



Date: August 28, 2025

Philip Forst
Environmental Specialist
Federal Highway Administration – Minnesota Division
180 East Fifth Street, Suite 930
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-4802

In reply refer to:
De Minimis Determination Notice of Intent Request for Battle Creek Regional Park
S.P. 164-090-020
From North end of Point Douglas Road S (north termini) to Bailey Road (south termini)
Ramsey County

Attn: Philip Forst

The City of Saint Paul is requesting that FHWA issue a notice of intent to make a determination that the impact of the above referenced project on Battle Creek Regional Park would be de minimis.

Information supporting this request is presented below.

1. General Project Information

SP: 164-090-020

Federal Project No.: TA 6226(121)

Route: Point Douglas Trail

From /To: From CR 18(Bailey Road) to Battle Creek Park Entrance

Description of Proposed Improvement: The proposed project would construct a new off-street multi-use trail between the north end of Point Douglas Road and Bailey Road in Saint Paul, connecting to a trailhead and picnic area at Battle Creek Regional Park. This trail will create a continuous off-street connection between Saint Paul and Washington County, linking major segments of the regional bike commuter and recreational trail systems while reducing conflicts between vehicles and trail users. The project includes excavation, construction of the trail, stormwater drainage improvements, and the addition of amenities such as lighting, benches, bike racks, trash receptacles, and ADA-compliant curb ramps. It would also improve the existing trail located behind the Jersey barrier along the corridor without relocating it.



2. Project Owner

Name: Bryan Murphy

Title: Landscape Architect at City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

Address: City Hall Annex

25 West 4th Street, Suite 400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Phone: 651-266-6411

Email: bryan.murphy@ci.stpaul.mn.us

3. Description of the Section 4(f) Property.

Name: Battle Creek Regional Park

Total Size (acres): Approximately 760 acres

Location: east of Point Douglas Road, south of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 35, west of Battle Creek Road and north of Highway 61.

Section 4(f) Property Owner/Manager: Ramsey County

Official(s) with Jurisdiction (OWJ):

Mark McCabe, Department Director

Parks & Recreation Department, Ramsey County

Address: 2015 Van Dyke St, Maplewood, MN 55109

Phone: [651-266-0300](tel:651-266-0300)

Email: mark.mccabe@co.ramsey.mn.us

Type of Section 4(f) Property: Public park and existing trails

Function of/or Available Activities on the Property: The park offers opportunities to play in the large playground and nature play area, walk or cycle on paved trails, and ride the mountain biking trails. Activities also include picnicking and grilling at designated areas, and swimming at Battle Creek Waterworks. Winter activities include sledding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Description and Location of Existing and Planned Facilities: The existing parking lot for Battle Creek Regional Park trails is located at the northernmost point of Battle Creek Park Entrance Road. The park includes a large playground and nature play area, paved trails for walking or cycling, and mountain biking trails. Facilities also include parking, picnic areas, grill areas and the swimming facilities at Battle Creek Waterworks which are undergoing improvements over the 2025 season. Winter facilities include sledding hills, cross-country ski trails, and snowshoe trails, with hiking trails open year-round. In addition to the waterworks improvements the Battle Creek Regional Park Master Plan includes scenic overlooks, additional access, natural surface trails, multi-use trails, and additional picnicking areas.

Access: Pedestrian access is available from 75 Winthrop St. South and 2300 Upper Afton Road. Trail access and vehicle access is available at the north end of Battle Creek Park Entrance Rd.

Other Features or Attributes Important to the Section 4(f) resource: N/A



4. Impacts to the Section 4(f) Property.

Amount of land impacted (acres): 0.61 ac.

Permanent R/W Acquisition/Easements: 0.05 ac.

Temporary Easements: 0.56 ac.

Functions/Activities Affected: N/A

Facilities Affected: The entrance to the Battle Creek Trailhead may be temporarily affected during construction. However, a new trail connection is proposed along Battle Creek Entrance Road.

Access Affected: The Battle Creek Park Entrance Road parking lot will remain open during construction. In addition, all trails will remain open, as this section of improvements does not directly affect existing trail connections in the park. Park facilities that will not be impacted include the large playground and nature play area, paved trails, mountain biking trail, dog park, picnic and grill areas, swimming facilities at Battle Creek Waterworks, and hiking trails.

Other Features or Attributes Affected: N/A

5. Considerations in consultation with the OWJ.

Impact avoidance: Complete avoidance of all impacts to Battle Creek Regional Park is only possible if no work occurs at this location. Without the proposed project work the project's purpose and need would not be met.

Planning to minimize harm: The project management team has been in coordination with Ramsey County Parks & Recreation to minimize harm. It was determined that the project will not have an impact on the primary activities at the park, allowing usage to continue. No changes are proposed to the existing amenities of the park that are used by the public.

Mitigation: Signs will be in place during construction to notify trail users of ongoing work and direct them to use the east side of the roadway for access to the Battle Creek Entrance Road parking lot and trails.

Enhancement: This project's proposed trail connections will be an enhancement to the park. Battle Creek Regional Park will be restored to a condition at least as good as the condition that existed prior to the project. The project will increase connectivity to the surrounding community and improve pedestrian safety.

6. Coordination with Responsible OWJ Over the Section 4(f) Property:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Agency/Organization, Personnel, and their Position</i>	<i>Discussion description</i>	<i>Conclusions</i>



Park Meetings 2024 and 2025	<p><i>Mark McCabe, Department Director, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation 651-266-0300</i></p> <p><i>Bryan Murphy, Landscape Architect City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation</i></p> <p><i>Brett (Gus) Blomer Ramsey County, Director of Planning and Development</i></p>	It was determined that the proposed impacts to the park are minor and will not impact the functionality of the park or any park programming.	As the proposed project does not negatively impact the use of the park, the County Parks and Recreation Department supports the project, as does the County Planning and Development Department.
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If after consideration of the information presented in this letter, FHWA intends to make a de minimis determination, conditioned upon consideration of any comments received during the required 14-day public comment period, please indicate by signature below. MnDOT will transmit a copy of this signed letter to the OWJ as notice of FHWA's intent to make a de minimis finding.

The de minimis process, including correspondence related to FHWA's intent to make a de minimis determination, comments received on the notice of FHWA's intent to make a de minimis determination, FHWA's final de minimis determination, and the OWJ's final concurrence will be reported in the Categorical Exclusion document.

Sincerely,

Bryan Murphy, ASLA
Landscape Architect
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

Attachments:

1. Project Location
2. Battle Creek Regional Park Impacts



**SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA**

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ANDY RODRIGUEZ, CPRP, DIRECTOR

City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street, Suite 400
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651-266-6400

I Concur:

District State Aid Engineer Dan Erickson Digitally signed by Dan Erickson
Date: 2025.10.07 20:14:20 -05'00' **Date** _____

I Concur:

State Aid Engineer _____ **Date** _____

FHWA Intent to Make a De Minimis Determination conditioned on results of public notice and comment period:

FHWA Engineer _____ **Date** _____















