



Community Development Grants

Overview and Annual Impact



November 2023

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Community Development Grants Overview

Community Development Units with Grant Programs

**Livable
Communities**

**Local Planning
Assistance**

**Regional Parks
and Trails**



Community Development Grants Overview

Grant Portfolio

- Approx. 330 active grants
- ~\$257 million portfolio
- 10-14 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

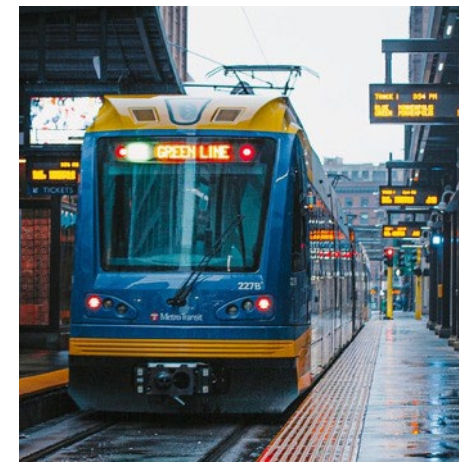


Livable Communities

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 most recent 2023 funding rounds, the Council has awarded 1,344 grants totaling over \$503 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 – Began in 2023**

Livable Communities



Current Portfolio through Q3 2023

- Approximately 170 active grant projects totaling \$77.3 million
- \$17 million spent on projects
- \$60 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

The Unity Building - Minneapolis

Program: TBRA-Cleanup

Applicant: City of Minneapolis

Award Amount: \$296,500

Net tax capacity increase: \$58,820

Housing: 0

Jobs: 70

Project Description: Expected benefits include the construction of a 25,000 square foot multi-tenant commercial building on Lake Street.

Livable Communities



Highlighted Projects

Opportunity Site – Phase 1

Program: LCDA-TOD

Applicant: City of Brooklyn Center

Award Amount: \$2,000,000

Housing: 60 units (60 affordable: 16 @ <30% | 44 @ 31-50%)

Bedrooms: 15 One Br | 30 Two BR | 15 Three or more BR)

Jobs: 6 living wage jobs

Project Description: This project is an initial ‘sub-phase’ development that will be the start of a 16-acre Phase One for the city’s larger 80-acre Opportunity Site redevelopment. This proposal includes an event center with a 24-hour childcare and Academic Learning Center in one building and an adjacent building with 60 units of affordable housing.

Livable Communities



Highlighted Projects

30,000 Feet

Program: LCDA-Development

Applicant: City of St. Paul

Award Amount: \$495,000

Housing: 0

Jobs: 25 (11 full-time, 14 part-time)

Project Description: 30,000 Feet (30K)'s Black Arts + Tech Center will provide cultural and workforce readiness skills training to the East Saint Paul community. The project includes access to the outdoors, natural light, and connectivity between program spaces. 30K's Black Arts + Tech Center will contribute to an economically prosperous and equitable region by creating living wage jobs accessible to local workers. Partnering with local employers and workforce boards, 30K will provide computer science certification for career readiness, with the goal of 10-15 youth obtaining permanent employment with local tech employer partners each year.

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 2024, the Council has awarded over 730 grants, totaling over \$487 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
- **Modernization**
- **Hazard Tree Removal/Ash Replacement**

Regional Parks and Trails



Current Portfolio through Q3 2023

- Approximately 160 active grant projects totaling nearly \$180 million
- \$25 million spent on projects
- \$155 million remaining to be spent
- \$70 million in FY24 funding available for new projects currently under development by implementing agencies
- Funding is helping to improve facilities, acquire land, engage with the public and advance equity in the Regional Parks and Trails system

Regional Parks and Trails



Highlighted Projects

Acquisition for Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Program: Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund

Applicant: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Award Amount: \$964,125 (PTLF and Council match)

Project Description:

0.2-acre acquisition for Chain of Lakes Regional Park. This parcel was privately owned and entirely encircled by parkland and public right-of-way. Acquisition of this property provides contiguous green space and allows for an expanded nature play area with sweeping views of Lake Bde Maka Ska. The site is partially wooded with many large oak trees.

Regional Parks and Trails



Highlighted Projects

Commitment to Increased Accessibility and Amenities for Underserved Communities

Program: Regional Parks and Trails - Modernization

Applicant: Ramsey County

Award Amount: \$1,313,521

Project Description:

Battle Creek Regional Park – Water Works Aquatic Facility. An ADA Transition Plan identified significant improvements needed to meet ADA accessibility. Additionally, visitation had declined due to outdated infrastructure and amenities. Improvements will not only comply with the latest ADA rule requirements but will also provide vital water recreation opportunities for adjacent disadvantaged and BIPOC communities.

Regional Parks and Trails



Highlighted Projects

Great River Passage Initiative

Program: Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

Applicant: City of St. Paul

Award Amount: \$340,000

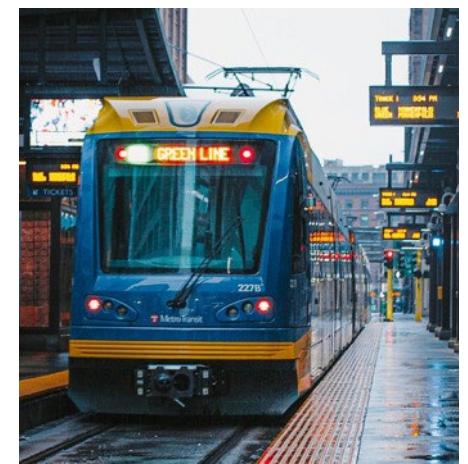
Project Description:

Continued implementation of division created in 2016 to increase annual visits from underserved demographic groups to St. Paul's riverfront regional parks by providing more opportunities and increasing accessibility. The initiative introduces innovative public engagement practices, provides venues for cultural and recreational activities, and training for participation in natural resource-based activities. Partnerships with Mississippi Park Connection, National Park Service, Wilderness Inquiry, Your Boat Club, and others. Examples of programming include Paddle Share and Adaptive Paddle Share Program and Voices of the River Micro-Documentary series.

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 Future Grants

- \$1.86 million was awarded in 2016
- \$1.81 million was paid out to 69 grantees
- Grants enabled cities without planning staff to hire consultants and pay city staff to complete their 2040 Comprehensive plans
- A new round of grant funding is anticipated in 2025



Thank You

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