

## I-35W Corridor Flood Mitigation Project Summary

### Overview:

Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD), in collaboration with New Brighton, Saint Anthony Village, and Roseville, is addressing flooding issues in the racially diverse and economically disadvantaged I-35W Corridor. See the attached map for more details. The Flood Mitigation Project aims to tackle these challenges, with multiple projects planned south of the I-694 interchange.

**Jones Lake Project:** The Jones Lake Project, though facing regulatory challenges, has the advantage of the land being already purchased by New Brighton. This project emphasizes improving public water, water quality, flood control, and establishing aquatic habitats.

**Highway 88 Culverts:** Through a collaborative effort between the RCWD, MnDOT, and Ramsey County, this project increases the capacity of critical water management infrastructure to reduce flood risk over I-35W and adjacent commercial, industrial, and residential communities. This project requires the construction of the Jones Lake Project to store flood waters and prevent downstream flood damage

### Key Points:

- **Multiple Purposes:** The projects serve multiple purposes, including water quality improvement, flood control and mitigation, aquatic habitat, and infrastructure resiliency for future conditions.
- **Climate Change Resilience:** Addresses increased susceptibility to flooding in the face of climate change.
- **Environmental Justice:** The Flood Mitigation Project addresses flooding problems in underserved communities and environmental justice areas, prioritizing public safety.
- **Predicted Future Flooding:** The projects are not only a response to known problems but also a proactive measure against predicted future flooding, ensuring the safety of communities.
- **Infrastructure Protection:** Mitigates flood impacts on State-owned roadway infrastructure, (I-35W) along with multiple County and local roads.
- **Existing Partnerships:** RCWD has already partnered with New Brighton, Saint Anthony Village, BWSR, and MPCA, demonstrating a collaborative effort.

### Sense of Urgency:

- **Impending Threat:** The I-35W roadway is at risk of flash flooding. The I-35W Corridor, a vital transportation artery, is at risk of overtopping during severe rainfall events, posing a significant threat to public safety and economic continuity resulting from sudden and extended highway closure. RCWD has already contacted MnDOT about safety concerns.
- **Emergency Response Challenges:** Severe flooding could impede emergency response efforts, exacerbating the risks to public safety.

- **Undeniable Risks and Impacts to Residential/Commercial Areas:** Areas prone to flooding include Garden View Apartments, residential and commercial properties, Long Lake surroundings, multiple road intersections, Mirror Lake Townhomes, Silver Lane/Shamrock Drive, and Foss Road.

#### Call for Support:

- **Supplemental Funding Needed:** RCWD, along with its city partners, has invested time and money, but the projects require supplemental funding for swift completion. The cost is beyond the capacity of RCWD and City partners alone.
- **Partnership Support:** MN Representative David Gottfried's support is crucial in garnering additional support and funds to complete the projects, as both the flooding and the project solutions are located in their district.
- **Nearing Shovel Ready:** Jones Lake is one of the ten projects within the I-35W Corridor Flood Mitigation Project area, nearing shovel-ready status. Construction of Highway 88 Culverts can soon follow once Jones Lake is completed.

#### Cost Breakdown:

- Total Cost:
  - Jones Lake: \$7.8 Million
  - Highway 88 Culverts: \$5.2 million

#### Conclusion:

The Flood Mitigation Project is a comprehensive solution to a pressing problem, with imminent public safety and economic implications. With your support, we can expedite the process and safeguard our communities from the looming threat of severe flooding.