

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: June 3, 2019

Subject: Regional Parks Interest Earnings

District(s), Member(s): ALL

Policy/Legal Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2015, 1st Spec. Sess. chapter 4, article 4, section 138

Staff Prepared/Presented: Libby Starling, Deputy Director, Community Development Division (651-602-1135); Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks Manager (651-602-1360)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

None. Information only at this time.

Background

In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature passed session law that directed the Council to use “the interest earnings ... for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council.” This language was effective January 1, 2018. Previously, the Legislature had dedicated all regional parks interest earnings to support the North Mississippi Regional Park.

Rationale

At the June 3, 2019 meeting, Council staff will lead a discussion with Community Development Committee members to generate ideas on how to use this resource for the use and betterment of the regional parks system. Staff will share the results of previous conversations on this topic with staff from the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission. The results of this conversation will inform the Council’s development of its 2020 budget.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Spending the interest earnings for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands provides an opportunity to advance the Thrive outcomes, particularly by advancing stewardship of the Regional Parks System, promoting equity among parks users, supporting the livability of the region through parks experiences, and continuing the sustainability of our natural environment.

Funding

The Council has not yet closed its 2018 accounting, so it is unknown how much interest earnings accrued in 2018.

Known Support / Opposition

None at this time.