Preliminary Draft
Mississippi River Greenway
Long Range Plan

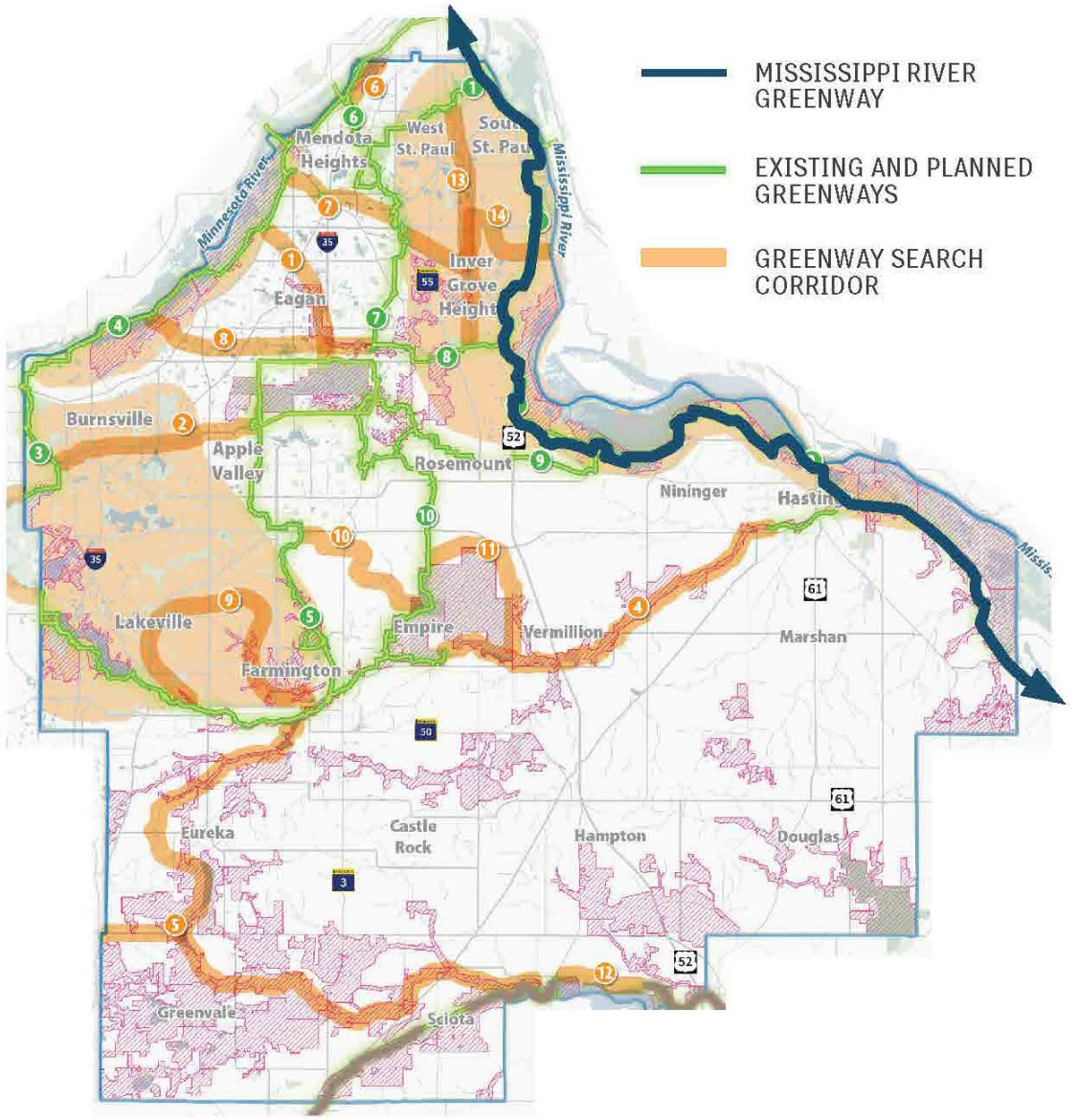
Draft Plan Overview and Concepts

Dakota County Planning Commission 10/22/26

Dakota COUNTY

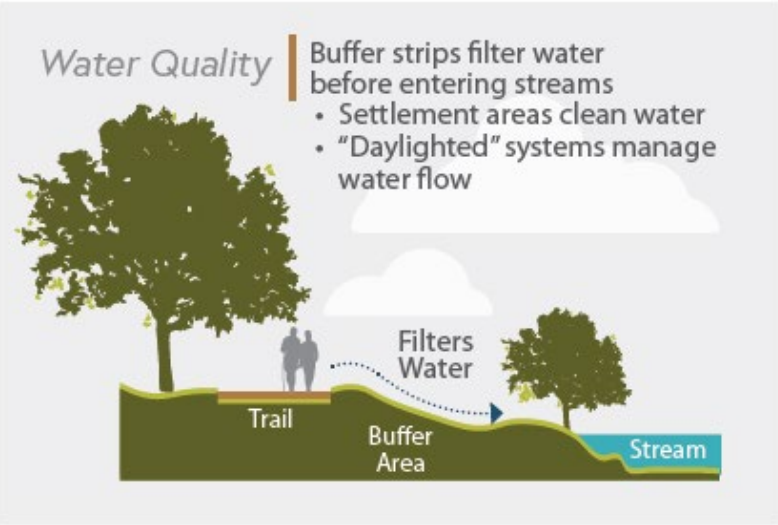
Mississippi River Greenway – Long Range Plan

Dakota County Planning Commission 10/22/26



Greenway Vision

Vision Elements





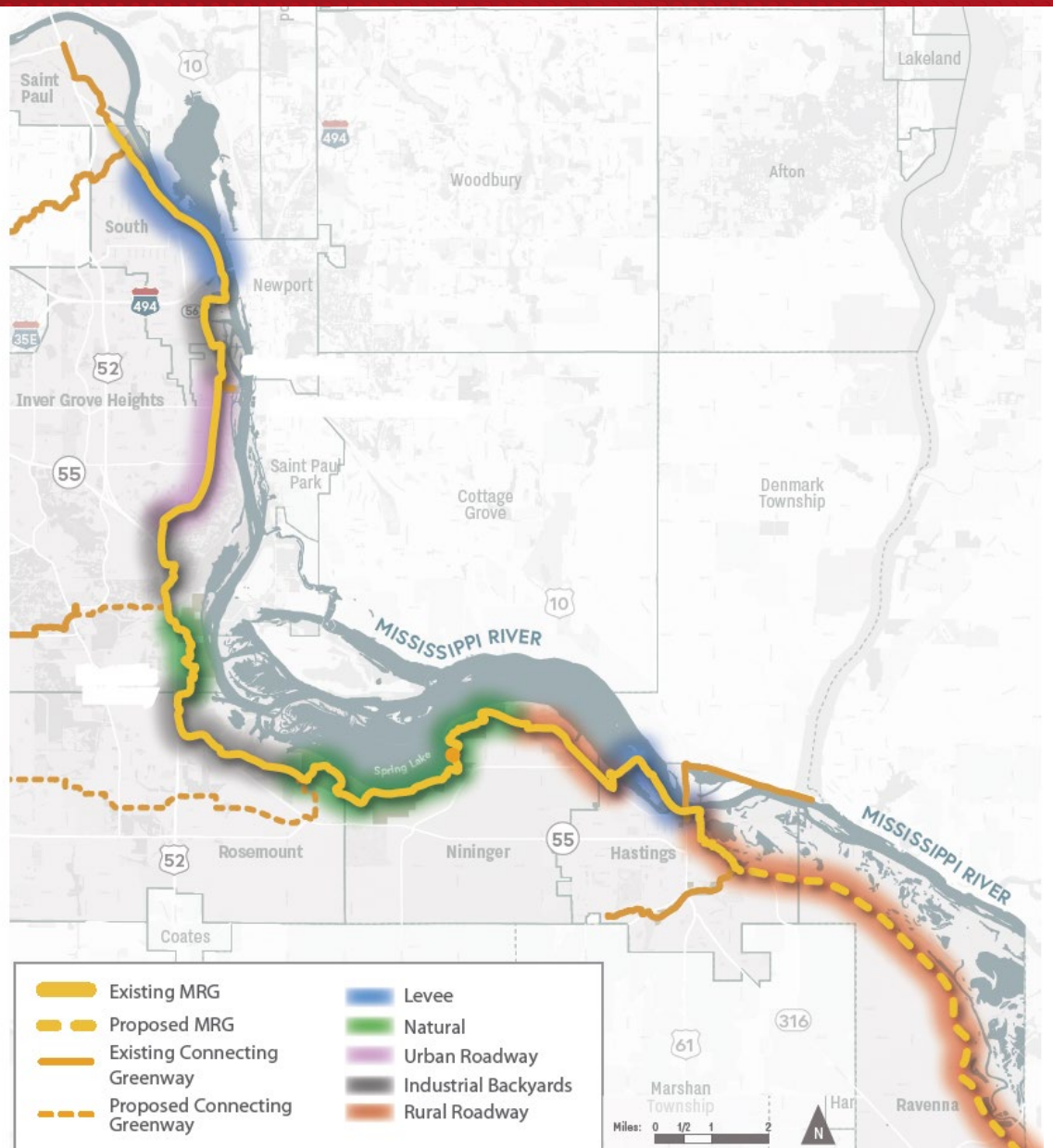






- Water Quality
- Transportation
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Interpretation and Art

Plan Purpose and Goals



- Complete The Vision
- Elevate The User Experience
- Management And Operations
- Position For External Funding
- Integrate Art and Place Making



Beyond Dakota County

The Mississippi River Greenway is part of larger systems.

MRT | National





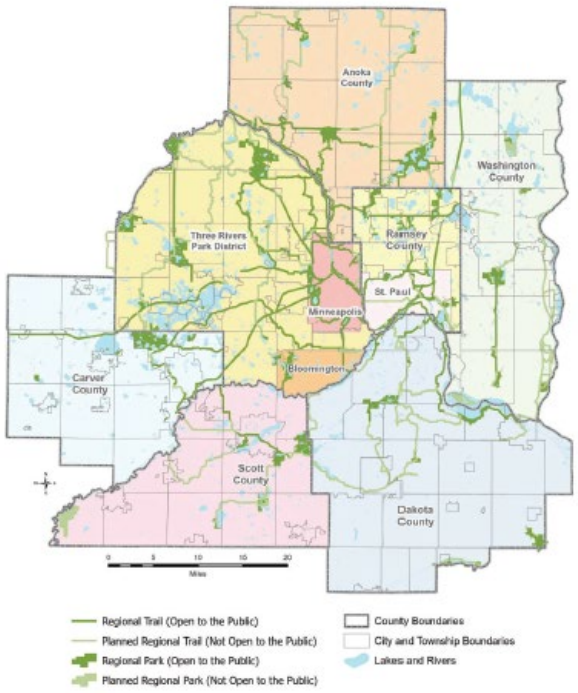
MRT | State





MRT | Regional



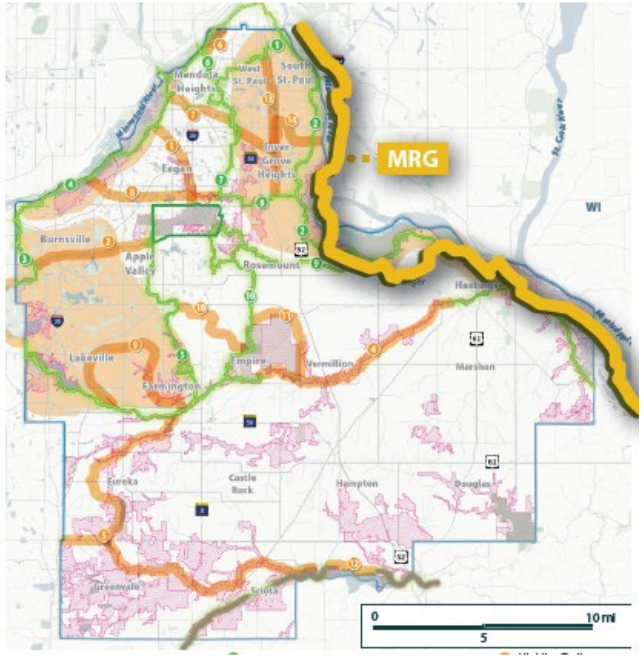


MRT | County

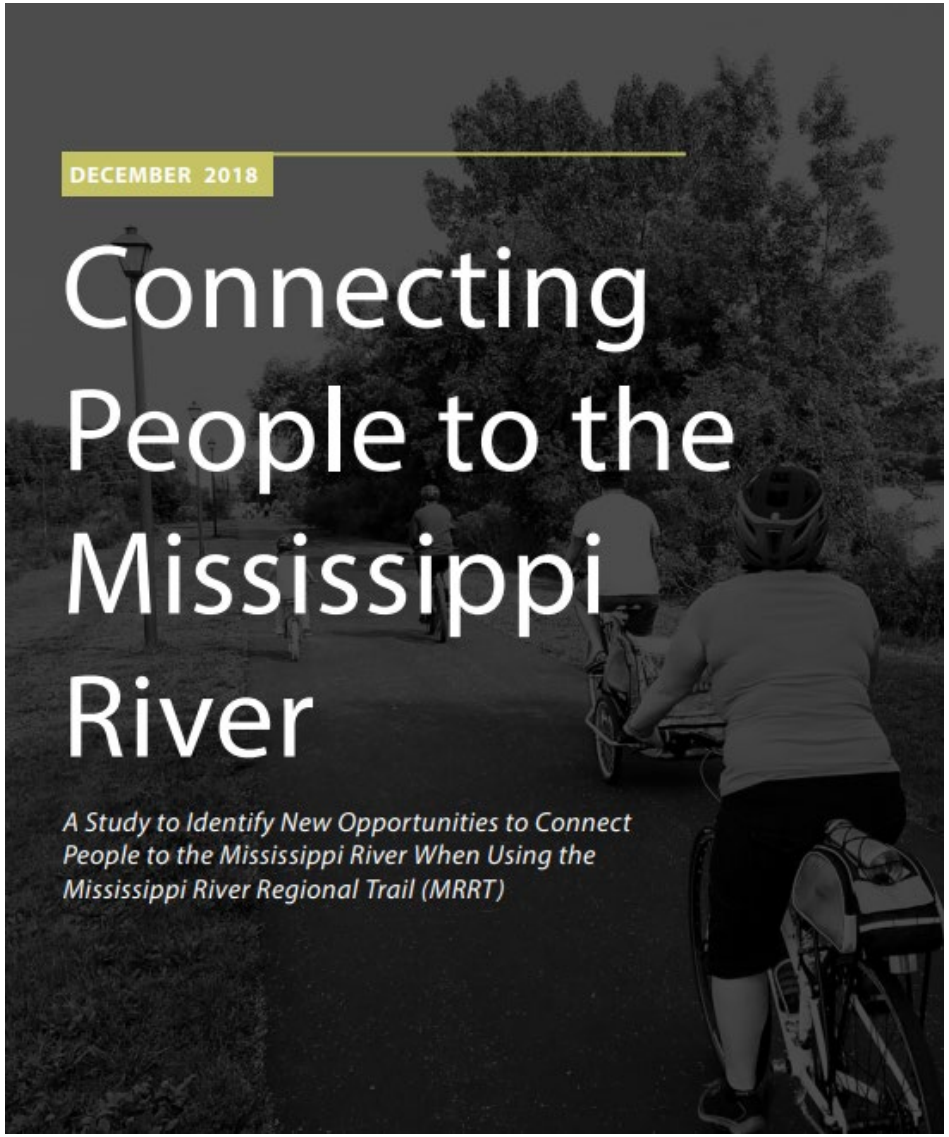


***The Off-Road Advantage:**

While many segments of the 10-state MRT require cyclists to share the road with motor vehicles, the Dakota County section offers a distinct, high-quality experience with **28 miles of dedicated, off-road trail.**



Measuring A Successful Plan



- Reduce Amount of Trail Along Road
- More Connections To River
- Signature Places
- Organized Interpretation and Art
- More Programs and Events
- Increased Use
- Continue to Attract External Grants and Partnerships

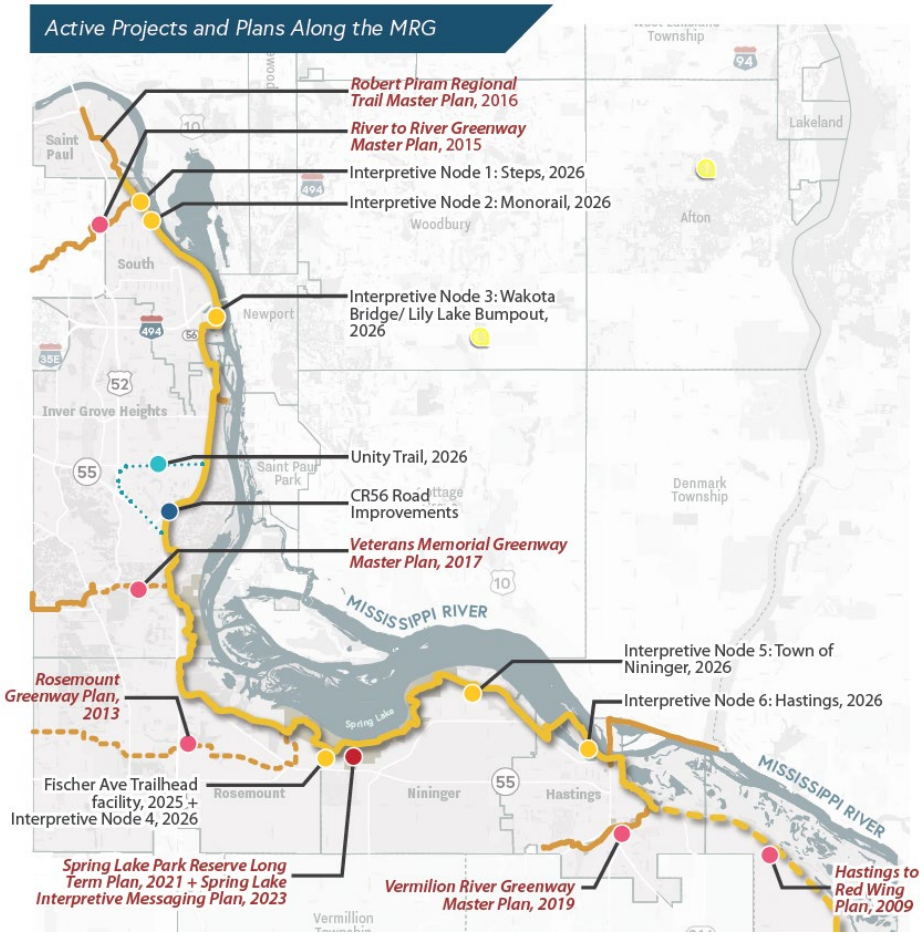
Recent and Upcoming Improvements



Monorail Interpretation, 2027

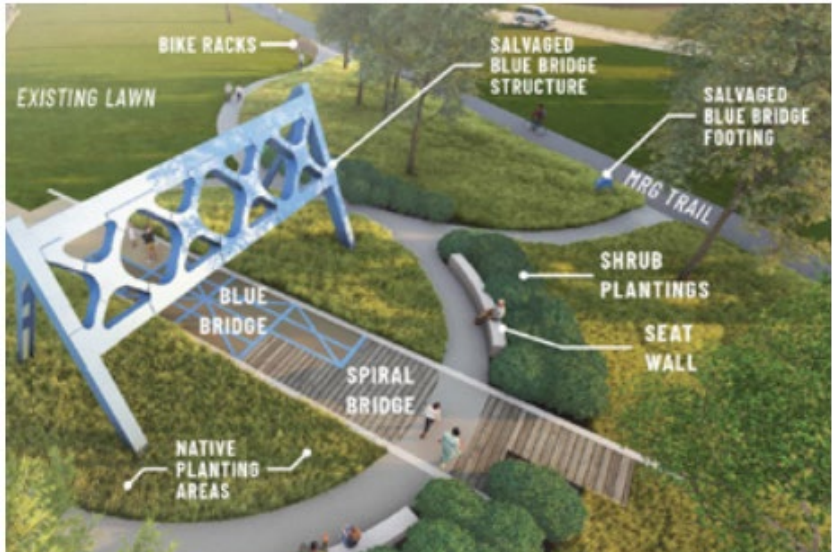


North Star Ferry Interpretation, 2027



Fischer Trailhead, 2026





Hastings Bridge Interpretation, 2027

Development Vision – From North to South

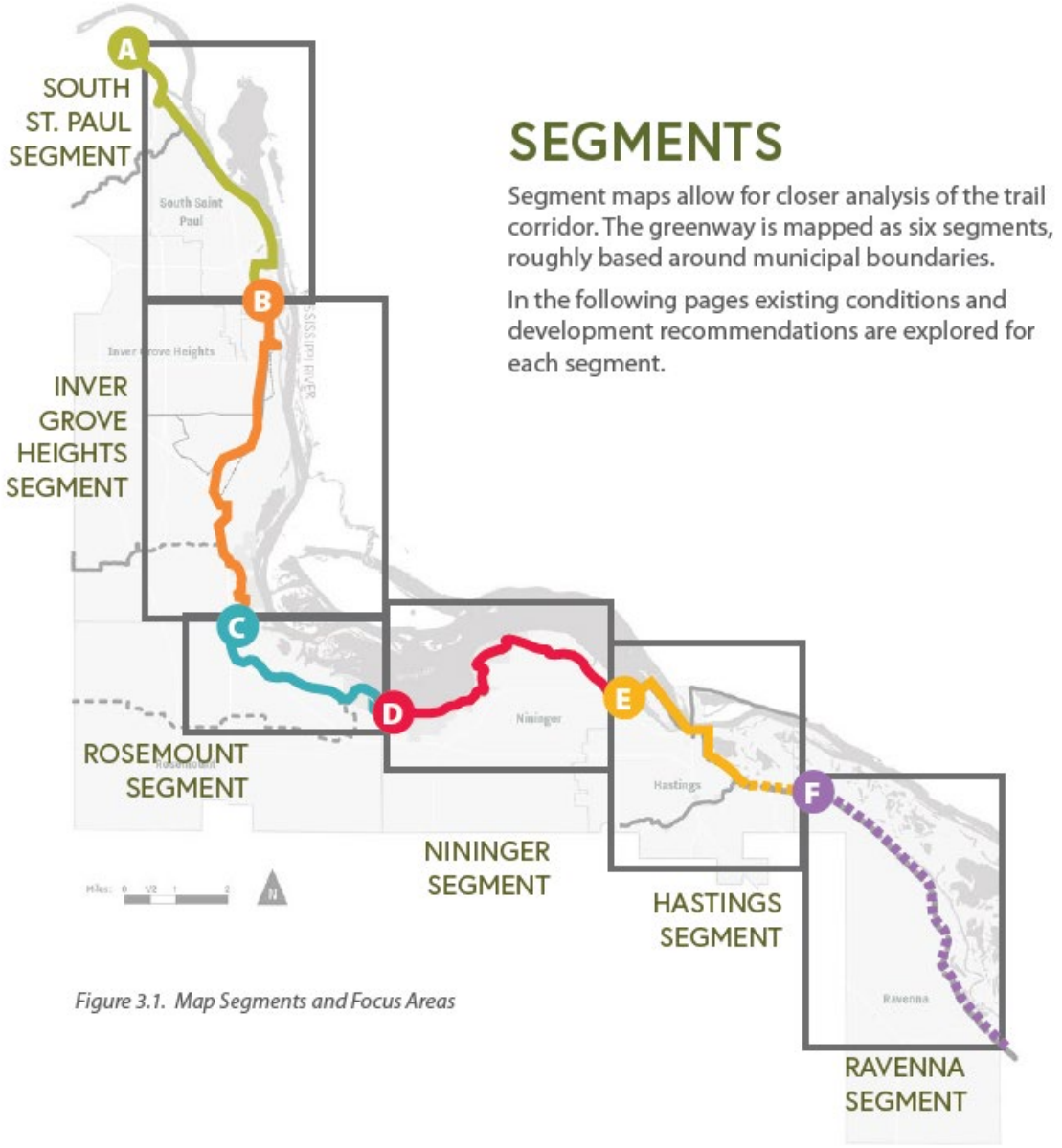


Figure 3.1. Map Segments and Focus Areas

Hastings Levee



South St Paul – Kaposia Landing



Bridge Overlook Concept

Recommendations:

- Add Overlooks
- Restore Shoreline
- Improve Fishing Access
- Partner on New Pedestrian Bridge at Bryant
- Add a New Trailhead/Restroom Facility



Kaposia Landing – South Overlook

South St Paul – Bryant Ave. Pedestrian Bridge

Bryant Ave. Pedestrian Bridge



South St Paul – Levee Corridor



SSP Levee Overlook Concept

Prepare a Levee Improvement Plan

- Add Overlooks
- Soften the Rip/Rap Areas
- Add Art & Interpretation



Wildflower Park Improvement

Inver Grove Heights – Heritage Park/Swing Bridge

- Access to the River
- Restore Floodplain Woodlands
- Improve Fishing Access
- Observation Deck on Swing Bridge



Heritage Park: River Access



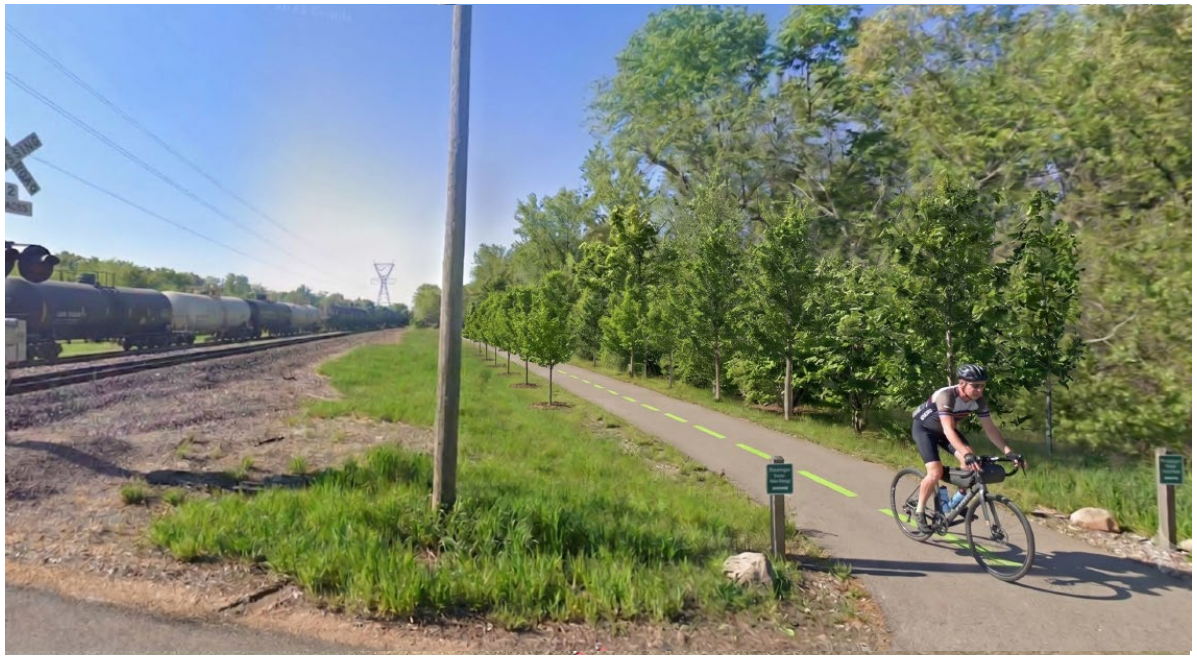
Swing Bridge – Upper Observation Deck

Lower Railroad Alignment



New Loop or Alignment:

- Reduces Greenway Length Along Concord
- Leverages Existing City Owned Rail Corridor
- Brings Users Closer to River
- Reduces trail grade



Inver Grove Heights – Concord Mural & Parkway



Concord Ave./CSAH 56 - Mosaic

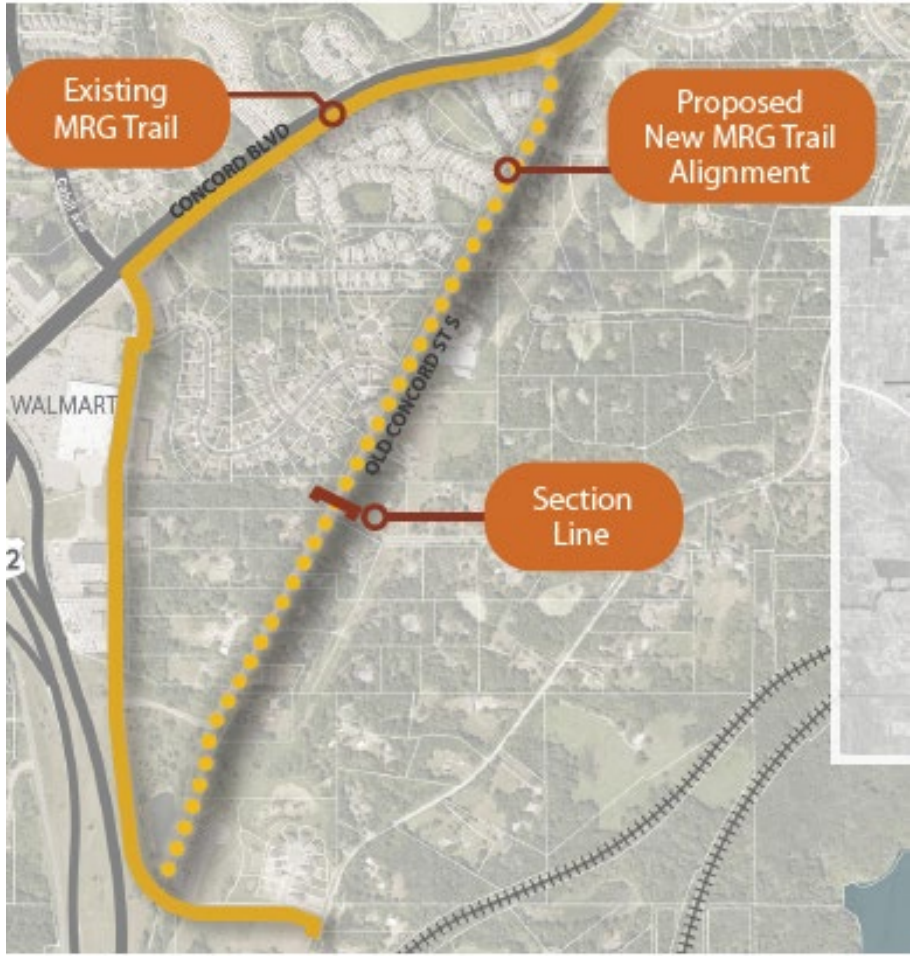
Improve User Experience:

- Add More Art & Interpretation to Concord
- Enhance Concord to a Parkway



Concord Ave./CSAH 56 – Parkway Conversion

Inver Grove Heights – Old Concord Alignment/Loop



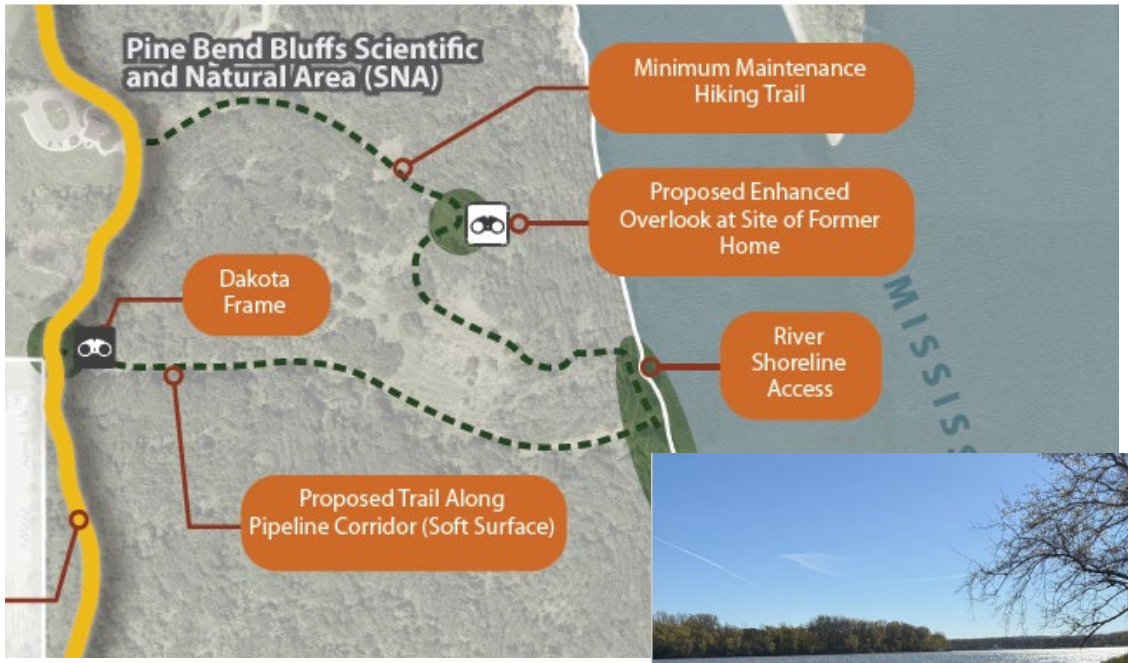
Old Concord – Trail Concept



Pine Bend Bluffs Area SNA



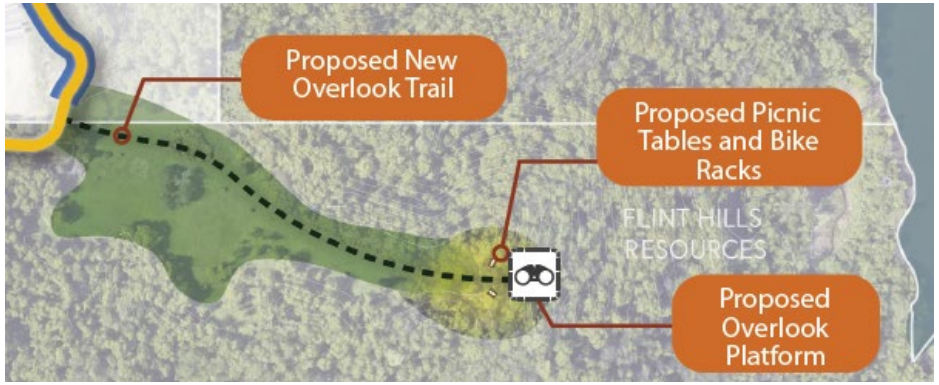
- Add River Access Trail at Pine Bend SNA
- Add River Overlook





Flint Hills Resources Area -





Recommendations:

- Create a River Destination Overlook In Partnership with Flint Hills Resources
- Interpret the Old Pine Bend Cemetery



Spring Lake Regional Park Reserve Area



Recommendations:

- Observation Tower – West Trailhead
- River Overlooks - Multiple



Hastings – Levee Area



Recommendations:

- Partnership Study of Levee Improvements & Island Access (Hastings, Corp of Engineers)



Hastings – Avent Property Preservation & Park Concept



Hastings Area – Lake Isabel Greenway Loop

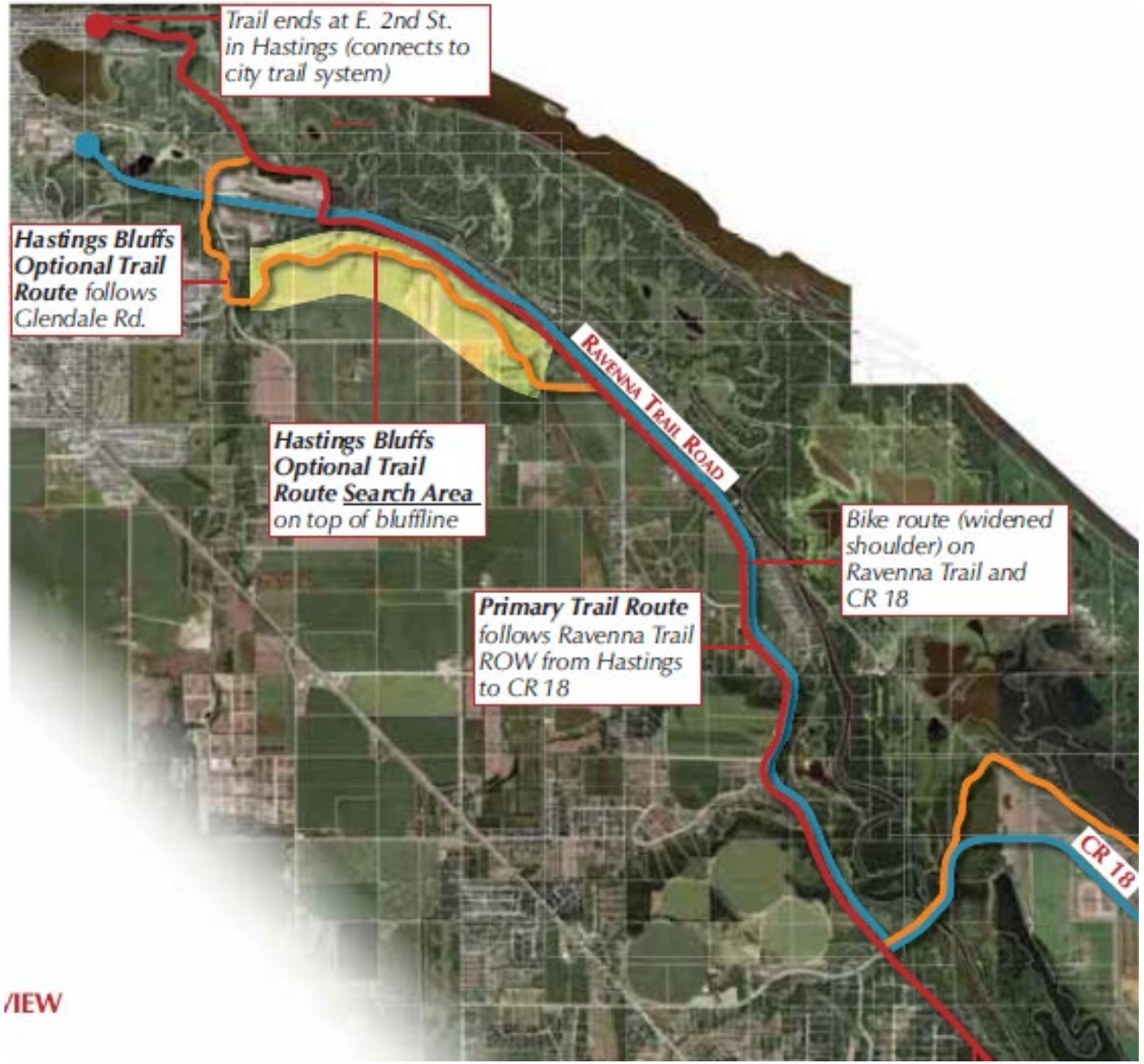


Recommendations:

- Lake Isabel Loop
- Vermillion Bottoms Conservation Area



Connection to Goodhue County/Red Wing



Plan Recommendation:

- Off-Road Trail Alignment Study - in coordination with Goodhue/Red Wing (future)
- CSAH 54 – Bikeable Shoulders (short term with upcoming CSAH 54 road improvements)



Comments and Discussion

Questions:

- Plan organization and content
- Use of Ai graphics
- General Comments

Plan Schedule:

- Nov-Jan: Staff and Agency Comments
- Jan – Feb: Finalize Public Review Draft
- March: Release For Public Review
- May/June: Plan Adoption

