

2020 Budget Discussion

Regional Parks Interest Earnings

June 3, 2019

Community Development Committee





Background

From 1985 through December 31, 2017, all interest earned on Regional Parks System appropriations to the Metropolitan Council was legislatively earmarked to support North Mississippi Regional Park.

Current situation

Per legislation passed in 2015, as of January 1, 2018, the Council “shall use the interest earnings ... for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council.”



Interest earnings parameters

- Can fund operating or capital initiatives
- Earned annually, but vary each year
 - About \$700,000* in 2018 interest earnings available
- Funds can be included in the annual budget or authorized in a budget amendment
- No statutory authority to distribute Regional Parks System funds outside of the regional parks implementing agencies

* This is an estimate that is not yet audited or final.

Preliminary timeline



Summer 2019:
Discussion of
options and
direction



Second
half of
2019:
Decision

Full Council

- February 2019: Regional Park Implementing Agencies
- April 2019: MPOSC
- June 2019: Community Development Committee
- June 2019: Equity Advisory Committee

- MPOSC
- Community Development Committee

Ideas we've heard so far

Direct distribution to implementing agencies:

Equal distribution to all 10 agencies

Formula distribution to all 10 agencies

Reimbursements of local match

Competitive grants to implementing agencies:

Equity Grant Program (non-capital funds)

Supplement Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund

Centralized regional initiatives:

Visitor Research

Coordinated marketing campaign

Other equity initiatives





Discussion and direction

What are your priorities for the use of these funds for 2019?

For further information

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