

Committee Report

Committee of the Whole



Committee of the Whole: November 5, 2025

Business Item: 2025-273

Public Hearing on the Draft Amendment to the *2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan*, Modernizing Mapping Project

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.147
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Tracey Kinney, Planning Analyst (651-602-1029), and Kevin Phan, Planner (651-602-1333)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

No action—Public Hearing to begin at 4:00 p.m.

Background

The Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping project proposes to amend Section 2, System Plan, of the *2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan*, to establish the:

1. Regional Parks and Trails Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset as the Met Council's primary reference for park and trail boundaries; and
2. Align the boundaries described in the System Plan with those delineated in the GIS dataset.

This proposed action seeks to formalize the Met Council's use of the Regional Parks and Trails GIS dataset as the primary reference for regional park and trail boundaries for planning and funding purposes regardless of the long-range plan status. This will provide the regional parks and trails system with a consistent, reliable mapping approach to delineate the park and trail boundaries.

The GIS data will be an important part of the Regional Parks and Trails System's mapping that is comprised of System Plan mapping, approved long-range plan boundaries, proposed GIS data, and legal land records. In addition to regional park and trail boundaries, the data will be used for acreage dependent calculations and reporting. It will also serve as a resource for the Policy Plan, web, and promotional mapping.

The Regional Parks and Trails System has grown substantially since its inception in 1974, making it necessary to embrace technological advancements and policy plan process improvements. This GIS effort began in January 2021 with the first annual implementing agency GIS submittal and it continues to the present day through this proposal.

The Council has consulted with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, Community Development Committee, and has partnered with Regional Park Implementing Agencies as part of the Modernizing Mapping Project. This plan amendment refines the policy direction established in

the most recent policy plan update adopted in 2025, as well as the direction provided in *Imagine 2050*. As part of the Modernizing Mapping project, there are several corrections needed in the data to ensure the System Plan reflects the actual regional park and trail boundaries. Implementing Agencies with significant corrections will have until December 31, 2026, to submit a “GIS correction” long-range plan amendment to the Met Council.

The draft plan amendment was released for public comment on September 24, 2025. The public record will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025. The draft amendment of the *2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan* is available for review on the Council’s website at: <https://metro council.org/Parks/Planning/2050-Parks-Policy-Plan.aspx>.

Schedule and Next Steps

On December 1, 2025, Council staff will share the Public Comment Report that summarizes the public comments received on this Amendment with the Community Development Committee.

Next staff will return to the Metropolitan Council on December 17, 2025, to share the Public Comment Report on this Modernizing Mapping business item. If approved, this item will go into effect as recommended.

The proposal was shared at the September 4, 2025, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission meeting and at the September 16, 2025, Community Development Committee meeting, which refined the actions to reflect the public comment period and public hearing dates.

This process started on June 5, 2025, with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, and June 16, 2025, with the Community Development Committee. It has been refined and clarified to reflect the feedback received (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Schedule for Imagine 2050 amendment resulting from Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping project

Date/Timing	Milestone
September 4, 2025, MPOSC September 15, 2025, CDC September 24, 2025, MC action; next day notice, period opens	Release the Draft Amendment to the <i>2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan</i> : Modernizing Mapping Project for Public Comment and Set Public Hearing Date
November 5, 2025 (week of) Committee of the Whole or MC	Public Hearing on the draft amendment to the <i>2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan</i> : Modernizing Mapping Project
November 17, 2025	Public comment period closes
End of November	Final public comment reports prepared
December 1 CDC; December 4 MPOSC; December 10 MC or December 17 Committee of the Whole	Accept the Public Comment Report and Adopt the <i>2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan</i> Amendment: Modernizing Mapping Project

