

## Amanda Brazee

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**From:** Sandy Smith  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2016 2:29 PM  
**To:** Joe Pavelko; Mark Johnson; Amanda Brazee  
**Cc:**

**Subject:**

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Members: As promised at the meeting, members who ask question of managers and receive answers staff will forward to all members for their information. Below is the first of those Q and A's.

Metro Big Rivers HA 02

Q:

1. First off, I'm looking at what I think is the Victoria Park project. Can you let me know if in fact this is correct? If not, can you please let me know what this is referring to as this is a city of St Paul project and not Ramsey County. I couldn't find a Victoria Park in Ramsey County. Additionally, if this is the location I'm very curious as to whether this project has any lasting wildlife/habitat value considering the future uses of the site and being sandwiched into a fairly developed area. Are there trails planned through this area?
2. Also, on the Willow Park Reserve, I could a restoration plan on the Capitol Region website. Is GRG working with them on this project and will the restoration follow what's in this plan, meaning removal of turf grass? What about the planned trails, do you have knowledge of this? [http://www.capitolregionwd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Willow-Reserve\\_Restoration-Plan\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.capitolregionwd.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Willow-Reserve_Restoration-Plan_FINAL.pdf)

A:

1. You have located the correct project. The focus of our work is on creating habitat for migratory birds and pollinator species on 20 acres in the Mississippi River Corridor. However, the City of St. Paul has changed the overall project plan such that we feel it no longer fits the OHF. We intend to withdraw it from the Metro Big Rivers proposal.
2. Again, you found the right plan. Great River Greening is working with the CRWD on the wildlife habitat enhancement portion of this plan, of which turf conversion is a very small portion. Willow Reserve is along an urban wildlife corridor that connects to Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary to the southeast and onto the Mississippi River Corridor. This project will enhance this 23-acre stopover along the corridor, through removal of invasive species and planting of native plants. The only trail in the plan is a low-maintenance existing trail on the perimeter. No new trails will be developed.

Follow up: The willow park reserve plan does call for putting in new trails. So that portion of the plan must not have been adopted by the city.

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