

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: August 9, 2016

**Subject:** Annual Use Estimate of the Regional Parks System for 2015

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

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

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Raintry Salk, Research Analyst, (651) 602-1669

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

### 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 estimate is used in funding formulas to determine regional park implementing agency's share of Operations and Maintenance Funding, Capital Improvement Program, and Parks and Trails Legacy Fund dollars.

The use estimates are 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. The count data 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 2015 use estimate will be provided.