

Business Item 2021-38

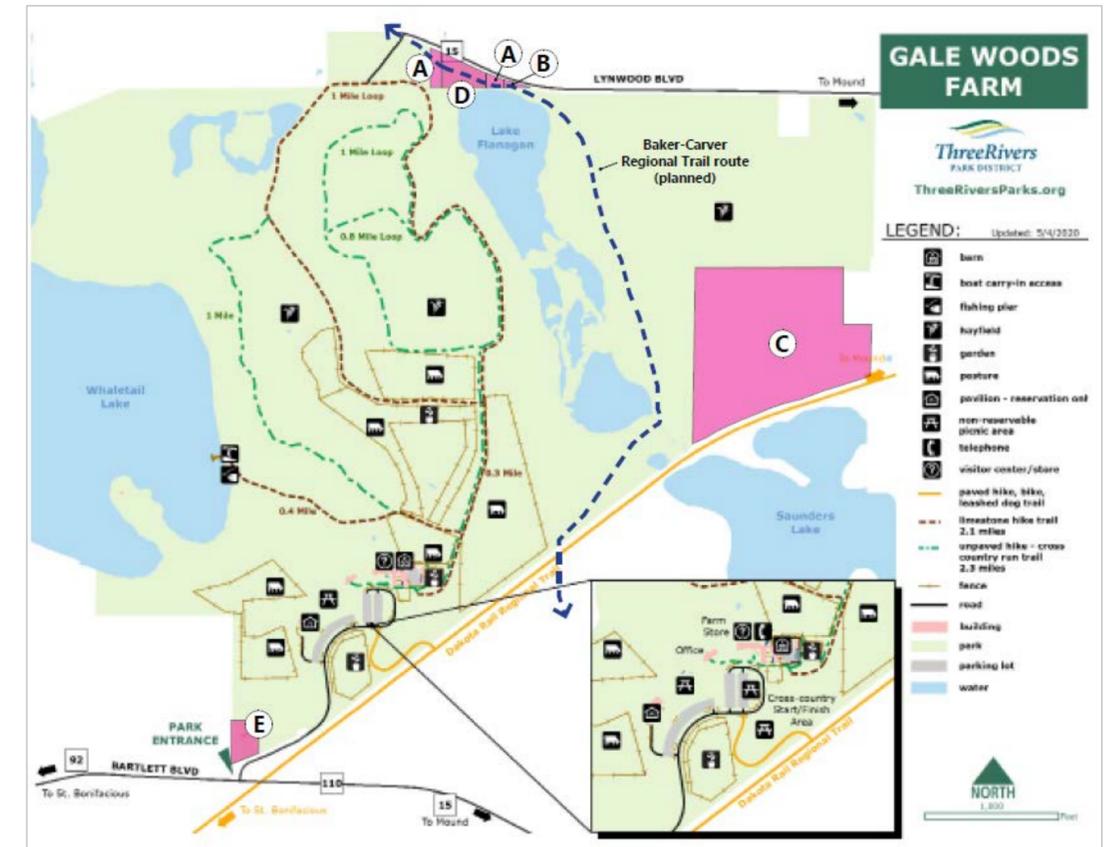
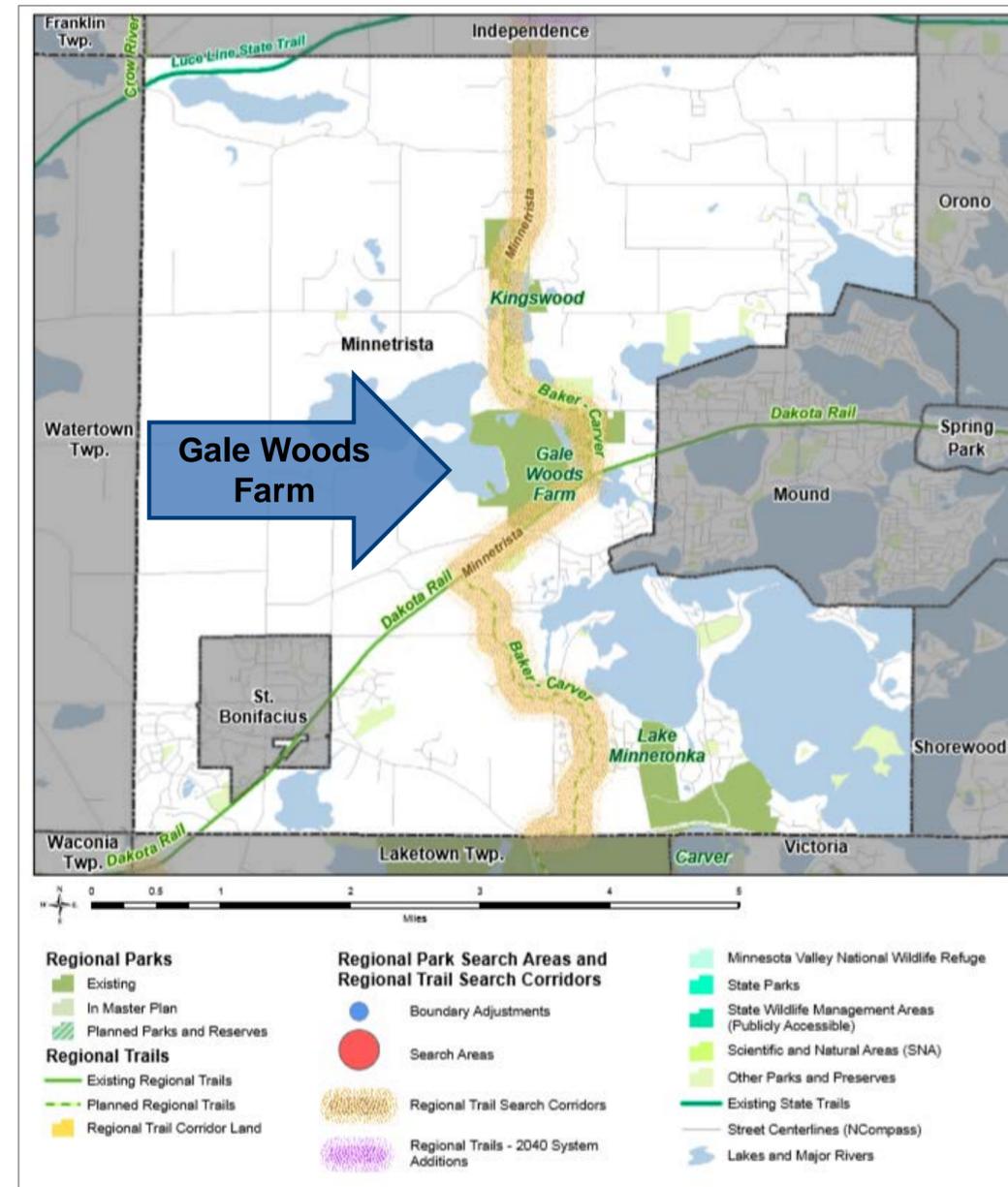
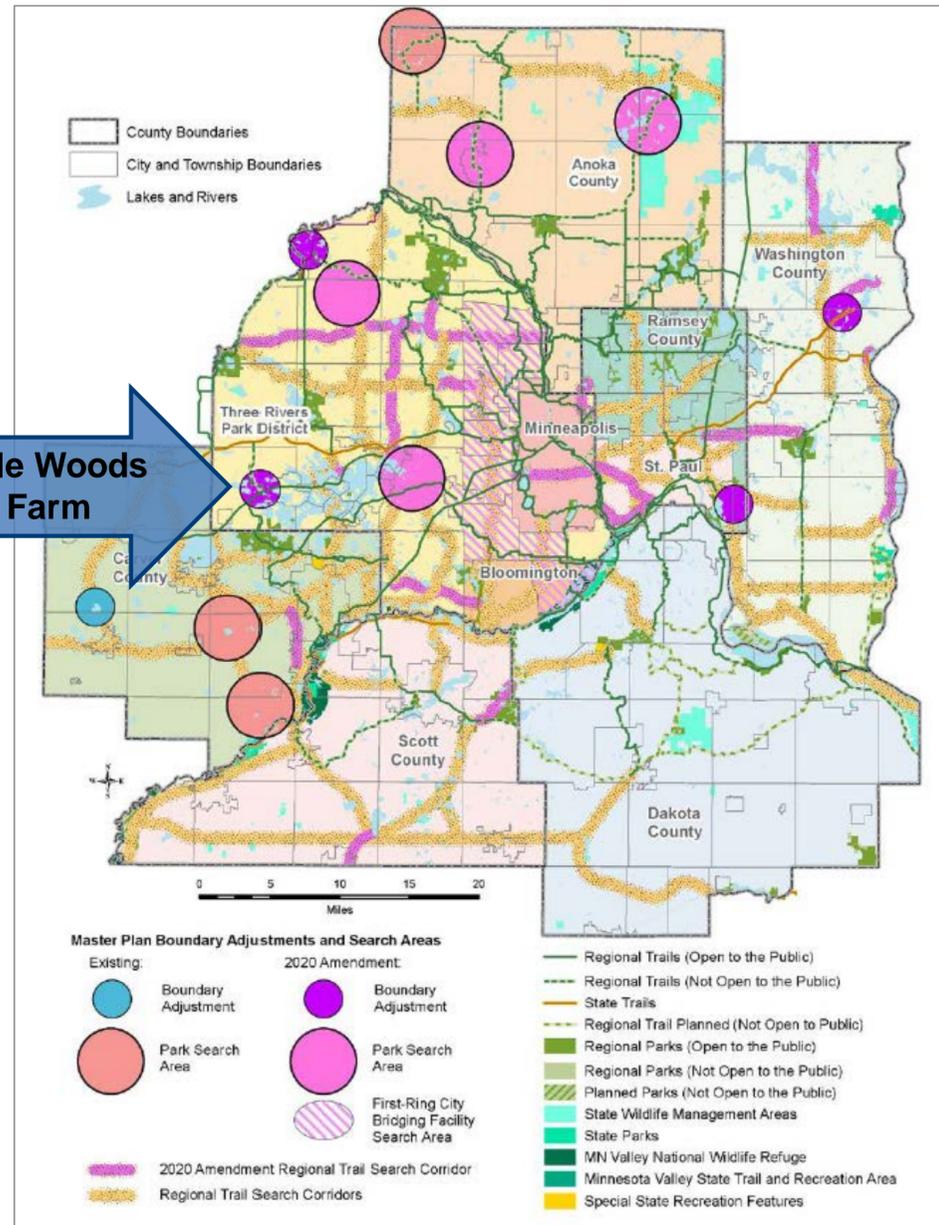
Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature Acquisition Master Plan Amendment Three Rivers Park District

February 4, 2021

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature



Consistency with Siting and Acquisition Policy

- Strategy 1: Priorities

- *Lands with natural resource features, access to water, and/or restoration potential will be a priority of the Regional Parks System.*
- Gale Woods Farm and its boundary expansion are located to protect existing natural resources and upon acquisition, the expanded areas will be restored to reflect the natural communities of the region.
- Gale Woods Farm protects the eastern shoreline of Whaletail Lake and encompasses Lake Flanagan. A carry-in boat access and fishing pier are available within the special recreation feature on Whaletail Lake.



Boundaries and Acquisition

- 410 acres currently owned by Three Rivers Park District, 31.2 acres owned by a combination of owners, including the Boys and Girls Club, Gen Olson and Three Rivers.
- The properties are located immediately adjacent to existing park boundaries.
- The boundary expansion allows for:
 - Additional natural resource protection and consistent management of existing and new natural areas
 - Potential securing of associated Baker-Carver Regional Trail land
 - Protection of existing parkland as one property
 - More logical and straight-forward boundaries which are easier to manage and convey to the public



Estimated Project Costs

- The Master Plan Amendment estimates in \$585,000 in acquisition costs for the 28.0-acre Gen Olson property.
- There are no costs associated with the remaining 3.2 acres of Boys and Girls Club property (0.9 acre) and Three Rivers Park District property (2.3 acres).
- Approval of master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time.



Rationale for Proposed Action

- The Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature Acquisition Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve Three Rivers Park District's Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature Acquisition Master Plan Amendment.
2. Approve the boundary adjustment adding 31.2-acres to Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature in the City of Minnetrista.



Thank you

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