

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: August 2, 2019

Subject: Equity analysis requirement for park and trail master plans

MPOSC Members: All

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

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Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

The Council requires individual master plans for each regional park, park reserve, regional trail, and special recreation feature. The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Chapter 5, Planning Policy and Strategies, outlines a commitment that in 2019, "Council Staff will convene a collaborative process that includes implementing agency staff, equity partners, and advisors to define tools and approaches for the master plan equity analysis." An equity analysis requirement for master plans will ensure that questions of who benefits and who is affected by the development of a resource will be included in all regional park facilities master plans.

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and *Thrive MSP 2040* offer framing language to shape development of the equity analysis requirement. Additionally, previous guidance from the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC), Metropolitan Council's Equity Advisory Committee, implementing agency staff, and Council staff have yielded a robust set of priorities that have been used in developing the equity toolkit for funding applications and the equity grant program for targeted investment in capital projects. These efforts seek to increase equitable use of the Regional Parks System, across race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, and age. An equity analysis requirement for regional park system master plans will establish equity priorities from the outset of park and trail master planning.

During this information item, Council Staff request input from MPOSC as outlined in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. Specifically, the information item seeks to collaborate with MPOSC with early expression of preferred solutions through discussion guided by the following two questions:

- What would an equitable regional park and trail system look like?
- How can the master planning process create a unique opportunity for building a more equitable park and trail system?

Thrive Lens Analysis

This presentation will focus on the outcome of Equity, as it will explore the specific equity opportunities in the development of Regional Park Master Plans