

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: December 1, 2015

For the Community Development Committee meeting of December 21, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 13, 2016

Subject: Request for Reimbursement Consideration for Lake Waconia Regional Park (Coney Island) from Carver County

MPOSC District(s), Member(s): District B – Robert Moeller

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Stats. §473.315

Staff Prepared/Presented: Deb Streets Jensen, Senior Parks Finance Planner 651-602-1554

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$169,878 from its share of future Regional Parks Capital Improvement Programs financed with Council bonds for demolition and debris removal costs on Coney Island in the Lake Waconia Regional Park; and
2. Remind the County that the Council does not, under any circumstances, represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted and that expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement.

Background

In September 2015, Carver County requested a \$1,050,000 Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF) grant to purchase Coney Island for the Lake Waconia Regional Park. The original grant request included \$267,000 in costs to remove nearly 40 dilapidated and collapsed structures on the property. Because the PAOF account is in reimbursement mode, there were not enough funds to pay for the land purchase, closing and access costs, as well as removing the structures and debris. After consultation with Parks staff, Carver County agreed to split the request into two pieces: one, to cover the purchase, associated closing costs and 20% of the stewardship costs through the PAOF (Business item 2015-309) and this second request, which seeks future reimbursement of up to \$169,878 for demolition and debris removal. Carver County will directly fund the balance of the costs as their local match.

Rationale

Carver County's request is consistent Finance Strategy 6 from the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, which states that, "The Council may reimburse regional park implementing agencies for the costs of acquiring some lands before they have been made part of the Regional Parks System, or for development projects undertaken before they can be financed through the Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program". Additionally, the property under consideration has been amended into the Lake Waconia Regional Park boundary.

Funding

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

Known Support / Opposition

The Carver County Board supports the project, and there is no known opposition.