

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

Subject: Parks Implementing Agencies Operation and Maintenance Grant Agreements

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Community Development Director to execute grant agreements with the ten regional park implementing agencies: Anoka County, City of Bloomington, Carver County, Dakota County, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, Ramsey County, Scott County, City of St. Paul, Three Rivers Park District, and Washington County in the amounts determined by formula defined in Minn. Stat. § 473.351.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Councilmember Lindstrom asked for confirmation that O&M funds have been passed to agencies for multiple years and if this was the first year agreements have been issued. Heather Giesel answered in the affirmative and added that the Council is issuing agreements as a movement towards grant best practices. Passed unanimously.

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: July 6, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

Subject: Parks Implementing Agencies Operation and Maintenance Grant Agreements

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stats. §§ 473.351 and 297A.94(e)(3); Minnesota Laws 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 5; *Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Chapter 5; BI 2020-170; BI 2019-333

Staff Prepared/Presented: Heather Giesel, Grants Manager (612) 990-8991, Nicole Clapp, Senior Grant Administrator (651-602-1674)

Division/Department: Community Development/ Finance and Administration

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Background

The State of Minnesota historically allocates approximately \$8-9M annually in operation and maintenance funds to the Metropolitan Council. The Council passes through 100% of funds to the ten regional park implementing agencies in amounts calculated using formulas prescribed by statute. Funds will be passed through using grant agreements, and Council action is required for the Community Development Director to execute agreements over \$500,000.

Funding is provided to implementing agencies at a 100-percent state share, with no local match required. A three-year grant agreement will document established responsibilities of both the Council and Implementing Agencies. This agreement will cover the second half of the current biennium and the next full biennium. Annual allocations will be determined by, and will be used to support operations and maintenance expenses generally eligible under [Minn. Stat. § 473.351](#). Forecasts indicate allocations to all agencies will exceed \$500,000 during the three-year grant term.

This is the first grant agreement to be executed for operations and maintenance passthrough funds. Agreements are being initiated now as part of on-going process improvement efforts. This change has been communicated to implementing agencies. Per [Minn. Stat. § 473.351](#), the initial payment from general fund allocation and first month of lottery in lieu of sales tax, must be made to implementing agencies by August 1st. The Council will pass funds through to implementing agencies by August 1st regardless if grant agreements are fully executed, in order to meet statutory requirements.

Rationale

The requested action will allow the Community Development Director to execute grant agreements with regional park implementing agencies so they may cover a portion of ongoing operation and maintenance expenses.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Thrive outcome of stewardship is supported by helping the ten regional park implementing agencies take care of existing infrastructure for the Twin Cities' world-class Regional Parks System.

The Thrive outcome of livability is supported by investing in the regional parks system and providing access to outdoor recreation, enhanced quality of life, and opportunities for increased health and wellness.

Funding

Operations and Maintenance funding is appropriated by the State of Minnesota.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.