

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: March 11, 2014

**Subject:** 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Discussion regarding strengthening equitable usage of the regional parks system.

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statute 473.147

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Rainry Salk, PhD Senior Researcher (651 602-1669) and Jan Youngquist, AICP Planning Analyst (651 602-1029)

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

### Proposed Action

Information item only. No action required.

### Background

*Thrive MSP 2040* includes policy direction for the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. One of the policy directions states that the Council will collaborate with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, regional park implementing agencies and State partners to: “Strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region’s residents, such as across race, ethnicity, class, age, ability and immigrant status”.

This discussion will be the first of two focused on the *Thrive MSP 2040* direction to strengthen equitable usage of the regional parks system. An overview of equity, as put forward by *Thrive MSP 2040*, will be revisited and discussion will focus on potential policy direction responses, particularly in light of changing demographics and recent research findings focused on communities of color. The initial discussion will be continued with Community Development Committee members at the Joint MPOSC/CDC meeting on April 7th. The policy direction for the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan will be confirmed at the special MPOSC meeting on April 22.

### Rationale

Minnesota Statute 473.147 states that the Metropolitan Council shall consult with and make maximum use of the expertise of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission in preparing the policy plan.

### Funding

Not Applicable

### Known Support / Opposition

Not Applicable