

Community Development Committee

Meeting of May 17, 2021

Subject: Regional Parks System Historical-Cultural Study - Introduction

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute § 473.147

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029), Jessica Lee, Senior Planner (651-602-1621), and Amanda Lovelee, Senior Outreach Coordinator (651-602-1375)

Division/Department: Community Development/ Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

The 2020 Amendment of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* (RPPP) commits the Council to conduct a Regional Parks System Historical-Cultural Study (Study) in Chapter 9, 2020 – 2023 Workplan. The Study will:

- “Describe and document the impacts that inequitable policies have had on the development of the Regional Parks System, and
- Explore the development of a land acknowledgement that recognizes and respects Indigenous residents and the histories of the land where our regional parks and trails are located.”

The Study grew out of advice heard from the [Public Comment Report](#) of the RPPP Amendment process, as well as, from advice from Metropolitan Council (Council) Members, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commissioners (MPOSC), and regional park implementing agencies (implementing agencies) through the development and implementation of the Equity Analysis Requirement for parks and trails master plans (RPPP Chapter 5 Planning and Policy, Strategy 2 Master Plan Requirements, pages 78, 81-82).

Council policy makers, implementing agencies, and regional organizations will continue to shape the study through a multi-year process. In 2021 a project scoping document and engagement plan will be developed. These guiding materials will form the basis to hire a consultant to guide this work in 2022. Council staff will return to Council policy makers in the fall of 2021 to discuss the draft scoping document and in early 2022 to discuss the final scoping document.

At this initial stage of the study, the discussion with Council policy makers centers on the study’s guidance. This guidance will form the foundation for the scoping document, engagement plan, and the study moving forward.

- Vision - What does an equitable Regional Parks System look like?
- Mission - How should we go about achieving an equitable Regional Parks System?
- Impacts - What long-term effects should this project strive for?
- Outcomes - What tangible deliverables should this project produce?

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Study advances the *Thrive MSP 2040* Outcome of Equity, recognizing that through history and culture we will strengthen the equitable use of the Regional Parks System. History and culture provide the contexts that shape the present moment, people's lived experiences, and the regional parks system today.