

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Committee

Meeting date: February 4, 2014

Subject: Introduction to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan and Process

District(s), Member(s): All districts

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.147

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jan Youngquist, AICP Planning Analyst (651-602-1029)

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Division/Department: Community Development/Regional Parks and Natural Resources;
Regional Policy and Research

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed.

Background

Minnesota Statute 473.147 requires the Metropolitan Council to prepare and adopt a long-range system policy plan for regional recreation open space as part of the Council's Metropolitan Development Guide. As per Statute, the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan will:

- Identify generally the areas which should be acquired for the regional parks system
- Estimate the costs of the recommended acquisition and development

The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan will include policies and strategies for siting and acquisition, finance, recreation activities and facilities, planning, and protection of the regional parks system.

Thrive MSP 2040 includes policy direction for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, which states that the Council will collaborate with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, regional park implementing agencies and State partners to:

- Expand the regional parks system to conserve, maintain and connect natural resources identified as high quality or of regional importance
- Provide a comprehensive regional park and trail system that preserves quality natural resources, increases climate resiliency, fosters healthy communities and enhances quality of life in the region
- Promote multi-modal access to regional parks, trails and transit network where appropriate
- Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region's residents, such as across race, ethnicity, class, age, ability and immigrant status

In addition to developing the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, an Implementation Manual that includes rules that the regional park agencies must

follow in order to implement the policies, strategies and system plan will be created.

Staff will present an overview of Thrive MSP 2040 and the scope and process for developing the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

Rationale

Minnesota Statute 473.147 states that the Metropolitan Council shall consult with and make maximum use of the expertise of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission in preparing the policy plan.

Funding

N/A

Known Support / Opposition

N/A