

Community Development Committee

For the Community Development Committee meeting of February 16, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 24, 2016

Subject: Reimbursement Consideration for 11 Projects, Dakota County

District(s), Member(s): Council District 13, Richard Kramer; District 15, Steven T. Chávez; and District 16, Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute Section 473.315 and 2040 *Regional Parks Policy Plan* Finance Strategy 6

Staff Prepared/Presented: Michael Peterka, Planner (651-602-1361)

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$2,450,211 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for the 11 projects described in *Attachment 1*.
2. Acknowledge that the Council does not, under any circumstances, represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Background

Dakota County is undertaking 11 park and trail projects throughout the County. In order to accelerate development of the projects, Dakota County requested that the Metropolitan Council consider allowing the projects to be eligible for future reimbursement consideration. The amount for future reimbursement consideration totals \$2,450,211 and will come from the County's share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program funds. Many of the projects proposed will leverage funding from other state, local, and federal sources (see Attachment 2).

Rationale

Dakota County requests that these costs be considered for reimbursement from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs. The request for reimbursement consideration is consistent with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Finance Strategy 6, which states:

"Reimbursement will be considered for development projects provided that:

- *the project is consistent in timing, scale, type, and cost with a Council-approved master plan*
- *all information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project, and*
- *the Council approves the project"*

The County's request meets the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale, and cost for the projects are consistent with the Council-approved master plans for these regional parks and trails.

2. Dakota County's request provides sufficient information regarding what projects would be financed with a Council grant. In this case, the information is outlined in Dakota County's letter *Attachment 2*.
3. Dakota County requests Metropolitan Council's approval for County expenditures prior to undertaking these projects.

Funding

Approval of the reimbursement consideration request does not commit the Council to any funding at this time. Funding for the future reimbursement of the projects may be awarded through Dakota County's share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Known Support / Opposition

This business item was considered by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC) at its meeting on February 9. At the meeting, two citizens representing Women Observing Wildlife raised concerns about the amount of detail provided in the request. They also expressed concern about finding the proper balance between development of facilities and conservation of natural areas in some of the CIP proposed projects.

MPOSC unanimously recommended approval of the proposed action.

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: February 2, 2016

For the Community Development Committee meeting of February 16, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 24, 2016

Subject: Reimbursement Consideration for 11 Projects, Dakota County

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District G, Rachel Gillespie and District H, Todd Kemery

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute Section 473.315 and 2040 *Regional Parks Policy Plan* Finance Strategy 6

Staff Prepared/Presented: Michael Peterka, Planner (651-602-1361)

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

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1. The timing, scale, and cost for the projects are consistent with the Council-approved master plans for these regional parks and trails.

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Known Support / Opposition

None.

Attachment 1:

Regional Park or Trail	Description	Timing of Development	Reimbursement Consideration Amount
Mississippi River Regional Trail	Design and construction of 2 miles of trail in Rosemount	2017	\$170,000
Big Rivers Regional Trail	Design and construction of trail underpass connecting to Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park	2017	\$293,587
Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail	Design and construction of 2 miles of trail in Eagan	2017	\$118,624
North Creek Greenway Regional Trail	Design and construction of 1 mile of trail at the Minnesota Zoo and an overpass of Co. Rd. #38	2016	\$300,000
Lake Byllesby Regional Park	Design and construction of a shore trail and connection to primary park use areas	2016	\$238,000
Mississippi River Regional Trail	Design and construction of a connection to the Swing Bridge Trailhead and interpretive features	2016	\$200,000
Whitetail Woods Regional Park	Design and construction of accessibility improvements	2016	\$95,000
Spring Lake Park Reserve	Reconstruction of Hillary Path Road	2016	\$105,000
North Creek Greenway Regional Trail	Design and construction of 1 mile of trail and trailhead restroom building	2016 and 2017	\$205,000
Mississippi River Regional Trail	Design and prepare construction documents for 2 miles of trail	2017	\$345,000
Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Regional Trail	Design and construction of a grade separated crossing at Hwy 110 and Dodd Road and a trail connection to Valley Park	2017	\$380,000



January 26, 2016

**Physical Development
Division**

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Waste Regulation
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Office of Planning

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Fleet Management
Parks

Transportation
Highways
Surveyor's Office
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Michael Peterka
Planning Analyst – Parks
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Michael:

The letter below was revised to reflect the requested information in your January 8, 2016 email and associated follow-up to remove the Minnesota River Greenway project in Burnsville since it has started construction. All of these projects are consistent with approved master plans. All projects have started to some degree but the request reflects eligibility for reimbursement of work yet to be done.

Dakota County requests Metropolitan Council consideration for authorizing eligibility for future reimbursement of \$2,450,211 per the approved Dakota County Park Capital Improvement Budget for the following projects (Attachment 1: Greenway Development Project Location Map):

Greenway Development: Mississippi River Regional Trail - Rosemount West Segment

County Funds: \$ 170,000

Design and construction of 2 miles of Mississippi River Regional Trail in Rosemount (CIP Project P00011). Construction is scheduled for 2017. Project funding also includes \$1,440,000 of Federal funds and \$370,000 of Park and Trail Legacy funding.

Greenway Development: Big River Regional Trails to St. Paul

County Funds: \$293,587

Design and construction of regional greenway and an underpass connecting the Big Rivers Regional Trail to the trail in Lillydale Regional Park. (CIP Project P00093). Construction is scheduled for 2017. Project funding also includes \$1,800,000 of Federal funds and \$489,000 of Park and Trail Legacy funds. Project is included in the approved Minnesota River Master Plan.

Greenway Development: Minnesota River Regional Greenway - Eagan Segment

County Funds: \$118,624

Design and construction of approximately 2 miles of regional greenway in northern Eagan beginning at I-494 (Project P00107). Construction is scheduled for 2017. Project funding also includes \$560,000 of Federal funds and \$210,000 of Park and Trail Legacy funds.

Greenway Development: North Creek Greenway- Minnesota Zoo Segment

County Funds: \$300,000

Construction of approximately 1 mile of regional greenway at the Minnesota Zoo and an overpass of Co. Rd. #38 (Project P00092). Construction is scheduled for 2016. Project funding also includes \$1,100,000 of Federal funds, \$1,318,000 of Park and Trail Legacy funds and \$388,000 from a Metropolitan Council CIP grant.

Park Development: Lake Byllesby Regional Park

County Funds: \$238,000

Design and construction of an assessable trail that connects to the existing State Mill Towns State Trail bridge crossing and within Lake Byllesby Regional Park provides a lake shore trail and connection to primary park use areas. Construction is scheduled for 2016. The project has no outside funding.

Greenway Development: Mississippi River Regional Trail – Swing Bridge Trailhead Segment and Interpretation

County Funds: \$200,000

Design and construction of a greenway connection from the Swing Bridge Trailhead directly to the Mississippi River Regional Trail in Heritage Village City Park. Design and construction of interpretive features at the Swing Bridge Trailhead. Construction in 2016. Additional funding of \$200,000 provided from the City of Inver Grove Heights derived from 2014 State bonding.

Park Development: Whitetail Woods Regional Park

County Funds: \$95,000

Design and construction of an assessable trail to the Fawn Ridge adventure playground, accessibility improvements to the picnic shelter, and bench and dumpster screen installation. Construction in 2016. The project has no outside funding.

Park Development: Hillary Path Road Reconstruction in Spring Lake Park Reserve

County Funds: \$105,000

Reconstruct road in Spring Lake Park Reserve to stop erosion, decrease on-going maintenance expenses and provide reliable mobility (Project P00103). Construction in 2016. The project has no outside funding.

**Greenway Development: North Creek Greenway/ Trailhead in Lakeville
County Funds: \$205,000**

Design and construction of 1 mile of regional greenway and trailhead restroom building in East Park in Lakeville (Project P00105). Construction in 2016 and 2017. Project funding also includes \$ 800,000 of Federal funds.

**Greenway Development: Mississippi River Regional Trail - Rosemount East
County Funds: \$345,000**

Design and prepare construction documents for approximately 2 mile regional trail segment connecting to Spring Lake Park Reserve (Project P00109). Construction in 2017. Project funding includes \$1,400,000 of Federal funds.

**Greenway Development: Mendota Heights to Lebanon Hills Park Greenway - Hwy.
110 Segment Grade Separated Crossing
County Funds: \$380,000**

Design and construction of a grade separated crossing at Hwy 110 and Dodd Road intersection and trail connection to Valley Park trail segment (Project P00106). Construction is scheduled for 2017. Project funding also includes \$1,040,000 of Federal funds and \$720,000 of Park and Trail Legacy funds.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Sullivan, Director of Dakota County Parks

cc: Taud Hoopingarner, Operations Management Director
Tara Zgoda, Fiscal Management Analyst