



**Title:** 2026 Budget Refinement and Publication Review

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**Purpose:**

At the July 10, 2025 Operations and Programs Committee meeting, 2026 budget refinements will be summarized.

Staff will provide an overview of the following areas, which will then be refined for discussion at subsequent meetings.

- Programs and Operations
- Capital Finance and Debt Service
- Capital Improvement Program
- Personnel

**2026 Budget-Levy Projection - Overview:**

Preliminary projections for the 2026 fiscal year show a balanced budget of \$14,552,601, which represents a 0.9% increase of \$132,157 from 2025 to 2026 (*Table 1*).

The budget is supported with a 0% change or flat levy of \$9,869,513. This is accomplished through a combination of drawing on previously levied fund balances that were assigned to capital projects, the reallocation of funds from completed projects or programs delivered under budget, an increase in revenue from interest, and \$392,940 in external grant funds for several capital projects.

**Top Level 2026 Budget Summary:**

At the top level (Attachment 1), the District's budget is organized into:

- Capital Improvement Projects
- Programs
- Debt Service
- Operations

**Table 1 - DRAFT 2026 Budget-Revenue Summary**

EXPENSES	2025	2026	2025-2026 Δ	% Change
Operations	\$ 2,147,337	\$ 2,300,636	\$ 153,300	7.1%
Programs	\$ 5,121,413	\$ 5,051,042	\$ (70,371)	-1.4%
Debt Service	\$ 1,098,218	\$ 1,100,668	\$ 2,450	0.2%
Capital projects	\$ 6,053,478	\$ 6,100,256	\$ 46,778	0.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,420,445</b>	<b>\$ 14,552,601</b>	<b>\$ 132,157</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
REVENUE	2025	2026	2025-2026 Δ	% Change
Preliminary levy	\$ 9,869,513	\$ 9,869,513	\$ -	0.0%
Projects fund balance	\$ 3,332,992	\$ 1,973,572	\$ (1,359,421)	-40.8%
Programs fund balance	\$ -	\$ 1,741,577	\$ 1,741,577	N/A
Grants and partner funds	\$ 692,940	\$ 392,940	\$ (300,000)	-43.3%
Interest, permit fees, reimbursement	\$ 525,000	\$ 575,000	\$ 50,000	9.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 14,420,445</b>	<b>\$ 14,552,601</b>	<b>\$ 132,157</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

### Capital Projects:

MCWD maintains a focus on capital improvements that measurably improve water quality and reduce flooding.

The 2026 Capital Project budget is projected to increase 0.8% to a total estimated cost of \$6,100,256, to support the District's Lake Minnetonka improvement strategy with projects in key tributaries such as Long Lake Creek-Tanager and Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay subwatersheds, as well as needed improvements in the Minnehaha Creek corridor downstream at the Minnehaha Greenway and in Minneapolis along the Minnehaha Parkway.

In 2025, within the Research and Monitoring program budget, funds are proposed to be allocated to begin subwatershed diagnostic work in the Painter Creek – Jennings Bay tributary to Lake Minnetonka. This work will continue to be advanced in 2026.

The Capital Project budget represents the implementation of projects that have been planned over multiple years, and in 2026 MCWD will have active planning and implementation in all major tributaries to Lake Minnetonka, and in the areas of highest need along Minnehaha Creek. MCWD's 2026 Land and Water Partnership program, which represents an onramp into MCWD's CIP for regionally beneficial community driven projects, includes stormwater management improvements planned in partnership with Deephaven and complemented with state and county grant funding.

### Programs:

MCWD programs directly support capital projects and policy development at the nexus of water and land use. The 2026 Program budget is projected to decrease (1.4%) or (\$70,371) to \$5,051,042. This is due in part to the planned completion of Research and Monitoring's 2D Watershed Climate Model, and reductions in Research and Monitoring and Outreach, which net out with planned increases in other programs.

### Debt Service:

MCWD partners with Carver and Hennepin Counties, to occasionally issue debt on its behalf, to strategically maximize the capacity for high-impact capital project implementation while minimizing levy volatility. Following the retirement of the note for 325 Blake Road in 2023, MCWD's annual debt service decreased and in 2026 is essentially flat at \$1,100,668. \*Proceeds from pending land sales are not accounted for until closing.

### Operations:

Operations includes MCWD's general operations, information technology, and planned facility improvements. The 2026 Operations budget is currently projecting an increase of 7.1% or \$153,300 due in part to the proposed addition of an administrative staff position to support succession and transition planning, as well as interior office improvements and consultant support for updating the governance manual and employee handbook.

### Personnel:

As a matter of policy MCWD views its personnel budget as a key strategy in recruiting and retaining the talent it needs to deliver standards of excellence that honor its partners and improve the watershed for future generations. Personnel costs are included within each programmatic area, and include wages, payroll tax, public employee retirement association contributions (PERA), and employee benefits. The 2026 Personnel budget currently forecasts a 5.8% increase or \$210,020.

MCWD indexes annual wage inflation against the Bureau of Labor Statistics Employee Cost Index (BLS ECI) for the last 12 months ending in June. The current employee cost index ending in March shows annual wage inflation of 4.1%. MCWD's wage budget currently projects a total increase of 6.7%, based on the BLS employee cost index plus budgeted costs for performance or merit-based compensation. This budget considers employee penetration within benchmarked salary ranges and assumptions regarding plans to fill position vacancies. These assumptions may be adjusted following the posting of June 2025 indices by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the completion of current hiring initiatives. Payroll tax and PERA costs are directly correlated to budgeted wages.

Within employee benefits (health, dental, life, accidental death, short-and-long-term disability), health benefits represent a majority of costs. While maintaining competitive coverage for employees, benchmarked through market analyses, MCWD has managed benefit cost increases over time by eliminating contribution to health reimbursement accounts, adjusting MCWD plan offerings, and preparing to adjust coverage for individuals/dependents.

MCWD health insurance renews June 1 – May 31 (plan year), off-cycle with fiscal year planning. In May 2025, MCWD received quotes across its current provider, Health Partners, and others in the market. Health Partners proposed a 17% increase in renewal rates for plan year 2025-2026. Medica was the cheapest and proposed an average of 4% increase in rates, along with an increase in employee paid deductibles. This adjustment, plus the filling of position vacancies below budget, projects costs below budget for the second half of the 2025 fiscal year, pending any changes in vacancies.

The Medica renewal rates of 4% extend through plan year 2025-2026, providing a degree of certainty over estimated benefit costs the first half of fiscal year 2026. These changes cascade into modeled benefit costs for vacant positions in 2026. Within the budget, vacancies are assumed to be filled at a cost averaged from the current census. Benefit renewals in the second half of fiscal year 2026 assume a standard 8% increase for budgeting purposes. In total, the compound effect of lower renewal rates and changed vacancy assumptions has the effect of reducing the 2026 benefit budget approximately 7.5% relative to 2025. At the time of 2026 renewal, if costs exceed budget, staff will evaluate alternative providers, adjustments in plan offerings, and a shift in proportionate employee/employer coverage of costs.

## **2026 Budget Strategic Alignment – Overview:**

### High Impact Capital Improvements:

In 2026, MCWD will remain focused on cultivating public and private partnerships to deliver capital projects that measurably improve water quality and reduce flooding, while also providing broader community benefit.

### ***Lower Watershed***

#### *Minnehaha Creek:*

In the Minnehaha Creek Greenway, 325 Blake Road and the accompanying second phase improvements to Cottageville Park Phase II are scheduled to enter construction in 2026. Combined with stream and corridor improvements where South-West Light Rail crosses Minnehaha Creek, these projects will treat over 260 acres of regional stormwater runoff and permanently connect the Minnehaha Creek Greenway from Excelsior Boulevard to Blake Road.

Working in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, three projects are projected to move out of feasibility and into design to treat upwards of 500 acres of regional stormwater runoff along the Minnehaha Parkway.

### ***Upper Watershed***

#### *Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay:*

In the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay subwatershed, the Turbid Lundsten Wetland Restoration and East Auburn Wetland Restoration projects are both scheduled to move into construction. MCWD will also continue feasibility analysis for Halsted Bay watershed load management.

#### *Long Lake Creek – Tanager Bay:*

In the Long Lake Creek – Tanager Bay subwatershed, MCWD will construct a retrofit to the County Road 6 Stormwater Pond and continue feasibility and design work for regional stormwater management in the downtown Long Lake area, as identified in the Long Lake Creek Roadmap.

### Policy Development – 2027 Watershed Plan, Climate Action and Flood Reduction:

In 2025, MCWD will finish building its legislatively funded 2D model of the watershed. In 2026, this work will support scenario planning and the assessment of vulnerabilities across the watershed to flooding under future precipitation regimes. MCWD will begin convening its 29 communities and other key stakeholder in 2026 to facilitate development of a regional flood management strategy as part of the 2027 Watershed Management Plan.

**Conclusion:**

At the July 10, 2025, OPC meeting, staff will provide an updated overview of the total budget, ask the Committee to provide feedback, and to identify the areas of focus for subsequent discussions in the process.

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact James Wisker at [Jwisker@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:Jwisker@minnehahacreek.org).

**2026 Budget Breakdown Attachments:**

- |  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| • Budget-Revenue Summary                   | – | Attachment 1  |
| • Programs and Operations Summary          | – | Attachment 2  |
| ○ Operations                               | – | Attachment 3  |
| ○ Permitting                               | – | Attachment 4  |
| ○ Project Planning                         | – | Attachment 5  |
| ○ Policy Planning                          | – | Attachment 6  |
| ○ Project Maintenance                      | – | Attachment 7  |
| ○ Outreach                                 | – | Attachment 8  |
| ○ Research & Monitoring                    | – | Attachment 9  |
| • Capital Improvement Projects             | – | Attachment 10 |
| • Capital Finance                          | – | Attachment 11 |
| • Debt Service                             | – | Attachment 12 |
| • Draft 2026 Budget & Workplan Publication |   |               |



Attachment 1 - DRAFT 2026 Budget-Revenue Summary

EXPENSES	2025	2026	2025-2026 Δ	% Change	Notes
Operations	\$ 2,147,337	\$ 2,300,636	\$ 153,300	7.1%	Includes General Operations, IT, and Facility. Details in Attachment 3
Programs	\$ 5,121,413	\$ 5,051,042	\$ (70,371)	-1.4%	Costs and sources detailed in Attachment 2
Debt Service	\$ 1,098,218	\$ 1,100,668	\$ 2,450	0.2%	Scheduled debt service detailed in Attachment 12
Capital projects	\$ 6,053,478	\$ 6,100,256	\$ 46,778	0.8%	Costs and sources detailed in Attachment 10
TOTAL	\$ 14,420,445	\$ 14,552,601	\$ 132,157	0.9%	
REVENUE	2025	2026	2025-2026 Δ	% Change	Notes
Preliminary levy	\$ 9,869,513	\$ 9,869,513	\$ -	0.0%	Tax levy
Projects fund balance	\$ 3,332,992	\$ 1,973,572	\$ (1,359,421)	-40.8%	Funds levied in past years for multi-year projects
Programs fund balance	\$ -	\$ 1,741,577	\$ 1,741,577	N/A	Funds reallocated from programs delivered under budget or deprioritized activities
Grants and partner funds	\$ 692,940	\$ 392,940	\$ (300,000)	-43.3%	Includes only secured funds
Interest, permit fees, reimbursements	\$ 525,000	\$ 575,000	\$ 50,000	9.5%	Estimated based on previous fiscal years
TOTAL	\$ 14,420,445	\$ 14,552,601	\$ 132,157	0.9%	

REVENUE - EXPENDITURES Δ \$ (0)

Attachment 2 - DRAFT 2026 Operations and Programs Summary by Fund

		Past Expenditures				2025 Carryover Detail							2026 Budget and Revenue			2025-2026 Budget Change		Notes
Fund Code	Program/Fund	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 EOY Audited Fund Balance	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Levy	2025 External Revenue <sup>1</sup>	Assigned (carried to future years)	Unassigned EOY Fund Balance (transferred to Capital Finance)	2026 Budget	2026 External Revenue <sup>1</sup>	2026 Levy Needs	\$ Change	% Change	
1002	General Operations	\$ 1,236,204	\$ 1,056,064	\$ 1,254,725	\$ 1,227,283	\$ 682,369	\$ 1,307,965	\$ 1,319,965	\$ 857,965	\$ 650,000	\$ -	\$ 870,369	\$ 1,448,044	\$ 500,000	\$ 948,044	\$ 140,080	10.7%	Inflationary contract costs, internal building maintenance, tuition rembursement
1003	Information Technology	\$ 277,000	\$ 196,303	\$ 286,850	\$ 239,246	\$ 25,254	\$ 241,000	\$ 234,500	\$ 241,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,754	\$ 254,220	\$ -	\$ 254,220	\$ 13,220	5.5%	Inflationary contract costs, additional MS Teams Conference Room, Asset Management
1005	Facility Maintenance Plan	\$ 386,000	\$ -	\$ 386,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 598,372	\$ -	\$ 598,372	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 598,372	\$ 598,372	\$ -	\$ 598,372	\$ -	0.0%	To be refined based on project planning progress made in 2025
Operations Subtotal		\$ 1,899,204	\$ 1,252,367	\$ 1,927,575	\$ 1,466,529	\$ 707,623	\$ 2,147,337	\$ 1,554,465	\$ 1,697,337	\$ 650,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500,495	\$ 2,300,636	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,800,636	\$ 153,300	7.1%	
2001	Permit Administration	\$ 852,789	\$ 726,416	\$ 898,299	\$ 690,275	\$ 240,965	\$ 925,663	\$ 925,663	\$ 850,663	\$ 75,000		\$ 240,965	\$ 959,371	\$ 75,000	\$ 884,371	\$ 33,708	3.6%	\$20k based on estimated costs of legal and engineering review
Permitting Subtotal		\$ 852,789	\$ 726,416	\$ 898,299	\$ 690,275	\$ 240,965	\$ 925,663	\$ 925,663	\$ 850,663	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 240,965	\$ 959,371	\$ 75,000	\$ 884,371	\$ 33,708	3.6%	
2002	Project Planning	\$ 902,544	\$ 506,628	\$ 955,636	\$ 761,727	\$ 153,909	\$ 1,031,505	\$ 1,031,505	\$ 1,031,505	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 153,909	\$ 1,099,721	\$ -	\$ 1,099,721	\$ 68,216	6.6%	Net of new planning costs in Paintern, combined with reductions in Six Mile and Long Lake
2003	Project Maint. & Land Mgmt	\$ 2,594,155	\$ 2,287,954	\$ 689,926	\$ 423,044	\$ 234,088	\$ 677,441	\$ 649,649	\$ 677,441	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 261,880	\$ 688,095	\$ -	\$ 688,095	\$ 10,653	1.6%	Removal of Phase 2 Pond Study netted with increases for Dam maintenance and tree removals
2008	Policy Planning	\$ 602,935	\$ 379,379	\$ 620,151	\$ 402,423	\$ 186,228	\$ 643,884	\$ 643,884	\$ 643,884	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 186,228	\$ 867,019	\$ -	\$ 867,019	\$ 223,135	34.7%	Increase for Watershed Management Plan development and engagement process
Planning & Projects Subtotal		\$ 4,099,635	\$ 3,173,961	\$ 2,265,712	\$ 1,587,194	\$ 574,225	\$ 2,352,830	\$ 2,325,038	\$ 2,352,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 602,017	\$ 2,654,835	\$ -	\$ 2,654,835	\$ 302,005	12.8%	
4001	Cynthia Krieg (discontinued program)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,129	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,129	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	To be closed by end of 2025
4002	Outreach	\$ 527,826	\$ 218,557	\$ 507,757	\$ 286,175	\$ 118,582	\$ 470,817	\$ 435,317	\$ 470,817	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 154,082	\$ 470,009	\$ -	\$ 470,009	\$ (807)	-0.2%	Tightening through reduction in consulting services
4005	Cost Share (discontinued program)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 405,799	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 405,799	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	To be closed by end of 2025
Outreach Subtotal		\$ 527,826	\$ 218,557	\$ 507,757	\$ 286,175	\$ 532,510	\$ 470,817	\$ 435,317	\$ 470,817	\$ -	\$ 413,928	\$ 154,082	\$ 470,009	\$ -	\$ 470,009	\$ (807)	-0.2%	
5001	Research & Monitoring	\$ 1,062,112	\$ 755,343	\$ 951,384	\$ 585,339	\$ 291,105	\$ 1,004,103	\$ 1,004,103	\$ 1,004,103	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 291,105	\$ 966,827	\$ -	\$ 966,827	\$ (37,276)	-3.7%	Net of carp reductions, Painter Diagnostic
5008	LCCMR	\$ 392,500	\$ 5,367	\$ 542,250	\$ 197,218	\$ -	\$ 368,000	\$ 368,000	\$ -	\$ 368,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (368,000)	-100.0%	Completion of the 2D model in 2025
Research & Monitoring Subtotal		\$ 1,454,612	\$ 760,710	\$ 1,493,634	\$ 782,557	\$ 291,105	\$ 1,372,103	\$ 1,372,103	\$ 1,004,103	\$ 368,000	\$ -	\$ 291,105	\$ 966,827	\$ -	\$ 966,827	\$ (405,276)	-29.5%	
Operations and Programs Total		\$ 8,834,065	\$ 6,132,011	\$ 7,092,976	\$ 4,812,730	\$ 2,346,428	\$ 7,268,749	\$ 6,612,585	\$ 6,375,749	\$ 1,093,000	\$ 413,928	\$ 2,788,664	\$ 7,351,678	\$ 575,000	\$ 6,776,678	\$ 82,929	1.1%	

Notes

<sup>1</sup>External revenue includes interest (Fund 1002), permit fee reimbursement (2001), and LCCMR funding (5008).

Attachment 3 - DRAFT 2026 Operations & Support Services Budget Summary

General Operations (1002)							Notes	
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change		
Staff Expenses	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	Staff Expenses	\$ 17,500	\$ (7,500)	Reduced amount for Tuition Reimbursement	
Manager Expenses	\$ 56,000	\$ 56,000	\$ -	Manager Expenses	\$ 56,000	\$ -		
Building and Operating Expenses	\$ 138,500	\$ 138,500	\$ -	Building and Operating Expenses	\$ 168,500	\$ 30,000	Add'l 30K (furniture replacement & purchases, carpet replacement, painting)	
Office Building Debt Service	\$ 104,924	\$ 104,924	\$ -	Office Building Debt Service	\$ 104,924	\$ -		
Vehicles	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	Vehicles	\$ 3,000	\$ -	7% Inflationary Cost	
Contracted Services	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	Contracted Services	\$ 60,000	\$ -		
Accounting & Auditing	\$ 125,000	\$ 132,000	\$ (7,000)	Accounting & Auditing	\$ 133,750	\$ 8,750	5% Inflationary Cost	
Engineering	\$ 76,800	\$ 76,800	\$ -	Engineering	\$ 80,640	\$ 3,840		
Legal	\$ 85,000	\$ 90,000	\$ (5,000)	Legal	\$ 90,000	\$ 5,000		
Insurance	\$ 71,000	\$ 71,000	\$ -	Insurance	\$ 71,000	\$ -		
Other/Misc Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Other/Misc Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ -		
Class and Comp Study	\$ -		\$ -	Class and Comp Study	\$ -	\$ -		
Personnel	\$ 552,741	\$ 552,741	\$ -	Personnel	\$ 652,730	\$ 99,990		
Total	\$ 1,307,965	\$ 1,319,965	\$ (12,000)	Total	\$ 1,448,044	\$ 140,080		
Information Technology (1003)								
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change		
Strategic IT Plan				Strategic IT Plan				
Financial/Accounting System	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Financial/Accounting System	\$ -	\$ -		
Project Management System	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Project Management System	\$ -	\$ -		
Permitting Phase II Enhancements	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Permitting Phase II Enhancements	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Geospatial inventory of MCWD's lands and capital projects,and affiliated asset data	
				Project Maintenance - Asset Management System	\$ 25,000	\$ -		
Audio-Visual Equipment for Board Room	\$ -	\$ 17,500	\$ (17,500)	Audio-Visual Equipment for Board Room	\$ -	\$ -	Outreach decided to not pursue SRM in 2025, and take interim steps instead	
Stakeholder Relationship Management System	\$ 27,000	\$ -		Stakeholder Relationship Management System	\$ -	\$ (27,000)		
Program Administration				Program Administration				
Contracted Services	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	\$ -	Contracted Services	\$ 92,550	\$ 7,550	Added 3% for inflationary costs + \$5K for GIS Consultant Support	
IT Equipment	\$ 25,000	\$ 28,000	\$ (3,000)	IT Equipment	\$ 30,000	\$ 5,000	Increase to create additional Teams room	
Licenses	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000	\$ -	Licenses	\$ 91,670	\$ 2,670	3% inflationary cost	
Total	\$ 241,000	\$ 234,500	\$ (20,500)	Total	\$ 254,220	\$ (11,780)		
Facility Maintenance Plan (1005)								
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change		
Engineering/Consulting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Engineering/Consulting	\$ -	\$ -		
Facility Improvements	\$ 598,372	\$ -	\$ 598,372	Facility Improvements	\$ 598,372	\$ -		
Total	\$ 598,372	\$ -	\$ 598,372	Total	\$ 598,372	\$ -		

Attachment 4 - DRAFT 2026 Permitting Budget Summary

Permit Administration (2001)							Notes
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change	
Permit Review				Permit Review			Based on past 3-5 years
Engineering Expense	\$ 285,000	\$ 285,000	\$ -	Engineering Expense	\$ 290,000	\$ 5,000	
Legal Expense	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ -	Legal Expense	\$ 60,000	\$ 5,000	Based on past 3-5 years
Program Administration				Program Administration			Buffer signs, personal protective equipment, cellular plans for inspection iPads
Staff Mileage/Expenses	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Staff Mileage/Expenses	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Staff Training	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Staff Training	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Printing/Postage	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Printing/Postage	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Equipment & Supplies/Other	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	Equipment & Supplies/Other	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
Personnel	\$ 562,663	\$ 562,663	\$ -	Personnel	\$ 586,371	\$ 23,708	
Total	\$ 925,663	\$ 925,663	\$ -	Total	\$ 959,371	\$ 33,708	

Attachment 5 - DRAFT 2026 Project Planning Budget Summary

Project Planning (2002)							Notes
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change	
Minnehaha Creek Planning				Minnehaha Creek Planning			Agreement development, Long Range Planning and potential Phase II Project Feasibility
Minnehaha Parkway	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	Lower watershed: Minnehaha Parkway	\$ 100,000	\$ -	
Minnehaha Creek Greenway	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Upper watershed: Minnehaha Creek Greenway	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Feasibility opportunities on remaining areas (Boone/Aquila, Louisiana/Oxford)
Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Planning				Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Planning			Continued feasibility for potential project areas and land conservation exploration
Turbid-Lundsten Corridor	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	Upper watershed: Pierson, Turbid, Lundsten	\$ 75,000	\$ -	
Halsted Bay Watershed Load Management	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	Lower watershed: Parley, Mud, Halsted	\$ 40,000	\$ (10,000)	Technical analysis, preliminary feasibility and partnership exploration
Long Lake Creek Planning				Long Lake Creek Planning			Feasibility opportunities for potential project areas and land conservation exploration
Long Lake Creek Corridor	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	Long Lake Creek: Subwatershed Roadmap	\$ 25,000	\$ (15,000)	
Painter Creek Planning				Painter Creek Planning			Added new geography for diagnostic effort, roadmap and early feasibility efforts
Painter Creek	\$ -	\$ -		Painter Creek: Subwatershed diagnostic	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Program Administration				Program Administration			
General Engineering and Legal	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	General Engineering and Legal	\$ 40,000	\$ -	
Training	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -	Training	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000	
Expenses/Mileage	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	Expenses/Mileage	\$ 6,000	\$ (2,000)	
Printing/Publishing/Postage	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	Printing/Publishing/Postage	\$ 150	\$ -	
Personnel	\$ 702,355	\$ 702,355	\$ -	Personnel	\$ 745,571	\$ 43,216	
Total	\$ 1,031,505	\$ 1,031,505	\$ -		\$ 1,099,721	\$ 68,216	

Attachment 6 - DRAFT 2026 Policy Planning Budget Summary

Policy Planning (2008)						
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change
Land & Water Partnership Program				Land & Water Partnership Program		
LWP project support	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	LWP project support	\$ 75,000	\$ -
Policy Development				Policy Development		
DEI consultant support	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	DEI consultant support	\$ 15,000	\$ -
Watershed Management Plan				Watershed Management Plan		
Policy development	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	Policy development	\$ 32,500	\$ 30,000
Engagement support	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	Engagement support	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,500
Quantifying progress toward goals	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,500	\$ (2,500)	Quantifying progress toward goals	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
Regional opportunity areas	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ (5,000)	Regional opportunity areas	\$ 58,000	\$ 53,000
Scenario planning	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ (5,000)	Scenario planning	\$ 64,000	\$ 59,000
Project management and reports	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ (2,500)	Project management and reports	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500
Program Administration				Program Administration		
General Engineering and Legal	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	General Engineering and Legal	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Staff mileage & expenses	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400	\$ -	Staff mileage & expenses	\$ 7,400	\$ 2,000
Staff training	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ -	Staff training	\$ 6,300	\$ 1,500
Printing/Publishing/Postage	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	Printing/Publishing/Postage	\$ 500	\$ 100
Personnel	\$ 503,284	\$ 503,284	\$ -	Personnel	\$ 525,819	\$ 22,535
Total	\$ 643,884	\$ 643,884	\$ -		\$ 867,019	\$ 223,135

Notes

Consultant support for the identification, development, and review of partner projects

Consultant support with vetting DEI framework, HR policies, equity lens, and engagement framework

Cost estimates for WMP support will be refined through RFP process this summer

Flood mgmt strategy, stormwater/wetland banking analysis, local water plan requirements, etc.

Meeting facilitation and planning support for kickoff and TAC/PAC meetings

Project and rule metrics (including GHG mitigation and volume/wetland impacts allowed under rules)

Identification and mapping of regional opportunity areas (flood storage, wetland restoration, etc)

Modeling and analysis of flood management strategies

Regular meetings with consultants and final report

Attachment 7 - DRAFT 2026 Project Maintenance & Land Management Budget Summary

Project Maintenance and Land Management (2003)							Notes
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change	
Project Maintenance				Project Maintenance			
Vegetation Maintenance	\$ 205,200	\$ 205,200	\$ -	Vegetation Maintenance	\$ 254,057	\$ 48,857	Contracted for 254k, increased for prescribed services not completed in 2025
Dam Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 13,662	\$ (13,662)	Dam Maintenance	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	New addition to provide funding for inspection and maintenance
General	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ (5,000)	General	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000	Increase to cover budget overrun for tree removals
Flood Response Plan	\$ -	\$ 18,546	\$ (18,546)	Flood Response Plan	\$ -	\$ -	Plan to be completed summer 2025
Phase 2 Pond Study	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 65,000	Phase 2 Pond Study		\$ (65,000)	
Program Administration				Program Administration			
Engineering and Legal Expenses	\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ -	Engineering and Legal Expenses	\$ 42,000	\$ 18,000	5% inflationary increase + \$16,500 to plan for Turtle Mitigation at Amelia
Printing and Publishing Materials	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	Printing and Publishing Materials	\$ 500	\$ -	
Staff Expenses, Trainings, and Mileage	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	Staff Expenses, Trainings, and Mileage	\$ 4,200	\$ 200	5% inflationary increase
Equipment and Supplies	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	Equipment and Supplies	\$ 500	\$ -	
Personnel	\$ 368,241	\$ 368,241	\$ -	Personnel	\$ 351,838	\$ (16,404)	
Total	\$ 677,441	\$ 649,649	\$ 27,792		\$ 688,095	\$ 10,653	

Attachment 8 - DRAFT 2026 Outreach Budget Summary

Outreach (4002)							Notes
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change	
Strategic Advice				Strategic Advice			Consistent engagement of strategic communications advisors on key campaigns
Communications advisors	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Communications advisors	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Campaigns for Key Initiatives				Campaigns for Key Initiatives			Changed project-specific line items to subwatershed groups to better allocate coalition-building efforts alongside project specific outreach needs
2027 Plan and Climate Engagement	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000	2027 Plan and Climate Engagement	\$ 8,000	\$ (7,000)	Process delayed so engagement expenditures reallocated for 2026, including rentals and refreshments for advisory committee meetings, open-houses, as well as printed factsheets, boards, and other meeting materials. Kickoff events and publication still planned for 2025
Land & Water Partnership Program Marketing	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Land & Water Partnership Program Marketing	\$ 2,000	\$ -	New print materials, rental and refreshments for private sector engagement and marketing
County Road 6 Pond Retrofit and Long Lake Creek Roadmap Engagement	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	Long Lake Creek Subwatershed Project Outreach	\$ 2,000	\$ -	Rentals and refreshments for subwatershed planning meeting, print materials for partner and landowner engagement, and any project design outreach needs for public noticing and community engagement (Holbrook Park SW)
East Auburn Wetland Restoration Design and Construction Outreach	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed Project Outreach	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,000	Rentals and refreshments, and print materials for subwatershed planning meetings, project design outreach needs for public noticing and community engagement(Turbid-Lundsten Corridor and Halsted Bay Alum treatment facility)
SMCHB Campaign for Turbid Lundsten Corridor and Halsted Alum	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,000			\$ (5,000)	Closed and combined with above
Cedar to Greenway Trail Connection Design and Construction Outreach	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	Minnehaha Creek Greenway Project Outreach	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Rentals and refreshments for subwatershed planning meeting, Print materials for potential design pivot on 325/Cottageville, Greenway-Cedar construction communications. Potential signage updates with greenway
325 Blake Road and Cottageville Phase 2 Construction	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -			\$ (2,000)	Closed and combined with above
Minnehaha Parkway Communications & Engagement	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	Minneapolis Area Project Outreach	\$ 15,000	\$ (5,000)	Support finalization of partnership brand kit and website, facility rentals and refreshments for steering committee and public meetings, print materials for Parkway project design outreach, and management unit plan drafting
Broad-based Communications				Broad-based Communications			District-wide photography (staff headshots, drone imagery, project photos); non-campaign related support for programmatic projects (ex: R&M, permitting, operations, or PMLM initiatives), or district-wide communications printing and publishing (ex. Annual budget publication) District-wide signage maintenance and requests
District-wide communications and media creation	\$ 16,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 4,000	District-wide communications and media creation	\$ 16,000	\$ -	
Signage & interpretation maintenance and creation	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	Signage & interpretation maintenance and creation	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
Baseline Engagement				Broad based Engagement			Regular meeting refreshments, member recognition, annual field trip facility rental, refreshments, supplies, etc. Annual Metro Watershed Partners membership for Adopt-A-Drain programming and Clean Water MN media Annual government relations contract, Joel Carlon's contract expires 12/25, budgeting 5% inflationary costs
Citizens Advisory Committee	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	Citizens Advisory Committee	\$ 4,000	\$ -	
Clean Water Outreach & Education	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,000	Clean Water Outreach & Education	\$ 8,000	\$ -	
Government Relations	\$ 30,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 2,000	Government Relations	\$ 31,500	\$ 1,500	
Program Administration				Program Administration			Aligning with actual past expenditures based on full team workload, capacity, and interests Newspaper, software subscriptions
Staff mileage & expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	Staff mileage & expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ -	
Staff training	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	Staff training	\$ 10,000	\$ (5,000)	
Legal fees	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	Legal fees	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
Dues & subscriptions	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,000	Dues & subscriptions	\$ 4,000	\$ -	
Personnel	\$ 322,817	\$ 322,817	\$ -	Personnel	\$ 340,509	\$ 17,693	
Total	\$ 470,817	\$ 435,317	\$ 35,500		\$ 470,009	\$ (807)	



Attachment 9 - DRAFT 2026 Research & Monitoring Budget Summary

Research & Monitoring (5001)							Notes
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change	
Watershed-wide Monitoring				Watershed-wide Monitoring			
Stream, Lake, and stormwater laboratory budget	\$ 48,051	\$ 48,051	\$ -	Stream, Lake, and stormwater laboratory budget	\$ 49,493	\$ 1,442	
USGS gauge management & stormwater analysis	\$ 25,230	\$ 25,230	\$ -	USGS gauge management & stormwater analysis	\$ 25,230	\$ -	
Responsive monitoring/analysis	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	Responsive monitoring/analysis	\$ 20,000	\$ -	
Additional RESNET sites	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Additional RESNET sites	\$ -	\$ (15,000)	
Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed Monitoring			\$ -	Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed Monitoring			
Arden Park Project Monitoring	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	Arden Park Project and Cedar Meadows Monitoring	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000	
Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Monitoring				Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Monitoring			
Ongoing Carp Project Maintenance	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	Ongoing Carp Project Maintenance	\$ 20,000	\$ -	
SMCHB Alum Facility Monitoring	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	SMCHB Alum Facility Monitoring	\$ 20,000	\$ (20,000)	Diagnostic monitoring to inform project feasibility
Contract Services	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Contract Services	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Painter Creek Subwatershed Monitoring				Painter Creek Subwatershed Monitoring			
Diagnostic Monitoring	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Diagnostic Monitoring	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Subwatershed assessment for Painter Creek - Jennings
Contract Services	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	Contract Services	\$ 50,000	\$ -	
2D Modeling				2D Modeling			
District Engineer Support for 2D Model	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	District Engineer Support for 2D Model	\$ -	\$ (10,000)	
Legal Support for 2D Model	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Legal Support for 2D Model	\$ -	\$ (15,000)	
Program Administration				Program Administration			
Equipment/Supplies	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	Equipment/Supplies	\$ 30,000	\$ -	
Repairs/maintenance	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Repairs/maintenance	\$ 15,000	\$ -	
Utilities	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	Utilities	\$ 10,000	\$ -	
Boat Expenses	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Boat Expenses	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Publishing/Postage	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	Publishing/Postage	\$ 2,000	\$ -	
Engineering/Consulting	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	Engineering/Consulting	\$ 15,000	\$ -	
Legal	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Legal	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Staff Training	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	Staff Training	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
Staff/meeting expenses	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	Staff/meeting expenses	\$ 8,000	\$ -	
Dues/subscriptions	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	Dues/subscriptions	\$ 4,000	\$ -	
Personnel	\$ 634,821	\$ 634,821	\$ -	Personnel	\$ 654,104	\$ 19,283	
Total	\$ 1,004,103	\$ 1,004,103	\$ -	Total	\$ 966,827	\$ (37,276)	
LCCMR Funded 2D Watershed Wide Model (5008)							
2025 Activity/Expense	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Generated Carryover	2026 Activity/Expense	2026 Budget	2025-2026 Budget Change	
LCCMR funded 2D Watershed Wide Model				LCCMR funded 2D Watershed Wide Model			
LCCMR funded 2D Watershed Wide Model	\$ 368,000	\$ 368,000	\$ -	LCCMR funded 2D Watershed Wide Model	\$ -	\$ (368,000)	
Total	\$ 368,000	\$ 368,000	\$ -		\$ -	\$ (368,000)	

Attachment 10 - DRAFT 2026 Capital Improvement Plan Budget

	Project/Phase for 2026		2025 Carryover Detail								2026 Budget and Revenue		
Fund Code	Subwatershed	Project Name	2024 EOY Balance	2025 Budget	2025 Estimated Expenditures	2025 Levy	2025 External Revenue	2025 EOY Transfers (to)/ from Capital Finance	Assigned (carried to future years)	Unassigned EOY Fund Balance	2026 Budget	2026 External Revenue (secured)	2026 Levy Needs
Land & Water Partnership Program													
3501	Painter - Jennings	Morningside Ravine Stabilization	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 343,774	\$ -	\$ 172,153	\$ 171,621	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3502	Long Lake - Tanager	Holbrook Park Regional Stormwater Treatment	\$ 400,000	\$ 124,940	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000		\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 124,940	\$ 124,940	\$ -
3503	Minnehaha Creek	Northside Park (Lifetime)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,443	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,443	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
3504	Lake Minnetonka	Montgomerie Ave (Calvary Church) Stormwater Management	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 125,000	\$ 20,000		\$ 100,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 32,500	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Project Maintenance													
3002	Mpls. Chain of Lakes	Stormwater Pond Maintenance Dredging	\$ 1,033,611	\$ 1,060,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 17,534	\$ -		\$ 520,245	\$ 505,900	\$ 505,900		\$ -
30xx	Mpls. Chain of Lakes	Cedar Meadows Pond Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 787,900	\$ 787,900	\$ -	\$ 140,000		\$ 140,000
Design/Construction													
3145	Minnehaha Greenway	325 Blake Stormwater and Demo	\$ 2,962,244	\$ 2,150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,605,863		\$ (1,470,074)	\$ 2,318,107	\$ 679,927	\$ 2,150,000		\$ 1,470,074
3146	Minnehaha Greenway	Cottageville Park Phase II	\$ 1,385,728	\$ 700,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -			\$ 655,728	\$ 700,000	\$ 700,000		\$ -
3150	Minnehaha Greenway	Meadowbrook Golf Course Ecological Restoration and Greenway Expansion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 2,257,572	\$ 2,257,572	\$ -	\$ 250,841		\$ 250,841
3152	Minnehaha Greenway	SWLRT Stream Enhancement	\$ 189,169	\$ 493,535	\$ 155,650	\$ 293,535			\$ 54,838	\$ 272,216	\$ 494,432	\$ 200,000	\$ 22,216
3155	Mpls. Parkway	Minneapolis Stormwater Phase I	\$ 2,999,993	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 2,749,993	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000		\$ -
3158	Six Mile - Halsted	Turbid-Lundsten Wetland Restoration	\$ 730,624	\$ 150,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 150,000			\$ 504,624	\$ 318,000	\$ 318,000		\$ -
3160	Six Mile - Halsted	East Auburn Wetland Restoration	\$ 510,963	\$ 467,559	\$ 58,000	\$ -			\$ 18,000	\$ 434,963	\$ 592,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 109,037
3159	Long Lake - Tanager	County Road 6 Retrofit	\$ 445,422	\$ 532,444	\$ 65,000	\$ 203,614		\$ (13,885)	\$ 28,508	\$ 541,643	\$ 541,643		\$ -
CIP Total			\$10,657,754	\$6,253,478	\$926,367	\$2,395,546	\$242,153	\$ 1,741,577	\$10,395,515	\$3,715,149	\$6,100,256	\$392,940	\$1,992,168

Notes

- MCWD providing \$171,621 of LWP funding support and grant administrator for \$243,200 of state WBIF for Medina-led project
- Designed in '24, construction in '25
- MCWD acting as grant administrator for state WBIF funding (\$174,940)
- Feasibility study initiated in 2025 with remainder completed in 2026
- Assigned for potential future MCWD contribution for design/construction (estimated at \$1.3 M)
- \$8,442.50 final payment to St. Louis Park
- MCWD providing \$125,000 of LWP funding support and grant administrator for \$200,000 of state WBIF for Deephaven-led project
- Design '25-'26, construction '27
- 2024 dredging scheduled for Amelia Pond (\$662k) and Twin Lake Park Pond (\$353k) canceled
- 2025 dredging rescheduled for Nokomis-Amelia and Twin Lake Park Pond + \$45k for 2026 engineering/design
- Projected cost from pond analysis \$927,900
- East basin \$148,900 - \$253,500 and West basin \$396,100 - \$674,400.
- Design in 2026 (~15% of total cost) and Construction in 2027
- 2025 assumes design modifications after development termination
- Assumes \$4.3M total project cost
- 2025 assumes Gateway design and bid breakout. No construction activity.
- 2026 assumes Gateway construction.
- Assumes \$1.4M total project cost between two sites (final design estimates from 2023)
- 2026 assumes design initiation
- Assumes \$2.5M total project cost (derived from 2018 effort)
- Target MPRB funding of golf course component
- Projected cost \$885,070 (includes stream resoration).
- Trail work \$780,780 to be shared 50/50 with SLP
- Cost reflects half trail plus stream work
- Discussing financing with SLP
- Complete feasibility in 2025 and enter design contract (no design expenditures in 2025)
- Design in 2026 and potentially initiate/bid first project(s)
- Feasibility/Planning for next round of program projects in 2026
- Planning and feasibility in 2024 in partnership with Victoria
- Initiate design in 2025 following phase I feasibility
- Construction commences in 2026
- Design finalized in 2025
- Construction cost estimate derived from final design.
- Assumes construction winter 2026
- Design finalized in 2025
- Construction cost estimate derived from final design.
- Assumes construction winter 2026

Attachment 11 - DRAFT Capital Finance and Mid-Range CIP

Fund Code	Fund	2024 EOY Balance	Transfer from/(to) Ops/Programs	Transfer from/(to) Debt Service	Transfer from/(to) CIP	Total Transfers	2025 EOY Fund Balance (Held Assigned)
3001	Capital Finance	\$ 14,505,897	\$ 2,788,664	\$ -	\$ (1,741,577)	\$ 1,047,087	\$ 15,552,984

Subwatershed	Project Name	Total Project Cost	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Project Maintenance							
	Stormwater Pond Maintenance Dredging	\$ 2,049,000	\$ 870,000	\$ 576,000	\$ 208,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 339,000
Mid-Range Capital Projects							
Minnehaha Greenway	Louisiana Trail Greenspace and Stormwater	\$ 300,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000		
Minnehaha Greenway	Boone-Aquilla Floodplain	\$ 500,000		\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	
Minnehaha Greenway	West Blake Greenway Enhancement	\$ 420,000			\$ 84,000	\$ 168,000	\$ 168,000
Mpls. Parkway	Hiawatha Golf Course Restoration	\$ 1,940,000		\$ 388,000	\$ 776,000	\$ 776,000	
Lake Minnetonka	Halsted Bay Internal Phosphorus Load Reduction	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 840,000	\$ 560,000			
Six Mile - Halsted	Halsted Bay Watershed Load Management	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 5,200,000	\$ 5,200,000		
Six Mile - Halsted	Mud Lake Restoration Phase I	\$ 3,090,000			\$ 618,000	\$ 1,236,000	\$ 1,236,000
Six Mile - Halsted	Pierson Lake Headwater Restoration	\$ 367,800		\$ 73,560	\$ 147,120	\$ 147,120	
Painter - Jennings	Potato Marsh Wetland Restoration	\$ 870,000		\$ 174,000	\$ 348,000	\$ 348,000	
Painter - Jennings	South Katrina Marsh Restoration	\$ 1,270,000		\$ 254,000	\$ 508,000	\$ 508,000	
Painter - Jennings	SOBI Marsh Restoration	\$ 240,000			\$ 48,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000
Painter - Jennings	Upper and Lower Painter Marsh Restoration	\$ 2,800,000			\$ 560,000	\$ 1,120,000	\$ 1,120,000
Mid-Range CIP Total		\$ 28,246,800	\$ 4,370,000	\$ 7,445,560	\$ 8,817,120	\$ 4,655,120	\$ 2,959,000

\*Capital Finance fund is used to strategically maximize capacity for project implementation by (1) providing flexible and strategic reserves for planned and unplanned opportunities to improve the watershed and (2) minimizing levy volatility by supporting short term cash flow needs.

Attachment 12 - MCWD Debt Service (2004)

Year	Hennepin 2010B	Hennepin 2011A	Hennepin 2013B	Hennepin 2020A (REFI 2010B & 2011A)	Richfield 2013B	Richfield 2020A (REFI 2013B)	Wells Fargo Note 2018 (REFI 2011/2013)	Total Capital Finance Debt Service	Capital Finance Receipts	Transfer In/ Reimbursement	Transfer Out/ Expenditure	Actual/Projected Fund Balance (Held Assigned)
2011	\$ 215,736.81	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -	\$ 215,736.81	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,732,216.00
2012	\$ 218,562.50	\$ 319,141.81	\$ -				\$ 648,825.00	\$ 1,186,529.31	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,654,292.00
2013	\$ 216,062.50	\$ 333,718.75	\$ 386,182.00				\$ 580,250.00	\$ 1,516,213.25	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,706,099.00
2014	\$ 217,312.50	\$ 338,768.75	\$ 461,938.00		\$ 154,847.38		\$ 580,125.00	\$ 1,752,991.63	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,349,156.00	\$ 9,089,010.00
2015	\$ 218,412.50	\$ 341,768.75	\$ 463,538.00		\$ 177,255.00		\$ 1,535,500.00	\$ 2,736,474.25	\$ 2,765,423.00	\$ 510,921.00	\$ -	\$ 9,646,722.00
2016	\$ 219,362.50	\$ 339,368.75	\$ 459,838.00		\$ 174,855.00		\$ 1,999,800.00	\$ 3,193,224.25	\$ 2,795,204.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,287,628.00
2017	\$ 220,162.50	\$ 336,768.75	\$ 460,988.00		\$ 177,405.00		\$ 2,946,250.00	\$ 4,141,574.25	\$ 3,159,412.00	\$ -		\$ 8,447,852.00
2018	\$ 215,812.50	\$ 338,968.75	\$ 461,838.00		\$ 174,905.00		\$ 2,357,000.00	\$ 3,548,524.25	\$ 3,159,412.00	\$ -	\$ 452,096.00	\$ 7,776,677.00
2019	\$ 216,462.50	\$ 340,768.75	\$ 462,387.50		\$ 172,405.00		\$ 1,299,200.00	\$ 2,321,543.00	\$ 3,041,753.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,496,887.00
2020	\$ 218,462.25	\$ 337,168.75	\$ 462,637.50		\$ 169,905.00		\$ 1,261,800.00	\$ 2,263,552.00	\$ 2,731,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,942,248.00
2021	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 462,587.50	\$ 471,843.75	\$ -	\$ 172,918.50	\$ 1,724,400.00	\$ 2,833,164.00	\$ 2,968,385.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,077,469.00
2022	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 462,237.50	\$ 479,000.00	\$ -	\$ 148,930.00	\$ 1,668,300.00	\$ 2,759,840.00	\$ 2,631,904.00	\$ -		\$ 8,949,533.00
2023	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 460,137.50	\$ 479,000.00	\$ -	\$ 161,380.00	\$ 3,112,200.00	\$ 4,213,026.00	\$ 3,007,950.50	\$ -	\$ 7,196,159.00	\$ 548,298.50
2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 462,937.50	\$ 478,250.00	\$ -	\$ 158,680.00	\$ -	\$ 1,099,867.50	\$ 1,099,867.50	\$ -	\$ 1,285.00	\$ 547,013.50
2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 460,537.50	\$ 476,750.00	\$ -	\$ 160,930.00	\$ -	\$ 1,098,217.50	\$ 1,098,217.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,013.50
2026	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 463,037.50	\$ 479,500.00	\$ -	\$ 158,130.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100,667.50	\$ 1,100,667.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,013.50
2027	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 459,375.00	\$ 476,250.00	\$ -	\$ 160,280.00	\$ -	\$ 1,095,905.00	\$ 1,095,905.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,013.50
2028	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 460,600.00	\$ 482,250.00	\$ -	\$ 162,330.00	\$ -	\$ 1,105,180.00	\$ 1,105,180.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,013.50
2029	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 461,600.00	\$ 477,000.00	\$ -	\$ 159,330.00	\$ -	\$ 1,097,930.00	\$ 1,097,930.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,013.50
2030	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 464,300.00	\$ 481,000.00	\$ -	\$ 157,005.00	\$ -	\$ 1,102,305.00	\$ 1,102,305.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,013.50
2031	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 461,550.00	\$ 288,750.00	\$ -	\$ 160,250.00	\$ -	\$ 910,550.00	\$ 817,526.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 453,990.00
2032	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 463,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 163,280.00	\$ -	\$ 626,780.00	\$ 484,895.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 312,105.00
2033	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 161,120.00	\$ -	\$ 161,120.00	\$ 161,120.00	\$ -	\$ 231,545.00	\$ 80,560.00

\*Table run to 2033 to show term of existing debt. Future balances are hypothetical based on assumption of flat levy receipts, for modeling purposes.

\*\*MCWD strategically maximizes capacity for project implementation by servicing debt issued by MCWD partners for capital improvements – distributing capital costs over time and future tax paying beneficiaries.





MINNEHAHA CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

# 2026 MCWD BUDGET & WORKPLAN

*Pursuing a balanced urban ecology with capital projects and policy*



# 2026 BUDGET & WORKPLAN

At the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), we are committed to the belief that clean water and a healthy natural environment are essential for creating and maintaining thriving communities. To realize this vision, we partner with others to deliver meaningful capital projects and develop policies that integrate land use with water resource planning.

Impactful projects that benefit both the watershed and our communities often require multi-year efforts to plan, develop, and implement. Each budget cycle, therefore, presents an opportunity to align strategic priorities, assess upcoming investments, and plan for the future. This work plan outlines our 2026 annual budget and highlights progress being made throughout the watershed.

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2	2026 Budget Breakdown
3	2027 Watershed Management Plan Update
5	Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay Subwatershed Overview
6	Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay Subwatershed 2026 Activities
7	Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed Overview
8	Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed 2026 Activities
9	Land and Water Partnerships
10	Scaling Our Focal Geographies
11	Watershed-Wide Services

### OUR APPROACH: IN PURSUIT OF A BALANCED URBAN ECOLOGY

*We believe sustainable, thriving communities are built on a balanced relationship between the natural and built environments. Within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed, natural resources create a strong sense of place—contributing to local identity, enhancing economic value, and improving quality of life.*

*To bring this to life, we collaborate with our communities to integrate natural systems into the fabric of the built environment. Working with our partners, we target areas of high need to deliver meaningful, measurable impacts, while staying responsive to opportunities throughout the watershed.*



*Methodist Hospital project in St. Louis Park: Park Nicollet and MCWD remeandered a ditched, degraded section of Minnehaha Creek to improve flood storage, water quality, and access to the restored creek.*

## 2026 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

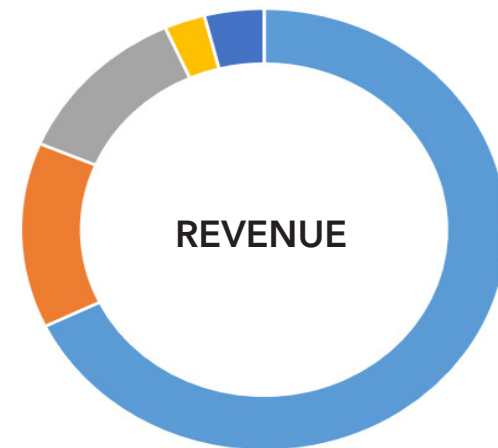
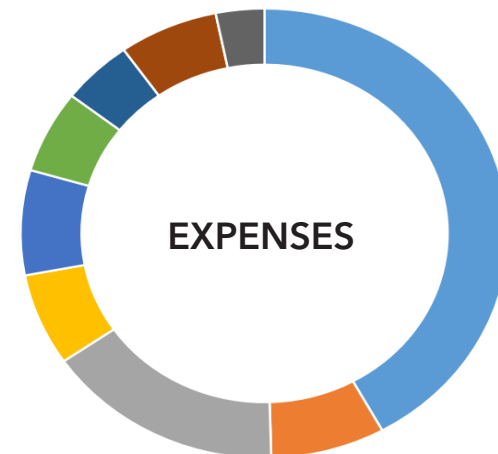
Our work is supported by an annual tax levy, funds levied in past years for multi-year capital projects (projects fund balance), funds reallocated from programs delivered under budget (programs fund balance), grants and partner funds, interest, and permit fees.

### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

**MCWD is maintaining a flat levy in 2026.** MCWD has increased the levy only 2% over the past seven years. Grants and partner funds have provided significant contributions to District expenses in recent years: MCWD has secured over \$6.7 million in grants and partner funds since 2020, supporting 6.5% of expenditures.

EXPENSES	2025	2026
Capital Projects	\$6,053,478	\$6,100,256
Debt Service	\$1,098,218	\$1,100,668
Operations & Support Services	\$2,147,337	\$2,300,636
Research & Monitoring	\$1,372,103	\$966,827
Project Planning	\$1,031,505	\$1,099,721
Policy Planning	\$643,884	\$867,019
Project & Land Maintenance	\$677,441	\$688,095
Permitting	\$925,663	\$959,371
Outreach	\$470,817	\$470,009
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,420,445</b>	<b>\$14,552,601</b>

REVENUE	2025	2026
Levy	\$9,869,513	\$9,869,513
Projects Fund Balance	\$3,332,992	\$1,973,572
Programs Fund Balance	\$0	\$1,741,577
Grants & Partner Funds	\$692,940	\$392,940
Interest & Fees	\$525,000	\$575,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,420,445</b>	<b>\$14,552,601</b>





# 2027 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

## UPDATING OUR 10-YEAR PLAN

Every 10 years, MCWD must update our Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to guide our work over the coming decade. Over the next two years, MCWD will undertake a comprehensive process to update our Plan, coordinating across 29 communities to understand local goals, align water resource priorities, and evaluate implementation strategies to chart a course for the future.

### 2026 BUDGET: \$225,000

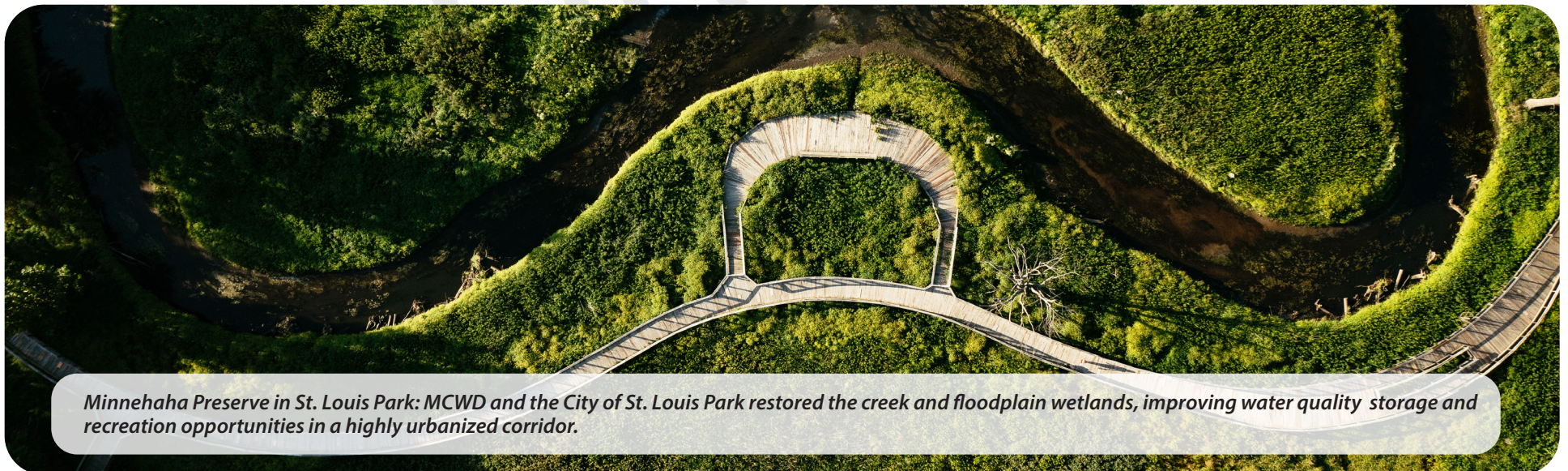
This funding supports the Plan convening process, analysis and planning, as well as public outreach efforts in 2026.

Our Balanced Urban Ecology policy was foundational to our 2017 Plan, which outlined an implementation approach focused on building partnerships to deliver high-impact capital projects in focal geographies and advance policy initiatives that integrate land and water planning across the watershed. Since 2017, MCWD has put this integrated approach into action, investing in projects that generate regional water resource improvements, expand access to green space, and support broader community goals in economic development, transportation, housing, and other areas.

Recognizing the success of this approach, MCWD's 2027 Plan will build on the foundation of partnership and integrated planning central to the 2017 Plan, to address new threats facing the watershed.

## INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

To continue advancing MCWD's vision of Balanced Urban Ecology in a changing climate, the primary focus of the 2027 Plan update will be the collaborative development of an integrated flood management strategy to build flood resilience as our communities experience the impacts of climate change. We've learned from past projects that when water is meaningfully integrated into the landscape, it can provide a range of benefits that improve quality of life, like flood resilience, water quality improvements, and recreation opportunities, as well as contribute to a sense of place.



*Minnehaha Preserve in St. Louis Park: MCWD and the City of St. Louis Park restored the creek and floodplain wetlands, improving water quality storage and recreation opportunities in a highly urbanized corridor.*



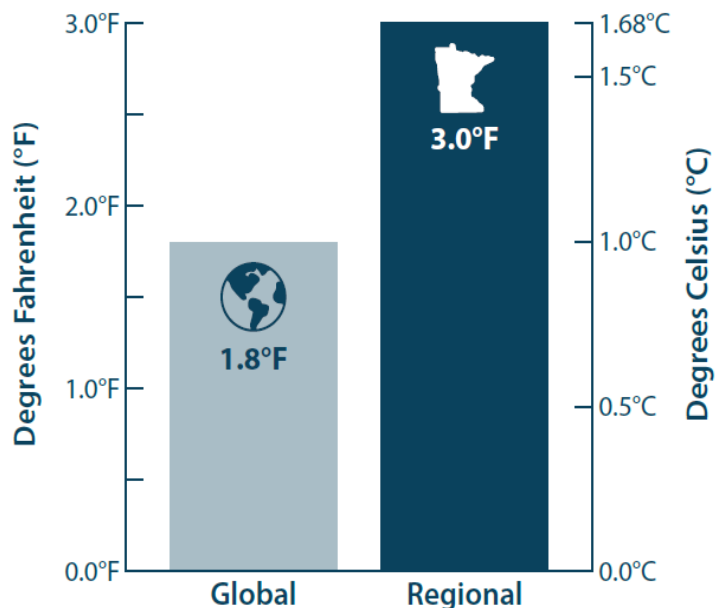
# 2027 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

## BUILDING OUR LEGACY

MCWD was established in 1967 in response to a series of extreme flood events that impacted communities along Minnehaha Creek. As the lower watershed developed, historic land use decisions aimed at moving water off the landscape quickly left these areas highly vulnerable to flooding.

Since our inception, these events have increased in both intensity and frequency. According to the MN Department of Natural Resources Climatology Office, both Minnesota and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed are projected to continue becoming warmer and wetter.

Record-setting precipitation in 2014, combined with the wettest seven-year period on record from 2013 to 2019, followed by subsequent drought cycles, highlight that the watershed is already experiencing disruptions to precipitation patterns.



Between 1895 and 2020, Minnesota warmed by 3.0 degrees Fahrenheit.

## REGIONAL PLANNING

Due to a range of factors, the effects of changing precipitation patterns can impact communities differently. Yet, water does not follow political boundaries, and upstream decisions can have downstream implications. This complex interplay underscores the need for a regional, watershed-scale approach to build resilience in ways that generate shared benefits.

As a regional water resource authority, MCWD is tasked with bringing communities together across our 178-square-mile watershed to build a data-driven understanding of natural systems, align water resource priorities, and incorporate improvements into the changing landscape.



## LOOKING AHEAD

To build a regional flood management strategy, we will convene our technical experts, policymakers, and communities across the watershed to better understand issues, identify goals, and evaluate mitigation strategies. MCWD will leverage a new 2-D model that incorporates current and projected precipitation, land surface, and municipal stormwater data to support this effort. Working with our partners, over the next two years, we will develop a shared implementation framework that supports our communities as they work to adapt and respond to a changing climate.

### STAY INFORMED ON PLAN UPDATES



[Link to Plan Webpage](#)



[Link to email sign-up form](#)

# SIX MILE CREEK - HALSTED BAY SUBWATERSHED OVERVIEW

The SMCHB Subwatershed is a water resource-rich system that forms the headwaters of Lake Minnetonka and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed. Halsted Bay is the most degraded bay on Lake Minnetonka, and five lakes within the SMCHB Subwatershed are listed as impaired for excess nutrients.

## CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP

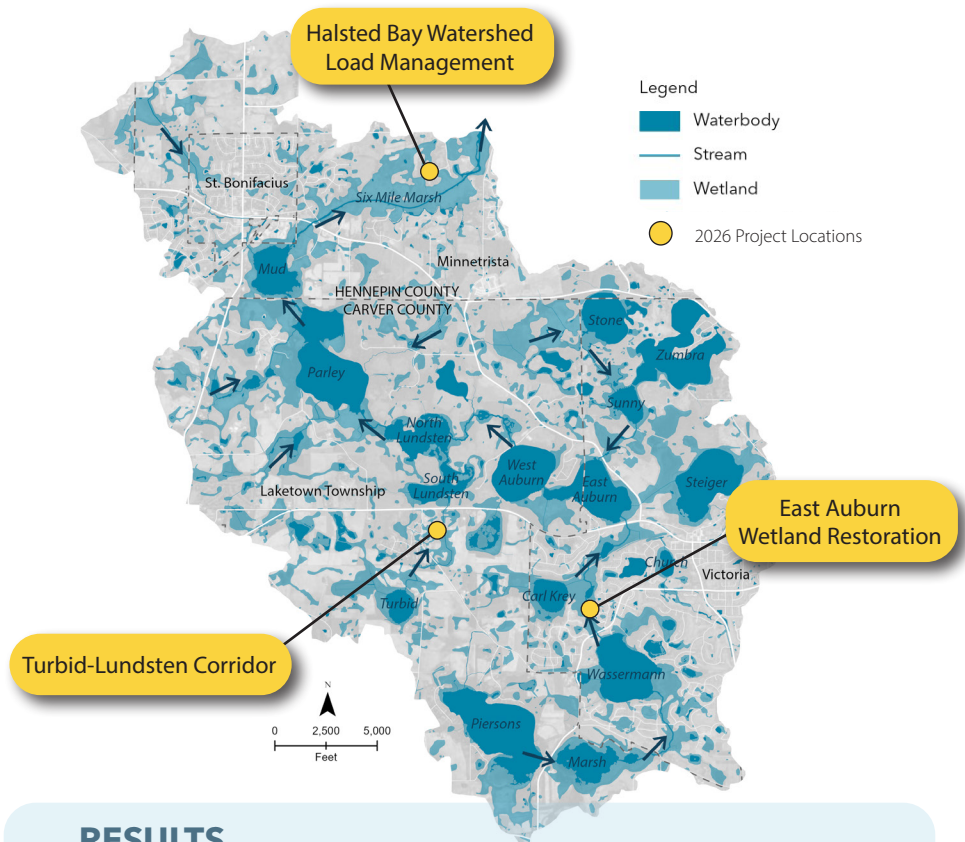
MCWD has been partnering with communities in the SMCHB Subwatershed to support local development, infrastructure, and recreational planning goals while preserving and protecting the area's unique natural resources. Whether through wetland restoration or innovative stormwater projects, our partnerships with Carver County, Laketown Township, Minnetrista, St. Bonifacius, Victoria, and private developers have resulted in measurable improvements across the Subwatershed.

To continue this legacy of meaningful collaboration, MCWD recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Victoria, which outlines a shared vision to preserve green space and ecological corridors as the City's Western Growth Area develops.

PLACEHOLDER FOR QUOTE

## WORK TO DATE

Thanks to our strong partnership with the region's communities, we have made major strides in improving Wassermann Lake and surrounding waterbodies in the SMCHB Subwatershed. Together, we have restored a 20-acre wetland with a private developer, revitalized over 210 acres of prairie and marshland, treated both Wassermann Lake and a nearby pond with alum, and implemented a systemwide carp management plan.



## RESULTS

- 124 acres of wetlands protected
- \$1.2 million in outside capital leveraged
- 545 lbs/yr of nutrient loading reduced
- 190 acres of publicly accessible green space created
- 2,488 acres of deep and shallow lake habitat restored
- 306,958 pounds of common carp reduced across 14 lakes
- Wassermann Lake on track to be removed from state impaired list
- 25% improvement of nutrient concentrations at Six Mile Creek/Lake Minnetonka outlet over 10 years
- Completed a common carp study in partnership with MAISRC to inform statewide management efforts



# SIX MILE CREEK - HALSTED BAY SUBWATERSHED 2026 ACTIVITIES

## 2026 BUDGET: \$1,081,000

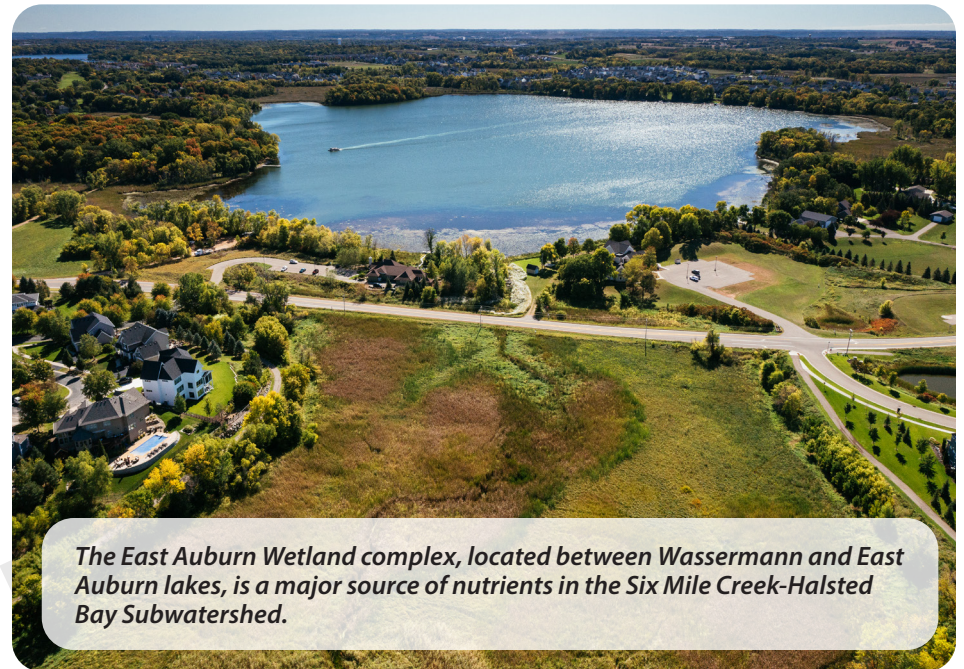
This funding supports the implementation of capital projects in the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay (SMCHB) Subwatershed.

## TURBID-LUNDSTEN CORRIDOR PLANNING

MCWD has continued to advance conversations with public and private partners to explore restoration efforts in the Turbid-Lundsten Corridor, which includes Turbid and South Lundsten Lakes. This corridor contains a significantly degraded wetland system, which presents significant nutrient reduction opportunities. Wetland restoration and in-lake treatment projects in the corridor could reduce phosphorus by up to 95 pounds per year. However, the scope and scale of projects will be shaped through collaboration with local landowners and informed by comprehensive technical feasibility studies.



*High phosphorus concentrations pollute Turbid and South Lundsten lakes. This wetland corridor presents opportunities for ecological restoration and nutrient load treatment.*



*The East Auburn Wetland complex, located between Wassermann and East Auburn lakes, is a major source of nutrients in the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed.*

## EAST AUBURN WETLAND RESTORATION

MCWD recently completed the design of the wetland restoration between Wassermann and East Auburn Lakes. The project will restore the wetland's hydrology by installing a sheet-pile weir, which is expected to reduce annual phosphorus levels by 50 percent, significantly improving water quality in impaired East Auburn Lake. Project construction is anticipated to begin in Winter 2025 and finish within 6-8 weeks.

## HALSTED BAY WATERSHED LOAD MANAGEMENT

MCWD is exploring a range of nutrient reduction methods to improve water quality in Halsted Bay on Lake Minnetonka, including the construction of a water treatment facility, upstream wetland restorations, and in-lake nutrient reduction treatments, among others. MCWD is conducting diagnostic monitoring to inform future project identification.

# MINNEHAHA CREEK SUBWATERSHED OVERVIEW

## 2026 BUDGET: \$3,979,273

This funding supports the implementation of capital projects in the Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed.

The Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed, or lower watershed, contains several iconic waterbodies, including Minnehaha Creek and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes. Minnehaha Creek flows nearly 23 miles through the Subwatershed, from Lake Minnetonka over Minnehaha Falls and into the Mississippi River, collecting stormwater from the cities of Edina, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Richfield, and St. Louis Park.

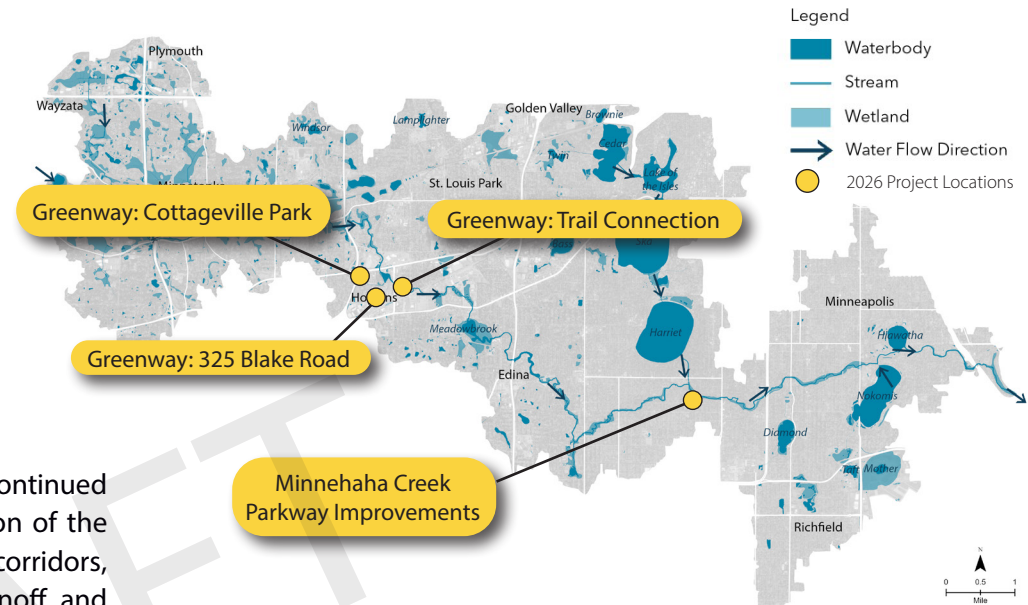
## CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships with the lower watershed communities have facilitated continued improvements across the Subwatershed. As an urban, developed portion of the watershed, project efforts have been focused on restoring riparian corridors, addressing significant flooding, managing pollution from stormwater runoff, and developing new access to green space.

A newly established partnership between the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will focus investments further downstream in the Minneapolis segment of the Minnehaha Creek corridor. Investments along the Minnehaha Creek Parkway will provide water resource benefits for the Creek and downstream Lake Hiawatha.

## WORK TO DATE

Over the past decade, MCWD has collaborated with local partners to restore and enhance sections of Minnehaha Creek, while meeting the unique demands of a highly urbanized subwatershed. Our efforts have focused on integrating natural resource goals with park planning, community development, and infrastructure improvements. Examples of this work include the re-meandering of Minnehaha Creek at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, floodplain and stream restoration nearby at the Minnehaha Creek Preserve and in Edina at Arden Park, and integrating innovative stormwater management solutions with park expansions at the Japs Olson campus in St. Louis Park and Cottageville Park in Hopkins.



## RESULTS

- 109 acres of newly accessible green space
- 30 acres of restored wetlands
- 150+ lbs of phosphorus removed per year
- \$4.6 million in outside capital leveraged
- 2.3 miles of new trails and boardwalk
- 1.5 miles of restored creek/banks
- Creek concentrations of chlorophyll-a that now meet state standards



# MINNEHAHA CREEK SUBWATERSHED 2026 ACTIVITIES

## PROGRESS IN THE GREENWAY

Over the past decade, MCWD has implemented a series of projects in the Minnehaha Creek Greenway to improve water quality and create a sense of place along the most degraded stretch of Minnehaha Creek. The Greenway, a 2-mile stretch of continuous green space between Hopkins and St. Louis Park, will receive a critical connection in 2026, in partnership with Hennepin County, the Metropolitan Council, the City of St. Louis Park, and Three Rivers Park District.

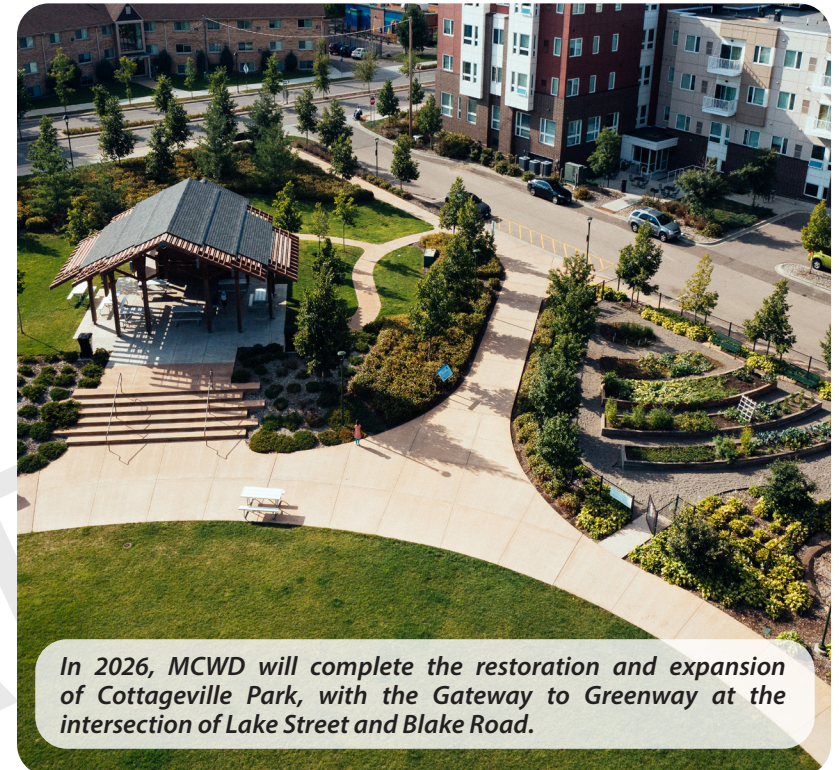
The Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection project will establish a 1,000-foot trail connection from the Minnehaha Creek Preserve to the Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail. It will also provide a connection to 325 Blake Road and Cottageville Park in Hopkins. In addition to trail development, the project will restore 1,000 feet of streambank along Minnehaha Creek, repairing riparian buffers and areas of the floodplain.

While work advances to connect investments on the Minnehaha Creek Greenway, MCWD remains committed to delivering significant water quality benefits and recreation opportunities at 325 Blake Road. MCWD and the City of Hopkins have envisioned the transformation of a 17-acre industrial site bordering Minnehaha Creek, creating an integrated, mixed-use development, complete with stormwater treatment features, streambank restoration, and recreational amenities. Despite delays in the development, MCWD continues to advance its water resource improvements on the site, which would treat stormwater from 270 acres of the surrounding communities and reduce phosphorus pollution by up to 385 lbs/year.

## A PARTNERSHIP FOR THRIVING WATERS IN MINNEAPOLIS

Working with the City of Minneapolis and MPRB, MCWD is developing a shared implementation framework for the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan, a 30-year vision to enhance recreation, restore the ecological function of the Creek, address flooding, and improve water quality in Minneapolis.

Three projects were identified from the Parkway Master Plan that would provide significant, cost-effective water resource benefits in the Minnehaha Creek Corridor. Following a feasibility study, partners plan to advance design on the first priority project in 2026, while assessing other potential project opportunities in the area.



*In 2026, MCWD will complete the restoration and expansion of Cottageville Park, with the Gateway to Greenway at the intersection of Lake Street and Blake Road.*

PLACEHOLDER FOR QUOTE

# LAND AND WATER PARTNERSHIPS

## COMMITMENT TO SHARED BENEFITS

MCWD launched the Land & Water Partnership (LWP) Program in 2024, grounded in the belief that meaningful, early coordination with the land use community leads to better outcomes for our water resources. By strengthening relationships with partners across the watershed and working together to integrate land and water planning, we are supporting regional water resource improvements that contribute to thriving, sustainable communities.

The LWP Program provides technical and financial assistance for partner-led projects that provide regional water resource benefits by adding these projects into MCWD's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Eligible partners include cities, counties, developers, and others who implement large-scale capital projects within the watershed. In its first year, the LWP Program has improved early coordination, resulting in projects that are providing significant water resource benefits. Currently, capital projects supported by the program remove 62.8 pounds of phosphorus per year in three communities across three subwatersheds.

## MOVING FORWARD

As MCWD advances planning for the 2027 Plan, we will be working with our partners to build new tools and systems that support land use and water integration and early coordination. MCWD is developing a map of regional opportunity areas to better support LWP project identification, as well as an interactive mapping tool to allow partners to highlight upcoming projects, planning efforts, and initiatives, enabling MCWD and its partners to align priorities for shared investment outside of the District's focal geographies.

### 2026 BUDGET: \$109,500

This funding supports partner-led capital projects through the Land & Water Partnership program, as well as related technical analysis, planning, and outreach efforts.

## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH PERMITTING

MCWD's permitting program also provides unique opportunities to build innovative partnerships, shape land use changes, and identify creative pathways to protect and improve water resources. By proposing innovative water resource solutions, MCWD has been able to shape projects that achieve greater water resource benefits than those achieved with regulation alone.

When Burl Oaks Golf Club in Minnetrista applied for a permit to redesign its golf course, it initiated a cooperative process to align the redesign with both state and MCWD regulations. MCWD staff worked closely with the Golf Club's team, helping them navigate regulatory requirements, while advancing the Club's vision, resulting in a course design that achieves greater water resource benefits than what would have been realized solely through compliance, including:

- 3.93- acre wetland restoration, which removes historic wetland fill
- 1.51 acres of wetland buffers in locations not required by MCWD's Rule
- 1.95 acre reduction in hardcover
- 3,266 cubic yards, or 2 acre-feet, of additional 100-year floodplain storage



PLACEHOLDER FOR QUOTE

Photo credit: Burl Oaks Golf Club



# SCALING OUR FOCAL GEOGRAPHIES

By focusing long-term, targeted efforts in key geographies, we can deliver significant, lasting water resource benefits for the watershed as a whole. Within focal geographies, we act as a convener, bringing partners together to identify areas of need and develop a coordinated implementation plan to improve the area's water resources.

As MCWD outlines priorities and project opportunities for the 2027 Plan, we are preparing to expand our portfolio of focal geographies to implement high-impact projects in new areas, magnifying regional water resource benefits. Over the next two years, we will bring partners together in two new geographies, forging relationships, aligning plans and goals, and building an understanding of the area's natural systems to support effective project implementation.

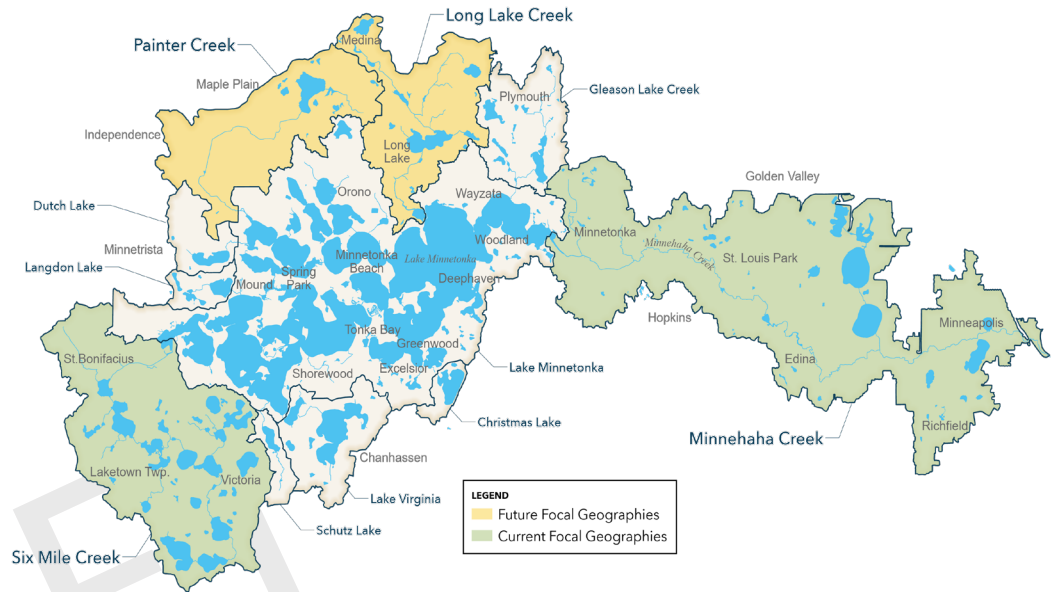
## PAINTER CREEK SUBWATERSHED OPPORTUNITIES

In 2026, MCWD will complete diagnostic work to inform data-driven project implementation in the Painter Creek Subwatershed. Painter Creek runs through the wetland-rich Subwatershed and drains into impaired Jennings Bay on Lake Minnetonka. The Subwatershed is highly agricultural and includes portions of Medina, Orono, Maple Plain, Independence, and Minnetrista.

Preliminary monitoring data estimates that Painter Creek contributes 33-50% of the total annual phosphorus load to Jennings Bay; further monitoring efforts will guide project opportunities to provide significant regional benefits. Leveraging diagnostic findings, MCWD will engage the subwatershed's communities to develop a project implementation plan for the 2027 Plan.

### 2026 BUDGET: \$808,583

This funding supports ongoing diagnostic monitoring and planning efforts in new focal areas.



## LONG LAKE CREEK SUBWATERSHED OPPORTUNITIES

Since 2018, MCWD has partnered with the cities of Medina, Long Lake, and Orono, and the Long Lake Waters Association to identify water quality improvement opportunities in the Long Lake Creek Subwatershed, resulting in the Long Lake Creek Roadmap.

The Long Lake Creek Subwatershed includes a mix of land use, including residential and commercial development, as well as agricultural lands, large wetland complexes, parks, and undeveloped natural spaces. The Subwatershed includes five impaired lakes and ultimately drains to Tanager Bay on Lake Minnetonka. The Long Lake Creek Roadmap outlines an implementation strategy and a suite of projects to restore the Subwatershed's resources.

### PLACEHOLDER FOR QUOTE

This winter, MCWD is retrofitting our County Road 6 Stormwater Pond in Orono to improve the pond's stormwater treatment capacity. The City of Long Lake and MCWD are also partnering on a feasibility study to identify regional stormwater management projects in Long Lake's downtown area. In addition to MCWD-led projects, the District's LWP Program can support near-term, partner-led projects in the Subwatershed.



# WATERSHED-WIDE SERVICES

To serve partners and residents across the watershed's 178 square miles, we provide a variety of services that complement our work in focal geographies and through land and water partnerships.

## SERVICES

- **Research and Monitoring:** collecting and analyzing data across the watershed to identify resource needs to inform project planning and implementation
- **Permitting:** reviewing and overseeing construction activities, in coordination with our partners, to protect natural resources and build positive relationships with the watershed's communities
- **Outreach:** connecting people to information they value and engaging residents, agencies, and private sector partners to ensure our work is integrated with the goals of our communities
- **Project Maintenance and Land Management:** maintaining our projects and land to ensure their continued function and value, as well as operating Gray's Bay Dam to reduce the risk of flooding and balance the water budget throughout the watershed

Learn more about the Minnehaha Creek Watershed, our partners and projects, and volunteer opportunities on our website.

### 2026 BUDGET: \$1,467,180

This funding supports the delivery of critical services such as monitoring, permitting, and outreach across the watershed.



**MINNEHAHA CREEK**  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE



## CONNECT WITH US



[www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org)



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