



2026 City Council Goals



Center: Mayor Erik Skogquist

Councilmembers: Heather Rostad, Brent Campbell, Jeff Weaver, and Sam Scott



2026 Goals Session
February 9, 2026

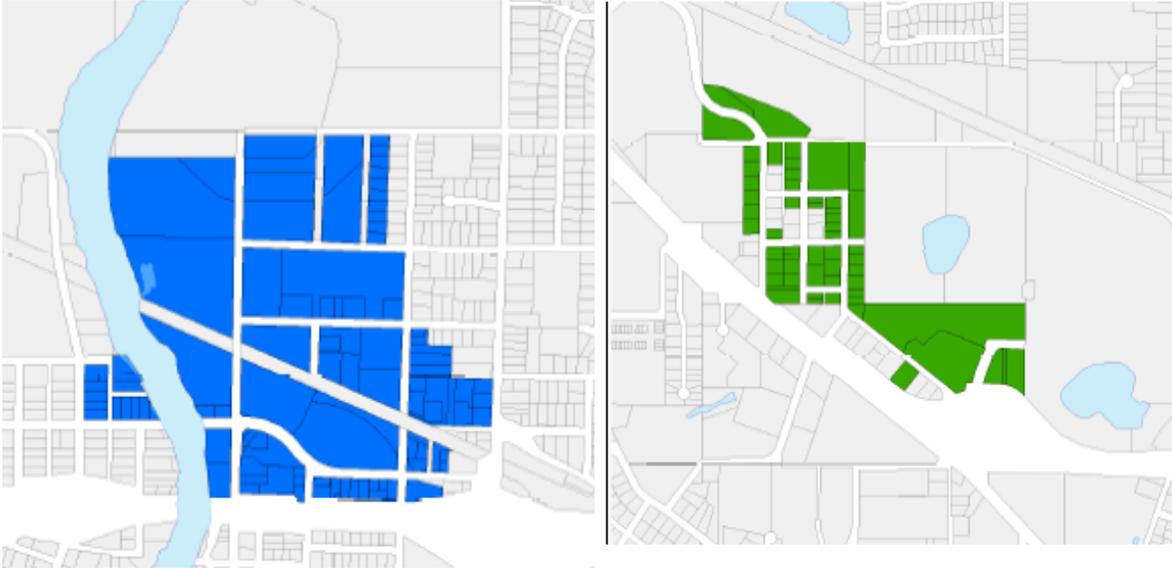


Mayor Erik Skogquist | *2026 Goals*



Goal 1: Reduce financial burden on Anoka Taxpayers

- Find efficiencies within city departments and charge reasonable user fees for some non-core services.



Tax Increment Financing Districts



Goal 1: Reduce financial burden on Anoka Taxpayers

- Grow the tax base via vacant land sales and through redevelopment.



Goal 1: Reduce financial burden on Anoka Taxpayers

- Open municipal dispensary location while exploring additional options.



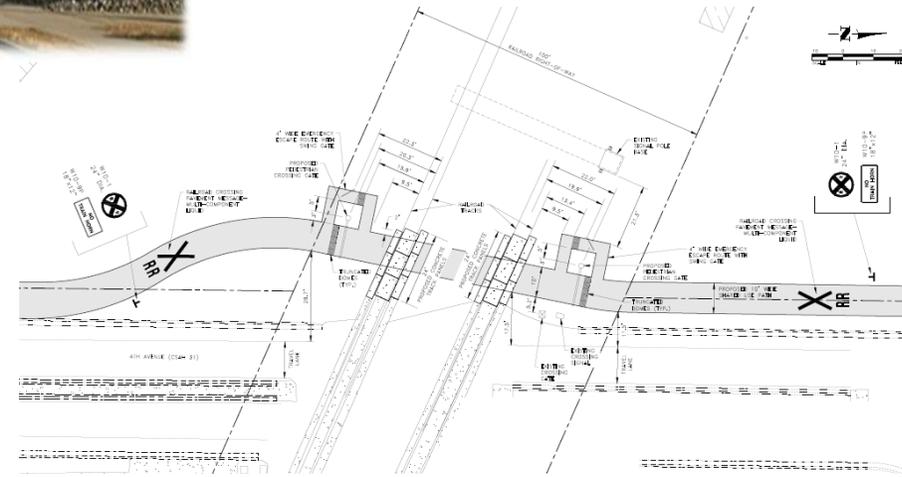
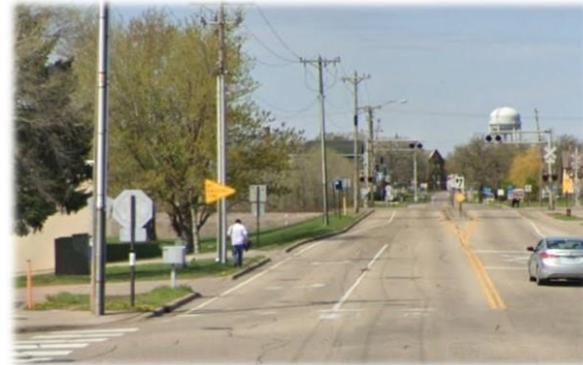
Goal 2: Address public safety and health issues with the introduction of a city-based social worker

- Address issues of homelessness, mental health, and addiction proactively.
- Free up Anoka Police to focus on their core mission and training.
- Pay for the position with new revenue other than property taxes.



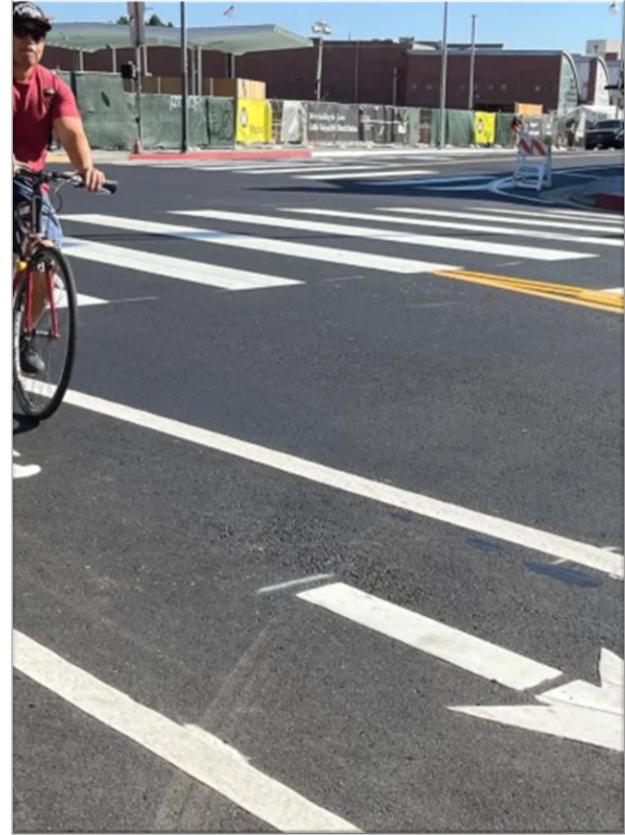
Goal 3: Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for an upgraded jail.

- Address issues with releasing inmates in downtown Anoka.
- The scale and scope of a facility in any location that is agreed to should fit with its surroundings.



Goal 4: Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.

➤ Construct missing trail segment on 4th Ave and railroad tracks.

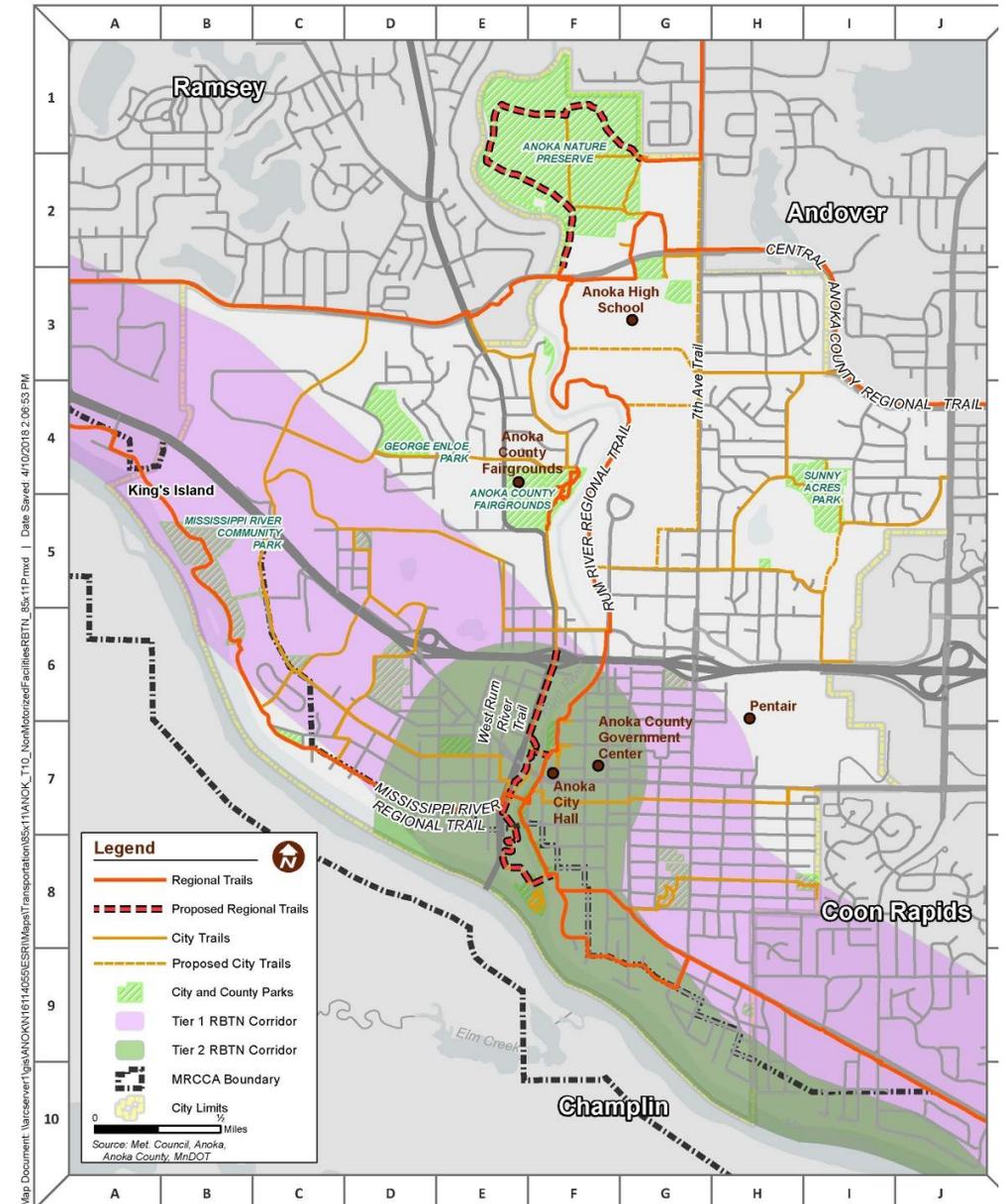


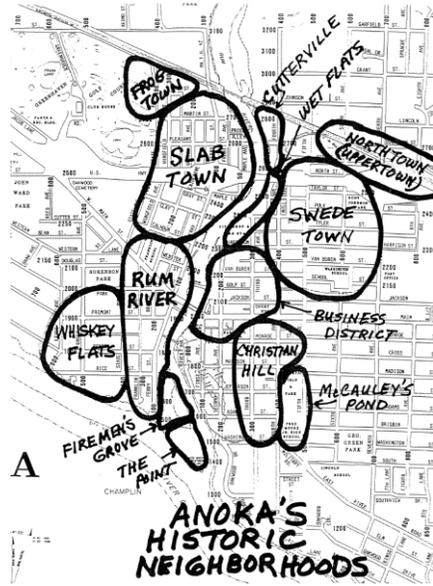
Goal 4: Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation

- Stripe on-street bike lanes where practicable (e.g. Garfield, 4th Ave).

Goal 4: Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.

➤ Increase sidewalk and trail connections on primary and secondary roads and to parks and schools.





Goal 5: Finally implement infill standards so new construction blends with neighborhoods not redefines them.

- Single family areas should be protected and complimentary home and uses should be the focus.
- Certain development types and styles (townhouses, modern style like split levels) should be limited in the core historic neighborhoods (Christian Hills, Slab Town, Sweede Town, Whiskey Flats).
- Have HPC and Planning Commission continue to identify zones to focus on first, then create overlay standards based on criteria in our existing ordinances or other cities.



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Councilmember Brent Campbell | *2026 Goals*

Goal 1: Continued focus on the sale and development of City-owned properties including: 7th & Main St., 7th & Bunker, 2nd & VanBuren, and the sale or lease of the Miller Building parcel/property.





Goal 2: A Second Canine for the Police Department

Goal 3: Establish a “Community Center Task Force” made up of community members, business and corporate reps, city reps, and ARAA reps to explore the possibility of a future community center/indoor athletic center similar to the new Community Center in Rogers. This task force would report back in 12-18 months with possible location(s), partners, and scope of a new community center, and ideas for funding sources.



Goal 4: Promote an Amtrak Empire Builder stop and Borealis line stop in Anoka.



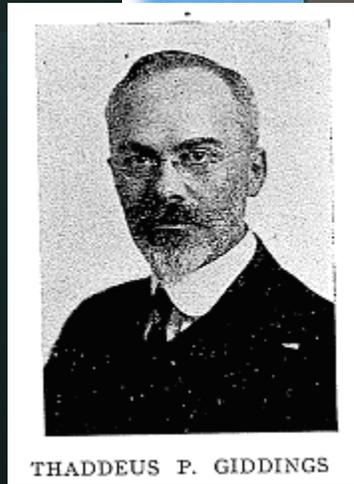
Goal 5: Finalize improvements/renovations at Green Haven and plans for the Driving Range.



Goal 6:
Improvements to the Municipal Liquor Store; i.e. signage to change the name to “Anoka Wine & Spirits” indicating that it is a City-owned store and spruce up the exterior with new paint, etc.



Goal 7: Highlight Anoka's "Hidden History" with story boards along the West Rum River Trail for important figures from Anoka's History, such as: Anna Arnold Hedgeman, Thaddeus Giddings, J.W. Wells, and several others.



Anoka County in the Civil War 1861-1865



Aaron Greenwald
Eight Minnesota Infantry

Anoka County's involvement in the Civil War began when Aaron Greenwald volunteered to defend the Union, but he was not the only soldier from the county. At least 305 men registered Anoka County as their home when they enlisted in the Union Army. Of these 305, 40 served in the First Minnesota Infantry or Battalion. The soldiers of Company A of the 8th Minnesota Infantry, with at least 72 men, were primarily from Anoka County. This unit patrolled the frontier before going south, their enlistment coming at the time of the Dakota Conflict of 1862.



Albert Woodbury
Eight Minnesota Infantry

The Second Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery was recruited heavily from Anoka County as its lieutenant, Albert Woodbury, was one of the first investors in both St. Francis and Anoka. More men from Anoka County served in this unit than from any other county in the state. Woodbury lost his life from wounds received at Chickamauga. Two cavalry units, the First Regiment of Mounted Rangers and Hatch's Battalion, had significant representation from Anoka County as well.



John Jones
Eight Minnesota Infantry

The one heavy artillery unit Minnesota offered to the Union had 27 Anoka County men serving in it.



John Jones
First Minnesota Infantry

As the war went on, a military draft was instituted. Anoka County communities were assigned specific numbers of men to provide to the army or face the "unpleasantness" of a draft. Every time the call went out for more troops, men stepped forward to volunteer. There was no draft in Anoka County as the quotas were met with volunteers - "and three over" according to an 1864 newspaper article.



Albert Woodbury
Second Minnesota Battery of Artillery

The Homestead Act made it easier for a veteran to obtain government land. Anoka County became home to some 400 former soldiers as the war ended, and they settled down to tame the county. These men organized into Grand Army of the Republic posts, opened the only Minnesota home for the wives, mothers, and sisters of veterans on West Main Street in Anoka, and became active in the foundation of the communities found on Anoka County maps today.



George Lindstrom
Eight Minnesota Infantry



Company A of the Eight Minnesota Infantry standing in front of the mill and store located on West Main Street in Anoka. The bridge in the photo is the Main Street Bridge over the Rum River.



ANOKA
Heritage
Preservation
Commission



DAR
Daughters of the
American Revolution

Goal 8: Fiscal responsibility and budgeting for 2027 that includes needed capital improvements and projects.

BUDGET



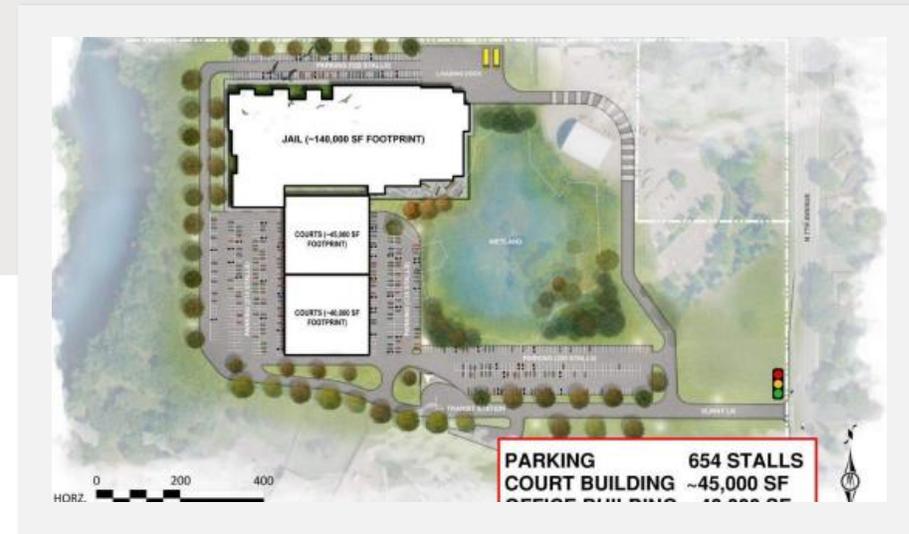


2026 Goals Session
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Councilmember Heather Rostad | *2026 Goals*

➤ **Goal 1:** Public Safety
Feasible Jail Solution for City/County Collaborate with
State/County leaders to either:



- Reduce current proposed option size
- Find alternate site in the county



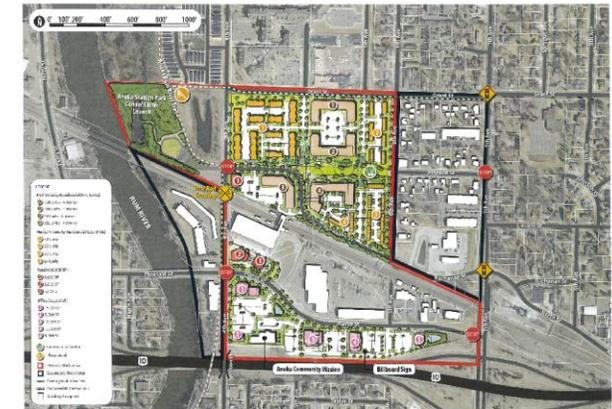
Goal 1: Public Safety

1.2 Invest in staff, resources, training and infrastructure that maintains Anoka's commitment to citizen safety

Goal 2: Fiscal

2.1 Continue City Fiscal Responsibility by:

- Prioritizing TIF property sales
- Create a new vision and/or revised comprehensive plan for TOD
- Lease Miller Manufacturing Building





Goal 2: Fiscal
2.2 Support and Invest in
Enterprise Endeavors

- Municipal Liquor Store
- Cannabis Dispensary
- Green Haven Golf Course
- Anoka Aquatic Center

Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Youth connections on City Boards & Commissions
- Partnership with local high school student leaders to give voice and experience in city government





Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Amplify Social District
Family / Parks /
Community Impact /
Accessibility



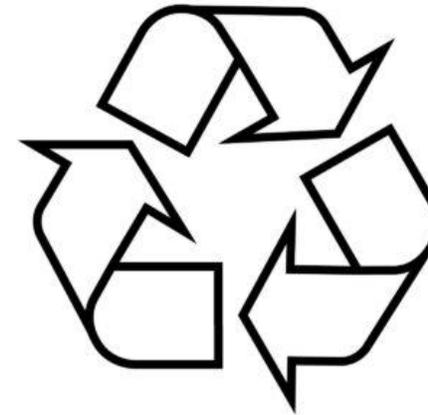
Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Identify additional “Third Places” growth and development-bring to community and determine what ideas they may want to see explored (Trinity Episcopal Church, Senior Center)?



Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- Explore reusable cups for Anoka Social District
- Encourage innovative thinking around city waste reduction (recycling cigarette butts, organics).



Goal 4: City Institutions

- Identify Measurement Strategies (population accountability or performance accountability)
- What are current issues that the city would like to analyze/measure?
- Are there current metrics/data that is of concern to city staff/public?
- How can we increase communicating successes to city residents? Elevate and highlight the great work that the city staff does?





2026 Goals Session
February 9, 2026



Councilmember Sam Scott | *2026 Goals*



Goal 1: Develop a responsible City budget

- a. Budget and plan for opportunities that extend lifespan and maintain/improve city infrastructure.
 - Encourage multi-modal transport options by adding more bike racks, striping for bicycles where appropriate, and adding charging capabilities for e-bikes and e-scooters where appropriate.
 - Reserve dedicated monies for the eventual replacement of city assets (playgrounds, buildings, roads, etc.)
 - Accounts for minimum service requirements for citizens of Anoka



Goal 1: Develop a responsible City budget

b. Explore meaningful opportunities to diversify revenue streams that lifts the collective weight off our neighbors' shoulders by easing the tax burden

- Cannabis delivery, expansion
- Better Values Liquor store



Goal 2: Develop city protocols that promote local development and growth of citizenry and business development, and non-profit development.

- When considering business proposals, ensure consideration for local growth (incubation of our small businesses) when possible.
- Adding a non-voting youth representative on our city boards and commissions to encourage youth citizenry and engagement.



Goal 3: Continue to evaluate security and redundancy of susceptible city assets and operations and create action plans to ensure stable services.

- Work with our police, public works, and technology partners to develop actionable recommendations to ensure our power, water, and buildings have adequate security and redundancies in place to prevent potential sabotage, breakdown of equipment, and security breakdowns where feasible and appropriate.



Goal 4: Work with Anoka County counterparts to find a solution that works for both parties on the jail facility, where a downtown solution is not acceptable in its current plan from the county.





Goal 5: Enhance public amenities/infrastructure that encourage stronger community spirit.

- Continue to support and develop the Riverwalk Plan.
- Develop plans to enhance the Anoka Social District (ex. pedestrian plaza, entertainment nodes).
- Develop local parks to have a minimum amenities to accommodate local celebrations and gatherings (water fountains, shelter, waste receptacles, benches, etc.).



2026 Goals Session
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Councilmember Jeff Weaver | *2026 Goals*

Goal 1: Make sure to have a responsible budget. Finding new sources of revenue generating enterprise funds, like the golf course, to reduce the levy.



Goal 2: Creating new development opportunities by selling non-tax generating city-owned properties, especially the Miller building, the corner of 7th & Main St., and 2nd Ave, which will increase the tax base.



Goal 3: The agricultural area must be preserved if there is a façade easement in place, and a Letter of Intent with a potential long-term buyer.





Goal 4: The Rum River Dam project "**must**" include a navigational lock. The automated gates and walkway will be a safety feature extremely beneficial to our Public Works and Anoka's overall trail system. The fish passage will help the matching funding requirement, and the river surfing, if possible, will put this use in Anoka "on the map"!

Goal 5:
Responsible
Anoka County Jail
expansion in the
City of Anoka.



Goal 6: River recreation, public safety accessibility on the water, trails and access to stone house, and a riverboat or water taxi should be a top priority! The **two rivers** are Anoka's biggest park system!



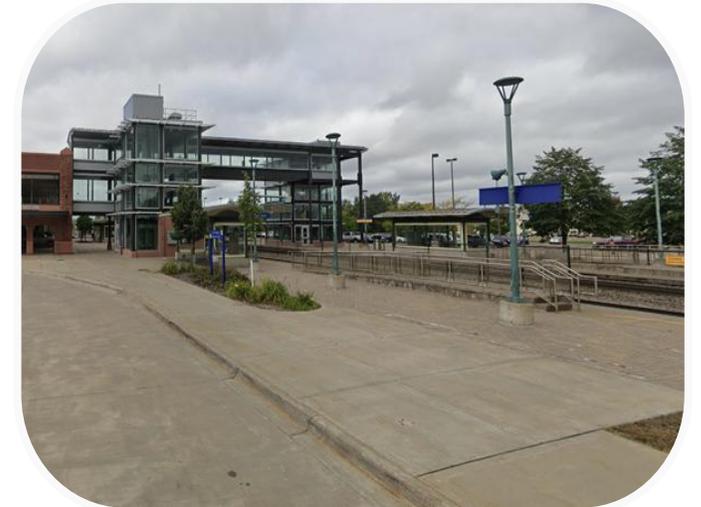
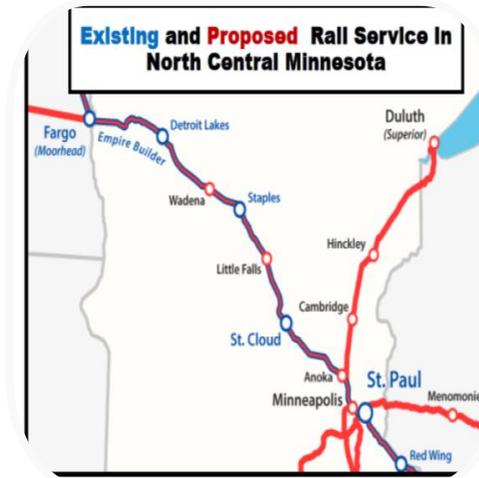
Goal 7: Continue to move forward with the golf course reconfiguration and multi-season driving range at Green Haven, if the financial analysis shows a pay back to the Anoka taxpayers.



Goal 8: Only using bonding if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy.



Goal 9: Supporting the transition of the Northstar train station to an Amtrak/Borealis train station in 2026. This will bring new interest and energy to the City of Anoka TOD development area.



2026 Goals - Common Themes

**Economic
Development
& Fiscal
Responsibility**

**Public Safety
& Community
Well-being**

**Community
Engagement
& Quality of Life**

**Transportation
& Connectivity**

**Infrastructure and
City Assets**

**Measurement
& Communication**



2026 Goals – Major Shared and Secondary

Major Shared Goals

**Economic
Development
& Fiscal
Responsibility**

**Anoka County Jail
Solution**

**Redevelopment of
City-owned
Properties**

**Improving Public
Safety / Community
Well-Being**

Secondary Goals

**Multimodal
Transportation**

**Improving
Community
Amenities**
(parks, trails, enterprise)



2026 Goals

Economic Development & Fiscal Responsibility

Economic
Development &
Fiscal
Responsibility

- Develop responsible city budget
 - ❑ Budget and plan for opportunities that extend lifespan and maintain/improve city infrastructure
 - ❑ Explore meaningful opportunities to diversify revenue streams that lifts the collecting weight off our neighbors' shoulders by easing the tax burden
 - ❑ Make sure to have a responsible budget. Finding new sources of revenue generating enterprise funds, like the golf course, to reduce the levy.
 - ❑ Develop city protocols that promote local development and growth of citizenry and business development, and non-profit development.
- Only use bonding if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy.
- Citizen Engagement – Identify additional “Third Places” growth and development-bring to community and determine what ideas they may want to see explored (Trinity Episcopal Church, Senior Center)?



2026 Goals

Economic Development & Fiscal Responsibility

Economic
Development &
Fiscal
Responsibility

- When considering business proposals, ensure consideration for local growth (incubation of our small businesses) when possible.
- Reserve dedicated monies for the eventual replacement of city assets (playgrounds, buildings, roads, etc.).
- Only using bonding if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy.
- Maximizing revenue from enterprise funds.



2026 Goals

Anoka County Jail Solution

Anoka County Jail Solution

- Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for the upgraded jail.
 - Address issues with releasing inmates in downtown Anoka
 - The scale and scope of a facility in any new location that is agreed to should fit with its surroundings



2026 Goals

Redevelopment of City-owned Properties

Redevelopment
of City-owned
Properties

- Continued focus on sale and development of city-owned properties including: 7th & Main St., 7th & Bunker, 2nd & VanBuren, and the sale or lease of the Miller building parcel/property. Create new development opportunities by selling non-tax generating city-owned properties, especially the Miller building, and the corner of 7th & Main St., and 2nd Ave. which will increase the tax base.
- Agricultural Area - must be preserved if there is a façade easement in place, and a Letter of Intent with a potential long-term buyer.



2026 Goals

Improving Public Safety/Community Well-being

Improving
Public Safety /
Community
Well-being

- Address public safety and health issues with the introduction of a city-based social worker.
- Invest in staff, resources, training and infrastructure that maintains Anoka's commitment to citizen safety.
- Continue to evaluate security and redundancy of susceptible city assets and operations and create action plans to ensure stable services.
 - Work with Police, Public Works, and technology partners to develop actionable recommendations to ensure our power, water, and buildings have adequate security and redundancies in place to prevent potential sabotage, breakdown of equipment, and security breakdowns where feasible and appropriate.
- A second canine for the Police Department.



2026 Secondary Goals

Multimodal Transportation

Multimodal Transportation

- Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.
 - Construct missing trail segment on 4th Ave and railroad tracks.
 - Plan for a trail between Garfield and Bunker Lake Blvd. on west side of 7th Ave.
 - Strip on-street bike lanes where practicable (e.g. Garfield, 4th Ave).
 - Increase sidewalk and trail connections on primary and secondary roads and to parks and schools.
- Amtrak/Borealis
 - Supporting the transition of the Northstar train to an Amtrak/Borealis train station in 2026. This will bring new interest and energy to the City of Anoka TOD area.
 - Promote Amtrak Empire Builder stop and Borealis line stop in Anoka.
- Encourage multimodal transport options by adding more bike racks, striping for bicycles where appropriate, and adding charging capabilities for e-bikes and e-scooters where appropriate.



2026 Secondary Goals

Improving Community Amenities

Improving
Community
Amenities

(parks, trails, enterprise)

- Green Haven Golf Course
 - Finalize improvements/renovations at Green Haven and plans for the driving range.
 - Continue to move forward with the golf course reconfiguration and multi-season driving range at Green Haven, if the financial analysis shows a pay back to the Anoka taxpayers.
- Infill Standards
 - Implement so new construction blends with neighborhoods not redefines them.
 - Single family areas should be protected and complimentary home and uses should be the focus.
 - Certain development types and styles (townhouses, modern, etc.) should be limited in core historic neighborhoods (Christian Hills, Slab Town, Swede Town, Whiskey Flats).



2026 Secondary Goals

Improving Community Amenities

Improving
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(parks, trails, enterprise)

- Rum River Dam Project
 - “Must” include a navigational lock.
 - The automated gates and walkway will be a safety feature extremely beneficial to our Public Works and Anoka’s overall trail system.
 - The fish passage will help the matching funding requirement
 - Micro-hydro
 - River surfing, if possible, will put this use in Anoka “on the map”!
- River Recreation
 - River recreation, public safety accessibility on the water, trails and access to the stone house, and a riverboard or water taxi should be a top priority! The *two rivers* are Anoka’s biggest park system!
 - West Rum River Trail River Walk
- Public Amenities/Infrastructure
 - Continue to support and development the Riverwalk plan.
 - Develop plans to enhance Anoka Social District (ex. pedestrian plaza, entertainment nodes).
 - Development local parks to have a minimum amenities to accommodate local celebrations and gatherings (water fountains, shelter, waste receptacles, benches, etc.)



2026 Secondary Goals

Improving Community Amenities

Improving
Community
Amenities

(parks, trails, enterprise)

- Community Center
 - Work into the 2050 Comprehensive Plan.
- Anoka Social District
 - Amplify Social District family/parks/community impact/accessibility.
 - Explore reusable cups for Anoka Social District.
 - Encourage innovative thinking around city waste reduction (recycling, cigarette butts, organics).
- Municipal Liquor Store
 - Improvements i.e. signage to change the name to “Anoka Wine & Spirits” indicating that it is a city-owned store and spruce up the exterior with new paint, etc.
- Anoka’s “Hidden History”
 - Highlight with story boards along the West Rum River rail for important figures from Anoka’s history, such as: Anna Arnold Hedgeman, Thaddeus Giddings, J.W. Wells, and several others.



2026 Secondary Goals

Improving Community Amenities

Improving
Community
Amenities

(parks, trails, enterprise)

- Youth Representatives
 - Adding a non-voting your representative on our City Boards and Commissions to encourage youth citizenry and engagement.
 - Youth connections on City Boards & Commissions. Partnership with local high school student leaders to give voice and experience in city government.
- City Institutions
 - Identify Measurement Strategies (population accountability or performance accountability).
 - What current issues that the city would like to analyze/measure?
 - Are there current metrics/data that is of concern to city staff/public?
 - How can we increase communicating successes to city residents? Elevate and highlight the great work that the city staff does?





2026-2027 CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Primary Goals

Economic Development & Fiscal Responsibility

- Develop a responsible city budget.
- Only use bonding if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy.
- Citizen engagement – identify “third places” growth and development.
- When considering business proposals, ensure consideration for local growth when possible.
- Reserve dedicated monies for eventual replacement of city assets.
- Maximize revenue from enterprise funds.

Anoka County Jail Solution

- Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for the upgraded jail.
- Address issues with releasing inmates.
- The scale and scope of a facility in any new location that is agreed to should fit with its surroundings.

Redevelopment of City-owned Properties

- Continued focus on sale and development of city-owned properties including: 7th & Main St., 7th & Bunker, 2nd & VanBuren, and sale or lease of the Miller building.
- Agricultural Area – must be preserved if there is a façade easement in place, and a Letter of Intent with a potential long-term buyer.

Improving Public Safety / Community Well Being

- Address public safety and health issues with the introduction of a city-based social worker.
- Invest in staff, resources, training and infrastructure that maintains Anoka’s commitment to citizen safety.
- Continue to evaluate security and redundancy of susceptible city assets and operations and create action plans to ensure stable services.
- A second canine for the Anoka Police Department.

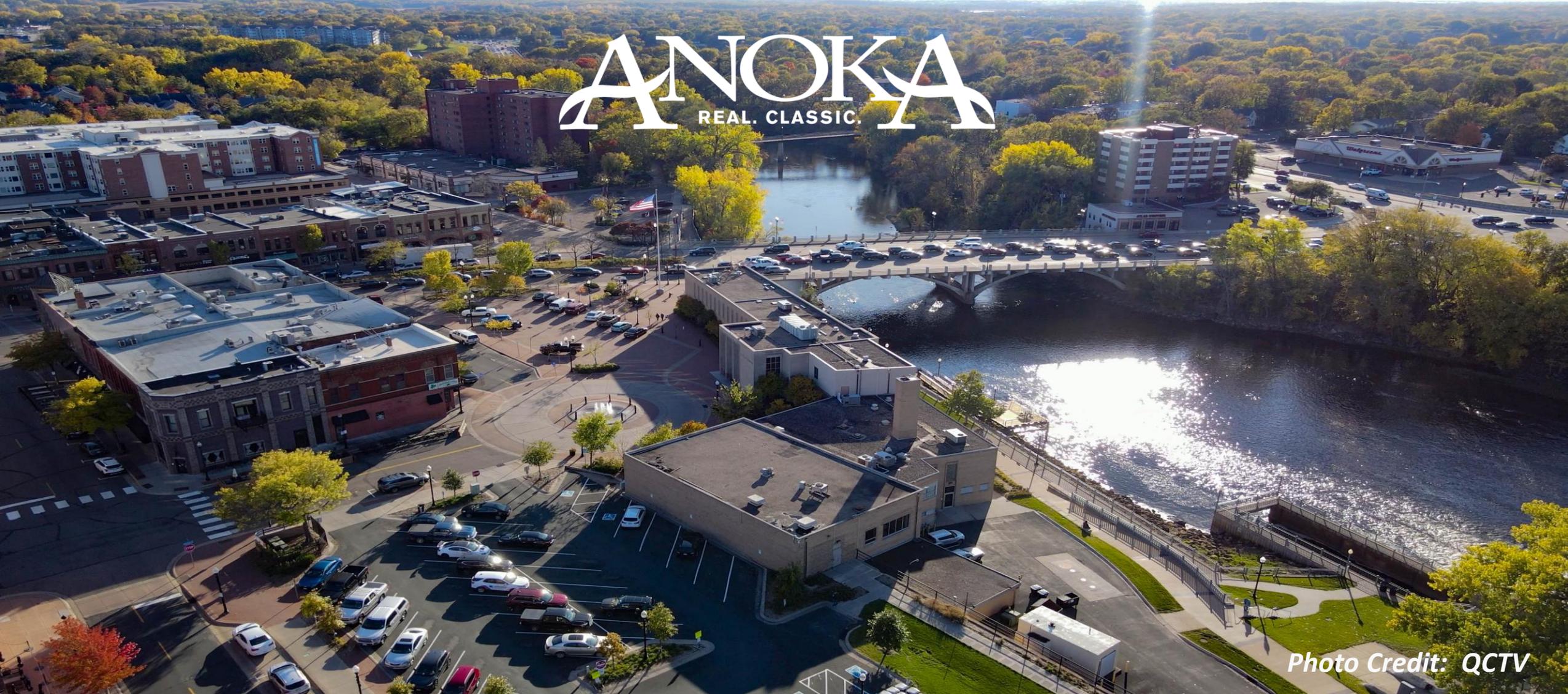
Secondary Goals

Multimodal Transportation

- Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.
- Support transition of Northstar train to an Amtrak/Borealis train station in 2026.
- Encourage multimodal transport options by adding more bike racks, striping for bicycles where appropriate, and adding charging capabilities for e-bikes and e-scooters where appropriate.

Improving Community Amenities / Other

- Green Haven Golf Course Improvements / Renovations
- Implement Infill Standards
- Rum River Dam Project
- River Recreation & Rum River Trail Walk
- Public Amenities/Infrastructure
- Community Center
- Anoka Social District
- Municipal Liquor Store
- Hidden History
- Youth Representation
- City Institutions

An aerial photograph of Anoka, Minnesota, showing a river flowing through the city. A bridge with several arches spans the river. On the left side of the river, there are several multi-story brick buildings and parking lots filled with cars. On the right side, there are more buildings, including a large one with a sign that says "Walgreens". The background is filled with dense green trees. The sun is shining brightly, creating a lens flare effect in the upper right corner.

ANOKA

REAL. CLASSIC.

Photo Credit: QCTV

*A historic river city where life, work, and play
come together in a truly unique experience!
Anoka welcomes you.*