

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: February 3, 2022

**Subject:** Regional Parks Equity Mapping Tool

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** NA

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Darcie Vandegrift, Principal Researcher (651-602-1669)

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

### Proposed Action

None; information and discussion only.

### Background

*Thrive MSP 2040* directs the Council to collaborate with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission, regional park implementing agencies, and state partners to strengthen equitable use of regional parks and trails.

To support Implementing Agency partners in their completion of the equity analysis requirement for park and trail long range (a.k.a. master) planning, an interactive tool was created to illustrate who lives in proximity to park and trail units. The interactive provides data on the characteristics of residents near parks and trails in the Twin Cities' regional system. It provides a snapshot of who lives there today, and the population changes forecasted to 2040.

Users can create valuable, data-driven analyses through this app. However, demographic data are most powerful when used as starting point. In other words, the Census and Council data does not substitute for engagement with prioritized stakeholders. The on-the-ground knowledge of agency staff and the community expertise of residents are also valued sources of information who are able to enhance and refine the shared understanding of this data.

The Council developed this interactive tool primarily for regional park agency planning, outreach, programming, research and other agency staff. It is available for anyone who wants detailed information about demographic data surrounding the existing and future regional parks and trails system. The tool can be used for planning, outreach and engagement, programming, and research.

The tool is located here: <https://metrotransitm.n.shinyapps.io/regional-parks-equity-tool/>

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The tool advances the *Thrive MSP 2040* Outcome of Equity, recognizing that through disaggregating populations served in long-range planning, we will strengthen the equitable use of the Regional Parks System.