

**City of Ramsey**  
**Agenda**  
**Park and Recreation Commission**  
**Thursday, February 14, 2019**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Citizen Input**
3. **Approve Agenda**
4. **Approve Minutes**
  1. Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.
5. **Commission Business**
  1. **Approve Promotional Magazine for Proposed Parks in The COR**
6. **Commission/Staff Input**
7. **Adjournment**

**Park and Recreation Commission**

**4. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 02/14/2019

**Submitted For:** Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

**By:** MaryJo Warner, Engineering/Public Works

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**Information**

**Title:**

Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

**Purpose/Background:**

To review and approve Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated November 8, 2018.

To review and approve Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated January 10, 2019.

**Notification:**

**Observations/Alternatives:**

**Funding Source:**

n/a

**Recommendation:**

**Action:**

Motion to approve Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes dated November 8, 2018 and January 10, 2019.

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**Attachments**

November

January

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: MaryJo Warner

Final Approval Date: 02/07/2019

**Reviewed By**

Grant Riemer

**Date**

02/07/2019 02:55 PM

Started On: 02/05/2019 01:55 PM

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on November 8, 2018, at Ramsey City Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW.

Commission Members Present:      Chair Shane Bennett  
   Vice Chair Brandon Sis  
   Commissioner Russell Bayer  
   Commissioner Jennifer Leistico  
   Commissioner Jon Trappen

Commission Members Absent:      None

Also Present:                              Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

**1.      CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2.      CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3.      APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Sis, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried.    Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Leistico, Sis, Bayer, Trappen.  
Voting No: None.    Absent: None.

**4.      APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01:    Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Bayer, seconded by Commissioner Trappen, to approve the following Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented:

- 1) Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 11, 2018.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Bayer, Trappen, Leistico, Sis.  
Voting No: None. Absent: None.

## **5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

### **5.01: Recommend Proposed 2019 Facility Use Policy and Rental Rates**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood introduced a discussion of the 2019 facility policies and rental rates. He noted that the Council reviews these policies and rates each year for all City facilities, and will consider them again at the Council meeting next week. There are some minor revisions suggestions for the rate structure. He noted that many 501c3 non-profits have been requesting to use the facilities, and many were not located in Ramsey. In doing so, they were able to use a large meeting room for the \$5 minimum maintenance fee. That has become a concern because some of these groups would cause a great deal of demand for maintenance. One group a few weeks ago left bags and bags of garbage in addition to ordinary wear and tear. The policy revision requires a 501c3 physical facility in Ramsey or requires the organization to have some other recent, significant contribution to Ramsey. The other change increases the \$5 minimum maintenance fee to \$10. He also pointed out some other minor changes in facility use of for-profit businesses.

Commissioner Trappen commented that the proposed \$10 cleaning/maintenance fee is still too low and suggested \$20 may be more appropriate.

Commissioner Leistico noted that she leads a youth group that meets at the Central Park building, and they meet twice monthly for an annual fee of \$90. Now the fee will be \$180, which is a sizable increase. Increasing it more than that would cause her group to look elsewhere.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated there is definitely a difference between the Anoka/Ramsey Athletic Association with a \$800,000 budget and the Girl Scout group which may have an operating expense account of \$200. There is not a good way to find that balance. But the \$5 fee was not even covering paper towels and basic supplies. Staff is recommending a \$5 increase. In special circumstances, it is appropriate to consider a waiver of fees. If a Scout group uses a building, for example, and they sponsor the park, there could be room for negotiation.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Bayer, to approve the Facility Use Policy and the rental rates structure as indicated within the attachments to the staff report and as discussed.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Sis, Bayer, Leistico, Trappen.  
Voting No: None. Absent: None.

### **5.02: Recommend Cash Contribution Rates for Park Dedication and Trail Fees for 2019**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood introduced a discussion of development fees associated with new development in the community. These fees will also be

considered as part of the facility usage fees, which Council will consider next week. He explained the purpose of park dedication fees, which have been set at \$3,000 per new dwelling unit. He explained the nexus between new residents coming in and these same residents needing recreational facilities. Staff reconsiders these fees each year and makes necessary adjustments. For this year, staff is recommending minor increases for these fees that amount to approximately 2%.

Chair Bennett clarified that this is not a new tax and will have no impact on existing residential. This fee is for new development only. He noted that when compared to other communities, Ramsey generally has lower fees.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood added that park dedication and trail fees, pursuant to State statute, have to be indexed to the real demonstrated need. Park dedication is intended to provide community an offset for what the new demand is on the same facilities from the new residents. These fees are only applicable for new development. These are developer dollars, not tax dollars.

Commissioner Sis noted that Ramsey's fees are equitable and do not seem to be out of line. In addition, as compared to some other communities, a lot of them are jumping with a lot higher percentage than the proposed 2%.

Commissioner Leistico asked about prior year's increases.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that for 2017, there was about a 3% increase. He stated that parks and trails are a high priority for residential valuations.

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Bayer, to recommend to City Council a 2019 cash Park Dedication rate per residential unit of \$3,050 - with a \$100 and \$75 increase per acre respectively, for the commercial/industrial subdivision of land.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Leistico, Bayer, Sis, Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

### **5.03: Consider the 2019-2028 Parks Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that the Parks CIP is almost exclusively funded from the development fees. He noted the full report is several hundred pages long and includes all the details, if anyone in the public would like to look. This is a planning document; it is not authorizing funding. It is intended to set up the discussion and provide project forecasting so Commissions Cnd councils can think about how all these projects come together and the timing for them.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood highlighted several projects recommended in the CIP in 2019, including a phase of development in the waterfront/splash pad

area, a shelter shade at the off-leash area in Alpine Park, as well as amphitheater lighting and sound system improvements.

Motion by Commissioner Bayer, seconded by Commissioner Trappen, to recommend a 2019-2028 Parks Capital Improvement Plan to City Council.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Bayer, Trappen, Leistico, Sis. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

#### **5.04: Consider the Issuance of an RFP for Ford Brook Park's Renovation**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood began discussion of issuing an RFP for Ford Brook Park's renovation, which would bring the aging into compliance with the ADA. He noted the play equipment was salvaged from another park system many decades ago. It is a little tired and uninspiring, and so it has been in the CIP for a few years. Residents would like to see improvements to the park. He noted some of the work could be done by volunteer groups. Staff would issue the RFP with a not-to-exceed amount and parse out elements that would be conducive to be done by volunteers, such as landscaping. He noted that in this park, about 19 homes to the north and northeast are actually in the City of Nowthen. Staff has initiated discussions with the City and the Nowthen Lions about collaborating on this as an area community project.

Commissioner Leistico asked whether anyone has gotten back to staff.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that the Lions are bringing the topic to their full board. They do want to do a park project; they are probably more inclined do one in the City proper, but this is a neat project where they may participate on a smaller scale. It would be a great opportunity for Ramsey Lions and Nowthen Lions to collaborate. One of the Lions was on the Nowthen Park Board as well, and she's going to bring it to that Board. Previously, staff has brought it to the City's clerk. As one might expect, they are more inclined to invest in something that is clearly their own park. However, there are 19 households that are separated from Nowthen that require residents to drive through Ramsey streets in order to get to their homes.

Commissioner Sis asked how this proposal fits into the broader scope of the stated priority of not investing in smaller parks but rather prioritizing regional parks.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that the policy calls for the City to be mindful about thinking about the value of new small parks, such as a tot lot, and instead focus on larger parks and connections. In this case, however, Ford Brook is in an existing park and in existing neighborhood, and it is tired. The City has been examining this for a long time. At the same time, staff does need to refine its policy on playground replacements so smaller, older playgrounds are not neglected. Sometimes neighborhood parks can be underwhelming. They don't always have a tremendous return on investment as community parks or trails that connect neighborhoods and destinations.

Commissioner Sis asked whether it is worth the investment in this play equipment. He suggested Ford Brook could be a play area, rather than include a play structure. Also, the surrounding demographics of the area begs the question of whether the City should be investing in this park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded this is an excellent point. Before firming up or proceeding with an RFP, staff can hold an open house with a mailer to the neighborhood to gauge interest, and then if there is interest, it will help staff understand the priorities for play equipment.

Commissioner Sis suggested that route, rather than just directly proceeding to the RFP.

Chair Bennett commented this proposal does fly in the place of the policy, but at the same time, some aging parks do need updates. Engaging the community in and around this park is a good first step. Continuing forward with an RFP to even determine what the potential scope or cost would be is also a next step. He expressed agreement that an open house is a good option to start with.

Commissioner Leistico asked if there is a park that is comparable in size. She noted that some parents or caregivers like to visit different parks, depending on amenities.

Commissioner Sis noted that these days, people may not always drive to the closest neighborhood park, but rather the regional park.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that is what staff has observed: parents or caregivers have playdates and they meet with one another at the parks that are worth visiting. It is often not a big draw after they have played on a park with little amenities. The problem is, a very nice playground costs a lot of money. Elmhurst cost \$90,000 and it is not that big of a park. That also relates to the policy that Chair Bennett and Commissioner Sis referred to, where staff has to be careful about little pocket parks, because they can limit the City's ability to do destination-park locations.

Commissioner Sis agreed the open house is a good idea.

Chair Bennett noted that as part of the open house and engagement process, perhaps staff can determine whether there can be partners brought on board and creative ways can be found to get this done. A couple years ago, the City talked about a tough decision about removing the equipment from a park. Staff did some research and determined it was being used a lot more than originally thought, and there was resistance to removing the equipment. He asked whether usability can be studied for this Ford Brook Park as well.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded stated the park referenced was Peltzer Park. A mailer was sent out, suggesting it was to be decommissioned and the land sold for single-family use. Trail cams were then installed and they found the park was being used quite a bit. However, that may have been used because of the mailer. Winter is not a good time to make that assessment. That can be reviewed in the spring. At the open house, it might be useful to have available the other things the City is looking at in the system.

Chair Bennett noted that in public engagement, he rarely hears people expressing a desire for new equipment in the park. But rather, everyone talks about a splash pad and a community center.

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to recommend an open house or public comment period for the Ford Brook Park that then could ultimately lead into an RFP after the fact.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Sis, Leistico, Bayer, Trappen. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

## **6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood noted that typically, in December, there will be a year-end bullet point wrap-up and talk about winter programming. He noted that there is a vitality arts project at Central Park, where folks 55+ will be making a pair of kiln mugs. There are other things coming up like the tree lighting and the ornament class.

Chair Bennett noted there are usually 7 members of the Park and Rec Commission, but there are only 5 currently. There will be a posting going out in January for all the City's Boards and Commissions.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Bayer, seconded by Commissioner Trappen, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chair Bennett; Commissioners Bayer, Trappen, Leistico, Sis. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Allison Burr  
*TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

**NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN OFFICAL MEETING DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM – NO ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING**

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF RAMSEY  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on January 10, 2019, at Ramsey City Council Chambers, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett  
Vice Chair Brandon Sis  
Commissioner Jennifer Leistico

Commission Members Absent: Commissioners Russell Bayer and Jon Trappen

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bennett called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He noted that due to lack of a quorum, an official meeting will not take place. All agenda items will be tabled until the February 2019 meeting. Instead, Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood will provide an informal overview of the 2018 Summer Event Series.

**2. CITIZEN INPUT**

None.

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

This item was tabled until the February 2019 meeting.

**4. APPROVE MINUTES**

**4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

This item was tabled until the February 2019 meeting.

**5. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**5.01: 2018 Summer Event Series Recap**

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood thanked the sponsors and community for supporting this popular concert series program. He noted that concert series participation is tracked by the number of participants. That is useful information as the City thinks about the success and popularity of the bands and planning for future years. In 2018, approximately 4,027 people attended the entire concert series. That number depends each year on the weather, and this year saw two rainouts, which is unusual in one concert season.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood then recalled the bands who performed throughout the 2018 series: Rino (450 participants); RoadHouse Blue (409 participants); A Hard Day's Nights, which was a Beatles tribute band, (683 participants); Ponzi Scheme (653 participants); Magic Sunshine Band was rained out; Darlene and the Boys was rained out; Porcupine Creek (262 participants); Mostly Cash (900 participants); Holy Rocka Rollaz (615 participants); Divas Through the Decades, which was more of a dance ensemble with pre-recorded music, (500 participants); and GB Leighton, which was part of the Trott Brook benefit (1,750 participants).

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood then acknowledged and thanked the following sponsors for making this concert series happen: Ramsey Lions Club; Rotary Club of Ramsey; Parkview Apartments; The Kitchen; Bolton & Menk; The Bank of Elk River; City of Ramsey Foundation; Coborn's; Trott Brook Financial; Connexus Energy; Village Bank; Killebrew; Erhart & Elfelt; and City of Ramsey. He noted that in 2019, new speakers will be added to help with the music sound to the crowd.

Chair Bennett encouraged the public to attend the 2019 concert series. It is a wonderful way to meet other members of the community, and it is a great ambiance and lots of fun. He thanked all the sponsors, especially the City of Ramsey Foundation and noted that this concert series has come such a long way since it began.

Chair Bennett also asked when the 2019 concert dates will be published.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded that this past week, the City Council authorized the hiring of a recreation specialist to help this community in terms of recreation programming and serving residents. Part of her initial responsibilities will be to secure the bands for 2019 and begin marketing.

## **6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT**

This item was tabled until the February 2019 meeting.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood  
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Allison Burr, *TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

Meeting Date: 02/14/2019

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

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### Information

**Title:**

**Approve Promotional Magazine for Proposed Parks in The COR**

**Purpose/Background:**

Since the earliest development plans for The COR (an acronym for The Center of Ramsey) in 2001 (then known as Town Center), parks, pedestrian connections and a prominent public realm have been defining elements and the foundational framework for Ramsey's downtown. The park elements had an east/west armature (like The Draw, and planned for greenway west to the Lake Itasca Community Park) and a north/south axis like the regional trail along Center Street, and the planned for Municipal Plaza. Each update to The COR's land use plan carried forward these important features and pedestrian connectivity.

In December of 2017, City Council authorized the development of \*schematic design for two remaining park spaces in The COR, The Waterfront and Municipal Plaza. In July of 2018 the Park and Recreation Commission reviewed all details of this completed schematic design, and accordingly approved the park plans. Since then, the essence of these plans, together with imagery and a narrative describing the theory and function of these public spaces in The COR has been organized into a promotional magazine. Approval of this magazine and communications piece is the purpose of this case.

\*The following is an excerpt of the December 2017 Council case:

*"The Schematic Design will take the park planning to the next level for [The Waterfront] and 'Municipal Plaza' described in the COR Parks + Public Places – Public Realm Framework document dated January 2016. The proposal outlines the specific tasks needed to translate existing concept ideas into Park Programming/Schematic Design recommendations. This work will help guide near-term excavation/grading operations needed to prepare both sites: the 'Municipal Plaza' site as it relates to the proposed adjacent development, and the water-centric park site as it relates to additional (future) park improvements and grade elevations at that location. \*One key element of this is the preliminary investigation to identify how much fill sand would be available for other development sites in The COR from the excavation of the 'lake feature'.*

*The COR Parks and Public Realm Framework was the basis for the total cost estimates for build-out, of the two park project work sheets within the Capital Improvement Program (Municipal Plaza \$3.5M, and the water-centric park \$6.2M). These estimates were assumptions of potential construction costs based on similar park development in the region, and 'rough numbers'. For Municipal Plaza this equated to \$40 per square foot, and for The Waterfront \$11 per square foot.*

*The schematic design project for these two parks, will result in plans (not construction documents) for these parks that have reliable cost specificity, allowing the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council to better consider future capital improvements. The detailed plans will also allow many of the park program components to be done in increments or phases (E.g. mass grading, then landscape, then splash pad etc.)."*

**Notification:**

Significant public engagement occurred throughout the city as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan process—additionally, public engagement sessions occurred unique to the park space in The COR, specifically for The Waterfront.

### **Observations/Alternatives:**

While the above referenced magazine and communication piece describes parks in The COR, it is important to point out that these public investments (like the amphitheater) are destinations and amenities for the whole community—and a connected park and trail system to and with The COR is a deliberate strategy, in alignment with the city's Strategic Plan and Comp Plan. The second attachment is a brief excerpt from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and below is also a narrative element from the Comp Plan that describes the value of a connected community (The Circle of Ramsey Greenway):

#### *"Planned Park System and Recreation Districts*

*Most residents cherish their park system. Given the choice, most would like more parks, especially near their homes. However, financial priorities continue to challenge city leadership to build and manage a park system that meets those desires, yet meet the financial obligations to build and maintain these improvements. Currently, the overall amount of acreage devoted to Ramsey's park and open space system is over 1,800 acres, or approximately 10% of the of the City's 28 square miles. Given this large available area, the focus is on using these spaces wisely and connecting them effectively.*

*The gap between the desire for more parks and the stark reality of limited annual maintenance funding calls for a strategy to plan a system of interconnected parks and trails distributed reasonably and equitably throughout the community. Ramsey can achieve this goal by viewing Ramsey's park system as divided into ten 'Recreation Districts.' These districts are delineated by major roadways or other barriers, and provide a means for more effective planning in determining future park needs at the scale of larger groups of neighborhoods (see attached map).*

*A broad overview of the existing park system in Ramsey reveals a number of small, underutilized park spaces scattered throughout rural areas of the community. These low-density (or large lot) developments do not support high use of a neighborhood park system and thus can lead to inefficiencies. Larger scale community parks [and those planned for in The COR, like a splash pad], which would provide park and recreation opportunities not available within private yards or large lots, would prove a more effective and efficient use of a park and recreation system for these areas, and at the same time serve both rural and urban areas of Ramsey—especially if well connected by trails or greenways.*

*It should be clarified that these Recreation Districts are not only a planning tool, but are an organizing structure of aggregating neighborhoods in order to interconnect them with the 'Circle of Ramsey' greenway. This greenway encircles the community, while connecting each Recreation District to each other, as well as to destinations like retail areas, schools, and workplaces."*

More information on park planning is available at:

<https://www.ci.ramsey.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/1605/Comprehensive-Plan-for-Adjacent-Review>

As described above, **the promotional magazine and communications piece is intended to convey the intention of the plans and land use in The COR, detail future capital improvements, and moreover, iterate the city's commitment for high quality urban parks in The COR—which is essential for attracting quality developers and retailers, and at the same time, responding to resident desires across the breadth of Ramsey.**

### **Funding Source:**

No funding is authorized as part of this case.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of the communication piece and magazine as presented (the first attachment).

**Action:**

Based upon discussion, motion to approve/not approve the Promotional Magazine for Proposed Parks in The COR.

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**Attachments**

COR Parks Promo Magazine  
community bldg at The Waterfront  
Rec Districts and Greenway  
comp plan connectivity

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**Form Review**

**Inbox**

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 02/08/2019

**Reviewed By**

MaryJo Warner

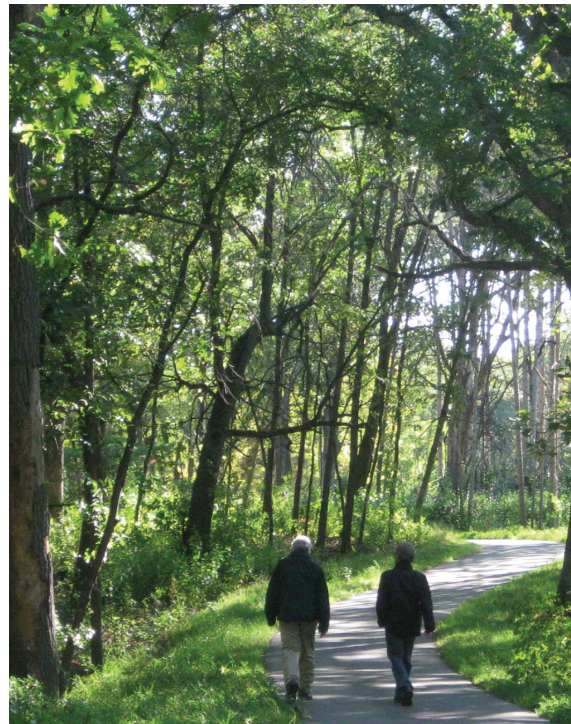
**Date**

02/08/2019 01:15 PM

Started On: 02/07/2019 11:54 AM

# CITY OF RAMSEY

Public Places + Vibrant Community



Multiple Initiatives and Measurable Benefits...  
*Encourage Investment + Promote Healthy Living +  
Connecting Natural Resources & People = QUALITY OF LIFE*



You Are Here...

The intersection of a desired rural character with inviting urban amenities.



An imperative for designing and implementing a variety of public spaces that offer basic people needs - places to sit, sun and shade, food and beverage, and a place to interact with neighbors.

Encourage private sector investment that meets The COR economic development objectives.

*“An attractive public realm continues to be a major catalyst for private investment, creating signature addresses for a variety of new development projects.” - John LeTourneau, Mayor of Ramsey*

# Circle of Ramsey Greenway

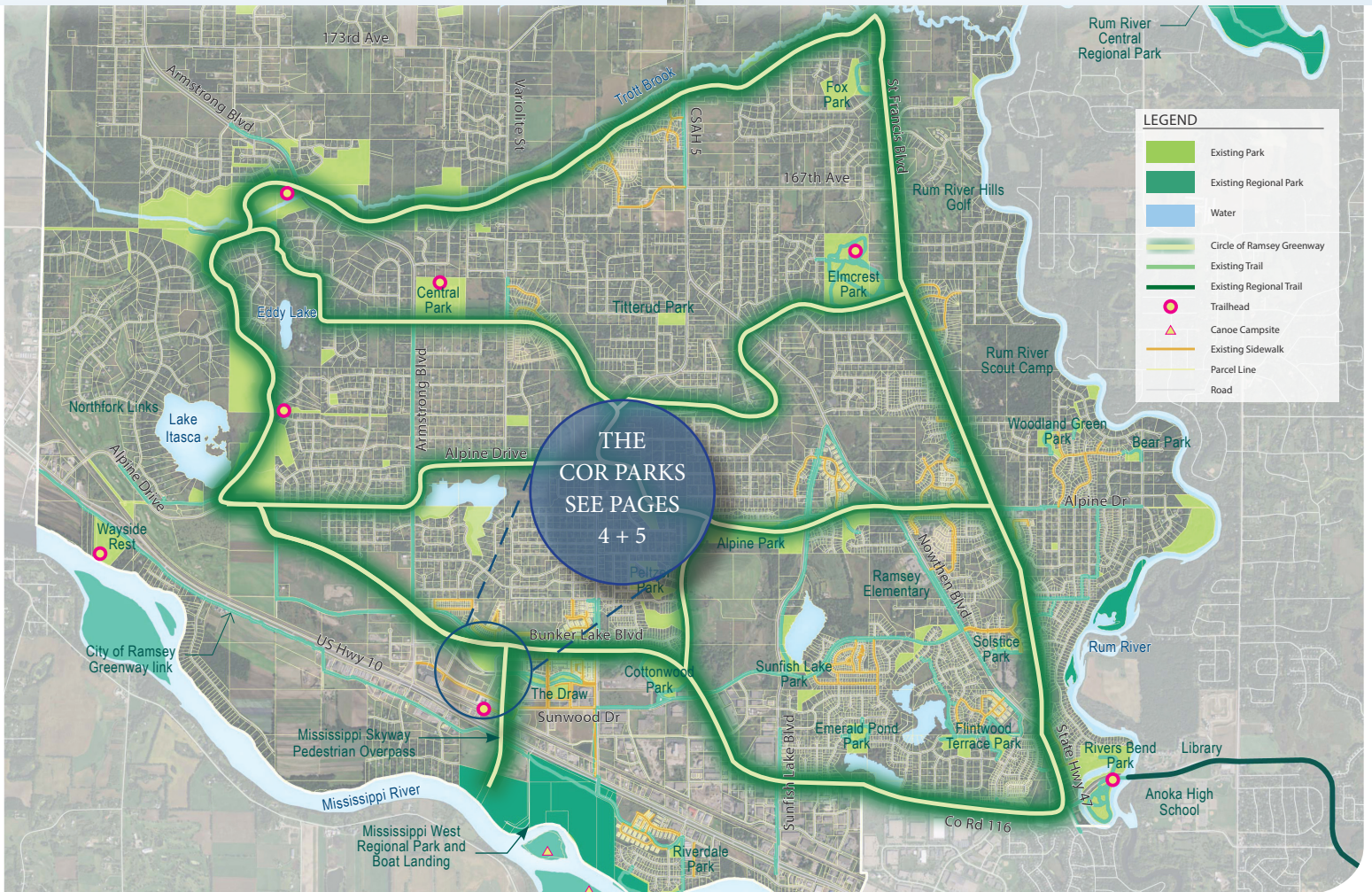
*A continuous loop trail that connects neighborhoods to destinations, amenities and regional systems*



Continue to build a connected network of local and regional trails



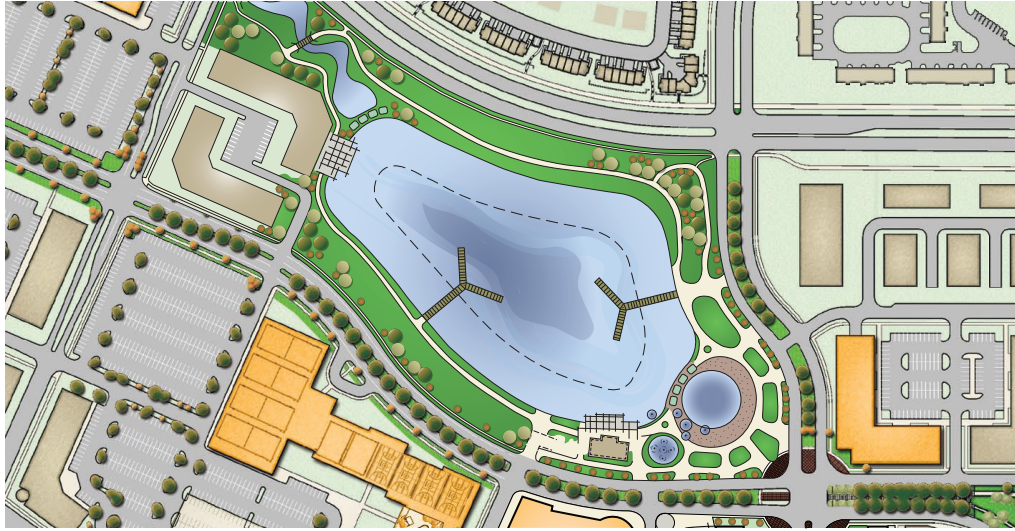
Respect for, and connections with, valued natural resources



*“A mix of uses and quality amenities that serve residents will become a regional destination” - James Steffen, Economic Development Authority Chair*

# URBAN AMENITIES

*The COR plan is built on recent success and future opportunity - creates great places for people!*



## The Waterfront

As the major public amenity illustrated in the Development Plan 6.0, Lake Ramsey Commons will become a spectacular water-centric addition to the emerging park and trail system that connects the whole community. It holds a key position as the connecting hub between The Draw to the east, the proposed Greenway Trail Connection to the west, the Municipal Plaza and Commuter Rail Station to the south, with the proposed Mississippi Skyway linking the regional park and trail to The COR.



## Municipal Plaza

In each of the many different planning frameworks over the years, the Municipal Plaza has been identified as the primary civic space at the very heart of The COR. Located directly across Sunwood Drive from Ramsey City Hall, this crucial public amenity will serve as the central gathering space for day-to-day activities and will certainly attract heightened private sector interest in development of adjacent properties.



## Lake Itasca and Greenway Connection

Various scenarios and alignments were studied and, each in their own way, serve to illustrate the strategic opportunity to connect amenities in The COR with Lake Itasca to the west via a public greenway trail. The greenway provides visual continuity east-west through The COR, and becomes the preferred access route for the hundreds of residential units between Lake Itasca and the retail destinations within The COR—strengthening the vitality of these commercial enterprises.

# CONNECTING NEIGHBORHOODS

*A Park System Plan built on a foundation of existing natural features integrated with a growing, connected system of public parks, trails and open space, including the following elements:*

## Mississippi Skyway

The Mississippi Skyway pedestrian bridge will provide a critical direct pedestrian and bicycle connection between the City of Ramsey's pedestrian-oriented COR development, the Ramsey Northstar Station, Ramsey Park & Ride and the resources associated with the Mississippi River and attendant regional amenities. The Mississippi Skyway project is about overcoming boundaries to safe bicycle and pedestrian circulation while expanding and enhancing multi-modal transportation, economic development and recreational options to promote a livable, vibrant region and community.



## Amphitheater at The Draw

The Draw is a blend of natural and planned open space for programmed activities, hardscape, and passive uses. Located in the heart of The COR (acronym for City of Ramsey), park components include; recreational green space, natural stormwater filtration/reuse, established wildlife corridor and trail connections. The Draw provides an attractive combination of water and landscape as a welcome visual relief and aesthetic experience that contributes to the long-term livability and lasting vitality of the Downtown District and the City.



## Trott Brook Greenway

Parks and natural open space are vital to the quality of life in Ramsey and in many ways define the community. Ramsey is fortunate to have retained many natural resources within its boundaries. One such example is Trott Brook with its associated wetlands and uplands, creating a natural greenway spanning the northern third of the City. Future completion of this important community amenity will provide a significant east/west connection in terms of trail use, but will also preserve, protect and enhance of the regions important natural areas.

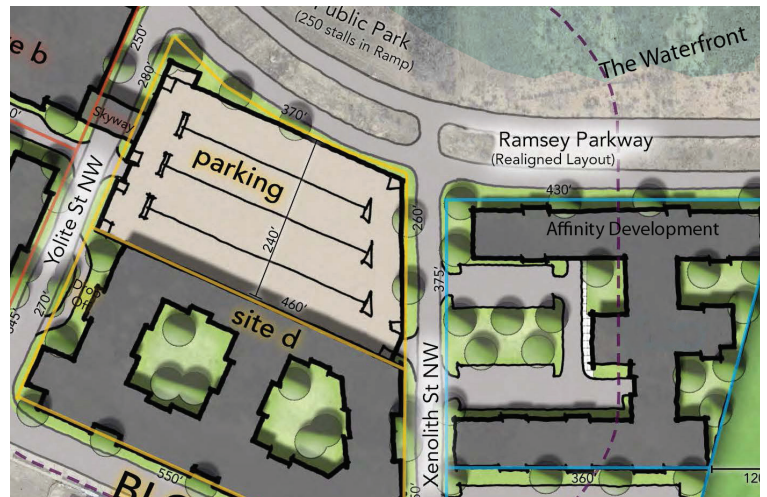


The Waterfront supports a range of both active and passive uses emphasizing variety in terms of outdoor spaces (rooms), including mown turf/open lawn areas within prairie, woodland, lake edge and other natural landscapes.

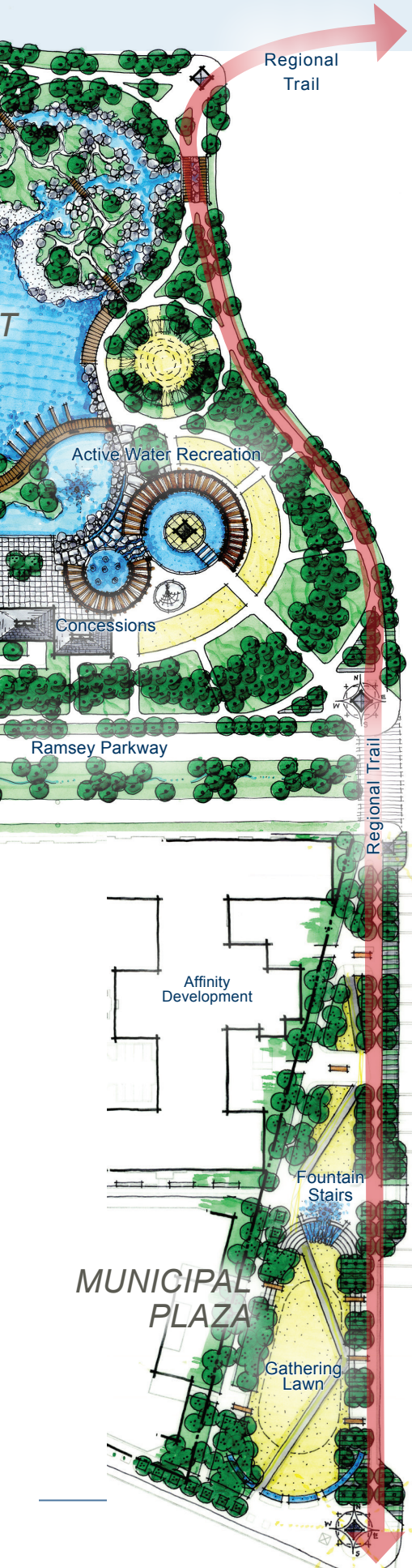


The Waterfront introduces a series of natural outdoor spaces that recreate and interpret native Minnesota landscapes both as an overall design aesthetic but also as a hands-on, immersion experience for park visitors.

District parking strategies will be explored and pursued to address issues related to vehicle movement, convenient access, and to provide maximum benefit for mixed-use development throughout The COR—and this is true for the park spaces too. While district parking is likely to begin with centrally located surface lots, over time, as new development intensifies, these surface lots will be converted to structured parking, either as stand-alone facilities or fully integrated within creatively designed development sites.



# THE WATERFRONT + MUNICIPAL PLAZA



Municipal Plaza will become a signature destination, leveraging private-sector investment with specific focus on adjacent, plaza-frontage uses (such as brew pub, coffee house, with roof terrace) that contribute to the intensity and vibrant street life that characterize successful placemaking.

Municipal Plaza will continue to support special events such as the community Happy Days festival, providing a recognized central gathering space for special events, music performances, art shows and other family-friendly activities.



The Central Anoka County Regional Trail (along the east edge of Municipal Plaza) creates an important north/south public promenade through The COR connecting The Draw, North Commons and the Mississippi Regional Park via the Mississippi Skyway (known as the pedestrian bridge over Highway 10).

# MUNICIPAL PLAZA

*Municipal Plaza is an important component of The COR Public Realm Framework. It is the place to meet, the orientation point for wayfinding in The COR, and the primary gateway connection to other public amenities and attractions nearby. Poised at the crossroads of strong civic presence, residential density, transit options and an expanding variety of retail storefronts, this location brings together all the elements of innovative and sustainable city-building.*



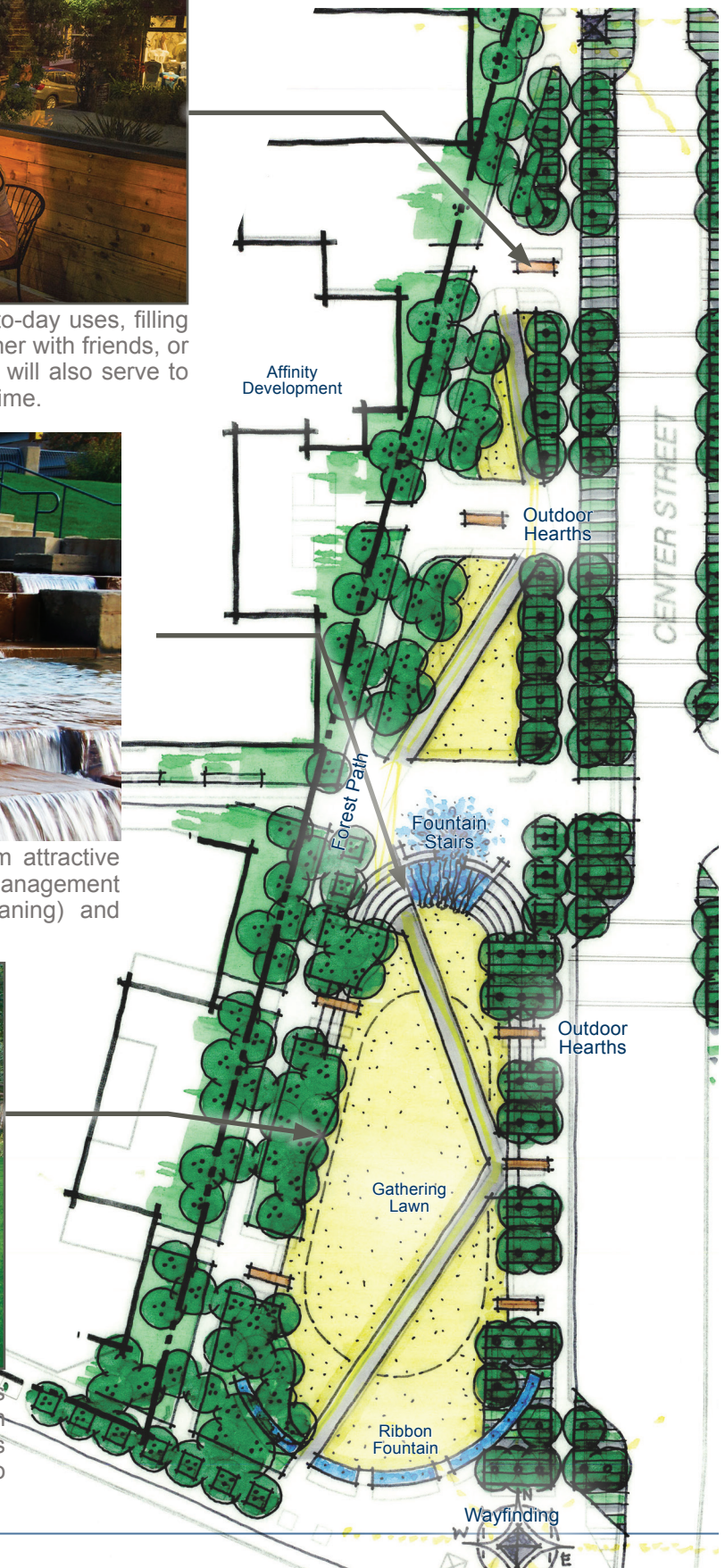
Municipal Plaza will become a magnet for spontaneous day-to-day uses, filling the need for a comfortable place to enjoy a cup of coffee, gather with friends, or otherwise pass the time around the community hearth. This will also serve to extend park hours to encourage evening activities and social time.



Municipal Plaza will incorporate water in various ways, from attractive surface features such as interactive fountains, to stormwater management system components such as infiltration areas (water cleaning) and underground storage vaults for water reuse purposes.



Municipal Plaza will take advantage of subtle level changes and landscape plantings to create a safe buffer/separation from the street and promote a unique character that defines various outdoor spaces and uses, connected by ramps and stairs to ensure universal accessibility.



# CENTER STREET

*A linear park and civic space that expands Municipal Plaza to best accommodate special events.*



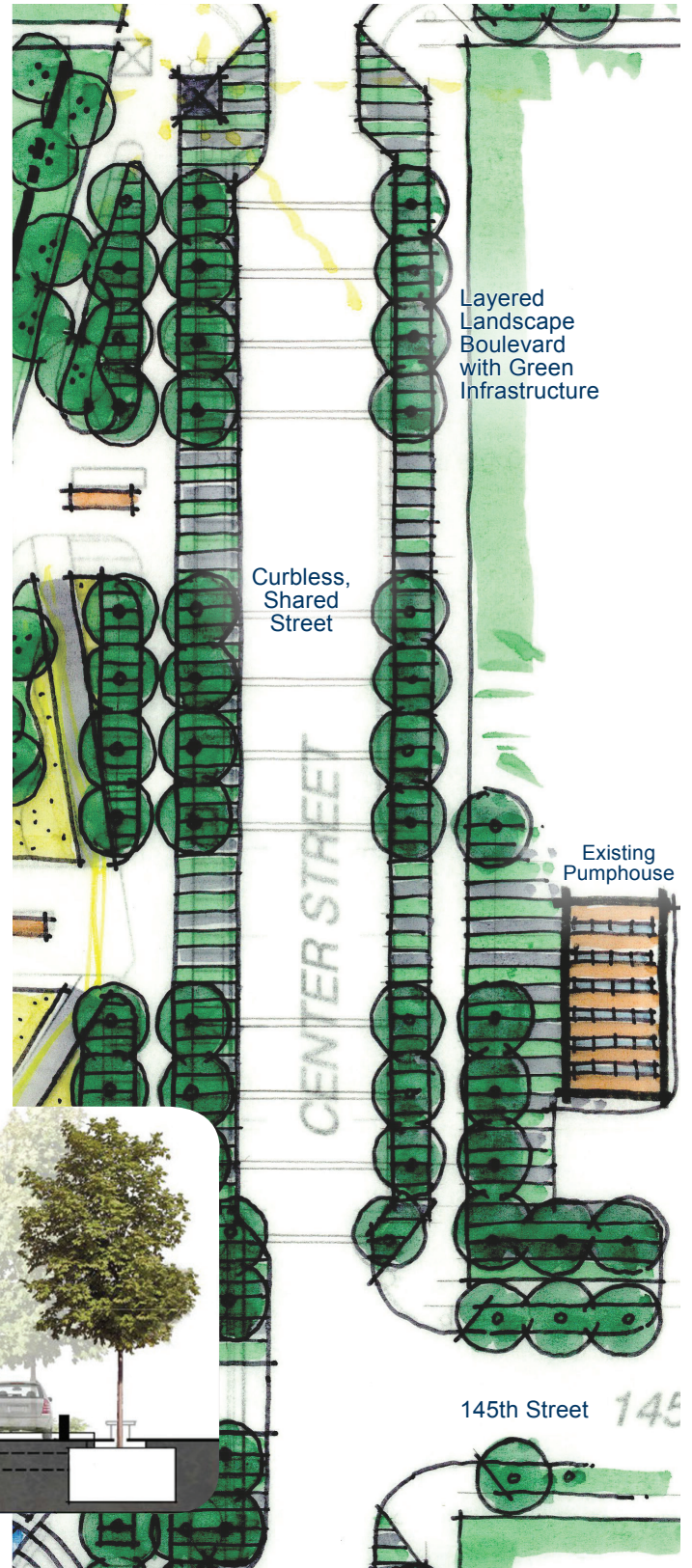
Mixed mode street design promotes 'pedestrian first' amenities.



Additional park uses and activity areas seamlessly blend within street right of way.



Typical street cross section.



Layered Landscape Boulevard with Green Infrastructure

Curbless, Shared Street

Existing Pumphouse

145th Street 145

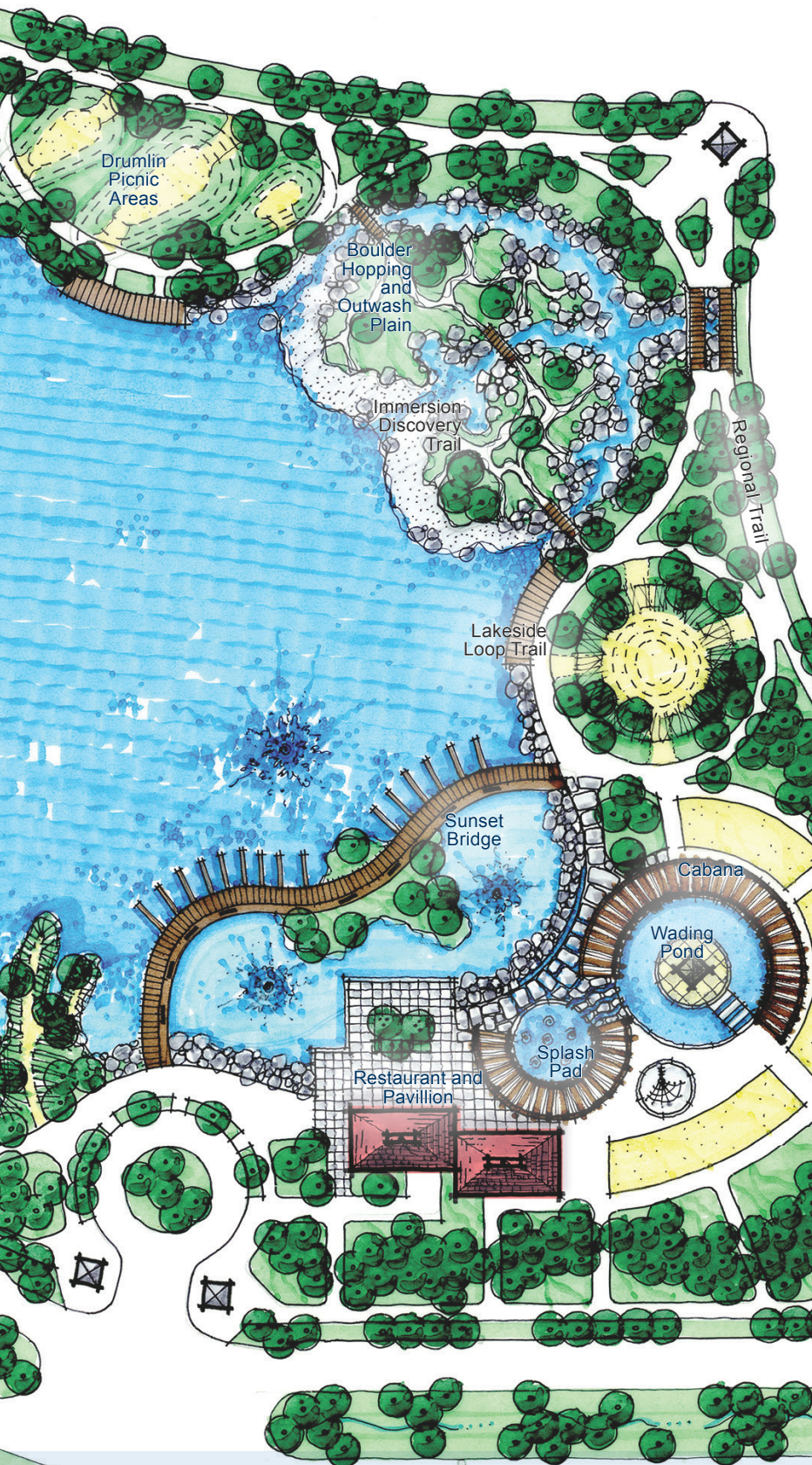


Walkways, paths, boardwalks and benches will be located throughout The Waterfront, promoting universal access to park amenities.

The Water Play Area will also be home to the first waterside concession/restaurant in the City; learning from area examples (such as Tin Fish and Sea Salt in Minneapolis), This exciting opportunity will grow to become a full-service food venue attracting both community residents and a regional audience - as well as providing a local venue for business incubation.

## THE WATERFRONT: WATER PLAY AREA

*As a major new public amenity, The Waterfront will fulfill a list of community-desired objectives related to water-oriented recreational uses within a native/natural landscape that characterizes the entire park. Along with the proposed wading pond and splash pad, additional facilities such as concessions/restaurant building, pavilion, pergola/cabana and other amenities, will further enhance the Water Play Area as a significant community destination.*



The Water Play Area will promote a high level of activity throughout the day, providing places to sit in the shade (beneath the cabana) in proximity to primary play spaces.



The Water Play Area will feature two primary amenities: a concrete-lined wading pond and a multizoned splash pad designed to attract children of all ages and abilities to The COR.



# MULTIPLE INITIATIVES + MEASURABLE BENEFITS

Investing in a system of public parks, trails and open space that support high quality recreational amenities, and promotes other healthy living objectives remains a high priority for the City. Creative approaches to design of public places can positively impact energy consumption, air quality, carbon reduction, property prices, recreation and other elements of community health and vitality that have monetary or other social value. In short, it is this network of connected spaces that attracts private development interest, defines the qualities and character of The COR as a vibrant, dynamic, must-experience local and regional destination that brings measurable triple-bottom-line benefits maximizing the City's return on their investment. Multiple benefits and measurable value as highlighted in this diagram and the brief descriptions below.



## SOCIAL

Improved Quality of Life and Aesthetics - many studies have shown the positive impacts on quality of life in urban areas from improved aesthetics/ people-comforts, increased recreational space, and a connection to the natural environment. This has a direct bearing on increased job satisfaction, lower crime rates, decreased stress and, when combined with transportation improvements that increase walking and biking, significant public health benefits are realized.



## ECONOMIC

Multi-Function Public Space, Green Technology and Increased Property Values – green technologies integrated within public space reduce costs and offset the need to build and maintain additional conventional infrastructure. Well-documented research suggests that proximity to parks, trails and open space amenities at a minimum stabilizes, and in many cases increases, property values. In addition, new technologies and approaches to public space and infrastructure systems have spurred a new wave of job opportunities across the spectrum of design, construction, maintenance and ongoing operations.



## ENVIRONMENTAL

Captured Stormwater, Reduced Pollution and Habitat Creation - strategies to capture and clean stormwater will help reduce system volume, reduce pollutant loadings to area waterways, and increase the level of service of the City's stormwater infrastructure. Integrated approaches to the design of public parks, trails and open space provide opportunities to create multiple-function, natural systems and wildlife habitat; ponds, wetlands and other water-resource related features create and enhance the unique setting and ecological benefit derived from a more innovative approach to public places design.

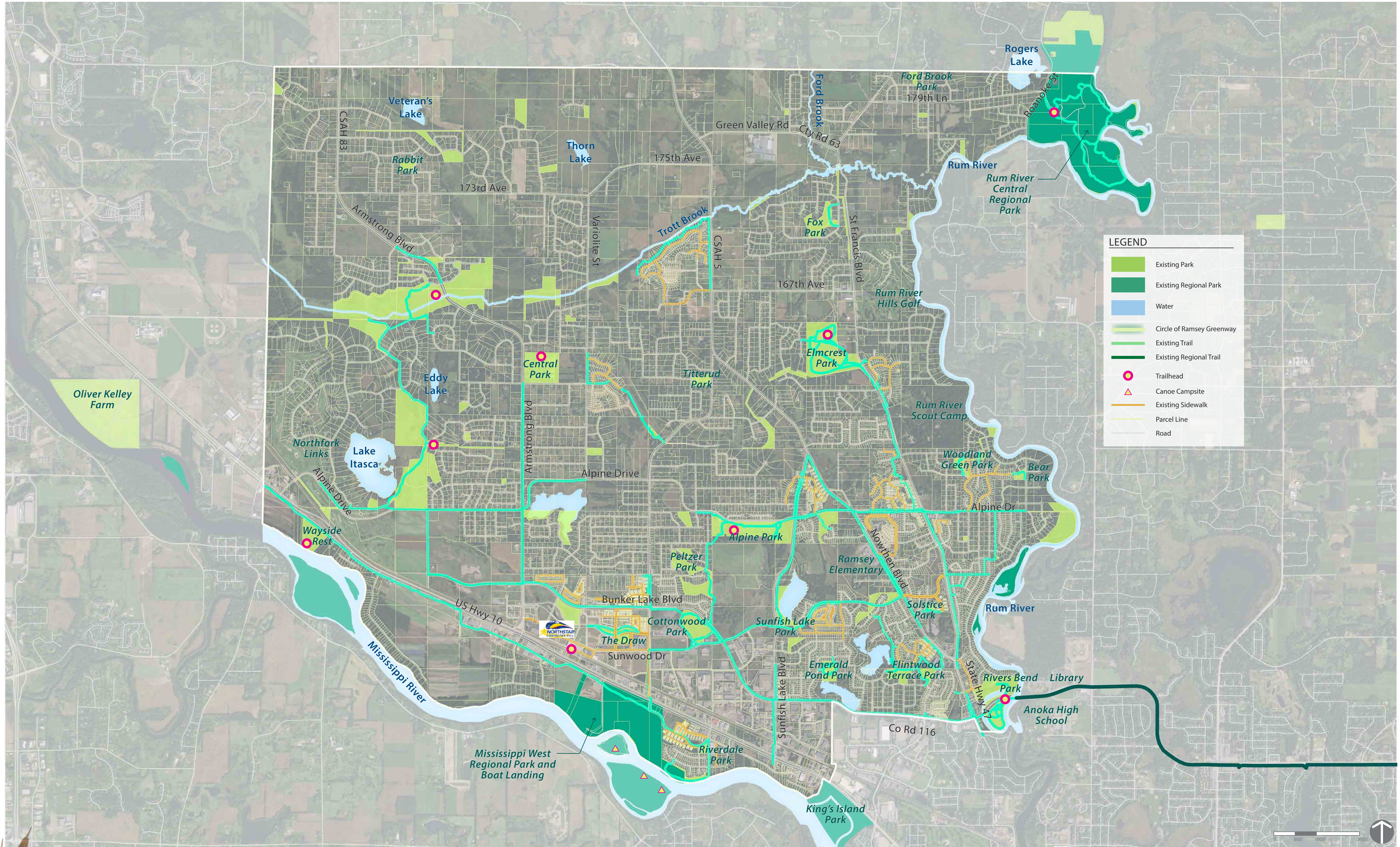


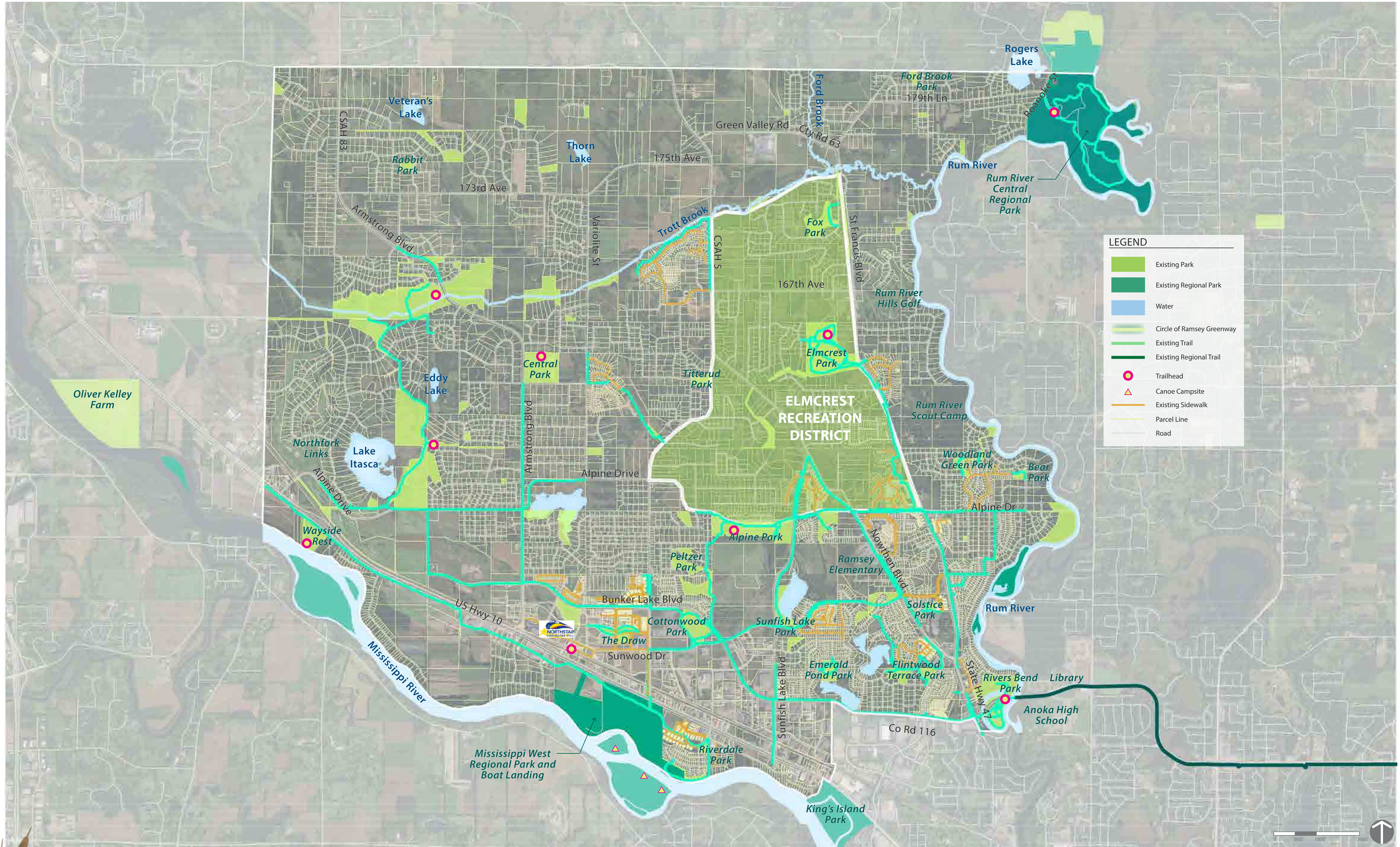
## CONTACT

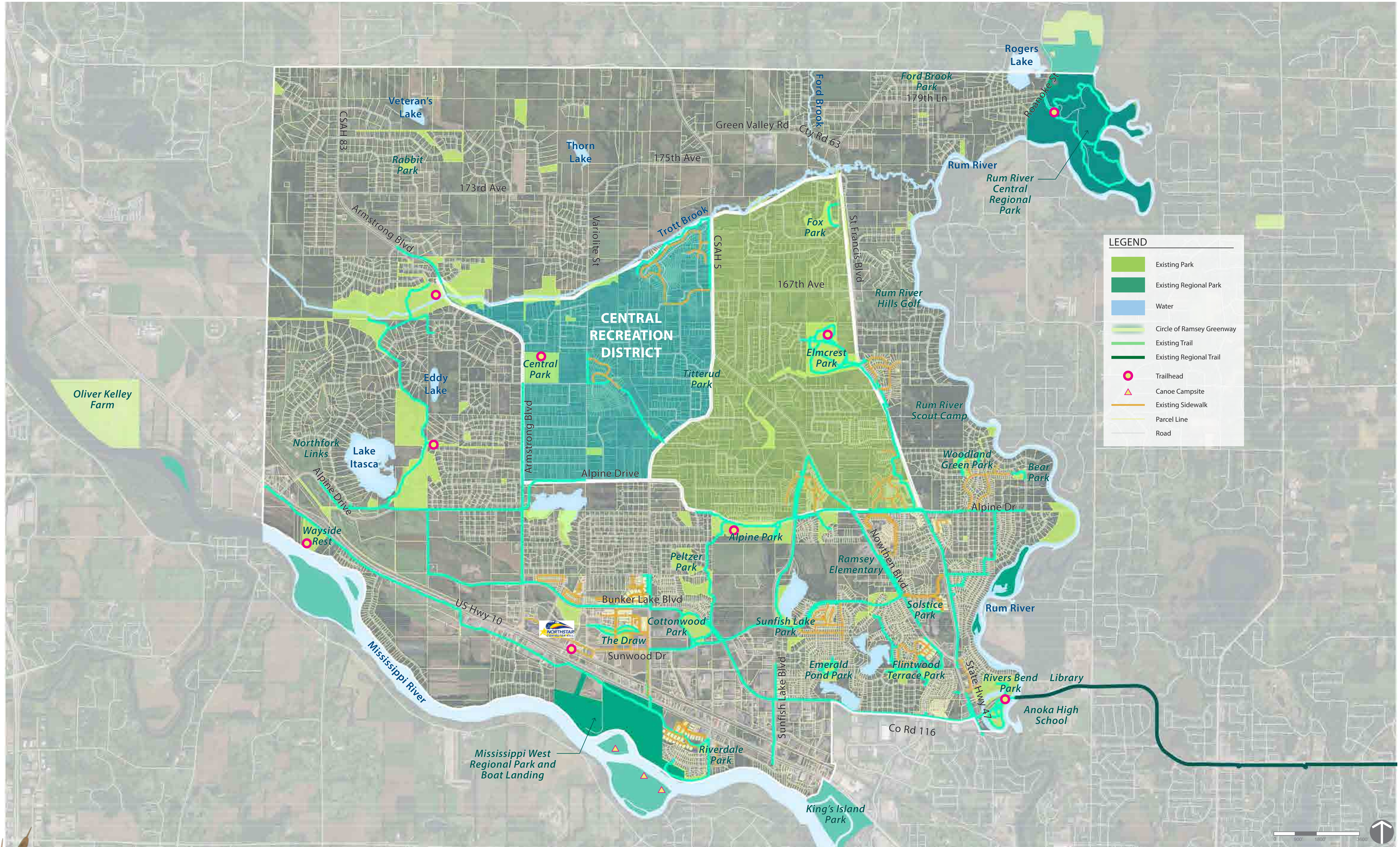
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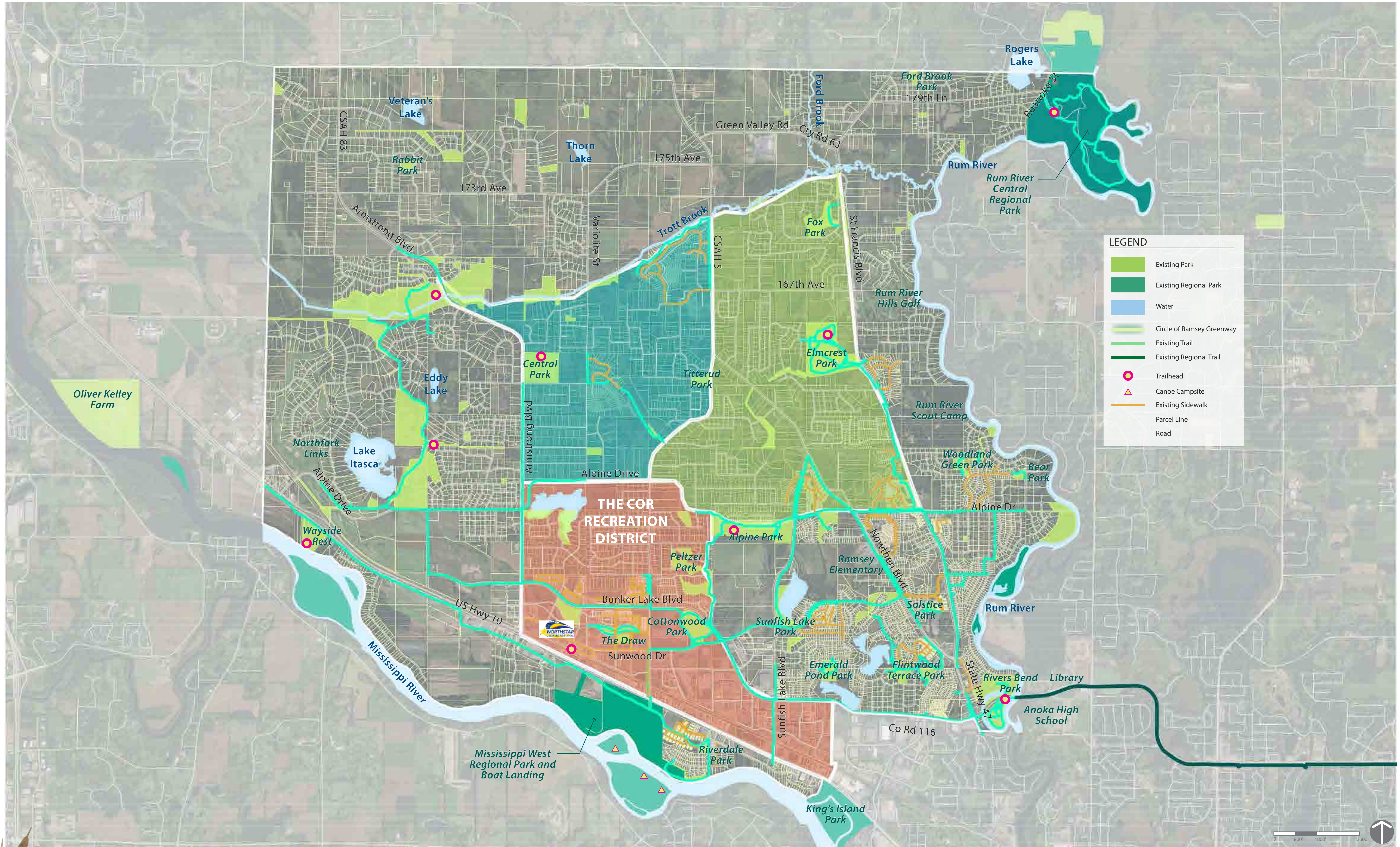


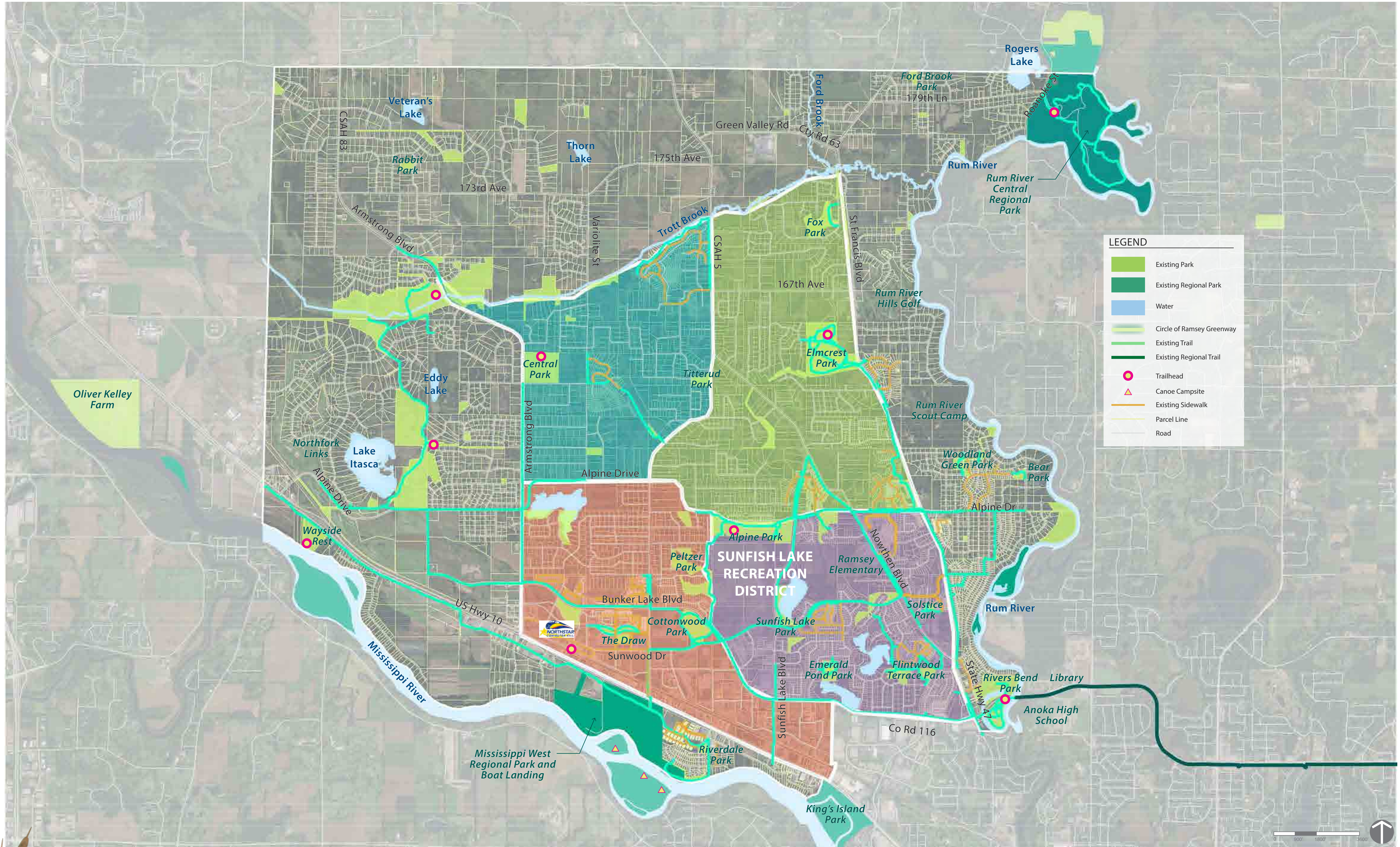


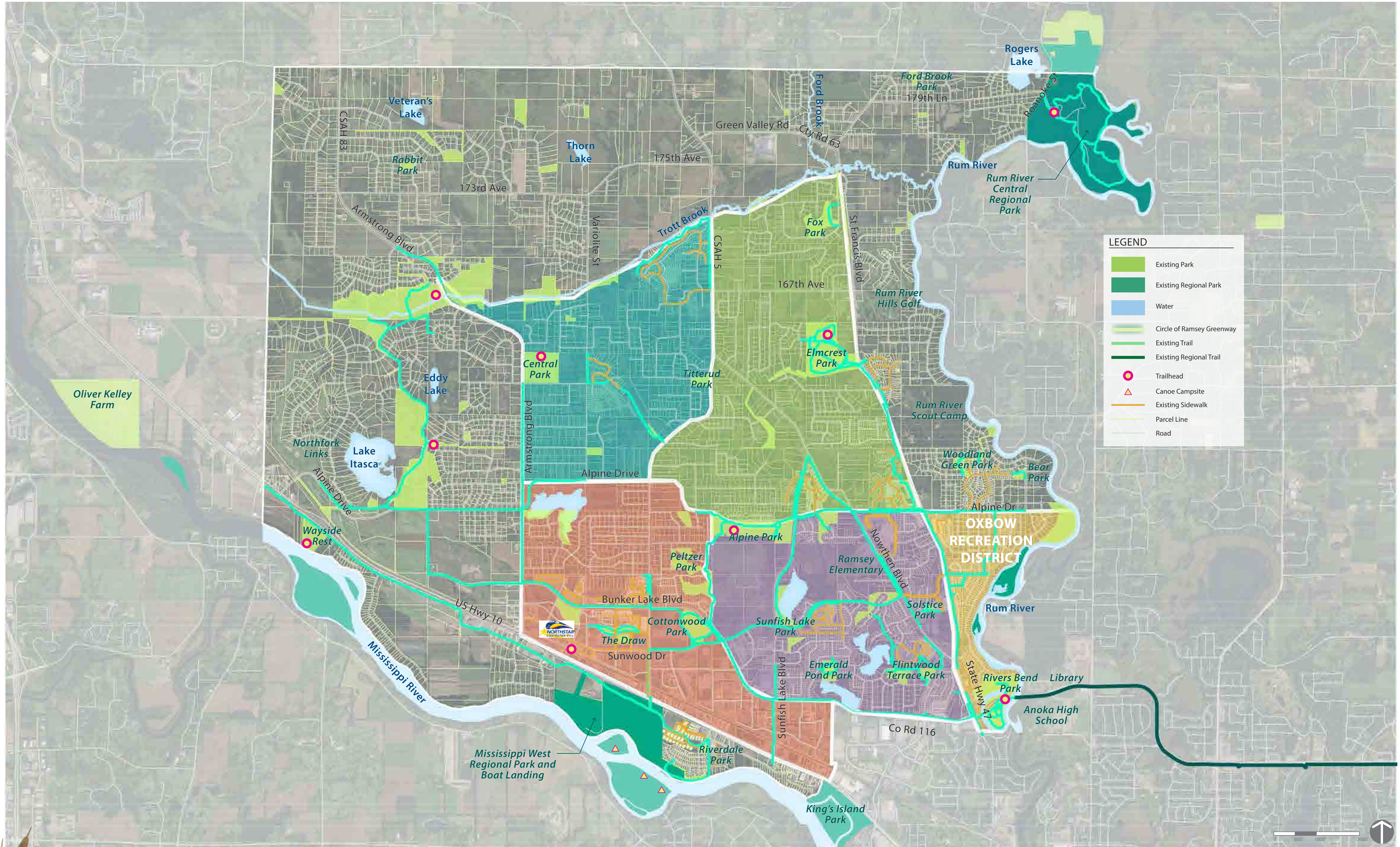






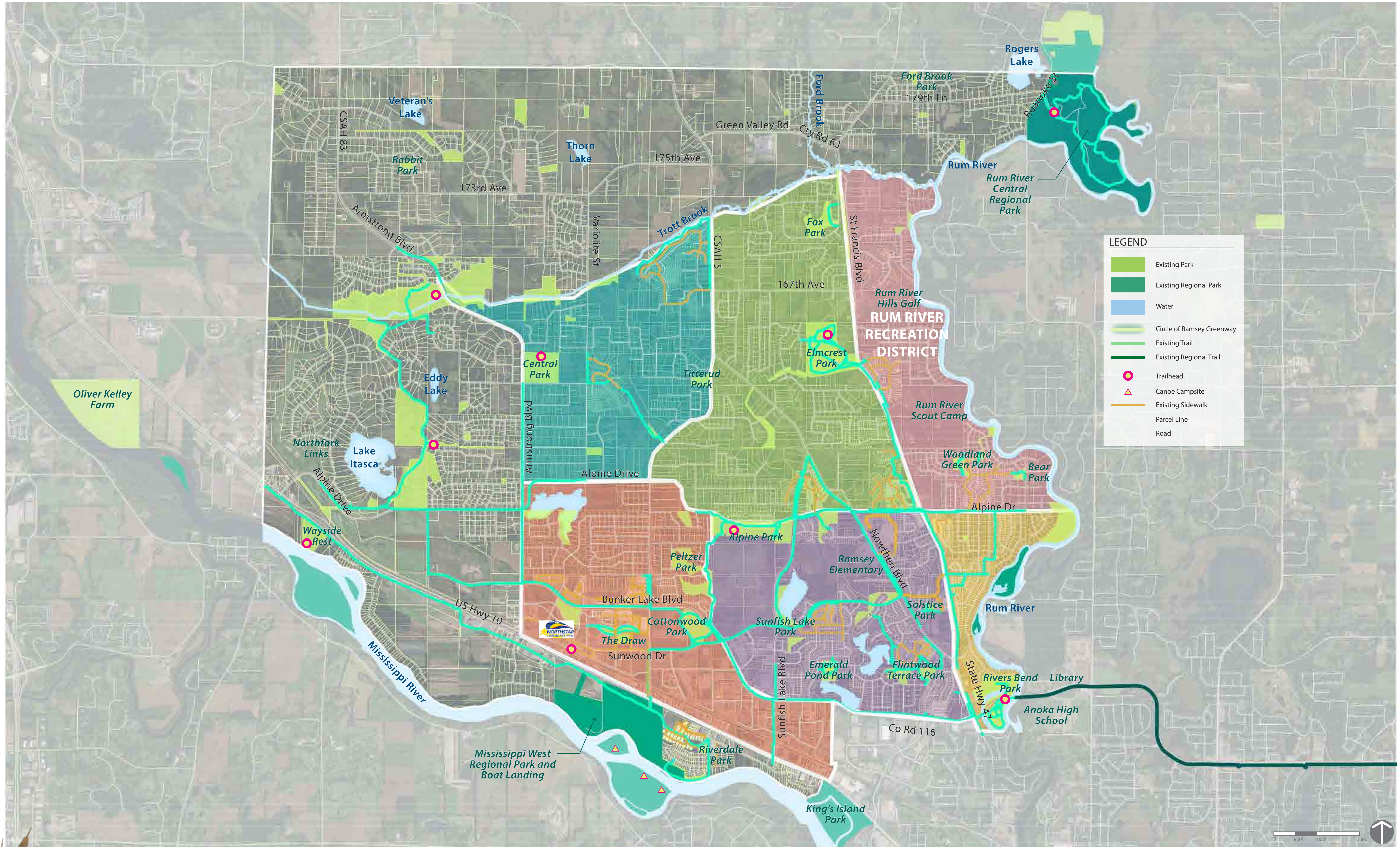






**LEGEND**

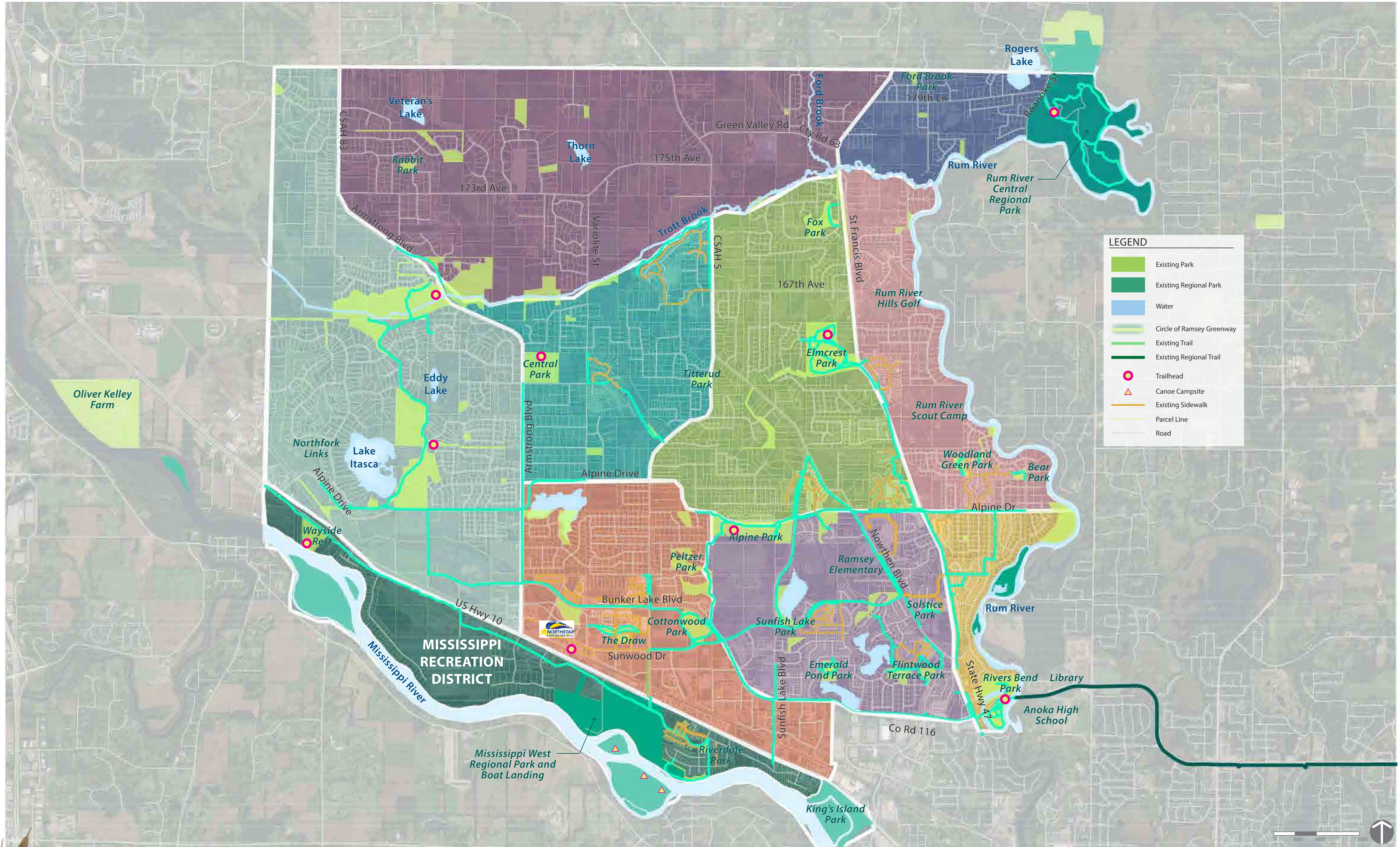
- Existing Park
- Existing Regional Park
- Water
- Circle of Ramsey Greenway
- Existing Trail
- Existing Regional Trail
- Trailhead
- Canoe Campsite
- Existing Sidewalk
- Parcel Line
- Road

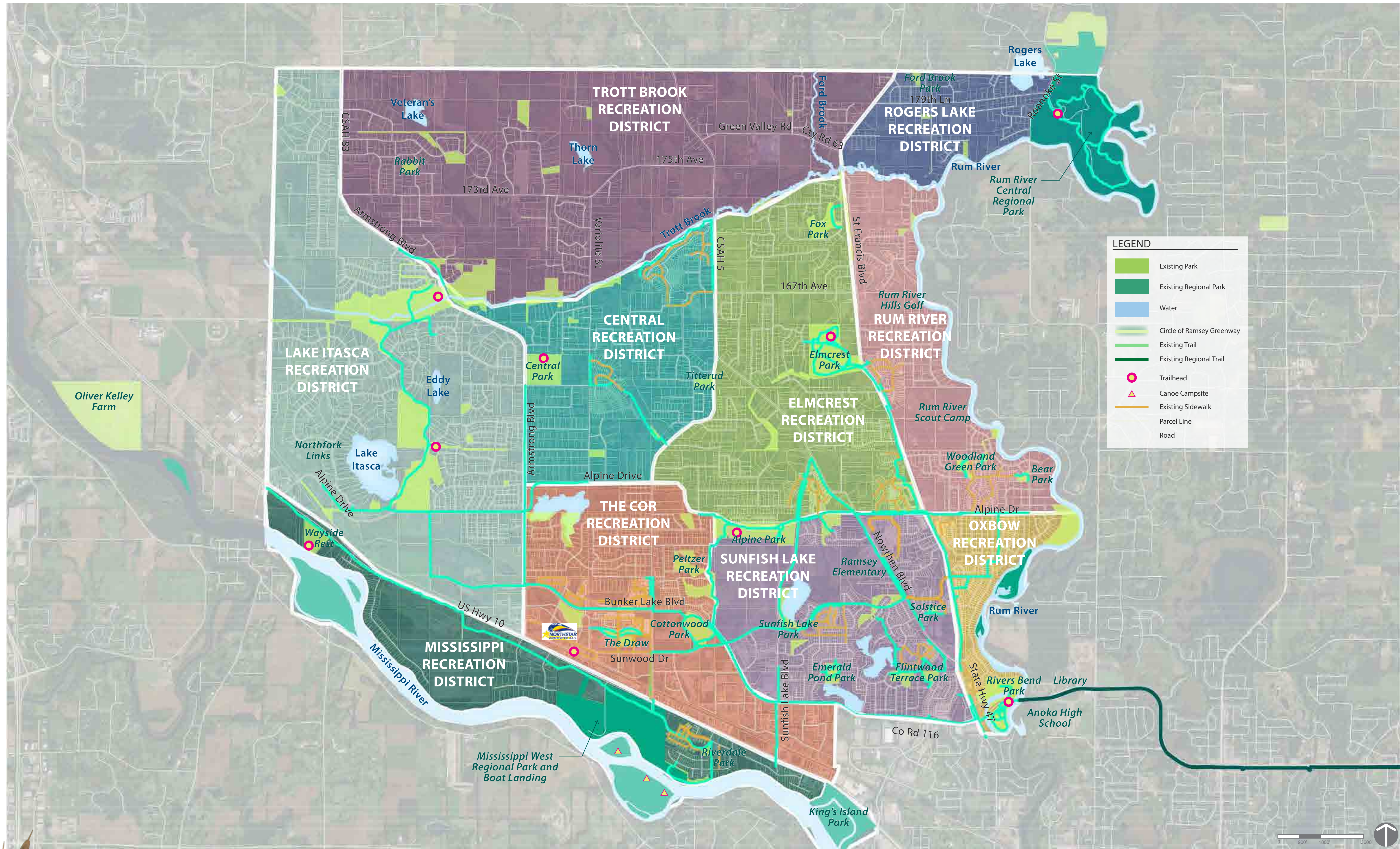


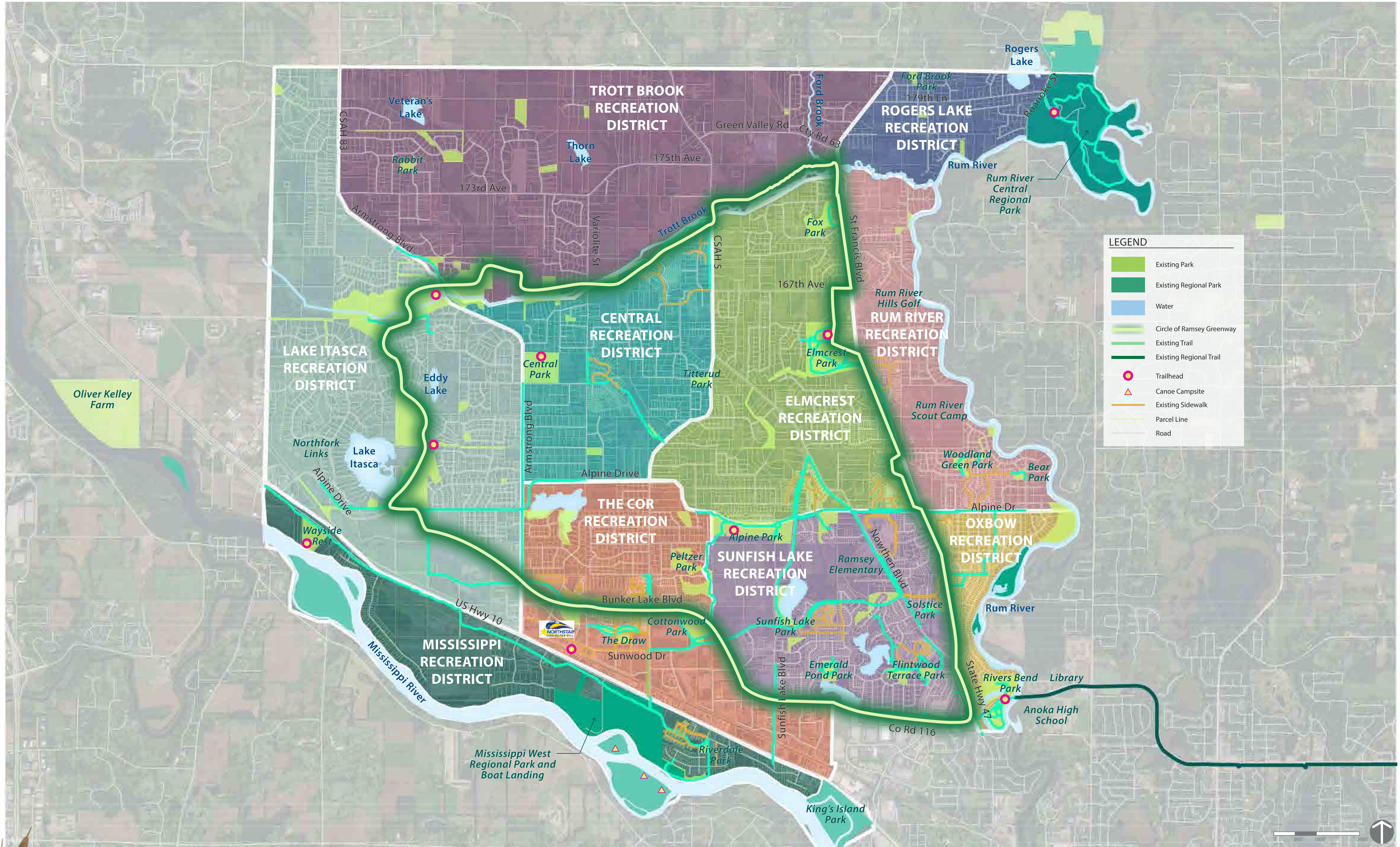


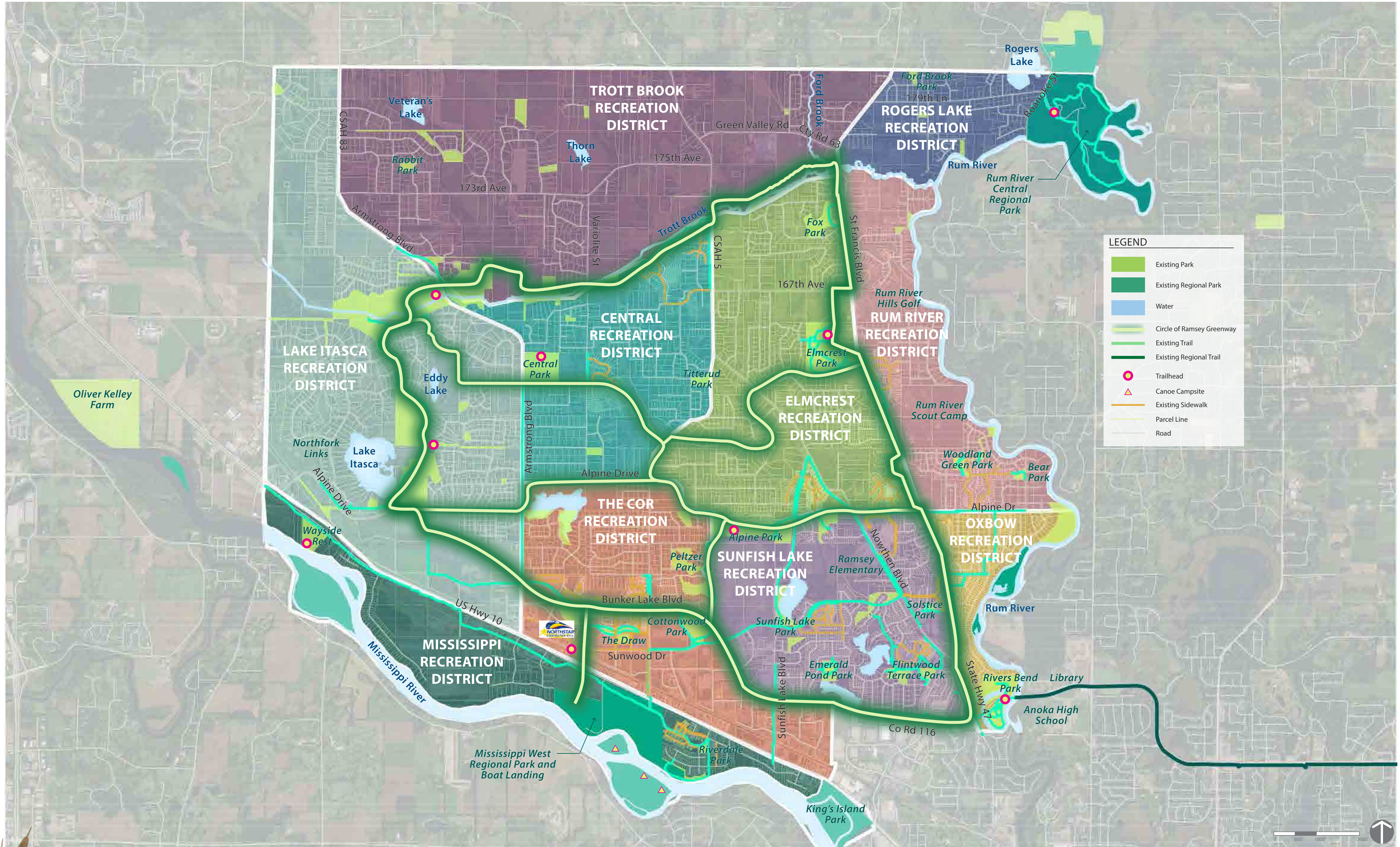


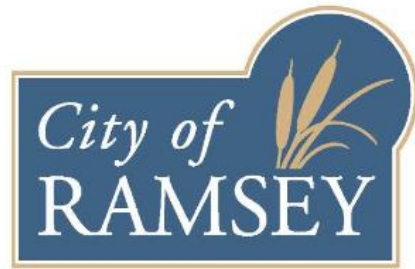












2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

**August 2018 DRAFT**

## Our Mission

It is our mission to work together to responsibly grow our community, and to provide quality, cost-effective, and efficient government services.

## Our Vision

Ramsey will evolve through citizen-driven, collaborative processes that respect the balance and connectivity between its unique urban, rural, and natural environment for current and future generations.

## Strategic Goals

1. A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth Balance
2. An Active Community
3. A Connected Community
4. Smart, Citizen Focused Government
5. Financial Stability

## Core Values for Land Use

These core values carry equal importance. They are not shown in a prioritized list.

- ✓ • Encourage new pedestrian friendly neighborhoods and balanced transportation.
- ✓ • Maintain landowner rights.
- ✓ • Employ careful foresight that involves all citizens in decisions that affect their lives, property, and neighborhoods through collaborative public engagement.
- Nurture neighborhood and community interactions with flexibility to meet future needs without compromising the needs and interests of current residents.
- ✓ • Develop and maintain a well-connected park and public space system for all ages.
- ✓ • Attract and retain businesses that support the whole community.

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## Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies

### A Balance of Rural and Urban Character

- Preserve and enhance continuous open space corridors.
- ✓ • Balance a variety of smaller neighborhood parks and larger community parks.

### An Active Community

- ✓ • Expand opportunities for community recreation programming.
- ✓ • Expand recreation opportunities for aging population.
- ✓ • Ensure equitable access to recreation programs and facilities.

### A Connected Community

- ✓ • Ensure connected regional and local parks and open spaces.
- Coordinated planning efforts across multiple jurisdictions.

### Smart, Citizen-Focused Government

- ✓ • Maximize joint use facilities and recreation opportunities.
- Strengthen relationships with local youth organizations.

### Financial Stability

- ✓ • Prioritize desired recreation amenities with goal for financial stability.