

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: November 8, 2018

For the Community Development Committee meeting of November 19, 2018

Subject: Regional Parks Funding Allocation Policy and Regional Parks Fund Distribution Policy

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 15; Minn. Stats. §§ 85.53 and 473.351; *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*

Staff Prepared/Presented: Libby Starling, Director of Regional Planning (651-602-1135); Heather Agesen-Huebner, Director of Finance and Administration for CD / MTS (651-602-1728); Emmett Mullin, Parks Manager (651-602-1360)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None at this time. Information only.

Background

The 2018 update to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, scheduled to be recommended for adoption earlier in this meeting, removes significant finance-related policies and procedures from the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. These finance related policies and procedures were removed with the intent of placing them in the Council's organizational policies and in an administrative guide so that the Council could be more nimble in response to legislative changes and adjust administrative procedures as needed. Council staff have been drafting a Regional Parks Funding Allocation Policy and a Regional Parks System Fund Distribution Policy for adoption by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) and the Metropolitan Council in December and January. Drafts will be shared at and posted after the November 8 meeting of MPOSC for discussion and public review.

Rationale

State statute requires the Council to review and update its *Regional Parks Policy Plan* at least once every four years. The anticipated adoption of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* will orphan finance-related policies that warrant formal policymaker review and adoption.

Thrive Lens Analysis

While the full *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* advances the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes of Livability and Equity, these finance policies advance the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by responsibly managing the Council's financial resources supporting the Regional Parks System.

Funding

Updating the Regional Parks Policy Plan is a regular item in the Community Development Division work plan.

Known Support / Opposition

The draft documents to be shared on November 8 respond to comments on an earlier draft of a more expansive document shared with regional park implementing agencies. Posting these drafts now prior to action in December will allow Council staff to learn more about support, concerns and opposition to the proposed language.