



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Board of Managers

**From:** Anna Brown

**Date:** October 22, 2018

**Re:** Policy and Planning Committee Item 4.2: Western Growth Area

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### **Purpose:**

At the October 25, 2018 Policy and Planning Committee Meeting, staff will provide an update on the partnership between the City of Victoria and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to collaboratively plan for future land use in the western growth area of Victoria. This memo summarizes the goals of this planning effort and provides background information to facilitate that discussion.

### **Background:**

In the winter of 2018, the District contracted with Hoisington Koegler Group (HKGi) to work with the District and City of Victoria to evaluate opportunities to integrate water and natural resources with land use planning as part of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan update.

This planning effort has focused on the western growth area, a 1,500 acre area just west of the City's current municipal boundary. The City is party to an orderly annexation agreement with the Chaska and Waconia, which provides for each City's expansion into Laketown Township. Through the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, Victoria is guiding land use in this future development corridor to provide for anticipated population growth in the City. This presents a unique opportunity for both City and District to identify natural resource protection and restoration strategies at the front end of development to reduce future conflict between the built and natural environment.

The western growth area is of strategic interest to the District as it encompasses extensive water resources and several priority areas for capital investment as identified in the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Subwatershed Plan. Both City and District recognize the value of early coordination in development planning, and have endeavored to proactively engage in planning for this area so as to anticipate regulatory challenges, propose growth that is congruous with the landscape, maximize development patterns for City and County infrastructure including stormwater

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facilities, right of way, and parks, trails and open space, provide clarity and early coordination for future developers, and program natural resource investment in the area. This coordinated effort may serve as a model for proactive engagement with growing municipalities and for land use water integration through deliberate planning.

**Summary:**

District staff have been working with HKGi, City staff, and the City of Victoria’s comprehensive plan steering committee to evaluate opportunities to protect and restore natural resources within the western growth area while accommodating the City’s growth and development. Further, utilizing “greenway” planning as the organizing framework for the area prioritizes water resources, habitat connections, and recreational trail connectivity, meeting shared goals of both the City and District.

At the October 25, 2018 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting, staff will provide an update on the western growth area planning work. We will discuss:

- Goals of the western growth area planning process
- Key features of the western growth area analysis
- Preliminary feedback from the comprehensive plan steering committee
- Next steps in the western growth area, including:
  - Incorporating the work in the City’s comprehensive plan
  - Process for carrying the work beyond the Comprehensive Plan into implementation

If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact: Anna Brown at (952) 641-4522 or [abrown@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:abrown@minnehahacreek.org).

**Attachments:**

- Western Growth Area Map

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# City of Victoria Western Growth Area

