

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: November 2, 2023

Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan Update

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145 and 473.147
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361) Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029) Emmett Mullin, Parks Manager (651-602-1360)
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Parks

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed at this time.

Background

The Council continues its work on developing the 2050 Regional Development Guide. The current Regional Development Guide, *Thrive MSP 2040*, along with the Council's system and policy plans, help guide the orderly growth and development of the Twin Cities metropolitan 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, staff shared Council-endorsed values and vision statements for the Regional Development Guide. 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 has continued this work. A refined set of statements was presented to the full Implementing Agency partnership at the end of June.

In June, Council staff sought the Commission's advice on developing shared regional goals and policy area objectives. Work across Council systems and policy areas continues in this area now. Policy area objectives will connect regional goals to policies and actions.

In August, Council staff sought the Commission's feedback and advice on project engagement activities and regional parks and trails system vision, mission, and values. Staff also shared updates on regional goals and the launch of two additional parks policy plan workgroups.

The focus of this information item is to share outcomes of the most recent Agency-Council workgroups; discuss draft regional parks and trails objectives; and provide a preview of the remaining Agency-Council workgroups. Staff are seeking the Commission's feedback and advice on the draft workgroup proposals and draft regional parks and trails objectives.

Staff will continue to engage with the Commission throughout the project 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.

