



Regional Parks and Trails System, Minor Amendment Administrative Process Progress Update for 2024 and 2025

Information Item

June 4, 2026, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Regional Parks and Trails System Minor Amendment Administrative Process



- This process was approved at the February 28, 2024 Met Council meeting in Business Item 2024-33.
- This item delegated Council authority to Council staff to review minor long-range plan amendments administratively.
- In order for amendments to be reviewed administratively, they must meet all of the relevant criteria adopted by the Met Council.
- In these instances, the amendment is not required to be presented to the regular Council committees for review and approval.

Administrative Process Criteria

1. Consistency:

- Is consistent with Minn. Stat. § 473.313 requirements and be determined to be complete for review by the Met Council.
- Conforms to the regional systems plans
- Consistent with Met Council policies, including *Imagine 2050* and parks policies

2. Minor in Scope:

- Does not change the acquisition and/or development concept.

3. Subject of the Amendment:

- a. Corrections:** Proposes corrections to a minor mapping or design error affecting less than 1% of the unit's total acres of the administrative boundary.
- b. Minor Regional Trail Realignment:** Proposes regional trail implementation realignments that alter up to 1 mile of trail and are within 1 mile of the original alignment but do not alter the start and end points of the trail.
- c. Boundary Changes:** Proposes a boundary adjustment, public-to-public land exchange, or an acquisition long-range plan amendment that changes the administrative boundary by less than 5 acres; and the land addition/removal is valued at \$750,000 per acre, or less.
- d. Natural Area/Utility Council Consents:** Proposes land and/or easement conveyances for:
 - Natural area monitoring.
 - Conveys an easement for a natural area restoration, or enhancement project that affects the administrative boundary by less than 5 acres.
 - Underground utility that has no material long-range impacts to the park or trail and affects the administrative boundary by less than 1 acre.

Minimal Impacts:

- Does not have the potential for a cumulative or material impact to the regional park or trail's recreational opportunities, natural areas, or cultural resources.

**Please note, Met Council staff will consider the requirements of any Met Council or State funding restrictions in determining whether a proposed candidate is eligible for administrative review.*

***Amendments meeting the criteria above may still be required to have full Met Council review if determined necessary by Met Council staff.*

Summary and Initial Observations

Summary

Four boundary adjustments:

- 2.65-acre of inholding removal
- 0.10-acre parkland removal (land for facility exchange)
- Total 4.41-acres of parkland additions

Initial Observations

- More agencies update plans due to reduced administrative burden.
- Improved planning, funding, and investment decisions with current long-range plans.
- Time and cost savings for the agencies and Met Council on minor, routine amendments.



2024 Administrative Reviews

Carver Park Reserve Boundary Adjustment

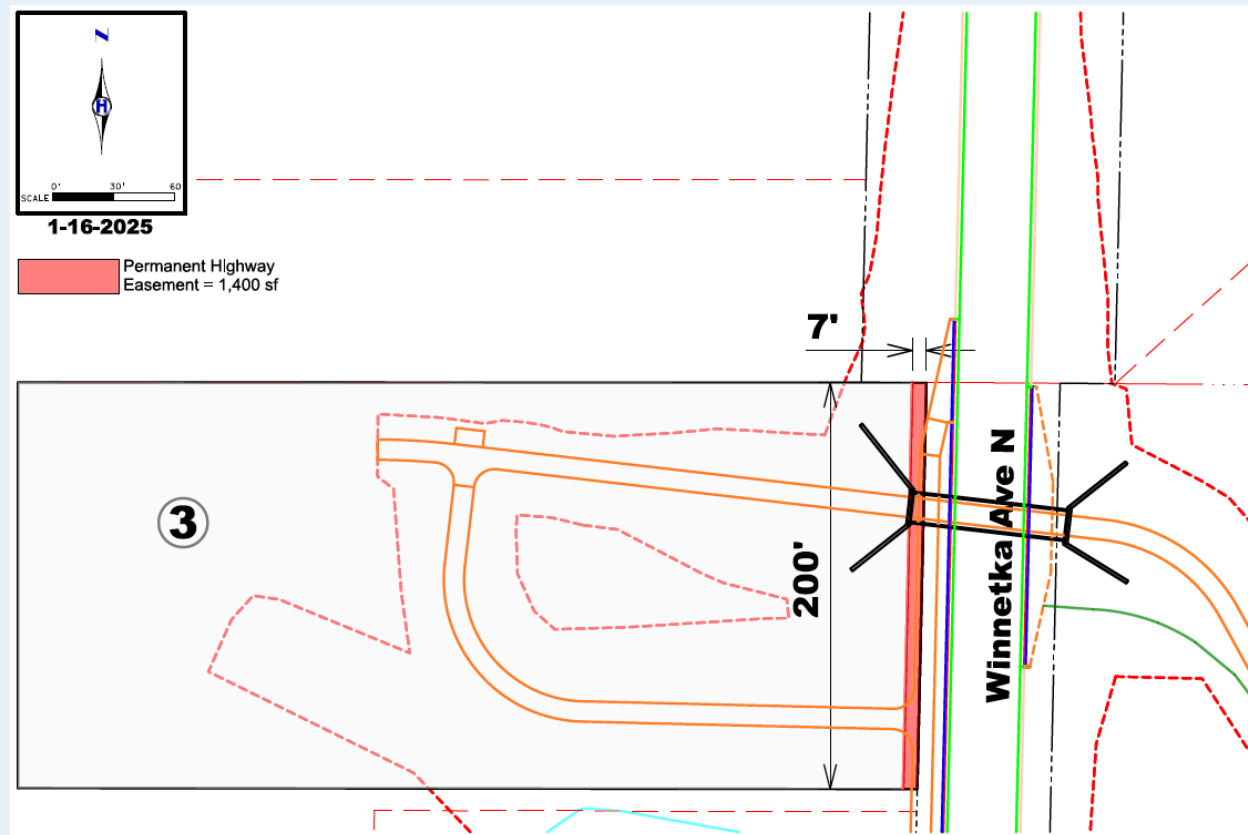


Elm Creek Park Reserve Boundary Adjustment

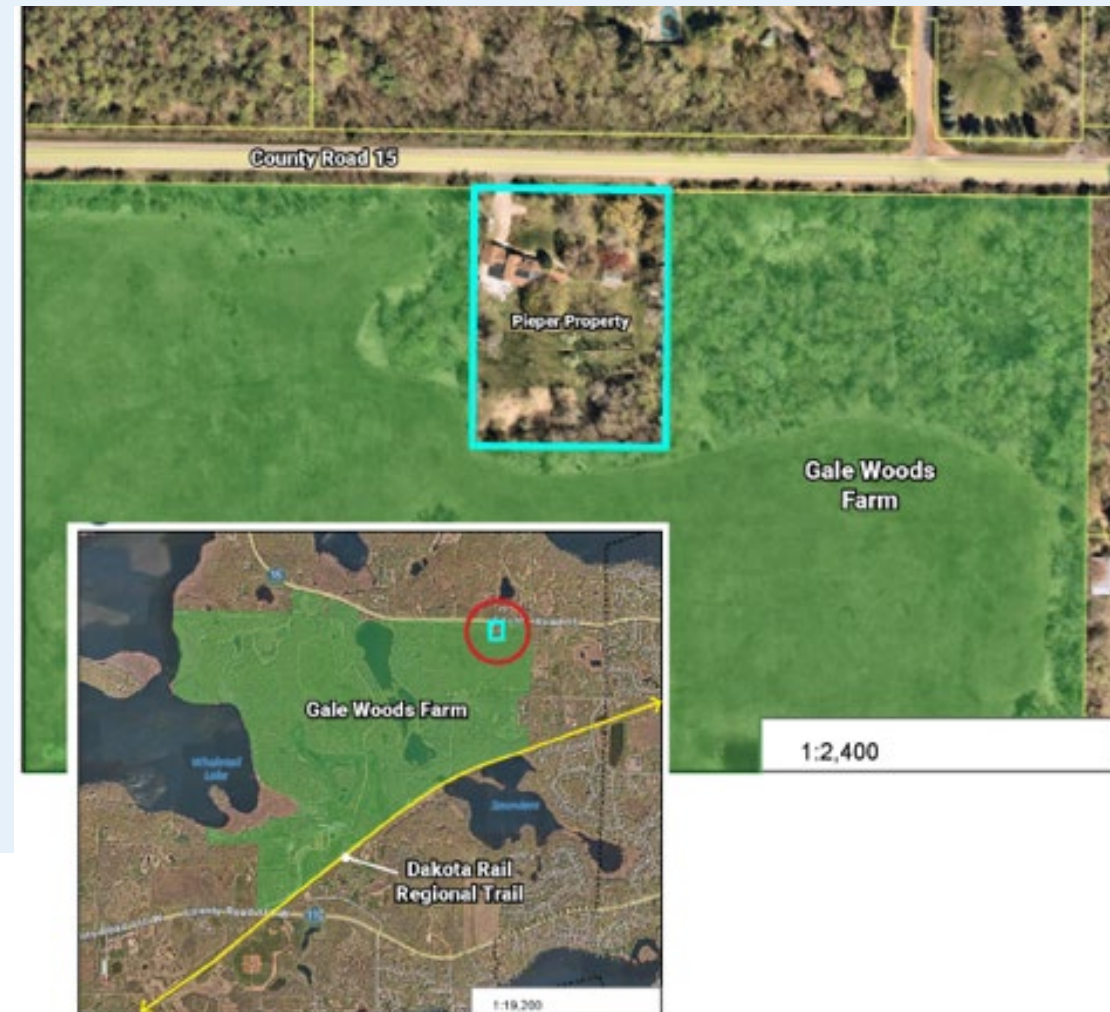


2025 Administrative Reviews

Rush Creek Regional Trail Land Conversion



Gale Woods Farm Special Feature Boundary Adjustment



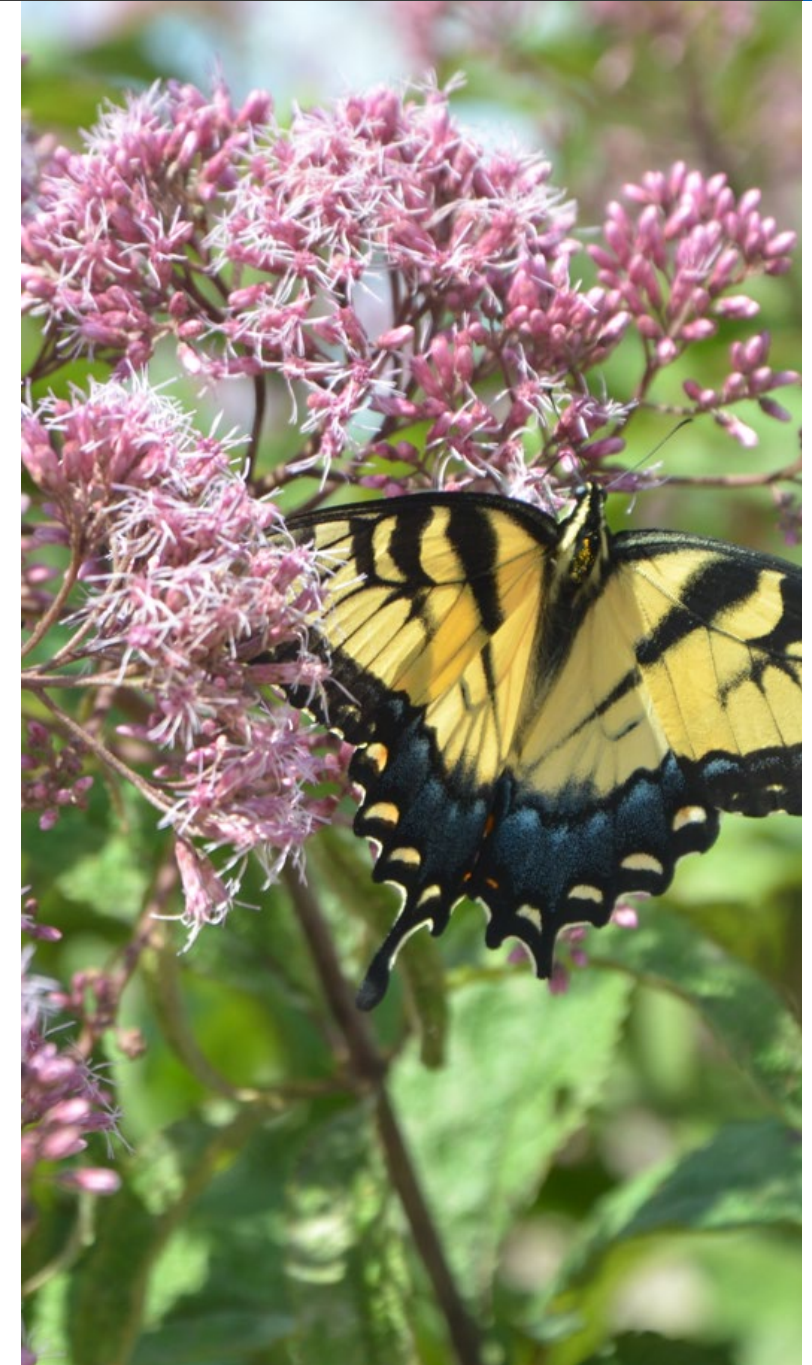
Next Steps and Community Development Committee (CDC) Advice

Program Progress Updates

- The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission will continue to receive progress updates on an annual basis.
- Moving forward, Community Development Committee progress updates will occur as part of the Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan four-year update cycle.
- Updates will highlight trends or commonalities to inform future policy and provide better technical assistance.

May 8, 2026, CDC Meeting Advice

- What is the time and cost savings of the administrative review program? Full amendments take 3 months for Met Council Staff to review; the administrative process reduces this review process to 1-month.
- It's encouraging that the shorter administrative review timeline is prompting partners to submit their plans more frequently.
- Annual Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission program process updates are important.





Thank you

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