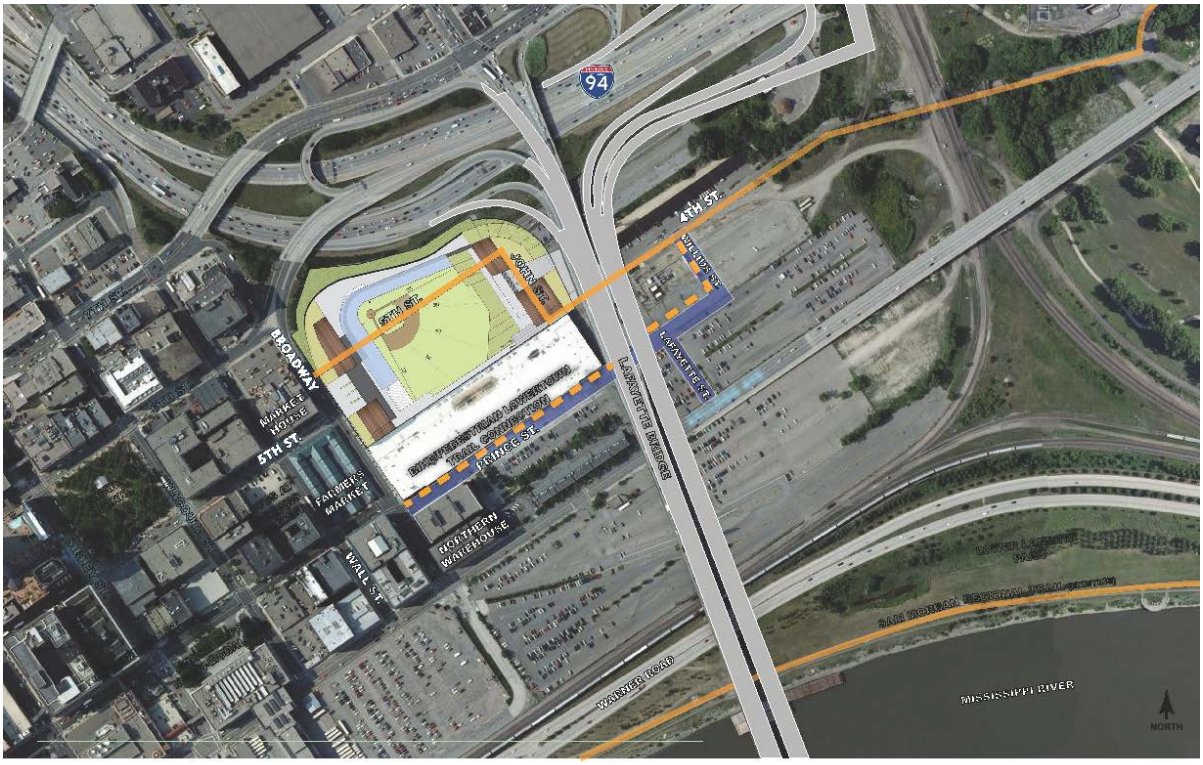
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission
400 City Hall Annex, 25 West 4th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-6400

Resolution # 13-14
Amending the 2008 Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Approval of master plan amendment for Bruce Vento Regional Trail.

STAFF COMMENTS:
Metropolitan Council requested the City of Saint Paul to amendment the existing master plan for Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan to reflect the realignment of a portion of regional trail from 4th Street to Willius and Prince Street due to construction of the Lowertown Ballpark.



REQUEST OF THE COMISSON:
Adopt Resolution 13-14 recommending approval and adoption of Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:
None.

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RESOLUTION 13-14
Amending the 2008 Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council staff recommended and the Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation determined the need to update the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan that was created and approved in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation is constructing the Lowertown Ballpark which requires realignment of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail from 4th Street to Prince Street; and

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Parks Commission approves and adopts the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment and authorizes the submission of said master plan amendment to the Council of the City of Saint Paul and Metropolitan Council for review and approval.

Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on November 13, 2013:

Approved: Yeas _____
Nays _____
Absent _____

Resolution #13-14 Attested to by:

_____
Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission

October 2013

MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan
(formerly the Burlington Northern Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan)

Prepared by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Design Section

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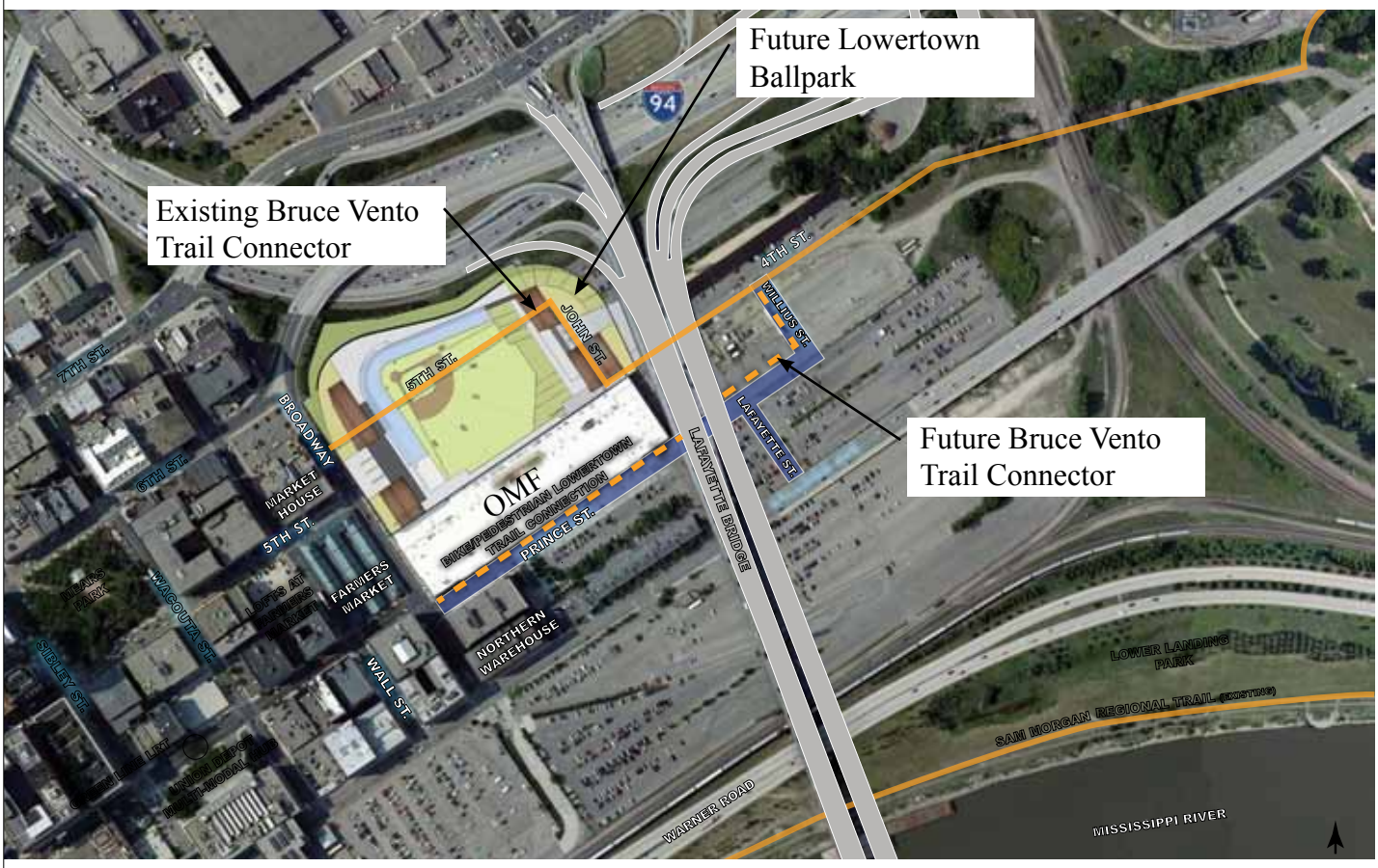
Introduction

Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan was amended in 2008 to include Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector, Payne/Seventh Trail Access, Eastside Heritage Park, and the Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector to Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan, formerly the Burlington Northern Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan.

Since approval of the master plan amendment, the City of Saint Paul has committed to constructing a new Lowertown Ballpark in downtown St. Paul. Lowertown Ballpark will be bounded by I-94 to the north, OMF building to the south, Broadway to the west and Lafayette Bridge to the east. Lowertown Ballpark will be constructed over existing 4th Street requiring realignment of a portion of the Bruce Vento Trail Connector from 4th Street to Prince Street.

This master plan amendment will address the ten elements identified for Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plans in the Metropolitan Council Parks and Open Space Development Guide/Policy Plan. It is specifically intended to meet the criteria required by the Metropolitan Council and once adopted, will make the City eligible to apply for funding to implement trail plans for the new segments identified in this plan amendment.



Boundaries & Acquisition Costs

Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector realignment will remove 1,900 lf of trail from 5th Street, John Street and a portion of 4th Street. The realigned trail will begin at the intersection of Willius Street and 4th Street, travel south for one block along Willius Street and connect to Lowertown via Prince Street. Trail realignment will result in a trail length of approximately 2,000 lf.

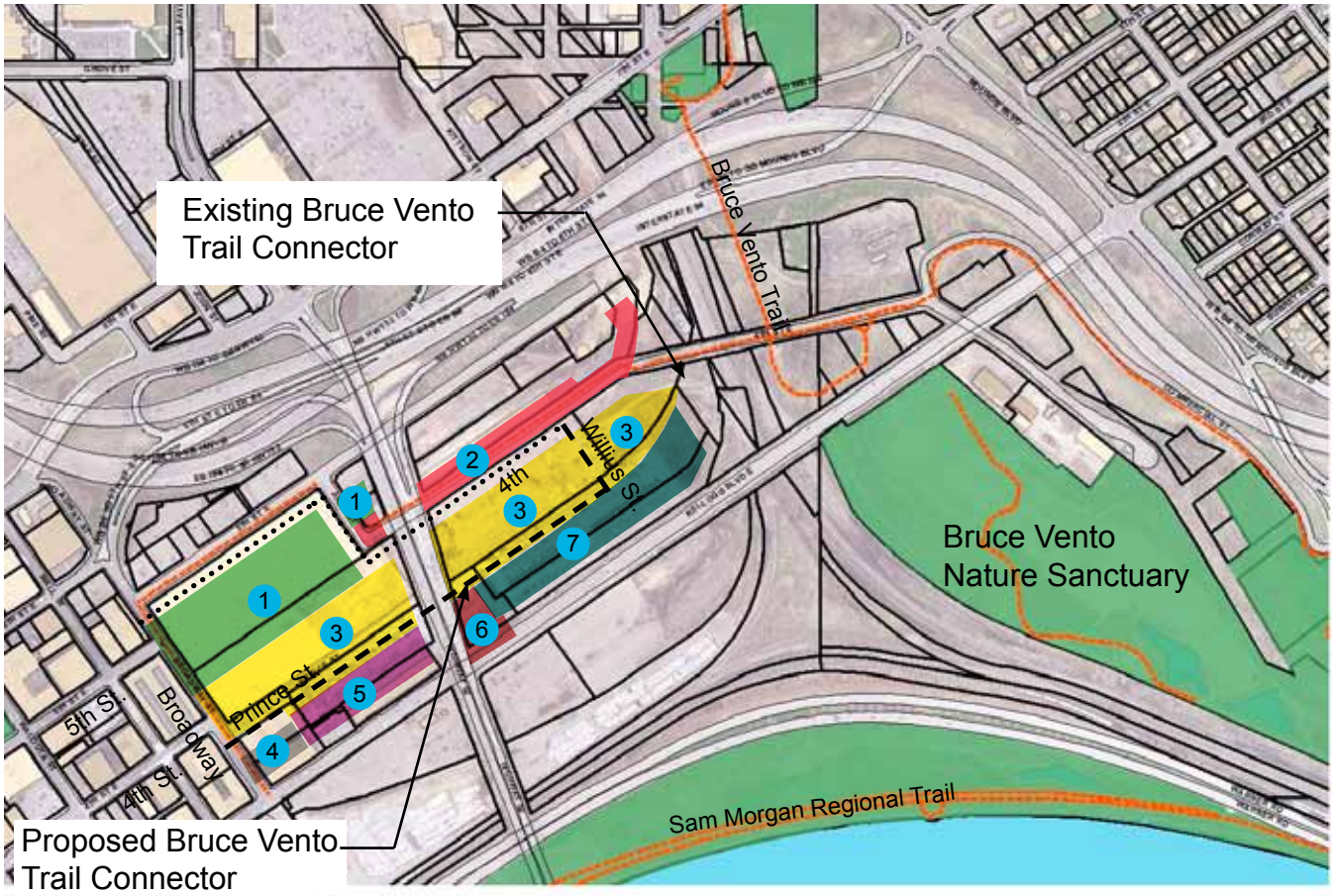
The City acquired Larry Hyman, Donerly and D Oren B property by condemnation via a court order filed July 31, 2013 officially naming the City of Saint Paul as the owner of permanent and temporary easements over the three private properties affected by the Prince Street project area.

The Metropolitan Council has committed right of way to the City of Saint Paul to construct Prince Street, Willius Street and the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector on Metropolitan Council property at no cost. This commitment was documented in a letter dated January 24, 2011.

Prince Street easement acquisition costs totaled $1,124,150.00. This includes:

5	Larry Hyman:	$513,800.00
6	Donerly Inc.:	$401,750.00
7	D Oren B LLC	$208,600.00

(Note: Settlement amounts may adjust final purchase price.)



Current Land Owners

1. City of Saint Paul
2. 401 E. 4th St. Bldg. Partnership
3. Metropolitan Council
4. Northern Warehouse

Recent Acquisitions

5. Larry Hyman
6. Donerly Inc.
7. D Oren B LLC

Legend

..... Existing Trail to be removed

– – – – Proposed Trail

Stewardship Plan

The City of Saint Paul will own and maintain the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector. Saint Paul Police will be maintaining public safety along the trail corridor. There are no non-residential uses or collection of revenues from such uses planned 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

Based on 2011 Visitation Estimate by Metropolitan Council, the Bruce Vento Regional Trail was used by 299,200 trail users in Ramsey County. This is a 13.7% increase from Metropolitan Council 2005 trail count of 218,500.

Bruce Vento Regional Trail provides an important connection to the Sam Morgan Trail, Gateway State Trail, downtown Saint Paul and Indian Mounds Regional Park. The realigned section of Bruce Vento Trail Connector from 5th Street to Prince Street will provide additional connections to the future Lowertown Ballpark and Union Depot which is a regional hub for multi-modal transportation.

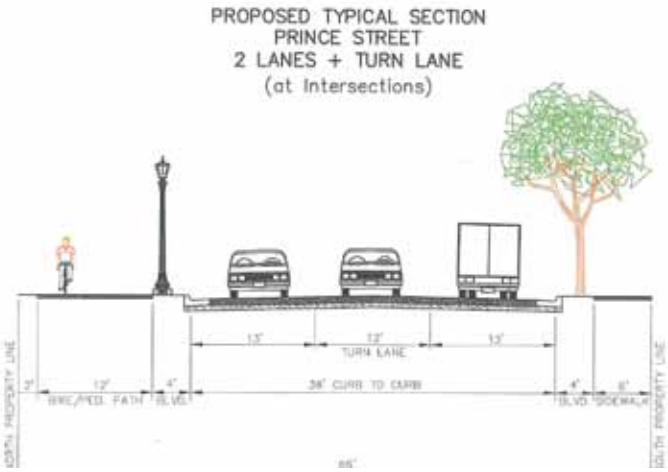
Demand on the Bruce Vento Regional Trail will increase when the Lowertown Ballpark is constructed in 2014. The ballpark will be the official home of the St. Paul Saints as well as host to more than 100 non-baseball events annually. The stadium will hold approximately 7,000 seats and expects the Ballpark will draw over 400,000 people per year.

Development Concept

The existing Bruce Vento Trail Connector is a 1.5 mile paved bicycle and pedestrian trail that extends the existing Bruce Vento Trail providing access to Lowertown in Saint Paul, Indian Mounds Regional Park, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and the Sam Morgan Regional Trail, which is part of the National Scenic Byways Trail system along the Mississippi River. With the exception of the link to the Sam Morgan Regional Trail, the Bruce Vento Trail Extension project was completed and opened to the public in 2007.

Due to construction of the Lowertown Ballpark, a portion of the existing trail along 4th Street requires realignment. The new trail alignment will be constructed in conjunction with Prince and Willius Streets, reconnecting to Broadway Street in Lowertown. Construction along Prince Street and Willius Street is planned to begin Fall 2013 and completed Fall 2014.

The trail will be a continuous 12' wide paved trail located within street right of way.



Conflicts

There are no known conflicts with this project .

Public Services

No additional public services will be required. All required public services will be constructed with new roadway construction.

Operations

The City of Saint Paul, operates and maintains the Bruce Vento Trail Connector. Patrolling of the facilities is provided by the Saint Paul Police Department. Under city jurisdiction, existing city rules, regulations, and ordinances for its operation and maintenance will apply. Estimated costs for operation and maintenance are as follows:

Bruce Vento Trail Extension		
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**

Citizen Participation

Lower Phalen Creek Project is an active public/private group of citizens invested in Bruce Vento Regional Park and regional trail. They have provided input on the realignment of the Bruce Vento Trail Connector and are in favor of the new alignment.

Additionally, the community input process headed up by The CapitalRiver Council for Lowertown Ballpark included discussion on pedestrian and bicycle alignment. Design task force members were in favor of this alignment.

Public Awareness

Trail realignment will be updated in publicized city maps, brochures, and on the City's webpage. Metropolitan Council will also promote the projects through maps and information of area park and trail systems.

Accessibility

Access to and within each of these trails and parks are designed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act providing access for persons with special needs. All parking areas provide accessible parking with ramps to access trails and other site amenities. All of these facilities can be used by all segments of the population and there are no charges to use these trails and facilities.