

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2026-063

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE REGIONAL PARKS AND
TRAIL COMMISSION FOR DESIGNATION OF CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK
AS A GREATER MN REGIONAL PARK.

- WHEREAS, the City of Northfield and the City of Dundas acknowledge the Cannon River Regional Park as a shared regional park corridor recognizing the recreational, environmental, cultural, and economic significance of the Cannon River corridor; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed Cannon River Regional Park includes existing and future parks, trails, open spaces, and related recreational amenities located along the Cannon River within the Cities of Northfield and Dundas; and
- WHEREAS, the Cities of Northfield and Dundas have a history of collaboration on trail, park, and river corridor improvements and continue to work together to enhance recreational opportunities and natural resource stewardship; and
- WHEREAS, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) is responsible for reviewing and recommending regionally significant parks and trails for designation within the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails System; and
- WHEREAS, designation within the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails System may provide future eligibility for state funding opportunities to support park and trail acquisition, development, restoration, and improvement projects; and
- WHEREAS, representatives of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission have reviewed the proposed corridor and encouraged submission of a Preliminary Designation Application; and
- WHEREAS, submission of a Preliminary Designation Application does not alter ownership, governance, operational responsibilities, or regulatory authority over existing parks, trails, or facilities and does not obligate either city to undertake future projects or accept future funding; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council finds that submission of a Preliminary Designation Application is in the best interest of the community and will allow for further evaluation of the regional significance of the Cannon River Regional Park; and
- WHEREAS, the Cannon River Regional Park shall generally consist of the corridor depicted on Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Northfield has the legal authority to act as a public sponsor and applicant for regional park designation purposes and acknowledges the responsibilities associated with participation in the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The City Administrator, or designee, is authorized to prepare and submit a Preliminary Designation Application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission for the Cannon River Regional Park and to act on behalf of the City as the authorized applicant for purposes of the designation review process.
2. The City Council formally recognizes the City of Dundas as a partner in the proposed Cannon River Regional Park and supports submission of the application as a collaborative regional effort.
3. City staff are authorized to work with the City of Dundas and other regional partners in preparing materials and supporting documentation necessary for the application process.
4. The City acknowledges its obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and program requirements associated with regional park designation and any future grant funding accepted by the City.
5. If the Cannon River Regional Park receives regional designation, the City affirms that it possesses the legal authority to enter into designation agreements and future funding agreements related to City-owned portions of the regional park system, subject to any approvals required by law and future City Council authorization.
6. Submission of the Preliminary Designation Application shall not be construed as a commitment to pursue full designation, undertake specific capital projects, enter into funding agreements, or accept future grant funding without subsequent City Council review and approval.
7. City staff are directed to report back to the City Council regarding the results of the preliminary review and any future recommendations related to regional park designation.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 16 day of June, 2026.

ATTEST

City Clerk

Mayor

VOTE: ___ ZWEIFEL ___ BEUMER ___ DAHLEN ___ HOLMES

 ___ NESS ___ PETERSON WHITE ___ SOKUP

EXHIBIT A

