

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 13, 2016

Subject: Amend Project Scope of Parks Grant SG2013-090, Anoka County

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG2013-090 to change the project scope to add “work for the Wargo Nature Center entrance redevelopment at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve.”

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

The Community Development Committee recommended approval of the proposed action as part of its consent agenda on March 21, 2016 meeting.

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: March 21, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 13, 2016

Subject: Amend Project Scope of Parks Grant SG2013-090, Anoka County

District(s), Member(s): Council District 10, Marie McCarthy and District 11, Sandy Rummel

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.315

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

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG2013-090 to change the project scope to add “work for the Wargo Nature Center entrance redevelopment at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve.”

Background

Anoka County requested the Metropolitan Council’s approval of an amendment to grant agreement SG2013-090. Anoka County completed the original work outlined in this agreement and now wishes to direct unspent grant funds. The original 2013 grant agreement was for a landscape designer/architect to work on park and trail amenities and facility projects throughout the County’s regional parks system. The \$120,000 grant was funded by FY 2014 and 2015 Parks and Trails Legacy funds and is available until June 30, 2017. To date, \$54,271.20 has been reimbursed, leaving an unspent balance of \$65,728.80.

Having completed the original project, the County requests this amendment direct the unspent balance to “work for the Wargo Nature Center entrance redevelopment at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve.” The County plans to reconstruct the pedestrian entrance trail from the parking lot to the nature center.

Rationale

MN Statutes 473.315 authorizes the Metropolitan Council to make grants from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to any implementing agency to cover the cost of acquiring or developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the Parks Policy Plan.

The Metropolitan Council must consider and approve the proposed grant amendment because it represents a substantial revision to the existing grant agreement and the funded project. The proposed grant amendment project is consistent with the Council-approved Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve master plan. It is also consistent with the grant agreement and the appropriation funding terms.

Funding

The grant is financed by a FY 2014 and 2015 Park and Trail Legacy Fund appropriation. The appropriation language indicates that remaining funds, after completion of the original project, may be spent on projects to support parks and trails by the implementing agency.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission unanimously recommended approval of the proposed action at its meeting on March 1, 2016. There is no known opposition to Anoka County's proposed grant amendment.

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: March 1, 2016

For the Community Development Committee meeting of March 21, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 13, 2016

Subject: Amend Project Scope of Parks Grant SG2013-090, Anoka County

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District E, Michael Kopp and District F, Sarah Hietpas

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.315

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

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve an amendment to grant agreement SG2013-090 to change the project scope to add “work for the Wargo Nature Center entrance redevelopment at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve.”

Background

Anoka County has requested the Metropolitan Council’s approval of an amendment to parks grant agreement SG2013-090 because the project is complete and grant funds remain as described in Attachment 1.

Parks grant agreement SG2013-090 is a 2013 grant to Anoka County for a landscape designer/architect to work on park and trail amenities and facility projects throughout the County’s regional parks system. The initial \$40,000 grant was funded by fiscal year 2014 legacy funds and amended in 2014 to add fiscal year 2015 legacy funds (\$80,000). In addition, the amendment updated the grant total (\$120,000) and extended the agreement term to June 30, 2017.

The Council’s grant agreement reimburses the County for grant eligible activities and to date the County has requested reimbursement for \$54,271.20, leaving an unspent balance of \$65,728.80. Because grant funds have been reimbursed, the project scope must be expanded to include the proposed new project.

The County’s request letter (attached) explains that the County hired a landscape designer and completed the project as of December 31, 2014, meeting the grant agreement requirements.

Because of the steady workload assigned to this position, the County created a permanent, budgeted staff position effective January 1, 2015. Therefore, with the grant project complete and unspent grant funds remaining, the County requests an amendment to SG2013-090 to expand the grant scope to add “work for the Wargo Nature Center entrance redevelopment at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve.” (Attachment 2).

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council must consider and approve the proposed grant amendment because it represents a substantial revision to the existing grant agreement and the funded project. The grant agreement language indicates *that any amendment must be in writing and will not be effective until it has been executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved the original contract, or their successors in office.*”

Anoka County's amendment request is consistent with the grant agreement conditions. In addition, the proposed project at Wargo Nature Center is consistent with the Council-approved Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve master plan. The Council approved the master plan in 1999 and an amendment in 2013. The proposed amendment is consistent with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* policies regarding minor amendments to grant agreements. The amendment does not change or increase the approved grant amount.

Funding

The grant is financed by the fiscal years 2014 and 2015 Park and Trail Legacy Fund appropriation. The appropriation language in Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 137, Article 3, section 4 indicates that "any funds remaining after completion of the listed project may be spent on projects to support parks and trails by the implementing agency.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to Anoka County's proposed grant amendment.



Anoka County
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION
Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Office
763-757-3920

Park Maintenance
763-755-0067

Park Rangers
612-719-4875

Natural Resources
763-767-2896

Bunker Beach Water Park
763-767-2895

Chomonix Golf Course
651-482-8484

Wargo Nature Center
651-429-8007

February 12, 2016

Tori Dupre, Senior Planner
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Remaining funds for Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Agreements SG2013-090

Dear Tori:

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department has worked diligently to execute the project outlined in grant agreement SG 2013-090. You will recall grant agreement SG 2013-090 was amended to increase the amount of funding for a landscape designer or architect position to \$120,000 and extend the expiration date to June 30, 2017.

Since the execution of the grant, the County was able to hire a landscape designer and complete the project as of December 31, 2014. Due to the steady amount of workload this position handles, the County decided to retain this position, but fund it out of the County budget, making it a permanent benefitted position as of January 1, 2015. Therefore, the requirements of the grant have been met and the project is complete.

The County recently submitted a reimbursement request in the amount of \$54,271.20 to cover the costs of the position prior to it being funded by the County. With that, there is anticipated to be a balance of \$65,728.80 remaining in this grant agreement.

Per the legislative language relating to the Metropolitan Council's appropriation of Parks and Trails Legacy funds, these funds are for "parks and trails of regional or statewide significance in the metropolitan area, distributed according to [the law]. Any funds remaining after completion of the listed project may be spent on projects to support parks and trails by the implementing agency."

Therefore, Anoka County is requesting to expand the scope of work in grant agreement SG 2013-090 to include work for the Wargo Nature Center Entrance Redevelopment at Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve. This project is consistent with the approved master plan for Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve and would fall under the Legacy strategy of taking care of what we have.

I have included a map illustrating the project location for your reference. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 763-767-2865 or karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Blaska".

Karen Blaska, Park Planner

Cc: Jeff Perry, Anoka County Parks and Recreation

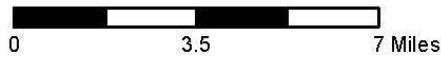
Activities Center, Bunker Hills Regional Park ▲ 550 Bunker Lake Blvd NW ▲ Andover, MN 55304
Office: 763-757-3920 ▲ www.anokacounty.us ▲ www.anokacountyparks.com

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

Attachment 2: Proposed Grant Project Location within Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve



**Anoka County
Parks & Recreation System**



Date: 02/11/2016