

Business Item 2018-333

Regional Parks Funding Allocation Policy & Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy

February 13, 2019

Management Committee

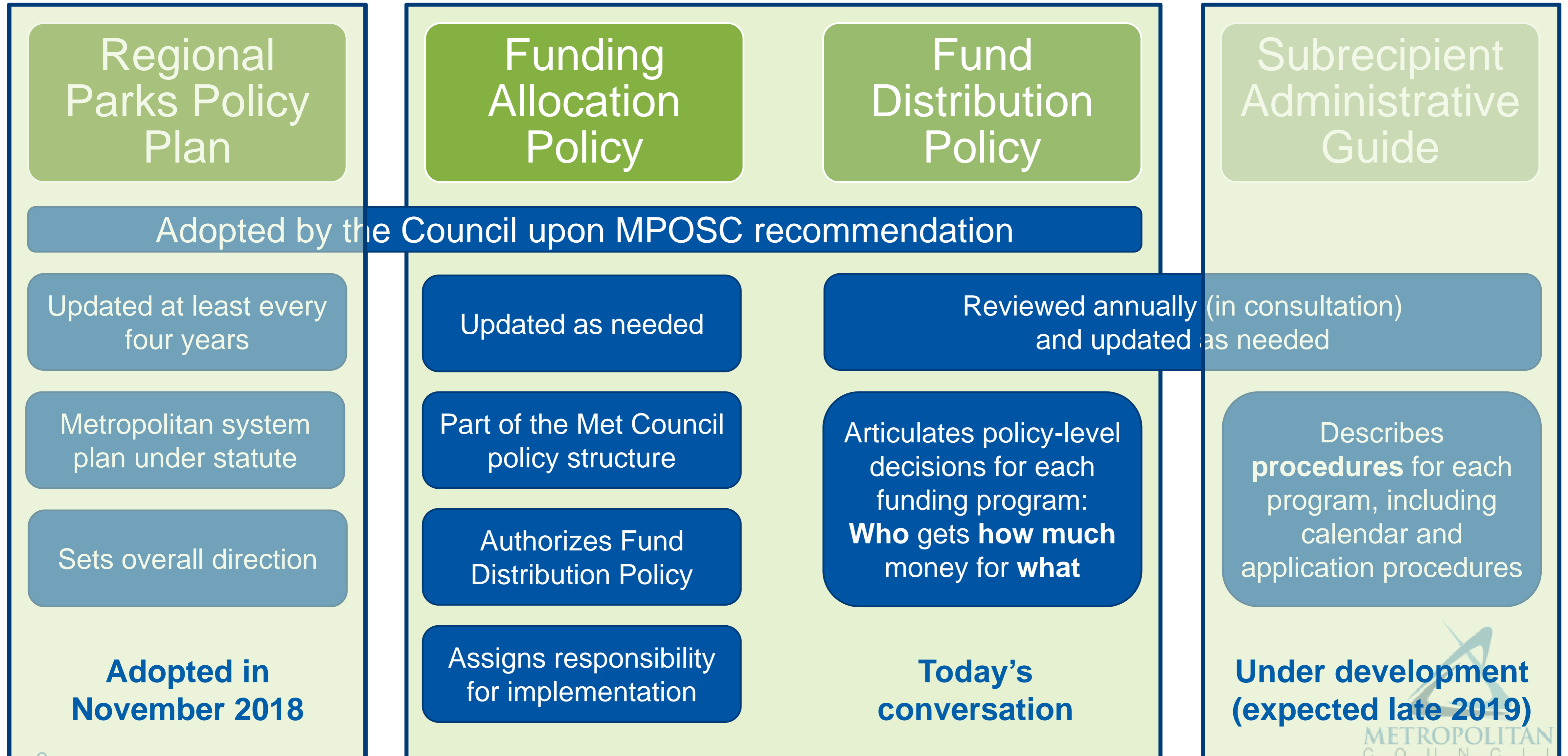


Background

- The update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* removed finance-related policies and procedures from the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*:
 - Placing these policies and procedures in the Council's organizational policies will allow the Council to be more nimble to adjust administrative procedures as needed
- The adoption of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* orphaned finance-related policies that warrant formal policymaker review and adoption.



How the documents fit together:



Regional Parks Funding Allocation Policy

- To be adopted as a one of the Council's Policies:
 - “The Metropolitan Council shall abide by the Minnesota Constitution, Minnesota Statutes, session law, state appropriations language and the *Regional Parks Policy Plan* when allocating funds received from the State of Minnesota or Council funds for the Regional Parks System (that is, the regional recreation open space system established and governed by state statute) as well as any direct state appropriations for parks or recreational purposes. If there is conflict between these authorities, the hierarchy shall be in the aforementioned order. If any conflict remains, the Council will seek a legal opinion.”
- Provides a framework for the Council's adoption, upon the recommendation of MPOSC, of the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy
- The Community Development Division Director is responsible for the development of the sub-recipient administrative guide.
- Published on the Council's website

Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy

- To be adopted by Council upon the recommendation of MPOSC
 - For each program (at right):
 - Allocation: Who gets how much money?
 - Eligible costs and activities: For what?
 - Required match
 - Amendments / Unspent funds
 - Annual Review by MPOSC / Council after consultation with implementing agencies and other stakeholders
 - Published on the Council's website
- Operation and Maintenance
 - Parks and Trails Legacy Fund
 - Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund:
 - Parks and Trails Legacy Fund
 - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 - Regional Parks Bonding Program

How the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy varies from the 2015 *Parks Policy Plan*

Intended to reflect ***current policies and existing practices*** except:

- Significant changes to structure and language to improve ***transparency, clarity and findability*** of policy language
- Some ***existing practices were never articulated in policy*** (e.g., Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund as first-come, first-serve)
- Consistent with the 2018 update of the ***Regional Parks Policy Plan*** (e.g., exclusions of unapproved recreational activities)
- Consistent with ***Council budget policies and funding regulations***
- Excludes details and the “how” of implementation -- all procedures and processes -- will be in the ***Subrecipient Administrative Guide*** (to come in 2019)

Proposed Action

Recommend that the Metropolitan Council:

- Add the Regional Parks Funding Allocation Policy to its agency-wide Policies and Procedures.
- Adopt the Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy.

