Overview

Spring Lake Park Reserve
Dakota County

Regional Parks System Vision

Key Topics

Connections to Regional Goals

Connections to Land Use

Metropolitan Council

Draft Regional Parks System Vision*

Vision

Together, growing community connections and inspiring health and healing through exceptional outdoor experiences and high-quality natural areas.

Mission

A partnership committed to an interconnected, nature-based parks and trails system, where everyone belongs.

Values

- Collaboration: Recognizing that we are one part of a broader community working together to create regional parks and trails for all. Building strong partnerships is vital to sustaining and living out our values.

- Belonging: Committed to offering processes, spaces and programming that are inclusive, welcoming, safe, and accessible to all individuals.

- Stewardship: Caring for the natural environment today and for future generations.

- Well-being: Knowing that the outdoors is vital for personal and community health.

- Adaptability: Challenging ourselves to grow, by creating a culture of innovation.

- Education: Inspiring learning about outdoor skills, culture, history, and natural systems.

Engagements

- Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) *March 2, 2023*

- Regional Park Implementing Agencies (Agencies) *March 23, 2023*

- Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) *September 21, 2023*

- Regional Park Implementing Agencies (Agencies) *September 21, 2023*

Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Key Parks and Trails Topics

Acquisition

- Search areas and corridors take different forms in more mature park and trail systems versus developing ones.
- Most acquisitions today either fill in existing parks or acquire trail corridors.

Protection

- Protecting regional park and trail land is essential for protecting our natural systems.
- Excessive park and trail use can undermine natural resource quality.

Use

- Park and trail use impacts existing facilities and impacts operations and maintenance funding needs.
- The Regional Parks and Trails System needs to serve an increasingly diverse population.

Metropolitan Council

Connections to Regional Goals

Parks and Trails Topics	Working Regional Goals				
	Equitable Inclusive Region	Healthy Safe Communities	Dynamic Resilient Region	Mitigated Adapted Resilient Climate	Protected Restored Natural Systems
Acquisition	✔✔	✔	✔	✔✔	✔✔
Protection	✔	✔✔	✔✔	✔✔	✔✔
Use	✔✔	✔✔	✔	✔	✔

Acquisition

High or Low Growth

- High Growth: Cost of acquisition goes up due to high growth pressures. (*Agencies*)
- High Growth: Acquisition and development of industrial areas and new trails in rail corridors. (*Agencies*)

Mature or Developing Parks

- Mature: Growth will take the form of trail acquisition and reclaiming industrial sites due to limitations on acquiring new parks. (*Agencies, LUAC*)
- Developing: There is an opportunity for acquiring natural system corridors. (*Agencies, LUAC*)

Protection

High or Low Growth

- High growth in urban and rural areas constitute a challenge for conservation. (*Agencies*)
- Lower growth in rural areas makes it easier to protect natural systems. (*Agencies*)

Mature or Developing Parks

- Mature: Growth might challenge the carrying capacity and natural characteristics of parks and trails. (*Agencies*)
- Developing: There are opportunities to protect natural systems and cultural sites, including co-management with tribes. (*MPOSC, Agencies*)

Use

High or Low Growth

- High Growth: Overuse of parks and trails could be an issue. (MPOSC, Agencies)
- Lower Growth: Lower visitation in developing park systems may impact funding appropriations. (Agencies)

Mature or Developing Parks

- Mature: Partner with local governments and implementing agencies to meet the needs of a growing region. (Agencies)
- Mature: Regional trails can be used as linear parks. (MPOSC, Agencies)
- Developing: Regional trails should connect to local businesses. (LUAC)

Connections to Land Use

Acquisition

Acquire land in industrial sites and railroad corridors in more compact areas. (*Agencies*)

Invest in less developed areas since land is available and acquisition costs will continue to rise. (*LUAC*)

Protection

Protect and restore land in more compact areas to ensure all residents benefit from access to the outdoors. (*MPOSC, Agencies*)

Pursue opportunities to protect natural systems and cultural sites, including co-management with tribes. (*MPOSC, Agencies*)

Use

Partner with local governments and implementing agencies to meet the needs of a growing region. (*Agencies*)

Regional trails should connect to local businesses. (*LUAC*)

Thank you

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Downtown, Mississippi River, and
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