

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: January 4, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 13, 2021

Subject: Legacy, Regional Parks Bonding Program, and Pass-Through Agreement 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; Minn. Laws 2020, 5th Special Session, Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 17; *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Finance Policy, Strategies 2 and 3; Council Business Item 2018-261, 2019 Budget Amendment – 2nd Quarter Community Development, Business Item No. 2019-166 JT SW, 2020 July Budget Amendment 2020-182 JT, Council Capital Budget Amendment Business Item 2020-304 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 and amendments for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020/2021 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy), SFY 2021 Regional Parks Bonding Program, and SFY21 State Passthrough Program up to the amounts indicated, and in accordance with, Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Background

This action pertains to formula-based and legislatively designated parks grant programs.

The Council executes grant agreements with Regional Parks Implementing Agencies, or other legislatively named grant recipients, to pass through funding granted by the legislature. The Community Development Director is currently authorized to execute agreements and amendments up to \$250,000, Council action is required for execution of grant agreements and amendments exceeding \$500,000.

Execution of Legacy and Regional Parks Bonding Program grant agreements is the final step after multiple reviews, discussions, and other actions.

- Council staff review Legacy and Regional Parks Bonding projects for conformity with the *Regional Parks Policy Plan* and eligibility with funding source rules and regulations. This review could include a combination of Legacy, state bond, and regional Council bonds funding rules.
- Council staff and the Parks Implementing Agencies present proposed Legacy and Bonding projects lists with the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and Community Development Committee.
- The Council adopts funds into the Council's Authorized Budget.
- Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) reviews and approves any projects funded by state bonds or state general fund.

Legislatively named pass-through projects do not allow or require Council review or approval, but rather are legislatively directed. The Council acts as the fiscal agent for these grants.

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

The Council distributes Legacy dollars to Parks Implementing Agencies based upon a formula set in [Minn. Stat. § 85.53, subd. 3](#). Table 1 lists agency allocations.

The appropriation states this SFY 2020/2021 funding “must be used only to fund the list of projects approved by the elected representatives of each of the metropolitan parks implementing agencies.”

Table 1. SFY 2020/2021 Legacy Grant Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects

Agency	State Fiscal Year 2020	State Fiscal Year 2021
ANOKA COUNTY	\$1,667,396	\$1,485,252
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$328,228	\$292,373
CARVER COUNTY	\$396,614	\$353,288
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$1,434,590	\$1,277,878
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD	\$4,182,016	\$3,725,179
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$1,485,999	\$1,323,670
SCOTT COUNTY	\$647,168	\$576,472
ST PAUL, CITY OF	\$2,525,113	\$2,249,273
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	\$4,237,023	\$3,774,177
WASHINGTON COUNTY	\$932,953	\$831,038
TOTAL	\$17,837,100	\$15,888,600

Regional Parks Bonding Program

The Council distributes Regional Parks Bonding funds to Implementing Agencies based on a formula set in the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*. Table 2 lists agency allocations.

Table 2. SFY 2021 Regional Parks Bonding Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects

Agency	SFY2021 Amount
ANOKA COUNTY	\$823,972
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$216,662
CARVER COUNTY	\$245,370
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$851,202
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD	\$1,826,961
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$740,984
SCOTT COUNTY	\$291,366
ST PAUL, CITY OF	\$1,003,137
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	\$1,798,567
WASHINGTON CTY	\$535,113
TOTAL	\$8,333,334
	*amount is \$1 over due to rounding

Legislatively Designated Pass Through

Through appropriation language, the Legislature determined legislatively designated pass-through grant project descriptions and award amounts. Table 3 lists legislatively named pass-through projects and amounts for SFY 2021.

Table 3. SFY2021 Legislatively Directed Pass-Through Grant Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Amount
ANOKA COUNTY	Rice Creek North Regional Trail	\$500,000
CARVER COUNTY	Lake Waconia Regional Park	\$2,500,000
DAKOTA COUNTY	Veteran Memorial Greenway	\$5,000,000
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD	Above the Falls Regional Park	\$3,000,000
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD	North Commons Improvement	\$5,125,000 (General Fund)
RAMSEY COUNTY	Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area	\$1,800,000
ST PAUL, CITY OF	Como Regional Park	\$1,000,000
ST PAUL, CITY OF	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary – Wakan Tipi Center	\$1,000,000
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	Mississippi Gateway Regional Park	\$5,000,000
DELLWOOD, CITY OF	Lake Links Trail	\$2,600,000
WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP	Lake Links Trail	\$500,000
WHITE BEAR LAKE, CITY OF	Lake Links Trail	\$500,000
TOTAL		\$28,525,000

Rationale

Council staff currently bring each individual grant, or small batches of grant agreements, to the Council to obtain signature authorization for the Community Development Director for agreements exceeding \$250,000.

This action will increase efficiency by authorizing the Community Development Director to execute grant agreements and amendments up to the amounts listed in Tables 1, 2, and 3, rather than bringing multiple requests to the Council for signature authorization as individual grant agreements are ready for execution. This is the final non-discretionary step in the process. To the extent that the Council has any input in these projects, it is done at other, earlier stages in the process.

This action will improve customer service to Parks Implementing Agencies, and other legislatively designated grantees, through reduced subrecipient agreement processing time. It will also reduce administrative processing work of Council staff. The Council's Procurement Department supports this action.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Regional Parks funding advances the 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 Legacy, State General Fund, State General Obligation Bond, and Council Regional Park Bond funds. The Council has approved funding and it is available in the authorized capital program.

Known Support / Opposition

Regional Parks Implementing Agencies and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission support Legacy and Regional Parks Bonding Projects. Projects with direct allocations have received legislative support.

There is no known opposition.