



Metropolitan Council

Environment Budget recommendations



LisaBeth Barajas – February 2023

Metropolitan Council Overview



Metropolitan Council



Policy-making, planning, and coordination

- 17 members appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor

Strategic investments, and services support regional economic vitality

- Create a financially sustainable 21st century transportation system
- Protecting natural resources that are the foundation of prosperity
- Invest in infrastructure that supports economic development

Metropolitan Council

Community Development

Environmental Services

Transportation

Economic Development, Housing Grants and Services
MN 473.251
MN 473.195

Regional Land Use Planning
MN 473.851-867

Regional Parks System
MN 473.302

Wastewater
MN 473.511

Surface Water Quality
MN 473.157

Water Supply Planning
MN 473.1565

Regional Transportation Planning
MN 473.146

Transitway Development
MN 473.399

Transit Services
MN 473.385

Regional park system



NATURE-BASED SYSTEM PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT GREENSPACE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT



8 SPECIAL RECREATION FEATURES (LIKE COMO PARK ZOO & CONSERVATORY AND GALE WOODS FARM)



56 REGIONAL PARKS AND PARK RESERVES



OVER 415 MILES OF INTERCONNECTED REGIONAL TRAILS



65 MILLION VISITS IN 2021

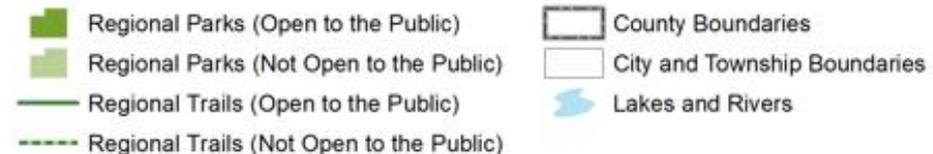
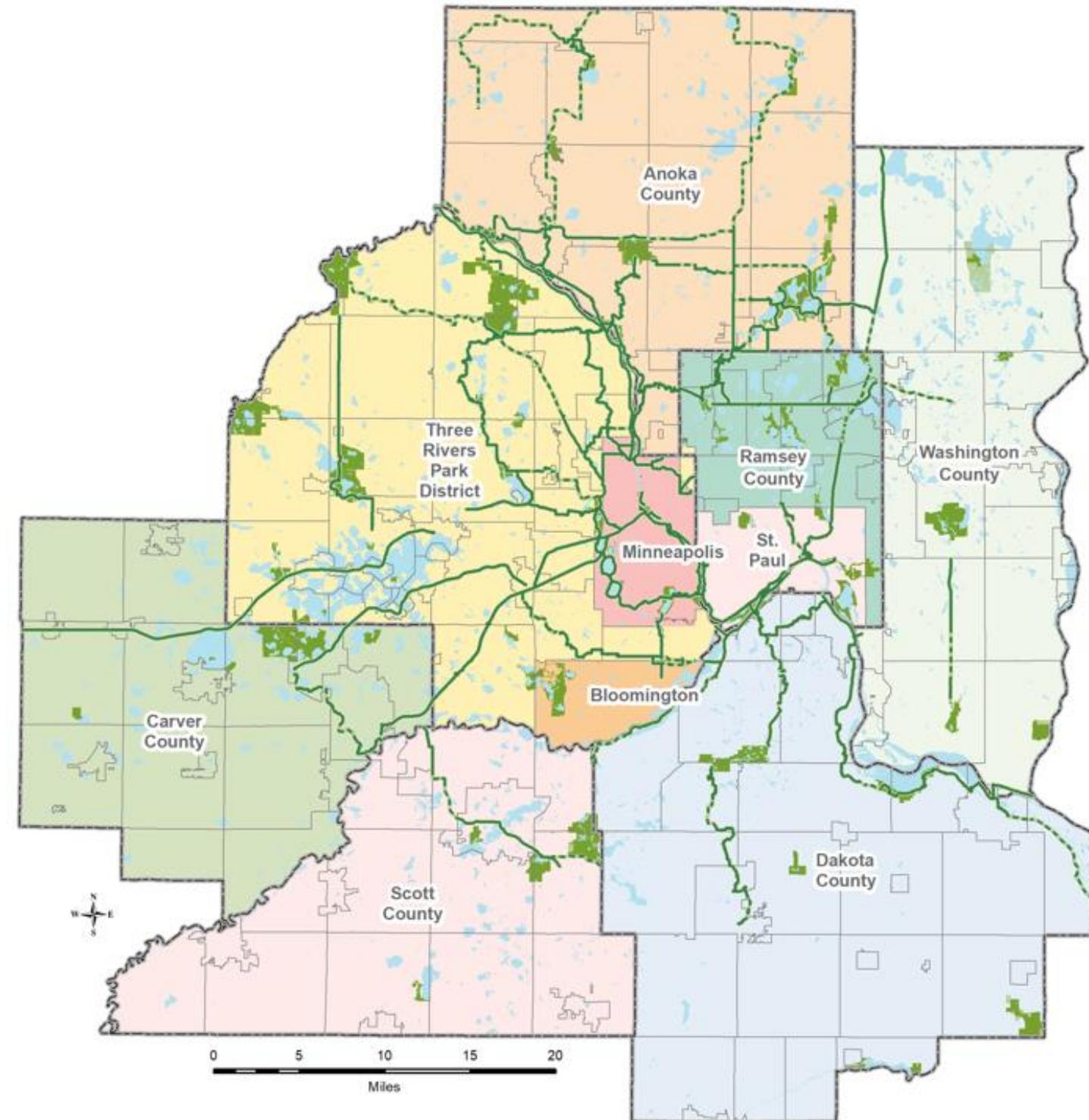


54,500 ACRES OF LAND

Collaboration and cooperation

10 Regional Parks implementing agencies

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Washington County
- Bloomington
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- Saint Paul
- Three Rivers Park District



Modernizing regional parks and trails



Meet the recreational needs for current and future generations

Governor Walz recommends \$12 million in a one-time, general fund appropriation to be matched by \$8 million in Met Council dollars.

This investment would provide \$20 million directly to the 10 regional park implementing agencies that own and operate the regional parks system.

- Renewing facilities and habitats impacted by increasing climate-related events and growing usage
- Increasing accessibility for people who have a disability
- Creating up to date features that are reliable, available, and meet the region's recreational needs

Supports state climate initiatives

Climate-smart natural and working lands and resilient communities

Resilient landscapes and ecosystems

- Conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Use land management practices that enhance climate resilience
- Promote the benefits of natural lands in climate adaptation

Minnesota's Climate Action Framework

Regional parks and trails operations and maintenance funding



Supporting a world-class parks system

Governor Walz recommends increasing parks operations and maintenance funding by \$2.5 million in general funds for each fiscal year 2024 and 2025. The total allocation would be \$12.49 million per year.

- Well-maintained parks and trails create welcoming spaces that remove barriers, acknowledge history, and advance equity across the region.
- Funds pass through to parks implementing agencies
 - **40%** based on proportion of total regional system visits
 - **40%** based on proportion of total regional system operation and maintenance expenditures in the previous calendar year
 - **20%** based on each agency's proportion of total regional system land acreage

Operations and Maintenance funding sources

Supporting stable operations and maintenance funding for the regional parks system

Fund	Base funding	Proposed increase
General Fund	\$2.54 million	\$2.5 million
Lottery-in-Lieu of Taxes	\$7.45 million	
TOTAL (per year)		\$12.49 million

Leveraging operations and maintenance funding

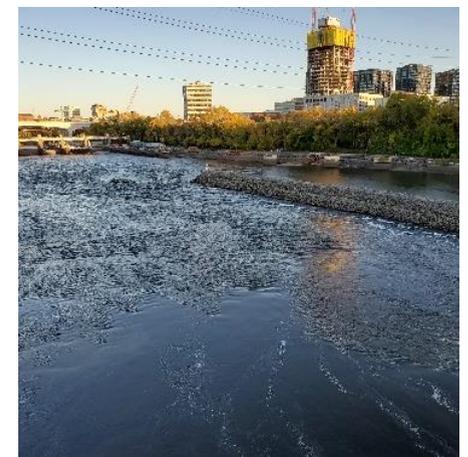


Mapping Infrastructure Climate Risk and Resiliency Opportunities

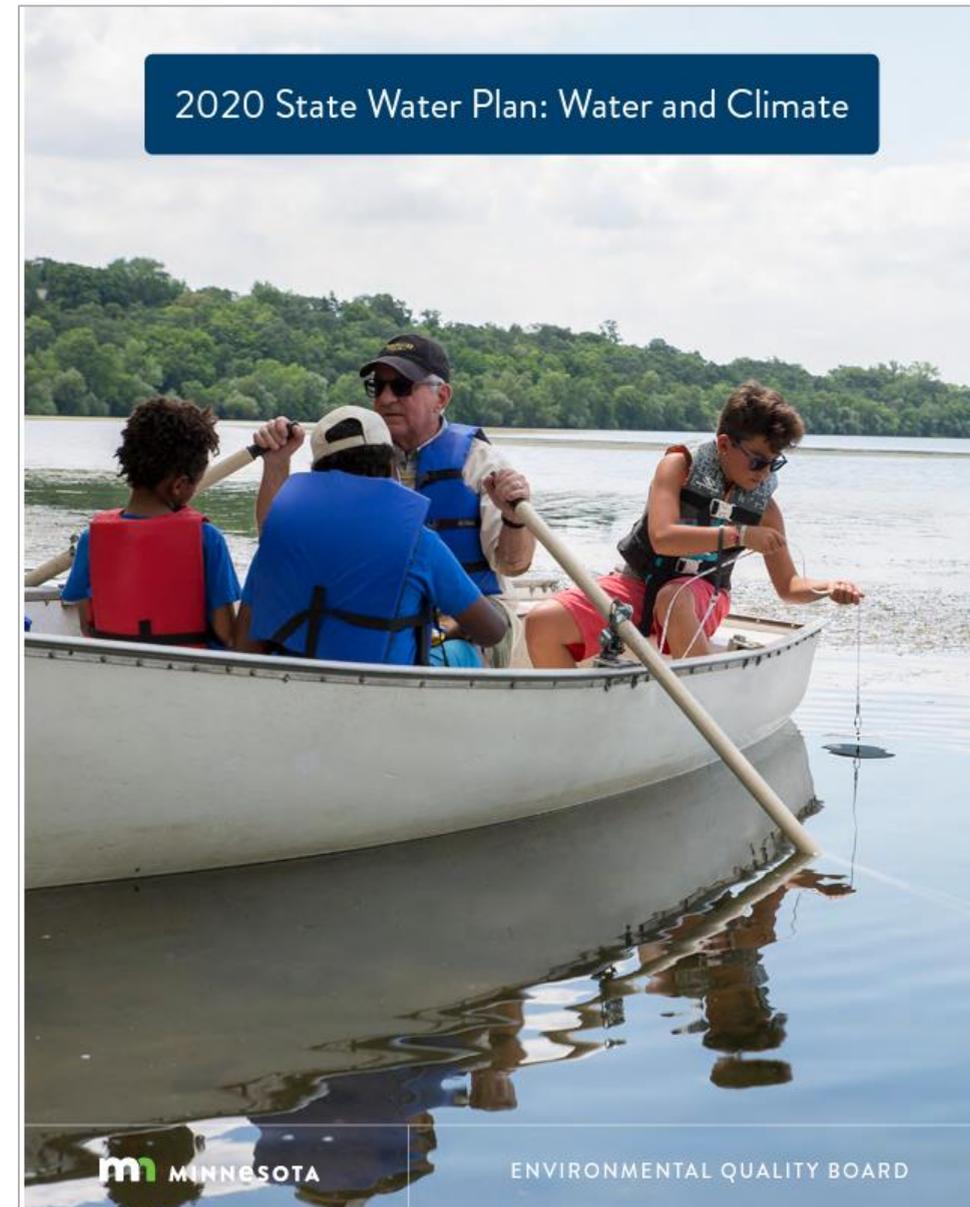
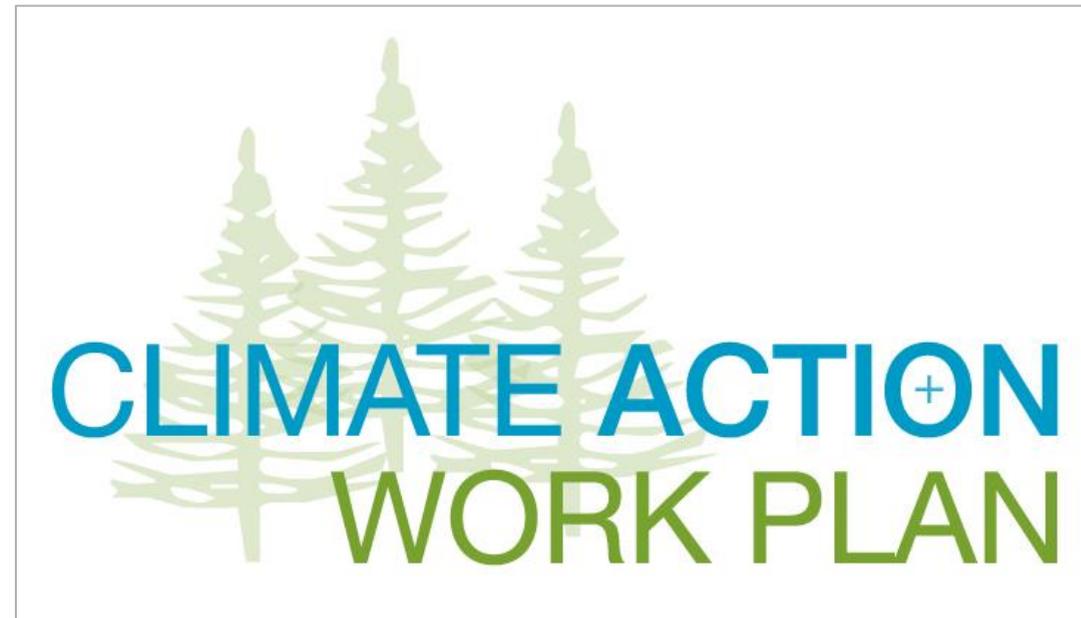
Safeguarding infrastructure

Governor Walz recommends a \$5 million general fund appropriation to create a web-based planning tool for metro area communities and watersheds to use to protect local infrastructure from the adverse effects of extreme weather events and climate change.

- Improves data and modeling
- Supports climate-smart communities
- Creates healthy community green spaces and water
- Establishes resilient buildings, infrastructure, and business



Supports state and regional climate plans initiatives



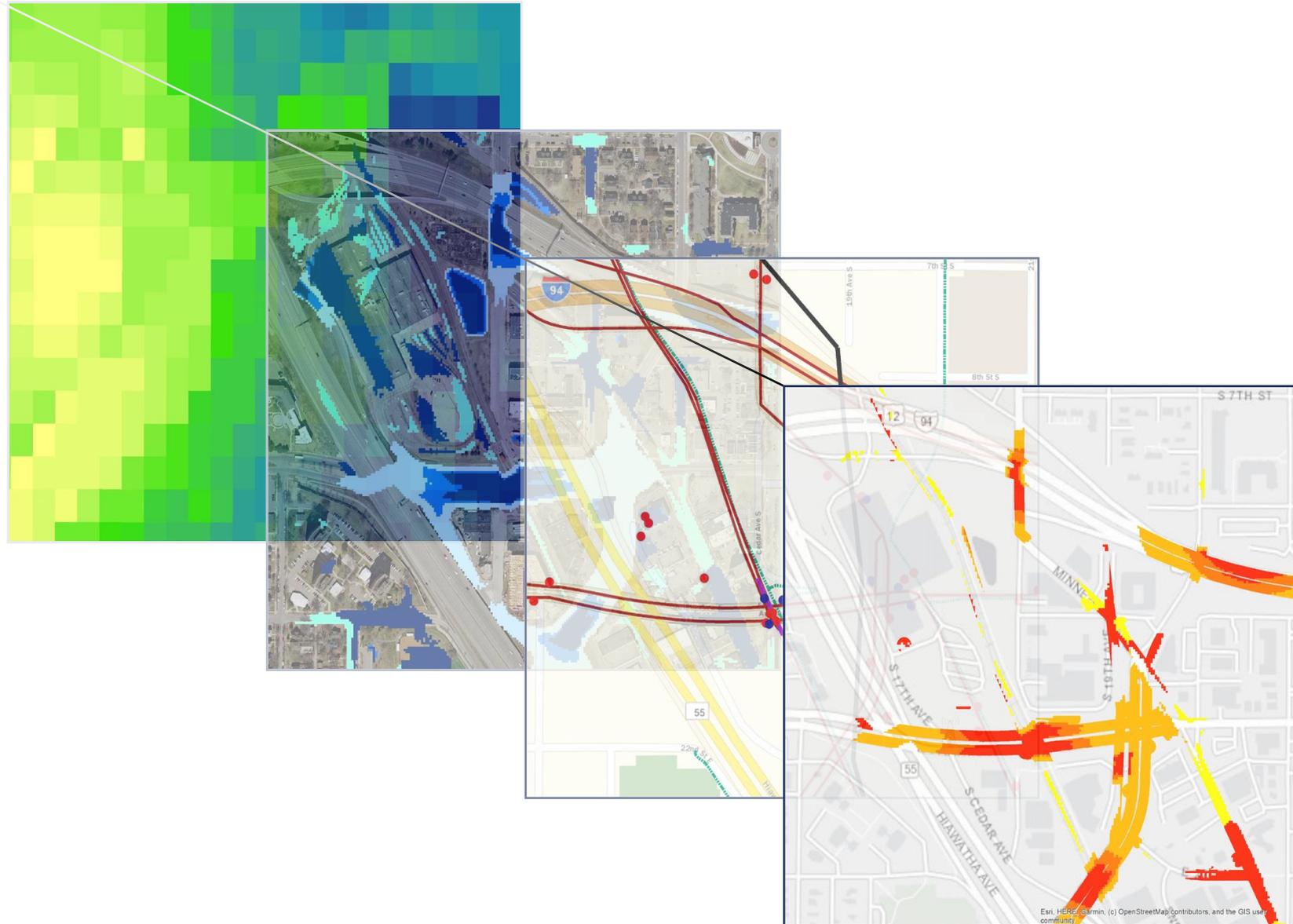
Integrating data and urging action

Leveraging Knowledge

- Regional spatial datasets
- Water and climate models
- Risk calculations

Offering Solutions

- Adaptation Scorecards
- Recommendations to increase resiliency
- Training and local capacity building





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