



# Roles of the Commission Continuation

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space  
Commission

October 6, 2022



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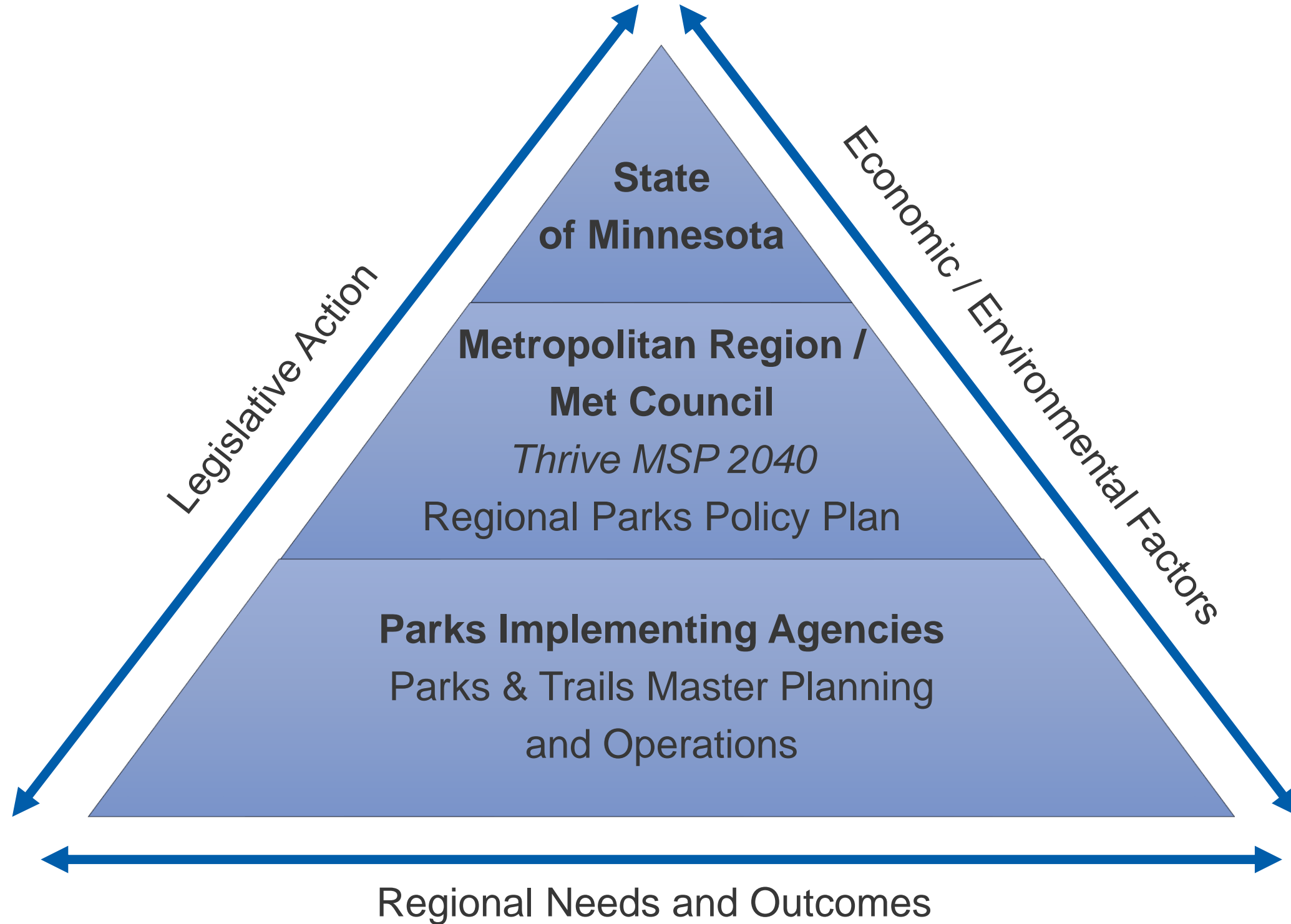
# Parks & Open Space



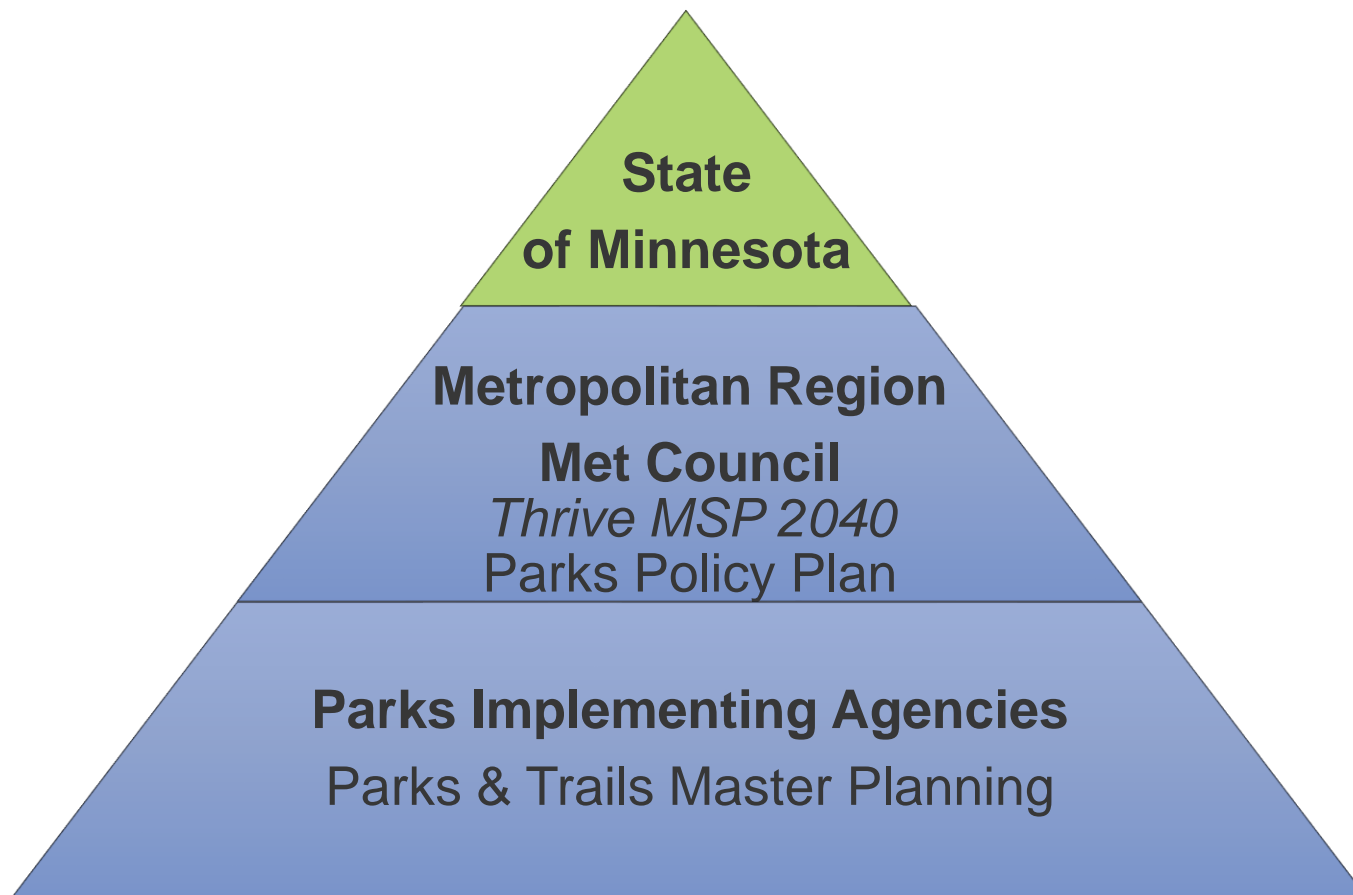
## Regional Parks System

- Over **64** million visits in 2021
- **56** regional parks & parks reserves totaling more than **54,000** acres
- **55** regional trails, with over **415** miles of interconnected trails
- **8** special recreation features
- **10** regional park implementing agency partners

# System Alignment



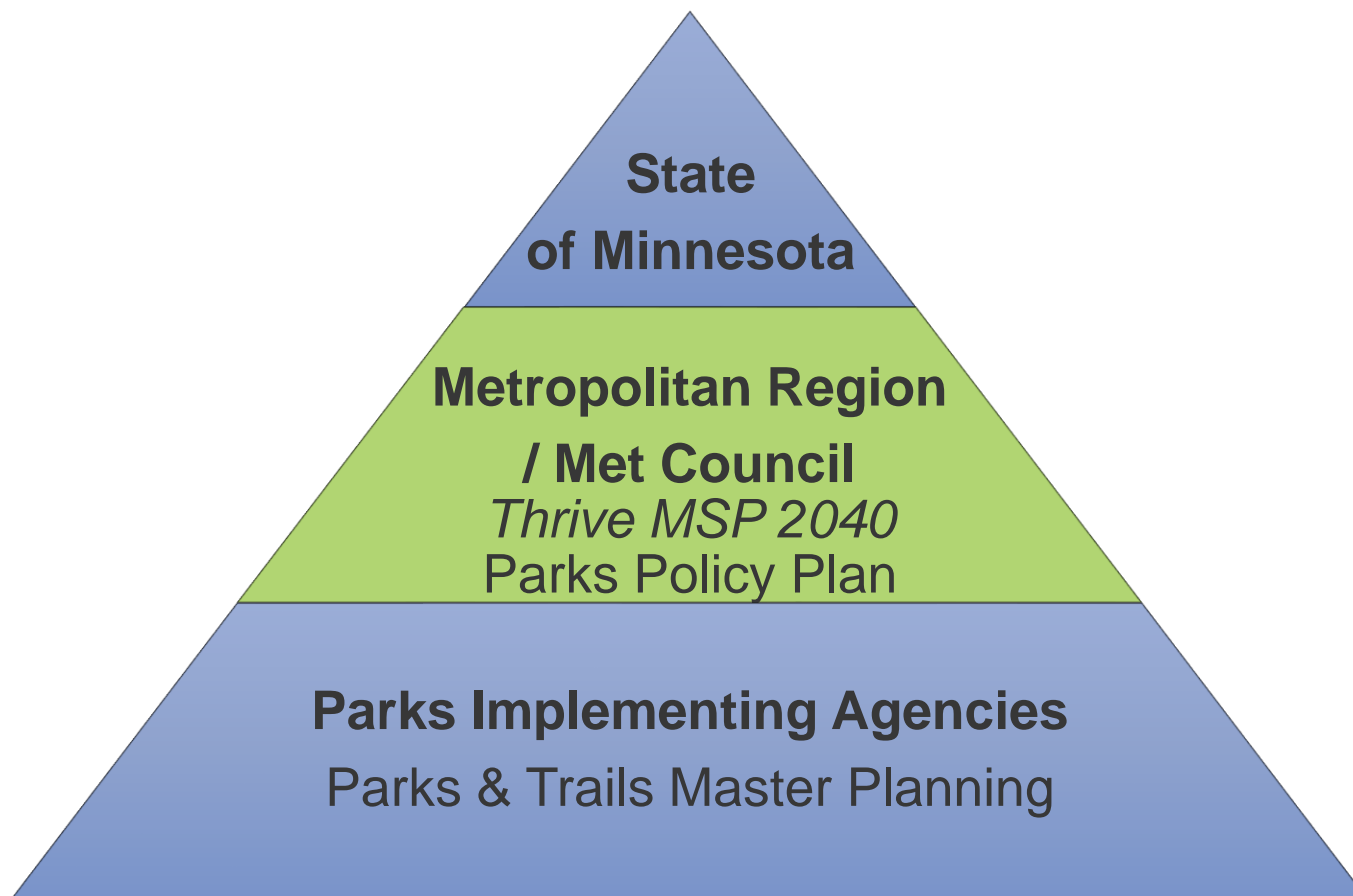
# System Alignment



## Legislative Direction

- Create regional parks and open space system
- Define role and authority of Council in parks and open space system
- Define role and authority of Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
- Appropriate funding

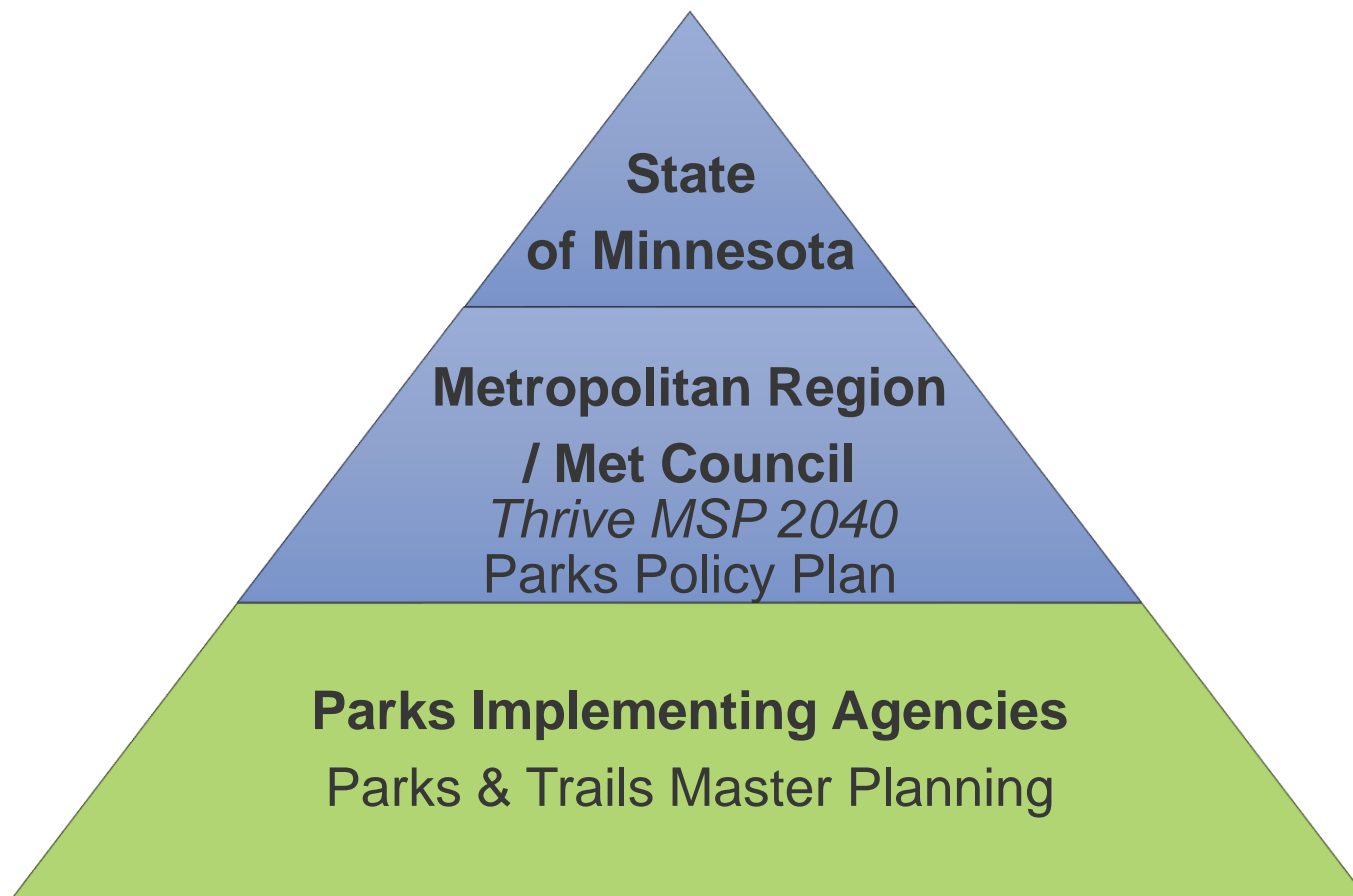
# System Alignment



## Key Council Roles

- Develop regional policy: *Thrive MSP 2040*
- Develop Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Review regional parks and trails master plans
- Consult with Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
- Fiscal agent

# System Alignment



## Key Agency Roles

- Lead regional park and trail master planning, including public engagement
- Acquire, develop, and operate regional parks and trails
- Protect and conserve natural resources
- Provide outdoor recreation for public enjoyment

# Metropolitan Council Advisory Committees

**The Council  
conducts its work  
through a variety of  
advisory committees**

★ **Metropolitan Parks and Open  
Space Commission**

- Audit Committee
- Equity Advisory Committee
- Land Use Advisory Committee
- Livable Communities Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee
- Transportation Advisory Board



# Establishment of MPOSC



## **Minn. Stat. §§ 473.302 and 473.303**

- Establish the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission as an agency of the Council
- Advise the Council on setting policy in the Regional Parks System to acquire, preserve, protect and develop regional recreational open space for public use



# Master Planning



## **Minn. Stat. § 473.313 Master Plans**

- The Metropolitan Council shall review master plans with the advice of the commission for consistency with the Regional Parks Policy Plan

Master Plans set vision and are local implementation of policy.

- MPOSC sets policy through development of the Regional Parks Policy Plan.
- Decennial update of the Regional Development Guide and Parks Policy Plan

# Grants for Recreation Open Space



## **M.S. 473.315 Grants for Recreation Open Space**

- The Metropolitan Council with the advice of the commission may make grants, from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to any implementing agency, to cover the cost or any portion of the cost of acquiring or developing the regional recreation open space in accordance with the policy plan

# Regional Parks System Revenue



## State & Council Funding

- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund (Legacy)
  - Includes Statutory 10% set-aside
- Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
  - Support for Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Program
- State of Minnesota Bonds
- Council Bonds
  - Up to \$40M outstanding
  - Match \$2 Council to every \$3 State.
- Operations and Maintenance Funding
- Interest Earnings

# Regional Parks Capital Funding

Program	Funding Source Distribution Methodology
Parks & Trails Legacy	• State matched by Council bonds • Formula
Parks Acquisition	• State matched by Council bonds • 1st come, 1st serve
Bonding	• State matched by Council bonds • Formula
Equity	• Council funds • Competitive

- Grant programs are funded by multiple state sources and Council bonds
- Council passes through 100% of state funding
- Current portfolio is 195 active projects valued at ~ \$133M
- \$234M in grants are programmed in the current Council Authorized Capital Improvement Program (2022-2027)

# MPOSC Role in Funding



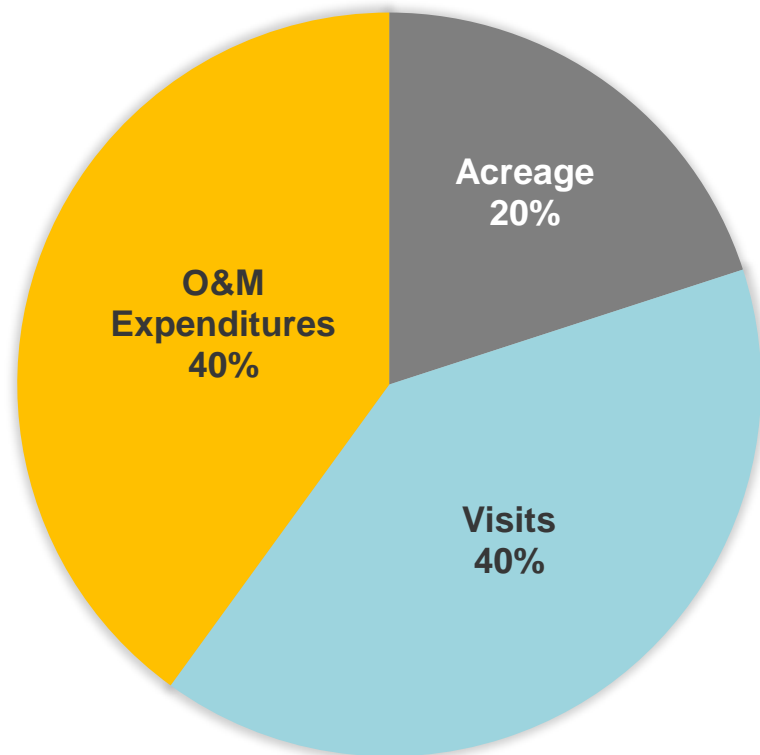
## Advise planning and funding

- Agencies provide system-wide overviews of projects, including equity highlights
- MPOSC provides advice, guidance, and oversight
- MPOSC along with implementing agencies help illuminate who benefits from the regional parks system

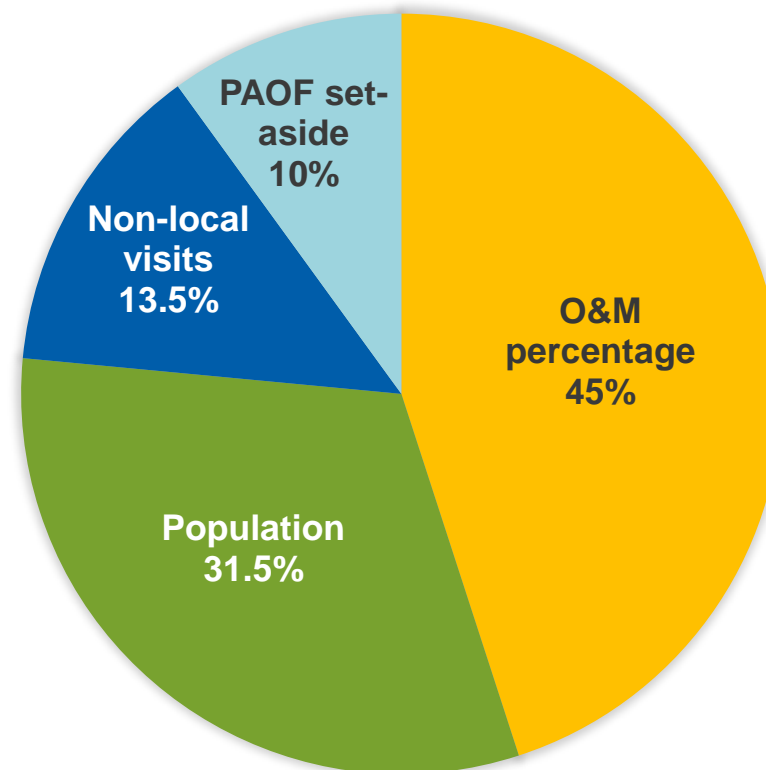
# Shares Calculator

## Inputs for Shares Calculator Formulas

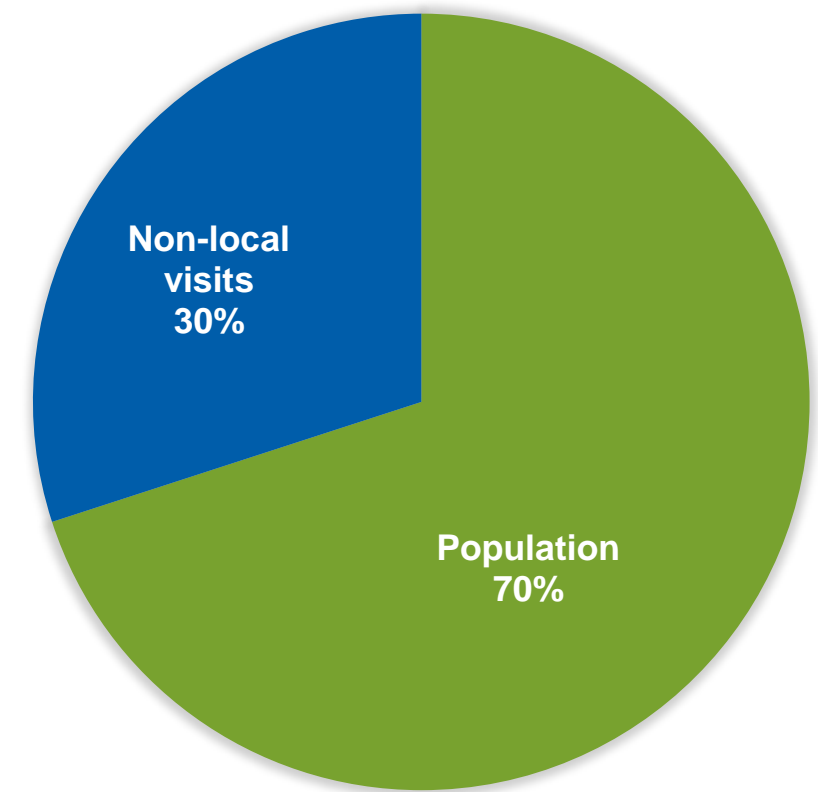
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)



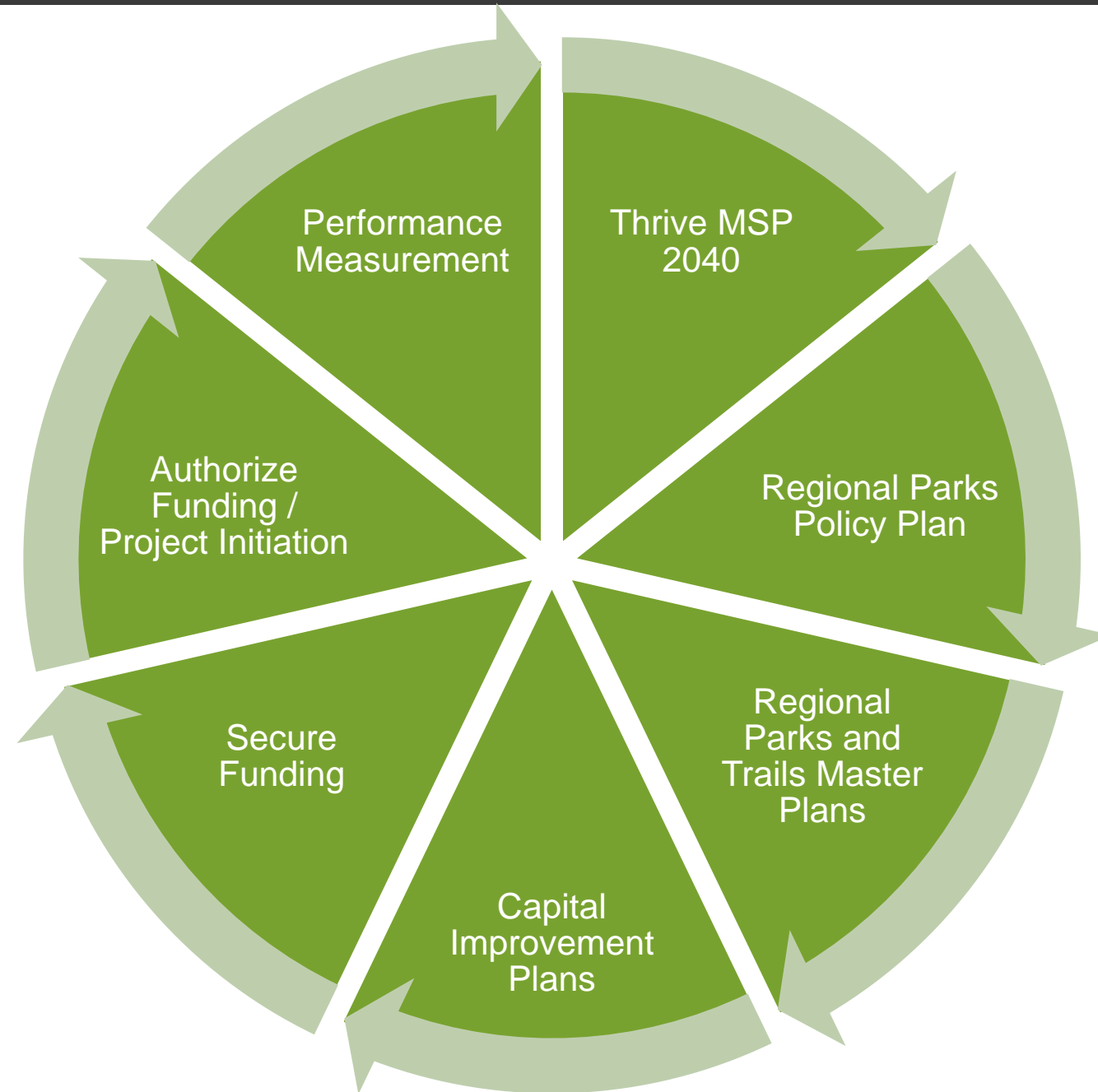
PARKS & TRAILS LEGACY



BONDING



# Regional Parks Capital Project Lifecycle



## Equity Impacts

- *Thrive MSP 2040*
- *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
- Master Planning
- Competitive Grant Solicitations

# Regional Parks System: Project Lifecycle

Description C	Type	MPOSC Role
Regional Development Plan	Policy	Gain input and advice through discussion
Regional Parks Policy Plan	Policy	Formal recommendation
Parks and Trails Master Plan	Plan	Formal recommendation
Legacy Proposed Projects	Formula Funding	Gain input and advice through discussion. Appropriation language states local governing boards have power to determine project lists.
Bonding Proposed Projects	Formula Funding	Gain input and advice through discussion.
Final Legacy Grant Awards	Formula Funding	Project changes from original list of proposed projects shared during monthly Parks Manager report.
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Operation & Maintenance Awards	Formula Funding	Gain input and advice through discussion
Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund	1 <sup>st</sup> come, 1 <sup>st</sup> served funding	Formal recommendation
Equity Grant Program Notice of Fund Availability	Competitive Funding	Formal recommendation.
Equity Grant Program Awards	Competitive Funding	Formal Recommendation. Some Commissioners participate in the grant scoring review committee.



# Project Lifecycle: Five Areas of Intersection




- Informing policy development
- Master plan review
- Formula disbursement of funding
- Acquisition funding
- Equity Grant Program policy and competitive project selection
- And a whole lot more.






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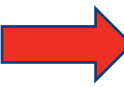
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# Discussion

What are your questions?

