Business Item 2020-326

Accept the Public Comment Report and Adopt the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment
Today’s Agenda

• Public Comment Process: Lessons Learned
• Policy Plan: What Changed
• Recommendation

Boat approaches dock and boat landing at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.
Draft Amendment Public Comment Timeline

**Invite**
August - September

- Orgs, MPOSC, CDC, IAs
- Reaching out, Website, Social Media

**Engage**
September - October

- Orgs, MPOSC, CDC, IAs
- Sharing, Listening, Videos

**Refine**
November

- Compile and Analyze Ideas
- Draft Policy Plan

**Approvals**
December

- Business item MPOSC CDC MC
- Final Policy Plan

**As a result of**
Website, Social Media Orgs, MPOSC, CDC, IAs

**Collaboration and Sharing**
Listening, Videos

**Draft Policy Plan Creation**
Final Policy Plan

**Compilation and Analysis**
Ideas

**Final Policy Plan**
“Traditional” engagement approaches reach dominant culture audiences well!

Reaching new audiences takes time, especially working with historically underserved audiences.

If a relationship with an audience is cultivated only when the Council needs something, it will not be successful.
Public Comment Summary

- **Systems Additions**: Overwhelming support for the proposed 26 system additions.
  - Some concerns regarding the need to take care of the existing system before adding more.

- **Natural Resource Conservation**: Comments supporting prioritizing natural resource conservation over recreational use.
  - For example, proposal to change acreage threshold for designating park reserves.

- **Regional Trails**: Significant interest in regional trails and future of the trail system;

- **Water Trails**: Support for water trails, as well as some concerns.

Girl helps with bee survey during a joint Saint Paul Parks & Recreation/U of M program.
Policy Plan Amendment: Significant Changes

26 System Additions or Expansions

- Four boundary adjustments
- Five search areas
  - Three regional parks,
  - One park reserve
  - One special recreation feature search areas, bridging facility
- 17 regional trail search corridors
Policy Refinements

Boundary Adjustments:
• Description of minor boundary adjustment criteria and process

Bridging Facilities:
• Further defines the goal and requirements for Bridging Facilities
Policy Refinements

Park and Trail Master Plan Requirements:
• Master plan boundaries must include an administrative and management boundary for known and potential inholdings.

Equity Analysis Requirement:
• Council approved requirement centering equity in master plan processes.

Swallowtail butterfly on joe pye weed.
Policy Refinements

- **Cost to Complete System**: Refined methodology that led to no change in estimated $2.1 billion total cost.

- **Chapter 9 Work Plan**: Proposes the Cultural Historical Study to incorporate land acknowledgement.

Teens play soccer at Battle Creek - Indian Mounds Regional Park in St. Paul and Maplewood.
Recommended Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Accept the Public Comment Summary Report on the draft amendment to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and
2. Adopt the revised final 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment.
Thank you

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