

Outcomes Measurement Slate Update - Regional Parks and Trails System

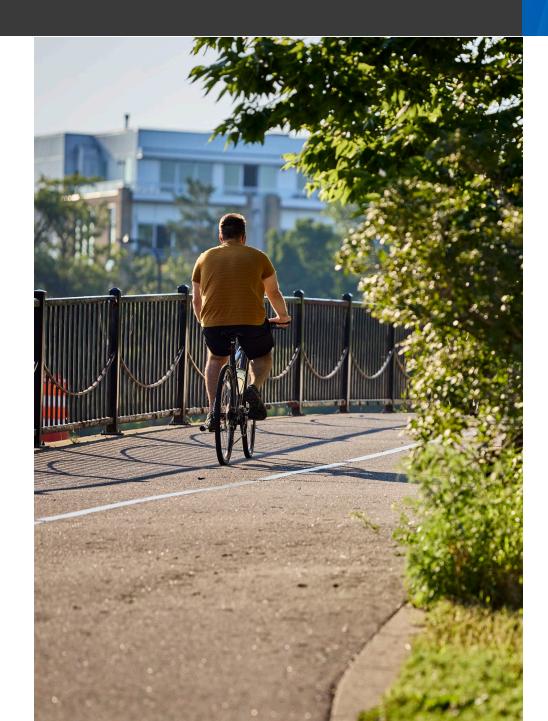
Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission October 2, 2025



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

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Proposed Measurement Slate

Regional Indicators

- Measures describe highlevel 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	Included in regional
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	policy area	goal measure
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

Land Use, Housing & Parks and Trails **ENVIROMENT** Water Resources OCT MET COUNCIL **All Policy Measures** COW *RESCHEDULED FROM 9/3 **Regional Goal Measures** MET COUNCIL Release draft amendment



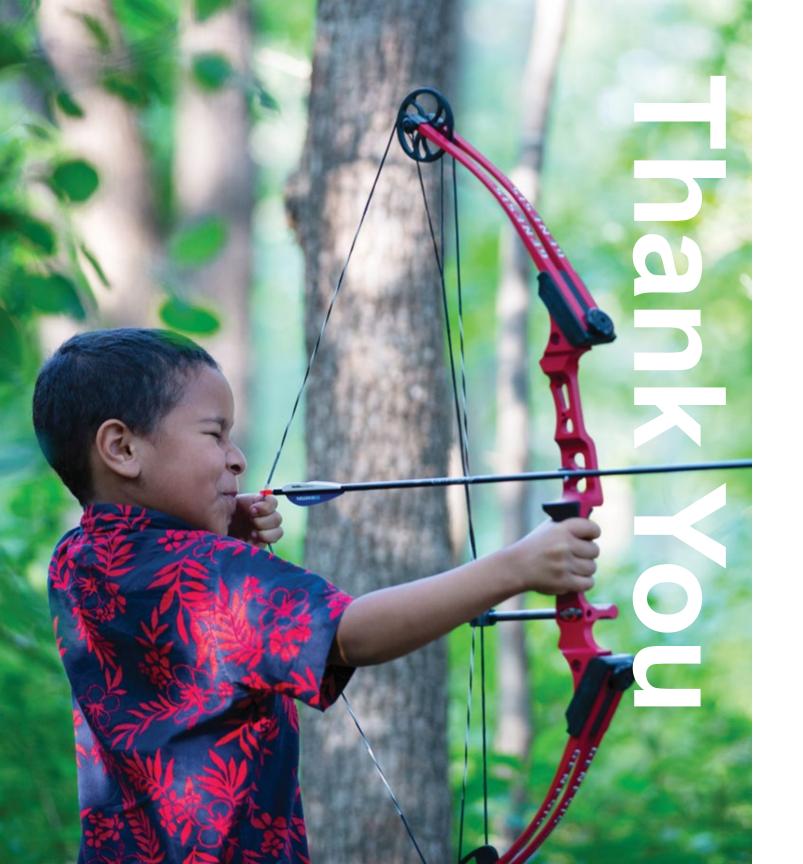
How: Outcomes Measurement Program narrative

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

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What: Initial outcome measurement slate

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



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