

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: December 5, 2016

Subject: Parks and Trails Legacy Investment Highlights in the Metropolitan Region

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes 85.53

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jan Youngquist, AICP (651-602-1029)

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

Background

In 2008, Minnesotans passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (also known as the “Legacy Amendment”), which is funded by a 3/8 percent state sales tax. Minnesota’s parks and trails of state and regional significance receive 14.25 percent of the funds generated by the Legacy Amendment, which make up the Parks and Trails Fund. These dollars are then allocated to the Metropolitan Council, the Department of Natural Resources and Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, who act as the fiscal agents of the fund. The Metropolitan Council’s share of the Parks and Trails Fund are distributed to the ten-regional park implementing agencies through the Council’s Parks and Trails Legacy Fund grant program based on a formula specified in state statute

Staff will present a short overview of the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund, followed by a video that showcases projects that have been developed using these funds. The projects include:

- Mississippi River Regional Trail in Dakota County
- Dakota Rail Regional Trail and Coney Island at Lake Waconia Regional Park in Carver County
- Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve in Scott County, and
- Eastman Nature Center at Elm Creek Park Reserve in Three Rivers Park District.