

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: June 5, 2025

CDC Meeting Date: June 16, 2025

Topic

2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Amendment: Modernizing Mapping Information Item

District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stats. 473.147
Staff Prepared/Presented: Tracey Kinney, Planning Analyst (651-602-1029)
Kevin Phan, Planner (651-602-1345)
Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Parks

Proposed action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

Background

The Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping project proposes to amend Section 2, System Plan, of the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan, to establish the Regional Parks and Trails System Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset as the official land record on file. While no policy changes are being proposed as part of this Policy Plan amendment, this proposed action seeks to formalize the Met Council's use of the GIS dataset to support approved regional park and trail long-range plans, as well as reconcile long-range plan and data inconsistencies. Regional park and trail long-range plans are high-level documents that define a regional unit's boundaries, acquisition, development, and operation of regional facilities. Park and trail long-range plans will continue to serve as the vehicle for Council approvals and will work in concert with the more detailed GIS data. The GIS data is updated annually in partnership with the ten regional park implementing agencies as part of the Operations and Maintenance Program fund distribution process.

The Regional Parks and Trails System has grown substantially since its inception in 1974, making it necessary to embrace technological advancements and policy plan process improvements.

As part of the Met Council's Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping project (formerly the GIS Improvement project), Council parks staff have been working closely with park implementing agency staff to ensure consistency between the GIS data and the approved long-range plans on file. After careful review of the plans and GIS data, it has become clear that there are a number of minor amendments needed to correct and reconcile the plans with the more specific GIS mapping tool. These amendment descriptions will be further refined and expanded with actionable details in the upcoming Policy Plan business item for the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission's and Met Council's consideration. Additionally, this business will open the public comment period.

This effort represents a significant step toward addressing and correcting past actions that were either not properly documented or simply need to be corrected due to the highly exact nature of digital records (Figures 2-26).

The proposed long-range plan amendments (below) are organized into the following two categories:

- **Corrections:** Regional park and trail boundary changes that require corrections due to human error or advancements related to the precision of GIS.
- **Trail Implementation:** Minor trail alignment adjustments that were made as a result of trail implementation through the willing-seller process.

At the June 5, 2025, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission meeting, Council staff will share the Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping information item's purpose and scope. If Commissioners support the proposal, then Council staff will return to MPOSC on September 4, 2025, with a Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping business item to reconcile the needed updates between the long-range plans and GIS data. As this proposal requires an amendment to the adopted Policy Plan, it will include a public comment and hearing process that will run from September 24 to November 17 (Table 1).

Figure 1. Schedule for Imagine 2050 amendment resulting from Modernizing Regional Parks and Trails Mapping project

Date/Timing	Milestone
February 12, 2025	Metropolitan Council adoption of Imagine 2050
June 5, 2025 MPOSC June 16, 2025 CDC	Information Item
September 4, 2025 MPOSC September 15, 2025 CDC September 24 MC action; next day notice, period opens	Policy Plan Amendment Business Item; Release for Public Comment
November 5, 2025 (week of) Committee of the Whole or MC	Public hearing
November 17, 2025	Public comment period closes
Varies	Final public comment reports prepared
December 1 CDC; December 4 MPOSC; December 10 MC or December 17 Committee of the Whole	Metropolitan Council consideration for adoption



Figure 2. Proposed Correction Amendments

Proposed Correction Amendments				
Map Key	Agency	Regional Park or Trail	Context	Notes
1	Anoka County	Bunker Hills Regional Park	Addition of a parcel in the southwest part of the Regional Park.	Adds 14 acres of parkland which is less than 1% of that total acreage of the 1,600-acre regional park.
2	Anoka County	Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park	Addition of parcels located in the northwest part of the of the park.	Adds .68 acres of parkland which is 0.001% of that total acreage of the 735-acre regional park.
3	Bloomington/Three Rivers Park District	Hyland Anderson Bush Park Reserve	Transfer of parkland management from Bloomington to Three Rivers.	Since this is a change in management of existing regional park land, there is no impact to total acreage or regional park boundaries.
4	Bloomington/Three Rivers Park District	Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail	2.0-mile existing trail extension to connect to Three River's trail terminus and transfer of management to Three Rivers.	Addition of 2.0-mile of trail for a total of 7.14-miles of trail.
5	Carver County	Lake Minnewashta Regional Park	Adds parkland to the entrance in the southeast part of the park.	Add 0.40 acres of parkland which is less than 1% of the total acreage of the 330-acre regional park.
6	Carver County	Lake Waconia Regional Park	Removal of parkland located on the southwest side of park and confirmation of boundary exhibit Figure 2.4 in plan.	Adds 5.3 acres of parkland which is 0.04% of the total acreage of the 125-acre regional park.

7	Dakota County	Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail	Clarifies the boundary between the Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail and Big Rivers Regional Trail.	Renames Big Rivers Regional Trail to Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail.
8	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Above the Falls Regional Park	Added an inholding on the southwest side of the park.	Adds 17 acres of parkland which is 4.5% of the total acreage of the 375-acre regional park.
9	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Theodore Wirth Regional Park	Added parkland from a vacated road.	Adds 6.09 acres of parkland which is 0.82% of the total acreage of 720 acres.
10	Ramsey County	Long Lake Regional Park	Addition and removal of parkland located on the east sides of the park.	Adds 9.4 acres of parkland which is 7.5% of the total acreage of the 125 acres regional park.
11	Ramsey County / Saint Paul	Phalen-Keller Regional Park	Clarifies the boundary along Round Lake.	Since this is a change in management of existing regional park land, there is no impact to total acreage or regional park boundaries.
12	Saint Paul	Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park	Adds an inholding parcel located on the Crosby Lake shoreline.	Adds one 6.14-acre inholding which is 1% of the total acreage of the 612 acres regional park.
13	Scott County	Spring Lake Regional Park	Adds two community trail connections located on the east side of the park.	Adds 0.1-acre of parkland which is 0.26% of the total acreage of the 376 acres regional park.
14	Three Rivers Park District	Bryant Lake Regional Park	Past inholding removals left an owned-island parcel that is for proposed removal.	Removes 1.32-acres of parkland that is 0.08% of the 169-acre park.
15	Three Rivers Park District	Fish Lake Regional Park	Removal and addition of parkland for the Bass Lake Road (CR 10) reconstruction/expansion project.	Removes 1.20-acres of parkland and adds 0.9-acres of parkland to 131-acre park.

16	Three Rivers Park District	Elm Creek Park Reserve	Removal of a parcel as part of the land exchange with the City of Champlin.	Removes 8.85-acres of parkland that is 0.21% the 4,209-acre park reserve.
17	Three Rivers Park District	Lake Rebecca Park Reserve	Acquired parkland along the northern Crow River boundary.	Adds 71.6-acres of parkland that is 3.4% the 2,069-acre park reserve.
18	Three Rivers Park District	Gale Woods Farm Special Feature	Erroneously acquired a parcel while acquiring an adjacent parcel.	2.87-acre removal due to error.
19	Washington County	Lake Elmo Park Reserve	Clarified south entrance boundary with addition of County road right-of-way.	Adds 5.4-acres of parkland that is 0.1% of the 2,036-acre park reserve.

Figure 4: Proposed Trail Implementation Amendments

Proposed Trail Implementation Amendments				
Map Key	Agency	Regional Park or Trail	Context	Notes
20	Dakota County	Veteran's Memorial Greenway Regional Trail	Realign trail segment between Rich Valley Boulevard and Highway 52.	Changed alignment reduces the trail mileage by about 0.3 miles.
21	Ramsey County	Birch Lake Regional Trail	Trail alignment implemented along Hammond Road and Township Parkway, to connect with Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park.	0.77 mile trail extension is 17.7% of the total mileage of 4.33 miles.
22	Three Rivers Park District	Baker/Carver Regional Trail	Addition of Segment F trail corridor land for trail development and natural system management.	Add 54-acres of trail corridor land to the 17-mile trail.

23	Three Rivers Park District	Medicine Lake Regional Trail	Addition of a short trail spur for a future trail realignment.	0.10-mile trail spur
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Figure 4: Modernizing Mapping Amendment Locations

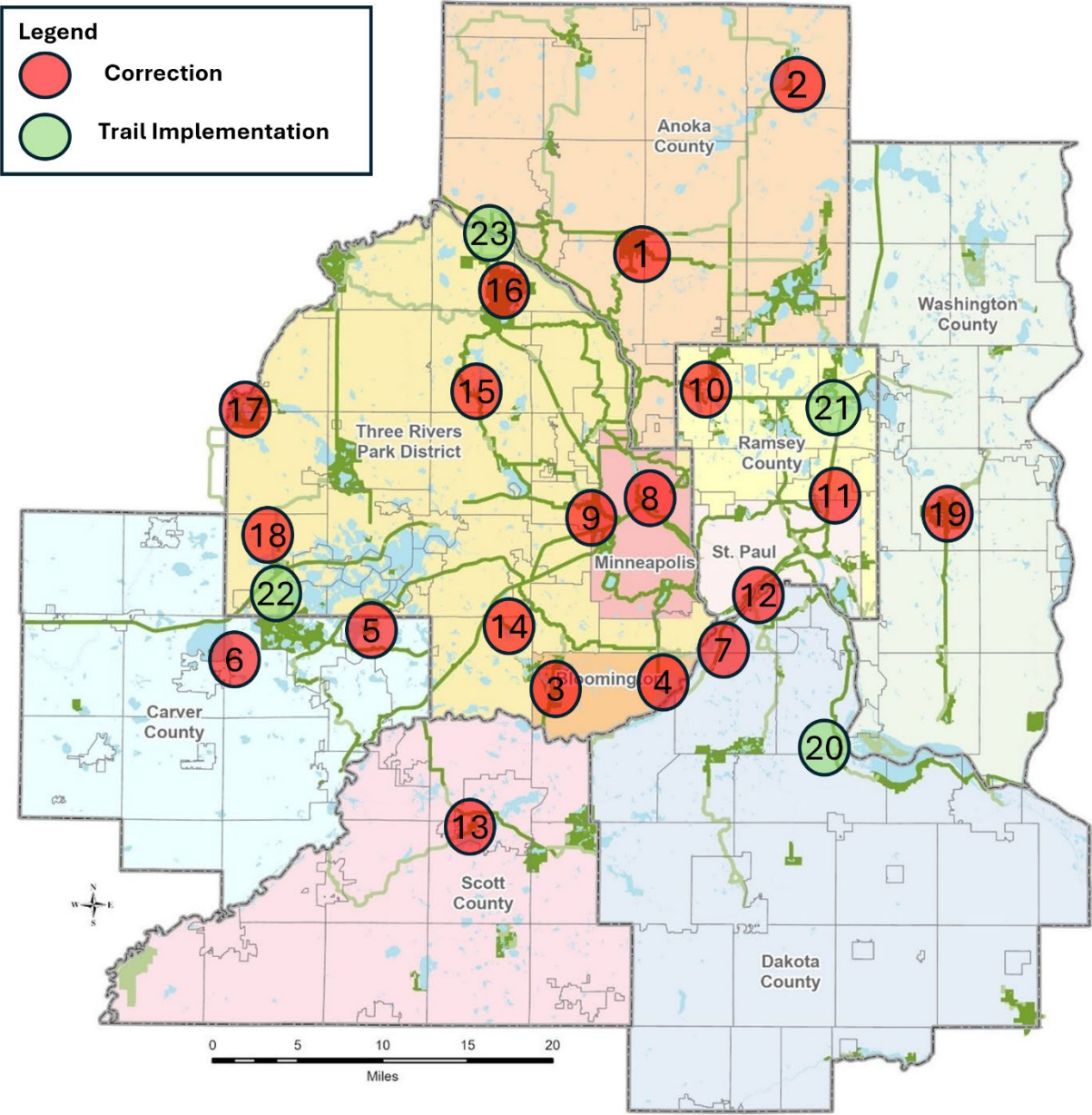


Figure 5. Anoka County's Bunker Hills Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 1

Addition of a parcel in the southwest part of the Regional Park.

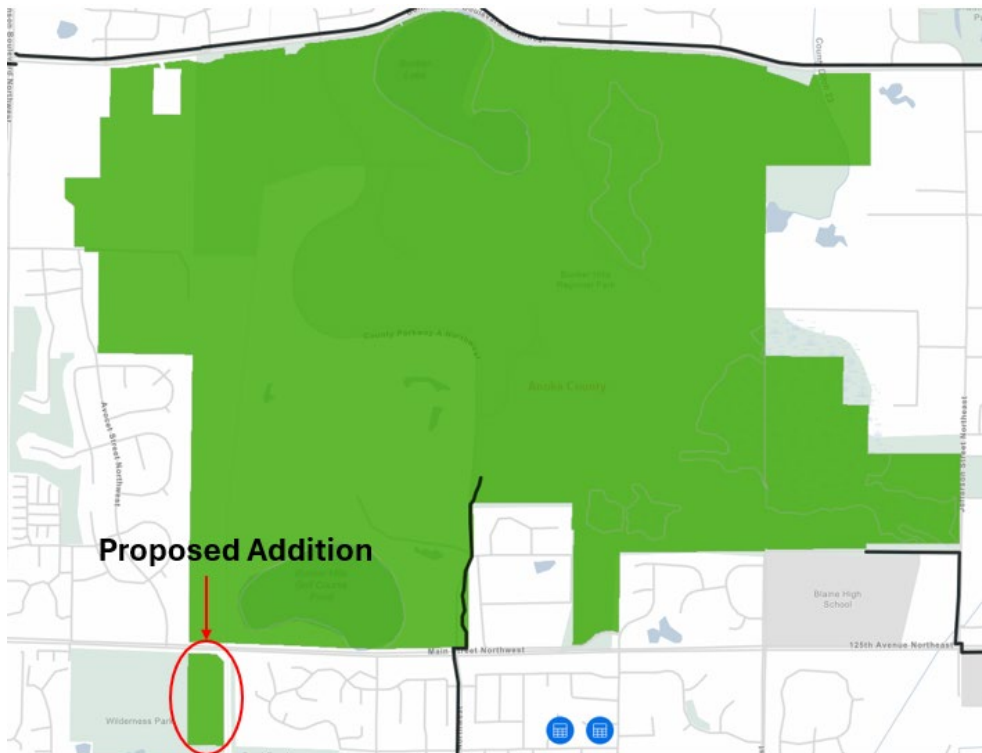


Figure 6. Anoka County's Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 2

Addition of parcels located in the northwest part of the park.



Figure 7. Bloomington/Three Rivers Park District's Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail Amendment, Map Key 4

2.0-mile existing trail extension to connect to Three River's trail terminus and transfer management to Three Rivers.



Figure 8: Carver County's Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 5

Adds parkland to the entrance in the southeast part of the park.



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Removal of parkland located on the southwest side of park and confirmation of boundary exhibit 2.4 in plan.

The map displays the geographical context of the proposed land removal. Key features include:

- Water Bodies:** Lake Superior to the west and Lake Wabigoon Park to the north.
- Landmarks:** Coney Island and Carver County.
- Roads:** Beach Road, Yellowstone Trail, Vista Boulevard, and Old Beach Lane.
- Infrastructure:** Highway 92 and Highway 8.
- Proposed Action:** A red oval highlights a specific area on the eastern shore of Lake Superior, with a red arrow pointing to it from the text "Proposed Removal".

Clarifies the boundary between the Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail and Big Rivers Regional Trail.

Proposed integration into Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail

Figure 11. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Above the Falls Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 8

Adds an inholding on the southwest side of the park.

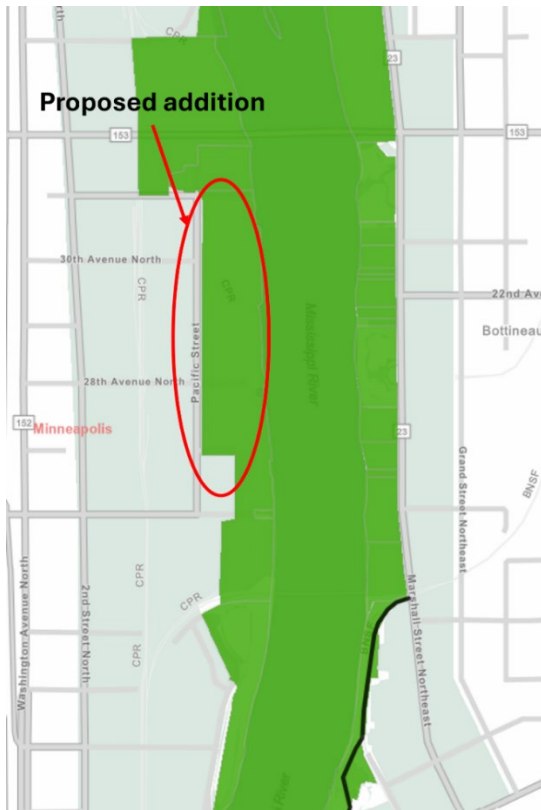


Figure 12. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Theodore Wirth Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 9

Adds parkland from a vacated road.



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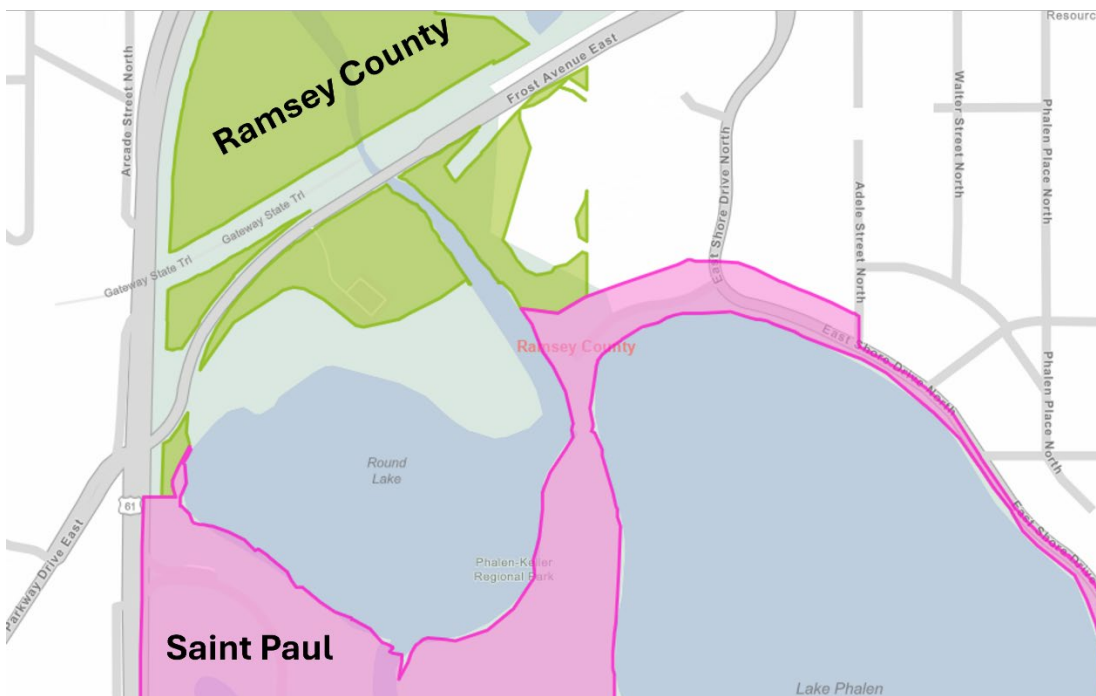
Figure 13. Ramsey County's Long Lake Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 10

Addition and removal of parkland located on the east side of the park.



Figure 14. Ramsey County / Saint Paul's Phalen-Keller Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 11

Clarifies the boundary along Round Lake.



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Figure 15. Saint Paul's Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 12

An addition of an inholding parcel located on the Crosby Lake shoreline.



Figure 16. Scott County's Spring Lake Regional Park Amendment, Map Key 13

Adds two community trail connections located on the east side of the park.



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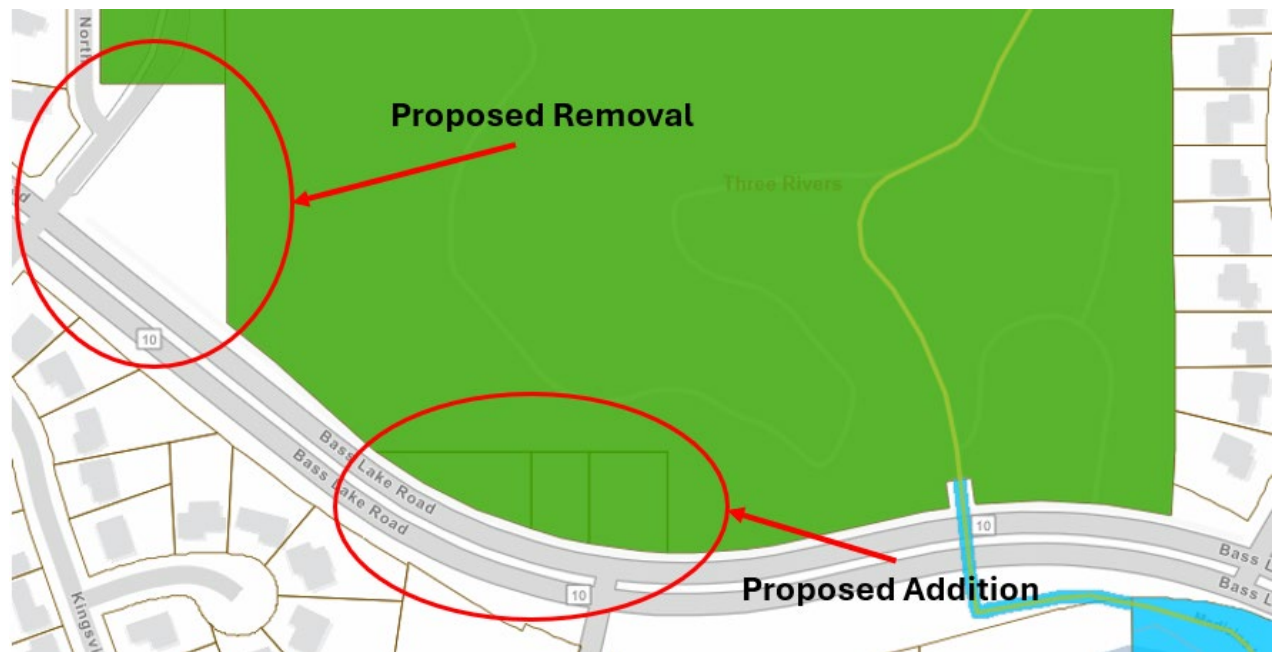


Figure 19. Three Rivers Park District's Elm Creek Park Reserve Amendment, Map Key 16

Proposed removal of a parcel as part of the land exchange with the City of Champlin.



Figure 20. Three Rivers Park District's Lake Rebecca Park Reserve Amendment, Map Key 17

Acquired parkland along the northern Crow River boundary.



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Figure 21. Three Rivers Park District's Gale Woods Farm Special Feature Amendment, Map Key 18

Erroneously acquired a parcel while acquiring an adjacent parcel.

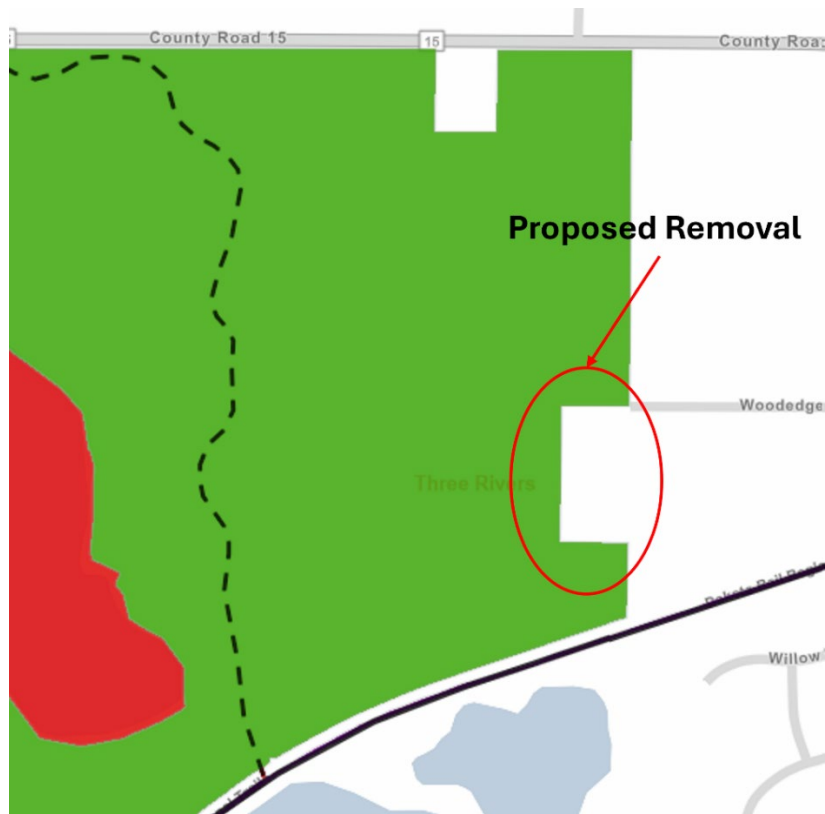


Figure 22. Washington County's Lake Elmo Park Reserve Amendment, Map Key 19

Clarifies south entrance boundary with addition of County road right-of-way.



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Figure 23. Dakota County's Veteran's Memorial Greenway Regional Trail Amendment, Map Key 20

Proposed trail realignment segment between Rich Valley Blvd and Highway 52.

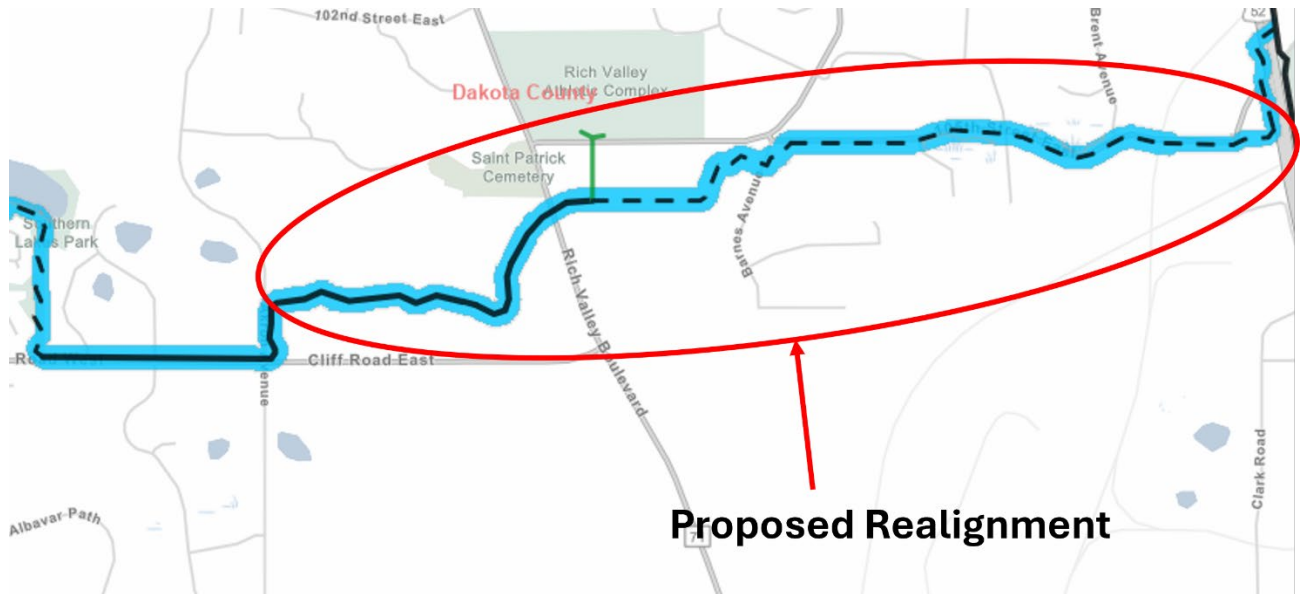


Figure 24. Ramsey County's Birch Lake Regional Trail Amendment, Map Key 21

Proposed trail realignment implemented along Hammond Road and Township Parkway, to connect with Bald Eagle-Otter Lake Regional Park.



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Figure 25. Three Rivers Park District's Baker-Carver Regional Trail, Map Key 22

Proposed addition of Segment F trail corridor land for trail development and natural system management.

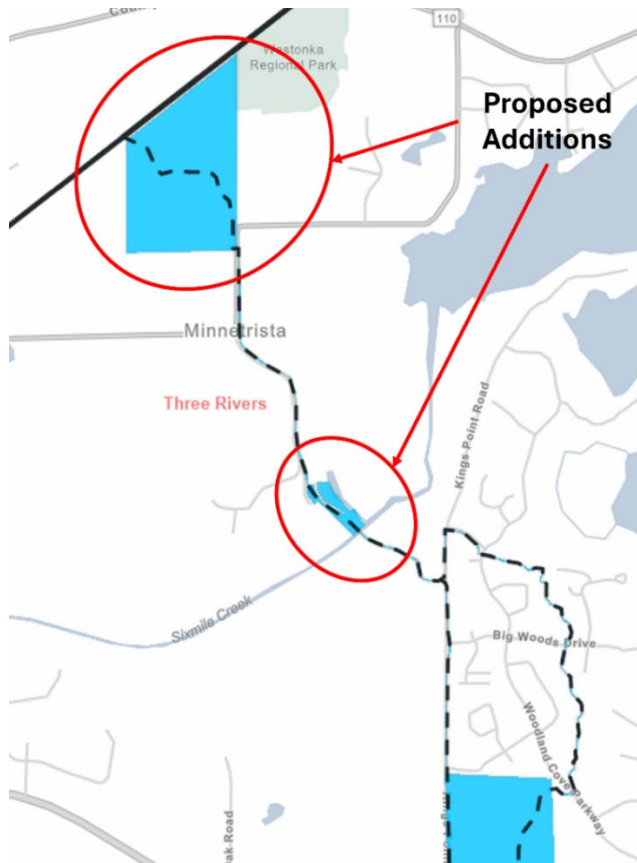


Figure 26. Three Rivers Park District's Medicine Lake Regional Trail Amendment, Map Key 23

Proposed addition of a short trail spur for a future trail realignment.

