

RESOLUTION
CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

48

Presented by _____

Joe Hy

1 WHEREAS, Ramsey County received funding from a DNR Grant in 1999 to implement the Trout Brook County Trail
 2 from Lake McCarron's to the Gateway Trail; and

3
 4 WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul entered into a Joint Use Agreement to cooperate in developing
 5 the Trout Brook County Trail in order to expand the recreation opportunities for the citizens of Ramsey County; and

6
 7 WHEREAS, the Saint Paul City Council, as per Council File 01-1101, adopted the Trout Brook Greenway Plan as an
 8 addendum to the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan on October 24, 2001; and

9
 10 WHEREAS, the Trout Brook Greenway Plan determined the need to create a pedestrian and bicycle connection to the
 11 Mississippi River; and

12
 13 WHEREAS, Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation organized a design task force consisting of representatives
 14 from District 6, Lower Phalen Creek, Ramsey County, MnDNR, and MnDOT to plan the expansion of the trail to the
 15 Mississippi River as part of an approved Master Site Plan for Trillium Nature Sanctuary; and

16
 17 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul approves and adopts the Trout
 18 Brook Regional Trail Master Plan and is hereby authorized to submit said master plan document to the Metropolitan Council for
 19 review and approval.

	Yeas	Nays	Absent
Bostrom	✓		
Carter	✓		
Harris	✓		
Helgen	✓		
Lantry	✓		
Stark	✓		
Thune	✓		
	7	0	0

Requested by Department of:

Parks and Recreation, Michael Wahn, Director

By: _____

Approved by the Office of Financial Services

By: _____

Approved by City Attorney

By: _____

Approved by Mayor for Submission to Council

By: _____

Adopted by Council: Date 11/18/09

Adoption Certified by Council Secretary

By: _____

Approved by Mayor: Date 11/23/09

By: _____

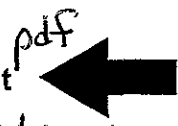
Michael Wahn

Virginia D. Palmer

Chris Mulheisen

Mary Erickson

Chris Mulheisen



09-1301

Department/Office/Council: PR Parks and Recreation
 Date Initiated: 21 OCT 2009


Green Sheet NO: 3085236

Contact Person & Phone:
 Kathleen Anglo
 266-6368

Must Be on Council Agenda by (Date):
 18-NOV-09

Doc. Type: PUBLIC HEARING
 (RESOLUTION)

E-Document Required: Y
 Document Contact: Kris W.
 Contact Phone: 266-6438


 Assign
 Number
 For
 Routing
 Order

	Department	Sent To Person	Initial/Date
0	Parks and Recreation		
1	Parks and Recreation	Department Director	MA 10-22
2	City Attorney	City Attorney 400 CH	
3	Mayor's Office	Mayor/Assistant 390 CH	
4	Council	Council 310 CH	
5	City Clerk	City Clerk	

Total # of Signature Pages 1 (Clip All Locations for Signature)

Action Requested:
 Approval of Master Plan for Trout Brook Regional Trail including Trillium Nature Sanctuary

Recommendations Approve (A) or Reject (R):
 _____ Planning Commission
 _____ CIB Committee
 _____ Civil Service Commission
A Staff

Personal Service Contracts Must Answer the Following Questions:

1. Has this person/firm ever worked under a contract for this department?
 Yes No
2. Has this person/firm ever been a city employee?
 Yes No
3. Does this person/firm possess a skill not normally possessed by any current city employee?
 Yes No

Explain all yes answers on separate sheet and attach to green sheet.

Initiating Problem, Issues, Opportunity (Who, What, When, Where, Why):
 Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation has created a Master Plan in accordance with Metropolitan Council requirements to give the current Trout Brook County Trail regional status.

Advantages If Approved:
 The Trout Brook Trail will qualify for regional funding through the Metropolitan Council.

Disadvantages If Approved:
 None

Disadvantages If Not Approved:
 We lose out on Regional advantages such as maintenance funding and acquisition funds and community outreach through the Metropolitan Council.

Total Amount of Transaction: \$0.00
 Funding Source:
 Financial Information: (Explain)

Cost/Revenue Budgeted:
 Activity Number:

RECEIVED

OCT 23 2009

CITY ATTORNEY

Trount Brook Regional Trail

Including Trillium Nature Sanctuary

MASTER PLAN

October 2009



Prepared by the City of Saint Paul
Parks and Recreation Design Section

Introduction

This Master Plan identifies the entire Trout Brook Regional Trail which will link Lake McCarrons County Park to the Lower Phalen Creek Valley area, including the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and terminate at the Mississippi River, within the City of Saint Paul's Lower Landing Park. This 4.1 mile trail corridor will provide connections of regional significance between the Mississippi River, Sam Morgan Regional Trail, Bruce Vento Regional Trail, Gateway State Trail and downtown St. Paul metro area destinations to the north and east.

The 2006 "Ramsey County Parks and Recreation System Plan" identifies the portion of the Trout Brook Trail which has been designated by the Metropolitan Council as a regional trail. This System Plan also identified a search area to link the trail to the existing Bruce Vento Regional Trail in Saint Paul. Currently the trail begins at McCarrons Lake, within the City of Roseville near St. Paul's northern boundary. The existing trail corridor connects 2 major open space sites, Lake McCarrons and Arlington/Jackson Pond, along the historic path of Trout Brook to where it ends at the intersection with the Gateway State Trail on L'Orient Avenue. The proposed corridor will expand the existing trail south from the Arlington Jackson Pond site via railroad right-of-way through the Trillium Nature Sanctuary and then it will utilize the proposed Gateway State Trail expansion along the western edge of 35E to Phalen Boulevard. From here, the trail will follow Phalen Boulevard east and curve beneath Westminster Junction bridge to minimize vehicular and pedestrian conflict. The trail will then proceed along the western side of railroad right-of-way and along proposed Trout Brook Boulevard, a city of St. Paul Department of Public Works initiative to connect University Avenue to Warner Road.



Existing Trout Brook and Trail near Larpenteur Avenue

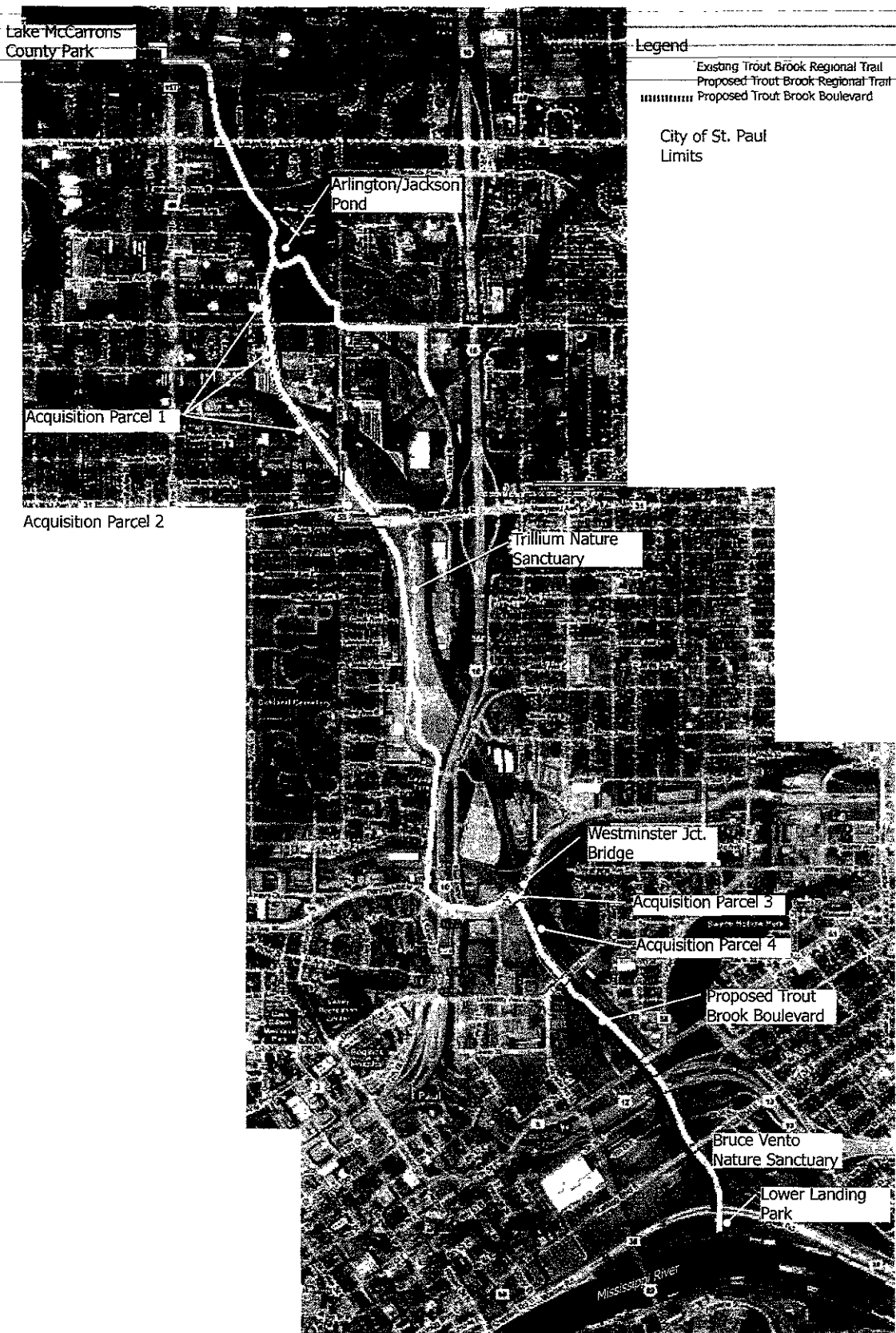


Figure A: Proposed Trout Brook Regional Trail Corridor

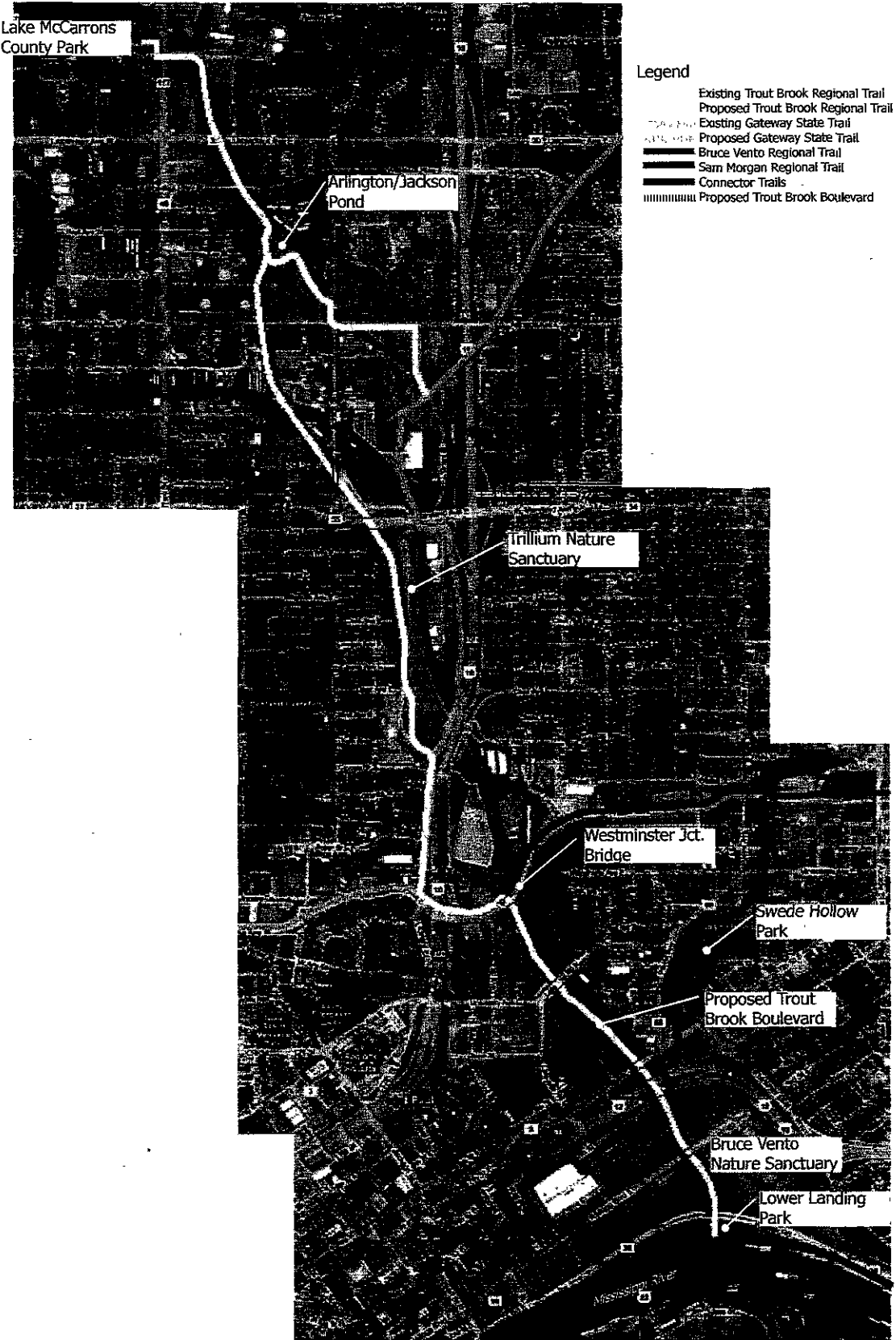


Figure B: Trail Connections

Boundaries and Acquisition Costs

The Trout Brook Regional Trail Corridor begins within Ramsey County's Lake McCarrons Park and ends at the intersection of the Sam Morgan Regional Trail within the City of Saint Paul's Lower Landing Park along the north/eastern edge of the Mississippi River. The Trail corridor is 4.1 miles in length and has a number of gaps to fill, in order to complete the corridor.

This parcel for acquisition is currently a right-of-way. Once use is abandoned then acquisition proceedings can begin.

Estimated acquisition cost is \$2,000,000



Figure C: Acquisition Parcel 1

Trillium Nature Sanctuary

Trillium Nature Sanctuary is bounded on the north by Norpac Road and an existing Auto Salvage lot, on the east by BNSF railroad tracks, on the west by residential property and on the south by light industrial and Cauyga Street. Currently, Trillium sits in a low valley with no visible entrance or easy access point. Acquisition of the used car dealership on the corner of Maryland Avenue and Jackson Street will allow a visible entrance, parking, and a trailhead facility for Trillium and the Trout Brook Trail Corridor.

This parcel is used by a viable used car business. Acquisition is scheduled for 2012

Estimated acquisition cost is \$2,350,000

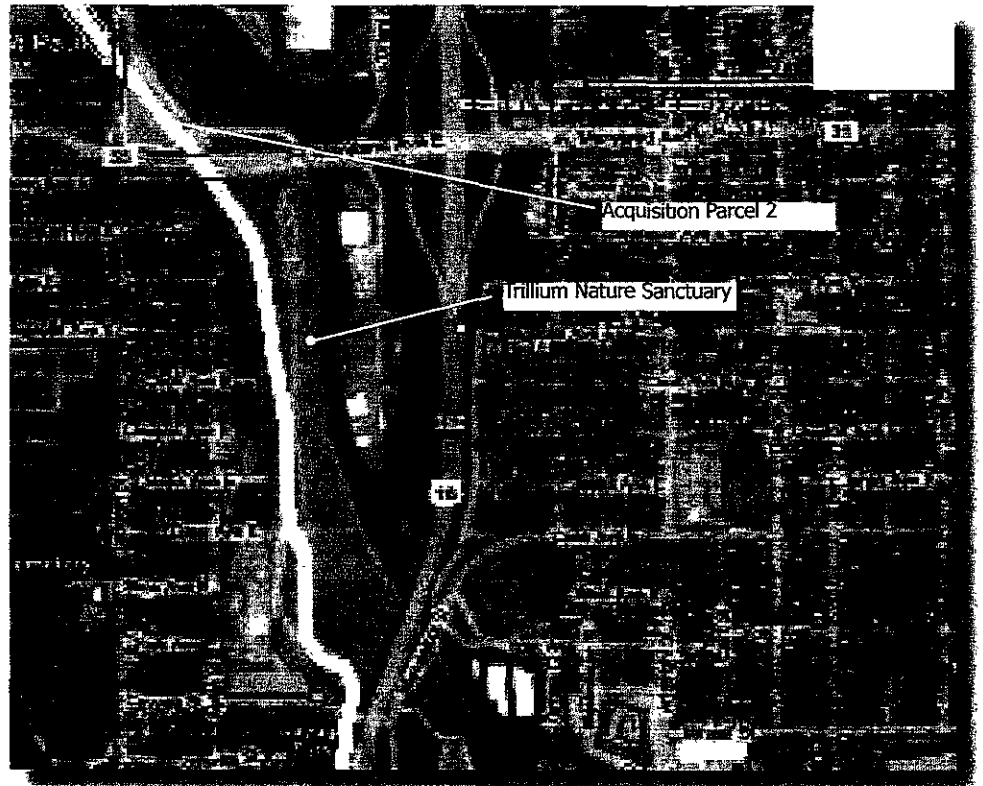


Figure D: Acquisition Parcel 2, Trillium Nature Sanctuary Site

to railroad grade beneath the
 Westminster Bridge. To allow
 for future expansion, the trail
 will be constructed to a
 width of 20 feet. The trail
 will be constructed to a
 width of 20 feet.

Acquisition cost for the
 two parcels is estimated
 at \$1,025,000.

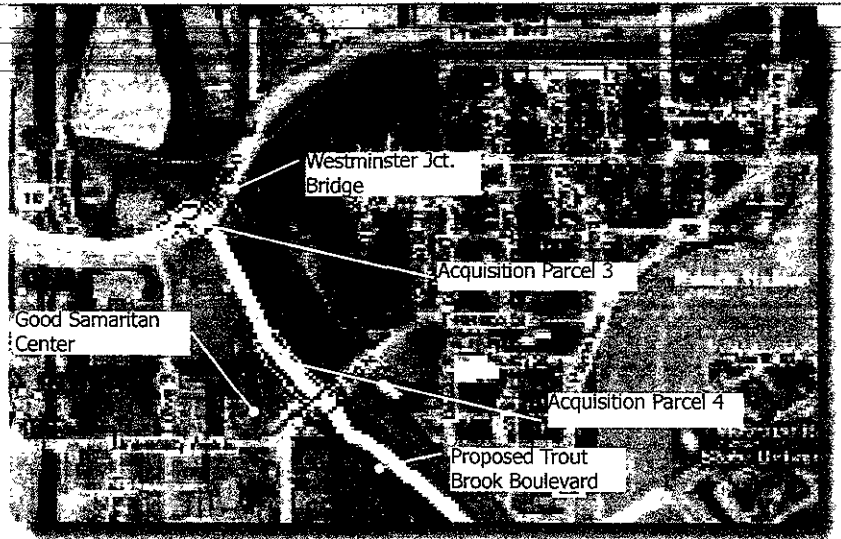


Figure E: Acquisition Parcels 3 and 4

Stewardship

Ramsey County currently owns and maintains the trail corridor from McCarrons Lake to L'Orient Avenue. The City of Saint Paul will own and maintain the proposed trail corridor within the City limits to the Mississippi River, excluding where the trail route is located in conjunction with the Gateway Trail, which is owned and maintained by the State of Minnesota. The Saint Paul Division of Parks and Recreation along with Ramsey County Parks will advise the appropriate law enforcement agencies of their joint ownership and will request their cooperation in maintaining public safety throughout the corridor.

There are no non-recreational uses or collection of revenues from such uses planned for the trail corridor at this time. Should such uses occur in the future, revenues will be utilized consistent with the adopted Recreation Open Space Development Guide/Policy Plan.

Demand Forecast

The Metropolitan Council's 2007 User Survey said the existing trail (1 mile segment) had 40,200 annual visits. Walking and bicycling are the top two uses of the regional park system. Once the trail corridor is complete, use is projected to increase dramatically as connections are made to downtown St. Paul, the Mississippi River, Sam Morgan Regional Trail (69,100 annual visits) and the Bruce Vento Regional Trail (84,100 annual visits).

Development Corridor

For planning and design purposes, and for ease in discussing the trail corridor, it has been divided into 5 geographic segments from north to south.

Segment 1: McCarron's Lake to Arlington St. (1 mile)

This segment of the trail was completed in 2001.

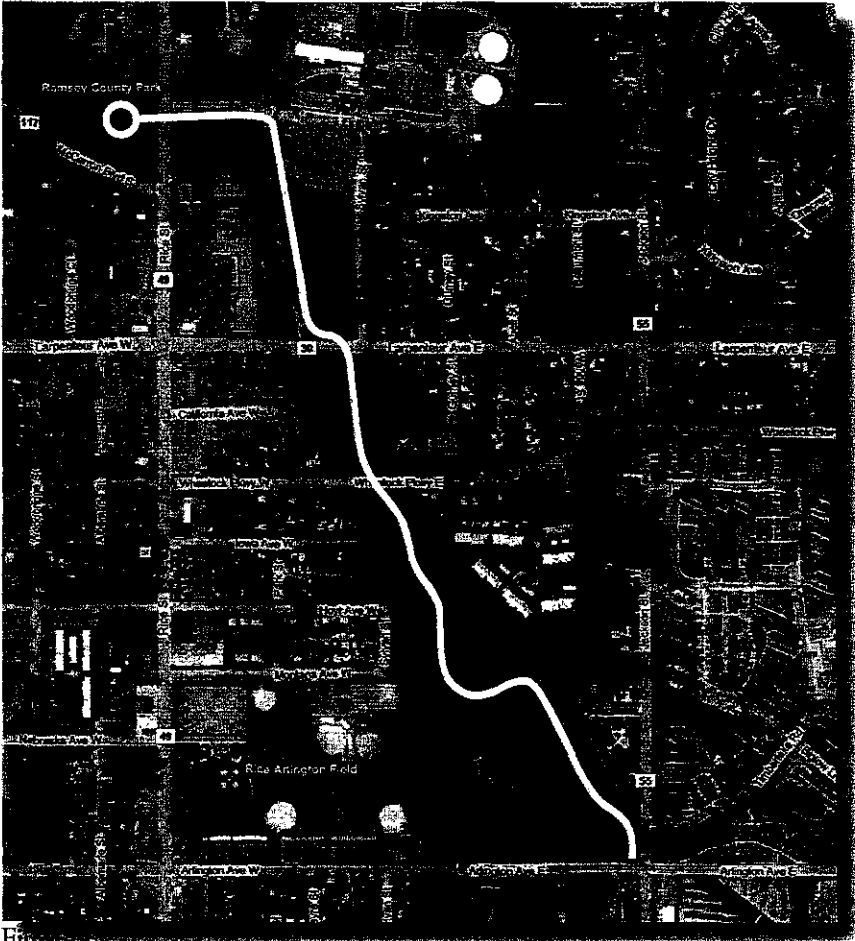
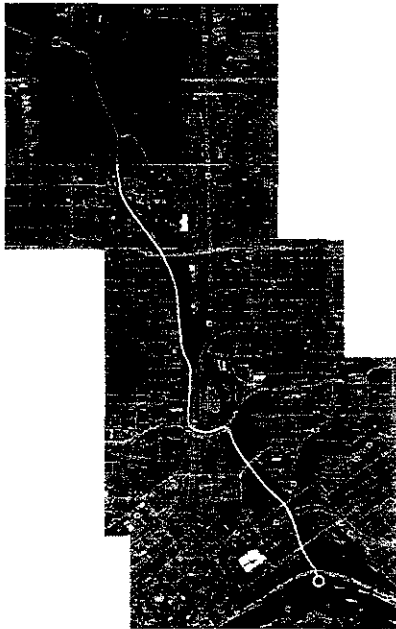


Figure 1



Segment 2: Arlington Jackson Pond to Trillium Nature Sanctuary (.66 mile)

This proposed segment of the trail will be constructed within an abandoned railroad corridor. The proposed trail will cross an active rail line on a new pedestrian bridge at the Arlington Jackson Pond site and continue south along the abandoned railroad right-of-way to the Trillium Nature Sanctuary at Jackson Street. There are two existing railroad bridges that will need to be converted to pedestrian bridges, one crossing Arlington and one crossing BNSF tracks. Cost of development of this segment is estimated at \$2,000,000.

The existing portions of the trail will remain to the intersection of Arlington and Jackson to provide a local neighborhood connection and connections to bus routes.

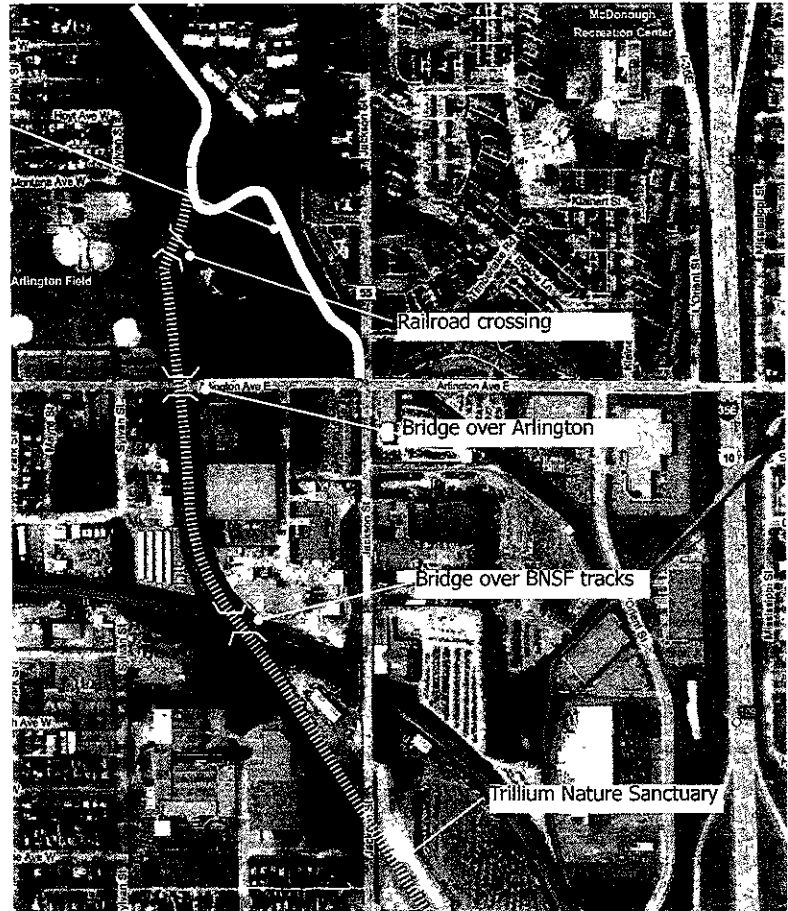
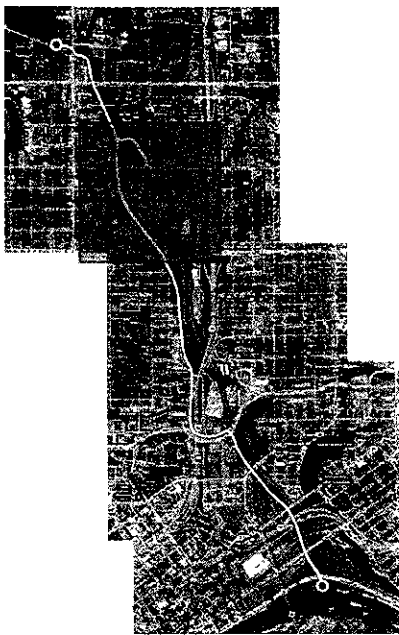


Figure G

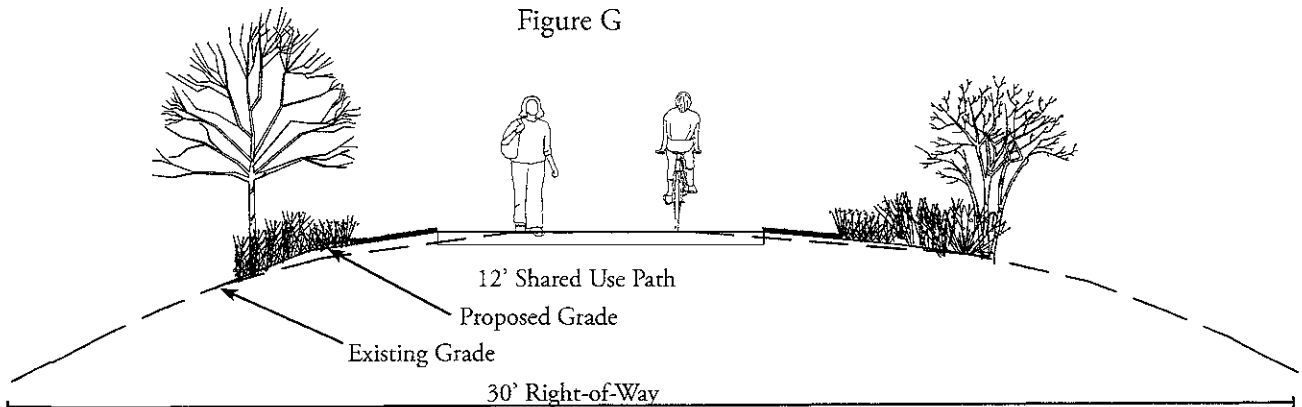
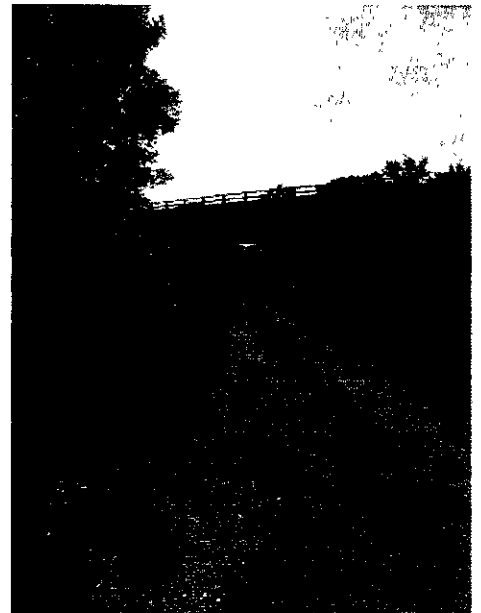


Figure H: Section of Trail on Bermed Railroad Right-of-Way

Segment 3: Trillium Nature Sanctuary
(Jackson to Cayuga Avenue .83 mile)

The trail will run along the western edge of Trillium and sits approximately 10' above the valley bottom on acquired railroad right-of-way. Trillium will be developed as a Nature Sanctuary, restoring degraded and lost plant communities. Trout Brook will be daylighted and a crushed limestone nature trail will be constructed alongside the stream bed with bridge crossings. The entrance to Trillium is proposed at the corner of Maryland and Jackson and includes parking, bus drop-off, informational kiosk, restroom, picnic area, and interpretive signage. Trillium is scheduled for completion in 2014, at a cost of \$2,800,000, not including acquisition costs.



Existing Trail Corridor through Trillium Nature Sanctuary

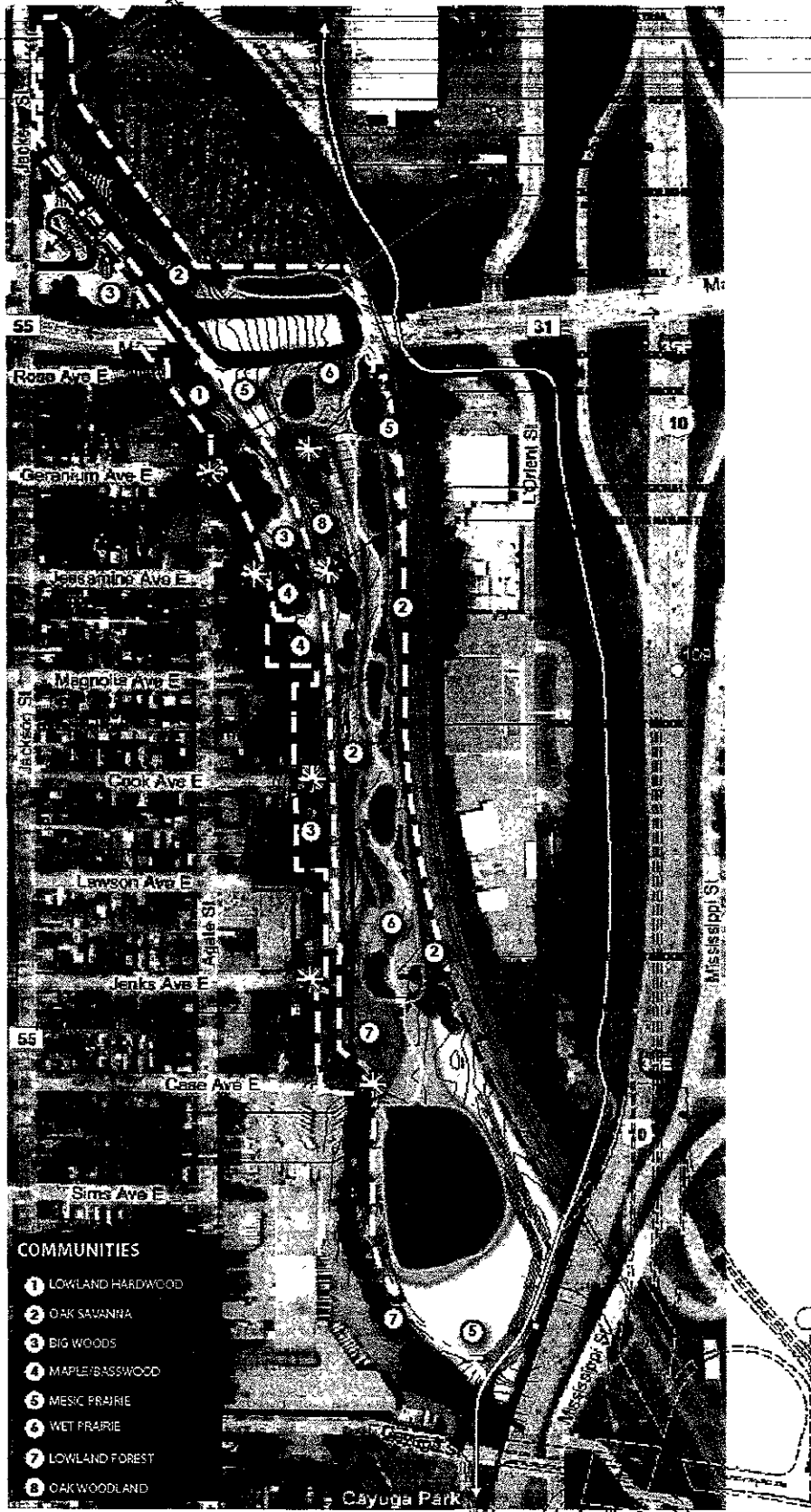
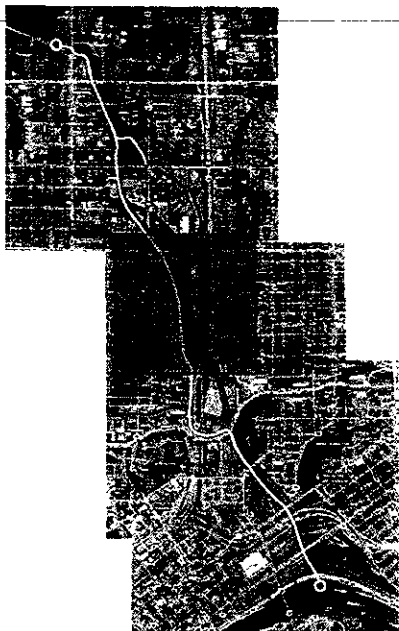


Figure H: Trillium Nature Sanctuary Master Plan

Segment 4: Cayuga Street to Pennsylvania Avenue/ Phalen Boulevard (.37 mile)

This section of the trail will be built as part of the Gateway Trail extension which will be installed as part of MnDOT's I-35E/Cayuga interchange and owned and operated by the state of Minnesota. This project is scheduled for 2014.



Figure I

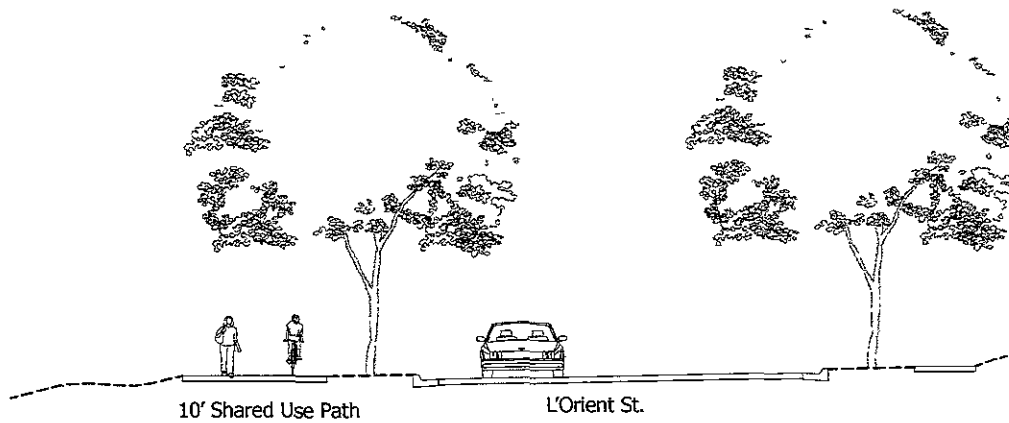


Figure J: Section of trail adjacent to roadway

Segment 5: Phalen Boulevard to Lower Landing Park (1.25 mile)

From L'Orient Street the trail corridor follows the existing trail along Phalen Boulevard then ramps down to cross beneath Phalen Boulevard at Westminster Junction bridge. From here the trail stays to the west of the rail lines behind Lafayette office park on city owned right of way. Beginning just south of Lafayette Road the trail will be built in conjunction with the proposed Trout Brook Boulevard from University Avenue to Warner Road. The trail will terminate in Lower Landing Park and intersect with the Sam Morgan Regional Trail. A portion of Trout Brook Boulevard is scheduled for construction in conjunction with the Lafayette Bridge in 2010-2011. Cost of development of this segment is estimated at \$600,000.

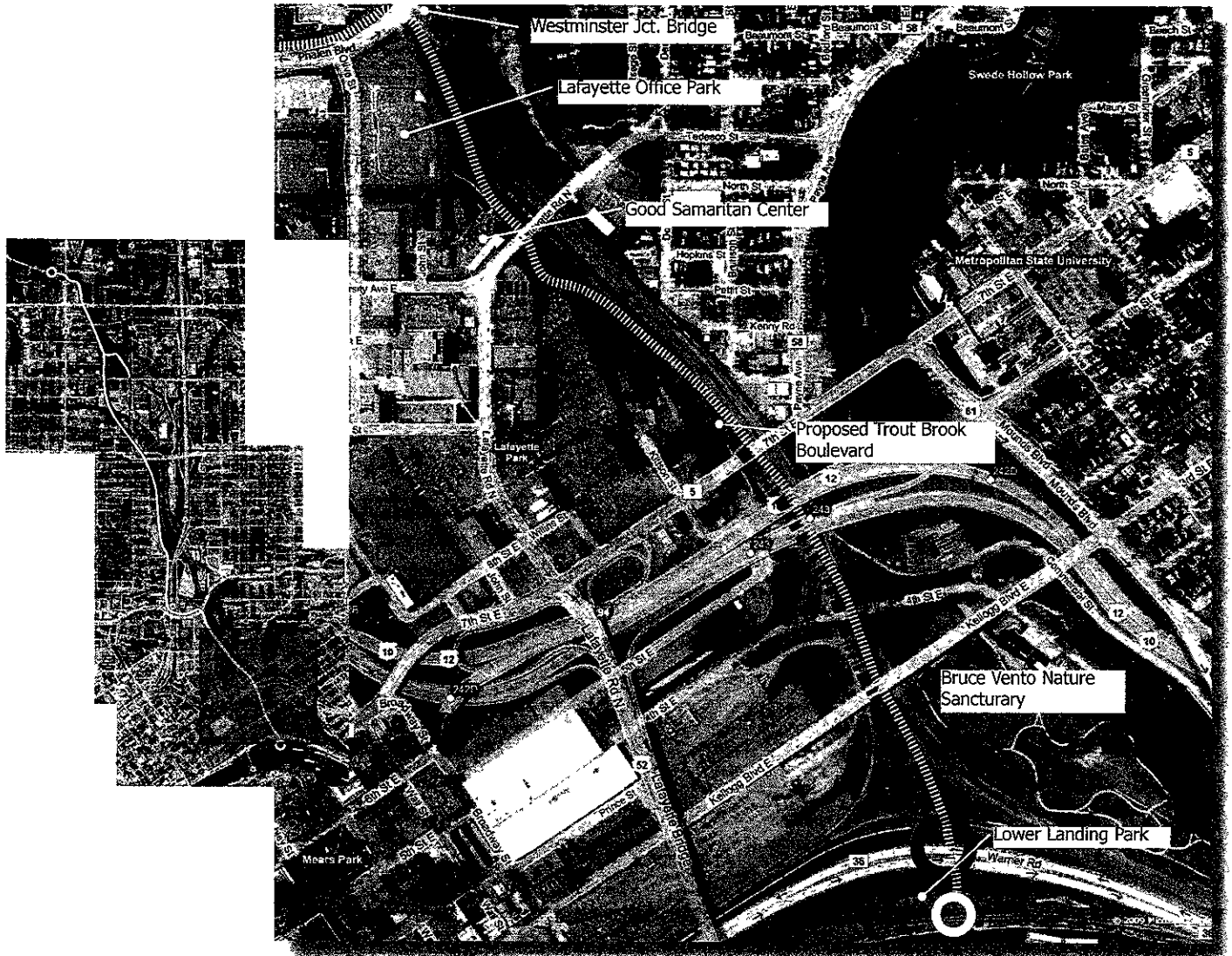


Figure K

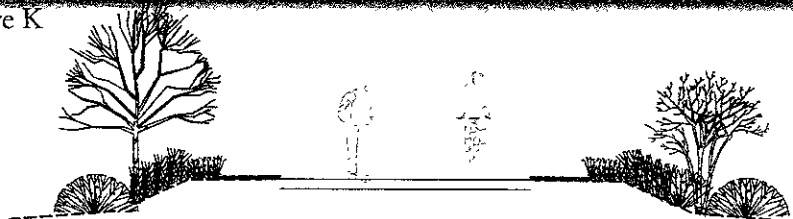


Figure L: Section of trail south of Phalen Blvd.

Conflicts

Segment 1: Lake McCarrons to Arlington Street
Trail Completed

Segment 2: Arlington Street to Jackson Street

Railroad Right-of-Way Acquisition:

Currently the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way is used by Elmar St. Paul Properties. A letter of interest to acquire the line once operations have ceased has been sent to Canadian Pacific Railway. To develop this segment two bridges will need to be converted to pedestrian bridges and the trail will need to cross an active BNSF Rail line on a new pedestrian bridge.

Arlington/Jackson Redevelopment:

The Saint Paul Port Authority (SPPA) may redevelop the site north of Trillium Nature Sanctuary. It is currently used as an insurance auto salvage lot. There is an opportunity here to create a connection to the Gateway Trail and utilize Trillium Nature Sanctuary as a new route for a combined Gateway/Trout Brook Trail. This connection will be possible only if we were able to bridge the BNSF railroad tracks north of the Trillium Site and secure easements or purchase right of way for the bridge.

Segment 3 and 4: Trillium Nature Sanctuary/ Cayuga

Interstate 35E and Cayuga Interchange:

MnDOT is scheduled to reconfigure the interchange at Interstate 35E and Cayuga in 2014. This will have an impact on the Gateway State Trail Bridge over active BNSF railroad tracks at the southern portion of Trillium Nature Sanctuary. The interchange will cause the existing pedestrian bridge to be removed and relocated. MnDOT will relocate the bridge slightly to the north and west of its current location (Gateway Trail, Figure H). MnDOT will also construct a southern expansion of the Gateway State Trail to Pennsylvania Avenue which will connect to the Phalen Boulevard trail. This project is scheduled to begin construction in 2014.

Segment 5: Phalen Boulevard to Lower Landing Park

Trout Brook Boulevard:

MnDOT is scheduled to replace the Lafayette Bridge over the Mississippi River in 2010. Proposed new access to the Lafayette Bridge has created an opportunity for the City's Public Works department to create a link between University Avenue and Warner Road. This road project will provide the critical trail link to the Mississippi River and Sam Morgan Regional Trail. A portion of what is proposed as Trout Brook Boulevard will be built as part of the Lafayette Bridge project. It is anticipated that Trout Brook Boulevard will be completed to Warner Road sometime in the near future.

Public Services

Trout Brook Regional Trail

There is existing parking and public facilities for the trail users located within Lake McCarrons County Park. Visitors to the trail will have multiple convenient points at which to access the trail. No other public services are proposed for the trail outside of the Trillium Nature Sanctuary site.

Trillium Nature Sanctuary

Upon acquisition of the parcel at the corner of Maryland and Jackson, a trailhead will be constructed to serve a dual function as the main entrance to Trillium Nature Sanctuary and a trailhead for the Trout Brook Regional Trail. The facility will have an access road to Trillium Nature Sanctuary, a parking area for 12-16 vehicles, bus drop-off, a rest area with toilet facilities, picnic tables, an information kiosk and interpretive signage. The trailhead facility will require electrical, phone, water, and sanitary sewer utilities. This facility is scheduled for acquisition in 2013 or sooner with construction beginning in 2014. There are also 4 additional local pedestrian connections to the site from the surrounding neighborhood.

Operations

The trail corridor is a joint City of Saint Paul- Ramsey County facility. Appropriate rules, regulations and ordinances of the two governing bodies will apply. Our past experience with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail indicate that there are no significant differences with the way the City and County operate and maintain their trail systems and trail users will not be subject to conflicting or contradictory regulations.

Operating Costs:

Trout Brook Regional Trail		
Turf maintenance (6 ft either side)	12 hrs	\$800
Brooming – two passes	6.5 hrs	\$330
Snow removal, sanding	25 hrs	\$1,200
Litter pick up, waste disposal	70 hrs	\$3,500
Brush back	6.5 hrs	\$330
Annual trail, asphalt maintenance	6.5 hrs	\$500
Seal coat 7 yr, reclaim 21 yr, program	NA	\$6,000
		Total = \$12,660
Trillium Nature Sanctuary		
Cutting natural areas	48 hrs	\$2,600
Natural area detailed maintenance	100 hrs	\$6,500
Trail, asphalt maintenance	30 hrs	\$1,500
Litter pick up, waste disposal	104 hrs	\$5,200
Storm Water Pond Maintenance		
Restroom Maintenance	180 hrs.	\$7,500
Snow Removal	12 hrs	\$600
Trades (carpenter, electrician, plumber...)	20 hrs	\$2,000
		Total = \$25,900

Citizen Participation

Trout Brook Regional Trail

A series of meetings were held in conjunction with the planning of the existing trail and production of the Trout Brook Greenway Small Area Plan. In its 1997 "Metro Greenprint" report, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) identified the Trout Brook reach as an area with high potential for protection and restoration of natural resources. The Trout Brook- Lower Phalen Greenway was incorporated into the Saint Paul Land Use Plan in 1999. In early 2000 the city received a planning grant from the MnDNR to prepare a master plan for the Trout Brook Greenway. In September 2000, the St. Paul Planning Commission established a Task Force to assist in the development of the Plan, representing affected parties and community interests. Eleven groups sent a delegate to participate in the Task Force: Capitol Region Watershed District, Tri Area Block Club, District 6 Planning Council, Friends of Swede Hollow, Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council, Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council, Diamond Products, Lowertown Depot, Ramsey County Parks, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, and DNR Metro Greenways Division. In addition to the Task Force, a Technical Advisory Committee advised this work. A Public Hearing for this plan was held on September 7, 2001.

Ramsey County held a series of community meetings to gather input during the planning stages of the existing trail in 1998. The plan was approved by the District 6 Community Council at a Public Meeting September 14, 1998.

Trillium Nature Sanctuary

A Community Task Force was created during the Preliminary Design phase of Trillium Nature Sanctuary. Meetings were held from April 2005- February 2006. Trout Brook Regional Trail routes, amenities, connections and impacts were a large focus of the Trillium planning process. The Master Plan illustrated on page 11 is the result of that process.

Since a portion of the trail is in place, there is already significant public awareness of its existence. Once the trail is expanded and important connections are made, it will be added to and publicized in city and county park and trail maps, brochures, and on the internet through the City and County's webpages. Also, the new trail will be promoted through the Metropolitan Council's existing awareness program and through its information and maps of the park and trail regional system.

Access to the trail and the trail itself will be designed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and with special needs users in mind. Convenient, accessible parking will be provided with ADA compliant access to trails. Facilities, amenities, and overlooks will be designed to accommodate all potential users.

Natural Resources

Trout Brook Regional Trail Corridor

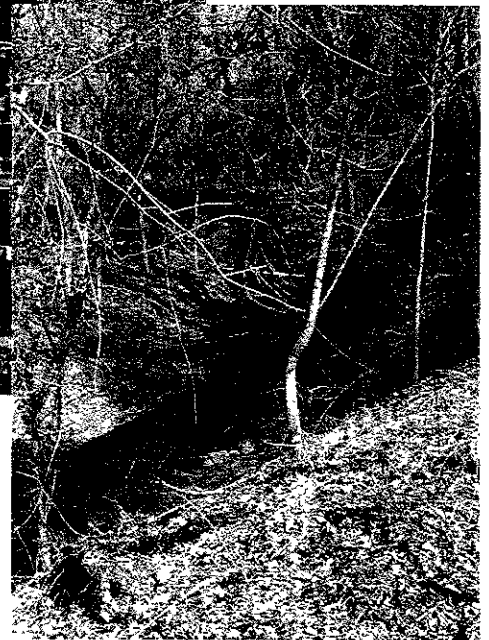
Plant Communities

Although the trail loosely follows the historic path of Trout Brook, the landscape of the Trout Brook Valley has changed greatly since European settlers began staking claims in the early 1800's. The railroad altered the course of the creeks and urban development altered and destroyed the natural plant communities. Trout Brook was gradually buried in storm sewer pipes as homes, businesses, railroads and freeways covered the original landscape. Today, only a few fragments of open creek and degraded natural communities remain.

A remnant of Trout Brook remains between McCarron's Lake and Arlington Jackson Pond.



Figure M



Trout Brook South of Larpenteur Avenue

A second remnant of creek/storm sewer also surfaces east of the Diamond Products Building in Lowertown, in a stone-lined canal along Fourth Street. This was upgraded as part of the 4th Street / Bruce Vento Connector Trail project.



Figure N



Trout Brook Along 4th Street

The native plant communities in the corridor have been eliminated by construction activities and urban land uses. The existing trees and shrubs are second growth, volunteer species, typically found on disturbed sites. Existing plant communities include a high proportion of invasive exotic species, such as spotted knapweed, chinese elm, and reed canary grass. Remaining native community remnants are degraded and highly fragmented along the corridor. The ground layer throughout the corridor is dominated by annual weed and exotic species. The fragmentation of plant communities and invasion by exotic species have reduced the value of plant communities for providing wildlife habitat.

Some patches of native prairie grasses and forbs exist along the CP/Soo Line Railroad tracks between the Arlington-Jackson Pond and the Trillium site, and within the Trillium site itself.



Figure O: GAP Land Cover Map of the Corridor

Water Resources

The open portion of Trout Brook south of McCarrons Lake is maintained in part by outflow from McCarrons Lake, which occurs during all but the driest portions of the year. A watershed area of over 1,000 acres contributes water to McCarrons Lake. Much of this flow is filtered through wetlands before it reaches the lake, and is a dependable source of water for creating a new Trout Brook downstream.

The existing brook also receives discharges from St. Paul Regional Water Services. The Water Services discharge water into the brook that is a byproduct of its processing activities. The Water Services has an approved state permit to discharge up to 2 million gallons per day of this water into the brook. It currently discharges up to 1 million gallons per day, on an intermittent basis. The existing flow of Trout Brook from Lake McCarrons and the Saint Paul Water Utility empties into the Arlington/Jackson Pond and adjacent wetlands, see Figure M. Stormwater from surrounding neighborhoods also enters the Arlington-Jackson pond complex. From here, the stormwater and Trout Brook enter the Trout Brook Storm Sewer through a structure at the south end of the wetland. Trout Brook remains underground until the 4th street channel near the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, see Figure N.

Management

The restored natural communities will be maintained through protection of old growth trees, prescribed burns, mowing, invasive species removal, and overseeding. Some spot spraying and specific weed removal may be done as necessary.

Trillium Nature Sanctuary***Plant Communities***

The vision for the Trillium Site is to create a nature preserve in the heart of a heavily urbanized area. The Trillium Site comprises 44 acres of the now encapsulated Trout Brook valley. With the tunnelization and filling of the creek, the valley slowly transformed into a heavily industrial area. According to Marschner's map of Pre-Settlement Vegetation (Marschner 1974), the Trillium Site contained a mixture of "oak openings and barrens" and "big woods" vegetation types.

The Trillium Site was historically used as a coach yard for the Northern Pacific Railroad and as a major route of the Canadian Pacific/Soo Line Railroad (CPSL) and the Burlington Northern - Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF). In order to construct these rail lines, the floodplain valley was filled and a terrace graded into the west slope of the valley to accommodate the CPSL rail, which is now abandoned and will become the route of the Trout Brook Regional Trail. Associated with these rail lines, the site also contained a coach yard for the CPSL and later, industrial facilities dependent on rail transportation services became established. Today, the coach yard is no longer in operation; however BNSF rail and many of the industrial facilities remain.

A field inventory of the Trillium Site was conducted in December 2003 to identify existing vegetation. The inventory resulted in subdividing the site into eleven distinct areas as shown in Figure P - Existing Conditions.

Proposed Natural Communities include a mosaic of woods, savanna, prairie and streambed. The proposed natural communities were selected on the basis of specific physical site characteristics and the ecoregion. Soil classification, relief, and aspect were the prevalent physical characteristics used to establish natural community units.

For the disturbed remnant sites, the restoration strategy is to do partial vegetation restoration, retaining as much of the existing vegetative structure as possible, remove invasive species, and replant with native species. Thus, the proposed wooded community types are consistent with the canopy cover to be retained in existing disturbed woodlands. For disturbed soil sites the strategy is to begin with soil reclamation and then move to complete vegetation restoration.

Existing site preparation strategies include invasive species removal followed by controlled burn in sites requiring complete restoration. Sites will then be planted and/or seeded depending on the community type. Proposed plant communities consist of Big Woods, Oak Woodland, Oak Savanna, Mesic Prairie, Lowland Hardwood Forest, Mixed Emergent Marsh, and Wet Prairie.

Water Resources

Analysis of the existing stormwater system near the corridor suggest that it is feasible to use gravity flows to recreate a portion of Trout Brook and wetlands on the Trillium site. As shown in Figure E, The Trillium Master Plan, the water will “daylight” at the north end of the Trillium site in a small wetland. The water is collected in part from localized stormwater harvesting which will drastically reduce the amount of water entering the Jackson Storm Sewer System and from a force main that pumps water up from the Trout Brook Storm Sewer. From here, the water will flow in a series of pools and riffles to the Sims-Agate pond. There will also be a series of small stormwater collection ponds as the stream meanders through the site. Each pond would collect localized stormwater from the adjacent Jackson storm sewer system. It is estimated that ponds averaging 4 feet deep with gradual side slopes would need to be approximately 3-4 acres in total size to clean stormwater from this watershed area to meet NURP (National Urban Runoff Program) standards.

These ponds will remove sediments, nutrients such as phosphorus, and other pollutants from neighborhood stormwater runoff before it enters the Trout Brook Storm Sewer and flows to the Mississippi River.

The stream will drop approximately 23 feet as it travels from the north end of the site to the normal surface level of the Sims-Agate Pond. This will allow for several small waterfalls or cascades as it travels through the site, and a larger cascade as it enters the pond. A wide buffer of native vegetation will be added along the entire length of the creek channel, to prevent erosion and improve creek habitat. The proposed trail on the site may cross the creek in several locations to provide views, while maintaining the integrity of the vegetated buffer along the stream.

Management

The restored natural communities will be maintained through protection of old growth trees, prescribed burns, mowing, invasive species removal, and overseeding. Regular maintenance of the ponds and streambed involves preserving the pond and the surrounding area. Typical pond maintenance includes repairs to embankments or spillways, repairs to inlet and outlet pipes, removal of large vegetation, and stabilization of the area below the pipe outfall to prevent erosive damage. Annual inspections are conducted to assess weeds, effectiveness of the weed management program, and integrity of the pond's control structure and embankment. Periodic Dredging roughly every 10 years or on an as-needed basis to assure that the pond can retain water and filter out pollutants.

Existing Natural Communities

*Trillium Natural Areas & Management Plan
St. Paul, MN- January 2004*



Figure P

Proposed Plant Communities

Trillium Natural Areas & Management Plan
St. Paul, MN- January 2004

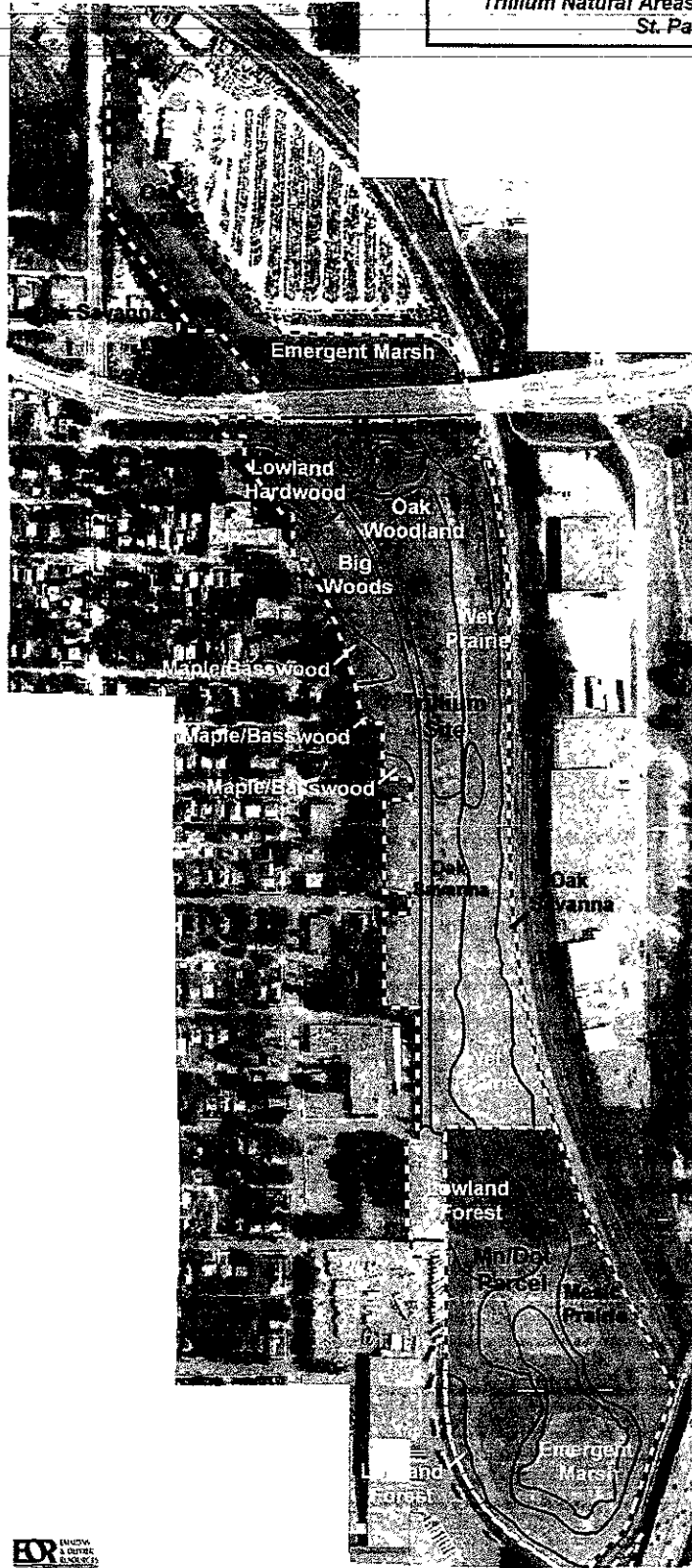


Figure Q

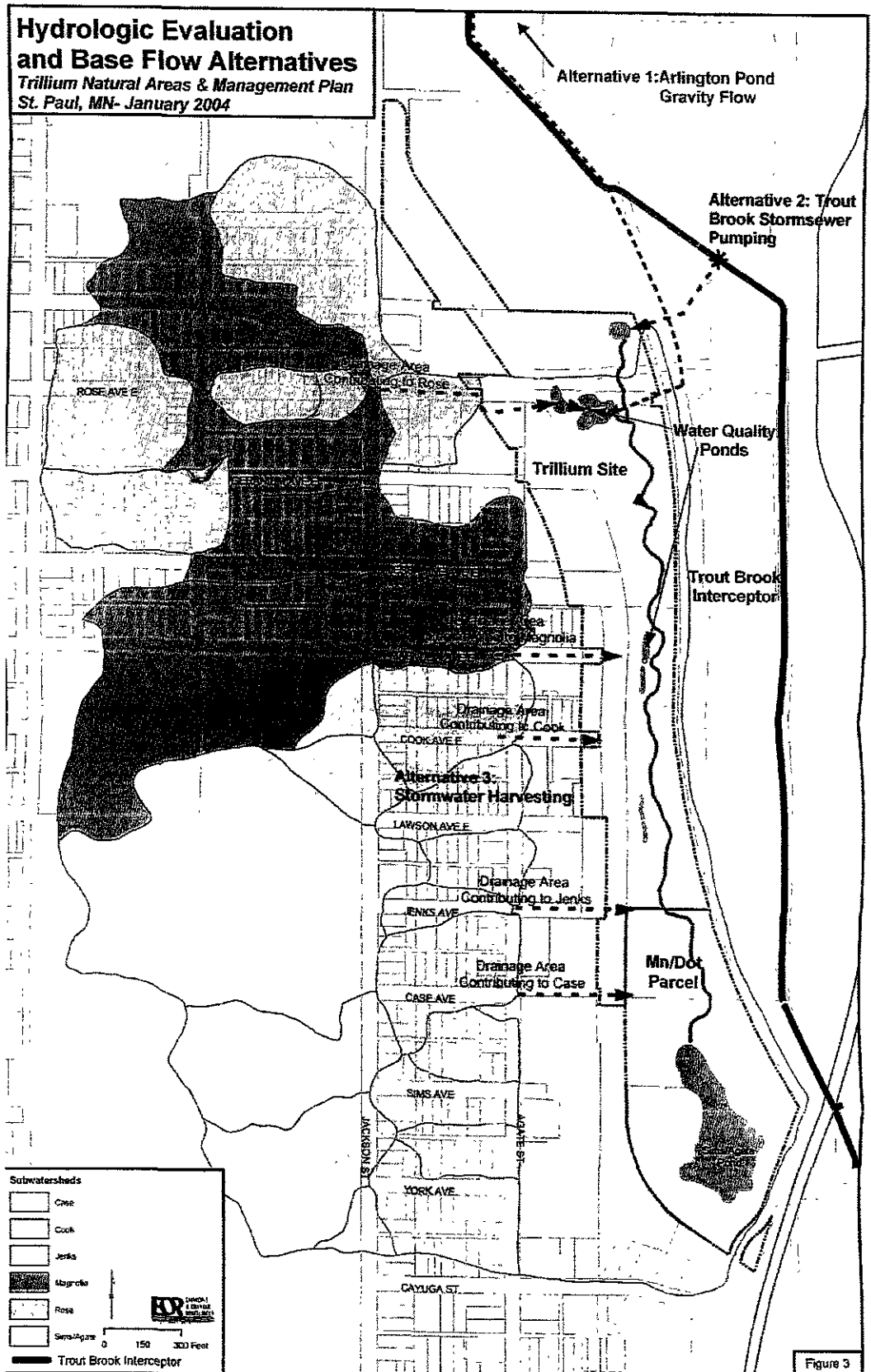


Figure R

Appendix

- A. Parks Commission Resolution
- B. City of Saint Paul Resolution
- C. Ramsey County Resolution
- D. City of Saint Paul - Ramsey County Joint Powers of Agreement
- E. Trout Brook- Lower Phalen Greenway Plan Public Hearing Notice
- F. Trout Brook-Lower Phalen Greenway Plan - Summary
- G. Ramsey County System Plan Excerpt
- H. Letter from Ramsey County to CP Rail

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
RAMSEY COUNTY
AND
THE CITY OF ST. PAUL

TROUT BROOK COUNTY TRAIL**

THIS AGREEMENT, is made and entered into this 23rd day of February, 1997, by and between the City of St. Paul, St. Paul, Minnesota, hereinafter called "City," and County of Ramsey, Minnesota, hereinafter called "County," both parties being governmental and political subdivisions of the State of Minnesota.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, The City owns and manages property along Trout Brook as shown on Exhibit I; and

WHEREAS, The County is the recipient of a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for construction of the Trout Brook County Trail that extends from Lake McCarrons County Park to the Gateway Segment of the Willard Munger State Trail; and

WHEREAS, The County and the City desire to cooperate to develop the Trout Brook County Trail in order to expand the recreation opportunities for the citizens of Ramsey County.

NOW, THEREFORE, The County and the City, pursuant to the authority contained in Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59, commonly known as the Joint Powers Act, in order to accomplish the development and ongoing operation of the Trout Brook County Trail, agree as follows:

1. Development Plan

The County, in cooperation with the City, has prepared a development plan that establishes the alignment for the Trout Brook County Trail. The trail, as proposed, is 10 feet wide pavement with 10-foot turf/aggregate shoulders on each side, resulting in a trail corridor of 30 feet.

It is understood that the trail corridor may be subject to easements, licenses or permits granted by the City to third parties. The County, at its sole cost and expense, shall insure that the conditions of the easement, licenses and permits are complied with to the extent required.

2. Construction

A. The County agrees to pay all costs associated with construction of trail corridor improvements, including the trail treadway, retaining walls, gates, fences, street crossings, bridges, signs and traffic signals.

B. The County shall prepare plans and specifications for construction in accordance with the development plan. The City shall review and approve the plans and

specifications for construction to assure there is no negative impact on the City's facilities within the corridor. No construction may occur until after the plan is presented to and approved by the City.

- C. The County shall solicit bids, award contracts and manage construction of the trail corridor. The County will consult with the City during construction on all improvements to assure that construction is consistent with approved plans and specifications.

3. Operation and Maintenance

The County shall be solely responsible for operation and maintenance of the trailway and shoulders within the trail corridor and associated improvements, such as fences, gates, traffic signals, etc. All costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the trail corridor shall be borne solely by the County.

4. Signage

The County shall design, construct, install and maintain all signs necessary for trail corridor operation. All signs shall be in conformance with the standards of the County parks and recreation system; however, all identification signs will acknowledge the cooperative relationship between the County and the City in the provision of the Trout Brook County Trail.

5. Law Enforcement

The County shall be solely responsible to provide and pay the full cost of policing the Trout Brook County Trail. All police services shall be under the direction and control of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department.

6. Park Ordinances

The Ordinance for Control and Management of Park, Recreation and Open Space Areas and Facilities Under the Jurisdiction of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, attached hereto as Exhibit II, as passed and approved on February 11, 1992, shall be applicable to the Trout Brook County Trail. It is understood by the County and the City that, unless expressly provided for, nothing in the ordinance or this agreement limits or restricts the activities of the City or its employees in carrying out their rights as the property owner.

7. City Public Works

The City reserves unto itself all its rights to the site not herein or hereby expressly granted to the County, including but not limited to the right to install, at City expense, any works the City might deem desirable or necessary, and also the right to alter, extend, add, relocate or remove any of its works or portions thereof now or in the future located within said site or adjacent thereto. The City further reserves the right to maintain and carry out all its operations in respect to any said works now or in the future located or relocated there within; and the right to permit continued existence, maintenance and necessary operation in respect to any duly authorized works of others heretofore installed within the site. In the event the City finds it necessary to excavate within the trail corridor, the City shall make reasonable efforts to limit the extent of excavation that impacts trail corridor improvements. The City will have no

obligation to repair areas within the trail corridor, damaged by the City, in carrying out its duties.

The parties agree and understand that the property which is the subject of this agreement is currently used by the City for water control and storm water ponding purposes and that the current or future use of the property by the City, for any purpose, shall take priority over the County's use of the property.

The parties further agree that the City reserves the right to take action to relocate the trail, if required, for the above-mentioned purposes. In the event that this relocation of the trail is required, the County and the City agree that they will work together in a cooperative fashion and utilize their best efforts to agree on issues relating to any relocation including the sharing of the cost thereof. The parties also agree to limit the extent and impact of any required relocation as much as practical.

8. Mutual Indemnification

The County and the City agree to indemnify, defend and hold the other party harmless for all claims, demands, damages, costs or judgments caused by or arising out of the negligence of the party or its agents or employees by virtue of their respective activities on the property. Nothing herein shall constitute a waiver by either party of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 466, or other limitations of liability available in law.

9. Contractor Insurance

The County shall require that its contractor(s) name the City as additional insureds for all insurance policies required by the County for services and activities associated with the Trout Brook County Trail. Proof of said insurance shall be delivered to the City prior to commencement of any said activity within the trail corridor.

10. Term of Agreement

The term of this agreement shall be for 40 years commencing on the date this agreement is approved by both the County and the City. The agreement may be extended, in writing, for an additional term, prior to expiration of the current term, upon such terms as may be mutually agreeable between the County and the City.

11. Ownership of Capital Improvements

All capital improvements constructed on the City's property shall become property of the City upon termination of this agreement or termination of any extension agreed to by and between the parties.

12. Existence and use of the trail corridor within said property, however long continued, shall not vest the County in any lease hold, property or other rights therein adverse to the City.

13. The County shall obtain all federal, state and local licenses or permits necessary to complete the work.

14. This agreement may be modified by mutual written agreement of the parties.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Brian Sweeney, Director



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Norm Coleman, Mayor

25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-6655
Facsimile: 651-228-3314

DATE: July 16, 2001
TO: Early Notification System
Interested Parties
FROM: Virginia Burke, City Planner *VB*
RE: Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway: Area Plan Summary

Public Hearing Notice

**The Saint Paul Planning Commission
will hold a public hearing on**

Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway: Area Plan Summary

Friday, September 7, 2001

8:30 a.m.

Room 40

City Hall/Courthouse

15 West Kellogg Blvd.

On Friday, September 7, 2001, the Saint Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the *Area Plan Summary* for the Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway and consider its adoption as an addendum to the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan.

The Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway begins at St. Paul's northern boundary (between Rice Street and Jackson Street), and generally follows the historic path of Trout Brook to the Mississippi River. The vision for the Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway is to reclaim former railyards in the Trout Brook corridor (Trillium Site) and the Lower Phalen Creek area and restore habitat and ecological health of the corridor and floodplain. Restore a portion of Trout Brook and wetlands in the greenway corridor and the Lower Phalen Creek site. Create trail and natural community connections from McCarrons Lake (in Roseville) to the Mississippi River. Provide a natural amenity to adjacent neighborhoods and Lowertown.

Two separate plans together represent the vision for the Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway. The *Trout Brook Greenway Plan* addresses the greenway corridor between Saint Paul's northern

Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway Public Hearing Notice
Page Two

boundary and Fourth Street, while the *Community Vision for Lower Phalen Creek* addresses the area from Fourth Street to the Mississippi River. Both plans were prepared with significant input from numerous organizations and individuals. The two plans are summarized in the *Area Plan Summary* for the Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway.

The Planning Commission recently adopted guidelines whereby plans for geographic portions of the city, such as this, may be incorporated into the citywide comprehensive plan. Essentially, in order to keep the city's plan current and easy for people to understand and use, area plans are appended to the larger plan in summary form. Summaries are prepared by the planning staff of the Department of Planning and Economic Development and will highlight those recommendations for which City departments have primary or major responsibility.

The adoption process involves a review by the Planning Commission and City Council to ensure that the plan is the product of a broadly-based community effort and is consistent with other adopted plan chapters or City policies. After a public hearing, summaries of those plans found to be consistent with the Commission's guidelines and the Comprehensive Plan will be recommended for City Council adoption.

Copies of the *Area Plan Summary* for the Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway may be obtained by calling me at 651-266-6661.

Area Plan Summary

Trout Brook - Lower Phalen Greenway

Addendum to The Comprehensive Plan for Saint Paul

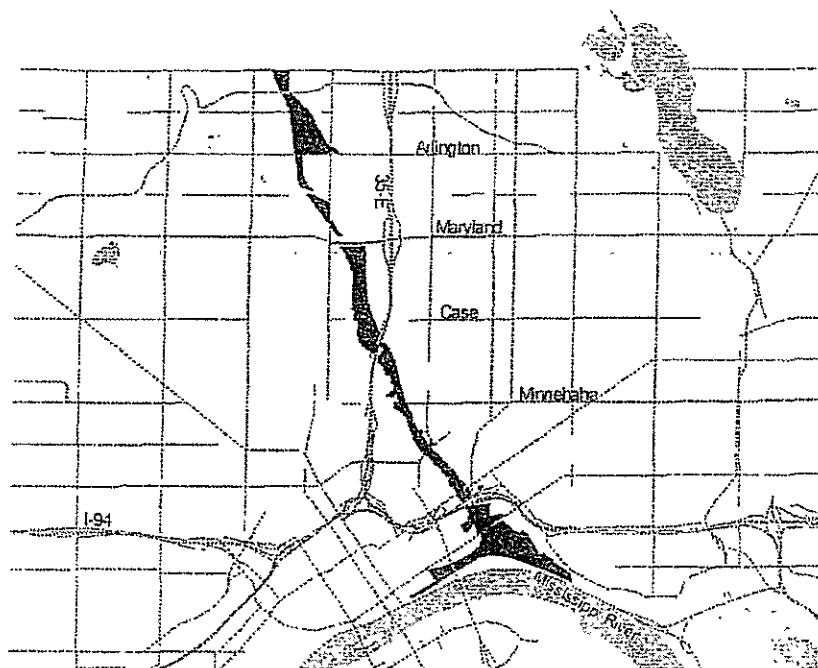
Recommended by the Parks & Recreation Commission - x/x/01

Recommended by the Planning Commission - x/x/01

Adopted by the City Council - x/x/01

This summary appends to the Comprehensive Plan the vision and strategies of the Trout Brook Greenway Plan and the Community Vision for Lower Phalen Creek. Copies of the full-length plans are available for review at the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development and the office of the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhoods Association.

Location



Goal/Vision

Reclaim former railyards in the Trout Brook corridor (Trillium Site) and the Lower Phalen Creek area and restore habitat and ecological health of the corridor and floodplain. Restore a portion of Trout Brook and wetlands in the greenway corridor and the Lower Phalen Creek site. Create trail

and natural community connections from McCarrons Lake to the Mississippi River. Provide a natural amenity to adjacent neighborhoods and Lowertown.

Specific Recommendations and Implementation Steps

Trails

- 1) Northern segment: McCarrons Lake to Trillium Site. The Trout Brook County Trail connects McCarrons Lake to the Arlington-Jackson Pond. From the pond, the proposed trail follows the west side of the pond and crosses the Northern Pacific RR tracks at Arlington Avenue (an existing, at-grade connection). From here, a ramp will be needed to connect the trail with the CP Rail bridge over Arlington Avenue. The proposed trail continues on the CP Rail right-of-way which runs on higher land south of Arlington and provides clear views of the original path of Trout Brook, the existing landscape, and ridge areas to the east and west that form the watershed. The CP Rail right-of-way provides a direct link without interruption to the Trillium Site. The track has been abandoned through the Trillium Site.

- 2) Trillium segment: Trails on the Trillium Site. A loop trail is envisioned, consisting of an upper trail on higher land along the western side of the site and a lower trail on the eastern side of the site. The upper trail will link the Trout Brook Trail at the north with the Gateway Trail to the south. Both trails can be fully accessible. The lower trail will follow the route of the restored creek. Access to the site from the adjacent neighborhood is proposed at Rose Street.

- 3) Middle segment: Trillium Site to Lower Phalen Creek Site, with connections to Fourth Street and Lowertown. The trail south of the Trillium Site would follow the Gateway Trail extension straight south along the 35-E access road, to Pennsylvania Avenue. From this juncture, the trail connects with the Capitol Area to the west, or joins the trail planned for the north side of Phalen Blvd. to the east. From the trail along Phalen Blvd. a ramp would allow trail users to descend from the bridge over the railroad tracks (near Williams Hill) to ground level. From here, the Trout Brook Trail would follow the wide open area that parallels the railroad corridor travelling to the south and east. The trail would then pass over Fourth Street on an abandoned railroad bridge (one of four railroad bridges crossing Fourth Street) and loop down onto Fourth Street. From Fourth Street, trail users could reach Lowertown to the west, or link to the trails on the Lower Phalen Creek Site to the east.

- 4) Southern segment: Lower Phalen Creek Site to Mississippi River, with connection to Swede Hollow Park and the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. From Fourth Street, the proposed trail will connect to Swede Hollow Park and the Bruce Vento Regional Trail, as well as to the Mississippi River via the Lower Phalen Creek site if possible. To reach Swede Hollow Park, the trail will loop over Fourth Street on an abandoned railroad bridge (not the same bridge used by the Trout Brook Trail) and pass under the I-94 bridges on land owned by Ramsey County Rail Authority, connecting to Swede Hollow Park and the parking lot on 7th Street. To reach the Mississippi River, the trail will pass under Kellogg Bridge and run along an existing gravel road toward Warner Road. To cross Warner Road and railroad tracks, a bridge is proposed. The bridge would

descend on the river side of Warner Road onto the road embankment and would intersect with the Lower Landing Park trail at the circular observation deck.

Water Resources

5) Restore a portion of Trout Brook and wetlands on the Trillium site. Water from the Arlington-Jackson pond will be piped to the north end of the Trillium Site, via a new 15" pipe that follows the existing storm sewer easement. The water will "daylight" in a small wetland, then flow as the restored Trout Brook through a series of small pools and riffles to the Sims-Agate Pond at the south end of the site. Surface water from the neighborhood to the west of the Trillium site will outlet into a series of wetlands at the south end of the Trillium Site, then flow into Sims-Agate pond which outlets into the storm sewer system.

6) Restore springs emerging from the base of the Mounds Park bluffs into a riparian wetland habitat. This recommendation is contingent on the results of a Restoration and Remediation Plan addressing contamination of the Lower Phalen Creek site.

7) Channel a remnant of Trout Brook at Fourth Street. Build a channel to collect water seeping from the railroad bridges on the north side of Fourth street. From the channel a trench or pipe can carry the water under the roadway and allow it to cascade into the canal on the south side of Fourth Street.

Habitat and Natural Communities

8) Plantings throughout the corridor should emphasize species that provide food, cover, nesting habitat, and other needs for birds, migratory birds especially, and other species that use the corridor. Restoration is proposed to include prairie, woodland, and wetland plant communities. Restoration of natural communities should represent native vegetation, consider the long-term ownership and maintenance available, provide for a variety of educational opportunities, complement the activities proposed for the site, and be compatible with the soil and moisture conditions on the site.

Learning Opportunities

9) Environmental learning opportunities on the Trillium Site. Learning opportunities on this site include wetland and creek ecology, water quality, and water flow; plant community restoration and progress; bird watching along the upper trail; interpretation of the geologic history of the watershed; and interpretation of the human history of the area.

10) Environmental and historical learning opportunities on the Lower Phalen Creek Site. Learning opportunities on this site include interpretation of bird migration, bluff geology, cave formation (Carver's Cave, Montana Bill's Cave), natural springs, watershed function, drainage to the river, the history of the Mississippi River floodplain, history of Phalen Creek, stone-lined canal on Fourth Street, and railroad bridges, including the historic East Seventh Street stone arch bridge.

City Action

To encourage implementation of this vision, the City of Saint Paul should endeavor to include in its budget and program priorities the following activities. More detail about each proposed action is included in the *Trout Brook Greenway Plan* or the *Community Vision for Lower Phalen Creek* and should be reviewed by the appropriate City staff.

- 1) Acquisition of Land and Easements identified in the *Trout Brook Greenway Plan* and *Community Vision for Lower Phalen Creek*.
- 2) Complete a current topographic survey (1 or 2 foot contours) of the entire corridor.
- 3) Complete Phase II soils and contaminants analysis at Trillium Site for proposed land use.
- 4) Complete engineering analysis for restoration of water features and development of trail components.
- 5) Discussions with Railroad companies regarding trail options south of the Trillium Site, and restoration of plant communities in railroad right-of-way.
- 6) Coordinate development of plans with agencies and abutting landowners, and obtain necessary permits.
- 7) Together with Lower Phalen Creek Project Steering Committee
 - a) prepare Master Plan amendment to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Plan for City and Metropolitan Council approval,
 - b) determine costs of Restoration & Remediation Plan and Natural Resource Management Plan for Lower Phalen Creek site, and
 - c) prepare Restoration Plan.
- 8) Seek funding for completion of infrastructure and amenity investments needed to implement the *Trout Brook Greenway Plan* and *Community Vision for Lower Phalen Creek*.

Parks & Recreation Commission Findings

The Parks & Recreation Commission finds: (to be completed after Parks & Rec Commission review)

Planning Commission Findings

The Planning Commission finds: (to be completed after Planning Commission review)

Planning Process

The *Community Vision for Lower Phalen Creek* is the result of a community planning process initiated by the Friends of Swede Hollow, that grew out of efforts to improve Swede Hollow Park and the Lower Phalen Creek corridor. Between 1996 and 2001 more than 20 organizations participated in creating the *Community Vision for Lower Phalen Creek*, with funding from McKnight Foundation and Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation.

The *Trout Brook Greenway Plan* was prepared with the assistance of a planning grant from DNR Metro Greenways. A Task Force was convened by the St. Paul Planning Commission to assist in the preparation of the Plan between November, 2000 and May, 2001. A Technical Advisory Committee also advised the preparation of the Plan.

A 40 Acre Study for the entire greenway was initiated by the Planning Commission in September, 2000. The 40 Acre Study must be completed by September, 2003.

RAMSEY COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

TROUT BROOK REGIONAL TRAIL

LOCATION AND SIZE

The Trout Brook Regional Trail is a 1.6-mile trail extending from Lake McCarrons County Park to the Gateway Section of the Willard Munger State Trail. The trail is located in the cities of Maplewood and St. Paul. The trail has been constructed on right of way owned by the St. Paul Regional Water Services and City of St. Paul road right of way.

SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The 1.1 mile trail section between Lake McCarrons County Park and Arlington Avenue is located within St. Paul Regional Water Services' right of way. The right of way is a naturally vegetated corridor 100 feet to 500 feet wide following Trout Brook. The corridor also contains water distribution pipe (below grade) maintained by the St. Paul Regional Water Services.

RECREATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Existing Development

A bituminous trail has been developed between Lake McCarrons County Park and the Gateway Trail. West of Lake McCarrons County Park, local trail connections extend into the Reservoir Woods Park and the Woodview Protection Open Space site.

Proposed Development

It is proposed that the Trout Brook Trail be extended south and east across I-35E at the point where the Phalen Corridor intersects I-35E and east of that intersection following Phalen Corridor to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resource management is limited within a relatively narrow corridor. Since the trail is located in property owned by other agencies, Ramsey County's role in natural resource management will be limited to advisory.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Extension of the Trout Brook Trail south of its current location and a connection to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail and the City of St. Paul's Trillium Trail will require coordination with the City of St. Paul, community groups and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Trail alignment and its relationship with the Gateway Trail will be analyzed to establish the best alignment and avoid unnecessary duplication. As the County has participated in the Trillium Trail procurement the Parks and Recreation Department will work in partnership with these organizations to complete these connections.

It should be noted that the Metropolitan Council in their recently adopted Comprehensive Parks and Trails Plan designated the Ramsey County Trout Brook Trail a regional trail and that Plan included the proposed trail connection south from Arlington/Jackson through Trillium to Cayuga/I-35E (which is scheduled for reconstruction).

Appendix H



Parks and Recreation Department

Gregory A. Mack, Director

2015 N. Van Dyke St.
Maplewood, MN 55109-3796

Tel: 651-748-2500
Fax: 651-748-2508
www.co.ramsey.mn.us

November 26, 2008

David Drach
Director of Real Estate Marketing
Canadian Pacific Railroad
Suite 1525
501 Marquette Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN. 55402

RE: Trout Brook Regional Trail

Dear Mr. Drach:

The Trout Brook Regional Trail is a major pedestrian and bicycle trail corridor with proposed connections to other local and state trails, multiple municipalities and ultimately the Mississippi River.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad presently owns a spur line located west of Jackson Street, extending from approximately Jackson and Maryland Streets, north to approximately Larpenteur Avenue. This letter is to express the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department's interest in acquiring this spur line if the Railroad ever determines it is no longer needed for their operation. It would be our intent to utilize this spur alignment to route this segment of the Trout Brook Regional Trail.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to me at 651-748-2500, ext. 330.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Wehrle, RLA
Director of Planning and Development

c. Greg Mack, Director

To: Mike Hahm – Director St. Paul Parks & Recreation
From: Tri Area Block Club
C/o 1111 Abell Street
St. Paul, MN 55117
Re: Trout Brook/Regional Trail Master Plan
Date: November 16, 2009

The members of the Tri Area Block Club, located in St. Paul's North End neighborhood, have advocated on behalf of the Trillium Preserve/Trout Brook Corridor for 15 years. Trail connections, both local and regional, are an integral component to this project. Regional status would acknowledge and elevate this corridor to its full potential as a major north-south corridor within a system of local, regional, and state trails.

The trail connections and the Trillium Nature Preserve would compliment one another and in combination, provide an amenity for our community, the City, and the Region. This plan is viewed as the next step in our efforts over so many years, to raise awareness as to the significance of this corridor and the opportunities and trail connections it affords. Therefore, we strongly support the adoption of the Trout Brook Regional Trail Master Plan and commend the partnerships that have supported our vision with their efforts to advance the Trillium Preserve/Trout Brook Corridor project.

cc: St. Paul City Council Members
Greg Mack, Director Ramsey County Parks & Recreation
Mark Vander Schaaf, Director, Planning & Growth Management

D6

District 6 Planning Council

213 Front Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55117
651-488-4485 fax: 651-488-0343
district6@qwestoffice.net

November 17, 2009

Michael Hahm
Director, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

District 6 Planning Council strongly supports the adoption of the Trout Brook Regional Trail Master Plan. The adjacent neighbors have advocated for the Trillium Preserve/Trout Brook Corridor for over fifteen years. Each step forward is a milestone and a small victory for the North End as well as the citizens of Saint Paul.

There is tremendous community benefit and opportunity for the trail connectors, especially having a distressed neighborhood house such trail connections thus connecting this community to the region.

We are grateful for the partners in this project and are especially thankful for the hard work and the fact that the vision was kept alive for years.

Regards,

Jeff Martens

Jeff Martens
Land Use Task Force Chairman

Cc: Councilmember Lee Helgen
Saint Paul City Councilmembers
County Commissioner Janice Rettman
Greg Mack, Director Ramsey County Parks and Recreation