

**C** Community Development Committee  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 26, 2011

Item: 2011-22

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date Prepared:** January 19, 2011

**Subject:** Denmark Township Comprehensive Plan Amendment  
Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), Review File No. 20412-3

**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council:

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

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

Local Planning Assistance staff member Freya Thamman presented the staff report and proposed actions to the Committee. The Committee had no questions on the CPA and unanimously adopted the proposed actions.



# Community Development Committee

Meeting date: January 18, 2011

Business Item

Item: 2011-22

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
<b>Subject:</b>	Denmark Township Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Lost Valley SNA Review File No. 20412-3
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 12, Council Member Sherry Broecker
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Statutes Section 473.175
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	LisaBeth Barajas, Principal Reviewer, 651-602-1895 Phyllis Hanson, Local Planning Assistance Manager, 651-602-1566
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development / Planning & Growth Management

## Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

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

## Background

The Metropolitan Council reviewed the Township's 2030 Comprehensive Plan (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. This is the Township's second CPA since the review of the Update.

The *2030 Regional Development Framework* identifies the Township as a Diversified Rural community. The CPA proposes to reguide 120 acres from Agriculture to Parks and Open Space to support the land's addition to the Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). The amendment reflects a lot split previously approved by the Township in 2009 with the purpose of conveying the land to the Trust for Public Land as an addition to the SNA.

## 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 Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area (SNA)

Review File No. 20412-3, Council Business Item No. 2011-22

### 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. This is the Township's second CPA since the review of the Update.

### REQUEST SUMMARY

The CPA proposes to reguide 120 acres from Agriculture to Parks and Open Space to support the land's addition to the Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area (SNA). The amendment reflects a lot split previously approved by the Township in 2009 with the purpose of conveying the land to the Trust for Public Land as an addition to the SNA.

### 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).

### 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**

The proposed CPA conforms to regional policies plans for parks, transportation (including aviation), and water resources management. Additional comments for the affected systems are provided below.

#### **REGIONAL PARKS**

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

The proposed CPA conforms to the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. The addition of 120 acres to the Lost Valley Scientific and Natural Area, which will be managed by the MN Department of Natural Resources, complements the regional parks system by preserving additional natural areas, protecting wildlife and plant habitat, and providing passive recreation opportunities.

#### **WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

##### ***Surface Water Management***

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

The Township lies within the Lower St. Croix watershed. The Township prepared a surface water management plan (SWMP) as part of the comprehensive plan update in 2008. The proposed CPA conforms to the WRMPP for local surface water management.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH COUNCIL POLICY**

The proposed CPA is consistent with the Council's policies for 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.

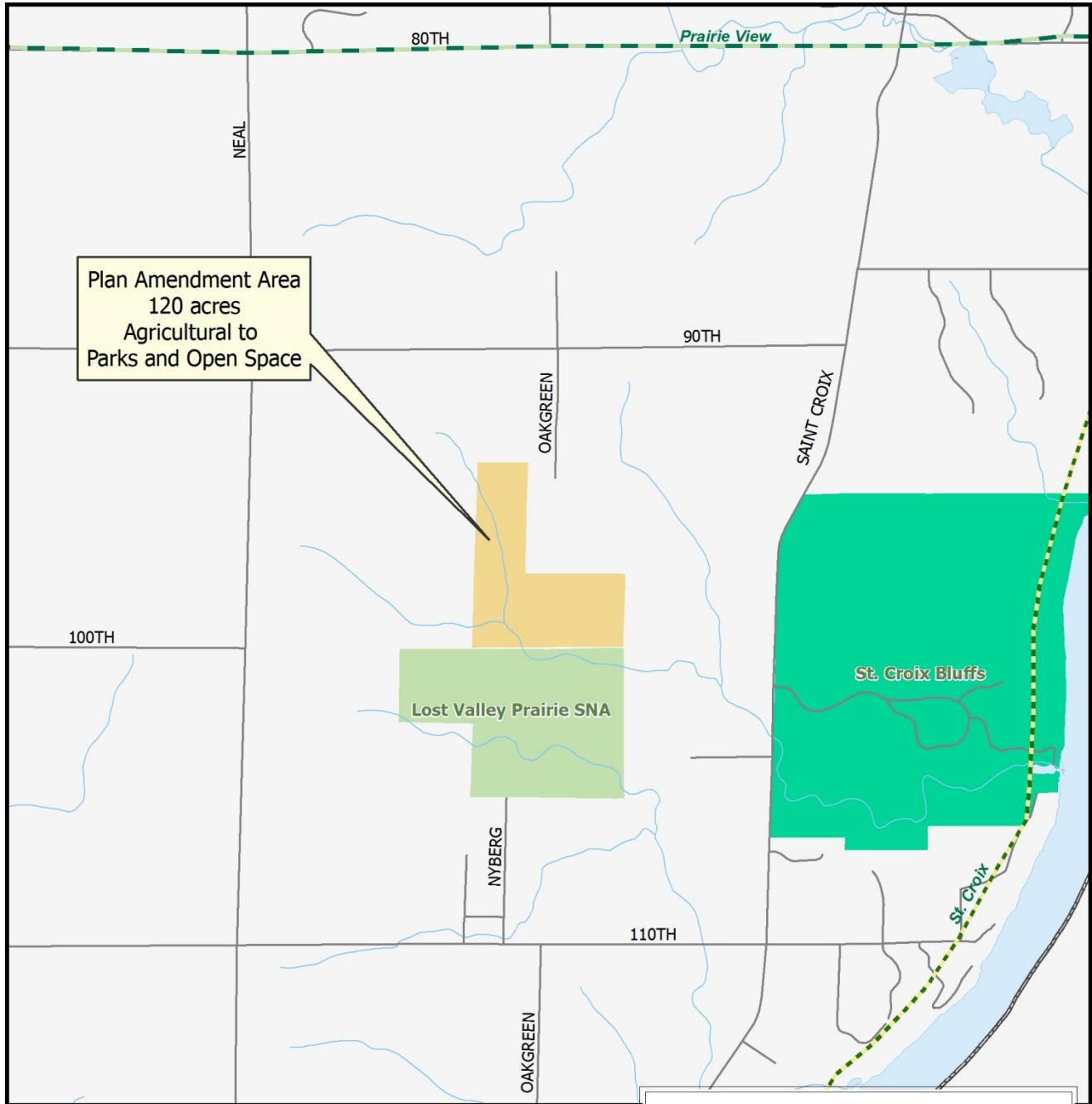
## **ATTACHMENTS**

Figure 1: Location Map with Regional Systems

Figure 2: Future Land Use Map: Current and Proposed Guiding

# Figure 1. Location Map with Regional Systems

Denmark Township CPA: Lost Valley SNA



## Regional Systems

### Regional Parks

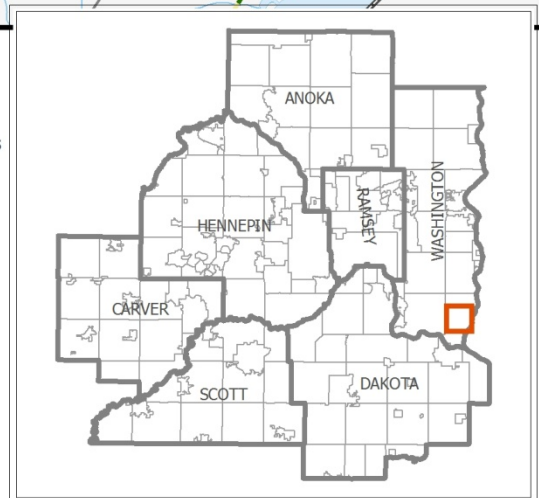
- Park Reserve
- Regional Park
- Special Recreation Feature

### Regional Trails

- Regional Existing
- Regional Planned
- Regional Proposed
- State Existing

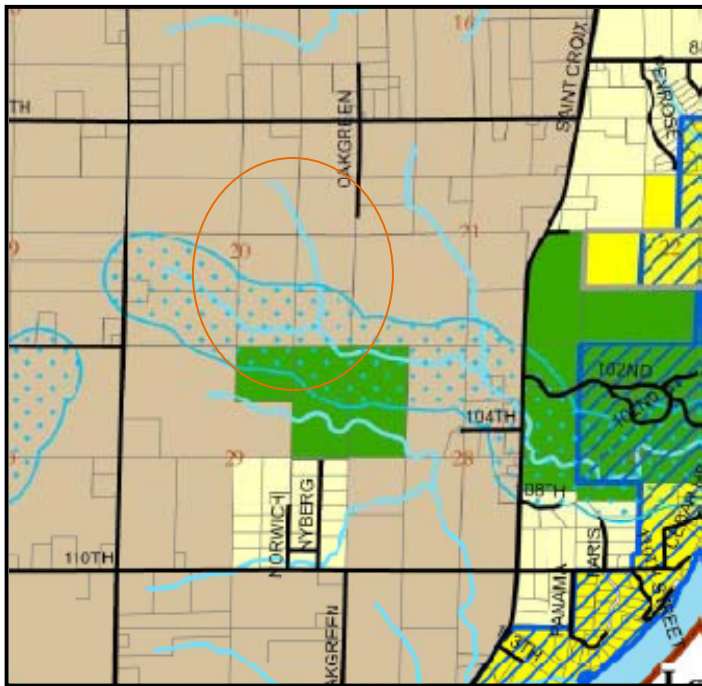
### Wastewater Services

- Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Interceptors
- Major Highways
- Plan Amendment Area
- Streams Network
- Other State, County, and Local Recreation & Open Space Features

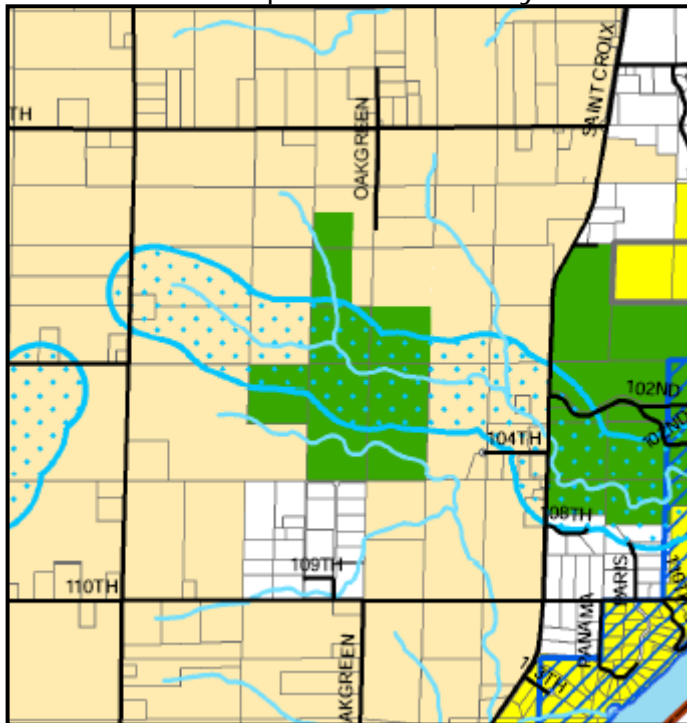


**Figure 2. Future Land Use Map: Current and Proposed Guiding**  
Denmark Township CPA: Lost Valley SNA

**Current 2030 Future Land Use**  
As Reviewed March 11, 2009



**Proposed 2030 Future Land Use**  
Denmark Township CPA: Lost Valley SNA



Note: Both maps are excerpted from maps provided by Denmark Township.