

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: August 5, 2014

**Subject:** 2013 Regional Parks System Use Estimate

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** N/A

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Raintry Salk, PhD, Senior Parks Researcher, (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.

Highlights from the 2013 use estimate will be provided.

### Rationale

The use estimate is specified as one component used in funding formulas to determine regional park implementing agency's share of Capital Improvement Program and Parks and Trails Legacy Fund dollars.

### Funding

Regional park implementing agencies are responsible for expenses related to randomly scheduled visitor counts conducted in their units of the Regional Parks System.

### Known Support / Opposition

Not applicable.