Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting Date: June 1, 2023

Topic

Parks and Trails Legacy Funded Streetlight Research Project Findings and Summary

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Parks and Trails 25-year long-range plan for Minnesota, Coordinate Among Partners Pillar
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Raven McKnight, Associate Data Scientist (612-474-4733)
	Ellen Esch, Senior Data Scientist
Division/Department:	Research/ Community Development

Proposed Action

Information item; no action is proposed.

Background

The Metropolitan Council, in collaboration with Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources and the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, studied park and trail use across Minnesota using location-based services data. The findings from this work include visitation estimates for over 200 parks and 175 trails across Minnesota. Park- and trail-level use estimates are a key deliverable of this work and provide a unique opportunity to explore variation in park and trail visitation within the metropolitan regional park system. Results additionally include hourly use estimates, visitor mode share, and inferred visitor demographics and home locations.

This shared research project was funded with Legacy Partnership Research Funds from the State of Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Fund. The project used location-based services data provided by StreetLight Data, Inc. and purchased via a contract by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. (MnDOT). The research began in June 2021 and will conclude in June 2023.

This information item will provide an overview of the high-level key findings from this research project, including use estimates for metropolitan regional parks and trails and an introduction to the data and methods developed in this work. Complete results, including data downloads, interactive visualizations, and written findings will be shared after the presentation.