

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: December 4, 2018

Community Development Committee meeting of December 17, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 9, 2019

Subject: North Mississippi Regional Park Fund Joint Grant Request, Trail Rehabilitation, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Three Rivers Park District

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC Districts A, Rick Theisen and D, Catherine Fleming

Policy/Legal Reference: Laws of Minnesota 1985, First Special Session, Chap. 15, Sec. 5, Subd. 2(b); Laws of Minnesota 1987 Chapter 384, Article 3, Sec. 45; Laws of Minnesota 1998, Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Sec. 12; and Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 114, Article 4.; Minnesota Statutes § 473.315; *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Strategy 6*

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tori Dupre, Senior Planner, Community Development, Finance and Administration (651-602-1621)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve a development grant in the amount of \$478,000 from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to complete the rehabilitation of existing trails and facilities within North Mississippi Regional Park.
2. Approve a development grant in the amount of \$1,040,000 from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund to Three Rivers Park District to complete the reconstruction of existing trails within North Mississippi Regional Park.
3. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreements on behalf of the Council.

Background

North Mississippi Regional Park is located along the Mississippi River, extending from the Camden Bridge at the southern boundary in the City of Minneapolis to the I-694 bridge on the northern boundary in the City of Brooklyn Center (Figure 3, Master Plan boundary map).

The regional park boundary includes approximately 110 acres owned and operated jointly by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (southern 83 acres) and Three Rivers Park District (northern 27 acres). See Figures 4 and 5.

The Council approved the regional park master plan and regional park boundaries in 1987 and subsequent boundary amendments in January 2003 and in July 2013. In the latter amendment ([Business Item 2013-205](#)), the Council approved a regional park boundary expansion to include Webber Park.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has requested a grant in the amount of \$478,000 to rehabilitate existing trail infrastructure and facilities within its portion of North Mississippi Regional Park (Figure 1. Grant Request Letter dated October 17, 2018). The project will include pathway paving and lighting throughout the park, wading pool renovation and improvements, natural swimming pool upgrades, and vegetation management and restoration. The improvements significantly rehabilitate

aged infrastructure and improve facilities and resources. The projects will occur within the MPRB's portion of North Mississippi Regional Park (Figure 2). At its December 6, 2018 meeting, the MPRB Board is expected to approve the proposed project as part of its 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) showing the legal commitment and budget to complete the project. The project design, engagement, and construction are scheduled to begin in 2019, with construction completed in 2019 or early 2020.

The Three Rivers Park District (Park District) has requested a grant in the amount of \$1,040,000 to rehabilitate existing trails within its portion of North Mississippi Regional Park (Figure 3. Grant Request Letter dated September 13, 2018). The project will include design, engineering and complete reconstruction of 1.3 miles of park trails. These trails provide access to over 6,800 linear feet of shoreline along the Mississippi River, a picnic area, fishing pier and numerous overlooks and water access sites. As shown in the Park District's letter, its Board of Commissioners approved the project in its 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Program and the project design is scheduled for begin in 2020, with construction and completion anticipated in 2021. The trails are shown on Figure 4, the map of the Park District's portion of North Mississippi Regional Park.

Rationale

The agencies individual grant requests are consistent with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*, Finance Strategy 6 because the projects are consistent in timing, scale, type, and cost with a Council-approved master plan. The grant information is submitted to the Council prior to the regional park implementing agency undertaking the project.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The agencies individual grant requests are consistent with *Thrive MSP 2040's* Livability outcome by increasing access to additional outdoor recreation opportunities and improving the region's residents' quality of life. It is also consistent with the Stewardship outcome by making strategic investments in the region's future.

Funding

The Council will fund the two requested grants with the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund account, established by the Legislature in 1985 to acquire and develop the park. Specifically, Minnesota Laws 1985, First Special Session, Chapter 15, Section 5, Subdivision 2(b), and Minnesota Laws 1987, Chapter 384, Article 3, Section 45, and Minnesota Laws 1998, Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Section 12 direct the Metropolitan Council to establish a separate account of interest earnings on park bonds and to grant funds from the account for the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park.

In 2015, the Legislature (Minnesota Laws 2015, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 138) directed the Metropolitan Council to use the interest earnings for the use and betterment of all regional recreational open space lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council, effective January 1, 2018, ending the limitation of use of the interest earning to fund only projects at North Mississippi Regional Park.

The individual grant requests reflect the Regional Park Implementing Agencies' efforts to use the remaining funds on a coordinated park improvement project. The two grants total \$1,518,000; consuming the fund balance as of December 31, 2017.

Following the Metropolitan Council's approval of the two grants, the Agencies may request reimbursement for grant eligible expenses once the grant agreements are executed.

Since 1987, the Council has awarded more than 20 grants totaling over 15 million dollars for projects within the Park Board's portion of the North Mississippi Regional Park. About 90 percent of these grant funds were awarded to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board given that the majority of the park development is located within its portion of the park.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed projects.

Attachments

- Figure 1. Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Grant Request Letter
- Figure 2. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board portion of North Mississippi Regional Park Project Map
- Figure 3. Three Rivers Park District Grant Request Letter
- Figure 4. Three Rivers Park District portion of North Mississippi Regional Park Project Map
- Figure 5. North Mississippi Regional Park – Entire Master Plan Boundary

Figure 1. Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Grant Request Letter



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October 17, 2018

Mr. Emmett Mullin
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Request for Allocation from North Mississippi Interest Fund

Dear Mr. Mullin:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) would like to request a project allocation from the Bond Interest Fund. We are requesting a portion of those funds that are dedicated to North Mississippi Regional Park, as described below:

Amount: \$478,000
Reference Plans: North Mississippi Regional Park Study/Master Plan, 1986
North Mississippi Boundary Amendment, June 2013

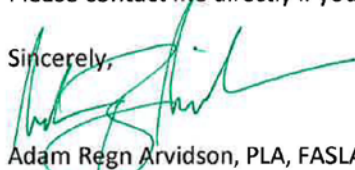
Project (with plan citations):

- Pathway paving and lighting throughout the park (Proposed development plan, page 46)
- Wading pool renovations and improvements (Action 7: develop recreational node, pages 42-43; also the wading pool is an existing facility in the regional park)
- Natural Swimming Pool upgrades and enhancements (Development Concept, Amendment pages 4-5)
- Vegetation management and planting (Development concept, page 37 states "restoration of resources and wildlife habitat [should] be stressed in the overall development of the park.")

Our intent for this funding is to significantly rehabilitate existing trail infrastructure which has fallen into disrepair since its original construction, as well as to make critical infrastructure improvements to the aquatic facilities in the park and to further enhance vegetation throughout the park.

Please contact me directly if you have questions.

Sincerely,



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

Figure 2. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board portion of North Mississippi Regional Park Project Map



Figure 3. Three Rivers Park District Grant Request Letter



9/13/2018

Victoria Dupre
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Three Rivers request to use \$1,040,000 of the North Mississippi Interest Earnings Fund for the North Mississippi Regional Park Trail Rehabilitation Project.

Dear Victoria,

Three Rivers Park District requests use of \$1,040,000 of the North Mississippi Interest Earnings Park Fund to fund the North Mississippi Regional Park Trail Reconstruction Project (Project). The North Mississippi Interest Earnings Fund balance through December 31, 2018 is \$1,518,000; and those funds are legislatively directed to be used only for projects at North Mississippi River Regional Park, which is owned and operated by Three Rivers Park District within Brooklyn Center, and by Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board within Minneapolis.

The Project involves design, engineering and complete reconstruction of 1.3 miles of park trails within Three River's portion of North Mississippi Regional Park. The park trails provide access to over 6,800 linear feet of shoreline along the Mississippi River, a picnic area, fishing pier and numerous overlooks and water access sites (*Reference 1*).

Three River's portion of North Mississippi Regional Park is located in the City of Brooklyn Center, one of the most diverse communities within Three River's jurisdictional area. Use of the park reflects that diversity, with more people of color and more low-income household visits than the demographic profile of suburban Hennepin County. This part of the park also serves Minneapolis residents, with Three River's park visitor surveys showing that one-half of the visitation comes from Minneapolis residents.

The Project is in the Three Rivers Park District 2018-2022 Capital Improvement Program approved by the Three Rivers Board of Commissioners in September of 2017. The Project's total budget is estimated at \$1,040,000. The Project is slated to occur in 2021, with design and engineering likely being done in 2020 and construction and completion occurring in 2021. The Project would not begin until funding through the North Mississippi Interest Earnings Park Fund program is secured, and the Project could be moved forward if required as a use of those funds.

As you are aware, Three Rivers initially made a request for funding for this project in December of 2017, but was asked by council staff to discuss with MRPB staff to determine what other requests may be needed for the park's development. We have met with the park board and discussed options for the funding. There are no other immediate requests that have been identified for the available funding. The Park District would like to move forward with our needed improvements.

Three Rivers thanks the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Council for their consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Vlaming".

Jonathan Vlaming
Associate Superintendent

C: Emmett Mullen

Figure 4. Three Rivers Park District portion of North Mississippi Regional Park Project Map

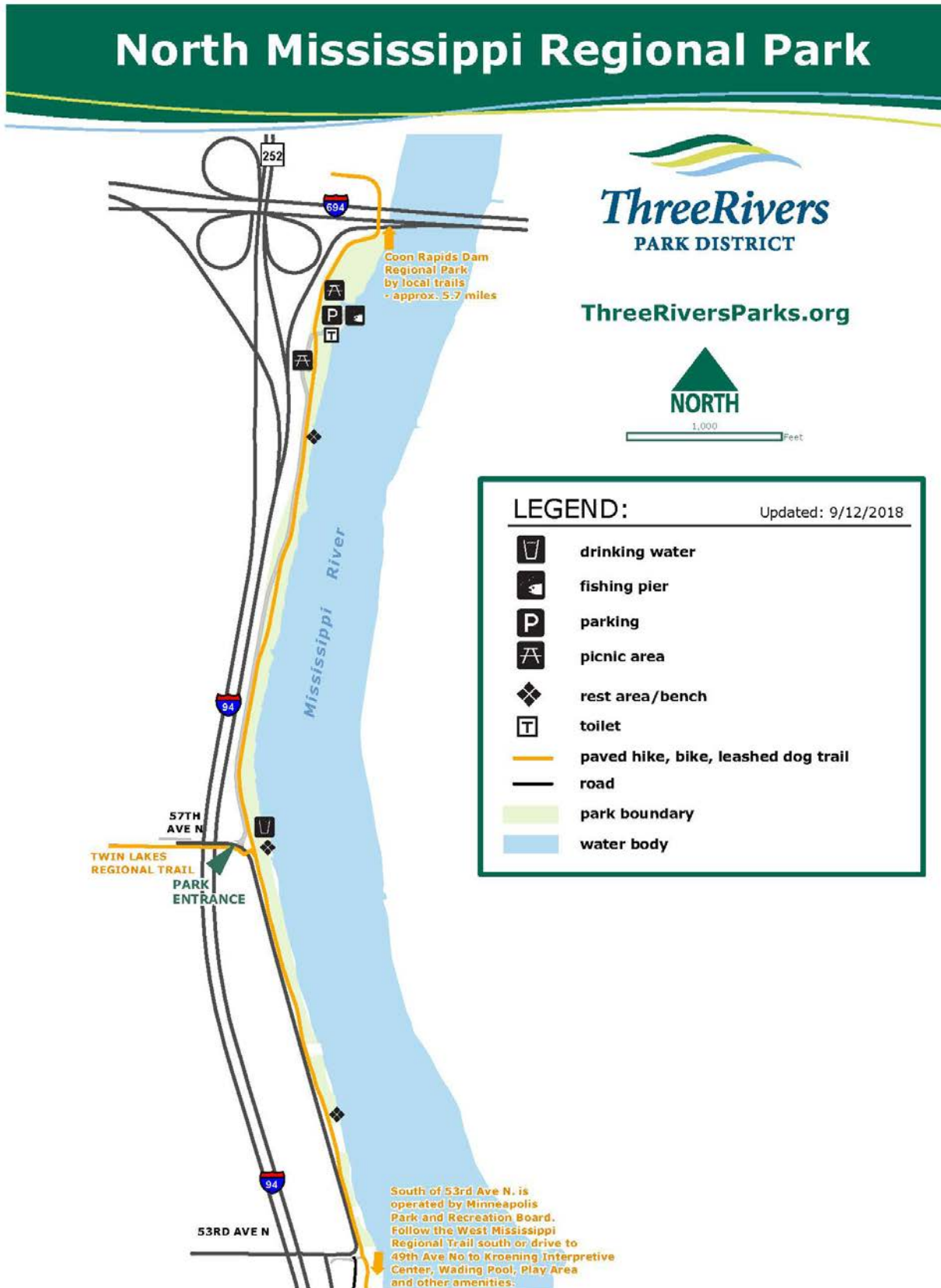


Figure 5. North Mississippi Regional Park – Entire Master Plan Boundary

