



Draft Performance Measurement Slate Regional Parks and Trails System

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
July 1, 2025



Intended Goals

By the end of this discussion, we hope to achieve:

- A refined slate of Regional Parks and Trails System performance measures that align with the 2050 policy plan and effectively tell a story
- A shared understanding of next steps regarding:
 - Continued refinement of Regional Parks and Trails performance measures
 - Timeline for the performance measures-related Imagine 2050 amendment



Why have Performance Measures?

- **Policy Plan Work Plan Item 1:**
“Develop a process to create a small set of performance measures at the Policy level to measure progress toward our key Regional Parks and Trails System priorities.”
- Performance/outcomes measurement **generates accountability** because it:
 - Requires us to clearly articulate what we hope to accomplish with Imagine 2050 and counts as evidence toward that accomplishment.
 - Offers semi-structured opportunities for a research-informed dialogue about our work.



Where have we been?



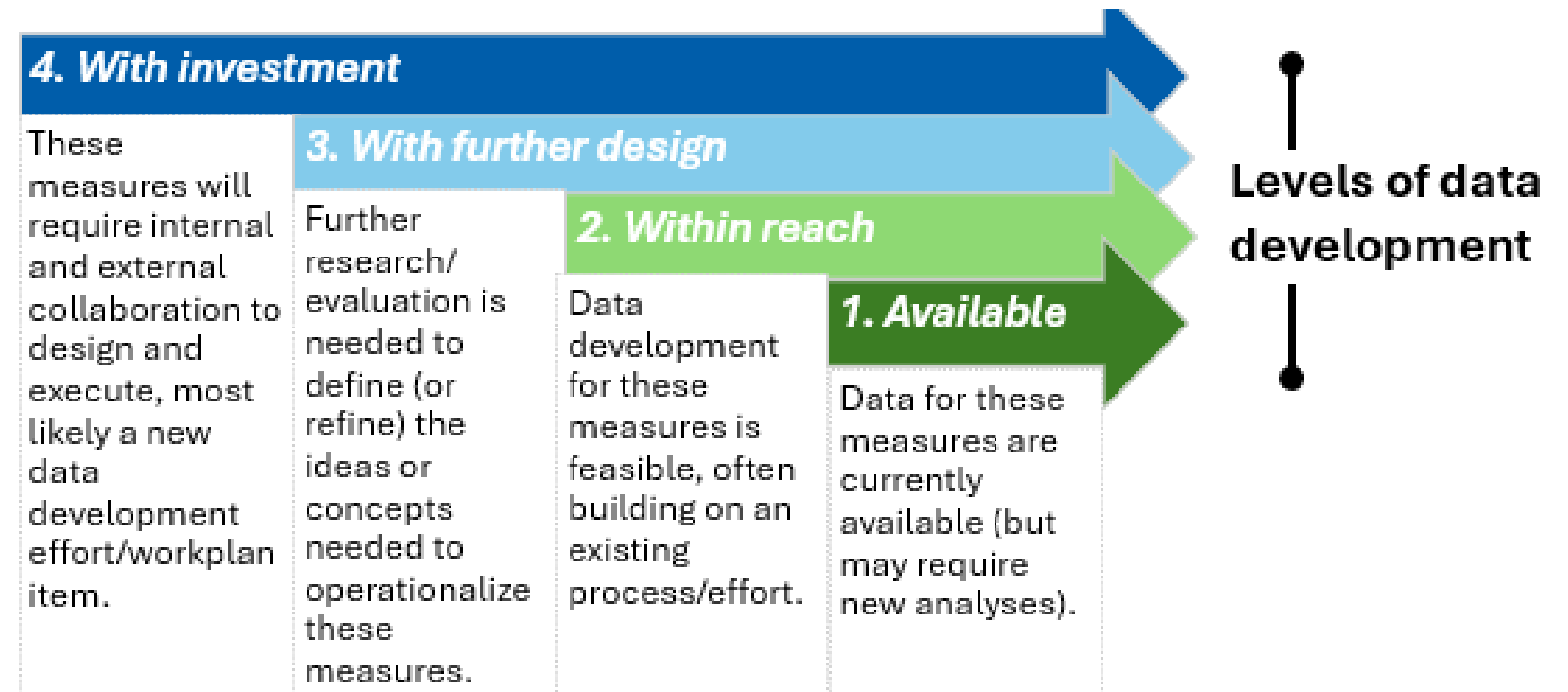
Timeline of Performance Measurement Development

- **Fall 2024:** CD-Research team develops Parks Measurement Proposal Report with potential measures and data availability
- **November 2024:** Imagine 2050 Regional Goals Outcomes Measurement Workshop series
- **November 21, 2024:** Engaged with Regional Park Implementing Agencies on proposed performance measures
- **Winter 2024:** Imagine 2050 Performance Measures Amendment timeline pushed back from an intended adoption of March 2025 to September 2025
- **May 2025 – Winter 2026:** CD-Research convenes policy liaisons to continue finalizing performance measurements in each policy area

Where have we been?

Performance Measures Sources

- The following slate of performance measures were mainly derived from two main sources:
 - Parks Measurement Proposal Report (CD-Research)
 - Regional Park Implementing Agencies (November Partner Meeting and Summary Report)
- Measures were selected based on agency feedback/recommendations as well as data availability.
- Intention is to continue reducing the number of measures.



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Section 2: System Plan policy

Maintain a robust and current set of data, maps, plans, processes, and applications to support regional parks and trails planning

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy?
Visits to Regional Parks and Trails	Data Available	Originally proposed	Yes
Park acreage and trail mileage	Data Available	Originally Proposed	Yes
Estimated cost to complete the system (acquisition costs per acre/mile, development costs per acre/mile, % of total estimate allocated to search areas, cost of delays	Data Available	Originally proposed	Yes
Amenity mapping across the system	With further design*	Partner Meeting	Yes

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Section 3: Natural Systems policy



Identify lands with high-quality natural features and/or with high restoration potential that are desirable for Regional Parks and Trails System activities and put these lands in a protected status so they will be available for recreational uses and preservation purposes in perpetuity.

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy?
Park acreage and trail mileage	Data Available	Originally proposed	Yes
Improved water quality in regional parks and trails	Data Available	Originally Proposed	No
Acres converted from another use to natural systems (e.g. restored, managed, or enhanced)	With further design*	Partner Meeting	No
Total amount of funding used for natural system protection & restoration	Within reach	Originally proposed	Yes

Note: Highlighted item indicates opportunity for cross-Council division collaboration

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Section 4: Climate Resilience policy



Adapt and enhance the Regional Parks and Trails System to promote resilience to climate change, including the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy
Park acreage and trail mileage	Data Available	Originally proposed	Yes
Metric tons of carbon sequestration per square kilometer for system acquisitions (actual or potential with restoration)	Data Available	Originally Proposed	No
Metric tons of carbon stock per sq. km.	Data Available	Originally proposed	No
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of system operations decrease	Within reach	Originally proposed	No
Monitor building energy use/CO2 emissions over time	With investment*	Partner Meeting	No

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Section 4: Climate Resilience policy *continued*



Adapt and enhance the Regional Parks and Trails System to promote resilience to climate change, including the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy
Number of electric vehicles per implementing agency	With further design*	Partner Meeting	No
Number of environmental education programs conducted	With further design*	Partner Meeting	No
Total amount of funding used for natural system protection or restoration	Within reach	Originally proposed	Yes

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Section 5: Planning policy



Promote long-range planning and help provide integrated resource management across jurisdictions in order to create a seamless system that connects everyone to the outdoors.

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy?
Average age of all long-range plans	Within reach	Partner Meeting	No
Measure of how planning process ensures equitable development (e.g. measuring engagement during Council & Agency planning efforts)	With investment	Partner Meeting	No
Transit connection to Parks	With investment*	Partner Meeting	No

Note: Highlighted item indicates opportunity for cross-Council division collaboration

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Section 6: System Protection policy



Protect public investments in acquisition and development by assuring that every component in the system is able to fully carry out its designated role.

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy?
Acres negatively impacted by conversions and utilities (annual)	With further design*	Partner Meeting	No
Dollar amount dedicated to land restoration (or % of land dedicated to natural areas vs. recreation)	With investment*	Partner Meeting	No

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Section 7: Recreation, Facilities, and Programming



Foster a sense of belonging by providing a wide spectrum of leisure and play opportunities while connecting people, places, and the natural world

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy?
The demographics of people involved in the regional parks and trails system more closely reflects that of the region	With investment	Originally proposed	No
Percent of Council active transportation funding going to develop/redevelop regional trail network	Within reach*	Partner Meeting	No
Equity programming (e.g., programming that focuses on specific equity groups)	Within reach*	Partner Meeting	No
Reduced inequities in visitation	Data Available	Originally proposed	No
Equity Grant Program builds Agencies' capacity to serve prioritized populations	Within reach	Originally proposed	Yes
Amenity mapping across the system	With investment*	Partner Meeting	Yes

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Section 8: Finance



The Met Council administers, provides financial oversight, and collaborates with a range of partners to fund the 10 regional park implementing agencies in support of the Regional Parks and Trails System.

Measure	Data Status	Source	Cross-Policy?
Equity Grant Program builds Agencies’ capacity to serve prioritized populations	Within reach	Originally proposed	Yes
Total amount of funding used for natural system protection or restoration	Within reach	Originally proposed	Yes
Annual funding gap in capital and maintenance/operations	Within reach*	Partner Meeting	No
Capital improvement (balance in use of funds, balance of funding sources, shortfalls in funding, what uses do shortfalls impact)	Data Available	Originally proposed	No

Next Steps

Proposed Key Dates

- **July 1, 2025:** Information Item at MPOSC
- **July 17, 2025:** Discussion at Monthly Partner Meeting
- **July 2025:** Two planned Open House sessions with all Imagine 2050 Policy Areas
- **September 2025:** Imagine 2050 Amendment process begins



Discussion Questions

- Which measures have the strongest alignment with the policy associated with them?
- Which measures would help the Council and implementing agencies tell the most compelling stories?
 - For example, to demonstrate impact, communicate the value of the system, make the case for additional funding, build awareness, etc.
- Is anything missing from the proposed slate?

