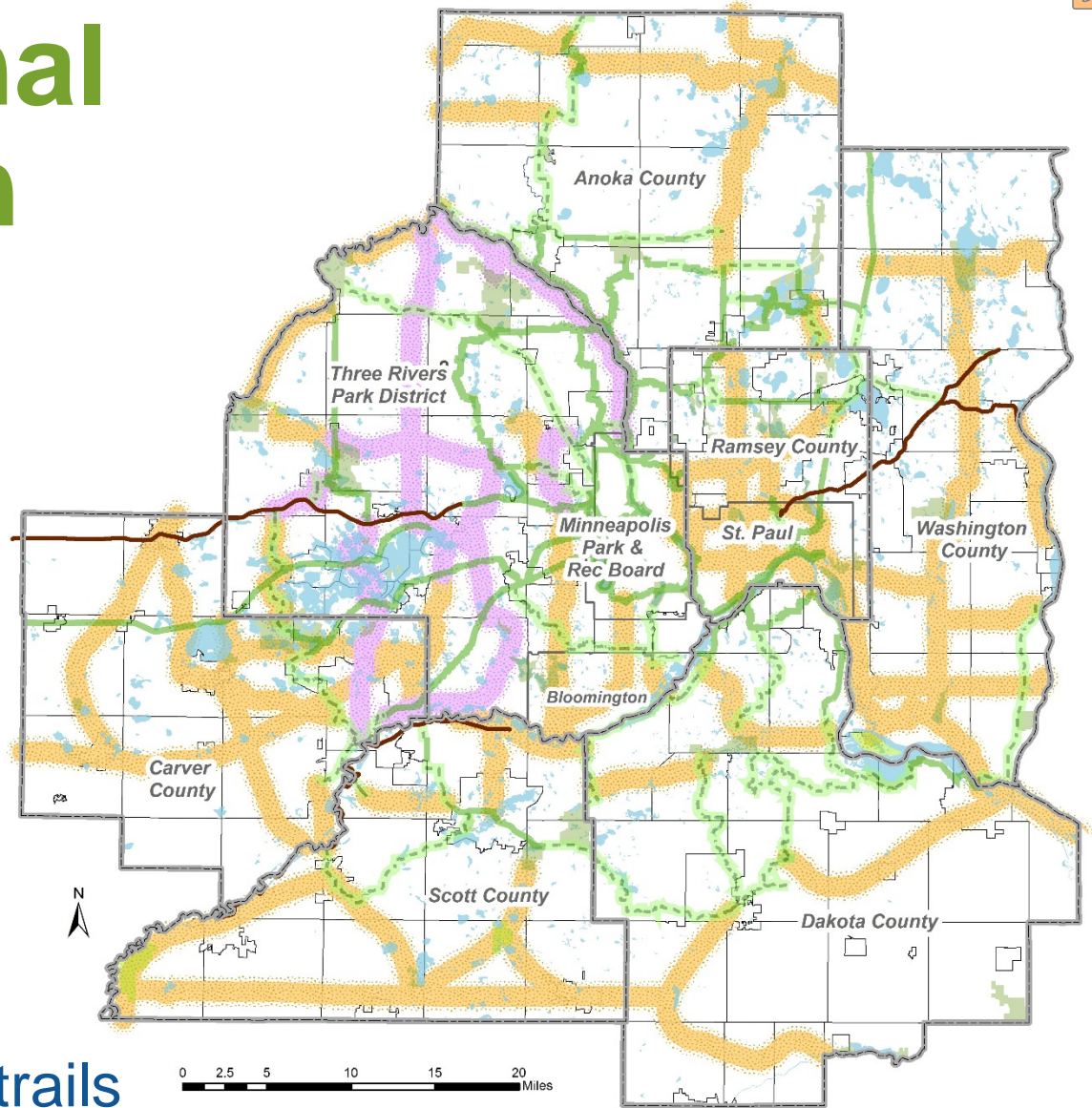
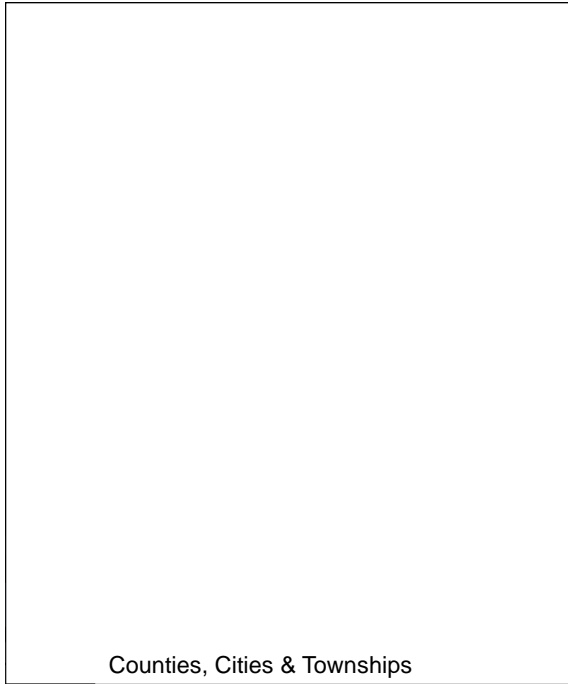
Luce Line State Trail—MN DNR



Brown's Creek State Trail—MN DNR



# 2040 Regional System Plan



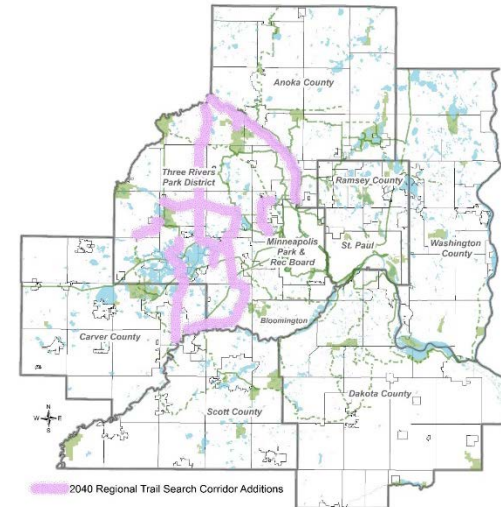
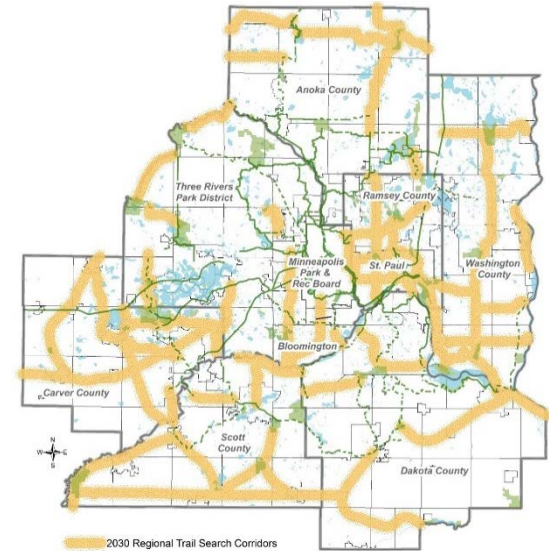
1,100 miles of regional trails

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# Key Changes in 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan

- All proposed regional trails identified as regional trail search corridors
- New 2040 Regional Trail Search Corridor System Additions





# RBTN & Regional Trails Comparison





# RBTN/Regional Trails Comparison


	RBTN	Regional Trails System
Facility Type	On-street bikeways and off-road trails	Primarily off-road trails
Character	Directness of route valued over aesthetics	Aesthetics valued over directness of route
Connections	Regional destinations	Regional parks and trails
Mode	Biking	Biking, walking, inline skating
Constructed/ Operated By	Cities and counties	Regional park implementing agencies
Future Alignments	Must be within and along RBTN corridors	Not required to be within regional trail search corridors



# RBTN & Regional Trail Overlap




## Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) Corridors

 Regional Bicycle Transportation Corridors

### Regional Trail System

 Regional Trails (Regional Parks Policy Plan)






 Planned Regional Trails

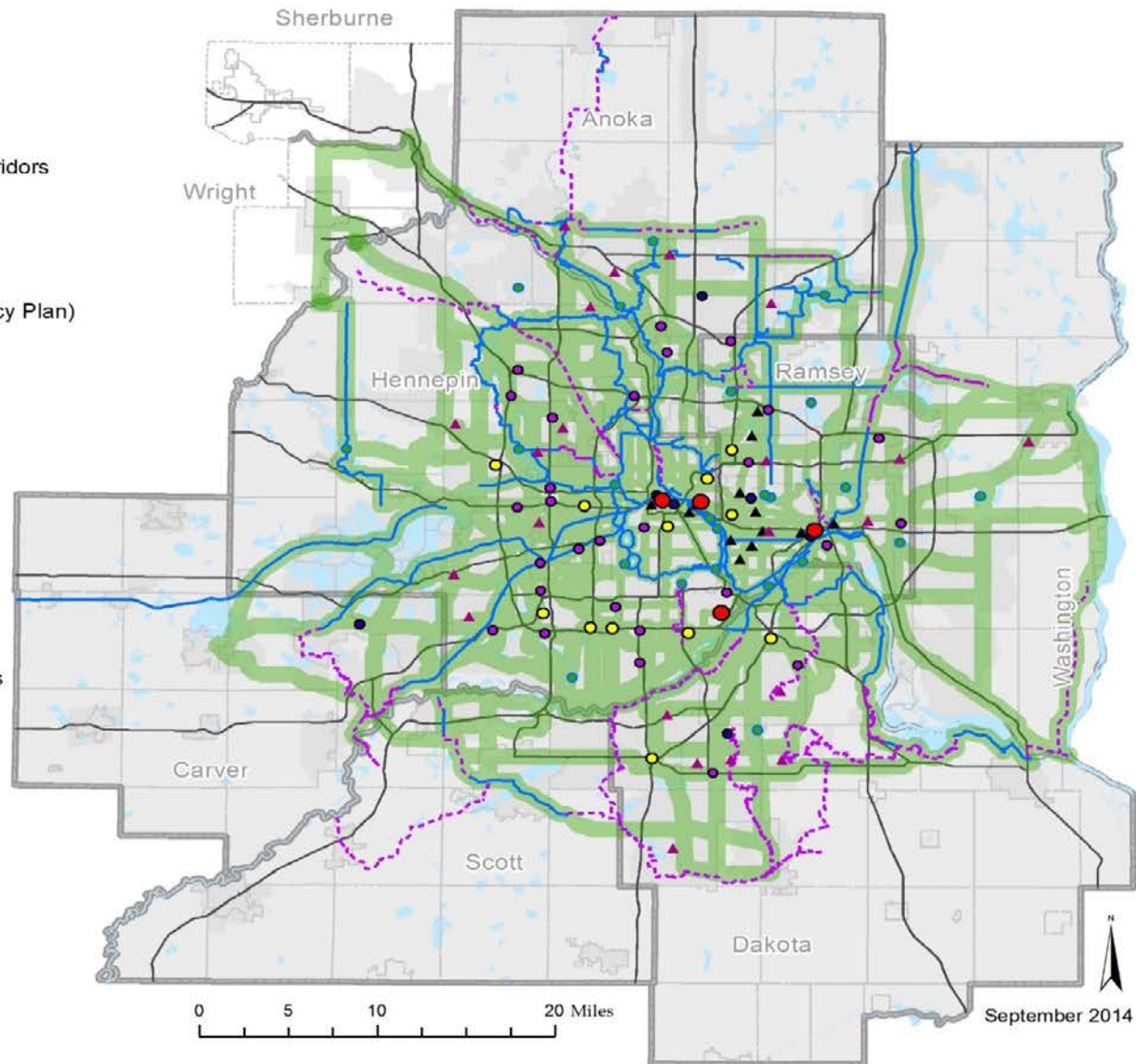
### Regional Destinations

-  Major Job & Activity Centers
-  Regional Job & Activity Centers
-  Subregional Job & Activity Centers
-  Large High Schools
-  Colleges & Universities
-  Major Sport & Entertainment Centers
-  Highly Visited Regional Parks

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### Reference Items

-  Principal Arterial Roads
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  City Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  2040 Municipal Urban Service Area MPO Area



September 2014





# Transportation Funding for RBTN Facilities

- Local funds support on-road bikeways/off-road trails
- MnDOT funds applied to on and off-road bikeways
- Implemented with federal transportation funds (Regional Solicitation)
- Regional trails also eligible if tied to a transportation purpose
- RBTN bikeways given priority in Regional Solicitation





# Funding for Regional Trails

- Implemented with Federal, State, Met Council, and Local Funds
- With a Council-approved master plan, a regional park implementing agency is eligible for funding from the Council
  - Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund
  - Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program
  - Parks and Trails Legacy Fund



Sam Morgan Regional Trail—  
Saint Paul





# RBTN & Regional Trails in Local Comp Plans



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# Comprehensive Plan Requirements: Regional Trails

- Describe, map and label all existing/planned regional trails and regional trail search corridors



Make sure to use up to date mapping in your comprehensive plan





## Regional System

The City is fortunate to have two regional trails that loop through the City and extend for miles east and west. The Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail stretches from Hopkins to the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis. The North Cedar Lake Regional Trail starts at Highway 169 and Excelsior Boulevard (intersecting with the Cedar Lake LRT) and connects to downtown Minneapolis. Both trails link up with the celebrated Minneapolis Grand Rounds Scenic Byway that encircles most of Minneapolis with 50 miles of off-street trails.

A possible third future regional trail is being studied by Three Rivers Park District. It would follow the Canadian Pacific (CP) railroad corridor and could stretch from the Minnesota River in Bloomington to Hopkins.

The regional trail system is the backbone of the City's bicycle system. It also provides great recreational walking/jogging routes. The regional system has the highest level of use and is the highest priority for snow removal and other maintenance of the pedestrian and bicycle systems.



# Change in Trail Mapping Example

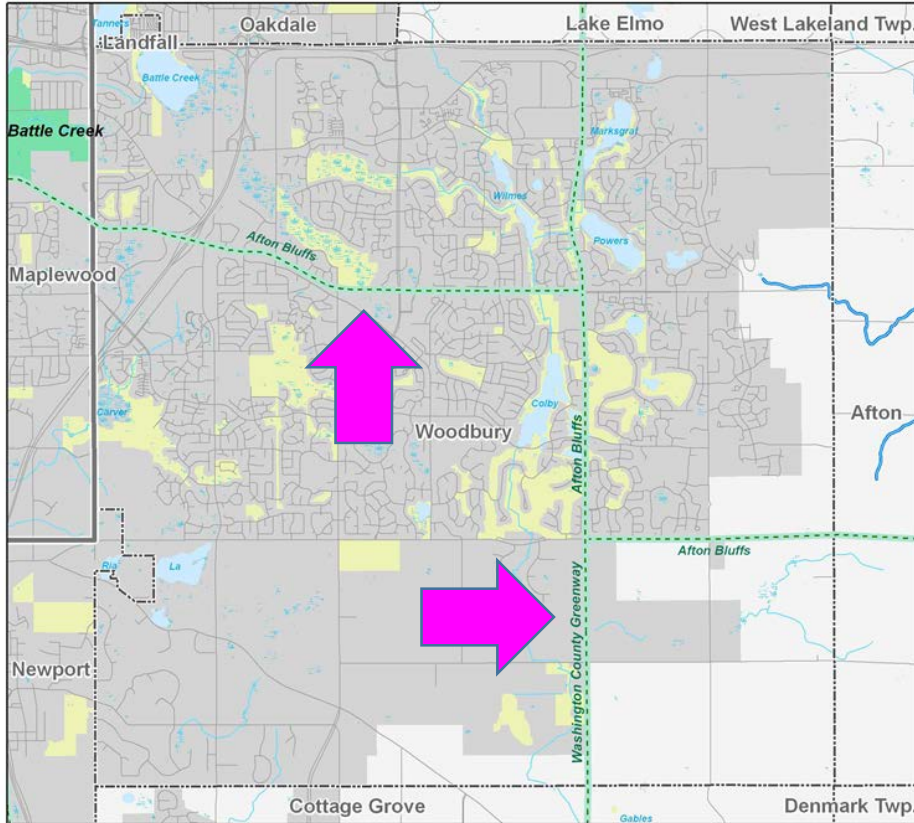


Figure 2. Regional Parks System Statement Map

July 2005



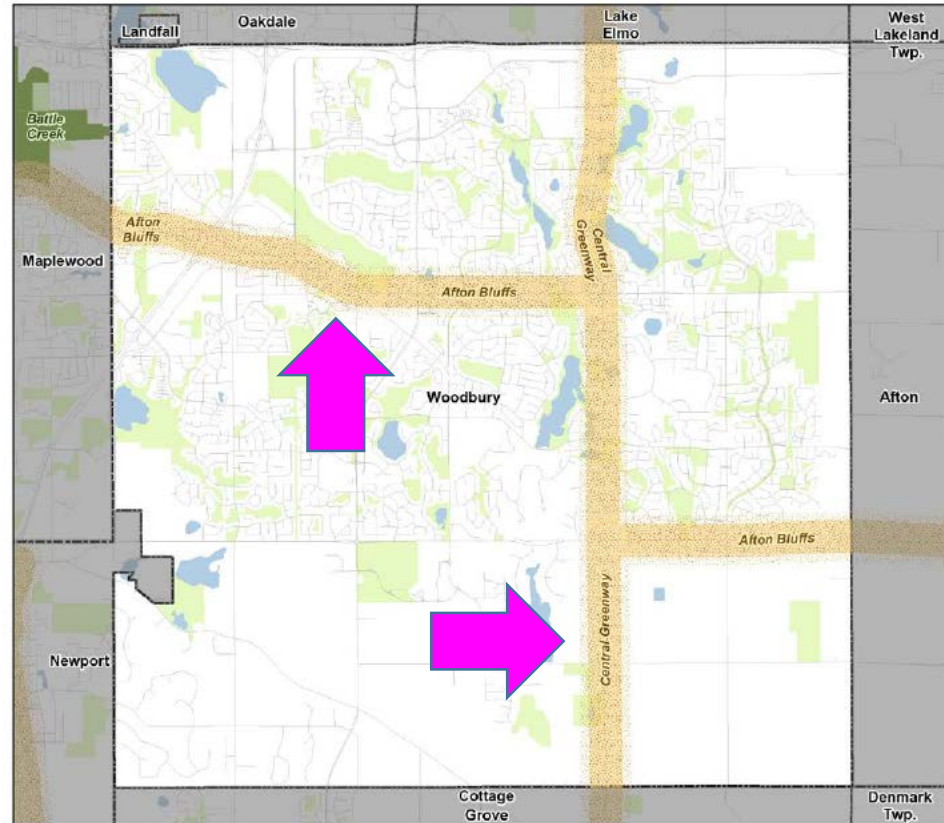
## Woodbury



2030 System Statement  
Proposed trails

## Regional Parks System

## City of Woodbury, Washington County



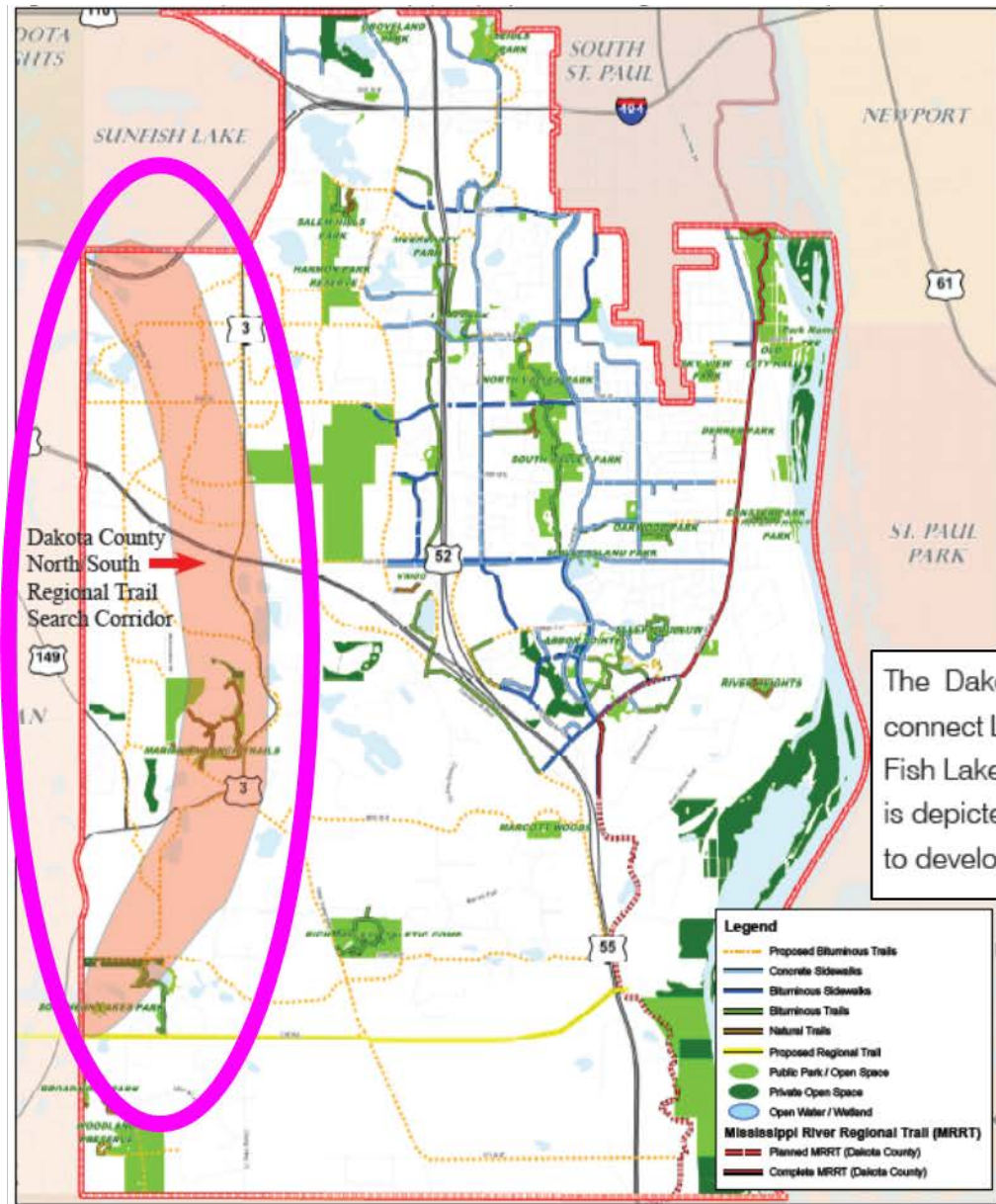
2040 System Statement  
Regional trail search corridors

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# Regional Trail Search Corridor Example



The Dakota County North/South Regional Trail search area is shown to connect Lebanon Hills Regional Park to the South Urban Regional Trail to Sun Fish Lake through Inver Grove Heights. A potential route for the regional trail is depicted on the trail master plan and the City should work with the County to develop this regional trail as development happens in the NW area.

## 2030 Comprehensive Plan

2030 Comprehensive Trail Plan



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# Comprehensive Plan Requirements: Regional Trails

- If there are no regional trails in your community, state that fact in your comprehensive plan
- Describe, map, and label the State trails that are located in your community



**Minnesota Valley State Trail—  
Minnesota DNR**



**Gateway State Trail—  
Minnesota DNR**







# Comprehensive Plan Requirements: Regional Trails

- Depict parcels that are part of regional trail corridors with a land use of “Park” on your **Existing Land Use Map**
- Guide these parcels with a land use of “Park” on your **Future Land Use Map**



















Rice Creek North Regional Trail—  
Ramsey County



# Comprehensive Plan Requirements: Regional Trails



## Planned Land Use

-  Residential (up to 4 units/acre)
-  Residential (4 - 8 units/acre)
-  Residential (8 - 20 units/acre)
-  High Density Senior Residential
-  Office
-  Commercial
-  Mixed Use
-  Business Park
-  Tower
-  Light Industrial
-  Institutional
-  Park
-  Recreational Open Space
-  Natural
-  Railroad
-  Open Water

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor



## 2030 Comprehensive Plan

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# Comprehensive Plan Considerations: Regional Trails

- Collaborate with regional park implementing agency staff
- Plan local trail connections to regional parks and trails
- Coordinate with adjacent communities in planning for local trails that cross jurisdictional boundaries

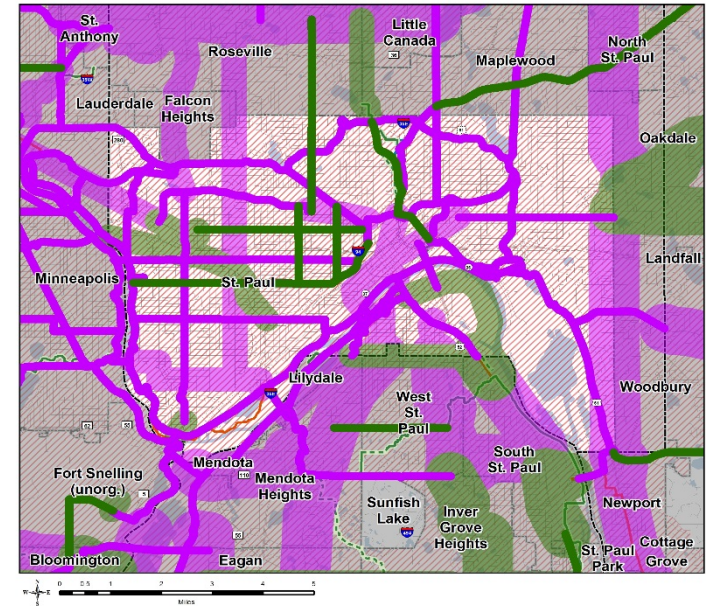




# Comprehensive Plan Requirements: RBTN

- Map how RBTN corridors & alignments relate to your city's existing/planned trails & on-street bikeways.
- Highlight local bikeway segments that run within, or intersect with, RBTN corridors, or follow in line with or intersect an RBTN alignment.

Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN)  
City of St Paul, Ramsey County





# Comprehensive Plan Requirements: RBTN

- Show the Tier 1/Tier 2 designations for all RBTN corridors & alignments.
- Show all regional employment clusters and activity centers identified on the official RBTN map.
- Analyze need for bikeway connections to remove major *physical barriers* on RBTN/local networks.





# RBTN Corridors & Alignments

## Designation of RBTN Alignments within RBTN Corridors

- For a proposed designation, highlight alignment on RBTN map and note in text that alignment is “proposed for RBTN designation.”
- These local bikeway segments *must fall within and run along* the directional orientation of the RBTN corridor





# RBTN Corridors & Alignments

## Refinement of RBTN Corridors or Alignments

Two ways to propose Corridor or Alignment refinements:

1. Coordinate with Council staff for inclusion in draft TPP Update, or
2. Propose in local Comp Plan for later Council adoption via TPP amendment or update.





# Other Considerations

## Application of RBTN Guiding Principles:

1. Explore need to *eliminate physical barriers and system gaps*







# Other Considerations

## Application of RBTN Guiding Principles:

- 2. Facilitate safe & continuous trips to regional destinations*





# Other Considerations

## Application of RBTN Guiding Principles:

3. Plan to *accommodate a broad range of cyclist abilities and preferences*





# Other Considerations

## Application of RBTN Guiding Principles:

- 4. *Integrate and/or supplement existing & planned infrastructure*





# Other Considerations

## Application of RBTN Guiding Principles:

- 5. Improve opportunities to increase bicycle mode share*





# Other Considerations

## Application of RBTN Guiding Principles:

6. *Consider opportunities to enhance economic development through bikeway planning*





# Other Regional Planning Efforts & Resources



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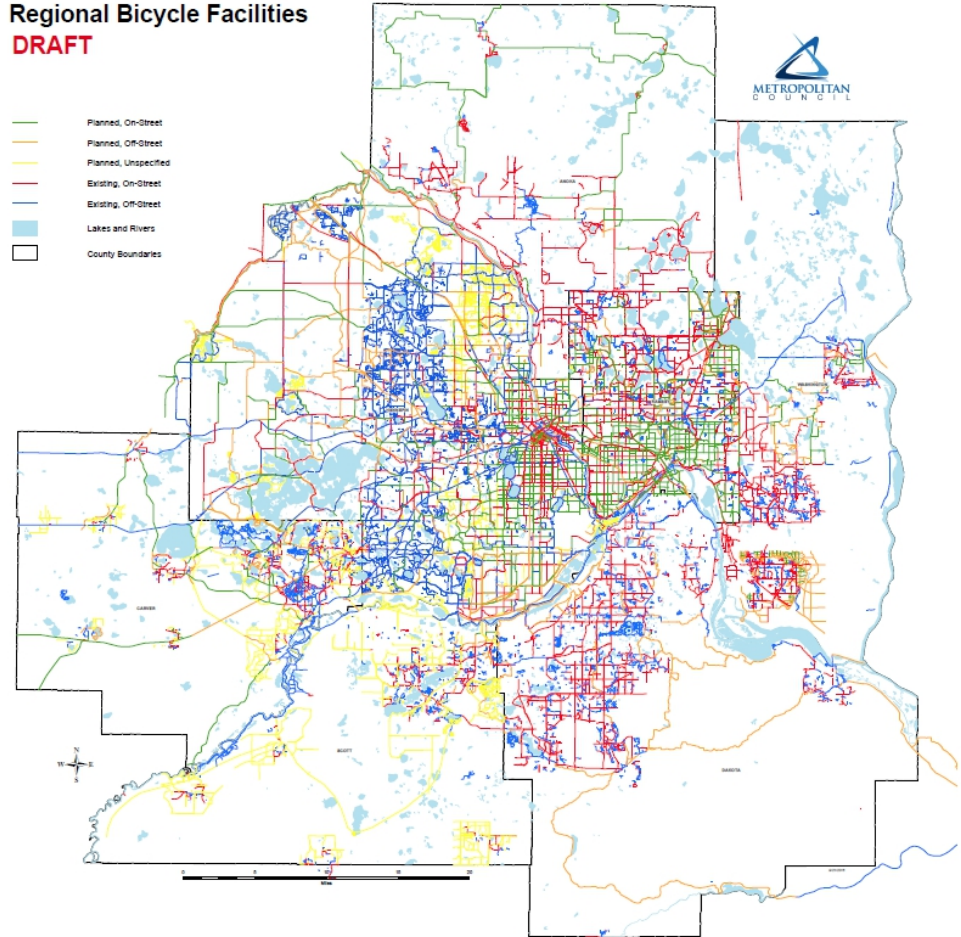


# Council Ongoing Planning Efforts

## Regional Bicycle System Inventory

- Met Council compiling a regional dataset
- Data assembled from cities by each of seven counties
- Regional attributes have been applied
- Roll-out in early 2017

Regional Bicycle Facilities  
DRAFT





# Council Ongoing Planning Efforts

## Regional Bicycle Barriers Study

- 9-month regional study just starting
- Will analyze the region's physical barriers to bicycling
- Will develop a ranked list of potential barrier crossing improvement sites, including six demonstration sites for concept development







# Resources

**LOCAL PLANNING  
HANDBOOK**

<http://metro council.org/Handbook.aspx>

**PlanIt**

<http://www.metro council.org/Handbook/PlanIt.aspx>

 **Minnesota Geospatial  
Commons**

<https://gisdata.mn.gov/>



# Questions?

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Jan Youngquist, AICP, Planning Analyst  
[Jan.Youngquist@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jan.Youngquist@metc.state.mn.us)



# Upcoming Events

## **Housing Requirements Discussion**

Presented by Lisa Barajas

Thursday, October 27, 2016

## **Comprehensive Planning for Solar Energy Systems**

Presented by Eric Wojchik and Brian Ross

Thursday, November 10, 2016

## **Economic Data – What’s out there (and How can it Enhance the Comp Plan)**

Presented by Todd Graham

Thursday, December 1, 2016