

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: February 6, 2018

Subject: Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.147, MN Administrative Rules Chapter 6106

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

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed.

Background

Designated by Governor's Executive Order in the 1970s, the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) is a land corridor along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area governed by special land planning requirements and land development regulations. These regulations, which are implemented through local MRCCA plans and ordinances, protect and preserve the natural, scenic, recreational, and transportation resources of this section of the Mississippi River. The MRCCA comprises 72 miles of river and 54,000 acres of surrounding land in 30 local jurisdictions. Thirteen regional parks, operated by seven regional park implementing agencies, are located within the MRCCA.

Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 6106 lay out the land planning and regulatory framework that protects the MRCCA's resources. These rules became effective on January 4, 2017, and replace Executive Order 79-19, which previously governed land use in the MRCCA.

Staff from the Council and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will present an overview of the MRCCA, the rules that affect regional parkland, and how the rules will be acknowledged as part of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* (RPPP) update.

Rationale

Acknowledging the MRCCA rules in the RPPP update will help ensure that the natural and cultural resources within the MRCCA are protected.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The MRCCA rules help improve protections for water quality, habitat, scenic views, and key resources, which advance the Thrive Outcomes of Sustainability, Stewardship, and Livability.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

N/A