

Regional Development Guide & Regional Parks Policy Plan Update

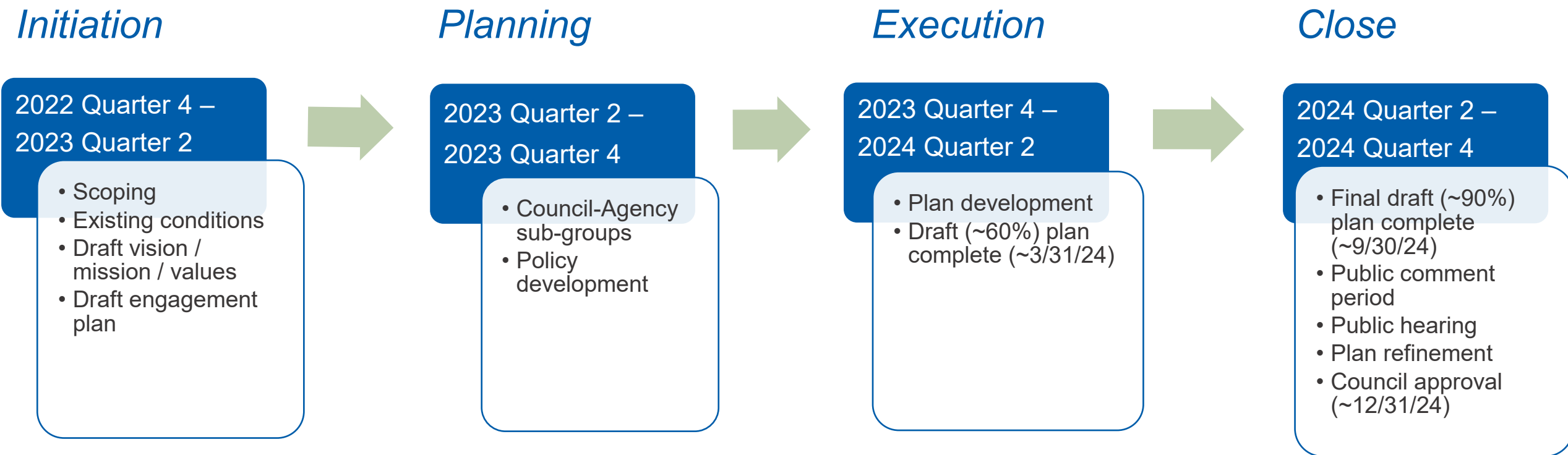
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Council Parks Staff

April 6, 2023



Project Timeline



Coordination with the Regional Development Guide Process

Ongoing Engagement: Council Boards, Implementing Agencies, Targeted Communities, Broad Public, Partner Agencies

Proposed Approach

Initial Council-Agency workgroups

1. Community **Engagement**
2. Regional Parks and Trails System **Vision** and Values
3. Strategic, Sustainable **Funding**
4. Recreation **Activities** and Facilities
5. Park and Trail **Plan Requirements**, incl. Equity Analysis Requirement
6. **System Plan** Considerations, incl. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
7. **Regional Trails** and Regional Bicycle Transportation Network

2023 Q1-
2023 Q2

2023 Q3 -
2024 Q1



Regional Development Guide

Values

Values are core beliefs or principals that guide the work of the Council, our expectations of partnerships, and our policy and program development.

Vision

Our vision is what we want to achieve for the region through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships.

Goals

Our goals will broadly describe the desired end states that we want to achieve for the region.

Equity

We value the people and communities of our region.

Leadership

We value those in our region who inspire and motivate others for positive change.

Accountability

We value being effective in our work and achieving measurable outcomes.

Stewardship

We value our region's abundant resources.

**Council approved draft values.*

Regional Development Guide

Our Region is Equitable, Inclusive, and Welcoming

Our quality of life is high by national standards but not all communities share in this. We envision a future where inequities and injustices have been eliminated and all residents and newcomers feel welcome, included, and empowered.

Our Communities are Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant

The wellbeing of our region depends on the strength and inclusiveness of our economy as well as the quality, safety, and reliability of our public infrastructure and services. We envision a future where all our region's residents can live healthy, productive, and rewarding lives with a sense of security, agency, and wellbeing.

We Lead on Addressing Climate Change

Our region leads on the critical issue of climate change. We envision a future where we have eliminated or mitigated greenhouse gas emissions and have adapted to ensure that our communities and systems are resilient.

We Protect and Restore Natural Systems

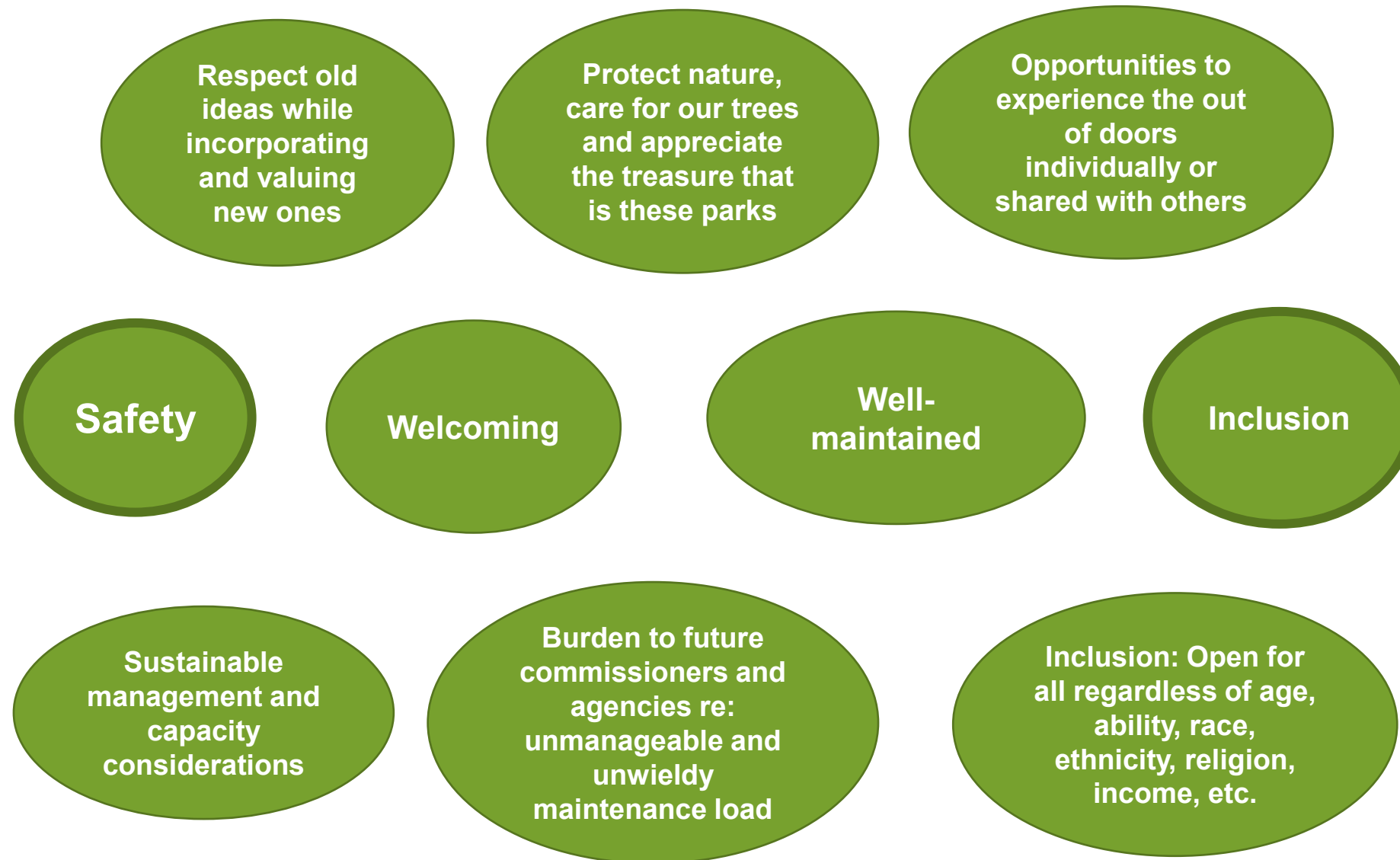
Our region has world class parks and abundant natural resources. We envision a future where natural systems are increasingly protected, integrated, and restored to ensure a high quality of life for our growing region.

**Council approved draft visions.*

Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, MPOSC – Q2

What values do you feel are important to the future of our regional parks and trails system?



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, Implementing Agencies – Q2

What values do you feel are important to the future of our regional parks and trails system?



Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, MPOSC – Q3

If you had to write a two-sentence vision for regional parks and trails, what would it be? Please share your early ideas or key concepts with us.

- *Serving all residents and visitors with a wide array of active and passive experiences to build lifelong memories.*
- *A safe place to escape daily stress and enjoy the present while learning about our ecosystem. Always protecting the part of the world we live in.*
- *Continue the growth and investment in expanding size and scope through acquisition of property. Develop new areas of acquisition in a timely manner. Increase the level of accessibility for everyone beyond minimum standards.*
- *My happy-place.*
- *Sustainable system of integrated facilities that link open spaces of all scales and unite the regional environment and people with accessible and inclusive spaces. A critical refuge for people that enhances our regional sense of place and our connection to those before and after us.*
- *A system that offers progressive skills development and opportunities for families to explore and venture out to build youth, family, and community wellbeing.*
- *Our parks and trails are designed for family and individual enjoyment. They encompass a wide variety of geography, natural resources, and outdoor experiences.*

Regional Parks Policy Plan

Preliminary Input, Implementing Agencies – Q3

If you had to write a two-sentence vision for regional parks and trails, what would it be? Please share your early ideas or key concepts with us.

- *Regional parks and trails impact the quality of life for every metro area resident. Parks and Trails are equitable spaces for community.*
- *Creating and maintaining outdoor, engaging, nature-based experiences for today and tomorrow.*
- *A welcoming, well-used and loved system that is used by all communities to meet critical recreation needs.*
- *To positively impact the quality of life for all citizens in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area by providing equal access to the unique natural-resource based parks and trails system, high quality outdoor recreation opportunities, and associated life-fulfilling programs.*
- *The regional park system provides that near-to-home outdoor recreation experience that works to provide ways to connect with nature, escape the built environment, provide solitude for contemplative thinking, energizes/refreshes the soul/being in ways that relieve stress/anxiety, provides physical exercise/challenges, and facilitates social well being.*
- *Regional parks and Trails are places for people to play, explore, refresh, and connect, surrounded by natural beauty.*
- *Your home away from home. A place to escape and reconnect close to home and full of fresh air, clean water and beautiful landscapes!*

Regional Parks and Trails System

Draft Vision Statements

- Belong, Connect, Empower, and Protect
 - Belong: Regional parks and trails provide safe, inviting, and welcoming spaces for everyone.
 - Connect: Regional parks and trails connect community and inspire health and healing.
 - Empower: Empower curiosity to explore nature and wildlife in regional parks and trails.
 - Protect: Protect and care for natural areas in the regional parks and trail system.
- Regional parks and trails connect community, inspire health and healing, and protect nature.

Regional Parks and Trails System

Draft Vision Statements continued

- Empowering all to discover, protect, and connect with nature in regional parks and trails.
- Providing quality nature-based experiences for future generations.
- Providing quality nature-based experiences and places for today and future generations, where people and nature connect.
- Improving lives and nature for future generations.
- Creating a nature-based system that provides recreation and habitat.
- A place where people and nature connect.

Regional Parks and Trails System

Draft Mission Statements

- The Regional Parks and Trails System (We) provide welcoming, inclusive, safe, and fun nature-based experiences.
- We connect and empower community while protecting nature.
- We inspire, empathize, and remain curious.

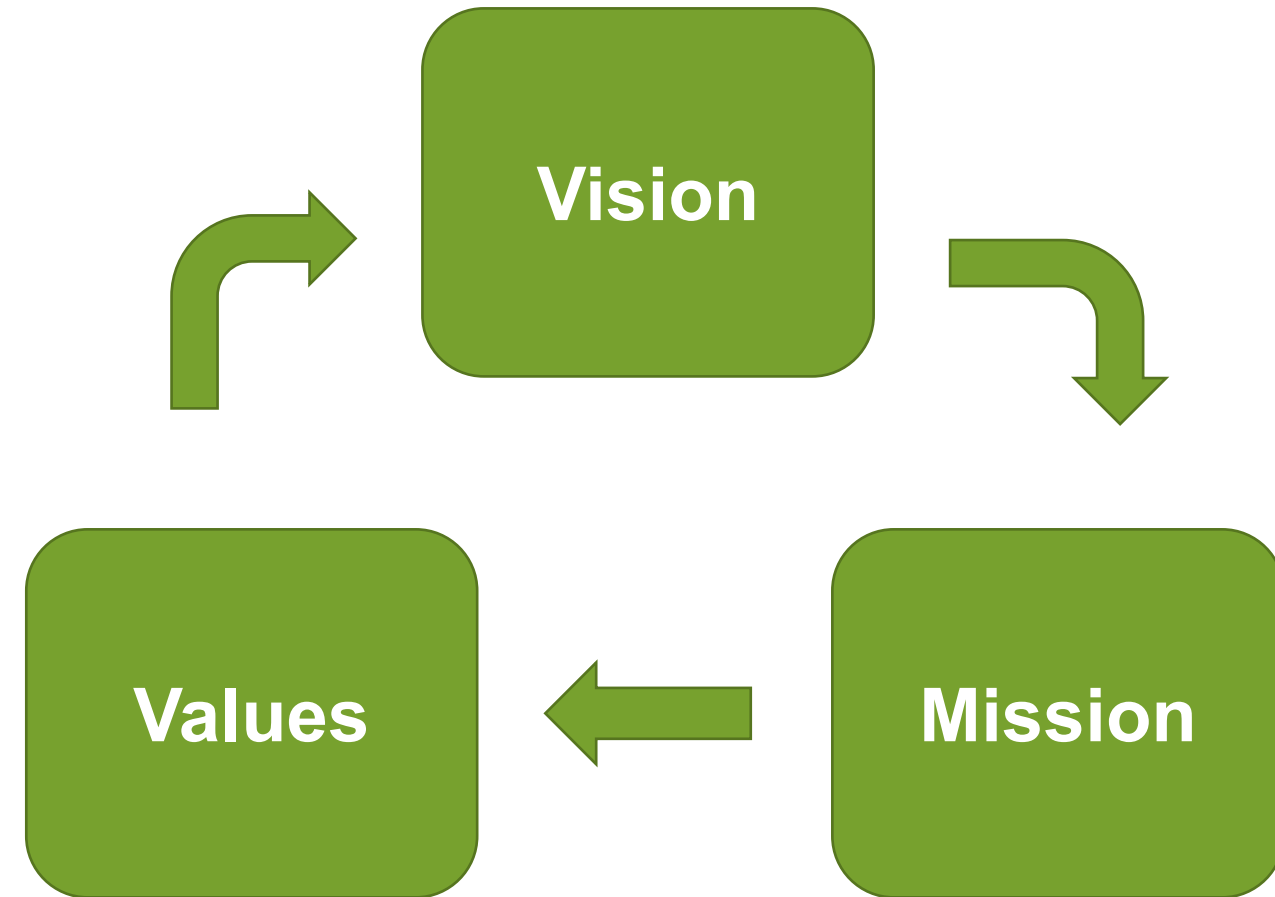
Regional Parks and Trails System

Draft Value Statements

- Partnership: Leading with the Regional Parks and Trails System agency partnership through curiosity, respect, and integrity.
- Equity: Creating an inclusive, welcoming, and safe barrier-free nature experiences.
- Stewardship: Inspiring future generations to preserve, restore, and protect the environment.
- Well-being: Fostering the outdoors for community health.

Small Group Activities

- Council staff has organized three stations that focus on vision, mission and values
- Commissioners will split into small groups (of 2-3) and rotate through each of the 3 stations, spending about 10 minutes at each station
- After the small group activities, each station will report out on the highlights, followed by questions and discussion (approximately 30 minutes).



Next Steps

- April and May: Council-Agency Vision, Mission, Values and Engagement workgroup meetings
- May: Council-Implementing Agency Partner meeting
- June: Potentially reconvene Vision, Mission, Values workgroups
- June or July: Return to MPOSC
- June or July: Launch additional workgroups
- March 2024: 60% Draft parks policy plan prepared
- July 2024: 90% Draft parks policy plan prepared





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