

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: October 5, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 14, 2020

Subject: Ramsey and Washington County Parks and Trails Legacy Signature Authorization

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.325 and 85.53; Minn. Const. Article XI, Section 15; Minn. Laws 2019, 1st Special Session, chapter 2, article 3, section 4; *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Finance Policy, Strategies 2 and 3; Council Business Item 2018-261 and 2020 Unified Budget Amendment Business Item No. 2020-182 JT

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nicole Clapp, Senior Grant Administrator, 651-602-1723

Division/Department: Community Development/ Finance and Administration

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Community Development Director to execute grant agreements for attached FY21 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund projects.

Background

Parks and Trails Legacy Funds were appropriated to the Council for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 and 2021 during the 2019 legislative session. SFY21 funds were authorized by the Council through the July 2020 budget amendment.

Grant agreements are required for the Council to pass through dollars to Regional Parks Implementing Agencies and Council action is required for the Community Development Director to execute agreements over \$250,000.

Legacy funds are distributed to Parks Implementing Agencies based upon a formula set in [Minn. Stat. § 85.53, subd. 3](#). Data elements to complete the Legacy allocation formula were finalized on July 9, 2019 and Council staff are actively working with Parks Agencies to finalize which projects will be funded with SFY21 Legacy dollars.

A master list of projects to be funded with SFY2020 and 2021 Legacy dollars was developed according to State statute and Council policy. Those projects were reviewed and recommended by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and were approved by the Council on October 24, 2018 via [Business Item 2018-261](#).

Per the appropriation language, this funding, “must be used only to fund the list of projects approved by the elected representatives of each of the metropolitan parks implementing agencies.” The pandemic, along with the lack of a 2020 bonding bill, has resulted in several agencies reprioritizing their project lists. Attachment 1 lists the two projects that were submitted after the original proposed Legacy project list was presented to Council in 2018. These two projects have been reviewed for eligibility and compliance with State statute and Council policy.

Rationale

This action will allow the Community Development Director to execute agreements for eligible projects after Parks Agencies make a final determination of projects to be funded with SFY21 Legacy funds.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Regional Parks funding from State appropriations advance Thrive outcomes of Livability by enhancing the quality of life in the region through increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation.

Funding

Projects are funded with State Parks and Trails Legacy funds and are included in the 2020 July Unified Budget Amendment, Business Item 2020-182 JT.

Known Support / Opposition

Regional Parks Implementing Agencies support these projects. There is no known opposition.

Attachment 1

Eligible SFY21 Parks and Trails Legacy Council Projects

Agency	Project Title	FY2021
RAMSEY COUNTY	Phase 2 Prairie Picnic Area shelter construction in Long Lake Regional Park	\$513,113
WASHINGTON COUNTY	Lake Elmo Park Reserve/Central Greenway Regional Trail Improvements	\$831,038