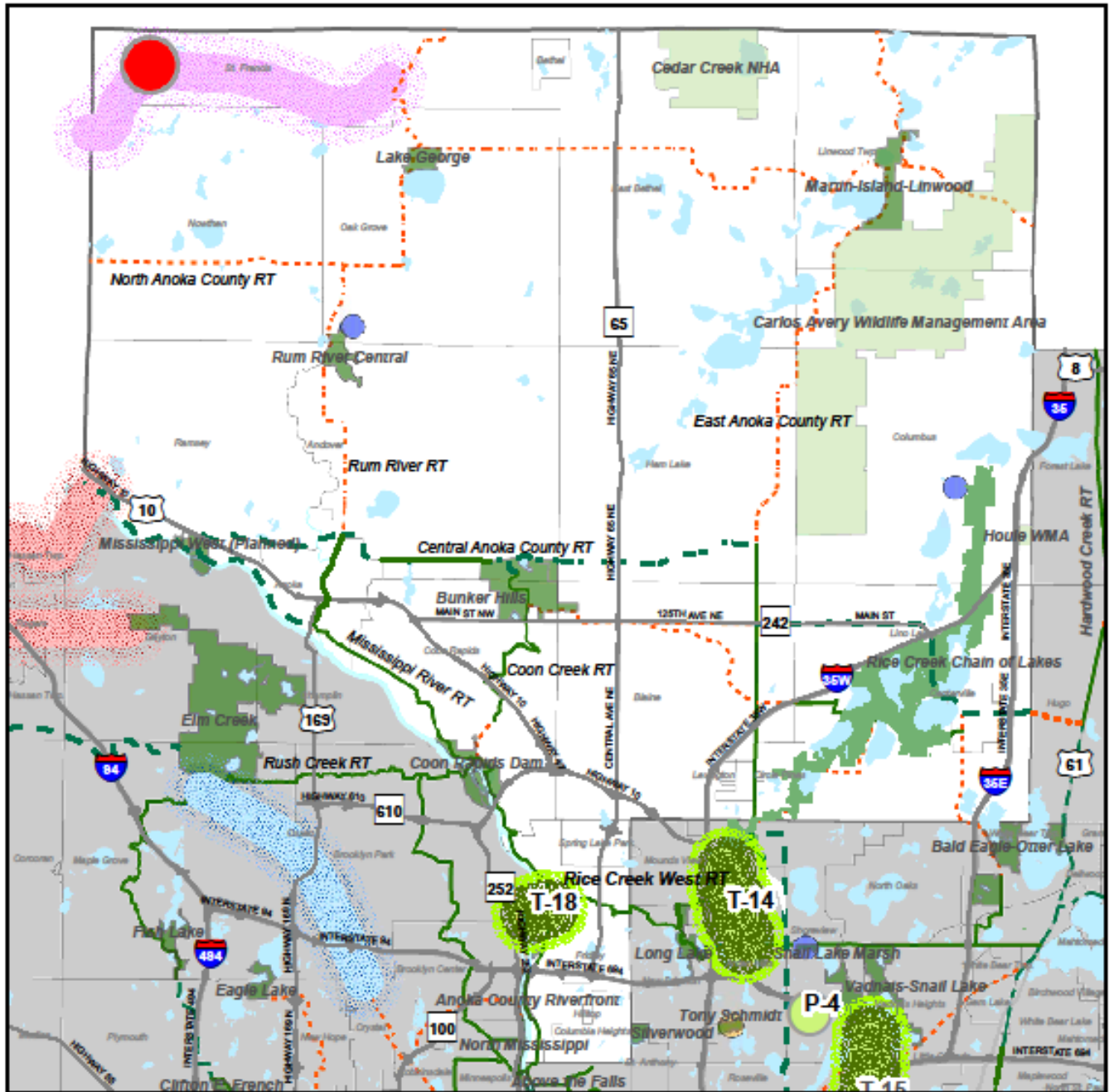


**Regional Parks Policy Plan Update  
Proposed System Additions  
June 8, 2010 MPOSC Meeting**

**ATTACHMENT H**

<b>Anoka County</b>						
<b>Map Designation</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Conversion Acres</b>	<b>Trail Length (miles)</b>	<b>Estimated Acquisition Costs</b>	<b>Notes</b>
T-18	Rice Creek West Regional Trail (Manomin County Park)	Proposed Boundary Adjustment	15	-	\$0 Anoka County owns Manomin County Park	Proposed boundary adjustment of Rice Creek West RT to include Manomin County Park as a trailhead and recreation node



**Proposed System Addition (2010)**  
**T-18** Proposed Extension Rice Creek West RT



**Regional Parks**

- Regional
- State

**Regional Trails**

- Regional Existing
- Regional Planned
- Regional Proposed (No Master Plan)
- State Existing

**Regional Park Search Areas (2005)**

- Boundary Adjustment
- Recognition of Regional Status
- New Unit

**Regional Trail Search Corridors (2005)**

- Boundary Adjustment
- Completing the System
- New Unit

**2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update  
Proposed System Changes**

<b>Map Designation:</b>	T-18
<b>Name:</b>	Rice Creek West Regional Trail
<b>Agency:</b>	Anoka County
<b>Category:</b>	Proposed Regional Trail Boundary Adjustment
<b>Acres:</b>	15
<b>Acquisition Costs:</b>	\$0

**Request**

Anoka County has requested that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) and the Metropolitan Council consider a boundary adjustment to add Manomin County Park to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail corridor as part of the Parks Policy Plan update.

**Background**

The existing Rice Creek West Regional Trail is jointly managed by Anoka and Ramsey Counties. With an estimated 449,000 total visits in 2009 (364,500 visits to the Anoka County segment and 84,500 to the Ramsey County segment), it is the fourth most popular trail in the regional parks system. The regional trail leads from Manomin County Park and the Mississippi River, connects to the Mississippi River Regional Trail, follows Rice Creek approximately four miles east through Fridley, then joins Ramsey County’s portion of the trail in New Brighton where it travels two miles to Long Lake Regional Park. Ramsey County’s future development plans for the Rice Creek North Regional Trail include a connection to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail within Long Lake Regional Park. Once this segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail is developed, these two regional trails will facilitate a continuous trail connection from the Mississippi River in Fridley to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve in Lino Lakes.

Manomin County Park is a 15-acre park that serves as a trailhead and recreation node for the Rice Creek West Regional Trail. The park is located at the confluence of Rice Creek and the Mississippi River and includes a picnic gazebo, an internal trail network through a wooded area, an observation/wildlife viewing platform and a canoe/kayak landing. The park is a popular site for shoreline fishing and wildlife observation and provides ample parking for trail users.

The proposed boundary adjustment would recognize the connection of the Mississippi River “Water Trail” and the Rice Creek “Water Trail” within the regional parks system. The Mississippi River is part of the National Park Service’s Mississippi National River and

Recreation Area (MNRRA) corridor, and the Rice Creek Water Trail was developed through a partnership between Anoka and Ramsey counties, the Rice Creek Watershed District and the National Parks Service.

The park also includes the historic Banfill-Locke Tavern. Built in 1847, it is the oldest Greek Revival style building in Minnesota and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The building now houses the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, which provides gallery space, classes, workshops and events for artists and writers. The non-profit Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts and Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department have a public/private partnership for operations of the facility.

### **Criteria**

The *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* outlines the following criteria for regional trails. Staff analysis is italicized.

#### **Strategy 1(c): Siting criteria and land acquisition funding priorities for regional trails**

To qualify for regional trail status, an existing or proposed trail must meet the following criteria:

1. The trail should not duplicate an existing trail. The trail may include a portion of an existing county or local trail if the trail serves one of the following functions:

(A) Destination Regional Trail. Be a destination itself, providing a high-quality recreation experience that traverses significant natural resource areas where the trail treadway will have no adverse impact on the natural resource base;

(B) Linking Regional Trail. Link two or more units of the regional recreation open space system.

*The existing Rice Creek West Regional Trail is a destination trail, which also links the Mississippi River Regional Trail to Long Lake Regional Park. The proposed boundary adjustment to add Manomin Park to the trail corridor does not duplicate an existing trail. It would provide additional recreational opportunities along the trail corridor, including access to picnic facilities, wildlife observation, and a landing for canoes and kayaks along the Rice Creek Water Trail. As a destination trail, the Rice Creek West Regional Trail serves more recreational purposes than the typical activities of walking, jogging, biking and inline skating provided by a linking trail. Destination trails essentially serve as linear parks.*

*According to the Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks and Trails Survey 2008, the primary activities of visitors to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail include:*

<i>Walking/hiking</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>Jogging/running</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Swimming</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>Picnicking</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Biking</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>Commuting</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Relaxing</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>Playground use</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Dog walking</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>Boating</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>Sunbathing</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>Inline skating</i>	<i>&lt;1%</i>

*(Some respondents listed more than one primary activity, so the total is >100%)*

2. The trail must serve a regional audience based on visitor origin and service-area research on regional trails.

*According to the Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks and Trails Survey 2008, 40% of the visits to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail are from Anoka County residents and 60% of the visits are non-local, so the trail clearly serves a regional audience.*

For **Destination Regional Trails**, there should be no spacing minimums or maximums; instead, the decision to locate the trail should be based on the availability of existing high-quality natural resources or the opportunity for natural resources restoration, enhancement and protection. Destination Regional Trails should be located to reasonably maximize the amount of high-quality natural resources within the trail corridor boundaries.

*The existing Rice Creek West Regional Trail corridor traverses Regionally Significant Natural Resource and Ecological Areas as mapped by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council. As mentioned above, Manomin Park includes trails through a wooded area leading to the Mississippi River and a wildlife observation deck. There are also opportunities for natural resources enhancement, restoration and protection along Rice Creek within Manomin Park.*

## **PROPOSED ACTION**

That the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission make a motion to accept the Anoka County proposal T-18 for a boundary adjustment to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail to be incorporated into the draft *Regional Parks Policy Plan*.



## Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

June 2, 2010

Jan Youngquist  
Senior Planner – Parks  
Metropolitan Council  
390 Robert St. N.  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Rice Creek West Regional Trail Boundary Adjustment  
Comprehensive Plan Update

Dear Jan:

Anoka County is requesting that the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission consider a boundary adjustment to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail as part of the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan revision. This boundary adjustment would incorporate additional outdoor recreation and trailhead facilities to the regional trail.

As you may be aware, the Rice Creek originates at Clear Lake in Washington County and flows southwest through the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve in Anoka County, through Ramsey County's Long Lake Regional Park and again through Anoka County to the Mississippi River. A ribbon of paved regional trail follows the meandering Rice Creek for most of this distance, terminating at the confluence of the Mississippi River in Anoka County's Manomin County Park.

Known as the "Rice Creek West Regional Trail", the four mile corridor in Anoka County travels through upland forest and lowland natural areas, alongside city parks, and connecting with regional trailhead facilities. There were 365,000 visits to the trail in 2009 making it the most popular trail in Anoka County.

The proposed boundary adjustment would encompass adding the 15-acre Manomin County Park as a trailhead and recreation node to the regional trail. Located at the confluence of the Mississippi River and Rice Creek, the existing recreational amenities include a picnic gazebo, benches, tables, an observation/wildlife viewing platform, and a canoe/kayak landing. It is a popular site for shoreline fishing, canoeing and kayaking as well as wildlife observation.

This location offers ample parking for persons accessing the Rice Creek Regional Trail at its western most terminus. Internal paved trails provide connections to park amenities and to the popular historic 1847 Banfill Tavern, the oldest Greek Revival style architecture in Minnesota. The building is home to the regionally popular Banfill Locke Center for the Arts and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES

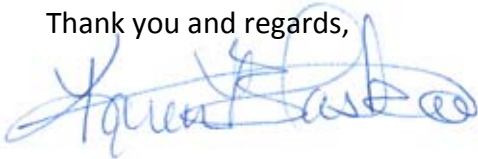
The proposed boundary adjustment would incorporate a direct link to the Mississippi River Regional Trail corridor which traverses Anoka County along the Mississippi River from Minneapolis to Elk River. The Mississippi River Regional Trail links to the Anoka County Riverfront/Islands of Peace Regional Park, Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park and Mississippi West Regional Park.

The boundary adjustment would also directly connect to the Mississippi River "Water Trail" and the "Rice Creek Water Trail." The Mississippi River is part of the National Park Service MNRRA Corridor, and the Rice Creek Water Trail was developed through a partnership between Anoka and Ramsey Counties, the Rice Creek Watershed District and the National Parks Service.

In summary, Anoka County feels that the boundary adjustment to the Rice Creek West Regional Trail would be an excellent addition to the regional park system. The proposed 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan revision will serve as an important access point and recreational node on the Rice Creek and Mississippi River regional trails for generations to come.

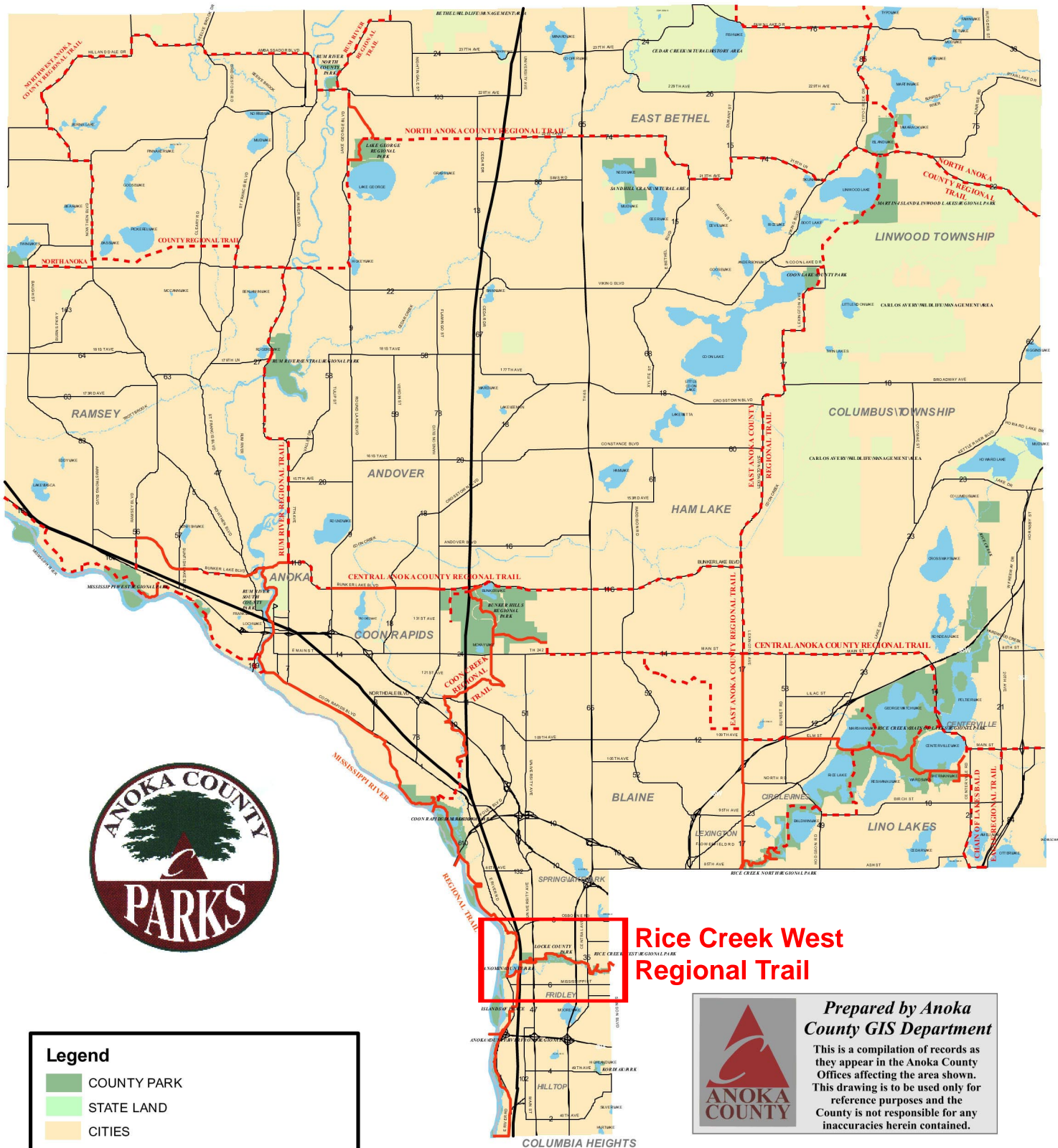
I have enclosed maps and other information illustrating the links and connections for your use. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 763-767-2865 or 612-845-8391, or via e-mail at [karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us).

Thank you and regards,



Karen Blaska  
Park Planner

# Anoka County Trail System Plan




**Rice Creek West  
Regional Trail**

**Legend**

- COUNTY PARK
- STATE LAND
- CITIES

**Regional Trails**

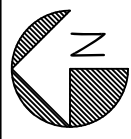
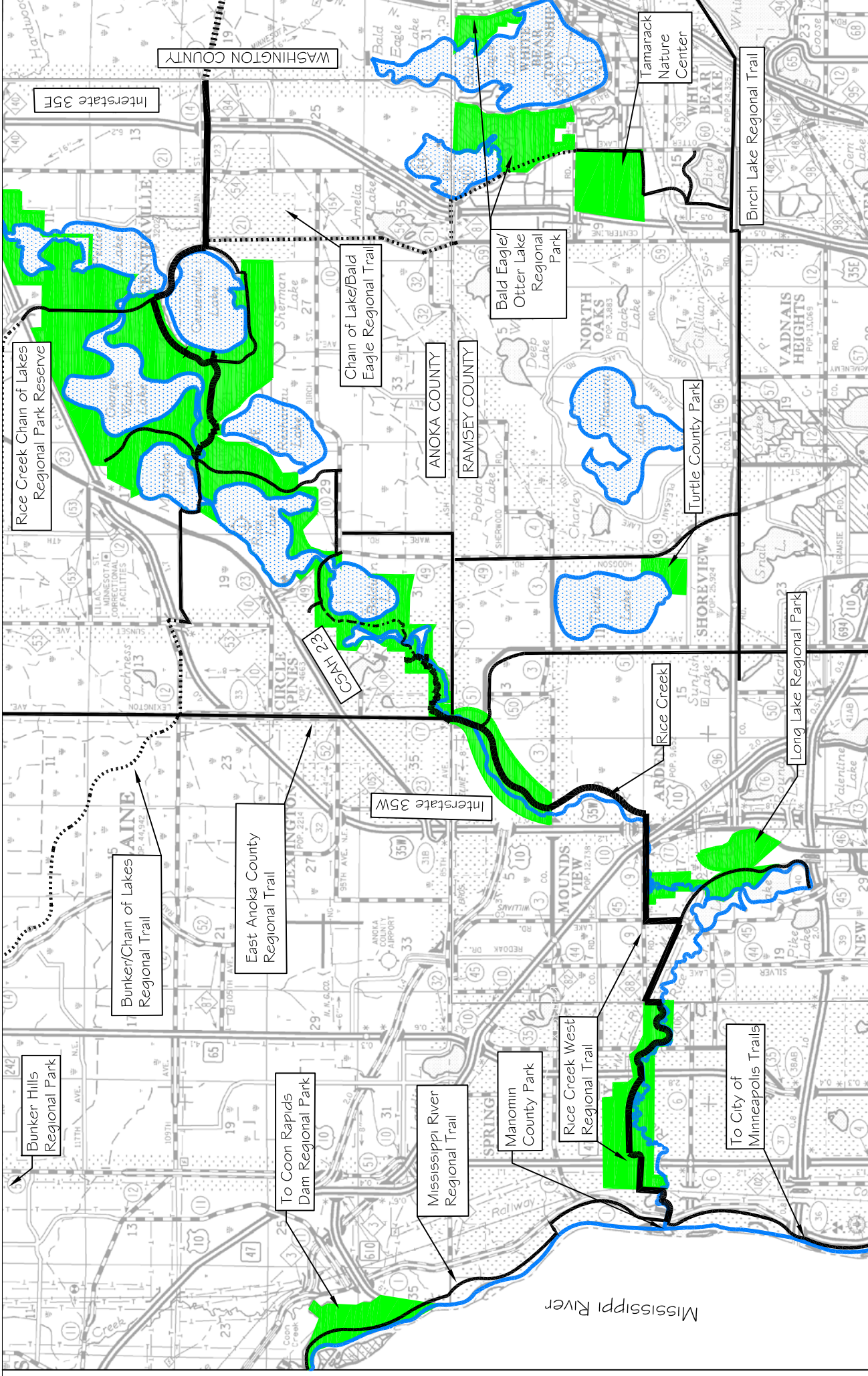
- EXISTING COUNTY REGIONAL TRAILS
- PROPOSED COUNTY REGIONAL TRAILS



*Prepared by Anoka  
County GIS Department*

This is a compilation of records as they appear in the Anoka County Offices affecting the area shown. This drawing is to be used only for reference purposes and the County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.





Not to Scale  
Date: 05/11/10

# Rice Creek West Regional Trail Connections

**Legend**

- Existing Regional and Local Trail (dotted line)
- Proposed County Regional Trail (thick black line)
- Park Boundary (green outline)



## Anoka County Welcomes you to

### RICE CREEK WEST REGIONAL TRAIL

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1963. Within a few years, thousands of acres of park land were protected. Since 1963 the department, with the support of communities and local residents, has created an open space system comprised of over 10,000 acres of park land, 16 unique parks, recreational facilities and services to make your outing enjoyable and memorable.

The majority of the 222 acre regional park/trail along Rice Creek was acquired in the 1970's. Rice Creek originates at Clear Lake in Washington County, immediately south of the City of Forest Lake. The creek flows west-southwest through a chain of nine lakes in Lino Lakes and drains secondary tributaries, until it reaches the Mississippi River in the city of Fridley, some 46 miles later.

Many portions of the trail travel immediately along Rice Creek, within the steep valleys of the floodplain. Since the trail corridor is only minutes from downtown Minneapolis/St. Paul, adjacent lands

are developed residential and commercial. Some of the most interesting terrain and natural communities are located between Highway 47 and Central Avenue. Because the trail connects with the Mississippi River, many birds travel the creek on their seasonal migrations. During the spring and fall trail users may see eagles, herons, egrets, as well as loons, cormorants and pelicans.

#### WHAT'S AT RICE CREEK

Many improvements have been made along the corridor recently. In 2000, safety along the trail was improved when an underpass along the trail at T.H. 65 was installed. Several portions of the trail were repaved during this time, as well. In 2000/2001 the picnic area at Locke County Park was completely redeveloped and new sections of trail were laid in 2006.

#### RECYCLING

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department encourages everyone to recycle. In many locations we are using products made from recycled plastic, which are helping to keep the environment healthy. Please take time to locate the recycling containers found throughout the park. The containers are for aluminum, plastic and glass cans and bottles. Please use them appropriately. Please use the refuse containers for all other types of trash. Please help PITCH IN!

#### TRAILS

A ribbon of paved trail travels through this linear park, stretching from the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts (Manomin County Park) to the Ramsey County border. From there, the trail continues to Long Lake Regional Park. The four mile trail corridor in Anoka County travels through upland forest and lowland natural areas. There are a few steep slopes along the corridor, which require safe and alert trail use.

#### TRAIL CONNECTIONS

The Rice Creek West Regional Trail connects to the Mississippi River Regional Trail near East River Road. The Mississippi River Trail Corridor links with Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park (north five miles) and Riverfront Regional Park (south four miles). To the south, the trail continues to the Minneapolis Parkway System.

#### PICNICKING

Picnicking is a very popular pastime at Locke County Park. There are two picnic pavilions at Locke Park, including a 150 person pavilion available for rent in. There is a fee for reserving a picnic pavilion. Reservations can be made by calling the park office at (763)757-3920.

Shelter #	Capacity	Electricity
1	150	Yes
2	25	No

#### CANOEING

During most spring months, Rice Creek flows well with the spring runoff. At these times the water levels allow for good canoeing opportunities. Because the creek is narrow, in certain areas, beginner canoeists are encouraged to try canoe trails on the nearby Rum River and Mississippi River.

#### FISHING

Because of it's connection to the Mississippi River and the chain of lakes in Lino Lakes, Rice Creek is a surprisingly productive fishery. In the spring, anglers gather at the confluence of the Mississippi River to catch smallmouth bass and northern pike.

#### PARK RULES FOR PETS

In order to ensure the enjoyment of other park visitors, we ask that pet owners follow these park rules:

Pets must be on a leash not more than six feet long.

Pet owners must carry and use an appropriate device for cleaning up pet litter and disposing of it in a sanitary manner.

Pets must not be tethered to any tree, plant, building or park equipment.

Pets must not be allowed to disturb, harass or interfere with any other park visitor.

#### TRAILHEAD INFO KIOSK

A map at the Locke Park restroom has information about the trail corridor and programs offered by Anoka County Parks and Recreation.

#### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**24- Hour Info Line**  
(763)767-2820

**Parks and Recreation Office**  
(763)757-3920

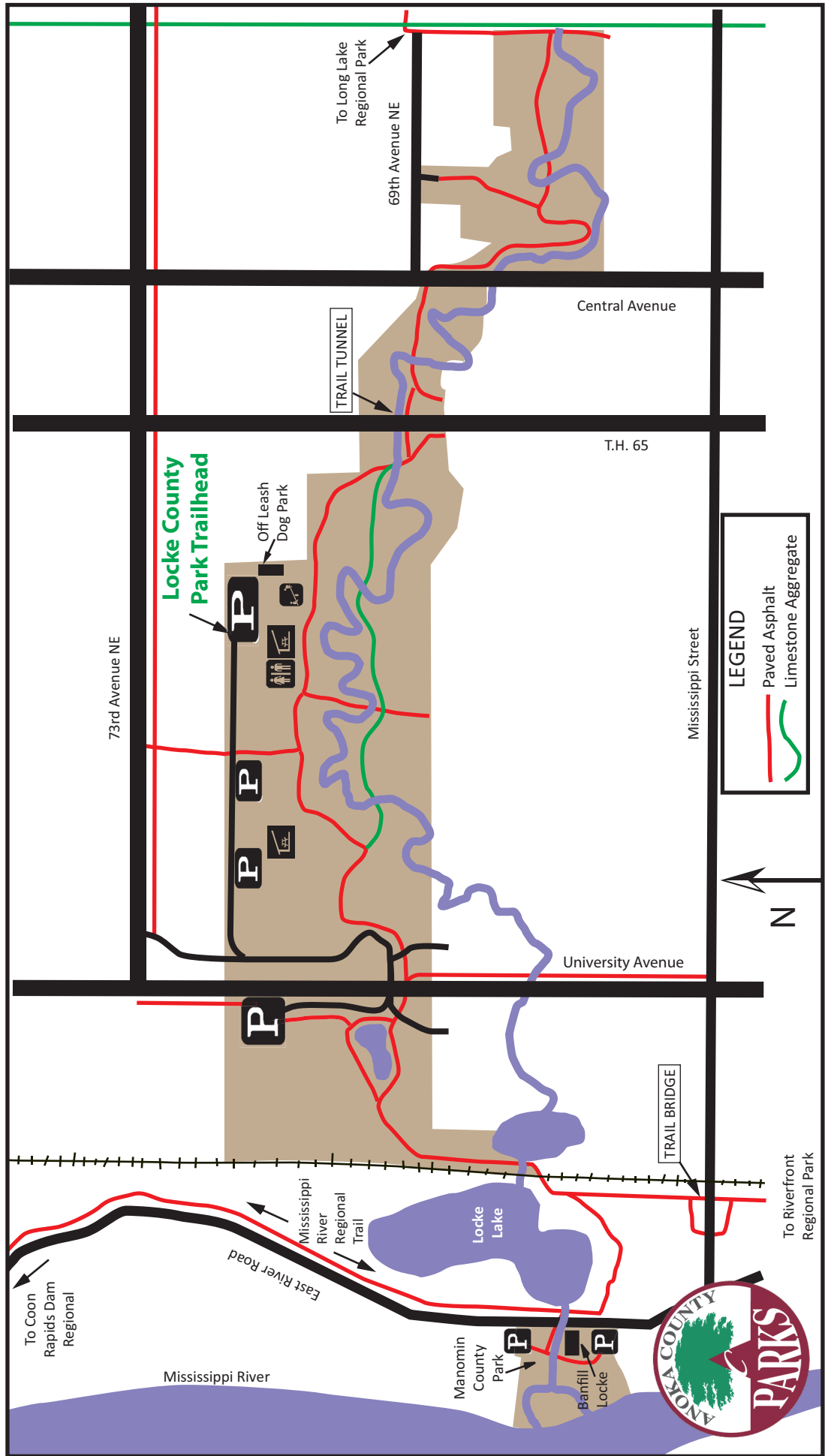
**Wargo Nature Center**  
(651)429-8007

**Bunker Beach Water Park**  
(763)767-2895

**Park Rangers**  
(763)450-3162

[www.anokacountyparks.com](http://www.anokacountyparks.com)

# RICE CREEK WEST REGIONAL TRAIL



MANOMIN  
COUNTY PARK



ANOKA COUNTY  
PARKS & RECREATION



BANFILL-  
LOCKE  
CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department enjoys a private/public partnership with the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts (BLCA). BLCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the belief that the presence of arts in the community has a vitalizing effect. BLCA offers art instructional classes for all ages, art exhibitions, and special family events throughout the year.

For information about art instructional classes, art exhibitions, special events or rental of the center call...

BANFILL-LOCKE CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS  
(763) 574-1850

*Welcome to*  
**MANOMIN  
COUNTY PARK**

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1963 with a vision of providing recreational opportunities for all those who live and work in Anoka County. Since that time Anoka County, with the support of local communities, has created an open space system that includes over 9,000 acres of park land across the county.

The Banfill-Locke Tavern was built in 1847 by John Banfill, an early fur trader in the region and Minnesota's first state auditor. Banfill operated an inn, tavern, post office, and a general store until 1854, when he sold the house to Alexander Ramsey. Anoka County purchased the property in 1967 and shortly after, the Tavern was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER  
REGIONAL TRAIL CORRIDOR

Bikers, walkers, and in-line skaters are all invited to utilize this trail for recreation. The northern trailhead for this corridor is located at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park. From the Dam the trail winds south, through several city, county, and regional parks. Points of particular interest include the Historic Banfill-Locke Tavern, Islands of Peace Park, the historic Riedel Mansion, and the Coon Rapids Dam Walkway (which links Hennepin Parks' Regional Trails to Anoka County). The approximate length of the trail is 11 miles.

RICE CREEK  
REGIONAL TRAIL WEST

This trail offers an east/west link to the Mississippi River Regional Trail. The trail traverses Rice Creek, through many areas of natural beauty. The trail is approximately 6 miles in length.

**PROGRAMS  
AND ACTIVITIES...**

**PICNICKING**

Plan for a historic picnic at Manomin County Park. For a small fee the picnic gazebo can be reserved during park hours throughout the summer.

**FISHING**

There is plenty of room along the shore banks to "wet-a-line". Try your hand casting spinner baits in Rice Creek or just hook a crawler and cast a bobber into the Mississippi.

**TRAILS**

Enjoy a roaming trails in Manomin County Park. An asphalt trail access most of the park, and limestone trails provide intimate views of the Great River.

**RECYCLING**

Please use the appropriate containers for your trash and recyclable material.

**INFORMATION KIOSK**

The kiosk near the Banfill-Locke Center contains information about programs and special events taking place in the park during the year.

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

For up-to-date information about park programs and services call...

**INFO LINE  
(763) 767-2820**

To reserve a picnic pavilion, park building or campgrounds site call...

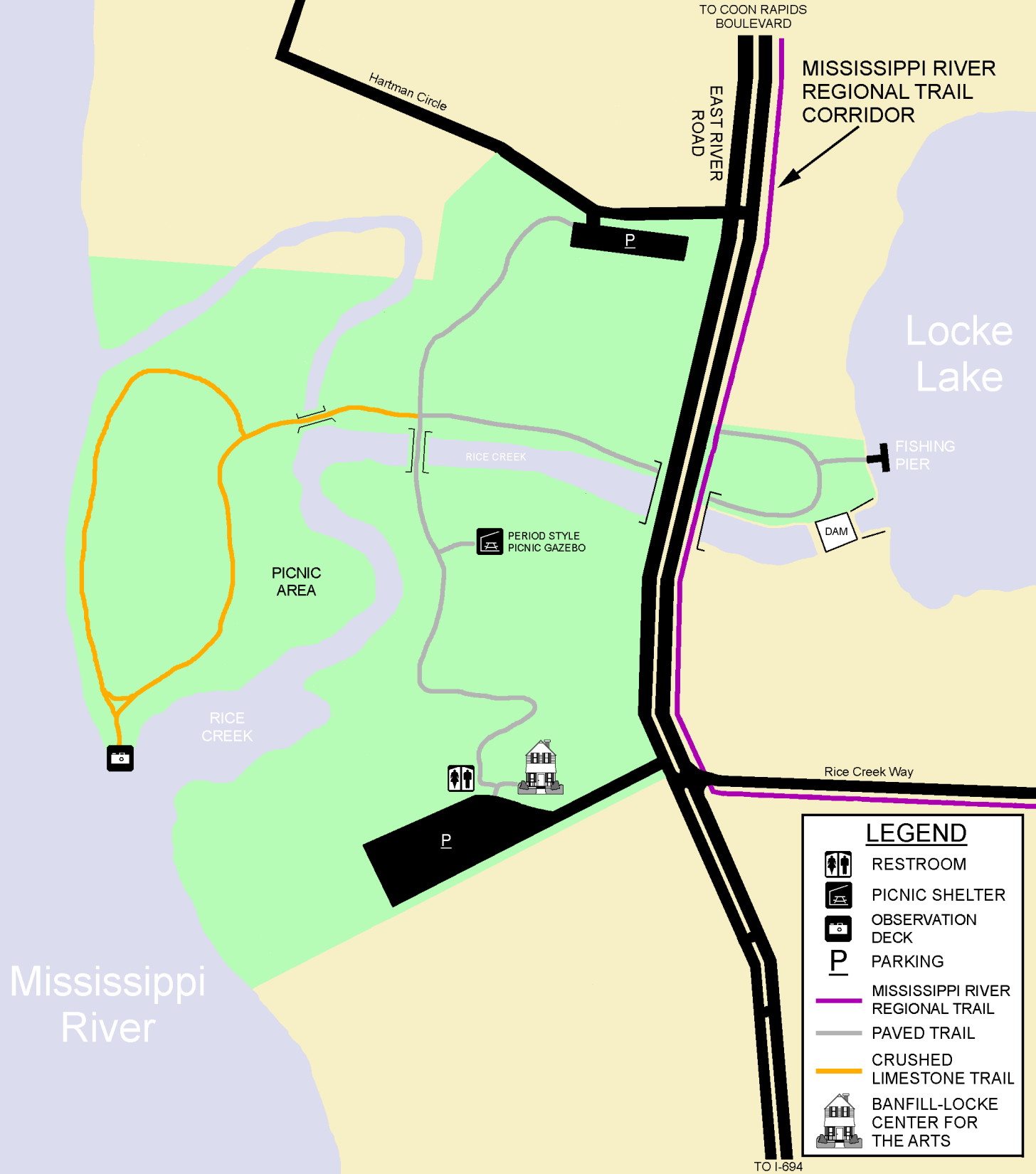
**PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE  
(763) 757-3920**

For information about outdoor programs and environmental education call...

**WARGO NATURE CENTER  
(651) 429-8007**

**COON RAPIDS DAM VISITOR  
CENTER  
(763) 757-4700**

[www.anokacountyparks.com](http://www.anokacountyparks.com)



**LEGEND**

	RESTROOM
	PICNIC SHELTER
	OBSERVATION DECK
	PARKING
	MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL TRAIL
	PAVED TRAIL
	CRUSHED LIMESTONE TRAIL
	BANFILL-LOCKE CENTER FOR THE ARTS



# MANOMIN COUNTY PARK



# ANOKA COUNTY WELCOMES YOU TO

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL TRAIL

The new Mississippi River Regional Trail offers unique experiences for bikers and hikers in Anoka County. It is one of a few trails that combines regional and local parks and attractions. The new trail offers a link from Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park through the cities of Coon Rapids, Fridley and Columbia Heights into the Minneapolis parkway system. Many points of interest are located along the trail corridor and are briefly described on the reverse side.

The Mississippi River Regional Trail connects with a variety of other regional trails in the north-metro area. At Coon Rapids Dam the trail crosses over the dam walkway and connects to the North Hennepin Regional Trail which leads to Elm Creek Park Reserve. To the south of the dam, you can connect to Rice Creek Regional Trail West which follows Rice Creek east through the City of Fridley. The southern end of the trail connects with the City of Minneapolis' St. Anthony Parkway system. North of the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, the trail continues to the City of Anoka.

● DENOTES MILE MARK  
TRAIL APPROXIMATELY  
8 MILES

### COON RAPIDS

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**24 - Hour InfoLine**  
(763)767-2820

**Parks and Recreation Office**  
(763)757-3920

**Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center**  
(763)757-4700

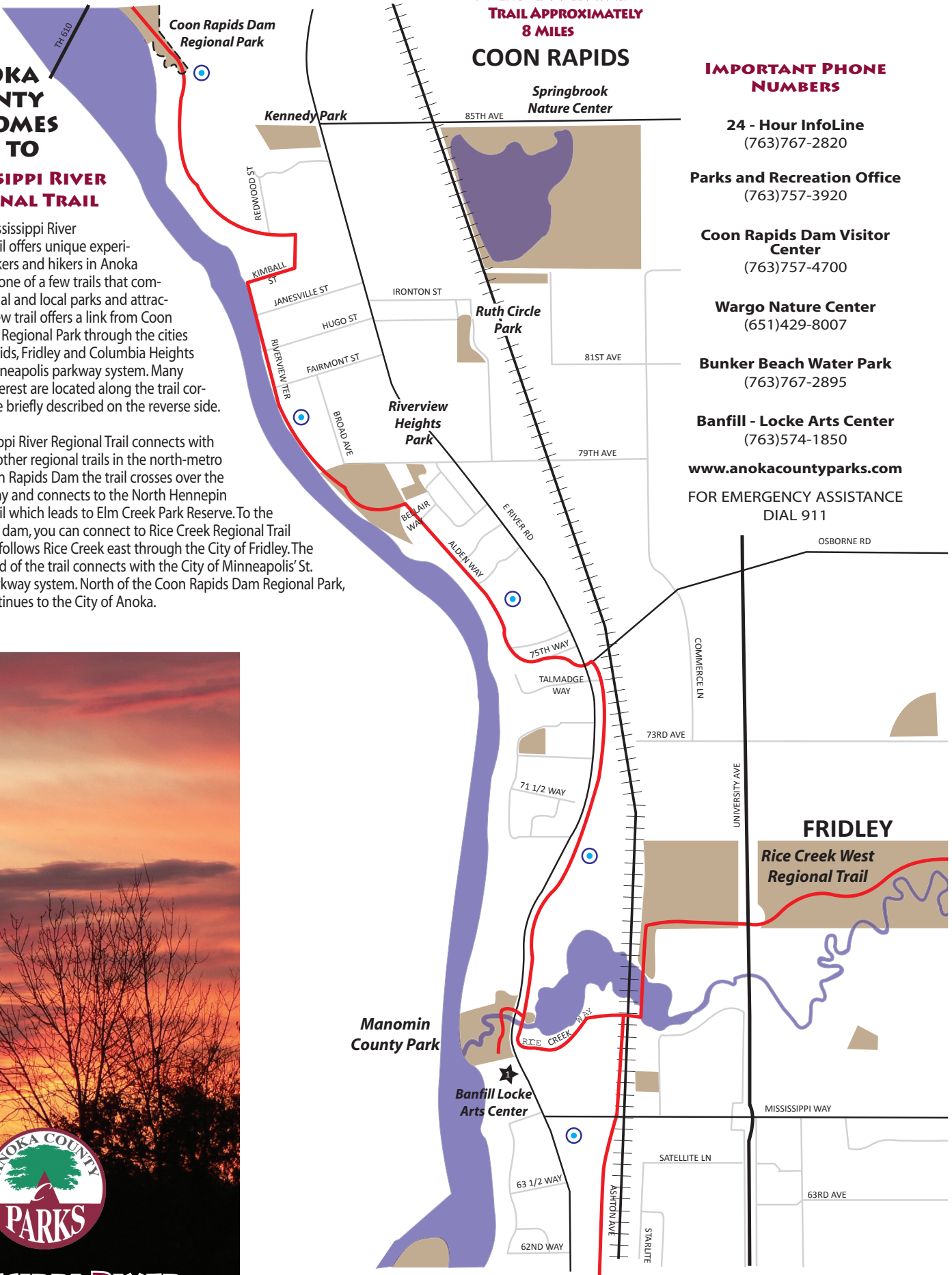
**Wargo Nature Center**  
(651)429-8007

**Bunker Beach Water Park**  
(763)767-2895

**Banfill - Locke Arts Center**  
(763)574-1850

[www.anokacountyparks.com](http://www.anokacountyparks.com)

FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE  
DIAL 911



# MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL TRAIL

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### COON RAPIDS DAM REGIONAL PARK

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park along the north end offers a variety of facilities and activities. Picnic areas, fishing piers, restrooms and the Visitor Center are just a few of the many facilities within the park. Overlooks of the Coon Rapids Dam allow for some very scenic views along the mighty Mississippi River.

### SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER

Springbrook Nature Center, operated by the City of Fridley, is a unique urban retreat providing nature trails, exhibits and environmental programs for families. The nature center is located on 85th Ave. just east of East River Road. For information call (763) 572-3588.

### BANFILL - LOCKE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

This facility blends the natural world with the cultural world. Built in 1847, the Banfill-Locke Arts Center features exhibits, art classes and arts & crafts for sale. The center is on the National Register of Historic Places and is situated in Manomin County Park along Rice Creek and the Mississippi River.



### ISLANDS OF PEACE RECREATION AREA

Islands of Peace, is another favorite stop of trail users. The park offers a trail along Chase Island, which provide unmatched views of the Mississippi River and its abundant wildlife.

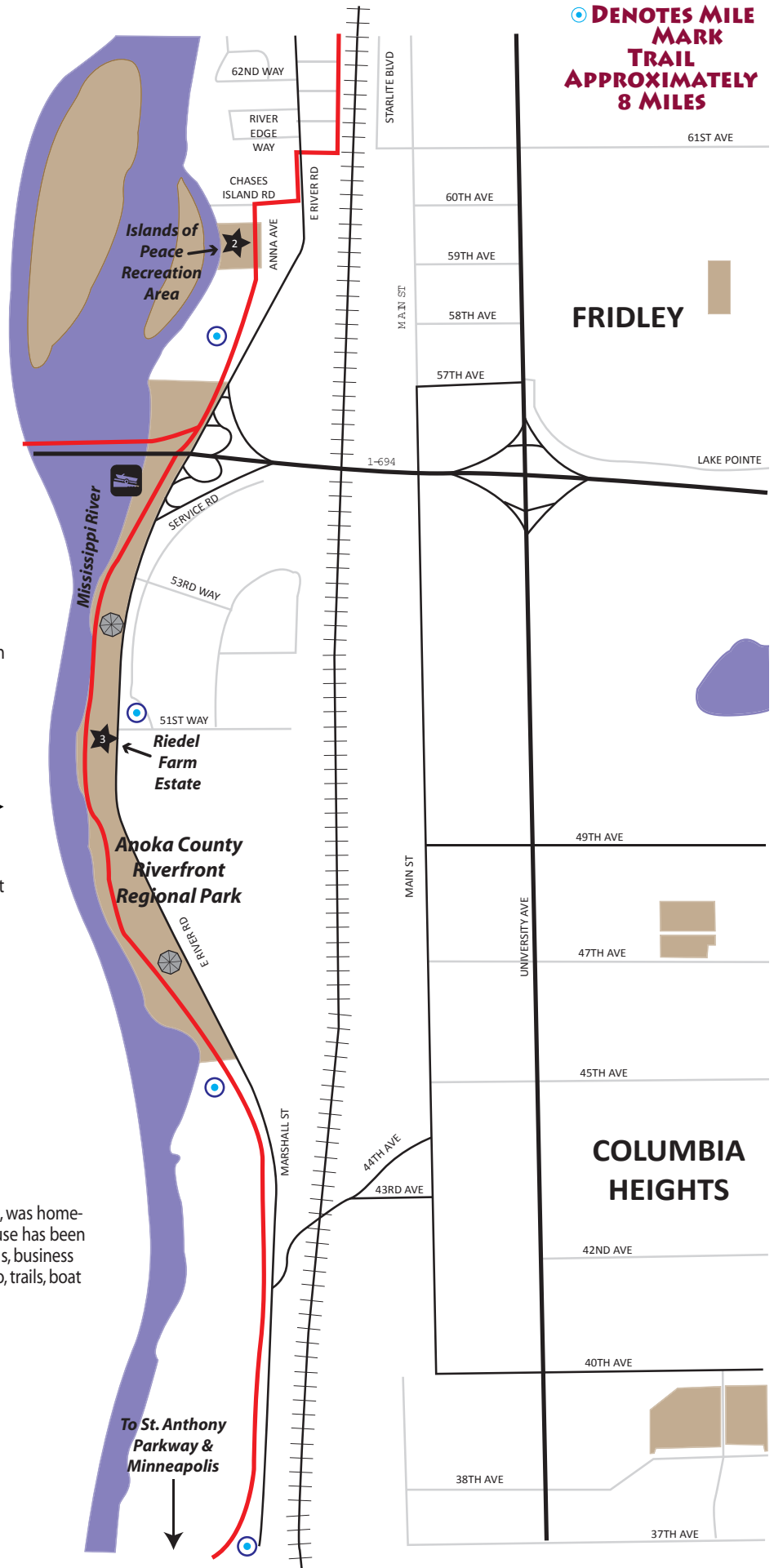


### RIEDEL FARM ESTATE

The Riedel Farm Estate, located in Riverfront Regional Park, was home-steaded by dairy farmer Albin Riedel in the 1880's. The house has been restored and offers a unique setting for weddings, reunions, business meetings and other special events. A nearby picnic gazebo, trails, boat launch and playground add to the fun of a special event.

### RIVERFRONT REGIONAL PARK PICNIC PAVILIONS

Pavilion #	Capacity	Electricity
1	50	Yes
2	50	Yes



● DENOTES MILE MARK  
TRAIL  
APPROXIMATELY  
8 MILES

FRIDLEY

LAKE POINTE

49TH AVE

47TH AVE

45TH AVE

COLUMBIA  
HEIGHTS

42ND AVE

40TH AVE

38TH AVE

37TH AVE

To St. Anthony  
Parkway &  
Minneapolis