

Committee Report

Business Item No. 2021-207

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 11, 2021

Subject: Parks Legacy Agreement Signature Authorization

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.325 and 85.53; Minn. Const. Article XI, Section 15; Minn. Laws 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 4; Minn. Laws 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Section 4; *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* Finance Policy, Strategies 2 and 3; Council Business Item 2021-143 JT, 2021 Q2 Budget Amendment BI-143 JT, FM 15-2 Grant/Loan Approval Policy, FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nicole Clapp, Senior Grant Administrator, 651-602-1723

Division/Department: Community Development / Finance and Administration

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Executive Director of Community Development to execute grant agreements and amendments for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy) hold-back funds and the SFY 2022 Legacy funds up to the amounts indicated, and in accordance with, Table 1.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

The item passed as part of the Committee's consent agenda.

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: August 2, 2021

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Background

The Council distributes Parks and Trails Legacy Fund dollars to Parks Implementing Agencies based upon a formula set in [Minn. Stat. § 85.53, subd. 3](#). Table 1 lists agency allocations.

The appropriations state that the SFY 2021 and SFY 2022 funding “must be used only to fund the list of projects approved by the elected representatives of each of the metropolitan parks implementing agencies.”

The requested action will allow the Executive Director of Community Development to execute grant agreements with Regional Parks Implementing Agencies to pass through funding granted by the legislature. The Metropolitan Council may award grant funds to meet specific public purpose needs. Council action is required for the Regional Administrator, or their designee, to execute agreements over \$500,000.

Execution of Legacy grant agreements is the final step after multiple reviews, discussions, and other actions.

- Council staff and the Parks Implementing Agencies present proposed Legacy projects lists to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.
- Council staff review Legacy projects for conformity with the *Regional Parks Policy Plan* and eligibility with funding source rules and regulations.
- The Council adopts funds into the Council's Authorized Budget.

Rationale

Prior to 2020, staff brought each individual grant, or small batches of grant agreements, to the Council to obtain signature authorization for the Community Development Director for agreements exceeding \$250,000. Starting in 2020, Council began approving

signature authorization at a higher level, for all formula grants from an entire fiscal year’s appropriation.

This action will increase efficiency by authorizing the Executive Director of Community Development to execute grant agreements and amendments up to the amounts listed in Table 1 rather than bringing multiple requests to the Council for signature authorization as individual grant agreements are ready for execution. This is the final non-discretionary step in the process. To the extent that the Council has any input in these projects, it is done at other, earlier stages in the process.

This action will improve customer service to Parks Implementing Agencies through reduced subrecipient agreement processing time. It will also reduce administrative processing work of Council staff. The Council’s Procurement Department supports this action.

Table 1. SFY 2021 Hold-back and 2022 Legacy Grant Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects

Agency	State Fiscal Year 2021 MMB Hold-Back	State Fiscal Year 2022	Total Available Legacy Funds
ANOKA COUNTY	\$220,676	\$1,795,539	\$2,016,215
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$43,440	\$345,888	\$389,328
CARVER COUNTY	\$52,491	\$430,260	\$482,751
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$189,865	\$1,571,947	\$1,761,812
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD	\$553,480	\$4,661,203	\$5,214,683
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$196,669	\$1,698,162	\$1,894,831
ST PAUL, CITY OF	\$334,193	\$2,511,503	\$2,845,696
SCOTT COUNTY	\$85,651	\$737,835	\$823,486
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	\$560,761	\$4,755,571	\$5,316,332
WASHINGTON COUNTY	\$123,474	\$1,032,892	\$1,156,366
TOTAL	\$2,360,700	\$19,540,800	\$21,901,500

Thrive Lens Analysis

Regional Parks funding advances the Thrive outcomes of Livability by enhancing the quality of life in the region through increasing access to nature and outdoor recreation.

Funding

Projects are funded with Legacy funds. This item is contingent upon adoption of the 2nd Quarter Budget Amendment ([Business Item 2021-143](#)) that was presented at the July 19, 2021, Community Development Committee Meeting and is scheduled for the August 11, 2021, Council Meeting.

Known Support / Opposition

Regional Parks Implementing Agencies and the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission support Legacy projects.

There is no known opposition.