

**Inver Grove Heights
Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, July 10, 2013
8150 Barbara Avenue
7:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS – Items that don't require action.
 - A. Presentation on the VMCC/Grove Fitness Programs – Amy Crary
 - B. Park & Recreation Intern – Brad Yetzer
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our web site at www.invergroveheights.org
 - B. Next Meeting; August 14, 2013 Regular Meeting 7:00pm
5. CONSENT AGENDA – All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the Commission at least two days prior to the meeting; the times will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commission member or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from this Agenda and considered in normal sequence.
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2013
6. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the Agenda. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please state your name and address for the record. This section is for the express purpose of addressing concerns of City services and operations. It shall not be used to clarify individual's views for political purposes. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Items that are brought back to the Commission for action from a previous meeting.
 - A. Consider Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair
8. REGULAR AGENDA - Items requiring action that are new to the Commission.
 - A. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Beverly Anderson – Case NO 13-25W
 - B. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for IGH Investments LLC – Case NO 13-23PUD
 - C. Consider Approval of Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Master Plan
9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS - Items that need to be discussed without any actions.
 - A. Department Happenings
 - B. Future of Our Parks Report – Park & Recreation System Plan
10. COMMISSION COMMENTS – A chance for Commissioners to ask questions or make comments.
11. ADJOURN

Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided to the Commission on each agenda item in advance from Staff; decisions are based on this information and past experiences. In addition, some items may have been discussed preliminarily at Work Sessions. If you are aware of information that has not been discussed, please raise your hand to be recognized. Comments that are pertinent are appreciated.

This document is available upon a 3 business day request in alternate formats such as Braille, large print, audio table, etc. Please contact Eric Carlson at 651.450.2587 or TDD/TTY 651.450.2501

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, June 12, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the June 12, 2013 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Al Eiden; Commissioners: Willie Krech, Jim Huffman, Mary Hapka, and Deb Tix
Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Vice Chair Dennis Schueller; Commissioners: Stan Johnson, Mark Freer, and Joe Boehmer
Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

Chair Eiden stated he would like to add an item to the agenda and then table it. He was going to add it as agenda item 8D. June is when they elect new Officers to the Commission. Due to so many missing from the Commission this evening he would like to table it if it is okay with those here.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation on the VMCC/Grove Aquatic Programs – Tammy Abrahamson

Tammy Abrahamson, Aquatics Coordinator, gave an update on the following aquatics programs:

*Participation in the pool is up 15% from last year.

*We also do swimming lessons. We service about 1200 youth.

*We have birthday parties. The number one seller is the pool birthday party and they are working on marketing outside the Community to bring in more people to our facility.

-Upcoming activities in the summer include:

*Dairy Queen Days. June 28th, July 26th and August 3rd. The first 100 people that come to the pool those days will get a coupon to use at the local Dairy Queen.

*\$2.00 Days. Takes place on the first Friday night of the month. The next one is Friday, July 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

*July 19th is halfway through the summer season. On that day you can come to the pool and pay half price admission from 12:00 to 7:30 p.m.

She has also taken over the open gym program. She is looking into doing more open gyms with more family themes to them.

Chair Eiden asked about the Dairy Queen Days, are adults eligible or just children?

Coordinator Abrahamson responded it includes all ages.

Chair Eiden asked if they are looking into other additional activities?

Coordinator Abrahamson responded they are always looking into new activities. Last year they offered a new Intro to Swim Club class and Intro to Diving class. They are hoping to do those year round now instead of just one particular season. They are looking into the trends going on right now and focusing on those.

Chair Eiden asked if she has anything to do with the Competition Swimming going on with the schools?

Coordinator Abrahamson responded she does scheduling of the facility with the school. It is going very well. They communicate well. The Booster Clubs are great to work with. They have a group called the Aquatic Club of Dakota County and the Dakota County Diving Club, they rent from us and we have worked hard to work with them to get in at decent times to use the pool. Their program has increased. They have 25 divers and 45 swimmers.

Chair Eiden wanted to welcome our newest Commissioner, Deb Tix, to the Commission.

Commissioner Tix mentioned she grew up in the Coates area and has lived here for nine years. She has enjoyed multiple sports through college and plays national Softball. She enjoys all the parks in Inver Grove Heights and wants to see those moving forward, which is why she joined the Commission.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our Web Site at: www.invergroveheights.org**
- B. Joint Meeting with the City Council and Park Champions on June 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**
- C. Next Meeting: July 10, 2013. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2013**

Motion by Commissioner Huffman, seconded by Commissioner Hapka, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Don and Sue Schlomka – Case NO 13-19SC

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson stated we have two items on the Agenda dealing with Park Dedication. The first one is proposed from Don and Sue Schlomka. They are developing a 4.07 acre parcel. We don't indicate a need for park land or any trails in this general area; therefore we are recommending cash dedication in the amount of \$5,500 per acre for a total of \$22,385.00.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to accept the Park Dedication as presented.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0 Motion carried.

B. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Hallblade Properties LLC – Case NO 13-18SC

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to accept the Park Dedication.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0 Motion carried.

C. Consider the Purchase of New Playground Equipment for Groveland Park

Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt stated they sent out requests for bids to three vendors. Our Recreation Superintendent, the Parks Lead Worker, and himself, have developed a matrix on how to rate them. Two of the vendors rated high enough to be considered. We took those two out to the neighborhood and held a meeting. It was well attended by about 20 to 25 people and children.

Commissioner Krech asked how they rate criteria for playgrounds.

Superintendent Borgwardt responded they rate the playgrounds based on aesthetics, durability, and play value. They take a weighted average of those criteria. 25% goes to aesthetics, 35% to durability, and 40% to play value. Durability covers warranty, maintenance, how many systems do we have in the City, how durable the components are, etc. Play value covers how much variety of play there is there, how much creativity and challenge does each play structure offer. We then rate those and give it a rated average that must score eight or more and two of the vendors scored that. We invite those vendors in and have an informal interview. The budget here was for \$70,000. We want the vendors to know that this is the dollar amount and they provide the options we are looking for.

The two vendors that we are considering are Webber Recreational Design and St. Croix Recreation. Both vendors provided a tree house type structure based on what we have asked for. The area for the playground is considered to be a tight space, so we thought going up would be the best option here. We also wanted some climbing features for older kids, since we have to provide for two different age structures, for example ages 2 to 5, and 5 and up.

The vendor, Webber Recreational Design, provided us with a nice tree house-like structure. There are two swings there, as well as an ADA bucket swing. We do have a lot of this type structure within this City. The neighbors were kind of split within the two, with a preference for this one, which is also the one we preferred. St. Croix has a nice elevated component to it. It has a tree house to the side. It has a lot of upper body strength and play components. No cables or ropes like the other one did, but it does have a lot of smaller shade areas. It was a tough decision to decide between the two. Having the criteria is very helpful in making our decision. Both are very good play structures and the vendors are easy to work with and provide great customer service.

Commissioner Huffman asked which vendor did Skyview Park?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded it was St. Croix Recreation.

Chair Eiden asked what the timetable was?

Superintendent Borgwardt stated they are going to try to get it to the City Council on the 24th. Then he would call the vendor on the 25th. It would take about a month to get everything here. They are going to try to get it in mid-August. The swings are still up there. The playground equipment was pulled due to safety concerns back in April.

Commissioner Huffman stated he was out there a couple of weeks ago. He felt the curbing needed to be replaced.

Superintendent Borgwardt agreed. He is in talks with Engineering regarding replacing that parking lot sometime this summer. That would include all the curbing and the parking lot. He will be bringing that before this Commission hopefully in July. Some of the neighbors also mentioned that during the meeting.

Commissioner Hapka felt they had some nice options there. The option we wish to go with had a wider deck? St. Croix had a smaller deck?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded yes. The other vendor had two smaller decks. It's hard to decide between the two. The City Attorney helped us with the criteria which is very helpful. We are recommending the Miracle Equipment from Webber Recreational Design from Hastings.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to approve replacement of the Groveland Playground with Webber Recreational Design at a cost of \$70,000 to come from the Park Maintenance Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Hapka.

Aye: 5

Nay: 0 **Motion carried.**

D. Election of New Officers

Tabled

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Director Carlson has nothing to add, but will stand by and answer any questions they may have.

B. Review Park & Recreation Commission Handbook

Director Carlson wanted to point out that the City Council meets in May to do the Commissioner re-appointments. They have re-appointed Commissioners Huffman and Krech for another three year term. We have a new Commissioner, Commissioner Deb Tix. They did not re-appoint Commissioner Solberg, but wanted to thank him for his three years of service to the Commission and all the sub-committees he was involved with. They would like to thank him for all his service for the Park and Recreation Commission. The Handbook is included for your information.

Commissioner Krech asked about the tunnels that were painted. Are they all painted now?

Director Carlson responded that the tunnel you are referring to is in The Arbor Pointe Development. That tunnel is done. We have two more tunnels. One at North/South Valley Park, and the other on the Highway 52 Trail. Those two tunnels have not had a painting project, or anyone to take it on. The Girl Scout, Catherine Link, who led the Arbor Pointe project, did a great job.

Chair Eiden felt they needed to find another group to do a project such as that. Perhaps we need to advertise for some starving artists that may want to do that. If anyone wants to do so, please feel free to contact us.

C. Future of Our Parks Report – Park and Recreation System Plan

Chair Eiden stated they didn't have too much to report. Next Monday they will be meeting with the Council.

Director Carlson stated that meeting will take place on Monday, June 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the training room downstairs in the police wing of the building. They will listen to the Park Champions and the Commissioners. We encourage all the Commissioners to attend. We encourage the Park Champions to attend, as well as anyone in the public who may be interested in parks and trails.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Krech asked where the money for Groveland Park comes from? What fund?

Director Carlson responded it comes from Fund 444. It cannot come out of the Park Dedication Fund. It is not new, it's existing. That's the Fund that is of general topic on Monday night that has a funding gap.

Chair Eiden commented that park was scheduled to have the equipment replaced this year.

Director Carlson responded they try to replace playground equipment every 15 years. This equipment was 17 years old and past the timeline to replace. During a monthly inspection they found safety issues and had to pull the equipment immediately. It will be replaced mid-August.

Commissioner Hapka had no comment.

Commissioner Huffman welcomed the new Commissioner.

Commissioner Krech welcomed the new Commissioner.

Commissioner Tix thanked everyone for welcoming her.

Chair Eiden also welcomed the new Commissioner. He mentioned that next Monday night, if you are interested in parks within our City, there is a lot of work being done in regards to what to do with our parks system. We invite all of you to come down to listen, ask questions, or make comments.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Huffman, seconded by Commissioner Hapka, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Aye: 5

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of Park and Recreation Commission

Meeting Date: July 10, 2012
 Item Type: Regular Agenda
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount included in current budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendment requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	FTE included in current complement
<input type="checkbox"/>	New FTE requested – N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Park and Recreation Commission should appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve for the next 12-month period.

SUMMARY

The Commission needs to determine a Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner Eiden has served as Chair and Commissioner Schueller has served as Vice-Chair the past 12-months.

The Commission should discuss, nominate, and vote on a Chair and Vice-Chair.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Beverly Anderson – Case NO 13-25W

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013
 Item Type: New Business
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
X	None
	Amount included in current budget
	Budget amendment requested
	FTE included in current complement
	New FTE requested – N/A
	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve park dedication and trail requirements as recommended.

SUMMARY

Beverly Anderson is requesting a Waiver of Plat to subdivide her property into two lots. This request is for the property located at 7070-Bester Ave and is zoned R-1C single –family residential. The parcel is 1.0 acres in size.

Park Land

The adopted Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide does not identify a need for a park in this general area; therefore, staff is not recommending the developer provide any park land dedication for this development.

Cash Dedication

It is recommended that the developer be required to provide cash in the amount of the rates in affect at the time the final plat is approved. The current 2013 rate is as follows:

Single Family \$4,011 per lot (2 lots x \$4,011 = \$8,022)

Trails/Sidewalks

NA

Tree Preservation

The issue of tree preservation is a planning issue and not a PRAC issue. However, the Planning Commission and City Council should be encouraged to make sure the City's ordinance related to tree preservation is followed and if the developer isn't replacing trees on a caliper per caliper inch as outlined that they are required to provide the necessary cash payment that would be deposited in the Tree Fund and used in public parks and open spaces.

Landscaping

Given the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) epidemic, ash trees should not be allowed to be planted and if any exist on the site should be required to be removed.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Consider Park Dedication Requirements for IGH Investments LLC – Case NO 13-23PUD

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013
 Item Type: New Business
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount included in current budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendment requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	FTE included in current complement
<input type="checkbox"/>	New FTE requested – N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve park dedication and trail requirements as recommended.

SUMMARY

IGH Investments LLC is requesting a Preliminary PUD Amendment and Preliminary Plant for the final phase of residential development to be known as Argenta Hills 8th Addition, consisting of 47 single-family lots. The request is for property located north of Amana Trail and west of Addisen Court. The parcel is 35.0 acres in size.

Park Land

The adopted Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide does not identify a need for a park in this general area; therefore, staff is not recommending the developer provide any park land dedication for this development.

Cash Dedication

It is recommended that the developer be required to provide cash in the amount of the rates in affect at the time the final plat is approved. The current 2013 rate is as follows:

Single Family \$4,011 per lot (47 lots x \$4,011 = \$188,517)

Trails/Sidewalks

Recommend trails and sidewalks as depicted on the development plan.

Tree Preservation

The issue of tree preservation is a planning issue and not a PRAC issue. However, the Planning Commission and City Council should be encouraged to make sure the City’s ordinance related to tree preservation is followed and if the developer isn’t replacing trees on a caliper per caliper inch as outlined that they are required to provide the necessary cash payment that would be deposited in the Tree Fund and used in public parks and open spaces.

Landscaping

Given the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) epidemic, ash trees should not be allowed to be planted and if any exist on the site should be required to be removed.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Consider Approval of Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Master Plan

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013
 Item Type: New Business
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount included in current budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendment requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	FTE included in current complement
<input type="checkbox"/>	New FTE requested – N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Commission is asked to support the proposed master plan for the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway and the attached resolution of support. The City Council is scheduled to review this item at their Monday, August 5th Work Study Session.

SUMMARY

Dakota County kicked of their master planning process for the Mendota/Lebanon Hills Greenway in September 2012. The County established a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which helped the County determine the most desired/acceptable route for the greenway. Scott Thureen, Allan Hunting, and Eric Carlson represented the City on the TAG. The City of Inver Grove Heights has included this greenway in our approved Parks and Trails Master Plan which is a part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

The Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway travels 8.5 miles through Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, and Eagan. The plan will include trailhead facilities located at key locations along the route and grade separated crossings at major roadways and railroad crossings.

The City would assist the County in securing land control as a part of our plan review process. The County has indicated a willingness to pay landowners for land needed for the greenway. The greenway would connect to future City trails and potentially connect future City parks in the NW Area.

The plan is a long range plan and is funded by Dakota County. Construction, maintenance, and future replacement of the improvements will be the responsibility of Dakota County. More information regarding the plan can be found here:

http://www.hkgi.com/projects/dakota/mendota_greenway.php

The Commission is also asked to recommend the attached resolution to the City Council.

**CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
MENDOTA-LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL GREENWAY**

WHEREAS, the City of Inver Grove Heights has been working with Dakota County on the development of a master plan for a regional greenway project that would bring new recreational and open space opportunities to the City; and

WHEREAS, the unique approach to trail design outlined in the master plan integrates functional use, scenic value, historic and environmental interpretation, water quality improvements, and ecological restoration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed greenway is an identified unit of the Metropolitan Regional Park System Plan and will establish a link between the North Urban Regional Trail and Lebanon Hills Regional Park through the communities of Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, and Eagan; and

WHEREAS, the master plan was developed in accordance with the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, the alignment identified in the master plan was developed in accordance with the City of Inver Grove Heights 2030 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the development and operation of the regional greenway will be a cooperative effort between Dakota County and the communities through which it extends; and

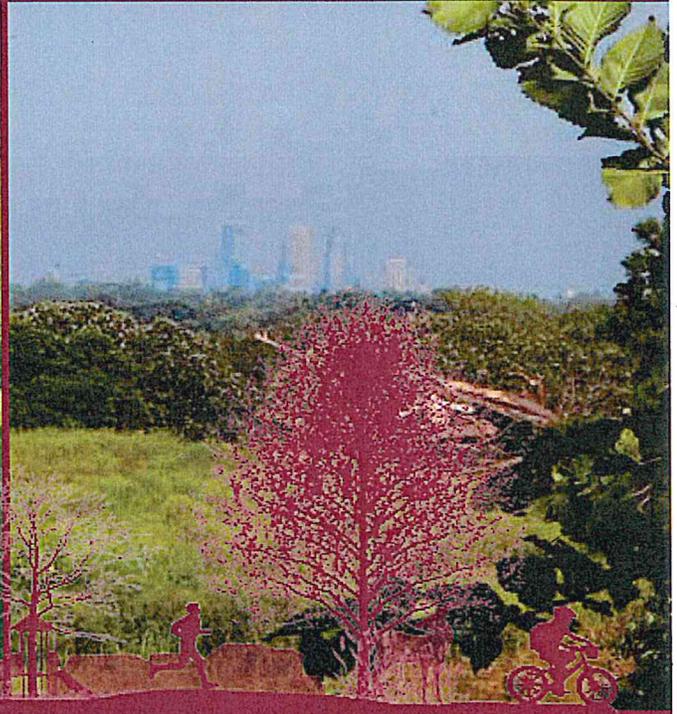
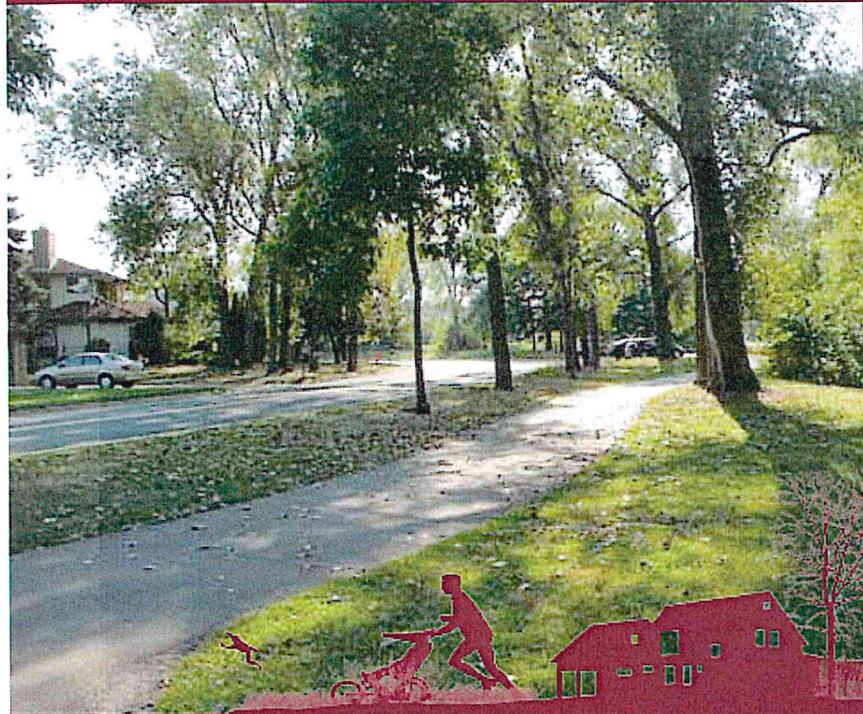
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City of Inver Grove Heights adopts a resolution supporting Dakota County's Plan for the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Regional Greenway.

Adopted by the City Council of Inver Grove Heights this 12th day of August 2013.

George Tourville, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Rheaume, Deputy City Clerk



Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway

MASTER PLAN

Executive Summary

MAY 2013

DRAFT

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.HKGI.COM/PROJECTS/DAKOTA



INTRODUCTION

The Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Master Plan portrays a vision to establish a greenway from the Village at Mendota Heights to Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

The Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Master Plan emerged from the Dakota County Parks, Lakes, Trails and Greenways Vision 2030 and the Dakota County Greenway Collaborative Guidebook.

Dakota County Parks, Lakes, Trails and Greenways Vision, 2030



Dakota County envisions its greenways to provide multiple layers of benefits in water quality, habitat enhancement, recreation and non-motorized transportation.

The Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway travels 8.5 miles through Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, and Eagan. Today, the landscape is largely suburban. Remaining agricultural areas, primarily in Inver Grove Heights' Northwest Area, are expected to develop over the next 20-30 years. This will allow for future development patterns in this area to be organized around and shaped by the greenway's natural, cultural, and recreational amenities.



Master Plan Purpose

The master plan

- ▶ Provides strategic guidance for future greenway development
- ▶ Integrates recreation, transportation, natural resource management, and improved water quality
- ▶ Provides recommendations for natural and cultural resource stewardship
- ▶ Identifies a greenway trail alignment, interpretive themes, and design direction
- ▶ Recommends implementation strategies for land protection, development phasing, capital and operations budgets, and funding.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

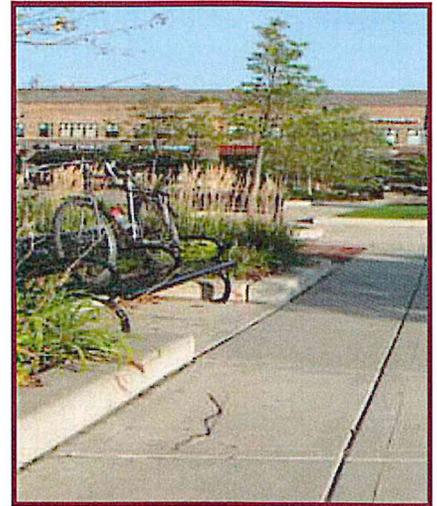
The Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway travels through a suburban landscape with a mix of land uses. The northern terminus of the greenway is at the commercial area near Highway 110 and Dodd Road encompassing the Village at Mendota Heights and Mendota Plaza. The greenway then travels through residential areas and Inver Grove Heights' Northwest Area, which today is a mix of farmland and open space, but will develop in the future heightening the importance of the greenway's connective green infrastructure. Traveling south, the greenway connects to commercial and employment uses near Highway 149 and Yankee Doodle Road. South of this area, the greenway travels down Dodd Road, a local road fronted by single family homes; this stretch of greenway has the opportunity to be a heritage route and take on a parkway like feel in the future. The greenway then connects to Lebanon Hills Regional Park, the largest natural area in the vicinity.

Cultural Resources

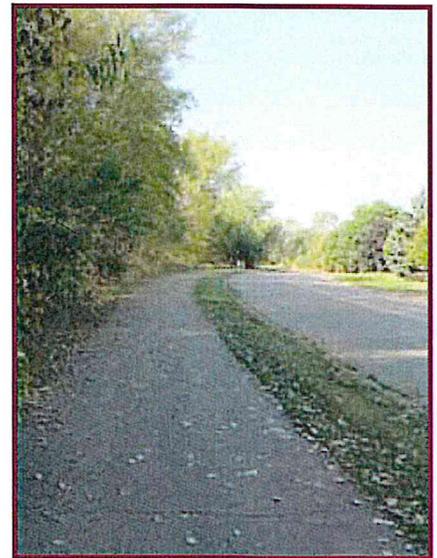
Every place has a unique history with resources with which people have an emotional connection. Crossing the greenway corridor, there are many resources that have important cultural meaning. There are key historical corridors including an early railroad connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul with Chicago, Highway 55 that roughly parallels trails that have been used for centuries, and perhaps most significant, Dodd Road. Within Dakota County, there may not be a more historic corridor. The corridor has adapted to new forms of travel through the years but the path that is seen today is roughly the same as the path that was likely travelled for centuries by Native Americans and early settlers.

Natural Resources

Consistent with suburban development in the greenway corridor, natural resources are mostly remnant of patches of woodlands and wetlands within neighborhood parks and residential areas. Many of these, such as Friendly Marsh Park in Mendota Heights and high quality lakes in Eagan are locally significant. The largest natural area in the corridor is Lebanon Hills Regional Park, which contains the only area designated by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as ecologically significant within the corridor.



Village at Mendota Heights

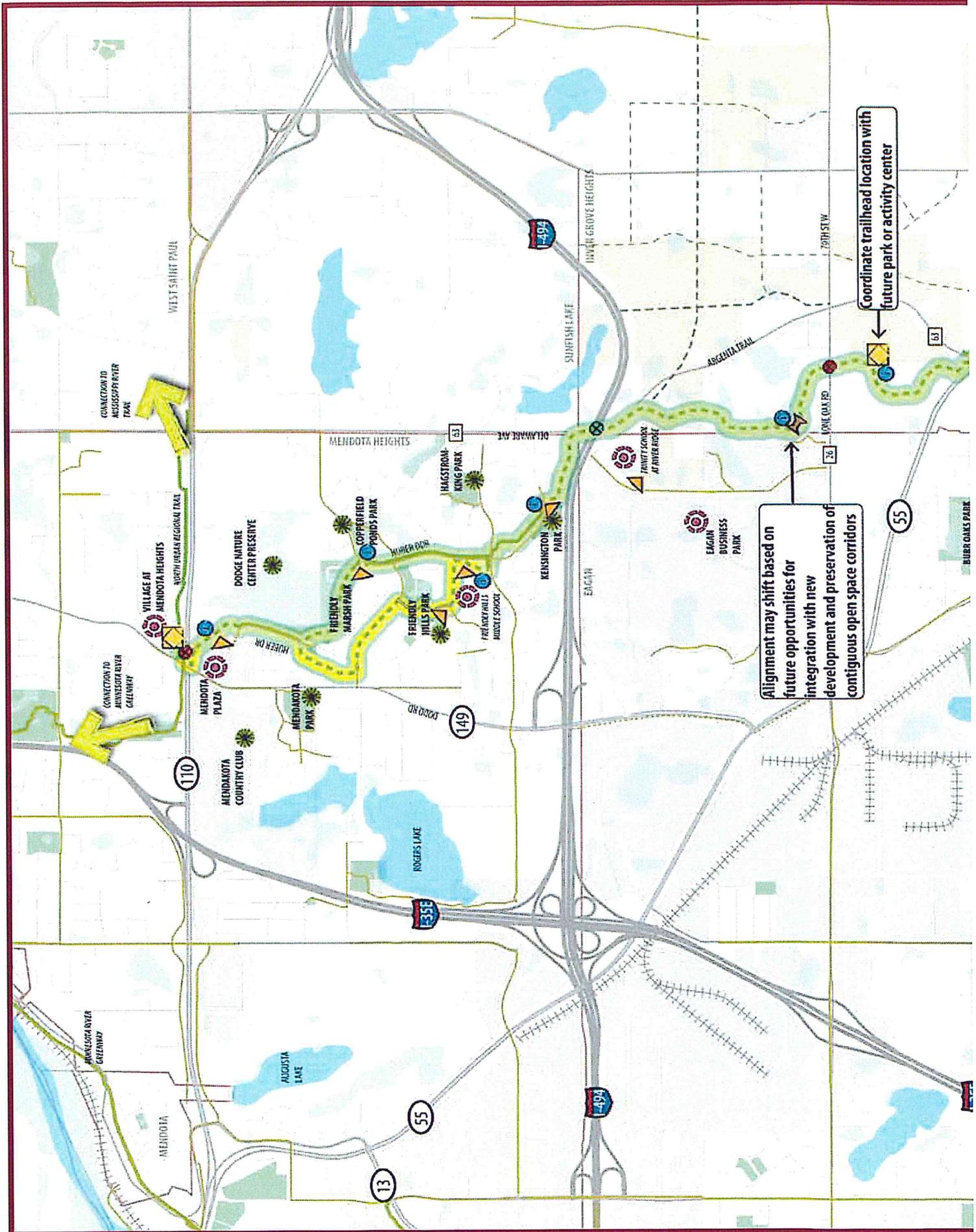


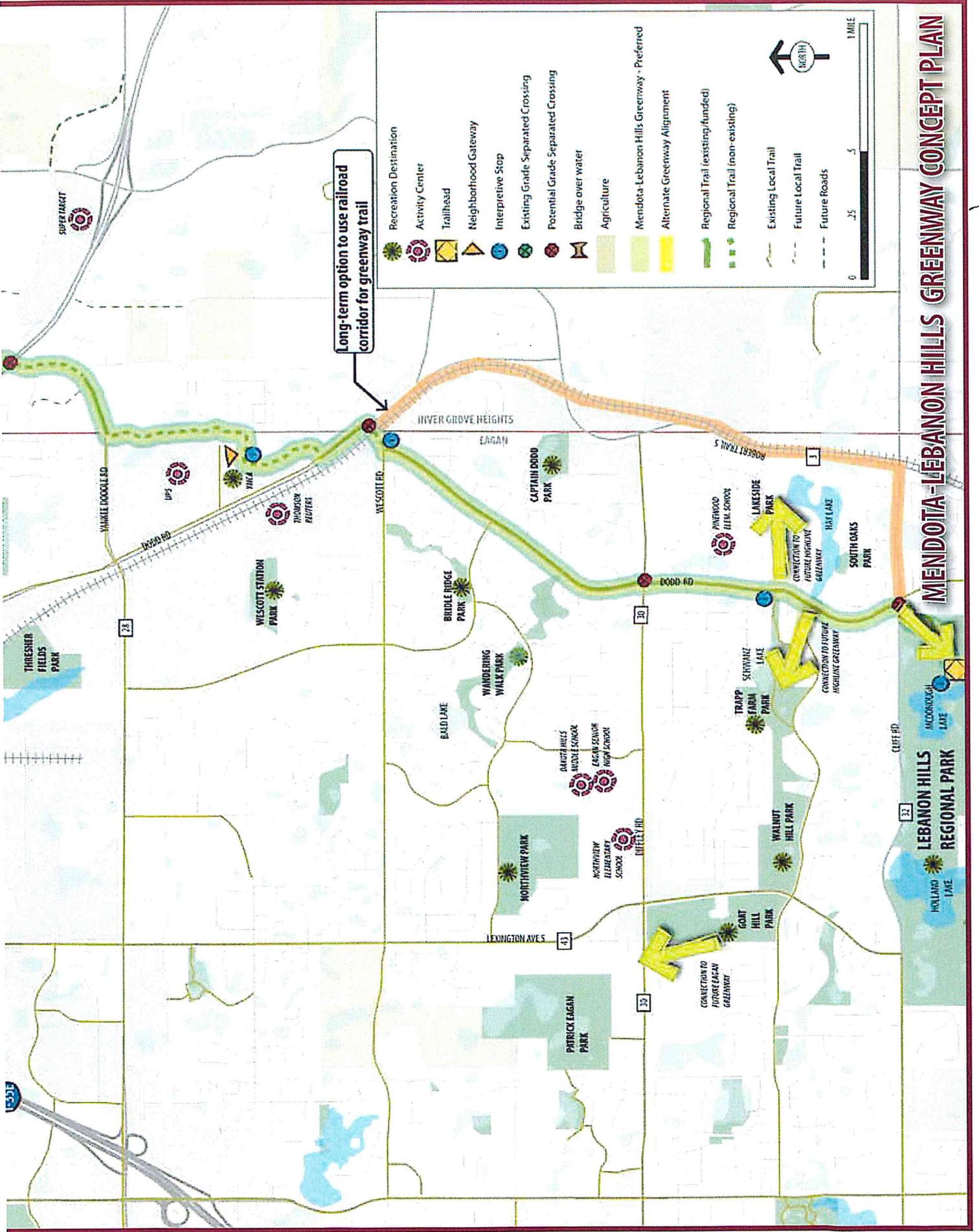
Dodd Road



Lake in Eagan







Long-term option to use railroad corridor for greenway trail

	Recreation Destination
	Activity Center
	Trailhead
	Neighborhood Gateway
	Interpretive Stop
	Existing Grade Separated Crossing
	Potential Grade Separated Crossing
	Bridge over water
	Agriculture
	Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway - Preferred
	Alternate Greenway Alignment
	Regional Trail (existing/funded)
	Regional Trail (non-existing)
	Existing Local Trail
	Future Local Trail
	Future Roads



MENDOTA-LEBANON HILLS GREENWAY CONCEPT PLAN

LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK

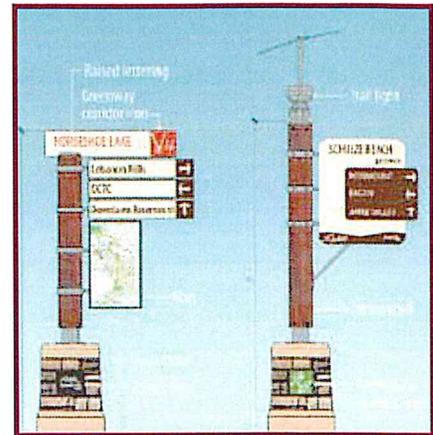
THE PLAN

The Development Plan

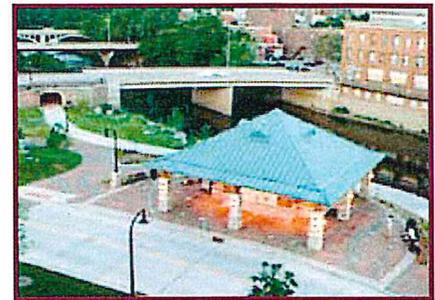
Development of the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway hinges on a continuous, paved trail for nature-based recreation and non-motorized transportation. The trail is a connective feature linking recreation destinations (places people go for outdoor recreation), activity centers (gathering places along the trail), and trail connections.

Design features that are signatures of Dakota County Regional Trails include:

- ▶ Follows natural resources and has a natural design signature
- ▶ Frequent access points at full service trailheads with restrooms, picnicking, water and vehicle parking (every 3-5 miles) and smaller, more frequent, neighborhood gateways between trailheads
- ▶ Paved trails that are plowed in winter
- ▶ Grade separated crossings at major roads
- ▶ Cultural and natural resource interpretation
- ▶ Wayfinding
- ▶ High quality furnishings at trailheads, gateways and rest areas
- ▶ Universal accessibility
- ▶ Utilizes sustainable building practices and materials
- ▶ Lighting where evening use is anticipated

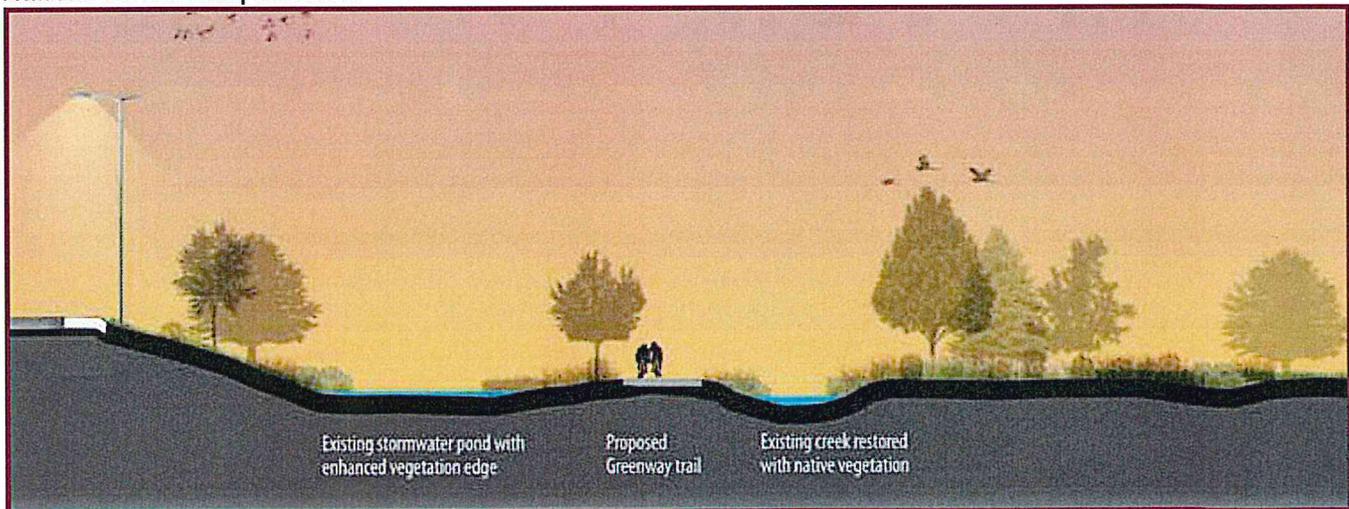


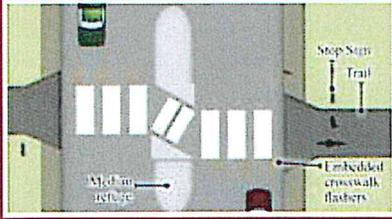
Wayfinding is discussed as an important part in the Development Plan for the greenway. Above are concepts for a Gateway Landmark wayfinding element.



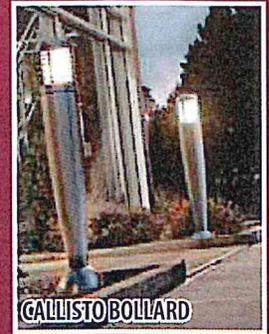
Trailheads will be located at major access points along the greenway.

Mendota Plaza Area Conceptual Section





Enhancements to at-grade crossings will improve safety.



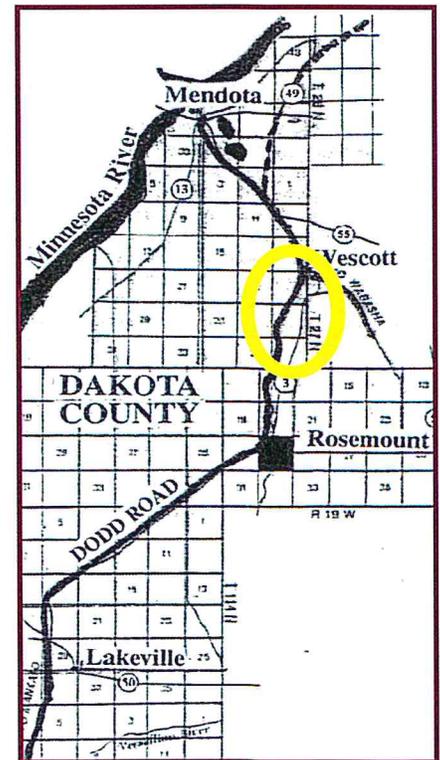
Outdoor furnishings, such as benches, bike racks and lighting, will be placed conveniently along the greenway for resting and safety.



Grade separated crossings will be used to cross major roadways or railroads.

The Interpretive Plan

The interpretive plan identifies an interpretive theme and subthemes that provide a framework for cultural and environmental interpretive education. The plan recommends that the theme and subthemes be integrated into the greenway design and interpretation concentrated at trailheads and neighborhood gateways. The Greenway follows Dodd Road for 2 miles. This route was an early Native American and trader's route. The rich cultural history offers opportunities to integrate interpretation into The Greenway.



Dodd Road Heritage Route

Interpretive Theme

Cross sections: The Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway traverses landscapes that highlight our history and suburban development.

Subthemes

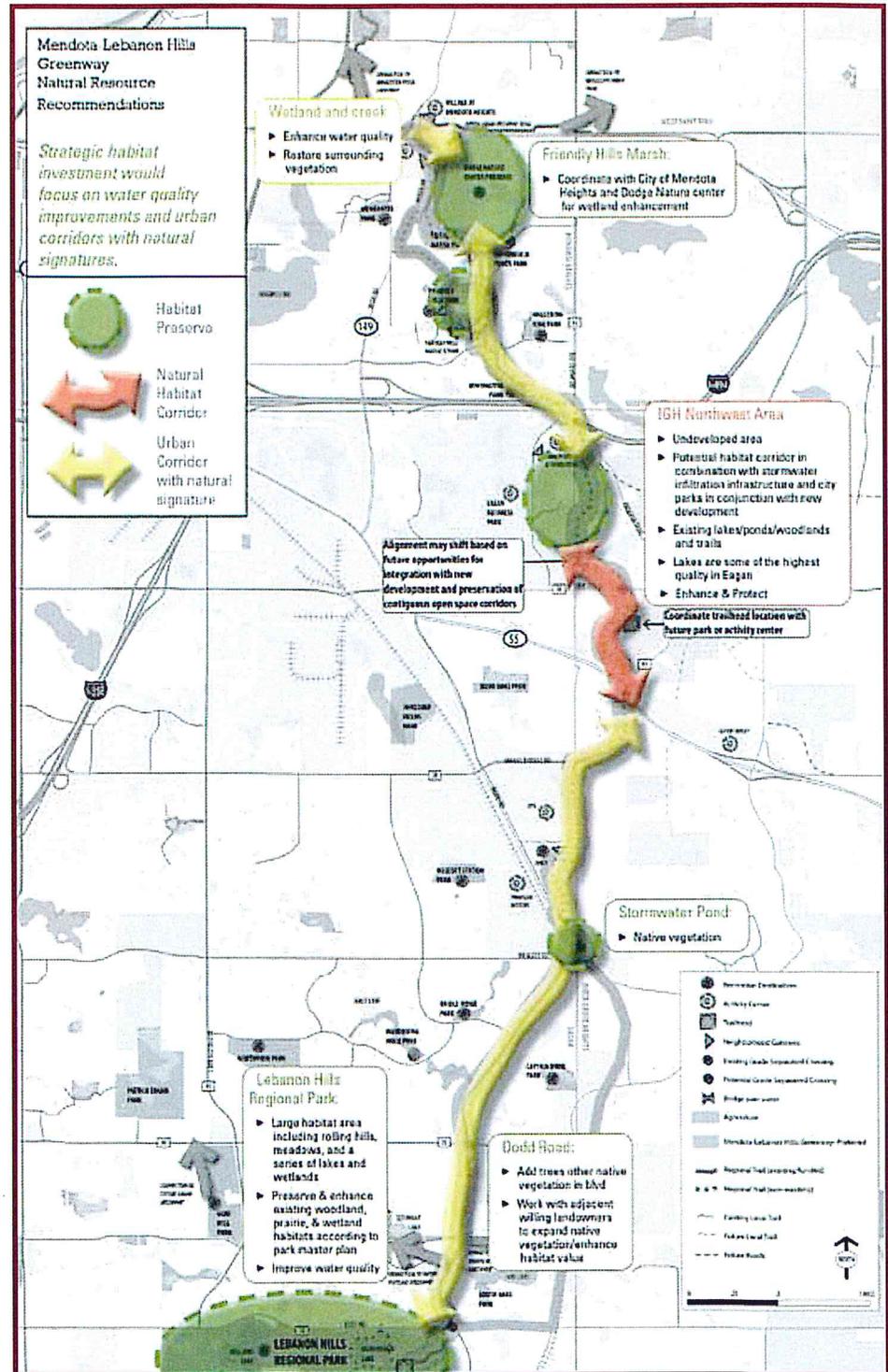
- ▶ Crossing important corridors: Understanding what shaped our region.
- ▶ A Suburban Landscape: The Mendota-Lebanon Hills Regional Greenway is a cross section of suburban development
- ▶ Active Living: Counting the Benefits



The Stewardship Plan

The linear nature of the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway will require natural resource management strategies that are geographically targeted, cooperative, and realistic. The plan recommends restoration and protection efforts be focused on the trailhead locations, where there is the greatest opportunity for greenway users to see the results of activities. Stewardship activities in the larger greenway corridor will need to be in cooperation with public and private landowners. All stewardship actions should be evaluated through the lens of sustainability—is the stewardship effort sustainable over the long-term, from both an ecological and economic perspective.

Mendota-Lebanon Hills Habitat Investment Areas



IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT

Implementation will depend on multi-jurisdictional collaboration. Without continued coordination between the communities and agencies that the greenway travels through it is unlikely the greenway, as it is envisioned, will be built. While the 30' regional trail corridor will be the jurisdictional and operational responsibility of Dakota County, the larger greenway corridor will be governed in many ways depending on the situation and land ownership. As greenway segments are built, formal joint powers agreements between Dakota County and collaborating agencies will need to be established to outline specific agency responsibilities. These agreements will outline who has control over the trail right-of-way, as well as who will operate and maintain the trail and how they will do it. Similarly, responsibilities for land acquisition, construction, stewardship, operations, and maintenance will depend on the particularities of each segment.

Land Protection and Stewardship

Dakota County's greenway concept expands the traditional concept of a corridor to include recreation, transportation, ecological, and water quality components in a 100' -300' corridor. Because securing the entire width of the corridor is not feasible, a dual approach to securing greenway lands is recommended.

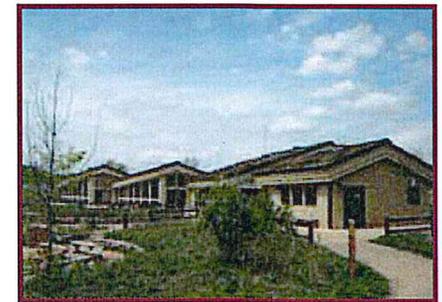
- ▶ **Land Protection** - protecting land is essential to make the greenway usable to the public. For the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway, this means securing lands needed for the trail corridor and trailheads. For land owned by other public agencies, Dakota County will need to permanently protect the trail corridor and trailheads for greenway trail use with easements or joint powers agreements. For land that is currently privately owned, the County will need to protect the trail corridor for public use. Land protection strategies include: park dedication, direct purchase with resale of land not required for the trail, permanent easements, land donation, bargain sale, life estate, and negotiations with cities and developers.
- ▶ **Land Stewardship** - refers to the care of native landscapes and habitat within the wider greenway. Generally, Dakota County will not be the lead agency in stewardship activities outside of the 30' trail corridor, but will work as steward partners with local jurisdictions, agencies, and private landowners with funding and expertise.



Creek at Mendota Plaza



Friendly Marsh



Lebanon Hills Regional Park



Phasing and Priorities

Greenway segments have been prioritized as either first priority projects or second priority projects. It is anticipated that first priority projects will be built in advance of second priority projects but the Master Plan remains flexible so that any project can be implemented as partnership or funding opportunities arise.

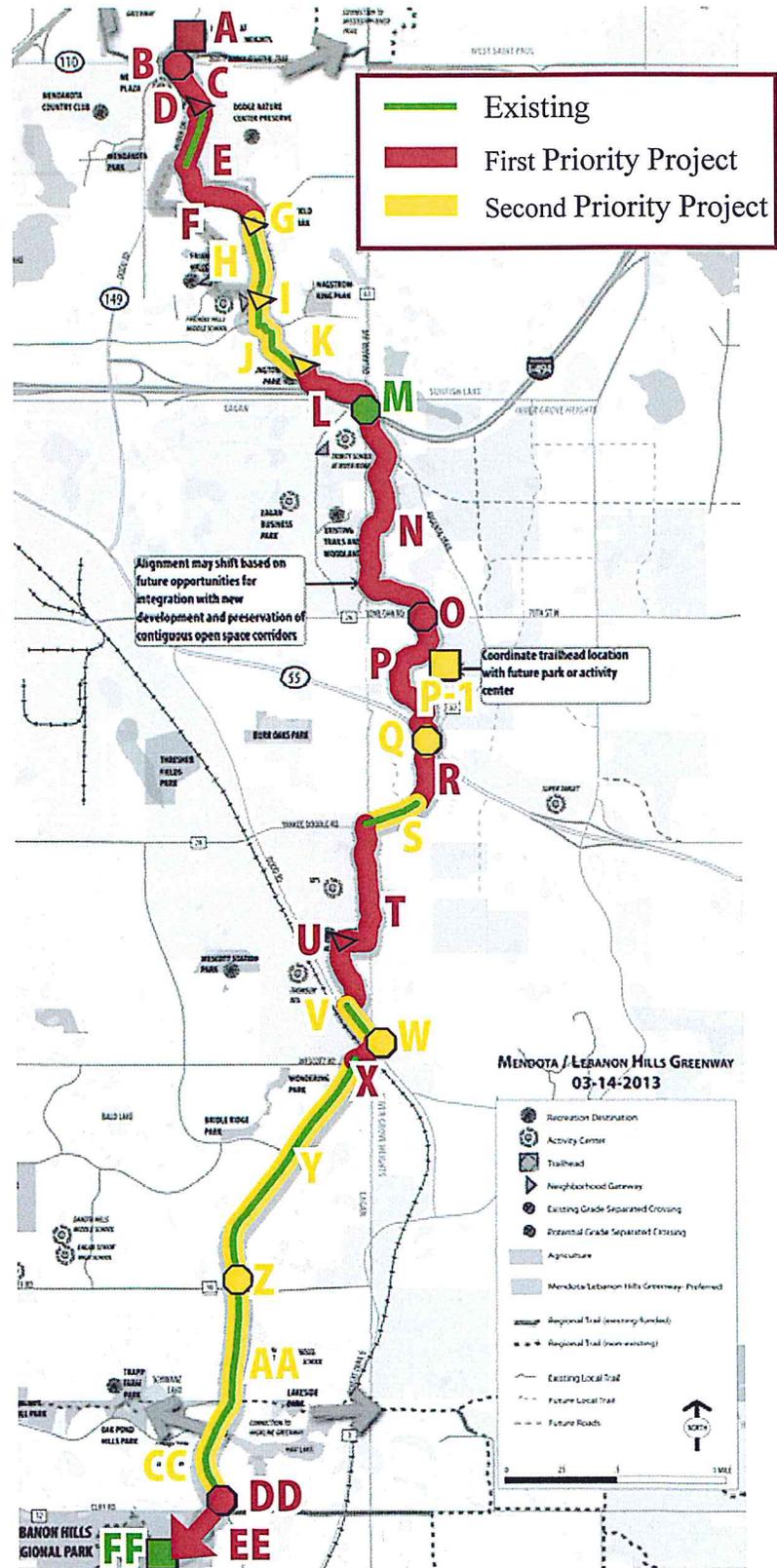
- ▶ **First priority** projects are those that are needed to create a continuous, functional greenway experience. It is intended that recreation, water quality, and natural resource elements be integrated into the greenway at the time of initial construction.
- ▶ **Second priority** projects will enhance the greenway experience. These are things such as grade separated crossings, trailhead development, and enhancements to existing trail segments.

Funding

Funding will also be a collaboration between the County, Cities, and the Minnesota DNR as appropriate. Cost share roles will be determined based on the strengths of each agency and circumstances of each project. In-kind contributions of land, easement, design, engineering, construction, maintenance, and operations are encouraged and will be outlined in individual joint powers agreements between agencies.

It is anticipated that most future capital projects will be positioned to secure regional, state, and federal funds for

Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Priority Projects



Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Priority Projects

PROJECT		PRIORITY	POTENTIAL TRIGGERS/ PARTNERS
<i>Segment 1: Village at Mendota Heights to Hwy 55</i>			
A	Trailhead at Village at Mendota Heights	1st	
B	Grade separated crossing at TH 110	1st	
C	Greenway (TH 110 to S Plaza Dr)	1st	
D	Gateway at Mendota Plaza	1st	
E	Improvements to greenway (S Plaza Dr to Friendly Marsh Park)	1st	
F	Improvements to greenway (West side of Friendly Marsh Park to Huber Dr)	1st	
G	Gateway at Copperfield Ponds Park	2nd	
H	Improvements to greenway (Cheyenne Ln to Friendly Hills M.S.)	2nd	
I	Gateway at Friendly Hills M.S.	2nd	
J	Improvements to greenway (Friendly Hills M.S. to Kensington Park)	2nd	
K	Gateway at Kensington Park	2nd	
L	Greenway (Kensington Park to Interstate 494 overpass)	1st	
M	Overpass at Interstate 494	Exisitng	
N	Greenway (Interstate 494 overpass to Lone Oak Rd)	1st	
O	Grade separated crossing at Lone Oak Road	1st	
P	Greenway (Lone Oak Rd to TH 55)	1st	
P-1	Trailhead in IGH NW Area	2nd	in conjunction with future park
Q	Grade separated crossing at TH 55	2nd	in conjunction with interchange reconstruction
<i>Segment 2: Hwy 55 to Lebanon Hills Regional Park</i>			
R	Greenway (TH 55 to Argenta Trail)	1st	
S	Improvements to greenway (Argenta Trail along Yankee Doodle Rd)	2nd	
T	Greenway (Yankee Doodle Rd to TH 149)	1st	
U	Gateway at Eagan YMCA	1st	
V	Improvements to Greenway (TH 149 to Wescott Rd)	2nd	
W	Grade separated crossing at TH 149	2nd	
X	Greenway (TH 149 to Dodd Rd)	1st	
Y	Improvements to greenway (Wescott Rd to Diffley Rd)	2nd	
Z	Grade separated crossing at Diffley Rd	2nd	
AA	Improvements to greenway (Diffley Rd to Wilderness Run Rd)	2nd	
BB	NOT USED		
CC	Improvements to Greenway (Wilderness Run Rd to Cliff Rd)	2nd	
DD	Grade separated crossing at Cliff Rd	1st	
EE	Greenway (Cliff Rd to Lebanon Hills Regional Park Trailhead)	1st	to be addressed in Lebanon Hills Regional Park Master Plan
FF	Trailhead at Lebanon Hills Regional Park	Exisitng	

recreation, water, and habitat, and that these sources will account for the majority of capital construction costs. In many cases, but not all, Dakota County, as the regional agency, will be in the best position to pursue outside funding. Examples of outside funding sources include:

- ▶ NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
- ▶ Federal Transportation Grants (Map 21)
- ▶ Minnesota Department of Transportation
- ▶ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- ▶ Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- ▶ Metropolitan Council
- ▶ The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
- ▶ Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment
- ▶ Watershed Management Organizations
- ▶ Foundations and Nonprofits
- ▶ Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)

Funding for annual operating and maintenance costs for the 30' regional trail corridor and trailheads will primarily be the responsibility of Dakota County. Annual operating costs are funded through the Dakota County General Fund Budget and from regional park allocations from the Metropolitan Council. In situations where there are efficiencies in local jurisdictions performing maintenance and operations, Dakota County will enter into a joint powers agreement outlining responsibilities and cost sharing.



MENDOTA-LEBANON HILLS

GREENWAY MASTER PLAN

2013



Hoisington Koepler Group Inc.



Bolton & Menk

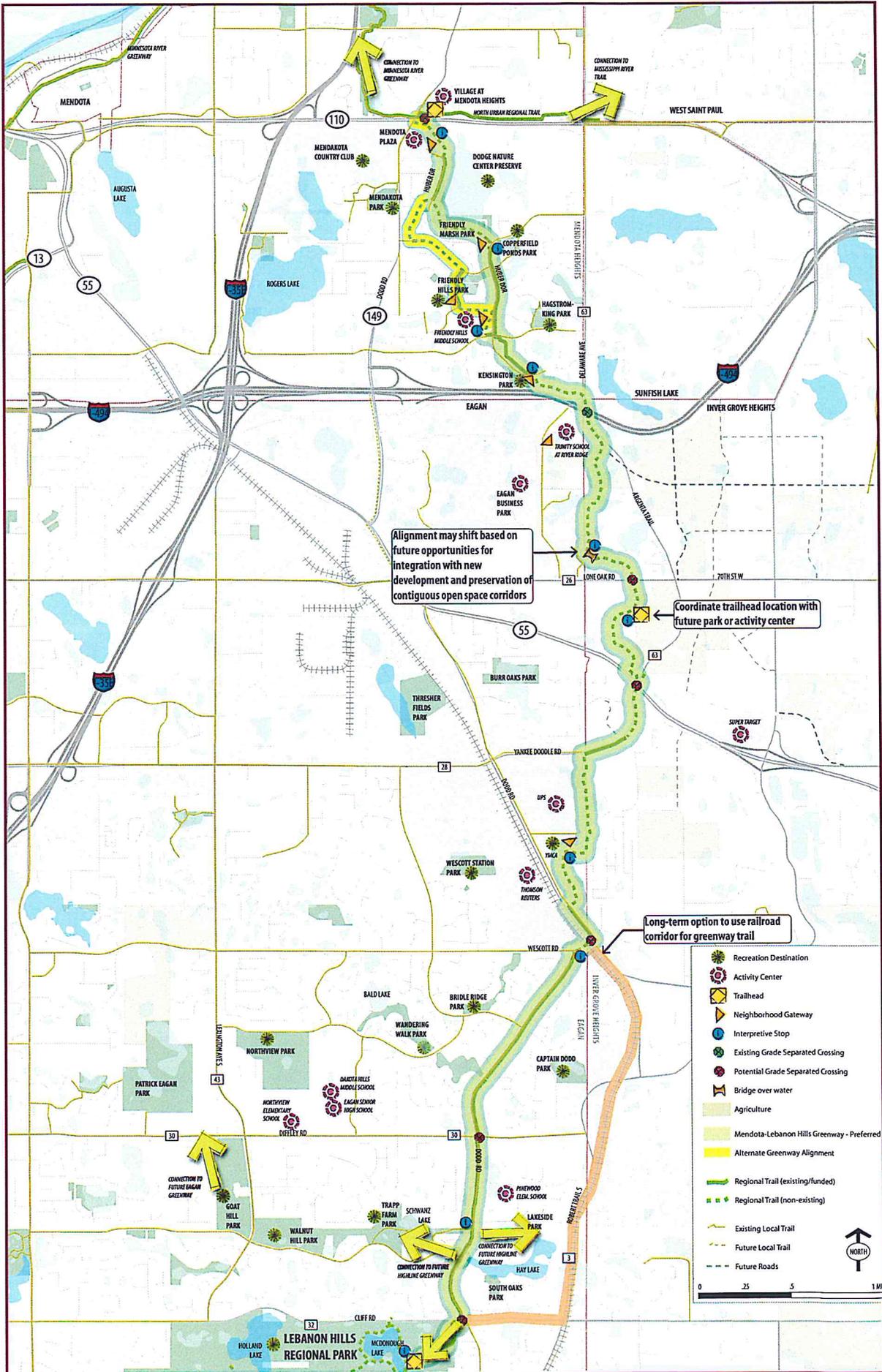


106 Group

Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway

DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN 5.21.13

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.HKGI.COM/PROJECTS/DAKOTA



Alignment may shift based on future opportunities for integration with new development and preservation of contiguous open space corridors

Coordinate trailhead location with future park or activity center

Long-term option to use railroad corridor for greenway trail

- Recreation Destination
- Activity Center
- Trailhead
- Neighborhood Gateway
- Interpretive Stop
- Existing Grade Separated Crossing
- Potential Grade Separated Crossing
- Bridge over water
- Agriculture
- Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway - Preferred
- Alternate Greenway Alignment
- Regional Trail (existing/funded)
- Regional Trail (non-existing)
- Existing Local Trail
- Future Local Trail
- Future Roads



CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Department Happenings

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013
Item Type: Administrative Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount included in current budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendment requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	FTE included in current complement
<input type="checkbox"/>	New FTE requested – N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

No action required. Item is for informational purposes and Commissioners are encouraged to ask appropriate questions.

SUMMARY

Items included:

- Department Happenings Report
- Miscellaneous



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Parks

Heritage Village Park

Street project fill dirt to raise former McPhillips lot has been completed. Top soil and seeding remain to restore this last piece of Heritage Village Park. The wetland planting at end of 63rd Street has been completed by Great River Greening with the help of various volunteer groups. A grant will help defray some of the restoration expenses.

Tree Trust and Parks crew busy at North Valley Park

Tree Trust crew contract started with work at North Valley Park on June 20. This year they are building timber retaining walls and benches at the Disc Golf Course. If time, budget and weather permit we may have them help re-locate bituminous trail coming out of 70th St. tunnel to provide ADA accessible trail.

Trail Maintenance Work

There will be some crack filling and seal coating of parks trails this summer/fall. A list of trails maintenance matching available budget was compiled with the help of engineering staff utilizing trail rating data provided by Goode Pointe. A re-alignment of bituminous trails in Sleepy Hollow is being explored to minimize bituminous maintenance required and provide for better access and flow in park. Once this design is determined trails are planned to be re-constructed this fall.

Groveland Improvements

With City Council approval of playground at Groveland Park, plans are taking place to have it installed by the end of August with selected vendor Webber Recreation Design. New curbing on the east side of playground will be installed soon. Plans to provide new concrete around building and to various park amenities to meet ADA standards are also being planned.

Forestry

With all the recent storms rolling through the area Parks crews have been busy removing downed trees in parks and along trails throughout the city. Parks forestry crew has been trimming parks trees to improve crown branching and make trees more resistant to high wind storm damage. Approximately 60 trees were removed from city's Salem Hills tree nursery with contractor tree spade and transplanted throughout the park system. Approximately 50 of these trees are being replaced with Emerald Ash Borer grant secured through the DNR. The balance replaced utilizing the Tree Replacement Fund. Parks crews also put down 200 yards of hardwood mulch around the city campus and parks landscaping and trees. The landscape at 70th and Cahill was re-designed and replaced with the assistance of the STS crew. Work continues removing invasive



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



species by the Rock Island Swing Bridge utilizing grant secured with Friends of the Mississippi River. Parks crews are mulching trees in parks utilizing accumulated chippings from removed and trimmed city trees and stored at Kuchera property. It's a good source of recycled free mulch material for park trees.

Turf Maintenance

Park crews have been kept busy mowing turf with the unusually wet spring. All of parks mowers have been running just about every day to keep up with the flush of growth. Irrigation systems have been turned off and not utilized this spring due to abundance of rain. Timely rains have saved irrigation water expense. We are trying some newer chemical growth regulators in some areas to help minimize mowing. We are also mixing some turf growth regulator in our athletic field paint to minimize paint use material and labor. The season's first application of organic compost was applied to Rich Valley and citywide athletic fields. A "grow in" application of fertilizer is scheduled for new irrigated athletic field at Skyview Park middle of July. Spring rains have helped germinate grass seed planted this spring. Parks turf has really rebounded from last fall's drought conditions due to the rain and timely turf maintenance practices.

Inver Wood Golf Course

Facility Projects

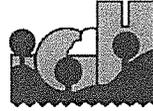
Bids for year four (of four) of the golf car path replacement program are due on July 17th. The remaining replacement of paths on the Back Nine of the Championship Course will begin in late September completing that nine and all on-course pavement. Currently, turf is being restored on last year's completed path edges by priority as staff time and the weather permit.

Upcoming Free Junior Instruction

Junior clinics are conducted weekly every Friday morning through July. There will be no clinic however on Friday July 5th, the week of the Fourth of July. The next scheduled Junior clinic is Friday July 12th. Junior clinics begin at 9:00 AM and end at 11:00 AM.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Junior Golf Camp

The inaugural Junior Camps are slated to begin Monday July 8th. Offered in collaboration with the Head Coaching Staff of the Simley High School Golf Team, the Camps are designed for local youngsters interested specifically in competitive play. The program consists of a four consecutive day Starter Camp geared for Junior High School age students and a five day Advanced Camp designed for High School age students. Junior Camp details can be viewed on www.inverwood.org. Follow the link on the homepage or use the “Juniors” drop down tab for complete Junior Program details.

Executive Course Family Program

Please help promote Inver Wood’s Family Program. The program is available all day on the Executive Course Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Children ages 7 to 17 play free with each paid adult Executive Course green fee. A special set of family tee markers has been provided as well as a family golf guide and scorecard.

Recreation

Department Receives MN Twins Safety Grant

The Department has received a \$2,000 safety grant from the MN Twins and will be providing the Rich Valley Athletic Complex with an AED unit.

Busy Month at Rich Valley

It will be a busy month at Rich Valley as we will be host to a MMFL Girl’s State Fastpitch 16U Softball qualifier tournament, the Gopher State Tournament of Champions 12AAA baseball tournament and a boy’s in-house baseball tournament.

Summer Movies in the Park

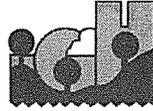
Summer movies in the park are back with the first one scheduled for July 18 at South Valley Park featuring “Madagascar 3.” The second showing will be August 15 at South Valley Park featuring “Lady and the Tramp.” All movies are free and open to the public and start at sunset.

Safety Camps

Our popular safety camps kick off with the Half Pint Safety Camp for youth ages 4-6 on July 16. Then on August 8, the big kids (ages 6-10) get to participate in our day-long safety camp. Both camps are done in partnership with the police and fire department.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Penny Carnival

Our penny carnival is back on July 11 and will enjoy its second year at its new location, the Community Center parking lot. The carnival will be held from 4-6:30 p.m. in conjunction with the St. Paul Farmers' Market and is free and open to the public.

Night to Unite Parks & Recreation Visits

The Parks and Recreation Staff will once again be providing Night to Unite visits on Tuesday, August 6. Residents who request a visit will receive a half hour of kid's games along with some freebies and information about our Department. This year, we have partnered with police and fire to provide a joint online registration form where those interested can request a parks and rec visit, police and/or fire visit all on the same form. The form is available at www.invergroveheights.org/nighttounite

Veterans Memorial Community Center

Box Lacrosse on the Turf

VMCC has been a popular rental spot for box lacrosse this year. We have hosted the MN Swarm youth box lacrosse spring and summer leagues and will be hosting their high school league in the fall. We'll also be hosting an adult box lacrosse league this fall as well.

Still Time to Learn to Swim

There are plenty of July and August sessions of swim lessons available! We offer both daytime and evening classes for swimmers of all ages and abilities. Register online at www.funatthegrove.com

Summer Ice Skating Lessons

Our summer session of ice skating lessons begins July 30-August 27. Classes are held in the evenings for youth ages 3 & up for all abilities. We even have specialty classes for hockey players.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Future of Our Parks Report

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013
Item Type: Administrative Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Mark Borgwardt
Tracy Petersen
Bethany Adams

Fiscal/FTE Impact:
 None
 Amount included in current budget
 Budget amendment requested
 FTE included in current complement
 New FTE requested – N/A
 Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The subcommittee will provide the full Commission with monthly updates regarding efforts to update our Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide.

SUMMARY

The Commission set up a sub-committee consisting of Chair Al Eiden and Commissioners Mary Hapka along with Park Superintendent Mark Borgwardt, Recreation Superintendent Tracy Petersen, and myself.

We will provide the entire commission with an update each month.

Feel free to ask appropriate questions regarding the sub-committees efforts.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Commission Comments

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013
Item Type: Commission Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

- Fiscal/FTE Impact:**
- None
 - Amount included in current budget
 - Budget amendment requested
 - FTE included in current complement
 - New FTE requested – N/A
 - Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

No action required. Commissioners are encouraged to make appropriate comments.

SUMMARY

None.