

Information Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Meeting Date: March 2, 2023

Topic

Regional Development Guide, Regional Parks System and Scenario Planning: An Introduction.

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Statute or policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Baris Gumus-Dawes, Planning Analyst (651-602-133) and Tracey Kinney, Senior Planner (651-602-1029)
Division/Department:	Community Development

Background

Scenario planning is an important tool that the Metropolitan Council is using to prepare the 2050 Regional Development Guide including the Regional Parks Policy Plan, and other Council system and policy plans. The tool allows agencies to plan for the future by exploring multiple possibilities of what might happen.

The scenario planning tool models hypothetical futures and explores the effects of these futures on the Regional Parks System. The goal of this exploration is to be better prepared for the futures that we might encounter and make the region more resilient in the face of future contingencies.

The intent of this information item is to build awareness of the scenario planning project and engage the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) in an early conversation about the effects of these futures on the Regional Parks System. Staff will return later to engage the Commission on what can be done to prepare for these futures.

The scenario planning model explores five hypothetical futures with different regional growth patterns to examine the implications of these futures for the Regional Parks System. Council Staff will share preliminary findings and facilitate a conversation with MPOSC members about the following questions:

- How would these five future regional growth patterns affect the Regional Parks System?
- What are some opportunities and concerns related to different futures?
- How could the Regional Parks System be better prepared for these futures?