

# Business Item

Community Development Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 18, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: August 10, 2022

## Business Item: 2022-202

Parks Legacy Agreement Signature Authorization

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minn. Stat. §§ 473.325 and 85.53; Minn. Const. Article XI, Section 15; Minn. Laws 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Section 4; 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Policy, Strategies 2 and 3; Council Business Item 2022-146 JT, 2022 Q2 Budget Amendment BI-146 JT, FM 15-2 Grant/Loan Approval Policy, FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Aimee Junget, Budget Analyst, 651-602-1823
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Community Development / Finance and Administration

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute grant agreements and amendments for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy) up to the amounts indicated, and in accordance with the amounts indicated in Table 1.

### Background

The Council distributes Parks and Trails Legacy Fund dollars to Parks Implementing Agencies based upon a formula set in [Minn. Stat. § 85.53, subd. 3](#). By law, 10% of each year's appropriation is set aside for land acquisition with a 2:3 Council match. This Business Item is for the SFY 2023 Agency shares only and does not include the portion set aside for acquisition or the respective Council match. Table 1 lists agency allocations.

The appropriation states that SFY 2023 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 requested action will allow the Executive Director of Community Development to execute grant agreements with Regional Parks Implementing Agencies to pass through funding granted by the legislature. The Metropolitan Council may award grant funds to meet specific public purpose needs. Council action is required for the Regional Administrator, or their designee, to execute grant agreements over \$500,000.

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

- Council staff and the Parks Implementing Agencies present proposed Legacy project lists to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.
- Council staff review Legacy projects for conformity with the *Regional Parks Policy Plan* and eligibility with funding source rules and regulations.
- The Council adopts funds into the Council's Authorized Budget.

## Rationale

Prior to 2020, staff brought 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. Starting in 2020, Council began approving signature authorization at a higher level, for all formula grants from an entire fiscal year's appropriation.

This action increases efficiency by authorizing the Executive Director of Community Development to execute grant agreements and amendments up to the amounts listed in Table 1 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 improves customer service to Parks Implementing Agencies through reduced subrecipient agreement processing time. It will also reduce administrative processing work of Council staff. The Council's Procurement Department supports this action.

*Table 1. SFY 2023 Legacy Grant Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects*

<b>Agency</b>	<b>State Fiscal Year 2023</b>
Anoka County	\$1,831,678
Bloomington, City of	\$352,850
Carver County	\$438,919
Dakota County	\$1,603,585
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	\$4,755,020
Ramsey County	\$1,732,341
St. Paul, City of	\$2,562,053
Scott County	\$752,686
Three Rivers Park District	\$4,851,287
Washington County	\$1,053,681
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,934,100</b>

## 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 funds. This item is contingent upon adoption of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Amendment, Business Item 2022-146 JT, scheduled to be presented at the July 18, 2022, Community Development Committee Meeting and for final action at the August 10, 2022, Council Meeting.