



2050 Regional Parks and Trails Policy Plan Public Comment Draft

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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Finalizing the Regional Development Guide

Timing	Milestone
August 14, 2024	Council authorizes release for public comment (MC)
August 15, 2024	Public comment draft posted
September 25, 2024	Public hearing (MC)
October 7, 2024	Comment period closes (CDC)
Varies	Final public comment reports prepared
February 12, 2025	Council adoption (MC)



What's New for 2050?



Today's Presentation

- High-level summary of what's new for *Imagine 2050* – Regional Parks and Trails.
- Section by section overview of most significant changes, revisions, and/or new items since we last met.
- Focus on Commissioner questions, discussion, and interests.

Section 1: Overview

What's New for 2050?

- Updated system facts:
 - 46 regional parks (+2)
 - 12 park reserves (no change)
 - Eight special features (no change)
 - 56 regional trails (+1) with 457 miles currently open to the public (previously 415 miles)
 - 52,519 acres protected
- Updated Table 1-1, State and regional funding investments, 1974-2024: \$1.25 billion.
- Added system vision, mission, values, and objectives
- Added the state of the system (a.k.a. Existing conditions)



Section 2: System Plan



What's New for 2050?

- Added new policy and three actions focused on maintaining data, maps, plans, processes, and applications.
- Modified Special Recreation Features classification to Special Features, created new Cultural Landscape sub-classification.
- Updated all System Plan maps and tables defining what's eligible for regional support.
- Updated the Estimated Cost to Complete the System - \$3 billion (up from \$2.1 billion in 2020).
 - Moved estimate from Finance section to align it with system plan.

Section 3: Natural Systems

What's New for 2050?

- Added new policy and three actions focused on identifying and protecting natural systems lands in perpetuity.
- Updated and reframed existing “Siting and Acquisition” policy and strategies within Natural Systems policy.
- Added narrative around system addition factors:
 - Natural systems foundation
 - Geographic distribution
 - Equity



Section 4: Climate Resilience



What's New for 2050?

- Added new policy and four actions that promote resilience to climate changes and outline Council commitments.
- Actions prioritize climate change support through:
 - Partnership and collaboration
 - Research
 - Increased public awareness
 - Equity and environmental justice

Section 5: Planning

What's New for 2050?

- Moved details of long-range plan requirements and amendment processes to Planning Handbook.
- Clarified the types of long-range plan amendments:
 - Full amendment
 - Focused amendment
 - Administrative process for minor amendments.
- Moved existing Joint Powers Agreements strategy to Planning Handbook.



Section 6: System Protection



What's New for 2050?

- Conversion language streamlined and clarified.
- Moved existing Reimbursement for Contamination and Environmental Site Assessments strategies to the Grant Administration Guide
- Updated language on regional wastewater infrastructure to be consistent with Council policies and practice.

Section 7: Recreation, Facilities, and Programming

What's New for 2050?

- New action to increase equity in programming activities and places.
- New actions to support partnerships, outreach, and collaboration.
- Created new, more flexible criteria for recreation activities and facilities eligibility.
 - Removed static traditional activities list.
- Strengthened commitment to better coordinate Regional Trail System and the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network.



Section 8: Finance



What's New for 2050?

- Statutory requirements come first
- Formalized Equity Grant Program commitment.
- Increased Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund cap:
 - Legacy - \$1.7 million to \$2 million
 - ENRTF - \$1.7 million to \$3 million.
- New action for Council to actively analyze regional funding budget strategy to pursue increasing funding.

Section 9: 2025-2028 Workplan

What's New for 2050?

- 12 items identified. Highlights include:
 - Continue dialogue around special feature sub-classifications: Historical landscapes and Open space/natural systems.
 - Explore establishment of Cultural Resources Inventory requirement with agencies, and in consultation with American Indian tribes and communities.
 - Create a more coordinated and integrated Regional Trail and Regional Bicycle Transportation Network system.
 - Continue strategic funding discussion that was initiated during policy planning process.





Thank you

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