

City of Ramsey
Agenda
Park and Recreation Commission
Thursday, June 13, 2019
6:30 pm
Elmcrest Park, 16303 Quicksilver Street NW
In the event of inclement weather, meeting will move to City Hall

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Citizen Input**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes**
 1. Approve the following meeting minutes.
 1. Park and Recreation Commission meeting dated May 9, 2019.
- 5. Commission Business**
 1. **Recap Listening Session for the Renovation of Ford Brook Park**
 2. **Auxiliary Audio System for The Draw—a 2019 Capital Improvement Project**
- 6. Commission/Staff Input**
- 7. Adjournment**

Park and Recreation Commission

4. 1.

Meeting Date: 06/13/2019

Submitted For: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

By: MaryJo Warner, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Approve the following meeting minutes.

1. Park and Recreation Commission meeting dated May 9, 2019.

Purpose/Background:

Purpose: To review and approve meeting minutes.

Background: Attached are the meeting minutes for review.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

Funding Source:

n/a

Recommendation:

To review and approve meeting minutes dated May 9, 2019.

Action:

Motion to approve meeting minutes dated May 9, 2019.

Attachments

Minutes

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: MaryJo Warner

Final Approval Date: 06/07/2019

Reviewed By

Grant Riemer

Date

06/07/2019 11:07 AM

Started On: 06/07/2019 10:32 AM

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

The Ramsey Park and Recreation Commission conducted a regular meeting on May 9, 2019, at Ford Brook Park, 5459 180th Ave NW.

Commission Members Present: Chair Shane Bennett
 Vice Chair Brandon Sis
 Commissioner Trixy Barnes
 Commissioner Nathan Barten
 Commissioner Russell Bayer
 Commissioner Jennifer Leistico
 Commissioner Jennifer Shoemaker

Commission Members Absent: None

Also Present: Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mark Riverblood

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett welcomed those in attendance.

2. CITIZEN INPUT

This item was considered as part of item 5.01 of the agenda.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

4. APPROVE MINUTES

4.01: Approve Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Leistico, seconded by Commissioner Barten, to approve the April 11, 2019, Park and Rec Commission meeting minutes as presented.

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

5. COMMISSION BUSINESS

5.01: Conduct 'Listening Session' within the neighborhood on proposed renovations for Ford Brook Park

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the purpose of the listening session is to gather information on any and all of the neighborhood's desires for parks and trails, and specifically for Ford Brook Park. He provided the history behind the park and noted the park has been in the CIP for a number of years. It is currently scheduled for some renovations in approximately 2020. The primary purpose tonight is to hear ideas about the park improvements from the neighborhood so the City does not make presumptuous about the playground. He also noted Rum River Central is a regional park, and is about a mile east from Ford Brook. It has a many amenities, including a shelter and a significant play structure. He noted that the Ford Brook equipment was salvaged from the City of Minneapolis a long time ago.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood acknowledged the Mayor LeTourneau is present along with Councilmember Heinrich, along with Nowthen Mayor Jeff Pilon and Nowthen Councilmember Dan Breyen from Nowthen.

An unidentified resident asked whether a proposed budget has been established.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded there is a planning dollar amount in the CIP. However, anything that moves forward has to be approved by the City Council. The project estimate is shown at \$70,000. It has also been suggested that other funding sources may be available due to proximity to Nowthen. Also, there is special program by the MN DNR for park improvements. Traditional playground equipment is exceedingly expensive. It's many tens of thousands of dollars for basic things. Any time public spaces are improved, they need to become ADA compliant. That means pathways along with parking spaces, for example, and that can add many several thousands of dollars just for the ADA elements.

Chair Bennett asked about Elmcrest, which has newer equipment. It has a good mix of equipment and inquired about the cost.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood recalled that the border around the playground as well as the playground itself was \$90,000. That did not include any parking.

An unidentified resident asked if the City of Nowthen has been contacted for partnership opportunities.

Nowthen Mayor Pilon introduced himself, along with Councilmember Dan Breyen.

Nowthen Councilmember Breyen stated Nowthen's Park and Rec Committee discussed this a few years ago.

Nowthen Mayor Pilon concurred this was brought up about three or four years ago. Discussion was held regarding extending the park into Nowthen, in order to help justify Nowthen's expenditures.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood added that staff reached out to the Nowthen Lions, who had expressed some interest in working with the Park Board.

An unidentified resident said this is the same equipment she grew playing on, over 40 years ago. She would like to see every piece of the equipment gone. The equipment has been painted 15-20 times. It would be nice to have all new equipment. Safety concerns were mentioned regarding the concrete pipes.

One unidentified resident has asked for the equipment to be tested for lead. She asked how many layers were tested when the original testing was conducted by the City. She is not clear how many layers deep were tested.

Chair Bennett asked whether there is a big enough safety concern that the equipment should be removed right now, and it would be a blank space until improvements 2020. Safety is his number 1 concern. If the neighborhood feels that concerned about safety, perhaps that is a real alternative.

One unidentified resident said new families are moving into these homes, and so it would be important to have a space for the kids to get together. A promise from the City would be needed.

One unidentified resident stated he can hear the kids playing and enjoying the park. Kids bike here and having a good time.

Chair Bennett asked for specifics for the previous lead testing.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood responded the City scraped paint and it was sent out for testing. Lead contamination would have shown up, given the vigorosness of the testing. He noted that falling on a sidewalk or concrete steps at a park would be no different than falling anywhere else. It is safe, though it is tired and merits replacement.

An unidentified resident asked about people with access to machines who would be willing to help tear things out free of charge.

Several residents mentioned it is difficult to watch other neighborhoods get new play equipment when Ford Brook receives nothing.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated the new playgrounds are usually associated with new subdivisions, which are required to pay a substantial fee to the Park Trust Fund for every new home. The new playgrounds are almost never paid for by tax dollars, but are fees collected from developers.

Chair Bennett noted that is a challenge of the Park and Rec Commission. The question is how to get on a plan to address aging equipment. There is a strategy adopted to focus on the larger regional parks and to build connectivity over time. The smaller “pocket” parks like Ford Brook are hard and costly to maintain, and they are not utilized by everyone either. There are a lot of factors. He commended the neighbors for coming out to voice their concerns. That makes him want to be committed to getting this project done.

Councilmember Nadine Heinrich stated this is something that residents told her when she door-knocked this summer. Residents have also told her about the prior advocacy for this park; thus, this park is a priority for her. The great collaboration that is happening here is exciting. Decisions need to be made on the cement safety piece. She thanked Commission members for coming out to the park and interacting with the site and the residents. She also thanked the City of Nowthen for its willingness to collaborate. She asked the residents’ opinion on considering something different for this park. Walking trails have been mentioned through Nowthen and through this space. Should this also be something different and unique? Should something more nature-based be considered? There are other things that can be done with the space that could lower the cost but still make it functional for children from infancy to teenagers. She recently visited the Kansas City Science Museum, where there is a simple flat wooden surface with many levels. There were a number of people playing on this simple structure. She was also in Washington, DC, and saw the structure that you walk under. There are unique things that promote imaginative play. She asked for resident feedback.

An unidentified resident stated they don’t expect to have a several-story high play equipment -- just some updated traditional play equipment.

An unidentified resident added that the wooden structure would be a great alternative to the concrete pipes. There are so many things they could imagine.

An unidentified resident asked about the brainstorming process.

Chair Bennett stated when Elmcrest was constructed, a session was conducted just like this. Multiple vendors came in, and the community came in, and everyone looked at the different play structures. Ultimately, the Park and Rec Commission will approve a plan and send it to the Council City for final approval and execution.

An unidentified resident stated a partnership with the City of Nowthen would be wonderful.

Nowthen Councilmember Breyen stated Nowthen has installed a park with the Lions, with much volunteer support in the community as well.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood commented this is a good segue to the next steps. Regarding Elmcrest, a detailed RFP was developed. That process lends itself very well to deciding what has to be done by professionals, and what can be aided by volunteer partnerships. There is an opportunity to be part of the evaluation process of the RFP’s.

An unidentified resident asked how residents will be informed about upcoming meetings.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated there are comment cards available tonight, and he encouraged everyone to complete those cards with contact information. For tonight's meeting, a flyer was sent out to 75 homes. If people can submit contact information, then a group email list can be built, so there does not have to be a mailer ahead of time, which can be a bit of a laborious, and costly process.

Multiple residents stated walking and/or biking trails would be very welcome.

Several unidentified residents stated that maintaining the neighborhood park would be important. The fact that there are parks within a mile is nice, but that does not replace the importance of this neighborhood park.

Several residents expressed support for staying committed to the park and not letting it go.

It was agreed that the community support expressed for the park improvements will help keep it front of mind.

One unidentified resident asked about a timeline.

Chair Bennett responded that these things do not always follow the stated timeline. He stated it could be in the plan in 2020, but it could be earlier or later. The RFP process can be lengthy. Adding in volunteer elements can add more time.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood again encouraged the participants to complete the comment cards so they can be on the email list for updates.

Chari Bennett thanked the Mayors and Councilmembers for attending from Ramsey and Nowthen. His biggest takeaway is the residents' passion for the park. He asked if a motion is in order.

Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent Riverblood stated there is a good consensus input. He proposed that staff organize the thoughts in bullet point fashion, identify what collaborative efforts might exist, and map out a timeline that would deliver a project for early in 2020. He would also like to look at the National Night Out in August 2020, and that could potentially serve as the ribbon-cutting.

6. COMMISSION/STAFF INPUT

There was no Commission/staff input.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Sis, seconded by Commissioner Leistico, to adjourn the meeting.

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

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Riverblood
Parks & Assistant Public Works Superintendent

Drafted by Allison Burr
TimeSaver off Site Secretarial, Inc.

Meeting Date: 06/13/2019

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Recap Listening Session for the Renovation of Ford Brook Park

Purpose/Background:

The purpose of this case is to recap and summarize feedback from the neighbors of Ford Brook Park, on their thoughts on a proposed 'renovation' for the park—attached is a summary of comments gathered at the meeting (to supplement the May meeting minutes).

Text from the May 9th agenda:

"Some of the existing play equipment (small jungle gym, overhead ladder, slide and swing) were salvaged in the 1970's from a previous use and installed at Ford Brook, following the subdivision's development. Additionally, the playground surface (pea gravel) and border, together with the concrete climber/tube 'snake' were installed by city staff in the late 1980's. The playground should be considered for replacement, and to bring it into compliance with both the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and the Consumer Products Safety Commission CPSC guideline's for playground safety. Accordingly, this project has been identified with the Park's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for several years, and presently shown in 2020."

Notification:

The attached flyer was mailed to the larger neighborhood (approximately 74 homes) around the park (Ramsey and Nowthen) inviting their comments, ideas and observations on the park.

Observations/Alternatives:

For this June 2019 Commission discussion, staff requests Commission acknowledgement on the attached feedback, together with additions as may be discussed.

Text from the May 9th agenda:

"It should be noted that the Rum River Central Regional Park is about a mile to the east at the intersection of CSAH #27 and CSAH #7 and has many amenities, including a fairly elaborate modern playstructure.

One unique feature of this neighborhood park in Ramsey (Ford Brook), is that it's northern border is the City of Nowthen, and includes approximately 19 Nowthen homes within proximity to Ford Brook. For this reason, Staff has previously extended an informal invitation to the Nowthen Lions and the City of Nowthen to consider the renovation of the park as a cross-border community project.

Attached is a site location map, and also pictures of existing conditions at Ford Brook."

Funding Source:

Discussing improvements for the park at this time does not obligate any funding per se, rather, it may help inform any decision on the return on investment replacing the playground equipment may yield.

There may be multiple funding sources at the time funding is authorized (construction), however the primary funding source is anticipated to be Ramsey's Capital Maintenance Fund, (formerly known as the Park Maintenance Fund).

Recommendation:

Staff recommends a discussion on feedback from residents, and prioritizing their thoughts and ideas for Ford Brook Park, and potentially developing and issuing an RFP for playground and related improvements at Ford Brook, while exploring partnerships for this project in 2019, for construction in 2020.

Action:

Based upon discussion, provide staff with planning direction on the disposition, character, and implementation of the 2020 Capital Improvement Plan, which projects some manner of playground replacement at Ford Brook Park.

Attachments

[May 9th feedback](#)

[Listening Session Flyer](#)

[project page from CIP](#)

[Existing conditions](#)

[Circle of Ramsey Greenway](#)

[Park and Trail User Map](#)

[Ford Brook proximity to Rum Central](#)

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 06/07/2019

Reviewed By

Grant Riemer

Date

06/07/2019 11:09 AM

Started On: 06/07/2019 10:32 AM

Ford Brook Park Listening Session
9 May 2019

Comments

- **Jackie:**
- Need/Replace
 - Baby Swing
 - Tire Swing
 - New Slide
 - Tunnel/Jungle Gym
 - Monkey bars
 - Creative play centers
 - Path from street to park

- **Joy:**
- Collaboration can be made to make this park 'new'. There are numerous families that use this park

- **Evan & Kelsey:**
- Any concrete work, I work for a family owned union company: North County Concrete
- Also using recycled materials

- **Steve:**
Willing to help with assembly

- **Nigel:**
- Swings
- Slide
- Rock Climbing

- **Jennifer:**
I would really like to see the current playground equipment completely replaced.
- We would like to see new playground equipment installed.

All Comments

- Need/Replace
 - Baby Swing
 - Tire Swing
 - New Slide
 - Tunnel/Jungle Gym
 - Monkey bars
 - Creative play centers
 - Path from street to park
- Collaboration can be made to make this park 'new'. There are numerous families that use this park
- Any concrete work, I work for a family owned union company:
North County Concrete
- Also using recycled materials
- Willing to help with assembly
- Swings
- Slide
- Rock Climbing
- I would really like to see the current playground equipment completely replaced.
- We would like to see new playground equipment installed.



Join the City of Ramsey for a
**Neighborhood
Listening Session**
at Ford Brook Park
Thursday, May 9, 2019
at 6:30 pm

at Ford Brook Park,
5459 180th Avenue in Ramsey

Share what amenities you'd like considered in the renovation.
In the event of inclement weather, this meeting will be moved
to City Hall.

Ford Brook Park Listening Session

Capital Improvement Program

2019 *thru* 2028

City of Ramsey, Minnesota

Project # 04-PARK-006
 Project Name Ford Brook Park Playground Equipment

Department Park Improvements
 Contact Unassigned
 Type Improvement
 Useful Life 20 Years
 Category Park Improvement
 Priority 4-New Addition (Med)
 Status Active

Description Total Cost \$70,000
 Ford Brook Park is north of CR 27, east of TH 47 and borders Nowthen. The new playground would be within walking distance of about 100 existing homes.

Justification
 The City has remained on a schedule of replacing existing play structures with ones that meet the Consumer Products Safety Commission guidelines for safety. This also results in a contemporary playground with more play value. City of Nowthen may be asked to participate financially.

Expenditures	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Improvements Other than Building Cost		70,000									70,000
Total		70,000									70,000

Funding Sources	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Lawful Gambling Fund		50,000									50,000
City of Nowthen		20,000									20,000
Total		70,000									70,000

Note (from page 8 of the 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan):

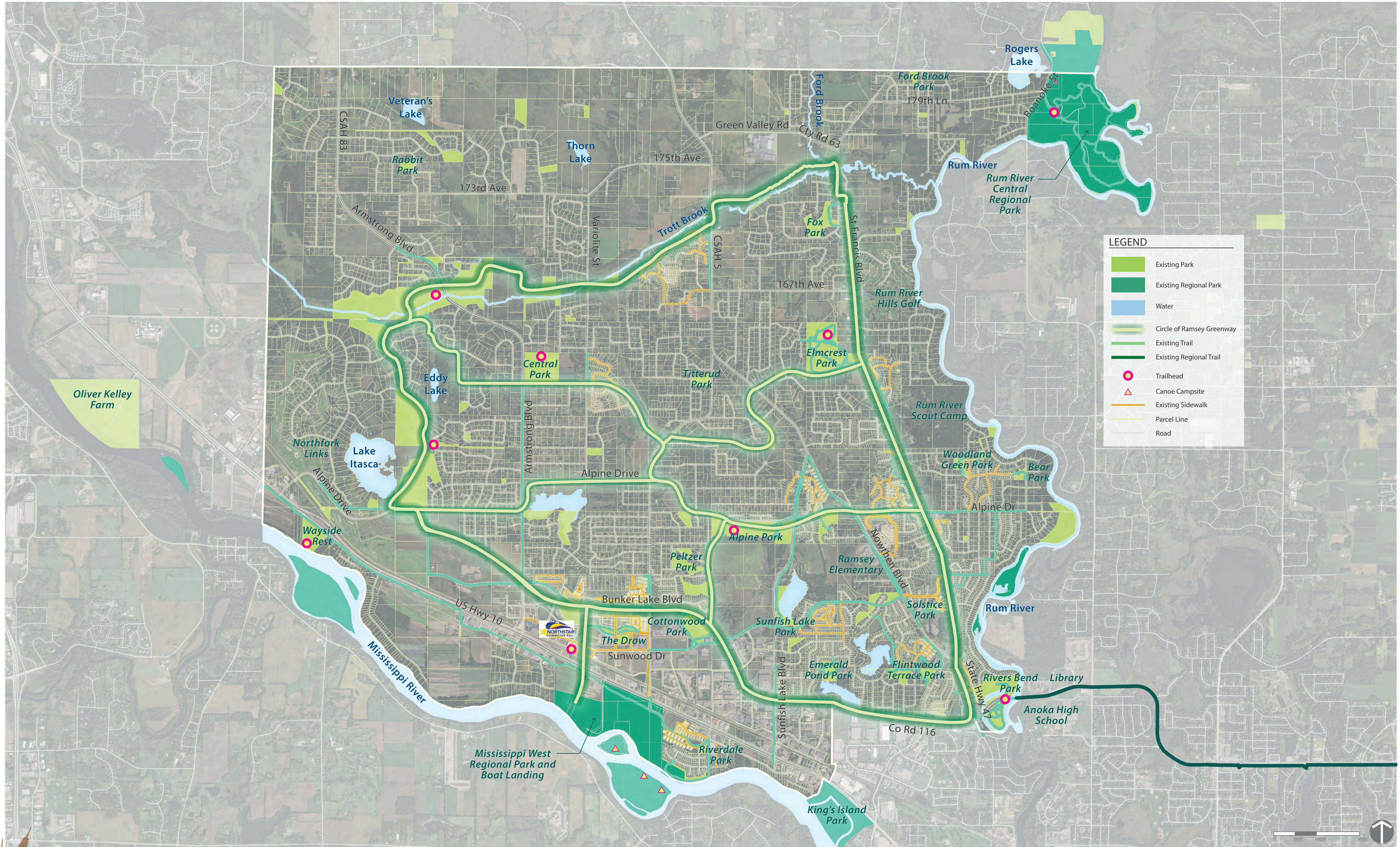
Approval of the CIP by Council does not authorize spending or initiation of a given project. It does, however, provide a guide for the community for a whole array of private and public decision-making, impacted by public capital expenditures. Therefore, the CIP should receive ratification only if the Council perceives actions contemplated within the plan as reasonable and planned within justified time frames. It shall further be noted that initial project design of public infrastructure projects identified within this plan often begins two years or more prior to the date of construction.

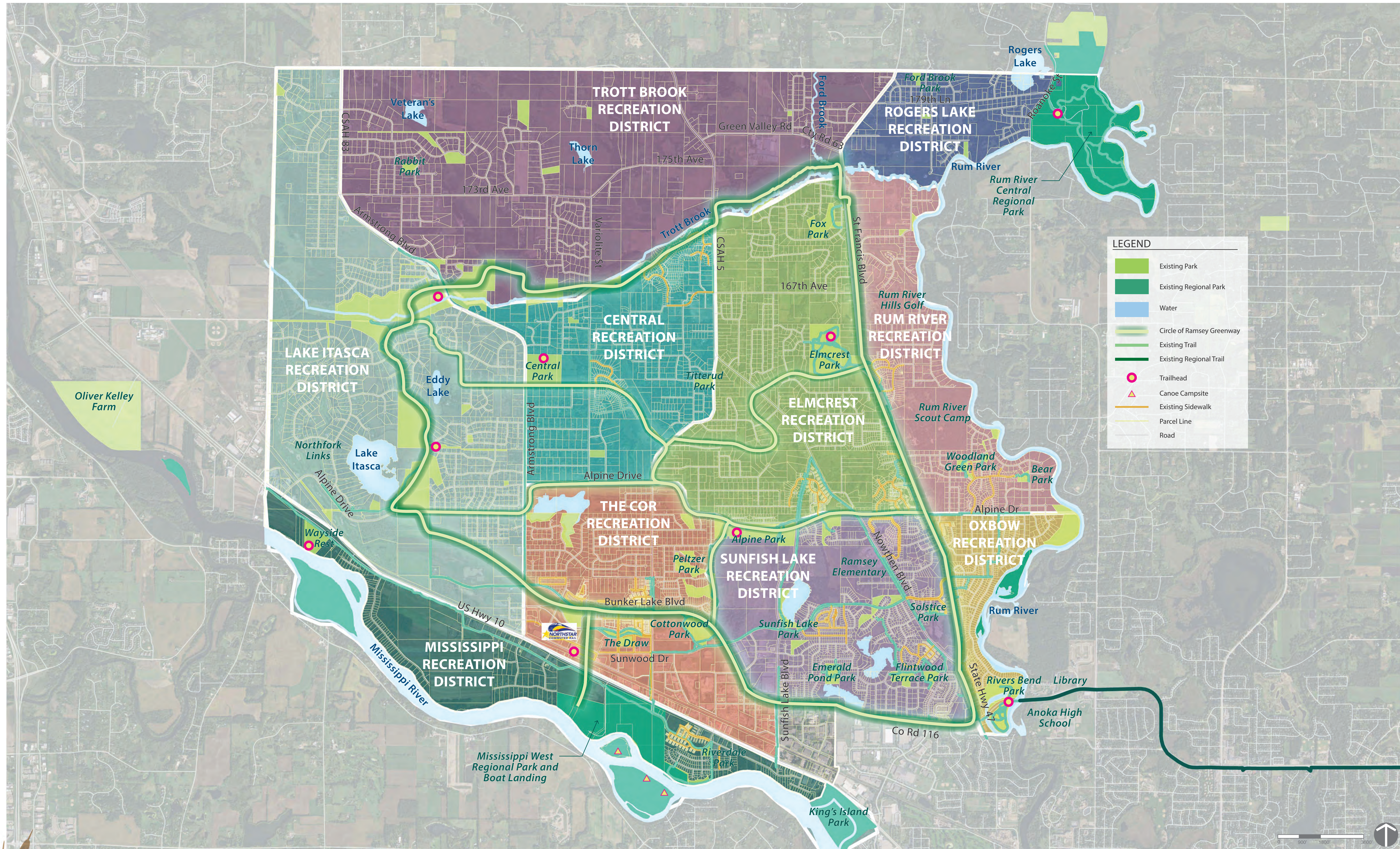
Ford Brook Park (a.k.a Snake Park)



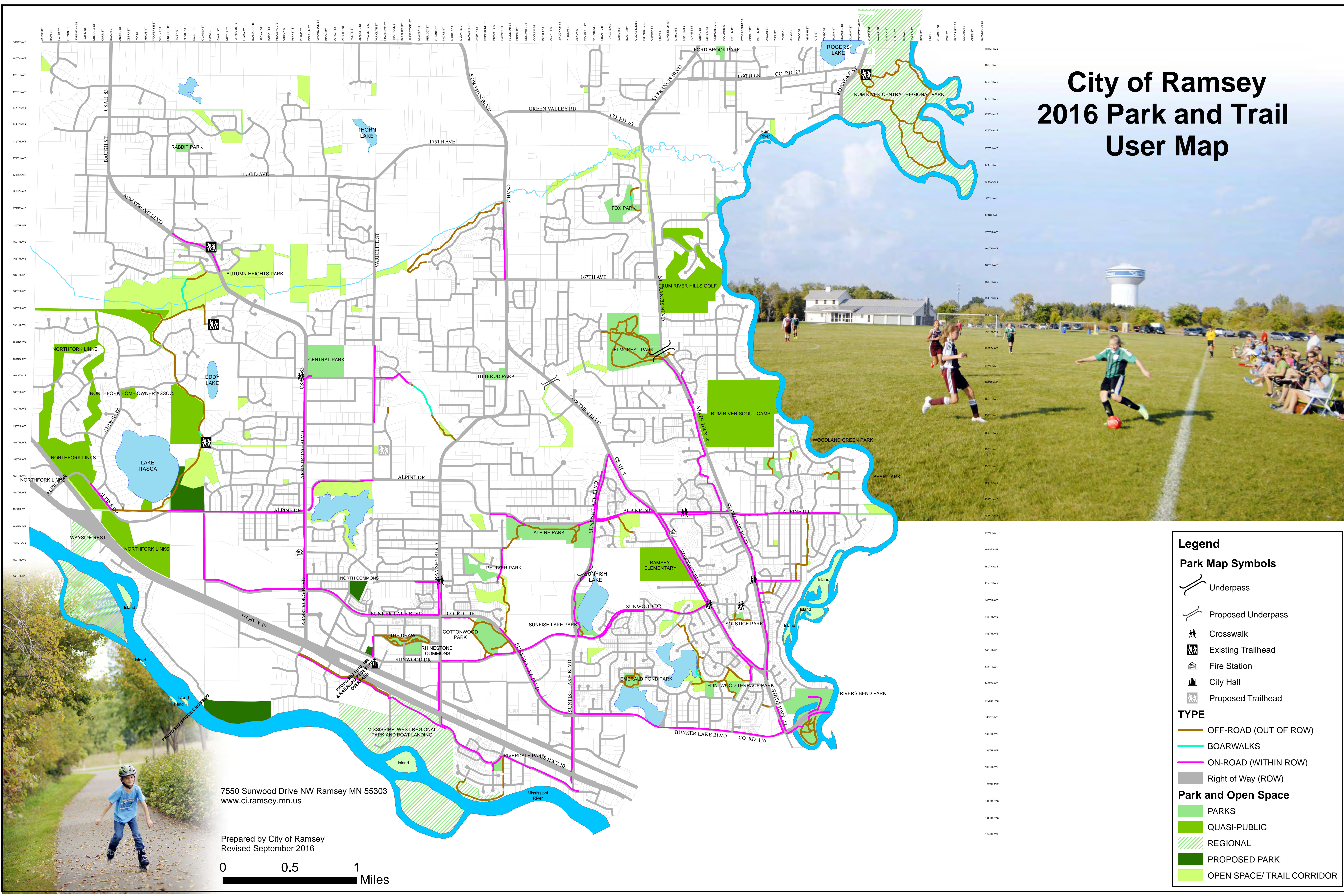








City of Ramsey 2016 Park and Trail User Map



7550 Sunwood Drive NW Ramsey MN 55303
www.ci.ramsey.mn.us

Prepared by City of Ramsey
Revised September 2016

0 0.5 1 Miles

Legend

Park Map Symbols

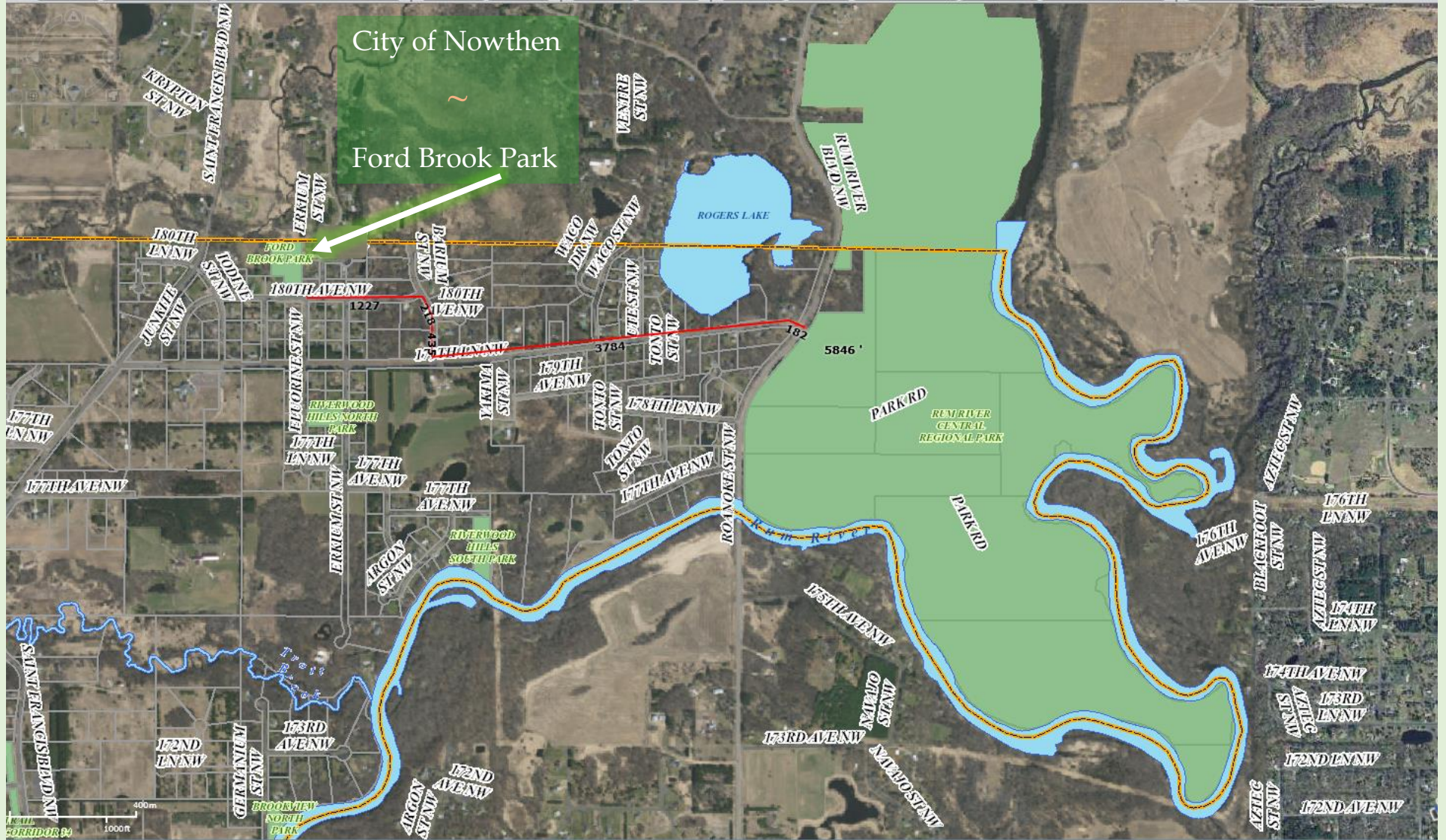
- Underpass
- Proposed Underpass
- Crosswalk
- Existing Trailhead
- Fire Station
- City Hall
- Proposed Trailhead

TYPE

- OFF-ROAD (OUT OF ROW)
- BOARDWALKS
- ON-ROAD (WITHIN ROW)
- Right of Way (ROW)

Park and Open Space

- PARKS
- QUASI-PUBLIC
- REGIONAL
- PROPOSED PARK
- OPEN SPACE/ TRAIL CORRIDOR



Ford Brook Park and Rum River Central Regional Park – 5,850' feet to the West

Park and Recreation Commission

5. 2.

Meeting Date: 06/13/2019

By: Mark Riverblood, Engineering/Public Works

Information

Title:

Auxiliary Audio System for The Draw—a 2019 Capital Improvement Project

Purpose/Background:

One of the proposed 2019 Park's Capital Improvements would be auxiliary audio for the amphitheater.

Staff is working on project scope, and may have a proposal for the Commission to forward for City Council's consideration.

Notification:

Observations/Alternatives:

The attached CIP worksheet page has additional detail on this proposed project.

Funding Source:

Funding for this proposed improvement(s) would be from the Park Trust Fund.

The entire approved Capital Improvement Plan is on the City's website:

<https://www.ci.ramsey.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/1977/FINAL-Capital-Improvement-Plan-2019-2028-PDF?bidId=>

Recommendation:

Staff is attempting to have a quote or estimate available at the meeting.

Action:

Based upon discussion.

Attachments

page from 2019 CIP

Form Review

Inbox

Grant Riemer

Form Started By: Mark Riverblood

Final Approval Date: 06/07/2019

Reviewed By

Grant Riemer

Date

06/07/2019 01:06 PM

Started On: 06/07/2019 11:03 AM

