

2020 Budget Discussion

Regional Parks Interest Earnings

June 18, 2019

Equity Advisory Committee





Background

From 1985 through December 31, 2017, all interest earned on Regional Parks System appropriations to the Metropolitan Council was legislatively earmarked to support North Mississippi Regional Park.



Current situation

Per legislation passed in 2015, as of January 1, 2018, the Council “shall use the interest earnings ... for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council.”





Interest earnings parameters

- Can fund operating or capital initiatives
- Earned annually, but vary each year
 - About \$700,000* in 2018 interest earnings available
- Funds can be included in the annual budget or authorized in a budget amendment
- No statutory authority to distribute Regional Parks System funds outside of the regional parks implementing agencies

* This is an estimate that is not yet audited or final.

Overview of the Regional Parks System

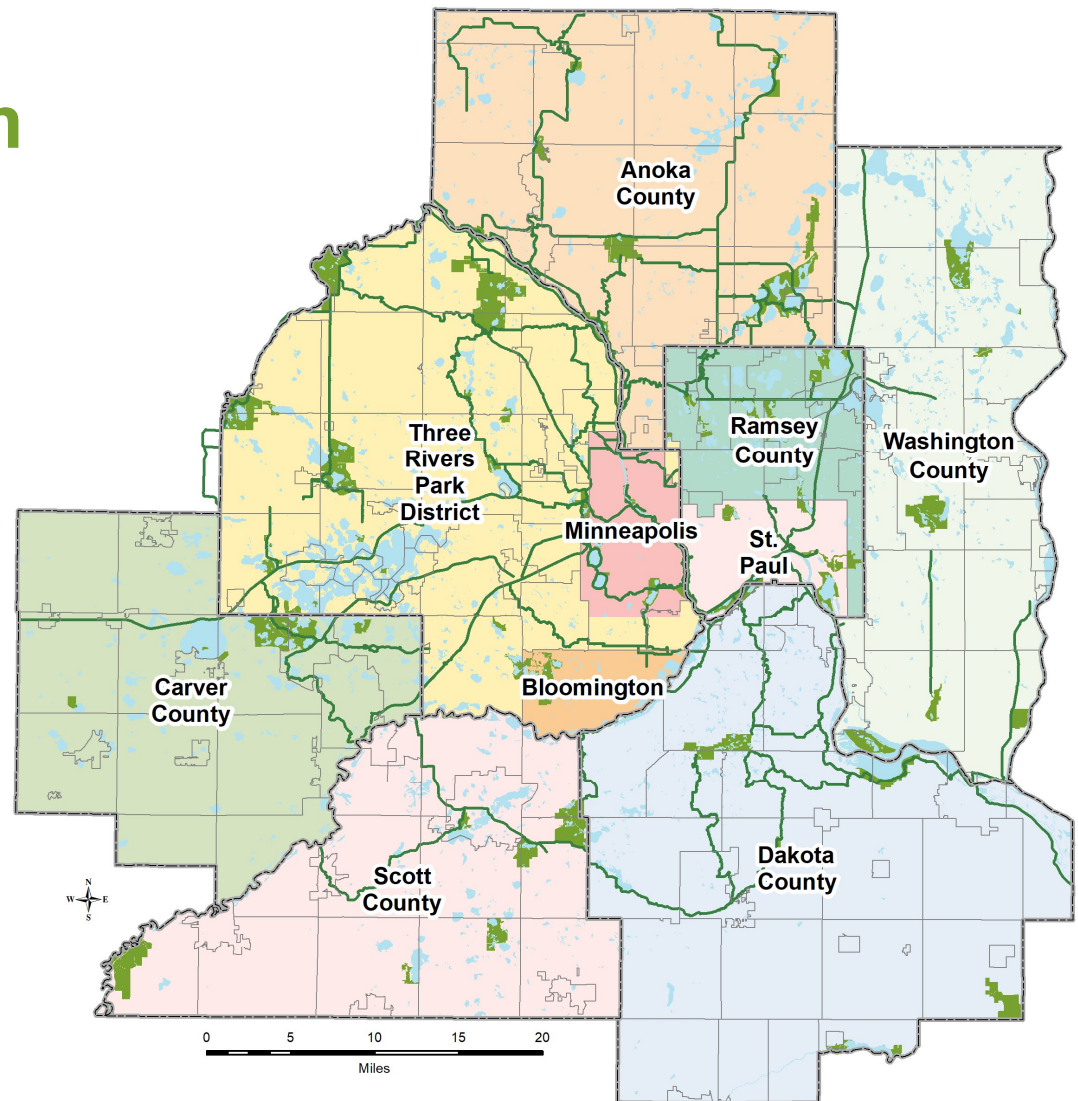
- Natural resource based settings
 - Focus on water bodies
- Natural resource based recreation
- Serve regional audience
- Large acreage
- Nationally renowned system of interconnected regional parks and trails

**French Regional Park
Three Rivers Park District**



Regional Parks System

- Includes:
 - 44 Regional Parks
 - 12 Park Reserves
 - 8 Special Recreation Features
 - 49 Regional Trails
- 54,400 acres
- 389 miles of regional trails
- Planned to grow to 70,000 acres and 1,100 miles of regional trails by 2040



Regional Parks in Context

Local Parks

- Developed to provide facilities for active recreation
- Serve a local neighborhood or community
- Smaller scale, often located in residential areas

Regional Parks

- High-quality natural resources
- Serve a regional audience
- Large acreage

State Parks, Lands, and Trails

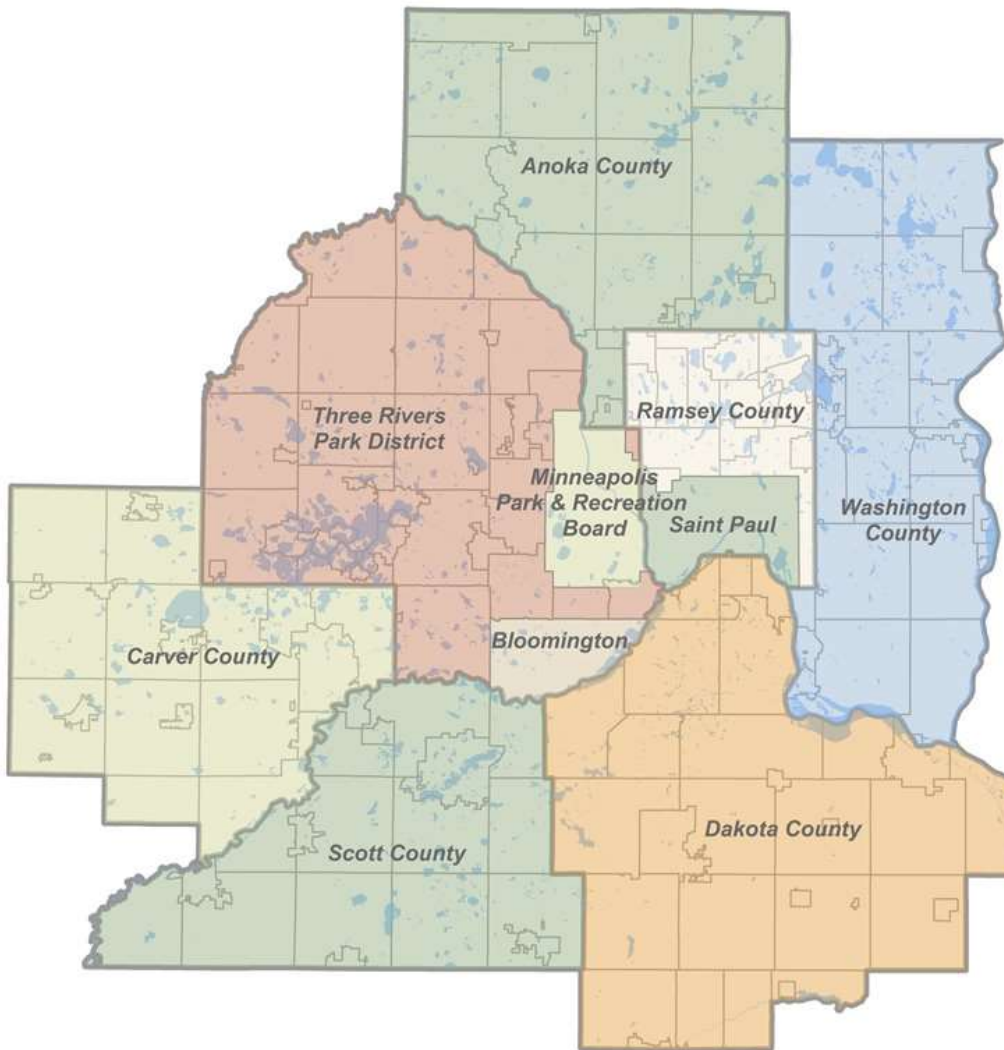
- Managed by the Department of Natural Resources
- Large acreage
- Vast majority of system located outside Metro Region

National Parks and Federal Lands

- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
- St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Regional Park Implementing Agencies Own and Operate the System

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County
- Washington County
- Bloomington
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- Saint Paul
- Three Rivers Park District





Discussion and direction

What are your priorities for the use of these funds for 2019?

For further information

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