

## Community Development Committee

Meeting date: August 15, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 24, 2016

**Subject:** Grant Agreement for Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County

**District(s), Member(s):** District 15, Steven Chávez

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statute 473.315, Subd, 1

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Tori Dupre, Senior Parks Planner (651-602-1621)

**Division/Department:** Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant in the amount of \$51,000 to Dakota County to complete an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)compliant paved loop trail and site improvements around McDonough Lake and natural resource improvements associated with the project, at Lebanon Hills Regional Park; and
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant on behalf of the Council.

### Background

Dakota County proposed three Metropolitan Council Park Capital Improvement Plan grants in 2014. Two of the three were authorized in June 2014 (Business Item 2014-122). The third request for \$51,000 was for high priority projects to be identified through the update of the Lebanon Hills Regional Park master plan. This grant allocation was suspended until the master plan approval by the Metropolitan Council.

The Metropolitan Council approved the Lebanon Hills Regional Park master plan on August 26, 2015 (business item 2015-196). The Metropolitan Council again approved the grant allocation as part of its Unified 2016 Operating and Capital Improvement Program on December 9, 2015 (business item 2015-304).

This Dakota County request June 6, 2016 (included in Attachment 1), provides the detailed project description for the grant. The County proposes that the grant project be for an ADA-compliant paved loop trail and site improvements around McDonough Lake, and associated natural resource improvements. Receipt of the detailed project descriptions enables the Council to approve and execute the grant.

### Rationale

The proposed grant is consistent with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* which specifies that “the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program must, in accordance with Minn. Stat. 473.147, include ‘criteria and priorities for the allocation of funds.’ Capital projects proposed for funding must be consistent with a Council-approved master plan. Projects proposed by each regional park implementing agency are prioritized by that agency. Each park agency has unique capital needs, which that park agency can best determine.”

The proposed grant is also consistent with the Council-approved master plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park and the 2014 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.

### **Funding**

The grant was authorized by 2014 Minnesota Session Laws 2014, chapter 294, article 1, section 17, subdivision 3. The grant total is \$51,000 and is financed by \$36,000 in State bonds and \$15,000 Metropolitan Council bonds.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission unanimously recommended approval of the proposed action. At the time of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) meeting posting, Council parks staff was not aware of any opposition to this specific action. However, two people submitted email comments in opposition prior to the meeting, and one of the individuals spoke at the meeting, sharing concerns about the proposed paved trail, and the detrimental effects of salt on the natural resources when used for winter trail maintenance.

The Commissioners asked about the project Option C, and Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks Director, summarized the County Board's analysis of the trail alignment and surface options to evaluate costs, impacts to natural resources, maintenance and other considerations. On August 2, the Dakota County Board approved Option C for the trail construction around the lake, which is a paved trail with a boardwalk along the east side. Council staff indicated that the grant agreement will clarify the trail surface. The Commissioners also asked about the use of salt on the trails in winter, and Dakota County staff responded that the County follows trail maintenance and safety best practices in winter, and applies salt as a last resort.

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: August 10, 2016

For the Community Development Committee meeting of August 15, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 24, 2016

**Subject:** Grant Agreement for Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County

**District (s), Member(s):** MPOSC District H, Todd Kemery

**Policy / Legal Reference:** MN Statute 473.315, Subd, 1

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Tori Dupre, Senior Parks Planner (651-602-1621)

**Division/Department:** Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a grant in the amount of \$51,000 to Dakota County to complete an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)compliant paved loop trail and site improvements around McDonough Lake and natural resource improvements associated with the project, at Lebanon Hills Regional Park; and
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant on behalf of the Council.

### Background

Dakota County proposed three Metropolitan Council Park Capital Improvement Plan grants in 2014. Two of the three were authorized in June 2014 (Business Item 2014-122). The third request for \$51,000 was for high priority projects to be identified through the update of the Lebanon Hills Regional Park master plan. This grant allocation was suspended until the master plan approval by the Metropolitan Council.

The Metropolitan Council approved the Lebanon Hills Regional Park master plan on August 26, 2015 (business item 2015-196). The Metropolitan Council again approved the grant allocation as part of its Unified 2016 Operating and Capital Improvement Program on December 9, 2015 (business item 2015-304).

A request from Dakota County, dated June 6, 2016 (included in Attachment 1), provided the detailed project description for the grant. The County proposes that the grant project be for an ADA-compliant paved loop trail and site improvements around McDonough Lake, and associated natural resource improvements.

Receipt of the detailed project descriptions enables the Council to approve and execute the grant.

### Rationale

The proposed grant is consistent with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* which specifies that “the Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program must, in accordance with Minn. Stat. 473.147, include ‘criteria and priorities for the allocation of funds.’ Capital projects proposed for funding must be consistent with a Council-approved master plan. Projects proposed by each regional park implementing

agency are prioritized by that agency. Each park agency has unique capital needs, which that park agency can best determine.”

The proposed grant is also consistent with the Council-approved master plan for Lebanon Hills Regional Park and the 2014 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.

### **Funding**

The grant was authorized by 2014 Minnesota Session Laws 2014, chapter 294, article 1, section 17, subdivision 3. The grant total of \$51,000 and is financed by \$36,000 in State bonds and \$15,000 Metropolitan Council bonds.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

At the time of the August 9, 2016 Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission meeting posting, Council parks staff was not aware of any opposition to this specific action. However, at the March 1, 2016 MPOSC meeting a business item proposing to amend another Dakota County grant to include the design, engineering, construction and construction administration for improvements at Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The identified improvements included the ADA compliant paved trail around Lake McDonough. Two residents spoke in opposition of that proposed grant amendment. The Council approved the grant amendment on April 13, 2016.

**Attachment 1: Grant Agreement Project for Dakota County Grant**



**Physical Development Division**

Dakota County  
 Western Service Center  
 14955 Galaxie Avenue  
 Apple Valley, Mn 55124-8579

952.891.7000  
 Fax 952.891.7031  
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)

Environmental Resources  
*Land Conservation*  
*Groundwater Protection*  
*Surface Water*  
*Waste Regulation*  
*Environmental Initiatives*

Office of Planning

Operations Management  
*Facilities Management*  
*Fleet Management*  
*Parks*

Transportation  
*Highways*  
*Surveyor's Office*  
*Transit Office*

June 6, 2016

Victoria Dupre  
 Planning Analyst  
 Metropolitan Council  
 390 North Robert Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Requested scope for SG 04424

Dear Victoria:

Dakota County proposed three Metropolitan Council Park CIP grants in 2014, and two were authorized on June 25, 2014. The third grant **SG-04424** provides funding of \$51,000 for high priority projects from the updated Lebanon Hills Regional Park master plan. This grant was contingent upon the Metropolitan Council's approval of the updated master plan on August 26, 2015. The Council approved the grant on December 9, 2015 and the County is now providing the detailed project description for the grant agreement, which is an ADA-compliant paved loop trail and site improvements around McDonough Lake, and associated natural resource improvements.

Park Agency	Grant Amount \$000s	State bonds (\$000s)	Metro Council bonds	Park or Trail Name	Project Description
Dakota Co SG2014-057	\$250,000	\$160,000	\$90,000	Lebanon Hills RP	Redevelop playground in campground and trail improvements adjacent to Jensen Lake based on existing master plan adopted in 2001.
Dakota Co SG2014-055	\$388,000	\$243,000	\$145,000	North Creek Greenway RT	Construct trail from Lebanon Hills Regional Park through Minnesota Zoo including bridge at Co. Rd. #38. Leverages \$1M Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant.
Dakota Co <b>SG- 04424</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>	\$36,000	\$15,000	Lebanon Hills RP	High priority projects from updated Lebanon Hills Regional Park master plan.

Requested grant scope  
June 6, 2016  
Page 2

The requested project is included in the 2016 - 2020 Dakota County Capital Improvement Program budget. Construction is scheduled for 2017 and 2018.

Thank you for consideration to this request. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sullivan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks Director  
952.212.9623

cc: Josh Kinney, Senior Project Manager  
Tara Zgoda, Financial Management Analyst  
Brenda Mesaros, Contract Specialist  
Devin Massopust, Project Coordinator



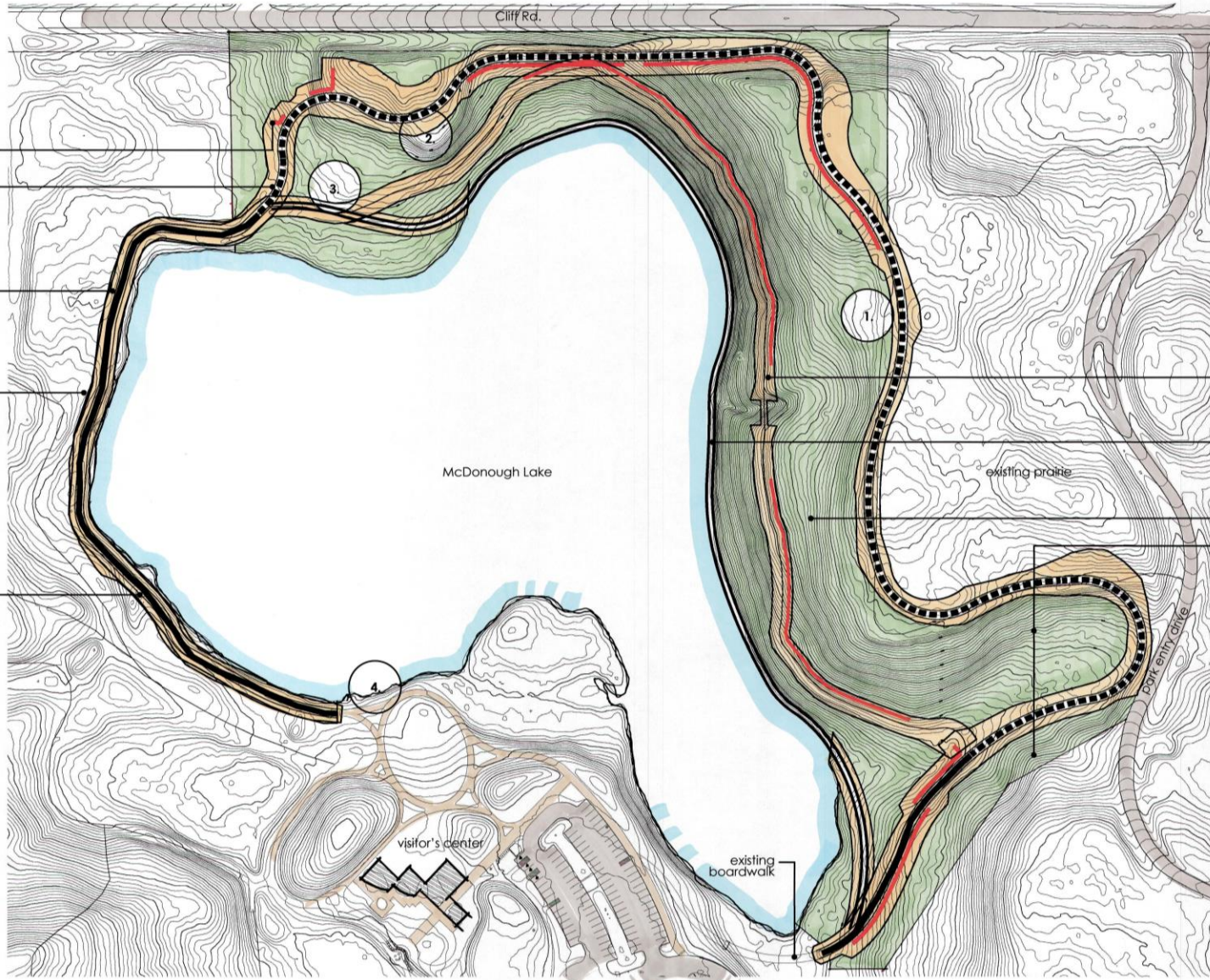
# McDONOUGH LAKE TRAIL

## 2017 Construction Project Option

- retaining wall (red)
- Trail Opt. A**  
new 8' paved accessible trail (dash)
- Trail Opt. A**  
existing trail to be paved to 8' width accessible (solid)
- construction area (yellow)
- water inlet trail wayside  
- bench & ADA stall

## Options Characteristics

- Option A**
  - longest trail
  - accesses most habitat types
  - most vertically challenging
  - most expensive
  - largest construction impacts
- Option B**
  - utilizes existing trail corridor
  - accesses most habitat types
  - best accessible route
  - least expensive
  - minimal retaining walls
  - minimizes construction impacts
- Option C**
  - intimate lakeside experience
  - significant cost
  - minimal vertical elevation change
  - low construction impacts



## Concept Framework

- Natural resource habitat improvements
- Provide an accessible loop
- Limit development footprint
- Explore recreation on the trail
- Provide new gathering opportunities
- Limit or no switchbacks
- Design with existing topography
- Preserve & enhance the park character
- Explore various landscape character settings

## 2017 Construction Options

- Trail Opt. B**  
pave existing natural surface trail to 8' accessible trail (thin dash)
- Trail Opt. C**  
lake edge boardwalk (double line)

- oak savanna & prairie restoration areas (green)
- preserve oak trees

## Future Projects TBD

1. overlook deck  
- gathering for 30
2. overlook - small gathering space
3. hammocks & accessible swing area
4. primitive canoe launch

0' 80'

