

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: July 11, 2017

Subject: 2017 Legislative Outcomes

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: ML 2017 1st Special Session Ch. 8 Art. 1 Sec. 16 Subd. 2 (state bonds); Ch. 91 Art. 3 Sec. 4 (Park and Trails Legacy); Ch. 96 Sec 2. Subd. 9(a) (Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund); and Ch. 93 Art. 1 Sec 5 (Operation and Maintenance)

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

Proposed Action

None. Discussion only.

Background

The Minnesota Legislature appropriated over \$59 million to the Metropolitan Council during the regular and special session for the metropolitan Regional Parks System.

- Although sessions in odd-numbered years typically do not take up bonding bills, the Legislature passed a bonding bill late in the 2017 first special session because no bonding bill was passed in the 2016 session. In the 2016, the Governor had supported a \$10 million appropriation for the Regional Parks System. For 2017, the Governor again supported \$10 million; the Council was appropriated \$5 million.
- The Parks and Trails Legacy (Legacy) appropriation for state fiscal years 2018-2019 was \$171,000 higher than the 2015 appropriation, for a two-year total of \$35,475,000. Of the \$16,584,000 appropriated for state fiscal year 2018, 10% – or \$1,658,400 – is reserved for the Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund (PAOF). The Council will match the PAOF dollars with \$1,106,377 in regional bonds.

The final version of the legislation included an amendment that limited the list of funded projects to only those “projects approved by the elected representatives of each of the Regional Parks Implementing Agencies.” This amendment entitled two of the agencies to revise their project lists to include projects that were not reviewed by the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission or approved the Council during the application process in 2016.

- Another \$1.5 million in Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund money was added through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The Council will match this amount with \$1 million in regional bonds.

The Legislature also extended the availability date for 2014 funding by one year, through June 30, 2018. This brings the total ENRTF dollars available for PAOF grants to \$5.9 million. Combined with the Legacy funding and the Council match for both funds, this brings the total available for PAOF to \$8,282,069 (assuming all three PAOF grants proposed at the July 11, 2017 MPOSC meeting are approved by the Council.)

- Operation and maintenance funding for state fiscal years 2018 and 2019 remains the same as the previous biennium.

Table 1, below, represents the total appropriations from this past session. To read the actual appropriation language, click on the name of the funding source. Detailed fund balances are attached.

Table 1 – 2017 Legislative Session Appropriations

Funding source	State Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)	State Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)	Total
<u>State Bonds</u>	\$5,000,000	n/a – available through 6/30/2021	\$5,000,000
<u>Park and Trails Legacy</u>	16,584,000	18,891,000	35,475,000
<u>Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund</u>	1,500,000	n/a – available through 6/30/2020	1,500,000
<u>Operation and Maintenance</u>	8,540,000	8,540,000	17,080,000
Totals	\$31,624,000	\$27,431,000	\$59,055,000