

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: February 6, 2020

For the Community Development Committee meeting of February 18, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 26, 2020

Subject: Equity Analysis Requirement for Regional Park and Trail Master Planning

MPOSC Members: All

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

Staff Prepared/Presented: Darcie Vandegrift, Principal Researcher (651-602-1669) and Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the Equity Analysis Requirement for Park and Trail Master Plans as contained in this report with an effective date of June 1, 2020.
2. Advise Regional Parks Implementing Agencies that Park and Trail Master Plans submitted to the Council on or after June 1, 2020, will need to address the Equity Analysis Requirement.

Background

The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* commits the Council to develop an equity analysis requirement for master plans. A park or trail master plan is a long-term vision document that park implementing agencies create to guide the development of a park or trail unit. The master plan process should include significant public engagement. The requirement is designed to ensure that questions of who benefits and who is affected by the development of a regional recreational resource will be addressed in all regional park and trail master plans.

To develop this draft requirement the Council worked in collaboration with the Community Development Committee, Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, Metropolitan Council's Equity Advisory Committee, and implementing agency staff to define an approach that advances equitable use of the Regional Parks System across race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, and age.

The 2018 update of the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* added the expectation to create an equity analysis requirement to address equity priorities early in the park or trail unit development process. The *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and *Thrive MSP 2040* offer framing language to shape development of the equity analysis requirement. Additionally, the draft requirement was informed by the equity toolkit for funding and the equity grant program processes. This requirement will be implemented three months after Council action in early 2020. Further, it will be included in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* during the next amendment scheduled for the latter half of 2020 as part of the Community Development Committee's 2020 work plan. Regular dialogue and technical assistance will be an important feature of early implementation.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Equity Analysis Requirement furthers the outcome of Equity, as it will support how best to strengthen equitable use of the Regional Parks System through the development of Regional Park Master Plans.

Proposed Equity Analysis Requirement for Master Plans

Chapter 5 Planning Policy and Strategies, Strategy 1 Master Plan Requirements

Equity Analysis: An examination of the public engagement process and outcomes for stakeholders by race, ethnicity, national origin, income, ability, age, and other pertinent characteristics.

1. Project Data:

- a. **Scope:** What are the boundaries and demographics of the public engagement area? Please consider neighborhoods adjacent to the park or trail, travel sheds, and agency/regional boundaries.
- b. **Context:** What is known about future stakeholders, underserved populations, and how the region's history created present-day inequitable outcomes?

2. Public Engagement and Participation:

- a. **Participants:** Which stakeholders discussed in 1b contributed to the planning effort? The following list is illustrative of stakeholders to consider including youth, Black, indigenous, and people of color communities, people with disabilities, low-income populations, populations age 60 and over, and neighborhood/regional groups that participated as planning staff, community advisory committee members, outreach liaisons, and the general public.
- b. **Engagement:** What engagement, outreach, and communication was conducted for stakeholders described in 2a? Please identify the level of public impact on the *International Association for Public Participation's* Public Participation Spectrum and requisite engagement strategies for each stakeholder group. Please consider culturally competent and community representative staffing, training, locations, times, public awareness, and input approaches.
- c. **Public Participation:** What did you learn from the engagement conducted in 2b? Please summarize the advice you heard into themes and identify the contributing stakeholder.

3. Evaluation Summary:

- a. **Transparency:** How did the public participation from 2c impact the decisions and policies made? Please consider input that advances, supports, coincides, and diverges from the master plan.
- b. **Accountability:** How will the planning effort create better outcomes? Please consider outcomes related to regional and local access, quality of experience, facility rules/policy, and reporting back about 3a to stakeholders discussed in 2a.