

CD-Research Overview and 2025 Workplan

Community Development Committee



CD Research overview



Generate credible, actionable, information and insights that advance equitable policy, services, and resource decisions

- Team of more than 20 researchers and data scientists with broad expertise
- Collaborative, highly integrated within other CD departments and across the Council
- Service-oriented

CD Research Department Overview

Four work units within the department

Data development and analysis

Rigorous quantitative data development and analysis

Manager: Luis Estevez

Policy support and development

Research and leadership on major regional policy and planning initiatives

Senior Manager: Joel Huting

Qualitative Research

People-centered, rigorous qualitative data collection and analysis

Manager:
Darcie Vandegrift

Strategy and **Product Design**

User-centered research products made accessible through design

Manager: Krysten Ryba-Tures

CD Research Workplan

Major 2025 work

Data Development and Analysis

- Population estimates
- Parks use estimates
- Land use inventory
- Development trends

Policy Support and Development

- Regional Economic Framework
- Climate pollution reduction grant
- Population/employment forecasts
- Natural systems technical assistance

Strategy and Product Design

- Regional indicators
- Community profiles overhaul
- User research
- Interactive data visualization

- Residential preferences of HRA voucher holders
- Imagine 2050 goals & frameworks implementation

CD Research Workplan

Four work units, major 2025 work

Data Development and Analysis

- Population estimates
- Parks use estimates
- Land use inventory
- Development trends

Strategy and Product Design

- Regional indicators
- Community profiles overhaul
- User research
- Interactive data visualization

Policy Support and Development

- Regional Economic Framework
- Climate pollution reduction grant
- Population/employment forecasts
- Natural systems technical assistance

- Residential preferences of HRA voucher holders
- Imagine 2050 goals & frameworks implementation

CD Research Workplan

Four work units, major 2025 work

Data Development and Analysis

- Population estimates
- Parks use estimates
- Land use inventory
- Development trends

Policy Support and Development

- Regional Economic Framework
- Climate pollution reduction grant
- Population/employment forecasts
- Natural systems technical assistance

Strategy and Product Design

- Regional indicators
- Community profiles overhaul
- User research
- Interactive data visualization

- Residential preferences of HRA voucher holders
- Imagine 2050 goals & frameworks implementation

CD Research Workplan

Four work units, major 2025 work

Data Development and Analysis

- Population estimates
- Parks use estimates
- Land use inventory
- Development trends

Strategy and Product Design

- Regional indicators
- Community profiles overhaul
- User research
- Interactive data visualization

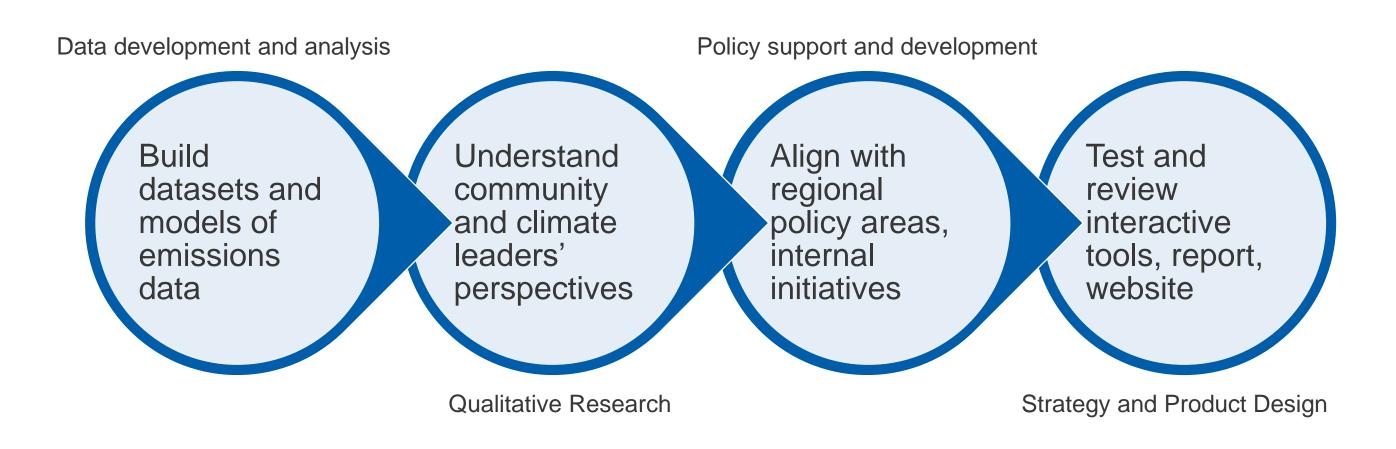
Policy Support and Development

- Regional Economic Framework
- Climate pollution reduction grant
- Population/employment forecasts
- Natural systems technical assistance

- Residential preferences of HRA voucher holders
- *Imagine 2050* goals & frameworks implementation

Many "all hands" research projects

Example: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant



Interactive Tools

Underway (2025)

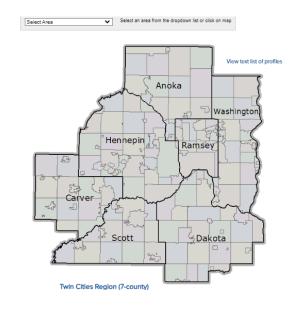
- Imagine 2050 technical assistance
- Revisions/updates

Next (2026 -)

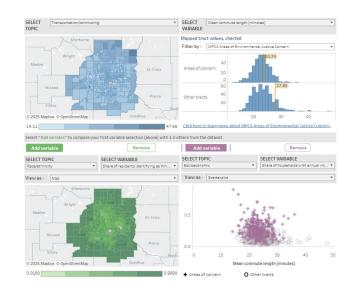
- Community Profiles
- Measurement dashboards
- Strategically streamline

Much of our research is published through online interactive tools available at metrocouncil.org/research

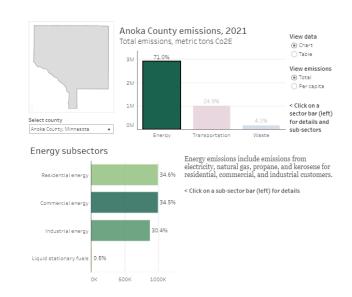
COMMUNITY PROFILES



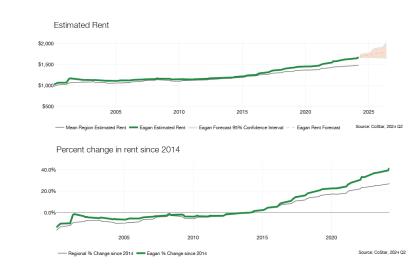
EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS



GHG INVENTORY



RENT TRENDS



Reports and presentations

Underway (2025)

- Annual estimates
- Housing and development

Next (2026 -)

- Regional forecast update
- Regional Economic Forecast

We publish reports and present findings of our analyses at metrocouncil.org/research

2023 population estimates As of April 1, 2023, the Twin Cities region had: Housina 1.357.357 +62.494 +4.8% Households 1,287,944 +48.418 +3.9% 3,222,455 +59,351 +1.9% n: Metropolitan Council population estimates for April 1, 2023. "I. tion of the Metropolitan Council (<u>Minn. Stat. § 473.121, subd. 2</u>)

Development trends: How much? 2023 housing production dropped considerably

Source: Metropolitan Council's Annual Building Permit Surve

region's p Historical erasing o Workforo and com The Twin The 2023 regio bringing our tot our recent past per decade are The Twin Cities due to the eco pation rates (th employers stru before employ million by 2050 FIGURE 1 - 202: Population The demograp we update this by Met Council a regional econon This regional for site at https://

growth to specifi

REGION

- The Twin Cities region will gain 657,000 residents between 2020 and 2050, bringing the region's total population to 3,820,000. Less domestic migration is expected during the forecast period, contributing to slower population growth.
- Two concurrent, demographic trends will take place by 2050: the aging of the region's baby boomers and rapid growth

Tracking visits to regional parks and trails

This report was re-published with corrections in August 2024

Visits to the Regional Parks and Trails System in 2023

- An estimated 69.5 million visits were made to the Regional Parks and Trails System in 2023, a slight increase from
 - Minneapolis Chain of Lakes was the most visited regional park with more than 7.5 million visits, followed by Mississipp Gorge Regional Park with over 3.8 million visits.
 - The regional system includes 523 miles of trails, with annual trail use exceeding 20 million visits. Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail was the most visited regional trail with almost 2.9 million visits, followed by Lake Links Regional Trail with

The Regional Parks and Trails System is nationally renowned for its beauty, size, and wide range of features. With 44 regional parks, 12 park reserves, eight special recreation features and more than 500 miles of regional trails, the system offers visitors ample opportunities for gathering, contemplation, recreation, and fun. It also preserves

The Metropolitan Council produces estimates for visits to the Regional Parks and Trails System. We collaborate with 10 partner agencies—including cities, counties, and special parks districts—to estimate the number of visits to the system annually. Park agencies collect visitation data from each regional park and trail during the summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day) then we use those results, and data collected from the lastest Parks and Trails Visitors Study, to calculate annual estimates. Annual use estimates allow us to monitor trends over time and inform grant funding formulas for each partner agency. This report highlights key learnings from the 2023 use estimates

An estimated 69.5 million visits were made to the Regional Parks and Trails System in 2023 (Figure 1). This represents a 0.55% increase from 2022, when visits were estimated at 69

Last year, the regional trail system expanded by 14 miles for a total of 523 miles. However, overall trail use dipped slightly by 1,4%, primar ily driven by the long-term temporary closure of the Minneapolis Kenilworth Regional Trail due to Southwest Light Rail construction (Figure 1). Without the effect of this closure, trail visits would have increased by over 490,000 visits, contributing another 2.4% over current estimated visits in 2023. Trail use continues to grow across the system.

Visits to regional parks, park reserves, and special recreation features increased slightly at 1.4% between 2022 and 2023.

FIGURE 1. VISITS ESSENTIALLY FLAT IN 2023 Annual visits to the Regional Parks and Trails System Source: Metropolitan Council's annual parks and trails use estimates (July 2024).

1 The full methodology for annual park use estimates and detailed estimates by unit type is available at https://metrocouncil.org/parkestim

Data development

Underway (2025)

- Natural systems and climate
- Annual population estimates
- Housing and development

Next (2026 -)

- Land use inventory
- Park and Trail Visitor Study

Lastly, some of our data may be less visible but available to download at metrocouncil.org/research

Download data

Affordable housing construction	 Building permits, commercial, industrial and public
O Building permits, residential	O Commuting data
O Demographic, economic, and commuting data from the U.S. Census Bureau	○ Employment
Employment forecasts	O Housing affordability estimates
O Housing choice vouchers	O Housing stock
O Industry type	Land use inventory
Land use, regional planned	Manufactured home parks
O Population and household estimates	O Population and household forecasts
O Price of existing home sales	○ Wages
Select a geographic level for the data:	
City or Township	O Totals for the seven-county region
O County	All transit Station Areas
NEXT	

We publish spatial datasets to download on the MN Geospatial Commons **gisdata.mn.gov/**





Joel Huting

Senior Manager, Community Development Research

