

Attachment 1. 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment Summary of Changes

This Summary of Changes attachment provides an overview of the significant changes being proposed as part of this Policy Plan amendment. This summary should be used to help navigate the draft Policy Plan. This amendment features the inclusion of 26 new regional designations, including four regional park search areas; 17 regional trails, regional trail search corridors or search corridor extensions; one special recreation feature – bridging facility search area; and four park expansions (boundary adjustments). The amendment also includes new policy for regional park and regional trail boundary adjustments, special recreation feature – bridging facilities, the Council-adopted master plan equity analysis requirement, and other components outlined below.

Chapter 1: Planning for the Twin Cities Region

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Chapter 1	No significant changes to Chapter 1. Updated Regional Parks system facts, figures, and maps.

Chapter 2: Overview of the Regional Parks System and the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Chapter 2, Page 22 Lines 6-10, Page 23 Lines 7-8	Regional Parks System Fund Distribution Plan: The Fund Distribution Plan continues to provide high level information on the parks funding programs. Work is underway on a Regional Parks System Grant Program Manual that will provide additional detailed descriptions of the grant program operations, administrative information and requirements.
Page 26, Lines 17-28	Boundary Adjustments: Added clarifying language that a Policy Plan amendment is required for a major boundary adjustment to an existing or planned unit in the Regional Parks System.

Chapter 3: System Plan

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Pages 65 - 77	<p>Regional designations: The Council convened an evaluation process where implementing agency proposals were considered within a larger regional context. As a result of this process, 26 new regional designations are recommended, including four regional park search areas; 17 regional trails, regional trail search corridors or search corridor extensions; one special recreation feature – bridging facility search area; and four park expansions (boundary adjustments). These elements have been added to the Regional Park System map changes as shown in the next line item.</p>
Pages 40 - 77	<p>Regional Parks System map changes: Updated Regional Parks system maps and system totals, including the following facts about the Regional Parks System units open to the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 Regional Parks (no change) • 12 Park Reserves (no change) • 8 Special Recreation Features (no change) • 55 Regional Trails (increase of 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carver County’s Highway 5 ○ Saint Paul’s Robert Pira Regional Trail ○ Scott County’s Spring Lake Regional Trail ○ Three Rivers Park District, Baker/Carver Regional Trail ○ Three Rivers Park District, Crow River Regional Trail ○ Three Rivers Park District, CP Rail Regional Trail Segment A • 2 Planned Regional Parks (no change) • 1 Planned Park Reserves (no change) • 8 Planned Regional Trails (2 less than 2018) • 5 Boundary Adjustments (increase of 4) • 7 Regional Park Search Areas (increase of 4) • 1 Special Recreational Feature - Bridging Facility Search Area (increase of 1) • 53 Regional Trail Search Corridors (increase of 8)

Chapter 4: Siting and Acquisition Policy and Strategies

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Page 80 Line 12-17 and Page 84 Lines 24 - 26	Boundary Adjustments: If a parcel adjacent to the park becomes available that is not in a current master plan boundary, a boundary adjustment may be considered. Major boundary adjustments require a Policy Plan amendment, while minor boundary adjustments can be accomplished through a master plan amendment.
Page 88 - 89	Bridging Facilities: The Regional Parks System includes four regional designation types including regional parks, park reserves, special recreation features, and regional trails. Bridging facilities are a type of special recreation feature that are intended to attract and introduce new outdoor recreation users to regional parks and trails. Bridging facilities are designed to prototype new ideas that advance equitable usage, focusing on underserved groups in the Regional Parks System. This new section further defines the goal and requirements for Bridging Facilities.

Chapter 5: Planning Policy and Strategies

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Page 90 Lines 30-34, Page 91 Lines 1-10 Page 94, Lines 20-35	<p>Master Plan Requirements: New master plan boundary definition and other refinements to master plan requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundaries and Acquisition Costs: Added clarifying language addressing an administrative boundary, acquisition information, and agency ownership arrangements. • Development Concept: Added mapping to support the description of the master plan's development concept.
Pages 92- 93 and 95- 96	Equity Analysis Requirement: Approved by the Council in February 2020, the Equity Analysis Requirement for master planning is designed to ensure that questions of who benefits and who is affected by the development of a regional recreational resource will be addressed in master plans, which are developed by implementing agencies to guide the development of Regional Parks System components. The Equity Analysis Requirement is an examination of the public engagement process and outcomes for stakeholders by race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, age, and other pertinent characteristics.

Page 97, Lines 38-41, Page 98, Lines 1-25	Acquisition Master Plans: Clarified the purpose and requirements of an acquisition master plan, including adding the need for mapping to support the proposal and agency board support.
Pages 98-99	Boundary Adjustments Policy Clarification: Existing regional parks and trails have Council-approved master plan boundaries. There are times when a regional park implementing agency has an opportunity to add, modify, or remove land from one of its units, resulting in a change to its master plan boundary. This new policy language clarifies the threshold for major and minor boundary adjustments. Major boundary adjustments may be considered through the every-four-year system addition process, while minor boundary adjustments may be considered through a master plan amendment request.

Chapter 6: System Protection Policy and Strategies

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Page 106, Lines 18-36, Page 107, Lines 8-11	Land conversions: The Council will review land conversion requests using the criteria in Chapter 6, Strategy 2. The updated criteria clarify requirements.
Page 107, Lines 31-38, Page 108, Lines 1-5	Equally Valuable Exchanges: Clarification on when the Metropolitan Council will consider a conversion of regional park land to other uses, including an enhanced description of the process for determining an equally valuable exchange.
Page 108, Lines 34 - 35 and Page 109, Lines 14 - 16	Regional Parks System Sub-Recipient Administrative Guide: The sub-recipient guide has transitioned into an online draft Grant Program Manual, which is currently under development. It will provide detailed program specific information for each of the parks funding programs.

Chapter 7: Recreation Activities and Facilities Policy and Strategies

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Page 116, Lines 2-11	<p>Regional designations: The Council convened an evaluation process in 2019 where implementing agency proposals were considered within a larger regional context. As a result of this process, 26 regional designations of system elements are recommended, including regional park search areas, regional trail search corridors, boundary adjustments, and a special recreation feature search area (Attachment 2).</p>

Chapter 8: Finance Policy and Strategies

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Page 131, Lines 17-18	<p>2019 Competitive Equity Grant Program: Updated current policy plan language to clarify that the Competitive Equity Grant Program was established and implemented in 2019. The Council provided three grants to three agencies for equity related projects in 2019. For more information about these projects, see Business Item 2019-332.</p>
Pages 134 - 147	<p>Estimated costs to complete the system: State law requires that the Policy Plan estimate the cost of the recommended acquisitions and development of the park system (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147, subd. 1). This estimate was comprehensively updated with the 2018 Policy Plan update. The 2020 amendment will include the proposed new regional designations and other park and trail updates. The estimated build-out of the entire system is roughly \$2.3 billion, an increase of \$200 million from 2018.</p>

Chapter 9: 2020-2021 Workplan

Location in Draft	Summary of Changes
Pages 148–149	<p>Workplan for the Regional Parks Policy Plan: Chapter Nine: 2020 – 2024 Workplan for the Regional Parks Policy Plan is updated to reflect new topics, including new studies, which will be informed by the Council’s work to prepare the 2050 metropolitan development guide. This workplan will continue to evolve over the next four years. A few highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore development of a land acknowledgement that recognizes and respects Indigenous residents and the histories of the land where our regional parks and trails are located.• Conduct a cultural-historical study that describes and documents the impacts inequitable policies have had on the development of the Regional Parks System.• Develop a long-term vision for regional trails that explores geographic balance, spacing, equity, character, and natural resource values.