

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: March 5, 2019

**Subject:** Competitive Equity Grant Program Update

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Finance Policy – Strategy 4

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks Manager (651-602-1360), Amanda Lovelee, Senior Outreach Coordinator (651-602-1375)

**Division/Department:** Community Development / Regional Planning

### Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed.

### Background

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* update, adopted in 2018, commits the Council to developing a set-aside, competitive equity grant program in 2019 to strengthen equitable use of the Regional Parks System. To develop this program, the Council is working in close collaboration with regional park implementing agencies, advisory groups, and other partners to formulate criteria and measures for awarding grants to regional park implementing agencies for projects aimed at advancing equitable usage of the system.

Staff will present input to date from the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, Council staff, Equity Advisory Committee, and Implementing Agencies staff; discuss a planned timeline to award grants in 2019; and seek further input on program development.

### Rationale

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Finance Policy – Strategy 4 states that equity is a consideration in the Regional Parks System funding and investment. The equity grant program is one key Council strategy for advancing equity in the region.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The competitive equity grant program seeks to advance the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcome of equity by advancing the equitable usage of the Regional Parks System by all residents of the region.

### Funding

Funding for the equity grant program is included in the Council's adopted 2019 budget.