

To: Anoka County Parks
From: City of Ramsey
April 25, 2017

Re: Official Comments Regarding Draft Master Plan Amendment for Mississippi West Regional Park

The City of Ramsey is in receipt of the March 6th, 2017 Draft Master Plan Amendment for Mississippi West Regional Park, (hereafter referred to as the 'Draft Amendment'). This memorandum constitutes the City's official comments in regard to the Draft Amendment.

The City supports the proposed Draft Amendment, subject to the following revisions being incorporated into the final Master Plan Amendment:

1. The final Master Plan Amendment shall specifically name the proposed pedestrian bridge as a future improvement of the regional park. For example, the pedestrian bridge shall be depicted within Figure 8, page 8, and additionally in the narrative on page 8; such as, *The remaining picnic shelters, restrooms, a visitor center, pedestrian bridge, and remaining infrastructure as outlined in the 2010 Master Plan will be implemented in future years as funding allows.*

Also, within the second paragraph under *Accessibility* page 19, remove *City of Ramsey* for the sentence to read: *The future pedestrian bridge across Highway 10 is proposed to provide a safe crossing over Hwy 10 and provide access to the park via the city and county trail systems, with direct connection to transit.* Also, remove from the exhibit [referred to as both 25 and 13] on page 19, the text, *City of Ramsey Proposed*, and change the text color to white, consistent with the other text relating to the park for this exhibit.

Note: Including the pedestrian bridge as a named, phased element of the park's development is essential in calling attention to its significance as a regional facility – as this is strategically important to securing grant funding.

2. Identify within the final Master Plan Amendment a schedule for the development of a negotiated cost-share agreement for completion of the skyway and pedestrian bridge – in a timeframe that allows for an application in 2018 for Transportation Advisory Board solicitation for funding (and potentially other sources).

3. Add a narrative and exhibit to the final Master Plan Amendment that shows the *opportunity* for realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail to a safe alignment for bicyclists and pedestrians (to the location of the pedestrian overpass when complete), which also will connect the regional park directly to the Metropolitan Council's Transit system.

(The exhibit below shows the proposed, realigned trail corridor in a red dashed line.)



4. Include in the final Master Plan Amendment mention of the fact that the City of Ramsey and Anoka County Parks jointly funded a shoreline inventory of the Mississippi River to assess the severity of riverbank erosion and found that the riparian edge of this regional park had both severe and very severe stretches of erosion. This finding, and opportunity to secure grant funding for shoreline restoration should be identified within the final Master Plan Amendment.