



Title: Minnehaha Parkway: Phase I Projects - Feasibility Update

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Purpose:

At the February 13, 2025, Operations and Programs Committee, staff will provide an update on the Minnehaha Parkway Phase I Project Feasibility effort, as well the broader MPLS-MPRB-MCWD partnership.

Background:

At its April 25, 2024, meeting, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers approved Resolution 24-028, which authorized the execution of the Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) for Integrated Planning and Water Resource Projects in the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed in Minneapolis with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the City of Minneapolis (MPLS). The Agreement identifies three key elements for advancing the goals of the partners:

1. Partnership Structure and Process: Provides a clear governance structure for the partnership to ensure the goals of the Agreement are appropriately pursued.
2. Phase One Partnership Implementation Plan: Maps the partnership approach to advancing water quality improvement project opportunities identified in the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan.
3. Long-Range Partnership Implementation Planning Framework: Identifies a framework for future implementation planning.

Resolution 24-028 also initiated the Phase One Partnership Implementation Plan by releasing a Request for Proposals for engineering, design, and consulting services for the Minnehaha Parkway Phase I Project Feasibility study. At its July 11, 2024, meeting, the Board of Managers awarded the feasibility contract to Stantec (Resolution 24-042). The study was scoped to assess and recommend phasing for three high-impact project opportunities selected from the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan to address regional runoff volumes and pollutant loads tributary to Minnehaha Creek and downstream Lake Hiawatha:

1. Segment One – Penn/Newton/Morgan Focus Area
2. Segment Two – Nicollet Focus Area
3. Segment Three – Cedar/Bloomington Focus Area

While Phase I project feasibility was underway, long-range planning and other partnership priorities continued to be discussed and advanced at the Technical Team, Coordinating Team, and Steering Committee levels.

Progress and Status:

The Phase I Project Feasibility study was initiated in late August 2024 and comprised a range of technical modeling and design tasks, as well as two key workshops attended by the Technical and Coordinating Teams. The intent of the technical tasks was to test the assumptions made in the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan and establish more accurate and detailed parameters for each of the projects. The first workshop, conducted on November 13, 2024, focused on reviewing draft project concepts and understanding how each agency's perspectives on the projects have changed or remained the same since the plan's adoption in November 2020. The second workshop was conducted on December 18, 2024, once the majority of the feasibility tasks were complete, allowing staff to frame up recommendations and next steps while the feasibility report is drafted.

Staff recommendations will be further fleshed out with the Technical and Coordinating Teams to determine the final scale and scope of each project and coordinate with key project stakeholders who are not part of the MPLS-MPRB-MCWD partnership. The partners will also continue discussions and drafting terms around the role each agency will play in designing, constructing, owning and operating each project. The project, process, and role recommendations will be brought to the Steering Committee late in Q1 or early Q2 2025, and the feasibility report will be finalized following Steering Committee feedback for use by the future project design team(s).

In addition to finalizing the Phase I Project Feasibility study and moving the selected project(s) into design, the partners continue to work on mid- and long-range planning. One element of this is selecting additional projects from the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan to bring into feasibility (Phase II Project Feasibility). The other main element is planning for project opportunities outside of the Minnehaha Creek corridor, largely focused on the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes. To that end, MCWD staff have adopted a management unit approach to begin prioritizing which water bodies the partnership will focus on next, understanding the issues, drivers, and strategies for each, and identifying the key capital projects that will lead to appreciable improvements.

Next Steps:

Staff will provide a presentation at the February 13, 2025, Operations and Programs Committee meeting detailing the feasibility findings and recommendations, next steps in bringing these recommendations through the partnership's Technical Team, Coordinating Team, and Steering Committee, and the anticipated process to move the recommended projects into design. Staff will also provide an update on mid- and long-range planning progress, partnership naming, and other initiatives that the MPLS-MPRB-MCWD partnership will be discussing at its next Steering Committee.

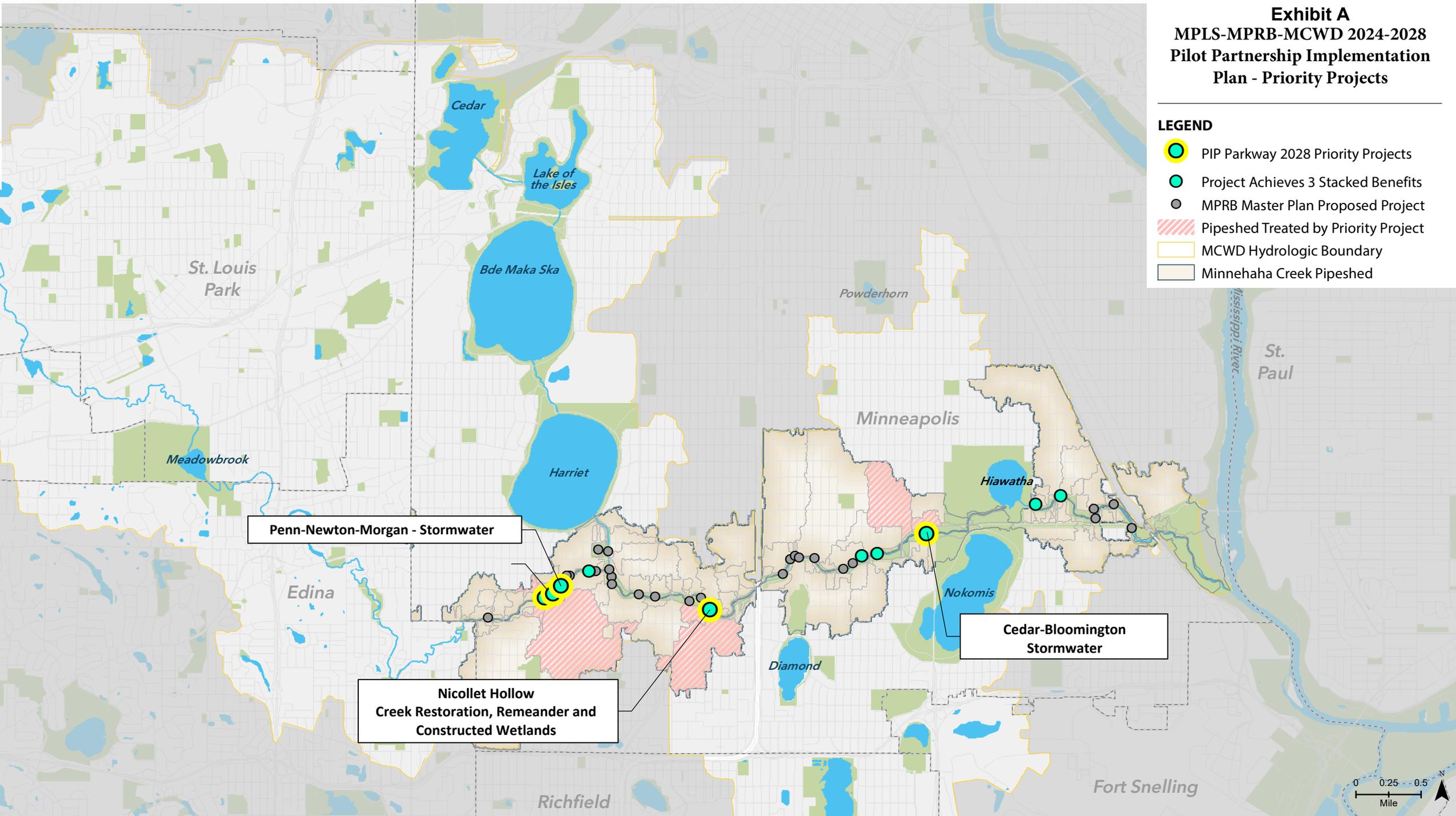
Supporting documents (list attachments):

- Phase One Partnership Implementation Plan (Note: Project costs and benefits reflect pre-feasibility values)

Exhibit A
MPLS-MPRB-MCWD 2024-2028
Pilot Partnership Implementation
Plan - Priority Projects

LEGEND

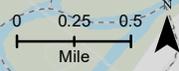
-  PIP Parkway 2028 Priority Projects
-  Project Achieves 3 Stacked Benefits
-  MPRB Master Plan Proposed Project
-  Pipedshed Treated by Priority Project
-  MCWD Hydrologic Boundary
-  Minnehaha Creek Pipedshed



Penn-Newton-Morgan - Stormwater

**Nicollet Hollow
 Creek Restoration, Remeander and
 Constructed Wetlands**

**Cedar-Bloomington
 Stormwater**



DRAFT

MCWD-MPLS-MPRB 2024-2028 PILOT PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENT PLAN

Minnehaha Parkway Project Priorities	Capital Costs*	Acres Treated	Water Quality (lbs TP)	Floodplain (CY)
Bloomington-Cedar	\$ 350,000	115	52	11,121
Penn-Newton-Morgan	\$ 818,000	248	81	1,554
Nicollet	\$ 1,600,000	152	44	1,684
TOTAL	\$ 2,768,000	515	177	14,359

*Costs estimates from MPRB Master Plan. 2018 costs adjusted for inflation. Capital costs only. To be refined through Feasibility

Internal Sources*	Year					
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Minneapolis Funds Encumbered by MCWD	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Minneapolis Capital Plan Funds	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
MPRB Parkway Capital Plan Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600,000	\$ -	\$ -	
MCWD Capital Plan Funds	\$ 325,000	\$ 2,749,993	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Internal Sources	\$ 1,325,000	\$ 2,999,993	\$ 1,850,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 6,674,993

Sources based on initial commitments of partners, and capital plans. MCWD capital funds and Minneapolis encumbered funds are secured.

Project Costs	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Pilot Project Feasibility Study	\$ 150,000					
Bloomington-Cedar Design		\$ 134,880				
Bloomington-Cedar Construction			\$ 314,720			
Penn-Newton-Morgan Design		\$ 284,368				
Penn-Newton-Morgan Construction			\$ 331,762	\$ 331,762		
Nicollet Design			\$ 568,800			
Nicollet Construction					\$ 1,327,200	
Total Project Costs	\$ 150,000	\$ 419,248	\$ 1,215,282	\$ 331,762	\$ 1,327,200	\$ 3,443,492

*Costs estimates from MPRB Master Plan. 2018 costs adjusted for inflation. Capital costs only. To be refined through Feasibility

Annual Cash Flow						TOTAL 5 YEAR DELTA SOURCES - COSTS
Annual Sources + Prior Year Balance - Annual Costs	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 3,755,745	\$ 4,390,463	\$ 4,308,701	\$ 3,231,501	\$ 3,231,501

MINNEHAHA PARKWAY PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2024-2028



OVERVIEW

PROJECT NAME

Segment 1 Penn/Newton/Morgan Focus Area

LOCATION

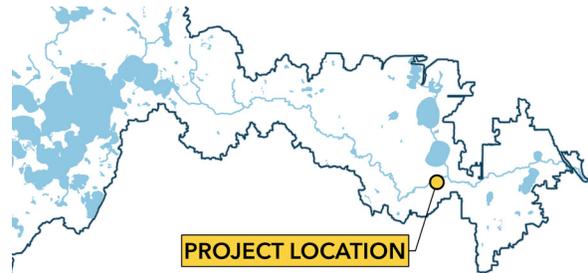
Minneapolis (Minnehaha Creek)

TARGET WATERBODY

Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha

BENEFITS

Treats 248 acres, 81 pounds of Total Phosphorus reduction, 154 cubic yards of floodplain restoration



DESCRIPTION

SCOPE

The scope of work for Segment 1 includes the feasibility, design, and construction of a stormwater basin for the 1.1-E Stormwater BMP East of Penn project, re-meandering of the creek with floodplain restoration for the 1.1-F Creek Restoration West of Newton project, the replacement of existing concrete spillway with multi-cell BMP, and associated interpretation for the 1.1-L Stormwater Treatment at 52nd Street Outfall project.

GOALS

Improve water quality, water quantity, and ecological integrity by capturing stormwater runoff, restoring Minnehaha Creek, and replacing the concrete spillway. Additionally, enhance community sense of place through the installation of interpretative signage.

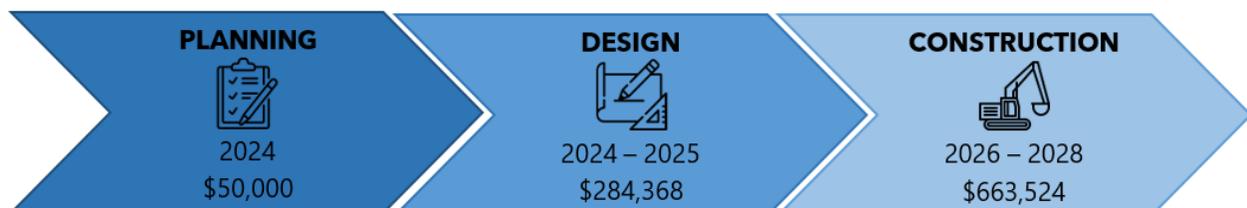
JUSTIFICATION

The Partnership is prioritizing the implementation of Projects 1.1-E, 1.1-F, and 1.1-L, from the co-created Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan as pilot projects of the Partnership Implementation Framework with the City of Minneapolis Surface Water and Sewers Division and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to enhance recreation, improve ecological function of the creek corridor, improve public safety, address flooding, and improve water quality in the Minneapolis segment of the Minnehaha Creek corridor.

WORKPLAN SUMMARY

The focus for 2024 will be on conducting feasibility, including engineering, site design, policy, and regulatory feasibility, as well as cost and benefit estimates for the selected projects in the Segment 1 Penn/Newton/Morgan Focus Area.

SCHEDULE + BUDGET

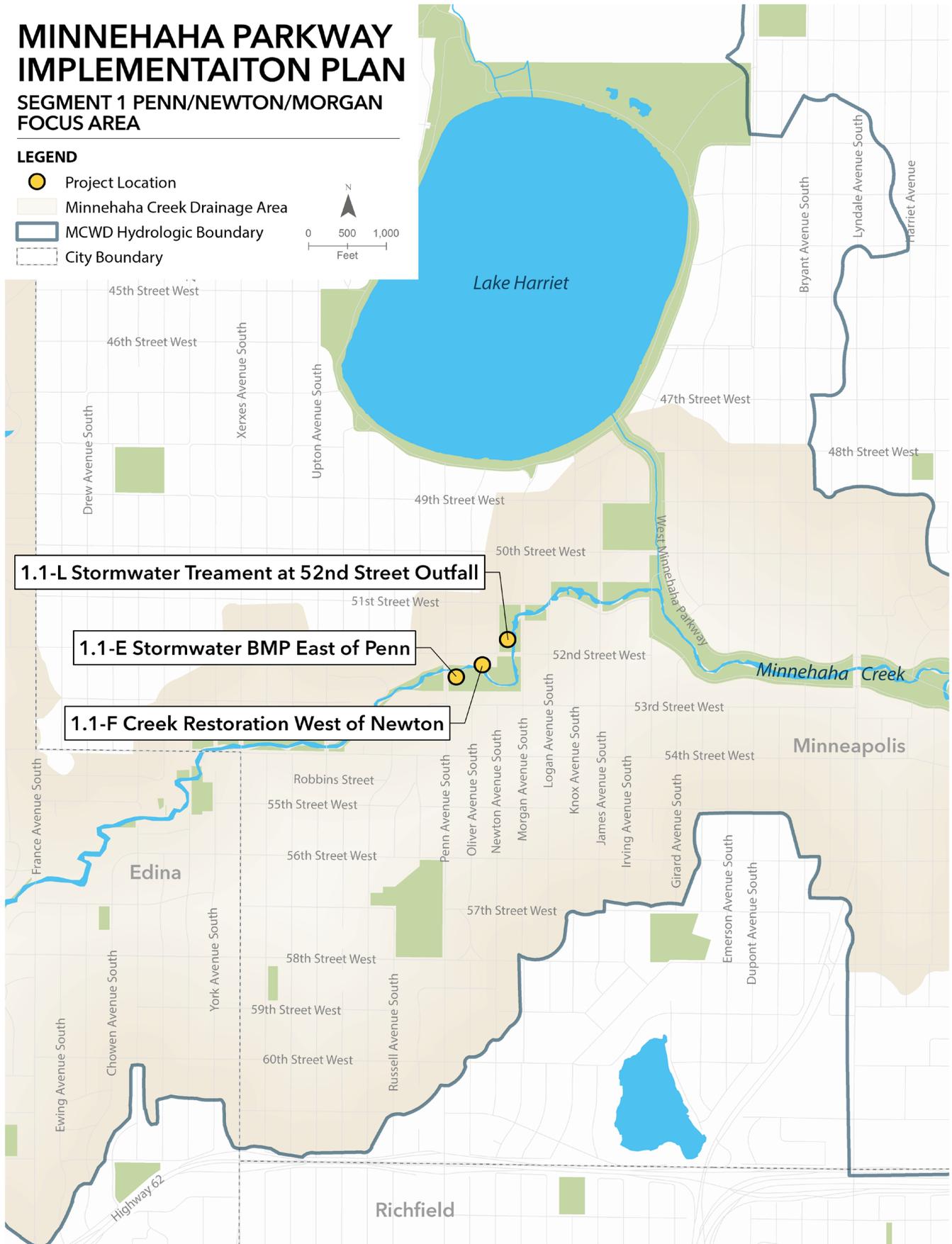
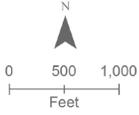


MINNEHAHA PARKWAY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SEGMENT 1 PENN/NEWTON/MORGAN FOCUS AREA

LEGEND

-  Project Location
-  Minnehaha Creek Drainage Area
-  MCWD Hydrologic Boundary
-  City Boundary



MINNEHAHA PARKWAY PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2024-2028



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

OVERVIEW

PROJECT NAME

Segment 2 Nicollet Focus Area

LOCATION

Minneapolis (Minnehaha Creek)

TARGET WATERBODY

Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha



BENEFITS

Treats 152 acres, 44 pounds of Total Phosphorus reduction, 1,684 cubic yards of floodplain restoration

DESCRIPTION

SCOPE

The scope of work for Segment 2 includes the feasibility, design, construction, and site interpretation for creek restoration and remeandering in Nicollet Hollow, including all associated streambank restoration, wetland restoration, and wetland construction identified in the 2.1-H Creek Restoration, Remeander and Constructed Wetlands, Nicollet Hollow project.

GOALS

Improve water quality, water quantity, and ecological integrity through the restoration of Minnehaha Creek, the streambank, and associated wetlands. Additionally, enhance community sense of place through the installation of interpretative signage.

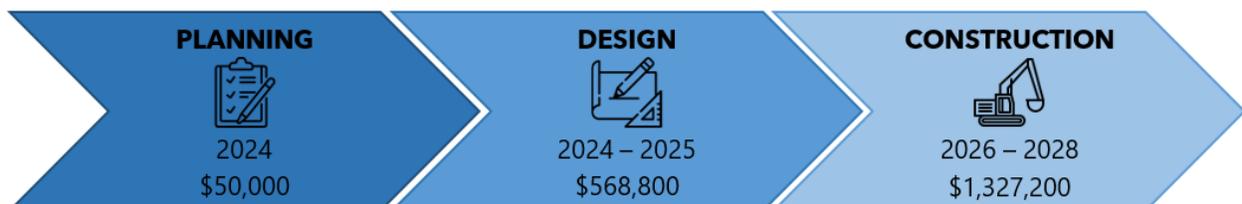
JUSTIFICATION

The Partnership is prioritizing the implementation of Project 2.1-H from the co-created Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan as a pilot project of the Partnership Implementation Framework with the City of Minneapolis Surface Water and Sewers Division and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to enhance recreation, improve ecological function of the creek corridor, improve public safety, address flooding, and improve water quality in the Minneapolis segment of the Minnehaha Creek corridor.

WORKPLAN SUMMARY

The focus for 2024 will be on conducting feasibility, including engineering, site design, policy, and regulatory feasibility, as well as cost and benefit estimates for the selected project in the Segment 2 Nicollet Focus Area.

SCHEDULE + BUDGET

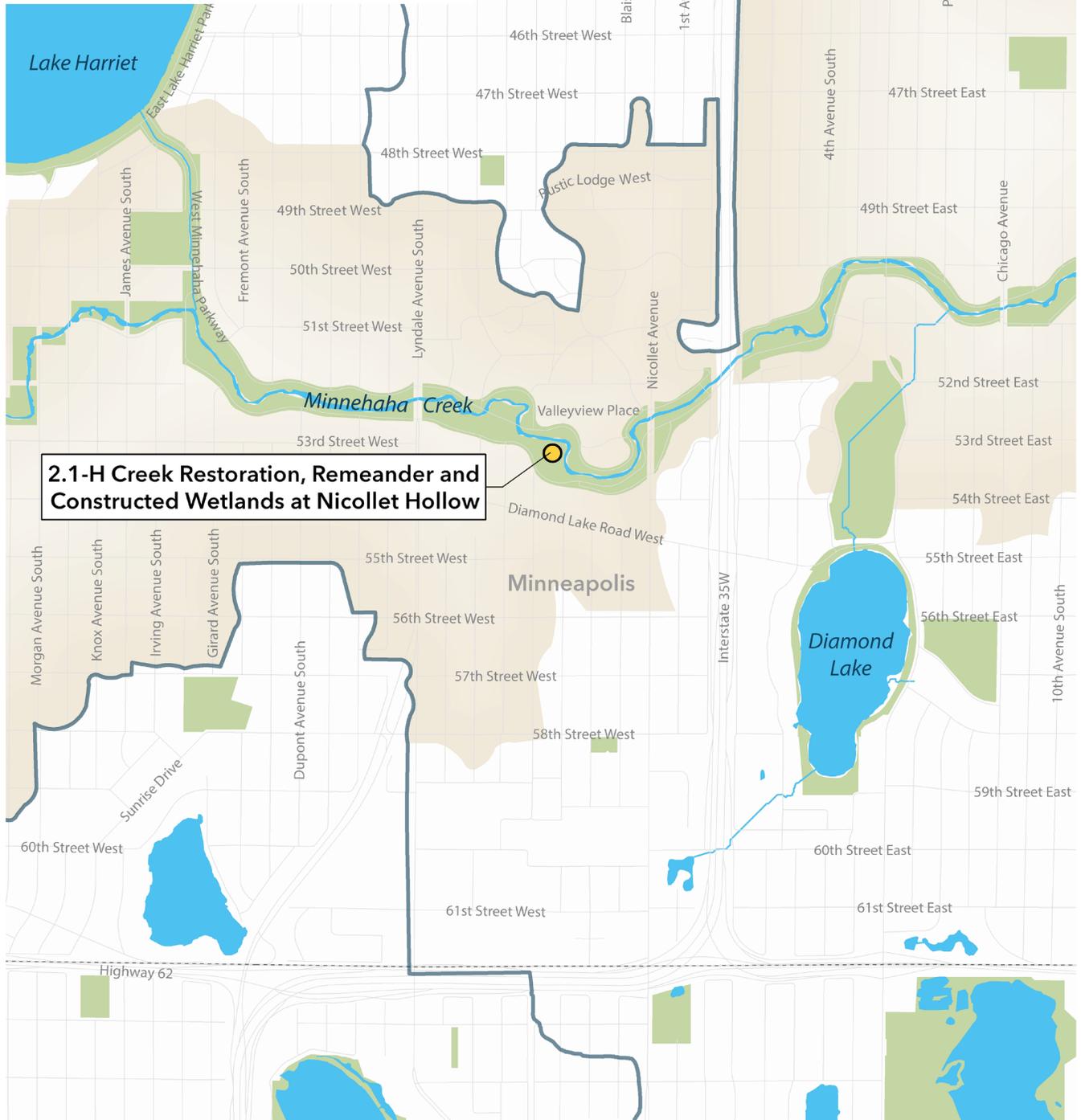
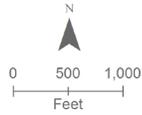


MINNEHAHA PARKWAY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SEGMENT 2 NICOLLET FOCUS AREA

LEGEND

-  Project Location
-  Minnehaha Creek Drainage Area
-  MCWD Hydrologic Boundary
-  City Boundary



MINNEHAHA PARKWAY PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2024-2028



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

OVERVIEW

PROJECT NAME

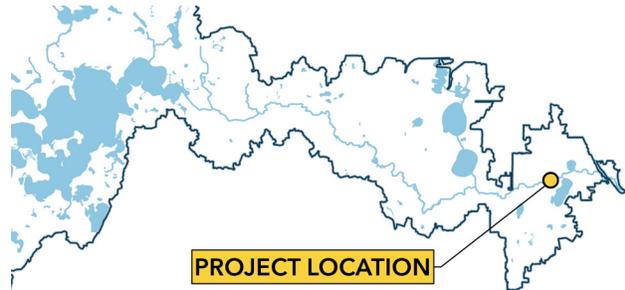
Segment 3 Cedar/Bloomington

LOCATION

Minneapolis (Minnehaha Creek)

TARGET WATERBODY

Minnehaha Creek and Lake Hiawatha



BENEFITS

Treats 115 acres, 52 pounds of Total Phosphorus reduction, 11,121 cubic yards of floodplain restoration

DESCRIPTION

SCOPE

The scope of work for Segment 3 includes feasibility, design, and construction for creek restoration and re-meandering with stormwater BMP as identified in the 3-P Stormwater BMP (with restored wetland) project.

GOALS

Improve water quality, water quantity, and ecological integrity through the re-meandering and restoration of Minnehaha Creek, and installation of a stormwater BMP and restored wetland area.

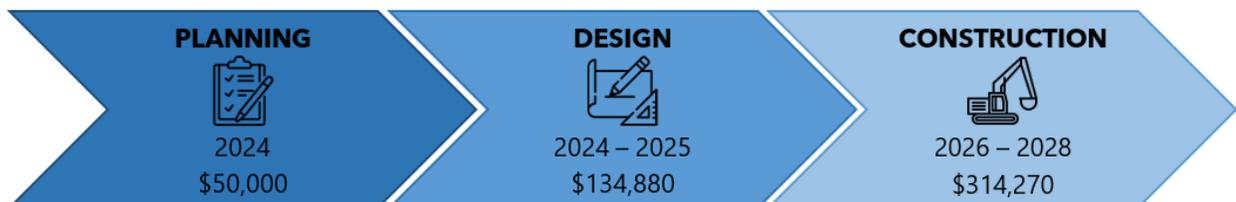
JUSTIFICATION

The Partnership is prioritizing the implementation of Project 3-P from the co-created Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan as a pilot project of the Partnership Implementation Framework with the City of Minneapolis Surface Water and Sewers Division and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to enhance recreation, improve ecological function of the creek corridor, improve public safety, address flooding, and improve water quality in the Minneapolis segment of the Minnehaha Creek corridor.

WORKPLAN SUMMARY

The focus for 2024 will be on conducting feasibility, including engineering, site design, policy, and regulatory feasibility, as well as cost and benefit estimates for the selected project in the Segment 3 Cedar/Bloomington.

SCHEDULE + BUDGET



MINNEHAHA PARKWAY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SEGMENT 3 CEDAR/BLOOMINGTON FOCUS AREA

LEGEND

-  Project Location
-  Minnehaha Creek Drainage Area
-  MCWD Hydrologic Boundary
-  City Boundary

