

Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: April 17, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide including the Regional Parks Policy Plan

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.145
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Emmett Mullin, Senior Manager, Regional Parks (651-602-1360) Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Parks

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

Background

The Metropolitan Council has begun development of the 2050 Regional Development Guide. The current Regional Development Guide, *Thrive MSP 2040*, along with the Council's metropolitan system and policy plans, are the governing documents that help guide the orderly growth and development of the region. System and policy plans include the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*, the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan*, and the *2040 Housing Policy Plan*.

In October 2022, Council staff provided an update to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission on the 2050 Regional Development Guide effort, including the status of developing regional values and vision. At the same time, staff kicked-off the Regional Parks Policy Plan update process and invited input on leading issues, and Regional Parks System values and vision.

Staff used the input provided by Regional Park Implementing Agencies and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission in October to guide priority focus areas, which will be taken up by a series of Council-Agency work groups over the next several months.

On April 6, staff met with the Metropolitan Parks Open Space Commission to gather additional insights on vision, mission and values for the Regional Parks and Trails System through interactive small group activities.

In this meeting, staff will share a summary of the parks policy plan work to-date, a project timeline, and an approach to working with Regional Parks Implementing Agencies; and seek Council Members' advice on the policy plan update process.

Following this meeting, Council staff will engage a subset of Implementing Agency staff to continue the development of vision, mission and values for the Regional Parks and Trails System. A refined set of statements will be presented to the full Implementing Agency partnership in May or June.

Council staff will return to Council committees, including the Community Development Committee, later this summer to share progress on Regional Parks and Trails System vision, mission, and values; the development of a community, stakeholder, and public engagement plan for the project;

and to provide other updates.

Any vision, mission, and value statements developed for the Regional Parks and Trails System are intended to highlight the system's unique niche and contributions to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and will strive to nest within the Regional Development Guide vision and values. These statements are meant to be a further articulation of the Council's vision and values that have been endorsed for the 2050 regional development guide.

Staff will return to Council committees on multiple occasions before the end of 2024 to provide updates on the planning process and seek Commissioners' and Council Members' guidance, input, and feedback.

Minnesota law requires the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the Regional Parks Policy Plan at least once every four years (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147). The policy plan was last updated in December 2020. Completion of the policy plan update is expected in late 2024, aligned with the timelines for the other components of the 2050 regional development guide.

