

## Community Development Committee

Meeting date: May 21, 2018

**Subject:** 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Public Engagement Effort Update and Discussion

**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 update the Community Development Committee on the public engagement efforts surrounding the update. Council members will learn about current outreach efforts as well as the upcoming public hearing process. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and have dialogue around this process and learnings.

Attachment A provides a high-level overview of outreach efforts to date, as well as a listing of future meetings.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The public engagement efforts surrounding the Regional Parks Policy Plan development intersect with the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcome of Equity, through engaging a cross-section of the region's residents in plan development in an effort to increase the equitable use of the Regional Parks System. This effort seeks to embody all three of *Thrive MSP 2040's* principles of Integration, Collaboration, and Accountability, coordinating effectively with partners and residents, as well as being open to broad perspectives and shared approaches to accomplishing the important work of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System.

## *Overview of Regional Parks Policy Plan Public Engagement Activities*

### **Internal Staff Teams**

- Project Team (daily meetings)
- Finance team (weekly meetings)
- RPPP leadership team (weekly meetings)
- MTS bicycle planning staff

### **Council Member Work Group**

- Council Members Wulff (Chair), Melander, and Elkins (monthly meetings)

### **Council Committees and Advisory Groups**

- Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) (monthly meetings)
- Equity Advisory Committee (three meetings including July)
- Community Development Committee (regular meetings)
- Land Use Advisory Committee (two meetings)

### **Community Engagement**

- Survey of Park Implementing Agencies' engagement formats and activities
- Follow-up interviews with community stakeholders engaged during 2014 RPPP
- Visioning exercise with Richfield Women's group
- Visioning exercise with Adult Basic Education group (Refugee program MORE, Vietnamese Social Services)
- Focus group conversations with Early Childhood Family Education groups in suburban Hennepin, suburban Anoka, and Washington Counties
- On-site survey at regional parks

### **Park Implementing Agency Planning Sessions**

- Regular sessions with staff from the 10 implementing agencies (~2 meetings/month)

### **Engagement with Park Agency Boards/Commissions**

- Following the lead of staff from each implementing agency, Council staff and Council Members and MPOSC members are available to work with county boards and boards and commissions of each park implementing agency.

### **Public Hearing Process**

- July 12, 2018 – MPOSC, share draft plan
- July 16, 2018 – CDC, release draft plan for public review
- September 17, 2018 – CDC, public hearing
- September 24, 2018 – Public comment period closes
- November 6, 2018 – MPOSC, present final plan for review, along with public comments
- November 19, 2018 – CDC, Present final plan for approval