

Committee Report

Community Development Committee



Community Development Committee: September 8, 2026

Metropolitan Council: September 23, 2026

Business Item: 2026-134

Anoka County, Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan and Rum River Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan, including the addition of a 1.67-acre parcel and the removal of a 1.75-acre parcel, which corrects a boundary discrepancy from the original 1975 long-range plan identified in the Modernizing Mapping project.
2. Approve the minor Rum River Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment.
3. Encourage Anoka County to implement Land Use and Solar Resources Advisory Comments.

Summary of Community Development Committee Discussion/Questions

This business item was passed as part of the Community Development Committee's consent agenda on September 8, 2026.

Committee Report

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



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Summary of Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission discussion/questions

Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst, and Ginger Hofmaster, Intern, presented the staff analysis for the Lake George Regional Park Plan to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission on September 3, 2026. Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks Planner, was present to answer questions.

Commissioner Yakes asked about the proposed removal of the 1.75-acre parcel. Chair Yarusso responded that it seemed this was a simple boundary adjustment and correction, and this land was never a part of the regional park. Kelly confirmed this.

Chair Yarusso asked if the 1.75-acre parcel was of interest to the County during the original planning process and if it had natural resources desired for inclusion in the park. Blaska responded that she could only speculate about a planning process 50+ years ago and this specific parcel, and noted the mapping tools of the day were imprecise, largely amounting to hand drawn figures. She noted there is a private home on the property, along with some trees and turf grass. Council Parks Manager Emmett Mullin noted that the Modernizing Mapping project has led to much more accurate regional park and trail boundaries.

Commissioner Dillenburg asked about the land use and solar resources advisory comments. Chair Yarusso responded that staff from various Council departments review the long-range plan and may provide comments. Kelly added those comments are occasionally elevated into the Proposed Action and could be found on page 10 of the staff report.

Chair Yarusso asked about the proposed changes to the Rum River Regional Trail in the park. Kelly shared a handout depicting the proposed routing in the Lake George plan versus the routing in the Rum River Regional Trail Plan, noting the new route avoids sensitive natural resource areas.

Commissioner Suerig asked about the addition of the 1.67-acre parcel and why it wasn't brought to the Commission's attention sooner. Blaska responded that the Modernizing Mapping project brought the issue to their attention and they are now using the long-range plan to correct the issue.

Motion by Dillenburg, second by Yakes. The motion passed unanimously.

Business Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission: September 3, 2026

Community Development Committee: September 8, 2026

Metropolitan Council: September 23, 2026

Business Item: 2026-134

Anoka County, Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan and Rum River Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment

District(s), Member(s):	District E, Chris Suerig District 9, Diego Morales
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.313; <i>2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan</i> : Section 5, Planning Policy Action 1, Long-range plan requirements
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361) Belle Furman, Intern (651-728-8794) Ginger Hofmaster, Intern (651-728-8799)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan, including the addition of a 1.67-acre parcel and the removal of a 1.75-acre parcel, which corrects a boundary discrepancy from the original 1975 long-range plan identified in the Modernizing Mapping project.
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3. Encourage Anoka County to implement Land Use and Solar Resources Advisory Comments.

Background

Lake George Regional Park is located in northwestern Anoka County in the City of Oak Grove (Figures 1 and 2). The regional park is 260 acres in size and is located along the northern shore of Lake George. Planned and existing segments of the Rum River Regional Trail connect to the regional park. In addition, the North Anoka County Regional Trail Search Corridor is proposed to connect the regional park to destinations in northeast Anoka County, including Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park.

The long-range plan provides a full update to the original 1975 plan, including the correction of a minor boundary discrepancy. The development concept for Lake George Regional Park is designed to enhance and redevelop park facilities to improve the visitor experience. As the park has not undergone major improvements for many years, the plan proposes updates to existing facilities as well as new amenities and programs.

Proposed Plan Amendment

The Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan also proposes a minor shift of a Rum River

Regional Trail segment within the park. Natural and cultural resource constraints do not accommodate the routing identified in the regional trail plan. The minor shift in trail alignment was included in public and partner engagement opportunities and is supported by community and local government partners. Therefore, the proposed actions for this business item include approval of an amendment to the Rum River Regional Trail Long-Range Plan. This approach has been used previously when a long range plan for one regional park or regional trail also includes or proposes changes to another (e.g., Business Item [2024-8](#), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment and Cedar Lake Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment; Business Item [2023-9](#), Carver County, Southwest Regional Trail and Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendments).

Priority natural resource projects within the park will focus on restoring higher quality wetland complexes, enhancing woodlands, diversifying tree canopy, and incorporating additional native plantings.

Rationale

As described in the Analysis section of this report, the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan is consistent with the requirements of the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan including Section 5, Planning Policy Action 1, Long-range plan requirements.

Imagine Lens Analysis

The Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan advances multiple Imagine 2050 goals including:

- Our communities are healthy and safe
- We lead on addressing climate change
- We protect and restore natural systems

The long-range plan expands access to active recreation, improves safety and accessibility, and promotes inclusive community use, focusing on outreach to diverse, aging, and underserved populations. The plan also encourages low-impact recreation and protects carbon-storing landscapes including wetlands, woodlands, and other natural areas. Further, the plan enhances management and restoration of ecosystems, protects water resources, and integrates education and stewardship, using interpretive signage and programming to connect visitors with ecosystems.

Funding

The total estimated cost to implement the recommendations of the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan is approximately \$25,916,360. Construction (\$19,835,067) and Design/Engineering/Project Management (\$2,975,260) represent the largest portions of the estimated costs, followed by Contingency (10%; \$2,356,033), Natural Resource Restoration (\$200,000), and Topographic and Geotechnical surveys (\$150,000 each).

A 1.67-acre parcel, acquired by Anoka County in 2009, is proposed to be added to the park boundary. Because this parcel is already in public ownership, there are no acquisition costs associated with this parcel in this long-range plan.

Annual operating and maintenance costs for the regional park are estimated at approximately \$75,000. These costs are typically offset through revenue from daily and annual park pass sales, picnic pavilion rentals, programs, special events, and the parks operating budget. Additional support is provided through the Regional Park Operations and Maintenance Grant Program, the Lottery-in-Lieu program, and the local tax levy.

Funding sources for plan implementation will come from a variety of sources including the State of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Council, which will be subject to future Council actions.

Analysis



Planning Action 1 of the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan requires that long-range plans for regional parks address 10 items: demand forecast; public and partner engagement and equity analysis; boundaries; acquisition costs; development concept; accessibility; operations; public services; natural systems; and Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (when applicable). The following summary analyzes the long-range plan against these requirements.

Demand Forecast

The long-range plan includes a Demand Forecast section that focuses on expected demographic shifts in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Lake George Regional Park visitation, and estimated Anoka County population growth to 2050. The section also references key findings of Metropolitan Council reports and studies, including:

- 2014 Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color Report,
- 2016 Regional Parks System Visitor Study, and
- 2021 Visitor Study.

This section of the park plan focuses on expected shifts in regional and county demographics, and anticipates how these demographic changes will affect park usage. In 2020, 29% of Anoka County residents were Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). It is projected that by 2050, 45% of the county population will be BIPOC. The park plan uses this information in conjunction with the Met Council report and studies to support activities and facilities that are preferred by BIPOC residents. For example, the 2016 Visitor Study found that BIPOC visitors participate in fishing, special events, and picnicking at higher rates than white visitors, so the plan proposes enhancing these park facilities to meet the demand of increased use as county demographics continue to shift.

Met Council visitor data indicates that over the past five years, Lake George Regional Park has experienced increasing visitation. The anticipated population growth within Anoka County – from 374,077 people in 2024 to 433,570 in 2050 – is expected to directly impact park usage, as new and existing residents seek opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Public and Partner Engagement and Equity Analysis

Public and Partner Engagement

Anoka County's public and partner engagement plan was designed to involve local cities, community organizations, the public, and other stakeholders in an inclusive and accessible manner throughout the development of this and each of their long-range plans. The engagement plan had three primary goals:

1. Build positive relationships with communities and residents.
2. Foster community ownership and understanding of the County's planning process.
3. Make participation straightforward and accessible for all.

Multiple engagement strategies were used to meet community members where they are and to ensure flexibility in how, when, and where individuals can participate. County staff attends community events and creates opportunities to engage individuals who may be unaware of, or less likely to participate in, formal engagement activities.

The engagement process involved several steps. First, the County met with partners to provide an overview of the park system, existing conditions, and to gather initial feedback on desired improvements. Early engagement focused on targeted groups through in-person meetings, followed by broader public outreach through an online survey. Based on this input, the County developed a draft long-range plan, which was then shared with the public through social media, community meetings, and an open house. After additional feedback was received, revisions were considered and incorporated before the final plan was presented to local and regional agencies for review.

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the City of Oak Grove passed resolutions relating to the approval and adoption of the long-range plan and expressing support for the plan

(Attachments 1 and 2).

The County continues to strengthen relationships with community groups, local cities, watershed districts, and the public. By employing diverse engagement strategies, the County aims to increase both the number and diversity of participants and ensure that community input meaningfully informs the long-range plan and future engagement efforts.

Equity Analysis

The long-range plan notes that intentional outreach and engagement with underserved communities can help introduce residents to the Regional Parks and Trails System, and help identify improvements that make parks more welcoming and accessible.

The public engagement area included neighborhoods adjacent to Lake George Regional Park in Oak Grove, as well as nearby communities within approximately five miles including Bethel, East Bethel, St. Francis, and Nowthen; select areas of Isanti County; and all of Anoka County.

Citing current County demographics, the long-range plan noted that certain groups were underrepresented and would be a focus of plan engagement including youth under 25, older adults over 65, people of color, and people with disabilities.

Anoka County staff used the Met Council's Regional Park Equity Tool and identified priority groups within a three-mile radius of the park. Individuals under 25 make up about 33 percent of the population of that area and those over 65 represent about 11 percent, together accounting for over 44 of nearby residents. Additionally, about nine percent of residents are people of color, and about nine percent have disabilities.

During the park planning process, the County engaged a range of organizations, including the St. Francis American Indian Education Advisory Committee, St. Francis Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association, Independent School District 15 Community Education, the Lake George Improvement District, the Lake George Conservation Club, the City of Oak Grove Park Commission, and the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization. Through these meetings, the County gathered input from older adults, people of color, residents, and community advisory representatives.

Outreach occurred through in-person and virtual meetings, community newsletters, and social media-based information and surveys. Additional engagement included a "Goosechase" interactive activity at the park during the summer months, and an online public survey distributed via social media. Goosechase is an interactive experience platform inspired by scavenger hunts, designed to help organizations create and run engaging activities for individuals and groups.

The American Indian Education Group recommended increasing diversity within Anoka County staff to better reflect community demographics. They also suggested engaging a Native American consultant or partnering with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Survey respondents indicated that improved trails, additional interpretive information, and rental equipment would enhance equitable access.

Stakeholders consistently expressed interest in interpreting the historical and cultural significance of the land, park, and lake. Suggestions included developing a land acknowledgment sign, providing interpretive materials about Indigenous history, and incorporating native languages into educational content. Additional ideas included Indigenous-focused programming such as basket-making, syruping, medicine gardens, and traditional games

Safety concerns were frequently raised, including issues related to fights, disruptive behavior, and boat speeds on the lake. Stakeholders recommended increased collaboration between Anoka County, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Officers, and the Sheriff's Office to improve education and enforcement. Improved trail access into the park and closing gaps in the Rum River Regional Trail were also noted. The Conservation Club highlighted concerns about boaters mooring at the swimming beach; in response, the County is proposing a separate marina-style dock system to reduce conflicts between boaters and swimmers.

With the closure of the YMCA day camp during the COVID-19 pandemic, the community



expressed strong interest in restoring recreational and environmental education programming. The County has since implemented day camp programs and plans to continue and expand facilities to support overnight programming.

The plan notes that trails and regional trail connections remain highly valued amenities. Stakeholders requested additional paved trail connections to and from the park, and highlighted the need for a safe crossing where the Rum River Regional Trail intersects 221st Avenue. This improvement aligns with the Rum River Regional Trail Long-Range Plan.

Public input directly informed several of the improvements included in the long-range plan, including expanded day camp programming, additional trail loops, and beach safety enhancements. Feedback from the American Indian Education Group and the Conservation Club shaped interpretive elements and program offerings.

Anoka County is committed to creating a more welcoming and inclusive regional park that attracts both local and regional visitors. Once approved, the County intends to share the long-range plan with the public and the stakeholder groups engaged throughout the process. The County will continue collaborating with the community when improvements are implemented. According to the submitted plan, by visibly incorporating public feedback into improvements, the County aims to foster a sense of shared ownership and reinforce that community input plays a meaningful role in shaping park planning and development.

Boundaries

The 260-acre park is bounded by 221st Avenue Northwest to the north and Lake George to the south. The main road into the park is found off of County Road 9 (Lake George Boulevard).

The 2026 long-range plan proposes correcting a boundary discrepancy from the park's original 1975 plan. These proposed corrections are an outcome of the Council's recent Modernizing Mapping effort, previously known as the GIS Improvement Project. First, a 1.75-acre parcel in the southeast corner of the park – an inholding – was shown within the previous boundary but was never acquired and remains privately owned. This plan removes that parcel from the park boundary. Second, a 1.67-acre parcel located immediately south of the park entrance road, acquired by the County in 2009, is proposed for inclusion within the Lake George Regional Park boundary (Figure 3).

Acquisition Costs

A 1.67-acre parcel, acquired by Anoka County in 2009, is proposed to be added to the park boundary. Because this parcel is already in public ownership, there are no acquisition costs associated with this parcel in this long-range plan.

Development Concept

The proposed concept for Lake George Regional Park is designed to enhance and redevelop park facilities to improve the visitor experience. As the park has not undergone major improvements for many years, the plan proposes updates to existing facilities as well as new amenities and programs. The development concept is organized into the eight following areas:

1. Park Entrance
2. Beach Area
3. Pavillion 4 Area
4. Boat Launch Area
5. Pavillion 7 Area
6. Day Camp Facilities
7. Trails
8. Maintenance Facility

The long-range plan also includes a section on wayfinding. The park's wayfinding system will help visitors understand where they are, how to access amenities, and how to navigate trails and facilities. The system of park signage will include several categories of signs including trailhead

signs, intersection and directional signs, and interpretive signs.

In addition to wayfinding signage, the park will include interpretive and educational signs. During community engagement, the public expressed interest in two key topics:

- **Native American History:** Visitors indicated a desire for information on Native American history, languages, and traditional land use. A land acknowledgment was also suggested.
- **Natural Resources:** Community members requested signage identifying plant and animal species, including information on invasive species and ways to help reduce their impact. These signs should be provided in multiple languages, including Native American languages. Some of this information is already available at the boat launch through aquatic invasive species inspections and educational materials.

While the interpretive signage program is included in the long-range plan, additional planning and community input will continue as new improvements are implemented.

1. *Park Entrance*

Proposed improvements at the park entrance include realigning the entrance road with 217th Avenue to improve safety, as recommended by the County's Transportation Division (Figure 4). The adjacent trail will be realigned and separated from the roadway to provide an off-road facility; the existing trail is currently separated from vehicle traffic only by pavement markings.

Additional entrance enhancements include a new digital entrance sign, upgraded lighting, improvements to the gatehouse building, and installation of irrigation for the gatehouse island. The internal roadway and parking lot will be reconstructed and reconfigured to increase parking efficiency and reduce impervious surface where feasible. The total number of parking stalls will remain approximately the same at around 133, with at least five accessible spaces. These improvements are expected to occur within the next ten years, subject to funding availability.

2. *Beach Area*

The beach is the most popular area of the park and will undergo significant improvements (Figure 5). To address overcrowding and enhance visitor safety and experience, Anoka County proposes reducing the number of parking stalls to limit beach capacity. This measure is intended to help manage high traffic volumes and decrease unruly behavior in a relatively small area. While this has not been an issue recently, the County is keeping this proposal in the plan in case it is needed.

Additional improvements include removing two aging metal picnic shelters and replacing them with a single larger shelter accommodating 100–150 people. The County also proposes installing hammock stands in shaded areas, allowing visitors to bring and use their own hammocks.

Accessibility enhancements include installing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant beach mat for improved water access, and constructing a docking facility with an accessible canoe and kayak launch. This facility will provide designated space for non-motorized watercraft to dock and allow for easier access to the water. A self-serve rental station for canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards is also proposed to expand access for visitors who do not own equipment. These improvements are planned for implementation within the next 5–10 years.

Existing facilities in the beach area including restrooms, picnic pavilions, and beach infrastructure will require rehabilitation within the next 10–20 years. The playground will likely need reconstruction around 2034, depending on availability of parts. When replaced, the playground surfacing will transition to a poured-in-place rubberized material to improve accessibility.

3. *Pavillion 4 Area*

The facilities associated with Pavilion 4 are planned for removal at the end of their useful life (Figure 6). The 50-person capacity pavilion receives minimal use due to the lack of nearby restrooms and the distance to parking, which is located across the road. Removal of facilities will include the pavilion, the small parking lot, and the north–south trail and boardwalk connection. Following removal, the County proposes restoring the area to a more natural condition.



Although the existing facilities will be removed, Anoka County plans to construct a short, paved trail leading to a small observation deck with seating, providing visitors with a quiet space to relax and enjoy lake views. These improvements are anticipated within the next 5–10 years.

4. Boat Launch Area

Anoka County proposes a series of updates to the boat launch area to improve functionality, safety, and user experience (Figure 7). The boat launch parking lot will be reconstructed to improve efficiency and reduce impervious surfaces where feasible. The total number of parking stalls will remain approximately the same, with 28 vehicle/trailer stalls and four vehicle-only stalls with at least two accessible spaces. The redesign will retain space for aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspections while providing additional shade trees to support AIS inspectors working onsite.

The existing double boat launch will be reconstructed in accordance with Minnesota DNR's best management practices and a new accessible dock will be installed to improve access. The existing fishing pier south of Pavilion 5 is proposed for removal due to ongoing ice-related structural damage. To offset this removal, the County plans to enhance the jetty at the boat launch by widening the access path and adding several accessible fishing locations. An additional dock east of the launch, outside the jetty area, is proposed to provide safe access for canoe and kayak users, separate from motorized boat traffic.

The existing restroom building will be removed and replaced with a multi-purpose visitor center that includes gathering space, office space, rental areas, storage, and restrooms accessible from both the interior and exterior. The proposed building capacity is 100. The parking lot serving Pavilion 5 will also be reconfigured and reconstructed to meet increased parking needs, with an anticipated capacity of 60–70 stalls with at least three accessible spaces. Pavilion 5 will be upgraded as needed over time. These improvements are planned within the next 10–15 years.

5. Pavillion 7 Area

Due to the remote location and limited use of the facilities in the Pavilion 7 area, the proposed development concept recommends reducing existing parking and restoring the area to a more natural state (Figure 8). The western parking lot will be retained as a trailhead but reduced to approximately half its current size and reconfigured to minimize impervious surfaces, resulting in about 30 parking stalls with at least two accessible spaces.

The eastern parking lot will be similarly reduced and reconfigured, with an anticipated capacity of approximately 50 stalls with at least two accessible spaces. This area is proposed for conversion into a small archery facility featuring 5–8 practice lanes and a small shade structure accommodating 10–12 people. Additional uses may include interpretive features and amenities designed to meet the needs of Indigenous communities, such as a medicinal garden, gathering space, or an area for traditional games. These elements will require further consultation with Indigenous community partners during redevelopment. These improvements are anticipated within the next 5–10 years.

6. Day Camp Facilities

The day camp area is proposed to remain a dedicated programming space, with planned expansion and improvements (Figure 9). Anoka County intends to continue offering recreational, environmental, and interpretive camps and programs while enhancing the site to support overnight group camping. To achieve this, the County proposes constructing a multi-functional building that can be enclosed or opened depending on weather conditions. The building will include a kitchen, dining room, restrooms, shower facilities, a fire pit, and office and storage space.

Additional proposed facilities include 4–5 camper cabins with capacities of approximately 4–6 people and two bunkhouses accommodating 15–20 people each. This expanded capacity will support a wide range of education-focused organizations, such as 4-H, and additional overnight group camp opportunities. The multi-functional building will have a capacity of approximately 100 people and may be available as a rentable space when not in use for camps or programs.

Until the new facility is constructed, the existing restroom building will require renovation to address aging infrastructure, including roof replacement and interior updates. Once the new multi-



functional structure is operational, the existing shelter will be removed, and the current amphitheater will be decommissioned, with its functions incorporated into the new facility.

Existing program elements—such as the archery shelter, Gaga Ball pit, and similar amenities—will be reconstructed or upgraded to extend their useful life.

The existing 62-stall parking lot will be reconfigured to provide a more efficient drop-off and pick-up area and reduce impervious surface where possible. At least three of the parking stalls will be accessible.

South of the camp area, an existing building and parking lot currently used for storage will remain in use until the building reaches the end of its service life. At that time, both the structure and parking lot will be removed, and the area will be restored with native vegetation. This work is anticipated within the next 10–15 years.

7. Trails

The long-range plan proposes a combination of trail repaving, new trail construction, and selective trail removal (Figure 10). Existing paved trails throughout the park have reached the end of their useful life and will be reclaimed and repaved. At the park entrance, a segment of trail will be realigned to separate it from the vehicle entrance drive, improving safety by reducing conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

Based on public input, Anoka County proposes adding several new trail segments to create additional walking loops and to provide a safer connection to the City of Oak Grove's Ponds Park, located north of the regional park. This connection would also serve as maintenance access to the Parks Department's North Maintenance Shop on 221st Avenue. Although the 2014 Rum River Regional Trail Long-Range Plan discussed an alternative crossing, updated environmental and cultural resource information supports constructing the trail link along 221st Avenue instead.

A high-intensity activated crosswalk beacon or similar traffic control device is proposed at the 221st Avenue mid-block crossing to enhance pedestrian safety. Users would activate the beacon to alert drivers to stop, and signals would go dark once pedestrians clear the crossing. This improvement will facilitate safe access between the regional park and the local park, golf course, and surrounding residential area. The crossing is anticipated within 6–8 years, though it may occur sooner if funding becomes available.

The plan also proposes removing a trail segment in the Pavilion 4 area and restoring that corridor to native vegetation. This trail receives limited use due to the lack of nearby restrooms and relies on a deteriorating, non-accessible boardwalk crossing a wetland. Removing the trail at the end of its service life will reduce impacts on the wetland. Remaining trail projects are expected to occur within the next 5–10 years.

8. Maintenance Facility

The Anoka County Parks Department's Maintenance Shop for the area is located within the Lake George Regional Park boundary, on the north side of the park off 221st Avenue (Figure 11). The facility serves as the northern operations hub for regional parks and trails in the County. While the current size and configuration meet operational needs, several improvements are required to enhance security and functionality.

Proposed upgrades include installing card-access controls at the gates, adding security cameras, and improving site lighting. The maintenance yard is proposed to be paved, and the construction of several small storage sheds and landscape material bins is planned. The existing driveway and parking lot will also be reconstructed.

Because the facility is located outside the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA), a new septic system will be required to replace the existing aging system. These improvements are anticipated to occur within the next 5–10 years.

Accessibility

The long-range plan has both a standalone Accessibility section that references Anoka County's Parks ADA Transition Plan and the topic is integrated into other sections, especially the Development Concept (above).

The regional park plan notes that the County is currently updating its Transition Plan to ensure that all regional parks, trails, facilities, and amenities meet or exceed the standards required by ADA. All of the proposed improvements in the long-range plan are designed to enhance ADA accessibility. Any additional needs identified in the Transition Plan will be addressed when facilities are reconstructed. The updated Transition Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Highlights of the accessibility improvements noted in the development concept include the installation of:

- an ADA compliant beach mat for improved water access,
- a docking facility with an accessible canoe and kayak launch,
- a rubberized playground surface,
- several accessible fishing locations along the jetty boat launch, and
- accessible parking stalls in all redesigned parking lots.

Operations

Lake George Regional Park is one of the most popular regional facilities in Anoka County and provides a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities and amenities in all seasons. Operations include maintaining restrooms, picnic areas, the boat launch, and the gatehouse, as well as general park upkeep including mowing, sweeping, plowing, debris removal, and sign maintenance.

Park rules and operations are guided by Anoka County Ordinance #2018-01, last revised in July 2024. The Ordinance is enforced by the Anoka County Sheriff's Department. Park Service Specialists provide onsite support to visitors.

The County uses a remote building automation system to conserve energy use and reduce operational costs. Other energy efficiency measures implemented throughout the County include converting to LED lighting, adding electric vehicles to the Parks and Maintenance vehicle fleets, and using irrigation systems with rain sensors to avoid unnecessary water usage.

The current annual operating and maintenance costs for Lake George Regional Park are estimated to be approximately \$75,000. Revenue from daily and annual park pass sales, programs, picnic pavilion rentals, special events, and the Parks operating budget typically offset these expenses. The park also receives additional financial support through the Regional Park Operations and Maintenance Grant Program, the Lottery-in-Lieu program, and the local tax levy.

Anoka County will continue to seek opportunities to extend the lifespan of park facilities, meet visitor expectations, and reduce operating costs.

Public Services

The long-range plan does not propose any new non-recreational public services or facilities, including regional wastewater services. The park's location is outside of the Metropolitan Urban Service Area and will continue to be through 2040. On-site wells and septic systems support the restrooms, drinking fountains, and other existing services at the park.

There are limited transit options in the Oak Grove Area and Lake George Regional Park is not served by any regular transit routes. The park is accessible to visitors via vehicle, bicycle, or walking. The park can also be accessed by using Transit Link and Metro Mobility, which both provide dial-a-ride transportation services for a low fee.

Natural Systems

As part of the long-range plan process, the park's natural resources were carefully reviewed and proposed facilities have been located and designed to minimize conflicts with sensitive areas.

The existing land cover at Lake George Regional Park includes oak forest, aspen forest, lowland hardwood forest, non-native dominated graminoids (grasses, sedges, and rushes), cattail marsh, willow swamp, and more. While there are no designated sites of significant biological diversity within the park, Blandings Turtle has been identified in the area.

To protect the natural character of the park and maintain the natural systems-based identity of Anoka County's parks and trails, the County will continue to focus on:

- Protecting, restoring, and enhancing native plant and animal habitats.
- Protecting and improving water and soil resources.
- Increasing public awareness of the area's diverse natural resources.
- Implementing sustainable practices in park development, operations and maintenance.

Natural resource management strategies include identifying and evaluating remnant plant and animal communities, monitoring rare species, controlling invasive species, restoring native habitats, addressing detrimental insects and disease, managing wildlife, improving water quality, preventing erosion, and practicing cooperative land stewardship.

Before any park or trail development projects move forward, a flora and fauna survey will be completed by Anoka County to ensure that rare or sensitive species are located and protected.

The average annual operating cost for natural resource projects is approximately \$25,000. Capital funds identified in the development concept (e.g., \$200,000 in "natural resource restoration") will supplement these operating costs.

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area

Lake George Regional Park is not located within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area. Therefore, this long-range plan requirement does not apply.

Other Council Policies and Systems – Advisory Comments

Community Development – Land Use and Solar Resources (Abi Phillips, 651-602-1085; MacKenzie Young-Walters, 651-602-1373)

Council staff encourage the County to investigate the feasibility of adding EV Charging infrastructure as part of the proposed parking lot reconstructions, especially since the plan calls for adding electric vehicles to the Park and Maintenance Vehicle fleets. Additionally, opportunities to integrate solar panels into new and renovated buildings or to provide power for the proposed digital sign should be considered. These elements could provide an opportunity to showcase and educate the public on sustainability and conservation while also reducing the park's long-term operating expenses.

Community Development – Forecasts (Todd Graham, 651-602-1322)

Council staff have reviewed the forecast-related content of the Anoka County Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan. The plan is consistent with policy.

Anoka County provides a demand forecast analysis that includes Met Council's Imagine 2050 local forecasts. Anoka County expects park use demand to expand proportionate to population growth.

Transportation – Multimodal Planning (Corrin Bemis, 651-728-8798)

The plan conforms with the regional transportation system and is consistent with regional transportation policy and planning guidance.

Figure 1. Lake George Regional Park location in the Regional Parks and Trails System

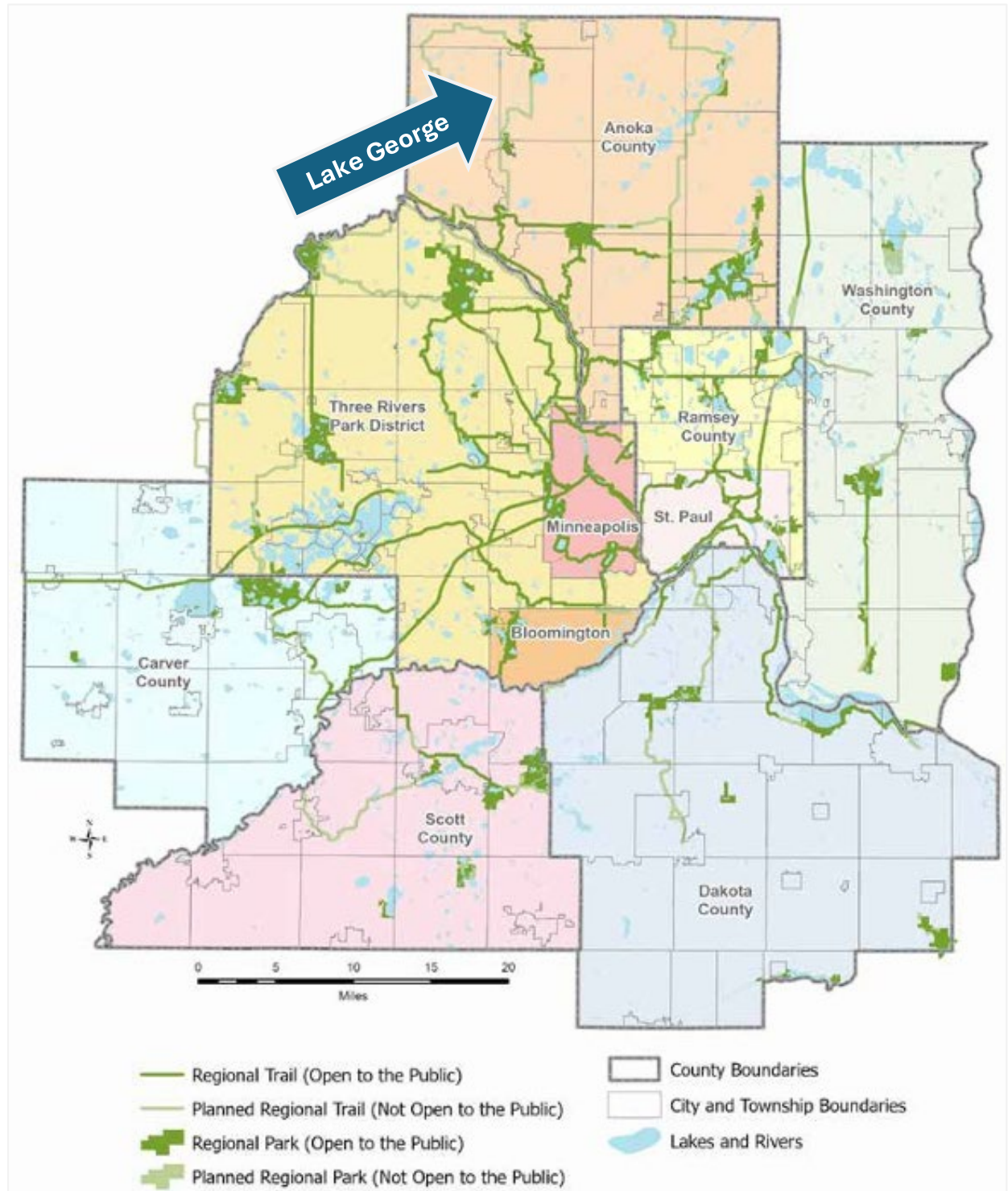
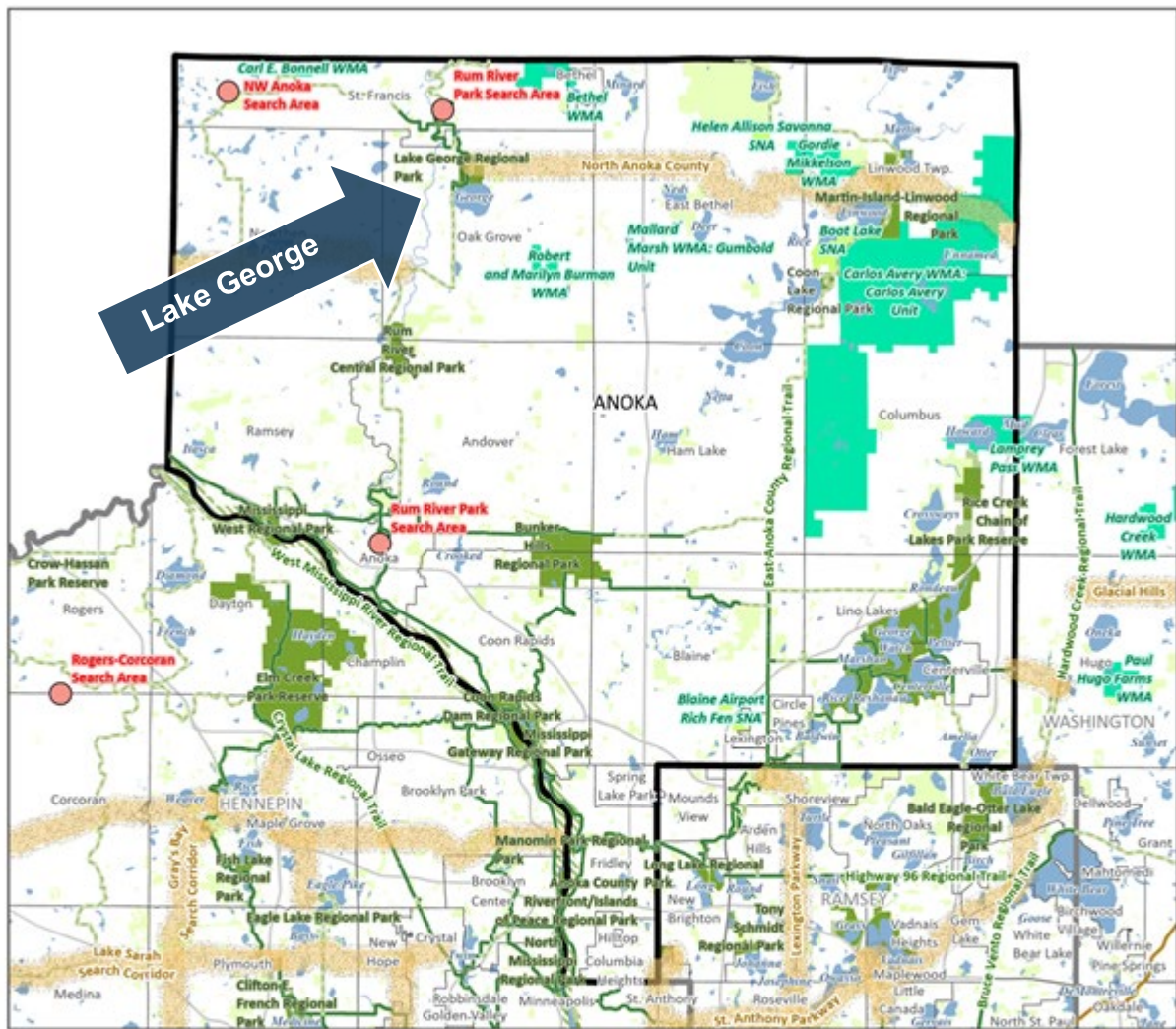


Figure 2. Lake George Regional Park location in Carver County



Regional Parks and Trails Systems

- Boundary Adjustment
- Search Area
- ▨ Special Feature Search Area
- ▨ Regional Trail Search Corridor
- Regional Trail (Open to the Public)
- Planned Regional Trail (Not Open to the Public)
- ▨ Regional Park (Open to the Public)
- ▨ Planned Regional Park (Not Open to the Public)

Other State and National Features

- State Trails
- ▨ State Parks and Recreation Areas
- ▨ State Wildlife Management Areas
- ▨ Scientific and Natural Areas
- ▨ Special State Recreation Features
- ▨ Other Parks, Preserves, Refuges and Natural Areas
- ▨ Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- ▨ Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
- ▨ MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Figure 3. Lake George Regional Park Boundary Corrections (LRP Figure 2)



Figure 4. Development Concept Areas – Park Entrance (LRP pg. 12)

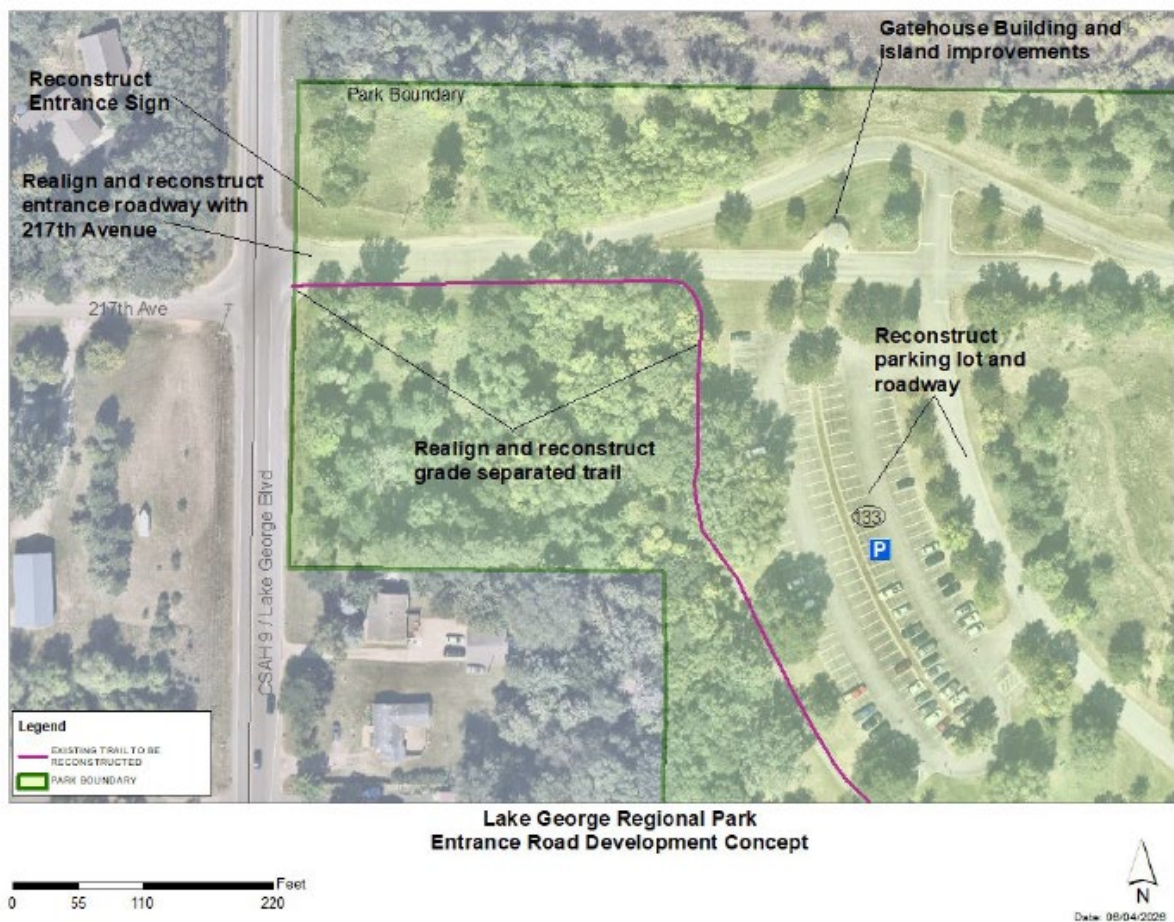
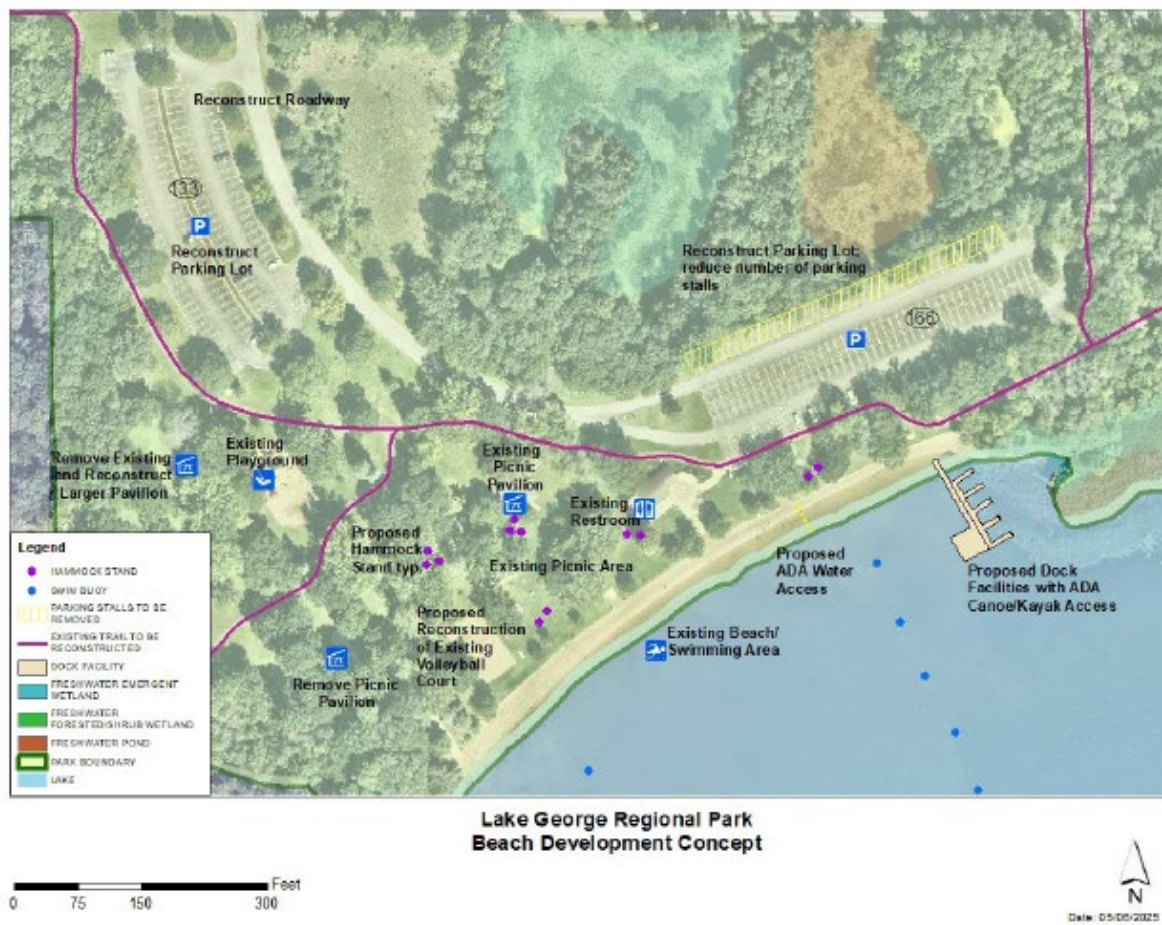


Figure 5. Development Concept Areas – Beach Area (LRP pg. 13)



Metropolitan Council

Figure 6. Development Concept Areas – Pavillion 4 Area (LRP pg. 14)

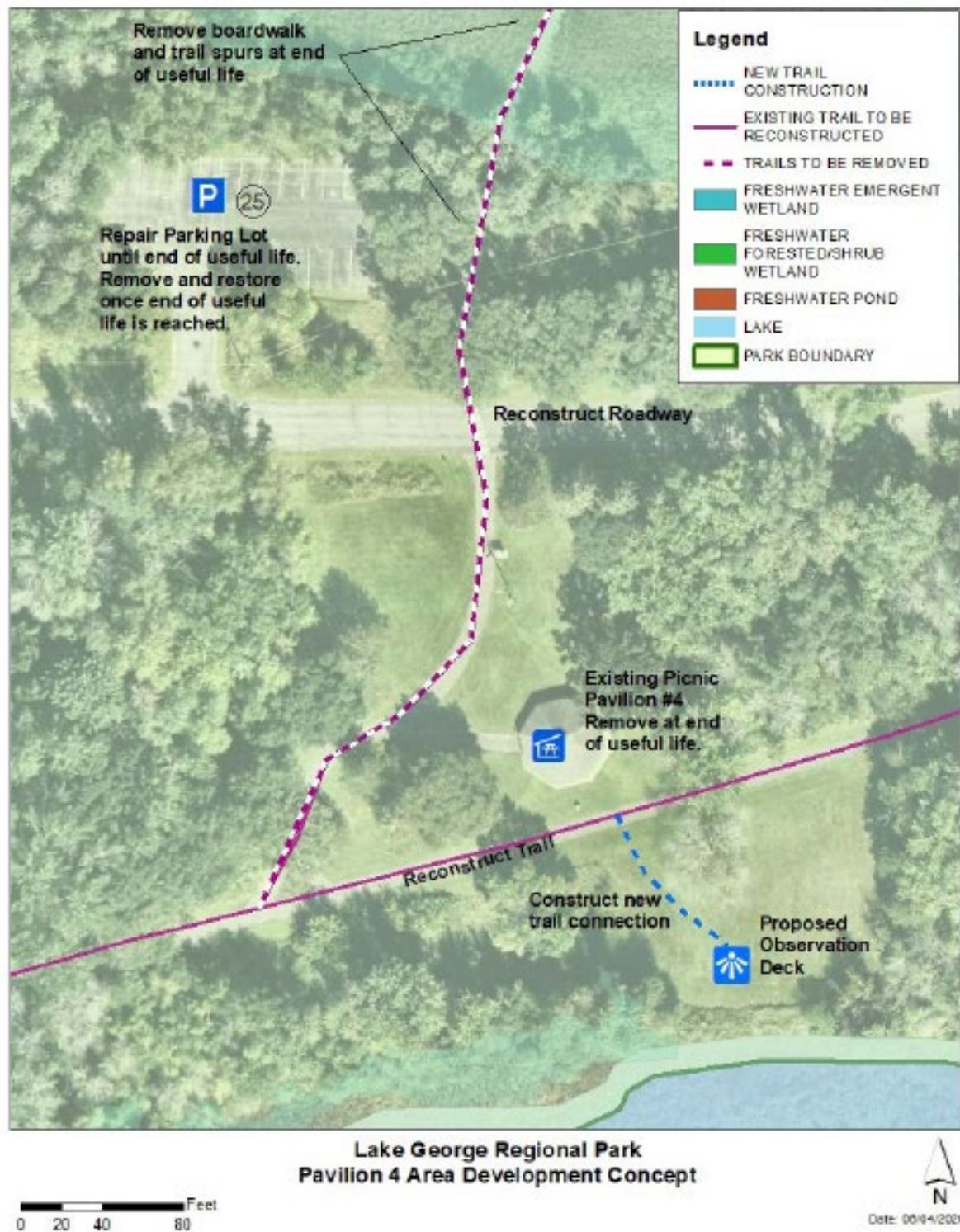


Figure 7. Development Concept Areas – Boat Launch Area (LRP pg. 15)

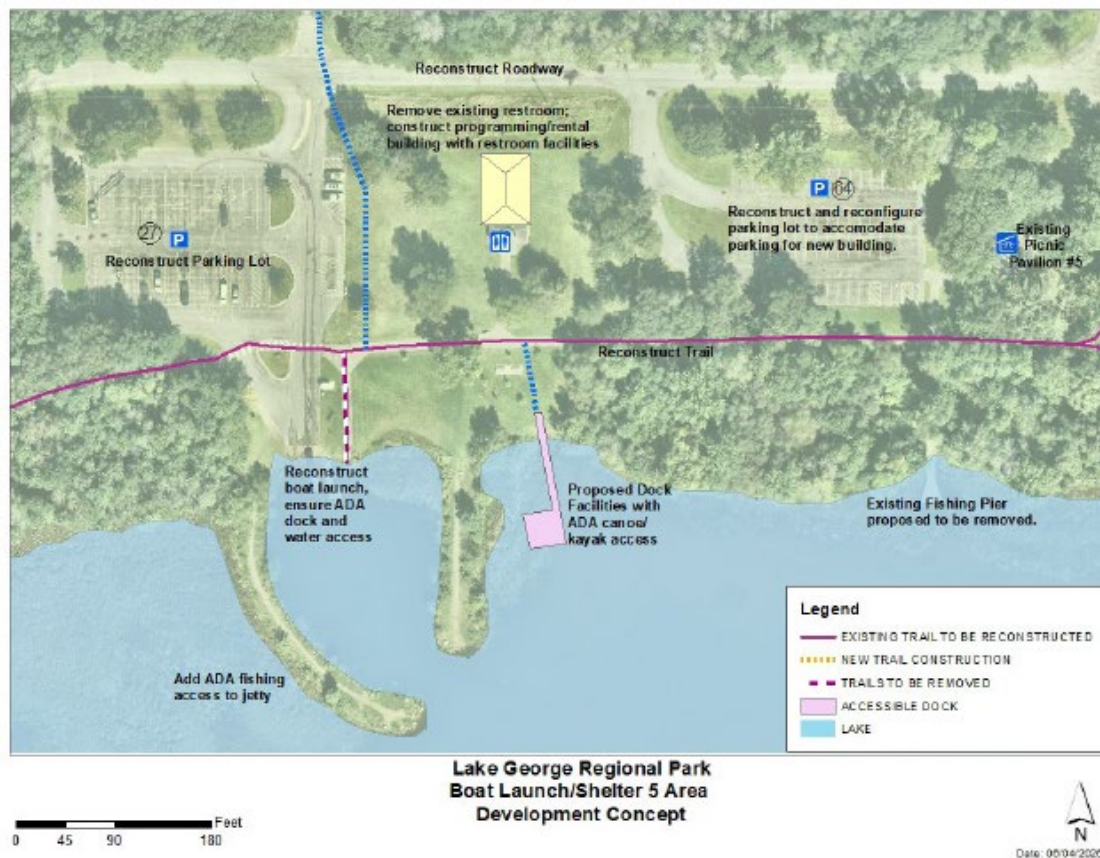


Figure 8. Development Concept Areas – Pavilion 7 Area (LRP pg. 16)

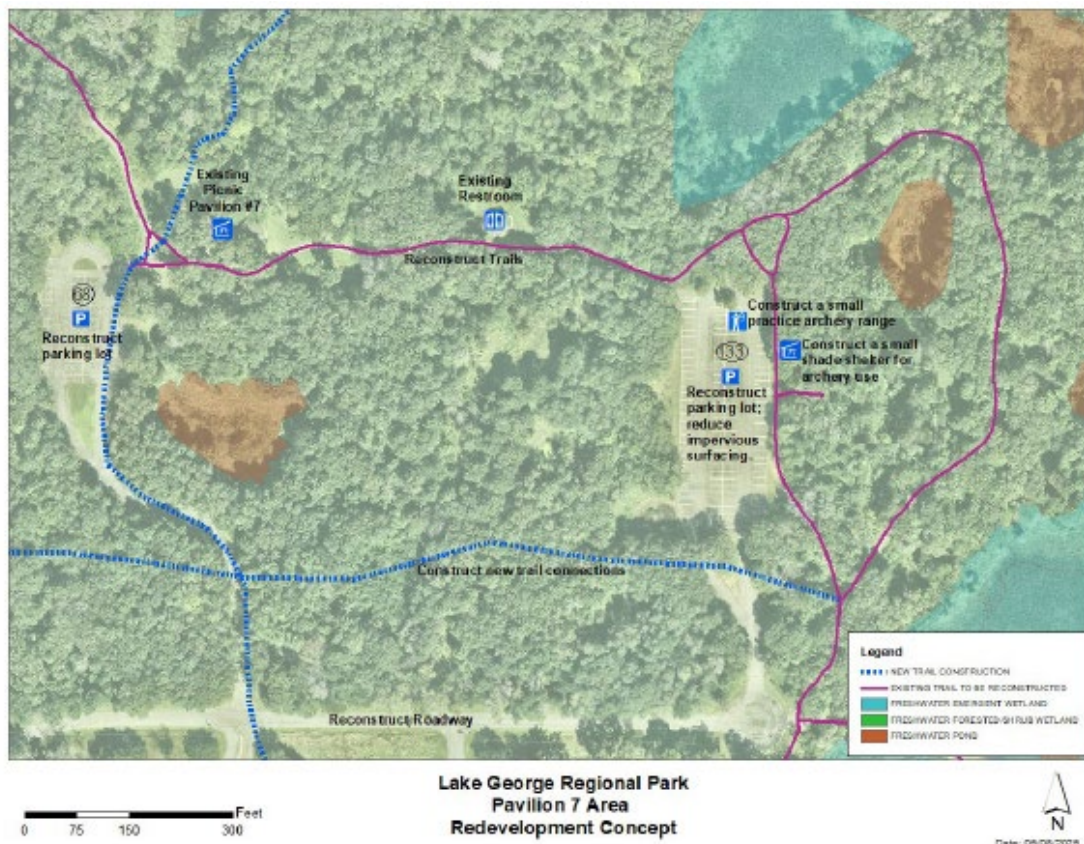


Figure 9. Development Concept Areas – Day Camp Facilities (LRP pg. 17)

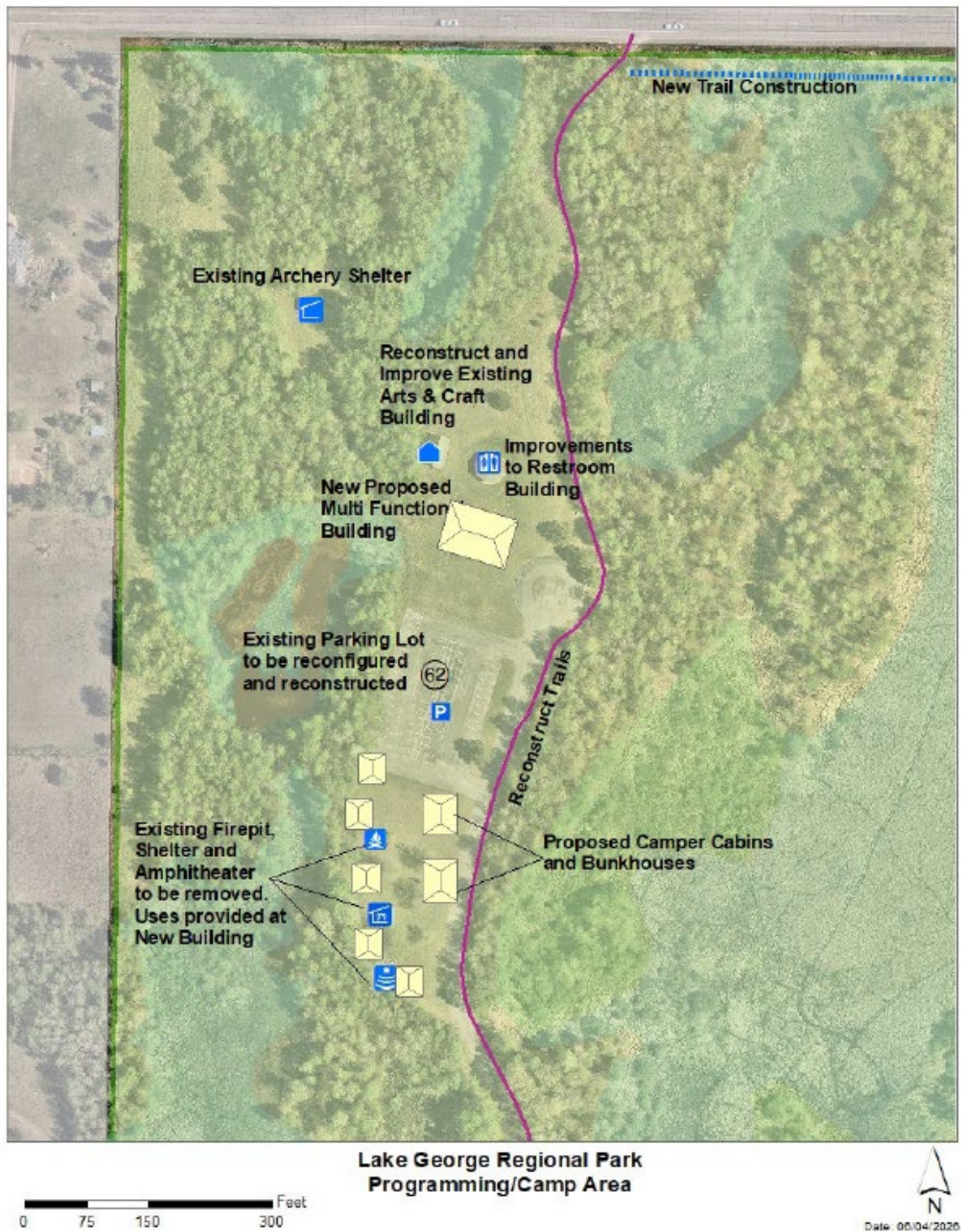


Figure 10. Development Concept Areas – Trails (LRP pg. 19)

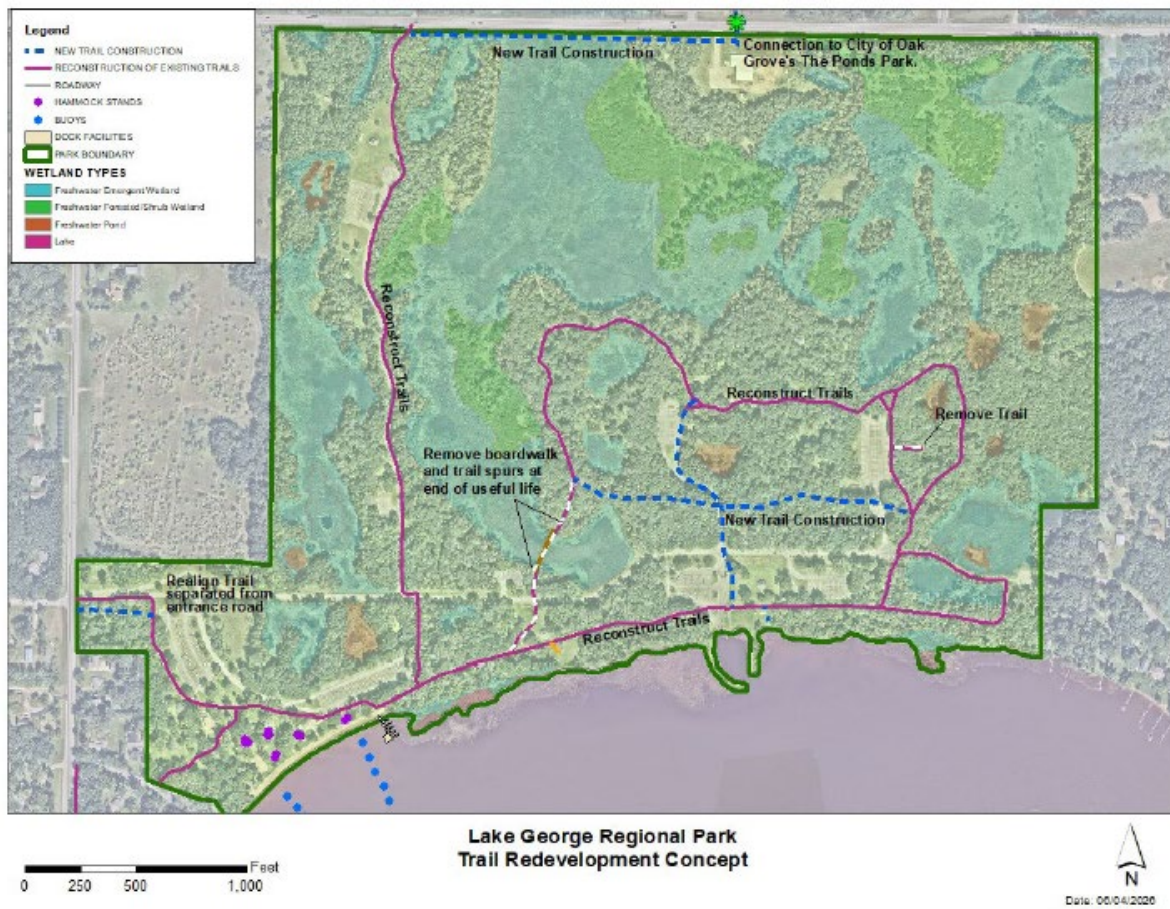
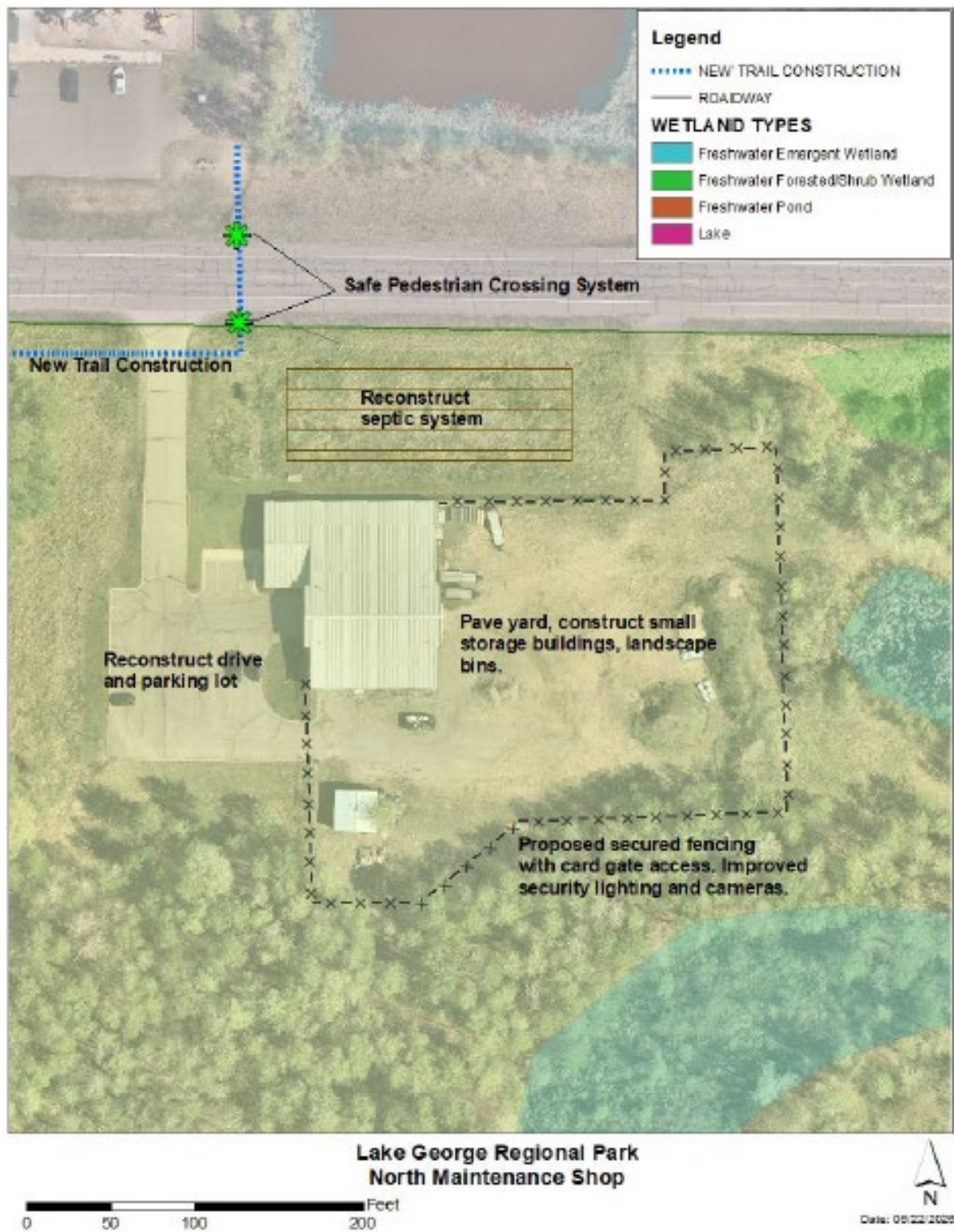


Figure 11. Development Concept Areas – Maintenance Facility (LRP pg. 20)



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Anoka County, Minnesota

DATE: November 12, 2025

RESOLUTION #2025-126

OFFERED BY COMMISSIONERS: Braastad and Jeppson

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE
 LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL PARK LONG-RANGE PLAN**

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest for Anoka County to provide open space recreational facilities within the county; and,

WHEREAS, Anoka County has worked with the Metropolitan Council, local cities, and other regulating agencies in a cooperative effort to develop a regional park in the city of Oak Grove; and,

WHEREAS, Anoka County and the Metropolitan Council have designated Lake George as a regional park; and,

WHEREAS, Anoka County has developed a long-range plan for development at Lake George Regional Park, which includes the reconstruction and improvement of existing facilities and construction of new facilities and amenities; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requires that an updated long-range plan for this regional park be approved by the county and the Metropolitan Council prior to its adoption; and,

WHEREAS, local city representatives, local businesses, area residents, and the general public were given the opportunity to review and comment on the long-range plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Oak Grove has provided its own resolution of support:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Anoka County, by and through its Board of Commissioners, hereby adopts the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan, which is dated November 2025, a copy of which is on file in the Parks Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anoka County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes submission of the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan to the Metropolitan Council for approval, so the regional park facilities will be eligible for future Metropolitan Council grant funding.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution and the Long-Range Plan be forwarded to the Metropolitan Council, Anoka County Parks Department, and the City of Oak Grove.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
 COUNTY OF ANOKA) ss

I, Jim Dickinson, County Administrator, Anoka County, Minnesota, hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the resolution of the county board of said county with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office, Anoka County, Minnesota, as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board at a meeting duly held on November 12, 2025, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof and that said resolution was duly passed by said board at said meeting.

Witness my hand and seal this 12th day of November 2025.



JIM DICKINSON
 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

	YES	NO
DISTRICT #1 – HEINRICH	X	
DISTRICT #2 – BRAASTAD	X	
DISTRICT #3 – REINERT	Absent	
DISTRICT #4 – SCHULTE	Absent	
DISTRICT #5 – GAMACHE	X	
DISTRICT #6 – JEPSON	X	
DISTRICT #7 – MEISNER	Absent	

RESOLUTION 2025-114

**CITY OF OAK GROVE
COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**SUPPORTING THE LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR
LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL PARK**

WHEREAS, it is necessary and in the public interest for the County of Anoka to provide open space recreational facilities within the County, and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the Metropolitan Council adopted the 2050 Regional Parks Policy Plan, which supports the implementation of regional parks which provide access to high quality natural resources and offer recreational opportunities to the region, and

WHEREAS, the County of Anoka has worked with the community and other local and regulatory agencies in a cooperative effort to develop the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council requires the Long-range Plan be supported by the local community prior to adoption, and

WHEREAS, The City of Oak Grove supports the plan and requests that the trails and trail crossing of 221st Avenue NW be prioritized because of public safety.

WHEREAS, City of Oak Grove representatives have reviewed, commented on the Plan, and supports its implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Oak Grove, hereby offers its support to Anoka County for the Lake George Regional Park Long-Range Plan and the county's efforts to cooperatively redevelop the park.

Adopted by the City Council this 8th day of September 2025.


Weston Rolf, Mayor

ATTEST:



Britt Pease, Deputy City Clerk

(Seal)

