

Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting date: February 17, 2026

Topic

2026 Community Development Committee Work Plan

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| District(s), member(s): | All |
| Policy/legal reference: | None |
| Staff prepared/presented: | LisaBeth Barajas, Executive Director (651-602-1895) |
| Division/department: | Community Development |

Background

Each year, the Community Development Committee approves an annual work plan to guide its business and meeting agendas. The annual work plan typically includes ongoing business of the Council, special projects/initiatives anticipated during the year, regular reports and information items, and special reports by invited speakers.

The Work Plan is intended to be a guide to the Committee's work, provide staff direction, and is considered flexible and modifiable as the year progresses. After completing significant program work and new implementation directions in 2025 as identified in the adopted Imagine 2050, in 2026, Council staff are turning toward an implementation focus in the work. At this meeting, Council staff seek direction from the Committee Members on the proposal below, with the following questions in mind:

- Are there areas of policy that the Committee would like to discuss and clarify?
- Is there any additional information or reports that the Committee seeks to better inform its work?
- Are there any invited speaker or panel presentations that the Committee is interested in to better inform its work?

Council staff will incorporate the Committee's input and prepare a Work Plan for adoption. This finalized Work Plan will also include a tentative timeline for the different items in the Plan.

Proposed 2026 Community Development Committee Work Plan

The Work Plan is organized among the following categories: Regular Business, 2026 Initiatives, Information and Regular Reports, and Invited Speakers. In addition to the 2026 Initiatives section, other initiatives or special projects for 2026 are listed under work unit headings and with an asterisk (*), particularly where that initiative is work unit specific.

Estimated dates will be added as staff finalize the Work Plan for the Committee's adoption at an upcoming meeting in March.

Regular Business

Housing & Livable Communities

- Livable Communities Act Annual Fund Distribution Plan

- Recommendations for Livable Communities Act grants
 - Round 1 Awards
 - Round 2 Awards
 - Consolidated Request for Proposals (RFP) Awards
- Livable Communities Act grant amendments, extensions – as needed
- Livable Communities Act – new community enrollments, as needed
- Monitoring, evaluation, and compliance framework*
- PRO Housing - technical assistance delivery*

Local Planning Assistance

- Review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Annual report on Comprehensive Plan Amendment Trends
- Flexible Development Guidelines update*

Metro HRA

- Public Housing Agency Plan including Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan
 - Set Public Hearing date
 - Public Hearing
 - Approval
- Update Utility Allowance Schedule
- Annual Payment Standards / Small Area Fair Market Rents
 - Information report on Small Area Fair Market Rents
- Continued exploration of Wealth Building Opportunities and programs for voucher holders*
- Residential preferences of housing choice voucher program participants*
- Bring It Home - Statewide Rent Assistance Program*
- Metropolitan Housing Opportunities Program (MHOP) Conversion*
- Family Affordable Housing Program – sale/replacement of units
- Mobility Demonstration Program update

Regional Parks

- Regional Park and Trail Long Range Plan and Plan Amendment reviews – ongoing
- Regional Park and Trail grant reviews (Parks and Trails Legacy, Bonding) – ongoing
- Regional Parks Operations and Maintenance Allocations
- Regional Parks and Trails System Map update*
- System additions process scoping*
- Updated on communities of color in regional parks research*
- Minnesota Parks Artists in Residence (MNPAiR) 2.0*
- Annual report on administrative review of parks long range plan amendments*
- 2026 Regional Parks Visitor Study*

Community Development Budget & Grants

- Budget amendments, as needed, generally quarterly
- 2027 Budget Initial discussion
- 2027 Community Development Division annual operating budget review
- 2027 Community Development Division annual capital budget
- Annual reports on Community Development grants

Research and Reports

- Agricultural Preserves Report



- Housing Research and Trends including:
 - Residential development trends in the region
 - Housing Policy and Production
 - Progress toward allocated affordable housing need (housing report card)
- Data from the American Community Survey
- Fiscal Disparities Report
- Plat Monitoring Program Report
- Annual Population and Households Estimates
- Regional Parks and Trails Use Estimates
- Land Use Inventory*
- Ongoing and emerging research

2026 Initiatives

- Imagine 2050 Implementation
 - System Statements Hearings and resolutions
 - Launch of Technical Assistance across all plan areas (Local Planning Handbook, PlanIt, and other technical assistance tools), including, but not limited to:
 - Envisioning Density
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Tool
 - Housing Toolkit
 - Small Communities and Planning Assistance Grant Programs
 - Art + Policy integration and Imagine 2050 impact report
 - American Indian commitments – update on progress
 - Imagine 2050 outcomes measurement – Amendment to Imagine 2050
- 2026 Community Tree Planting Grant Program
 - Notice of Funding Availability
 - Recommendations for Grant Awards
- Implementation of CDC-related components of the Climate Action Work Plan

Invited Speaker/Panel Presentations

Upon suggestion/request

