



CITY OF
LONG LAKE

City Council Agenda Report

City of Long Lake

450 Virginia Avenue, PO Box 606

Long Lake, MN 55356

MEETING DATE / September 01, 2026

SUBJECT: Authorize Negotiation of a Temporary Access Agreement Allowing Use of Hardin Park Property by Xcel Energy for a Transmission Line Improvement Project

Prepared By: Amanda Nowezki, City Administrator

Report Date: 08/26/2026

Recommended City Council Action

Staff recommends the following:

Motion to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate and execute a temporary access agreement and compensation terms, subject to the City Attorney's review and approval, for the purpose of allowing Xcel Energy to utilize Hardin Park to access utility transmission lines located on/near the Luce Line State Trail.

Overview / Background

Brian Mielke of WSB is working with Xcel Energy on a project to rebuild the existing transmission line located between the City of Mound and Gleason Lake. In order to access utility transmission lines located on/near the Luce Line State Trail, Xcel Energy is requesting they be allowed to utilize Hardin Park property for an approximate six month period. Staff has communicated that the City may be willing to consider entering into a temporary access agreement for use of park property, subject to compensation and potential retainage to assure the park is restored to as is or better condition upon completion of their use.

Copied from an email dated August 27, 2026, below is the information that has been provided to the City as it pertains to their request:

"Given the topography and conditions where the transmission line and the trail cross both Hwy. 12 and Wayzata Blvd., Line Trail, construction access from Hwy. 12 OR from Wayzata Blvd. is not feasible without significant modifications and impacts. For that reason, Xcel is requesting access from Hardin Park for the area between Hwy. 12 and Wayzata Blvd.; this access would be temporary and only for the reconstruction of the existing line. Xcel met with Public Works Director, Sean Dierks, onsite on 3/11/26 and this appears feasible with the following notes:

- 1) The purpose of the access would be for the rebuild of the section of electric transmission line between Hwy. 12 and Wayzata Blvd., which is a three pole segment.*
- 2) The proposed access off the street could proceed up into the area with the one grill (which we'd temporarily remove and place back when finished) and then proceed around to the trail area. A pair of conifers (one or two) would likely need to come out and we'd also temporarily remove a couple of signs that would also then be placed back when completed with the transmission line rebuild.*

- a. An alternate path would go toward the trail area sooner, basically along the southerly end of the ice rink/fill area, and route that way. Similar removals would be needed.*
- 3) *Matting would be used for both turf and trail protection, as well as for leveling purposes.*
- a. This is planned for winter months, but any turf restoration could be addressed the following spring/summer by Xcel's restoration team if/as needed.*
- 4) *The park itself would be able to remain open, but we'd desire to close the area that's matted, including the trail, while physically there and matted. (We do understand there's a segment of the public that frequently ignores those closures; we've experienced that as well.)*
- 5) *Xcel would work with the City for an access agreement and compensation; while it wouldn't be restricted to a specific purpose, we understand the City is considering resurfacing the tennis courts and this may be considered and/or be part of a compensation discussion for this access approval.*
- 6) *I would be happy to address the council regarding this as well as you mentioned may be helpful.*
- 7) *The currently planned timing for this segment is fall/winter 2028/2029.*

Staff recommends the City Council consider authorizing the City Administrator to negotiate and enter into a temporary access agreement allowing Xcel Energy and their consultants/contractors to utilize Hardin Park property as an access point. Compensation terms to be negotiated would include no less than a \$7,500 contribution to the City of Long Lake to be utilized for park needs, and either a separate damage deposit or adequate language (to be approved by the City Attorney) to assure any damages incurred will be restored promptly and to the City's satisfaction.

Supporting Information

- Xcel Line 0737 ENL Mound to Gleason Lake Rebuild Letter
- Xcel Line 0737 Mound to Gleason Lake Project Fact Sheet
- Xcel Line 0737 Project Map