



# Draft 2050 Land Use Policy

Community Development Committee



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# Agenda



## Today's Discussion

- Brief recap
- Review and discuss draft policies and actions for Objective 4 (natural systems)
- Review and discuss draft policies and actions for Objective 7 (climate change)
- Next steps

# Regional Plan Status

**Values** 1  
Equity  
Leadership  
Accountability  
Stewardship

**Vision** 2  
A prosperous, equitable, and resilient region with abundant opportunities for all to live, work, play, and thrive.

**Goals** 3  
Our region is **equitable and inclusive**.  
Our communities are **healthy and safe**.  
Our region is **dynamic and resilient**.  
We lead on addressing **climate change**.  
We protect and restore **natural systems**.

**4 Objectives**  
Eight draft land use objectives reviewed, January – February 2024.

**5 Policies**  
Draft policies under review concurrent with actions, March – May 2024

**6 Actions**  
Draft actions under review concurrent with policies, March – May 2024

**Comparison:  
*Thrive MSP 2040*  
& *Imagine 2050***



# Comparison of land use direction

	Growth Management	Transportation	Community Wellbeing & Safety	Natural Systems
Imagine 2050	Respect the relationship with land and water as a foundation for <b>regional growth</b> .	Maximize opportunities for growth in places well-served by <b>transit, bicycle, and pedestrian</b> infrastructure.	Establish vibrant, inclusive, connected, and safe <b>communities</b> for people to live in.	Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance <b>natural systems</b> at all scales.
Thrive MSP 2040	<b>Align land use, development patterns, and infrastructure</b> to make the best use of public and private investment.	Sustain and improve a multi-modal <b>transportation</b> system to support regional growth, maintain regional economic competitiveness and provide choices and reliability for the system's users.	<i>No Thrive MSP 2040 equivalent</i>	Conserve, restore, and protect the region's <b>natural resources</b> to ensure availability, support public health, and maintain a high quality of life.  Conserve, restore, and protect the quality and quantity of the region's <b>water resources</b> to ensure ongoing availability, support public health, and maintain a high quality of life.

# Comparison of land use direction

	Housing	Equitable Development	Climate Resilience	Economic Wellbeing
Imagine 2050	Ensure that in all types of communities, people find <b>housing opportunities</b> that align with their needs.	Remedy past and present <b>discriminatory land use practices</b> .	Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and <b>create resilient communities</b> .	Support the <b>economic wellbeing</b> of our region and its communities.
Thrive MSP 2040	Promote <b>housing options</b> to give people in all life stages and of all economic means viable choices for safe, stable, and affordable homes.	<i>No Thrive MSP 2040 equivalent.</i>	Promote sensitive land use and development patterns to achieve Minnesota's adopted greenhouse gas emissions goals at the regional scale, and to develop local resiliency to the impacts of <b>climate change</b> .	Foster connected land use options to provide <b>businesses and industries</b> with access to materials, markets, and talent.

# Land Use: New and Re-Emerging Directions in Climate

## New Themes

- Stronger, more coordinated approach to climate change
- Environmental justice, particularly for indigenous & marginalized communities
- Urban forest and stormwater management
- Collaborative, metrics-based climate approach

## New Approaches

- Establish climate action requirements
- Expand solar development
- Restore & expand tree canopy coverage
- Incentives-based program for climate-conscious land stewardship
- Co-develop climate solutions with Native & marginalized communities
- Supporting local food systems

## Re-Emerging Ideas

- Mitigation & adaptation goals
- Compact development & redevelopment increases efficiency and lowers emissions
- Renovation/retrofitting of old buildings
- Implementation/expansion of green infrastructure
- Expand climate-related technical assistance

# Land Use: New and Re-Emerging Directions in Natural Systems

## New Themes

- Recognize the inherent value of nature.
- Create habitat connectivity
- Enhance public and private wildlife habitat and native plantings across land uses
- Assessment of existing natural resources, areas, and features
- Collaborate with Native and marginalized communities

## New Approaches

- Support nature as a climate adaptation solution
- Quantify the value of natural systems
- Inventory natural systems
- Protect, restore, & enhance connected habitat & natural systems corridors
- Focus on natural systems in areas of environmental justice concern
- Partner with State, Tribal, local, & watershed staff

## Re-Emerging Ideas

- Embed green infrastructure into communities & public spaces
- Value trees for shade, ecological function, & contributions toward community climate resilience
- Sustainably manage water use and supply
- Protect surface water and groundwater resources



# Land Use Policy Objectives

1



Respect the relationship with land and water as a foundation for regional growth.

2



Maximize opportunities for growth in places well-served by transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.

3



Establish vibrant, inclusive, connected and safe communities for people to live in.

4



Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance natural systems at all scales.



5



Ensure that people in all types of communities find housing opportunities that align with their needs.

6



Remedy past and present discriminatory land use practices.

7



Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.



8



Support the economic wellbeing of our region and its communities.

# Draft Land Use Objective #4 with Policies and Actions



# #4 Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance natural systems at all scales.

## Policy 1

Plan, build, and maintain informal public spaces that enhance natural systems features and public safety through community-centered design and stewardship.

Engage communities in co-design.

Design public spaces for all ages and abilities.

Update guidelines to enhance biodiversity.

Integrate art and into communal areas.

Implement maintenance and monitoring.

## Policy 2

Prioritize planning practices that support nature as a climate adaptation solution to build community resilience to potential climate impacts.

Identify vulnerabilities.

Integrate nature-based solutions into local planning processes.

Collaborate with stakeholders.

Allocate dedicated funding.

## Policy 3

Measure the value of natural systems to assist communities in protection, restoration, and enhancement efforts.

Quantify the monetary value of natural systems.

Assess social and cultural values associated with natural systems.

# #4 Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance natural systems at all scales.

## Policy 4

Inventory natural systems within and between communities to assess areas for protection, restoration, and enhancement.

Inventory natural systems.

Prioritize critical natural areas.

Develop action plans and efforts.

## Policy 5

Prioritize compact and infill development to preserve high quality natural systems.

Prioritize environmentally sensitive development patterns.

Guide development while preserving, restoring, and enhancing natural systems.

## Policy 6

Protect, restore, and enhance connected habitat and natural systems corridors through development and infrastructure planning.

Identify and prioritize key habitat corridors.

Update land use to protect these corridors.

Coordinate planning to connect habitat.

Implement sustainable drainage solutions.

# #4 Prioritize land use and development activities that protect, restore, and enhance natural systems at all scales.

## Policy 7

Protect, restore, and enhance natural systems in areas of environmental justice concern to build community resilience.

Engage communities in restoration projects.

Create safe green spaces, especially in underserved areas.

Provide environmental education in protecting natural systems.

## Policy 8

Partner with State, Tribal, local and watershed planners to build a shared understanding and identify strategies that address risks to public and ecosystem health.

Facilitate planning workshops to understand public and ecosystem health.

Establish an interagency task force.

Support joint research and monitoring.

## Policy 9

Enhance public and private wildlife habitat and native plantings across land uses.

Adopt environmentally friendly landscaping techniques.

Develop guidelines for pollinator habitat and native plantings.

Offer technical assistance to establish pollinator habitat.

Collaborate on pollinator corridor initiatives.

# Discussion



## Questions to consider:

- Are new approaches to policies going in the right direction?
- Are there concerns about existing approaches or lack of new approaches in any areas?
- Are there current approaches that shouldn't be carried forward?

# Draft Land Use Objective #7 with Policies and Actions



# #7 Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.

## Policy 1

Engage with local governments to establish fit-for-purpose climate requirements in line with State statute.

Engage with local governments to climate requirements.

Develop and provide technical climate assistance.

Establish performance metrics and monitoring.

## Policy 2

Support local governments in establishing goals to restore and maintain urban tree canopy.

Conduct urban tree canopy assessments.

Develop model urban forest management goals and strategies.

Provide technical assistance.

Assess the adaptation and mitigation value of tree canopy.

## Policy 3

Incentivize urban design and development that maximizes renewable energy readiness and enhances energy efficiency.

Implement incentive programs.

Promote green building certification.

Provide support for energy benchmarking.

Administer grants.

Support renewable energy and energy efficiency.



# #7 Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.

## Policy 4

Encourage de-paving and replacement with natural landscaping to enhance climate adaptation and resilience.

Provide technical assistance for community de-paving.

Conduct community educational events to promote de-paving.

Update land use to incentivize de-paving.

## Policy 5

Install solar panels in underutilized land areas, on industrial land, and accessory to complimentary uses.

Simplify permitting for solar panel deployment on underutilized land.

Form partnerships to finance and develop solar projects.

Promote co-location of solar panels.

Provide technical assistance to maximize solar energy access.

## Policy 6

Increase renewable energy systems deployment and energy storage in communities, especially for high energy-burdened households.

Establish a target percentage of renewable energy.

Implement equity-focused renewable energy.

Support community solar initiatives.

Establish energy storage incentive programs.

# #7 Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.

## Policy 7

Support low impact design and integration of climate adaptation measures into development to prepare for current and projected climate impacts on our region.

Provide technical assistance to encourage community implementation of adaptation measures.

Provide incentives through grant programs.

Conduct outreach and education campaigns climate adaptation solutions.

## Policy 8

Create an incentives-based program for climate-focused land stewardship and development.

Develop financial incentives to encourage climate-focused land stewardship practices.

Offer technical assistance to support implementation of climate-focused land stewardship practices.

Establish performance criteria to measure and evaluate the success of projects.

# #7 Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.

## Policy 9

Partner with Native and environmental justice communities to collaborate on climate solutions.

Facilitate regular forums for knowledge-sharing.

Co-develop climate solutions with indigenous communities.

Strengthen partnerships and agreements with Tribal Nations.

## Policy 10

Deepen partnerships with State agencies and academic institutions to develop climate-related technical assistance and resources to serve the needs of local governments as well as historically underrepresented and marginalized populations.

Customize climate-related technical assistance.

Ensure equitable access to resources for marginalized communities.

Develop culturally relevant and linguistically accessible climate resources.

Communicate climate measures in a clear and concise manner.

Share resources and capacity across State agencies and academic institutions.

# #7 Implement land use and development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, embed climate adaptation, and create resilient communities.

## Policy 11

Integrate local food systems and land use planning to build community resilience, access to healthy food, and food security.

Implement and streamline urban agriculture policies.

Support farm-to-table initiatives and local food markets.

Establish food policy councils and develop action plans for improving food access.

Partner with immigrant groups, Tribal Nations, and indigenous communities to establish food systems coalitions.

## Policy 12

Develop guidance and support for resilience hub concepts and implementation in community planning, with particular focus on extreme heat, air quality, and localized flooding hazards.

Host workshops for community planners on planning for hazard mitigation.

Launch pilot projects to test resilience hub models.

Create resources focusing on hazard preparedness.

# Discussion



## Questions to consider:

- Are new approaches to policies going in the right direction?
- Are there concerns about existing approaches or lack of new approaches in any areas?
- Are there current approaches that shouldn't be carried forward?

# Next Steps

## Ongoing work for Q2 60% draft release

- Continue soliciting feedback on draft language.
- Review draft language against equity and environmental justice frameworks.
- Continue engagement with local governments and community organizations.
- Continue revising language; balance feedback of underrepresented communities to ensure equal voice.





# Questions

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