Metropolitan Council

2026 Capital Budget Recommendations

Senate Capital Investment Committee – February 26, 2026

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Metropolitan Council

Governor Walz recommendations:

- $5 million for inflow and infiltration grant program
- $1 million for the regional parks and trails bonding grant program

Inflow and Infiltration Grant Program

Wastewater system

WHO WE SERVE

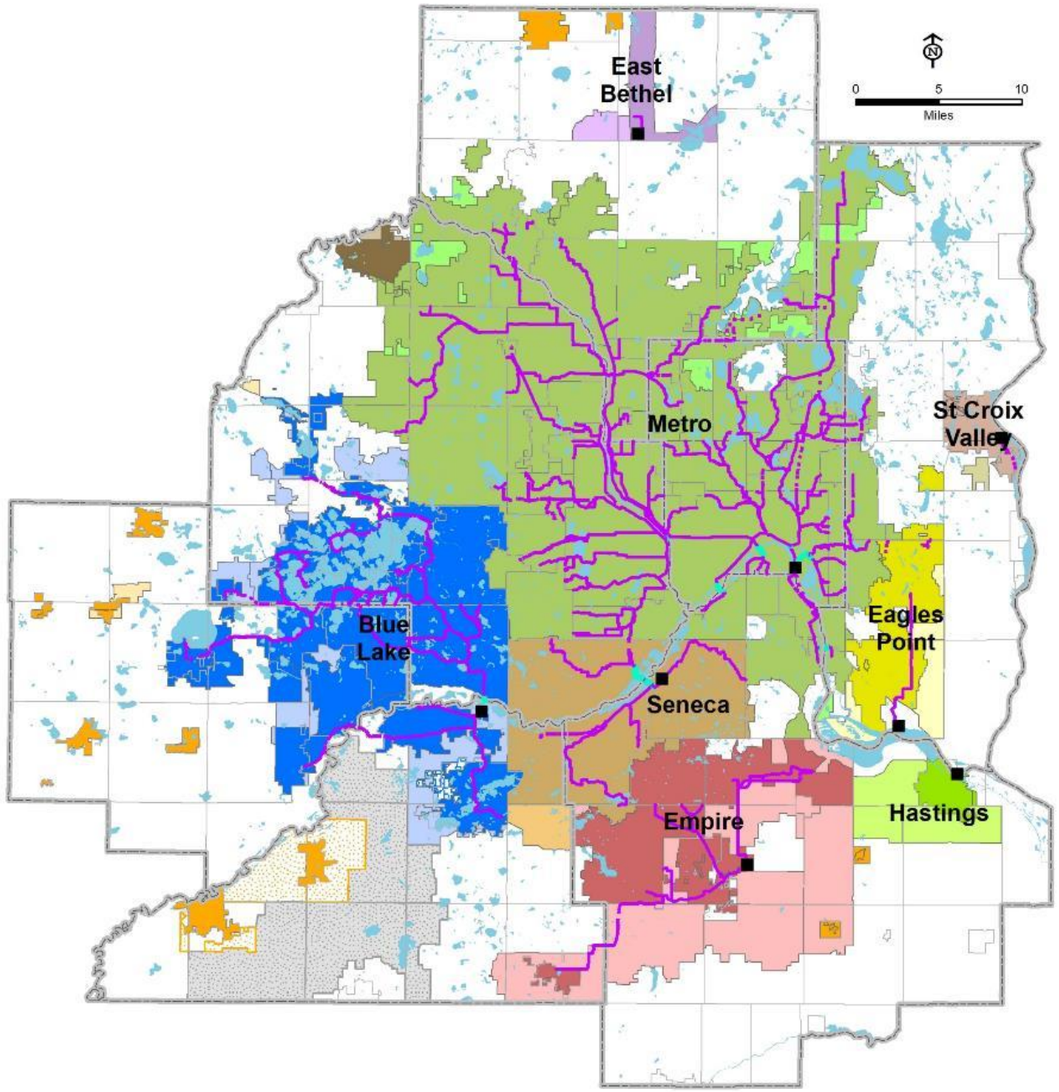
- 7-county Metro Area
- 111 communities
- 2.9 million people

OUR FACILITIES

- 9 water resource recovery facilities
- 60 pump or lift stations
- 634 miles of interceptors
- 250 million gallons per day (avg.)

WHAT WE MANAGE

- $9.4 billion in valued assets
- $350 million / year capital program



Wastewater System

Metropolitan Council

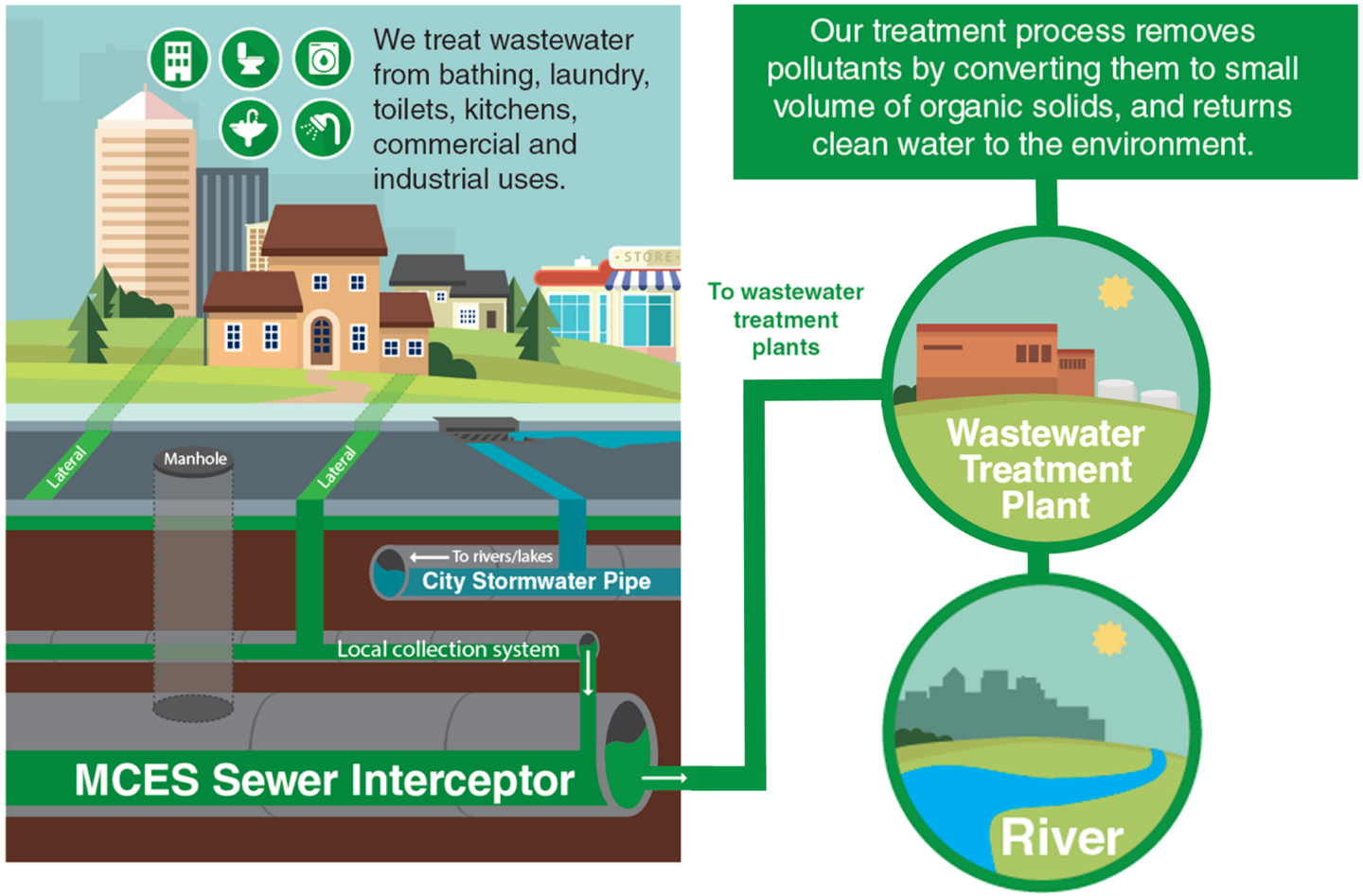
- Regional infrastructure

Cities and townships

- Connect from the street to regional infrastructure

Property owners

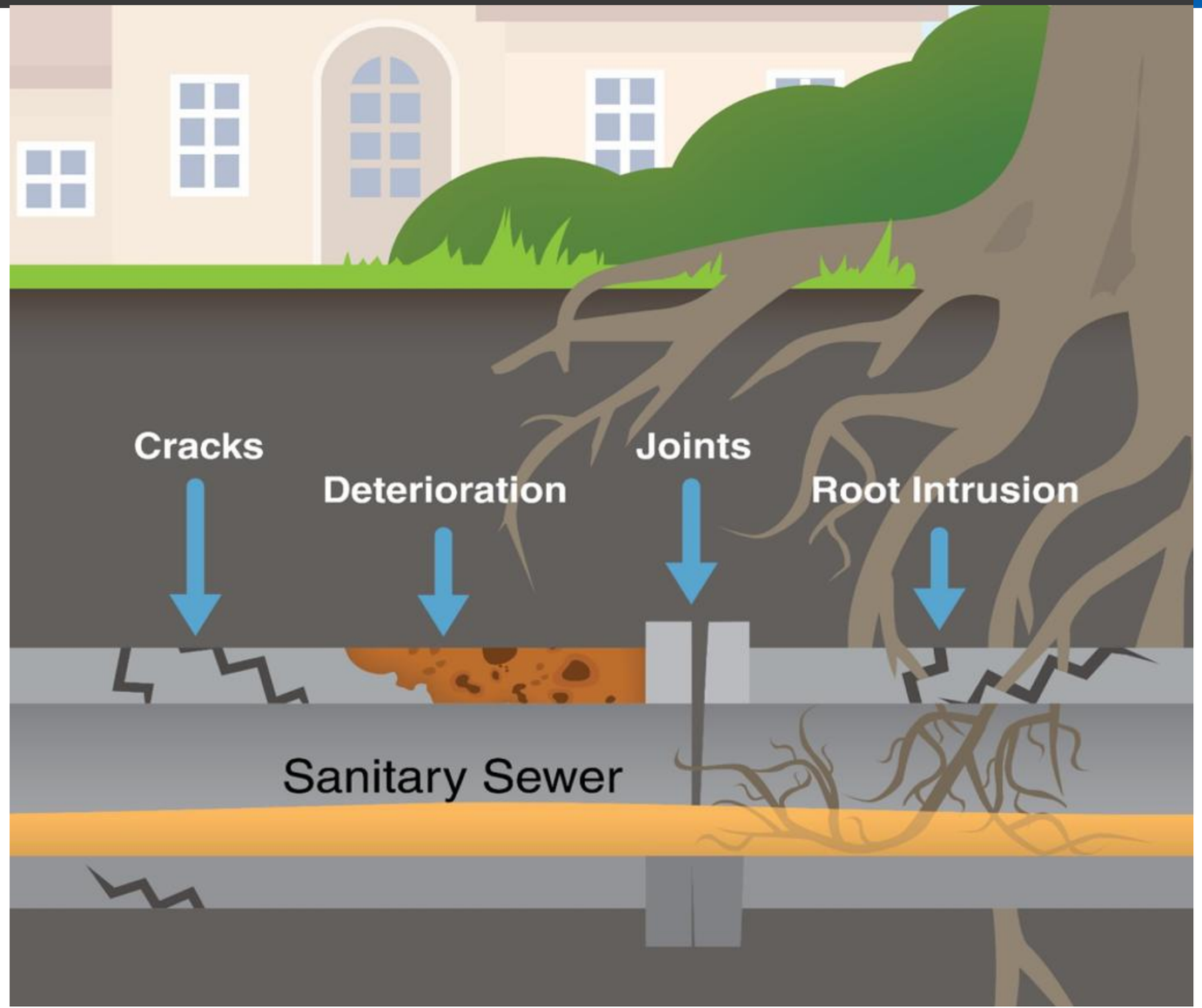
- Connect from the property to the street



Inflow and Infiltration

The cost of clear water in the wastewater system

- Unnecessarily treats clear water along with wastewater
- Causes sewer backups into homes
- Causes sewer overflows into rivers and lakes
- Increases sewer and utility fees
- Increases the need for larger and more expensive sewer pipes and treatment facilities



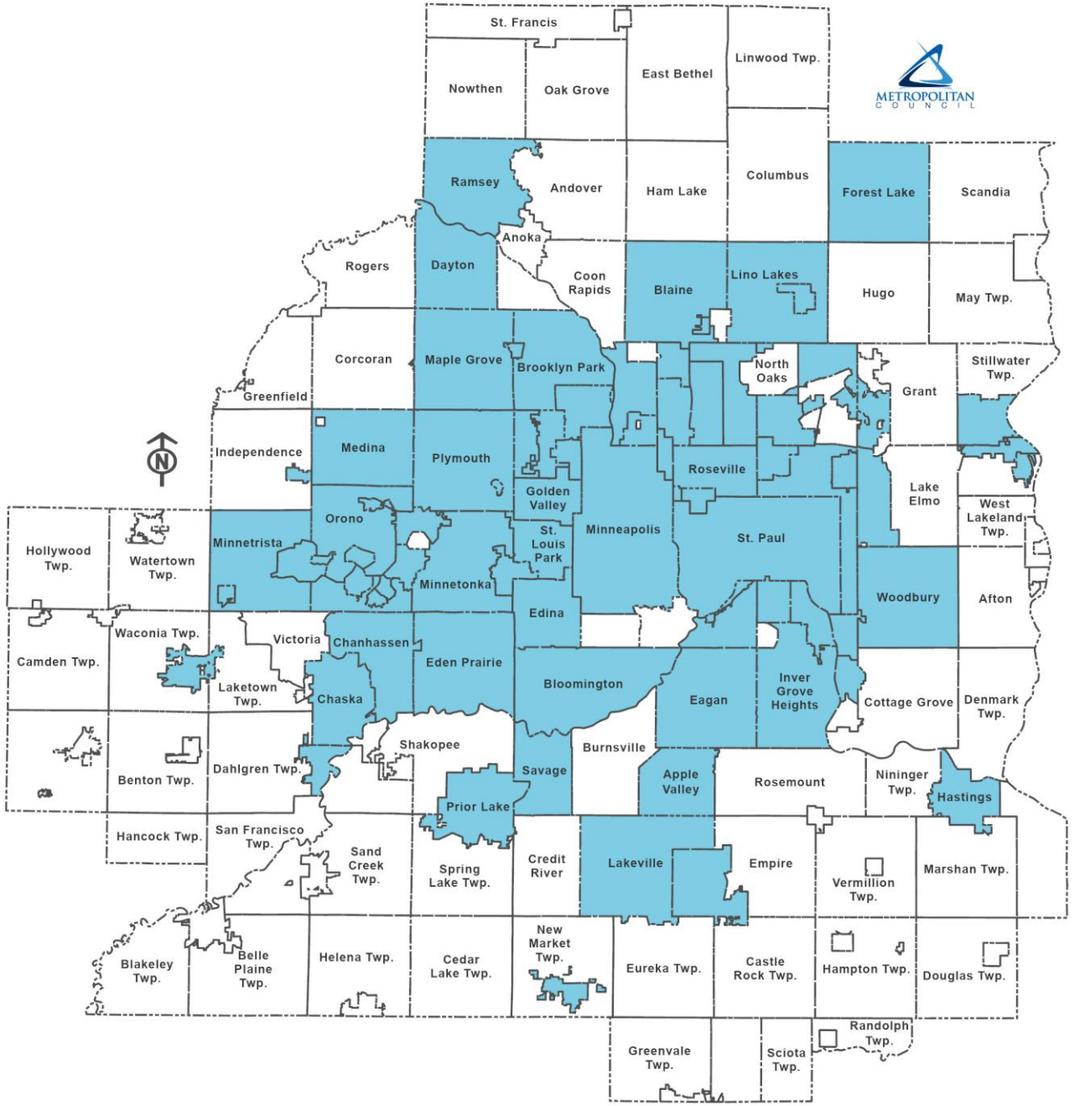
Repair pipes that connect to regional infrastructure

Municipal infrastructure capital improvements grant program: $5 Million

- Grants to municipalities to reduce clear water in the municipal wastewater collection system
  - Grant funding traditionally covers up to 50% of the inflow and infiltration portion of project cost
  - Grants may cover 100% of the inflow and infiltration portion of the project cost if it meets affordability criteria per Minnesota Statutes, section 473.5491.
- Cities are eligible if they have:
  - Excessive contributions of inflow and infiltration into the regional system, or
  - A measurable flow rate within 20% of the allowable flow limit.

Over 80 cities and townships impacted by inflow and infiltration

Apple Valley • Arden Hills • Bayport • Birchwood • Blaine • Bloomington • Brooklyn Center • Brooklyn Park • Carver • Centerville • Chanhassen • Chaska • Columbia Heights • Crystal • Dayton • Deephaven • Eagan • Eden Prairie • Edina • Elko-New Market • Excelsior • Falcon Heights • Farmington • Forest Lake • Fridley • Golden Valley • Greenwood • Hastings • Hopkins • Inver Grove Heights • Lakeville • Lauderdale • Lexington • Lilydale • Lino Lakes • Little Canada • Long Lake • Mahtomedi • Maple Grove • Maple Plain • Maplewood • Medicine Lake • Medina • Mendota • Mendota Heights • Minneapolis • Minnetonka • Minnetonka Beach • Minnetrista • Mound • Mounds View • New Brighton • New Hope • Newport • North St. Paul • Oak Park Heights • Oakdale • Orono • Osseo • Plymouth • Prior Lake • Ramsey • Robbinsdale • Roseville • Savage • Shoreview • Shorewood • South St. Paul • Spring Park • St. Anthony • St. Bonifacius • St. Louis Park • St. Paul • St. Paul Park • Stillwater • Tonka Bay • Vadnais Heights • Waconia • Wayzata • West St. Paul • White Bear Township • Woodbury



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Regional Parks and Trails Bonding Program

Regional Parks and Trails

$1 million

- Matched with $667,000 in regional funds to improve regional parks and trails
- 100% of funds passed through to the ten regional park implementing agencies
- Critical investments distributed across the region

Regional Parks & Trails System

Regional Parks

46 open to the public (2025)
1 planned
1 park boundary adjustment
6 search areas

Park Reserves

12 open to the public (2025)
1 planned

Special Features

8 open to the public (2025)
1 location siting multiple unique bridging facilities

Regional Parks, Park Reserves, and Special Features

Over 60,000 acres open to the public
8,170 acres planned
3,586 acres of search areas

Regional Trails

56 open to the public (2025)
• 487 miles total

16 planned
• 332 miles total

48 search corridors
• 518 miles

Regional Parks & Trails System

The region's parks and trails:

- Connect people to the outdoors right in our own backyards
- Protect natural resources
- Make sure everyone in the region has access and feels welcomed
- 58 regional parks and park reserves + 8 special recreation features
- Over 65,000 acres of land protected
- Nearly 500 miles of interconnected trails
- Nearly 66 million visits in 2024

Breakdown by Agency

Regional Park Implementing Agency	Amount*
Anoka County	$159,908
Bloomington	$38,951
Carver County	$60,119
Dakota County	$185,327
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	$341,397
Ramsey County	$137,036
Saint Paul	$181,892
Scott County	$72,331
Three Rivers Park District	$373,595
Washington County	$116,111
Total State Bond ($1m) + Met Council Match ($667k)	**$1,666,667**

*Amounts are estimates as of 2025 and would be updated as additional data for the distribution formula is available

Robin Hutcheson

Chair, Metropolitan Council

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