



# Outcomes Measurement Slate Update - Regional Parks and Trails System

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission  
October 2, 2025





# Where have we been?

## Key Milestones

- **Initial Measurement Slate Development/Selection**
  - CD-Research shared proposed measurement slate for Regional Parks and Trails System (Fall 2024)
  - Initial measurement slate considered data availability, distribution of measures in policies, and level of detail
- **Internal Refinements**
  - Workshops and meetings with other policies helped align measures and prevent duplication (Summer 2025)
- **Agency and Stakeholder Engagement**
  - Feedback from agency staff and Council committees further refined slate
  - Held four discussions with Regional Park Implementing Agencies (Fall 2024 – Summer 2025)
  - Presented two information items at MPOSC (July and September 2025)





# Recent Engagement Takeaways



## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission *September 4, 2025*

- Developing a slate of outcome measures is valuable to help ensure accountability for advancing the goals of Imagine 2050.
- How do we foster a greater sense of belonging in the Regional Parks and Trails System?
- Is there an ideal “travelshed” or travel distance to regional parks? Distribution of units varies throughout the region, impacting travel times.
- Recognizing the complexity of the system and questions posed about some measures, it’s important to continue to refine and improve measures during Imagine 2050 implementation.



# Recent Engagement Takeaways *continued*

## Community Development Committee *September 15, 2025*

- Some people may not know or necessarily care that they are visiting a regional park vs. another kind of park. Could we also observe visits to all parks and trails, or assess time spent outdoors?

## Regional Park Implementing Agencies *July and August, 2025*

- Measures that derived from existing data or processes received the most positive feedback (e.g. Annual Use, Park Acreage and Trail Mileage, Carbon Sequestration)
- Emphasize tracking impact and not just dollars spent
- Emphasize measures are being tracked at a regional or system level, not by implementing agency
- Some measures may require further discussion and definition





# Revised Outcomes Measurement Slate





# Proposed Measurement Slate

## Types of Measures

- Previous slates primarily organized measures by policy.
- Following slate will reorient measures based on types of measure:
  - Regional Indicators
  - Met Council Measures
  - Regional Measures

### Regional indicators

- Population-level (disaggregating where possible)
- Provide context—build shared understanding of past trends and current conditions
- “Big needles” that require collective action to move

### Met Council measures

How is Met Council advancing 2050 goals and policies?

- Policies (“provide”)
- Grants and programs
- Processes
- Engagement and relationships (“partner”)

### Regional measures

How are local partners advancing 2050 goals and policies?

- 2050 updates and other long-range plans
- Policies and strategies (developed/adopted)
- Programs, fiscal tools, funding
- Engagement and participation

# Proposed Measurement Slate

## Regional Indicators

- Measures describe high-level trends about the Twin Cities region. Indicators often require collective and sustained action to change.
- Four Parks and Trails measures categorized as regional indicators.**
  - Opportunities to collaborate with Metropolitan Transportation Services and Environmental Services

Regional Indicators	Policies*							Relates to another policy area	Included in regional goal measure
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Estimated visits to Regional Parks and Trails System per capita.	X					X			X
Number of lakes in the Regional Parks and Trails System delisted from the impaired waters list.		X						X	
Travelsheds by transportation mode to parks and trails.				X				X	
Annual funding gap for operations and maintenance.							X		



# Proposed Measurement Slate

## Met Council Measures

- Measures intended to highlight how Council grant and investment programs, engagement practices, and convening powers advance the goals of Imagine 2050.
- **One Proposed Measure:**
  - Policy 6: Recreation, Facilities and Programming
    - Number of regional trail miles funded by Active Transportation grants.
  - Placeholder: Measure centered around Equity Grant Program
    - Still under development, no specific measure proposed





# Proposed Measurement Slate

## Regional Measures

- These measures describe how the Council's local partners and agencies advance Imagine 2050 goals, objectives and policies. Measures often derived from data collection efforts led by the Council.

### Five Proposed Measures:

- Cross-Policy Measure
  - Net change in park acreage and trail mileage in the regional system.
- Policy 2: Natural Systems
  - Number of water bodies out of total water bodies in the Regional Parks and Trails System that are regularly monitored for water quality.
  - Miles of natural and protected shoreline in the Regional Parks and Trails System out of total shoreline miles in the region.
- Policy 3: Climate Resilience
  - Metric tons of carbon sequestration in the Regional Parks and Trails System (per square km) compared to other regional land uses.
- Policy 6: Recreation, Facilities, and Programming
  - Inequities in regional parks and trail visitation, by age, race/ethnicity, gender, and income level.
  - Demographics of Implementing Agency staff and volunteers more closely reflect that of the region.



# Future Action: Imagine 2050 Amendment

SEPT  
15

CDC  
**Land Use, Housing  
& Parks and Trails**

SEPT  
23

ENVIROMENT  
**Water Resources**

OCT  
8

MET COUNCIL  
**All Policy Measures**

OCT  
15

COW \*RESCHEDULED FROM 9/3  
**Regional Goal Measures**

OCT  
22

MET COUNCIL  
**Release draft amendment**

JAN  
14

MET COUNCIL  
**Adopt amendment**

## A

### How: Outcomes Measurement Program narrative

- Builds on Imagine's Accountability value
- Describes purpose, scope, and guiding principles
- Sets internal commitments and expectations

## B

### What: Initial outcome measurement slate

- Technical Appendix C
- Fulfills Imagine 2050 placeholders
- Does not supplant adopted 2050 Transportation Policy Plan performance measurement chapter





Thank You

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