

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan

11-18-2020

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PLANNING FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan is to guide the development, preservation, management, and improvement of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. The Rice Creek North Regional Trail is located in the northwest corner of Ramsey County. The Ramsey County section of trail is 4.75 miles in length and is part of a 14-mile regional trail corridor that extends from the Rice Creek - Chain of Lakes Regional Park in Anoka County to the Mississippi River by way of Long Lake Regional Park. The trail corridor includes Rice Creek and its floodplain.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department is seeking an amendment/update to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan to accurately reflect boundary adjustment, long-term acquisition, natural resource improvements, public participation, equity analysis, and long-term development plans for park and recreational infrastructure. Additionally, the regional trail corridor is not located within the Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area (MRCCA) boundary area and is not regulated under the MRCCA policy standards and criteria.

To provide clarity, this amendment/update replaces the 1998 master plan, 2003 and 2013 master plan amendments to provide a current overall master plan for the Ramsey County section of the Rice Creek Regional Trail. Resolutions for support have been obtained from the cities of Arden Hills, Mounds View, New Brighton, Shoreview, and Ramsey County. Below is a high-level summary of master plan components.

Background

Additional planning has been required since the 2013 master plan amendment as several changes have occurred including further planning of Rice Creek Commons, access, recreational needs throughout the corridor, and boundary adjustments. Planning activities started again in June 2018 to determine project scope, objectives, coordination, stakeholders and process for engaging the public for proposed long-term infrastructure improvements.

Public Engagement

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation organized a series of public engagement opportunities for project awareness and feedback regarding proposed improvements throughout the corridor. Through June 2018 – January 2019, there were multiple opportunities for public engagement consisting of five public engagement meetings, online surveys, and two 30-day public reviews. Methods for public engagement included:

- Approximately 3,740 mailings were sent out to residents
- Website, Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms were used for project awareness
- Ramsey County reached out to individual County Commissioners, targeted stakeholder partners and other public agency partners for project awareness and opportunity for feedback, coordination, and support.

Themes that emerged from public engagement:

- Utilization of Building 189 as a multi-season programming and recreational destination hub
- Additional trail development to accommodate, hiking, off-road cycling, cross-country skiing, and other traditional recreational uses
- Additional trail development to create more in park trails, trail loops and connections to surrounding neighborhoods for safe crossing and intersections.
- Enhanced trailheads to accommodate additional parking, restrooms, and site amenities
- Enhanced Rice Creek Water Trail access
- Enhanced lighting and safety features

- Destination cross country ski system along with race and/or event staging areas
- Expansion of cross-country ski trail systems with added trail amenities and lighting
- Access into the Arden Hills Army Training Site and adjacent public agency surrounding areas for expanded recreational opportunities

Equity Analysis

Public engagement was intended to reach as wide of an audience as possible and focused on gathering information both from residents who live near the trail corridor and county-wide as well. In addition, there was also a focus area for neighborhoods adjacent or near to the regional trail corridor boundary.

Comparing census blocks from 2010 data and approximate values in 2017 between tracts that fall within 1 mile of the trail corridor with Ramsey County overall provided some meaningful data. Ramsey County, as of 2017, had a population of 537,893. The mean household income of the county was \$60,301, with a poverty rate of 15%. The subset of the population living in a census tract within 1 mile of the trail corridor had a population of 74,252, with a median income of \$81,094 and a poverty rate of 7.1%. The area immediately surrounding the trail in general is a far less diverse area within Ramsey County with 81.39% of residents identifying as white compared with 63.06% overall Ramsey County. Additional data for neighborhoods within the immediate surrounding focus area also shows a higher percentage of financial wealth, more educational opportunities, higher percentage of population in both 45-64 and 65+ age but a lower percentage of population in both under 18 and 18-44 age categories, compared to the rest of the county.

The engagement process with the community consisted of mailings to all residents surrounding the trail corridor, posting engagement events to the Ramsey County website, publishing updates to the county's social media posts, and project updates in the county newsletter. The level of engagement as defined by the International Association for Public Participation's Public Participation Spectrum was to "involve". This allowed for participant comments to be made during the listening input portions as well as through the generation of concepts, to influence the development plan.

Development Plan

Proposed improvements for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail will mostly consist of additional development of traditional recreation amenities consisting for trailheads, walking, bicycling, off road cycling, cross country skiing, bird watching, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and interpretive and educational programming. In the central segment of the corridor, a multi-season trail head facility is proposed to re-use and expand upon Building 189. Existing trail head locations have planned enhancements to improve overall access and improved site amenities. Given the trail's unique and attractive natural setting along Rice Creek, there is a desire to expand recreation opportunities and interpretive/educational programming. Some of the major amenities proposed to be enhanced or newly implemented in this master plan include:

- 12.22 miles of bituminous trails.
 - 7.75 miles existing.
 - 4.47 miles proposed.
- 12.75 miles proposed of combined off road cycling and hiking trails.
- 12 miles of combined cross-country ski trails (winter), and walking/hiking trails (summer).
 - 1.24 miles existing.
 - 10.66 miles proposed.
- New multi-season trail head site in the central segment of the corridor developed around Building 189.
- Enhancement of existing trailheads to accommodate restroom buildings, additional parking and site amenities.
- Development of new trailhead access locations
- Additional interpretive and educational programming amenities.
- Improved site amenities throughout the corridor including benches, trash and recycling bins, wayfinding signs, water fountains.
- Habitat restoration.

- Improved access to Rice Creek for canoe and kayak.
- Additional trail infrastructure and bridges to create more in park trails, trail loops and connections to surrounding neighborhoods for safe road and intersection crossings.
- Off leash dog area improvements (System-wide Off-leash Dog Area Master Plan).
- Proposed boundary expansion for expanded recreational opportunities

Boundary Expansion/Adjustment

Future acquisition is proposed for the trail corridor when properties become available and would likely require additional master planning activities to determine potential recreation uses prior to acquisition. At this time there are no residential properties proposed for acquisition but there is potential long-term interest in adjacent public agency owned properties. The proposed administrative boundary for future expansion areas consists of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Arden Hills Training Center and Truck Station, Arden Hills Department of Motor Vehicles, Arden Hills Army Training Site, and the Arden Hills Primer Tracer Site for potential future expansion. Acquisition of these parcels will only occur if the land becomes available and from willing sellers. The acquisition of these parcels is complex due to constraints such as property ownership and existing conditions. Cost for these acquisitions will likely not be known until the property is ready to be acquired and all existing conditions are considered. Administrative boundary changes include:

- Existing Administrative Boundary/Park Acreage: 791.88 acres
- Proposed Long-Term Administrative Boundary/Park Acreage: 2,407.24 acres

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Regional parks and trails are developed in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to preserve green space for wildlife habitat and provide a wide range of natural resource related recreational opportunities. Established in 1974, the Regional Parks and Open Space System is managed by the Metropolitan Council in partnership with cities, counties, and special park districts. While the operation of the system is the responsibility of cities, counties, and special park districts, the Metropolitan Council supports it with planning, funding, and advocacy. Each implementing agency, such as Ramsey County, is responsible for the development of a master plan for its regional park, regional trail, and open space components. In 2018 the metropolitan regional park and trail system includes 56 regional parks and park reserves totaling more than 54,000 acres, nearly 400 miles of interconnected trails, and 8 special recreation features.

Regional trail corridors provide recreational opportunities along linear pathways throughout the metropolitan area. There are two broad types of regional trails: destination trails (greenways) and linking trails. Destination trails, such as the Rice Creek North Regional Trail, provide high-quality natural resource-based experiences, a scenic setting and a compelling sense of place, and often follow natural or linear features that traverse areas of scenic appeal and/or historical, architectural, and developmental interest.

Trails are also selected for their ability to intersect with local trail networks, with the regional trails functioning much like regional highways that interconnect with more local arterials and local streets. Parts of the regional trail network, especially in urban areas, may serve as commuting routes for bicyclists in addition to serving recreational purposes. As the regional trail and transit systems expand, opportunities to provide connections between these forms of travel should be explored. People can ride the bus or light rail to access a regional trail, conversely, people can use regional trails to access transit.

Regional trails can also be developed as greenways, or linear parks, where the trail itself is a destination. These greenways typically include wide corridors that provide opportunities for improving wildlife habitat, protecting natural resources, and providing recreational opportunities. The Rice Creek North Regional Trail falls into the category of a greenway.

Thrive's regional vision includes five desired outcomes: stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability. While each outcome is described below, it is important to note that the five outcomes reinforce and support one

another to produce greater benefits than any single outcome alone. The outcomes provide policy direction for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Stewardship

Stewardship advances the Council's longstanding mission of orderly and economical development by responsibly managing the region's natural and financial resources, and main strategic investments in our region's future. Stewardship means:

- Responsibly managing our region's finite resources, including natural resources - such as lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater, high quality natural habitats, and agricultural soils - financial resources, and our existing investments in infrastructure
- Pivoting from expanding to maintaining our region's wastewater and highway infrastructure
- Leveraging transit investments with high expectations of land use

Prosperity

Prosperity is fostered by investments in infrastructure and amenities that make our region competitive in attracting and retaining successful businesses, a talented workforce, and strong economic opportunities. Regional economic competitiveness results from our strategic, long-term public and private decisions that build on and grow our region's economic strengths relative to other regions. Advancing prosperity includes:

- Fostering conditions for shared economic vitality by balancing major investments across the region
- Protecting natural resources that are the foundation of prosperity
- Planning for and investing in infrastructure, amenities, and quality of life needed for economic competitiveness
- Encouraging redevelopment and infill development

Equity

Equity means connecting all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change. For our region to reach its full economic potential, all our residents must be able to access opportunity. Our region is stronger when all people live in communities that provide opportunities for success, prosperity, and quality of life. Promoting equity includes:

- Using the Council's influence and investments to build a more equitable region
- Creating real choices in where we live, how we travel, and where we recreate for all residents, across race, ethnicity, economic means, and ability
- Investing in a mix of housing affordability along the region's transit corridors
- Engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision-making

Livability

Livability focuses on the quality of our residents' lives and experiences in the region, and how places and infrastructure create and enhance the quality of life that makes our region a great place to live. With abundant

and beautiful open space, an active arts community, a range of housing options, and a reasonable cost of living, the Twin Cities region is widely recognized for its high quality of life. Enhancing livability means:

- Increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation through regional parks and trails
- Providing transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means
- Supporting bicycle facilities to promote bicycling for transportation, recreation, and healthy lifestyles
- Aligning resources to support transit-oriented development and walkable places
- Promoting healthy communities and active living through land use, planning, and investments

Sustainability

Sustainability means protecting our regional vitality for generations to come by preserving our capacity to maintain and support our region's well-being and productivity over the long term. The region's investments in prosperity, equity, and livability will fall short over the long term if the region exhausts its resources without investing in the future. Planning for sustainability means:

- Promoting the wise use of water through expanding water conservation and reuse, increasing groundwater recharge, and optimizing surface water and groundwater use
- Providing leadership, information, and technical assistance to support local governments' consideration of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience
- Operating the region's wastewater treatment and transit systems sustainably

Additionally, Thrive identifies the principles of integration, collaboration, and accountability to carry out the Council's work. These three principles reflect the Council's efforts to integrate policy areas, support local governments and regional partners, and promote and implement the Thrive regional vision.

Integration

Integration is the intentional combining of related activities to achieve more effective results and leveraging multiple policy tools to address complex regional challenges and opportunities. The Thrive outcomes described above are lofty ideals that cut across the Council's functions and responsibilities. Pursuing them demands that the Council use its full range of authorities and activities in more coordinated ways. Achieving integration involves moving beyond organizational silos and coordinating effectively with partners and stakeholders across and throughout the region.

Collaboration

Collaboration recognizes that shared efforts advance our region most effectively toward shared outcomes. Addressing the region's issues requires collaboration because no single entity has the capacity or authority to do the work alone. For the Council, acting collaboratively means being open to shared strategies, supportive partnerships, and reciprocal relationships. It also represents convening the region's best thinkers, experts, and stakeholders to address complex regional issues beyond the capacity or authority of any single jurisdiction or institution. Additionally, it involves providing technical assistance and enhanced information to support local planning and decision-making.

Accountability

For the Council, accountability includes a commitment to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our policies

and practices toward achieving shared outcomes and a willingness to adjust course to improve performance. Acting accountably means: a) adopting a data-driven approach to measure progress, b) creating and learning from Thrive indicators, c) providing clear, easily accessible information, and d) fulfilling the Council's mission. Thrive articulates a long-range vision for the region. The vision aims to foster and contribute to the five desired outcomes through the use of the three principles described above. While the focus in Thrive is on the overarching vision for the region, Thrive provides direction for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Thrive specifies that the Council will collaborate with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, regional park implementing agencies, and state partners to:

- Expand the Regional Parks System to conserve, maintain, and connect natural resources identified as being of high quality or having regional importance, as identified in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Provide a comprehensive regional park and trail system that preserves high-quality natural resources, increases climate resiliency, fosters healthy outcomes, connects communities, and enhances quality of life in the region
- Promote expanded multimodal access to regional parks, regional trails, and the transit network, where appropriate
- Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan supports the desired outcomes, principles, and additional directives for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan by:

- Maintaining a unique ecosystem in an urban area, working to preserve native habitats and protecting water resources through sustainable development and low impact recreational activity along Rice Creek
- Preserves high-quality natural resources along a regional trail helping to increase resiliency, foster healthy outcomes, connect communities, and enhancing the quality of life in the region. Resiliency refers to the capacity of communities to survive and thrive no matter what stresses or shocks they encounter.

Resiliency Strategies

Sustainability (Energy Consumption, Climate Change)

- Reduction of energy consumption by implementing sustainable infrastructure with energy efficient amenities (net-zero design,)
- Planning for variable weather events such as localized flooding and heat mapping, and collaborating with regulatory agencies.
- Integration of diverse habitats contributing to a healthy ecosystem.

Green Infrastructure

- Permeable pavements to mitigate stormwater runoff impacts (pervious concrete and asphalt)
- Infiltration ponds and rain gardens to capture stormwater
- Use of native plantings and low maintenance landscaping. (Implementation of native vegetation throughout open spaces and recreational areas.

- Providing a vital link in the regional trail system connecting the Rice Creek North Regional Trail to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail, East Anoka County Regional Trail, local trail systems, and beyond. This provides both transportation choices and recreational opportunity.
- The master plan will work towards an equitable outcome by increasing awareness, addressing safety, enhancing capacity and use of gathering spaces, increasing and diversifying recreation amenities and programming, providing more events at the regional trail, and creating a welcome environment.

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

Ramsey County is the most densely populated county in the State of Minnesota and the parks and open spaces held by Ramsey County Parks & Recreation represent the largest undeveloped land area in the county at nearly 8,000 acres. Within the system there are six regional parks, six regional trails, nine county parks, nine protected open spaces, five golf courses and numerous recreation facilities. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation works in cooperation with the Metropolitan Council, the National Park Service, Saint Paul Regional Water Services, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), its municipalities, and other government units to advance park, recreation, and leisure opportunities for all Ramsey County residents.

The vision of Ramsey County is “A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive,” and the mission within the county is “A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life.” The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department follows this mission by preserving, developing, maintaining, and managing a system of parks, open space, trail corridors, and special use areas as well as providing year-round recreational programs, services, and facilities which are responsive to changing needs, compatible with the resource base, and most effectively provided at the county level.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation supports the county vision and mission through:

- **Trail Services:**

Parks & Recreation coordinates the establishment of a Ramsey County trail network system plan that connects significant natural and cultural features and implement those segments of county or regional significance that are located on Ramsey County Park and Open Space land.

- **Open Space Preservation:**

Parks & Recreation acquires, protects, and manages unique, fragile, and aesthetically attractive natural resources that contribute positively to the urban landscape, and perform critical natural functions.

- **Natural Interpretation:**

Parks & Recreation promotes positive environmental values through an increased awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of natural resources and natural processes.

- **Outdoor Recreation Programming:**

Parks & Recreation sponsors or co-sponsors recreation programs that encourage development of resource oriented outdoor recreation skills and promote wellness. Special events are also organized that introduce people to recreation opportunities available within the system.

- **Special Recreation Services:**

Parks & Recreation provides areas, facilities, and programs of significance county-wide to meet specialized indoor and outdoor recreation needs of Ramsey County residents.

- **Park Services:**

Parks & Recreation provides diverse and accessible areas and facilities primarily for self-directed Ramsey County oriented outdoor recreation and that complements the natural features of each site.

- **Equitable Use:**

Parks & Recreation is working to strengthen equitable use of regional parks and trails, county parks,

open spaces, along with other recreation facilities across all ages, races, ethnicities, incomes, national origins, and abilities.

HISTORY

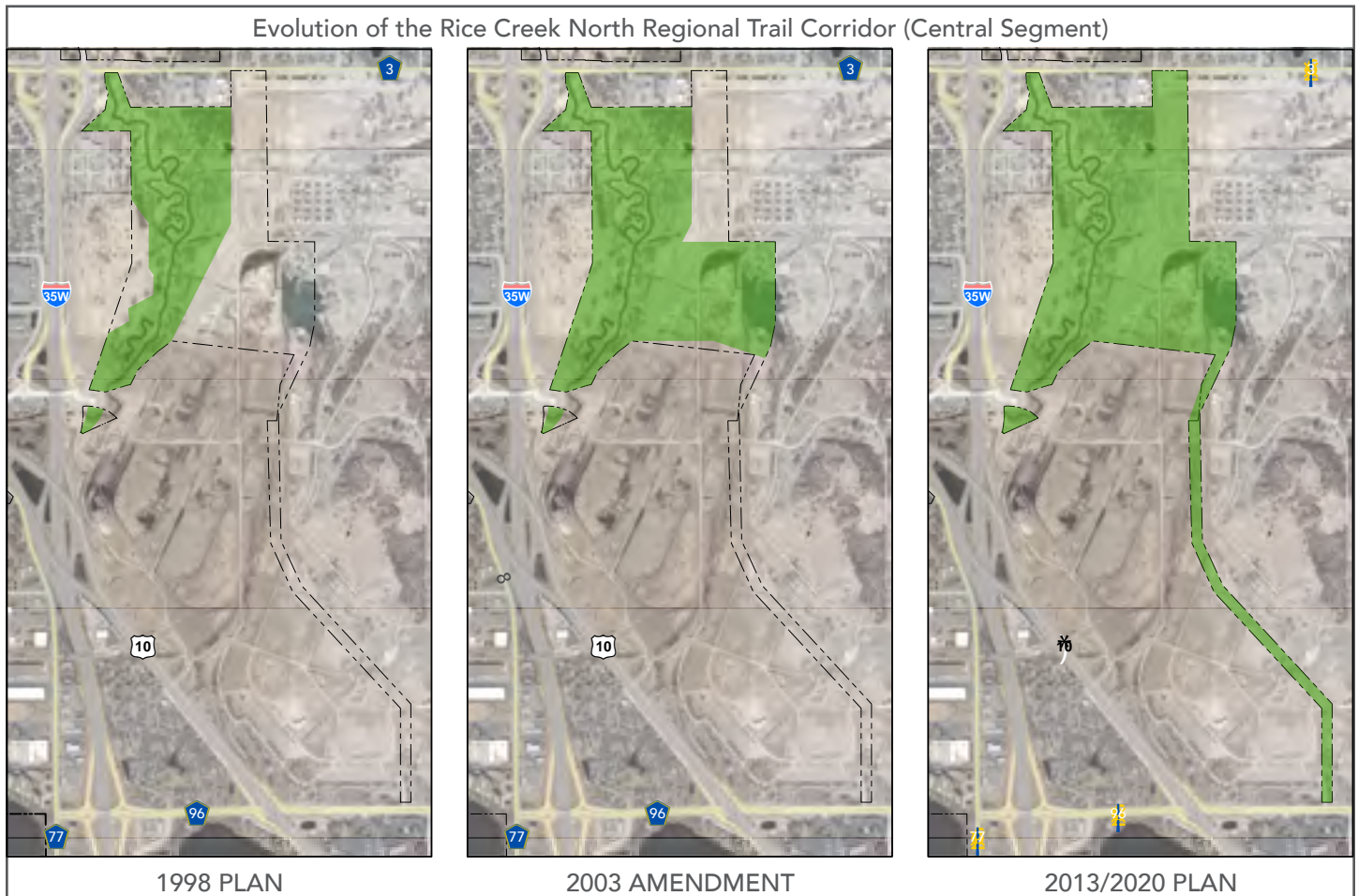
The 14-mile Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor extends from Rice Creek West Regional Trail at Long Lake Regional Park in Ramsey County to Rice Creek Lake Chain of Lakes Regional Trail in Anoka County. Development of the Ramsey County segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail has occurred as opportunities arose. Planning the development of and acquiring the necessary land for the Ramsey County section of trail began in the 1970's with the establishment of the Ramsey County Open Space System in 1971, and the development of the Protection and Recreation Concept for the Rice Creek Corridor in 1972. The Rice Creek Corridor was formed within three sections consisting of a north, central, and south segment.

North Segment

The north segment is bounded on the north by County Road J, on the east by Hamline Avenue, on the south by County Road I, and on the west by Interstate Highway 35-W. The north segment lies within the city of Shoreview and was acquired in 1972.

Central Segment

The central segment is bounded on the north by County Road I, on the east by the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) property, on the south by County Road H, on the west by Interstate Highway 35-W, and lies within the city of Arden Hills. The central segment has seen many acquisitions made due to the presence of the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant. Planning for the acquisition of this property dates back to 1975 with the development of the Comprehensive Regional Recreation Open Space Master Plan



Prior to the development of the central segment at its largest extent, the TCAAP property occupied 2,370 acres in the northern third of Arden Hills. It was bounded by Highway 96 on the south, Highways 10 and 35-W on the west, Lexington Avenue on the east, and County Road I on the north. The development and operation of the TCAAP site as a federal arms ammunition plant began in 1941 and lasted until 1976. The site was developed with more than 300 buildings and at its peak had 26,000 workers, 37 miles of roads, 83 miles of sewer, and 40 miles of electric and telephone lines. Between 1974 and 1985 the federal government started decommissioning the property. In 1995 planning for the acquisition of land in the central segment again began to pick up with the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant Reutilization Plan. In 1996, Congressman Bruce Vento formed the TCAAP Reutilization Commission for preparation of the TCAAP Framework Plan. Production of special munitions continued on a limited basis in some areas until 2005.

The 1998 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan identified 115.45 acres of TCAAP property to be acquired for the regional trail corridor. Located in the northwestern corner of TCAAP, the property includes Rice Creek, an archaeological area, and wildlife habitat. This property was transferred to Ramsey County in 2006 by the National Park Service as part of the Federal Lands to Park Program. Ramsey County is obligated to make the site available for public and recreational use, as well as preserve and protect the one-acre archaeological site located on the property.

The 2003 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, and the 2006 Ramsey County System Plan identified an additional 49 acres of TCAAP property to be acquired as a wildlife corridor. The wildlife corridor is considered a critical link to the 1,500-acre Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS)

The 2012 a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) established a partnership between Ramsey County and the city of Arden Hills with the goal of remediation and productive reuse for the remaining 427-acre TCAAP site, otherwise known as Rice Creek Commons. Ramsey County has purchased the TCAAP site from the United States Government and worked to remediate the site to residential standards including the demolition of the remaining buildings.

The 2013 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment identified an additional 44 acres to be acquired for transfer into the regional trail corridor in addition to the 49-acre wildlife corridor area for a total of 93 acres. Additionally, an easement was identified to be obtained for the recreational use of the 15-acre parcel from the United States. The combination of the proposed land transfer of 93 acres and a 15-acre easement would total 108 acres for inclusion within the regional trail corridor. This would extend the park corridor to County Road I to facilitate the proposed construction of a shared entry road to access a proposed trailhead, trails, adjacent areas within AHATS by the National Guard, and a potential area east of the park corridor known as the primer tracer area. Also included is a 150-foot wide corridor that will establish a trail and prairie corridor to Highway 96 on the south. The land transfer of 93 acres and 15-acre easement were completed in 2019.

South Segment

The south segment is bounded on the north by County Road H, on the east by Old Highway 8, on the south by Long Lake Regional Park and Minnesota Commercial Railway right-of-way, on the west by Irondale High School, and lies within the cities of Mounds View and New Brighton. Acquisition of the south segment was approved in 1973.

Recreational development within the corridor has been relatively recent and staggered as funding was available. The first trail section was built in the northern section from Lexington Avenue to County Road I in 2002, in addition to a trail head established along County Road I in 2004. The next trail development occurred in the central section from County Road I to County Road H in 2009. The remaining trail section from County Road H to Long Lake Regional Park was constructed in 2016. Trail redevelopment consisting of a small realigned trail section and new pedestrian bridge over Rice Creek occurred in the central segment near County Road H and Interstate 35-W as a result of the County Road H bridge interchange project in 2017. Phase 1 access improvements into the central segment from County Road I began in 2019 and are planned to be completed in 2020.

Several major natural resource related projects have also occurred within the corridor, the most dramatic being the re-meandering of Rice Creek by the Rice Creek Watershed district completed in 2015. Additionally a small section of Rice Creek was re-meandered near County Road H and Interstate 35-W as a result of the County Road H bridge interchange project in 2016.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

The development of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor has been evolving since the 1970's when Ramsey County first developed a preservation and recreation concept for the Rice Creek Corridor. Specific planning around the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor became more extensive once the decommissioning and redevelopment of TCAAP became a reality. Additional planning has been required since the 2013 master plan amendment as several changes have occurred including further planning of Rice Creek Commons, access, recreational needs throughout the corridor, and boundary adjustments. Numerous opportunities for public involvement have occurred as part of the ongoing Ramsey County Parks & Recreation planning efforts for the regional trail corridor, and with the development plan for Rice Creek Commons.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation organized a series of public engagement meetings and online surveys to gather feedback on the proposed master plan for Rice Creek North Regional Trail. To reach the widest possible audience various forms of communication were used to alert the public to these events.

- Approximately 3,740 mailings were sent out to residents in the immediate area surrounding Rice Creek North Regional Trail
- Twitter, Facebook and other social media was used to announce meetings and online surveys
- Ramsey County reached out to individual County Commissioners so that they had the opportunity to attend and let their constituents know of the events
- Ramsey County alerted targeted engagement partners, this list may be found in the appendix
- Ramsey County alerted public partners including municipalities, AHATS, local park boards, and the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to the public engagement events for their input and support

Throughout the process of public engagement several themes emerged from the comments and survey results received that have been addressed as a part of this master plan, including:

- The desire to make Building 189 a multi-season destination within the regional parks system
- Programming to be determined, centered in and around Building 189
- Additional in park trails requested to accommodate, hiking, off-road cycling, bird watching among other traditional recreational uses
- Enhanced trailheads to accommodate additional parking, restrooms, and rice creek water trail access
- Enhanced lighting and safety features throughout the trail corridor
- Additional in park trails to create loops, as well as a linking trail through Rice Creek Commons to connect with the Highway 96 Regional Trail
- Safer crossings at all road intersections
- Destination cross country ski system along with race and/or event staging areas and lighting for extended hours use
- Access into the Arden Hills Army Training Site for expanded recreational opportunities

These have been addressed through the creation of the master plan. Most of the comments and survey results pointed to the need for the installation of new recreational infrastructure to expand the existing traditional uses that exist within the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor. Others, such as off-road cycling, would require investment into new trail systems that have been identified in the concept graphics. Elements identified such as programming would require more study to clearly define the final programming that would be available. Traditional recreation in the Regional Parks System includes a wide variety of activities including hiking, bird watching, off-road cycling, cross country skiing, canoeing and kayaking, as well as park programming. Through public engagement Ramsey County did not learn of any new non-traditional use of the park space needed to be implemented at this time.

Outcomes of public engagement that have been incorporated into the master plan concept include:

- Additional cross country ski trails, including lighted sections and a staging area
- Trail loops throughout the corridor including multi-use trails, off-road cycling, and hiking trails
- Building 189 renovation to become a destination trail head with associated amenities
- Safe access and road crossings
- Improved trail head amenities, and increased community access

System Plan

During the preparation of the 2018 Parks & Recreation System Plan, community engagement was a major component to allow residents, community organizations, local partners, and park staff to participate in the planning process. The Parks & Recreation department recognized a need to engage the community in reviewing current recreation trends, park use, and available recreation amenities through various methods to solicit input.

A comprehensive needs analysis was completed to emphasize community priorities and support a needs-based allocation of funding for parks and recreation services. The anticipated outcomes for this analysis included:

- Documenting existing park and recreation facilities, how they are used, who uses them, and where improvements can be made
- To aide county officials, park staff, and residents determine what steps to take to ensure all communities in Ramsey County have adequate access to our parks, trails, and open spaces
- Assist in determining the size, location, and number of future parks in Ramsey County.

The community engagement process for the System Plan was conducted using two methods:

- Online survey
- Pop-Up meetings throughout Ramsey County

Social media, the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation website, and email communication were used to inform residents of upcoming engagement opportunities.

The online survey was launched in July of 2017 and remained open until February of 2018 and received almost 1,000 responses.

A series of nine informal pop-up meetings were conducted at various libraries, community centers, and ice arenas located throughout the county.

The following themes emerged from an analysis of the input received from the community engagement process:

Gaps

- More trail connections to parks and open spaces needed
- Add facilities with food and/or concessions available
- Add facilities with recreation rentals such as watercraft, bikes, cross country skis, etc.
- Extend park hours

Parks & Trails

- Additional off road cycling and cross country ski trails
- Develop a new nature center
- Trail development for more and better connection between parks and communities
- Add and improve to existing recreation amenities (playgrounds, picnic facilities, etc.)
- Develop recreation equipment rental facilities

Programming

- Add programming throughout the Ramsey County parks system
- Nature Programs
- Recreation Programs

Public Engagement Meeting #1

The first public engagement meeting for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment was held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at the Ramsey County Public Works building Marsden Room. This first meeting was largely held to introduce the project to interested stakeholders and community members. Parks & Recreation staff gave a brief presentation to explain some of the history and context of the site as well as walk the public through an inventory and analysis of the trail corridor. Project goals for the master plan were presented at this meeting and included:

- Examine the entire corridor for future recreational development opportunities
- Provide universally accessible features in compliance with the ADA
- Use sustainable design elements in buildings and site design that are energy and water efficient and provide enhanced storm water management
- Facilitate public involvement in conceptual design and master planning processes

Following the presentation staff took questions regarding the trail, upcoming schedule and other related material. Project Materials for the first public engagement meeting may be found in the appendix.

Public Engagement Online Survey #1

The first online survey was initiated in conjunction with the first and second public engagement meetings. This survey aimed to be a short 5 to 10-minute exercise to determine some baseline wants and needs within the corridor such as:

- Current quality of the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor
- Amenities and recreational opportunities currently used and enjoyed most
- Amenities and recreational opportunities desired in future development of the trail corridor
- Perceived accessibility of current infrastructure

A paper copy of this survey was also provided at the first two public engagement meetings for those in attendance to take. A copy of the first survey may be found in the appendix.

Public Engagement Meeting #2

The second public engagement meeting for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at the Ramsey County Public Works building in the Marsden Room. This engagement session was held primarily to have a conceptual design charrette to aid the county in the development of the conceptual master plan for the corridor. Attendees were asked to split into three groups and develop concept ideas on aerial maps of the corridor. County staff were available at all three groups to help facilitate questions or aid the group as needed. Parks & Recreation encouraged participants to draw, write notes, use symbols or any means they could to convey wants, needs, desires etc. for development within the corridor. Materials for the second public engagement meeting may be found in the appendix.

Public Engagement Meeting #3

The third public engagement meeting for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment was held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at the Ramsey County Public Works building Marsden Room. Parks & Recreation staff presented compiled results of paper surveys from previous engagement meetings, comments

received at meetings, and online, comments from the conceptual charrette meeting, and the information gathered through one online survey. This information was used to create three master plan conceptual graphics. These graphics were meant to display a range in potential recreational uses as well as potential levels of development within the corridor. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation used these concepts to gather additional input from the public on what they liked or didn't, to determine what amenities or development opportunities may still be missing from the corridor, and to use as an avenue of communication for the public to further guide the development of a refined concept. Public meeting materials and conceptual graphics may be found in the appendix.

Public Engagement Online Survey #2

A second more comprehensive survey was launched after the third public engagement meeting to collect the opinions of a wider audience. As part of reaching a wider audience Parks & Recreation reached out to businesses, churches and community organizations to aid the department in getting the word out about the survey. County staff also sent information regarding the survey to County Commissioners to be shared with constituents and residents. After seeing a significant increase in survey participation, Parks & Recreation was encouraged to adapt their previous concepts and to move on to another review in the form of public engagement meeting #4. A copy of the second online survey and its results may be found in the appendix.

Public Engagement Meeting #4

The fourth public engagement meeting for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment was held on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at the Ramsey County Mounds View Library. Parks & Recreation staff presented compiled results of the paper surveys from previous engagement meetings, comments from meetings and online, comments from the conceptual charrette meeting, and information gathered through two online surveys. This information was used to create three master plan conceptual graphics. These graphics were meant to display a range in potential recreational uses as well as potential levels of development within the corridor. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation used these concepts to gather additional input from the public on what they liked or didn't, to determine what amenities or development opportunities may still be missing from the corridor, and to use as an avenue of communication for the public to further guide the development of a refined concept. Public meeting materials and conceptual graphics may be found in the appendix.

Public Engagement Meeting #5

The final public engagement meeting for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment was held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at the Ramsey County Mounds View Library. All comments, concepts, surveys, and previous public input gathered was used to create a preferred master plan concept for presentation at the fifth public engagement meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to gather additional feedback on the preferred concept to make sure the department was proceeding with the master plan in accordance with the desires and expectations of the community at the forefront. Reception of the preferred concept was overwhelmingly positive, so Parks & Recreation initiated a 30-day public review of the preferred plan. Meeting materials and concept graphic may be found in the appendix.

30-Day Public Review

Parks & Recreation staff posted the preferred master plan concept online for a 30-day review during the months of December 2018 and January 2019. Public sector partners and participants that left email addresses at engagement meetings were notified and encouraged to leave additional comments. The county communications team also posted notices via social media and through the county newsletter. No new comments were received during this period.

Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department has had ongoing conversations with the Minnesota Amateur

Sports Commission regarding recreational opportunities within the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. Both parties are extremely interested in the creation of a destination cross country ski and winter activity area centered around the Building 189 site, located in the central segment of the trail where the multi-season trailhead development is proposed to occur.

Arden Hills Army Training Site

Parks & Recreation has had ongoing conversations with the Army and National Guard for access into the Arden Hills Army Training Site regarding the possibility of granting access onto AHATS land. Ramsey County is committed to keeping an open dialogue with the ultimate goal of developing a network of trails that may be accessed via the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor as a part of the destination sports complex.

Arden Hills Truck Station and MnDOT Training Facility

Parks & Recreation has expressed interest in the Arden Hills Truck Station and MnDOT Training Facility along County Road I if this land becomes available for acquisition. Acquiring this property would allow Ramsey County to create a more fluid transition between the north and central segments of the trail.

Currently a campus master planning effort is underway to establish a 50-year vision for the Arden Hills Truck Station and MnDOT Training Facility. The plan brings to light the main issues confronting the training center and truck station and lays out potential future uses of the site.

Municipal Support

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department will be seeking resolutions supporting the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master plan from the municipalities of Arden Hills, Mounds View, Shoreview, and New Brighton. These resolutions can be found in the appendix.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Commission

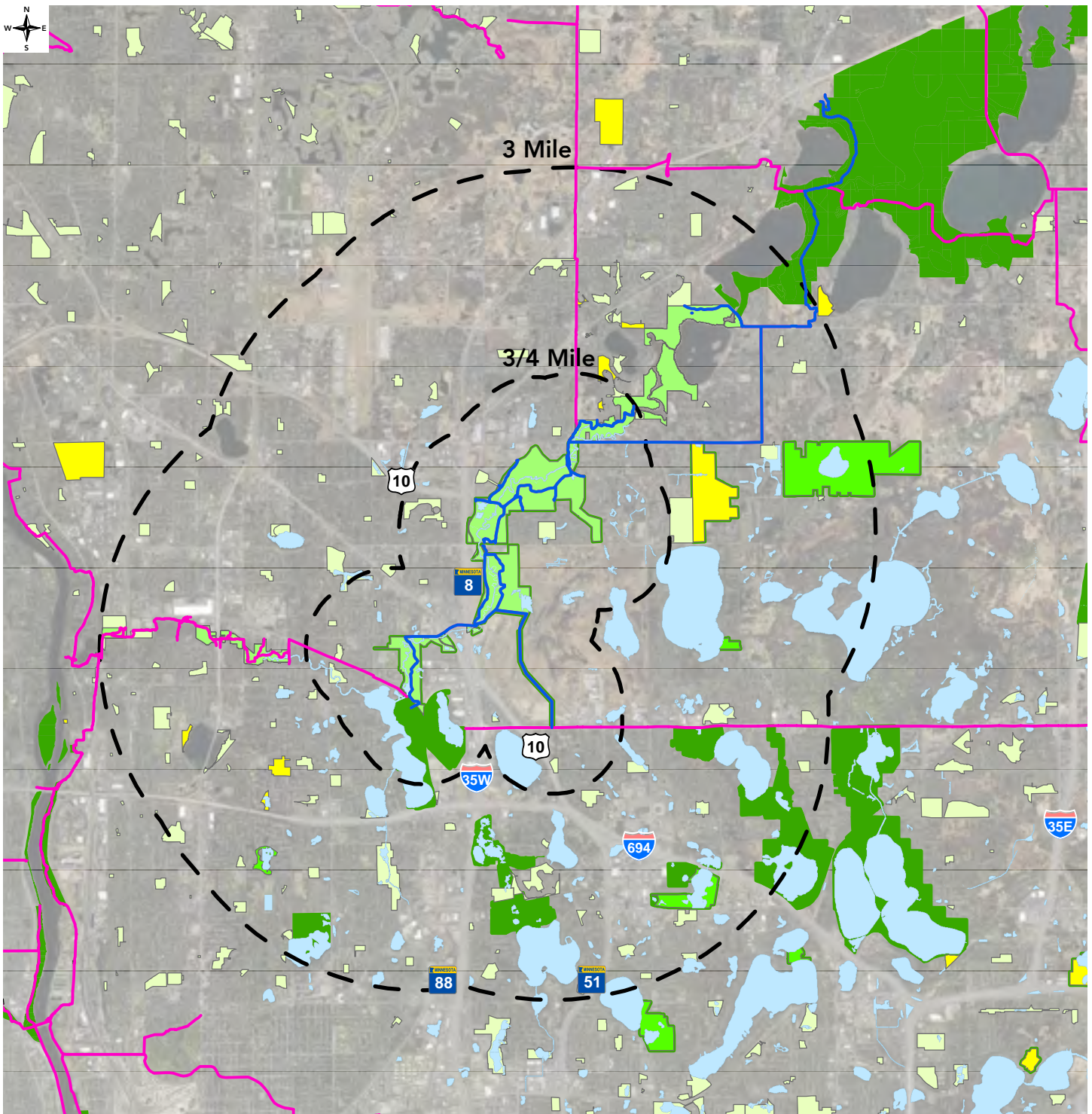
Ramsey County Parks & Recreation has met with the Parks & Recreation Commission throughout all phases of engagement to keep them up to date and gather additional feedback and direction. The largest concerns have been those relating to equitable outcomes upon completion of the plan.

Ramsey County staff brought the plan to the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation commission on the following dates:

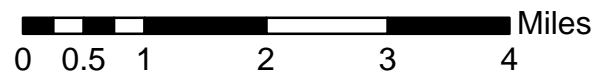
- March 13, 2019
 - Parks & Recreation Commission members were given an update of the plan and engagement activities that had been completed prior to obtaining supporting resolutions.
- June 12, 2019
 - Parks & Recreation Commission members were provided a draft copy of the plan and staff were seeking a vote of support from the commission. Commission members first had comments and questions regarding criticism and feedback, racial equity of the plan, and performance measures. County staff informed commission members that the plan had seen very positive very positive feedback on the plan, as well as future steps to be taken in regards to racial equity and the tracking of performance measures. After all comments and questions had been received and replied to a motion was made supporting the Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment and passed by the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- September 11, 2019
 - An update was given to the master plan process, Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Staff were in the process of writing and refining the final draft of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan.

Rice Creek North Regional Trail 3/4 Mile and 3 Mile Service Areas

Metropolitan Council Studies have found 1/2 of trail users live within 3/4 mile of a trail while 3/4 of users live within 3 miles.



- Legend**
- Rice Creek North Regional Trail
 - Regional Trails
 - Municipal Parks
 - County Parks
 - Metro Open Space
 - Rice Creek North Regional Trail
 - Regional Park
 - Interstate
 - US and State Highway



DEMAND FORECAST

The expansion of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor enhances recreational opportunities and the protection of natural areas. Development of the regional trail has occurred as opportunities arise with each new segment, eliminating gaps and increasing the overall attractiveness of the corridor for recreational use. It is anticipated with expansion of trails and a destination trail head the visitor demand for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor will increase. The increase in demand will be consistent with nearby regional parks and trails (Table 1). The use of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor is anticipated to continue to rise due to urban recreation trends, and anticipated population growth within the trail service area. Trails are the number one desired recreation facility due to their ability to be enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, and income. According to the 2016 Metropolitan Council Regional Parks and Trails Survey hiking/walking, bicycling and jogging/running are the most popular activities, and account for 58% of all activity in regional parks and trails. Visits to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor are also anticipated to increase due to the population growth of the surrounding communities. One area of significant growth, located in Arden Hills, is anticipated to occur in the area immediately adjacent to the central segment of trail as a part of the redevelopment of TCAAP.

Table 1 Metropolitan Council 2017 Parks System Use Estimates

Regional Park or Trail	Summer Visits	Winter Visits	Spring/Fall Visits	Other Visits	Total Visits
Ramsey County					
Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor	45,300	13,500	69,500	0	128,300
Rice Creek West Regional Trail	43,200	12,900	66,300	0	122,400
Long Lake Regional Park	125,000	46,500	180,500	42,200	394,100
Highway 96 Regional Trail	117,800	35,200	180,600	0	333,600
Anoka County					
East Anoka County Regional Trail	42,900	12,800	65,800	0	121,500
Rice Creek North Regional Trail	61,500	18,400	94,300	300	174,500
Rice Creek West Regional Trail	114,000	34,100	174,700	500	323,300

The city of Arden Hills, in partnership with Ramsey County as part of the Joint Development Authority, created a master plan for a mixed-use development containing a cohesive mix of commercial, residential, city parks, and open space known as Rice Creek Commons. In addition, both the park corridor and Rice Creek Commons area have undergone an extensive environmental remediation. When development occurs it is anticipated that approximately 50% will be mixed commercial and 50% will be residential real estate. It is anticipated that park

Table 2 Population Projections

County & City	2010 Census	2020	2030	2040	Percent Change
Ramsey County					
Arden Hills	9,552	10,000	12,000	13,500	41%
Mounds View	12,155	12,300	12,300	12,400	2%
New Brighton	21,456	22,300	23,100	24,100	12%
Shoreview	25,043	27,400	27,400	27,500	10%
Anoka County					
Blaine	57,186	66,300	76,700	87,300	53%
Circle Pines	4,918	5,000	5,200	5,300	8%

and open space areas within the TCAAP redevelopment area will provide critical connections to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor.

Metropolitan Council Studies indicate that 1/2 of regional trail users live within 3/4 mile of a trail (the core service area) and 3/4 live within 3 miles of the trail (the primary service area). As shown in Table 2 , the communities surrounding the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor are all anticipated to increase between now and 2040.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

BOUNDARIES AND ACQUISITION COSTS

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail forms links to the regional parks and trails system at its northern boundary with the Rice Creek North Regional Trail and East Anoka County Regional Trail. At the southern border the trail corridor forms links to the regional parks and trails system with Long Lake Regional Park and the Rice Creek West Regional Trail.



Linking Bridge - Central Segment

BOUNDARY AND EASEMENT ADJUSTMENTS

Wildlife Corridor - Central Segment

The 2013 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment identified an addition of four parcel totaling 108.53 acres to be added to the central wildlife corridor from the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plan (TCAAP) site.

- Parcel A - a 50.3-acre parcel identified in the 2003 and 2013 master plan amendments for addition to the wildlife corridor
- Parcel B - a 12.58-acre parcel identified in the 2013 master plan amendment for addition to the wildlife corridor
- Parcel C - a 15-acre parcel identified in the 2013 master plan amendment for addition to the wildlife corridor under an easement
- Parcel D - a 29.85-acre parcel identified within the 2013 master plan amendment for addition to the wildlife corridor.

In 2015 the county proceeded with steps for acquiring the properties listed above from the United States. Parcel A, B, and D, which totaled 92.73 acres, were proposed to be transferred from the National Park Service (NPS) to Ramsey County through a NPS Federal Lands to Parks Program. Land acquisition costs for Parcel A, B, and D were \$0.00 in exchange for completing remediation of the parcels. In 2015 the county received acquisition funding through the Parks and Trail Land Acquisition Opportunity to complete building and site remediation for Parcel A, B, and D. Site remediation of Parcel A, B, and D was completed in 2017 and the property was transferred to Ramsey County in 2019. In addition, Ramsey County obtained an easement for Parcel C totaling 15.85 acres for access and recreation use in 2019. Parcel C did not require any site remediation prior to obtaining the easement. The addition of these parcels was critical in order to add recreation amenities to the central segment of the Rice Creek Regional Trail corridor.

Parcel D

The original platting of Parcel D and the adjacent 427-acre Rice Creek Commons property created a pinch point in the northern end of Parcel D. This pinch point was a result of an existing building corner foundation located on Outlot D of the Rice Creek Commons property. Since site remediation and transfer of the 427-acre property from the United States to the county was ahead of the remediation of Parcel D, the eastern edge of Outlot D was

the boundary between Rice Creek Commons and Parcel D.

In order to accommodate a trail and maintain a 150-foot wide corridor through Parcel D, approximately 1.04 acres from Rice Creek Commons Outlot D will need to be transferred to Parcel D for park ownership.

MNDOT Parcel

In 2015 MNDOT developed plans for a 10-mile roadway expansion project along Interstate Highway 35-W and a 3-mile roadway expansion project along Interstate Highway 694-W. MNDOT proposed to build drainage ponds withing the I-35W and I-694W as a part of this project. In order to meet stormwater permitting requirements MNDOT needed to find additional land to develop best management practices to handle stormwater.

Minnesota Statute 161.202 authorizes MNDOT to provide for the replacement of public lands impacted from roadway expansion projects. In exchange for the county conveying easements within Tony Schmidt Regional Park (0.91 acres) and Vadnais-Snail Lakes Regional Park (0.70 acres), MNDOT conveyed 6.8 acres of the Arden Hills Army Training Center property located near the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Interstate Highway 35-W and County Road I adjacent to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor. The 6.8-acre property includes a section of Rice Creek, floodplain, and upland areas.

The 2013 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment identified this area to be added to the regional trail corridor when available to provide protection of Rice Creek and surrounding natural areas.

County Road H Bridge Interchange

Following approval of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment in 2013, Ramsey County and the city of Arden Hills began to refine plans for mixed-use redevelopment of the Ramsey County property (formerly TCAAP) through a joint development authority (JDA). Improvements to the interstate, regional and county roadway system are critical elements to accommodate the redevelopment. Design of these roads required some modification to the proposed regional trail boundaries, but overall provided greatly enhanced trail connectivity. Construction of the Interstate Highway 35-W and County Road H interchange impacted approximately 2.48-acres of land that was previously transferred to Ramsey County from the National Park Service. Per requirements of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter and an existing National Park Service covenant, Ramsey County compensated for the loss of land by transferring an equal amount of adjacent county land to the regional trail corridor. The land that was exchanged was ultimately considered a benefit to the regional trail as it contains a realigned section of Rice Creek and adjacent natural area.

National Park Service Covenants

Previous master plan amendments completed in 1998 and 2013 identified former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant property to be transferred to Ramsey County from the United States through a National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program. The 1998 master plan amendment identified 115.45 acres, and the 2013 master plan amendment identified 92.73 acres of Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant property (Parcel A, B, C and D) to be acquired for the regional trail corridor. The first transfer of 115.45 acres was completed in 2006, and the second transfer of 92.73 acres was completed in 2019. As a condition of the National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks Program, National Park Service covenants were required for both property transfers to ensure the land would remain parkland and be used for recreational purposes.

Parcel C

Parcel C is the northernmost 15.3-acre parcel of former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant property and is managed by the United States Army and National Guard as part of the Arden Hills Army Training Site. The 2013 master plan amendment indicated a future easement would be acquired for access and recreational use on the 15-acre property. Parcel C did not require any building or site remediation. In 2019 Ramsey County secured an easement for the 15.3-acre property from the United States for access and recreational use on this parcel. As a

result of the easement, Ramsey County was responsible for completing necessary road and site improvements for the Arden Hills Army Training Site for military access and security. Implementation of phase 1 improvements started fall of 2019 and is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2020.

Phase 1 improvements will consist of :

- A 10-ton access road from the intersection of County Road I and Fairview Avenue to the entrance of the Arden Hills Army Training Site
- Gravel service road located on Arden Hills Army Training Site property
- Relocation of existing and new chain link fence to the east of the property line
- Stormwater management
- Landscaping
- Signage
- Additional roadway expansion will be required to fully provide access to the trailhead, outdoor recreation area, and a future public use development site located on the Primer Tracer Area.

Shoreview Sanitary Sewer Easement

In 2019 the city of Shoreview developed plans for a public improvement project requiring the installation of underground sanitary sewer infrastructure to address operational issues in the city's sanitary sewer system that extends north of Schutta Road through the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor. The pipe was in a condition that needed to be replaced, but it was determined that a small section of the pipe needed to be relocated out of the existing utility right of way due to extremely poor soils.

Additional easement area is required for the relocated sanitary sewer infrastructure, however the existing city utility right of way in the location where the previous sanitary sewer utility was located will no longer be required and the city will vacate that section of utility right of way.

Montana Railway Property Easement

In 2015 Ramsey County purchased 0.68 acres of permanent easement from Montana Properties for the construction of a pedestrian trail bridge over an existing railway that is operated by Minnesota Commercial Railway for a regional trail extension project from County Road H2 to Long Lake Regional Park.

Towns Edge Mobile Home Park Easement

In 2015 Ramsey County purchased 0.42 acres of permanent easement from an adjacent landowner for a trail connection into the Towns Edge Mobile Home Park for a regional trail connection into the community.

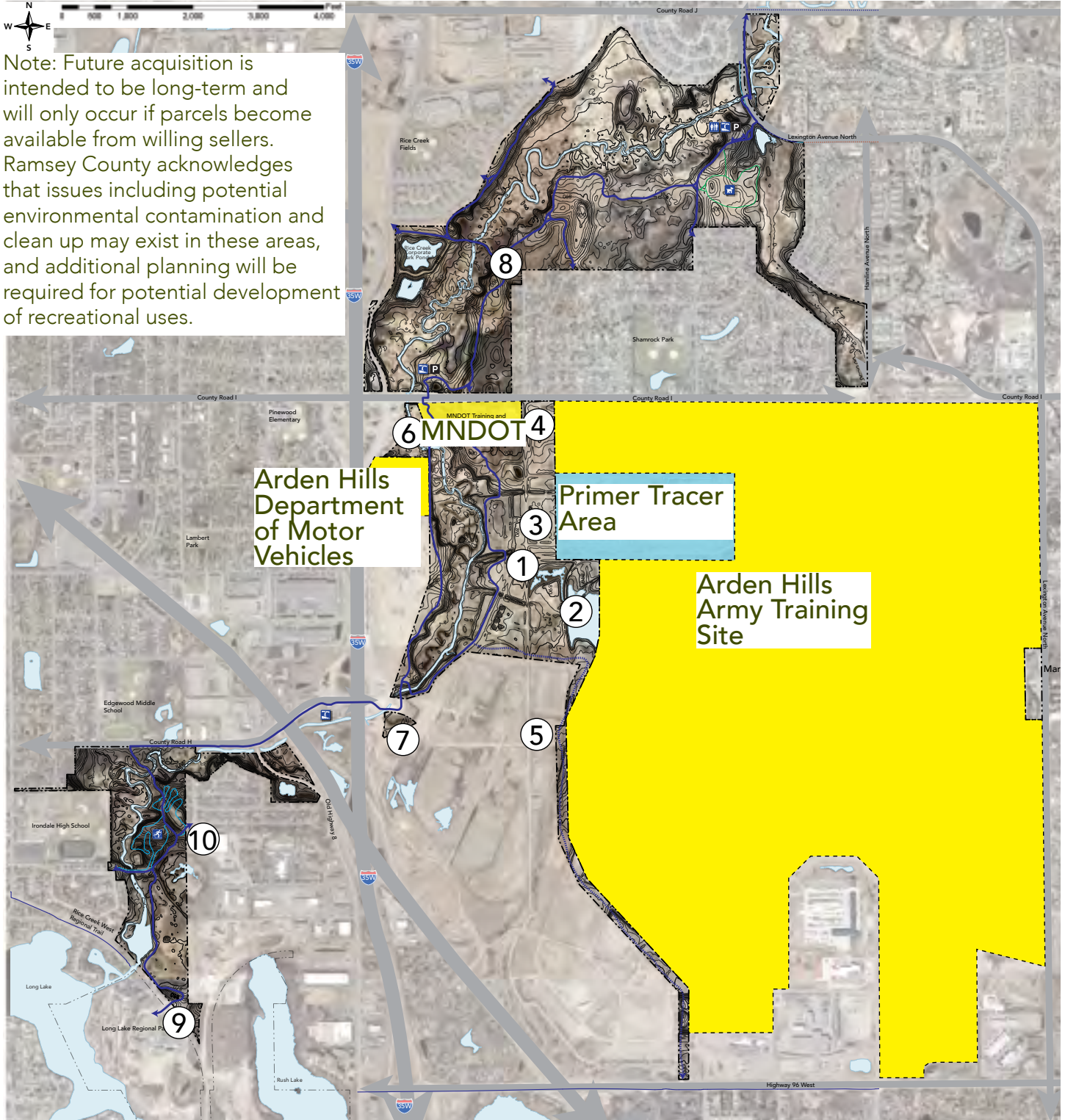
FUTURE BOUNDARY AND EASEMENT ADJUSTMENTS

Future acquisition is proposed for the trail corridor when properties become available. Additional master planning activities would be required to determine potential recreation uses for any acquisition or expansion areas. At this time there are no residential properties proposed for acquisition but there is potential long-term interest in adjacent public agency owned properties. The proposed administrative boundary for future expansion areas consist of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Arden Hills Training Center and Truck Station, Arden Hills Department of Motor Vehicles, Arden Hills Army Training Site, and the Arden Hills Primer Tracer Site for potential future expansion. Acquisition of these parcels will only occur if the land becomes available and from willing sellers. The Acquisition of these parcels is also a very complex issue due to constraints such as property ownership and the existing conditions of the properties among other issues. Cost for these acquisitions will likely not be known until the property is ready to be acquired and all existing conditions are taken into account.

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Future Boundary Adjustments and Acquisitions



Note: Future acquisition is intended to be long-term and will only occur if parcels become available from willing sellers. Ramsey County acknowledges that issues including potential environmental contamination and clean up may exist in these areas, and additional planning will be required for potential development of recreational uses.



LEGEND

Rice Creek Regional Trail		Cross Country Ski Area		Parcel A	②	Shoreview Sanitary Sewer Easement	⑧
Natural Surface Trail		Cross Country Ski Trails		Parcel B	③	Montana Railway Property Easement	⑨
Parking Lot		Future Acquisitions		Parcel C	④	Towns Edge Mobile Home Park Easement	⑩
Small Watercraft Launch		Primer Tracer Area		Parcel D	⑤	Administrative Boundary	
Restroom Building		<u>Boundary & Easement Adjustments</u>		MNDOT Parcel	⑥	Proposed Management Boundary	
Off Leash Dog Area		Wildlife Corridor	①	County Road H Interchange	⑦		

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Acreage

Parcel ID	Natural Resource Quality	Recreational Benefit	Acres
Existing Administrative Boundary / Park Acreage			791.88
Proposed Management Boundary - MNDOT Arden Hills Training Center and Truck Station			
#093023210001	Generally low with areas of moderate to high quality	Provides greater access and connectivity across County Highway I. Possibility of additional water trail access	20.41
Proposed Management Boundary - Arden Hills Department of Motor Vehicles			
#093023220004	Low quality		3.33
#093023220003	Low quality		14.31
Proposed Management Boundary - Rice Creek Commons			
#09302343001	Moderate quality	150-foot corridor to provide connection trail to Highway 96 Regional Trail	1.04
Proposed Management Boundary - Arden Hills Army Training Site/Primer Tracer Area			
#09302311003	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	223.3
#093023430002	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	24.62
#163023110003	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	115.62
#163023440004	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	26.35
#153023110004	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	567.2
#103023440004	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	467.27
#103023140002	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	115.94
#103023110002	Moderate to high quality	Provide added recreational trails and amenities	35.97
Proposed Management Boundary / Park Acreage			2,407.24

Adjacent Residential

Currently no residential properties bordering the Rice Creek North Regional Trail are available. Future acquisition is proposed for adjacent properties along with open space expansion for inclusion into the regional trail corridor when properties become available.

MnDOT Arden Hills Training Center and Truck Station

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation has an interest in acquiring the land currently housing the Minnesota Department of Transportation Arden Hills Training Center and Truck Station if that land ever becomes available. The land is located south of County Road I and is bound on the other three sides by the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is currently undergoing a master planning process to determine the future use(s) of this site. Currently a small section of the Rice Creek North Regional

Trail is located on the western portion of this property.

Primer Tracer Area

The Primer Tracer Area is approximately 62 acres in size and is located east of Parcel B and is surrounded by the Arden Hills Army Training Site on the north, south, and east sides. This land was a part of the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant and is currently owned by the United States. As a condition of the easement Ramsey County received for Parcel C, vehicular access to the Primer Tracer Area will be served by a shared roadway access through Parcel C.

The Primer Tracer Area is currently designated as a Public Use and Development Area by the United States. The Primer Tracer Area is mainly flat and has existing building and site infrastructure remaining throughout the property. It is anticipated that substantial building and site remediation will be required due to past uses on this property prior to any further development. Additional investigation and planning activities will need to be completed in order to identify the amount of building demolition and site remediation to determine long-term acquisition benefit.

Dependant upon long-term benefit and overall site improvement costs, Ramsey County has interest in this property due to its location and potential for expansion of recreational amenities and ability to provide connections into the Arden Hills Army Training Site. Any land that is left undeveloped would provide additional park and recreational opportunities and Ramsey County would have interest incorporating unused land into the Rice Creek Regional Trail corridor.

Arden Hills Army Training Site

The Arden Hills Army Training Site is located directly east of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor. There is great interest in obtaining access and/or acquisition of the property if it were to become available with the goal of increasing access, developing additional recreational amenities, and providing a network of trails through the property for recreational use. The development of this property has the potential to provide a world class recreation destination for both off road cycling and cross-country skiing. Additional planning activities will be required to fully determine the potential uses, and site improvements required.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is committed to continuing conversations with the Army and National Guard for potential future access into the Arden Hills Army Training Site.

Arden Hills Department of Motor Vehicles

The Arden Hills Department of Motor Vehicles property is bounded by the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor on the north and east sides and Rice Creek Commons on the south. There is interest in obtaining access and or acquiring a portion(s) of this property if it becomes available for acquisition with the goal of developing additional recreation amenities and access into the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor. Additional planning

activities will be required to determine any potential uses and site improvements required.

SITE INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Points of Interest

- 1. Building 189:** Building 189, the only building still standing from TCAAP located in the central segment of the trail, has been identified as a potential site for re-purposing the building for multiple uses. The developed site may include a trailhead facility, picnic tables, restrooms, parking, interpretive and educational uses, a large event space, and a satellite maintenance facility. The area surrounding Building 189 may host some of these uses as well as serve as an outdoor recreation area for playgrounds, passive recreation, habitat restoration, stormwater mitigation and an improved trail access point. In June of 2019 Ramsey County launched a pre-assessment study of the building to aide in determining the viability of reusing the existing and vacated Building 189. The assessment and analysis of the building includes sustainable as well as environmental approaches ranging from adaptive reuse, regenerative solar energy, and embodied carbon, which support the department's environmental goals. Since programming for the building is yet to be determined a variety of concepts were generated to test the various impacts and needs for the structure, including potential reinforcement. The Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment and Programming report can be found in Appendix H.



Building 189 Exterior

- 2. Minnesota Department of Transportation Arden Hills Training Center & Truck Station:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation is in the process of creating a campus master plan for long term improvements to the current Arden Hills Training Center & Truck Station. The plan will be identifying issues (past, current, and future) that confront the training center and truck station and will lay out potential future uses of the site. The plan is not designed to present a definitive recommendation, but to help decision makers at the Minnesota Department of Transportation evaluate all options and establish the next best steps.
- 3. County Road I:** There is an opportunity for an improved vehicular access point from County Road I into a future development space surrounding Building 189. A new access road is proposed at the intersection of County Road I and Fairview Avenue North, and would extend to the proposed trailhead area. A portion of this access road is anticipated to be shared with the Army and National Guard for access into AHATS and the future development of the primer tracer area.
- 4. Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area:** Master planning for Ramsey County Off Leash Dog Areas began in 2017 and was completed in 2018. The master plan addressed improvements to the Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area and should be referred to for any future development of the area.
- 5. Arden Hills Army Training Site:** Ramsey County has a long-term goal of gaining access to the Arden Hills Army Training Site for recreational use. The county will continue to coordinate with the Minnesota National Guard for access and potential use of the area. Potential uses could include passive recreation, multi-purpose trails, cross county ski trails, off road cycling trails, and interpretive/educational programming use. Additional development would be dependent on negotiations with the Minnesota National Guard for

the proposed recreational use of the AHATS site.

6. Irondale High School: Irondale High School uses the southern section of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail for cross country skiing and running training. An agreement has been established with Irondale for the maintenance of existing natural surface trails for school use. Improvements to trail areas, necessary infrastructure, and site amenities may be required in the future to continue providing a high-quality trail experience.

7. Rice Creek Water Trail: The Rice Creek Water Trail offers a wide variety of paddling experiences for canoe and kayak users alike. The trail begins in Lino Lakes at the Peltier Lake boat launch and travels over 15 miles to Long Lake in New Brighton. Rice Creek flows through a variety of habitats and settings on its way to Long Lake, and paddling difficulty varies depending upon which section of the creek you are exploring. The upper part of the water trail makes its way through five lakes. The existing carry in sites and portage trails may need future improvements to make the creek more accessible.

Existing Site Amenities & Features

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail is comprised of 792 acres in a linear corridor stretching from the county boundary at County Road J in the north and Long Lake regional trail to the south. There are a variety of habitat types and land covers including prairies, oak woods, wooded uplands, and floodplains. The trail boasts a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, bicycling, cross country skiing, bird watching, canoeing and kayaking, fishing and many more.

The north segment of the regional trail, shown on pages 16 and 19, consists of a large floodplain to Rice Creek along with restored prairies and wooded uplands. The Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area, a 13 acre fully fenced regional facility, is also located in this segment. In addition, the north segment of the regional trail includes:

- Lexington Avenue North Trailhead
 - Restroom building
 - Portage trail leading to a canoe and kayak launch on Rice Creek
 - Drinking fountain/water bottle filler
 - Trash and recycling containers
 - Parking for 35 vehicles
 - Benches
 - Wayfinding signs
- County Road I Trailhead
 - Benches
 - Trash and recycling containers
 - Wayfinding signs
 - Parking for 32 vehicles
- 6 community access points in addition to the 2 trailheads
- Natural surface footpaths/hiking trails
- Bituminous regional trail



Canoe & Kayak Carry in Site

The central segment of the regional trail, shown on pages 16 and 20-21, is currently sparsely developed, with bituminous trails, 2 bridges, and benches scattered throughout. A transfer of lands from the federal government has greatly increased the space available for development within this segment.

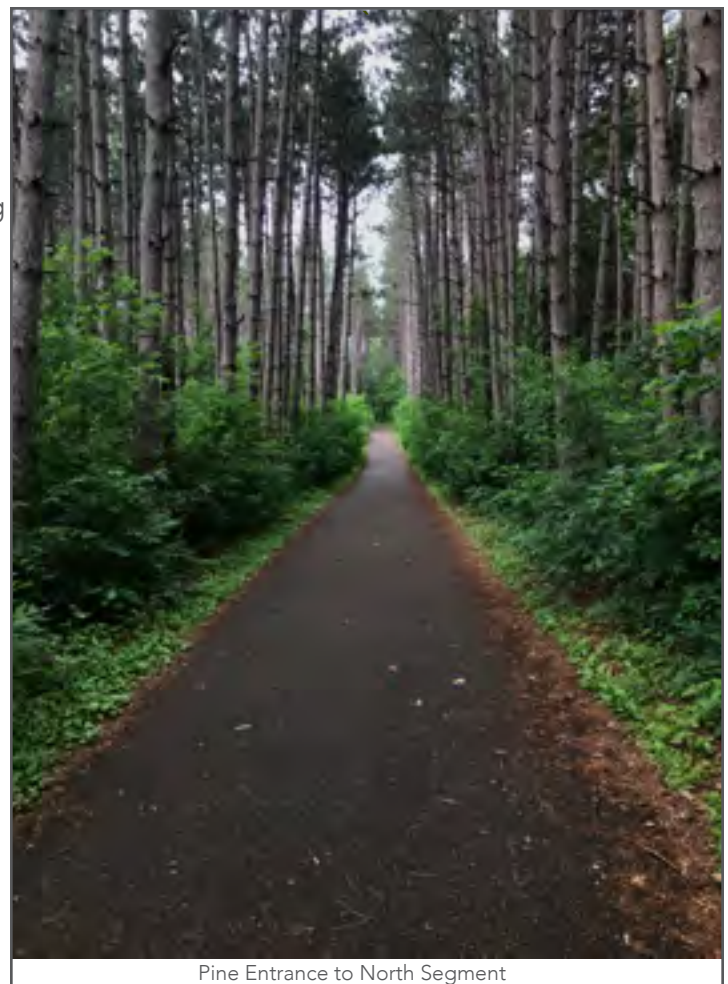
Building 189 is the lone surviving building that still stands on land owned by Ramsey County Parks & Recreation. Building 189 is a large, single-story concrete framed building with concrete columns, concrete roof beams at column lines, supporting steel joist roof framing, and a metal roof deck. There are clay tile interior and exterior walls, but these appear to be non-load bearing. Ramsey County has completed a Structural Pre-Assessment and Programming report for Building 189 which can be found in Appendix H.

The south segment of the trail, shown on pages 16 and 22, traverses a large forest restoration undertaken by Ramsey County. It is a unique area within the park as the landcover type seems unique to the corridor. In addition to the regional trail the area also boasts:

- 1.24 miles of cross-country ski trails maintained by Irondale High School
 - These trails are also mowed in the summer providing a nice trail running/hiking route
- 2 connecting trails to the local community
- Bridge linking the Regional Trail to Long Lake Regional Park and the Rice Creek West Regional Trail

Overall the Rice Creek North Regional Trail currently contains:















- 7.75 miles of bituminous trail
- 1.24 miles of combined cross-country ski and hiking trails
- 5.9 miles of navigable water as part of the Rice Creek Water Trail
- 3 Canoe and kayak launch sites to the water trail
- 2 dedicated trailheads with parking for 67 vehicles
- 1 Restroom building at the Lexington Avenue North Trailhead
- 8 additional community access points
- Links with the greater metropolitan parks and trails system including:
 - Long Lake Regional Park
 - Rice Creek West Regional Trail
 - Rice Creek North Regional Trail (Anoka County)
 - Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve
 - East Anoka County Regional Trail

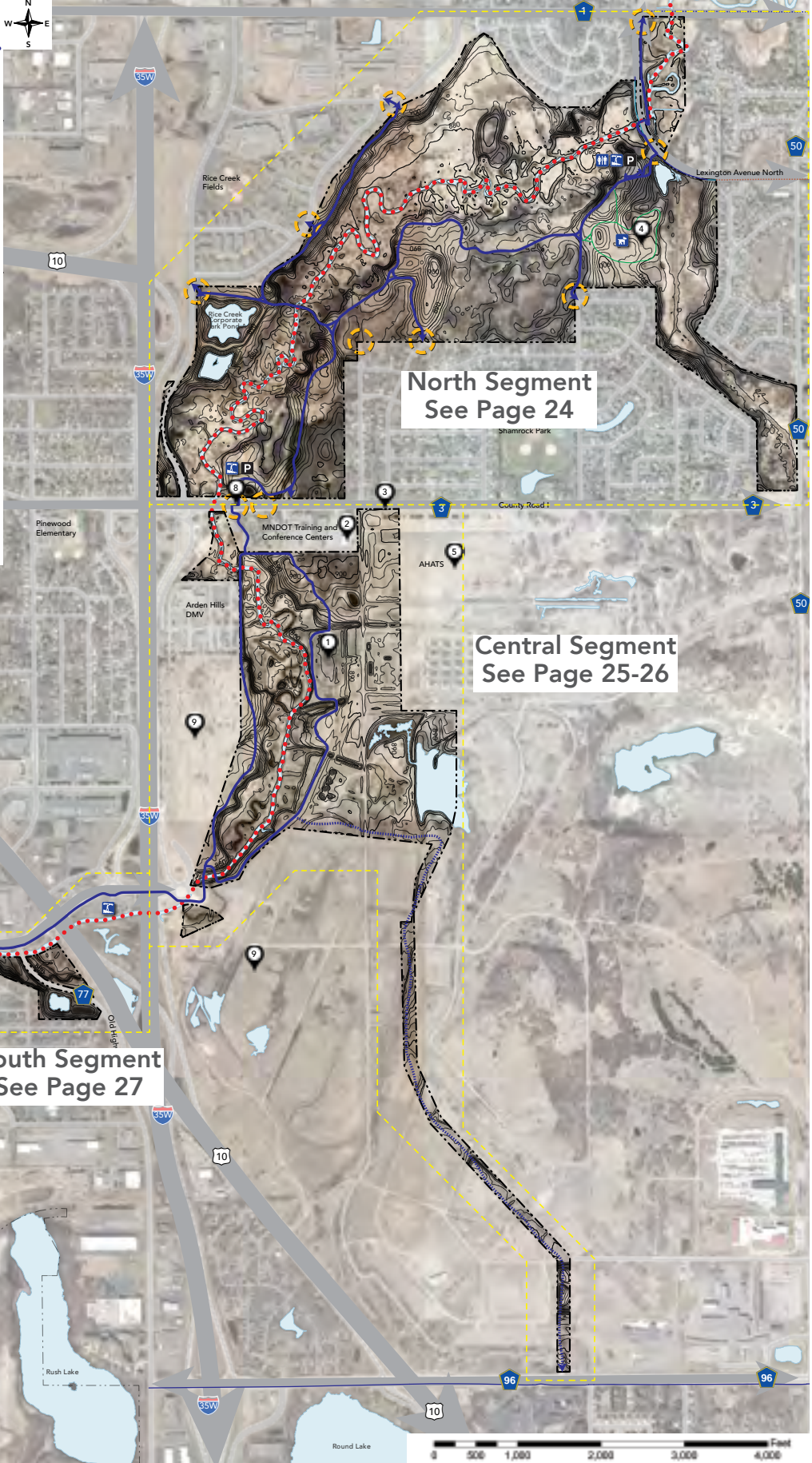


Pine Entrance to North Segment

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Existing Conditions & Site Boundaries

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail 
- Major Road Connection 
- Natural Surface Trail 
- Parking Lot 
- Small Watercraft Launch 
- Restroom Building 
- Off Leash Dog Area 
- Rice Creek Water Trail 
- Park Entrance 
- Wetland Delineation 
- Cross Country Ski Area 
- Point of Interest 
- Cross Country Ski Trails 
- Trails Segments 



North Segment
See Page 24

Central Segment
See Page 25-26

South Segment
See Page 27

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Zones & Use Areas

Rice Creek Trail & Wetlands ①

Low lying areas of the park, primarily where the main channel of Rice Creek flows. The Rice Creek Watershed District continues to perform maintenance and channel meandering/restoration projects in this area.

County Ditch 1 ②

Ramsey County Ditch 1 aides in stormwater mitigation, taking runoff from surface streets and the surrounding neighborhood in the sub watershed before water reaches Rice Creek. This area has one community path crossing, however it is a low lying and perennially wet area not very suitable for development purposes.

OLDA ③

Master planning for Ramsey County Off Leash Dog Areas began in 2017 and was completed in 2018. The master plan addressed improvements to the Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area and should be referred to for any future development of the area.

Restored Prairies ④

As a natural resource based park system Ramsey County has had several prairie restoration projects within the Rice Creek Regional Trail corridor. These areas serve as both wildlife habitat and provide users with wonderful views of this unique ecosystem. Osprey and Kestrel poles have been installed in a few areas of the park adding to the excitement of bird watchers. These areas are periodically burned and otherwise maintained so development activities should be concentrated elsewhere.

Upland Wooded Areas ⑤

The upland areas of the park are dominated by mixed woods and oak forests. The mixed woods are predominantly aspen trees which helps to drown out sounds of cars in areas beyond the park making for an enjoyable experience. There are many natural surface footpaths interspersed between the main trail and lowlands showing that passive recreation activities such as cross country skiing, trail running and mountain biking may be considered for some areas of the park.

Trailhead & Development Areas ⑥

The northern section of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor has two parking lots one located off of Lexington Avenue North, and the other off of County Road I. Both parking lots have carry in access to the Rice Creek Water Trail. The parking lot off of Lexington Ave. N also hosts a restroom building and has space for approximately 35 vehicles. The parking lot off of County Road I has space for approximately 32 vehicles and also hosts a connection to a trail managed and maintained by the City of Arden Hills

Community Connection Corridor ⑦

These areas lie on the edge of the parks border and have spurs off of the main Rice Creek trail to serve as community connection points for those not driving to the corridor. Often found on thin strips of usable land or bordering significant topography there is not much room for further development of these spaces.

Pine Plantation ⑧

An iconic entrance to the north segment of the trail located near the parking lot off of County Road I. This stand of pines was most likely planted for harvest at a future date, however the pine stand remains. There is a small, improvised fort building area located within the stand just off of the main trail.

Old Field Areas ⑨

Undeveloped and mostly non-maintained areas of the park that have not been restored as any part of natural resource management. Dependant upon topography, location, access etc. These sites may be good candidates for passive recreation development or restoration as a part of the county natural resource management program.

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Zones & Use Areas

Future Trail Spur ⑩

This area has been identified as a location for a future south spur of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail which would connect with the Highway 96 Regional Trail to the South. This segment of the trail would most likely be developed in conjunction with the Rice Creek Commons Project.

County Road I Access ⑪

This segment of the trail corridor has been identified as a possible location where an additional vehicular and multi purpose trail access point could occur.

Building 189 and Open Old Field ⑫

This area of the park is an excellent opportunity for the public to help drive what happens in the future within the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor. Building 189 has been identified as an opportunity for reuse of the building for several recreational purposes including a trailhead facility, indoor recreation, civic space, nature center, interpretive and educational programming, satellite maintenance area, and training facilities. The land surrounding Building 189 is essentially all old field with some wetland areas, making this an ideal site to be developed for recreational purposes.

Forest Restoration Areas (Includes Upland Wooded Areas) ⑬

Restoration is currently ongoing in these areas of the Southern section of the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor. Upland mesic and oak woods are undergoing invasive plant removal most notably buckthorn. Cross country ski trails are managed and maintained by Irondale High School under an existing agreement. Expansion of this system could be considered in the future.

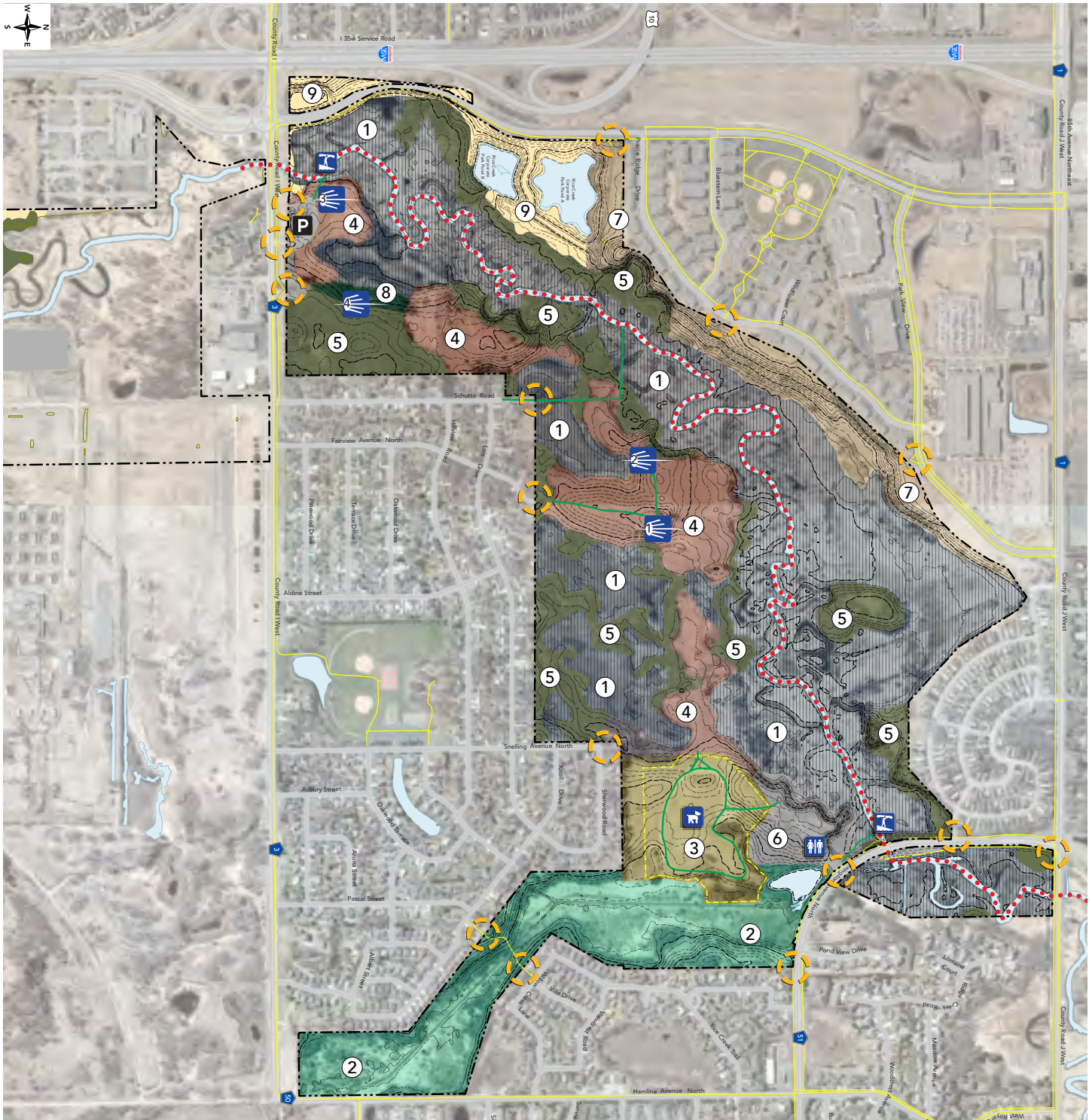
Carp Management & Water Trail Portage ⑭

The Rice Creek Watershed District is partnering with the University of Minnesota to study the behavior and movements of carp throughout the watershed. During feeding, carp stir up sediment on the bottom of lakes, decreasing water clarity and freeing up excess nutrients that feed algae growth. A carp management electronic barrier has been installed across the channel requiring watercraft to portage around this segment of the water trail.

Irondale High School Ski Trails ⑮

Irondale High School currently maintains approximately 1.25 miles of cross country ski trails in the southern segment of Rice Creek North Regional Trail. The cross country ski trails are used extensively by the high school ski team and has a limited sun-powered trail lighting system. The high school also mows the trails in the summer for trail running and trail riding my bicyclists. The trails are entirely set within areas of forest restoration that have been undertaken by the county.

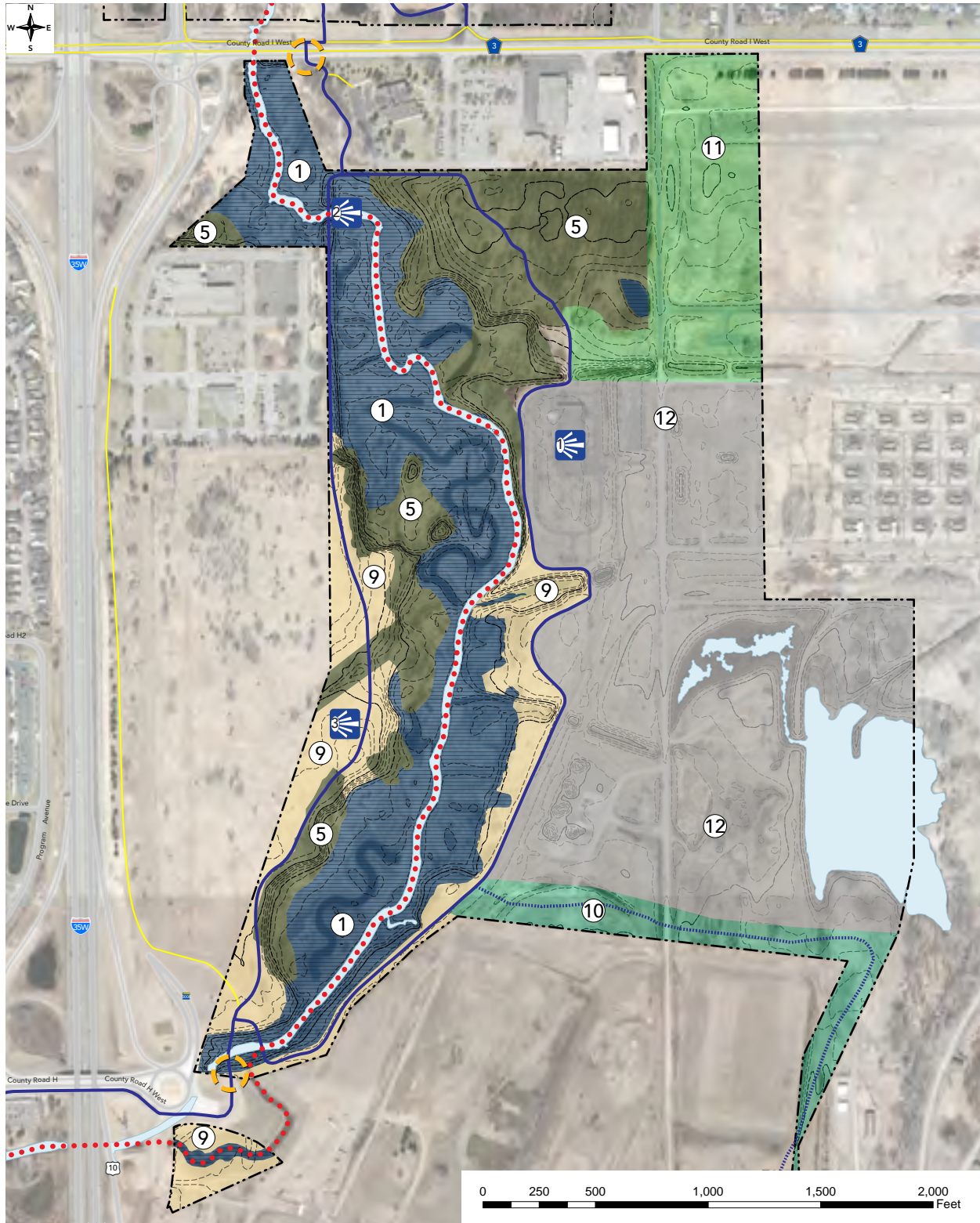
Rice Creek North Regional Trail North Segment Zones & Use Areas



LEGEND

Rice Creek Regional Trail		Rice Creek Water Trail		Cross Country Ski Trails	
Major Road Connection		Park Entrance		City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes	
Natural Surface Trail		Wetland Delineation		Viewshed Opportunity	
Parking Lot		Cross Country Ski Area			
Small Watercraft Launch		Point of Interest			
Restroom Building		Off Leash Dog Area			

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Central Segment Zones & Use Areas



LEGEND

Rice Creek Regional Trail		Rice Creek Water Trail		Cross Country Ski Trails	
Major Road Connection		Park Entrance		City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes	
Natural Surface Trail		Wetland Delineation		Viewshed Opportunity	
Parking Lot		Cross Country Ski Area			
Small Watercraft Launch		Point of Interest			
Restroom Building		Off Leash Dog Area			

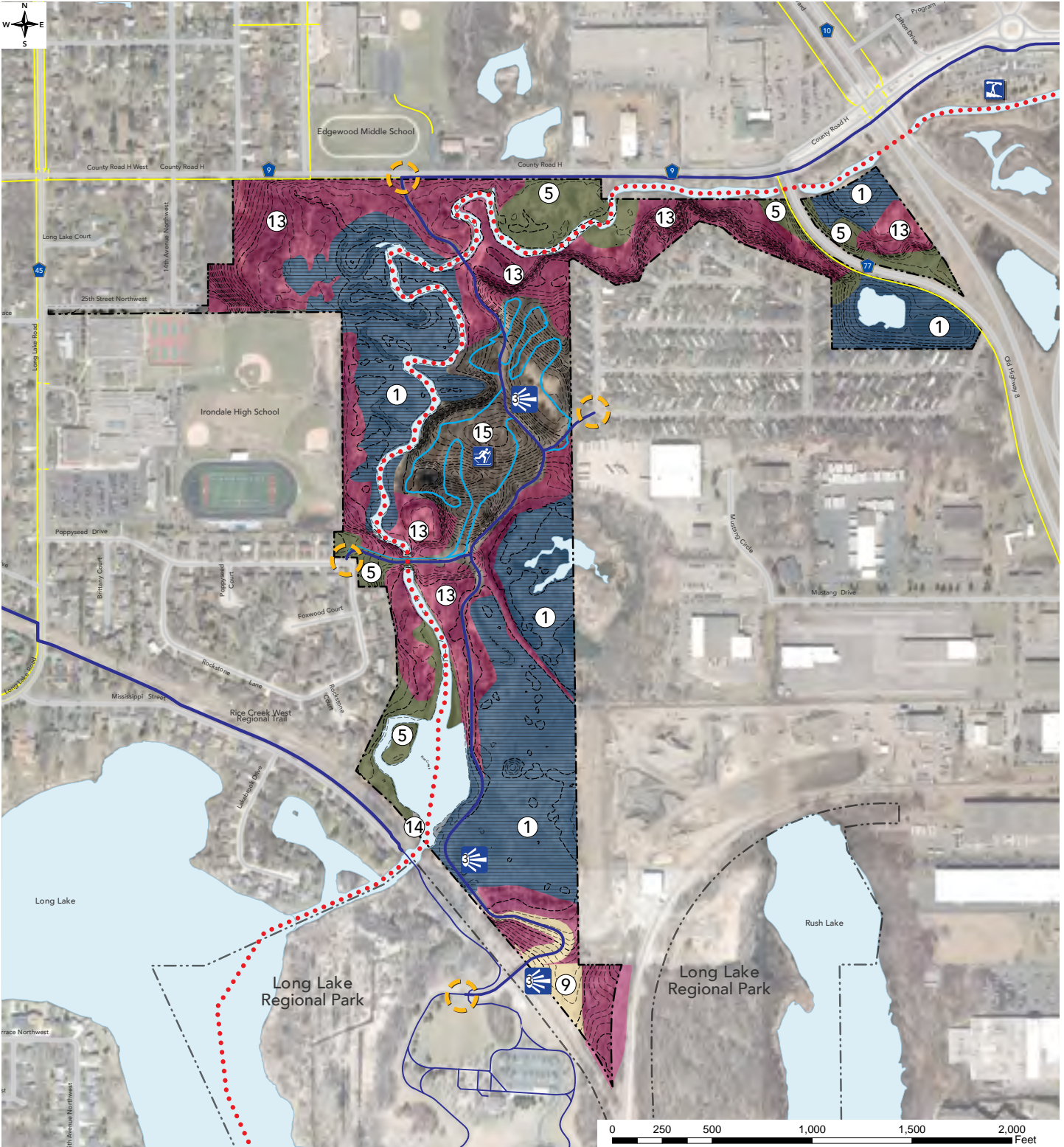
Rice Creek North Regional Trail Central Segment Zones & Use Areas



LEGEND

Rice Creek Regional Trail		Rice Creek Water Trail		Cross Country Ski Trails	
Major Road Connection		Park Entrance		City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes	
Natural Surface Trail		Wetland Delineation		Viewshed Opportunity	
Parking Lot		Cross Country Ski Area			
Small Watercraft Launch		Point of Interest			
Restroom Building		Off Leash Dog Area			

Rice Creek North Regional Trail South Segment Zones & Use Areas



LEGEND

Rice Creek Regional Trail		Rice Creek Water Trail		Cross Country Ski Trails	
Major Road Connection		Park Entrance		City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes	
Natural Surface Trail		Wetland Delineation		Viewshed Opportunity	
Parking Lot		Cross Country Ski Area			
Small Watercraft Launch		Point of Interest			
Restroom Building		Off Leash Dog Area			

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

Land Cover Vegetation and Management

The native vegetation (vegetation of Minnesota at the time of the public land survey: 1847 -1907) within the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor included extensive floodplain wetlands with scattered savannas, mixed woods, prairies and oak woodlands. Much of the native vegetation was altered because of channelization of Rice Creek for agricultural use during the turn of the 20th century, except for some oak woodlands. These segments of native oak woodlands have not been disturbed and are of utmost priority for restoration, preservation, and protection. Oak woods are identified on the land cover maps and include a 12.68 acre area located within the southeast corner of the north segment abutting County Road I, a 13 acre area located in the northeast corner of the central segment, south of the MNDOT training center, and 8.6 acres scattered throughout the south segment, which have been defined by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as an oak woodland site with biodiversity significance. In addition to the native oak woods, other current vegetation within the corridor consists of the following land cover types: shrub swamp, converted native prairie, mixed woods, wetland, old field, cultivated conifers, active use areas, and open water consisting of Rice Creek, open water wetlands, and storm water ponds. These land cover types were modified from the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System so that planned restoration management practices and costs could be projected across the park system with greater ease. These land cover types were delineated in 2018 using the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System, 2010 national wetland inventory, and 2017 county aerial photography. Current and future land cover change maps are shown in the appendix.

Past restoration projects within the corridor include the reestablishment of 50 acres of prairie, between 2003-2005, within the north section of the corridor. These are dry prairies consisting of predominantly little blue stem with a healthy mix of forbs including lupine, rough blazing star, lead plant, wild bergamont, and round headed bush clover. Other projects have included the re-meandering of Rice Creek. In the early 20th century sections of Rice Creek were straightened for the expansion of agricultural practices. In an effort to return the stream to natural channels, improve stream habitat, reduce erosion, and help flood levels, the Rice Creek Watershed District re-meandered the section of Rice Creek from Lexington Avenue North to County Road H in 2005 and the section from County Road H to Interstate 35W in 2015. The re-meandering projects included excavating the original natural channel, adding natural erosion control structures, and allowing the channel to establish vegetation over a growing season then rerouting the water from the straightened path into the naturally meandering channel. Current restoration efforts within the corridor include 8.6 acres of oak woods and 43 acres of mixed woodland restoration within the south segment of the corridor, located south of County road H. This project started in 2016 and involves woody invasive removal consisting mainly of buckthorn and seeding of native grasses and forbs throughout the oak woodlands. Restoration efforts also began in late 2018 within the 13-acre oak woods located in the central section.

Wildlife

The park hosts a variety of wildlife including nesting songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Larger mammals include white-tailed deer, otter, coyotes, red fox, and raccoons. A more robust wildlife species list based on reported observations or assumptions influenced by expected habitat/species relationships can be found in the appendix. This list contains species that have been documented by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Inventory that are protected, species of greatest conservation need, or species of special concern including the upland sandpiper, Blanding's Turtle and trumpeter swan. The northern long-eared bat's range, a federally threatened species, is within the corridor. The local United States Fish and Wildlife Service office should be consulted to determine roost trees or hibernating sites within or adjacent to any future projects within the corridor.

Invasive Plants & Animals

Current established invasive plant species within the corridor include reed canary grass, purple loosestrife,

invasive cattail, common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and garlic mustard in select areas. Emerging species identified include burning bush, barberry, and narrowleaf bittercress, which were all found in 2017 during the restoration work being completed in the south segment. Burning bush and barberry were foliar sprayed while narrowleaf bittercress was hand pulled to eradicate found populations and locations were recorded. Some common invasive animal species that impact the native resources within the corridor include the house sparrow, invasive earthworms, Japanese beetle, common carp, and emerald ash borer.

Water Resources

Major surface waters within the corridor include streams, ditches, and wetlands. Rice Creek is a stream typified by broad wetland floodplains, a meandering channel approximately 25-40 feet wide, and stagnant oxbows on average 2 feet deep with laterally eroding banks. Rice Creek is the principal stream in a 201 square mile watershed that originates at Clear Lake south of Forest Lake and flows 28 miles southwestward through an extensive chain of lakes in Anoka County passing across the northwestern corner of Ramsey County, reentering Anoka County and emptying into the Mississippi River at Fridley, MN. In the past, sections of the creek channel have been mechanically straightened in each of the segments. The creek has a fall of 1-foot per mile north of County Road I, and an average of 8 feet per mile southwest of County Road I. During seasons of high precipitation, the creek provides a suitable watercourse for kayaking and canoeing. The Rice Creek Watershed District constructed a 5-acre desilting basin and in-channel pond between Poppyseed Drive and the Minnesota Commercial Railway tracks at the south end of the trail corridor (New Brighton-Mounds View segment). The District removes and disposes of accumulated sediment every 3-5 years. County Ditch 1 is a man-made drainage ditch constructed in 1901 that originates in Marsden Lake in the former TCAAP and flows north 1.1 miles with no tributary branches entering Rice Creek east of Lexington Avenue (Shoreview segment). Judicial Ditch 1 is a man-made drainage ditch constructed in 1911 that originates in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Interstate Highway 35W and 95th Avenue in Blaine. The main ditch, which has five tributary branches, flows 3.3 miles south entering Rice Creek from the west, just north of County Road I (Shoreview segment). The ditch is in relatively good condition.



Rice Creek

There are numerous scattered wetlands through the corridor. Major wetland complexes include floodplain wetlands that surround Rice Creek and contributing ditches, a large complex southwest of the off-leash dog area, a wetland located in the wildlife corridor in the central segment, and a large wetland complex in the south segment, east of Rice Creek.

The wetland within the south segment has been altered by human-made structures. The wetland is separated into a north and south lobe by a berm that was constructed on top of a buried drinking water supply pipe that runs through the wetland. The northern lobe of this wetland also receives flow from Rush Lake by connected pipes. Rush lake has an outlet in the northwest corner that flows northwest into the wetland. The water from this wetland then travels south through a culvert under the berm and then discharges through a culvert under a paved trail, southwest into Rice Creek.

There is an aquifer to surface water connection along Rice Creek within the entire north segment, along with select areas of interaction in the central segment, and no interaction in the south segment. These areas are considered vulnerable for surface to groundwater pollution (Ramsey County Groundwater Protection Plan, 2010, Figure 4-13 Surface water under the influence of groundwater (Metropolitan Council, 2009 Master Water Supply Plan)). There is a significant groundwater contamination plume from the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant that travels southwest through portions of the central and southern segments of the corridor. This plume has affected municipal drinking water supplies and will continue to have an effect on the groundwater for the next half century.

Stormwater quality best management practices installed within the corridor have included raingardens and pervious pavement within the north segment in the Lexington Avenue North parking lot. These features were installed to meet watershed district requirements and to reduce pollutants and volume to the receiving surface waters.

Soils

Soils within the corridor were formed by glacial ground moraines, outwash plains and alluvium deposits. For the purpose of general classification, the soils are grouped into three categories based on their formation. Soil maps and more detailed descriptions can be found in the appendix.

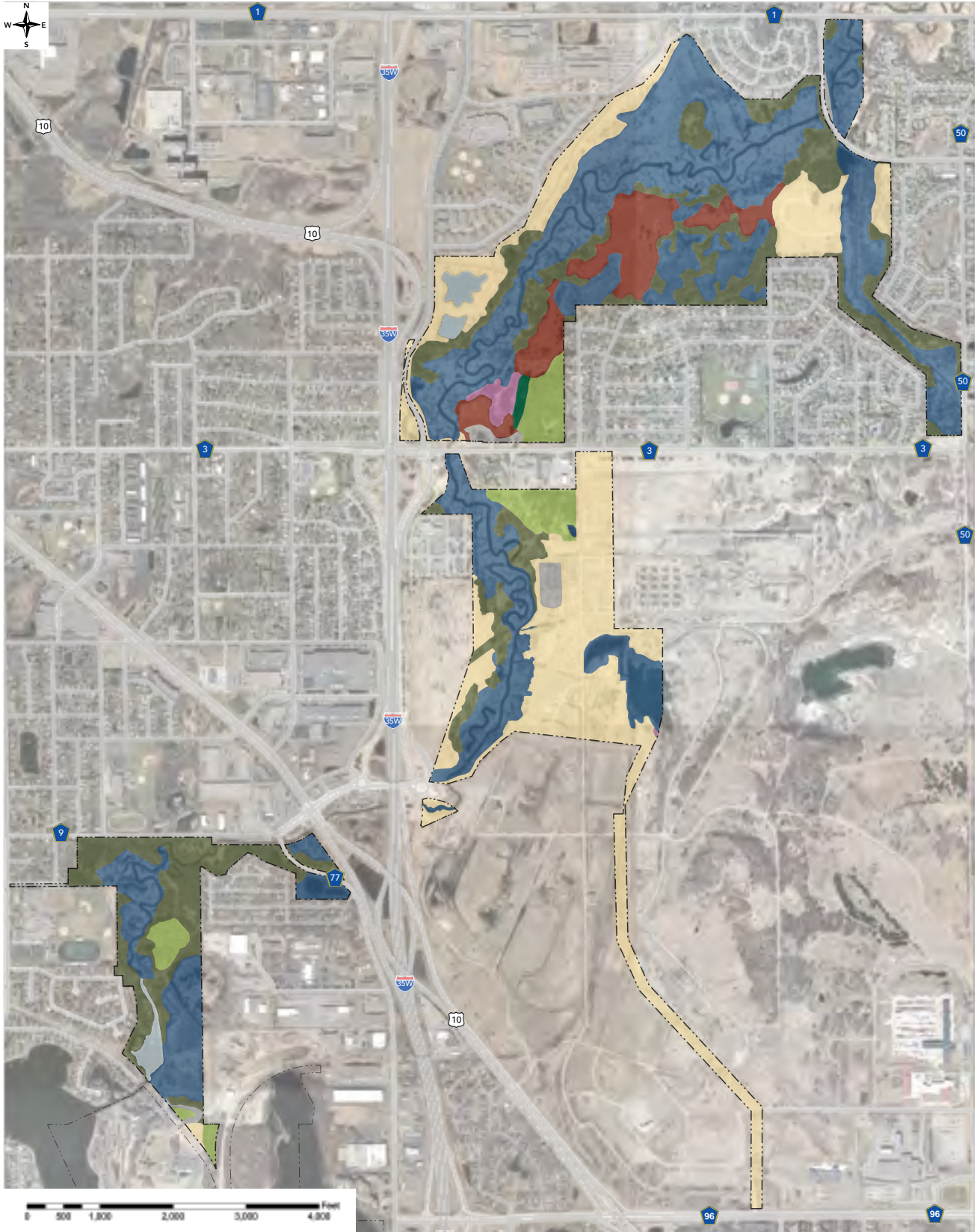
1. Soils formed dominantly in outwash: These soils are underlain by fine sand to gravely coarse sand and are on outwash plains and stream terraces. They range from excessively drained to very poorly drained, and the terrain is level to steep. These soils formed under deciduous hardwood forest or prairie.
2. Soils formed dominantly in a sandy mantle and underlying glacial till, and in glacial till: These soils are mostly upland soils that formed in about 20 to 40 inches of sandy aeolian or lacustrine sediments over glacial till. They range from well drained to poorly drained and are nearly level to steep. They formed under deciduous hardwood forest.
3. Soils formed dominantly in recent alluvium: These soils are mostly bottom-land soils that formed in recent stratified alluvium and variable textured fill materials on flood plains. They are nearly level to very gently sloping and somewhat poorly drained. They formed under hardwood forest on bottom land.

Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area

The Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Program is a joint state, regional and local program that provides coordinated land use planning and zoning regulations for the 72-mile stretch of the Mississippi River through the seven-county metropolitan area covering 54,000 acres of land in 30 local jurisdictions. The Mississippi River Corridor Critical area shares a boundary with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Any development within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area would need to adhere to the standards and criteria for the preservation, protection, and management of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area under Minnesota Statute 6106.

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail is not located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area boundary and is not regulated under the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area policy standards and criteria.

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Existing Land Cover



Existing Land Cover

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Remnant Prairie |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

THE PLAN

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail links growing populations and expands the regional trail network for recreation and non-motorized transportation. The trail corridor also provides areas of high-quality natural resources in the forms of restored prairies, floodplain forests, restored mesic and oak woods, as well as the ongoing management of Rice Creek and its water resources. Throughout the Rice Creek North Regional Trail there are opportunities to expand natural resource-based recreation.

The trail connects into the existing regional and local trail network. The proposed trail additions will add to the overall connectivity throughout the corridor including:

- Highway 96 Regional Trail
- Rice Creek North Regional Trail (Anoka County)
- East Anoka County Regional Trail
- Local Trails
- Future Cross-Country Ski Trails (Arden Hills Army Training Site)
- Long Lake Regional Park
- Rice Creek West Regional Trail

Recreation Development

Recreational development for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail will include a mixture of active and passive recreational opportunities including but not limited to walking, bicycling, off road cycling, cross country skiing, bird watching, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and interpretive and educational programming. In the central segment of the corridor, a multi-season trail head facility is proposed to re-use and expand upon Building 189. Existing trail head locations have planned enhancements to improve site amenities such as increased parking capacity, new restroom buildings, additional trail connections, drinking water access, and new or improved access points to Rice Creek. Given the trail's unique and attractive natural setting along Rice Creek, there is a desire to expand on active and passive recreation opportunities and interpretive or educational programming. Some of the major amenities proposed to be enhanced or newly implemented in this master plan include:

- 12.22 miles of bituminous trails
 - 7.75 miles existing
 - 4.47 miles proposed
- 12.75 miles proposed of combined off road cycling and hiking trails
- 12 miles of combined cross-country ski trails (winter), and walking/hiking trails (summer)
 - 1.24 miles existing
 - 10.66 miles proposed
- New multi-season trail head site in the central segment of the corridor developed around Building 189 and the adjacent area

- Additional parking
- Site amenities including benches, trash and recycling bins, wayfinding signs, water fountains etc.
- Habitat restoration
- Improved canoe and kayak Rice Creek access sites
- New canoe and kayak Rice Creek access sites
- Additional trail infrastructure and bridges to aid in the creation of looped trail systems within trail segments to minimize major road crossings
- Interpretive and educational programming
- Off leash dog area

Multi-Season Trailhead

The most significant redevelopment will occur in the central segment of the trail corridor for Building 189 and the surrounding area for potential expansion and re-use. As a part of this expansion, additional parking would be implemented on site with road access that would come from the north off of County Road I. While the final size and use will need to be determined with an additional study revolving around specific needs and costs of implementation, public input has helped to identify some possible uses including:

Ramsey County launched a structural pre-assessment and programming study through Cuningham Group to study the effects and costs of re-purposing or constructing a new building on site. The study is focused on developing preliminary programs and development concepts along with a preliminary structural assessment and estimated construction costs for the various concepts. A copy of the pre-assessment study can be found in Appendix H.

- Nature Center
- Nature interpretation area
- Recreation equipment rental
 - Mountain Bikes
 - Fat Tire Bikes
 - Cross Country Skis
 - Snowshoes
- Restrooms
- Satellite maintenance area for Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
- Civic and recreational programming areas
- Indoor recreation
- Stormwater management best practices and solutions implemented
- Reservable spaces or spaces for group rental



Bicyclists in the North Segment of Trail

- Cross country ski staging area (dependent on long-term access into the Arden Hills Army Training Site).
- Bike repair stations
- Cross country ski repair stations

Multi-Season Trailhead Parking Lot

Additional parking will be required to service the multi-season trailhead and outdoor recreation area in the central segment of the trail. It is anticipated that the existing parking lot will have capacity for 100-200 vehicles which will be informed by the results of the building assessment. Depending on long-term improvements for a destination recreation center, additional parking may be necessary to accommodate uses. Storm water management best practices should also be followed to meet or exceed any local ordinances. In addition, multi-modal access should be considered which may include:

- Traditional vehicle stalls
- Bicycle racks
- Electronic vehicle charging stations
- Public transportation stops at the trailhead

A shared trailhead entry drive is planned for access into the central segment of the regional trail corridor through Parcel C from County Road I. This shared entry drive will serve the trailhead, outdoor recreation area, parking lot, a future public development at the primer tracer site, the Army, and the National Guard.

In 2019, Ramsey County secured an easement for Parcel C from the United States for access into the central segment of the trail corridor from County Road I and recreational use of Parcel C. As a result of the easement, Ramsey County is responsible for completing necessary road and site improvements for the Arden Hills Army Training Site military access and security. Implementation of Phase 1 improvements started in the fall of 2019 and are anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2020. Phase 1 improvements will consist of:

- A 10-ton access road from the intersection of County Road I and Fairview Avenue to the entrance of the Arden Hills Army Training Site
- A gravel service road located on the Arden Hills Army Training Site property
- Relocation of existing and new chain link fence to the east of the property line.
- Stormwater management
- Landscaping
- Signage

Additional roadway expansion will be required to fully provide access to the trailhead, outdoor recreation area, and a future public use development site located on the Primer Tracer Area.

Outdoor Recreation Area

The area immediately surrounding the multi-season trailhead is a proposed outdoor recreation epicenter for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. This area would provide more of a traditional park setting to welcome everyone and introduce them to the trail corridor.

In conjunction with the building development an outdoor recreation area is proposed to make the multi-season trailhead a true year round destination that may include:

- Picnic tables
- Pavilions
- Fire Pit
- Public Art
- Creek Access
- Play Amenities
- Outdoor recreation programming area
- Interpretive and/or educational programming area
- Trail connections
- Drinking Fountains
- Cross country ski staging area



Carp Management & Research Barrier

Bituminous Trails

The looped trail located in the central segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail was often mentioned throughout public engagement as a favorite feature of the park. People enjoyed being able to walk around a section without having to cross a major intersection or double back on the same trail segment. As a result, a new bituminous trail is proposed in the north segment along with additional bridge structures to create another major loop. There may be some sections of this trail that will require a boardwalk to be built in order to create a full loop due to wetlands and other soil types not suitable to traditional trail development.

Another significant stretch of bituminous trail that will be constructed is the 1.5-mile trail extending from the existing wildlife corridor to Highway 96. This trail will be constructed within a 150' wide corridor that will follow the western edge of the AHATS property and the eastern edge of Rice Creek Commons. This trail would be developed in conjunction with Rice Creek Commons as the grading of land ties the two projects together.

Off Road Cycling

Off road cycling and trail riding have continued to gain in popularity throughout the metropolitan region. In addition to adult riders, schools are creating more and more off-road cycling clubs and leagues, such as the Minnesota High School League, to introduce riders of all abilities at a younger age. Statewide there are over 60 high school clubs in MN, with around 25 clubs in the Metropolitan area. In addition to feedback gathered as a part of the master plan process, there was also a demand placed on off road cycling heard during public outreach for the 2018 System Plan.

Currently, no county facility other than Battle Creek Regional Park includes off road cycling trails. Rice Creek North presents an ideal situation to implement off road cycling trails because it is a linear stretch of land with ample space for multiple trail systems. Although there is not the same level of topography that is present in Battle Creek, Rice Creek North Regional Trail would provide trails with multiple skill levels from beginner to intermediate difficulty. The addition of off road cycling to Rice Creek North would create additional opportunities for access and recreational variety throughout the trail corridor.

Approximately 12.8 miles/20.59 kilometers of new off-road cycling trails are planned to be added throughout the corridor to provide additional access for off-road cycling and hiking. Development of new trails should consider appropriate trail width, amenities, and looped systems to provide for better trail connectivity and experience.

Access to off-road cycling trails within the north segment of the trail corridor would be provided primarily from the trailhead located north of County Road I and the trailhead off of Lexington Avenue. The off-road cycling trails located within the central segment would be served by the new trailhead development centered around Building 189 south of County Road I. The south segment off-road cycling trails would be served by primarily by the new trailhead located near Irondale High School. Various community access trails would serve as minor access points and are located throughout the corridor.

The trail corridor would also be a good location for fat tire winter biking due to the flatter topography. Fat tire biking has been identified as a recreational component that is currently missing in the Ramsey County system which has public support. It is anticipated that off-road cycling trails within the south segment of the regional trail corridor would be closed during the winter months to avoid conflict with cross-country ski trails.

Potential future access into the Arden Hills Army Training Site property would provide additional opportunities to develop additional off-road cycling trails of varying levels from beginner to advanced, as well as hold the potential to provide an arena for larger races and events. Access to the Arden Hills Army Training Site would likely require a higher level of infrastructure and amenities that would support off-road cycling trails of varied skill levels and large races or events.

Cross Country Skiing

Cross country skiing was another area of recreational demand that was greatly supported throughout public engagement efforts. There was a desire to develop a cross-country ski system that would accommodate both classic and skate style ski activity, trails should be constructed wide enough to provide both whenever feasible. Additionally, public engagement revealed that a looped trail system that offered a variety of skill levels and lengths is desirable.

There are approximately 1.24 miles/1.99 kilometers of existing cross-country ski trail located within the south segment of the regional trail corridor adjacent to Irondale High School. Approximately 10.78 miles/17.36 kilometers of new cross-country ski trails are planned to be added throughout the corridor to provide additional cross-country ski opportunities. The majority of new trail development will occur in the north and central segments of the trail corridor, with a shorter trail loop planned to be added within the southern segment which will provide an additional loop and lengthen the existing system adjacent to Irondale High School. Overall the cross-country ski trail system will total approximately 12.02 miles/19.35 kilometers.

The central segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail has been identified as the location for a premier cross-country ski destination in coordination with the redevelopment of Building 189, and potential access into the Arden Hills Army training Site. Future access and connection with and into the Arden Hills Army Training Site would allow for a world class trail system accommodating hiking, cross-country skiing, and off-road cycling.

A staging area for cross-country ski races, meets, and for use by recreational skiers is also proposed as a component of the outdoor recreation area. Implementation of the staging area would be dependent on planned uses and future access into the Arden Hills Army Training Site for potential trail system expansion. This space may include start gates, a timing booth, ski repair and waxing stations, space for temporary outdoor seating, and other components suitable for a premier cross-country ski destination.

There is a shared vision between the county, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, the City of Arden Hills and other public partners to potentially gain future access to the Arden Hills Army Training Site. This potential access would greatly expand the possibilities for future trail expansion and aid in the creation of a world class cross-country ski and outdoor recreation site. Ramsey County is committed to keeping an open dialogue with the Army and National Guard with the ultimate goal of developing a network of trails that may be accessed via

the Rice Creek North Regional Trail.

Access to cross-country ski trails in the north segment would be provided by the existing trailheads located north of County Road I and south of Lexington Avenue. There should also be consideration to provide a cross-county ski connection between the north and south segments of the trail corridor at County Road I. Access to cross-country ski trails in the central segment would be provided by the proposed trailhead located south of County Road I near Building 189. The cross-country ski trails in the southern segment would be primarily served by the future trailhead near Irondale High School.

Currently the cross-country ski trails located within the southern segment of the trail corridor are used predominantly by Irondale High School for skiing and trail running. An agreement has been established with Irondale High School concerning the maintenance of existing natural surface trails for school use. It is likely that improvements would need to be implemented to the existing cross-country ski trails in order to provide for adequate maintenance, maintain a proper trail width and clear zones, trail lighting, and other necessary infrastructure and site amenities to continue to provide a high-quality trail experience.

It is anticipated that additional planning will be required to fully identify the need for future amenity improvements within the north and southern segments of the trail corridor. Dependant upon demand and use of cross-country ski trails within the north and south segments of the trail corridor future improvements such as staging areas, snow making, trail lighting, and other necessary trail infrastructure and site amenities required to provide a high-quality trail experience will need to be considered. The primary focus of development concerning cross-country skiing should be on trail development in the central and northern segments of the trail corridor along with the development of the outdoor recreation area. Expansion into the Arden Hills Army Training Site would likely require a higher level of infrastructure and site amenities that would support varying recreational amenities such as cross-country ski, hiking, and off-road cycling trails, large events, races, winter biathlon races, and a world-class trail system.

Rice Creek Access

Currently there are three access points for park patrons to access Rice Creek and drop in canoes or kayaks. Additional access points have been identified on the Rice Creek North Regional Trail concept plan. An access point located near the multi-season trailhead development may be constructed slightly larger than the rest to allow small groups or classes to be near the water's edge for interpretive or educational purposes. In addition to creating new access points, the existing access points are proposed for slight redevelopment to make access safer and select canoe and kayak launches may be improved to meet ADA standards.

- Lexington Avenue North Access Point
 - Improve trail leading from existing parking lot to canoe and kayak drop in site
 - Widen trail
 - Meet accessibility standards
 - Expand parking dedicated to vehicles carrying small watercraft
- North County Road I Access Point
 - Improve trail leading from existing parking lot to canoe and kayak drop in site
 - Widen Trail
 - Meet accessibility standards
 - Expand parking dedicated to vehicles carrying small watercraft
- South County Road I Access Point
 - New access point
 - Secondary access for the County Road I trailhead for times of the year that the culvert under the road is not passable by watercraft

- Multi-Season Trailhead Access Point
 - New access point south of County Road I near Building 189
 - Accessible Path leading from the trailhead building and outdoor recreation area
 - Larger space creek side to allow for educational and interpretive programming along the creek
- County Road H Access Point
 - Improve trail leading from parking lot to Rice Creek, currently creek access is the most difficult of all existing water trail access points
 - Expand parking dedicated to vehicles carrying small watercraft

Parking Lots

Expanded parking throughout the Rice Creek North Regional Trail has been identified as a need through the public engagement process. When parking lots are redeveloped additional spaces should be explored and added when conditions allow. The parking lots throughout the corridor are in various states of repair and some new areas have been identified for expanded parking opportunities. Currently there are three existing parking lots with an additional one proposed withing the regional trail corridor. Additional parking lot development will be required along with future access into the Arden Hills Army training Site. Temporary parking areas may be need to be considered within the central segment for larger events to accommodate demand.

In 2019 an agreement was established with the Mounds View School District for shared parking opportunities and parking lot maintenance at the proposed Irondale High School Trailhead. The majority of this parking lot is located on school property, however, a small portion of the parking lot and parking lot access would be located on park property. Once the trailhead is developed the partnership would allow park users to park on a portion of the lot.

A summary of parking areas within the regional trail corridor is as follows:

- Lexington Avenue North Parking Lot (Existing)
 - Explore increased parking options
 - Additional site amenities
- County Road I Parking Lot (Existing)
 - Increase parking space
 - Implement restrooms
 - Install drinking fountains
 - Improve stormwater management practices
 - Improve wayfinding signage
 - Additional site amenities
- Multi-Season Trailhead Parking Lot
 - New parking lot
 - 100-200 vehicles (more may be needed dependent upon final building and site use)
 - Premiere stormwater management solutions
 - Implement wayfinding signage
 - Multi-modal storage availability such as bike racks, electric car stations etc.
 - Restrooms
 - Additional site amenities
- Rice Creek Commons
 - Explore expanded parking options
 - Implement restrooms
 - Install drinking fountains
 - Implement wayfinding signage



Bridge Linking Long Lake & Rice Creek North

- Establish stormwater management best practices
- County Road H Parking Lot (Existing)
 - Increase parking space
 - Install Drinking Fountains
 - Implement restrooms
 - Establish stormwater management best practices
 - Additional site amenities
- Irondale High School Trailhead
 - Shared partnership for utilizing access and existing parking
 - Explore expanded parking
 - Install drinking fountains
 - Establish stormwater management best practices
 - Implement wayfinding signage
 - Additional site amenities

Road and Trail Crossings

Currently, there are approximately eight existing road crossings within the regional trail corridor. The existing roadway crossings are predominantly at-grade and trail related, however, there are a number of underpasses related to the Rice Creek Water Trail.

Long term improvements to road crossings should focus on minimizing the need to cross at-grade any major roadway. Currently, there are four locations that are recommended for further planning to consider alternate or enhanced road crossing improvements. Improvements may consist of separated grades either overpasses or underpasses, changes in road structure to provide pedestrian refuges, speed bumps, neckdowns, warning signs, speed reductions, rapid flashing beacons, or a combination of strategies.

Within the central corridor segment, there is one in-park cross-country skiing and hiking trail crossing on the proposed entrance access road to the multi-season trailhead site and Outdoor Recreation Area. During planning for this roadway, there should be some consideration made for a possible separated trail crossing.

There is one in-park cross-country skiing and hiking trail crossing within the central segment of the proposed entrance access to the multi-season trailhead and outdoor recreation area. During planning for this roadway, there should be some consideration made for a possible separated trail crossing.

There are a number of trails that cross each other throughout the regional trail corridor, however these have been limited as much as possible. In the event a vehicular road is crossed by a trail, additional signage or other enhanced crossing elements along the trail and road will notify drivers and trail users of the intersection to use caution. In the event that two trails cross each other, faster moving recreational elements will be asked to stop for slower moving recreation elements. In areas where there may be crossing conflicts with cross country ski trails, hiking trails, off-road cycling trails, and paved trails possible alternate crossing improvements should be considered to minimize conflicts, improve safety, and to allow through movement dependent on the location and activity.

With development of the Rice Creek Commons site, there will be a water trail and pedestrian trail crossing on the main access road into the development. It is anticipated a roadway bridge will be constructed over Rice Creek which will allow separated trail use.

A list of major road crossings and proposed enhancements includes:

- Lexington Avenue North
 - Crossing is currently served via an underpass which may need improvements in the future
 - Due to access, ADA compliance, and seasonal flooding, alternate roadway crossing elements should be considered for improving a separated trail crossing

- County Road I Trailhead
 - Alternate roadway crossing enhancements should be considered for a separated grade crossing, either an underpass or overpass
 - Pedestrian refuge island
 - Flashing beacons
 - Warning Signs
 - Additional improvements should be considered for the Rice Creek Water Trail for continued use of the water trail during periods of high water, as well as portage crossing options.

- Shared Entry Drive at Fairview Avenue
 - Pedestrian refuge island
 - Flashing beacons
 - Warning signs

- County Road H Trail Round-About
 - Currently there is a designated pedestrian crossing at the County Road H round-about for the I-35W exit lane. It was found through public engagement that many people do not feel safe using this option so additional improvements for pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be explored.

- County Road H Trail Over Interstate 35W
 - Currently there is a designated pedestrian crossing on the overpass of I-35 W. It was found through public engagement that many people do not feel safe using this option so additional improvements for pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be explored. Future redevelopment of this interchange should be explored for a separated overpass dedicated to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

- County Road H Trail - Metro Transit Station
 - Currently there is a designated pedestrian crossing at the entrance into the Metro Transit Station. It was found through public engagement that many people do not feel safe at this crossing due to the vehicular movements either entering or leaving. Additional improvements for pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be explored for enhanced warning, signage, and additional sight lines.

- County Road H Trail at Mounds View Boulevard North
 - Currently a crosswalk with time lights tied to the traffic signal. Many users reported feeling very unsafe while using this crossing, and many would refuse to take children across. If there is any redevelopment of the intersection a separated grade crossing should be explored

- Old Highway 8 NW
 - Trail connections should be considered to trail systems along Old Highway 8 to link the Rice Creek North Regional Trail to the Highway 96 Regional Trail
 - Old Highway 8 is not an existing signaled intersection (only stop signs exist).
 - Future redevelopment of this intersection should explore trail crossing enhancements. The best option would be to explore a separated grade crossing, either an underpass or overpass

- County Road 96
 - This crossing will link the Rice Creek North Regional Trail to the Highway 96 Regional Trail. Future development of this intersection should explore trail crossing enhancements. The best option would be to explore a separated grade crossing, either an underpass or overpass.

The county will work with the appropriate jurisdictions on the design and implementation of these crossings.

Lighting

Consistent with other Ramsey County Regional Trails, lighting is only provided at the trailhead and parking lot areas or other high use recreation areas that may be multi-seasonal. Currently, there is no lighting provided for other park areas, in-park trails, or regional trails per current park and trail ordinances. At this time, no trail lighting is anticipated. However, if current park and trail ordinances change, additional planning will be required to determine appropriate lighting options.

Lighted sections of select cross country ski trails were strongly supported during the public engagement period. This is one exception to the county rule that warrant further planning in the future to determine appropriate lighting options.

Potential areas for additional lighting improvements include:

- Predominantly the cross-country ski trail within the central segment. Additional lighting may be warranted for cross-country ski trails within the northern section depending on long-term demand and use. Additional planning will be required to determine the appropriate lighting options.
- The off-leash dog area
- The Irondale High School section of cross-country ski trails in the south segment. Additional planning will be required to determine the appropriate lighting options.
- Outdoor recreation and/or interpretive and educational programming area(s)

Wayfinding

Wayfinding is the way people navigate from place to place. A consistent system is essential for orientation, navigation and public safety. Signage should be consistent across the system and should guide trail corridor users to local services, cultural destinations, transportation connections, activity centers, recreational destinations, cities, neighborhoods, and other landmarks. The Rice Creek North Regional Trail will utilize the existing Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department Wayfinding Master Plan for consistency with other regional parks and trails.

It is proposed that all trail heads, parking lots, and community access points have updated signage to aid in the accessibility of the trail and knowledge of where its amenities are located. Please refer to the wayfinding signage plan located on page xx of this document for sign types and locations.

Trail Amenities

Additional site amenities are proposed throughout the regional trail corridor to provide a high-quality experience. These amenities may consist of benches, additional drinking fountains where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, additional wayfinding, nature interpretation and educational signage, and landscaping throughout the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. Additional in park bridges are proposed for creek crossings to accommodate looped trail systems in the various segments of the trail. Implementation of restroom facilities are also planned at key trailhead areas. A higher level of site amenities is anticipated at the new County Road I south multi-season trail head and Outdoor Recreation Area. Additional planning will be required to determine the appropriate level of site amenities for this area.

Utilities Required for New Development

New utility line extensions into the park will be required to accommodate portions of new development for the

Rice Creek North Regional Trail. The most extensive area of utility development is anticipated for the multi-season trailhead and Outdoor Recreation Area. It is anticipated this new development will require water, sanitary sewer, gas, and electrical service which would be extended from County Road I.

The trailhead north of County Road I would require water, sanitary sewer, and electrical services to be extended from the roadway into the site in the event of redevelopment.

The County Road H trailhead would require water, sanitary sewer, and electrical services to be extended from County Road H in the event of redevelopment.

The proposed Irondale High School access may require water, sanitary sewer, and electrical services to be extended from 25th Street NW if a restroom is provided.

The trailhead located near the Poppyseed Drive access point has already had a water line extended into the site and would not require any further utilities.

Dependant on long-term improvements for cross-country skiing water and electrical service may be required in multiple locations.

Roads Required for New Development

The access point to the multi-season trailhead within the central segment will be from County Road I. A portion of the park entrance drive will be located in a shared roadway corridor and will also function as a shared access road to the primer tracer public development area located east of the park corridor. It is planned that the access route will extend along the eastern and southern sides of Parcel C for access into the new trailhead and outdoor recreation facility.

North Segment Proposed Amenities

The north segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail, as shown on page 46, will undergo primarily trail development as a part of this master plan. There are also needed improvements at road crossings to make access to the trail safe and reliable. A major component of the north segment is making trails loop within the segment so that people can minimize road crossings as much as possible while being able to enjoy the unique features of the corridor without having to double back on the same trail. This follows a theme we heard in the public engagement phase, people wanted to enjoy the trail without having to cross major roads that they did not feel were safe. A list of improvements to the north segment of the trail includes:

- An enhanced crossing at Lexington Avenue North and at County Road I West
- Improvements to the Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area according to the 2018 Off Leash Dog Area Master Plan
- 1.3 miles of new 10-12' wide in park bituminous trails
 - Up to 2,050 feet of this trail may need to be constructed as a boardwalk section depending upon soil analysis and final trail locations. This section may be shared with off road cyclists and other trail users to aid in the creation of looped trail systems
- Explore additional parking options at the Lexington Avenue North trailhead
- Upgrades to portages and canoe/kayak launch sites at both Lexington Avenue North and County Road I
- Improvements to the County Road I trailhead according to the master plan
- Two bridge structures to aid in the creation of looped trail systems

- An enhanced crossing at County Road I at the existing County Road I trailhead and at Fairview Avenue
- 5.5 miles of combined off road cycling and hiking trails
- 5 miles of combined cross-country ski and hiking trails
- Enhanced wayfinding signage throughout the trail segment
- Interpretive and educational signage along the regional trail
- Site amenities throughout the north segment
- Additional benches and rest areas to comply with the Active Living Ramsey Communities Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Central Segment Proposed Amenities

The central segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail, as shown on pages 47-48, will undergo the most drastic changes. A multi-season trailhead along with an entry road, parking lot, cross country ski staging area, and outdoor recreation area will serve to create a destination for all kinds of recreation in the central segment. Along with the major infrastructure being implemented for the trailhead and outdoor recreation area amenities throughout the central segment of Rice Creek North Regional Trail include:

- 2.55 Miles of new in park bituminous trails
- 4 additional bridge structures to accommodate a looped trail system for all trail types
- 2 enhanced crossings along County Road I, one where the regional trail crosses and another at the new entry road to the multi-season trailhead
- An enhanced crossing at Highway 96 where the future trail spur will link into the Highway 96 Regional Trail.
- A new portage and kayak/canoe launch site south of County Road I for users who are uncomfortable going through the culvert system, or for use at times when the culvert is not passable
- A development node near the creek connecting to the multi-season trailhead offering various trail connections, benches, wayfinding signage, canoe and kayak access to the creek, and educational/interpretive programming along the creek
- A canoe and kayak launch site to be developed in conjunction with Rice Creek Commons, south of County Road H
- Enhanced wayfinding signage throughout the trail segment
- Interpretive and educational signage along the regional trail
- Additional benches and rest areas to comply with the Active Living Ramsey Communities Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- 4.3 miles of combined off road cycling and hiking trails
- 5 miles of combined cross-country ski and hiking trails
- Site amenities throughout the south segment

South Segment Proposed Amenities

The southern segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail, as shown on page 49, will see the fewest changes due to its relatively small size and the fact that a majority of the area is a wetland complex not suitable to development. There will be improvements to the existing County Road H parking lot and canoe/kayak access site, along with additional trail development and access points to the regional trail. Development within the south segment of the regional trail includes:

- 0.65 miles of new bituminous trails, which would make additional connections to County Road H and Irondale High School
- An additional access point at Irondale High School may provide limited parking
- An additional trailhead with benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, and improved wayfinding signage near the Poppyseed Drive entrance
- 2.9 miles of combined off road cycling and hiking trails
- An additional 0.82 miles of combined cross-country ski and hiking trails for a total of 2.06 miles of cross-country ski trails in the south segment of the regional trail
- Enhanced wayfinding signage throughout the trail segment
- Interpretive and educational signage along the regional trail
- Additional benches and rest areas to comply with the Active Living Ramsey Communities Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- Site amenities throughout the south segment

STEWARDSHIP PLAN

The natural resources within the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor are critical in managing plant, animal and water resources to provide an adequate sustainable habitat to support populations of native wildlife species. Restoration and maintenance of natural resource areas will be a priority and will likely be completed in several phases. It is anticipated that natural resource projects will be implemented according to the 2018 System Plan.

Land cover vegetation and management

Ongoing maintenance of established prairie areas include spot spraying, cutting back woody invasives and prescribed burns every 3 to 5 years or as needed. Ongoing maintenance of woodlands will include foliar spraying of invasive vegetation, prescribed burns as needed, native herbaceous seed establishment, and oak regeneration plantings.

Future restoration projects are listed in the appendix. This list shows the current land cover and proposed land cover changes with associated restoration efforts, ongoing maintenance practices, and costs. Some examples of projects listed include the conversion of old field to prairie and removal of the cultivated conifers within the north section. The cultivated conifers (pines) were planted on the edge of the oak woods in the late 1960's. These pines were planted too close together and were never thinned. The pines are currently overcrowded, stressed, dying and acting as a barrier between the oak woods and prairie transition area, providing little habitat and ecological benefit. Restoration would include removal of these conifers and the planting of oak trees and transitional woodland to prairie species, including native shrubs. This conversion would greatly benefit the

RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

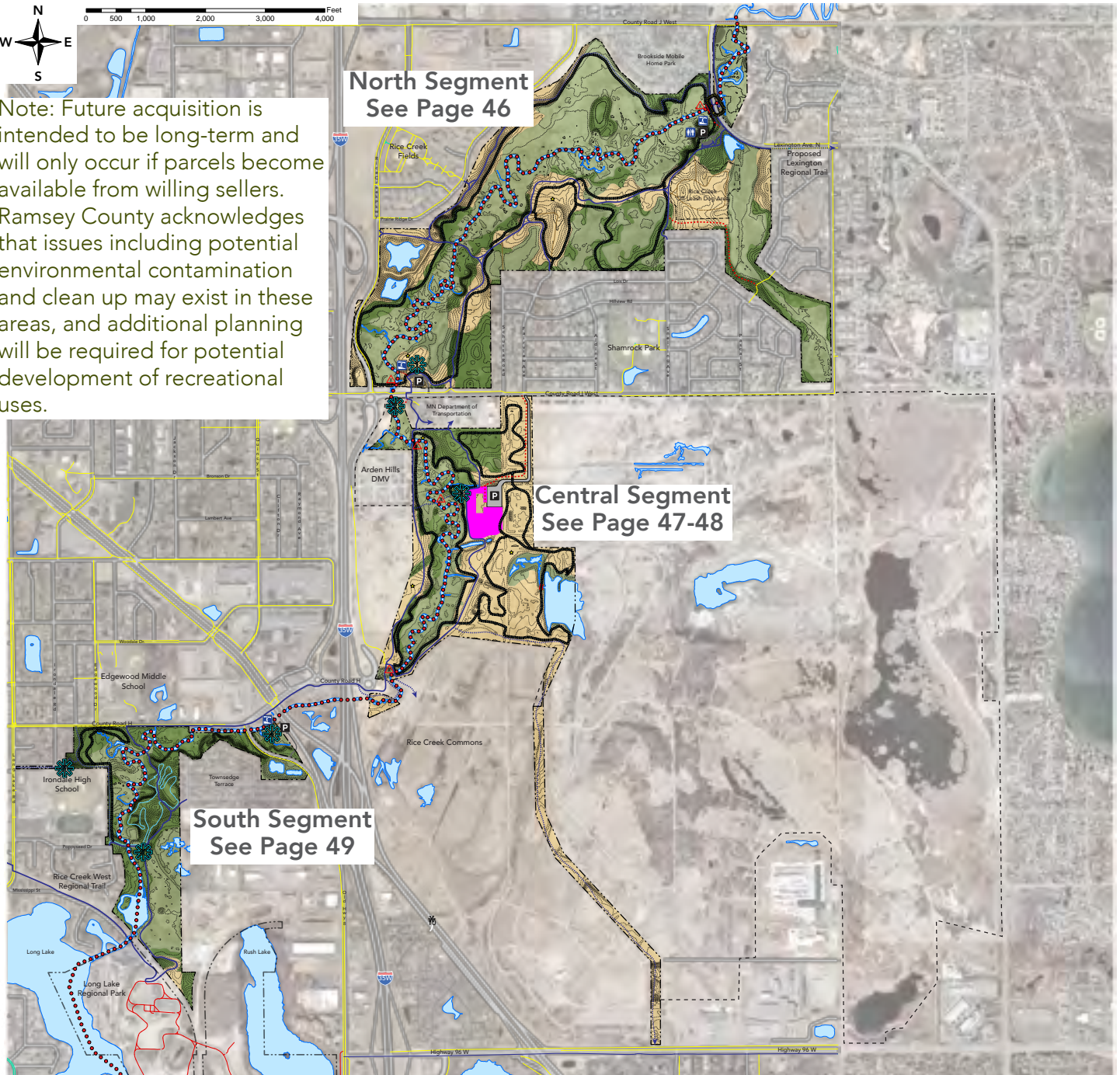


Note: Future acquisition is intended to be long-term and will only occur if parcels become available from willing sellers. Ramsey County acknowledges that issues including potential environmental contamination and clean up may exist in these areas, and additional planning will be required for potential development of recreational uses.

North Segment
See Page 46

Central Segment
See Page 47-48

South Segment
See Page 49



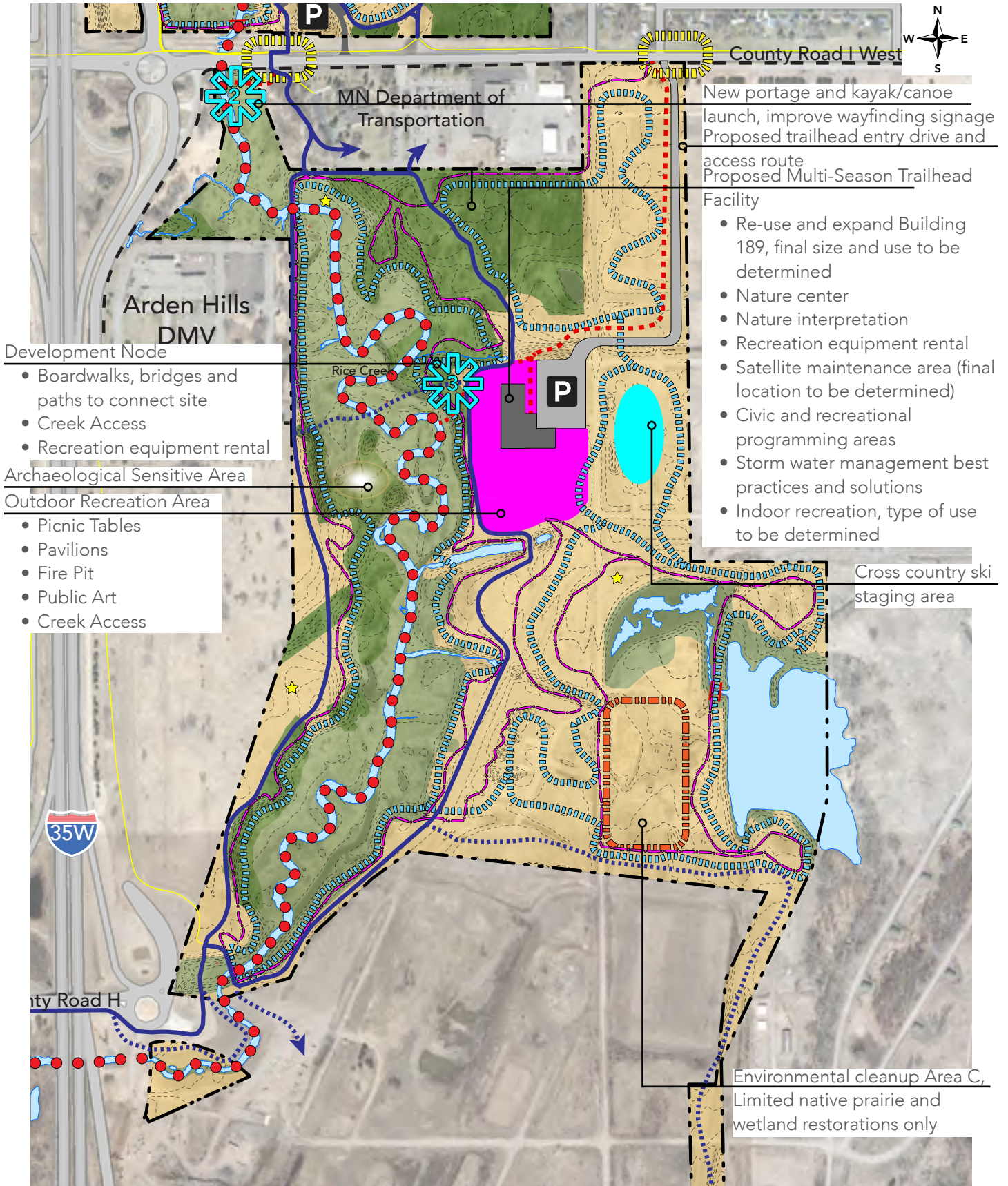
LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Rice Creek Regional Trail | — | Proposed Multi-Use Trail | — | Parking | |
| Proposed Rice Creek Regional Trail | ⋯ | Enhanced Road Crossings | | Existing Restrooms | |
| Regional Trails | — | Environmental Cleanup Area | | Existing Canoe & Kayak Launch | |
| Cross Country Ski Trail | — | Proposed Mountain Bike/Hiking Trails | — | Osprey & Kestrel Poles | |
| Proposed Cross Country Ski Trails | ⋯ | Rice Creek Water Trail | — | Proposed Bridge | |
| Municipal Paths | — | Development Node | | In-Park Multi-Use Trail | ⋯ |
| Administrative Boundary | - - - - | | | | |
| Proposed Management Boundary | - - - - | | | | |

RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN: NORTH SEGMENT



RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN: CENTRAL SEGMENT



- Development Node**
- Boardwalks, bridges and paths to connect site
 - Creek Access
 - Recreation equipment rental

Archaeological Sensitive Area

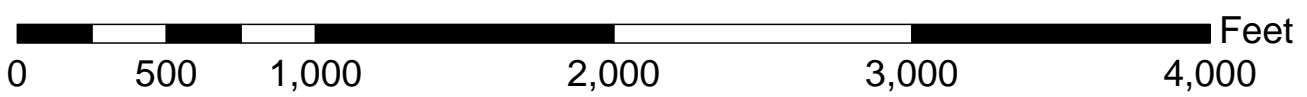
- Outdoor Recreation Area**
- Picnic Tables
 - Pavilions
 - Fire Pit
 - Public Art
 - Creek Access

New portage and kayak/canoe launch, improve wayfinding signage
Proposed trailhead entry drive and access route
Proposed Multi-Season Trailhead Facility

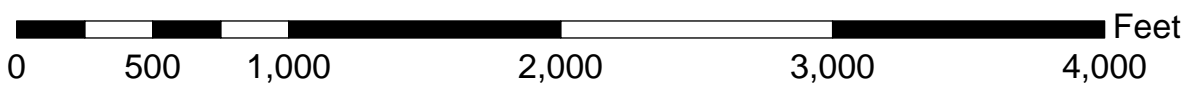
- Re-use and expand Building 189, final size and use to be determined
- Nature center
- Nature interpretation
- Recreation equipment rental
- Satellite maintenance area (final location to be determined)
- Civic and recreational programming areas
- Storm water management best practices and solutions
- Indoor recreation, type of use to be determined

Cross country ski staging area

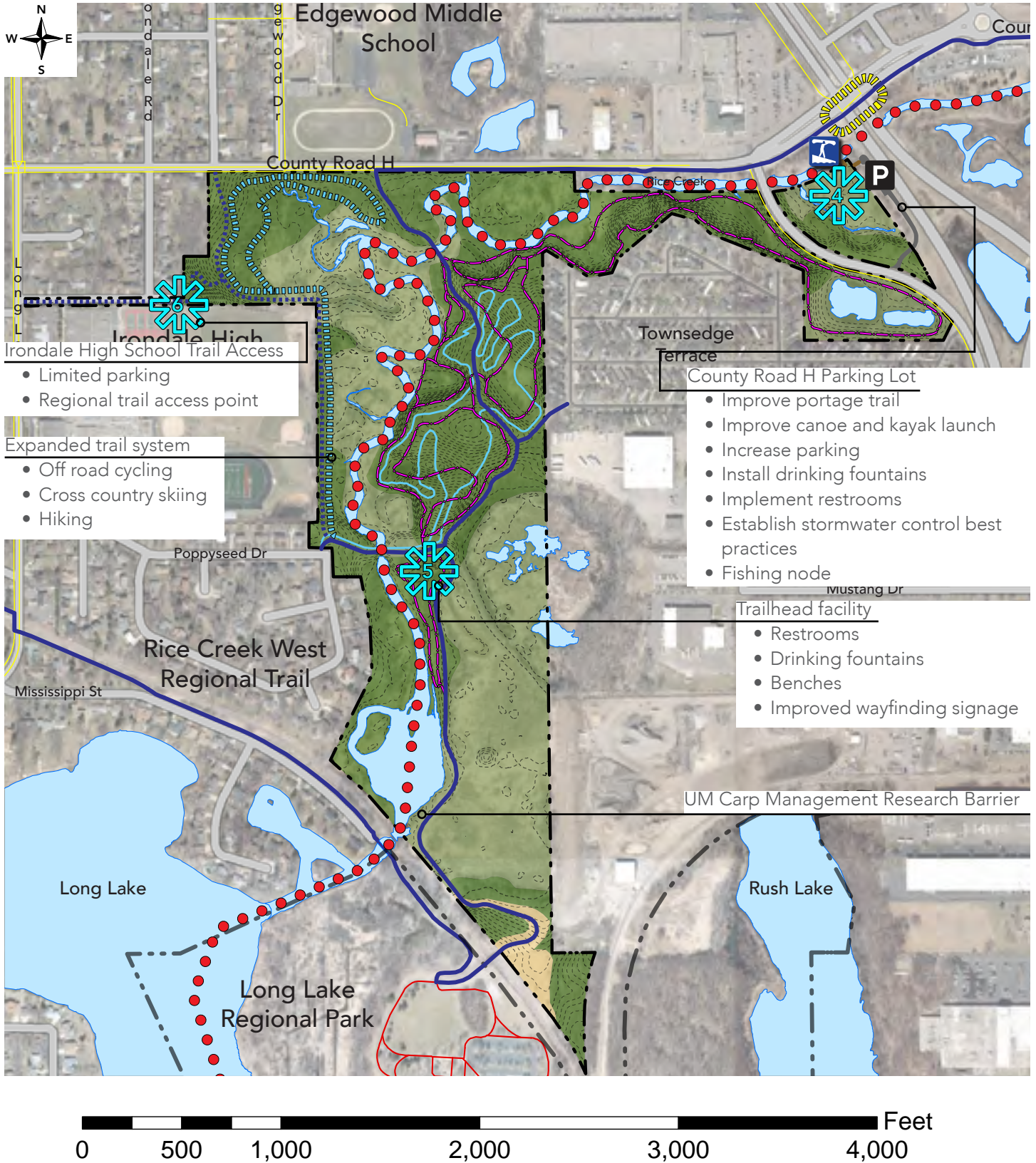
Environmental cleanup Area C, Limited native prairie and wetland restorations only



RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN: CENTRAL SEGMENT



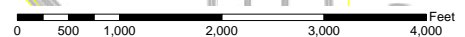
RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN: SOUTH SEGMENT



RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL WAYFINDING PLAN

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Proposed Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Regional Trails
- Cross Country Ski Trail
- Proposed Cross Country Ski Trails
- Proposed Mountain Bike/Hiking Trails
- Rice Creek Water Trail
- In-Park Multi Use Trails
- Municipal Paths
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail
- Park Entrance/ID Sign
- Primary Kiosk/Rules Sign
- Secondary Kiosk/Rules Sign
- Trail Post/Marker
- Rice Creek Water Trail Map



songbirds and insects that currently inhabit the neighboring oak woods and established prairie. Future projects within the central section will include conversion of old field to prairie west of Rice Creek and habitat expansion within the recently acquired wildlife corridor within the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant. Habitat expansion within the wildlife corridor will include conversion of old field to prairie and savanna and restoration and preservation of the existing wetland and protected buffer area. Planting of native vegetation, consisting of mainly prairie species, will occur within the proposed trail corridor. Future restoration within the south section will include conversion of a small section of old field to prairie and ongoing maintenance of the initial restoration work that will be completed in spring of 2019.

Wildlife

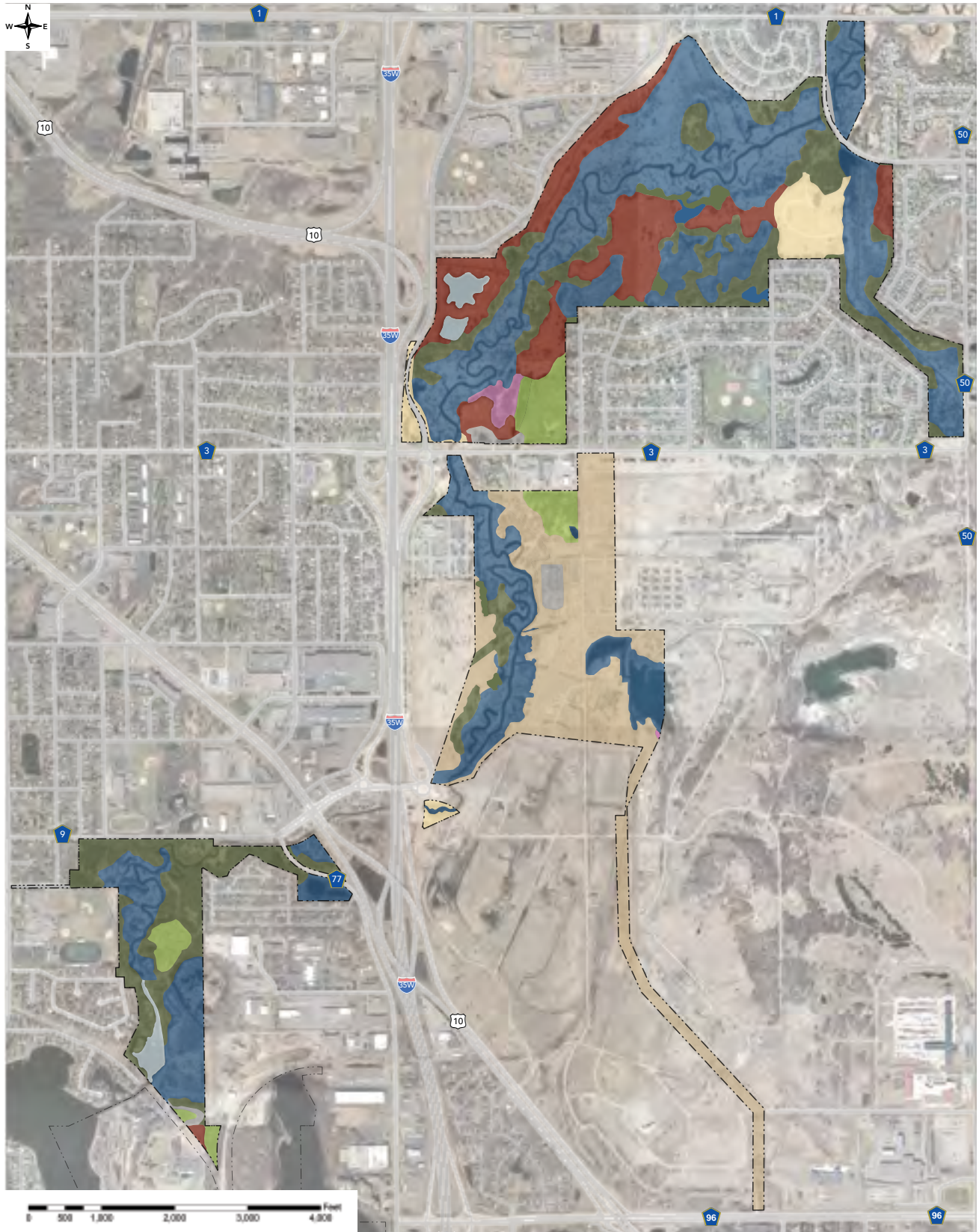
Wildlife management within the corridor includes deer management, bird monitoring and providing nesting structures. Deer populations in the area are surveyed annually to determine the need and location for special archery hunts within the corridor. A special archery deer hunt, under the provisions of the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan and in partnership with the city of Shoreview, has been held in the north section of the corridor since 2015. There has been an active volunteer led bluebird monitoring program within the corridor. There are currently 24 blue bird houses in the north section and 12 bluebird houses within the central section of the corridor. In 2018, a volunteer led effort to evaluate locations for kestrel boxes was completed. One kestrel box was installed within the prairie area in the north section. Further monitoring and locations for additional nesting box locations will be ongoing. This effort is in tandem with the kestrel nesting box and monitoring efforts being completed within the neighboring AHATS. Osprey monitoring in and around the corridor has been ongoing with all survey data recorded and submitted to the Three Rivers Park District, whom houses the osprey nesting data for the Twin Cities metro area. There has been an active colony of breeding osprey nesting in the power poles within the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP), now owned by Ramsey County. Since many power poles were removed and altered from this area, steps were taken to install permanent nesting structures on permanent parkland in 2014. Five osprey poles and nesting platforms were installed within the corridor and two were installed on the neighboring AHATS. Since the installation, three of the seven poles have been consistently occupied by nesting osprey and an additional four to five nests on remaining poles within the former TCAAP area. Investigating locations for additional nesting platforms and continued monitoring will be ongoing. Wildlife within the corridor will continue to be monitored, management and protection measures will be implemented as needed.

Invasive Plants and Animals

Invasive vegetation has become widespread throughout the corridor and efforts to control established species and eradicate emerging species will be ongoing. Surveying the corridor will be completed to locate emerging invasive species and monitor established species following restoration projects, so that treatment options can be made. Treatment options will depend on the density and range of the vegetation and can include hand pulling, foliar spraying, prescribed burns and reestablishment of native vegetation to out compete invasives. Emerging invasive vegetation will continue to be monitored and uploaded into the national database which is the Great Lakes Early Detection Network or Midwest Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapSMidwest).

Invasive animals within the corridor can cause negative effects on native wildlife and vegetation. Invasive animals will be monitored and efforts to control and/or eradicate invasive animals within the corridor will be examined and will depend heavily on species density and funding. Invasive animal species will continue to be monitored and efforts to control or eradicate will be implemented depending on density and funding for control. In 2014, emerald ash borer (EAB) was discovered within a small isolated grove of ash trees in the north section of the park, EAB has also been identified and is prevalent within the residential areas surrounding the park as well. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is currently using this emerald ash borer site as a biological control survey location and will continue to monitor the site. An ash tree replacement plan was implemented in 2018 to address replacement of ash trees within recreational areas throughout the county park system. Ash trees within natural areas will not be inventoried or replaced because of the sheer quantity throughout the park system. Fortunately, within the Rice Creek corridor, there are limited numbers of ash trees within the natural areas and no

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Future Landcover



Future Land Cover

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Active Use | Floodplain Forest | Oak Woods | Prairie (remnant) |
| Impervious | Mesic Forest | Old Field | Savanna |
| Cultivated Conifers | Mixed Woods | Prairie | Shrub Swamp |
| Tamarack Swamp | Wetland | Open Water | |

ash trees within the recreational areas, including parking lots. In an effort to reduce common carp in Long Lake and the connected Lino Chain of Lakes, including Rice Creek, the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) has been leading an effort to monitor and remove carp from the system since 2016. This has included the installation of two low-voltage electric barrier and guidance systems, one of which is located on Rice Creek just upstream of Long Lake within the corridor. Containing the carp via these barriers is key for removal and prevents further migration to breeding areas. Ramsey County Parks & Recreation will continue to cooperate with the RCWD for the potential installation of a permanent barrier in this location and allowing access for carp removal efforts within the Rice Creek corridor.

Water Resources

Surface and groundwater monitoring and regulatory authority within the corridor is completed by local, state, and federal agencies, primarily the Rice Creek Watershed District. The parks department must consult with the watershed district if projects arise that may have an impact on wetlands, groundwater or have an increase in stormwater volume to contributing surface waters within the corridor. Other overseeing agencies include the United States Army Corp of Engineers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division of Parks & Recreation. These agencies will coordinate with the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department for monitoring access or regulatory purposes.

Surface water, wetland protection, and preservation is a priority within the corridor and all local, state and federal wetland protection regulations will be followed. When development within the corridor occurs steps will include avoiding impacts first; second, minimize impacts; and, finally, mitigate impacts when no other options are available. Areas located within the TCAAP plume and where there is surface / ground water interaction should be recognized when planning any future development within the corridor. Surface water best management practices will be considered in the planning of any future development within the corridor to meet regulatory agencies requirements and beyond.

Soils

Soil contamination and remediation has occurred in and around the former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant, including south of the wildlife corridor located in the central section of the corridor. In 2017, Ramsey County completed soil remediation of approximately 92 acres of former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant land that was transferred into the regional corridor. Soil remediation has not yet been completed in the Primer Tracer Area (Public Use and Development Area) or portions of the Arden Hills Army Training Site property. Long-term expansion into these areas will likely require further testing and soil remediation depending on development requirements.

Research

Most research in the corridor is welcome but must be approved by park staff and deemed beneficial to the local flora and fauna. Research within the corridor includes volunteer monitoring and surveys completed by local and state agencies. The University of Minnesota has been conducting buckthorn suppression research within the oak woodlands located in the central section of the corridor. This study started in 2016 and will continue until 2022. The study includes removal of buckthorn in plots and the culturing of native vegetation to determine the suppression effects of differing native vegetation combinations on buckthorn regeneration. When the study is completed the native vegetation plots will be incorporated into future restoration efforts.

Limits of development

A development suitability map was created to help guide future development planning within the corridor. The site was subdivided into development suitability units based on slope, soils, land cover, and sensitive animal and plant species present. The development suitability map, which can be found in the appendix, should be used as a general planning tool to determine development restrictions within the corridor. More precise development

planning may be required during the overall planning process of a specific development project. The suitability classes are defined as:

Site development should not destroy, damage nor alter any significant water body, waterway, wetland, native woodland or other wildlife habitat within the unit. Development (location and installation of recreation facilities) should respect the integrity of the existing natural character of the site and the carrying capacity of the resource base. Development within the restricted areas should be limited to interpretive or unpaved hiking trails. Roadways, parking lots, buildings and intense use areas should be located in and through those areas that already have been disturbed (i.e. dormant agricultural fields, former home sites, existing dirt roadways). Those disturbed areas not subject to facility development should be restored to a natural state and subsequently managed as protection open space. Most of the land area in the corridor is located within the bounds of the

Development Suitability Table

Suitability Units	Resource Examples	Appropriate Activities
Suitable	Disturbed areas, flatland, open fields, former house sites, existing recreation areas, sandy shoreline, utility easements	Picnicking, swimming beach, boat launch, parking lots, roads, paved trails, play structures, buildings
Sensitive	Relatively undisturbed areas, mixed woodlots and forests, moderate slopes	Limited paved trails, unpaved trails, interpretive trails (including boardwalks), observation areas and platforms
Restricted	Vulnerable and unique resources and ecosystems (i.e. floodplains, marshes, high quality forests, scenic land features, unique geologic features, scarce ecological associations, wildlife species/habitats, severe slopes.)	Unpaved trails, limited interpretive trails (including boardwalks)

floodplain for Rice Creek. Due to its status as a seasonally flooded “wetland”, development within the floodplain should be discouraged or kept to a minimum.

Partners

There are many agencies, organizations and private individuals that partner with the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department to aid in natural resources management and development within the corridor. Some of these include, volunteers, Arden Hills Army Training Site natural resources staff, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Rice Creek Watershed District, the cities of Shoreview and Arden Hills, and the Ramsey County Public Works Environmental department, to name a few. It is likely partnerships will be critical in the development of the central corridor for the new multi-use trailhead facility. Dependent on the proposed uses of Building 189 as a potential multi-purpose facility, additional partners will be required for operation. Future long-term build-out of the cross-country ski trails and the off-road cycling trails will likely need sport and recreation partners such as the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, and Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists. The Parks & Recreation department greatly appreciates the collaboration and will continue to work with surrounding partners.

PUBLIC SERVICES

New public services will be needed to accommodate portions of new development within the regional trail corridor. It is anticipated that additional development within existing trailhead sites and for the new multi-season trailhead will require either new or upgraded services for gas, water, sanitary sewer, and for communications. The proposed multi-season trailhead development will be accessed from County Road I. As the park is established and visitor use increases, the intersection will need to be reviewed regularly to determine whether intersection improvements are needed to accommodate traffic volumes and preserve motorized and non-motorized transportation safety.

The multi-season trailhead development access road is planned for construction in the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department appropriation for the Parks and Trails Legacy Amendment Funding for 2019/2020. It is

anticipated that sewer and water will be extended from existing mains on County Road I, and electrical services will be brought in as well, in conjunction with the access road.

There is a TGRS facility located in the Rice Creek Commons area that is cleaning groundwater. However, utilities needed to service this facility will be located within the trail corridor for temporary electric and water discharge within the Arden Hills Army Training Site area. Until the EPA determines the groundwater is safe for consumption, use of groundwater is prohibited.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Ramsey County park system was originally designed for vehicular access. Ramsey County is still vehicle oriented, but public transportation options have expanded, and bicycling has grown in popularity. The All Abilities Transportation Program will lead to a more accessible transportation network. Since parks and recreation facilities and services contribute to public health, economic accessibility will remain an important consideration. Parks and trails are generally free of charge, while other department recreation options, such as golf and ice hockey, are fee-based.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is committed to providing universal accessibility at all trail facilities. Ramsey County is part of the Ramsey County Active Living Communities partnership which works to bring about and sustain changes in design, transportation, and public/private policies to cultivate and support a way of life that makes physical activity in our neighborhoods and communities safer and easier. Ramsey County uses the following to assess and implement these changes:

ADA Transition & Implementation Plan

The department is implementing a plan to bring its sites and facilities into compliance with the requirements of Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, and updated 2010 standards.

Ramsey County Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan

The Ramsey County Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan, developed through collaboration between Active Living Ramsey Communities, Parks & Recreation and other county departments, municipalities, state agencies, residents, and other organizations, establishes a vision and strategy for providing safe and comfortable facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the county.

All Abilities Transportation Network

The All Abilities Transportation Network unifies regional transportation efforts under a shared vision and implementation strategy to realize an integrated and fully interconnected multi-modal transportation system providing safety, health, mobility and connectivity for residents of all abilities.

CONFLICTS

No major conflicts will affect the viability of the master plan recommendations. Adjacent land uses include residential, commercial, a future mixed-use site, and the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS, a federal property), and the Primer Tracer (Public Use and Development Area). AHATS is separated from the trail corridor by a fence with very limited access into the AHATS site. A portion of the trail corridor will also be collocated with high tension power lines for temporary power to Rice Creek Commons and the TGRS facility until utility services are implemented within Rice Creek Commons. It is planned that the existing temporary power poles will be removed within the trail corridor after electrical services have been established in Rice Creek Commons.

The shared access road from County Road I to the multi-season trailhead will present minimal conflicts. There is one cross country ski trail which crosses the road and shall be signaled appropriately to stop trail users, vehicles will also have warning signs implemented.

There is an archaeologically sensitive area located within the central segment near the Arden Hills Department of Motor Vehicles. This area will be protected and any trail development should avoid disturbance of this area.

There is a capped environmental clean up area within the central segment of the corridor that will be protected. No recreation access will be allowed within this area to minimize impacts to the soil cap. It is anticipated that limited natural resource projects will be implemented in this area to provide sustainable ground cover.

Existing high use transportation roadways adjacent to the corridor create conflicts at trail crossings. Additional planning studies will be required to determine appropriate solutions for safe crossing at road intersections.

IMPLEMENTATION

PHASING AND PRIORITIES

Implementation of proposed improvements are anticipated to take several phases to complete and will likely require alternate sources of funding from partners depending on the development project. Improvements are planned within a high, medium, low, and long-term priority to implement over time and better plan for long-term capital improvement funding. Depending on the project need or demand, there may be a need to shift projects into different priority levels.

High Priority Items

High priority items will tend to focus on projects that have been identified as high need, focused on improving safety, and are currently funded or projects in process. Implementation will primarily be focused within the central and north segments of the corridor but may include items within the southern segment dependent upon the project and need.

- North Segment
 - Completion of the bituminous trail loop and associated pedestrian bridge infrastructure for making connections to the existing Lexington Avenue trailhead.
 - Implement cross-country ski trails (classic and skate ski) with associated wayfinding and site amenities. Access to the cross-country ski trails is planned from both the County Road I North and Lexington Avenue trailheads.

- Central Segment
 - Primary improvements within the central segment include construction of the entrance road, extension of utilities into the multi-season trailhead, redevelopment of portions of the existing parking lot for use until further planning is completed for Building 189 and the outdoor recreation area, and finalization of trail connections to existing trail corridor infrastructure.
 - Phase I roadway access and site improvements started in 2019 to provide military access to the Arden Hills Army Training Site as a condition of the easement received for Parcel C.
 - Implementation of the trail connection within Parcel D to Highway 96. This connection will be associated with site infrastructure improvements at Rice Creek Commons.
 - Rice Creek Water trail canoe portage access improvements with associated wayfinding signage and site amenities south of County Road I.

- South Segment
 - Rice Creek Water Trail canoe access improvements with associated wayfinding and site amenities within the trailhead at Old Highway 8/County Road H.

Medium Priority Items

Medium priority items will tend to focus on important projects that have need but should not be a priority until higher priority items are completed. Implementation will primarily be focused within the central segment for the multi-season trailhead area, development of trails and associated trail bridges throughout the corridor and initiate appropriate road crossing safety improvements as identified within the roadway crossing improvements study, but may include some additional components dependent on the project and need.

- North Segment
 - Development of the off-road cycling trails with associated wayfinding signs and site amenities. Access to the off-road cycling trails is planned from both the County Road I North and Lexington Avenue trailheads.
 - Improve Rice Creek Water Trail canoe access at the County Road I North trailhead.
- Central Segment
 - Additional site and planning studies will be required to determine appropriate recreation uses, design and infrastructure required for Building 189 and the Outdoor Recreation Area, and appropriate crossing improvement on high-use roadways. In 2019, the Parks & Recreation department conducted a pre-building assessment of Building 189. This study provides recommendations for further planning, possible development scenarios, and will help guide community engagement to determine the final use and size of the multi-season trailhead structure.
 - Implement cross-country ski trails (classic and skate) with associated wayfinding signs and site amenities. Access to the cross-country ski trails is planned from the multi-use trailhead.
 - Development of a Rice Creek Water Trail canoe access at the multi-season trailhead.
 - Development of the off-road cycling with associated wayfinding signs and site amenities. Access to the off-road cycling trails is planned from the multi-season trailhead.
- South Segment
 - Development of the off-road cycling trails with associated wayfinding signs and site amenities. Access to the off-road cycling trails is planned from the existing system and at the trailhead on County Road H.

Low Priority Items

Low priority items will tend to focus on projects that do have need, but increased demand or use may be required prior to implementation. Implementation will primarily be focused throughout the corridor for trailhead improvements, trail implementation, signage, and site amenities, but may include some additional components dependent on the project and need. Parking lot development and redevelopment should occur with trailhead improvements or as the need arises. Appropriate road crossing safety improvements should be implemented with trail projects as identified within the roadway crossing improvements study.

- North Segment
 - Improvements at existing trailheads on County Road I and Lexington Avenue. Potential improvements may include the development of a permanent restroom facility at County Road I, rehabilitation of the existing restroom at Lexington Avenue, parking lot expansion, and associated site improvements, signage, trail connections, and site amenities.
 - Potential trail redevelopment as needed.
- Central Segment
 - Initiate development components of the multi-season trailhead and outdoor recreation area.
 - Development of remaining components of the multi-season trailhead and outdoor recreation area.
 - Minor cross-country ski trail staging area near the multi-season trailhead.
 - Development of any remaining trail development for connection into Rice Creek Commons.
 - Potential trail redevelopment as needed.

- South Segment
 - Improvements at the existing trailhead by Old Highway 8/County Road H. Potential improvements may include the development of a permanent restroom facility, trail bridge infrastructure, parking lot expansion, and associated site improvements, signage, trail connections, and site amenities.
 - Development of the Irondale High School trailhead and associated site improvements, signage, trail connections, and site amenities.
 - Expansion of the trail system and bridging structures within the south segment to make connection to the Irondale High School trailhead.
 - Potential trail redevelopment as needed.

Long-Term Priority Items

Long-term priority items will tend to focus on projects that include expansion into new park areas or boundaries or will require more definition and exploration to identify project components.

- Expansion of new park and trails within the Arden Hills Army Training Site area
- Snow making for cross-country skiing
- Large event staging area for trail race events
- Lighting for cross-country ski trails

IMPLEMENTATION COST ESTIMATE

Master Plan Implementation Cost Estimate

Activity	Cost
Multi-Season Trailhead Development	\$20,000,000
Outdoor Recreation Area	\$3,000,000
Rice Creek Outdoor Recreation Area Development Node	\$250,000
Irondale High School Access Point Development	\$750,000
Rice Creek Commons Canoe & Kayak Launch Development Node	\$750,000
County Road I Trailhead Redevelopment	\$1,750,000
Lexington Avenue North Trailhead Redevelopment	\$500,000
County Road H Trailhead Redevelopment	\$1,900,000
Canoe & Kayak Development Node South of County Road I	\$200,000
Bituminous Trails	\$1,300,000
Bridges	\$1,800,000
Cross Country Ski Trails	\$300,000
Off Road Cycling Trails	\$300,000
Boardwalk Development	\$3,500,000
Wayfinding, Interpretive & Educational Signage	\$300,000
Site Amenities	\$300,000
Natural Resources Habitat Restoration & Maintenance	\$1,100,000
Additional Building 189 Studies	\$200,000
Roadway Crossing Improvement Study	\$100,000
Total Budget	\$38,300,000

Cost estimates are provided for resource stewardship and for facility investments in the following sections, and are based on a combination of past practice, work done in other park systems, and expert opinion. Refined cost estimates will be established with the preparation of the capital improvement program. Several of the master planned projects will require additional evaluation to refine the improvement program. Cost estimates should be considered as preliminary, as many variables can influence the actual cost of projects.

Projects and cost estimates for the improvement concepts are in the table above (pg. 59). Costs are based on similar projects and an assumption that work will be completed by contractors. Costs may vary from the amounts identified, based on project and site complexities. Site based stewardship projects are included, and some could be initiated without capital improvements if the risk of later disturbance during facility work is deemed low.

OPERATIONS

Operations and maintenance of the regional trail will be the responsibility of the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department. Operations and maintenance services will be provided at a level that is appropriate for the designated use and consistent with proposed development. The level of services (LOS) will be directly influenced by demand, type of use, budget limitations and the county's operation and maintenance policies. Funding for regional trail maintenance and operation is appropriated from county tax revenue, supplemented by State appropriation for Regional Parks Operation and Maintenance Funding.

Operating Hours

Park and trail operating hours are defined within the Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Ordinance. Currently, regional parks and trails have general operating hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset. Operating hours may vary at high-use areas dependent on the recreation program and/or park use. It is anticipated that operating hours will change in the future to designated hours for consistency with other local and regional park systems and seasonal use.

Ordinances

Public use and enjoyment of the county park system is controlled by "An Ordinance for the Control and Management of Park, Recreation and Open Space Areas and Facilities under the Jurisdiction of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners." This ordinance, adopted in 1992 and amended in 2007, will govern the conduct of the public during the use of the regional trail corridor, its facilities, and resources. The ordinance, provided in the appendix, incorporates pertinent Minnesota statutes and includes the following sections:

- Purpose/Definitions
- Regulations of Public Use
- General Conduct
- Regulation of Recreation Activity
- Regulation of Motorized Vehicles, Traffic, and Parking
- Enforcement
- Miscellaneous
- Effective Date

Operations and Maintenance Costs

Operation and maintenance costs are based on a combination of past practice, work done in other park systems, and expert opinion. Operation and maintenance cost may require additional evaluation after implementation of new infrastructure. Operation and maintenance costs may vary from year to year depending on economic, climatic, development, and demand of infrastructure, as many variables can influence the actual cost of operation and maintenance.

Annual Operations & Maintenance Costs Estimate

Activity	Cost
Bathrooms Facilities Maintenance and Cleaning	\$29,400
Trash and Recycling Collection	\$10,500
Spring Cleanup	\$10,800
Mowing and Turf Maintenance	\$12,000
Brush Cutting and Tree Trimming	\$12,000
Pervious Asphalt Maintenance	\$9,000
Amenities (Benches, Signs, Picnic Tables, Etc.) Maintenance	\$6,000
Snow Removal	\$4,800
Paved Trail Maintenance	\$15,000
Multi-Season Trailhead Maintenance	\$15,000
Snow Making and Grooming	\$30,000
Multi-Season Trailhead Staff	\$312,000
Total Annual Operating Budget	\$466,500

Enforcement and Safety

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Department, will educate and direct the public in appropriate use, provide ordinance enforcement, assist with first aid, and ensure security along the regional trail. The Ramsey County Sheriff will be responsible for enforcement of park hours. All trailhead access roads are equipped with gates that can be controlled to limit access. Fire services as needed are provided by the Lake Johanna Fire Department.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department will use a variety of tools to promote awareness and use of the regional trail system. This includes electronic and print communication methods such as websites, trail maps, brochures, email notification, Twitter, Facebook, and press releases to local newspapers. The department will provide necessary information and updates to the department’s website.

Ramsey County will also collaborate with Arden Hills, Shoreview, New Brighton, Mounds View, and the Metropolitan Council to promote the trails through their websites, newsletters, and brochures. Wayfinding signage within the trail corridor will be updated as needed following the existing Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Department Wayfinding Master Plan for consistency with other regional parks and trails.

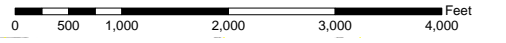
Metro Transit access to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail is very limited and offers poor access to the regional trail corridor for users that are dependent on public transportation. Currently, there are two lines (Route 250 Express Bus and Route 25) that provide limited service access to the corridor. The Route 250 Express bus stops

RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL TRANSIT ACCESS



LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail ———
- Proposed Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Regional Trails ———
- Cross Country Ski Trail ———
- Proposed Cross Country Ski Trails
- Proposed Mountain Bike/Hiking Trails - - - - -
- Rice Creek Water Trail ●●●●●
- In-Park Multi Use Trails
- Municipal Paths ———
- Proposed Multi-Use Trail - - - - -
- Administrative Boundary - - - - -
- Metro Transit Stop T



at the County Road H Park and Ride, which is located directly to the regional trail but offers a park user limited access to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail due to hours of operations. The County Road H Park and Ride is predominately utilized for commuter service heading to and from work in downtown Minneapolis with hours of operation early morning for downtown and return in the evening as a source of commuting. Route 25 offers slightly more flexibility for park use with more hours of operations and additional buses in the morning and the last buses leaving around 5 P.M. for downtown Minneapolis. Route 25 stops are located outside and adjacent to the west edge of the corridor predominantly on Long Lake Road and would require the further travel to gain access for park and recreation use. Additionally, the northern portion of the regional trail corridor has almost no access to close Metro Transit amenities. In order to increase access opportunities, additional Metro Transit stops and hours of operation should be considered throughout the regional trail corridor. Please see the Transit Access Map on page 64 for reference.

EQUITY ANALYSIS

Project Data

The public engagement area for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan was intended to reach as wide of an audience as possible. The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation department focused on gathering information both from citizens who live near the trail corridor as well as county-wide. There was also a focus area of any residents living near the regional trail corridor’s boundary.

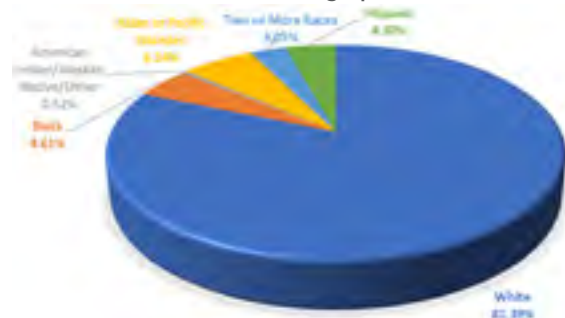
Comparing census blocks from 2010 data extrapolated to reflect the approximate values in 2017 between tracts that fall within 1 mile of the trail corridor with those of Ramsey County overall may provide some meaningful data.

Ramsey County, as of 2017, had a population of 537,893. The mean household income of the county was \$60,301, with a poverty rate of 15%. The subset of the population living in a census tract within 1 mile of the trail corridor had a population of 74,252, with a median income of \$81,094 and a poverty rate of 7.1%. The following graphs reflect the race, education and age of the respective areas.

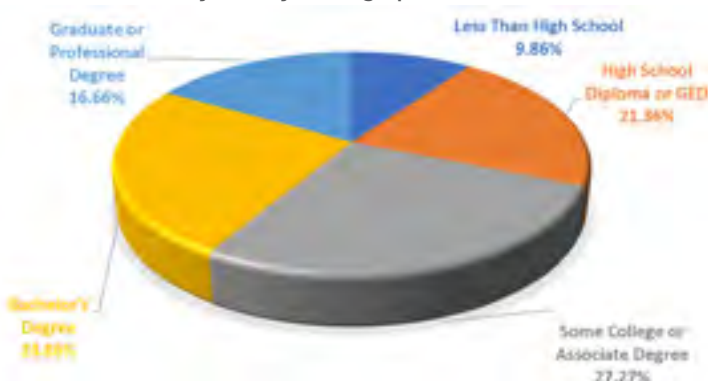
Ramsey County Demographics - Race



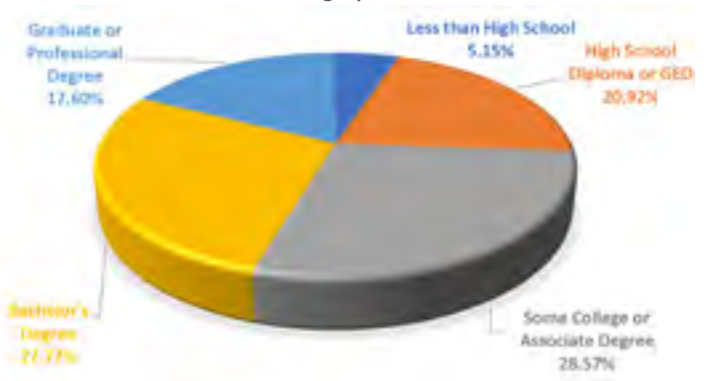
Focus Area Demographics - Race



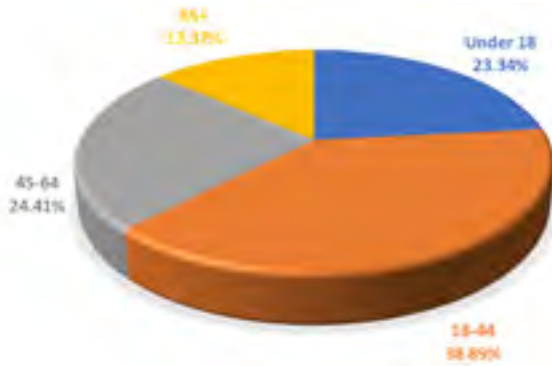
Ramsey County Demographics - Education



Focus Area Demographics - Education



Ramsey County Demographics - Age



Focus Area Demographics - Age



The area immediately surrounding the trail in general is a far less diverse area within Ramsey County with 81.39% of residents identifying as white compared with 63.06% overall. Additional data for neighborhoods within the immediate surrounding focus area also shows a higher percentage of financial wealth, more educational opportunity, a higher percentage of population in both the 45-64 and 65+ age categories and a lower percentage of population in both the under 18 and 18-44 age categories compared to the rest of the county.

Public Engagement and Participation

There was no process or forms utilized to ask stakeholders and participants to identify themselves by race, age, income or other identifying information. The engagement process tried to reach all portions of the community by mailing out information to all residents surrounding the trail corridor, posting engagement events to the Ramsey County website, publishing updates to the county’s social media posts, and updates to the project in the county newsletter.

The level of engagement as defined by the International Association for Public Participation’s Public Participation Spectrum was to “involve”. This allowed for participant comments to be made during the listening input portions as well as through the generation of concepts, to influence the development plan.

Through public engagement we learned that there is a desire for the recreational amenities and programming proposed as a part of this master plan. Some of these themes include:

Cross Country Skiing

There is a desire for an expanded cross country ski trail system, along with a destination trail head that could possibly host events, races, and classes. Looped trail systems were by far the most popular so that park patrons would not have to cross busy intersections between park segments without traveling the same path.

Off Road Cycling

Off road cycling has been identified in the system plan, engagement for the Rice Creek North Master Plan, as well as other engagement events as a recreational amenity that is not present but desired in the northern portion of Ramsey County.

Building 189

Building 189 was identified as having historical significance and engagement to this point has shown an interest in retaining the building to be used in the development of a destination trail head.

Enhanced Road Crossings

Almost all participants throughout community engagement thought that due to the segmented nature of the trail corridor access between park segments needed to be improved with safer crossings implemented.

Programming

There is a strong desire for varied programming in the area.

Expansion of Paved Trails

Expanded multi-use trails within the corridor, especially when creating loops and gaining additional access had a strong desire among engagement participants.

Public participation reinforced the desire and need for the amenities, trails, and recreational programming discussed throughout the plan.

Challenges & Barriers

In 2014, the Metropolitan Council released its research findings on the regional parks system use among select communities of color. The council held 16 focus groups throughout the metropolitan region to assess recreational preferences, barriers to recreation participation, and suggestions to enhance participation. Overall, 263 people participated in the focus groups and self-reported diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Study findings reveal the most preferred outdoor recreational activities included walking, picnicking or barbecuing, and playground use. Barriers included lack of awareness, available time, fear or safety concerns, language barriers, and weather.

In 2017-2018 the Metropolitan Council conducted additional community engagement to inform the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan update. Engagement included follow up conversations with nine equity advocates and park partners, focus groups with 67 people from communities underrepresented in regional parks, and surveys of 92 current park visitors. Findings from the focus groups and surveys support the findings on preferred activities from the 2014 study and provide additional information. Walking remained the most frequently mentioned favorite activity for both groups. Notably, hiking/trails, camping, and dog walking were rarely mentioned by focus group members (the group from underrepresented communities) who more frequently named a desire for water activities, child-friendly spaces, playgrounds, family gathering and organized play spaces, and promotions and discounts to attract users.

Reduction of Barriers

The most frequently identified barriers to the regional parks system were a lack of awareness, available time, fear or safety concerns, language barriers, and weather. Focus group participants identified key suggestions to enhance park use including:

- Increasing awareness
- Addressing safety
- Enhancing capacity of gathering spaces
- Creating a regional park ambassador program
- Increasing and diversifying programming
- Providing more events in regional parks
- Creating a welcoming environment

RAMSEY COUNTY EQUITY OUTREACH

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is committed to providing an excellent experience for all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, incomes, and abilities so that all communities may benefit from the parks and trails system. The department will employ various programs, communications systems, and development activity to make the Rice Creek North Regional Trail an accessible and equitable regional facility.

Parks & Recreation will employ a complete suite of communications tools to increase awareness of the regional trail and all the recreational opportunities available. The public should be made aware of any events, future public engagement, online surveys, park amenities such as recreational equipment rentals, etc. by means of an online posting, newsletters, and social media. The county should also make efforts to disseminate this information in multiple languages further increasing awareness among disadvantaged groups.

Some equitable outcomes have been addressed through the conceptual design of the regional trail. Redevelopment and development of trailhead locations to increase parking, provide prominent wayfinding and entrance signs, as well as lighting will provide a more welcoming and safer environment. In the outdoor recreation area located near the multi-season trailhead programming and event spaces, large picnicking and group shelters, play amenities, and public art all play a role in enhancing the main gathering space within the regional trail corridor.

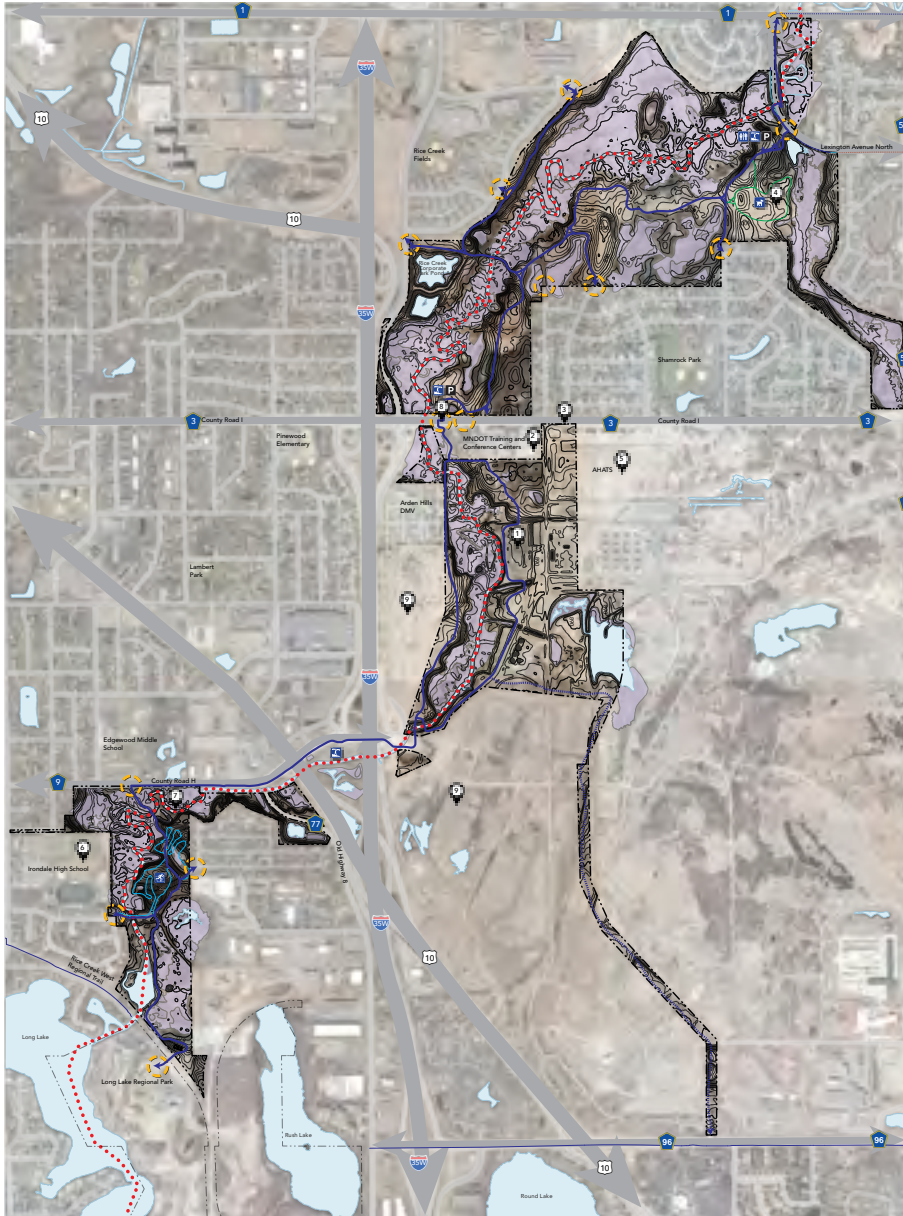
With the development of the multi-season trailhead facility and outdoor recreation area there is a greatly expanded opportunity for the county to provide additional programming available to the public. Various programs are proposed to be implemented to compliment and showcase the facility including:

- Free or discounted recreation equipment rental to introduce people to various new sports such as off-road cycling, cross country skiing, canoeing and kayaking
- Summer and winter recreation events, similar to the pilot program introduced in Keller Regional Park, could be held free of charge to attract new visitors to the trail
- The nature center and programming areas could be used to hold classes and events for school or community groups
- Recreation equipment rental could host free days or a trial period to interested individuals before committing investing both time and money into a new sport
- Ramsey County should explore the creation of an ambassador program for Rice Creek North Regional Trail. Creating a group(s) of individuals invested in the park and expanding the user base would only increase the level of safety and welcoming nature of the trail

APPENDIX

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Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



BACKGROUND

Rice Creek North Regional Trail is located in the northwest corner of Ramsey County in the cities of Shoreview, Arden Hills, Mounds View and New Brighton. The trail is 4 miles in length and is part of a 14-mile regional trail corridor that extends from the Chain of Lakes Regional Park Reserve to the Mississippi River by way of Long Lake Regional Park

EXISTING AMENITIES

- Nearly 8 miles of trail from County Road J to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail
- Rice Creek Water Trail/Boat Launch
- 13-acre off leash dog area
- 30 car parking lot at County Road I
- Restrooms and drinking fountain

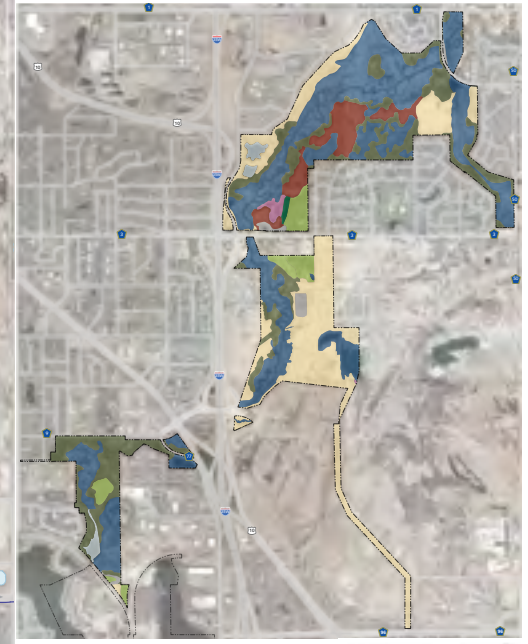
NATURAL RESOURCES

Rice Creek North Regional Trail land cover consists of extensive floodplain wetland with scattered oak woods and savannas, mixed woods and converted prairies that have been established for over a decade. These prairie areas, mainly located from Lexington Avenue to Highway I, are maintained with prescribed burns. Invasive species have become widespread throughout the corridor and include reed canary grass in the wetlands and common and glossy buckhorn in most of the wooded areas. A forest habitat restoration project in the section south of County Road H to Long Lake Regional Park began in 2015 and is ongoing. This restoration includes removal of woody invasive species, mainly buckhorn, and seeding of native herbaceous grasses and forbs. Ongoing maintenance will include foliar spraying of buckhorn and periodic prescribed burns through the wooded areas.

In addition to the habitat restoration projects, the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) has completed meandering restoration of the Rice Creek channel north of County Road I in early 2000's and since 2015 RCWD has been meandering the channel south of County Road I to Interstate 35W. The creek through these areas was straightened in the early 1900's to expand agricultural land and the meandering restoration projects will put the Creek back into its previous natural channel to regain the twists and turns to slow water, which will reduce stream bank erosion, sediment loading and increase aquatic life. Rice Creek is a popular canoe and kayak navigable waterway and is a designated water trail that spans through Anoka and Ramsey Counties. In addition to the Rice Creek Watershed District's meandering project, they also complete water testing on the Creek and carp monitoring. In 2017, the RCWD installed a temporary carp barrier across Rice Creek, north of where the creek enters Long Lake. Future projects may include a permanent barrier at this location.

The park hosts a diverse variety of wildlife. The park has a variety of nesting songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. Larger mammals include other, coyotes, red fox, raccoons and white-tailed deer. Deer populations in the area are surveyed annually to determine the need and location for special archery hunts. Since 2015, the section of Rice Creek North Regional trail north of County Road I has been the location for several special archery deer hunts, under the provisions of the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Plan in partnership with the cities of Shoreview. The creek corridor is also home to numerous reptiles and amphibians, including the state threatened Blanding's turtle.

In 2014, emerald ash borer was discovered within a small isolated grove of ash trees in the northern section of the park and is currently being monitored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is currently using the Emerald Ash Borer site discovered within the park as a biological control survey location and will continue to monitor the site.



Existing Land Cover	Color
Forest	Green
Wetland	Blue
Open Field	Yellow
Barren Prairie	Brown
Shrub	Orange
Wooded Prairie	Light Green
Old Field	Light Yellow
Savanna	Light Green
Suburban/Urban	Grey
Wetland	Blue
Prairie	Light Green
Open Field	Yellow
Shrub	Orange
Shrub Savanna	Light Green

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1) Building 189:** Building 189 has been identified as a potential site for repurposing the building for multiple uses including a trailhead facility, picnic and restroom location, parking, interpretive and educational uses, a large event space and satellite maintenance facility. The area surrounding Building 189 may host some of these uses as well as serve as an area of development for playgrounds, passive recreation, habitat restoration, stormwater mitigation and an improved trail access point.
- 2) MNDOT Arden Hills Training Center & Truck Station:** MNDOT is in the midst of master planning for long term improvements to the current Arden Hills Training Center & Truck Station, expressing a need for additional training facility improvements.
- 3) County Road I:** There is an opportunity for an improved vehicular access point from County Road I into a future development space surrounding Building 189. A new access point is proposed at the intersection of County Road I and Fairview Avenue North, this would likely occur during construction of an access road from County Road I to Building 189
- 4) Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area:** Master planning for Ramsey County Off Leash Dog Areas began in 2017 and was completed in 2018. The master plan addressed improvements to the Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area and should be referred to for any future development of the area.
- 5) Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS):** Ramsey County has a long term goal of opening AHATS for recreational use, the county will continue to coordinate with the Minnesota National Guard for access and potential use of the area. Potential uses could include passive recreation, multi-purpose trails, cross country ski and mountain biking trails, interpretive or educational programming etc. Additional development would be dependent on negotiations with the Minnesota National Guard for the proposed AHATS site.
- 6) Irontdale High School:** Irontdale High School uses the southern section of the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor for cross country skiing and running training. An agreement has been established with Irontdale for the maintenance of existing natural surface trails for school use. Improvements may be required in the future to continue providing a high quality experience for all.
- 7) Rice Creek Water Trail:** The Rice Creek Water Trail offers a wide variety of paddling experiences for canoers and kayakers alike. The trail begins in Lino Lakes at the Pelletier Lake boat launch and travels over 15 miles to Long Lake in New Brighton. Rice Creek flows through a variety of habitats and settings on its way to Long Lake, and paddling difficulty varies depending upon which section of the creek you are exploring. The upper part of the water trail makes its way through five lakes

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail (Blue line)
- Rice Creek Water Trail (Red dotted line)
- Major Road Connection (Grey line)
- Park Entrance (Yellow dashed circle)
- Natural Surface Trail (Green line)
- Wetland Delineation (Purple shaded area)
- Parking Lot (P icon)
- Cross Country Ski Area (Ski icon)
- Small Watercraft Launch (Boat icon)
- Point of Interest (Location pin icon)
- Restroom Building (Restroom icon)
- Cross Country Ski Trails (Blue line)
- Off Leash Dog Area (Dog icon)

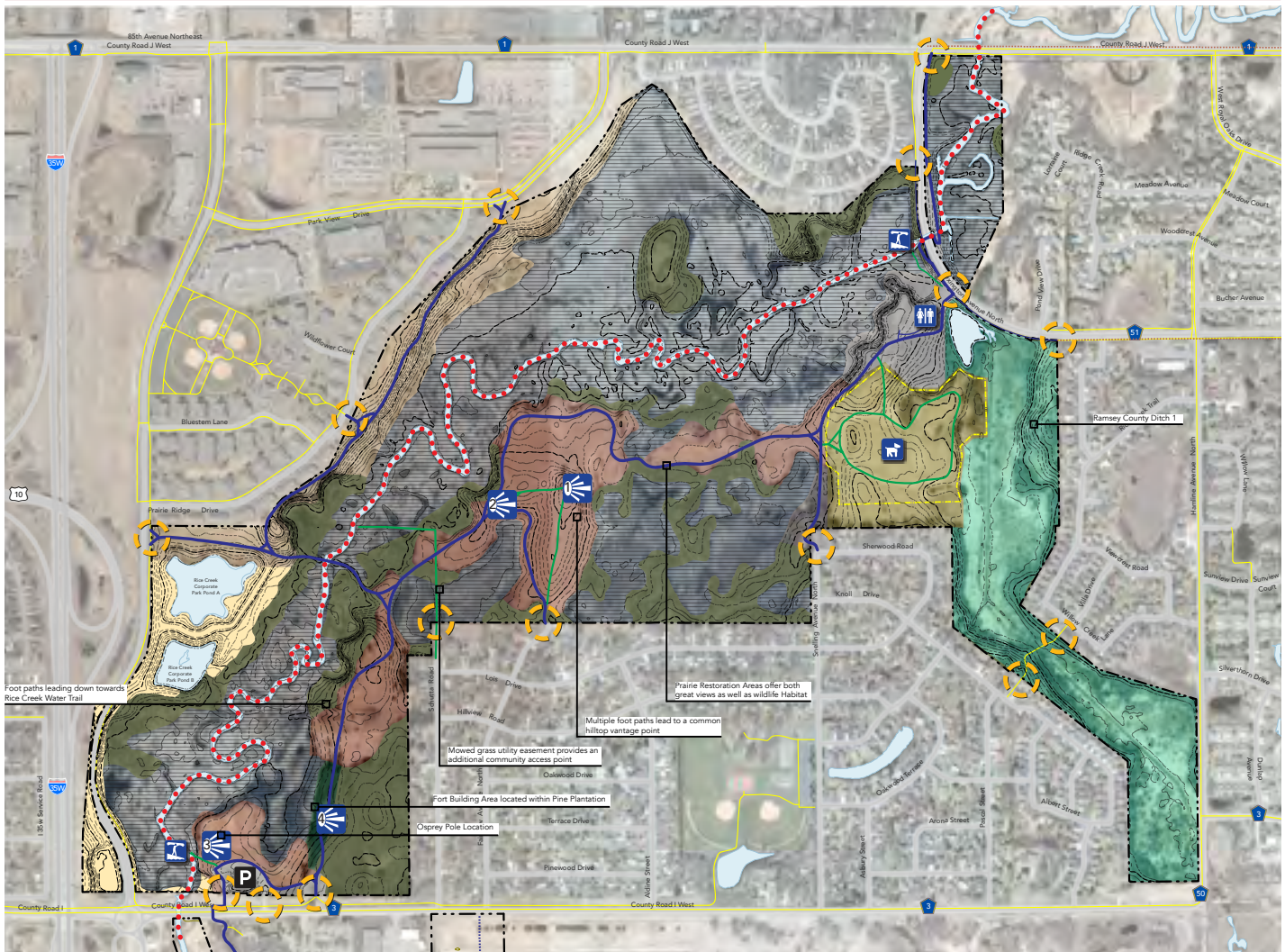
before narrowing into a creek. Anoka County Parks and Recreation staff leads occasional trips for beginners through this section of the water trail and rents kayaks for local paddling as well.

8) **County Road I At-Grade Crossing:** A planning study will be required to identify necessary improvement for the at-grade crossing over County Road I to provide safe passage.

9) **Rice Creek Commons:** Ramsey County development area of mixed-use development, 426 acres.

Appendix A: Public Engagement Meeting 1

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Zones & Use Areas

Rice Creek Trail & Wetlands

Low lying areas of the park, primarily where the main channel of Rice Creek flows. The Rice Creek Watershed District continues to perform maintenance and channel meandering/restoration projects in this area.

County Ditch 1

Ramsey County Ditch 1 aides in stormwater mitigation, taking runoff from surface streets and the surrounding neighborhood in the sub watershed before water reaches Rice Creek. This area has one community path crossing, however it is a low lying and perennially wet area not very suitable for development purposes.

OLDA

Master planning for Ramsey County Off Leash Dog Areas began in 2017 and was completed in 2018. The master plan addressed improvements to the Rice Creek Off Leash Dog Area and should be referred to for any future development of the area.

Restored Prairies

As a natural resource based park system Ramsey County has had many prairie restoration projects within the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor. These areas serve as both wildlife habitat and provide users with wonderful views of this unique ecosystem. Osprey and Kestrel poles have been installed in a few areas of the park adding to the excitement of bird watchers. These areas are periodically burned and otherwise maintained so development activities should be concentrated elsewhere.

Upland Wooded Areas

The upland areas of the park are dominated by mixed woods and oak forests. The mixed woods are predominantly aspen trees which helps to drown out sounds of cars in areas beyond the park making for an enjoyable experience. There are many footpaths interspersed between the main trail and lowlands showing that passive recreation activities such as cross country skiing, trail running and mountain biking may be considered for some areas of the park.

Trailhead & Development Areas

The northern section of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor has two parking lots one located off of Lexington Avenue North, and the other off of County Road I. Both parking lots have carry in access to the Rice Creek Water Trail. The parking lot off of Lexington Ave. N also hosts a restroom building and has space for approximately 35 vehicles. The parking lot off of County Road I has space for approximately 32 vehicles and also hosts a connection to a trail managed and maintained by the City of Arden Hills

Community Connection Corridor

These areas lie on the edge of the parks border and have spurs off of the main Rice Creek trail to serve as community connection points for those not driving to the corridor. Often found on thin strips of usable land or bordering significant topography there is not much room for further development of these spaces.

LEGEND

Rice Creek Regional Trail	Rice Creek Water Trail	
Major Road Connection	Park Entrance	
Natural Surface Trail	Wetland Delineation	
Parking Lot	Cross Country Ski Area	
Small Watercraft Launch	Point of Interest	
Restroom Building	Cross Country Ski Trails	
Off Leash Dog Area	City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes	
Viewshed Opportunity		

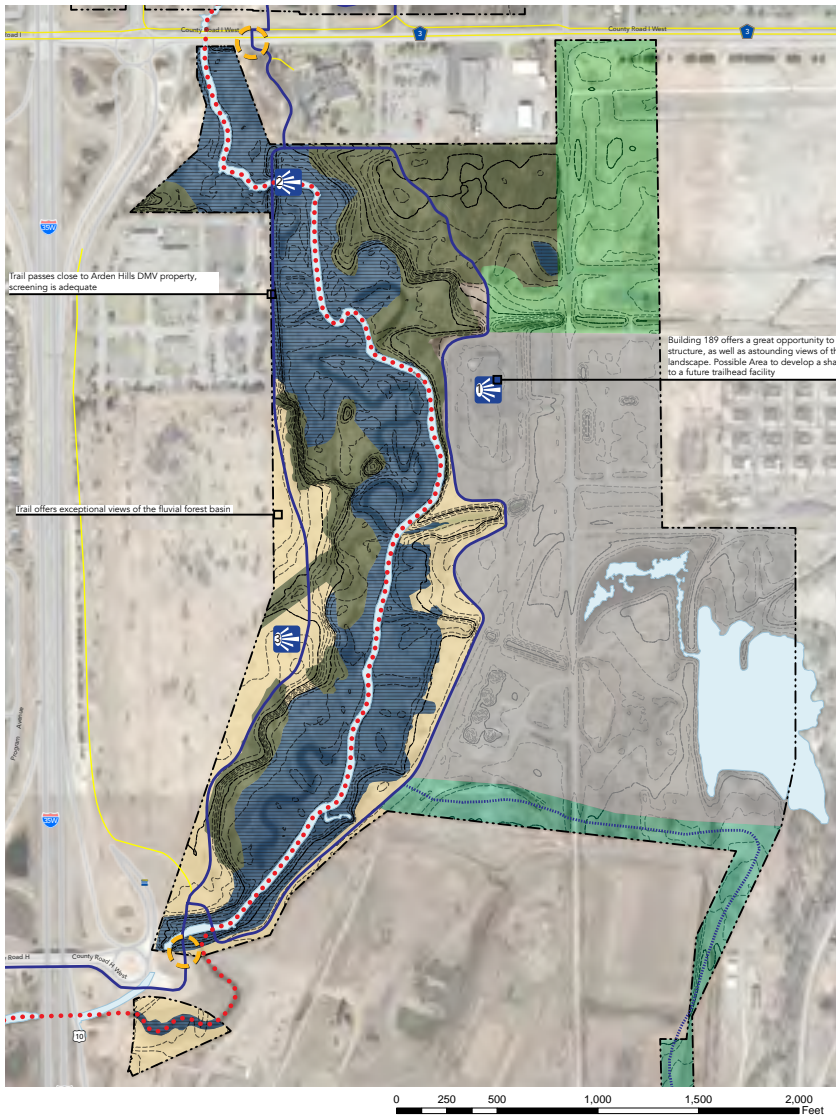
Pine Plantation

An iconic entrance for many to the park located to the North of the parking lot off of County Road I. This stand of pines was most likely planted for harvest at a future date that never came. There is a small, improvised fort building area located within the stand just off of the main trail.

Old Field Areas

Undeveloped and mostly non-maintained areas of the park that have not been restored as any part of natural resource management. Dependant upon topography, location, access etc. These sites may be good candidates for passive recreation development or restoration as a part of the county natural resource management program.

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Zones & Use Areas

Rice Creek Trail & Wetlands

Low lying areas of the park, primarily where the main channel of Rice Creek flows. The Rice Creek Watershed District continues to perform maintenance and channel meandering/restoration projects in this area.

Future Trail Spur

This area has been identified as a location for a future spur of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail which would connect with the Highway 96 Regional Trail to the South. This segment of the trail would most likely be developed in conjunction with the Rice Creek Commons Project.

County Road 1 Access

This segment of the trail corridor has been identified as a possible location where an additional vehicular and multi purpose trail access point could occur.

Upland Wooded Areas

The upland areas of the park are dominated by mixed woods and oak forests. The mixed woods are predominantly aspen trees which helps to drown out sounds of cars in areas beyond the park making for an enjoyable experience. There are many footpaths interspersed between the main trail and lowlands showing that passive recreation activities such as cross country skiing, trail running and mountain biking may be considered for some areas of the park.

Building 189 and Open Old Field

This area of the park is an excellent opportunity for the public to help drive what happens in the future within the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor. Building 189 has been identified for possible repurposing. The building could be turned into a satellite maintenance facility, large event space, picnic/patio space etc. The land surrounding Building 189 are essentially all old field with some wetland areas, making this an ideal site to be developed for recreational purposes.

Old Field Areas

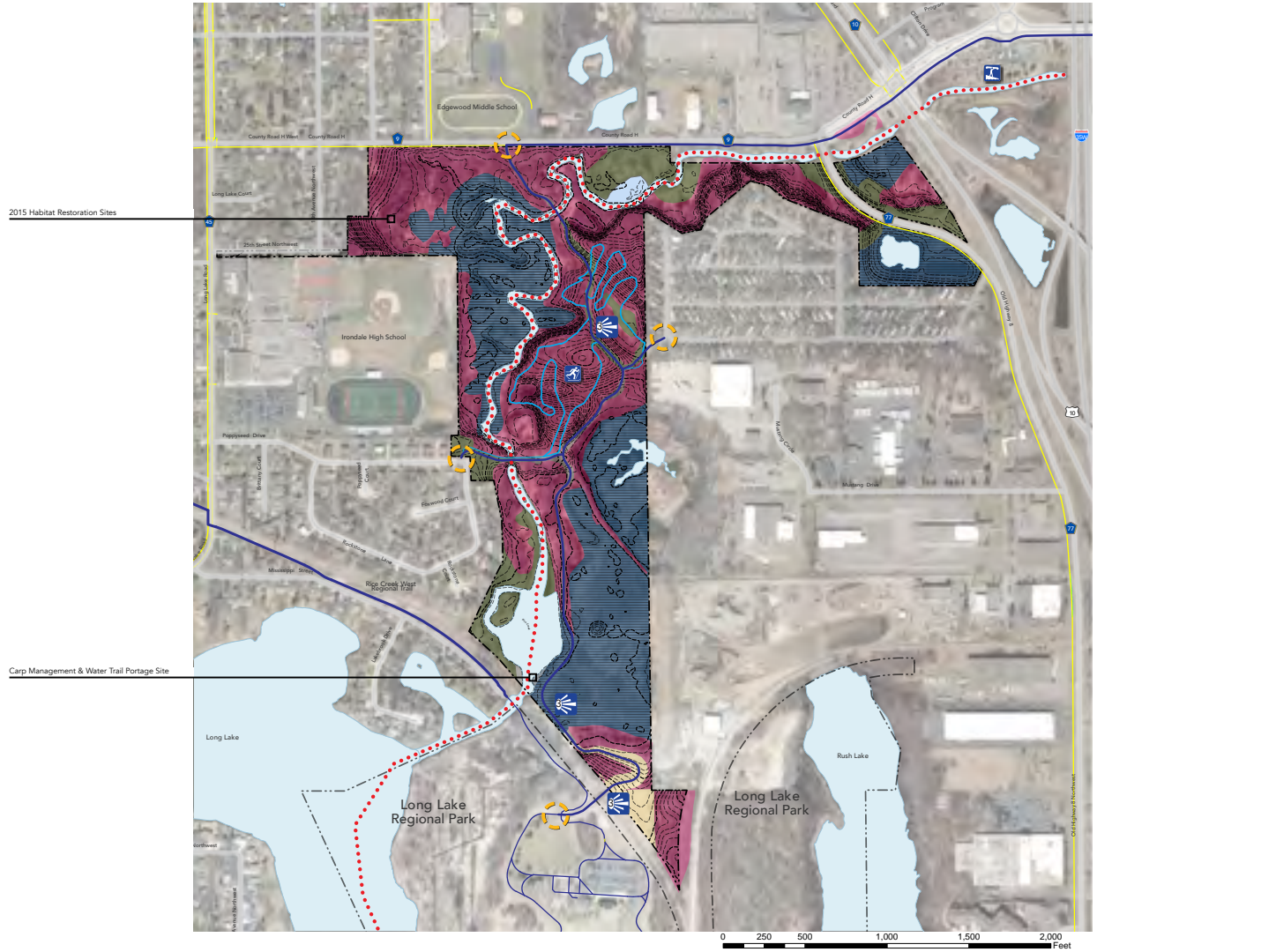
Undeveloped and mostly non-maintained areas of the park that have not been restored as any part of natural resource management. Dependant upon topography, location, access etc. these sites may be good candidates for passive recreation development or restoration as a part of the county natural resource management program. These areas within the central section of the corridor offer exceptional views of the meandering creek and fluvial forest basin.

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail ——— Rice Creek Water Trail
- Major Road Connection ——— Park Entrance
- Natural Surface Trail ——— Wetland Delineation
- Parking Lot [P icon]
- Small Watercraft Launch [boat icon]
- Restroom Building [restroom icon]
- Off Leash Dog Area [dog icon]
- Viewshed Opportunity See Pg. 5 for Details [hand icon]
- [Red dotted line icon]
- [Yellow dashed circle icon]
- [Purple shaded area icon]
- [Ski area icon]
- [Point of interest icon]
- [Ski trails icon]
- [Yellow line icon]

Appendix A: Public Engagement Meeting 1

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Zones & Use Areas

Rice Creek Trail & Wetlands

Low lying areas of the park, primarily where the main channel of Rice Creek flows. The Rice Creek Watershed District continues to perform maintenance and channel meandering/restoration projects in this area.

Forest Restoration Areas (Includes Upland Wooded Areas)

Restoration is currently ongoing in these areas of the Southern section of the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor. Upland mesic and oak woods are undergoing invasive plant removal most notably buckthorn. Cross country ski trails are managed and maintained by Irondale High School under an existing agreement. Expansion of this system could be considered in the future.

Upland Wooded Areas

The upland areas of the park are dominated by mixed woods and oak forests. The mixed woods are predominantly aspen trees which helps to drown out sounds of cars in areas beyond the park making for an enjoyable experience. There are many footpaths interspersed between the main trail and lowlands showing that passive recreation activities such as cross country skiing, trail running and mountain biking may be considered for some areas of the park.

Carp Management & Water Trail Portage

RCWD is partnering with the University of Minnesota and a private company, Carp Solutions, LLC, to study the behavior and movements of carp throughout the watershed. During feeding, carp stir up sediment on the bottom of lakes, decreasing water clarity and freeing up excess nutrients that feed algae growth. A carp management electronic barrier has been installed across the channel requiring watercraft to portage around this segment of the water trail.

Old Field Areas

Undeveloped and mostly non-maintained areas of the park that have not been restored as any part of natural resource management. Dependent upon topography, location, access etc. these sites may be good candidates for passive recreation development or restoration as a part of the county natural resource management program.

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail ——— Rice Creek Water Trail
- Major Road Connection ——— Park Entrance
- Natural Surface Trail ——— Wetland Delineation
- Parking Lot **P** Cross Country Ski Area
- Small Watercraft Launch **W** Point of Interest
- Restroom Building **♿** Cross Country Ski Trails
- Off Leash Dog Area **D** City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes
- Viewshed Opportunity See Pg. 5 for Details

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Viewshed from Point 2, Page 2



Fort Building Area within Pine Plantation



Pine Plantation Entrance, Point 4, Page 2



Bridge Joining Long Lake Park To Trail System



View Atop Building 189 Point 1, Page 3



Portage Trail Around Carp Management Nets



Portage Trail Around Carp Management Nets



Carp Entering Management Trap



Exterior View of Building 189



Typical Wayfinding Trail Post



Trail Runners



Carp Management Electronic Nets



Typical Small Watercraft Launch



Interior View of Building 189 Point 1, Page 3

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No. 1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

Yes, I use it frequently for walking, jogging, and biking. It's a great trail with scenic views and good maintenance.

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, hiking etc.)?

Walking, jogging, and biking. I also use it for dog walking and family walks.

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

I don't use it because it's not very accessible. It would be nice to have a paved path and better lighting.

2. How would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

High Quality

3. What amenities [boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.] do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

None

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

More parking spaces, dog waste stations, and better lighting. Also, a water fountain would be helpful.

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

More paved paths, better lighting, and more parking spaces. Also, a dog waste station would be helpful.

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

Longfellow Park, Johnson Park, and Johnson County Park.

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

More paved paths, better lighting, and more parking spaces.

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently? *Yes*

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

3. Hiking - mostly trails N & S of Co. Rd I

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How Would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail? *None*

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

Parking E side of 33 N rd 11

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

A trail over the boardwalk - could see around fire & light point

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

Yes walking

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How Would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

Just walking now

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

Trail center - Facilities

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

City Rd H + I Access

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

WALKING, BIKING

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail? NONE

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

TAMERAC

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently? *Fairly frequently*

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

walking and biking

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How Would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality

High Quality

Neither Low nor High

Low Quality

Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

(7 is most accessible)

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

Turtle Lake Park

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?
walking

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How Would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

none

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

restrooms

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

all

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No.1 - Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

BIKING
WALKING

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

. VARIES - SOME SPOTS ARE QUITE ROUGH

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

DOG AREA

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

MORE BIRD BOXES
* SNOW-SHOEING TRAILS !!!

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

* LINKING RAMSEY COUNTY AND ANOKA COUNTY TRAILS
WHERE ROAD & CITY ARE NOT OPTIMAL ON BIKES

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

ANOKA COUNTY RICE CREEK TRAIL

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

DISTANCE BETWEEN VEHICLE & BIKE TRAFFIC

Appendix B: Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

Yes - walking & biking.

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How Would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

Rest Room

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

More rest rooms?

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

Paul Bunyan trail

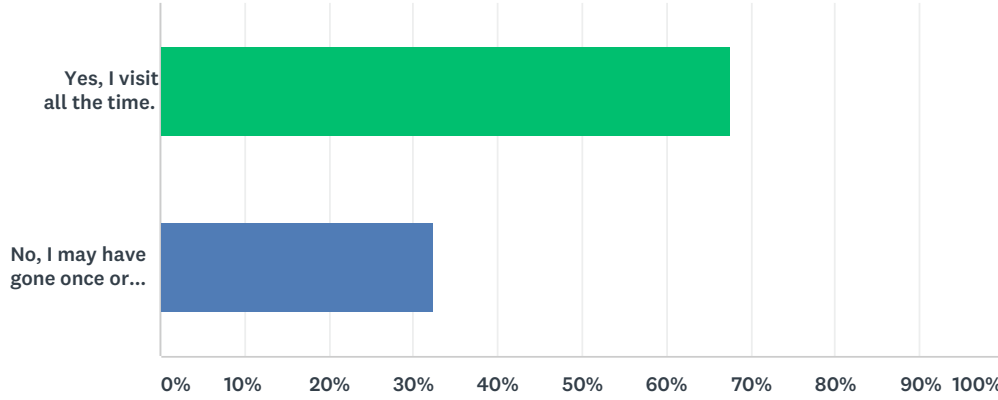
8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Bike Repair Stations.

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q1 Do you visit Rice Creek Trail frequently?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0

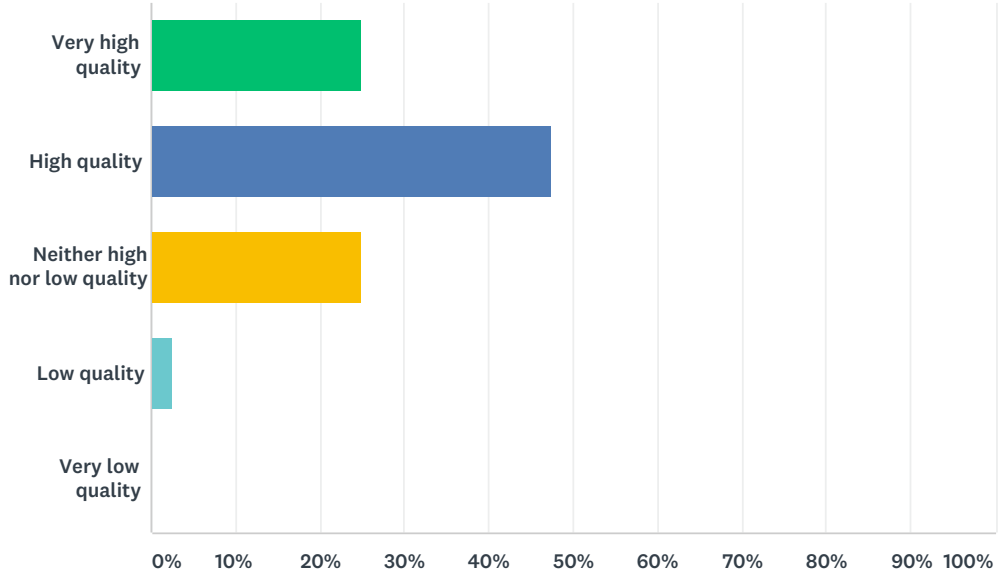


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I visit all the time.	67.50%	27
No, I may have gone once or twice but not often.	32.50%	13
Total Respondents: 40		

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q2 How would you rate the quality of Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very high quality	25.00%	10
High quality	47.50%	19
Neither high nor low quality	25.00%	10
Low quality	2.50%	1
Very low quality	0.00%	0
TOTAL		40

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q3 What are the things that you like most about Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	length The long length is nice.	7/17/2018 11:14 PM
2	scenery Scenery	7/5/2018 2:01 PM
3	length length	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
4	Discard fds	7/3/2018 12:48 PM
5	Solitude Solitude	7/2/2018 3:59 PM
6	length The length of the trail is wonderful. Also like the wooden bridges near Chominix Golf course, the Arsenal Trail with restroom facilities, and Centerville Lake with a beach and picnic facilities.	7/2/2018 10:49 AM
7	Nature Nature	7/2/2018 9:36 AM
8	length proximity trails Trails through the woods, country, away from the noise and business of the city. It's close to home that I don't have to drive to use it.	7/2/2018 8:56 AM
9	Navigable easy to follow	7/1/2018 9:06 PM
10	scenery The Rice Creek bike trail traverses a beautiful area.	7/1/2018 2:01 PM
11	free Nature trails water trail Free, water way, trails (able to adjust length of walk to available time) wild life(esp. birds)	7/1/2018 9:14 AM
12	Discard dog park Its integration with Locke Park, especially the dog park	7/1/2018 8:57 AM
13	Nature trails Nature. Winding paths.	6/30/2018 4:20 PM
14	water trail Walking along the creek	6/30/2018 1:19 PM
15	trails That it exists. There aren't enough trails in the north metro.	6/30/2018 12:52 PM
16	length Nature Lengths and vegetation. Unfortunately the dog walkers do not all have dogs on leashes and are a hazard! :(6/30/2018 9:23 AM
17	Nature scenery trails Smooth trail, peaceful surroundings	6/30/2018 6:17 AM
18	free proximity Frees rural in a urban setting	6/30/2018 4:57 AM
19	proximity Close to my home	6/29/2018 9:55 PM
20	clean peaceful Peaceful, clean	6/29/2018 9:47 PM
21	peaceful Solitude It makes me feel like I'm in the middle of a woods while still being in they city.	6/29/2018 9:44 PM
22	Nature The exposure to nature	6/29/2018 8:37 PM
23	Nature Solitude Seclusion. Quiet. Nature.	6/29/2018 8:27 PM
24	Nature trails Lots of route options, lots of nature, interesting trails	6/29/2018 7:55 PM
25	Nature open space Natural setting Trails all over Large open spaces	6/29/2018 6:00 PM
26	Nature Variety of ecosystems in one place. Development doesn't feel oppressively close. It's a decent amount of land.	6/29/2018 5:54 PM
27	wildlife It is quiet and in great repair. Wildlife viewing!	6/29/2018 5:36 PM
28	well maintained Wide, flat and well maintained	6/29/2018 5:15 PM
29	n/a	6/29/2018 5:13 PM

Appendix C: Online Survey #1

Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

30	Nature proximity	The sweeping landscape and feel like I'm no longer in the city, but yet within biking distance of my house.	6/29/2018 5:01 PM
31	Nature	Natural beauty, good mapping, fun for geocaching, availability of drinking water so I don't have to carry	6/29/2018 4:53 PM
32	Nature	I like that there are lots of trees and running water. It's quiet and it's a little slice of heaven amidst the chaos.	6/29/2018 4:49 PM
33	Plowed	Plowed in the winter	6/28/2018 5:39 PM
34	trails	Well kept trails.	6/28/2018 2:39 PM

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
 Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q4 What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek Trail?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Benches Benches	7/17/2018 11:14 PM
2	Dog Park Tails Dog park, biking/walking trails	7/5/2018 2:01 PM
3	Benches benches	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
4	N/A sdf	7/3/2018 12:48 PM
5	Benches Benches	7/2/2018 3:59 PM
6	Restroom Restroom	7/2/2018 10:49 AM
7	N/A none.	7/2/2018 8:56 AM
8	Tails Water Trail bike trails, paddling on the creek	7/1/2018 2:01 PM
9	Tails walking	7/1/2018 9:14 AM
10	Dog Park Tails dog area, the dirt trail along the creek	7/1/2018 8:57 AM
11	Tails Bike trail	6/30/2018 4:20 PM
12	Dog Park Dog area	6/30/2018 1:19 PM
13	Tails Walk or bike the trail.	6/30/2018 12:52 PM
14	N/A none.	6/30/2018 9:23 AM
15	Benches Benches	6/30/2018 6:17 AM
16	Dog Park Tails Dog area,bike trails	6/30/2018 4:57 AM
17	N/A All	6/29/2018 9:55 PM
18	Shelter Shelters	6/29/2018 9:47 PM
19	small boat launch Tails Water Trail Bicycle trails, kayak launches	6/29/2018 9:44 PM
20	Dog Park dog area	6/29/2018 8:37 PM
21	Tails bike trail	6/29/2018 8:27 PM
22	Dog Park small boat launch Tails Water Fountain Dog area, dog watering station, kayak landing, bike trails, rtc	6/29/2018 7:55 PM
23	Tails On the trails only - walking	6/29/2018 6:00 PM
24	Tails trail	6/29/2018 5:54 PM
25	small boat launch Tails Water Trail bike/walking trail. Kayak from Cty I,	6/29/2018 5:36 PM
26	N/A None	6/29/2018 5:15 PM
27	Tails soft surface walking trails, access to Nature	6/29/2018 5:13 PM
28	Restroom Water Fountain water, bathrooms	6/29/2018 5:01 PM
29	Dog Park Shelter Dog park on occasion, shelters when the weather is not perfect	6/29/2018 4:53 PM
30	N/A None anymore	6/29/2018 4:49 PM
31	small boat launch Tails J and I canoe access, walking trails	6/28/2018 5:39 PM
32	Tails Just the trails for walks/bike rides	6/28/2018 2:39 PM

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q5 What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

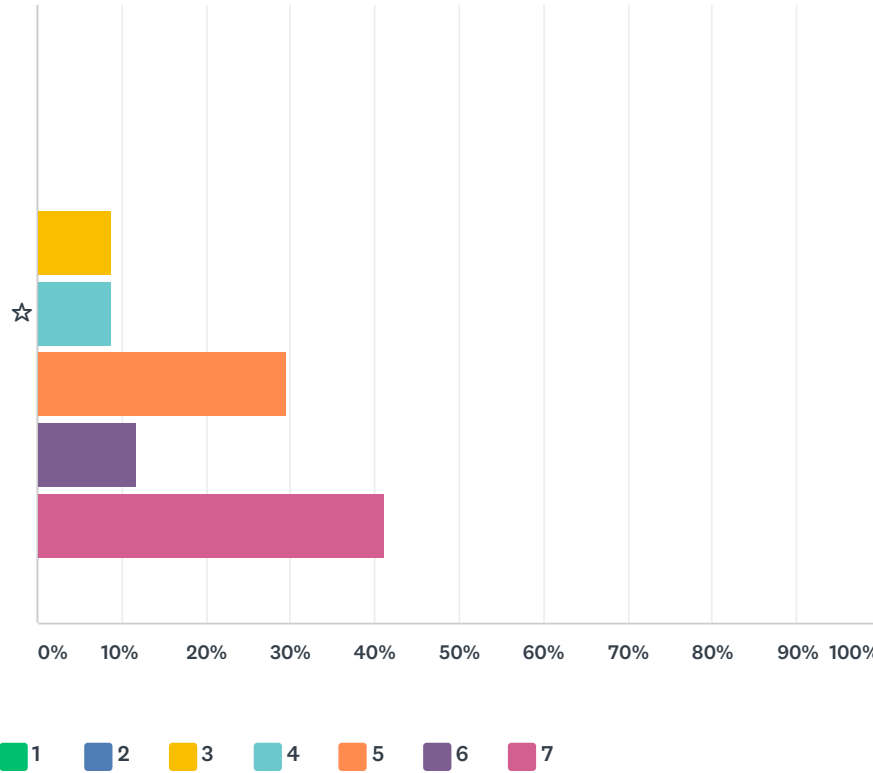
Answered: 31 Skipped: 9

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Water Fountains Water fountains	7/17/2018 11:14 PM
2	Trash Cans/Recycling Water Fountains Additional trash containers, water fountains, signage to be aware of bicycle riders	7/5/2018 2:01 PM
3	maintain just a well maintained hiking/biking path and ways to cross busy roads safely	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
4	N/A sdf	7/3/2018 12:48 PM
5	Restroom Water Fountains More restrooms, water fountains.	7/2/2018 10:49 AM
6	Mile Markers Mile markers along the trails	7/2/2018 8:56 AM
7	Maps Mile Markers maps and mile markers	7/1/2018 9:06 PM
8	Improve Bridges Improve the bridges so they are safer for cyclists and walkers.	7/1/2018 2:01 PM
9	Plant ID identification of plants, trees..	7/1/2018 9:14 AM
10	Snow Removal snow removal	7/1/2018 8:57 AM
11	Restroom Water Fountains Repair of rough trail. Water. Toilet.	6/30/2018 4:20 PM
12	N/A Water feature at the dog park	6/30/2018 1:19 PM
13	Trash Cans/Recycling Water Fountains Garbage cans, drinking fountains	6/30/2018 9:35 AM
14	Bike Repair Stations bike fixing station	6/30/2018 9:23 AM
15	Water Fountains Water fountain and satellite at county road I	6/30/2018 6:17 AM
16	N/A None	6/30/2018 4:57 AM
17	Restroom Nice bathrooms	6/29/2018 9:55 PM
18	Restroom Toilets	6/29/2018 9:47 PM
19	Parking Small Boat Launches smooth black-top trails from end to end; convenient kayak launches with parking	6/29/2018 9:44 PM
20	N/A o	6/29/2018 8:27 PM
21	MTN Bike Trails Trails More trails, off road single-track through tcaap	6/29/2018 7:55 PM
22	Rest Areas Water Fountains Recreational stop-offs, like water & bike	6/29/2018 6:00 PM
23	Bike Repair Stations Trash Cans/Recycling trash and recycling cans at trailhead; bike repair station	6/29/2018 5:54 PM
24	NOthing keep it wild. It is great the way it is.	6/29/2018 5:36 PM
25	NOthing None	6/29/2018 5:15 PM
26	Restore Nature restoration of native plants, making a wildlife corridor, eliminating shotgun noise.	6/29/2018 5:13 PM
27	Maps maps	6/29/2018 5:01 PM
28	Rest Areas Resting places where people with respiratory issues can put their legs up to prevent swelling.	6/29/2018 4:53 PM
29	NOthing Nothing don't add anything it's perfect	6/29/2018 4:49 PM
30	Dog Waste Bags Parking XC Ski trails Dog waste bags and disposal containers, x-country trails, snow shoe trails, enough parking at trail head	6/28/2018 5:39 PM
31	Directions Signs Directional signs - it's pretty easy to get turned around back in the trails.	6/28/2018 2:39 PM

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q6 On a scale of 1 to 7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 6



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8.82% 3	8.82% 3	29.41% 10	11.76% 4	41.18% 14	34	5.68

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q7 What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No suggestion	7/17/2018 11:16 PM
2	I can hike from Long Lake Park and then along H to the north section of trail. However crossing the roundabouts by TCAPP is very difficult. Fast traffic and they are not looking for walkers. In the winter when the 35 overpass is plowed the snow is piled up on the sidewalk making walking very dangerous.	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
3	If it started in our backyard.	7/2/2018 10:51 AM
4	Designated parking off of Co. Rd. H in Mounds View.	7/2/2018 8:59 AM
5	Over the past few years, there have been a lot of construction and trails shut down leading to the Rice Creek	7/1/2018 2:07 PM
6	I live in St Paul but I care for nieces and nephews with them.	7/1/2018 9:19 AM
7	I think Rice Creek is already accessible	7/1/2018 8:59 AM
8	Complete connection at co H. Clearly Mark streets where connections leave trail.	6/30/2018 4:23 PM
9	More parking (because I have to drive to the trail.)	6/30/2018 12:57 PM
10	Nothing	6/30/2018 9:24 AM
11	Don't know	6/30/2018 4:58 AM
12	More access points	6/29/2018 9:57 PM
13	Better parking	6/29/2018 9:48 PM
14	Parking near boat launches onto Rice Creek.	6/29/2018 9:46 PM
15	Trail connections southward to Hwy 96	6/29/2018 6:04 PM
16	if it were closer to my house!	6/29/2018 5:57 PM
17	improved mass transit that permits pets.	6/29/2018 5:14 PM
18	connection from Long Lake to areas further south, but don't have a great idea of where that would be.	6/29/2018 5:03 PM
19	Not having to transfer 3 times to get there on the bus	6/29/2018 4:59 PM
20	Nothing leave it alone please	6/29/2018 4:50 PM
21	?	6/28/2018 2:40 PM

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
 Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q8 What other Regional/County parks do you enjoy?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 11

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Tamarack Nature Center	7/17/2018 11:16 PM
2	Snail and Sucker lake, Bald Eagle, Long Lake, Tamarac	7/5/2018 2:05 PM
3	Tamarack Nature Center, Battle Creek Regional, McCarrons & Reservoir Woods Trails, Hwy 96 Trail,	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
4	Tamarac, Wargo	7/2/2018 4:00 PM
5	Sucker, Vadnais Heights, Snail.	7/2/2018 10:51 AM
6	Long Lake	7/2/2018 8:59 AM
7	Lilydale, Harriet Island	7/1/2018 9:07 PM
8	Ramsey Beach, Lebanon Hills (Dakota County), Trout Brook and trails that lead to Gateway.	7/1/2018 2:07 PM
9	st Croix, my favorite is Crosby,	7/1/2018 9:19 AM
10	Big River, Crosby Lake, Lake Snelling, Pike Island	7/1/2018 8:59 AM
11	Gateway	6/30/2018 4:23 PM
12	Chain of Lakes (Lino Lakes) &ramsey county parks near Lake Johanna; & Bunker Hills.	6/30/2018 12:57 PM
13	Bucher park trail, chain of lakes trails	6/30/2018 9:24 AM
14	Long Lake, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes	6/30/2018 6:23 AM
15	Long lake, Tony Schmidt	6/30/2018 4:58 AM
16	Too many to count	6/29/2018 9:57 PM
17	Long Lake	6/29/2018 9:48 PM
18	Rum River Regionals, Ramsey County parks	6/29/2018 9:46 PM
19	Elm Creek, lake Rebecca, Theo wirth,	6/29/2018 7:57 PM
20	Grass / Snail / Long Lakes	6/29/2018 6:04 PM
21	Fish Creek, Battle Creek, St. Croix Bluffs; Mississippi Regional River Trail; Lake Elmo; Kaposia	6/29/2018 5:57 PM
22	Central Park	6/29/2018 5:37 PM
23	Long Lake, Snail Lake, Sucker/Vadnais, White Bear Lake, Roseville	6/29/2018 5:18 PM
24	Lake Elmo, Lebanon Hills	6/29/2018 5:14 PM
25	Long Lake, Tony Schmidt	6/29/2018 5:03 PM
26	Phalen, Como, Liliydale	6/29/2018 4:59 PM
27	Some but rice creek is near to me	6/29/2018 4:50 PM
28	Rum River regional parks/ Anoka Co, Rice Creek Chain of lakes park preserves, St. croix river way	6/28/2018 5:42 PM
29	N/A	6/28/2018 2:40 PM

Appendix C: Online Survey #1
Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q9 What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 13

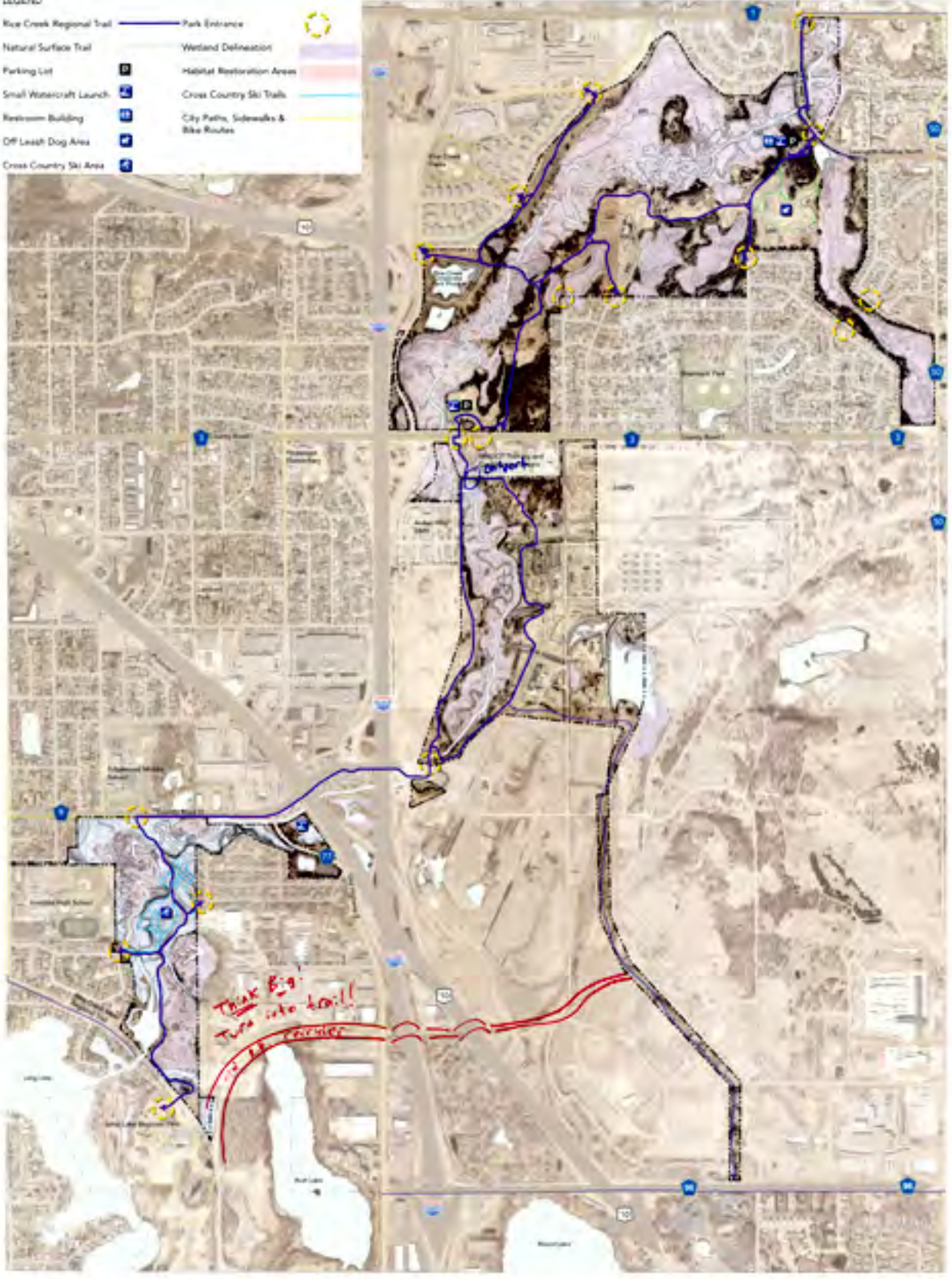
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No suggestion	7/17/2018 11:16 PM
2	Trails off the paved trails for hiking or exploring bird watching, etc.	7/5/2018 2:05 PM
3	I just want to see well maintained hike/bike trails with as many connections to other trails as possible.	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
4	Picnic tables and restrooms.	7/2/2018 10:51 AM
5	bathrooms	7/2/2018 8:59 AM
6	Make the board walks & bridges safer. Keep it open so we don't have so many diversions. Make drinking water available spring, summer and fall. Get rid of invasive non-native plants.	7/1/2018 2:07 PM
7	St Croix has the beach; Crosby is just trails, and wild life. There is a pavilion though.	7/1/2018 9:19 AM
8	Expanded dirt trail options and maintenance	7/1/2018 8:59 AM
9	Bike repair. Kiosk for shade. Art. Informative signs.	6/30/2018 4:23 PM
10	A few gardens / restored prairie / shoreline/ arboretum-- anything along those lines.	6/30/2018 12:57 PM
11	Nothing	6/30/2018 9:24 AM
12	A nice shelter of some kind	6/30/2018 6:23 AM
13	picnic tables	6/30/2018 4:58 AM
14	Nice bathrooms, shelters and kept trails	6/29/2018 9:57 PM
15	Shelters	6/29/2018 9:48 PM
16	Smooth trails and boat launches with parking	6/29/2018 9:46 PM
17	Mountain bike single-track, cross country ski trail (groomed)	6/29/2018 7:57 PM
18	Recreation Destination Trail amenities like more benches, etc. Bike, XC Ski, Hiking areas	6/29/2018 6:04 PM
19	Keep it will. It doesn't need further development--plenty of other places have that. This can be a place to get away from it all.	6/29/2018 5:57 PM
20	Walking trails, arboretum	6/29/2018 5:37 PM
21	Wide, well maintained	6/29/2018 5:18 PM
22	Less asphalt, natural areas, wildlife.	6/29/2018 5:14 PM
23	for Long Lake - connection to a broader bike trail system	6/29/2018 5:03 PM
24	It's good to have differences so they don't get boring.	6/29/2018 4:59 PM
25	None I love the park as it is don't touch it anymore	6/29/2018 4:50 PM
26	Improved parking, canoe access, less dog poop left	6/28/2018 5:42 PM
27	N/A	6/28/2018 2:40 PM

Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 1 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail — Park Entrance
- Natural Surface Trail Wetland Delineation
- Parking Lot P Habitat Restoration Area
- Small Watercraft Launch W Cross Country Ski Trails
- Restroom Building R City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes
- Off Leash Dog Area D
- Cross Country Ski Area S



Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 1 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



LEGEND

Rice Creek Regional Trail	Park Entrance	
Natural Surface Trail	Wetland Delineation	
Parking Lot	Habitat Restoration Areas	
Small Watercraft Launch	Cross Country Ski Trails	
Restroom Building	City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes	
Off Leash Dog Area		
Cross Country Ski Area		

1. Better than the other along path of the trail people who are not on the water side
2. Signs along trail covering people which means growing things, signs!

Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 1 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018

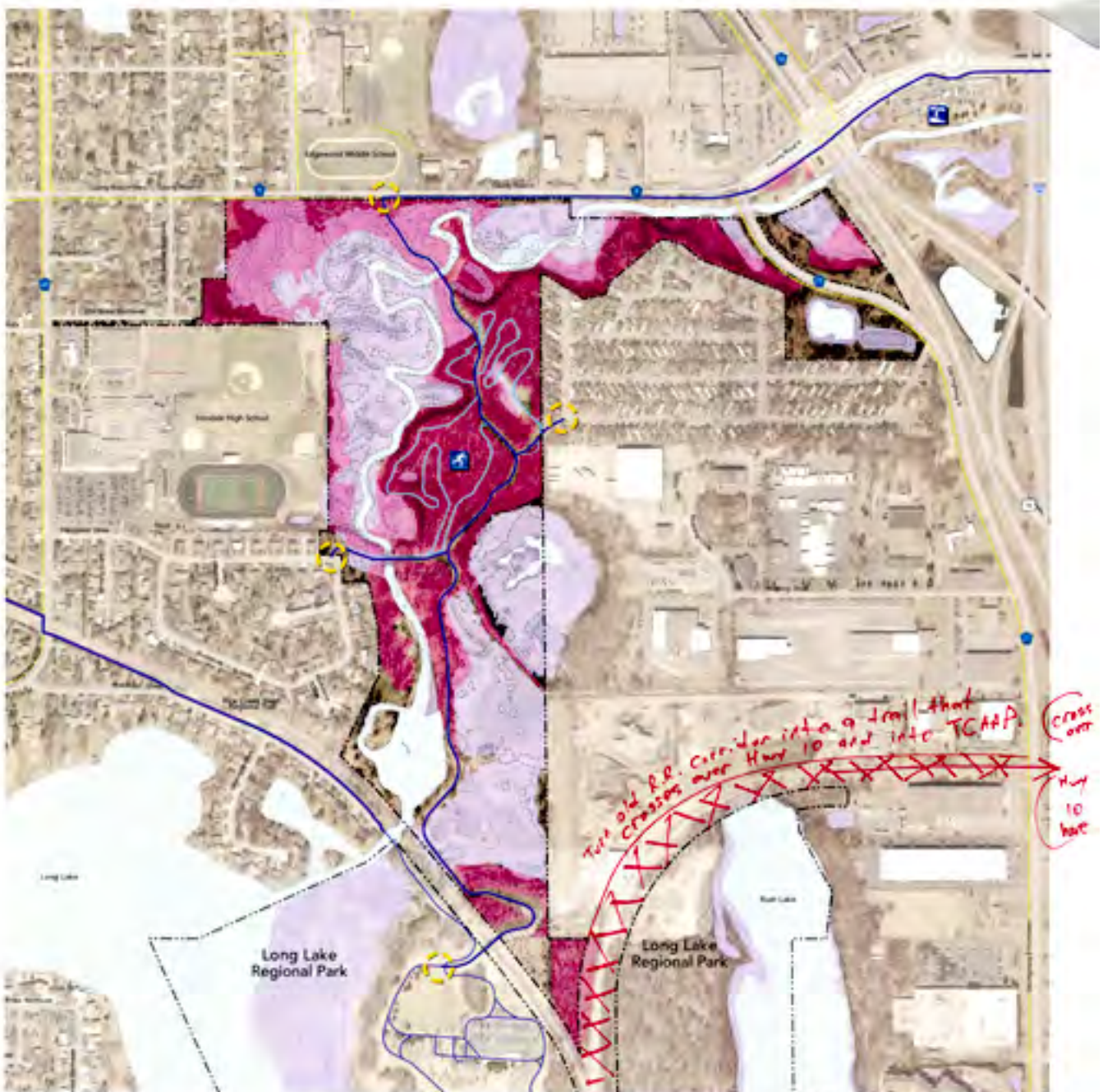
LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Parking Lot
- Small Watercraft Launch
- Restroom Building
- Off Leash Dog Area
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Park Entrance
- Wetland Delineation
- Habitat Restoration Areas
- Cross Country Ski Trails
- City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes



Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 1 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



- LEGEND**
- Rice Creek Regional Trail
 - Natural Surface Trail
 - Parking Lot
 - Small Watercraft Launch
 - Restroom Building
 - Off Leash Dog Area
 - Cross Country Ski Area
 - Park Entrance
 - Wetland Delineation
 - Habitat Restoration Areas
 - Cross Country Ski Trails
 - City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes

Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 2 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 2 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 3 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Parking Lot
- Small Watercraft Launch
- Restroom Building
- Off Leash Dog Area
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Park Entrance
- Wetland Delineation
- Habitat Restoration Areas
- Cross Country Ski Trails
- City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes



3

Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 3 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



3

Appendix D: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 3 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Parking Lot
- Small Watercraft Launch
- Restroom Building
- Off Leash Dog Area
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Park Entrance
- Wetland Delineation
- Habitat Restoration Areas
- Cross Country Ski Trails
- City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes



3

Appendix E: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No. 1 - Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently? *Yes*

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc...)?

walking, Biking

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy? *LONG LAKE*

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Appendix E: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No. 1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently? **YES**

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How Would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

Band Shell / Picnic Areas by BLDG. #189

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

A. Security - Gates to close off at night to keep people out at night.

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

It's great right now.

7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Appendix E: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Survey

Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

Q9 What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 12

Restore Ridge 189

- X-country staging - County + AHATS
- Rest, stopping control site on total trail
- Dredge backwater of Rice Creek for 1m + gal reservoir for snow making trail - Co Rd I + Co Rd H
- Tennis
- valley ball
- Badminton

Appendix E: Public Engagement Meeting 2 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment
Public Meeting No. 1 – Informative Session
June 27th, 2018

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

If yes, what activities do you commonly use it for (walking, biking etc.)?

Dayly walking

If no, why not? What would make the trail more accessible and welcoming?

2. How Would you currently rate the quality of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail?

Very High Quality High Quality Neither Low nor High Low Quality Very Low Quality

3. What amenities (boat launch, shelter(s), dog area(s) etc.) do you currently use along the Rice Creek trail?

Just the trail for walking in good weather

4. What amenities do you believe would be the most useful addition along the trail?

5. On a scale of 1-7 how accessible is Rice Creek to you currently?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. What could make Rice Creek more accessible?

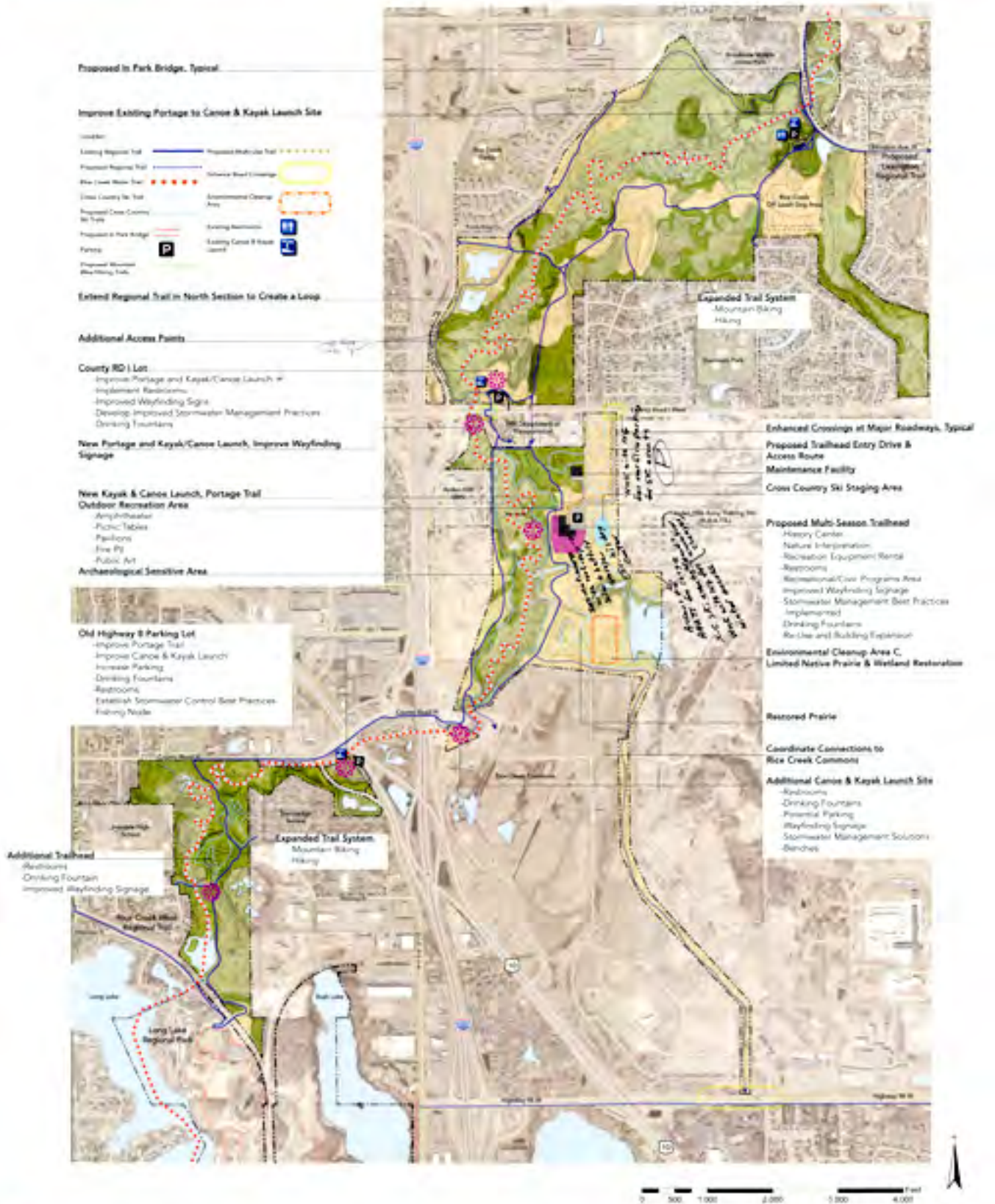
7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

Just this one because it is close and accessible

8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

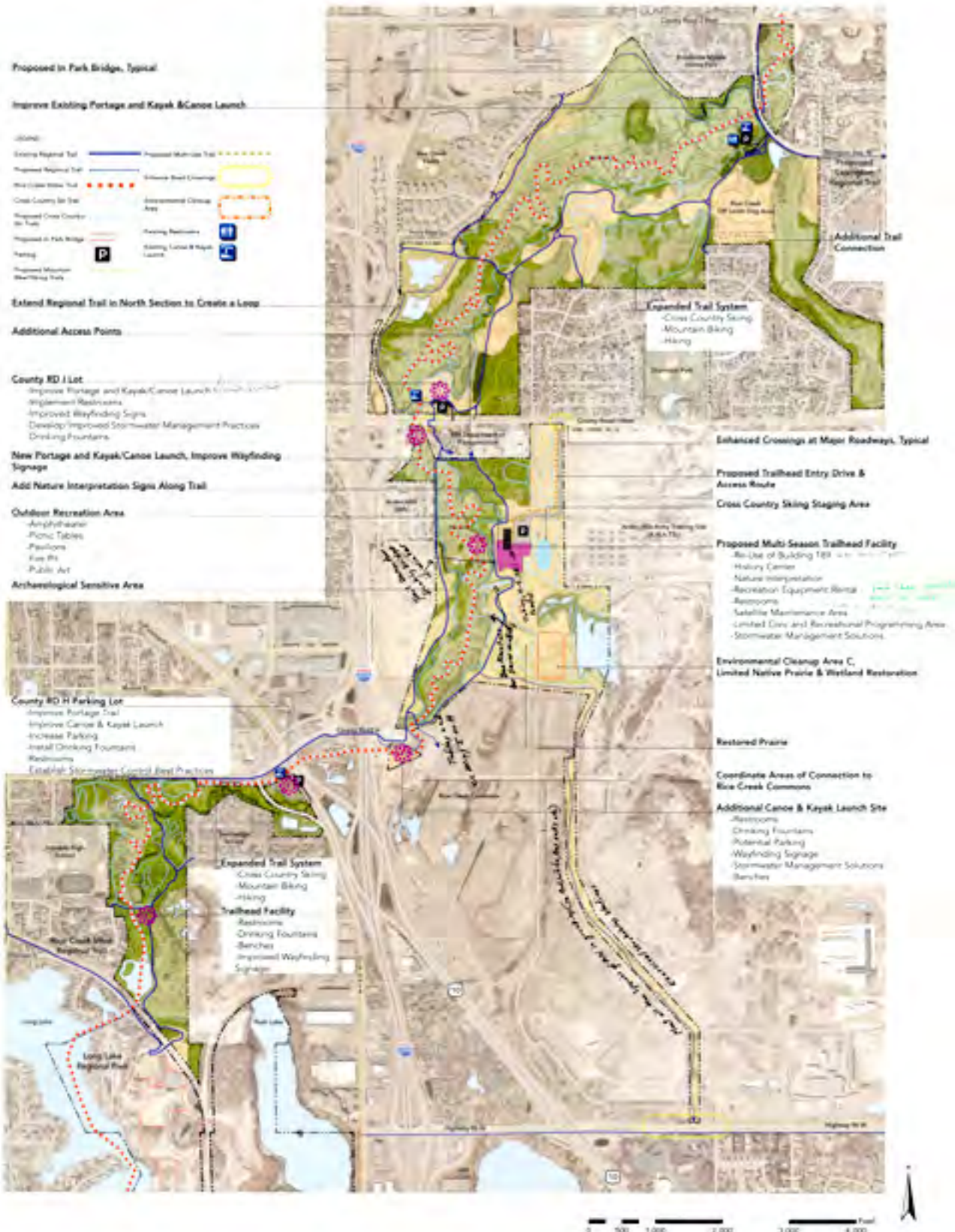
Appendix F: Public Engagement Meeting 3 Concept Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



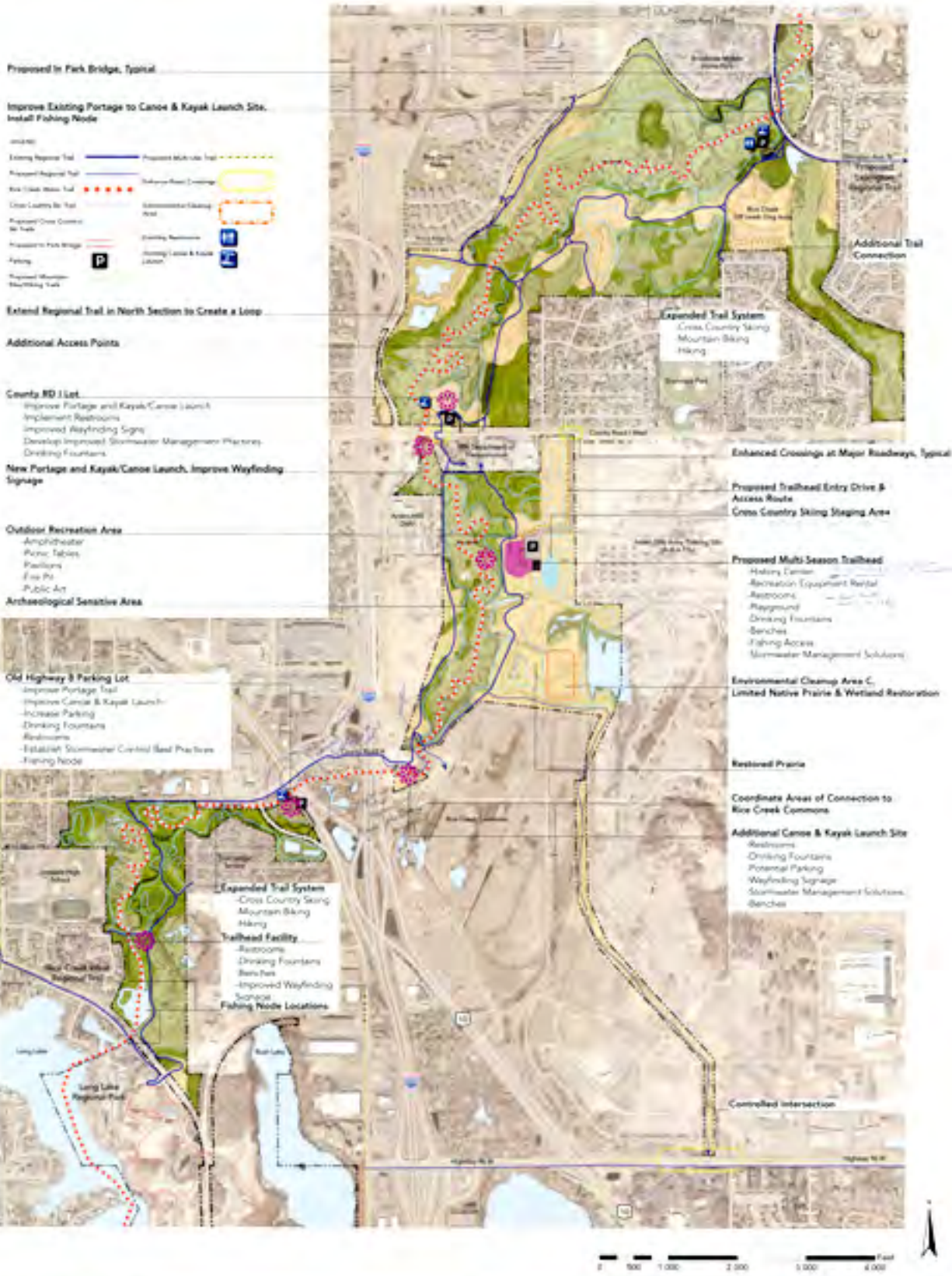
Appendix F: Public Engagement Meeting 3 Concept Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Appendix F: Public Engagement Meeting 3 Concept Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q1 General Concept Development Comments:

Answered: 49 Skipped: 42

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	they look well thought out	12/20/2018 2:03 PM
2	I would prioritize mountain bike/fat bike trails because no such trails exist within 15 miles of the Rice Creek area.	12/13/2018 10:18 AM
3	I think this is a wonderful opportunity to develop this space for multi-season outdoor recreation. I suspect this amount of land couldn't be found in any large metropolitan area anywhere else in the United State. We have the opportunity for a flagship park area. The more land a space that can be protected from commercial development the better.	12/6/2018 6:24 PM
4	Canoe/Kayak Access COncern about being able to access rice creek for canoeing	12/6/2018 12:09 PM
5	N/A Incredible visions!! Do this-you won't regret it	12/5/2018 9:02 PM
6	Bldg. 189 Use Concept B MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE XC Ski Both concepts B and C stand out because of the expansion of ski and mt bike trails - 2 sports growing rapidly in MN, esp. at the high school level. I'm drawn to C because of the potential for a new building that could be a nature center. Even though I understand it would be a smaller building, modern concept design could make the space better than the old building.	12/5/2018 7:54 PM
7	MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE XC Ski My preference is for the third plan, mainly because this is the plan with the most cross country skiing and mountain biking trails. I love canoeing, too, but it is less of a need for me at this point.	12/5/2018 4:09 PM
8	Lights? MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE Safe Crossings XC Ski Great to see plans to develop ski and bike trails in the north metro! Would also encourage consideration of some lighting of the ski trails for the darker months to increase access and safety. Rice creek is a gem of a waterway for paddling. The culverts south of County Rd I are tricky and would be nice to have safer ways to portage over Cty Rd 10 and 35W. The waterway north of County Rd I is great and relatively free of man made obstacles. On concept C, the proposed "fishing node" is on a very shallow bay. This portion of Rice Creek is often only inches deep (unless you are in the somewhat deeper channel) north of the rail road bridge.	12/5/2018 1:24 PM
9	Hiking Trails MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE XC Ski I like the added mountain bike, hiking and cross-country ski trails along with the improved water trail access.	12/3/2018 12:37 PM
10	Trails (general) I'm very excited about the possible addition of trails and access points - I'd enthusiastically support these developments!	12/3/2018 12:05 PM
11	Bldg. 189 Use MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE XC Ski I like the re-use of Building 189- besides Building 116 (the water treatment building) it is the only remaining building on the historic TCAAP facility. Perhaps a historical museum could be incorporated into the refurbished building? I also really appreciate the mountain biking and most especially the cross country ski trails!	12/2/2018 8:42 PM
12	Concept B b	12/2/2018 1:56 PM
13	Concept B Concept C Hard to really understand this from just looking at the maps. However; I'm in favor of options B & C in that they have the most increase in biking and skiing trails.	12/2/2018 11:54 AM
14	Concept C Nature Preservation Prefer concept 3 but with fewer miles of trails. Every development will negatively impact opportunities for nature, and nature should be the priority.	11/30/2018 4:30 PM
15	Disc Golf MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE Mountain biking is a growing sport with high school club leagues becoming quite popular. More mountain bike trails will bring in people to recreate and enjoy the area. Also, was a disc or Frisbee golf course ever in consideration? This is a great sport that's low impact, easy maintenance and accessible for people from all walks of life. I highly recommend consideration of a disc golf course in this or future development plans.	11/30/2018 3:57 PM
16	Trails (general) Glad to see that there are plans for a lot more trails in Long Lake Park and using some of the old Armory site for recreation	11/29/2018 4:14 PM
17	XC Ski Like the addition of ski trails.	11/29/2018 3:40 PM

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

18	MTN BIKE/PAV BIKE XC Ski I love the expanded cross country ski trails, and the mountain bike trails! The North Metro is very underserved in these two recreational activities.	11/27/2018 11:44 AM
19	Nature Preservation I am alarmed by the proposed proliferation of trails in the approximately 10 acres of restored prairie in the northern part of the park, the area within about 200 meters of 45.115640, -93.175021. The proposed trails would 1) slice this valuable habitat into small segments, 2) greatly increase human traffic, and 3) greatly reduce its suitability as a feeding and nesting area for birds and animals. Even the proposed cross-country ski trails would invite human traffic, not only in winter, but year-round. Ramsey County installed a pole and nest box in this area last year to offer an enlarged nesting and feeding area for the population of American Kestrels that nest in the nearby AHATS, south of County Road I. The proposed trails would make it highly unlikely that kestrels would ever nest or hunt for food in this area. In addition, it is highly unlikely that meadowlarks and other grassland birds would return to this area, which currently offers the habitat that these species require.	11/26/2018 5:17 PM
20	N/A I love that this is being considered.	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
21	Environmental Friend XC Ski Environmentally friendly developments are super important and set a great example! Also love the XC ski trails idea!!	11/20/2018 9:53 PM
22	N/A Good to hear improvements coming.	11/18/2018 11:12 PM
23	Nature Preservation I would like to see less density, with some commercial and senior housing on the TCAAP property, but plenty of green space.	11/18/2018 8:20 PM
24	Concept B I prefer what is proposed in Concept B over the other proposals.	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
25	Trails (general) Happy to see connections with local trails. Wish more of the adjacent land could be put to public use or natural area restoration.	11/15/2018 11:13 PM
26	N/A	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
27	XC Ski Please move forward with establishing ski trails within this system! There are hundreds (likely more) of cross-country skiers in the North and East metro area who would flock to this area to ski. Currently, our only options are to drive to snow-making trails in Bloomington or Golden Valley; quality trails here would be an enormous benefit!	11/13/2018 10:46 AM
28	Concept B XC Ski Cross country skiing is an important activity to the communities and the northern twin cities could use more trails and opportunity for skiing. Proposal B is a good opportunity for the community to take advantage of the land that is left.	11/12/2018 10:10 PM
29	MTN BIKE/PAV BIKE Trails (general) XC Ski I think these trails will be heavily used due to lack of skiing and mountain bike trails in this area, so I appreciate trying to add as much trail as possible.	11/12/2018 9:38 PM
30	Trails (general) I prefer fewer buildings and more trails.	11/12/2018 9:18 PM
31	MTN BIKE/PAV BIKE Paved Trail (general) Trails (general) XC Ski I live two miles south of this area. As I have driven past it hundreds of times over the years, I have always wanted it to be a green space. My hope is for mountain biking trails, paved biking trails, and cross country ski trails.	11/12/2018 4:03 PM
32	Light Snowmaking XC Ski The more ski trails the better! Would the ski trails have lights or snowmaking?	11/12/2018 12:59 PM
33	Build 189 Use Trails (general) XC Ski Adding lots of trails is important, especially for cross country skiing! I think a moderate use of building 189 is the best option.	11/12/2018 12:28 PM
34	Trails (general) I am in favor of concepts that would place a higher priority on trails vs. new buildings.	11/12/2018 8:36 AM
35	Building 189 Bad Building 189 looks like a money pit to me, but I've only seen it riding by on bicycle. Asbestos? Not energy efficient? Many questions should be asked.	11/9/2018 11:38 AM
36	XC Ski It is great to have this considered. Am currently driving to Henn. Cty to ski even though I live in Ramsey Co.	11/7/2018 8:36 PM
37	Trails (general) XC Ski Good mix of trail uses. I am grateful for the xc skiing trail plans. Thank You!	11/7/2018 4:39 PM
38	Mountain Trails In my experience hikers and mountain bikers do not mix well on trails. I probably would not hike the trail if it was used frequently by bikers -- too many chances of being run down. So in effect it would just be expanded trails for bikers. Yes, add new trails, but designate bike only and hike only trails. Add half and half, not all bike.	11/6/2018 5:49 PM

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

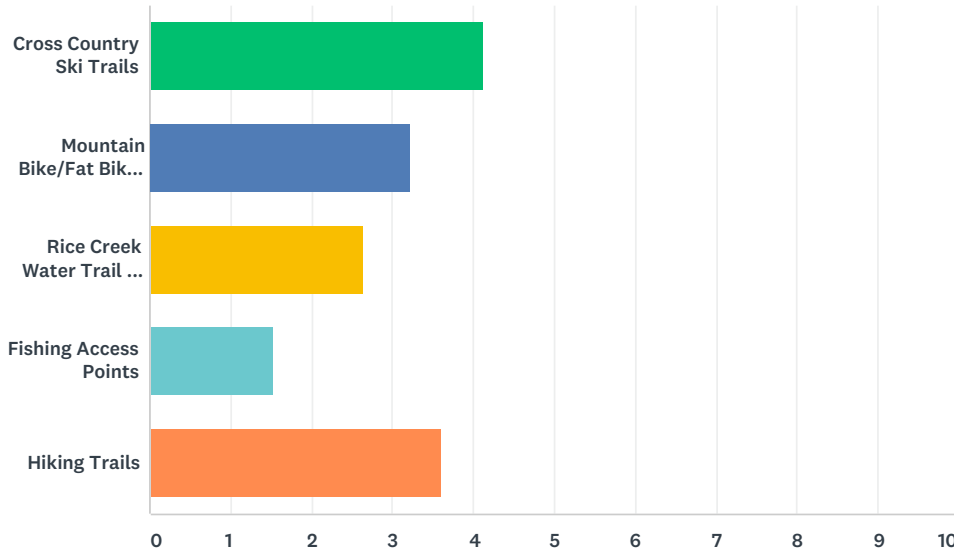
39	Concept B	Prefer Concept B, do not like the idea of rental facilities because of the need for staffing.	11/5/2018 10:31 AM
40	Concept B Rental Space Trails (general)	Prefer Concept B, the more trails the better. With hotels close by, a rental building, suitable for wedding receptions and other banquets would be desirable with nature views. This could generate a consistent income for the county.	11/5/2018 11:47 PM
41	Concept B	Like the concept A & B, a little more extensive due to more use	11/5/2018 11:35 PM
42	Trails (general)	I think adding more trails is important for all recreational activities.	11/5/2018 2:06 PM
43	Concept A	Option A	11/2/2018 7:55 PM
44	Events Snowmaking?	I wouldn't spend a lot on trails exclusive to skiing unless there's a snowmaking capability. I live within a mile, and there have been few days in the past 15 years with decent snow for XC skiing nearby. Is there a way to measure interest in a history center? One thing I'd like to see is a picnic shelter or other covered area for cyclists (not fat/MB cyclists) caught in inclement weather.	11/2/2018 12:39 PM
45	Concept A Paved Trail/Walkway	I favor concept A. More consideration for accessibility on paved trails.	11/2/2018 12:37 PM
46	Concept B	Like plan B for my first choice.	10/18/2018 11:30 AM
47	N/A	Is a ranking of "1" top priority or lowest priority? My rankings below use 1 as the top priority.	10/18/2018 11:22 AM
48	Nature Preservation Paved Trail/Walkway Trails (general)	Plans look great! Excited for the expansions. Personally, I enjoy biking on paved paths and hiking so the extensions to the paths would be great. Wild flowers would be nice too.	10/18/2018 9:20 AM
49	Paved Trail/Walkway	As a regular biker, I prefer paved trails, and I see many more bikers like me versus fat tire bikers. As a retiree, I see many my age out biking which is a positive health initiative.	10/18/2018 9:18 AM

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q2 Please rank the following Recreational Amenities you are most interested in

Answered: 89 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Cross Country Ski Trails	57.47% 50	16.09% 14	13.79% 12	6.90% 6	5.75% 5	87	4.13
Mountain Bike/Fat Bike Trails	12.79% 11	33.72% 29	26.74% 23	17.44% 15	9.30% 8	86	3.23
Rice Creek Water Trail - Additional Drop in Sites	4.65% 4	13.95% 12	31.40% 27	39.53% 34	10.47% 9	86	2.63
Fishing Access Points	0.00% 0	5.75% 5	11.49% 10	12.64% 11	70.11% 61	87	1.53
Hiking Trails	27.91% 24	31.40% 27	16.28% 14	22.09% 19	2.33% 2	86	3.60

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q3 Are there any other Recreational Amenities you would like to see?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 39

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	no	12/20/2018 2:03 PM
2	Bike terrain park	12/13/2018 10:18 AM
3	Ice skating rink would be nice	12/6/2018 6:24 PM
4	Canoe/Kayak Access canoe access	12/6/2018 12:09 PM
5	Multi Season Build. Warming huts and permanent bathrooms spread around the area	12/5/2018 9:02 PM
6	No not at this time	12/5/2018 7:54 PM
7	Snowmaking With shorter and warmer winters, man-made snow is a plus. Currently, I drive 16 miles one way to ski at Wirth. If there were snow here, that drive would be only three miles from my home.	12/5/2018 4:09 PM
8	Restrooms Definitely more restrooms	12/5/2018 2:55 PM
9	Lights Consideration for lights on the ski trails, or a portion of the ski trails, especially the ones near Irondale Highschool since those are already established trails.	12/5/2018 1:24 PM
10	No No - these developments are great!	12/3/2018 12:05 PM
11	Paved Trail more wide paved trails of high quality, less cracks and bumps	12/3/2018 9:27 AM
12	Benches exercise stations Park benches designed as workout stations along paved trails. They have these in Two Harbors near Cedar Coffee Company.	12/2/2018 9:03 PM
13	Disc Golf exercise stations It would be awesome if some kind of work out station (pull up bars, sit up bars, etc.) could be put in along some of the trails. Also, a disc golf course would be a wonderful addition!	12/2/2018 8:42 PM
14	No no	12/2/2018 1:56 PM
15	Disc Golf Maybe a Freesbie Golf course.	12/2/2018 11:54 AM
16	Nature Preservation many people appreciate the regional parks because they provide respite from the built world -- please do not overbuild with recreation amenities.	11/30/2018 4:30 PM
17	Disc Golf Frisbee/disc golf	11/30/2018 3:57 PM
18	Hiking unpaved hiking trails	11/29/2018 4:16 PM
19	Ski Trails ski trails in the hills	11/29/2018 3:47 PM
20	Bike Station Bike repair station?	11/29/2018 3:40 PM
21	Nature Preservation More nature, less development.	11/26/2018 5:17 PM
22	Sledding Hill Sliding Hill	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
23	Ski Trails More ski trails!	11/20/2018 10:56 PM
24	Paved Trail Trash/recycling More recycling bins and running trails	11/20/2018 9:53 PM
25	Rec. Equip. Rental Snowmaking Ski rental and/or snow making capabilities	11/20/2018 12:03 PM
26	Dog Park Paved Trail Road bike and running trails, dog park.	11/18/2018 8:20 PM
27	Bike Station Drinking Water Bicycle pump and water bottle fill stations	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
28	Bike Station Link with Nice Ride, bike tire pump	11/15/2018 11:13 PM
29	Ski Trails Sledding Hill Snowmaking winter use	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
30	exercise stations Lights Lighted trails Exercise station on the trails for Summer use	11/12/2018 10:05 PM

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

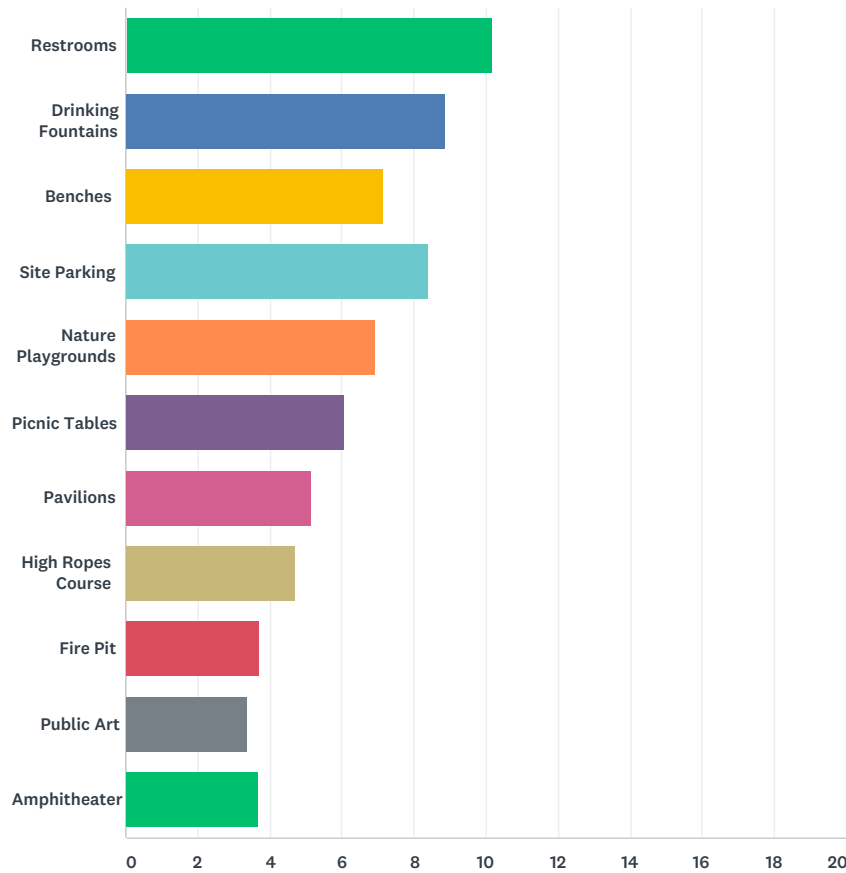
31	Fixing	It'd be nice to be able to trail run on the mountain bike trails in addition to mountain biking/fat biking.	11/12/2018 9:35 PM
32	Paved Trail	paved biking trails	11/12/2018 9:18 PM
33	No	no	11/12/2018 4:03 PM
34	No	na	11/12/2018 12:59 PM
35	Ski Trails Snowmaking	Regularly groomed cross country ski trails are badly needed in the northeast Metro. I realize making snow is extremely expensive, however its a long drive for people in the northeast to get to cross country ski facility that makes snow.	11/12/2018 10:17 AM
36	Plow trails winter	Plowed paved trails for winter use	11/9/2018 11:38 AM
37	Side Rd. Crossings	Consider a bridge or tunnel to cross county road I	11/9/2018 9:21 AM
38	No	No	11/7/2018 4:39 PM
39	Ind. Rent/Training	canoe/kayak/bike/ski rental, cross country ski waxing area, indoor training space	11/7/2018 3:35 PM
40	No	No	11/6/2018 9:28 PM
41	Nature Preservation	I like to see some natural areas, so I would limit the amount of other amenities. To me the amenities take away from the natural areas.	11/6/2018 5:49 PM
42	No	no	11/6/2018 10:31 AM
43	Parking	Yes please add a satellite to the parking lot area on County Rd I.	11/5/2018 11:47 PM
44	Paved Trail Safe Rd. Crossings	Multiple links for paved multiuse trails at least 12 ft. and protected surface road crossings to allow few stops for cyclists	11/5/2018 11:35 PM
45	Rec. Equip. Rental	onsite Kayak rental availability	11/5/2018 2:32 PM
46	Programming	Snowshoeing Snowsledding Bike Rallies Tree Top Walkways	11/2/2018 7:55 PM
47	Nature Preservation	As much undeveloped and wooded as possible to enhancing birding. Don't out the number of osprey platforms.	11/2/2018 12:39 PM
48	WHAT?	Hope the trailhead has a interesting portion developed to the glacial characteristics of the land.	11/2/2018 12:37 PM
49	Dog Park	A fully enclosed dog park!	10/18/2018 1:57 PM
50	exercise stations	I would like to see exercise areas in parks. Other countries provide low maintenance equipment for the community to use. Low maintenance would be simple stairs/benches/sand pits.	10/18/2018 11:30 AM
51	Accessible Playground Volleyball	Accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities. Volleyball.	10/18/2018 9:20 AM
52	Side Rd. Crossings	Crossing hiway 10 and hiway 96 is risky, tunnels under or bridges over would be a significant safety improvement	10/18/2018 9:18 AM

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q4 Please rank the following site amenities you are most interested in

Answered: 87 Skipped: 4



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	TOTAL	S
Restrooms	48.78% 40	35.37% 29	9.76% 8	2.44% 2	1.22% 1	0.00% 0	1.22% 1	0.00% 0	1.22% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	82	
Drinking Fountains	15.58% 12	33.77% 26	23.38% 18	7.79% 6	3.90% 3	5.19% 4	5.19% 4	3.90% 3	1.30% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	77	
Benches	5.41% 4	8.11% 6	20.27% 15	20.27% 15	14.86% 11	9.46% 7	6.76% 5	4.05% 3	2.70% 2	1.35% 1	6.76% 5	74	
Site Parking	23.75% 19	15.00% 12	20.00% 16	13.75% 11	7.50% 6	7.50% 6	5.00% 4	2.50% 2	0.00% 0	3.75% 3	1.25% 1	80	
Nature Playgrounds	10.14% 7	7.25% 5	8.70% 6	14.49% 10	20.29% 14	11.59% 8	14.49% 10	2.90% 2	2.90% 2	5.80% 4	1.45% 1	69	
Picnic Tables	0.00% 0	1.41% 1	5.63% 4	14.08% 10	21.13% 15	22.54% 16	18.31% 13	5.63% 4	9.86% 7	0.00% 0	1.41% 1	71	
Pavilions	1.41% 1	1.41% 1	5.63% 4	5.63% 4	11.27% 8	12.68% 9	23.94% 17	19.72% 14	4.23% 3	9.86% 7	4.23% 3	71	
High Ropes Course	2.86% 2	7.14% 5	7.14% 5	7.14% 5	7.14% 5	7.14% 5	1.43% 1	17.14% 12	11.43% 8	15.71% 11	15.71% 11	70	
Fire Pit	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	1.49% 1	8.96% 6	1.49% 1	2.99% 2	7.46% 5	22.39% 15	25.37% 17	13.43% 9	14.93% 10	67	
Public Art	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	4.35% 3	4.35% 3	4.35% 3	10.14% 7	2.90% 2	7.25% 5	17.39% 12	27.54% 19	21.74% 15	69	

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Agree/Strongly	2.90%	0.00%	4.35%	5.80%	5.80%	5.80%	4.30%	3.70%	11.54%	17.39%	20.00%	90
	2	0	3	4	4	4	3	0	13	12	18	

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q5 Are there any additional site amenities you would like to see?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 52

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Warming hut for winter	12/6/2018 6:24 PM
2	Snowmaking Canoe access. Lighted ski trails, snow making	12/6/2018 12:09 PM
3	No Not at this time	12/5/2018 7:54 PM
4	Trails General Emphasis on not just quantity of trails (hiking, skiing, bicycling) but on the quality (layout, maintenance, traffic flow, grooming of snow) of those trails.	12/5/2018 8:48 AM
5	No No	12/3/2018 12:05 PM
6	Enforcement/Litter As with any trails or access points comes litter. Please take this into consideration as you are moving forward. I am a citizen stream monitor volunteer for the MPCA. I monitor Rice Creek at 4 locations for water quality. I'm appalled at all the trash that comes along when access points are created. A prime example is the fishing access across from the Mermaid at HWY 10. Last fall my husband and I picked up 6 bags of garbage! Every time we put in with our canoe, we are always picking up trash along the creek banks (bait containers, McDonald's bags, diapers, food cans, soda cans). Please consider ways to keep the creek clean! Not just garbage cans, signage and enforcement is needed.	12/2/2018 9:03 PM
7	Enforcement/Litter I would like to see increased signage to inform users the importance of picking up litter - especially in the fishing areas. Added garbage and recycling containers would also help. Perhaps the No Littering signs could be in multiple languages (English, Spanish, Hmong, Somali) to ensure they communicate the importance of keeping Rice Creek free of trash. We often canoe the creek and it is appalling the amount of trash that accumulates along the banks near and directly downstream of the fishing areas. We pick up bags and bags full on each trip.	12/2/2018 8:42 PM
8	No no	12/2/2018 1:56 PM
9	Bike Station Biking service/pump equipment like they have at other trailheads (Elm Creek, etc).	12/2/2018 11:54 AM
10	Maps Interpretative signage, especially to increase education of native prairies and pollinator gardens. Absolutely no amphitheater.	11/30/2018 4:30 PM
11	Bike Station MultiSeson Build Bike repair stand with tire pump. Warming hut for cross country skiers.	11/30/2018 3:57 PM
12	Nature Preservation Less is more. Keep things as natural as possible and wildlife friendly	11/29/2018 4:16 PM
13	No No	11/29/2018 3:40 PM
14	sledding hill sliding hill	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
15	XC prep. area Ski waxing places	11/20/2018 9:53 PM
16	No no	11/18/2018 8:20 PM
17	Exercise Equip. Outdoor fitness equipment such as chin-up bar, etc...	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
18	No no	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
19	Cameras Wi-Fi Web-Cam pointed at trails in front of Pavillion to show conditions	11/12/2018 10:05 PM
20	No no	11/12/2018 9:18 PM
21	No no	11/12/2018 4:03 PM
22	Ind. Winter Shelter warming shelter for winter activities	11/12/2018 12:59 PM
23	XC Trails Cross country ski trails!	11/12/2018 12:28 PM
24	Ind. Winter Shelter Timing Booth ski waxing area, mountain bike maintenance area. A ski chalet, a start line/finish line area for ski races, a timing booth	11/12/2018 10:17 AM
25	Bike Station Bicycle racks, maintenance stands	11/9/2018 11:38 AM

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

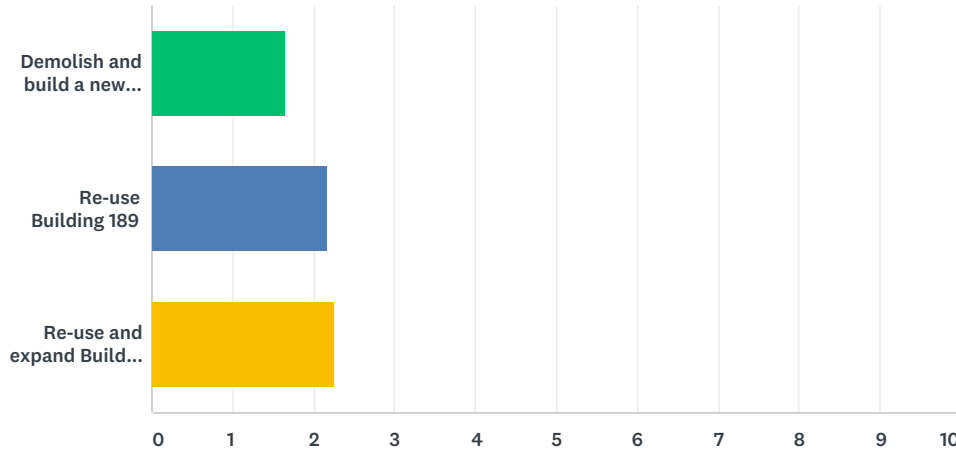
26	Maps	Maps along the trail.	11/9/2018 9:21 AM	
27	No	No	11/7/2018 4:39 PM	
28	Ind. Winter Shelter	Rec. Equip. Rental	equipment rental area, indoor program space,	11/7/2018 3:35 PM
29	No	No	11/8/2018 9:26 PM	
30	Less Amenities	Would like to see fewer amenities.	11/6/2018 5:49 PM	
31	No	No	11/8/2018 10:31 AM	
32	Not possible	A spur trail to the highest point in Ramsey county	11/5/2018 11:47 PM	
33	No	No	11/5/2018 4:14 PM	
34	Dog Park	If people bring their dogs on leashes, an area for the dogs to go to the bathroom.	11/5/2018 2:06 PM	
35	Less Development	Less development is better, just what's necessary to keep the creek open for kayak/canoe, parking, basic trails and washrooms/shelter at each major entrance. Please don't cut down the trees!	11/2/2018 12:39 PM	
36	Birding Tours	Birding for all ages via the Audubon and Ramsey County experts.	11/2/2018 12:37 PM	
37	Dog Park	A fully enclosed dog park!	10/18/2018 1:57 PM	
38	Public Art	Public art work that ties into being outdoors and part of the MN landscape. That would elevate the park experience. Could even be interactive for people to sit on or experience like the Chicago bean.	10/18/2018 11:30 AM	
39	Public Art	Wild flowers. Work from local artists.	10/18/2018 9:20 AM	

Appendix G: Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q6 Please rank the following possible solutions for Building 189 at the multi-season trail head site

Answered: 84 Skipped: 7

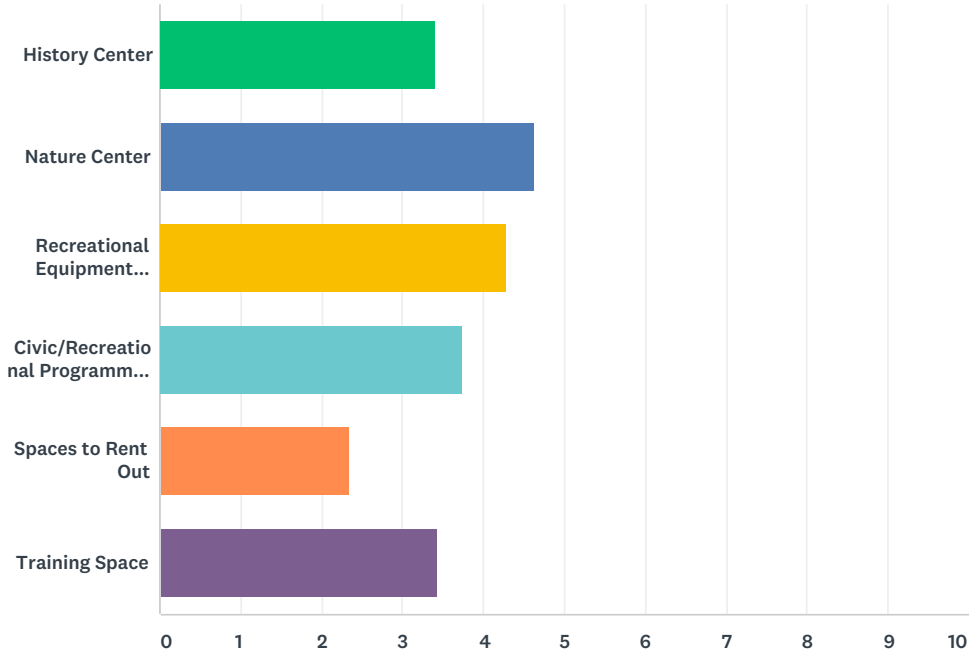


	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Demolish and build a new trail head	23.08% 18	19.23% 15	57.69% 45	78	1.65
Re-use Building 189	39.02% 32	39.02% 32	21.95% 18	82	2.17
Re-use and expand Building 189	43.59% 34	38.46% 30	17.95% 14	78	2.26

Appendix G: Online Survey #2
Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q7 Please rank the following uses for the multi-season trail head site

Answered: 88 Skipped: 3



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
History Center	6.67% 5	22.67% 17	18.67% 14	21.33% 16	18.67% 14	12.00% 9	75	3.41
Nature Center	37.35% 31	20.48% 17	21.69% 18	9.64% 8	9.64% 8	1.20% 1	83	4.63
Recreational Equipment Rental	28.21% 22	28.21% 22	14.10% 11	14.10% 11	5.13% 4	10.26% 8	78	4.29
Civic/Recreational Programming Space	12.99% 10	14.29% 11	28.57% 22	24.68% 19	16.88% 13	2.60% 2	77	3.74
Spaces to Rent Out	5.48% 4	8.22% 6	5.48% 4	16.44% 12	24.66% 18	39.73% 29	73	2.34
Training Space	21.33% 16	16.00% 12	13.33% 10	8.00% 6	16.00% 12	25.33% 19	75	3.43

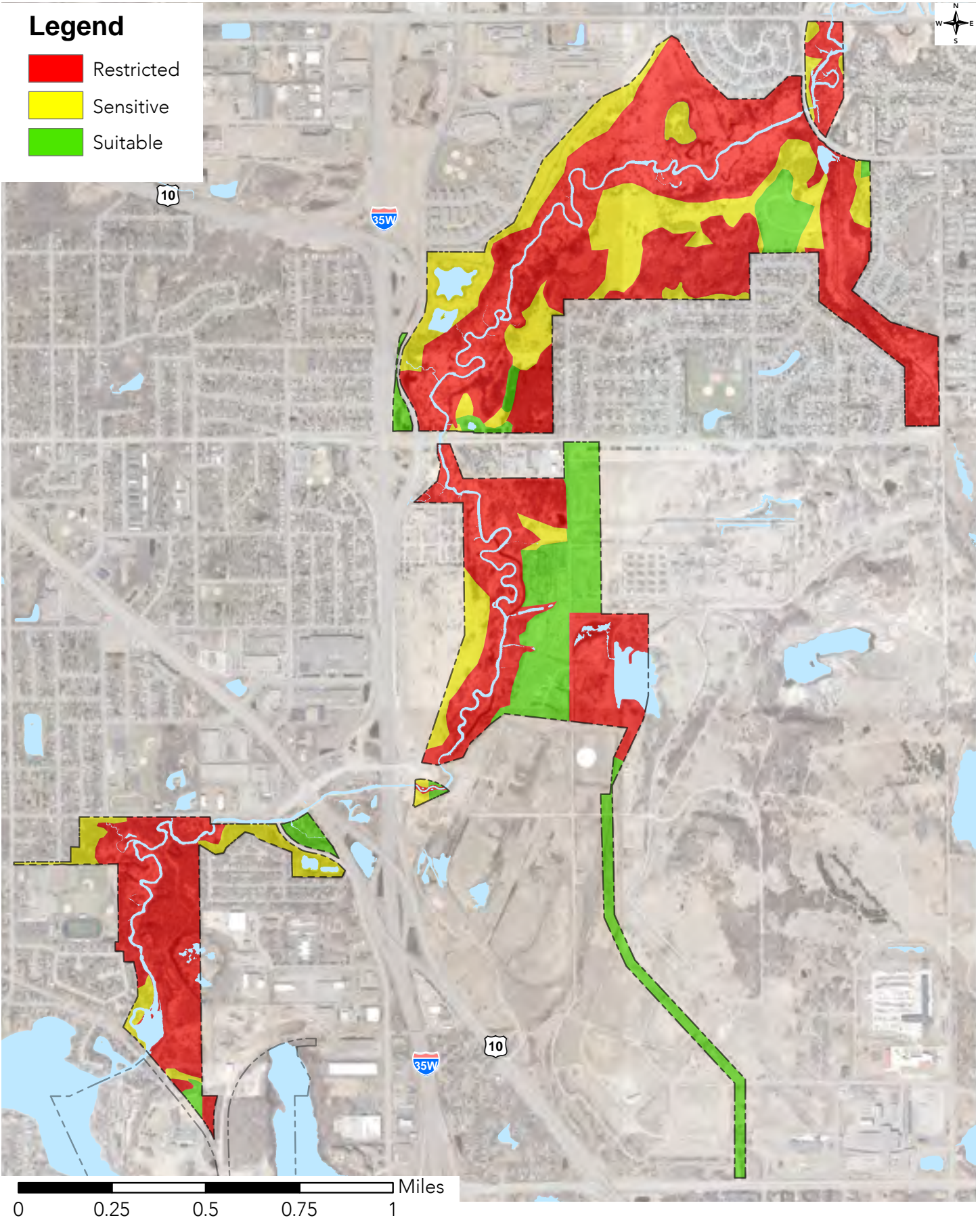
Appendix G: Online Survey #2
Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Q8 Are there any other solutions to the multi-season trail head site or its use that you would like to see?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 68

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Snowmaking I'd like to see planning incorporated for near-future snow making for winter trails.	12/5/2018 8:48 AM
2	No No	12/3/2018 12:05 PM
3	Programming I really like the history part of it- TCAAP has such a rich history to tell. Maybe outdoor or indoor movies in the park?	12/2/2018 8:42 PM
4	No No	12/2/2018 11:54 AM
5	Nature Preservation Keep it as natural, environmentally and wildlife friendly as possible. Minimal development	11/29/2018 4:16 PM
6	Showers/Lockerroom Showers/locker room	11/29/2018 3:40 PM
7	No no	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
8	Eco. Friendly Design Make it more eco friendly	11/20/2018 9:53 PM
9	Multi-Season/Warm Warming for skiers	11/18/2018 11:12 PM
10	No no	11/18/2018 8:20 PM
11	Health club Health club studio with professional instruction classes for strength training, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, etc...	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
12	No no	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
13	Everything If possible, it would be nice to incorporate all of the suggestions in question 7.	11/12/2018 9:38 PM
14	No no	11/12/2018 4:03 PM
15	N/A to question I'm all about incorporating mountain biking and cross country skiing, these sports are expanding like crazy throughout the metro and it will get a ton of use by both schools and the community.	11/12/2018 10:17 AM
16	Skating ice sheet Possibly a sheltered but essentially unheated skating rink, with refrigerated surface (because so many park rinks have sketchy ice due to irregular weather patterns)	11/9/2018 11:38 AM
17	Less build. Devel. I prefer to put more effort and cost into the trails than buildings.	11/9/2018 9:21 AM
18	No No	11/7/2018 4:39 PM
19	No No	11/6/2018 9:26 PM
20	No No	11/6/2018 10:31 AM
21	Flea market/Prog. Flea market might attract visitors to the trails and promote exercise	11/5/2018 11:47 PM
22	No no	11/5/2018 4:14 PM
23	Sheriff/security sheriff's mini station	11/2/2018 12:39 PM

Appendix H: Rice Creek North Regional Trail Development Suitability Map



Appendix I: Rice Creek North Regional Trail Natural Resource Management Budget

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Management Unit 1							
Acres	Current Landcover	Proposed Landcover	Restoration Activity	Activity Cost	Priority	Maintenance	Maintenance Cost/ 3 Years
0.98	Old Field	Prairie	Mow, Herbicide, RX Burn, Drill Seed	\$1,950.50	3	RX Burn, Foliar Spray of Herbaceous	\$1,029.00
1.75	Active Use	Active Use	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.81	Open Water	Open Water	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8.59	Oak Woods	Oak Woods	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn, Native Seed	\$30,067.97	2	RX Burn, Foliar Spray of Buckthorn	\$8,161.31
48.48	Wetland	Wetland	Monitor	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
54.03	Mixed Woods	Mixed Woods	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn, RX Burn, Native Seed	\$189,097.48	2	RX Burn, Foliar Spray of Buckthorn	\$27,013.93
Management Unit 1 Total							
118.63				\$221,115.95			\$36,204.23
Rice Creek North Regional Trail Management Unit 2							
Acres	Current Landcover	Proposed Landcover	Restoration Activity	Activity Cost	Priority	Maintenance	Maintenance Cost/ 3 Years
4.08	Active Use	Active Use	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
0.11	Shrub Swamp	Shrub Swamp	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn	\$220	3	Foliar Spray of Herbaceous	\$55.00
13.02	Oak Woods	Savanna 4.66 Acres, Oak Woods 8.36 Acres	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn, RX Burn, Native Seed	\$45,500.00	2	Foliar Spray of Buckthorn	\$6,510.00

Appendix I: Rice Creek North Regional Trail Natural Resource Management Budget

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Management Unit 2							
18.90	Mixed Woods	Savanna 7.21 Acres, Oak Woods 8.36 Acres	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn, RX Burn, Native Seed	\$45,570.00	2	Foliar Spray of Buckthorn	\$6,510.00
64.73	Wetland	Wetland	Monitor	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
126.57	Old Field	Savanna	Mow, Herbicide, RX Burn, Drill Seed	\$253,140.00	2	RX Burn, Foliar Spray of Herbaceous	\$63,285.00
Management Unit 2 Total							
227.41				\$336,730.00			\$79,300.00
Rice Creek North Regional Trail Management Unit 3							
Acres	Current Landcover	Proposed Landcover	Restoration Activity	Activity Cost	Priority	Maintenance	Maintenance Cost/ 3 Years
2.15	Cultivated Conifers	Oak Woods	Invasive Woody Removal and Haul Off Site, Mow, Herbicide, RX Burn, Drill Seed, Plant Oaks	\$3,200.00	3	Foliar Spray of Buckthorn	\$1,074.76
3.23	Active Use	Active Use	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5.28	Shrub Swamp	Shrub Swamp	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn	\$10,558.35	2	Foliar Spray of Buckthorn	\$2,639.59
6.30	Open Water	Open Water	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12.68	Oak Woods	Oak Woods	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn, RX Burn, Native Seed	\$44,391.25	2	RX Burn, Foliar Spray of Buckthorn	\$12,049.05
49.49	Prairie	Prairie	N/A	N/A	2	RX Burn, Foliar Spray of Herbaceous	\$34,624.83

Appendix I: Rice Creek North Regional Trail Natural Resource Management Budget

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Management Unit 3							
64.08	Old Field	Old Field 25.36 Acres	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Prairie 38.72 Acres	Mow, Herbicide, RX Burn, Drill Seed	\$77,440.00	2	Foliar Spray of Herbaceous	\$40,656.00
85.85	Mixed Woods	Mixed Woods	Invasive Woody Removal, Cut, Stump Treat, Stack & Burn	\$171,706.51	3	Foliar Spray of Herbaceous	\$25,755.98
216.74	Wetland	Wetland	Monitor	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Management Unit 3 Total							
448.81				\$307,296.11			\$116,800.21
Rice Creek North Regional Trail Total							
791.85				\$865,142.06			\$232,304.45

BUILDING 189

STRUCTURAL PRE-ASSESSMENT & PROGRAMMING



APRIL 2020

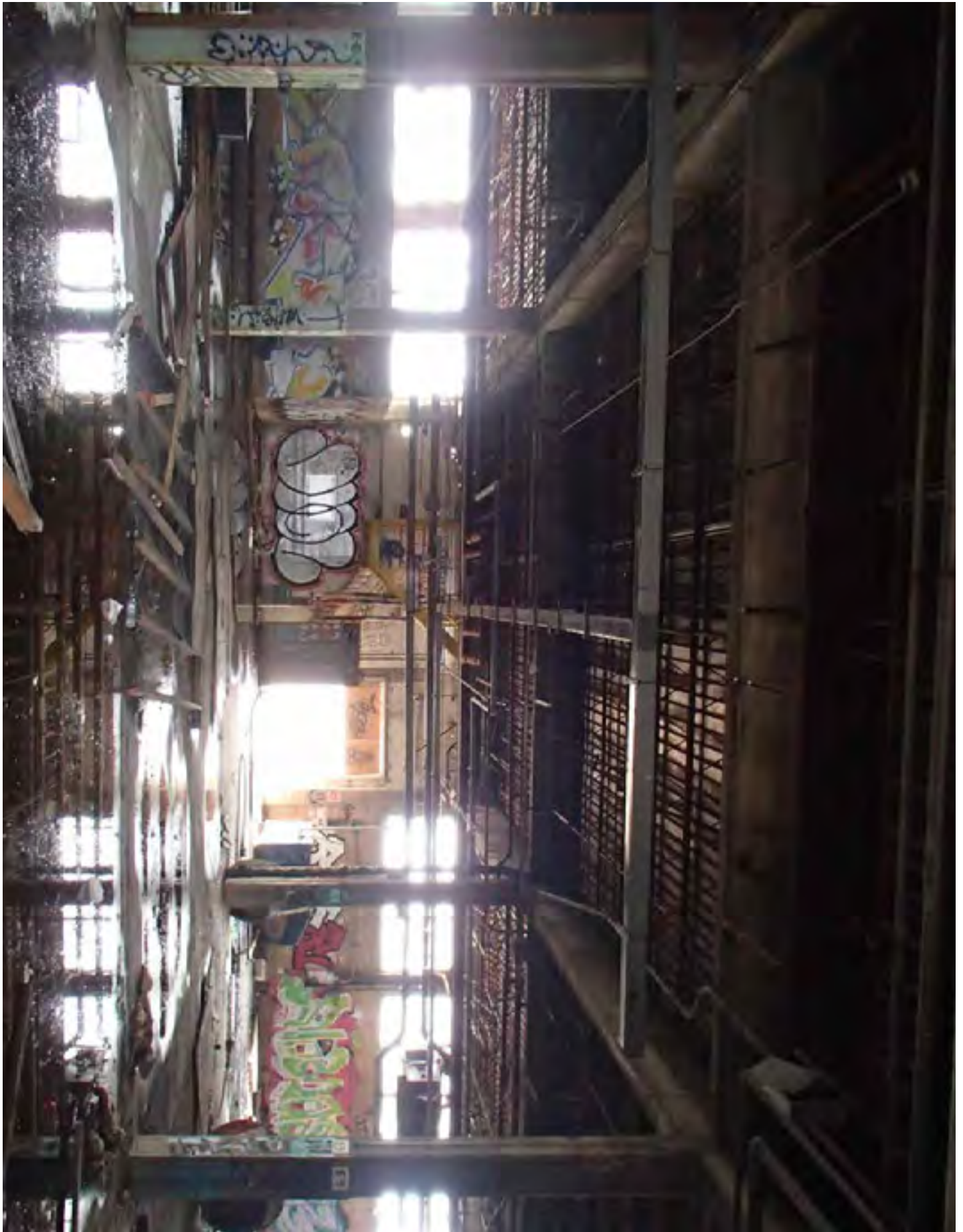
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Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report



01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2019, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation began a strategic small step that was intended to build on the 2018 System Plan for the Rice Creek North Region Trail, with a focus on the viability of reusing the existing and vacated Building 189.

The 2018 System Master Plan had an emphasis in significant opportunities for the central portion of the Regional trail it mere suggested the potential to revitalize and reuse Building 189 as structure that could serve the vision of an active and educational regional destination. This structural pre-assessment report's objective was three-fold: to avoid making capital investment decisions in the near term that precluded potentially higher priority uses over the long term; to make sure that the appropriate structure was in place when the time came for future use capital investments; and, to identify preliminary potential programs mixes that might be impact the existing structure and estimated construction costs.

This Preliminary Structural Assessment process was asked to be a cost effective and incremental process to determining if, and how, the existing structure could accommodate required structural code upgrades as well as contemporary County and community program activities.

Structural Assessment: Since Ramsey County was not beginning with a predetermined building program, a variety of concepts were generated to test the various impacts/needs for the structural, including potential reinforcing. The two part phase 1 structural pre-assessment determined the existing steel joists and concrete frame have sufficient capacity for the baseline one-story program needs with some reinforce for any increase roof loads. Additional structural design will be necessary to accommodate any final reuse of the facility.

Program and Concept Considerations: The development of the concepts is meant to test the compatibility of activities with the structure and to help derive rough order of magnitude (ROM) construction cost estimate. The process could not be limited to single program or extent of renovated facility, but instead needed to assess a variety of areas and configurations ranging from building partial use to building and level additions.

The assessments and analyses of existing Building 189 (structure and materials) included sustainable / environmental approaches ranging from adaptive reuse, regenerative solar energy, and embodied carbon. All practices supporting Ramsey County Parks and Recreation's environmental goals

This reports serves as a flexible planning program and framework to examine future development and forecast financial investments in adaptive reuse of Building 189. This structural pre-assessment includes program studies, preliminary structural analysis, environmental approaches and ROM construction cost estimates.

Approaches (1-3 years)

- Additional building assessments and hazard material testing.
- Market study of viable regional programs and partners
- Community engagement process to define community assets and programs
- Advance sustainability by examining potentials to net zero, or net positive facility

Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report



02 INTRODUCTION

To advance the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Master Plan as well as the vision for the Rice Creek North Regional Park, a structural pre-assessment report was completed to determine the viability of full or partial adaptive reuse of Building 189. This existing large warehouse may serve a variety of functions ranging from environmental learning center to a staging area for major cross-country skiing and other trail events.

This report includes structural pre-assessment of existing building structure, potential programs for the facility and rough order of magnitude costs for structural upgrades associated with potential programs. Its purpose is to assist Ramsey County in the determination of whether to renovate, replace, or demolish portions, or the entirety, of the existing structure as part of realizing the vision of Rice Creek North Regional Park as destination serving the entire metropolitan region and greater Minnesota.

Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

03 STATEMENT OF NEED

Determining the viability of Building 189 is critical to Parks and Recreation's master plan. Building 189 may play an important role in the future regional park as the master plan states:

"Building 189, the only building still standing from TCAAP located in the central segment of the trail, has been identified as a potential site for repurposing the building for multiple uses. The developed site may include a trailhead facility, picnic tables, restrooms, parking, interpretive and educational uses, a large event space, and a satellite maintenance facility. The area surrounding Building 189 may host some of these uses as well as serve as an outdoor recreation area for playgrounds, passive recreation, habitat restoration, stormwater mitigation and an improved trail access point."

This multi-part structural pre-assessment helps Ramsey County in making decision about investing in additional building assessments of Building 189. An incremental assessment approach to analyzing existing structures is

recommend for a facility with characteristic of Building 189, which include its era of construction, its duration of unused, and the variability of potential reuse programs. Part 1A of the preliminary structural assessment included roof joist review, general structural conditions assessment and preliminary program compatibility; Part 1B included concrete roof beam investigation and evaluation along with preliminary program compatibility updates.

This structural pre-assessment, coupled with conceptual programs studies and rough order of magnitude (ROM) estimated construction costs, assists Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in determining the future of Building 189; it's ability to serve the vision and needs of the future Rice Creek North Regional Park.

Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report



Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMS + CONCEPTS

Diverse program activities and spaces are essential to the development of a successful and active community recreation building. Derived from the current master plan vision, as well as existing local and national precedents, the following list identifies potential activities and space types. The International Building Code's (IBC's) occupancy types are provided to assist with future program development and structural compatibility assessment . Additional occupancy types may be identified during community engagement and detailed program development.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dining Hall • Gallery • Community Gathering • Exhibit • Lecture / Seminar | <p>Assembly Group A-2 and A-3</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Administration • Adult Education / Training • Café | <p>Business Group B</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education through 12th grade | <p>Education Group E</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle Repair Shop | <p>Factory Group F</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Store | <p>Mercantile Group M</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and Material Storage | <p>Storage Group S-1 and S-2</p> |

Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

Concept 1 - Adventure Center

The new Rice Creek Adventure Center Trailhead will serve as a gateway to Ramsey County's existing and expanding world class trail system and parks network.

The rehabilitated Building 189 will house a full service trail shop with gear rental and maintenance center for all season's of sports, as well as a gym, lockers and administrative space. All outdoor center program will take up about 1/3 of the existing building 189.

Another 1/3 will be dedicated to a new cafe, event center, and kitchen space, facilitating activity beyond just the trails.

Finally, the last 1/3 of building 189 will be hollowed out and opened to the elements, creating a seasonal and dynamic plaza able to accommodate a variety of programs from cafe seating to festivals and markets.

Cost Breakdown

City Building Permit, SAC/WAC Allowance	5.00%	\$396,578
Special Inspections Allowance	0.50%	\$39,658
Design & Construction Contingency	15.00%	\$1,255,170
Temp. Facilities, Controls, and Construction Aids	2.50%	\$240,574
General Conditions, Insurance, Bonds & Fee	12.50%	\$1,232,943
SUB-TOTAL		\$7,931,565
TOTAL		\$11,096,489



Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

Concept 2 - Nature Center

The new Rice Creek Nature Center & Trailhead will serve as a gateway to Ramsey County's existing and expanding world class trail system and parks network and a laboratory for exploration and learning through galleries and a natural environment exhibitions.

The rehabilitated Building 189 will house a full service trail shop with gear rental and maintenance center for all seasons of sports, as well as a gym, lockers and administrative space. All outdoor center program will take up about 1/3 of the existing building 189.

Another 1/3 will be dedicated to a new cafe, event center, and kitchen space, facilitating activity beyond just the trails.

Finally, the last 1/3 of building 189 will create a series of galleries, exhibit spaces, and lecture halls to engage and educate the public on the unique site ecology and provide a backdrop for local and community art and engagement.

Cost Breakdown

City Building Permit, SAC/WAC Allowance	5.00%	\$561,068
Special Inspections Allowance	0.50%	\$56,107
Design & Construction Contingency	15.00%	\$1,775,179
Temp. Facilities, Controls, and Construction Aids	2.50%	\$340,358
General Conditions, Insurance, Bonds & Fee	12.50%	\$1,744,333
SUB-TOTAL		\$11,221,354
TOTAL		\$15,698,998



Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

Concept 3 - Event Center & Trailhead

The new Rice Creek Adventure Center Trailhead will serve as a gateway to Ramsey County's existing and expanding world class trail system and parks network, Ramsey County Park's new administrative offices, and a destination event space, all set inside a restored North Metro park complex.

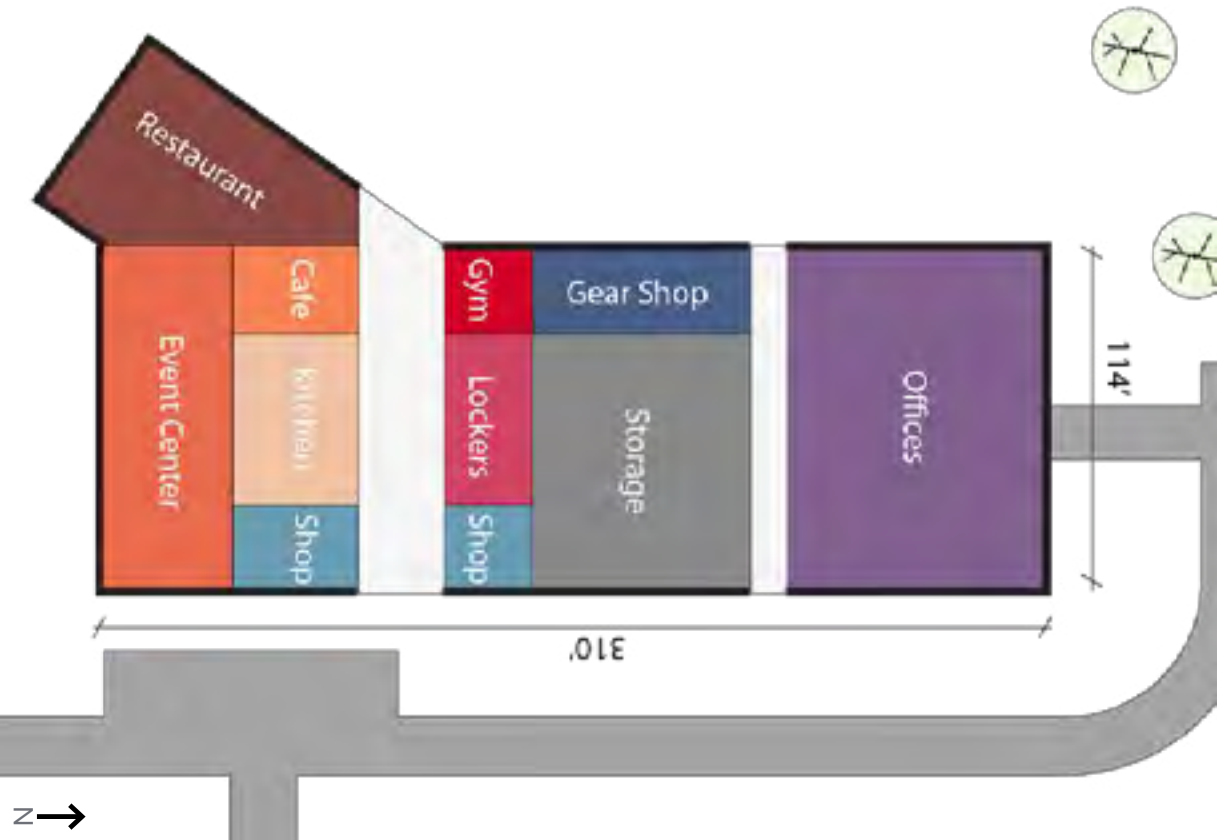
The rehabilitated Building 189 will house a full service trail shop with gear rental and maintenance center for all seasons of sports, as well as a gym, lockers and administrative space.

Another portion will be dedicated to a new cafe, event center, and kitchen space, facilitating activity beyond just the trails. An addition of a restaurant will provide a destination for the regional community.

Finally, the last 1/3 of building 189 will be converted into a collaborative and engaged office for Ramsey County Parks. Set amongst the trail network and park, the new office will be directly connected to the outdoor recreation it curates and facilitates.

Cost Breakdown

City Building Permit, SAC/WAC Allowance	5.00%	\$649,416
Special Inspections Allowance	0.50%	\$64,942
Design & Construction Contingency	15.00%	\$2,055,401
Temp. Facilities, Controls, and Construction Aids	2.50%	\$393,952
General Conditions, Insurance, Bonds & Fee	12.50%	\$2,019,003
SUB-TOTAL		\$12,988,316
TOTAL		\$18,171,030



Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

Concept 4 - Two-Level Trailhead & Administrative Center

The new Rice Creek Adventure Center Trailhead will serve as a gateway to Ramsey County's existing and expanding world class trail system and parks network, Ramsey County Park's new administrative offices, and a destination event space, all set inside a restored North Metro park complex.

The rehabilitated Building 189 will house a full service trail shop with gear rental and maintenance center for all season's of sports, as well as a gym, lockers and administrative space.

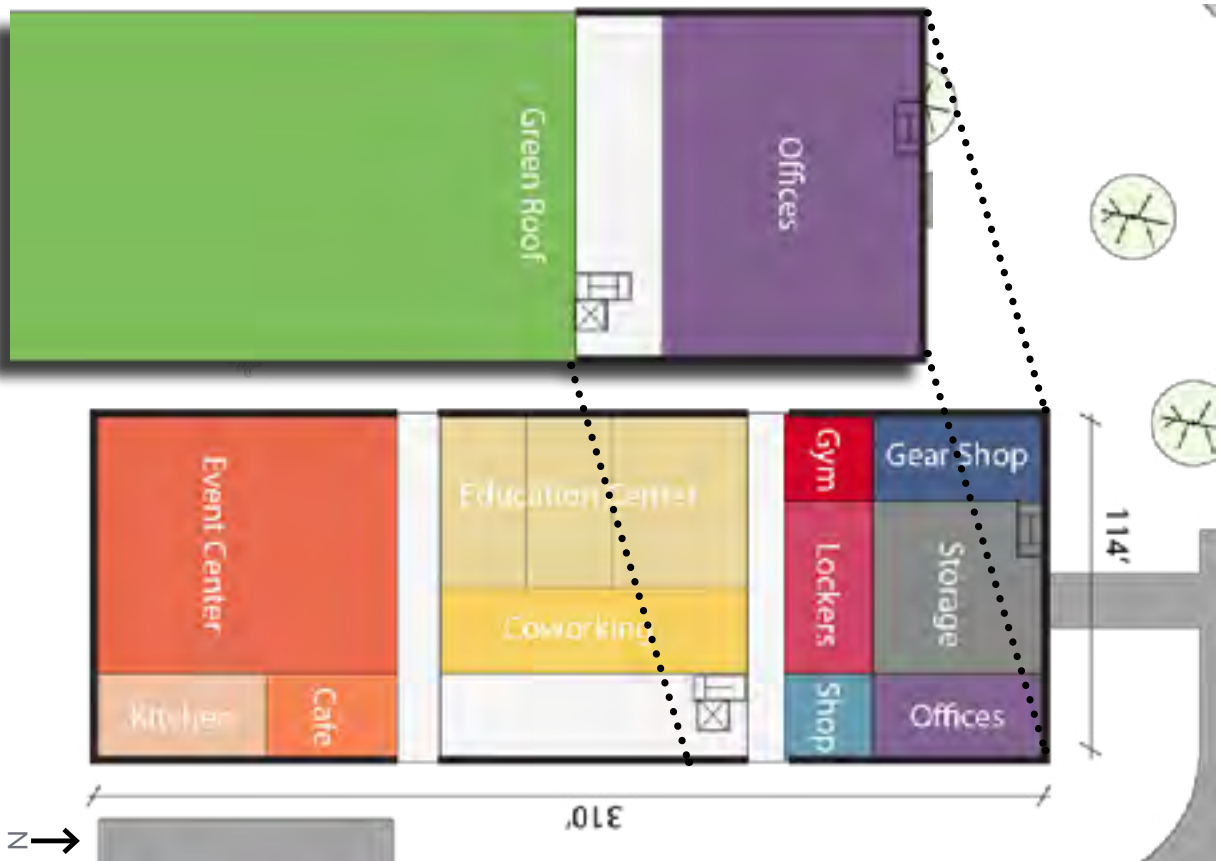
Another portion will be dedicated to a new cafe, event center, and kitchen space, facilitating activity beyond just the trails. Additionally, co-working spaces and an education center will fill out the ground floor programming.

Finally, a new Ramsey County Parks office space and community green roof will occupy a new second floor, taking in 360 degree views of the restored parkland, north metro community, and regional trail system.

Cost Breakdown

- City Building Permit, SAC/WAC Allowance
- Special Inspections Allowance
- Design & Construction Contingency
- Temp. Facilities, Controls, and Construction Aids
- General Conditions, Insurance, Bonds & Fee

SUB-TOTAL		\$15,389,760
5.00%	\$769,488	
0.50%	\$76,949	
15.00%	\$2,435,429	
2.50%	\$466,791	
12.50%	\$2,392,302	
TOTAL		\$21,530,718



Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

Concept 5 - Trailhead, Park Office & Maintenance

The new Rice Creek Adventure Center Trailhead will serve as a gateway to Ramsey County's existing and expanding world class trail system and parks network, a destination event space, and park maintenance and storage.

The rehabilitated Building 189 will house a full service trail shop with gear rental and maintenance center for all season's of sports, as well as a gym, lockers and administrative space.

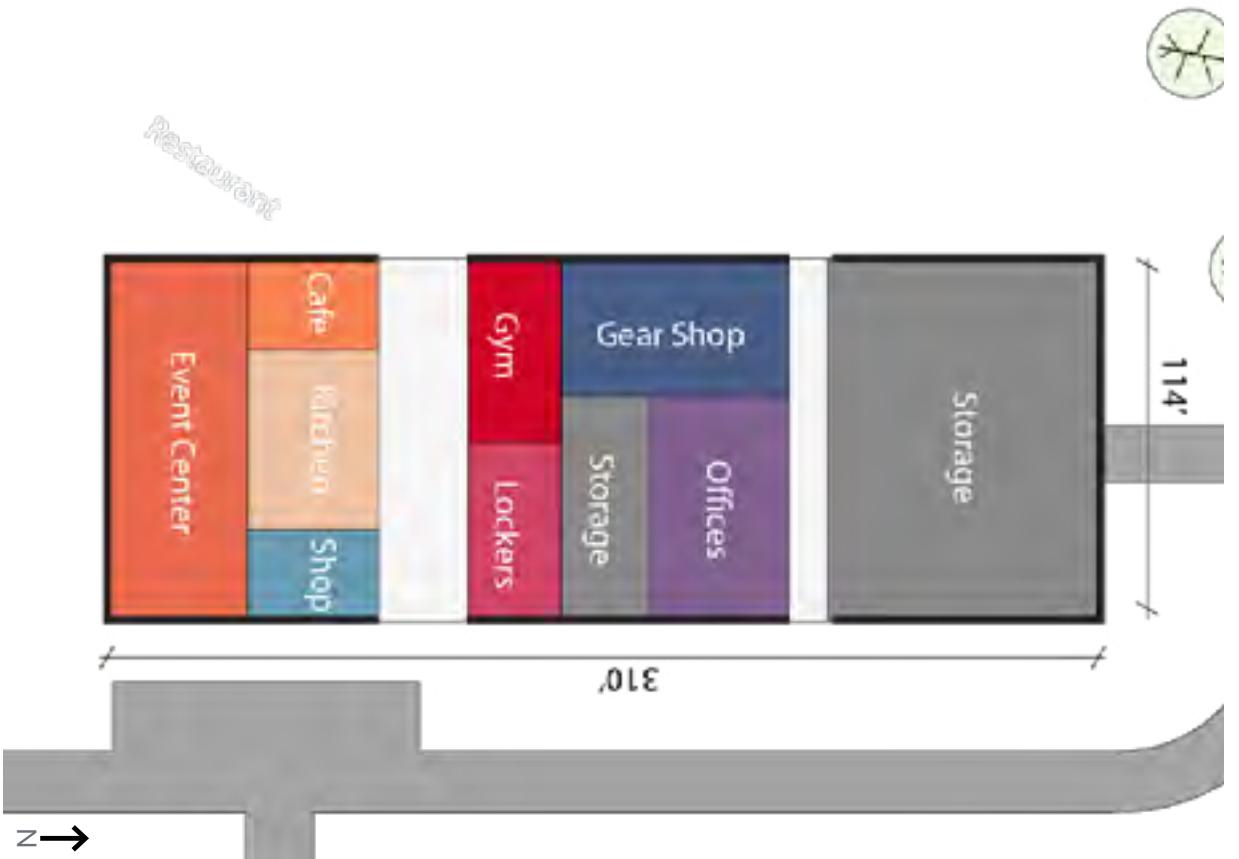
Another portion will be dedicated to a new cafe, event center, and kitchen space, facilitating activity beyond just the trails.

Finally, maintenance and storage will occupy the remaining program space in Building 189, allowing convenient access and maintenance of the new sprawling park.

Cost Breakdown

City Building Permit, SAC/MWAC Allowance
Special Inspections Allowance
Design & Construction Contingency
Temp. Facilities, Controls, and Construction Aids
General Conditions, Insurance, Bonds & Fee

SUB-TOTAL		\$10,036,959
5.00%	\$501,848	
0.50%	\$50,185	
15.00%	\$1,588,349	
2.50%	\$304,434	
12.50%	\$1,560,222	
TOTAL	\$14,041,995	



Appendix J: Building 189 Structural Pre-Assessment & Programming Report

Site Utilities

- Storm water, sanitary, domestic water
- Gas main and meter by local utility – Owner cost
- Electrical and main transformer by local utility – Owner cost
- Low voltage/fiber main and pedestal by local utility – Owner cost

General Conditions

- City building permit, SAC/MAC allowance Special inspections allowance
- Design and Construction contingency
- Temporary Facilities, Controls, Construction Aids, Waste Management General Conditions, Insurance, Bonds & Fee

Construction Cost Estimate – Exclusions – Owner Costs

- Design & Engineering fees
- Hazardous material testing & abatement
- Electrical, Gas, and Low Voltage/Fiber utilities – by local utility to bring utilities to transformer, pedestal, and meter as required for contractor to tie-into
- 3rd party owner’s representation County project management fees
- 3rd party commissioning
- Owner contingency
- Furniture, fixtures, computers, servers, switches, phones B3 or LEED project management, tracking – if applicable

*Note – these Owner costs could range between 25% - 35% of the overall construction cost/budget

Estimated Construction Costs Per Program Concept

Preliminary costs estimate based upon unit costs and preliminary structural assessments and conceptual programming. See Appendix D for detailed estimated costs.

Outdoor Adventure	\$11,096,489	\$495.05/GSF
Nature Center	\$15,698,998	\$447.01/GSF
Admin + Event Center	\$18,171,030	\$454.28/GSF
Adventure Center + Offices	\$21,530,718	\$448.56/GSF
Adventure Center + Park Maintenance	\$14,041,995	\$399.83/GSF
Range of Estimated Construction Costs	Low	High
Whole Building Demolition	\$300,000	\$400,000
Replacement Building	\$375 per GSF	\$425 per GSF

Escalation per Year

Estimated construction costs increase annually up to the mid-point of construction. The following multipliers are to be applied depending on the estimated construction year and schedule:

Construction Start - Year	Escalation Multiplier
2021	5.00%
2022	7.50%
2023	10.00%
2024	12.50%
2025	15.00%
2026	17.50%
2027	20.00%
2028	22.50%
2029	25.00%
2030	27.50%

09 RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Building 189's structure has the potential to serve as the framework for a transformative adaptive reuse. As a vital piece to realizing the vision of a destination regional park, the recommended next steps include:

- Community engagement to uncover potential reuse options and additional program activity development serving the diverse communities that would benefit from the master plan development.
- Additional market analysis to identify potential public and private partners as well as to determine viable market catchment area associated with various programs. This study may also analyze operational/maintenance costs and sales/revenue associated with non-profit and for profit program and partner
- Geotechnical investigation if potential "new load" type roof applications (vertical expansion, green roof, solar, rooftop deck) may warrant geotechnical investigation with the building and/or around the perimeter to determine what could be achieved for new foundation soil capacities.
- Environmental testing to determine any long term costs associated with abatement or other reuse options.

Municipal Support



**CITY OF ARDEN HILLS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-022

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT TO THE
RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, Ramsey County established the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan in 1998 and completed an amendment to the master plan in 2003, and 2013; and

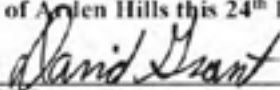
WHEREAS, Ramsey County has submitted an amendment, attached as Exhibit A, to update the master plan for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 master plan amendment incorporates long-term site and infrastructure improvements, recreation improvements, and additional recreational opportunities throughout the regional trail corridor including but not limited to a new trailhead regional trailhead and outdoor recreation area south of County Road I; access drive and bituminous trail connections from County Road I; cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails; improve existing and expand natural surface grass trails; habitat restoration; improved connections to Rice Creek; improve existing and expand bituminous multi-use trails; improvements to existing trail heads focused on increased parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, improved wayfinding signage, and improved canoe/kayak launches; and additional vehicular and pedestrian access points; and enhanced road crossings and at intersections; and additional nature based recreation programming; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arden Hills staff have reviewed the plan and supports the amendment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.

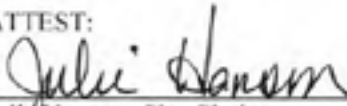
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Arden Hills, Minnesota that the City of Arden Hills supports the amendment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Arden Hills this 24th Day of June, 2019.



David Grant, Mayor

ATTEST:



Julie Hanson, City Clerk

Municipal Support

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA
HELD JULY 15, 2019**

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a meeting of the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota was duly called and held at the Shoreview City Hall in said City at 7:00 PM.

The following members were present: Johnson, Quigley, Springhorn, Denkinger, Mayor Martin

And the following members were absent: None

Member Johnson introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-71

WHEREAS, Ramsey County established the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan in 1998 and completed an amendment to the master plan in 2003, and 2013; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has submitted an amendment, attached as Exhibit A, to update the master plan for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 master plan amendment incorporates long-term site and infrastructure improvements, recreation improvements, and additional recreational opportunities throughout the regional trail corridor including but not limited to a new trailhead regional trailhead and outdoor recreation area south of County Road I; access drive and bituminous trail connections from County Road I; cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails; improve existing and expand natural surface grass trails; habitat restoration; improved connections to Rice Creek; improve existing and expand bituminous multi-use trails; improvements to existing trail heads focused on increased parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, improved wayfinding signage, and improved canoe/kayak launches; and additional vehicular and pedestrian access points; and enhanced road crossings and at intersections; and additional nature based recreation programming; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shoreview Bike and Trails Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and staff have reviewed the plan and supports the amendment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of Shoreview, Minnesota supports the amendment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.

The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Denkinger and upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: All.


Municipal Support

And the following voted against the same: None

Adopted this 15th day of July, 2019


Sandy Martin, Mayor
Shoreview City Council

ATTEST:


Terry Schwert, City Manager

Municipal Support

RESOLUTION NO. ~~2019-055~~
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
CITY OF NEW BRIGHTON

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RAMSEY COUNTY'S AMENDMENT TO THE
RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, Ramsey County established the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan in 1998 and completed an amendment to the master plan in 2003, and 2013; and

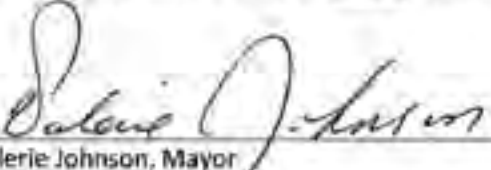
WHEREAS, Ramsey County has submitted an amendment to update the master plan for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor; and

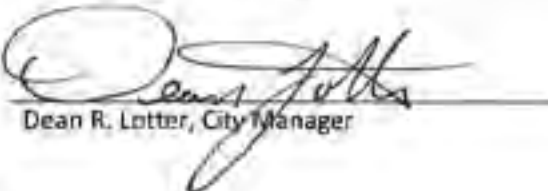
WHEREAS, the 2019 master plan amendment incorporates long-term site and infrastructure improvements, recreation improvements, and additional recreational opportunities throughout the regional trail corridor including but not limited to a new trailhead regional trailhead and outdoor recreation area south of County Road I; access drive and bituminous trail connections from County Road I; cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails; improve existing and expand natural surface grass trails; habitat restoration; improved connections to Rice Creek; improve existing and expand bituminous multi-use trails; improvements to existing trail heads focused on increased parking, restrooms, drinking fountains, improved wayfinding signage, and improved canoe/kayak launches; and additional vehicular and pedestrian access points; and enhanced road crossings and at intersections; and additional nature based recreation programming; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Brighton staff and the Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission have reviewed the plan and support the amendment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of New Brighton, Minnesota, that the City of New Brighton supports the amendment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.

ADOPTED this 11th day of June by the New Brighton City Council with a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays (Allen absent)


Valerie Johnson, Mayor


Dean R. Lotter, City Manager

ATTEST:


Terri Spangrud, City Clerk

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners Resolution



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

Presented by: Commissioner MatasCastillo Date: September 15, 2020 No. 82020-184
Attention: Parks and Recreation

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department has prepared an amendment to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan to accurately reflect acquisition and development plans for the entire regional trail corridor that runs from County Road J to Long Lake Regional as well as a trail extension within the central portion of the corridor that will connect with the Highway 96 Regional Trail; and

WHEREAS, The County Board, by Resolution 1998-234, approved the original Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2003, the County Board approved an amendment to the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan for the addition of the Wildlife Corridor; and

WHEREAS, On January 19, 2010, the County Board approved an amendment for a 30-acre trail extension to connect into Highway 96 and a 29-acre trailhead access to support seasonal trail use on National Guard property; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 2013, the County Board approved an amendment to the Rice Creek North Regional Master Plan for the central section of the Rice Creek Corridor between County Road I and Interstate 35W to identify future capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, Staff initiated a master plan amendment process in June 2018 including development of the design concept and a draft master plan amendment document; and

WHEREAS, This master plan amendment identifies long-term future capital improvement projects for the entire regional trail corridor that will enhance outdoor recreation and programming opportunities; and

WHEREAS, This proposed amendment reflects a master plan that was supported by the Cities of Arden Hills, Mounds View, New Brighton, and Shoreview in addition to the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission in 2019;

WHEREAS, The Parks' department recommends approval of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment dated August 17, 2020; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment dated August 17, 2020 for submission to the Metropolitan Council.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

| | YEA | NAY | OTHER |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Nicole Frethern | X | | |
| Trista MatasCastillo | X | | |
| Jim McDonough | X | | |
| Mary Jo McGuire | X | | |
| Rafael Ortega | X | | |
| Victoria Reinhardt | X | | |
| Toni Carter | X | | |

Toni Carter, Chair

By: 
Janet M. Guthrie
Chief Clerk – County Board