

**Community Development Committee**

Meeting date: February 4, 2013

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date:** January 15, 2013

**Subject:** Overview of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System in Context of Local and State/Federal Parks

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statute 473.147, Regional Recreation Open Space Policy Plan

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Jan Youngquist, AICP; Planning Analyst (651-602-1029)

**Division/Department:** Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

**Proposed Action**

None. This is an information item.

**Background**

The metropolitan region includes a variety of parks and open space, with service areas ranging from individual neighborhoods up to the region and beyond. The presentation will provide an overview of the Metropolitan Regional Parks System in the context of local and State/Federal parks.

**Rationale**

Council members have requested information on the criteria for designating regional parks system facilities and on the Council's long term planning for the system. This information can help inform decision making related to the Thrive MSP 2040 vision.

**Funding**

The Metropolitan Council helps fund the capital costs associated with the regional parks system through the State Parks and Trails Legacy Fund and State Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as well as with State and Metropolitan Council Bonds. Operations and maintenance of the regional parks system is partially financed through the State Natural Resources Fund and General Fund. Regional park implementing agencies also use local funds for capital and operations costs of their regional parks system facilities.

**Known Support / Opposition**

N/A