Partnerships in Planning for Parks and Trails

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Today’s Agenda

- Current Structure of Comp Planning
- Opportunities for Collaboration
- Case Study: Three Rivers Park District Gap Analysis
- Small Group Discussion
- Q&A
- Next Steps
On the Web: go to PollEv.com/parksandtrails

OR

Text: PARKSANDTRAILS to 22333
What is your favorite thing to do at a park or trail?

Respond at PollEv.com/parksandtrails
Text PARKSANDTRAILS to 22333 once to join, then text your message

- "Fish" 6 days ago
- "Jog" 6 days ago
- "Bike" 6 days ago
- "Hiking! :)" 6 days ago
- "Walk" 6 days ago
- "Play with kids" 6 days ago
- "Hiking" 6 days ago
- "Ski" 6 days ago
- "Hike" 6 days ago
- "Cycle!" 6 days ago
- "Get somewhere" 6 days ago
- "Walk my dogs" 6 days ago
- "Play with my dog" 6 days ago
- "Paddle" 6 days ago
- "Pokemon go" 6 days ago
- "Pokemon go for son" 6 days ago
- "Bike" 6 days ago
- "Cross country skiing" 6 days ago
- "Walking" 6 days ago
- "Hike" 6 days ago
- "Camping" 6 days ago
- "Walk" 6 days ago
What is your role in comprehensive planning?

- City or township: 44%
- County: 24%
- State or regional agency: 20%
- Consultant: 8%
- Nonprofit: 4%
- Student: 4%
- Other: 0%
Regional Parks System

- 42 regional parks
- 12 park reserves
- 40 regional trails
- 8 special recreation features
- 54,600 acres
- 360 miles of regional trails
- Over 47 million visits in 2015
Regional Parks System

Owned and operated by 10 regional park implementing agencies

PlanIt

Regional Parks System

Regional Parks System

PlanIt
Current Structure of Comprehensive Planning

Met Council Issues System Statements → Local Community Develops Comp Plan → Implementing Agencies/Adjacent Communities Review Comp Plan

Met Council Reviews Comp Plan → Local Community Submits Comp Plan
Met Council

Regional Park Implementing Agencies

Local Communities
COLLABORATION

That's why it's important

TASTE OF AWESOME.COM
Met Council

Local Communities

Regional Park Implementing Agencies

PlanIt
Regional Level

- **Provide GIS data**
  - Regional parks, trails, and search areas
  - Regional bicycle transportation network (alignments and corridors)
  - Regionally significant natural resource areas
  - Census geography
  - Transit routes and stops
  - Aerial photography—2016
Regional Level

• Provide GIS data

  • In the Works:
    • Generalized Land Use
    • Existing and Planned Bikeways
    • Metro Area Data for Parks and Trails

COMING SOON!
Minnesota Geospatial Commons
gisdata.mn.gov
Regional Level

• Provide information

  • Fact Sheet: *Regional Park Use Among Select Communities of Color*
  • 2016 Regional Parks and Trails Survey
  • *Parks, Trails, and Health Workbook*: A Tool for Planners, Parks & Recreation Professionals, and Health Practitioners
  • *Safe Routes to Parks*: Improving Access to Parks through Walkability

• Convene groups
Met Council

Local Communities

Regional Park Implementing Agencies
Regional Trail Gap Analysis
GIS Methodology

Identify Issue

Set Goals

Analyze Data

Gap

Sidewalk and trail gaps = roadblocks to regional trail participation.

Identify and prioritize gaps to improve connectivity and increase regional trail participation.

Create data methodology and analysis framework.
### Analyze Data

#### Gap Prioritization Matrix >> Identified Gaps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pt_Density</td>
<td>Density of school and/or transit points (i.e. how many transit stops are unconnected because of this gap?)</td>
<td>0 points &amp; 1 point &amp; 2 points &amp; 3 points</td>
<td>Priority within Metric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap_Status</td>
<td>Planning status of gap (i.e. is it part of an approved plan to be filled and what type of plan)</td>
<td>Identified gap, but not yet called out on any approved plan.</td>
<td>Part of Park District long-term vision and not yet part of Met Council 2030 Policy Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From_Trail</td>
<td>Distance from trail (start at the end of the gap closets to the regional trail, then follow sidewalks/route that peds and bikes would use to get to the trail)</td>
<td>Gap ending point is more than 1 mile from regional trail</td>
<td>Gap ending point is between ¼ - 1 mile from regional trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri_Status</td>
<td>Park District regional trail status – if more than one associated regional trail and there are different statuses, select status awarding highest number of points</td>
<td>Non-existing, not part of Met Council 2030 Policy Plan, no approved master plan.</td>
<td>Non-existing, part of Met Council 2030 Policy Plan, no approved master plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap_Loc</td>
<td>Location of gap</td>
<td>Outside Hennepin County</td>
<td>Within Hennepin County – excluding fringe suburbs and first-tier suburbs*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap_Length</td>
<td>Length of gap</td>
<td>0.76 + mile gap</td>
<td>0.51 – 0.75 mile gap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assoc_Trails</td>
<td>Number of regional trails associated with gap</td>
<td>1 regional trail associated with gap</td>
<td>2 regional trails associated with gap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diff_Types</td>
<td>Different types of points also along gap (i.e. do school and transit points overlay?)</td>
<td>No other types of points along trail</td>
<td>2 types of points become connected to regional trail if gap is filled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gap Ranking
High Priority

- Partnership projects
- Identifying potential funding sources
- Resource for grants
Further GIS Analysis

Explore connections to...

- Local city parks and trails
- Commercial and mixed use centers
- Large employment sites
- LRT stations
- Other...
Met Council

Local Communities

Regional Park Implementing Agencies
What makes your park and trail system great?

“Connects different parks”  6 days ago
“Porta-potties”  6 days ago
“Investment in infrastructure”  6 days ago
“Size of the system”  6 days ago

“Access to shops and restaurants”  6 days ago
“How much our residents use it”  6 days ago
“Nature next to urban”  6 days ago

“expanding with new residential development”  6 days ago

“Good way finding”  6 days ago
“Connectivity between each park via trails!!”  6 days ago
“Variety”  6 days ago
“Urban escape to nature”  6 days ago

“Connectivity increasing”  6 days ago
“Wildlife”  6 days ago
“Safety”  6 days ago
“Amazing amount of miles”  6 days ago
“Beautiful scenery”  6 days ago

“Connection to nature”  6 days ago
“Vast coverage”  6 days ago
“Breweries”  6 days ago
“Connections”  6 days ago
“Accessible”  6 days ago

“connects city to larger metro area”  6 days ago
“Off street trails that keep people away from heavy traffic”  6 days ago
What challenges in planning for parks and trails do you anticipate as you begin your comp plan process?

- Preservation of system in state of good repair
- Lack of community engagement
- Equity
- Lack of demand in rural areas
- Conflict between commuter and recreational users on trail
- Diverse community outreach
- Money. And Nimby.
- Making parks and trails a priority over aging transportation infrastructure
- Lack of capacity to do good community engagement
- Build within already developed areas
- Property owners not interested in developing
- Finding the money to build connections
- Silo-ed governments
- Connecting through private sites
- Overcome ongoing/unresolved crime
- Our missing links map equates to over 12 million how do we prioritize
- Local connections to trails
What challenges in planning for parks and trails do you anticipate as you begin your comp plan process?

“property owners not interested in developing”

“Preservation of system in state of good repair”

“Our missing links map equates to over 12 million how do we prioritize”

“Conflict between commuter and recreational users on trail.”
Small Group Discussion

Based on the strengths and challenges identified:

1. What are some opportunities for collaboration/partnerships in comp planning for parks and trails?

2. What are your data/information needs?
Next Steps

• Aggregate information from small group discussions
• Share with the group
• Explore opportunities for data and information sharing in 2017
Based on what you've heard here today, what is your one word takeaway?
Questions?

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