

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Tom Wesolowski , Public Works Director
DATE: June 15, 2026
SUBJECT: Authorize execution of temporary construction and permanent public trail right of way easements for Ramsey County trails located on city property
ITEM NUMBER: 8.h
SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To authorize the execution of temporary construction and permanent public trail right of way easements for Ramsey County trail improvements located on city property.

INTRODUCTION

Temporary construction and permanent public right of way easements are required to allow Ramsey County to install and maintain a trail located on city property. Council action is required to execute the easements.

DISCUSSION

Over the last several years, sections of the trails in the Snail Lake Regional Park located north of Gramsie Road, referred to as Wetland A, have experienced intermittent flooding due to high water levels of the adjacent wetland. A map showing the area is attached at the end of this report.

Ramsey County Parks completed a Trail Improvements Feasibility Study in 2022 to determine what elevation the trail improvements should be constructed to, as well as floodplain and wetland mitigation locations, impacts and costs. An open house was held to provide information on the study and gather input from residents.

After the completion of the study, the county was able to secure Minnesota Legacy Parks and Trail Funds to complete the design and construction of the trail improvements. The project was bid and awarded and construction is expected to start in mid to late August with completion by the end of October. The project will consist of pavement removal and replacement of all the trail from Gramsie Road to Snail Lake Road and Snail Lake Boulevard loop, as well as an east west boardwalk in the wetland to replace a perpetually flooded trail. The trail locations are shown on the attached map.

Two segments of the existing trail that will be replaced cross city owned properties, located at 318 Floral Drive W and 358 Dennison Avenue. The locations of the city properties are shown on the attached map. During the improvement study process it was determined formal easements had not been recorded for the existing trail sections and that easements should be acquired by the county as part of the trail improvement process.

The temporary construction easement allows for the reconstruction of the trail, installing construction-related or trail-marking signage, and access to the construction area. All areas disturbed during construction will be restored and the temporary easement will expire one year after substantial completion of the trail project. The permanent easement will allow for the maintenance, repair, replacement and operation of the trail for pedestrian, bicycle and other non-motorized use.

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorized execution of the easements for the two properties and the signed copies are attached at the end of this report. After city authorization to execute the easements is complete, Ramsey County staff will complete the recording process for the easements.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the city council authorize execution of temporary construction and permanent public trail right of way easements for Ramsey County trail improvements located on city property.

ATTACHMENTS

[Wetland A Trail Map](#)

[Easement 318 Floral Drive](#)

[Easement 358 Dennison Ave](#)