

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: January 6, 2020

Subject: *Parks and Trails Legacy 25-year Plan* Overview

Council Members: All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Constitution, Article IX, Section 15

Staff Prepared/Presented: Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks Manager (651-602-1360)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

In 2008, Minnesota voters passed the Legacy Constitutional Amendment that included a three-eighths of one percent sales tax for 25 years, until 2034, dedicated to cleaner water, healthier habitat, better parks and trails, and to support and preserve vibrant arts and cultural heritage.

This information item will focus on the 25-year *Parks and Trails Legacy* Plan that was created as a condition of the new Amendment. This plan looks out 25 years to envision a future in which parks and trails play a significant role in the lives of all Minnesotans. It was created over an 18-month period that included extensive public engagement. It is a parks and trails plan *for* Minnesotans and *by* Minnesotans.

The Plan focuses on improving and expanding Minnesota's parks and trails of state and regional significance. It is based on four strategic directions that together ensure a great future for parks and trails:

- Connect people and the outdoors.
- Acquire land and create opportunities.
- Take care of what we have.
- Coordinate among partners.

At the Committee meeting, Council staff will provide an overview of the Plan and the related funding, which is one of the funding sources that supports the Regional Parks and Trails System.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The *Parks and Trails Legacy 25-Year Plan* provides the implementation guidance for the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. Its impact on the Regional Parks System since its inception has been significant, as it seeks to advance the health of this system by responsibly managing natural resources (Stewardship), enriching the lives of all residents (Prosperity), creating real recreational opportunities for all residents (Equity), and increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation (Livability).