

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
Phone (612) 602-1000 TDD (612) 291-0904

DATE: August 10, 2010

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Jan Youngquist, Senior Planner—Parks (651-602-1029)

SUBJECT: Gale Woods Farm Boundary Amendment, Three Rivers Park District

INTRODUCTION

Gale Woods Farm is a 410 acre special recreation feature located on the eastern shores of Whaletail Lake in Minnetrista. The site was donated to Three Rivers Park District by Alfred and Leona Gale in 2000. The special recreation feature opened in 2003 and provides outdoor recreation and environmental education activities in a contemporary small-scale farm setting.

Three Rivers Park District acquired a .87 acre parcel located at 7280 County Road 110 West in June 2009 and has requested that the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the park boundary to include this parcel in the regional parks system. (see *Attachment 1: Request from Three Rivers Park District*)

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Minnesota Statute 473.121, Subdivision 14 defines “regional recreation open space” as land and water areas, or interests therein, and facilities determined by the Metropolitan Council to be of regional importance in providing for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area, including but not limited to park reserves, major linear parks and trails, large recreation parks, and conservatories, zoos, and other special use facilities.

ANALYSIS

The .87 acre parcel acquired by Three Rivers Park District is adjacent to the special recreation feature and is located next to the farm entrance. Gale Woods Farm and this parcel are the only properties that are accessed by County Road 110 West; therefore the acquisition of this parcel allows the entire road to serve solely as a park access. (see *Attachment 2: Southwest Gale Woods Farm Map* and *Attachment 3: Gale Woods Farm Location Map*)

Three Rivers Park District does not have plans for development of the site. The house located on the property will serve as a caretaker residence, which eliminates the need to make necessary renovations at the existing caretaker residence onsite. With this property no longer serving as a private residence, potential conflicts with neighbors related to noise, smells or activities of the operational farm are reduced.

Three Rivers Park District is not requesting reimbursement for acquisition of the parcel from the Metropolitan Council. Amending the boundary of Gale Woods Farm would recognize this parcel within the regional parks system, making it eligible for operations and maintenance funding.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The proposed Gale Woods Farm Boundary Amendment is consistent with the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.
2. The acquisition of the parcel located at 7280 County Road 110 West benefits Gale Woods Farm and the regional parks system by allowing County Road 110 West to serve solely as a park access road, eliminating the need for renovations of an existing onsite caretaker residence, and reducing potential conflict with neighbors related to noise, smells or activities of an operational farm.
3. The acquisition costs for the parcel located at 7280 County Road 110 West are not eligible for reimbursement from the Metropolitan Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the master plan boundary of Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature to include the parcel located at 7280 County Road 110 West.

Attachment 1: Request from Three Rivers Park District



June 28, 2010

Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners

Jan Youngquist
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Sara Wyatt
District 1

Dear Jan:

Marilynn Corcoran,
District 2

In April of 2009, the Park District Board of Commissioners authorized the purchase of a property adjacent to Gale Woods Farm. The .87 acres parcel is located at 7280 County Rd. 110 W. immediately next to the farm entrance. The Park District felt purchase of this property was important for several reasons.

Mark Haggerty
District 3

- The property was the only property other than Gale Woods that is accessed from 110 W. Acquiring the property would allow the road to serve solely as a park access.
- Reduced potential conflict with neighbors related to noise, smells or activities of a public Education Farm Operation.
- The residence would provide a solution to issues with an existing onsite caretaker residence in need of renovations.

Dale Woodbeck,
Vice Chair
District 4

The Park District is requesting the Met Councils consideration of a boundary adjustment for Gale Woods Farm in order to include this parcel. The Park District is not seeking any funding, simply the recognition of this parcel within the park boundary.

Rosemary Franzese
District 5

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Larry Blackstad, Chair
Appointed

Sincerely,

Boe Carlson
Associate Superintendent
Division of Administration

Barbara Kinzey
Appointed

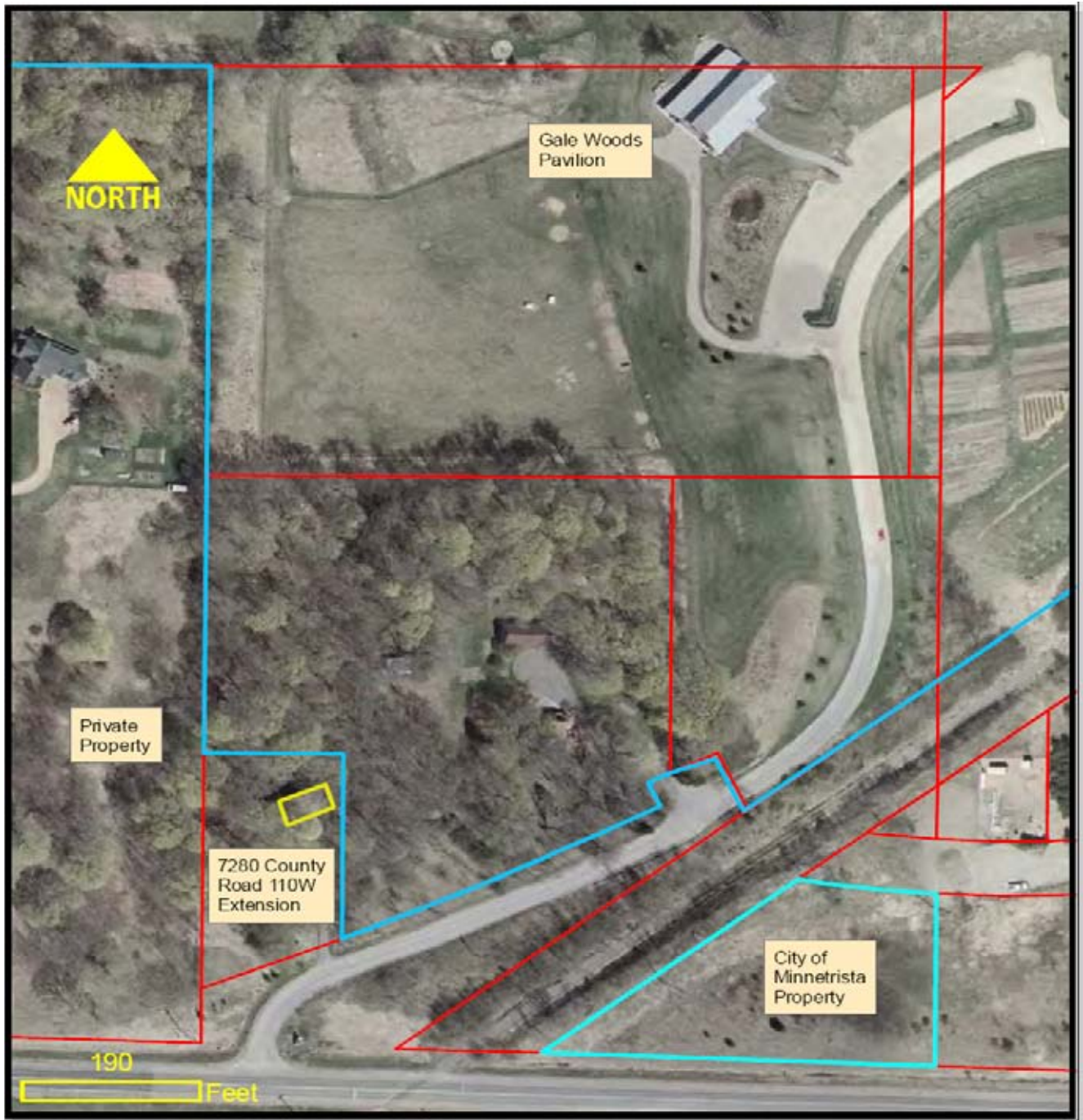
Cris Gears
Superintendent

C: Cris Gears, Superintendent
Tom McDowell, Assoc. Supt. Division of Recreation and Education
Don DeVeau, Director Department of Planning and Development

BRC/nng

Administrative Center, 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441-1299
Information 763.559.9000 • TTY 763.559.6719 • Fax 763.559.3287 • www.ThreeRiversParks.org

Attachment 2: Southwest Gale Woods Farm Map



- Legend**
- Estimated Building Outline
 - Park Boundaries
 - Property Outline
 - Inholdings
 - Hennepin Parcels

Map prepared by Three Rivers Park District
GIS Section - KL April 16, 2009

Southwest Gale Woods Farm



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Attachment 3: Gale Woods Farm Location Map

