

# Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan

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DRAFT 4-1-2019

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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.

This master plan replaces and updates the 1998 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master plan, along with the amendments made in 2003 and 2013. The 2019 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan is written to fulfill the requirements of the Metropolitan Council for regional trail master plans for as outlined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

## 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 climate resiliency, foster healthy outcomes, connect communities, and enhancing the quality of life in the region
- 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 of gathering spaces, increasing and diversifying 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

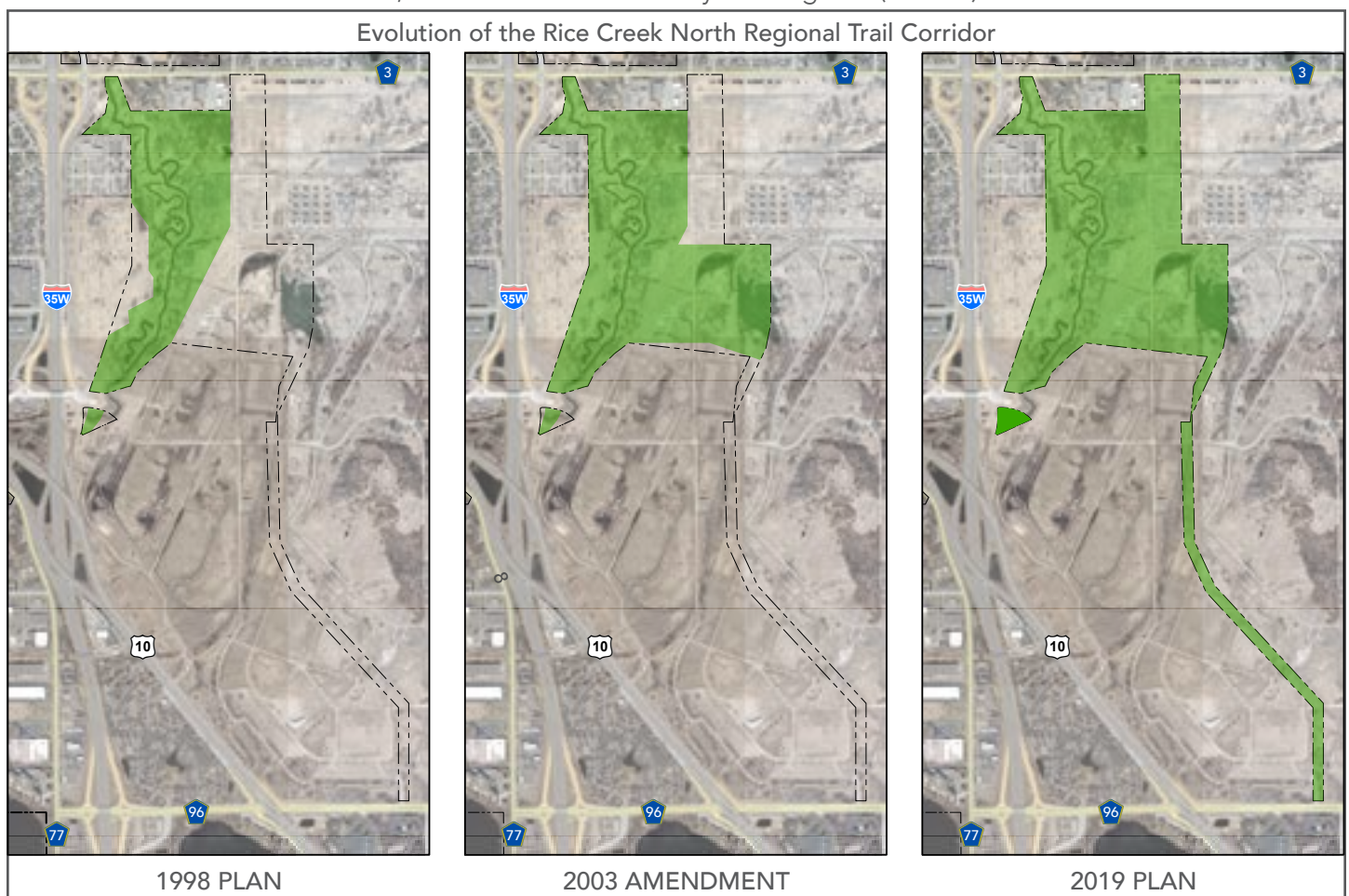
The 14 mile Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor extends from Rice Creek West Regional Trail at Long Lake Regional Park in Ramsey County to Rice Creek Lake Chain of Lakes Regional Trail in Anoka County. Development of the Ramsey County segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail has occurred as 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. Acquisition of land followed with the approval of the Shoreview (North) segment in 1972, 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 acquisition of the New Brighton - Mounds View (South) segment was approved next in 1973, 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, and on the west by Irondale High School. The Arden Hills (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, and on the west by Interstate Highway 35-W. The Central section had not seen any acquisitions made due to the presence of the Twin Cities Army Ammunitions Plant, however 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 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 plan 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 Master Plan identified 113 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 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).



In 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 60 acres to be transferred to Ramsey County Parks & Recreation for the regional trail corridor which included the wildlife corridor area for a total of 93 acres. This would extend the park corridor to County Road I to facilitate the 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 corridor that will establish a trail and prairie corridor to Highway 96 on the South. This this land transfer was completed



in 2019. As a part of this amendment the county also identified an easement to be obtained for the recreational use of a 15-acre parcel from the United States.

Recreational development within the corridor has also 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, with a trail head parking lot and entry drive anticipated in 2019. The final section of trail from County Road H to Long Lake Regional Park was constructed in 2016.

Several major natural resource related projects have also occurred within the corridor, the most dramatic being the re-meandering of the creek by the Rice Creek Watershed district completed in 2015.

## 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 park 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. In an effort 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 Communications reached out to individual County Commissioners so that they had the opportunity to attend and let their constituents know of the events
- Ramsey County Communications alerted targeted engagement partners, this list may be found in the appendix
- Ramsey County Communications 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

### Public Engagement Meeting #1

The first public engagement meeting for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan 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 5-10 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 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 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 in an effort 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 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 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 Sits**

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.

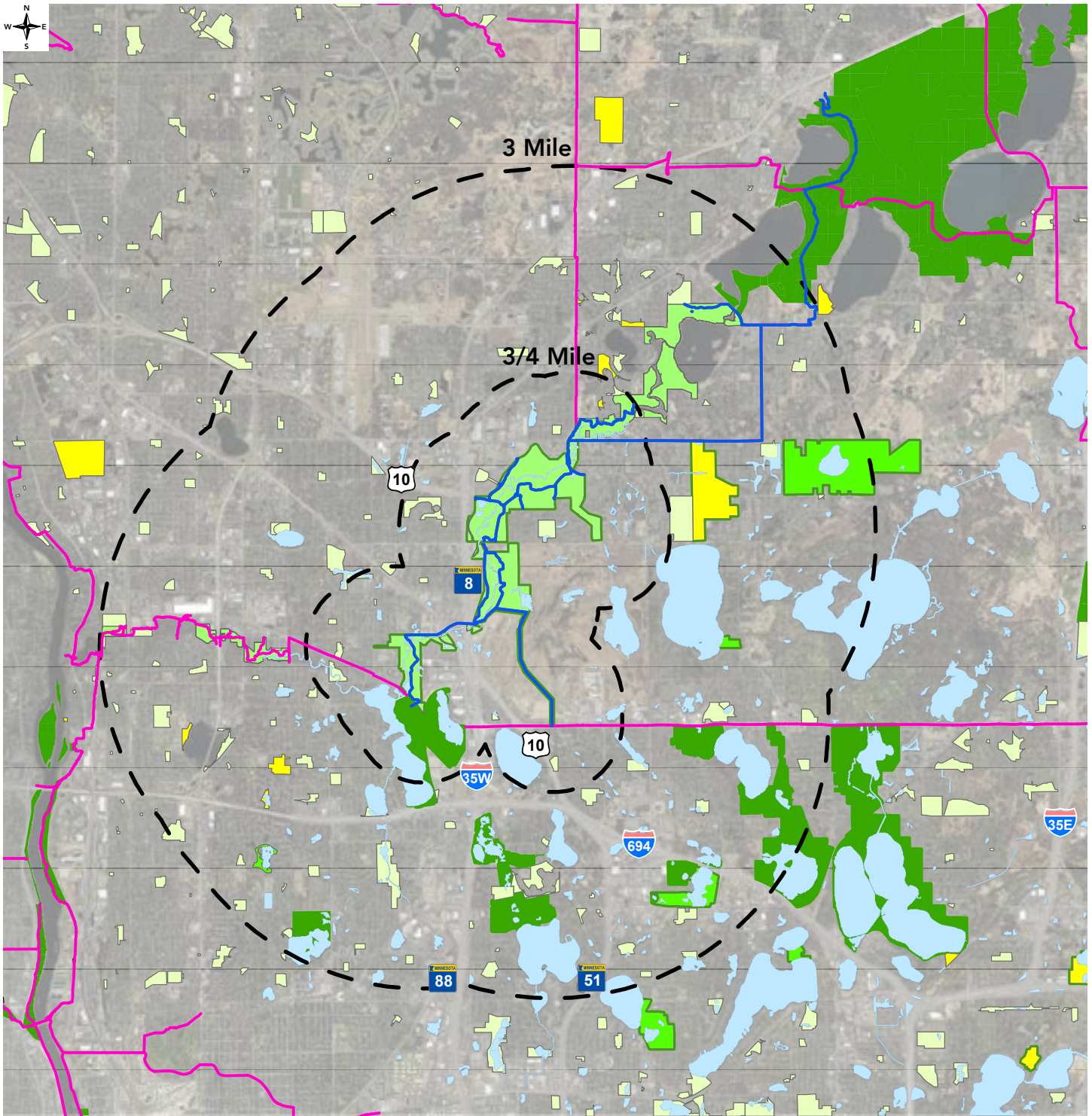
## **Arden Hills Truck Station and MnDOT Training Facility**

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 futures for these uses, other related uses, and the site.

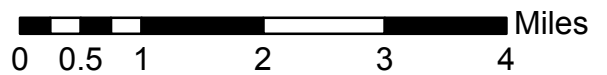
**Rice Creek North Regional Trail 3/4 Mile and 3 Mile Service Areas**

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



## 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.

(Comments From Municipalities go here)

## Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Commission

## Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

## 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

**Table 1 Metropolitan Council 2017 Parks System Use Estimates**

Regional Park or Trail	Summer Visits	Winter Visits	Spring/Fall Visits	Other Visits	Total Visits
<b>Ramsey County</b>					
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
<b>Anoka County</b>					
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

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 section of trail as a part of the redevelopment of TCAAP. 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 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

**Table 2 Population Projections**

County & City	2010 Census	2020	2030	2040	Percent Change
<b>Ramsey County</b>					
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%
<b>Anoka County</b>					
Blaine	57,186	66,300	76,700	87,300	53%
Circle Pines	4,918	5,000	5,200	5,300	8%

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.

Future acquisition is proposed for the trail corridor when properties become available. A summary of potential properties includes:

#### Adjacent Residential

At this time 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 Rice Creek North Regional Trail when properties become available. Master planning activities would be required to determine potential recreation uses for any acquisition or expansion.

#### MnDOT Arden Hills Training Center and Truck Station

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation has an interest in acquiring the land currently housing the MnDot 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. MnDOT is currently undergoing a master planning process to determine the future use(s) of this site.



Linking Bridge - Central Segment

## 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 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.
2. **MnDOT Arden Hills Training Center & Truck Station:** MNDOT is in the midst 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 lay will lay out potential futures for the uses, and other related uses of the site. The plan is not designed to present a definitive recommendation, but to help decision makers at MnDOT 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 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 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 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 for to trail areas, necessary infrastructure, and site amenities may be required in the future to continue providing a high quality trail experience.



Building 189 Exterior

- 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 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 is sparsely developed currently, 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.

The south segment of the trail 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:

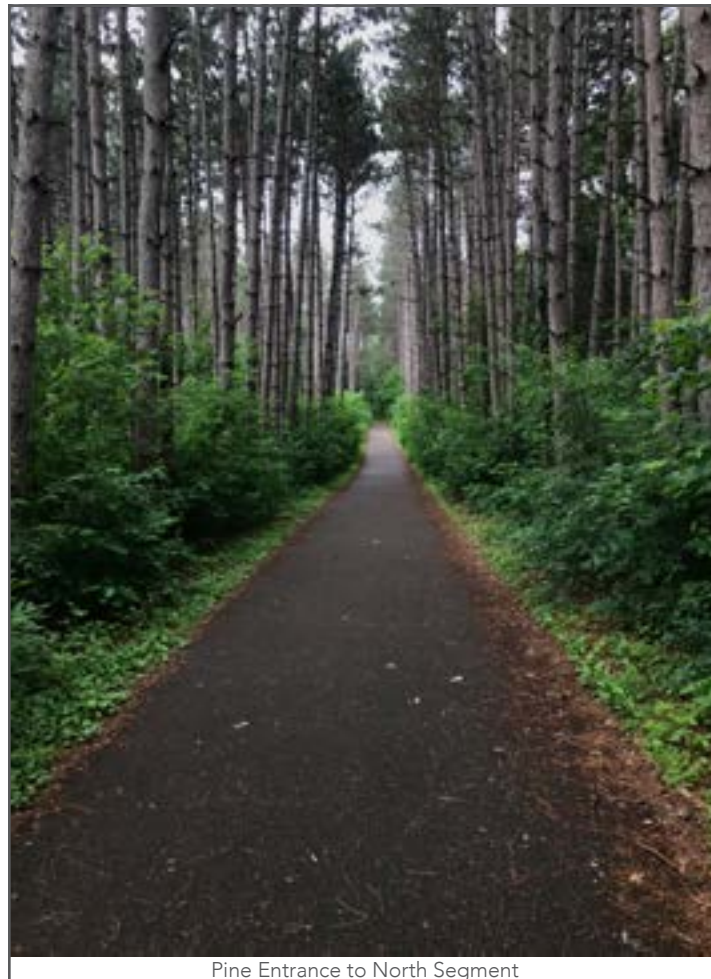
- 1.24 miles of cross country ski trails maintained by Irondale High School
  - These trails are also mowed in the summer providing a nice trail running/hiking route
- 2 connecting trails to the local community



- 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

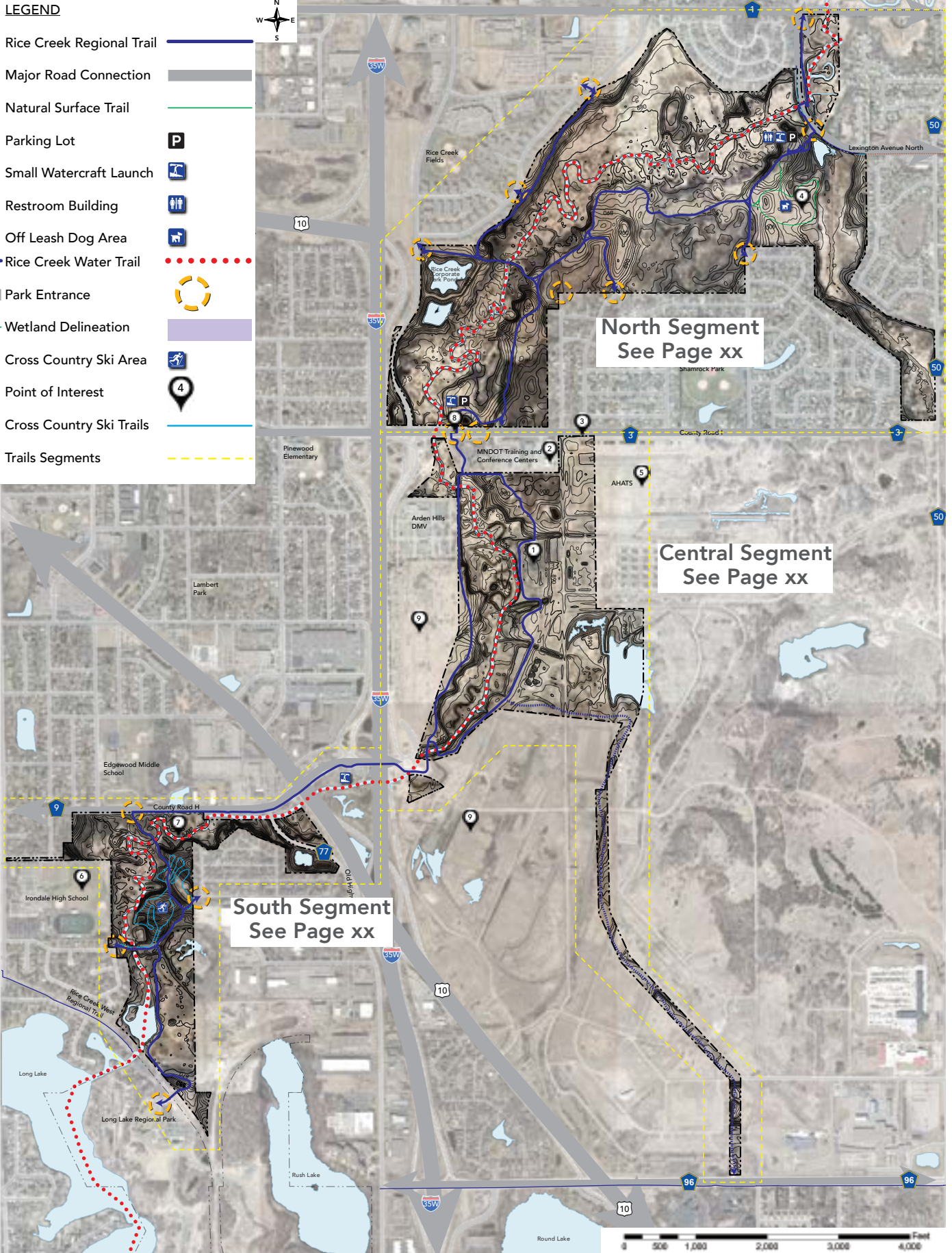


Pine Entrance to North Segment

**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 xx

**Central Segment**  
See Page xx

**South Segment**  
See Page xx

## 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.

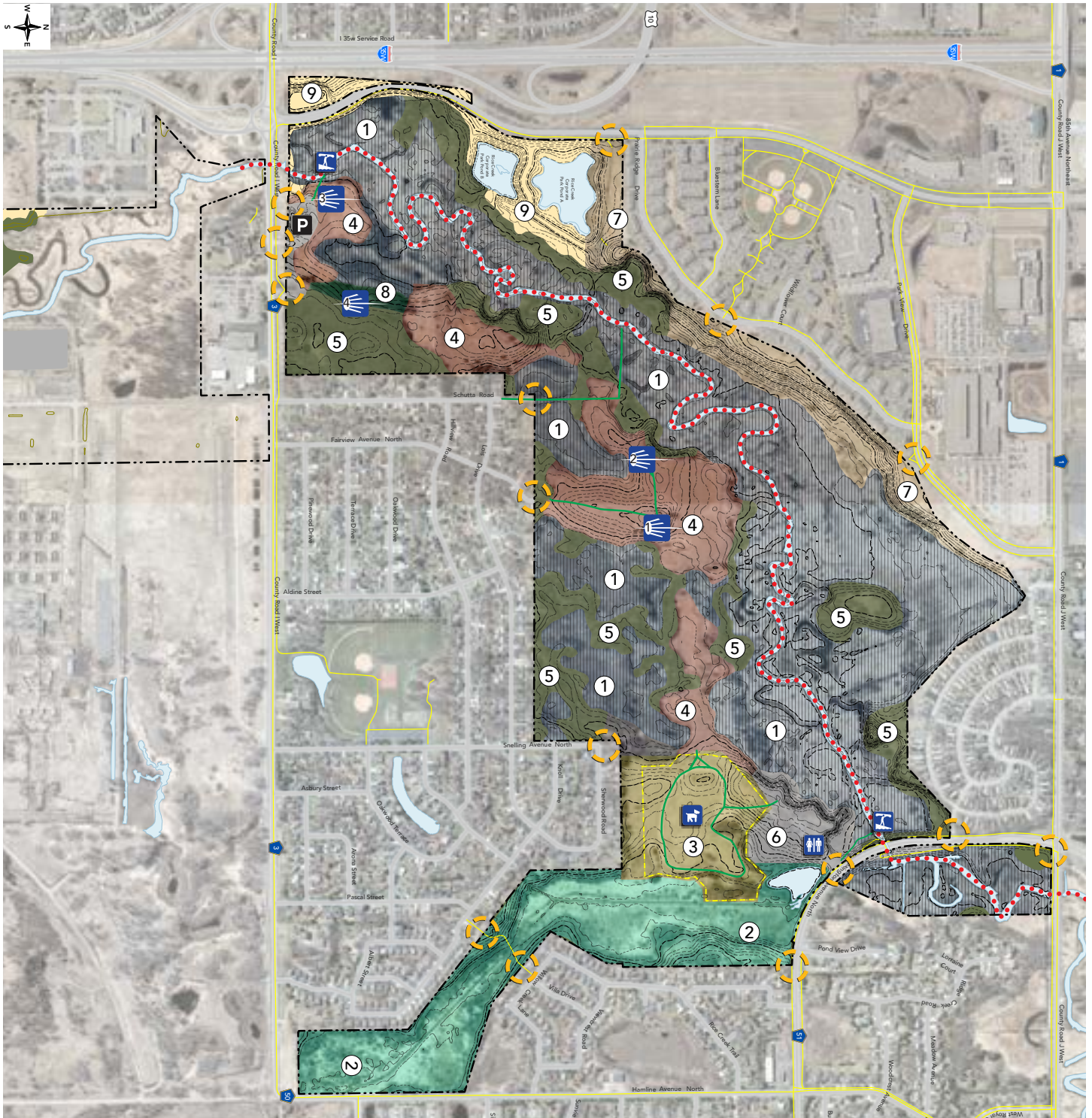
### **Carp Management & Water Trail Portage** ⑭

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**

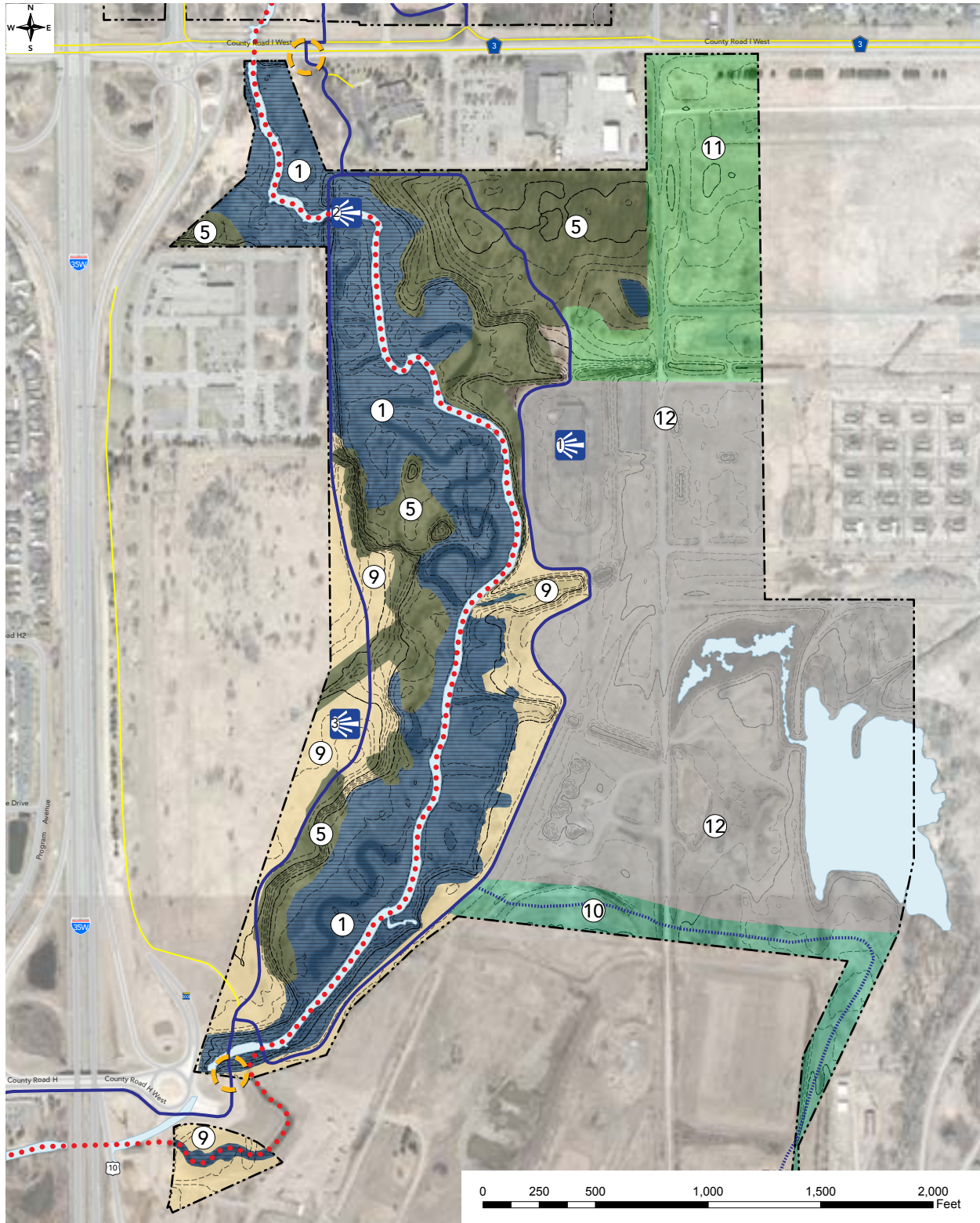


0 375 750 1,500 2,250 3,000 Feet

**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			

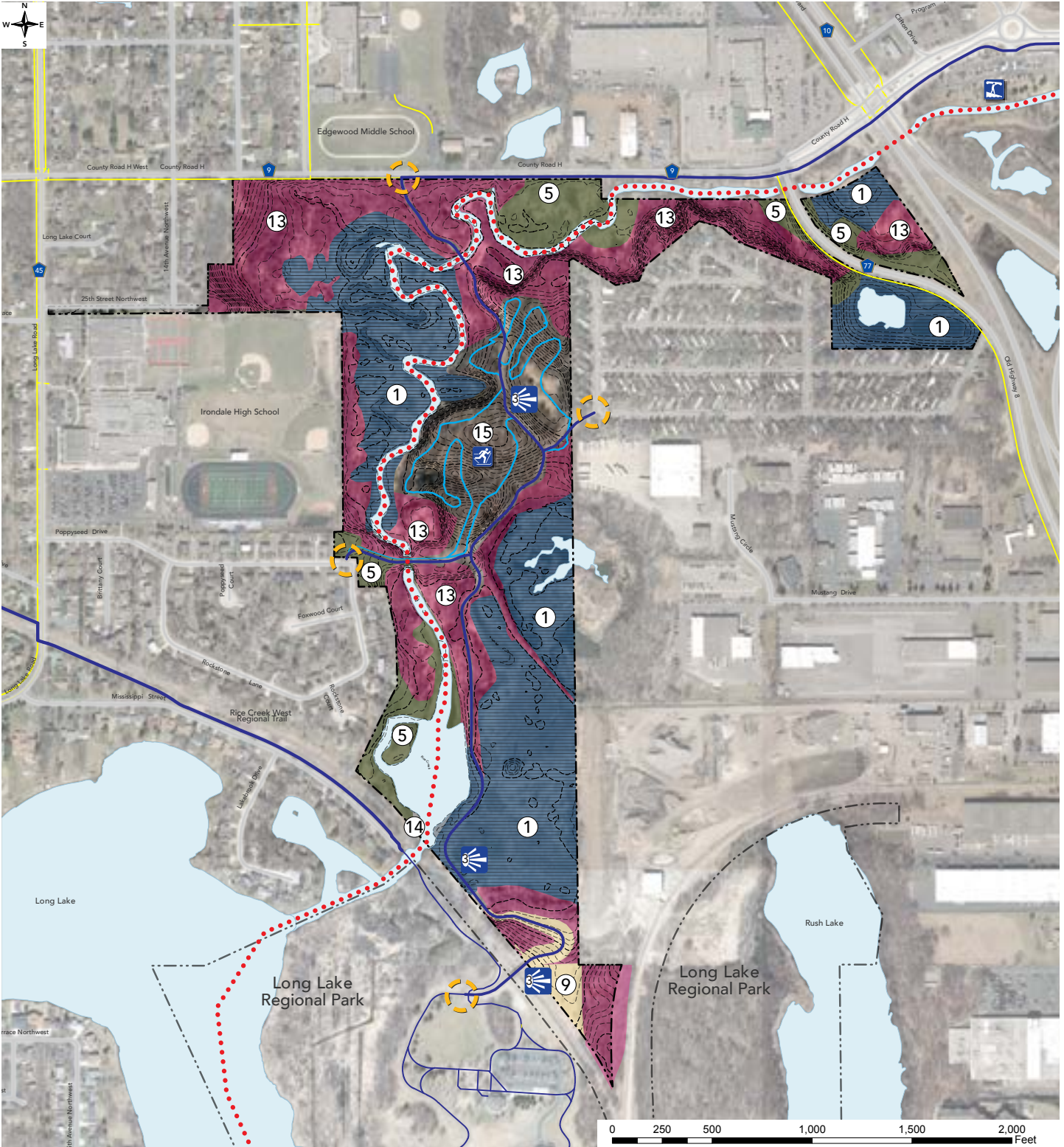
**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Central Segment Zones & Use Areas**



**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			



## Rice Creek North Regional Trail South Segment Zones & Use Areas

### **NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY**

#### **Land Cover Vegetation and Management**

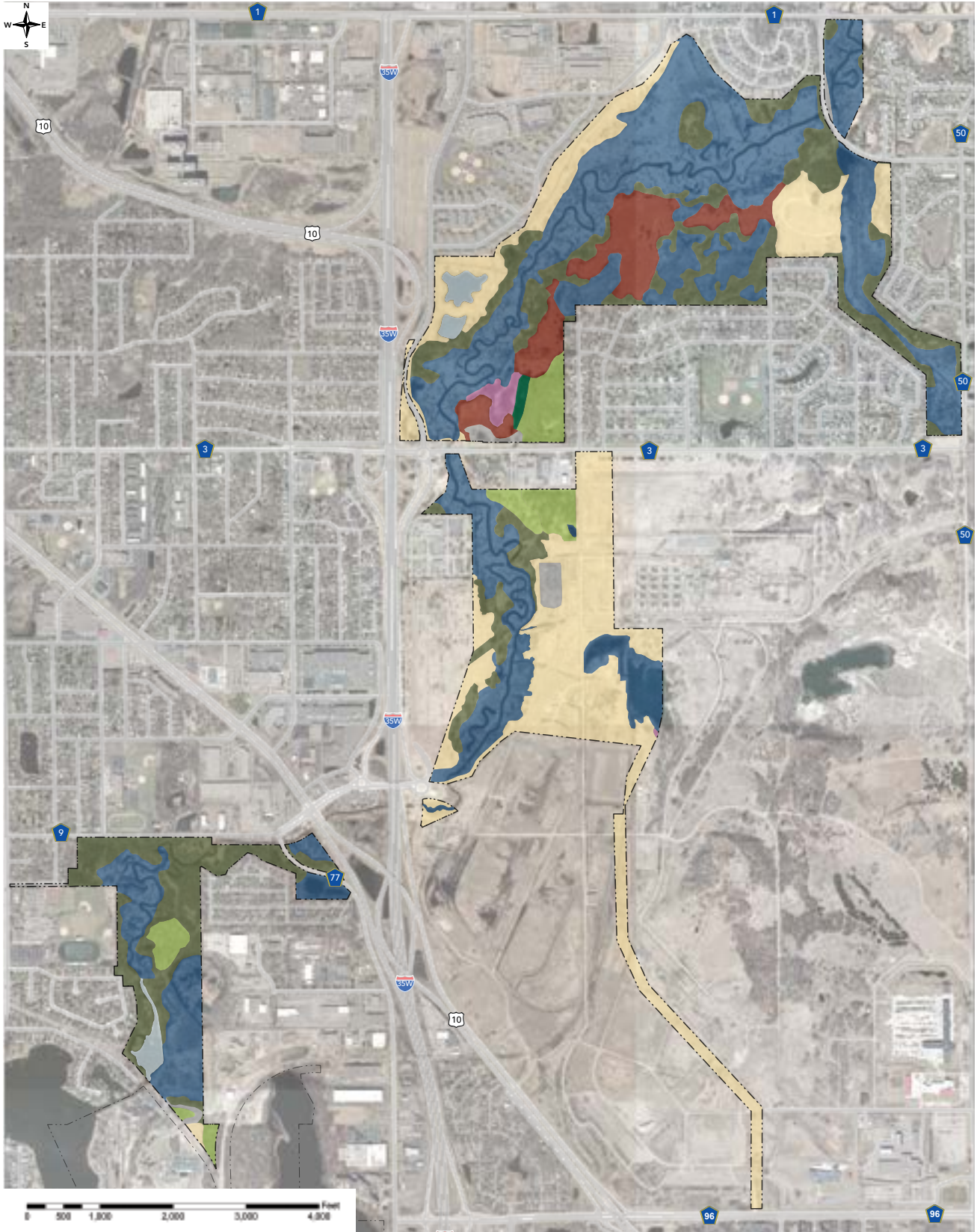
The native vegetation (vegetation of Minnesota at the time of the public land survey: 1847 -1907) within the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor included extensive floodplain wetlands with scattered savannas, mixed woods, prairies and oak woodlands. Much of the native vegetation was altered because 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 U.S. 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.

**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 |                 |

## 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 for a distance of 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 man 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.

# 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 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 (AHATS)
- 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. An additional assessment will need to be completed on Building 189 to determine the structural capacity and deficiencies for potential reuse and expansion. As a part of this expansion additional parking would be implemented on site with a 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:

- 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
- Cross country ski staging area
- Bike fixing stations



Bicyclists in the North Segment of Trail

- 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 this parking lot will have capacity for 100-200 vehicles which will be informed by the results of the building assessment. 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 construction in late 2019. This shared entry will serve the trailhead, outdoor recreation area, parking lot, a future public development at the primer tracer site, the Army, and the National Guard.

### 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 of this new in park 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 long trail extending from the existing wildlife corridor to Highway 96. This trail will be constructed within a 150' corridor that will follow the western edge of 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 Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan 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 & Indian Mounds Regional Park housed 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 as what is present in Battle Creek providing trails for multiple skill levels throughout the Ramsey County parks system is ideal. Rice Creek North would provide beginner to intermediate level trails focused on a more laid back flow trail style.

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.

## Cross Country Skiing

Cross country skiing was another area of recreational demand that was greatly supported throughout public engagement efforts. The central section of 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. Approximately 12 miles of natural surface trail is planned to create a hiking/cross country skiing loop that will connect into a future cross country ski trail system. This will be accomplished by working in conjunction with AHATS and supported by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. The natural surface will give users the opportunity to walk and ski through restored prairies and Rice Creek wetlands.

A staging area for cross country ski races, meets, and for use by recreational skiers is also proposed as a component in the outdoor recreation area. 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 gain future potential 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 destination 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.



## 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 waters 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
  - 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
- Multi-Season Trailhead Access Point
  - New access point
  - 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
- Rice Creek Commons Access Point
  - New access point
- 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 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 two proposed as follows:

- Lexington Avenue North Parking Lot (Existing)
  - Explore increased parking options

- County Road I Parking Lot (Existing)
  - Increase parking space
  - Implement restrooms
  - Install drinking fountains
  - Improve stormwater management practices
  - Improve wayfinding signage
  
- Multi-Season Trailhead Parking Lot
  - New parking lot
  - 100-200 vehicles
  - Premiere stormwater management solutions
  - Implement wayfinding signage
  - Multi-modal storage availability such as bike racks, electric car stations etc.
  
- Rice Creek Commons
  - Explore expanded parking options
  - Implement restrooms
  - Install drinking fountains
  - Implement wayfinding signage
  - Establish stormwater management best practices
  
- County Road H Parking Lot (Existing)
  - Increase parking space
  - Install Drinking Fountains
  - Implement restrooms
  - Establish stormwater management best practices



Bridge Linking Long Lake & Rice Creek North

## Road Crossings

There is one in park trail crossing of a road proposed in the central segment of the regional trail where a cross country ski/hiking path crosses the entrance road to the multi-season trailhead site. This crossing will be at grade. There are a number of trails that cross each other throughout the park as well, these have been limited as much as possible. In the event that a vehicular road is crossed by a trail stop signs will stop vehicles before crossing the trail. Additional signage along the trail and road will notify drivers and trail users of the intersection and to use caution. In the event that two trails cross each other in the park faster moving recreation elements will be asked to stop for slower moving recreation elements. Off road cycling trails would be asked to stop for cross country ski/hiking trails which in turn would be asked to stop before crossing paved regional trail segments.

At grade crossing improvements are anticipated at all of the major road crossings throughout the regional trail corridor. Improvements may consist of separated grades either underpasses or overpasses, changes in road structure to provide pedestrian refuge islands, speed bumps, neckdowns, warning signs, speed reductions, flashing beacons, or a combination of strategies. 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
  
- County Road I Trailhead
  - Separated grade crossing, either an underpass or overpass
  - Pedestrian refuge island
  - Flashing beacons
  - Warning Signs

- Shared Entry Drive at Fairview Avenue
  - Pedestrian refuge island
  - Flashing beacons
  - Warning signs
- County Road H Trail Over Interstate 35W
  - Currently there is a designated pedestrian crossing on the overpass of I35W. It was found through public engagement that many people still do not feel safe using this option so with any future redevelopment a separated overpass dedicated to pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be explored
- 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
- County Road I
  - Would be used to link the Rice Creek North Regional Trail to the Highway 96 Regional Trail
  - Crossing would occur where there is not an existing signaled intersection.
  - 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 will be provided at the trailhead and parking lot areas. At this time, no trail lighting is anticipated.

Lighted sections of select cross country ski trails were supported strongly during the public engagement period. This is one exception to the county rule that warrant further investigation in the future. Areas that Parks & Recreation may look into lighting include:

- A section of cross country ski trail withing the central segment of the corridor
- The off leash dog area
- The Irondale High School section of cross country ski trails in the south segment
- 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 greenway users to local services, cultural destinations, transportations 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 along the trail throughout the park including benches, additional drinking fountains where feasible, and additional wayfinding, nature interpretation and educational signage throughout the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. Additional in park bridges are proposed for trail crossing across the creek to accommodate looped trail systems in the various segments of the trail.

## Utilities Required for New Development

New utility line extensions into the park will be needed to accommodate portions of new development for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. The most extensive area of development where the multi-season trailhead is proposed 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.

Depending upon the level of development at the proposed canoe and kayak launch adjacent to Rice Creek Commons, electric, water, and sanitary sewer may be required.

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.

## 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 be located within an easement on the east side of parcel C.

## North Segment Proposed Amenities

The north segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail 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 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
- 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
- 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 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 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

### **South Segment Proposed Amenities**

The southern segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail will see the fewest changes due to is relatively small sized 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 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

Please refer to pages xx-xx for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail concept plan.

### **STEWARDSHIP PLAN**

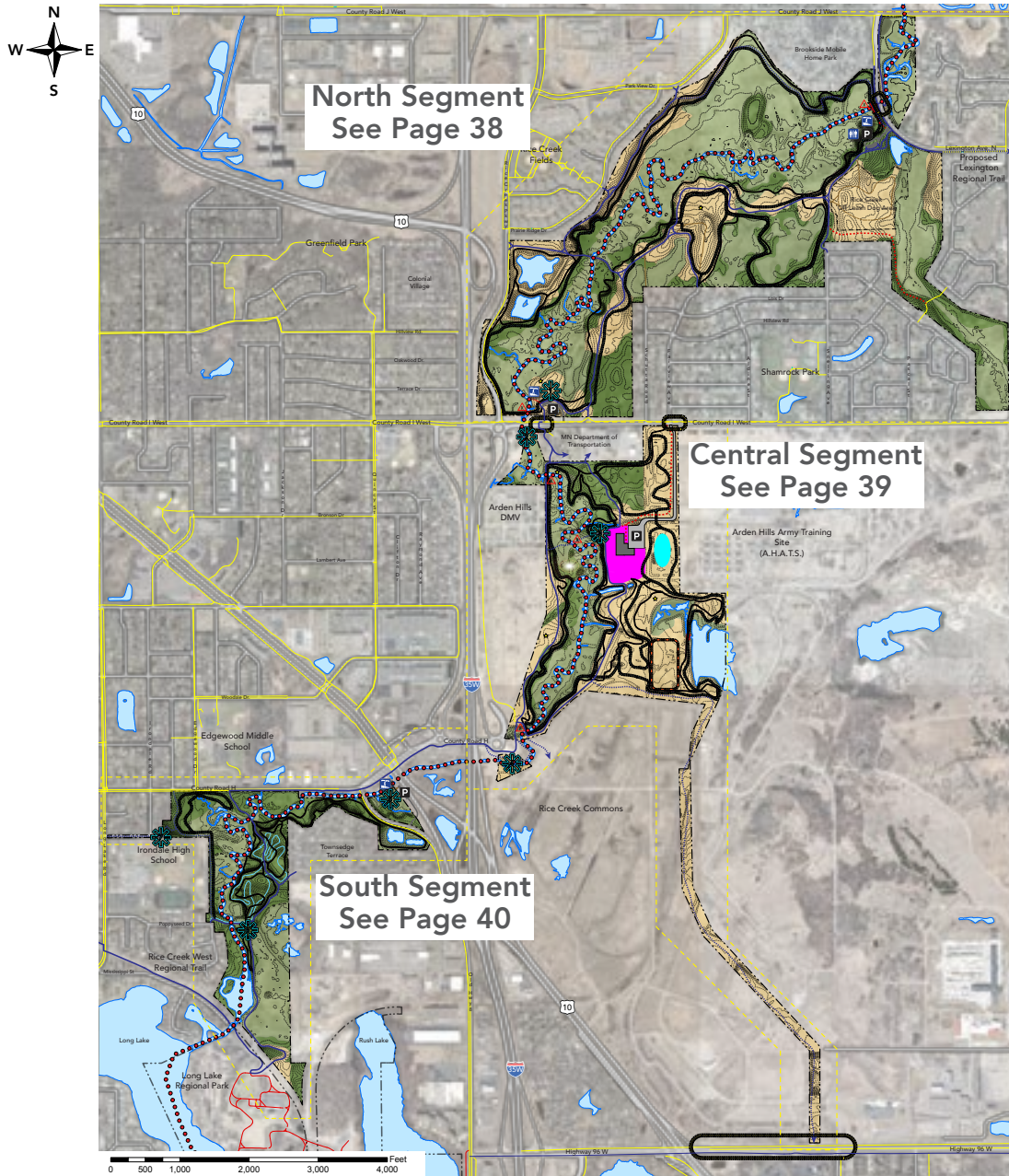
The natural resources within the Rice Creek North Regional trail connection will be restored and managed according to the 2018 system plan. Restoration and maintenance of restored areas will be a priority throughout the corridor to carry out the mission of providing adequate sustainable habitat to support populations of native wildlife species.

#### **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

# RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN



## LEGEND

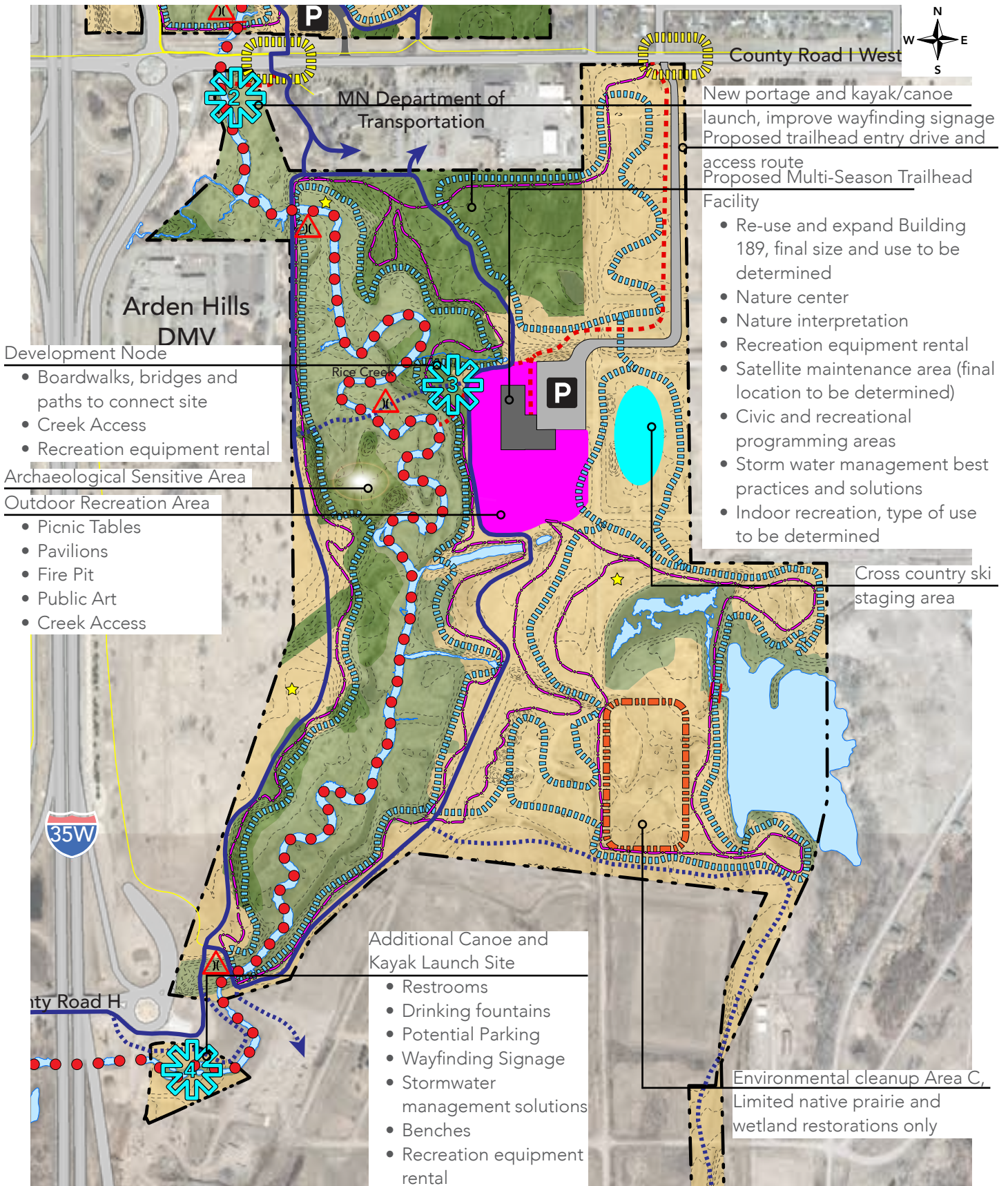
- |                                    |  |                                      |  |                               |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Rice Creek Regional Trail          |  | Proposed Multi-Use 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       |  |

# 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

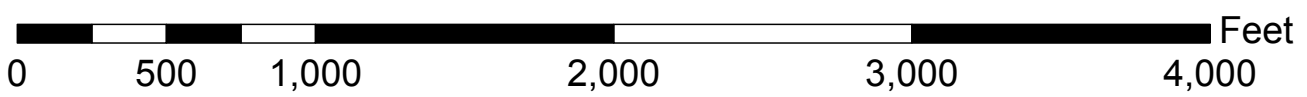
New portage and kayak/canoe launch, improve wayfinding signage  
Proposed trailhead entry drive and access route  
Proposed Multi-Season Trailhead Facility

- 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

**Additional Canoe and Kayak Launch Site**

- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Potential Parking
- Wayfinding Signage
- Stormwater management solutions
- Benches
- Recreation equipment rental

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



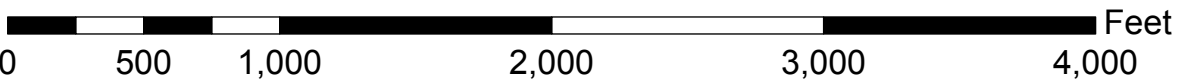
# RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN: CENTRAL SEGMENT



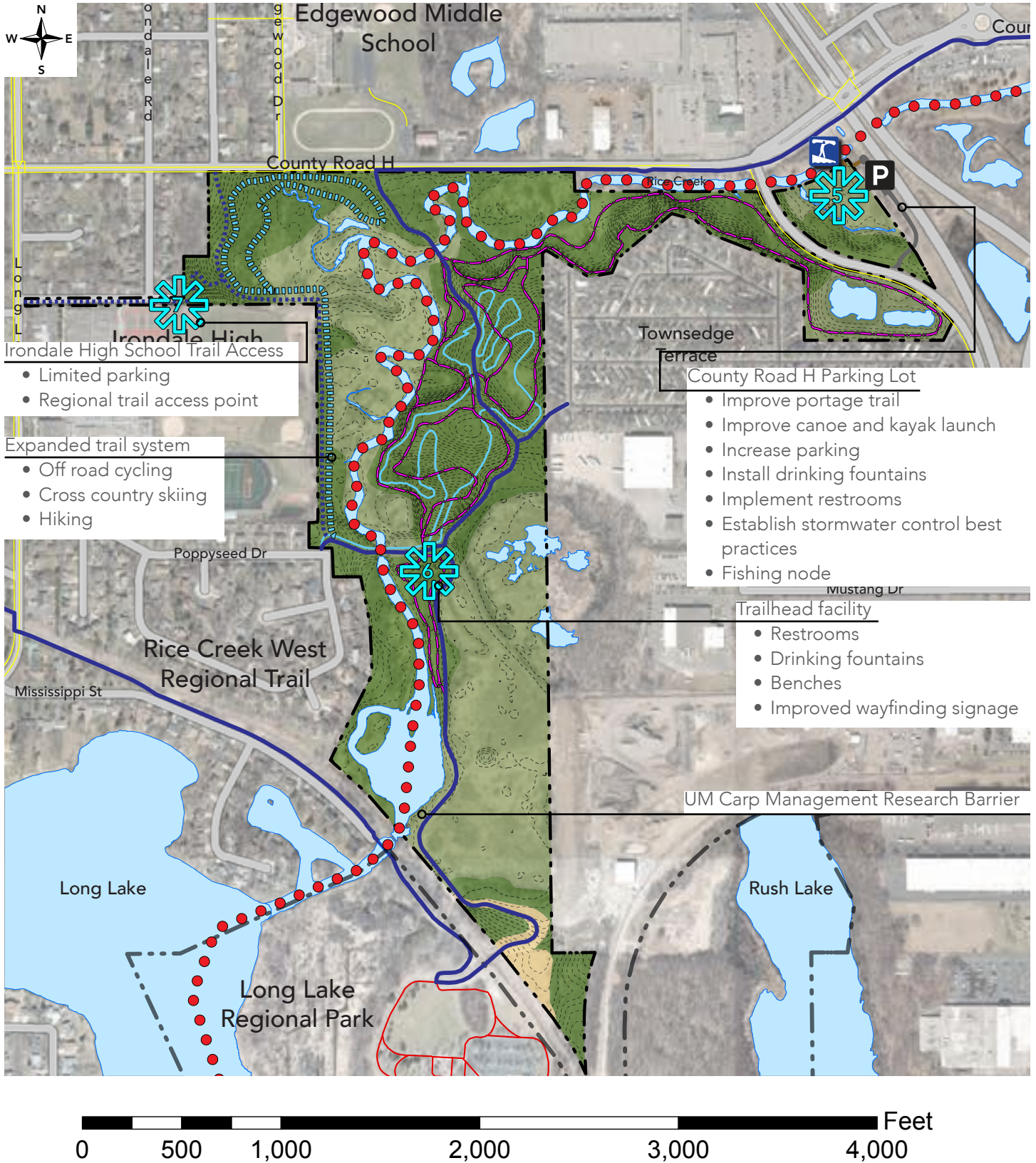
10-12 foot wide paved multi-use trail

- Coordinated connections with Rice Creek Commons to be determined
- Native plantings throughout corridor

Enhanced crossings at major intersections, typical



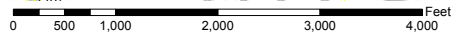
**RICE CREEK NORTH REGIONAL TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN: SOUTH SEGMENT**



# 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



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 to 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 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**

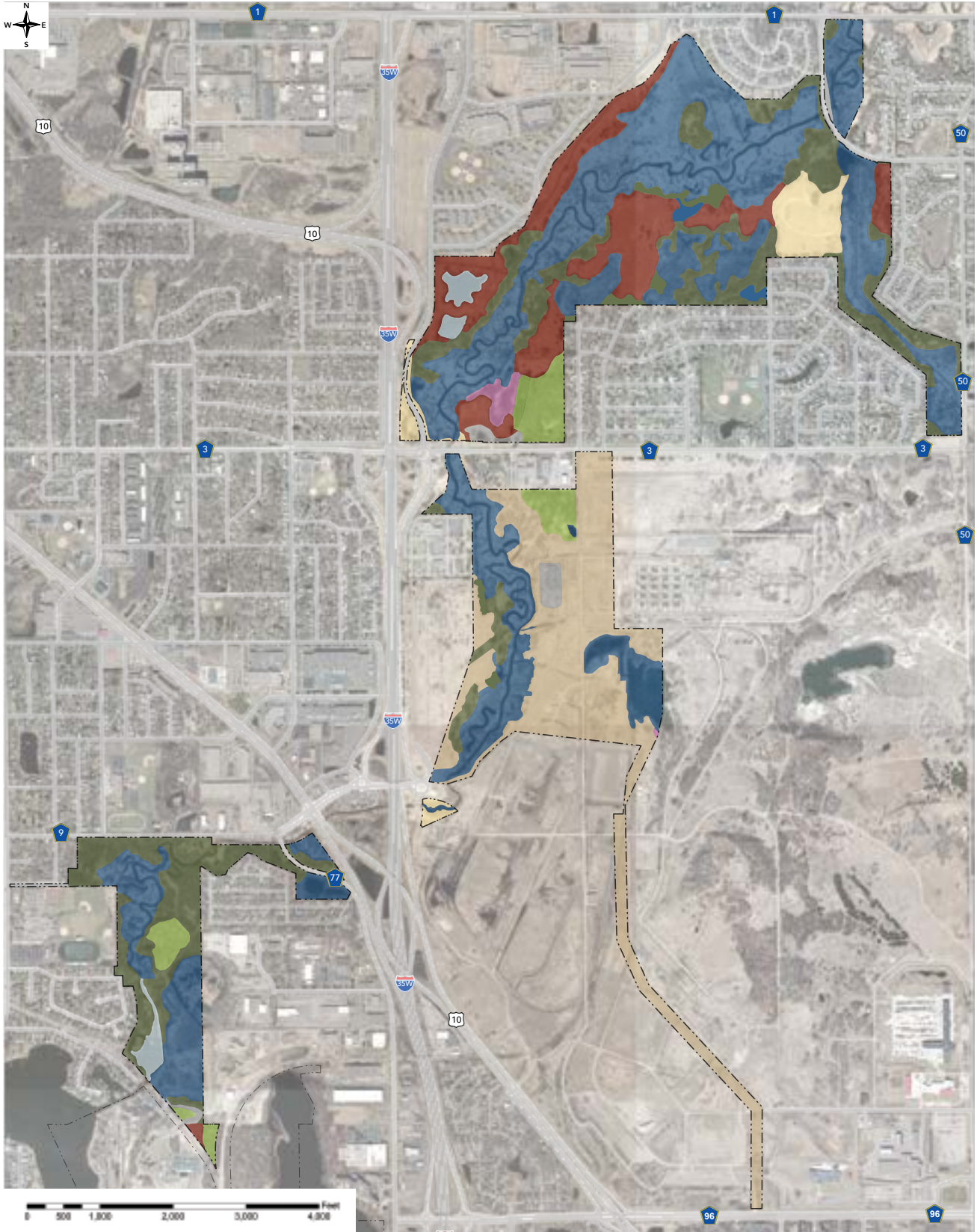
Wildlife management within the corridor includes deer management, bird monitoring and providing nesting structures. Deer populations in the area are surveyed annually to determine the need and location for special archery hunts within the corridor. A special archery deer hunt, under the provisions of 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 and 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 (EDDMaps Midwest).

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

**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 |                   |

survey location and will continue to monitor the site. An ash tree replacement plan was implemented in 2018 to address replacement of ash tree's 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 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. The Ramsey County Parks & Recreation will continue to cooperate with RCWD for the potential install of a permanent barrier in this location and allowing access for carp removal efforts within the rice creek corridor.

## **Water Resources**

The 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 U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Department of Health 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 and wetland protection and preservation is a priority within the corridor and all local, state and federal wetland protection and 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. Future development may require further testing of soils depending on development requirements.

## **Research**

Most research in the corridor is welcome but must be approved by parks 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 floodplain for Rice Creek. Due to its status as a seasonally flooded "wetland", development within the floodplain

### 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)

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 within the corridor. Some of these include, volunteers, Arden Hills Army Training site natural resource staff, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Rice Creek Watershed District, Cities of Shoreview and Arden Hills, Ramsey County public works environmental department, to name a few. The Parks department greatly appreciates the collaboration and will continue to work with surrounding partners, as natural resource management does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries.

### PUBLIC SERVICES

No significant new public services will be needed to accommodate the development of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail. 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). 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.

# IMPLEMENTATION

## PHASING AND PRIORITIES

The first phase of master plan implementation will primarily be within the central segment of the corridor area to construct the entrance road, extend utilities into the multi-season trailhead area, redevelop the existing parking lot, make trail connections to existing infrastructure and conduct a building assessment of building 189. An assessment is necessary to conduct a thorough investigation along with public engagement to determine the final use and size of the multi-season trailhead structure. A study of this area along with development costs should be determined as soon as it is feasible. Development of the access road and utility extensions into this site are planned to occur in the fall of 2019.

Longer term development will include in park trail development of the bituminous, off road cycling, and cross county ski/hiking systems. Parking lot development and redevelopment should occur as the need arises and funding becomes available. As the trail system is expanded the various trailhead nodes along the Rice Creek North Regional Trail should develop along with it. Wayfinding signs and interpretive/educational material should be posted as new trails develop and funding becomes available.

## 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
Total Annual Operating Budget	\$38,000,000

## OPERATIONS

Operations 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 budget limitations and the county's operation and maintenance policies. Funding for maintenance and operation is appropriated from county tax revenue, supplemented by State appropriation for Regional Parks Operation and Maintenance Funding.

### Operating Hours

Regional parks and trails have general operating hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

### 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

### 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	\$7,200
Multi-Season Trailhead Maintenance	\$7,500
Snow Making and Grooming	\$30,000
Multi-Season Trailhead Staff	\$312,000
<b>Total Annual Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$73,940</b>

## 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. Parks & Recreation will supplement the regular Sheriff's Department patrol as needed. 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 any updates to Go Ramsey Communities, an interactive web based mapping application that allows users to locate places to be active in the county.

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.

## EQUITY ANALYSIS

### 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. In terms of barriers were 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 using 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 will should also make every effort 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 safe 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.

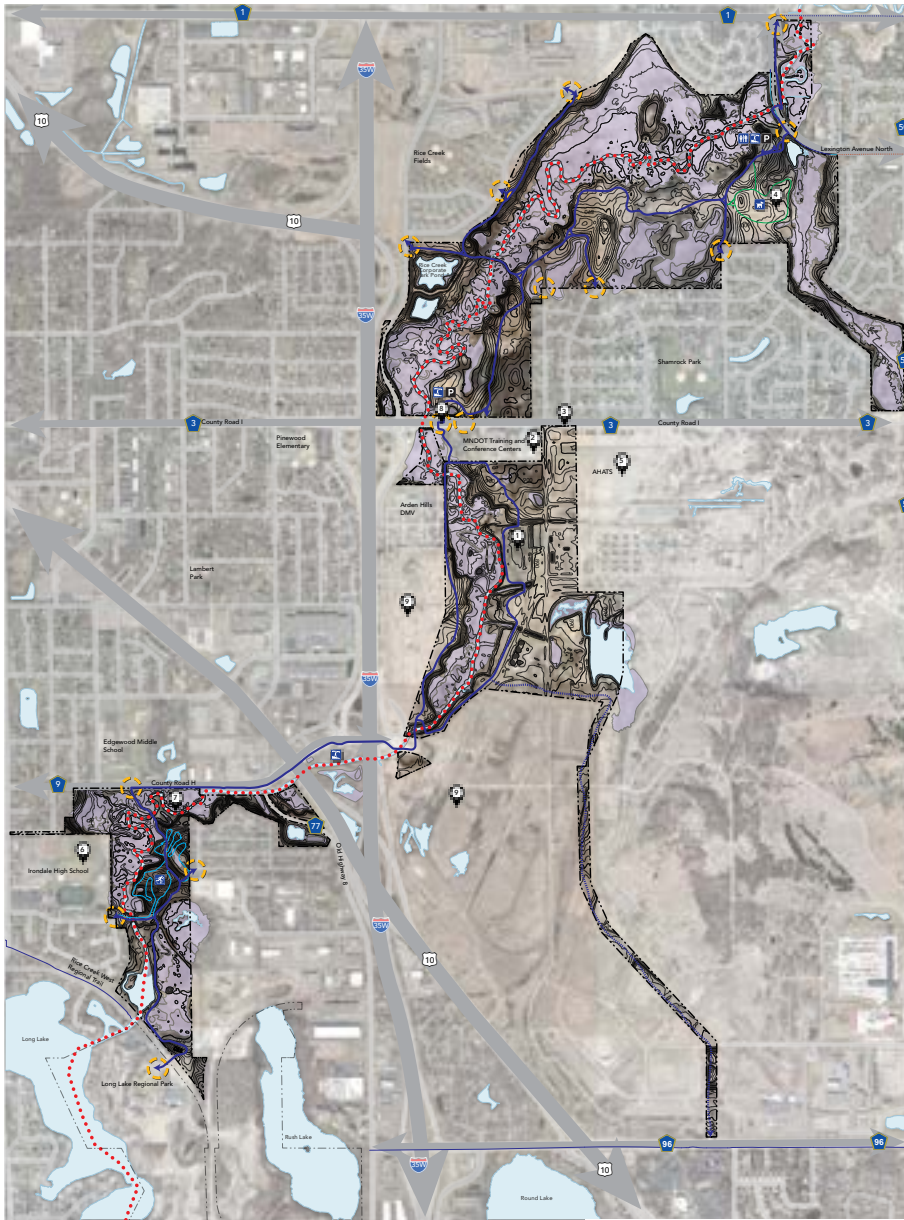
With the development of multi-season trailhead facility and outdoor recreation area there is a greatly expanded opportunity for the county to provide additional programming available to the public. Various programs are proposed to be implemented to compliment and showcase the facility including:

- Free or discounted recreation equipment rentals 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
- In addition 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 further 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 : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Figure 1.1

**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

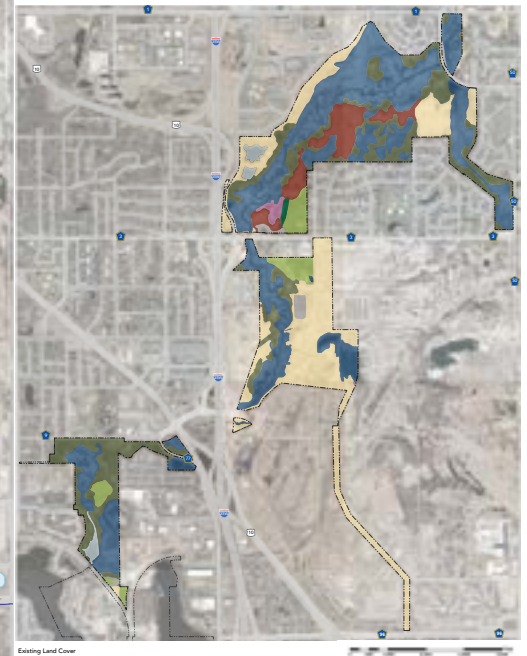
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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 buckthorn 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 buckthorn, and seeding of native herbaceous grasses and forbs. Ongoing maintenance will include foliar spraying of buckthorn 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 otter, 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.



**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**

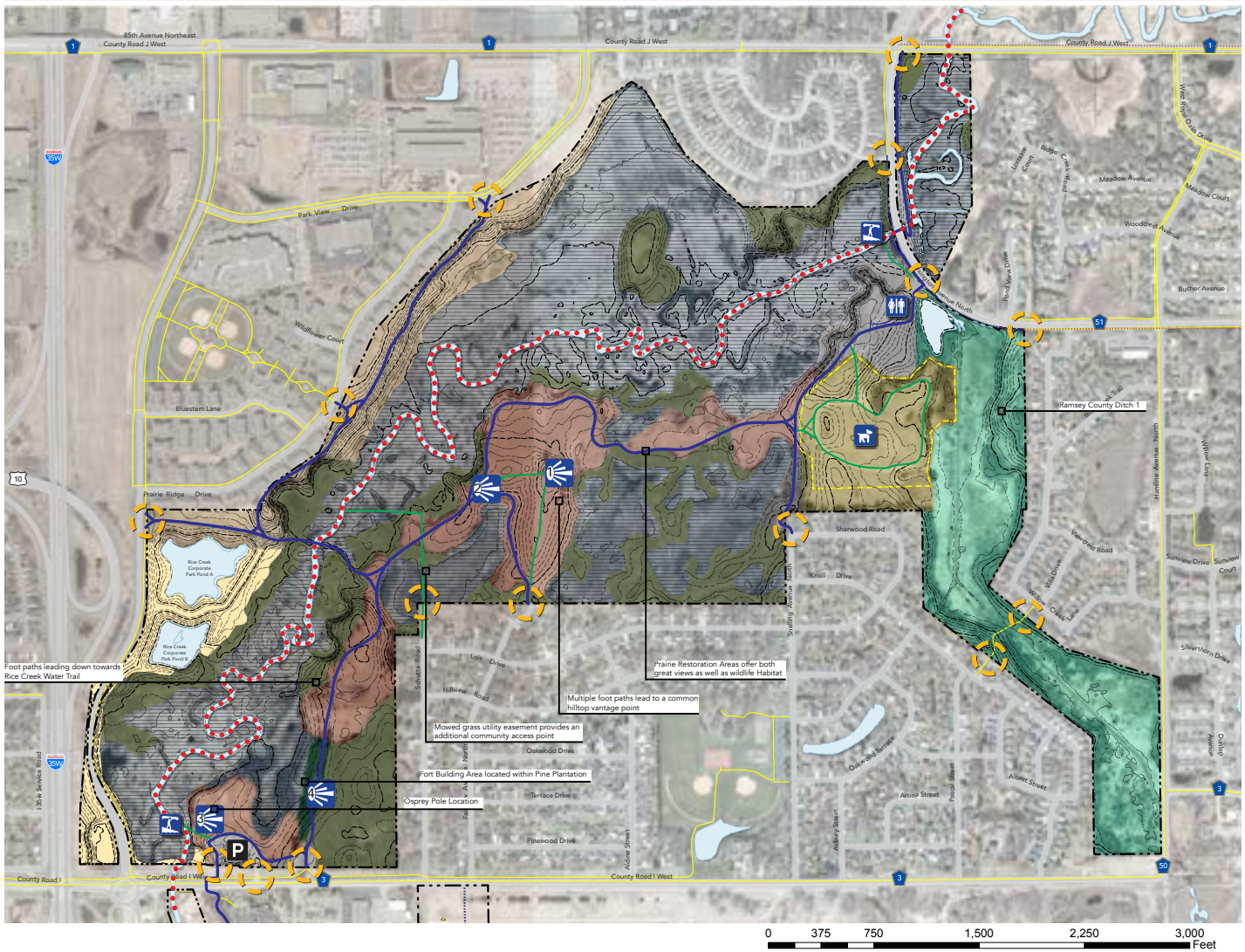
- Rice Creek Regional Trail (Blue line)
- Rice Creek Water Trail (Red dotted line)
- Major Road Connection (Grey line)
- Park Entrance (Yellow dashed circle)
- Natural Surface Trail (Green line)
- Wetland Delineation (Purple shaded area)
- Parking Lot (P icon)
- Cross Country Ski Area (Ski icon)
- Small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

**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 **P** 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 See Pg. 5 for Details

**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.

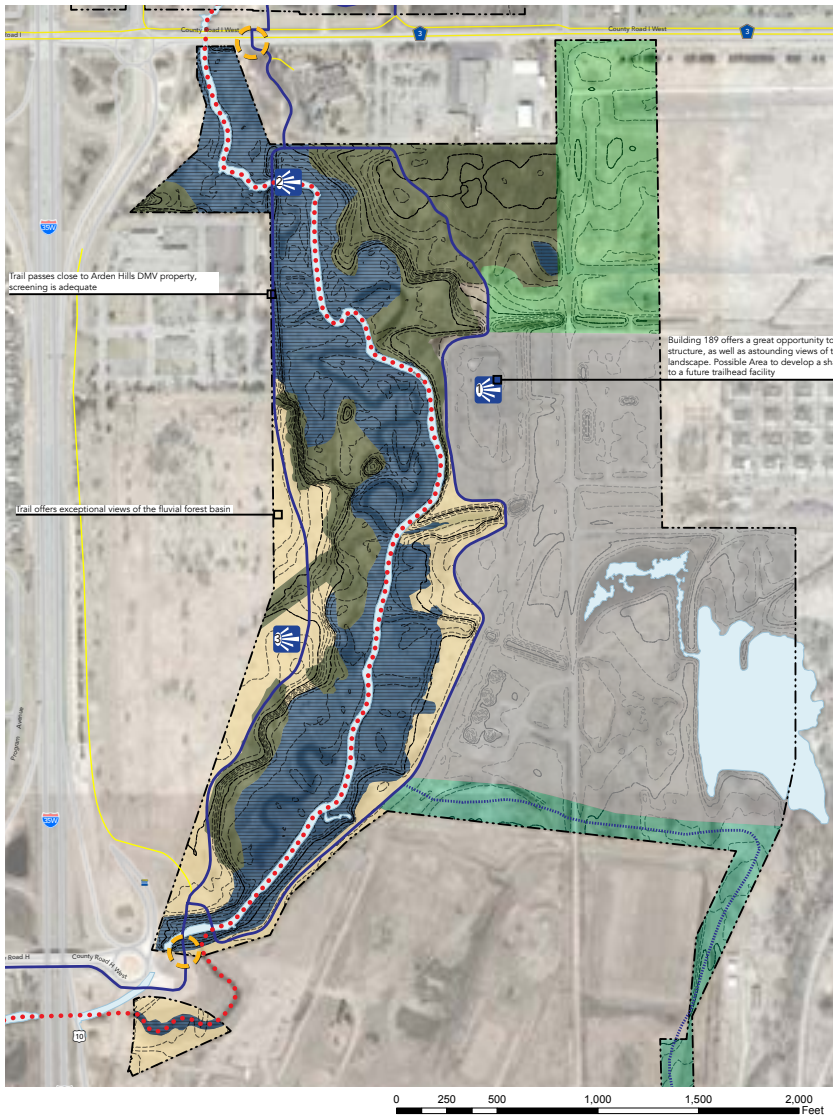
**Old Field Areas**

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.



Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Figure 1.3

**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.

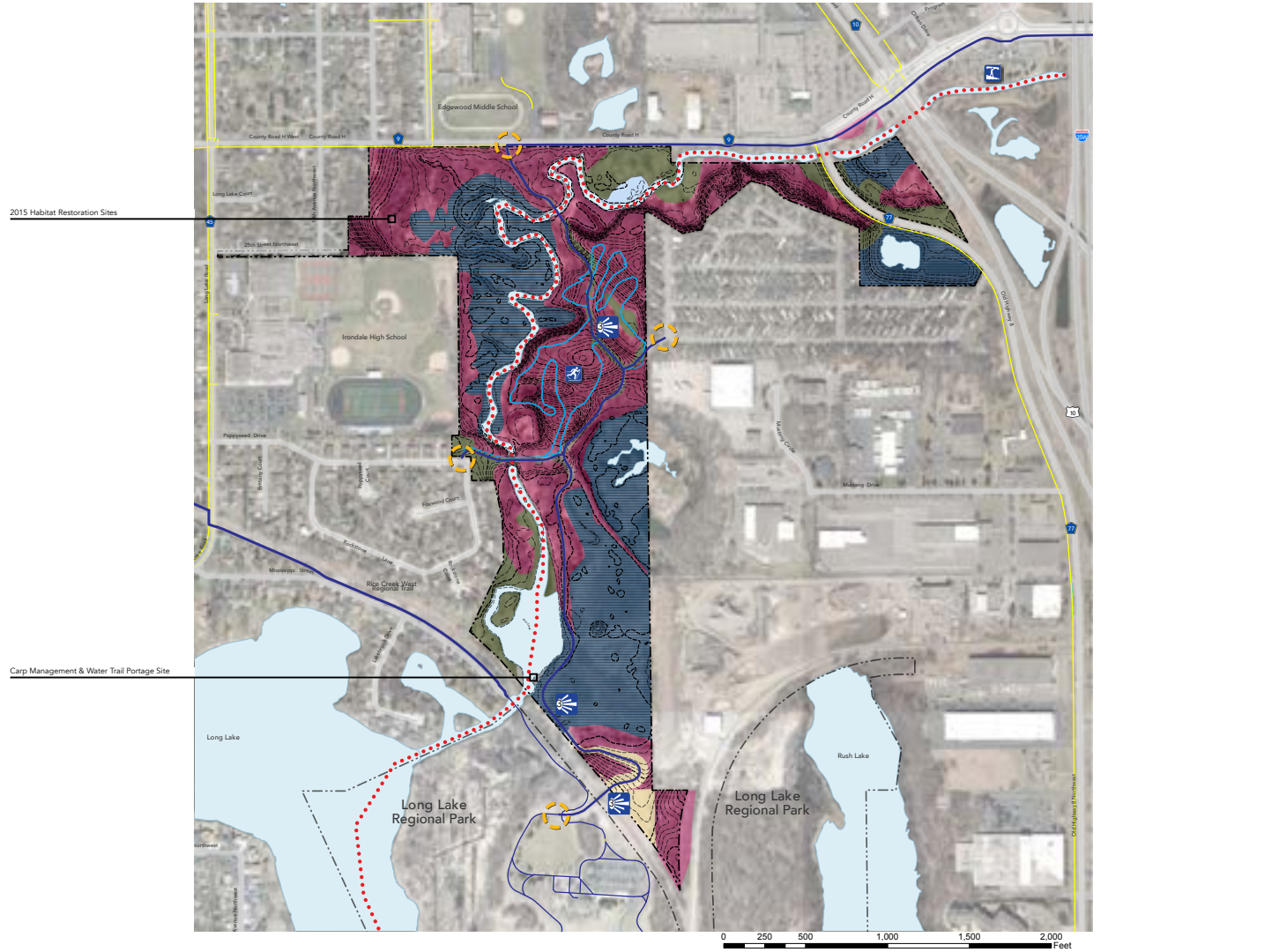
**Old Field Areas**

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**
- Small Watercraft Launch **W**
- Restroom Building **R**
- Off Leash Dog Area **D**
- Viewshed Opportunity See Pg. 5 for Details **V**
- Cross Country Ski Area **S**
- Point of Interest **I**
- Cross Country Ski Trails **ST**
- City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes **CP**

**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]
- Small Watercraft Launch [Icon]
- Restroom Building [Icon]
- Off Leash Dog Area [Icon]
- Viewshed Opportunity See Pg. 5 for Details [Icon]
- [Dotted Red Line]
- [Yellow Circle]
- [Purple Box]
- [Ski Icon]
- [Point of Interest Icon]
- [Ski Trails Icon]
- [Yellow Line]

Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Figure 1.5

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



Viewshed from Point 2, Page 2



Fort Building Area within Pine Plantation



View Atop Building 189 Point 1, Page 3



Pine Plantation Entrance, Point 4, Page 2



Bridge Joining Long Lake Park To Trail System



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 : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No. 1 – Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 for people with disabilities. It would be nice to have a paved path and better signage.*

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, restrooms, water stations, and dog waste stations.*

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?

*Adding a paved path, better signage, and more parking spaces.*

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

*Longfellow Park, Johnson Park, and Rice Creek Park.*

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

*More walking paths and scenic views.*

Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 times/week - run/jwalk 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 35 W at H*

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 mounds - could see ground from a high point*

Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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? *(7 is most accessible)*  
1    2    3    4    5    6    7

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 : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

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

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

If 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 : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No.1 - Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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  
WARE ROAD & CITY J 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 : Public Engagement Meeting 1 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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*

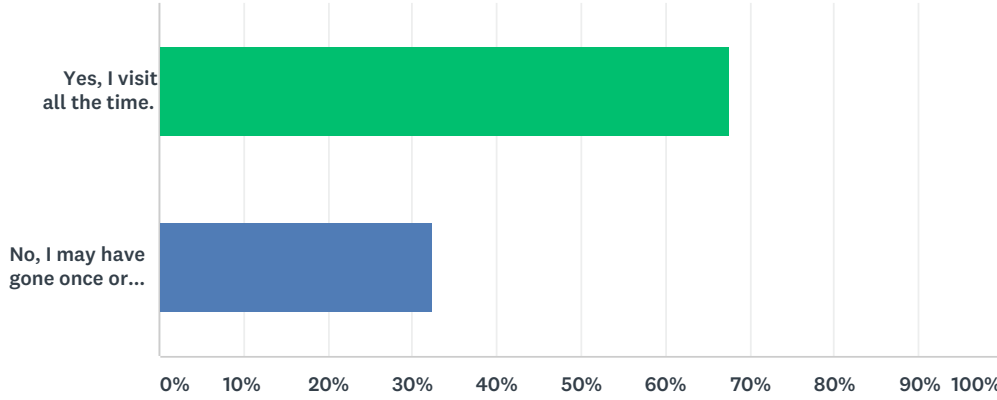
8. What aspects of those parks would you like to see at Rice Creek?

*Bike Repair Stations.*

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

**Q1 Do you visit Rice Creek Trail frequently?**

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0

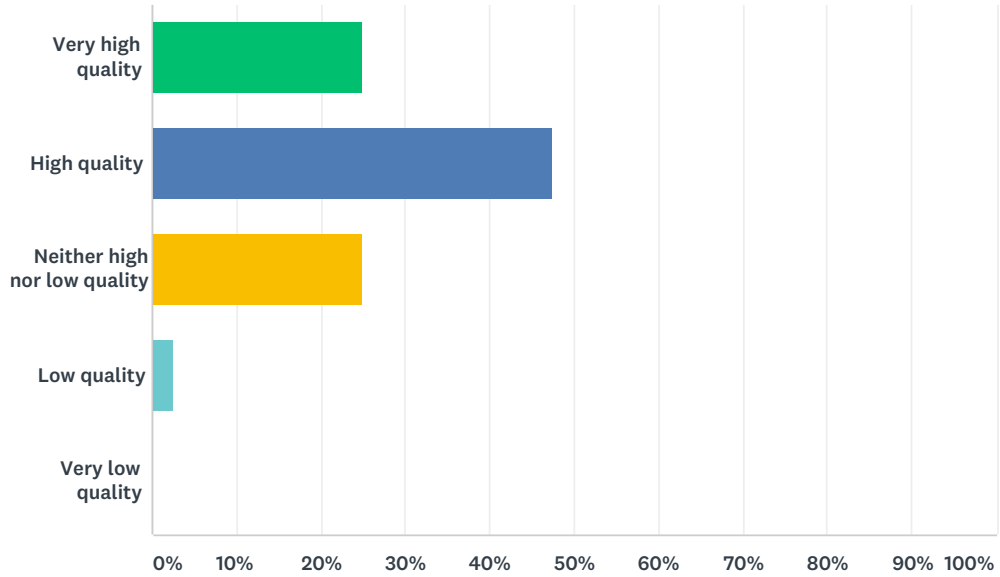


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I visit all the time.	67.50%	27
No, I may have gone once or twice but not often.	32.50%	13
Total Respondents: 40		

**Appendix : 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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>40</b>

**Appendix : 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	<b>length</b> The long length is nice.	7/17/2018 11:14 PM
2	<b>scenery</b> Scenery	7/5/2018 2:01 PM
3	<b>length</b> length	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
4	<b>Discard</b> fds	7/3/2018 12:48 PM
5	<b>Solitude</b> Solitude	7/2/2018 3:59 PM
6	<b>length</b> 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	<b>Nature</b> Nature	7/2/2018 9:36 AM
8	<b>length</b> <b>proximity</b> <b>trails</b> 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	<b>Navigable</b> easy to follow	7/1/2018 9:06 PM
10	<b>scenery</b> The Rice Creek bike trail traverses a beautiful area.	7/1/2018 2:01 PM
11	<b>free</b> <b>Nature</b> <b>trails</b> <b>water trail</b> Free, water way, trails (able to adjust length of walk to available time) wild life(esp. birds)	7/1/2018 9:14 AM
12	<b>Discard</b> <b>dog park</b> Its integration with Locke Park, especially the dog park	7/1/2018 8:57 AM
13	<b>Nature</b> <b>trails</b> Nature. Winding paths.	6/30/2018 4:20 PM
14	<b>water trail</b> Walking along the creek	6/30/2018 1:19 PM
15	<b>trails</b> That it exists. There aren't enough trails in the north metro.	6/30/2018 12:52 PM
16	<b>length</b> <b>Nature</b> 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	<b>Nature</b> <b>scenery</b> <b>trails</b> Smooth trail, peaceful surroundings	6/30/2018 6:17 AM
18	<b>free</b> <b>proximity</b> Frees rural in a urban setting	6/30/2018 4:57 AM
19	<b>proximity</b> Close to my home	6/29/2018 9:55 PM
20	<b>clean</b> <b>peaceful</b> Peaceful, clean	6/29/2018 9:47 PM
21	<b>peaceful</b> <b>Solitude</b> 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	<b>Nature</b> The exposure to nature	6/29/2018 8:37 PM
23	<b>Nature</b> <b>Solitude</b> Seclusion. Quiet. Nature.	6/29/2018 8:27 PM
24	<b>Nature</b> <b>trails</b> Lots of route options, lots of nature, interesting trails	6/29/2018 7:55 PM
25	<b>Nature</b> <b>open space</b> Natural setting Trails all over Large open spaces	6/29/2018 6:00 PM
26	<b>Nature</b> 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	<b>wildlife</b> It is quiet and in great repair. Wildlife viewing!	6/29/2018 5:36 PM
28	<b>well maintained</b> Wide, flat and well maintained	6/29/2018 5:15 PM
29	n/a	6/29/2018 5:13 PM

## Appendix : Online Survey #1

### Rice Creek North Master Plan Amendment Survey

30	<b>Nature</b> <b>proximity</b>	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	<b>Nature</b>	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	<b>Nature</b>	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	<b>Plowed</b>	Plowed in the winter	6/28/2018 5:39 PM
34	<b>trails</b>	Well kept trails.	6/28/2018 2:39 PM

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



## Appendix : 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?

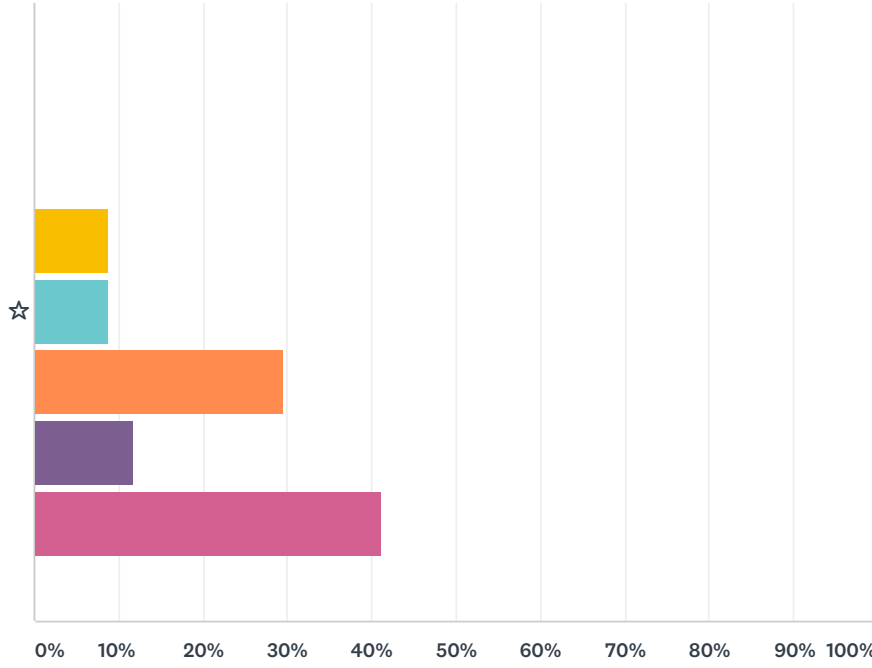
Answered: 31    Skipped: 9

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

Appendix : 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

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

**Appendix : 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 round-about 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 : 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 : 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

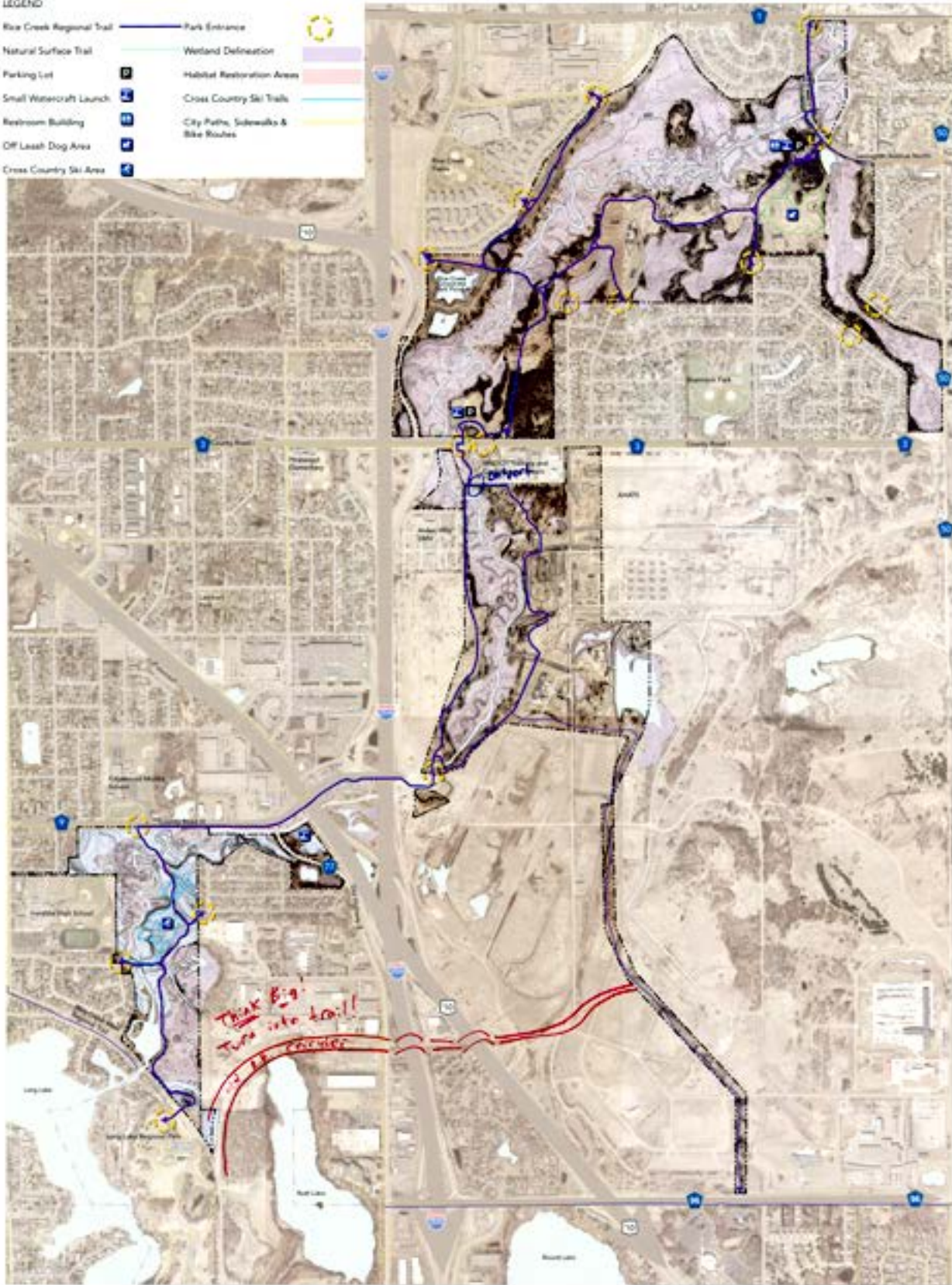
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No suggestion	7/17/2018 11:16 PM
2	Trails off the paved trails for hiking or exploring bird watching, etc.	7/5/2018 2:05 PM
3	I just want to see well maintained hike/bike trails with as many connections to other trails as possible.	7/3/2018 1:18 PM
4	Picnic tables and restrooms.	7/2/2018 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 : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 1 Comments

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**

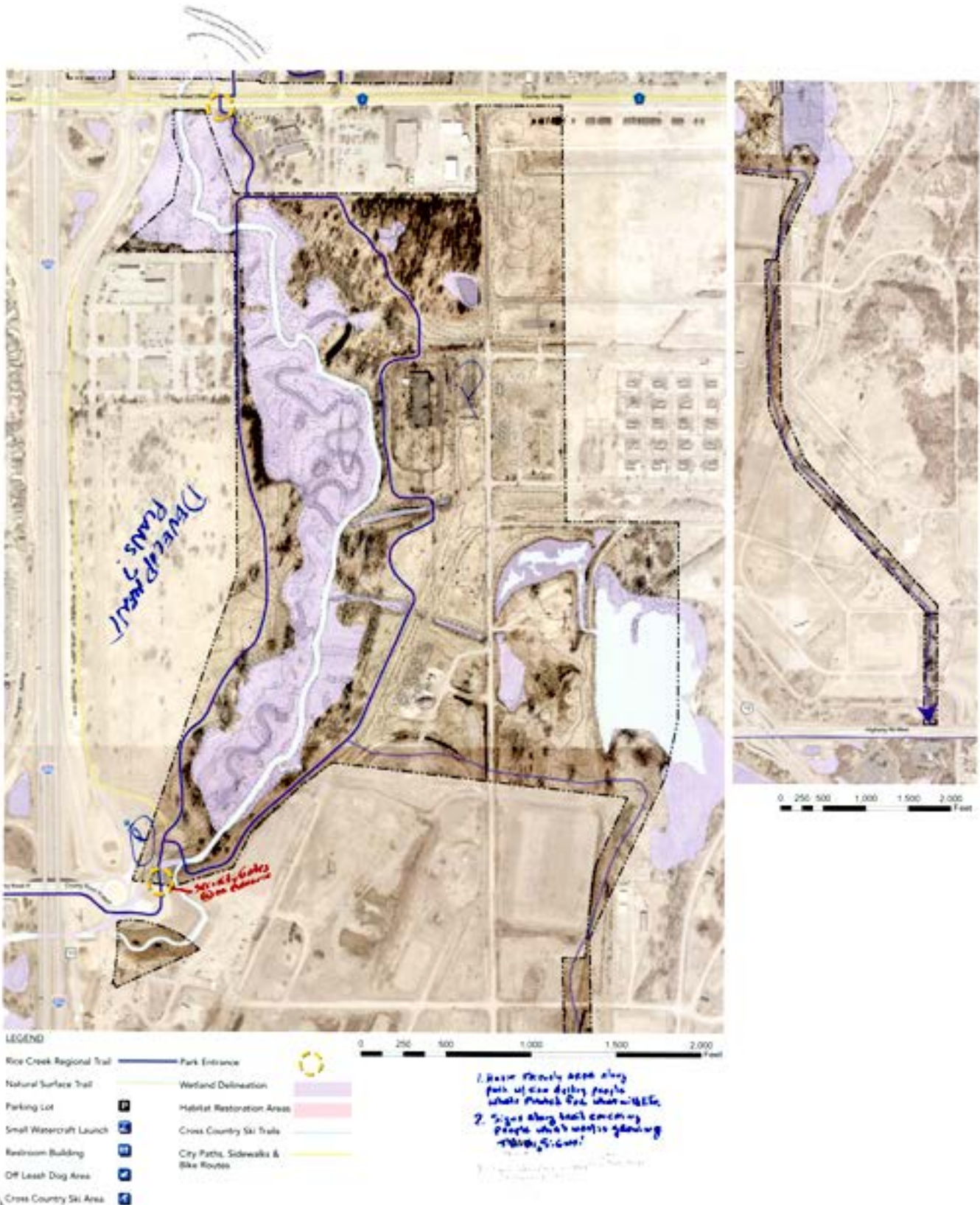
LEGEND

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



Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 1 Comments

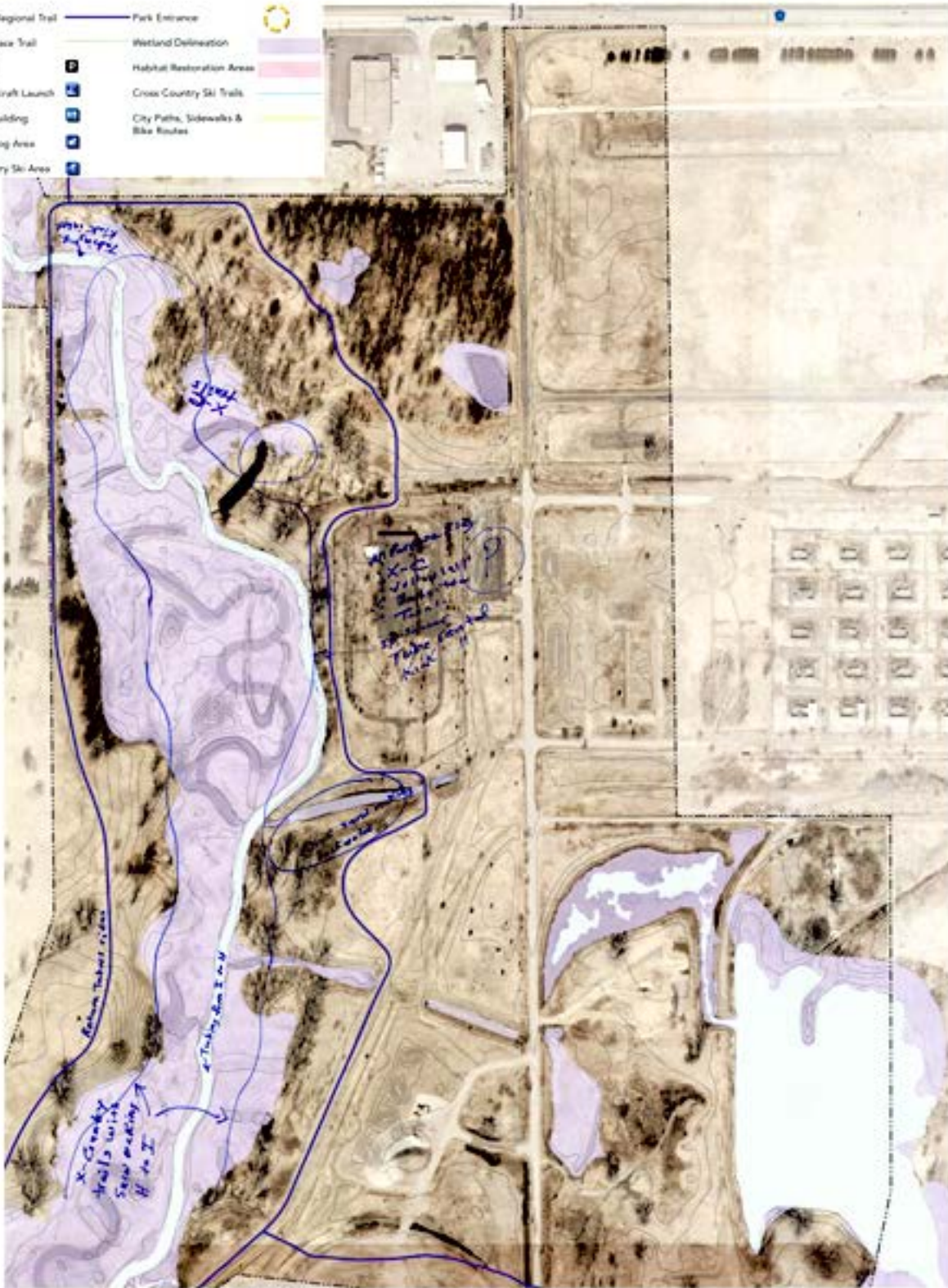
Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018



**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**

LEGEND

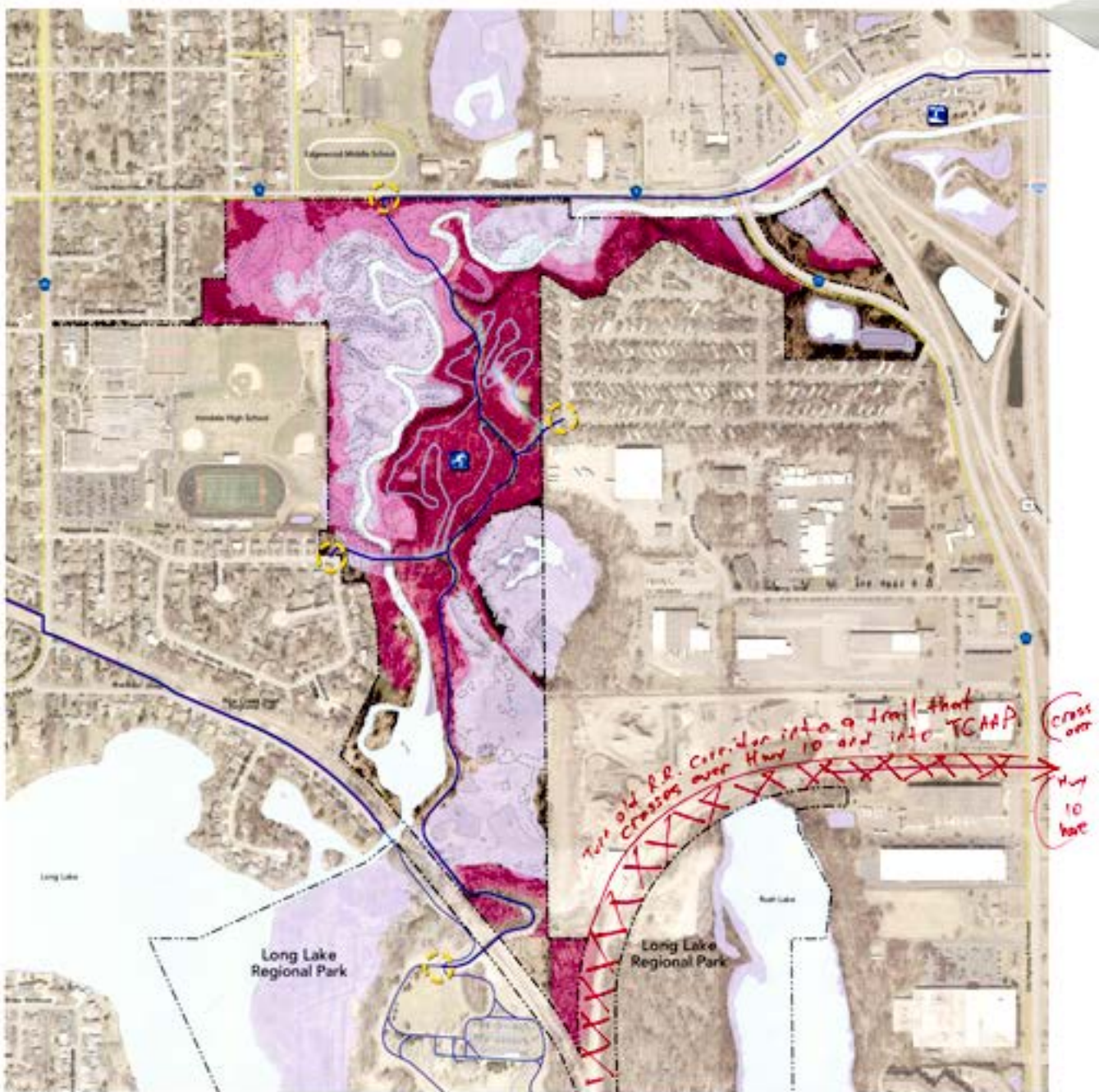
- Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Parking Lot
- Small Watercraft Launch
- Restroom Building
- Off Leash Dog Area
- Cross Country Ski Area
- Park Entrance
- Wetland Delineation
- Habitat Restoration Areas
- Cross Country Ski Trails
- City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes





Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 1 Comments

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**

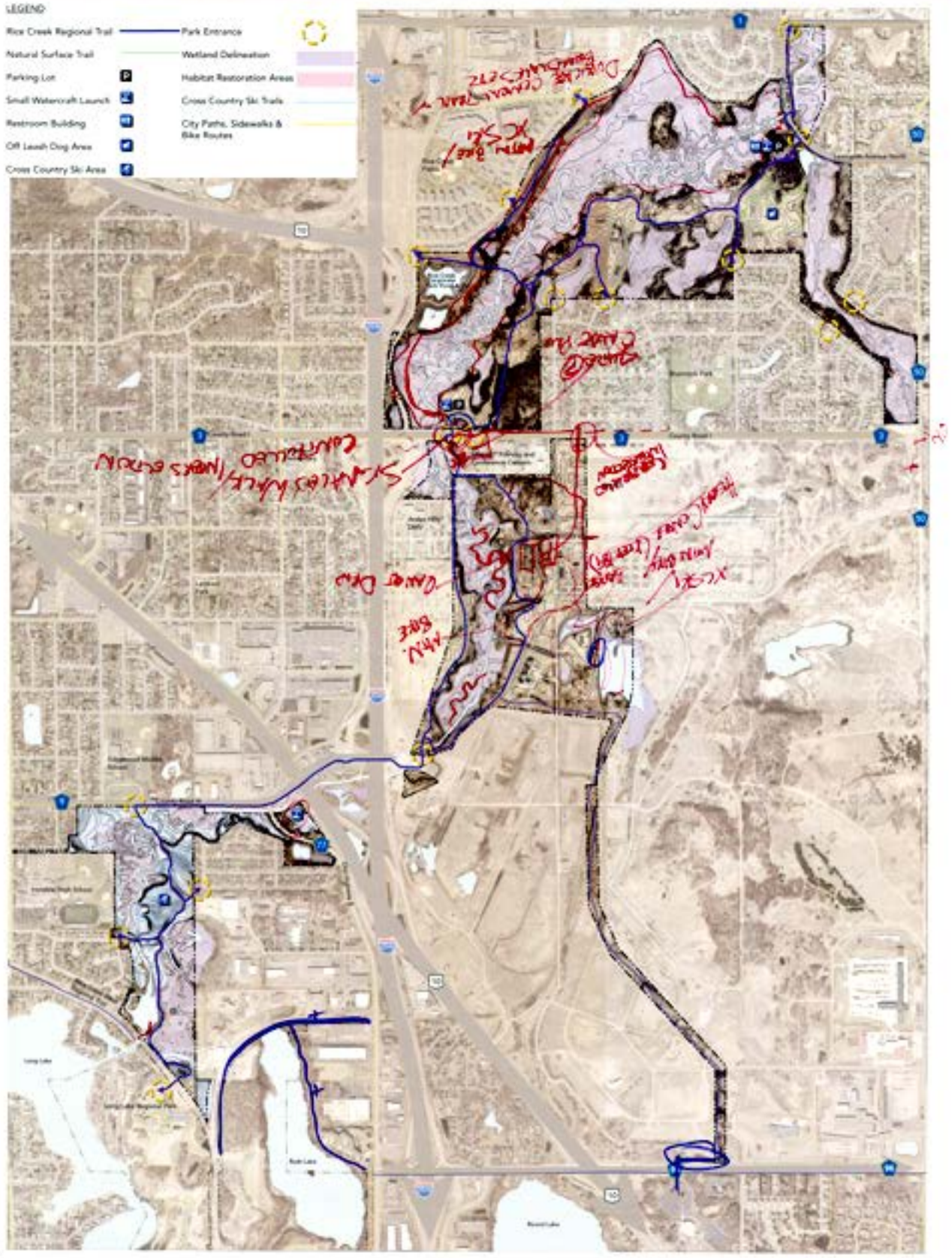


- LEGEND**
- Rice Creek Regional Trail
  - Natural Surface Trail
  - Parking Lot
  - Small Watercraft Launch
  - Restroom Building
  - Off Leash Dog Area
  - Cross Country Ski Area
  - Park Entrance
  - Wetland Delineation
  - Habitat Restoration Areas
  - Cross Country Ski Trails
  - City Paths, Sidewalks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



Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 2 Comments

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**



Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 2 Comments

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018

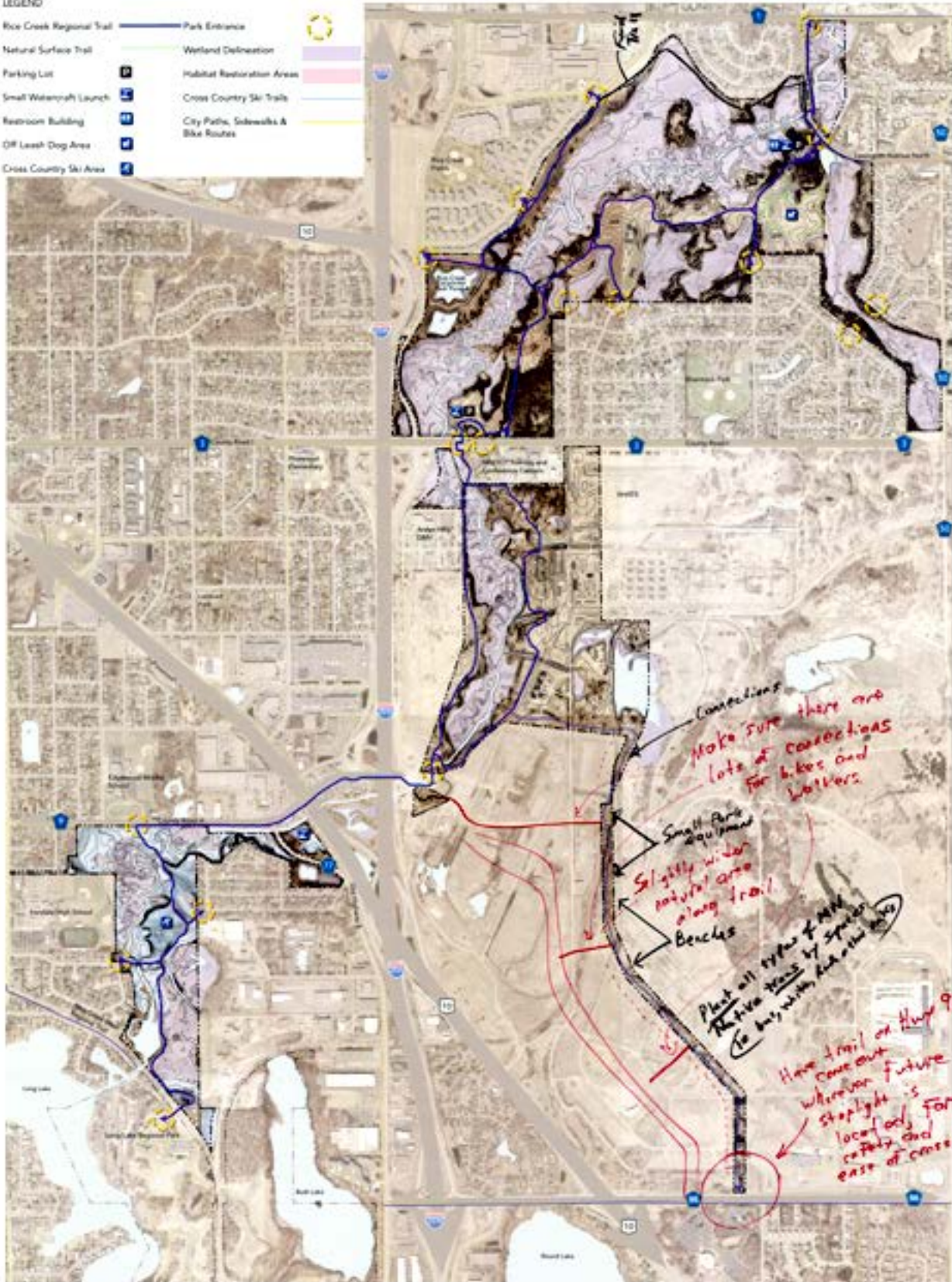


Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 3 Comments

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 : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Group 3 Comments

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**

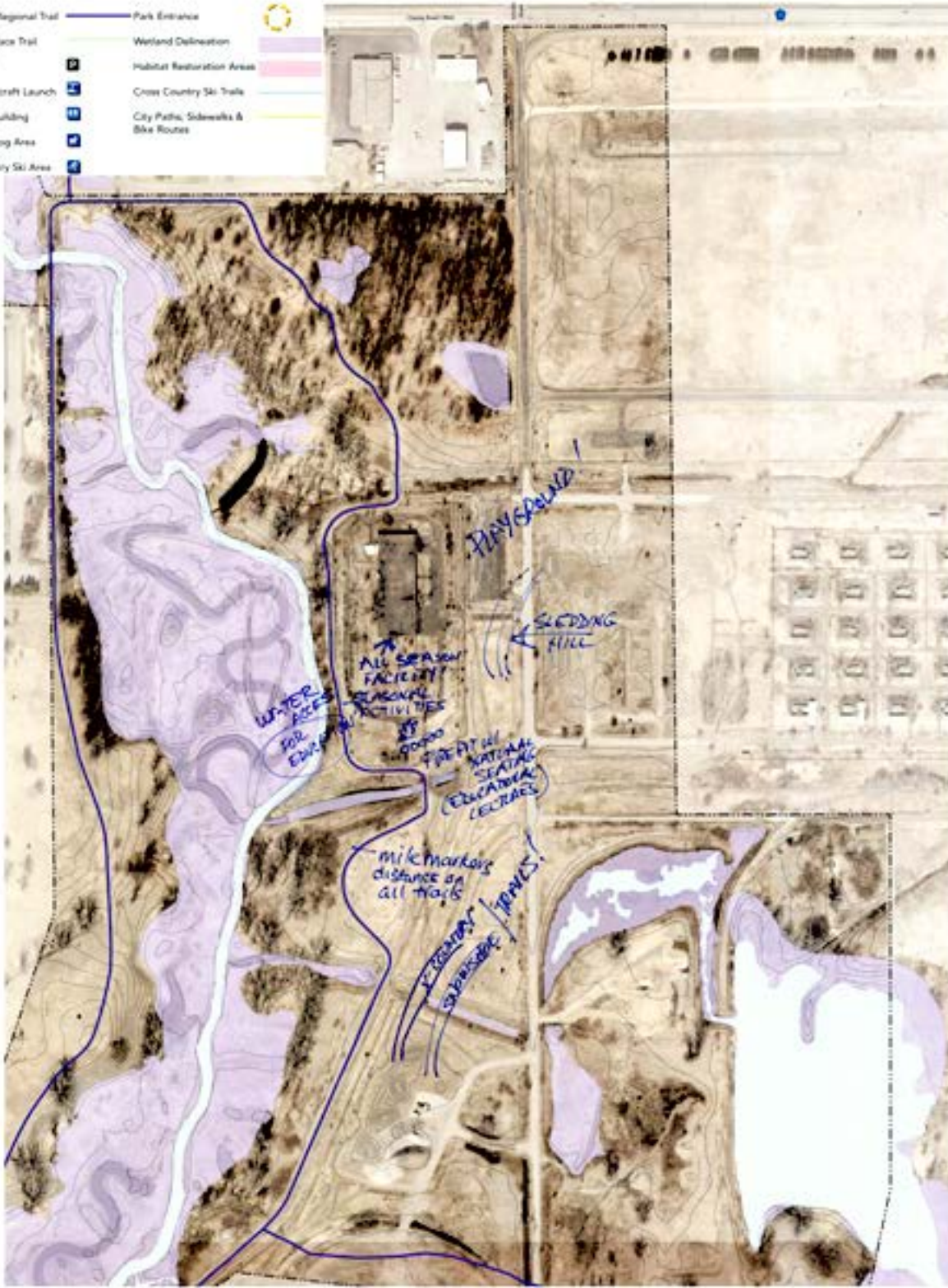


3

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**

LEGEND

- Rice Creek Regional Trail
- Natural Surface Trail
- Parking Lot
- Small Watercraft Launch
- Restroom Building
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- City Paths, Sidewalks & Bike Routes



3

Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No. 1 - Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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*

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 : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Survey

Rice Creek North Regional Trail Redevelopment  
Public Meeting No.1 – Informative Session  
June 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 : 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 Bldg 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
- volleyball
- Badminton

Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 2 Survey

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

1. Do you use the Rice Creek Trail frequently?

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

*Day's 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?

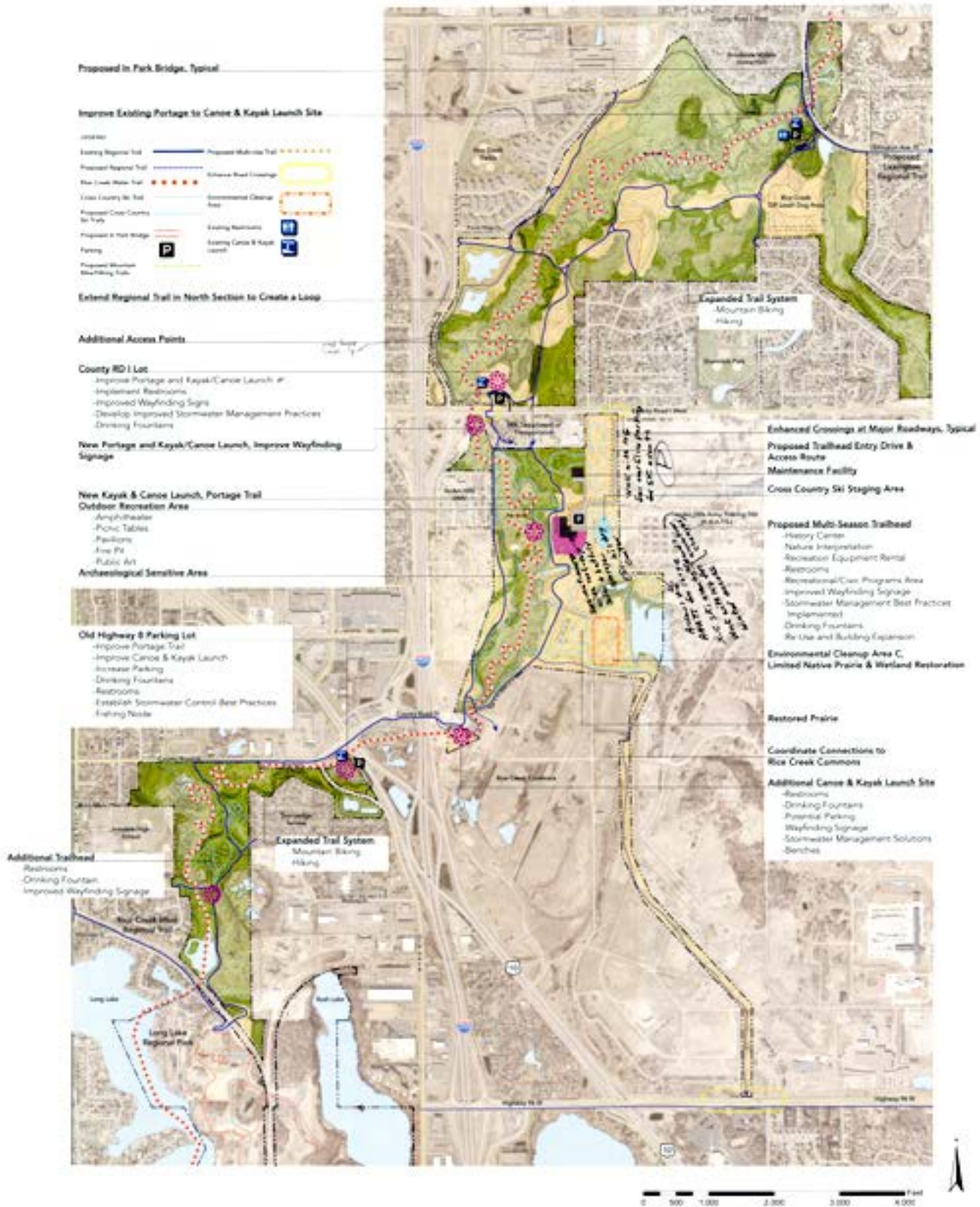
7. What other County/Regional parks do you enjoy?

*Just this one because it is close and accessible*

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

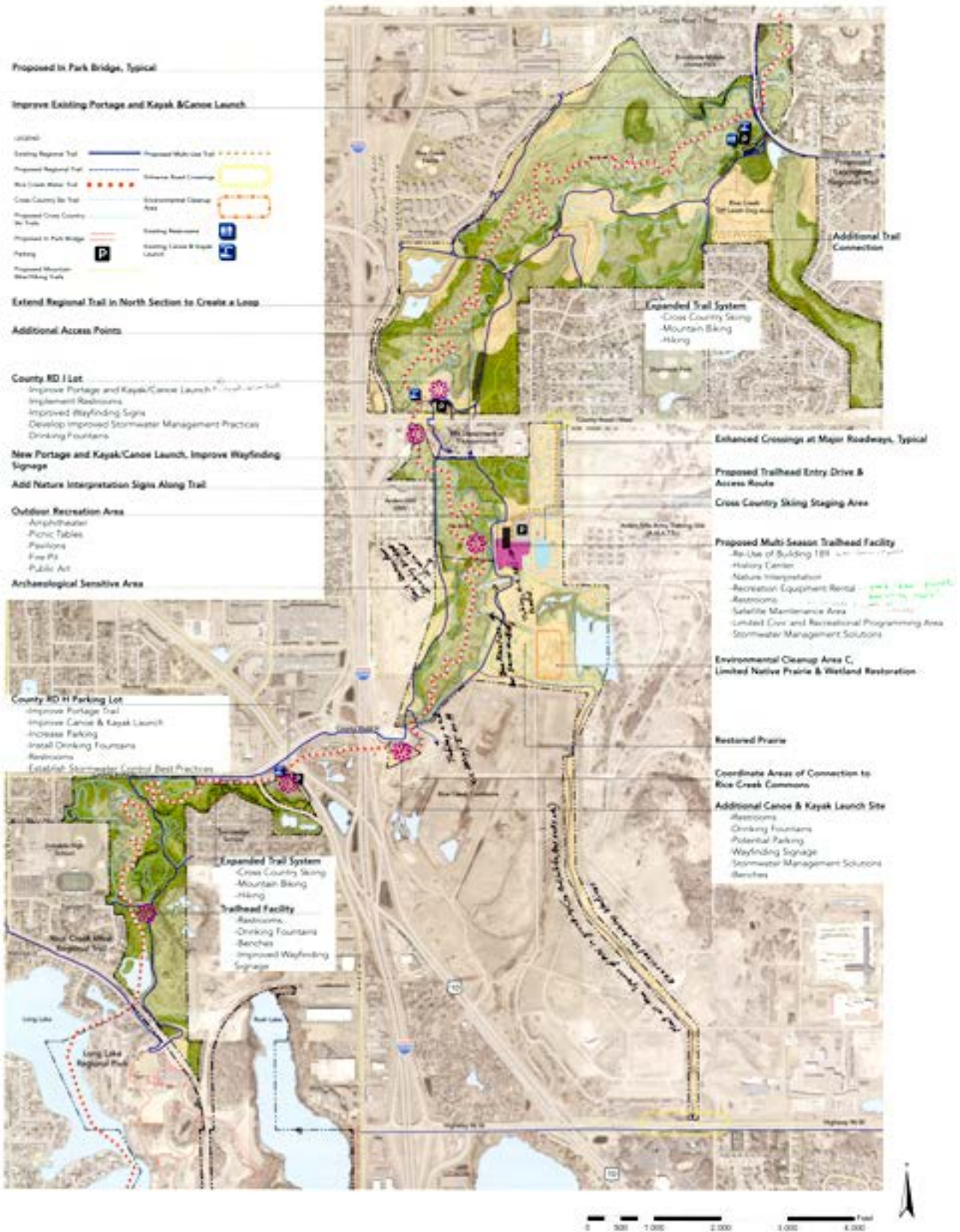
Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 3 Concept Comments

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**



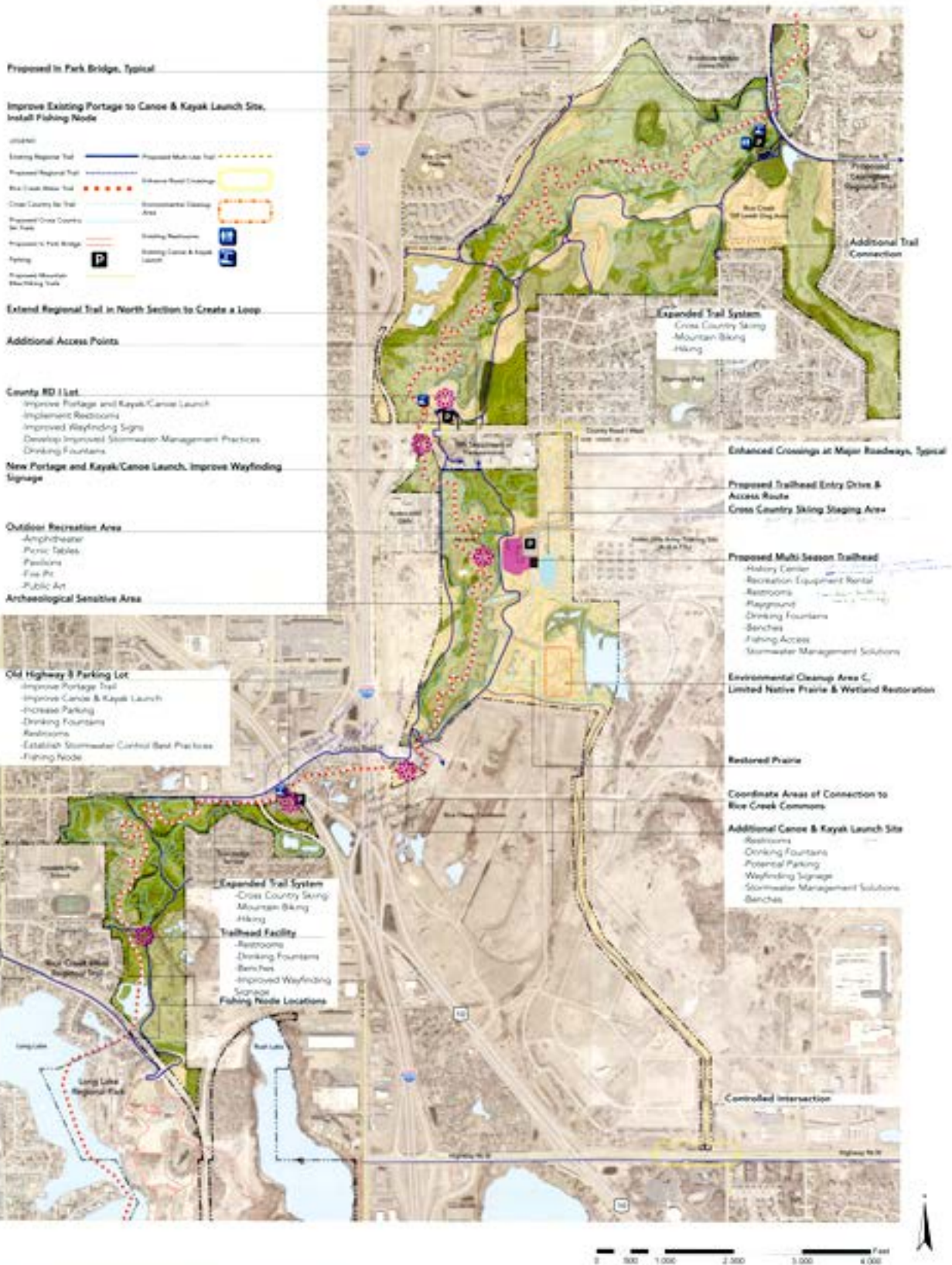
Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 3 Concept Comments

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**



Appendix : Public Engagement Meeting 3 Concept Comments

**Rice Creek North Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment 2018**



## Appendix : 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	<b>Canoe/Kayak Access</b> COncern about being able to access rice creek for canoeing	12/6/2018 12:09 PM
5	<b>N/A</b> Incredible visions!! Do this-you won't regret it	12/5/2018 9:02 PM
6	<b>Bldg. 189 Use</b> <b>Concept B</b> <b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Lights?</b> <b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>Safe Crossings</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Hiking Trails</b> <b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Trails (general)</b> 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	<b>Bldg. 189 Use</b> <b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Concept B</b> b	12/2/2018 1:56 PM
13	<b>Concept B</b> <b>Concept C</b> 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	<b>Concept C</b> <b>Nature Preservation</b> 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	<b>Disc Golf</b> <b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> 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	<b>Trails (general)</b> 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	<b>XC Ski</b> Like the addition of ski trails.	11/29/2018 3:40 PM

## Appendix : Online Survey #2

### Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

18	<b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Nature Preservation</b> I am alarmed by the proposed proliferation of trails in the approximately 15 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	<b>N/A</b> I love that this is being considered.	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
21	<b>Environmentally Friendly</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>N/A</b> Good to hear improvements coming.	11/18/2018 11:12 PM
23	<b>Nature Preservation</b> 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	<b>Concept B</b> I prefer what is proposed in Concept B over the other proposals.	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
25	<b>Trails (general)</b> 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	<b>N/A</b> .	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
27	<b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Concept B</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>Trails (general)</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Trails (general)</b> I prefer fewer buildings and more trails.	11/12/2018 9:18 PM
31	<b>MTN BIKE/FAT BIKE</b> <b>Paved Trail(walkrun)</b> <b>Trails (general)</b> <b>XC Ski</b> I live two miles south of this area. As I have driven past it hundreds of time 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	<b>Lights?</b> <b>Snowmaking?</b> <b>XC Ski</b> The more ski trails the better! Would the ski trails have lights or snowmaking?	11/12/2018 12:59 PM
33	<b>Build 189 Use</b> <b>Trails (general)</b> <b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Trails (general)</b> I am in favor of concepts that would place a higher priority on trails vs. new buildings.	11/12/2018 8:36 AM
35	<b>Building 189 Bad</b> 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	<b>XC Ski</b> 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	<b>Trails (general)</b> <b>XC Ski</b> Good mix of trail uses. I am grateful for the xc skiing trail plans. Thank You!	11/7/2018 4:39 PM
38	<b>Hiking Trails</b> 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 : Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

39	<b>Concept B</b> staffing	Prefer Concept B, do not like the idea of rental facilities because of the need for	11/6/2018 10:31 AM
40	<b>Concept B</b> <b>Rental Space</b> <b>Trails (general)</b>	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	<b>Concept B</b>	Like the concept A & B. a little more extensive due to more use	11/5/2018 11:35 PM
42	<b>Trails (general)</b>	I think adding more trails is important for all recreational activities.	11/5/2018 2:06 PM
43	<b>Concept A</b>	Option A	11/2/2018 7:55 PM
44	<b>Shelters</b> <b>Snowmaking?</b>	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	<b>Concept A</b> <b>PavedTrail(walk/run)</b>	I favor concept A. More consideration for accessibility on paved trails.	11/2/2018 12:37 PM
46	<b>Concept B</b>	Like plan B for my first choice.	10/18/2018 11:30 AM
47	<b>N/A</b>	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	<b>Nature Preservation</b> <b>PavedTrail(walk/run)</b> <b>Trails (general)</b>	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	<b>PavedTrail(walk/run)</b>	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

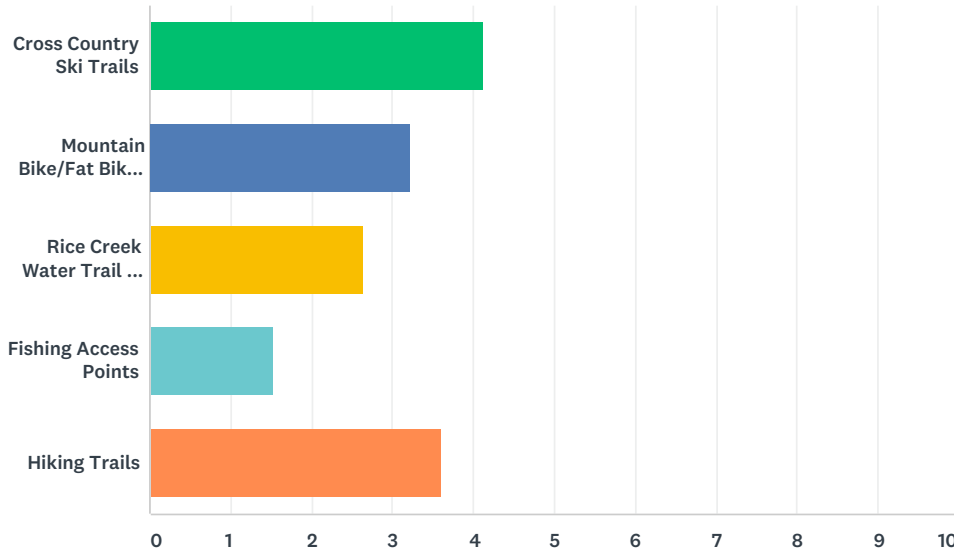


## Appendix : Online Survey #2

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 : 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	<b>Canoe/Kayak Access</b> canoe access	12/6/2018 12:09 PM
5	<b>Multi Season Build.</b> Warming huts and permanent bathrooms spread around the area	12/5/2018 9:02 PM
6	<b>No</b> not at this time	12/5/2018 7:54 PM
7	<b>Snowmaking</b> 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	<b>Restrooms</b> Definitely more restrooms	12/5/2018 2:55 PM
9	<b>Lights</b> 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	<b>No</b> No - these developments are great!	12/3/2018 12:05 PM
11	<b>Paved Trail</b> more wide paved trails of high quality, less cracks and bumps	12/3/2018 9:27 AM
12	<b>Benches</b> <b>exercise stations</b> 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	<b>Disc Golf</b> <b>exercise stations</b> 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	<b>No</b> no	12/2/2018 1:56 PM
15	<b>Disc Golf</b> Maybe a Freesbie Golf course.	12/2/2018 11:54 AM
16	<b>Nature Preservation</b> 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	<b>Disc Golf</b> Frisbee/disc golf	11/30/2018 3:57 PM
18	<b>Hiking</b> unpaved hiking trails	11/29/2018 4:16 PM
19	<b>Ski Trails</b> ski trails in the hills	11/29/2018 3:47 PM
20	<b>Bike Station</b> Bike repair station?	11/29/2018 3:40 PM
21	<b>Nature Preservation</b> More nature, less development.	11/26/2018 5:17 PM
22	<b>Sledding Hill</b> Sliding Hill	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
23	<b>Ski Trails</b> More ski trails!	11/20/2018 10:56 PM
24	<b>Paved Trail</b> <b>Trash/recycling</b> More recycling bins and running trails	11/20/2018 9:53 PM
25	<b>Rec. Equip. Rental</b> <b>Snowmaking</b> Ski rental and/or snow making capabilities	11/20/2018 12:03 PM
26	<b>Dog Park</b> <b>Paved Trail</b> Road bike and running trails, dog park.	11/18/2018 8:20 PM
27	<b>Bike Station</b> <b>Drinking Water</b> Bicycle pump and water bottle fill stations	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
28	<b>Bike Station</b> Link with Nice Ride, bike tire pump	11/15/2018 11:13 PM
29	<b>Ski Trails</b> <b>Sledding Hill</b> <b>Snowmaking</b> winter use	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
30	<b>exercise stations</b> <b>Lights</b> Lighted trails Exercise station on the trails for Summer use	11/12/2018 10:05 PM

## Appendix : Online Survey #2

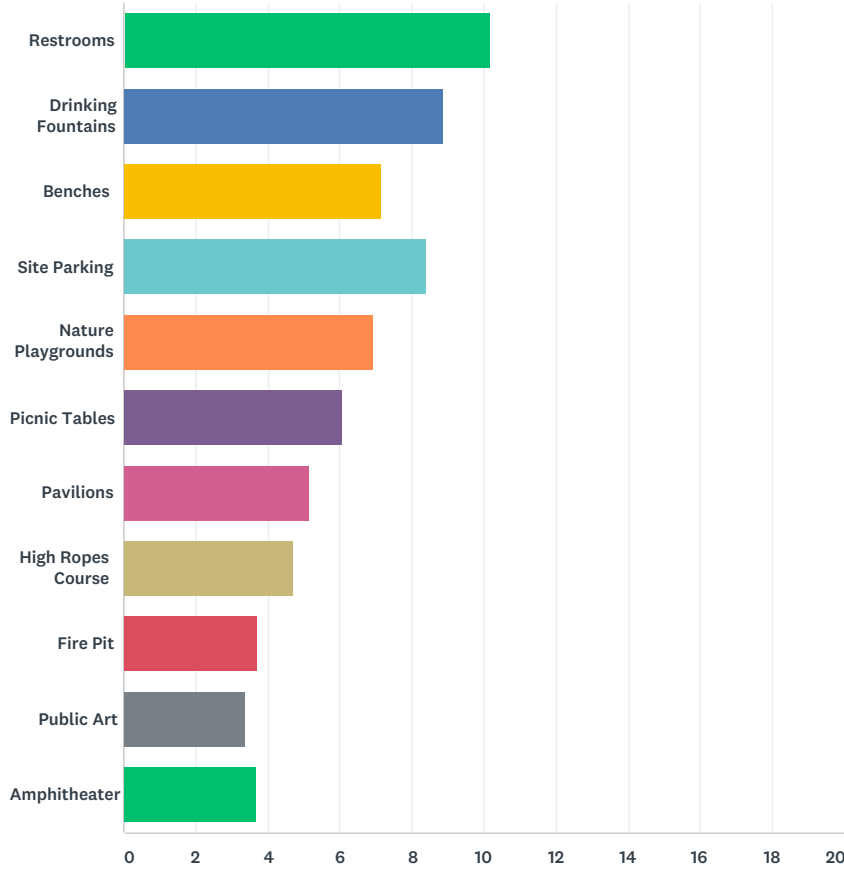
### Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

31	<b>Hiking</b> 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 9:38 PM
32	<b>Paved Trail</b> paved biking trails	11/12/2018 9:18 PM
33	<b>No</b> no	11/12/2018 4:03 PM
34	<b>No</b> na	11/12/2018 12:59 PM
35	<b>Ski Trails</b> <b>Snowmaking</b> 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	<b>Plow trails winter</b> Plowed paved trails for winter use	11/9/2018 11:38 AM
37	<b>Safe Rd. Crossings</b> Consider a bridge or tunnel to cross county road I	11/9/2018 9:21 AM
38	<b>No</b> No	11/7/2018 4:39 PM
39	<b>Ind Rest/Training</b> canoe/kayak/bike/ski rental, cross country ski waxing area, indoor training space	11/7/2018 3:35 PM
40	<b>No</b> No	11/6/2018 9:28 PM
41	<b>Nature Preservation</b> 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	<b>No</b> no	11/6/2018 10:31 AM
43	<b>Parking</b> Yes please add a satellite to the parking lot area on County Rd I.	11/5/2018 11:47 PM
44	<b>Paved Trail</b> <b>Safe Rd. Crossings</b> 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	<b>Rec. Equip. Rental</b> onsite Kayak rental availability	11/5/2018 2:32 PM
46	<b>Programming</b> Snowshoeing Snowsledding Bike Rallies Tree Top Walkways	11/2/2018 7:55 PM
47	<b>Nature Preservation</b> As much undeveloped and wooded as possible to enhancing birding. Don't cut the number of osprey platforms.	11/2/2018 12:39 PM
48	<b>WHAT?</b> Hope the trailhead has a interesting portion developed to the glacial characteristics of the land.	11/2/2018 12:37 PM
49	<b>Dog Park</b> A fully enclosed dog park!	10/18/2018 1:57 PM
50	<b>exercise stations</b> 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	<b>Accessible Playground</b> <b>Volleyball</b> Accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities. Volleyball.	10/18/2018 9:20 AM
52	<b>Safe Rd. Crossings</b> 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 : 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%	35.37%	9.76%	2.44%	1.22%	0.00%	1.22%	0.00%	1.22%	0.00%	0.00%	82	
Drinking Fountains	15.58%	33.77%	23.38%	7.79%	3.90%	5.19%	5.19%	3.90%	1.30%	0.00%	0.00%	77	
Benches	5.41%	8.11%	20.27%	20.27%	14.86%	9.46%	6.76%	4.05%	2.70%	1.35%	6.76%	74	
Site Parking	23.75%	15.00%	20.00%	13.75%	7.50%	7.50%	5.00%	2.50%	0.00%	3.75%	1.25%	80	
Nature Playgrounds	10.14%	7.25%	8.70%	14.49%	20.29%	11.59%	14.49%	2.90%	2.90%	5.80%	1.45%	69	
Picnic Tables	0.00%	1.41%	5.63%	14.08%	21.13%	22.54%	18.31%	5.63%	9.86%	0.00%	1.41%	71	
Pavilions	1.41%	1.41%	5.63%	5.63%	11.27%	12.68%	23.94%	19.72%	4.23%	9.86%	4.23%	71	
High Ropes Course	2.86%	7.14%	7.14%	7.14%	7.14%	7.14%	1.43%	17.14%	11.43%	15.71%	15.71%	70	
Fire Pit	0.00%	1.49%	1.49%	8.96%	1.49%	2.99%	7.46%	22.39%	25.37%	13.43%	14.93%	67	
Public Art	0.00%	0.00%	4.35%	4.35%	4.35%	10.14%	2.90%	7.25%	17.39%	27.54%	21.74%	69	

Appendix : Online Survey #2

Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

Amphitheater	2.90%	0.00%	4.35%	5.80%	5.80%	5.80%	4.35%	8.70%	18.84%	17.39%	26.09%	
	2	0	3	4	4	4	3	6	13	12	18	69

**Appendix : 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	<b>Snowmaking</b> Canoe access. Lighted ski trails, snow making	12/6/2018 12:09 PM
3	<b>No</b> Not at this time	12/5/2018 7:54 PM
4	<b>Trails General</b> 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	<b>No</b> No	12/3/2018 12:05 PM
6	<b>Enforcement/Litter</b> 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	<b>Enforcement/Litter</b> 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	<b>No</b> no	12/2/2018 1:56 PM
9	<b>Bike Station</b> Biking service/pump equipment like they have at other trailheads (Elm Creek, etc).	12/2/2018 11:54 AM
10	<b>Maps</b> Interpretative signage, especially to increase education of native prairies and pollinator gardens. Absolutely no amphitheater.	11/30/2018 4:30 PM
11	<b>Bike Station</b> <b>MultiSeson Build</b> Bike repair stand with tire pump. Warming hut for cross country skiers.	11/30/2018 3:57 PM
12	<b>Nature Preservation</b> Less is more. Keep things as natural as possible and wildlife friendly	11/29/2018 4:16 PM
13	<b>No</b> No	11/29/2018 3:40 PM
14	<b>sledding hill</b> sliding hill	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
15	<b>XC prep. area</b> Ski waxing places	11/20/2018 9:53 PM
16	<b>No</b> no	11/18/2018 8:20 PM
17	<b>Exercise Equip.</b> Outdoor fitness equipment such as chin-up bar, etc...	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
18	<b>No</b> no	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
19	<b>Cameras</b> Wi-Fi Web-Cam pointed at trails in front of Pavillion to show conditions	11/12/2018 10:05 PM
20	<b>No</b> no	11/12/2018 9:18 PM
21	<b>No</b> no	11/12/2018 4:03 PM
22	<b>Ind. Winter Shelter</b> warming shelter for winter activities	11/12/2018 12:59 PM
23	<b>XC Trails</b> Cross country ski trails!	11/12/2018 12:28 PM
24	<b>Ind. Winter Shelter</b> <b>Timing Booth</b> 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	<b>Bike Station</b> Bicycle racks, maintenance stands	11/9/2018 11:38 AM

## Appendix : Online Survey #2

### Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

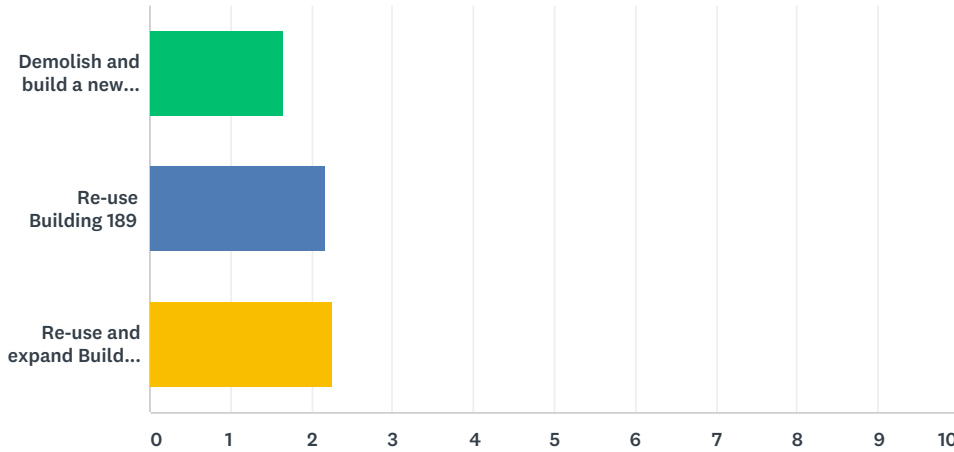
26	<b>Maps</b>	Maps along the trail.	11/9/2018 9:21 AM
27	<b>No</b>	No	11/7/2018 4:39 PM
28	<b>Ind. Winter Shelter</b>	<b>Rec. Equip. Rental</b> equipment rental area, indoor program space,	11/7/2018 3:35 PM
29	<b>No</b>	No	11/8/2018 9:26 PM
30	<b>Less Develop.</b>	Would like to see fewer amenities.	11/6/2018 5:49 PM
31	<b>No</b>	No	11/6/2018 10:31 AM
32	<b>Not possible</b>	A spur trail to the highest point in Ramsey county	11/5/2018 11:47 PM
33	<b>No</b>	No	11/5/2018 4:14 PM
34	<b>Dog Park</b>	If people bring their dogs on leashes, an area for the dogs to go to the bathroom.	11/5/2018 2:08 PM
35	<b>Less Develop.</b>	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	<b>Birding Tours</b>	Birding for all ages via the Audubon and Ramsey County experts.	11/2/2018 12:37 PM
37	<b>Dog Park</b>	A fully enclosed dog park!	10/18/2018 1:57 PM
38	<b>Public Art</b>	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	<b>Public Art</b>	Wild flowers. Work from local artists.	10/18/2018 9:20 AM

**Appendix : 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

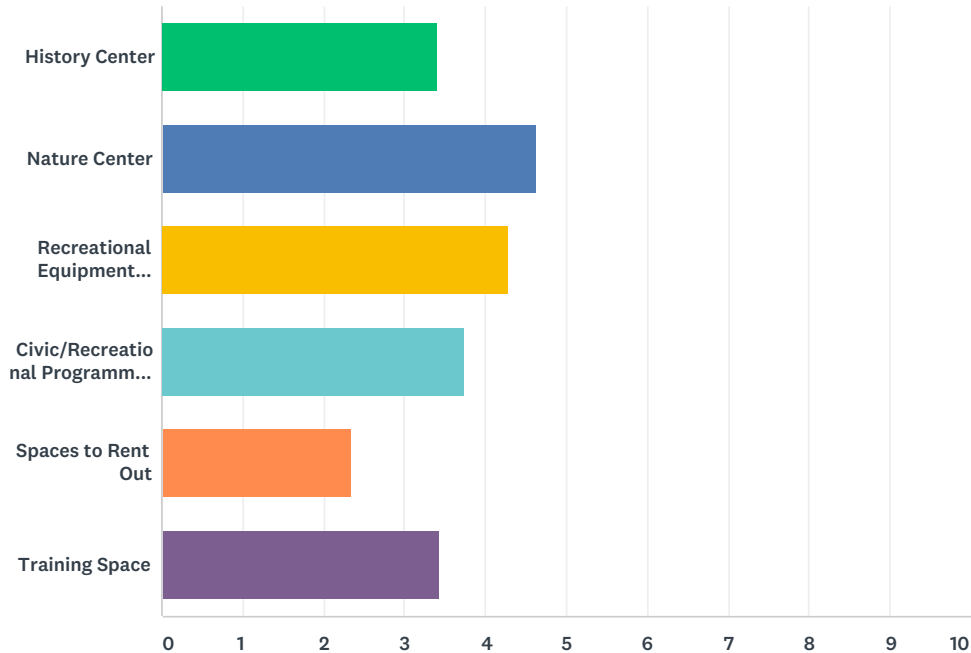


**Appendix : Online Survey #2**

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 : Online Survey #2**

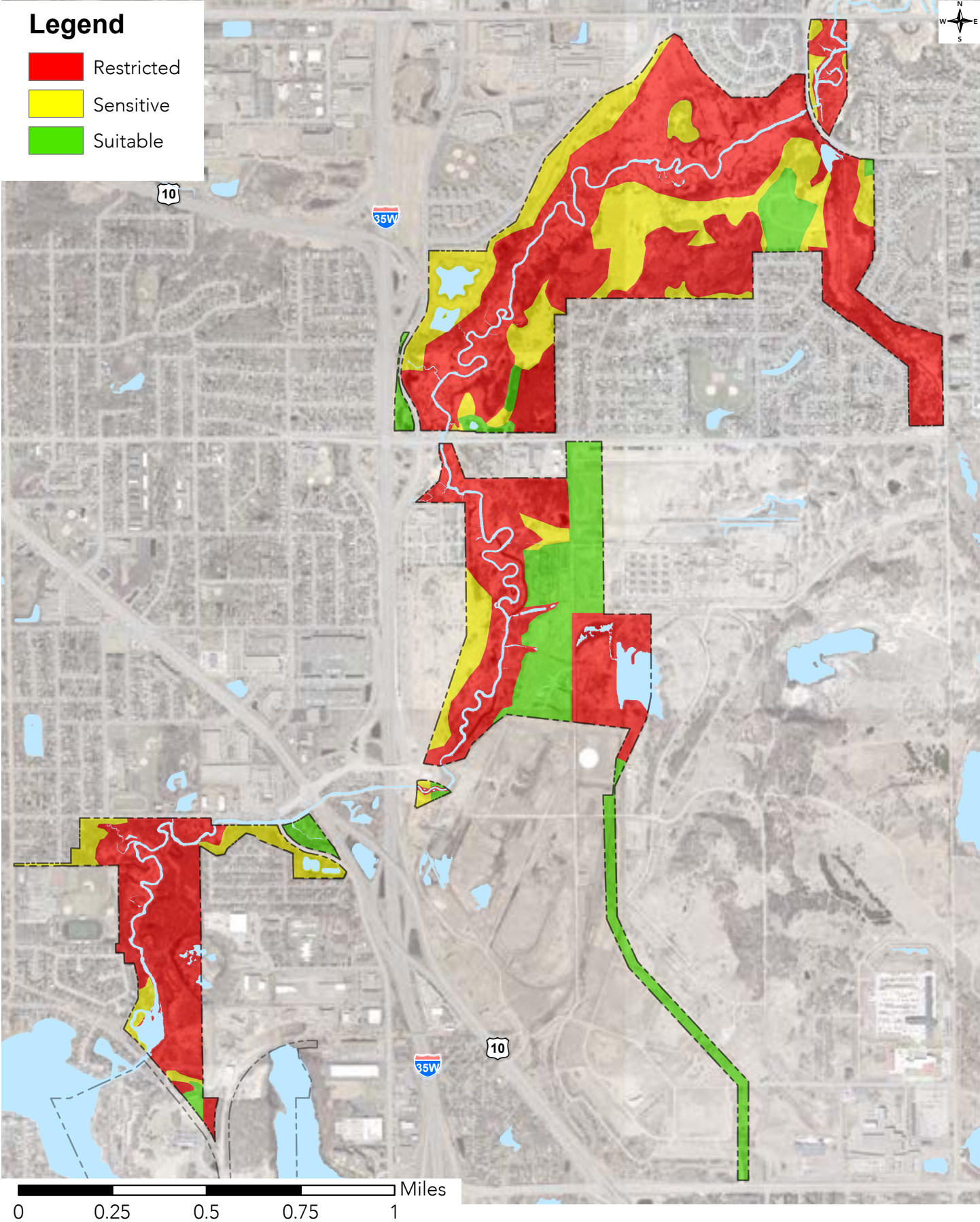
Rice Creek North Master Plan Concept Development Survey

**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	<b>Snowmaking</b> I'd like to see planning incorporated for near-future snow making for winter trails.	12/5/2018 8:48 AM
2	<b>No</b> No	12/3/2018 12:05 PM
3	<b>Programming</b> 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	<b>No</b> No	12/2/2018 11:54 AM
5	<b>Nature Preservation</b> Keep it as natural, environmentally and wildlife friendly as possible. Minimal development	11/29/2018 4:16 PM
6	<b>Showers/Lockerroom</b> Showers/locker room	11/29/2018 3:40 PM
7	<b>No</b> no	11/21/2018 3:18 PM
8	<b>Eco. Friendly Design</b> Make it more eco friendly	11/20/2018 9:53 PM
9	<b>Multi-Season/Warm</b> Warming for skiers	11/18/2018 11:12 PM
10	<b>No</b> no	11/18/2018 8:20 PM
11	<b>Health club</b> Health club studio with professional instruction classes for strength training, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, etc...	11/18/2018 3:25 PM
12	<b>No</b> no	11/15/2018 9:00 PM
13	<b>Everything</b> If possible, it would be nice to incorporate all of the suggestions in question 7.	11/12/2018 9:38 PM
14	<b>No</b> no	11/12/2018 4:03 PM
15	<b>N/A to question</b> 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	<b>Skating ice sheet</b> 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	<b>Less build. Devel.</b> I prefer to put more effort and cost into the trails than buildings.	11/9/2018 9:21 AM
18	<b>No</b> No	11/7/2018 4:39 PM
19	<b>No</b> No	11/6/2018 9:26 PM
20	<b>No</b> No	11/6/2018 10:31 AM
21	<b>Flea market/Prog.</b> Flea market might attract visitors to the trails and promote exercise	11/5/2018 11:47 PM
22	<b>No</b> no	11/5/2018 4:14 PM
23	<b>Sheriff/security</b> sheriff's mini station	11/2/2018 12:39 PM

**Appendix : Rice Creek North Regional Trail Development Suitability Map**



**Appendix : 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

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

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