



2025-310 Accept the Public Comment Report and Adopt the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Amendment: Modernizing Mapping Project

Community Development Committee

December 1, 2025

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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..



Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Amendment - Modernizing Mapping



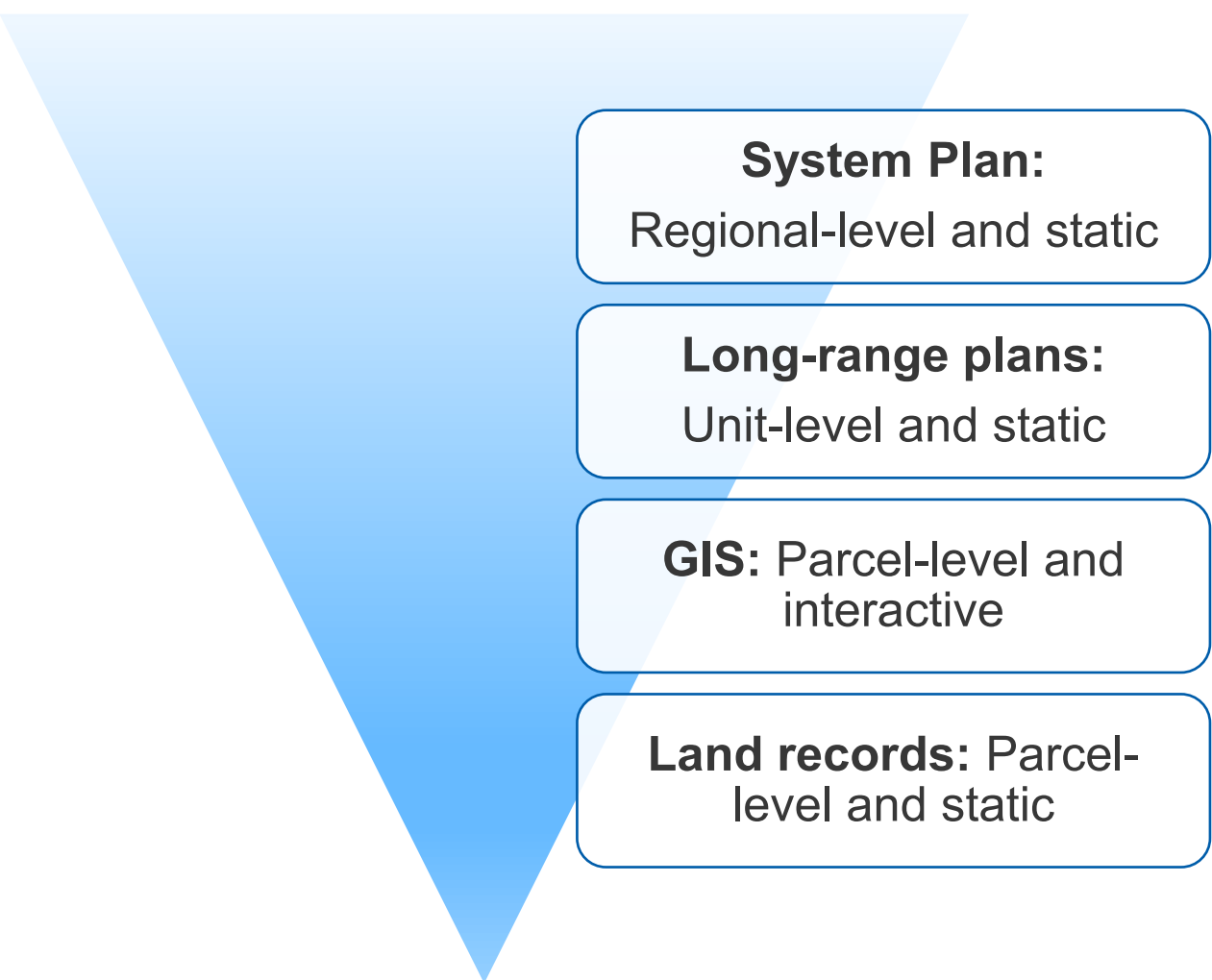
Proposal

Amend Section 2, System Plan, of the *2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan*, to:

1. Establish the 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.

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

- **Significant corrections** that are 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.



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.

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.

September 4, MPOSC Meeting

- Support for using GIS to track regional park and trail boundaries and long-range plan amendment process.
- Public hearing will focus on Action 1 of the business item. There are no proposed Policy Plan changes.

September 15, CDC Meeting

Refined the Council actions to reflect the public comment period and hearing.



Public Comment Report



Overview

- Draws from the public comment log and Staff responses.
- Includes comments from a resident and agency.

"I'm actually surprised this hasn't been done already! GIS is an essential tool for any geospatial data, especially boundaries."
- Commenter

"Would this system show only regional parks and trails or would it also show the very small walking paths/trails in the City?"
- Commenter

Timeline



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. Accept the Public Comment Summary Report on the draft amendment to the *2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan*; and
2. Adopt the revised final *2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Amendment* as shown in Attachment 2.



Thank You

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