

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: October 6, 2022

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide including the Regional Parks Policy Plan: invitation for input

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.145
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Emmett Mullin, Parks Manager, Michael Larson, Planning Analyst, and Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst
Division/Department:	Community Development / Parks and Regional Planning

Background

As the Commission learned at its August 4 MPOSC meeting, the Metropolitan Council has begun development of the 2050 Regional Development Guide. The current Regional Development Guide, *Thrive MSP 2040*, along with the Council's metropolitan system and policy plans, are the governing documents that help guide the orderly growth and development of the region. System and policy plans include the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*, the *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan*, and the *2040 Housing Policy Plan*.

At its October 6 meeting, Mike Larson will return to the Commission and bring Commissioners up to date on the status of the Regional Development Guide effort, including progress made on the regional vision, values, and goals.

Next, Parks staff will kick-off the Regional Parks Policy Plan update process with the Commission, share an initial project timeline and invite input on leading issues, challenges, and topics. In addition, staff will invite input on Regional Parks System values and vision, and seek the Commission's advice on the policy plan update.

Parks staff will also share insights from these areas as a result of the September 29, 2022 Council-Regional Park Implementing Agency partner meeting.

Minnesota law requires the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the Regional Parks Policy Plan at least every four years (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.147). The policy plan was last updated in December 2020. This project will involve a comprehensive review and update to all components of the policy plan and will involve significant internal and external engagement. Completion of the policy plan update is expected in December 2024.

This conversation marks the beginning of this process with the Commission. Staff will use the input provided by the Commission and Implementing Agency partners to guide priority focus areas and set the foundation for the development of a Regional Parks System vision. Staff will be back numerous times over the next two years as we work together to develop the policy plan.