

**2016-175**

**Minimum Percentage of Parks and Trails  
Legacy Fund grant spending to connect  
people and the outdoors**

**Rainry Salk, PhD**

Research Analyst

**Gratia Ratzloff**

Parks Policy Intern

**Community Development Committee**

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# Background

- 2008 Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment
- Parks and Trails Fund--State dollars
  - Parks and trails of state and regional significance
    - MN DNR State Parks and Trails, Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails, and Metropolitan Council
- Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Fund—Council grant program
  - Provide grants to 10 regional park implementing agencies
  - Ensure spending is in accordance to Legislative intent

# Inform Spending of Parks and Trails Legacy Dollars

- **Statewide Engagement (2010-2011)**
  - 1,000+ of participants across the state
    - Including targeted efforts to engage youth and non park users.
- **Purpose: Develop statewide *Legacy Plan to guide the use of the Parks and Trails Fund***

Citizens League. 2011. *Public Participation Findings: Final Report*. Parks and Trails Legacy Project.

# Statewide Engagement to Inform Spending of Parks and Trails Legacy Dollars

## Budget Game Results

*n=135 tables (excludes St. Cloud and Rochester)*

	% tables allocating at least \$1	average allocation \$\$	median allocation \$\$
Acquisition	81%	\$20.66	\$20.00
Development	81%	\$17.59	\$20.00
Redevelopment	76%	\$14.15	\$10.00
Operations and maintenance	90%	\$20.94	\$20.00
Marketing	87%	\$15.97	\$20.00
Programming	67%	\$9.21	\$10.00
Other	9%	\$1.48	\$0.00

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← 30%

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# Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

- **Statewide *25-Year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan (2011)***
  - **Guides the use of the Parks and Trails Fund**
  - **Four Strategic Directions**
    - Connect people and the outdoors
    - Acquire land, create opportunities
    - Take care of what we have
    - Coordinate among partners

[http://www.legacy.leg.mn/sites/default/files/resources/parks\\_trails\\_legacy\\_plan\\_0.pdf](http://www.legacy.leg.mn/sites/default/files/resources/parks_trails_legacy_plan_0.pdf)

# Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee

- Statewide body
  - 17-members body
  - Appointed by MN DNR State Parks and Trails, Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails, and Metropolitan Council
- Responsible for coordinating the implementation of the *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan*
- Definition of ‘Connecting People and the Outdoors’ (2014)
  - “Projects that are non-capital items that attract new users and retain existing users”

# Parks and Trails Legacy Plan: Connecting People and the Outdoors

- **Target markets:**
  - Youth
  - Young adults
  - Families w/children
  - Racial and ethnic minorities
  - New immigrants
  - Older adults
- **Strategies geared towards addressing the needs of target markets**
  - Key strategies include programming, special events, partnerships, improved access and quality, marketing, and creating a welcoming environment

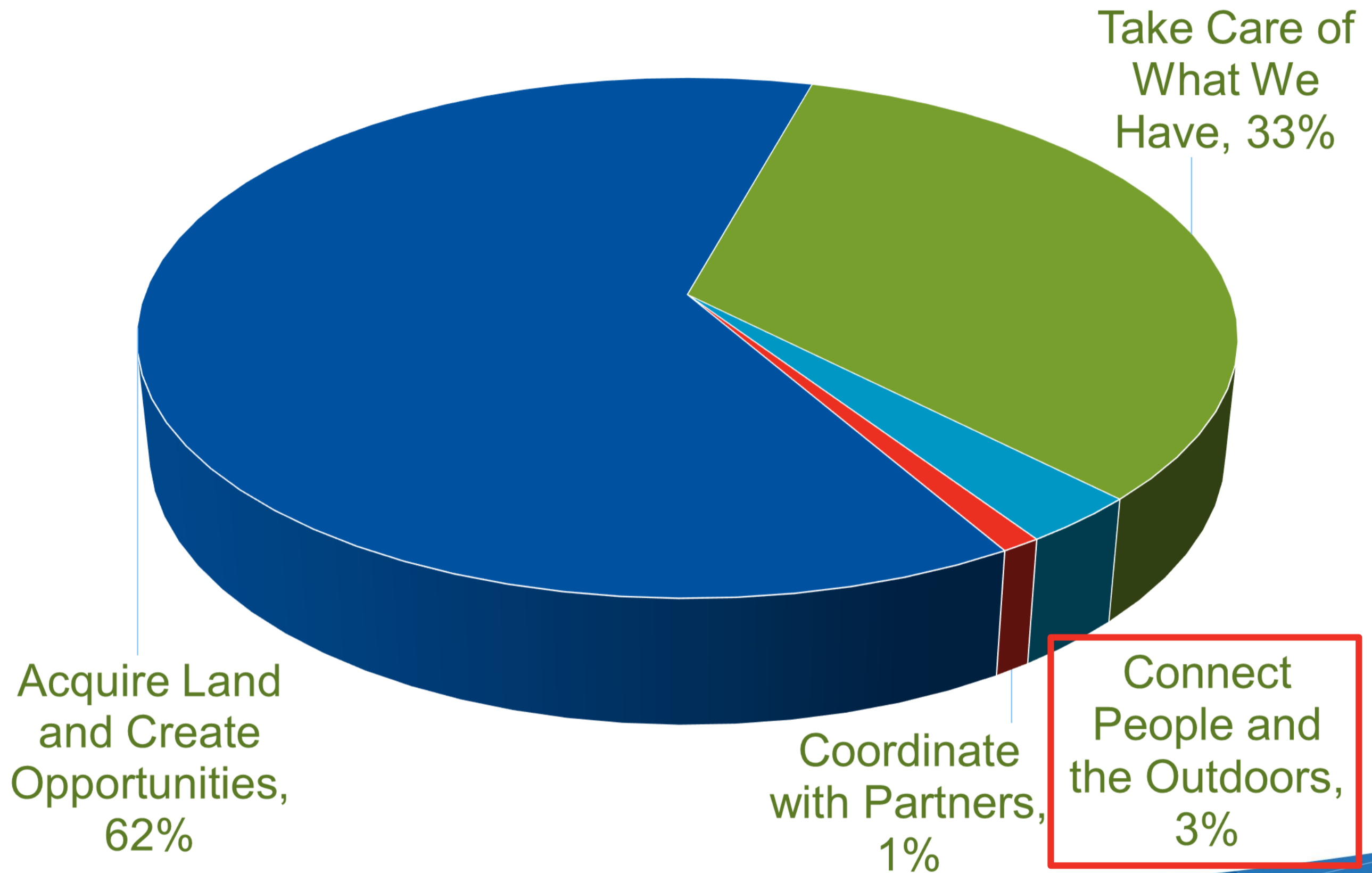


# Council's Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Fund

- 90% of state Parks and Trails Fund dollars the Council receives goes into the Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Fund grant program
  - Provide grants to 10 regional park implementing agencies
  - Allocation amount is based on formula specified in state statute
  - Council is to administer grants in accordance with statutory requirements and *Parks and Trails Legacy Plan*
  - Historical process: agencies submit list of projects to be funded from their allocation

# Historical Spending Trends

Metropolitan Legacy Spending FY2010-2015



# 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan

- “The Council—will identify a minimum percentage of Parks and Trails Legacy appropriations that should be used to ‘connect people and the outdoors’”
  - Close collaboration with:
    - Regional park implementing agencies
    - Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee
    - Other partners and stakeholders
- “The Council will require regional park implementing agencies to adhere to the determined minimum level of spending as it pertains to their annual share of Parks and Trails Fund appropriations”

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# Stakeholder Engagement

- Total of 55 stakeholders
  - Regional park implementing agencies
    - July 27 and August 4
  - Regional park users
    - Event with Outdoor Afro
  - Regional park partners (e.g., non-profit parks and trails organizations)
    - Individual meetings with key staff
  - Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee
    - August 25

# Stakeholders Recommendations

What should be the minimum percent of your allocation spent toward ‘connecting people and the outdoors’?

Stakeholder Group	Recommendations
10 Regional Park Implementing Agencies	<b>Range: “as small as possible” up to 10%</b>  <b>Among those that specified a percent, 66.7% suggested 10%.</b>
	<i>Use graduated approach</i>
	<i>Consider previous spending commitments/ approved capital budget</i>
	<i>Use other funds used for same purpose</i>
	<i>Varying needs—no two agencies are alike</i>

# Stakeholders Recommendations

What should be the minimum percent of Legacy dollars park implementing agencies spend on ‘connecting people and the outdoors’?

Stakeholder Group	Recommendations
Park and trail organizational partners	No %
	<i>Acknowledge different needs of various agencies</i>
	<i>Use graduated approach</i>
	<i>‘Connecting people and the outdoors’ is critically important</i>

# Stakeholders Recommendations

What should the Regional Parks System spend money on?

Stakeholder Group	Recommendations
Park Users	<b>Up to 71%</b> of all suggestions classify as ‘connecting people and the outdoors’ (e.g., non-capital)
	<i>Examples:</i>
	<i>Outreach for low-income youth, communities of color, and natives</i>
	<i>Community nights events</i>
	<i>Money for school groups/field trips</i>
	<i>Outdoor education (e.g., swimming lessons)</i>

# Stakeholders Recommendations

What should be the minimum percent of Legacy dollars spent on 'connecting people and the outdoors' in the Twin Cities metropolitan region?

Stakeholder Group	Recommendations
Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee	<b>Based on 4-small group conversations:</b> <b>Minimum value average= 6.7%</b> <b>Median value average= 11.3%</b> <b>Maximum value average= 18.3%</b>
	<i>Use graduated approach</i>
	<i>Evaluate amount over time</i>
	<i>Council must set a # to get compliance</i>
	<i>"If you build it, they won't necessarily come"</i>



# Staff Recommendation

## That the Metropolitan Council:

- Implement a graduated approach to meeting a minimum percentage of ten percent of Parks and Trails Fund appropriations that is to be spent on “connecting people and the outdoors” by FY 2022/23 biennium. This graduated approach would be implemented as follows:
  - Agencies will allocate a minimum of 5% of their Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations to “connecting people and the outdoors” for the FY 2018/19 biennium (beginning July 1, 2017)
  - Agencies will allocate a minimum of 7% of their Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations to “connecting people and the outdoors” for FY the 2020/21 biennium (beginning July 1, 2019)
  - Agencies will allocate a minimum of 10% of their Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations to “connecting people and the outdoors” for the FY 2022/23 biennium (beginning July 1, 2021)
- After the FY 2022/23 biennium, the appropriateness of 10% as the minimum percentage of Legacy spending on “connecting people and the outdoors” will be assessed and altered if appropriate.

# Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (MPOSC)

- September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - Lengthy discussion
  - Letters of opposition received after posting
  - Public comment

# MPOSC's Recommendation

- That the Metropolitan Council implement the following approach to meeting a minimum percentage of Parks and Trails Fund appropriations to be spent on “connecting people and the outdoors”:
  - Agencies will allocate a minimum of 5% of their Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations to “connecting people and the outdoors” for the FY 2018/19 biennium (beginning July 1, 2017)
  - For the FY 2020/21 and FY 2022/23 biennia, the Metropolitan Council staff will again convene stakeholders including the regional park implementing agencies as soon as practical to work collaboratively to develop a recommendation for a minimum percentage to be spent on “connecting people and the outdoors”.

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