

## Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: March 11, 2014

For the Community Development Committee meeting of March 17, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 26, 2014

**Subject:** Request for Reimbursement Consideration for Future Mississippi River Regional Trail Construction, Anoka County

**District(s), Member(s):** MPOSC District E, Tony Yarusso

**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 Anoka County up to \$340,000 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Funds for construction of a segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail from Mississippi Community Park in the City of Anoka to Mississippi West Regional Park in the City of Ramsey.
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 December 26, 2013, Anoka County requested that the Metropolitan Council consider future reimbursement of up to \$340,000 from the county's share of a future Metropolitan Council regional parks capital improvement program for construction of the Mississippi River Regional Trail. The construction includes the trail segment from the City of Anoka's Mississippi Community Park to Anoka County's Mississippi West Regional Park in the City of Ramsey. The Cities of Anoka and Ramsey, and Anoka County are working together to complete the trail construction in 2014/2015 through a Joint Powers Agreement. See **Attachment 1**.

### Rationale

Anoka County requests that the project costs be considered for reimbursement from its share of future regional parks capital improvement program. The request for reimbursement consideration is consistent with the 2030 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Finance Strategy 6, Reimbursement, that 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..."

Anoka County's request meets the terms of Finance Strategy 6 for the following reasons:

1. The trail project's timing, scale and cost is consistent with the Metropolitan Council approved master plan for Mississippi River Regional Trail (MC action September 22 1994; amended September 26, 2007).

2. The County's request provides sufficient information regarding what would be financed with a Council grant, meeting Finance Strategy 6 requirements, as outlined in Anoka County's letter **Attachment 1**.
3. Anoka County requests the Metropolitan Council's approval for the proposed trail expenditures prior to undertaking the project.

## **Funding**

Funding for the future reimbursement of the project may be awarded through Anoka County's share of Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). Metropolitan Council action is required to approve specific grants to Anoka County. 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*.

## Attachment 1: Letter from Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks



### Anoka County Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN 55304

December 26, 2013

Arne Stefferud, Manager, Regional Park and Natural Resources  
Metropolitan Council  
390 N. Robert St.  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Reimbursement Request for Future Parks and Trail Legacy Funds for Regional Trail Construction

Dear Arne:

As you are aware, in the past the Metropolitan Council has approved previous requests by Anoka County for future reimbursement of trail projects in the regional system. The County has an additional request for future trail construction cost reimbursement.

This trail reimbursement request is for the segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail from the City of Anoka's Mississippi Community Park to Anoka County's Mississippi West Regional Park in Ramsey, MN. Through a Joint Powers Agreement, the Cities of Anoka and Ramsey and Anoka County are working together to complete this trail in 2014/2015. This is a major expansion of the regional trail and will provide a much needed connection to Mississippi West Regional Park.

Currently there is no pedestrian access to King's Island and no pedestrian/bicycle connection between City of Anoka and Mississippi West Regional Park. This trail segment will provide that connection. The proposed 10' trail will cross over King's Island in the City of Anoka and follow city streets/sidewalks to Mississippi West Regional Park. Between King's Island and Sunfish Lake Blvd/CSAH 57, where right of way is an issue, the trail will be a striped and marked on-street trail. Elsewhere the trail will be a grade separated off-road trail.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1,374,100. Of that amount, Anoka County is requesting reimbursement consideration of \$340,000 from Anoka County's share of a future Metro Council regional park capital improvement program financed with Parks and Trails Legacy Fund appropriations for this project. The City of Anoka has received \$440,300 in federal funds for this project and the remaining amount required will be split between the City of Anoka and City of Ramsey.

This project is consistent with the Mississippi River Regional Trail master plan approved by the Metropolitan Council in 1994 and amended in 2007.

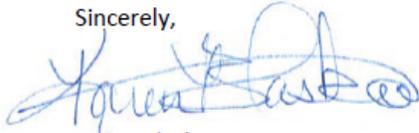
I am enclosing a map that shows the location of the trail project for your reference.

OPEN SPACES IN NEARBY PLACES

This reimbursement request is being submitted for Metropolitan Council consideration under applicable portions of Finance Strategy 6 in the 2030 Regional Parks Policy as amended on July 25, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 763-767-2865 or karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Karen Blaska  
Park Planner

cc: Jeff Perry, Planning and Resource Manager

## Attachment 2: Proposed Trail Project Map

