



# 2016

## Government Affairs Priorities

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# 1. Medicine Lake Rd/Winnetka Ave Regional Flood Mitigation

## Issue

The Medicine Lake Rd (County Road 70)/Winnetka Ave (County Road 156) area receives storm water runoff from a one-square-mile watershed that includes portions of Crystal, New Hope, and Golden Valley. Since this area was developed in the 1970s, it has experienced flooding issues that affect more than 37 properties and several local and regional roadways. The three cities are studying potential measures to minimize flood-related property damage around the nearby DeCola Ponds and along Medicine Lake Rd near Rhode Island Ave.

Flooding on Medicine Lake Rd, which carries an average of 10,000 vehicles per day and where several businesses have been damaged by floods, can reach depths exceeding 4 feet, making travel and emergency response difficult or impossible. During multiple flood events beginning in 1978, water depths up to 6 feet caused extensive property damage.

A solution is to provide additional flood storage at DeCola Ponds and develop new ponds or below-ground storage throughout the watershed to slow the flow of water to the flood prone areas, thus reducing flood levels. Under this scenario the 1 percent flood would result in approximately 18 inches of water on Medicine Lake Rd and some properties would still be subject to flooding, so flood proofing may still need to be considered to minimize flood damage.

It will cost an estimated \$27.5 million to correct these problems. Funding from the State in 2016 would allow the three cities to coordinate to minimize flooding to the extent possible, keep Medicine Lake Rd passable for emergency vehicles, reduce and minimize flood damage to homes and businesses, and allow for redevelopment in the area.

## City Position

The City of Golden Valley is requesting legislative approval of funds to implement flood damage reduction efforts within the DeCola Ponds and Medicine Lake Road watershed. These projects would include improvements within the Cities of Crystal, New Hope and Golden Valley and would include flood storage, subwatershed diversion, and runoff rate control projects.

## Additional Documents (See Appendix 1)

- Map: Decola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (1 page)

**Legislative Request: \$8.4 million**

## 2. Public Safety Improvements At Douglas Drive/ Highway 55

### **Issue**

In 2016, the City of Golden Valley and Hennepin County will reconstruct about 1.75 miles of Douglas Drive north of Highway 55, including numerous pedestrian-friendly facilities (on-street bike lanes, off-street trails, off-street sidewalks) at a cost of \$23 million. Major problems will still exist at the Highway 55/Douglas Drive intersection because no funding is available to correct them.

**Problem:** Pedestrians must cross seven lanes of Highway 55 traffic to reach businesses, schools, and other area amenities. Also, the Luce line regional trail just north of Highway 55 brings many recreational bikers, joggers, to the area.

**Solution:** A new underpass culvert crossing for pedestrians/bikes would be ADA compliant and would connect the south frontage road to Douglas Drive (at location of new metro transit drop-off site), enabling safe passage for walkers and bikers.

**Problem:** The south frontage road is too close to Highway 55, and vehicles don't have room to queue at intersection. Significant back-ups occur, and it can take numerous signal cycles to get through.

**Solution:** Extending the throat of the intersection will provide more queuing capacity for vehicles at the intersection, thus moving more vehicles through in a shorter amount of time. A roundabout will eliminate the stop conditions at south frontage road and allow the intersection to quickly dissipate the queue.

It will cost an estimated \$6 million to correct these problems. Funding from the State in 2016 would allow the City and County to coordinate the intersection project with the Douglas Drive project at significantly lower cost and less disruption to the driving public.

### **City Position**

The City of Golden Valley seeks funding to improve operations, safety, and mobility at the intersection of Highway 55 and Douglas Drive. Future improvements would better accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, transit, etc.

### **Additional Documents (See Appendix 2)**

- Funding Map: Douglas Drive/Hwy 55 Intersection (1 page)
- Current Map: Hwy 55 & Douglas Drive (1 page)

**Legislative Request: \$6 million**

## 3. Brookview Community Center Capital Improvement Funds

### Issue

Golden Valley's Brookview Community Center has served the community and residents from the metro area for almost 50 years. The building was initially constructed in 1918 as a private facility and purchased by the City in 1967. After a number of additions and remodeling projects, it has deteriorated to the point that it needs to be completely replaced. The City would like to continue to provide gathering places, meeting rooms, and large event space for community groups and organizations.

Despite additions and remodeling over the years, Brookview no longer meets the needs (including modern accessibility standards) of today's population, and the yearly maintenance on the aging structure is no longer an appropriate investment.

A new, accessible facility would meet's today's needs for local and regional recreation. Proposed amenities include a large meeting and banquet space, multi-use community rooms, senior area with program rooms, kids indoor play area, golf operations, and parks and recreation operations..

It will cost an estimated \$18.2 million to build the new community center as proposed

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports procuring funding assistance through federal, state, and county sources to help the City with the replacement of the outdated and deteriorating Brookview Community Center.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix 3)

- Architectural Rendering: Brookview Community Center (1 page)
- Building Plans: Brookview Community Center (1 page)
- Project Timeline: Brookview Community Center (1 page)
- Project Budget Recap: Brookview Community Center (1 page)

**Legislative Request: \$5 million**

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## 4. METRO Blue Line Extension Funds

### **Issue**

In December 2015, the Metropolitan Council approved the revised scope and cost estimate for the METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) Light Rail Transit Project. The Bottineau LRT is planned to enter Golden Valley along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad Corridor in the south and travel adjacent to parkland, residential, and institutional areas on the east side of Golden Valley. The City anticipates granting Municipal Consent for the project early in 2016.

The Station Area Planning process for two station locations in Golden Valley was completed in 2015. Environmental and engineering issues surrounding the proposed stations, located at the LRT's intersection with Plymouth Ave and Golden Valley Rd, must continue to be identified in the next phase of work.

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Council and the Cities of Golden Valley, Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park, continue to work toward identifying and mitigating issues surrounding the eventual construction and implementation of the METRO Blue Line Extension LRT. Additional funding for future study and community outreach efforts is necessary to ensure that the project moves forward.

The METRO Blue Line Extension LRT is part of a broader plan to expand mass transit options in the Minneapolis/St Paul metropolitan area. As the region continues to grow, investment in an enhanced transportation network is essential. There are many additional regional transitways currently under study or development in the region. Increased funding for the development of light rail transit and bus rapid transit is essential for the growth and well-being of the Minneapolis/St Paul metropolitan area.

### **City Position**

The City of Golden Valley urges support of light rail transit and bus rapid transit options, and seeks funding to enhance study and community outreach efforts for issues surrounding the development of the Bottineau LRT.

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## 5. Metropolitan Council Inflow/Infiltration Grants—Public And Private Improvements

### **Issue**

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Service's (MCES) Water Resources Management Plan established an inflow and infiltration (I/I) surcharge in 2007 on cities determined by MCES to be contributing unacceptable amounts of clear water to the MCES wastewater treatment system. Since the inception of the surcharge program, 50 cities have been identified as excessive I/I contributors. This number is subject to change, depending on rain events, and any city in the metropolitan area could be affected.

The City of Golden Valley is a leader in the metropolitan area in addressing inflow and infiltration from public and private sources. The City has made significant investment to address I/I issues in the municipal system. In addition, through the City's Inflow and Infiltration Ordinance, significant investment has been made by property owners to reduce I/I from private sewer services.

### **City Position**

Because I/I reduction efforts benefit the entire metropolitan area, the City of Golden Valley supports the state providing continued capital assistance for grants to cities as well as financial assistance through future Clean Water Legacy Act appropriations.

### **Additional Documents (See Appendix 5)**

- Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits - City of Golden Valley (1 page)

# Initiatives Already Supported By The League Of Minnesota Cities And/Or Metro Cities

## 6. Oppose Levy Limits

### **Issue**

Levy limits undermine local budgeting processes, planned growth, and the relationship between locally elected officials and their residents by allowing the state to decide the appropriate level of local taxation and services, despite varying local conditions and circumstances.

For example, while working on its Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the City of Golden Valley reviews many revenue sources for financing future needs of the City. Levy limits make it impossible for the City to plan accurately for renewal of its infrastructure without compromising its bond rating.

### **City Position**

The City of Golden Valley and Metro Cities strongly oppose levy limits.

## 7. Inclusion Of Motor Vehicles For Sales Tax Exemption

### **Issue**

The City of Golden Valley is exempt from sales tax for most purchases except for business purposes (for example, Brookview Golf Course). The City is not exempt for motor vehicle purchases, because the sales tax exemption did not include the motor vehicle tax of 6.5 percent. Although police (marked) and fire vehicles are tax exempt, dump trucks that are used for snowplowing and road repair are not.

### **City Position**

The City believes all City vehicles are necessary to respond to the needs of the City and supports including motor vehicles in the sales tax exemption.

## 8. Improve Local Government Public Information Notification Procedures

### Issue

To keep the public updated and informed, state law requires local units of government to publish various official notifications and documents in newspapers and often dictates which newspapers receive cities' publication business. The number and variety of documents cities are required to publish, as well as the costs of publication, are burdensome.

The media and newspaper industry continues to experience significant changes and declining subscriptions. At the same time technological advancements have expanded options cities can use to provide information to citizens, and citizens are demanding and expecting it. These new technologies are often more efficient, widely and easily accessible, and cost effective. Current state law regarding public access to city codes of ordinances should also address these changes for how citizens, the private sector, and other entities will have access to alternatives to existing news publications to obtain official government notices, documents, and information.

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley believes the Legislature should eliminate outdated or unnecessary publication requirements and that cities should be authorized to:

- take advantage of new technologies to increase the dissemination of information to citizens and potentially lower the associated costs
- designate an appropriate daily/weekly publication
- use alternative means of communication, such as city newsletters, cable television, video streaming, e-mail, blogs, and city web sites
- expand the use of summaries where information is technical or lengthy
- publish and provide public access to local codes of ordinances on a website and to post revisions and changes to city codes, resolutions, and rules on the city website, when feasible

## 9. Emerald Ash Borer Disaster Assistance

### Issue

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a destructive beetle that has killed tens of millions of ash trees throughout the Midwest. The beetle was first discovered in the Minneapolis area in 2009 and has currently been identified within two miles of the Golden Valley border.

The City of Golden Valley proactively developed an EAB Management Plan in 2010 and updated it in 2012 to include a complete public tree inventory. The inventory identified that more than 24 percent of Golden Valley's public property trees are ash. There are a total of more than 2,000 public ash trees and countless private ash trees throughout the community.

The City of Golden Valley is very concerned about the total number and concentration of public and private shade trees that are in jeopardy from this destructive beetle. Currently, there is minimal funding and resources available to mitigate for the inevitable tree impacts on public and private property.

### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports procuring funding through federal, state, and county sources to help the City and private property owners with removal of infested trees and reforestation activities.

### Additional Documents (See Appendix 9)

- Map: City of Golden Valley Public Tree Inventory (1 page)

## 10. Support Early Voting Initiatives

### Issue

Golden Valley has had a high number of voters show up to the polls every year. With no-excuse voting this year, many people came in to vote early or applied online for an absentee ballot to be sent. Although the City is happy it is more convenient for the voter, the costs are more expensive due to postage, supplies for the absentees, and additional staff hours for both regular employees and election judges for the absentee board.

### City Position

True early voting would allow the voter to actually vote and Cities would not incur the costs of additional supplies and postage.

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# 11. Support Tax Incentives For Community Reinvestment

## **Issue**

Golden Valley has aging residential and commercial structures that are in need of repair and reinvestment. Reinvestment prevents neighborhoods from falling into disrepair, revitalizes community, and protects the tax base.

Historically, the state has funded programs to promote reinvestment in communities, including the “This Old House” program (which allowed owners of older homestead property to defer an increase in their tax capacity resulting from repairs or improvements to the home) and “This Old Shop” (for owners of older commercial/Industrial property who make improvements that increase the property’s market value).

## **City Position**

Golden Valley supports state programs and incentives for reinvestment in older residential and commercial/industrial buildings, such as, but not limited to, tax credits and/or property tax deferrals.

# 12. Update Fiscal Disparities Formula

## **Issue**

Since enacted in 1971 and implemented in 1975, Fiscal Disparities has required cities to share a portion of their commercial and industrial tax base growth with other jurisdictions. The contribution amount is based on the relative fiscal capacity of each community, which is measured by the market value per capita. Because Golden Valley has a high fiscal capacity, it contributes more to the pool than it receives. In 2016, Golden Valley will contribute \$4,263,121 in net tax capacity.

In recent years, more commercial and industrial parcels have petitioned for market value changes. It may take a number of years to settle a petition, and the ruling can allow valuations to be revised for the contested year as well as up to two years prior.

For example, for taxes payable 2016, the 2014 taxable market values for commercial and industrial properties were used to establish Golden Valley’s contribution to the fiscal disparities formula. In 2015, Golden Valley had many parcels petition to lower their valuations and the adjustments are lagging.

## **City Position**

The City of Golden Valley supports a revision to fiscal disparities that accounts for adjustments due to correction of market values.

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## 13. Affordable Housing And Workforce Housing\*

### **Issue**

Cities are concerned about meeting the demand for affordable housing, including the needs of aging citizens who want to stay in their communities and workers who want to live in the communities in which they work. As a result of currently low rental vacancy rates, many families and individuals may be unable to use Section 8 housing choice vouchers and thus unable to secure safe, decent, and affordable housing.

### **City Position**

The City of Golden Valley supports additional tools for local communities to develop affordable and workforce housing.

## Newly Added City Initiatives

### 14. Establish A Sustainable Funding Formula For Increased Transportation And Transit Funding

#### Issue

A well-coordinated state transportation policy using all modes of transportation in moving passengers and freight will enhance the state economic development of new and expanding business as well as foster additional tourism opportunities.

#### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports dedicating more resources to all components of the state's transportation system and ensuring local units of government have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs.

### 15. US Highway 169 Improvement Planning From I-394 To Medicine Lake Rd

#### Issue

The 20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan indicates that no capacity improvements are planned for the US Highway 169 corridor between I-394 and I-94. Travelers experience from under one hour to up to four hours of congestion daily. Furthermore, since 2002 there have been more than 1,100 vehicle crashes along the corridor, in which 25 percent resulted in injury and one crash resulted in a death. The corridor provides access to many businesses, including General Mills, the Target Corporation, CS McCrossan, St Jude Medical, Select Comfort, Caterpillar, and US Foods, to name a few. In addition, institutions such as the Hennepin Technical College, the Robbinsdale School District, and others use the corridor as a primary access.

Improvements to US Highway 169 have occurred north of I-94. Additional improvements have been completed at the I-494 interchange to the south. Since early 2013, City officials have been meeting with MnDOT staff to define needed transportation improvements along the US Highway 169 corridor and to identify potential funding sources.

#### City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports funding for the Hwy 169 Improvement Planning to achieve capacity and safety improvements on Hwy 169 from south of I-394 to north of Medicine Lake Rd.

*\*Newly added City initiatives*

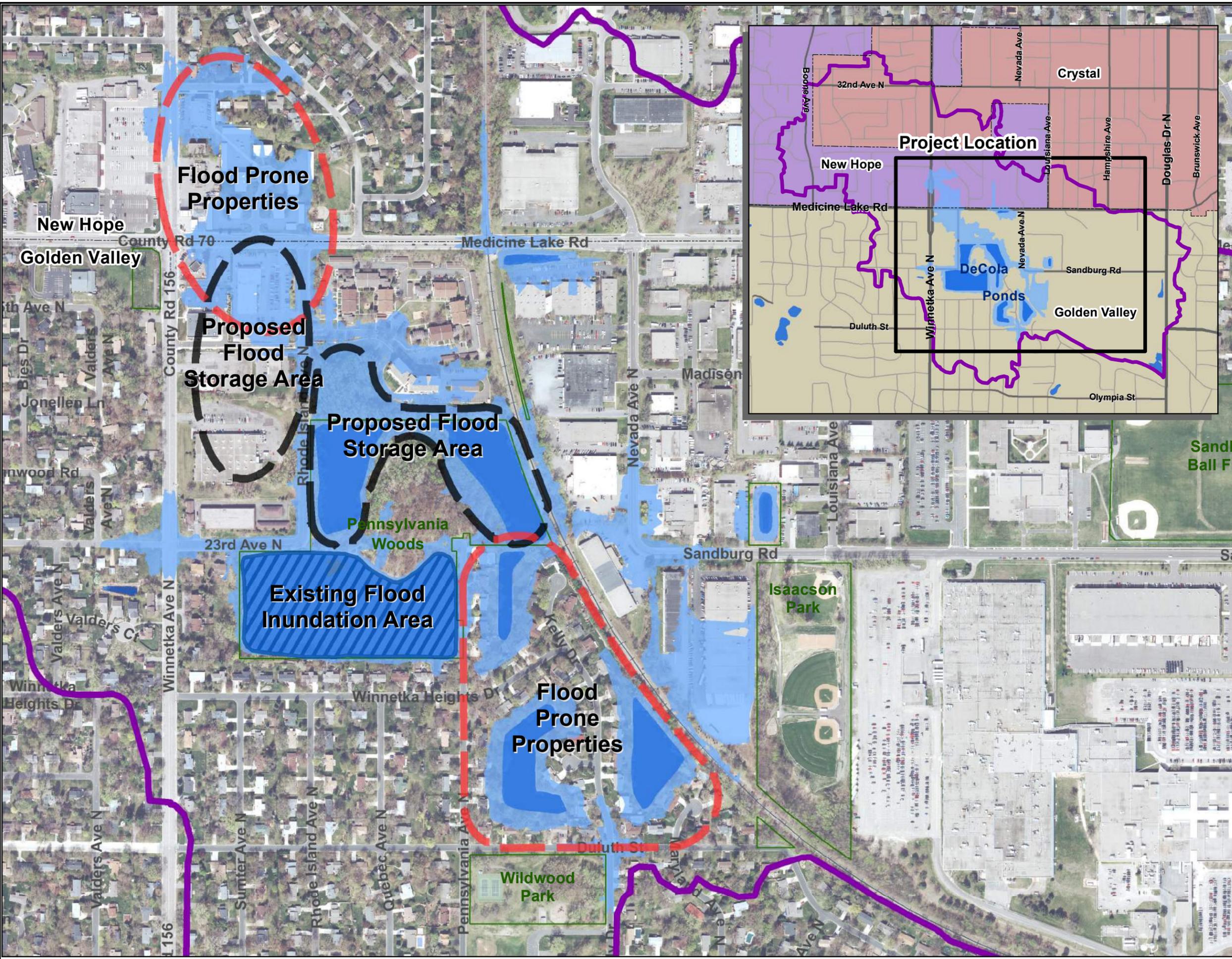
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# Appendix 1. Medicine Lake Rd/Winnetka Ave Regional Flood Mitigation Additional Documents

**Map: Decola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (1 page)**

**DeCola Ponds,  
Medicine Lake Road  
and Winnetka Avenue  
Long-Term Flood  
Mitigation Plan**

-  100-year Inundation Area
-  Flood Prone Properties
-  Proposed Flood Storage Area
-  Existing Flood Inundation Area
-  Watershed Boundary of Project Area



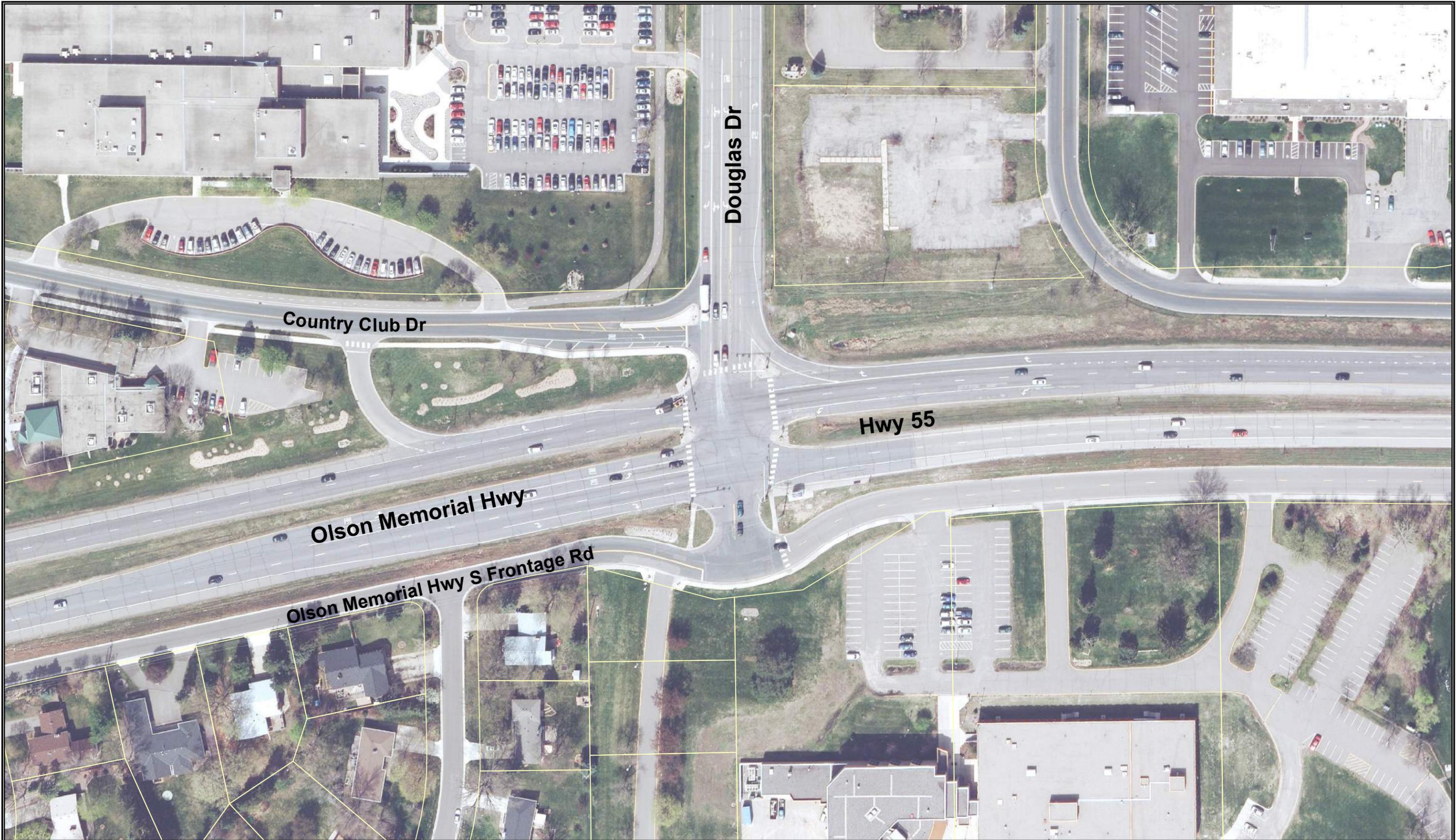
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## Appendix 2. Public Safety Improvements At Douglas Drive/Highway 55 Additional Documents

**Funding Map: Douglas Drive/Hwy 55 Intersection (1 page)**

**Current Map: Hwy 55 & Douglas Drive (1 page)**





Douglas Dr

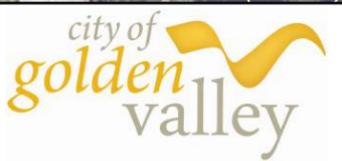
Country Club Dr

Hwy 55

Olson Memorial Hwy

Olson Memorial Hwy S Frontage Rd

# Hwy 55 & Douglas Dr



Print Date: 1/21/2015  
Sources:  
-Hennepin County Surveyors Office for Property Lines (2014) & Aerial Photography (2012).  
-City of Golden Valley for all other layers.



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# Appendix 3. Brookview Community Center Capital Improvement Funds Additional Documents

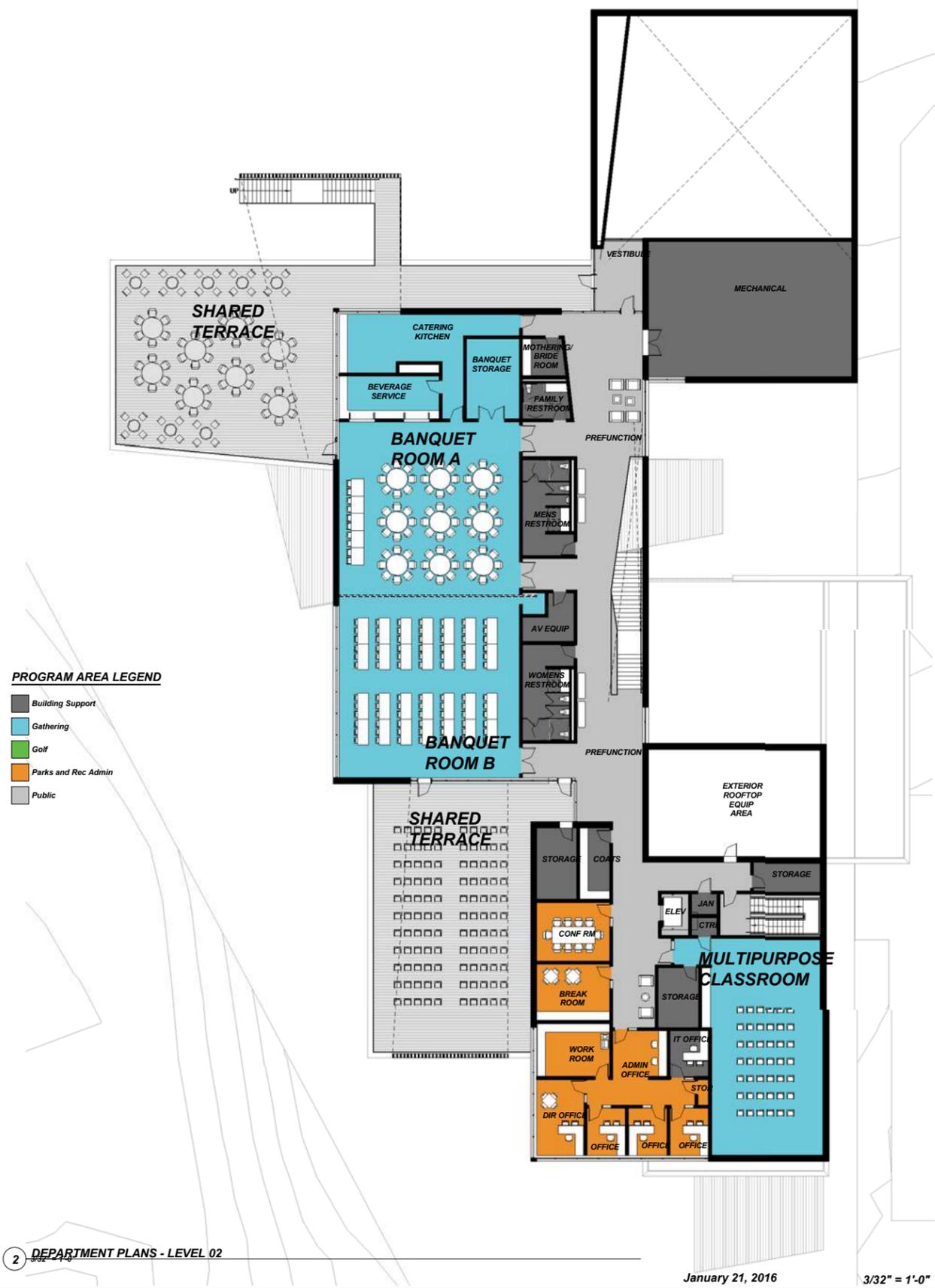
**Architectural Rendering: Brookview Community Center (1 page)**

**Building Plans: Brookview Community Center (1 page)**

**Project Timeline: Brookview Community Center (1 page)**

**Project Budget Recap: Brookview Community Center (1 page)**





**PROGRAM AREA LEGEND**

- Building Support
- Gathering
- Golf
- Parks and Rec Admin
- Public



# Total Project Budget Recap

## Golden Valley Community Center Project Golden Valley, MN

**Construction Cost Total** (Escalation pro-rated into total, for  
Fall 2016 construction start)

\$13,717,759

### Project Soft Costs

#### Consultant Services

<i>Architect's/Engineering Fee</i>			
Contracted Fees (Will be adjusted based on % of Construction costs)		\$1,028,832	7.50%
Reimbursable Expenses	allowance	\$35,000	
<i>Additional Services</i>			
Food Service Consultant		\$31,500	
FF&E Design Fee		\$22,000	
Sustainability/LEED Design Fee		\$6,000	
Preconstruction Design Phase Services	allowance	\$45,000	
Owners Representative		by City	
Legal & Financial Costs	allowance	\$34,294	0.25%
Fundraising Materials		na	

#### Equipment

Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	allowance	\$1,371,776	10.00%
Play Equipment / Structures	allowance	\$400,000	
Food Service Equipment	allowance	\$50,000	
<i>(Loose equipment only, connected equipment included in construction)</i>			
Technology / Building Systems Equipment	allowance	\$386,533	2.82%
<i>(Including design consultant costs, by Vendor)</i>			

#### Other Costs

Geotechnical Exploration / Borings		\$10,800	
Site Survey		\$11,250	
Constr. Inspections, Soils & Matl. Testing	allowance	\$27,436	0.20%
Permitting	allowance	\$137,178	1.00%
Owners Insurances	allowance	\$34,294	0.25%
Moving/Relocation Costs	allowance	\$25,000	
Commissioning	allowance	\$68,589	0.50%
Construction contingency	allowance	\$685,888	5.00%
Owners Project/Scope Contingency (Remaining funds to balance to Budget)		\$53,570	0.39%

**Total Project Cost (fixed at Budget)**

\$18,232,698

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# Appendix 5. Metropolitan Council Inflow/Infiltration Grants—Public And Private Improvements

**Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits - City of Golden Valley (1 page)**



# MEMORANDUM

## Physical Development Department

763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

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**Date:** January 28, 2016

**To:** Tim Cruikshank, City Manager

**From:** Jeff Oliver, PE, City Engineer  
R.J. Kakach, EIT, Engineer

**Subject:** MCES I&I Grant Benefits – City of Golden Valley

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The City of Golden Valley has utilized funding from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Grant Programs to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) in both the public and private sewer systems over the past several years. The public grants have provided additional funding to allow expanded scopes on projects and decreased timelines on I&I reduction programs. For example, as part of the annual street reconstruction projects, we have been able to increase sewer lining and manhole sealing quantities with the extra grant money that was available. Also, we were able to expedite a five to seven year sanitary sewer manhole cover replacement program into four years with additional funding from MCES.

The 2013-2014 MCES private sewer grant allowed residents to repair their sanitary sewer lateral and be reimbursed by MCES at 33% of the repair cost up to \$2,000. The available funding through this grant was so popular that City staff had to turn away applicants. Nearly 300 properties applied for the grant over the two year period. This reimbursement opportunity from MCES led to an increase in I&I compliance with the City Ordinance. The Ordinance requires all properties to become compliant prior to the sale of a property. This allows the City to gradually reduce I&I in the private system. The grant money attracted interest from properties all over the City, including people who were not selling their home. This extra interest in becoming I&I compliant from the available MCES grant funding helped propel the City forward in their I&I mitigation efforts.

The public and private grants provided by MCES have helped to lower Golden Valley's annual sanitary sewer flows over the past five years. The public grant has allowed for more thorough I&I reduction to be done with street reconstruction projects and I&I mitigation programs whereas the private grant increased interest in becoming compliant with the City's I&I Ordinance. The additional funding from MCES has pushed Golden Valley ahead in their goal to reduce I&I in the sanitary sewer system.

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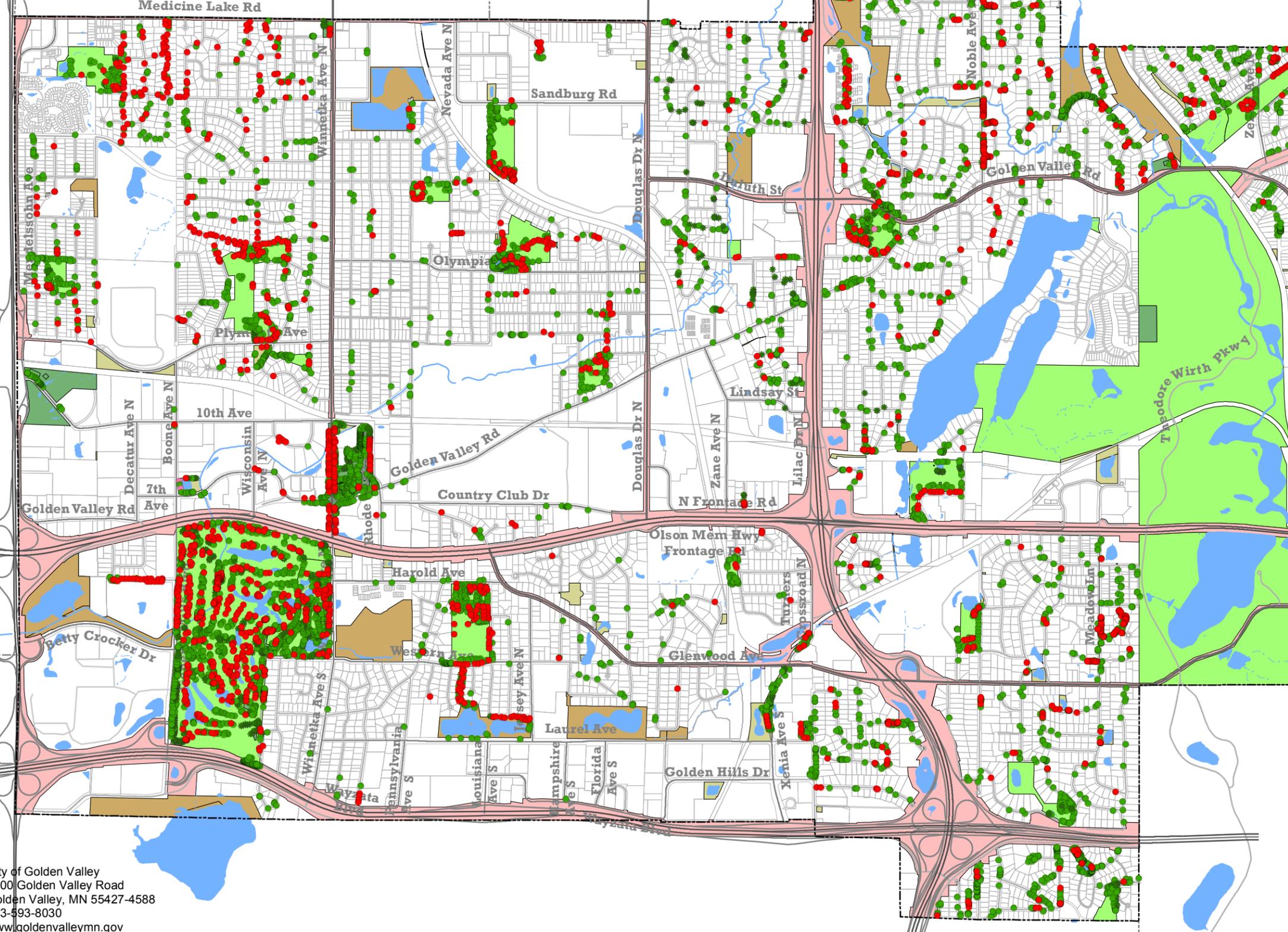
# Appendix 9. Emerald Ash Borer Disaster Assistance Additional Documents

**Map: City of Golden Valley Public Tree Inventory (1 page)**

## Public Tree Inventory

Location	All Inventoried Trees	Total Ash (TA) Trees	% Ash	Ash Trees Only							
				Good		Fair		Poor		Dead/Dying	
				#	% of TA	#	% of TA	#	% of TA	#	% of TA
City Parks*, Streetscapes, Medians	1,957	455	23.2%	338	74.3%	73	16.0%	3	0.7%	1	0.2%
Brookview Golf Course	1,536	431	28.1%	168	39.0%	203	47.1%	54	12.5%	5	1.2%
City Campuses, Fire Stations, Cemetery	432	33	7.6%	29	87.9%	2	6.1%	2	6.1%	0	0.0%
Boulevards	3,473	808	23.3%	308	38.1%	329	40.7%	156	19.3%	14	1.7%
Nature Areas, Vacant Lots, etc.	606	89	14.7%	25	28.1%	47	52.8%	13	14.6%	4	4.5%
<b>Column Total</b>	<b>8,004</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>47.8%</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>12.6%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

\*note: wooded areas in the parks were not inventoried



### Tree Types

- Ash
- Other Deciduous (Shade trees)
- \* Coniferous (Collected in all parks and golf course)  
(Collected in some boulevards)

### City Properties

- Park
- Community Facility
- Nature Area
- Unmanaged Property

### Areas Not Inventoried

- State & County rights-of-way



