

Business Item 2020-328

Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment

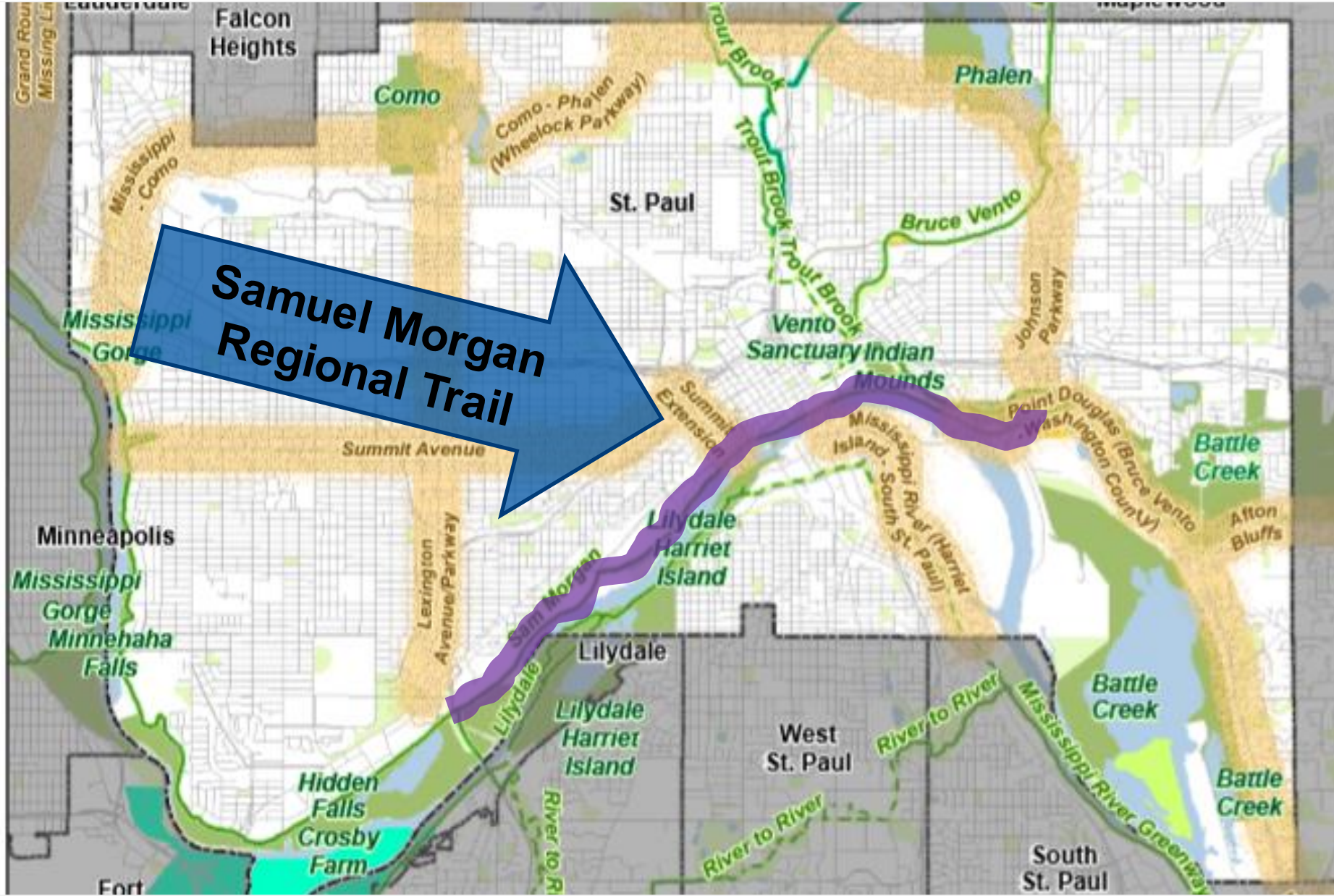
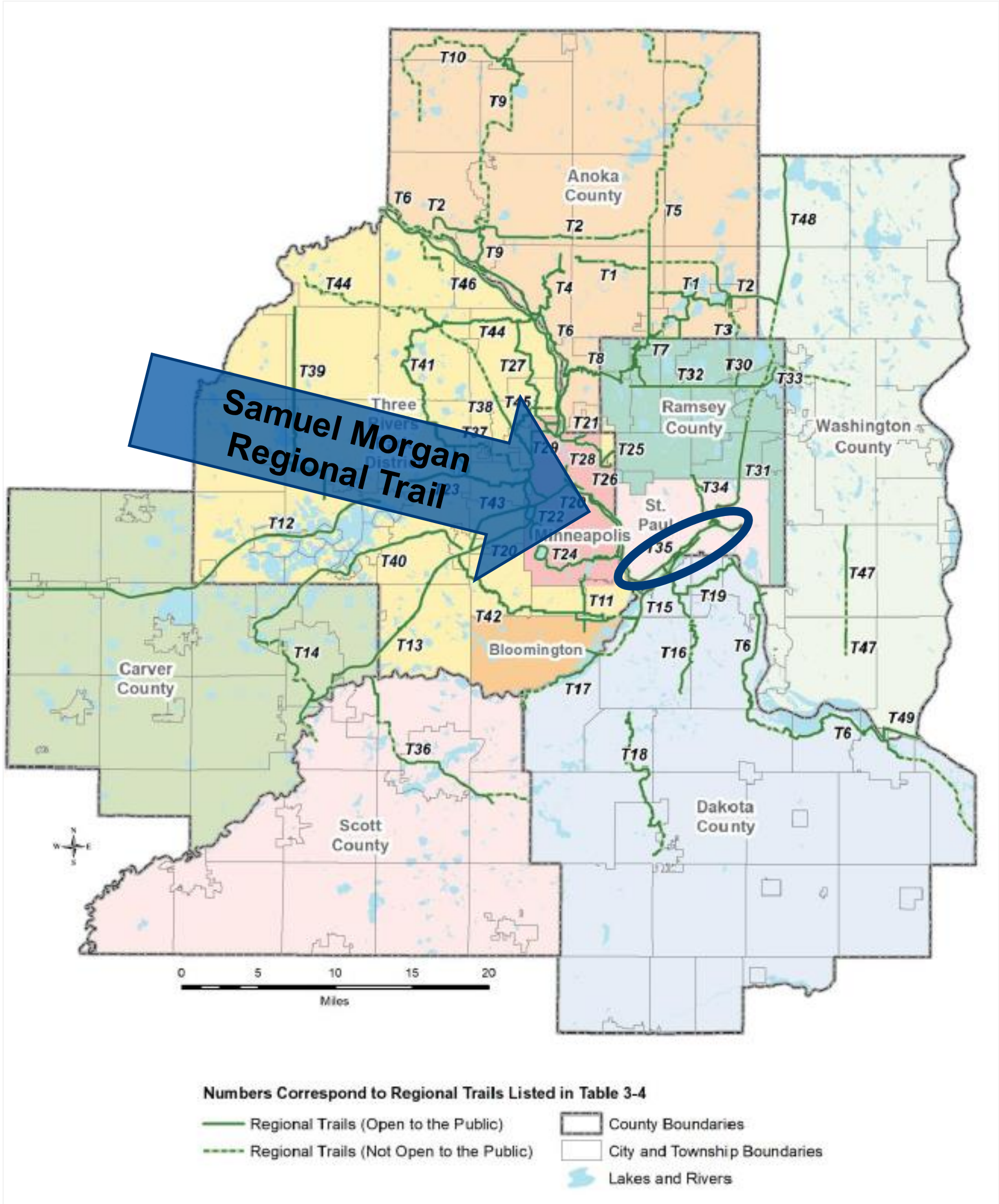
City of Saint Paul

December 21, 2020

Community Development Committee



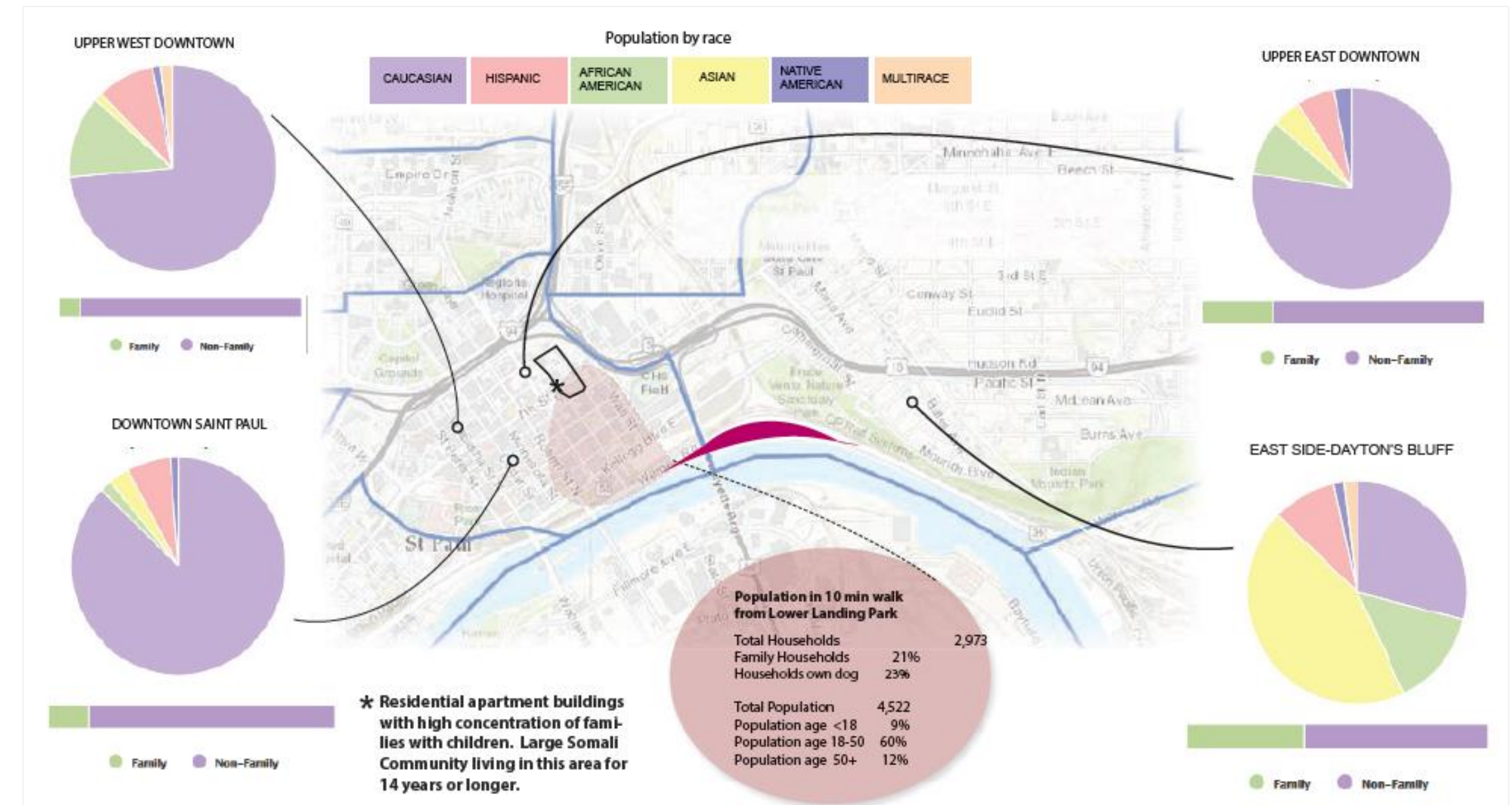
Samuel Morgan Regional Trail, Lower Landing



Community Engagement, Equity Analysis

What did participants say?

- New activities and enhanced safety measures would encourage regional trail corridor use
- Add natural surface trails and sitting areas to appreciate river views and nature
- Acknowledge the significance of the area to the Dakota people through the use of signage, public art and interpretation.
- Include environmental education opportunities related to Lower Phalen Creek



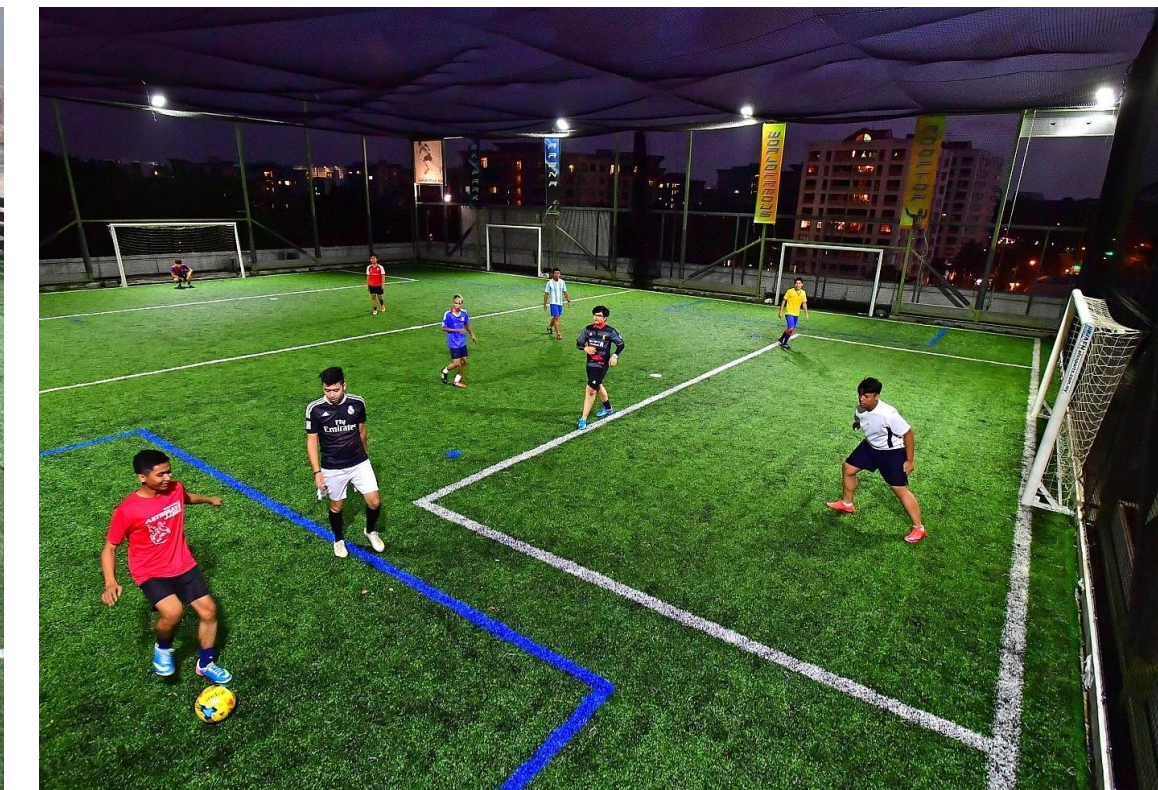
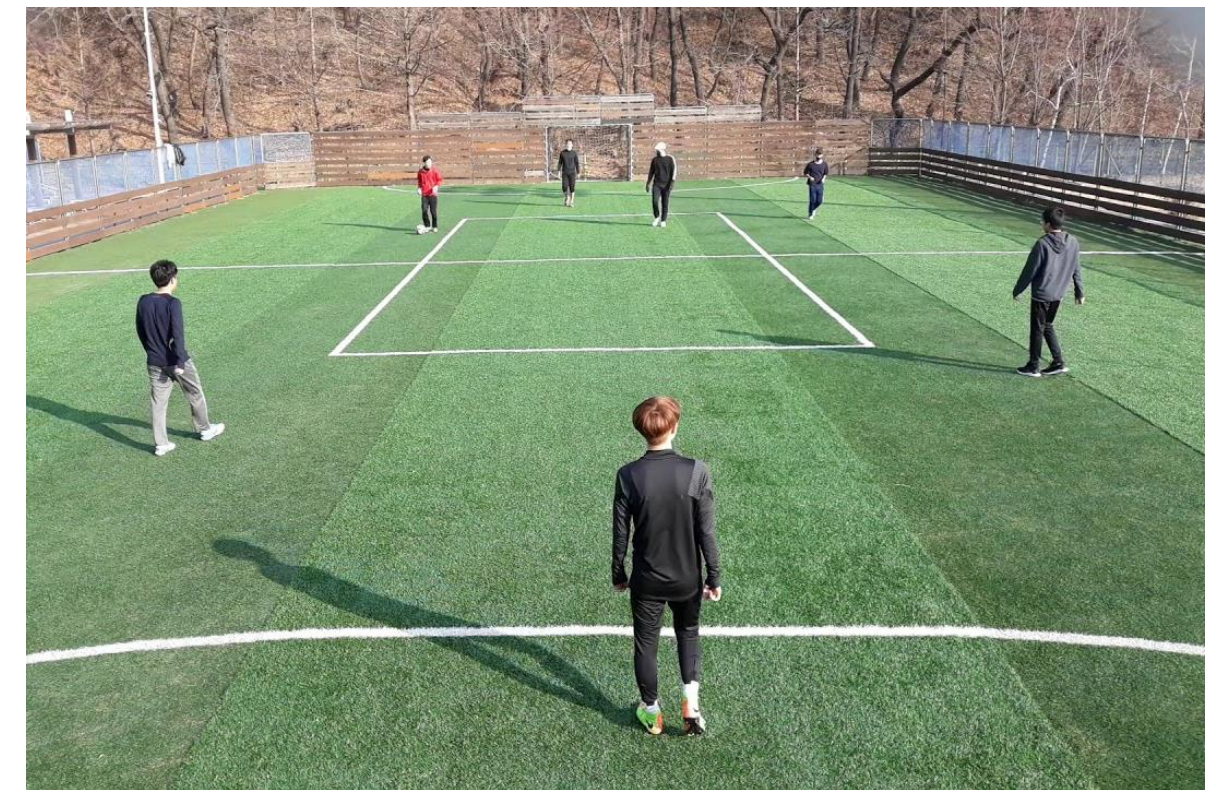
Accessibility, Development Concept

- All new facilities in Lower Landing and the regional trail corridor will be developed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Three overall goals were identified to guide site organization and programming:
 1. **Integrate** the regional trail with the adjacent context, spatially and socially, to improve and provide connections
 2. **Activate** the trail corridor through the addition of trail-oriented activities while respecting and keeping the tranquil natural settings along the river
 3. **Reveal** the history of the area by taking advantage of trail's location and its connection to historic sites and river
- Priorities to start activating Lower Landing include:
 1. Access and park entryway plaza improvement
 2. Parking lot expansion
 3. Natural surface trail
 4. Off-leash dog area



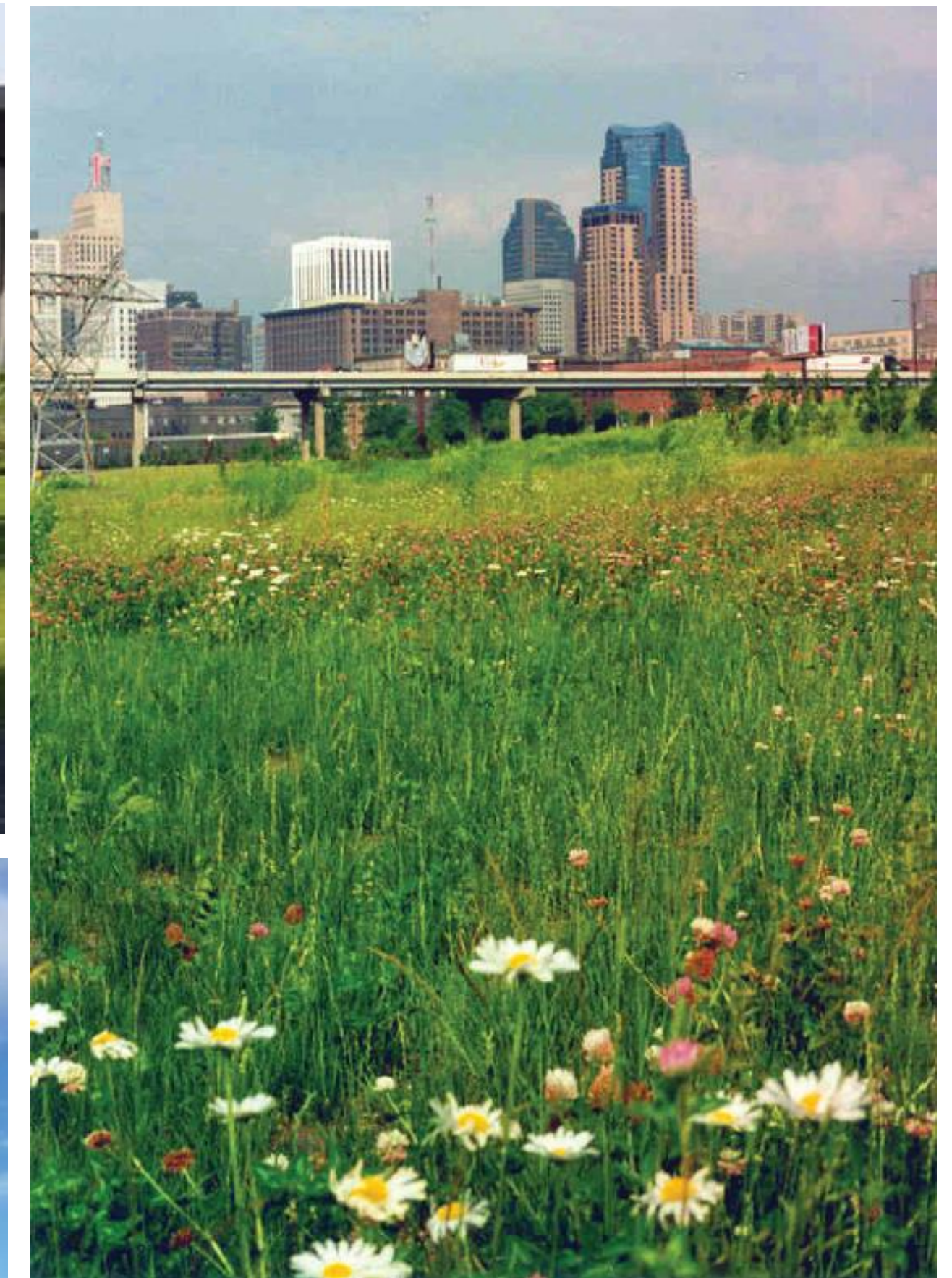
Proposed “Non-Traditional” Recreational Activities

- Pickup game courts: Futsal, half basketball
 - Inclusive social games for all genders and races, ages and abilities
- Pump track / bike skills course
 - Floodplain design requirements would be taken into consideration
- Open multipurpose lawns: Community events, the Creator’s Game
 - Share the significance of the game and its cultural connection with the indigenous community
- Master plan amendment and memo address the requirements of Recreation Activities and Facilities Policy



Estimated Project Costs

- No acquisitions necessary
- Development cost estimates include:
 - resurfacing trail with bituminous
 - replacing lighting along the trail
 - adding wayfinding signage
 - adding interpretive resting nodes
 - improving multiuse lawns
 - adding futsal, half-basketball courts
 - adding pump track
 - planting trees, prairie species
 - restoring wetlands
- \$9,260,000 total cost estimate
- Approval of master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time.



Rationale for Proposed Action

- The Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
 - Recreation Activities and Facilities strategies 1-3
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the City of Saint Paul's Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment, including the supplemental information provided in the submittal memorandum dated October 26, 2020.
2. Require the City of Saint Paul, prior to initiating any new development of the regional trail corridor, to send preliminary plans to the Environmental Services Assistant Manager at the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Division.

