

Attachment 3. Designation of Regional Significance

2020 Regional Park and Trail System Additions - An Assessment of Regional Significance Using Council Priorities

Note: Recommended additions must have a “High” rating in one or more of the three Council priority areas.

Implementing Agency, Proposal	Natural Resources	Geographic Balance	Equity	Recommend addition?
Anoka County – 2 proposals				
Coon Lake County Park – Propose Recognition of Regional Status	High	Medium	Medium	Yes
Rum River North, South County Parks – Propose Recognition of Regional Status, Combine with Rum River Central Regional Park	High	Medium	Medium	Yes
Carver County – 3 proposals				
Highway 5 Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	Low	No
County Road 11 Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	High	Yes
County Road 40 Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	Low	Low	No
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – 1 proposal				
Midtown Greenway – Propose Recognition of Regional Status	Medium	High	High	Yes
Ramsey County – 1 proposal				
Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Adjustment	High	Medium	High	Yes
Saint Paul – 3 proposals				
Mississippi Gorge – Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	High	Yes
Hidden Falls – Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	High	Yes
Grand Round – Lake Elmo Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	High	High	Yes
Scott County – 2 proposals				
Lake Marion to Scott West Regional Trail Search Corridor	High	High	High	Yes
Cedar Lake Farm to New Prague Destination Regional Trail Search Corridor	High	Medium	Medium	Yes

Implementing Agency, Proposal	Natural Resources	Geographic Balance	Equity	Recommend addition?
Three Rivers Park District – 11 proposals				
Weaver Lake Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	High	Yes
Eagle Lake to Bryant Lake Regional Trail Extension Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	High	Yes
Gray's Bay Regional Trail Extension Search Corridor	Medium	Low	High	Yes
Silverwood Regional Trail Connector Search Corridor	Medium	High	High	Yes
Purgatory Creek Regional Trail Extension Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	High	Yes
Lake Sarah Regional Trail Extension Search Corridor	Medium	Medium	High	Yes
Rogers-Corcoran Regional Park Search Area	High	Medium	Medium	Yes
Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek Regional Park Search Area	High	Medium	High	Yes
First-Ring Special Recreation Feature Search Area	Low	High	High	Yes
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve Boundary Adjustment	High	Medium	Low	Yes
Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature Boundary Adjustment	High	Low	Medium	Yes
Washington County – 5 proposals				
Pine Point Regional Park Boundary Adjustment	High	Medium	Medium	Yes
Middle St. Croix Valley Regional Trail Search Corridor Boundary Adjustment	Medium	High	Low	Yes
Central Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor Boundary Adjustment	High	Medium	Low	Yes
Lake Elmo Park Reserve to Phalen-Keller Regional Park - Regional Trail Search Corridor	Medium	High	High	Yes
Pine Point Regional Park to Square Lake Special Recreation Feature - Regional Trail Search Corridor	High	High	Medium	Yes

Definitions for Designation of Regional Significance, Ratings

Natural Resources

High = Acquiring lands with natural qualities most desirable for outdoor recreational activities AND Protecting an important natural resource feature, such as linking other natural resource areas or water bodies together, which in turn provide a larger natural habitat opportunity; help protect or improve water quality, or provide habitat for protected or endangered species

Medium = Links designated federal, state, and regional natural resource areas together.

Low = limited ability to contribute to natural resource improvements or management or links only trails together.

Geographic Balance

High = Proposal demonstrates how the proposed unit will provide geographic balance or fill a gap for the seven-county Metropolitan Area (not just within the agency's jurisdiction), or such balance is supported by spatial analysis (i.e., how proposed additions relate to existing, planned, and search areas in the overall Regional Parks System) or Metropolitan Council population forecasts to 2040.

Medium = Proposal demonstrates how proposed unit will provide geographic balance or fill a gap within the agency's jurisdiction, or such balance is supported by spatial analysis (i.e., how proposed additions relate to existing, planned, and search areas in the overall Regional Parks System) or Metropolitan Council population forecasts to 2040.

Low = Proposal does not clearly demonstrate how proposed unit will provide geographic balance or fill a gap within either the seven-county metro area or the agency's jurisdiction and/or there is little/no evidence that the proposal would provide for geographic balance or fill a gap in the regional park and trail system.

Equity

Proposals earned a race/income equity rating based on evaluations of *who lives close to the systems investment, how/if equity-focused engagement happened, whether the systems investment is proximate to transit.*

High = Proposed trail or park has a significant potential for building a more equitable Regional Park System. Area is close to census tracts with higher proportions of underserved users. Census tracts near the park or trail have a population that is less than 90% white (racial equity) or with a median household income of less than 85K (income equity); and/or evidence of strong equity-focused community engagement and/or close to transit.

Medium = Proposed park or trail addition has a small equity impact. The census tracts near the proposed system addition have populations that are between 90-95% white or under 100K median income, no evidence of equity focused community engagement effort, no access to transit.

Low = Nearby census tracts were over 90 percent white and over 100K median income, no evidence of equity-based community engagement, aggregated data asserted to represent entire community, no transit access.