



**METROPOLITAN**  
C O U N C I L

# **Regional Parks System Administrative Process for Minor Master Plan Amendments**

Community Development Committee

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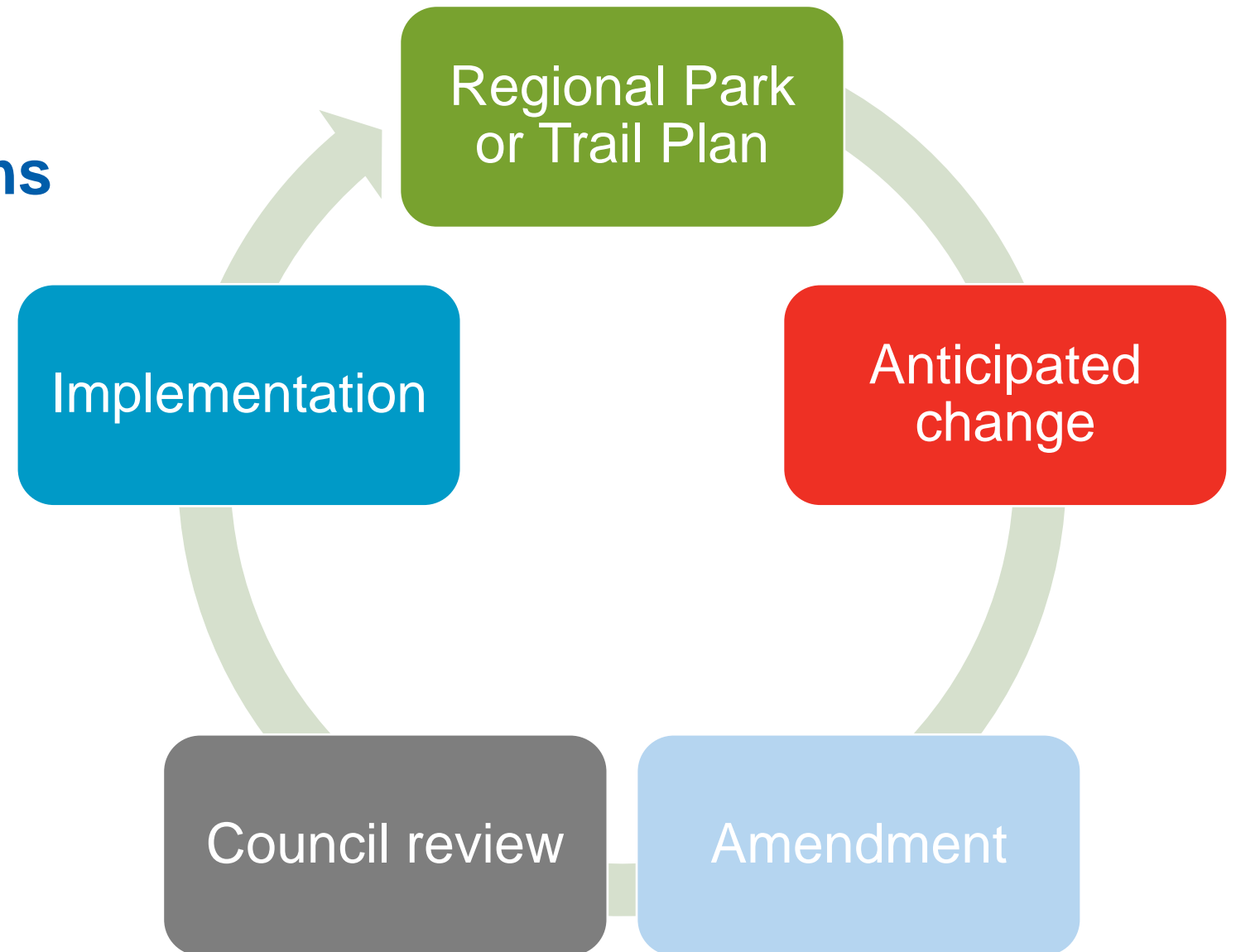
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# Regional Park and Trail Plan Review Process

## Minn. Stat. § 473.313 Master Plans

- Requires Regional Park Implementing Agencies to prepare park and trail master plans.
- Council is charged with ensuring these plans are consistent with the policy plan and other Council policies and plans.



# Administrative Amendment Process



## Proposal

- Develop an administrative review process that would authorize the Regional Administrator or designee to administratively review certain amendments that qualify as minor master plan amendments.

## Benefits

- Savings of Park Agency Partner time in preparing “traditional” plan amendments.
- A reduction of Council committee review time and Council staff work.
- Park and trail plans are updated more frequently and better reflect future direction.

*People canoeing on Cedar Lake in Minneapolis.*

# Plan Amendments

## Staff observations over past 4 years of plan amendments

- Ten percent of all plan amendments reviewed over past 4 years could be characterized as minor “housekeeping” amendments.
- Council staff anticipate an increase in the need for minor amendments

*Teens walk along trail in the late afternoon at Battle Creek - Indian Mounds Regional Park.*



# Minor Amendment Possible Criteria

## Public-to-public land exchanges

- Part of an already approved Council Action.
- Or that are less than one acre in size, are not controversial or politically charged, and include proposed replacement land that is of an equal or greater value to the regional system than the removal land.

## Corrections

Corrects a minor mapping or design error that does not have a material impact on the planned park or trail.

## Provides a consent to easement

- The easement that would benefit the regional system and would not have a material impact on the planned park or trail unit.
- natural resource monitoring, restoration, or enhancement project
  - underground utilities

# Minor Administrative Amendment Development Process

## Proposed Next Steps

- Engage Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and others to further develop concept.
- Define candidate criteria to determine what qualifies as a minor, administrative amendment.
- Return to Community Development Committee with more refined proposal.

*View of Mississippi River from bluffs at Spring Lake Regional Park, Dakota County.*





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*An image showing a woman walking in Baker Park Reserve.*