



Title:	Adoption of the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan	
Resolution number:	26-067	
Prepared by:	Gabriel Sherman (952) 641-4510 gsherman@minnehahacreek.org	
Reviewed by:	Michael Hayman, Director of Project Planning	
Recommended action:	Board adoption of the annually revised MCWD Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the 2027 budget and implementation cycle.	
Schedule:	June 2026 - Draft CIP reviewed by Board July 2026 - Release of draft CIP for 30-day review period August 2026 - Revisions and approval of 2027 CIP	
Budget considerations:	Not applicable	
Past Board action:	Res # 26-057	Authorization to Distribute Capital Improvement Plan for Annual Review and Comment

Summary:

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is a mission-driven organization that centers its work on the delivery of high-impact capital projects that integrate water and natural resources with the built environment. MCWD has progressively improved its approach to capital project planning through cycles of implementation and deliberate reflection that have increased the sophistication and efficacy of its capital project implementation model.

Each year, as described in MCWD's Watershed Management Plan (WMP), MCWD revises and distributes its 10-year CIP (Attachment 1) to its member cities and counties for 30-day review and comment. The purpose of this annual process is to allow MCWD to adjust its 10-year CIP based on feasibility analysis of projects described in the WMP, identification of new project opportunities through coordination with land use planning, shifts in District priorities, and assessment of staff and financial capacity. As projects are continually being developed, this process also allows MCWD to provide its stakeholders with a greater level of specificity. MCWD uses the annual distribution of its CIP to remind its communities of the District's implementation approach and its desire to coordinate and align its plans and investments with its member communities.

In addition to updating the 10-year CIP project list, MCWD annually reviews and refines the tools it uses to communicate its slate of projects to its communities. With the launch of MCWD's Land and Water Partnership (LWP) Program in 2024, the CIP has been updated to include LWP projects to provide a more comprehensive and consistent picture of MCWD's capital program. Starting this cycle, distribution of the draft 2027 CIP shifted away from static project summary pages that are updated annually, and toward website-based project profiles that are updated on a quarterly basis. This shift in communication method allows MCWD to provide consistent project information and timely updates throughout the year. Hyperlinks for each active or near-term CIP project was added to the 10-year CIP table prior to distribution.

Finally, MCWD kicked off its 2027 Watershed Management Plan update in early 2026. Over the next two years,

MCWD will be engaging with its 29 communities and other public partners to develop the 2027 WMP. A key component of the new plan will be an updated project list reflecting MCWD's and its communities' collective priorities for the next 10 years. Until the new plan is adopted, however, the 10-year CIP table will continue to be based on the projects identified in the 2017 WMP. Projects in the outyears of the 2027 CIP, therefore, have been updated with a proposed implementation year of 2030+ to reflect the need for these projects to be reassessed through the 2027 WMP development process, alongside a range of new or more recently proposed projects identified through the process.

At the June 25, 2026 Board Meeting, the Board reviewed the revised draft CIP and authorized its distribution to the cities and counties. The CIP was accompanied with a cover letter reiterating the District's implementation approach and its desire to coordinate and align plans and investments with member communities. Cities, counties, and other partners are encouraged to approach the District with project opportunities that may be incorporated into future revisions of the CIP or considered for other forms of District assistance based on alignment with District goals, timing, and capacity.

Comments on the draft CIP were accepted from July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026. Staff received email responses from the City of Medina, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Stubbs Bay Lake Improvement District and were addressed by the appropriate MCWD staff person. The comments are briefly summarized below, and the emails are available for viewing upon request. The comments are deemed by staff as supportive of MCWD's approach, with each noting a desire to continue exploring opportunities in partnership. As such, staff are not recommending edits to the 2027 CIP:

- City of Medina: Supports MCWD's ongoing efforts in the Long Lake subwatershed and has committed funding through its CIP to partner with MCWD on proposed initiatives within the city of Medina.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board: Supports the Minneapolis Thriving Waters Partnership (MTWP) and requests that MCWD maintain flexibility within its CIP to allow for the funding of projects that emerge from MCWD's WMP process, MTWP's management unit planning, and MPRB's water sampling program, as well as address legacy projects that have reached their useful life.
- Stubbs Bay Lake Improvement District: Requests that MCWD consider including nutrient reduction projects in its CIP to address water quality in Stubbs Bay.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Draft 2027 CIP



RESOLUTION

Resolution number: 26-067

Title: Adoption of the 2027 Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Capital Improvement Plan

- WHEREAS Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) 2017 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) included a proposed 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP);
- WHEREAS the Plan requires that MCWD annually release its revised draft CIP for 30-day review and comment to the counties and municipalities in the District;
- WHEREAS on June 25, 2026, the MCWD Board reviewed the draft CIP and authorized its distribution for 30-day review and comment;
- WHEREAS on July 1, 2026, staff distributed the draft CIP for review and comment, and comments were received from the City of Medina, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Stubbs Bay Lake Improvement District;
- WHEREAS all responses were deemed supportive of MCWD's approach and requested ongoing exploration of potential partnership opportunities; comments were addressed by the appropriate MCWD staff person and are available for viewing upon request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby adopts the attached 2027 CIP.

Resolution Number 26-067 was moved by Manager _____, seconded by Manager _____. Motion to adopt the resolution ___ ayes, ___ nays, ___ abstentions. Date: 8/13/2026

Secretary Date: _____

DRAFT Minnehaha Creek Watershed District 2018-2027 Capital Improvement Plan

Subwatershed	Capital Projects	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources*	Proposed Implementation Year
Minnehaha Creek	Arden Park Stream Restoration and Stormwater Management	\$5,020,272	MCWD levy, City of Edina (\$2,732,870), BWSR grant (\$125,000)	Complete - 2020
	Minnehaha Creek FEMA Flood Damage Repairs	\$900,000	MCWD levy, FEMA grant (\$336,459)	Complete - 2020
	325 Blake Road Regional Stormwater and Greenway	\$6,439,250	MCWD levy, BWSR grants (\$495,000), PFA grants (TBD)	2027-2029
	Cottageville Park Phase II Riparian Restoration	\$1,870,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions	2025-2028
	Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection and Streambank Restoration	\$885,000	MCWD levy, City of St. Louis Park (\$390,000), Hennepin Co grant (\$200,000)	2025-2027
	Minneapolis Stormwater Phase I (Cedar Ave)	\$4,272,617	MCWD levy, City of Minneapolis, MPRB, BWSR grant (\$225,000)	2026-2029
	Meadowbrook Golf Course Ecological Restoration	\$3,442,000	MCWD levy, MPRB, grants	2027-2030
	Meadowbrook Greenway Expansion	\$1,308,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2030+
	Boone-Aquilla Floodplain	\$500,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2029-2030+
	Louisiana Trail Greenspace and Stormwater	\$300,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2027-2029
	West Blake Greenway Enhancement	\$420,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2030+
	Hiawatha Golf Course Restoration	\$1,940,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2028-2030
	Channel/Streambank Restoration	\$3,120,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$2,450,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay	East Auburn Stormwater Enhancement Project	\$327,500	BWSR grant (\$262,520), City of Victoria (\$64,980)	Complete - 2020
	Wassermann West External Load Reduction and Landscape Restoration	\$2,761,786	City of Victoria (\$2,184,660), BWSR grant (\$93,879), MCWD levy	Complete - 2021
	Wassermann Internal Load Management	\$335,900	MCWD levy, BWSR grant (\$284,720)	Complete - 2022
	Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration (Trail)	\$347,851	MCWD levy	Complete - 2023
	East Auburn Wetland Restoration	\$610,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions	Complete - 2026
	Turbid-Lundsten Wetland Restoration	\$880,624	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2026-2028
	Halsted Bay Watershed Load Management	\$13,000,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2028-2030
	Mud Lake Watershed Load Reductions	\$3,090,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2030+
	Pierson Lake Headwaters Restoration	\$367,800	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2028-2030
	Whole Lake Drawdown	\$770,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
	Internal Load Management	\$980,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$2,000,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
	Stream Restoration	\$870,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
	Wetland Restoration	\$3,000,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Long Lake Creek	County Road Six Pond Retrofit	\$728,000	MCWD levy	Complete - 2026
	Downtown Long Lake - Civic Center Pond	\$1,300,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, BWSR grant (\$174,940)	2027-2030
	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$1,320,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Painter Creek	Morningside Ravine Stabilization (Medina-led project)	\$414,821	MCWD levy (LWP program \$171,621), BWSR grant (\$243,200)	Complete - 2026
	Potato Marsh Restoration	\$870,000	MCWD levy, USACE Section 206, partner contributions, grants	2029-2030+
	South Katrina Marsh Restoration	\$1,270,000	MCWD levy, USACE Section 206, partner contributions, grants	2029-2030+
	SOBI Marsh Restoration	\$240,000	MCWD levy, USACE Section 206, partner contributions, grants	2030+
	Upper and Lower Painter Marsh Restoration	\$2,800,000	MCWD levy, USACE Section 206, partner contributions, grants	2030+
	Stream Restoration	\$2,990,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
	Wetland Restoration	\$330,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$980,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Christmas Lake	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$200,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Dutch Lake	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$780,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Gleason Lake	Maple Creek Pond Improvement Project (Plymouth-led project)	\$100,000	MCWD levy (LWP program)	Complete - 2023
	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$600,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Lake Minnetonka	Montgomerie Ave Stormwater Management (Deephaven-led project)	\$325,000	MCWD levy (LWP program \$125,000), BWSR grant (\$200,000)	2025-2027
	Halsted Bay Internal Phosphorus Load Reduction	\$1,400,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	2029-2030+
	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$1,000,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Lake Virginia	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$650,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Langdon Lake	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$230,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based
Schutz Lake	Stormwater Volume and Pollutant Load Reduction	\$250,000	MCWD levy, partner contributions, grants	Opportunity-based