



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

Date: October 9, 2014

To: Honorable Lisa Bender, Chair Zoning and Planning Committee

Subject: The Metropolitan Council's Parks Policy Plan is one of four policy plans that are developed by the Metropolitan Council to implement *Thrive MSP 2040*, the region's shared vision for growth, and guide its actions within the region for the next 30 years.

Recommendation:

Approve attached comments pertaining to the Metropolitan Council Draft 2040 Parks Policy Plan and direct staff to submit the attached comments to the Metropolitan Council by the end of the 45-day comment period (October 30, 2014).

Previous Directives:

None

Department Information

Prepared by: Joe Bernard, AICP, Senior City Planner, CPED Long Range Planning, 673-2422

Approved by: _____

Kjersti Monson, Director, CPED Long Range Planning

Presenters in Committee: Joe Bernard, CPED Planning

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

City Goals – This initiative supports the following city goals:

- Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life
- One Minneapolis: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper
- A hub of economic activity and innovation: Businesses – big and small – start, move, stay and grow here
- Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected
- A City that works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves
- Comprehensive Plan - Supports Comprehensive Plan Goals

Supporting Information

Thrive MSP 2040 and Policy Plans

Thrive MSP 2040, the region's vision for the next 30 years, was adopted by the Metropolitan Council on May 28, 2014. After review of the document by various departments within the City, the City of Minneapolis submitted comments on *Thrive* on April 28, 2014. The April 28, 2014 City comments are enclosed as Attachment 4. The adopted *Thrive MSP 2040* is linked [here](#).

Every ten years the Metropolitan Council is required by state law to prepare a comprehensive development guide for the seven-county metropolitan area. Local municipalities within the Seven-County Metropolitan Area must consequently develop comprehensive plans that are consistent with this regional development guide. *Thrive MSP 2040* provides a shared vision for the future of our region over the next 30 years, setting directions and guidelines for the region's growth and development. Local communities such as Minneapolis are served by regional systems planned by the Council, including housing, transportation, wastewater collection and treatment, and recreational opportunities offered by regional parks.

Thrive MSP 2040 sets a vision that is applied through four policy plans: The Housing Policy Plan, the Transportation Policy Plan, Regional Parks Policy Plan and the Water Resources Policy Plan. Each policy plan provides a greater level of detail than is present in the overall *Thrive MSP 2040* document. Each of these plans is in various stages of development. Each draft plan is or will be coming forward for public review and comment prior to final action on each by the Metropolitan Council (in late 2014 and early 2015). The current schedule of the review timelines is outlined below.

Housing Policy Plan

45-Day Public Review and Comment period on the draft Housing Policy Plan document: August 11, 2014 – September 26, 2014

Item was at City Council Community Development Committee on September 9, 2014. Action taken by full City Council on September 19, 2014.

City comments were transmitted to the Metropolitan Council on September 26, 2014

Expected Adoption by the Met Council: November 12, 2014

Transportation Policy Plan

45-Day Public Review and Comment period on the draft Housing Policy Plan document: August 14, 2014 – October 1, 2014

Item was at City Council Transportation and Public Works Committee on September 9, 2014. Action taken by full City Council on September 19, 2014.

City comments will be submitted to the Metropolitan Council by October 1, 2014

Expected Adoption by the Met Council: December 2014

Regional Parks Policy Plan

45-Day Public Review and Comment period on the draft Housing Policy Plan document: August 27, 2014 – October 30, 2014

Item at City Council Zoning and Planning Committee on October 9, 2014. Action by full City Council on October 17, 2014.

City comments due to Metropolitan Council due October 30, 2014

Expected Adoption by the Met Council: End of 2014

Water Resources Management Policy Plan

Public Review and Comment period on the draft Water Resources

Management Policy Plan document scheduled for October-November 2014

Expected Adoption by the Met Council: Early 2015

The adoption of *Thrive MSP 2040* and the four policy plans listed above set the stage for local municipalities to begin their comprehensive planning process. Minneapolis' comprehensive plan will need to operate within the framework created by these plans. While CPED is already preparing for this pending update, the local comprehensive planning process begins in earnest in the fall of 2015 when the Metropolitan Council provides communities with system statements – specific benchmarks for planning that are based on the above referenced policy plans.

Overview of the Parks Policy Plan

The Metropolitan Council is authorized by state law to develop a regional parks plan for the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan area. This is specifically outlined in *Minn. Stat. 473.302*, adopted in 1974:

“The pressure of urbanization and development threatens the most valuable remaining large recreational open spaces in the metropolitan area at the same time as the need for such areas is increased. Immediate action is therefore necessary to provide funds to acquire, preserve, protect and develop regional recreational open space for public use.” (Minn. Stat. 473.302)

The regional parks system encompasses special recreation features, regional parks, regional preserves, and regional trails. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is Minneapolis' regional park implementing agency, and is primarily responsible for implementing the policies and programs outlined in the Parks Policy Plan document. In developing City of Minneapolis comments on the Parks Policy Plan, City staff focused on how the regional parks and trail systems in and around the city influence our collective ability to foster growth and change that is beneficial to our residents, workers, employers, and visitors.

The Parks document outlines the ways in which the goals of *Thrive MSP 2040* can be brought about through the regional park system. Standards are set for what is considered a regional park, trail, and various other types of facilities. Priorities for investment are identified throughout the region for expanding as well as maintaining the regional park system. The document also spends time describing the activities that are appropriate for these regional facilities.

In general, staff found much to support about the draft Parks Policy Plan document. The plan attempts to address the goals of stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability as outlined in *Thrive MSP 2040*. Attachment 3 covers the thematic and detailed comments developed by City staff in response to the released draft policy plan document.

Attachments

1. [Parks Policy Plan](#) (link only, no hard copy)
2. Draft cover letter to the Metropolitan Council
3. Draft thematic and detailed comments to the Metropolitan Council
4. City of Minneapolis Comments on *Thrive MSP 2040* – dated April 28, 2014