



Title: Preparation for 2023 Board Retreat – Five Year Strategic Priorities Discussion #2

Prepared by: James Wisker
952-641-4509
Jwisker@Minnehahacreek.org

Purpose:

To engage in discussions to support a 2023 Board Retreat, bringing focus to MCWD’s five-year strategic priorities.

Background:

At the midpoint in its 10-year watershed plan cycle, and five years since its last strategic plan, the MCWD Board of Managers has spent time analyzing its past and current situation, all to support preparations for the future. Recently the Board agreed to undertake a series of discussions, leading to a 2023 Board Retreat, that will culminate in the development of a new five-year strategic action plan to guide the organization leading into development of the 2027 Watershed Management Plan.

During its first discussion, the Board spent time with staff brainstorming and sorting five-year priorities. A summary of discussion notes is included in Attachment A. Below is a synthesis of the six categories of priorities from this discussion:

1. Build High-Impact Capital Projects

Deliver quality projects that measurably improve the watershed, community, and create place.

2. Deliver Meaningful Climate Action Policy

Move from the Climate Action Framework to a 2027 Watershed Plan with full community support.

3. Strengthen Partnerships

Increase the level of explicit support for MCWD’s priorities at local, regional, and state levels.

4. Leverage MCWD’s Brand Equity

Maximize the perceived value of working with MCWD, to generate new opportunities.

5. Enhance Data-Driven Decision Making

Create tools to understand the watershed, inform decisions, shape communications, and build trust.

6. Invest in People and Reinforce Culture

Grow capabilities, methodically expand the team, and fortify culture to achieve excellence.

Process:

In each of these focus areas MCWD has existing action plans (e.g. 5-Year CIP, Climate Action Framework, Outreach Plan). In upcoming meetings, these existing plans will be reflected out, and discussion will drill down into unanswered questions and ideas. This process will synthesize existing plans and discussions in a five-year strategic action plan.

- [January 2023 PPC](#) – [Kickoff Brainstorming of Five-Year Priorities](#)
- February 2023 PPC – Capital Projects
- March 2023 PPC – Climate Action
- April 2023 PPC – Partnerships and Brand Equity
- May 2023 PPC – People and Culture
- June – July 2023 Retreat – Data-Driven Decisions and Strategic Priorities Synthesis

February 23, 2023 PPC – Capital Projects:

As the Board engages in discussions around the priority area of capital projects, it is building from a picture of clarity developed in 2022 provided through the Multi-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

This process engaged the Board in driving decisions about how to advance projects in queue, through planned decision gates, based on project benefit, cost, and risk profiles. The Multi-Year CIP includes projects identified in the following areas in various stages of data diagnostic, planning, feasibility, design and construction:

- Minnehaha Creek
- Six Mile Creek – Halsted Bay
- Long Lake Creek – Tanager Bay
- Painter Creek – Jennings Bay

As with any capital plan, certainty diminishes in out years. Therefore the February 23, 2023 PPC Meeting will offer an opportunity to:

1. Reinforce near-term capital project priorities
2. Discuss the Board’s vision for priorities and scale of implementation in out years
3. Discuss the opportunities, challenges and resources needed to succeed

To support the PPC discussion, the [Multi-Year CIP is linked here](#). A high level snapshot of projects and implementation timelines is included as Attachment B. A 2023 capital project map is included as Attachment B.

The following questions are provided as initial discussion prompts ahead of the meeting:

1. What does success look like across these geographies?
 - a. How will the Board measure success on the landscape and with communities?
2. How will we know when we are done in a focal geography?
 - a. What criteria will the Board use?
3. How is the Board viewing Minneapolis, Long Lake and Painter Creek as potential focal geographies?
 - a. What might a successful balance of planning and implementation look like across these areas?



**Five-Year Priorities Brainstorming
Policy and Planning Committee
January 26, 2023**

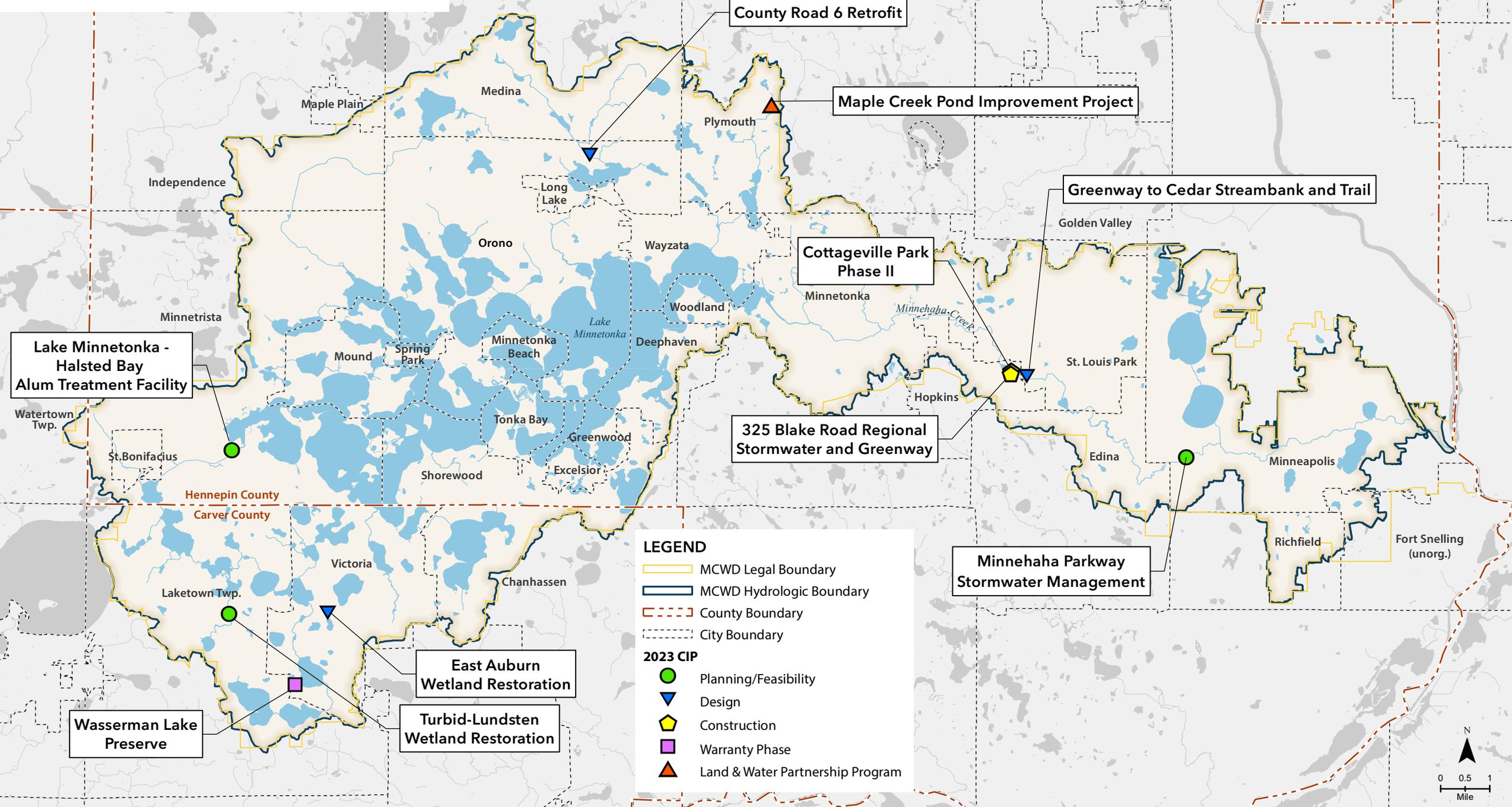
- 1. Mission-Driven Projects and Initiatives**
 - a. Finish the Greenway
 - i. 325 Blake, Cottageville, Cedar Trail Connection, Meadowbrook
 - b. Continue move downstream and implement work in Six Mile – Halsted Bay
 - c. Pursue improvements to the creek corridor in Minneapolis
 - i. Build regional treatment facilities to eliminate outfalls
 - d. Follow the LLC Roadmap and take action in Long Lake Creek subwatershed
 - e. Create a new focal geography?
 - i. Pursue impactful project opportunities in Painter Creek subwatershed
 - f. Find and leverage new financial resources
 - g. Delist 5 impaired waters with our projects
- 2. Climate Action**
 - a. Build the next generation 2027 water management plan
 - b. Implement action steps outlined in the Climate Action Framework
 - i. Improve mechanisms for forecasting flooding
 - ii. Automate dam operations
 - iii. Leverage wetland storage capabilities for increased precipitation
 - iv. Standardize and operationalize OM for resilience
- 3. Data-Driven Decision Making**
 - a. Ingrain data-driven systems to optimize processes across programs
 - b. Use 2D model to inform project opportunities for 2027 plan
 - c. Be a data-driven leader in watershed planning and management
 - d. Identify measurable goals for progress and achieve them
- 4. Partnership**
 - a. Build and strengthen partnerships at all levels
- 5. Brand Identity**
 - a. Leverage brand capital to propose new bold and impactful work
 - b. Be respected as a source of facts and solutions
 - c. Improve how we tell our story and expand perceived footprint with outreach
 - d. Launch new website as high-quality representation of the organization
- 6. Building Internal Culture**
 - a. Retain and inject staff with high-quality individuals
 - b. Continue to build and refine team culture
 - c. Build relationships between Board, CAC, and staff
 - d. Improve processes to foster innovation and risk-taking for growth and learning
 - e. Incorporate and implement with an equity lens

We collaborate with public and private partners to protect and improve land and water for current and future generations.

MCWD 5-Year Project Plan - Simple Dashboard

Task Name	Status	Notes	2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
325 Blake Road	Design		[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q1 to 2027 Q4]																																											
Greenway to Cedar Trail Connection	Planning		[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q2 to 2025 Q4]																																											
Minnehaha Parkway Stormwater Management	Planning	Dependent on Partnership with Minneapolis	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q1 to 2031 Q4]																																											
Meadowbrook Golf Course	Planning	Dependent on MPRB Partnership	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q1 to 2025 Q4]																																											
Boone Aquila Floodplain	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on SLP Land Use Partnership and Private Development	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q3 to 2024 Q4]																																											
West Blake	Not Started	Dependent on Partnership with Hopkins	[Timeline bar spanning 2028 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Hiawatha Golf Course	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on MPRB advancing the project	[Timeline bar spanning 2028 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Louisiana Trail and Greenspace	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on Private Development Activity	[Timeline bar spanning 2028 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Six Mile - Halsted Bay Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
East Auburn Wetland Restoration	Planning	Pending Technical Feasibility	[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q3 to 2025 Q4]																																											
Turbid-Lundsten Corridor	Not Started	Dependent on Partnership with Victoria and Private Landowners	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q1 to 2028 Q4]																																											
Lake Minnetonka - Halsted Bay Alum Facility	Not Started	Dependent on Technical Feasibility and Partnership with Operators	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q2 to 2029 Q4]																																											
Mud Lake Watershed Load Reductions	Not Started		[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q3 to 2028 Q4]																																											
Pierson Lake Wetland Restoration	Opportunity or Partner Based	Dependent on Private Landowners	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q4 to 2028 Q4]																																											
Long Lake Creek Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
County Road 6 Pond Retrofit	Planning		[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q3 to 2024 Q4]																																											
Holbrook Park Stormwater Ponds	Planning	Dependent on Partnership with City of Long Lake	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q1 to 2025 Q4]																																											
Painter Creek Subwatershed			[Timeline bar spanning 2022 Q1 to 2032 Q4]																																											
Painter Creek Wetland Restorations	Not Started	Requires Subwatershed Diagnostic	[Timeline bar spanning 2023 Q3 to 2027 Q4]																																											
			[Empty grid]																																											
			[Empty grid]																																											
			[Empty grid]																																											
			[Empty grid]																																											

2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



LEGEND

- MCWD Legal Boundary
- MCWD Hydrologic Boundary
- County Boundary
- City Boundary

2023 CIP

- Planning/Feasibility
- Design
- Construction
- Warranty Phase
- Land & Water Partnership Program

