

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: April 10, 2018

Subject: 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update and Discussion about Recreation Activities and Facilities

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.147

Staff Prepared/Presented: Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks and Natural Resources Manager (651-602-1360) / Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst (651-602-1548)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed.

Background

Minnesota Statute 473.147 requires the Metropolitan Council to prepare and adopt a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the Council's Metropolitan Development Guide. The Council's long range system policy plan, known as the [2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#) (RPPP), must include policies, strategies, and a system plan that guide the Regional Parks System, and must also include estimated costs for acquisition and development and a five year capital improvement program. The Council adopted the RPPP on February 11, 2015. Minnesota Statute 473.147 also requires the Council to complete a comprehensive review of the plan every four years. The current update addresses this statutory requirement to complete a comprehensive review.

Staff will describe recent activities related to the RPPP update process and will engage the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) in a discussion about recreation activities and facilities policy. Staff will share the Council Member Workgroup's direction for the Parks Policy Plan that confirms the existing nature-based outdoor recreation system as well as provide perspectives from a March 22, 2018 discussion with regional parks implementing agency staff.

Attachment A summarizes the current Regional Park Policy Plan language regarding the recreation activities and facilities policy and four strategies.

Rationale

Minnesota Statute 473.147 states that the Metropolitan Council shall consult with and make maximum use of the expertise of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission in preparing the policy plan.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The recreation activities and facilities discussion touches on all five of the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability. Today's discussion will address the balance and tension between Stewardship of the natural-resource base of the Regional Parks System and the region's Livability to which recreation activities and facilities contribute.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

N/A

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update Recreation Activities and Facilities

Recreation Activities and Facilities Discussion

Process

1. Review current Recreation Activities Section: one policy and four strategies.
2. What resonates? What still works well?
3. What areas need updating, clarifying, or strengthening?

POLICY: Provide a regional system of recreation opportunities for all residents, while maintaining the integrity of the natural resource base within the Regional Parks System.

Strategy 1: Activities in regional parks must be tied to the natural resources of the parks, but not adversely affect them. [Regional Parks Policy Plan, p.65]

Strategy 2: Most heavy recreational use should be accommodated in the more urban regional parks. [p.70]

Strategy 3: Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails among all residents, across race, ethnicity, income, and ability. [p.71]

Strategy 4: Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be coordinated between the Regional Parks System and the transportation system. [p.73]