



2022 Greenway - PDC September Update

Date: 09/13/2022

Priority Tier 1 & Tier 2 Projects (2022 Accelerated)

Vermillion River Greenway, Hastings Segment

The [Vermillion River Greenway Hastings Segment project](#) will construct and reconstruct portions of the 5.2-mile segment of the Vermillion Greenway between General Sieben Drive and the Mississippi River in Hastings. Dakota County will construct about 1 mile of new trail and reconstruct about 3 miles of existing trail.

Alternative analysis of grade separated crossings and new trail alignments between General Sieben Dr and Pleasant Dr began in the spring of 2022 along with existing trail condition assessments. Additional preliminary engineering will occur from Pleasant Drive to Levee Park during the fall of 2022 which will culminate in preferred alignments and trail improvement details. Final design, environmental assessments, surveys and public engagement process will extend through summer 2023.

Construction of the Vermillion River Greenway, Hastings Segment could start as early as Fall 2023, funding dependent, and be a 1-year project.

8/23/2022 Concept Level (10% Complete Design - 2022 \$) Cost Estimate *(Does not include potential land acquisition or easement costs)*

Base Estimate Range: **\$2,000,000 – 2,600,000**

River to River Greenway, Mendota Heights Segment

The [River to River Greenway Mendota Heights Segment project](#) will construct and reconstruction portions of the 1.4-mile segment of the River to River Greenway between Dodd Road (Highway 149) and the Big Rivers Regional Trail in Mendota Heights. Dakota County will reconstruct about 1.4 miles of existing trail and construct a grade-separated tunnel of Dodd Road.

Alternative analysis of a grade separated crossing of Dodd Road began in the spring of 2022 along with existing trail condition assessments. Additional preliminary engineering and alternative analysis of trail alignments will continue through the fall of 2022 for portions of the trail that head north through Valley Park to the Lilydale Trailhead. Final design, environmental assessments, surveys and public engagement process will extend through summer 2023. Construction of the River to River Greenway, Mendota Heights Segment could start as early as Fall 2023, funding dependent, and be a 1-year project.

8/23/2022 Concept Level (10% Complete Design - 2022 \$) Cost Estimate *(Does not include potential land acquisition or easement costs)*

Base Estimate Range: **\$4,400,000 – 5,000,000**

Lake Marion Greenway, Lakeville Segment

The [Lake Marion Greenway Lakeville Segment project](#) will develop a feasibility study and preliminary design report for about 1.75 miles of the 20-mile Lake Marion Greenway. The project will identify a preferred trail alignment connecting to the existing trail in downtown Lakeville near 208th Street, South Creek bridge crossings and a grade-separated crossing design of Cedar Avenue.

Alternative analysis of three different alignments that parallel South Creek and Lakeville Boulevard began in the spring of 2022. Additional analysis of potential grade separated crossings of Cedar Avenue occurred concurrently and due to potential floodplain impacts and other design constraints a bridge was identified as the preferred grade separated crossing type. Preliminary engineering will continue through the fall of 2022 and commence in early 2023 with a preferred trail alignment along with interim trail alignments that can be constructed earlier. Public involvement events will also occur during the fall of 2022 to engage adjacent property owners and potential users of the trail system and gather feedback about potential alignments.

A final design engineering contract will begin in 2023 with construction plans submitted as early as 2024 with construction and right of way acquisition to occur in 2024 as well depending on funding.

8/23/2022 Concept Level (10% Complete Design - 2022 \$) Cost Estimate *(Includes 20% contingency, 18% Engineering/Construction Administration and Right of Way and Utility Relocation estimates)*

Full Build Out with Bridge over Cedar Ave: **\$13,500,000**

Full Build Out with Cedar Ave Alternative and no Bridge: **\$6,000,000**

Alternative Temporary Alignment ABD: **5,000,000**

Alternative Temporary Alignment ACD: **2,100,000**

Vermillion Highlands Greenway, Rosemount Segment

The [Vermillion Highlands Greenway Rosemount Segment project](#) will develop a feasibility study and preliminary design report for about 1.3 miles of the Vermillion Highlands Greenway including a grade separated tunnel of County Road 42 and trail alignment from 155th Street to Connemara Trail.

Alternative analysis of a few alignments that intersect the city of Rosemount future park land and DCTC campus began in the spring of 2022. Additional analysis of a grade separated tunnel of County Road 42 occurred concurrently and has included close coordination with DCTC and city of Rosemount city staff to accommodate future development. Preliminary engineering will continue through the fall of 2022 and commence in early 2023 with a preferred trail alignment and tunnel locations. Public involvement events will also occur during the fall of 2022 to engage adjacent property owners and potential users of the trail system and gather feedback about potential alignments.

A final design engineering contract will begin in 2023 with construction plans submitted as early as 2024 with construction and right of way acquisition to occur in 2024 as well depending on funding.

8/23/2022 Concept Level (10% Complete Design - 2022 \$) Cost Estimate *(Includes 20% contingency, 18% Engineering/Construction Administration and Right of Way and Utility Relocation estimates)*

Base Estimate: **\$4,500,000**

Base Estimate with additional Amber Fields Development Alignment: **4,750,000**

Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway, Inver Grove Heights and Eagan Segment

The [Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Inver Grove Heights and Eagan Segment project](#) will develop a feasibility study and preliminary design report for about 4.1 miles of the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway including a

grade separated crossing of Highway 55, new at grade crossing of Highway 149, and trail and crossing improvements of the existing trail alignment that parallels Dodd Road towards Lebanon Hills Regional Park and Cliff Road.

Alternative analysis of a tunnel and a bridge of Highway 55 began in the spring of 2022. Preliminary engineering will continue through the fall of 2022 and commence in early 2023 with a preferred grade crossing type and intersection crossing types along Dodd Road. Public involvement events will also occur during the fall of 2022 to engage adjacent property owners and potential users of the trail system and gather feedback about potential alignments.

A final design engineering contract will begin in 2023 with construction plans submitted as early as 2024 with construction and right of way acquisition to occur in 2024 as well depending on funding.

8/23/2022 Concept Level (10% Complete Design - 2022 \$) Cost Estimate *(Includes 20% contingency, 18% Engineering/Construction Administration and Right of Way and Utility Relocation estimates)*

Base Estimate Highway 55 Underpass: **\$8,750,000**

Base Estimate Highway 55 Bridge: **\$9,250,000**

Priority Tier 1 & Tier 2 Projects (2022 Approved for Design and Construction)

Mississippi River Greenway Rosemount East (98-006)

The [Mississippi River Greenway Rosemount East \(CP 98-006\) trail project](#) will construct a 2.7 mile shared-use trail within Rosemount along Pine Bend Trail road. This segment of trail represents the last remaining portion of the Mississippi River Greenway that will span 27 miles within Dakota County from Hastings to St. Paul. The trail will connect the previously constructed Mississippi River Greenway Rosemount West to Spring Lake Park.

The project includes construction of a new 10-foot wide paved trail that will travel parallel to Pine Bend Trail roadway. The trail will connect to Mississippi River Greenway Rosemount West along the north side of Pine Bend Trail and use a grade separated box culvert which will carry trail users underneath the roadway. The trail will then travel along the south edge of Pine Bend Trail road east across two at-grade railroad crossings before entering Spring Lake Park through the prairie adjacent to the archery range. The trail will be barrier separated from the roadway to create a usable corridor for both pedestrians and roadway traffic. The at-grade railroad crossings will be improved to create 90-degree pedestrian crossings with safe traversable surfaces conforming to safety and design standards.

The construction plans were submitted to State Aid for final approval on July 19, 2022 and the bidding documents are being prepared. Staff has settled with 5 of the 7 parcels requiring easements. The two remaining parcels are in verbal agreement and are working to finalize the easement language for acceptance. Union Pacific owns rights to each at-grade rail crossing and requires construction and maintenance agreements for each. Union Pacific has prepared the final agreements and is distributing to County/City staff. Staff tentatively anticipates executed agreements for each at-grade crossing to be completed in November 2022.

Construction of the Mississippi River Greenway Rosemount East is anticipated to start in Spring 2023 and be a 1-year project. Winter tree clearing efforts are expected to occur January-March 31, 2023.

Minnesota River Greenway – Fort Snelling Segment

The Fort Snelling segment of the [Minnesota River Greenway](#), its final stage, will construct 3.6 miles of trail between the Cedar-Nicols trailhead and the Big Rivers Regional Trail within the Fort Snelling State Park in Eagan. The paved greenway trail will travel mainly though the edge of the river floodplain on a raised trail bed and

boardwalks. A pedestrian bridge over Union Pacific Railroad track will connect users to the existing greenway trailhead at Trunk Highway 13 and CSAH 26.

Design for the trail is complete, and final plans for the bridge are currently under review by MnDOT. Staff is coordinating with jurisdictions within the project area to secure the last approvals and permits needed to proceed with construction. A construction schedule is also under development to address the multiple risks posed by the constrained and sensitive project area. Upon completion of the construction schedule, staff will submit the entire project plan to Union Pacific for their approval. Staff tentatively expect to advertise for bids in November 2022, with construction beginning in late winter or early spring of 2023.

River to River Greenway – West St. Paul Segment

The [Thompson Avenue \(County Road 6\) & Oakdale Avenue \(County Road 73\) Trail and Sidewalk project](#) will construct nearly one mile of improved trails and over one half mile of new trail through the former Thompson Oaks Golf Course. The Thompson Oaks River to River Greenway segment includes natural restoration and water quality improvements to a former golf course property as well as trail construction. Trail construction on this project will connect the River to River Greenway from the intersection of Thompson Avenue and Oakdale Avenue directly to the new Robert Street underpass. This project has begun construction, with soil remediation and water quality work to be complete this year, and final completion of landscaping and trail paving in the Spring of 2023.

The Thompson Avenue (CSAH 6) and Oakdale Avenue (CSAH 73) Roundabout and Trail project includes construction of trail and sidewalk along Thompson Avenue from Robert Street to Waterloo Avenue, along Oakdale Avenue from Butler Avenue to Wentworth Avenue, and the addition of a single lane roundabout at the intersection of Thompson Avenue and Oakdale Avenue. Trail construction for this project includes the improvement of a section of the River to River Greenway from the intersection of Emerson Avenue and Sperl Street near Thompson County Park through the new roundabout location. This project is currently in final design, with construction to begin in the Spring of 2023.

Veterans Memorial Greenway

The [Veterans Memorial Greenway](#) (formerly *Rich Valley Greenway*) is a proposed regional trail and open space corridor that will provide a link between Lebanon Hills Regional Park and the Mississippi River in central Dakota County. The 5-mile corridor stretches east and west within Eagan and Inver Grove Heights, connecting single-family residential neighborhoods, parks, and rural and undeveloped open space. The Veterans Memorial Greenway is a project unlike any other for Dakota County. It presents unique and exciting user opportunities to traverse over and under highways, across water bodies and railroads, coupled with views of unique and picturesque natural resource elements. Users will also have the chance to learn along the way about sacrifices veterans have made over the years – sacrifices that allow all of us the freedom to enjoy outdoor spaces and recreational amenities.

The interpretive memorial plan was authorized for a 45-day public review period from May 25 – July 8, 2022. An open house was conducted on June 29 to view the plan at the Veterans Community Center in Inver Grove Heights. In addition to the interpretive planning process, staff conducted an open house earlier this year to review the concepts for interpretive memorials as well as receive updates on the design and engineering aspect of the project. That open house was conducted on February 23 at the Veterans Community Center in Inver Grove Heights.

The project is currently in the design phase of project development. Due to the length of the corridor and challenging technical elements associated with constructing the greenway, Dakota County is breaking up the project into three construction phases. Veterans Memorial Nodes will be prioritized and developed as funding becomes available. Construction of phase 1 is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2023 with each additional phase beginning construction each year after.

North Creek Greenway - Lakeville-Farmington Segment (CP 97-210)

The [North Creek Greenway Lakeville-Farmington project](#) will construct 2.2 miles of the North Creek Greenway between 173rd Street in Lakeville to just south of 189th Street in Farmington. Dakota County will construct 1 mile of new trail in Lakeville and reconstruct 1.2 miles of existing trail in Farmington.

The completed Greenway will be a 10-foot wide paved trail paralleling North Creek and the creek's surrounding wetland areas. An improved crossing of 173rd Street to connect to existing City of Lakeville trails in East Lake Park will be constructed, along with connections to additional local parks including Lakeville's North Creek Park, Farmington's Distad Park and Jim Bell Park, as well as other local trail connections. Two new trail bridges will be constructed, which cross North Creek and its tributaries and adjacent wetlands.

The project is currently at a 60% design stage. Environmental permitting and approvals are in progress, and the right-of-way process to secure temporary easements for minor grading impacts is underway. A public open house will soon be announced for mid-September to share project progress with local residents. State Aid approval is anticipated in late 2022, with bidding to take place in early 2023. Final completion of construction is anticipated in the fall of 2023.

North Creek Greenway – CSAH 42 grade separated crossing

A tunnel crossing for the [North Creek Greenway under CSAH 42](#) began design in 2020, and includes 1/3 mile of greenway trail and one mile of multiuse trail along the south side of CSAH 42 between Flagstaff Avenue and CSAH 31. Plans for the trail and tunnel were partially advanced, but then suspended until mining and reclamation activities at the adjacent AVR gravel mine are complete. Design for the project will be completed once future land conditions in the gravel mine area are known. County staff are continuing work on acquiring

right of way for the greenway trail; construction of this project is anticipated in 2025 or 2026 and is expected to take one construction season.

Greenway Collaborative Projects: Projects led by our city partners and funded in part by Dakota County (* have active JPAs)

- ***North Creek Greenway: Apple Valley Gaps**
 - Completion of five small trail gaps through southeastern Apple Valley completing approximately 2 miles of the North Creek Greenway.
- ***Rosemount Greenway: Bella Vista**
 - Completion of ¾ trail gap through the Bella Vista development providing access to Horseshoe Lake.
- ***Rosemount Greenway: Flint Hills Trailhead**
 - Shared trailhead/park facility that
- ***Lake Marion Greenway: Antlers Park Trailhead**
 - Shared trailhead/park facility
- ***Lake Marion Greenway: Kelleher Park Trailhead**
 - Shared trailhead/park facility
- ***Mississippi River Greenway: Wakota Bridge Trailhead**
 - Shared trailhead/park facility
- **Lake Marion Greenway: Downtown to Ritter Farm Park**
- **North Creek Greenway: East Lake Park to 173rd**
- **Lake Marion - East Lake Park: Trailhead**
- **River to River Greenway: Marthaler Trailhead**
- **Rosemount Greenway: Dunmore Segment**



Use the [Dakota County Greenway Status](#) viewer to see a comprehensive map of trail and greenways across the county along with their current status, planned alignments and trail crossing priorities.