

2021 Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program: Program Priorities

December 3, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



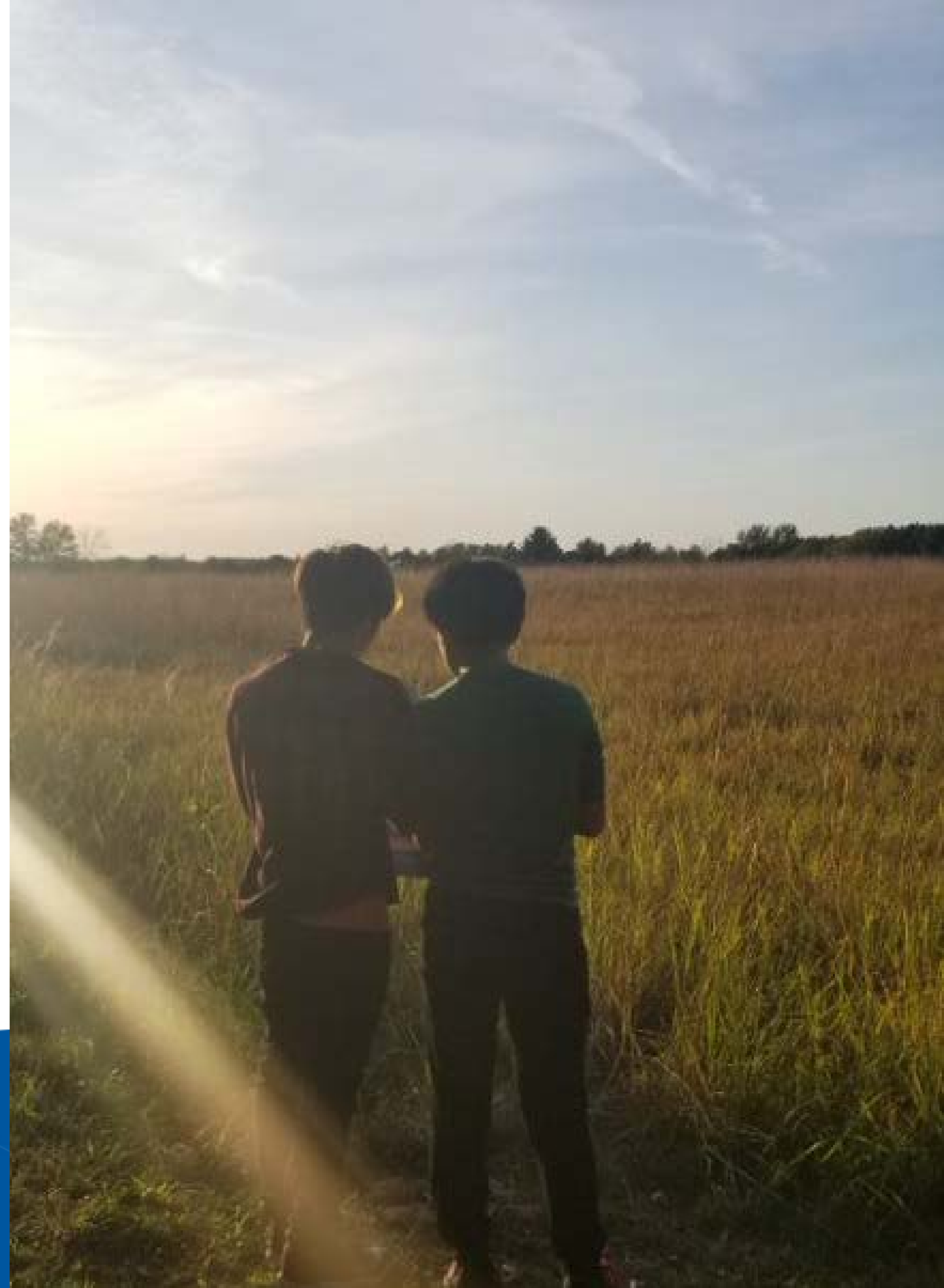
Purpose of today's discussion



- Share proposed Regional Parks System Equity Grant Program priorities based on what we learned at MPOSC, Community Development Committee, Agency meetings, and through research
- Provide opportunity for input on the 2021 program development

Equity Grant Program Focus Areas

- Projects must advance equitable use of the Regional Parks System with a focus on one or more of the following:
 - Race
 - Ethnicity
 - Income
 - Ability
 - Age
 - National Origin



Funding for the Equity Grant Program



Council bonds for capital projects	\$664,000
Parks interest earnings for non-capital/programming projects	\$1,400,000
TOTAL	\$2,064,000

Competitive Capital Projects

- Applications may range from \$20,000 to \$200,000
- Agencies may submit multiple grant applications, but no agency may receive more than a total of \$200,000 in capital funds
- Examples include park and trail signage, mobile classrooms, bike fleets, accessible facilities, and public art
 - Engagement/outreach may be included in the budget for capital projects if it directly informs the project being proposed

Competitive Programming/Non-Capital Projects

- Applications may range from \$20,000 to \$200,000
- Agencies may submit multiple applications, but no agency may receive more than a total of \$200,000 in non-capital funds
- Examples of programming projects include outdoor education and skill building, events, outreach, partnership-building, marketing, communications, training, translation and interpretation services, developing an ADA transition plan, and new programming staff
- Non-capital projects may include budgeting for equipment valued at less than \$5,000 (such as basic essential outdoor equipment)

Review Process

- A review team will score the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the Council
- The review team will be comprised of:
 - Up to 4 Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission members
 - Up to 3 Community Development Committee members
 - Up to 2 Equity Advisory Committee members
 - Up to 3 Implementing Agency representatives



Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

- Uses criteria from 2019 pilot program for 2021 program as a foundation
 - Condensed for a simpler review process
- Prioritize programming, partnership building, and internal collaboration with outreach staff
- 5 review categories:
 - Impact on equitable use
 - Community partnerships
 - Community engagement
 - Capacity building
 - Programming initiatives



Project Timelines and Reporting



- 3-year grant terms
 - Possible one-year extension
- Semi-annual reports
- Final outcomes report prior to final reimbursement

Next Steps

- January: bring the Notice of Funding Availability to MPOSC
- February: application period opens for approximately 6 weeks
- March/April: staff review of applications
- April/May: review committee meets and provides funding recommendations
- June: staff brings funding recommendations to the Council for approval

Discussion

- Do the priorities reflect MPOSC's thoughts/priorities?
- Are there areas that are unclear or that could use additional clarity or explanation?
- Are you comfortable moving forward with the next steps?



Questions, Comments, and Discussion

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