

Information Item

Metropolitan Council



Meeting Date: July 26, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan Update

District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.145 and 473.147
Staff Prepared/Presented: Emmett Mullin, Parks Manager (651-602-1360)
Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Parks

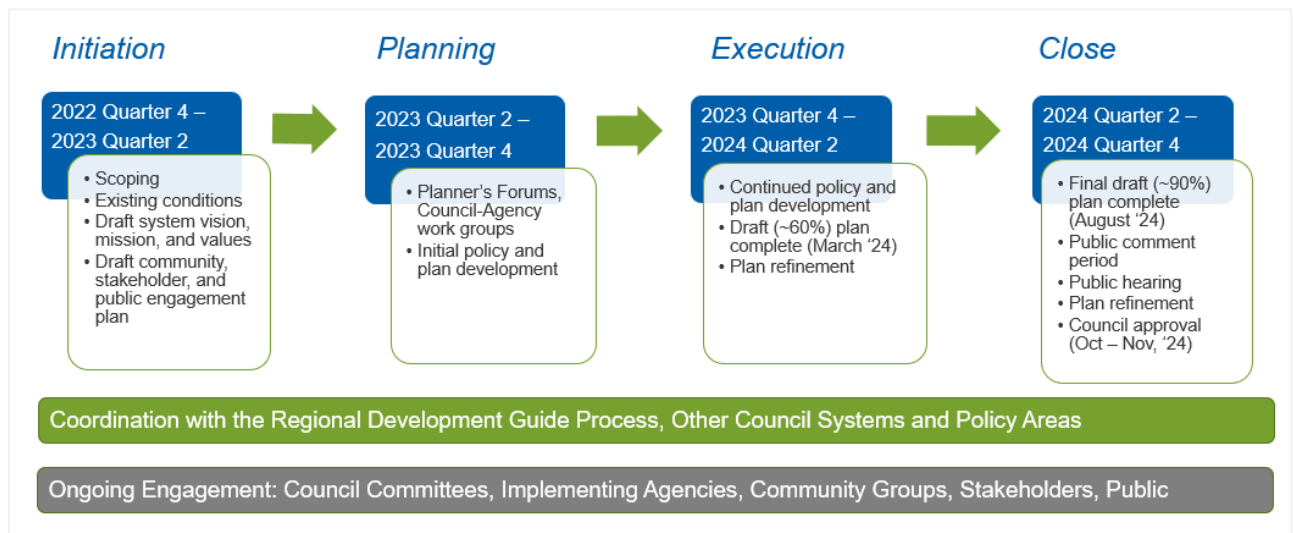
Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

Background

The current regional development guide, *Thrive MSP 2040*, along with the Council's system and policy plans, guide the orderly growth and development of the Twin Cities metropolitan 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*.

Staff have been engaging Council advisory boards and committees throughout the 2050 Regional Development Guide process. In March, staff shared Council-endorsed values and vision statements with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC). Staff also shared a summary of the Regional Parks Policy Plan update work, including a project timeline (below) and a plan for working with Regional Parks Implementing Agencies via a series of workgroups.



In April, Council staff led small group activities with MPOSC focused on developing vision, mission, and value statements for the Regional Parks and Trails System. An Implementing Agency-Council workgroup has continued this work. A refined set of statements was presented to the full

Implementing Agency partnership at the end of June.

Council staff also met with the Community Development Committee in April, sharing project background and a timeline for the parks policy plan update.

In June, Council staff sought MPOSC's advice on developing shared regional goals and policy area objectives. Work across Council systems and policy areas continues in this area now. Policy area objectives will connect regional values and vision to policies and actions.

The focus of this information item is to share updates on regional parks and trails system vision, mission, and values; and the development of a community, stakeholder, and public engagement plan for the project. Staff are seeking the Council's advice on the Regional Parks Policy Plan update process.

Staff will continue to engage with the Council advisory boards and committees throughout the project to provide updates on the planning process and seek the Council's guidance, input, and feedback.

Minnesota law requires the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the Regional Parks Policy Plan at least every four years (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147). The policy plan was last updated in December 2020. Completion of the parks policy plan update is expected in late 2024 as a part of the overall 2050 Regional Development Guide.

