

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: June 5, 2018

For the Community Development Committee meeting of June 18, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 27, 2018

Subject: Request for Future Reimbursement for Five Projects from Dakota County

District(s), Member(s): H – Todd Kemery

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statutes, section 473.315; 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan – Finance Strategy 6

Staff Prepared/Presented: Deb Streets Jensen, Senior Finance Parks Planner (651.602.1554)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve future reimbursement consideration for the five capital projects listed in Table 1 for Dakota County Regional Parks and Trails; and
2. Inform Dakota County that the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that future reimbursement will be granted and expenditure of local funds never entitles a Regional Park Implementing Agency to reimbursement.

Background

Minnesota Statutes, section 473.315 authorizes the Council to make grants from any funds available to it for recreation open space purposes to Regional Parks Implementing Agencies (Agencies) to cover any portion of the cost of acquiring or developing the Regional Parks and Trails System in accordance with the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*.

The Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) assists Agencies with capital projects undertaken for the acquisition and betterment of the Regional Parks and Trails System. The CIP is funded by a combination of state and regional bonds, with the Council matching every \$3 in state bonds with \$2 in regional bonds. In the normal course of events, Agencies request funding for their projects, the Minnesota Legislature appropriates General Obligation bonds, and the Agencies may begin work after the appropriation availability date. Under limited circumstances, Agencies may request that the Council consider reimbursing them in the future for development projects so that they may be undertaken by an Agency before the work can be financed through a CIP.

Because state bonds cannot be used for reimbursement of costs incurred prior to the appropriation availability date, all such “future reimbursements” are funded solely with Council bonds. Because of the inherent variability of state bond appropriations and the limited availability of Council bonds, approval of “future reimbursement consideration” by the Council only commits the Council to *consider* reimbursing the Agency; it is not a guarantee of reimbursement.

To qualify for this consideration, the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan* has three requirements:

- The project is consistent in timing, scale, type and cost with a Council-approved master plan;

- All information required for the development grant is submitted to the Council prior to the Agency undertaking the project; and
- The Council approves the project.

If this request for future consideration is approved, Dakota County may proceed with the work of the five projects using non-state and non-Council funds. As a part of a future CIP, the County may then request that the Council reimburse them for the costs of these projects up to the amounts listed below. Such reimbursements, if approved as part of this item and as part of a future CIP, are drawn entirely from Dakota County’s regular share of their CIP allotment; they do not increase Dakota County’s share or decrease any other Agency’s share.

Dakota County has requested approval for future reimbursement consideration for the five projects listed below in Table 1.

Table 1

Project Title	Amount Requested
Construct the Rosemount East Segment of the Mississippi River Regional Trail	\$3,000,000
Master Plan Improvements for White Woods Regional Park	1,866,014
Master Plan Improvements for Lake Byllesby Regional Park	1,837,711
Construct a Trail Bridge and Trail Segment for Big Rivers Regional Trail	500,000
Construct the Eagan Segment of the Minnesota River Greenway Regional Trail	670,000
Total	\$7,873,725

Rationale

Staff have reviewed each request to ensure that it complies with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan and the authorizing statute. Dakota County has not begun work on the projects.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This request is consistent with Thrive’s Livability outcome, because the projects will increase access to nature and outdoor recreation, which will enhance the region’s quality of life.

Funding

There is no immediate impact on funding. No funds are committed until or unless Dakota County requests and has obtained approval for reimbursement as a part of a future CIP.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.