



Community Development Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 14, 2010

Item: 2010-191

Subject: Anoka County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update
Review File No. 20688-1

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following recommended actions:

Recommendation of the Community Development Committee:

1. Authorize Anoka County to put its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update into effect.
2. Implement the advisory comments under forecasts and Critical Area Plan.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions

Tori Dupre, Senior Planner, presented the staff report on the Anoka County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update. Councilmember Steffen asked about information included in the Review Record that described the County's interest in having Coon Lake Park and the county parks along the Rum River being designated as regional parks. Jan Youngquist, Senior Planner—Parks, responded that the County was not pursuing regional park designation for these parks at this time. The Council has conducted visit counts at the Rum River County Parks, and the usage numbers are not high enough to be considered for a regional park designation.

The business item was moved; it passed unanimously.

C Community Development Committee

Meeting date: June 21, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Subject: Anoka County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update
Review File No. 20688-1

District(s), Member(s): District 2, Councilmember Tony Pistilli
District 9, Councilmember Natalie Steffen
District 10, Councilmember Kris Sanda
District 11, Councilmember Georgeanne Hilker

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statutes Section 473.175

Staff Prepared/Presented: Susan Hoyt, 651-602-1330
Phyllis Hanson, Local Planning Assistance Manager, 651-602-1566

Division/Department: Community Development / Planning and Growth Management

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Advisory Comments and Review Record and take the following recommended actions:

Recommendations of the Community Development Committee:

1. Authorize Anoka County to put its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update into effect.
2. Implement the advisory comments under forecasts and Critical Area Plan.

ADVISORY COMMENTS
Anoka County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update
Review File No. 20688-1 – Council Business Item No. 2010-191

The following advisory comments are part of the Council action authorizing Anoka County (County) to implement its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update (Update):

Community Development Committee

1. The Council-adopted *Local Planning Handbook* states that the County must take the following steps:
 - (a) Adopt the Update in final form after considering the Council's review recommendations; and
 - (b) Submit one electronic copy and one hard copy of the Update to the Council. The electronic copy must be organized as one unified document.

A copy of the County Board resolution evidencing final approval of the Update should be submitted to the Council.

2. The Council's *Handbook* also states that local governments must formally adopt their comprehensive plan within nine months after the Council's final action. If the Council has recommended changes, local governments should incorporate those recommended changes into the Update or respond to the Council before "final approval" by the governing body of the local governmental unit (Minn. Stat. § 473.858, subd. 3).
3. Local governmental units must adopt official controls and described in their adopted comprehensive plan and must submit copies of the official controls to the Council within 30 days after the official controls are adopted (Minn. Stat. § 473.865, subd. 1).
4. Local governmental units cannot adopt any official controls or fiscal devices that conflict with their comprehensive plan or which permit activities in conflict with the Council's metropolitan system plans (Minn. Stat. § 473.864, subd. 2; 473.865, subd. 2).

Background

Anoka County is located in the northern tier of the metropolitan region. It encompasses some or all of the following communities: Andover, Anoka, Bethel, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbia Heights, Columbus, Coon Rapids, East Bethel, Fridley, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Linwood, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey, St Francis, and Spring Lake Park. The County is 423 square miles in area and has an estimated population of 320,803 persons.

The County does not exercise land use authority, as each of the municipalities, including Linwood Township, is responsible for local planning decisions. This limits the required items for the County's comprehensive plan to conformance to the system plans for regional parks, transportation, and aviation, for consistency with Council policies for forecasts and individual sewage treatment systems program, for compatibility with the plans of adjacent governmental units and plans of affected special districts and school districts and for information required by the MLPA related to the location of solid waste facilities.

Rationale – Standard of Review & Findings

1. Does the proposed Update conform to Regional Systems Plans?
2. Is the Update consistent with Metropolitan Council policies?
3. Is the Update compatible with plans of adjacent governmental units and plans of affected special districts and school districts?

Conformance with Regional Systems Plans:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Regional Parks | Yes |
| 2. Transportation including Aviation | Yes |
| 3. Water Resources Management
(Wastewater and Surface Water Management) | Yes |

Consistent with Council Policy Requirements:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Forecasts | Yes |
| 2. Housing | Not Applicable |
| 3. 2030 <i>Regional Development Framework</i> and Land Use | Not Applicable |
| 4. Sanitary Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Program | Yes |
| 5. Water Supply | Not Applicable |

Compatible with Plans of Adjacent Governmental Units and Plans of Affected Special Districts and School Districts

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Compatible with other plans | Yes |
|-----------------------------|-----|

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.

REVIEW RECORD

Review of the Anoka County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The Metropolitan Land Planning Act (MLPA) requires local units of government to submit comprehensive plans (plans) and plan amendments to the Council for review and comment (Minn. Stat. § 473.864, Subd. 2). The Council reviews plans to determine:

- *Conformance with metropolitan system plans,*
- *Consistency with other adopted Plans of the Council, and*
- *Compatibility with the Plans of other local jurisdictions in the Metropolitan Area.*

The Council may require a local governmental unit to modify any plan or part thereof if, upon the adoption of findings and a resolution, the Council concludes that the Update is more likely than not to have a substantial impact on or contain a substantial departure from metropolitan system plans (Minn. Stat. § 473.175, Subd. 1).

Each local government unit shall adopt a policy plan for the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage for which the local government unit is responsible, coordinated with the Metropolitan Council's plan, and may revise the same as often as it deems necessary. Each such plan shall be submitted to the Council for review and shall be subject to the approval of the Council as to those features affecting the Council's responsibilities as determined by the Council. Any such features disapproved by the Council shall be modified in accordance with the Council's recommendations (Minn. Stat. § 473.513).

CONFORMANCE WITH REGIONAL SYSTEMS

REGIONAL PARKS

Parks and Trails

Reviewer: Jan Youngquist, CD – Regional Parks System Planning, (651-602-1029)

The Update conforms to the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The existing regional parks system facilities in the County include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park | • Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes Regional Park |
| • Bunker Hills Regional Park | • Mississippi River Regional Trail |
| • Central Anoka County Regional Trail | • Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve |
| • Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park | • Rice Creek North Regional Trail |
| • East Anoka County Regional Trail | • Rice Creek West Regional Trail |
| • Lake George Regional Park | • Rum River Central Regional Park |

The planned and proposed regional parks system facilities include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Bunker Hills-Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Trail | • Northwest Anoka County Regional Park Search Area |
| • Coon Creek Regional Trail | • Northwest Anoka County Regional Trail Search Area |
| • Mississippi West Regional Park | • Rice Creek Chain of Lakes-Bald Eagle Regional Trail |
| • North Anoka County Regional Trail | • Rum River Regional Trail |

The Update acknowledges and plans for these regional parks system facilities as well as the State park and open space units within the County, which provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resource conservation.

The Update includes recommendations to reclassify Coon Lake County Park as a regional park and to reclassify all of the county parks on the Rum River as one regional park unit. The Update acknowledges that the reclassification of a county park to a regional park is subject to approval by the Metropolitan Council. The County does not propose to seek regional status for these parks at this time.

The Update also includes a recommendation to examine the feasibility of converting two parcels of land at Bunker Hills Regional Park to a non-park status and to subsequently reinvest the financial proceeds toward the acquisition of higher quality parkland elsewhere in the county. The Update acknowledges that conversion of regional parkland to another use is subject to approval by the Metropolitan Council in accordance with the requirements outlined in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

TRANSPORTATION

Roads and Transit

Reviewer: Ann Braden, MTS – Systems Planning, (651-602-1705)

The Update conforms to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan adopted in 2004 and addresses all applicable transportation and transit requirements of a comprehensive plan.

The Update includes an especially extensive Safety Plan that was developed to be consistent with national guidelines.

The County is served by segments of eight metropolitan highways (principal arterials): I-35W and I-35E, I-94, TH 10, TH 65, TH169, TH 610, and CSAH 14. None of the metropolitan highways located within the County are planned for expansion; the regional 2004 TPP set aside funds to be used for management projects on metropolitan highways such as construction of individual interchanges on TH 10 and TH 65. The County's plan does recommend construction of interchanges along segments of these highways. The more recently adopted 2009 TPP states that isolated interchanges and interchange improvements (as opposed to converting an expressway to a freeway) would fall into the category of congestion mitigation and system management.

Areas of the County are within Market Areas II, III, and IV (Figure 4-3). Service options for Market Area II include regular-route locals, all-day expresses, small vehicle circulators, special needs paratransit (ADA, seniors), and ridesharing. Service options for Market Area III include peak-only express, small vehicle circulators, midday circulators, special needs paratransit (ADA, seniors), and ridesharing. Service options for Market Area IV include dial-a-ride, volunteer driver programs, and ridesharing.

As described in the County's Transportation Plan, the Draft 2030 Transit Master Plan Study, which is the foundation for the Council's 2008 TPP transitway plan, recommends a comprehensive study of several arterial corridors for mode and alignment, including TH 65/Central Avenue. The County's plan acknowledges this study and shows LRT within the TH 65/Central Avenue corridor.

Aviation

Reviewer: Chauncey Case, MTS – Systems Planning, (651-602-1724)

The Update conforms to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan and is consistent with the Council's aviation policy.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Wastewater Service

Reviewer: Kyle Colvin, ES – Engineering Services, (651-602-1151)

The Update conforms to the 2030 Water Resources Management Policy Plan.

Tier II Comments

The County does not have any jurisdictional control over wastewater collection or treatment issues; therefore, the County is not required to submit a Tier II Plan.

Surface Water Management

Reviewer: Judy Sventek, ES – Water Resources Assessment, (651-602-1156)

The Update conforms to the Water Resources Management Policy Plan for local surface water management. Approximately 25 percent of the County is covered by surface water. Seven Watershed Management Organizations and Watershed Districts manage surface waters and drainage through comprehensive planning and permitting of development projects having direct effects on the quantity and quality of surface water within the County. The County is a permitted Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4) holder under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and has established a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). The County does not have land use planning authority, but as an MS4-permitted party, it will potentially be assigned load reductions limits in the future, as part of TMDL studies for impaired waters within the County.

CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL POLICY

FORECASTS

Reviewer: Todd Graham, CD – Research, (651-602-1322)

The Update is consistent with Council policy. The forecasts in table 1.1 accurately present Council forecasts as of December 8, 2009.

Anoka County forecast as of Dec 8, 2009					
	Component	2000	2010	2020	2030
Anoka County	POPULATION	298084	357400	407670	438550
Anoka County	HOUSEHOLDS	106428	132020	156370	172650
Anoka County	EMPLOYMENT	110050	124790	141820	154540

Advisory comment

- The County presents the Council’s forecasts as of December 8, 2009. Since then, Council actions on cities’ Updates have resulted in forecast revisions for four cities: Bethel, Lino Lakes, Ramsey and Hilltop. Council staff advise the County to monitor the Council’s forecast revisions and work with cities to represent current forecasts in transportation modeling. The Update is not required to revise these forecasts as they are changed by the Council.

2030 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND LAND USE

Reviewer: Susan Hoyt, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1895)

The Update is consistent with the 2030 Regional Development Framework. The MLPA specifically exempts the County from the land use planning requirement, since the County does not have land use authority. The Update, however, does include policies regarding land use as it relates to transportation, transit planning and parks.

HOUSING

Reviewer: Linda Milashius, CD – Livable Communities, (651-602-1541)

The Update is not required to include affordable housing components to meet the MLPA because the County does not have land use authority.

COMMUNITY AND SANITARY SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS (SSTS)

Reviewer: Jim Larsen, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1159)

The Update is currently consistent with the Water Resources Management Policy Plan for SSTS. The County oversees the construction and permits the operation of SSTS that provide service to food, beverage, and lodging facilities in the County; and the County has responsibility for plan reviews, inspections, and building permits for facilities in shoreland and floodplain areas. Additionally, the County must be prepared to assume responsibility for local City or Township SSTS programs within the County, should local program responsibilities be deferred to the County.

The MPCA revised Chapter 7080 Rules in 2008 into Chapters 7080 through 7083, for consistency with MN Stat. 115.55 and 115.56 updates. Legislative action enacted this spring extended the deadline for revising the County’s SSTS ordinance from February 2010 to February 2012

WATER SUPPLY

Reviewer: Sara Smith, ES – Water Supply Planning, (651-602-1035)

The County does not own or operate a water supply system, and so is not required to complete a water supply plan.

SOLID WASTE FACILITIES

Reviewer: Susan Hoyt, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1330)

The Update includes a Solid Waste Facilities Plan as required for Counties by the MLPA.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Historic Preservation

Reviewer: Susan Hoyt, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1895)

The County is not required to prepare an historic preservation element because it does not have land use authority.

Solar Access Protection

Reviewer: Susan Hoyt, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1895)

The County is not required to address solar access protection because it does not have land use authority.

Aggregate Resources Protection

Reviewer: Jim Larsen, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1159)

The County is not required to address the Council's aggregate resource protection requirements because the County has no land use authority. The Update does not address the presence of absence of aggregate resources in the County.

Mississippi River Critical Area Plan

Reviewer: Tori Dupre, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1621)

The County has a Critical Area –MNRRA plan Anoka County 2020 Vision, Parks System Plan and November 14, 2001, MNRRA/Critical Area appendix," and "Mississippi National River and Recreation Area/Critical Area Plan section of the Land Use Element, as revised December 7, 2001." The documents identify the County's role as owner of transportation, parks, recreation services and other facilities within the river corridor.

While it does not regulate any land uses, the County is subject to Critical Area ordinances in its own construction projects.

In 2002, the Council reviewed the County Critical Area Plan Element (review 18658-1) on January 23 2002 for consistency with state Critical Area standards and guidelines in Executive Order 79-19 and for voluntary conformance with the MNRRRA Comprehensive Management Plan.

The MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approval authority for critical area plans. Therefore, the Council will forward this report and recommendations to the DNR, and to the National Park Service (NPS).

Advisory Comment:

- Forward the Council’s Critical Area plan recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for review, and to the National Park Service for its records.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Reviewer: Susan Hoyt, CD – Local Planning Assistance, (651-602-1330)

The Update includes a description of and schedule for any necessary changes to:

- Capital Improvement Program Yes
- Zoning Code Not Applicable
- Subdivision Code Not Applicable
- SSTS Code Yes
- Housing Implementation Program Not Applicable

The Update’s Transportation Section includes a Transportation Improvement Program for implementing transportation projects. The Update’s Park Section includes a park improvement program for implementing park and trail improvements.

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

The County submitted its Update to the adjacent communities, affected school districts, affected watershed districts, and other special districts for comment on September 23, 2009. The County responded to comments from local communities and does not appear to have any compatibility issues.

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW

(TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL 2030 CPU SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL).

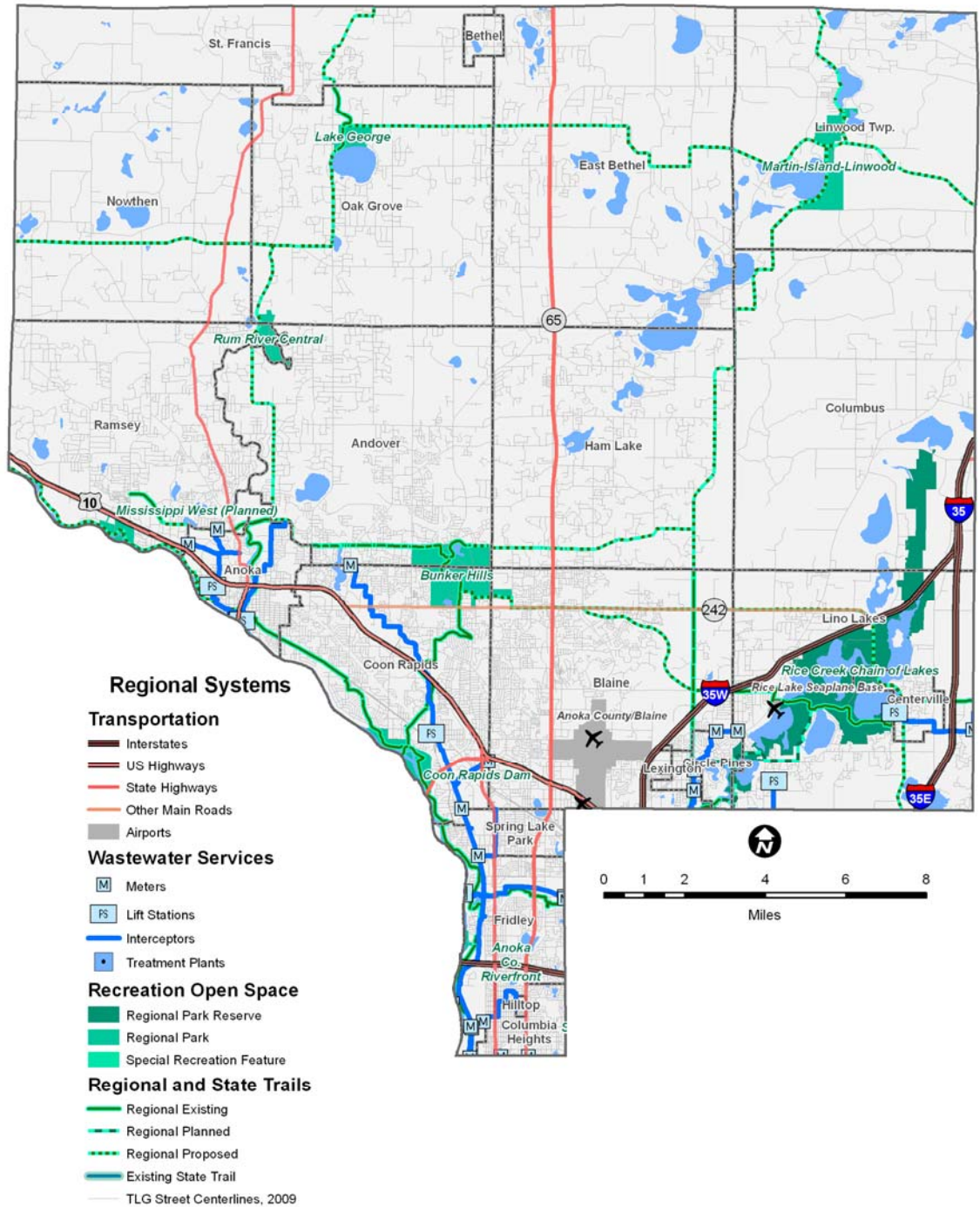
- Anoka County 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update (November 30, 2009)
- Access Guidelines supplemental information (December 1, 2009)
- Park supplemental information (December 28, 2009)
- SSTS Ordinance (March 3, 2010)
- Park supplemental information (March 11, 2010)
- SSTS Supplemental Information (April 9, 2010)
- Section III including SSTS, SWPP and Water Resources (April 22, 2010)

ATTACHMENTS

Figure 1: Location Map with Regional Systems

Figure 2: Anoka County 2020 and 2030 Future Planned Land Use

**Figure 1: Regional Systems
Anoka County**



**Figure 2:
Anoka County Planned Land Use**

