

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: April 6, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan Update: Regional Parks and Trails System Vision, Mission, and Values

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.145
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Emmett Mullin, Senior Manager, Regional Parks (651-602-1360) Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361) Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Parks

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

Background

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 the March Commission meeting, Council staff shared values and vision statements for the Regional Development Guide that have been endorsed by the Metropolitan Council. Staff also shared a summary of the Regional Parks Policy Plan update work to-date, including a project timeline and a plan for working directly with Regional Parks Implementing Agencies via a series of workgroups.

In this meeting, staff will briefly reorient the Commission to the project timeline and workgroups, and focus on Regional Parks and Trails System vision, mission, and values, summarizing preliminary input provided by the Commission last fall. With Council-Implementing Agency workgroups launching this month, Council staff are eager to gather advice and guidance from the Commission on these important areas. Part of this meeting will include small group activities focused on developing vision, mission, and value statements.

The vision is what we (the Council-Regional Park Implementing Agency partnership) want to achieve for the Regional Parks and Trails System through our policies, practices, programs, and partnerships. The mission communicates the system's reason for being and how it aims to serve all of the residents of the region. Values are core beliefs or principles that guide the work.

Any vision, mission, and value statements developed for the Regional Parks and Trails System are intended to highlight the system's unique niche and contributions to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, and are intended to align with and represent a parks-specific articulation of the Regional

Development Guide vision and values.

Following this meeting, Council staff will be meeting with a subset of Implementing Agency staff to continue the development of vision, mission and value statements for the Regional Parks and Trails System. A refined set of statements will be presented to the full Implementing Agency partnership in May or June.

Council staff intend to return to the Commission in June or July to share progress on Regional Parks and Trails System vision, mission, and values; the development of a community, stakeholder and public engagement plan for the project; and to provide other updates.

Staff will return to the Commission on multiple occasions before the end of 2024 to provide updates on the planning process and seek the Commission's guidance, input, and feedback.

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. Completion of the policy plan update is expected in late 2024.

