



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
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DATE: October 3, 2017  
TO: Saint Paul Parks Commission  
FROM: Mike Richardson, PED staff  
RE: Comprehensive Plan Parks Chapter

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## **BACKGROUND**

### What is the Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is Saint Paul's "blueprint" for guiding development for the next 20 years. It addresses city-wide physical development, and contains chapters on Land Use, Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Housing, Historic Preservation and Water Resources. While the policy focus is on physical development, the Plan's core values, goals and policies reflect an understanding that how we arrange the physical elements of our city – streets, parks, housing, public infrastructure – impacts and is impacted by the people in our city. The current update of the Comp Plan also has several overarching issues integrated into each chapter, including racial and social equity, aging in community, community/public health, economic development, sustainability/resiliency and urban design. The policies contained in the Comp Plan are based on Saint Paul's core values; history; community priorities; and emerging social, economic and environmental trends.

In Saint Paul, several other plans have been adopted periodically as addenda to the Comp Plan, including the *Central Corridor Development Strategy*, station area plans, master plans, area plans and district plans. These documents are not required by the Metropolitan Council to be updated every 10 years; they are updated as needed at any time.

### Legal Framework

The state Metropolitan Land Planning Act requires that every municipality and other local government in the seven-county metropolitan region have a Comp Plan, and that it be updated every 10 years consistent with the Metropolitan Council's regional plan and system plans for transportation, parks and water. The guiding regional document for this update of Saint Paul's Comp Plan is *Thrive MSP 2040*. The Metropolitan Council also has a Housing Policy Plan that is not required by statute, but provides guidance to municipalities as they prepare their own Housing chapters. The mandated planning time frame for this update of the Comp Plan is 2040.

*Thrive MSP 2040* is one of the guiding documents the Saint Paul Comp Plan must respond to, in addition to regional growth projections in population, housing units and employment. The following projections have been established for Saint Paul to 2040: an increase of 40,000

residents, 20,000 households and 30,000 jobs. We have to show how we will accomplish this growth, as well as how our local policies will implement regional policies. In its review, the Metropolitan Council also considers our Comp Plan's compatibility with the plans of neighboring municipalities and agencies with jurisdiction over our development (e.g. watershed districts, Ramsey County, MnDOT). Saint Paul is designated as an "Urban Center" in *Thrive MSP 2040*.

#### Planning Commission Role in Review and Adoption

One of the core responsibilities of the Planning Commission is to oversee the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan, and to recommend it to the City Council for adoption. Once the City Council has adopted the Plan, it is sent to the Metropolitan Council for final approval. For three chapters – Transportation, Parks & Recreation and Historic Preservation – a Planning Commission committee or other City commission will review the relevant draft chapter first, and then recommend it to the Planning Commission. A public hearing on the complete draft Comp Plan will be held at the Planning Commission and likely at the City Council prior to adoption. The role of the Planning Commission is to ensure that the chapters of the Comp Plan respond to our regional mandate for growth, maintain a city-wide perspective, are consistent with one another and reflect the city's core values.

### **2010 PARKS CHAPTER**

The existing Parks Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan contains 105 policies organized into six strategies: (1) Promote Active Lifestyles, (2) Create Vibrant Places, (3) Promote a Vital Environment, (4) Respond Creatively to Change, (5) Innovate with Every Decision, and (6) Connect the Entire City. In the process of writing the draft chapter, City staff and the working group have reviewed the existing policies to determine which should remain, which should be modified, and which should be eliminated. While many are still relevant, the specificity of the plan made it unwieldy and not suitable for the high-level policy vision to which the City aspires in this iteration. The Department of Parks and Recreation currently has other planning documents that address these more specific items, including the System Plan, the Strategic Implementation Plan, and several regional park master plans.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Extensive community engagement – far more than in a typical process – has been undertaken to set the community vision and priorities for the Comp Plan, and to identify issues to address in it. The engagement approach has been to reach as many people as possible; be genuine about the role of engagement; and be representative by race, age and geography. Major engagement kicked off in May 2016 with three broadly-advertised open house events, and continued throughout 2016 into 2017 with attendance at community festivals, pop-up meetings in public locations, district council meetings, City department meetings, policymaker interviews, radio interviews on WEQY (Voice of the East Side) and KMOJ (The People's Station), Open Saint Paul online input, and discussions with experts and advocacy organizations. As of this writing, staff has spoken with over 2,200 people at 67 events, generating over 3,700 comments. At least one event was held and at least 25 people were engaged in each of Saint Paul's 17 planning districts, with an average of three events and 100 people per district. During the big engagement push of May-September 2016, the over 800 people of color engaged represented approximately 50% of the total participants compared to a city-wide population proportion of 40% (in 2010). The age of participants was also mostly representative of the city-wide population, if somewhat older.



Nine themes and priorities emerged from the community engagement. In December 2016 and January 2017, staff sent an e-blast of the preliminary themes and priorities, and posted them in 81 strategically-selected “third places” (gathering spaces like coffee shops, libraries, and community centers) to invite feedback. Seventy-one comments were received, mostly confirming the themes and priorities, with the most commonly suggested additions relating to climate change resiliency and adaptation. Responding to this feedback, “sustainability” was added to create a modified final list of nine themes:

- **Livability, equity and sustainability.** When we asked about regional themes established by the Metropolitan Council, a majority said livability and equity are the most important for Saint Paul. Further public input established sustainability as also being vitally important. Other regional themes to be incorporated into the updated Comp Plan include prosperity and stewardship.
- **Parks and open space.** Parks and open space, from Como Park to Swede Hollow to the Mississippi River to local playgrounds, were consistently identified throughout the city as cherished places that we should preserve and enhance.
- **Sense of community.** Many people identified social connections, diversity and their neighborhood’s character – whether “vibrant” or “quiet” – as key advantages of living in Saint Paul.
- **Public safety.** People want to be safe and feel safe in their communities, and to have positive relationships with police officers. Strategic investment and thoughtful design can improve public safety. While this issue goes beyond typical development policies covered in the Plan, other ways to meaningfully incorporate this deep concern will be explored.
- **Road safety for pedestrians and bicycles.** Pedestrian safety at crossings and improved facilities were frequently identified as issues, as were bicycle facility improvements and safety.
- **Invest in people.** Whether job training or programming at recreation centers (especially for youth), people identified this as an important issue for Saint Paul. Many commented that these investments pay dividends for livability, prosperity and public safety.

- **Jobs.** People said we need more and better jobs to allow people to provide for their families and lift up the entire community.
- **Quality affordable housing.** People said we need more affordable housing, and that existing housing must be well-maintained.
- **Saint Paul is full of opportunity sites.** The range of “places with potential” identified was astounding, including major projects like Snelling-Midway (soccer stadium area) and the Ford site, large geographies like “the East Side,” “the Green Line” or “the riverfront,” commercial corridors like White Bear Avenue or Selby Avenue, and individual sites throughout the city. People said there are gems throughout the city, ready for (re)discovery and investment.

In addition to the overall themes and priorities, staff sorted through the engagement input to identify public priorities specific to parks and recreation (in no particular order):

- Community (Recreation) Centers as important neighborhood assets;
- safe access to green space;
- varied programming for different groups;
- maintenance and upkeep of facilities and spaces;
- a desire for more park amenities, such as splash pads, dog parks, and playground structures;
- appreciation of the diversity of people encountered in parks; and
- more and better access to water-based recreation.

Going beyond priorities and themes, every public comment has been read by City staff and considered for use in the Comp Plan or its implementation. A sortable database was created for additional analysis by topic and geography. The Department of Parks and Recreation independently conducted an in-depth survey of park users during the same time frame as the Comp Plan outreach efforts, and the results were considered in the drafting process. The results of that survey are available upon request.

Parallel to broad general community engagement, staff has communicated with experts, advocacy groups and focus groups related to parks and other Comp Plan issues. Additional outreach is on-going.

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE CHAPTER PROCESS**

The draft Parks Chapter was created over the course of a year, guided by the existing plan, public input, and additional issue identification (summary attached) by an 11-person interdepartmental and interagency staff team. In addition to staff from PED, Parks, and Public Works, the staff team included representatives from the Saint Paul Parks Commission, Ramsey County Parks and the National Park Service. Further engagement with advocacy groups and other outside organizations identified additional issues to address.

With a sense of what the main issues are, the staff team established six goals around which to build policies. Using these goals, the existing plan and the list of park-specific issues, staff developed an initial draft of the Parks Chapter for the staff team to review. Over the course of four working sessions, the staff team reviewed and edited the policies to the version included with this memo. During the period of staff team review, team members were assigned a “lens” or

two through which to read the draft and propose revisions. The lenses include: racial and social equity, aging in community, community/public health, economic development, sustainability/resiliency and urban design. The insights gained from this process have been integrated into the draft policies. Overall, discussion was robust for almost every policy. While changes are expected, the staff team believes this is a strong foundation upon which the Commission can begin discussion.

### **SAINT PAUL PARKS COMMISSION REVIEW**

City staff gave updates to the Parks Commission in May and August of 2017 to describe the Comprehensive Planning process, and inform them of progress and next steps. The Commission also has a representative on the staff team. The Commission will review and discuss the draft policies at their October 12 meeting, prior to the first full meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Staff will summarize this first review and recommendations at the October 17 meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Review at the Committee will continue during a second session on October 31. The Parks Commission will continue to be involved throughout the review process. Staff recommends working with the Commission to set dates for future review, considering the next steps described at the end of this memo.

### **DRAFT CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS**

The draft Parks Chapter recognizes the role of parks as a unifying element of the city that provides myriad benefits to residents, visitors and businesses. It acknowledges the changing needs of the city and the importance of making the park system as equitable as possible. Parks and other city systems build upon each other; the plan is intended to take advantage of those relationships.

The goals around which the policies are organized are:

1. Equitable allocation of programs, resources, and amenities
2. Programming and spaces responsive to changing needs
3. Environmental and economic sustainability
4. A healthy network of community partnerships
5. Strong and accessible connections

The draft Plan establishes clear direction that the City's parks and programming be available to all. Many factors contribute to this availability, including physical location of land and facilities, cost of participation, communication limitations and the quality of the transportation network. In response to these and other factors, the draft policies in this Plan take a multi-faceted approach to maximizing accessibility to park spaces and programs.

The population of the city is growing and its demographics are changing. We are becoming more diverse and have a growing segment of the population over 55 years old. In addition to promoting physical access and the need to integrate emerging recreation trends, the Plan calls for robust stakeholder involvement and identifies the importance of social capital.

Sustainability is a key priority for the City, and the way the park system is developed and maintained is an important piece of the overall sustainability picture. While there are policies that address environmental sustainability, economic sustainability of the system is also critical and reflected in the draft Plan. Where possible, financial, design and programming decisions

should be informed by up-to-date data. As budgets change, partnerships become more important. The Plan identifies the benefits of partnerships within and outside of the City and promotes collaboration in funding, programming and access to open space.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Comprehensive Planning Committee will review this chapter (and all the chapters) before authorizing staff to release the entire draft plan for public comment in early 2018. Upon revising to respond to public comment at that time, staff will then return to the Comprehensive Planning Committee to request that a formal public hearing be set in front of the Planning Commission in April 2018. The plan document is anticipated to be before the City Council in June 2018 for a public hearing and adoption.

### **Attachments**

1. Draft Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter (October 3, 2017)
2. Summary of Community Input for Parks
3. Working Group Summary – Role of Parks in Met Council Outcomes
4. Working Group Summary – Issues Identified by Staff for 2040 Parks Chapter

Due to large file size, the following are available online or upon request:

[Department of Parks and Recreation System Plan](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Implementation Plan](#)

# **Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan**

**DRAFT AS OF 10/1/17**

## **INTENT STATEMENT**

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter sets policy for park assets in Saint Paul and the system they form. The policies are intended to create an equitable, safe, connected, and sustainable system. This chapter establishes a vision that will sustainably improve the park system for all users.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Parks in Saint Paul make up a large, diverse, and vibrant network of facilities and spaces that represent some of the great shared assets of the city. The demographics of Saint Paul are changing and the city must continue to respond accordingly and carefully plan facilities and programming. The spaces and the programming that happens within them have the potential to improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors, regardless of age, background or ability. Great public spaces are important pieces of sustainable economic development that draw and retain residents, increase nearby property values, and attract businesses. Parks, parkways, and trails foster public health by providing opportunities for physical fitness and promoting mental and social well-being. They are vital connective tissue within the city, facilitating a sense of community while fostering stewardship of nature and community spaces.

## **GOALS**

- 1. Equitable allocation of programs, resources, and amenities**
- 2. Programming and spaces responsive to changing needs**
- 3. Environmental and economic sustainability**
- 4. A healthy network of community partnerships**
- 5. Strong and accessible connections**

## **POLICIES**

### **Equitable allocation of programs, resources, and amenities**

- PR-1. Ensure equitable access to parks and recreation programs, resources, and amenities.
- PR-2. Provide an equitable distribution of opportunities for community gathering throughout the city.
- PR-3. Reduce barriers for those who struggle with access to Parks facilities and programming, including those caused by financial, physical, language, and perception issues.
- PR-4. Involve all potential stakeholders in setting balanced priorities for park-related matters.
- PR-5. Prepare a culturally competent parks staff who represent the diversity of a dynamic city.
- PR-6. Prioritize renovating, upgrading, and reprogramming of low- and moderate-quality existing facilities that fall outside the service areas of high-quality facilities of the same type.
- PR-7. Use mobile recreation to fill park or recreation service gaps, enhance events, and to provide unique recreation to neighborhood and community parks.
- PR-8. Encourage interpersonal connections and the development of social capital through Community Center and park programming.
- PR-9. Ensure that communications are up-to-date, understandable, and engaging.
- PR-10. Ensure that water-based recreation is equitably distributed throughout the city.

### **Programming and spaces responsive to changing needs**

- PR-11. Use quantifiable customer and resident feedback on needs, satisfaction, and trends to improve park experience and bring in new users.
- PR-12. Embrace and integrate emerging cultural and recreation trends, particularly those that meet the recreational needs of youth and underserved populations.
- PR-13. Account for seasonality and climate resiliency in the design, maintenance, and programming of parks assets to maximize activity throughout the year.
- PR-14. Support volunteer engagement and participation to enhance stewardship, social cohesion, and ownership.
- PR-15. Use proven methods in design, maintenance, and security to maximize public safety in existing and future parks.



## **Environmental and economic sustainability**

- PR-16. Improve the environmental sustainability of parks through strategies such as shared, stacked-function green infrastructure (SSGI), increased tree canopy, and increased plant diversity to improve resiliency and be more pollinator-friendly.
- PR-17. Closely monitor invasive species on park property and quickly respond to threats.
- PR-18. Ensure that programming and facilities support public health and personal improvement efforts, such as education, job training, fitness, and nutrition programs.
- PR-19. Use data-driven evaluation of park assets to develop maintenance and replacement schedule and plan for future budgetary needs.
- PR-20. Perform routine and preventative maintenance on park assets to protect them and ensure longevity of structures and natural resources.
- PR-21. Prioritize refurbishment of functional and/or historically significant facilities over new construction whenever feasible.
- PR-22. Develop shared-use facilities as a first option when contemplating new or replacement indoor-recreation facilities.
- PR-23. Strive to make programming financially self-sustaining, while being more flexible with programs that invest in youth.

## **A healthy network of community partnerships**

- PR-24. Collaborate with other agencies and governmental entities to maximize use of existing facilities and programming when there is a net benefit to the public.
- PR-25. Partner with advocacy groups to increase capacity and responsibly leverage City resources to address shared concerns, such as improved public health and conservation.
- PR-26. Pursue partnerships with local businesses, corporations, foundations, and individuals to host events, develop services, and finance capital and maintenance costs of parks and recreation facilities without compromising good design solutions or over-commercializing the public realm.
- PR-27. Encourage and support private landowners and developers to create and maintain privately owned public space (POPS) and green infrastructure, especially as land use intensity and activity levels increase.
- PR-28. Support community gardens and private landscape beautification efforts where viable.
- PR-29. Encourage business partnerships that provide additional services to park users and revenue for the city.

## **Strong and accessible connections**

- PR-30. Prioritize safety and equity when filling gaps in the trail and bikeway system to ensure seamless connections for bicycles and pedestrians across the city for people of all ages and abilities.
- PR-31. Emphasize safety, convenience, and comfort when designing new trails or rebuilding those that already exist.
- PR-32. Provide signage to educate users about unique aspects of the park system.
- PR-33. Provide wayfinding to as many users as possible using signage that is consistent throughout each project or park and recognizable as part of the broader city system.
- PR-34. Pursue strategic acquisitions to fill existing gaps and address changing needs in the parks system.
- PR-35. Involve staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation from the beginning of discussions regarding large-scale redevelopments.
- PR-36. Integrate parkways and trails with the City's transportation network to provide convenient and safe access to the park system.
- PR-37. Monitor park encroachments through effective parkland management and protection.
- PR-38. Improve and encourage pedestrian and bicycle connections between park facilities and other significant destinations, such as lakes and rivers, schools, transit facilities, and neighborhood centers.

## Summary of Parks Related Input from Community Outreach - By Category then Frequency

(Comments are generalized to identify trends)

MR Category 1

MR Category 2

Input

Frequency

| COMMENTS, IDEAS, DESIRES  |                 |   |    |
|---|-----------------|---|----|
| <i>Working Group Task: Are there any commonalities among those that are at the top of the list? Other insights?</i> |                 |   |    |
| "Greenness"   |                 | More Shade Trees  | 2  |
| "Greenness"   |                 | More evergreens   | 1  |
| Diversity   |                 | More racially inclusive                                       | 3  |
| Economic Access   | Ideas           | Rec centers as great employment option for youth and retired  | 2  |
| Economic Access   | Ideas           | Free or low cost sports programs for low income kids/families | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Rec Centers     | Don't Close Rec Centers and Parks                             | 13 |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Rec Centers     | Reinvest in Rec Centers                                       | 12 |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Improve space and programming for small children              | 7  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Improve space and programming for teens                       | 7  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Improve space and programming for seniors                     | 5  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Better park maintenance in general                            | 5  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | More enforcement presence                                     | 5  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | More Drinking Fountains                                       | 4  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | More/better dog waste pickup stations                         | 3  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | Emphasize history in parks                                    | 2  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Improve space and programming for adults                      | 2  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Diversity       | Increase programming in other languages                       | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | Farmers markets in other areas around Saint Paul              | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | Park improvements in low-income neighborhoods                 | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | Free pool use during heat waves                               | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | Remove ads on fields/parks                                    | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | Don't waste money on Rice or Mears - they are fine            | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | Love Marydale - needs work                                    | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   | Physical Access | More/better bike/ped safety elements                          | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Better Parking at Como  | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Improve space and programming for girls                       | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Improve weed control on trails and bridges                    | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming   |                 | Clean downtown Mississippi areas                              | 1  |
| More Facilities/Programming   |                 | More Pools or Splash Pads                                     | 44 |
| More Facilities/Programming   |                 | More Parks in General   | 18 |
| More Facilities/Programming   |                 | More Dog Parks  | 13 |
| More Facilities/Programming   |                 | More Playground Structures                                    | 12 |
| More Facilities/Programming   |                 | Recreational Fields   | 11 |
| More Facilities/Programming   |                 | More Skate Parks  | 10 |
| More Facilities/Programming   | Health          | Increase calisthenic equipment                                | 7  |
| More Facilities/Programming   |                 | Basketball Courts   | 7  |
| More Facilities/Programming   | "Greenness"     | More natural water-based activities (swimming, fishing, etc.) | 6  |
| More Facilities/Programming   | Ideas           | More river activity and amenities                             | 5  |

| MR Category 1               | MR Category 2               | Input   | Frequency |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | More Community Gardens  | 5         |
| More Facilities/Programming | New Rec                     | Add Pickleball Courts   | 3         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | Mountain Biking Trails  | 3         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | More Bike Paths   | 3         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | Build Indoor Park   | 3         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | More Benches  | 3         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | More programming in general   | 3         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Ideas                       | Move forward on 94 lid project  | 2         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Ideas                       | Use parks/rec centers as location for tool exchange/library                 | 2         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Ideas                       | More music programs   | 2         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Rec Centers                 | Alternative activities and events for kids far from rec centers             | 2         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Ideas                       | Create place like Maple Grove Central Park                                  | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Ideas                       | Create groups like youth groups, but for adults                             | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Ideas                       | More small parks  | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Ideas                       | Take youth to MN lakes  | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming | New Rec                     | Add Gaga Pits   | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming | Rec Centers                 | More gay nights at Rec Centers  | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | Apiary  | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | New linear park at Ayd Mill   | 1         |
| More Facilities/Programming |                             | New park in Linwood (it is a park desert)                                   | 1         |
| Observations                |                             | Keep up the good work   | 2         |
| Observations                | Ideas                       | Downtown waking up - keep adding green/amenities to make it more attractive | 1         |
| Observations                |                             | People cherish parks. Need both structured and natural.                     | 1         |
| Partnerships                |                             | Better coordination with school land and facilities                         | 3         |
| Partnerships                |                             | More Adopt a ___ programs   | 1         |
| Physical Access             | More Facilities/Programming | Use trails to augment street grid   | 4         |
| Physical Access             | More Facilities/Programming | Improve connections between parks   | 3         |
| Physical Access             |                             | Better access to parks for poor   | 3         |
| Physical Access             |                             | Make parks intergenerational  | 3         |
| Physical Access             |                             | Better access to the Mississippi  | 1         |
| Rec Centers                 | Ideas                       | Make rules and regs consistent across Rec Centers                           | 1         |
| Rec Centers                 | Ideas                       | City-wide scavenger hunt organized via Rec Centers                          | 1         |
|                             |                             | Reduce kids just hanging out  | 1         |

MR Category 1

MR Category 2

Input

Frequency

**MOST POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE***Working Group Task: Are there any commonalities among those that are at the top of the list? Other insights?***GENERAL**

|   |             |                    |    |
|---|-------------|--------------------|----|
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Parks in General   | 11 |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Programming        | 3  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Parks on East Side | 3  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Trails             | 2  |
| More Facilities/Programming             | Rec Centers | Winter Activities  | 4  |
| Partnerships                            |             | More Volunteerism  | 1  |
|   |             |                    |    |

**PLACE-BASED**

|  |  |                         |    |
|--|--|-------------------------|----|
|  |  | Payne Phalen            | 17 |
|  |  | Carty                   | 8  |
|  |  | Swede Hollow            | 7  |
|  |  | Como                    | 6  |
|  |  | Crosby Farm             | 5  |
|  |  | Battle Creek Rec Center | 5  |
|  |  | Bruce Vento             | 4  |
|  |  | Edgcumbe                | 4  |
|  |  | Arlington Rec           | 3  |
|  |  | Hidden Falls            | 3  |
|  |  | Ford                    | 3  |
|  |  | Eagle Lake              | 2  |
|  |  | Mounds Park             | 2  |
|  |  | Highland                | 2  |
|  |  | Frogtown Farms          | 1  |
|  |  | Mississippi River Parks | 1  |
|  |  | Keller                  | 1  |
|  |  | VEMO Trail              | 1  |
|  |  | Fish Creek              | 1  |
|  |  | Trout Brook             | 1  |
|  |  | Reservoir Woods         | 1  |
|  |  | Central Village Park    | 1  |
|  |  | Hayden Heights          | 1  |
|  |  | School Playgrounds      | 1  |
|  |  | Totem Town              | 1  |
|  |  | St Anthony Park         | 1  |
|  |  | Scheffer                | 1  |
|  |  | Wilder Playground       | 1  |
|  |  | Hamline Midway          | 1  |

MR Category 1

MR Category 2

Input

Frequency

**WHAT DO YOU CHERISH IN ST. PAUL? (COMBINED WITH) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE?**
*Working Group Task: Are there any commonalities among those that are at the top of the list? Other insights?*

| GENERAL                                 |             |                              |    |
|---|-------------|------------------------------|----|
| "Greenness"                             |             | Green things                 | 10 |
| "Greenness"                             |             | Trees                        | 5  |
| Diversity                               |             | Diverse population           | 12 |
| Diversity                               |             | Immigrant hisotry            | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Sport/Rec opportunities      | 7  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming | Rec Centers | Free Parks Programming       | 4  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Swimming pools               | 3  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Playground                   | 3  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Summer music                 | 1  |
| Improve Existing Facilities/Programming |             | Activities for small kids    | 1  |
| Partnerships                            |             | Gathering of people in parks | 8  |
| Partnerships                            |             | Community                    | 1  |
| Physical Access                         |             | Access to amenities          | 12 |
| Physical Access                         |             | Bikeway/Trail system         | 7  |
| Physical Access                         |             | Walkability                  | 3  |
| Physical Access                         |             | Light Rail                   | 1  |
| Physical Access                         |             | Parks close to home          | 1  |
| Rec Centers                             |             | Rec Centers                  | 9  |
|   |             | Parks in general             | 30 |
|   |             | Lakes                        | 6  |
|   |             | River                        | 2  |
|   |             | Views of the city            | 1  |
|   |             | Ball Park                    | 1  |
|   |             | Park cleanliness             | 1  |
|   |             |                              |    |
| PLACE-BASED                             |             |                              |    |
|   |             | Como Park/Zoo                | 15 |
|   |             | Phalen Park                  | 10 |
|   |             | Indian Mounds Park           | 5  |
|   |             | Frogtown Farm                | 4  |
|   |             | Rice Park                    | 4  |
|   |             | Harriet Island               | 3  |
|   |             | Marydale                     | 3  |
|   |             | Swede Hollow                 | 3  |
|   |             | Phalen Park                  | 2  |
|   |             | Summit Ave                   | 2  |
|   |             | Linwood Rec Center           | 2  |
|   |             | Shadow Falls                 | 2  |
|   |             | Arlington Field/Rec          | 2  |
|   |             | Cherokee Park                | 2  |
|   |             | Higland Little League        | 2  |

| MR Category 1 | MR Category 2 | Input                 | Frequency |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------|
|               |               | Ryan Park             | 1         |
|               |               | Willow Reserve        | 1         |
|               |               | Memorial Park         | 1         |
|               |               | Sam Morgan Trail      | 1         |
|               |               | Lilydale              | 1         |
|               |               | Crosby Farm           | 1         |
|               |               | McMurray Fields       | 1         |
|               |               | Gateway Trail         | 1         |
|               |               | Passive/Natural Parks | 1         |
|               |               | Battle Creek          | 1         |
|               |               | Hidden Falls          | 1         |
|               |               | Hampden Park          | 1         |

## Attachment – Role of Parks in Metropolitan Council Outcomes

The Parks Chapter working group was asked to identify ways in which Parks relate to the Metropolitan Council outcomes of Sustainability, Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, and Livability. The following list is a summary of that exercise.

### SUSTAINABILITY

- Provide habitat, particularly important for pollinators
- Provide opportunities to improve water quality
- Reduce negative effects of human impact (reduce urban heat island, climate change factors)
- Provide low-impact transportation options

### STEWARDSHIP

- Provide opportunities and space for community-building (clubs, volunteerism)
- Provide opportunities for education
- Encourage pride in place

### PROSPERITY

- Increased value of surrounding areas\*
- Opportunities to build social capital
- Attract and retain people for workforce\*

### EQUITY

- Provide free/low-cost access to amenities that improve quality of life and public health\*
- Provide opportunities to change programming to fit changing cultural/access/socioeconomic needs at a neighborhood scale
- Trails offer an affordable transportation option

### LIVABILITY

- By definition, presence and proximity to parks is a key to improved livability
- Enhance physical and mental health\*
- Provide common gathering space and increases opportunity for contact with neighbors

\*Additional research recommended



## Attachment – Issues Identified by Staff for Parks Chapter of 2040 Plan

The Parks Chapter working group was asked to identify issues that should be addressed in the forthcoming plan. The issues were categorized into larger categories and are summarized here. What issues might be debated? What issues require additional research? How do we translate these into effective policies?

\*Additional research recommended

### OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Updated system-wide maintenance analysis and plan is essential
- The question of quantity versus quality remains a central issue; quality requires both smart capital investment and ongoing maintenance
- Coordination with non-city providers of space and recreation could be improved
- Priorities for new parkland need to be clearly defined (Totem Town, Ford, Central Corridor)

### IMPLEMENTATION

- Data acquisition and use is vital to inform implementation
- Integrate park system implementation with related plans from other departments and take efficient action
- Prioritize high-demand, not-yet-present recreation (facilities and programming)
- Prioritize low-cost, high-impact interventions (tactical space making, choose edible vegetation when possible)

### EQUITY & ACCESS

- Ensure/increase transit access to Park system\*
- Reduce social isolation/encourage social interaction
- Maximize usable space that is maintained and accessible to people with all access needs
- Match facilities and programming to current and next generation (adjust hours)
- Maximize winter usability

### PARTNERSHIPS

- Balance priorities
  - Economic development vs. Environmental considerations in Critical Area (not mutually exclusive)
  - National Park vs. Regional Park vs. County Park vs. City Park Systems; are there conflicts in priorities or goals

## SUSTAINABILITY

- Maximize potential for parks to address climate change
- Ensure provision/protection of green space in new development
- Preserve and enhance the quality and function of natural resources and processes

## OTHER

- Charter school open space rules or guidelines are needed
- Use park employment to help meet city employment goals
- Identify role of parks for food security
- Plan for impact of EAB
- Use parks as tool for economic development to attract businesses and employees
- Address zoning\*

## CONNECTIVITY

- Clarify role of parkways and figure out how to get what we want/need from them (standards? Conversation with PW?)
- Improve circulation from a functional and recreation standpoint \*(map)