

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: June 1, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan Update: Shared Regional Goals and Policy Area Objectives

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. § 473.145
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Dan Marckel, Planning Analyst (651-602-1548) Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361)
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.

At the April Commission meeting, Council staff led small group activities focused on developing vision, mission, and value statements for the Regional Parks and Trails System. An Implementing Agency-Council workgroup is in the process of furthering this work. A refined set of statements will be presented to the full Implementing Agency partnership at the end of June.

The focus of this information item is on developing shared regional goals and policy area objectives. Shared regional goals have relevance across two or more Council systems or policy areas. Policy area objectives are specific to individual policy areas and are intended to be SMART; specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound. These goals and objectives will connect regional values and vision to policies and actions. Staff will be asking the Commission for its advice on shared regional goals and policy area objectives.

Council staff will return to the Commission later this summer 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.

