



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE

Meeting: Board of Managers
Meeting date: 7/24/2025
Agenda Item #: 12.2
Item type: Board Discussion

Title: Land Acquisition along Minnehaha Creek, St. Louis Park

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Purpose:

At the July 24, 2025, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers meeting, staff will update the Board on an opportunity to acquire land along Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park to restore streambank and ecological integrity, and support existing and future capital projects. The Board may decide to enter closed session to discuss the value of the potential acquisition.

Background:

MCWD staff have been working closely with the City of St. Louis Park, as well as individual landowners, to advance the Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration project. While the trail alignment was designed to minimize impacts on private parcels, project feasibility identified several opportunities for additional streambank restoration on private property. Early conversations were held with these property owners, who indicated interest in exploring streambank restoration on their properties.

As design has progressed and additional conversations have been held, the property owners remain interested in supporting the project but have shifted towards a preference for MCWD to acquire the properties outright. Acquisition of the properties would allow MCWD to complete the additional streambank restoration, while ensuring its ability to conduct work on all parcels necessary to construct the trail connection. The City has been supportive of acquiring these creekside parcels and would continue to be involved in decision making around the ultimate use of the properties. Since the Board received a briefing on the acquisition opportunities at its June 26, 2025, meeting, staff have held additional conversations with the owners of one of the properties.

At the July 24, 2025, Board of Managers meeting, staff will present an update on the two land acquisition opportunities along Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park, including the range of potential uses for the parcels. Staff will also lead a discussion around costs, financing, and potential agreement structures.

Staff will request a closed session in order to discuss the potential negotiation for acquisition.