



2026 City Council Goals



Center: Mayor Erik Skogquist

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



2026 Goals Session
February 9, 2026

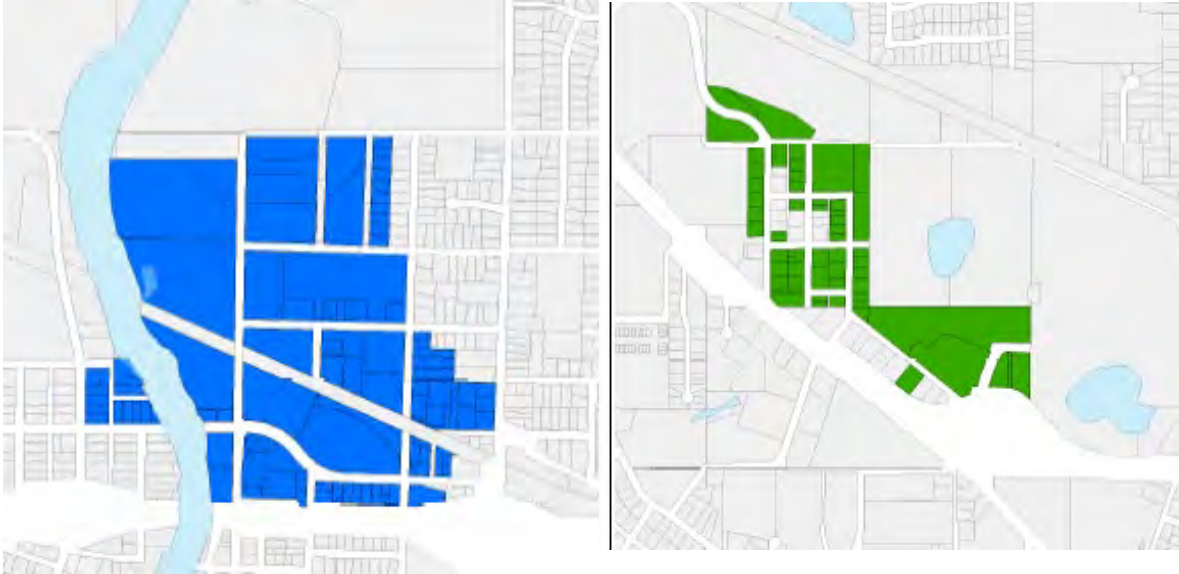


Mayor Erik Skogquist | *2026 Goals*



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.



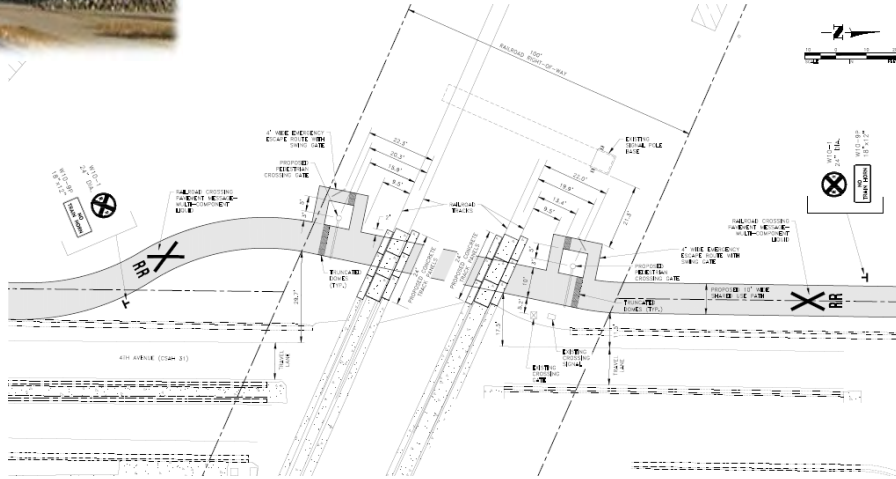
Goal 2: Address public safety and health issues with the introduction of a city-based social worker

- 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.

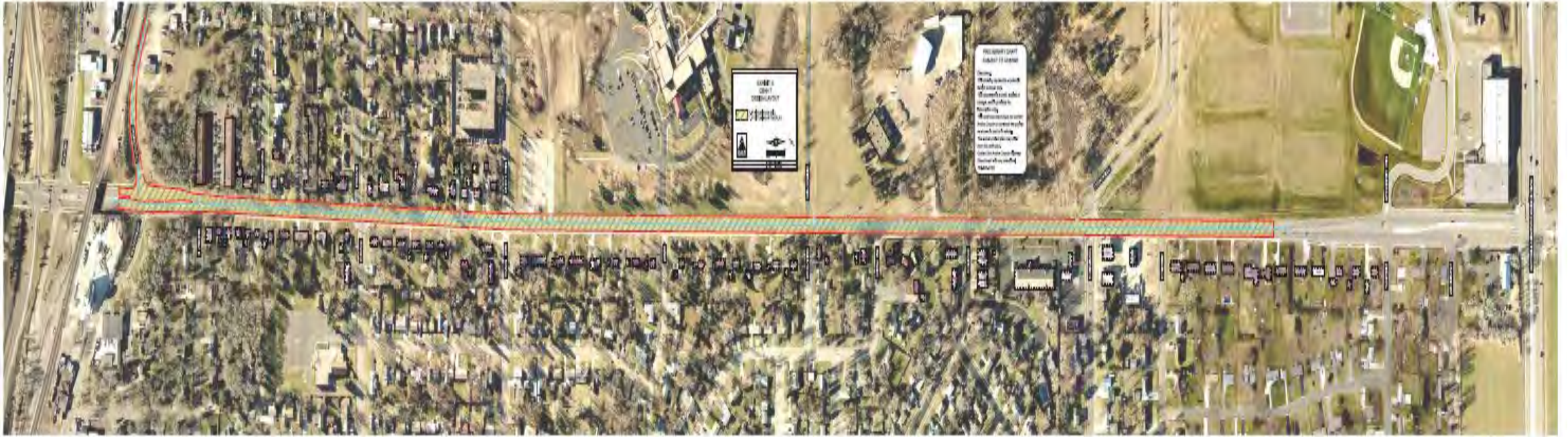


Goal 3: Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for an upgraded jail.

- 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.

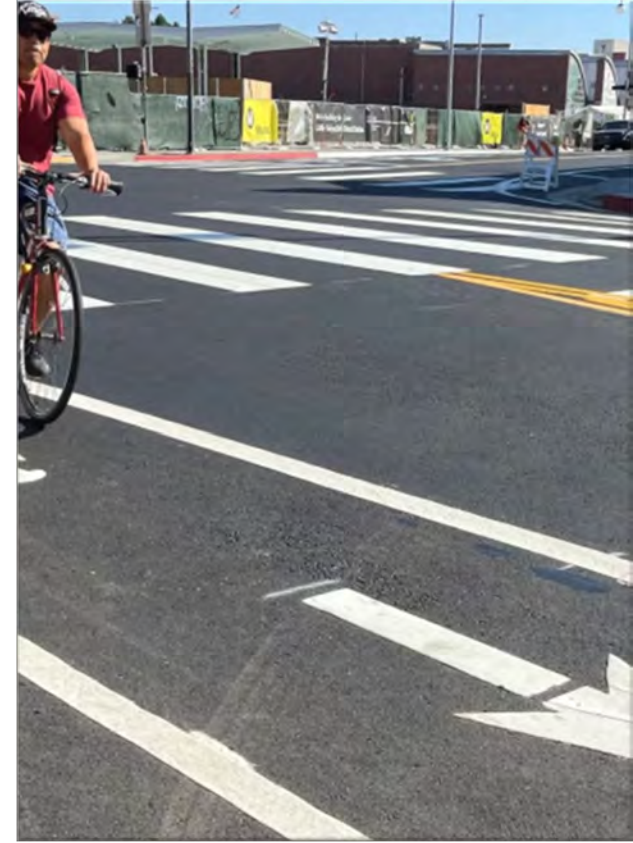


➤ Construct missing trail segment on 4th Ave and railroad tracks.



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

➤ Plan for a trail between Garfield and Bunker Lake Blvd on west side of 7th Ave.

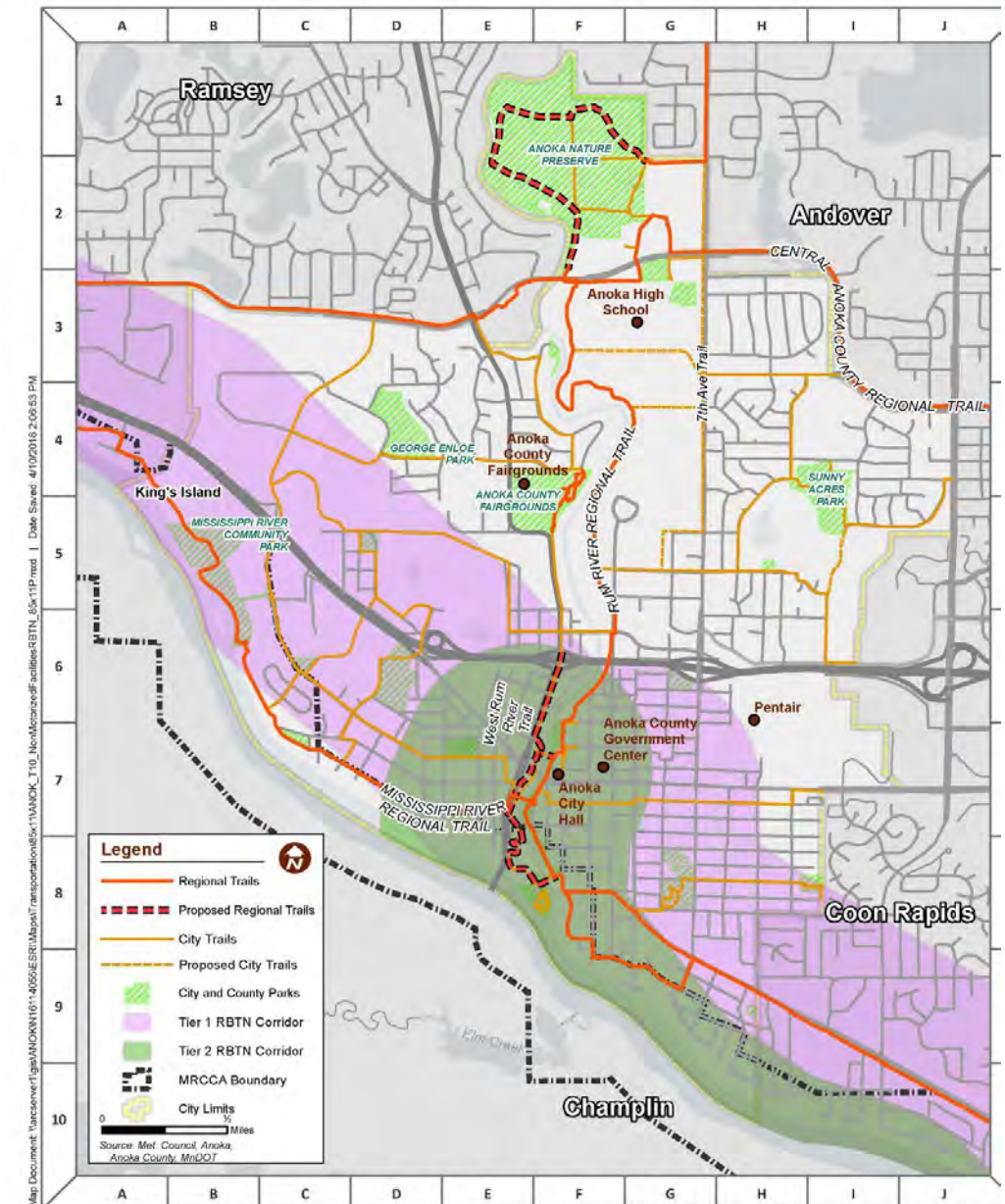


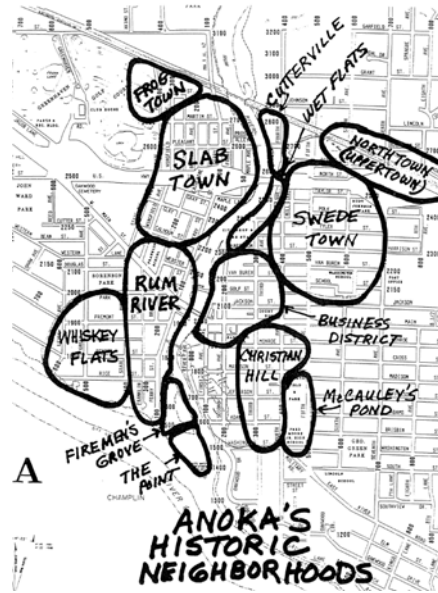
Goal 4: Adopt a plan to increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation

- 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, Swede 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.



THADDEUS P. GIDDINGS

Anoka County in the Civil War 1861-1865



Aaron Greenwald
First Minnesota Infantry



Nathan Canby
Eighth Minnesota Cavalry



John Brown
Eighth Minnesota Cavalry



George Woodbury
Eighth Minnesota Cavalry

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.

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.

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

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.

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.



John Green
First Minnesota Infantry



Albert Woodbury
Second Minnesota Battery of Artillery



George Woodbury
Second Minnesota Battery of Artillery



Illustration of a large house, showing the home of the first settler in Anoka, J.W. Wells, and his family. The house is the same as the house that stands on the West Main Street.





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





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



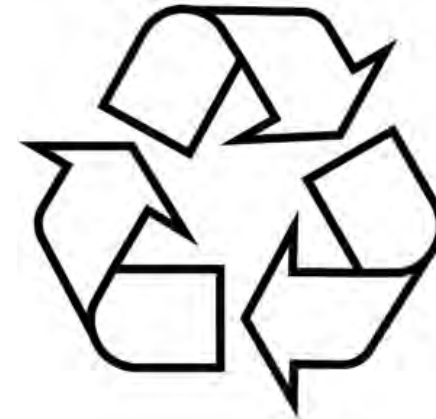
Goal 3: Citizen Engagement

- 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
February 9, 2026



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"!

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.
- Only using 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**

- 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 .
 - ☐ Pay for the position with new revenue other than property taxes.
- 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.).



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
- Feasible jail solution for City/County – collaborate with State/County leaders to either:
 - ☐ Reduce current proposed option size
 - ☐ Find alternate site in the county
- 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.
- Responsible Anoka County jail expansion in the city of Anoka.



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



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.
 - ☐ 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.
- 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.
- 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)

- 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.
- 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
Community
Amenities

(parks, trails, enterprise)

- 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!
- Agricultural Area
 - ☐ Must be preserved if there is a façade easement in place, and a Letter of Intent with a potential long-term buyer.
- Public Amenities/Infrastructure
 - ☐ Enhance to encourage stronger community spirit.
 - ☐ Continue to support and development the Riverwalk plan.
 - ☐ Develop plans to enhance the 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)

- 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
 - ☐ River surfing, if possible, will put this use in Anoka “on the map”!
- Community Center
 - ☐ 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 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.
- 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).



2026 Secondary Goals

Improving Community Amenities

Improving
Community
Amenities

(parks, trails, enterprise)

- 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.
- 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.



2026 Secondary Goals

Improving Community Amenities

Improving
Community
Amenities

(parks, trails, enterprise)

- 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?



2025-2026 CITY COUNCIL GOALS

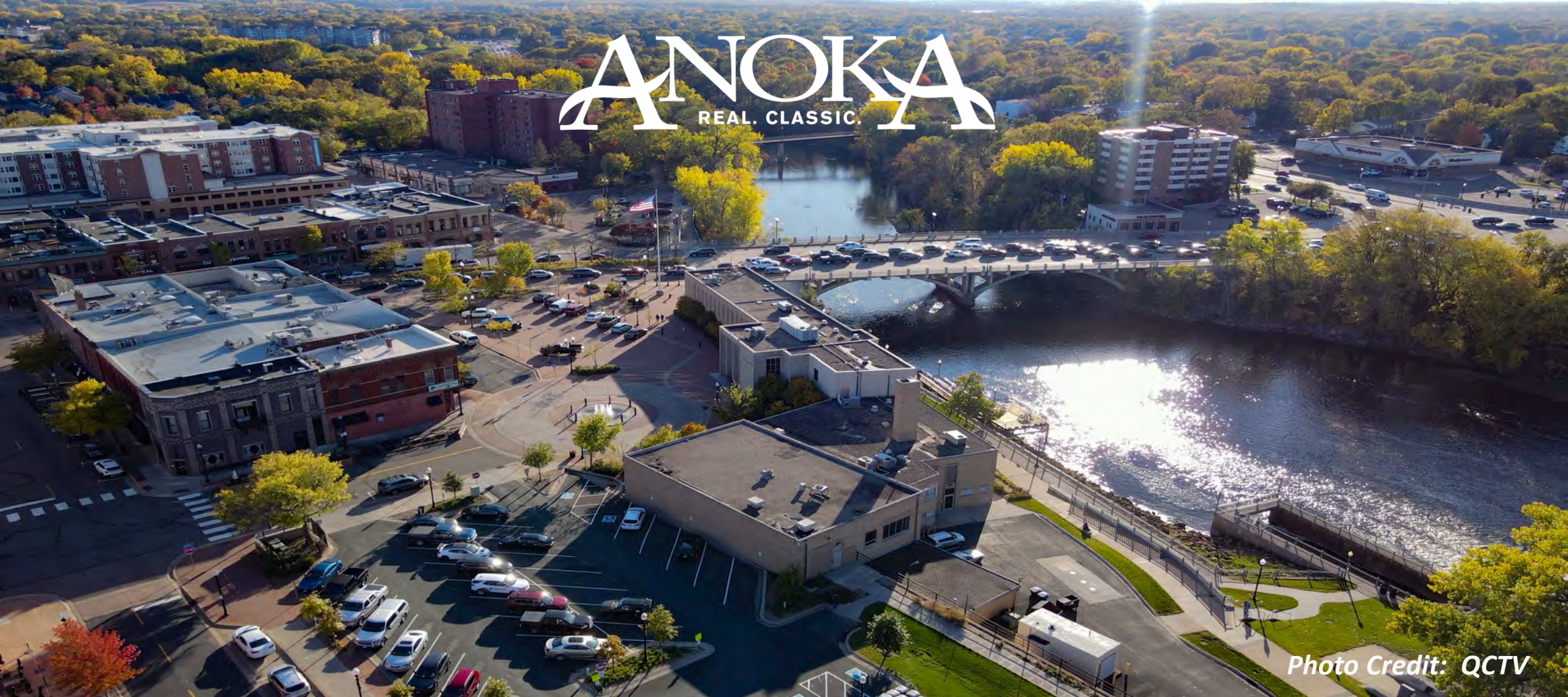


Development, Redevelopment & Housing	➤ Responsible Anoka County Jail expansion in the city of Anoka. ➤ Seek to reach a compromise plan with Anoka County for the jail expansion that preserves Anoka's historic downtown and neighborhood around the jail. ➤ Feasible jail solution for City/County; collaborate with state/county leaders to either reduce current proposed option size or find alternate site in the county. ➤ Work with Anoka County on a mutually agreeable solution for an upgraded jail; address issues with releasing inmates in downtown Anoka; scale and scope of facility in any location agreed to should fit with its surroundings. ➤ Work with Anoka County to find a solution that works for both parties on new jail facility, where a downtown solution is not acceptable in its current plan from county. ➤ Develop city protocols that promote local development and growth of citizenry and business development; considering business proposals for local growth, add non-voting youth representatives to boards and commissions.	➤ 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. ➤ Sale and development of city-owned property at 7th Ave. & Main St. ➤ Infill standards in historic neighborhoods. ➤ Begin the process of creating infill standards so new construction blends with neighborhoods, not replaces them. ➤ Progress on sale and development of city-owned land in Highland Park neighborhood. ➤ Continue to move forward with the golf course reconfiguration/closing of Garfield St., and multi-season living range at Green Haven, if the financial analysis shows a pay back to Anoka taxpayers. ➤ Explore future uses for the Miller Manufacturing property along Grant St., including feasibility as a community center. ➤ Progress of Phase I of the Transit Oriented Development.
Finances & Business Climate	➤ Have a responsible budget; find new sources of revenue, or enhance some revenue generating enterprise funds (golf course) to reduce levy. Create new development opportunities, use non-tax generating city-owned properties to increase tax base. Only do so if there is a revenue generating component which does not affect the levy. ➤ Develop a responsible city budget; plan for opportunities to generate revenue and enhance assets. ➤ Restore city to a position of financial flexibility; build back reserves, sell or develop property to fit character of Anoka, grow tax base inside TIF districts to pay back to Electric Dept. and outside of TIF to lower future level impacts to all taxpayers.	➤ Improve profitability of some "Enterprise Funds": relocate municipal liquor store, explore new business model for Green Haven, including more usage for weddings and special events, open municipal cannabis dispensary in 2025. ➤ Greater fiscal responsibility; sell property to be developed, stop using Electric Fund as internal bank, prioritize development of TIF spaces, prioritize cannabis and liquor retail opportunities, clarify and document how future purchases/developments align with long range plans, giving ample opportunity for citizen input and consideration for historical footprint; establish and implement best practices for contract review/audits on annual/biennial cycle.
Streets, Parks, Trails & Rivers	➤ Enhance public amenities, infrastructure that encourage stronger community spirit; support and develop Riverwalk plan. ➤ The Rum River Dam project "m1" includes a navigational lock. Automated gates and walkway will be a safety feature extremely beneficial to Public Works and overall trail system. Fish passage will help match funding requirement, and river signage, if possible, will put Anoka "on the map!"	➤ River reaction, 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! ➤ Explore ways to provide more adequate funding for city parks and playgrounds. ➤ Increase sidewalk/trail connections enhancing multimodal transportation.
Miscellaneous	➤ Continue to evaluate security and redundancy of susceptible city assets and operations and create action plans to ensure stable services. ➤ Prioritize and ensure the city police, fire, and public emergency services receive the resources and materials to sustain the high quality of service citizens have been accustomed to. ➤ Enhance community service; provide printable online permits for overnight parking to eliminate busywork/paperwork for police staff. ➤ City resources available at local events/festivals.	➤ Continue to enhance Social District (addition of permanent restroom). ➤ Amplify Social District family/parks/community impact/accessibility. ➤ Update Code of Conduct for Council and City Staff; review on biennial basis. ➤ Update website; eliminate old/bad links, add accessibility software (language), identify challenges in user experience. ➤ Youth connections on City Boards & Commissions. ➤ Identify measurement strategies (population or performance accountability).

2026-2027 CITY COUNCIL GOALS



FINAL GOALS TO BE DETERMINED

An aerial photograph of Anoka, Minnesota, featuring a wide river flowing through the city. A multi-arched bridge spans the river, with cars visible on it. The surrounding area includes various buildings, parking lots filled with cars, and lush green trees. The sun is shining brightly, creating a shimmering reflection on the water's surface.

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.*