

C Community Development Committee
Meeting date: February 21, 2012
For the Council Meeting of March 14, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Subject:	Denmark Township 2011 System Statement Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review File No. 20412-4
District(s), Member(s):	District 12, Council Member Harry Melander
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes Section 473.175
Staff Prepared/Presented:	LisaBeth Barajas, Principal Reviewer, 651-602-1895 Phyllis Hanson, Local Planning Assistance Manager, 651-602-1566
Division/Department:	Community Development / Planning & Growth Management

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the attached review record and allow Denmark Township to put the 2011 System Statement comprehensive plan amendment (CPA) into effect.
2. Find that the proposed CPA does not change the Township's forecasts.

Background

The Council reviewed the Township's Update, Review File No. 20412-1, on March 11, 2009. The Township submitted one amendment in 2010 and another amendment in 2011. Both were allowed to be placed in effect. This is the Township's third CPA since the review of the Update.

The amendment is in response to the 2011 System Statement reflecting updates to the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* and the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The CPA proposes to amend the local comprehensive plan to reflect changes to transit routes and facilities within or serving the Township and to reflect revisions to the St. Croix Valley Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail search corridors.

Rationale

The proposed CPA conforms to regional system plans, is consistent with Council policies, and is compatible with the plans of other local communities, school districts, and affected special districts.

Funding

None.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.

REVIEW RECORD

Denmark Township Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2011 System Statement Response

Review File No. 20412-4, Council Business Item No. 2012-61

BACKGROUND

Denmark Township (Township) is a rural community of approximately 30.1 square miles, located in southeastern Washington County. It is bordered by the City of Afton to the north, the St. Croix River and Wisconsin to the east, the City of Hastings and Dakota County to the south, and the City of Cottage Grove on the west.

The *2030 Regional Development Framework* (RDF) identifies the Township as a Diversified Rural community. The Metropolitan Council (Council) forecasts that the Township will grow between 2010 and 2030 from 1,750 to 2,550 people, from 650 to 990 households, and that employment will grow from 360 to 440 jobs.

The Council reviewed the Township's Update, Review File No. 20412-1, on March 11, 2009. The Township submitted a comprehensive plan amendment (CPA) to correct the extent of the St. Croix River District to be consistent with those in the Federal Register (Review File No. 20412-2). This CPA met the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Administrative Guidelines revised by the Council on July 28, 2010, and was allowed to be placed into effect under those guidelines on November 23, 2010.

The Township submitted a second CPA to reguide 120 acres from Agriculture to Parks and Open Space in support of the property's addition to the Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area (Review File No. 20412-3). The Council reviewed the amendment on January 26, 2011, and the amendment was allowed to be put into effect. This is the Township's third CPA since the review of the Update.

REQUEST SUMMARY

The CPA proposes to amend the local comprehensive plan to reflect changes to transit routes and facilities within or serving the Township and to reflect revisions to the St. Croix Valley Regional Trail and Point Douglas Regional Trail search corridors. The amendment is in response to the 2011 System Statement reflecting updates to the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* and the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

OVERVIEW

Conformance with Regional Systems	The CPA conforms to the Regional System Plans for Parks, Transportation (including Aviation), and Wastewater, with no substantial impact on, or departure from, these plans.
Consistency with Council Policies	The CPA is consistent with the Council's RDF, with water resources management, and is consistent with Council forecasts.
Compatibility with Plans of Adjacent Jurisdictions	The CPA will not have an impact on adjacent communities, school districts, or watershed districts, and is compatible with the plans of those districts.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTIONS

- The Council acted on the Township's Update on March 11, 2009 (Review File No. 20412-1).
- The St. Croix River District CPA was administratively approved by the Council on November 23, 2010 (Review File No. 20412-2).

- The Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area CPA was approved by the Council on January 26, 2011.

ISSUES

- I. Does the amendment conform to the regional system plans?
- II. Is the amendment consistent with the RDF and other Council policies?
- III. Does the amendment change the Township's forecasts?
- IV. Is the amendment compatible with the plans of adjacent local governmental units and affected jurisdictions?

ISSUE ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

CONFORMANCE WITH REGIONAL SYSTEMS

REGIONAL PARKS

Reviewer: Jan Youngquist (651-602-1029)

The proposed CPA conforms to the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The comprehensive plan acknowledges the regional parks system facilities in Denmark Township, which include: St. Croix Bluff Regional Park, the planned St. Croix Valley Regional Trail, the proposed Washington County Greenway/Mississippi River Regional Trail, the proposed Prairie View Regional Trail, and the Point Douglas Regional Trail Search Corridor.

Advisory Comments

The proposed text changes in the CPA refer to a 2005 Town Board Resolution that included comments on the alignment of the planned St. Croix Valley Regional Trail. The Township should send a copy of the resolution for the Council's planning files.

TRANSPORTATION

Reviewer: Ann Braden (651-602-1705), Scott Thompson (612-349-7774)

The proposed amendment conforms to the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)*. The CPA accurately responds to updates to the TPP.

CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL POLICY

The proposed CPA is consistent with the Council's policies for land use, housing, subsurface sewage treatment systems, and water supply. The proposed CPA is consistent with the *2030 Regional Development Framework (RDF)* policies for Diversified Rural communities. The CPA will not change the Township's forecasts.

COMPATIBILITY WITH PLANS OF ADJACENT GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND PLANS OF AFFECTED SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

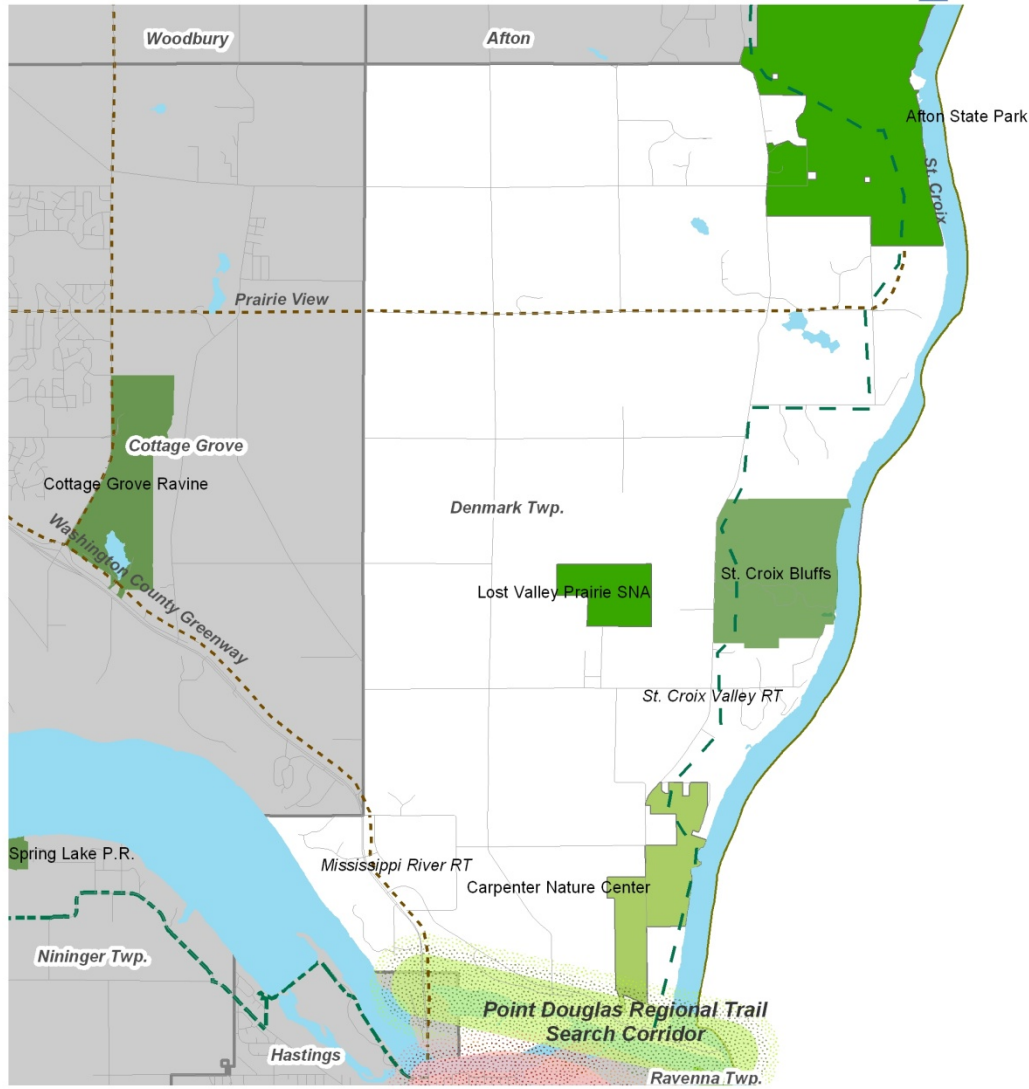
The proposed CPA is compatible with the plans of adjacent jurisdictions. No compatibility issues with plans of adjacent governmental units and plans of affected special districts and school districts were identified.

ATTACHMENTS

Figure 1: 2030 Metropolitan Regional Parks System Plan Update Map

2030 Metropolitan Regional Parks System Plan Update

Denmark Township



Regional Parks & State Lands

- Existing
- Planned
- Private Non-Profit

Regional Park Search Areas (2005)

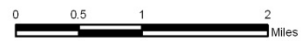
- Boundary Adjustment
- New Unit
- Completing the System

Regional Trails

- Existing
- Planned
- Proposed (No Council-Approved Master Plan)
- State Trail

Regional Trail Search Corridors (2005)

- Boundary Adjustment
- New Unit
- Completing the System



System Changes (Updated in 2010)

- Regional Trail Search Corridor/Boundary Adjustment
- Special Recreation Feature Addition
- Regional Park Study Area
- Deletion of Regional Park Search Area



April 2011