



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Tiffany Schaufler  
**Date:** December 17, 2018  
**Re:** Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan

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### **Purpose:**

At the December 20, 2018 Policy & Planning Committee (PPC) meeting staff will facilitate a discussion with the committee regarding the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan.

### **Background:**

#### Memorandum of Understanding

At the February 23, 2017 Board of Managers meeting, the Board approved Resolution 17-017 which authorized the District to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Minneapolis (City) and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). The MOU outlines shared priorities and investment strategies to improve the natural and built environments within the Minnehaha Creek subwatershed in Minneapolis.

#### Integrated Planning of the Minnehaha Creek Subwatershed in Minneapolis

At the same time the MOU was authorized for execution, the Board of Managers authorized staff to develop and issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) in coordination with the City and the MPRB that would retain professional services to 1) advance the design and construction of FEMA funded repairs, and 2) begin implementing the goals and workflow of the MOU by integrating plans and investments for FEMA repairs, stormwater management, flood mitigation, road improvements, planned trail and recreation improvements, and regional park master planning.

The RFQ broke the work into two stages. Stage 1 was led by the District and focused on implementation of the Minnehaha Creek FEMA streambank repairs, carrying out a stormwater management study, and developing an integrated creek corridor concept plan which would serve as a foundation for the Stage 2 work. Stage 2 is being led by MPRB and includes developing a master plan for the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail (253 acre regional facility with 5.3 miles of parkway – see map in Attachment A) and developing an associated shared capital improvement plan for short and long-term investment in the Minnehaha Creek corridor.

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

## Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan

MPRB kicked off their master plan process for the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail (MPRT) on July 30, 2018 by convening their first Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. The MPRT process to date has included various community engagement activities including a variety of events, an online survey, and a Social Pinpoint website. A summary of the community engagement can be viewed here: [https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/asset/90g7xl/CE-Summary\\_Phase-1\\_DRAFT\\_181127\\_sm.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/asset/90g7xl/CE-Summary_Phase-1_DRAFT_181127_sm.pdf)

The MPRT CAC has met three times, and most recently met at the end of October to work through a corridor-wide visioning exercise. That visioning exercise resulted in the identification of areas that should receive additional design focus. A summary of the CAC's visioning exercise can be viewed here: [https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/asset/zj254y/mprtmp\\_cac3\\_attachments\\_AB.pdf](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/asset/zj254y/mprtmp_cac3_attachments_AB.pdf)

The diagram in Attachment 2 summarizes the areas of focus identified by the CAC and the consultant/agency team. The consultant team then took this diagram and held a two day design charrette with agency (MCWD, MPRB, City) staff to develop concepts within the focus areas. These design concepts will be presented to the CAC in January 2019 for their review and consideration.

### **Next Steps:**

At the December 20, 2018 PPC meeting, staff will facilitate a discussion to inform the PPC on the progress of the MRPB's Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail master plan process, review proposed design concepts, and discuss next steps in the master plan process.

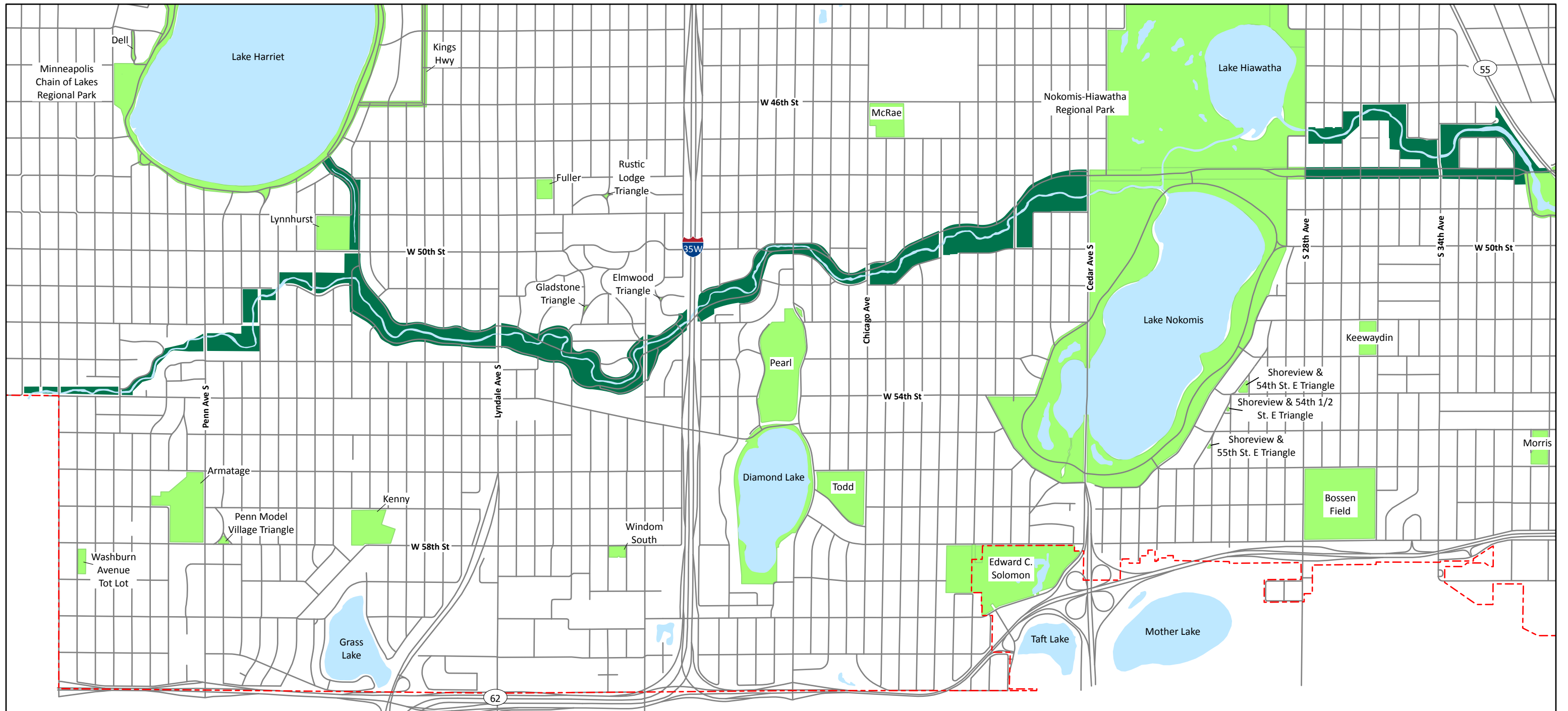
If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Tiffany Schaufler at [tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org) or at 952-641-4513.

### **Attachments:**




- Attachment A: Map – Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Boundary
- Attachment B: Diagram – Charrette Framework

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# Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan



**Legend**

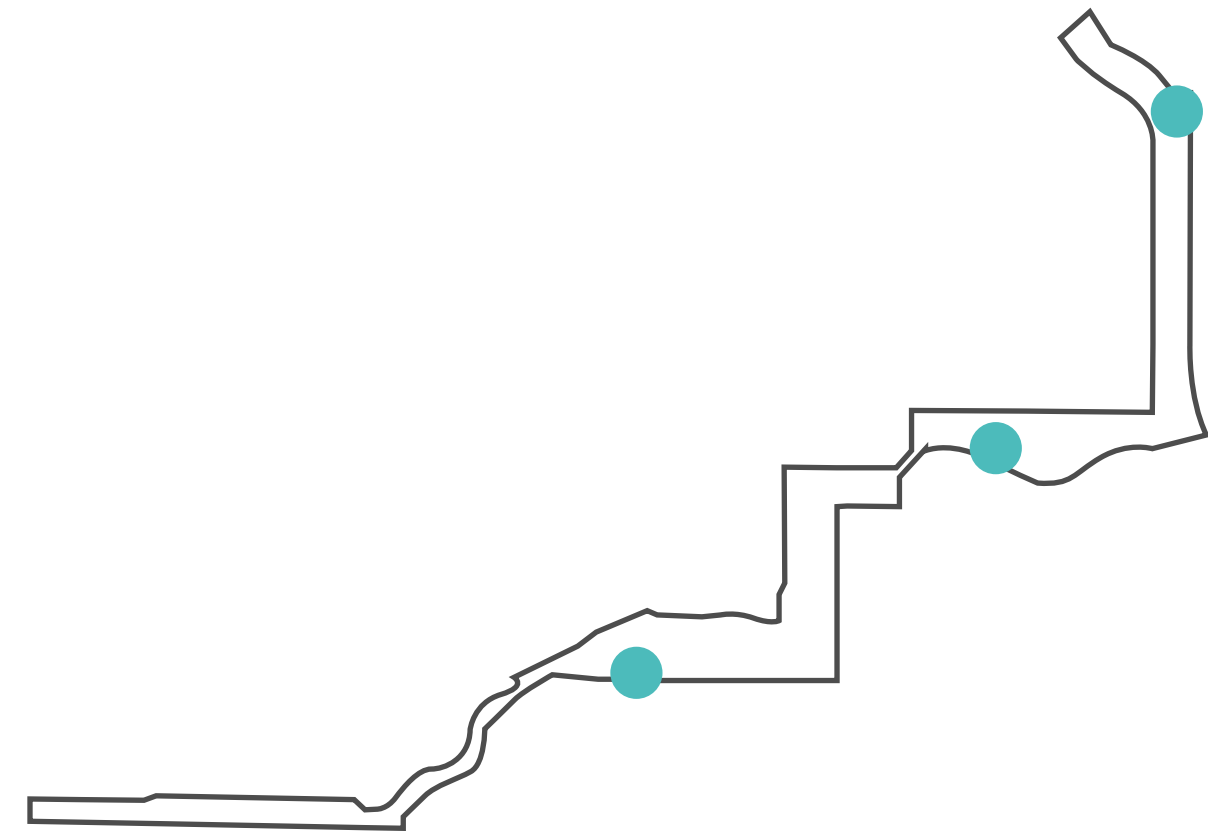
-  Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail
-  Other Parks/Out of Scope
-  Minneapolis City Limits

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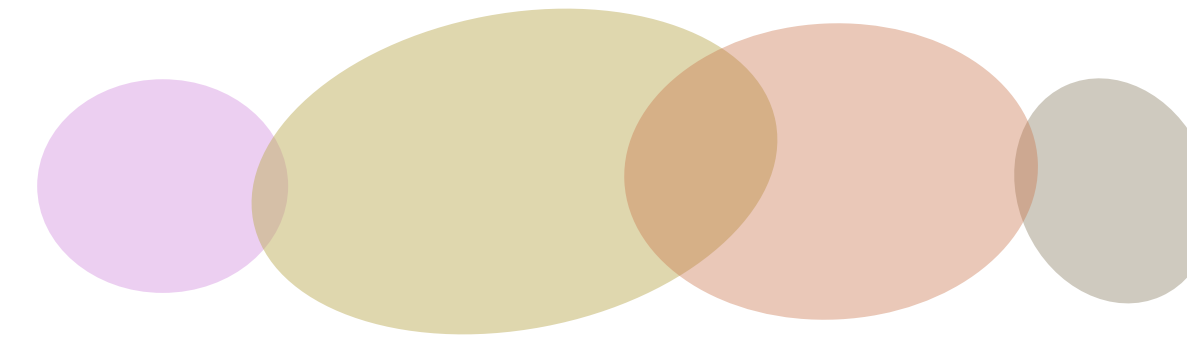


# CHARETTE FRAMEWORK 11/6/18



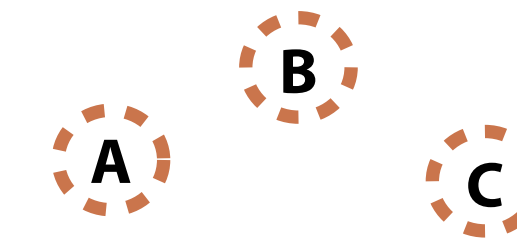
## Segment-wide diagram(s) (200 scale, 1+ for each segment):

- Future creek access points
- Future creek re-meander (if any)
- Reduced mowing areas, restoration areas, buffer areas
- Future trail alignment
- Any future activity/recreation/athletic elements
- May 'stitch' together these diagrams to create creek-wide diagrams
- "Dot on a map" or "line on a map" level of detail



## Focus Area Concept Site Design (20-60scale, 10 Focus Areas Total):

- Concepts for trail + creek re-alignments
- BMP/stormwater infrastructure
- Creek access paths
- Lighting, benches, kiosks, amenities
- Surface treatments, plant community/selection, pollinator "sweet spot" areas
- Conceptual/illustrative site plan design level of detail; sections to help illustrate as needed



## Intersection Studies (10-scale, 7 Study Areas, 1-2 concepts for each study area)

- Address mode separation at crossing
- Address safety, sight lines, crosswalk design, curb ramps, waiting areas, signals
- Detailed, CAD-level drawing (C of Mpls planimetrics as base)

## SEGMENT 1

- Formalize soft-surface trail (s)
- Plan for creek access points and paths from existing street/sidewalk network
- Add capacity to slow/treat water
- Consider residential proximity/component

## SEGMENT 2

- Heavily wooded, narrow, steep
- Less recreational opportunities
- Focus on mode separation, walking trails

## SEGMENT 3

- Most intersections/roadway crossings of trail
- Most activated in winter months
- Focus on neighborhood connections
- Focus on activating spaces

## Focus Area 8 (40scale, 1 concept + alternatives):

- Potential creek re-meander: Nokomis to Hiawawatha
- Consider alternate uses at tennis courts, open green spaces with low slopes

## Focus Area 9 (20scale, 1-2 concepts):

- Gateway, wayfinding markers
- Connect to neighborhood
- Address safety at intersection

## Focus Area 10 (60scale 1-2 concepts/sections):

- Urban arboretum / pollinator sweet spots
- Integrate art
- Activate as a linear destination
- Potential trail/pathway throughout

## SEGMENT 4

- Trail separates from roadway
- Address wayfinding to Minnehaha RP, LRT, etc.
- Multiple opportunities to re-purpose/re-design 'flat' areas

## Focus Area 2 (20scale, 1-2 concepts/alternatives):

- Address trail congestion/roadway crossings
- Mode separation
- Coordinate with Lynnhurst Park plans/CE
- Re-meander creek
- Stormwater concept with parking lot

## Focus Area 3 (40scale, 1-2 concepts):

- Potential creek re-meander (Humboldt to Lyndale Ave.)
- Trail alignment / accessibility

## Focus Area 5 (20 scale, 1-2 concepts):

- Bunny-area amenities
- Bank stabilization (address scour, erosion)
- Neighborhood connections

## Focus Area 6 (40scale, 1-2 concepts):

- Potential creek re-meander Chicago Ave to Bloomington
- Trail separation/alignment
- Activate space ideas: art, skatepark, skills training
- Lighting

## Focus Area 7 (20scale, 1-2 concepts):

- Potential creek re-meander
- Stormwater BMP

## Focus Area 4 (40scale, 1-2 concepts):

- Potential creek re-meander Pleasant Ave to 35W
- "Activate space" Ideas: art, skatepark, skills training
- Lighting
- Trail separation / alignment

## Focus Area 1 (20 scale, 1-2 concepts):

- Activate space better for kids/teens
- Integrate public art
- Address tennis courts/maintenance
- Crossing at Penn, potential access to water
- Add trail (likely natural surface trail) to creek edge
- Show creek buffer area (trail elements away from creek)

