

## Community Development Committee

For the special Metropolitan Council meeting on October 16, 2013

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**Subject:** Request for Reimbursement Consideration of five Dakota County Regional Park and Trails Projects

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$918,000 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs for the following projects:

1. Park System-wide furnishings and site amenities \$43,000  
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans
2. Greenway System-wide furnishings and site enhancements \$90,000  
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans
3. Big Rivers Regional Trail trailhead design \$75,000  
Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead
4. Lebanon Hills Regional Park connector trail construction \$420,000  
Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan
5. North Urban Regional Trail - Mendota Heights/West St. Paul construction \$290,000  
Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul

Acknowledge that the Council does not, under any circumstances, represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

## Community Development Committee

Meeting date: October 7, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 23, 2013

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**Subject:** Request for Reimbursement Consideration of five Dakota County Regional Park and Trails Projects

**District(s), Member(s):** Metropolitan Council District 15, Steven Chávez, and District 16, Wendy Wulff

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statute 473.313

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Tori Dupre, Senior Planner (651-602-1621)

**Division/Department:** Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

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### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$918,000 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs for the following projects:

1. Park System-wide furnishings and site amenities \$43,000  
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans
2. Greenway System-wide furnishings and site enhancements \$90,000  
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans
3. Big Rivers Regional Trail trailhead design \$75,000  
Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead
4. Lebanon Hills Regional Park connector trail construction \$420,000  
Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan
5. North Urban Regional Trail - Mendota Heights/West St. Paul construction \$290,000  
Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul

Acknowledge that the Council does not, under any circumstances, represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

### Background

On September 5, 2013, Dakota County requested that the Metropolitan Council consider authorizing eligibility for future reimbursement for five park and trail projects totaling \$918,000, from the County's share of future regional parks capital improvement programs.

## **Rationale**

Dakota County requests that these costs be considered for reimbursement from its share of future regional parks capital improvement programs. The request for reimbursement consideration is consistent with the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Finance Strategy 6, which states:

### Finance Strategy 6: Reimbursement

*"...Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan; that all information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project; and that the Council approves the project..."*

The County's request meets the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost for the projects are consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plans for these regional parks and greenway trails.
2. Dakota County's request provides sufficient information regarding what would be financed with a Council grant, meeting Finance Strategy 6 requirements. The information is outlined in Dakota County's letter (Attachment 1).
3. Dakota County requests the Metropolitan Council's approval for County expenditures toward these projects prior to undertaking them.

## **Funding**

Funding for the future reimbursement of the projects may be awarded through Dakota County's share of Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). Metropolitan Council action is required to approve specific grants to Dakota County. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission recommended approval of the proposed action at its meeting on October 1, 2013.

There is no known opposition to this request as it is consistent with Finance Strategy 6 from the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: October 1, 2013

For the Community Development Committee meeting of October 7, 2013

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**Subject:** Request for Reimbursement Consideration of five Dakota County Regional Park and Trails Projects

**District(s), Member(s):** MPOSC District H, Barbara Schmidt

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statute 473.315

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Tori Dupre, Senior Planner (651-602-1621)

**Division/Department:** Community Development, Regional Parks and Natural Resources

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### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Dakota County up to \$918,000 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs for the following projects:

1. Park System-wide furnishings and site amenities \$43,000  
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans
2. Greenway System-wide furnishings and site enhancements \$90,000  
Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans
3. Big Rivers Regional Trail trailhead design \$75,000  
Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead
4. Lebanon Hills Regional Park connector trail construction \$420,000  
Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan
5. North Urban Regional Trail - Mendota Heights/West St. Paul construction \$290,000  
Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul

Acknowledge that the Council does not, under any circumstances, represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

### Background

On September 5, 2013, Dakota County requested that the Metropolitan Council consider authorizing eligibility for future reimbursement for five park and trail projects totaling \$918,000, from the County's share of future regional parks capital improvement programs. See **Attachment 1**. The five projects are as follows:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <u>Park System-wide</u> furnishings and site amenities<br>Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans            | \$43,000  |
| <u>Greenway-system wide</u> furnishings and site enhancements<br>Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans | \$90,000  |
| <u>Big Rivers Regional Trail</u> trailhead design<br>Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead                                    | \$75,000  |
| <u>Lebanon Hills Regional Park</u> connector trail construction<br>Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan  | \$420,000 |
| <u>North Urban Regional Trail</u> - Mendota Heights/West St. Paul construction<br>Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul            | \$290,000 |

## Rationale

Dakota County requests that these costs be considered for reimbursement from its share of future regional parks capital improvement programs. The request for reimbursement consideration is consistent with the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Finance Strategy 6, which states:

### **Finance Strategy 6: Reimbursement**

"...Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan; that all information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project; and that the Council approves the project..."

The County's request meets the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The timing, scale and cost for the projects are consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plans for Big Rivers Regional Trail (MC action 1993 & 2012), Lebanon Hills Regional Park (MC action Aug 2001), and North Urban Regional Trail (MC action May 1997). The park and greenway system-wide furnishings and amenities are standard park and greenway facility improvements in all Dakota County master plans.
2. Dakota County's request provides sufficient information regarding what would be financed with a Council grant, meeting Finance Strategy 6 requirements. In this case, the information is outlined in Dakota County's letter **Attachment 1**.
3. Dakota County is requesting Metropolitan Council approval for County expenditures toward these projects prior to undertaking them.

## **Funding**

Funding for the future reimbursement of the projects may be awarded through Dakota County's share of Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). Metropolitan Council action is required to approve specific grants to Dakota County. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to this request as it is consistent with Finance Strategy 6 from the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

# Attachment 1: Letter from Steve Sullivan, Dakota County Parks



## Physical Development Division

Dakota County  
Western Service Center  
14955 Galaxie Avenue  
Apple Valley, Mn 55124-8579

952.891.7000  
Fax 952.891.7031  
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)

Environmental Resources  
*Land Conservation*  
*Groundwater Protection*  
*Surface Water*  
*Waste Regulation*  
*Environmental Initiatives*

Office of Planning

Operations Management  
*Facilities Management*  
*Fleet Management*  
*Parks*

Transportation  
*Highways*  
*Surveyor's Office*  
*Transit Office*

September 16, 2013

Arne Stefferud  
Manager of Parks and Natural Resource Unit  
Metropolitan Council  
390 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Arne:

Dakota County requests Metropolitan Council consideration for authorizing eligibility for future reimbursement for the following projects and amounts. The approved Dakota County Park Capital Improvement Budget includes the use of County funds for the following projects:

**- Park-system wide furnishings and site amenities** **\$43,000**

Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional parks per approved master plans

**- Greenway-system wide furnishings and site enhancements** **\$90,000**

Benches, drinking fountains, signs, landscaping and miscellaneous site amenities in regional greenways per approved master plans

**- Big Rivers Regional Trail trailhead design** **\$75,000**

Design and engineering of trailhead building and associated site improvements at the Highway 13 trailhead.

**- Lebanon Hills Regional Park connector trail construction** **\$420,000**

Design and construction for a year-round connector trail per the approved master plan

**- North Urban Regional Trail - Mendota Hts/WSP construction** **\$290,000**

Design and construction for a trail from Hwy 110 and Warrior Drive to Garlough Park in West St. Paul

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sullivan".

Steve Sullivan, Director of Dakota County Parks

cc: Taud Hoopingarner, Operations Management Director  
Stacy Reilly, Senior Financial Analyst