

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: October 5, 2015

Subject: Annual Use Estimate of the Regional Parks System for 2014

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: N/A

Staff Prepared/Presented: Raintry Salk, Research Analyst, (651) 602-1669

Division/Department: Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources Unit

Proposed Action

Information item only. No action required.

Background

Since 1995, the Metropolitan Council has annually prepared a Regional Parks System use estimate. The use estimates are produced based upon a four-year average of visit data. Council staff works with regional park implementing agencies to conduct visitor counts in regional parks and trails from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Those counts are then used, along with the preceding three years of data, to develop an estimate for Regional Parks System use for the entire calendar year.

The use estimate is specified as one component used in funding formulas to determine regional park implementing agency's share of Operations and Maintenance Funding, Capital Improvement Program, and Parks and Trails Legacy Fund dollars. Highlights from the 2014 use estimate will be provided. The [full report](#) is available online.