

Silver Lake Dam Modifications and Improvement

Funding Request

The project request is for \$12.3 million in Capital Investment for improvements to the Silver Lake Dam area that include removing the dam, restoring the river channel for recreational navigation, dredging Silver Lake, and installing pedestrian features. The request contemplates \$5 million for the dredging and \$7.3 million for the dam and pedestrian improvements. The City of Rochester plans to cover **\$7 million** in costs and seeks **\$5.3 million** in funding from the State of Minnesota.

Background

Silver Lake was last dredged 25 years ago and is scheduled to undergo this extensive process again in 2020 or 2021 as part of routine flood control maintenance. In order to maintain the hydraulic profile of the channel and the effectiveness of the flood control system, 200,000 cubic yards of material will be removed and deposited at a reservoir site 8 miles west of Rochester. To leverage the attention focused on the area, the City has identified further improvements that could be done subsequent to the dredging project. It is much more cost effective to do these improvements while the dredging is occurring.

Among these improvements would be the removal of the Silver Lake Dam. Built in 1937, the structure no longer serves its original purpose and has proven costly to maintain over the years. The proposed project would reduce the risk of dam failure and eliminate the spillway drowning hazard. Roughly 400 feet of lake would be modified into a channel of cascading pools to maintain the lake’s depth while also maintaining major flood elevations and allowing Silver Lake to remain in place just upstream. The modifications would allow fish and aquatic animals to move freely about the waterway while opening it up for recreational uses like canoeing and kayaking.

In addition to the dam, the proposal incorporates pedestrian features including a bridge and pedestrian trail. The dam removal project would allow the embankments to be prepared for the installation of a pedestrian bridge (proposed options below) to serve as a wider and safer bike and pedestrian alternative to the narrow crossing at Broadway Avenue. Modifications would also make way for improvements to the North Side Pedestrian Trail that would address a current gap in the trail network (pictured below).



Pedestrian Bridge Option 1



Pedestrian Bridge Option 2



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North side pedestrian trail with existing dam



North side pedestrian trail with modified dam

SILVER LAKE DAM MODIFICATION CONCEPT

COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

<p>1. Q: Why modify the dam?</p> <p>2. Q: Will the lake remain in place?</p> <p>3. Q: How will it impact flooding?</p> <p>4. Q: What recreational features will be created?</p>	<p>A: The dam no longer serves a purpose. In addition to being a safety hazard, the dam also inhibits river navigability for humans and aquatic life. The dam also requires costly maintenance to keep it operational.</p> <p>A: The lake upstream of the control will remain at its current level.</p> <p>A: The modification will not impact flood levels except through the project area. Flood levels through the project area will be slightly lowered.</p> <p>A: In addition to potential trail improvements, the modification will allow for river navigation, kayaking, and improved fishing. Other potential improvement opportunities also exist.</p>
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Cascade Lake Park Improvements

Funding Request

The project request is for \$2.75 million in Capital Investment (50% of project cost) to continue the development of Cascade Regional Park as envisioned in Cascade Regional Park Master Plan, which was approved in 2004 and refined again in 2016. If funding is secured, the project is expected to begin in the spring of 2021 and be completed by the fall of 2022.

Background

Cascade Lake Park is the primary focus for park improvements to serve the community outlined in Rochester’s 2016 Park System Plan. Connected to the city’s trail network, this regional park is already seeing an estimated 100,000 visitors in and around the park annually. This park has been pursued for many years due to the importance of this type of park in the community. Thus far, the City has invested well over \$12 million dollars on park land preparation and on various improvements to the park such as landscaping, a park shelter, and beach and trail development. The current proposal entails the enhancement of these improvements by constructing an amphitheater, park pavilion, entrance circle, art/sculptures, and play areas.

The location downtown is such that providing this facility will enhance the lives of the 3 million annual visitors to Rochester as well as the region’s residents. The State of Minnesota has recognized these economic benefits and has designated the Cascade Lake Regional Park as a park of regional significance.



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- ① Lake Loop Trail
- ② Picnic Shelter
- ③ Seating Terraces
- ④ Performance Stage
- ⑤ Rambling Paths
- ⑥ Public Art Feature
- ⑦ Overlook Tree Fort
- ⑧ Natural Water Play
- ⑨ Cascading Creek
- ⑩ Park Pavilion
- ⑪ Pergola & Chaise Lounge Area
- ⑫ Beach House
- ⑬ Garden Paths (Typ.)
- ⑭ Active Playground
- ⑮ Turf Pave Parking Area
- ⑯ Main Drive Entrance
- ⑰ Open Lawn
- ⑱ Gateway
- ⑲ Bocce Courts
- ⑳ Pedestrian Promenade/
Potential Future Vendor Area
- ㉑ Drop-Off Circle
- ㉒ Bridge & Gateway A
- ㉓ Garden Shelter
- ㉔ Garden Arbor
- ㉕ Garden Rooms (Typ.)
- ㉖ Paths (Typ.)
- ㉗ Nature Playground
- ㉘ Parking Lot
- ㉙ Infiltration Island
- ㉚ Bridge & Gateway B
- ㉛ Overlook
- ㉜ Fishing Pier

CASCADE LAKE PARK MASTER PLAN

ROCHESTER, MN 08/05/2016



Project #: 193805529



Willow Creek/Gamehaven Regional Trail Connection Project

Funding Request

This project request is for \$1.5 million in Capital Investment which equals half of the estimated total cost to support the connection of important regional facilities to the City’s existing trail network as well as provide connectivity to 1041 households within half a mile and 2716 households within a mile. The project would also link and incorporate the Bluestem Regional Trail being developed to the south. It is estimated that construction would be complete by the summer of 2023, assuming bonding is approved in 2020.

Background

The City of Rochester has a well-developed network of river trails consisting of approximately 40 miles of paved multi-use trails along the rivers and creeks that bisect the city, providing most areas of the city with an interconnected network of off-road, multi-use pedestrian and bicycle paths. However, the southern quadrant of the City of Rochester, referred to as the Willow Creek area, is not currently connected to the River Trails network due to a barrier effect created by US Highway 52, which effectively isolates Willow Creek neighborhoods from other neighborhoods and the existing trail network. This same isolation impacts the state designated 460-acre Gamehaven Regional Park and the connection between the path and trail network in Willow Creek to the larger city network of trails.

The project would create a crossing under US 52 that would provide a connection between the path and trail network in Willow Creek to the larger city network of trails. Additionally, this trail connection would serve as a first leg to connect to the Bluestem Trail linking to Stewartville, MN. The proposed alignment of the Willow Creek trail would generally follow the historic alignment of the Winona and Western Railroad (long abandoned) between Rochester and Stewartville. However, there are several routes under consideration that are subject to the availability of land rights. Depending on the final route, the project includes property/easement acquisition, ½ mile of trail rehabilitation, creek crossings, approximately 2.5 miles of trail construction, installation of trail amenities, like wayfinding and rest areas, and a trailhead located at Gamehaven Regional Park. The project would provide potential benefits to the long-term development of the State Trail System including the Bluestem Trail and would also help meet goals outlined in the Bicycle Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

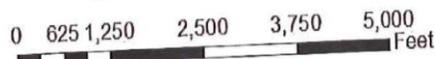


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City of Rochester, MN

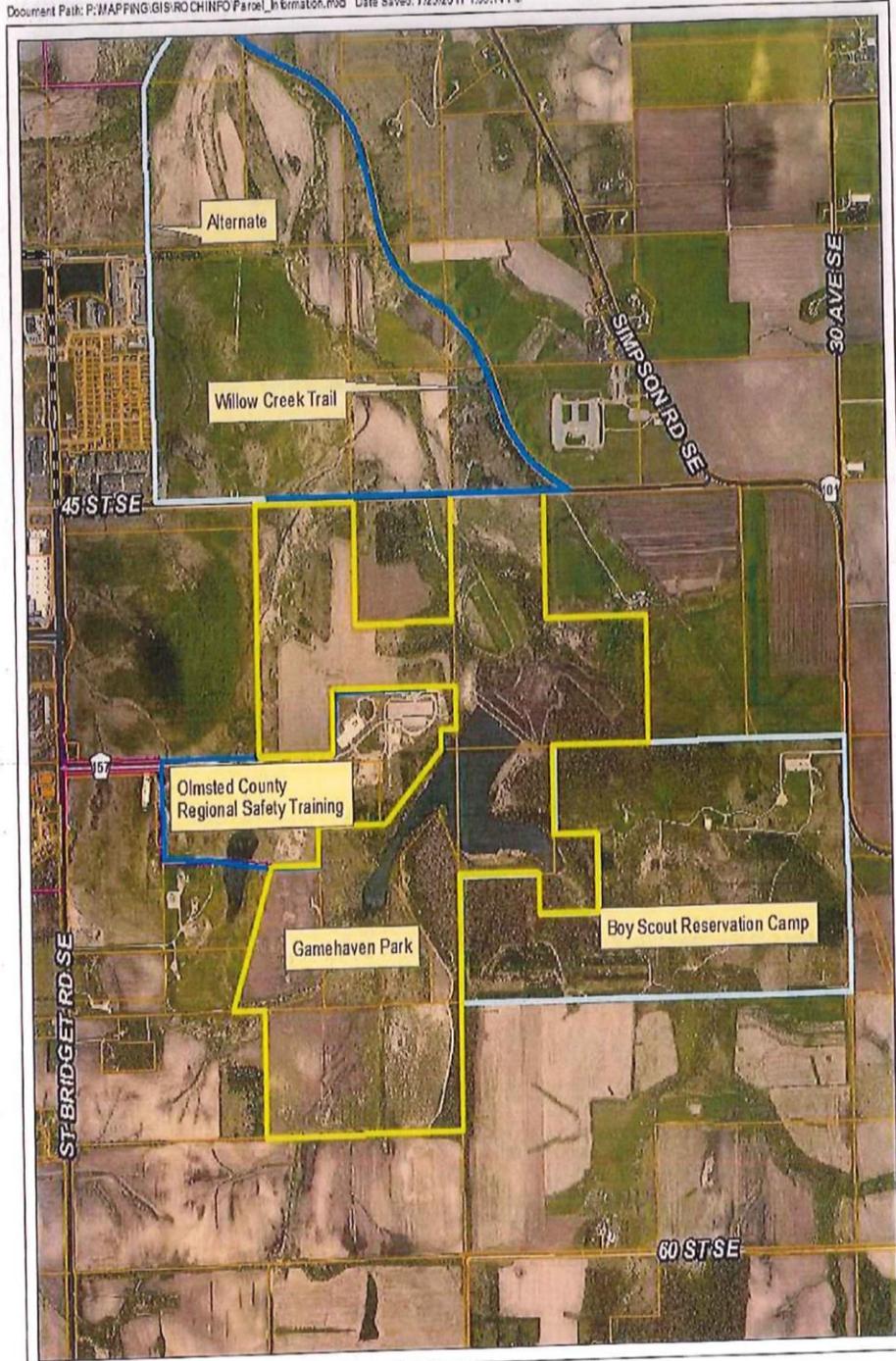


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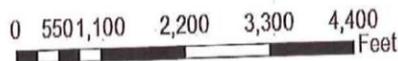


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City of Rochester, MN

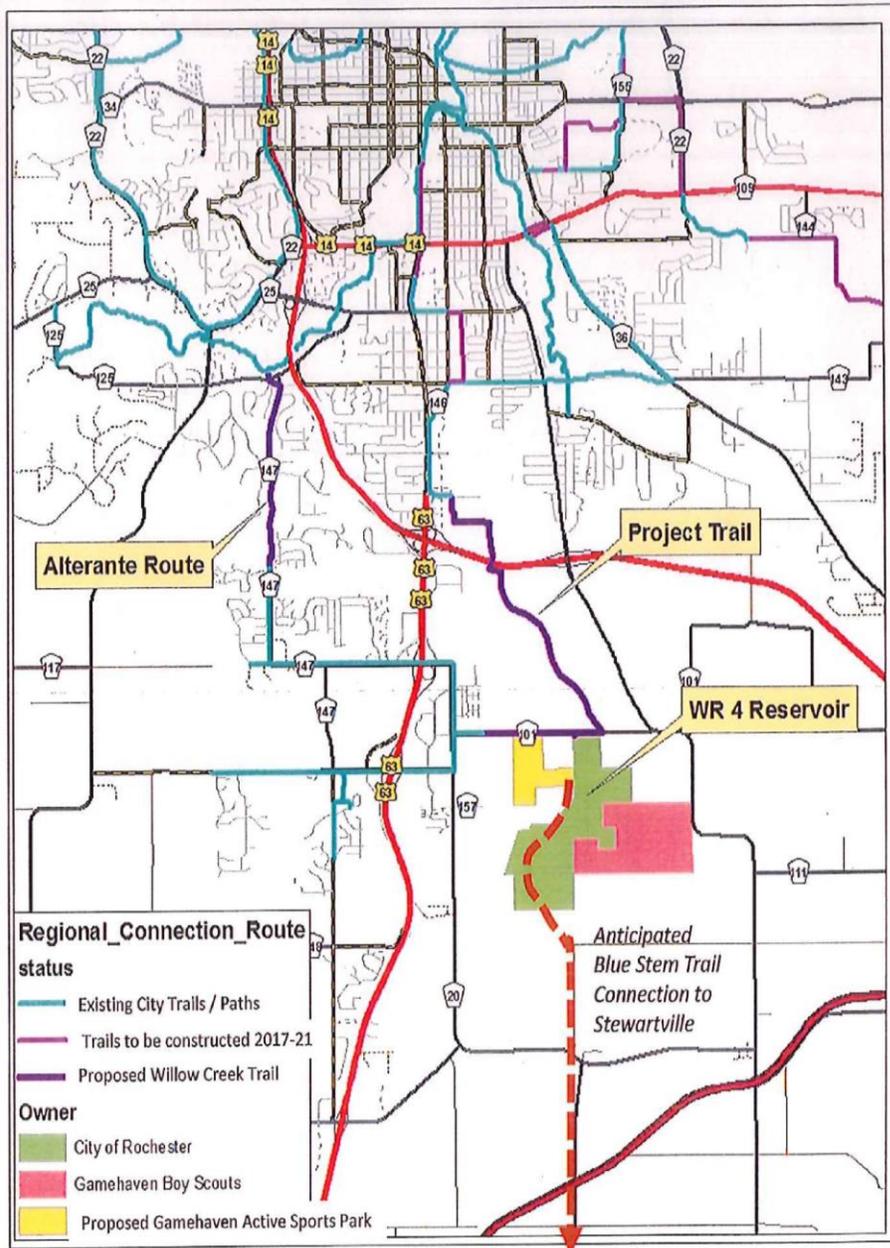


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Location Map

**City of Rochester, MN
Trail and Park Location**

