

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: April 20, 2020

Subject: Regional Parks System Additions Project: Process Update

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Chapter 3: System Plan, Chapter 4: Siting and Acquisition Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

Minnesota Statutes 473.147, subd. 1 directs the Metropolitan Council (Council) to plan for the Regional Parks System. The updated *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* (RPPP) commits the Council to convene a region-wide discussion about system additions in 2019, which began in October last year. Council staff is in the process of engaging Regional Park Implementing Agencies, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Community Development Committee in this effort.

Council staff provided an update on the system additions project to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission at its meetings in December 2019, and March and April 2020. In the coming months, the Council will consider Implementing Agency proposals to add regional recreational resources to the Regional Parks System based on criteria set forth in Chapter Four of the RPPP. The recommended system additions will be added to the RPPP during the amendment scheduled for the second half of 2020.

At the Committee meeting, Council staff will share an updated project timeline (Figure 1) and a draft system additions application (Attachment 1) and seek the Committee's advice on the project.

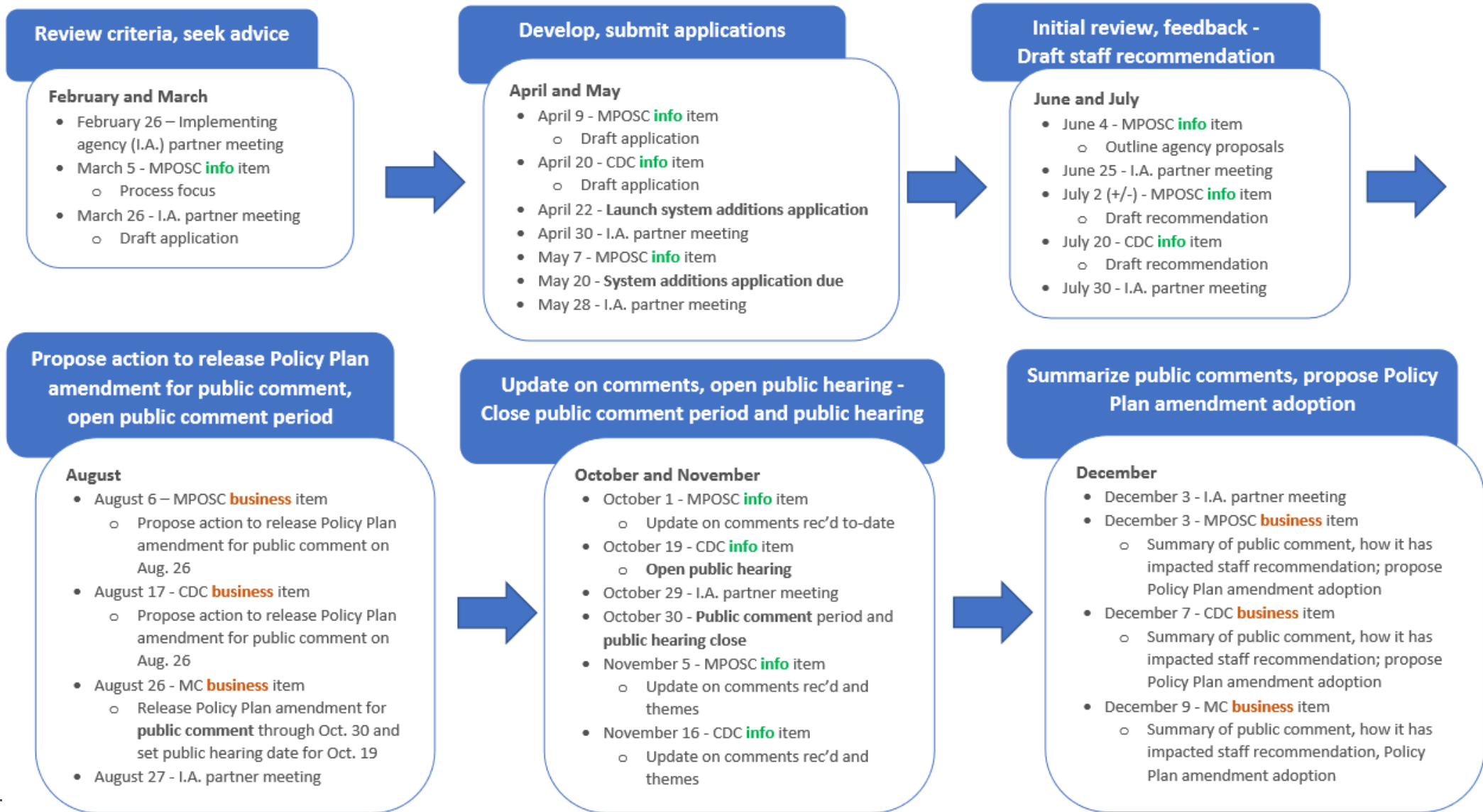
Thrive Lens Analysis

The System Additions project will advance Stewardship, Equity, and Livability. Stewardship advances the Council's mission of orderly and economical development by responsibly managing the region's natural and financial resources, and making strategic investments in our region's future. Additions to the Regional Park System that protect natural resources, adapt to changing conditions, and serve future residents advance this outcome.

Equity connects all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes, and abilities so that all communities share the opportunities and challenges of growth and change. System additions that consider the context of geography and demographics have the potential to positively impact a variety of underrepresented groups. Bridging facilities are an area of particular interest in advancing the Equity outcome.

Livability focuses on quality of life and experiences in our region, and how places and infrastructure create and enhance the quality of life that makes the Twin Cities metro area a great place to live. System additions that create more opportunities for residents to recreate in the regional park system improve the quality of life for the region's residents.

Figure 1: Regional Park System Additions Project Timeline¹



¹ Specific dates may be adjusted as the work progresses.

Draft System Addition Application Content

1. **System Addition Proposal:** Please describe the proposal, its location, the proposed acreage or trail miles, and if applicable, partner arrangement. Please include an overview map of the proposal depicting the location in your agency's jurisdiction. If the proposal calls for converting an existing county or local park or trail to a regional park or trail; is a boundary adjustment for an existing regional park or park reserve; or is for a bridging facility, please also include a more detailed map depicting the location in the local jurisdiction(s) (e.g., city, township).
2. **General Criteria:** Describe how the proposed Regional Park System addition is regionally significant and meets *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* criteria. Address the applicable general criteria (located in the tables 4-1 and 4-2, page 66) and applicable strategies in Chapter Four Siting and Acquisition of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.
3. **Agency and Other Support:** Please provide your agency's board approvals, government partner support, and other partner support documents specific to this proposed system addition. Less formal letters of support from local government staff will also suffice.
4. **Public Participation:** Please describe the level of public input that has occurred specific to this proposed system addition and what was learned (if applicable). Input may have been gathered through a comprehensive plan update, the development of an agency system plan, public hearing or other avenues.
5. **Regional Context:** Describe how your proposal advances one or more *Thrive MSP 2040* or Regional Parks System outcomes including: planning for future population growth, expanding natural resource management, increasing climate resilience, balancing conservation with recreation, promoting access via trails and transit to local, state, and federal park lands, and strengthening equitable usage (Chapter Two of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, page 15).
6. **Anticipated Funding Request and Timeline:** Please provide a high-level funding estimate for anticipated acquisitions and stewardship (if applicable), and the anticipated timeline for implementing this proposal (e.g., 0-10 years, 11-20 years, 20+ years). For acquisition estimates, please use \$256,750 per acre within the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) and \$36,950 per acre outside of the MUSA.² (Unless more location-specific acquisition cost information is known.)

² *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Updated November 2018