



AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020
7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

6:00 P.M. CLOSED SESSION – VIA ZOOM

Closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) to have an attorney-client privileged discussion with its attorneys regarding the lake level litigation, White Bear Lake Restoration Association, et al v. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, et al.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on July 14, 2020

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Regrow White Bear Lake Initiative – Lisa Beecroft

B. South Shore Blvd Open House summary by Ramsey County

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

Nothing scheduled

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

10. CONSENT

Nothing scheduled

11. DISCUSSION

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- Elections – Statistics & City Council meeting pushed to Wednesday, August 12th due to the Primary
- West Park Pavilion improvement
- Relay for Life sidewalk chalk and luminaries
- Potential Council Work Session to discuss utilization of CARES Act funding - Tuesday, August 4

13. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020
7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Jo Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. under MN Statute Section 13D.021, in which the City Council will be conducting its meetings during this emergency by electronic means until further notice. The clerk took roll call attendance for Councilmembers: Doug Biehn, Kevin Edberg, Steven Engstran, Dan Jones and Bill Walsh. Staff in attendance were City Manager Ellen Hiniker, Assistant City Manager Rick Juba, Community Development Director Anne Kane, Public Works Director/City Engineer Paul Kauppi, City Clerk Kara Coustry and City Attorney Troy Gilchrist.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on June 23, 2020

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones** seconded by Councilmember **Engstran**, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting on June 23, 2020.

- Walsh Aye
- Biehn Aye
- Jones Aye
- Edberg Aye
- Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Emerson moved 11B to 4B - regarding face coverings.

Councilmember Walsh added 9C – Resolution rescinding the mask proclamation.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh** seconded by Councilmember **Edberg**, to approve the Agenda as amended.

- Walsh Aye
- Biehn Aye
- Jones Aye
- Edberg Aye
- Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

4. VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Children’s Performing Arts, Development Director Marlene Petersen

Development Director for Children’s Performing Arts Marlene Petersen stated they are a non-profit children’s theater, specializing in theater education through the performing arts. As a proud member of the Arts District in White Bear Lake, she said the mission is not only to educate children, but to bring art and culture to the community through theatre. Ms. Petersen reported the theatre has been closed for COVID-19 since March 15th and as a result they have been seeking creative community engagement for the children.

Ms. Petersen proposed children’s pop-up performances in downtown White Bear Lake at Railroad Park on Thursdays, August 20 and 27, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. She thanked staff for contacting Suburban Cable Channels (SCC) who will provide the sound equipment and also record and live stream the event on Public Access Channel 16. She noted, this is the Children’s Performing Arts 15th Anniversary, so song selections will reflect a 15- year history of past musical performances. Ms. Petersen mentioned reaching out for community sponsorships to provide cross-marketing with downtown business for these dates as well.

Councilmember Jones inquired and received confirmation there were no other City services required beyond use of Railroad Park.

B. Mayor’s Proclamation for Face Masks in Public

Mayor Emerson asked the City Manager to place this item under discussion, however, in light of upward trends in COVID-19 cases, as well as recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Surgeon General of the United States and the Minnesota State Public Health Department, the Mayor believed the public health implications required action rather than discussion. As such, Mayor Emerson signed a proclamation requiring facial coverings indoor areas where public has access within the City of White Bear Lake.

She noted the emergency mask proclamation will take effect at 12:01 a.m., Friday, July 17, 2020 and will continue until the enactment of a statewide proclamation by the Governor, the state peacetime emergency declaration ends, the Council votes to rescind it, or 30-days from the enactment of this proclamation. Mayor Emerson stated this is not a political issue, this is a public health issue and people who are working should not have to be fearful of those without masks. She stated this virus is real and is a threat to all ages.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nothing scheduled

6. LAND USE

A. Consent

1. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by

Paula Frost for a special home occupation permit at 1904 4th Street. (Case No. 20-2-SHOP).
Resolution No. 12605

2. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by Husnik Homes on behalf of Dave and Jane Linden for a variance at 4796 Bald Eagle Avenue. (Case No. 20-10-V). **Resolution No. 12606**
3. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by White Bear Area ISD 624 for a conditional use permit at 3551 McKnight Road. (Case No. 20-5-CUP). **Resolution No. 12607**

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Biehn** to adopt the Land Use Consent Agenda as presented

B. Non-Consent

1. Consideration of a Planning Commission recommendation for approval of a request by White Bear Center for the Arts for a planned unit development at 4971 Long Avenue and 4953, 4962, 4970 & 4980 Division Avenue. (Case No. 20-1-PUD).

Community Development Director Kane introduced and put forward a unanimous recommendation by the Planning Commission to approve a request by White Bear Center for the Arts (Center) for a planned unit development at 4971 Long Avenue and 4953, 4962, 4970 & 4980 Division Avenue after removing a condition for future artist loft housing. She explained the Center conducted a neighborhood meeting in which a handful of neighbors expressed concern with looking at windows in the evening for which window treatments are expected to help reduce glare. She said staff felt the Center alleviated any issues for expanding a community center into a residential neighborhood regarding light, noise and tree coverage. She noted the lack of vehicle access into the neighborhood, generous landscaping and the nearby park-like woodlands are compatible with the neighborhood.

Councilmember Walsh inquired regarding original PUD approval for the Arts Center and Ms. Kane confirmed that the project has grown significantly from the initial parking lot expansion that was approved 2.5 years ago and now includes a building expansion as a result of donor support and the anticipated school district expansion. Ms. Kane said this has become more of a full build out of the Art Center.

In response to Councilmember Jones, Community Development Director Kane said the previous proposal did not access Division intentionally, and the High School expansion will result in children using the shortest routes to school, the access point on Division was abandoned but could be opened again in the future. Councilmember Jones encouraged pervious storm solutions for the parking lot and curb where possible.

Councilmember Edberg received confirmation that a future building labeled on the site plan was part of the approval at this time. Ms. Kane stated that Phase II shows this portion in detail, which provides a future landscape feature, in this case most likely an outdoor shed for materials for the clay yards, and also screens residents' view from north end of the yard.

Mayor Emerson opened the public hearing at 8:09 p.m. There being no public wishing to speak, Mayor Emerson closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

It was moved by Councilmember **Jones**, seconded by Councilmember **Walsh** to adopt **Resolution No. 12608** approving a request by White Bear Center for the Arts for a planned unit development at 4971 Long Avenue and 4953, 4962, 4970 & 4980 Division Avenue.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing scheduled

8. ORDINANCES

Nothing scheduled

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution regarding Goose Lake Access Agreement with VLAWMO

City Manager Hiniker reported an agreement has been formalized between staff and Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a limited access boat launch on City owned right-of-way adjacent to East Goose Lake at Highland Avenue. She explained the two entities share interest in water quality of East Goose Lake and wish to facilitate access for VLAWMO to conduct its necessary partnership-based water quality management activities.

City Manager Hiniker mentioned the property will require grading and construction of a boat launch to allow lake access and VLAWMO would be responsible for all work related to design, construction, operation, security and maintenance of the boat launch. Ms. Hiniker stated the city would assist with tree removal, hauling and disposal of excess materials during construction.

City Engineer Kauppi added that as part of the boat launch, the underbrush and a couple of trees need to be removed. While not an easy access, he noted, VLWMO would lay concrete pad along the steep embankment to facilitate access and prevent erosion. He mentioned natural screening keeps the site out of public view. Finally, Mr. Kauppi noted this will provide a stable long-term access to the lake, when private residences were being utilized prior to this.

Councilmember Jones noted this provides long-term safe access for VLAWMO. He mentioned that VLAWMO held a public hearing but there were no unsettled issues at that time.

Councilmember Edberg inquired as to the length of time for this agreement and control of the non-public launch site. Mr. Kauppi said the launch is not very visible, but if needed, VLAWMO agreed to place a chain or a gate to further restrict access. He noted the agreement is intended in perpetuity, renewing every ten years with termination clauses for both parties if needed.

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adopt **Resolution No. 12609** approving Goose Lake Access Agreement with VLWMO.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to order repairs and maintenance to the Armory elevator

City Manager Hiniker stated the elevator repair at the Armory, amounting to just under \$18,000 was not a budgeted expense. She added the Armory has been underutilized this year and the fund balance is not self-sustaining. She indicated this repair can be absorbed in the Municipal Building Fund if it cannot be paid for from the Armory fund balance.

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn**, seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adopt **Resolution No. 12610** authorizing the City Manager to order repairs and maintenance to the Armory elevator.

Councilmember Edberg mentioned the city's contractor had recently completed an elevator inspection and found no repairs were required, however, the state found repairs are needed. He asked why the city was hiring the same contractor to fix the issues found by the state, which were not identified by the contractor. Assistant City Manager Juba stated that the state elevator code changed in May, between inspection times, which contributed to the disparity.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution rescinding the mask proclamation

It was moved by Councilmember **Walsh**, seconded by Councilmember **Engstran** to adopt the resolution rescinding the mask requirement in White Bear Lake.

Councilmember Walsh said this mask requirement is moving quickly, while the positivity rate has not increased in over a two-week period in Minnesota. He said leaders are scaring people with numbers and stated that outside of long-term care facilities, the mortality rate in Minnesota is .1% and people under the age of 60 represent a .03% mortality rate.

Councilmember Walsh noted the goal with the March shutdown was to flatten the curve, it was never to stop the virus from spreading, which is impossible. He noted, Minnesota reached peak ICU on May 30 at 263 people, which has only decreased since then and he does not agree with a mask mandate at this time when all of the statistics indicate recovery from the virus. He noted

side effects of overreacting to the virus have resulted in increased drug and alcohol usage, domestic violence, suicide rates, drug overdoses, not to mention the effect of closing businesses. He finds value in wearing a mask, but is opposed to a mandate in White Bear Lake.

While Councilmember Biehn will not vote to rescind the mask requirement, he expressed concern over being the island in the absence of a statewide policy. He noted other countries with mask requirements are better managing COVID-19 and although masks in White Bear Lake alone would not be as effective as a nationwide or even statewide requirement, he supports the proclamation.

Councilmember Jones supports the Mayor's Proclamation in the lack of a statewide mask requirement and noted that White Bear Lake was the first to ban cigarette machines and coal tar base. He understands the arguments, but believes a mask requirement would actually facilitate business by lessening the fear in the community. He noted that New York will not allow Minnesotans into their state without first quarantining for two weeks because MN has not implemented certain protocols.

Councilmember Jones pointed out that despite action by the Governor, we are still not reaching even the first step to reopening according to federal guidelines on "Opening up America Again" website. Lastly, the main reason he supports masks is a serious lack of ICU nurses, not beds.

Councilmember Edberg would have appreciated more time for thoughtful preparation. He asked Mayor Emerson what authority she will have after this expires in 30 days. Mayor stated she cannot predict 30-days out, but if it is needed, she would extend it. Attorney Gilchrist stated the code was not clear, arguments could be made either way and would need to research further.

In response to Councilmember Biehn, Attorney Gilchrist did not have concern about losing a lawsuit over what some believe is a controversial mask requirement because the Governor made it clear by Executive Order that local governments can enact stricter requirements under this emergency.

City Manager Hiniker clarified the mask requirement in gyms applies only when social distance of six feet cannot be maintained and is not intended to be worn while exercising otherwise.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Nay
Jones Nay
Edberg Nay
Engstran Aye

Motion failed 2:3.

10. CONSENT

- A. Acceptance of Minutes: May Park Advisory Commission, May Environmental Advisory Commission, June Planning Commission

B. Resolution approving the Children’s Performing Arts for pop-up singing events at Railroad Park
Resolution No. 12611

It was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Jones**, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION

A. Racial equity discussion – public engagement

Mayor Emerson indicated that she had conversations with the school district’s cultural liaison, who has set up meetings for the Mayor with students and parents of color living in White Bear Lake so she can learn from their experiences and develop a base for future discussions.

City Manager Hiniker relayed her intent to work with a consultant to develop a framework for organizational work around the racial equity issues. As part of this work, she would like to review all forms of public interaction and service within the City. She asked the Council whether there is interest in developing a public facing framework for these discussions and invited participation in the selection of a consultant if there was interest. Ms. Hiniker also mentioned opportunities for collaboration with Century College.

Mayor Emerson supported an outside look into the organization.

Councilmember Edberg supports the City Manager’s internal work. He encouraged individuals to listen and learn. He also supported the City Manager’s request for Council to work with a consultant to refine and develop a community outreach effort. Lastly, he said the City should use the data it collects to better assess, communicate and share a more longitudinal view of, for example police stats related to public interaction.

Councilmember Walsh and Councilmember Jones both agreed to serve on this committee on behalf of the City Council. Councilmember Biehn offered his assistance as a resource having worked in law enforcement.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- AV Pilot Project – Despite a hold on state funding, AECOM continues to be dedicated to this work and recently assisted with selection of a vendor. All collaborators are continuing work with MnDOT, however, a contract cannot be solidified until later this fall or next spring until funding is in place.

- South Shore Blvd Project - Ramsey County will provide a summary of comments from the open house at the next City Council meeting on July 28th.
- Census reminder – the city continues to promote the Census along with the county and state.
- City Engineer/Public Works Director Kauppi reported the water tower project is on track and work had been coordinated on weekends with surrounding businesses. Street and Mill and Overlay projects are moving along nicely, and the restoration stage of street construction with sod placement is underway.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, it was moved by Councilmember **Biehn** seconded by Councilmember **Jones** to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Walsh Aye
Biehn Aye
Jones Aye
Edberg Aye
Engstran Aye

Motion carried unanimously

Jo Emerson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kara Coustry, City Clerk



City of White Bear Lake
Community Development Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Ellen Hiniker, City Manager

From: Tracy Shimek, Housing & Economic Development Coordinator

Date: July 23, 2020 for the July 28, 2020 City Council Meeting

Subject: **ReGrow White Bear Lake Economic Development Campaign**

BACKGROUND

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and negative impact it had on the business community, staff began outreaching to local business leaders in March to determine the best role of the City in supporting local business owners and operators. Considerations included offering technical assistance on federal relief funding programs, creating a local financial relief fund, offering technical assistance resources for business to navigate changing business models and more.

In collaboration with the White Bear Lake Economic Development Corporation (“WBL EDC” and with support from the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce (“WBACC”) and Main Street, staff conducted a survey of local businesses to gauge where it may most effectively direct its efforts to support them. In response to the survey and with input from Council and local business leaders, it was determined a coordinated effort to market local businesses, provide technical assistance, and engage in creative community building activities would be worthwhile. To that end the ReGrow White Bear Lake campaign was created.

SUMMARY

The ReGrow White Bear Lake campaign is an iterative and multifaceted approach to economic development in the community. ReGrow White Bear Lake is a collaborative approach to economic development and has been shaped by the input, contributions and efforts of the WBL EDC, WBACC, Main Street, local businesses, Council Member Jones and city staff across all departments. In May, Lisa Beecroft of Beecroft Marketing and Events was brought on board to coordinate and administer the effort with staff. Initial efforts have included:

- community building and creative placemaking activities such as Picnic in the Park and Plant Party which created inviting spaces for diners to enjoy takeout from local restaurants,
- the creation of a ReGrow White Bear Lake website to serve as a clearing house of information about the program,
- an ongoing advertising campaign in the White Bear Press primarily focused on encouraging community members to shop local.

Moving forward ReGrow White Bear Lake will include a webinar series on various topics of interest to local business owners, such as omni-channel marketing, website design best practices and mental health in a challenging business environment. It will also include consumer and social

media contests to engage the community during Manitou Days, the development of a proactive marketing plan to support businesses as the seasons change and the ongoing development of the ReGrow-WBL.com website. It is anticipated this effort will continue beyond the pandemic and into the economic recovery phase. Lisa Beecroft will present a more detailed overview of ReGrow White Bear Lake to Council at its July 28, 2020 meeting.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION

No formal action required.

ATTACHMENTS

May 28, 2020 ReGrow WBL Press Release



Ellen Hiniker
City Manager
City of White Bear Lake
(651) 429-8516 | ehiniker@whitebearlake.org

For Immediate Release
May 28, 2020

The City of White Bear Lake is excited to announce the creation of expanded temporary public space in downtown White Bear Lake to accommodate visitors and diners safely. Authorized by the White Bear Lake City Council at its May 26 meeting, this effort is a part of a comprehensive and collaborative approach to “Regrow White Bear” as businesses re-open and public life resumes during the ongoing public health crisis created by COVID-19. This effort is a community-wide partnership between numerous organizations including the City of White Bear Lake, Main Street Organization, White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce, White Bear Lake Economic Development Corporation and numerous local business owners who have generously donated their time and energy to ensure the continued vitality of the White Bear Lake community.

Planning is still ongoing and will include a multi-pronged approach to “regrowing” White Bear Lake stronger and better than ever. This is a collaborative effort, made possible in part by the community’s generous support of the City’s Bear Wear project. Coordination of the Regrow efforts will be spearheaded by Lisa Beecroft of Beecroft Marketing, a local resident and business owner known throughout the community for her leadership in executing successful community events such as Marketfest and Bearly Open.

The first phase of this ongoing project involves the creation of two public spaces for carry-out dining, the Washington Square area between Third Street and Fourth Street and a portion of the parking lot at Cook Avenue and Third Street. Picnic tables custom built for this effort by JL Schwieters Construction of Hugo will provide additional dining spaces for take-out food. The public is encouraged to order take-out from restaurants throughout White Bear Lake and dine in beautiful downtown White Bear Lake or our local parks.

The temporary public spaces in downtown will be open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. beginning June 1st for the foreseeable future. Residents and visitors are encouraged to wear masks, maintain safe social distancing and respect public dining spaces by picking up after themselves. Temporary restroom facilities will be provided at each site. As a show of support for this effort, residents and businesses are invited to sponsor planters to help create a warm and welcoming environment. For more information on how to participate visit: www.regrow-wbl.com

In addition to the expanded spaces provided by the City, visitors throughout the city can expect to see area restaurants get creative as they expand patios, utilize public right of ways to create parklets and transform private parking lots to accommodate additional outdoor dining.

The City encourages community members to dine and shop locally, and use local services to ensure the White Bear Lake business community remains vibrant. The White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, and Explore White Bear are helpful resources for finding local business offerings. Visit www.regrow-wbl.com for updates on efforts to Regrow White Bear.

SOUTH SHORE BOULEVARD TRAIL DESIGN STUDY



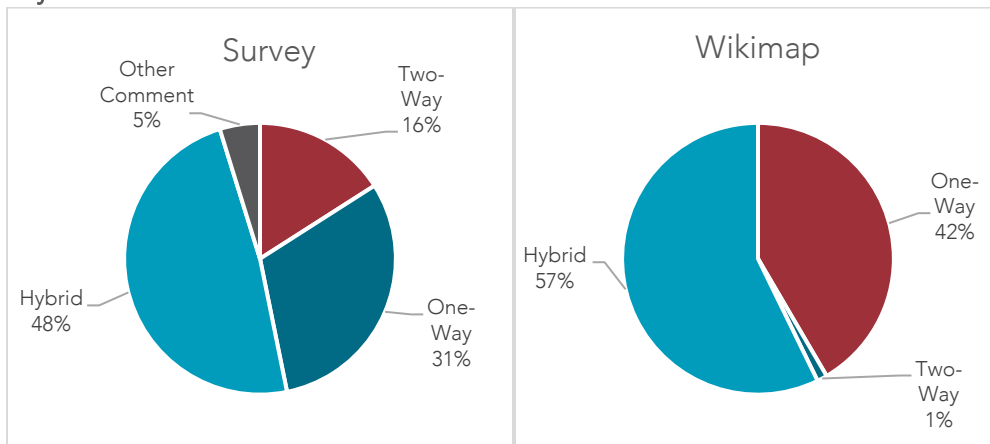
Virtual Open House #1 Engagement Summary

Virtual Open House Dates: 5/15/2020 - 5/25/2020

Virtual Open House Content: Preliminary layout options, a video presentation with slides, online survey, interactive mapping application.

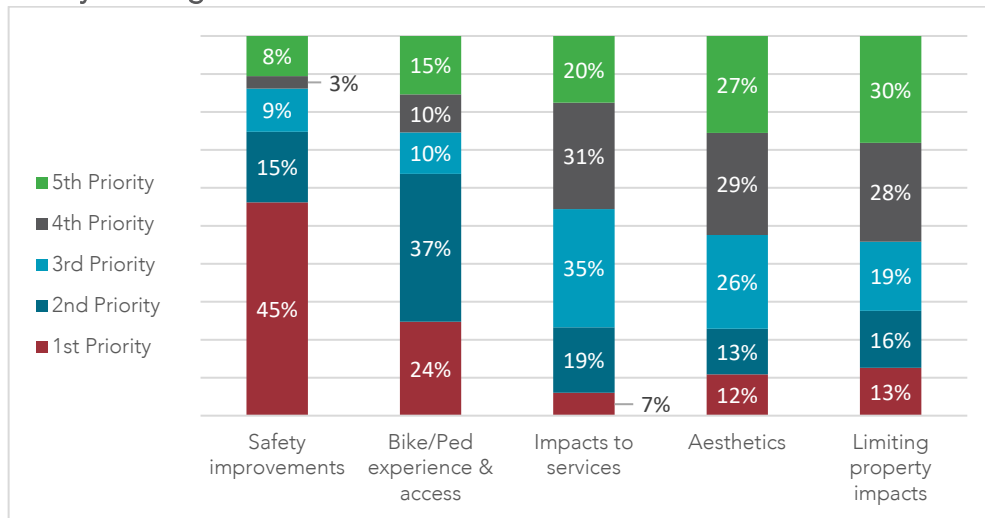
Ramsey County received 171 survey responses, 194 Wikimap users, and 19 direct phone calls or emails.

Layout Preference Results



Surveys on both applications showed a preference for the hybrid option over other options. Several comments also indicated that either the hybrid or one-way option would be acceptable.

Priority Ranking Results



The priority ranking exercise showed a clear preference for safety improvements over all other rankings, with bicycle and pedestrian experience/access coming second. The remaining priorities received a more mixed response.

Common Comment Themes:

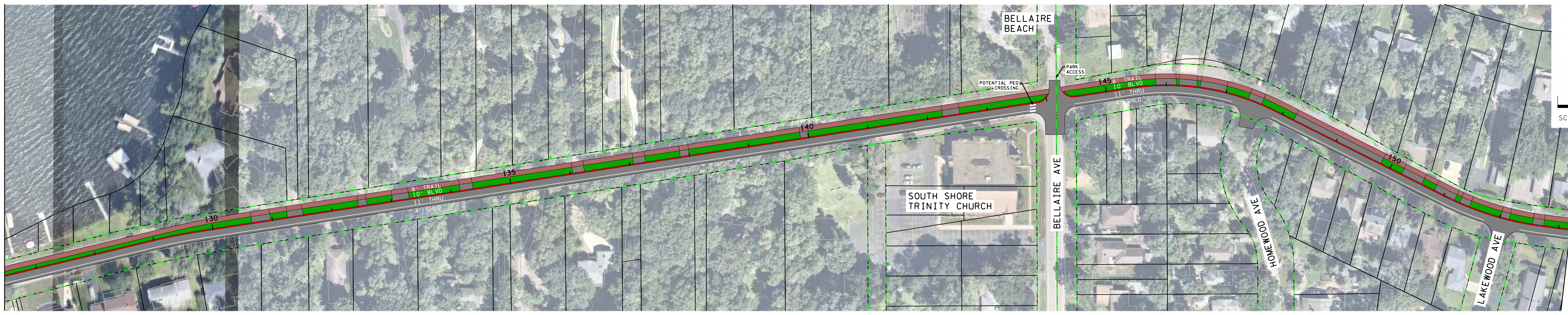
- Regardless of alignment, a trail would be much safer for users of all ages
 - Reduced speed, safer crossings, and mode separation were top concerns
 - Liked opportunity to connect to other trail systems, and preferred a wider trail
- Desire to get the project completed as soon as possible
- Limit property impacts and cost:
 - Retain areas for parking or loading/unloading, and space for dock winter storage
 - Reduce obstruction of lake views - bury power lines and no boulevard trees
 - Keep impact limited to existing roadway footprint
- Roadway needs maintenance and drainage solutions

2/15/21 PM



MATCHLINE A - SEE BELOW

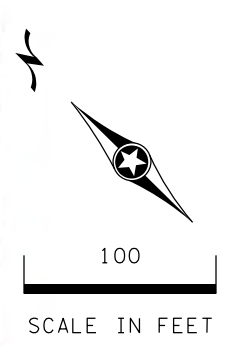
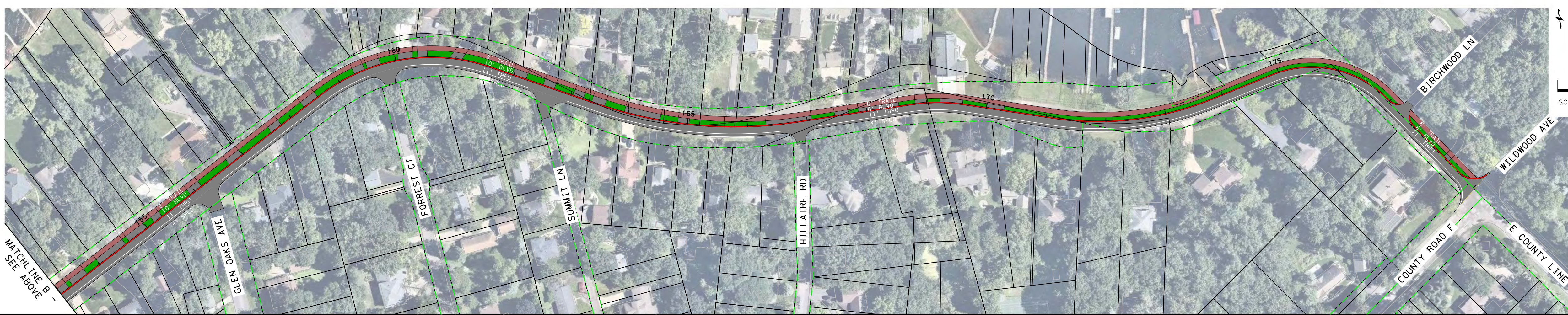
5/12/2020



MATCHLINE A - SEE ABOVE

MATCHLINE B - SEE BELOW

K:\TWC\Civil\County\RAMSEY\South Shore Trail\CAD\Plan Sheets\Layouts\CDSS3010_Layout_Prelim.dwg



MATCHLINE B - SEE ABOVE

LAKE LINKS TRAIL / SOUTH SHORE TRAIL
ONE WAY ROADWAY WITH BOULEVARD

2:55:23 PM

5/12/2020

K:\TWC\Civil\County\RAMSEY\South Shore Trail\CAD\Plan Sheets\Layouts\CDSS3010_Layout_Prelim_4.dgn



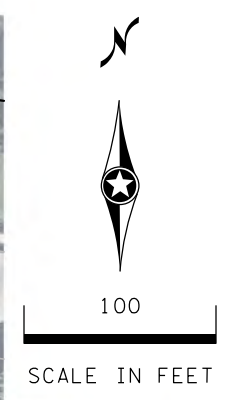
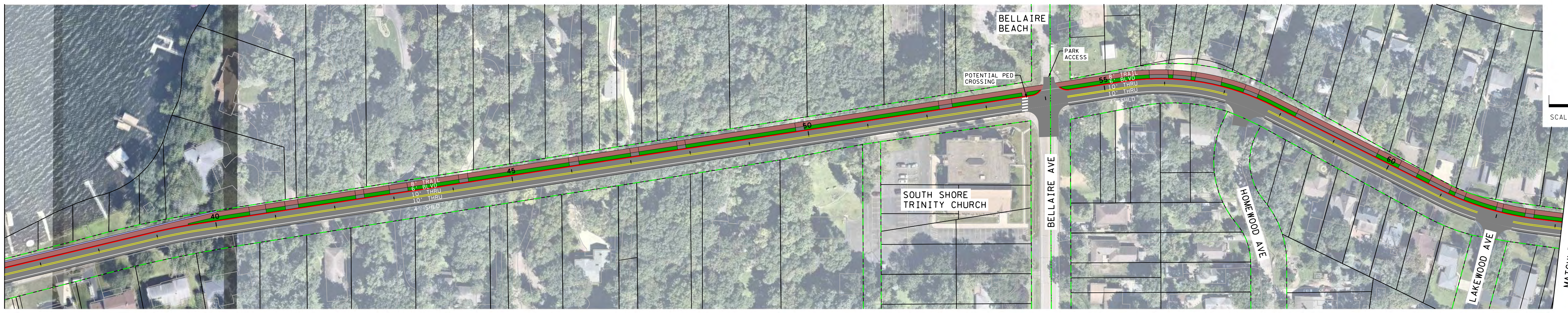
LEGEND

- ROADWAY
- BOULEVARD
- MIXED USE TRAIL
- CURB
- RETAINING WALL
- ESTIMATED ROW

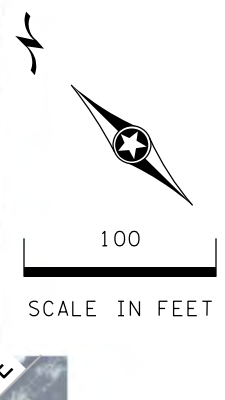
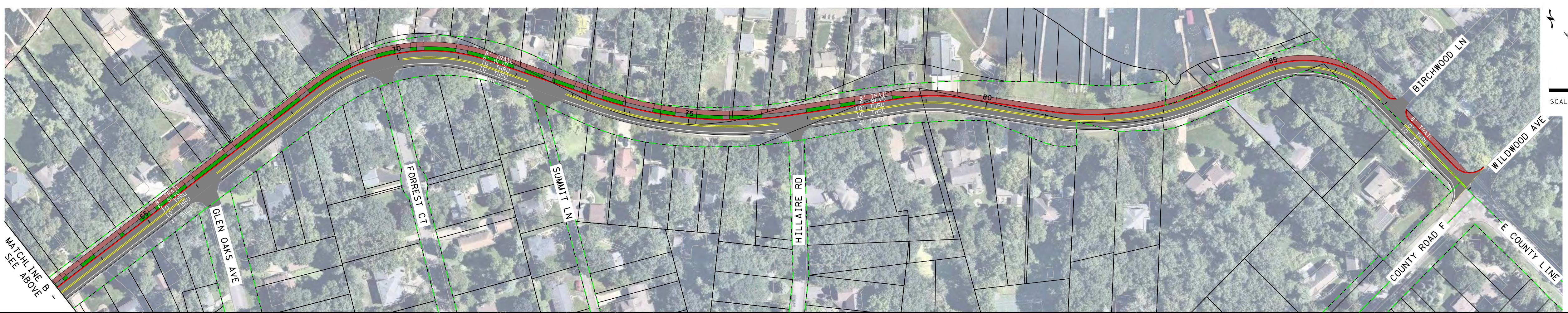


TWO-WAY CONCEPT

MATCHLINE A - SEE ABOVE



MATCHLINE B - SEE BELOW



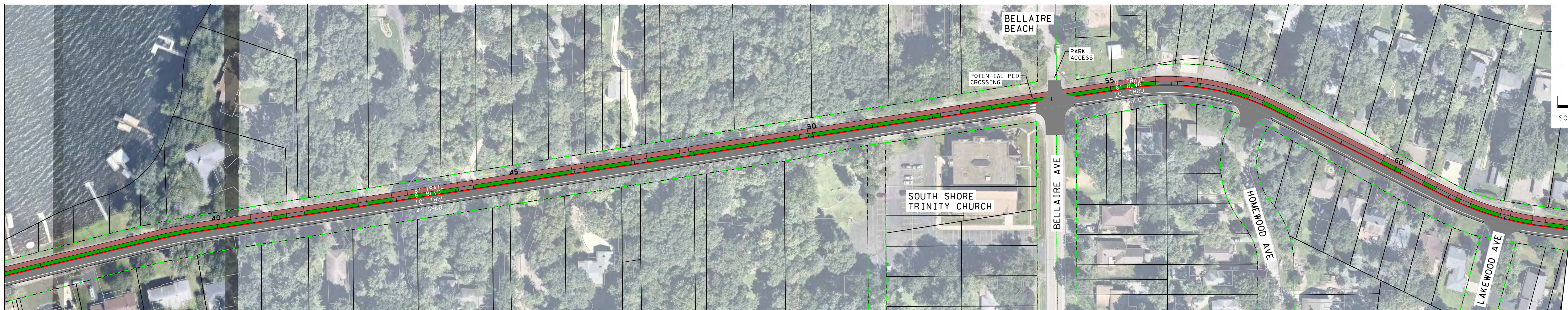
LAKE LINKS TRAIL / SOUTH SHORE TRAIL
TWO WAY ROADWAY WITH BOULEVARD

3/05/24 PM



MATCHLINE A - SEE BELOW

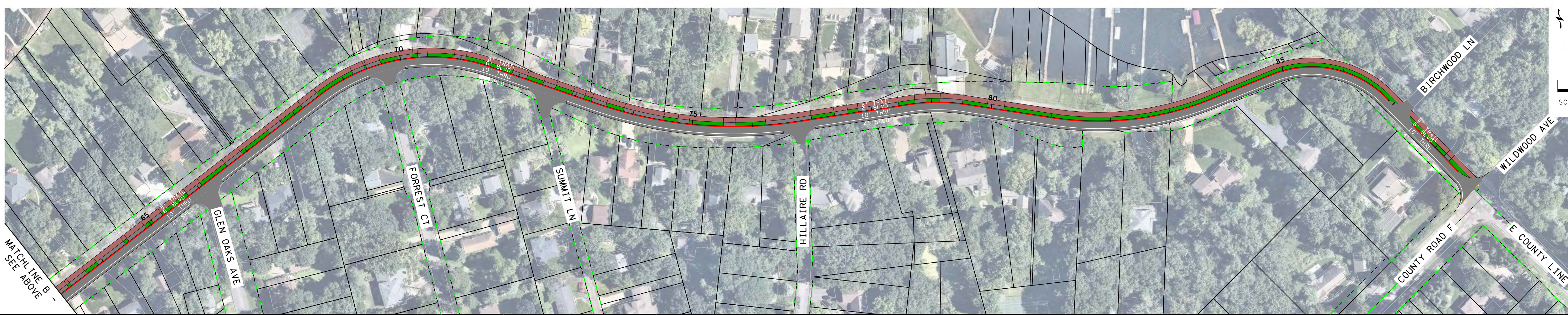
5/12/2020



MATCHLINE A - SEE ABOVE

MATCHLINE B - SEE BELOW

K:\TWC_civil\County\RAMSEY\South Shore Trail\CAD\Plan Sheets\L\Layouts\CD553010_Layout_Preliminary.dgn



MATCHLINE B - SEE ABOVE

SCALE IN FEET

LAKE LINKS TRAIL / SOUTH SHORE TRAIL
HYBRID ROADWAY WITH BOULEVARD

FYI

**Email from Ramsey County Elections Manager
Elections update**

From: Triplett, David <David.Triplett@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:23 PM

Subject: Vote by Mail/Early Voting data in Ramsey County

Hello all,

Due to the historic increase in requests by Ramsey County residents to vote by mail I thought I'd share this data with you all. These numbers represent a fundamental shift in the way voters are choosing to cast their ballots. Remember there were no law changes to help encourage this outcome.

Vote by Mail Requests:

Ballots sent by 7/21/2016: **1,450**

Ballots sent by 7/21/2020: **65,645**

This represents a 4,800% increase! A point to note: In Hennepin County the cities are responsible for processing, mailing, accepting/rejecting, and counting all mail absentee ballots as well as managing the online requests. In Ramsey County we perform all these duties except the in-person activity for the non-contract cities.

In-Person Absentee Voting:

In-person voting for 3/3/20 primary: **80.8** voters per day, per location.

In-person voting for 8/11/20 primary: **4.4** voters per day, per location.

If you care to see this information specific to your City and precincts we are publishing this data daily here: <https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/qzeh-89k8>

Take care,

David Triplett | Elections Manager

Ramsey County

Elections Office

90 Plato Blvd. W

Saint Paul, MN 55107

651-266-2206

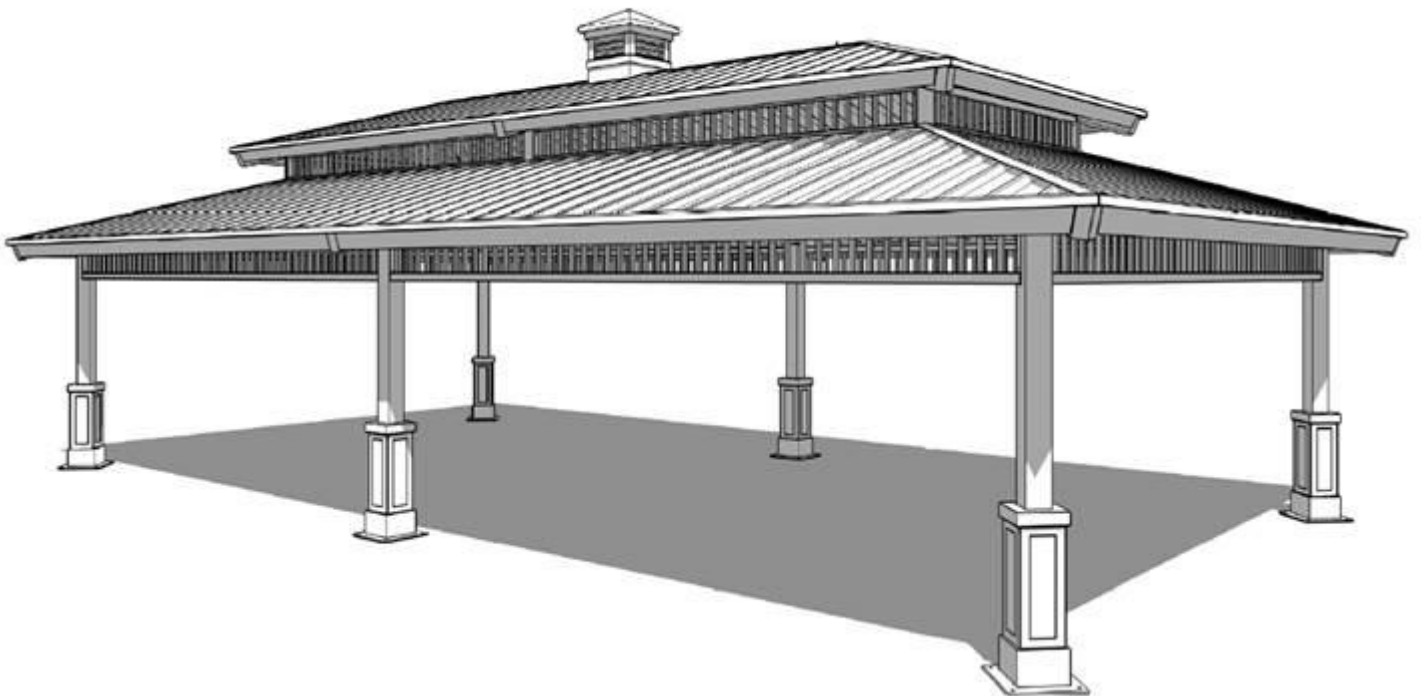
www.rcelections.org

[Serve as an Election Judge in Ramsey County](#)

Park Improvement Update

The existing octagonal shelter at West Park was in the City's 2020 park improvement budget for replacement this year. The existing pavilion has been removed and the site is being prepared for the construction of a replacement. The replacement pavilion will be rectangular in shape with a dimension of 20 feet by 40 feet placed on a concrete slab. The structure will be oriented with the long side parallel with the lake. An upgraded electrical service will also be installed. The new shelter will much better match the uses that are hosted at West Park.

\$115,000 was budgeted for the project with actual costs anticipated to be approximately \$102,000.



Sports Center shoreline restoration

The Sports Center shoreline restoration project on Birch Lake is in its second year. The City hired Natural Shore Technologies to seed the shoreline in the fall of 2018 and to maintain the site for three years while the plants establish. The first photo was taken in the fall of 2018, shortly after the site was seeded and temporary erosion control blanket was installed. The second photo was taken last week, two years after project completion.



August 23, 2018 – Seeding and erosion control blanket



July 21, 2020 – Blue Vervain (foreground, purple), Black-eyed Susan's (yellow), and Wild Bergamot (Violet)

Walser Polar Chevrolet shoreline restoration

Walser Polar Chevrolet began construction of their new building and parking lot this spring. As part of the project, approximately 500 feet of Goose Lake shoreline is being restored. The shoreline portion of the project includes moving the parking lot back from the lake, removing fill material, and restoring the shoreline with native emergent plants, upland prairie plants, and trees. An iron enhanced sand filter will be installed adjacent to the shoreline restoration to capture and treat stormwater runoff from the building and parking lot before discharging to Goose Lake.



January 15, 2019 – Shoreline prior to construction (looking east)



June 12, 2020 – Shoreline after grading, seeding and installation of temporary erosion control blanket (looking east)