

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: December 5, 2019

Subject: System Wide: Regional Trails and Secondary Recreational Opportunities

MPOSC Members: All

Policy/Legal Reference: *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Chapter 3: System Plan and Chapter 7: Recreation Activities and Facilities Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tracey Kinney, Planner (651-602-1029), Adam Arvidson, Director of Strategic Planning, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, (612-230-6470), Alice Messer, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Manager, Parks and Recreation Design & Construction, (651-266-6412)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

Background

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Saint Paul have separate master plan requests that propose innovations for regional trails and recreational uses to meet changing recreational preferences. These requests:

- add recreational uses to regional trails similar to those available at regional parks, and
- propose stakeholder-requested secondary recreational uses and includes art.

Since park or trail master plans are long-term visions that can take 20-years or more to be fully implemented, considering future stakeholders and underserved populations' requests are important to increasing equitable access to the Regional Parks System.

The Council defines criteria for regional trails and secondary recreational opportunities. The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Chapter 3, System Plan, outlines regional trails as “[a]rea(s) developed for one or more varying modes of nonmotorized recreational travel such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and canoeing.” Additionally, the 2018 update of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Chapter 7, Recreation Activities and Facilities, introduced the idea that recreational uses that are “[s]econdary or support activities and/or facilities should complement the primary use. Support facilities could serve specific users and communities, enhancing the desirability of the primary facility.”

During this information item, Council staff in partnership with two implementing agencies, request the Commission’s advice on system-wide criteria for regional trails and secondary recreational uses in relation to increasing equitable access to the Regional Parks System. Specific questions to be discussed are:

1. What recreational uses should be included with regional trails?
2. What types of secondary recreational opportunities should be considered?

Thrive Lens Analysis

The System-Wide Regional Trail Corridor Land and Secondary Recreational Opportunities Information Item advances the Thrive outcome of Equity through strengthening equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region’s residents, such as across age, race, ethnicity, income, national origin, and ability. Additionally, this information item seeks to

advance the Thrive Principle of Collaboration, by recognizing that shared efforts advance our region most effectively toward shared outcomes.