



Imagine 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan: Public Comment Summary and Next Steps Continued

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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December 5, 2024



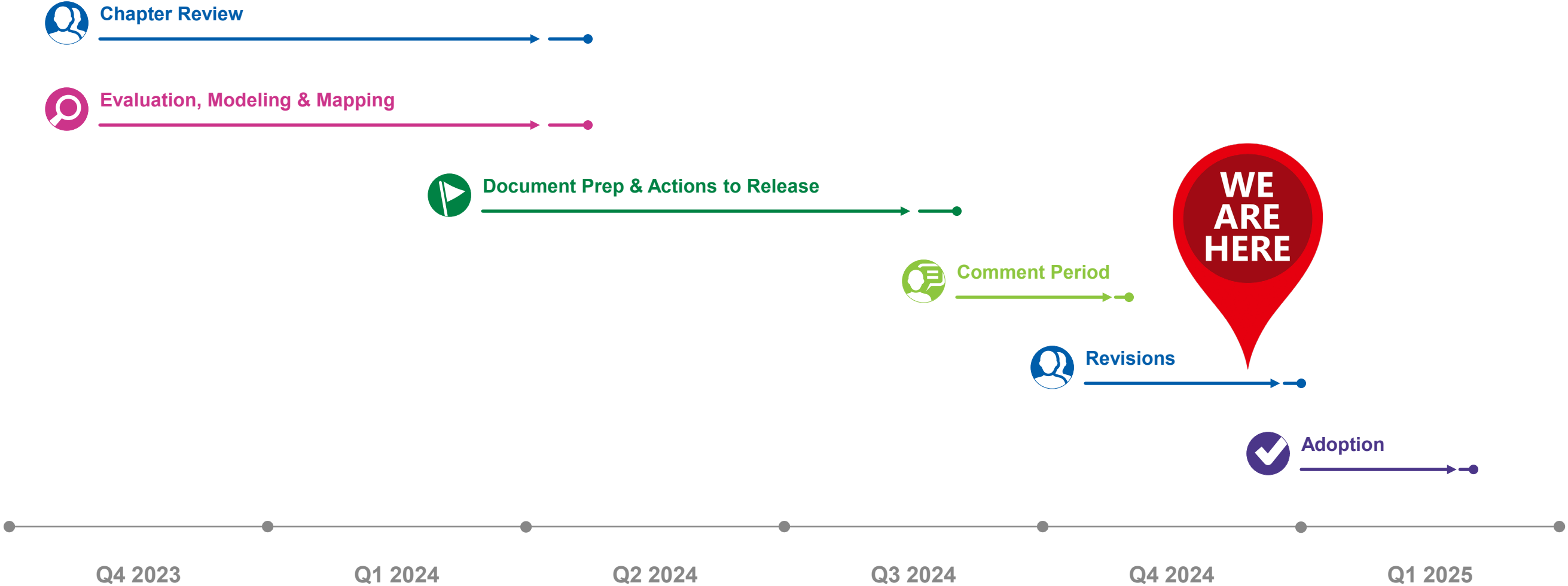
Where we have been and where we are heading?



Key Dates

Date/Timing	Milestone
May 2, 2024	60% Draft Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan (MPOSC info item)
Aug. 1, 2024	Public Comment Draft Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan (MPOSC business item)
Aug. 15 – Oct. 7, 2024	Imagine 2050 Public Comment Period
Oct. 3, 2024	90% Draft Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook (MPOSC info item)
Dec. 5, 2024	Continue sharing comments and draft proposals for plan revisions (MPOSC info item)
Jan. 9, 2025	Final policy plan, planning handbook, and public comment report (MPOSC business item)
Jan. 21, 2025	Final policy plan, planning handbook, and public comment report (CDC business item)
Feb. 12, 2025	Metropolitan Council adoption of Imagine 2050

Imagine 2050 Timeline



Key Stakeholder Feedback



Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission – November 7, 2024 meeting

- Commissioners expressed a desire to read the list of public comments and responses prior to adoption.
- While developing proposed classifications, it could be a good idea to look at what state and national parks are doing.
- How can the Council better support and coordinate regional parks and trails system success at the legislature?

Key Stakeholder Feedback



Community Development Committee – November 18, 2024 meeting

- How can we further elevate the importance of improving transit accessibility to the regional parks and trails?
- The cultural landscape sub-classification has a lot of potential in the system. Recommendation to further clarify what “cultural community” means.
- Continue to consider how we portray history in the introduction.

Key Stakeholder Feedback



Regional Park Implementing Agencies – November 21, 2024 meeting

- Agencies appreciate seeing feedback incorporated into the plan and handbook but would like to have access to the public comment report.
- Increased funding from the state and Council continues to be an important topic.
- Continued desire to provide more detailed research, specifically in the 5-year Visitor Study, specifically at the unit level.
- Agencies support using performance measures. They recommend identifying a smaller set of highly valuable metrics.

Revision Highlights



Section One: Overview

“The total number of regional trail miles varies in the plan.”
(Agency)

“Continued uncertainty around the authority and jurisdiction of the Planning Handbook.”
(Agency)

“Request that... future revisions to the Planning Handbook be required to obtain approval by the Met Council.” (Agency)

- Draft policy plan – Minimal changes proposed in Section One
 - Update “by the numbers,” including regional trail miles (pg. 2)
 - Shift performance measures from objective level to policy level (pgs. 19-21)
- Draft planning handbook – Clarifying “authority and jurisdiction”

“Requirements and processes detailed in the planning handbook carry the same authority as those outlined or previewed within the policy plan.” (pg. 1)
- Draft planning handbook – Clarifying Council approval process

“Staff will seek Council approval of the planning handbook for any updates that directly impact or necessitate implementing agency action...”

“However, staff will not seek Council approval for minor changes to the resources, tools, or contextual information within the planning handbook...Staff will share these types of modifications or updates with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission as an information item at the time such changes are proposed.” (pgs. 2-3)

Sections Three and Four: Natural Systems and Climate Resilience

“More of our parks need to be rewilded.” *(Public)*

“Obviously, it’s extremely difficult to acquire land for new park reserves, but I’d love to see a large amount of expansion to the regional trail system.” *(Public)*

“Not quite sure what green gentrification means.”
(MPOSC)

Natural Systems

- Minimal revisions to policy and action language
- Public comments received generally seem to support increased protection for natural areas in the region.

Climate Resilience

- Draft Policy Plan - Modified green gentrification language:

“Guiding the acquisition and development of parks to reduce **or mitigate** the impacts of green gentrification and displacement **to on** nearby communities. **Green gentrification can occur when new or improved regional park or trail units attract increased investments and development. Sometimes these investments increase the cost of nearby housing resulting in an increased cost of living, and requiring residents to relocate. Refer to the *Met Council’s 2050 Housing Policy Plan* for more information.” (pg. 67)**

Section Five: Planning

“I don’t think this section (public awareness) adds anything of value to LRPs. Uses and facilities and services available to the public are covered in the development concept.” (Agency)

“It is not reasonable to require an acquisition schedule as most agencies operate on a ‘willing seller’ basis...” (Agency)

“Only general guidelines should be required (for wayfinding). This is best handled as the park/trail is developed.” (Agency)

- Draft planning handbook – Long-range plan requirements/ Public awareness
“Outline accountability measures for creating better outcomes, including regional and local access, quality of experience, facility rules/policies, (including affordability), public awareness (plans for making the people aware of the services available when the unit is open), and reporting back to stakeholders.” (pg. 20)
- Draft planning handbook – Long-range plan requirements/ Acquisition Costs
“The concept should include a list of parcels or real property to be acquired and, the estimated total cost, and a schedule for their acquisition.” (pg. 21)
- Draft planning handbook – Long-range plan requirements/ Development concept
“A general wayfinding signage plan that reflects what was learned during the public engagement process, where applicable, - indicating the types of signs and their general including approximate locations within the park.” (pg. 22)

Section Six: System Protection

“We recommend that the 2050 Policy Plan similarly prioritize visual protections to maintain the region's aesthetic and scenic qualities which are integral to the public's connection to the river and its resources.”

(NPS)

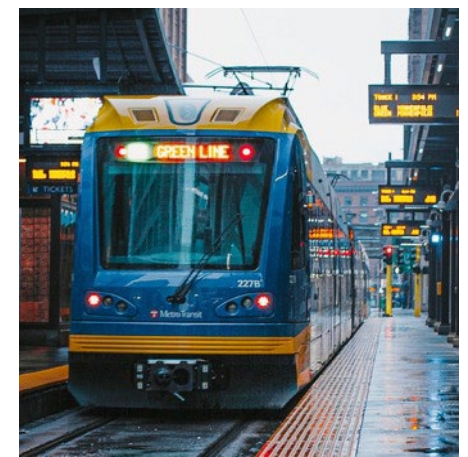
“Local jurisdictions may benefit from additional information on the land uses that would be considered negative...”

(Agency)

- Draft Policy Plan - Added visual protections to Action 1
 - “Substantial departures from the Regional Parks and Trails System Plan or impacts on the Regional Parks and Trails System may include, but are not limited to:
 - Projects that impair the use and enjoyment of the Regional Parks and Trails System unit due to excessive **visual**, noise, air pollution, or water pollution.” (pg. 74)
- Draft Policy Plan - New clarifications and examples added to Action 1: Local Comprehensive Plans:
 - **Examples of substantial departures to the Regional Parks and Trails System are listed below (pgs. 74-75)**
 - Existing regional parkland being guided for redevelopment
 - Regional park inholdings being guided for residential or commercial development
 - Transportation plans have collector streets through a regional park
 - Communities changing the alignment of regional trails

January 2025 Business Item Agenda Packet

- **Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan:**
 - Business item: Accept the Public Comment Report and Adopt the 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan
 - 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Summary of Changes
 - Strike-through version of Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan
 - Final 2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan (clean version)
 - Public Comment Report
 - Presentation
- **Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook:**
 - Business item: Adopt the Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook
 - Final Regional Parks and Trails Planning Handbook
 - Presentation



Questions, Discussion

- What are your questions about the proposed changes to the policy plan?
- Other advice?





Thank you

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