

Business Item

Community Development Committee



Committee Meeting Date: September 3, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: September 11, 2024

Business Item: 2024-233

Signature Authorization for State Fiscal Year 2025 Regional Parks Grant Programs

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.325 and 85.53; Minn. Const. Article XI, Section 15; Minn. Laws 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 40, Article 3, Section 4; Minn. Laws 2024, Regular Session, Chapter 106, Article 3, Section 4; Minn. Laws 2024, Regular Session, Chapter 116, Article 1, Section 5; 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Policy, Strategies 2 and 3; Council Business Item 2024-188 JT, 2024 Budget Amendment – 3rd Quarter Community Development; FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Erin Acton, Parks Grant Administrator, 651-602-1938

Division/Department: Community Development / Finance and Administration

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Community Development Executive Director to execute grant agreements and amendments for:

1. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy), and
2. SFY 2025 Legislatively Designated Pass-through Program (Pass-Through), and in accordance with, Tables 1 and 2.

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 Executive Director is currently authorized to execute agreements and amendments up to \$500,000, Council action is required for execution of grant agreements and amendments exceeding \$500,000.

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

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

Tree program grants are distributed based on agency's formula shares, through one grant agreement to each agency. All grants have the same project description derived from the appropriation language. There is no project review required for these grants.

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 2024/2025 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 2025 Legacy Grant Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects

Agency	State Fiscal Year 2025
ANOKA COUNTY	\$2,389,751
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$413,271
CARVER COUNTY	\$634,982
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$2,269,752
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD	\$6,075,903
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$2,384,137
SAINT PAUL, CITY OF	\$3,151,341
SCOTT COUNTY	\$960,877
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	\$6,499,935
WASHINGTON COUNTY	\$1,470,351
TOTAL	\$26,250,300

Legislatively Designated Pass-Through Program

Through appropriation language, the Legislature determined legislatively designated pass-through grant project descriptions and award amounts. Table 2 lists legislatively designated pass-through projects and amounts for SFY 2025.

Table 2. SFY2025 Legislatively Designated Pass-Through Grant Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Amount
South Saint Paul, City of	Tree Planting	\$688,000
TOTAL		\$688,000

*All projects are funded by State General Funds

Rationale

Council staff previously brought each individual grant, or small batches of grant agreements, to the Council to obtain signature authorization for the Community Development Executive Director for agreements exceeding \$500,000.

This action increases efficiency by authorizing the Community Development Executive Director to execute grant agreements and amendments up to the amounts listed in Tables 1 and 2, 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 and State General Fund funds. The Council has approved the funding through its authorized capital program.

Small Business Inclusion

N/A

