

## SECTION 6

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The presence of legislation that protects parks and open space in the Metropolitan area demonstrates that these are deemed essential to the quality of life of our region's residents.

The definition and value of parks and open space are codified in Minnesota statute. Minnesota statute defines *regional recreation open space* and lists the variety of parks and facilities included.

### *Regional Parks Policy Plan*

That value translates into the [requirements specified in the Metropolitan Council's 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#).

The entire [2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#) is available on the Metropolitan Council's website.

### *Maps*

The Metropolitan Council's [2030 Regional Parks System Map](#) identifies existing regional parks and trails.

Another map of the 2030 Regional Parks System shows the location of [search areas for new facilities](#).

### *Resources*

[The Metropolitan Council's Parks staff](#) are available to answer questions about the comprehensive plan requirements or specific park facilities.

[Minn. Stat. 473.147 Subd. 1](#)

[Minn. Stat. 473.302](#)

[Minn. Stat. 473.121 Subd. 14](#)

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/parks/2010/2030ParksPolicyPlan.pdf#page=13>

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/parks/2010/index.htm>

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/parks/2010/2030ParksPolicyPlan.pdf#page=70>

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/parks/2010/2030ParksPolicyPlan.pdf#page=84>

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/assistance/staff.htm>

## PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Municipalities are required to identify, map and plan for regional park, open space, and trails when any portion of these falls within their jurisdiction. The comprehensive plan, in turn, must identify these. The intent of these requirements is to ensure that the region's parks and trails, that often span more than one municipality, are connected and coordinated.

If no portion of a regional park, trail, facility or recreation area falls within the municipality's boundaries, the comprehensive plan must assert this fact.

If a regional facility, or any part of such an area, falls within a municipality's jurisdiction, the comprehensive plan must include the following information.

[See a list and map of existing and planned parks and trails in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan.](#)

[Minn. Stat. 473.859, Subd. 3 \(3\)](#)

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/parks/2010/2030ParksPolicyPlan.pdf#page=57>

### ***Your System Statement provides park information***

The municipality's *system statement* contains specific information from the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* regarding information about regional parks that must be present in the municipality's comprehensive plan. Each municipality's *system statement* contains a map that illustrates the park and trail boundary or park and trail search area.

It also contains contact information regarding the regional park agency or agencies that manage regional parks and trails within the municipality. Contact the [regional Park Agency staff in your area](#) with specific questions relating to the master plans of park facilities within their jurisdiction.

[http://www.metrocouncil.org/parks/parks\\_partners.htm](http://www.metrocouncil.org/parks/parks_partners.htm)

### ***Show boundaries of parks and trails***

The boundaries of existing and planned regional parks, park reserves, special recreation features and regional trails must be identified in the comprehensive plan land use map.

***If true  
boundaries are  
not available***

Park and trail boundary information is available in approved park and trail master plans. The master plans, and detailed boundary information from them, are available through the regional park implementing agency that owns or manages the park or trail. Each municipality's *system statement* provides contact information for the regional park implementing agency or agencies.

If it is not clear whether a master plan has been prepared for a regional park or trail, [contact the regional park implementing agency for up-to-date information](#) on the likely location of the park or trail and its status relative to master planning.

If no master plan has been prepared, the municipality's *system statement* will identify the search area instead of specific boundaries. The comprehensive plan's land use map must then illustrate the likely location of the regional park or trail. The search area must appear in the comprehensive plan, along with acknowledgement that the search area has been proposed for a park, or the general corridor has been proposed for a trail.

[The Regional Parks Policy Plan identifies all search areas in the region, and includes a list of maps.](#)

[http://www.metrocouncil.org/parks/parks\\_partners.htm](http://www.metrocouncil.org/parks/parks_partners.htm)

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/parks/2010/2030ParksPolicyPlan.pdf#page=71>