

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.

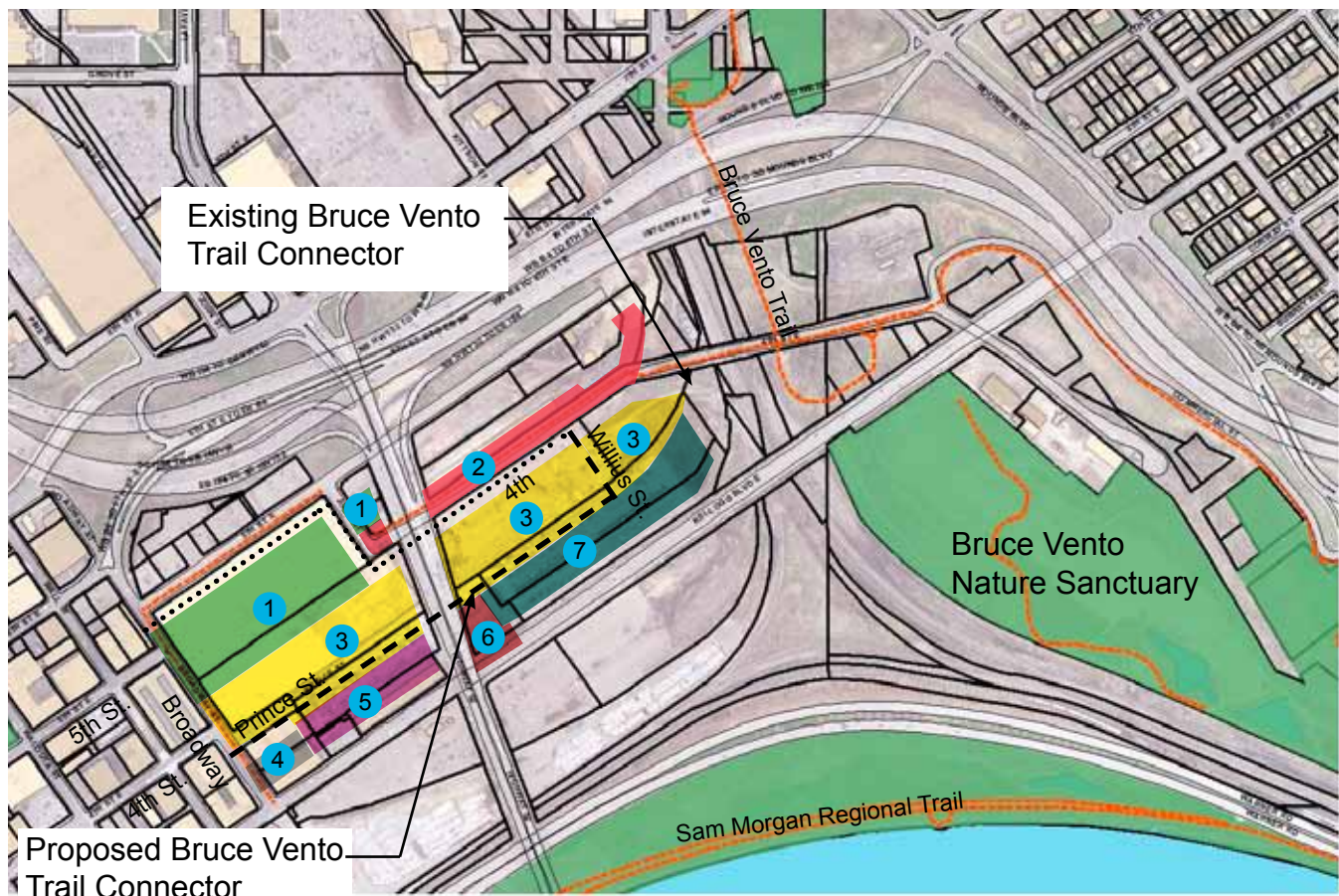
The City acquired Larry Hyman, Donerly and D Oren B property by condemnation via a court order filed July 31, 2013 officially naming the City of Saint Paul as the owner of permanent and temporary easements over the three private properties affected by the Prince Street project area.

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.

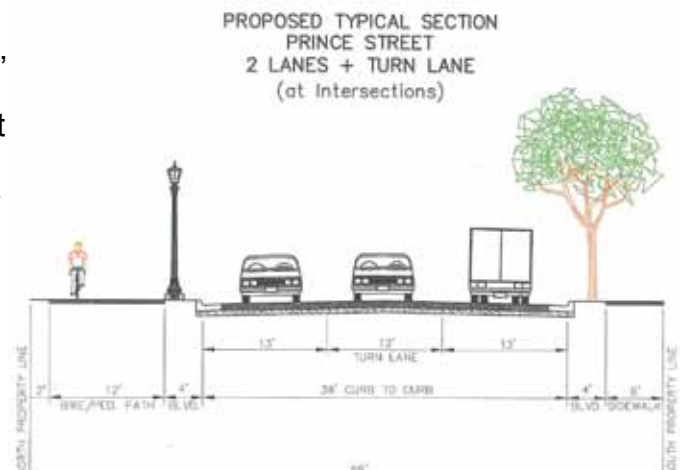
Demand on the Bruce Vento Regional Trail will increase when the Lowertown Ballpark is constructed in 2014. The ballpark will be the official home of the St. Paul Saints as well as host to more than 100 non-baseball events annually. The stadium will hold approximately 7,000 seats and expects the Ballpark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

April

2008

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

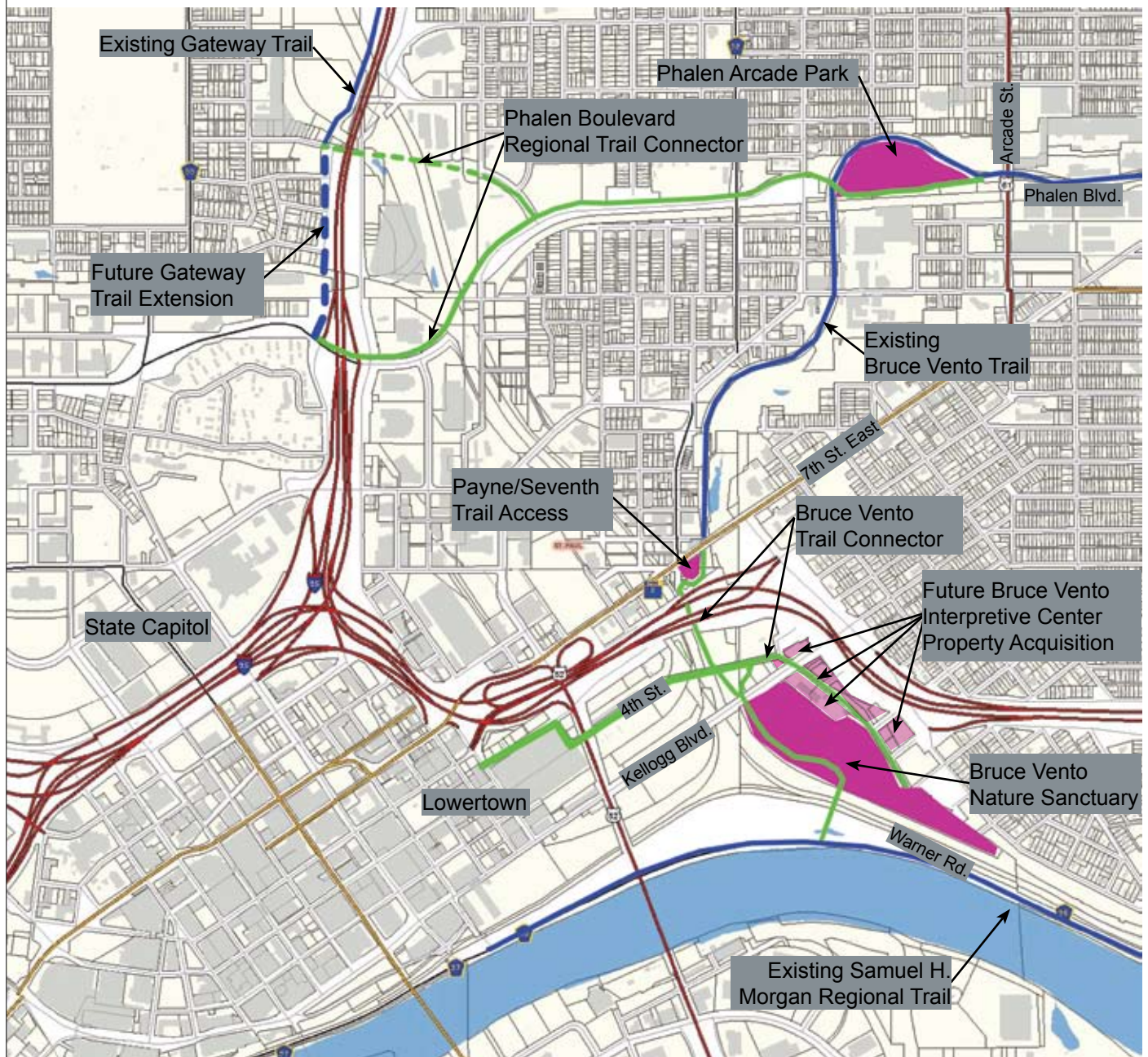


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Introduction

This amendment to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan includes the incorporation of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector, Payne/Seventh Trail Access, Eastside Heritage Park, and the Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector. The locations of the proposed plan additions are shown on the map below.

The plan amendment will address the eleven 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 plans for the new areas identified in this plan amendment.



Boundaries & Acquisition Costs

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is defined by Kellogg Street on the North, BNSF Railroad/ Warner Road on the West and Commercial Street/Indian Mounds Regional Park on the East. It is a 27 acre park acquired by the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation from BNSF Railroad in 2002 at a cost of \$2,170,000.00. This amendment also identifies additional properties adjacent to the Sanctuary to be acquired for development of an Interpretive Facility.

Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector

Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector is a 2.0 mile bicycle and pedestrian trail connection to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. The trail connects Bruce Vento Regional Trail to Indian Mounds Regional Park via Commercial Street, Lowertown via Fourth Street, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and the Sam Morgan Regional Trail along the Mississippi River. The trail is constructed on property owned by the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority.

Payne/Seventh Street Trail Access

Payne/Seventh Street Trail Access is on the site of a former auto sales lot acquired by the City of Saint Paul in the mid-1990's. Located south of the intersection of Payne Avenue and Seventh street, it provides parking and pedestrian access to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail.

Eastside Heritage Park

Eastside Heritage Park is a 5 acre park acquired by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation as part of the development of the Phalen Corridor Project. The park is located west of Arcade Street at the intersection of Phalen Boulevard and Neid Lane.

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

The Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector is a 1.5 mile bicycle and pedestrian trail which connects the Gateway State Trail West of Interstate 35E to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail at the intersection of Phalen Boulevard and Neid Lane.

Stewardship Plan

The City of Saint Paul owns and maintains the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Connector, Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector, Eastside Heritage Park and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. The Saint Paul Division of Parks and Recreation advised the appropriate law enforcement agency, the Saint Paul Police, of its ownership and requested their cooperation in maintaining public safety. 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

The Bruce Vento Regional Trail was used by 26% of all regional trail users in Ramsey County in 2005. The extension of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail system will provide an important link to the Sam Morgan Trail, Gateway State Trail, downtown Saint Paul and Indian Mounds Regional Park.

A 2005 Visitation Estimate by the Metropolitan Council estimates 218,500 visits to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail within Ramsey County. The Sam Morgan Trail received 186,400 visits in 2005. These figures were based on a 4 year average of visitation data from 2002 to 2005. Overall trail usage increased in Saint Paul by 4.8%. Based on a July 1988 study by the Metropolitan Council, it was estimated that annual trail use could increase by 25% when a riverfront link is provided to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail.

There have been no demand forecasts prepared for the new Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Interpretive Facility, however, with its riverfront location in the heart of a major environment, this interpretive center/nature sanctuary would be the only site of its kind in the entire Midwest.

Development Concept

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Site remediation activities and construction of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary began in 2003, following the acquisition of the majority of the sanctuary in 2002. Although this brownfield site suffered from years of industrial use, it was believed to offer extreme potential for redevelopment as a nature sanctuary and historical and ecological Interpretive Center. The property contains the site of Carver's Cave/Wakan Tipi, a Dakota sacred site; and is the location of Saint Paul's first brewery, the Northstar Brewery. In addition, it was the site of one of the largest railroad maintenance yards in the upper Midwest and in pre-european times it was a major riverfront wetland fed by natural springs from the adjacent sandstone bluffs.

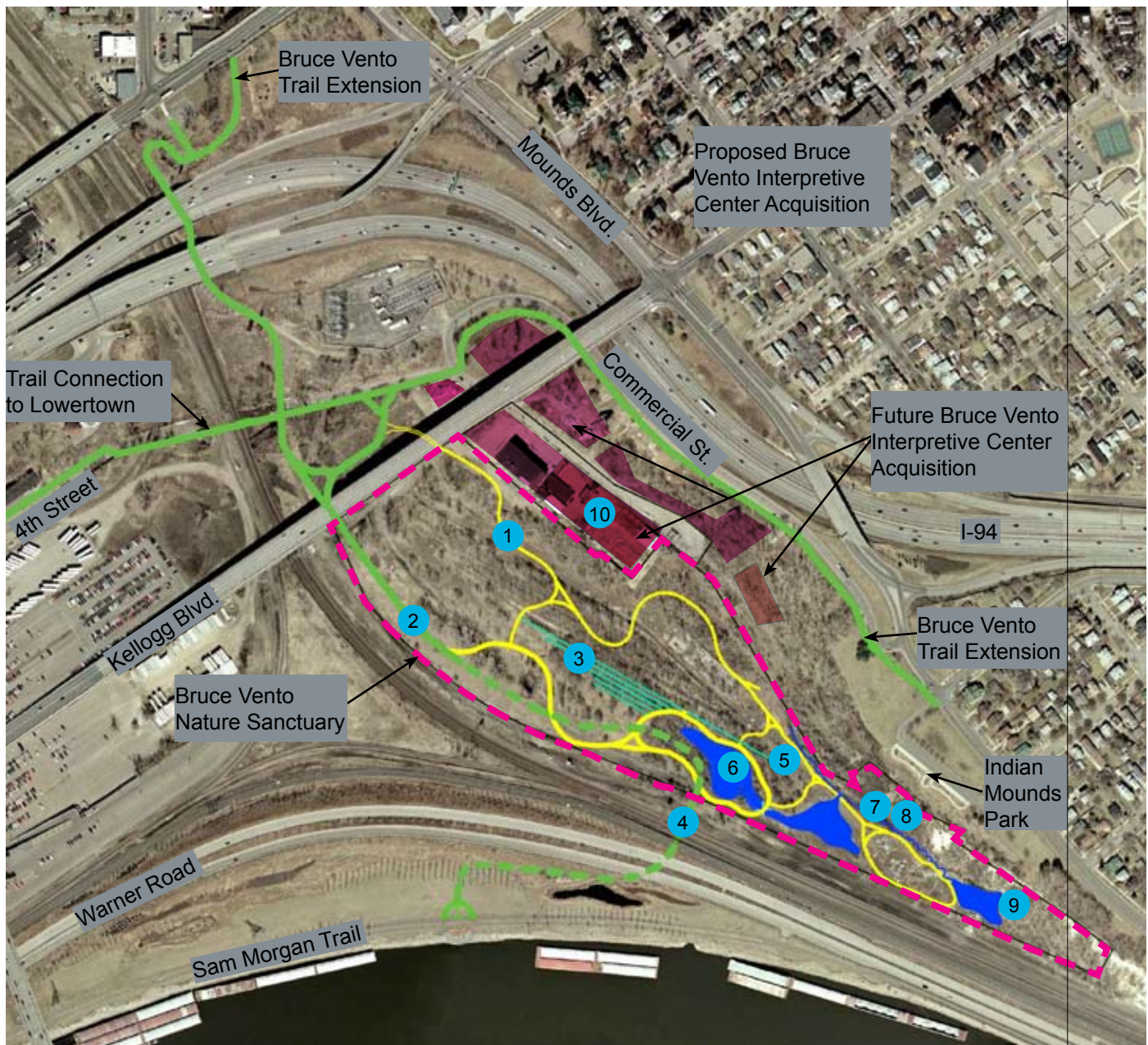
Completed development activities include excavation and removal of contaminated soils, excavation of historic cave openings from the brewery and Carver's Cave, daylighting of natural springs, creation of wetlands and ponds, soil remediation, and extensive planting of native plant material to restore the site to a pre-european state. Some remnants of the past railroad use have been retained. Existing caves have been protected for future interpretive and educational activities and foundations of the old brewery have been located for future interpretation. Local and regional trails weave through the site making all



of the amenities accessible. A future pedestrian bridge over Warner Road will provide an important transportation link to the Sam Morgan Regional Trail.

This master plan amendment also identifies the locations of parcels adjacent to the sanctuary which are planned for future acquisition and provide a site for construction of an Interpretive Facility.

Existing and proposed site features are highlighted on the map below.

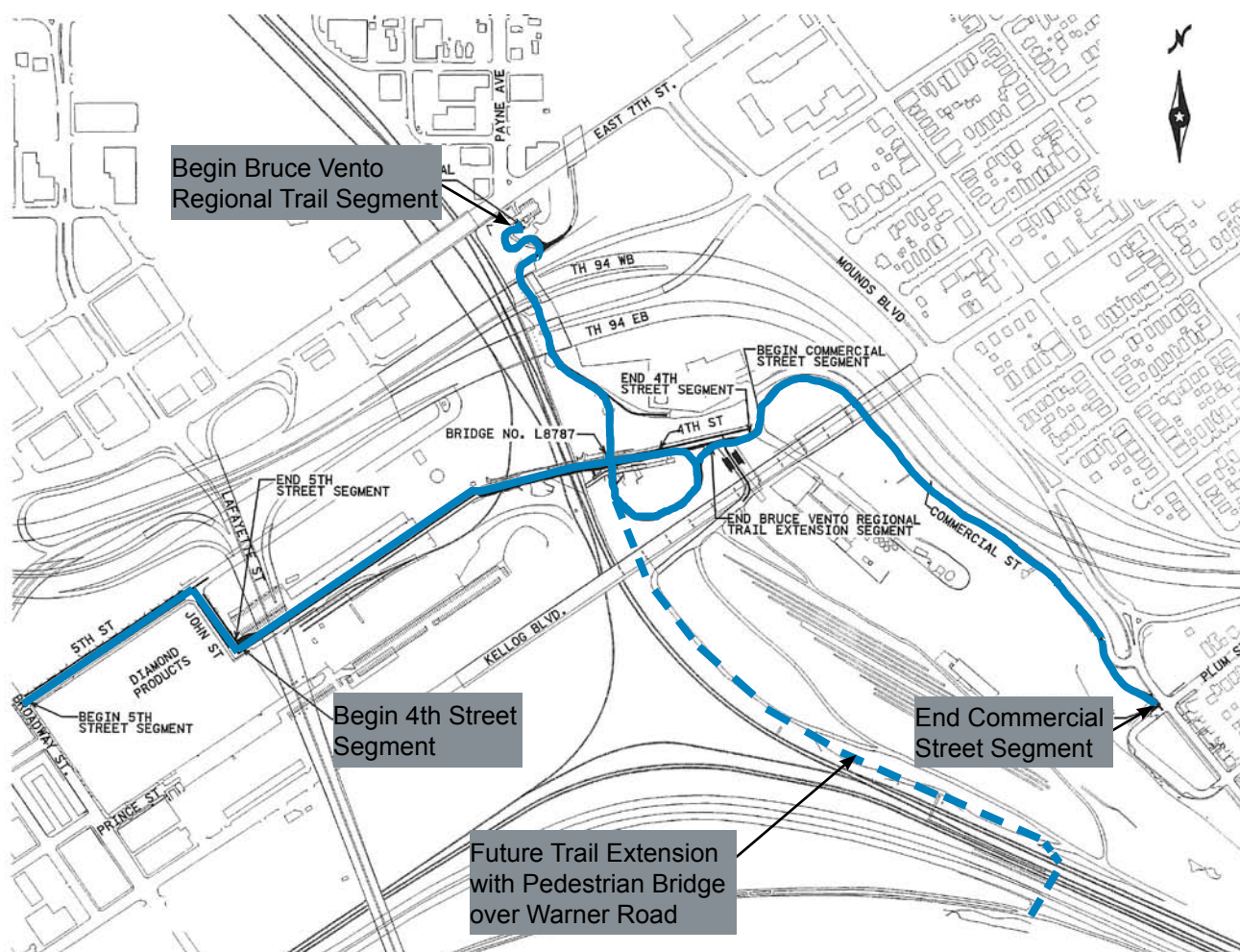


Key:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Nature Sanctuary Trails | 6 Wetland Ponds |
| 2 Regional Trail | 7 Restored Creek |
| 3 Historic Railroad Feature | 8 Dayton's Bluff Cave |
| 4 Pedestrian Bridge | 9 Wakan Tipi / Carvers Cave |
| 5 Old Brewery Site | 10 Future Interpretive Facility |

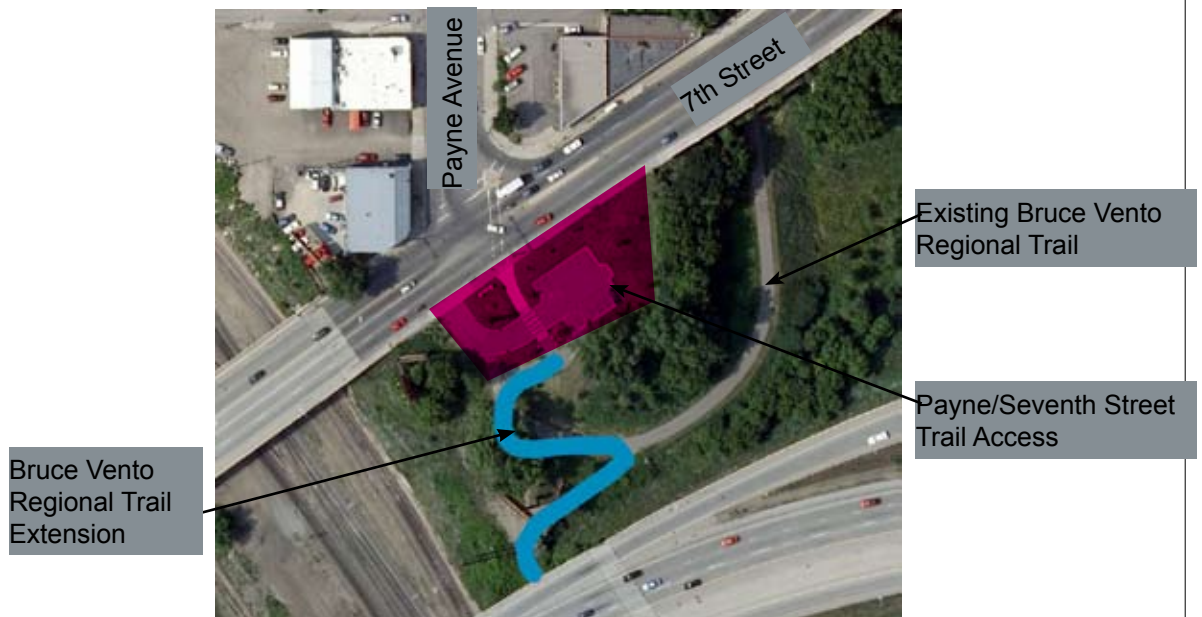
Bruce Vento Trail Extension

The Bruce Vento Trail Extension project 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.



Payne/Seventh Trail Access

The Payne/Seventh Trail Access project was completed in the mid-1990's on former auto sales property acquired by the City of Saint Paul. It serves as a parking lot and trail head facility for the Bruce Vento Regional Trail .



Eastside Heritage Park

Eastside Heritage Park is a 5 acre park located at the intersection of Phalen Boulevard and Neid Lane west of Arcade Street. Bruce Vento Regional Trail and Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector intersect within the park. The park will provide a parking lot for trail users, orientation signage/kiosk, rest room facilities and picnic shelter. The majority of the park will remain as open space with picnic tables and a walking trail. Site grading has occurred on the site and construction of the park facilities will begin in 2008.



Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector is a 1.5 mile paved trail partially constructed along with recent construction of Phalen Boulevard. The trail will extend from Eastside Heritage Park to the Gateway Trail at Cayuga Street providing an important connection for recreational and non-motorized commuters. Construction of the remaining portion of this trail will be completed along with the planned reconstruction of 35E in 2014.



Conflicts

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

The only conflicts involving the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is the location of adjacent industrial property. The City of Saint Paul along with Trust for Public Lands is currently in negotiations with adjacent property owners for the acquisition of property to construct the Interpretive Facility. Land with contamination issues will be resolved upon acquisition of the property.

Bruce Vento Trail Extension

There are no known conflicts with this project . Previous conflicts with adjacent landowners have been resolved when construction was completed.

Payne/Seventh Trail Access

This property has been under ownership of the City of Saint Paul since the mid-1990's and there are no conflicts with adjacent property owners or land uses.

Eastside Heritage Park

All conflicts with adjacent property owners were resolved at the time of property acquisition.

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

There are no known conflicts with adjacent land uses or property owners.

Public Services

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Reconstruction of Fourth Street in 2007 provided a needed new access from downtown to the Nature Sanctuary property. Upon acquisition of additional property for the Interpretive Facility, access road , sewer, water and electrical hookups will need to be provided and will be installed at the time of construction of the new Facility. Utilities are located in adjacent access roads.

Bruce Vento Trail Extension

No additional public services will be required, with the possible exception of electrical at the time the pedestrian bridge is constructed over Warner Road. All other public services were completed with trail construction in 2007.

Payne/Seventh Trail Access

This facility is complete. No additional public services are required.

Eastside Heritage Park

Utilities were extended to the Park with the construction of Phalen Boulevard and Neid Lane. No additional public services are anticipated with the exception of required utility hookups to the proposed restroom facilities.

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

No additional public services are anticipated. This project is largely complete.

Operations

The City of Saint Paul, operates and maintains the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Bruce Vento Trail Extension, Payne/Seventh Trail Access, Eastside Heritage Park, and the Phalen Boulevard Regional 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 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
Snow Removal	12 hrs	\$600
Trades (carpenter, electrician, plumber...)	20 hrs	\$2,000

Total = \$18,400

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

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

Turf maintenance (6 ft either side)	10 hrs	\$700
Brooming – two passes	6 hrs	\$300
Snow removal, sanding	20 hrs	\$1,000
Litter pick up, waste disposal	55 hrs	\$2,300
Brush back	6 hrs	\$300
Annual trail, asphalt maintenance	6 hrs	\$500
Seal coat 7 yr, reclaim 21 yr, program	NA	\$4,800

Total = \$9,900

Eastside Heritage Park

Custodial duties	150 hrs	\$5200
Turf, shrub & tree maintenance	60 hrs	\$3,000
Litter pick up, waste disposal	80 hrs	\$4,500
Trail, asphalt maintenance	20 hrs	\$1,000
Snow removal, sanding	16 hrs	\$1,300
Trades (carpenter, electrician, plumber...)	20 hrs	\$2,000
Utility costs	NA	\$1,500

Total = \$18,500

Citizen Participation

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

An extremely active and involved public/private group of citizens and City of Saint Paul staff organized as the Lower Phalen Creek Project, has directed the acquisition and development of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary over the past seven years and continues to be involved. Citizens have been involved in all aspects of the project ranging from initial concept design to the removal of invasive plant species. A summary of community involvement is provided in Volunteers for Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary Table.



Bruce Vento Trail Extension

A community meeting and design workshop was held in 2003 to solicit input on alternative trail alignments. Additional meetings involving local agencies were also held to receive input on historical, environmental and transportation issues associated with the project. Currently, the National park Service in conjunction with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has been meeting monthly along with a Citizen design advisory group to develop a design for the final portion of the Trail extension – the pedestrian bridge over Warner Road.

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

The Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector concept was developed as part of a two year study by a public /private organization of citizens, business groups, neighborhood organizations, school officials and City staff called the Phalen Corridor Initiative. Extensive community meetings and workshops were held over a period of two years to develop a design for a new Phalen Boulevard. These trail connections evolved as part of that study with the purpose of creating a trail system that safely responds to the needs of the community.

Volunteers for Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Estimated number of volunteer hours contributed by residents for Saint Paul's East Side and Lowertown neighborhoods to promote, plan for, and create the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary : **13,000**

Number of volunteers in 2003 who helped prepare the former rail yard along the Mississippi River to become a park : **150**

Number of hours put in by these volunteers : **800**

Amount of surface debris they helped remove, in tons : **50**

High school interns from the East Side youth Conservation Corps who helped prepare the site : **17**

Total hours contributed by these interns in 2005 : **2,000**

Number of wetland plantings by the interns during this time : **9,000**

Trees and shrubs planted by volunteers from the 3M Corporation in the new park : **320**

Total number of trees planted by all volunteers during the project : **700**

Local elementary school students who volunteered on two days in 2005 : **130**

Data gathered from "Off the Tracks" in Land & People Magazine. Spring 2006

Eastside Heritage Park

Neighborhood meetings have been occurring since 2002 to gather community input on the design of Eastside Heritage Park. These meetings and workshops have resulted in a design for Eastside Heritage Park that reflects the needs of the adjacent community.

Public Awareness

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

The Lower Phalen Creek Project in association with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation has promoted an extensive outreach and public awareness program for the sanctuary. Volunteer groups have been an integral part in site clean up and planting. Numerous articles have been published regarding the development of the Nature Sanctuary increasing public knowledge and awareness of the project. Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is also part of MNRRA and has been the site for periodic interpretive tours by Park Service Rangers.



Bruce Vento Trail Extension, Payne/Seventh Trail Access, Eastside Heritage Park and Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

Trail extensions will be publicized in 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.

Special Needs

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.



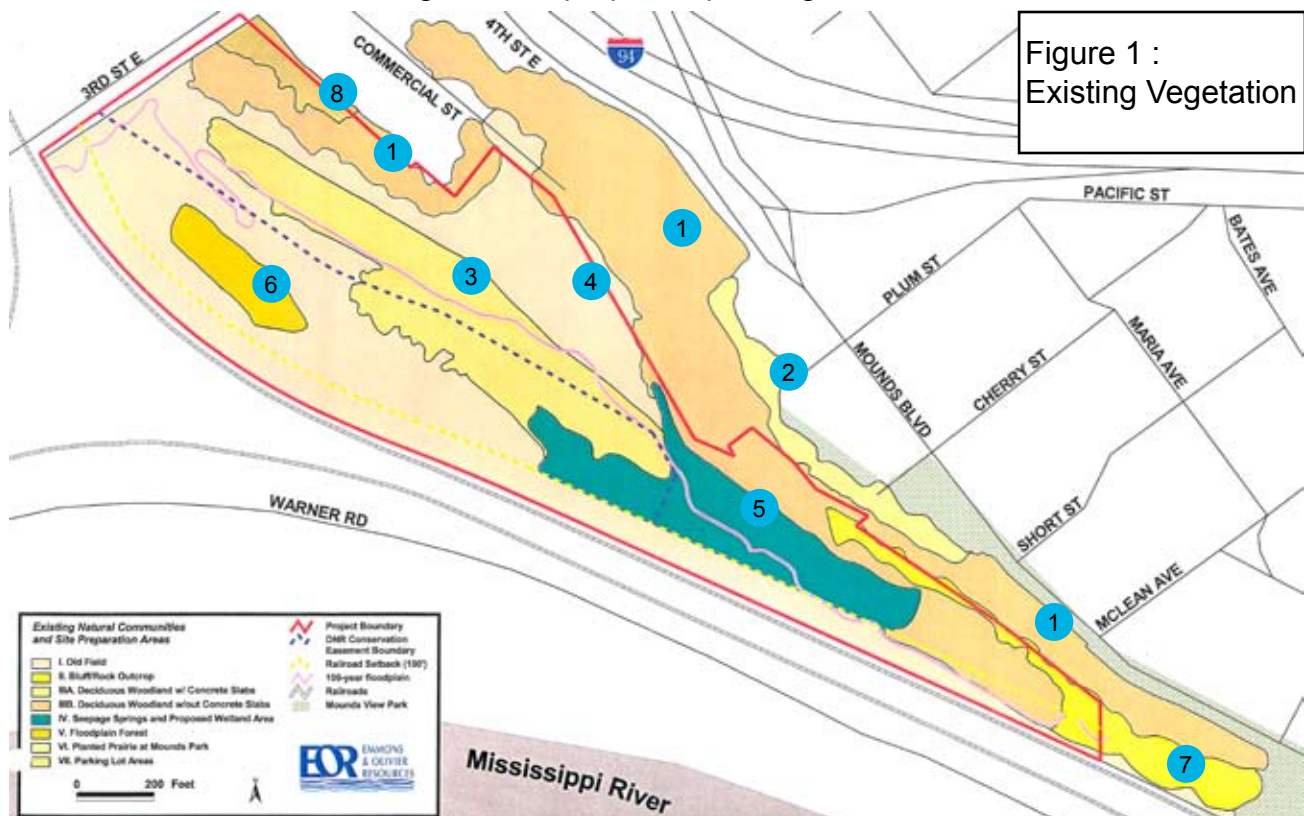
Natural Resources

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary was once a combination of floodplain forest and open wetland. However, previous operations from filling and industrial pollution have made it impossible to restore all of the land to its condition prior to European Settlement in the 1850's. Refer to Figure 1 for Existing Vegetation.

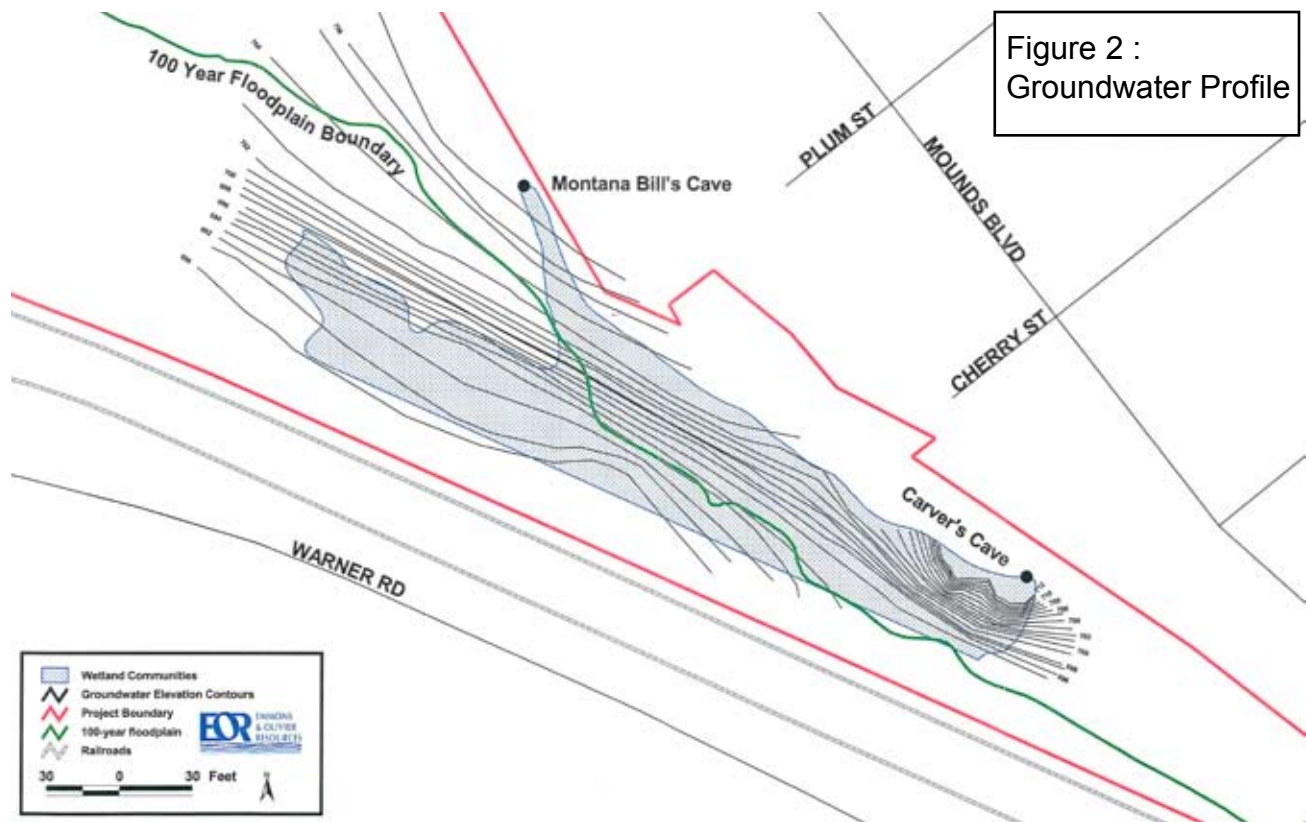
Surface and groundwater were both present at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary prior to European Settlement, however the hydrology of these resources have been altered. Currently, half of the nature sanctuary is located within in the 100 year floodplain. Two major springs discharge at the toe of the bluff. They are Montana Bill's Cave and Carver's Cave. Both springs flow along the base of the bluff and outlet into an existing storm sewer. Refer to Figure 2 for Ground Water Profile.

The vegetation management plan selected for Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary includes a mix of woodland, savanna, prairie and wetland. Proposed communities are selected to mimic the natural communities that would be expected to occur based on site characteristics. Refer to Figure 3 for proposed planting areas.



Key:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Old Field | 6 Floodplain Forest |
| 2 Bluff/Rock Outcrop | 7 Planted Prairie at Mounds Park |
| 3 Deciduous Woodland with Concrete Slab | 8 Parking Lot Areas |
| 4 Deciduous Woodland w/out Concrete Slab | |
| 5 Seepage Springs and Proposed Wetland Area | |



The topography of the bluffs require specific vegetation management. Dry Sand-Gravel Prairie is proposed along the top of the Mounds Park Bluff line, while on the steepest slopes, Bedrock Bluff Prairie is proposed. This will help preserve the outstanding vistas along the Mississippi bluff line.

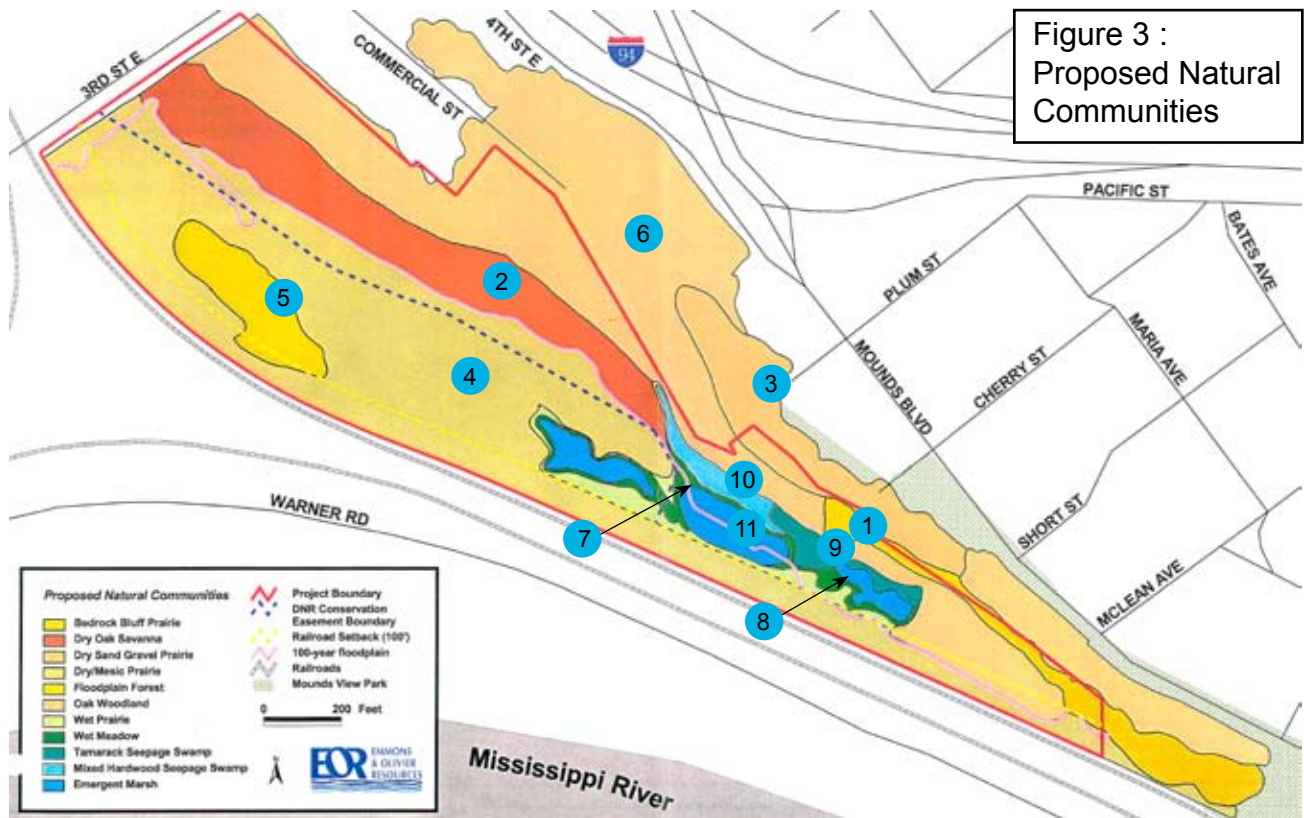
The majority of the site is within the floodplain resulting in fluctuations of water levels. During the spring, the site may be under several feet of water due to snow melt runoff and precipitation rates. Later in the summer, the site may be very dry. The dry/mesic prairie mix is designed to accommodate both extremes.

Dry Oak Savanna will occupy portions of the site near the toe of the bluff. Existing trees will be preserved to provide canopy cover as well as habitat for wildlife. The Dry Oak Savanna will be a transitional area located between the toe of the bluff and Dry/Mesic Prairie.

Oak Woodland is proposed for the middle to lower slopes of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. This area was dominated by invasive tree and shrub species. Existing buckthorn and invasive shrubs are removed initially to protect the existing slope. Grasses and forbs are broadcast seeded and inter planted between existing trees. After one or two years of establishment, invasive trees can be removed.

A variety of vegetation treatments are proposed around the stream and wetland.

These include a Mixed Hardwood Seepage Swamp for portions of the wetland associated with spring water discharge at Montana Bill's Cave, a Tamarack Seepage Swamp, and a Wet Prairie and Wet Meadow for deeper, open water marsh areas. A



Key:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Bedrock Bluff Prairie | 6 Oak Woodland | 11 Emergent Marsh |
| 2 Dry Oak Savanna | 7 Wet Prairie | |
| 3 Dry Sand Gravel Prairie | 8 Wet Meadow | |
| 4 Dry/Mesic Prairie | 9 Tamarack Seepage Swamp | |
| 5 Floodplain Forest | 10 Mixed Hardwood Seepage Swamp | |

Mixed Emergent Marsh will occupy the deepest portion of the wetland and will include areas of open water with submerged aquatic plants.

The exiting cottonwood forest will be built upon with the introduction of floodplain grasses and forbs. This area is called the Floodplain Forest.

The vegetation plan for Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary will protect existing vegetation, provide a diverse habitat for wildlife, and maintain water quality on site. Creating a diverse mix of natural communities that mimic the historic ecosystems will create greater diversity for wildlife. To maximize the benefits to wildlife from plant communities, emphasis will be placed on woody and herbaceous species with a high value for wildlife food and cover.

Bruce Vento Trail Extension

In the early 1860's, a natural valley formed by the Trout Brook and Phalen Creek was converted into an industrial rail corridor. Material was brought into the site filling the flats of the former delta associated with the waterways. Existing creeks were channelized through canals, culverts, and underground sewers.

Wetlands delineated on site were determined to be a result of roadway construction and were not naturally occurring. Prior to recent trail construction, groundwater seeps collected on the roadway and discharged into the Trout Brook Canal. Rebuilding of Fourth Street has redirected this water away from the roadway.

Payne/Seventh Trail Access

When this site was developed in the mid-1990's, contaminated soils were removed and the site was planted with native materials. Recently, a rain garden was developed on-site with the Capitol Region Watershed District to treat water from the parking lot.

Eastside Heritage Park

Plans for this new park call for planting of native vegetation and creation of raingardens to filter water from the parking lot and development of interpretive signage to explain the raingarden concept.

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector

Phalen Boulevard Regional Trail Connector is compatible with and complements the existing land uses and protects existing natural resources.

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2014

Subject: Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, City of St. Paul
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Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.
2. Notify the City of St. Paul that if the Metropolitan Council deems that signage along the regional trail realignment is needed for safety and security of the Green Line Operations and Maintenance Facility, the City of St. Paul will be required to provide and post the signage at its own cost.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

The Community Development Committee unanimously recommended approval of the proposed action at its meeting on January 21. The item was on the consent agenda; therefore, there was no discussion or questions.

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: January 21, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2014

Subject: Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, City of St. Paul

District(s), Member(s): District 13, Richard Kramer

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.313

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jan Youngquist, AICP, Planning Analyst (651-602-1029)

Division/Department: Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.
2. Notify the City of St. Paul that if the Metropolitan Council deems that signage along the regional trail realignment is needed for safety and security of the Green Line Operations and Maintenance Facility, the City of St. Paul will be required to provide and post the signage at its own cost.

Background

The Bruce Vento Regional Trail is jointly managed by the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County. St. Paul's portion of the regional trail corridor travels from the Lowertown area northeast through the city along a former Burlington Northern Railroad corridor to Larpenteur Avenue. North of Larpenteur Avenue, the trail travels through Maplewood to White Bear Township; this portion is managed by Ramsey County. The Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan was amended by the City of St. Paul in 2008 to include the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary; Eastside Heritage Park; a connector trail to the Gateway State Trail along Phalen Boulevard; and a trail connection between Battle Creek-Indian Mounds Regional Park, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Lowertown. The Metropolitan Council approved the master plan amendment in May 2008.

Since the approval of the master plan amendment, the City of St. Paul has committed to constructing the Lowertown Ballpark, which will require the realignment of a portion of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. A segment of the regional trail formerly followed John Street and 5th Street, southwest of I-94 and the Lafayette Bridge. These streets are being vacated for construction of the ballpark. This master plan amendment realigns the trail two blocks south of the ballpark, adjacent to the Metropolitan Council's Operations and Maintenance Facility for the future Green Line (Central Corridor Light Rail Transit).

Rationale

The Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and other Council policies.

Funding

The estimated cost to implement the master plan is \$102,000 for trail development.

Approval of this master plan allows the development costs to be eligible for regional parks funding, but does not commit the Council to any funding at this time. Future funding based on this master plan amendment may be awarded through the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Council action is required to approve the CIP and to approve specific grants to the City of St. Paul.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission unanimously recommended approval of the proposed action at its meeting on January 7, 2014. The City of St. Paul passed a resolution approving and adopting the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment on December 4, 2013. There is no known opposition to the master plan amendment.

METROPOLITAN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Meeting date: January 7, 2014

For the Community Development Committee meeting of January 21, 2014

Subject: Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment, City of St. Paul

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District G, Carrie Wasley

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.313

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jan Youngquist, AICP, Planning Analyst (651-602-1029)

Division/Department: Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.
2. Notify the City of St. Paul that if the Metropolitan Council deems that signage along the regional trail realignment is needed for safety and security of the Green Line Operations and Maintenance Facility, the City of St. Paul will be required to provide and post the signage at its own cost.

Background

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MASTER PLAN REVIEW ANALYSIS

The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* requires that master plans for regional linking trails address the nine items listed below.

1. Boundaries and Acquisition Costs

The Bruce Vento Regional Trail follows 4th Street southwest from the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary toward downtown St. Paul. Upon crossing under the Lafayette Bridge, the trail formerly traveled northwest on John Street and then southwest on 5th Street to Broadway Street. The Lowertown Ballpark project, which is currently under construction, required the vacation of 5th Street and John Street as well as realignment of the regional trail.

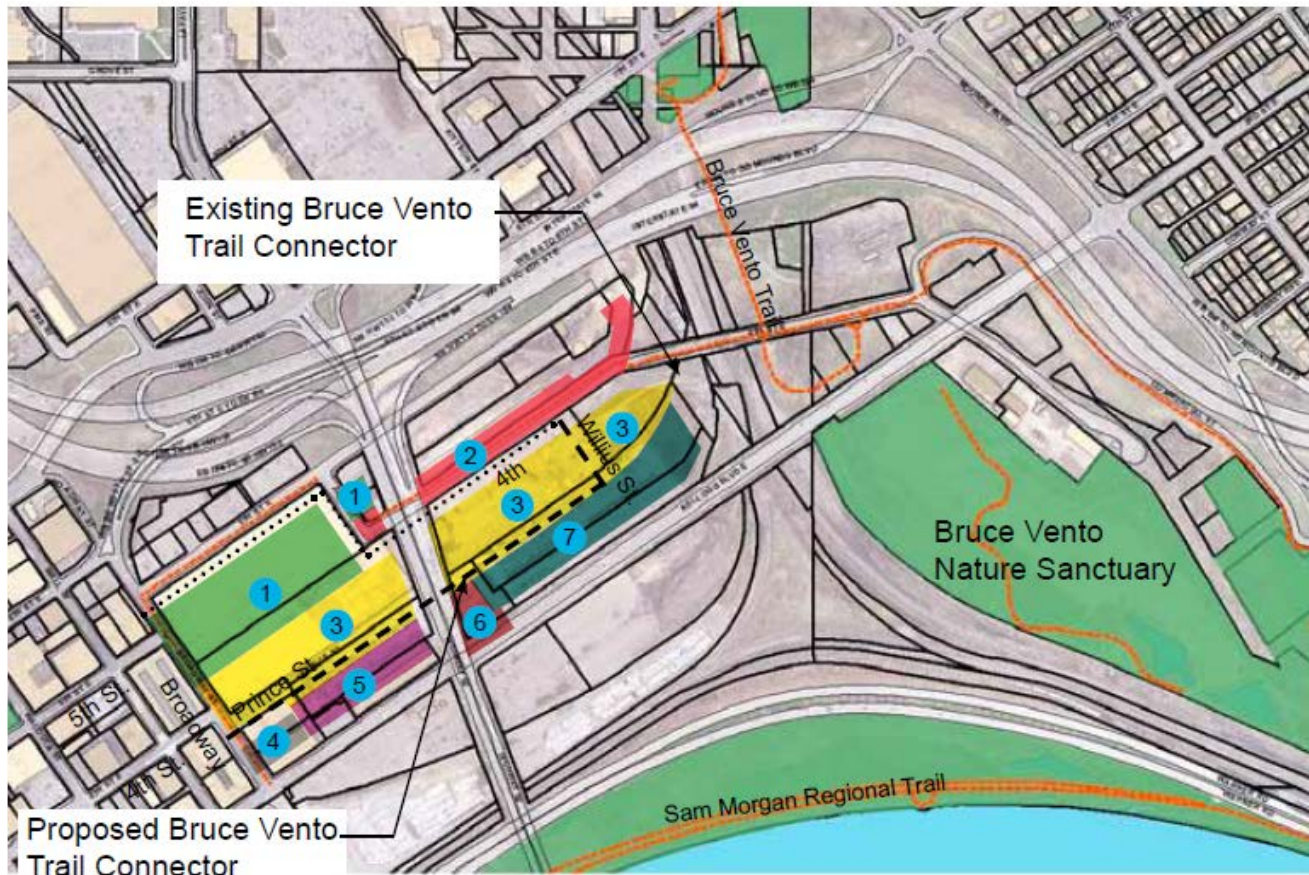
The master plan amendment proposes to remove 1,900 linear feet of trail from 5th Street, John Street and a portion of 4th Street. The realigned trail will travel south from 4th Street along Willius Street on the east side of the Lafayette Bridge and then southwest along Prince Street to Broadway Street for a distance of 2,000 linear feet. Both Willius and Prince Streets are planned streets that will be constructed by the City of St. Paul. The regional trail will be constructed as part of these roadway projects. The portion of the regional trail that follows Prince Street will be adjacent to the Metropolitan Council's Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) for the Green Line (Central Corridor Light Rail Transit). *Figure 1* shows the relationship between the regional trail, the proposed trail realignment, the Lowertown Ballpark and the Green Line OMF.

Figure 1: Bruce Vento Regional Trail Realignment Map



The Metropolitan Council has committed to dedicating right-of-way at no cost to the City of St. Paul for the construction of Willius Street, the northern portion of Prince Street and the regional trail realignment. The City of St. Paul acquired easements over three properties for the southern portion of Prince Street. *Figure 2* shows the relationship between the regional trail and property ownership in the area. The area in yellow and labeled as 3 on *Figure 2* is owned by the Metropolitan Council. The Green Line OMF is located on the portion of that property west of the Lafayette Bridge. The regional trail realignment is shown by the dashed black line on the south and east sides of the property.

There are no acquisition costs associated with the master plan amendment since the Metropolitan Council will dedicate right-of-way to the City of St. Paul. The costs incurred by the City of St. Paul for the easements on private property facilitate construction of Prince Street, but are not related to the regional trail.

Figure 2: Bruce Vento Regional Trail and Area Property Ownership**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

2. Demand Forecast

In 2012, there were approximately 573,600 visits to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail, with 235,900 of those visits to the St. Paul portion of the trail corridor. Visitation to the regional trail increased more than 16% from 2011, when there were approximately 493,800 visits to the entire trail corridor and 194,600 to the St. Paul portion.

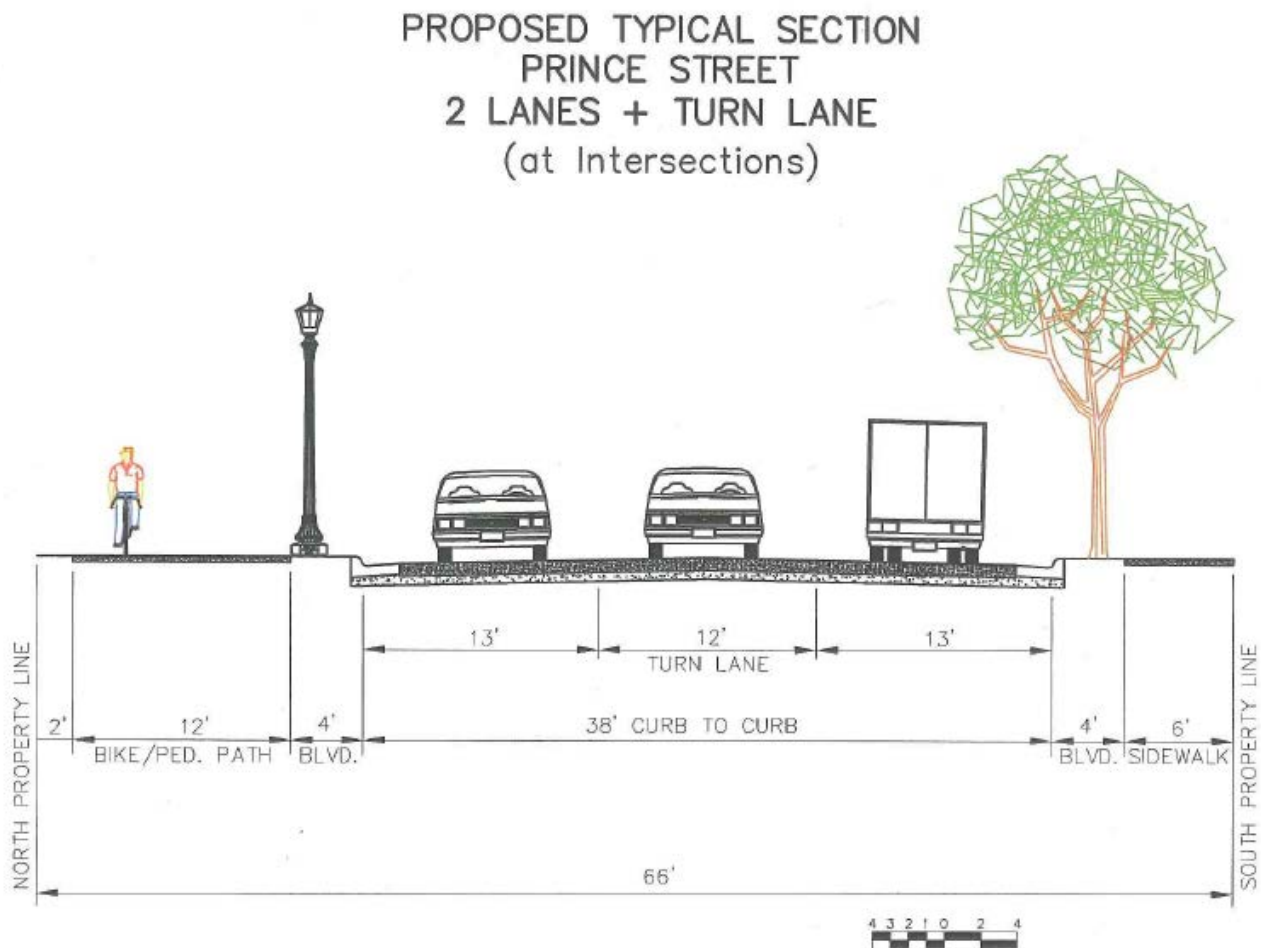
The Bruce Vento Regional Trail provides connections to the Gateway State Trail, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Battle-Creek Indian Mounds Regional Park and downtown St. Paul. The realigned trail segment described in the master plan amendment will provide additional connections to the Lowertown Ballpark and Union Depot, which is a regional hub for multi-modal transportation. Visitation to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail is anticipated to increase

once the Lowertown Ballpark is open. The ballpark will be the official home of the St. Paul Saints baseball team and will host more than 100 non-baseball events annually. The ballpark will consist of approximately 7,000 seats and is expected to draw over 400,000 people per year.

3. Development Concept

The realigned regional trail segment will be constructed in conjunction with the Prince and Willius Street project. The trail will be 12 feet wide and separated from the street by a 4 foot wide boulevard, as depicted in *Figure 3*. The estimated development cost for the regional trail realignment and signage is \$102,000.

Figure 3: Bruce Vento Regional Trail Realignment Typical Cross-Section



4. Conflicts

The master plan states that there are no known conflicts with the regional trail realignment.

5. Public Services

Realignment of a portion of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail will not require any non-recreational public services or facilities to serve it. The adjacent roadway project will include any required public services such as water or sewer as part of its construction.

6. Operations

The City of St. Paul operates and maintains the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. Maintenance of the regional trail includes: turf maintenance, brooming, snow removal, litter pickup and waste disposal, annual trail and asphalt maintenance, and sealcoating. Public safety services are provided by the St. Paul Police Department, which patrols the area. Existing city rules, regulations and ordinances for usage and operations of the regional trail will apply.

7. Citizen Participation

The Lower Phalen Creek Project is an active public-private group of citizens invested in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and the Bruce Vento Regional Trail. This group has provided input on the regional trail and is in favor of the new alignment. The community input process for the Lowertown Ballpark project included discussions about the trail alignment. Design task force members were in favor of the alignment.

8. Public Awareness

The regional trail realignment will be updated in the maps and brochures produced by the City of St. Paul as well as on the City's website.

9. Accessibility

The trail and its access will be designed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. Parking areas will provide accessible parking with ramps to access the trail. There are no charges for the use of the facility, making the trail available for all users.

REVIEW BY OTHER COUNCIL DIVISIONS:

Community Development – Environment and Surface Water Management (Jim Larsen 651-602-1159) – No comments.

Environmental Services – Sewers (Roger Janzig 651-602-1119) – No comments.

Transportation Planning (Russ Owen 651-602-1724) – No comments.

Metro Transit (Steve Mahowald 612-349-7775) – This regional trail will provide a good connection to the future Green Line and numerous bus routes on Broadway Street and at the Union Depot. There are no concerns from a transit perspective.

Central Corridor (Green Line) Project Office (Alicia Vap 651-602-1961) The master plan is consistent with what has been discussed between the City of St. Paul and Central Corridor Project Office staff with regard to the Prince and Willius Street construction project. The trail should be located outside of the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) current fencing, and if appropriate, "No Trespassing" or other signage requested by the Metropolitan Council on its right-of-way should be provided by the City at its expense.

The Metropolitan Council and the City of St. Paul also need to formally complete the transfer of right-of-way for Prince Street, Willius Street and this trail, which has not yet been done.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.
2. The estimated cost to implement the master plan is \$102,000 for trail development.
3. A portion of the regional trail realignment will be adjacent to the Green Line Operations and Maintenance Facility. For safety and security reasons, the Metropolitan Council may require “No Trespassing” or other signage on its right-of-way. If signage is deemed appropriate and necessary by the Metropolitan Council, the City of St. Paul should provide and post the signage at its own cost.
4. Approval of this master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time. Future development funding based on this master plan will be done through the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Council action is required to approve the CIP and to approve specific grants to St. Paul.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment.
2. Notify the City of St. Paul that if the Metropolitan Council deems that signage along the regional trail realignment is needed for safety and security of the Green Line Operations and Maintenance Facility, the City of St. Paul will be required to provide and post the signage at its own cost.