

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: April 16, 2018

Subject: 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update: Discussion about Recreation Activities and Facilities

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute § 473.147

Staff Prepared/Presented: Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks Manager (651-602-1360) / Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst (651-602-1548)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed.

Background

Minnesota Statute section 473.147 requires the Metropolitan Council to prepare and adopt a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the Council's Metropolitan Development Guide. This Council's long range system policy plan, known as the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* (RPPP), must include policies, strategies, and a system plan that guide the Regional Parks System as well as estimated costs for acquisition and development and a five year capital improvement program. The Council adopted the RPPP on February 11, 2015. Minnesota Statute section 473.147 also requires the Council to complete a comprehensive review of the plan every four years. The current update addresses this statutory requirement to complete a comprehensive review.

Staff will describe recent activities related to the RPPP update process and will engage the Community Development Committee in a discussion about recreation activities and facilities policy. Staff will share perspectives from recent discussions with regional parks implementing agency staff and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC).

Attachment A summarizes the current Regional Park Policy Plan language regarding the recreation activities and facilities policy and four strategies.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The recreation activities and facilities discussion touches on all five of the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability. Today's discussion will address the balance and tension between Stewardship of the natural-resource base of the Regional Parks System and the region's Livability to which recreation activities and facilities contribute.

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Recreation Activities and Facilities

Recreation Activities and Facilities Discussion

Process

1. Review current Recreation Activities Section: one policy and four strategies.
2. What resonates? What still works well?
3. What areas need updating, clarifying, or strengthening?

POLICY: Provide a regional system of recreation opportunities for all residents, while maintaining the integrity of the natural resource base within the Regional Parks System.

Strategy 1: Activities in regional parks must be tied to the natural resources of the parks, but not adversely affect them. [Regional Parks Policy Plan, p.65]

Strategy 2: Most heavy recreational use should be accommodated in the more urban regional parks. [p.70]

Strategy 3: Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails among all residents, across race, ethnicity, income, and ability. [p.71]

Strategy 4: Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be coordinated between the Regional Parks System and the transportation system. [p.73]