The Policy Plan shall:

• “…identify generally the areas which should be acquired…”

• “…provide a system of regional recreation open space…”

• “…meet the outdoor recreation needs of the people of the metropolitan area…”
2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment

1. Regional Designations
2. Boundary Adjustments Policy Clarification
3. Bridging Facilities
4. Estimated Costs to Complete the System
5. Equity Analysis Requirement for master planning
6. Workplan for the Regional Parks Policy Plan
Envisioning our Regional Parks and Trails System Future

Our Process – Beginning with Contextual Considerations

• Climate change
• Demographic changes and the rising place of equity
• Evolving user needs, trends, expectations
• Sustainable funding

Our Question - What is the emerging Regional Parks and Trails System?
The Regional Parks System (2018) includes:

- **56** Regional Parks and Park Reserves
- **8** Special Recreation Features
- **49** Regional Trails
- **54,730 acres** open for public use
Existing, planned and search units (2018, 2020)

113 existing units
- 44 Regional Parks
- 12 Park Reserves
- 8 Special Recreation Features
- 49 Regional Trails

13 planned units
- 2 Regional Parks
- 1 Park Reserve
- 10 Regional Trails

48 “search” units
- 3 Regional Park Search Areas
- 45 Regional Trail Search Corridors

24 proposed units (2020)*
- 2 Regional Park Search Areas
- 1 SRF Search Areas
- 18 Regional Trail Search Corridors
- 3 propose Recognition of Regional Status

174 existing, planned and search units
- 65% of system
- 7% of system
- 28% of system

198 existing, planned, search and proposed units
- 57% of system
- 7% of system
- 36% of system
# Existing, planned and search by agency (2018, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Park Implementing Agency</th>
<th># Existing (RP+PR+SRF+RT)</th>
<th># Planned (RP+PR+RT)</th>
<th># Search (PSA+RTSC)</th>
<th>Total Units (2018)</th>
<th>Proposed (2020) *</th>
<th>Total Units (2020) **</th>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>0+1 = 1</td>
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<td>0+10 = 10</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>1+0+1 = 2</td>
<td>0+7 = 7</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>2020 Pop.</td>
<td>Acres per 1000 Pop.</td>
<td>2040 Pop.</td>
<td>Acres per 1000 Pop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anoka County</td>
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<td>Bloomington</td>
<td>1,716</td>
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<td>Carver County</td>
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<td>Dakota County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>3,129</td>
<td>436,000</td>
<td>7.18</td>
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<td>Ramsey County</td>
<td>4,716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott County</td>
<td>4,299</td>
<td>158,510</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>208,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>1,989</td>
<td>315,000</td>
<td>6.31</td>
<td>344,100</td>
<td>5.78</td>
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<tr>
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<td>754,530</td>
<td>32.6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REGION</strong></td>
<td><strong>62,763</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,165,270</strong></td>
<td><strong>19.83</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,710,970</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.91</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Regional Parks data from Regional Parks GIS layer (Dec. 2018)
### Regional Park acres per 1,000 population + 25-acre standard (NRPA) consideration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Park Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Regional Park Acres</th>
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<td>16.91</td>
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</table>
Overview of 2020 Regional Park System Addition Proposals

• 28 proposals, 8 agencies
  o 18 Regional Trail Search Corridors or Extensions
  o 4 Regional Park Boundary Adjustments
  o 3 propose Recognition of Regional Status
  o 2 Regional Park Search Areas
    o 1 Special Recreation Feature Search Area
Natural Resources - Council policy framework

• “Stewardship means responsibly managing our region’s finite resources, including natural resources… financial resources, and our existing investments in infrastructure.” (Thrive MSP 2040)

• “Protecting and preserving the region’s natural resources have long been an important part of the Council’s work.” (Thrive MSP 2040)

• “To protect natural resources, the Council will fund ongoing acquisition of priority natural resource areas for inclusion in the Regional Parks System…(Thrive MSP 2040)
Natural Resources - Council policy framework continued

- “Expand the Regional Park System to conserve, maintain, and connect natural resources…” (2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan)

- “Provide a comprehensive regional park and trail system that preserves high-quality natural resources…” (2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan)

- “Identify lands with high-quality natural resources… and put these lands in a protected status…” (2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan)

- “Whenever possible, linking regional trails should be located to reasonably maximize inclusion of high-quality natural resources and connections to local trails…” (2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan)
Geographic Balance - Council policy framework

- “…The Council will intentionally consider **regional balance**… in planning, operations, and investment decisions. The Council’s intent is that no part of the region is consistently favored or consistently ignored.” *(Thrive MSP 2040)*
- “Advancing **regional balance** will be a consideration that helps all parts of the region receive investments that promote prosperity at their stage and level of development.” *(Thrive MSP 2040)*
- “**Geographic balance** or proportionate distribution tied to population distribution patterns shall be a consideration when exploring system additions.” *(2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan)*
• “Equity connects all residents to opportunity and creates viable housing, transportation, and recreation options for people of all races, ethnicities, incomes and abilities…” (Thrive MSP 2040)

• “Strengthen equitable use of regional parks and trails by all our region’s residents, such as across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability.” (2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan)

• “Equity is a consideration in Regional Parks System funding and investment.” (2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan)
Staff-Facilitated Analysis of Proposals

- 28 proposals reviewed
- 24 proposals recommended for addition/designation

A focus on Three Council Priorities
- Natural Resources
- Geographic Balance
- Equity
Policy Priority: Natural Resources Analysis

**High**
Acquiring lands with natural qualities most desirable for outdoor recreational activities and protecting an important natural resource feature…

**Medium**
Links designated federal, state, and regional natural resource areas together.

**Low**
Limited ability to contribute to natural resource improvements or management or links only trails together.
Policy Priority: Geographic Balance Analysis

**High**
Proposal demonstrates how the proposed unit will provide geographic balance or fill a gap for the seven-county Metropolitan Area (not just within the agency's jurisdiction), or such balance is supported by spatial analysis… or Council pop. forecasts to 2040.

**Medium**
Proposal demonstrates how proposed unit will provide geographic balance or fill a gap within the agency's jurisdiction, or such balance is supported by spatial analysis… or Council pop. forecasts to 2040.

**Low**
Proposal does not clearly demonstrate how proposed unit will provide geographic balance or fill a gap within either the seven-county metro area or the agency's jurisdiction…
Policy Priority: Equity Analysis

Proposals earned a race/income equity rating based on evaluations of who lives close to the systems investment, how/if equity-focused engagement happened, whether the systems investment is proximate to transit.

**High**
Proposed trail or park has a significant potential for building a more equitable Regional Park System…

**Medium**
Proposed park or trail addition has a small equity impact…

**Low**
Nearby census tracts were over 90 percent white and over 100K median income, no evidence of equity-based community engagement, aggregated data asserted to represent entire community, no transit access.
### Designation of Regional Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Agency, Proposal</th>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>Geographic Balance</th>
<th>Equity</th>
<th>Recommend addition?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>Anoka County – 2 proposals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coon Lake County Park – Propose Recognition of Regional Status</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Rum River North, South County Parks – Propose Recognition of Regional Status, Combine with Rum River Central Regional Park</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Carver County – 3 proposals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Highway 5 Regional Trail Search Corridor</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>County Road 11 Regional Trail Search Corridor</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>County Road 40 Regional Trail Search Corridor</td>
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<td>Battle Creek Regional Park Boundary Adjustment</td>
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<td><strong>Saint Paul – 3 proposals</strong></td>
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## Designation of Regional Significance

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<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>Geographic Balance</th>
<th>Equity</th>
<th>Recommend addition?</th>
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</table>
Summary of Staff-facilitated Draft Recommendation

- 24 proposals recommended for addition, 8 agencies
  - 14 Regional Trail Search Corridors or Extensions
  - 4 Regional Park Boundary Adjustments
  - 3 propose Recognition of Regional Status
  - 2 Regional Park Search Areas
  - 1 Special Recreation Feature Search Area
- 12 proposals were rated “high” for natural resources
- Eight proposals were rated “high” for geographic balance
- 14 proposals were rated “high” for equity
- 1 proposal was rated “high” for all three Council priority areas
- 8 proposals were rated “high” for two Council priority areas
Carver County

3 proposals

1. **Highway 5 - Regional Trail Search Corridor**

2. County Road 11 – **Regional Trail Search Corridor**

3. County Road 40 – **Regional Trail Search Corridor**

= not recommended for 2020 addition
Highway 5 Regional Trail Search Corridor

• Propose initiating a system-wide discussion about the long-term vision for the Regional Trail System as part of the 2050 regional planning process
County Road 40 Regional Trail Search Corridor

- Propose initiating a system-wide discussion about the long-term vision for the Regional Trail System as part of the 2050 regional planning process
Three Rivers Park District

6 Regional Trail Search Corridor proposals (of 11 total proposals)

1. Weaver Lake Reg. Trail Search Corridor
2. Eagle Lake to Bryant Lake Reg. Trail Ext. Search Corridor
4. Silverwood Reg. Trail Connector Search Corridor
5. Purgatory Creek Reg. Trail Ext. Search Corridor

= not recommended for 2020 addition
Gray’s Bay Regional Trail Extension Search Corridor

- Propose initiating a system-wide discussion about the long-term vision for the Regional Trail System as part of the 2050 regional planning process
Purgatory Creek Reg. Trail Ext. Search Corridor

- Propose initiating a system-wide discussion about the long-term vision for the Regional Trail System as part of the 2050 regional planning process.
2020 Regional Park System Additions, Regional Parks Policy Plan Amendment Timeline

**Review criteria, seek advice**
- February and March
  - February 26 - Implementing agency (LA) partner meeting
  - March 5 - MPOSC info item
    - Process focus
  - March 26 - LA partner meeting
    - Draft application

**Propose action to release Policy Plan amendment for public comment, open public comment period**
- August
  - August 6 - MPOSC business item
    - Propose action to release Policy Plan amendment for public comment on Aug. 20
  - August 17 - CDC business item
    - Propose action to release Policy Plan amendment for public comment on Aug. 26
  - August 26 - MC business item
    - Release Policy Plan amendment for public comment through Oct. 30 and set public hearing date for Oct. 19
  - August 27 - LA partner meeting

**Develop, submit applications**
- April and May
  - April 9 - MPOSC info item
    - Draft application
  - April 20 - CDC info item
    - Draft application
  - April 22 - Launch system additions application
  - April 30 - LA partner meeting
  - May 7 - MPOSC info item
  - May 18 - CDC info item
  - May 20 - System additions application due
  - May 21 - Land Use Advisory Committee meeting
  - May 28 - LA partner meeting

**Initial review, feedback - Draft staff recommendation**
- June and July
  - June 4 - MPOSC info item
    - Outline agency proposals, part 1
  - June 13 - MPOSC info item
    - Outline agency proposals, part 2
  - June 25 - LA partner meeting
  - July 15 - MPOSC info item
    - Draft recommendation
  - July 20 - CDC info item
    - Draft recommendation
  - July 30 - LA partner meeting

**Update on comments, open public hearing - Close public comment period and public hearing**
- October and November
  - October 1 - MPOSC info item
    - Update on comments rec’d to-date
  - October 19 - CDC info item
    - Open public hearing
  - October 29 - LA partner meeting
  - October 30 - Public comment period and public hearing close
  - November 5 - MPOSC info item
    - Update on comments rec’d and themes
  - November 16 - CDC info item
    - Update on comments rec’d and themes

**Summarize public comments, propose Policy Plan amendment adoption**
- December
  - December 3 - LA partner meeting
  - December 3 - MPOSC business item
    - Summary of public comment, how it has impacted staff recommendation, propose Policy Plan amendment adoption
  - December 7 - CDC business item
    - Summary of public comment, how it has impacted staff recommendation, propose Policy Plan amendment adoption
  - December 9 - MC business item
    - Summary of public comment, how it has impacted staff recommendation, Policy Plan amendment adoption
Thank you

• Questions, discussion, next steps.