

Text User Guide for the Regional Parks and Trails Equity Tool

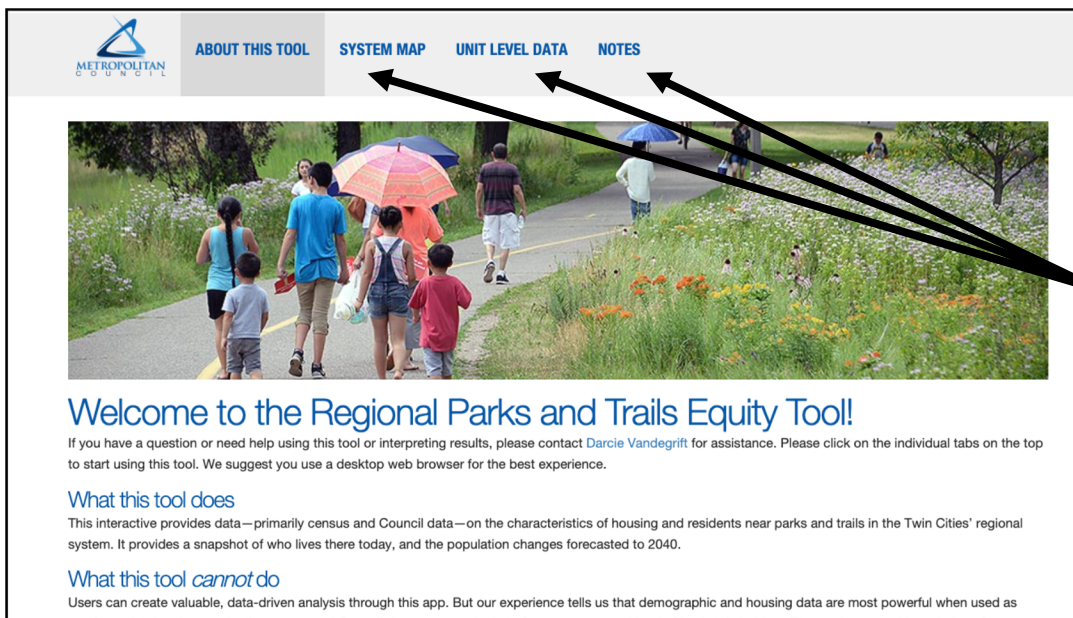
17 March 2021

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About this tool

On the home page, find a general overview about what this tool does, and ways in which you might find this tool useful. To begin using the tool, notice the tabs on the top of the screen. This document goes through each tab in detail.



Click the tabs on top of the screen to begin using the tool

System map

This tab provides a general overview of population characteristics across the Twin Cities region, along with mapping the locations of regional parks and trails. The map takes a couple seconds to load, so please be patient.

There are several data sources available to be mapped. Click on the question mark for more information. Once the data source has been chosen, select the specific variable of interest from the drop-down menu. Once the data has loaded, click on any area of the map for more information.

Note that parks and trail units can be added by the unit status. Click on the question mark for more information about the terminology being used.

Zoom-in on the map to see additional data layers including active transit stops, public water access, and park entry points. Access the map layer menu to toggle these layers on or off. From the map layer menu, there is also the option to turn on layers showing agency boundaries, lakes and rivers, as well as buffers around each park and trail.

The buffer distance can be changed by selecting a distance from the left-hand side of the screen. This layer is not turned on automatically but can be turned on or off at any time by accessing the map layer menu.

Distance between points can also be measured within the system map tab. Click on the tool to measure distance, then click on a starting point. Hover over the end point to see the distance displayed in feet. Click once to add a corner point and change the direction of the line. Double click to end the line.

The screenshot displays the System map interface. On the left, there are three sections: 'Choose your data source:' with radio buttons for 'Population characteristics' (selected) and 'Population estimates'; 'Choose a variable to map:' with a dropdown menu showing 'Age, % under 15'; and 'Choose park/trail units:' with checkboxes for 'Park - existing', 'Trail - existing' (both checked), 'Park - planned', 'Trail - planned', 'Park - search', and 'Trail - search'. Below these is 'Choose buffer distances:' with radio buttons for '1' (selected), '1.5', and '3'. The main map area shows the Twin Cities region with a legend for '% population under age 15' with categories: 0-10, 10-20, 20-29, 29-39, 39-49, and NA. A scale bar indicates 10 km and 5 mi. Annotations with arrows point to specific features: 'Tool to measure distance' points to a ruler icon in the top left; 'Click question marks for more information' points to question mark icons near the top left and middle left; and 'Map layer menu' points to a stack of layers icon in the bottom right.

Choose your data source:

- ☒ Population characteristics
- ☐ Population estimates

Choose a variable to map:

Age, % under 15

Choose park/trail units:

- ☒ Park - existing
- ☒ Trail - existing
- ☐ Park - planned
- ☐ Trail - planned
- ☐ Park - search
- ☐ Trail - search

Choose buffer distances:

- ☒ 1
- ☐ 1.5
- ☐ 3

Tool to measure distance

Click question marks for more information

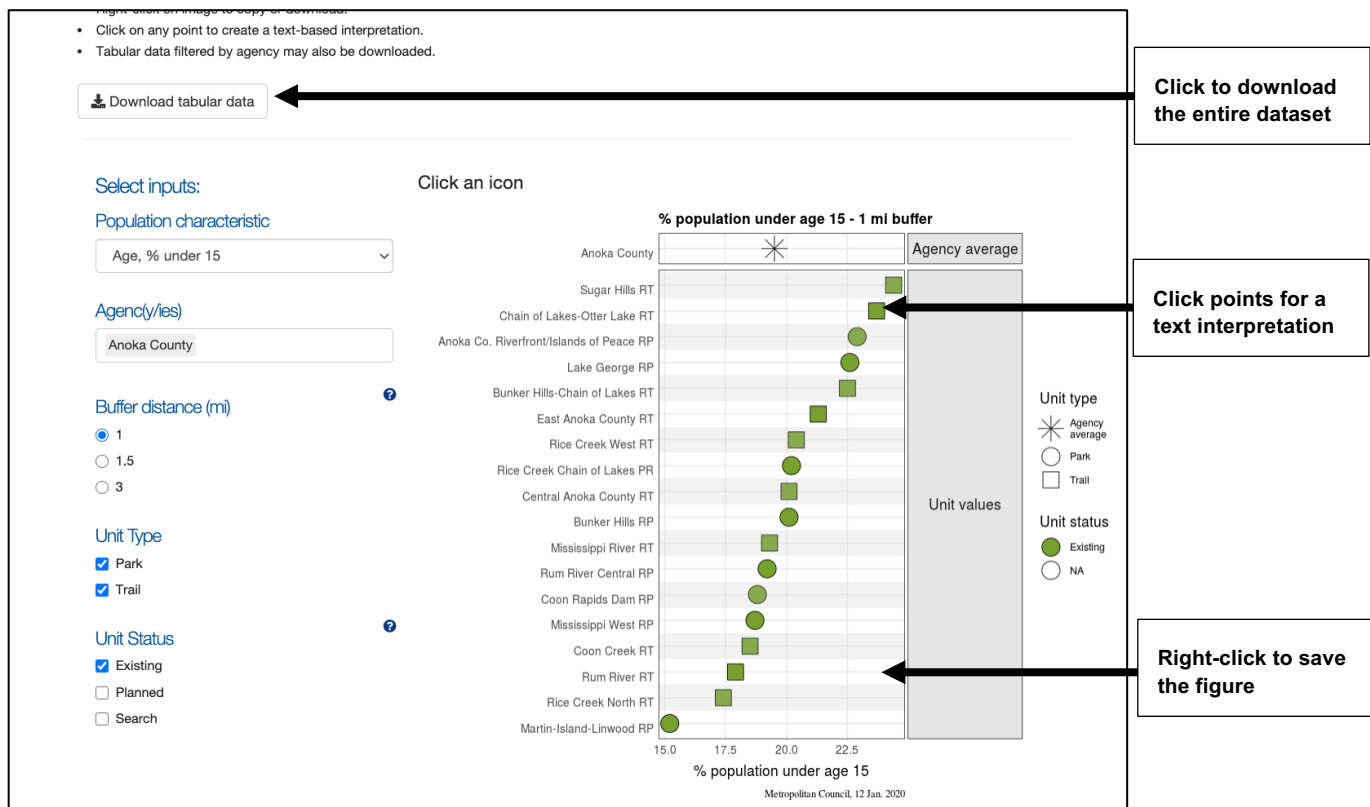
Map layer menu

Unit level data

For each of the population characteristics, this tab shows a single, summarized value for each park and trail. These summary values combine census data along with the buffer geometries shown on the “system map” tab. In essence, census block groups or tracts which have a greater overlap with a given park or trail’s buffer area as well as areas that have higher populations more strongly influence the final, summarized value for each park or trail. More information is in the “notes” tab.

Add agencies, change the population variable, change the buffer distance, and filter by unit type or status from the left-hand menu. Within the figure, click on any icon for more information and a written interpretation of the data point.

Right-click on the figure to save the image. Or download the complete dataset to make your own figures.



Notes

The notes tab provides more information about the data used in this application.