

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: August 4, 2015

For the Community Development Committee meeting of August 17, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 26, 2015

Subject: 2012 CIP Grant Request for Theodore Wirth Regional Park, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District C, William Weber and District D, Anthony Taylor

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.315 and Laws of MN 2012, Ch. 29, Sect. 17, Subd.2

Staff Prepared/Presented: Jan Youngquist, AICP, Manager (651-602-1029)

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

Approve a grant in the amount of \$198,000 from the 2012 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program, comprised of \$164,000 in State bonds and \$34,000 in Council bonds. This grant shall be used toward design and construction consistent with the North Wirth concept in the master plan, including trail development, bridges, buildings, landscaping, grading, parking areas, lighting, downhill infrastructure, utilities, surveys and site investigations, design, and project management.

Background

The Council's 2012 Regional Parks Capital Improvement program (CIP) included a \$198,000 allocation to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to be used for projects consistent with an updated master plan for Theodore Wirth Regional Park. However, the grant could not be awarded until the updated master plan was approved by the Council.

The Metropolitan Council approved the Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan and a grant in the amount of \$1,743,000 from the 2011 Regional Parks CIP on May 27, 2015.

Upon approval of the master plan, the MPRB submitted a request for a grant in the amount of \$198,000 from the 2012 Regional Parks CIP, as shown in Attachment A. The request contains the same project description as the 2011 Regional Parks CIP grant; therefore, this grant will supplement the \$1,743,000 previously awarded to the MPRB.

Rationale

The grant request is consistent with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, the 2012 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and with the Council-approved master plan for Theodore Wirth Regional Park.

Funding

The grant in the amount of \$198,000 will be financed with \$164,000 in State bonds and \$34,000 in Council bonds from the 2012 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.

Known Support / Opposition

None.

Attachment 1: Grant Request Letter from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

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June 8, 2015

Jan Youngquist
Manager, Regional Parks and Natural Resources
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Ms. Youngquist:

In light of the recent approval of the Wirth Regional Park Master Plan, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board would like to formally request the following grant for that park:

- \$198,000 from 2012 State and Met Council bonds

This grant will be used to implement an adventure area and Welcome Center as envisioned and described in the Master Plan as North Wirth, as well as other trail improvement projects throughout the park. The adventure area is an outdoor sport venue focused on cross-country skiing, downhill snowboarding and skiing, tubing, and mountain bike event trails. An associated building (the Welcome Center) will serve as an entry point to the entire regional park and also specifically serve the adventure area.

The grants requested would be used for design and construction consistent with the North Wirth concept in the Master Plan, including trail development, bridges, buildings, landscaping, grading, parking areas, lighting, downhill infrastructure, utilities, surveys and site investigations, design, and project management.

MPRB staff appreciates your consideration of this request and looks forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Adam Regn Arvidson, PLA, FASLA
Interim Director of Strategic Planning
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board