

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: June 4, 2026

Topic

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

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.313; 2050 <i>Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan</i> : Section 5, Planning and Section 6, System Protection
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Tracey Kinney, Planning Analyst (651-602-1029)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Parks and Trails

Background

Met Council approved the Regional Parks and Trails System Minor Amendment Administrative Process at their February 28, 2024, 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 proposed criteria adopted by the Metropolitan Council. In these instances, the amendment is not required to be presented to the regular Council committees for review and approval.

This progress update on the administrative amendment program comes two years after its initial approval. The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission will continue to receive annual updates on administrative approvals processed through this program. Moving forward, Community Development Committee updates on the program's progress will occur as part of the Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan's four-year update cycle. These updates will highlight trends or commonalities of the minor amendments to inform future policy and provide better technical assistance.

During 2024 and 2025, there have been four minor amendments that were administratively approved. These minor amendments include four boundary adjustments consisting of a 2.65-acre inholding removal, 0.10-acre parkland removal, and 4.41-acres of parkland additions as described below.

2024 Administrative Reviews

Carver Park Reserve Long-Range Plan Amendment: Three Rivers Park District removed a 2.65-acre inholding from the park boundary since they no longer intended to acquire it. The boundary adjustment was less than five acres; and valued at \$134,500, which is less than \$750,000 total consistent with *Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook*, Section 5 Planning, Administrative Process for Minor Long-Range Plan Amendments.

Elm Creek Park Reserve Long-Range Plan Amendment: Three Rivers Park District added a 2.83-acre parcel to the park reserve boundary to protect the Elm Creek shoreline. The boundary adjustment was less than five acres; and valued at \$467,500, which is less than \$750,000 total consistent with *Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook*, Section 5 Planning, Administrative Process for Minor Long-Range Plan Amendments.

2025 Administrative Reviews

Rush Creek Regional Trail Long-Range Plan Amendment: Three Rivers Park District changed the use of 0.10 acres from parkland to road right-of way allowing for the construction of the Rush Creek Regional Trail underpass. In exchange, Three Rivers and partners built the same trail underpass for a safe user experience. This land conversion was less than five acres; and valued at \$500,000 as an in-kind Hennepin County contribution which is less than \$750,000 total consistent with *Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook*, Section 5 Planning, Administrative Process for Minor Long-Range Plan Amendments.

Gale Woods Farm Special Feature Long-Range Plan Amendment: Three Rivers Park District added 1.58 acres to the Gale Woods Farm Special Feature Boundary for a seamless northern park boundary to protect natural resources and the recreational integrity. The boundary adjustment was less than five acres; and valued at \$420,000 which is less than \$750,000 total consistent with *Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook*, Section 5 Planning, Administrative Process for Minor Long-Range Plan Amendments.

At the June 4 meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Met Council Parks and Trails Staff will present an overview of the Regional Parks and Trails System Minor Amendment Administrative Process, along with a status update and initial observations. Met Council Parks and Trails Staff presented a similar information item to the Community Development Committee at their May 4, 2026 meeting.

Rationale

The *2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan*, Section 5 Planning, Action 1 long-range plan requirements states that long-range plans prepared by the regional park implementing agencies are critical to defining the specifics of acquisition, development, and operation of regional facilities. Updated long-range plans are important to Regional Parks and Trails System planning, funding, and investment decisions. This administrative process for minor, routine amendments provide a more efficient review system that reduces administrative burden on park agency staff, Council Committees and staff, and results in a more up-to-date park and trail system.

Imagine 2050 Lens Analysis

The administrative process for minor amendments advances the Imagine 2050 shared goal of stewardship by responsibly managing the region's natural and financial resources. The administrative process also advances the Imagine 2050 shared goal of accountability by improving the services that the Council provides to the ten Regional Parks Implementing Agency partners and publicly sharing information regarding the administrative process for minor long-range plan amendments.

