



RAMSEY COUNTY

*Working with you to enhance our quality of life*

# Battle Creek Regional Park

Master Plan Community Meeting

Thursday, July 23

# Agenda

- Presentation (15 Minutes)
  - Battle Creek Regional Park – Plans in Process
  - Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan Project
  - Master Plan Concept
  - Map Breakouts
  - Natural Resources
  - Engagement Next Steps
- Questions Comments (45 Minutes)

# Battle Creek Regional Park - Plans

## Battle Creek Regional Park – Master Plan Amendment

- Plan to address the entire regional park for both natural resource and recreation improvements
- Boundary expansion
- Long-term acquisition
- Anticipated completion Spring 2021

## Battle Creek Regional Park – Pigs Eye Master Plan Amendment

- Plan will address sequencing of natural resource improvements for the Pigs Eye Lake island building project
- Natural resource activities within the Pigs Eye Section
- Public Protection for the Ramsey County section of Pigs Eye Lake
- Will be absorbed into the overall master plan amendment
- Anticipated completion Fall 2020

# Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan

## Overview

- Master Planning Activities started in the spring of 2019
- Planning process began as a result of an outdated master plan for the park, which was still the original master plan from 1981
- The Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan is intended to develop a long range vision and recommendation for the park, built from input from the public and stakeholders. This will be achieved by gathering information on issues and concerns from community members and stakeholders, engaging in design charrettes with the public, and ultimately refining a master plan that will guide future park improvements.
- Planning is anticipated to be completed with master plan adoption in the spring of 2021.

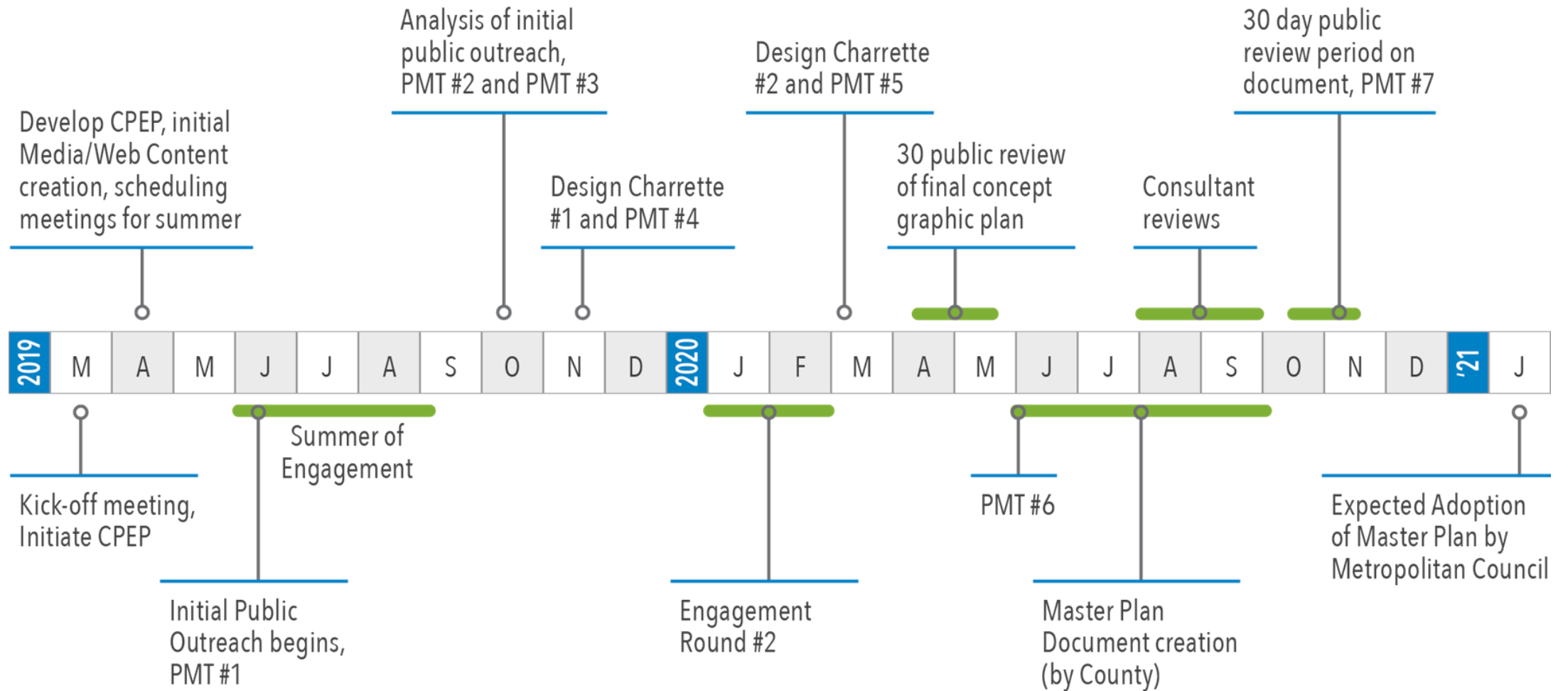
# Community Engagement & Timeline

## Goals of Community Engagement

Based upon initial project discussions along with an analysis of park stakeholders it was decided that we would work on a collaborative level of engagement. The project team decided to partner with the public on key aspects, including identifying issues and needs, determining alternative options, and provide guidance on preferred alternative plans.

- Work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure there is transparency and consistent communication of project information.
- Use an equity lens in amplifying the voices of communities traditionally left out of the planning process, including immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ communities, youth, and the elderly.
- Connect with a broad cross section of community stakeholders to provide ideas, guidance and feedback.
- Deploy a defined communications and messaging strategy

# Community Engagement & Timeline



# Community Engagement & Timeline

## Public Outreach & Engagement Events

### Pop Up Meetings

- Hmongtown Marketplace – Sunday, June 29, 2019
- Ramsey County Fair – Friday, July 12, 2019
- Battle Creek Pavilion – Eritrean Muslim Council – Sunday, July 14, 2019
- Battle Creek Waterworks – Saturday, August 10, 2019
- Southeast Community Organization – Community Event – Wednesday, August 28, 2019

# Community Engagement & Timeline

## Public Outreach & Engagement Events

### Community Meetings

- Battle Creek Recreation Stakeholders Meeting – Wednesday, July 24, 2019
- District 1/Southeast Community Organization Council Meeting – Monday, February 24, 2020
- Carver Elementary Family Night – Thursday, February 27, 2020
- Battle Creek Middle School Focus Group – Wednesday, March 4, 2020



# Community Engagement & Timeline

## Public Outreach & Engagement Events

### Community At Large Meetings

- At-Large Meeting #1 Saturday, August 3, 2019
- Community Design Charrette Saturday, November 2, 2019
- Community Input Virtual Meeting Thursday, July 23, 2020

# Community Engagement & Timeline

## Online Engagement

### Phase I

- On-Line Survey
- Wiki-Map

### Phase II

- On-line Survey

### Phase III

- On-Line Survey
- Story Map & Survey

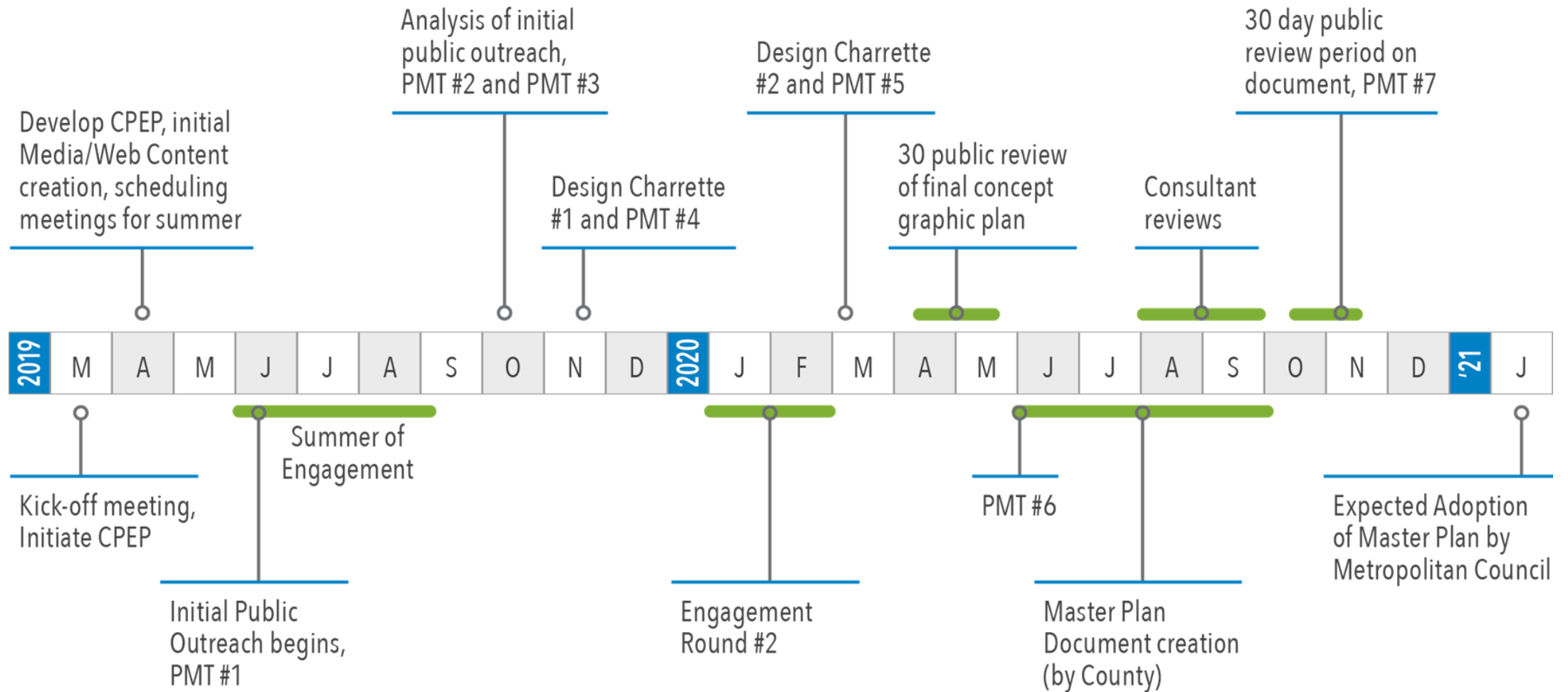
# Public Engagement – What We Heard

- Broad support for addition of a Nature Center
- Broad support for beginner outdoor programs
- Snowmaking a key concern among online survey respondents
- In-person (more diverse response pool) prioritized waterpark, playground, other built park uses (Waterworks, Splashpad, Playground, Archery, Food Kiosks, Fishing, etc.)
- Online (less diverse response pool) prioritized passive and natural space activities (skiing, hiking, off-road cycling, walking, etc.)

# Public Engagement – What We Heard

- Broad support for preservation of natural spaces
- Keep development as minimal as possible and cluster near existing developed areas
- Broad Support for connection with and access into the Pigs Eye Lake area
  - Connections from north and south
  - Long-term connections over Highway 61
- Broad support for long-term park expansion and acquisition

# Community Engagement & Timeline



# Concept Maps

## Overall Park Plan

Improve park connectivity and access

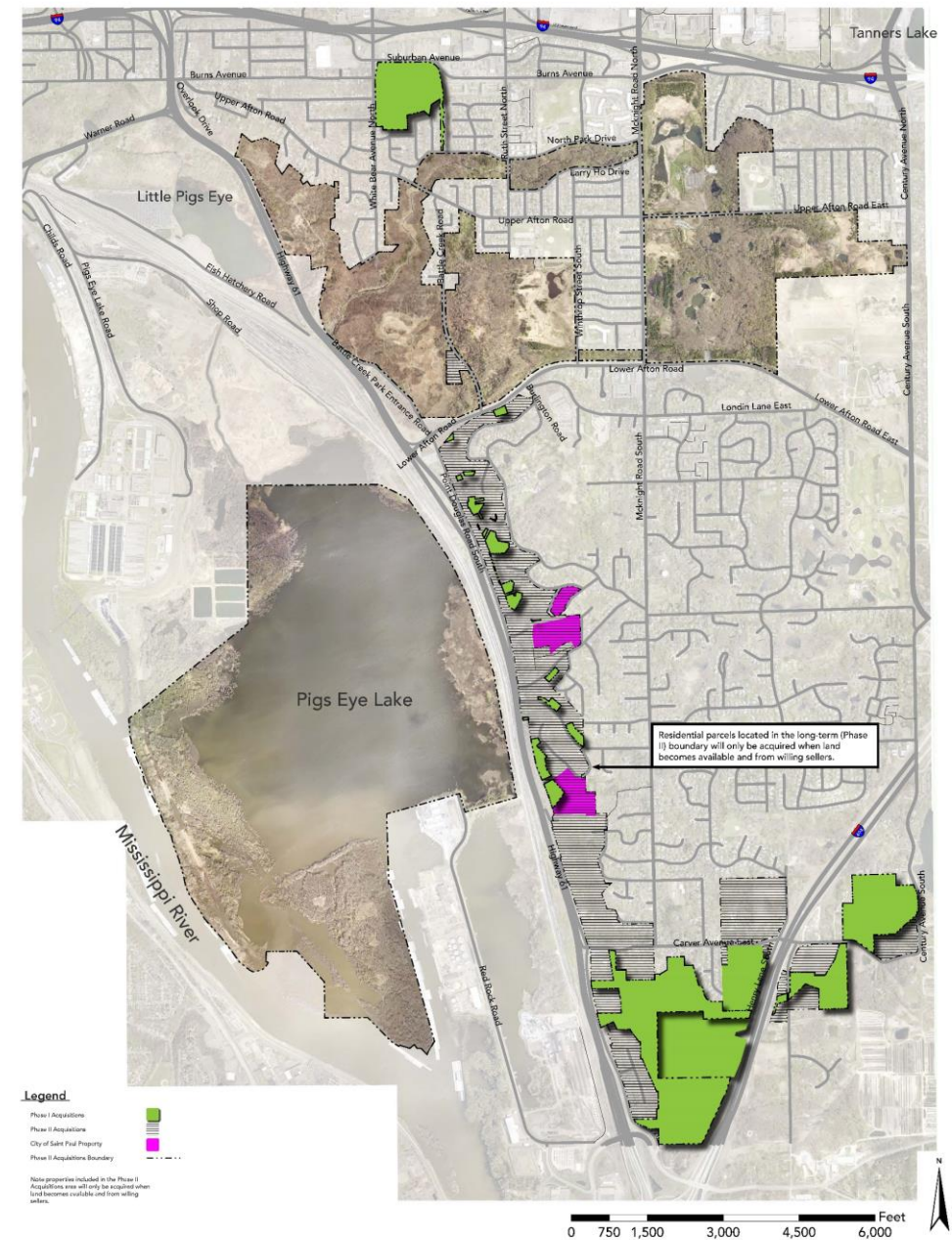
- Explore new trail loop
- Bluff line trail connecting Battle Creek & Fish Creek
  - Overlooks
  - Rest stops
- Overpass of Highway 61 at Lower Afton Road for Pigs Eye Access
- Incorporate new areas into regional park
  - Suburban Pond
  - Fish Creek
  - Mississippi River Bluffs
- Enhance Access from Highwood Hills Neighborhood



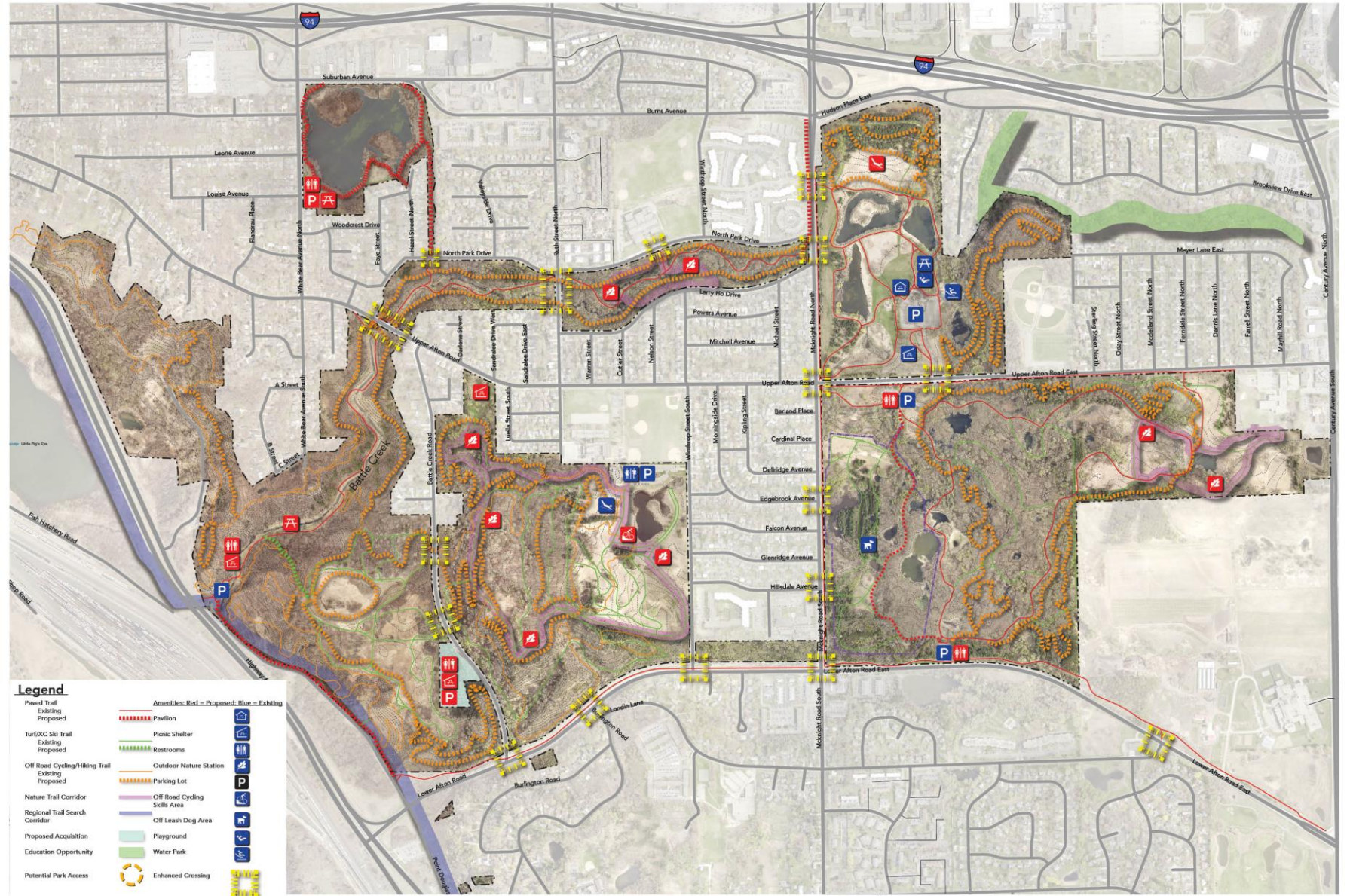
# Concept Maps

## Park Acquisitions

- Suburban Pond Open Space
- Mississippi River Bluffs Open Space
- Fish Creek Open Space
- 527 Battle Creek Road



# Concept Maps

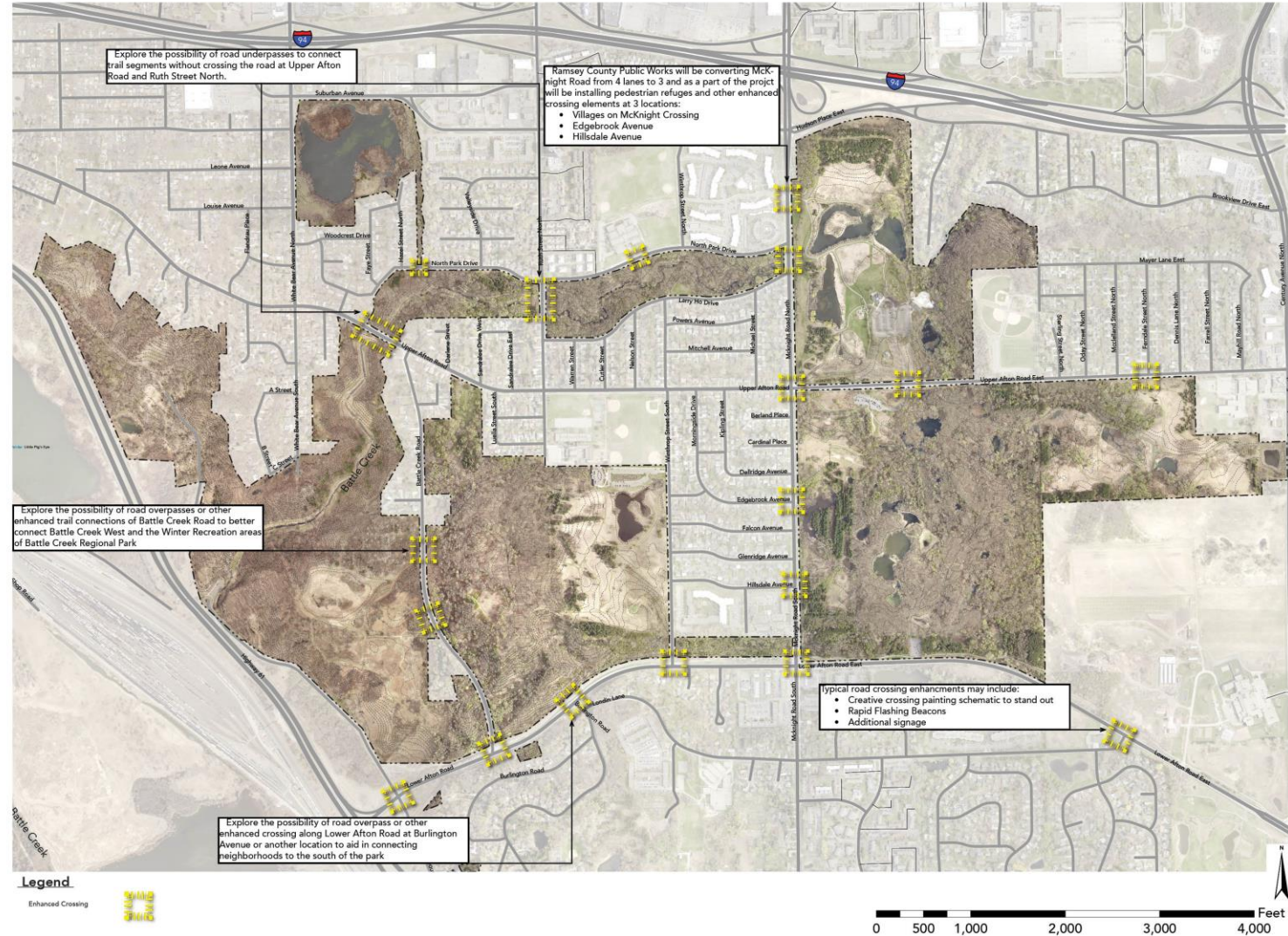




# Concept Maps

## Battle Creek Access

- Improve access into park at major intersections
- Emphasize crossings that have historically had difficulty
  - Across Lower Afton Road
- Explore Enhancements to trail crossings along Battle Creek Road
- Ramsey County Public works to convert McKnight Road from 4-3 lanes and install pedestrian refuges at select crossings



# Concept Maps

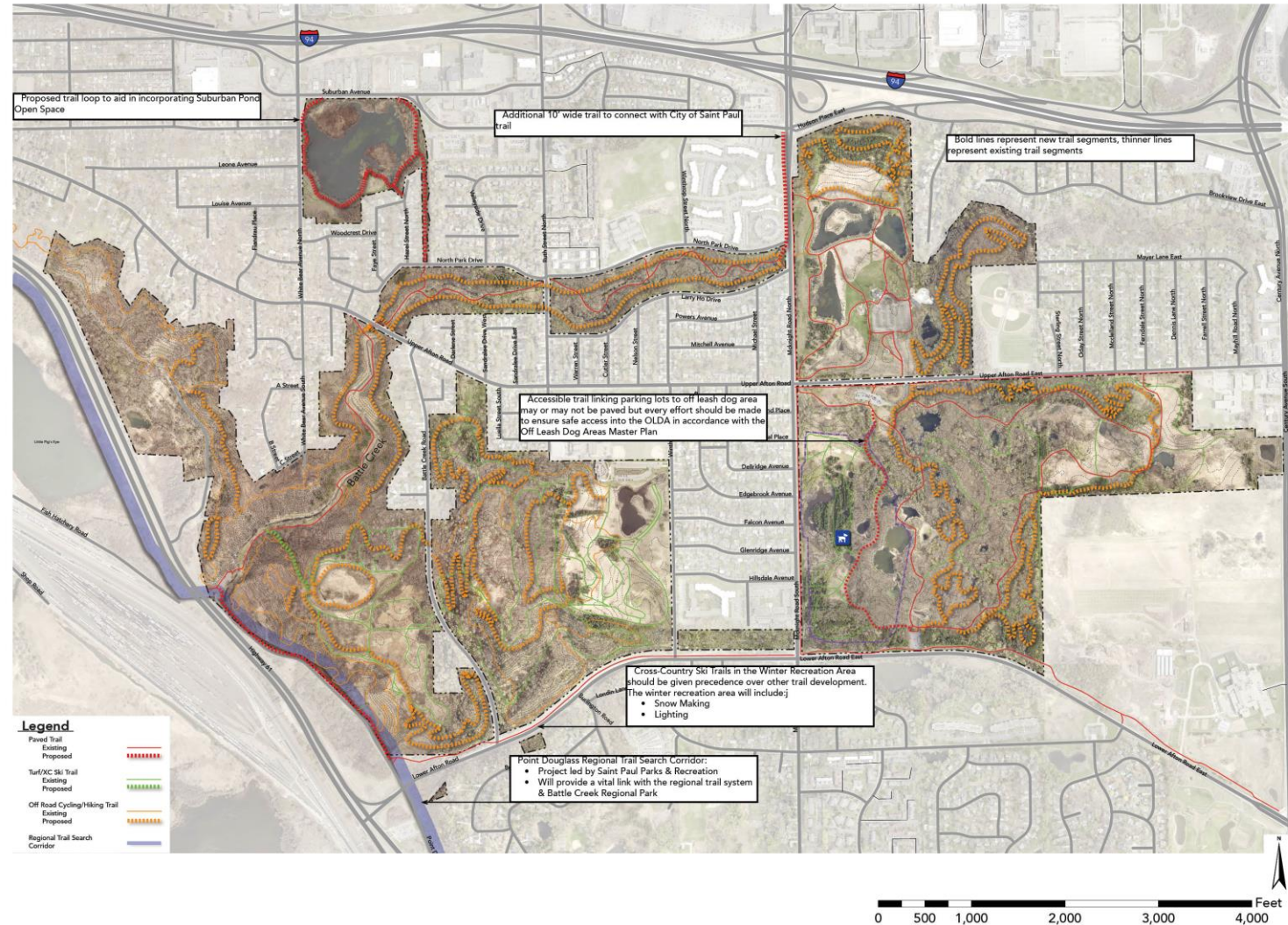
## Battle Creek Access

- Trail underpasses at Upper Afton Road & Ruth Street South, enhancing overall park connectivity
- Typical enhanced crossings may include:
  - Creative crossing painting schemes to stand out
  - Rapid Flashing Beacons
  - Additional Signage
  - Crossing Signals
  - Others

# Concept Maps

## Battle Creek Trails

- New accessible trail through OLDA per master plan
- Cross country ski trails in the Winter Rec. area should be given precedence over other trail development
  - Snow making
  - Lighting
- Point Douglass Road Regional Trail Connection



# Concept Maps

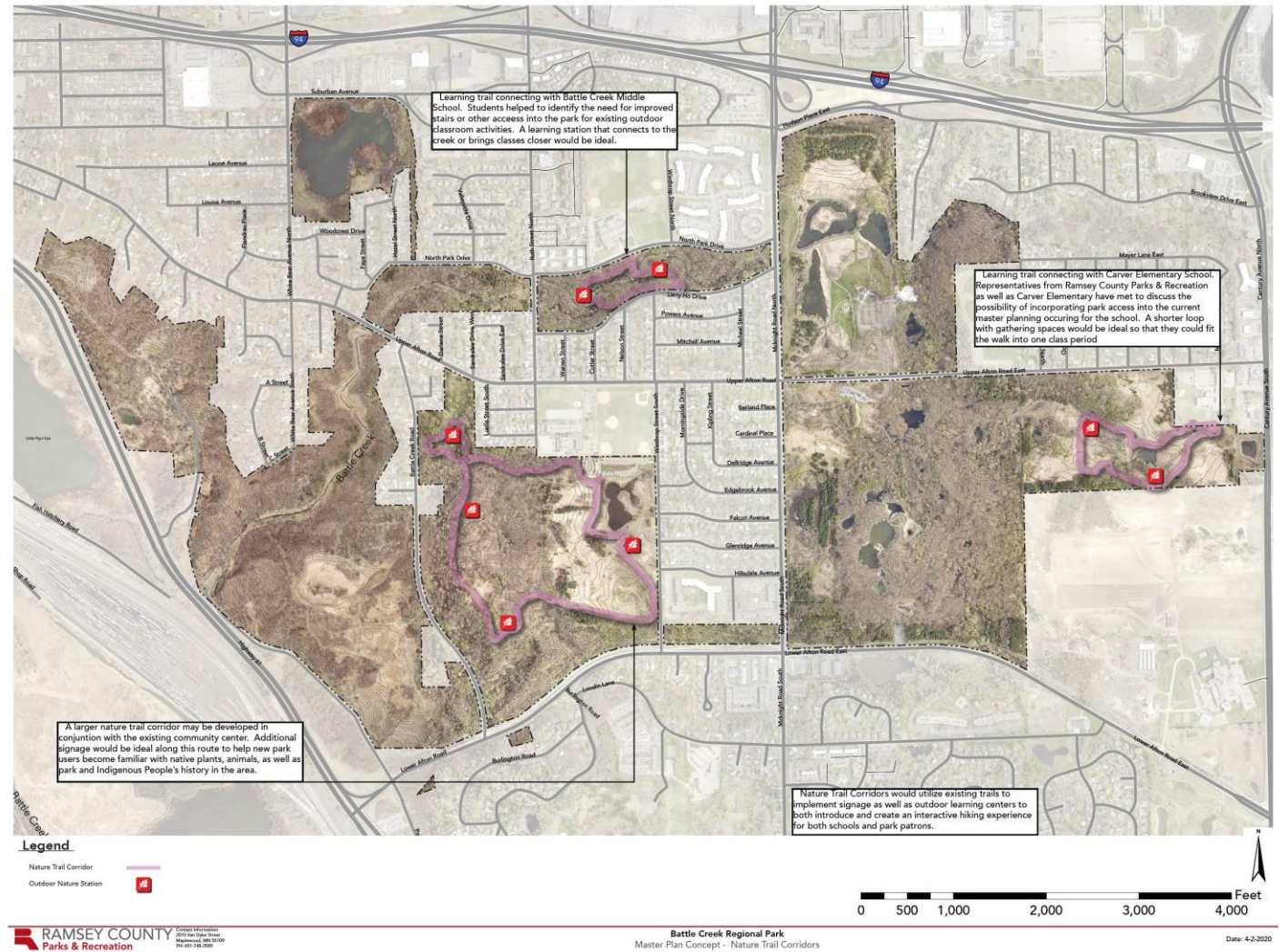
## Battle Creek Trails

- Make connection to the City of Saint Paul trail, widen sidewalk to 10' from North Park Drive to Suburban Ave.
- There was good support for making cross country ski trails inclusive to hikers & snow shoeing in the winter. Many felt locked out of their park if they didn't cross country ski. Allow for side path along cross country ski groomed paths.
- Continue to work with Saint Paul Parks & Recreation on the Point Douglass Regional Trail, link with Battle Creek Regional Park & the greater regional park system.
- A lot of support for the off road cycling system. Ensure proper wayfinding and use signage is installed. These trails are multi-use and bikers need to yield to slower moving recreation.

# Concept Maps

## Nature Learning Trails

- Support for both classroom and self guided use
- Additional signage along select corridors to aid in education
  - Natural features
  - Park history
- Battle Creek Elementary already brings classes down to creek
- Added gathering spaces

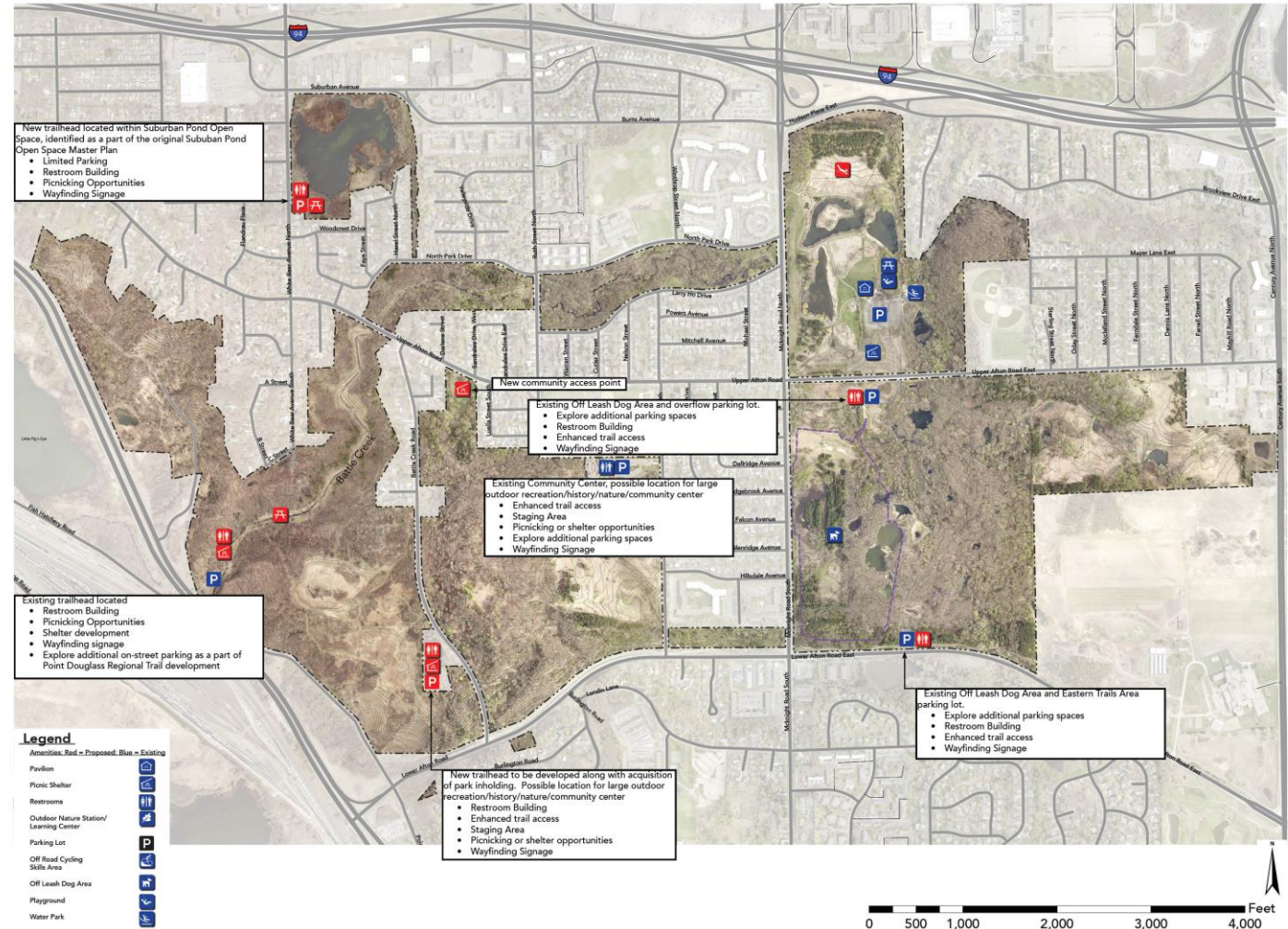


# Concept Maps

## Amenities

Wide support for

- Added restroom
- Wayfinding signage
- Picnicking and Shelter opportunities
- Parking
- Waterworks renovation/remodel



# Concept Maps

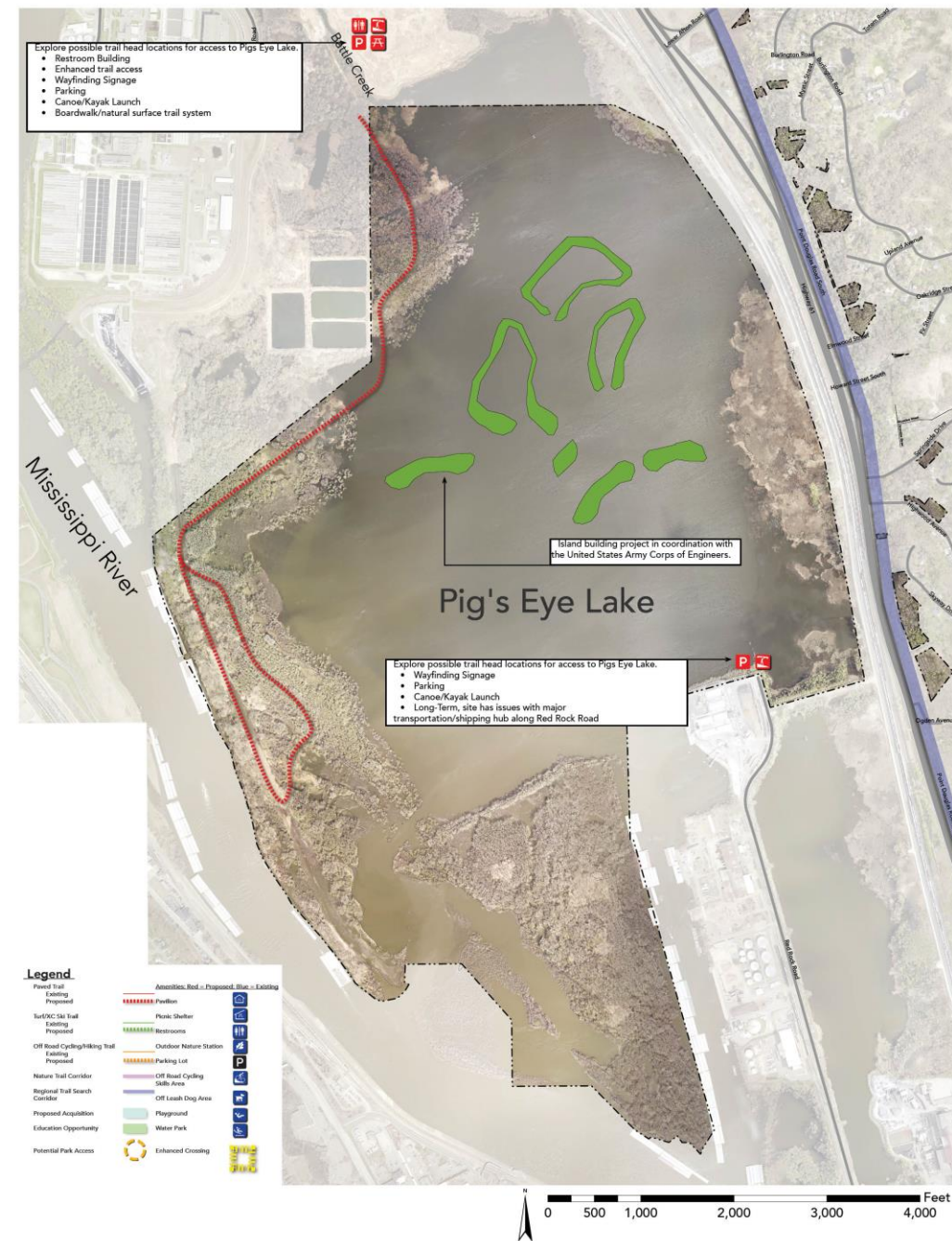
## Amenities

- Added Fishing opportunities
  - Fishing node or pier along storm water infrastructure
  - DNR FIN Program (Fishing in the Neighborhood)
  - Widen bridges so that winter plowing is possible
- Outdoor Recreation & Nature Center
  - Enhance trail access
  - Recreational sports staging area
  - Wayfinding signage
  - Combine with existing recreation center through expansion/renovation or land acquisition

# Concept Maps

## Pigs Eye Lake Section

- Develop access point(s) into the park
  - North end of lake from St. Paul Property
  - Red Rock Road
  - Over Highway 61
- Boardwalk/trails System
  - Wayfinding Signage
  - Overlooks
  - Wayfinding/Nature interpretation signage
- Small Watercraft Launch(es)
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Natural Resources, island building, public protection, and other natural resource activities to be addressed in a separate plan

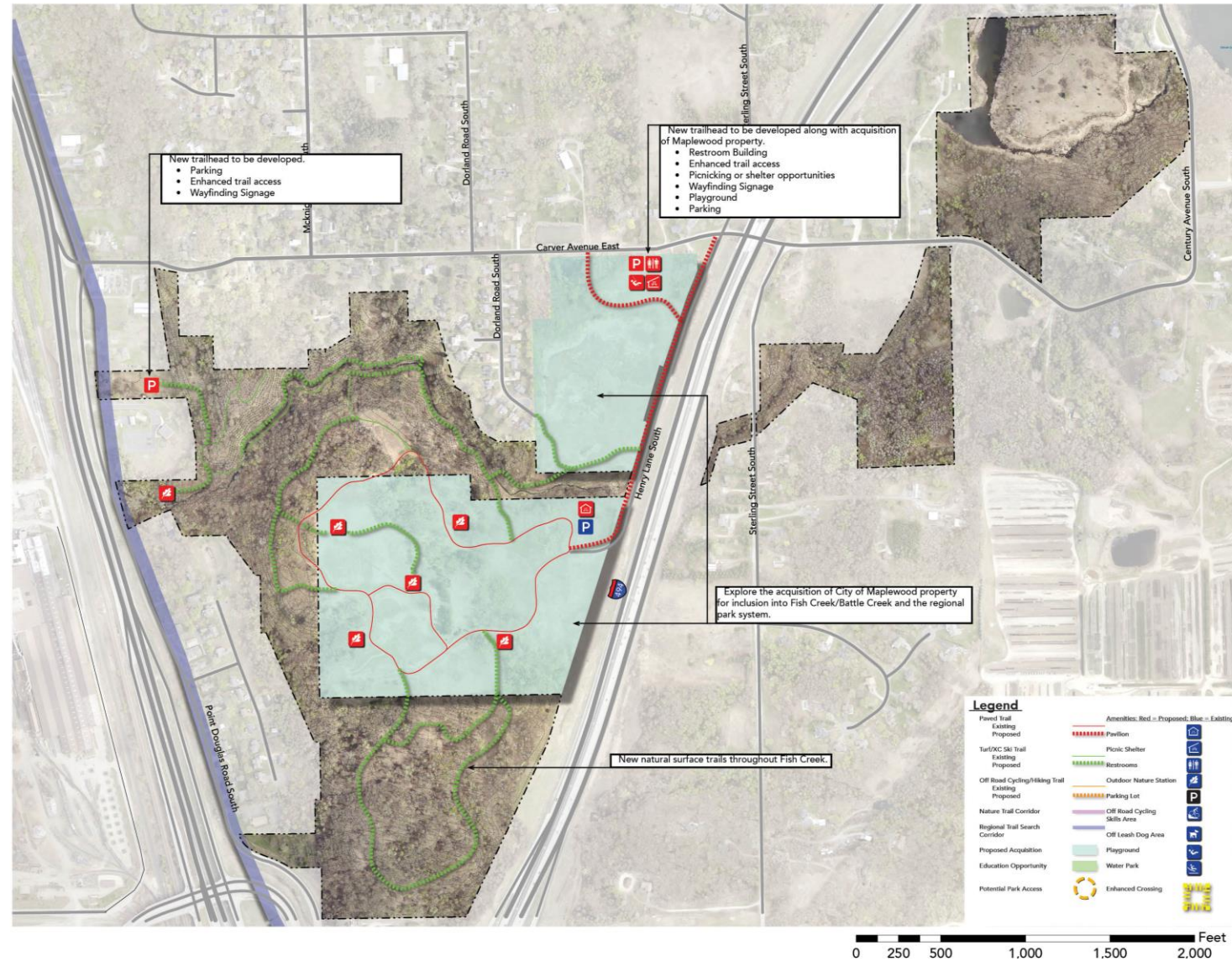




# Concept Maps

## Fish Creek Section

- Additional Trailheads
  - Parking
  - Enhanced trail access
  - Wayfinding signage
- Picnicking or shelter development
- Playground development
- Acquisition of Maplewood property
- New natural surface trails



# Natural Resources Preservation

The natural resources section of the Battle Creek Master Plan will further detail:

- Natural resource goals
- Resource Related background and history
- Current natural resource quality and management issues
- Ecologically based management principles
- Description of native habitats found within the park

# Natural Resources Preservation

Detailed information for specific management areas, compatible with the overall resource goals and information will include:

- Land cover descriptions
- County and state status of protections, habitat and species
- Management issues
- Term management goals
- Resource survey and inventory requirements
- Management tasks, schedule and costs of implementation
- Areas to convert to native habitat

# Other Relevant Plans

- Great River Passage Plan
- Off-Road Cycling Master Plan
- Off-Leash Dog Area Master Plan
- Point Douglass Road Regional Trail Master Plan (Saint Paul Parks & Recreation, in progress)

# Engagement Next Steps

- Concept Master Plan Public Review
  - 30 day minimum requirement
  - August – September 2020
- Draft Master Plan Public Review
  - 30 day minimum requirement
  - November – December 2020
- Municipal Support
  - Maplewood
  - Saint Paul
- Other Relevant Support Review
  - Ramsey County Parks Commission
  - Southeast Community Organization (District 1)
- Ramsey County Board Adoption
  - February 2021
- Metropolitan Council Adoption
  - March 2021

# Questions

- **Project office hours**
- Can't attend the virtual meeting? We're hosting a dedicated set of office hours to answer questions about the proposed master plan. Call in to talk to a park planner.
- **Tuesday, July 28, Noon - 4:30 p.m.**  
[651-748-2500](tel:651-748-2500)