

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: July 1, 2014

For the Community Development Committee meeting of July 21, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 13, 2014

Subject: Request for Reimbursement Consideration for Lilydale Regional Park Improvement Projects, City of Saint Paul

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District G, Carrie Wasley

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.315

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

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing City of Saint Paul up to \$500,000 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) for Phase II of the Lilydale Regional Park Master Plan implementation projects. These include 3,200 lineal feet of new roadway and bike lanes, more than 3,000 lineal feet of new trails, a trailhead parking lot, surface water features, burial of overhead power lines, installation of sanitary and water utilities, signage, slope stabilization and landscaping.
2. Acknowledge that the Council does not, under any circumstances, represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Background

On May 29, 2014, the City of Saint Paul requested that the Metropolitan Council consider future reimbursement of up to \$500,000 from the city's share of a future Metropolitan Council Regional Parks CIP for Phase II of the Lilydale Regional Park Master Plan implementation projects including 3,200 lineal feet of new roadway and bike lanes, more than 3,000 lineal feet of new trails, a trailhead parking lot, surface water features, burial of overhead power lines, installation of sanitary and water utilities, signage, slope stabilization and landscaping (**Attachments 1-2**). The project is important to St. Paul which initially requested \$1,282,000 in the 2014/15 CIP for the current project construction phase. However, the Legislature approved a smaller appropriation that reduced St. Paul's share for the Lilydale project to \$271,000, about 21 percent of the original amount.

Rationale

The City of Saint Paul requests that the Phase II project costs be considered for reimbursement from its share of future regional parks capital improvement program. The City's request for reimbursement consideration is consistent with the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Finance Strategy 6, Reimbursement, states:

"...Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan; that all information required for the development grant is submitted to

the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project; and that the Council approves the project...”

Saint Paul’s request meets the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The Phase II project’s timing, scale and cost is consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plan amendment for Lilydale Regional Park (MC action 01/04/2010; MPOSC action 10/01/2009).
2. The City’s request provides sufficient information regarding what would be financed with a Council grant as outlined in its request (**Attachments1-2**), which meets Finance Strategy 6 requirements,
3. The City requests the Metropolitan Council’s approval for the proposed Phase II project expenditures prior to undertaking the project.

Funding

Funding for the future reimbursement of the project may be awarded through the City’s share of Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). Metropolitan Council action is required to approve specific grants to the City of Saint Paul. The Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this request as it is consistent with Finance Strategy 6 from the *2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* and with the Lilydale Regional Park Master Plan.

Attachment 1: Letter from Jody Martinez, City of Saint Paul

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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May 29, 2014

Arne Stefferud
Planning Analyst-Parks
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Capital Improvement Project - Reimbursement Request
Lilydale Regional Park

Dear Mr. Stefferud:

The Lilydale Regional Park Master Plan was approved by the Metropolitan Council in 2009 and St. Paul has been implementing it ever since in phases as Legacy and Metropolitan Council funding is secured.

Our original 2014/15 CIP funding request for the current construction phase of this project was at \$1,282,000. As you know, the Legislature approved a much smaller appropriation than what Met. Council requested and therefore St. Paul's share was reduced accordingly. Specifically, Lilydale was reduced to \$271,000.

This project is very important to St. Paul and the region and we would like to fund this phase in 2014/15 through temporary use of other funds (\$500,000) with the option to eventually be reimbursed by the Metropolitan Council in a future CIP. The future CIP funding will go towards reimbursing the Phase II Lilydale project which includes 3200 lineal feet of new roadway and bike lanes, more than 3000 lineal feet of new trails, a trailhead parking lot, surface water features, burial of overhead powerlines, installation of sanitary and water utilities, signage, slope stabilization, and landscaping.

Therefore, this letter requests your review of this project's eligibility for eventual reimbursement by the Metropolitan Council as per Finance Strategy 6 of the *Updated 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan* states:

Finance Strategy 6: Reimbursement

"...Reimbursement will be considered for development provided the project in question is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with an approved master plan, that all information required for a development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project and that the Council approves the project..."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jody Martinez

C: Mike Hahm, Tom Russell, Mike Kimble



CAPRA Accreditation

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Attachment 2: Lilydale Regional Park Master Plan, Phase II Projects



Lilydale Regional Park

Update to WSCO
February 18, 2014 (revised February 27, 2014)

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation