

Committee Report

Community Development Committee



Committee Meeting Date: September 18, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: September 27, 2023

Business Item: 2023-213

Signature Authorization for State Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Regional Parks Grant Programs

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Community Development Executive Director to execute grant agreements and amendments for:

1. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024/2025 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy),
2. SFY 2024 Regional Parks Bonding Program (Bonding),
3. SFY 2024 Legislatively Designated Pass-through Program (Pass-Through),
4. SFY 2024 Regional Parks Modernization Program (Modernization), and
5. SFY 2024 Hazard Tree Removal/Ash Tree Replacement Program (Tree) up to the amounts indicated, and in accordance with, Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Summary of Community Development Committee Discussion/Questions

This item was on the Consent list

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried.



Business Item

Community Development Committee



Committee Meeting Date: September 18, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: September 27, 2023

Business Item: 2023-213

Signature Authorization for State Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Regional Parks Grant Programs

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §§ 473.325 and 85.53; Minn. Const. Article XI, Section 15; Minn. Laws 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 40, Article 3, Section 4; Minn. Laws 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 72, Article 1, Section 17; Laws 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 71, Article 1, Section 11; Laws 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 60, Article 1, Section 5; 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Policy, Strategies 2 and 3; Council Business Item 2023-174 JT, 2023 Budget Amendment – 3rd Quarter Community Development

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nicole Clapp, Acting Grants Manager, 651-602-1723

Division/Department: Community Development / Finance and Administration

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Community Development Executive Director to execute grant agreements and amendments for:

1. State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024/2025 Parks and Trails Legacy Fund Program (Legacy),
2. SFY 2024 Regional Parks Bonding Program (Bonding),
3. SFY 2024 Legislatively Designated Pass-through Program (Pass-Through),
4. SFY 2024 Regional Parks Modernization Program (Modernization), and
5. SFY 2024 Hazard Tree Removal/Ash Tree Replacement Program (Tree) up to the amounts indicated, and in accordance with, Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Background

This action pertains to formula-based and legislatively designated parks grant programs.

The Council executes grant agreements with Regional Parks Implementing Agencies, or other legislatively named grant recipients, to pass through funding granted by the legislature. The Community Development Executive Director is currently authorized to execute agreements and amendments up to \$250,000, Council action is required for execution of grant agreements and amendments exceeding \$500,000.

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

1. Council staff review Legacy, Bonding, and Modernization projects for conformity with the *Regional Parks Policy Plan* and eligibility with funding source rules and regulations. This review could include a combination of Legacy, state bond, state general funds, and regional Council bonds funding rules.
2. Council staff and the Parks Implementing Agencies present proposed Legacy, Bonding, and Modernization projects lists to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and Community Development Committee.

3. The Council adopts funds into the Council's Authorized Budget.
4. Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) reviews and approves any projects funded by state bonds and/or state general fund, as required.

Tree program grants are distributed based on agency's formula shares, through one grant agreement to each agency. All grants have the same project description derived from the appropriation language. There is no project review required for these grants.

Legislatively named pass-through projects do not allow or require Council review or approval, but rather are legislatively directed. The Council acts as the fiscal agent for these grants.

Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

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

The appropriation states this SFY 2024/2025 funding "must be used only to fund the list of projects approved by the elected representatives of each of the metropolitan parks implementing agencies."

Table 1. SFY 2024/2025 Legacy Grant Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects

Agency	State Fiscal Year 2024	State Fiscal Year 2025
ANOKA COUNTY	\$2,326,454	\$2,078,273
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$403,303	\$360,280
CARVER COUNTY	\$618,782	\$552,772
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$2,205,650	\$1,970,356
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION BOARD	\$6,009,163	\$5,368,119
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$2,320,762	\$2,073,188
SAINT PAUL, CITY OF	\$3,048,555	\$2,723,342
SCOTT COUNTY	\$1,045,657	\$934,108
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	\$6,306,810	\$5,634,013
WASHINGTON COUNTY	\$1,429,662	\$1,277,149
TOTAL	\$25,714,800 *total shares are under by \$2 due to rounding	\$22,971,600

Regional Parks Bonding Program

The Council distributes Regional Parks Bonding funds to Implementing Agencies based on a formula set in the [2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#). Table 2 lists agency allocations.

Table 2. SFY 2024 Regional Parks Bonding Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects

Agency	State Fiscal Year 2024
ANOKA COUNTY	\$2,707,707
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$651,113
CARVER COUNTY	\$862,853
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$3,015,783
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION	\$5,783,186
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$2,425,635
SAINT PAUL, CITY OF	\$3,163,923
SCOTT COUNTY	\$1,040,232
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	\$6,155,622
WASHINGTON CTY	\$1,893,945
TOTAL	\$27,700,000 *total shares are under by \$1 due to rounding



Regional Parks Modernization Program

This is a new general fund appropriation for state fiscal year 2024. The Council is distributing the Regional Parks Modernization funds to Implementing Agencies based on the Regional Parks Bonding Program formula set in the [2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan](#). Table 3 lists agency allocations.

Table 3. SFY 2024 Regional Parks Modernization Program Agency Shares for Eligible Projects

Agency	State Fiscal Year 2024
ANOKA COUNTY	\$1,466,267
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$352,588
CARVER COUNTY	\$467,249
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$1,633,095
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION	\$3,131,689
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$1,313,521
SAINT PAUL, CITY OF	\$1,713,316
SCOTT COUNTY	\$563,302
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	\$3,333,370
WASHINGTON CTY	\$1,025,602
TOTAL	\$15,000,000
	*total shares are under by \$1 due to rounding

Hazardous Tree Removal/Ash Tree Replacement Program

This is a new, one-time, general fund appropriation for state fiscal year 2024. The Council is distributing the Hazardous Tree Removal/Ash Tree Replacement funds to Implementing Agencies based on each agency's proportionate share of weighted system acreage. Table 4 lists agency allocations.

Table 4. SFY 2024 Hazardous Tree Removal/Ash Tree Replacement Program Agency Shares

Agency	State Fiscal Year 2024
ANOKA COUNTY	\$161,384
BLOOMINGTON, CITY OF	\$4,423
CARVER COUNTY	\$26,549
DAKOTA COUNTY	\$102,079
MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION	\$74,958
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$117,838
SAINT PAUL, CITY OF	\$66,322
SCOTT COUNTY	\$40,161
TRPD/SCOTT*	\$53,404
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT**	\$274,730
WASHINGTON CTY	\$78,152
TOTAL	\$1,000,000

*Three Rivers Park District will receive the funding for the Scott/Three Rivers partnership and will carry out the project work for that funding within the jurisdiction of the Scott County regional system.

**This is the only grant within this program that requires signature authorization because it is over the authority currently delegated to the Community Development Executive Director of \$250,000.



Legislatively Designated Pass-Through Program

Through appropriation language, the Legislature determined legislatively designated pass-through grant project descriptions and award amounts. Table 5 lists legislatively designated pass-through projects and amounts for SFY 2024.

Table 5. SFY2024 Legislatively Designated Pass-Through Grant Projects

Grantee	Project Description	Amount
ANOKA COUNTY	Rice Creek North Regional Trail	\$200,000
CHAMPLIN, CITY OF	Mississippi Crossings	\$1,000,000
CHAMPLIN, CITY OF	Park Land Acquisition	\$1,250,000
DELLWOOD, CITY OF	Lake Links Trail	\$2,000,000
DAKOTA COUNTY	Minnesota River Greenway	\$5,000,000
DAKOTA COUNTY	Thompson Park	\$2,000,000
DAKOTA COUNTY	Veterans Memorial Greenway	\$5,000,000
MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD	Grand Rounds Missing Link	\$5,500,000
MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD	Cedar Riverside Recreation Center	\$3,500,000
RAMSEY COUNTY	Park at RiversEdge	\$6,220,000
RAMSEY COUNTY	Rice Street Revitalization	\$1,000,000
SAINT PAUL, CITY OF*	Mississippi River Learning Center	\$8,000,000
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT	Mississippi Gateway Regional Park	\$3,000,000
TOTAL		\$43,670,000

*This project funded by State General Obligation Bonds, all other projects funded by state General Funds

Rationale

Council staff previously brought each individual grant, or small batches of grant agreements, to the Council to obtain signature authorization for the Community Development Executive Director for agreements exceeding \$250,000.

This action will increase efficiency by authorizing the Community Development Executive Director to execute grant agreements and amendments up to the amounts listed in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, 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, and other legislatively designated grantees, through reduced subrecipient agreement processing time. It will also reduce administrative processing work of Council staff. The Council's Procurement Department supports this action.

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, State General Fund, State General Obligation Bond, and Council Regional Park Bond funds. The Council has approved funding and it is available in the authorized capital program.

Small Business Inclusion

N/A