

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: March 3, 2015

Subject: 2015 State Bond Request for Unfunded Portion of 2014-15 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.147 and 473.315
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst (651-602-1360)
Division/Department: Community Development/Regional Parks and Natural Resources

Proposed Action

N/A. This is an information item.

Background

In 2014, the Governor and Legislature considered an \$11 million State bond request to finance the State bond portion of the 2014-15 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Legislature and Governor appropriated \$4 million. Consequently \$7 million remained to be funded from the \$11 million request.

On January 28, 2015 State Agencies were notified that they could submit bonding requests for consideration by the Governor as part of a 2015 bonding bill. The 2015 request could be for unfunded portions of that agency's 2014 state bond request.

Since \$7 million of state bonds was not appropriated in the 2014 bonding bill, the Metropolitan Council submitted a request of \$7 million to finance the unfunded portion of the 2014-15 Regional Parks CIP. The \$7 million of State bonds would be matched with \$4.66 million of Metro Council bonds for a total amount of \$11.66 million.

The 2015 State bond request is attached to this memorandum for your information. The attachment includes a prioritized project list for each regional park implementing agency that describe what projects would be funded if \$7 million of State bonds is appropriated. It also shows the percent of the total request for each regional park implementing agency. Each park agency's share is based on a formula outlined in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. The formula balances two factors:

- The population within the jurisdiction of each park implementing agency compared to the region's total population. This factor is weighted 70%.
- The number of visits a park agency hosted from people who live outside the park agency's jurisdiction (non-local visits). This factor is weighted 30%.

If less than \$7 million of State bonds is appropriated, the funds would be granted in proportion to each park agency's share of the Regional Parks CIP. For example, Anoka County's share of the Regional Parks CIP is 10.34%. The County would be granted 10.34% of the appropriation. The funds would finance grants for each park agency's projects in the order shown in the attachment. This ensures that the highest priority projects are funded for each park agency.

Rationale

A request by Minnesota Management and Budget for State Agencies to submit 2015 State bond requests for unfunded portions of that agency's 2014 State bond request is the rationale for this action.

Funding

Every \$3 of State bonds is matched with \$2 of Metro Council bonds to finance the Regional Parks CIP. The \$7 million of State bonds would be matched with \$4.66 million of Metro Council bonds for a total of \$11.66 million.

Known Support / Opposition

N/A. This is an information item.

2015 State Appropriation Request: \$7,000,000

Agency Project Priority: 1

Project At A Glance

The Metropolitan Council requests \$7 million in State bonds to match \$4.66 million of Metropolitan Council bonds to improve and expand the Metropolitan Regional Park System.

Project Description

The Metropolitan Regional Park System open for use currently consists of 54,286 acres of parks and 340 miles of trails which hosted 47.3 million visits in 2013. The Metropolitan Regional Park System is owned, operated and maintained by ten regional park implementing agencies:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anoka County | Ramsey County |
| City of Bloomington | City of St. Paul |
| Carver County | Scott County |
| Dakota County | Three Rivers Park District |
| Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board | Washington County |

This request is based on distributing State and Metropolitan Council bonds as subgrants to regional park implementing agencies for each agency’s unfunded portion of the 2014-15 Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Those projects are shown in **Table 1: 2015 Prioritized Project List from Metropolitan Council’s 2014-15 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program** at the end of this narrative.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

The State has appropriated \$321.4 million of bonds to the Metropolitan Council for the Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP and for earmarked projects outside the CIP for FY 1975 to 2015. Here is a summary of State bonds appropriated in recent years for the Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP: FY 2015: \$4 million; FY 2013: \$4.586 million; FY 2012: \$5 million; FY 2011: \$10.5 million; FY 2009: \$10.5 million

The Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has recommended \$42.42 million of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations from FY 1992 to 2015 for capital improvements and land acquisition purposes for the Metropolitan Regional Park System. Appropriations from FY 2008-2013 totaling \$7.54 million have been matched with \$5.027 million of Metropolitan Council bonds and granted for land acquisition purposes.

Other Considerations

The Land and Legacy Amendment to the State Constitution, which established a Parks and Trails Fund dedicated to support parks and trails of state and regional significance, has provided funds to supplement—not replace-- traditional funding sources such as State bonds. A total of \$93.45 million has been appropriated to the Metropolitan Council for the FY 2010-11, 12-13 and 14-15 biennia from the Parks and Trails Fund. About 10% of the appropriation (\$9.34 million) was used for land acquisition grants. Metropolitan Council bonds totaling \$6.23 million matched that \$9.34 million. The remaining 90% (\$84.12 million) financed grants for capital and non-capital purposes.

The Metropolitan Council prepares a Metropolitan Regional Parks CIP under direction from MS 473.147. The regional park implementing agency share of the CIP is based on the agency's population--which was given a weight of 70 percent; and the percentage of non-local visits to that park agency's regional park/trail units--which was given a weight of 30 percent. The share of this state bonding request and Metro Council bond match for each regional park implementing agency is shown in **Table 1: 2015 Prioritized Project List from Metropolitan Council's 2014-15 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program**. For example, 10.34 percent of the State bonds and Metro Council bond match would be granted to Anoka County. Anoka County must spend this appropriation on projects in the priority order of its project list.

Over 47.3 million visits occurred in the Metropolitan Regional Park System in 2013. Of this amount, 45.4% or 21.5 million visits were from persons living outside the park implementing agency's local jurisdiction. This high level of "non-local visits" justifies financing capital projects in these parks with State and regional bonds. Every \$3 of State bonds is matched with \$2 of Metropolitan Council bonds. This spreads the cost of the capital improvements between taxpayers based on their use of the park system and what they pay in taxes for debt service on the State bonds and Metropolitan Council bonds.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

There is no direct impact on State agency operating budgets since the State of Minnesota does not operate Metropolitan Regional Park System units.

Project Contact Person

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Governor's Recommendations

(To be completed by MMB at a later date)

Table 1: 2015 Prioritized Project List from Metropolitan Council’s 2014-15 Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program

| Regional Park Agency | Project Location | Project Descriptions in Priority Order for each Regional Park Agency | State Bonds (\$000s) | Matching Metro Council Bonds (\$000s) | Total Grant (\$000s) | Regional Park Agency Subtotal | Regional Park Agency Subtotal as % of Total |
|----------------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Anoka County | Bunker Hills Regional Park | Central Maintenance Facility improvements | \$ 180 | \$ 120 | \$ 300 | | |
| Anoka County | Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park | Installation of fishing pier/enhancements. | \$ 60 | \$ 40 | \$ 100 | | |
| Anoka County | Rice Chain of Lakes Park Reserve | Peltier Lake fishing pier reconstruction and parking lot improvements. | \$ 120 | \$ 80 | \$ 200 | | |
| Anoka County | Rice Creek West Regional Trail | Restroom building rehabilitation at Manomin trailhead. | \$ 120 | \$ 80 | \$ 200 | | |
| Anoka County | Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park | Trail and retaining wall reconstruction in Islands of Peace portion of park. | \$ 244 | \$ 162 | \$ 406 | \$ 1,206 | 10.34% |
| City of Bloomington | Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve | Partial funding to reconstruct parking lots, driveways, parking lot lighting, boat ramp improvements and associated storm water improvements. | \$ 181 | \$ 120 | \$ 301 | \$ 301 | 2.58% |
| Carver County | Lake Waconia Regional Park | Partial reimbursement to acquire 19 acres of lake shore property. Metro Council bonds finance grant. | \$ - | \$ 303 | \$ 303 | \$ 303 | 2.60% |
| Dakota County | North Creek Regional Greenway | Construction of regional greenway within Minnesota Zoo segment in Apple Valley. | \$ 37 | \$ 25 | \$ 62 | | |
| Dakota County | Mendota - Lebanon Hills Regional Greenway | Design and engineering of grade separated crossing of State Highway 110 for regional greenway in Mendota Heights and miscellaneous greenway improvements per master plan. | \$ 132 | \$ 88 | \$ 220 | | |
| Dakota County | Minnesota River Regional Greenway | Design and engineering of Eagan north segment of the regional trail and miscellaneous greenway improvements per master plan. | \$ 84 | \$ 56 | \$ 140 | | |
| Dakota County | Mississippi River Regional Greenway | Design and engineering of the Rosemount east segment of the regional trail and miscellaneous greenway improvements per master plan. | \$ 257 | \$ 88 | \$ 345 | | |
| Dakota County | Whitetail Woods Regional Park | Design, engineer and construct paved roads plus miscellaneous improvements per master plan. | \$ 314 | \$ 125 | \$ 439 | \$ 1,206 | 10.34% |

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|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board | Above the Falls Regional Park | Implement a new park at former Scherer Lumber Co site, re-create Hall's Island, and extend East Bank off-road trail. | \$ 1,129 | \$ 670 | \$ 1,799 | | |
| Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board | Parkways to and through Regional Parks | Repave parkway streets, parking lots, associated lighting and storm water management with 50% state and 50% non-state funding. | \$ 399 | \$ 183 | \$ 582 | \$ 2,381 | 20.41% |
| Ramsey County | Long Lake Regional Park | Construct picnic shelter/restroom facility; site, parking and utility improvements; playground; trail connections; landscape restoration; signage; storm water management; and site amenities. | \$ 488 | \$ 242 | \$ 730 | | |
| Ramsey County | Keller Regional Park | Parking lot redevelopment for picnic areas plus related storm water management improvements, improved pedestrian connections, landscape restoration, signage, and site amenities. | \$ 145 | \$ 96 | \$ 241 | \$ 971 | 8.32% |
| City of St. Paul | Trout Brook Regional Trail | Daylight and restore former Trout Brook stream with adjacent wetlands, water quality ponds and habitat. | \$ 150 | \$ 100 | \$ 250 | | |
| City of St. Paul | Lilydale & Cherokee Heights Regional Parks | Trail and roadway improvements, erosion control, signage, vegetation management and slope stability, and related items. | \$ 841 | \$ 477 | \$ 1,318 | \$ 1,568 | 13.44% |
| Scott County | Blakeley Bluffs Park Reserve | Partial reimbursement for acquiring 550 acres. Metro Council bonds finance the grant. | \$ - | \$ 410 | \$ 410 | \$ 410 | 3.51% |

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|----------------------------|---|---|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Three Rivers Park District | Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve | Northern Gateway Project encompassing parking lot improvements and reconstruction of the Hyland Chalet. | \$ 960 | \$ 640 | \$ 1,600 | | |
| Three Rivers Park District | All Regional Parks | ADA improvements (common barrier removal) at facilities across the Park District. | \$ 125 | \$ 84 | \$ 209 | | |
| Three Rivers Park District | Cedar Lake LRT Regional Trail | Cost-share with Hennepin County the design and engineering of three grade-separated crossings at Blake Road, Wooddale Avenue and Beltline Blvd. | \$ 195 | \$ 130 | \$ 325 | | |
| Three Rivers Park District | Rush Creek Regional Trail | Cost-share with Maple Grove to include a regional trail crossing of I-94 as a component of the City/MnDOT overpass project at 105th Ave. | \$ 30 | \$ 20 | \$ 50 | | |
| Three Rivers Park District | Twin Lakes Regional Trail | Cost-share with Brooklyn Center to realign regional trail from 50th to 53rd Ave. | \$ 111 | \$ 74 | \$ 185 | | |
| Three Rivers Park District | Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes Park Reserve | Design and construct parking lot at the Hyland Ski Jump facility. | \$ 89 | \$ 59 | \$ 148 | \$ 2,517 | 21.57% |
| Washington County | Point Douglas Regional Trail | Pedestrian connection and related amenities from Point Douglas Regional Trailhead near Prescott to regional trail in Dakota County near Hastings. | \$ 239 | \$ 64 | \$ 303 | | |
| Washington County | Lake Elmo Park Reserve | Improve parking, buildings and other features at the Lake Elmo Swim Pond to better meet ADA standards and improve other park visitor needs. | \$ 185 | \$ 65 | \$ 250 | | |
| Washington County | Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park | Renovate and partially relocate roads and parking areas at the park, plus improve buildings and other related facilities. | \$ 185 | \$ 65 | \$ 250 | \$ 803 | 6.88% |
| | | Totals | \$7,000 | \$ 4,666 | \$11,666 | \$11,666 | 100% |