



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Community Planning &  
Economic Development**

105 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S, Suite 200  
Minneapolis MN 55401

Office 612-673-2597  
Fax 612-673-2728  
TTY 612-673-5154

October 17, 2014

Susan Haigh  
Chair, Metropolitan Council  
390 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: City of Minneapolis comment on the Metropolitan Council *draft* Parks Policy Plan

Dear Chair Haigh:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Parks Policy Plan. We appreciate the work of the Metropolitan Council staff and the project group that developed the plan. We commend you on developing a strong document and taking the leadership in renewing the Parks Policy Plan as part of the series of policy plans. The plan should serve the region well.

CPED submits the following comments on behalf of the City of Minneapolis. The following items included in this letter indicate our major areas of concern. In addition to the comments in this letter, we are also submitting a more detailed set of supporting comments (organized topically and page by page) as a separate document enclosed herein.

The City of Minneapolis is supportive of Metropolitan Council's focus on equity, particularly in the effort to increase utilization of the regional parks system by all residents of the metropolitan area. The City further supports identifying, developing, and implementing clear metrics that support the evaluation of regional programs and funding sources through an equity lens. The City looks forward to additional work with the Council on this topic.

The City is supportive of effective coordination between other regional systems and the parks system. To achieve the goals of stewardship, prosperity, equity, livability, and sustainability through the regional parks system, careful attention must be paid to how the transportation, housing, and water resources systems support our regional parks.

The City supports development of local plans, and local planned land uses, that are compatible with the regional parks vision. We agree with the Council and believe that compatible land uses are not limited to low-density styles of development. Furthermore, the City encourages the Council to consider how a dense land use, transportation, and built form can help to achieve equity goals as outlined in *Thrive MSP 2040*.

The City supports the Council's efforts to protect the regional parks system from negative impacts and to mitigate those impacts. Specifically, the City supports development of a framework to address the impacts of transportation, such as aviation noise, to the regional park system.

Chair Haigh, we look forward to continued collaboration with you and your staff on these and other topics and others. If you have any questions or require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact Kjersti Monson, or Jack Byers with CPED.

Sincerely,

D. Craig Taylor  
Executive Director

cc: Libby Starling, Manager of Regional Policy and Research, Metropolitan Council  
Jan Youngquist, Planning Analyst, Metropolitan Council  
Michael Larson, Sector Representative, Metropolitan Council  
Jennifer Ringold, Manager Public Engagement and Citywide Planning, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Kjersti Monson, Director of Long Range Planning, Minneapolis CPED  
Jack Byers, Manager of Long Range Planning, Minneapolis CPED  
Joseph Bernard, Senior Planner, Minneapolis CPED