

# Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



**Meeting Date:** February 1, 2024

## Topic

2050 Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan Update

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stats. §§ 473.145 and 473.147
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Colin Kelly, Planning Analyst (651-602-1361) Emmett Mullin, Parks Manager (651-602-1360) Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	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, *Imagine 2050*. 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 January 4 meeting, Council staff shared a proposal for engaging the Commission for the first five months of 2024 (Table 1). Council staff asked for the Commission's advice on priorities to achieve four draft regional parks and trails objectives.

At today's meeting, Council staff will share an updated set of five draft parks and trails objectives (Figure 1) and a summary of what they heard from Commissioners on January 4, as well as a summary of input received at the January 18 Regional Park Implementing Agency partner meeting.

Also, Council staff will focus on a subset of the draft objectives surrounding the Climate and Natural Systems topic, to explore their relationship to the existing *Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The Climate and Natural Systems topic has been the subject of a Council-Implementing Agency workgroup that met in December 2023 and January 2024. Council staff will share what they are learning from agency staff and seek the Commission's advice on the possible development of new policies and actions as they relate to these areas.

Council staff will continue iterating draft parks objectives and revising parks policies and actions as a result of this and future discussions with Regional Park Implementing Agencies. Council staff will also continue to provide the Commission with background information on the existing *Regional Parks Policy Plan* and how portions of it may change in the next iteration.

The Feb. 1, 2024 Commission meeting continues a set of focused discussions on the Regional Development Guide and Regional Parks Policy Plan that began last spring. At the March 2023

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 2023 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 2023, 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. This will also be a focus of today’s information item.

In August 2023, Council staff sought the Commission’s feedback and advice on community 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.

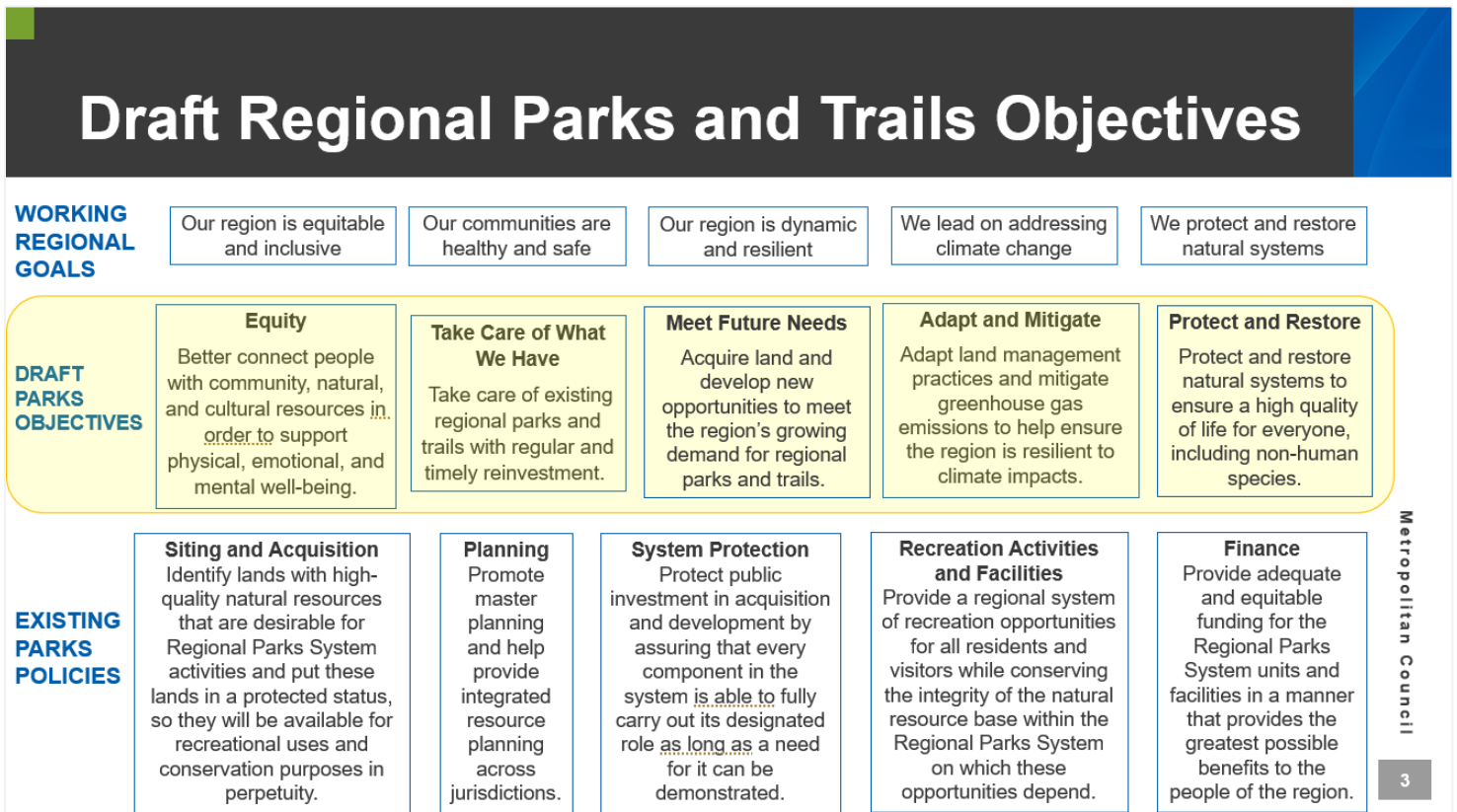
In November 2023, Council staff shared outcomes of the most recent Agency-Council workgroups and the draft regional parks and trails objectives. The Commission provided feedback and advice on draft parks objectives.

*Table 1: Proposed Early 2024 Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Engagement*

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Proposed Topics, Focus</b>
January 4, 2024	<p><b>RDG:</b> Latest timeline, organizational approach.</p> <p><b>RPPP:</b> Chapters 1 and 2, including existing conditions, regional goals, parks objectives.</p> <p><b>Focus:</b> Priorities (policies and actions) to achieve objectives.</p>
February 1, 2024	<p><b>RPPP:</b> Chapters 3 and 4, including System Plan and Siting and Acquisition Policy.</p> <p><b>Possible focus:</b> Climate adaptation and mitigation.</p>
March 7, 2024	<p><b>RPPP:</b> Chapters 5 and 6, including Planning and System Protection policies.</p> <p><b>Possible focus:</b> Operations and maintenance challenge.</p>
April 4, 2024	<p><b>RPPP:</b> Chapters 7 and 8, including Recreation Activities and Facilities and Finance policies.</p> <p><b>Possible focus:</b> Demographic changes, completing the system.</p>
May 2, 2024	<p><b>Focus:</b> Present overview of 60% draft plan.</p>



Figure 1: 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 or early 2025.

