

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



For the Metropolitan Council: February 26, 2025

Business Item: 2025-64

Appointment to Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Districts E, F, G, and H

District(s), Member(s):	Metropolitan Council Districts 9 - 16
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. §§ 473.303 and 15.0597
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charles Zelle, Chair
Division/Department:	Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council appoint the following individuals as Commissioners for Districts E, F, G, and H for terms through the first Monday in January 2029:

- District E: Chris Suerig
- District F: Cecily Harris
- District G: Anthony Taylor
- District H: Amanda Duerr

Background

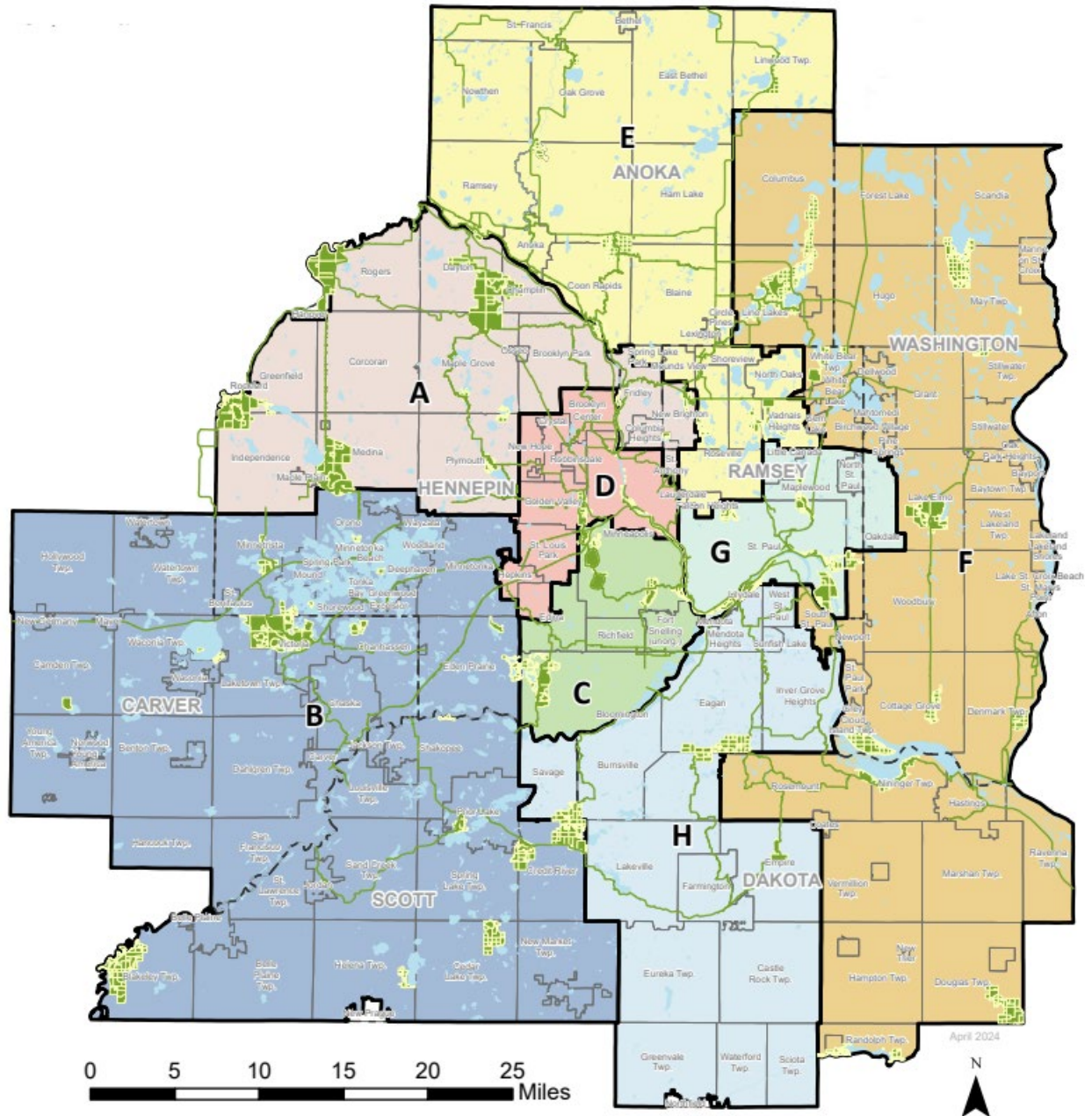
The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) was created by the Legislature in 1974 to advise the Council on matters related to the regional recreation open space system. The MPOSC has nine members appointed by the Council—eight district representatives and a chair who represents the region at large. MPOSC terms are four years and are staggered. Appointments are made in accordance with Minn. Stat. 473.303 (Metropolitan Park and Open Space Commission) and Minn. Stat. 15.0597 (Appointments to Multimember Agencies). The Council recently appointed the existing four Commissioners in early 2024, following the legislatively required redistricting process. In early 2025, these same four seats became open. MPOSC Districts E, F, G, and H are up for reappointment due to the Statutory requirements described in Minn. Stat. § 473.303, Subd. 4, Terms.

Review Process

Notices of vacancies were published by the Secretary of State's office and the Metropolitan Council. Council staff worked to recruit candidates with park implementing agency partners and Council Members in late 2024 and early 2025.

Council Members Susan Vento and John Pacheco served on the nominating committee. The nominating committee interviewed the applicants on January 23, 2025. The committee members reviewed the application materials and interview notes and made the appointment recommendations for these four districts. All four recently appointed members reapplied and are recommended for continued service in their districts. Council staff conducted the statutorily directed legislative consultation (Minn. Stat. 473.303, subd. 2) and did not receive any objections to the recommended appointments.

Figure 1. Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Districts



Rationale

The appointments committee determined that all four Commissioners were well prepared for their interviews and demonstrated a knowledge and commitment to support the Regional Parks and Trails System. The committee expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for this recommendation.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Appointing members to MPOSC is necessary to keep the commission functioning to meet its statutory charge. MPOSC’s work advances all five Imagine 2050 Regional Goals by advising the Council on regional park and trail policies, planning, and funding.

Funding

Not applicable.