2025-220 Release the Draft Amendment to the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan, Modernizing Mapping, for Public Comment and Set Public Hearing Date

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

September 4, 2025

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Past Engagement Summary

June 5, MPOSC Meeting

- Support for using GIS to track regional park and trail boundaries.
- Refer to the GIS data as “primary reference”, not the “official land record”.
- Be clear about the proposed uses of the GIS dataset. For example: funding allocation, calculating acreage, ongoing regional park/trail planning, clear up long-standing land record issues that are not currently well documented.
- Not intended to substitute for official legal land records or plats.
- Question about whether proposal should move forward as a Policy Plan Amendment or simple business item.

June 16, CDC Meeting

- Important to clarify the different purposes and uses of the GIS data, Long-Range Plans, and Land Records in defining the boundaries of regional parks and trails.
- Committee members interested in agency support for the amendment and GIS work.







Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping



Background

- System growth since 1974 requires updated tools embracing GIS technology for improved accuracy.
- Geographical Information System data is far more accurate and precise than high-level long-range plans.
- Modernizing Mapping GIS Project has created a consistent, detailed GIS dataset for tracking park and trail boundaries..

System Plan Mapping and Uses

Mapping Tool Detail and Accessibility

System Plan:
Regional-level and static

Long-range plans:
Unit-level and static

GIS: Parcel-level and interactive

Land records: Parcel-level and static

Uses

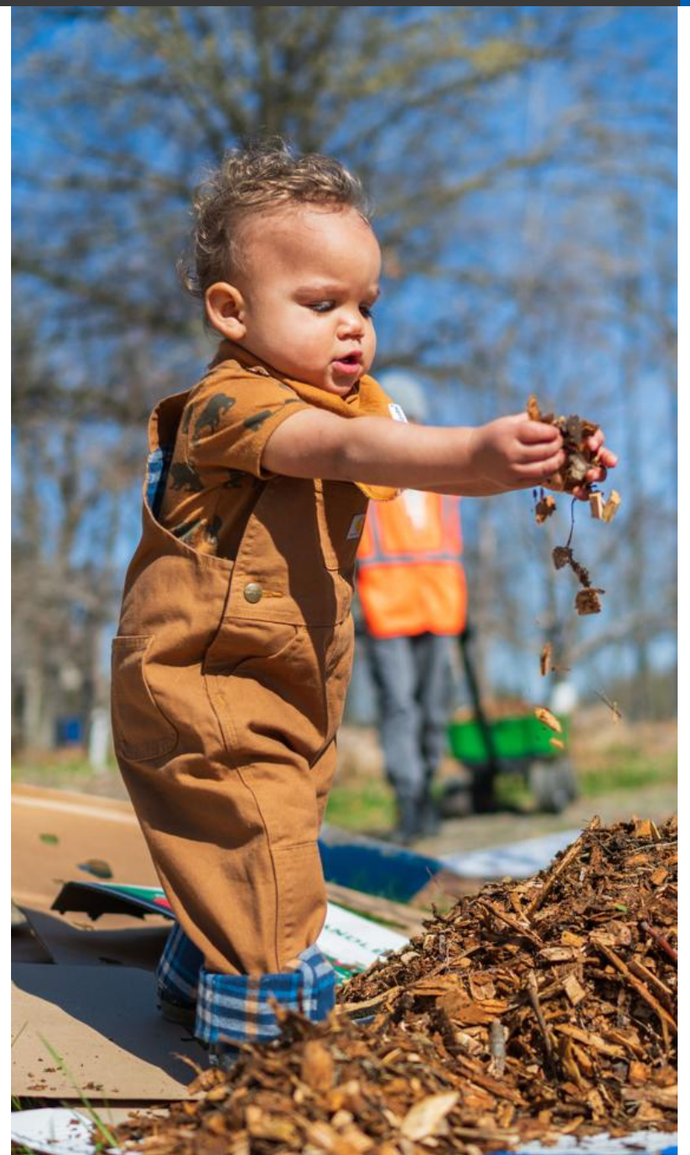
- **System Plan** is Met Council's recognized Regional Parks and Trails System boundary.
- **Regional Park and Long-Range Plans** are high-level documents used for Met Council approvals.
- **GIS data** primary reference for regional park and trail boundaries.
  - Acreage dependent calculations and reporting (operations and maintenance funding requests)
  - Policy Plan, web, and promotional mapping.
- **Land Records** will continue to be used for acquisitions, boundary adjustments, and land conversions.

System Plan GIS Changes and Proposed Process

Two Types of GIS Corrections

- **Correct long-standing implementation updates** consistent with the long-range plan's vision; but the GIS dataset boundaries do not accurately reflect the most recent Council approved long-range plan.
  Implementing Agencies will have until December 31, 2026, to submit "GIS correction" long-range plan amendments with board support to the Met Council for administrative review.

- **Minor errors** that are consistent with the most recent long-range plan vision; but persist.
  Request agencies to reflect these mapping corrections in the next update of its long-range plan and agency's 2026 data submittal.



Next Steps



Date	Milestone
September 4, 2025 MPOSC September 15, 2025 CDC September 24 MC action; next day notice, period opens	Policy Plan Amendment Business Item; Release for Public Comment
November 5, 2025 (week of) Committee of the Whole or MC	Public hearing
November 17, 2025	Public comment period closes
December 1 CDC; December 4 MPOSC; December 10 MC or December 17 Committee of the Whole	Metropolitan Council consideration for adoption

Rationale for Proposed Action



The Proposed Action is consistent with:

- The 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan
  - Section 2 System Plan
    - Action 1: Review and update system plan, classifications
    - Action 3: Annually update map datasets
- Imagine 2050's regional core value of Stewardship: designing our systems in ways that can be sustained over time.

Proposed Action



That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Amend Section 2, System Plan, of the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan to designate the Regional Parks and Trails Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset as the Met Council's primary reference for regional park and trail boundaries, and to align the boundaries described in the System Plan with those delineated in the GIS dataset.
2. Require Park Implementing Agencies to reflect the updated boundaries in the Regional Parks and Trails Dataset and their park and trail long-range plans. If any outstanding, substantial inconsistencies exist between Agency plans and the Council's System Plan, then Agencies should submit an amendment request to the Council by December 31, 2026.
3. Authorize Council Parks Staff to administratively review these long-standing, regional park and trail long-range plan amendment requests that resulted from the adoption of the GIS dataset boundaries.



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IMAGINE 2050