

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 26, 2019

Subject: Future Reimbursement Consideration for Carver County, Lake Waconia Regional Park

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$1.5 million from its share of a future Regional Parks Bonding Program for costs it incurs for development in Lake Waconia Regional Park; and
2. Inform Carver County that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that it will reimburse the County and that expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Senior Finance Planner Deb Streets Jensen presented the item to the Community Development Committee at its meeting on June 17, 2019. A Committee Member asked if the development of Lake Waconia Regional Park would include Coney Island. Jensen responded that Carver County is presently engaged in its historical due diligence to preserve artifacts on the island, and that development of the island will proceed with different funding after those efforts have concluded. The Committee approved the business item unanimously.

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission Report

For the Community Development Committee meeting of June 17, 2019

Subject: Future Reimbursement Consideration for Carver County, Lake Waconia Regional Park

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$1.5 million from its share of a future Regional Parks Bonding Program for costs it incurs for development in Lake Waconia Regional Park; and
2. Inform Carver County that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that it will reimburse the County and that expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Senior Finance Planner Deb Streets Jensen presented the item to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission at its meeting on June 6, 2019. Commission members had no questions. The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission had no questions on the item and voted unanimously to recommend the proposed action.

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: June 6, 2019

For the Community Development Committee meeting of June 17, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 26, 2019

Subject: Future Reimbursement Consideration for Carver County, Lake Waconia Regional Park

MPOSC District: B – Robert Moeller

Council District: 4 – Deb Barber

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 473.315; 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Strategy 6

Staff Prepared/Presented: Deb Streets Jensen, Senior Finance Planner (651-602-1554)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$1.5 million from its share of a future Regional Parks Bonding Program for costs it incurs for development in Lake Waconia Regional Park; and
2. Inform Carver County that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that it will reimburse the County and that expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Background

The 2018 Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million in bond proceeds to Carver County for development at Lake Waconia Regional Park, to “pre-design, to design, and for engineering of development of Lake Waconia Regional Park including construction of sewer and water utilities to the site, site grading, construction of a parking lot, and road improvements” (See [Laws of Minnesota 2018, chapter 214, article 1, section 17, subdivision 3](#)). Carver County has committed a local match of \$1.5 million. The County is requesting future reimbursement consideration for its local match amount. A copy of the County’s request is attached to this item (Attachment 1).

Rationale

Minnesota Statute § 473.315 authorizes the Metropolitan Council (Council) with the advice of the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission to make grants from any funds available for recreation open space purposes to cover any portion of the cost of developing regional recreation open space in accordance with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (Policy Plan).

The Policy Plan authorizes the Council to consider reimbursing an implementing agency for costs incurred in an eligible project if:

- *The project is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with a Council approved master plan.* The most recent master plan amendment for the Lake Waconia Regional Park was approved by the Council on March 8, 2017 ([Business item 2017-40](#)).
- *All information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the implementing agency undertaking the project.* The project will commence during the summer of 2019.
- *The Council approves the project.*

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action supports the Livability outcome in *Thrive MSP 2040* by increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation, thereby enhancing the region's quality of life.

Funding

There is no funding impact until and unless Carver County requests reimbursement out of future Regional Parks Bonding and the Council approves that future request. At that time, the Council will reimburse the County for documented, eligible costs.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.



**Carver
County
Parks**

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite 2
Cologne, MN 55322

May 10, 2019

Emmett Mullin
Manager, Regional Parks and Natural Resources
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Dear Emmett,

Carver County is preparing to move ahead with development of the Lake Waconia Regional Park, in the main land park area. As you are aware, the County received \$1.5 M of State bonds to be matched with \$1.5 million of County Funds.

Carver County requests that the Metropolitan Council approve future reimbursement consideration for the \$1.5M of County matching funds for costs incurred in this project, including predesign, design, and engineering for development of Lake Waconia Regional Park. Activities also include the construction of sewer and water utilities to the site, connections to private utilities, site grading, construction of roads and parking lots, removal of buildings, construction of walkways, and site restoration and landscaping.

Please advise if you need any further information to bring this through the Council in June for approval.

Sincerely,

Martin Walsh
Carver County
Parks and Recreation Director