The Community Development Division: An Introduction

March 18, 2019

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Major Responsibilities

Provide coordinated planning and policy to guide the growth and development of the region.

Partner with regional park implementing agencies to plan for and fund the Regional Parks System.

Provide technical assistance to local governments to implement region policy in their local plans.

Facilitate community collaboration.

Deliver state and federally funded rent assistance to create and provide affordable housing for low-income households.

Provide Livable Communities Act grants to help clean up polluted sites, expand housing choices, and build developments that connect housing, jobs, and services.
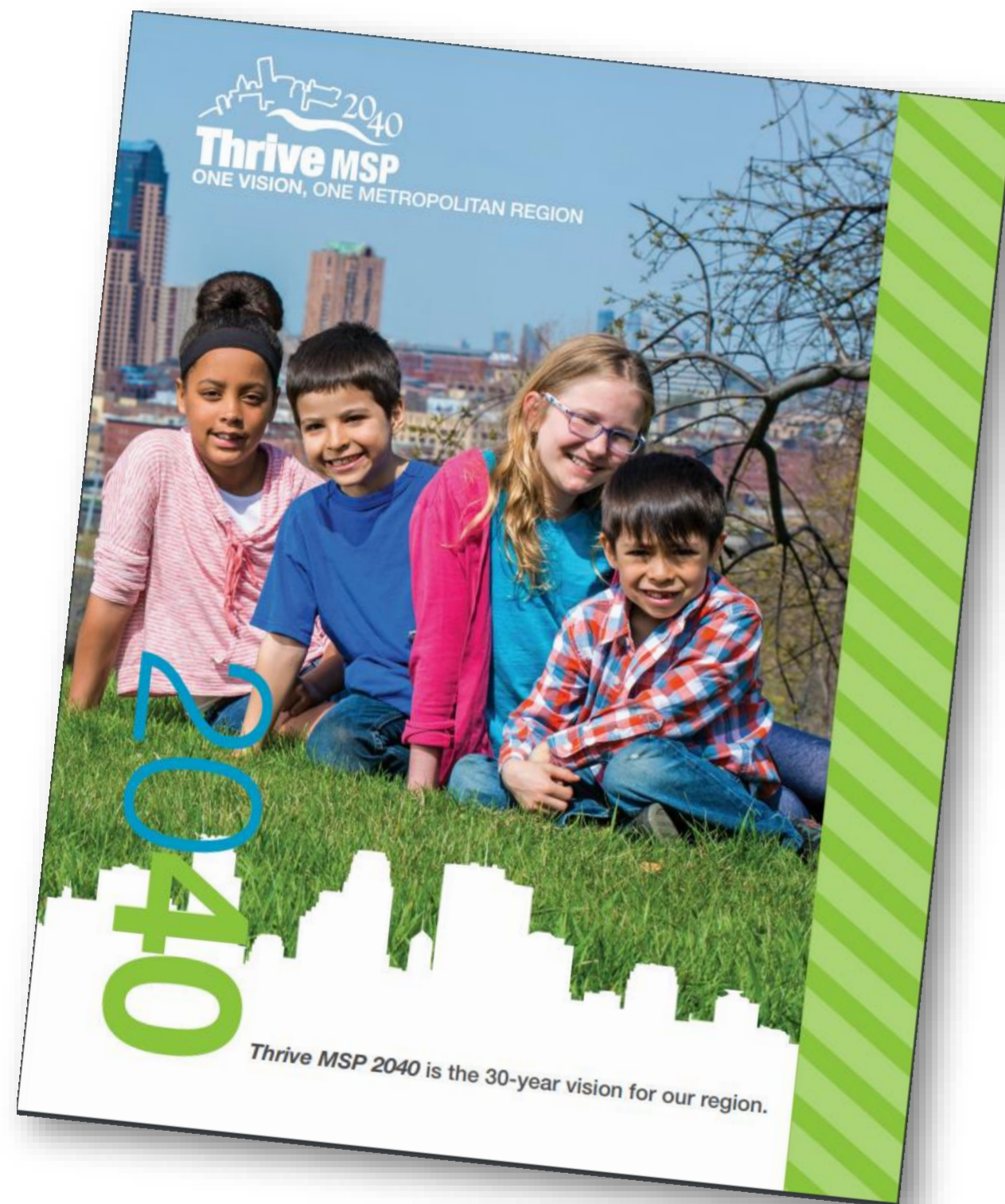
Identify, analyze, and report on issues of regional importance.

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Community Development Division: Coordinated planning to guide the growth of the region

Local Planning Assistance: Review of comprehensive plans

Review local comprehensive plan updates and amendments and other local planning documents for:

- Conformance with regional systems plans
- Consistency with Council policy
- Compatibility with affected jurisdictions

More detail about plan review, the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and the work of Local Planning Assistance will be provided at the March 20 Committee of the Whole

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Local Planning Assistance: Technical Assistance to Local Governments

Planning Grants
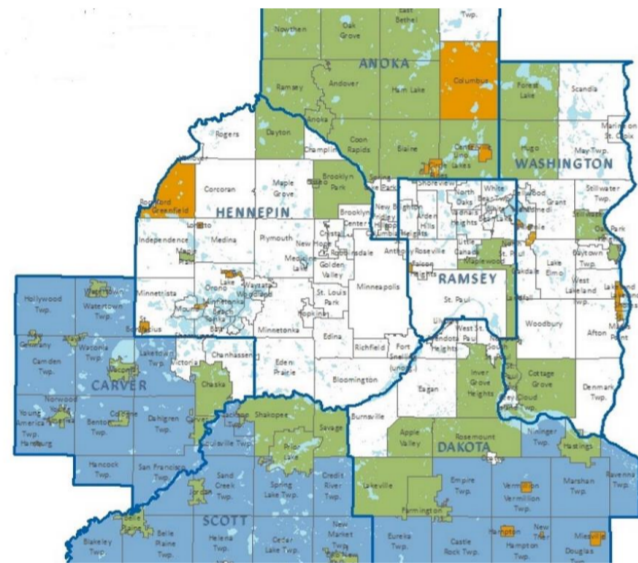
$1.9M for comprehensive planning assistance

Local Planning Handbook
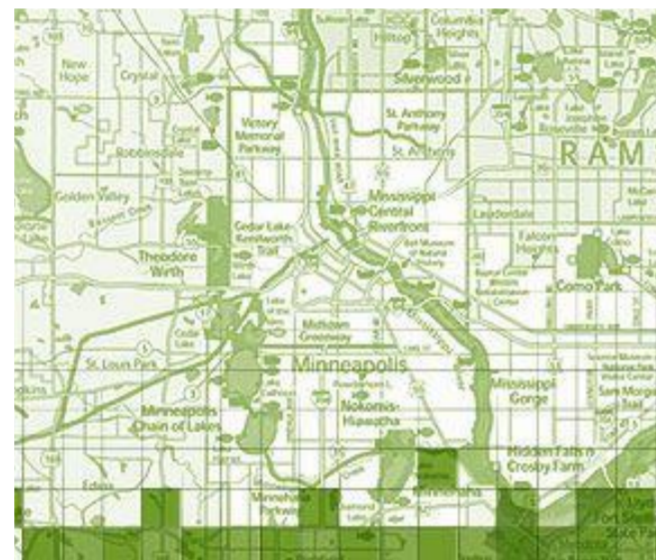
- Resource Library
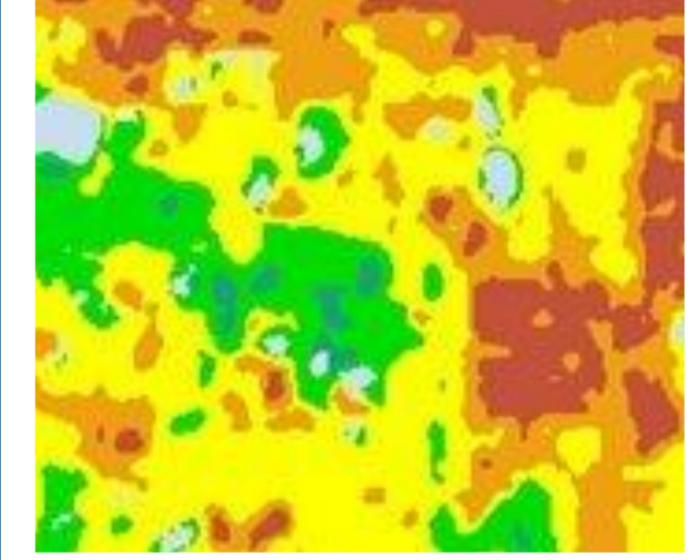- Community Pages

Sector Representatives
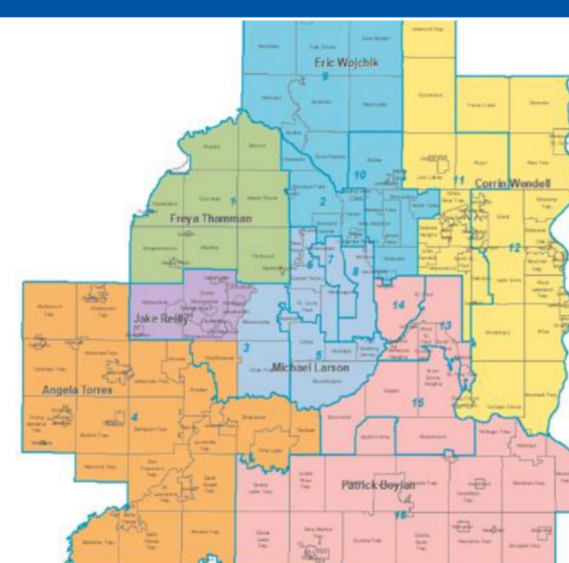
- One-on-one personal assistance

Trainings

- Webinars
- Workshops
- Tutorials
- Podcasts

Resources

- TOD Guide
- Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Solar & Energy Resources

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What is the Regional Parks System?

- Function as state parks for the metropolitan area

- Focused on natural resources, habitat and water bodies (lakes, rivers, and streams)

- Provide natural-resource-based recreation opportunities— picnicking, hiking, swimming

- Serve regional audience

French Regional Park
Three Rivers Park District

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Regional Parks System: Owned and operated by 10 implementing agencies
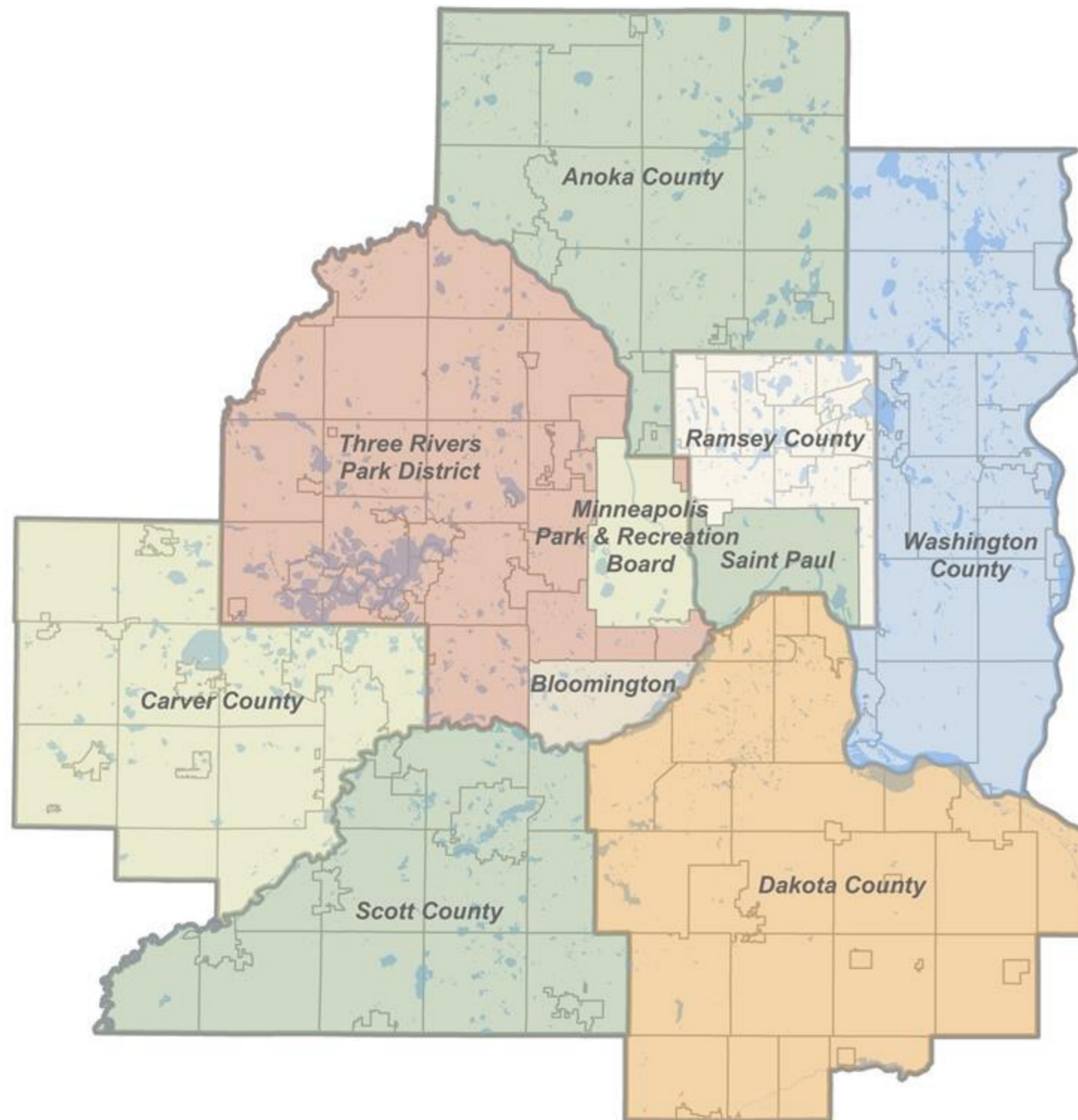
- Includes:
  - 44 Regional Parks
  - 12 Park Reserves
  - 8 Special Recreation Features
  - 49 Regional Trails
- 54,400 acres
- 389 miles of regional trails
- 58 million visits in 2017

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Council roles in Regional Parks System

Regional Parks Policy Plan

Master Plans

Regional Parks Funding

- Update the Regional Parks Policy Plan every four years
- Identify which parks and trails are part of the System
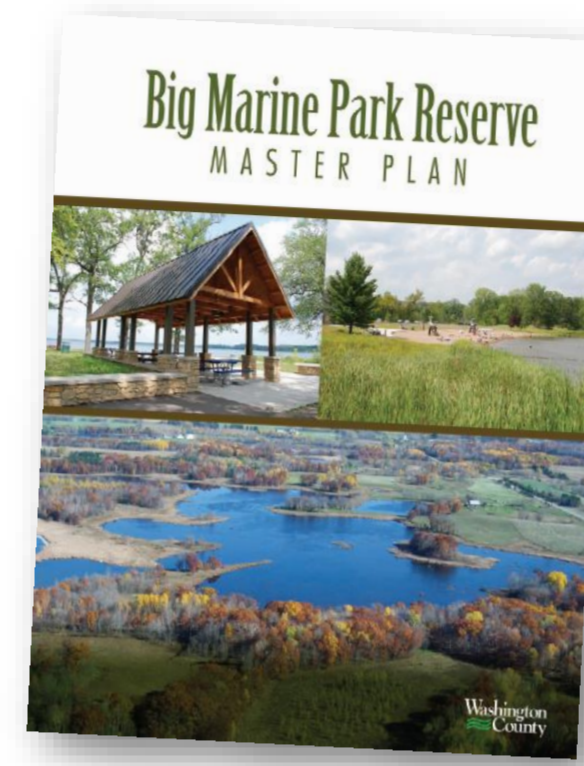
- Review and approve Master Plans developed by implementing agencies

- Distribute state and regional funding to the implementing agencies for operations, acquisition and development projects

More detail about the Regional Parks System will be provided on April 15, 2019

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Metropolitan Livable Communities Act programs

- Created by state statute in 1995 to fund cities in creating compact, connected development patterns
- Over $21 million to be awarded in 2019

Heart of the City, Burnsville

More detail about the Livable Communities programs will be provided on April 1, 2019

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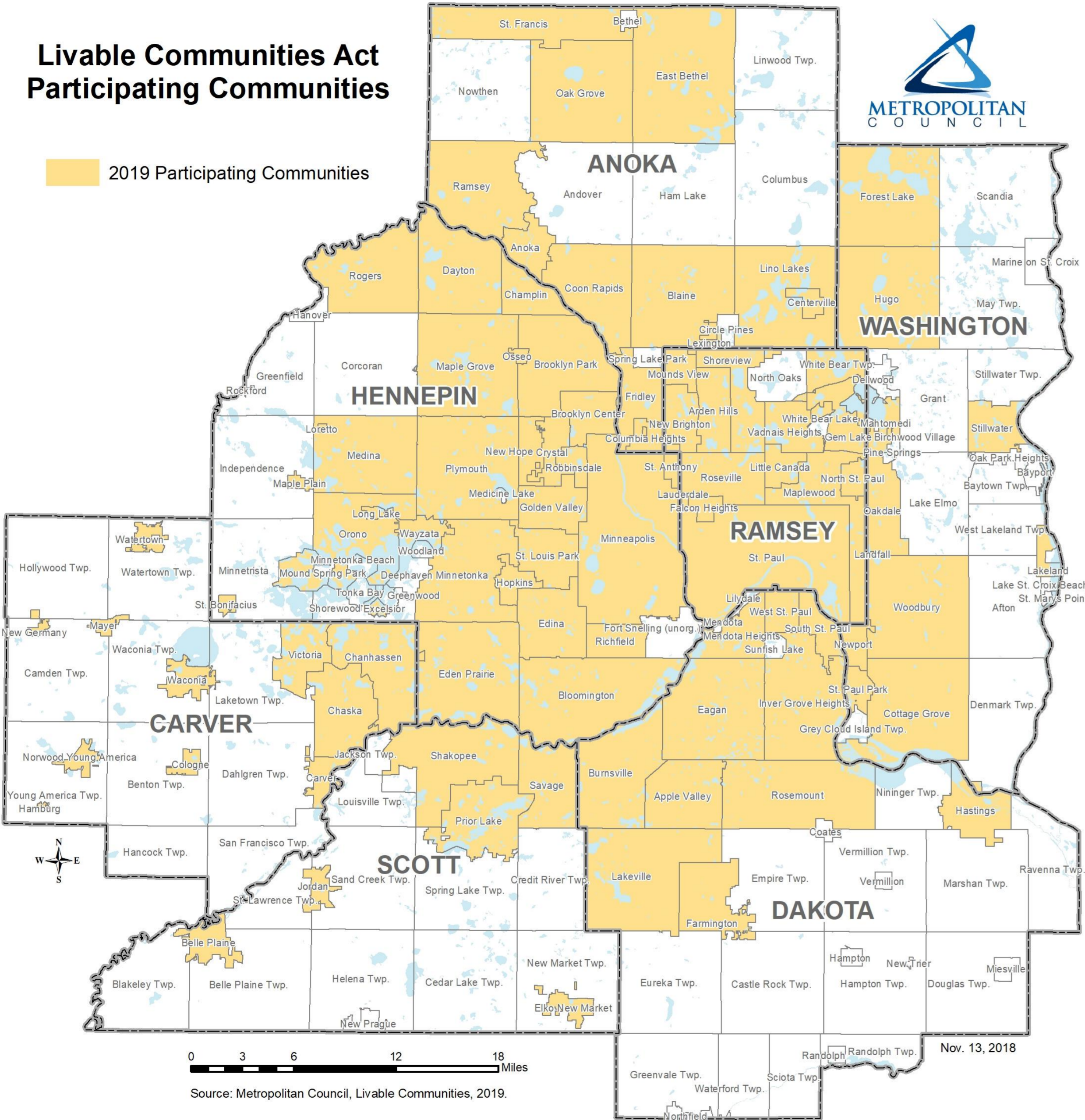
96 cities participate in the Livable Communities Program

To participate, local communities must:

- adopt affordable and life-cycle housing goals
- establish a Housing Action Plan
- spend an "affordable and life-cycle housing opportunity amount" (ALHOA)
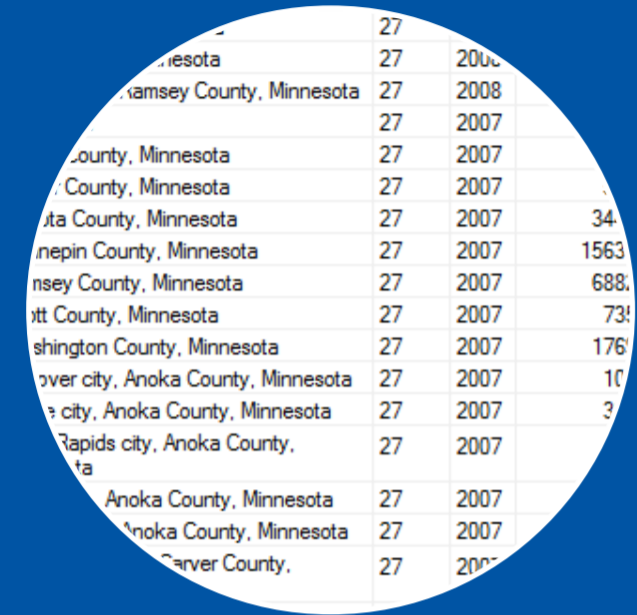
Metropolitan Livable Communities Act

Tax Base Revitalization Account	Local Housing Incentives Account	Livable Communities Demonstration Account	Transit-Oriented Development
• Clean up polluted land • Grow the local tax base • Living-wage jobs and affordable housing	• Expand housing choices • Create and preserve affordable housing	• Connect housing, jobs and transit • Promote compact development • Funds infrastructure and placemaking	• Livable Communities Demonstration Account projects oriented to transit in transit station areas
$6.4 million	**$2.5 million**	**$7.5 million**	**$5 million**

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Council Research: Informing the Region

Data:

Our own + Others' data

What types of **data**?
- **Demographic:** How many people live in our region? What are their characteristics? Who uses our regional parks?
- **Development:** Where is construction occurring? What are land use patterns? Where is affordable housing (existing and new)?
- **Economic:** How many jobs? At what wages? Which industries? What commute patterns?

Scalable by geography: From parcel to census tract to city to county to region
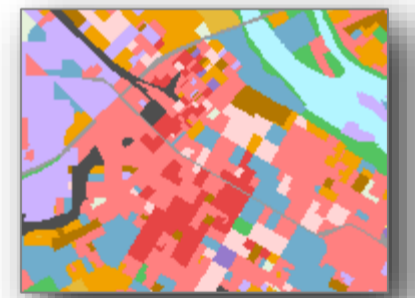
Scalable by time: From understanding where we've been in the past…

…to **forecasting** how we're most likely to develop in the future

More detail about Council Research will be provided on April 15, 2019

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Council Research: Informing the Region

Reports

Dashboards, Apps, Data Portals

Analysis: Adding value to data

https://metrocouncil.org/data

Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA)

- Created by Minnesota Legislature in 1974 to administer rent subsidy programs for low income families
- Largest administrator of tenant-based rental assistance (including federal Housing Choice Vouchers) in the state:
  - 7,200 program households
  - $60 million annually in rent payments
  - 2,000 active landlords
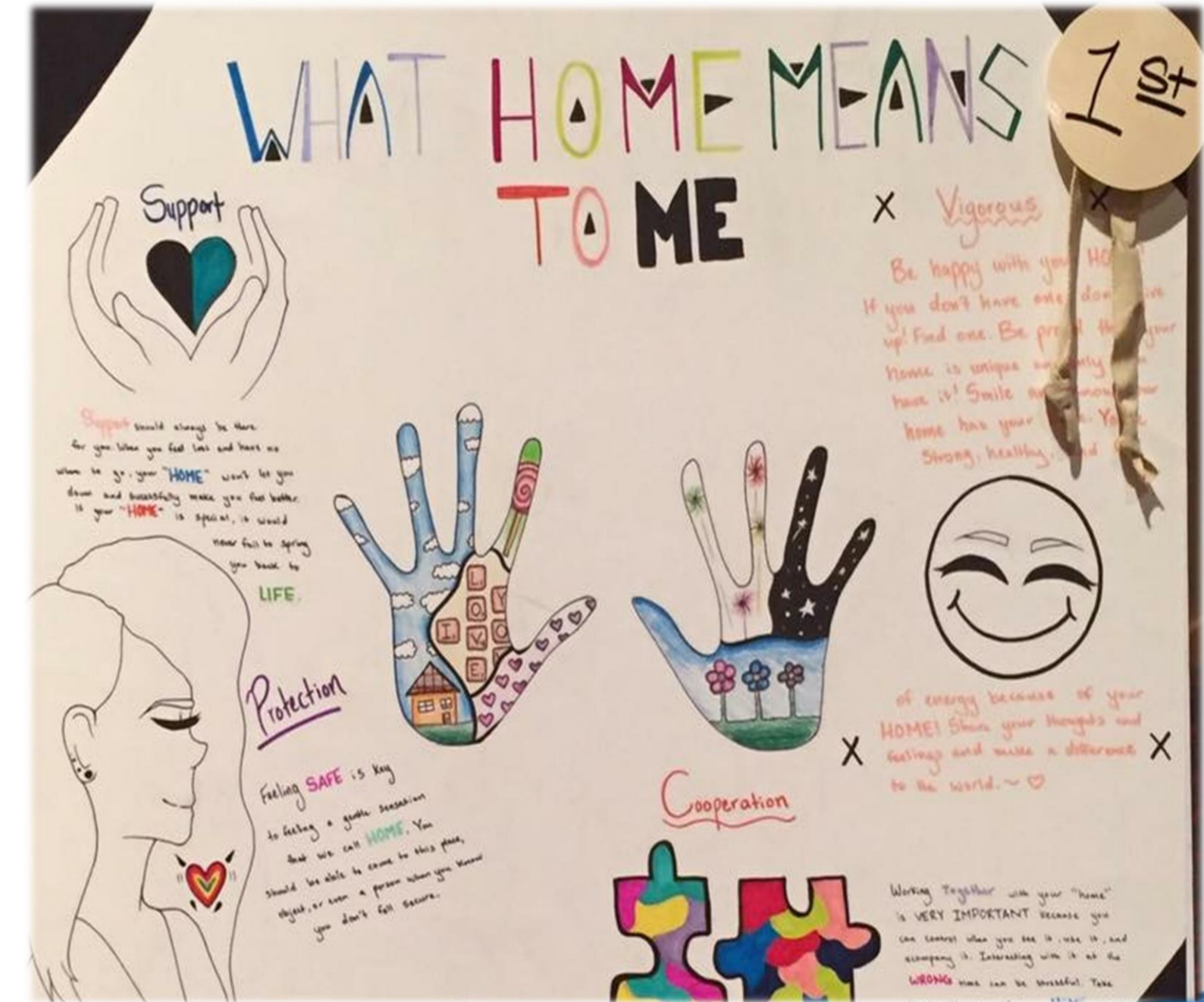
Metro HRA Service Area

- 19,000 people housed each month
  - Including 9,500 children
- Average family size: 2.9 persons
- Average income: $16,000
- 46% of households have wage income
- 47% of households are elderly or disabled
- Average tenant rent share: $400
- Average HRA rent share: $740