

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: January 21, 2020

Subject: Draft Equity Analysis Requirement for Park and Trail Master Plans

Council Members: All

Policy/Legal Reference: *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Chapter 5: Planning Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Darcie Vandegrift, Principal Researcher (651-602-1669) and Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* commits the Council to develop an equity analysis requirement for master plans. A park or trail master plan is a long-term vision document that park implementing agencies create to guide the development of a park or trail unit. The master plan process includes significant public engagement. The requirement is designed to ensure that questions of who benefits and who is affected by the development of a regional recreational resource will be included in all regional park and trail master plans. To develop this draft requirement the Council worked in collaboration with Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, Metropolitan Council's Equity Advisory Committee, and implementing agency staff to define an approach that advances equitable use of the Regional Parks System across race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, and age.

The 2018 update of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* added the expectation to create an equity analysis requirement to address equity priorities early in the park or trail unit development process. The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and *Thrive MSP 2040* offer framing language to shape development of the equity analysis requirement. Additionally, the draft requirement was informed by the equity toolkit for funding and the equity grant program processes. This requirement will be implemented three months after Council action in early 2020 and added to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* during the next amendment scheduled for the latter half of 2020 as part of CDC's 2020 work plan. Regular dialogue and technical assistance will be an important feature of early implementation.

During this information item, Council staff will discuss the draft Equity Analysis Requirement, the development process, and the advice that shaped it. This includes input from the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission's December 5, 2019, meeting where their feedback helped shape the following proposed Equity Analysis Requirement. Council staff also seek to build awareness and advice from the Committee on the proposed language.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This information item focuses on the outcome of Equity, as it will explore how best to strengthen equitable use of the Regional Parks System through the development of Regional Park Master Plans.

Draft Equity Analysis Requirement for Master Plans

Chapter 5 Planning Policy and Strategies, Strategy 1 Master Plan Requirements

Equity Analysis: An examination of the public engagement process and outcomes for stakeholders by race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, age, and other pertinent characteristics.

1. Project Data:

- a. **Scope:** What are the boundaries and demographics of the public engagement area? Please consider neighborhoods adjacent to the park or trail, travel sheds, and agency/regional boundaries.
- b. **Context:** What is known about future stakeholders, underserved populations, and how the region's history created present-day inequitable outcomes?

2. Public Engagement and Participation:

- a. **Participants:** Which stakeholders discussed in 1b contributed to the planning effort? The following list is illustrative of stakeholders to consider including youth, Black, indigenous, and people of color communities, people with disabilities, low-income populations, populations age 60 and over, and neighborhood/regional groups that participated as planning staff, community advisory committee members, outreach liaisons, and the general public.
- b. **Engagement:** What engagement, outreach, and communication was conducted for stakeholders described in 2a? Please identify the level of public impact on the *International Association for Public Participation's* Public Participation Spectrum and requisite engagement strategies for each stakeholder group. Please consider culturally competent and community representative staffing, training, locations, times, public awareness, and input approaches.
- c. **Public Participation:** What did you learn from the engagement conducted in 2b? Please summarize the advice you heard into themes and identify the contributing stakeholder.

3. Evaluation Summary:

- a. **Transparency:** How did the public participation from 2c impact the decisions and policies made? Please consider input that advances, supports, coincides, and diverges from the master plan.
- b. **Accountability:** How will the planning effort create better outcomes? Please consider outcomes related to regional and local access, quality of experience, facility rules/policy, and reporting back about 3a to stakeholders discussed in 2a.