

Watertown City Council

Date: January 13, 2026

Agenda Item: Minnesota DNR Local Trail Connection (LTC) Grant Opportunity**Request for Action: Authorization to Prepare and Submit a DNR LTC Grant****Department: Engineering, Philip Schrupp****Background:**

City Staff has identified the Old Mill Park Trail—connecting the Luce Line State Trail to County Road 10/Territorial Street—as a priority improvement segment due to its ongoing deterioration and rising maintenance needs. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is scheduled to reconstruct the Luce Line Bridge during the winter of 2026/2027, and the Old Mill Park trail segment will serve as an important access connection for that project. Coordinating the City's trail rehabilitation with this state-led improvement presents an opportunity for shared benefit and improved long-term infrastructure performance.

The Minnesota DNR Local Trail Connections (LTC) Grant Program provides funding to support short, meaningful trail links between residential areas and significant public resources, including parks and regional/state trails. The program supports both acquisition and development of trail facilities, provided the resulting trail connection is immediately available for public use.

This grant aligns directly with the City's goals for accessible, connected trail systems and supports long-term reinvestment in community recreation infrastructure.

Grant Funding:

- Up to 75% reimbursement of eligible costs
- Max award = \$250,000
- Minimum local match = 25%
- Reimbursement occurs after project costs are incurred and under contract with the DNR

Funding Priority Criteria:

- Projects offering significant connectivity
- Projects connecting underserved populations
- Links to state/regional trail systems or high-value public amenities

Project Description:

The project involves the full reconstruction of the Old Mill Park Trail to restore its structural integrity, enhance user safety, and provide a durable, long-term connection between residential neighborhoods and the regional trail system. While the total project cost will be further refined during the grant application process, current estimates indicate that the grant application preparation and preliminary engineering efforts will total approximately \$5,000.

Project Schedule:

The overall project delivery schedule for the Old Mill Park trail Project is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| March 11, 2026: | LTC Application Feedback Deadline |
| March 31, 2026: | LTC Application Deadline |
| Summer 2026: | LTC Award / Rejection Announcement |
| Winter 2026/2027: | Final Project Scope and Plans based on Award/Rejection |
| Summer 2027: | Construction of Final Project Scope Based on Above |

Staff is recommending authorization to submit a grant application for the DNR LTC.

Budget Impact:

- Estimated Eligible Project Cost; max \$250,000
- LTC Grant (75%)
- Local Contribution (25%)

Note: This project is not currently funded in the Capital Improvement Plan

Recommendation:

Staff recommends authorizing preparation of the LTC grant application for the Old Mill Park Trail.

Motion Type:

Simple majority vote of members present.

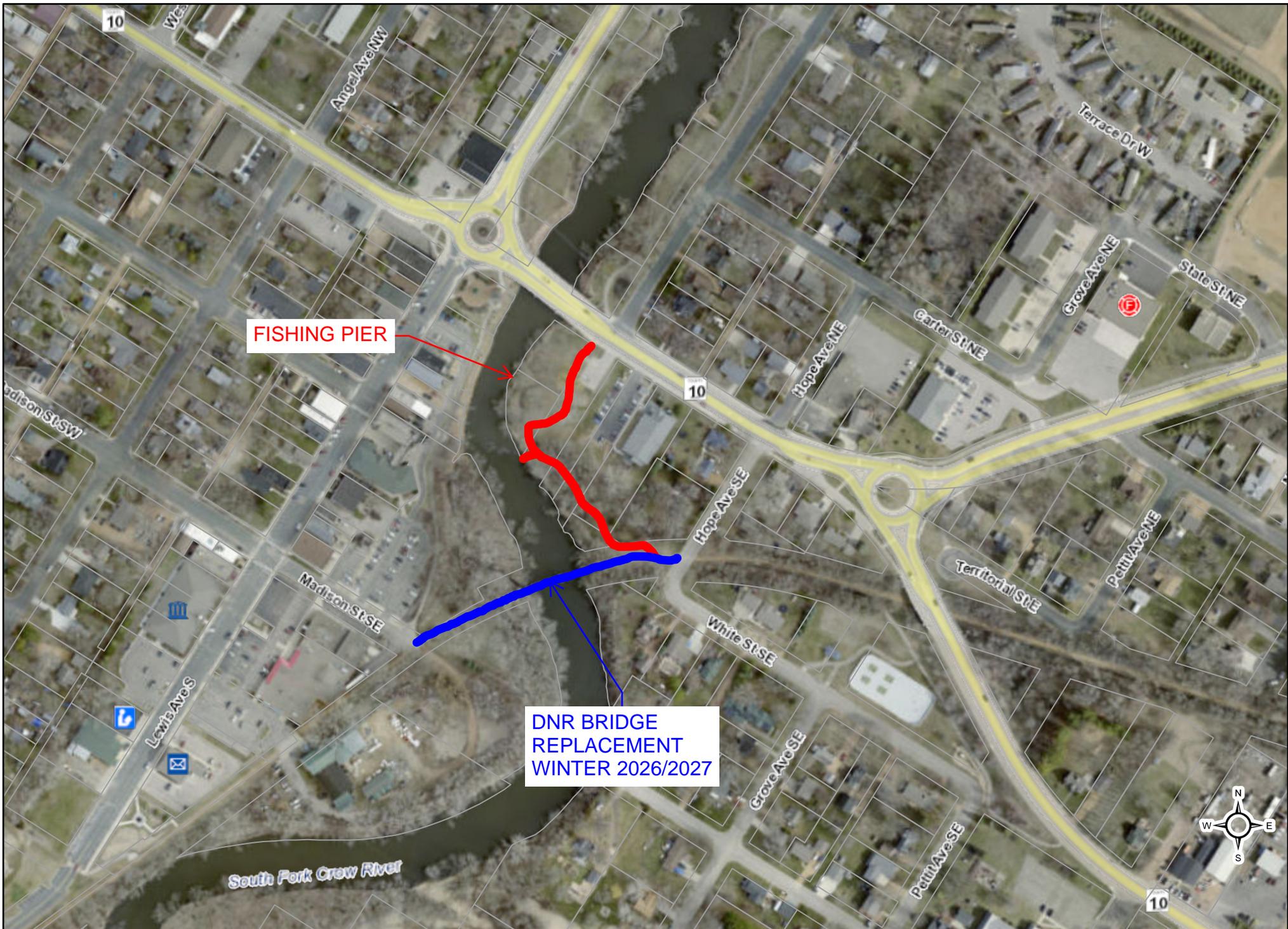
Requested Action/Motion:

"I move to authorize preparation of the DNR – Local Trail Connection LRIP grant application for the Old Mill Park project."

Attachments:

Old Mill Park Trail Location Map

Old Mill Park Trail - Photos



FISHING PIER

DNR BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT
WINTER 2026/2027

This map was created using Carver County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS), it is a compilation of information and data from various City, County, State, and Federal offices. This map is not a surveyed or legally recorded map and is intended to be used as a reference. Carver County is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.

Map Date: 11/4/2025





