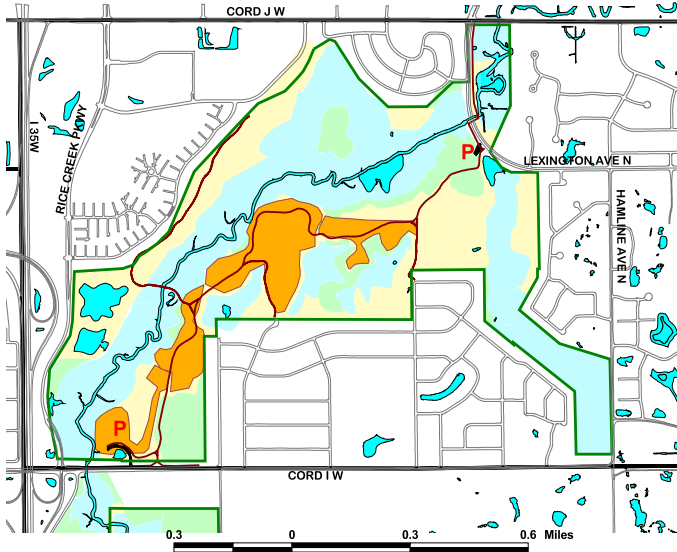


Rice Creek North



LOCATION: Rice Creek North Regional Trail Corridor is a 696-acre site in the northwest corner of the county. It can be accessed from a parking lot on Co. Rd. I, east of I-35W or from a parking lot on Lexington Ave, south of Co. Rd J. Paved trails connect the two parking lots.

The portion of the corridor south of Co. Rd. I is currently not accessible. Trails should be in place by 2010.

PRAIRIE FACTS: 42-acres of sand prairie was planted in 2003 with a grant from the Metropolitan Council. The main grasses were little bluestem and side oats grama. An additional ten acres in the south west portion of the park is natural. The dominant grasses are porcupine grass and indiagrass. There is also a lot of showy penstomen.

OTHER HABITATS: The main features of the corridor are the Rice Creek floodplain, which is a mixture of grasses and willow thickets. There are scattered stands of oaks, aspen and a pine plantation. Old fields and cattail marsh make up the remainder of the habitat.