

Rice Creek North Regional Trail, Anoka County

Business Item 2026-29

Community Development Committee



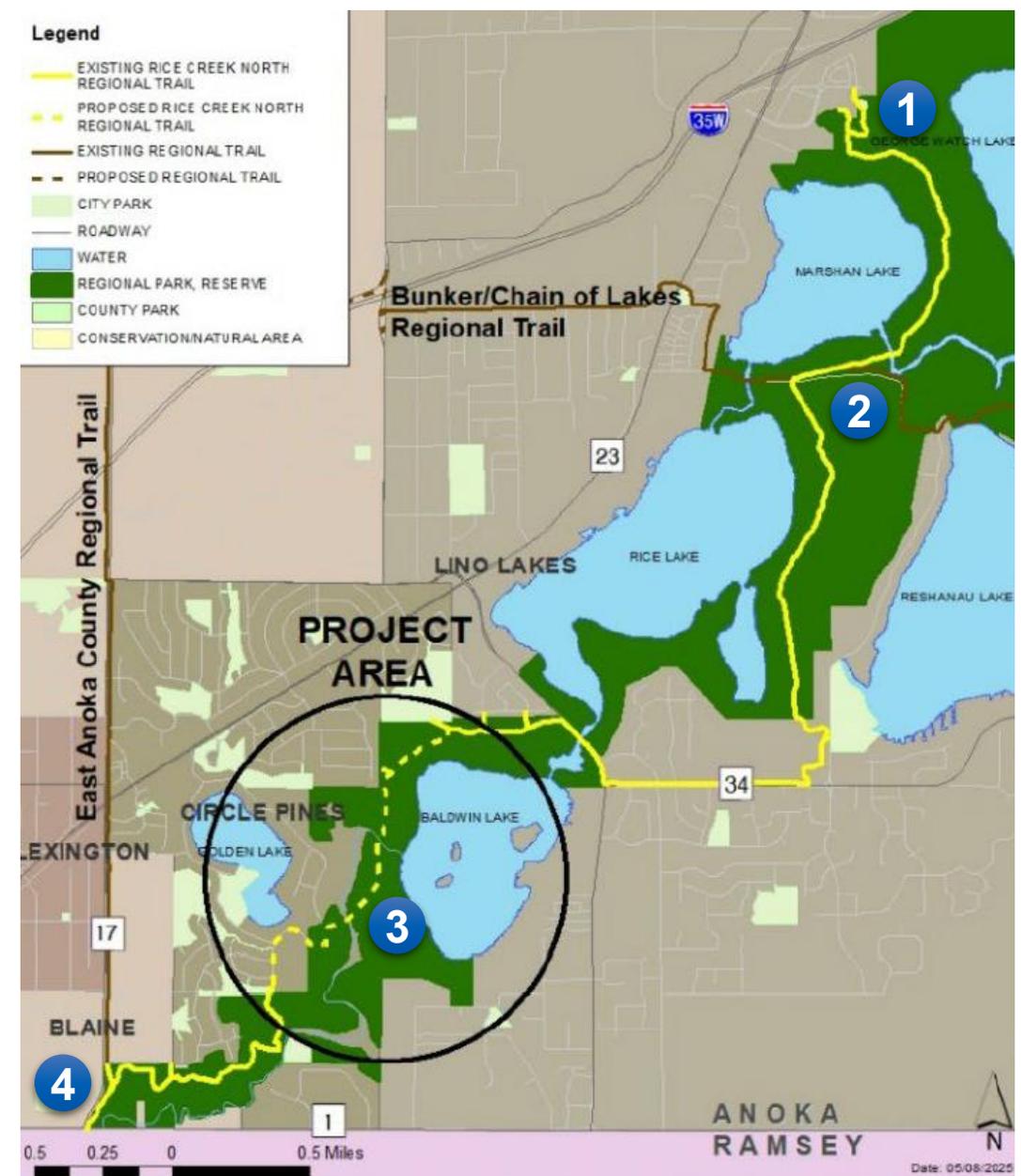
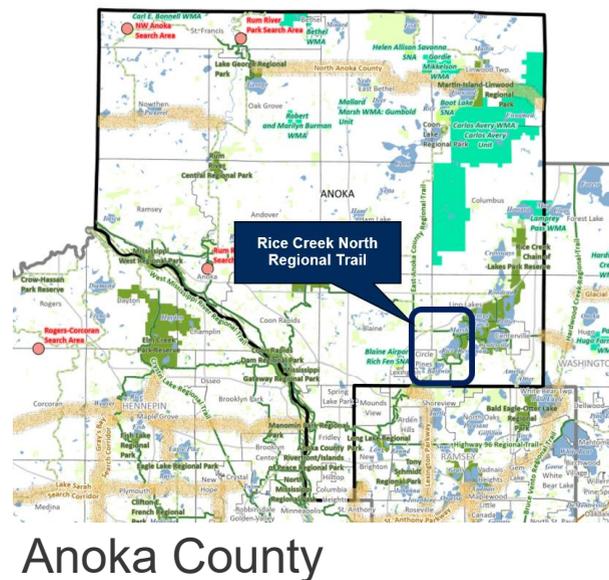
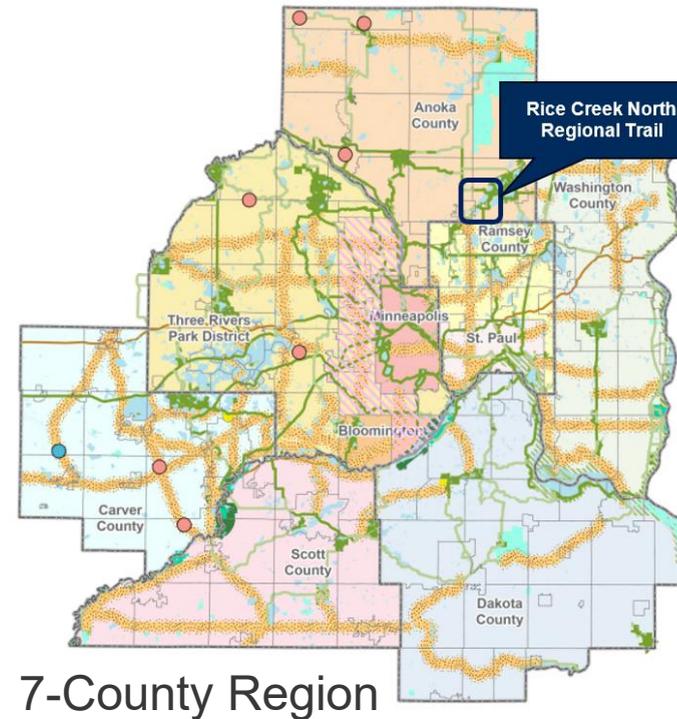
February 17, 2026

Zoey Mauck, Regional Trails Planner

Rice Creek North Regional Trail

Eight mile north-south trail

- 1 Starts at Lino Lakes Rookery Activity Center.
- 2 Continues SW through Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve, connecting to Bunker Hills-Chain of Lake Regional Trail.
- 3 Planned segment travels SW along Baldwin Lake before becoming a short on-street segment on Golden Lake Rd.
- 4 Continues south, connecting with East Anoka County Regional Trail and Ramsey County's portion of Rice Creek North Regional Trail.



Rice Creek North Regional Trail

Development Concept

- Connects to three regional trails, through a regional park reserve, and to several schools and activity centers
- Primarily 10-foot wide (eight feet in constrained areas), hard surface multi-use trail.
- Trail plan identifies widening some existing segments from eight feet to 10 feet.
- New one-mile segment will include a mainly off-road trail with 1000' on a residential road with curb and vegetation separation.
- Boardwalks and two pedestrian bridges will be added as part of the new segment



Engagement + Equity Analysis



Equity Analysis

- Priority populations along the corridor that are often not included in public engagement:
 - People of color
 - Those over age of 65
 - Those under age 25
 - People with disabilities

Engagement Summary

- Engagement limited by COVID-19 pandemic
- Listening sessions, project website “Plan Your Parks”, social media updates, online surveys
- Workshops with Centennial High School group
- Plan reviewed by City of Circle Pines, City of Lino Lakes, and the Rice Creek Watershed District
- Themes included:
 - Add amenities, safety improvements, more areas for teens to enjoy, desire for trail to run on school land (not possible due to archaeological remains)

Estimated Costs



Total Development Costs

The total estimated cost for design and construction of the remaining one-mile segment of Rice Creek North Regional Trail is **\$7.7 million**.

Acquisition

No parcels needed for acquisition, therefore **no acquisition costs**.

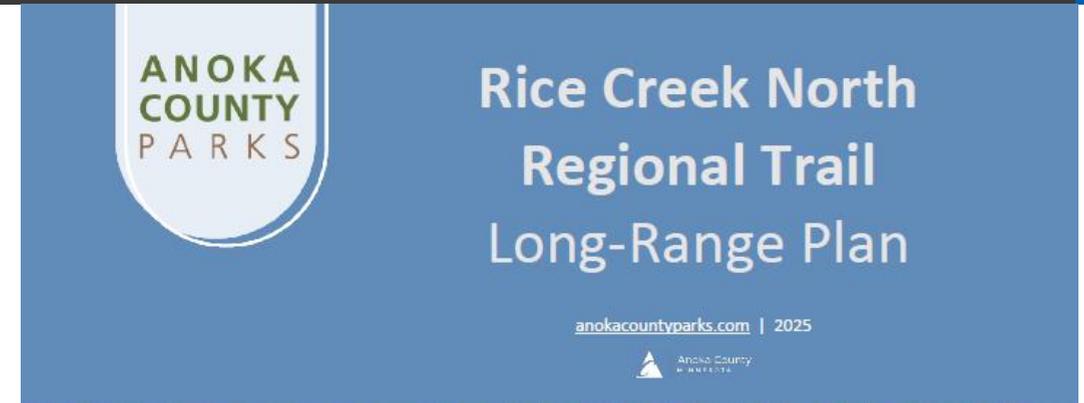
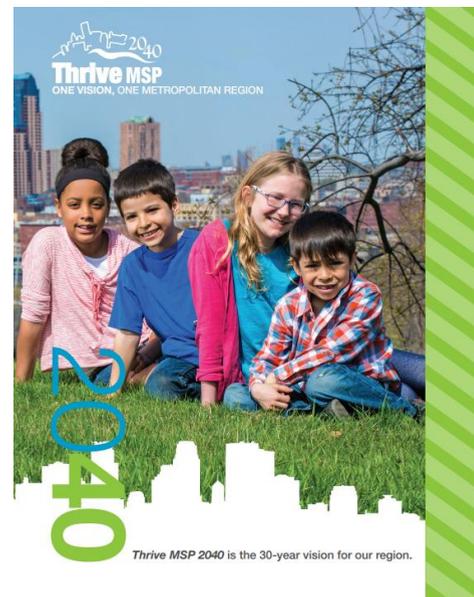
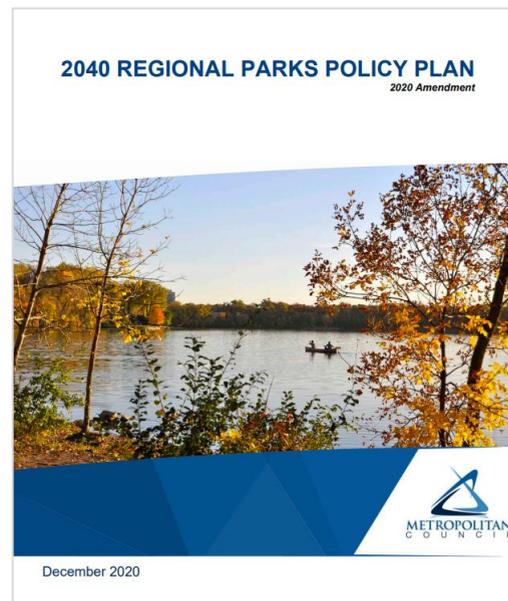
Operations

The estimated annual operating cost for the remaining trail segment is approximately **\$20,000**.

Rationale for Proposed Action

The Rice Creek North Regional Trail Long-Range Plan is consistent with the requirements of the:

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



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Rice Creek North Regional Trail Long-Range Plan





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