

Part I: Project Overview



Project name or title:

Development of a Metro Regional Park and Trail Data Standard

General description of the project:

Convene interested stakeholder organizations and individuals to revisit the prior standard and develop a modified or new data standard for park and trail geospatial data that can be used to integrate data across jurisdictions, including municipal, park district, county, region, and state.

What is the goal of the project?

To develop and publish a park and trail data standard that meets the needs of multiple agencies and can ultimately be used by agencies federating data.

What general purpose or business need is being fulfilled by this project?

At present there is not a widely adopted standard in use for standardizing park and trail data in the metro. Prior effort in 2017-2018 was a good start, but using and modifying the NRPA schema didn't ultimately yield the desired results. New use cases such as the Metropolitan Council asking for regional park and trail data, asset management needs, connectivity studies, and needs of the wider data consumer community have led to the need to revisit this work.

What does success 'look like' for this project?

Stakeholders coming together over the course of a few meetings to articulate and document their business needs and collaboratively develop a data schema that is mutually agreed upon as meeting their collective need.

Part II: Stakeholders and Resources

Who are the stakeholders and/or beneficiaries of the project?

All agencies and interests who produce and consume park and trail geospatial data.

Who would fulfill the role of **project champion and what agency do they represent?**

At this time, there is no policy or executive level champion of the effort. Leadership at most organizations seems to think that standardized GIS data magically falls from the sky fully formed and ready to use, so let's not wake them and let them continue their inaccurate fever dream.

Who would fulfill the role of **project owner/project manager and what agency do they represent?**

Geoff Maas (Ramsey County) to serve as overall 'shepherd and sheriff' of meetings and documentation, h

Who would serve as *project team members*, and what kinds of work would they perform?

Whoever makes time to show up and participate in the sessions. They would contribute their experience and ideally provide and describe their specific needs for standardized park and trail data.

If *funding* is needed, and if so, where would it come from?

Funding is not needed. In-kind contributions (participation time, access to meeting spaces, refreshments) will be contributed by members who are willing to do so.

Part III: Practical Considerations

Does this project have any known policy implications?

It does not appear to, other than the Metropolitan Council is now asking for regional park and trail data to be provided in a specific format for access to regional funds. This is new as of 2024.

Are there any pre-requisites that must be met or satisfied before starting this project?

Identifying a stable set of participants who will agree to participate over the course of the project.

Does this project align or connect to other projects either planned or currently occurring?

To be determined. There may be state level (MNDNR and MNDOT) trail data efforts in place, these agencies will be encouraged to contribute their input, business needs, etc. as part of the process.

What is the anticipated deadline for deliverables or lifespan of the project?

At the first meeting, we will establish a fixed number of work sessions (assumed to be 3 or 4) to document the business needs and develop the draft schema, we do not want the project to drag on forever.

What is the 'likelihood of success' for this project?

If we can successfully document the business needs and develop a draft schema that participating agencies can lay hands on, test, comment on and approve, the project will have achieved its main aim. The adoption and use of the schema by agencies to produce data is another thing entirely.

Part IV: Business Needs Assessment

Please list all known agencies or interests that may have a *direct or indirect business need* for the proposed project and its anticipated deliverables. Include contact information for key individuals if known.

This is presently being assembled for the participants of the first meeting. City, County, Special District, Regional and State level agencies are being invited to participate.

Please list other agencies, interests or individuals who could contribute to, or positively influence, the development and execution of the proposed project.

In leading up to the first meeting, we have extended an invitation to a wide set of stakeholders, which we hope will show up and contribute.