

Committee Report

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Community Development Committee Meeting: June 6, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: June 22, 2022

Business Item: 2022-141

Amendment to the 2019 Pilot Year Regional Parks System Equity Grant Program Fund Distribution Plan

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council amend the Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program 2019 Fund Distribution Plan to allow for an additional one-year extension for the awarded grants.

Summary of Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Discussion/Questions

Jessica Lee, Senior Planner, presented the staff report to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission on June 2, 2022.

Commissioner Monica Dillenburg asked if one extra year would be enough time to complete the projects. Ms. Lee responded that the agencies needing an extension have confirmed that they will be able to complete their projects with the extra year. The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed actions.

Motion by Commissioner Dillenburg, seconded by Commissioner Cana Yang. Motion carried.



Business Item

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Community Development Committee Meeting: June 6, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: June 22, 2022

Business Item: 2022-141

Amendment to the 2019 Pilot Year Regional Parks System Equity Grant Program Fund Distribution Plan

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program 2019 Fund Distribution Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Jessica Lee, Senior Planner, 651-602-1621
Division/Department:	Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council amend the Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program 2019 Fund Distribution Plan to allow for an additional one-year extension for the awarded grants.

Background

The Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program 2019 Fund Distribution Plan (FDP) was approved by the Council on June 26, 2019, [Business Item 2019-131](#). The grant terms outlined in the FDP stipulated a two-year grant term with a single one-year extension possible at the discretion of Council staff. Three grants were awarded. All grant awards have been granted a one-year extension and are nearing the end of their grant term.

Council staff regularly discuss project progress with the grantees and have learned that all awarded projects may require another one-year extension to complete their scope of work. Projects have been delayed due to construction delays and supply chain issues resulting from the pandemic. Projects are also facing project cost increases due to unanticipated inflation.

Rationale

The 2019 funding cycle was the first solicitation, or pilot, of the Equity Grant Program. In all new grant programs, we anticipate modifications to provisions that were initially developed for the program, including timeframes for completion. Further, we did not anticipate the types of global delays that would be associated with the pandemic that has affected all projects. Extending the grant awards an additional year will allow for successful completion of projects.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The competitive equity grant program seeks to advance the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcome of equity by increasing the equitable usage of the Regional Parks System by all residents of the region.

Funding

Funds are currently programmed in the Council's Authorized Capital Program.



