



# Community Development Grants

Overview and Annual Impact



October 2022

Heather Giesel, CD/MTS Acting Director & Grants Manager

# Community Development Grants Overview

## Grant Portfolio

- Approx. 425 active grants
- ~\$226 million portfolio
- 10 annual solicitations managed by program staff and supported by CD grant unit staff
- Staff ensure compliance with all federal, state, local and Council grant requirements through ongoing management and monitoring of individual grants

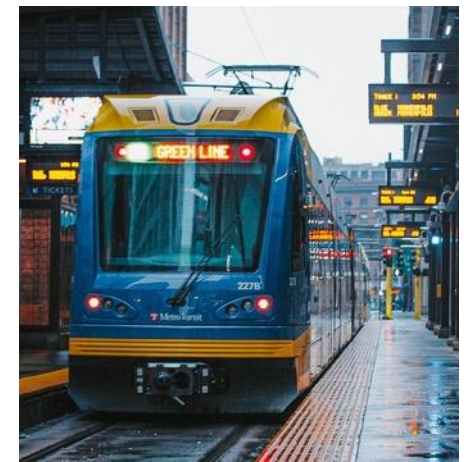


# Livable Communities

## Program Overview

- The LCA provides funding for communities to invest in local economic revitalization, workforce housing initiatives, and development or redevelopment that connects different land uses and transportation.
- Opportunities are supported by the Livable Communities Act (LCA), adopted by the Minnesota Legislature in 1995.
- 76 participating communities are eligible to compete for funding from all four LCA categories

**From 1996 through the 2021 funding cycle, the Council awarded 1,261 grants totaling over \$473 million in Livable Communities funds. These grants have leveraged billions of dollars in private and other public investment**



# Livable Communities



## LCA Grant Programs

- Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA)
- LCDA – Transit Oriented Development (LCDA-TOD)
- Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)
- Local Housing Incentives Account (LHIA)
- Pre-Development Grants
- Policy Development Program
- LHIA Affordable Homeownership Pilot – Begin in 2023

# Livable Communities



## Current Portfolio

- Approximately 150 active grant projects totaling \$74.8 million
- \$21 million spent on projects
- \$53.8 million remaining to be spent
- Funding is helping to create jobs, affordable housing and private investment in areas round the region

# Livable Communities



## Highlighted Projects

### Cornerstone Village – Oakdale

**Program:** LCDA

**Applicant:** City of Oakdale

**Award Amount:** \$565,000

**Housing:** 71 units (50 affordable: <30% AMI: 14 | 31-50% AMI: 25 | 51-60% AMI: 11.

**Bedrooms:** 18 One BR | 40 Two BR | 13 Three BR)

**Jobs:** 2 living wage jobs

**Project Description:** The project is a mixed-income housing development that will target units to families living with an individual who has an Intellectual or Developmental Disability. The project is providing larger units and is targeting affordable housing for residents who have challenges finding stable, secure housing as well as their families. The project is well connected to surrounding uses and includes a playground and greenspace for residents.

# Livable Communities



## Highlighted Projects

### Seward Commons

**Program:** LCDA-TOD

**Applicant:** City of Minneapolis

**Award Amount:** \$1,500,000

**Housing:** 32 units (32 affordable: 9 @ <30% | 23 @ 31-50%. Bedrooms: 8 One Br | 8 Two BR | 16 Three or more BR)

**Jobs:** 6 living wage jobs

**Project Description:** A dense small-site redevelopment including affordable housing and the permanent relocation of a community garden CSA within the area. The project is the last in a coordinated multi-phase redevelopment of land around the Franklin Avenue Station Area. The project provides increased housing choice including larger units for families and targeted affordable housing for underserved populations. Unique partnerships and a neighborhood-scale redevelopment strategy create complementary uses, re-establishes an existing business, and integrates affordable family housing and urban food production. The project is well connected to surrounding uses through multi-modal networks and includes intentionally designed green space

# Livable Communities



## Highlighted Projects

### Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

**Program:** LHIA

**Applicant:** Dakota County CDA

**Award Amount:** \$500,000

**Housing:** 10 preserve single family units

**Project Description:** This project will support Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's acquisition and rehabilitation of 10 houses from the Dakota County CDA that were previously scattered site rental units in the cities of Apple Valley, Rosemount, Farmington, Lakeville, West St Paul, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Burnsville, Mendota Heights, and Eagan.



# Regional Parks and Trails

## Program Overview

- The Council administers a variety of funding sources and grant programs for the betterment of the Regional Parks System
- Funds are awarded or passed through to the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies:
  - Anoka County
  - City of Bloomington
  - Carver County
  - Dakota County
  - Minneapolis Parks and Rec Board
  - Ramsey County
  - City of St. Paul
  - Scott County
  - Three Rivers Park District
  - Washington County

**From state fiscal year 2010 through the current fiscal year 2023, the Council has awarded over 670 grants, totaling over \$350 million to the ten regional park implementing agencies.**



# Regional Parks and Trails



## Grant Programs

- Parks and Trails Legacy Fund
- Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund
- Regional Parks Bonding
- Competitive Equity Grants
- Operation and Maintenance Funds

# Regional Parks and Trails



## Current Portfolio

- Approximately 200 active grant projects totaling \$149 million
- \$47.8 million spent on projects
- \$101.2 million remaining to be spent
- Funding is helping to improve facilities, acquire land, engage with the public and advance equity in the Regional Parks and Trails system

# Livable Communities



## Highlighted Projects

### Acquisition at Gale Woods Farm

**Program:** Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund

**Applicant:** Three Rivers Park District

**Award Amount:** \$460,000 (PTLF and Council match)

### Project Description:

28-acre acquisition for Gale Woods Farm Special Recreation Feature including woodlands with pockets of wetlands, adjacent to the Dakota Rail Regional Trail. Gale Woods Farm features outdoor fun on a real working farm! Located on picturesque Whaletail Lake in Minnetrista, the farm features a unique educational opportunity for visitors of all ages to gain an understanding of agriculture, food production and land stewardship.

# Livable Communities



## Highlighted Projects

### Commitment to Equity in the Outdoors

**Program:** Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

**Applicant:** Dakota County

**Award Amount:** Varies

### Project Description:

Each year for the last several years, Dakota County has used less than \$100,000 of its Legacy allocation for their outreach program. It's a great example of using legacy funds to connect people and the outdoors, and also shows how far a little bit of programming funding can go to reach underrepresented or underserved communities. Projects include a full-time Outreach Coordinator; an Indigenous Liaison; marketing, awareness, and promotions plan development and implementation and a focus on co-creating nature-based experiences with the community.

# Livable Communities



## Highlighted Projects

### Paddle Sport Rental Stations

**Program:** Parks Equity Grant Program

**Applicant:** Washington County

**Award Amount:** \$70,000

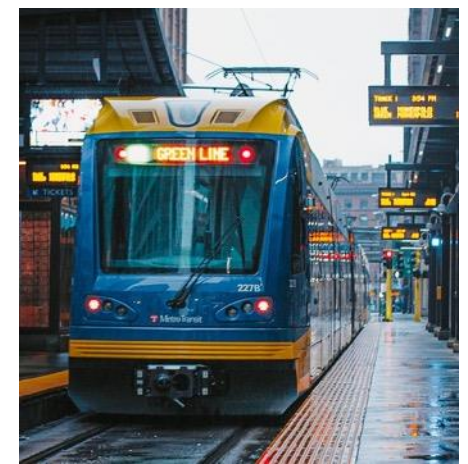
### Project Description:

Installing Paddle Sport Rental Stations at Square Lake Special Recreation Feature and Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. The grant also supports free Learn to Paddle Programming in collaboration with REI for people to learn to enjoy paddle sports such as kayaking and paddleboarding. Despite the growing popularity of paddle sports significant barriers exist that prevent underrepresented user groups from participating in paddle sports. Providing rental equipment will allow new users an opportunity to try these sports and offers more activities to encourage these users to visit the regional park system.

# Local Planning Assistance

## Program Overview

- Planning assistance grants are made available to assist communities with updating their local comprehensive plans.
- The Council establishes eligibility to apply for grants to target communities most in need of financial assistance to complete their local plans
- Grants are not competitive
- 2016 Grants
  - 104 eligible communities
  - Ranged from \$10,000 - \$84,000



# Local Planning Assistance



## Impact of 2016 Grant Round and Current Status

- \$1.86 million was awarded in 2016
- As of today, \$1.81 million has been paid out to 69 grantees
- The grants went to municipalities that had a small tax base, forecasted higher growth, or were a consortium of 5 small communities.
- Grants enabled cities without planning staff to hire consultants and pay city staff to complete their 2040 Comprehensive plans according to Council requirements.
- Only four communities remain to be reimbursed once their comprehensive plan updates have been approved and plans are adopted by their governing bodies.
- 3 are no longer eligible for reimbursement.





Thank You

**Heather Giesel**

Acting Director & Grants Manager  
CD/MTS Finance & Administration

