
COTTAGE PLACE WETLAND REGENERATION

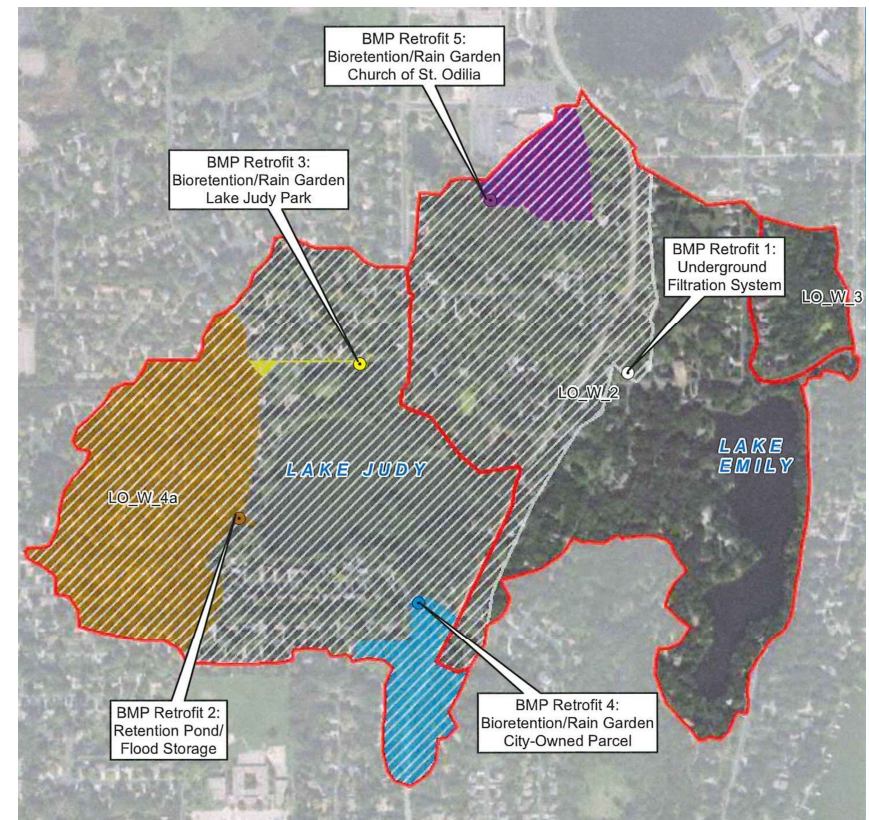
AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Tom Wesolowski – Public Works Director



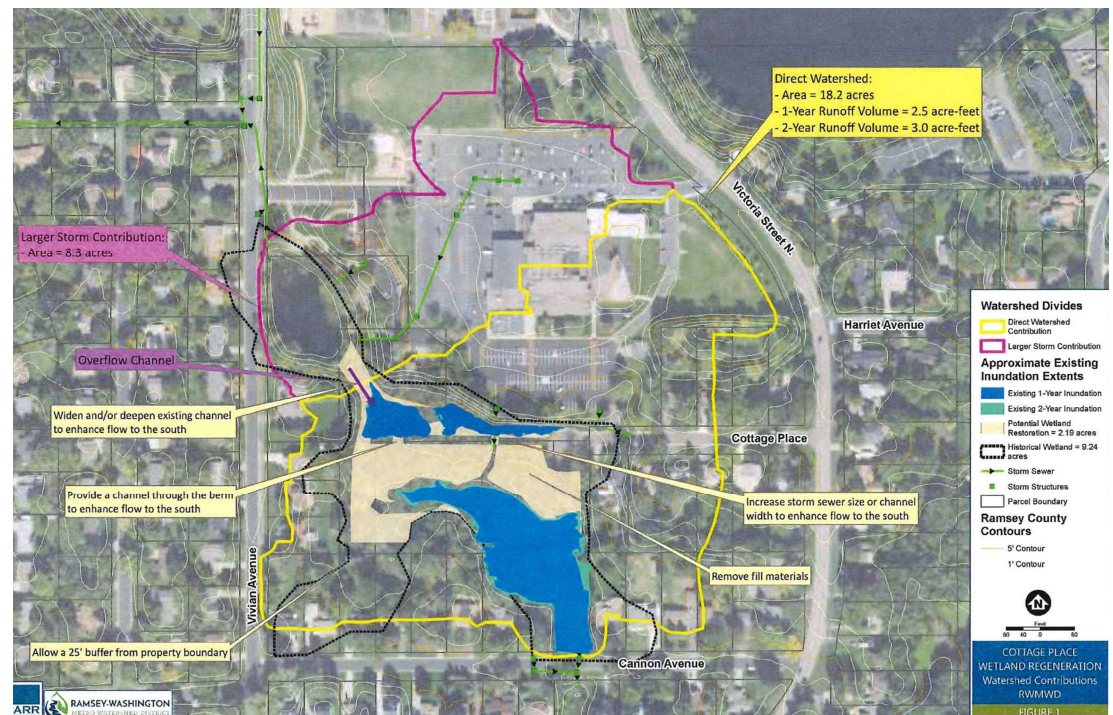
BACKGROUND

- Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
 - Identified projects in Lake Emily subwatershed to improve water quality in lake
 - Approx. 244-acres & entirely within Shoreview
 - Ultimately drains to Lake Owasso subwatershed
 - Completed BMP Retrofit 1 in 2023
 - BMP Retrofit 2 & 4 not feasible due to cost vs potential benefit
 - Identified Cottage Place wetland
 - Degraded, lost ecological value & storm water treatment capacity
 - Areas filled in with material, debris & downed trees
 - Overgrowth of volunteer & invasive trees and vegetation



BACKGROUND

- Proposed regeneration of wetland
 - Restore existing 1.45-acre wetland
 - Create 0.93-acre of new wetland
 - Storm water improvements
 - Trail segment
- Opportunity to meet city & district water quality & wetland goals
 - Restore ecological value
 - Provide storm water treatment
 - Clean-up environmental contamination
 - Serve as education opportunity
 - Restore wildlife habitat



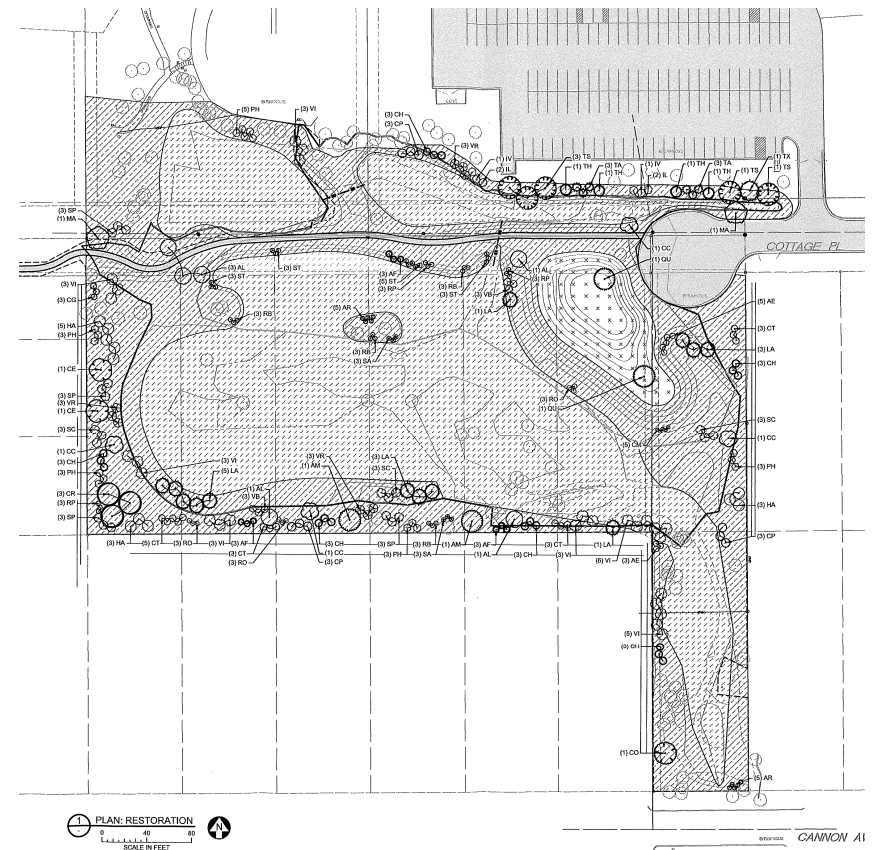
BACKGROUND

- Presented to city council at September 18, 2023 workshop
 - Majority of wetland located on city property
 - Portion located on southern edge of St. Odilia property
- November 13, 2023 open house for residents
 - Understood benefits of restoring wetland
 - Concerns
 - Tree removal/change character
 - Alignment of proposed trail
 - Affect on wildlife
 - Screening from lighting at St. Odilia



PROPOSED PROJECT

- Revised plan based on comments
 - Removed loop trail section
 - Added additional trees & shrubs for habitat & screening
 - Restored wetland will provide habitat for many species of wildlife
 - Native grasses, sedges & flowering & fruit producing plants
- Park staff reviewed concept plan
 - Support restoration of wetland
 - Support trail connection

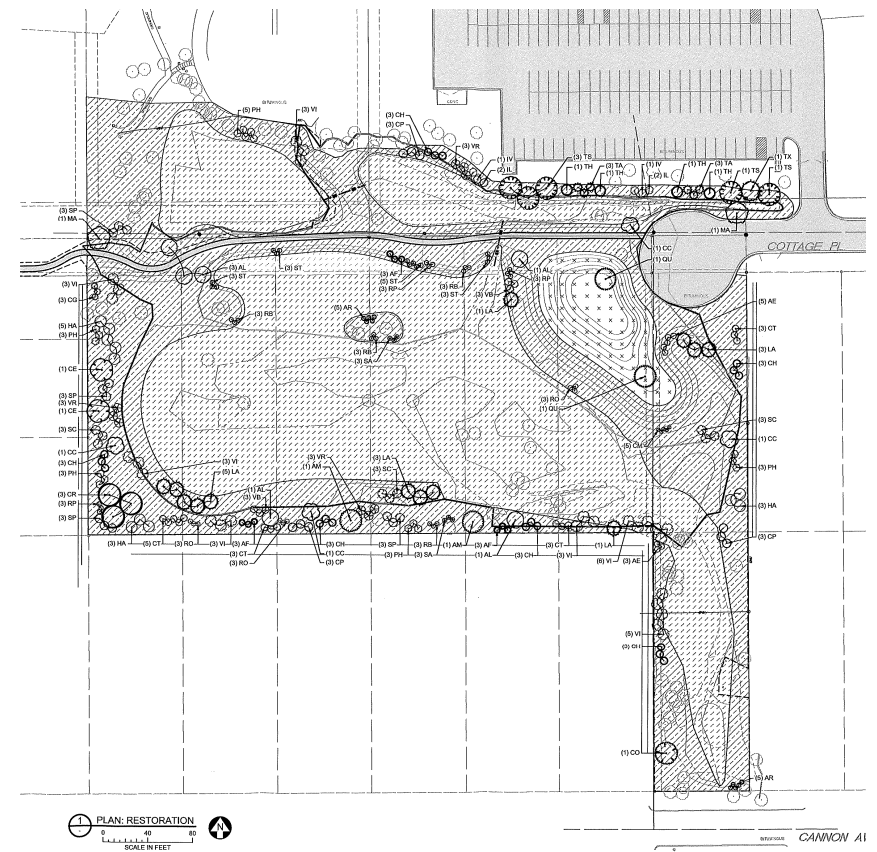


PROPOSED PROJECT

- Memorandum of Understanding between city & watershed
 - Specifies duties of both parties
 - RWMWD will cover all costs associated with design & construction
 - Estimated cost \$655,000
 - Responsible for future maintenance of wetland area & storm water infrastructure
 - Presented to the board for approval at future meeting
 - City allows restoration work on property
 - Own & maintain trail if constructed
 - Reviewed by the city attorney
- Schedule
 - Creation of plans & specifications – March – April 2024
 - Project bidding – May 2024
 - Construction – Fall 2024

PROPOSED PROJECT

- St. Odilia
 - Reviewed project with St. Odilia staff
 - Portion of wetland area located on south edge of property
 - RWMWD agreement to complete work
 - Majority of trail located on property
 - City would need trail easement
 - Discuss project at parish meeting at later date
- If they do not participate
 - Complete restoration of wetland on city property
 - Trail section would not be constructed



RECOMMENDATION

- Wetland restoration project
 - Provides the city with an opportunity to meet water quality & wetland goals as listed in the city's surface water management plan
 - Improves water quality in the Lake Emily and Lake Owasso subwatersheds and watershed as a whole
 - Supported by city park staff
- Recommend the city council authorize execution of the memorandum of understanding with the RWMWD