

2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Update

Recreation Activities and Facilities

April 16, 2018

Community Development Committee



Work Areas for Policy Plan Update

- Statutory Requirements
- Respond to Legislation
- Clarify/Modify/Strengthen Language
 - Example: today's discussion about Recreation Activities and Facilities
- Other areas

Today's Presentation

- Overview of current Recreation Activity and Facility Language in *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (RPPP)*
- Insights from previous discussions – and an opportunity to add your thoughts
 - Council Member Workgroup
 - Regional Parks Implementing Agency leadership
 - Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
- Next steps

Recreation Facility and Activity Policy

Provide a regional system of recreation opportunities for all residents, while maintaining the integrity of the natural resource base within the Regional Parks System.

Four Strategies

- Activities in regional parks must be tied to the natural resources of the parks, but not adversely affect them
- Most heavy recreational use should be accommodated in the more urban regional parks
- Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails among all residents, across race, ethnicity, income, and ability
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be coordinated between the Regional Parks System and the transportation system

Reactions Heard to Date

Strategy 1: Activities in regional parks must be tied to the natural resources of the parks, but not adversely affect them. [p. 65]

- Outdoor recreation opportunities in the Regional Parks System depend on a high quality natural resource base. Recognize the tension that exists between the provision of these opportunities and conservation.
- Move toward a more flexible, performance-based system to evaluate whether an activity is appropriate.
- Remove out-of-date language.

Reactions Heard to Date

Strategy 2: Most heavy recreational use should be accommodated in the more urban regional parks.

- Expand strategy language to recognize that the spectrum of opportunities in the Regional Parks System – from developed, heavy-use areas to more natural, low impact areas – do not always match the pattern of urbanization.

Reactions Heard to Date

Strategy 3: Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails among all residents, across race, ethnicity, income, and ability.

- Most of “Equity” language in this strategy is up-to-date and on target.
- Remove project prioritization associated with grant programs.
- Implement equity grant program.

Reactions Heard to Date

Strategy 4: Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be coordinated between the Regional Parks System and the transportation system.

- Foster better coordination between Regional Trails and the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network.
- Recognize that Regional Trails (including Greenways) provide commuting benefits.
- Agency leaders will provide input to the Transportation Policy Plan update.

Next Steps

- May 21: Final CDC discussion of Regional Parks Policy Plan
- June 18: CDC takes action on release draft of the updated Regional Parks Policy Plan for public comment
- August: Public hearing at CDC
- October: CDC votes to approve the update



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