

2018 UPDATE TO THE 2040 REGIONAL PARKS POLICY PLAN

*Public Comment Report
July 25 through September 27, 2018*



November 2018

The Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region

Metropolitan Council Members

Alene Tchourumoff	Chair	Edward Reynoso	District 9
Katie Rodriguez	District 1	Marie McCarthy	District 10
Lona Schreiber	District 2	Sandy Rummel	District 11
Jennifer Munt	District 3	Harry Melander	District 12
Deb Barber	District 4	Richard Kramer	District 13
Steve Elkins	District 5	Jon Commers	District 14
Gail Dorfman	District 6	Steven T. Chávez	District 15
Gary L. Cunningham	District 7	Wendy Wulff	District 16
Cara Letofsky	District 8		



The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

On request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats to people with disabilities. Call Metropolitan Council information at 651-602-1140 or TTY 651-291-0904.

Public Comment Report Overview

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Public Comment Report summarizes the comments received on the draft 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update. The draft plan was released for public comment on July 25, 2018. The public hearing occurred on September 17, 2018, and the public comment period concluded on September 27, 2018. During that time, the plan was available on the Council’s website and through printed copies as requested.

The Council received written comments from:

- Council advisory committees (the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Equity Advisory Committee)
- Regional park implementing agencies (8 of the 10 regional parks implementing agencies)
- City / township / county governments (1 elected official)
- Organizations (10 organizations)
- Residents (84 residents)

15 individuals provided oral testimony at the September 17 public hearing. An additional seven individuals left comments on the Council’s voice mail.

How to Use This Document

A list of public comment contributors immediately follows this overview.

The Public Comment Report summarizes all the comments received and staff responses to the comments. Each commenter received an identification number. Comments are organized by theme. Under each theme, similar comments are grouped together for a shared response. Below is a table of contents that identifies the location of the themes in relation to the comment identification numbers.

Table of Contents

Theme	Theme Starts at Number
Appreciation.....	1
Equity	3
Equity Toolkit	14
Estimated costs to complete the system	21
Funding	23
General.....	58
Geographic balance.....	69
Lebanon Hills Regional Park.....	71
Master plans	73
Natural resources	81
Policy Plan process	91
Recreation	96
Siting and acquisition	103
Stewardship.....	108
Strengthen accountability for natural resources	109
System changes	111
Trail system coordination	112

November 2018

List of Comment Contributors

Commenter ID	Relation	Name
1.0	Resident	Tunesi, Lorenzo
2.0	Council advisory group	Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
3.0	Resident	Winkelman, Jenny
4.0	Resident	Meister, Debbie
5.0	Resident	Torkelson, Marilynn
5.1	Resident	Torkelson, Marilynn
6.0	Resident	Anondson, Eric
7.0	Resident	Lee, Maria
8.0	Resident	"Pewter"
9.0	Resident	Beer, Linda
10.0	Resident	Fox, Michael W.
10.1	Resident	Fox, Michael W. (attachment)
11.0	Resident	Moen, Pat
12.0	Resident	Nash, Janet
13.0	Resident	Nayman, Greg
14.0	Resident	Reed, Peter
15.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Saint Paul Bike Coalition
16.0	Resident	Blue Eyes, Joan
17.0	Resident	Freeman, Pamela
18.0	Resident	Grundhofer, Connie
19.0	Resident	Royer, Ken
20.0	Resident	Shadrick, Anne
21.0	Resident	Plimpton, Nicholas
22.0	Resident	Rideout, Lowell D
23.0	Resident	Hanssen, Peg
24.0	Resident	Butel, Teresa
25.0	Resident	Colby, Jeanette
26.0	Resident	Carr, Carolyn
27.0	Resident	Kerr, Jon
28.0	Resident	Pepin, Constance
29.0	Resident	Uppgaard, Heidi
30.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Commission
30.1	Organization (incl. advocates)	Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission
31.0	Resident	Fuller, Rebecca
32.0	Resident	Wirth-Feeney, Roberta
33.0	Resident	Crotteau, Brian
34.0	Resident	Mitchell, Mallory
35.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Anoka County Parks

Commenter ID	Relation	Name
35.1	Regional parks implementing agency	Anoka County Parks
36.0	Resident	Kaul, Andrew
37.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Dakota County
38.0	Resident	Atlas-Ingebretson, Lynnea
39.0	Resident	Blackett, Brad
40.0	Resident	Cummings, Pat
40.1	Resident	Cummings, Pat
41.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Scott County Parks Advisory Commission
42.0	Resident	Hedlund, Laura
43.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Wilderness in the City (delivered by Jenkins, Holly)
43.1	Organization (incl. advocates)	Wilderness in the City
44.0	City / township / county / local government	Lambert, Clay on behalf of Minneapolis Council member Cam Gordon
44.1	City / township / county / local government	Gordon, Cam (City of Minneapolis)
45.0	Resident	Mandell, Paul
46.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Ortiz, Emmanuel
47.0	Resident	Ostrov, Jessica (Public Hearing comments)
47.1	Resident	Ostrov, Jessica
48.0	Resident	Passe, Tom
48.1	Resident	Passe, Tom
49.0	Resident	Riley, Allie
50.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Stieg, Patrick
51.0	Resident	Tabor, Lisa
52.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Women Observing Wildlife (Catherine Zimmer)
52.1	Organization (incl. advocates)	Women Observing Wildlife
53.0	Resident	Oleander, Edward
54.0	Resident	Ahmen, Alona
55.0	Resident	Koens, Valerie
56.0	Resident	Lorenz, Jesse
57.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Carver County Parks and Recreation
58.0	Resident	Hackett, Maureen
59.0	Resident	Mason, Nick
60.0	Resident	Chemin, Ann
61.0	Resident	Einess, Holly
62.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
63.0	Resident	Olson, Devin
64.0	Resident	Remer, Angela

Commenter ID	Relation	Name
65.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
66.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Scott County Board
67.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Washington County Parks
68.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	West Side Community Organization
69.0	Resident	Paulsen, Wendy
70.0	Resident	Norrgard, Lois
71.0	Resident	Torres, Michael
71.1	Resident	Torres, Michael
72.0	Resident	Strate, Jeff
73.0	Resident	Karhatsu, Peter
74.0	Resident	Hazen, Thomas
75.0	Resident	Pulscher, MaryLynn
76.0	Resident	Schuler, Jane and Janice
77.0	Resident	Hedstrom, Barb
79.0	Resident	Rowse, Dianne
80.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	City of Skate
81.0	Resident	Lutz, William
82.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Bush Lake Izaak Walton League
83.0	Resident	Giles, Metric
84.0	Resident	Shepard, Leah
85.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Neighborhoods First
86.0	Resident	Rodriguez, Mark
87.0	Resident	Jorgensen, Sam
88.0	Resident	Youngquist, Jan
89.0	Resident	Gilbertson, Olaf
90.0	Resident	Mosman, Darrin
91.0	Resident	Pilgrim, Leslie
92.0	Resident	von Ende, Matthew
93.0	Resident	Wollak, J J
94.0	Resident	Passe, Mary Ann
95.0	Resident	Hajny, Benjamin
96.0	Resident	Hovey, Marsha
97.0	Council advisory group	Equity Advisory Committee
98.0	Regional parks implementing agency	Three Rivers Park District
99.0	Resident	Salk, Raintry
100.0	Resident	Stotz, Tyler
101.0	Resident	Littlewolf, Robin
102.0	Organization (incl. advocates)	Trust for Public Land

Commenter ID	Relation	Name
103.0	Resident	Rivard, Mark
104.0	Resident	Andersen, Barbara
105.0	Resident	Kenney, Rachel
106.0	Resident	Simione, Carmela
107.0	Resident	Bracken, Corey
108.0	Resident	Gershone, Jerrold
109.0	Resident	de Gruchy, Josh
110.0	Resident	Goldman, Howard and Coughlin, Christine
111.0	Resident	Nesheim, Christian
112.0	Resident	Vasquez, Maurice
113.0	Resident	Gjevre, Jason
114.0	Resident	Siasoco, Witt
115.0	Resident	Glover, Sam

Public Comments

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
1	1.0; 21.0; 60.0	Appreciation for the plan	I would like to commend all who have worked on this plan as well as the update to the plan. Thank for your forward-looking vision.	The Council appreciates your support for the Regional Parks Policy Plan and the Regional Parks System.
2	98.0; 65.0; 62.0; 67.0	Appreciation for the plan	Appreciation for working with the implementing agencies on the draft Plan.	Comment noted.
3	24.0; 26.0; 33.0; 34.0; 47.0	Equity - Continue equity commitments	Support for funding related to equity and creating a welcoming environment for everyone in the outdoors.	Comment noted. The Metropolitan Council prioritizes making sure that our Regional Parks System is accessible and welcoming to all residents.
4	37.0; 51.0; 65.0; 77.0; 84.0	Equity - Continue equity commitments	Supports that all residents should have the opportunity to enjoy the Regional Park System. Supports Met Council creating an Equity Grant program, increased surveys and research, an Ambassador Program, and providing technical assistance to implementing agencies.	The equity grant program, surveys and research, parks ambassador, and providing technical assistance to implementing agencies are some of the main priorities of the parks department at the Metropolitan Council with the goal of creating a regional parks system where all residents have access and feel welcomed.
5	38.0; 45.0; 46.0; 97.0; 99.0	Equity - Continue equity commitments	Support for using and creating inclusive parks research related to underrepresented populations including fee removal and identifying and mitigating barriers to using parks and trails.	Research is a valued tool at the Metropolitan Council and within the regional parks system. This is an area of future interest for Council.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
6	7.0; 2.0; 38.0; 42.0; 30.1; 112.0; 52.1; 83.0; 85.0; 88.0; 99.0	Equity - Importance of engagement of underrepresented communities	Support for strengthened language related to equity. Support for strengthening the language from "promoting" equitable use. Support for strengthening language related to the recognition that meaningful gains towards racial equity require institutionalized policies that do not leave decisions up to goodwill and chance.	Chapter 7, Strategy 3 language was changed from "promote" to "strengthen." The Council shares your interest in ensuring that regional park implementing agencies fully engage historically underrepresented communities in planning and decision-making for the Regional Parks System. The Council will provide technical support and capacity-building.
7	37.0; 46.0; 62.0	Equity - Importance of engagement of underrepresented communities	Support for establishing a public engagement process and metrics for master plans that include all residents. Support for strengthening language to include "equitable and community engaged" to the policy statement.	Comment noted. The parks policy plan strengthens language about understanding the demographics of the jurisdiction and calls for a robust community engagement process to inform the content of the master plan. Additionally, language was added related to a commitment to collaboratively develop an equity analysis tool as a part of park master planning, to assess who benefits.
8	42.0; 47.0; 97.0; 99.0	Equity - Importance of engagement of underrepresented communities	Support for engaging underrepresented people to connect them to Regional Park System.	Comment noted. The Council is committed to continuing engagement with a wide variety of people with a focus on non-park users, to understand barriers and possibilities for strategies that lead to increased equitable usage.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
9	97.0	Equity - Importance of engagement of underrepresented communities	Support for making the regional parks more accessible for people with disabilities.	The Metropolitan Council seeks to support a Regional Parks System that connects residents of all abilities to recreation options. The Parks Policy Plan has an overt goal to increase equitable usage through accessible design.
10	5.0; 24.0; 52.0; 45.0; 110.0; 43.1; 61.0; 64.0; 69.0; 70.0; 72.0; 79.0; 82.0; 85.0	Equity - Increase equitable use of the Regional Parks System	Increase equitable use of the Regional Parks System by investing in outreach, transit, stewardship, and awareness of the role nature-based regional parks have in the overall system.	Increasing and strengthening equitable use is a goal of the regional park system. Awareness of the regional parks system among all residents was identified as the most significant barrier around equity and one that we are striving to address in partnership with the ten implementing agencies.
11	26.0; 59.0	Equity - Increase equitable use of the Regional Parks System	Please strengthen your commitment to equity in metro parks and trails.	The Metropolitan Council commits to strengthening equitable use of the regional parks system. Thank you for your comment
12	49.0	Equity - Increase equitable use of the Regional Parks System	Support for wayfinding with a diversity of community spoken languages.	The goal of both the implementing agencies and the Metropolitan Council is to bring parks to people with a focus on non-parks users. Making sure parks are both accessible and welcoming to all people and ages is a priority.
13	102.0; 66.0	Equity - Partnerships	Support for partnering with other agencies and working collaboratively on equity initiatives including the implementing agencies and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.	One goal of the Council's Parks Ambassador Program is to foster relationships between implementing agencies and other organizations with a focus on equity. This includes the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
14	49.0; 51.0; 68.0; 84.0	Equity Toolkit	Support for increased Equity Toolkit accountability.	As the use of the Equity Toolkit increases and broadens, accountability mechanisms will be clarified. Staff looks forward to working with agency staff, equity advisors and interested communities on this pursuit.
15	65.0; 77.0; 99.0	Equity Toolkit	Support for use of the equity toolkit.	Met Council will continue using the Equity Toolkit to analyze, understand and improve projects. Additional assistance and guidance in using the toolkit is widely supported and will continue. Additionally, an equity analysis tool will be developed for use with the master planning stage.
16	66.0	Equity Toolkit	Opposed to language on Page 107 related to the Equity Toolkit being developed in a collaborative manner with the implementing agencies.	The Council commits to continued refinements and improvements to the Equity Toolkit with regional park implementing agencies and partners.
17	2.0; 35.0; 37.0; 50.0; 57.0; 98.0; 35.1; 65.0; 77.0; 62.0; 66.0; 41.0; 67.0	Equity Toolkit - Remove project reprioritization	Support to reinstate the draft language approved July 12, 2018 by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission for the Finance Strategy 4: Equity Considerations (Page 107, lines 5-19).	After considerable deliberation Council Members directed staff to remove project reprioritization. Additionally, Council Members directed staff to establish an equity analysis tool that paired with community engagement and participation will help explicitly define who will benefit from the regional park master planning process.
18	35.1	Equity Toolkit - Remove project reprioritization	Page 104, Lines 6-8, needs clarity.	Comment noted. Council determined that it will not be involved in project reprioritization with State Bonding Program.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
19	30.0; 38.0; 46.0; 68.0; 83.0; 84.0; 97.0; 99.0	Equity Toolkit - Support for maintaining and strengthening the Equity Toolkit language to prioritize	Support for maintaining and strengthening the Equity Toolkit language to prioritize. Establish comprehensive guidelines, instructions, and support.	Met Council will continue using and improving the Equity Toolkit to analyze, understand and improve project proposals. Council prioritization of projects was disallowed in the 2017 state Legacy appropriation bill. After considerable deliberation, the Council decided to discontinue prioritization going forward. The equity toolkit will continue to be used with the application process and an equity analysis protocol will be developed for use with master planning.
20	37.0	Equity Toolkit - Support of 2017 Legislative Changes	Pages 105-106. Support for the statutory change having the implementing agencies' Boards determine the type and prioritization of projects using Parks and Trails Legacy funds and not requiring a minimum level of funding to "connect people and the outdoors".	Following the guidance of the 2017 Legislature, and after extensive deliberation, the Met Council decided to discontinue project reprioritization. Requirements will instead be focused on the master planning phase in which the Council has clearer authority. The Council will continue to emphasize assistance and education in using and applying the Equity Toolkit analysis.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
21	2.0	Estimated Cost to Complete the System	We are interested in learning more about the estimated cost to complete the system, including how and why the cost increased from the 2015 plan estimate and how this significantly higher number will affect future funding strategies for the Regional Parks System.	With this update, a more explicit and transparent methodology for estimating costs to complete the system has been established. Staff worked with Implementing Agencies to verify known parcels and levels of development; to create reasonable assumptions for estimating future acquisitions and development; and to model and test costs. Comparison with earlier estimates is difficult because those methodologies are unclear, but staff is confident that the new estimate is more accurate and can be replicated in the future. Future funding strategy considerations will be part of the System addition discussion in 2019.
22	37.0	Estimated Cost to Complete the System	Recommendation that the Met Council work with the implementing agencies to evaluate the 10-year highest priority capital needs and associated costs of the regional park system. The evaluation considers a revenue approach options using traditional funding sources and potential new revenues to fulfill the 10-year needs.	Thanks for your comment. Finance Strategy 9 states that the Council will seek funding from the state and other sources in partnership with the regional park implementing agencies and other stakeholders. Additionally, the Council is committed to convening a discussion about long-term sustainable funding for the regional park system.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
23	67.0	Funding - Bonding	Support for adding language clarifying the Metropolitan Council's commitment to match regional park State bonding funds that comes from sources that are not State general obligation bonds (Page 24).	In Finance Strategy 9 the Council commits to seeking funding opportunities from the state and other sources. Additionally, in the Chapter 9 Council work plan, the Council commits to begin a discussion for long-term sustainable funding for the regional parks system.
24	99.0	Funding - Equity	Support for aligning Recreation Activities and Facilities-Strategy 3: Equitable use policy language with Finance-Strategy 4: Equity Considerations.	The Council will change the language in Chapter 7 Strategy 3 Recreation Activities and Facilities to reflect the 2015 Policy Plan update from "promote" to "strengthen" equitable use. The Council has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen equitable use of regional parks and trails with this update.
25	99.0	Funding - Equity	Support for replacing language about funding prioritization while omitting the regional bonding dollar match (\$2 of Council bonds for every \$3 of state bonds) in the policy plan to Finance Strategy 4.	The Council will develop a Fund Distribution Policy Guide that will contain the details of how the parks bond program works. This document will house many of the grant program operational policies including the regional bonding dollar match.
26	35.1	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for use of the Equity Grant Program funds for non-capital projects, such as programs, shuttle services, etc.	The potential funding sources for the Equity Grant Program will determine the range of allowable uses of funds. Considerations such as these will help inform program development in 2019.
27	37.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for the Met Council to consider a new or alternative funding sources other than regional bonds for the Equity Grant Program.	Thank you for your comment. We recognize the importance of alternative funding that could support non-capital work.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
28	57.0; 41.0; 66.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for working with the implementing agencies in a collaborative manner.	In order for the Equity Grant Program to be successful the Metropolitan Council acknowledges the need for genuine partnerships and participation.
29	51.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for add more programs that complement the equity grant program.	The Equity Grant Program is just one of the areas where the Parks Policy Plan seeks to strengthen equity across the Regional Parks System. Other equity strategies include using an equity analysis tool in the master planning process, exploring secondary or support activities/facilities to meet evolving needs, and ensuring future amenities are designed for people of all abilities.
30	57.0; 67.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for an equity grant program which includes funding for regional park areas which are underdeveloped, new or emerging. Support for the grant program to seek geographical and proportional representation in the distribution of these funds.	The development of an equity grant program will consider geographical distribution as one of many inter-related factors.
31	30.1; 102.0; 65.0; 62.0; 66.0; 67.0; 82.0; 97.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for the creation of the Equity Grant program.	The Metropolitan Council commits to establish the equity grant program no later than 2019.
32	102.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Equity Grant Program applicants should not be limited to park implementing agencies	By statute the funds must go to implementing agencies, but the Metropolitan Council is looking into ways to encourage collaborations.
33	66.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for the Equity Grant Program funds to be provided to implementing agencies.	The Metropolitan Council commits to establishing an equity grant program in 2019 that encourages implementing agency participation.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
34	67.0; 99.0	Funding - Equity Grant Program	Support for adding language to Page 22 to develop the proposed equity grant program details and scope.	The Metropolitan Council commits to establish the equity grant program no later than 2019.
35	15.0; 52.1	Funding - General	Support for maintenance costs to be included with all new projects. Support for prioritizing maintenance of existing trails and facilities over building new ones.	Project prioritization and operational responsibility for the Regional Parks System resides with the locally elected boards of the Regional Parks System implementing agencies.
36	35.1	Funding - General	Page 73, Lines 20-22, Define what the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program is, and the funding sources used for it.	Language refers to what is now known as the Regional Parks Bonding Program. Updated plan as suggested.
37	35.1	Funding - General	For Lines 3-4 on Page 79, relating to expanding multimodal access, clarify whether bike racks and lockers would qualify for Regional Park Capital Improvement Program funding.	Capital expenditures must have a 10-year minimum expected life cycle and be tangible fixed assets of a capital nature. It is a fixed asset if the agency capitalizes it. Most of the agencies have a \$5,000 threshold to capitalize an asset.
38	35.1	Funding - General	Under the Finance policy section in Chapter Eight, Line 3 states the Council will provide adequate and equitable funding for the regional park system. Current funding levels are not adequate for the regional system. Bond funding is inconsistent and O&M funds are completely underfunded for what is needed to maintain the system. The Council should consider increasing both types of funding.	Comment noted. As stated in Finance Strategy 9, the Council will actively seek funding from the state and other sources.
39	37.0; 1.0	Funding - General	Page 102, lines 28-29 and Pages 103, lines 16-19. Support for the policy plan clarifying natural resource restoration as a capital improvement and eligible for bond funds.	Comment noted. Thank you for your support of natural resource restoration as a bond-eligible capital improvement.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
40	37.0	Funding - General	Page 107-108, lines 22-38 and 1-11; Support for the reimbursement policy. There is a need for increased Metropolitan Council advocacy for addition regional park system funding.	Thank you for your comment.
41	37.0	Funding - General	In relation to the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Program not allowing local units of government to serve as a third party to secure land will diminish regional effectiveness delivering the regional trail system.	Thank you for your comment. This is a topic worthy of further discussion. The Council encourages regional park implementing agencies to use creative ways to leverage the development process for conservation and recreation benefits.
42	37.0	Funding - General	The Met Council should advocate for full Operation and Maintenance funding per Minnesota State Statute 473.351 that each implementing agency must receive no less than 40% of its actual operations and maintenance expenses.	Thank you for your comment.
43	37.0; 57.0; 62.0; 66.0	Funding - General	Support for the Met Councils to work with implementing agencies to explore other funding sources.	In Finance Strategy 9 the Council commits to seeking funding opportunities from the state and other sources. Additionally, in the Chapter 9 Council work plan, the Council commits to begin a discussion for long-term sustainable funding for the regional parks system.
44	39.0; 110.0; 33.0; 5.0; 45.0; 76.0; 62.0; 52.1; 82.0; 85.0	Funding - General	Support for increased funding for natural resource management, restoration, and stewardship.	Comment noted. One clarification in the Policy Plan update is the allowance of natural resource restoration with the uses of bond funds.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
45	45.0; 76.0	Funding - General	Support to more 'balance' between financial commitments to infrastructure and/or new construction and the restoration of natural resources.	MN Statute 473.121, subd. 14 states that Metropolitan Council should provide "for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area". The Metropolitan Council works with the implementing agencies, community organizations, and residents to define the balance of park offerings to meet an array of visitor needs.
46	66.0	Funding - General	Support to add language on pages 22-23 related to funding contributions of the implementing agencies.	Comment noted. This section of the plan highlights state and Council investments toward the Regional Parks System from 1974 - 2017.
47	2.0; 102.0; 66.0	Funding - Interest Earnings	We support handling future interest earnings on Regional Parks System funds for use with the Equity Grant Program.	Comment noted.
48	37.0	Funding - Interest Earnings	Support for the Metropolitan Council working with implementing agencies and other stakeholders establishing options for use of the interest earnings.	Comment noted. A process to discuss the use of interest earnings will take place outside of the Policy Plan update.
49	52.0; 43.1; 110.0; 85.0	Funding - Interest Earnings	Interest earnings should be applied to natural resources management and restoration.	Comment noted. A process to discuss the use of interest earnings will take place outside of the Policy Plan update.
50	65.0	Funding - Interest Earnings	Support for money related to Interest Earnings be used to cover opportunity costs associated with the implementation of the 2016 Visitor Study until the proposed 2020 Study is conducted and implemented.	The Council's decision on how to allocate interest earnings on Regional Parks System funding was removed from the Policy Plan update. This topic will be taken up in 2019.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
51	62.0; 88.0	Funding - Interest Earnings	Support for fund allocation related to interest earnings be written into the plan itself.	The Metropolitan Council determined that it would decide how to use interest earnings outside of the Policy Plan update. A Council work plan was established in Chapter 9 that commits the Council to determine how to use Regional Parks System's interest earnings.
52	70.0; 82.0; 85.0	Funding - Legacy	Support for use of Legacy fund to taking care of what we have, including natural resource stewardship, and engaging the next generation of stewards.	The Parks and Trails 25-Year Plan calls for the balanced distribution of Legacy funds across the four pillars including 1.) connecting people and the outdoors 2.) acquire land and create opportunities 3.) take care of what we have 4.) coordinate among partners.
53	43.0; 5.0; 110.0; 70.0; 82.0; 85.0	Funding - Legacy - Support for sustainable practices	When building new facilities, they should be built to the highest LEED certification for use of Legacy funds.	Thank you for your comment. The Council supports and encourages the principles included in LEED certification.
54	43.1; 110.0; 5.0; 82.0; 85.0	Funding - Legacy; Strengthen accountability for natural resource management	Support for increased natural resource and wildlife reporting for use of Legacy funds.	A Council work plan was established in Chapter 9 that commits the Council to developing Regional Park System indicators important for number of factors. Council staff reports Parks and Trails Legacy outcomes annually to the Legislative Coordinating Commission. To learn more about this tracking website, go to www.legacy.mn.gov .

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
55	4.0; 1.0; 15.0; 27.0; 94.0; 5.0; 69.0; 70.0; 74.0; 72.0	Funding - Prioritize funding for natural resource restoration and management.	Legacy parks and trails funds should be spent on conservation, protection and restoration of natural resources	The Metropolitan Council serves as the fiscal agent for the disbursement of the Parks and Trails Legacy Funds. In this capacity, the Council ensures that the projects proposed by the regional park implementing agencies are included in a Council approved master plan and are consistent with the eligible expenditures as defined in the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan. If these conditions are met, it is the ten regional park implementing agencies that determine the projects.
56	5.0; 58.0; 110.0; 94.0; 69.0; 70.0; 82.0; 85.0	Funding - Prioritize funding for natural resource restoration and management.	Opposing use of Legacy Parks and Trails funds for any new construction projects.	The Parks and Trails 25-Year Plan calls for the balanced distribution of Legacy funds across the four pillars including 1.) connecting people and the outdoors 2.) acquire land and create opportunities 3.) take care of what we have 4.) coordinate among partners.
57	43.1	Funding - Program Guide	We oppose the re-allocation of unused PTLF grants and would support changes to the Policy language that are consistent with Bond funding criteria.	Parks and Trails Legacy Funds are allocated as directed by Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Management and Budget policies and guidelines.
58	35.1	General	On Page 68, Lines 25-26 seem counter-intuitive to Lines 3-5 on Page 69. Should Lines 25-26 be modified to serving a large population base?	Comment noted. There exists a tension between the notion that regional trails must serve a regional audience and the fact that most regional trail users live nearby the trail or can reach it in a short bicycle trip or drive. This topic is one to study carefully in the coming years.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
59	70.0	General	Support for training future park system stewards (our successors) to protect and manage the natural resource base of each regional park system.	Comment noted.
60	88.0	General	Opposing language changes related to System Protection Strategy 6: Placement of wastewater facilities.	System Protection Strategy 6 language will be clarified to ensure that if the Council makes a grant to acquire land, it reserves the right to place an easement for future potential utility use.
61	88.0	General	Support for providing the implementing agencies a grace period for transitioning to the update of the Council-adopted 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan for master plans that are currently underway.	Thank you for your suggestion. Grace period change made to May 1, 2019.
62	6.0; 56.0	General	Support for the conversion of municipal golf courses into regional parks.	This is an interesting idea - to consider use of urban land close to population centers for regional parks. Regional park implementing agencies determine what lands to propose to add to the system. The Metropolitan Council plays an important role in approving the Regional Parks System Plan, which identifies what units to include in the system.
63	88.0	General - Equity	Support for adding language related to age and national origin of specific target groups.	The Policy Plan reflects Thrive 2040's guidance and includes additional language that includes age and national origin of target groups.
64	97.0	General - Equity	Support for hiring diverse staff who reflect the diverse makeup of our region.	Thank you for your comment. The Council shares your goal and will share your comment with the regional park implementing agencies.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
65	99.0	General - Equity	Support for strengthened language related to serving the region in lieu of recognizing the role of the implementing agencies.	The Council represents a regional perspective with the Regional Parks System and balances this perspective in partnership with the regional park implementing agencies, who own and operate the system.
66	44.1	General - Grand Rounds Missing Link Regional Trail Search Corridor Master Plan	Support for the approval of the Grand Rounds Missing Link Regional Trail Master Plan when submitted.	Comment noted. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will determine the master planning timeline including the alignment, as well as public engagement for this important regional trail search corridor.
67	55.0	General - Uses	Opposed to adding more event spaces. We already have so many event spaces from all the sports arenas both indoor and outdoor to concert venues, again both indoor and outdoor. People who want to go to events have no lack of places to go to fulfill that interest! Please - leave event space off the table for our regional parks!	Thank you for your comment.
68	75.0	General - Uses	Support for adding public restroom facilities.	Comment noted. Council research underscores the importance of clean and quality public restroom facilities to attract a wide variety of visitors.
69	2.0	Geographic Balance	We support the strategy of geographic balance and would look forward to better articulating what geographic balance means, including how it aligns with population distribution and access to a range of recreational opportunities.	Thank you for your support. During 2019 the Council will convene a discussion on system additions including better defining geographic balance.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
70	37.0	Geographic Balance	Page 67, 1-19; System additions based on geographic balance and population distribution has merit but is not exclusive to other considerations such as: 1) establishing destination parks and trails outside population centers that protect high quality natural resources and provide high quality nature-based recreation and 2) providing access to regional parks and trails to a developing and lower population regional park system. The strategy of geographic balance of parks and trails, based on population distribution, should not reprioritize or redistribute the proportion of funding provided to implementing agencies.	The System addition discussion in 2019 will include further articulation of geographic balance and its alignment with other factors such as those listed in the comment. The funding amounts available to each implementing agency are set by formula and will not be affected by this discussion.
71	19.0; 45.0; 81.0	Lebanon Hill Regional Park	Support for natural resource funding and management of Lebanon Hills Regional Park.	Comment noted. Additionally, the Policy Plan update allows the use of bond funds for natural resource restoration.
72	42.0	Lebanon Hill Regional Park	Support for Lebanon Hills to be a park reserve.	The determination for whether a unit is a park or park reserve is made by the locally elected boards of the regional park implementing agencies as part of the master planning process.
73	15.0; 52.1; 82.0	Master plans	Support for maintaining and strengthening requirements around natural resources and climate resiliency for park units.	The Council added language to Chapter 2 further articulating that the Regional Parks System plays a role addressing climate change in our region through, for example, helping with stormwater management, invasive species management, and mitigation of urban heat island impacts.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
74	15.0; 52.1	Master plans	Support for strengthened language related to environmentally sensitive construction and maintenance activities.	The regional park implementing agencies are responsible for identifying and mitigating impacts related to construction and maintenance activities at a regional park/trail unit.
75	15.0; 52.1	Master Plans	Support for strengthened language related to climate change resiliency including construction, maintenance, and restoration activities.	Chapter 2 includes strengthened language articulating the importance of climate resilience along with conserving, maintaining, and enhancing the regional park system through proactive planning and asset management.
76	35.1	Master Plans	For the master plan requirements for regional trails, please specify whether Linking Trails located within MRCCA, should follow the MRCCA requirements shown for Destination Trails.	Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area requirements are required for linking trails. The plan now reflects this requirement.
77	35.1	Master Plans	Regarding Lines 5-6 on Page 79, if there is an existing master plan for a park and the implementing agency would like to add bicycle/pedestrian entrances, would the Council consider approving these changes administratively or would it need to go through the full master planning process? Our preference would be to process administratively for efficiency.	Comment noted. In order to provide accurate direction, more information about this specific request is required.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
78	37.0	Master Plans	Page 78, lines 13-28; The Met Council's review and approval of park master plans within the MRCCA corridor should consider the shared public purposes and needed support facility improvements and uses that may require variances to the MRCCA rules. The Met Council should consider advocating on behalf of variance requests from implementing agencies that are in accordance with approved master plans.	Comment noted. The Council will work in support of the implementation of the MRCCA rules and the Regional Park Implementing Agencies.
79	45.0; 43.1; 110.0; 70.0; 52.1; 82.0; 84.0	Master Plans	Support for the establishment of natural resource metrics for park and trail units.	Chapter 2 language has been strengthened to include a commitment to develop a set of Regional Parks Policy Plan indicators. Also, the Chapter 9 Work Plan includes the Council's commitment to develop indicators.
80	43.1	Master Plans	MRCCA rules provide for appropriate balance of development of recreation and conservation and any variances to those rules should not be encouraged or supported.	Comment noted. MRCCA rules were added to the master plan requirements in Chapter 5 Strategy 1 in this Policy Plan update. The Council will work in support of the implementation of the MRCCA rules with our park agency and local community partners.
81	12.0; 11.0; 10.0; 9.0; 8.0; 5.0; 14.0; 16.0; 22.0; 25.0; 91.0; 73.0	Natural resources and access	Support for natural resources including wildlife management as a priority over bicycle access and building development.	MN Statute 473.121, subd. 14 states that Metropolitan Council should provide "for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area". The Metropolitan Council works with the implementing agencies, community organizations, and residents to define the balance of park offerings to meet the wide array of visitor needs of the region.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
82	9.0; 18.0; 29.0; 31.0; 54.0; 91.0	Natural resources and access	Restoration and programming need to reflect the importance of preserving natural habitat.	MN Statute 473.121, subd. 14 states that the Metropolitan Council should provide "for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area". The Metropolitan Council works with the implementing agencies, community organizations, and residents to define the balance of park offerings to meet the wide array of visitor needs.
83	37.0; 82.0	Natural resources and access	Support for a balance of natural resources AND recreational opportunities.	Comment noted.
84	40.1; 99.0	Natural resources and access	Retain original language in Chapter 7, Strategy 1. Remove the "balance" language.	The criteria in Recreation Activities and Facilities Strategy 1 was expanded to include language aligned with the original Policy Plan strategy around avoiding or minimizing adverse environmental effects.
85	8.0; 13.0; 20.0; 29.0; 31.0; 32.0; 55.0	Natural resources and development	Opposed to the expansion of infrastructure and asphalt.	MN Statute 473.121, subd. 14 states that Metropolitan Council should provide "for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area". The Metropolitan Council works with the implementing agencies, community organizations, and residents to define the balance of park offerings to meet the wide array of visitor needs.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
86	4.0; 27.0; 91.0; 42.0; 104.0; 60.0; 108.0	Natural resources and development	Natural resources should be given first priority in park management	MN Statute 473.121, subd. 14 states that Metropolitan Council should provide "for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area". The Metropolitan Council works with the implementing agencies, community organizations, and residents to define the balance of park offerings to meet the wide array of visitor needs.
87	5.0; 39.0; 110.0; 94.0; 15.0; 52.0; 33.0; 64.0; 69.0; 70.0; 72.0; 74.0; 76.0; 82.0; 85.0	Natural resources and development	Strengthen the language that supports and protects natural resources.	MN Statute 473.121, subd. 14 states that Metropolitan Council should provide "for a balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan area". The Metropolitan Council works with the implementing agencies, community organizations, and residents to define the balance of park offerings to meet the wide array of visitor needs.
88	3.0	Natural resources management	Support for sustainable visitor operations functions including recycling.	Council Staff reviews how recycling is handled in the operations plans of master plans. The master plans state how solid waste from park users are recycled and disposed of consistent with applicable laws.
89	3.0; 75.0; 76.0	Natural resources management	Support for environmentally-sensitive natural resource maintenance and operations accountability.	The Council reviews how natural resources are handled in master planning. Master plans include provisions for restoration, wetland impact avoidance, and vegetation management.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
90	73.0; 74.0; 10.1; 11.0; 1.0; 75.0; 79.0	Natural resources management	Support for environmentally-friendly building materials and maintenance.	Comment will be shared with implementing agencies. Natural resource management techniques are outside the scope and role of the Metropolitan Council.
91	5.0; 52.0; 47.1; 102.0; 38.0; 43.1; 48.1; 69.0; 70.0; 66.0	Policy Plan Process	Support for increased access to the red-line version of the draft Policy Plan and more methods of commenting.	A strike-through (or red-line) version of the draft plan for public comment was initially available upon request and was subsequently posted on the website in response to comments. Please be aware that the red-line document can be confusing because the plan was significantly reorganized. The strike-through version makes many sections appear as though they were deleted, though they were simply relocated. Desire for more methods of commenting is noted for future updates.
92	34.0; 47.1	Policy Plan Process	Public meetings at 4pm on work days are hard for a wide variety of audiences to attend.	Thank you for your comment. While we agree that set times for meetings may limit participation, we are required to have public hearings in conjunction with our other regular meetings. We also recognize that not everyone wants to participate in a public meeting, so we provide many other opportunities to participate and provide feedback throughout the process of updating the Policy Plan.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
93	53.0; 52.0; 102.0; 48.1; 88.0; 99.0	Policy Plan Process	Support for increased access to the finance language.	The Council is in the process of developing a Fund Distribution Guide which will house much of the administrative and programmatic direction that was removed from the Policy Plan. It is the goal to complete this document by the end of 2018. This document will be reviewed annually and will be updated as needed.
94	48.1; 43.1; 69.0	Policy Plan Process	Support more engagement with a diverse array of stakeholders throughout the Policy Plan update process.	Thank you for your comment.
95	99.0	Policy Plan Process	Support for strengthened use of the input received throughout the Policy Plan process.	Thanks for your comments. The public hearing process has been a critical tool for soliciting feedback and improvements to the Regional Parks Policy Plan.
96	99.0	Recreation	Support for adopting a classification system that creates “activity zones”. These systems are widely employed by other park agencies across the nation. Examples of classification systems include the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (used by federal recreation providers), wherein park zones are classified across a continuum of primitive to highly developed, and each is managed differently and affords different recreational experiences.	Thank you for this suggestion. In 2019, the Council will convene a system addition discussion. The idea of utilizing a classification system will be considered to help aid this process.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
97	20.0; 5.0; 15.0; 28.0; 33.0; 36.0; 91.0; 110.0; 94.0; 45.0; 43.1; 58.0; 39.0; 40.1; 17.0; 61.0; 69.0; 70.0; 72.0; 76.0; 79.0; 52.1; 82.0; 85.0	Recreation	Opposed to allowing undefined "secondary or support activities." Support for strengthened language for low-impact recreation.	<p>Suggestion noted. Minnesota Statutes 473.121, subd.14 states that the Council should provide for a "...balanced system of public outdoor recreation for the metropolitan areas..." The criteria in Chapter 7, Strategy 1 help define the types of activities and facilities that are provided in the Regional Parks System.</p> <p>Chapter 7, Strategy 1, states that secondary or support activities and/or facilities should complement the primary use as identified in the criteria and list of activities. Any change that includes new activities or facilities should be carefully considered by the Council and may require development of performance criteria to encourage both innovation and preservation of the character of the Regional Parks System.</p>
98	46.0; 112.0	Recreation	Support for active programming in regional parks. There is a log jam in local parks.	Thank you for your comment. It is important to recognize and clarify the distinct roles that local parks and regional parks play in our region, Also, it is important to recognize that the two systems overlap to a degree, as is illustrated on page 3 of the Parks and Trails 25-year Legacy Plan.
99	63.0; 71.0; 59.0	Recreation	Support for increased biking facilities in the Regional Park System.	Thank you for your comment.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
100	62.0	Recreation	Support for a community engaged master plan to determine appropriateness of activities. Opposed to allowing undefined "secondary or support activities."	The Council reiterates its support for the strengthened community engagement standards established in 2015. "Secondary or support activities" were included in this update to encourage innovation and provide for changing preferences while not undermining the character of the natural resource foundation.
101	99.0	Recreation	Support for accommodating popular and high demand activities the public requests. Opposed to allowing undefined "secondary or support activities."	<p>The Council expanded Chapter 7 Strategy 1, Recreation Activities and Facilities, to include additional language guiding the addition of a new activity or facility. Below is a portion of the process for additions:</p> <p>Regional park implementing agencies are responsible for the initial evaluation as to whether a new activity can and should be accommodated in the Regional Park System. If including new activities requires physical changes or facility construction beyond adjustments to visitor or park rules or policies, the regional park implementing agency must amend the regional park system unit master plan.</p>

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
102	114.0; 113.0; 111.0; 109.0; 106.0; 105.0; 103.0; 100.0; 95.0; 93.0; 107.0; 115.0; 101.0; 96.0; 92.0; 90.0; 89.0; 87.0; 80.0; 86.0	Recreation - support for skateparks	Support for land allocation and funding for skateparks.	<p>The Council expanded Chapter 7 Strategy 1, Recreation Activities and Facilities, to include language guiding the addition of a new activity or facility. Below is a portion of the process for additions:</p> <p>Regional Park implementing agencies are responsible for the initial evaluation as to whether a new activity can and should be accommodated in the regional park system. If including new activity requires physical changes or facility construction beyond adjustments to visitor or park rules or policies, the regional park implementing agency must amend the regional park system unit master plan.</p>
103	35.1; 62.0	Siting and Acquisition	Support for adding language to allow for the conservation of open and restoration of natural resources on degraded sites. (table 4.1, Page 66, lines 11-14; Page 70, Lines 23-32).	Comment noted. Language in the Policy Plan points to restoration of natural resources in Chapter 4, Strategy 1 and Chapter 6, Strategy 1.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
104	37.0; 102.0	Siting and Acquisition	Support for further defining bridging facilities.	Bridging facilities are described in Chapter 4, Strategy 5 under special recreation features. This is an area for potential innovation and creativity to attract and introduce new outdoor recreation users to the Regional Parks System. There may be opportunities to prototype a new idea that meets an emerging need or advances equitable usage of the system by focusing on groups who are underusing the Regional Parks System. This concept will evolve as agencies and the Council work with stakeholders to explore potential system additions or as part of an evolution of an existing unit.
105	75.0	Siting and Acquisition	Support for bridging facilities.	Bridging facilities are described in Chapter 4, Strategy 5 under special recreation features. This is an area for potential innovation and creativity to attract and introduce new outdoor recreation users to the Regional Parks System. There may be opportunities to prototype a new idea that meets an emerging need or advances equitable usage of the system by focusing on groups who are underusing the Regional Parks System. This concept will evolve as agencies and the Council work with stakeholders to explore potential system additions or as part of an evolution of an existing unit.
106	88.0	Siting and Acquisition	Support for refining language related to special recreation features.	Thank you for your comment.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
107	99.0	Siting and Acquisition - Equity	Support for aligning siting and acquisition language related to defined units in the Regional Park System to visitor research and input from underrepresented populations.	The Council seeks to understand the needs and expectations of the residents of the region. Ensuring that all residents are aware of the Regional Park System opportunities and feel welcome is a critical area where more work is needed. The 2015 Policy Plan update strengthened the commitment to community engagement for master planning. This update reinforces this commitment.
108	43.1; 58.0	Stewardship	Strengthen stewardship language (Chapter 1).	The Council's commitment to stewardship as articulated in Thrive 2040 is captured in Chapter 1 of the Policy Plan. In Chapter 2 language has been strengthened to include a commitment to develop a set of Regional Parks Policy Plan indicators.
109	20.0; 5.0; 15.0; 28.0; 36.0; 43.1; 91.0; 58.0; 94.0; 61.0; 69.0; 79.0; 82.0; 85.0	Strengthen accountability for natural resource management	Strengthen accountability for restoring and managing the high quality natural resource base of the regional parks system.	Comment noted. In Chapter 2 language has been strengthened to include a commitment to develop a set of Regional Parks Policy Plan indicators. The 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan, which is reflected throughout the policy plan, underlines the commitment to measure the results of Legacy investments.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
110	43.1; 5.0; 40.1; 58.0; 15.0; 40.0; 69.0; 70.0; 52.1	Strengthen accountability for natural resource management	We encourage language that requires engaging with ecological and environmental professionals throughout the entire planning process, from master plans to project funding.	Thank you for your comment. Council master plan review for parks, park preserves, special recreation features, and destination trails includes an assessment of whether the plan adequately meets the requirements for the development concept and natural-resource management. The natural resource component includes a natural resource inventory, surface and groundwater information, vegetation management, and the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Requirement.
111	37.0; 62.0; 67.0; 88.0	System Changes	Updates to maps and lists related to unit's status.	Thank you for your comment. System addition corrections have been completed.
112	35.1	Trail System Coordination	On Page 69, Lines 5-6, when discussing the priority to develop trail corridors within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area, the Council should consider requiring State and Regional Transportation projects to include the construction of trails and/or bicycle and pedestrian improvements.	Transportation projects funded through the Council's Regional Solicitation generally receive more points in the competitive scoring process if they include bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A blanket requirement, however, would ignore the unique situation of each project. Local proposers are best suited for this careful consideration.

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
113	35.1; 37.0	Trail System Coordination	Support for providing an example of what the coordinated RBTN/regional trail efforts will be.	<p>Comment noted. The Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) includes a Work Program item (Chapter 14) for “Regional Bicycle Transportation Network refinement and concept progression.” A list of tasks is included which “will be addressed in collaboration with local and state agency stakeholders.” Most notable and of immediate priority in 2019 will be the effort to “develop a more structured process for local agencies and the Council to update RBTN corridors or alignments at interim points between TPP updates and during the TPP update process.” Council staff will include Regional Parks implementing agencies, along with other key agencies, in these processes to complete this and the other RBTN-related tasks in the TPP.</p>
114	37.0	Trail System Coordination	The regional solicitation provides grant scoring preference for RBTN corridors that disregards the transportation benefits associated with many regional trails and greenways. Consider designating regional greenways and trails within the MUSA as Tier 1 RBTN's.	<p>The upfront analysis that identifies RBTN corridors already incorporates transportation benefits. The scoring preference reflects this analysis. Going forward, as new trails are added to the Regional Parks System they may also be analyzed for RBTN purposes. This will be part of further coordination between these trail networks. Regional greenways and trails will not be automatically granted an RBTN designation; this separate network requires a separate analysis.</p>

Comment ID	Commenters	Comment Theme	Comment	Response
115	67.0	Trail System Coordination	Support for the commitment to delivering a more integrated approach to regional trails and bicycle transportation planning.	Thank you for your comment. Council staff appreciates this support.
116	67.0	Trail System Coordination	Support for working with the implementation agencies and Council staff to identify opportunities for increased collaboration involving transportation and parks agency bicycle professionals and stakeholders in future planning and implementation activities of the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network and regional trail system.	Council staff appreciates this support and looks forward to continuing this process with broad participation.
117	43.1; 94.0; 20.0; 5.0; 28.0; 33.0; 36.0; 110.0; 58.0; 61.0; 69.0; 70.0; 72.0; 79.0; 85.0	Trails System Coordination	Opposed to the overlap of transportation planning within regional parks. Support for a coordinated trail network; however, since many regional trails also serve as commuter bikeways, it is critical that trails designed to accommodate a transportation function not be threaded through regional parks or park reserves.	Further coordination between the recreation and transportation functions of trails, where each function is appropriate, and how this is reflected in the planning and funding process will be a complex task. The Council commits to convening this process and looks forward to an inclusive and robust exploration. The 2018 plan update requires trails to adhere to recreational standards when passing through regional parks, and to consider a wide range of impacts on people and natural functions.
118	88.0	Trails System Coordination	Support for revising language to align with Thrive 2040 (Page 15).	Change made. Thank you for your comment.



METROPOLITAN
C O U N C I L

390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805

651.602.1000
TTY 651.291.0904
public.info@metc.state.mn.us
metro council.org

Follow us on:
twitter.com/metcouncilnews

