

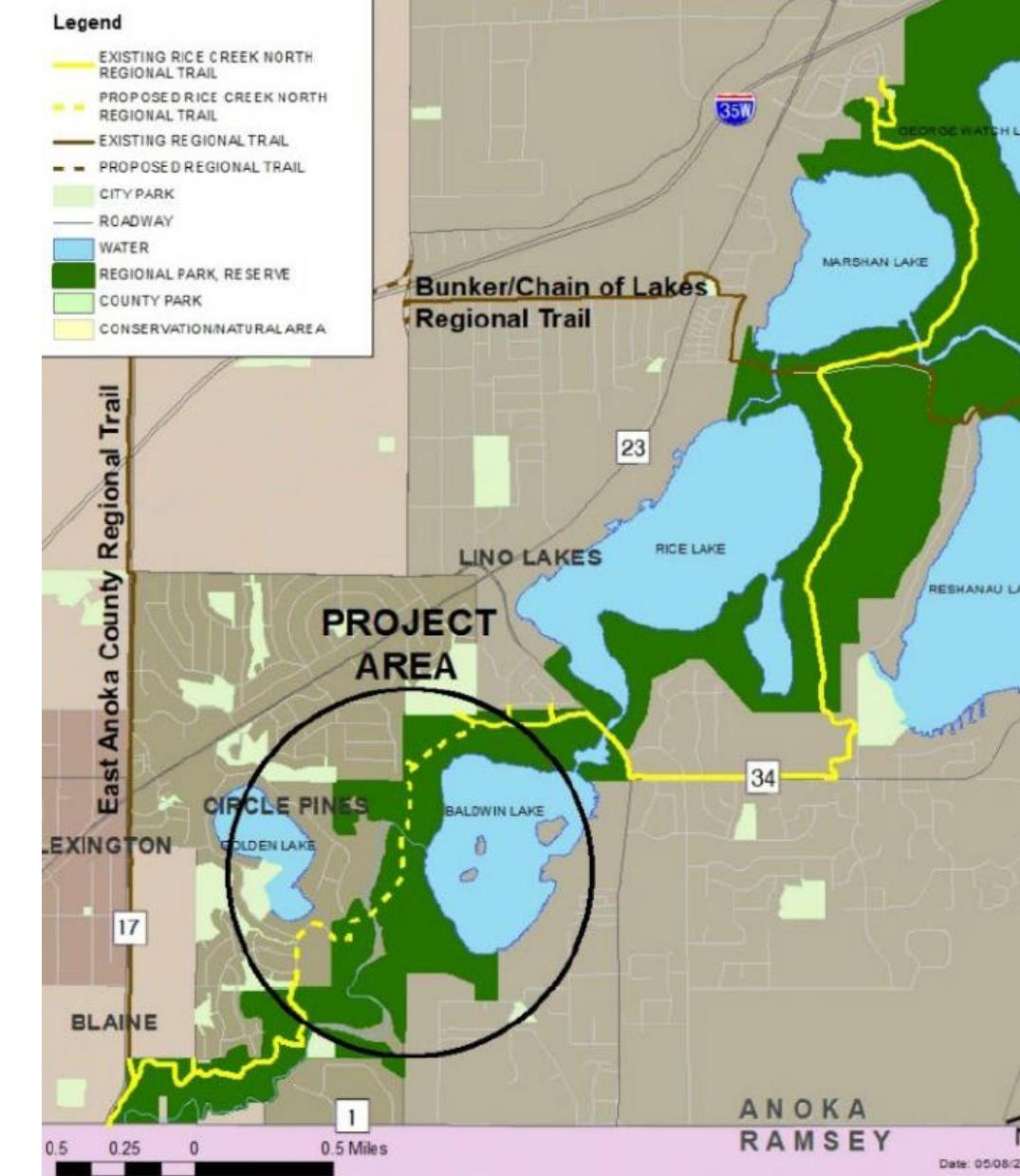
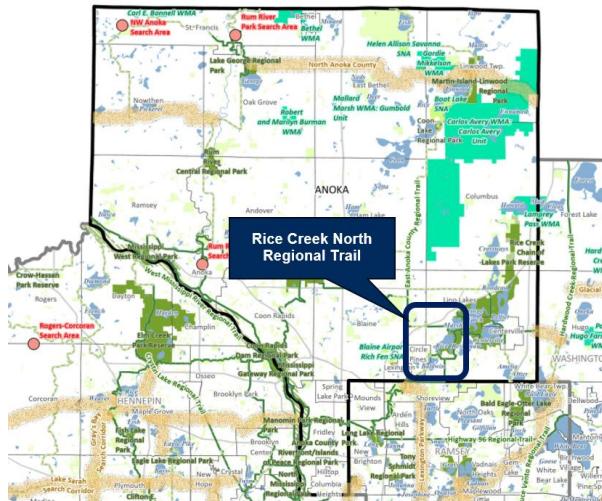
# Rice Creek North Regional Trail, Anoka County

**Business Item 2026-29**

**Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission**



# Rice Creek North Regional Trail



# Equity Analysis

## Project Data

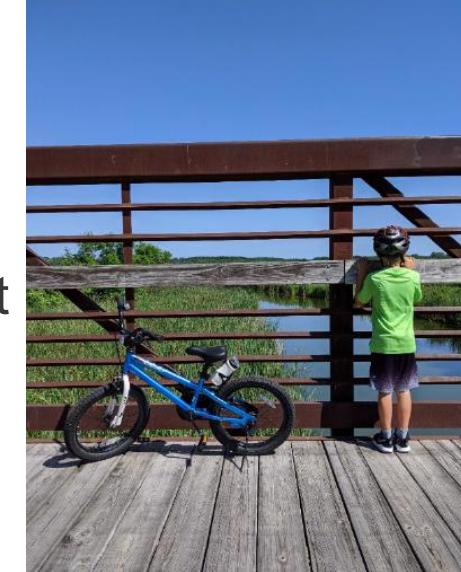
- Anoka County identified priority populations along the corridor:
  - People of color
  - Those under age 25
  - Those over age of 65
  - People with disabilities (both ambulatory and other)
- These groups are often not heavily included in public engagement. They also face access barriers to trails due to poor connections, feeling unwelcome or unsafe, a lack of cultural accommodations, language barriers, cost, and a lack of awareness.

## Public Engagement

- Anoka County provided online information, surveys, and in-person listening sessions
- Themes included:
  - Add amenities along the trail
  - Improve safety through lighting, signage, online map availability
  - Concern about environmental impact
  - Different preferred route, but limitations are understood

## Evaluation Summary

- Feedback received shaped the final plan.
- Future engagement efforts will be needed as new segment is implemented



# Public and Partner Engagement



## Public Engagement

- Listening sessions, project website “Plan Your Parks”, social media updates, online surveys
- Workshops with teens that are part of Centennial High School’s Students for Change Group
- Some engagement strategies limited by COVID-19 pandemic

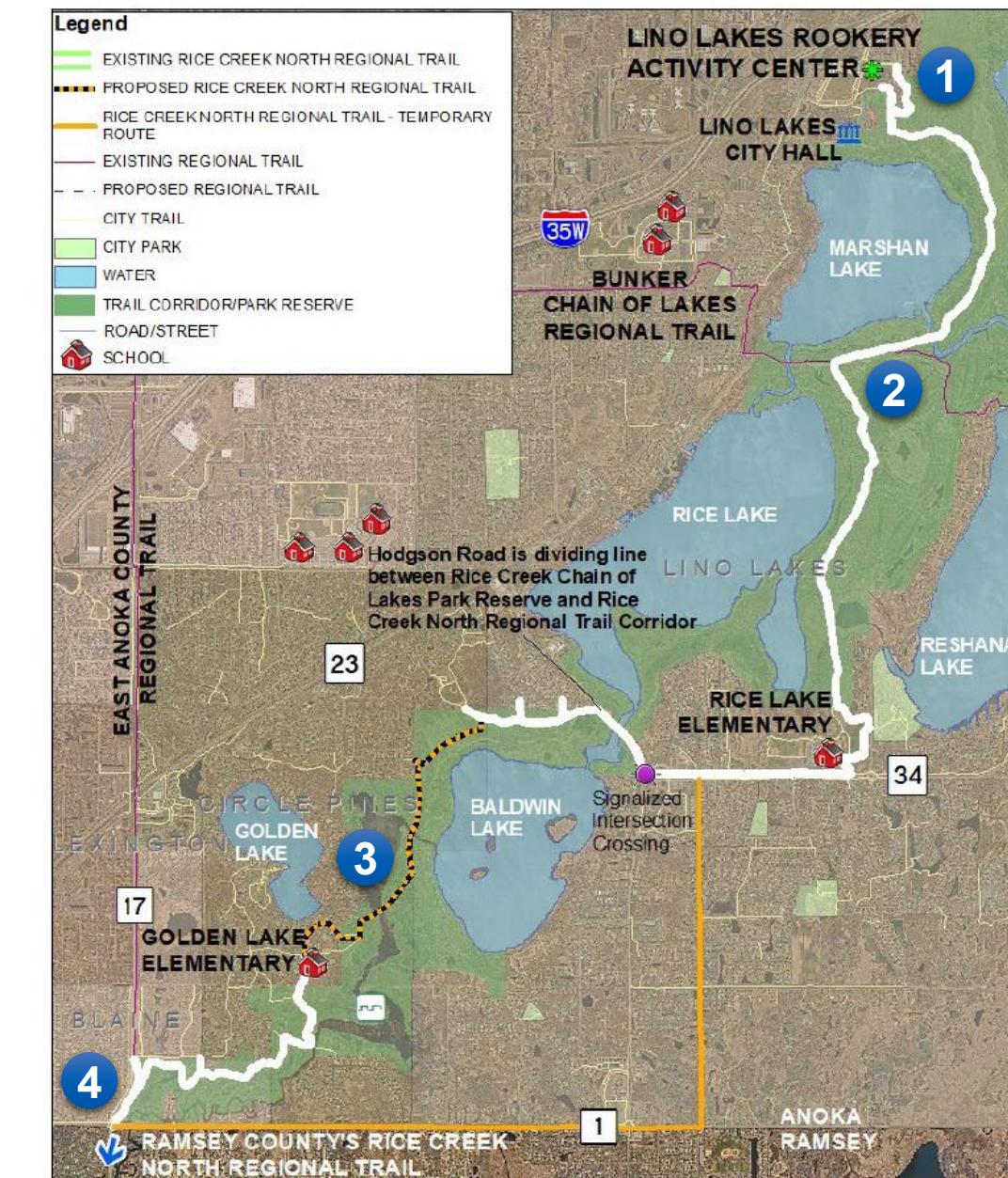
## Partner Engagement

- Requested feedback on plan from the City of Circle Pines, City of Lino Lakes, and the Rice Creek Watershed District
- Themes included:
  - Desire for trail to run on school land (revealed that this is not possible due to archaeological remains)
  - Approval of the work done and the trail project moving forward

# Boundaries

## Eight mile north-south trail

- 1 Alignment starts from the north at the **Lino Lakes Rookery Activity Center**.
- 2 Alignment continues southwest through **Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve**, connecting to **Bunker Hills-Chain of Lake Regional Trail**.
- 3 Newly-planned segment travels southwest along Baldwin Lake before becoming a short 1000' on-street segment on **Golden Lake Rd.**
- 4 Alignment continues south and connects with **East Anoka County Regional Trail** and Ramsey County's portion of **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



# 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**.

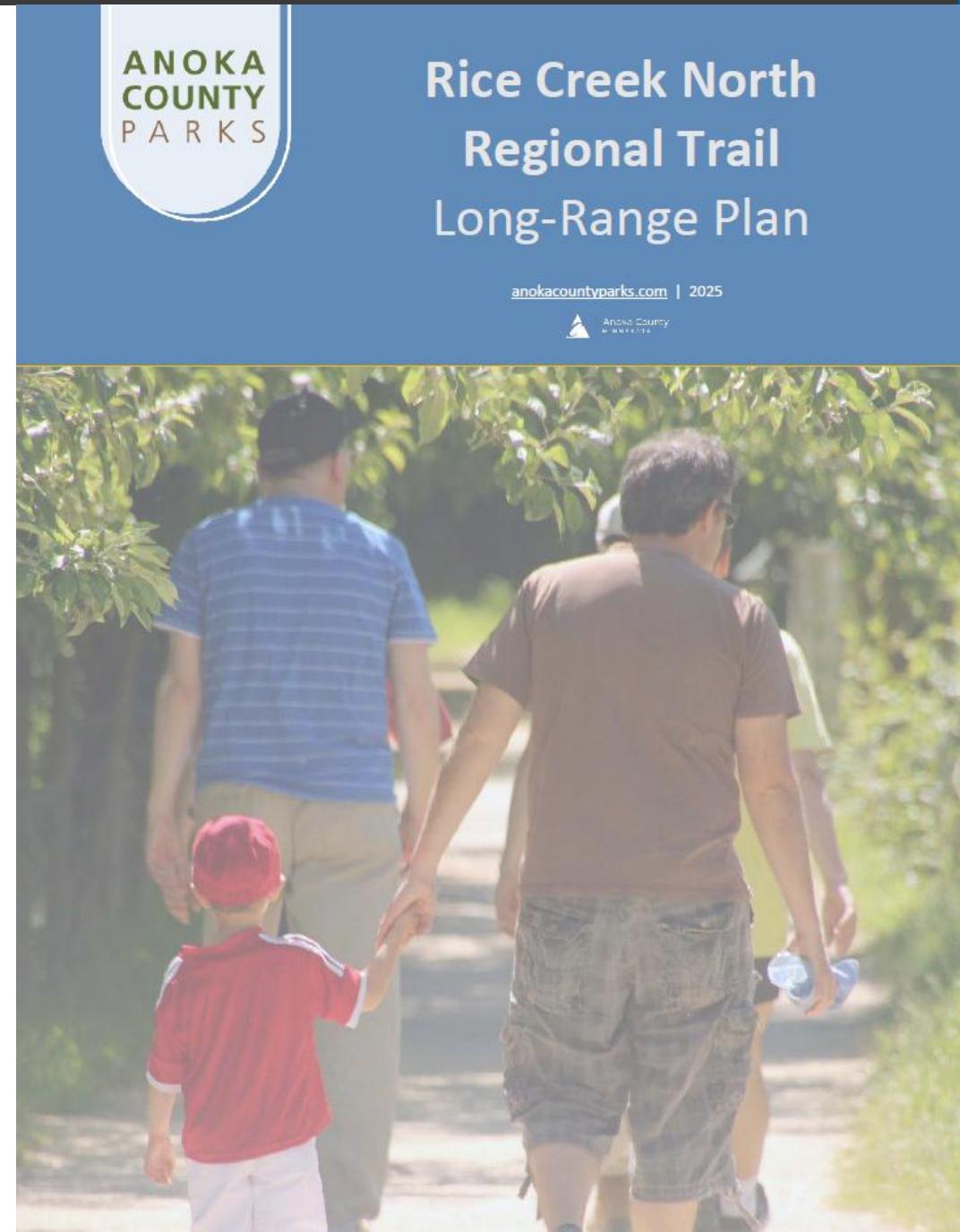
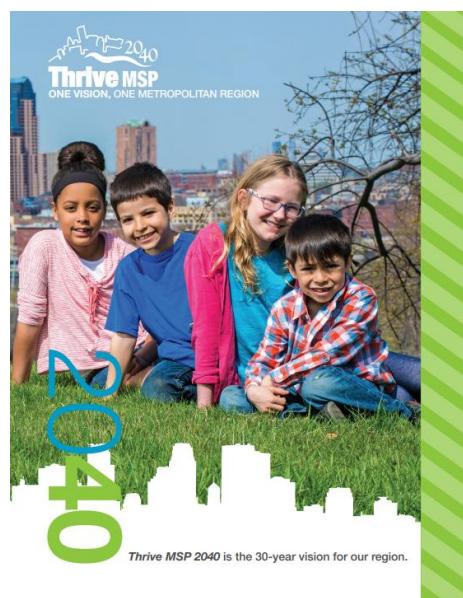
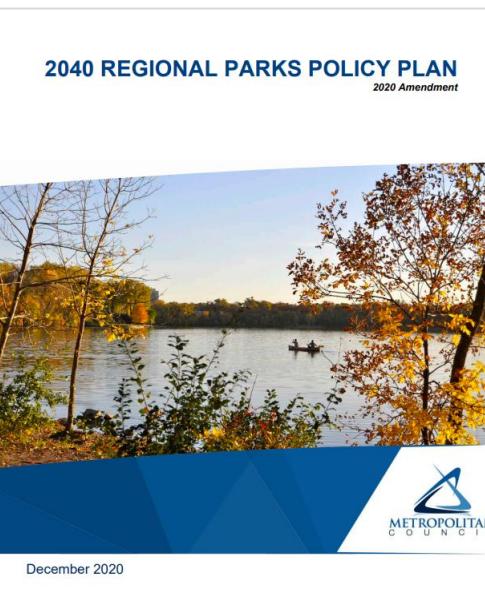
## Operations

The estimated annual operating cost 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





**Zoey Mauck**

Senior Planner, Community Development

[zoey.mauck@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:zoey.mauck@metc.state.mn.us)



**METROPOLITAN**  
COUNCIL