

Joint special meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Community Development Committee

Meeting date: October 1, 2018

Subject: Discussion of Public Comments received on the 2018 Update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.147

Staff Prepared/Presented: Libby Starling, Director of Regional Planning (651-602-1135), Emmett Mullin, Parks Manager (651-602-1360) and Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst (651-602-1548)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

This Information Item will inform future action associated with the adoption of the 2018 Update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Background

Minnesota Statute 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. The 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, and must also include estimated costs for acquisition and development and a five year capital improvement program. The Council adopted the *RPPP* on February 11, 2015. Minnesota Statute 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.

The public comment period for the 2018 update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* runs from July 25 to September 27, 2018. At the October 1 joint special meeting of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (Commission) and the Community Development Committee, staff will share a high-level update of the public comments received during the comment period. By the end of the day on September 28, 2018, this information item will include a complete packet of public comments received through the end of the public comment on the previous day.

Rationale

The Council's Public Engagement Plan recognizes that the public and key constituencies are "full and equal partners in the region's decision-making processes at all levels." An open discussion of key issues raised during the plan's public hearing and public comment period demonstrates the Council and the Commission's commitment to listening and responding to public comments received to inform the final version of the 2018 update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update advances the *Thrive MSP 2040* Outcome of Livability through increasing access to natural resource-based outdoor recreation, which enhances the quality of life throughout the region. It also advances the Thrive Outcome of Equity through strengthening equitable use of the regional parks system by reducing barriers to participation across race, ethnicity, income and ability.

Known Support / Opposition

During the public comment period, the Council has received a wide array of comments in support of and in opposition to the current draft policy plan language.