

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2026-057

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
CITY OF DUNDAS, MINNESOTA DESIGNATING THE
“CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK”

- WHEREAS, the City of Northfield's adopted Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan identifies the creation of a regional river destination and the pursuit of a regional park designation as key implementation strategies to enhance public access to the Cannon River, strengthen connections between parks, trails, downtown, and neighborhoods, and support long-term community and economic vitality; and
- WHEREAS, the Northfield 2045 Comprehensive Plan includes goals and implementation strategies to improve access to the river, build upon Northfield's unique quality of place, preserve natural assets, establish interconnected systems of parks, trails, and greenways, and advance implementation of the Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan; and
- WHEREAS, the City's Parks, Open Space, and Trail planning efforts recognize the Cannon River corridor as one of Northfield's most significant recreational, environmental, cultural, and economic assets and support continued investment in riverfront parks, trails, and public spaces; and
- WHEREAS, a regional park designation will strengthen opportunities to secure state, regional, federal, and philanthropic funding, expand recreational and tourism opportunities, enhance environmental stewardship of the Cannon River corridor, and further Northfield's vision of creating a connected riverfront experience that benefits residents and visitors alike; and
- WHEREAS, the Cannon River serves as a defining natural and cultural feature that connects Northfield, Dundas, surrounding communities, regional trails, and the broader Cannon River watershed, making a regional park designation a natural extension of the community's long-term vision for the river corridor; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Northfield, in partnership with the City of Dundas, has discussed the concept of creating a shared regional park identity that recognizes the recreational, environmental, cultural, and economic significance of the Cannon River corridor; and
- WHEREAS, the Cities of Northfield and Dundas have a history of collaboration on trail, park, and river corridor improvements; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed regional park corridor includes existing and future parks, trails, open spaces, and related amenities located along the Cannon River within the Cities of Northfield and Dundas; and
- WHEREAS, the designation of a regional park name does not alter ownership, governance, operational responsibilities, or regulatory authority over any existing park, trail, or facility; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield and the City of Dundas recognize that a regional park designation will provide significant benefits, including strengthening regional identity, promoting tourism and economic vitality, improving public awareness and access to recreational opportunities, supporting coordinated planning and wayfinding, enhancing environmental stewardship of the river corridor, and improving opportunities for regional partnerships and grant funding.

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

1. The City hereby formally adopts the name “*Cannon River Regional Park*” for the regional park corridor located along the Cannon River within and within the City of Northfield as illustrated in Exhibit A.

The regional park designation is intended to function as a unifying regional park overlay encompassing multiple existing parks, trails, public spaces, and natural areas along the Cannon River corridor, recognizing and connecting the collective value of these individual destinations while preserving their unique character, history, and identity.

2. The regional park designation is intended to function as a unifying regional park overlay encompassing multiple existing parks, trails, public spaces, and natural areas along the Cannon River corridor.
3. Existing park names, identities, facilities, and management responsibilities shall remain unchanged, including but not limited to Ames Park, Bridge Square, Riverside Lions Park, Babcock Park, Memorial Park, Mill Park, Sechler Park, and other participating parks and trail segments, with the regional park designation serving as an overarching framework to promote connectivity, coordinated planning, resource stewardship, recreation, tourism, and environmental stewardship opportunities.
4. The naming of the Cannon River Regional Park is intended to provide a shared identity for regional promotion, planning, partnership development, and grant opportunities and does not modify ownership, management, maintenance, governance, or regulatory authority over any existing park, trail, or facility.
5. The City of Northfield encourages and supports participation by the City of Dundas in the broader Cannon River Regional Park concept. Exhibit B illustrates a conceptual depiction of potential future connections and amenities within the City of Dundas; however, the specific facilities, boundaries, designations, and future participation of the City of Dundas shall be determined solely by the City of Dundas through its own planning and approval processes.
6. City staff are authorized to continue discussions and coordination with the City of Dundas and other regional partners regarding future planning, designation, promotion, and development opportunities associated with the Cannon River Regional Park.

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

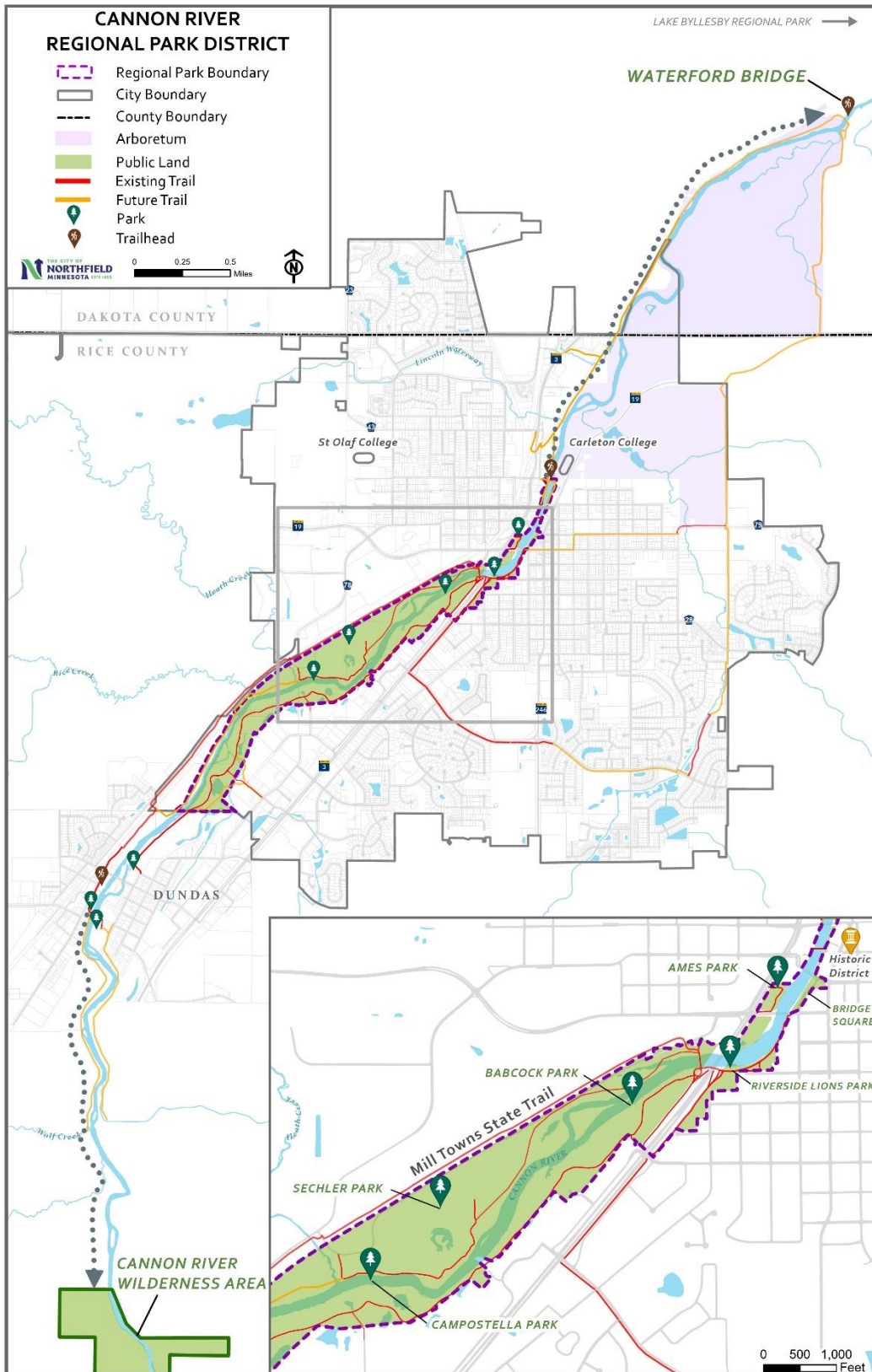


EXHIBIT B

