

APPENDIX J: WMO Coordination Plan

City of Minnetonka Water Resources Management Plan

Appendix J: WMO Coordination Plan

The City of Minnetonka works closely with the four Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs) in the city to responsibly manage its water resources. This appendix describes the city's approach to communication and coordination with the WMOs, with the goals of maintaining awareness of needs and opportunities and implementing programs and projects that:

- develop out of coordinated, subwatershed-based planning;
- reflect the cooperation of other public and private partners;
- align investments; and
- secure a combined set of District, city, and partner goals.

This appendix describes the ways the city currently interacts with the WMOs within the city and outlines the requirements and content of the city's coordination plan with the MCWD.

Existing WMO Coordination Efforts

The city interacts and coordinates with the WMOs on a variety of different levels and through multiple departments.

Examples of coordination activities include:

- Notifications sent when development/redevelopment occurs within WMO boundaries;
- Informing project proposers of applicable WMO rules and permitting requirements;
- Annual meetings between city and WMO staff (often more frequent than annually) to provide updates to the WMOs;
- Meetings coordinated specific to a particular development/redevelopment or infrastructure improvement projects (e.g., pavement management, utility upgrades);
- Participating in WMO watershed planning actions by providing review and comment (e.g., watershed plan update, rule updates)
- Technical Advisory Committee participation
- Citizen involvement in the WMOs' Citizen Advisory Committee
- Participation in climate change resiliency discussions;
- Appointed/elected officials attending official WMO events.
- Coordination of current and future water resource issues.

The city looks to maintain and expand these communication channels to ensure that efforts to improve the local water resources are pursued in partnership with the WMOs.

MCWD Coordination Plan

Background

Through its Water Management Plan (WMP/Plan) the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD/District) has defined its role as a regional water planning agency and incorporated a subwatershed focus to address areas of significant resources needs with a level of complexity that requires sustained effort and coordination across multiple partners. Through sustained focus, the District is able to develop a thorough understanding of issues and drivers, build relationships, identify opportunities and coordinate plans and investments with its partners for maximum natural resource and community benefit. While operating on a subwatershed scale, focused within priority areas indicated in its WMP, the MCWD is remaining responsive to its communities District-wide by providing technical and programmatic resources, regulatory coordination, and in some cases funding. MCWD partnership and level of response is driven by early coordination of land use planning through the implementation of this coordination plan. As the District implements its Watershed Management Plan it will be engaged in a continuing process of reviewing priorities and programing the commitment of technical resources and funds. The coordination plan is an opportunity for an LGU to develop a collaborative relationship that promotes opportunities to integrate land use and water planning to maximize goals and outcomes.

Summary

The District WMP invites a partnership framework with communities that fosters increased and early flow of information, to provide for a stronger coordination of land use and water resource management to achieve water quality goals while adding broader value to the community. Targeted areas of collaboration include land use policy development, capital improvement feasibility planning for public infrastructure, land use and development regulation, LGU operation and facility maintenance and educational programing. Based on the community assessment of water resource needs, the District looks to the City to describe how it intends to align planning, regulation, programing and investment decisions to address both District and City identified water resource goals. The framework for communication and collaboration is created through this coordination plan and will be the key to creating opportunities for partnership at the intersection of municipal, private and District interests.

The MCWD requires that all cities in their local plans describe the elements of a coordination plan that the city and MCWD can implement at a staff level to achieve this goal. Through the coordination plan the District encourages the LGU to identify any known initiatives of collaboration and potential future priorities which would benefit from early coordination. Some specific points of coordination are as follows:

LAND USE PLANNING

Minnehaha Creek is a regional, recreation recourse. In previous years, Minnetonka's proactive actions have made a large portion of the creek corridor public open space. The city will continue to pursue these opportunities as they arise. To continue and further these strategies, the City will endeavor to timely coordinate planning processes in early stages of planning and development.

Figure J-1 shows the publicly-owned parcels in the Minnehaha Creek corridor, public parks areas, and upcoming CIP projects in the MCWD.

Specific areas of land use planning and potential project areas on the horizon identified for early coordination include the following:

1. Minnetonka city hall campus area
2. Minnetonka public works facility
 - a. Future model for integrating water and natural resources with operations of public works yard.
3. Explore opportunities in the future to partner with the City of Hopkins for updates to the compost site located at Minnetonka Boulevard and Hopkins Crossroad.
4. Creek corridor
 - a. City owns over approximately half of the land adjacent to Minnehaha Creek.
 - i. Minnetonka continues to consider additional opportunities for expanding green space adjacent to Minnehaha Creek as land becomes available, as they have done so in years past practices.
 - ii. Minnetonka will continue to work to protect Minnehaha Creek through miscellaneous improvements and development regulations as they arise.
 - b. Future opportunities may exist if redevelopment of the Minnetonka Mills area occurs, located east of I-494 and west of Hopkins Crossroad along Minnetonka Boulevard.
 - c. The City would partner with the MCWD for their corridor vision planning and funding assistance to long range efforts.
5. Wetland complex west of city hall (wetland area behind The Marsh, MCWD and City offices)
 - a. City goals and potential opportunities for restoration, water quality improvement opportunities and pedestrian connections.
 - b. The Marsh's future initiatives, goals, and long term orientation of the property.
6. Coordinate City infrastructure improvement projects (utilities, paving plans, reconstruction) for the 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) evaluation reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
7. Provide proposed changes to City ordinance, regulatory controls, and resource management plans to MCWD for review.
8. Participate in watershed district planning actions by providing review and comments.
9. Provide MCWD copies of preliminary plats.

10. Meet with MCWD staff to review small area plans and other potential redevelopment activity within the jurisdiction.
11. Road and infrastructure renewal projects.
 - a. The City will continue to work with MCWD for early coordination for projects that come on-line and at this time which include the Groveland-Bay area, Twelve Oaks Center Drive, and Parkers Lake Road.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

1. Leverage of MCWD educational programs for MS4 minimum requirements
2. Workshops and trainings
 - a. Chlorides
 - b. Urban Waters Forum
3. Signage
 - a. Connecting people to Minnehaha Creek for recreational opportunities
 - b. Consistent corridor signage
4. Programing around Minnehaha Creek as a regional recreational resource
5. Programing in line with the Minimum Control Measures (MCM) for the city's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Program for public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment and pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations and maintenance.

REGULATORY COORDINATION

1. Implementation of MCWD Rules for Floodplain Management, Stormwater Management, and Erosion Control
 - a. Local plan establishes written protocols for:
 - i. Procedures to administer and enforce city ordinances, regulatory guidelines and processes including maintenance of stormwater facilities.
 - ii. The City will continue implementation of sediment and erosion control within the MCWD through the MOU between the city and WMO.
 - iii. The city will continue to coordinate water resource regulatory authority through the MOU including stormwater management regulations and WCA requirements acting as the LGU, including the process to notice the MCWD as an invited member of the TEP on these applications.
 - iv. The City continues to require implementation of temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control measures for developments and other projects, and follows city practices and procedures in line with MPCA guidance. Any work done without a permit is grounds for shutdown of operations, installation of erosion and sediment control measures, and permit approval prior to any work commencing.
 - b. A variance from the City ordinance will be deferred to MCWD.

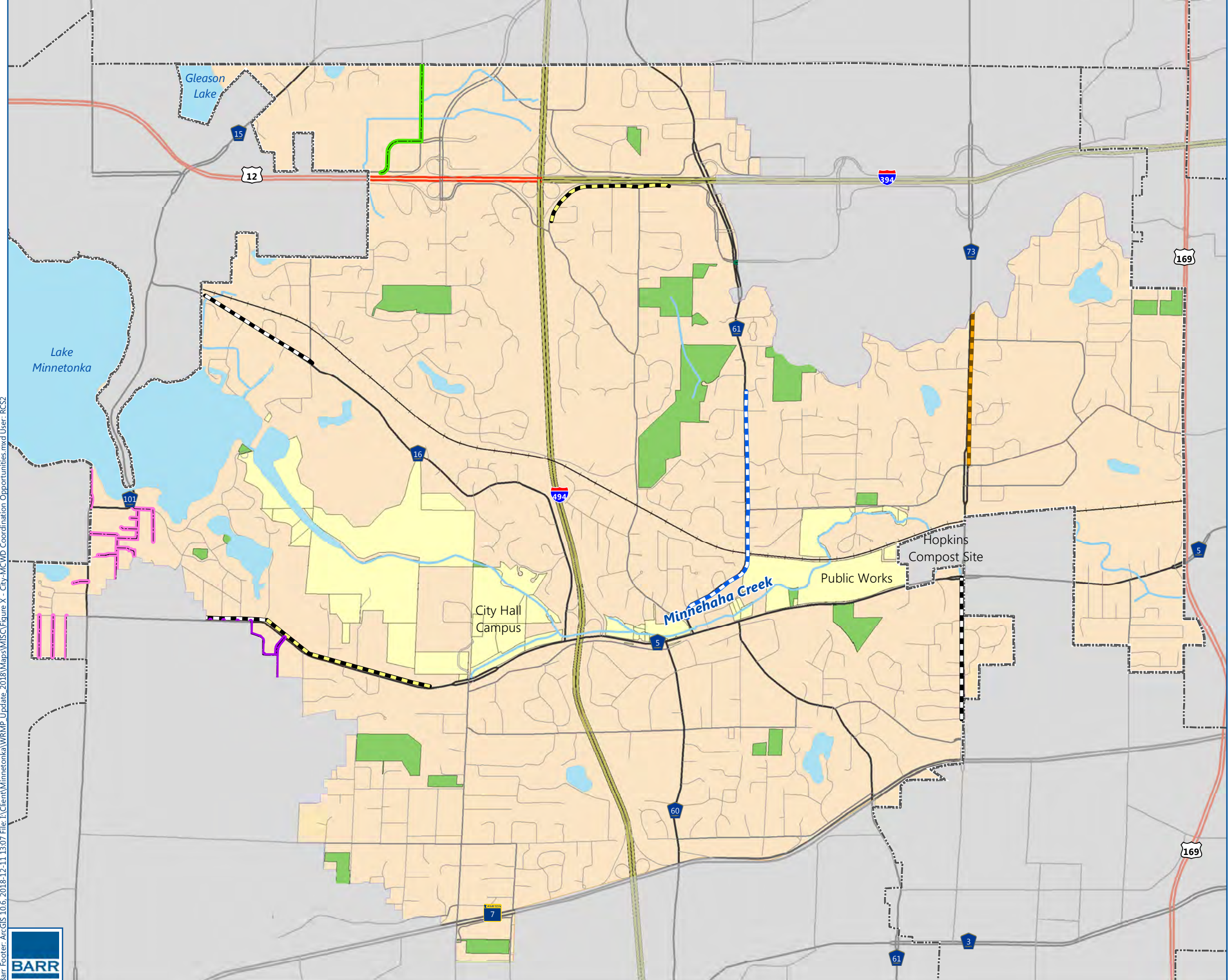
2. The City will refer all land use applications to MCWD early in the permitting process and require documentation of required MCWD permits prior to City authorization of regulated activity
3. Rule / Code revisions
 - a. MCWD and the City will coordinate changes to natural resource protection rules and codes
4. MCWD/City coordination to create a systematic plan to track wetland buffers and other maintenance obligations of MCWD permits issued to the City

ANNUAL MEETING

1. Provide annual update regarding LWMP implementation progress and MS4 reporting.
2. Review City implementation plans regarding the LWMP and other land use, road, infrastructure, park and recreation and other CIP efforts plans and programs.
3. Review activities noted within this coordination plan.

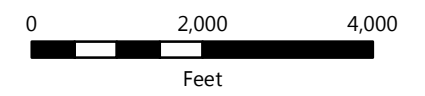
COMMUNICATION

1. The Water Resources Engineering Coordinator is the City staff person responsible for implementation and communication of the activities within this plan.



- City-Owned Property along Minnehaha Creek Corridor
- City Parks
- Minnetonka Boundary
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes and Ponds
- WMOs**
- Minnehaha Creek
- Trail Construction Projects**
- 2019
- 2021
- 2023
- 10 Yr Plan 2024 - 2028
- Street Reconstruction Projects**
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022-2023 Water Main Replacement

Sources:
City-Owned Property derived from Hennepin County parcel data (05/10/2017).



CITY/MCWD COORDINATION OPPORTUNITIES
Water Resources Management Plan
Minnetonka, Minnesota

FIGURE J-1

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.6, 2018-12-11 13:07 File: I:\Client\Minnetonka\WRMP_Update_2018\Maps\MISC\Figure X - City-MCWD Coordination Opportunities.mxd User: RCS2

