

Phalen-Keller Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment, Saint Paul

Business Item 2024-343

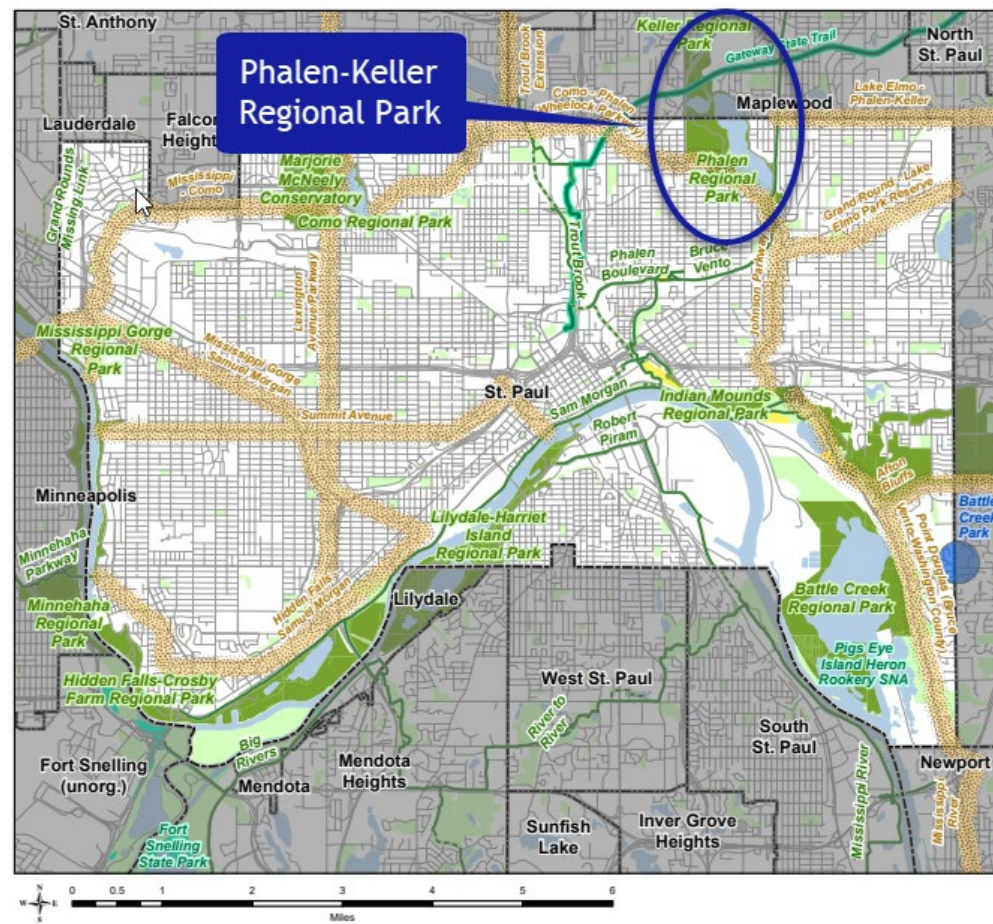
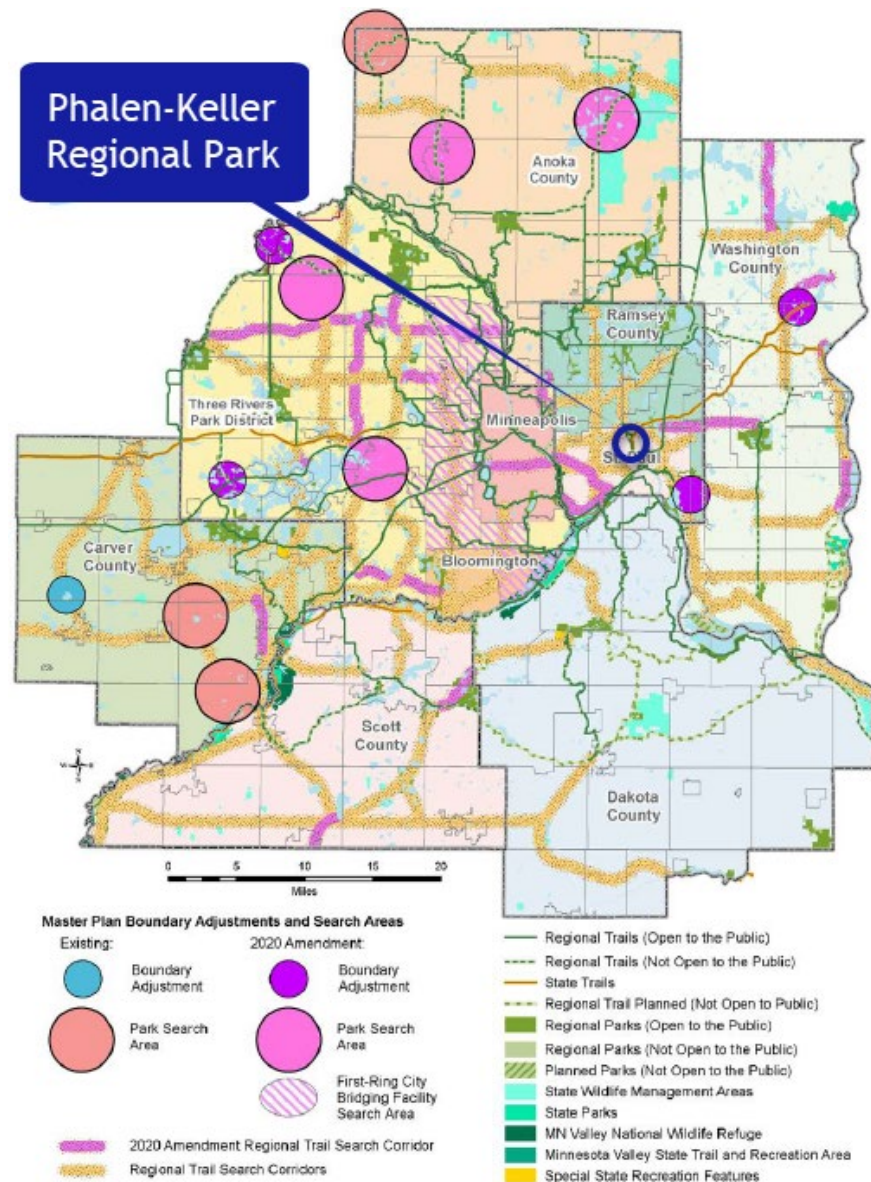
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



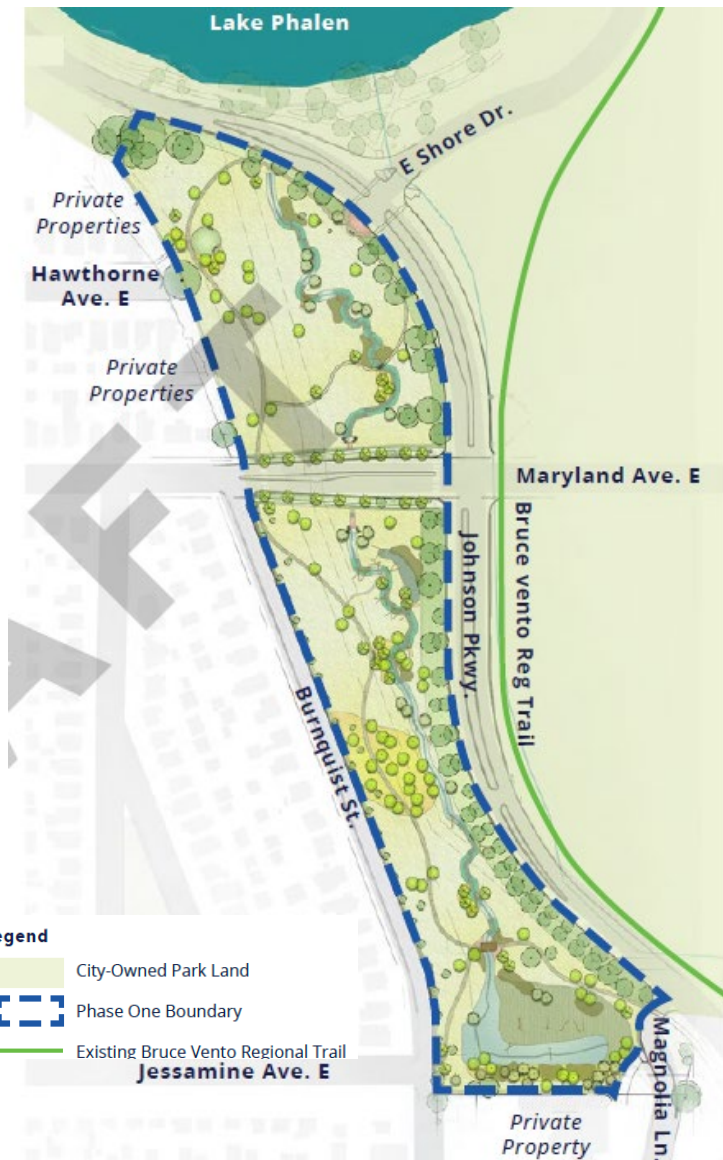
December 5, 2024

Tracey Kinney, Planning Analyst

Phalen - Keller Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment



Saint Paul



Phalen Creek Daylighting Project Location

Equity Analysis



Focused Engagements:

American Indian engagements:

- Community events
- Indigenous Review Committee

Asian/Asian American community engagements:

- Mid-Autumn Festival at the Saint Paul Changsha China Friendship Garden
- Hmong Village Shopping Center.

Advice Shaped the Plan:

- Restore the Creek just south of Lake Phalen
- Include nature-based activities and passive recreation
- Add a way to engage the water
- Desire to rename Phalen Creek as a recognized Dakota space

Plan engagement event.

Public and Partner Engagement



Public Engagement Themes

- Add future interpretive signage.
- Include nature-based activities and passive recreation.
- Desire to rename Phalen Creek as a recognized Dakota space.
- Retain the open views for safety and comfort.

Partner Engagement

Agencies Engaged: Ward 6 City Council, Payne Phalen Community Council, Four Dakota Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, Ramsey County Public Works, Saint Paul Regional Water Services, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, and Metro Transit.

Lake Phalen looking north from East Wheelock Parkway

Phalen Daylighting Project: Boundaries and Acquisitions

Boundaries

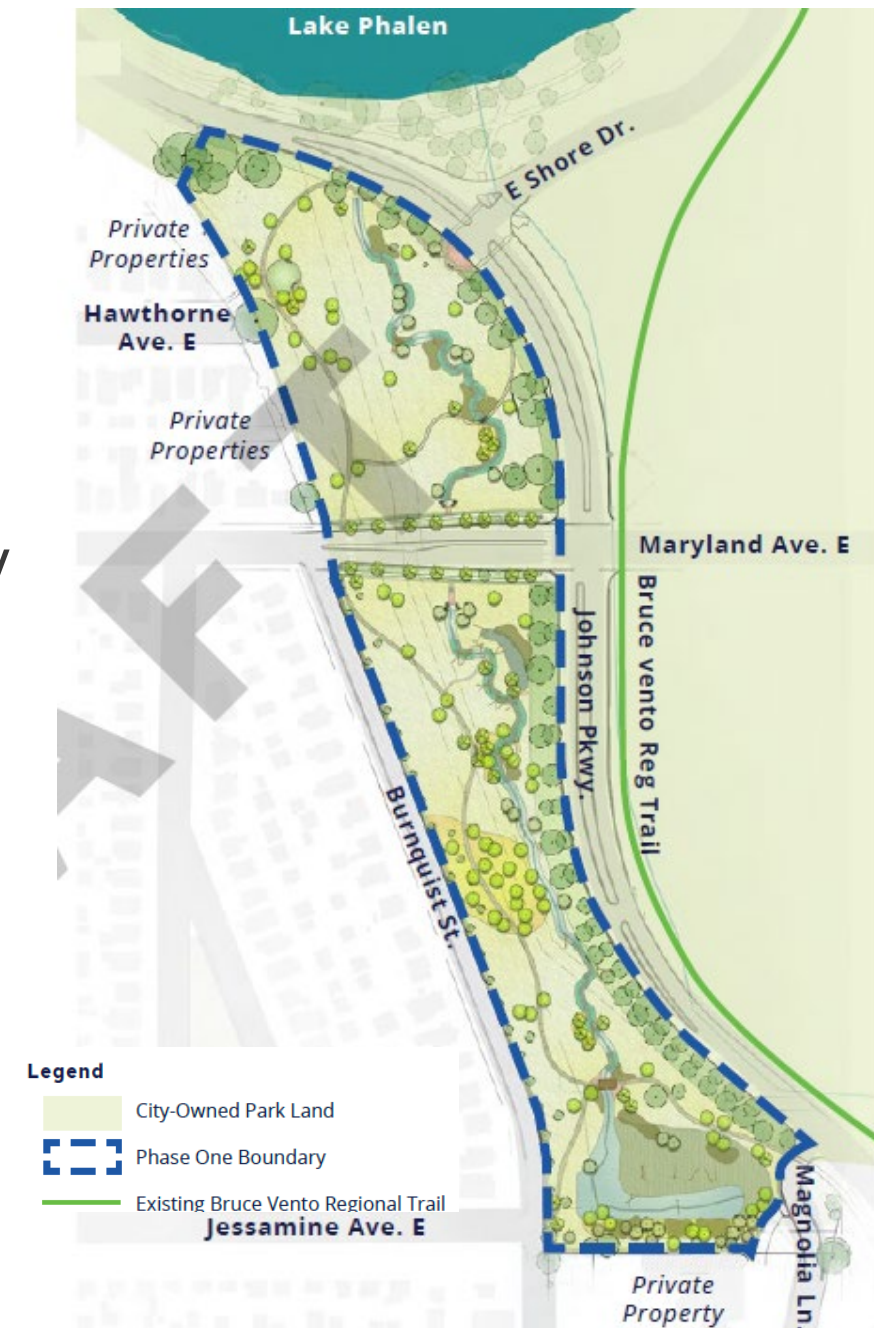
- 10-acre site located just south of Lake Phalen
- Predominately lawn and open field (currently)
- Within the Phalen-Keller Regional Park boundary

Acquisitions

No acquisitions

- Only surveys, agreement amendments, and temporary construction easements totaling \$5,000 (included with development costs)

*Phalen Creek Daylighting Project
Boundaries*



Phalen Daylighting Project: Development Concept

Overall

Future area will be restored to a more natural state with areas for community reflection and connections with nature.

Natural system improvements:

Restored wetlands, wet meadows, stream banks, and savanna.

Park improvements: Walking trails, seating opportunities, nature play, gathering spaces, stream crossings, interpretive areas, and signage.

Phalen Creek Daylighting Project
Development Concept



Development Concept – Aerial Illustration



Spaces

- Trailhead entry
- Headwaters viewing area
- Southern gathering space

Trails

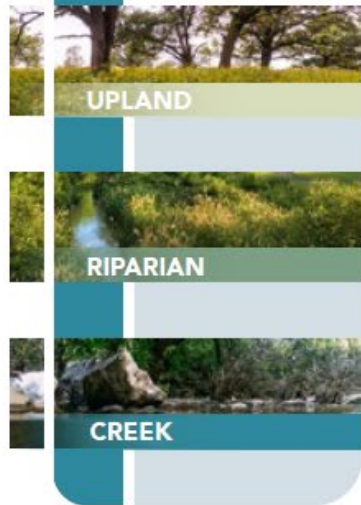
- One main trail (accessible)
- One loop (lawn)

*Phalen Creek Daylighting Project
Aerial Illustration*

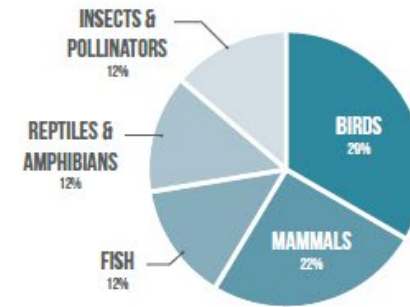
Development Concept – Creek Section

DAYLIGHTING THE CREEK NATIVE ECOSYSTEM PROFILES

WHAT WOULD THE LAND & WATER LOOK LIKE?



WHAT WE HEARD: WILDLIFE YOU'D LIKE TO SEE BROUGHT BACK TO THE CREEK



WHO ELSE MIGHT LIVE HERE? CHECK OUT THE SPECIES PROFILES TO SEE MORE!

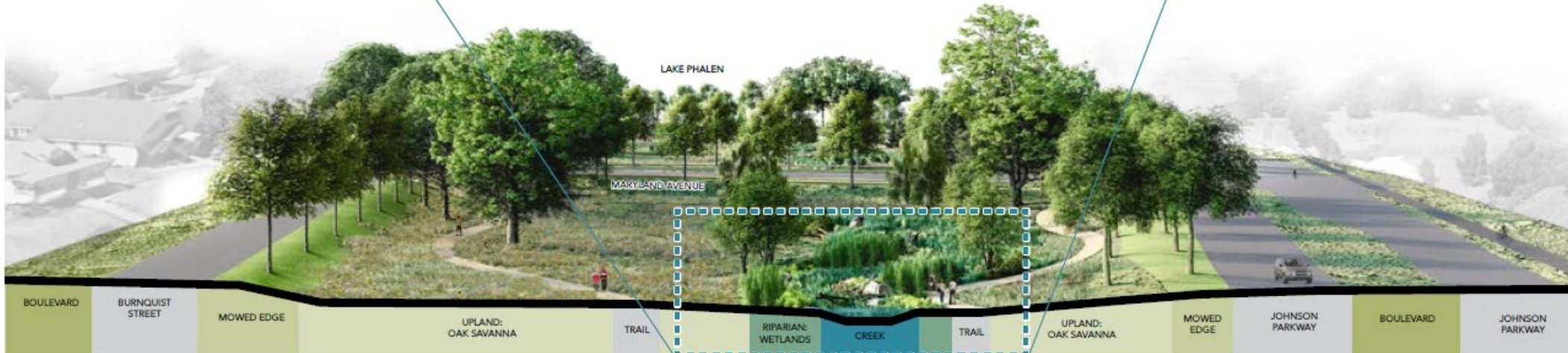
Revegetation Plans

- Native plants
- Upland savanna/mesic prairie and riparian restoration

Creek Restoration

- Meanders through site
- Safe see and touch opportunities
- Safe crossings

*Phalen Creek Daylighting Project
Restoration Illustration*



Estimated Costs



Phalen Daylighting Project

Total cost: **\$4.7 million**

- Development: \$4.7 million
 - Includes \$5,000 for surveys, agreements, and easements
- Acquisitions: \$0.00

Operations and maintenance: **\$41,150 annually**

An illustration of the Creek headwaters and wetlands.

Rationale for Proposed Action

The amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:

- 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
 - Chapter 5, Planning, Strategy 1
 - Other Council policies

An illustration of a small gathering area within the project site.

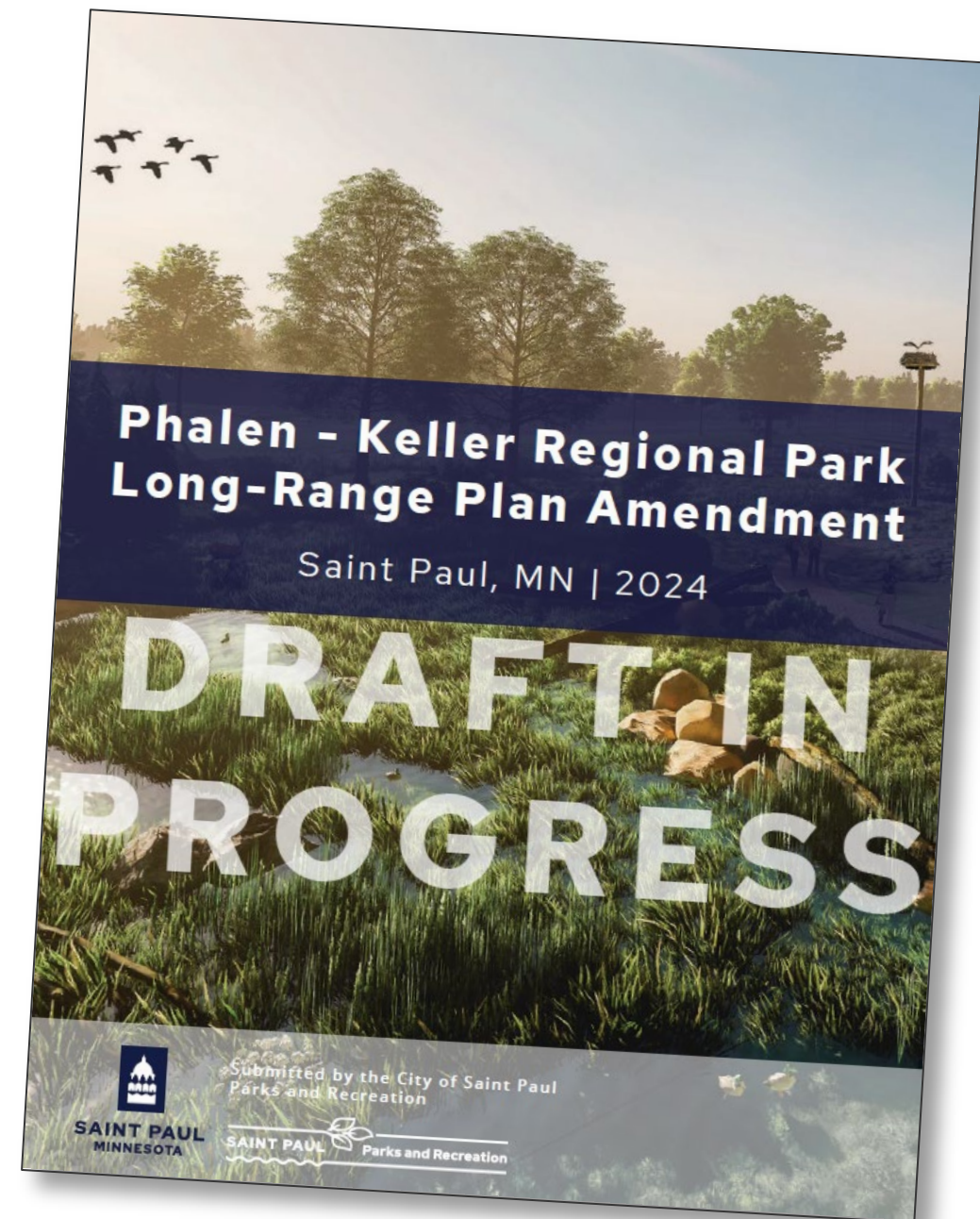


Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Phalen-Keller Regional Park Long-Range Plan Amendment.
2. Require Saint Paul, prior to initiating any construction, to send preliminary plans to the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Interceptor Engineering Assistant Manager.

An image of the amendment document cover.





Thank you

Tracey Kinney

Planning Analyst, Community Development



METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

Illustration of the trail and creek on the south side of the project site.